

How learning benefits Georgians over a lifetime



Education empowers...

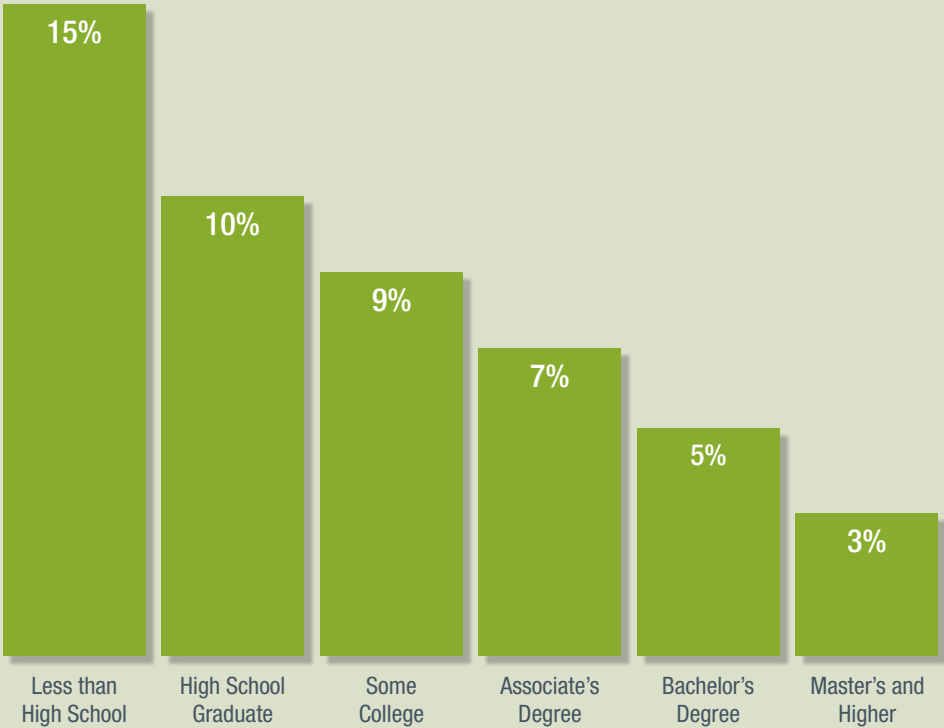
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It's a simple truth: On average, the more education Georgians receive – from K-12 through college – the better off they and their families tend to be. And the state does better as well.

For example, the chances of getting or keeping a job improve dramatically with more education.

Georgia Unemployment Rate

by Education Level

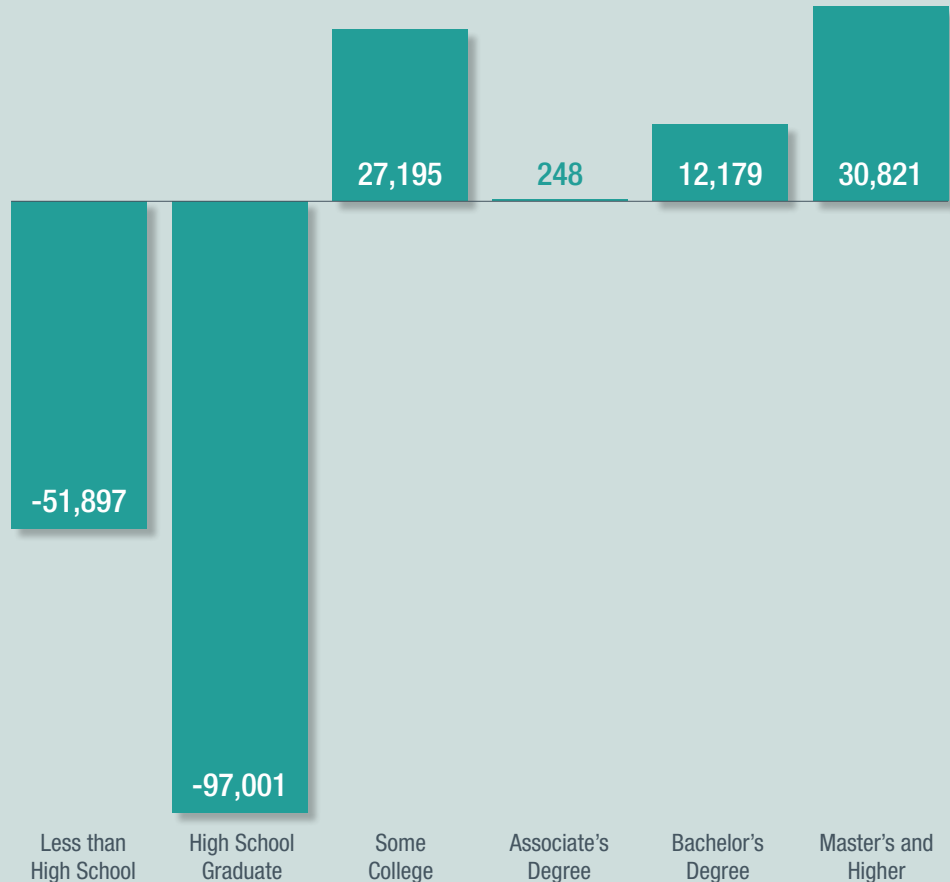


Higher levels of education mean lower rates of unemployment.

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 25-64.

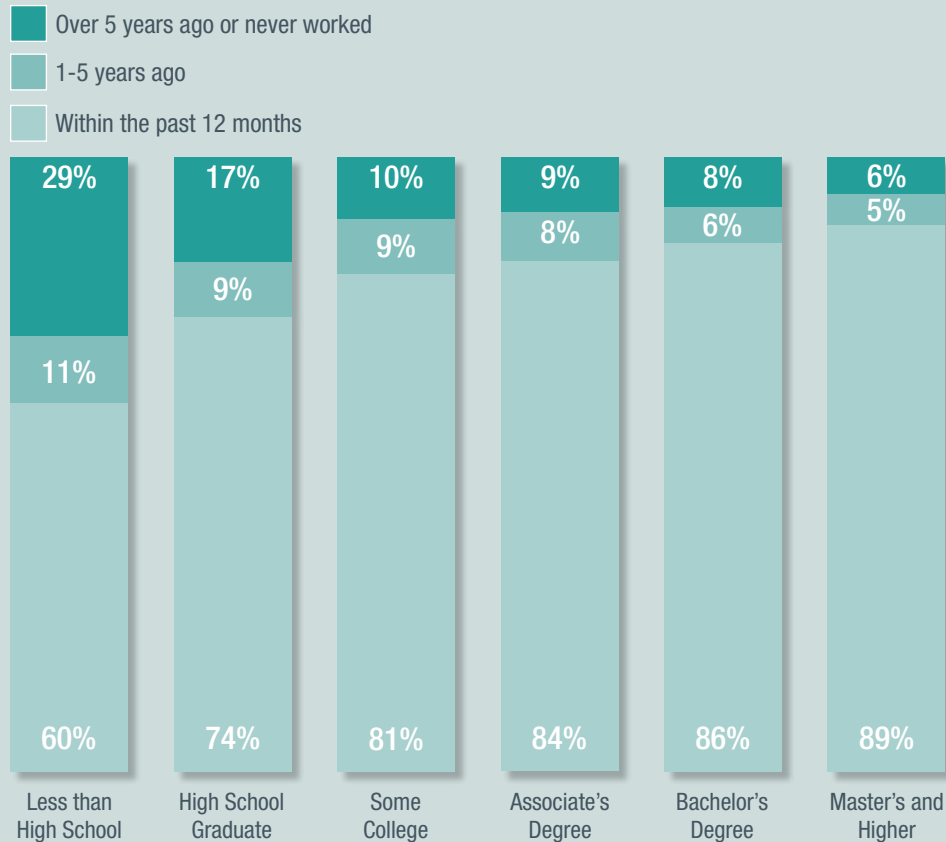
The importance of education to jobs is seen during the recent recession: Georgians who never went to college posted steep declines in full-time employment.

