



Increasing Educational Access & Attainment in Southeast

**Prepared for:
Southeast Conference
September 20, 2017**

Postsecondary Access & Completion Network

- Goal: 65 percent of working age adults to have a high quality credential by 2025
- Initiating Regional Action Plans
 - Expand partnerships among key institutions and industry
 - Strengthen culture of education
 - Enhance residents' understanding of options and resources
 - Enhance preparation of high school students
 - Address needs of adults
- www.65by2025.org



McDowell Group

- Support and coordination role
- Multidisciplinary research and consulting firm since 1972
- Education is cornerstone of firm's practice
 - University of Alaska
 - Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
 - Early education and K-12 school districts
 - Plus studies on workforce development
- Additional areas of expertise: resource development, transportation, seafood, tourism, health care, social services

Why Focus on Educational Attainment?

- *Alaska's economy to be driven by Alaskans*
- Economic benefits
 - State
 - Community
 - Individual
- Societal benefits

How Do States and Communities Do This?

- Identify the issues to address
- Identify stakeholders and develop relationships around aligned interests
- Develop a structure
- Gather and understand baseline data
- Envision the future, set metrics accordingly
- Develop and implement strategies
- Regularly review progress and adjust plan as necessary
- **Communicate, Develop Champions, Repeat**

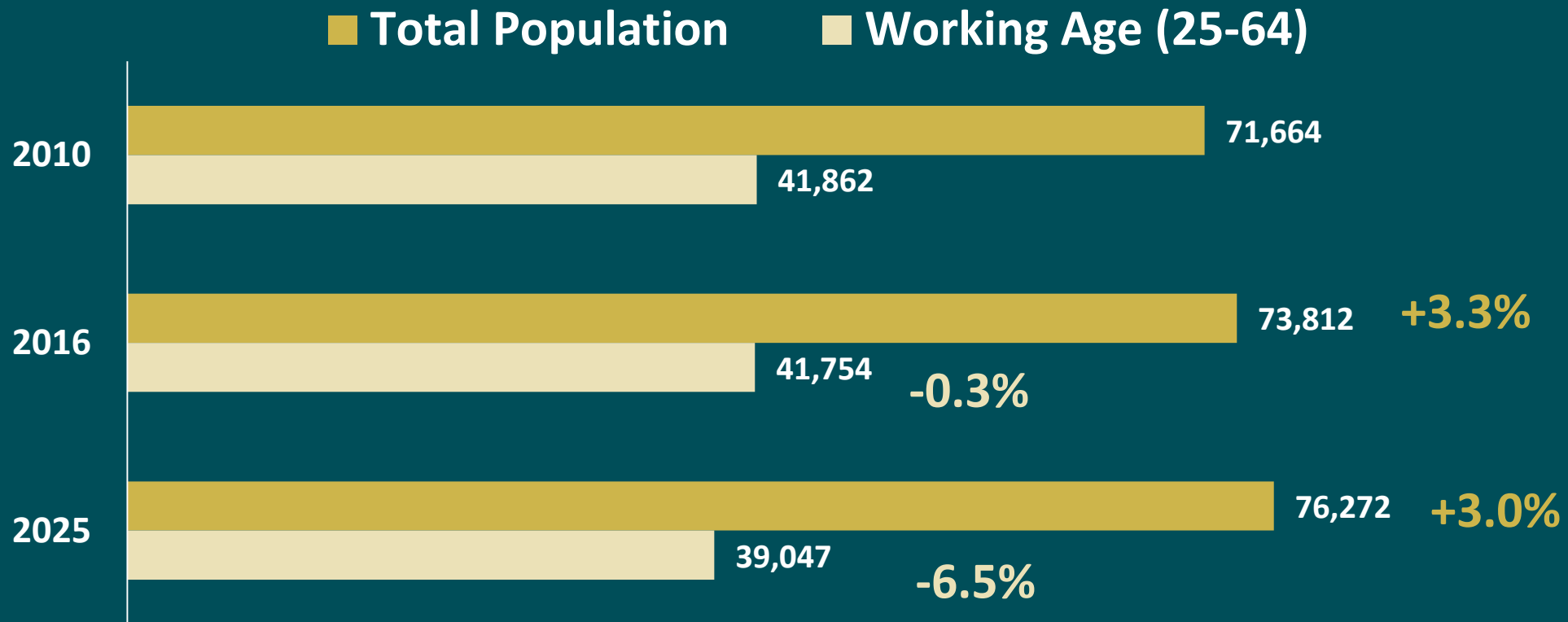
Baseline Data Snapshot

- Demographics
- Employment
- Educational attainment



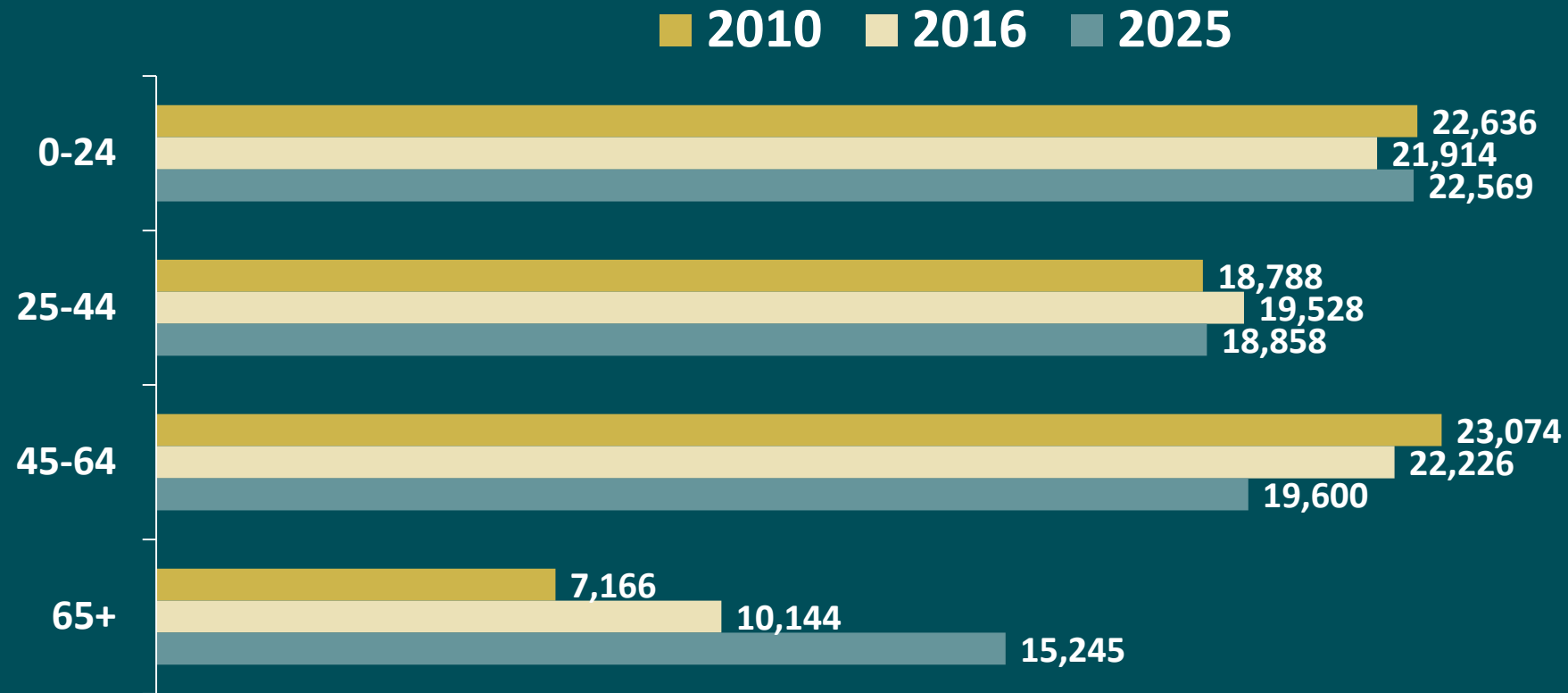
Regional Demographics

Southeast Population Trends



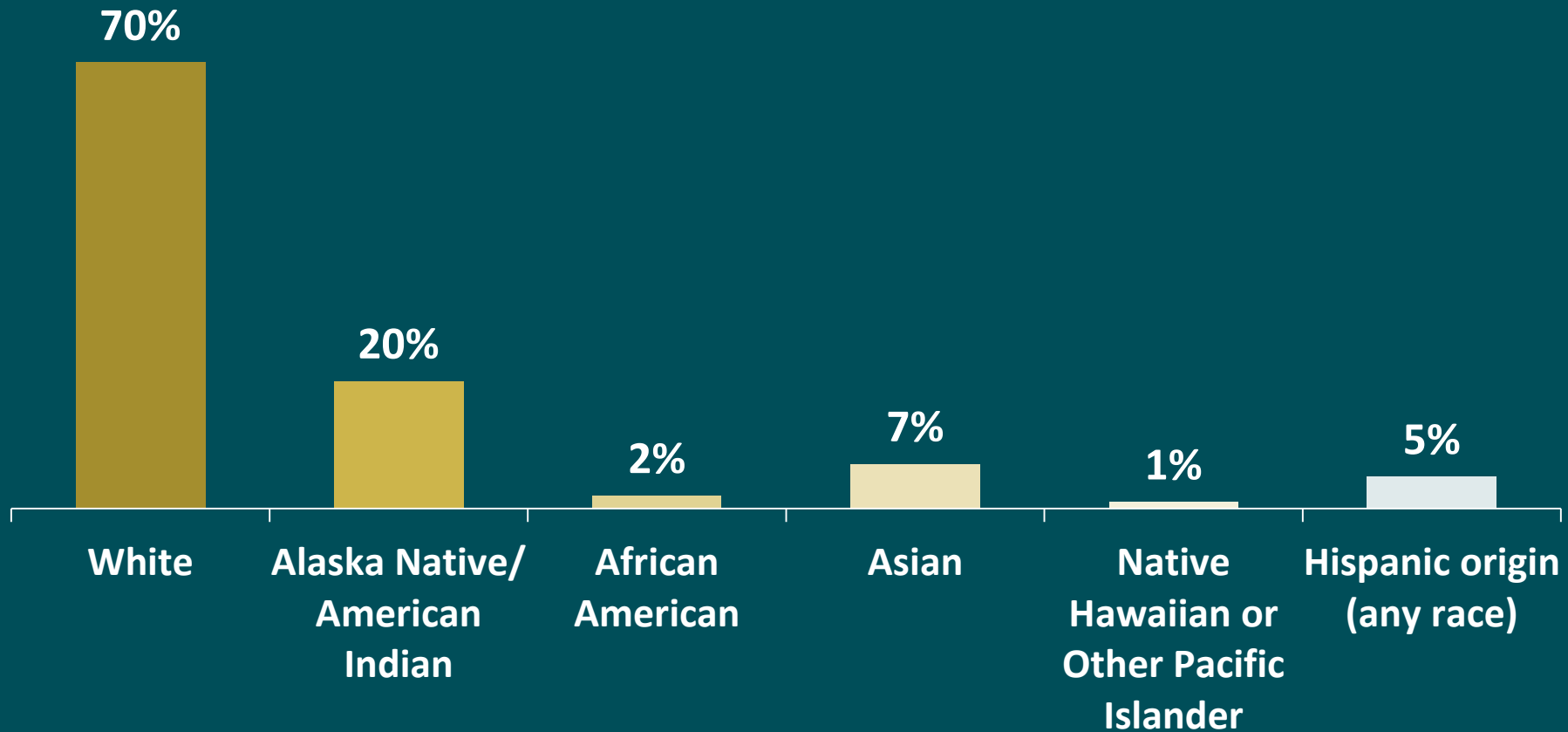
Source: AK DOL&WD

Population Trends by Age Group



Source: AK DOL&WD

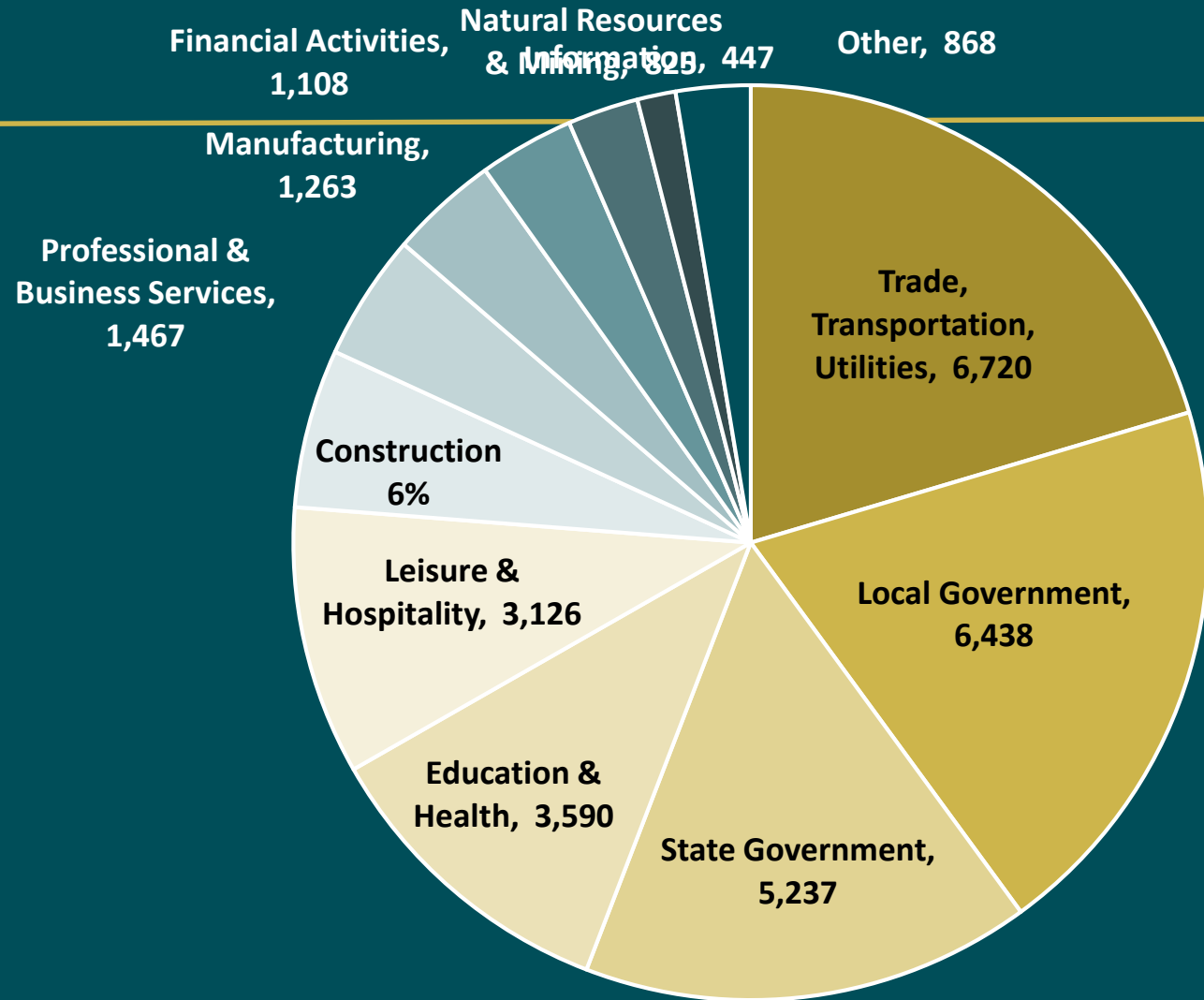
Working-Age Population by Ethnicity (25-64)



