

INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY

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4. Social Stratification

4.1 Stratification Theories

4.2 Social Class

4.3 Gender

4.4 Aging

4.5 Race and Ethnicity



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4.1 Stratification Theories

Karl Marx

What determines social class?

****One's relationship to the
means of production**

**1. Bourgeoisie (control
means of production)**

2. Proletariats (exploited)

**Class consciousness- aware
of common identity**

Max Weber

→ Not only Property

→ Prestige- athletic skills

→ Power- ability to
control others

Why is Stratification Universal?

Functionalism: Davis and Moore

- 1. Important positions**
- 2. Need qualified people**
- 3. Greater rewards**

Tumin's Critique of Davis and Moore

- **Society as a meritocracy**
 - not true
- **Stratification**
 - dysfunctional

How do Elites maintain stratification?

- ***Control ideas*** – dictators & democracy
accepted by masses
- ***Control Information*** –
selectively release info
- ***Technology*** – monitor
activities



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4.1.1 Global Stratification

Global Stratification

- **1st World - Industrialized**
-US & Japan- capitalist
- **2nd World – Industrializing**
-former Soviet Union-
lower income
- **3rd World –Least**
Industrialized
-farms, villages, 68% of
world population

How Nations Became Stratified

I. Colonialism –

**Industrialized countries
conquer weaker nations**

— Europe & Africa

**— US & Central/South
America**

**-representatives run
country**

2. *World System Theory* – Countries tied together

1. Core nations- capitalism

**2. Semi-periphery- trade
w/core**

**3. Periphery- sell cash
crops to core**

**4. External area- few ties
w/ core**

How Nations Became Stratified

3. Culture of Poverty –

****Galbraith**

-values and beliefs

**-one generation to
next**

*** Blames the victim**



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4.2 Social Class

What is Social Class?

**Group of people
who rank closely to
one another in:**

—wealth

—power

—prestige.

