

LSAT TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES

- **LSAT Performance With Regional, Gender, and Racial/Ethnic Breakdowns: 2005–2006 Through 2011–2012 Testing Years**

**Susan P. Dalessandro
Lisa C. Anthony
Lynda M. Reese**

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide summary information about Law School Admission Test (LSAT) performance, including performance classified by country, region of the United States, gender only, race/ethnicity only, and both gender and race/ethnicity. Information regarding LSAT performance is summarized for the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years and compiled into a single report, enabling trends with regard to the performance and representation of various subgroups to be tracked and monitored. The primary results observed for the time period covered by this report are summarized below.

In evaluating these results, the reader should bear in mind that the test takers who contributed to the various regional, gender, and racial/ethnic statistics were self-selected. That is, these test takers chose to take the LSAT themselves; they were not randomly chosen to be assessed. Also, test takers voluntarily self-reported their gender and race/ethnicity. That is, individuals chose whether or not to respond to these classification questions and decided how they would respond (especially with regard to race/ethnicity). As a result, differences in LSAT performance across regional, gender, or racial/ethnic subgroups cannot be attributed to those subgroups in general, but merely to representatives of those subgroups who chose to take the LSAT and identified themselves as belonging to those subgroups.

General Trends Regarding the LSAT

- There was an upward trend in test-administered volume from the 2005–2006 to the 2009–2010 testing years. Since 2009–2010, however, volumes have decreased, with the 2011–2012 test-administered volume decreasing 24.1% from the 2009–2010 volume. A slightly different trend was observed for test-taker volumes, showing a decline from 2005–2006 through 2007–2008 before increasing across 2008–2009 and 2009–2010. The test-taker volume has since been decreasing for the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 testing years.
- The overall distribution of LSAT scores remained fairly constant.
- The largest numbers of test takers took the LSAT at the September/October and December administrations.
- Average LSAT scores were slightly higher for test takers who tested at the June and September/October administrations and slightly lower for test takers who tested at the December and February administrations.

Trends Regarding Canada and Foreign Countries

- Approximately 7.1% of test takers took the LSAT in Canada.
- Approximately 2.3% of test takers took the LSAT in a foreign country. (For the purpose of this report, a foreign country is defined as any country outside of Canada and the United States.)

- Canadian and foreign test takers had slightly higher mean LSAT scores than test takers from the United States.

Trends Regarding the United States

- The percentage of test takers who took the LSAT in each region of the United States remained fairly constant across the 7 testing years. The highest percentage of test takers tested in the Northeast region for all testing years. The smallest percentage tested in the Northwest region for all testing years covered in this report.
- The performance of test takers from the various regions remained fairly constant across the 7 testing years. Test takers in the New England region scored the highest for all testing years covered in this report. Test takers in the Southeast and South Central regions scored the lowest on average.

Trends Regarding Gender

- There were slightly more male test takers than female test takers in 2005–2006. In the 2006–2007 testing year, there were slightly more female test takers than male test takers. In 2007–2008, there were almost equal numbers of male and female test takers. For the last 4 testing years (2008–2009 through 2011–2012) there were slightly more male test takers than female test takers.
- Male test takers consistently scored slightly higher than female test takers.
- The percentage of test takers not indicating their gender (i.e., the Gender No Response subgroup) fluctuated between 0.04% and 0.16% for the 7 years covered in this report. For the 2011–2012 testing year, 0.09% did not indicate their gender. The Gender No Response subgroup had the highest mean LSAT score across the 7 testing years.

Trends Regarding Race/Ethnicity

- Caucasians comprised the largest percentage of test takers. African American test takers and Asian/Pacific Islander test takers, respectively, were the next largest subgroups in terms of percentages.
- Average LSAT scores were highest for Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islander test takers. African American test takers and Puerto Rican test takers had the lowest mean LSAT scores.
- The percentage of test takers who did not indicate their race/ethnicity was close to 1% for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years. The percentage greatly increased for the 2009–2010 testing year (2.70%), but then decreased to about 1.5% in the 2011–2012 testing year. The percentage of test takers not indicating their race/ethnicity (i.e., the Racial/Ethnic No Response subgroup) had the highest mean LSAT score for all testing years covered in this report.

Trends Regarding Gender and Race/Ethnicity

- Among the Caucasian subgroup, there were more male test takers than female test takers, whereas there were more female test takers than male test takers for the African American and Asian/Pacific Islander subgroups.
- The number of test takers who indicated neither their gender nor their race/ethnicity was highest in the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 testing years.

Introduction

For standardized tests of all kinds, research has consistently documented differential performance among subgroups of interest. A commonly cited example of this is the tendency for male test takers to outperform female test takers on measures of quantitative ability (Wightman, 1994; Willingham, Lewis, Morgan, & Ramist, 1990). Differential performance has also been observed among subgroups classified by race/ethnicity and geographic region.

After every administration of the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), Law School Admission Council (LSAC) staff studies the differential performance of various subgroups. Trends with regard to the performance and representation of various subgroups are tracked and monitored. The purpose of this report is to provide summary information about LSAT performance, including performance classified by country, region of the United States, gender only, race/ethnicity only, and both gender and race/ethnicity. LSAT performance is summarized for the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years. While this report documents the LSAT performance differences of these subgroups, it is purely descriptive in nature. Explanation of the underlying causes of these differences is beyond the scope of this report.

While considering the results contained in this study, at least two caveats should be taken into consideration. First, the test takers who contributed to the various regional, gender, and racial/ethnic statistics were self-selected. That is, these test takers chose to take the LSAT themselves; they were not randomly chosen to be assessed. In addition, test takers voluntarily self-reported their gender and race/ethnicity. That is, individuals chose whether or not to respond to these classification questions and decided how they would respond (especially with regard to race/ethnicity). As a result, differences in LSAT performance across regional, gender, or racial/ethnic subgroups cannot be attributed to these subgroups in general, but merely to representatives of these subgroups who chose to take the LSAT and identified themselves as belonging to these subgroups. Second, summary statistics across regional, gender, or racial/ethnic subgroups describe subgroup differences, not individual differences. So, for example, an individual from one region may outperform 90% of the individuals from another region, even though the regional subgroup mean differences might suggest otherwise.

Background on the LSAT

The LSAT was first introduced 64 years ago to provide law schools with a standardized way to evaluate law school applicants. Throughout its history, the LSAT has evolved in various ways in an effort to develop an instrument that measures, to the greatest extent possible, skills necessary for success in law school. As a result of this constant effort to improve the construct validity of the test, the version of the LSAT administered in 1948 bears only a slight resemblance to the LSAT of today.

As the content of the LSAT has evolved over time, the scale used to report LSAT scores has also been changed on a few occasions. The original LSAT scale of 200–800 remained from 1948 until 1982. Due in part to a concern that this scale gave the impression of too much precision, a scale of 10–50 was established in June 1982. This was later reduced to a scale of 10–48. Major changes incorporated into the current version of the test, introduced in June 1991, resulted in another score-scale change, establishing the 120–180 scale (LSAC & LSAS, 1991; Reese & Cotter, 1994).

The LSAT of today includes five 35-minute sections. One of these sections is used to pretest new questions or pre-equate new test forms and does not contribute to the test taker's score. The specific item-type makeup is as follows:

Item Type	No. of Items	Time
Reading Comprehension	26–28	35 minutes
Logical Reasoning A	24–26	35 minutes
Logical Reasoning B	24–26	35 minutes
Analytical Reasoning	22–23	35 minutes

A 35-minute writing sample is also administered at the end of the test. Prior to the 2005–2006 testing year, the time given for this writing sample was 30 minutes. Writing samples are not scored, but copies of the writing assessment are sent to all law schools to which the test taker applies.

The yearly LSAT administration cycle includes test dates in June, September/October, December, and February, with the June administration marking the beginning of the testing year. Testing takes place on Saturday for the September/October, December, and February administrations, and on Monday for the June administration. For those who observe the Sabbath on Saturday, an alternate test date is provided, usually on the Monday following the regular Saturday administration.

The sum of the total number of questions answered correctly across the four scored sections (i.e., the raw score) is converted to a score on the 120–180 scale (i.e., the scaled score). Because of slight differences in item difficulty across forms (and because the number of items on a form typically ranges from 100 to 102), raw scores are not directly comparable across test forms. The scores from different test forms are made comparable through a statistical procedure known as equating. As a result of equating, a particular scaled score reflects the same level of ability, regardless of the form on which it was earned.

Method

Test Takers

Test takers from the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years are included in this report. Test takers who tested under nonstandard conditions were excluded from all analyses in this report. No other exclusions were used for these analyses. Some reports produced by LSAC use additional exclusions (e.g., test takers who answer less than five questions in a section are often excluded); thus, results in this report may not exactly match comparable results in other reports.

On average, approximately 30% of test takers took the test previously; herein they will be referred to as “repeat test takers.” In the analyses that follow, we averaged scores for repeat test takers within a testing year and only counted them once within a testing year. The same test taker could be included in more than one testing year, however. Additionally, for analyses that classified test takers by region, test takers could be included more than once if they took the test in more than one region. Repeat test takers who took the test within one region in one testing year are only counted once, and their scores are averaged.

The number of tests administered (excluding nonstandard administrations) and the number of test takers (excluding those with nonstandard administrations) are shown in Figure 1 for the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years. The number of tests administered is always larger than the number of test takers because of repeat test takers. There was an upward trend in test-administered volume from the 2005–2006 to the 2009–2010 testing year. Since 2009–2010, however, volumes have decreased, with the 2011–2012 test-administered volume decreasing 24.1% from the 2009–2010 volume. The test-taker trend was slightly different, with volumes declining from 2005–2006 through 2007–2008 before increasing across 2008–2009 and 2009–2010. The test-taker volume has since been decreasing, with the 2011–2012 test-taker volume decreasing 23.5% from the 2009–2010 volume.

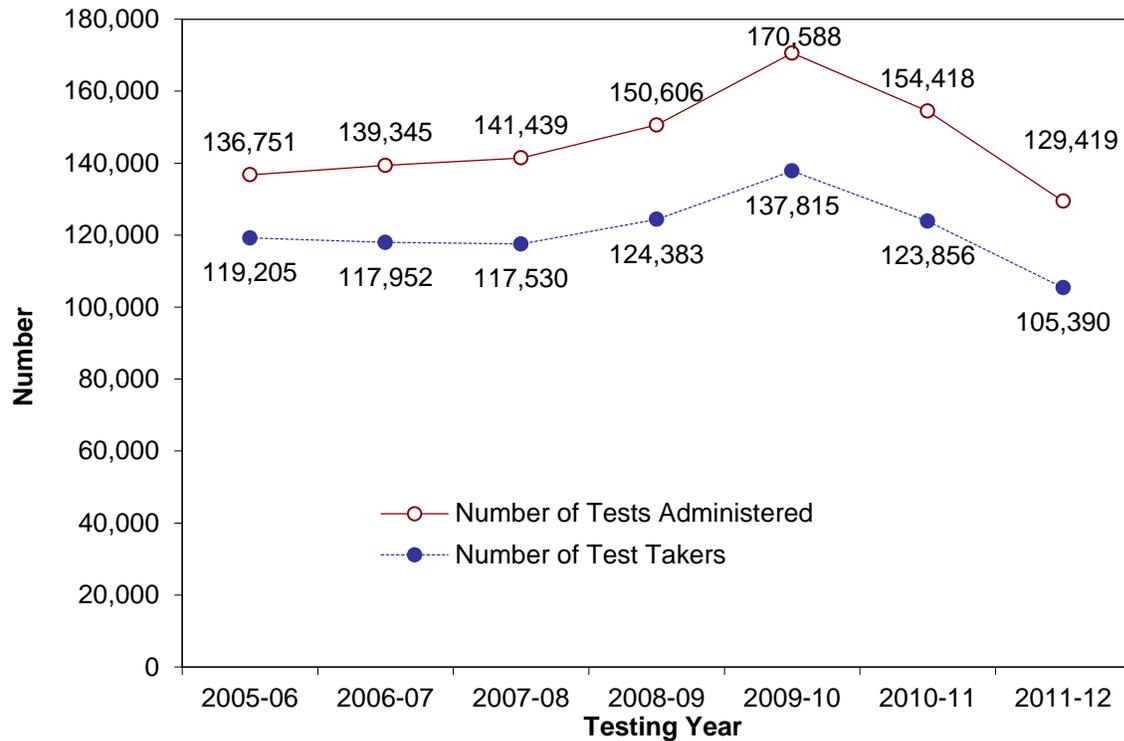


FIGURE 1. *Number of tests administered in each testing year (counting repeat test takers more than once) and number of test takers in each testing year (counting repeat test takers within a year only once). Test takers who had nonstandard administrations were excluded both from the number of tests administered and from the number of test takers.*

Countries

Results are provided by country: the United States, Canada, and foreign countries. For the purposes of this report, the United States includes all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, along with Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. All countries other than the United States and Canada (which are the countries whose law schools make up the LSAC membership) are considered foreign countries.

Regions of the United States

The definitions of the regions used in this report are the same as those used in the Regional Statistical Reports produced by LSAC. The regions are defined as follows:

Region	States in Region
New England	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Northeast	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
Midsouth	Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
Southeast	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Puerto Rico
Great Lakes	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
Midwest	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
Mountain West	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
Northwest	Alaska, Oregon, Washington
Far West	California, Hawaii, Nevada

LSAT Performance Data

In this report, performance on the LSAT is supplied in terms of descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation of LSAT scores) for the various classifications (country, region of the United States, gender only, race/ethnicity only, and both race/ethnicity and gender) across the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years. A frequency distribution of LSAT scores is provided for each testing year in terms of smoothed percentages of test takers at each score. Percentages are smoothed¹ because percentages are notoriously unstable. For the 2011–2012 testing year, detailed performance data in terms of smoothed percentages are provided for each of the various classifications.

¹ Data were smoothed using a centered moving average, which is the average of a span of series values surrounding and including the current value. The span, set to 5, is the number of series values used to compute the average. Thus the centered moving average computes the mean for the two values in the series before the current value, the current value itself, and the two values in the series after the current value. If any of those five values is missing in the data, the centered moving average for the current value is missing. With a span of 5, the two series values at the beginning and end of the smoothed series (values associated with LSAT scores of 120, 121, 179, and 180) are always missing. Missing values in the original (unsmoothed) series create additional missing values in the smoothed series.

Results

Figure 2 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores for all test takers (except those who tested under nonstandard conditions) for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 (average LSAT scores were used for test takers who took the test more than once in a given testing year). To control for the changing volume across testing years, the number of test takers at each score was converted to a percentage within each testing year. The smoothed percentages are very similar across testing years.

