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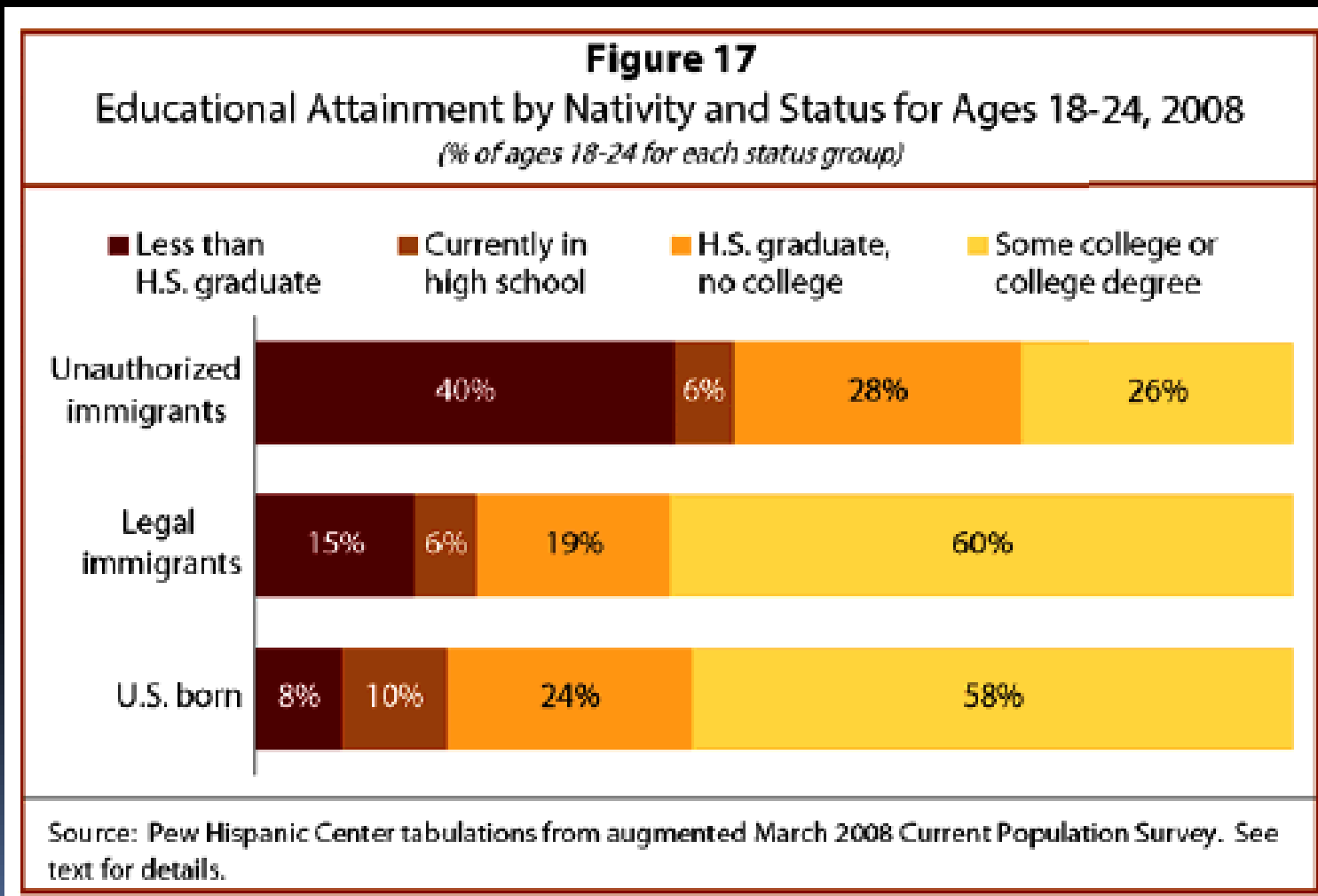


WE ARE AMERICANS: A DIALOGUE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Undocumented Students

- 3.1 million undocumented children and young adults under the age of 24
- 1.5 million were enrolled in grades K-12 in 2008
- 65,000 high school graduates a year (The Urban Institute, 2003)
- Among undocumented youths under age twenty-four who have graduated from high school, 49% are in college or have attended college. The comparable figure for U.S.-born residents is 71% (Passel and Cohn 2009).

