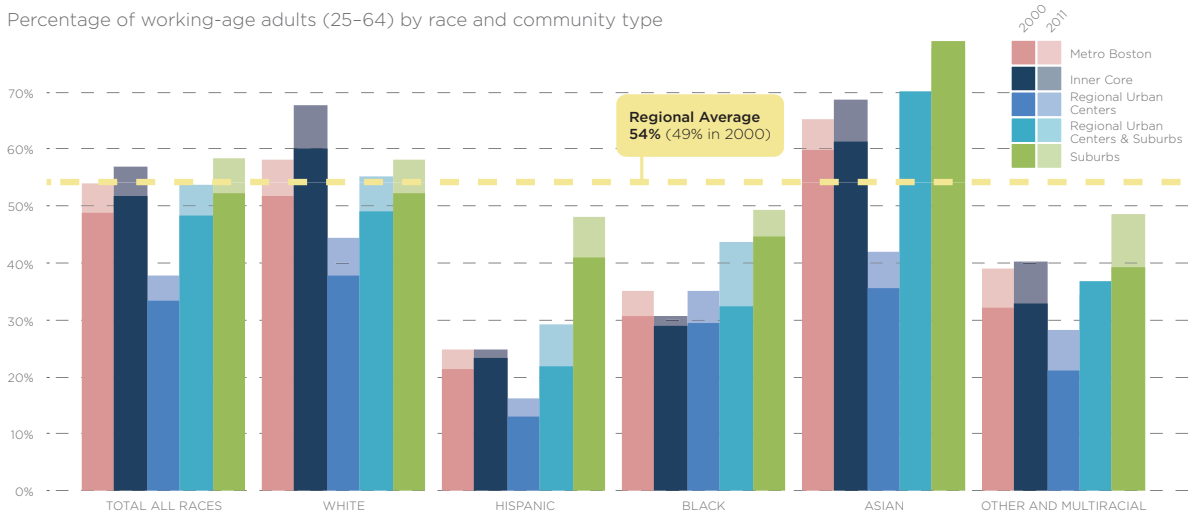


# EDUCATED WORKFORCE

## STRENGTHENING OUR GREATEST ASSET

### COLLEGE DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Percentage of working-age adults (25-64) by race and community type



Persistent gaps remain in educational attainment and employment by race and geography that threaten the economic prosperity of the Metro Boston region. Economic health is of critical importance to our quality of life and future growth, and relies on educational attainment, which is one of the fundamental indicators of a healthy workforce.

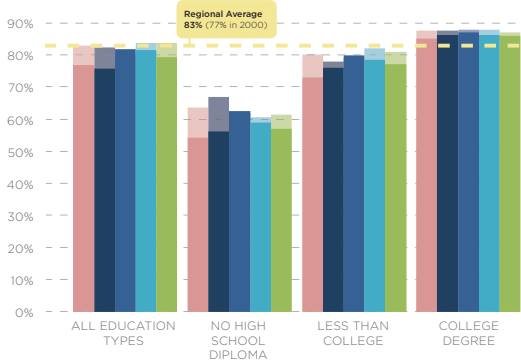
points below Blacks or Hispanics living in Suburbs. Generally, residents of suburban communities have the highest rates of college degree attainment, although for Whites, the rate is highest in Inner Core communities.

These educational gaps carry over into stark employment disparities. While unemployment numbers for adults ages 25-64 in our region have fared better than the state and nation overall since 2008, the regional unemployment rate for the 2007-2011 time period was still 6.5% (Massachusetts 6.7%, U.S. 7.3%), double what it was in 2000. The unemployment rate for an adult in our region without a college degree is double that of an adult with a college degree; for an adult without a high school diploma it is triple. Adults without a high school diploma living in the Suburbs have the highest unemployment rate in the region. This group has had the largest increase in unemployment since 2000, more than doubling their rate over the last decade.

As our region becomes more diverse it is imperative that we continue to educate our workforce and target policies that provide pathways for closing the racial and spatial gaps that hold the region back from its true economic potential.

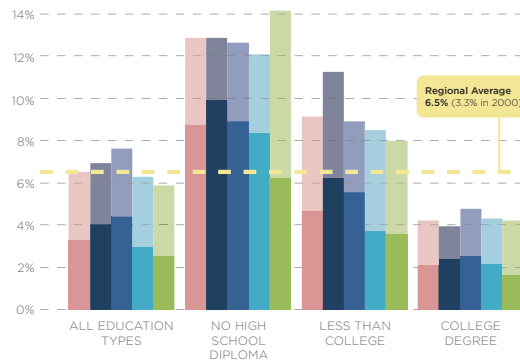
### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

By educational attainment and community type



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

By educational attainment and community type



The good news is that Metro Boston has made great strides to increase educational attainment and labor force participation since 2000. Across all races, ethnicities, and community types, more adults are getting college degrees and participating in the labor force. Only Asians living in Suburbs did not gain ground in college degree attainment. But even without gains, they remain the most highly college educated group in the region.

However, the region has made virtually no progress since 2000 in closing racial and ethnic educational attainment gaps. Blacks and Hispanics are 19 and 29 percentage points, respectively, below the 54% regional average; in 2000, they were 18 and 27 points below the average. Whites and Asians are 3 and 11 percentage points above the regional average, the same as they were in 2000. Within racial and ethnic groups, attainment diverges depending on spatial location. For example, educational attainment for Asians living in Regional Urban Centers is 36 percentage points below Asians living in Suburbs, and 7 percentage