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POLICY INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Economically Disadvantaged Students and Higher Education

Newsmaker Breakfast June 9, 2022

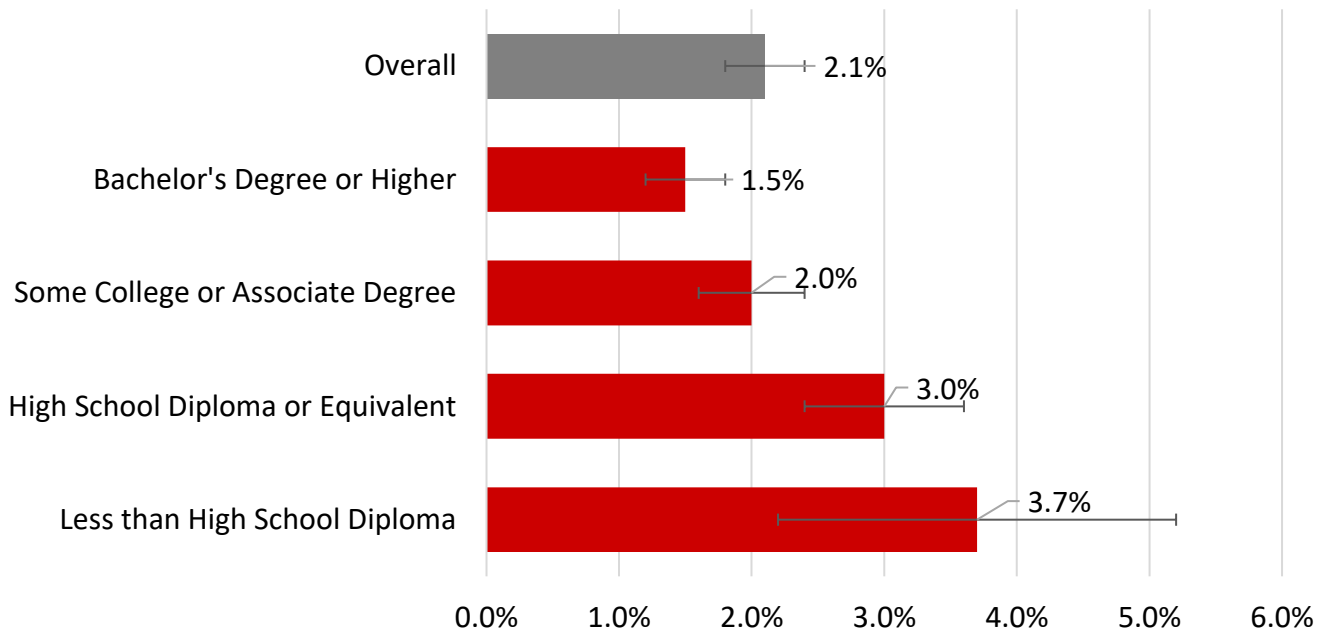
INFORMED DECISIONS™

Key Points

1. Education creates greater economic opportunity.
2. Income level and educational attainment are closely tied.
3. Economically disadvantaged students enroll in and complete college at lower rates than their non-economically disadvantaged peers.
4. Economically disadvantaged students face many barriers to college enrollment and completion.
5. Rising tuition costs could pose barrier for economically disadvantaged students but grant aid may help offset these costs.
6. The share of students who are economically disadvantaged differs across USHE institutions.
7. Many different interventions have been tried with varying impacts; measurement poses challenges.
8. Education improves Utah's long-term future for everyone.