Components of Social Class

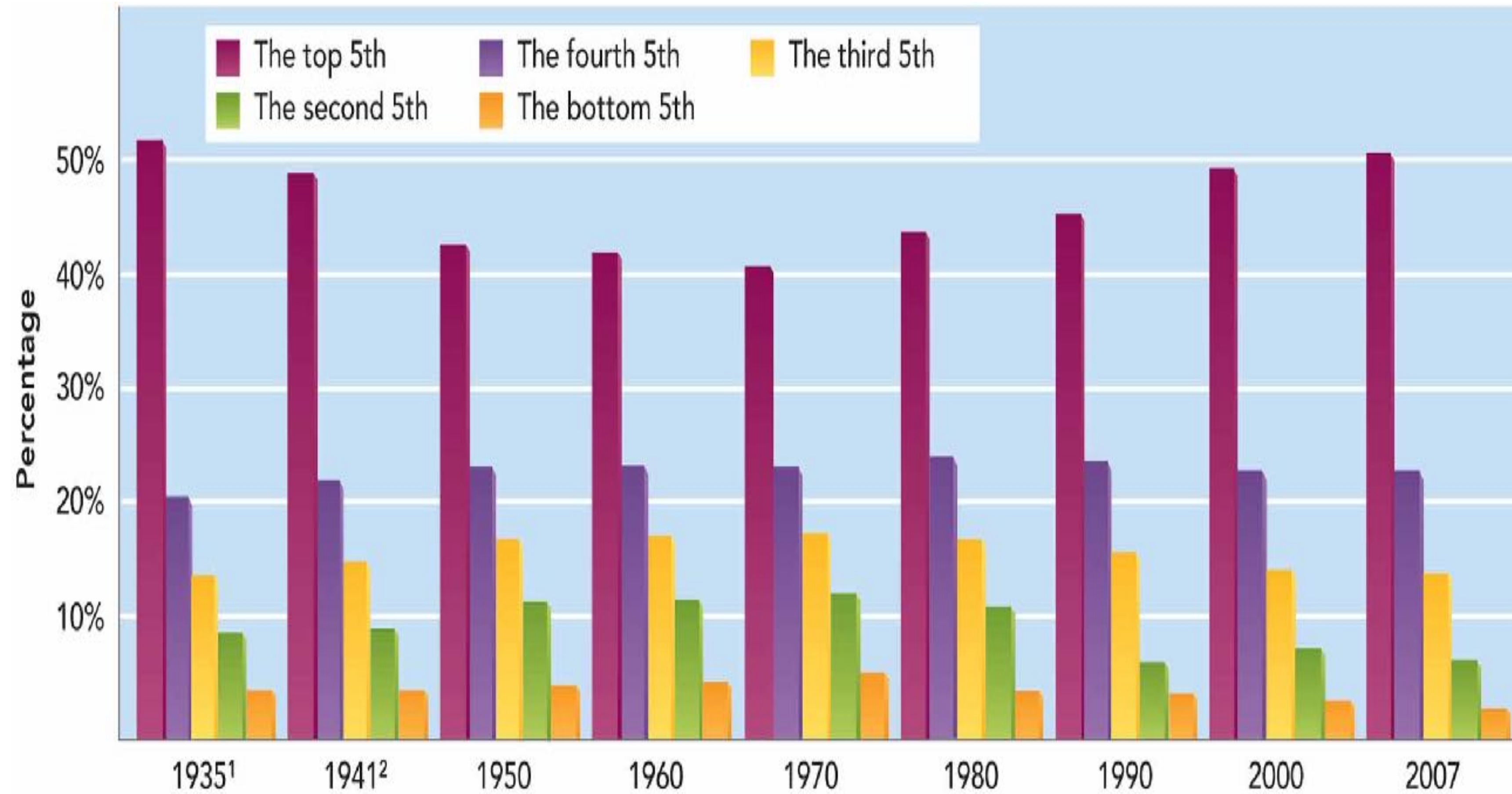
***Wealth* – Net Worth**

**a. Property - buildings,
land, cars, bank accounts**

b. Income - flow of money

top 1% > bottom 90%

Dividing the Nation's Income



Components of Social Class

**Power: ability to get
way despite resistance**

**Mills (1956): coined
term “power elite”**

- like minded**
- “old money”**



***Prestige* – respect given to one's occupation**

1. Pay more

2. More abstract thought

3. More education

4. More autonomy

- **Must be acknowledged to be valuable**

- **#1 in US: Physician**

Status Inconsistency

Person ranks higher on one (wealth, power, prestige) & low on another

➤ **Lenski: more politically active**

➤ **Professors**

Sociological Models of Social Class

Marx:

Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

Wright:

- 1) Capitalists**
- 2) Petty Bourgeoisie**
- 3) Managers**
- 4) Workers**

Sociological Models of Social Class

Gilbert and Kahl (Weber)

- 1. Capitalist: 1%: \$1+ million income**
- 2. Upper-middle: 15%: professionals - college+**
- 3. Lower middle: 34%: managers - HS degree**

- 4. Working: 30%: white collar - HS degree**
- 5. Working poor: 16%: blue collar - badly in HS**
- 6. Underclass: 4%: inner city - welfare, unemployed/PT**



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4.2.1 Consequences of Social Class

Consequences of Social Class

1. Physical Health

- more sickness/higher death rates
- unequal access to medical care
- unhealthy lifestyle
- harder life

2. Mental Health

- stresses of poverty
- less vacations, psychologist
- less control



3. Family Life

**-upper = pressure to
continue family line**

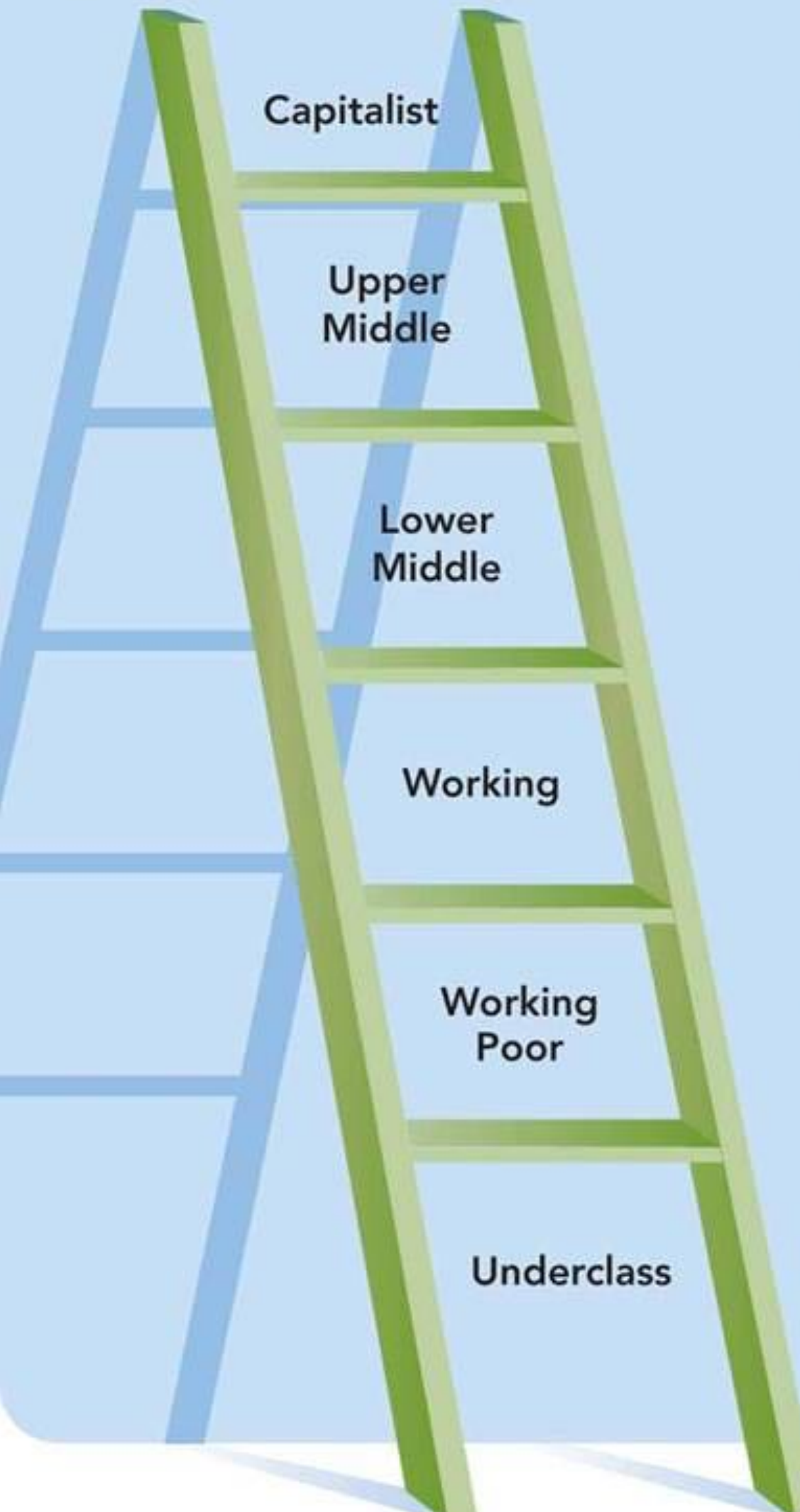
**-lower = more divorce-
housing/job tensions**

