

# What Matters in College After College

A Comparative Alumnae Research Study

Prepared for

**WomensColleges.org**  
THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE COALITION

March 2008

HARDWICK **DAY**

# Women's College Coalition Research Agenda

Objective: to collect, interpret, and disseminate – on an on-going basis – relevant and irrefutable data to make the case for the distinctive characteristics and effectiveness of a women's college education.

## Phase I

- Hardwick~Day findings represent one (1) point in Phase 1 of the Coalition's Research Agenda.
- Two (2) other points in Phase 1 are NSSE and CIRP.
- With these three (3) points, we will be able to describe – using nationally normed data – the women who come to our campuses, and what their experiences are from their perspectives as students and alumnae.

“If you’ve done a good survey, you should have more questions. They will be well-informed questions.”

John Pryor, Director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP),  
at AAC&U’s 2008 Annual Meeting

# Women's College Coalition Research Agenda

## Phase II

- Research to fill the gaps in existing research. For example, the research found that *Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Any Other Group to Complete a Graduate Degree*. In what fields?
- New research to respond to thought provoking questions. For example, how are current students and recent alumnae similar to and/or different from the alumnae who responded to the Hardwick~Day survey – who graduated from the classes of 1970 through 1997 – and what does this mean for the education and advancement of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

## Study Rationale

The Hardwick~Day Comparative Alumnae Research Study is distinctive in two ways:

First, it is grounded in and organized around in key factors identified by education researchers Alexander Astin, Ernest T. Pascarella and Patrick T. Terenzini as critical to educational effectiveness and greater student satisfaction:

- Frequent, extensive formal and informal interaction between faculty and students
- A strong community and peer interactions both inside and outside the classroom
- A challenging, active classroom environment
- Participation in such intensive learning experiences as international study, internships, faculty-directed research and independent study
- Involvement and leadership in extracurricular activities

## Study Rationale

Second, unlike many alumnae studies that assess students shortly after graduation, the Hardwick~Day survey of alumnae from the classes of 1970 through 1997 assesses the long-term impact of the college experience on:

- Satisfaction with the undergraduate experience
- Career preparation and advancement
- Broad skill development
- Personal and professional values and attitudes
- Community involvement

## What Matters in College

“Our review indicates **two persistent themes** in the research literature on college effects.

The first is the **central role of other people in a student’s life, whether students or faculty. . . .**

The second theme is the **potency of the student’s effort and involvement in the academic and non-academic systems** of the institutions they attend.”

Ernest T. Pascarella and Patrick T. Terenzini, *How College Affects Students*, 1991.

## What Matters: Environment

“... although different types of institutions tend to have particular types of environments, ... **it is the environment created by the faculty and the students ... that really seems to matter.**

Finally, **the single most important environmental influence on student development is the peer group.**”

Alexander W. Astin, *What Matters in College? Four Critical Years Revisited*, 1993.



## What Matters: Involvement

**“The research is unequivocal: students who are actively involved in both academic and out-of-class activities gain more from the college experience than those who are not so involved.”**

Ernest T. Pascarella and Patrick T. Terenzini, *How College Affects Students*, 1991.

# Study Methodology

- Study conducted by Hardwick~Day using new Women's Colleges alumnae interviews and interviews held in an alumni database
  - 21-23 minute telephone interviews conducted October 1-14, 2007
  - Women graduates of graduating classes 1970-1997 from four-year institutions
    - additional interviews were conducted with recent alumnae of women's colleges (classes of 1998-2002) but not included in the total
  - Interviews are proportioned to be representative of the average enrollment over the study years with:
    - 333 **alumnae** of women's colleges and universities
      - 44 (85%) of the four-year Women's Colleges are represented
- Another private college group (excluding the women's colleges):
- 415 **alumnae** of other four-year liberal arts colleges
    - 153 colleges represented
- And a public university group:
- 264 **alumnae** of national "flagship" public universities
    - 110 universities represented

# Study Methodology

- The margin of sampling error differs by group and between groups according to sample size, but can be generally summarized as:
  - Women's Colleges and Universities (1970-1997): +/-5.9 percentage points at a 95% confidence level
    - Women's Colleges and Universities (1998-2002): +/-14.9 percentage points at a 95% confidence level
  - Other Liberal Arts Colleges: +/-4.9
  - Flagship Public Universities: +/-6.1
- Throughout this presentation, the Women's Colleges group is comprised of graduates from 1970-1997. When there are differences between the decades – and the graduates from 1998-2002 – the percentages will be displayed in a box over the Women's Colleges data point.
- A word about controlling for socio-economic background and such entering student data as test scores, grade point average and class rank, etc.

## Looking at the Data

- Note the areas in which women's college alumnae report outcomes that surpass the outcomes reported by alumnae of public and private coeducational colleges and universities.
- Note the areas in which the outcomes reported by women's college alumnae are less differentiated from those reported by alumnae of public and private coeducational colleges and universities, the areas in which the outcomes reported are comparable and competitive.

## Looking at the Data

- Alumnae Characteristics
- Key Messages

A women's college education...

1. Creates leaders, communicators, and persuaders
2. Develops critical skills for life and career
3. Enables students to engage with top faculty and resources
4. Proves its value

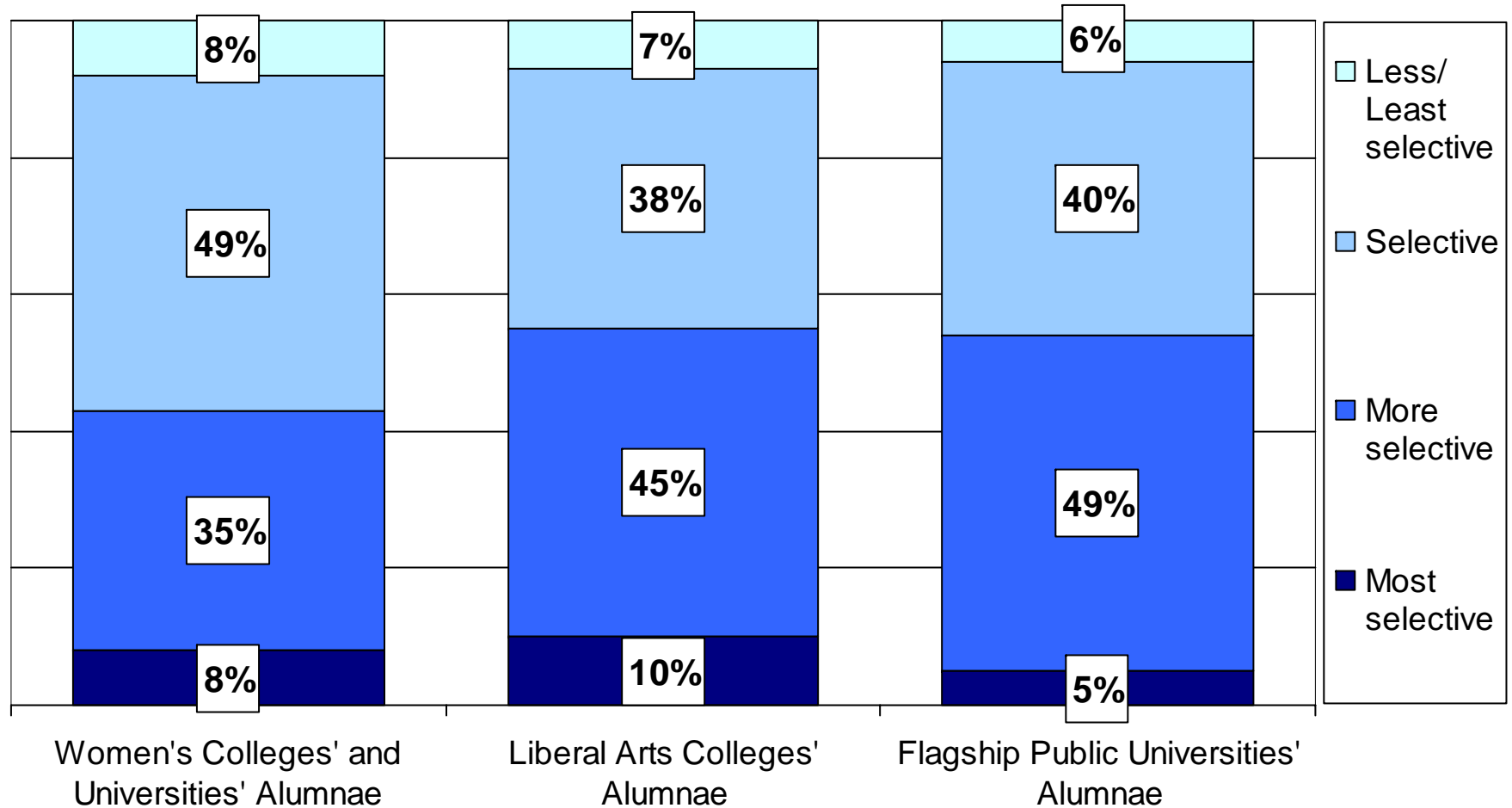
## **Alumnae Characteristics**

Survey respondents were alumnae from the classes of 1970 through 1997.

The world has changed dramatically during the past forty years – socially, politically, economically and technologically.

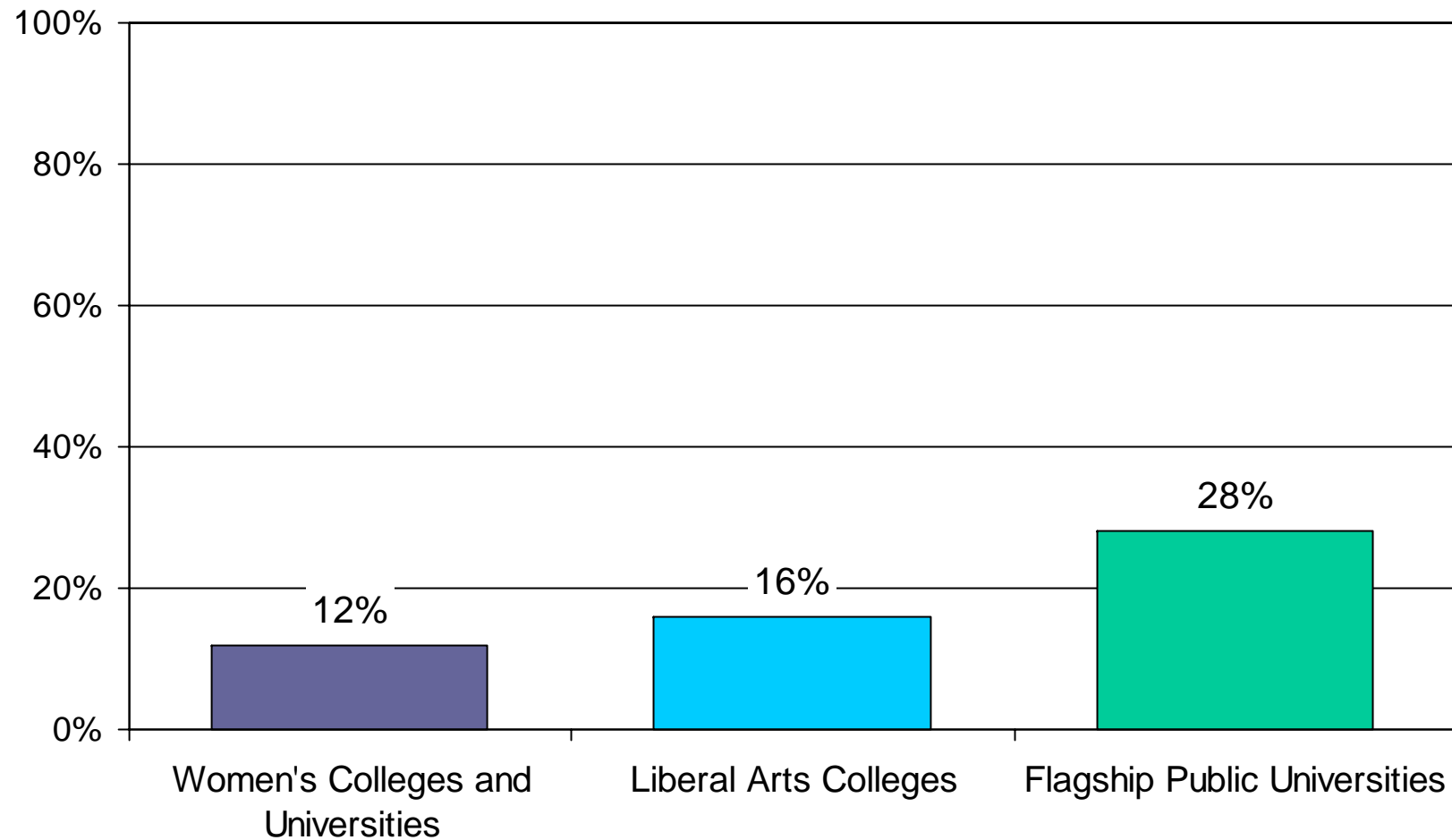
How are current students and recent alumnae similar to and/or different from these alumnae and what does this mean for the education and advancement of women in the 21st Century?

## As a Group, Women's Colleges Alumnae Chose Colleges that Are Somewhat Less Selective than the Liberal Arts Colleges and Flagship Public Universities



Selectivity of college attended as indicated in *U.S. News & World Report*

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were Less Likely Than Public University Graduates to Transfer From Another College or University

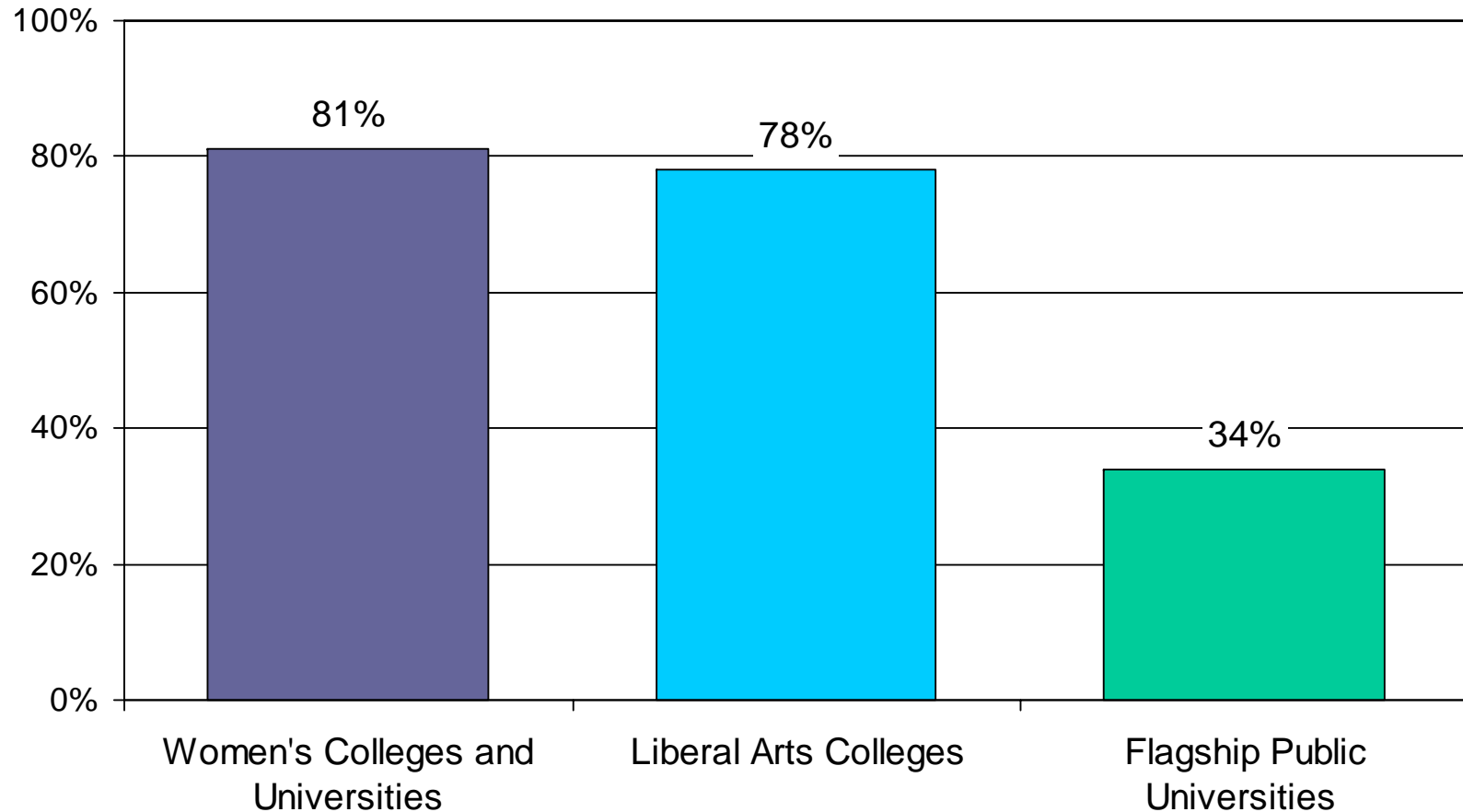


The Women's colleges group is significantly lower than the Flagship Public Universities group and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.G Did you transfer from another college or university?



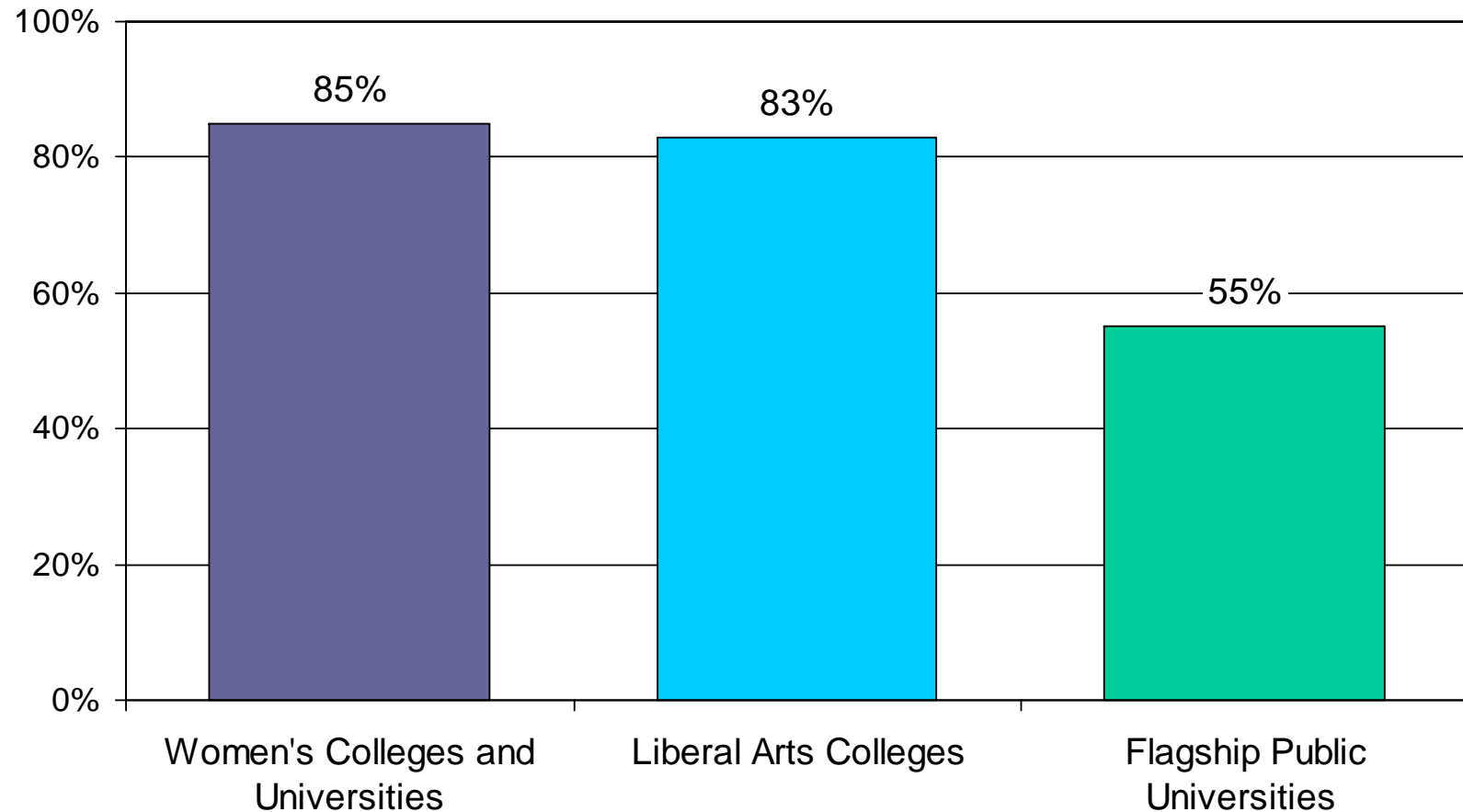
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Public University Alumnae to Have Lived on Campus for Most of Their College Years



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.K For most of your college years, did you live (on campus)?

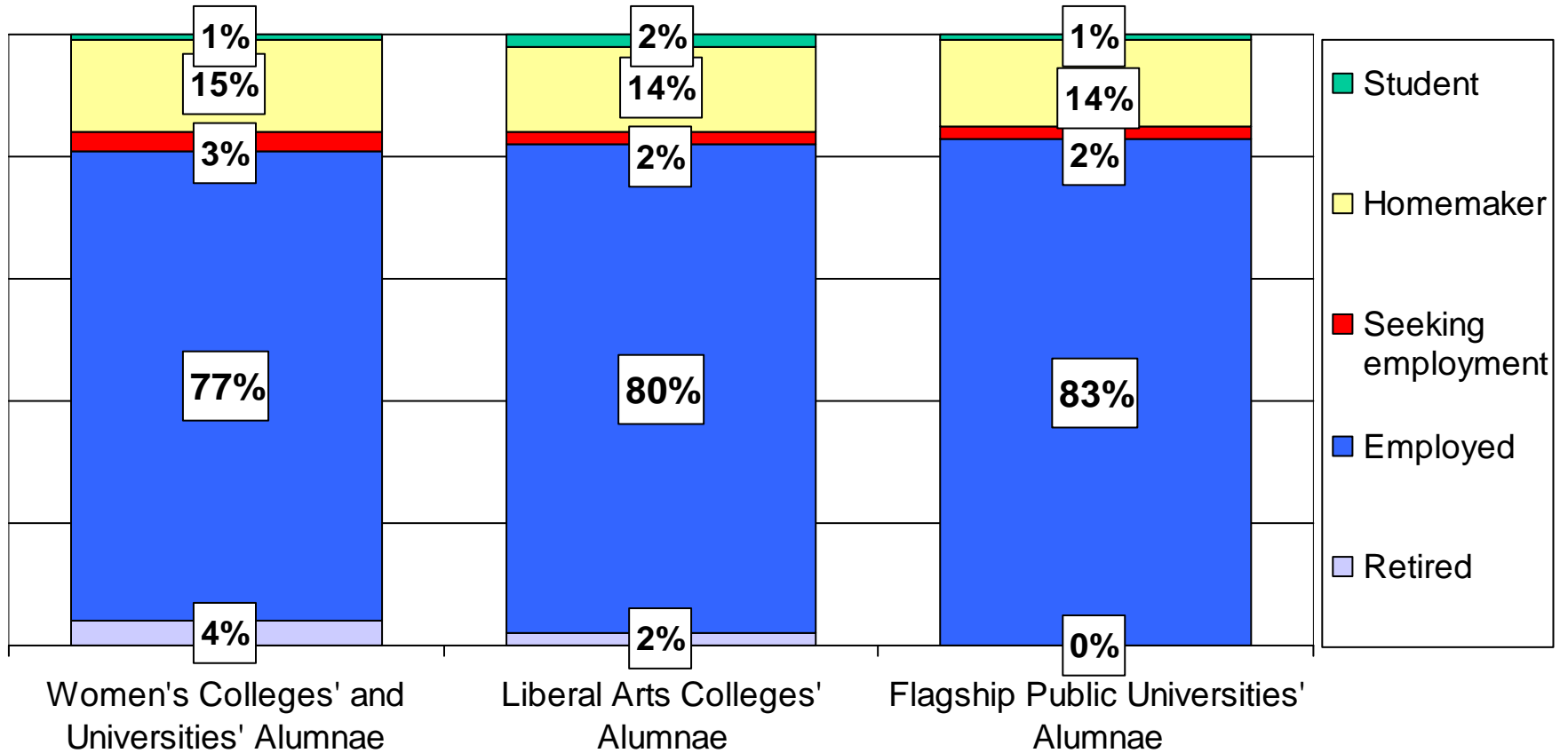
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Public Universities Alumnae to Have Graduated in Four Years or Less



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.18 How many years did it take you to complete your undergraduate degree? (Four years or less)

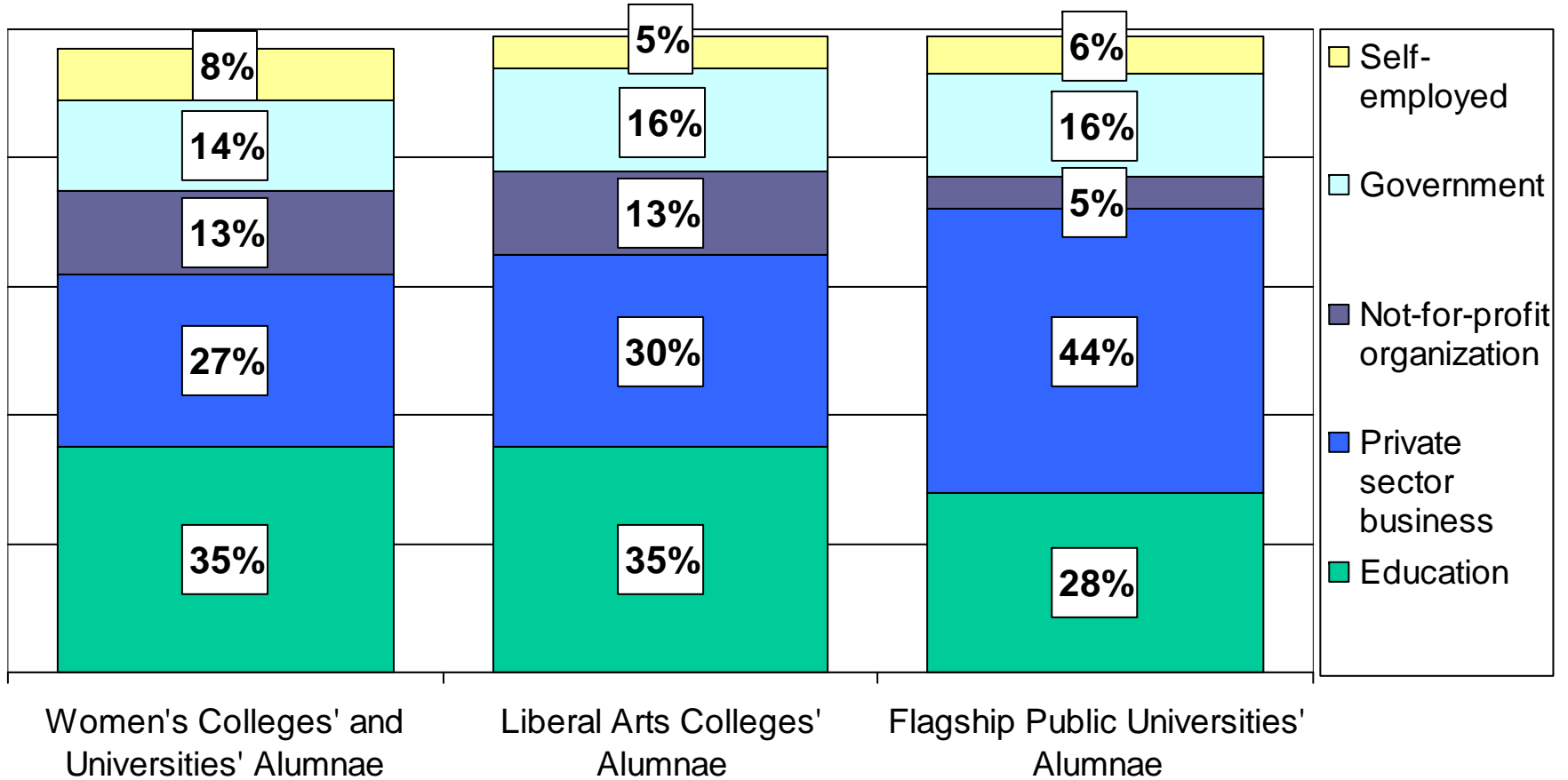
## Employment Status for Women's Colleges Alumnae is Very Similar to Alumnae From Other Colleges and Universities



There are no significant differences

Q.J1 Which of the following describe your current employment status?

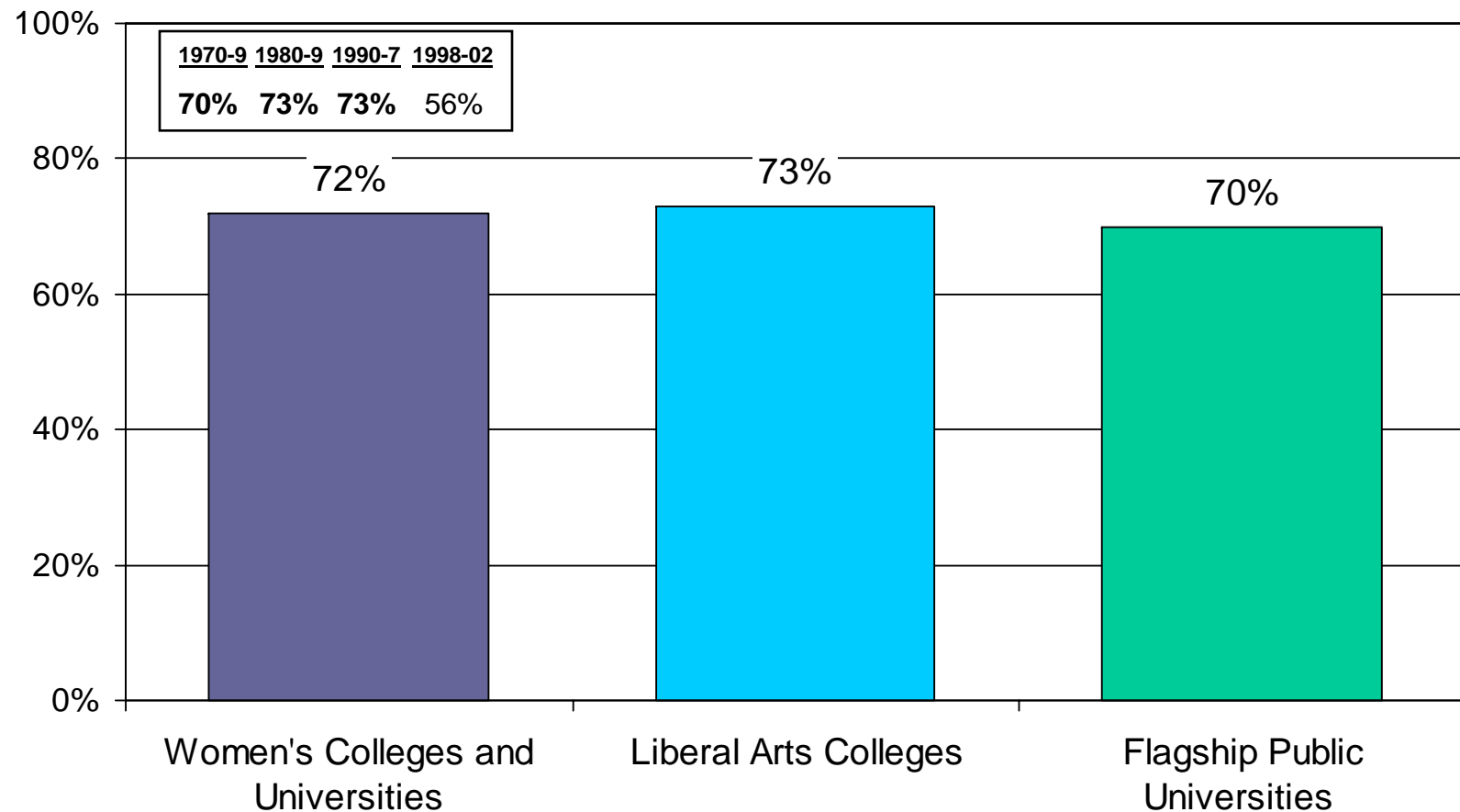
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are Less Likely than Flagship Public University Graduates to Work Full-time in a Private-Sector Business, and More Likely to Work For a Non-Profit Organization



Women's Colleges alumnae are significantly more likely than Flagship Public Universities alumnae to work for a not-for-profit organization; and less likely than the Public Universities alumnae to work for a business in the private sector

Q.J2 Which of the following best describes the business or organization where you work full-time?

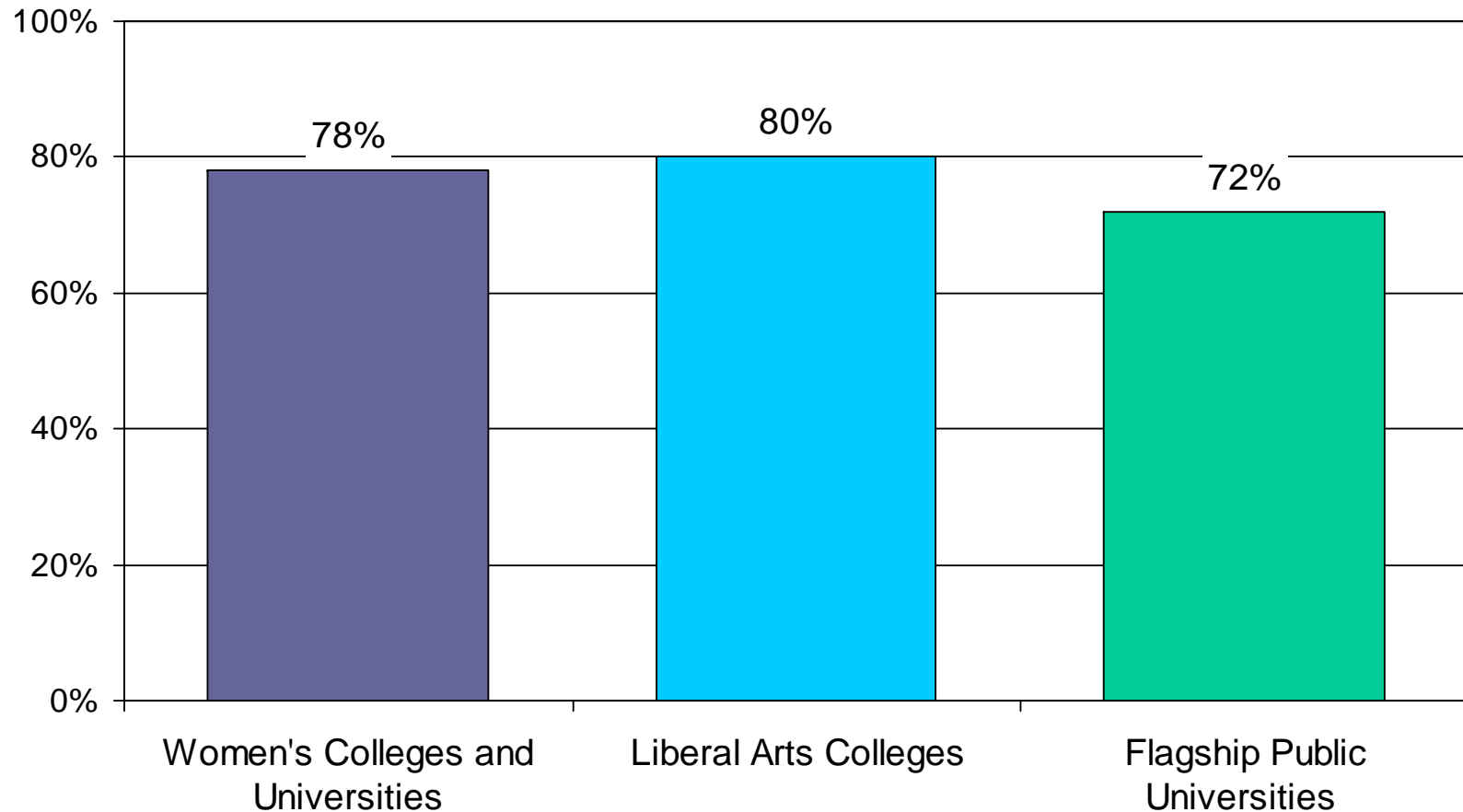
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are as Likely as Other Alumnae to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Raise a Family



There are no significant differences

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

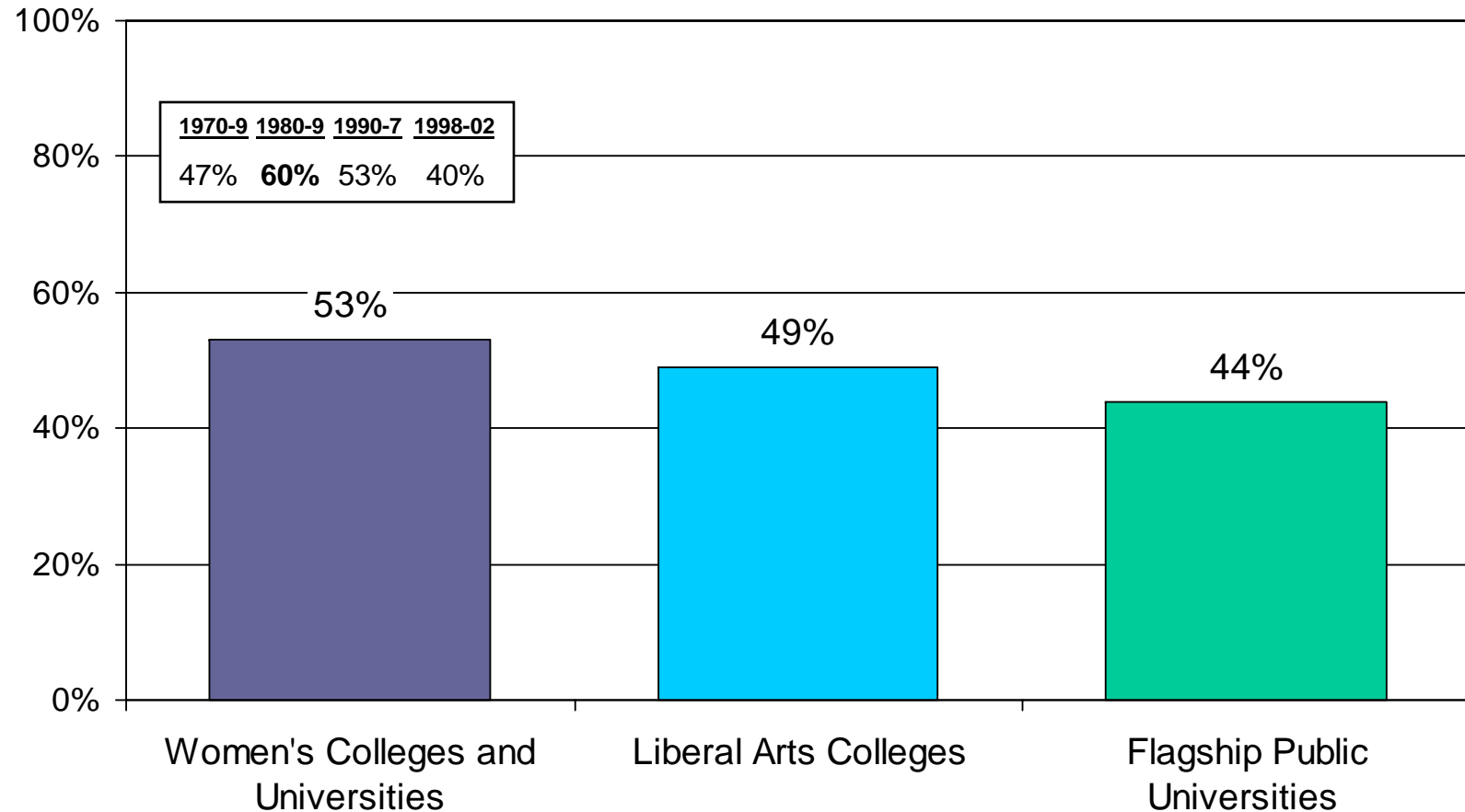
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are Similarly Likely as All Other Graduates to Be Involved with Foundations or Non-Profit Community Organizations



The Women's Colleges group is similar to all other groups

Q.20 In the past five years, have you been involved in the volunteer activity...?

