

# Postsecondary Education and Economic Opportunity

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May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

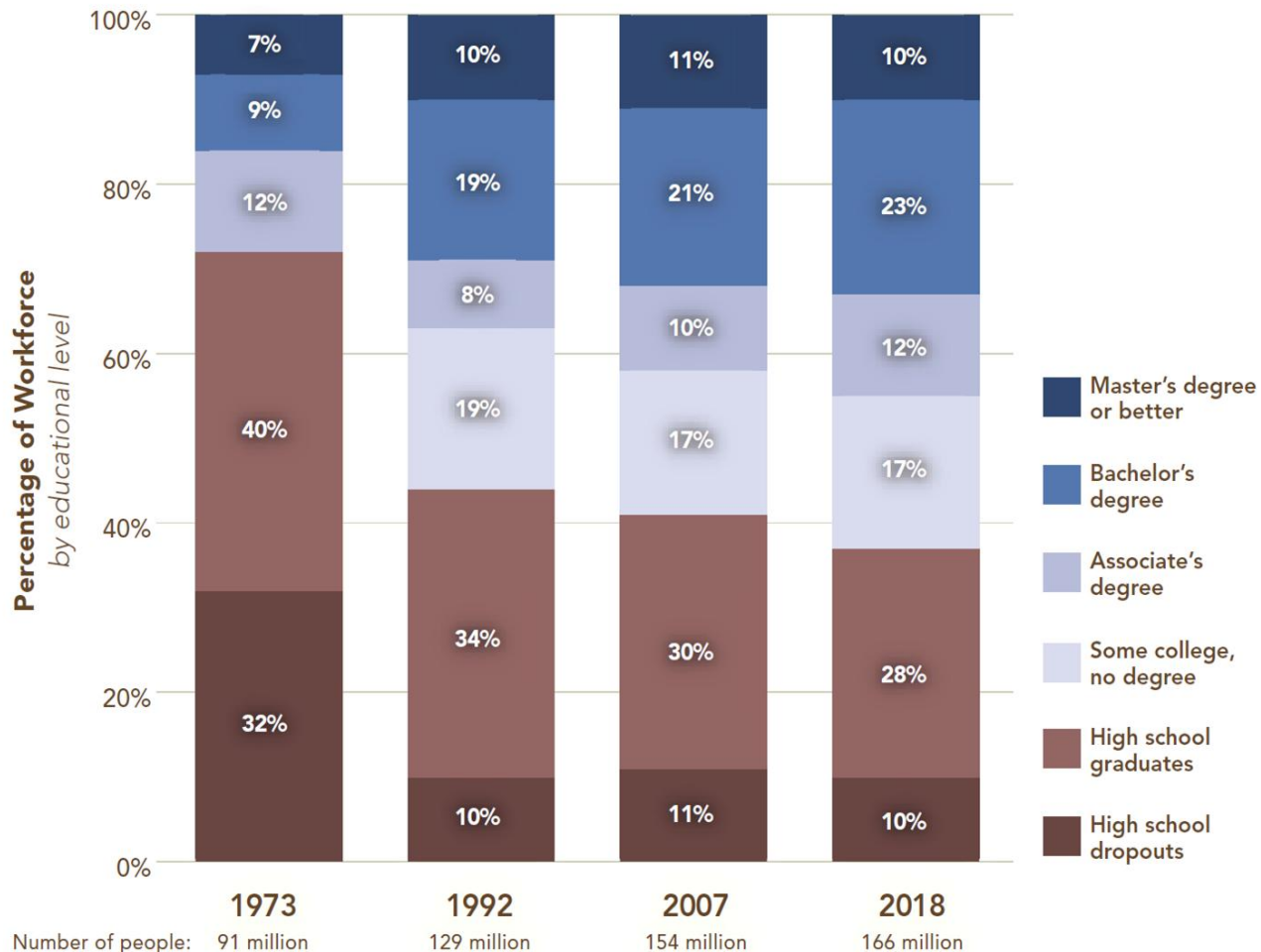
Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs  
in Metropolitan America



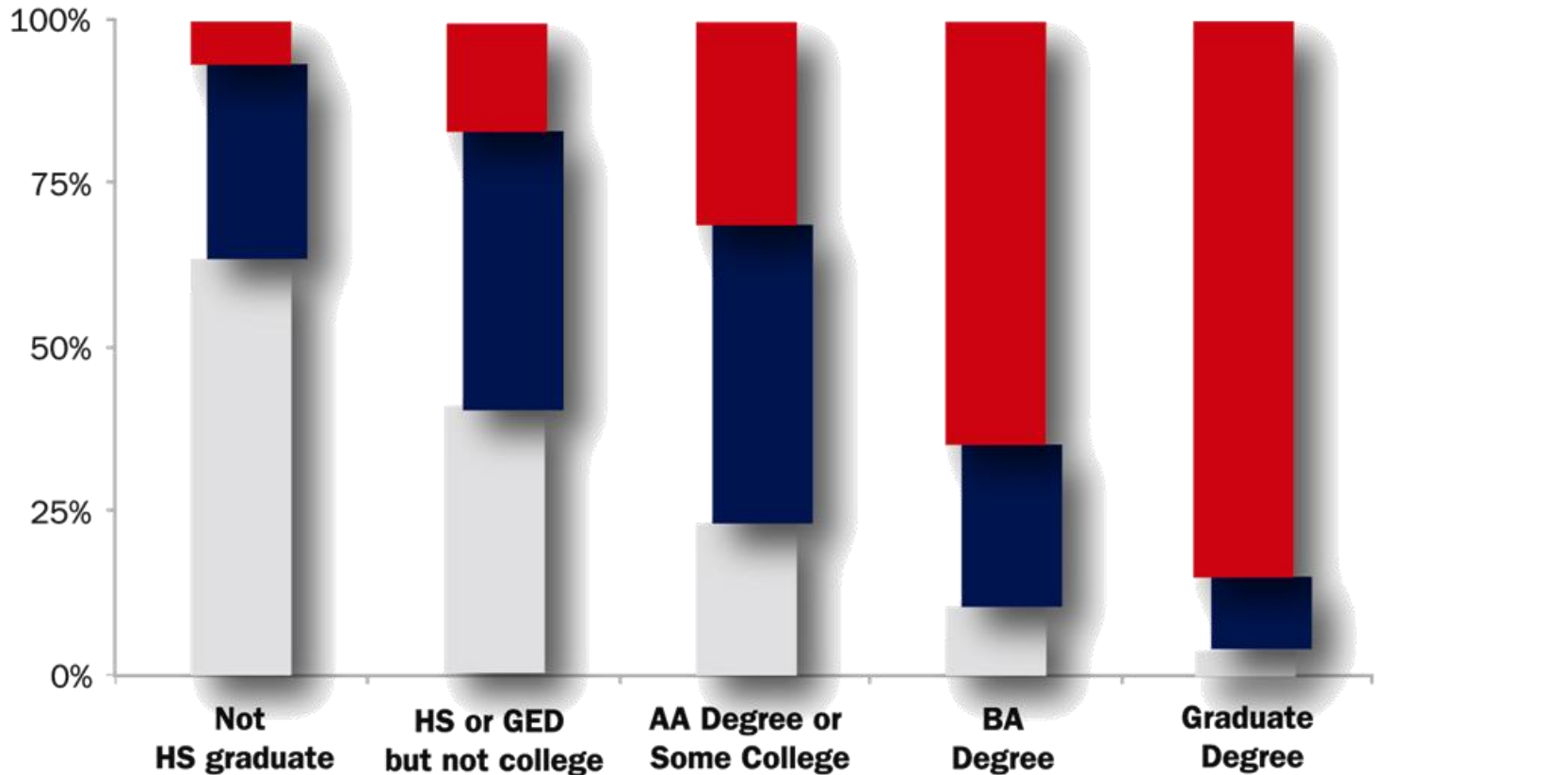
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In 1973, 28% of jobs required postsecondary education. By 2007, that number climbed to 59%.



