
EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY IN A CROSS-BORDER MEGALOPOLIS

GARY ORFIELD, MARIANA BARRAGAN TORRES & KFIR MORDECHAY, UCLA



AN INTERDEPENDENT COMMUNITY DIVIDED

- 24 million people live in urban complex from greater Los Angeles through metro Tijuana, one of world's largest continuous urbanization
- The majority of children being born in Southern California are Latino, overwhelmingly Mexican origin
- There is intense interaction and interdependence but physical, language, and governmental policies cutting region apart
- The problems confronting students whose education is divided by the border are special cases of problems confronting poorer and less educated families across the region

CHANGES IN POPULATION

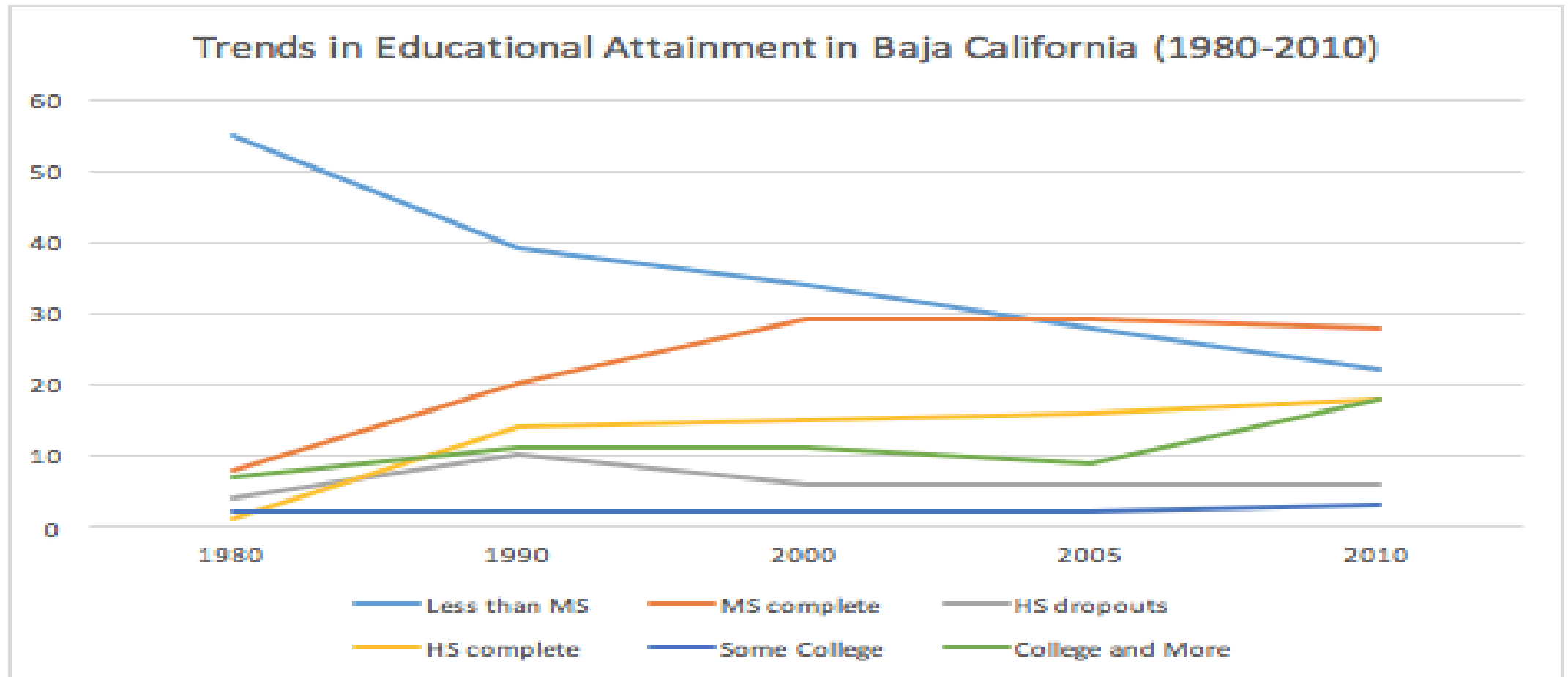
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S OVER 50 POPULATION IS FAR WHITER THAN THE YOUNG AND GREW UP IN A DIFFERENT SOCIETY– OFTEN IT IS STILL IN CONTROL
- CALIFORNIA HAS HAD A HISTORY OF MASSIVE GROWTH THAT HAS GREATLY SLOWED
- TIJUANA HAS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN WORKING AGE POPULATION BUT NOT IN YOUNG CHILDREN
- BIRTH RATES HAVE FALLEN ON BOTH SIDES AND LITTLE NET MIGRATION TO U.S. SINCE GREAT RECESSION
- POLICY FRAMEWORK IS STILL THAT OF OLDER GENERATION, REACTING TO CONDITIONS THAT NO LONGER EXIST
- MORE THAN 90% OF CA LATINO STUDENTS ARE BORN IN U.S. WITH CITIZENSHIP



