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FP-18-05 Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residence Status of Grandchildren

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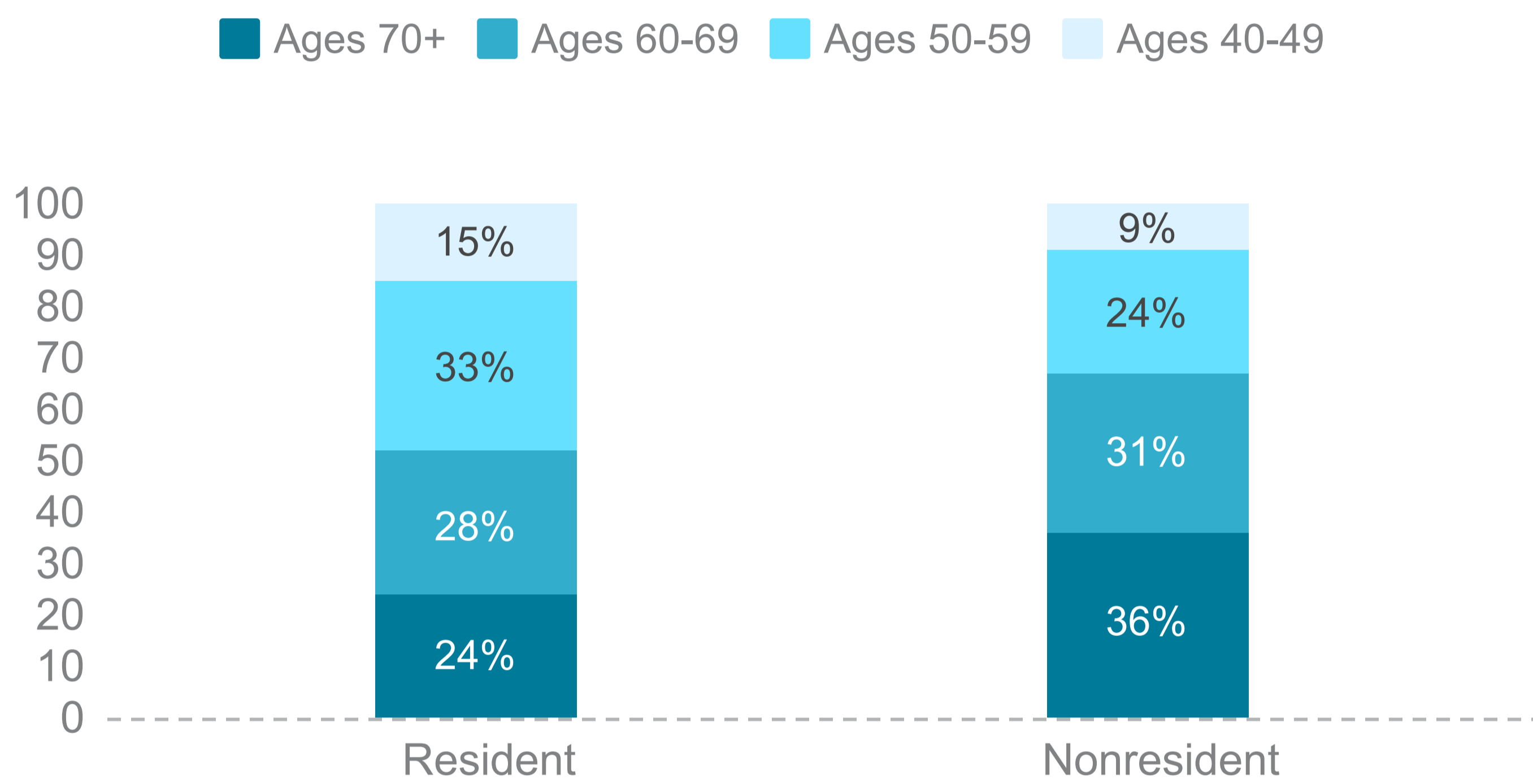
In 2014, there were nearly 68 million grandparents aged 40 and over in the United States, according to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). This figure represents 46% of adults aged 40 and older. The SIPP is a nationally representative household-based survey and is designed to provide comprehensive family and social information on individuals and families. Because the SIPP gathers information on all individuals who lived in a surveyed household, and directly asks respondents if they are a grandparent, it is one of the few surveys that identifies non-resident grandparents. Using data from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), this profile updates FP-14-12 to examine grandparents' age composition, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment by resident status of grandchildren. This is the final profile in our series on grandparents in the U.S.

Overall, only 9% of grandparents reside with their grandchild(ren).

