

Migrant or Tourist?

An Analysis of International Student Enrollment in the United States, 2001-2014

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RESEARCH QUESTION

Do anti-immigration policy contexts influence international student enrollment in U.S. states over time?

Broader questions:

- Is higher education part of immigrant selection?
- Are student flows (and skilled migration) insulated from anti-immigration regime?

HYPOTHESES

Student-Migrant Nexus suggests that ultimate goal is migration

- *H1: Anti-immigration context negatively influences international student enrollment*

International Education as Global Cultural Capital suggests that ultimate goal is education/credential

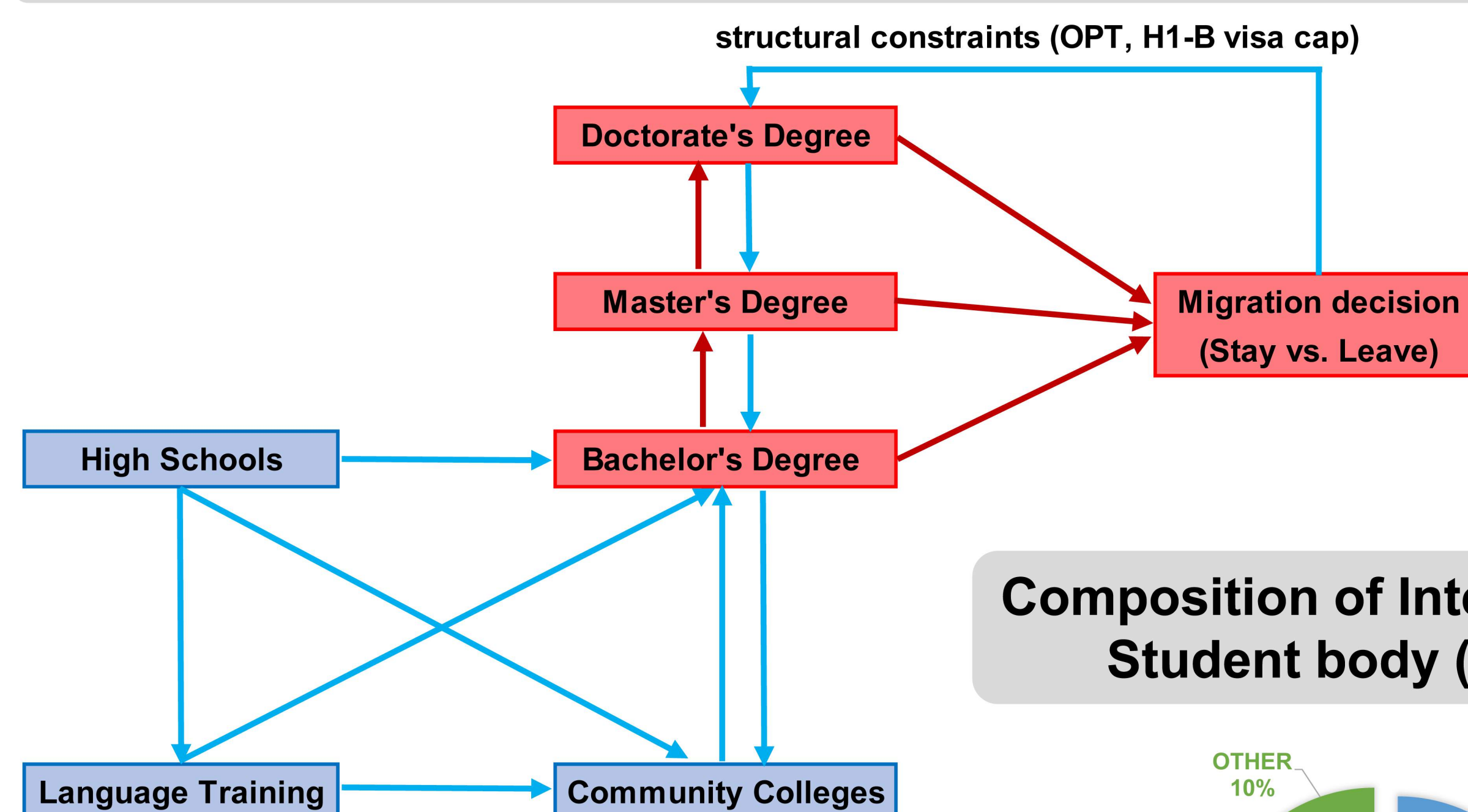
- *H2: Anti-immigration context does not influence international student enrollment*