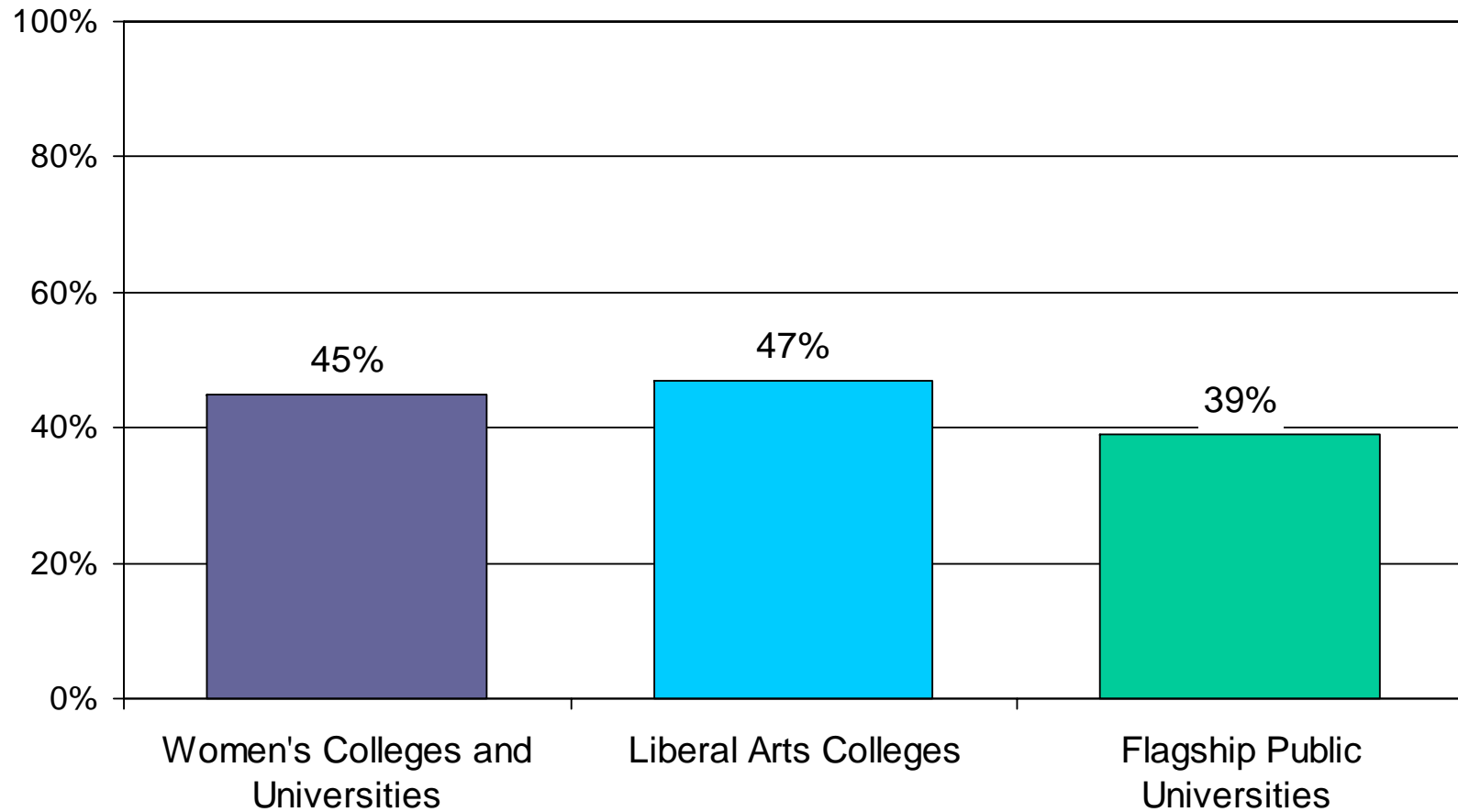
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Contribute to Their Community



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are as Likely as Other Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Promote Racial Equality or Other Social Justice Issues

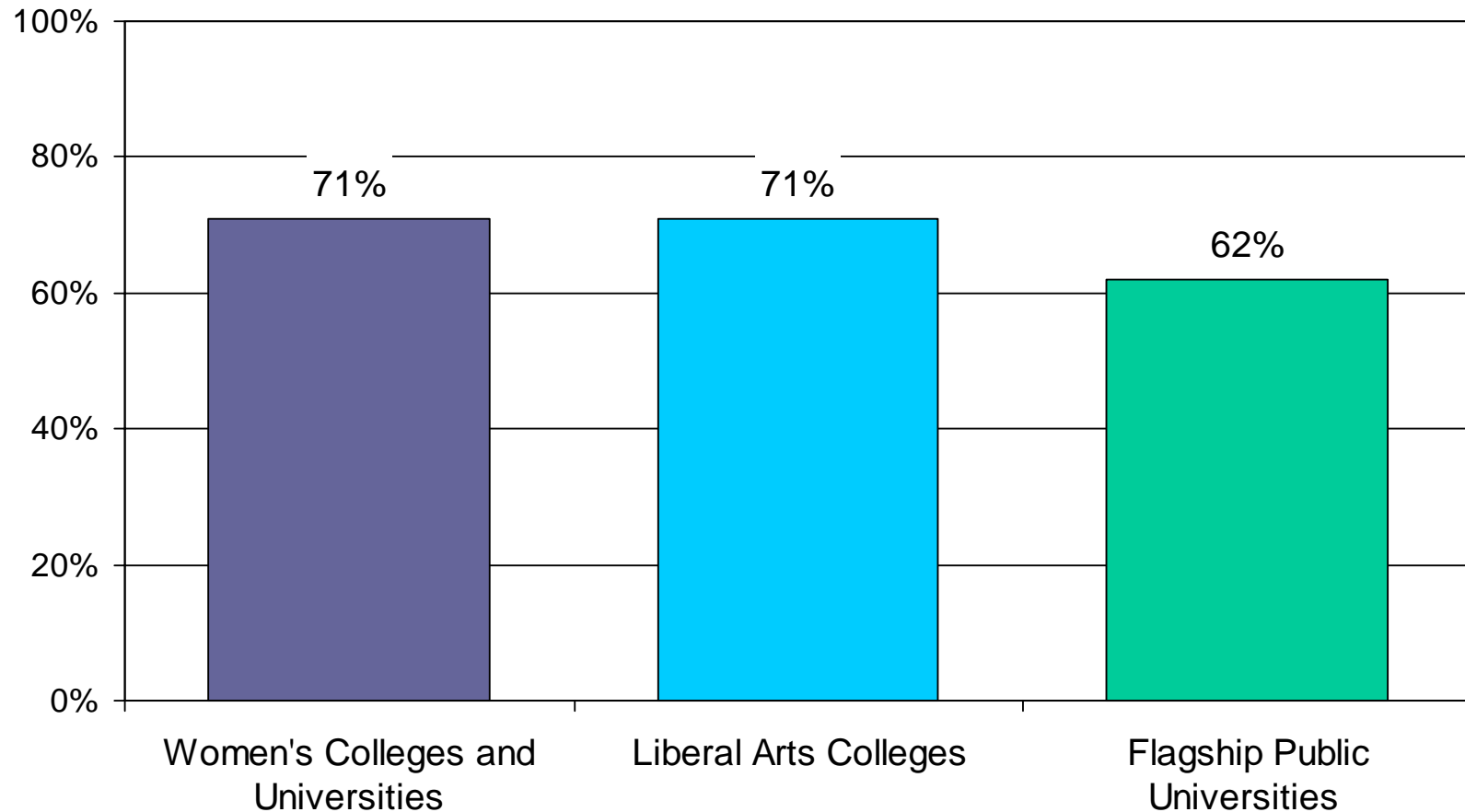


There are no significant differences

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)



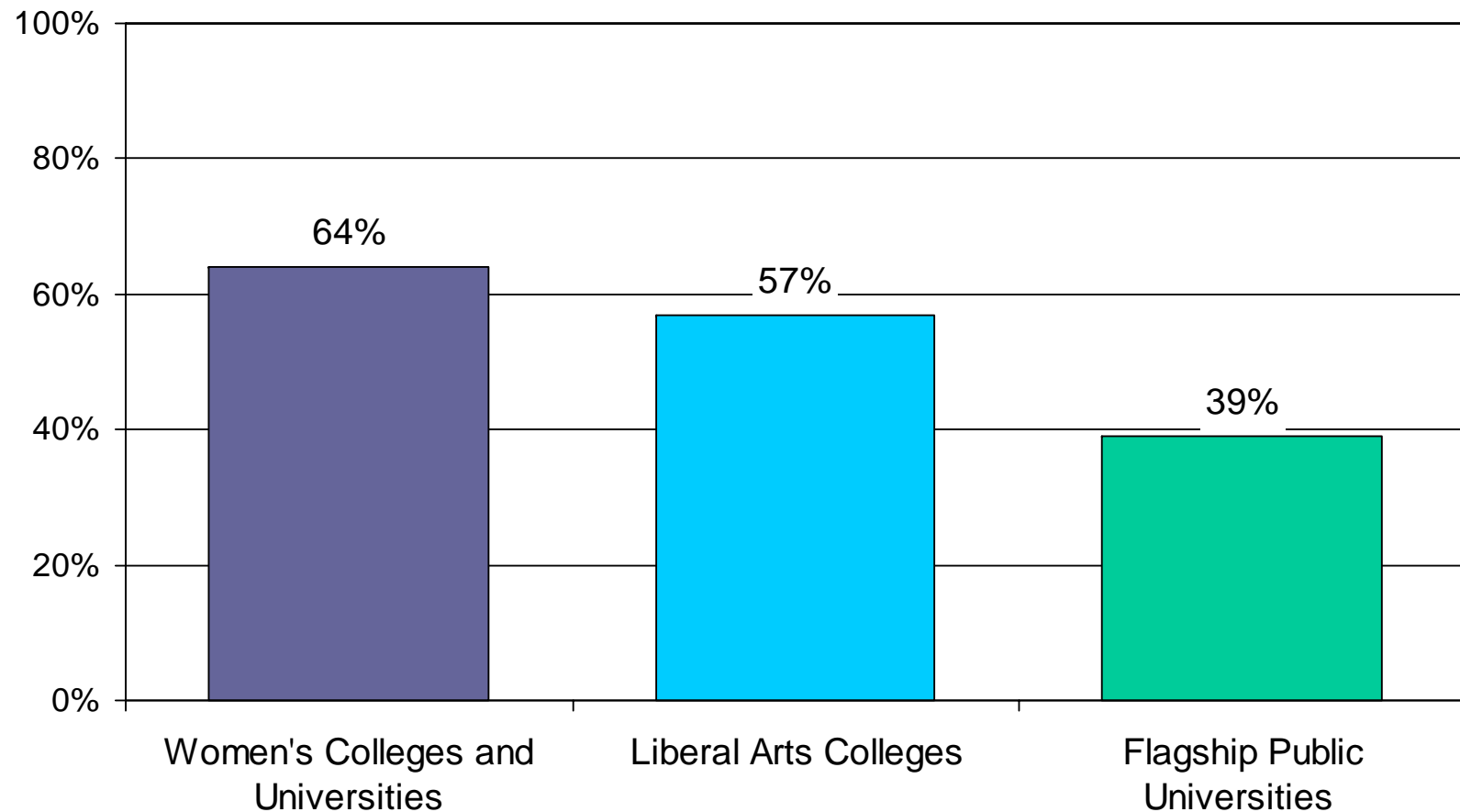
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Financially Support Foundations or Non-Profit Community Organizations



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.20 Have you financially supported (organization) within the past five years?

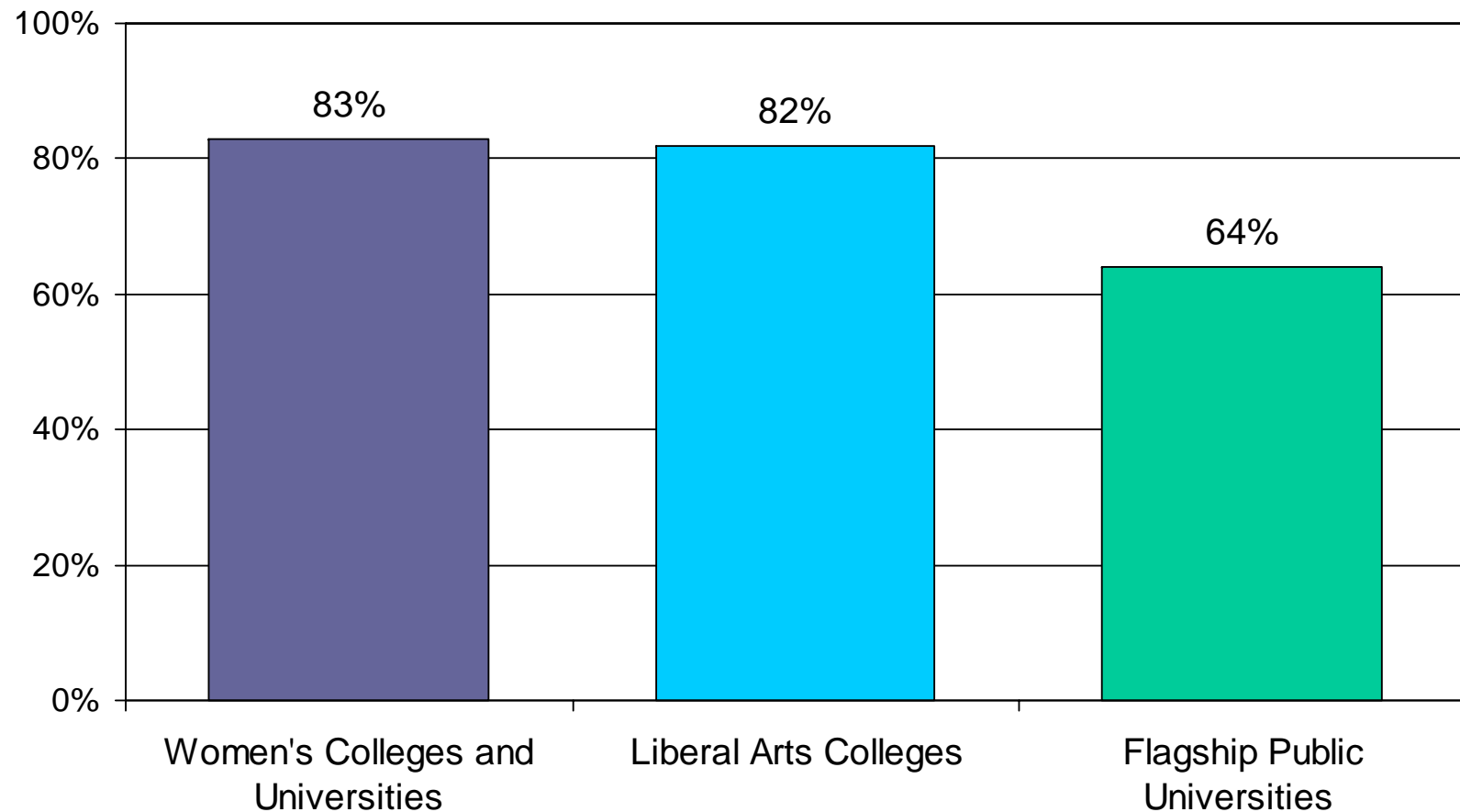
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Public Universities Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from Interaction With Other Students Who Share Their Interests



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges, and significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

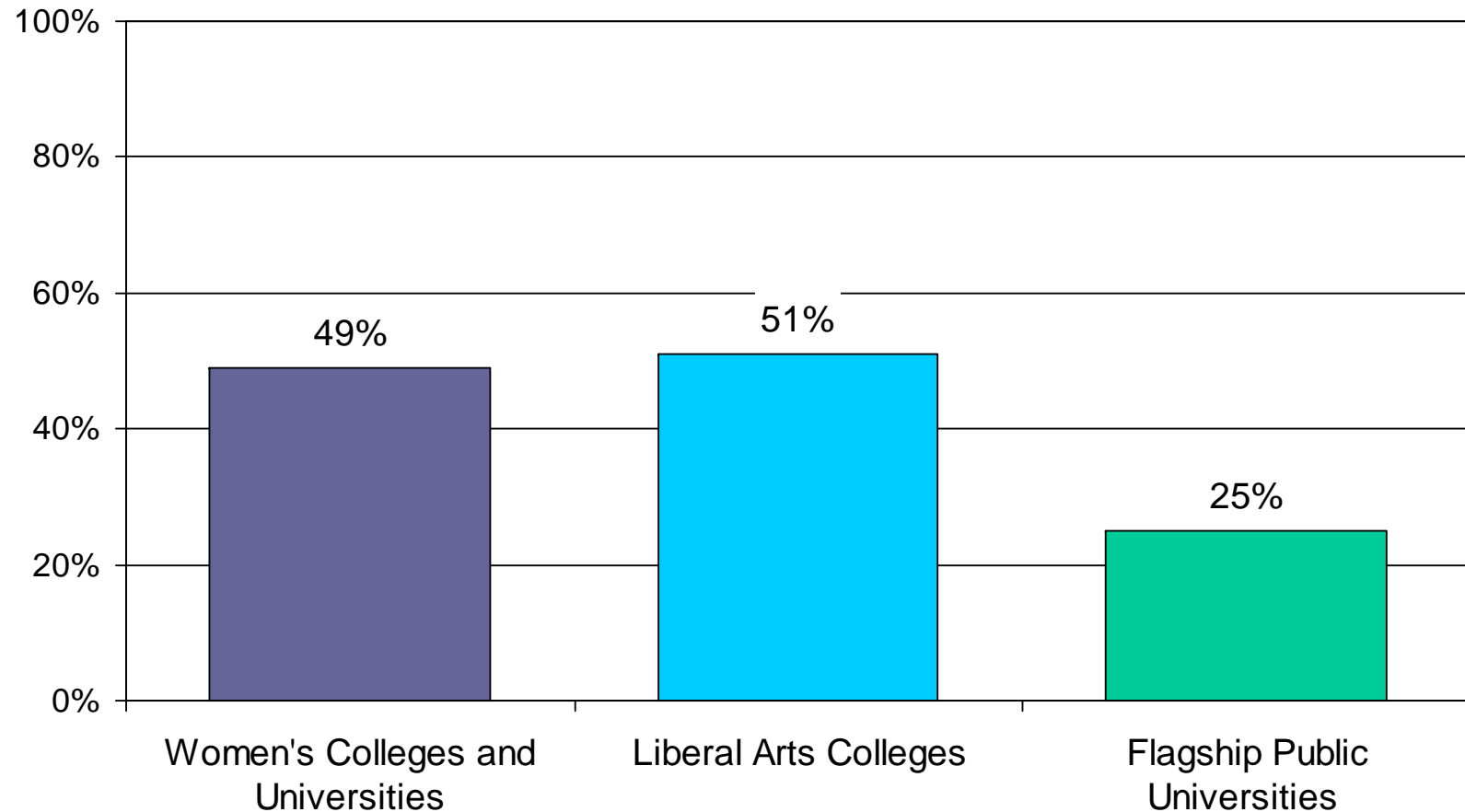
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say Their Experience Often Included Interaction with Other Students with Similar Values



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

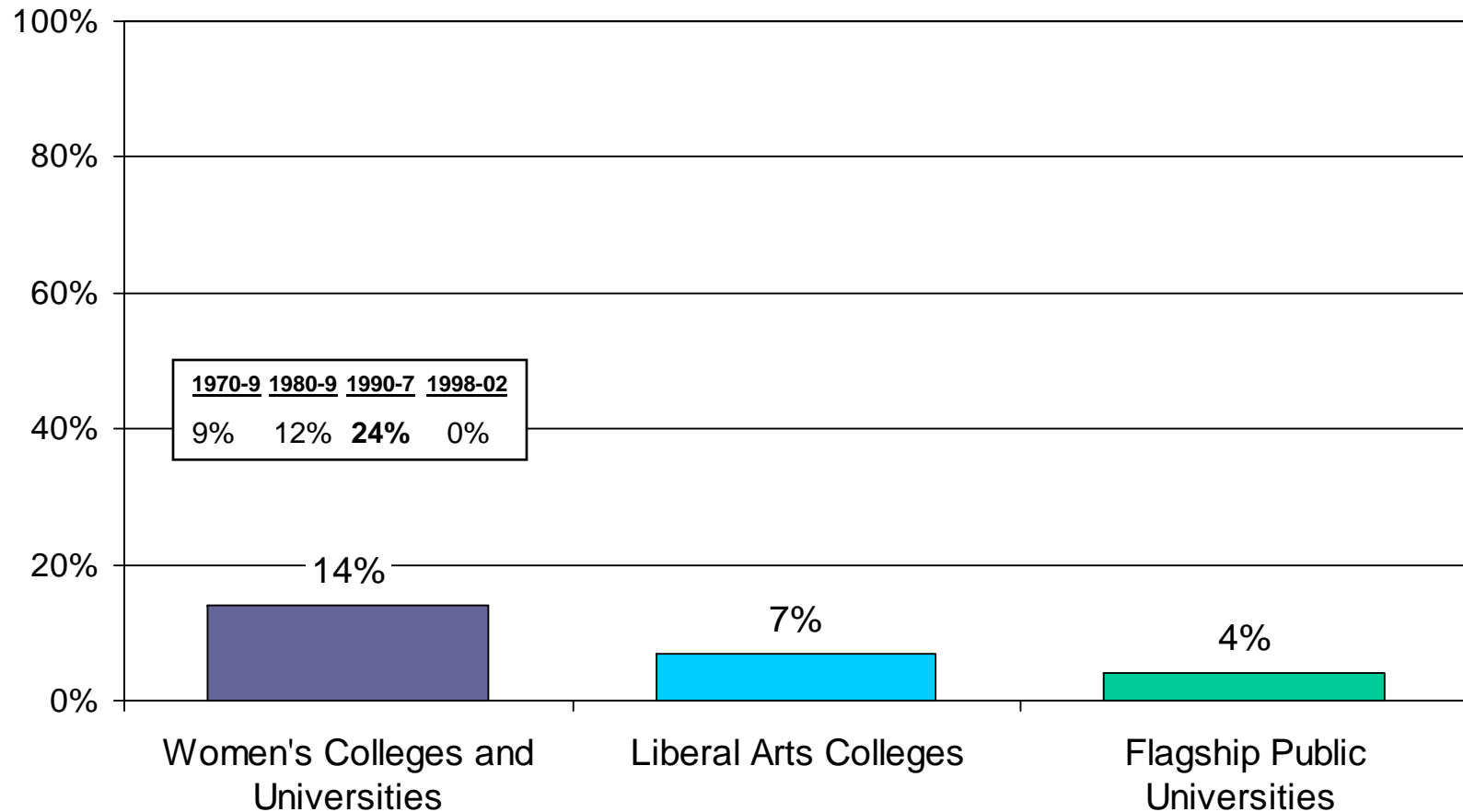
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved with Their Undergraduate College or University



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.20 In the past five years, have you been involved in the volunteer activity...?

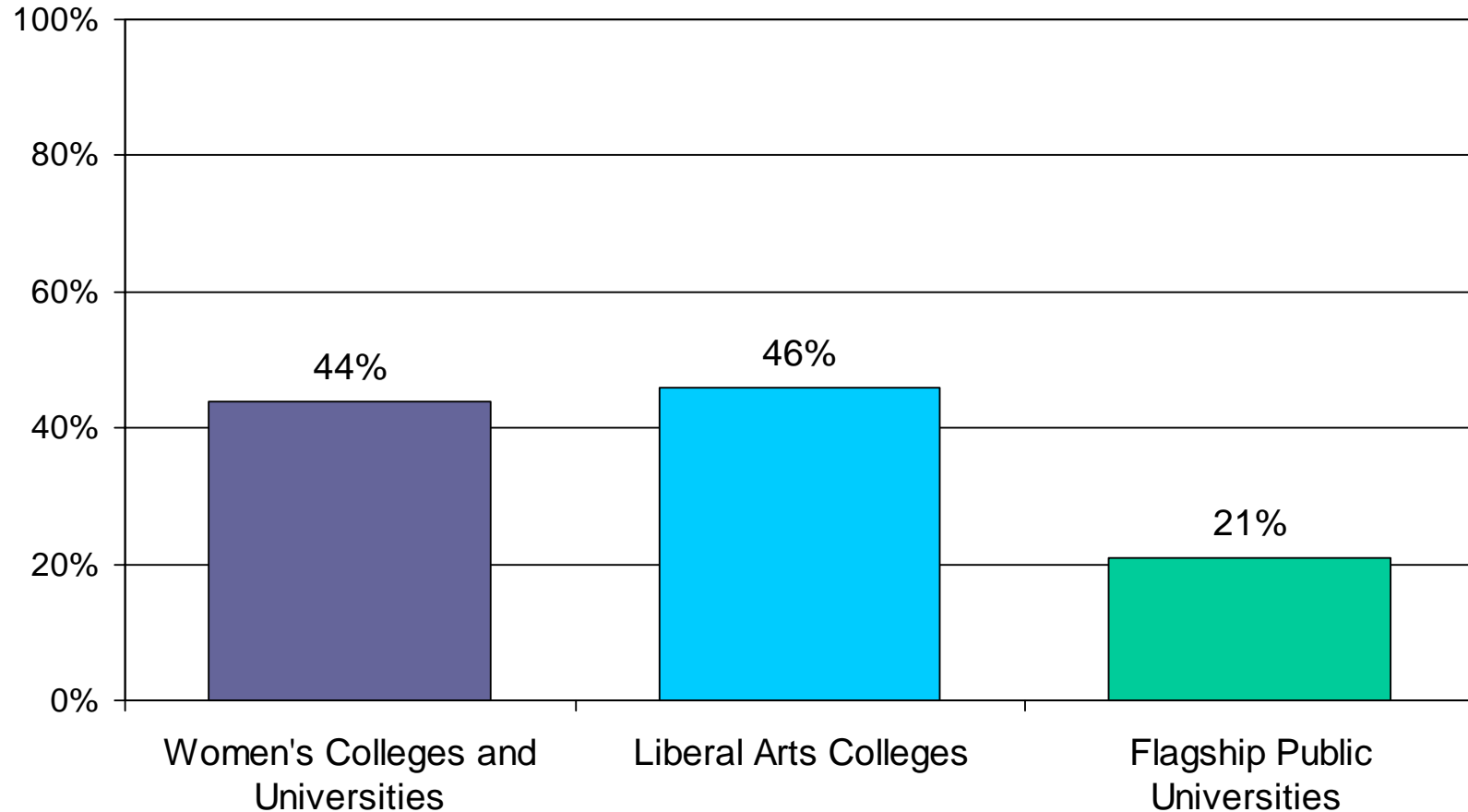
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than All Other Graduates to Serve in a Leadership Role with Their Undergraduate College or University



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.20 In the past five years, have you been involved in the volunteer activity...?

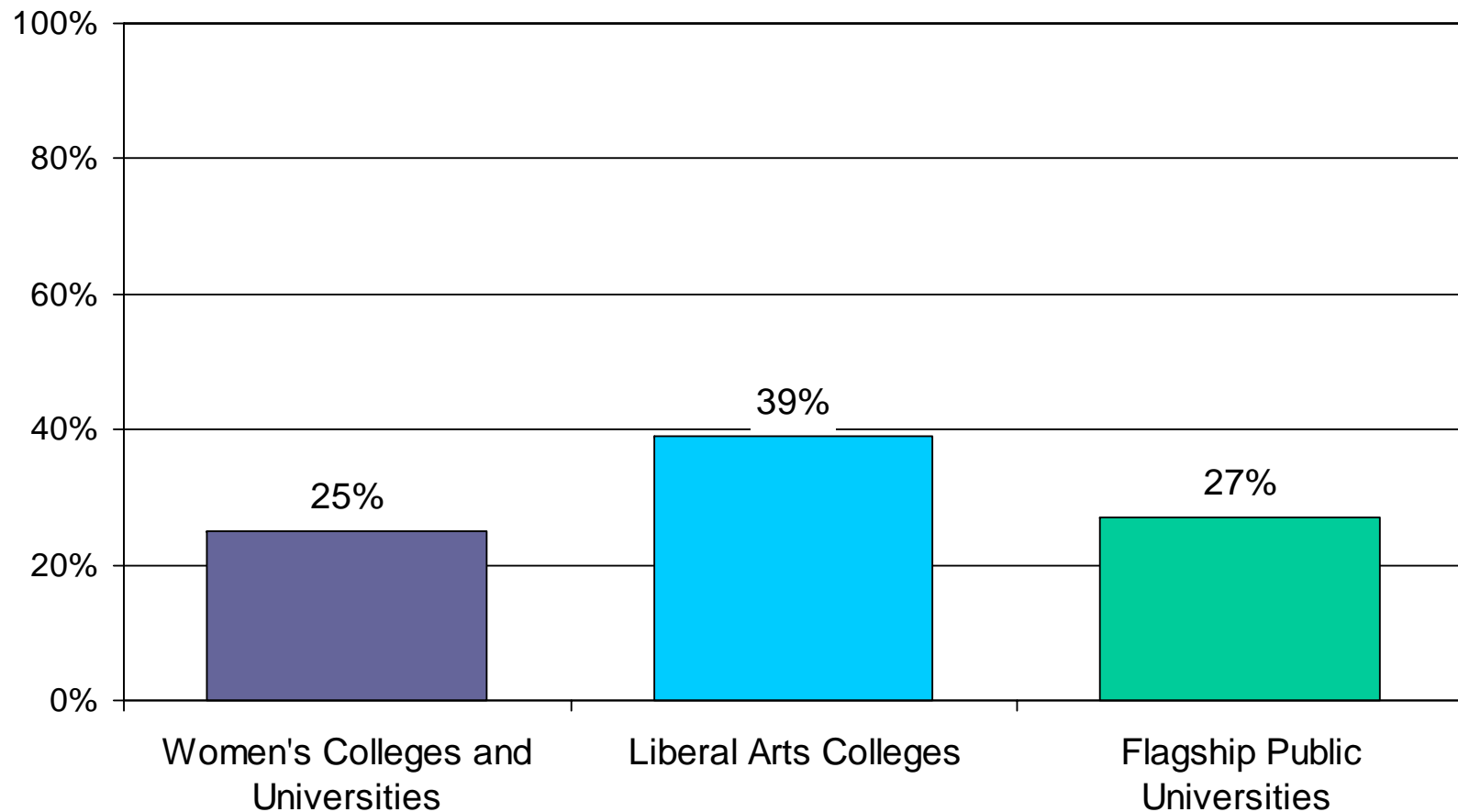
## The Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Financially Support Their Undergraduate College or University



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.20 Have you financially supported (organization) within the past five years?

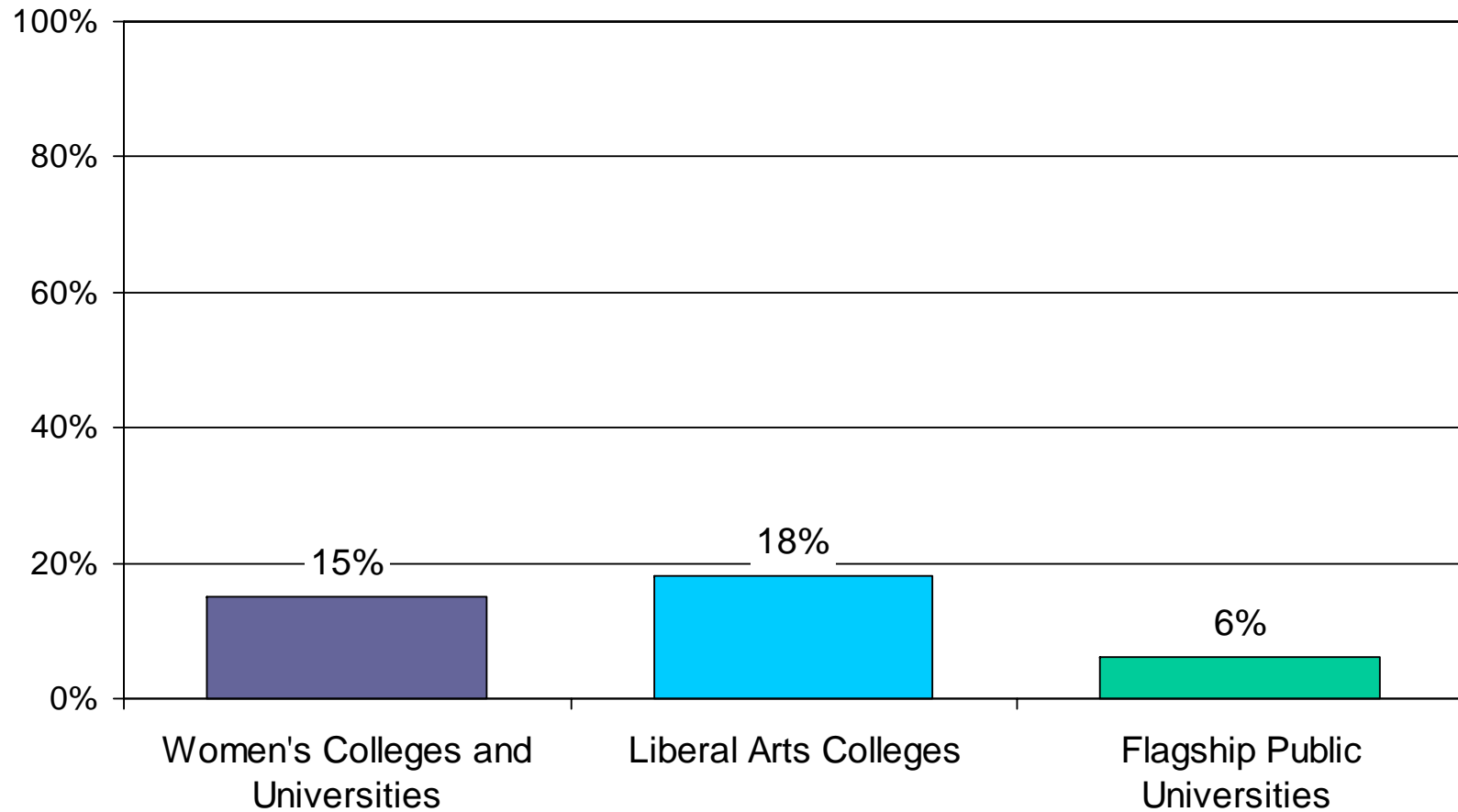
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were Equally Likely as Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved in Intramural Athletics, and Less Likely than Liberal Arts College Graduates



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Flagship Public Universities group; the Liberal Arts Colleges group is significantly higher

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved in Varsity Athletics

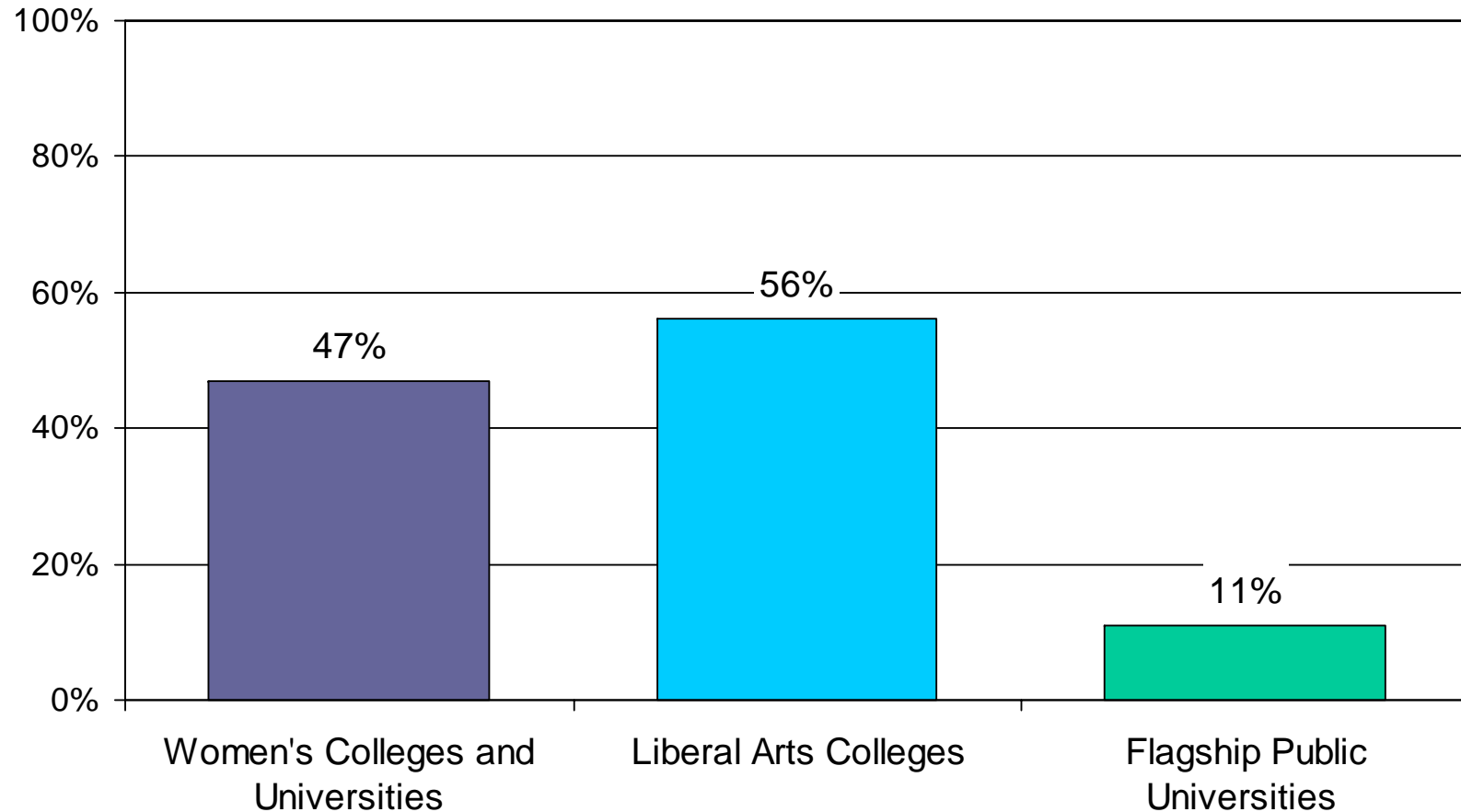


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?



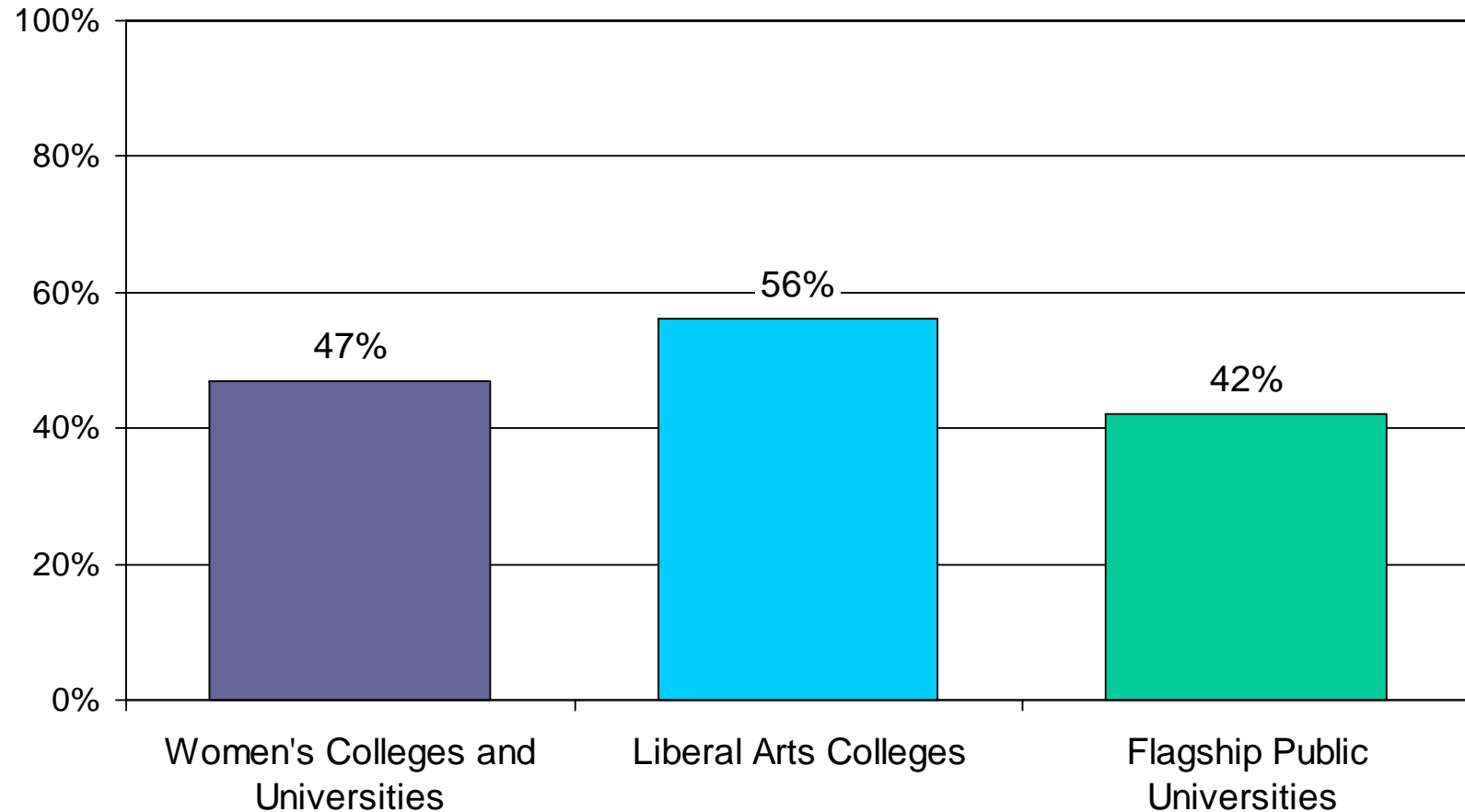
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates (and Less Likely than Liberal Arts College Graduates) to Agree Their College Helped Them to Integrate Faith Into Other Aspects of Their Lives



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and lower than the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree)

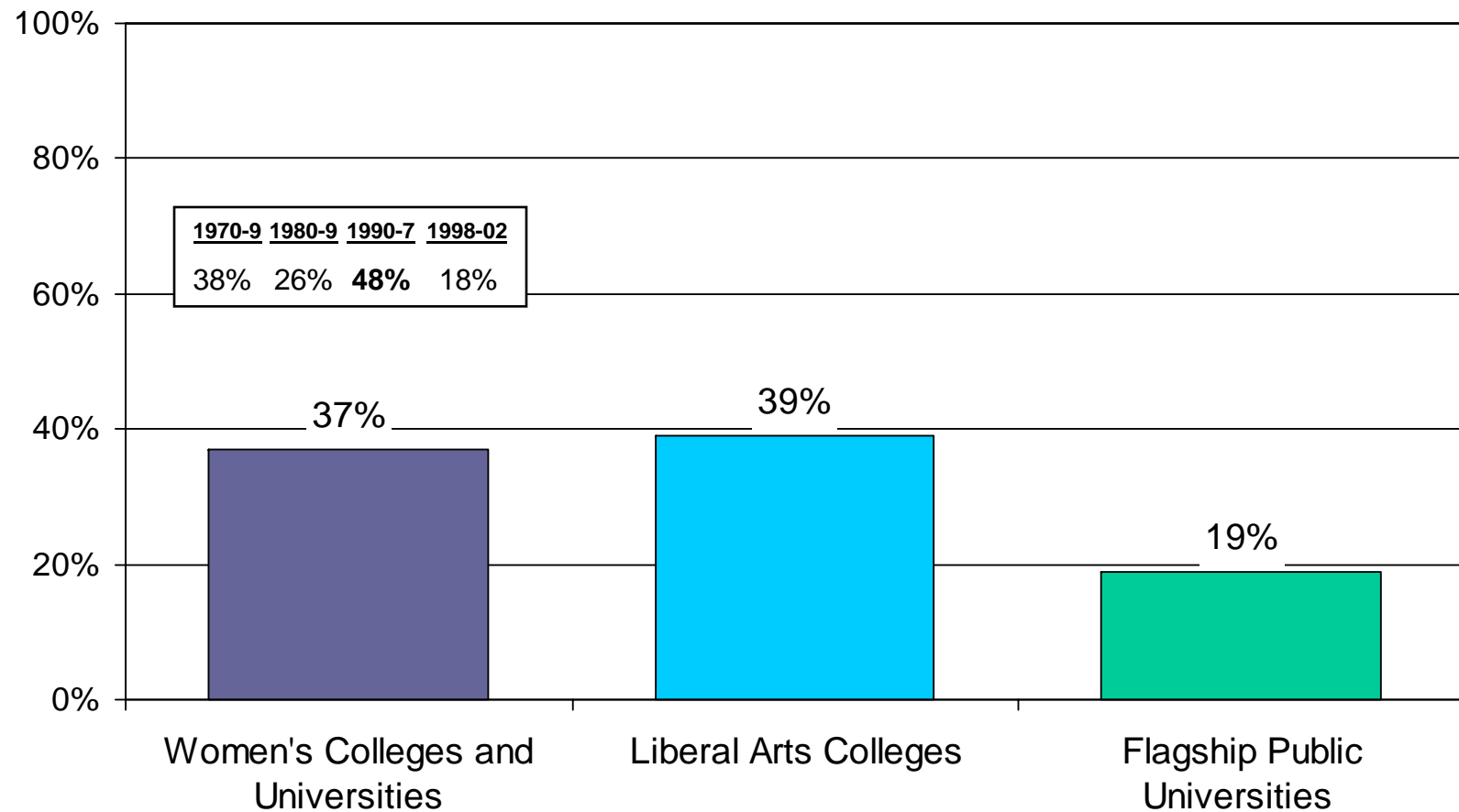
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are Less Likely than Liberal Arts Colleges Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Integrate Faith or Spirituality in Their Lives



The Women's Colleges group is lower than the Liberal Arts Colleges group and similar to the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

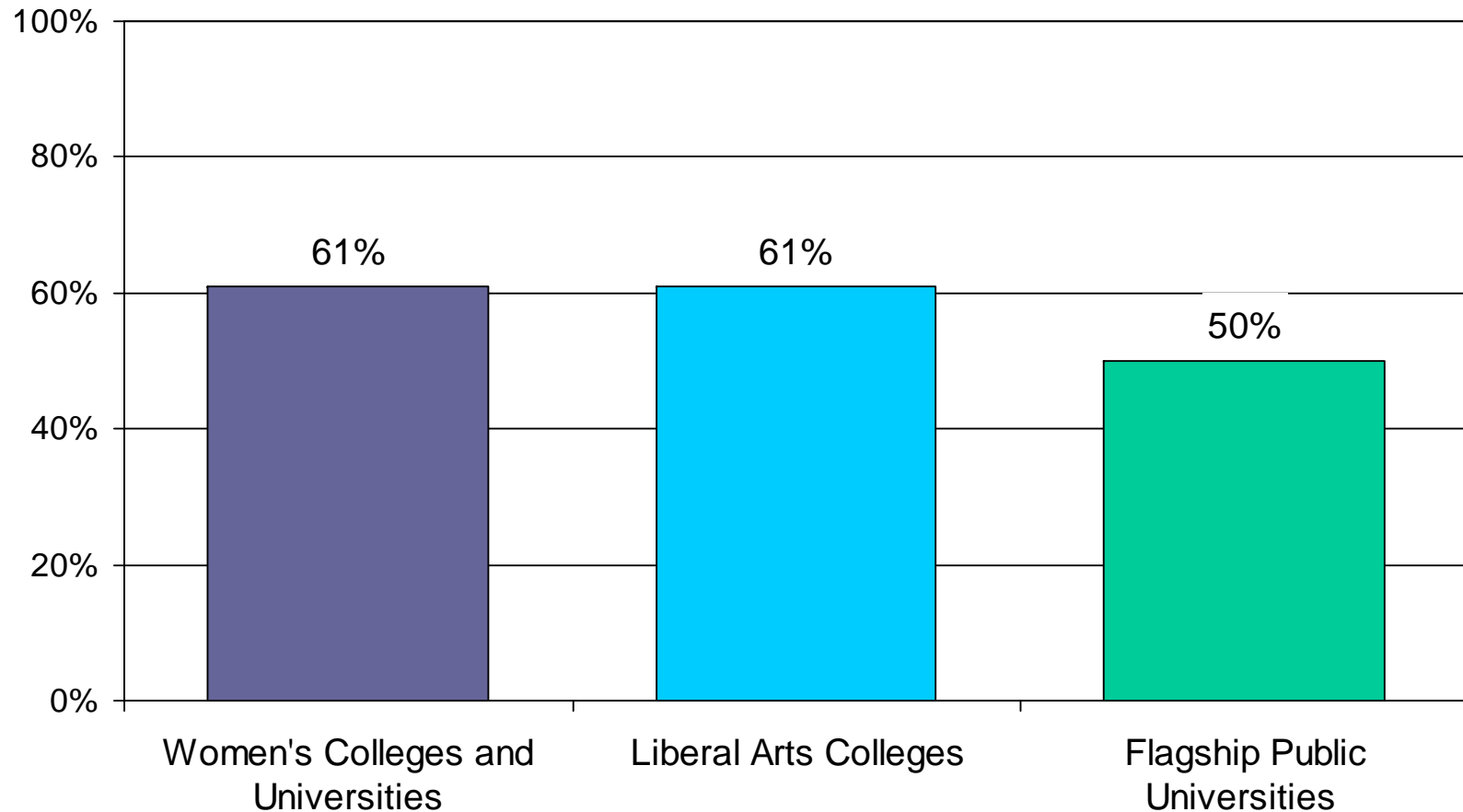
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved in Music or Theater Performances



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?

