

# Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education Spotlight

## Black Students



The number of Black<sup>1</sup> students accessing and completing postsecondary credentials increased between 1995–96 and 2015–16. In 2015–16, Black students accounted for a larger share of high school completers, undergraduate and graduate enrollment, and graduate school completers than 20 years prior. However, these gains are often overshadowed by outcomes and high debt burdens that reflect the consequences of systematic and structural barriers that restrain the opportunities of many Black students, families, and the nation at large. This infographic highlights data from *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* to provide an overview of the educational journeys of Black students enrolled in postsecondary education.

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<sup>1</sup> The terms Black and African American are used interchangeably.

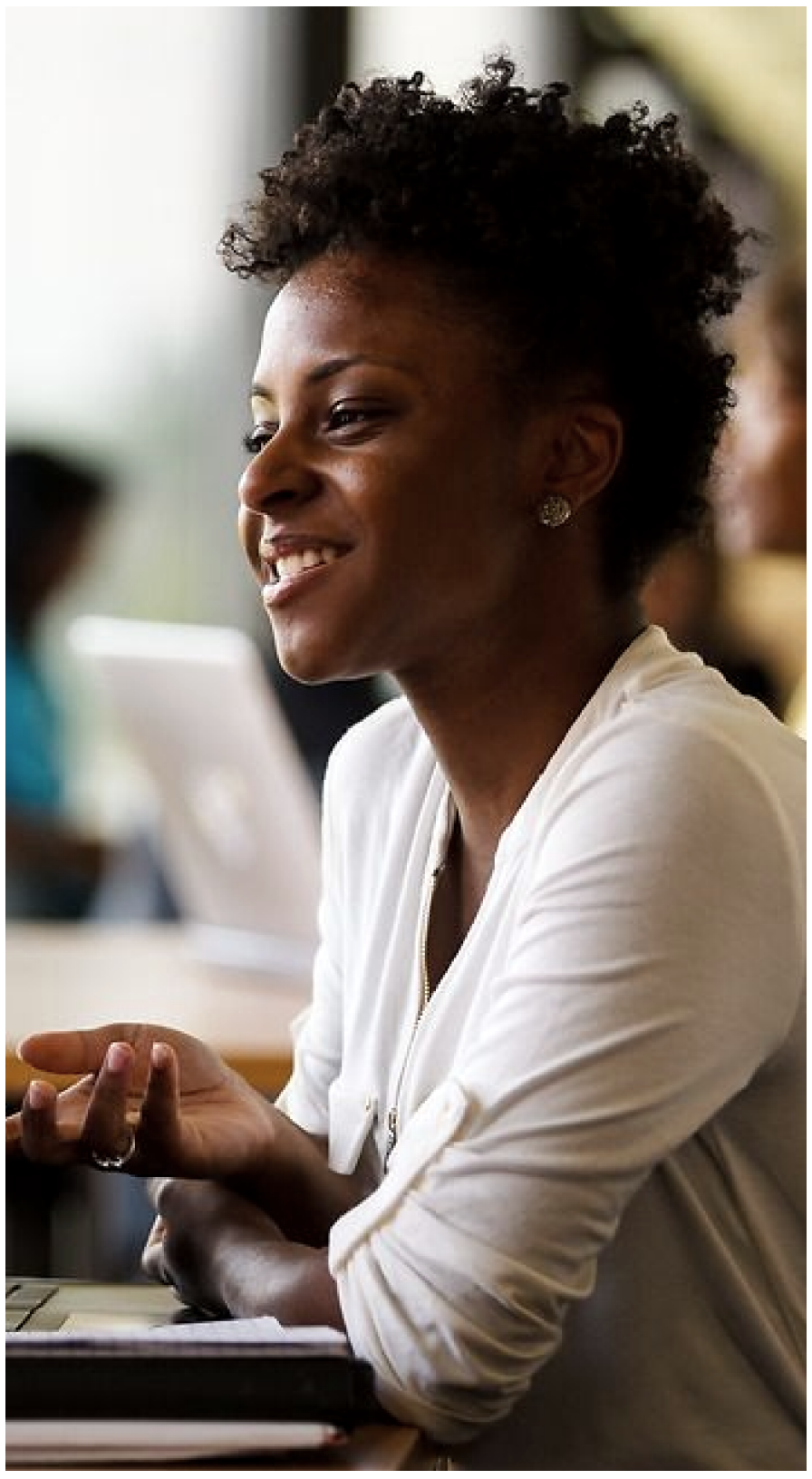
# U.S. Population & Educational Attainment\*

African Americans represented 12.3% of the total U.S. population.