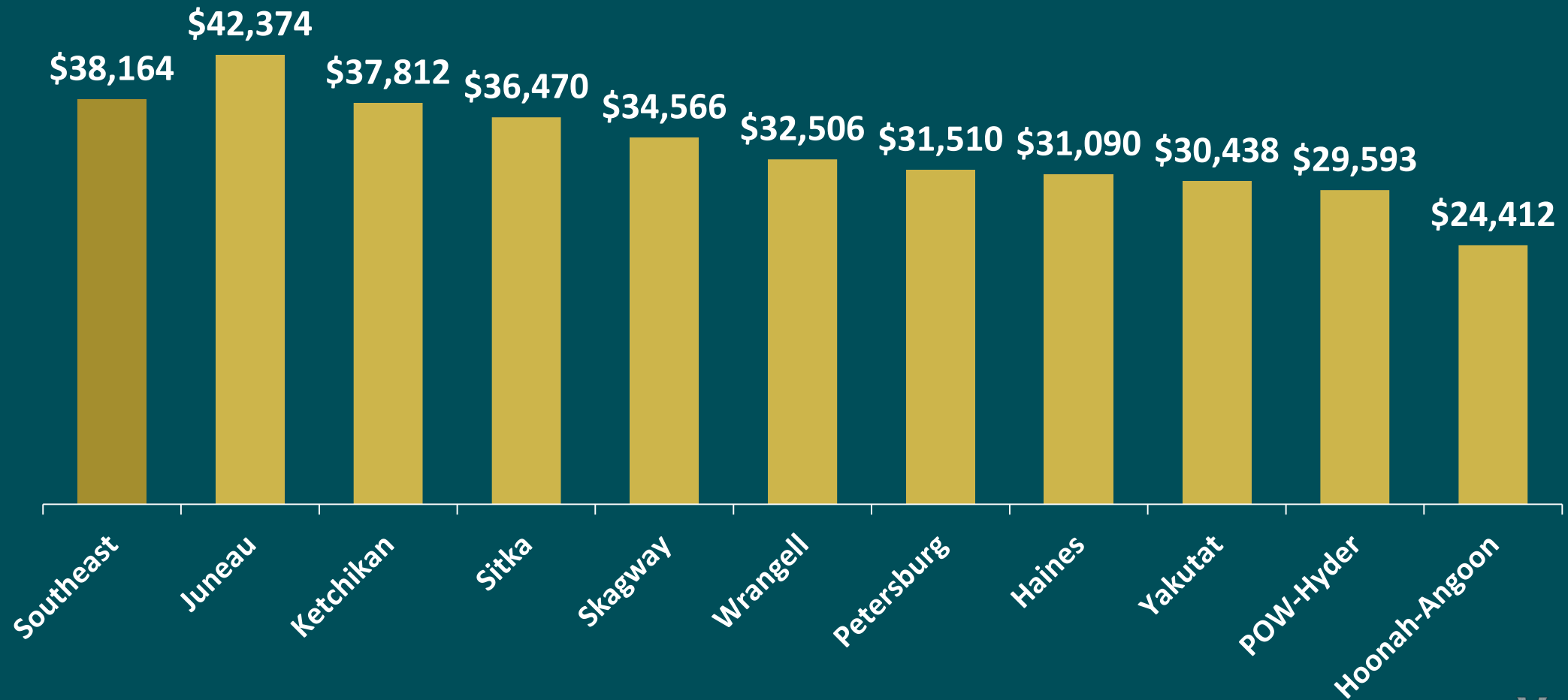
Source: 2015; AK DOL&WD (Alone or in Combination ethnicity data)

Southeast Employment by Sector

- All workers: 32,962
- Top sectors by %:
 - Trade/Transportation/
Utilities: 20%
 - Local Gov't: 20%
 - State Gov't: 16%
 - Education: 11%
 - Leisure &
Hospitality: 9%



