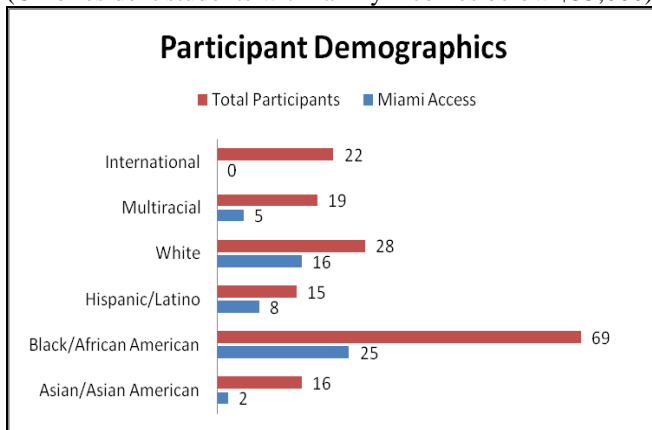


# MADE: Reaching Out and Supporting Students at Miami

MADE is a program designed to support students of color, international and Miami Access Initiative Scholars who are incoming students and help prepare them for life at Miami. The Office of Diversity Affairs program allows students to move onto campus a few days before the remainder of the incoming first-year class in order to further familiarize them with life at Miami. The program focuses on four important themes: **Mentoring, Achievement, Diversity, and Excellence**. This year, 169 students participated in MADE from August 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The following graph displays the diversity of the students involved, also noting the number of Miami Access students. (Ohio resident students with family incomes below \$35,000)



A 19-item on-line survey was disseminated to all 169 participants. The following sections present selected data from 57 responding MADE participants. (35% response rate).

## Developing Community and Leadership

Respondents viewed MADE as a positive experience that provided a *sense of belonging*. 89% of students were satisfied with the MADE experience, while 89% report feeling like they belong at Miami, and 91% reporting they feel Miami cares about them and their education. Students also showed an interest in continuing the program, saying: “I loved MADE. The program should continue on. It really gave me a sense of belonging here on the Miami campus.”

MADE also provided important leadership opportunities for the Peer Leaders. Peer Leaders are current undergraduates responsible for leading groups of first-year students throughout the MADE experience. They also led small group discussions about transition to college. Many students reported their Peer Leader as a resource for support in the future, and stated that they “enjoyed the peer group discussions more than anything. They were great.”

## Academic Preparation

90% of respondents report that they know about campus resources that can provide support. The “engaged learning sessions” and “making it on campus sessions” were viewed as helpful by participants.

## Areas for Improvement

One of the major drawbacks for this year’s MADE was a drop in international participant numbers from 106 last year to only 22 students this year. This may be due to the fact that email advertisement was the only method used to contact incoming students.

The evening socials were not as engaging to students as other activities provided at MADE. Some students reported that they were “too formal,” or “not very engaging and awkward.” Due to the fact that students responded so well to the Peer Leaders, perhaps the Peer Leaders could take a more active role in leading evening socials in the future.

## Continuing Support

MADE presents an important opportunity to help underrepresented students acclimate to life at Miami. While this is an important first step, we must recognize the need for continued support throughout these students’ experience at Miami. If we can provide support to these students, retention of these underrepresented groups may improve.