Higher Education Access



Uncertain Outlook

- After they finish high school undocumented youth are met with extreme challenges despite having lived most of their lives in the U.S.:
 - Undocumented students do not qualify for any type of federal financial aid regardless of their academic accomplishments.
 - They can not legally work.
 - In most states they must pay international student tuition fees.
 - They may be deported at any time.

Historical & Legal context

- In Plyer v. Doe (1982) the Court held that, while undocumented children are present in the United States they should not forfeit their education.
- Instead, the Court decided that educating children, regardless of their immigration status, is essential for creating individuals who can function in society and contribute to the development of the United States.



Undocumented Research Study

Developing Talent





The Study

- Participants
 - 182 Latina/o participants completed an online questionnaire
 - 66% female
 - 57% grew up in two-parent household
 - 102 in-depth interviews

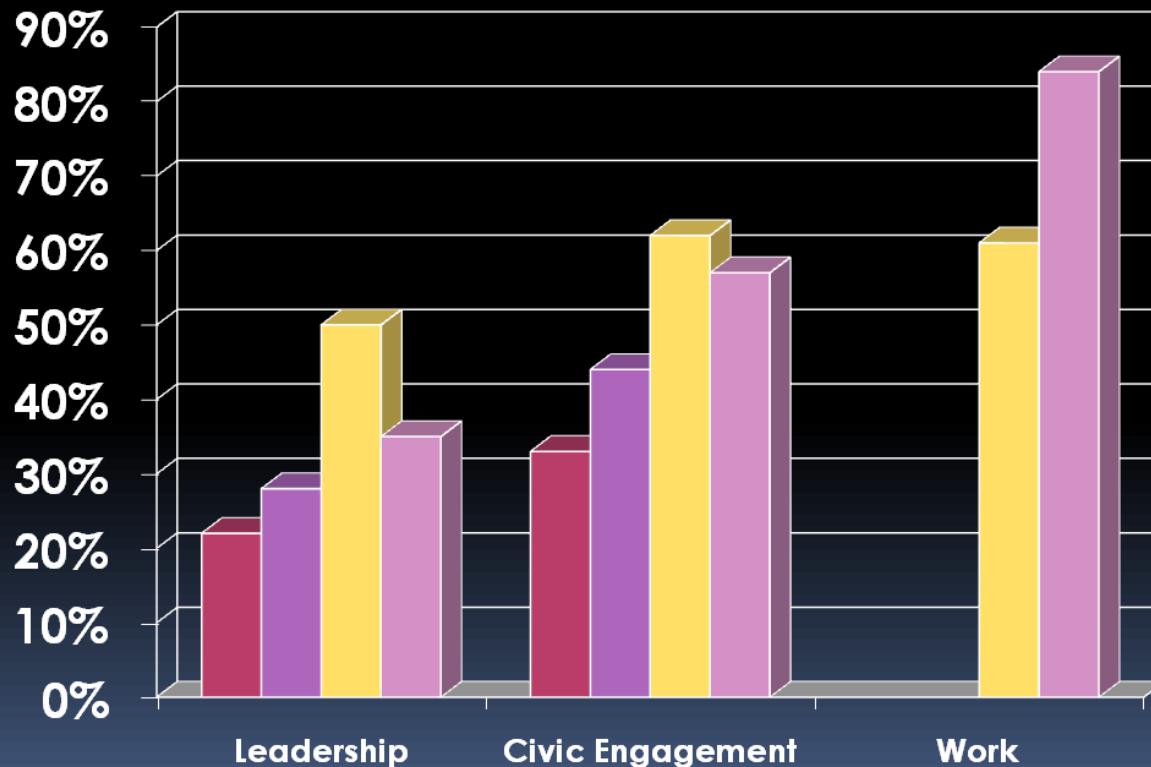
Academic

	Community College	University
Age at time of study	20.7	20.9
Age at time of immigration to U.S.	6.8	7.6
Mother's Level of Education	8.2	8.5
Father's Level of Education	9.3	10.0
Number of Siblings	3.1	2.8
High School GPA	3.2	3.7
College GPA	3.1	3.1
Number of AP/Honors courses	2.1	5.3
High School Hours worked/week	20.7	21.1
College Hours worked/week	33.1	26.7