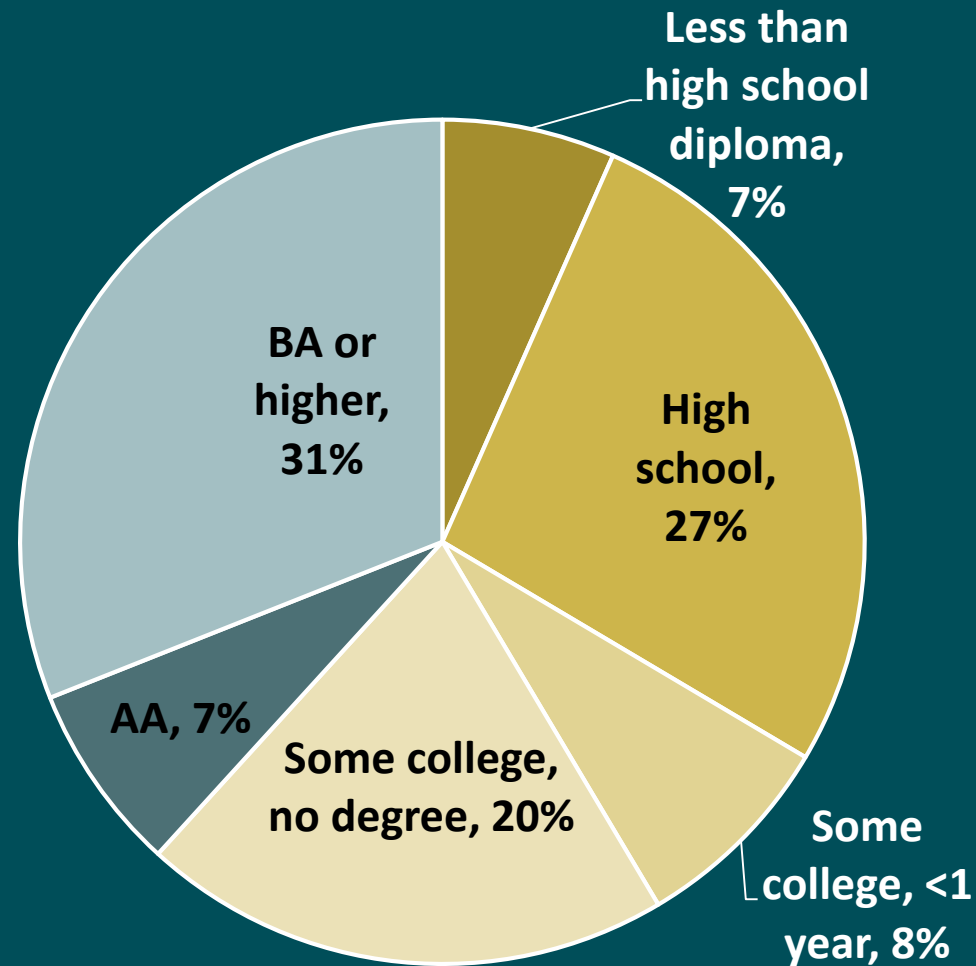
Average Wages/Employed Residents



Source: AK DOL&WD

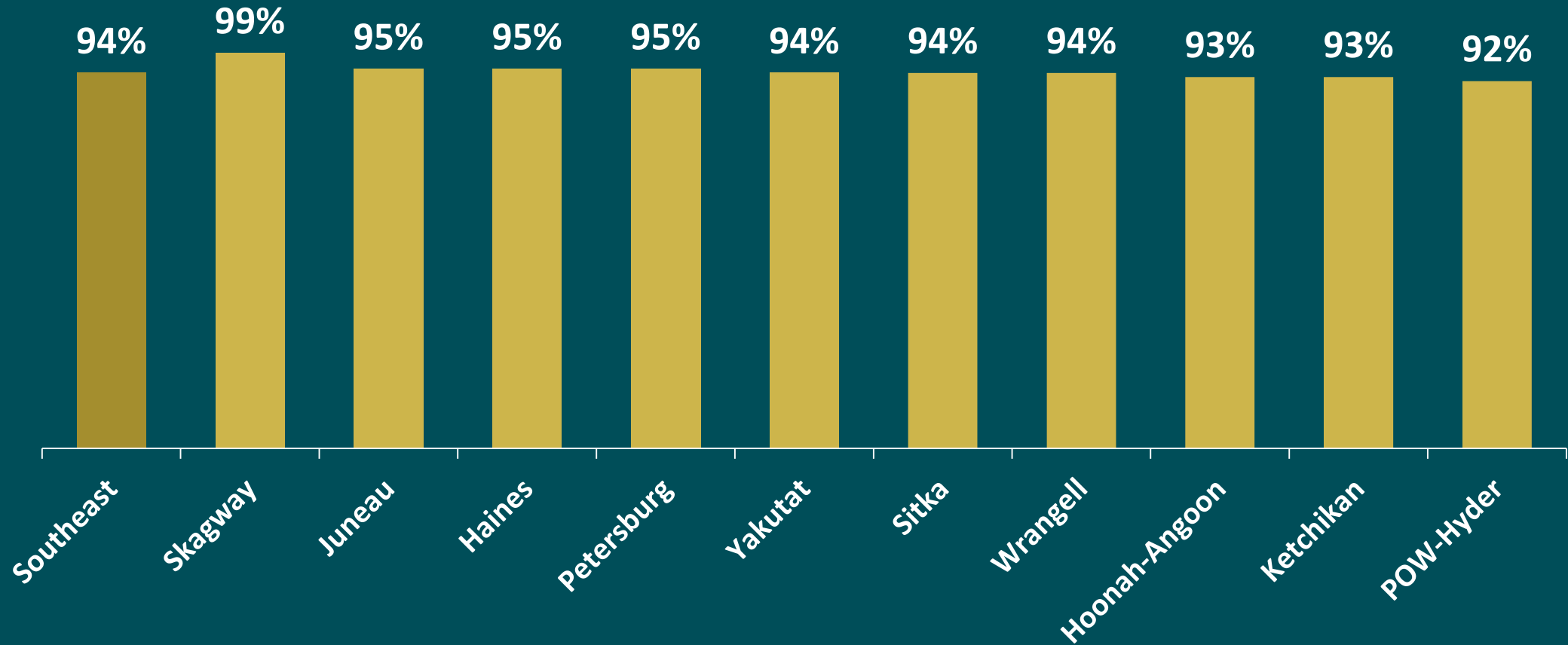
Educational Attainment

Southeast Educational Attainment