DATA & METHODS

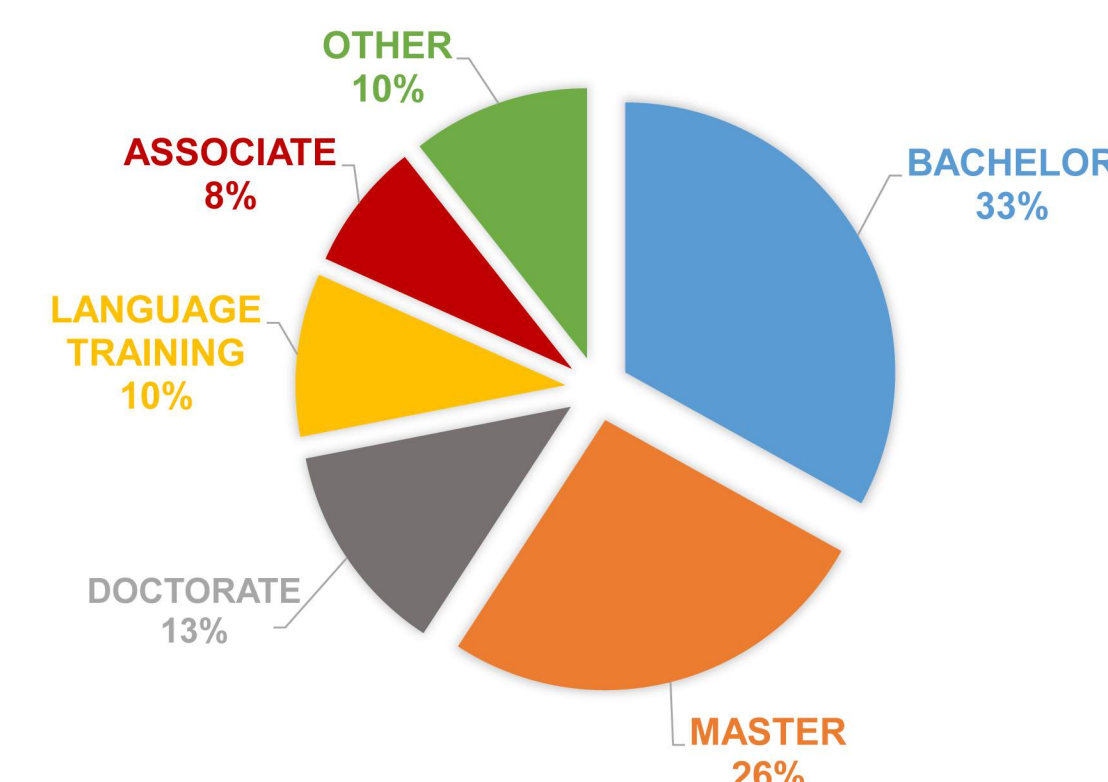
- **Dependent variable:** Average enrollment per institution, 51 states x 14 years
- **Source:** Open Doors report, Institute of International Education (IIE)
- **Independent variables:** E-Verify and Omnibus Immigration Law (lagged one year)
- **Separate Multivariate Models** for (1) all institutions and for (2) community colleges (models controlled for time and state effect)

BACKGROUND: TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Stylized Transitions within International Student status

