



Examining Wages of California Community College Completers & Leavers

Ryan Fuller - Research, Analysis & Accountability Unit
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

Introduction

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office conducted an exploratory study to better understand the labor market outcomes of those who complete degrees or certificates defined as 'completers' compared to those who leave system without earning a degree/certificate or transferring defined as 'leavers'.

Research Questions

How do wages after exit from California Community Colleges differ between 'completers' and 'leavers'?

How do these differences vary by demographics and other factors such as units earned?

Definitions

Completers = All students who earned an award in a given year and were no longer enrolled anywhere in the California Community College system the following year and did not subsequently transfer to a 4 year institution

Leavers = No longer enrolled anywhere in the CCC system the following year, did not earn an award at time of exit and did not subsequently transfer.

The time period for the analysis included those students who graduated or exited the system between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 academic years.

Methods

'Completer' & 'Leaver' student enrollment records in the California Community College System were matched to California Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance (EDDUI) earnings data. Median annual wages were measured two years before to five years after exit from the system or graduation. The analysis excludes students who reported having a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Conclusions

On the whole completion of a degree or certificate resulted in higher median wages than those who left without a degree or certificate after exit from the system.

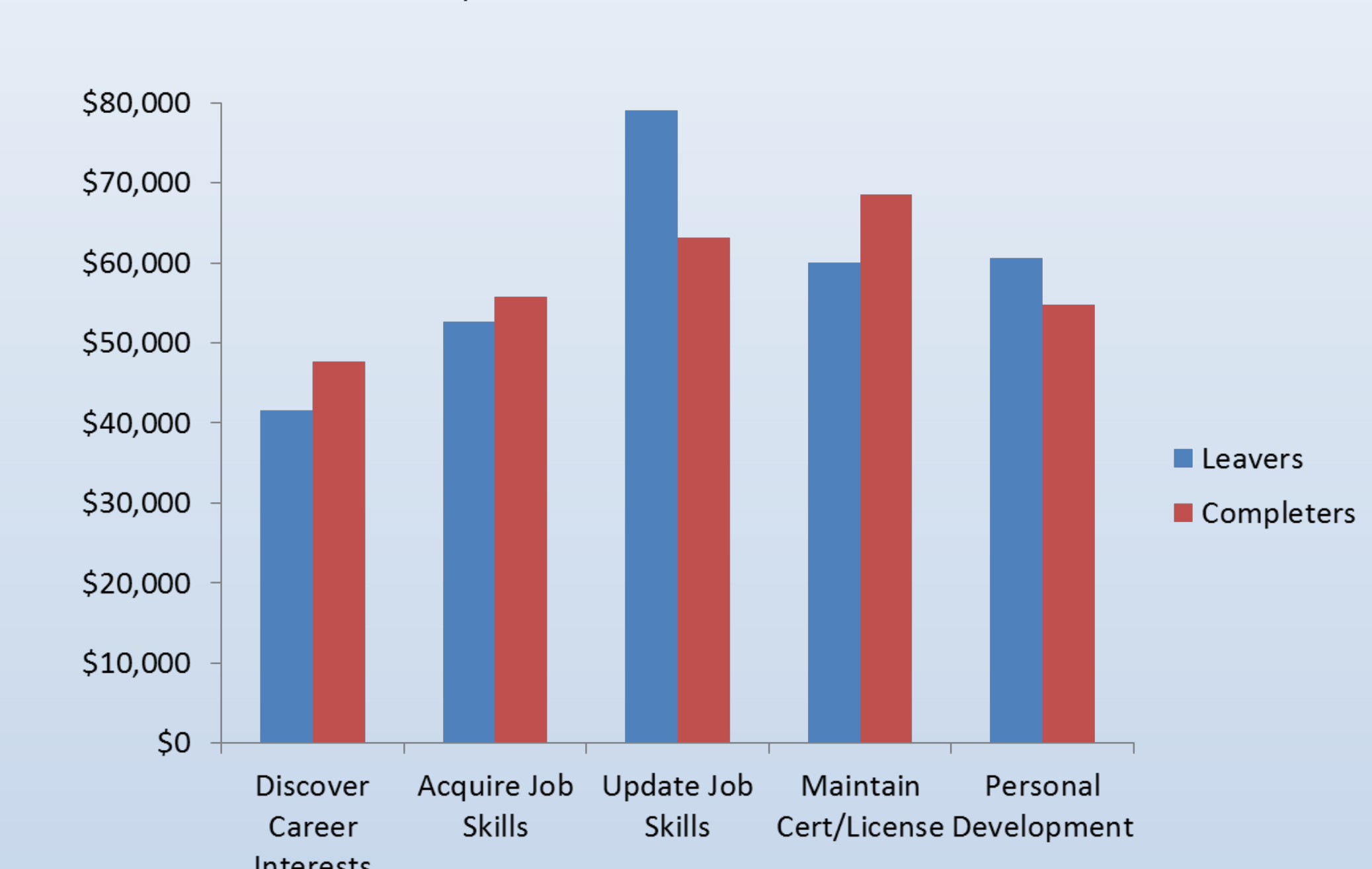
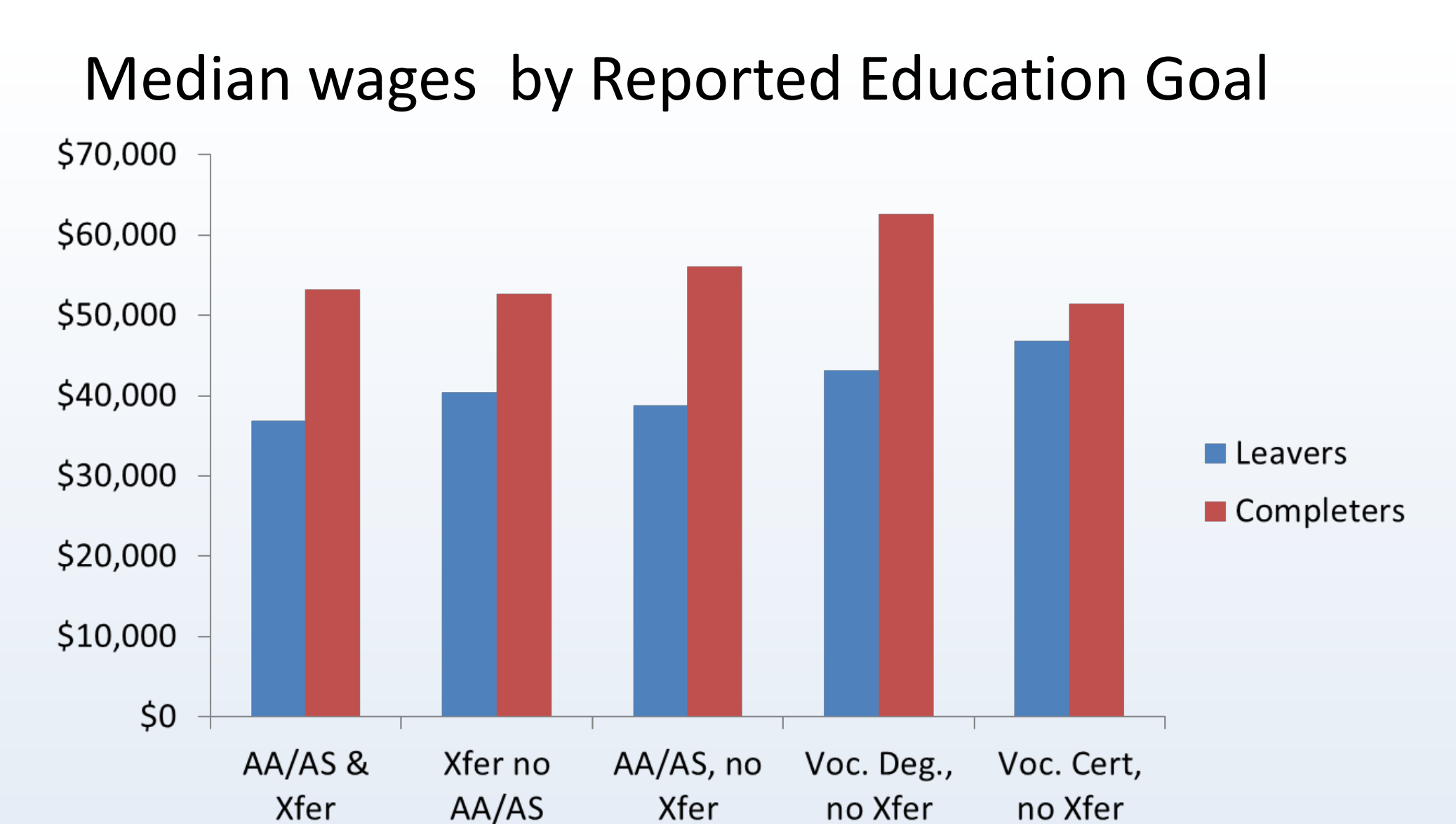
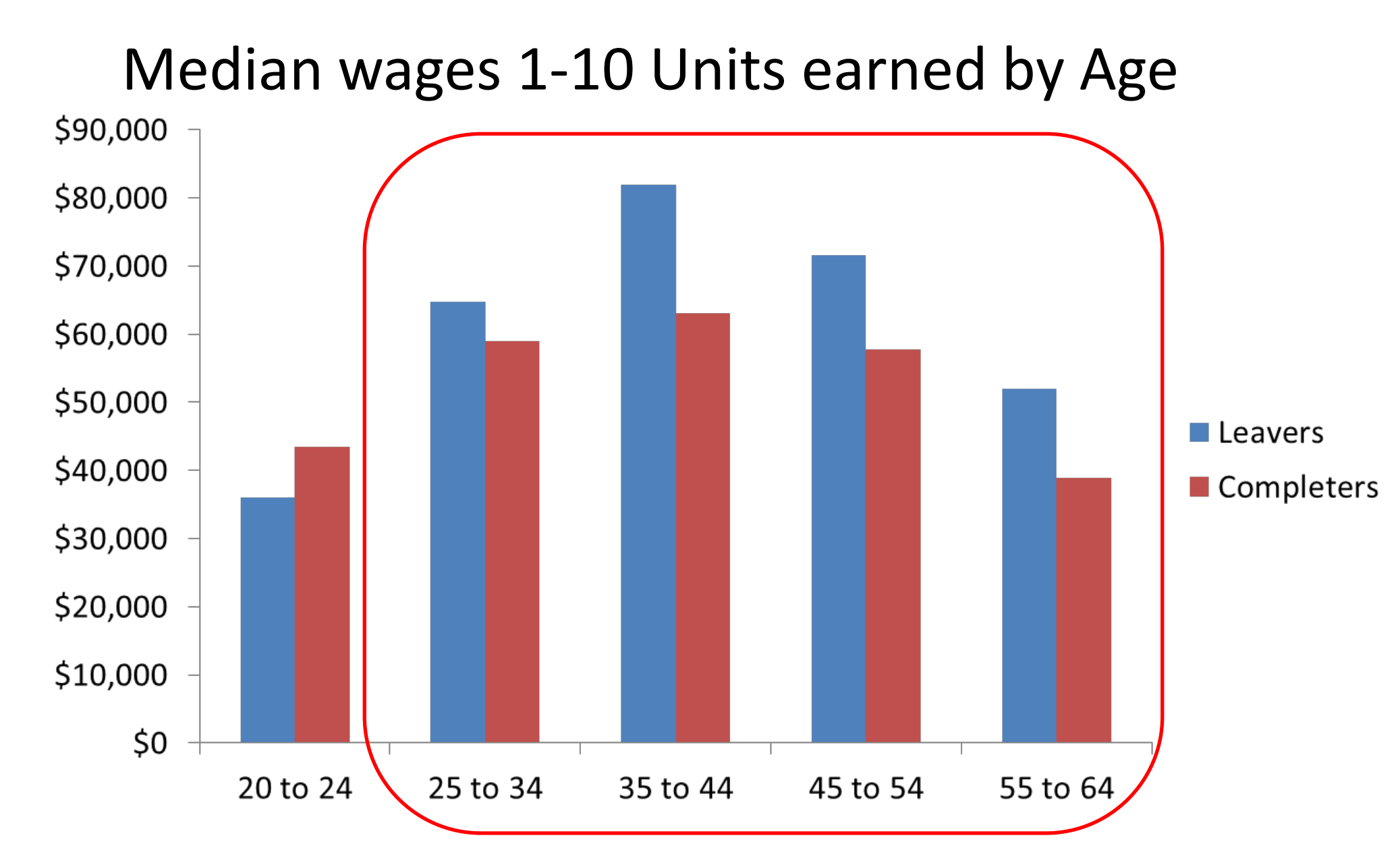
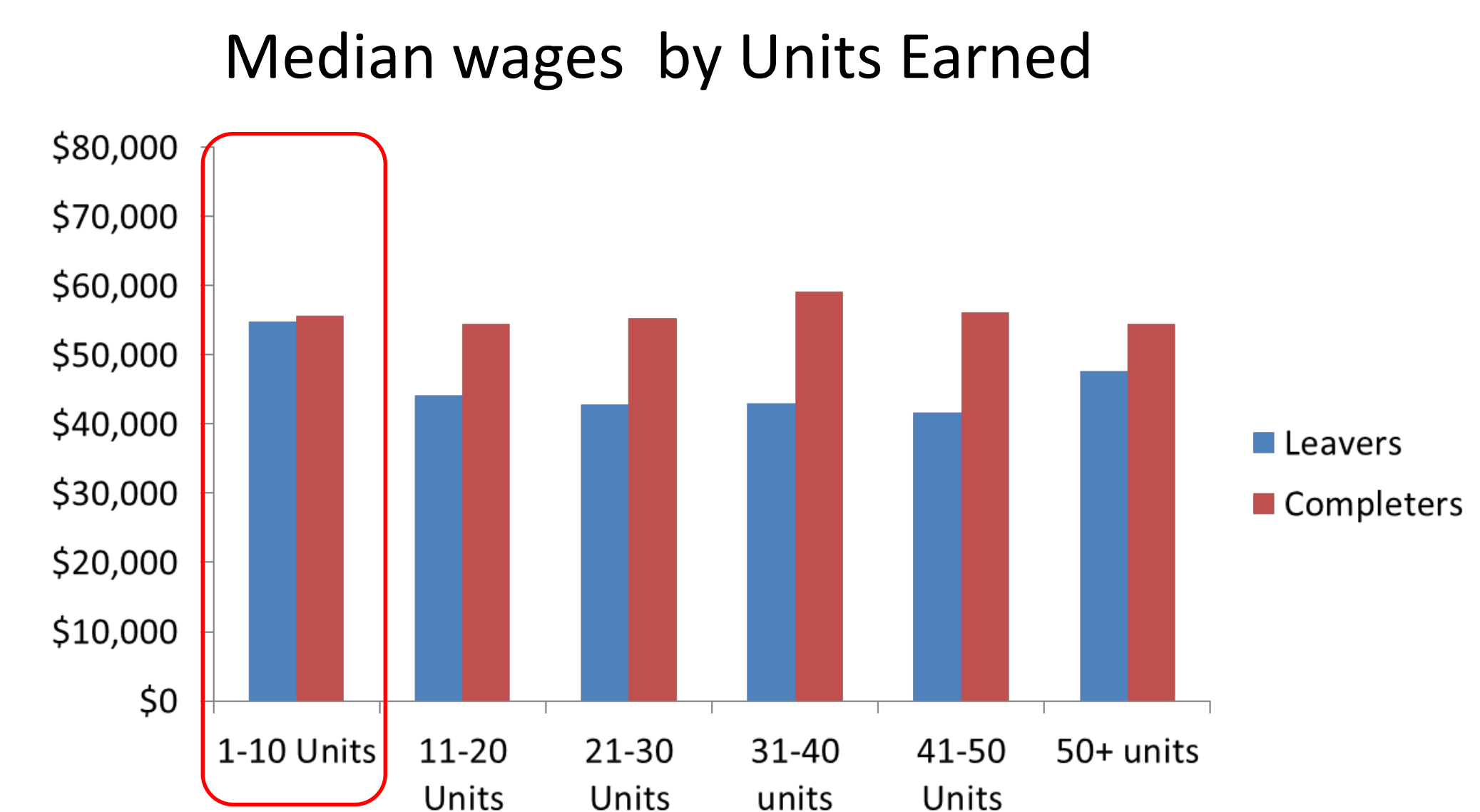
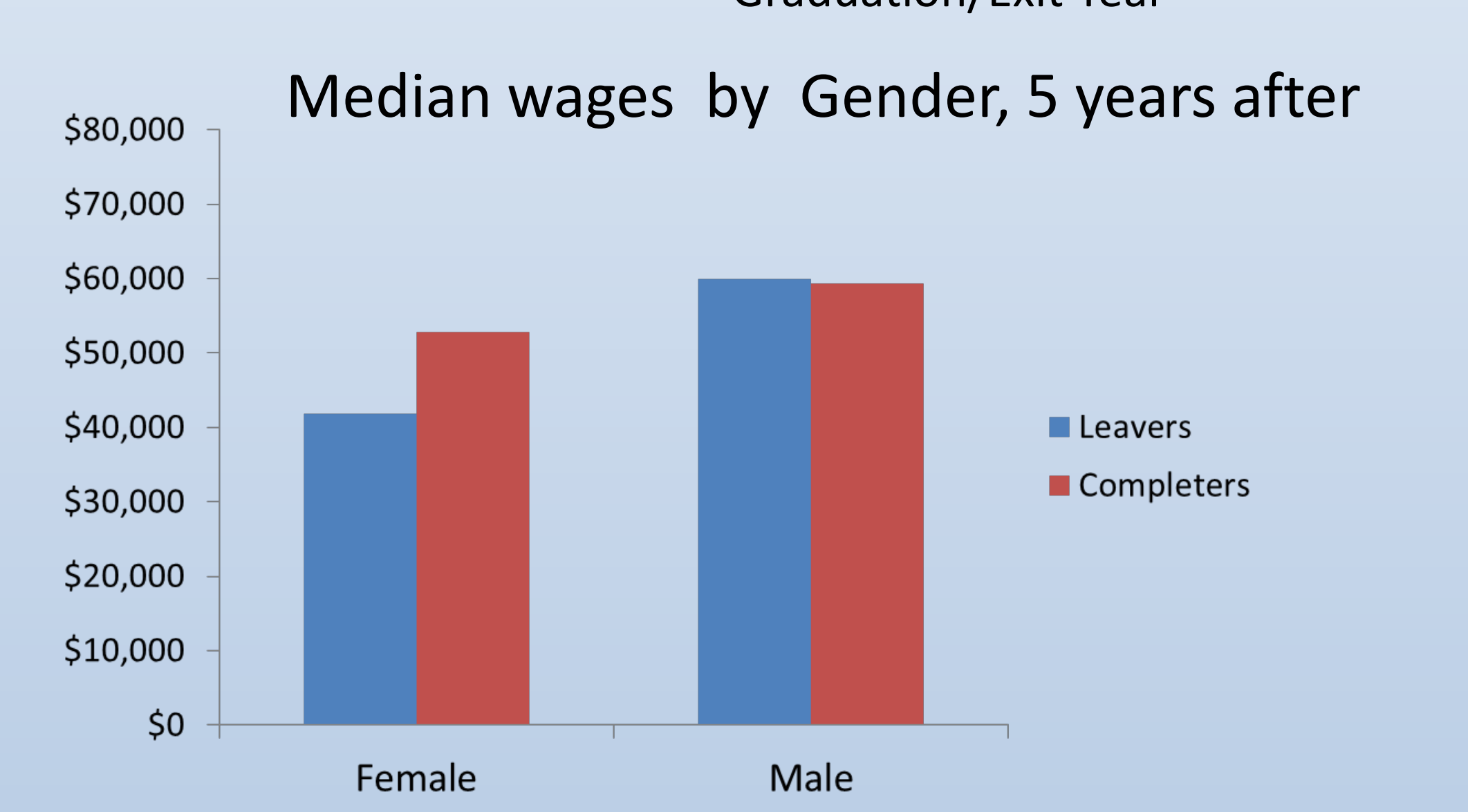
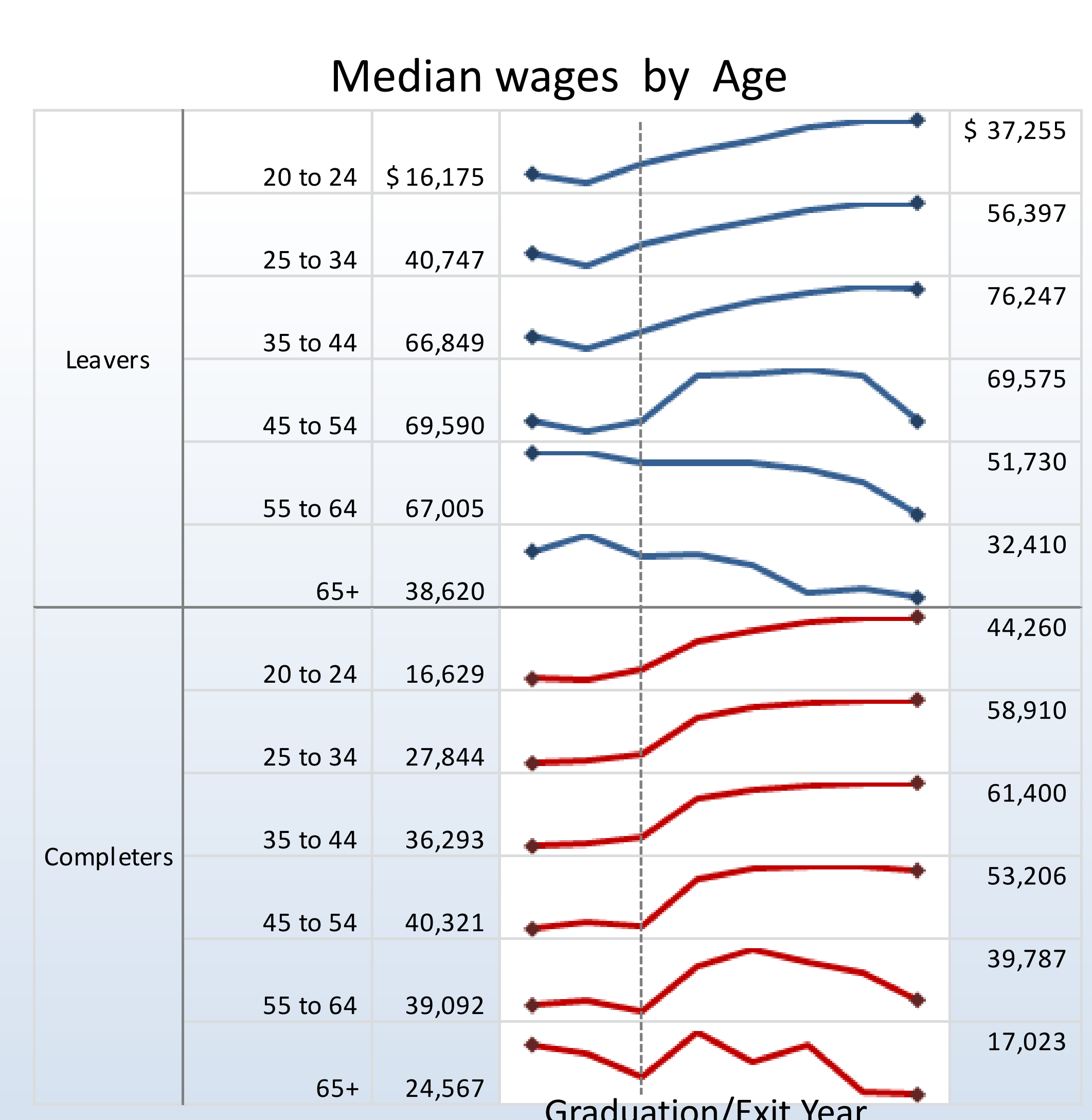
