

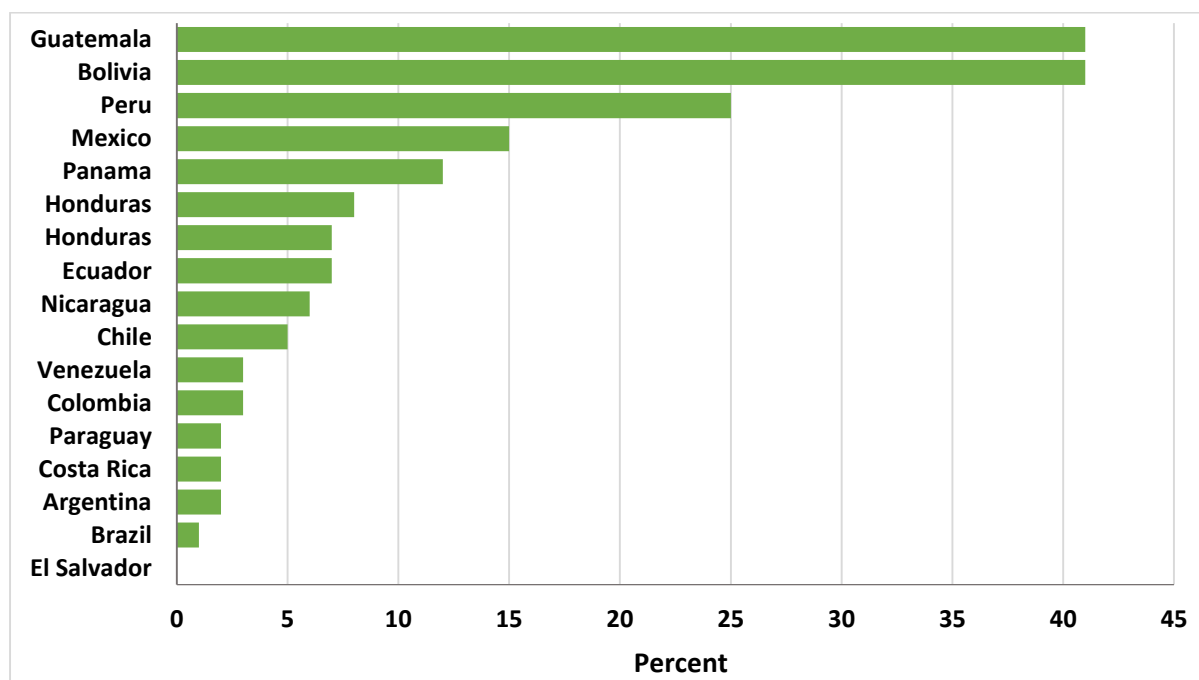
2.5 Ethnicity

Ethnic identity has always been central to power relationships in the Americas, linked to conquest and colonisation of one group by another and broader power and exclusion relationships. Exclusion from opportunities and large scale migration has often added an additional socio-economic dimension to the unequal relations between ethnic groups. Where possible, it is therefore essential to analyse differences in access, participation and outcomes disaggregated by ethnicity and some indication of socio-economic position so as to identify the impact of these modifiable factors on health differences between groups. To fully reflect this diversity, it is desirable to distinguish both indigenous populations from those groups that have at some point migrated but also to recognise ethnic diversity among the latter. For a number of countries in the Americas, good quality disaggregation by ethnicity is available. However, data does not always contain an ethnic component and further disaggregation by socio-economic position is not always readily available. The report will provide examples of information that is available. Only a very limited amount of information is collected on a region-wide basis.

A number of countries provide estimates of the size of their indigenous population. These estimates are shown in Figure 2.15, as percentages of total population. They vary from five percent or less in around half of the 16 countries providing data to a quarter or more in three cases.

Rather fewer countries (seven) provide data on levels of poverty among indigenous populations. Figure 2.16 shows that in all these countries a greater proportion of the indigenous population lives in poverty than those who are not indigenous.

