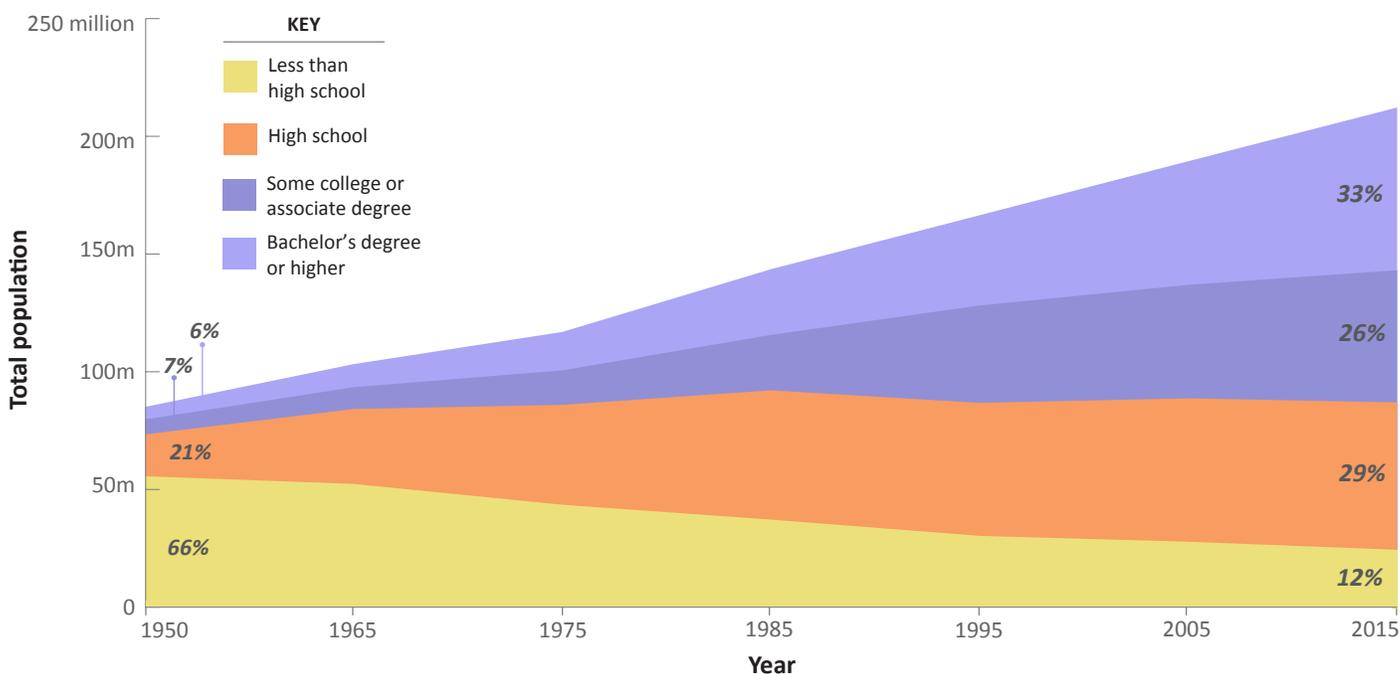


## Educational attainment

The attainment of postsecondary education in the U.S increased from 13 percent in 1950 to 59 percent in 2015.

### Education attainment of U.S. population 25 years and older



**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, "Table A-1. Years of School Completed by People 25 Years and Over, By Age and Sex: Selected Years 1940 to 2015," 2016. Data retrieved date 2/3/2017. Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Center on Education and the Workforce, "Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020," 2013.



The educational attainment of adults 25 years old and older has increased significantly throughout the last half century and into this century. In 1950, few American adults, about 11 million (13 percent), had any postsecondary education. By 2015, approximately 68.9 million (33 percent) of adults in that age range held a bachelor's degree or higher, and the number who completed some college or an associate degree increased from 6.2 million (7 percent) in 1950 to 56 million (26 percent). Those with no college education decreased to roughly 41 percent, or 87 million, of the 212 million adults 25 years old and older. Community colleges are positioned particularly well to continue their mission to educate and train adults with a high school diploma or less. That's important because by 2020 most U.S. job openings (65 percent) will require some postsecondary education, and data show earnings increase with more education.

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