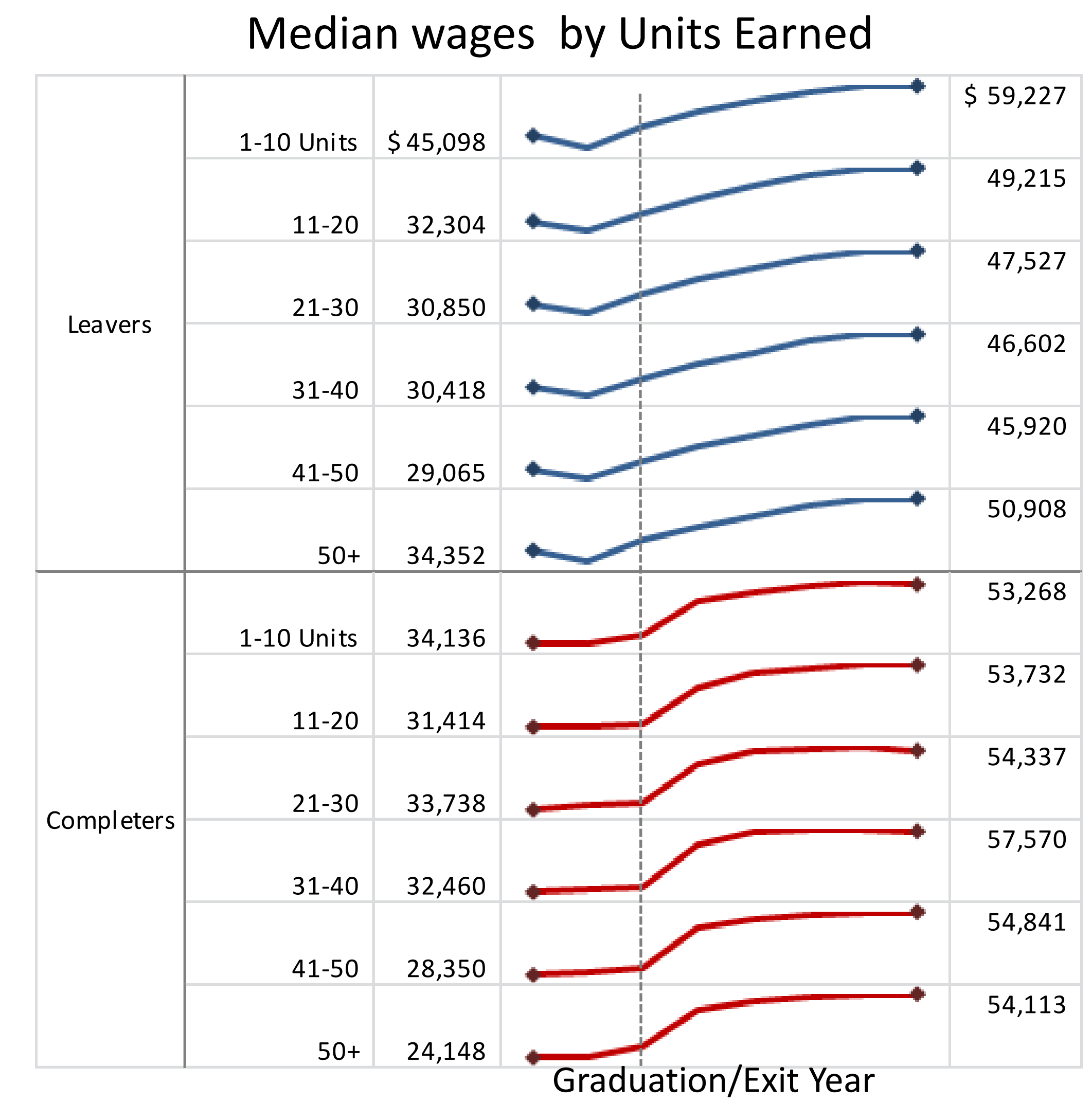
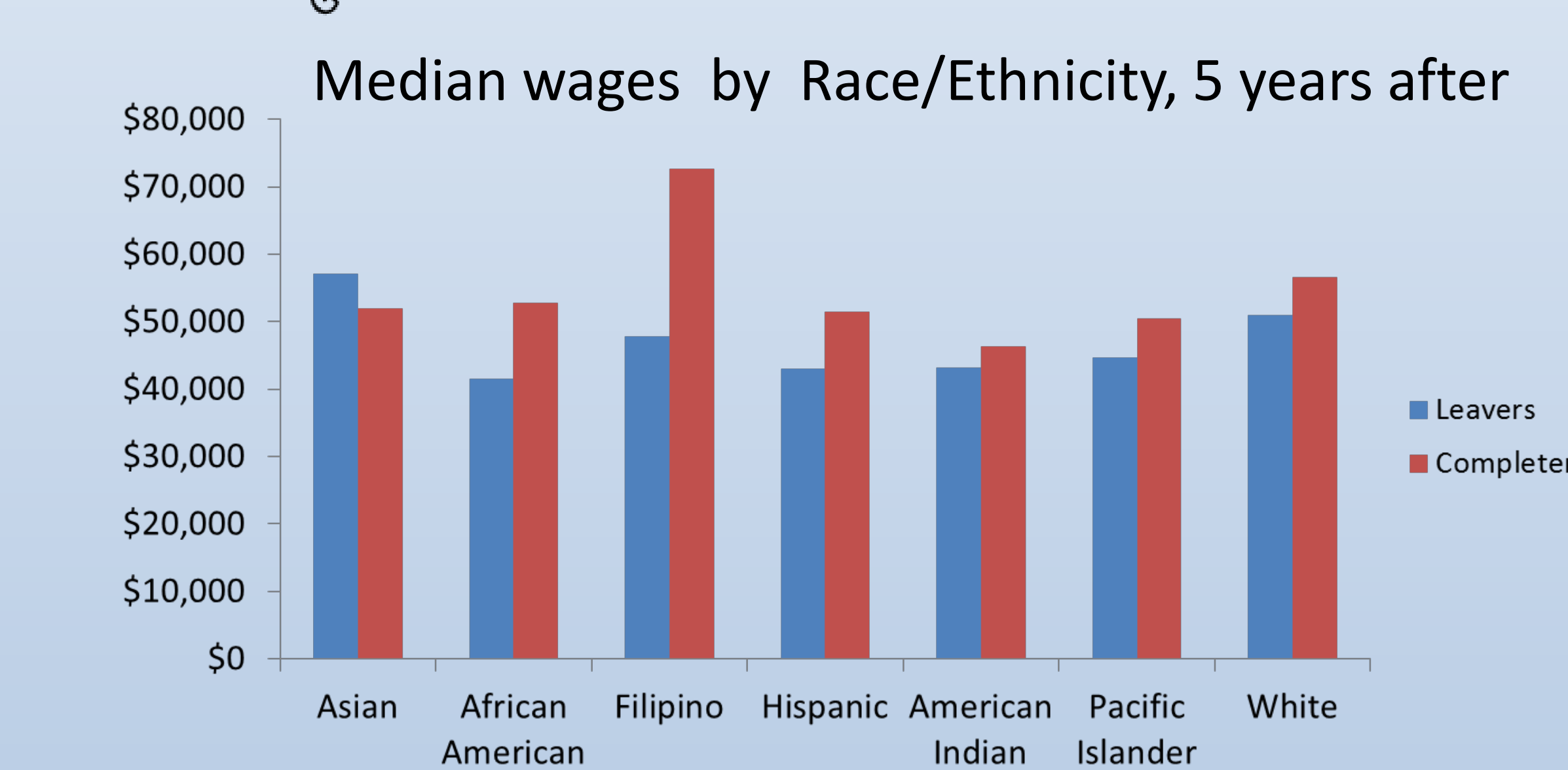
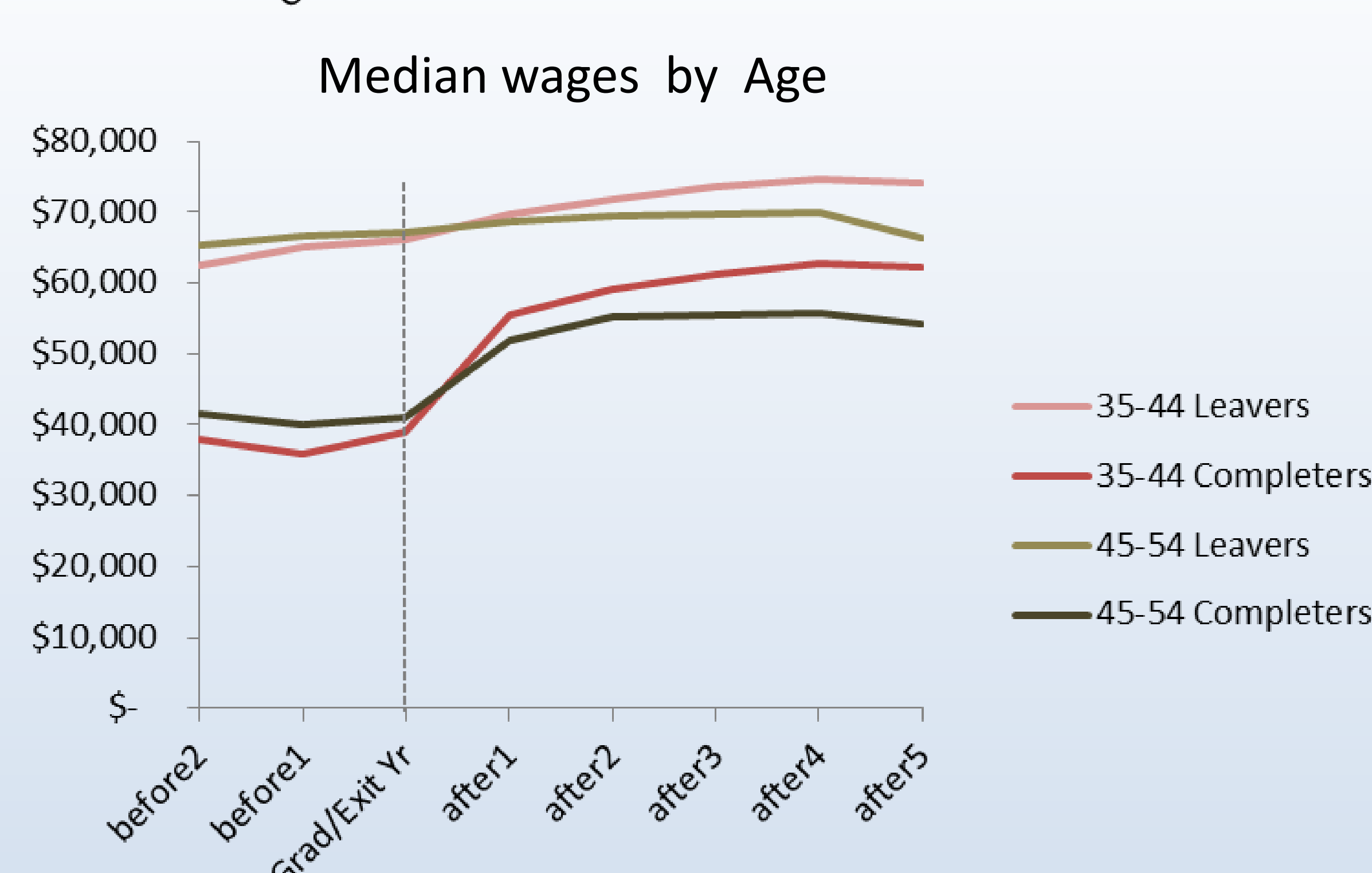
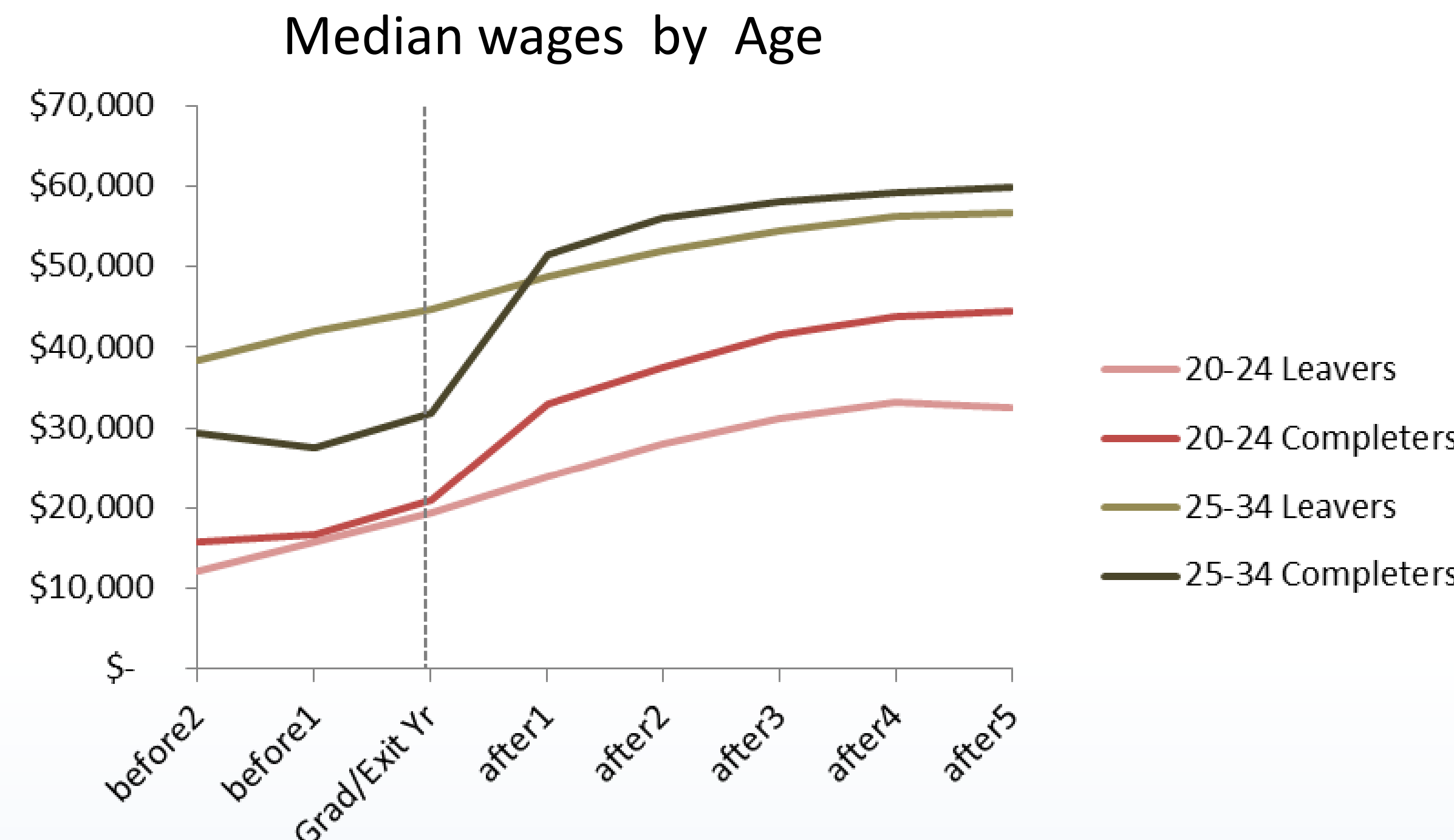
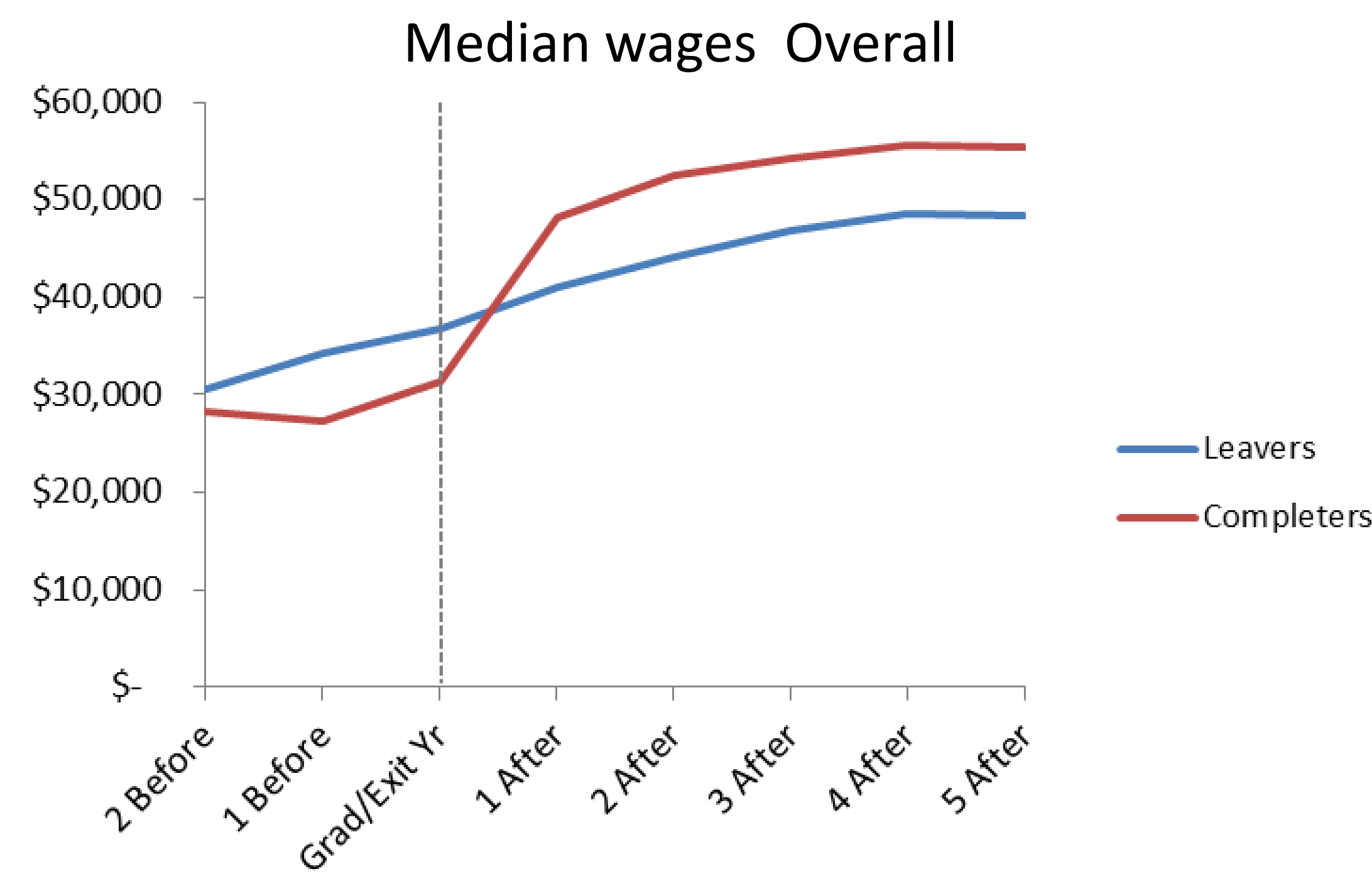
In most cases 'leavers' had higher earnings before point of exit but didn't experience the post exit boost in earnings that completers did. Younger age groups were found to have positive earnings trends while older leavers and completers experienced mixed earnings gains with some having negative trends after exit. Median earnings after five years after exit were higher for Female 'completers' compared to 'leavers'. For Males earnings were relatively equal between 'completers' and 'leavers'.

Limitations

Wages are limited to those in occupations covered by Unemployment Insurance in the State of California. This would exclude for example those who are self-employed or those working for the Federal Government or in an occupation outside of California.

Students who transferred on to a four year college after graduation or exit from the Community College System were excluded from the analysis.

Results



Contact Information
Ryan Fuller
Research Specialist
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Rfuller@ccco.edu