# The best-paying jobs in the economy are filled by those with postsecondary education.



Source: Center on Education and the Workforce Analysis

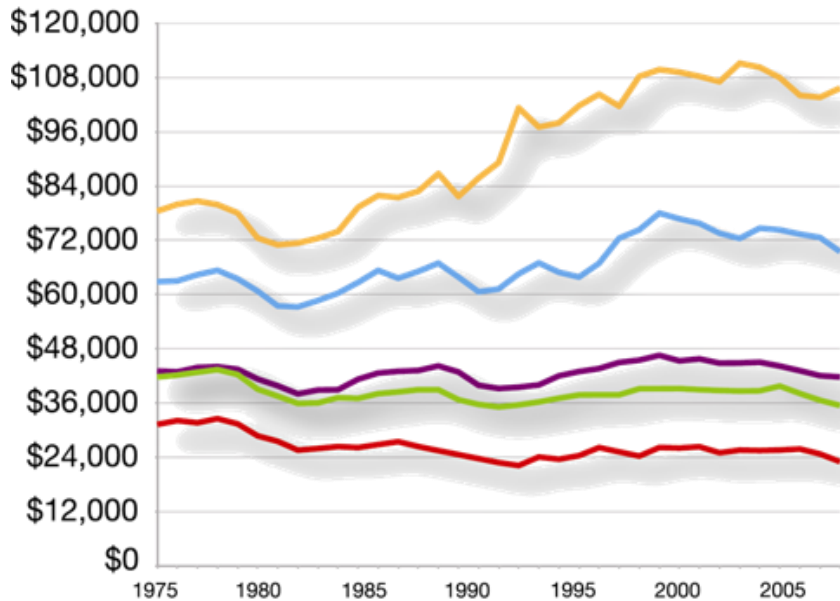


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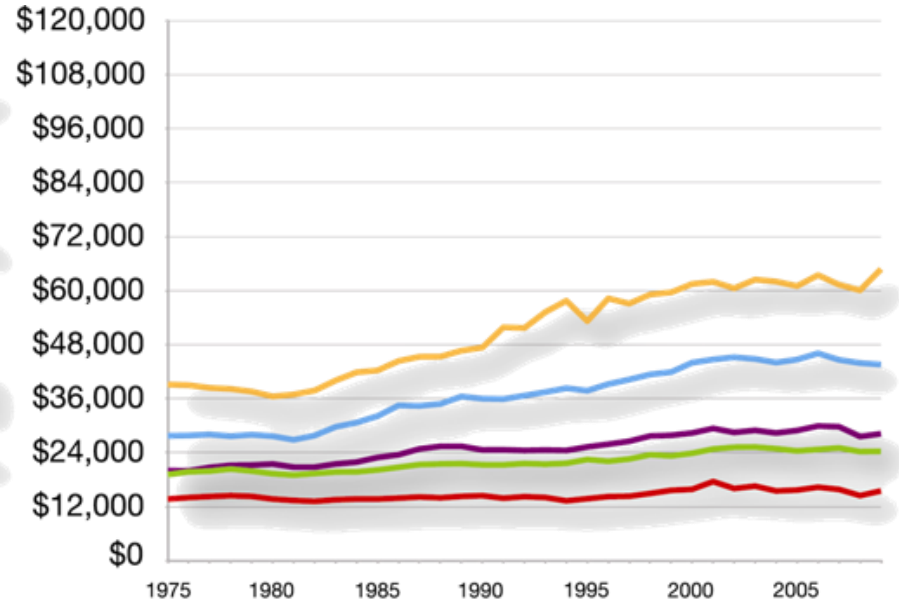
Manager or Professional ■  
Middle Skills Job\* ■  
Laborer, Sales, Operative, or Service Worker ■

The growth in wages for college-educated workers outstrips growth for high school-educated workers (both men and women).