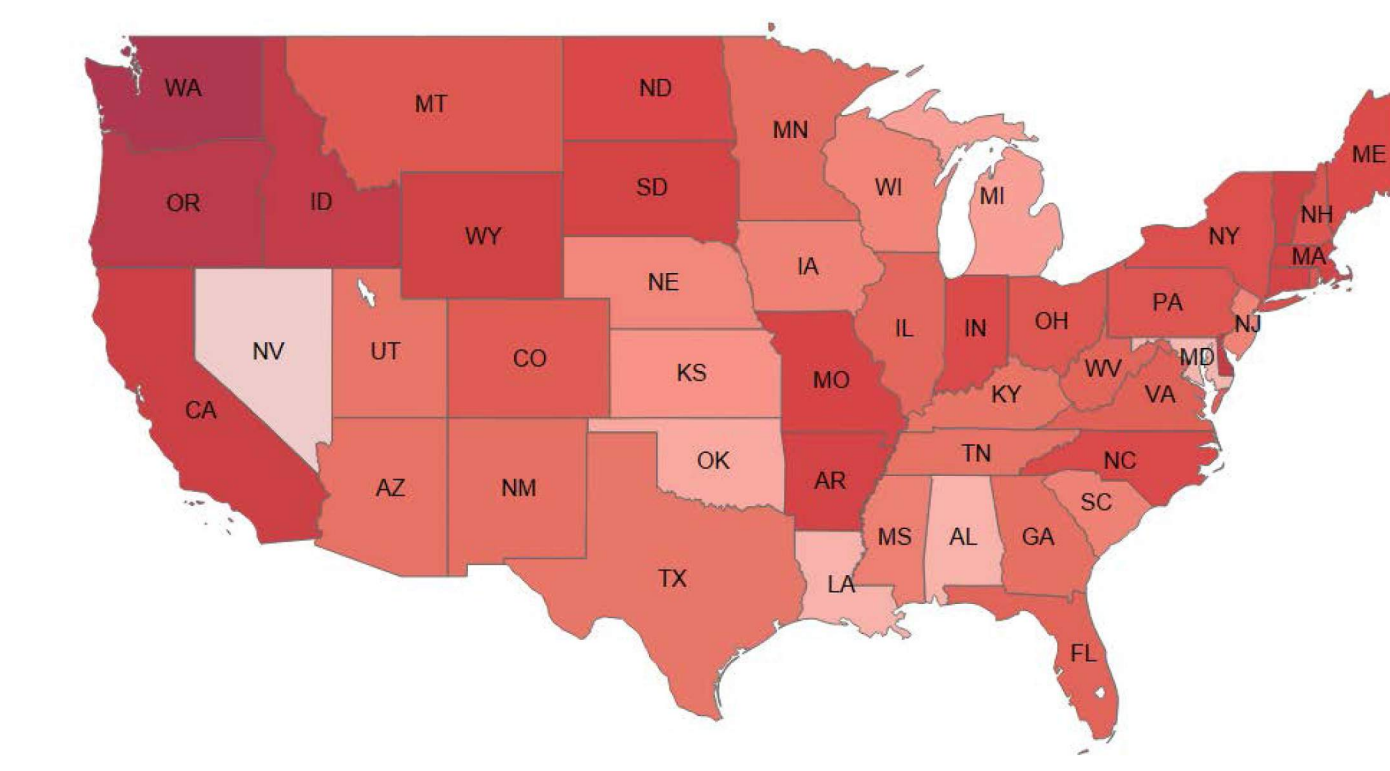