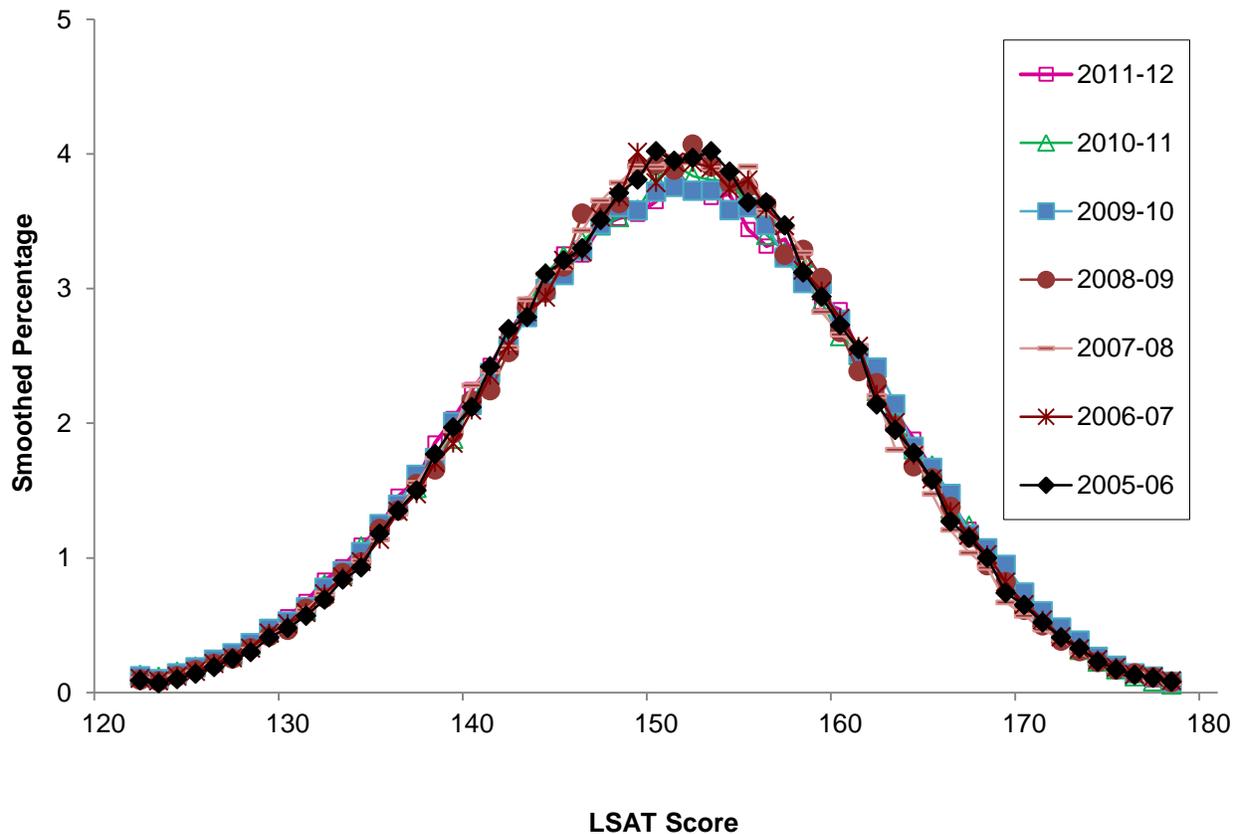


FIGURE 2. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012

LSAT Performance by Country (United States, Canada, or Foreign Countries)

Table 1 shows the number of test takers (counting repeat test takers only once within a testing year) for the total group and separately for the United States (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), Canada, and foreign countries for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. Some test takers repeated the test in a different area (United States, Canada, or a foreign country) in a given testing year. Such test takers are counted once

in each area where they took the test in a given year. Multiple scores for a test taker in the same area in a given testing year are averaged. Figure 3 shows the percentage of test takers who took the test in Canada or foreign countries. Note that the percentage of those testing in Canada has been on an upward trend since 2009–2010, while the percentage of those testing in foreign countries has been increasing since 2007–2008. Note also that for the most recent testing year, approximately 88% of test takers tested in the United States.

TABLE 1
Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by country and testing year

Area	Testing Year						
	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Total							
<i>N</i>	119,205	117,952	117,530	124,383	137,815	123,856	105,390
Mean	150.85	150.88	150.63	150.80	150.85	150.70	150.66
SD	9.86	9.97	9.81	9.90	10.26	10.12	10.19
United States							
<i>N</i>	109,427	108,194	107,553	113,888	125,300	111,315	93,222
Mean	150.78	150.78	150.50	150.70	150.73	150.51	150.42
SD	9.91	10.03	9.87	9.96	10.31	10.17	10.27
Canada							
<i>N</i>	8,130	8,124	8,012	8,143	9,485	9,314	9,145
Mean	151.19	151.82	151.62	151.76	151.96	152.44	152.63
SD	8.98	8.97	8.72	8.81	9.26	9.02	9.00
Foreign Countries							
<i>N</i>	1,868	1,870	2,228	2,678	3,479	3,653	3,326
Mean	153.18	153.48	153.69	152.34	152.59	152.67	152.49
SD	10.21	10.51	10.42	10.58	10.84	10.77	10.43

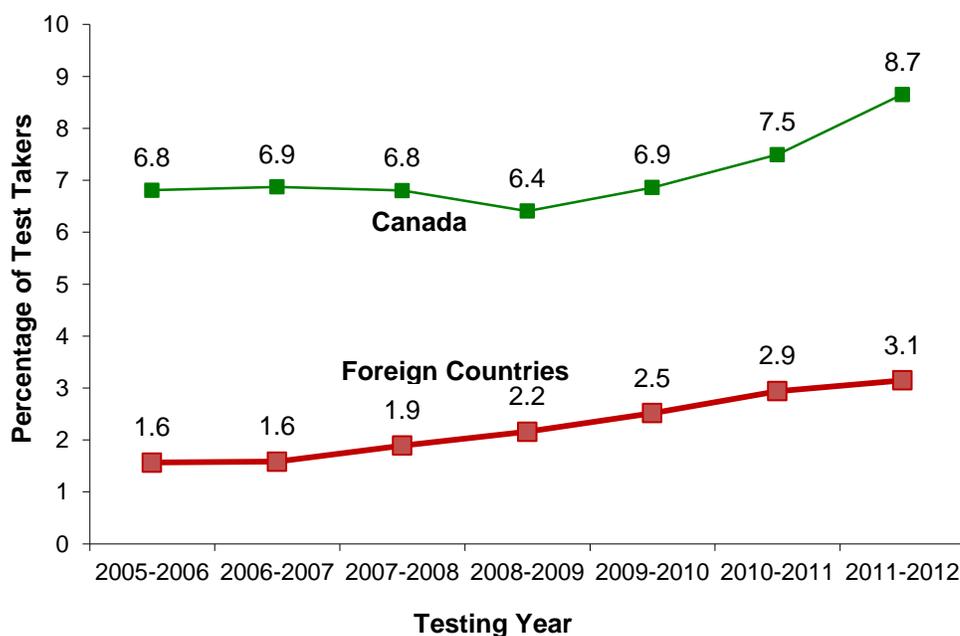


FIGURE 3. Percentage of test takers who tested in Canada or foreign countries. The remaining test takers tested in the United States (not shown in the graph).

Figure 4 displays the mean LSAT scores separately for the United States, Canada, and foreign countries, as well as for the total group. The mean for test takers from the United States has been almost identical to the total mean; this is to be expected, considering that approximately 91% of all test takers took the LSAT in the United States. The means for test takers from Canada and foreign countries have been slightly higher than the total mean.

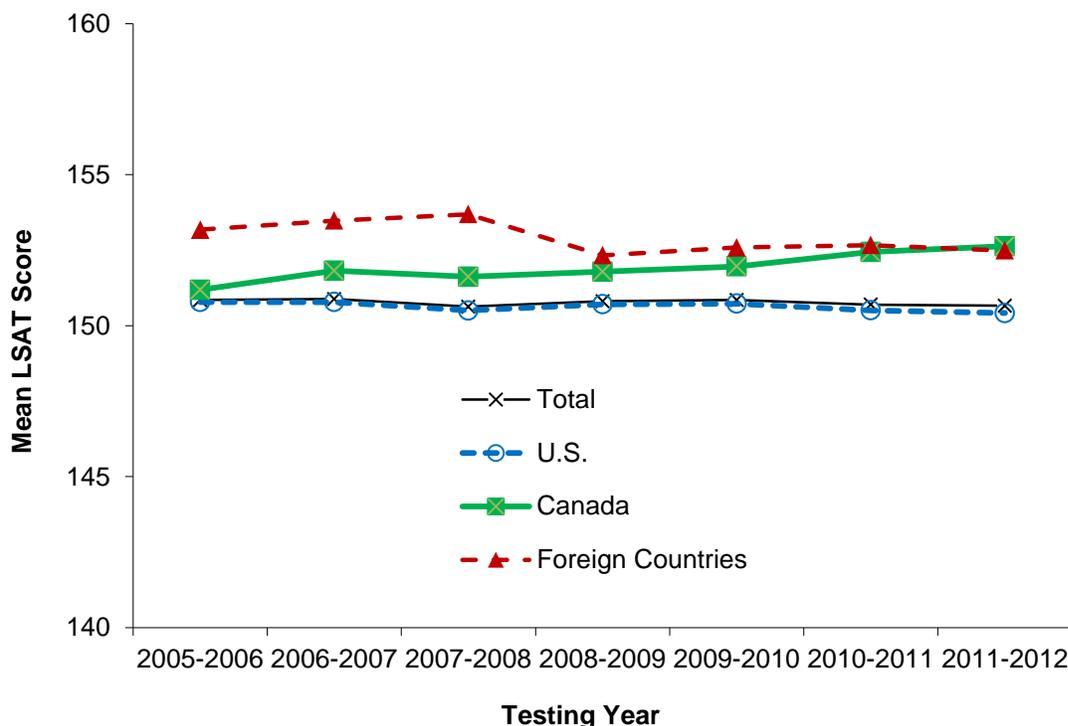


FIGURE 4. Mean LSAT scores for the total group, United States test takers only, Canadian test takers only, and foreign test takers only

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance by country, Figure 5 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores separately for test takers who tested in the United States, Canada, or foreign countries in 2011–2012. Because the number of test takers who took the test in each area varied, the number of test takers at each score was converted to a percentage within each area (United States, Canada, or foreign countries). The percentage of test takers receiving scores greater than 151 was higher for those who took the test in foreign countries than for those who took it in the United States; the percentage of test takers receiving scores less than 152 was lower for those who took the test in foreign countries than for those who took it in the United States. The percentage of test takers receiving scores between 149 and 166 was higher for those who took the test in Canada than for those who took the test in the United States, and the percentage of test takers receiving very high and very low scores was

also lower for those who took the test in Canada than for those who took it in the United States (see Figure 5).

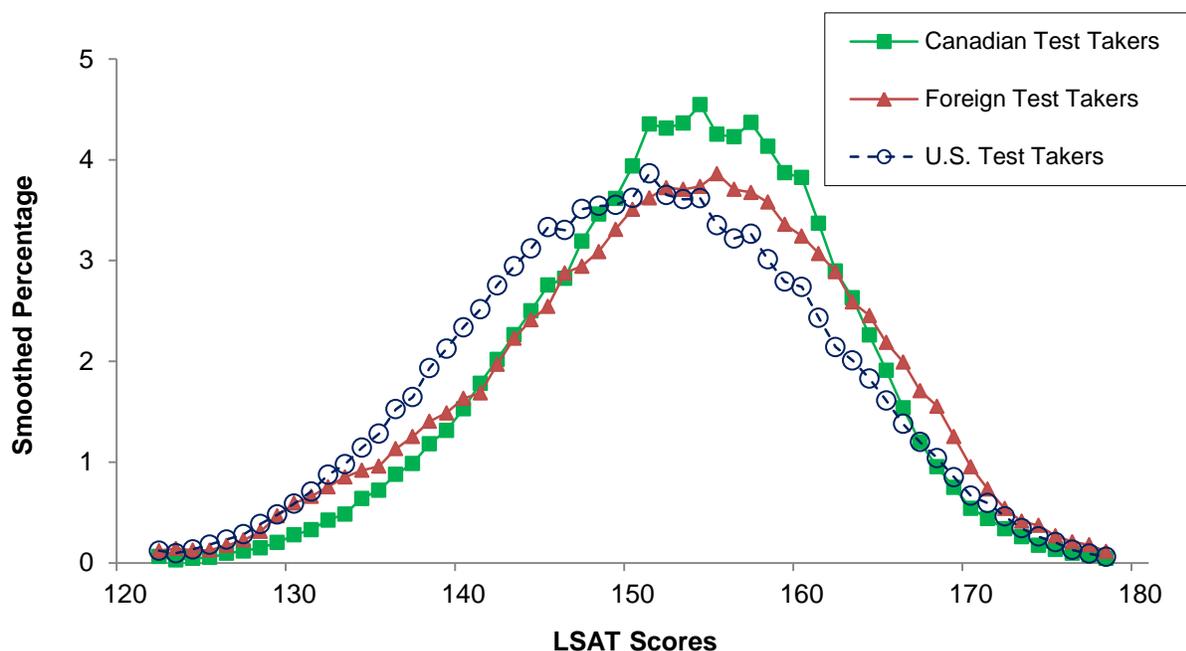


FIGURE 5. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores for test takers who tested in the United States, Canada, or a foreign country in 2011–2012

LSAT Performance by Region of the United States

All results in this section will focus exclusively on test takers from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Table 2 shows the number of test takers separately for each of 10 regions of the United States for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. Some repeat test takers took the test in different regions in a single testing year. Such test takers are counted once in each region where they took the test that particular year. Multiple scores for an individual taking the test in the same region in a single testing year are averaged. Figure 6 shows the percentage of test takers who took the test in each region. The Northeast region had the greatest number of test takers for every testing year. The Northwest had the lowest number of test takers for all testing years covered in this report. The percentages of test takers in all other regions remained fairly consistent across the testing years.

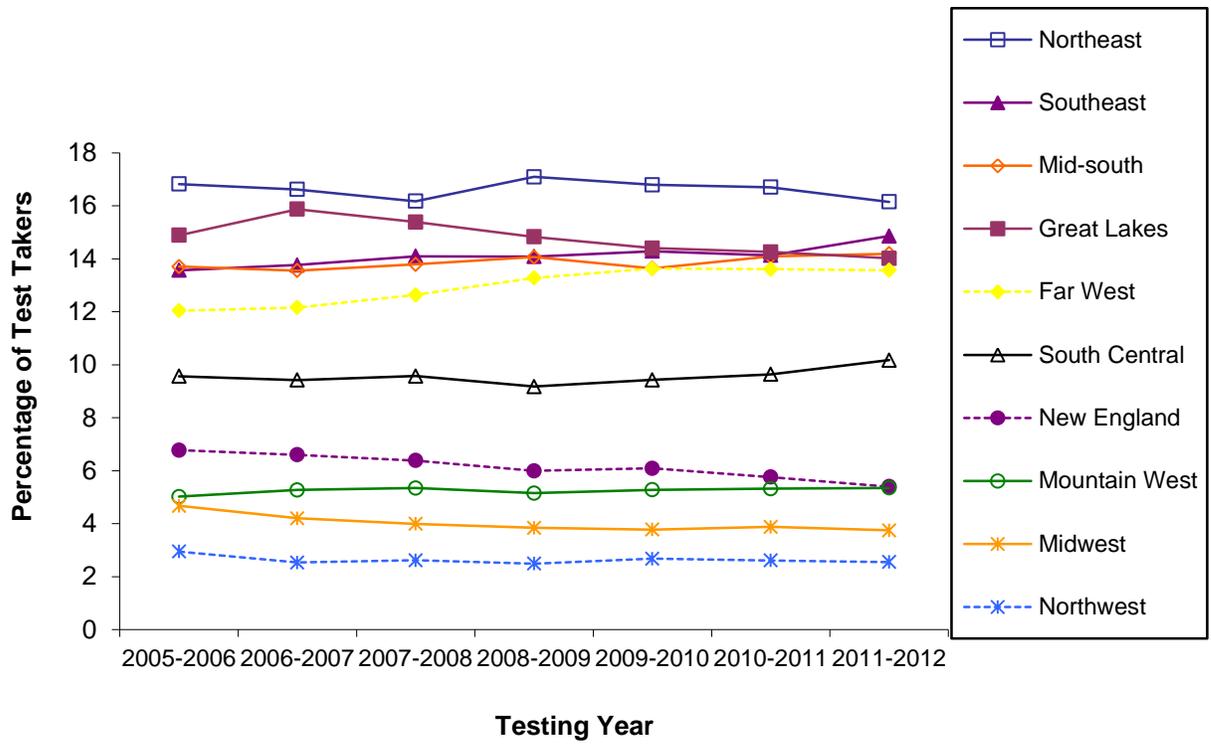


FIGURE 6. Percentage of test takers in each region of the United States by testing year. The key is sorted by percentage of test takers in 2011–2012, from highest to lowest.

