

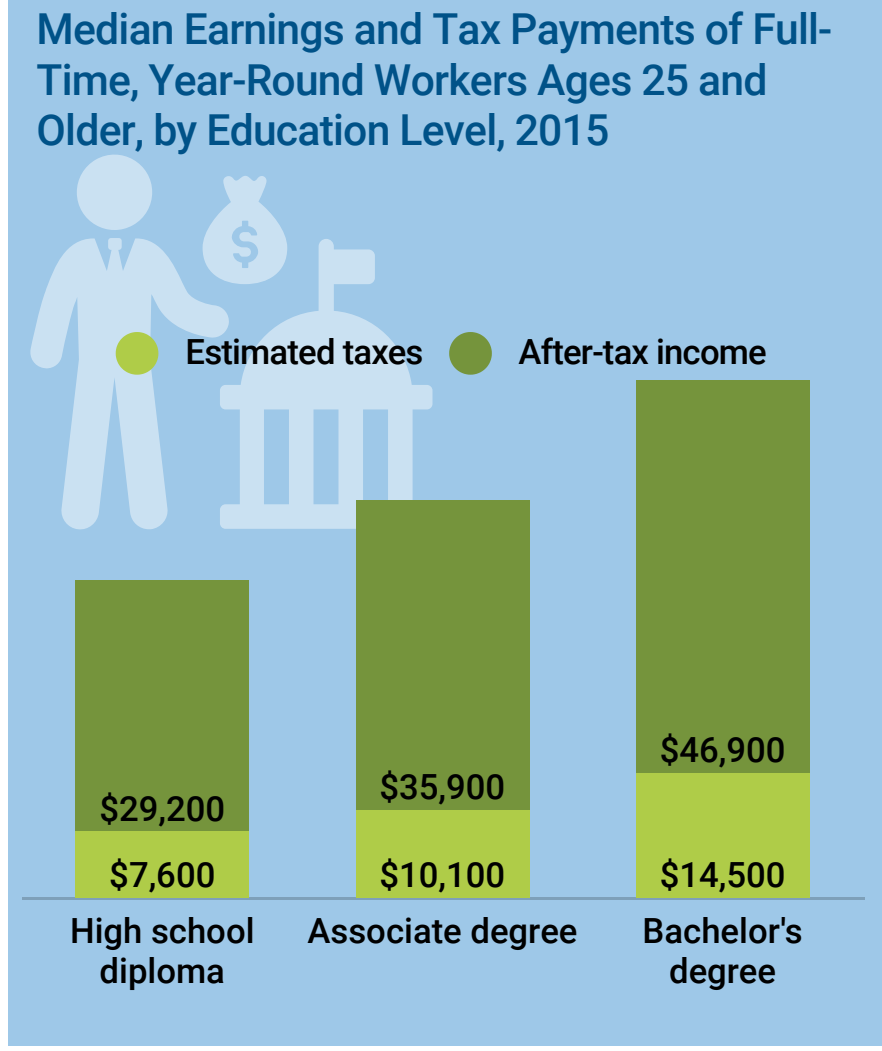
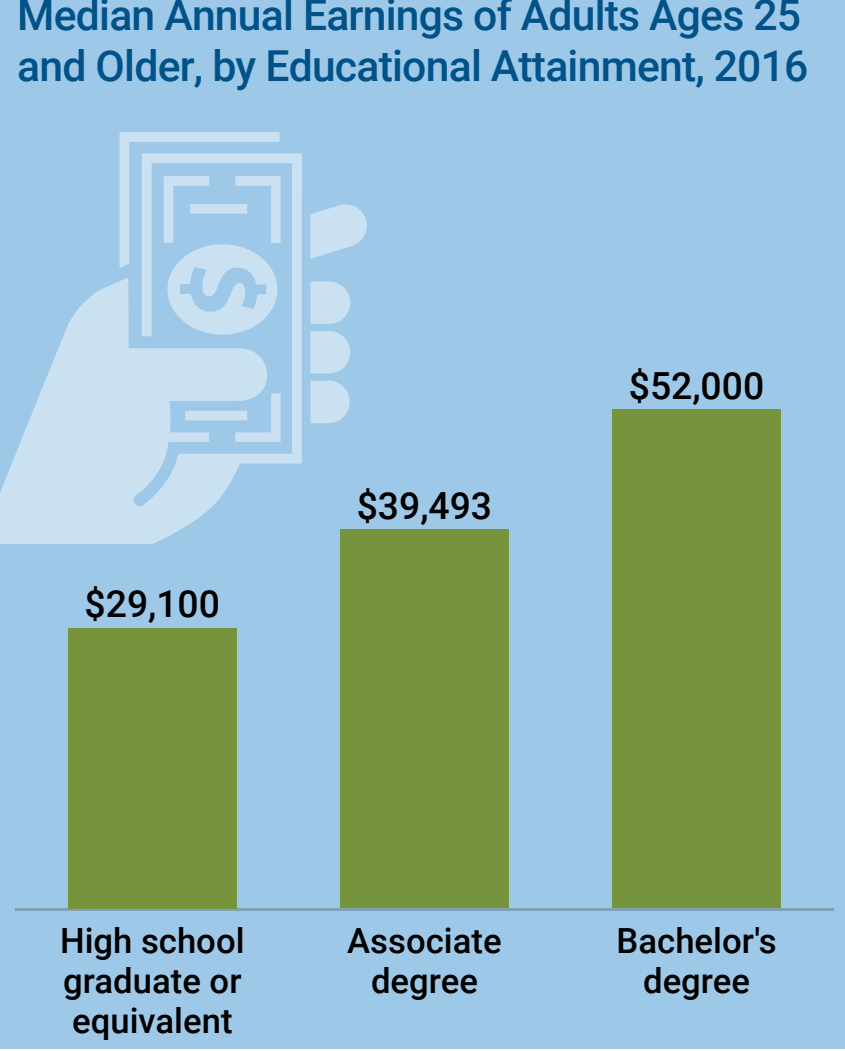
BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Jinann Bitar, Graduate Research Associate
Philip Wilkinson, Graduate Research Associate