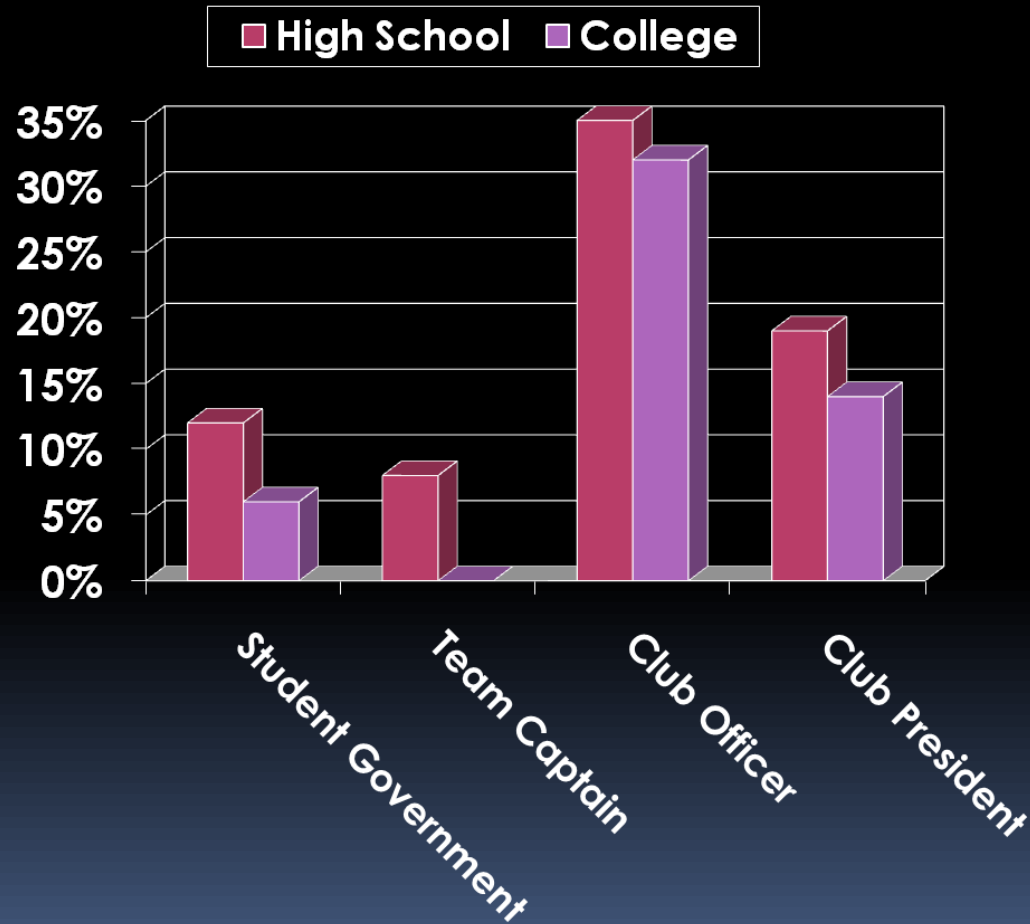
Extracurricular

	Community College	University
High School Extra-curricular activity participation	79%	84%
High School Leadership role	47%	54%
High School Volunteer/Community Service	66%	74%
High School Academic Awards	71%	93%
College Leadership role	40%	44%
College volunteer/community service	61%	65%
College Academic Awards	45%	58%

Accomplishments



Leadership





Policy Implications

- Due to the Plyer decision, undocumented students are politically socialized through education educational system and civic institutions to become active citizens in American society
 - Immigrants embrace their role as civic participants
 - Immigration legislation reform must provide a path for legalization and full citizenship status




The Dream Act

- It is a bill that would provide conditional permanent residence to a select group of students who are long term U.S. residents, and pursue a college education or enlist in the military. Eligibility criteria include:
 - Came to the U.S. before the age of 15 years
 - Resided in the U.S. at least five years before the date of the bill's enactment
 - High school diploma, GED or acceptance to college