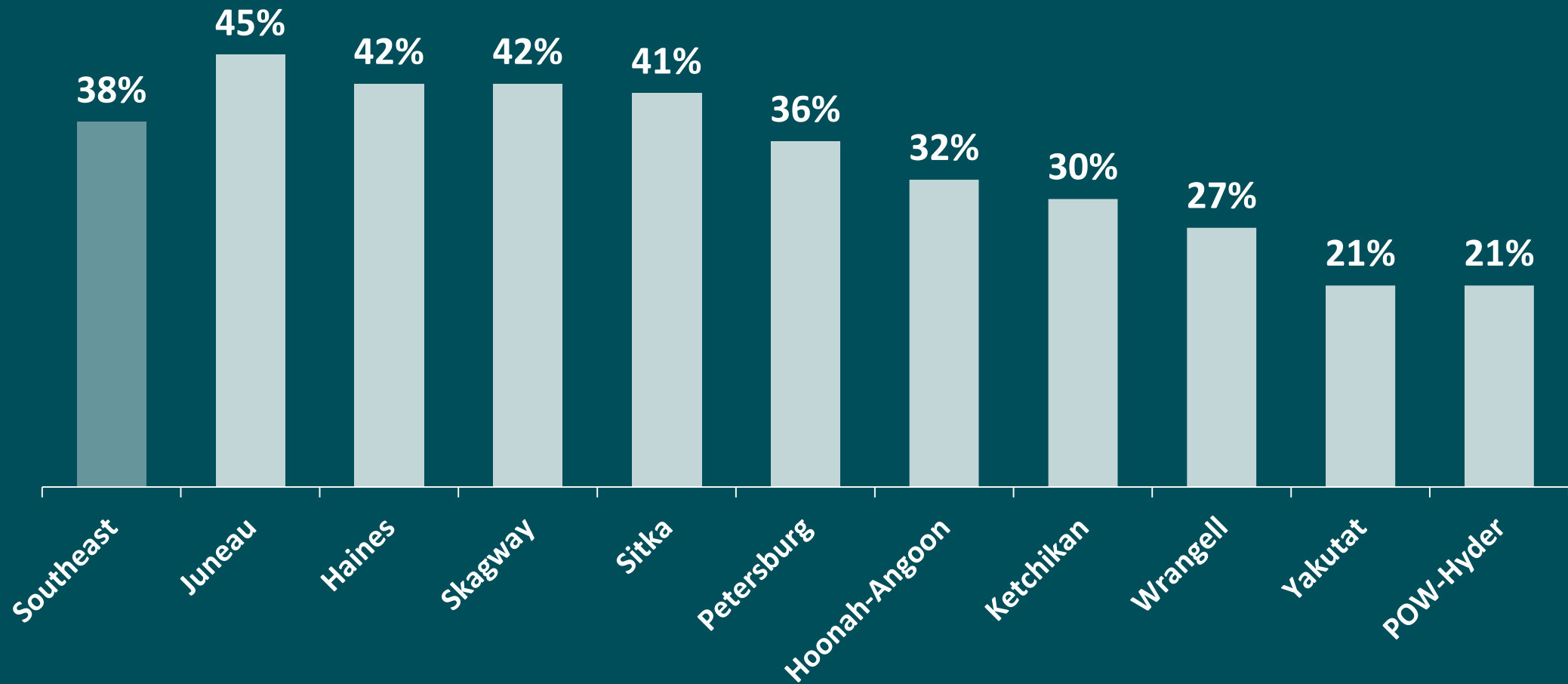
Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

High School Graduation Rates, 25-64



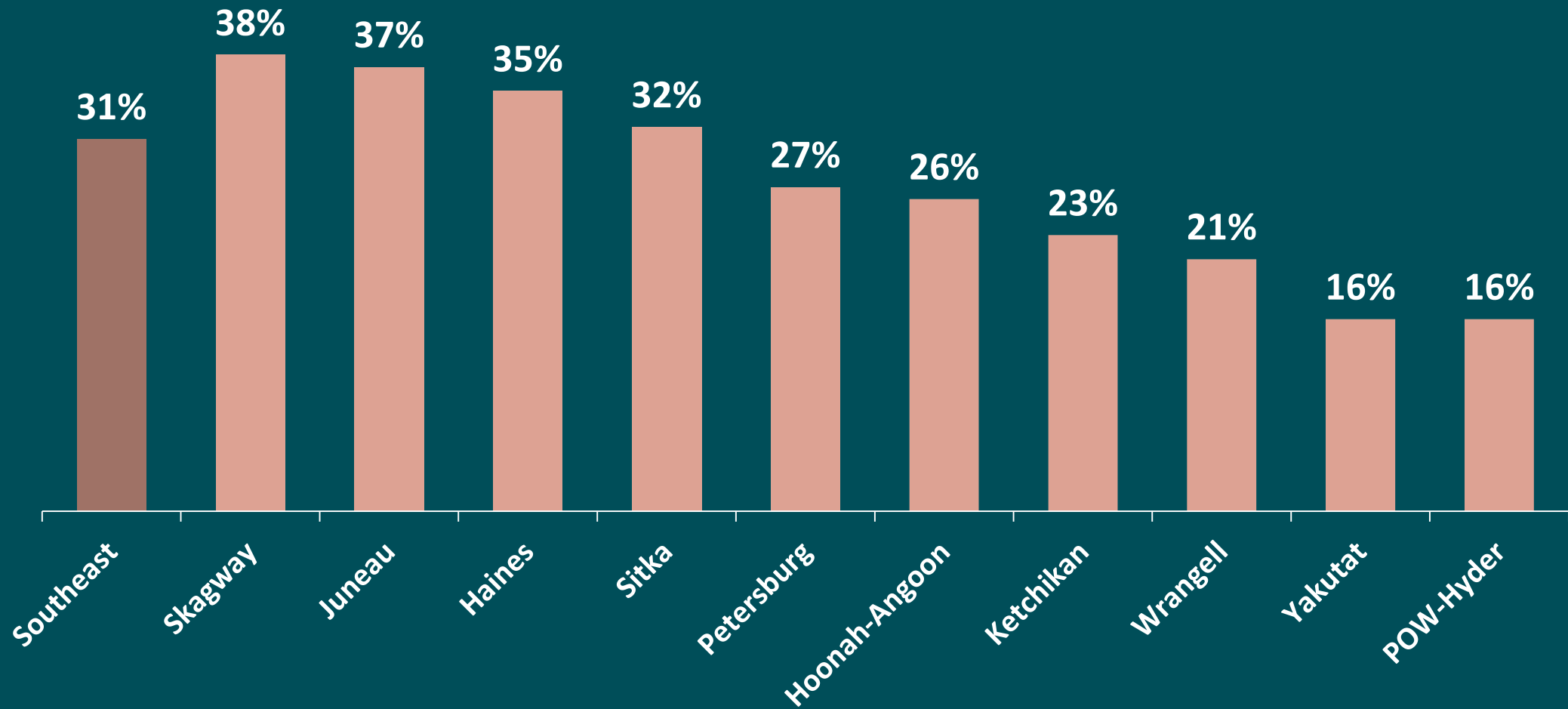
Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