**Wage growth by education level for men**



**Wage growth by education level for women**



**Source: Center on Education and the Workforce Analysis**

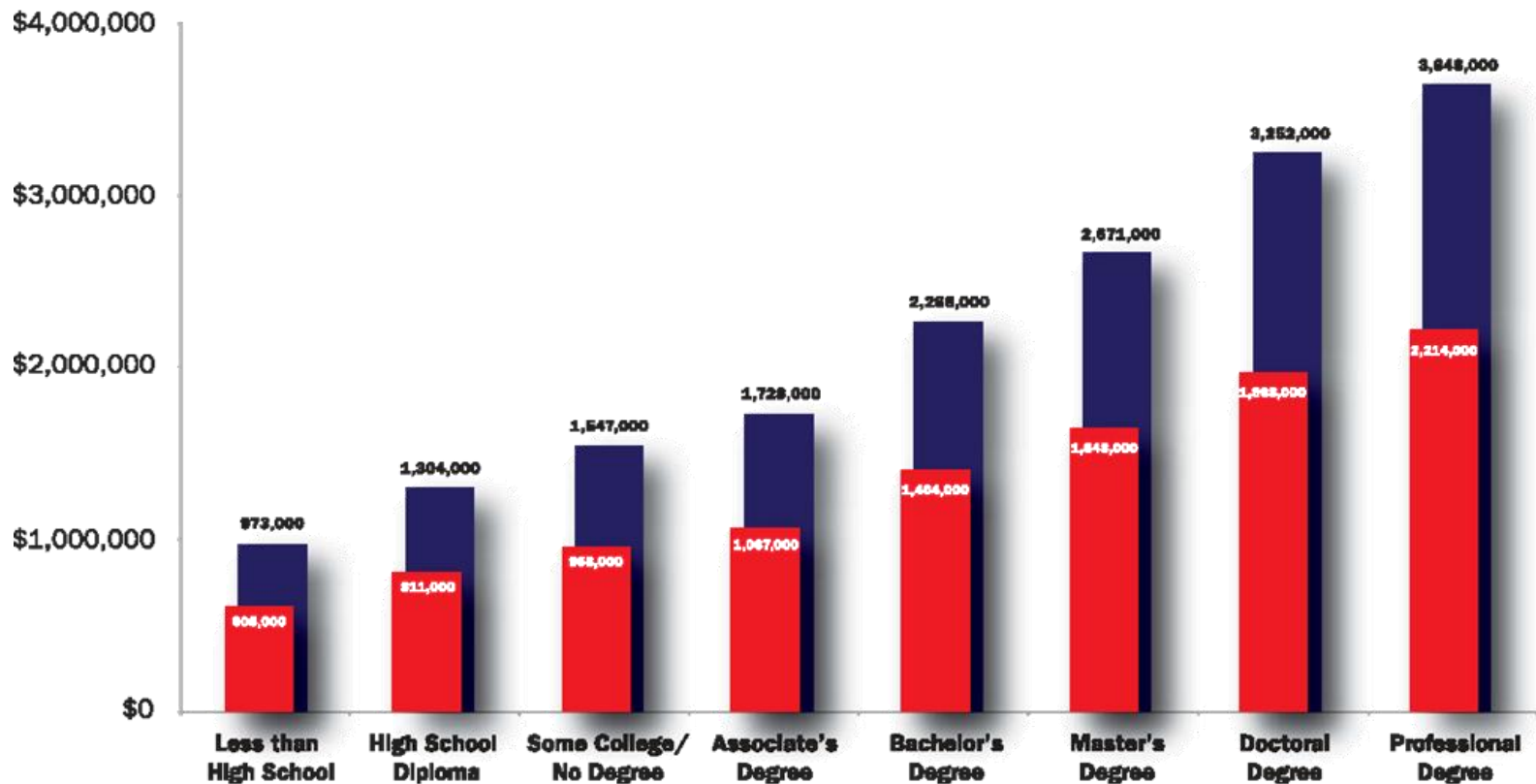


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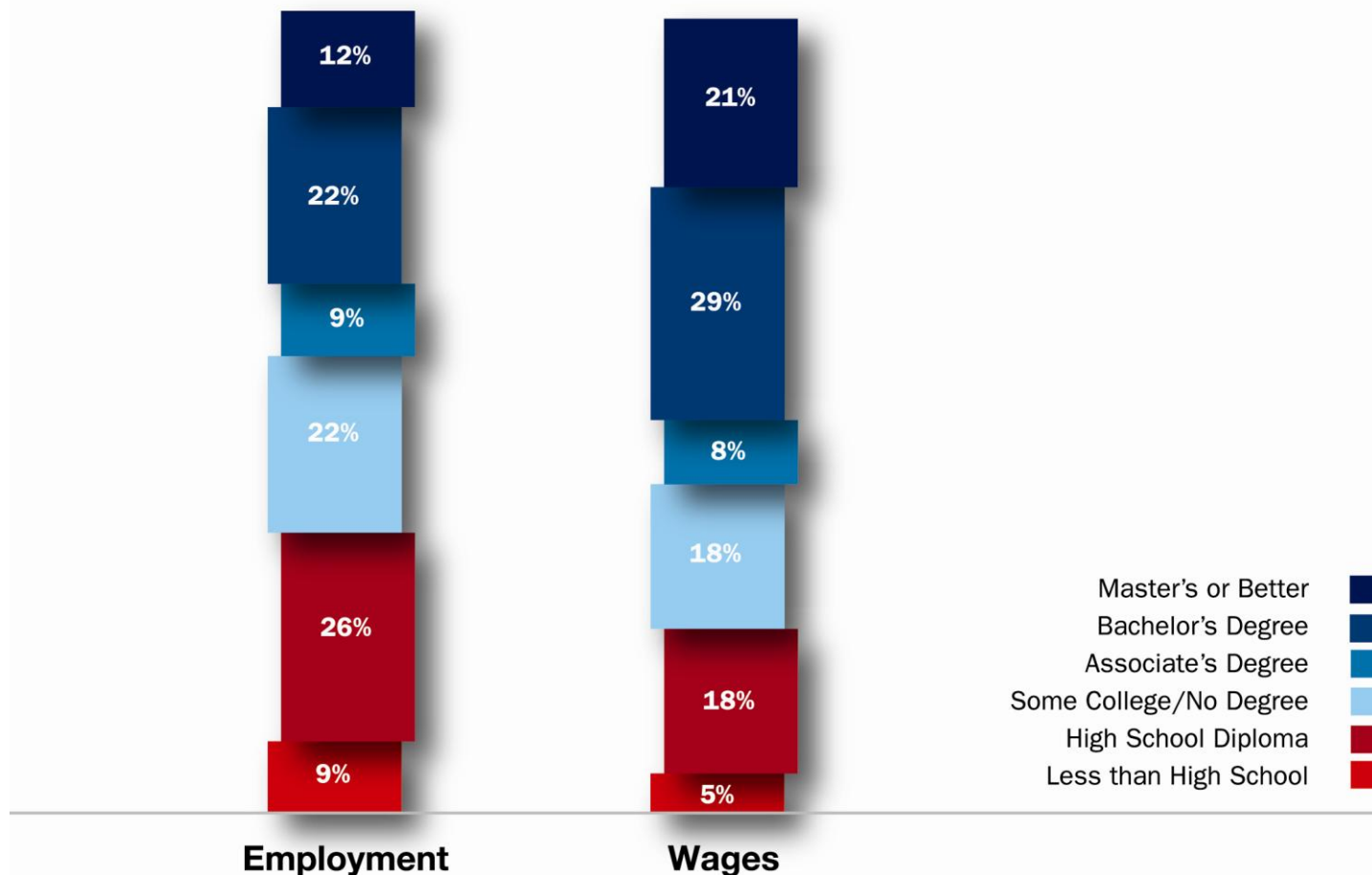
- Graduate —
- Bachelor's —
- Some College/Associate's —
- High School Graduates —
- High School Dropouts —

