

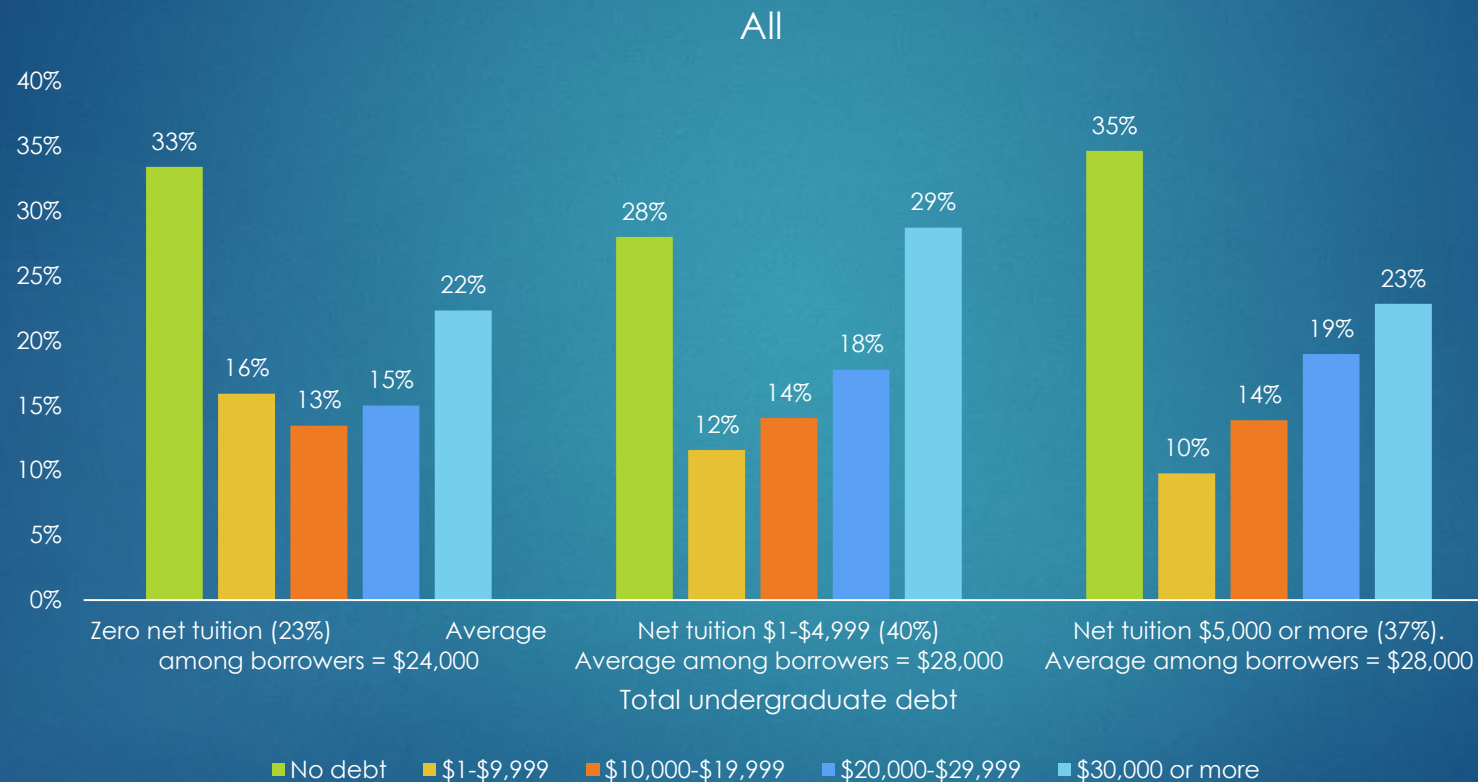


The Impact and Distribution of Student Debt