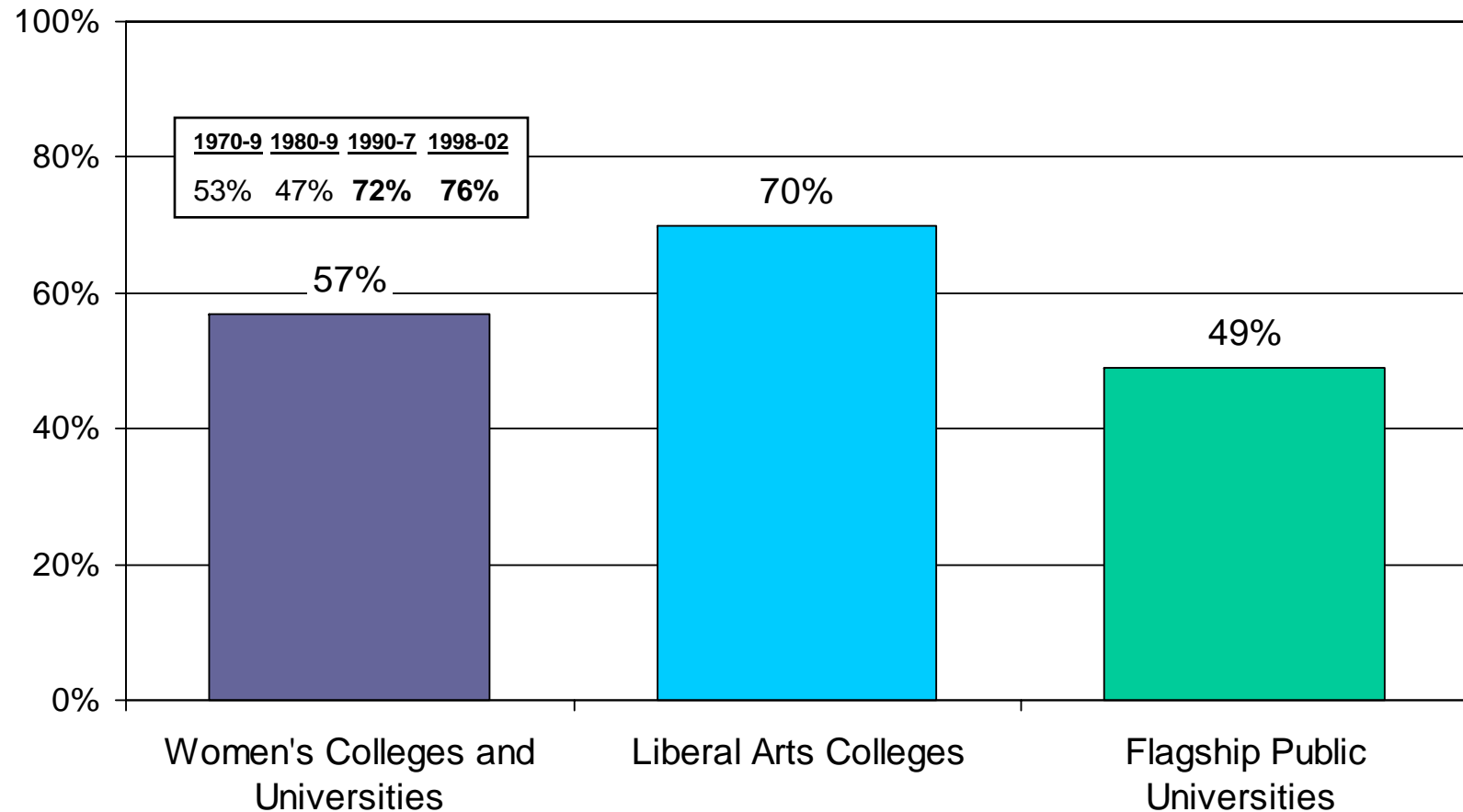
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved in Volunteer or Community Service Activities



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?

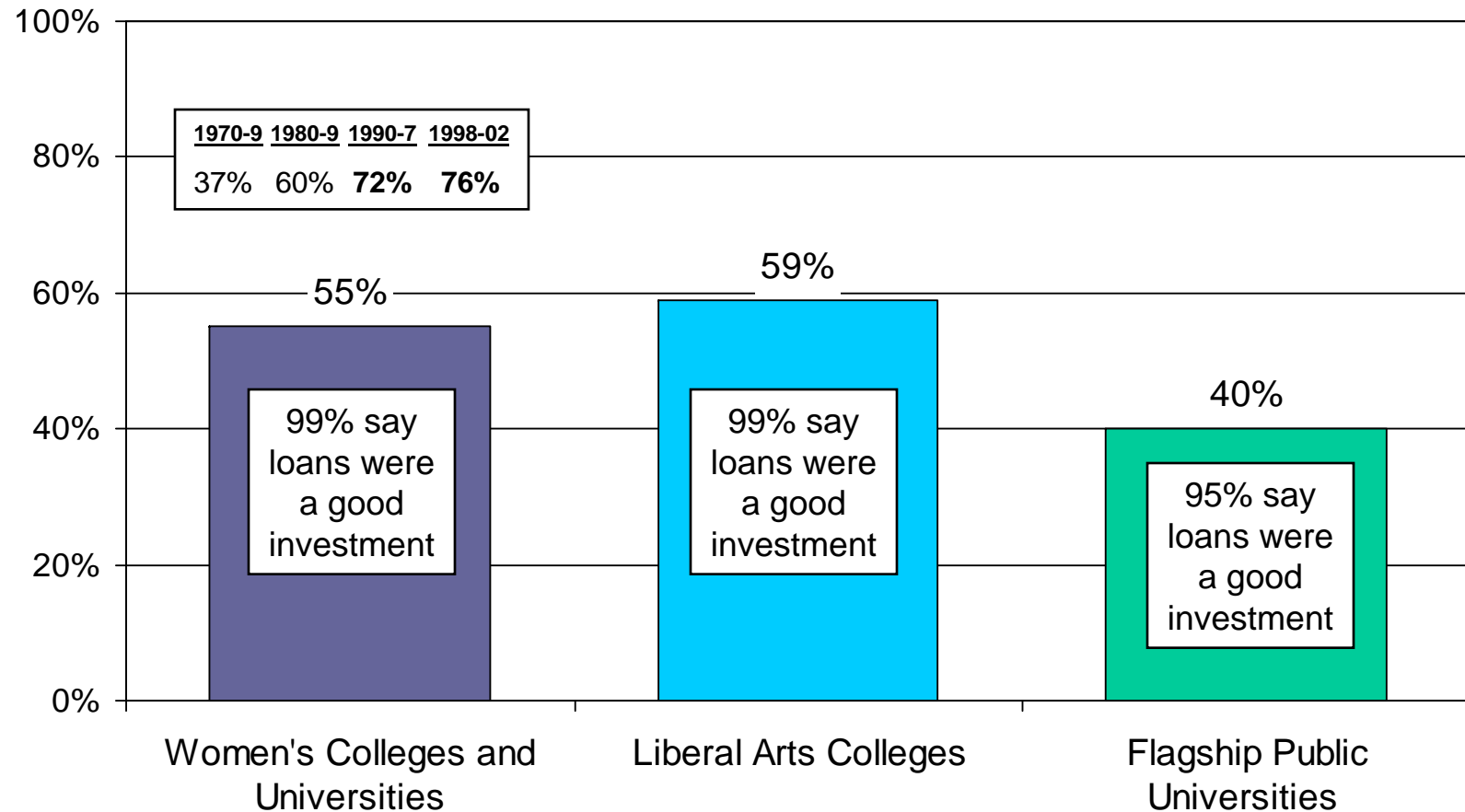
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were Less Likely than Liberal Arts Colleges Alumnae to Have Received a Grant or Scholarship to Attend College; This Difference is Diminishing



The Women's Colleges group is significantly lower than the Liberal Arts group, and similar to the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.13 Did you receive a scholarship or grant to attend college?

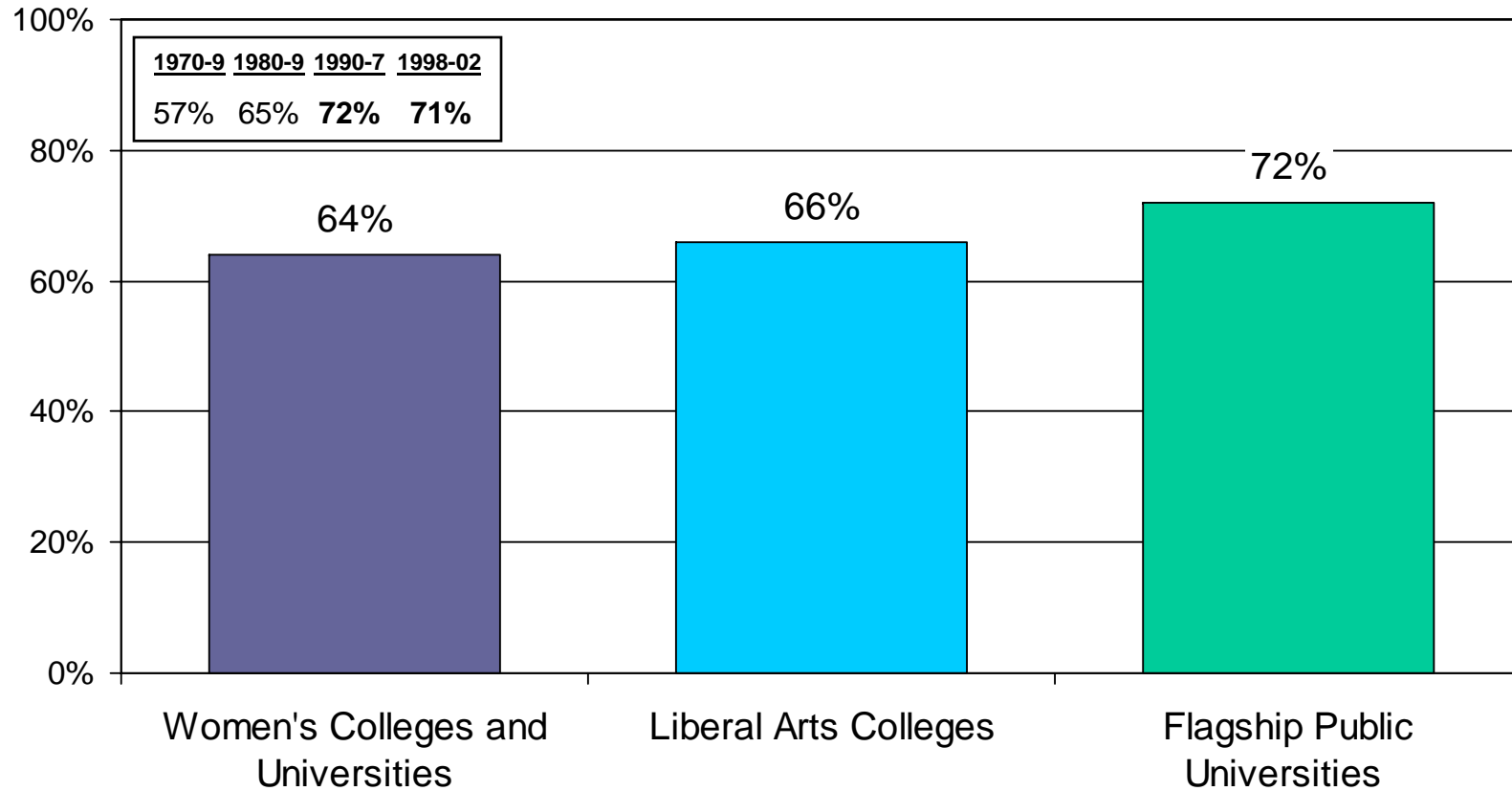
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Have Taken a Loan to Attend College



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.14 Did you take out loans to attend college?

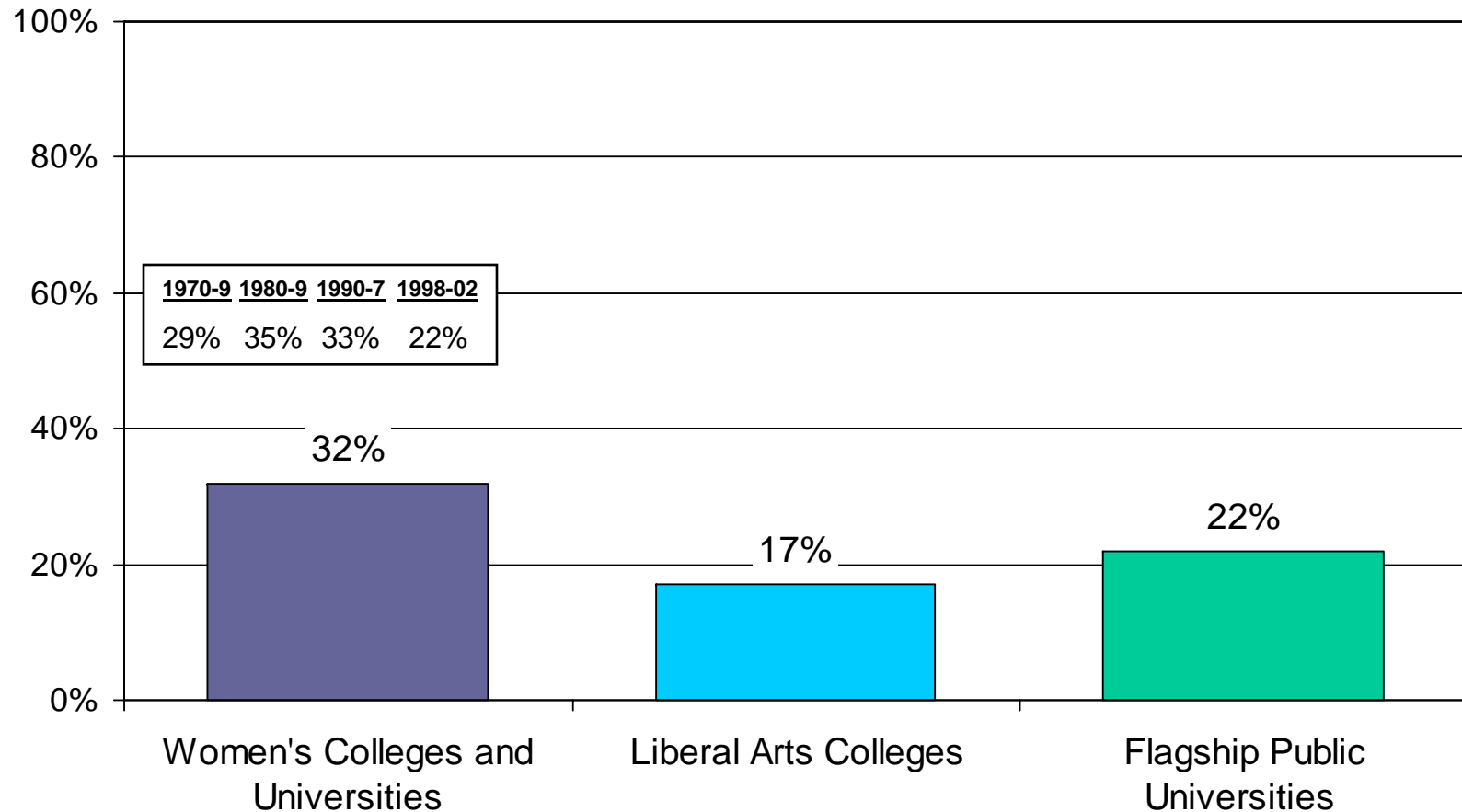
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were Less Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Have Worked During the School Year



The Women's Colleges group is significantly lower than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.17 Were you usually working during the college school year?

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Other Alumnae to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Be Well-Off Financially

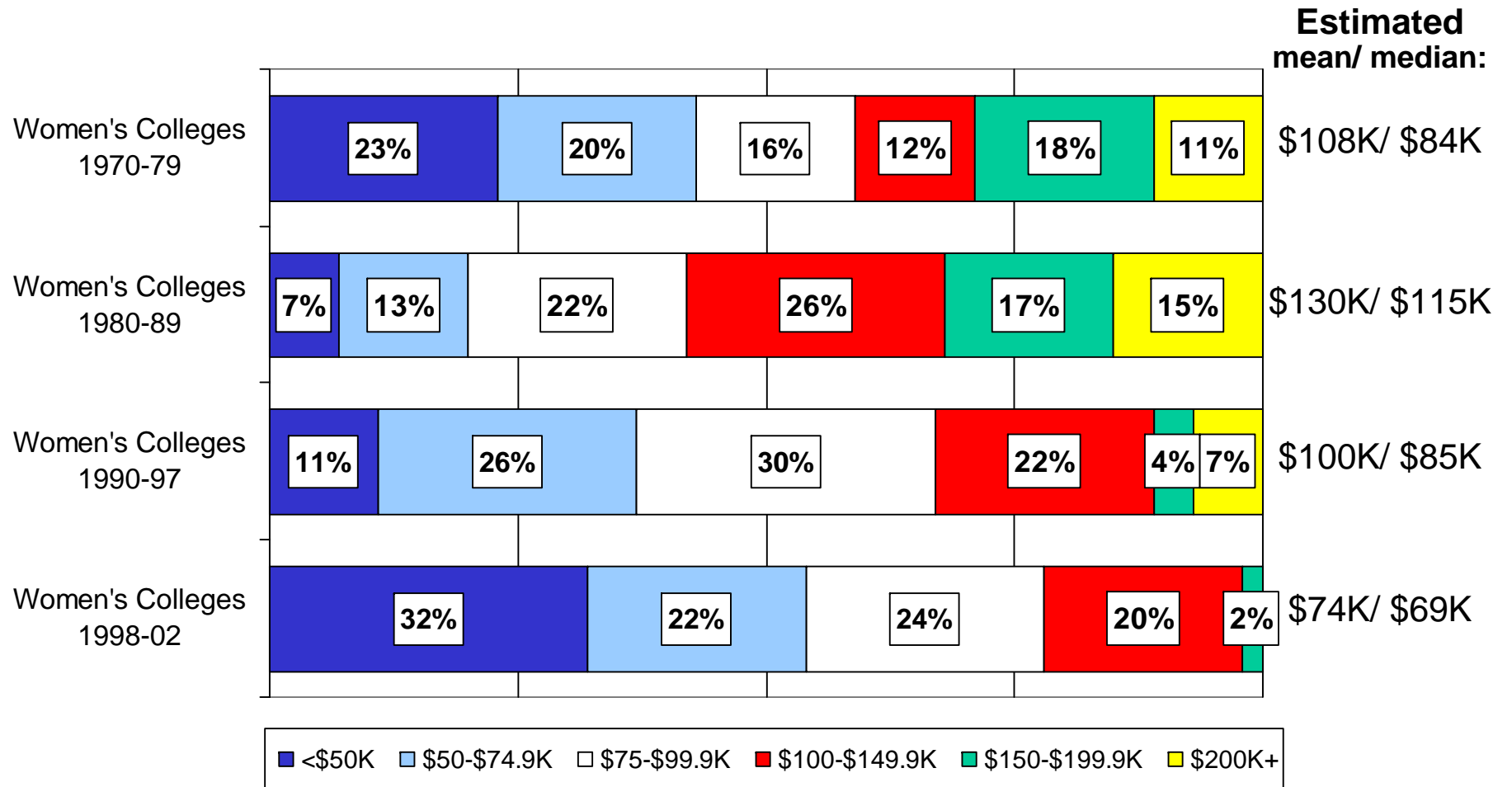


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)



## Women's Colleges Alumnae Household Income, By Decade



Q.A Which of the following includes your total annual household income?

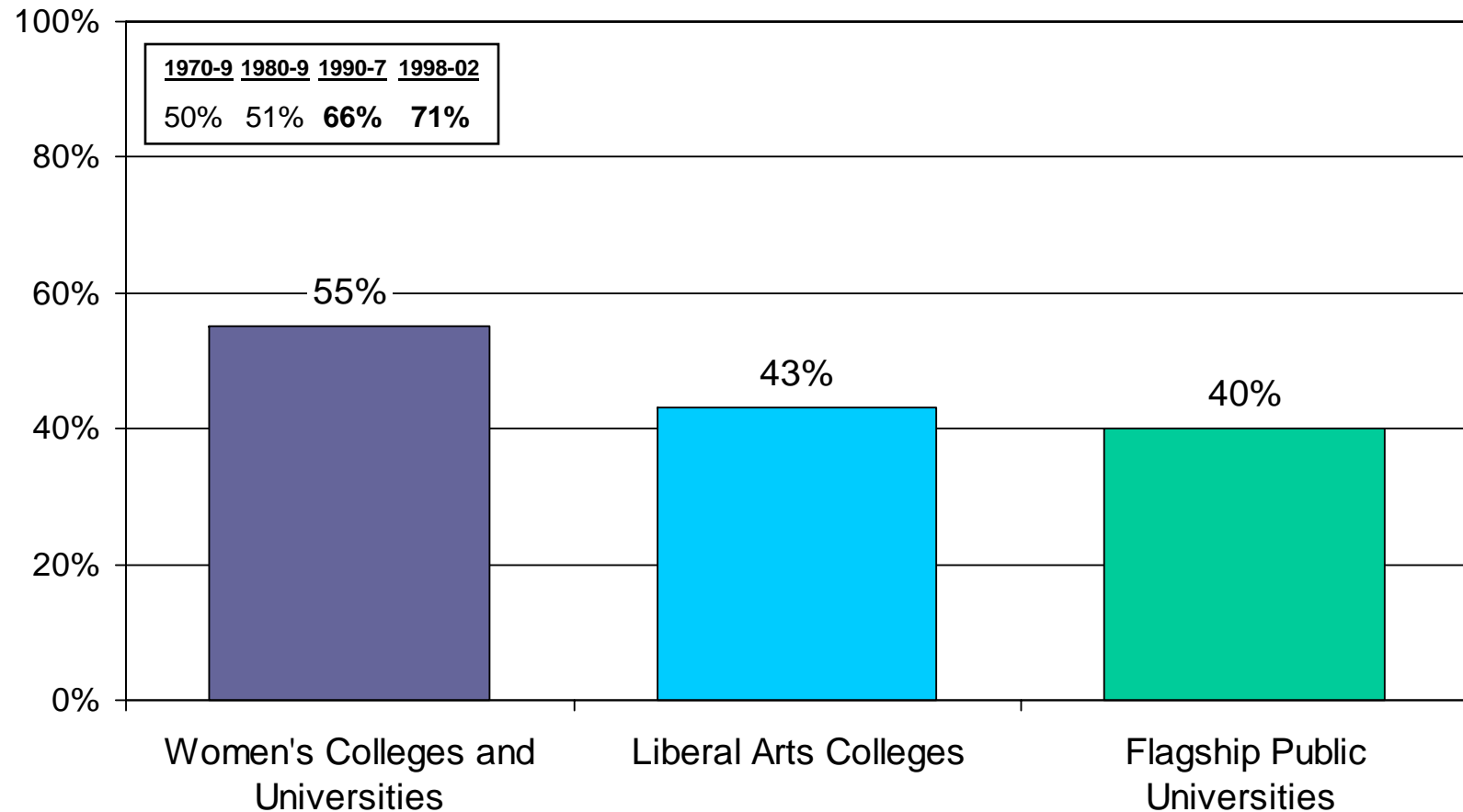
(based to those giving a response--not available for other groups)

## **1. A women's college education...**

### **Creates leaders, communicators, and persuaders.**

Speaking out and speaking up – key components of leadership and civic engagement – are capacities actively developed at women's colleges. Women's college alumnae report more in-class experience with making presentations than their peers at other institutions and are more likely to gain leadership experience in student government and campus media.

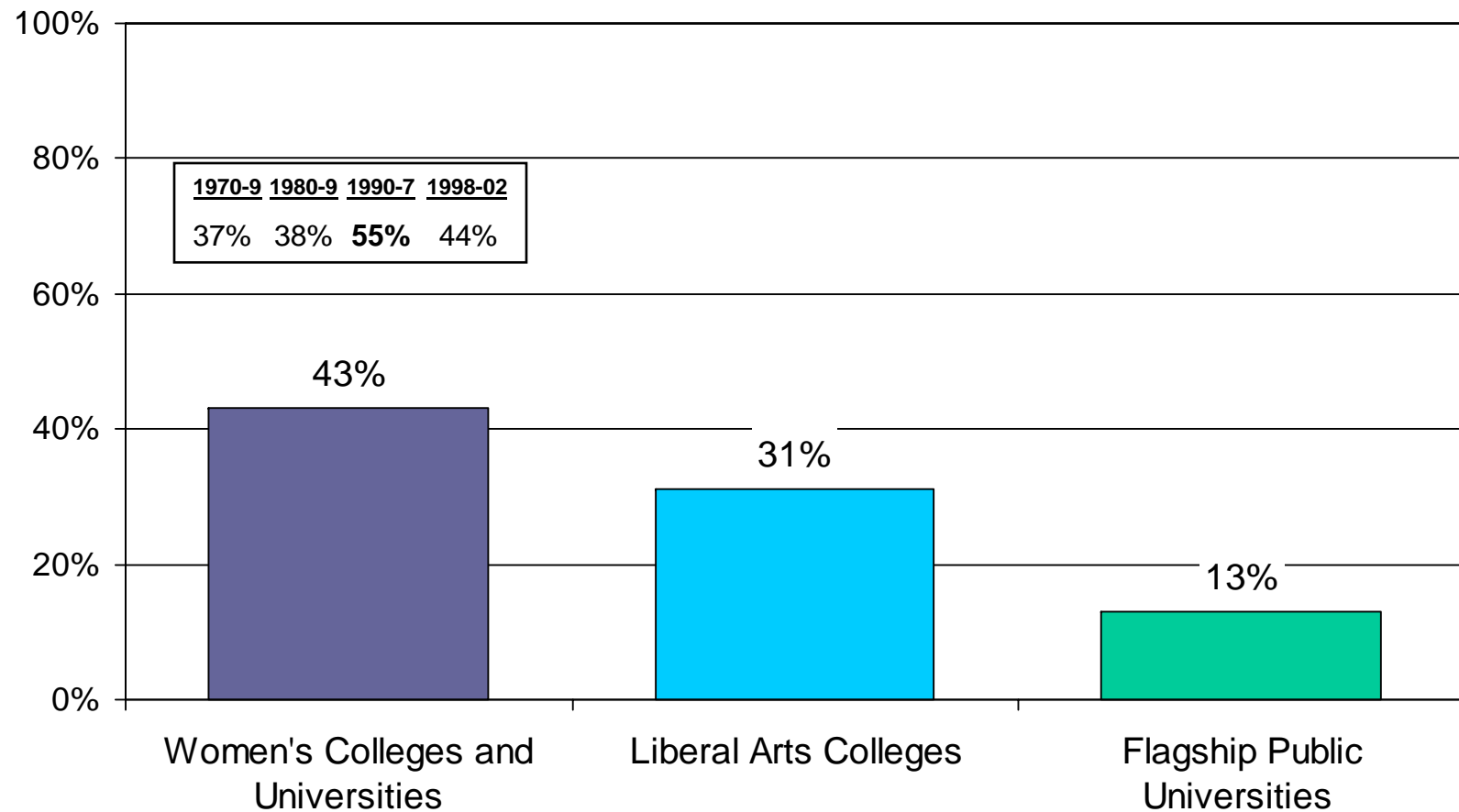
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than All Other Alumnae to Say Their Experience Often Included Student Presentations in Class



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

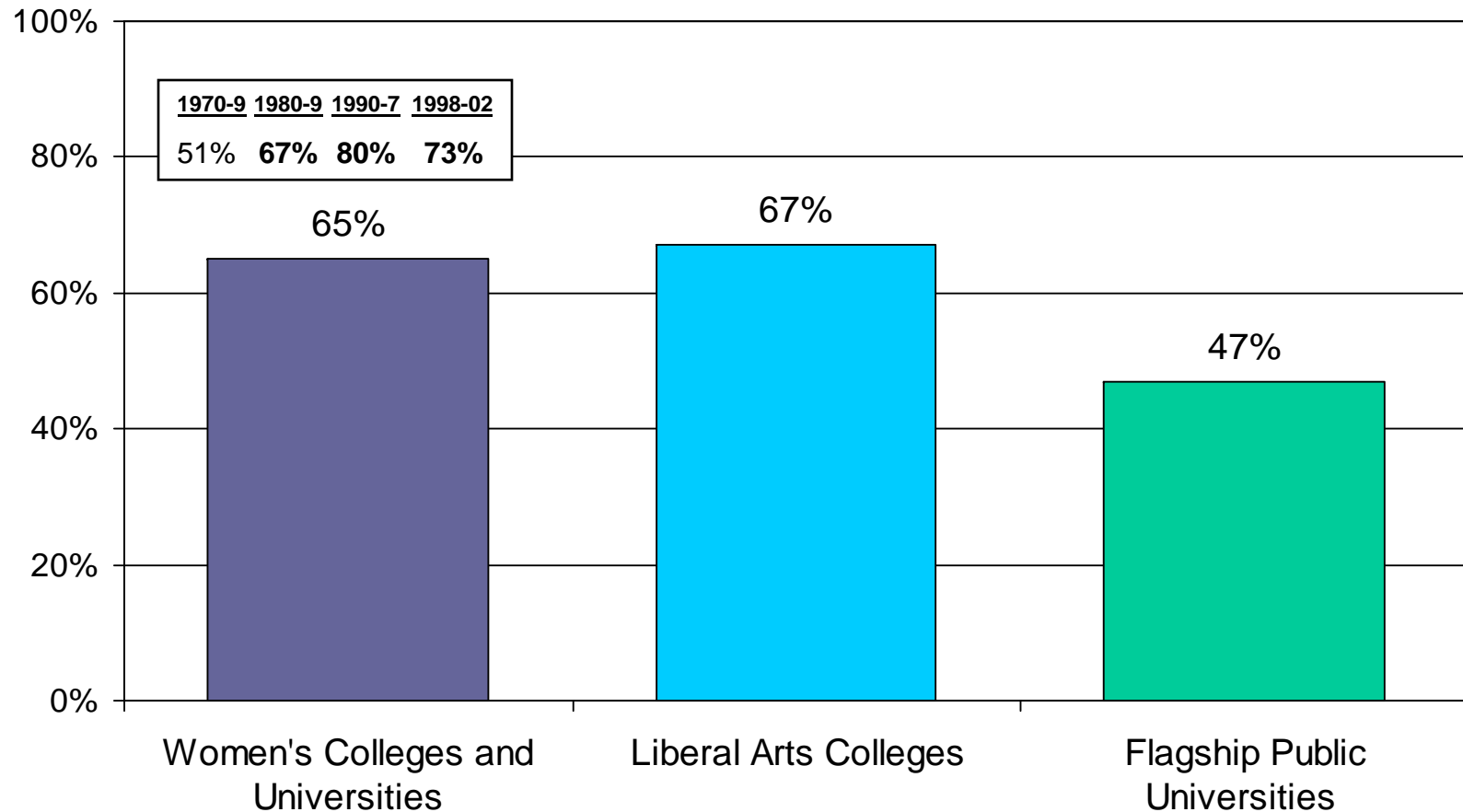
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than All Other Graduates to Be Involved in Campus Publications or Student Government



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?

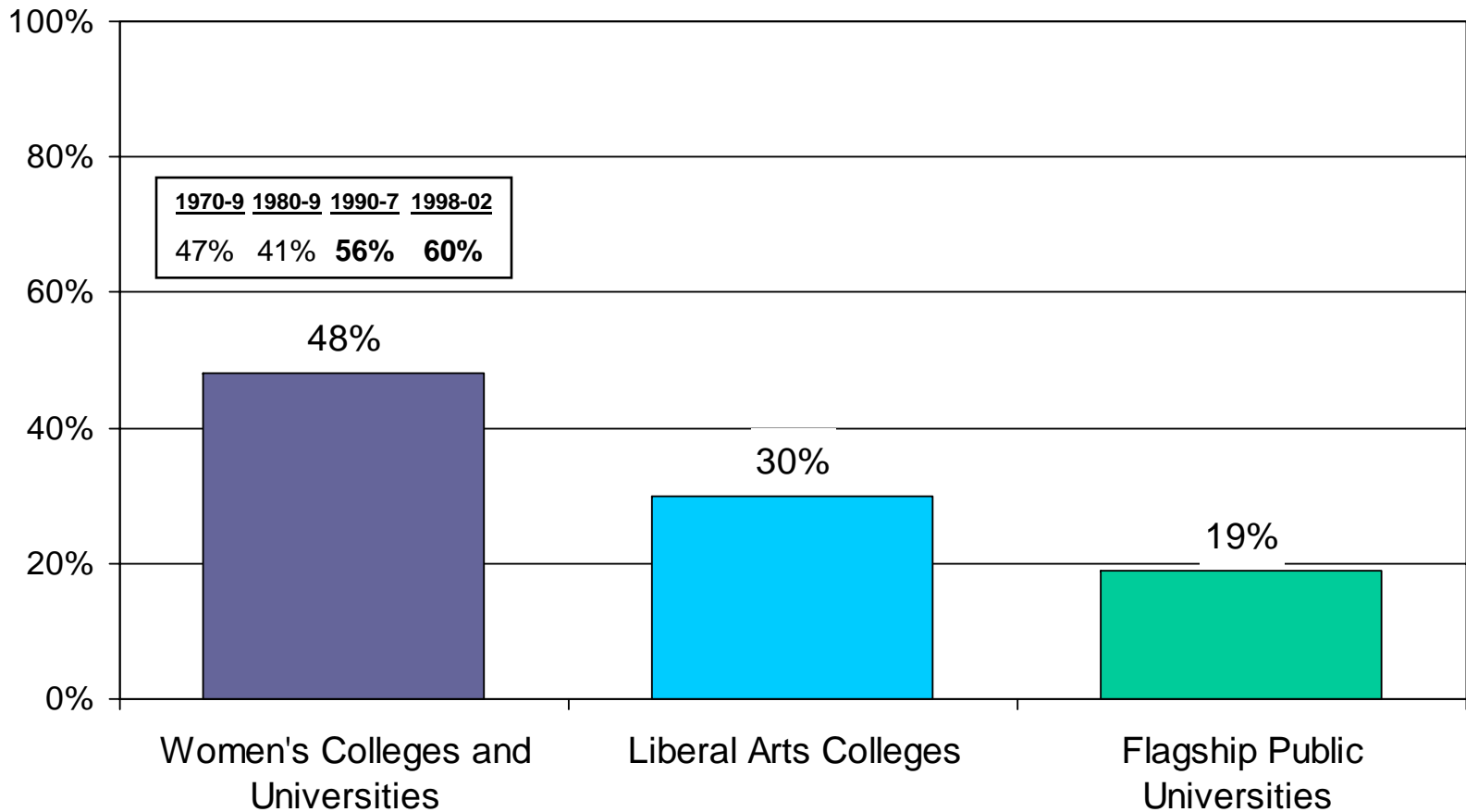
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Have a Leadership Role in an Extracurricular Activity



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.6B Did you have any leadership roles in ...? (total who had a leadership role)

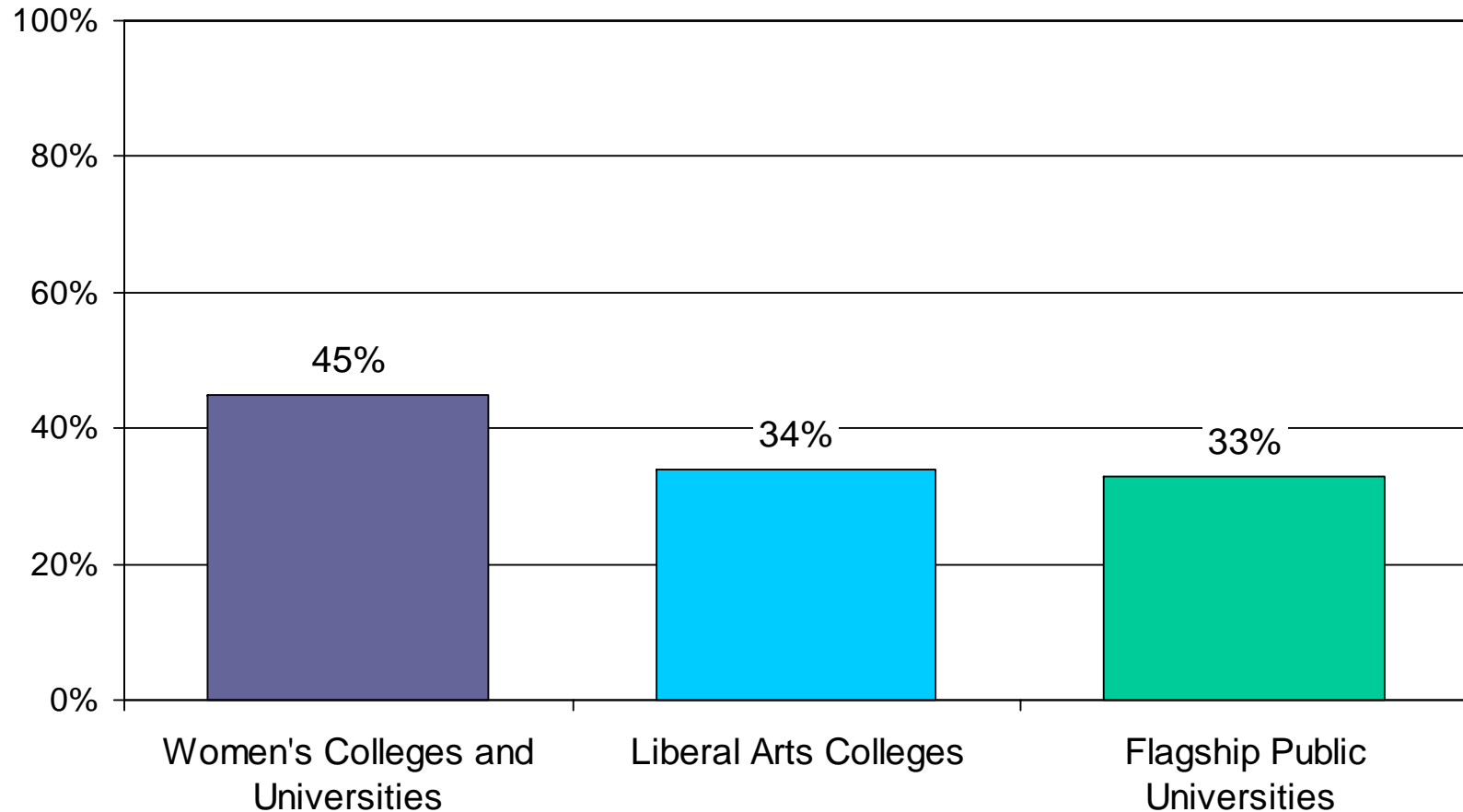
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Be a Leader



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

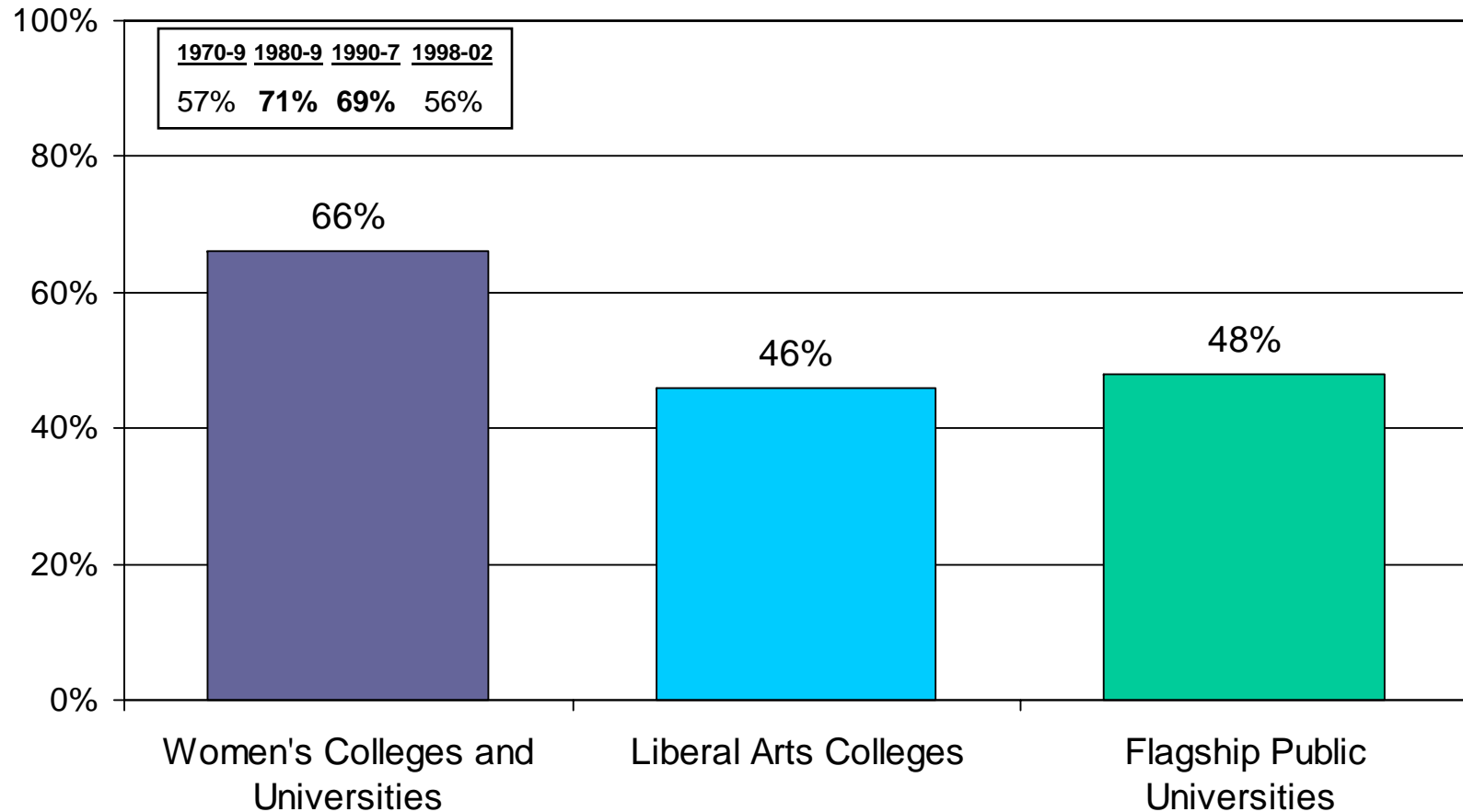
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than All Other Alumnae to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Provide Direction to Others Through a Leadership Role



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Other Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Have the Authority to Make Decisions

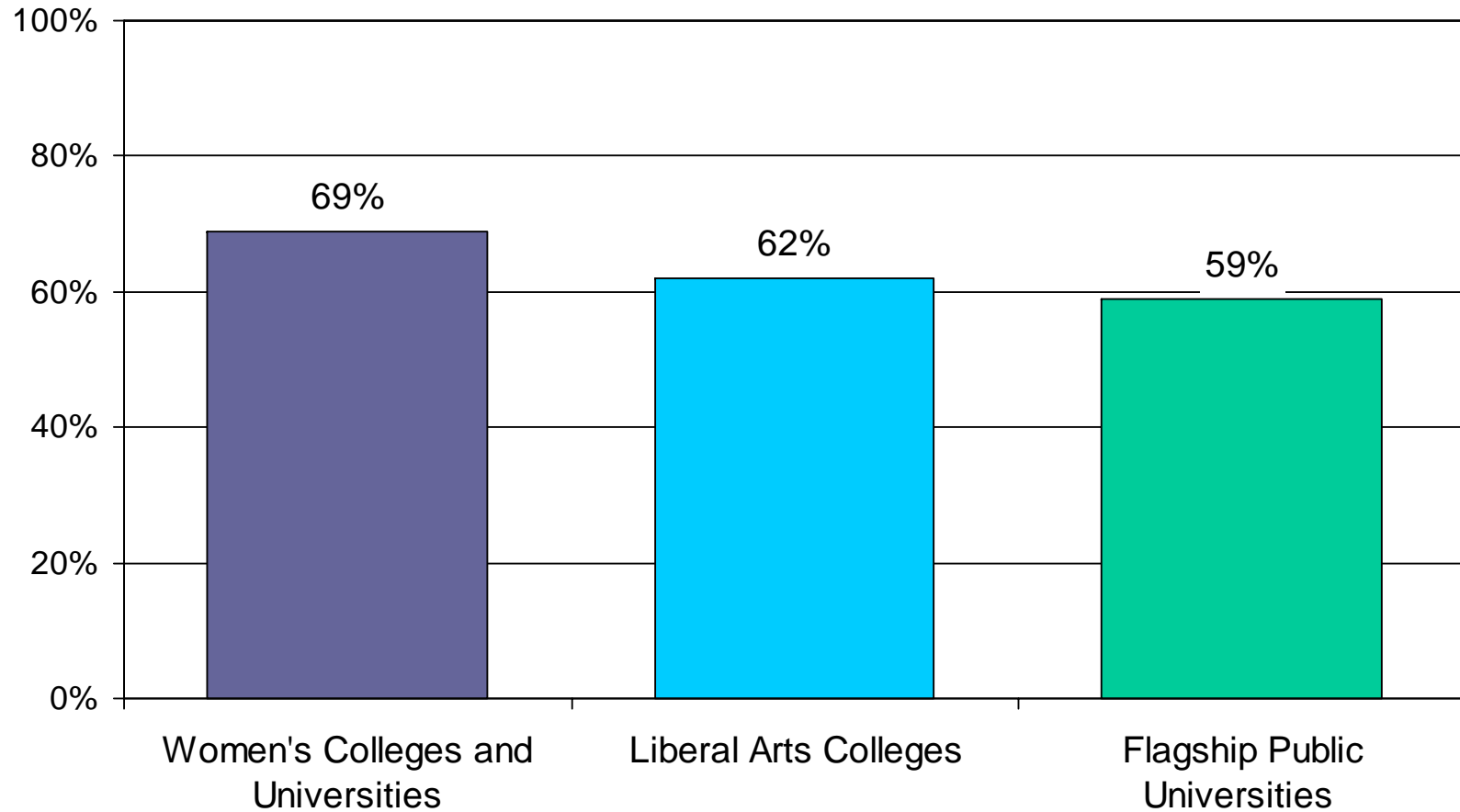


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)



## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are as Likely as Other Graduates to Be Involved with Community Service



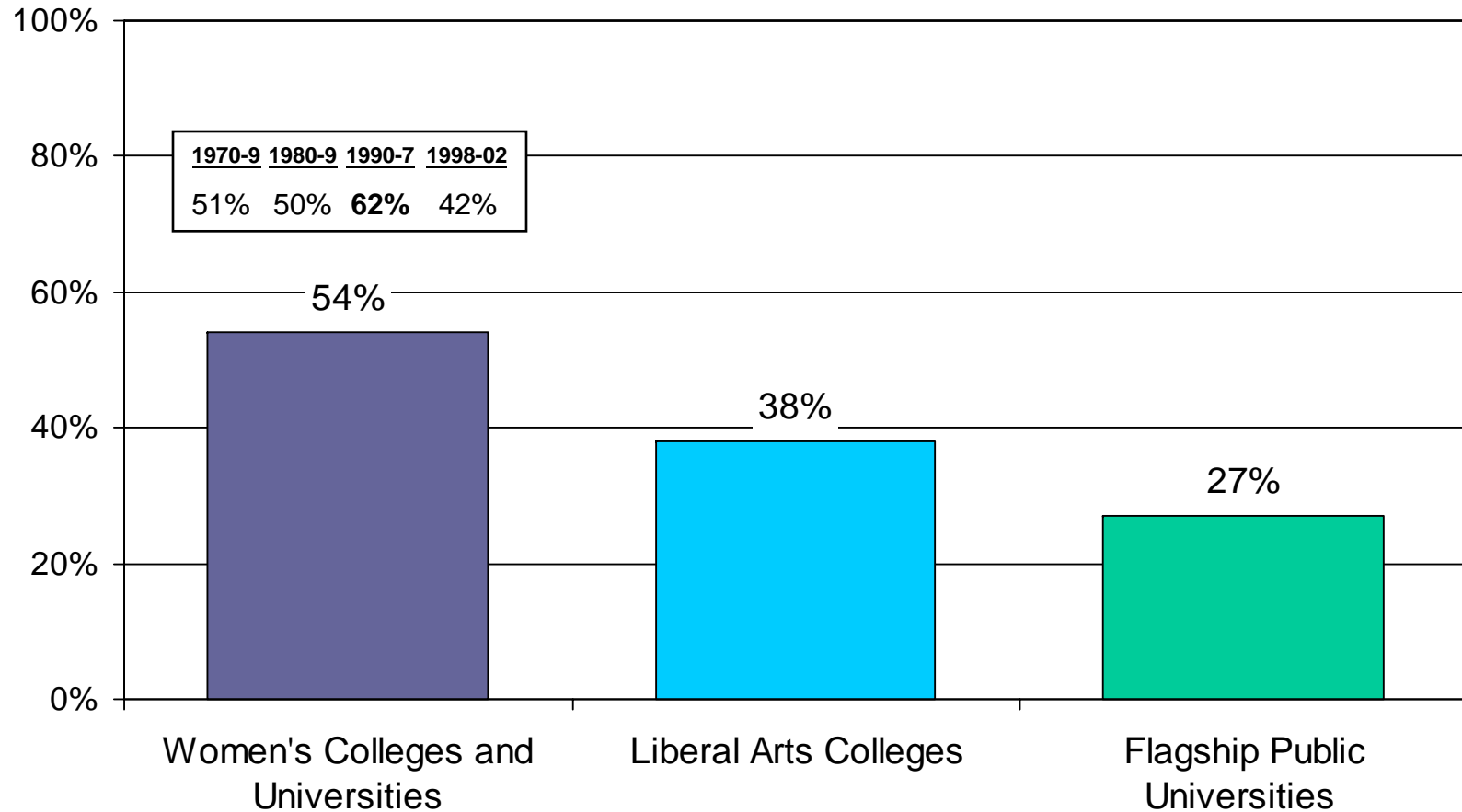
There are no significant differences

Q.20 In the past five years, have you been involved in the volunteer activity...?