Change in Georgia Full-Time Employment 2005-07 to 2008-10
by Education Level



When Georgians Last Worked

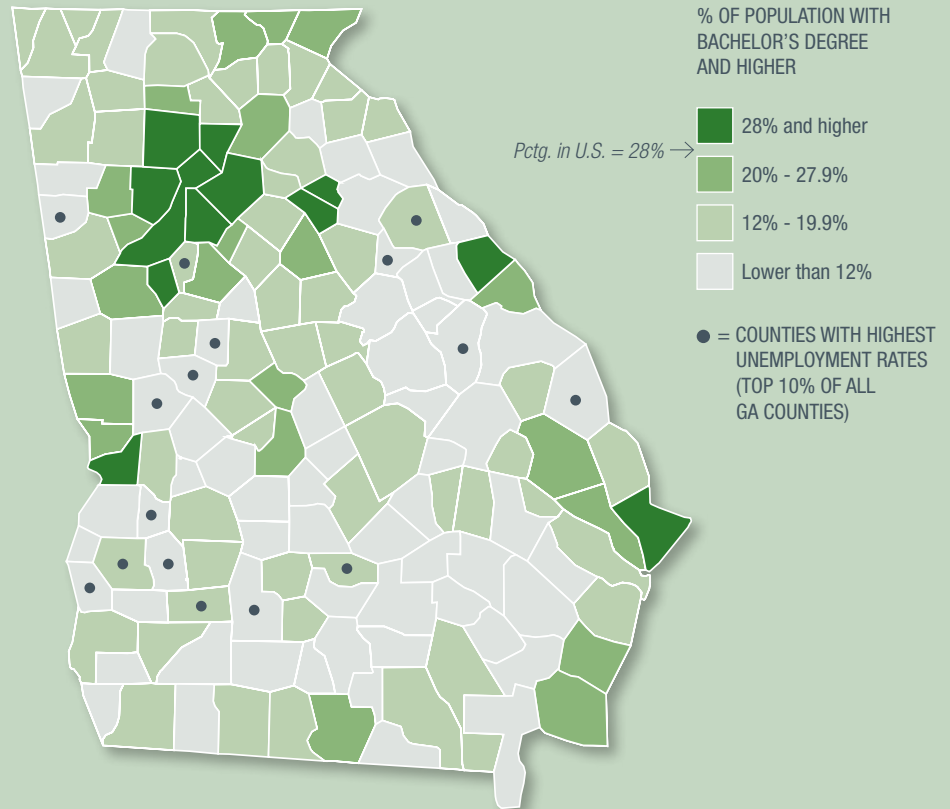
by Education Level



In fact, the last time a Georgian worked is strongly connected to education levels.

The same trend applies to where people work: Counties whose citizens tend to have lower levels of education are more likely to have higher rates of unemployment.

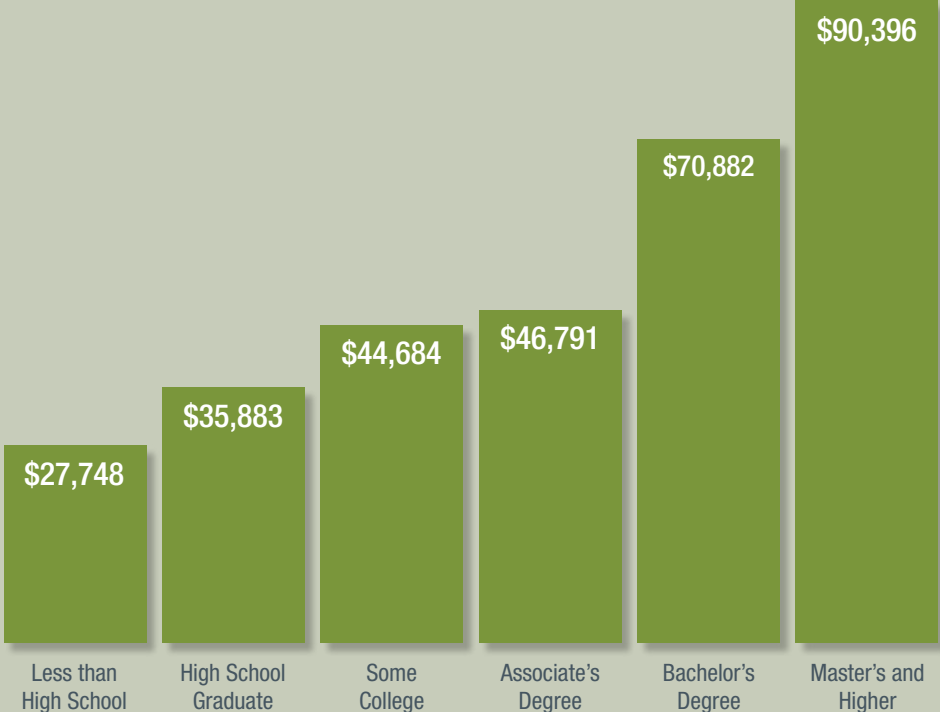
Georgia Counties with the Highest Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment in the County (Bachelor's degree and higher)



Education also affects earning power, and in a big way.

For example, the more Georgians learn, the more they earn.

Georgia Average Annual Personal Income by Education Level



Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults 25-64 working full time. Includes total income from all sources.

Comparison of Georgia Average Salaries for Selected Occupations by Education Level

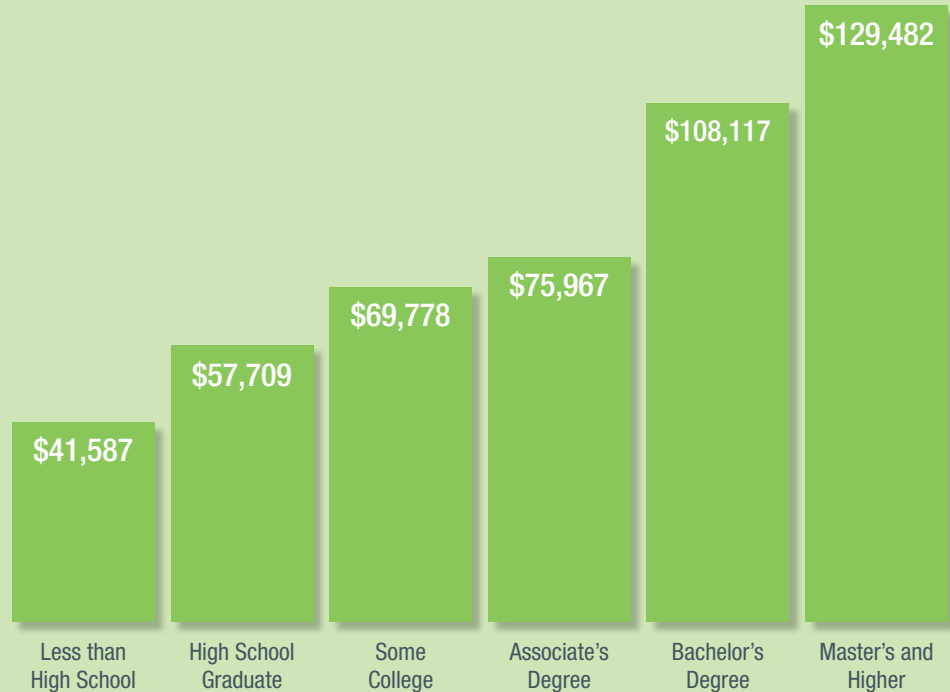
Occupations	High School Graduates	Bachelor's Degree Graduates	Bachelor's Degree Salary Over HS Grad Salary
Automotive Service Technicians / Mechanics	\$37,945	\$62,452	65%
Cashiers	\$21,503	\$34,495	60%
Clinical Laboratory Technologists / Technicians	\$23,941	\$66,835	179%
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$56,137	\$87,481	56%
Computer Support Specialists	\$43,429	\$57,067	31%
Construction Managers	\$57,937	\$84,577	46%
Cooks	\$19,320	\$23,055	19%
Customer Service Representatives	\$30,140	\$43,933	46%
Designers	\$26,997	\$53,133	97%
Financial Managers	\$40,347	\$76,365	89%
Food Service Managers	\$39,255	\$54,485	39%
General and Operations Managers	\$62,361	\$92,004	48%
Human Resources Managers	\$46,240	\$74,321	61%
Business Training and Development Specialists	\$56,921	\$66,330	17%
Insurance Sales Agents	\$51,420	\$121,759	137%
Loan Officers and Credit Counselors	\$44,759	\$71,871	61%
Marketing and Sales Managers	\$41,358	\$103,865	151%
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$44,675	\$62,635	40%
Miscellaneous Office and Administrative Support	\$33,902	\$47,679	41%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$61,474	\$75,768	23%
Real Estate Brokers and Sales Agents	\$33,803	\$77,434	129%
Retail Salespersons	\$35,391	\$68,587	94%
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	\$49,213	\$80,427	63%
Sales Representatives, Wholesale / Manufacturing	\$45,412	\$92,948	105%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	\$30,258	\$35,296	17%

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 25-64 working full time.

