

Analysis of Law School Applicants by Age Group

ABA Applicants 2005-2009

**Kimberly Dustman,
Phil Handwerk
LSAC**

October 2010

Introduction

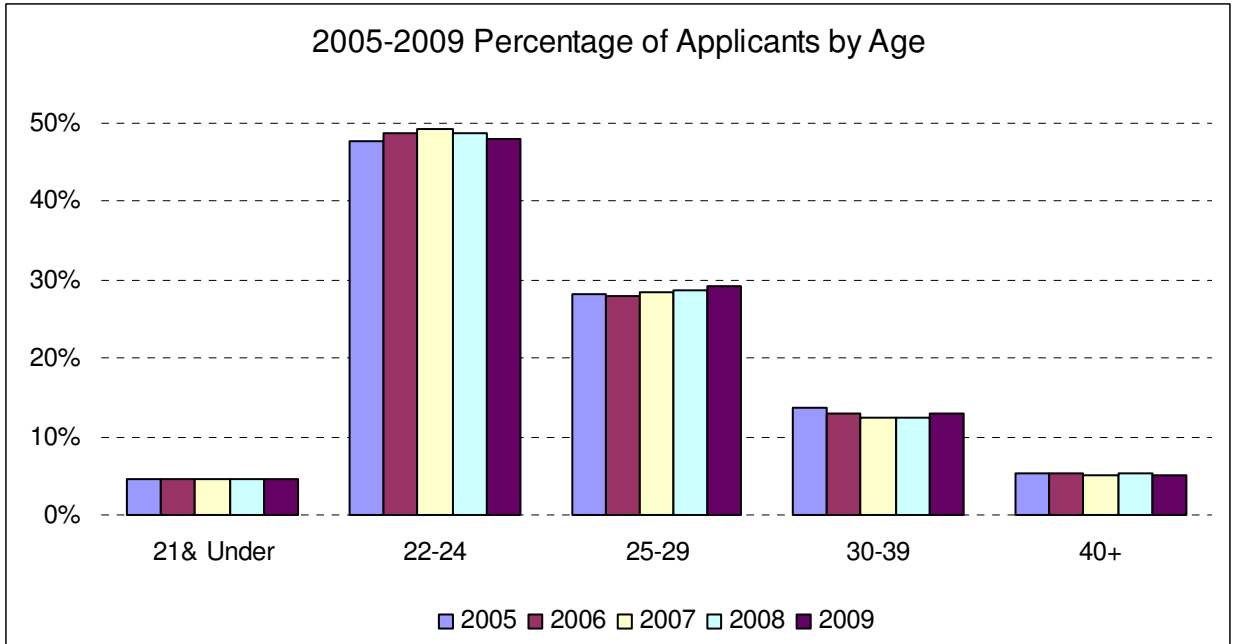
LSAC is committed to providing comprehensive information about the admission process to support law school decision-making. The following study, which is an updated version of the 2007 study by the same name, examines the age of ABA law school applicants (regardless of term) from 2005 to 2009. In addition to depicting applicant ages by time period, the study reports on applicant ages by gender, ethnicity¹, academic credentials, and admission decisions.

This study does not consider whether the applicant had applied to law school in previous years. Prior research has found that about one in five of all ABA applicants for 2009 had applied in at least one of the preceding four years.