## **2. A women's college education...**

**Develops critical skills for life and career.** As studies repeatedly underscore the need for critical thinking, global knowledge, intercultural competence, and real-world abilities, women's colleges surpass public and private colleges in helping students learn to think analytically, bring social and historical perspective to issues, work as part of a team, write and speak effectively, make sound decisions, gain entry to a career, prepare for career change or advancement, and be politically and socially aware.

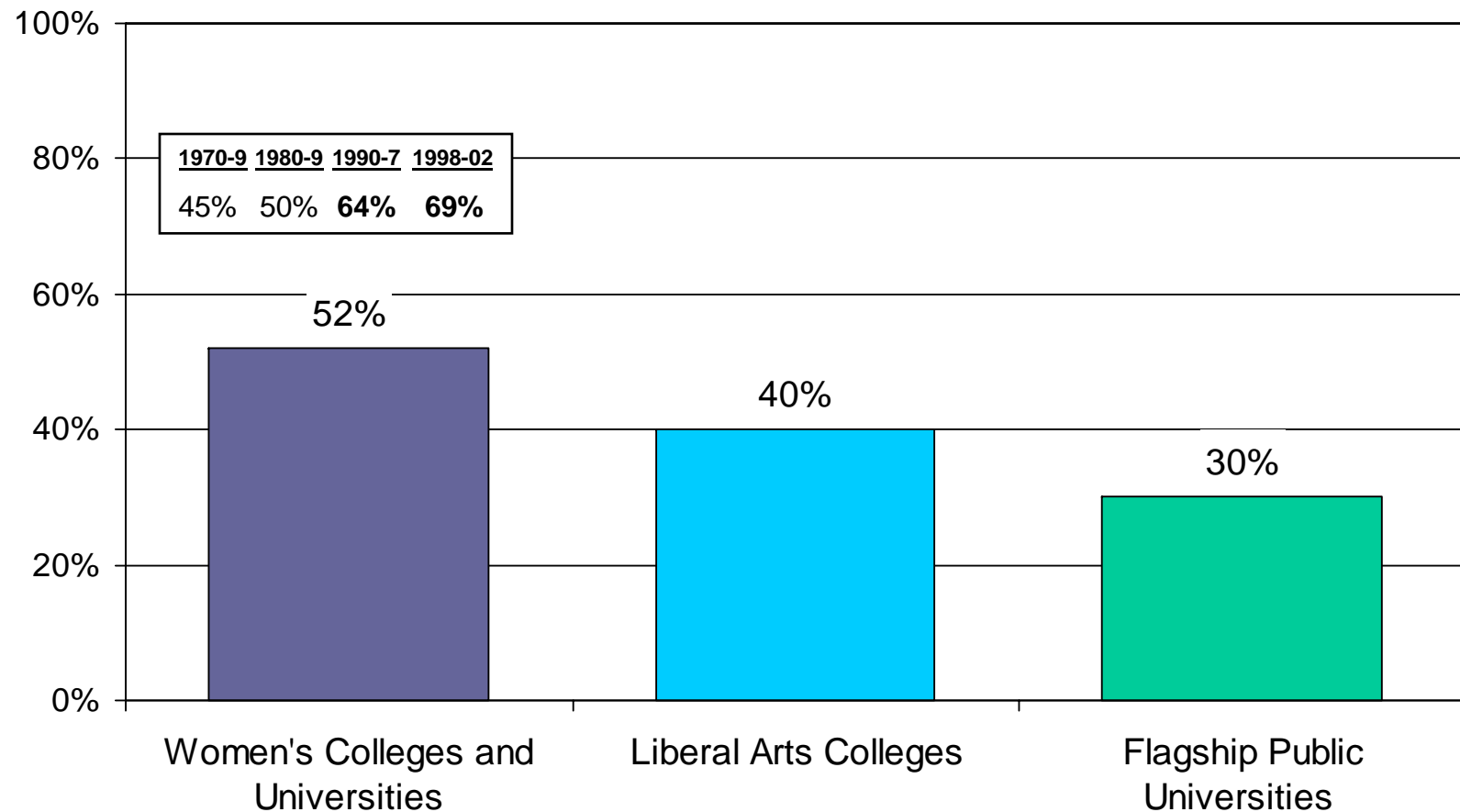
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Solve Problems and Make Effective Decisions



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

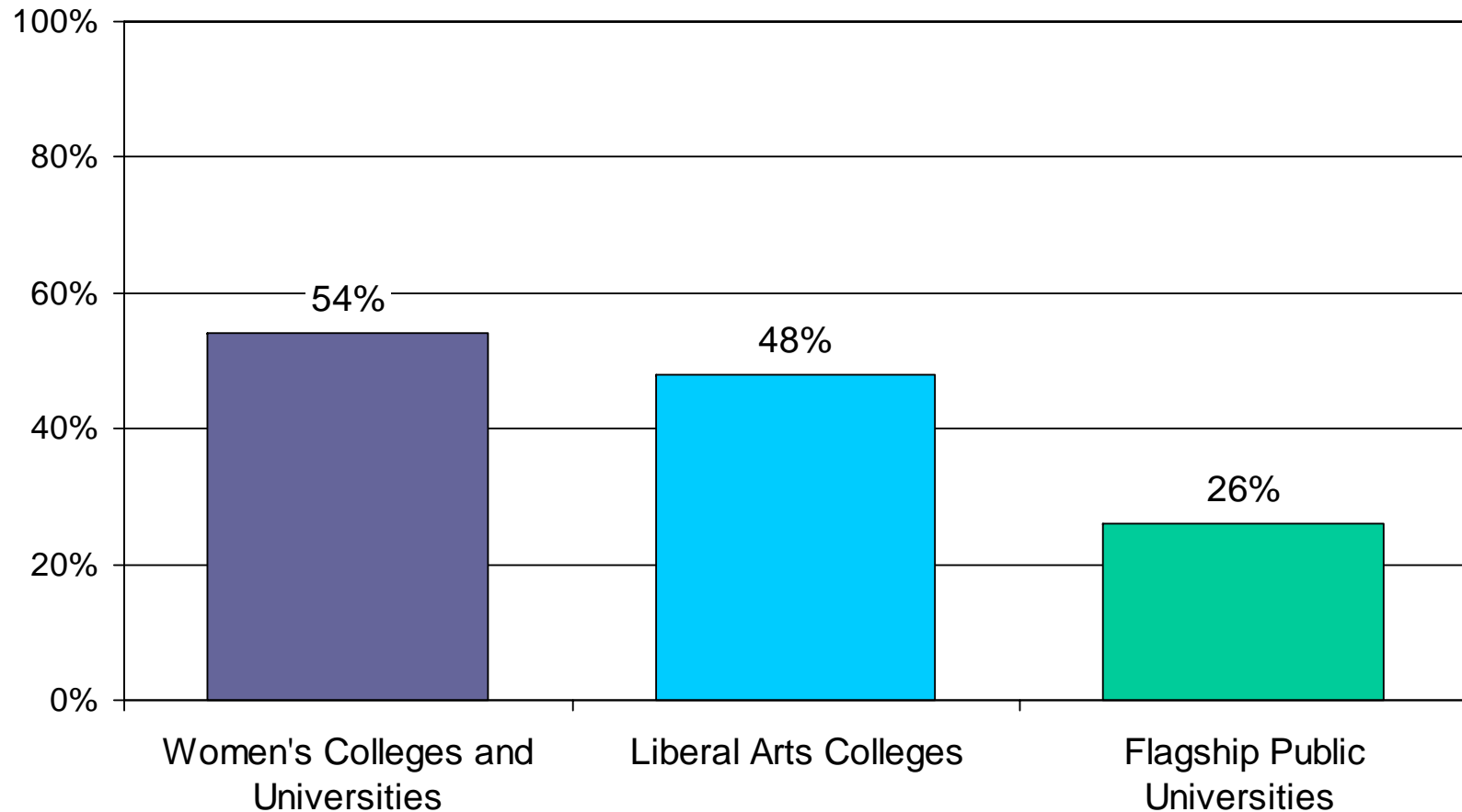
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Relate to People of Different Backgrounds



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

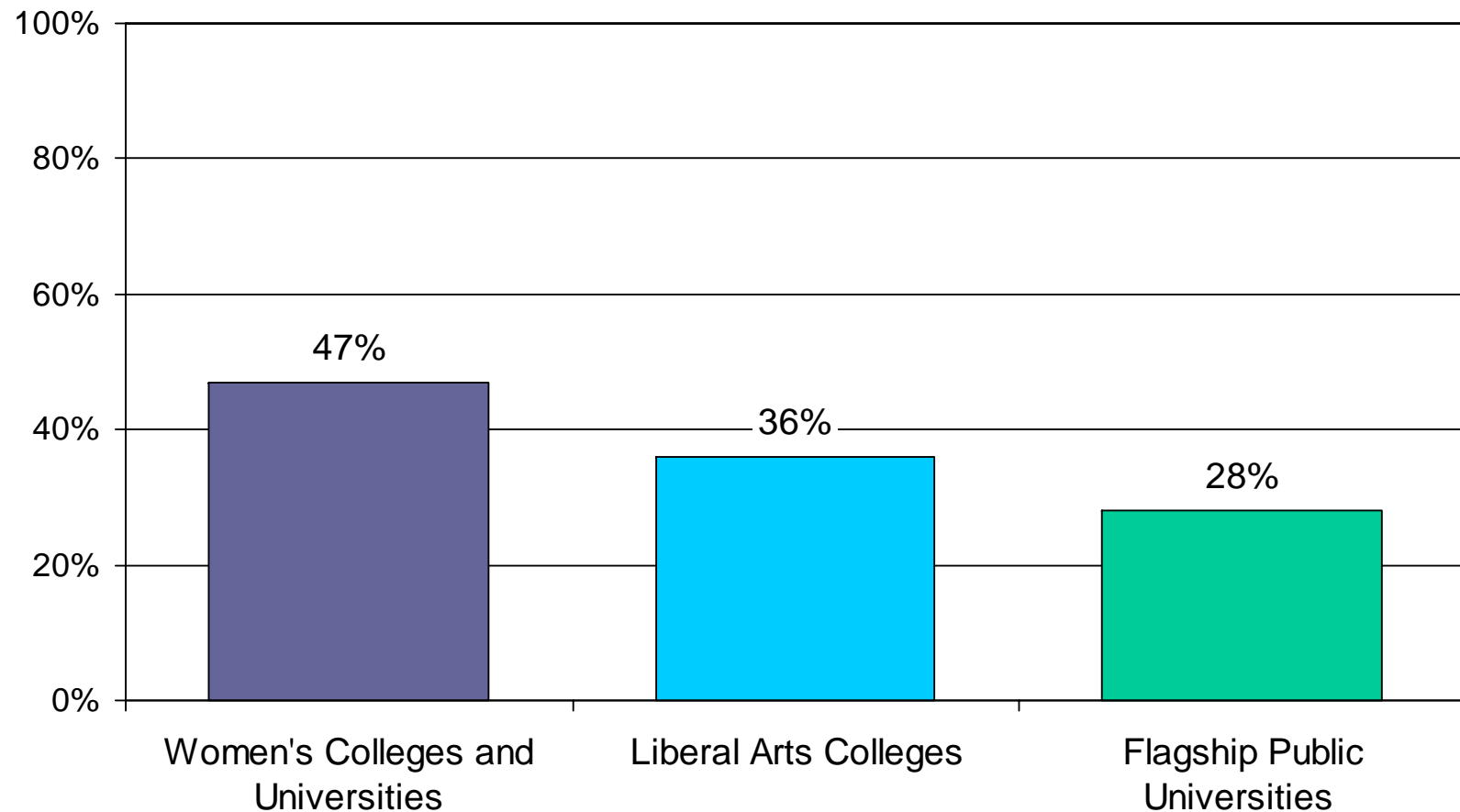
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than the Flagship Public Universities for Helping Students Learn to Think Analytically



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

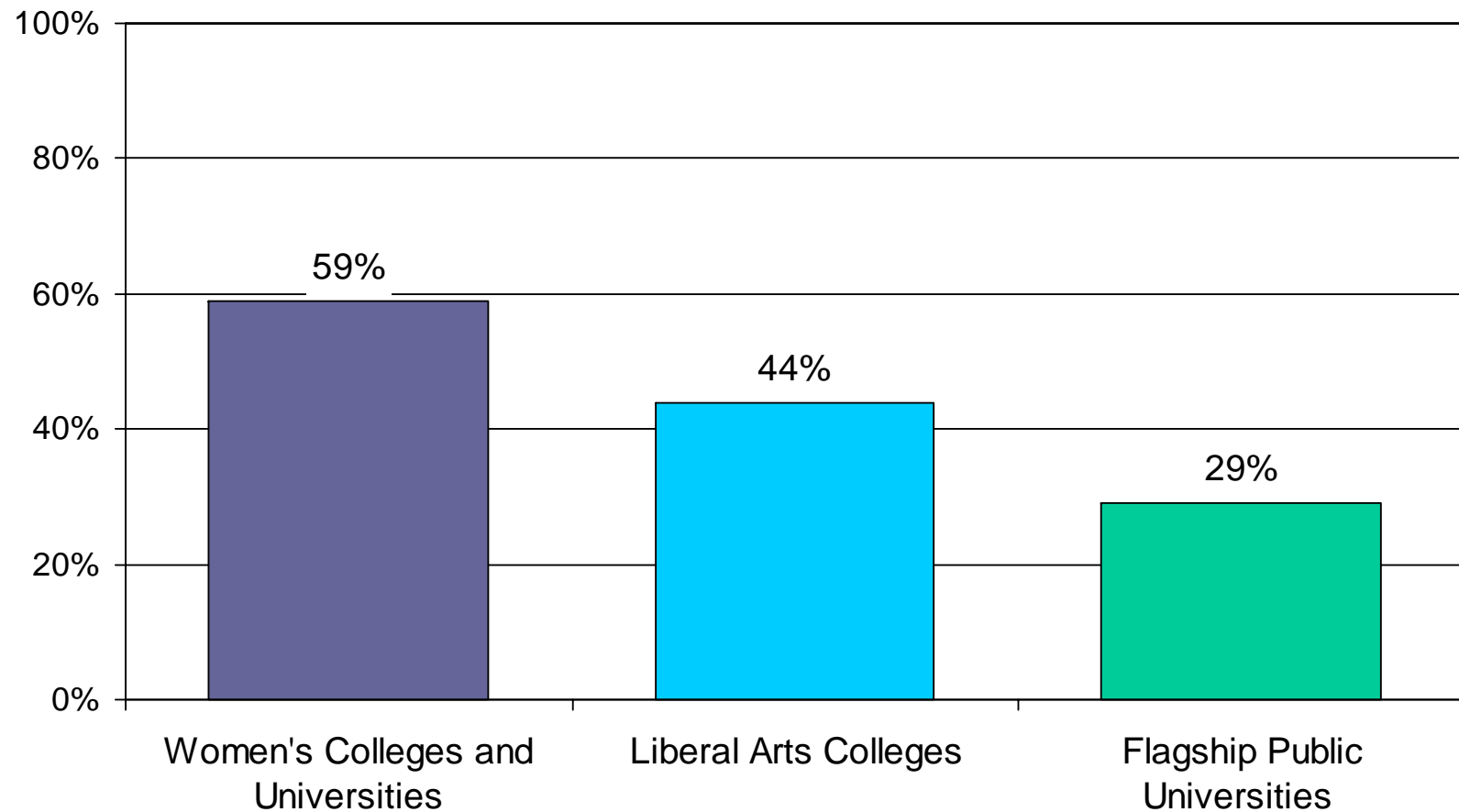
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Work as Part of a Team



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

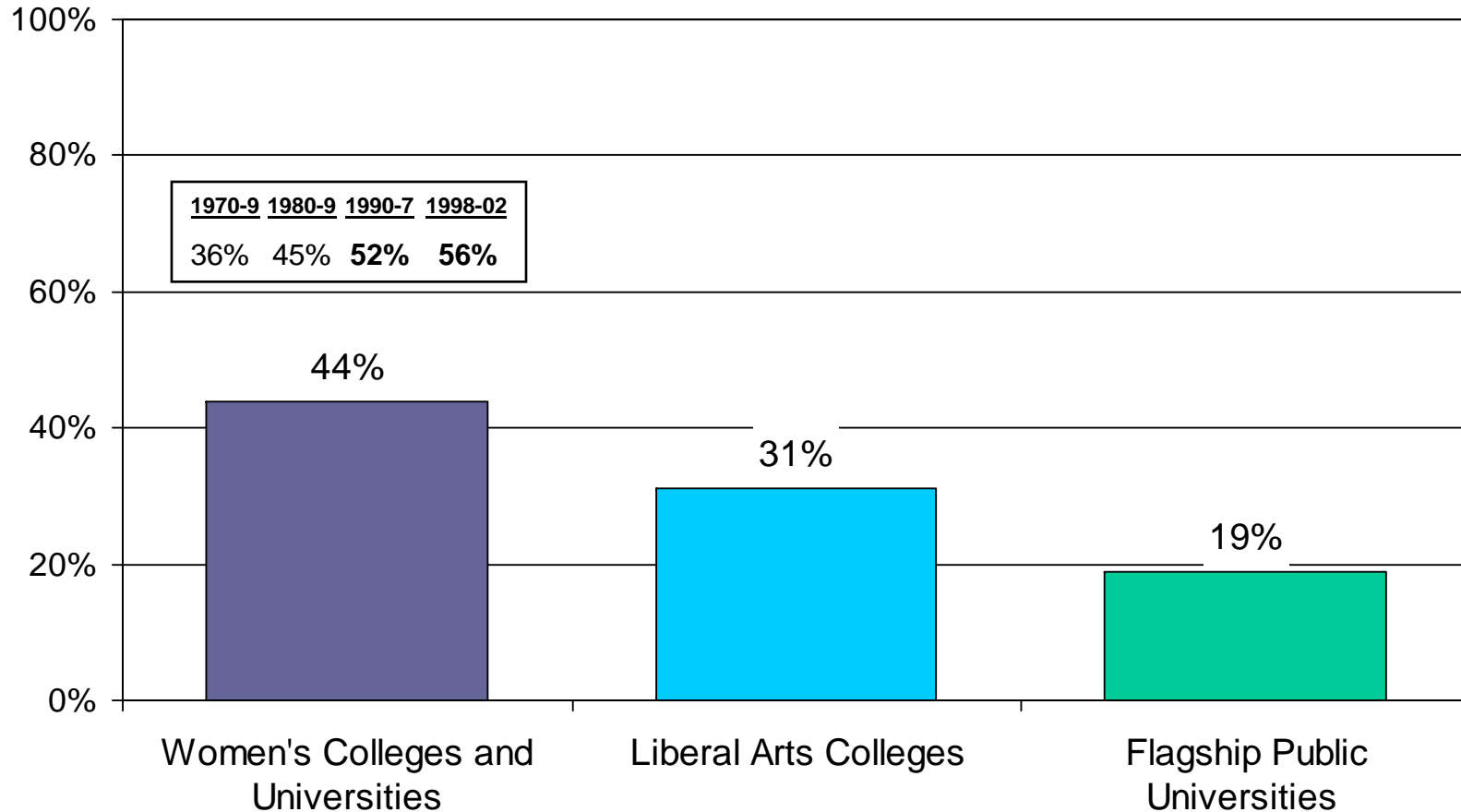
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Write Effectively



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Speak Effectively

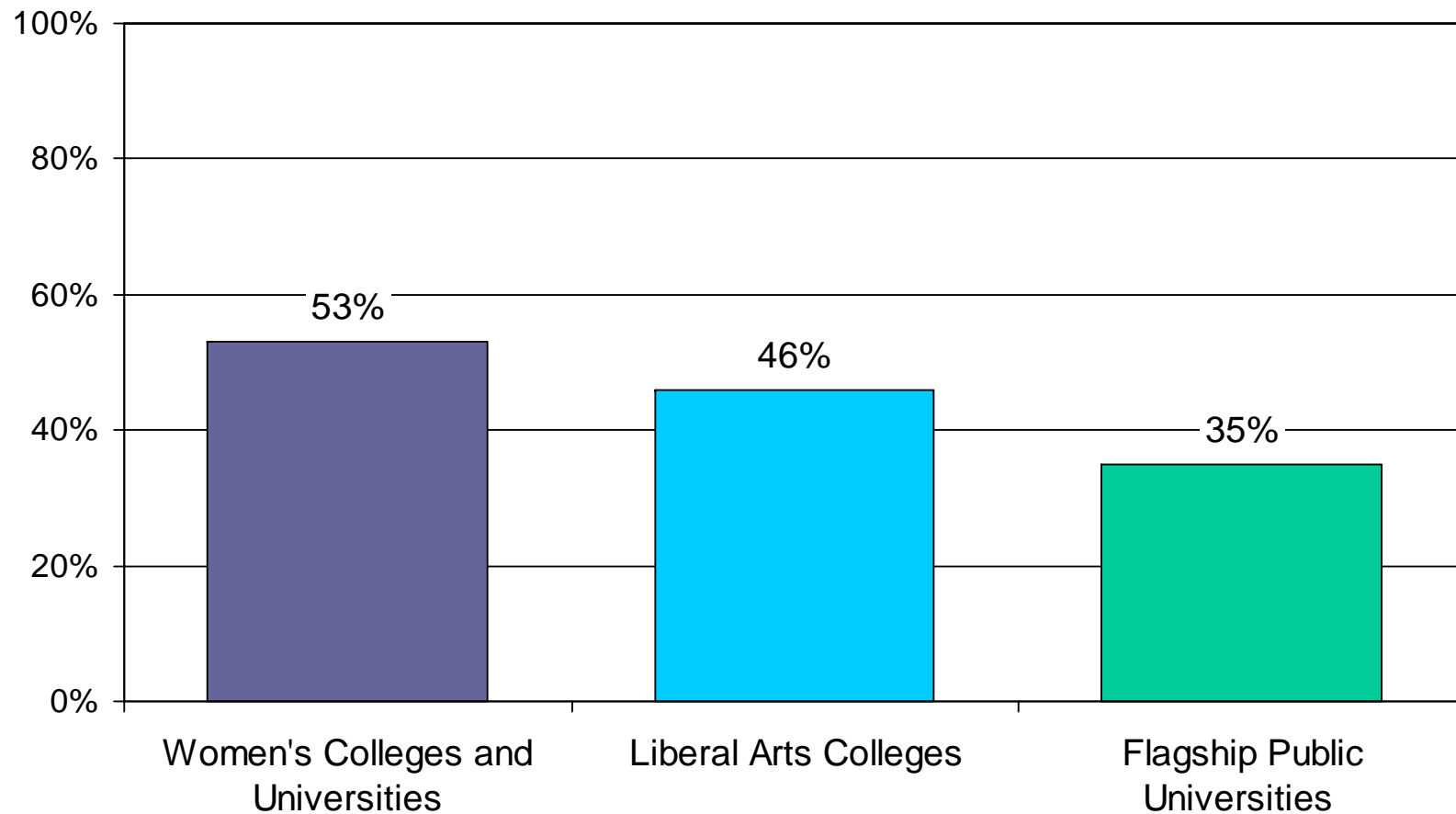


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)



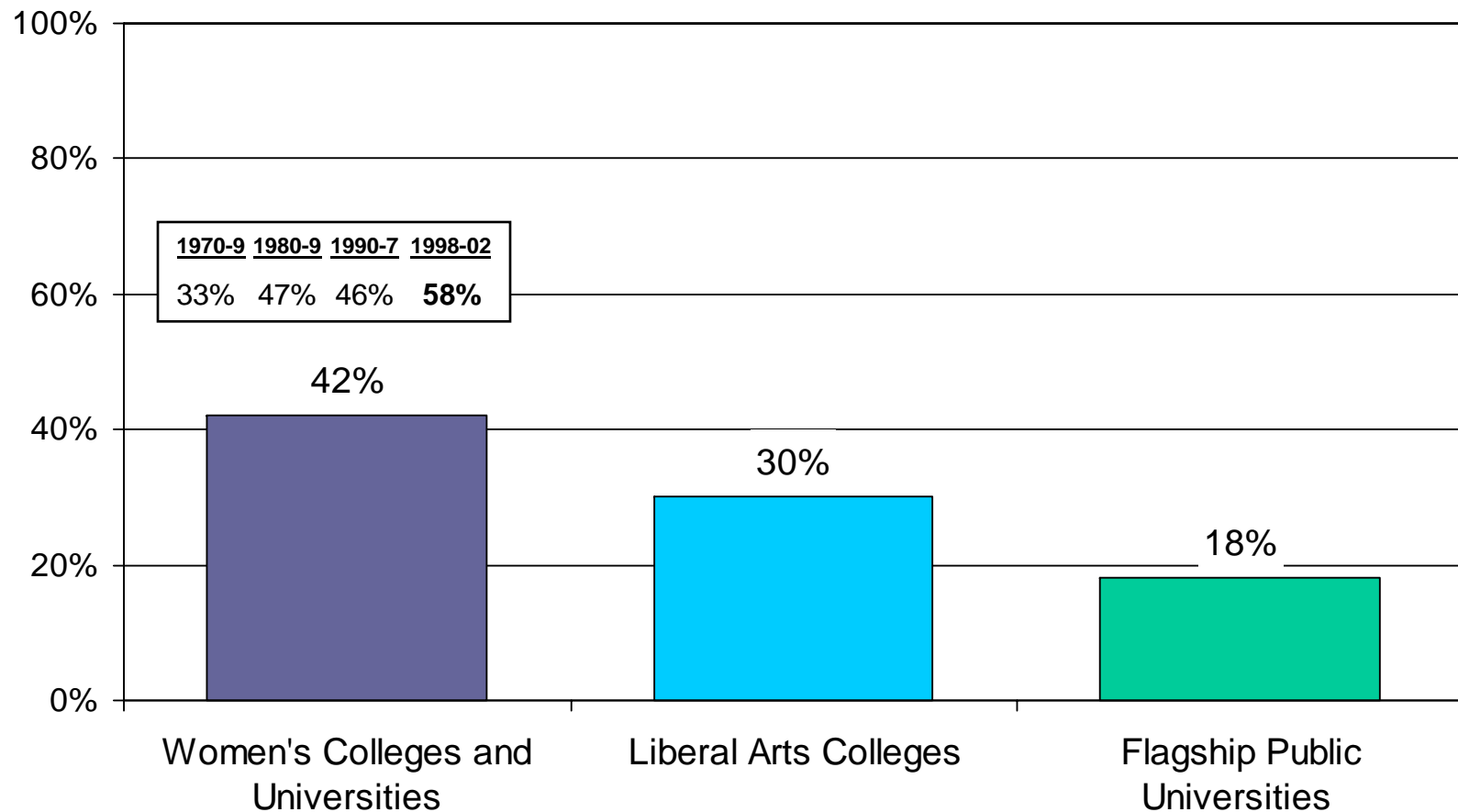
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than the Flagship Public Universities for Helping Students Learn to Think Creatively



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

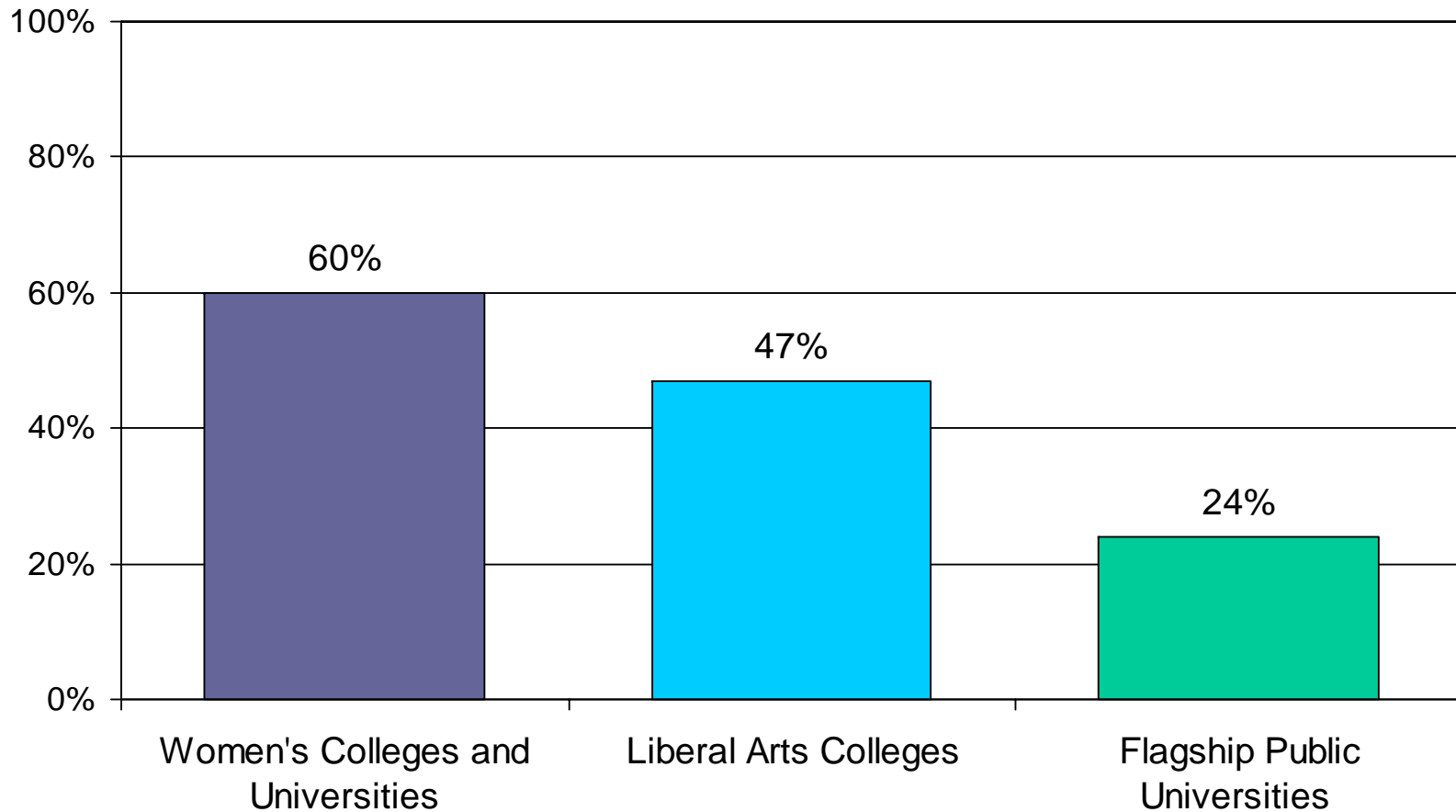
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Be Politically or Socially Aware



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

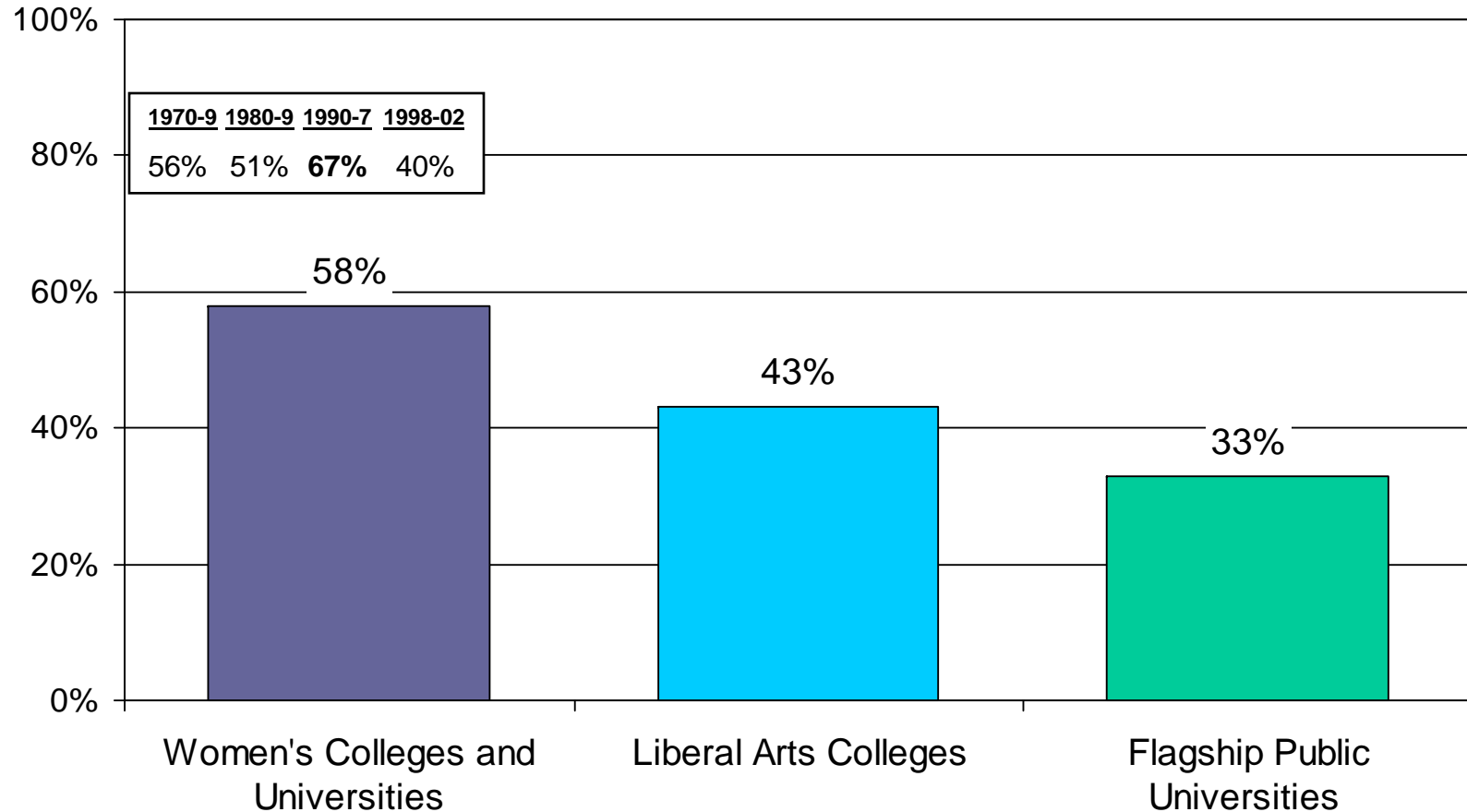
## Women's Colleges Receives Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Learn to Appreciate the Fine Arts



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

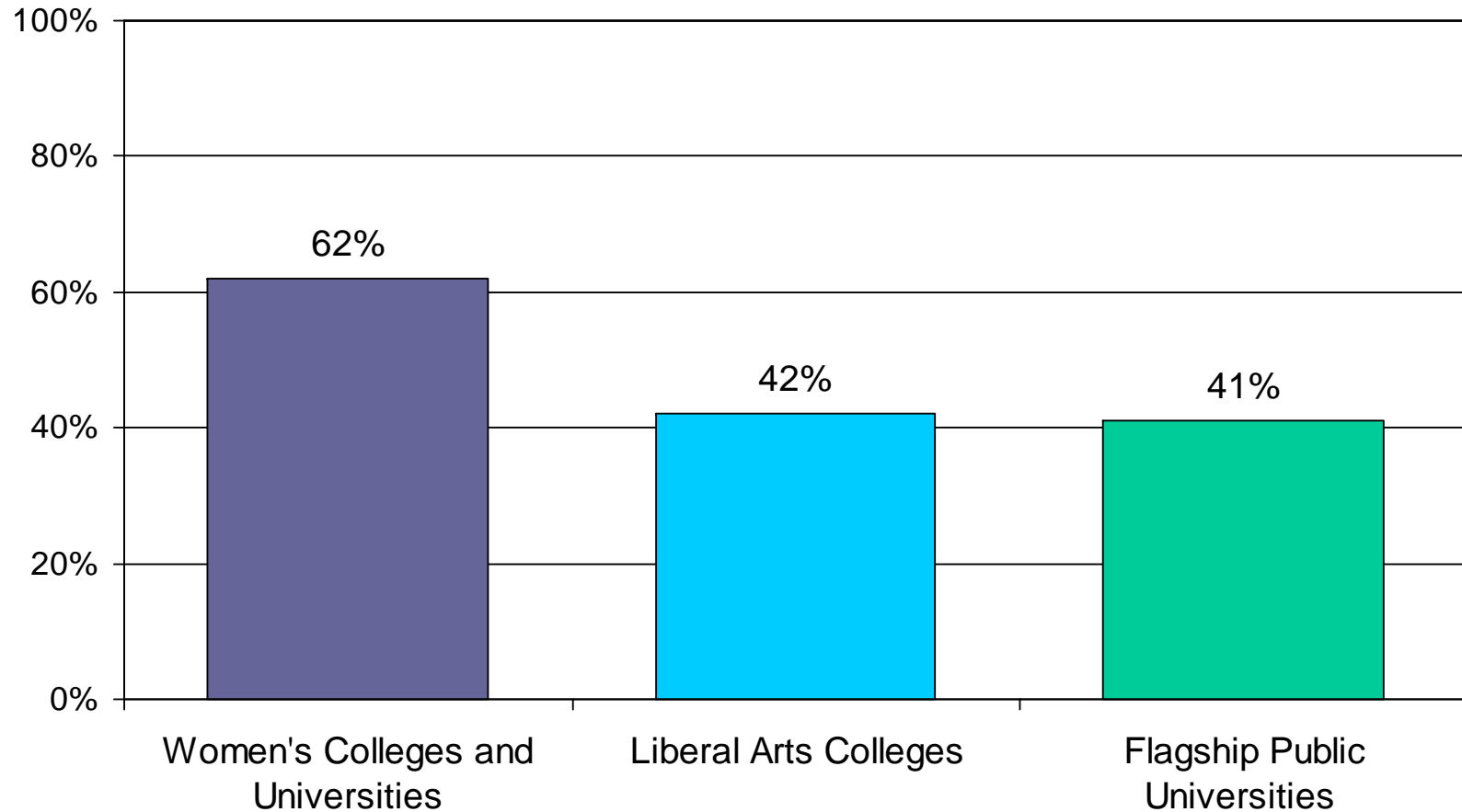
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students to Develop the Ability to Learn New Skills



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

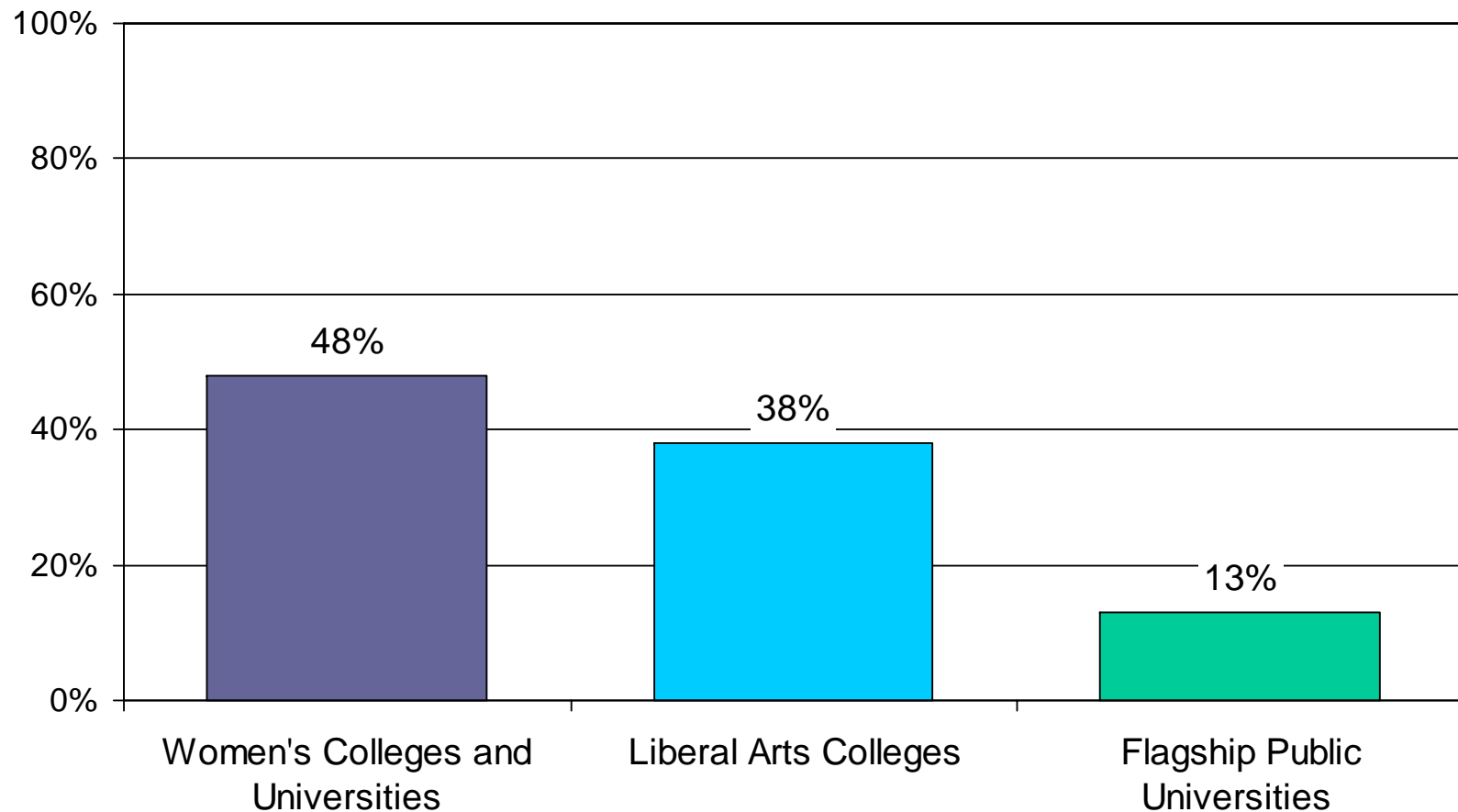
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Develop Self-Confidence and Initiative