Child rearing -differs

-follow rules vs. creativity

**-parent's occupation:
watched vs. independent**

Consequence 4: Education



Social Class	Education	Occupation	Income	Percentage of Population
Capitalist	Prestigious university	Investors and heirs, a few top executives	\$1,000,000+	1%
Upper Middle	College or university, often with postgraduate study	Professionals and upper managers	\$125,000+	15%
Lower Middle	High school or college; often apprenticeship	Semiprofessionals and lower managers, craftspeople, foremen	About \$60,000	34%
Working	High school	Factory workers, clerical workers, low-paid retail sales, and craftspeople	About \$36,000	30%
Working Poor	Some high school	Laborers, service workers, low-paid salespeople	About \$19,000	16%
Underclass	Some high school	Unemployed and part-time, on welfare	Under \$12,000	4%

5. Religion

Classes:

denominations/worship

Baptists vs. Episcopalians

Loud vs. quiet

6. Politics

-lower class:

vote Democrat

liberal- economic issues

conservative-social issues

7. Criminal Justice

-lower class:

police & court

prison, parole, probation

3 Types of Social Mobility

**Intergenerational – change
b/w generations –up/down**

**Structural – change in social
structure causes large
movement on ladder**

**Exchange – change in social
structure causes a large
movement up & down at
same time**



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4.2.2 Poverty

Poverty Line

- **1/5 of US population**
- **Low cost food budget X 3 = Poverty line**
- **2015: \$24,250 for family of 4**
- **Recent Economic Growth = greater gap b/w rich and poor**

Who are the poor?