● African Americans ● Total U.S. population

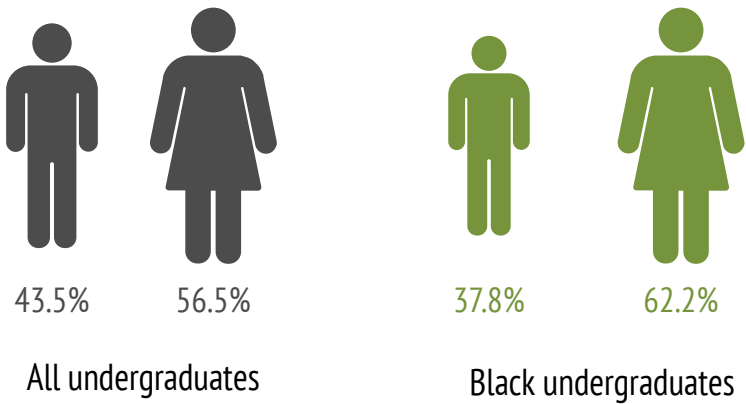
## Attainment of Associate Degree or Higher (Adults Ages 25 and Older)



# Undergraduate Enrollment\*

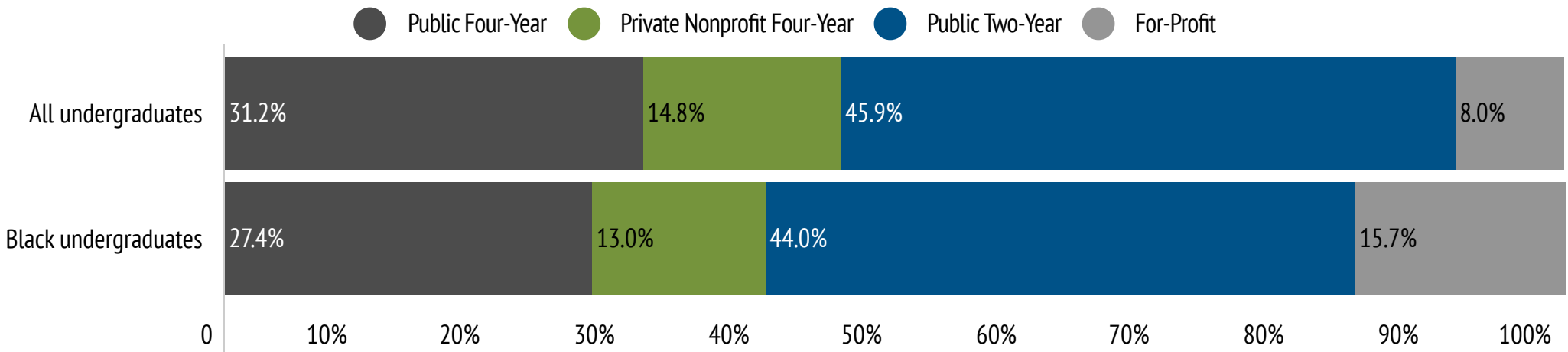
**15.2%** of all undergraduate students were Black.

## Undergraduate Enrollment by Gender



More than 6 in 10 Black undergraduates were women.

## Undergraduate Enrollment Across Sectors<sup>1</sup>



**15.7%** of Black undergraduates were enrolled at for-profit institutions, nearly double the share of undergraduates overall.

