

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE REPORT 2023

As Required by SC Code of Laws §59-18-1950

SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
Transforming data into solutions for South Carolina



Purpose

- This report is presented pursuant to SC Code of Laws §59-18-1950 which states “The General Assembly recognizes the importance of having a state longitudinal data system to inform policy and fiscal decisions related to early childhood education, public education, postsecondary preparedness and success, and workforce development.”
- §59-18-1950 requires the longitudinal system include, at a minimum, the following information for measuring the continuous improvement of the state public education system and the college and career readiness and success of its graduates:
 - a) the number of students graduating from public high schools in the State who enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation;
 - b) the number of working-aged adults in South Carolina by county who possess a postsecondary degree or industry credential;
 - c) the number of high school graduates who are gainfully employed in the State within five and ten years of graduating from high school; and
 - d) outcome data regarding student achievement and student growth that will assist colleges of education in achieving accreditation and in improving the quality of teachers in classrooms.

Data Availability and Limitations

- The review of available data identified some gaps that could not be filled by existing data collections:
 - “d) outcome data regarding student achievement and student growth that will assist colleges of education in achieving accreditation and in improving the quality of teachers in classrooms” is not included in this report because the required data linking student achievement to individual teachers is not currently collected.
- This report presents the findings on (a) through (c) in the order they are listed in the legislation.
- Analysis is restricted to on-time graduates of SC public high schools.
- Analysis is restricted to in-state postsecondary institutions and in-state employment.
- No data is currently available to determine if graduates moved out of state.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (a):

The number of students graduating from public high schools in SC who enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation

- Data Sources:
 - SC Department of Education public high school graduates linked to Commission on Higher Education (CHE) enrollment data. Details are provided in the Appendix.
- Definitions:
 - High school graduates are defined as those completing high school within four (4) years.
 - Postsecondary education includes colleges, universities, community/junior colleges, and technical colleges in SC.
 - Remediation is a postsecondary education admission type of “*developmental*” as defined by CHE.
- Limitations:
 - Analysis is focused on those entering postsecondary education within one year of graduating; data is not available to determine if a student received remediation out-of-state before entering postsecondary education in SC at a later date.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (a):

The number of students graduating from public high schools in SC who enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation

- Key Findings:
 - The percent of SC high school graduates entering postsecondary education in SC within one year of graduating has decreased from 51% in 2016 to 41% in 2021.
 - According to the SC Department of Education's College Freshman Report, 14% of SC graduates went out-of-state for postsecondary education in 2021 compared to 10.3% in 2016. This increase explains some, but not all, of the decline in in-state enrollment.
 - The percent of SC graduates entering postsecondary education in SC without remediation has increased from approximately 88% in 2016 to 95% in 2021.
 - There is substantial variation among SC counties in terms of in-state enrollment to postsecondary education of high school graduates.
 - In 2021, the percentage of graduates entering postsecondary education ranged from 16% to 56% by county.
 - Of those who entered postsecondary education, the percent entering without remediation ranged from 83% to 100% by county.

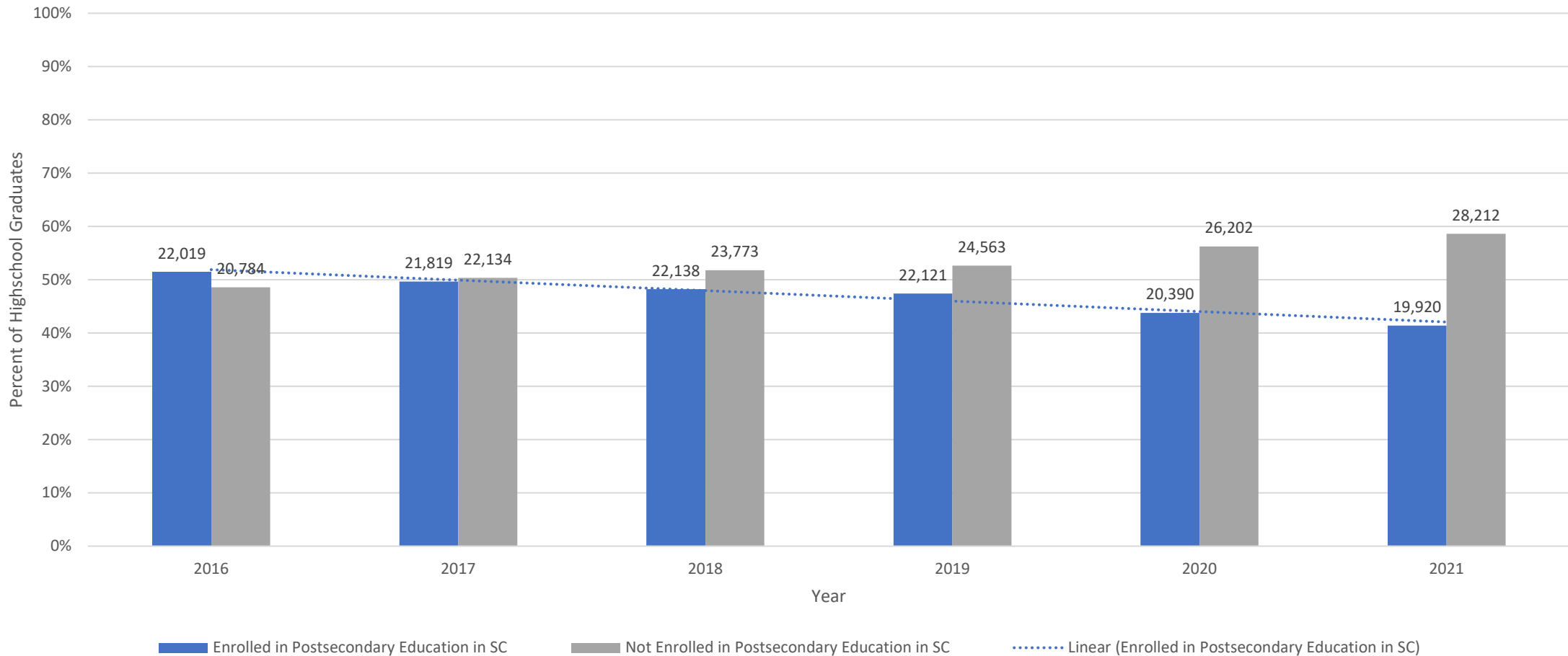
South Carolina Public High School Graduates (2016-2021)

Entering postsecondary education in SC the year following high school graduation

| Year | SC Public High School Graduates | Number of Graduates Entering SC Postsecondary Education | Percent | Number and Percent of Those Entering Postsecondary Education: | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---|---------|---|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Without Remediation | | With Remediation | |
| 2016 | 42,803 | 22,019 | 51.4% | 19,446 | 88.3% | 2,573 | 11.7% |
| 2017 | 43,953 | 21,819 | 49.6% | 19,151 | 87.8% | 2,668 | 12.2% |
| 2018 | 45,911 | 22,138 | 48.2% | 19,878 | 89.8% | 2,260 | 10.2% |
| 2019 | 46,684 | 22,121 | 47.4% | 20,492 | 92.6% | 1,629 | 7.4% |
| 2020 | 46,592 | 20,390 | 43.8% | 19,333 | 94.8% | 1,057 | 5.2% |
| 2021 | 48,132 | 19,920 | 41.4% | 18,988 | 95.3% | 932 | 4.7% |

