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# In the Shadow of the Great Recession

## Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers

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# Who We Are

The **Division of Consumer and Community Affairs (DCCA)** ensures that the voices and concerns of consumers and communities are represented at the Central Bank of the United States.

The Community Development function promotes **economic growth and financial stability for low- and moderate-income communities and individuals** through a range of activities, including convening stakeholders, conducting and sharing research, and identifying emerging issues.



# Survey Methods

Deployed by GfK to their “KnowledgePanel,” a nationally representative, probability-based online panel.

Survey was fielded in December 2013.

The panel is designed to be representative of the U.S. population aged 18 to 30 years old.

Total of 2,097 respondents.

# Why Survey Young Adults?

- **Cast light on current issues affecting young adults** as they join the workforce in a changing labor market.
- **Provide new, publicly available information** as a resource to researchers and others.
- **Track information to identify emerging issues and trends.**

# Why Survey Young Adults?

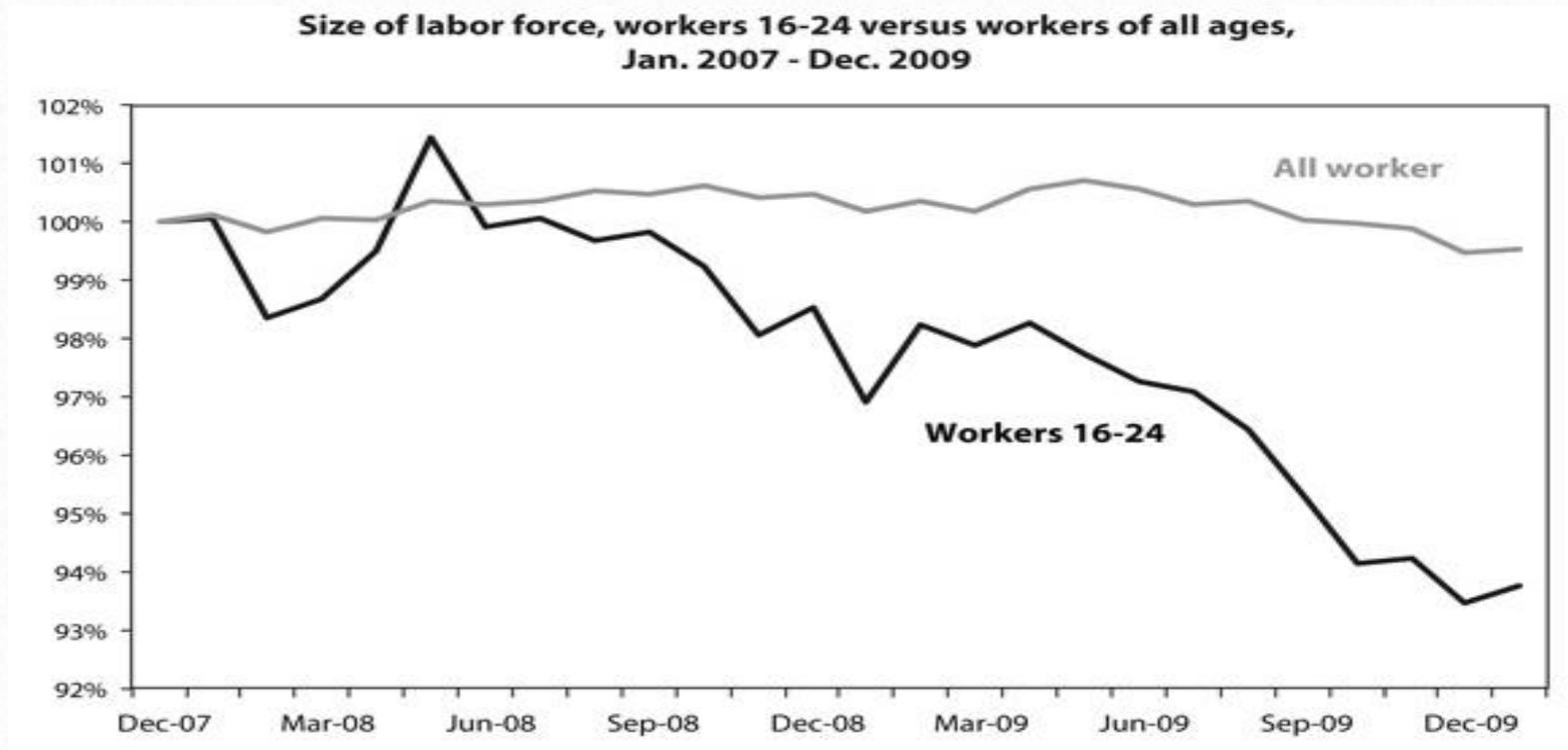
20-year trend of high unemployment and low participation



Note: shaded areas denote recession. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. EPI, see <http://www.epi.org/publication/bp258/>.