A changing economy, stagnant wages, and increasing college sticker prices have contributed to a growing public perception that a higher education is diminishing in value. In fact, higher education remains a tremendous benefit for students, their local and state communities, and the national and global economy. With over 3.3 million projected high school graduates by 2025–26,¹ the benefits of higher education have the potential to make social mobility a reality for millions of Americans and their communities.

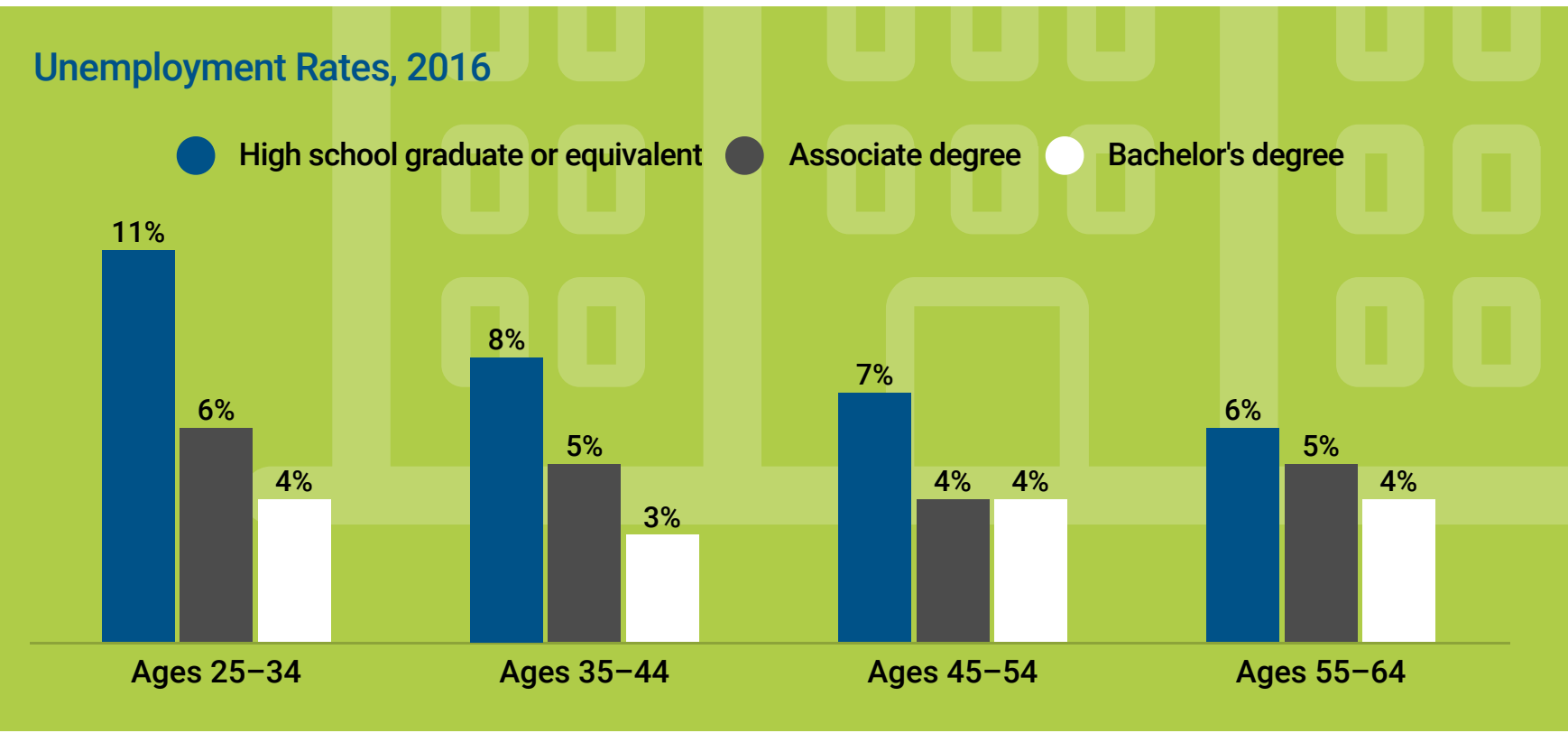
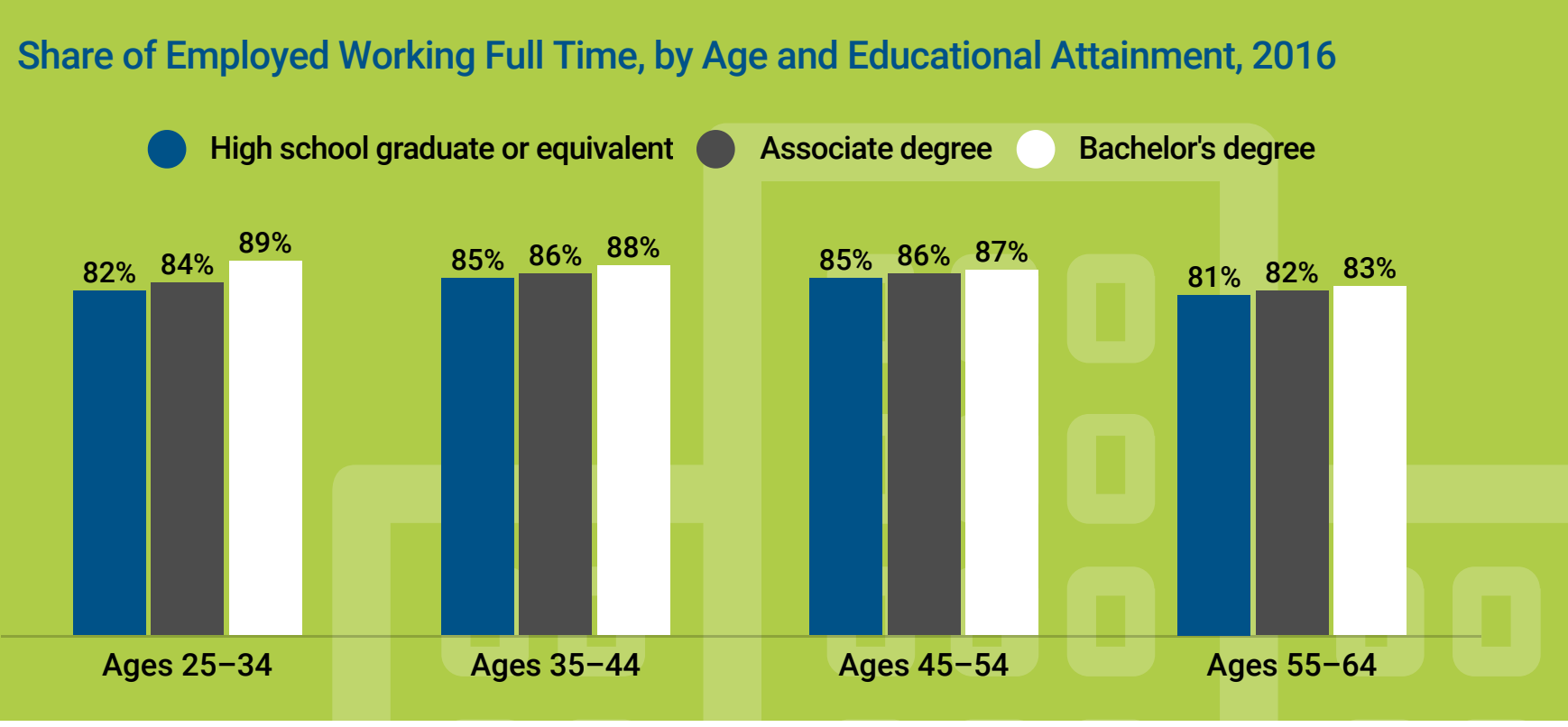
SALARY