# Lifetime earnings from postsecondary education are high—and rising.

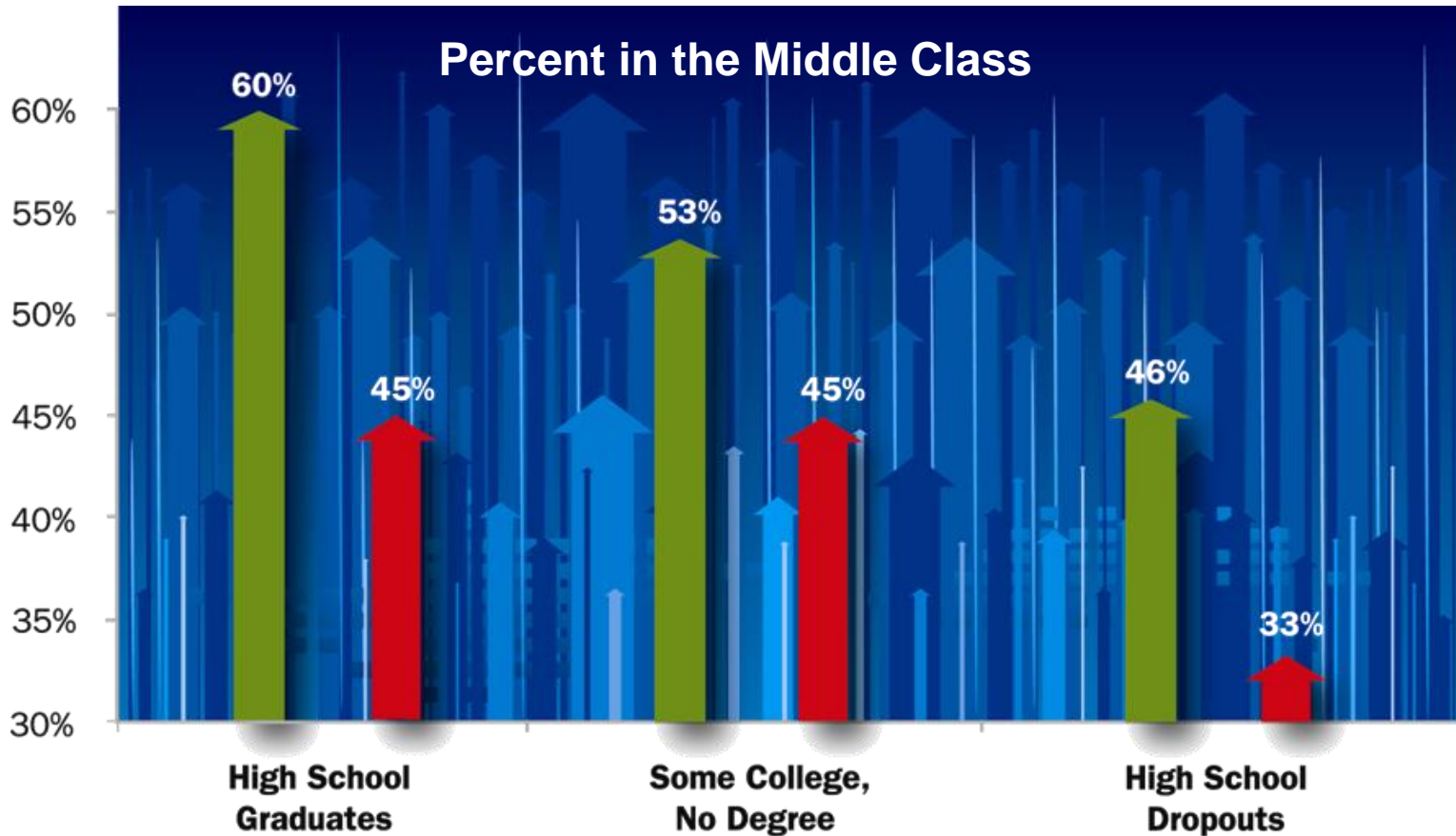
Source: Center on Education and the Workforce Analysis



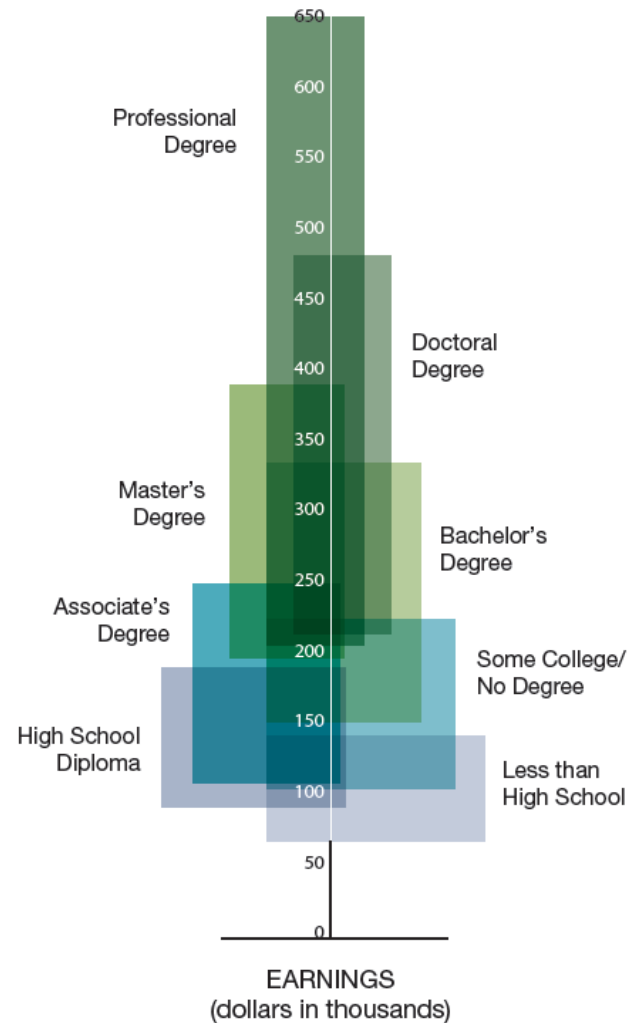
Workers with postsecondary education comprise less than two-thirds of workers, but they earn almost 80% of the nation's wages.



As wages rise for postsecondary-educated workers, those without postsecondary education are dropping out of the middle class.

