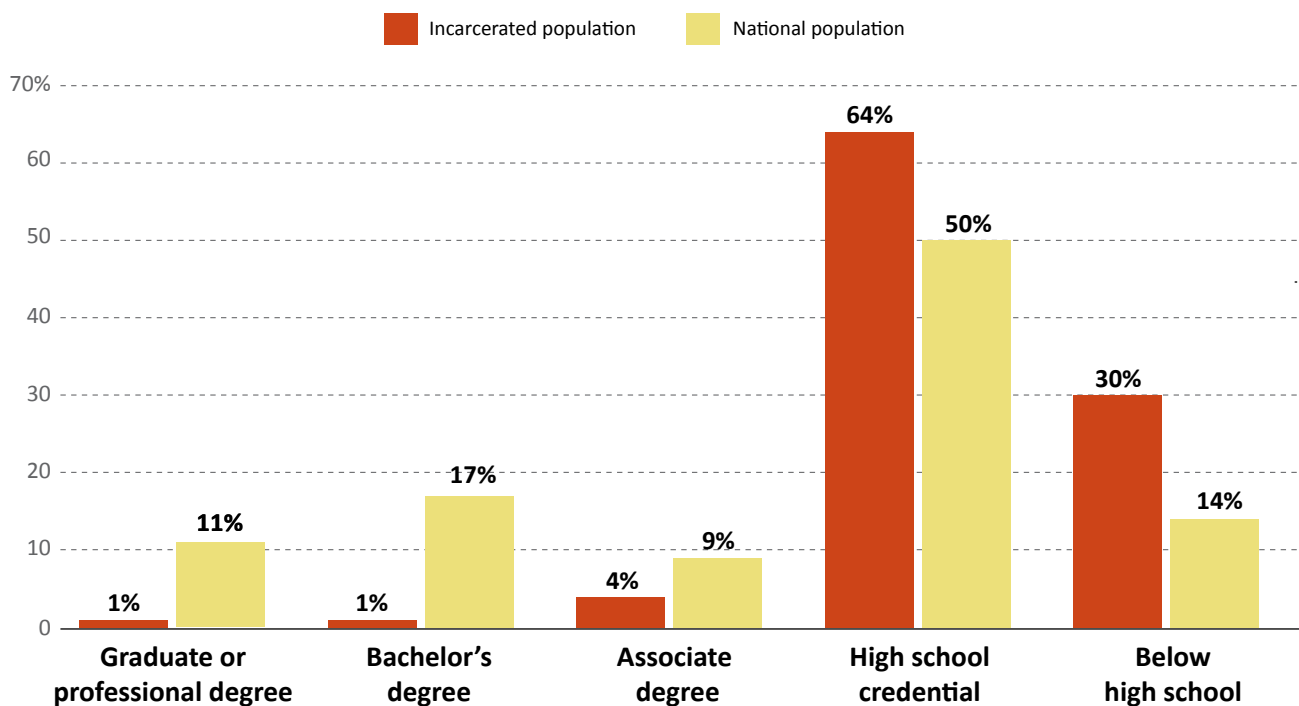


## Incarcerated individuals

Nearly 95 percent of U.S. inmates have attained only a high school diploma or less.

### Educational attainment of inmates compared to the general population



Source: Center for American Progress, "The Case for Paid Apprenticeships Behind Bars," April 2017.



The highest education level reached by about 94 percent of U.S. inmates is a high school diploma or less, compared to 64 percent of the population nationally, according to a recent study. Another four percent of prisoners hold an associate degree, compared to nine percent of the general population. Education-attainment differences among races is significant. African-American and Hispanic inmates have significantly lower educational attainment than incarcerated whites. About 40 percent of Hispanics and 33 percent of African-American inmates have less than a high school education, compared to 20 percent of white inmates. Low educational attainment and a poor job history, combined with a criminal record, are huge barriers to employment, especially for minority inmates who are disproportionately represented in the incarcerated population.

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