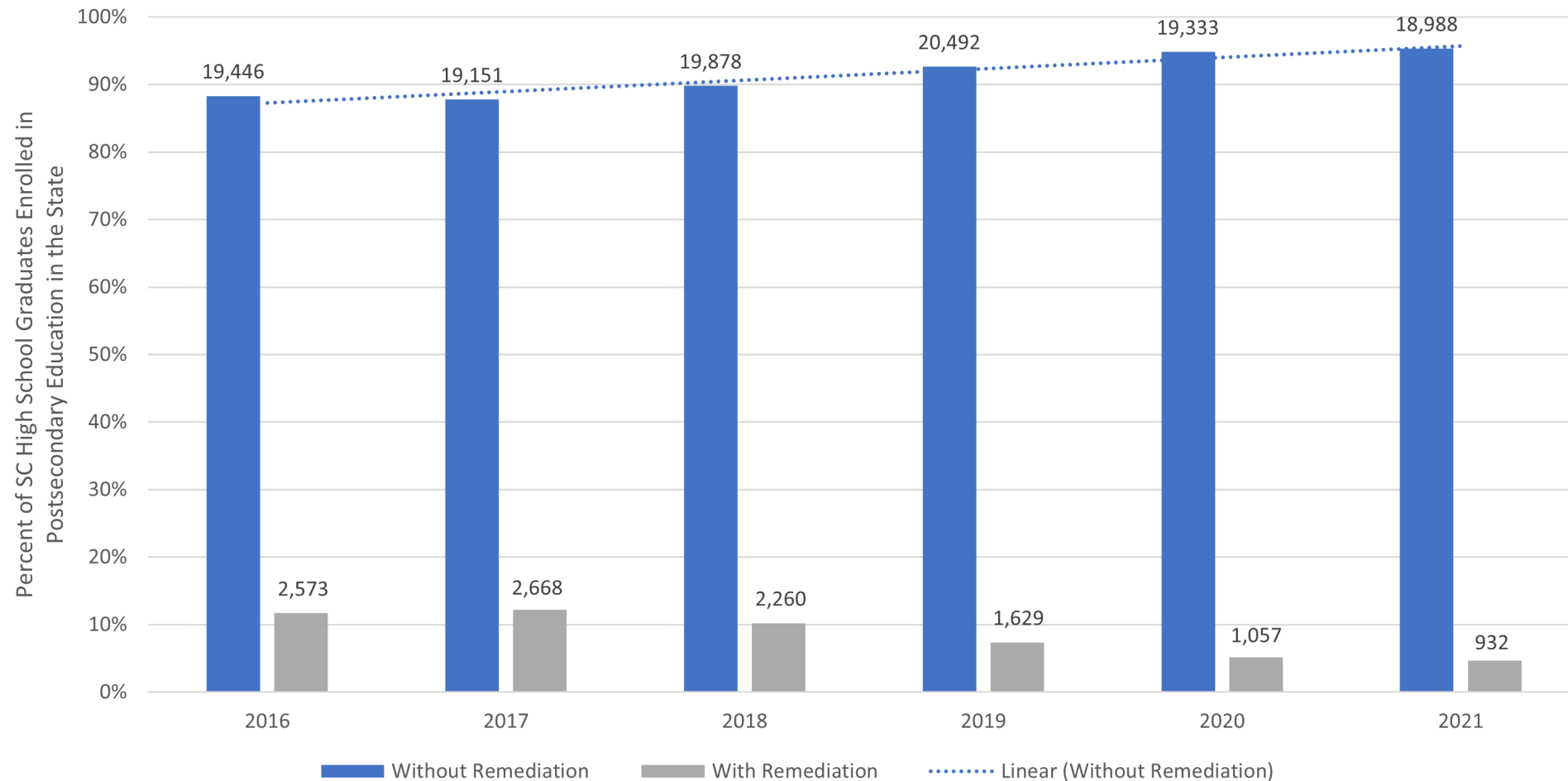
South Carolina Public High School Graduates (2016-2021)

Postsecondary education enrollment in SC the year following high school graduation



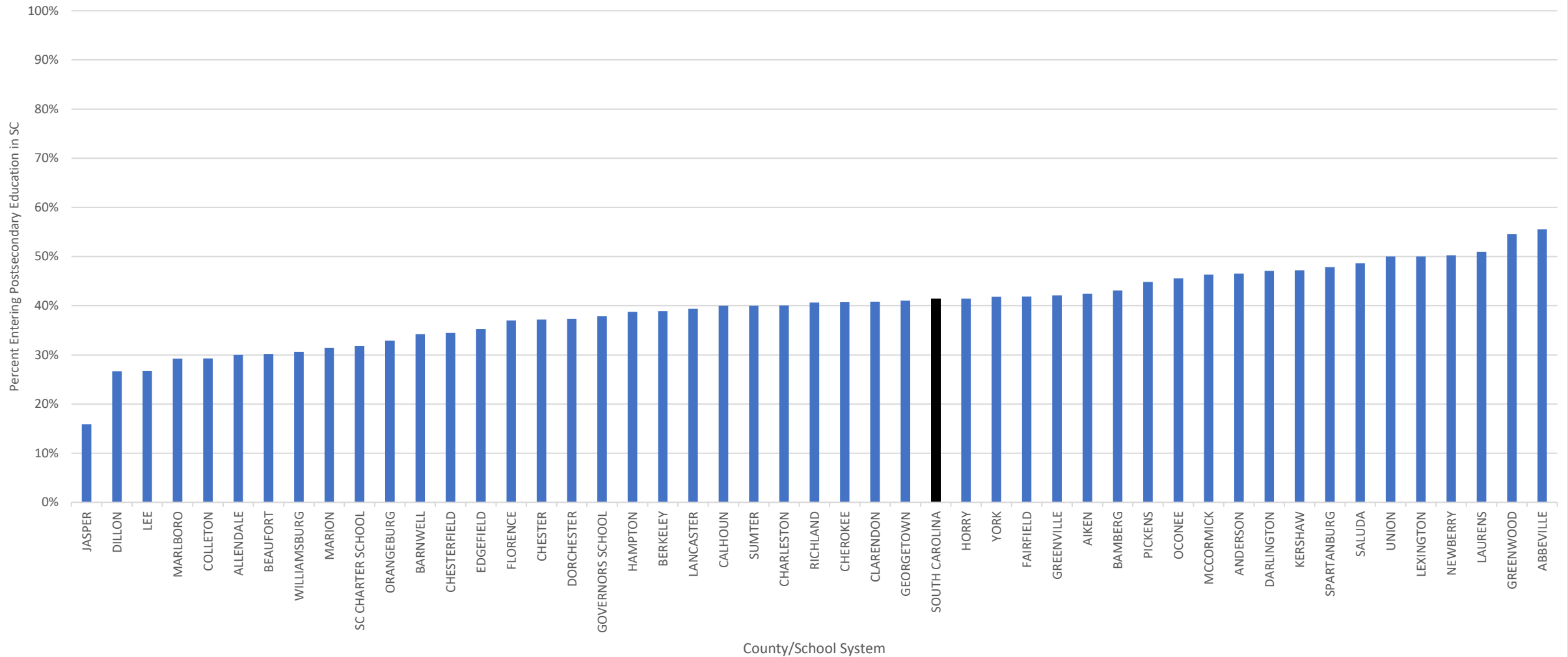
South Carolina Public High School Graduates (2016-2021)

Postsecondary education enrollment in SC the year following high school graduation



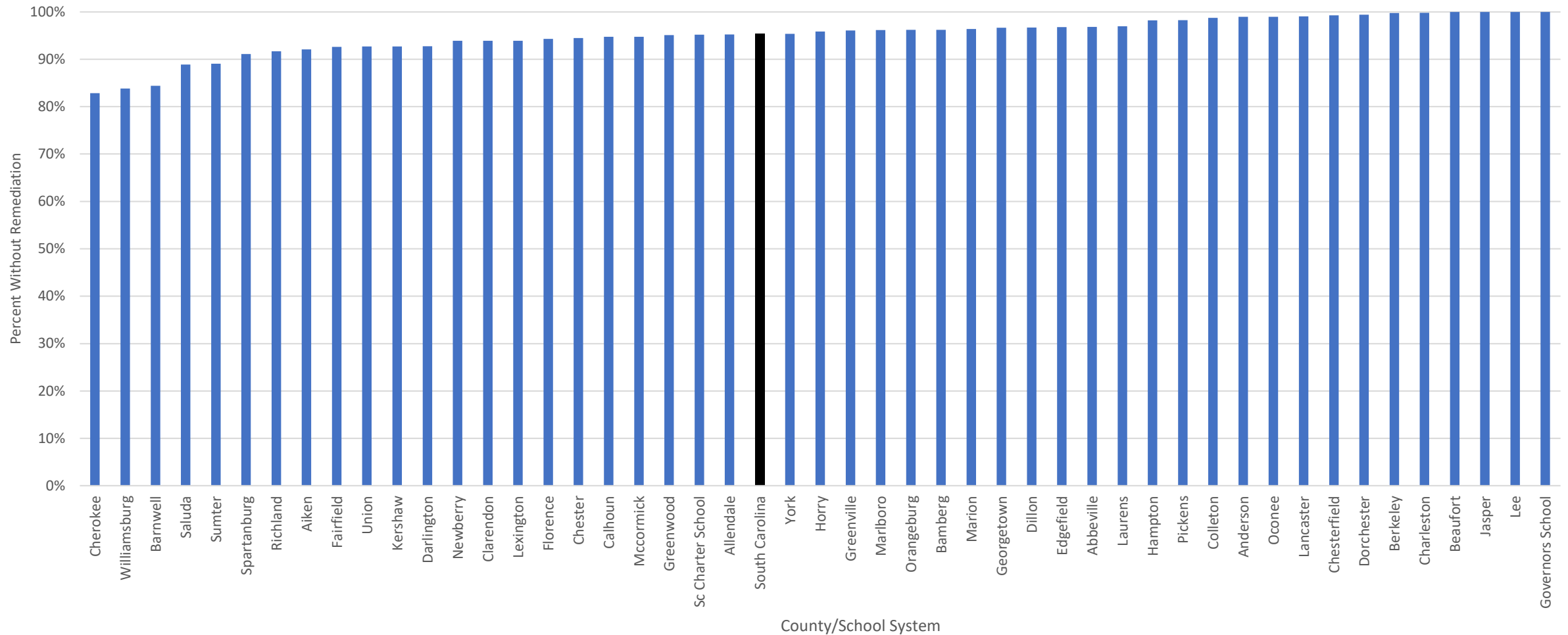
South Carolina Public High School Graduates, 2021

