

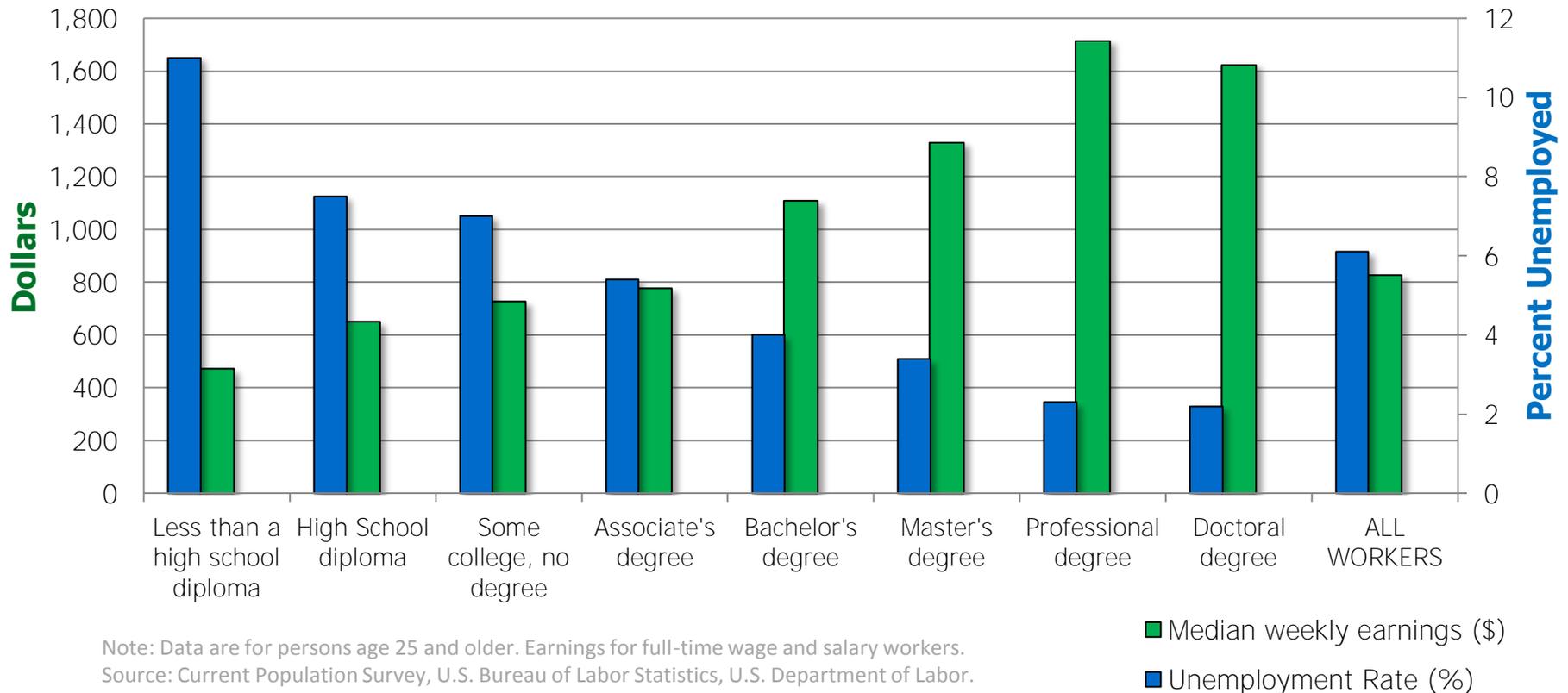
Predicting Early College Success Using Indiana State Data: Lessons Learned