Key Findings

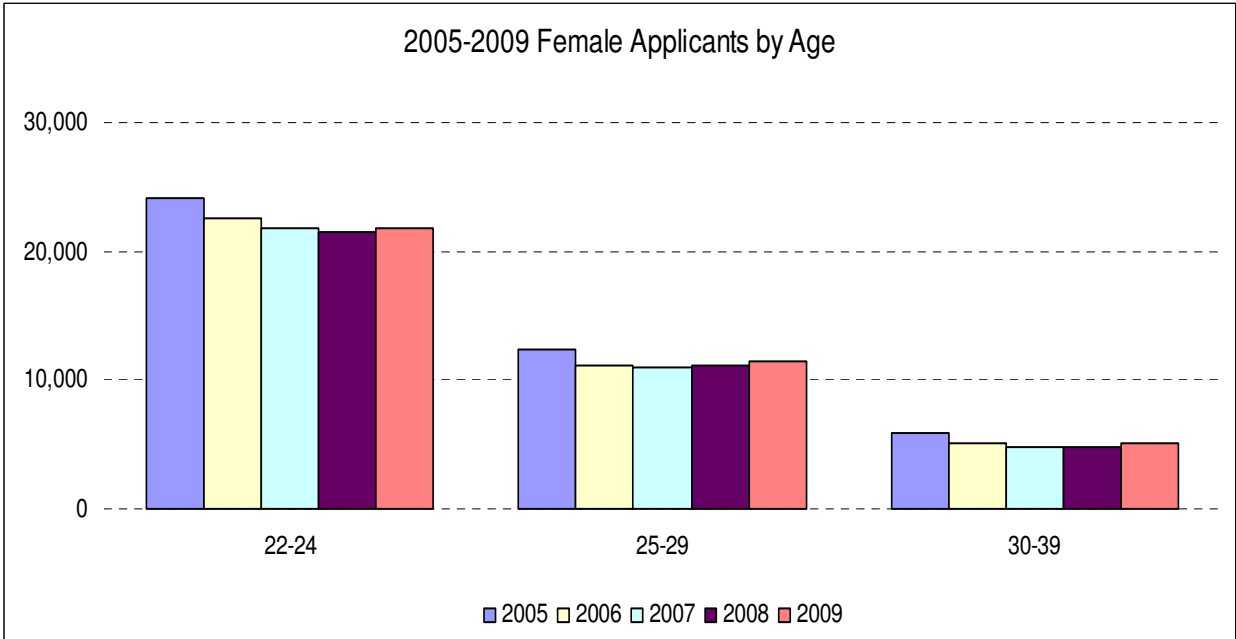
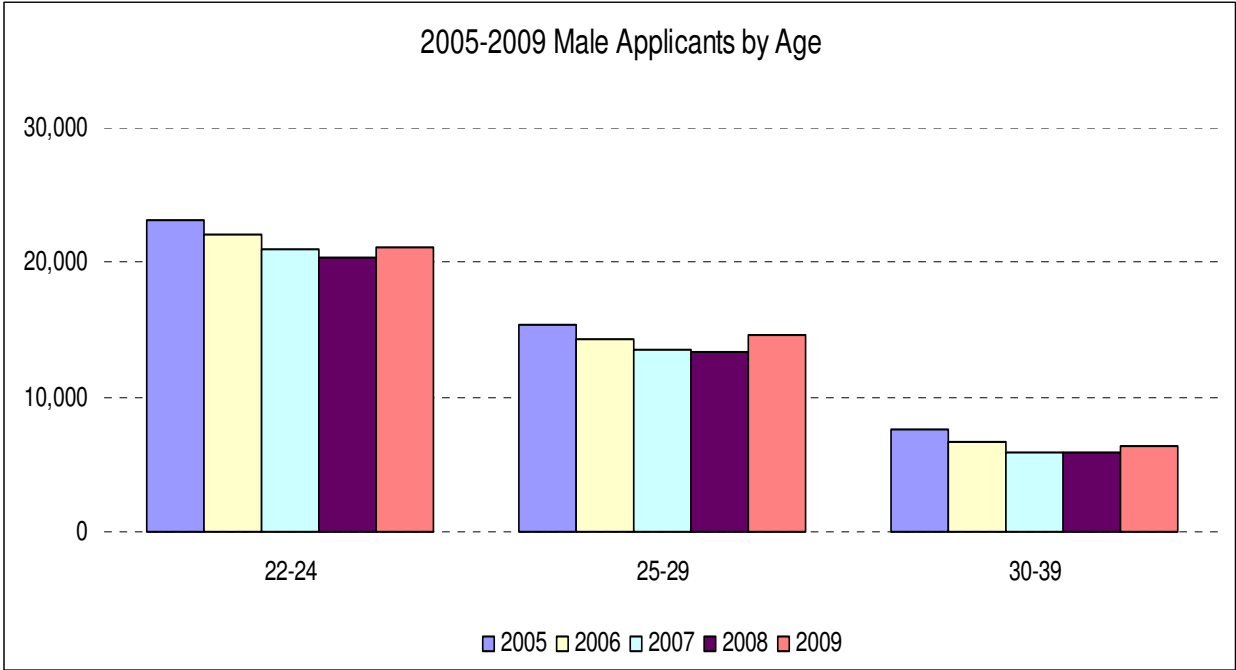
- The age distribution of applicants changed little from 2005 to 2009. About half of the applicants each year were between the ages of 22 and 24. Nearly one in five were over the age of 30, with 5 percent being 40 or older.
- 2009 was the first year in the study in which there was an overall increase in applicants.
- The number of applicants in each gender-by-age category increased in 2009, with the largest increase being males aged 25 to 29.
 - In 2009, males made up the majority of applicants over 25; females comprised the majority of applicants 24 and under.
- The number of applicants in all but one ethnicity-by-age category increased in 2009 (Hispanics aged 25-29 decreased by 31 applicants).
 - White applicants were the majority for each age group in 2009.
 - For each ethnicity in 2009, the greatest percentage of applicants was between the ages of 22 and 24.
- Typically, the older the applicant:
 - the greater the likelihood the applicant was black;
 - the longer it had been since he or she completed undergraduate education. However, one in five 2009 applicants over the age of 30 applied to law school within three years of earning a bachelor's degree.
 - the lower both the median LSAT score and number of applications. Subsequently, there was a greater likelihood of not being admitted. The majority of applicants over 30 were not accepted anywhere.
 - the more likely the *admitted* applicant chose not to matriculate.

