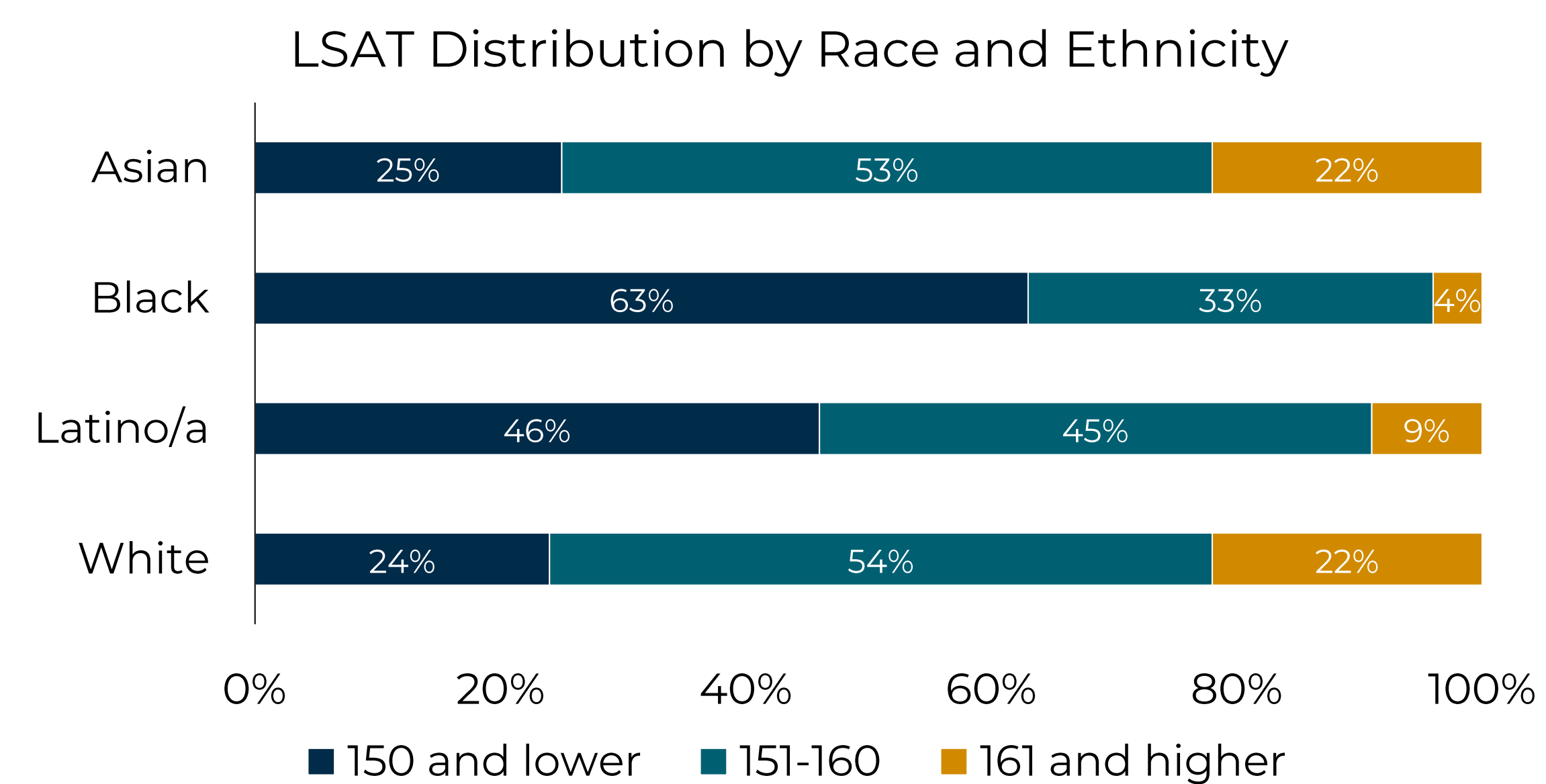


BACKGROUND

Most law schools use LSAT score and final UGPA in admissions, even though LSAT score yields disparate scoring outcomes by race and ethnicity.



Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has curtailed race-conscious admissions practices, law schools should consider supplementing LSAT score and UGPA with race-neutral measures to enhance equity.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To what extent does:

1. UGPA growth predict first-year (1L) law school GPA (LGPA) and 1L attrition?
2. The magnitude of UGPA growth's effect on the above outcomes compare to those of final UGPA and LSAT score?
3. UGPA growth vary by race or ethnicity both absolutely and relative to final UGPA and LSAT score?

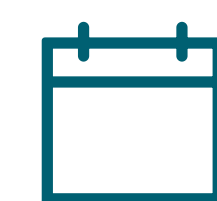
DATA AND METHOD



14
Law Schools



5,599
Law Students



11
Years

Our study uses linear and logistic regression to examine the effect of UGPA growth on 1L outcomes.

We then compare the predictive power and racial and ethnic distributions of UGPA growth to those of LSAT score and final UGPA.

Predictor variable

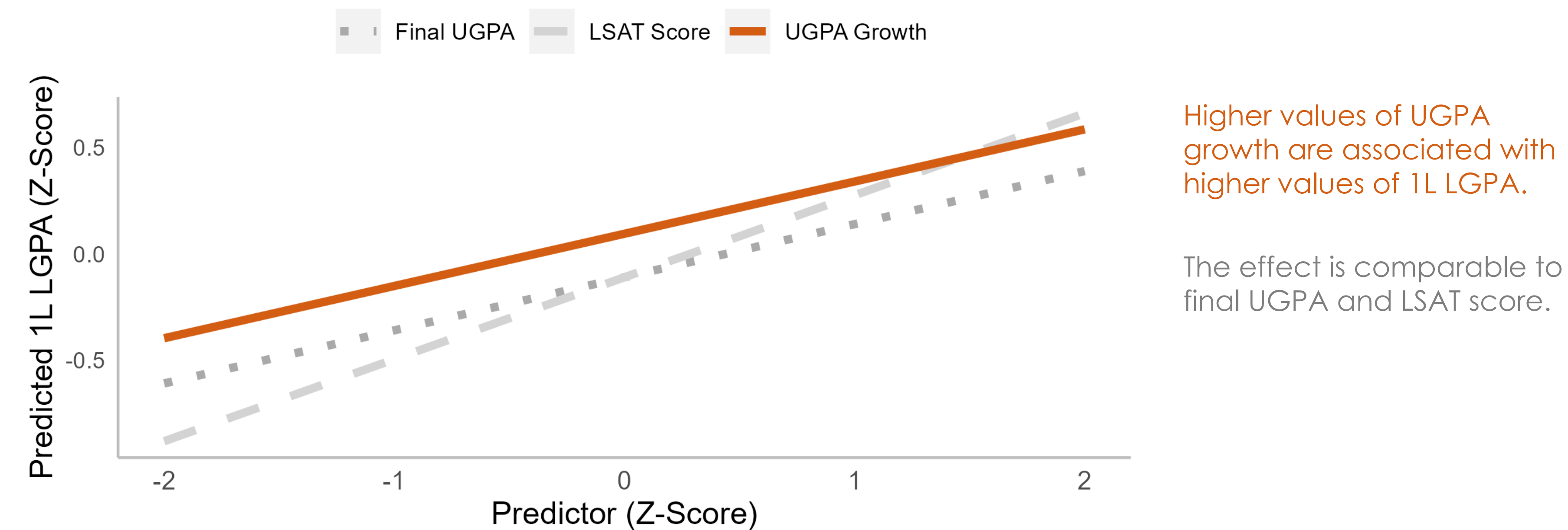
UGPA Growth: The difference between final and first-year UGPA