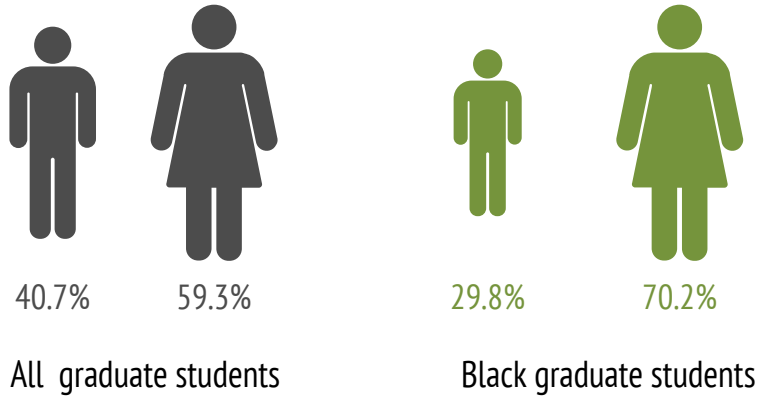
1. Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted.

# Graduate Enrollment\*

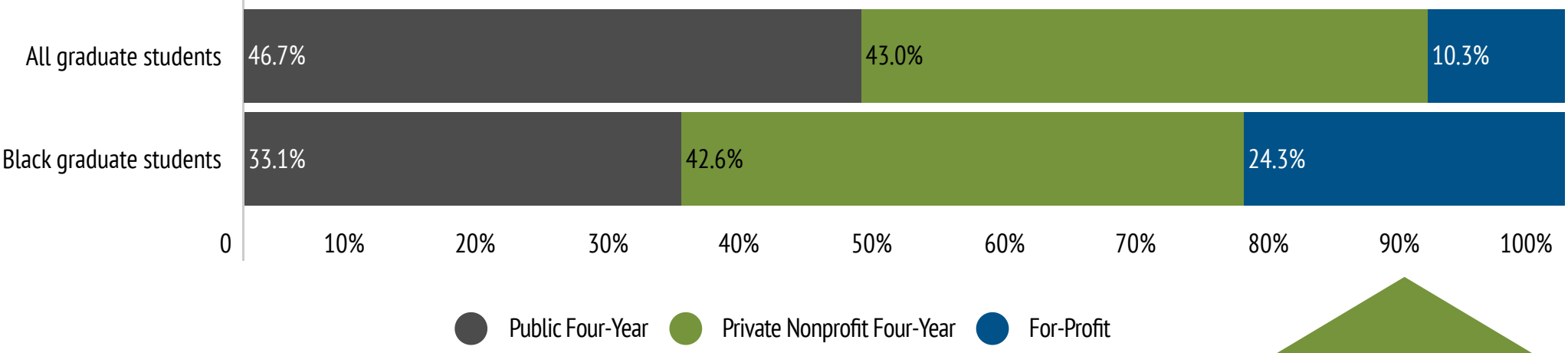
13.5% of all graduate students were Black.