The Dream Act

- conditional permanent resident status would allow students to work and drive
 - Students would not be eligible for Pell Grants or other federal financial aid grants
 - They would be eligible for federal work study and student loans
 - States would not be restricted from providing their own financial aid
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The Dream Act

- At the end of the conditional period, unrestricted lawful permanent resident status would be granted if:
 - Graduated from a two-year college or certain vocational colleges, or studied for at least two years toward a B.A. or higher degree, or
 - Served in the U.S. armed forces for at least two years.
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State Legislation

- Since 2001, 10 states have passed laws permitting certain undocumented students who have attended and graduated from their primary and secondary schools to pay the same tuition as their classmates at public institutions of higher education.
- The states are Texas, California, Utah, Washington, New York, Oklahoma, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico and Nebraska.



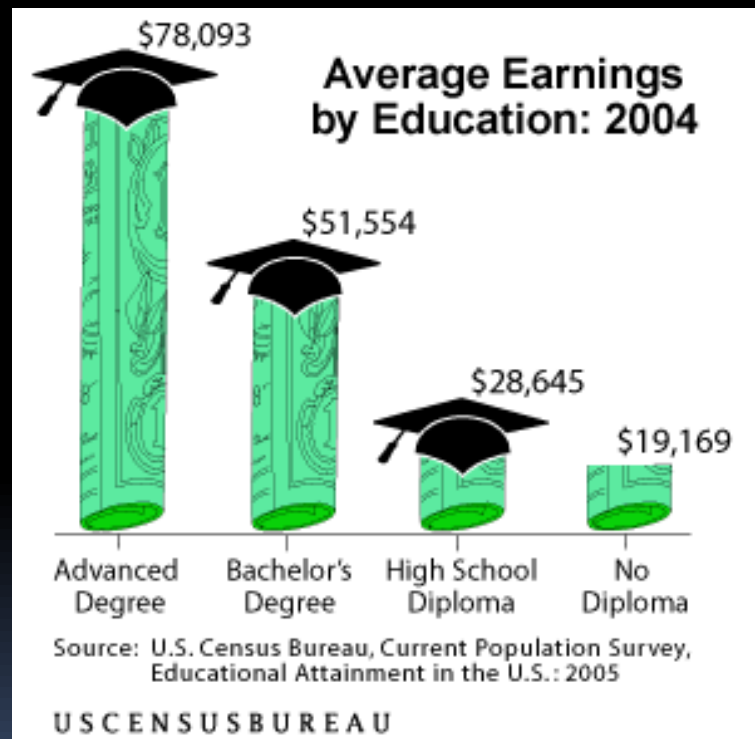
Economic Impact

- Before Texas passed its in-state tuition bill in 2001, the Texas House of Representatives Research Organization estimated the long-term implications of NOT helping immigrant students to get an education at \$318 Billion.
 - Further, the Texas Comptroller estimated that every one dollar invested in these students' education returns more than \$5 into the economy.
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Higher Education Investment Returns

- Leslie and Brinkman (1988) found the rate of return to be 12 percent.
 - These are high rates of return on investment.
 - Ten-year treasury bonds pay around 4.25 percent return, indicating that the resources spent on education will be well spent.
- Effect of education on lifetime earnings (Day & Newburger, 2002):
 - A high school graduate will earn \$1.2 million over his or her working life.
 - Some college will raise that amount to \$1.5 million.
 - An Associate's Degree to \$1.6 million.
 - A Bachelor's Degree to \$2.1 million.

Higher Education Investment Returns



Higher Education Benefits

	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
ECONOMIC	Increased Tax Revenues	Higher Salaries and Benefits
	Greater Productivity	Employment
	Increased Consumption	Higher Savings Levels
	Decreased Reliance on Government Financial Support	Personal/Professional Mobility
	Reduced Crime Rates	Improved Health/Life Expectancy
	Increased Charitable Giving/Community Service	Improved Quality of Life for Offspring
	SOCIAL	Increased Quality of Civic Life
Improved Ability to Adapt to and Use Technology		More Hobbies, Leisure Activities

SOURCE: Institute for Higher Education Policy. 1998. *Reaping the Benefits: Defining the Public and Private Value of Going to College.*

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