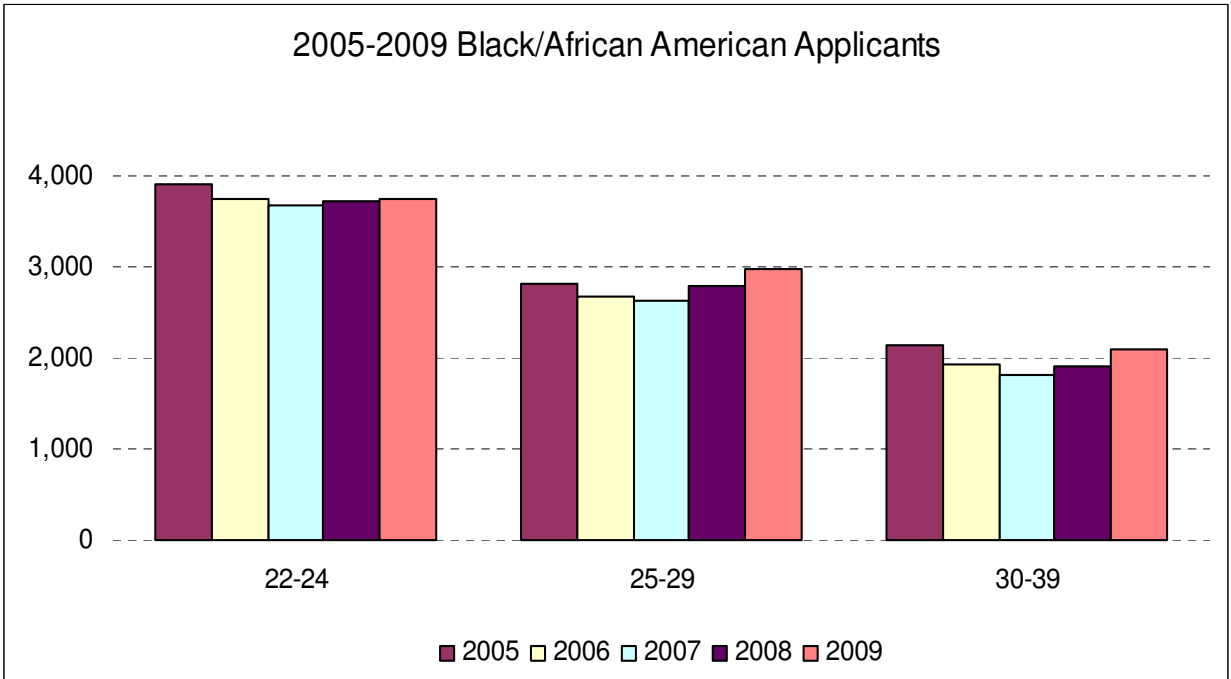
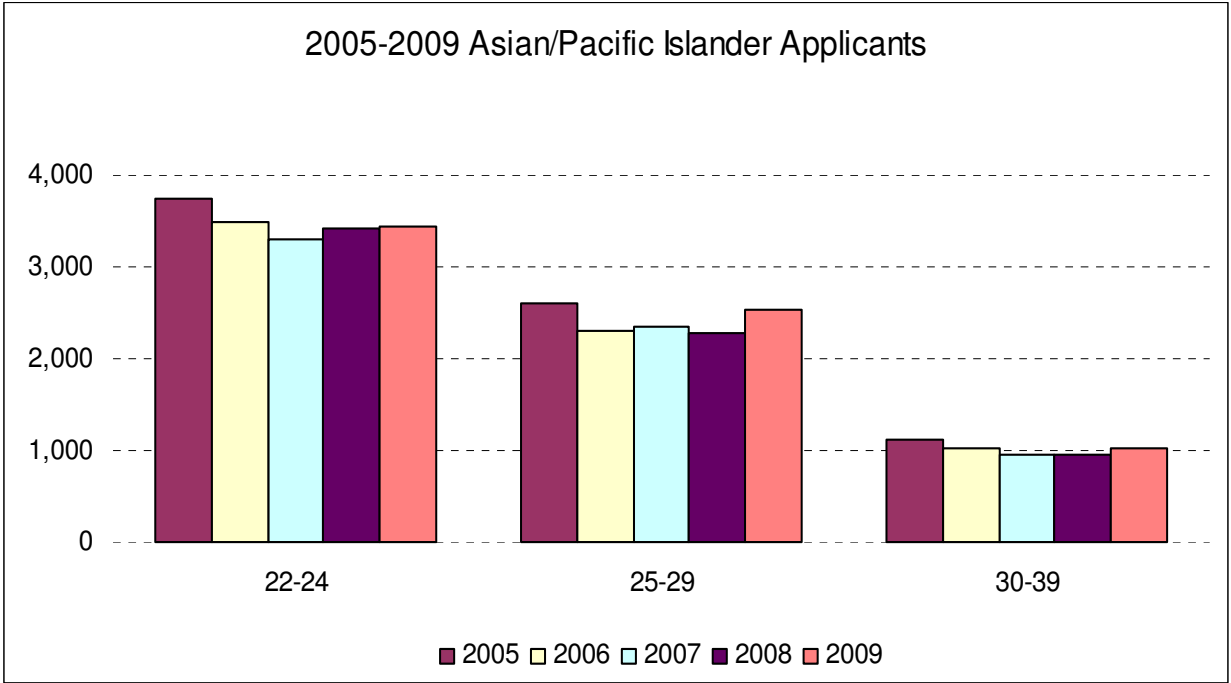
¹ The ethnic group "Hispanic" comprises individuals of Hispanic/Latino, Chicano/Mexican American, and Puerto Rican ancestry.