Fig 2.15 Percent of population indigenous, 2010

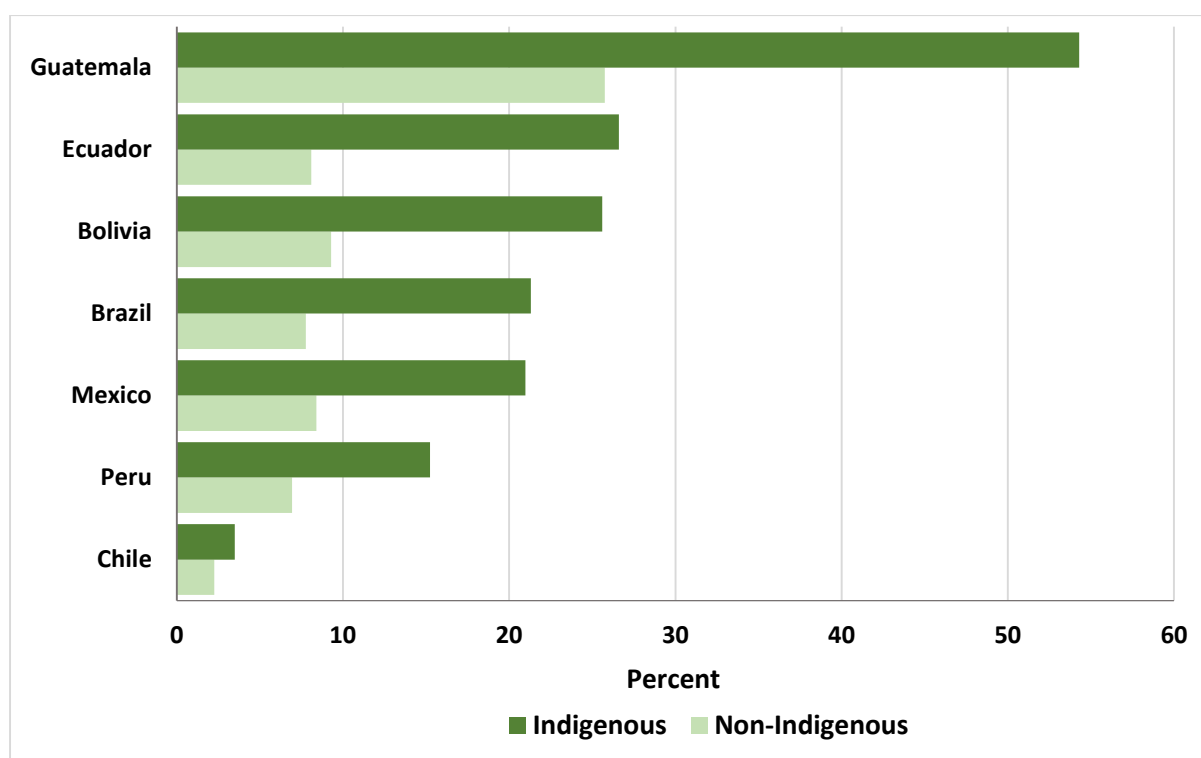


Source: World Bank Group "Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade"

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2016/02/03/090224b08413d2d2/3_0/Rendered/PDF/Indigenous0Lat0y000the0first0decade.pdf

Fig 2.16 Percent of indigenous and non-indigenous population in poverty (under \$US2.50 PPP per day)