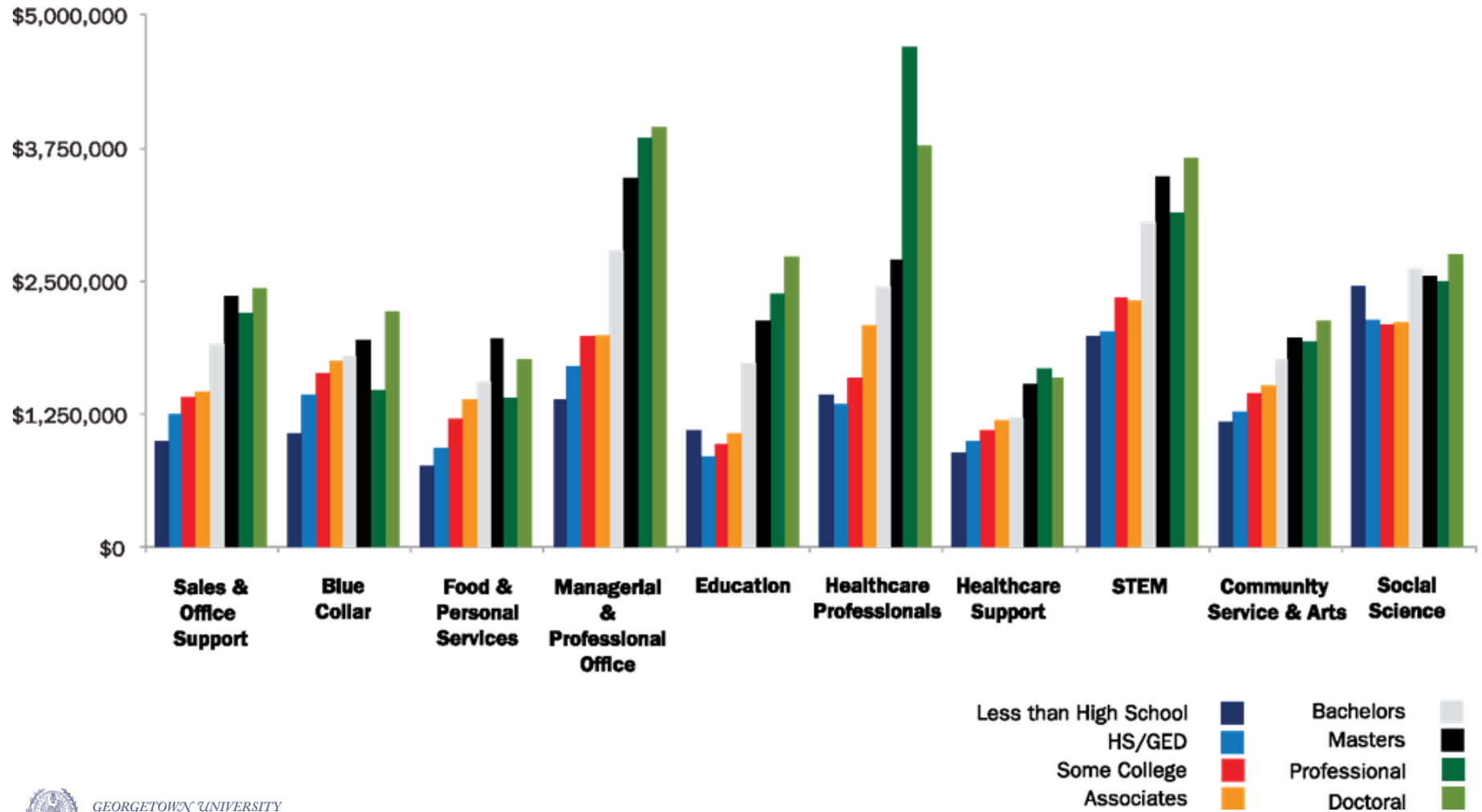


But—it's not just your degree. There is earnings overlap between different education levels. Occupational choice also influences earnings.