1. Geography: South and Rural

2. Race Ethnicity:

9 % of whites

21% of Latinos

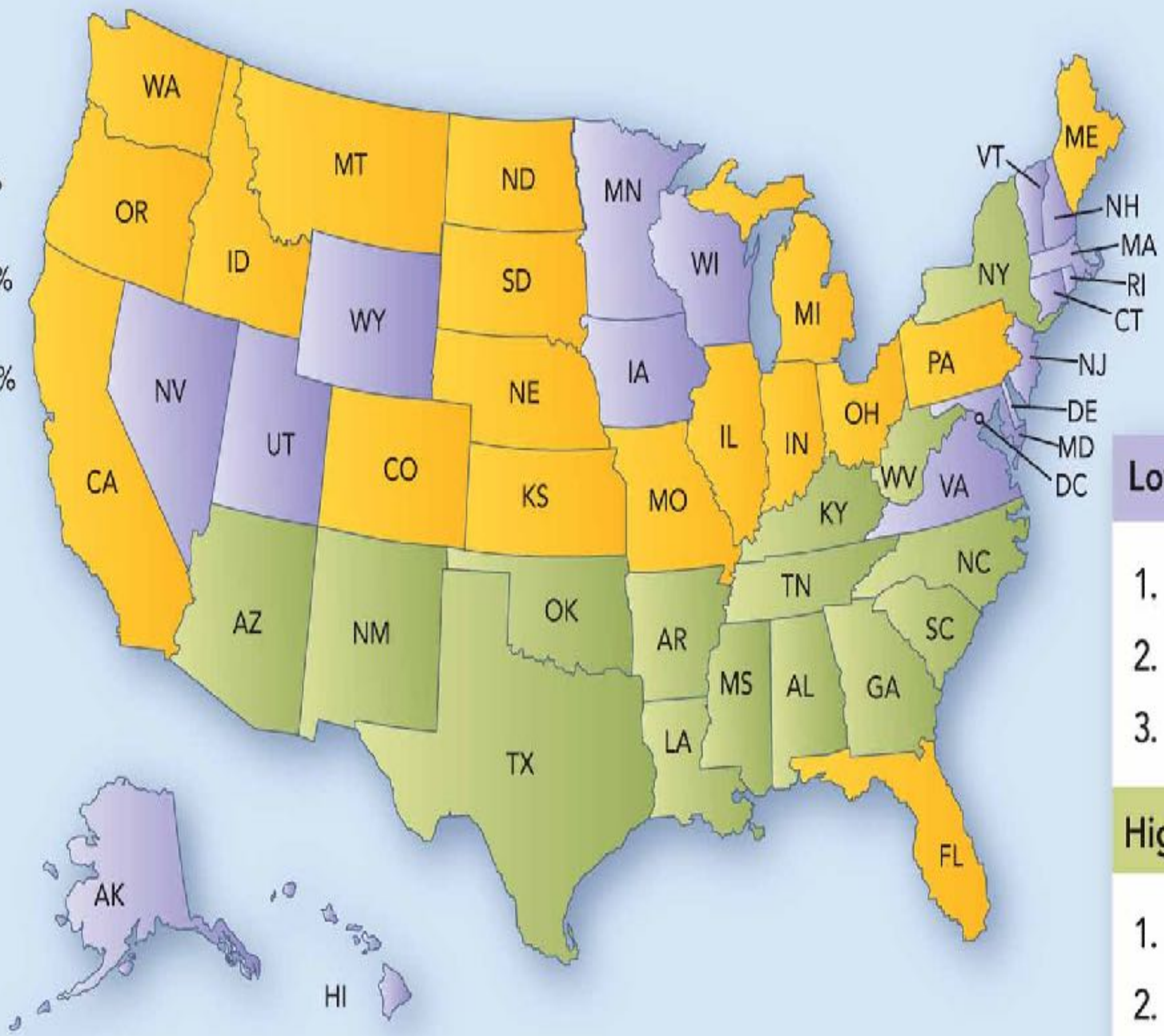
25% African Americans

41 % of all of poor are whites

(b/c largest U.S. group)

Percentage of the population in poverty

- States with the least poverty: 7.8% to 11.1%
- States with average poverty: 11.4% to 13.6%
- States with the most poverty: 14.2% to 21.1%