College graduates have higher-paying jobs^{1,2}



EMPLOYMENT

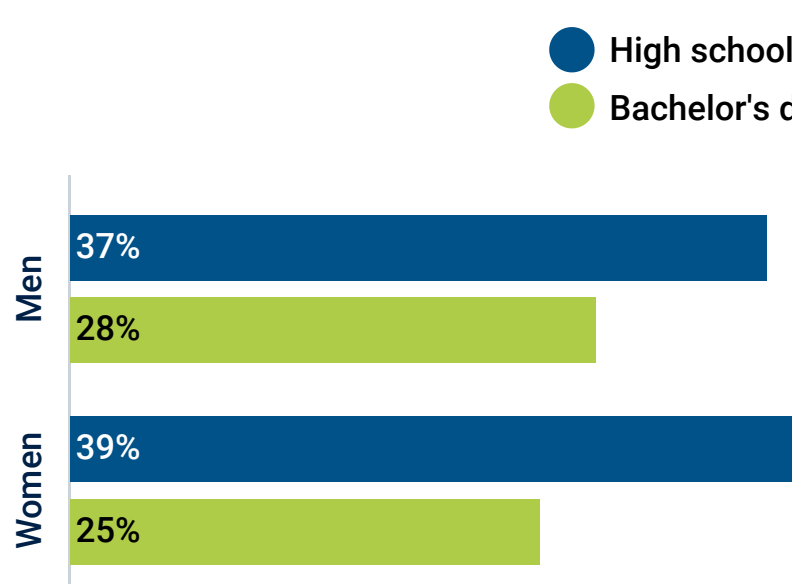
College graduates are more likely to be employed and work full time¹



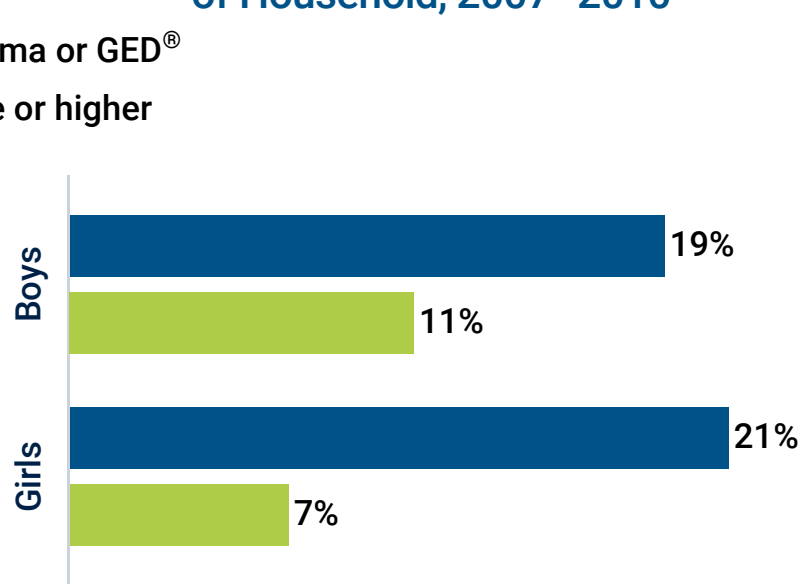
HEALTH

College completion contributes to healthier lives^{3,4}

Obesity Among U.S. Adults Ages 25+, by Gender and Education Level, 2007–2010



Obesity Among U.S. Children Ages 2–19, by Gender of Child and Education Level of Head of Household, 2007–2010

