

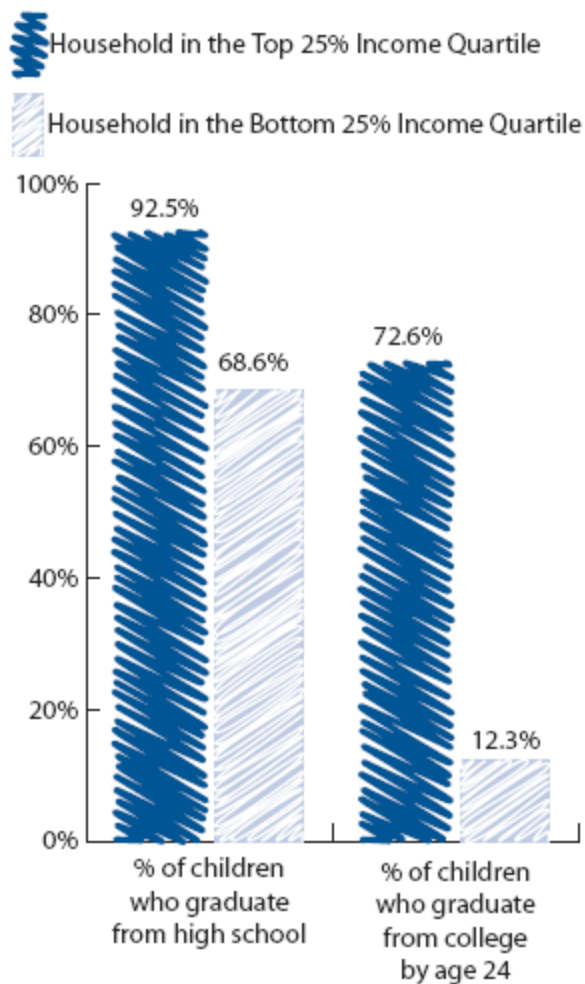
Parental income.

Parental income and educational attainment are clearly linked to the academic success of children. Here are some facts to put things in perspective (Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, 2006). If parental income is in the top quartile (i.e., the top 25%) a child has a 92.5% chance of graduating from high school. However, if the parent's income is in the bottom 25%, the chance of graduating from high school falls to 68.6%.

Even more strikingly, if your parent's income was in the top 25% of the income distribution in 2005, there was a 72.6% chance that you would have graduated from college by the age of 24. The odds of graduating from college slip to 12.3% if your parent's income was in the bottom quartile. These numbers mean that a child in a family within the top income quartile is almost 6 times more likely to complete a bachelor's degree by age 24.

And if you look at these numbers closely, you can see that children from high-income families are more likely to graduate *from college* than their low-income counterparts are to graduate *from high school*.

Children from Higher-income Households Enjoy Higher Educational Attainment Rates



Source: Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, 2006.