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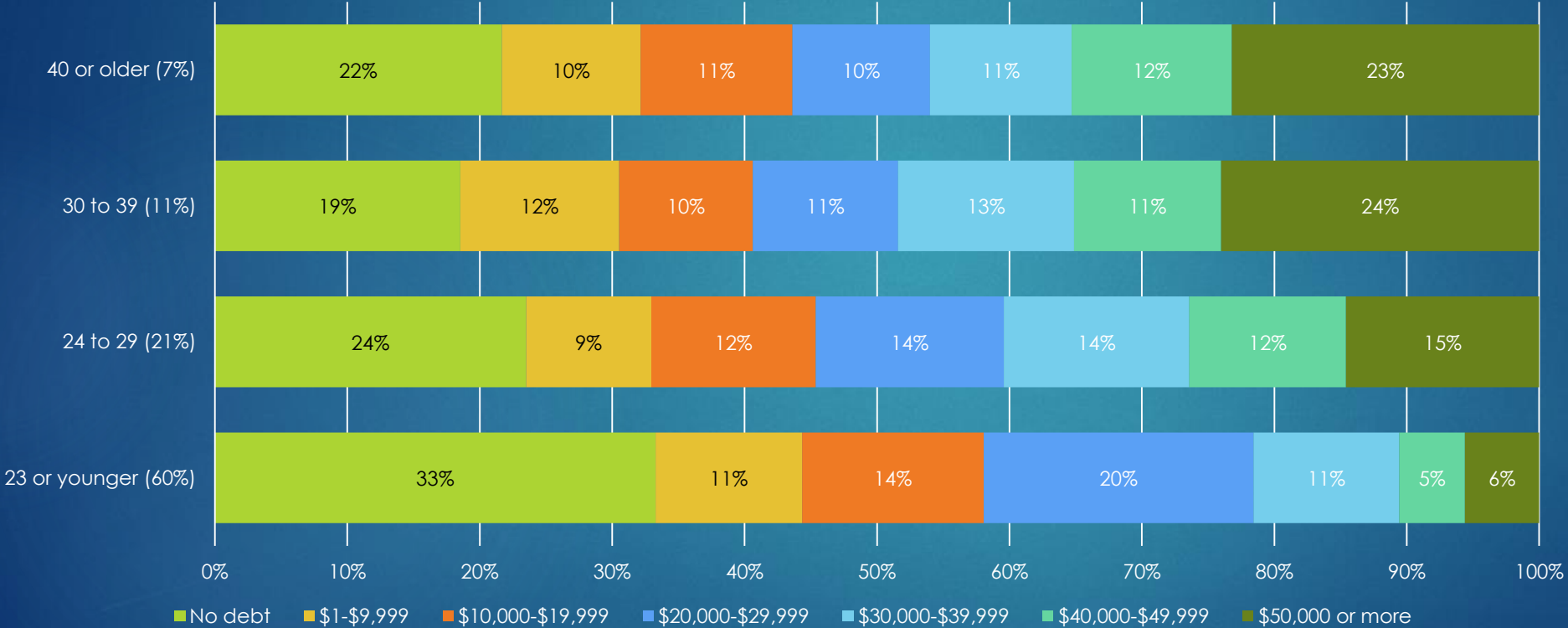
BROOKINGS, OCTOBER 2019