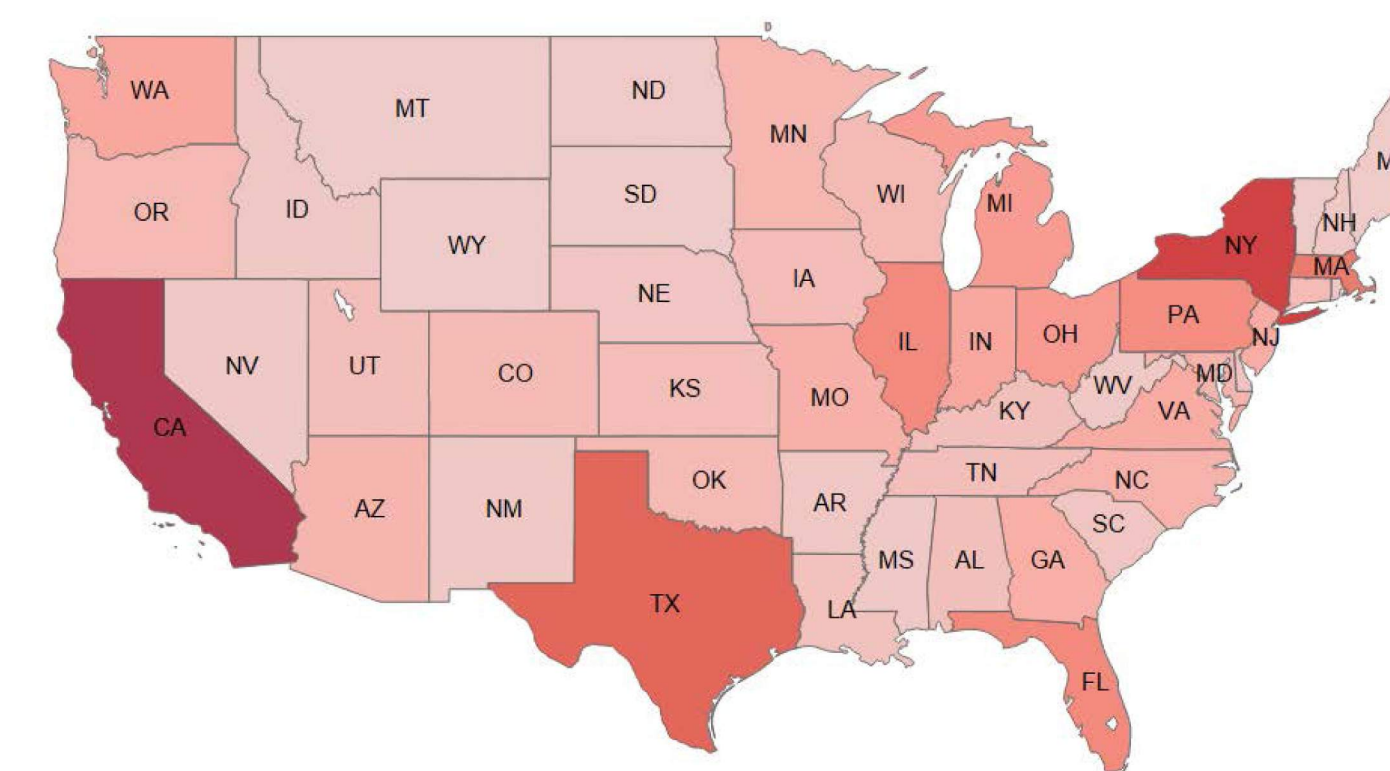