TABLE 2
Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by region and testing year

Region	Testing Year						
	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
New England							
<i>N</i>	6,626	6,839	6,666	6,897	7,742	6,486	5,093
Mean	153.52	153.69	152.82	153.36	153.50	153.52	153.01
<i>SD</i>	10.23	10.16	10.16	9.96	10.51	10.45	10.59
Northeast							
<i>N</i>	16,456	17,224	16,893	19,666	21,344	18,819	15,231
Mean	151.08	151.28	150.93	151.48	151.65	151.19	151.29
<i>SD</i>	9.95	10.11	9.97	10.19	10.61	10.47	10.53
Midsouth							
<i>N</i>	13,405	14,049	14,402	16,184	17,335	15,873	13,388
Mean	151.21	151.30	150.99	151.33	151.46	151.08	151.10
<i>SD</i>	9.70	9.50	9.98	9.98	10.35	10.20	10.41
Southeast							
<i>N</i>	13,273	14,266	14,722	16,204	18,157	15,924	14,014
Mean	147.40	146.95	146.85	147.04	147.15	147.06	146.80
<i>SD</i>	9.99	10.40	10.02	10.16	10.45	10.34	10.34
Great Lakes							
<i>N</i>	14,562	16,453	16,072	17,061	18,308	16,063	13,221
Mean	150.88	151.01	150.80	150.95	150.96	150.84	150.87
<i>SD</i>	9.20	9.50	9.25	9.40	9.78	9.68	9.78
Midwest							
<i>N</i>	4,569	4,357	4,169	4,422	4,802	4,371	3,534
Mean	150.93	151.57	151.05	151.12	150.90	150.80	150.83
<i>SD</i>	8.99	8.95	8.87	8.77	9.24	8.94	9.34
South Central							
<i>N</i>	9,358	9,765	10,001	10,557	11,982	10,859	9,594
Mean	149.38	149.62	149.33	149.74	149.53	149.52	149.32
<i>SD</i>	9.60	9.60	9.48	9.62	9.89	9.65	9.68
Mountain West							
<i>N</i>	4,909	5,464	5,581	5,931	6,706	5,993	5,046
Mean	152.15	151.92	151.71	151.78	151.71	151.63	151.43
<i>SD</i>	8.99	9.06	8.93	9.08	9.17	9.20	9.31
Northwest							
<i>N</i>	2,883	2,624	2,734	2,870	3,400	2,942	2,408
Mean	152.18	152.55	152.45	152.62	152.75	152.65	152.65
<i>SD</i>	8.83	9.29	9.15	9.07	9.34	9.38	9.57
Far West							
<i>N</i>	11,781	12,605	13,199	15,279	17,327	15,335	12,796
Mean	151.55	151.58	151.50	151.49	151.49	151.30	151.38
<i>SD</i>	10.03	9.89	9.90	9.98	10.38	10.16	10.21

Figure 7 displays the mean LSAT scores separately for each region. New England had the highest mean for all testing years covered in this report. The Southeast and South Central regions consistently had the lowest means.

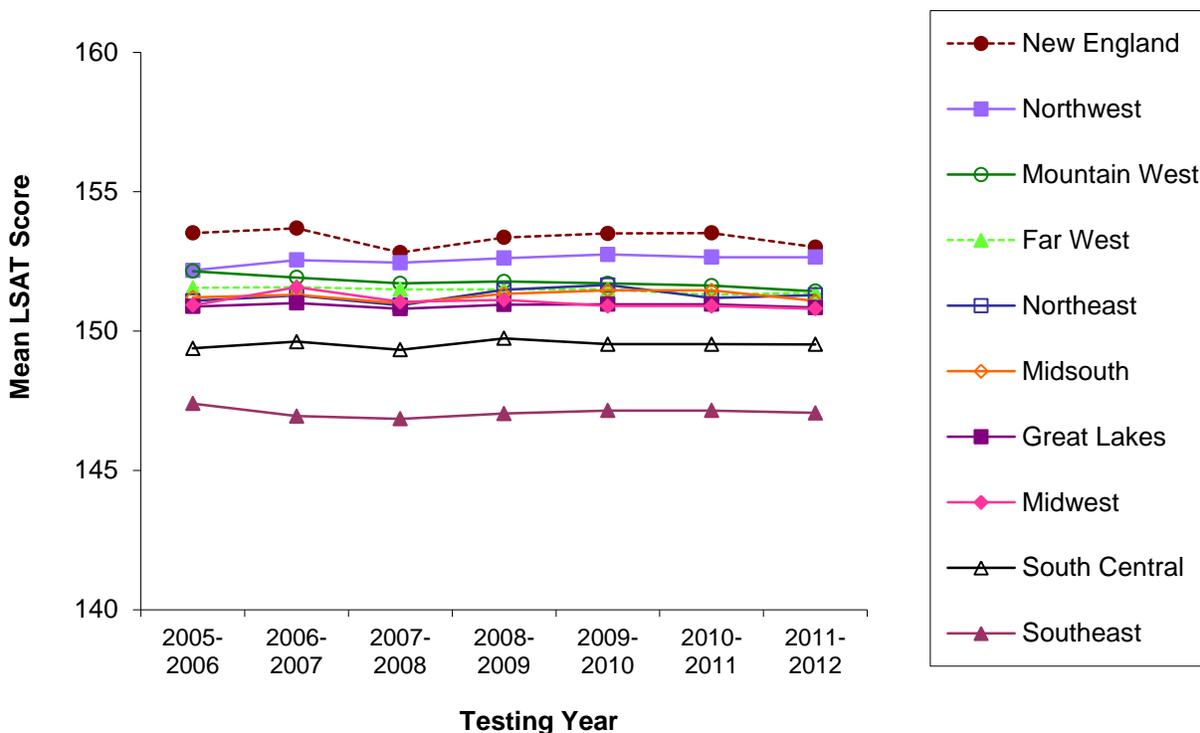


FIGURE 7. Mean LSAT scores by region of the United States and testing year. The key is sorted by mean LSAT scores in 2011–2012.

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance by region, Figure 8 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores separately for test takers who tested in each region in 2011–2012. Because the number of test takers from each region varied, percentages of test takers by region were used rather than numbers. The percentage of test takers receiving scores greater than 162 was slightly higher for those from New England than for those from other regions. In contrast, the percentage of test takers receiving scores below 146 was slightly higher for those from the Southeast region than for those from other regions.

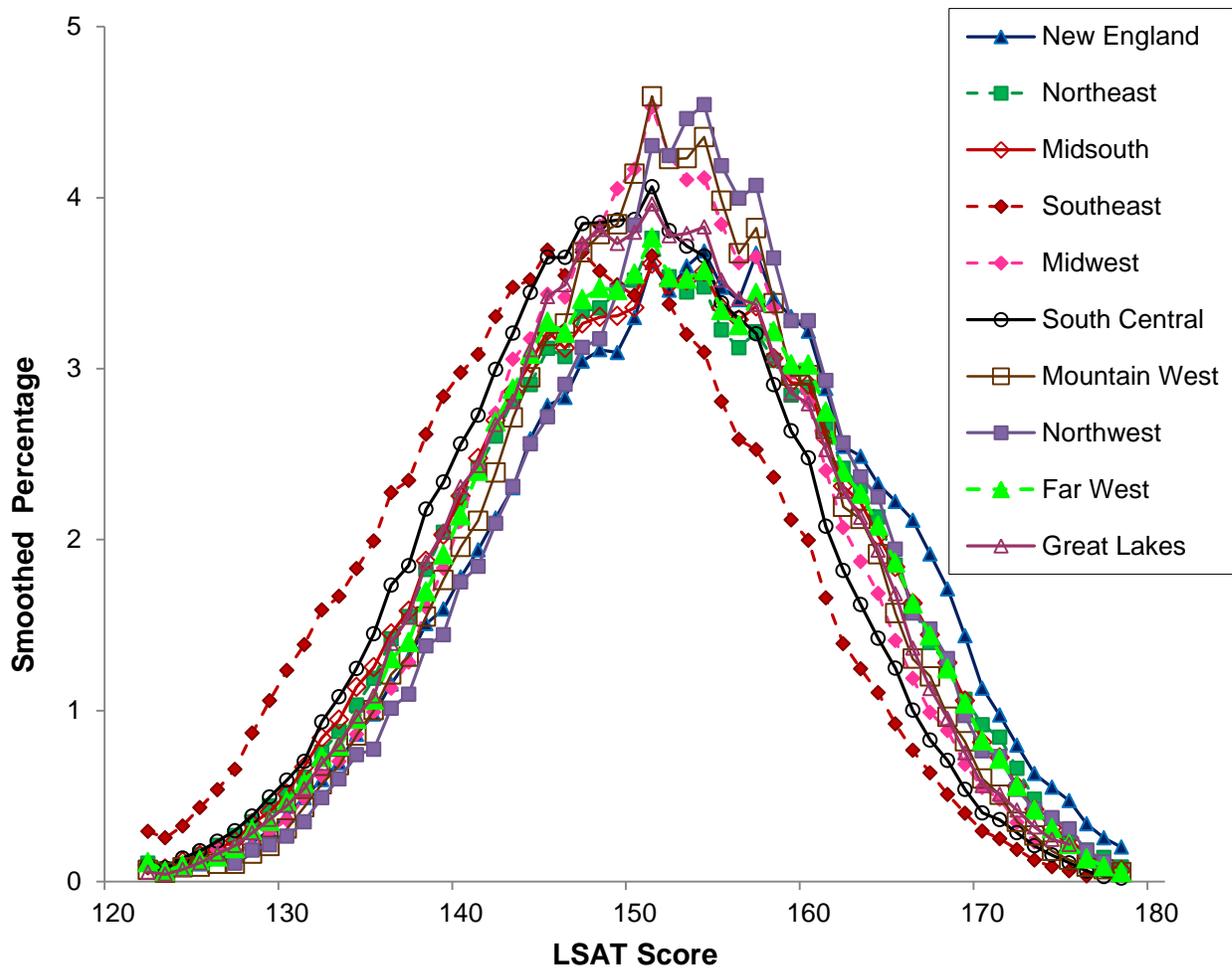


FIGURE 8. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by region of the United States in 2011–2012 using a centered moving average

LSAT Performance by Gender

All results in this section will focus exclusively on test takers from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Table 3 shows the number of test takers by gender for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. Test takers who repeated the LSAT within a testing year are counted only once, and their multiple scores are averaged. Figure 9 shows the percentage of test takers by gender. There were slightly more male test takers than female test takers for the 2005–2006 testing year and slightly more female test takers than male test takers for the 2006–2007 through 2007–2008 testing years. The 2008–2009 through 2011–2012 testing years reverted to the earlier trend of slightly more male test takers than female test takers.

TABLE 3

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by gender and testing year

Gender	Testing Year						
	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Male							
<i>N</i>	55,013	53,881	53,724	58,355	64,485	57,045	47,005
Mean	151.96	151.84	151.51	151.76	151.85	151.66	151.69
SD	9.87	9.93	9.81	9.81	10.16	10.00	10.12
Female							
<i>N</i>	54,340	54,247	53,785	55,621	60,651	54,131	46,149
Mean	149.59	149.71	149.49	149.58	149.52	149.27	149.12
SD	9.80	10.02	9.83	9.98	10.33	10.21	10.25
No Response							
<i>N</i>	84	75	55	51	195	172	84
Mean	152.48	154.69	155.73	158.45	155.27	156.42	156.62
SD	9.35	10.72	8.05	9.19	10.02	8.27	8.35

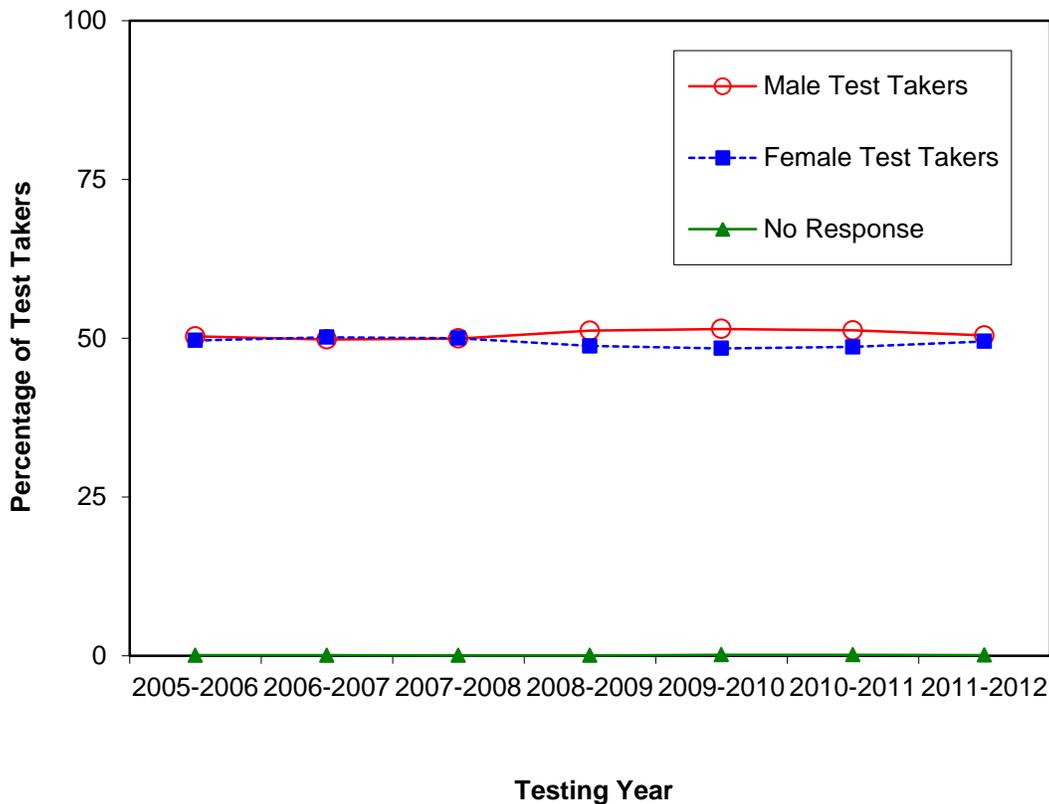


FIGURE 9. Percentage of test takers by gender

The percentage of test takers in the Gender No Response subgroup was low in 2005–2006 (0.08%) and decreased slightly over the next 3 testing years (percentages ranging from 0.04% to 0.07%). In 2009–2010, the percentage increased somewhat significantly to 0.16% but has decreased since. In 2011–2012 it was 0.09%.