And in all kinds
of occupations,
a college education
tends to boost
earning power.

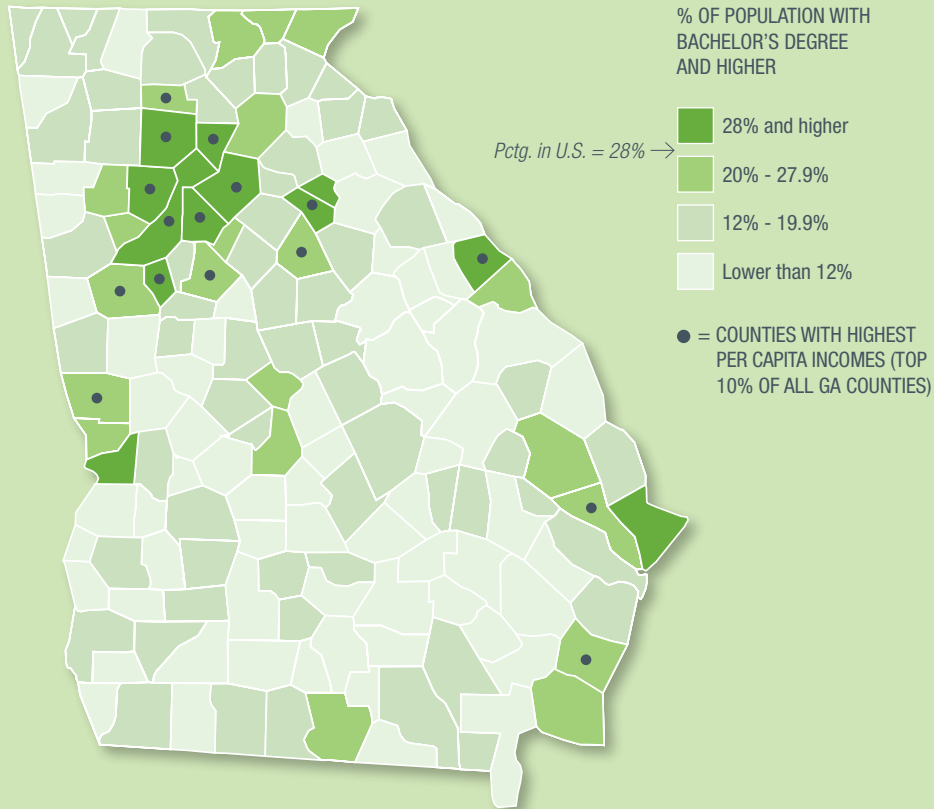
Georgia Average Household Income by Education Level

The correlation between higher incomes and education also holds true across households.



Georgia Counties with Highest Per Capita Incomes

by Educational Attainment in the County (Bachelor's degree and higher)



This pattern is evident in Georgia counties, too: Those with the highest overall education levels also tend to have the highest income levels.

In the competition with other states, Georgia has some work to do in elevating the education levels of its citizens so that they can enjoy greater levels of prosperity.

Average Personal Income and Percentage of Adults Working Full-Time with Bachelor's Degree and Higher by State

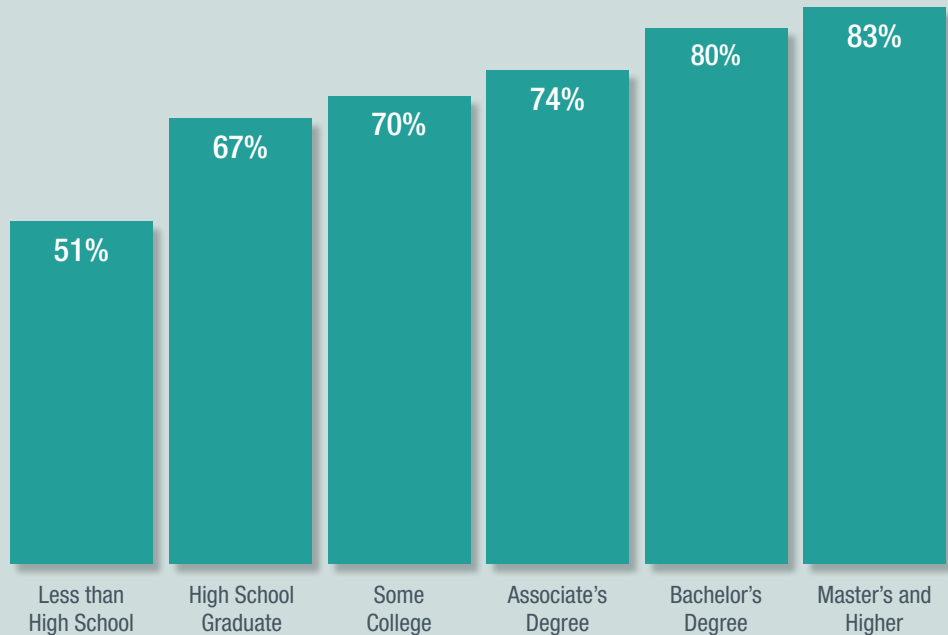


Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 25-64 working full-time. Includes total income from all sources.

Given the positive relationship of education to employment and income, it's no surprise that home ownership has strong ties to education.

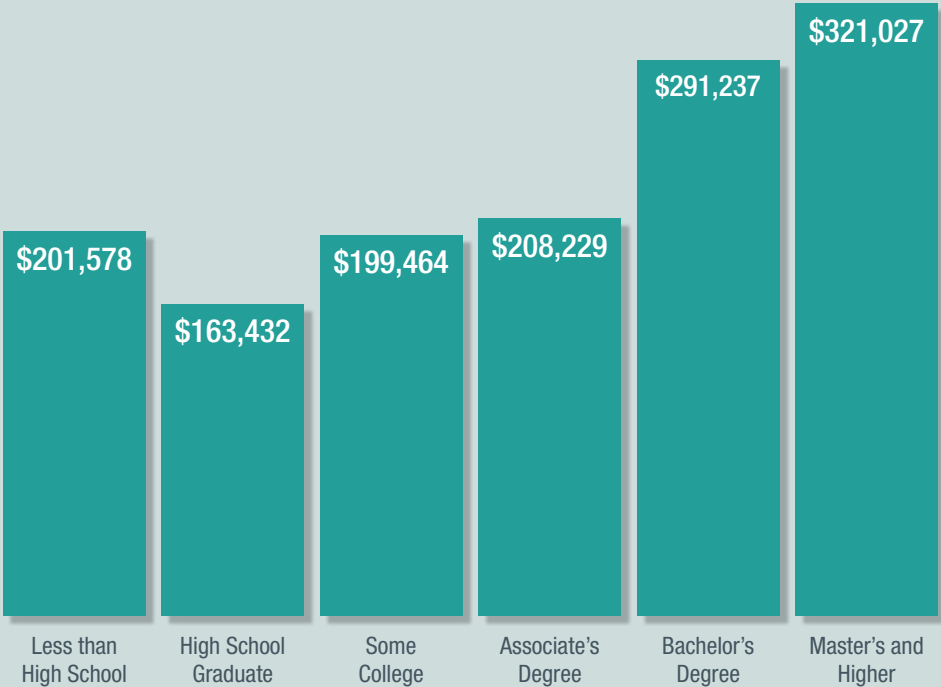
Georgia Home Ownership by Education Level

Simply put, Georgians with college degrees have the highest levels of home ownership in the state.