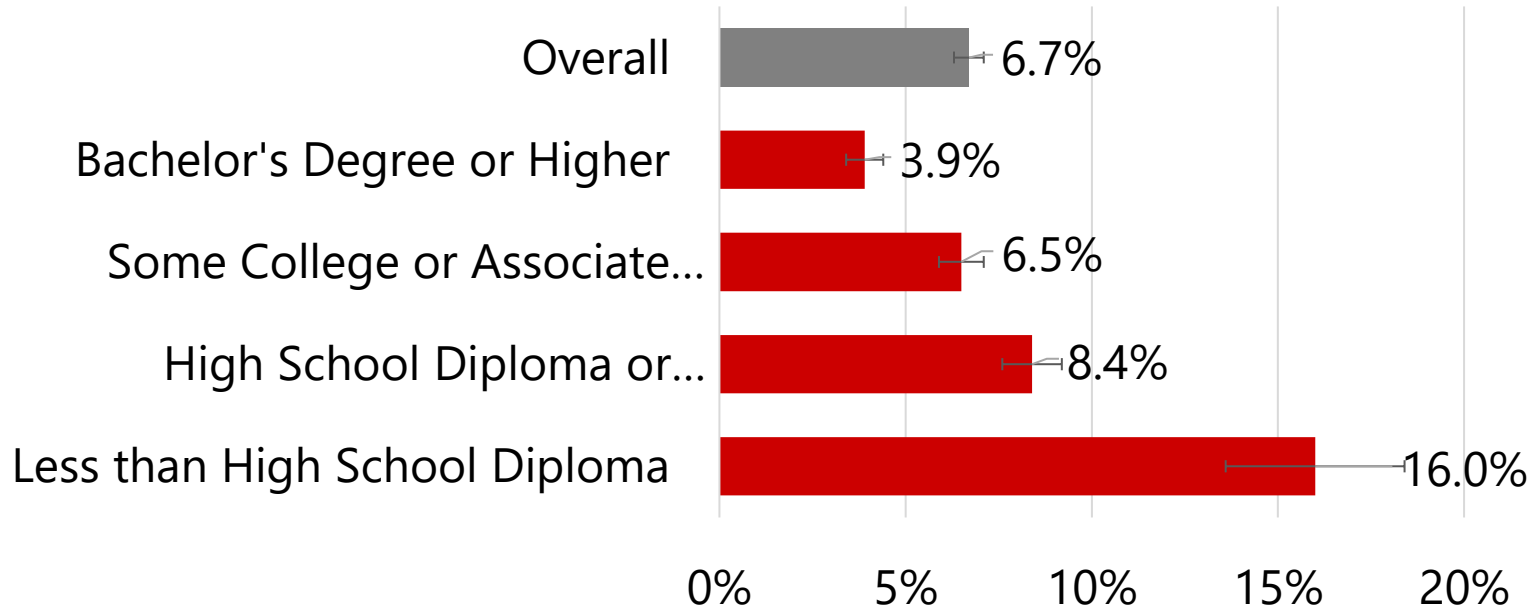
Education creates greater
economic opportunity.

Utah Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment, 2019



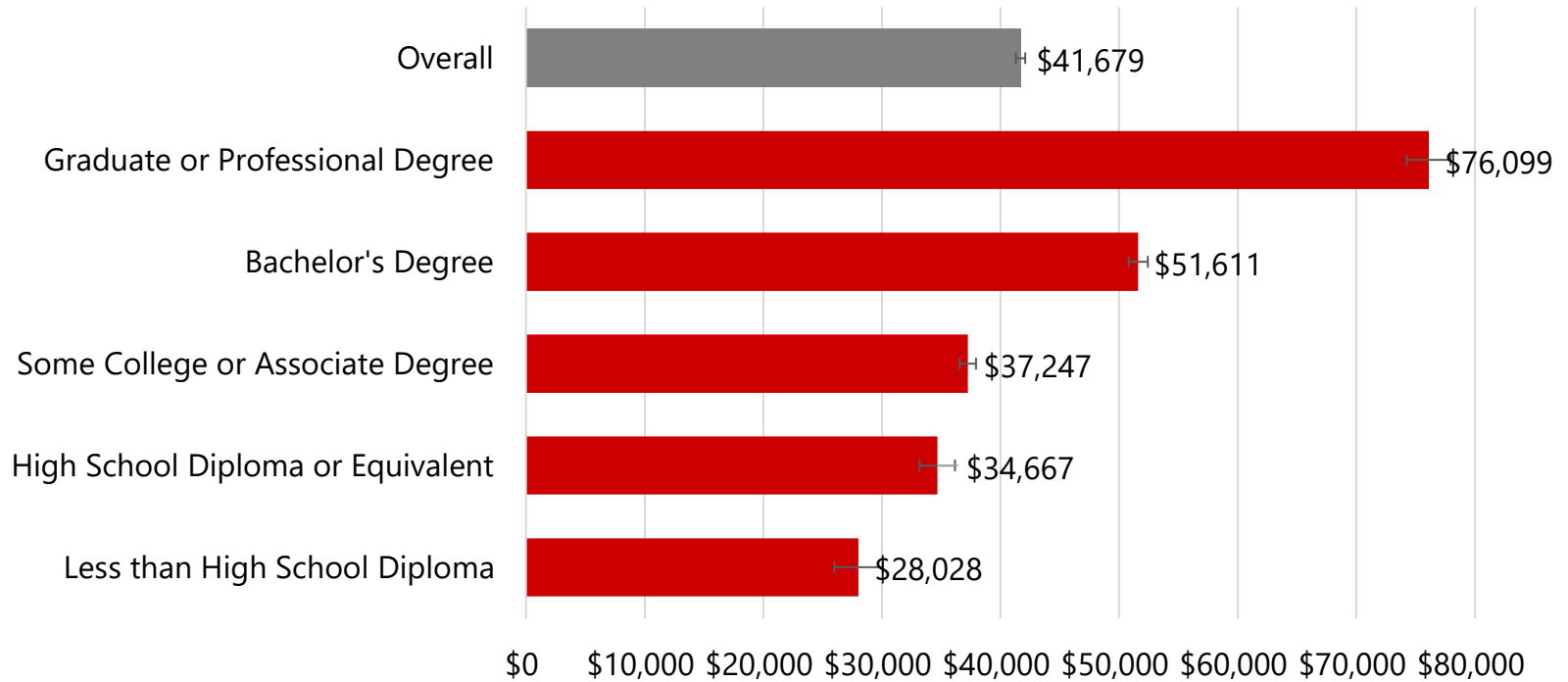
Note: Data are for individuals age 25 to 64. These are survey-based estimates subject to sample variation. Each estimate is shown with its 90% confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Utah Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment, 2019