Borrowing is not just about tuition



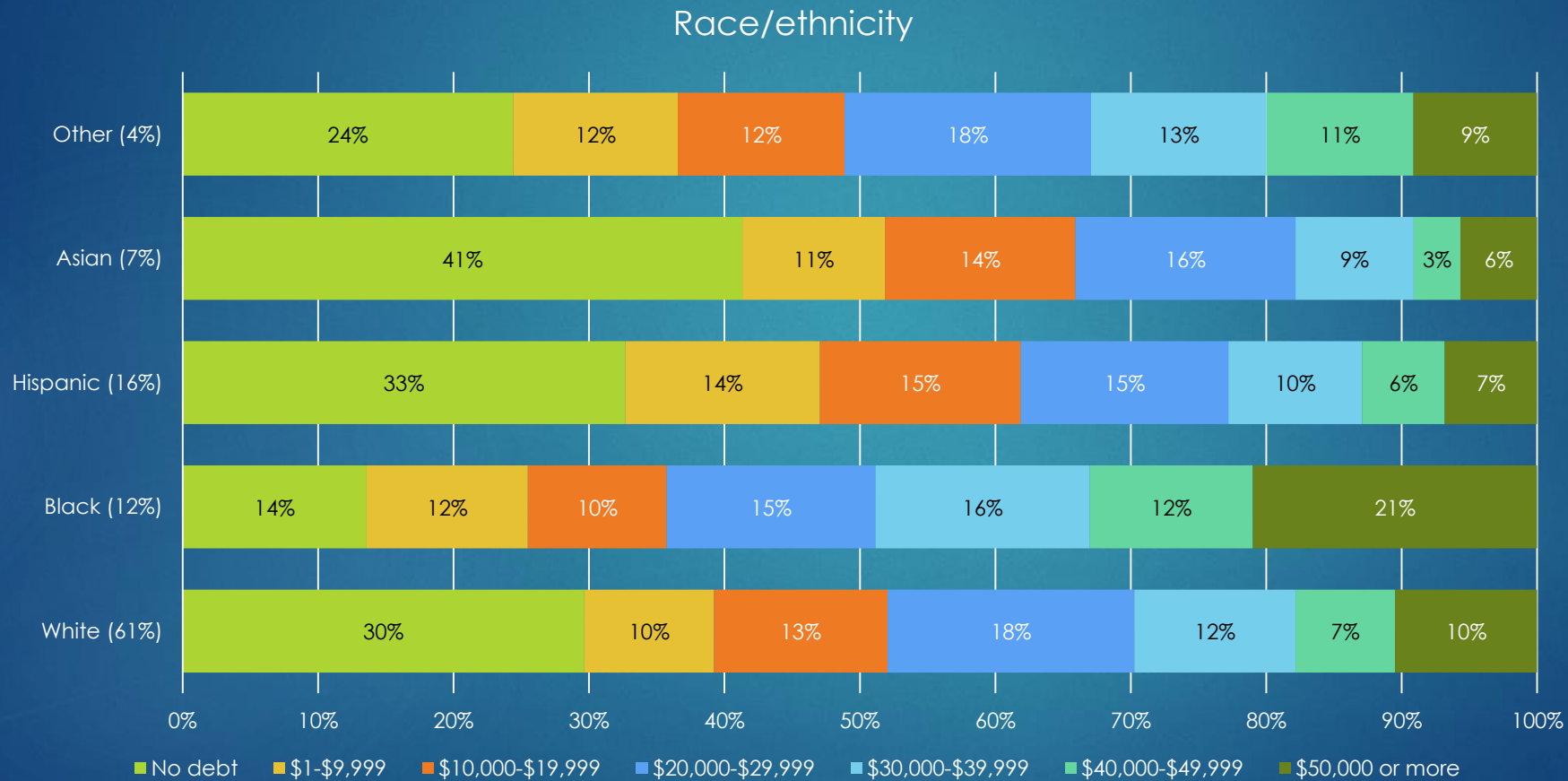
Older students borrow more than younger students.