Georgia Average Housing Value

by Education Level

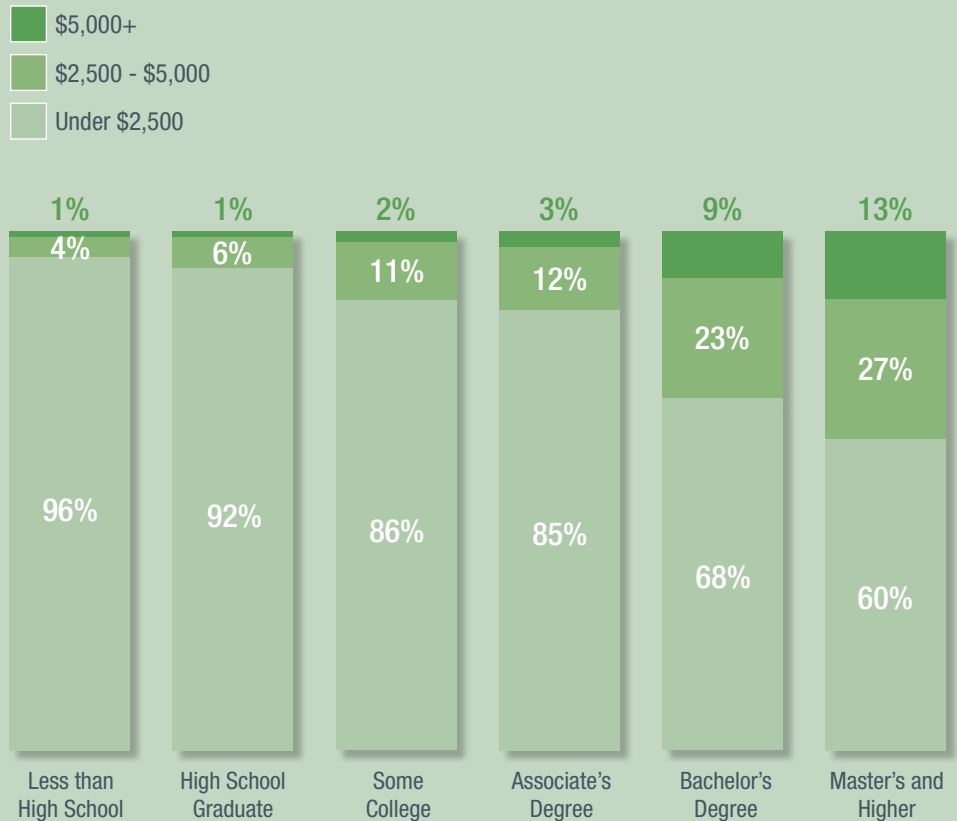


The value of a home also correlates closely to the education level of its owner...

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10.

...which means that the education level of Georgians is a major driver in how much state and local governments collect in property taxes.

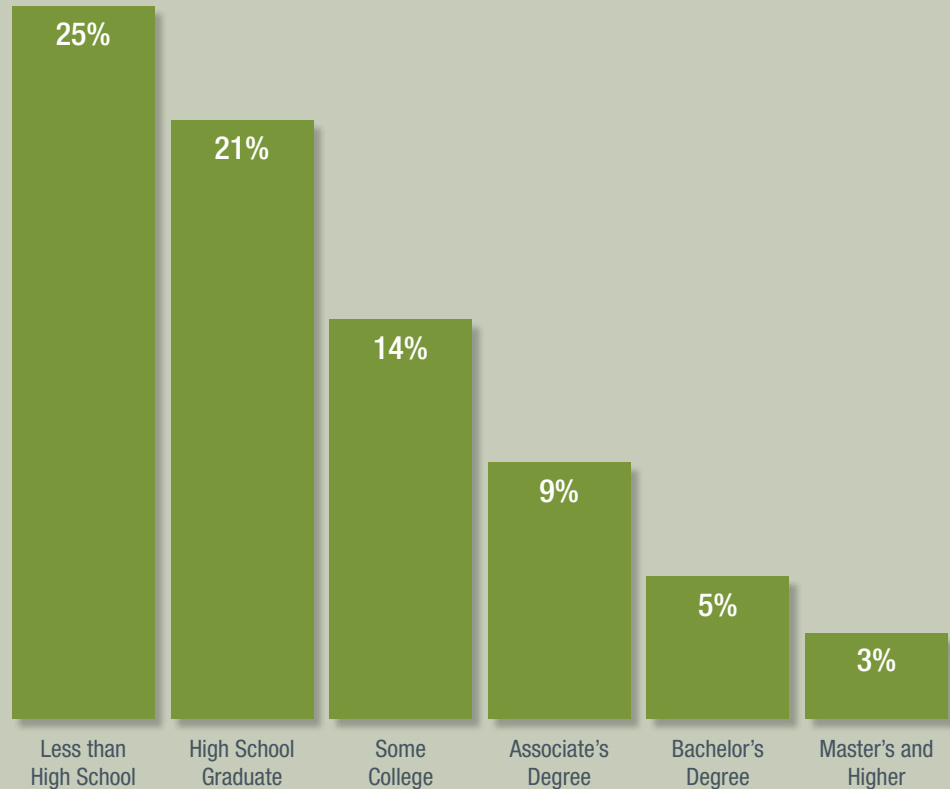
Georgia Property Taxes Paid by Education Level



Many Georgians choose to buy a home around the time they decide to have children. Here again, education factors into what life is like for the youngest members of a family.

One example:
The education level of the head of a household is linked to the likelihood children in that household will live in poverty.

Percentage of Georgia Children Living in Poverty
by Education Level of Parent (or Head of Household)



Percentage of Households with Low or Very Low Food Security and Percentage of Adult Population with Bachelor's Degree and Higher by State

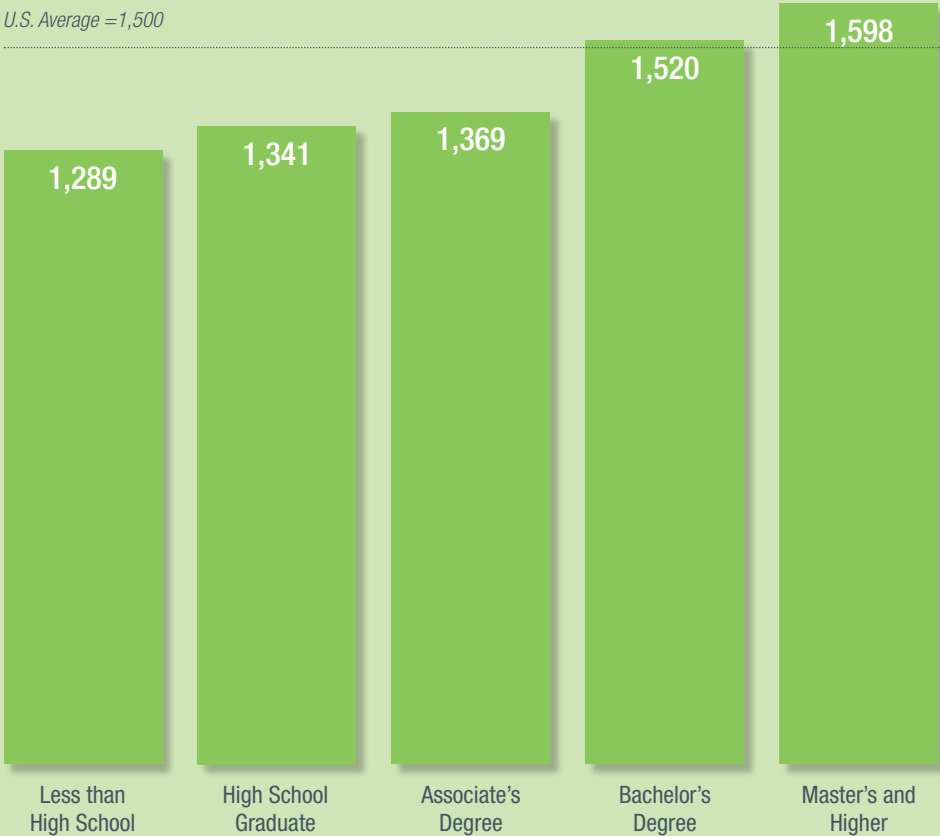


And across the nation, low educational attainment in a household increases the likelihood that the household will experience low or very low “food security.”