Figure 10 displays the mean LSAT scores by gender for this study period. The LSAT mean for male test takers has consistently been somewhat higher than the LSAT mean for female test takers. The difference for 2005–2006 was 2.37, decreased over the next 3 testing years, and then rose over the last 3 testing years: 2.33 in 2009–2010, 2.39 in 2010–2011, and 2.57 in 2011–2012. Over the past 7 testing years, LSAT scores were higher on average for the Gender No Response subgroup than for male test takers.

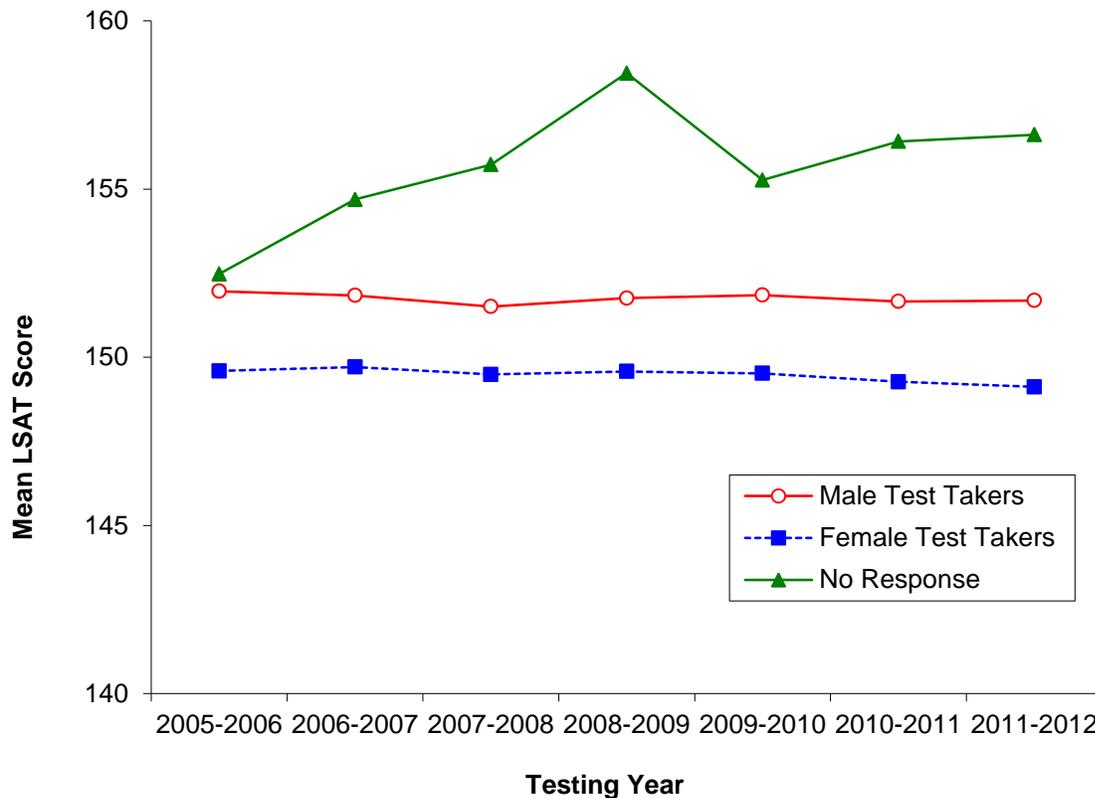


FIGURE 10. Mean LSAT scores by gender

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance by gender, Figure 11 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores by gender for the 2011–2012 testing year. As shown in Figure 11, a higher percentage of female test takers had scores below 149, and a higher percentage of male test takers had scores greater than 150. The percentage of test takers who did not indicate their gender was too small to be included in this graph.

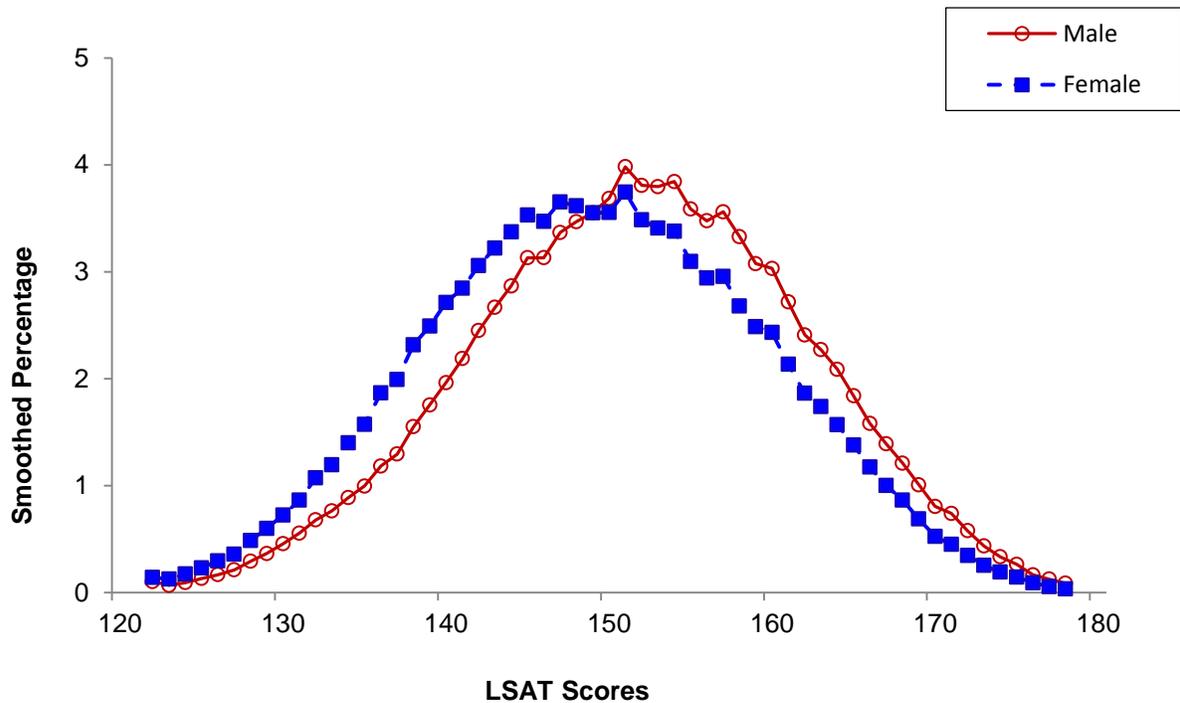


FIGURE 11. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by gender in 2011–2012

LSAT Performance by Race/Ethnicity

All results in this section will focus exclusively on test takers from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Tables 4A and 4B show the number of test takers by race/ethnicity for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 and for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012, respectively, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. The 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years are displayed separately because, beginning with the 2009–2010 testing year, LSAC revised its method of race/ethnicity data collection. The categories from which test takers may choose to describe themselves were updated, and test takers were permitted to choose more than one category. Table 4B displays these new categories. Test takers who repeated the LSAT within a testing year and within the same region are counted only once, and their multiple scores within a testing year are averaged. Figure 12 shows the percentage of test takers by race/ethnicity for the five largest racial/ethnic subgroups, excluding “Other.”²

² Test takers who indicated that their race/ethnicity is “Other” comprised the fifth largest racial/ethnic subgroup up until the 2008–2009 year, although that subgroup is not shown in Figure 12. The “Other” category was no longer an option beginning in June 2009. Also, the Racial/Ethnic (R/E) No Response subgroup is not shown in Figure 12.

Caucasian test takers have comprised the largest percentage of test takers, followed by African American and Asian/Pacific Islander test takers.

TABLE 4A
Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity and testing year, 2005–2006 through 2008–2009

Race/Ethnicity	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009
African American				
<i>N</i>	11,288	11,844	12,152	13,205
Mean	142.31	142.22	142.15	142.25
<i>SD</i>	8.39	8.63	8.40	8.50
Native American				
<i>N</i>	854	917	859	841
Mean	147.28	147.58	148.06	148.04
<i>SD</i>	9.41	9.37	9.05	9.09
Asian/Pacific Islander				
<i>N</i>	8,976	9,109	9,049	9,706
Mean	152.06	152.11	152.04	152.03
<i>SD</i>	10.04	10.13	10.01	10.16
Canadian Aboriginal				
<i>N</i>	71	72	63	76
Mean	151.80	150.91	150.67	150.10
<i>SD</i>	10.20	9.31	9.83	10.15
Caucasian				
<i>N</i>	72,700	70,249	69,792	73,248
Mean	152.71	152.90	152.56	152.88
<i>SD</i>	9.03	9.01	8.96	8.94
Hispanic				
<i>N</i>	5,588	5,972	6,299	6,918
Mean	146.46	146.40	146.32	146.57
<i>SD</i>	9.40	9.45	9.26	9.51
Mexican American				
<i>N</i>	1,789	1,720	1,765	1,853
Mean	147.65	147.24	147.96	147.79
<i>SD</i>	8.68	9.03	8.89	8.82
Puerto Rican				
<i>N</i>	2,274	2,411	2,295	2,465
Mean	138.32	138.31	138.72	138.54
<i>SD</i>	9.79	10.22	9.61	10.11
Other				
<i>N</i>	5,291	5,419	5,153	5,554
Mean	150.67	150.65	150.26	150.81
<i>SD</i>	9.98	10.20	10.07	9.93
No Response				
<i>N</i>	1,079	1,155	785	734
Mean	155.23	155.27	155.57	155.86
<i>SD</i>	9.80	9.89	9.19	9.59

TABLE 4B
*Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity,
 2009–2010 through 2011–2012*

Race/Ethnicity	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
American Indian/Alaskan Native			
<i>N</i>	634	587	475
Mean	146.89	146.94	145.73
<i>SD</i>	9.06	8.94	9.20
Asian			
<i>N</i>	10,729	9,254	7,510
Mean	152.38	152.36	152.68
<i>SD</i>	10.74	10.42	10.52
Black/African American			
<i>N</i>	14,585	13,502	11,453
Mean	142.04	141.87	141.84
<i>SD</i>	8.74	8.64	8.68
Canadian Aboriginal			
<i>N</i>	50	33	17
Mean	152.94	151.26	149.06
<i>SD</i>	10.03	8.86	9.99
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			
<i>N</i>	340	155	147
Mean	146.42	144.86	146.28
<i>SD</i>	9.29	9.36	9.60
Hispanic/Latino			
<i>N</i>	9,264	8,157	7,213
Mean	146.43	146.25	146.32
<i>SD</i>	9.65	9.28	9.25
Puerto Rican			
<i>N</i>	2,347	2,073	1,860
Mean	138.37	138.51	138.05
<i>SD</i>	9.91	10.03	9.68
White/Caucasian			
<i>N</i>	79,799	69,056	56,947
Mean	152.86	152.77	152.80
<i>SD</i>	9.33	9.17	9.27
Multiple Ethnicities			
<i>N</i>	5,459	6,816	6,481
Mean	150.80	149.96	149.66
<i>SD</i>	10.08	9.91	9.88
No Response			
<i>N</i>	3,270	2,297	1,432
Mean	154.74	155.66	155.61
<i>SD</i>	10.11	9.35	9.47

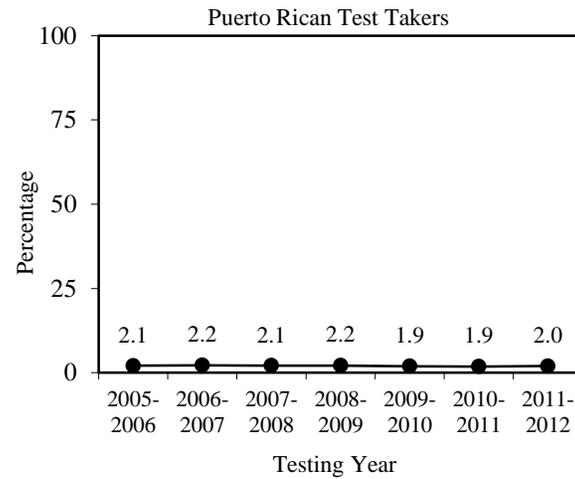
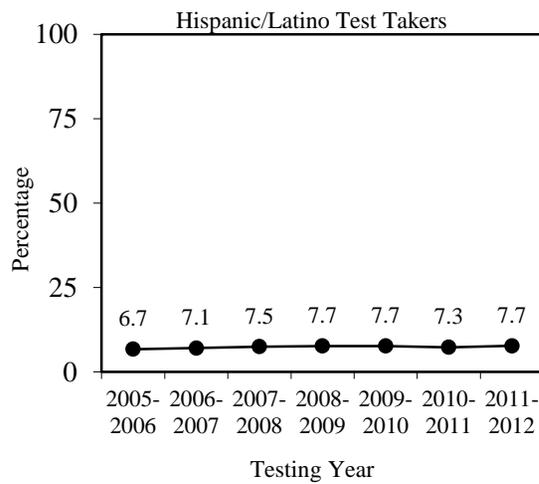
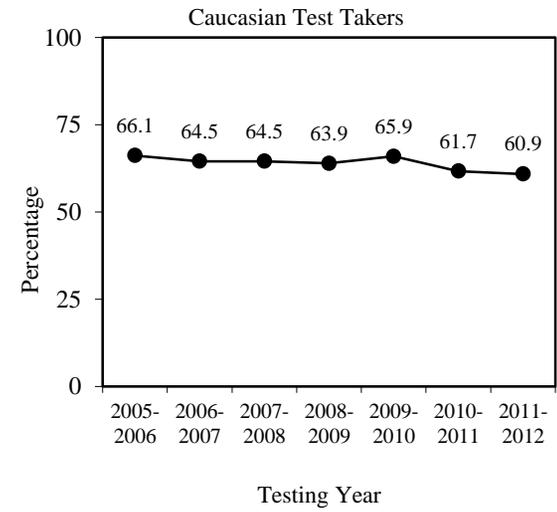
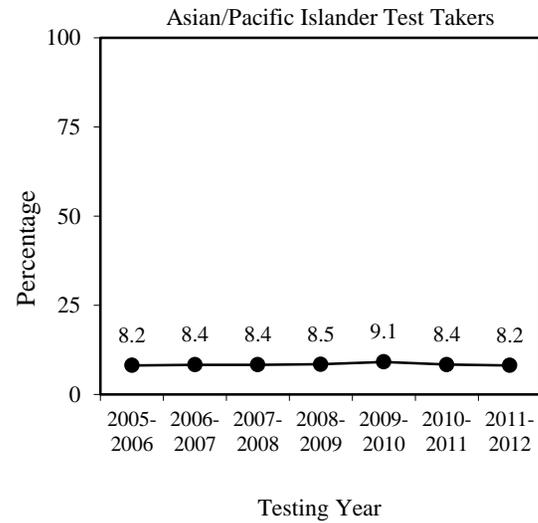
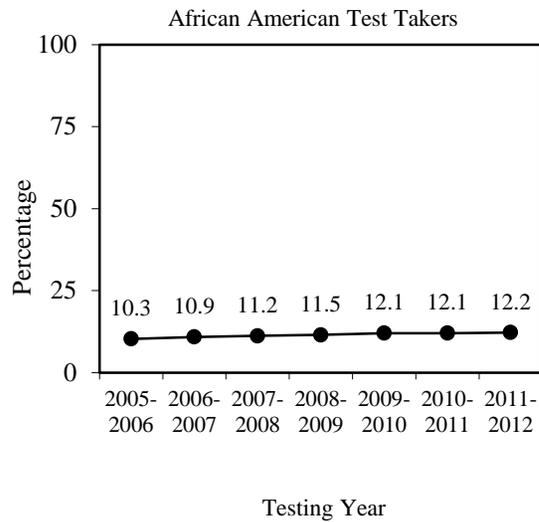


FIGURE 12. Percentage of LSAT takers by race/ethnicity (five largest subgroups only, excluding “Other”). Note: In order for trends across the 7 testing years to be displayed, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure.