# Why Survey Young Adults?

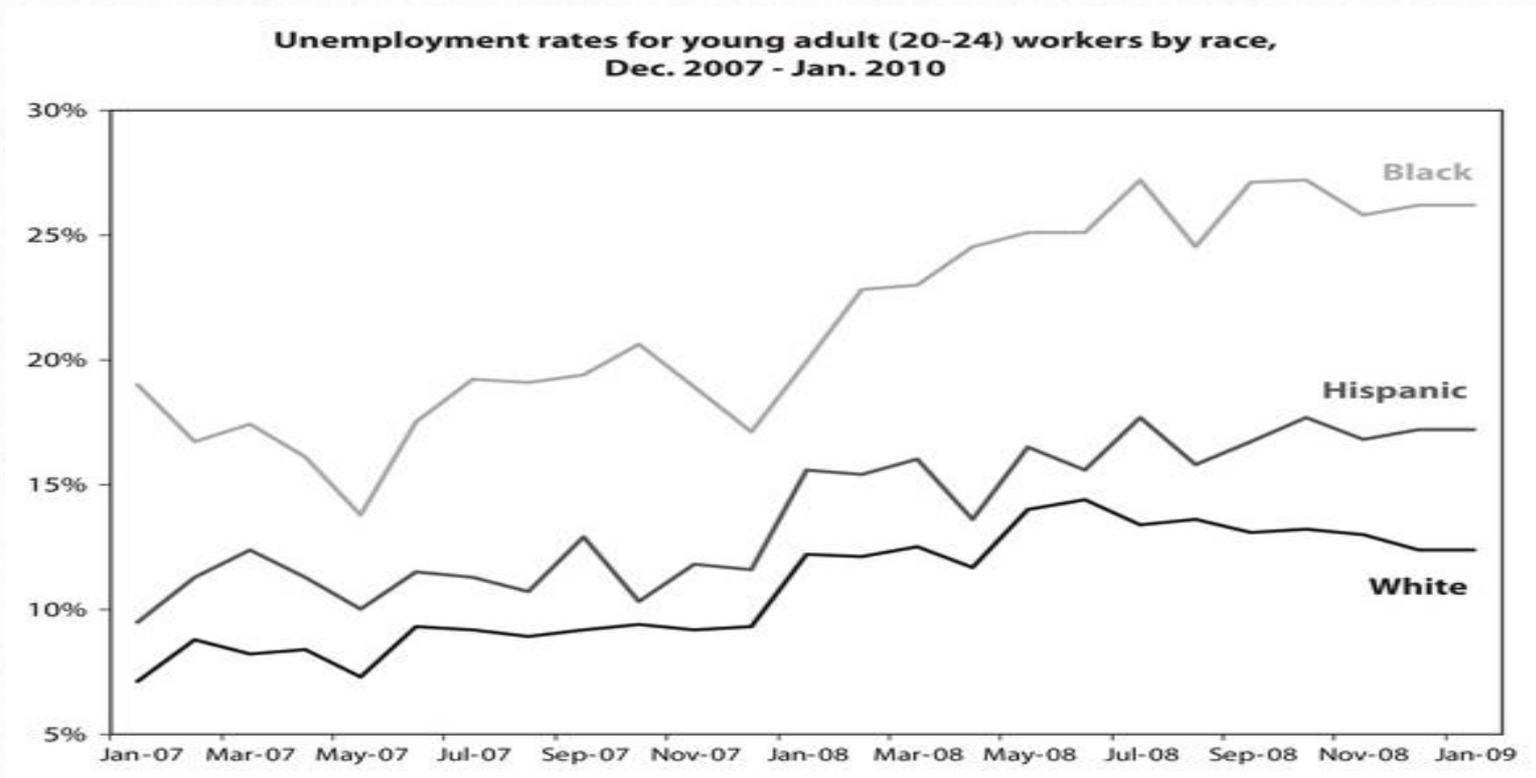
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Source: Author's analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data. EPI, see <http://www.epi.org/publication/bp258/>.

# Why Survey Young Adults?

20-year trend of high unemployment and low participation



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Research Questions

# 1

How are young workers preparing for a changing labor market?

# 2

Is there a relationship between respondents' level of education/early work experience and current work status?

# 3

What is the outlook of young workers?



# CONNECTING EDUCATION AND THE LABOR MARKET

## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**63%**

of high school students said they received information about jobs and careers

**42%**

of workers have a job that is closely related to their field of study

**37%**

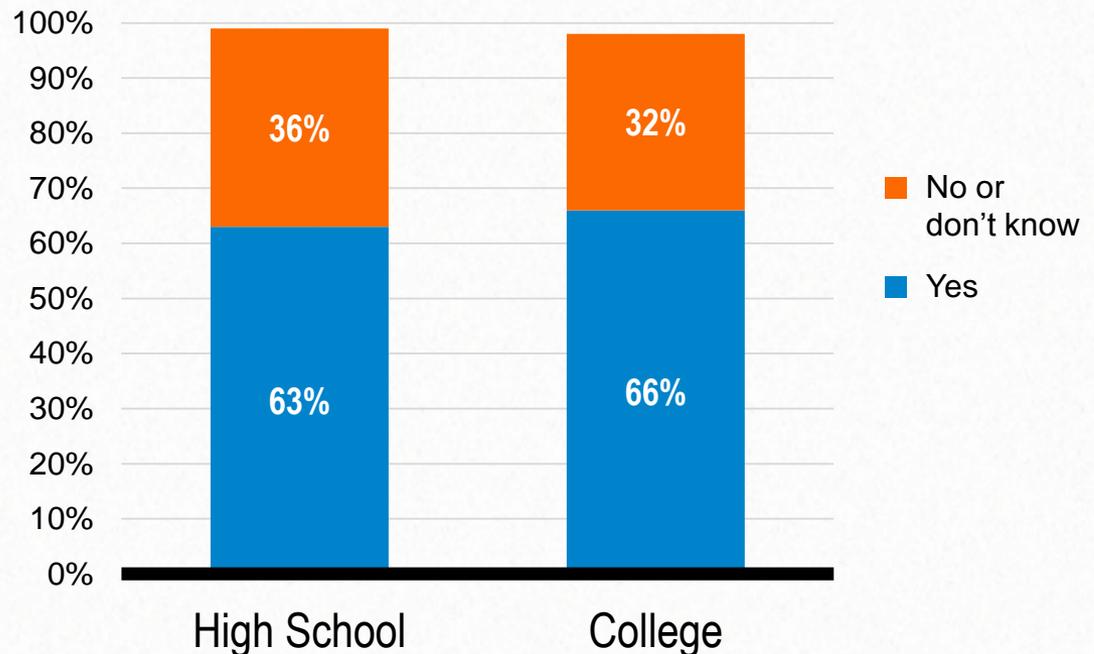
have the education needed for the type of job they would like to hold in the next five years