Postsecondary education enrollment in SC the year following high school graduation



South Carolina Public High School Graduates, 2021

Postsecondary education enrollment in SC without the need for remediation the year following high school graduation



Longitudinal Data System Measurement (b):

The number of working-age adults in South Carolina by county who possess a postsecondary degree or industry credential

- Data Sources:
 - U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) was used to determine the educational attainment of the working-age population (18-64). Details are provided in the Data Appendix.
- Key Limitations:
 - Analysis based on survey estimates, rather than direct counts.
 - Geographic location determined by location at the time of survey response.
 - Education could have been obtained outside of South Carolina.
 - ACS does not consider “industry credential”.
 - ACS 1-year estimates are not available for 2020. See Section B of the Data Appendix for more information.
 - ACS 1-year estimates are not available for all counties in South Carolina.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (b):

The number of working-age adults in South Carolina by county who possess a postsecondary degree or industry credential

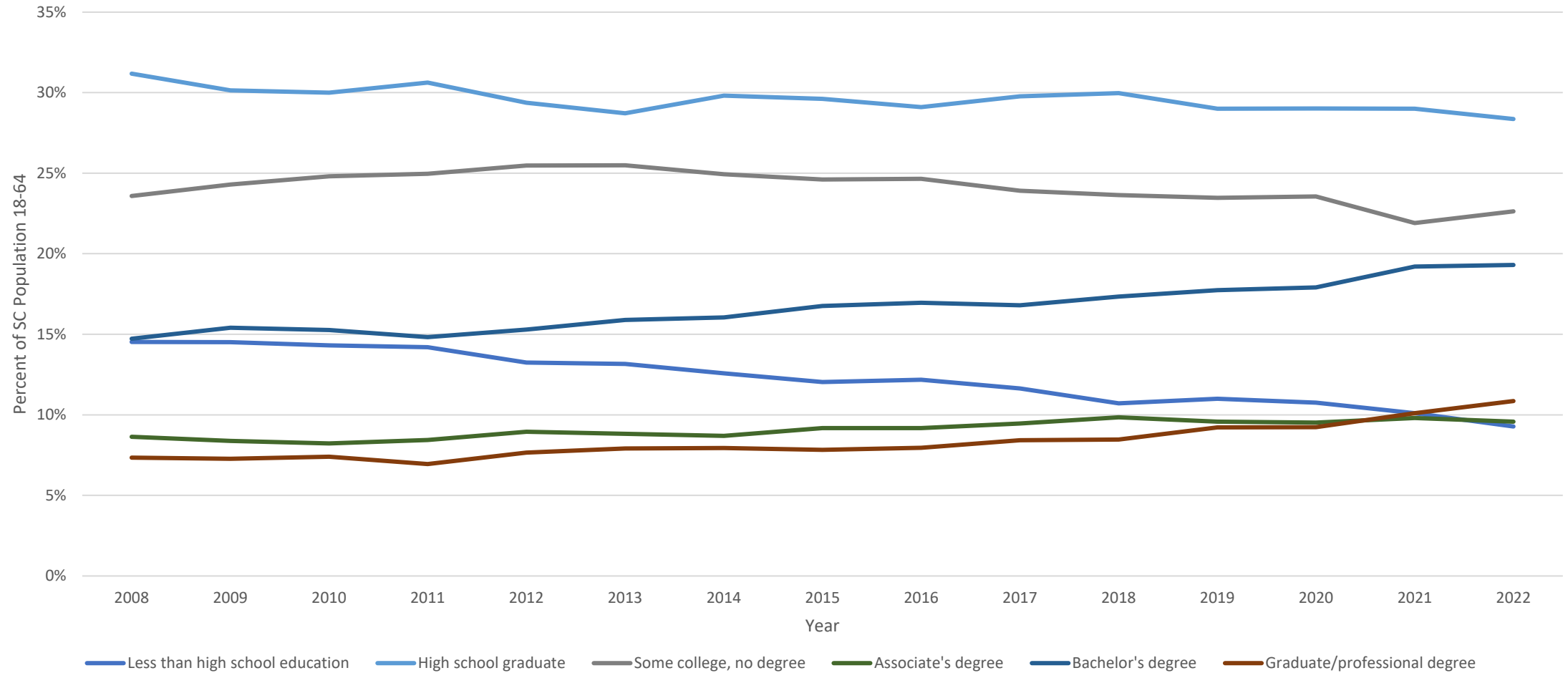
- Key Findings:
 - State Level (ACS 1-year estimates - 2022)
 - Educational attainment has increased modestly over time, with slight upward trends in the percent of people acquiring bachelor and graduate/professional degrees.
 - In 2008, the number of adults ages 18 – 64 who did not complete high school was almost twice that of adults with a Graduate/Professional Degree. In 2022, there were more adults with a Graduate/Professional Degree than those without a high school diploma.
 - 9% of working-age adults in SC have less than a high school education while 28% have completed high school but have no postsecondary education.
 - Approximately 62% of adults in SC have at least some college education and 30% have at least a bachelor degree.
 - There is substantial variability across the counties in all categories according to the ACS 5-year estimates (2018-2022).
 - The percent of adults with less than a high school education range from 7% to 22%.
 - County level percentages of adults with at least some college education range from 32% to 74%.
 - The percent of adults with a bachelor degree or higher ranged from 7% to 45% across all counties.

Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64

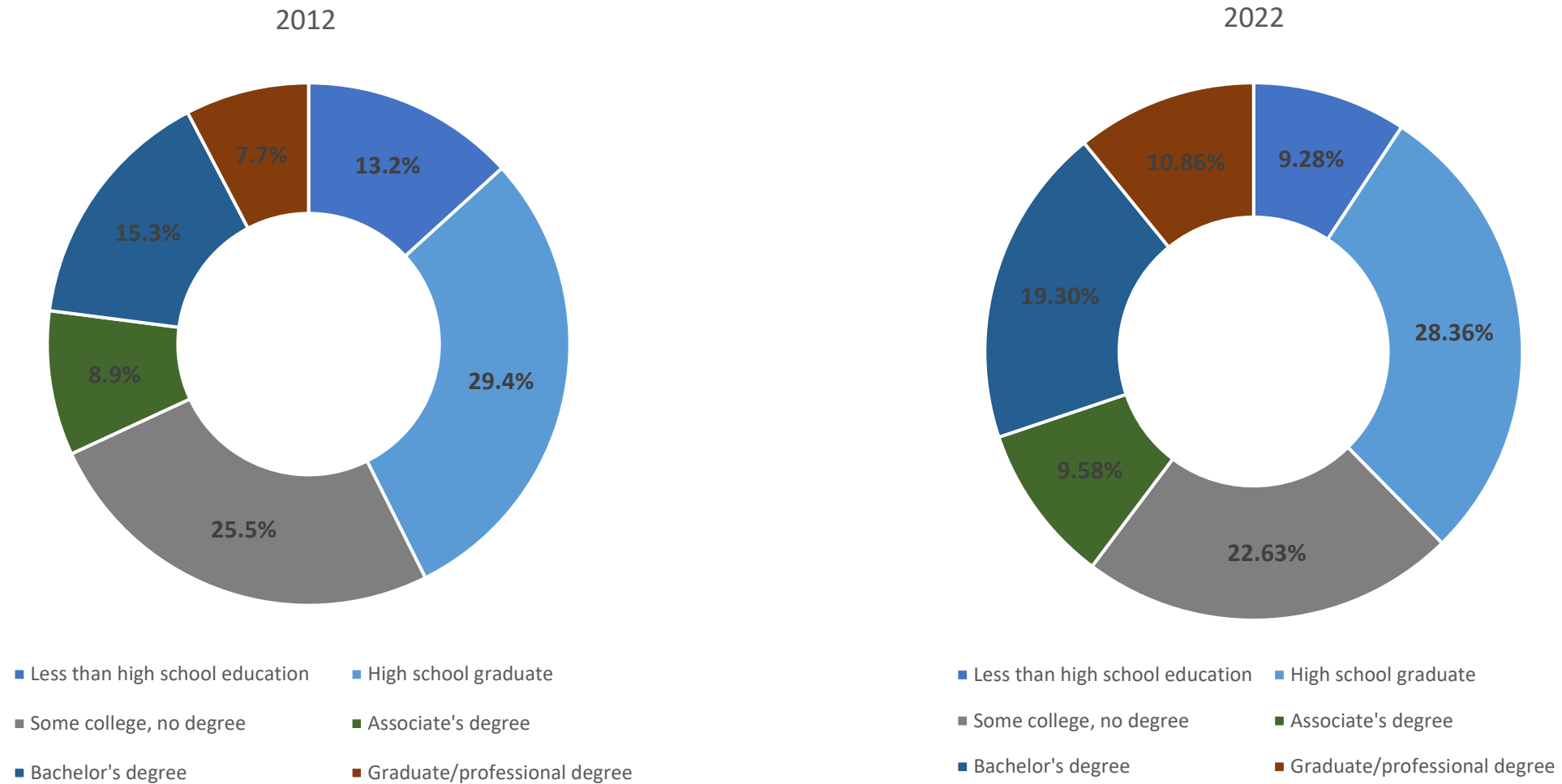
American Community Survey, One Year Estimates

2008 – 2022.

Note: 2020 educational attainment estimated by RFA. See appendix for more details.

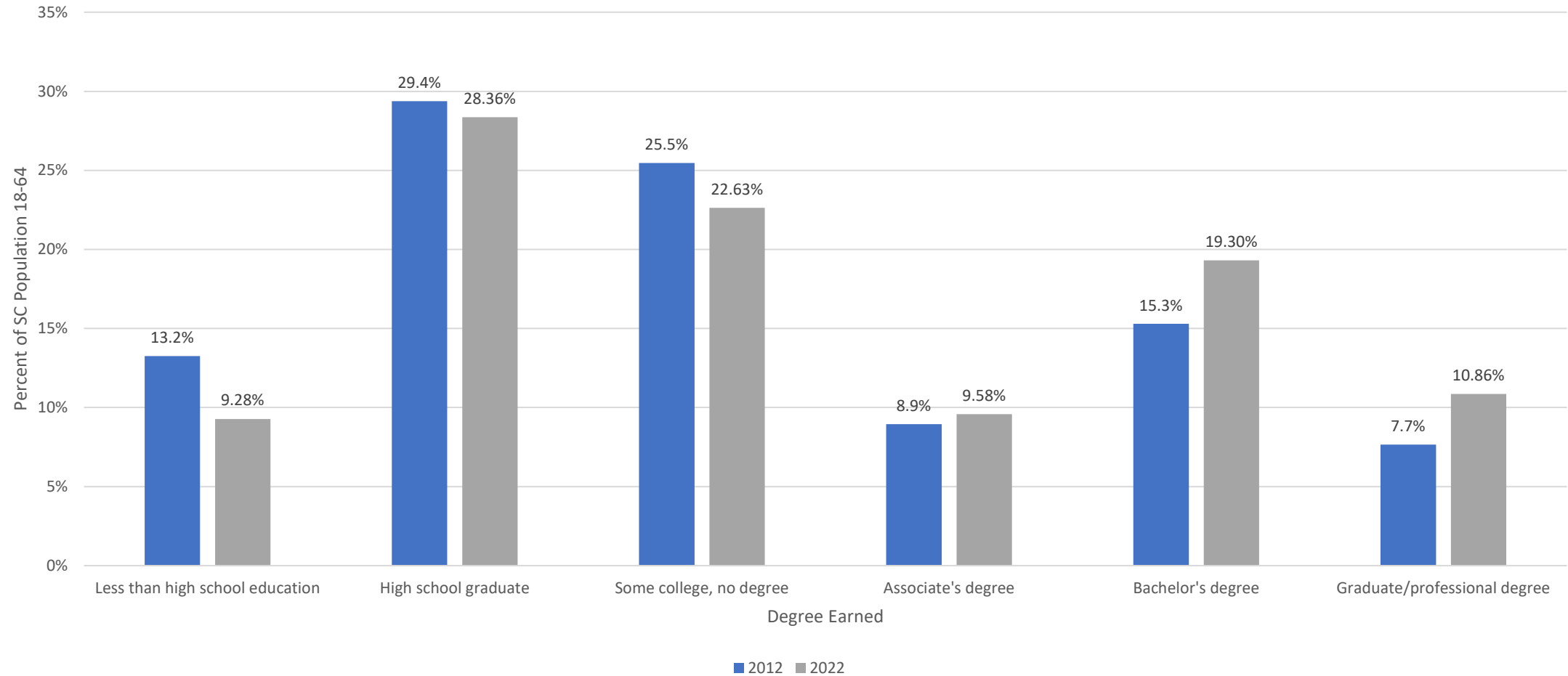


Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64 American Community Survey, One Year Estimates, 2012 & 2022

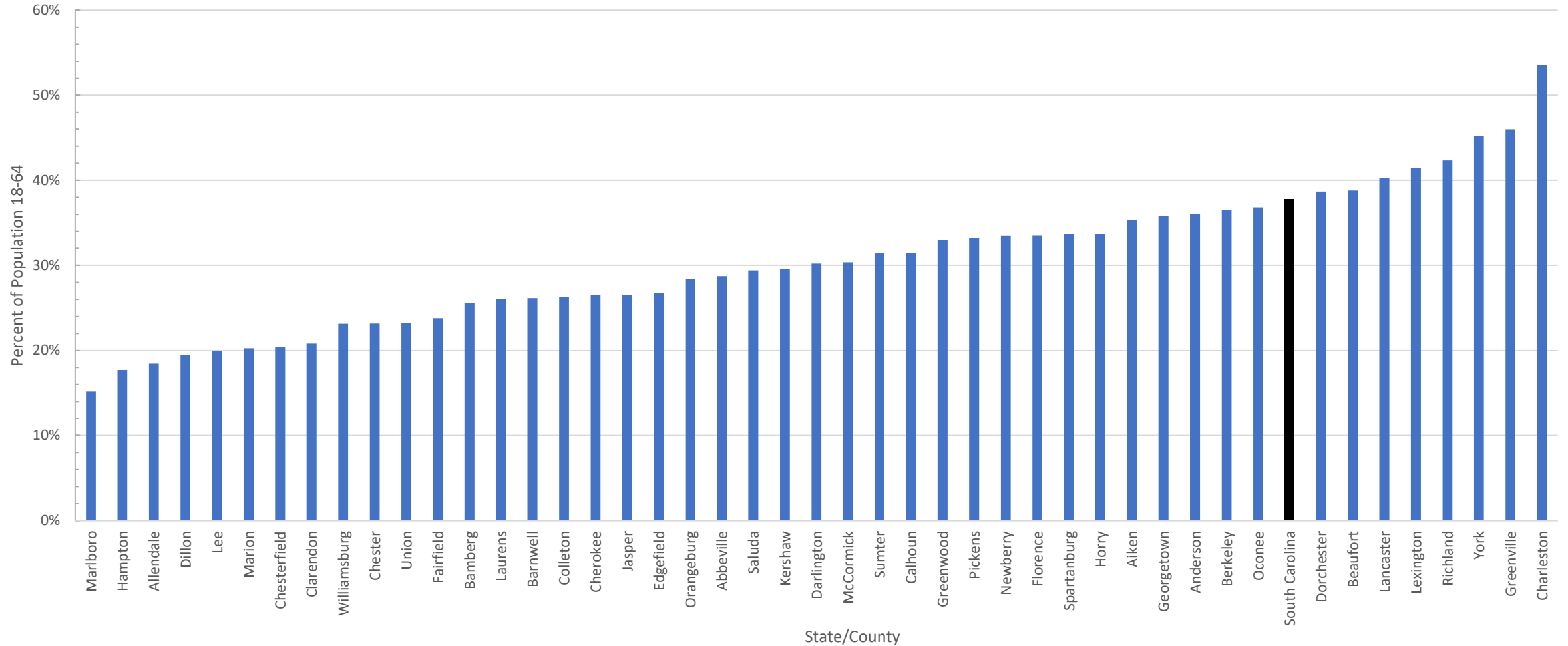


Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64

American Community Survey, One Year Estimates - 2012 and 2022 Comparison



Percent of SC Population Ages 18 to 64 with an Associate Degree or Higher American Communities Survey, Five Year Estimates (2018-2022)



Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64

American Communities Survey, Five Year Estimates (2018-2022)

| COUNTY OF RESIDENCE | 18-64 POPULATION | LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL | | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE | | SOME COLLEGE | | ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE | | BACHELOR'S DEGREE | | GRADUATE/ PROFESSIONAL DEGREE OR HIGHER | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|---|---------|
| | | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent |
| | | All Counties | 3,100,306 | 315,898 | 10.2% | 2,784,408 | 89.8% | 1,892,542 | 61.0% | 1,173,120 | 37.8% | 871,824 | 28.1% |
| Abbeville | 14,138 | 1,820 | 12.9% | 12,318 | 87.1% | 6,997 | 49.5% | 4,062 | 28.7% | 2,308 | 16.3% | 636 | 4.5% |
| Aiken | 99,423 | 10,095 | 10.2% | 89,328 | 89.8% | 58,404 | 58.7% | 35,154 | 35.4% | 26,379 | 26.5% | 8,337 | 8.4% |
| Allendale | 4,893 | 1,078 | 22.0% | 3,815 | 78.0% | 1,906 | 39.0% | 903 | 18.5% | 508 | 10.4% | 240 | 4.9% |
| Anderson | 121,241 | 14,623 | 12.1% | 106,618 | 87.9% | 70,195 | 57.9% | 43,740 | 36.1% | 30,012 | 24.8% | 10,138 | 8.4% |
| Bamberg | 7,797 | 1,262 | 16.2% | 6,535 | 83.8% | 4,237 | 54.3% | 1,993 | 25.6% | 1,186 | 15.2% | 486 | 6.2% |
| Barnwell | 11,925 | 1,837 | 15.4% | 10,088 | 84.6% | 5,413 | 45.4% | 3,117 | 26.1% | 1,677 | 14.1% | 617 | 5.2% |
| Beaufort | 102,980 | 8,642 | 8.4% | 94,338 | 91.6% | 64,250 | 62.4% | 39,972 | 38.8% | 31,480 | 30.6% | 11,813 | 11.5% |
| Berkeley | 143,566 | 13,288 | 9.3% | 130,278 | 90.7% | 87,475 | 60.9% | 52,402 | 36.5% | 38,244 | 26.6% | 11,896 | 8.3% |
| Calhoun | 8,162 | 810 | 9.9% | 7,352 | 90.1% | 4,458 | 54.6% | 2,567 | 31.5% | 1,530 | 18.7% | 417 | 5.1% |
| Charleston | 259,404 | 18,058 | 7.0% | 241,346 | 93.0% | 191,120 | 73.7% | 138,978 | 53.6% | 118,752 | 45.8% | 41,171 | 15.9% |
| Cherokee | 33,973 | 4,643 | 13.7% | 29,330 | 86.3% | 17,062 | 50.2% | 8,999 | 26.5% | 5,539 | 16.3% | 2,072 | 6.1% |
| Chester | 19,002 | 2,698 | 14.2% | 16,304 | 85.8% | 8,702 | 45.8% | 4,401 | 23.2% | 2,507 | 13.2% | 869 | 4.6% |
| Chesterfield | 25,717 | 4,223 | 16.4% | 21,494 | 83.6% | 10,887 | 42.3% | 5,248 | 20.4% | 2,950 | 11.5% | 1,028 | 4.0% |
| Clarendon | 17,773 | 3,260 | 18.3% | 14,513 | 81.7% | 7,929 | 44.6% | 3,700 | 20.8% | 2,429 | 13.7% | 716 | 4.0% |
| Colleton | 22,254 | 2,940 | 13.2% | 19,314 | 86.8% | 10,235 | 46.0% | 5,849 | 26.3% | 3,165 | 14.2% | 922 | 4.1% |

Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64

American Communities Survey, Five Year Estimates (2018-2022)

| COUNTY OF RESIDENCE | 18-64 POPULATION | LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL | | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE | | SOME COLLEGE | | ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE | | BACHELOR'S DEGREE | | GRADUATE/ PROFESSIONAL DEGREE OR HIGHER | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|---|---------|
| | | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent |
| All Counties | 3,100,306 | 315,898 | 10.2% | 2,784,408 | 89.8% | 1,892,542 | 61.0% | 1,173,120 | 37.8% | 871,824 | 28.1% | 300,652 | 9.7% |
| Darlington | 36,960 | 4,662 | 12.6% | 32,298 | 87.4% | 18,810 | 50.9% | 11,161 | 30.2% | 7,115 | 19.3% | 2,479 | 6.7% |
| Dillon | 16,351 | 2,735 | 16.7% | 13,616 | 83.3% | 6,332 | 38.7% | 3,178 | 19.4% | 1,661 | 10.2% | 583 | 3.6% |
| Dorchester | 99,259 | 9,658 | 9.7% | 89,601 | 90.3% | 62,683 | 63.2% | 38,392 | 38.7% | 26,848 | 27.0% | 8,669 | 8.7% |
| Edgefield | 16,627 | 2,688 | 16.2% | 13,939 | 83.8% | 7,820 | 47.0% | 4,441 | 26.7% | 2,874 | 17.3% | 990 | 6.0% |
| Fairfield | 12,330 | 1,630 | 13.2% | 10,700 | 86.8% | 5,733 | 46.5% | 2,935 | 23.8% | 1,897 | 15.4% | 567 | 4.6% |
| Florence | 80,872 | 8,986 | 11.1% | 71,886 | 88.9% | 45,304 | 56.0% | 27,134 | 33.6% | 18,576 | 23.0% | 6,494 | 8.0% |
| Georgetown | 33,920 | 3,508 | 10.3% | 30,412 | 89.7% | 21,057 | 62.1% | 12,160 | 35.8% | 8,438 | 24.9% | 2,397 | 7.1% |
| Greenville | 321,497 | 31,891 | 9.9% | 289,606 | 90.1% | 214,837 | 66.8% | 147,862 | 46.0% | 120,067 | 37.3% | 40,140 | 12.5% |
| Greenwood | 40,617 | 4,999 | 12.3% | 35,618 | 87.7% | 23,095 | 56.9% | 13,389 | 33.0% | 7,891 | 19.4% | 2,741 | 6.7% |
| Hampton | 11,556 | 2,206 | 19.1% | 9,350 | 80.9% | 4,284 | 37.1% | 2,048 | 17.7% | 1,185 | 10.3% | 459 | 4.0% |
| Horry | 205,094 | 19,079 | 9.3% | 186,015 | 90.7% | 119,187 | 58.1% | 69,106 | 33.7% | 47,134 | 23.0% | 15,163 | 7.4% |
| Jasper | 17,577 | 2,164 | 12.3% | 15,413 | 87.7% | 8,706 | 49.5% | 4,660 | 26.5% | 3,200 | 18.2% | 655 | 3.7% |
| Kershaw | 38,427 | 4,161 | 10.8% | 34,266 | 89.2% | 20,715 | 53.9% | 11,360 | 29.6% | 7,604 | 19.8% | 3,002 | 7.8% |
| Lancaster | 55,928 | 6,144 | 11.0% | 49,784 | 89.0% | 34,047 | 60.9% | 22,516 | 40.3% | 15,913 | 28.5% | 5,037 | 9.0% |
| Laurens | 40,150 | 6,619 | 16.5% | 33,531 | 83.5% | 19,101 | 47.6% | 10,459 | 26.0% | 6,245 | 15.6% | 1,708 | 4.3% |
| Lee | 10,180 | 1,781 | 17.5% | 8,399 | 82.5% | 4,246 | 41.7% | 2,027 | 19.9% | 1,344 | 13.2% | 451 | 4.4% |