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 25 and older, and from December 2010 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement. Food insecure households are those that, at some time during the year had difficulty providing enough food for all household members due to a lack of resources.

Georgia Average SAT Scores (Out of 2,400 for Reading, Math, Writing)
by Education Level of Parents

U.S. Average = 1,500



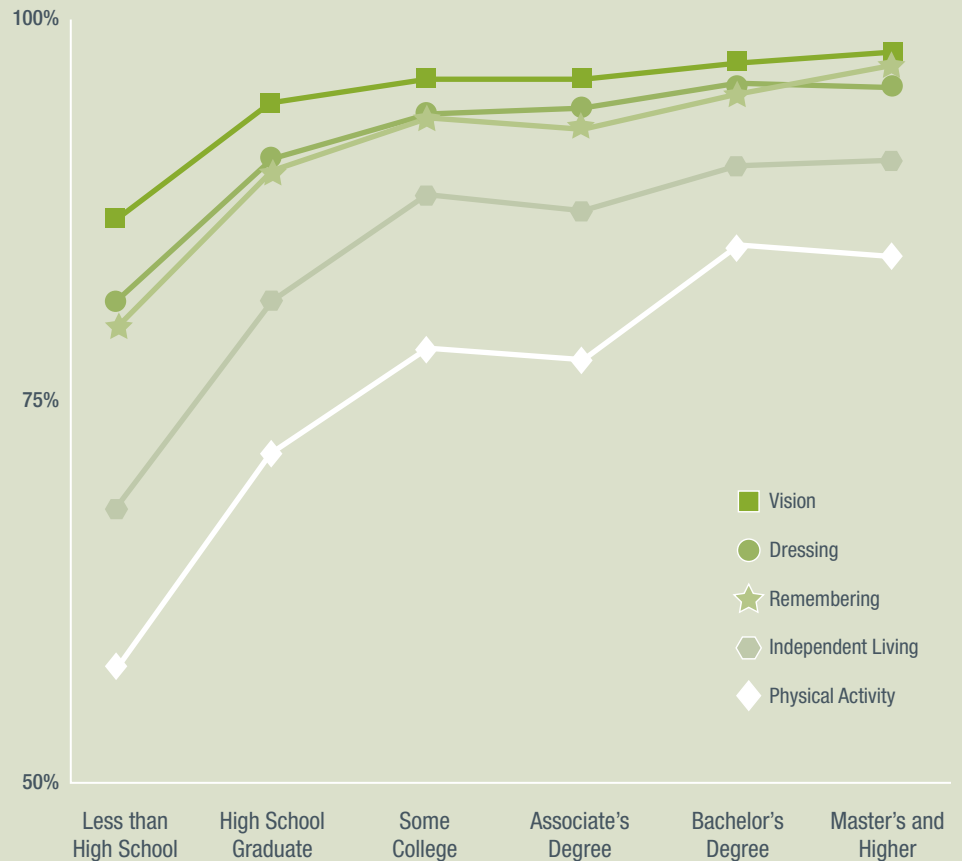
The academic performance of students also shows a correlation to the education level of their parents.

Data is from the College Board state profile report on 2011 college-bound seniors in Georgia (the U.S. average is 1,500 out of 2,400).

The influence of education applies as much to older Georgians as to the state's youngest citizens.

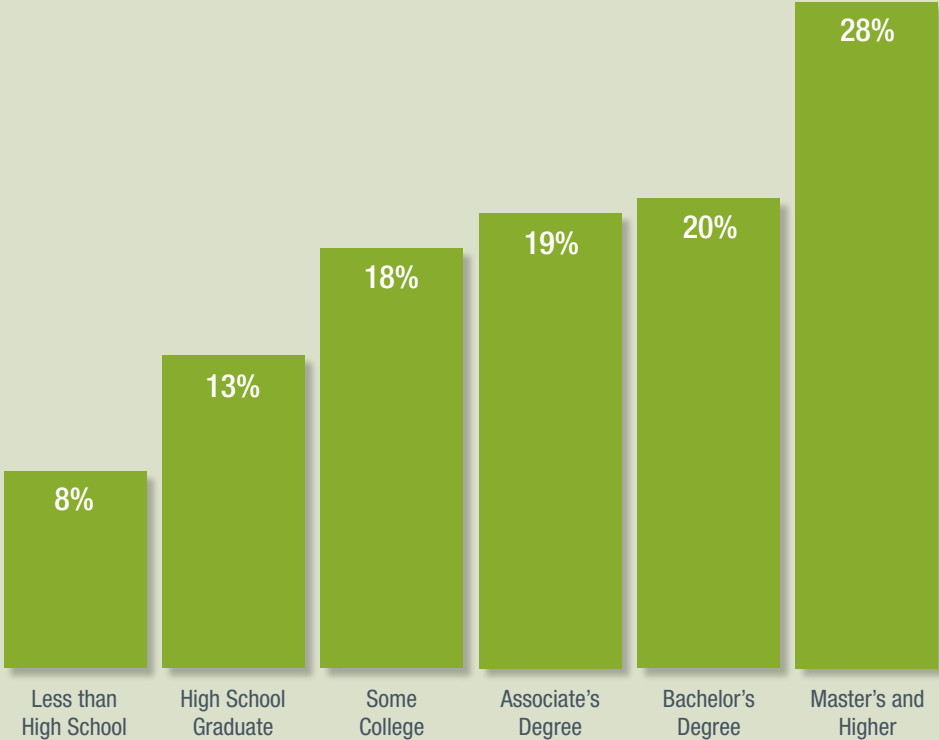
Case in point:
The more education
older Georgians
have, the more likely
they are to report
“no difficulty” with
everyday activities...

Georgians Age 65 and Older Reporting “No Difficulty” with Certain Activities
by Education Level



Average Labor Force Participation Rate for Georgians Age 65 and Older

by Educational Level

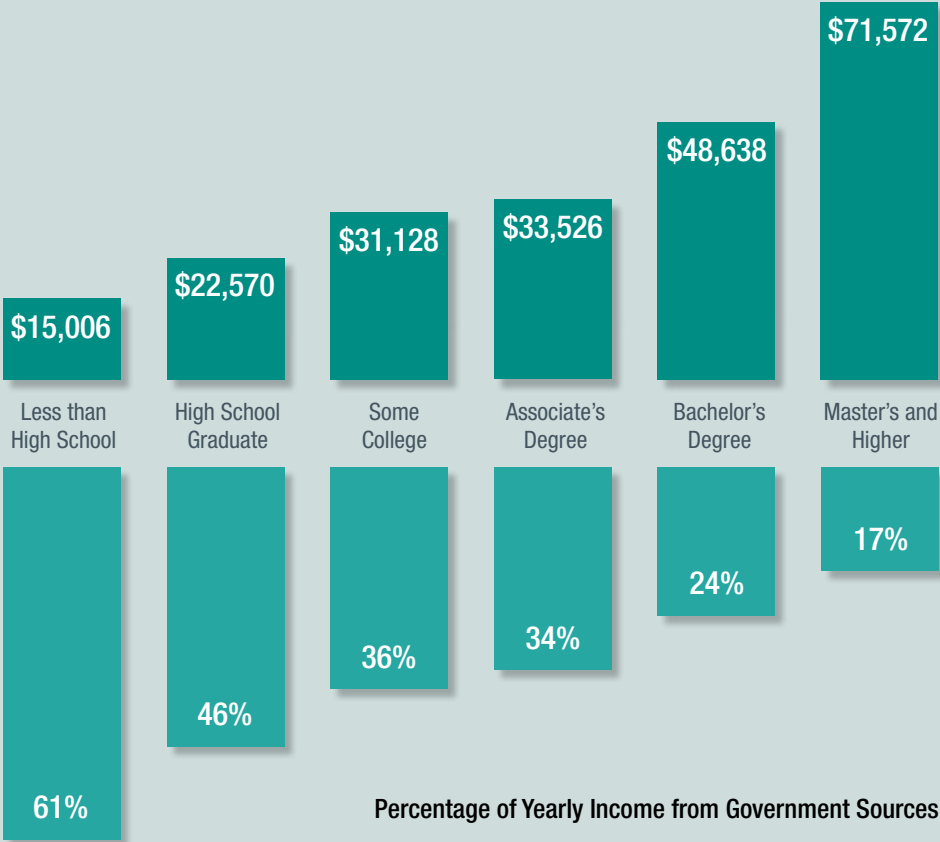


...and the more active they are, the more likely they will be working at age 65 or older.