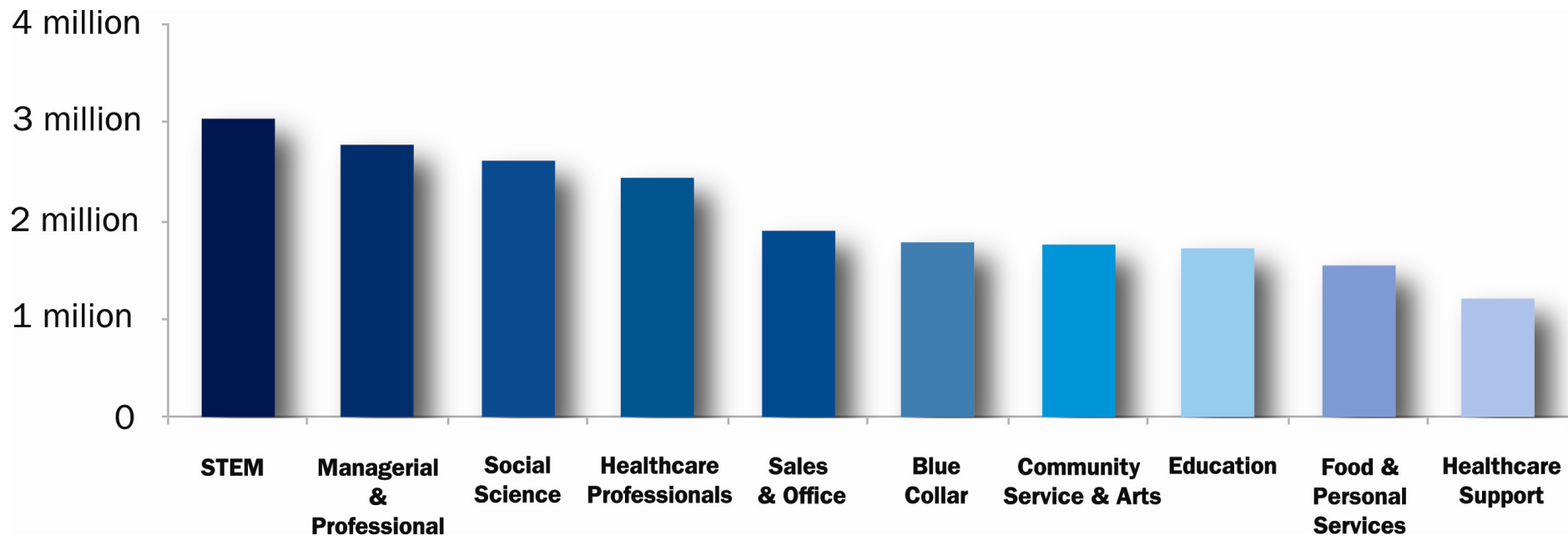


# Within occupations, workers with more education make more money....

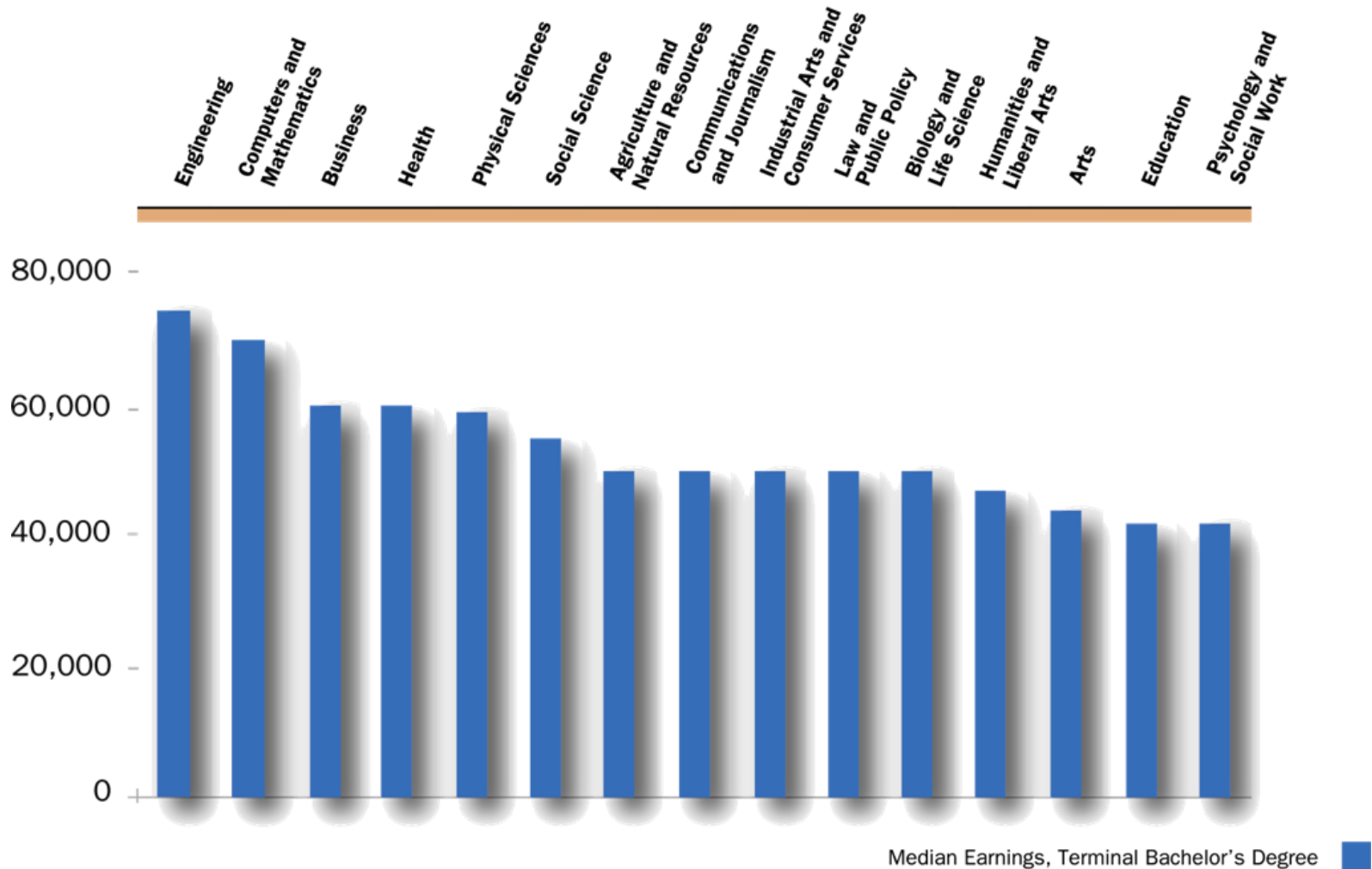


...but workers with the same education levels make very different earnings depending on their occupation.

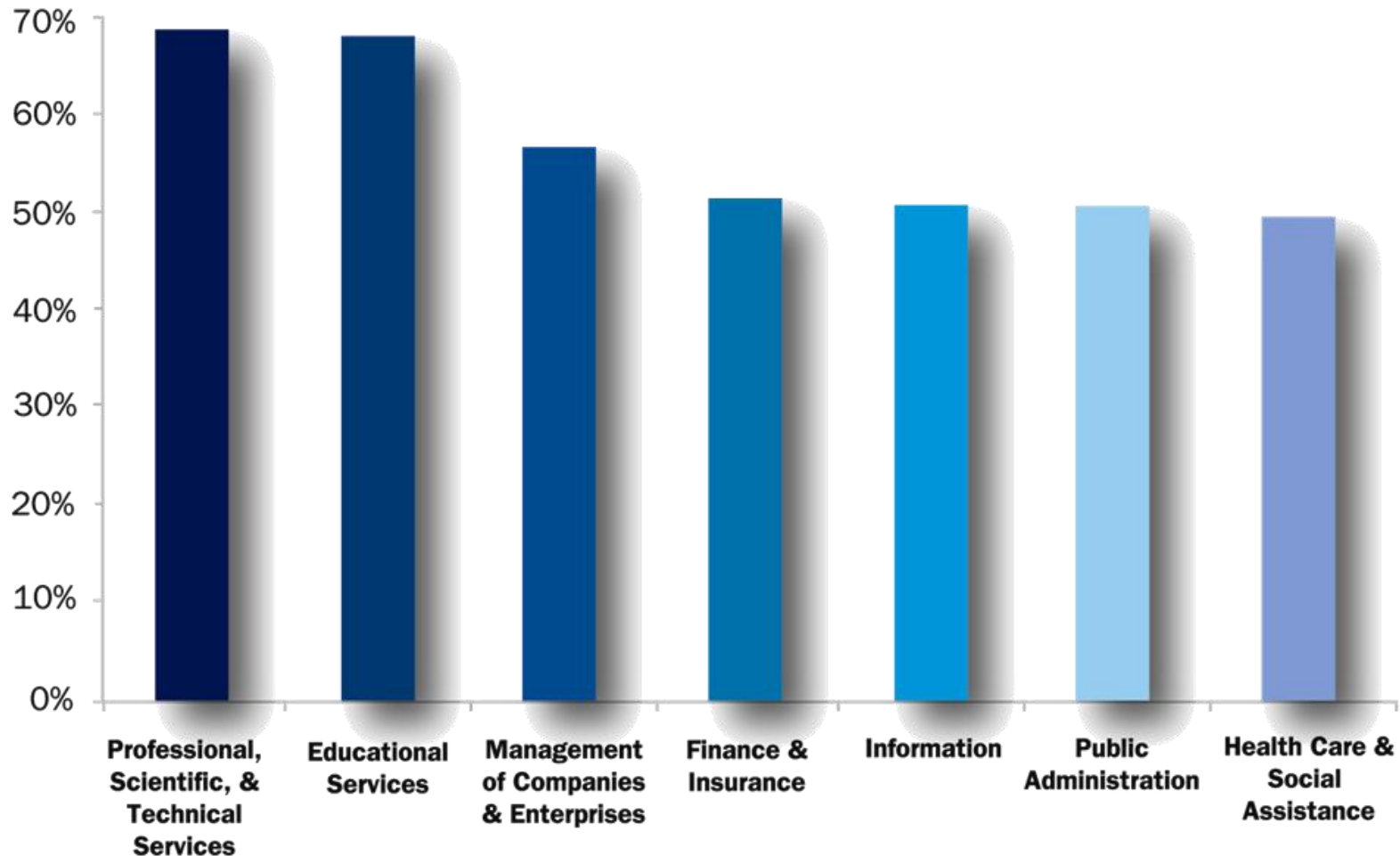
### Lifetime Earnings of Bachelor's Degree-Holders by Occupation



