

# Measuring the Value of Higher Education

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# Presenters

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# The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's May Report

It called for the release of more information to help students make better choices about where to go to college, in the hopes of eliminating "completion gaps" and "removing affordability as an impediment to postsecondary value."

The report noted that these goals very much relate to inequities in education by race, gender and class.

# The Equitable Value Explorer

## Exploring Equitable Postsecondary Value

Based on research from the Postsecondary Value Commission, this interactive data tool puts the power of the Value Framework at your fingertips, equipping you with data on the economic value that institutions deliver to their students.

[Data Tool →](#)

[Methodology →](#)

# What Does the Tool Do?

- Percentage of students who receive Pell Grants
- Cumulative net price
- Completion rate
- Undergraduate enrollment by race
- Percentage of STEM majors
- And more...

# A Major Limitation

The data showing median earnings measures 10 years after undergraduate enrollment aren't broken down race or gender.

# Using the Tool

Consider the Community College of Denver and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (in Salisbury, N.C.):

- They are identical in the share of students receiving Pell Grants (39 percent).
- Rowan-Cabarrus has a completion rate that is twice that of the Community College of Denver (26 versus 13 percent).
- Denver is by far the more racially diverse institution, with only 32 percent white enrollment versus 59 percent at Rowan-Cabarrus.
- On earnings 10 years after enrolling, Denver is up, \$33,359 to \$25,446.

# What the Public Thinks -- I



- 67 percent of Americans believe that although many people are qualified to attend college, the opportunity to do so is limited, a trend that has grown increasingly pessimistic since 1993, according to the survey, by Public Agenda.
- Majorities of respondents—65 percent of Republicans and 81 percent of Democrats—agreed that the economy is rigged in favor of the rich.