## Graduate Enrollment by Gender



## Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors



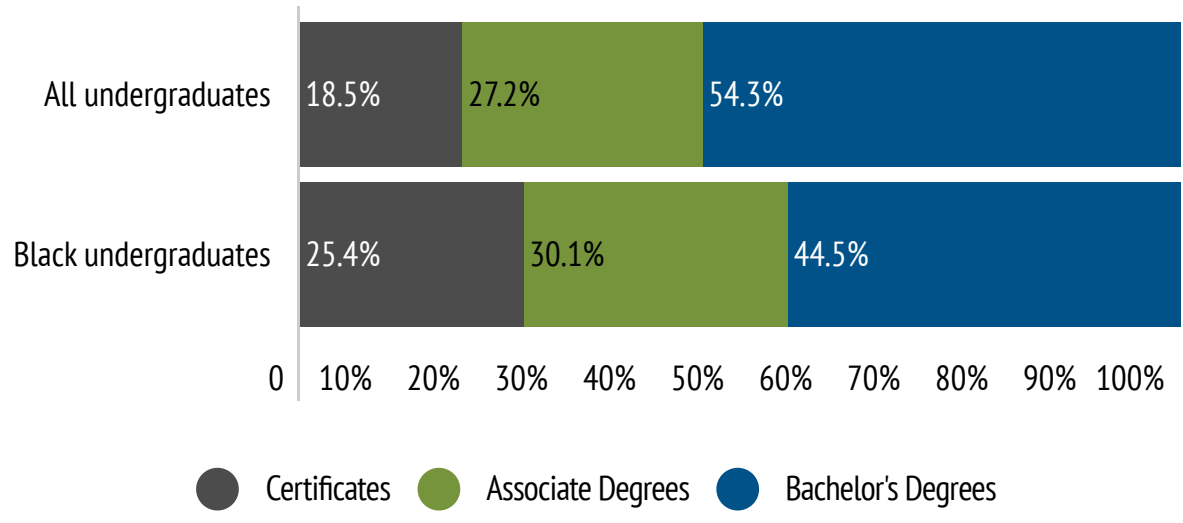
Nearly **one-quarter** of Black graduate students were enrolled in a for-profit institution, compared with 10.3% of graduate students overall.


\*2015-16



# Undergraduate Completion\*

Undergraduate Completions by Award Level




 Black students earned 12.7% of all associate degrees and 9.4% of all bachelor's degrees.

# Graduate Completion\*

**Black students earned**

- 10.3% of all master's degrees
- 6.5% of all professional degrees
- 7.6% of all doctoral degrees

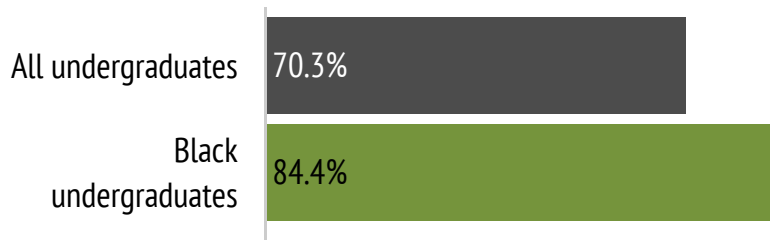
**81.1%**



of Black graduate students completed master's degrees, compared with 77.0% of all graduate students.