Age Composition of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

- On average, resident grandparents were five years younger than nonresident grandparents (median age of 60 vs. 65). Almost half of resident grandparents (48%) were under age 60, whereas one-third of nonresident grandparents were under age 60.
- Nonresident grandparents were more often in older age groups. The majority (67%) of nonresident grandparents were aged 60 and older.

Figure 1. Age Composition of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren



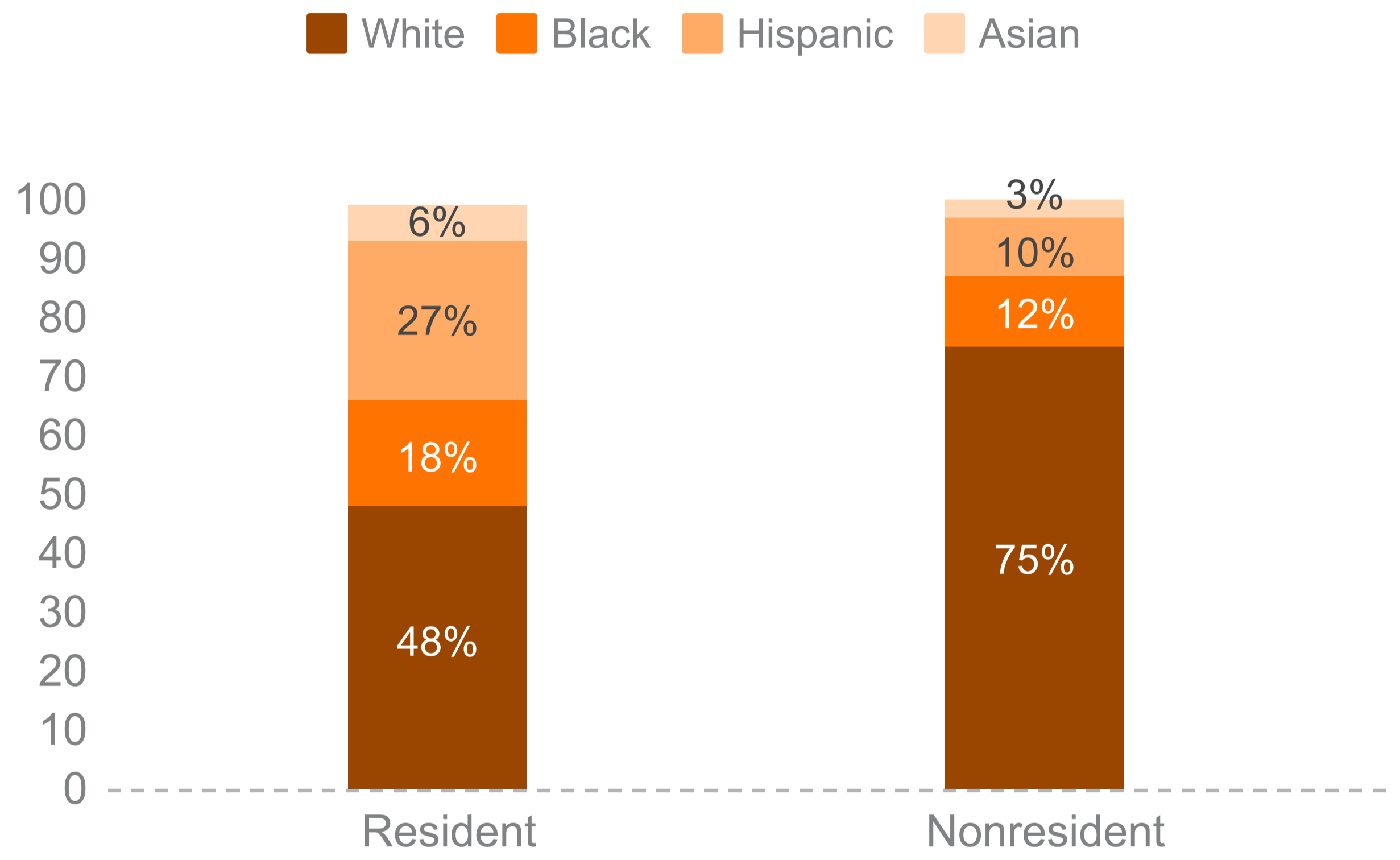
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

A larger share of grandparents with resident grandchildren belonged to a racial/ethnic minority group (52%) compared to nonresident grandparents (25%).

- Among non-Whites, Hispanics constituted the largest share of resident grandparents (27% of all resident grandparents). However, among nonresident grandparents, only one in ten were Hispanic.
- A higher percentage of resident grandparents were Black than nonresident grandparents (18% and 12%, respectively).
- Although few grandparents were Asian, twice as many resident grandparents than nonresident grandparents were Asian (6% versus 3%).