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

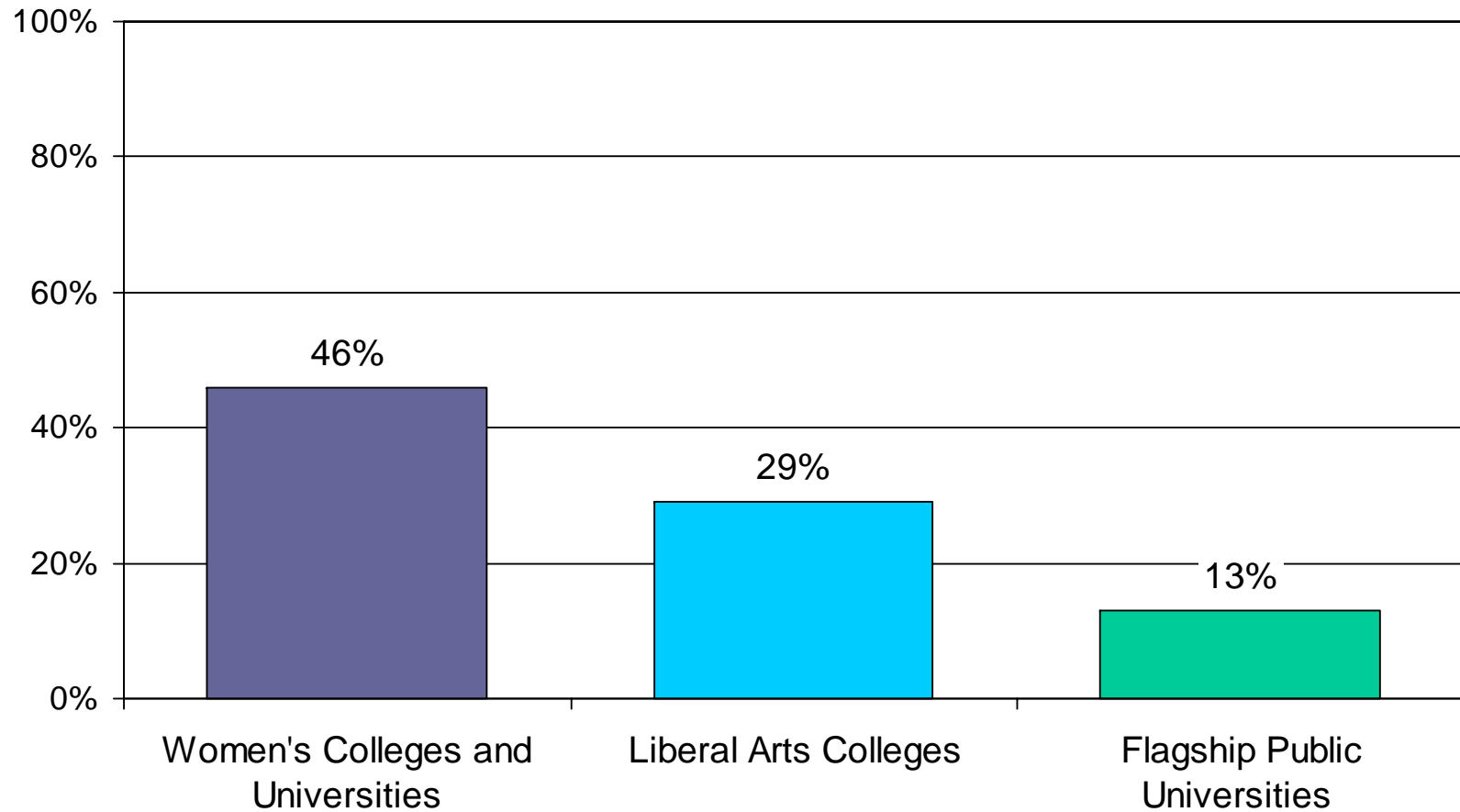
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Develop Moral Principles That Can Guide Actions



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

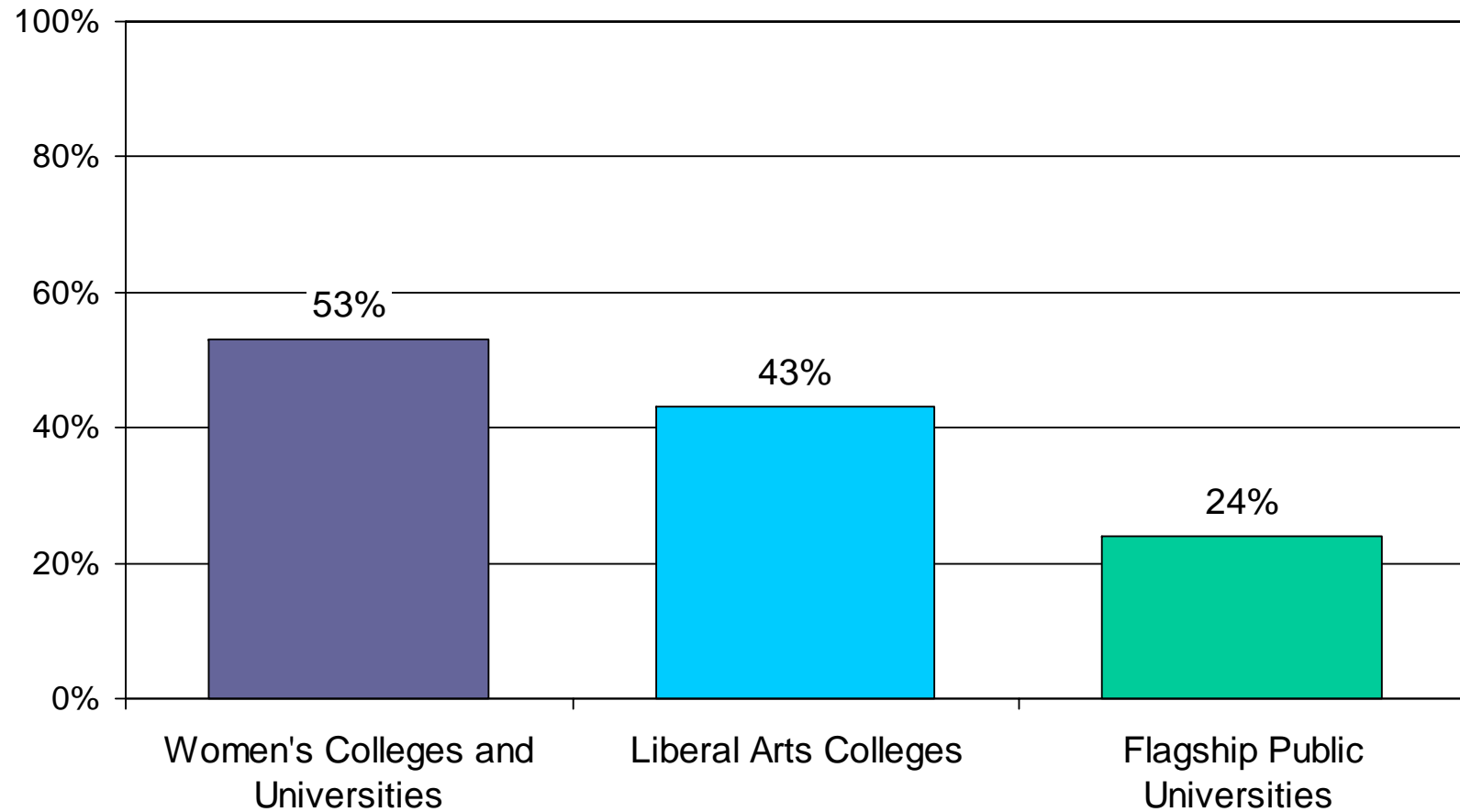
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students to Place Problems in Social and Historical Perspective



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students Have a Sense of Purpose in Life

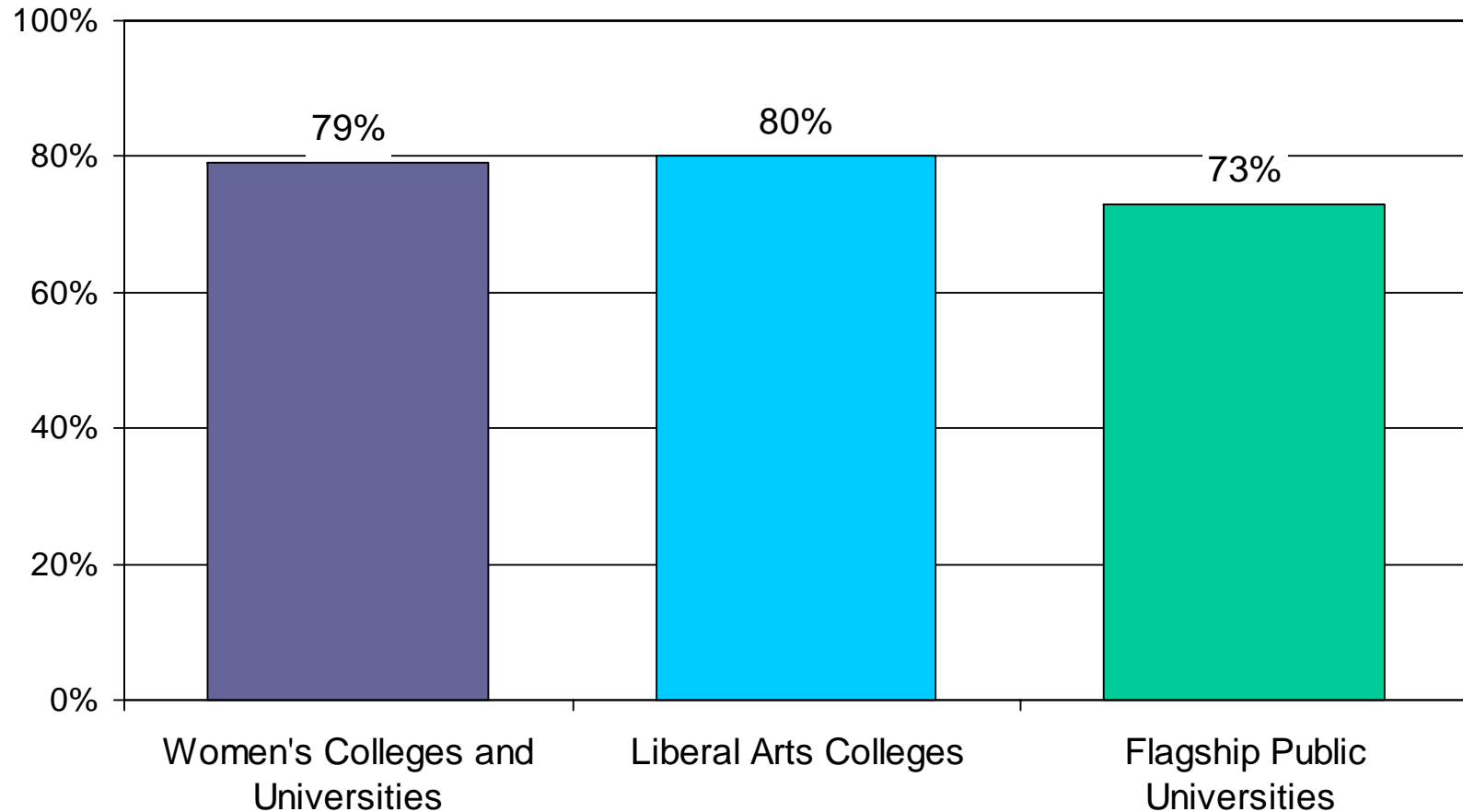


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)



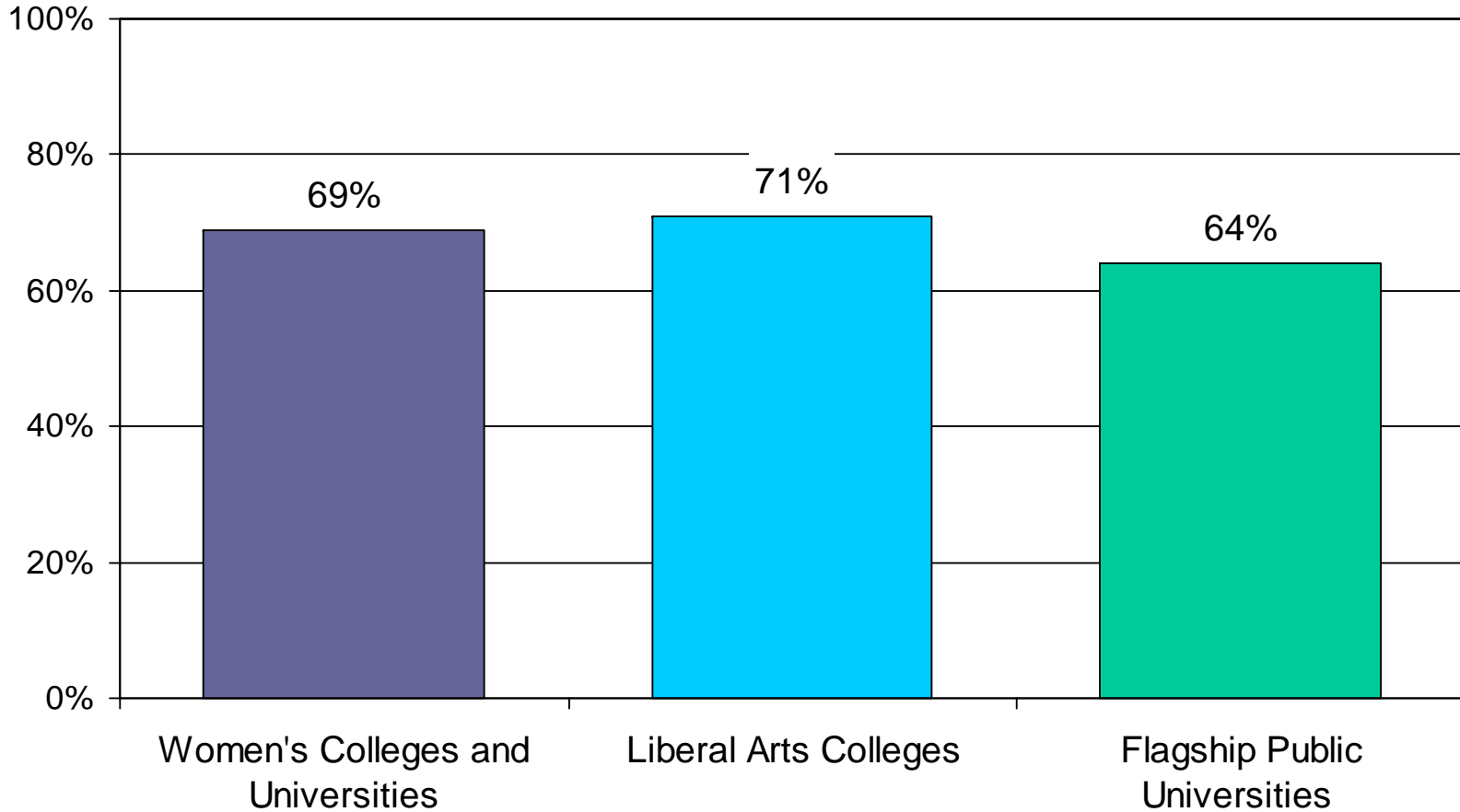
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are as Likely as Other Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Use Their Best Skills and Abilities



There are no significant differences

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

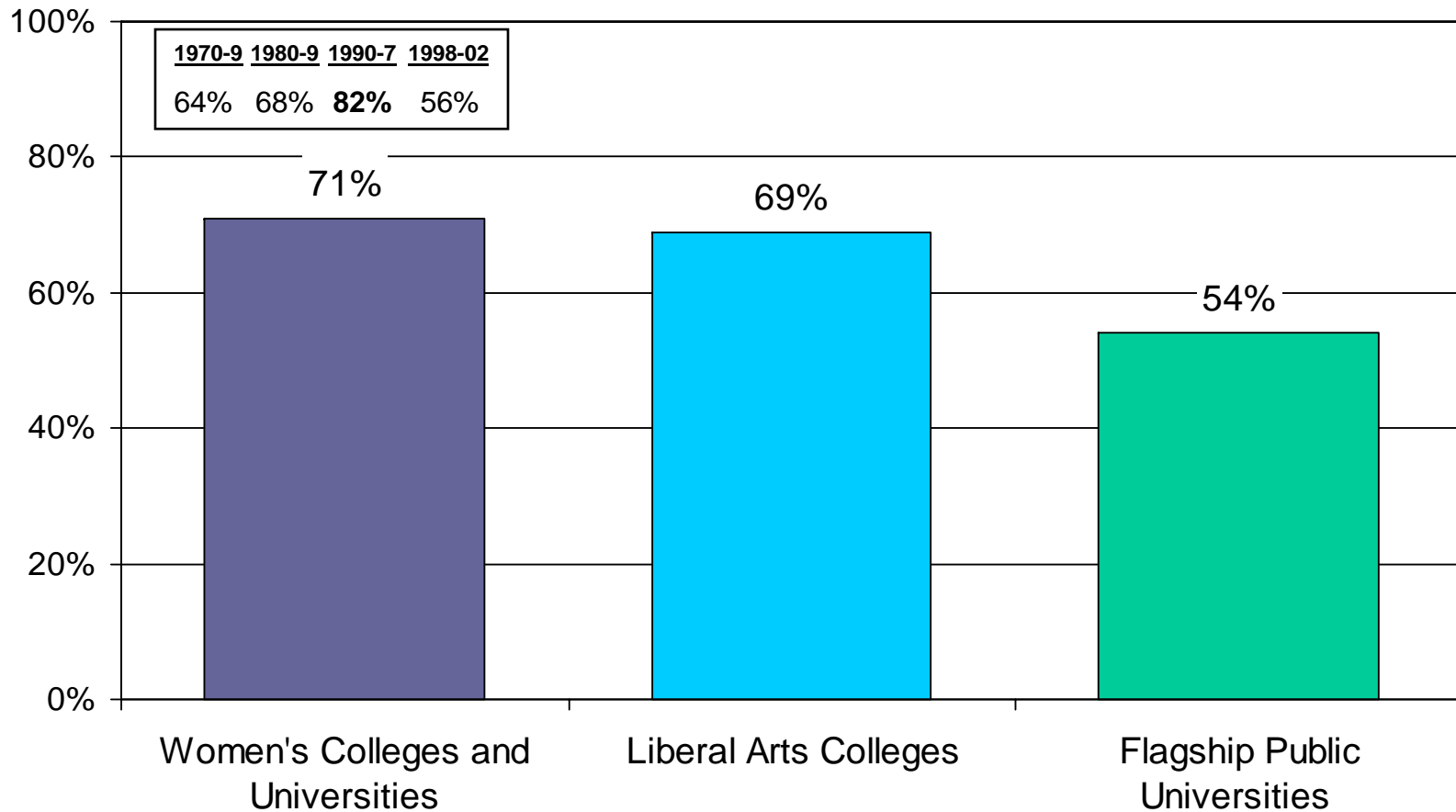
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are as Likely as Other Graduates to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Be Free to Consider the Moral and Ethical Side of Decisions



The Women's Colleges group is similar to all other groups

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

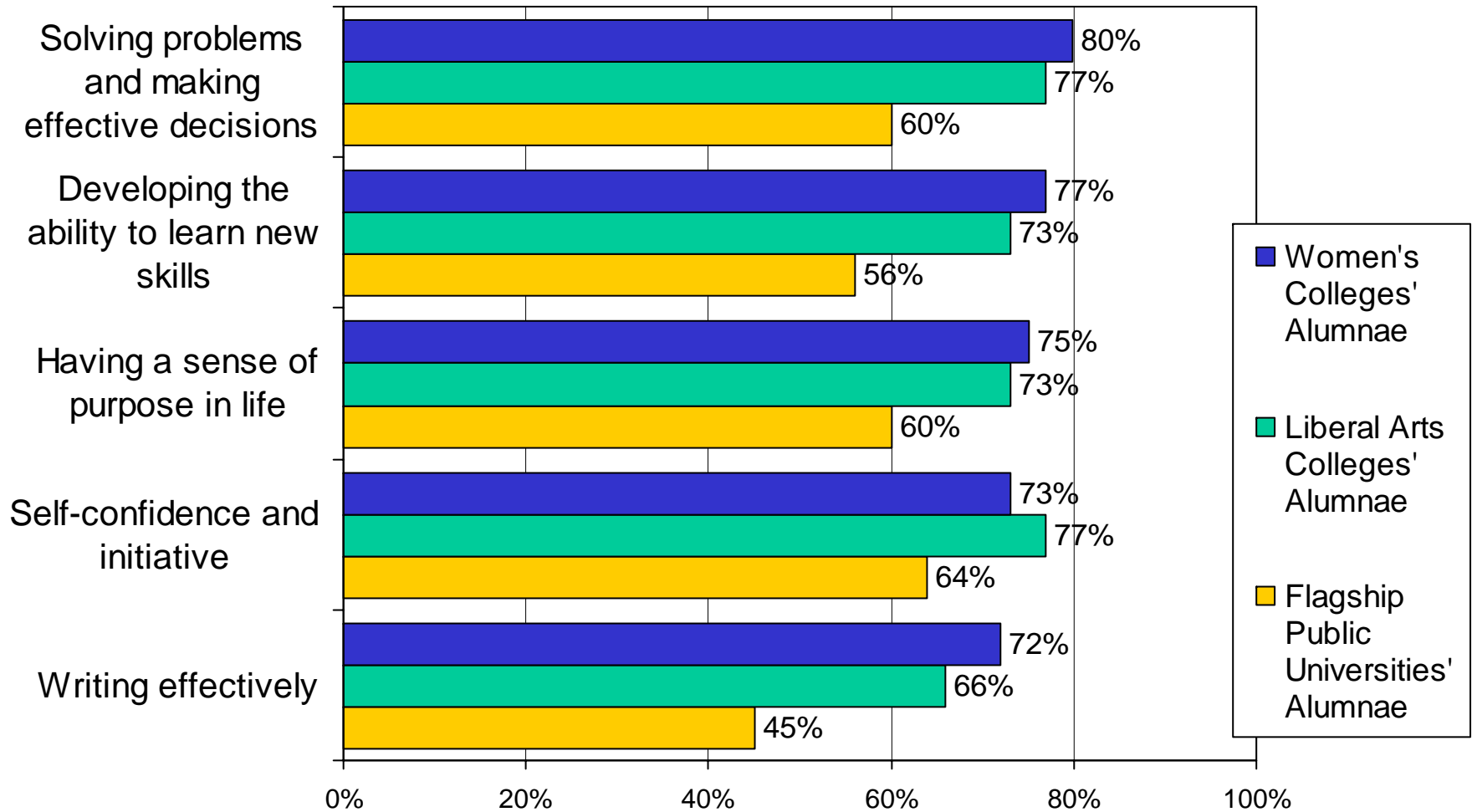
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Believe it Is Extremely Important to Have the Opportunity to Learn New Information and Skills



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.19 How important is (in your current life and career)...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

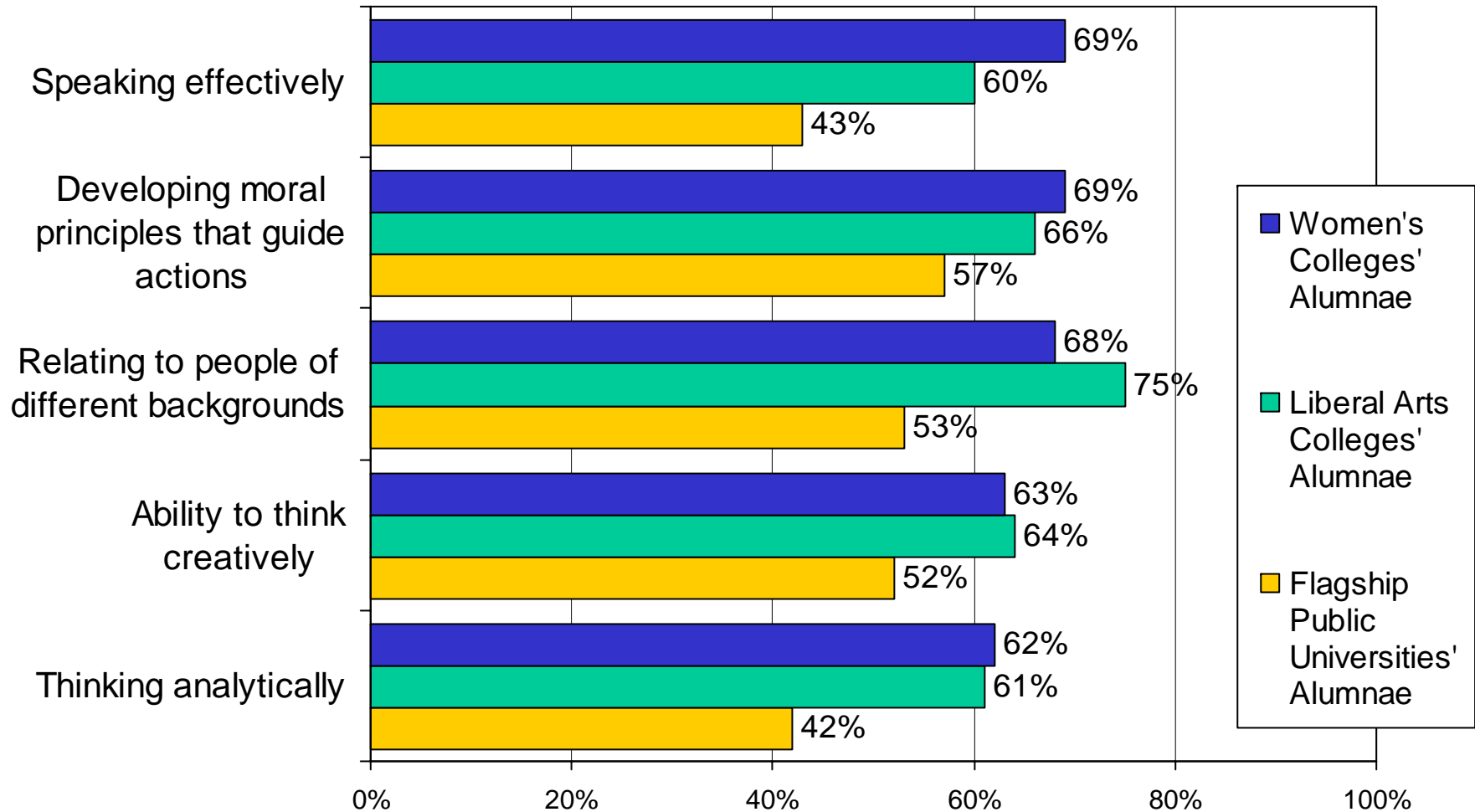
## Women’s Colleges Alumnae Rate Many Broad Life Skills as Important to Their Life Following College



All skills except “self-confidence and initiative” are more important to Women’s Colleges alumnae than Flagship Public Universities alumnae

Q.10 Please tell me how important the following has been in your life (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

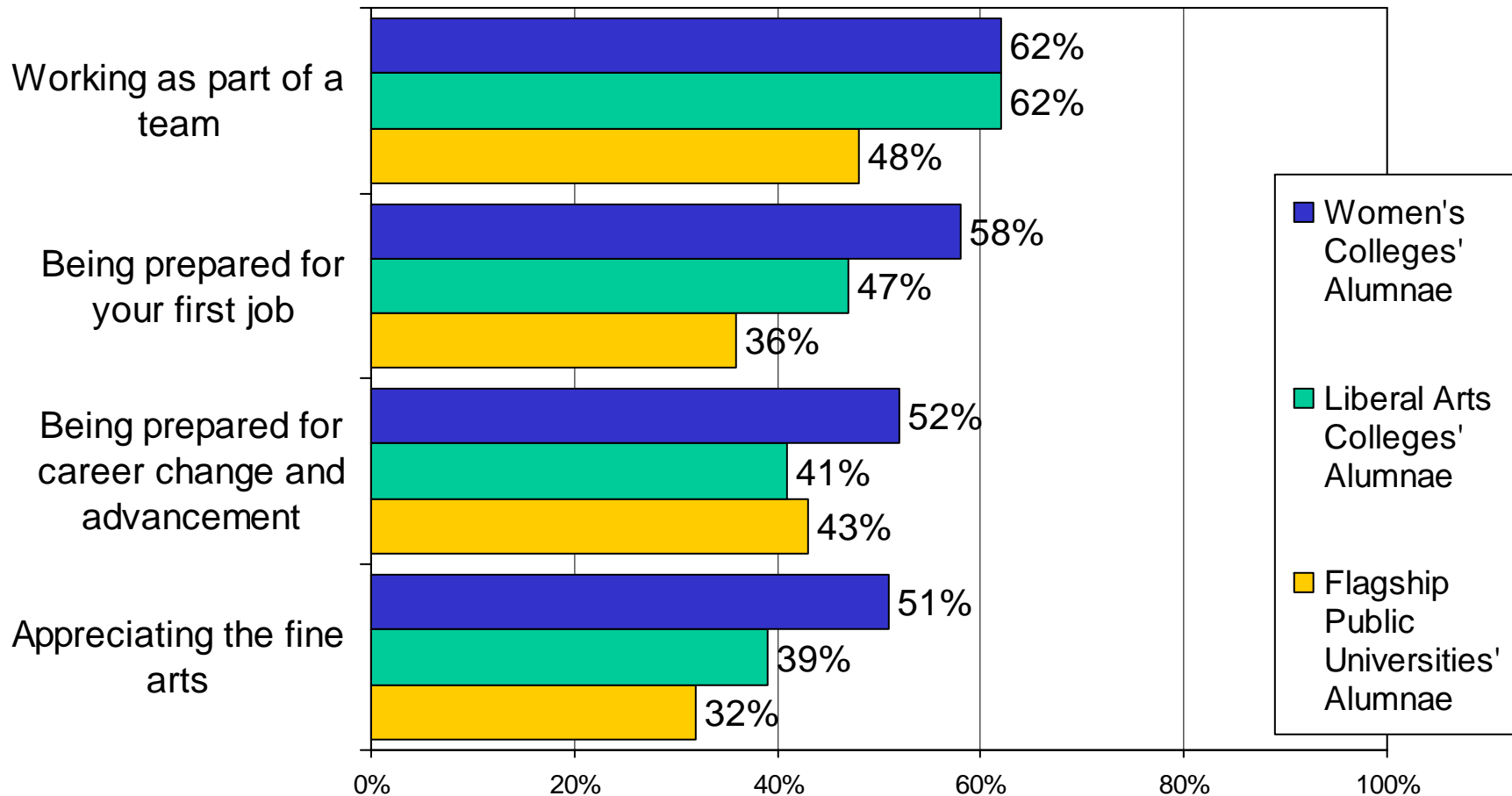
## A Vast Majority of Women's Colleges Alumnae Also Rate Other Life Skills as Important to Their Life Following College



All skills except “an ability to think creatively” are more important to Women’s Colleges alumnae than Flagship Public Universities alumnae

Q.10 Please tell me how important the following has been in your life (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

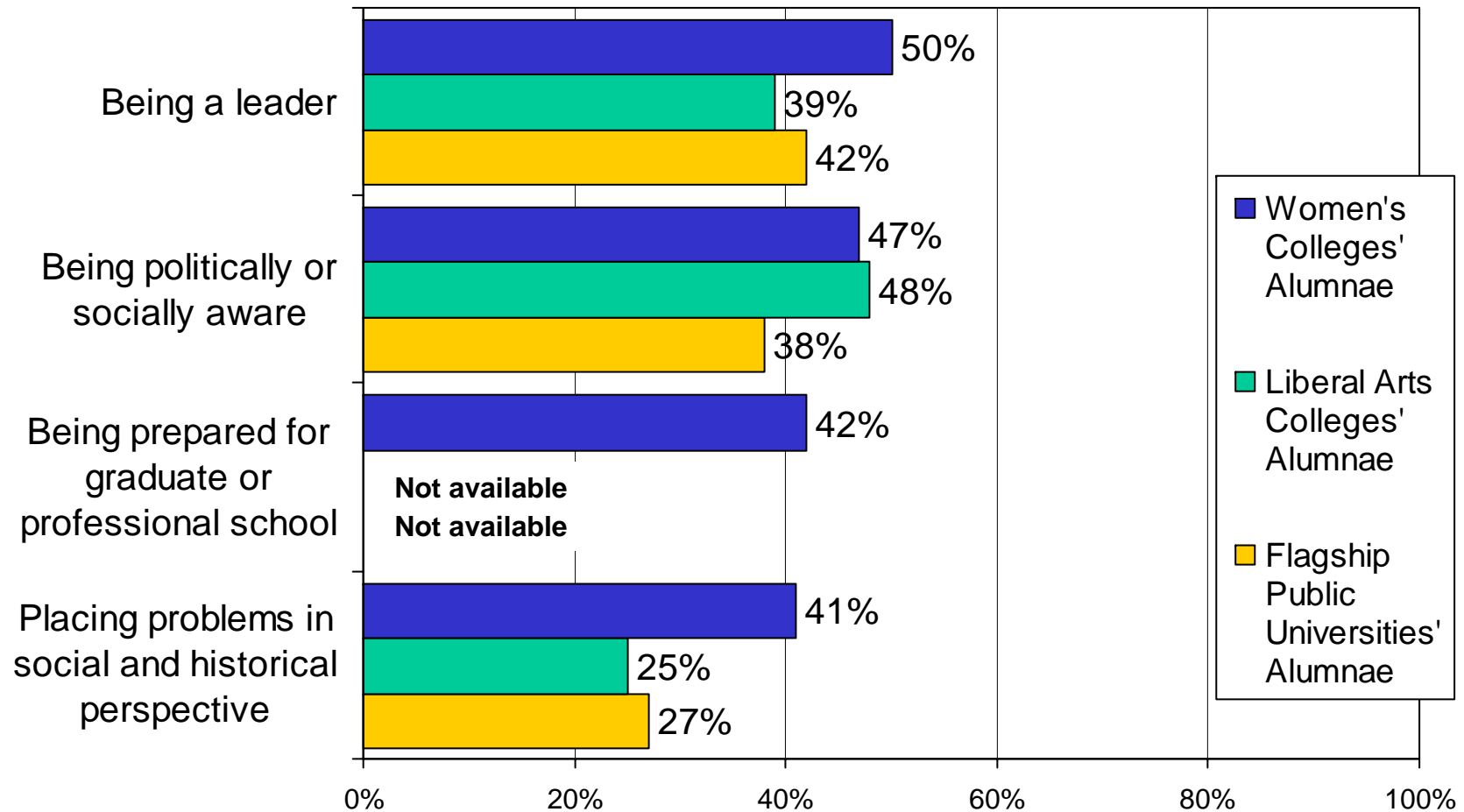
## Preparation for a First Job, Career Change, and Appreciation of the Fine Arts Are Rated as Less Important than Many of the Broad Life Skills in Graduates' Lives After College



“Working as part of a team” is more important for Women’s Colleges alumnae than Flagship Public Universities alumnae; the remaining three skills are more important to Women’s Colleges alumnae than both other groups

Q.10 Please tell me how important the following has been in your life (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

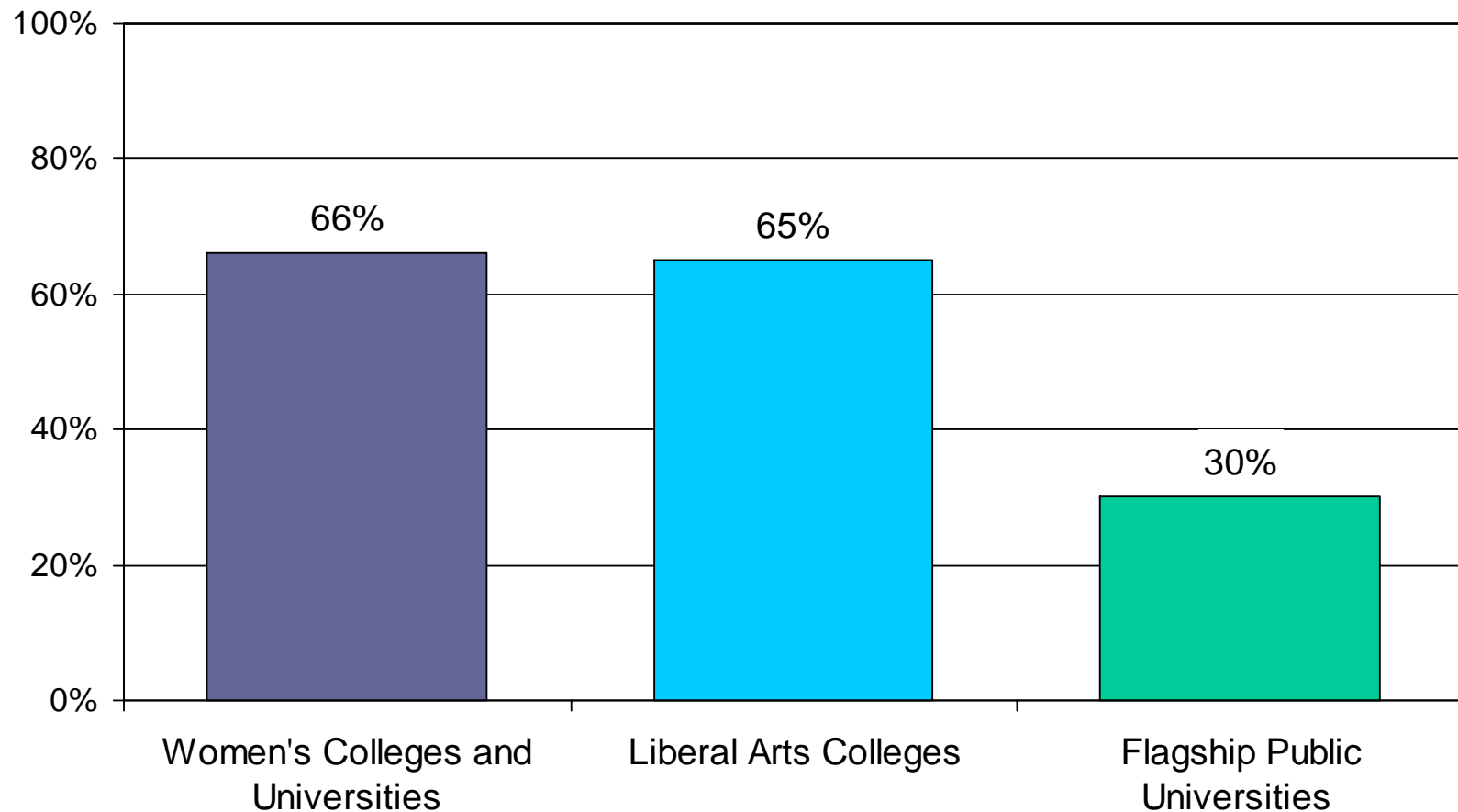
## Political Awareness Is Rated as Less Important than Many of the Broad Life Skills in Graduates' Lives After College



“Being a leader” is more important to Women’s Colleges alumnae than Liberal Arts Colleges alumnae; “placing problems in perspective” is more important to Women’s Colleges alumnae than both other groups

Q.10 Please tell me how important the following has been in your life (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all important and 5 = extremely important)

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say Their Experience Often Included Integration of Values and Ethics in Classroom Discussions

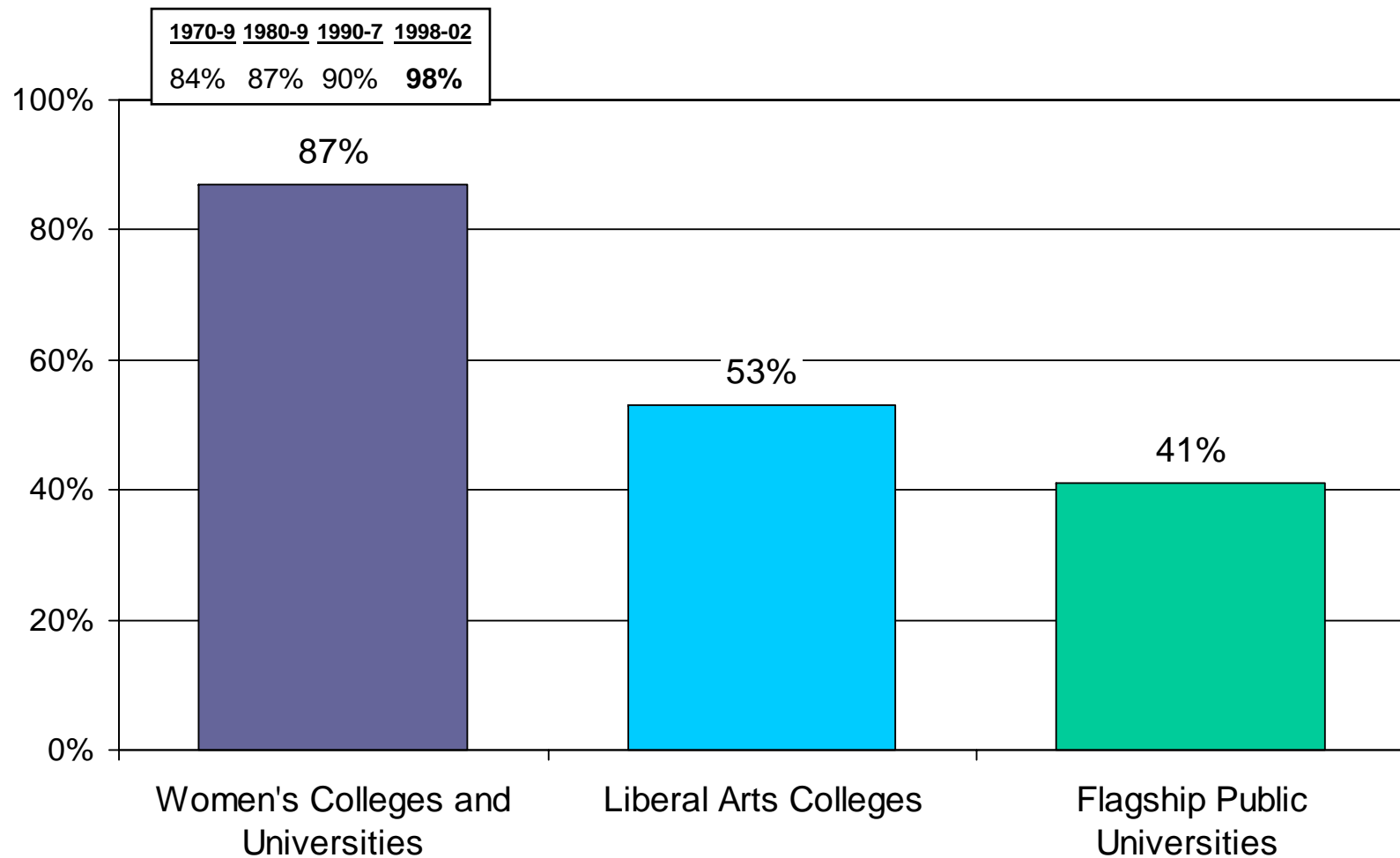


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)



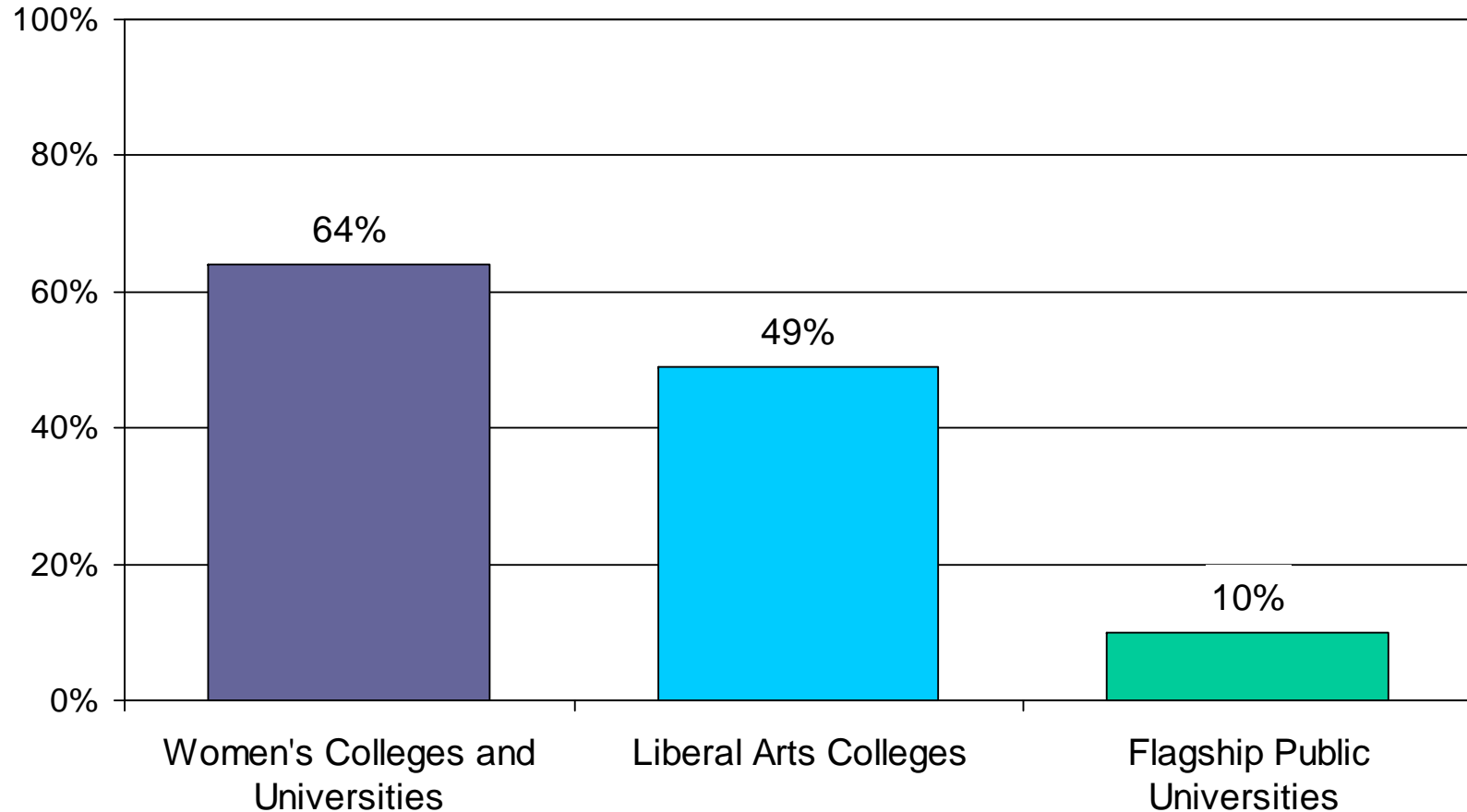
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than All Other Alumnae to Say Their Experience Often Included Classes that Include the Perspectives of Women and Minorities