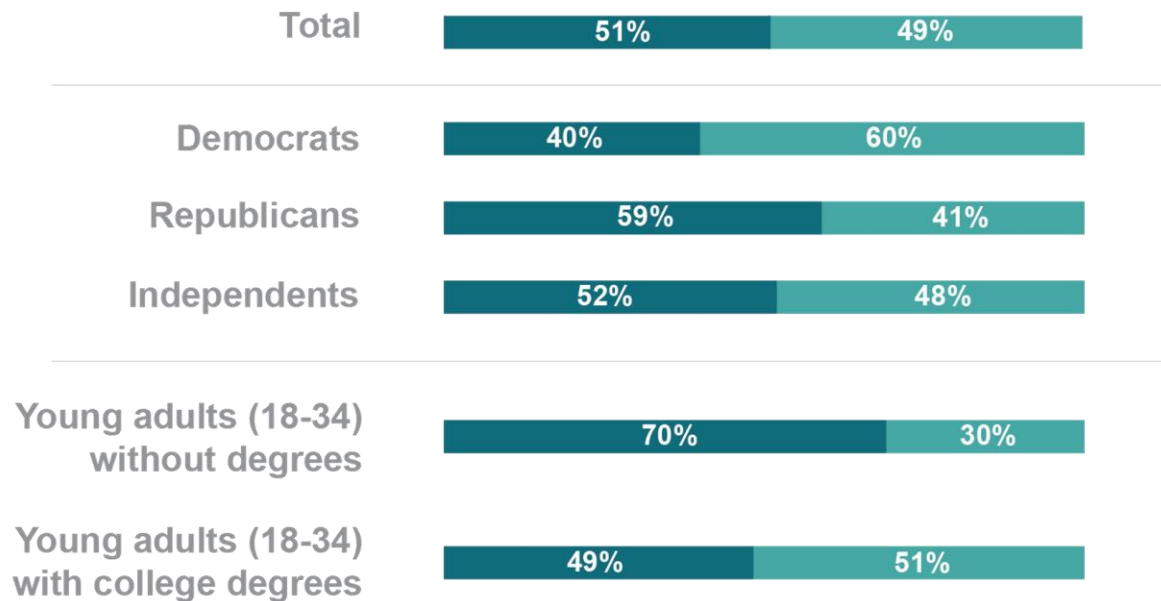


# What the Public Thinks -- II

## Americans Perceive Higher Ed as a Questionable Investment

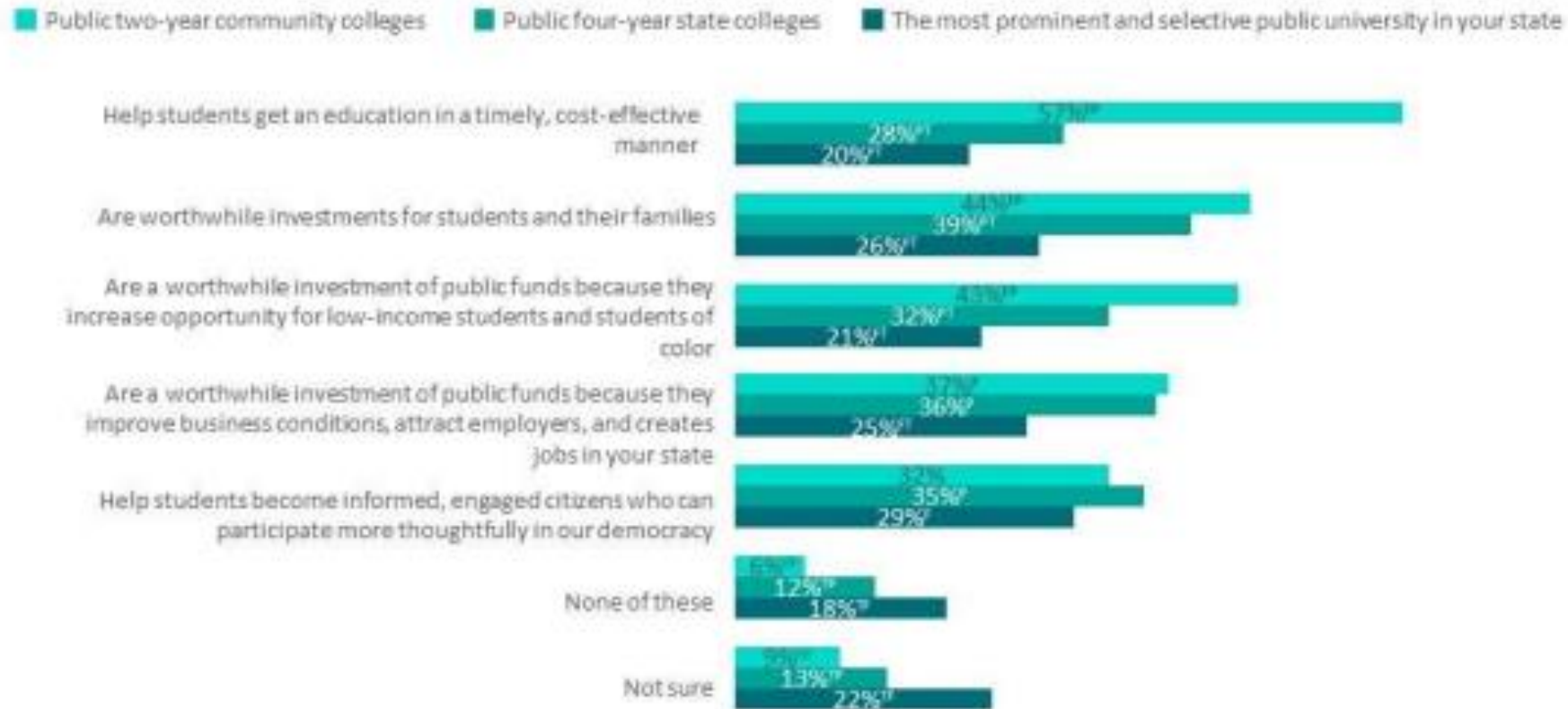
Which of the following statements come closest to their view of a college education?