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

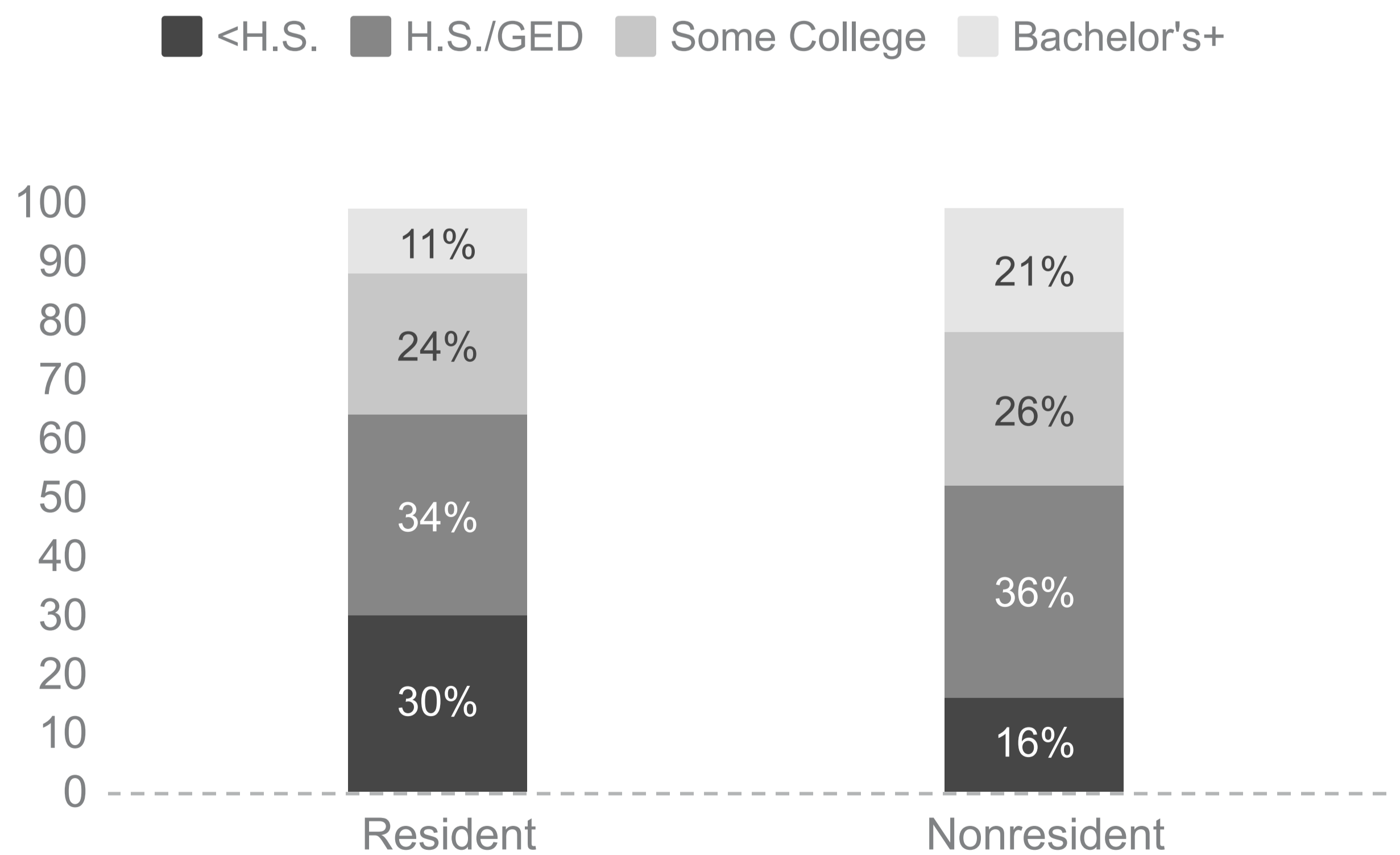


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

- Resident grandparents had lower levels of educational attainment than nonresident grandparents.
- Thirty percent of resident grandparents had less than a high school education compared to 16% of nonresident grandparents.
- One in ten (11%) resident grandparents were college graduates, whereas two in ten (21%) nonresident grandparents were college graduates.

Figure 3. Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

Data Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 Panel, Wave 1. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/data/2014-panel/wave-1.html>

References:

Stykes, B., Manning, W. D., & Brown, S. L. (2014). Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residency status of grandparents. *Family Profiles*, FP-14-12. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-14-12-grandparents-us.pdf>

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National Center for Family & Marriage Research

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