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

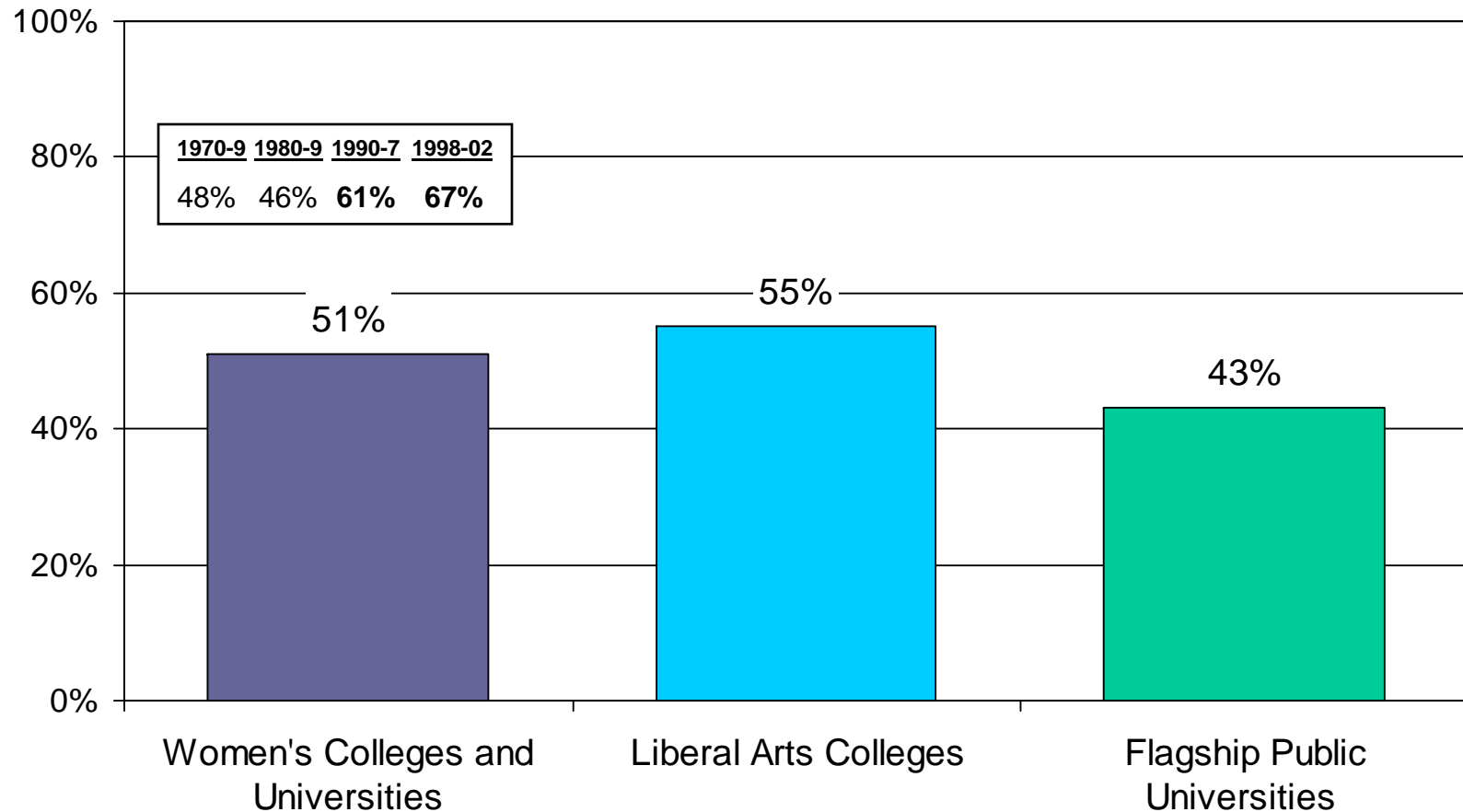
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than All Other Graduates to Say They Benefited Very Much from an Emphasis on Personal Values and Ethics



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

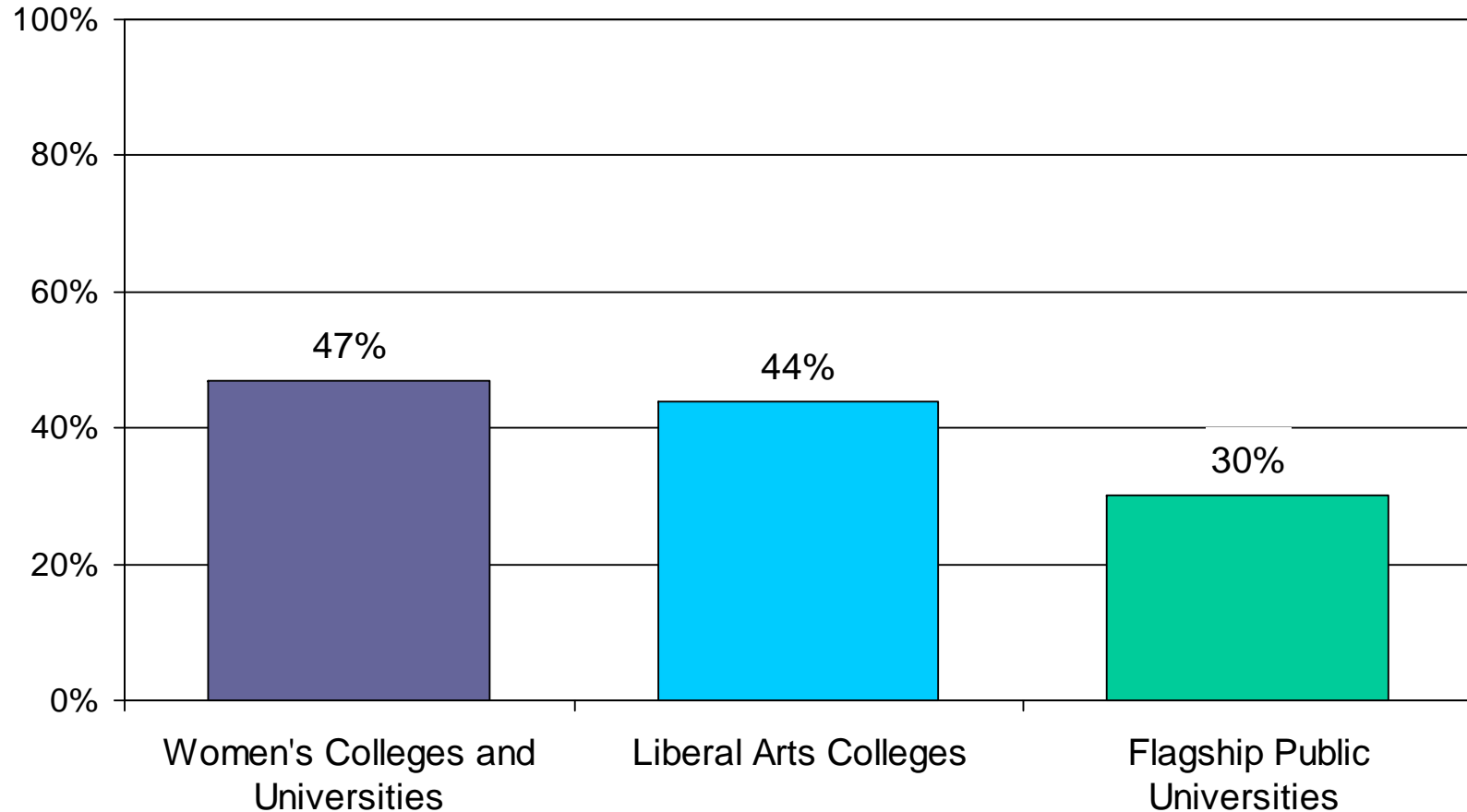
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were Equally Likely as All Other Graduates to Participate in College-Sponsored Internships or Other Applied Learning



No groups are significantly different from the Women's colleges

Q.5 While in college, did you participate in...?

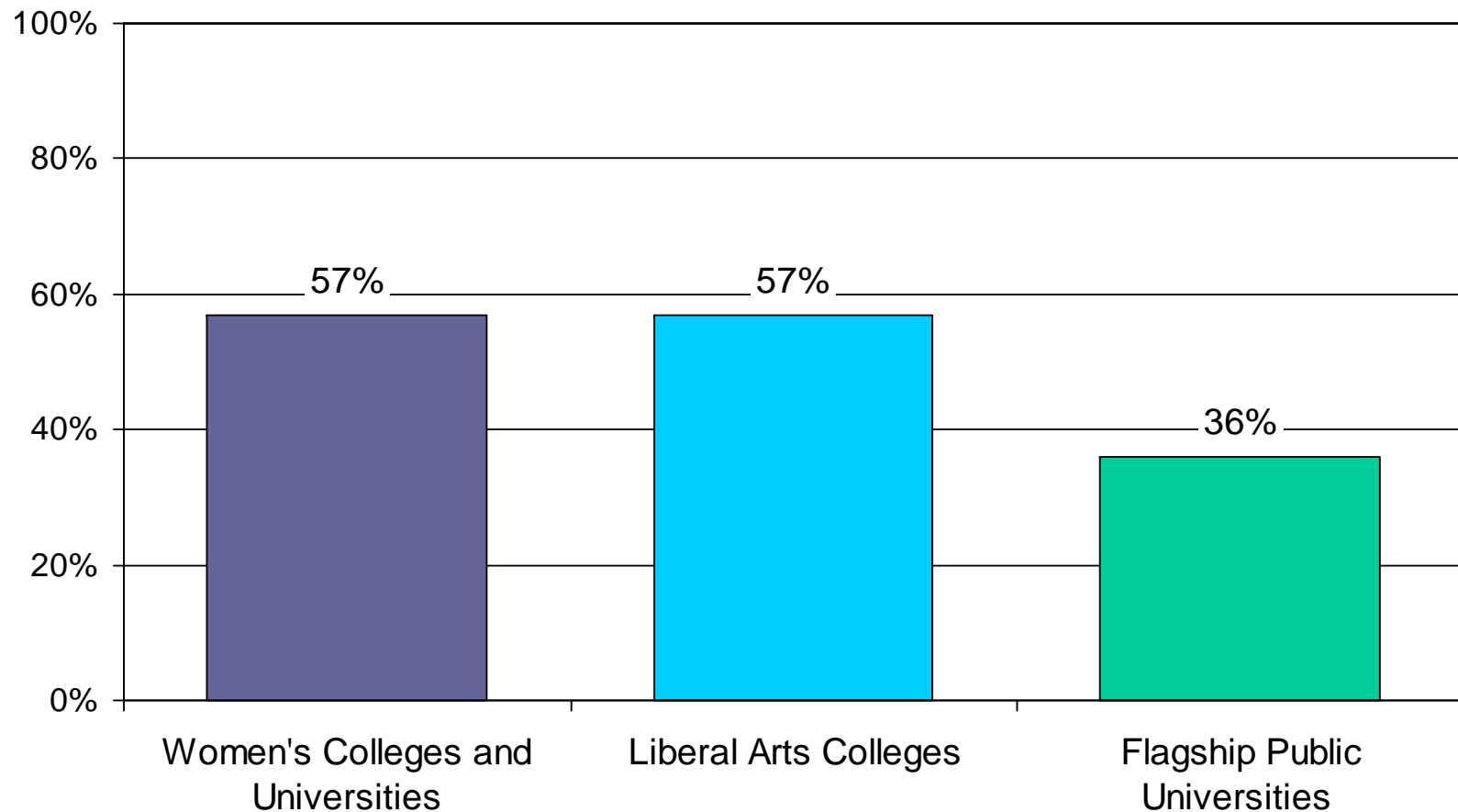
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Participate in International Study or Another Off-Campus Study Experience



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.5 While in college, did you participate in...?

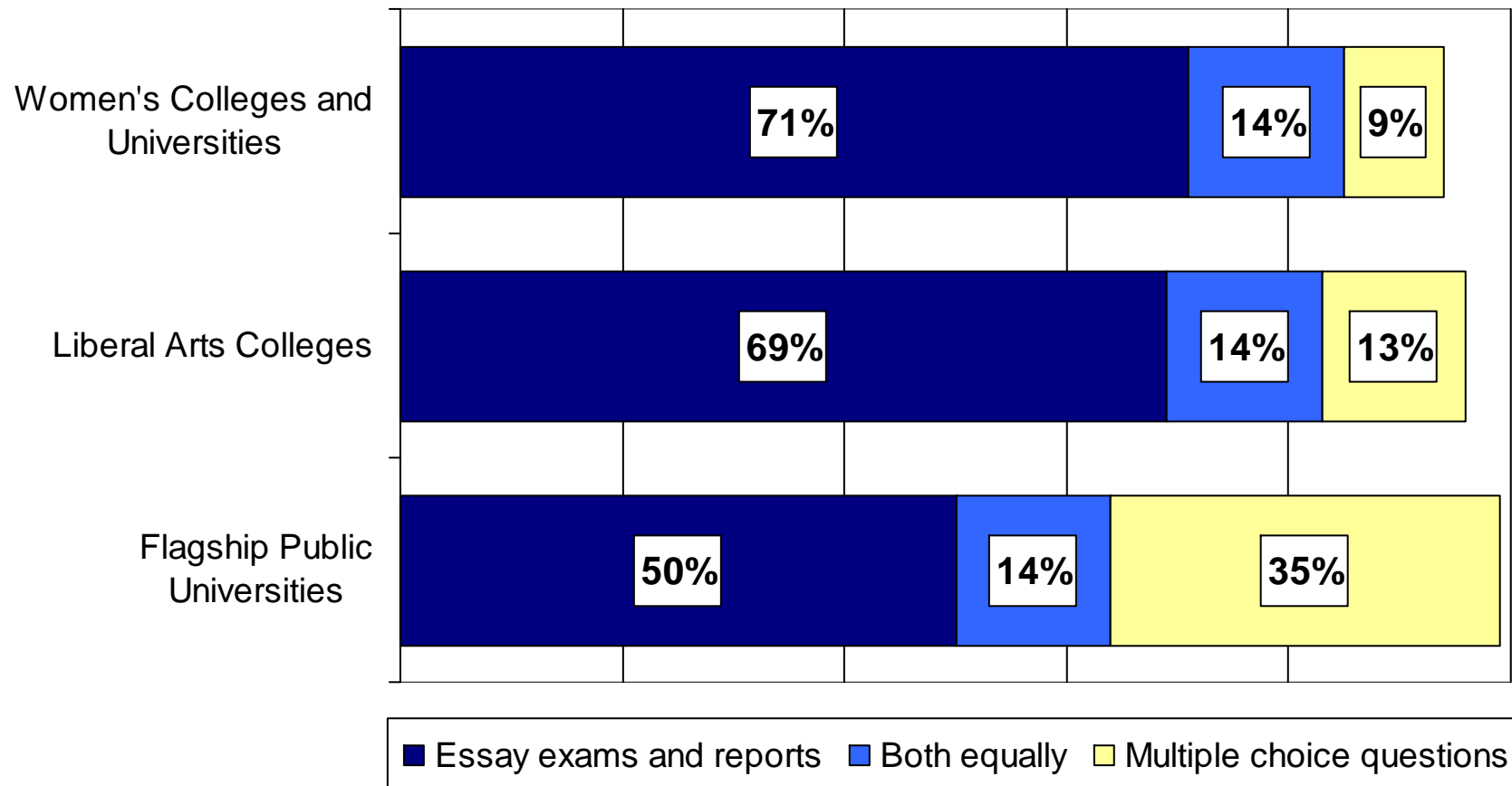
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Participate in Faculty-Directed Research or Independent Study



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.5 While in college, did you participate in...?

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than the Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Graded on Essay Exams and Written Reports



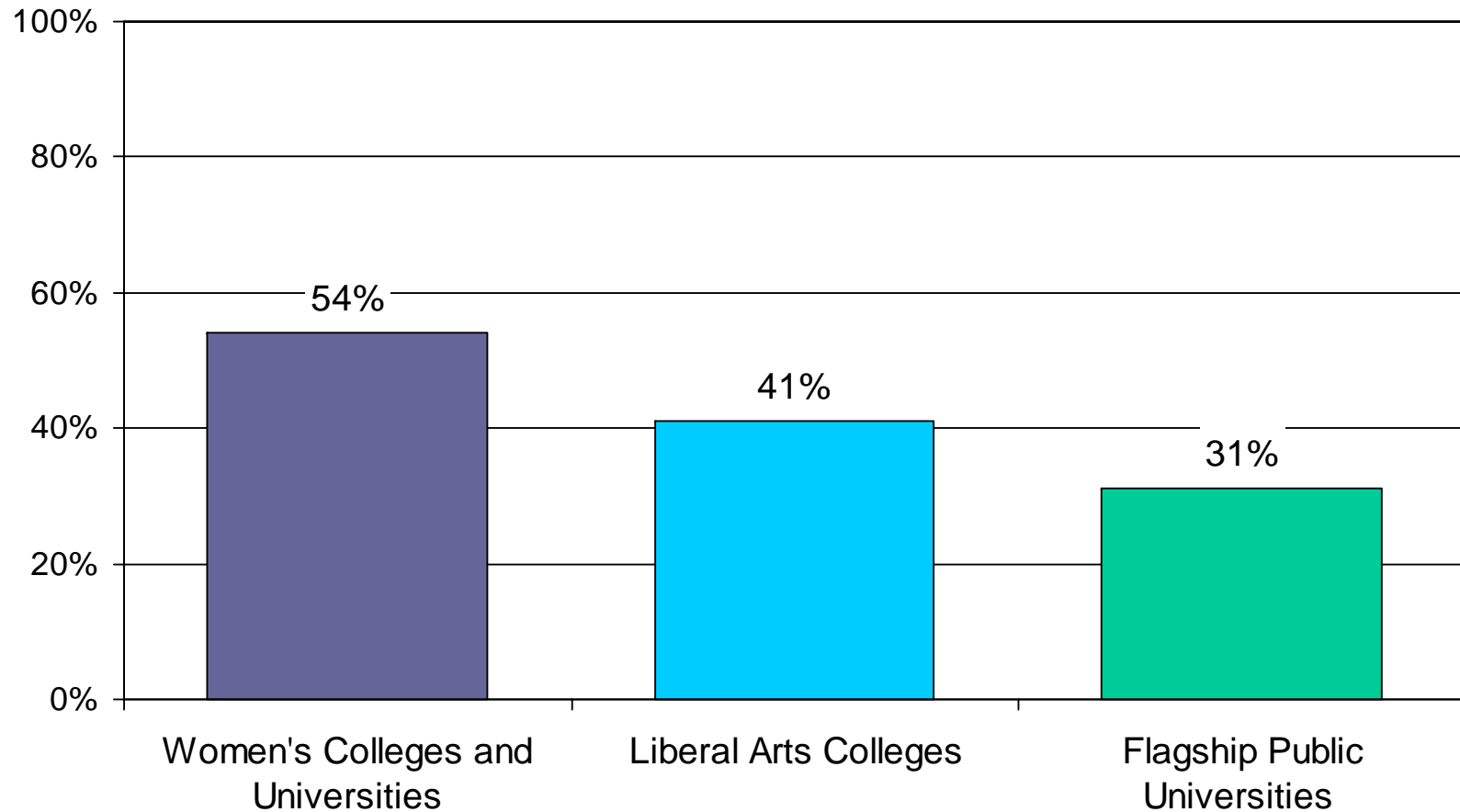
The Flagship Public University group is significantly lower than Women's Colleges for "Essay exams" and higher on "Multiple choice questions"

Q.3 Would you say that most of your grades were based on...?

### 3. A women's college education...

**Enables students to engage with top faculty and resources.** Women's college graduates attribute their success to interaction with “a high quality teaching-oriented faculty.” They report strong benefits from mentoring, small classes and personal interaction with professors. At women's colleges, *all* of the resources, from sophisticated research equipment to preeminent athletics facilities to internship and fellowship funding, are focused on and available to women students.

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Other Groups to Say They Benefited Very Much from Good Academic Facilities and Equipment

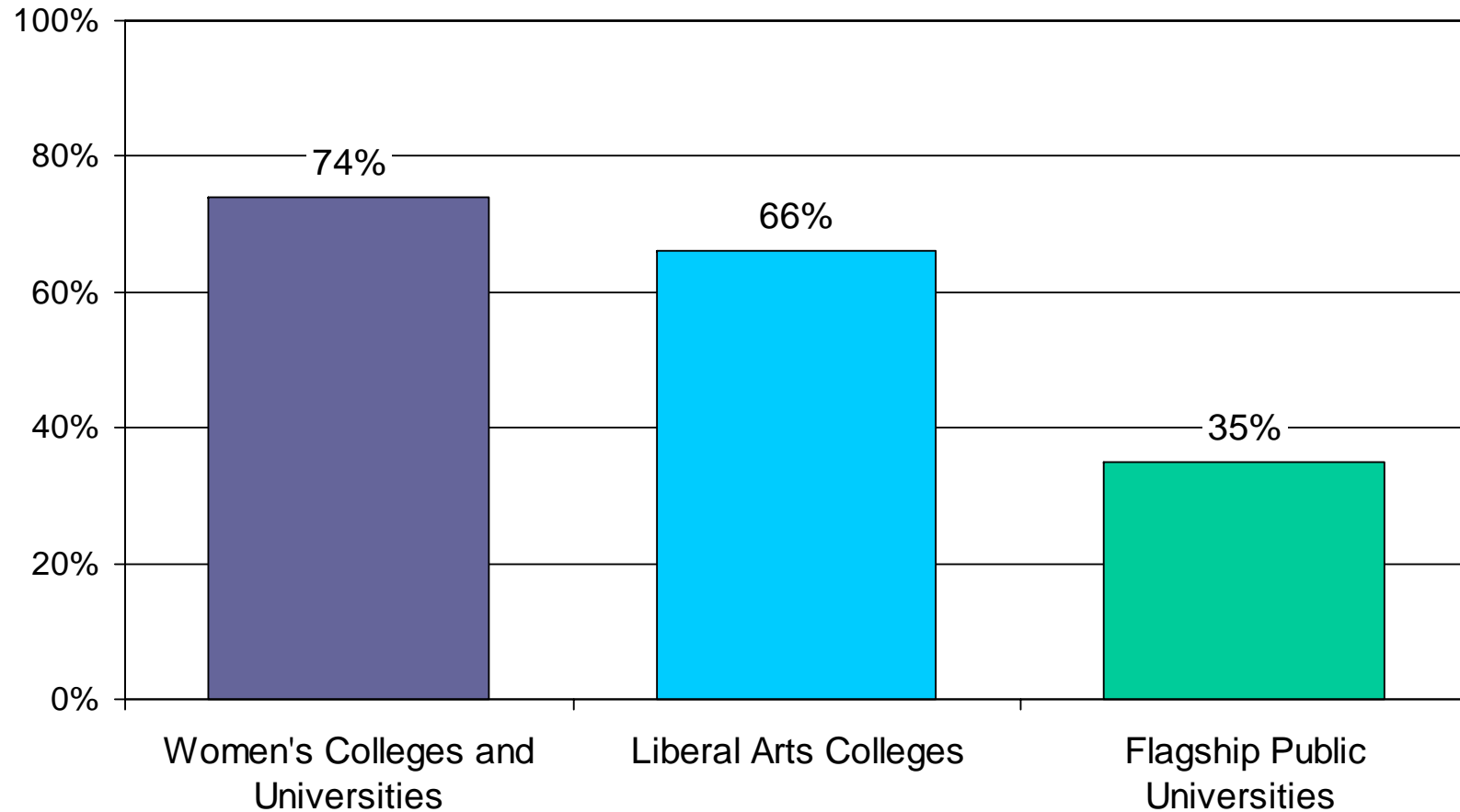


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)



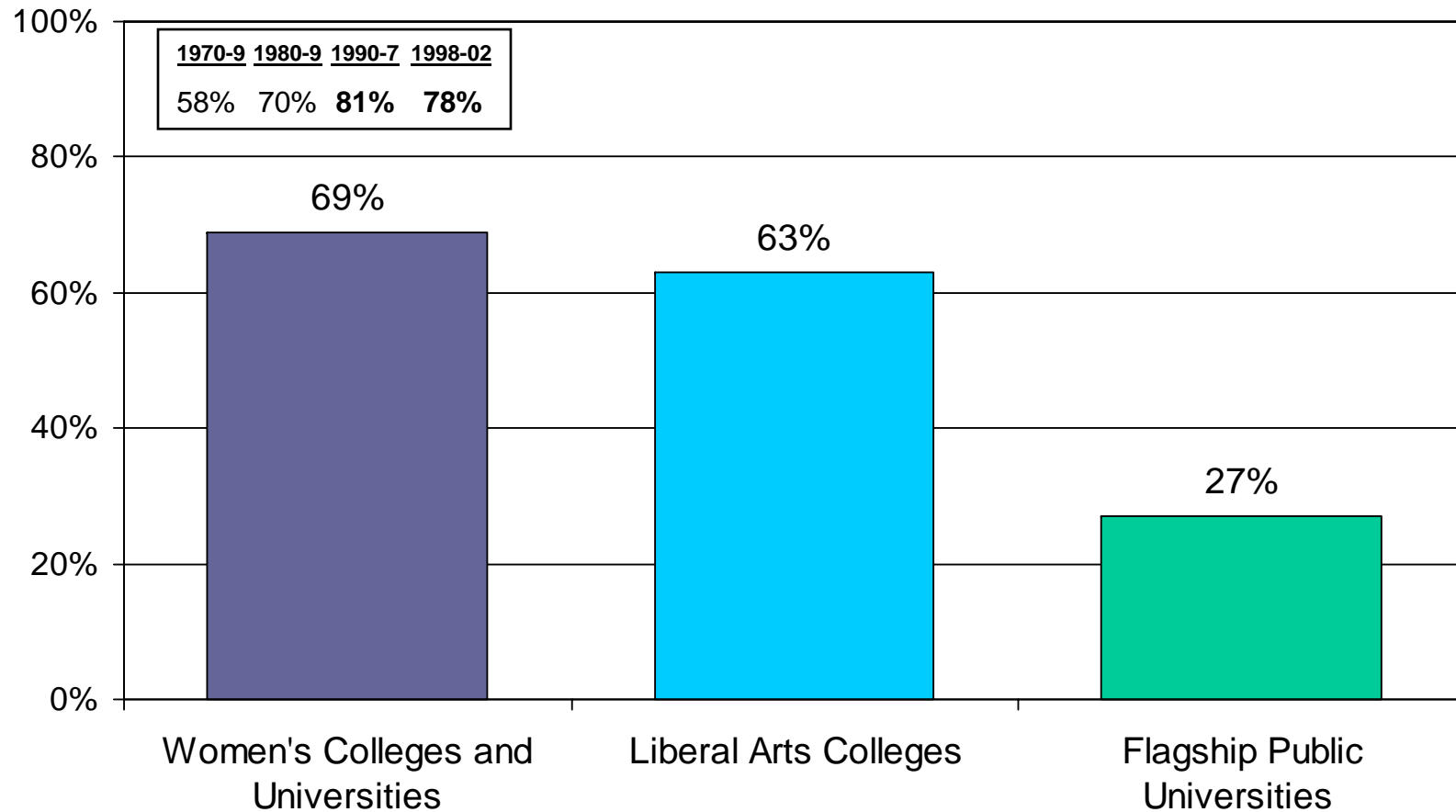
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Other Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from A High Quality, Teaching-Oriented Faculty



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

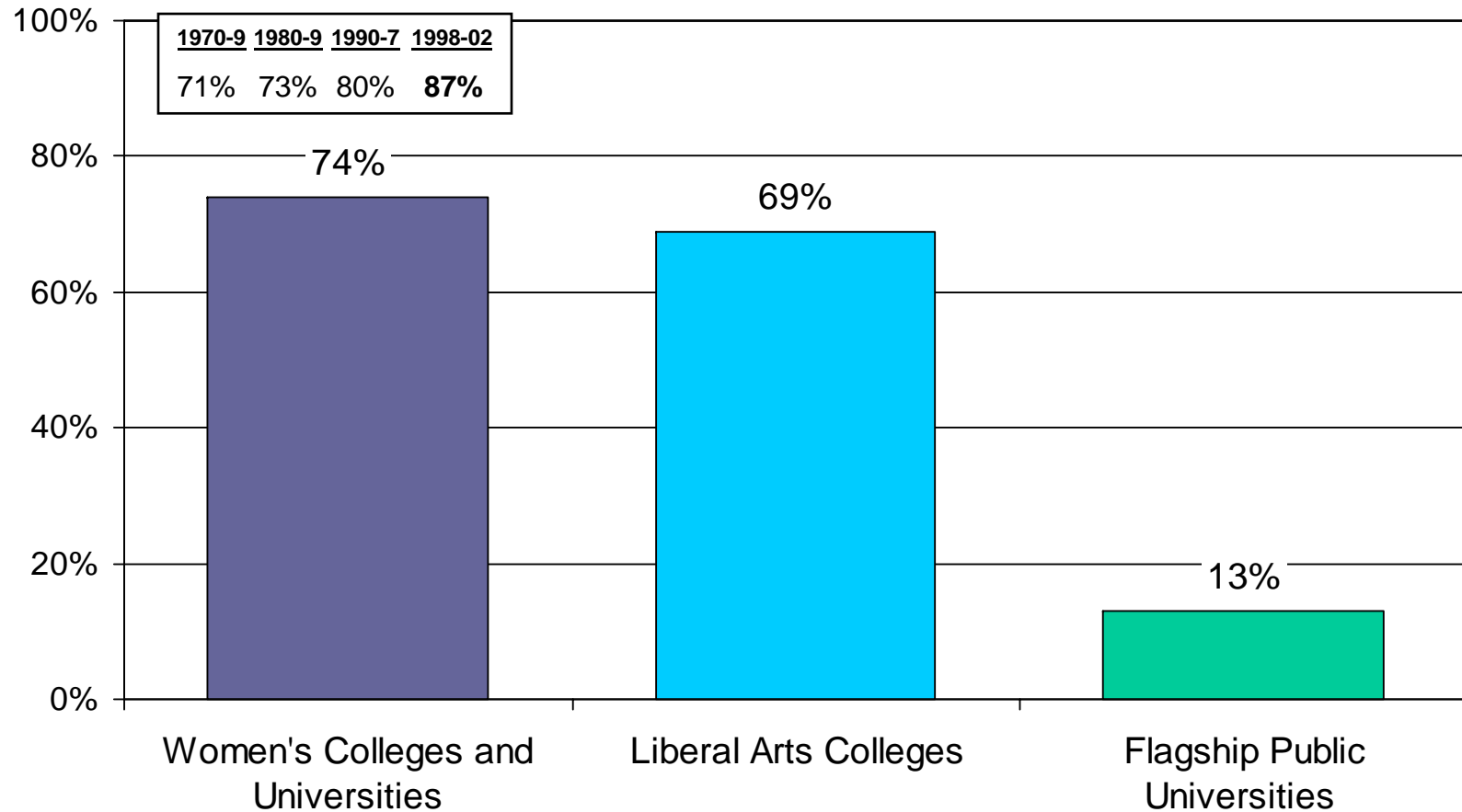
# Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public University Graduates to Say They Benefited Very Much from Personal Interaction with Professors



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Liberal Arts colleges, and significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

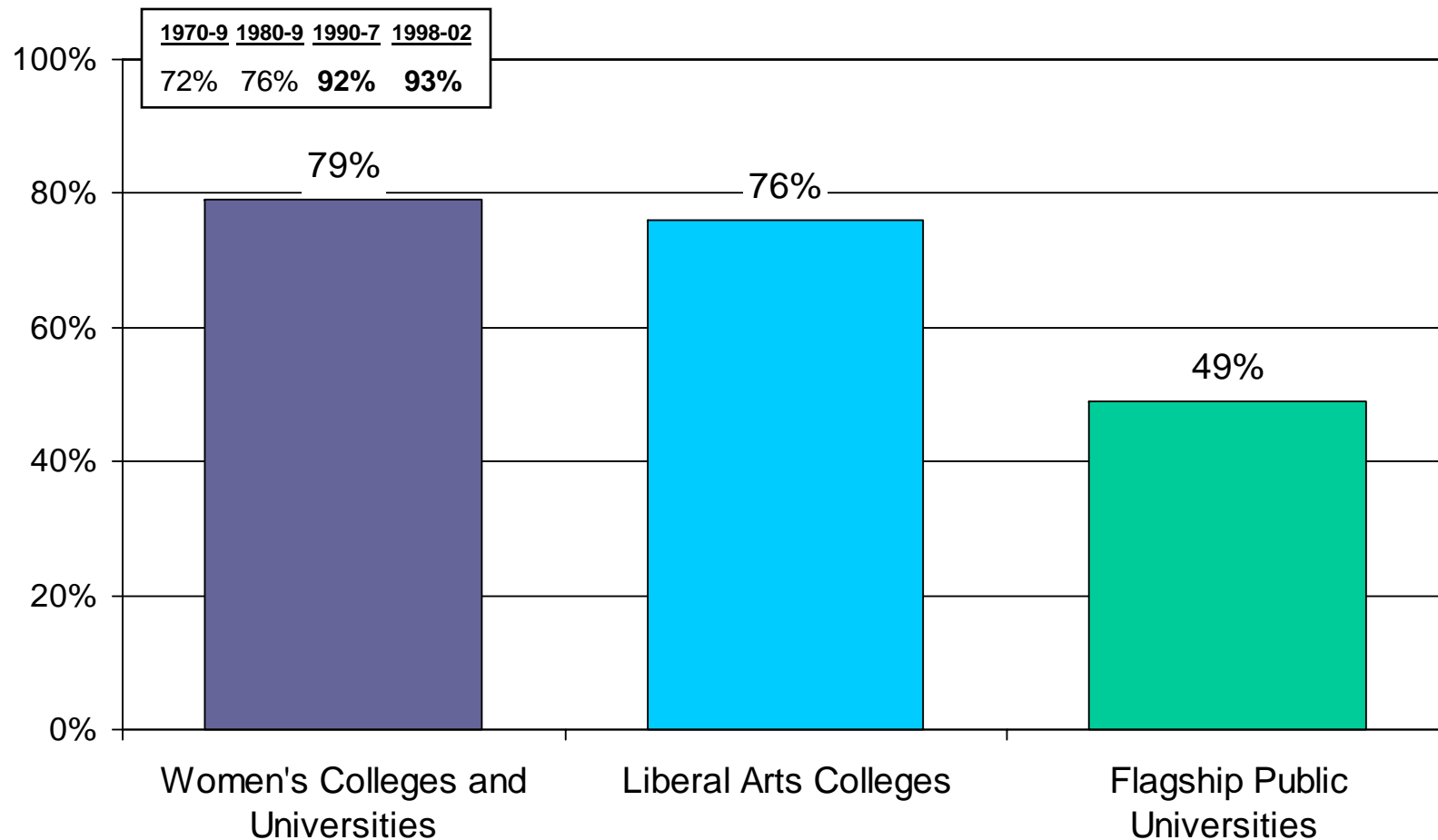
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say They Benefited Very Much from Many Small Classes with Fewer than Twenty Students



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Liberal Arts colleges, and significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

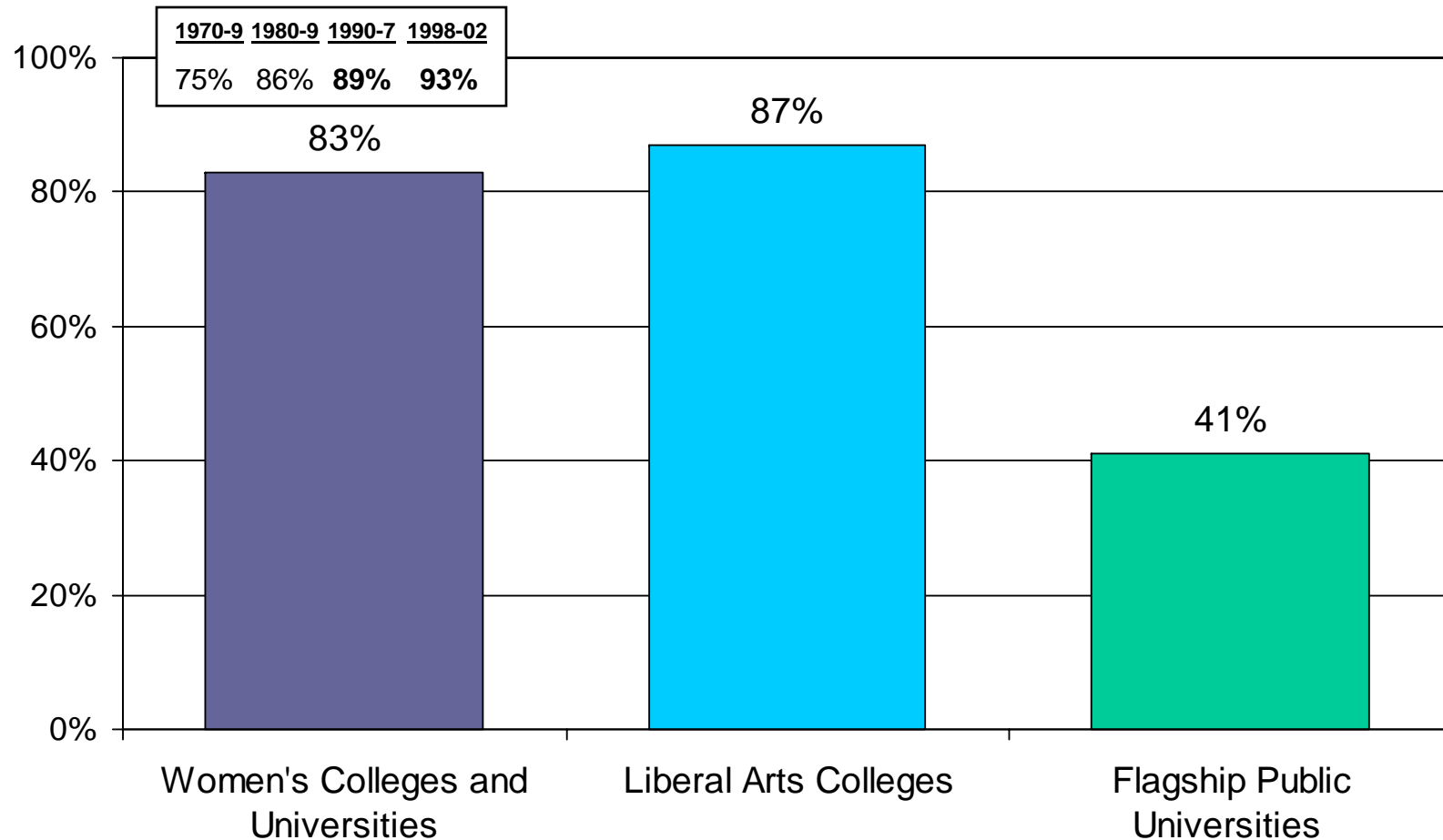
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say Their Experience Often Included Extensive Classroom Discussions



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Liberal Arts colleges, and significantly higher than the Flagship Publics' group

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

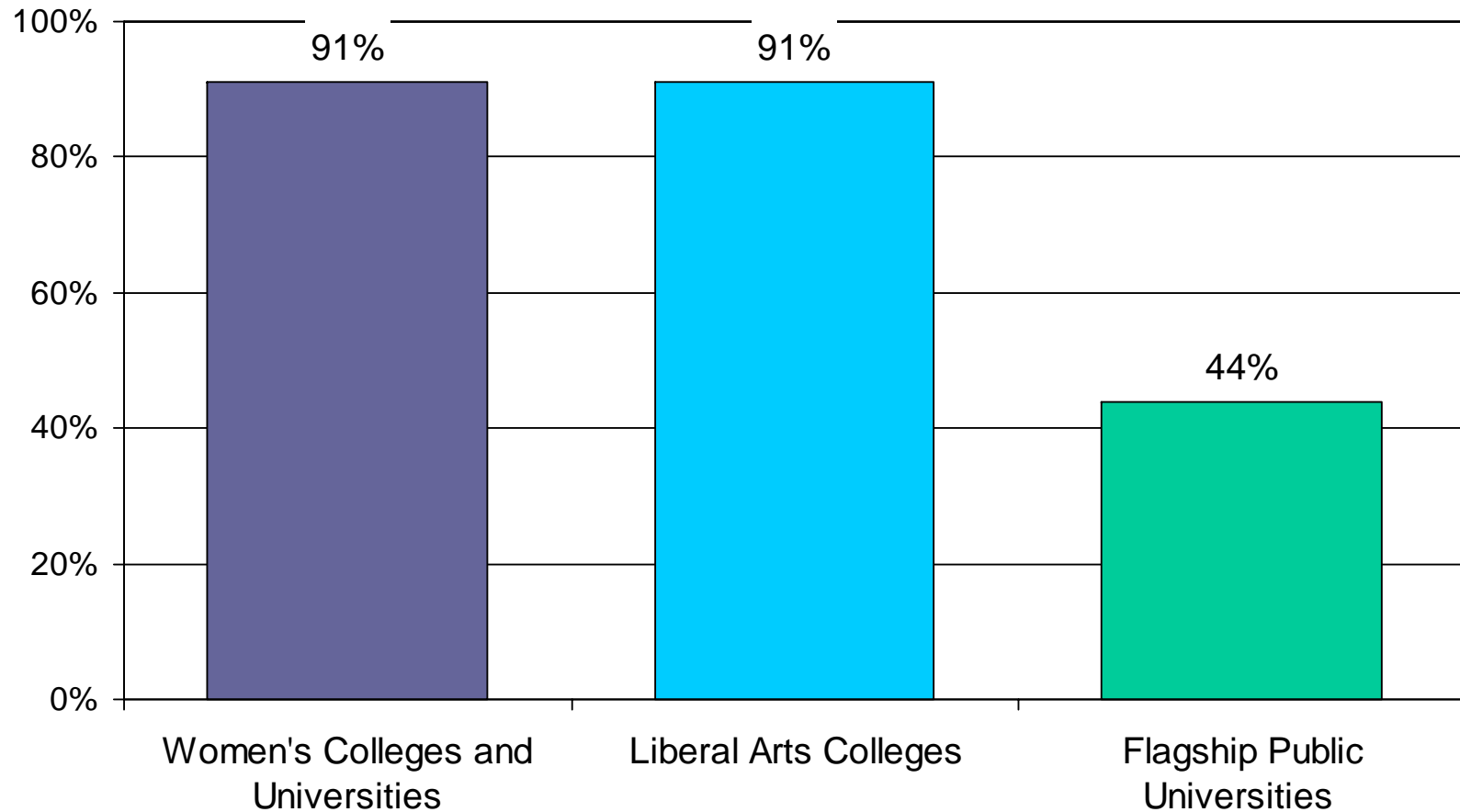
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Agree Faculty Were Interested in Students Personally as Well as Academically



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree)

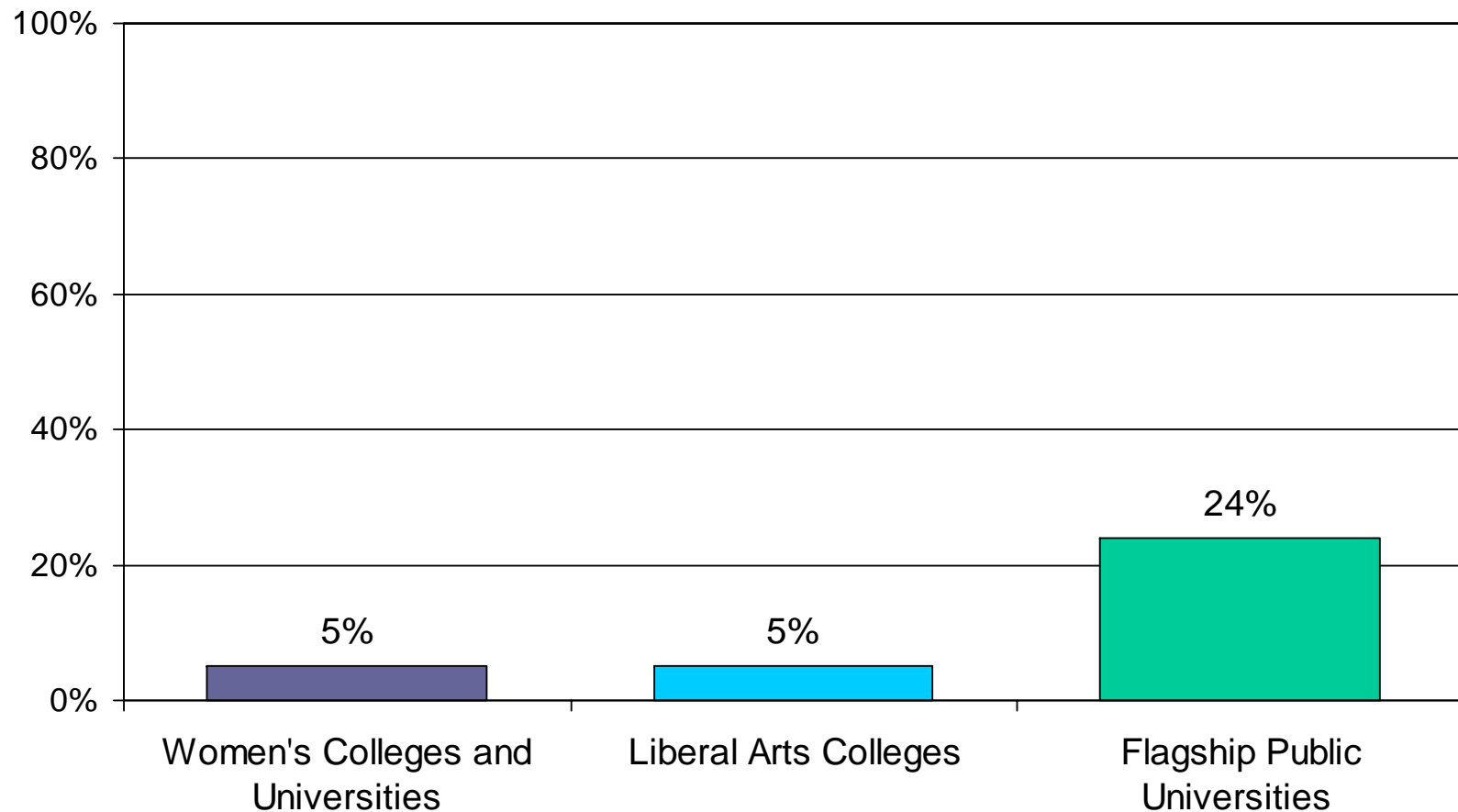
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from a Majority of Classes Taught by Professors