# More Students Need Information on Careers and Jobs

About a third of students don't receive helpful information in school

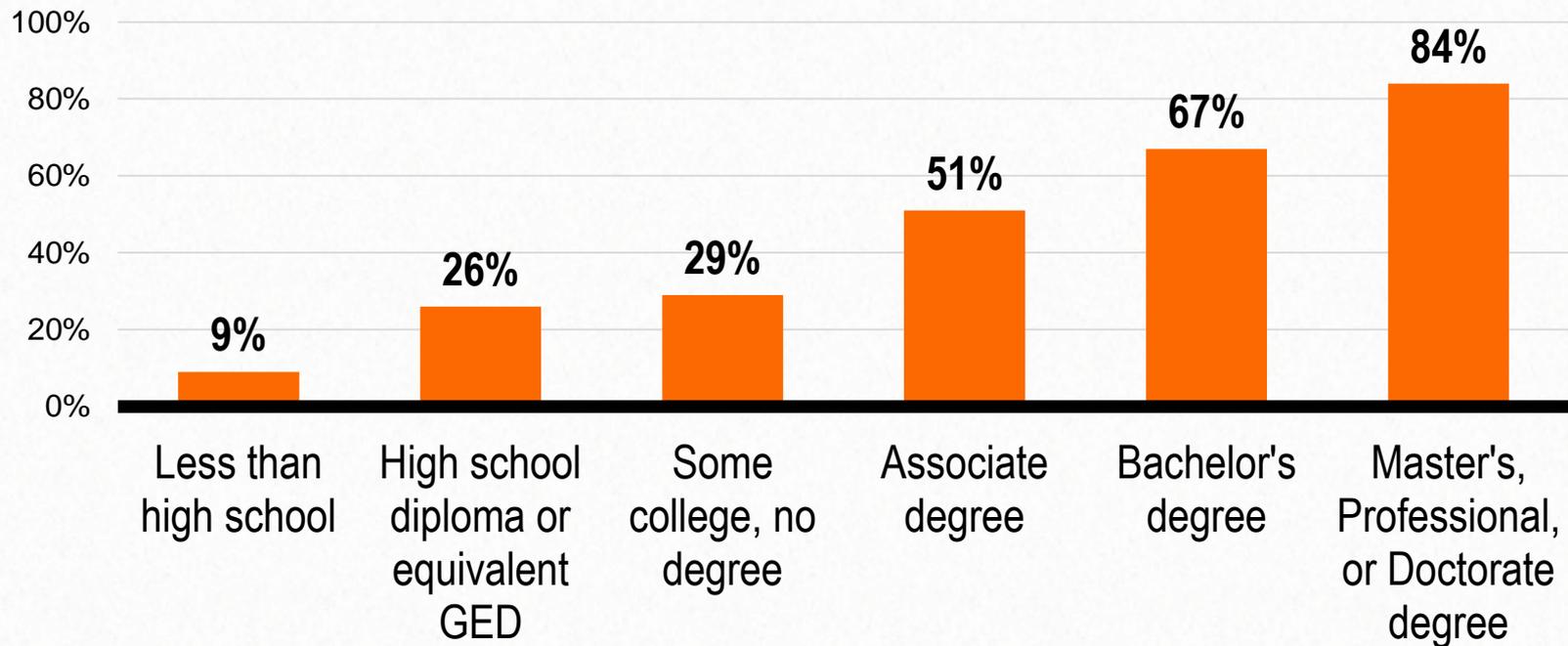
During high school or college, did you receive information about jobs and careers?





# Education Increases Likelihood of Working in Field of Study

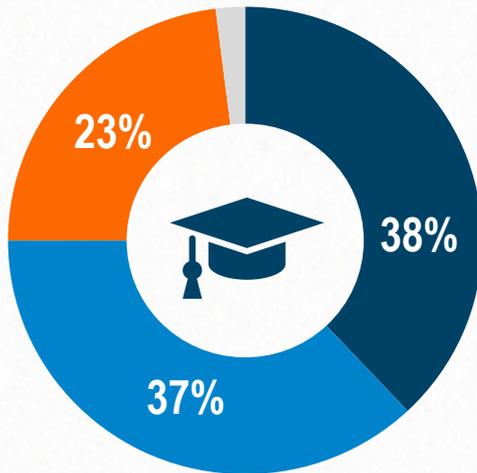
Percent of respondents working in field of study



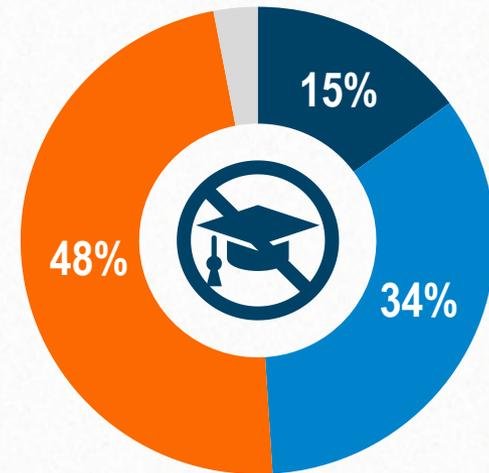
# A Post-secondary Degree Is More Likely to Lead to a Career

Do you consider your main job to be a career, a stepping stone to a career, or just a job to get you by?