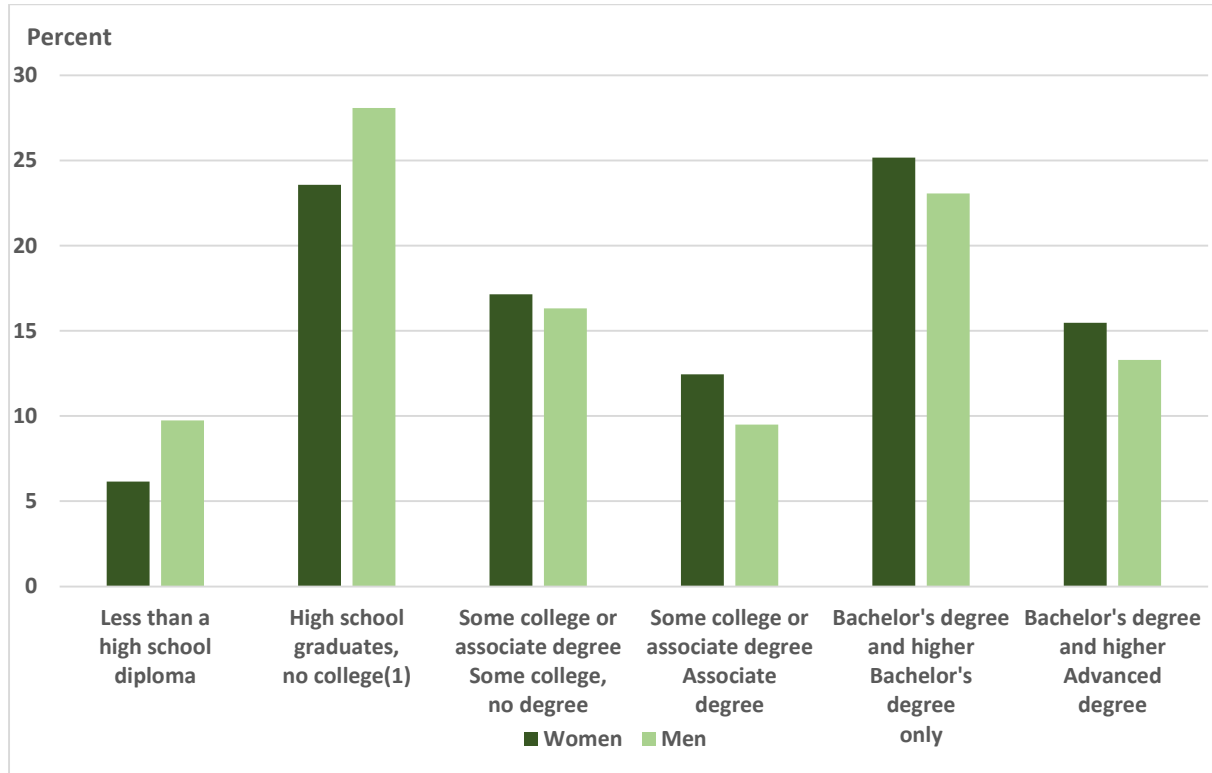
Source: World Bank Group “Indigenous Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade”
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2016/02/03/090224b08413d2d2/3_0/Rendered/PDF/Indigenous0Lat0y000the0first0decade.pdf

In the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides a comprehensive analysis of employment, education and gender by indicators of race and ethnicity – all of which are factors that affect health outcomes. Examples of the analyses available from these data are shown in Figure 2.17. Figure 2.17(a)(i) points to a greater involvement in education by women in the labor force than their male counterparts. Figure 2.17(a)ii shows that those in the labor force who identify as of Asian origin have had the highest level of participation in education, with those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity having the lowest levels. Those identifying as black or Afro-American are more likely than others to have stayed on to college, but not proceeded further to obtain a bachelor’s degree or higher.