-  A college education is a questionable investment because of high student loans and limited job opportunities
-  A college education is still the best investment for people who want to get ahead and succeed



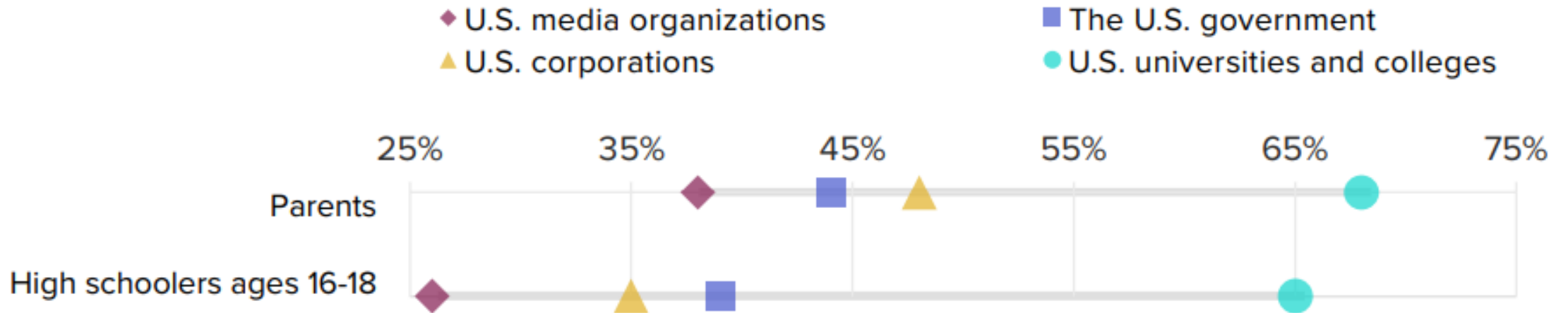
# What the Public Thinks -- III

**Figure 12.** Percent of Americans who say which statements describe each of the following:



# What Gen Z and the Parents of Gen Z Think

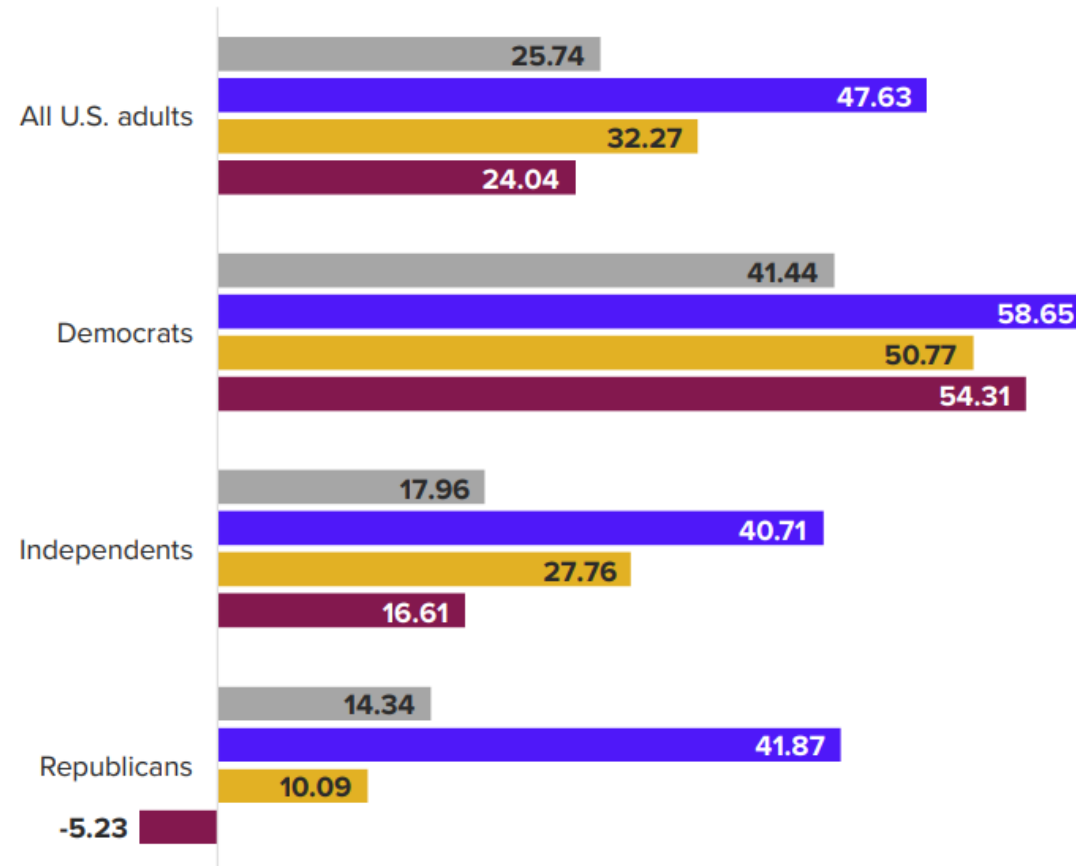
Shares of respondents who said they have “some” or “a lot” of trust in the following:



# Trust in Specific Universities

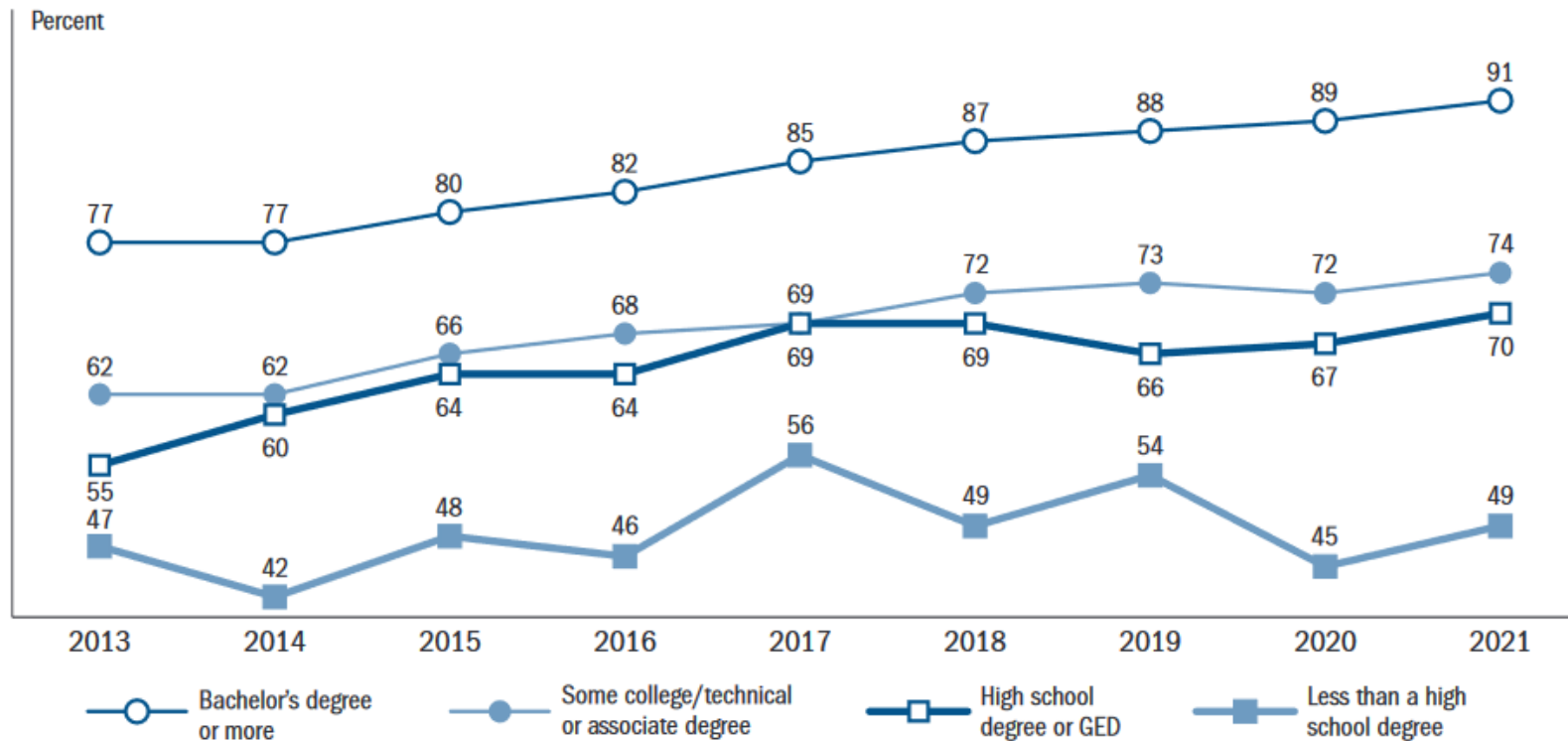
## Net trust among U.S. adults

- All universities (average)
- Johns Hopkins University
- Howard University
- University of California, Berkeley