As shown in Tables 4A and 4B, the number of test takers who did not indicate their race/ethnicity was high in 2005–2006 (1,079) and 2006–2007 (1,155). It decreased to 785 in 2007–2008 and to 734 in 2008–2009. In 2009–2010, however, it increased very dramatically to 3,270, but has since dropped again to 2,297 (2010–2011) and 1,432 (2011–2012), with the latter number similar to the numbers seen in the first 2 years covered by this report. In terms of percentages, the Racial/Ethnic (R/E) No Response category comprised close to 1.0% of the total group for the 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 testing years. This percentage decreased to 0.73% and 0.64% for the 2007–2008 and 2008–2009 testing years, respectively. For the 2009–2010 testing year, however, the percentage increased to about 2.70%. The R/E No Response rate has since decreased to about 2.1% for the 2010–2011 testing year and finally, to about 1.5% in 2011–2012. This increase in the R/E No Response rate in 2009–2010 may be attributed to the previously described update to the way this information is being collected from test takers. In the changeover to the new racial/ethnic category descriptions that occurred in this testing year, test takers who responded to the old descriptions while registering for the LSAT were invited to update this information. Those test takers whose previously chosen racial/ethnic description did not translate easily to the new descriptions and who chose not to update the description ultimately fell into the R/E No Response category.

Figure 13 displays the mean LSAT scores by race/ethnicity for the 7 testing years from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012. It should be noted that the number of test takers in the Canadian Aboriginal subgroup was consistently small (less than 100) and therefore tended to fluctuate considerably. The R/E No Response subgroup had the highest mean LSAT score for all 7 testing years. Additionally, for the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 years, the Asian/Pacific Islander test-taker subgroup includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. Ignoring the R/E No Response subgroup, Caucasian test takers consistently had the highest mean score, followed by Asian/Pacific Islander test takers. Puerto Rican test takers consistently had the lowest mean score across the 7 testing years.

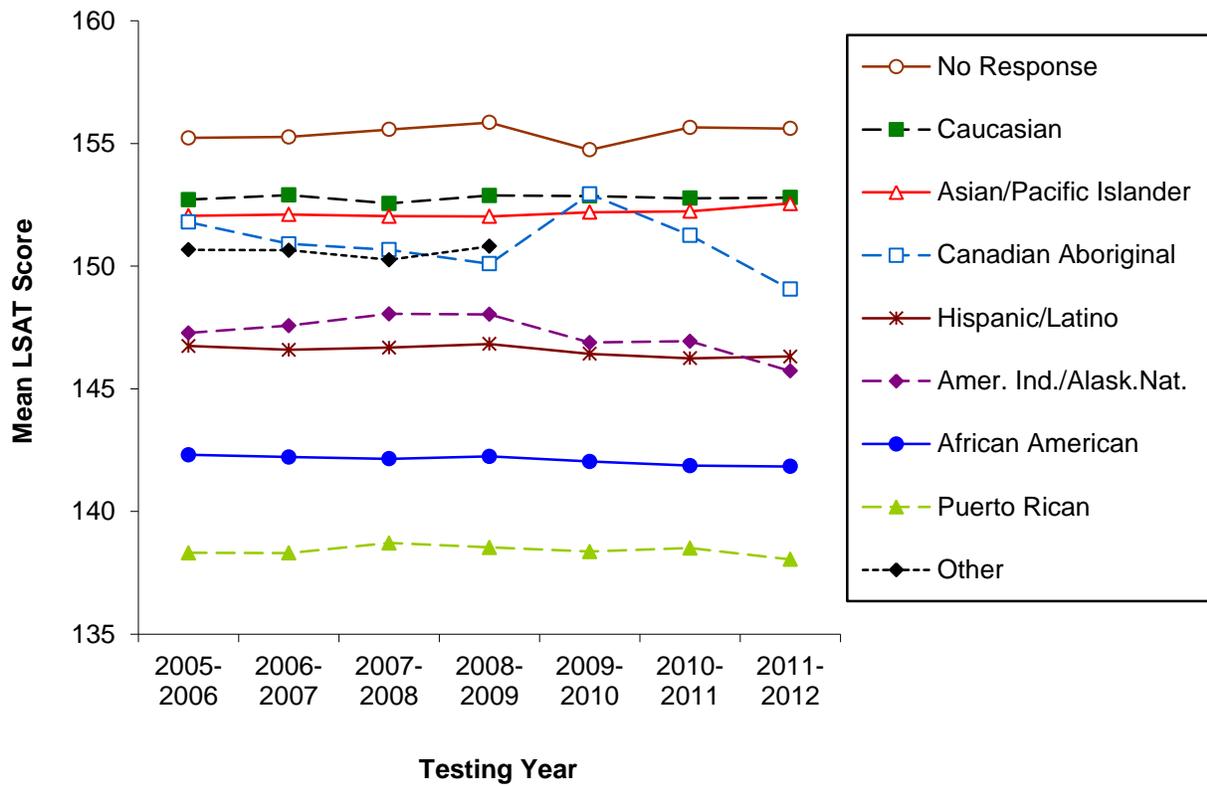


FIGURE 13. Mean LSAT scores by race/ethnicity. The key is sorted by the mean LSAT scores in 2011–2012. Note: For the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure. Please note that the category “Other” has been dropped for the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years and is therefore only represented in the figure for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years.

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance by race/ethnicity, Figure 14 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity for the 2011–2012 testing year. Because the number of test takers in each of the various racial/ethnic subgroups varied, percentages of test takers by race/ethnicity were used rather than numbers. The percentages of both Aboriginal/Torre Strait Islander Australians and Canadian Aboriginals were too small to be represented on this graph. Test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup had the highest percentage of LSAT scores above 155 in the 2011–2012 testing year; Puerto Rican test takers had the highest percentage of scores less than 137.

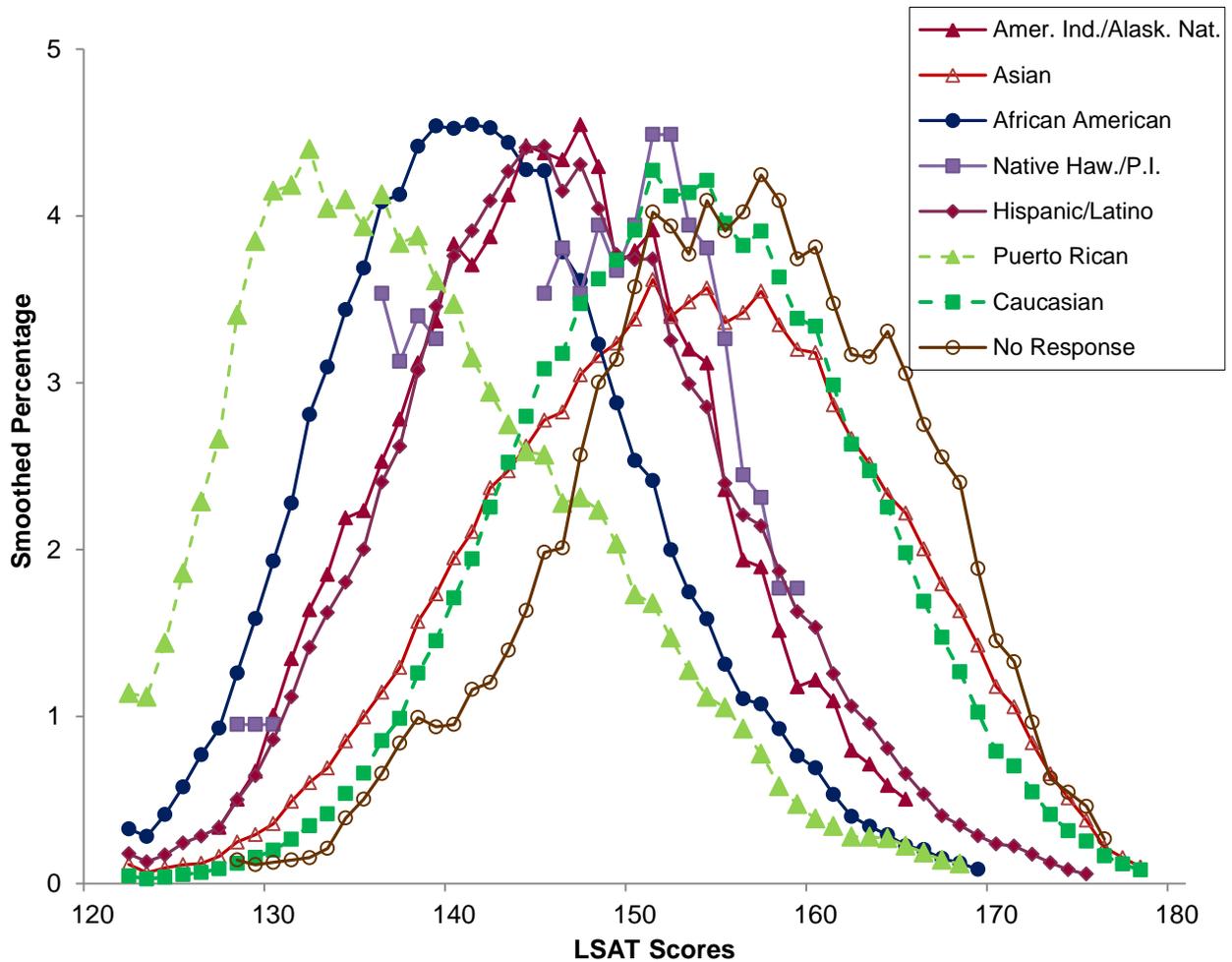


FIGURE 14. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity in 2011–2012

LSAT Performance by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

All results in this section will focus exclusively on test takers from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Results in this section classify test takers by both gender and race/ethnicity. Separate tables and figures are provided for racial/ethnic breakdowns within gender.

Race/Ethnicity Within the Female Subgroup

Tables 5A and 5B show the number of female test takers by race/ethnicity for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 and for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012, respectively, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. As described in Tables 4A and 4B, the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years are presented separately because of the new method of data collection. Test takers who repeated the LSAT within a testing year and within the same region are counted only once, and their multiple scores within a testing year are averaged. Figure 15 shows the percentage of female test takers by race/ethnicity for the five largest racial/ethnic subgroups, excluding “Other.”³ As shown in Figure 15, the percentage of female Caucasian test takers decreased slightly from the 2005–2006 (30.3%) to the 2011–2012 (27.1%) testing year. The percentages of female test takers from other racial/ethnic subgroups also remained fairly constant. The number of female test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup remained fairly constant from the 2005–2006 (433) testing year through 2006–2007 (512), 2007–2008 (331), and 2008–2009 (299), but increased for the 2009–2010 (1,357) testing year to the highest number for the 7 years covered in this report (see Table 5B). It has since decreased in 2010–2011 (887) and 2011–2012 (530).

³ For the gender-by-race/ethnicity percentages (Figures 15 and 18), percentages were calculated within each testing year using both male and female test takers of all racial/ethnic groups. For the gender-by-race/ethnicity smoothed percentages (Figures 17 and 20), percentages were calculated within gender within testing year.

TABLE 5A

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores for female test takers only by race/ethnicity and testing year, 2005–2006 through 2008–2009

Female Race/Ethnicity	Testing Year			
	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009
African American				
<i>N</i>	7,297	7,712	7,898	8,309
Mean	141.95	141.92	141.80	141.87
<i>SD</i>	8.14	8.40	8.08	8.27
Native American				
<i>N</i>	437	451	446	400
Mean	146.12	146.64	147.12	146.92
<i>SD</i>	9.28	9.28	8.60	8.96
Asian/Pacific Islander				
<i>N</i>	4,912	5,019	4,985	5,283
Mean	151.65	151.85	151.90	151.77
<i>SD</i>	9.68	9.92	9.77	9.99
Canadian Aboriginal				
<i>N</i>	33	33	33	37
Mean	153.27	148.74	150.48	148.59
<i>SD</i>	11.52	8.47	10.19	9.57
Caucasian				
<i>N</i>	33,319	32,376	31,964	32,473
Mean	151.85	152.27	151.94	152.24
<i>SD</i>	8.87	8.92	8.86	8.87
Hispanic				
<i>N</i>	3,160	3,337	3,509	3,839
Mean	145.68	145.40	145.47	145.37
<i>SD</i>	9.26	9.30	9.08	9.25
Mexican American				
<i>N</i>	919	887	917	983
Mean	146.90	146.30	147.34	146.87
<i>SD</i>	8.38	8.66	8.74	8.80
Puerto Rican				
<i>N</i>	1,306	1,380	1,303	1,432
Mean	137.69	137.44	138.36	137.89
<i>SD</i>	9.51	9.71	9.42	9.85
Other				
<i>N</i>	2,743	2,878	2,730	2,865
Mean	149.50	149.78	149.36	149.95
<i>SD</i>	9.75	10.08	9.90	9.90
No Response				
<i>N</i>	433	512	331	299
Mean	153.97	154.22	155.36	154.23
<i>SD</i>	9.97	9.77	9.41	9.56

TABLE 5B

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores for female test takers only by race/ethnicity, 2009–2010 through 2011–2012