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 65 and older.

Education levels also impact the annual incomes of older Georgians. More education leads to higher incomes and less reliance on government support.

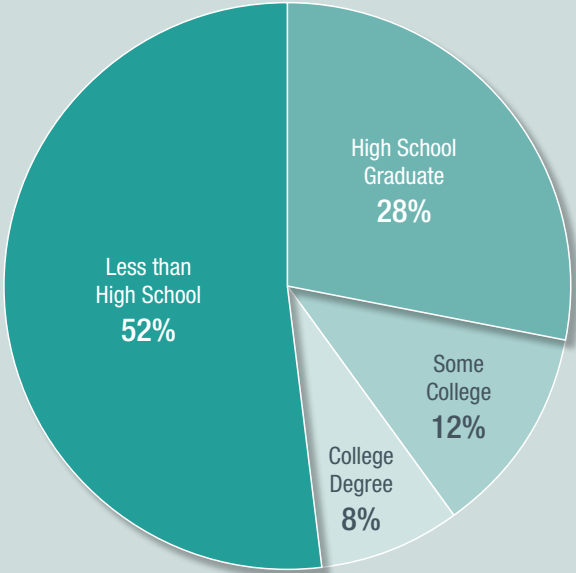
Average Yearly Income for Georgians Age 65 and Older
by Education Level and Source of Income



Percentage of Yearly Income from Government Sources

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 65 and older.

Distribution of Georgians Age 65 and Older Living in Poverty
by Education Level

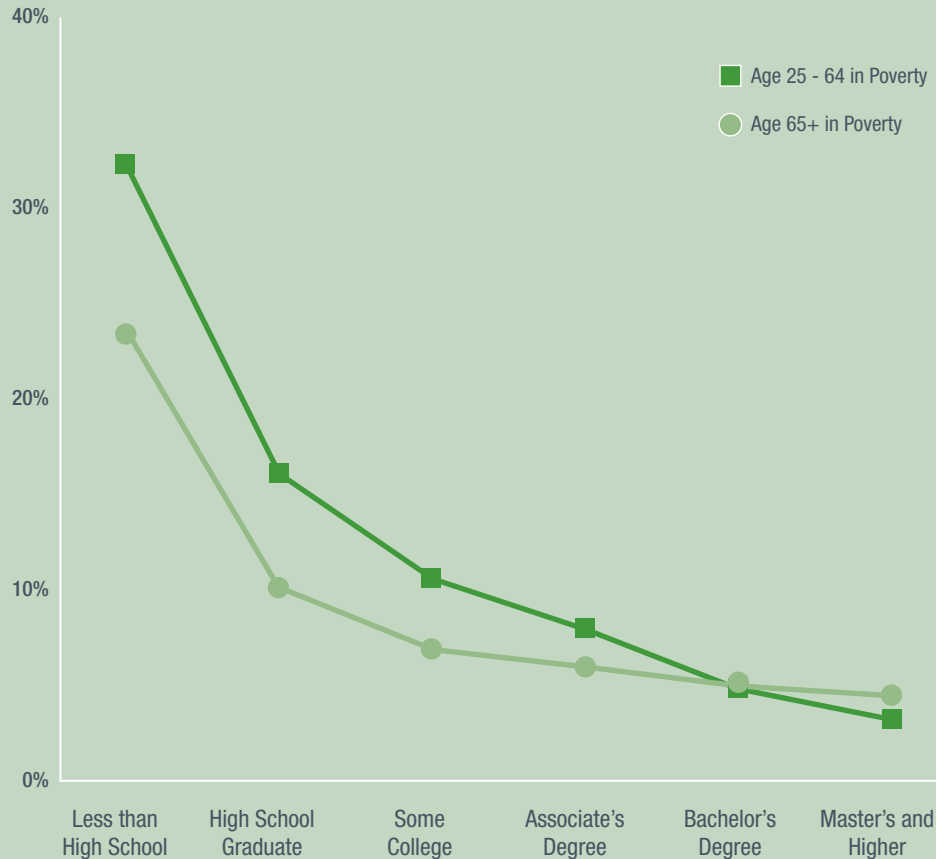


Perhaps the most telling statistic for older Georgians involves those in poverty. Of all seniors in the state who live in poverty, 80% never went beyond high school in their formal education.

Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 65 and older.

The cumulative impact of education on individuals and families underscores its influence on the overall quality of life in Georgia.

Percentage of Georgia Adults Living in Poverty by Education Level and Age

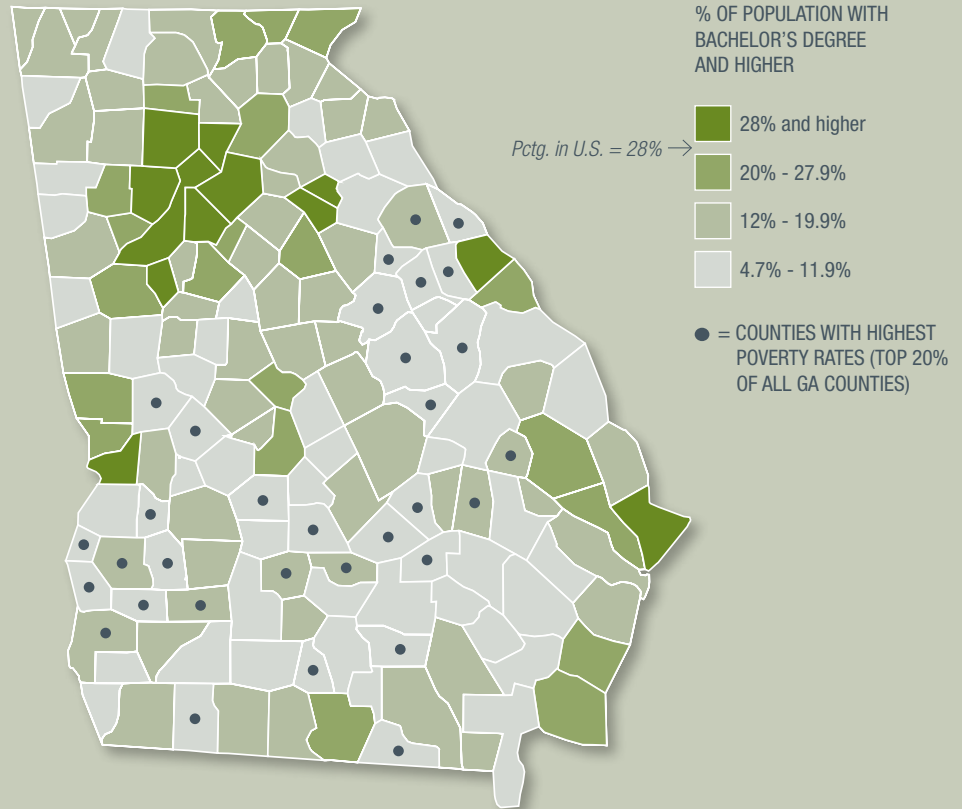


Poverty is one of the biggest obstacles to a desirable quality of life. Across all age brackets, poverty levels drop as education levels rise.

