

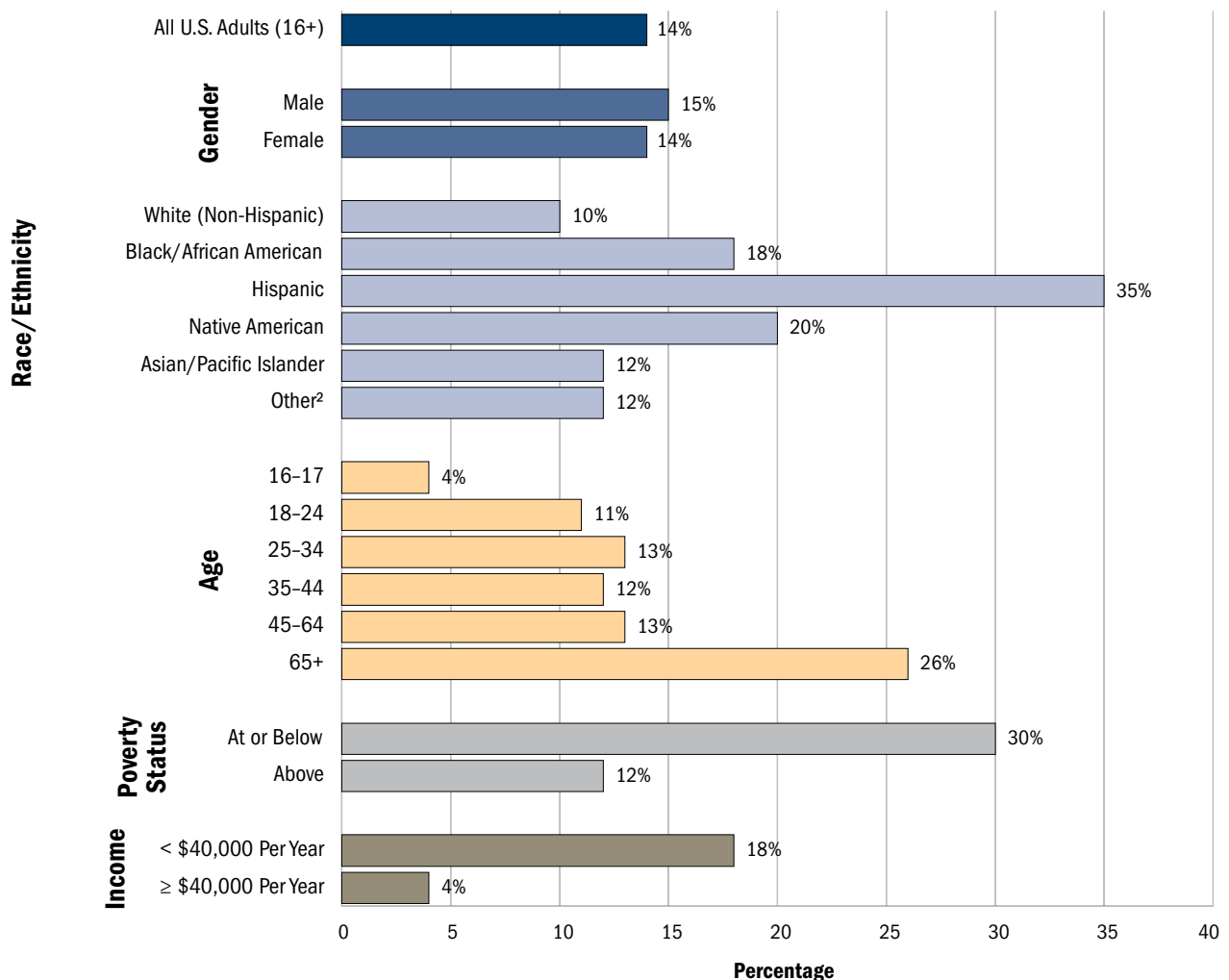
Those adults lacking a high school credential may experience difficulty pursuing further education and opportunities for higher income.

The lack of high school credentials is most prevalent in most of the southern U.S. states, and also in Texas and California. In these states, more than one of every five adults does not have a high school credential, according to the 2000 U.S. Census data.

Data from the 2007 American Community Survey describe the current overall status of adults without

a high school credential in the United States (see **Figure 2**). An uneven distribution of adults without a high school credential was observed in all 2007 American Community Survey demographic classifications except gender, in which 15 percent of males and 14 percent of females did not have a high school credential. The largest disparity in the percentage of adults without a high school credential in key demographic groups was between Hispanics (35 percent) and whites (10 percent). Moreover, the percentage of Hispanics without a high school credential was 17 percentage points higher than the

FIGURE 2
Percentage of U.S. Adults in Key Demographic Groups Without a High School Credential¹



Sources: 2007 American Community Survey and U.S. Census.

¹ The target population consists of adults without a high school credential who are not enrolled in educational programs. Any differences between percentages reported from the 2007 American Community Survey, in contrast to 2000 U.S. Census data, are likely due to differences in age range and sampling methodology and do not necessarily reflect an actual increase or decrease in target population.

² Compared with percents reported in previous years, the percent for the "Other" category is less because of a difference in methodology between how GED Testing Service[®] interpreted the 2000 U.S. Census and the 2007 American Community Survey related to how Hispanic adults are counted. "Other" currently includes all other adults not already included in the "White," "African American," "Hispanic," "Native American," and "Asian/Pacific Islander" categories described above.