Female Race/Ethnicity	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
American Indian/Alaskan Native			
<i>N</i>	329	289	232
Mean	145.82	146.17	144.32
<i>SD</i>	8.89	8.70	9.53
Asian			
<i>N</i>	5,795	5,014	4,120
Mean	152.18	152.24	152.33
<i>SD</i>	10.58	10.31	10.23
Black/African American			
<i>N</i>	9,256	8,463	7,236
Mean	141.50	141.39	141.43
<i>SD</i>	8.40	8.37	8.41
Canadian Aboriginal			
<i>N</i>	17	15	9
Mean	152.29	149.17	146.67
<i>SD</i>	9.77	8.72	10.45
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			
<i>N</i>	181	77	93
Mean	145.95	143.05	144.51
<i>SD</i>	8.69	8.93	8.68
Hispanic/Latino			
<i>N</i>	5,082	4,518	4,105
Mean	145.34	145.21	145.37
<i>SD</i>	9.54	9.03	9.07
Puerto Rican			
<i>N</i>	1,332	1,213	1,110
Mean	137.46	137.86	137.41
<i>SD</i>	9.70	9.89	9.71
White/Caucasian			
<i>N</i>	34,923	30,188	25,299
Mean	152.17	152.03	151.98
<i>SD</i>	9.22	9.13	9.19
Multiple Ethnicities			
<i>N</i>	2,941	3,712	3,549
Mean	149.86	148.86	148.35
<i>SD</i>	10.06	9.87	9.85
No Response			
<i>N</i>	1,357	887	530
Mean	153.65	154.70	155.05
<i>SD</i>	10.26	9.51	9.81

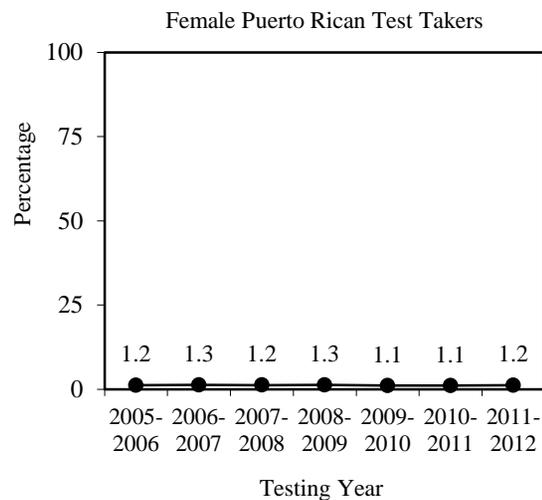
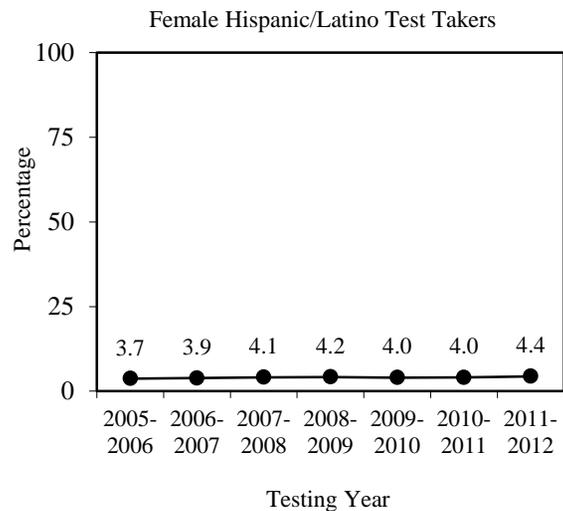
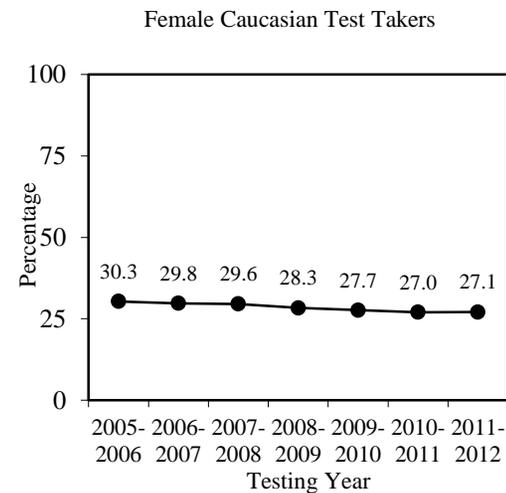
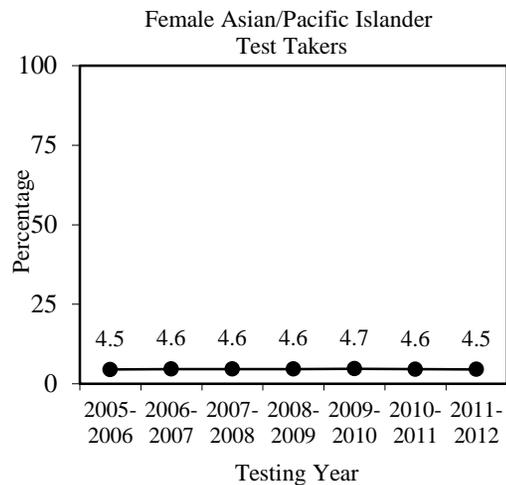
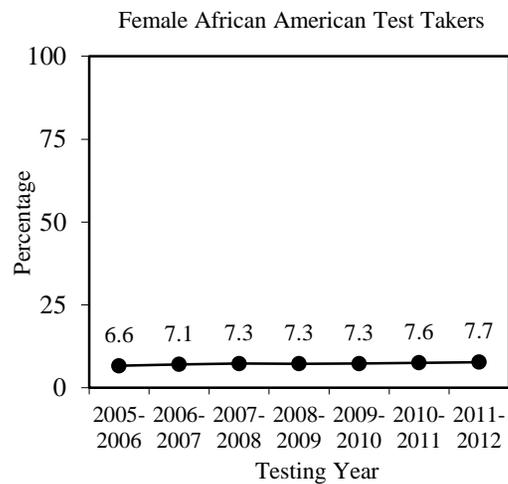


FIGURE 15. Percentage of LSAT takers by race/ethnicity (female test takers only). Note: In order for trends across the 7 testing years to be displayed, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure.

Figure 16 displays the mean LSAT scores for female test takers by race/ethnicity. Female test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup had the highest mean LSAT scores from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012; ignoring this subgroup, the female Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islander test takers have had the highest means. The means for female Canadian Aboriginal test takers have varied widely as a result of small sample sizes. Female Puerto Rican test takers have consistently had the lowest mean.

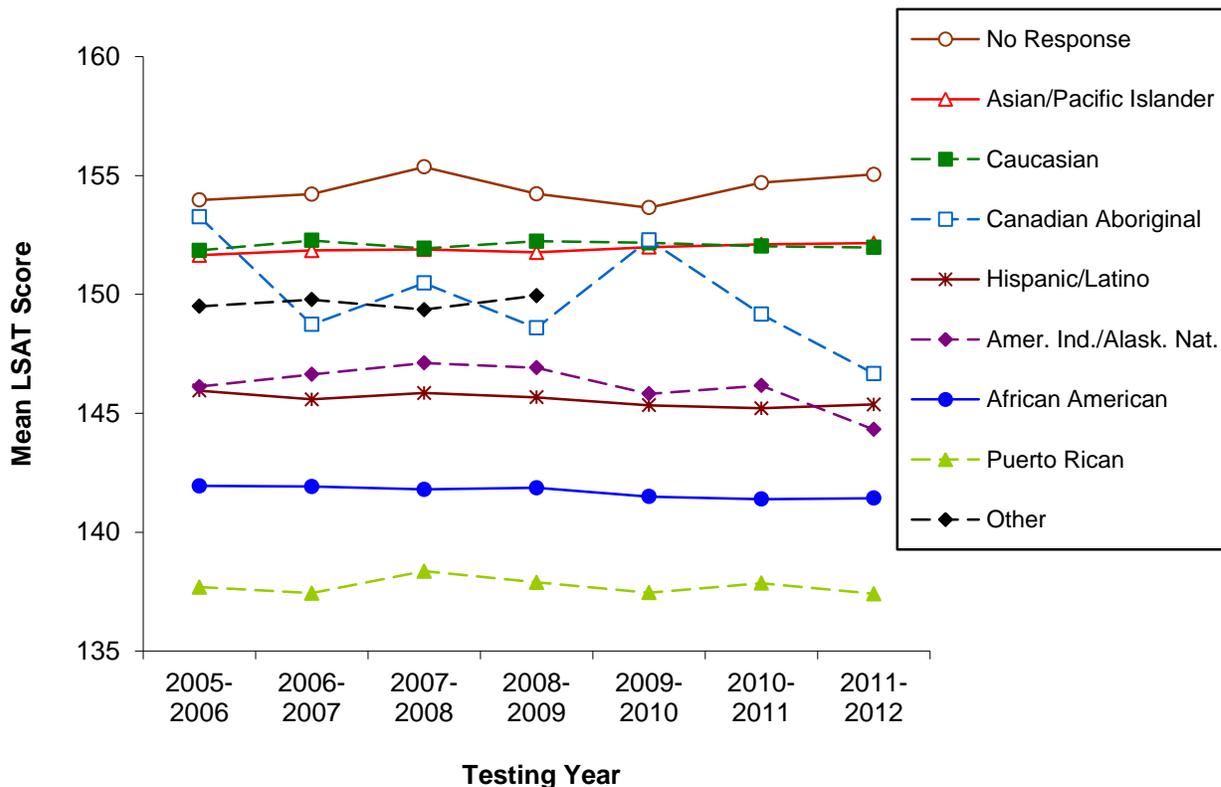


FIGURE 16. Mean LSAT scores by race/ethnicity (female test takers only). The key is sorted by the mean LSAT scores in 2011–2012. Note: For the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure. Please note that the category “Other” has been dropped for the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years and is therefore only represented in the figure for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years.

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance for female test takers by race/ethnicity, Figure 17 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores for female test takers by race/ethnicity for the 2011–2012 testing year. Because the number of female test takers in each of the various racial/ethnic subgroups varied, percentages of test takers by race/ethnicity were used rather than numbers. The percentages of both female Aboriginal/Torre Strait Islander Australian and female Canadian Aboriginal test takers were too small to be included in this graph. Female test

takers in the R/E No Response subgroup had the highest percentage of scores greater than 156. Female Puerto Rican test takers had the highest percentage of scores less than 135.

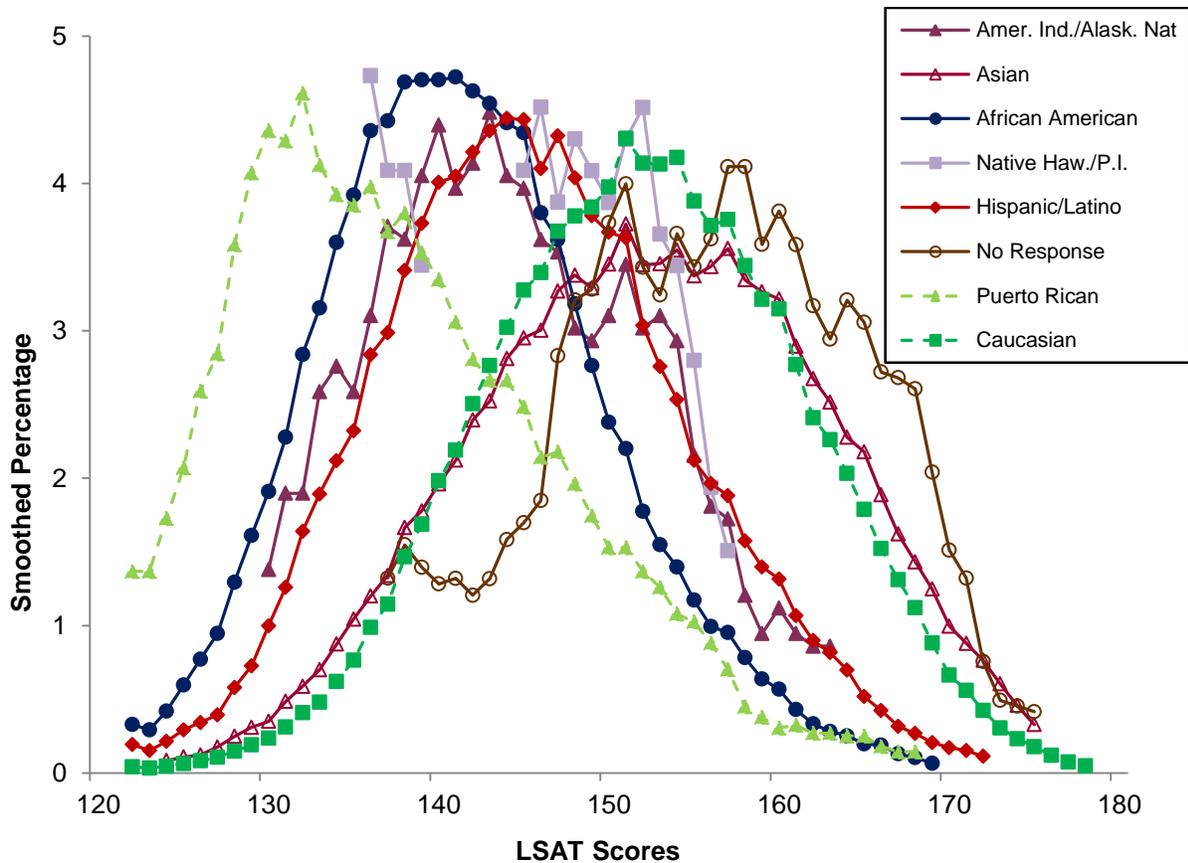


FIGURE 17. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity (female test takers only) in 2011–2012

Race/Ethnicity Within the Male Subgroup

Tables 6A and 6B show the number of male test takers by race/ethnicity for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 and for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012, respectively, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. Test takers who repeated the LSAT within a testing year are counted only once, and their multiple scores within a testing year are averaged. Figure 18 shows the percentage of male test takers by race/ethnicity for the five largest racial/ethnic subgroups, excluding “Other.” The percentages of male test takers from the Caucasian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and African American racial/ethnic subgroups showed very little variation over the 7 testing years covered in this report. The remaining subgroup percentages also remained relatively constant. The number of male test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup was the same for the 2005–2006 (573) and 2006–2007

(573) testing years. The number of male test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup was lower still for the 2007–2008 (409) and 2008–2009 (389) testing years, but has increased since in 2009–2010 (1,784), 2010–2011 (1,303), and 2011–2012 (854). Comparing Tables 5 and 6 reveals that slightly more male test takers than female test takers were in the R/E No Response subgroup over the 7-year testing period.