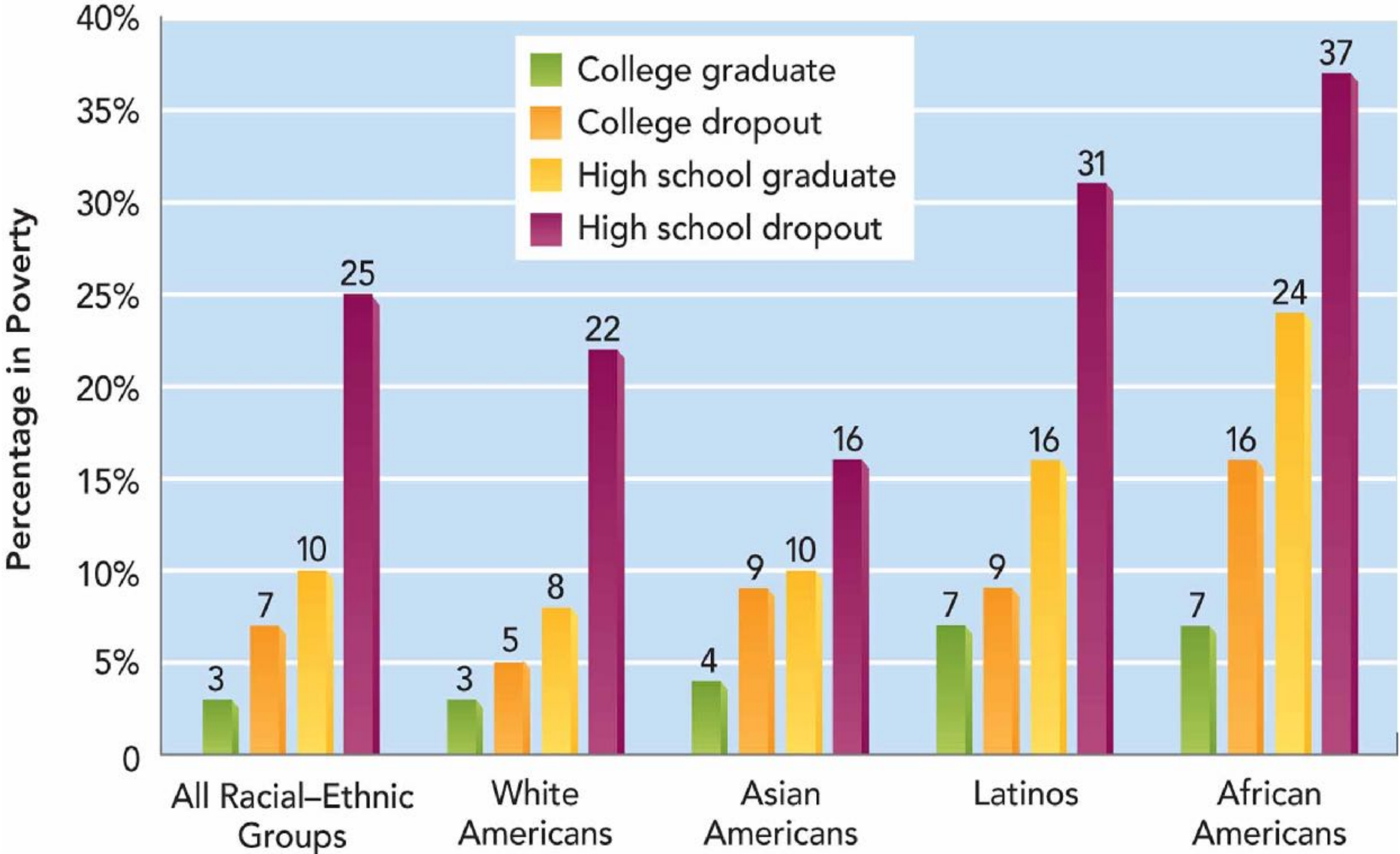
Lowest Poverty Rates

1. Maryland (7.8%)
2. New Hampshire (8%)
3. Connecticut (8.3%)

Highest Poverty Rates

1. Mississippi (21.1%)
2. Louisiana (19%)
3. New Mexico (18.5%)

Who are the poor? 3. Education



Who are the poor?

4. Age

- **Least likely: Elderly**
- **Most likely: Children**

5. Sex of Head of Household

Feminization of Poverty
association of poverty
& single mothers

Of women with this education who give birth, what percentages are single and married?