Outcomes

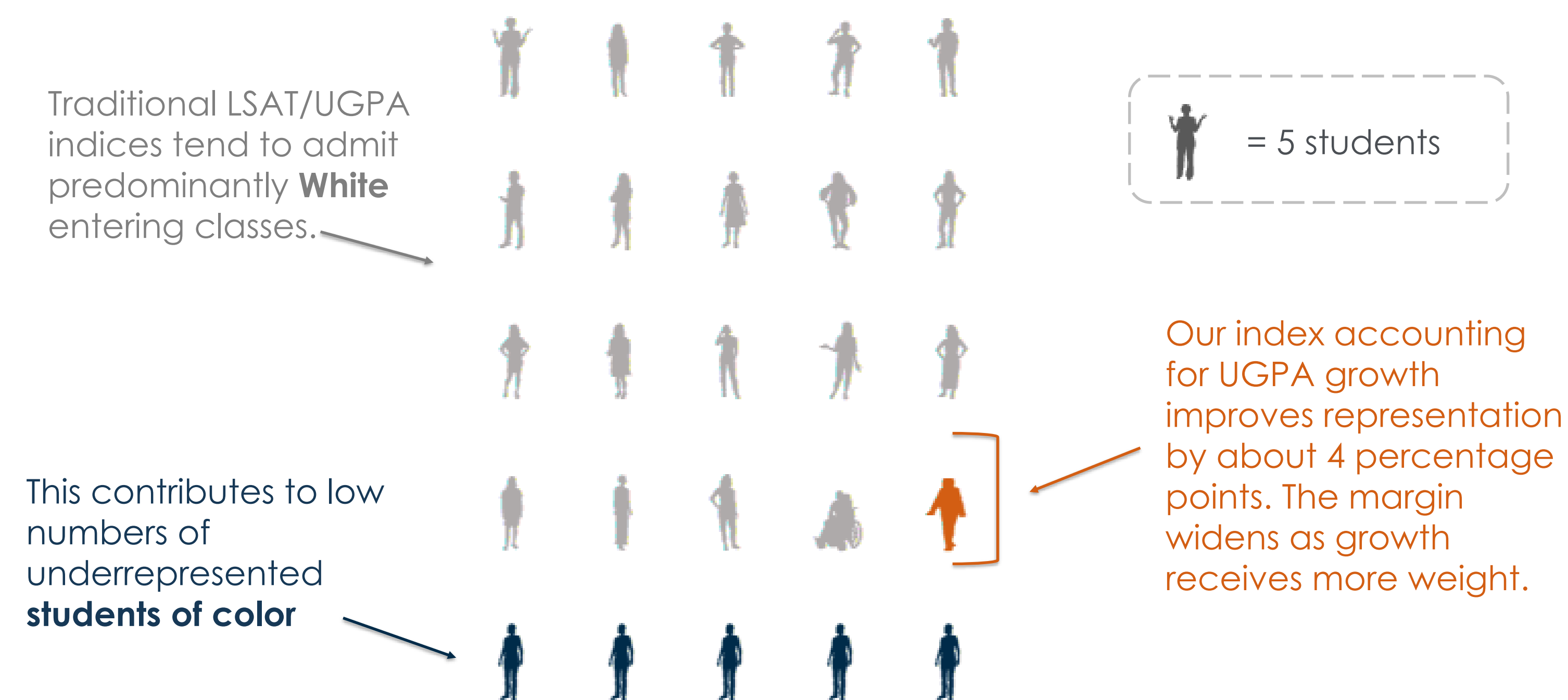
First-year law school GPA (1L LGPA)