TABLE 6A

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores for male test takers only by race/ethnicity and testing year, 2005–2006 through 2008–2009

Male Race/Ethnicity	Testing Year			
	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009
African American				
<i>N</i>	3,992	4,132	4,255	4,895
Mean	142.96	142.79	142.80	142.90
<i>SD</i>	8.79	9.03	8.93	8.83
Native American				
<i>N</i>	417	466	413	441
Mean	148.50	148.49	149.06	149.06
<i>SD</i>	9.39	9.38	9.41	9.09
Asian/Pacific Islander				
<i>N</i>	4,065	4,090	4,065	4,423
Mean	152.55	152.44	152.22	152.33
<i>SD</i>	10.44	10.39	10.29	10.34
Canadian Aboriginal				
<i>N</i>	38	39	30	39
Mean	150.53	152.74	150.88	151.53
<i>SD</i>	8.86	9.69	9.59	10.60
Caucasian				
<i>N</i>	39,378	37,874	37,823	40,775
Mean	153.44	153.44	153.09	153.39
<i>SD</i>	9.09	9.06	9.00	8.96
Hispanic				
<i>N</i>	2,428	2,635	2,790	3,079
Mean	147.48	147.68	147.39	148.07
<i>SD</i>	9.47	9.49	9.37	9.61
Mexican American				
<i>N</i>	870	833	847	870
Mean	148.45	148.24	148.62	148.82
<i>SD</i>	8.92	9.30	9.00	8.74
Puerto Rican				
<i>N</i>	968	1,031	992	1,033
Mean	139.16	139.48	139.20	139.44
<i>SD</i>	10.10	10.76	9.85	10.40
Other				
<i>N</i>	2,545	2,540	2,422	2,687
Mean	151.95	151.64	151.27	151.72
<i>SD</i>	10.08	10.25	10.18	9.87
No Response				
<i>N</i>	573	573	409	389
Mean	156.53	156.26	155.77	156.75
<i>SD</i>	9.56	9.78	9.12	9.48

TABLE 6B

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores for male test takers only by race/ethnicity, 2009–2010 through 2011–2012

Male Race/Ethnicity	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
American Indian/Alaskan Native			
<i>N</i>	305	298	242
Mean	148.04	147.69	147.03
<i>SD</i>	9.12	9.13	8.67
Asian			
<i>N</i>	4,930	4,237	3,388
Mean	152.62	152.51	153.10
<i>SD</i>	10.92	10.56	10.85
Black/African American			
<i>N</i>	5,329	5,038	4,217
Mean	142.99	142.66	142.54
<i>SD</i>	9.23	9.02	9.09
Canadian Aboriginal			
<i>N</i>	33	18	8
Mean	153.27	153.00	151.75
<i>SD</i>	10.29	8.85	9.36
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			
<i>N</i>	159	78	54
Mean	146.96	146.65	149.32
<i>SD</i>	9.92	9.48	10.41
Hispanic/Latino			
<i>N</i>	4,176	3,638	3,108
Mean	147.76	147.54	147.57
<i>SD</i>	9.61	9.43	9.34
Puerto Rican			
<i>N</i>	1,015	860	750
Mean	139.55	139.43	138.99
<i>SD</i>	10.06	10.16	9.57
White/Caucasian			
<i>N</i>	44,837	38,837	31,629
Mean	153.40	153.34	153.44
<i>SD</i>	9.37	9.16	9.27
Multiple Ethnicities			
<i>N</i>	2,514	3,099	2,929
Mean	151.90	151.28	151.22
<i>SD</i>	10.00	9.81	9.67
No Response			
<i>N</i>	1,784	1,303	854
Mean	155.46	156.22	155.93
<i>SD</i>	9.96	9.28	9.34

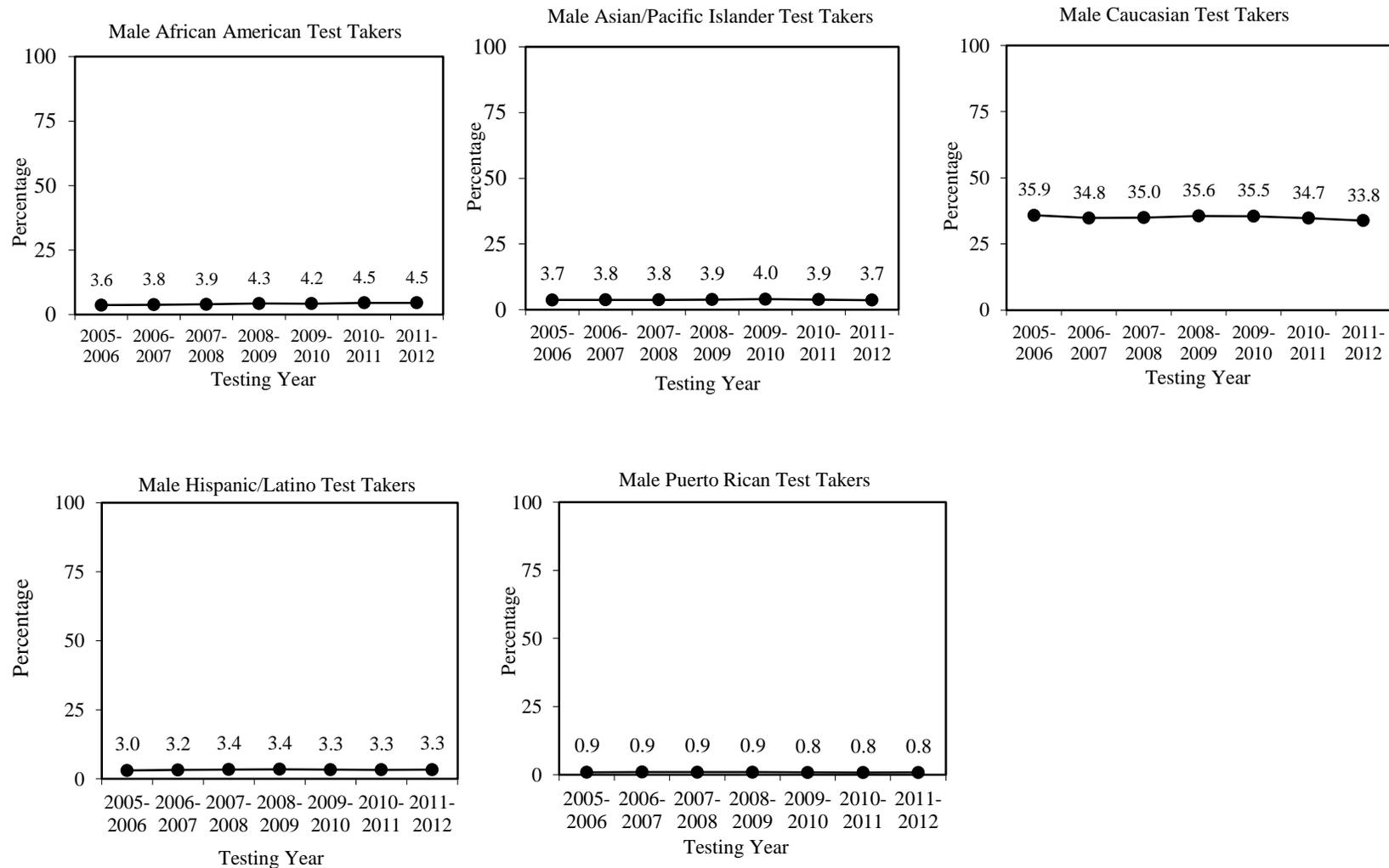


FIGURE 18. *Percentage of LSAT takers by race/ethnicity (male test takers only)* Note: In order for trends across the 7 testing years to be displayed, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure.

Figure 19 displays the mean LSAT scores for male test takers by race/ethnicity. Male test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup had the highest mean LSAT scores from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012; ignoring this subgroup, male Caucasian test takers had the highest mean, followed by male Asian/Pacific Islander test takers. The mean for male Canadian Aboriginal test takers varied somewhat across the 7 years due to small sample sizes. Male Puerto Rican test takers have consistently had the lowest mean.

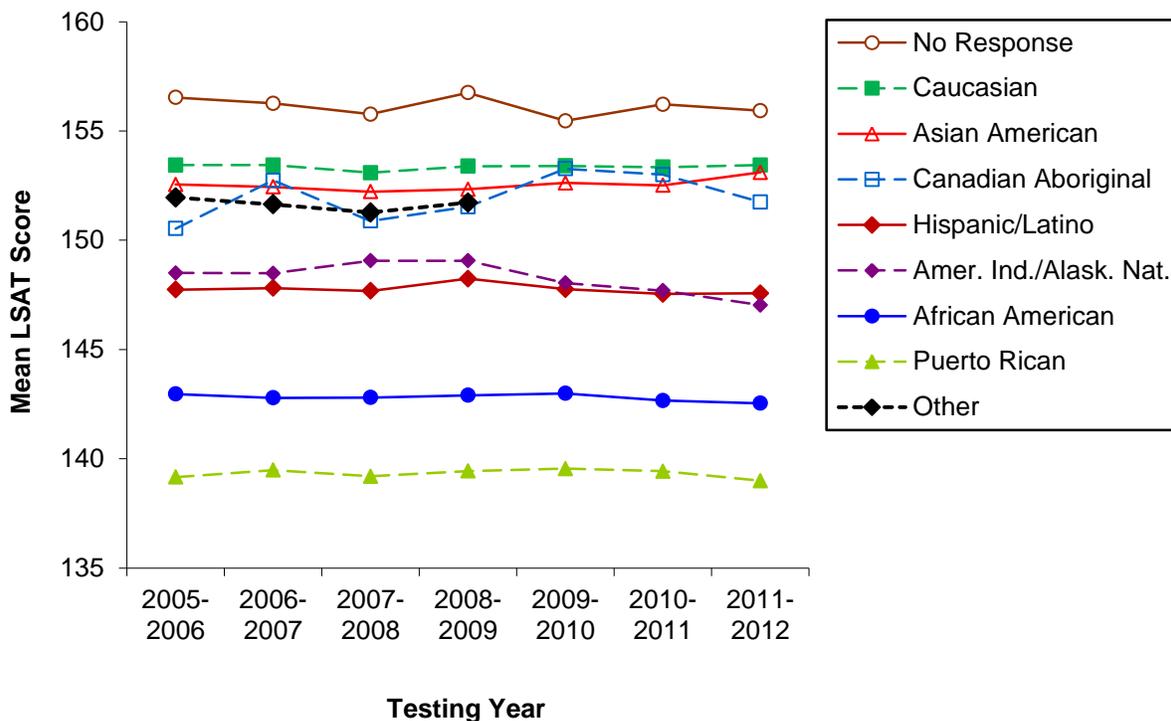


FIGURE 19. Mean LSAT scores by race/ethnicity (male test takers only). The key is sorted by the mean LSAT scores in 2011–2012. Note: For the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years, the new categories of Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Asian are combined and displayed as “Asian/Pacific Islander” in this figure. Also, for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, the Hispanic and Mexican American categories are combined and displayed as “Hispanic/Latino” in this figure.

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance for male test takers by race/ethnicity, Figure 20 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores for male test takers by race/ethnicity for the 2011–2012 testing year. Because the number of male test takers in each of the various racial/ethnic subgroups has varied, percentages of test takers by race/ethnicity were used rather than numbers. The smoothed percentages for male test takers by racial/ethnic subgroup are similar to the smoothed percentages for female test takers by racial/ethnic subgroup (see Figure 17). The percentages for male Aboriginal/Torre Strait Islander Australian and male Canadian Aboriginal were too small to be included in this graph. As shown in Figure 20, male test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup had the highest percentage of scores greater than 154 in the 2011–2012 testing year. Male Puerto Rican test takers had the highest percentage of scores less than 139.

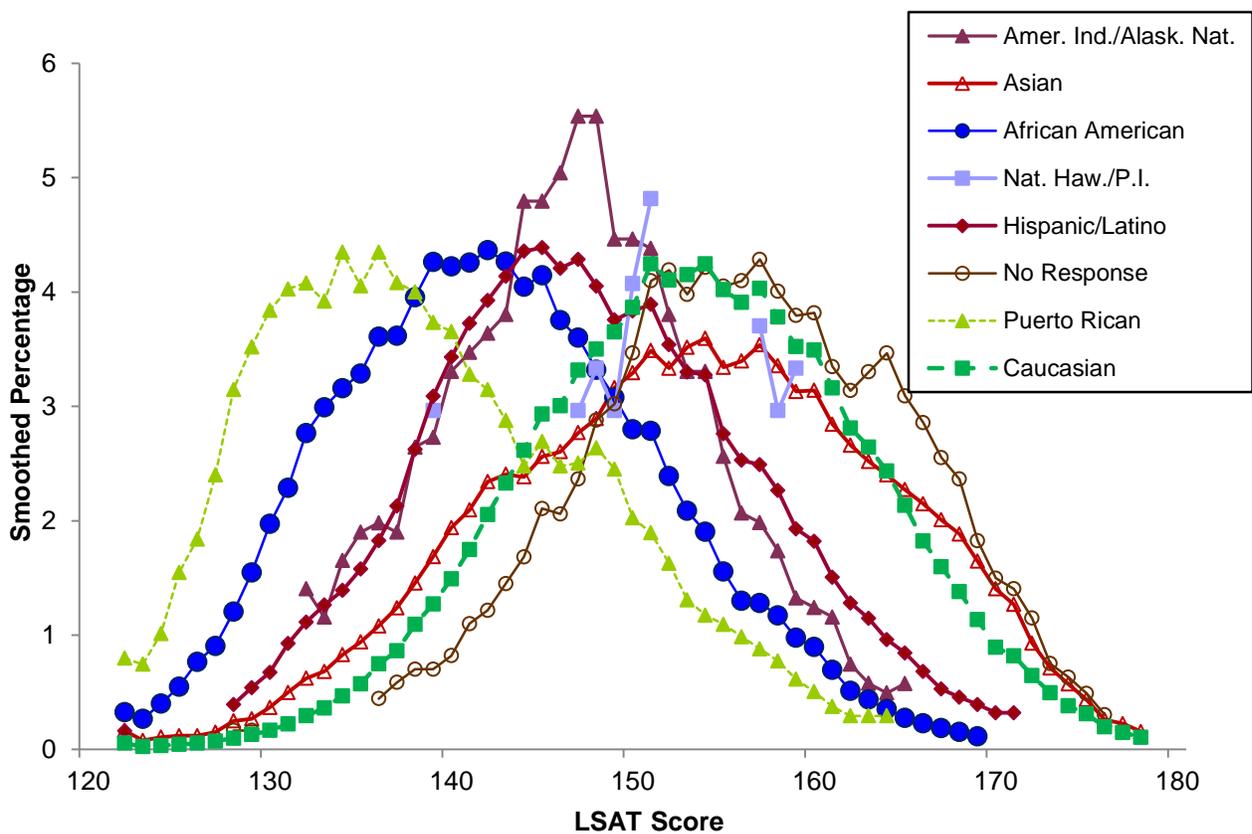


FIGURE 20. Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity (male test takers only) in 2011–2012

The pattern of mean LSAT scores for male and female test takers was similar for the racial/ethnic subgroups. Means for the R/E No Response subgroup followed a similar pattern for female and male test takers, with male nonresponders outperforming male responders to a slightly greater extent than their female counterparts. Comparisons cannot be made for the Canadian Aboriginal subgroup because their percentages were too small to be included in the female and male race/ethnicity graphs.

Race/Ethnicity of Test Takers in the Gender No Response Subgroup

Table 7A and 7B show the number of test takers, by race/ethnicity, in the Gender No Response subgroup for the testing years from 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 and for 2009–2010 through 2011–2012, respectively, along with the mean and standard deviation of their LSAT scores. Test takers who repeated the LSAT within a testing year are counted only once, and their multiple scores within a testing year are averaged. The number of Caucasian test takers in this subgroup was extremely low for the first 4 years covered in this report, up through the 2008–2009 testing year. For 2009–2010, 2010–2011, and 2011–2012, however, the number of Caucasian test takers in the Gender No Response subgroup increased to 45, 44, and 23, respectively. These numbers are still small, though. Of those in the Gender No Response subgroup, 52 were also in the R/E No Response subgroup for the 2011–2012 testing year.

The number of test takers who indicated neither their gender nor their race/ethnicity was fairly high in 2005–2006 (75), decreased in the subsequent 3 testing years, and then increased in the 2009–2010 (135) and 2010–2011 (113) testing years, finally decreasing in 2011–2012 (52).