Note: Data are for individuals age 25 and older. These are survey-based estimates subject to sample variation. Each estimate is shown with its 90% confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

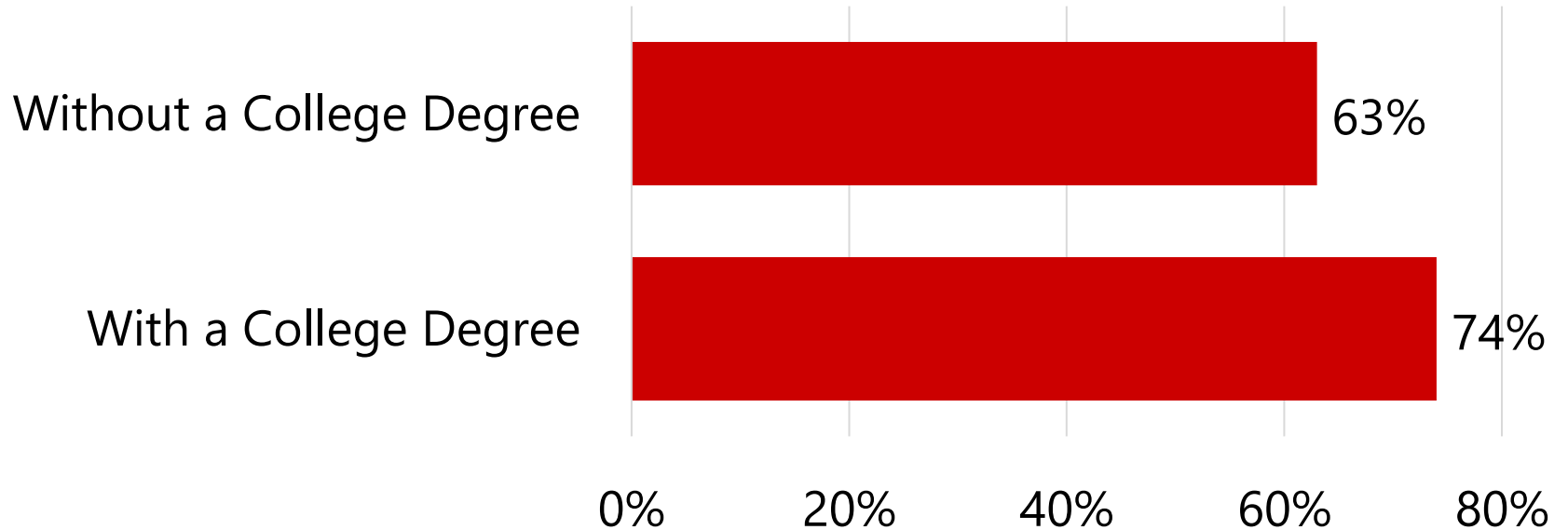
Utah Median Annual Income by Educational Attainment, 2019



Note: Data are for individuals age 25 and older. These are survey-based estimates subject to sample variation. Each estimate is shown with its 90% confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

U.S. Economic Mobility

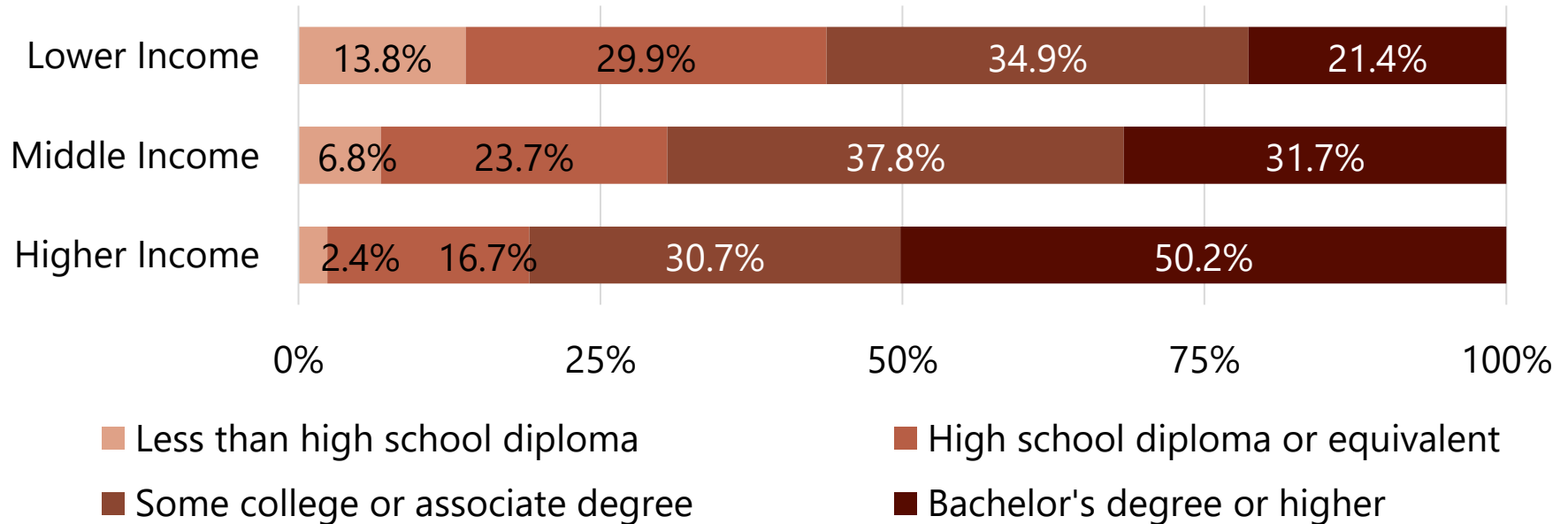
Share of Children with Family Income Above their Parents' Family Income, by Child's Education Level