Composition of International Student body (2014)



- Largest increase in less-known destinations
- Unconventional types of degrees and pathways

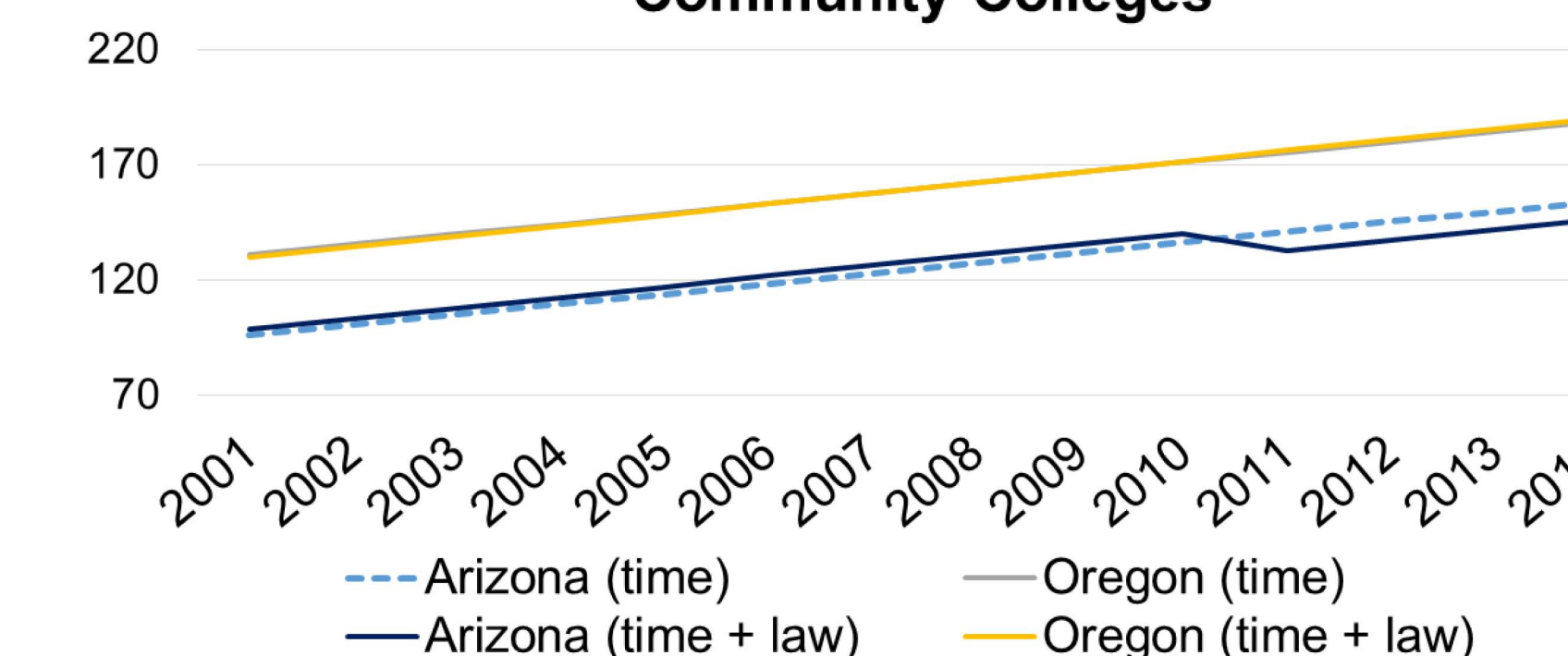
Distribution by State



ANSWERS

- (1) Enrollment in all institutions: negative correlation with both laws, not significant
- (2) Enrollment in community colleges: Omnibus Immigration Law negative significant effects, E-verify negative but not significant

Predicted Values, Average Enrollment in Community Colleges



Implications: International students with planned future transitions within the U.S. are sensitive to anti-immigration policy context

NEXT STEPS

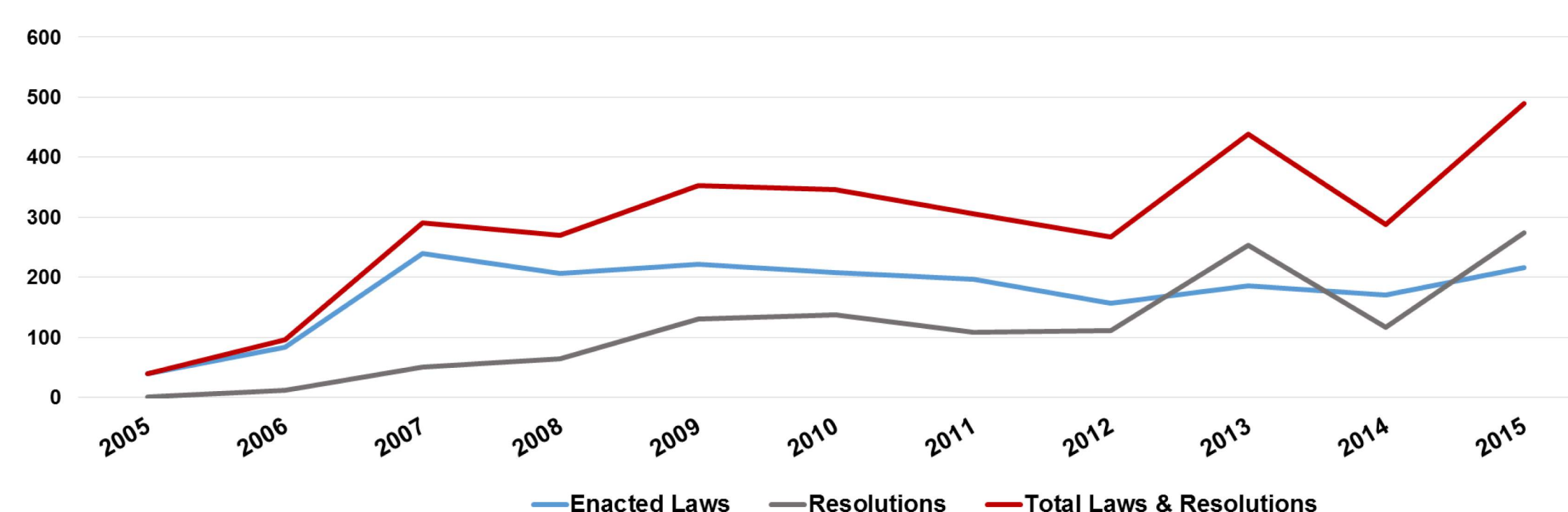
- Models to include other state characteristics: economic, social, educational
- Verify with data capturing all institutions over time (SEVIS records from DHS-ICE)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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STATE IMMIGRATION CONTROL LAWS & POLICIES

Number of State Laws and Resolutions Related to Immigration Enacted Annually, 2005-2015



- State increased efforts to control immigration
- Anti-immigration laws and policies primarily target unauthorized immigrants
- Types of laws that could have impacts on international students
 - E-Verify Law
 - Omnibus Immigration Law