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

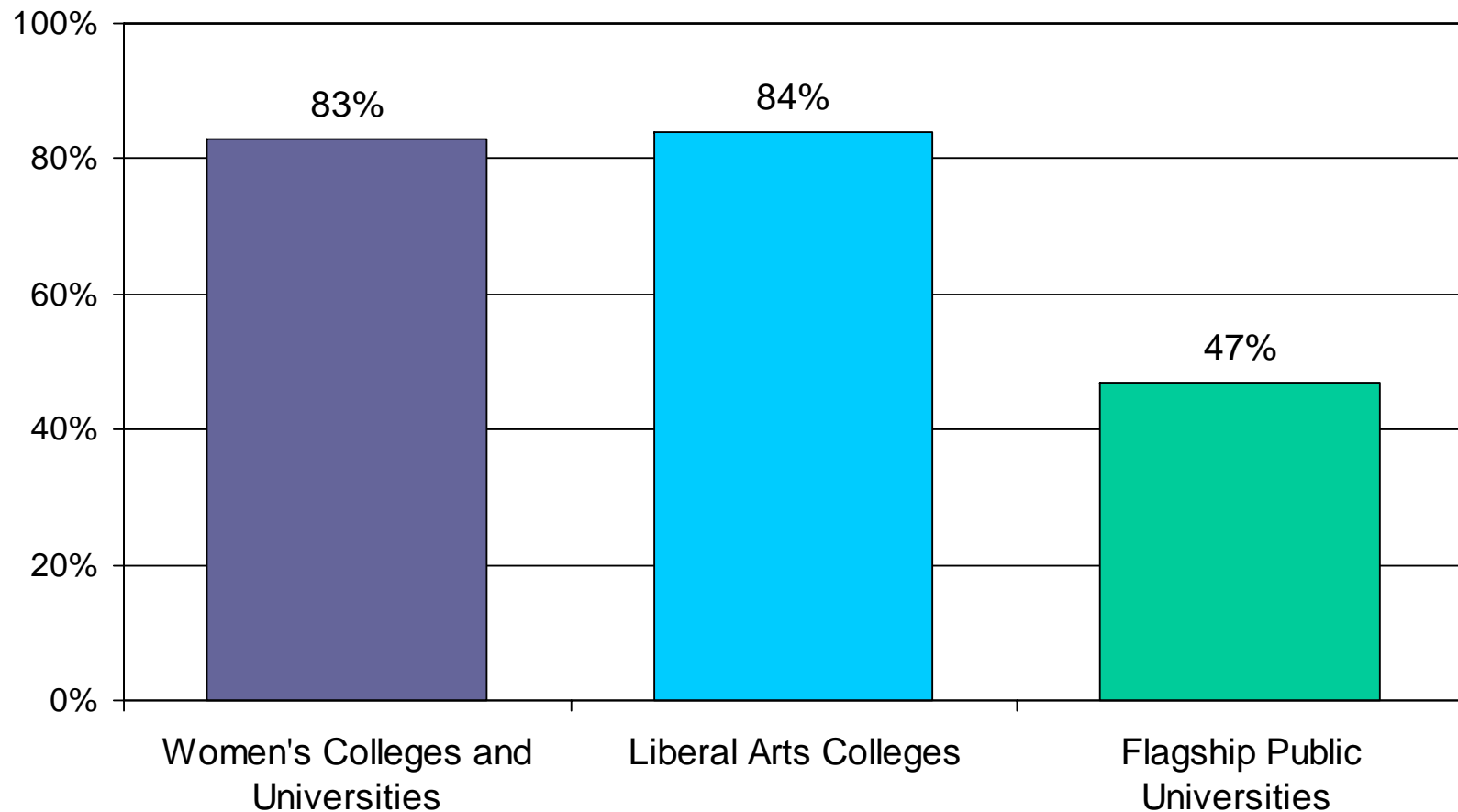
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are Less Likely than Public Universities Graduates to Say Their Experience Often Included the Use of Teaching Assistants in Classes or Discussion Sections



The Women's Colleges group is significantly lower than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Public Universities Alumnae to Say Their Professors Often Challenged Them Academically, But Also Personally Helped Them Meet Those Challenges

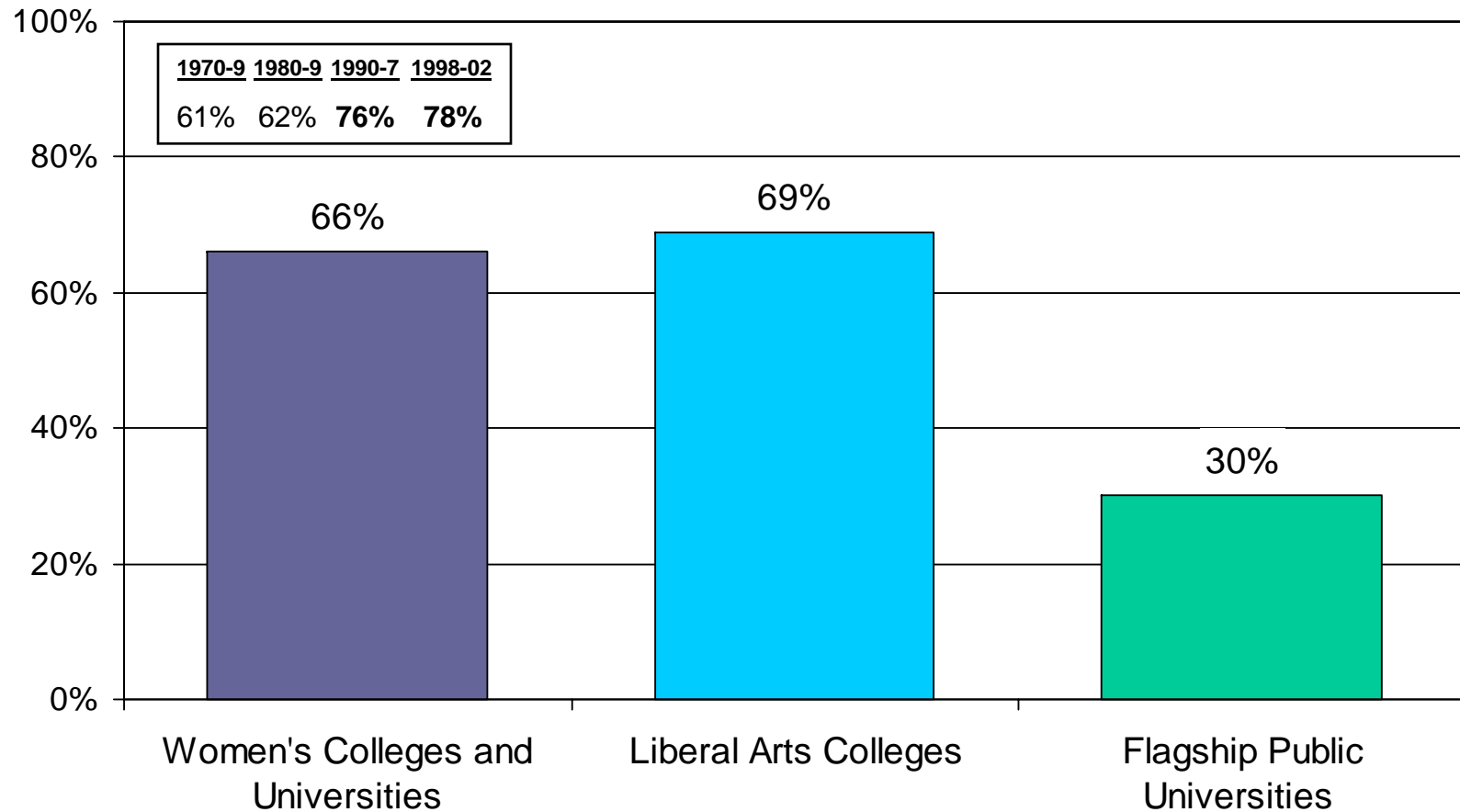


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)



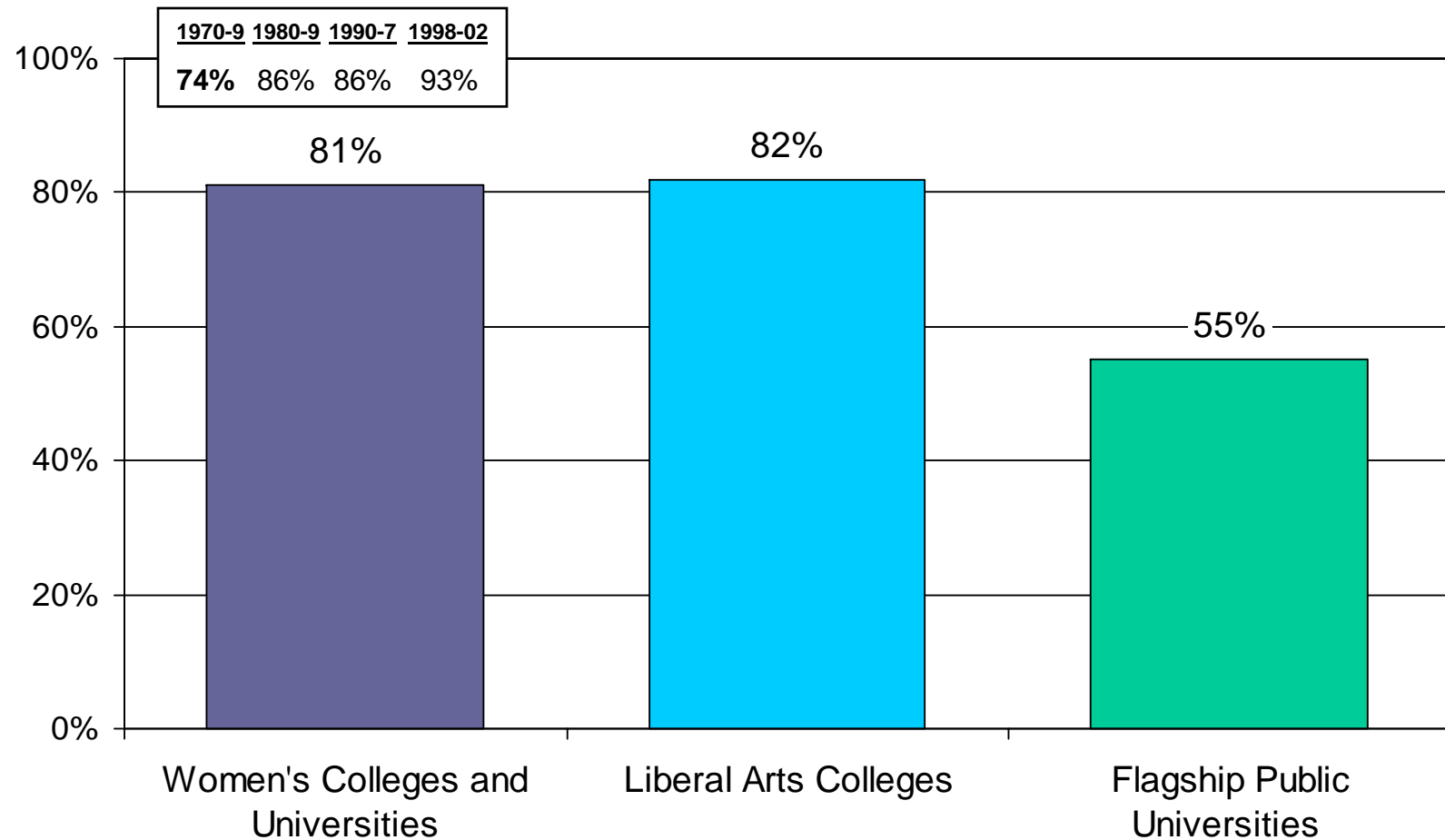
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Alumnae From Public Universities to Say Their Experience Often Included Conversations with Professors Outside of Class



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

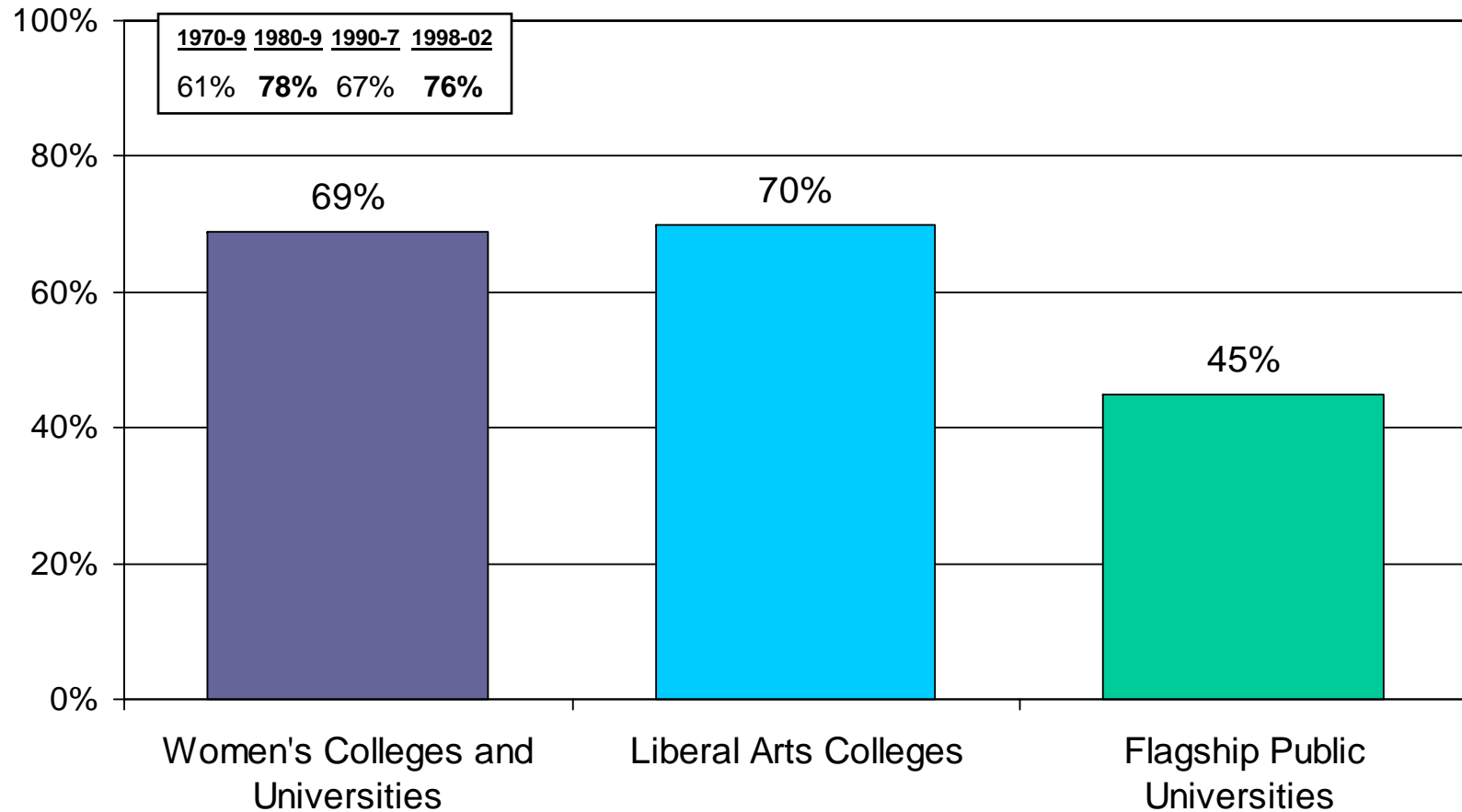
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Have Found a Mentor in College



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.4 Who, if anyone, did you meet at college who was a mentor or role model for you?  
(total who mentioned at least one)

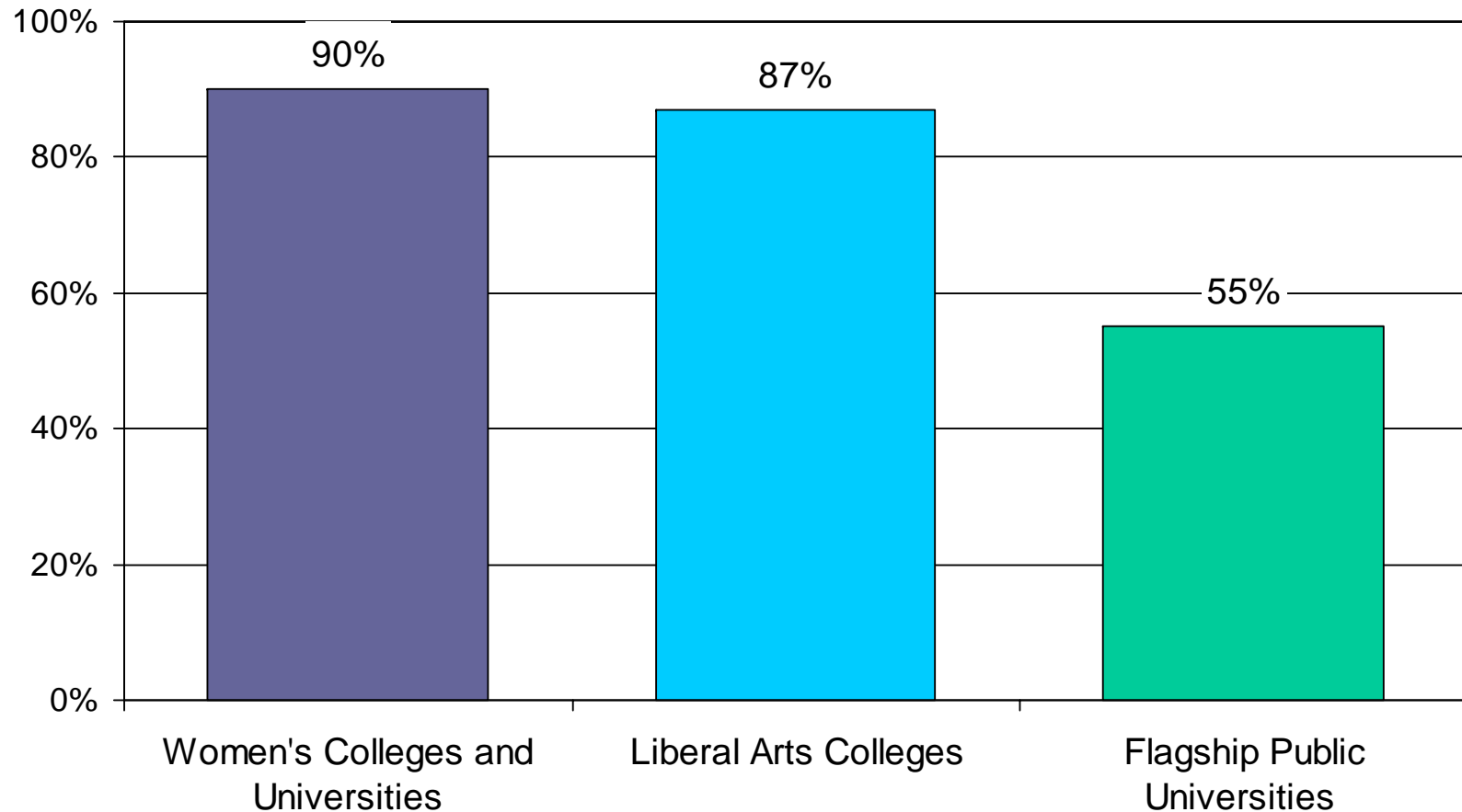
## A Professor Is Most Likely to Be Cited as a Mentor in College



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.4 Who, if anyone, did you meet at college who was a mentor or role model for you?  
(a professor)

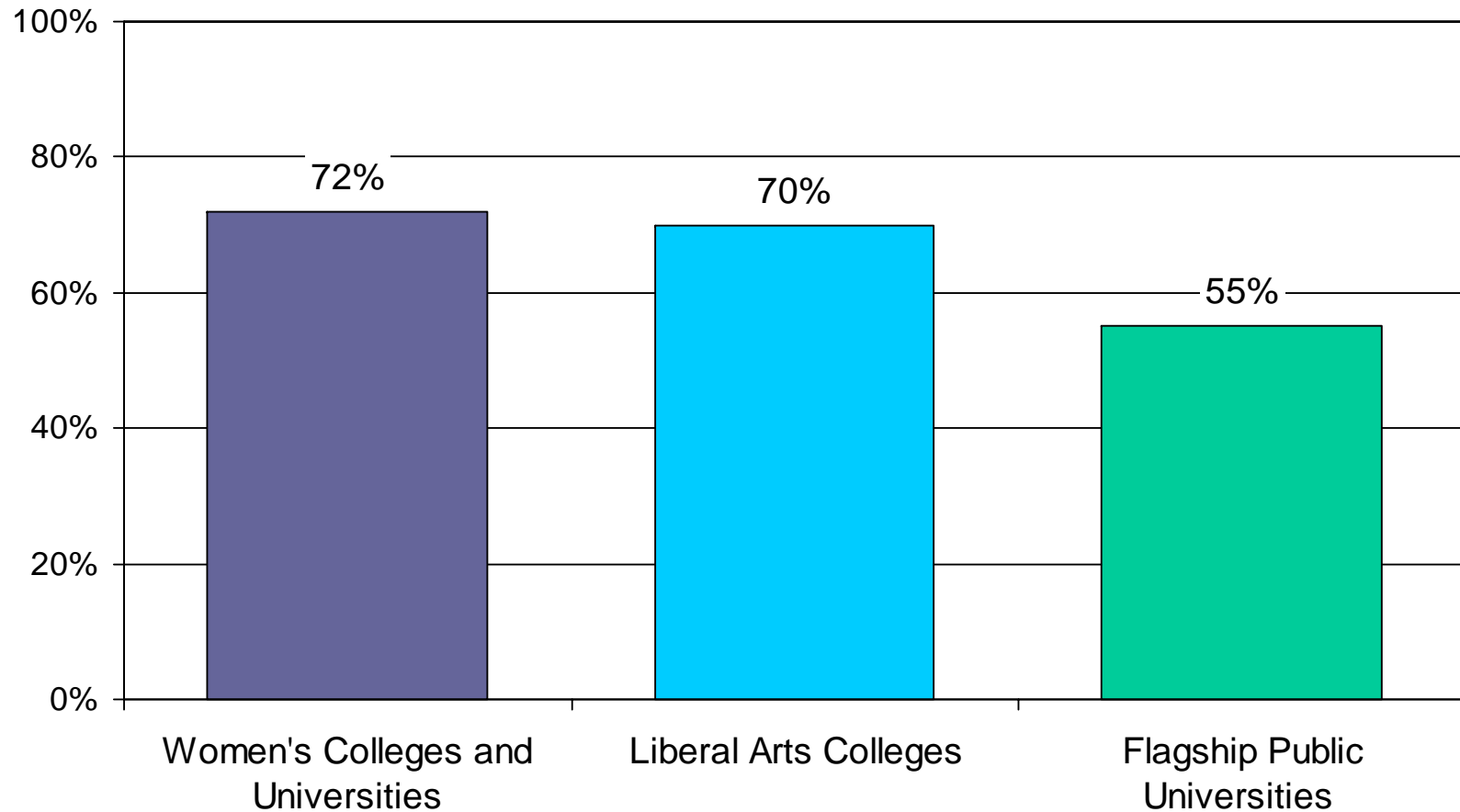
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Agree There Was a Sense of Community Among Students



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree)

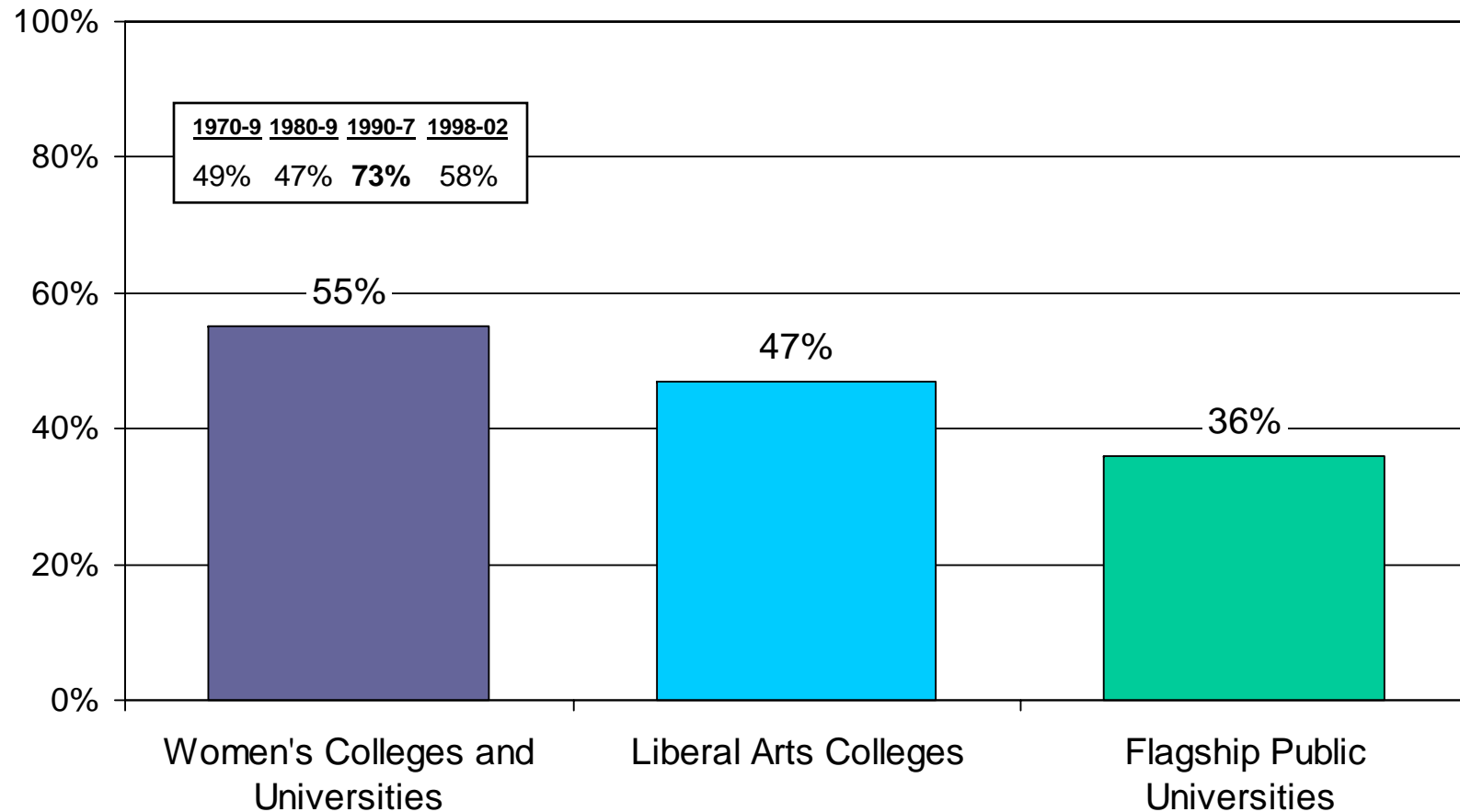
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than the Public Universities Alumnae to Say Their Experience Often Included Friendships that Developed from Classroom Experiences



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.2 How often did your college experience include the following...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=never and 5=always)

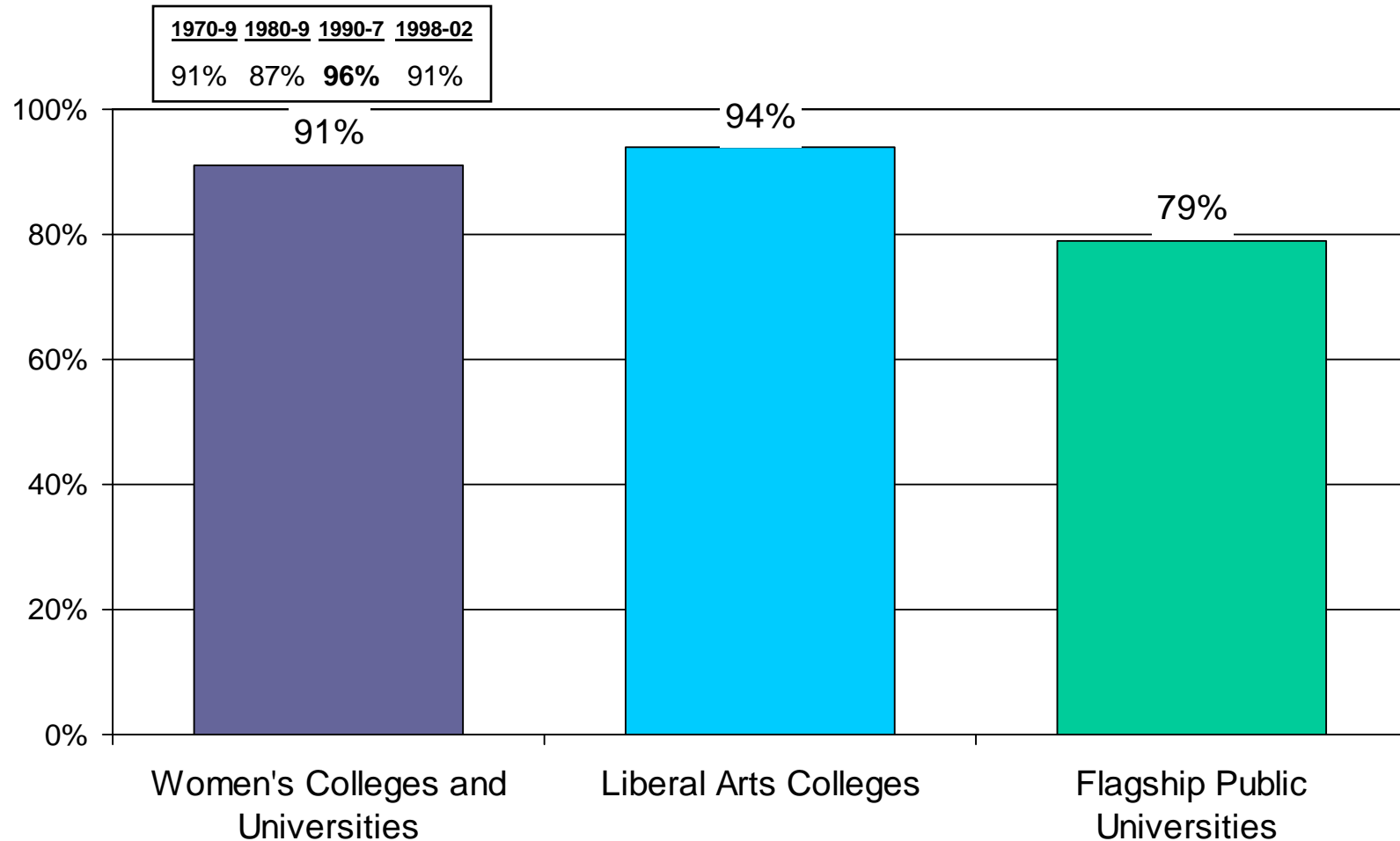
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than All Other Graduates to Be Involved in Academic Clubs and Activities



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...?

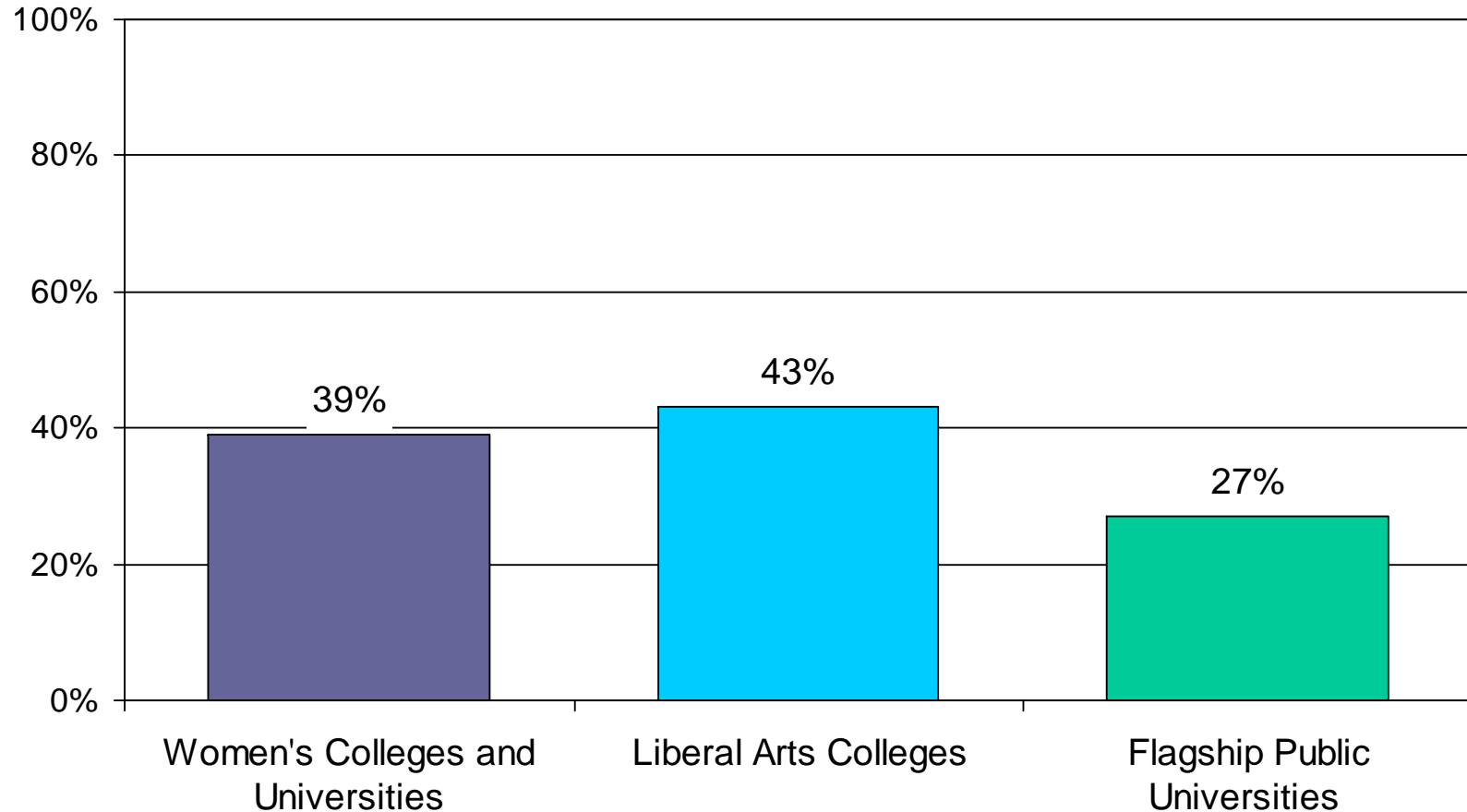
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Be Involved in an Extracurricular Activity



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.6A Were you involved in any of the following...? (Total involved)

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from a Good Balance Between Academics, Social and Personal Development

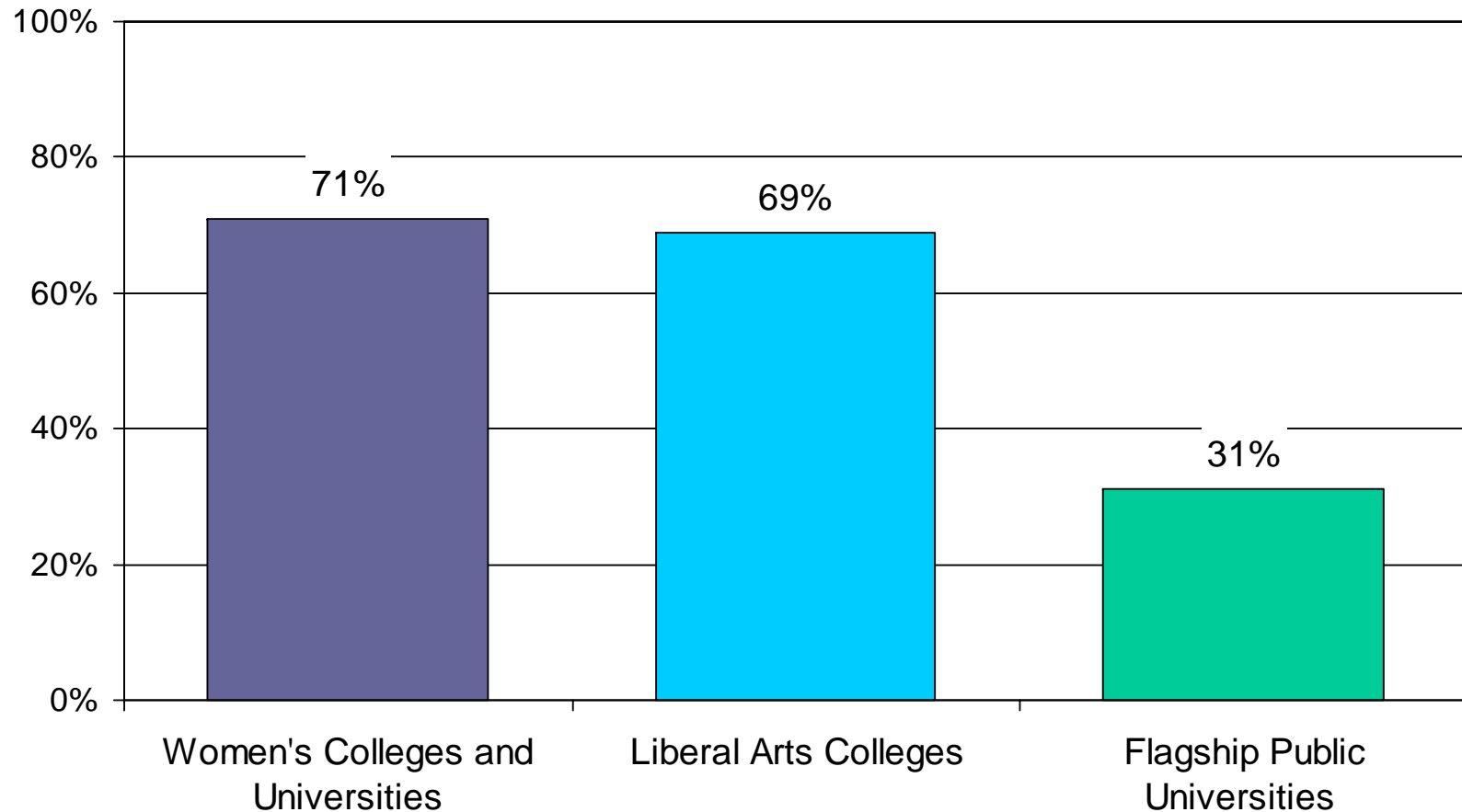


The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)



## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public University Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from a Safe Campus Environment



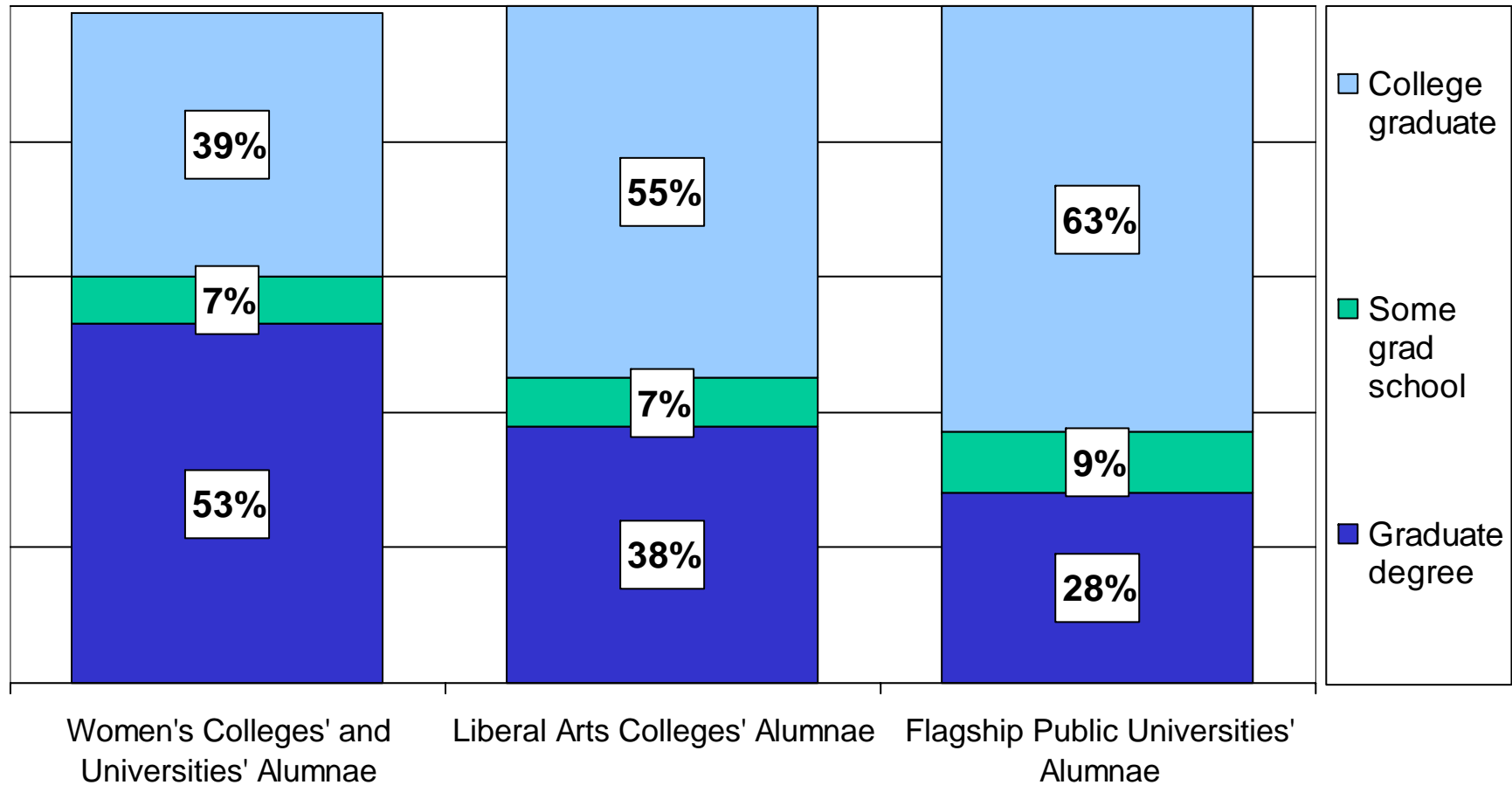
The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

## 4. A women's college education...

**Proves its value** over a lifetime. Graduating from a women's college, versus a co-ed public or private college or university, significantly increases a woman's chances of earning a graduate degree. Women's college graduates succeed in entering a range of career fields and graduate programs, regardless of their undergraduate major. More than 95 percent of women's college alumnae believe the financial investment in their education was worthwhile and that the intellectual and personal capacities they gained are still extremely important to them.

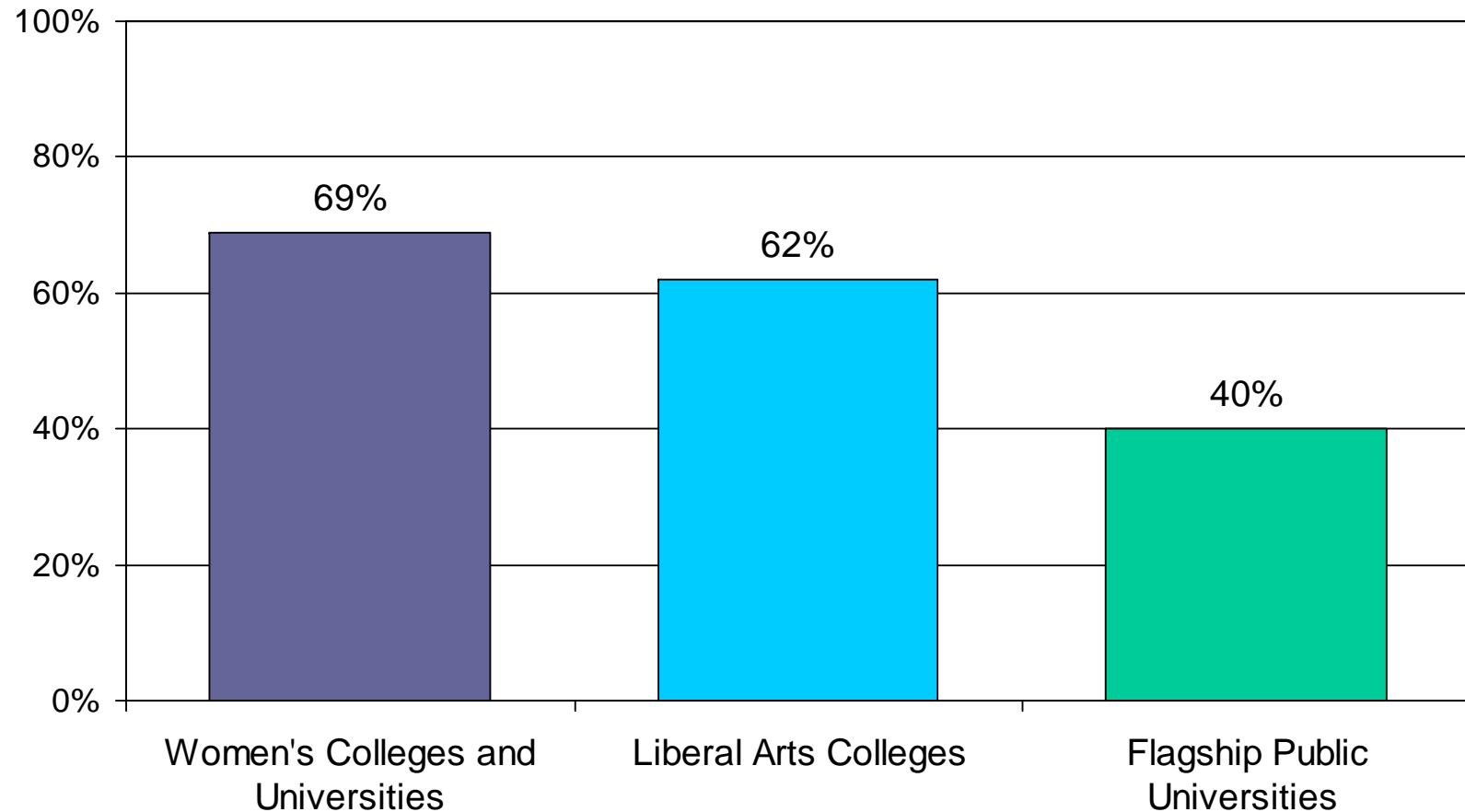
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Were More Likely than Any Other Group to Complete a Graduate Degree



The Women's Colleges alumnae are significantly more likely to have a "graduate degree" than all other alumnae

Q.A What level of education have you completed?