Highest Educational Attainment for SC Population Ages 18 to 64

American Communities Survey, Five Year Estimates (2018-2022)

| COUNTY OF RESIDENCE | 18-64 POPULATION | LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL | | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE | | SOME COLLEGE | | ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE | | BACHELOR'S DEGREE | | GRADUATE/ PROFESSIONAL DEGREE OR HIGHER | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|---|---------|
| | | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent | Estimate | Percent |
| All Counties | 3,100,306 | 315,898 | 10.2% | 2,784,408 | 89.8% | 1,892,542 | 61.0% | 1,173,120 | 37.8% | 871,824 | 28.1% | 300,652 | 9.7% |
| Lee | 10,180 | 1,781 | 17.5% | 8,399 | 82.5% | 4,246 | 41.7% | 2,027 | 19.9% | 1,344 | 13.2% | 451 | 4.4% |
| Lexington | 179,396 | 15,481 | 8.6% | 163,915 | 91.4% | 115,891 | 64.6% | 74,330 | 41.4% | 56,200 | 31.3% | 19,064 | 10.6% |
| Marion | 16,684 | 1,840 | 11.0% | 14,844 | 89.0% | 6,086 | 36.5% | 3,380 | 20.3% | 2,111 | 12.7% | 794 | 4.8% |
| Marlboro | 16,496 | 2,928 | 17.7% | 13,568 | 82.3% | 5,324 | 32.3% | 2,504 | 15.2% | 1,151 | 7.0% | 363 | 2.2% |
| McCormick | 5,083 | 720 | 14.2% | 4,363 | 85.8% | 2,505 | 49.3% | 1,542 | 30.3% | 731 | 14.4% | 197 | 3.9% |
| Newberry | 22,214 | 2,934 | 13.2% | 19,280 | 86.8% | 12,349 | 55.6% | 7,448 | 33.5% | 4,784 | 21.5% | 1,665 | 7.5% |
| Oconee | 44,770 | 5,974 | 13.3% | 38,796 | 86.7% | 25,984 | 58.0% | 16,486 | 36.8% | 10,982 | 24.5% | 3,815 | 8.5% |
| Orangeburg | 48,948 | 6,275 | 12.8% | 42,673 | 87.2% | 26,141 | 53.4% | 13,900 | 28.4% | 7,867 | 16.1% | 3,430 | 7.0% |
| Pickens | 84,545 | 8,976 | 10.6% | 75,569 | 89.4% | 53,143 | 62.9% | 28,094 | 33.2% | 20,392 | 24.1% | 7,927 | 9.4% |
| Richland | 271,093 | 20,019 | 7.4% | 251,074 | 92.6% | 190,200 | 70.2% | 114,794 | 42.3% | 93,759 | 34.6% | 35,945 | 13.3% |
| Saluda | 11,043 | 1,915 | 17.3% | 9,128 | 82.7% | 5,127 | 46.4% | 3,247 | 29.4% | 2,066 | 18.7% | 917 | 8.3% |
| Spartanburg | 200,123 | 21,523 | 10.8% | 178,600 | 89.2% | 115,295 | 57.6% | 67,390 | 33.7% | 46,521 | 23.2% | 16,339 | 8.2% |
| Sumter | 62,254 | 5,954 | 9.6% | 56,300 | 90.4% | 35,609 | 57.2% | 19,548 | 31.4% | 12,800 | 20.6% | 4,787 | 7.7% |
| Union | 15,887 | 2,781 | 17.5% | 13,106 | 82.5% | 7,043 | 44.3% | 3,689 | 23.2% | 2,026 | 12.8% | 487 | 3.1% |
| Williamsburg | 18,236 | 2,794 | 15.3% | 15,442 | 84.7% | 7,791 | 42.7% | 4,218 | 23.1% | 2,573 | 14.1% | 1,070 | 5.9% |
| York | 173,941 | 13,596 | 7.8% | 160,345 | 92.2% | 118,827 | 68.3% | 78,637 | 45.2% | 61,203 | 35.2% | 20,959 | 12.0% |

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (c):

The number of high school graduates who are gainfully employed in the State within five and ten years of graduating from high school

- Data Sources:
 - SC Public High School Graduates linked to Department of Employment and Workforce Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Wage Data. Details are provided in the Data Appendix.
- Definitions:
 - Gainfully employed is defined as an individual with wages in two consecutive quarters beginning in the time period of interest.
 - Full-time employment is defined as an individual with annualized wages of at least \$14,500.
 - Annualized wages are calculated by taking the highest quarterly wages in the year and multiplying by 4.
- Key Limitations:
 - Analysis is restricted to on-time graduates of SC public high schools.
 - Analysis is restricted to employment in SC and omits certain forms of employment.
 - No data available to determine the percent of those unemployed who left the state, died, entered the military, or remained in SC but were unemployed.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (c):

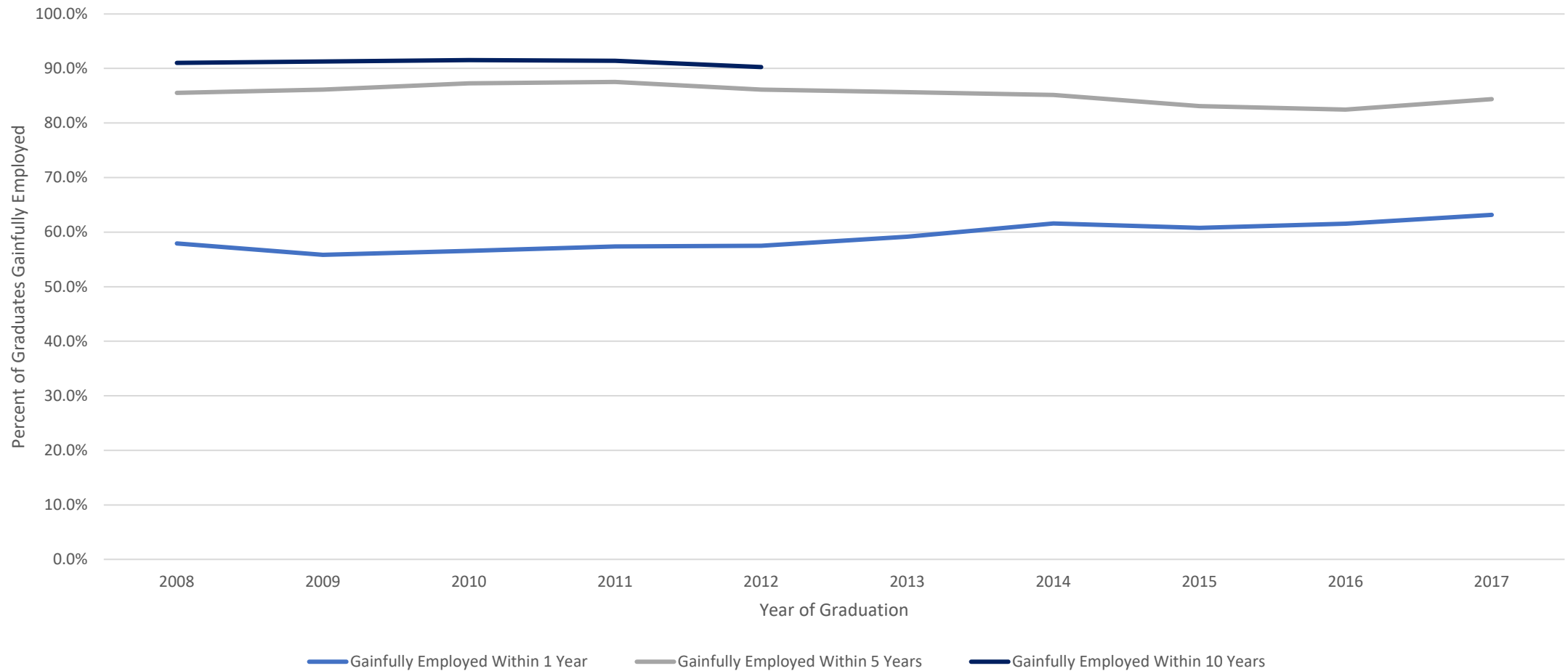
The number of high school graduates who are gainfully employed in the State within five and ten years of graduating from high school

- Key Findings:
 - The vast majority of graduates experience some employment and earnings post-graduation.
 - First year employment is increasing which coincides with the decrease seen in postsecondary education enrollment.
 - 5-year employment increased for the first time in 6 years.
 - Median wages for employment in the 5th year after graduation are similar to the statewide median income (American Community Survey) while wages in the 1st year after graduation are considerably lower. This could be contributed to work experience or obtainment of a college degree.
 - Higher levels of employment and wages are found in the longer, ten-year time period.