Debt of 2015-16 Bachelor's Degree Recipients by Age



Source: NPSAS 2016

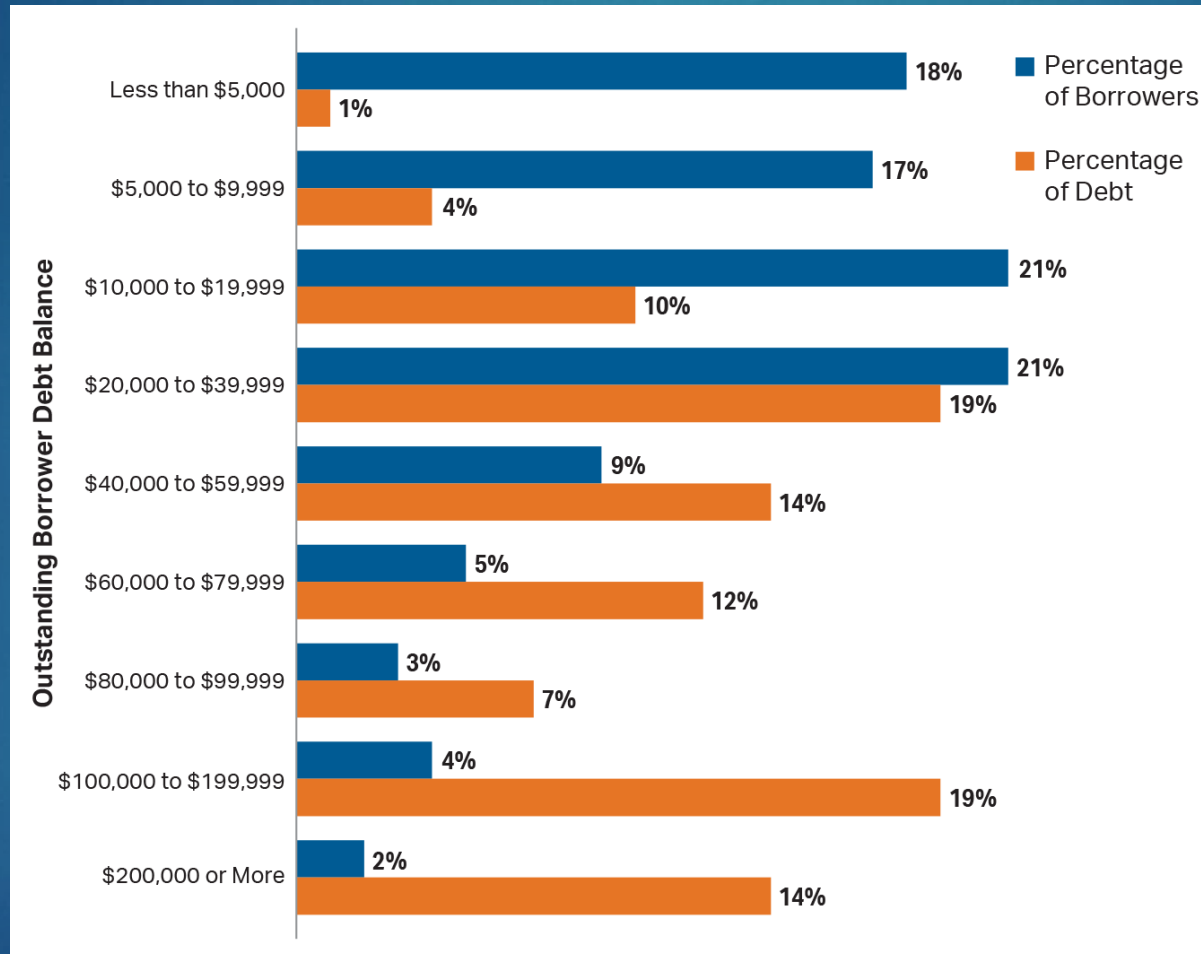
Black students borrow more than others.