Post-secondary degree



No post-secondary degree

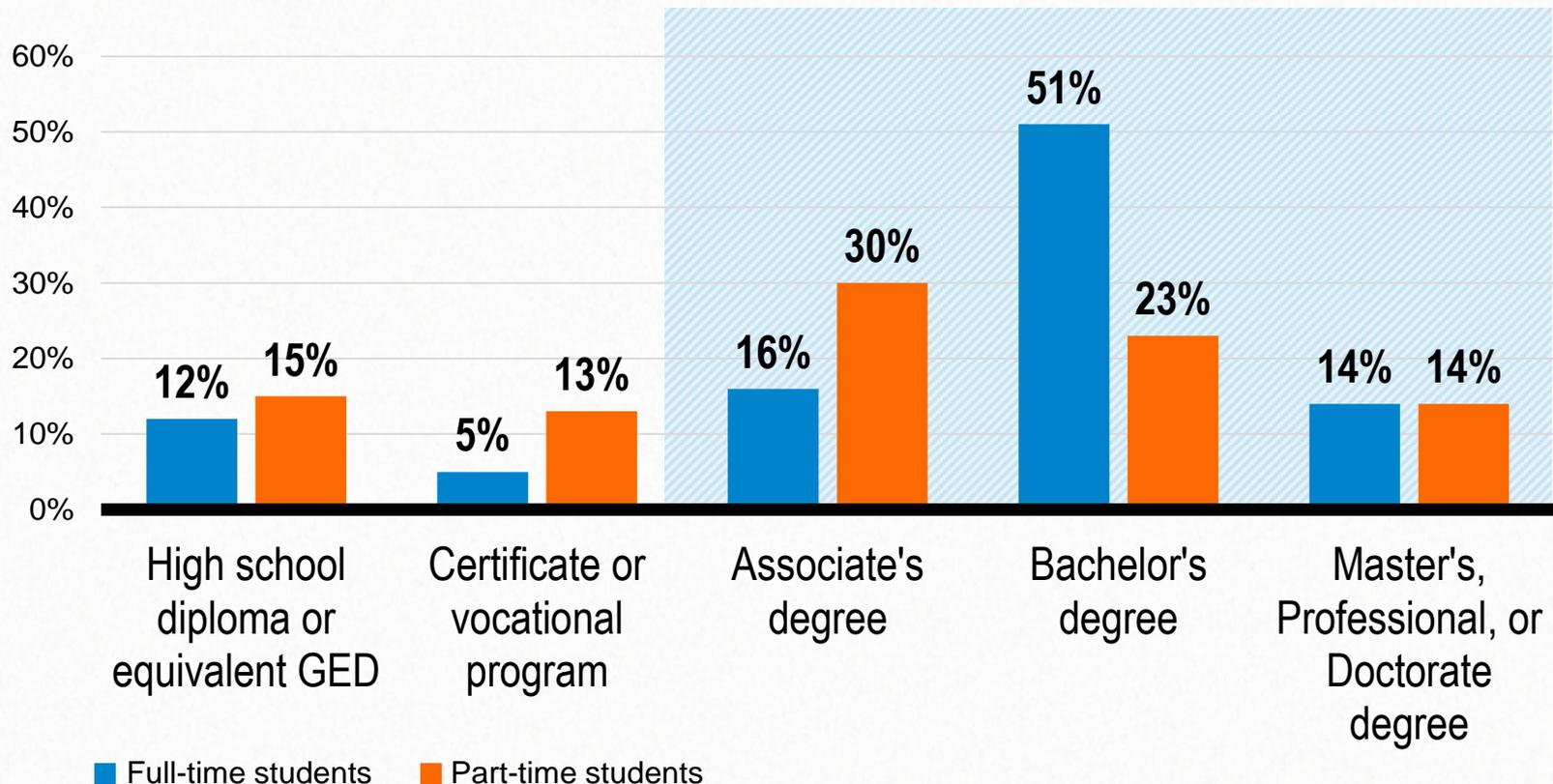


- Career
- Stepping stone to a career
- Just a job



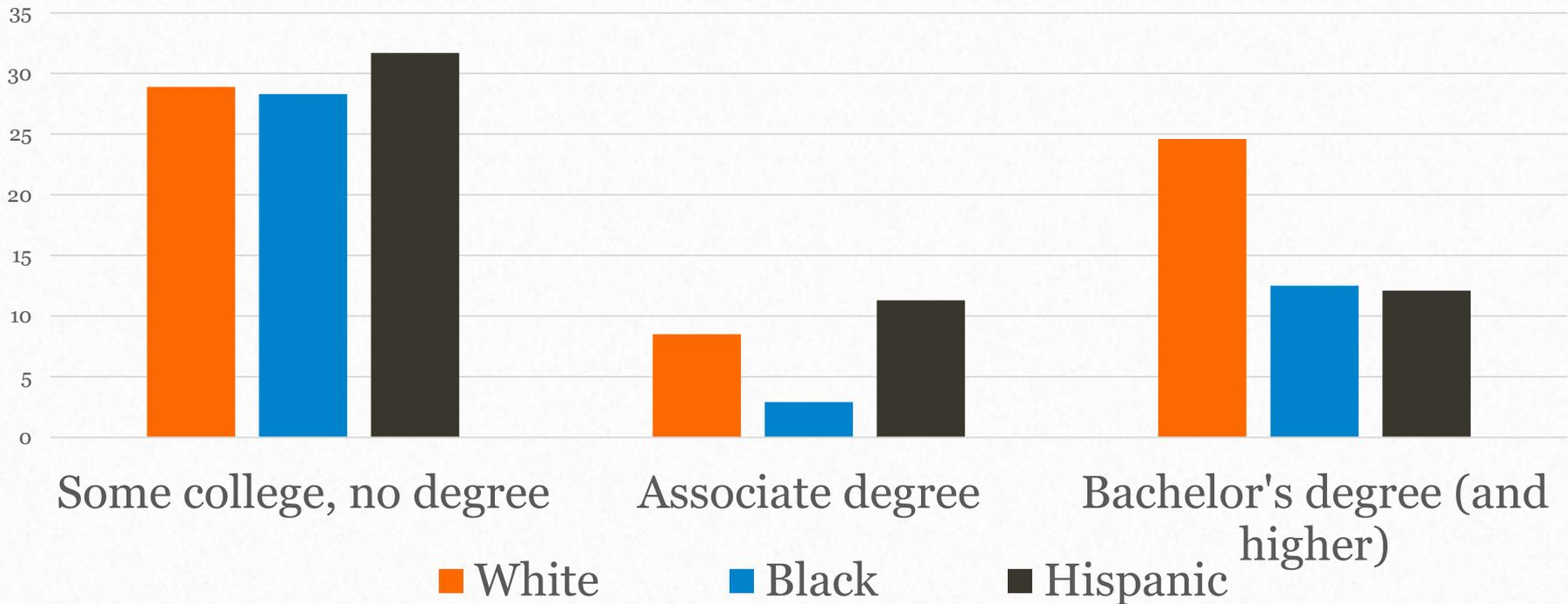
# More Students Are Getting Degrees

Students are responding to the demand for post-secondary education



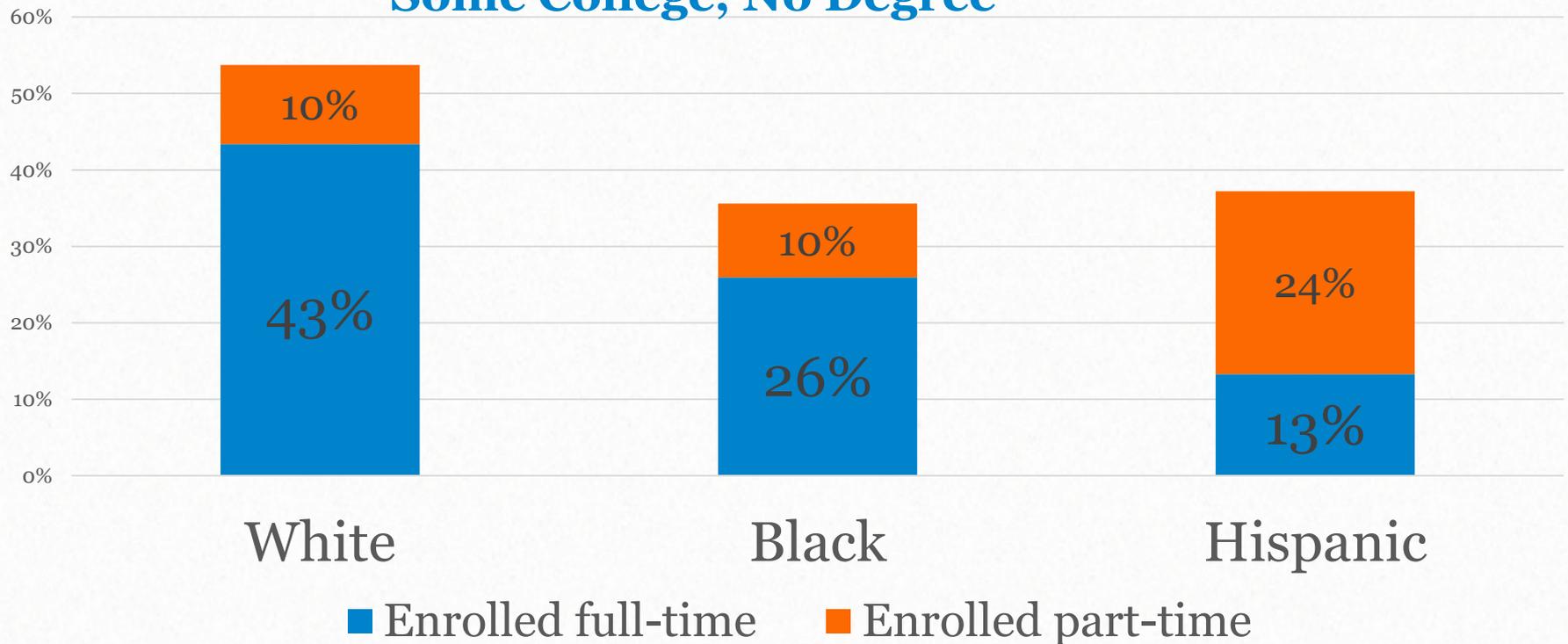
Full-time students, n=475; part-time students, n=170.