Note: Economic mobility between the parental generation of the 1960s and 1970s and their adult children.
Source: Brookings Institute

Income level and educational attainment are closely tied.

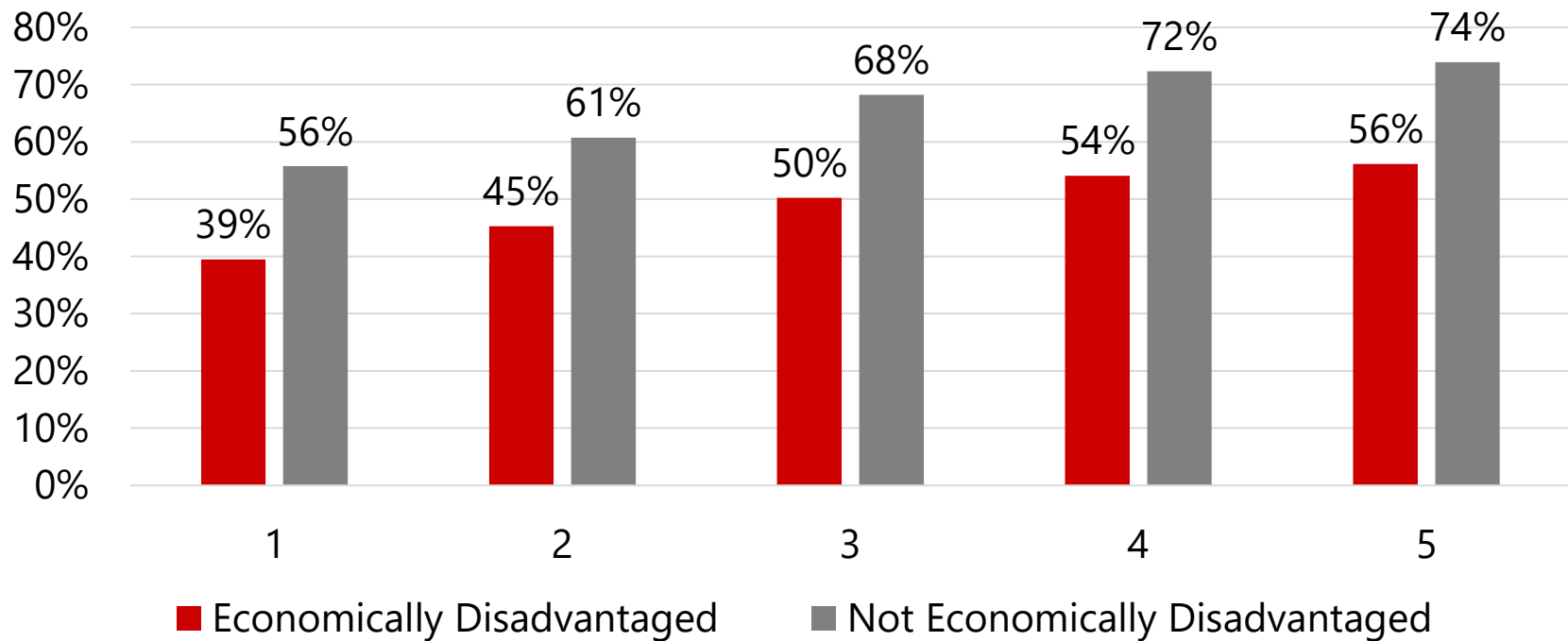
Educational Attainment by Income Level in Utah, 2019