# Debt and College Value -- I

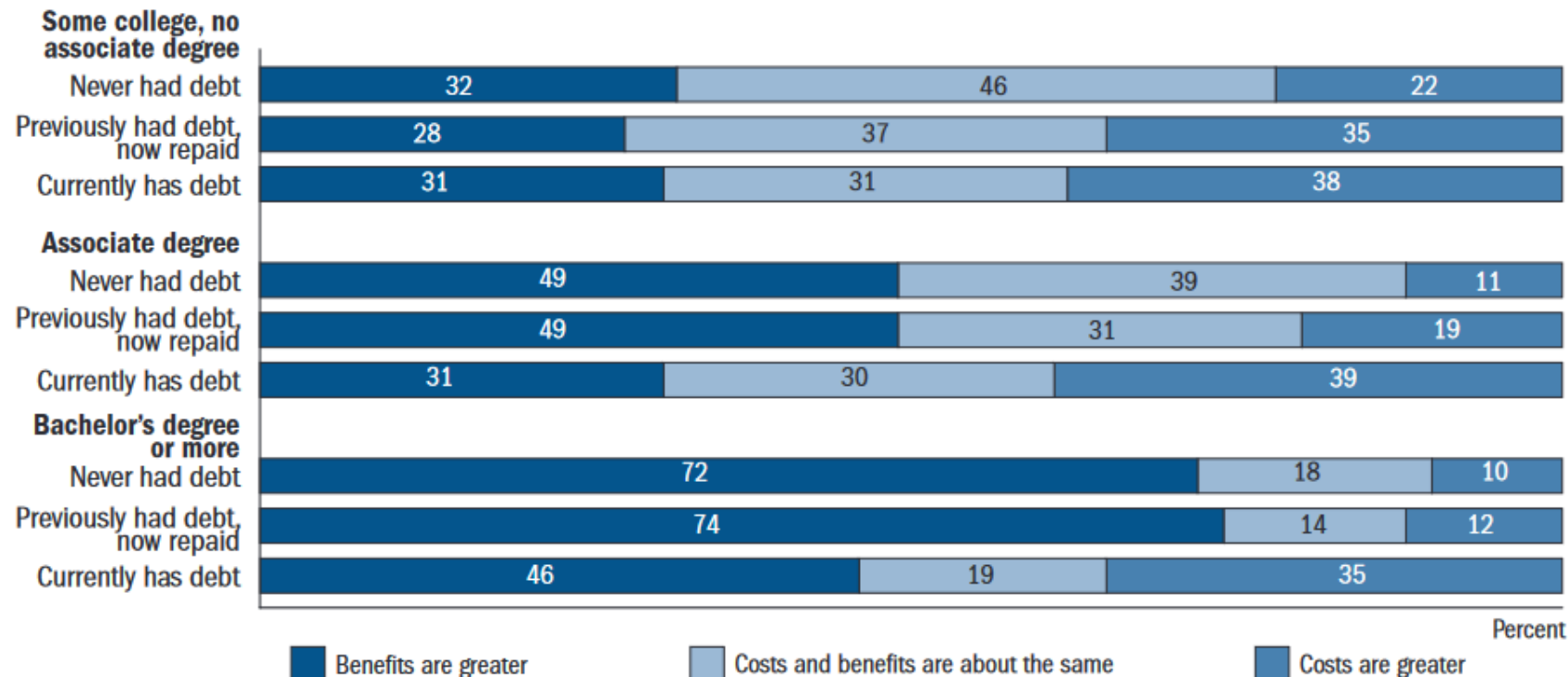
Figure 2. At least doing okay financially (by year and education)



Note: Among all adults. Results for 2017 to 2019 differ slightly from previous reports because of adjustments in education coding for consistency.

# Debt and College Value -- II

**Figure 41. Self-assessed value of higher education (by education and debt status)**



Note: Among adults ages who borrowed for their own education. Key identifies bars in order from left to right.

# Value That Can't Be Measured



--Kenyon College

# Q&A





With Thanks...

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GATES *foundation*