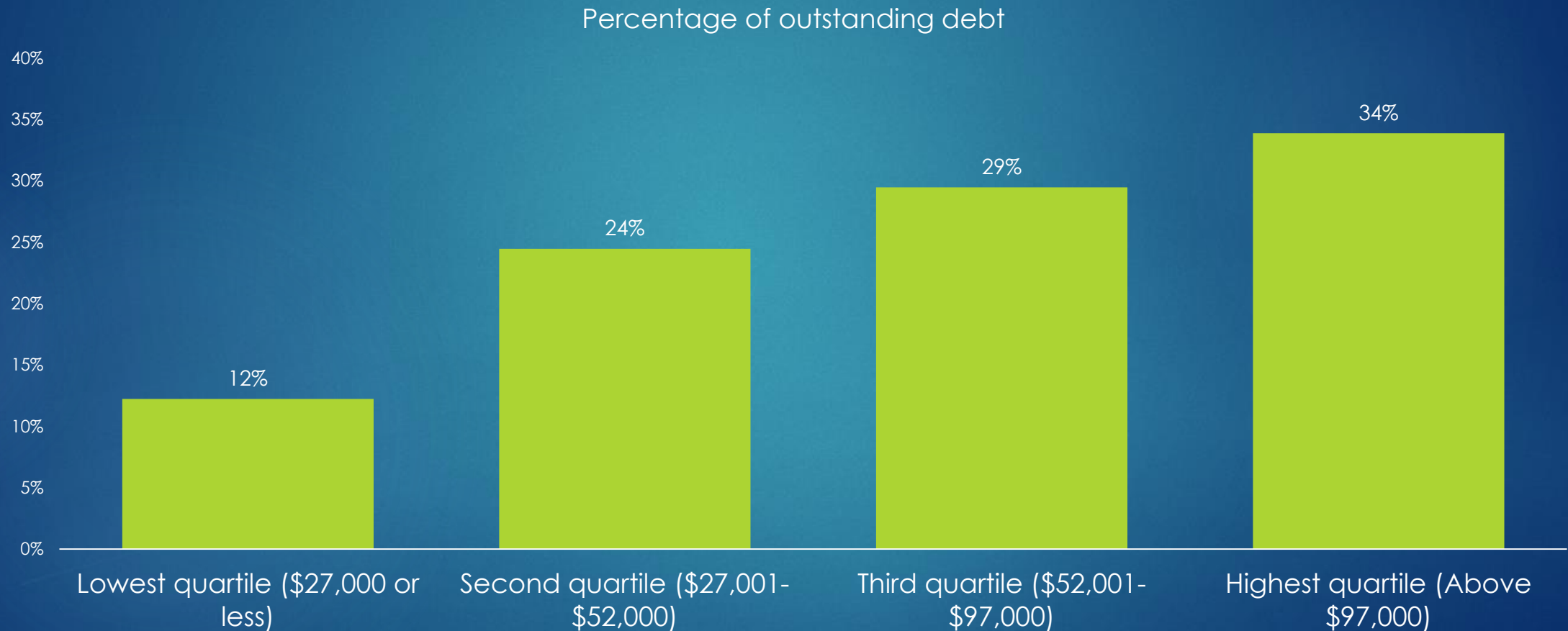
Source: NPSAS 2016

6% of borrowers owe one-third of the outstanding debt.

Distribution of Borrowers and Debt by Outstanding Balance, 2018



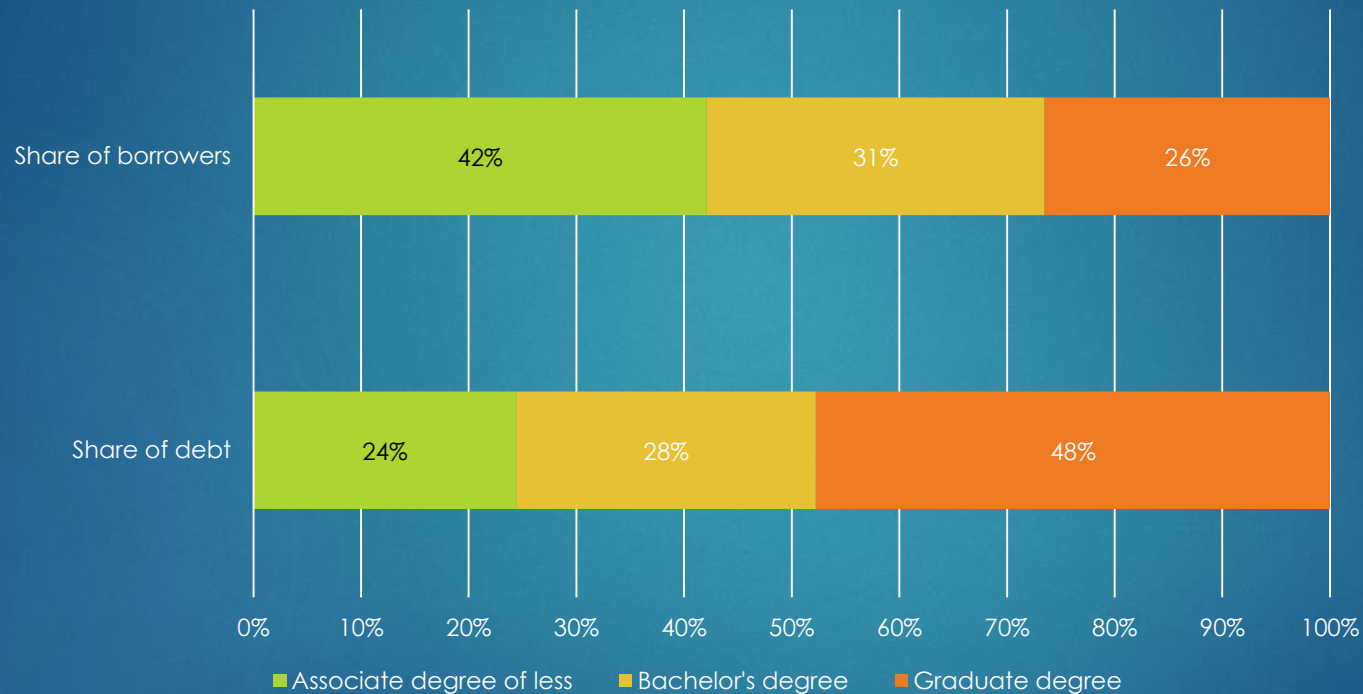
Education debt is concentrated in the upper half of the income distribution.



Notes: Households age 25 and older.

