

Measuring Educational Attainment in Census Bureau Surveys

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Educational Attainment Questions: CPS

1947-1991

What is the highest **grade or year** of regular school [you have] ever attended?

Did [you] complete the grade?

1992-present

What is the highest **level** of school [you have] completed or the highest **degree** [you have] received?

ACS educational attainment question

11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has **COMPLETED**? Mark (X) **ONE** box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

NO SCHOOLING COMPLETED

- No schooling completed

NURSERY OR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12

- Nursery school
 Kindergarten
 Grade 1 through 11 – Specify grade 1 – 11

- 12th grade – **NO DIPLOMA**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

- Regular high school diploma
 GED or alternative credential

COLLEGE OR SOME COLLEGE

- Some college credit, but less than 1 year of college credit
 1 or more years of college credit, no degree
 Associate's degree (for example: AA, AS)
 Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, BS)

AFTER BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
 Professional degree beyond a bachelor's degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
 Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY

What is the HIGHEST **level** of school [you have] completed or the highest **degree** [you have] received?

NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION SURVEY

What is the highest grade or **level** of school [you have] completed or the highest **degree** [you have] received?

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SURVEY

What is the highest **grade** of school or **year** of college [you have] completed?

MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY

As of December 31, [year], what is the highest **grade** or **year** of regular school [you] ever completed?

	ACS	CPS	NHIS	MEPS
None	51	--	00	0
Less than 1st grade	52-53	31		
1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade	54-57	32	01-04	1-4
5th or 6th grade	58-59	33	05-06	5-6
7th or 8th grade	60-61	34	07-08	7-8
9th grade	62	35	09	9
10th grade	63	36	10	10
11th grade	64	37	11	11
12th grade NO DIPLOMA	65	38	12	12
Regular high school graduate	66	39	14	
GED or alternative credential	67		13	
Some college credit, less than 1 year	68	40	15	
1 or more years of college	**		13-15	
Associate degree - Occupational	69	41	16	--
Associate degree - Academic		42	17	--
Bachelor's degree	70	43	18	16
Master's degree	71	44	19	17
Professional School Degree	72	45	20	
Doctorate degree	73	46	21	

Reliability of Education Responses: Census 2000

	Index of inconsistency
None	41.3 Moderate
1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade	21.8 Moderate
5th or 6th grade	34.4 Moderate
7th or 8th grade	34.7 Moderate
9th grade	53.6 HIGH
10th grade	53.1 HIGH
11th grade	49.6 Moderate
12th grade NO DIPLOMA	89.3 HIGH
High school graduate	30.5 Moderate
Some college credit, less than 1 year	71.4 HIGH
1 or more years of college	45.3 Moderate
Associate degree	38.3 Moderate
Bachelor's degree	15.6 Low
Master's degree	12.4 Low
Professional School Degree	38.6 Moderate
Doctorate degree	31.4 Moderate

Reliability of questions on GED or alternative credential

	Index of inconsistency
SIPP 2001	62.0 HIGH
SIPP 2004	35.0 Moderate
ACS 2006	37.0 Moderate

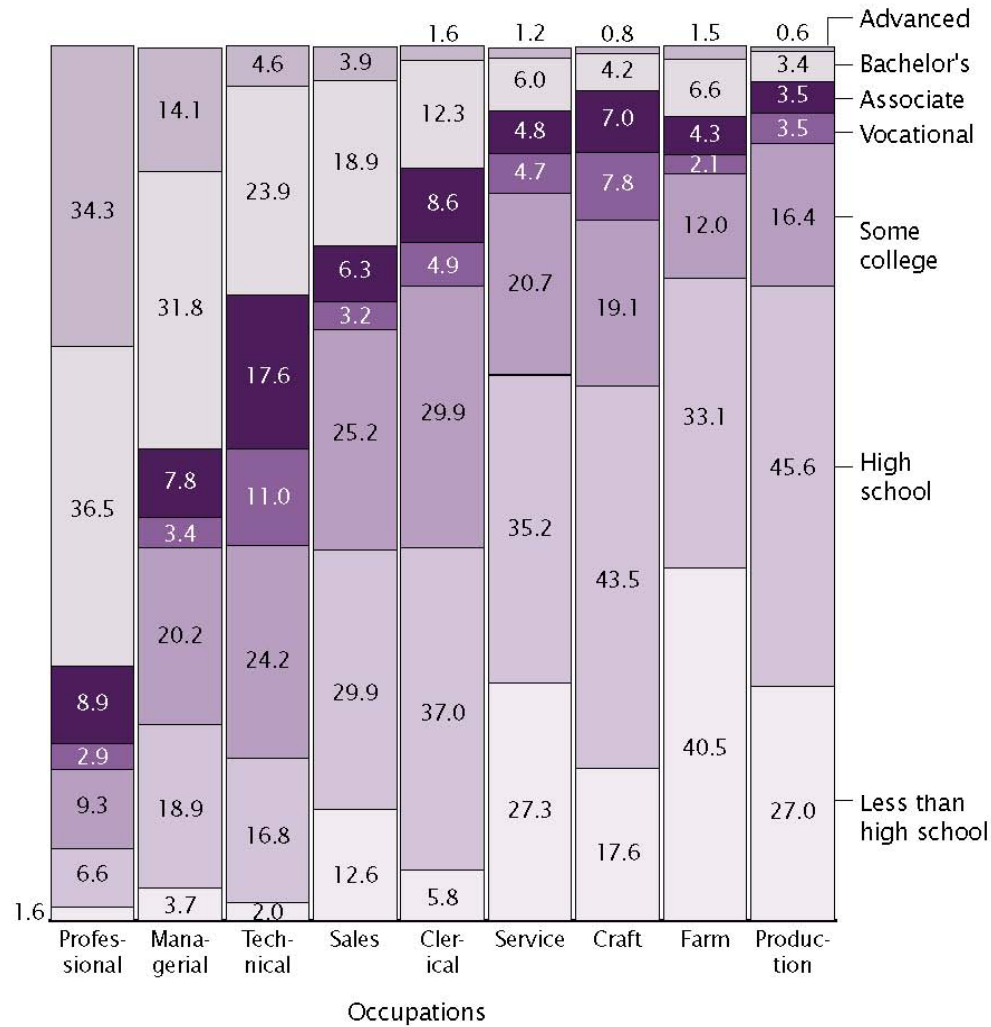
Reliability of Education Responses: Census 2000