# Paying for College\*

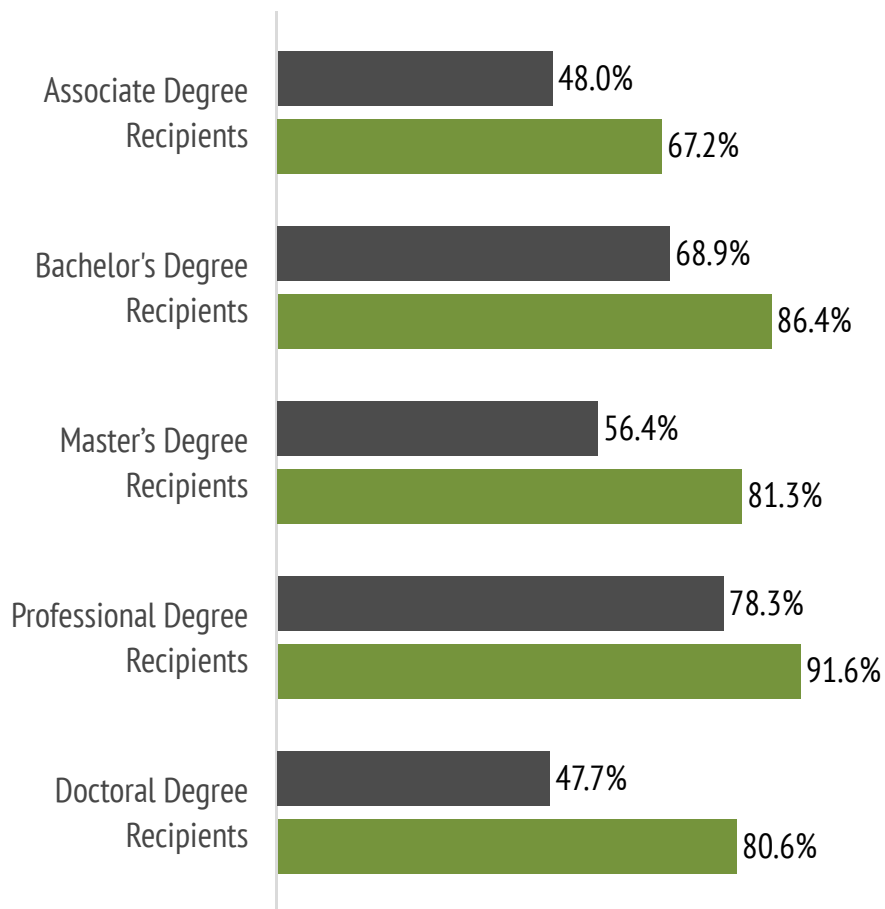
## FAFSA Completion Rate



58.3%

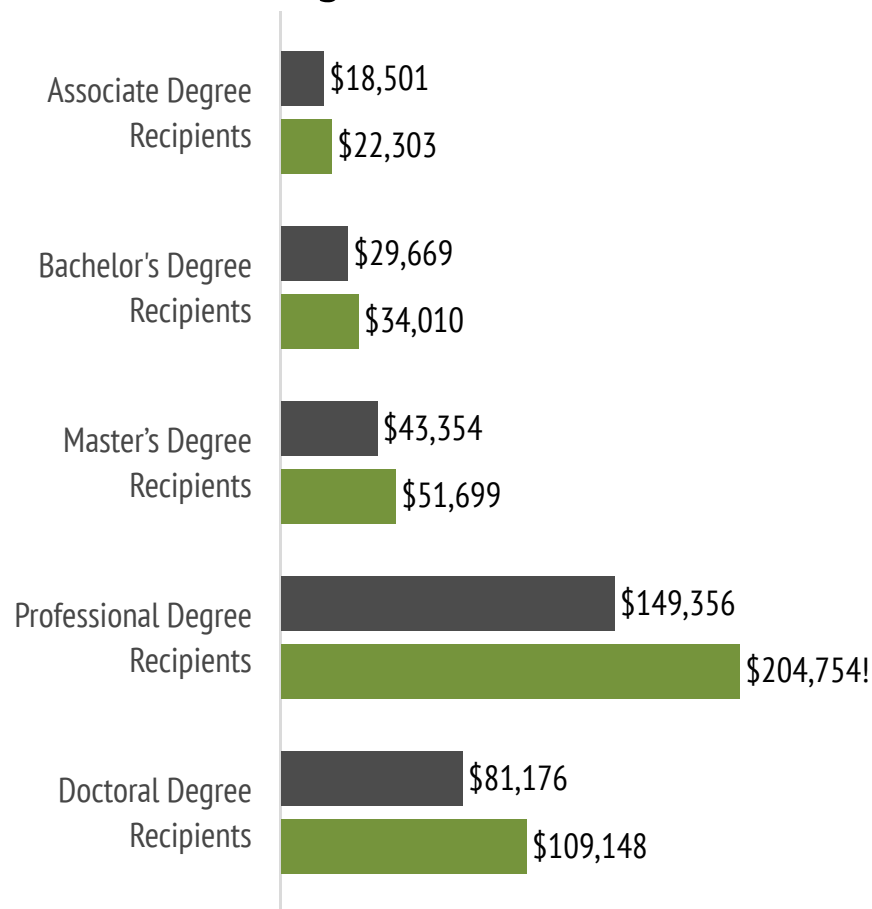
of Black undergraduate students were from families with an expected family contribution of \$0, compared with 39.1% of undergraduate students overall.