Source: Baum, Lee, and Tilsley (2019) "Which Households Hold the Most Student Debt?" *Urban Wire*. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/which-households-hold-most-student-debt>; Data from Survey of Consumer Finances 2016

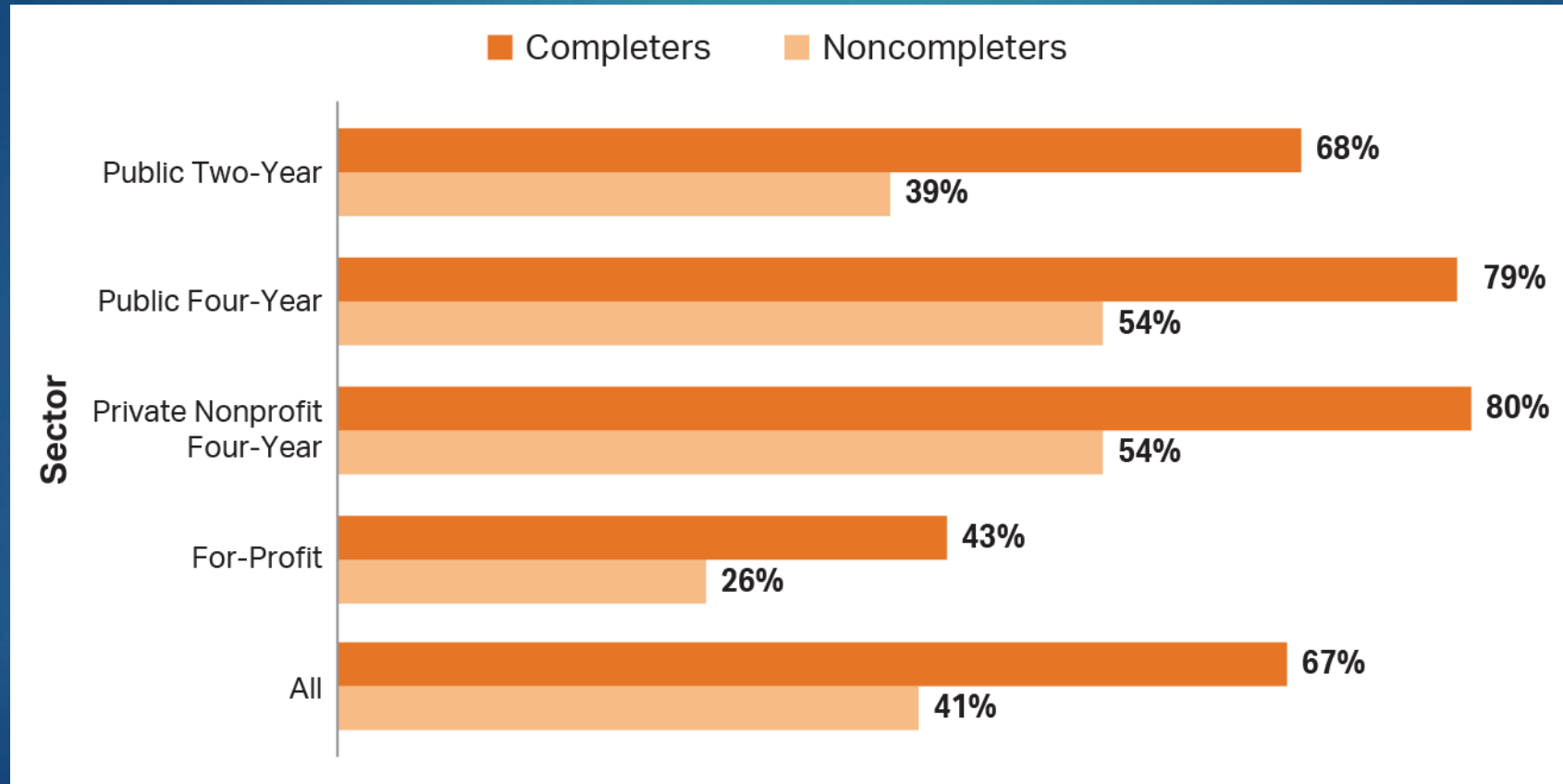
Households with less education (and less income) account for a larger share of borrowers than of debt



Source: Baum, Lee, and Tilsley (2019) "Which Households Hold the Most Student Debt?" *Urban Wire*. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/which-households-hold-most-student-debt>; Data from Survey of Consumer Finances 2016

Students who do not complete degrees or certificates—and those who attend for-profit institutions—are least likely to pay down their loans.

Federal Student Loan 5-Year Repayment Rates: Borrowers Entering Repayment in 2009-10 and 2010-11



Source: The College Board, Trends in Student Aid 2018, Figure 14A.