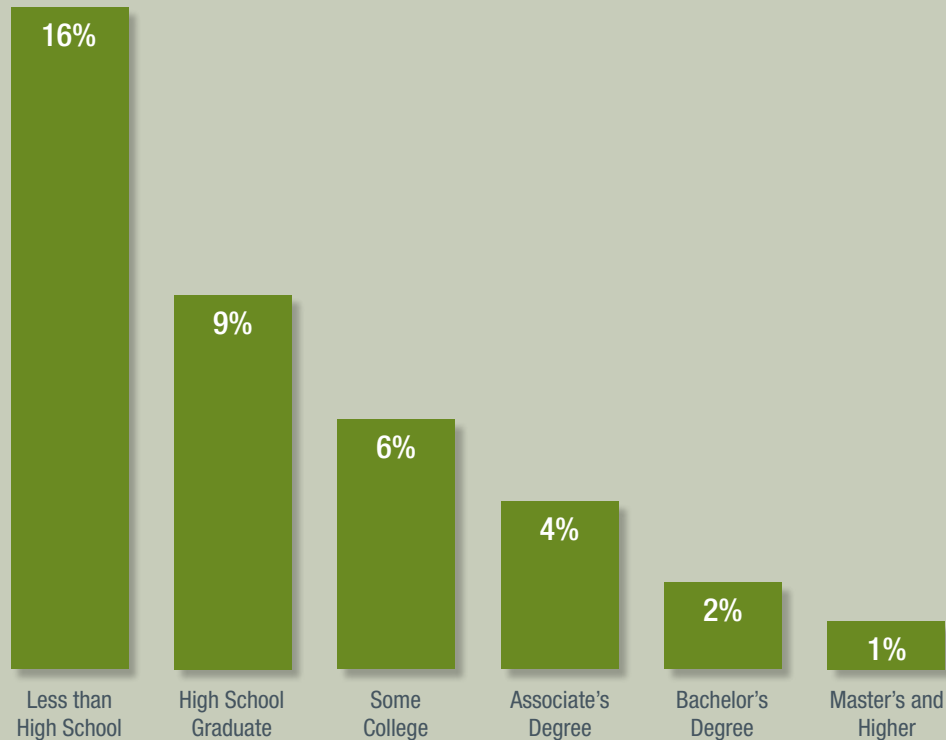
Across the state, the highest incidences of poverty occur where the levels of formal education are the lowest.

Georgia Counties with Highest Poverty Rates

by Educational Attainment in the County (Bachelor's degree and higher)



Percentage of Georgians Receiving Government Assistance Due to Low Incomes or Disability by Educational Level

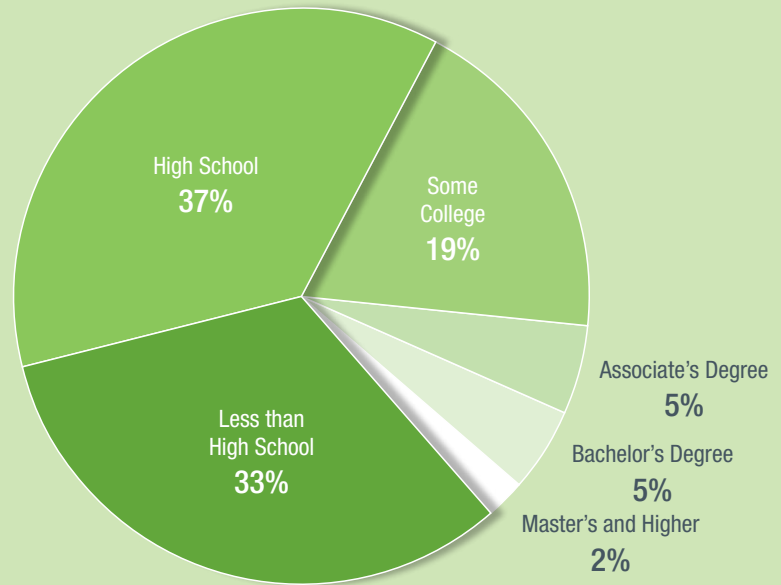


Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 2008-10 for adults age 25-64. Governmental assistance includes Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability.

When Georgians can't provide for themselves, the government usually must step in to help. Citizens who need this help typically have the lowest educational attainment.

**Distribution of Georgians Receiving Government Assistance Due to Low Incomes or Disability
by Education Level**

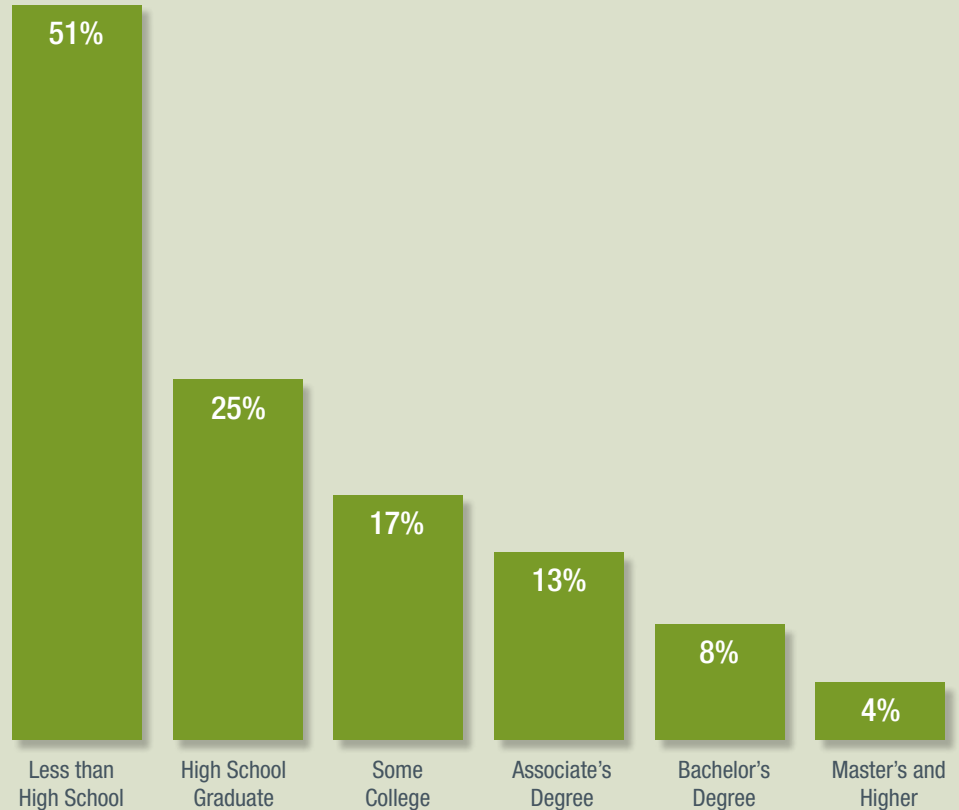
In fact, 7 out of 10 Georgians receiving state assistance for reasons related to either low incomes or disability have no formal education beyond high school.



The link between education and quality of life for individual Georgia citizens helps determine the overall social well being of the state.

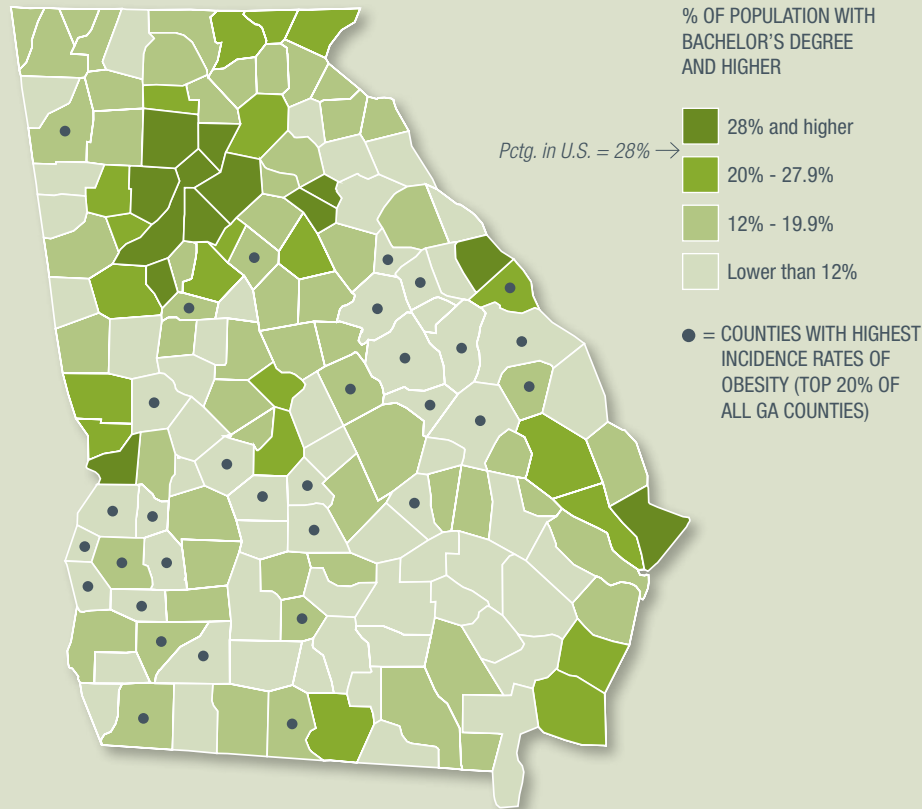
Health care is one example: The less education working Georgians have, the less likely they are to have health insurance.