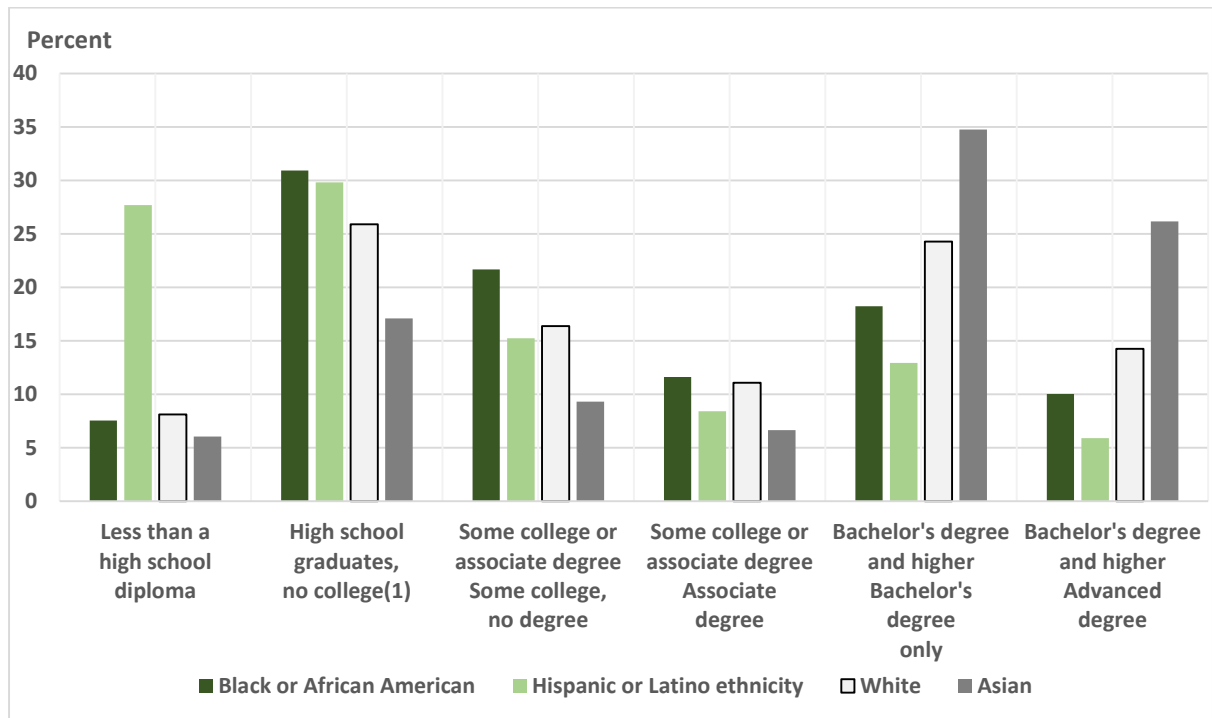
In terms of unemployment, women who do not have a high school diploma are markedly more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts – Figure 2.17(b)(i). At higher levels of education, gender differences are small. Figure 2.17(b)(ii) shows that, for each level of education, black or African Americans have the highest levels of unemployment. Lowest levels are found among those of Asian origin at college level and below, but among whites at bachelor degree level and above.

Fig 2.17 Labor statistics by gender, race and ethnicity in the USA, 2014

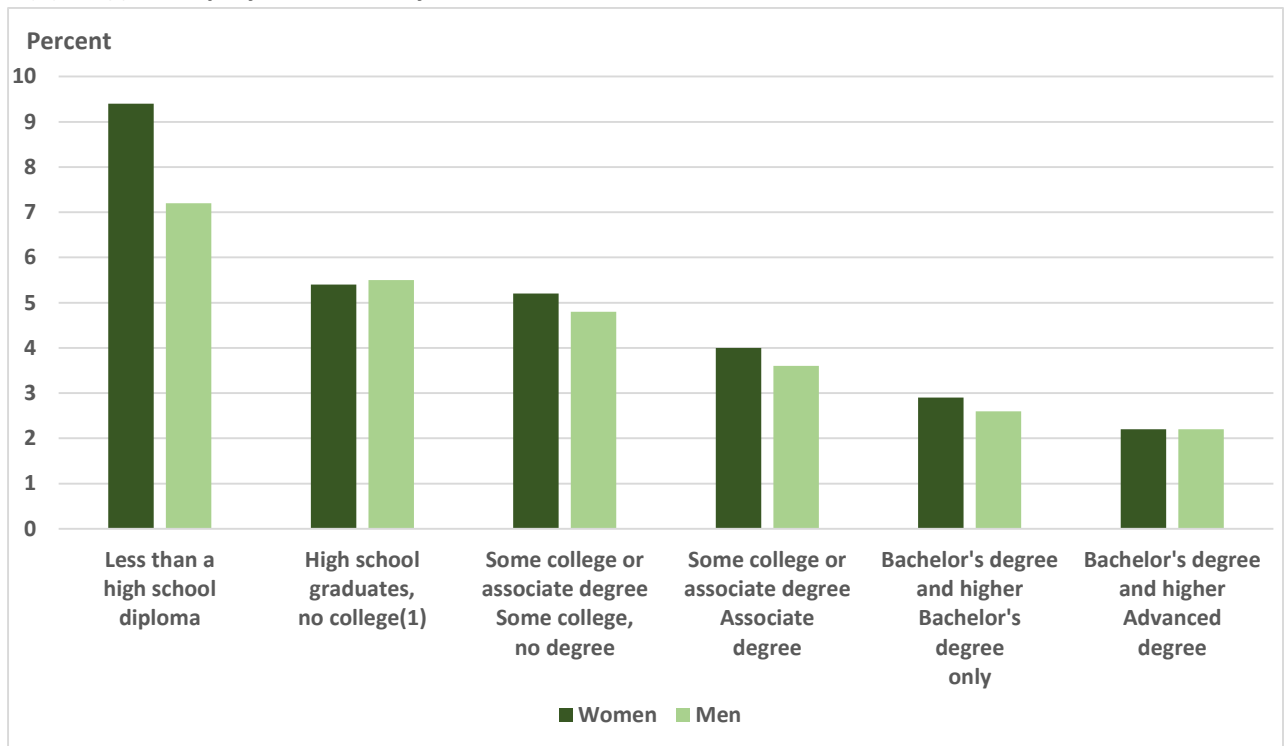
(a) (i) Distribution of educational attainment in the labor force by sex