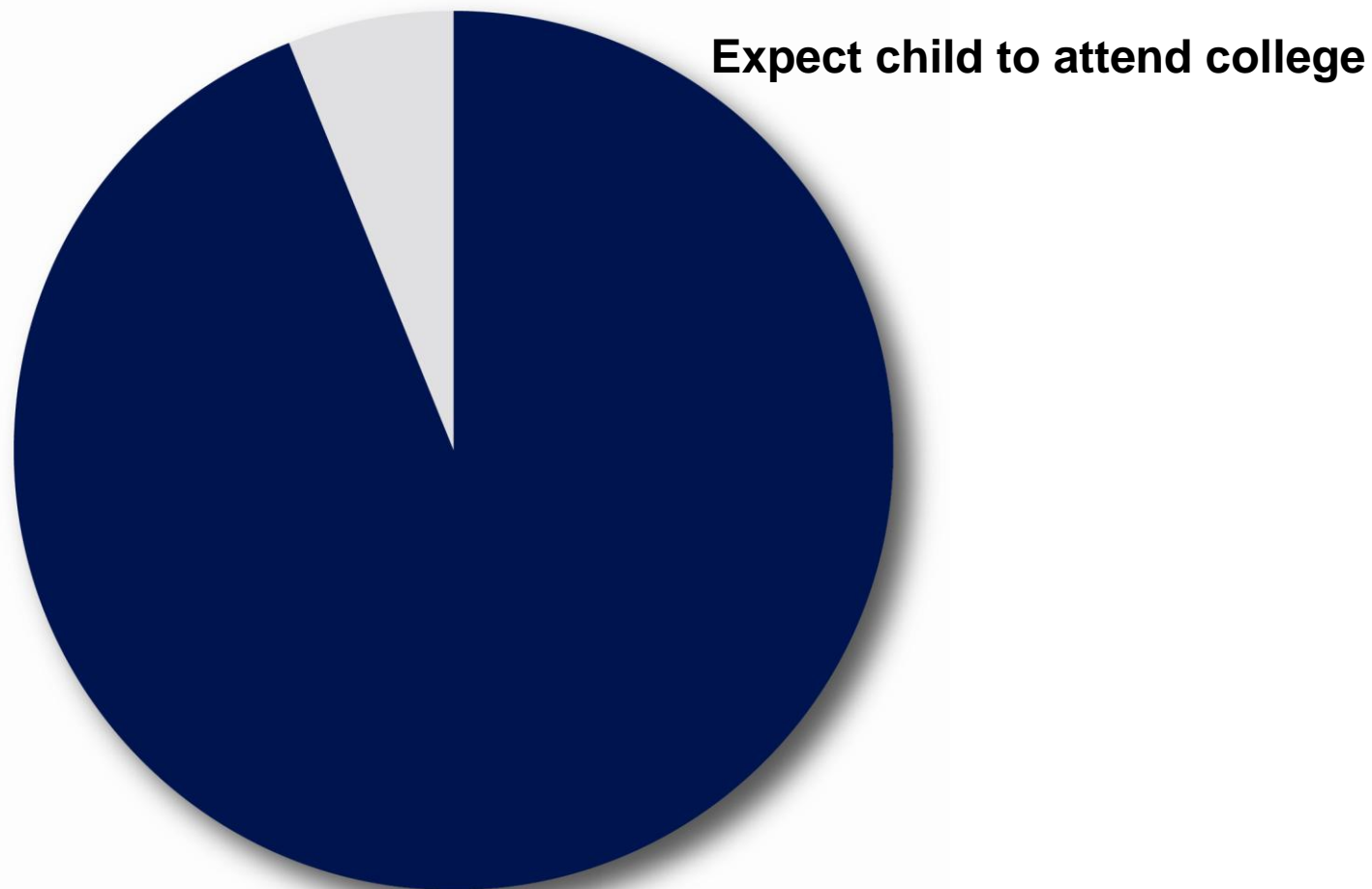
# Earnings potential also depends on the choice of academic major.