# Educational Attainment Differs Across Race/Ethnicity



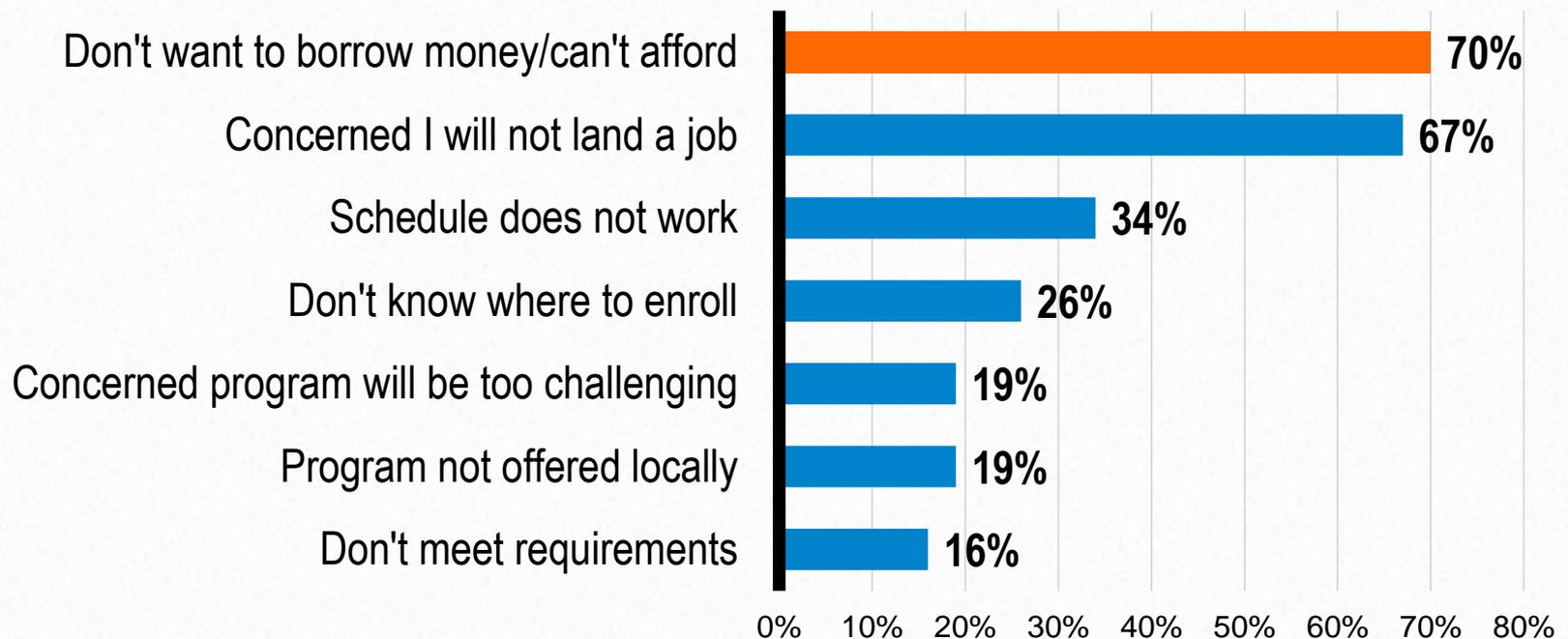
# Educational Attainment Differs Across Race/Ethnicity

## Current Enrollment of Respondents with "Some College, No Degree"



# Finances Keep Students from Additional Education

Please indicate whether each of following reasons describes why you are not enrolled in additional education or training:





# Upward Mobility

## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**28%**

of working respondents said that they are overqualified for their current job

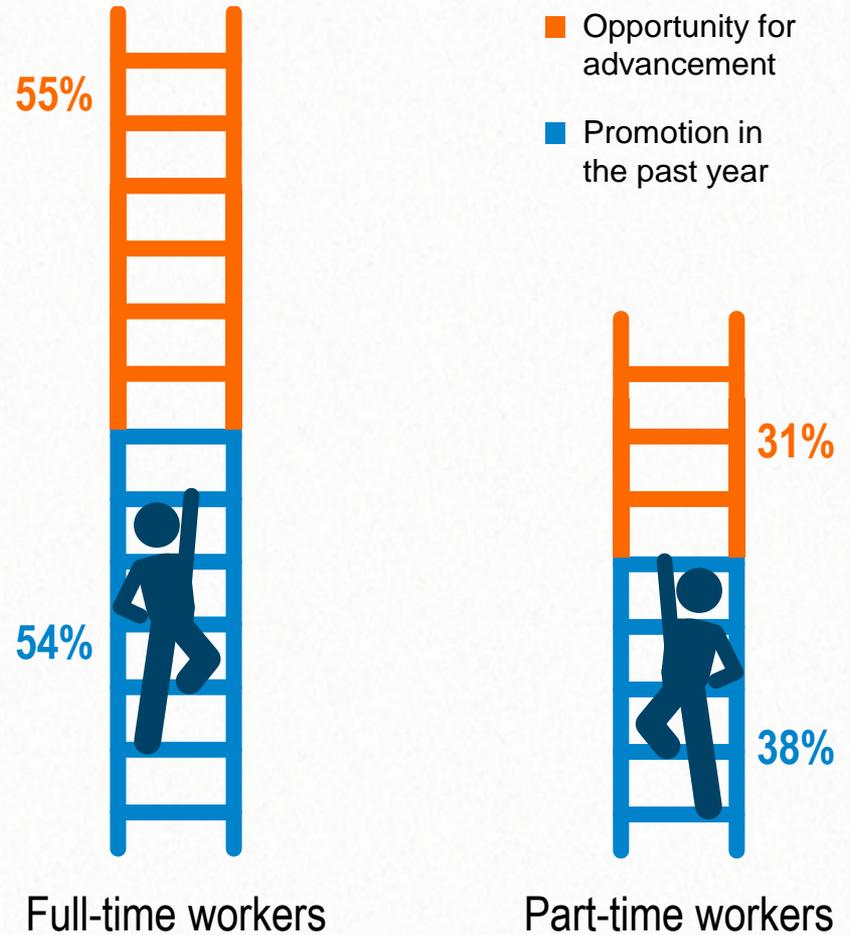
**48%**

of people without a post-secondary degree say they have “just a job,” not a career

**54%**

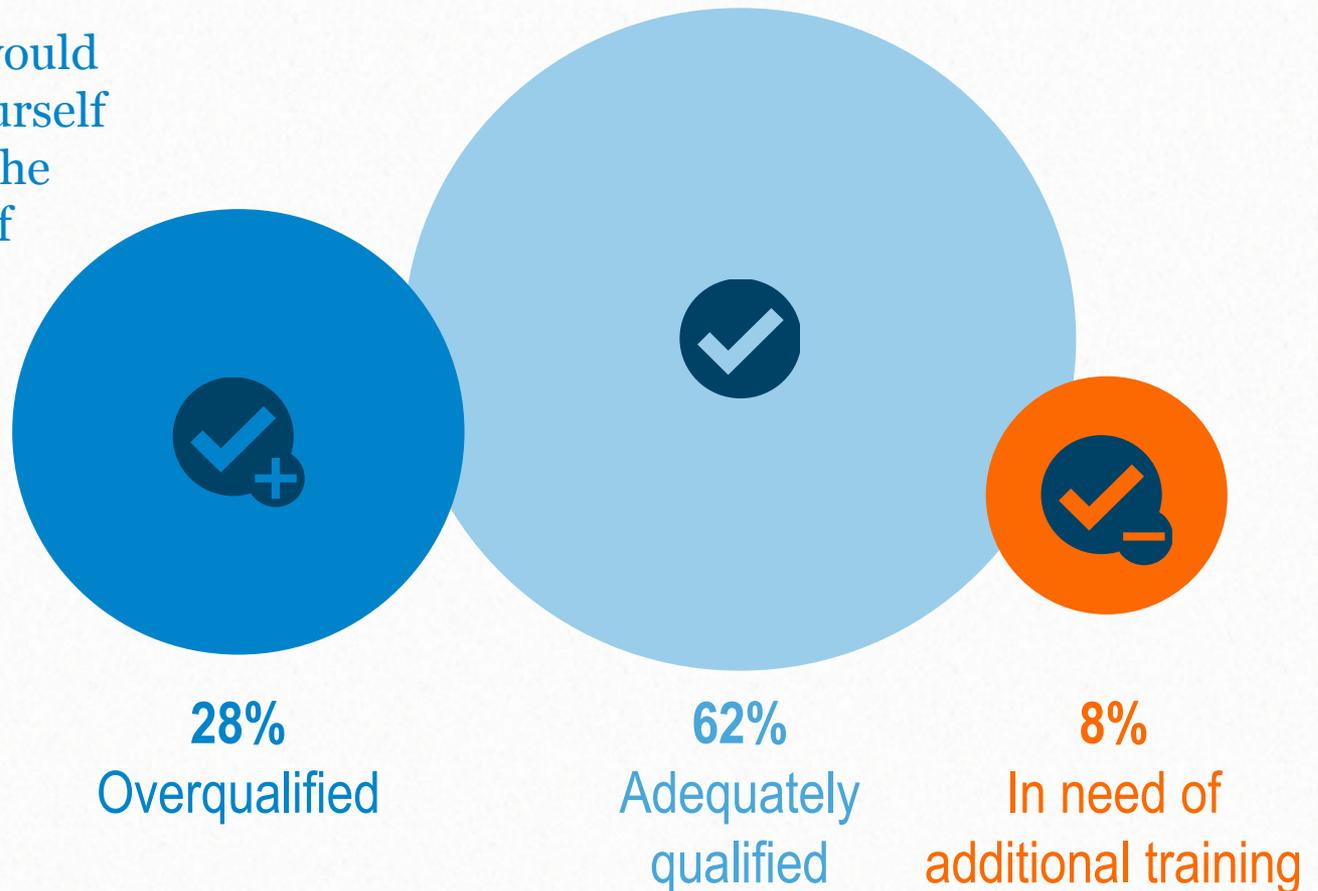
of full-time workers had a promotion in the last year, compared to 38% of part-time workers