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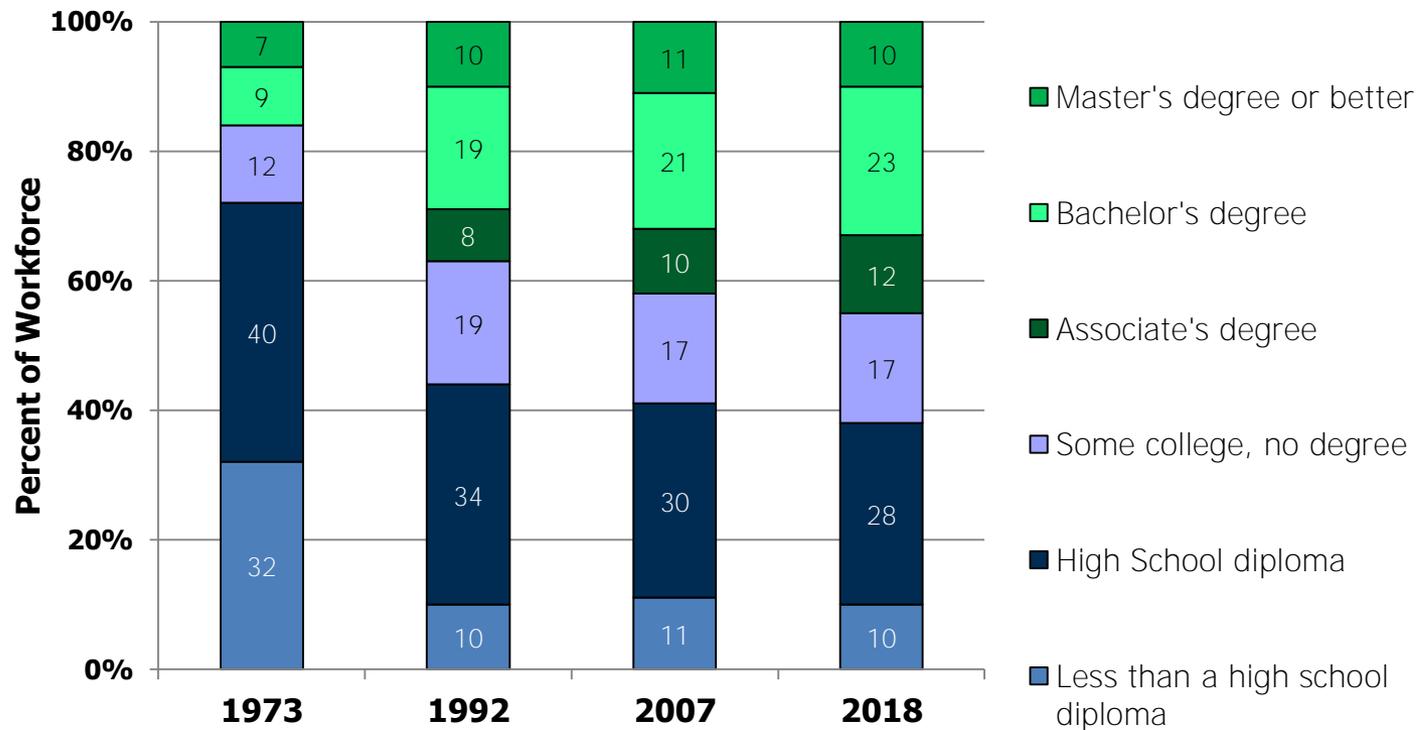
Why This Study?

➤ Postsecondary degree: higher income, lower unemployment rate



Why This Study?

- Workforce increasingly requires postsecondary education.



Source: Carnevale, A. P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2010). *Help wanted: Projections of jobs and education requirements through 2018*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Why This Study?

- Postsecondary education is necessary for economic growth and upward mobility.
- Gap between postsecondary plans and attainment
 - Especially for those requiring remedial education

Why This Study?

- College and career readiness is a major goal of education reform.
- Indiana continues its efforts to improve readiness.
- Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) seeks to better identify which students are likely to be successful in college.

Research Questions

1. What percentage of enrollees arrived at college ready to succeed?
2. Do the percentages vary by student, high school, or college characteristics?
3. Do the percentages vary by indicator of success?

Indicators of Early College Success

- Student early college success is defined by:
 - Taking only nonremedial classes
 - Completing all attempted credits
 - Persisting to a second year
 - Success by all three indicators

Available Predictors

- Student-level characteristics
 - Academic
 - Demographic
 - Behavioral
- High-school-level characteristics
 - Locale
 - Percentage eligible for free or reduced-price lunch
 - Student achievement
- College selectivity

Design Alternatives

Research Focus	Design
Describe early college success of high school completers	Longitudinal study of cohort of entering college students , focused on college outcomes
Describe college and career readiness and success of high school completers	Longitudinal study of cohort of high school completers , focused on college and/or work outcomes
Describe ninth graders' pathways through high school and to college and/or the workforce	Longitudinal study of cohort of high school entrants , focused on high school, college, and/or work outcomes

Findings

- A bit more suspense ...
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Implications for State Data Systems

- Keen reminder that our models are only as strong as our underlying data
- Here, high accuracy but constrained information
- Might also have liked data representing:
 - Noncognitive characteristics
 - Accuplacer or Compass scores
 - More complete GPA and ACT/SAT data
 - Anything else?

Possible Actions by States

- Inform usefulness of predictors collected by state data systems
- Inform selection of measures for early warning systems
- Inform future projects such as calculating readiness benchmarks
- Investigate additional measures that states should consider collecting



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