	Index of inconsistency
Total	36.5 Moderate
White	34.5 Moderate
Black	45.1 Moderate
Asian	41.9 Moderate
Other single race	50.5 HIGH
Two or more races	38.4 Moderate
Hispanic	48.6 Moderate
Non-Hispanic	35.2 Moderate
Age 16-35	42.9 Moderate
Age 36-64	37.3 Moderate
Age 65 or older	41 Moderate
Native	34.4 Moderate
Foreign born	56.3 HIGH

Figure 2.

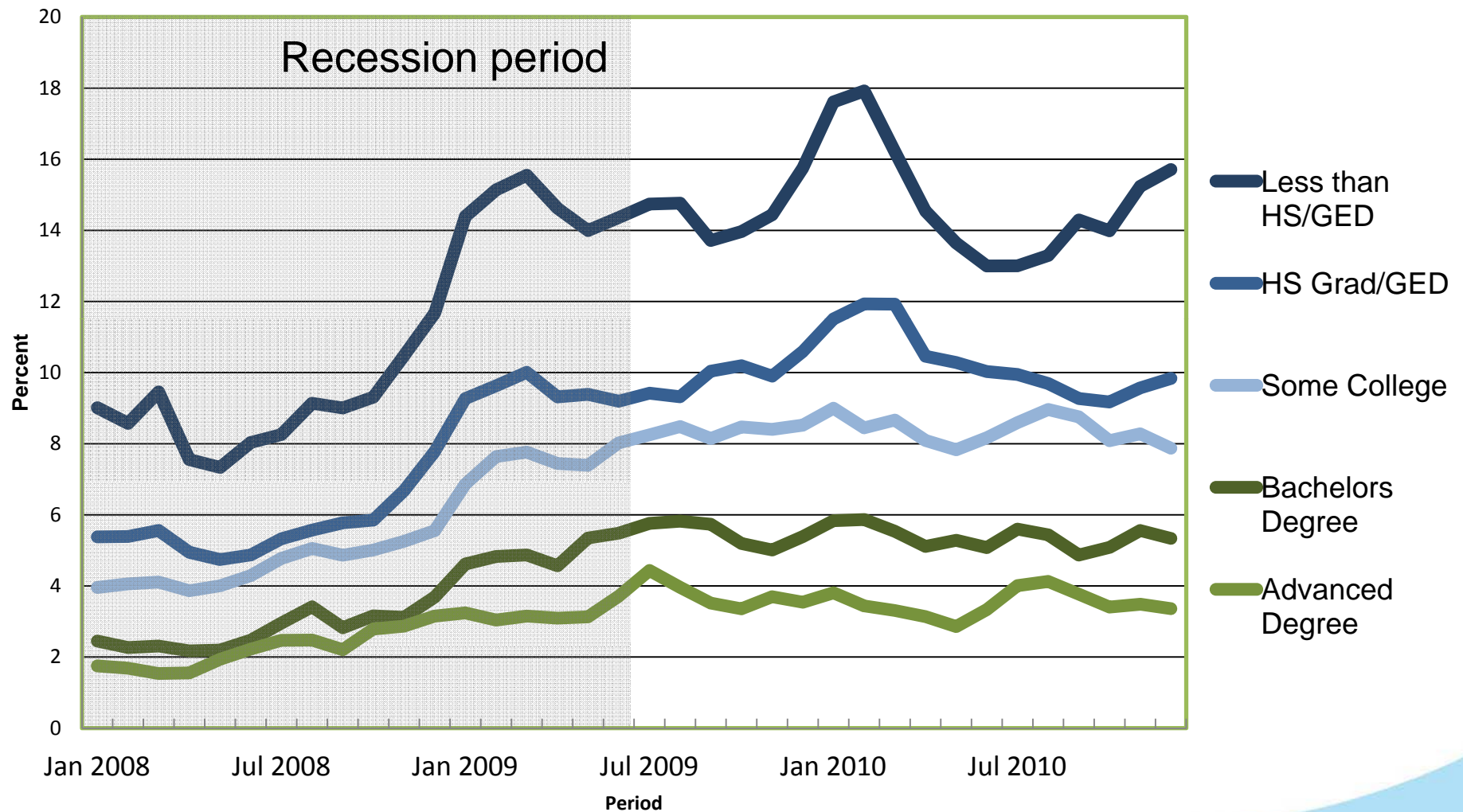
Degrees and Occupations: 1996

(Population age 15 and over, employed during previous 4 months.