(a)(ii) Distribution of educational attainment in the labor force by race/ethnicity

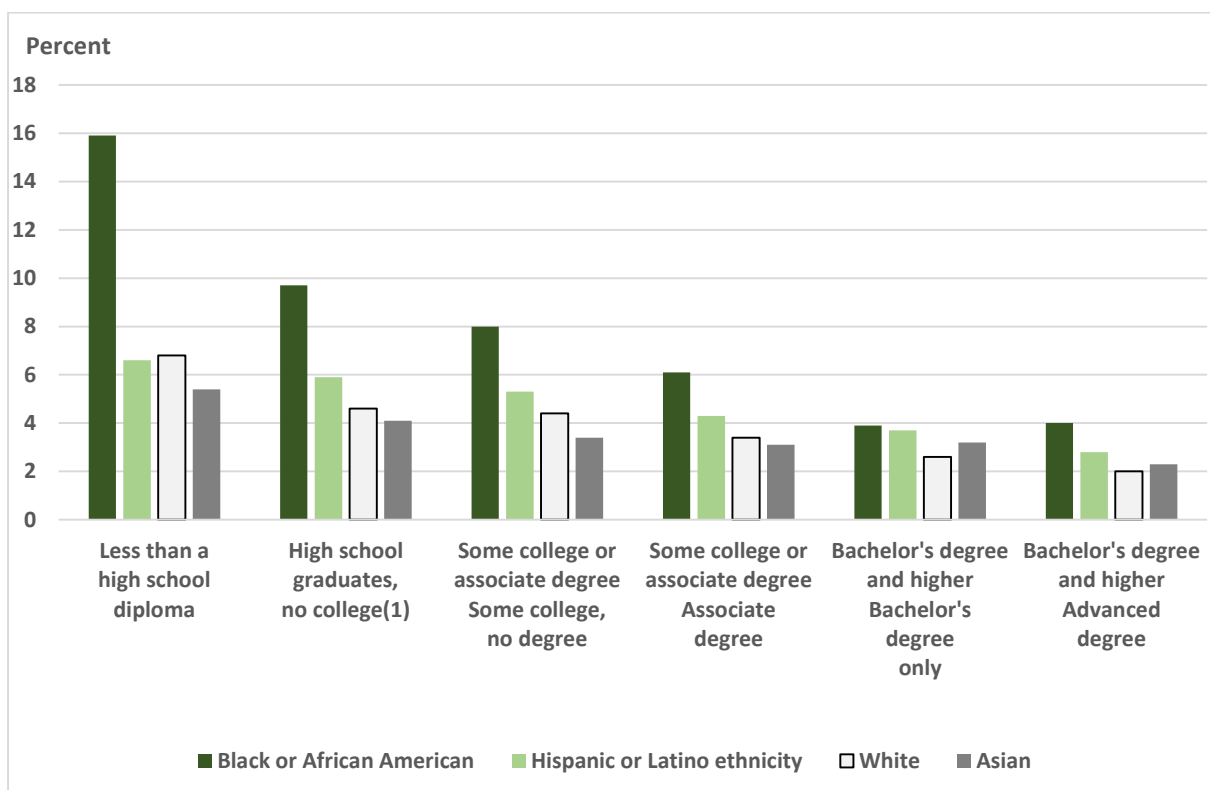


(b) (i) unemployment rates by educational attainment and sex



(c)

(b) (ii) unemployment rates by educational attainment and race/ethnicity



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics "Labor Force Characteristics by Race and Ethnicity, 2014
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/race-and-ethnicity/archive/labor-force-characteristics-by-race-and-ethnicity-2014.pdf>