AA+ Attainment Rates, 25-64



Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

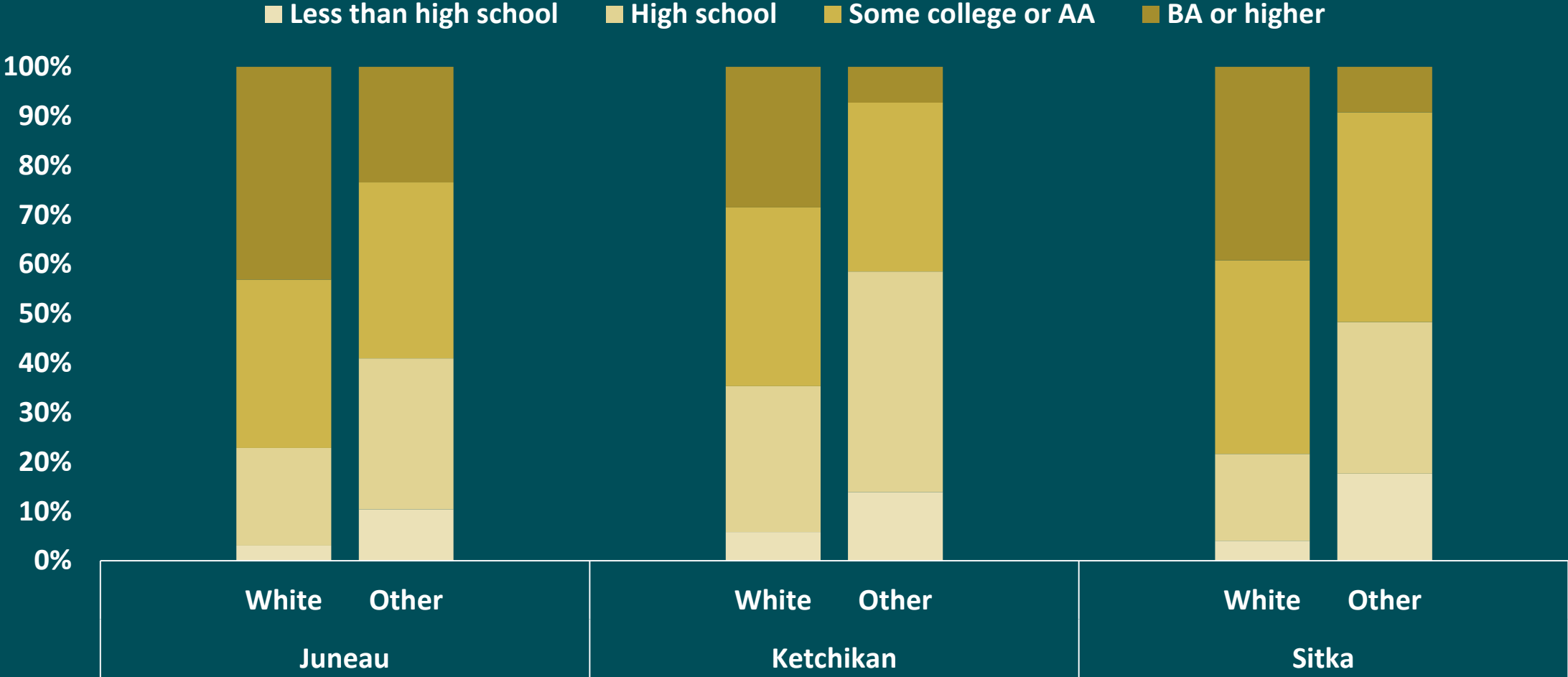
BA+ Attainment Rates, 25-64



Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

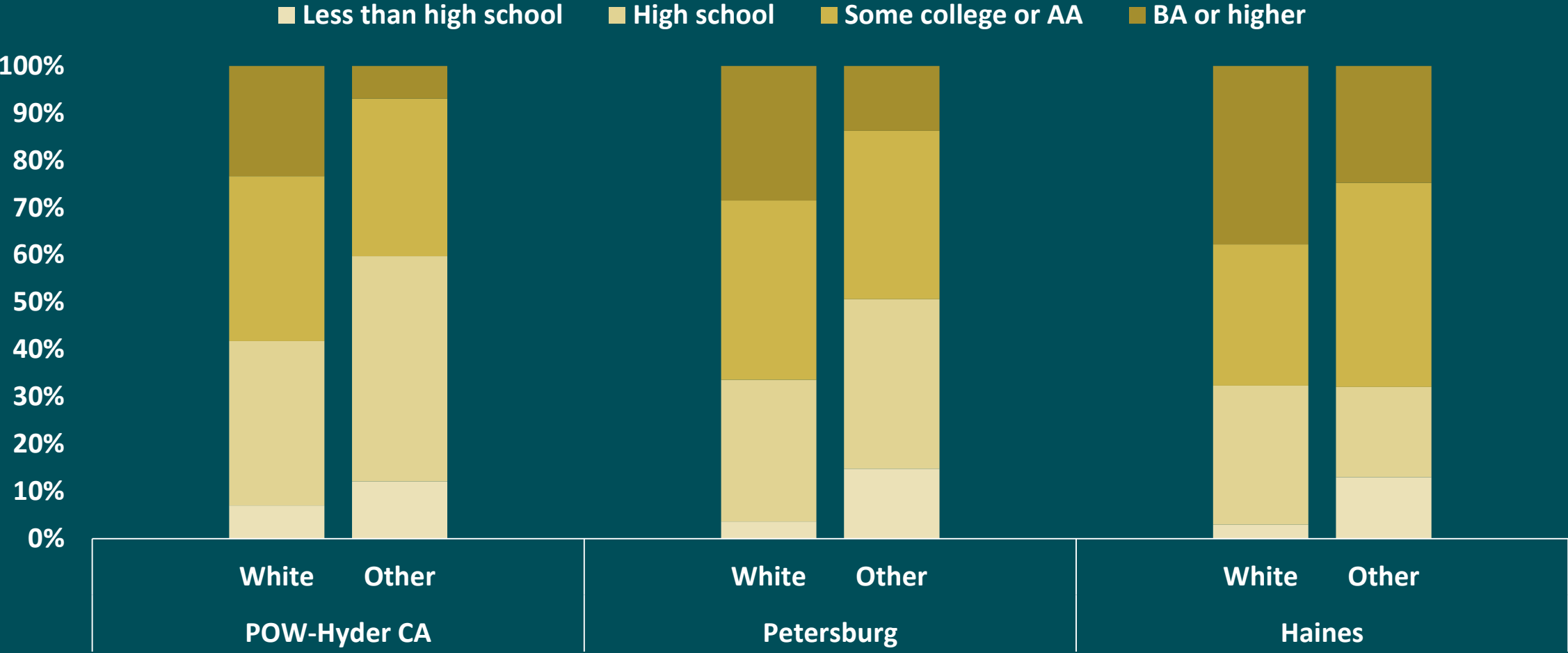
Ed. Attainment by Race and Area

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates



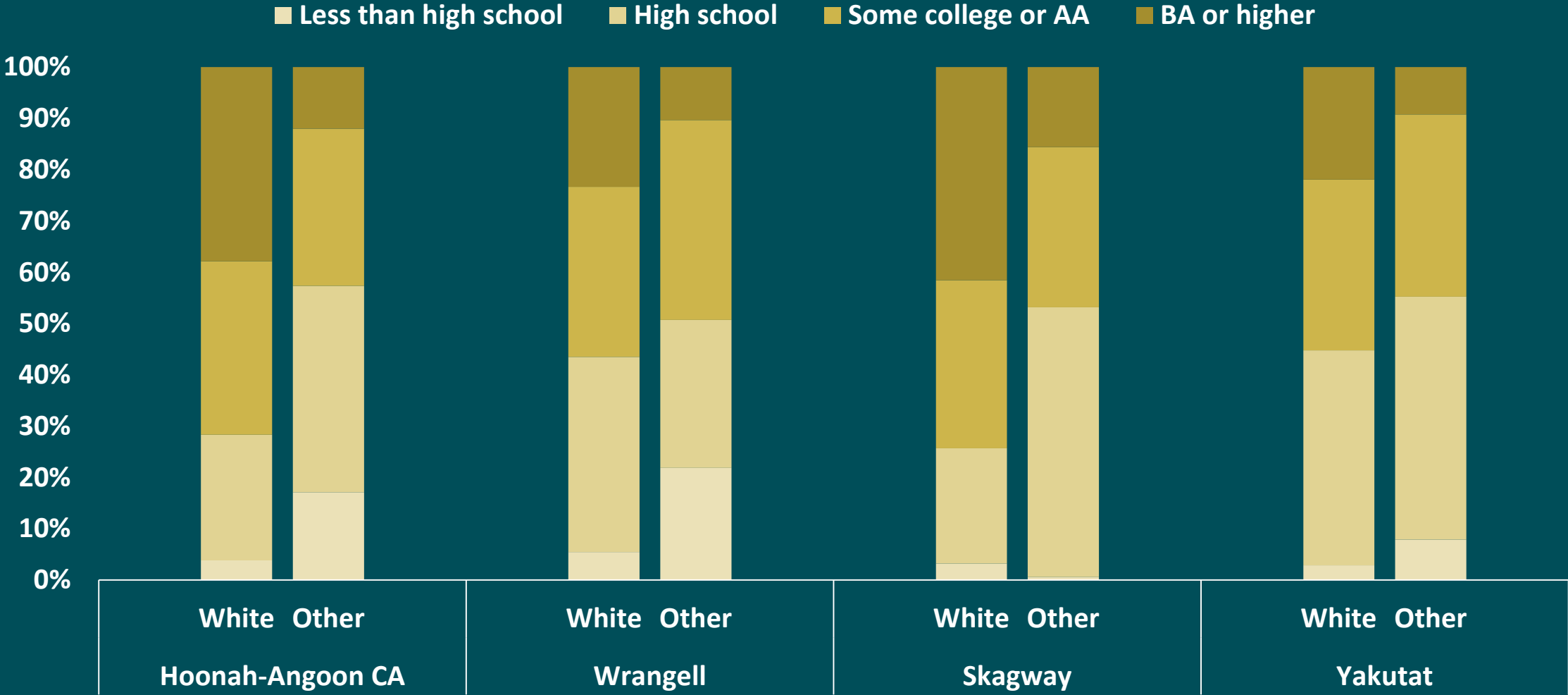
Ed. Attainment by Race and Area

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates



Ed. Attainment by Race and Area

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates





Main Take-Aways

- Regional population projected to inch up over next decade
 - Working age population is expected to decrease
 - Some SE Census areas are facing double-digit decrease in working age population
- Southeast demographics differ significantly by area
 - Population
 - Ethnicity
 - Income
- Southeast has high percentage of some college, no degree
- High school graduation rates are fairly high, consistent across region
 - Disparities in AA and BA attainment between areas
 - Significant disparities in educational attainment by race



Get Involved

- Review summary from initial conference
- Volunteer for regional steering committee
- Volunteers also welcome for Network board
- Teleconferences to develop Regional Action Plan
- Attend second regional conference (Nov/Dec)
- Help implement plan
- Encourage family, employees, and community members to pursue education beyond high school



**Learn more:
65by2025.org**