Percentage of Georgia Adults Working Full-Time Without Health Insurance Coverage by Education Level



Georgia Counties with Highest Incidence Rates of Obesity

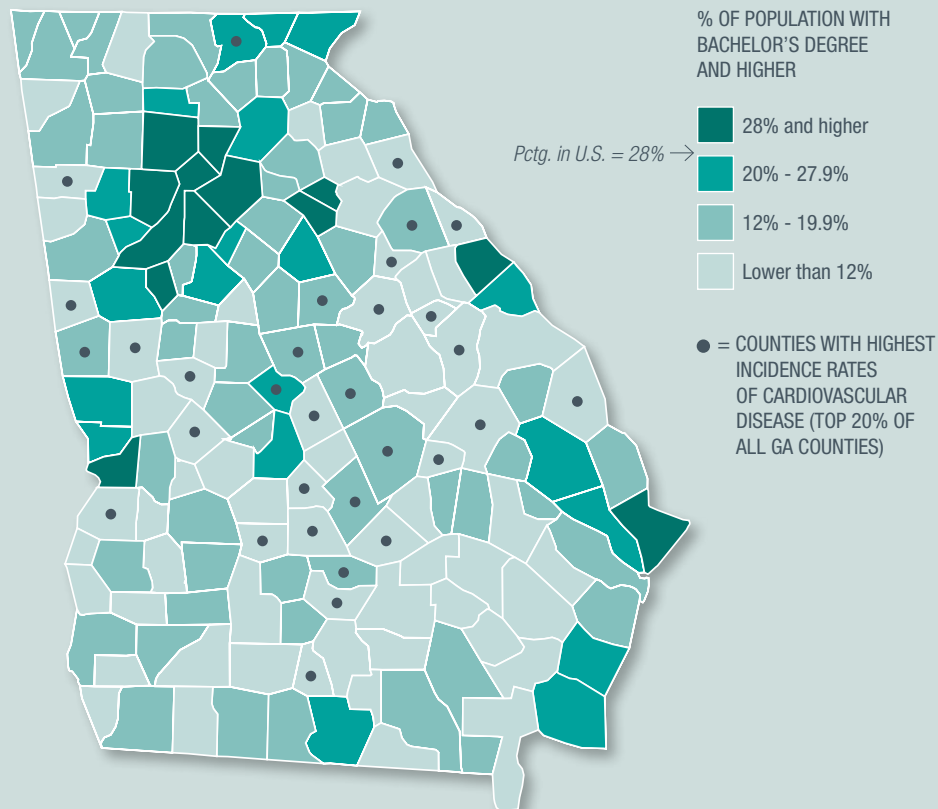
by Educational Attainment in the County (Bachelor's degree and higher)



Overall health also connects to education levels across the state. Counties with lower educational attainment tend to have higher incidences of obesity.

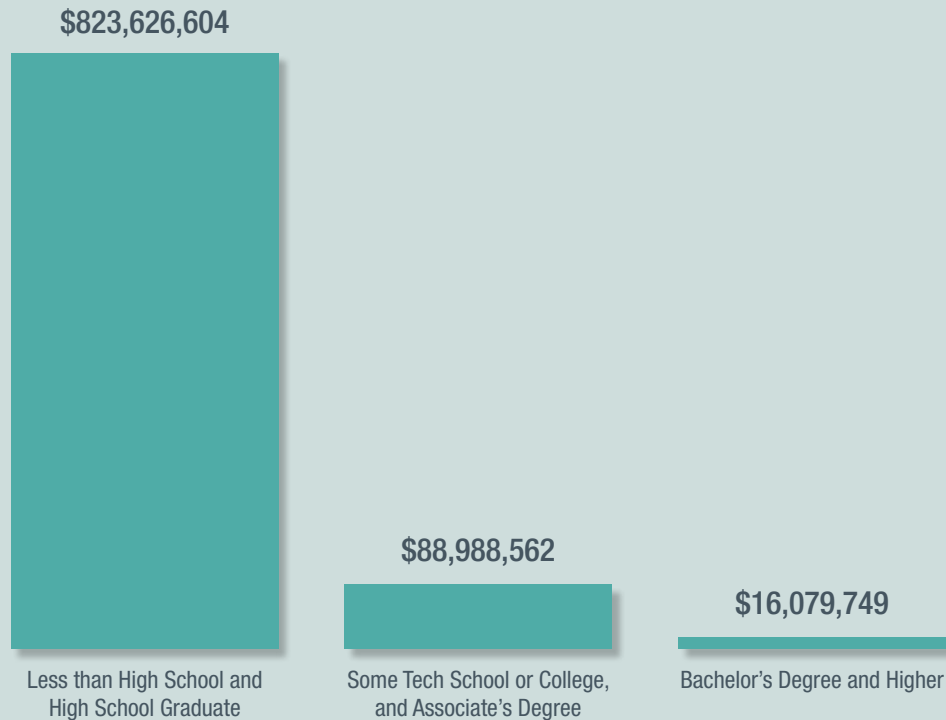
Closely associated with obesity, the incidence of cardiovascular disease also tends to rise statewide based on education levels.

Georgia Counties with Highest Incidence Rates of Cardiovascular Disease by Educational Attainment in the County (Bachelor's degree and higher)



Georgia Spending on State Prisoners

by Education Level of Inmates



Calculated from data on the Georgia Department of Corrections website using education levels of inmates in 2010 and FY 2010 prison expenditures.

One dramatic measure of a state's social well being is the number of people it imprisons. The relationship between education and Georgia's prison population, and how much the state spends on incarcerating those prisoners, is substantial.

Simply put, education empowers Georgians.

The charts, tables and graphs in this report all support a single conclusion:
The return on investment in education is extraordinary.

The more education a Georgian has, the more likely he or she will live a better life. As individuals benefit, so do their families and communities. And the state itself becomes a far more attractive place to live and work.

That's why providing the means and incentives for every Georgian to pursue education as far as possible is a smart investment – not just for today, but for the future of Georgia.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR SPONSORS

The research informing this study and the printing of this report were made possible through the generous support of the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc., and The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation.

ABOUT ARCHE

Founded in 1938, the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) brings together 20 public and private colleges and universities in the Atlanta area. The organization helps its members share strengths through collaborative programs that expand opportunities for students, faculty and staff, and helps build awareness of the impact and value of higher education in the region and state.

More: www.atlantahighered.org or contact arche@atlantahighered.org.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Data in this report was compiled and analyzed by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in cooperation with the ARCHE staff. ARC is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the 10-county area surrounding Atlanta. It is dedicated to unifying the region's collective resources to prepare the metro area for a prosperous future. It does this through professional planning initiatives, providing objective information and involving the community in collaborative partnerships.

More: www.atlantaregional.com or 404.463.3100.

Writing support and design provided by Michael Baxter Communications (MichaelJBaxter.com)

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133 Peachtree St., Suite 4925 | Atlanta, Georgia 30303 | 404.651.2668 | www.atlantahighered.org