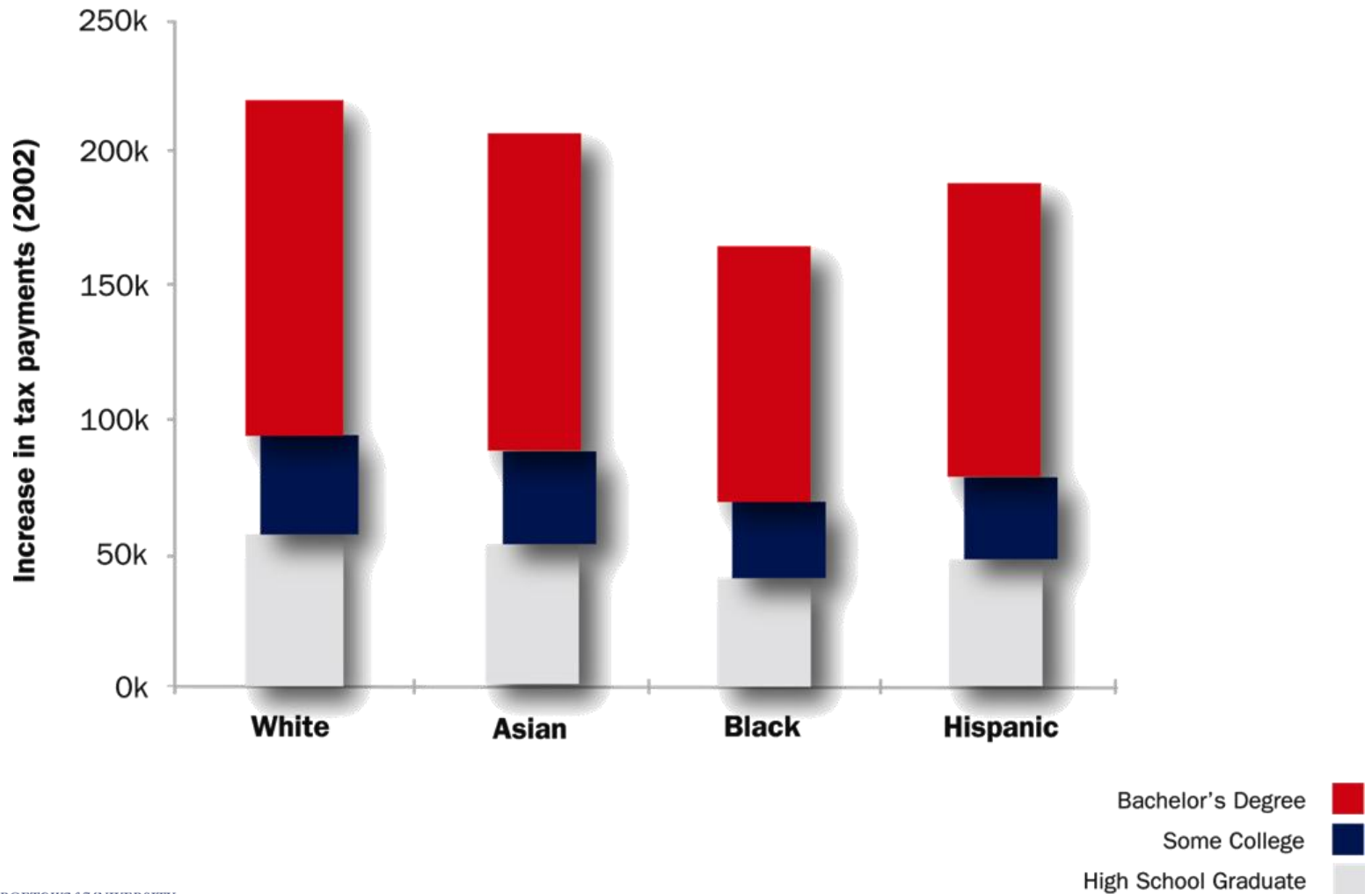
Several key industries will lose most of their postsecondary-educated workers with the impending Baby Boom retirement.



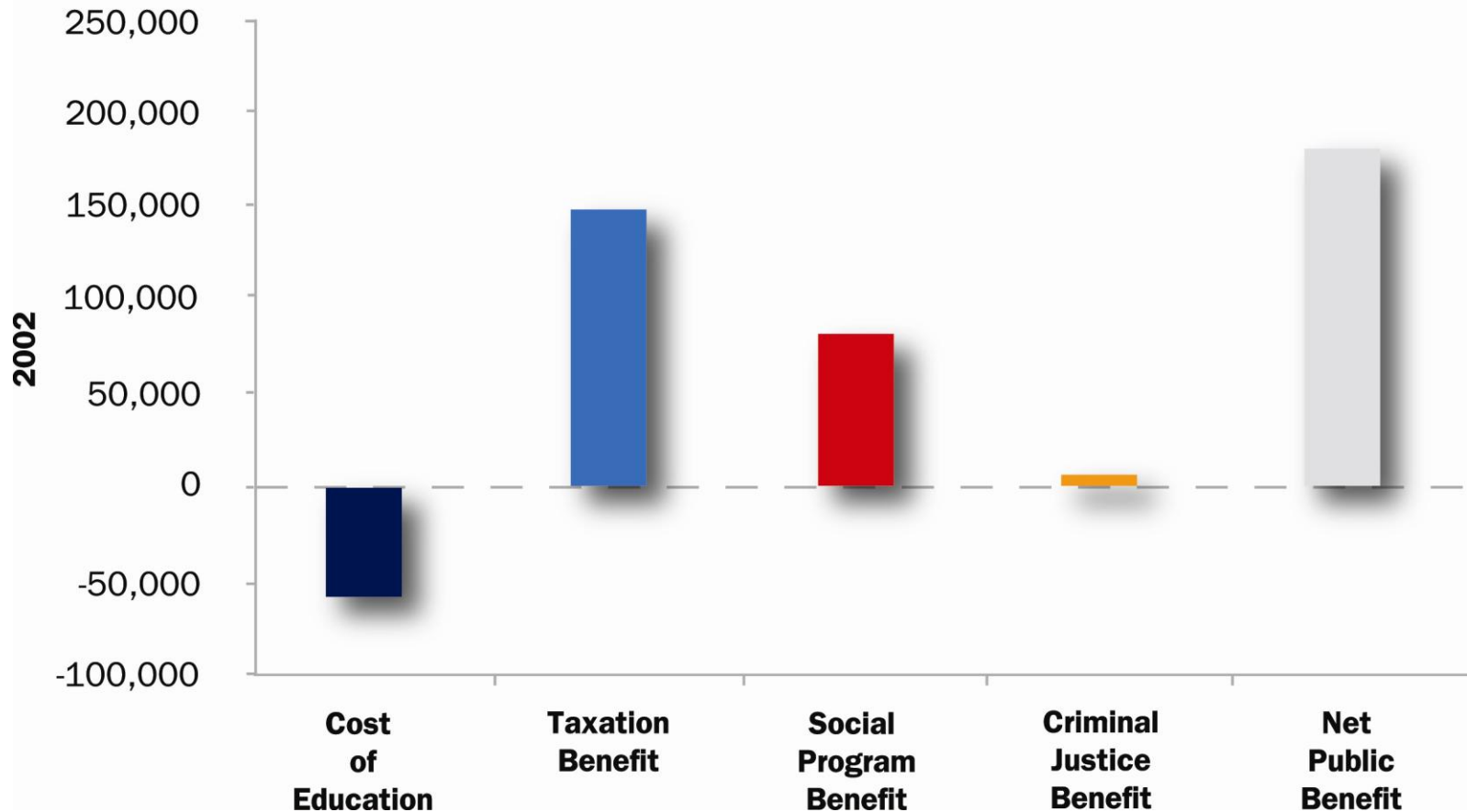
Among parents of a child ages 17 or younger, fully 94% say they expect their child (or children) to attend college.



# It's not just good for individuals: Increasing educational attainment also increases tax revenues.



The net benefits are high—education is a sound investment for individuals and society.



Questions?

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