Number and Percent of South Carolina Public High School Graduates Gainfully Employed in SC Within One, Five, and Ten Years After Graduation

| Graduation Year | Number of Graduates | Employment within 1 Year of Graduation | | Employment within 5 Years of Graduation | | Employment within 10 Years of Graduation | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|---------|---|---------|--|---------|
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 2008 | 33,268 | 19,277 | 57.9% | 28,448 | 85.5% | 30,276 | 91.0% |
| 2009 | 36,363 | 20,309 | 55.9% | 31,319 | 86.1% | 33,189 | 91.3% |
| 2010 | 35,805 | 20,250 | 56.6% | 31,242 | 87.3% | 32,778 | 91.6% |
| 2011 | 38,863 | 22,299 | 57.4% | 34,020 | 87.5% | 35,518 | 91.4% |
| 2012 | 38,910 | 22,372 | 57.5% | 33,501 | 86.1% | 35,114 | 90.2% |
| 2013 | 38,956 | 23,037 | 59.1% | 33,362 | 85.6% | | |
| 2014 | 39,132 | 24,100 | 61.6% | 33,312 | 85.1% | | |
| 2015 | 40,593 | 24,676 | 60.8% | 33,727 | 83.1% | | |
| 2016 | 42,803 | 26,336 | 61.5% | 35,300 | 82.5% | | |
| 2017 | 43,953 | 27,762 | 63.2% | 37,092 | 84.4% | | |

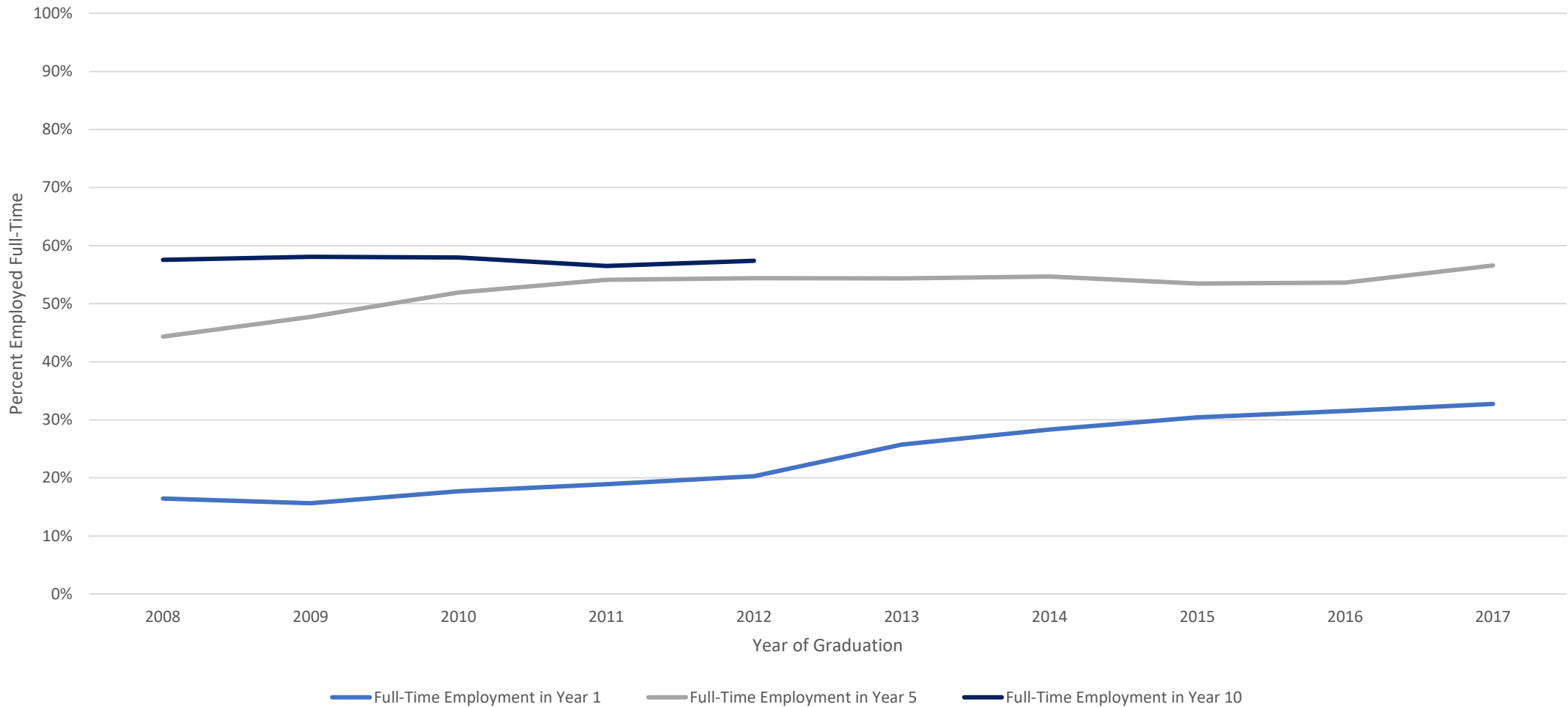
Percent of South Carolina Public High School Graduates Gainfully Employed in SC Within One, Five, and Ten Years After Graduation



Wages of South Carolina Public High School Graduates Employed Full-Time in SC in the First, Fifth, and Tenth Year After Graduation

