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## Education by the Numbers

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## Education Attainment

Education is one of the dominant factors in determining how developed a country is. Education is essential in ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and protecting the planet (Schmidt, 2018). Approximately 90% of Americans over the age of 25 have a high school diploma, 34% have a bachelor's degree, and 13% have an advanced degree [ (master's professional, doctorate or combination), NCES, 2021].

In the United States, education attainment is strongly correlated with income. Moreover, income is often directly correlated with education attainment (World Population Review, 2022). Those with a high school diploma and without a high school diploma had an average median income of \$32,250. Those with a Bachelor's (\$67,300) or advanced degree (\$95,200) had an average median income of \$81,250. This equates to a 40% greater income than those without a post-secondary education experience (NCES, 2022).

Higher education is struggling to enroll and retain students to graduate within five years of enrollment (NCES, 2022). There are multiple factors and obstacles that determine a student's successful completion of a higher education degree within six years of enrollment. However, parental characteristics is a strong indicator for students who enroll (transition) and remain (persistence) in a higher education institution beyond the end of their first-year enrollment. These factors or obstacles may include socio-economic status, student location, tuition cost, lack of access to affordable options, family, personal difficulties, lack of time and poor higher education experience. Parental characteristics is a strong indicator of the number of students entering college and remaining in college beyond the end of their first college enrollment (Fabina, 2022).

Figure 1: Transition Rate to College and Parental Education

Transition Rate	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s Degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s Degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s Degree	Bachelor' s degree or higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or higher
	50%	70%	61%	80%	50%	78%	60%	80%	50%	70%	60%	80%
	>\$50,000		≤ \$50,000		>\$20,000		≤ \$20,000		>\$6000		≤ \$6000	
	Parental Net Worth				Parental Housing Equity				Parental Monthly Income			

Transition rate (rate at which students start college enrollment)

Figure 2: Persistence in College and Parental Education

Persistence Rate	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s Degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s Degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s Degree	Bachelor' s degree or higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or Higher	Less Than a bachelor' s degree	Bachelor' s degree or higher
	78%	75%	79%	93%	77%	77%	80%	93%	80%	79%	77%	91%
	>\$50,000		≤ \$50,000		>\$20,000		≤ \$20,000		>\$6000		≤ \$6000	
	Parental Net Worth				Parental Housing Equity				Parental Monthly Income			

Persistence (Rate at which students report college enrollment beyond first year enrollment)

## References

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