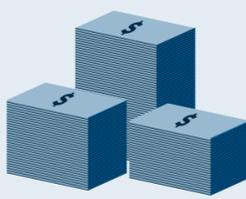


EDUCATION IS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

Education is linked with health through three major interrelated pathways:



Health knowledge + behaviors



Employment and Income



Social and Psychological factors

HEALTH KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIORS

Proportion of American adults with “below basic” health literacy among:

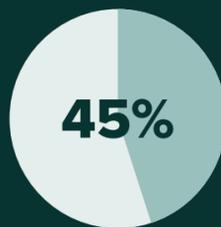
College graduates



High school graduates



Adults who have not completed high school



21% of adults with high school diplomas smokes, vs. **5.4%** of adults who also have graduate degrees.

More education can lead to higher paying jobs, which enables people to engage in health behaviors through access to:



Health care



Nutritious foods



Safer, healthier homes

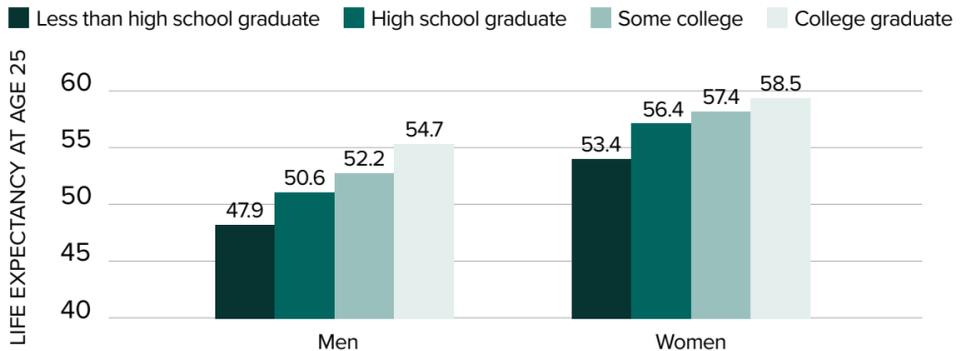


Neighborhoods with supermarkets



Parks and places to exercise

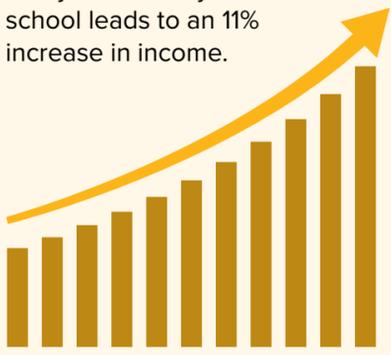
50% of Asian and **31%** of non-Hispanic white adults are college graduates, compared with **17%** of non-Hispanic Black and **13%** of Hispanic and American Indian or Alaska Native adults.



Source: National Longitudinal Mortality Study, 1988-1998. This chart describes the number of years that adults in different education groups can expect to live beyond age 25.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Every additional year of school leads to an 11% increase in income.



In 2019, the median weekly earnings among workers was...



For those with a bachelor's degree, a high school diploma, and no high school diploma, respectively.

Rate of unemployment among...

people ages 25+ lacking high school degrees:



people ages 25+ with bachelor's degrees:



Median career earnings (based on a 42-year career, in 2014's dollars) for people who have...

High school degree or GED

\$.58 million

Some college, no degree

\$.72 million

Associate's degree

\$.86 million

Bachelor's degree

\$1.19 million

In the United States overall, nearly **16%** of adults ages 25 years and older have not completed high school, **30%** have no schooling beyond high school, **27%** have attended but not completed college, and **28%** are college graduates.

Less educated workers in lower-wage jobs are also less likely to have health-related benefits including:



Paid sick/personal leave



Workplace wellness programs



Child/elder care resources



Retirement benefits



Employer-sponsored health insurance

SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

Social and psychological factors linked with education can influence health through pathways related to:



Education may influence health by shaping people's sense of personal control



31% of Hispanic adults never completed high school, more than double any other racial or ethnic category. Only **26%** of Black Americans 25 or older receive a bachelor's degree or higher, while **40%** of non-Hispanic white students and **58%** of Asian students do.

Higher levels of education have been observed to foster skills, habits, and attitudes — such as:

- Problem-solving
- Purposefulness
- Self-directedness
- Persistence
- Confidence

Lower levels of education, on the other hand, may lead to experiences that produce:

- Fatalism
- Sense of powerlessness
- Belief that own effort is less powerful than chance or others