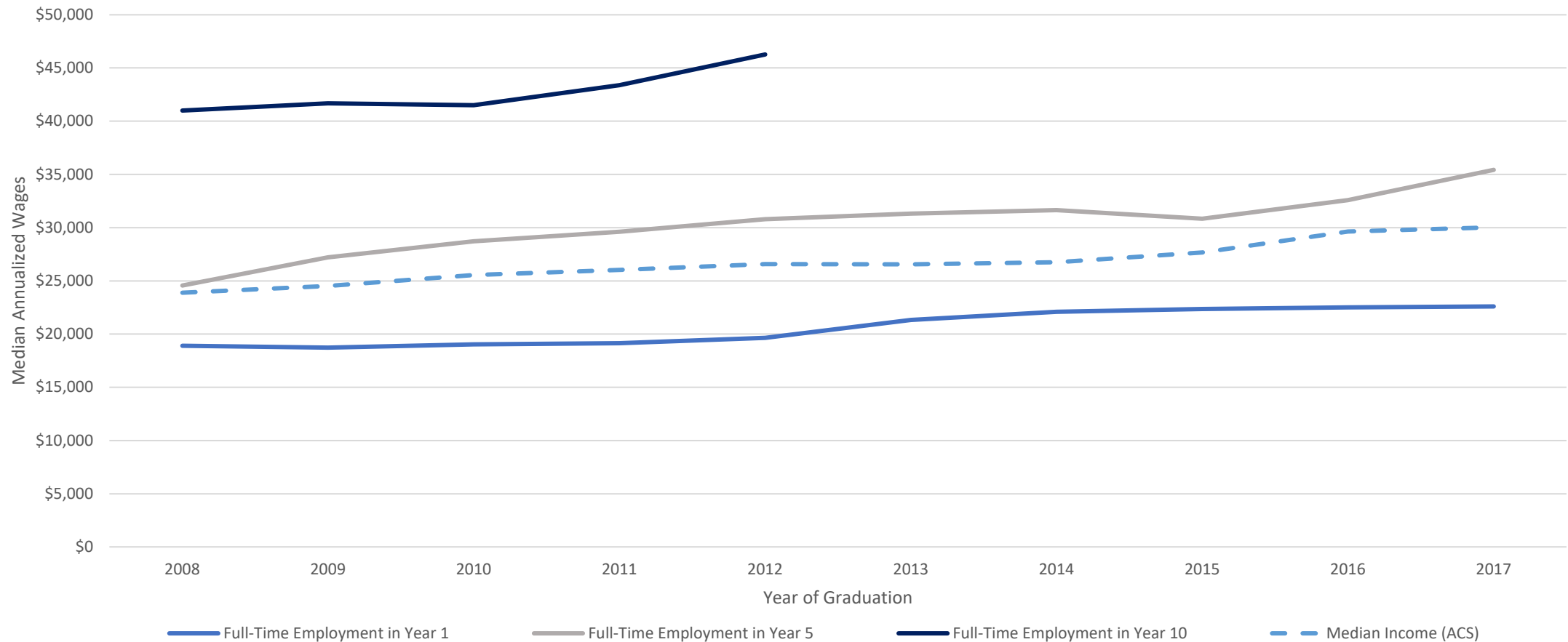
| GRADUATION YEAR | GRADUATES | FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN YEAR 1 | | | | FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN YEAR 5 | | | | FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN YEAR 10 | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | | NUMBER | PERCENT | ANNUALIZED WAGES | MEDIAN | NUMBER | PERCENT | ANNUALIZED WAGES | MEDIAN | NUMBER | PERCENT | ANNUALIZED WAGES | MEDIAN |
| | | | | AVERAGE | | | | AVERAGE | | | | AVERAGE | |
| 2008 | 33,268 | 5,472 | 16.45% | \$23,030 | \$18,895 | 14,756 | 44.35% | \$28,424 | \$24,571 | 19,145 | 57.55% | \$50,790 | \$41,009 |
| 2009 | 36,363 | 5,679 | 15.62% | \$22,475 | \$18,739 | 17,361 | 47.74% | \$32,377 | \$27,212 | 21,121 | 58.08% | \$48,435 | \$41,671 |
| 2010 | 35,805 | 6,335 | 17.69% | \$23,004 | \$19,038 | 18,600 | 51.95% | \$34,042 | \$28,726 | 20,745 | 57.94% | \$47,993 | \$41,501 |
| 2011 | 38,863 | 7,345 | 18.90% | \$23,216 | \$19,152 | 21,030 | 54.11% | \$34,926 | \$29,608 | 21,963 | 56.51% | \$49,993 | \$43,373 |
| 2012 | 38,910 | 7,890 | 20.28% | \$23,281 | \$19,646 | 21,172 | 54.41% | \$35,935 | \$30,798 | 22,323 | 57.37% | \$54,129 | \$46,269 |
| 2013 | 38,956 | 10,023 | 25.73% | \$25,010 | \$21,338 | 21,178 | 54.36% | \$39,909 | \$31,316 | | | | |
| 2014 | 39,132 | 11,077 | 28.31% | \$26,041 | \$22,096 | 21,389 | 54.66% | \$35,977 | \$31,637 | | | | |
| 2015 | 40,593 | 12,352 | 30.43% | \$26,473 | \$22,358 | 21,708 | 53.48% | \$35,213 | \$30,839 | | | | |
| 2016 | 42,803 | 13,488 | 31.51% | \$26,276 | \$22,519 | 22,952 | 53.62% | \$37,061 | \$32,576 | | | | |
| 2017 | 43,953 | 14,388 | 32.73% | \$27,047 | \$22,597 | 24,858 | 56.56% | \$39,992 | \$35,416 | | | | |

Percent of South Carolina Public High School Graduates Employed Full-Time in SC in the First, Fifth, and Tenth Year After Graduation



Median Annualized Wages of SC Public High School Graduates Employed Full-Time in SC in the First, Fifth, and Tenth Year After Graduation

Note: Compare 1, 5, and 10-year annual wages to ACS median income 1, 5, and 10 years after graduation. For example, 1-year annual wages for the 2008 graduation year should be compared to the 2009 ACS median income. See appendix for more details.



Appendix: Detailed Discussion of Data



Expansion of Integrated Data System

- Discussions with stakeholders, most notably the State Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, and the SC Technical College System identified available data and validated the specific measures used in this report.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between RFA and the Commission on Higher Education, the State Department of Education, and the Department of Employment and Workforce cover the use of the data in this report.
- All necessary individual data were linked and deidentified using RFA's existing record linking process, and subsequently maintained in RFA's secure, encrypted, data environment.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (a):

The number of students graduating from public high schools in SC who enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation

- In order to evaluate the above-mentioned outcomes an initial cohort was established. Bi-annual census and graduation data, provided by the South Carolina Department of Education, were used to establish the cohort. Bi-annual census data provides information on the student's enrollment on the 45th and 135th day of the school year. This file is submitted twice a year to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. The Graduation data includes individuals who graduated on-time from South Carolina public schools within four years. This data is provided annually to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. This data does not include students who graduated from private, or home schools not affiliated with the SC Department of Education or students who took more than 4 years to graduate.
- The cohort is comprised of 575,965 individuals who graduated from South Carolina public schools between 2008 and 2021. For the purposes of this project, a student was considered a graduate if they were identified as a graduate in the graduation data and were found in the 12th grade Bi-Annual Census data. Individuals who were not found in both data systems were excluded from the cohort. Individuals who were unable to be matched due to missing information were also excluded from the cohort to ensure data validity and accuracy.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (a):

The number of students graduating from public high schools in SC who enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation, continued

- To determine the number of South Carolina public high school graduates entering postsecondary education, we linked the SCDE senior cohort with data SC high school students provided by the SC Commission on Higher Education's CHEMIS database. A student enters the CHEMIS database the first time they enroll in a postsecondary education institute in the state. This means that a student could have multiple records if they transferred to another school in the state. For this report we only kept the first record for each student to ensure that we were capturing high school students and not transfer students. The file we received from the Commission on Higher Education covers the 2016-2017 through 2021-2022 school years. Unlike the SCDE senior cohort, this data does include students who attended private high schools and is not limited to those who graduated on time. However, by linking to the senior cohort, we put the same limitations on this dataset.
- Only students enrolled in an in-state institution in the school-year immediately following their high school graduation year were used in the analysis.
- SCDE creates the College Freshman Report that contains information on graduates, <https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/>

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (b):

The number of working-aged adults in South Carolina by county who possess a postsecondary degree or industry credential

- Data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) was used to provide this measure. This was necessary because the issue focuses on population questions that exceed the scope of the state’s administrative data collections. ACS provides estimates of the educational attainment of the working aged population (18-64).
- The annual ACS sample is smaller than that of the 2000 Census long-form sample, which included about 18 million housing units. As a result, the ACS needs to combine population or housing data from multiple years to produce reliable numbers for small counties, neighborhoods, and other local areas. To provide information for communities each year, the ACS currently provides 1-year estimates for geographic areas with at least 65,000 people and 5-year estimates for smaller geographic areas down to the census tract and block-group level. Single-year and multiyear estimates from the ACS are all “period” estimates derived from a sample collected over a period of time, as opposed to “point-in-time” estimates such as those from past decennial censuses. While an ACS 1-year estimate includes information collected over a 12-month period, an ACS 5-year estimate includes data collected over a 60-month period.
<https://www.census.gov/programssurveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html>
- ACS 1-year estimates are used to present educational attainment over time at the state level. The broader 5-year estimates are used to examine differences in educational attainment across counties. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau changed the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) release schedule. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau released experimental estimates from the 1-year data but advise against comparing 2020 to other ACS 1-year estimates. RFA used linear regression to estimate 2020 educational attainment levels.

Longitudinal Data System Measurement (c):

The number of high school graduates who are gainfully employed in the State within five and ten years of graduating from high school

- Data for high school graduates is derived from the cohort defined in section (a).
- These data are then linked to quarterly UI wage records acquired from the SC Department of Employment and Workforce. UI wage data captures the wages of most workers in a state, but some workers are excluded, such as those who work in a neighboring state. Federal employees, ex-service members, and postal workers are also not included in state UI wage data.
- Because a standard definition of “gainfully employed” could not be found, we substituted a stipulative definition that requires an individual to have wages in two consecutive quarters starting in the time-period of interest.
- Wage comparisons were only considered for full-time work. A full-time threshold of \$14,500 is calculated by multiplying the minimum wage (\$7.25) by 40 hours a week for 50 weeks a year.
- 2010-2017 ACS 1-year estimates of median individual income across all wages were used as a benchmark. These estimates were used to compute a trendline for 2008-2010. Wages at year of graduation are individual median wages for employment in the 1st, 5th, and 10th year after graduation and must be compared to ACS trend line at appropriate forward adjusted year.

For further information...

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