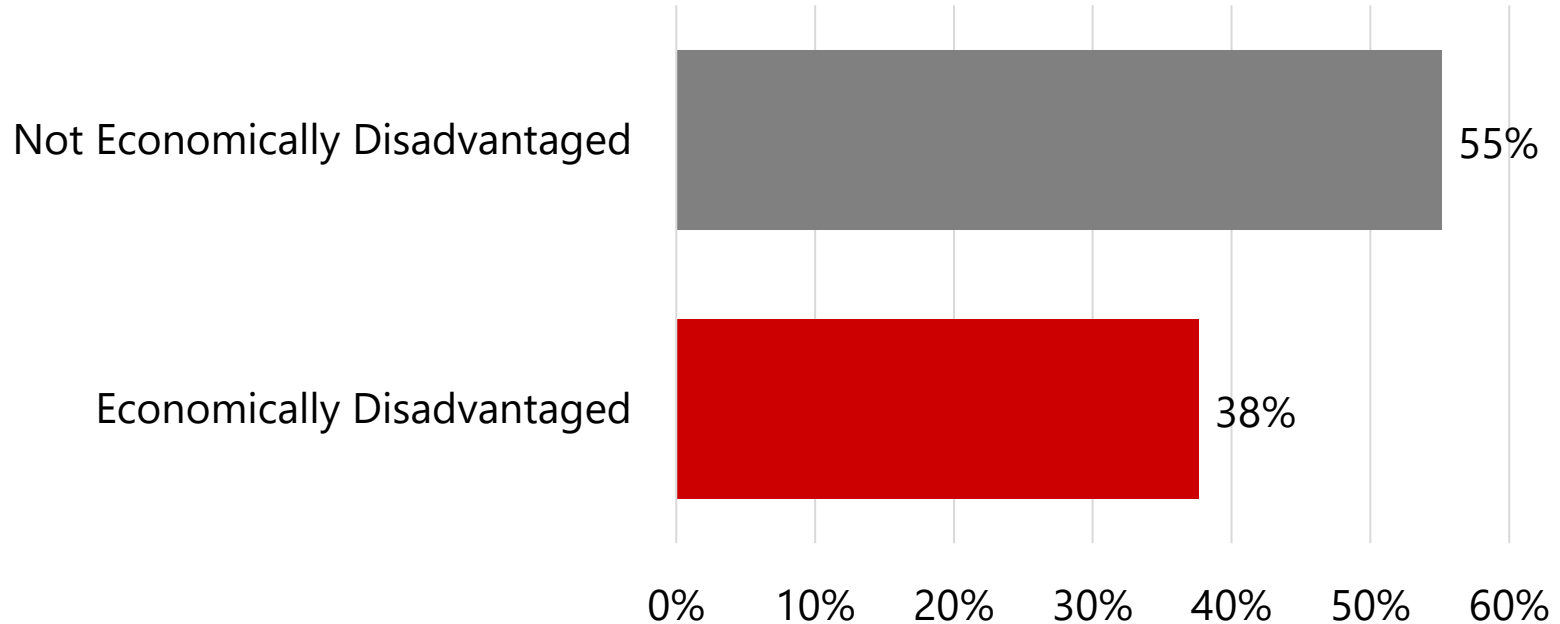
Note: The Gardner Institute bases its income level estimates on household income, compared with state medians and federal poverty guidelines by household size.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series

Economically disadvantaged students enroll in and complete college at lower rates than their non-economically disadvantaged peers.

Utah College Enrollment Within 5 Years of Graduating High School (Cohorts 2008 - 2013)