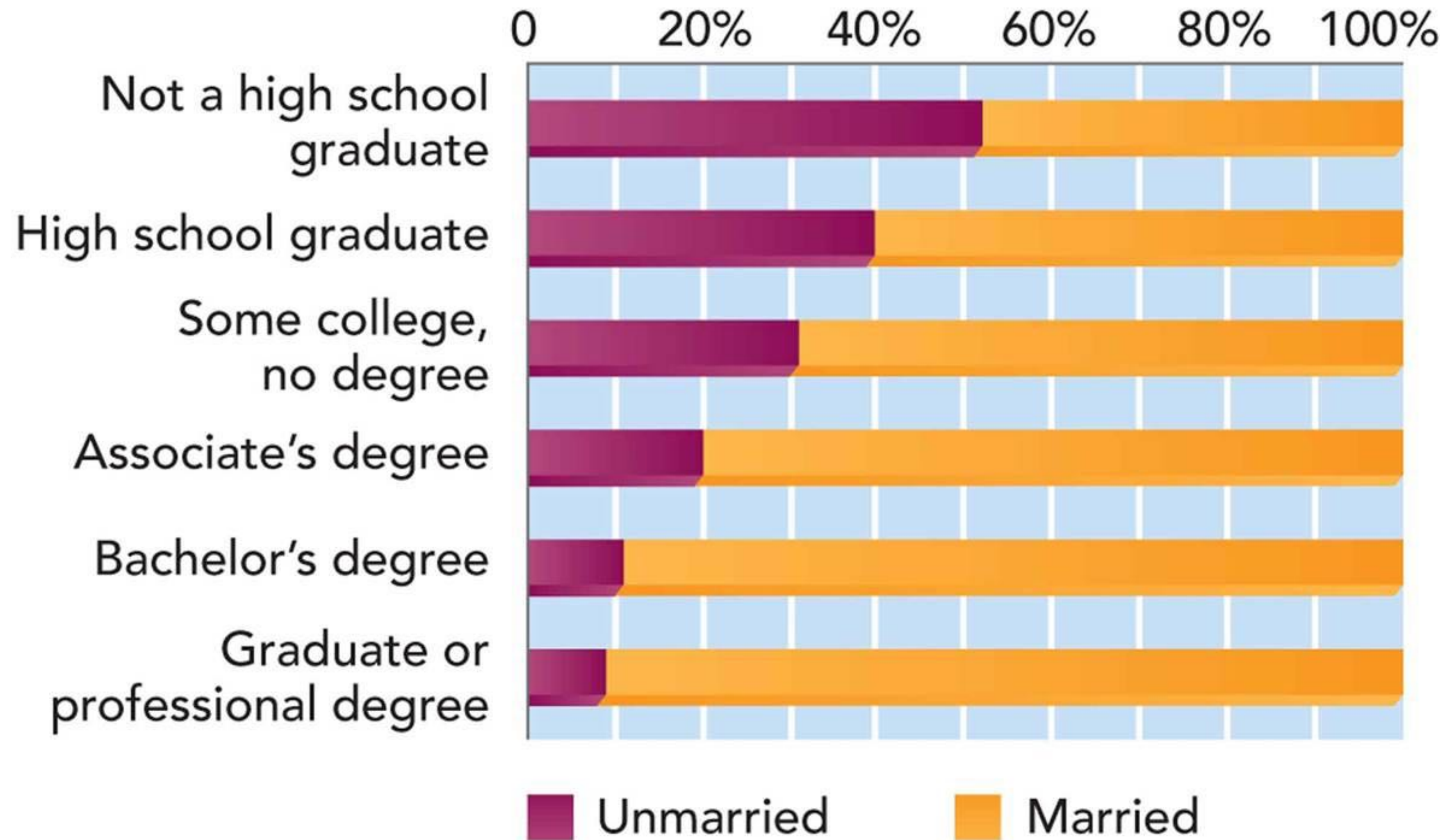


Figure 8.9 Births to Single Mothers

Note: Based on a sample of all U.S. births in the preceding 12 months.

Source: Dye 2005.

Dynamics of Poverty

Culture of Poverty

**Poor have different values
and behaviors**

But poverty is:

- Short lived- 60% in
poverty less than a year**
- Caused by major events**

Why are people poor?

1. Social Structure: features of society

Ex: discrimination & economic changes

2. Characteristics of Individuals

Ex: Lazy? Lack of intelligence? Single mothers?

****Sociologists focus on social structure**

Welfare Reform

U.S. welfare system (1996)

- Must look for job
- Maximum: 5 years.

Controversial but welfare
dropped 60 %

****Conflict Theory:
maintains reserve labor
force****

	PARTICIPANT NUMBER	PARTICIPANT
	5808114824	
	DESCRIPTION	
	WIC Approved Cereal	
	Frozen Concentrated Juice	
	Skim, 1%, 2%, or Whole	
	Skim, 1%, 2%, or Whole	
	WIC Approved Cheese	
	White Eggs, Large	

Arkansas WIC
Participants

Horatio Alger Myth

**Belief that all have equal
chance of getting ahead**

Functionalism:

- 1. encourages competition**
- 2. places blame on
individual**
- 3. stabilizes pressure to
change**



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4.3 Gender

Gender Stratification

**“Unequal Access to
Power, Prestige, &
Property on the
Basis of Sex.”**

Sex & Gender

Sex –biological

–male/female

Gender –social

–varies w/culture

- **inherit sex**

- **learn gender**

Biology or Culture

**Biology: XY vs. XX
chromosomes**

**Sociologists: behavior
would be same around
world**

**Opening door to Biology:
A Medical Accident:
twin boy sex change**

Origins of Patriarchy

- **Females = Childbearing**
- **Men = Hunters & Warriors,
Trade & Knowledge**
- **Men - dominant**

**Continues today-
millennia old patterns**

Feminist Movements

***Feminism –stratification
according to gender is
wrong***

- ***1st movement – 1920s- right
to vote***
- ***2nd movement – 1960s- earn
equal pay***
- ***3rd Movement- today-
—Least Industrialized Nations
—Work force qualities***

Gender Inequality in the U.S.

Income Gap:

2015- median income

-males: \$50,385

-females: \$39,621 (81%)

**→ Men - \$650,000 more
over lifetime**

**→ 32 of top Fortune 500
companies**

Gender Inequality in the U.S.

Work Place:

The Glass Ceiling- barriers to moving up

→ **Women: 46% of US
labor force**
**-secretary,
receptionist, cashier**
-”pink collar jobs”

→ **Hiring Practices**



Gender Inequality in the U.S.

Health Care

- heart surgery**
 - 2x likely to die**
 - reproductive organs**

•Politics

- underrepresented,
but increasing**

Gender Inequality in the U.S.

Education

- Gender tracking**
- library vs. construction**

- more women in college**
 - 57% women**
- women in post-grad
increasing**

Gender Inequality Worldwide

- higher Illiteracy rates**
- lower HS enrollment**
- poorly represented in politics**

**-10% in world
politics**



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4.4 Aging

Aging in the Global Perspective

- **Social Construction of Aging**
 - **Tiwi – “covering up”**
 - **Abkhasians – valued**
- **Life expectancy increased w/industrialization**
- **7 million more elderly than teenagers in U.S.**