# Full-time Workers Have More Upward Mobility

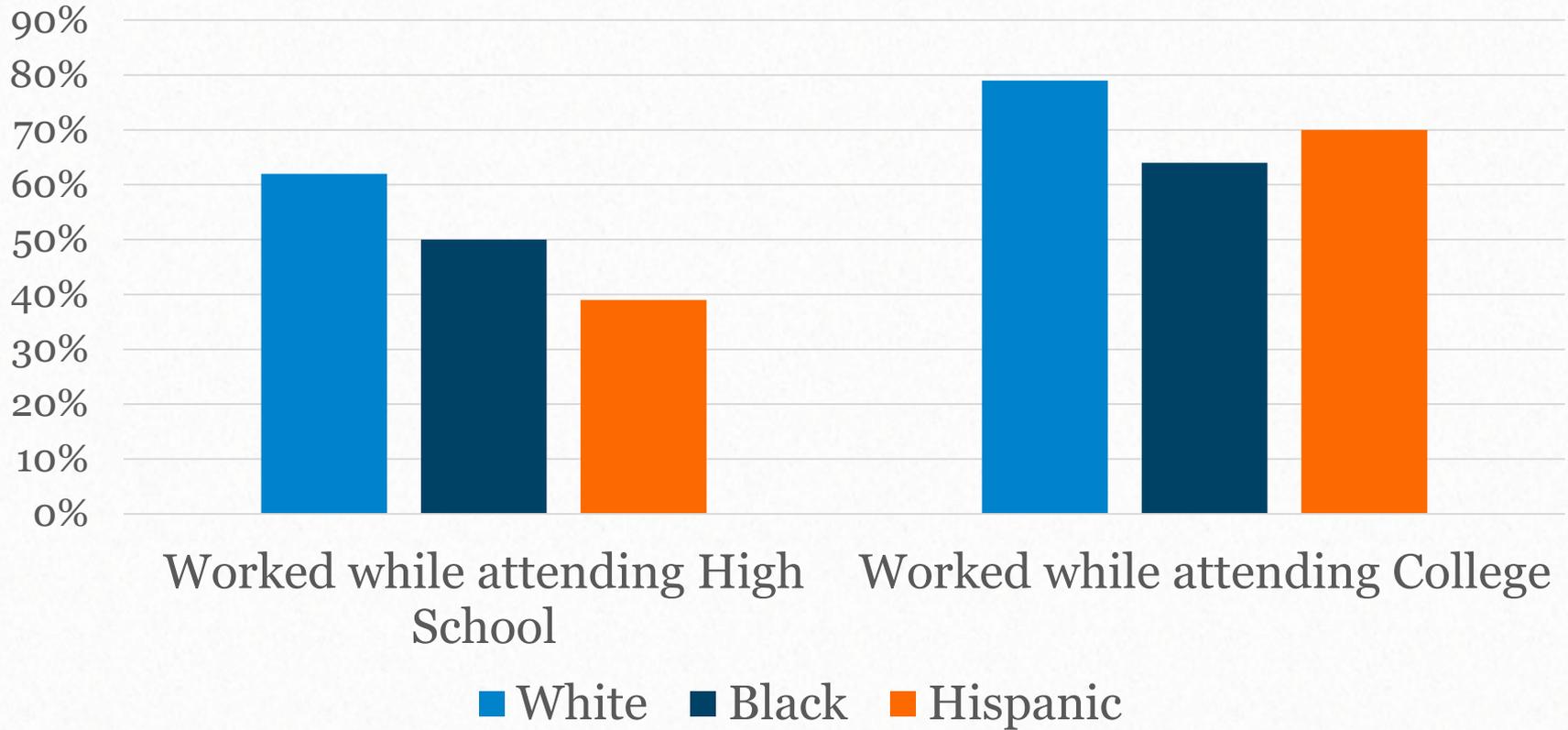


# Many Workers Feel Overqualified

How qualified would you describe yourself for performing the tasks required of your main job?



# Early Work Experience Leads to Upward Mobility





# Young Workers' Outlook

## TOP TAKEAWAYS

**69%**

of young workers prefer steady employment to higher pay

**45%**

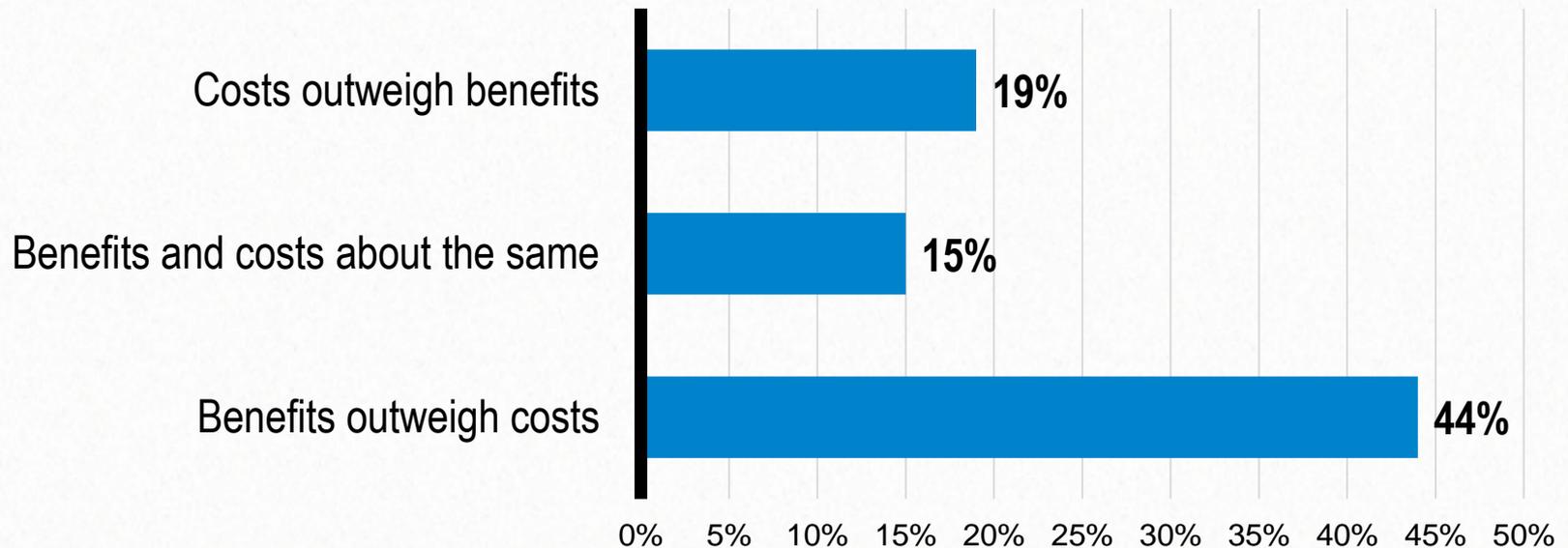
of young workers are optimistic about their job futures