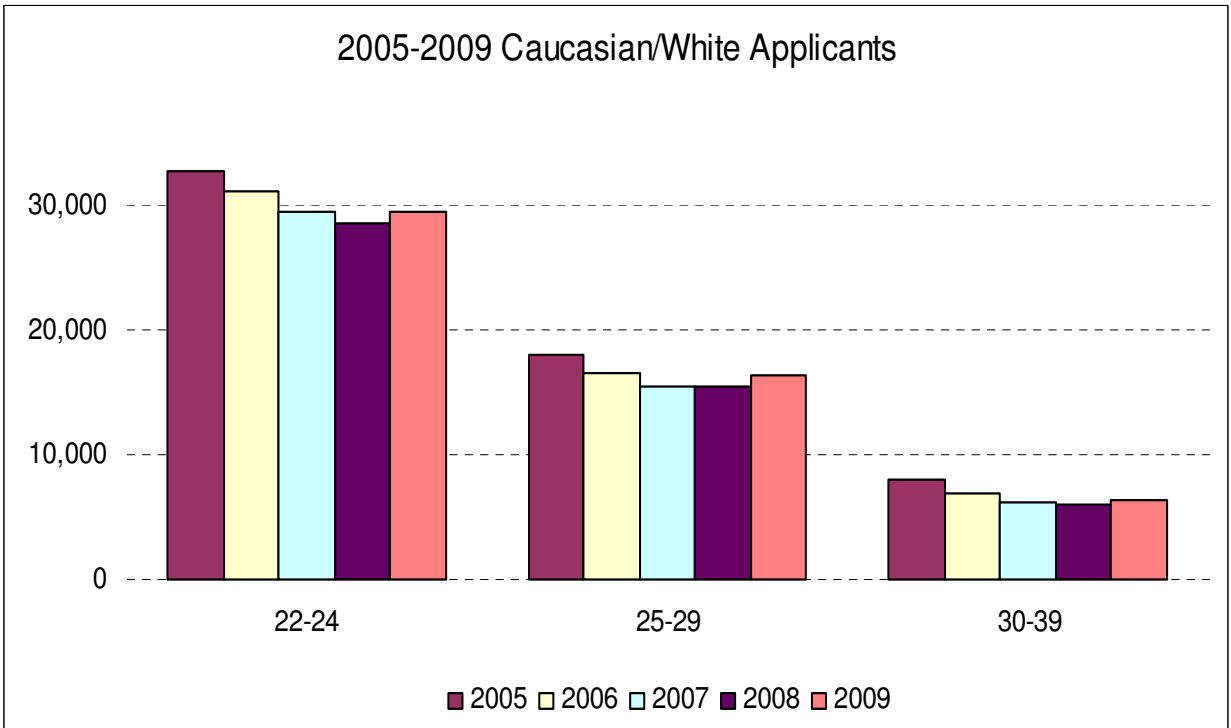
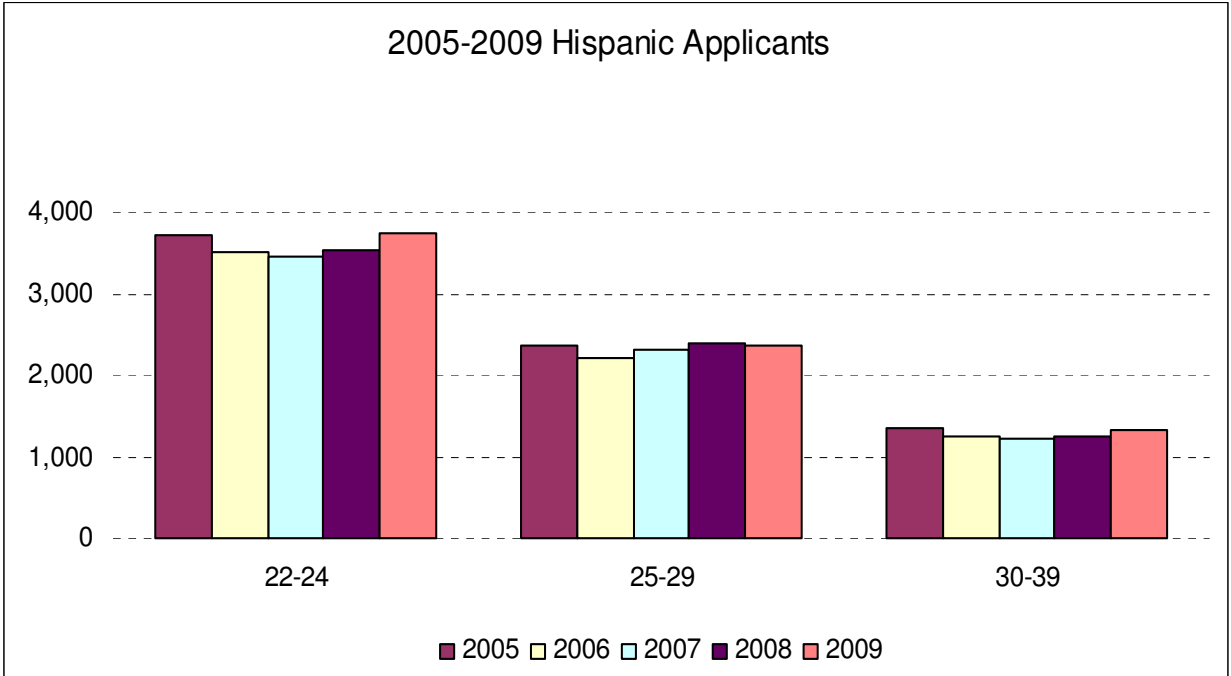