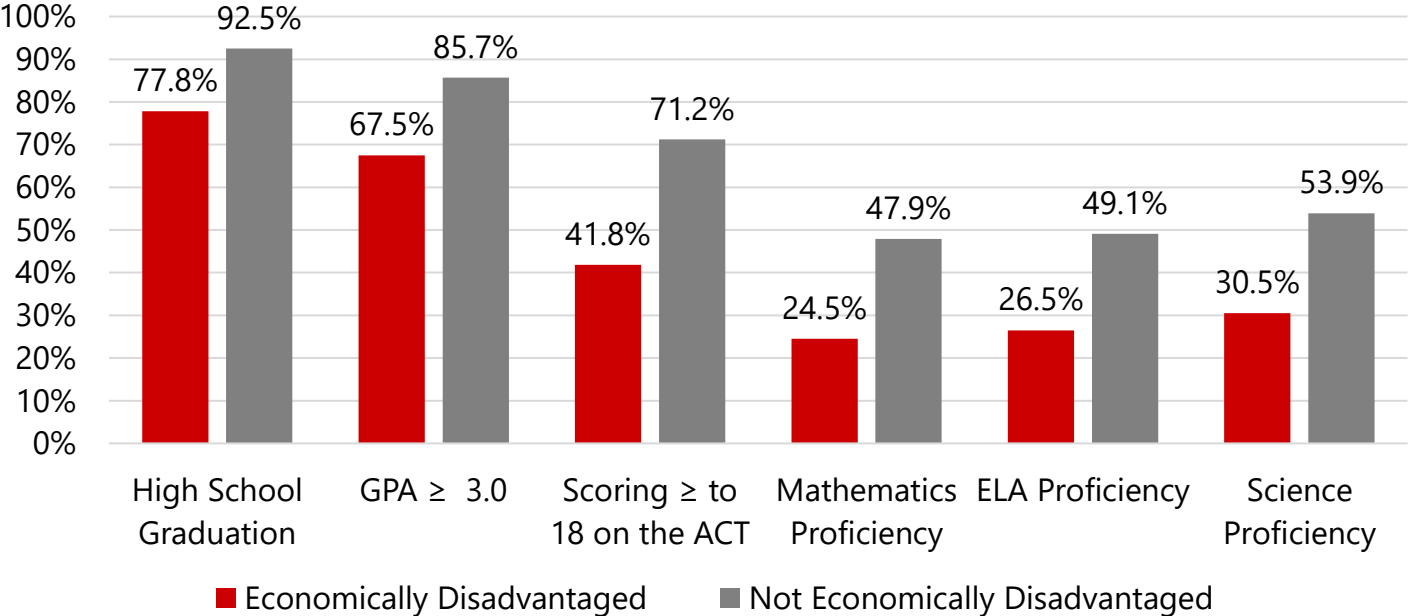


Utah College Completion Within 8 Years of Graduating High School (Cohorts 2008 - 2010)



Economically disadvantaged students face many barriers to college enrollment and completion.

Utah K-12 Student Achievement, 2018-2021



Note: Economic disadvantage measured by a student’s eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch. Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science proficiency represent an average of 3rd-8th graders as measured by RISE test scores. ACT scores use 2018 data, GPA uses 2019 data, the remaining metrics use 2021 data.
 Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah State Board of Education data

Additional Barriers

Economically disadvantaged students are more likely to:

Work more hours

Delay enrollment

Enroll part-time

Have children

Be a single parent

Be a first-generation college student

And less likely to:

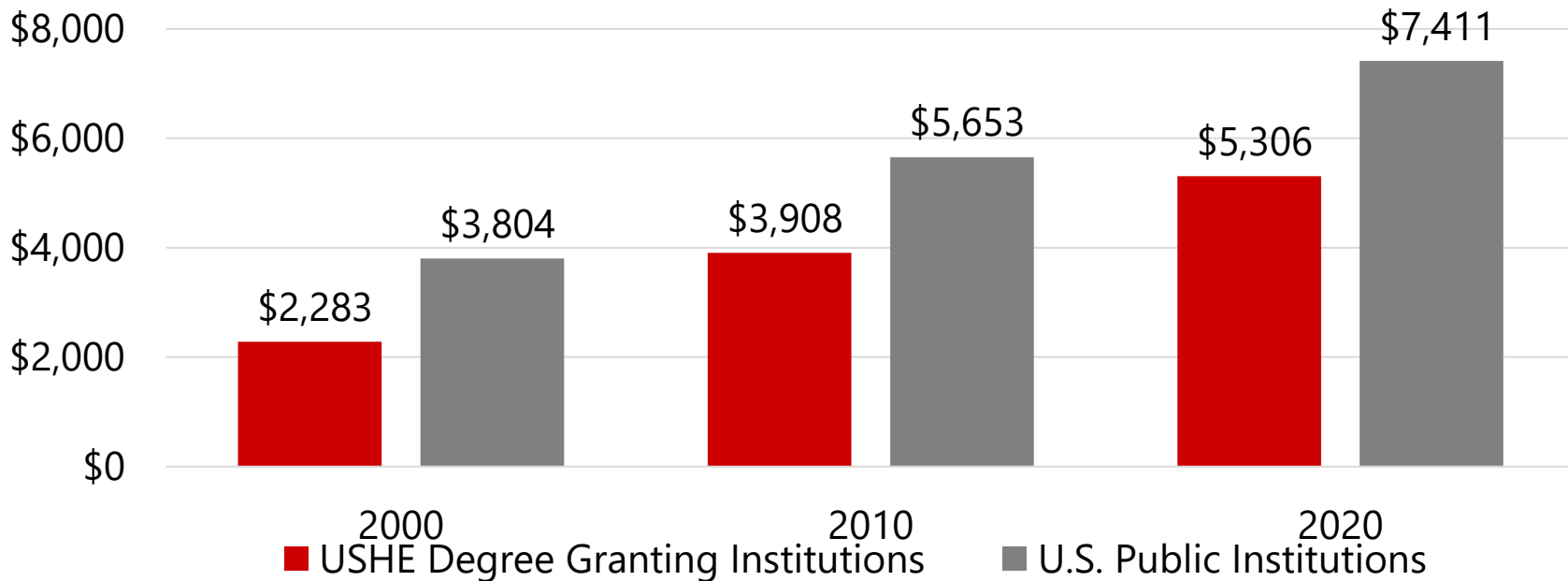
Engage in academic and social experiences

Utilize support services

Rising tuition costs could pose barrier for economically disadvantaged students but grant aid may help offset these costs.