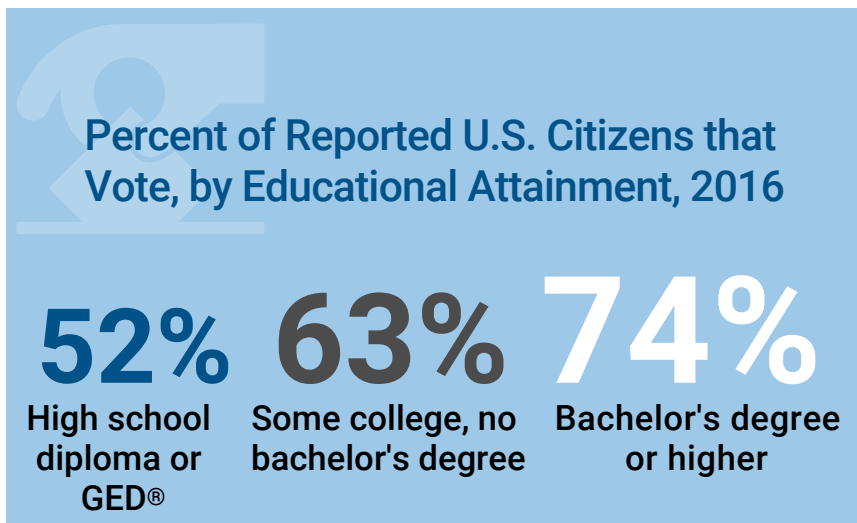
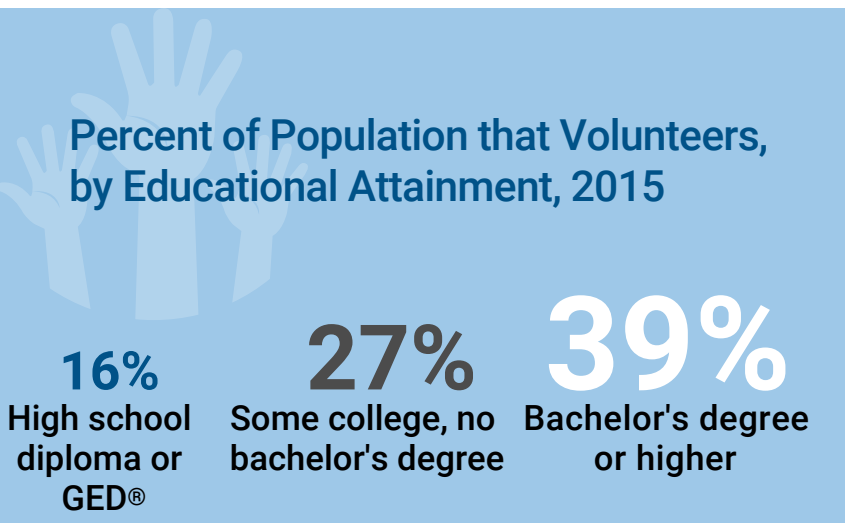


7%

Percentage of adults 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher that smoked in 2014, compared to 26% of adults with only a high school diploma or GED®

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

College graduates are more likely to volunteer and vote^{2,5}



Note: Figures have been rounded.

Sources:
1. Espinosa, Lorelle L., Jonathan M. Turk, Morgan Taylor, and Hollie M. Chessman. 2019. *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report*. Tables 11.6 and 11.15. Washington, DC: American Council on Education.
2. Ma, Jennifer, Matea Pender, and Meredith Welch. 2016. *Education Pays 2016: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society*. Washington, DC: College Board.
3. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), *Health, United States 2011*. Tables 37, 25.
4. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), *Health, United States 2015*. Table 48.
5. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2016.