First-year law school attrition

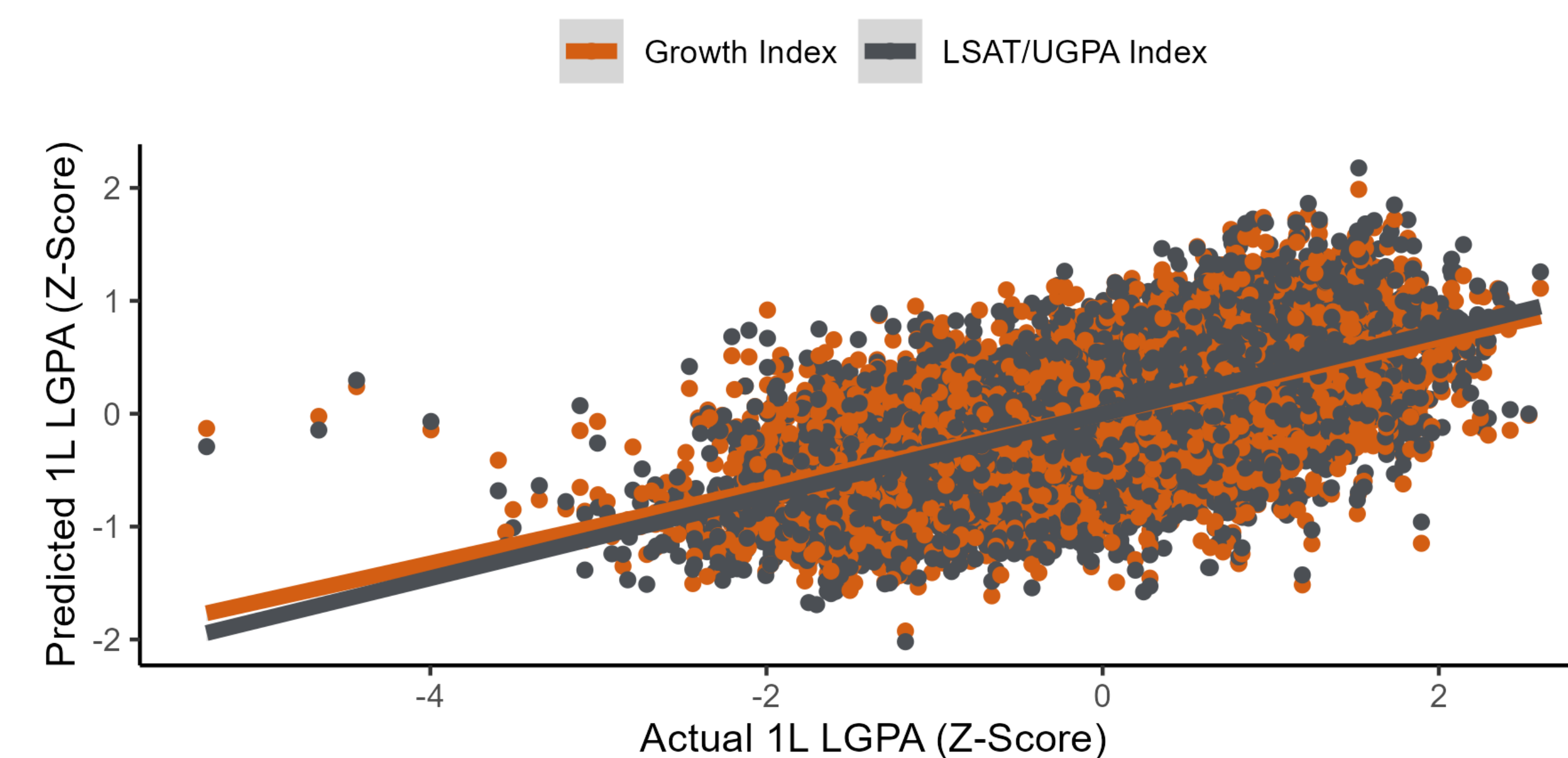
GROWTH PREDICTS 1L LGPA (AND 1L ATTRITION) COMPARABLY TO LSAT SCORE AND FINAL UGPA



A UGPA GROWTH ADMISSIONS INDEX ADMITS MORE UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS OF COLOR



A GROWTH INDEX PREDICTS 1L LGPA WITH SIMILAR ACCURACY TO A TRADITIONAL INDEX



OPERATIONALIZING UGPA GROWTH

Traditional Index	Growth Index	
LSAT Score 60%	LSAT Score 60%	
Final UGPA 40%	Final UGPA 20%	UGPA Growth 20%

IMPLICATIONS



UGPA growth predicts crucial early law school outcomes similarly to LSAT score and UGPA while introducing fewer racial and ethnic inequities.



Students who exhibit exemplary UGPA growth may embody growth mindset, which prior research has associated with better grades and retention, to achieve compensatory academic momentum in college (e.g., Akos et al., 2022; Burnette et al., 2022; Hu et al., 2011).



As law schools seek new means of fostering diverse learning environments post- *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, UGPA growth may prove a viable supplement to LSAT score and final UGPA in admissions.

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