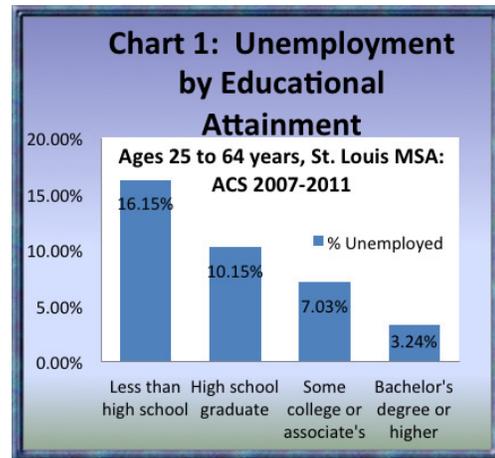




Metropolitan Mirror: Facts and Trends Reflecting the St. Louis Region

Education and Race: Their Implications on the St. Louis MSA Employment Rates

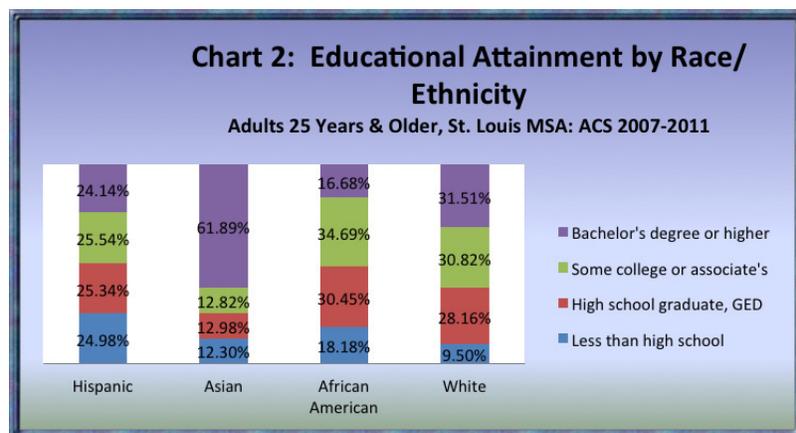
Measuring the state of educational attainment in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area can be used to assess the area's social and economic development. Not surprisingly, the trend continues to be that higher educational attainment levels lead to increases in human capital, which can be associated with economic growth. As people learn new skills it makes them eligible for new job opportunities. In light of that, someone with higher educational attainment is less likely to be unemployed. The data used in this briefing was obtained from the American Community Survey's five-year estimates. Chart 1, to the right, displays the St. Louis MSA's unemployment rate by educational attainment for those aged 25 to 64 from 2007 to 2011.



As predicted, the highest unemployment rate, 16.15%, was associated with those that have less than a high school education and the lowest unemployment rate, 3.24%, was associated with those that have a bachelor's degree or higher.

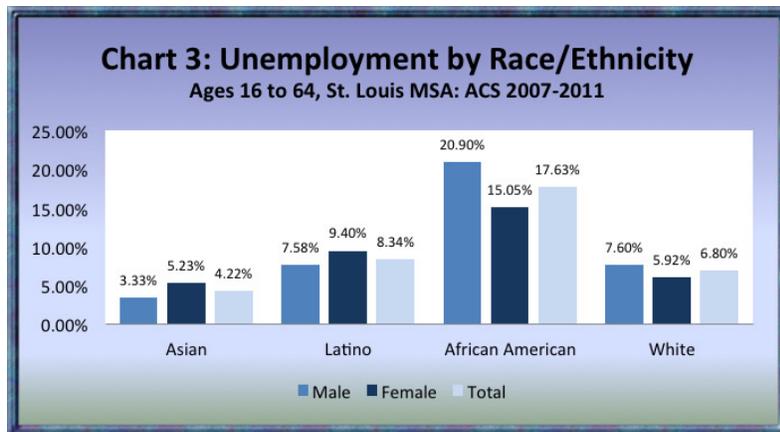
Like most socioeconomic variables, racial disparities also exist within educational attainment.

Whites and Asians continue to dominate African Americans and Hispanics in obtaining higher levels of education. Variations of this disparity have been seen throughout the United States. Chart 2, below, displays the St. Louis MSA's educational attainment levels by race/ethnicity for those aged 25 and up from 2007 to 2011. Asians and Whites have the highest levels of educational attainment in the St.



Louis MSA. In fact, 61.89% of Asians and 31.51% of Whites in the St. Louis MSA have a bachelor's degree or higher. According to the data, the St. Louis MSA displays great differences amongst racial/ethnic groups in educational attainment. Chart 2 displays that African Americans that received a bachelor's degree or higher was 16.68%, nearly one fourth that of Asians and half that of Whites. African Americans were also twice as likely to have less than a high school education as Whites in the St. Louis MSA. Hispanics in the region were nearly equal in all categories of educational attainment, hovering around 24 to 26% in each.

Based off what is known about human capital and its effect on employment, unemployment rates should reflect the disparities relating to educational attainment. More specifically, the racial groups that had low levels of educational attainment should also have higher levels of unemployment. Chart 3, below, that displays the St. Louis MSA's unemployment rates by race for those aged 16 to 64 from 2007-2011, certainly reflects this.



Additional discussion

This briefing does not identify all of the minority groups. In addition, this briefing does not have lower level data (e.g. data by county, zip code, or census tract) it might be found that certain locations in the St. Louis MSA might have more disparities than others. How does this compare to US averages?