Average Undergraduate Resident Tuition and Fees for USHE Degree-Granting Institutions and U.S. Public Universities, FY 2000, FY 2010, and FY 2020

Inflation-Adjusted 2020 Dollars

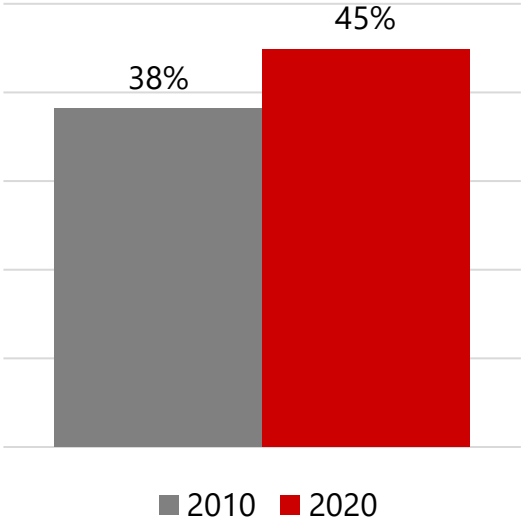


Note: Data are for the entire academic year and are average charges for full-time students.

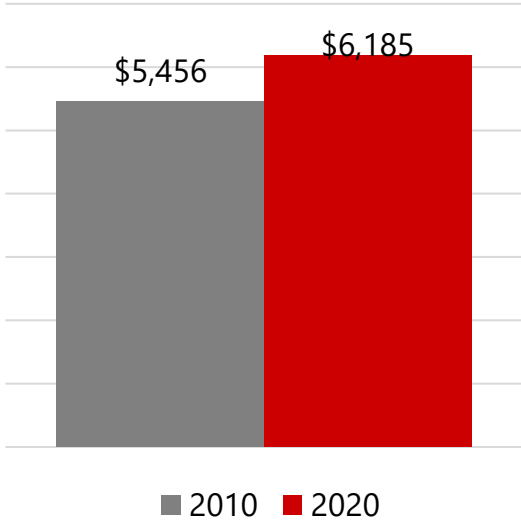
Source: Utah System of Higher Education and National Center for Education Statistics Table 330.10

Students Receiving Federal, State, Local, Institutional, or Other Sources of Grant Aid, 2010 & 2020