TABLE 7A

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity and testing year for test takers in the Gender No Response subgroup, 2005–2006 through 2008–2009

Gender No Response by Race/Ethnicity	Testing Year			
	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009
African American				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	1
Mean				139.00
<i>SD</i>				
Native American				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	0
Mean				
<i>SD</i>				
Asian/Pacific Islander				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	0
Mean				
<i>SD</i>				
Canadian Aboriginal				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	0
Mean				
<i>SD</i>				
Caucasian				
<i>N</i>	6	3	6	1
Mean	151.67	153.33	157.67	161.00
<i>SD</i>	11.54	10.21	6.41	
Hispanic				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	0
Mean				
<i>SD</i>				
Mexican American				
<i>N</i>	0	0	1	0
Mean			151.00	
<i>SD</i>				
Puerto Rican				
<i>N</i>	0	0	0	0
Mean				
<i>SD</i>				
Other				
<i>N</i>	3	1	1	3
Mean	148.67	149.00	149.00	156.67
<i>SD</i>	8.33			4.04
No Response				
<i>N</i>	75	71	47	46
Mean	152.70	154.83	155.72	158.93
<i>SD</i>	9.30	10.86	8.34	9.18

TABLE 7B

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by race/ethnicity and testing year for test takers in the Gender No Response subgroup, 2009–2010 through 2011–2012

Gender No Response by Race/Ethnicity	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
American Indian/Alaskan Native			
<i>N</i>	0	0	1
Mean			159.00
<i>SD</i>			
Asian			
<i>N</i>	5	7	5
Mean	154.00	153.57	153.60
<i>SD</i>	3.74	8.60	12.68
Black/African American			
<i>N</i>	1	2	0
Mean	144.00	145.25	
<i>SD</i>		3.18	
Canadian Aboriginal			
<i>N</i>	0	0	0
Mean			
<i>SD</i>			
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			
<i>N</i>	0	0	0
Mean			
<i>SD</i>			
Hispanic/Latino			
<i>N</i>	6	1	1
Mean	154.75	145.00	152.00
<i>SD</i>	10.18		
Puerto Rican			
<i>N</i>	0	0	0
Mean			
<i>SD</i>			
White/Caucasian			
<i>N</i>	45	44	23
Mean	153.08	155.88	158.04
<i>SD</i>	10.93	8.71	9.19
Multiple Ethnicities			
<i>N</i>	4	5	3
Mean	153.50	157.70	164.33
<i>SD</i>	7.85	2.39	2.31
No Response			
<i>N</i>	135	113	52
Mean	156.17	157.06	155.77
<i>SD</i>	9.86	8.15	7.67

LSAT Performance by Administration

The final set of results separates each testing year into the individual administrations (June, September/October, December, and February). These results include all test takers except those who tested under nonstandard conditions. Test takers from Canadian and foreign test centers are included in these analyses.

Table 8 shows the number of test takers by administration for each testing year from 2005–2006 through 2011–2012, along with the mean and standard deviation of LSAT scores for each administration. Figure 21 shows the percentage of test takers at each administration. The highest percentage of test takers took the LSAT in September/October (35% on average), followed by December (29% on average). Approximately 19% took the test in June, and the remainder (17% on average) took the test in February.

TABLE 8

Number of test takers and mean and standard deviation (SD) of LSAT scores by administration and testing year

Administration	Testing Year						
	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
June							
<i>N</i>	25,866	24,752	25,000	28,769	32,439	32,831	26,716
Mean	151.81	151.89	151.73	151.64	151.68	151.54	151.65
<i>SD</i>	10.61	10.58	9.75	10.24	10.51	10.30	10.25
Sept/Oct							
<i>N</i>	48,491	47,954	49,552	50,440	60,497	54,141	45,012
Mean	151.99	152.14	151.72	151.99	152.29	152.12	151.94
<i>SD</i>	9.67	9.57	9.86	9.75	10.12	9.91	10.11
December							
<i>N</i>	39,831	40,834	41,865	43,439	50,169	41,931	35,679
Mean	150.10	150.22	150.24	150.29	150.11	150.03	150.16
<i>SD</i>	9.03	9.72	9.65	9.50	9.92	9.79	9.73
February							
<i>N</i>	22,113	25,805	25,022	27,958	27,483	25,515	22,012
Mean	147.55	148.19	147.83	148.45	148.07	148.05	147.96
<i>SD</i>	9.73	9.91	9.53	9.77	10.06	10.01	10.12

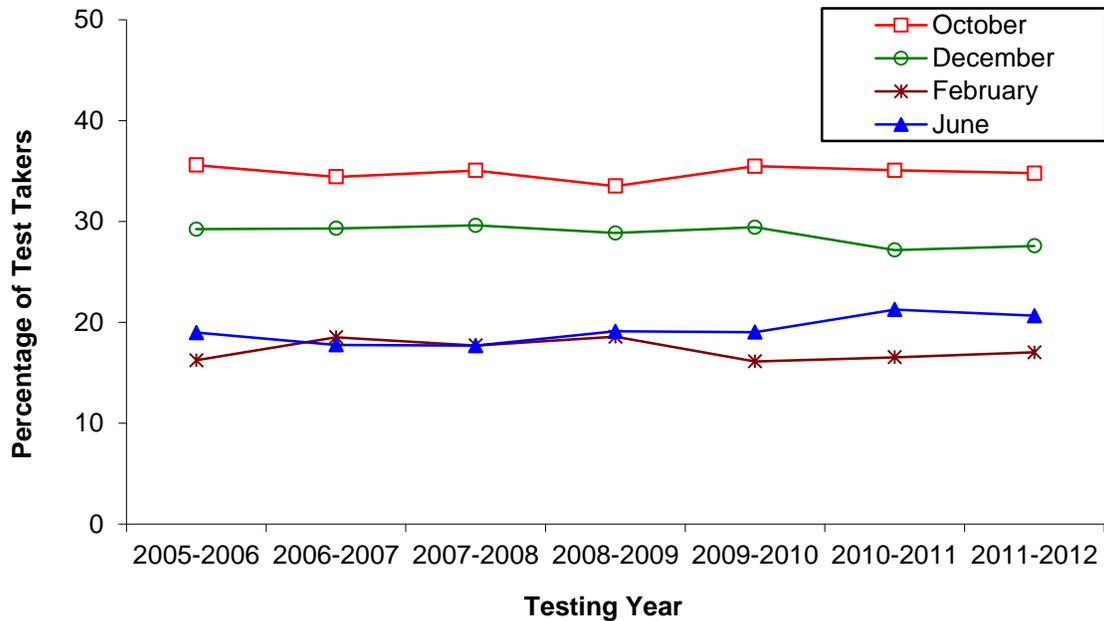


FIGURE 21. Percentage of LSAT takers by administration

Figure 22 displays the mean LSAT scores by administration across testing years. The June and September/October means are similar: The average June and September/October means from the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years were 151.7 and 152.0, respectively. The December and February means tend to be somewhat lower on average: From the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years, the means were 150.2 and 148.0, on average, respectively.

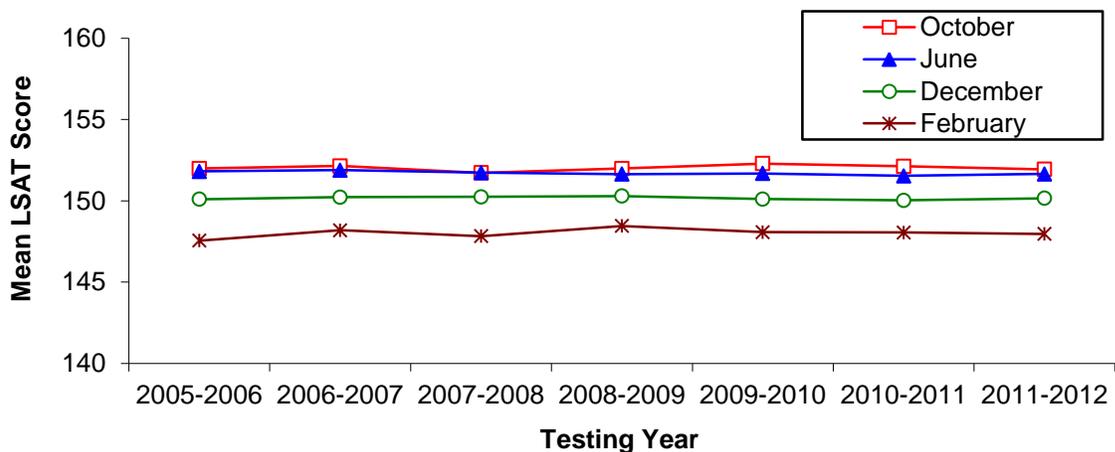


FIGURE 22. Mean LSAT scores by administration

To provide more detailed information about LSAT performance by administration, Figure 23 shows the smoothed percentages of LSAT scores by administration for the 2011–2012 testing year. The percentages were smoothed with a centered moving average. Because the number of test takers varied across administrations, percentages of test takers by administration were used rather than numbers. As shown in Figure 23, the June and October percentages for the 2011–2012 testing year were fairly similar. The December scores were slightly lower on average, and the February scores were the lowest on average.

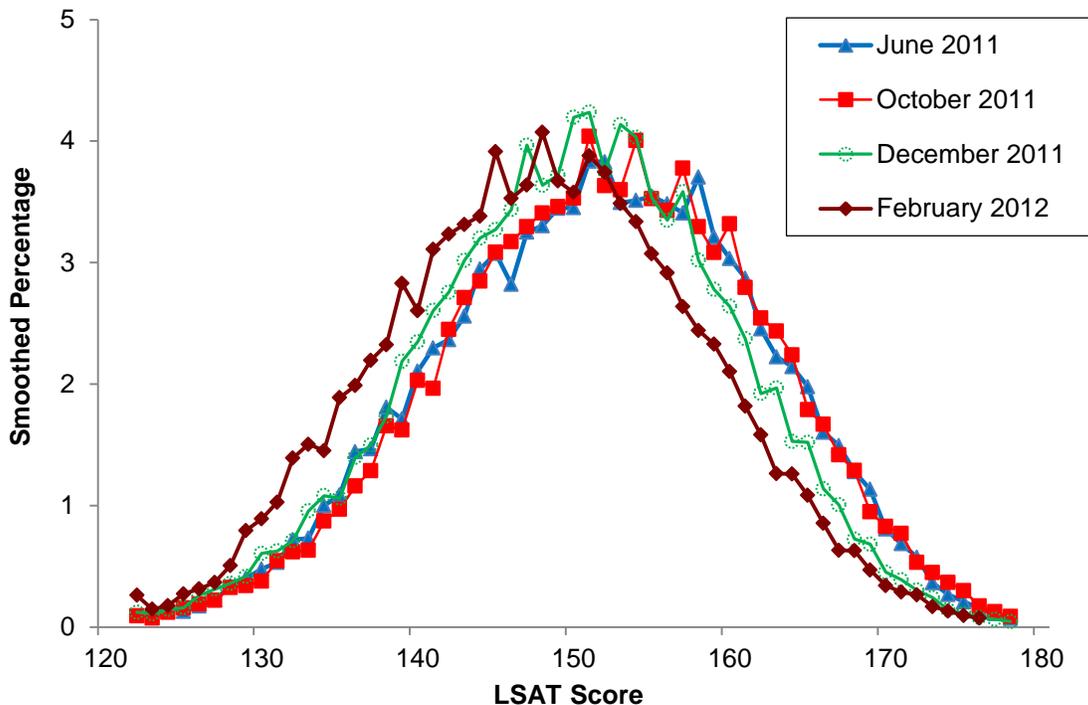


FIGURE 23. *Smoothed-percentage frequency of LSAT scores by administration in 2011–2012*

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide summary information about the performance of various racial/ethnic subgroups on the LSAT from the 2005–2006 through 2011–2012 testing years and to compile it into a single report. This enables trends with regard to the performance and representation of various subgroups to be tracked and monitored. Although this report documents the performance of various subgroups, it is purely descriptive in nature. Explanation of the underlying causes of any differences is beyond the scope of this report.

In evaluating these results, the reader should bear in mind that the test takers who contributed to the various subgroup statistics were self-selected. That is, these test takers chose to take the LSAT themselves; they were not randomly chosen to be assessed. Also, test takers voluntarily self-reported their gender and race/ethnicity. That

is, individuals chose whether or not to respond to these classification questions and decided how they would respond (especially with regard to race/ethnicity). As a result, differences in LSAT performance across regional, gender, or racial/ethnic subgroups cannot be attributed to those subgroups in general, but merely to those who chose to take the LSAT and identify themselves as belonging to those subgroups.

Despite an upward trend in test-administered volume from the 2005–2006 through 2009–2010 testing years and a subsequent decrease in volume for the 2009–2010 through 2011–2012 testing years, the overall distribution of LSAT scores has remained fairly constant. Test-taker volume has been higher for the September/October and December administrations than for the June and February administrations. Average LSAT scores have been slightly higher for those testing at the June and September/October administrations than for those testing at the December and February administrations.

During the 7-year span covered in this report, the majority (approximately 91%) of test takers took the LSAT in the United States. Approximately 7.1% of all test takers took the LSAT in Canada. Approximately 2.3% of all test takers took the LSAT in a foreign country. Mean LSAT scores were slightly higher for those who took the test in Canada and foreign countries than for those who took it in the United States.

The percentage of test takers who took the LSAT in each region of the United States has remained fairly constant during the past 7 testing years. The performance of test takers from the various regions has also remained fairly constant.

There were slightly more male test takers than female test takers in the 2005–2006 testing year. In the 2006–2007 testing year, there were slightly more female test takers than male test takers. There were almost equal numbers of male and female test takers for the 2007–2008 testing year. For the last 4 testing years, 2008–2009 through 2011–2012, there have been slightly more male test takers than female test takers. Male test takers have consistently scored slightly higher than female test takers. The number of test takers in the Gender No Response subgroup was consistently low for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, and then increased for the 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 testing years, before decreasing to a number similar to that seen in the first four years. Across the 7 testing years, the mean LSAT scores have been higher for Gender No Response test takers than for male and female test takers.

The Caucasian subgroup comprised the largest percentage of test takers across the 7-year testing period. African American test takers and Asian/Pacific Islander test takers were the next largest subgroups, respectively. The percentage of test takers in the R/E No Response subgroup was close to 1.0% for the 2005–2006 through 2008–2009 testing years, but increased to about 2.70% in the 2009–2010 testing year. It has decreased since then, and was about 1.5% in the 2011–2012 testing year. The R/E No Response subgroup had the highest mean LSAT score for all testing years covered in this report.

In the Caucasian subgroup, there were more male test takers than female test takers, whereas there were more female test takers than male test takers in both the African American and Asian/Pacific Islander subgroups. The number of test takers who indicated neither their gender nor their race/ethnicity was small in 2005–2006 (75); decreased over the next 3 testing years, 2006–2007 (71), 2007–2008 (47), and 2008–2009 (46); and increased over the next 2 testing years, 2009–2010 (135)

and 2010–2011 (113). For the last testing year, 2011–2012, the number of test takers who indicated neither their gender nor their race/ethnicity decreased to 52.

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