**19%**

believe that the costs of education outweigh the benefits

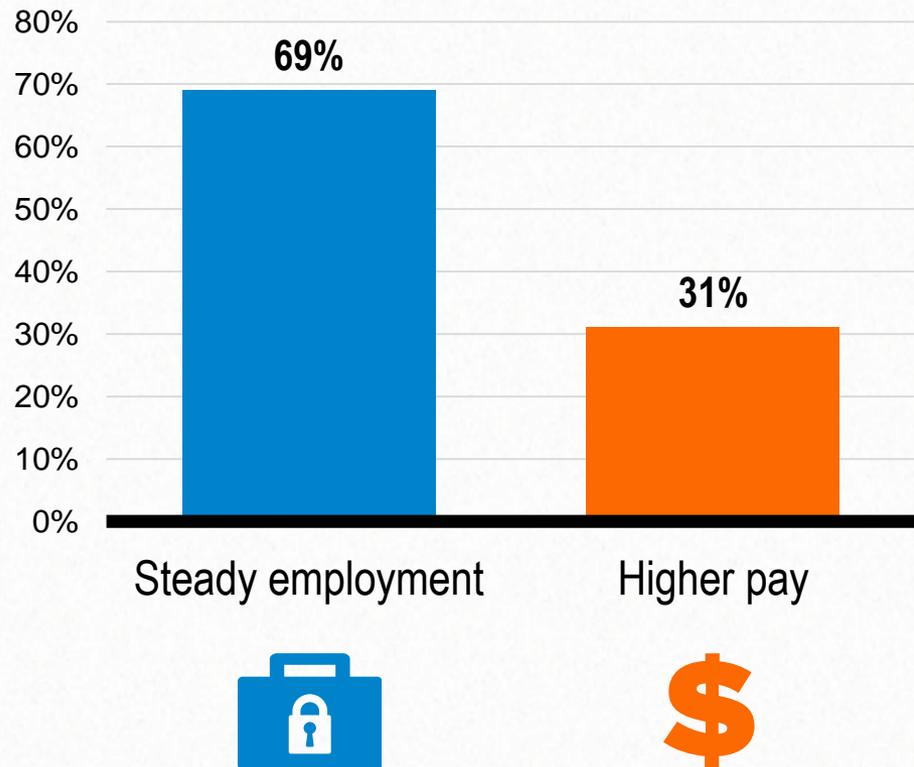
# Student Views on the Benefit of Education Vary

How would you say the lifetime **financial benefits** of your most recent educational program compare to the **financial costs** of this education?



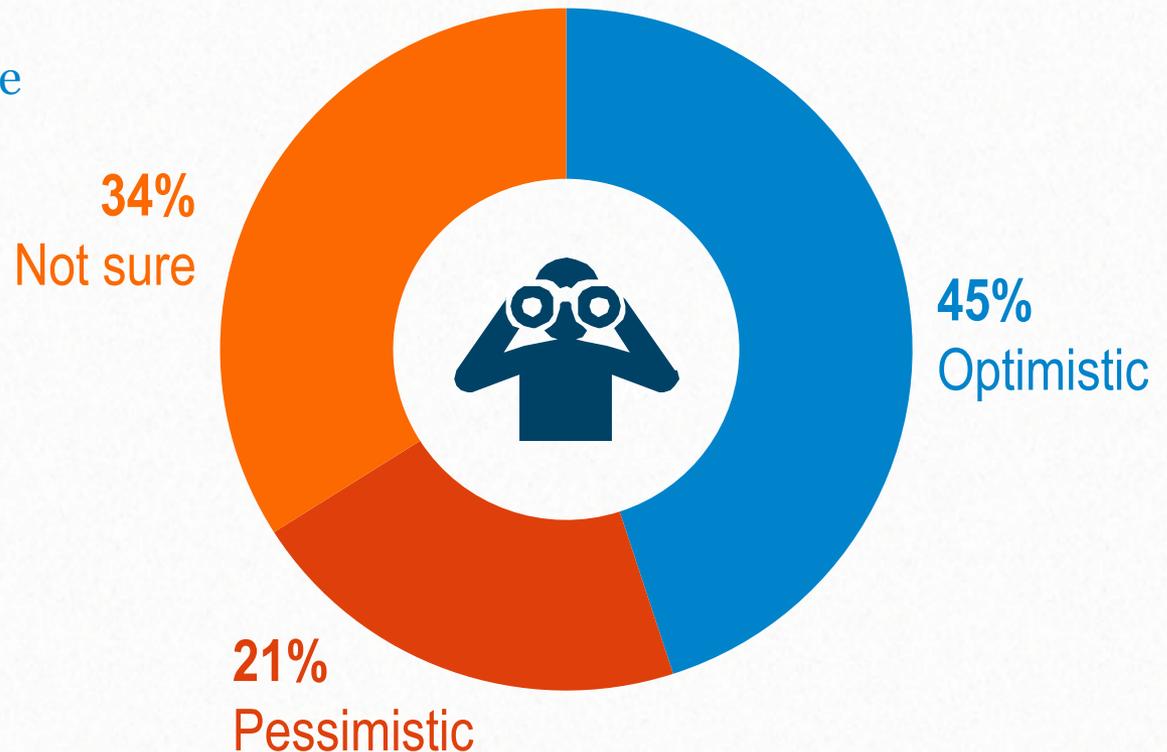
# Young Workers Value Job Stability

Young workers prefer steady employment to higher pay



# Young Workers Are Generally Optimistic About Job Future

Would you say your expectations about future job opportunities are:





# Moving Forward

Need to identify meaningful ways to **help young people connect to job information** and networks.

Need to provide information that aids young people in selecting appropriate education and training to meet their goals.

Need to aid young adults adjust to a changing labor market.

2015 Survey of young workers will be conducted this year.