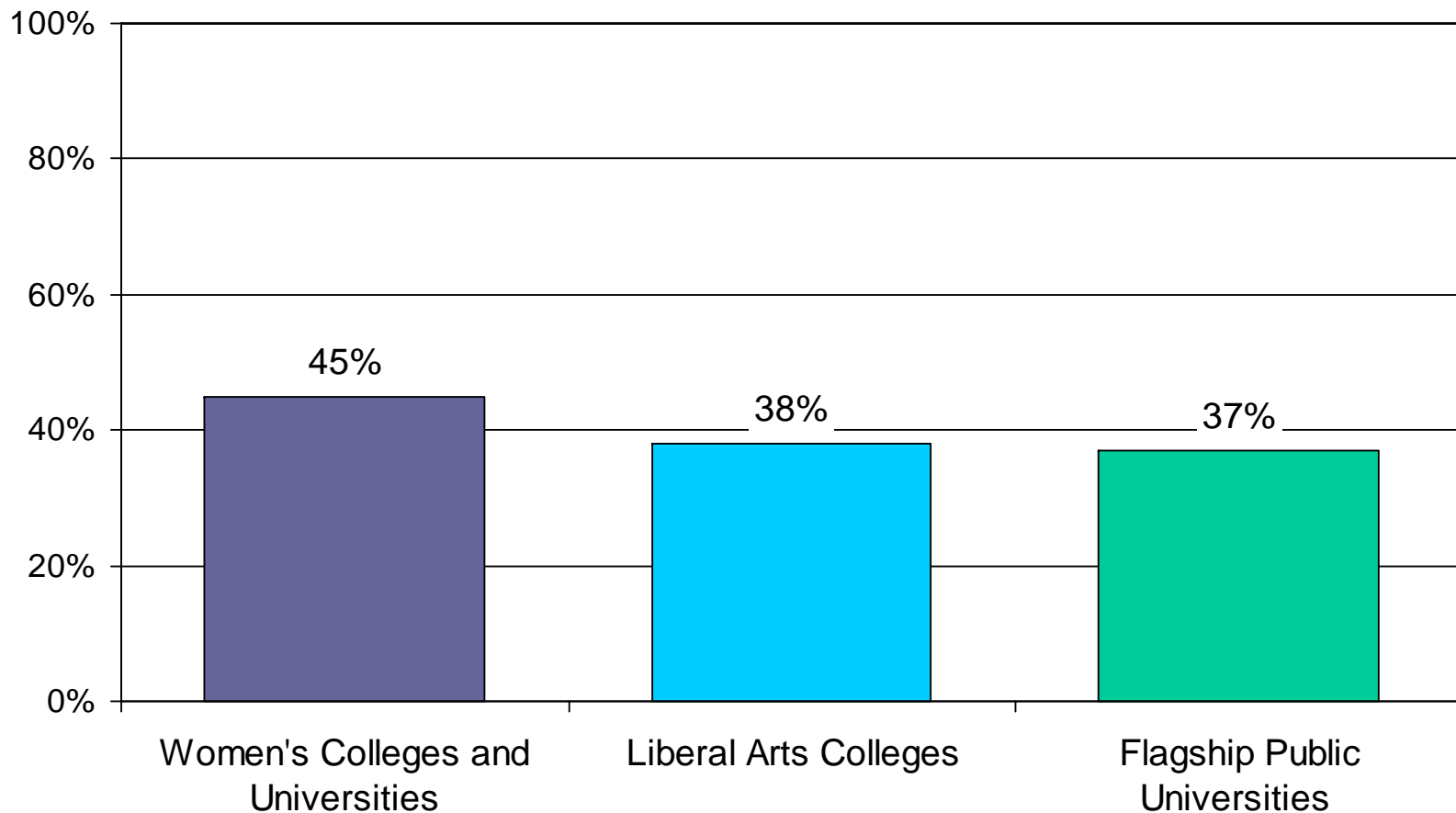
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than the Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Say They Benefited Very Much from a Strong Overall Academic Reputation



The Women's Colleges group is similar to the Liberal Arts colleges, and significantly higher than the Flagship Public group

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

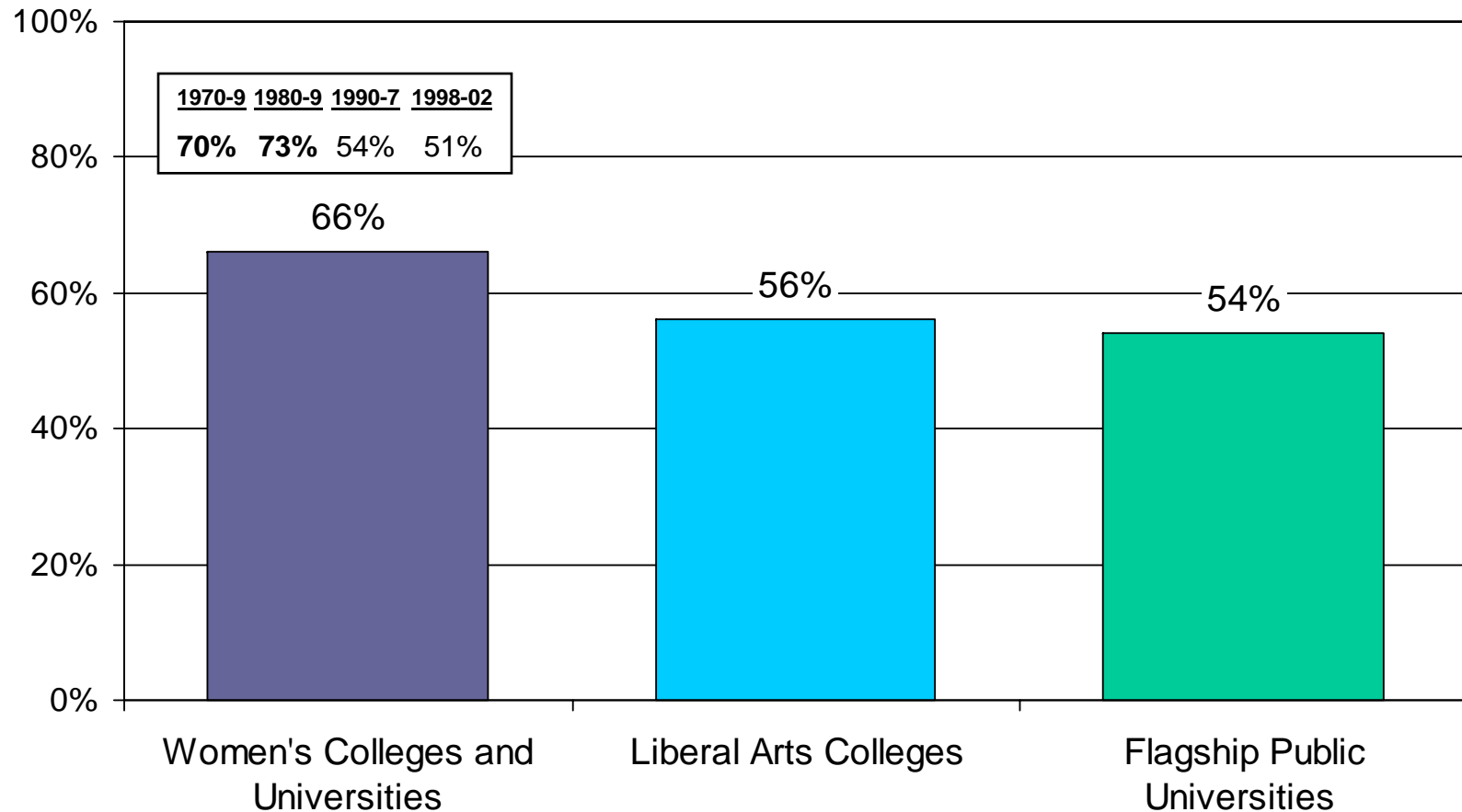
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say They Benefited Very Much from a Strong Reputation in Their Academic Major



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges

Q.1 Please tell me how much you personally benefited from...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=did not benefit at all and 5=benefited very much)

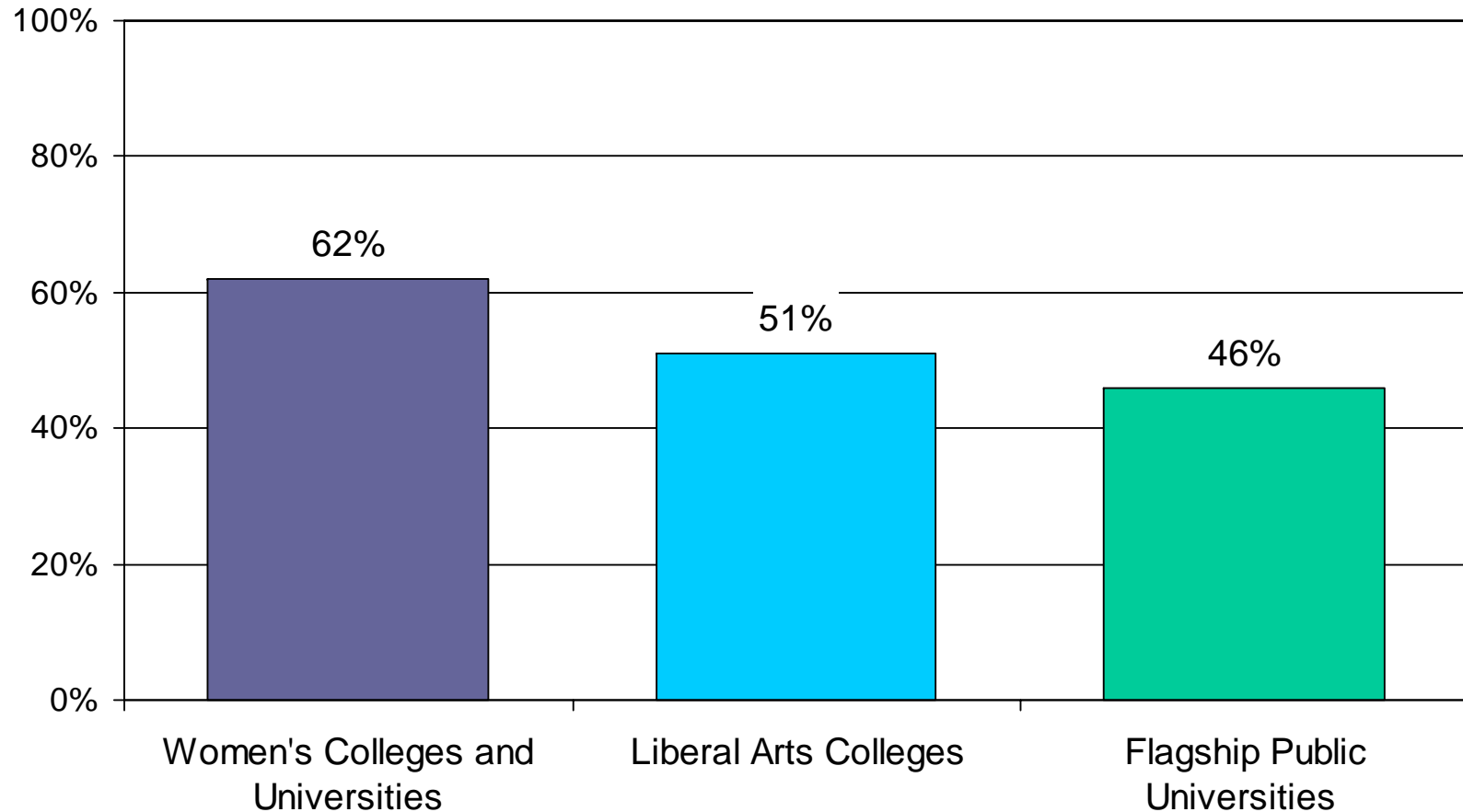
The Reputation of the College Was More Likely to Play an Important Role for Women's Colleges Graduates in Being Accepted to Graduate School or Finding a First Job (Especially in the 1970s and 1980s)



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.11 Did any of the following factors play an important role in being accepted to graduate school or finding your first real job?

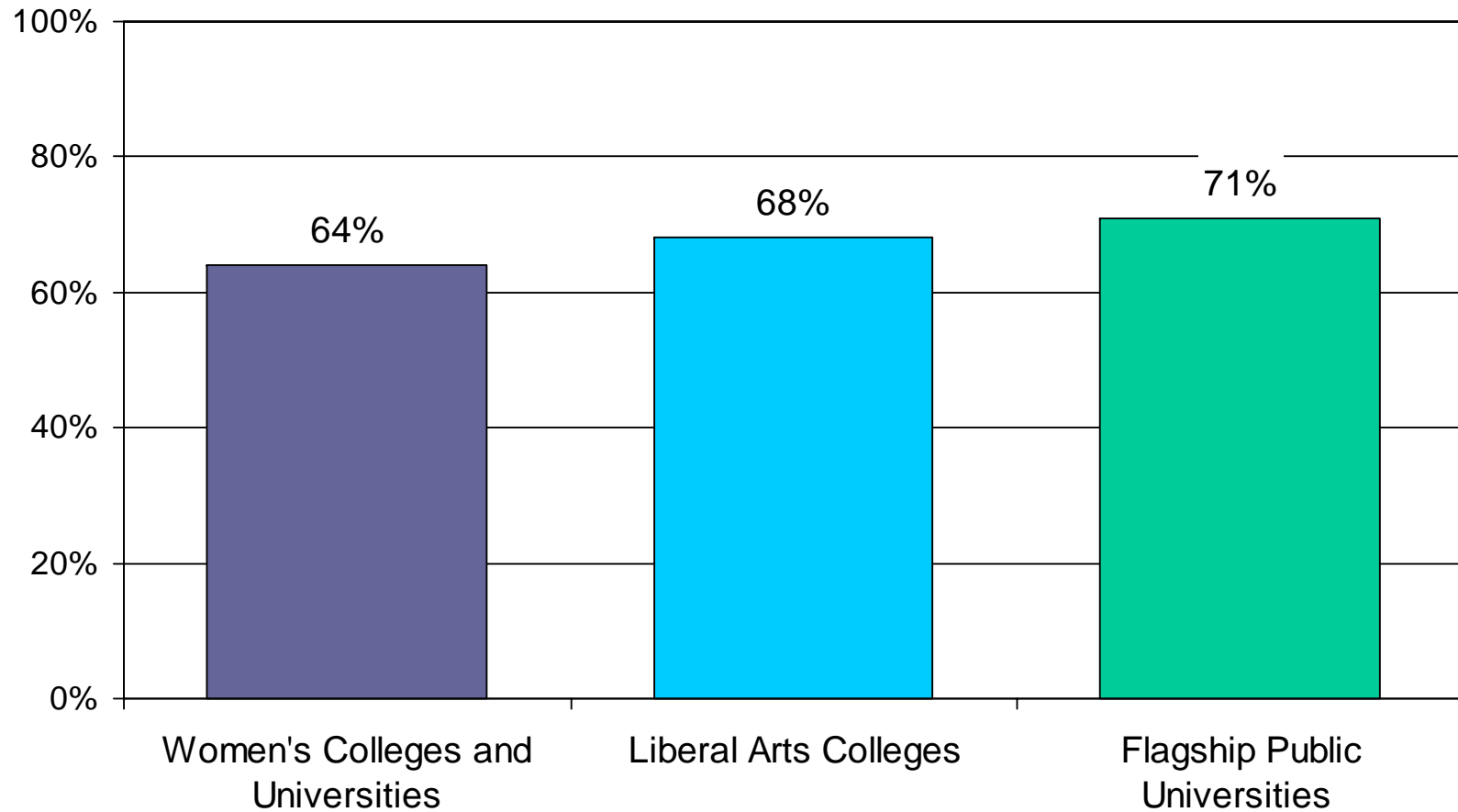
## The Quality of References by Faculty or Staff Played More of a Role for Women's Colleges Alumnae in Being Accepted to Graduate School or Finding a First Job



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.11 Did any of the following factors play an important role in being accepted to graduate school or finding your first real job?

For All Groups, the Selected Major Was Similarly Likely to Play an Important Role in Being Accepted to Graduate School or Finding a First Job

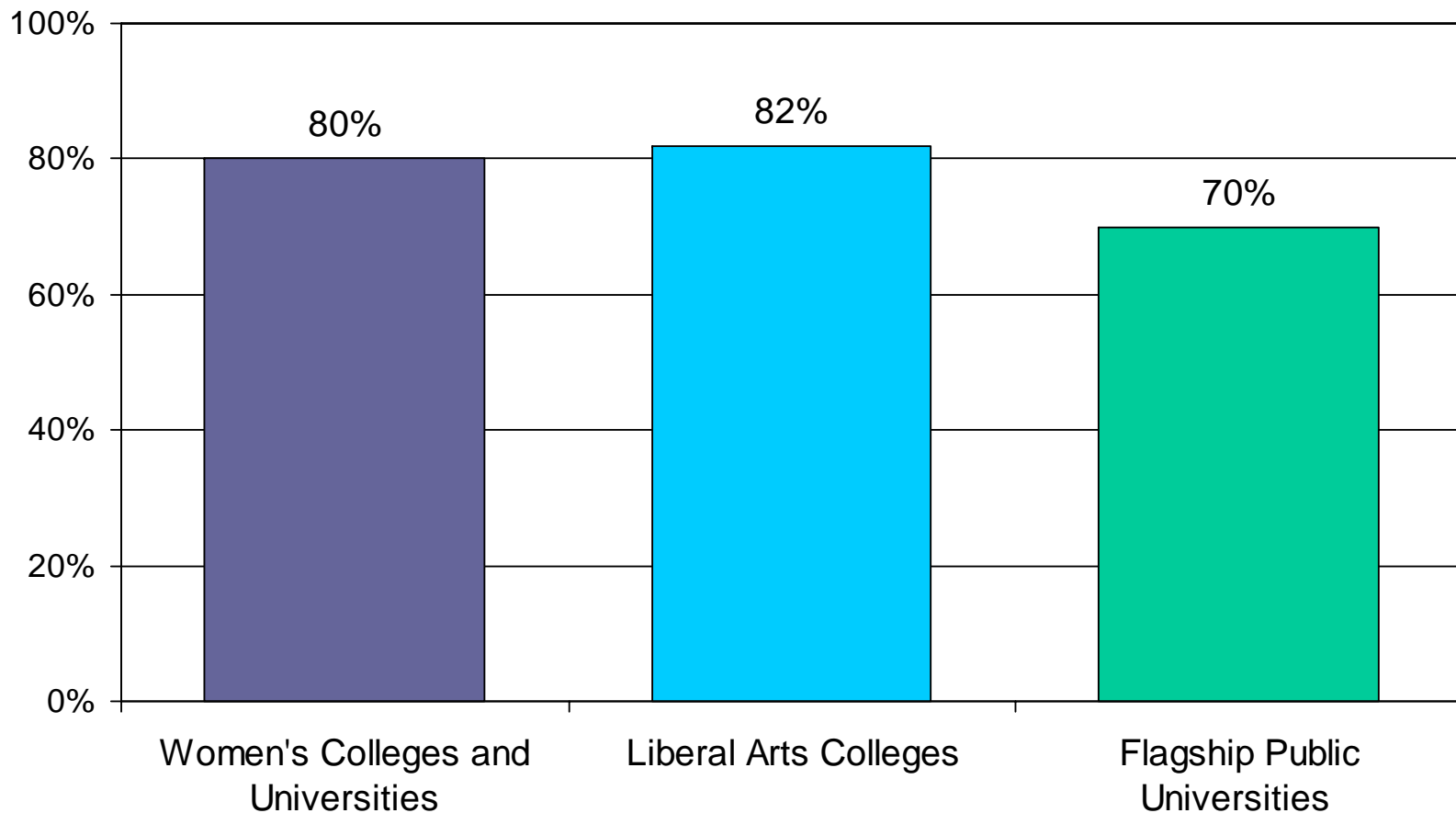


There are no significant differences

Q.11 Did any of the following factors play an important role in being accepted to graduate school or finding your first real job?



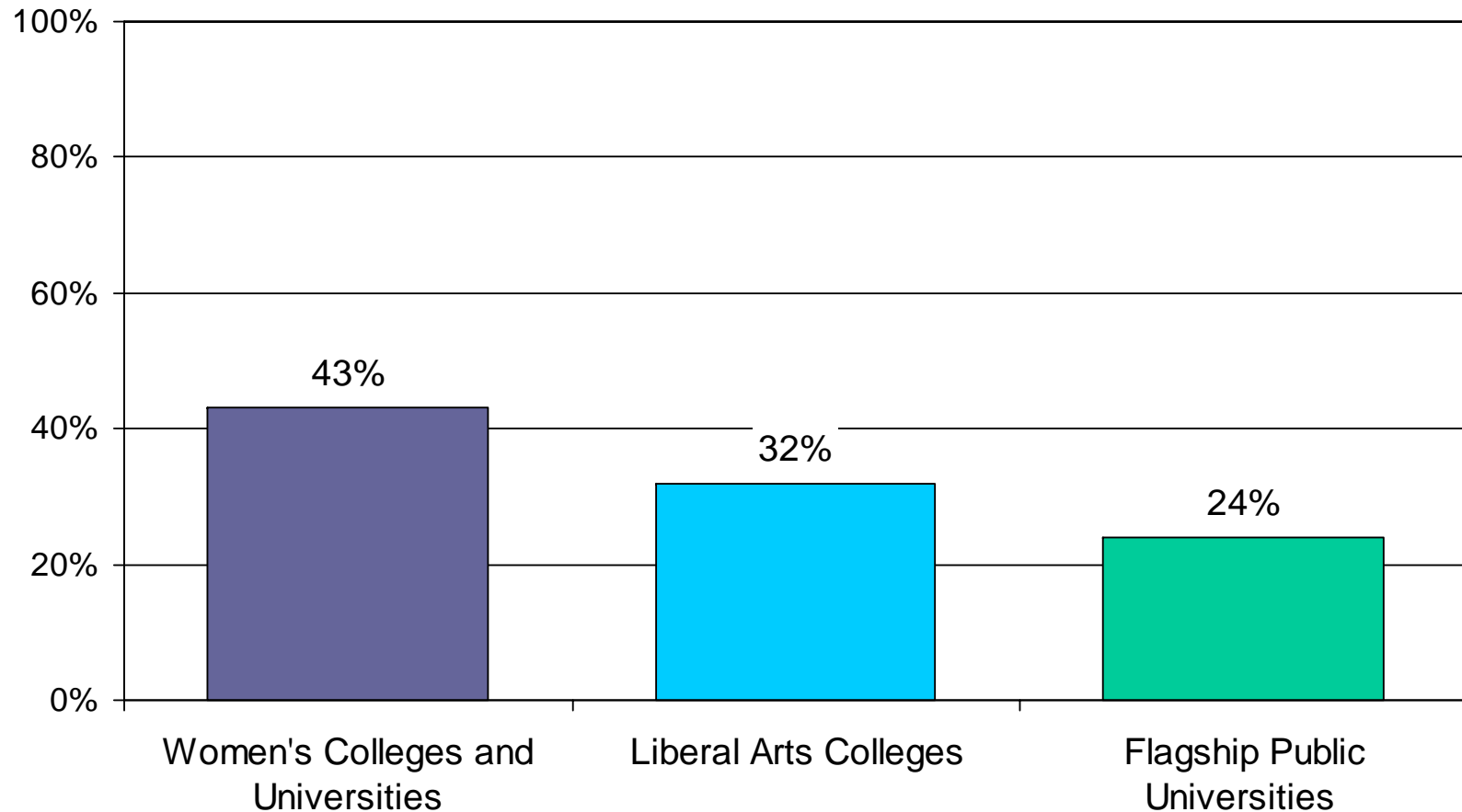
## The Overall Quality and Breadth of Academic Preparation Played Less of a Role for Flagship Public Universities Alumnae in Being Accepted to Graduate School or Finding a First Job



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.11 Did any of the following factors play an important role in being accepted to graduate school or finding your first real job?

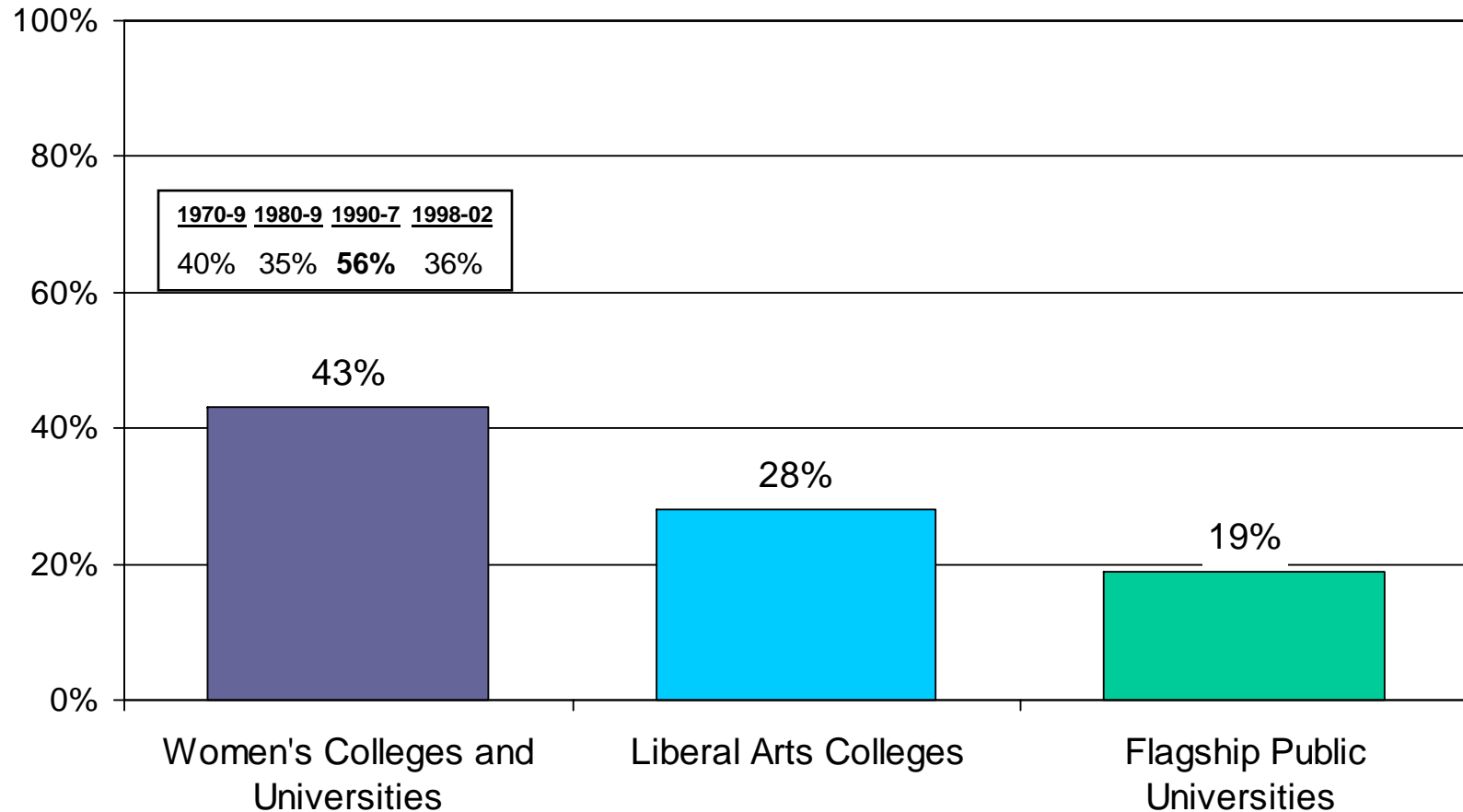
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students to Be Prepared for Their First Job



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

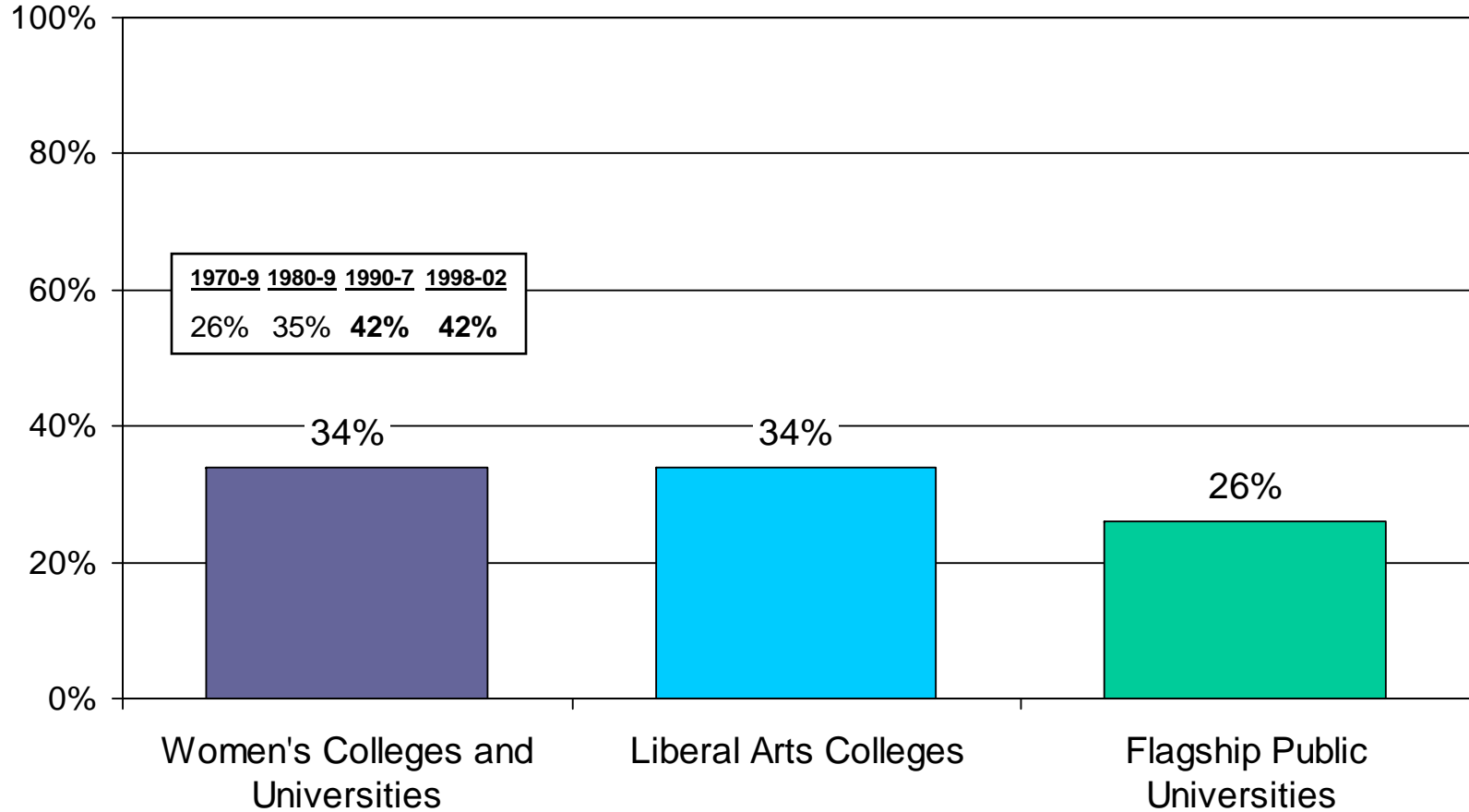
## Women's Colleges Receive Higher Effectiveness Ratings than All Other Colleges and Universities for Helping Students to Be Prepared for Career Change or Advancement



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than all other groups

Q.10 How effective was your college in helping you with...? (rating a 5 on a five-point scale, where 1= not at all effective and 5 = extremely effective)

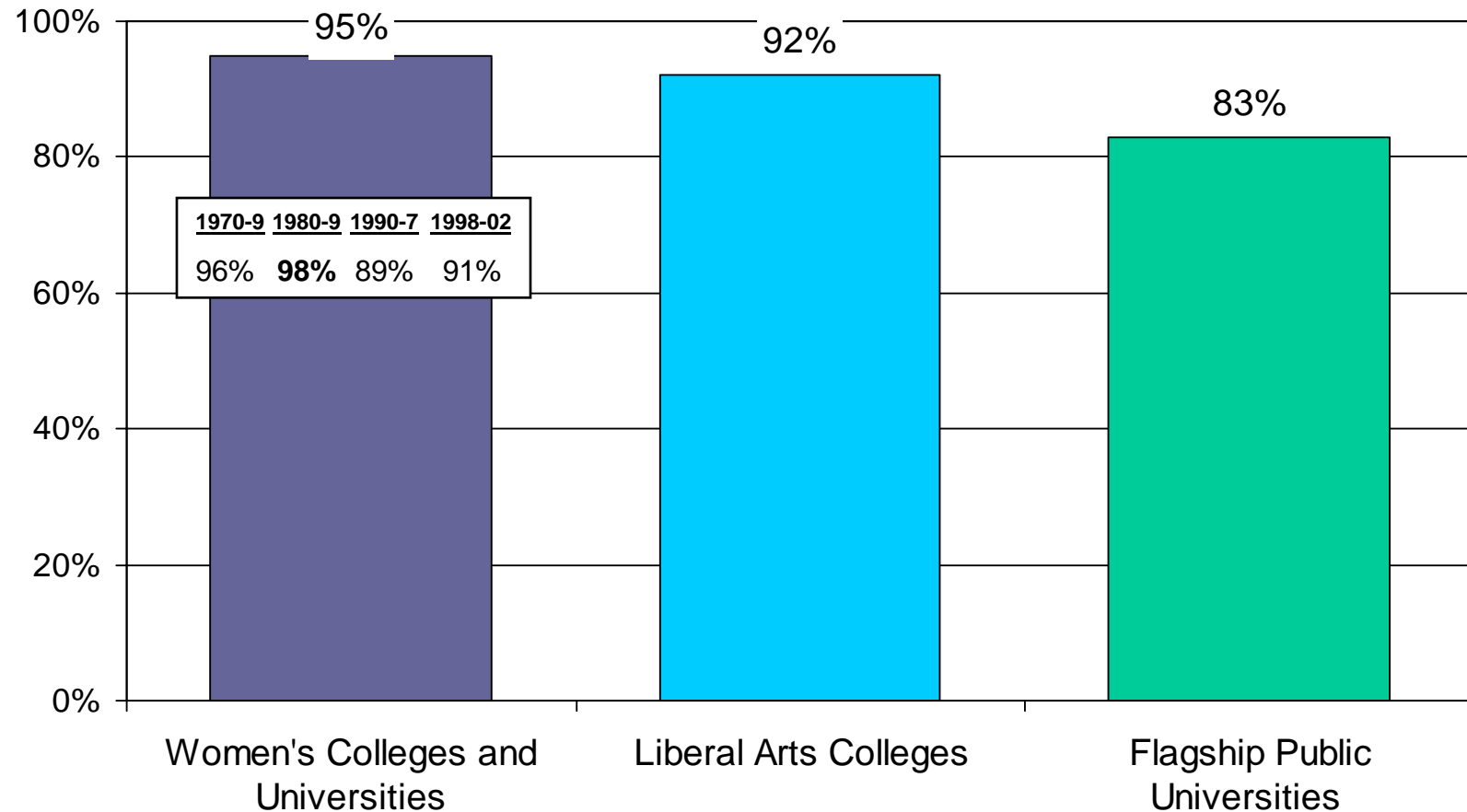
# A College Network (Alumnae, Faculty, or Friends) Played a Greater Role for Women's Colleges Graduates than Public Universities Alumnae in Being Accepted to Graduate School or Finding a First Job, and Is Increasingly Important for All Groups



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group, and similar to the Liberal Arts Colleges group

Q.11 Did any of the following factors play an important role in being accepted to graduate school or finding your first real job?

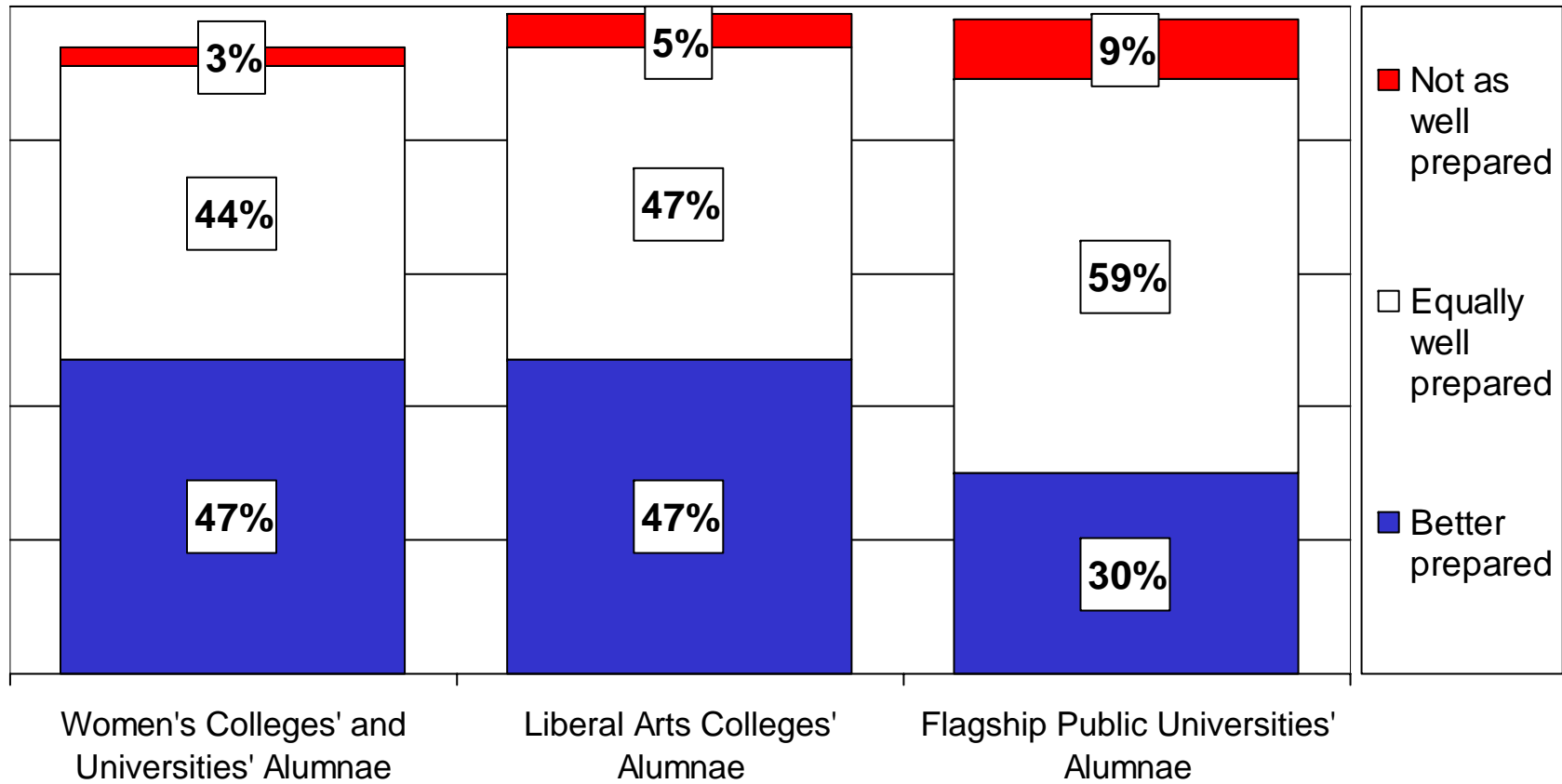
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Alumnae to Believe the Financial Investment They Made in College Was Worth It



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group

Q.12 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement...? (rating a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale, where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree)

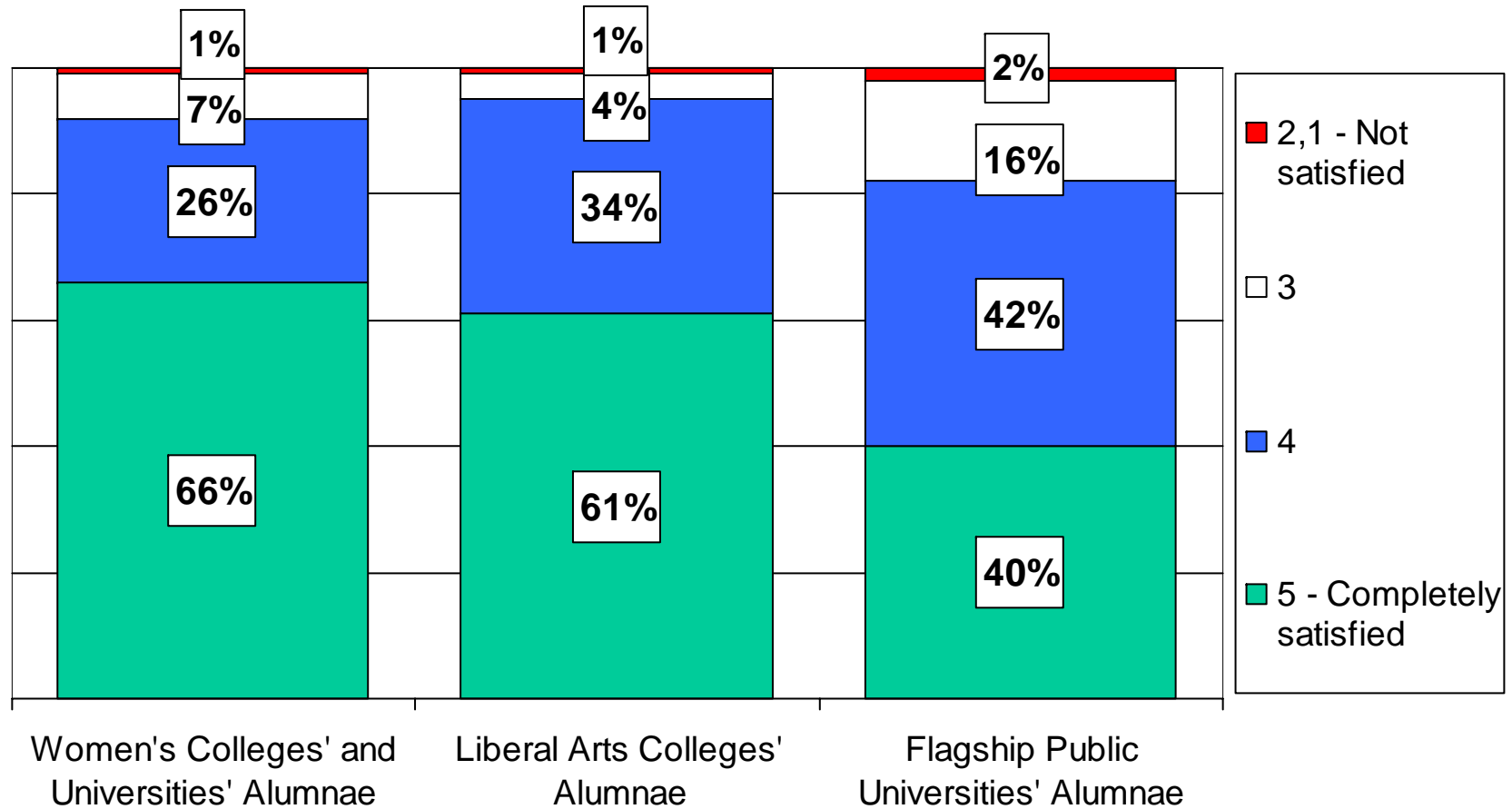
## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than Flagship Public Universities Graduates to Say They Felt Better Prepared for Life After College



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group for "better prepared"

Q.9 How prepared were you for life after college, such as for graduate school or your first job, compared to students from other colleges?

## Women's Colleges Alumnae Are More Likely than the Flagship Public Graduates to Be "Completely Satisfied" With the Overall Quality of Their Education



The Women's Colleges group is significantly higher than the Flagship Public Universities group for the rating "completely satisfied"

Q. 7 How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the education you received from your college? (rating on a five-point scale, where 1=not at all satisfied and 5=completely satisfied).

# Questions? Observations?

Susan Lennon

Women's College Coalition

[susan.lennon@womenscolleges.org](mailto:susan.lennon@womenscolleges.org)