## Percent Who Borrowed



● All students ● Black students

## Average Amount Borrowed



● All students ● Black students

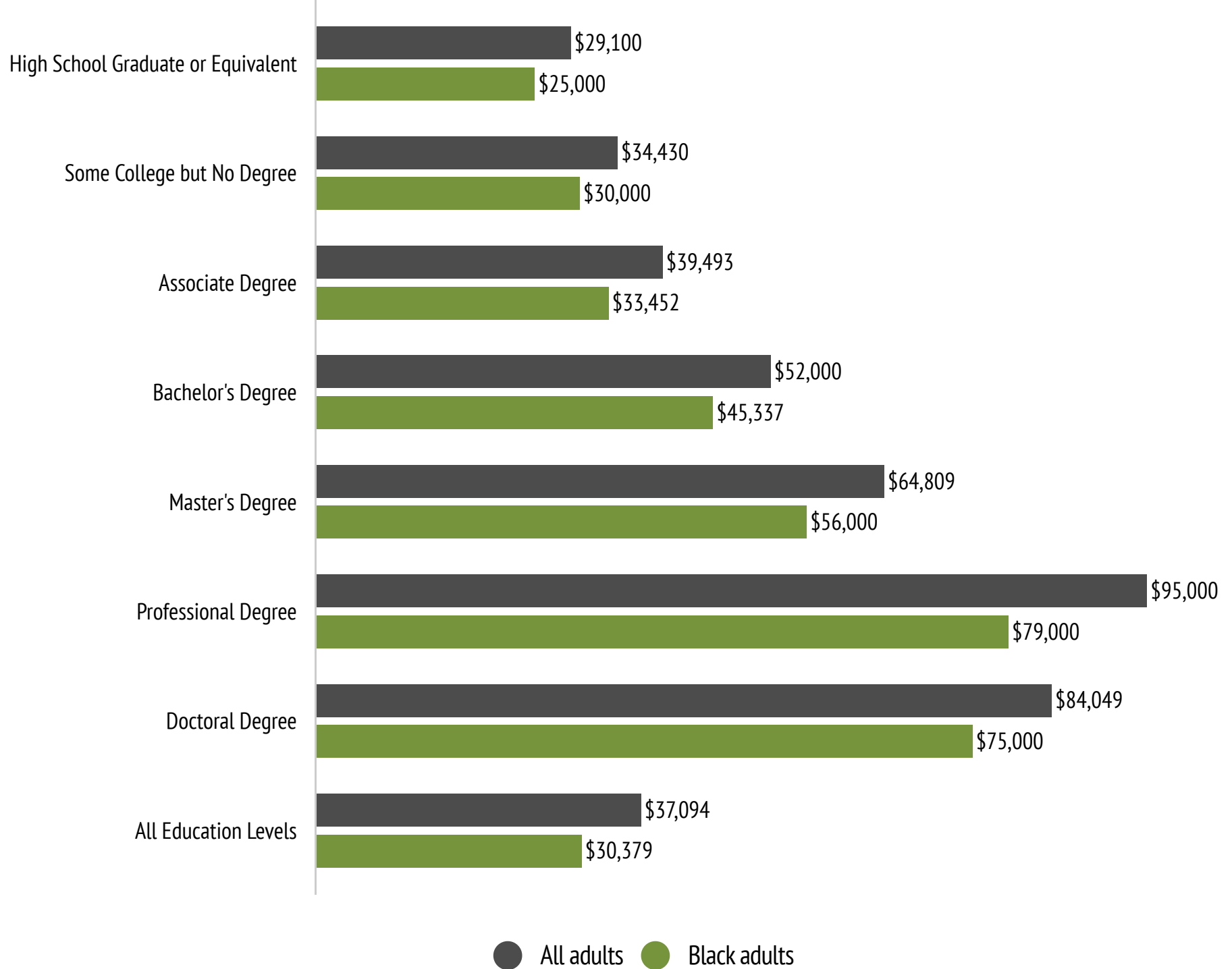
Across all degree types, Black students were more likely to borrow and borrowed more than both undergraduate and graduate students overall.

\* Interpret with caution. Ratio of standard error to estimate is >30% but <50%.

# Median Annual Earnings\*

Across all levels of educational attainment, Black adults earned **LESS** than the national median for all adults

## Median Annual Earnings for Adults Ages 25 and Older



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