Number of Applicants by Age 2005-2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
21& Under	4,539	4,298	4,041	3,880	3,988
22-24	47,298	44,817	42,853	41,921	43,011
25-29	27,791	25,622	24,637	24,662	26,102
30-39	13,620	11,901	10,890	10,785	11,635
40+	5,258	4,813	4,321	4,510	4,515
Total	98,506	91,451	86,742	85,758	89,251

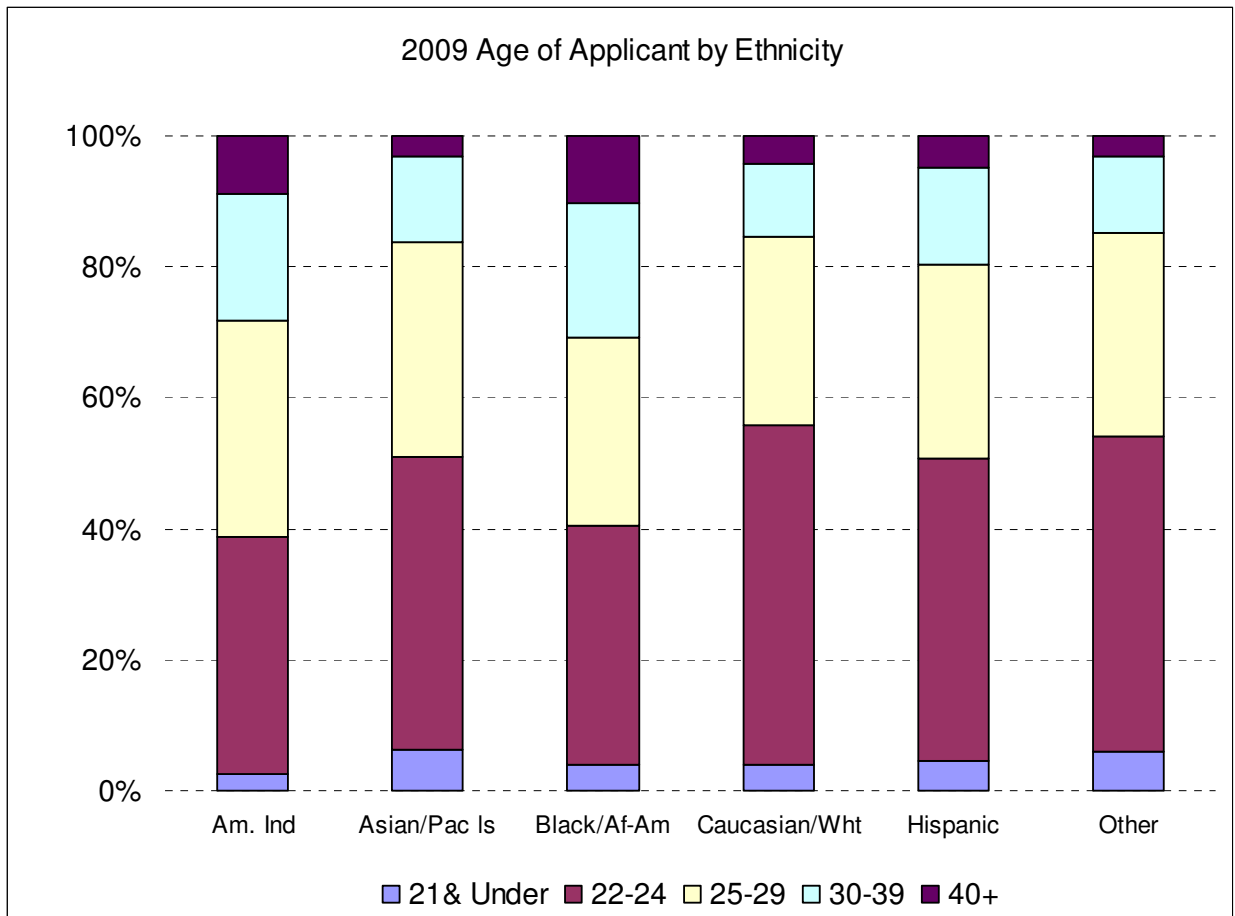


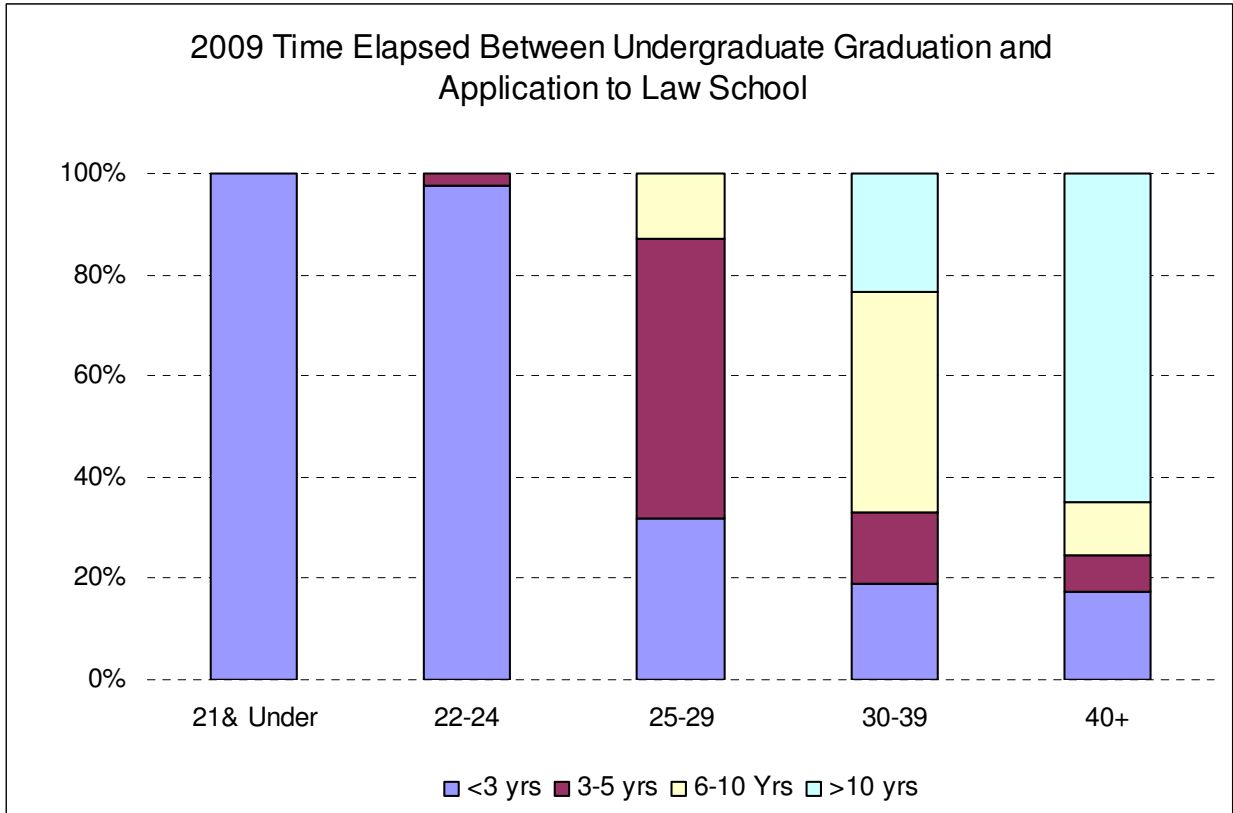




2009 Ethnicity of Applicants by Age

	21& Under	22-24	25-29	30-39	40+
American Indian	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13%	8%	10%	9%	6%
Black/African American	11%	9%	12%	19%	25%
Caucasian/White	62%	71%	65%	58%	58%
Hispanic	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%





2009 Age Group Median LSAT and Number of Applications

Age Group	Median LSAT	Median # of Applications
21 & Under	155	7
22-24	154	6
25-29	153	4
30-39	149	2
40+	144	1