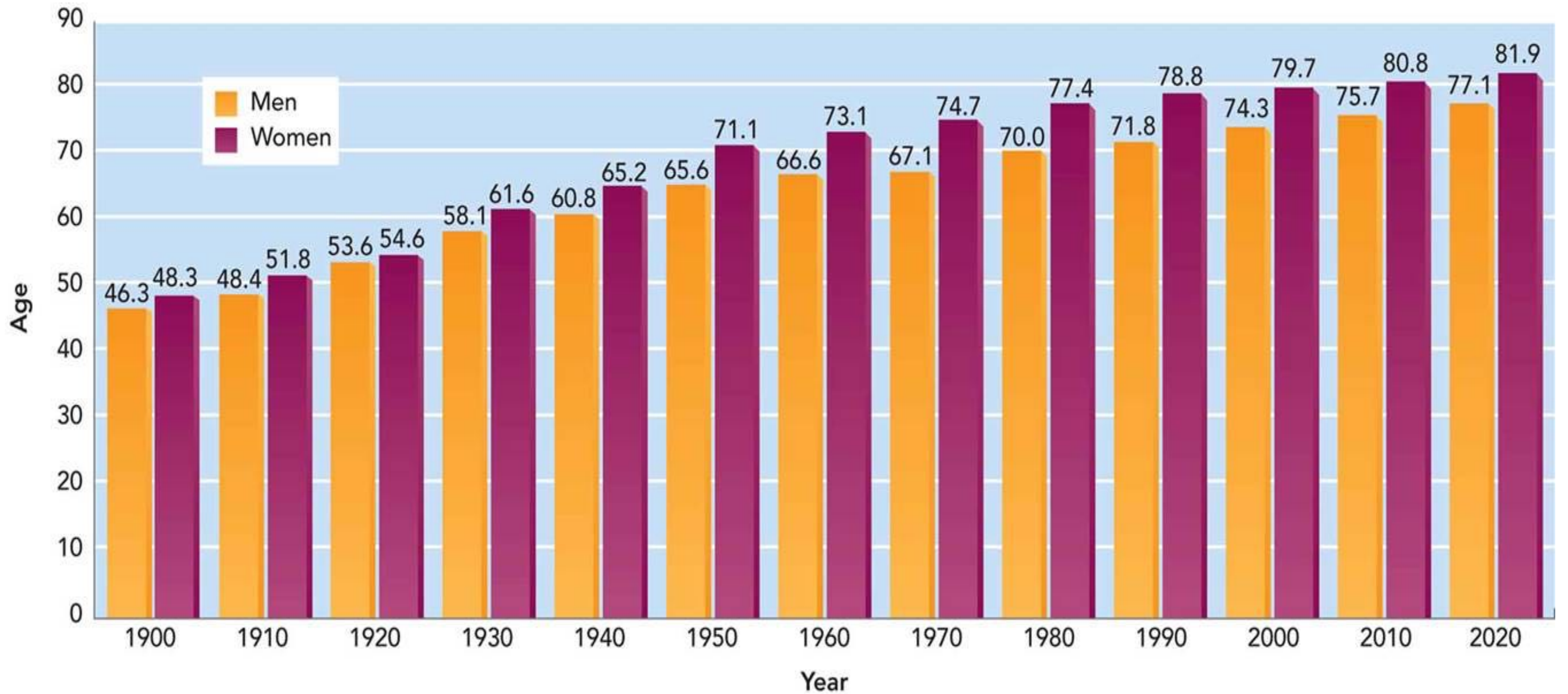


Figure 10.11 U.S. Life Expectancy by Year of Birth

Sources: By the author. Based on *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Bicentennial Edition, Part 1, Series B, 107–115*; *Statistical Abstract of the United States 2010: Table 102*.