Percent distribution)

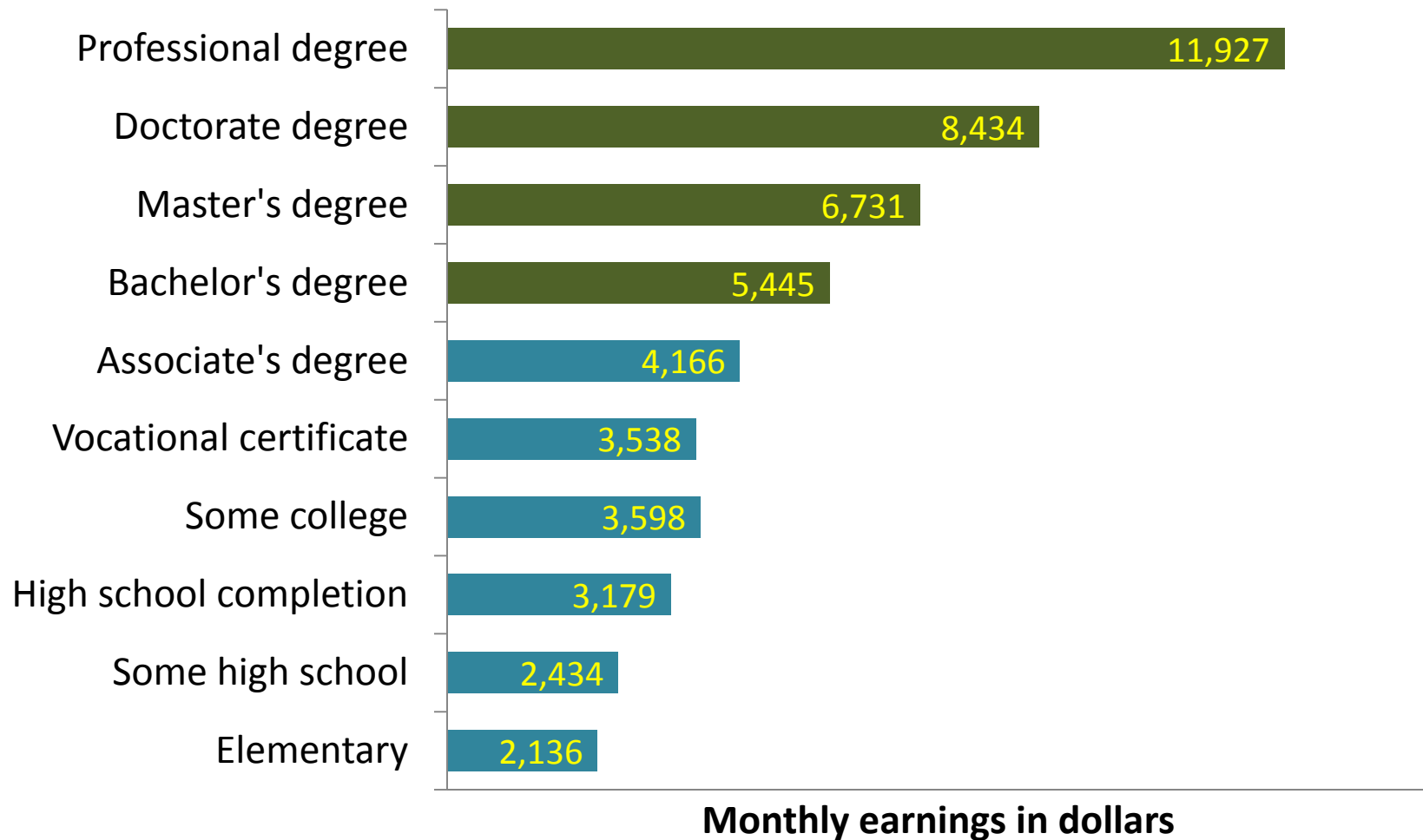


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Survey of Income and Program Participation, 1996 Panel.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, Population 25 and Older: 2008 - 2010



Mean Monthly Earnings by Educational Attainment Among the Population 18 Years and Over with Earnings: 2009



For further information:

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