Share of USHE Students Receiving Aid



Average Amount of Aid Received by USHE Students

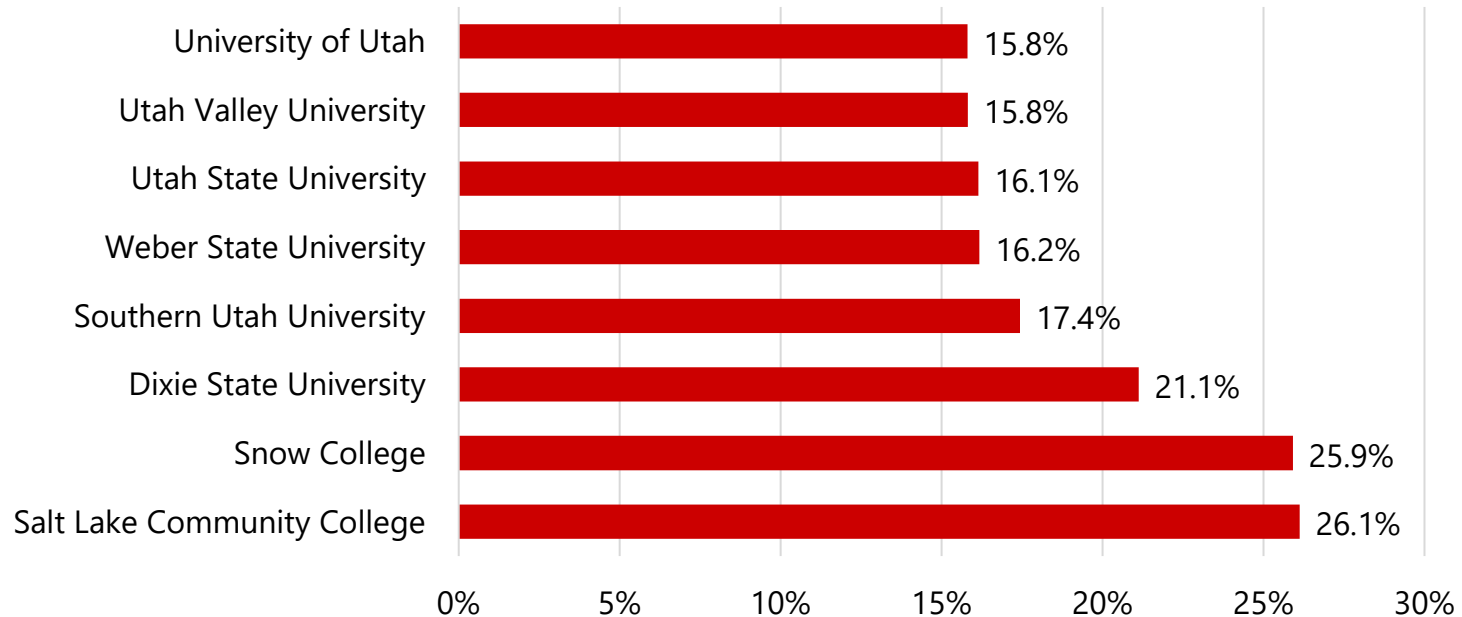


Note: Inflation adjusted to 2020 dollars. Private scholarships and COVID-19 relief funds are excluded from this measure.

Source: The U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

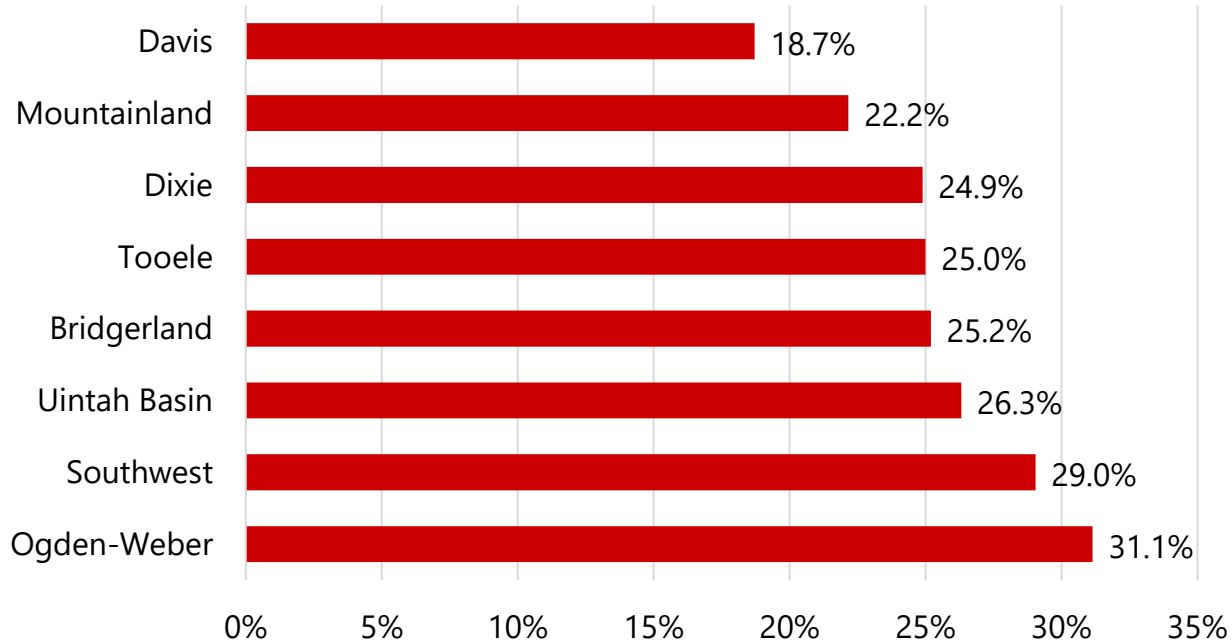
The share of students who are economically disadvantaged differs across USHE institutions.

Share of Students who are Economically Disadvantaged by Degree-granting Institution, 2019-2020



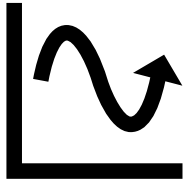
Note: Economic disadvantage measured by a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Data Research Center, Utah System of Higher Education, and Utah State Board of Education data

Share of Students who are Economically Disadvantaged by Technical College, 2019-2020



Note: Economic disadvantage measured by a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch.
Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of Utah Data Research Center, Utah System of Higher Education, and Utah State Board of Education data

Many different interventions
have been tried with varying
impacts; measurement poses
challenges.



Many interventions exist – Many types of interventions have shown positive impacts on improving enrollment and/or completion for economically disadvantaged students.

Impacts vary – However, impacts can vary significantly across different populations and with different implementation.

Measurement poses challenges – There are many possible measures of economic disadvantage in higher education that pose differing challenges.

Education improves Utah's
long-term future for everyone.

Benefits of Education

Individual Benefits	Societal Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased earnings- Increased economic mobility- Better health outcomes- More likely to receive employer-provided health insurance- More likely to do educational activities with their children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stronger community- Increased GDP- Decreased crime- Increased volunteering- Increased voter participation- Increased tax contributions- Lower unemployment rate- Reduced reliance on public assistance- Reduced healthcare costs- Decreased poverty rate

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