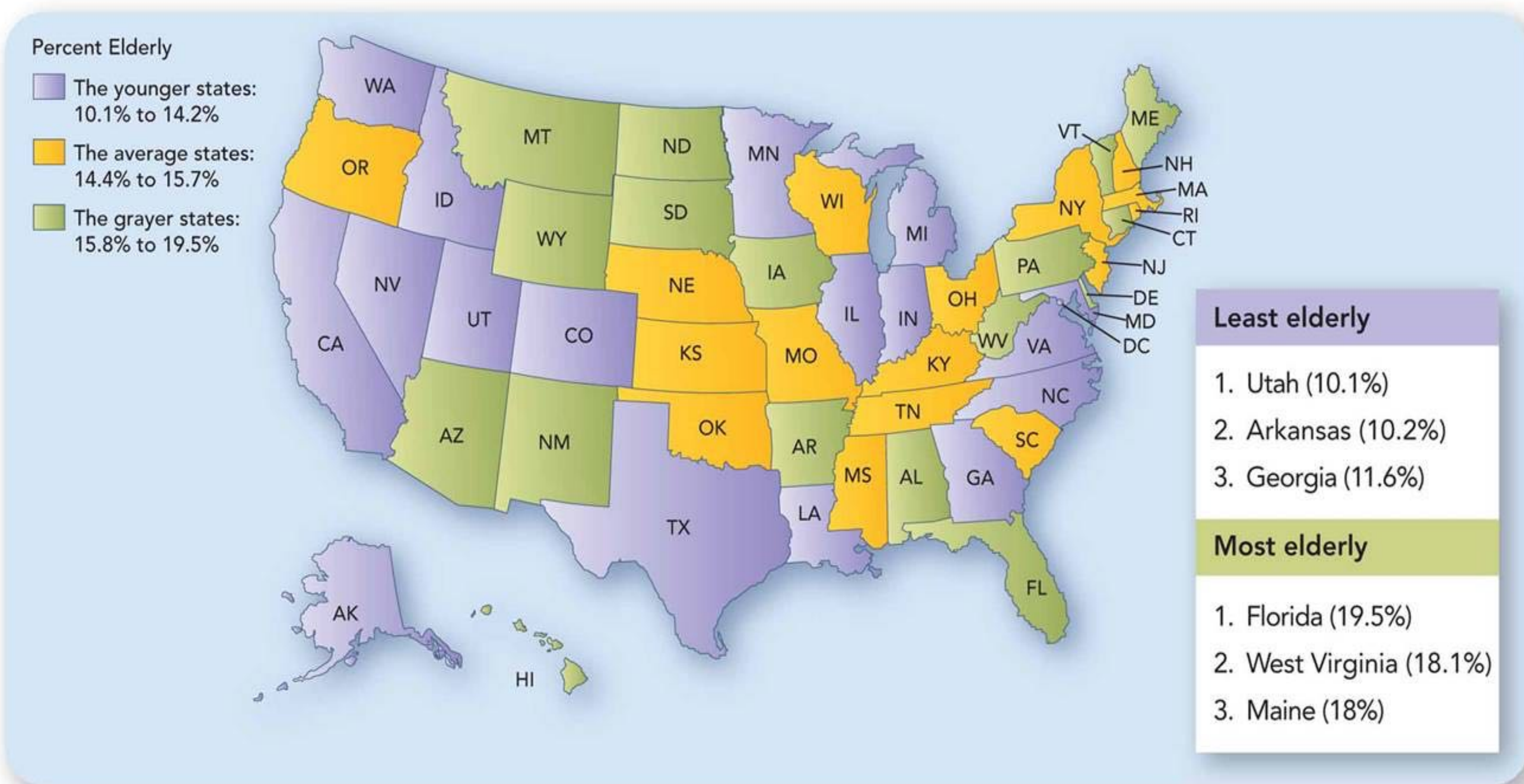


Figure 10.14 As Florida Goes, So Goes the Nation
 Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2009: Table 17. Projections to 2015.

Symbolic Interactionist

- **Ageism – discrimination based on ones age**
- **“Growing old” - changing**
Past: asset
Today: liability
- **Why has this occurred?**

Functionalist

- ***Disengagement Theory*** –
smooth transition b/w
those leaving jobs &
those entering
workplace
- ***Activity Theory*** –
more activities for
elderly
-more fulfilling life

Conflict

- **Rising costs of elderly**
- **Money taken away from other age cohorts**
- ***Dependency Ratio* - affecting Social Security**
 - **ratio of workers paying into Social Security vs. those collecting Social Security**



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4.5 Race & Ethnicity

What is a Subordinate Group?

- **Minority**
- **Less control/power over self**
- **Economic & political powerlessness**
- **Not a mathematical equation**

What is a Subordinate Group?

Racial

- **obvious & physical differences**
- **socially constructed**

Ethnic

- **basis of national origin/
culture**
- **language, marriage,
death, food habits.**

Prejudice:

- **negative attitude/belief toward group**
- **not disliking someone because of behavior.**

Discrimination

- **an action**
- **denial of rights**
excludes members of a group.

Racial Profiling

- **arbitrary police initiated action based on race, ethnicity, or origin**
- **“driving while black”**

**Relative Deprivation-
deprived of something
you think you are
entitled to.**

**—Compare your
positions to others**

**Absolute Deprivation-
fixed standard**

—Poverty line



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4.5.1 Theories of Prejudice

Theories of Prejudice

1. Scapegoating Theory

blame others for own failures

→ Transfer responsibility

2. Authoritarian Personality Theory

harsh discipline

→ intolerance

**→ conventional values/
authority**

Functionalist Theories

Manifest functions

- discourages
questioning of status**
- serves as rallying
point**

Dysfunctions

- failed use of resources**
- increased social
problems**

Labeling Theory

Negative stereotypes:

unreliable

**generalizations about all
members of group**

- **personality differences
not taken into account**

- **People respond to
labels...**

Self-fulfilling prophecy or
looking glass self.

Conflict Theory

- **Economic and structural inequality**

Social structures serve interests of the powerful.

—**Split labor market**

—**Reserve labor force**

—**“Blaming the victim”**



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4.5.2 Consequences

Consequences

I. Genocide/Extermination

systematic killing/

elimination of a

group of people

-most extreme way

**→ Holocaust: Nazi's
exterminated 12 million
Jews**



2. Expulsion

**dominant group forces
minority group to
leave area**

**→ expelled or
transplanted.**

**→ 1979- Vietnam
expelled nearly 1
million Chinese**

3. Internal Colonialism

→ Minority group is exploited

→ Used for economic advantage

→ Slavery in US

4. Segregation

physical separation

**poverty-education, jobs,
crime**

Census data:

- **White live in
neighborhood -80 %
white**



5. Assimilation

subordinates takes on characteristics of dominant group.

- Eventually accepted as part of majority**
- Dictates conformity**
- Devalue minority culture**

6. Pluralism

**Mutual respect b/w
different cultures in a
society**

**→ Able to express culture -
no hostility/prejudice.**

- One's race/ culture is not
sole truth**
- Truths exist in other
races & cultures**
- Ex: funeral practices**