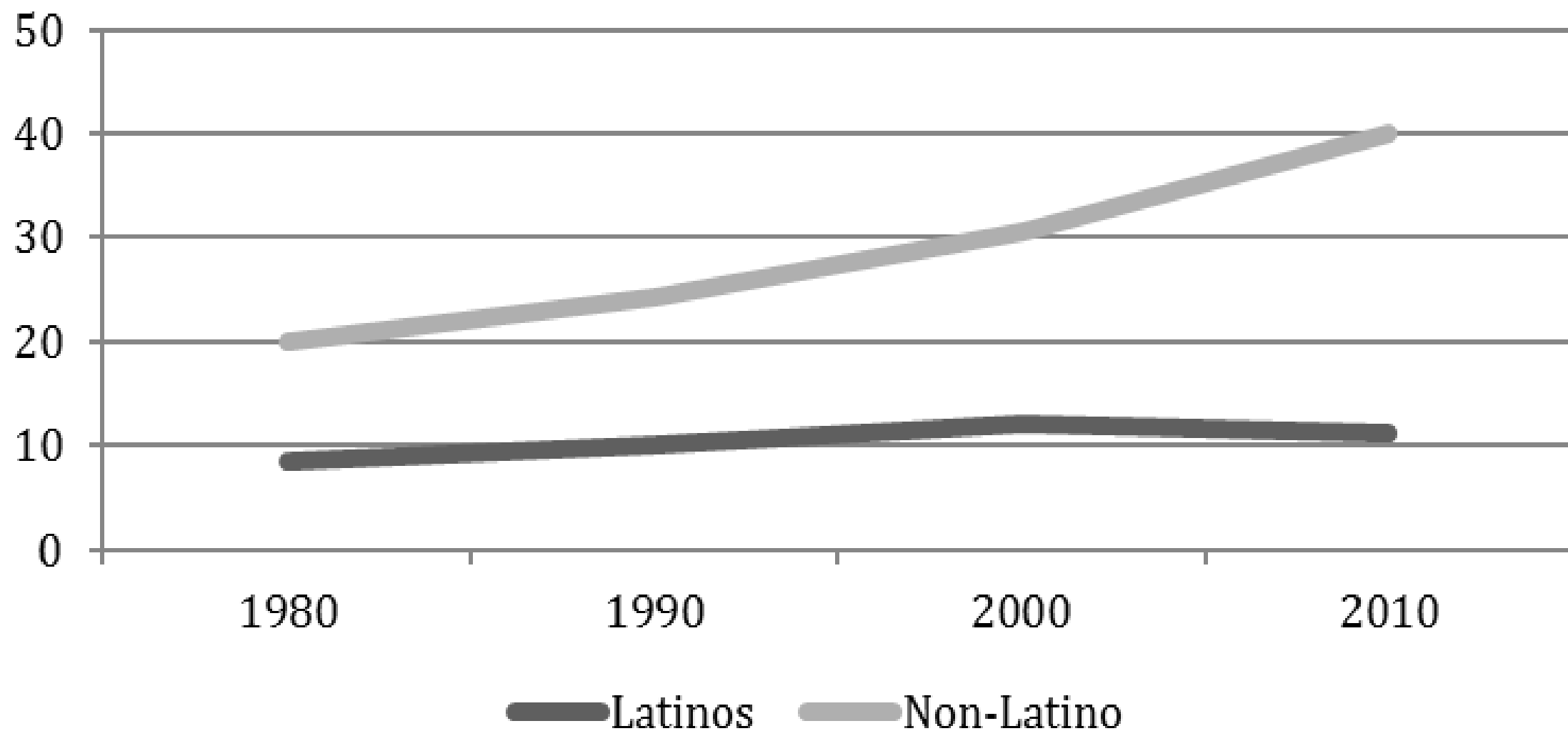
■ INEQUALITY IN U.S. AT A HISTORIC HIGH

- THERE HAS BEEN GROWING INEQUALITY ON BOTH SIDES WITH THE HIGHEST INCOME HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING A LARGER AND LARGER SHARE OF INCOME AND WEALTH
- IN THE U.S. THESE DIFFERENCES ARE STRONGLY RELATED TO RACE AND ETHNICITY, WITH SHARP DIFFERENCE IN INCOME BY RACE AND ENORMOUS DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY WEALTH, VERY IMPORTANT FOR COLLEGE ACCESS
- ADVANTAGES OF THOSE AT THE TOP CONTINUE TO GROW AND ARE RELATED TO EDUCATION

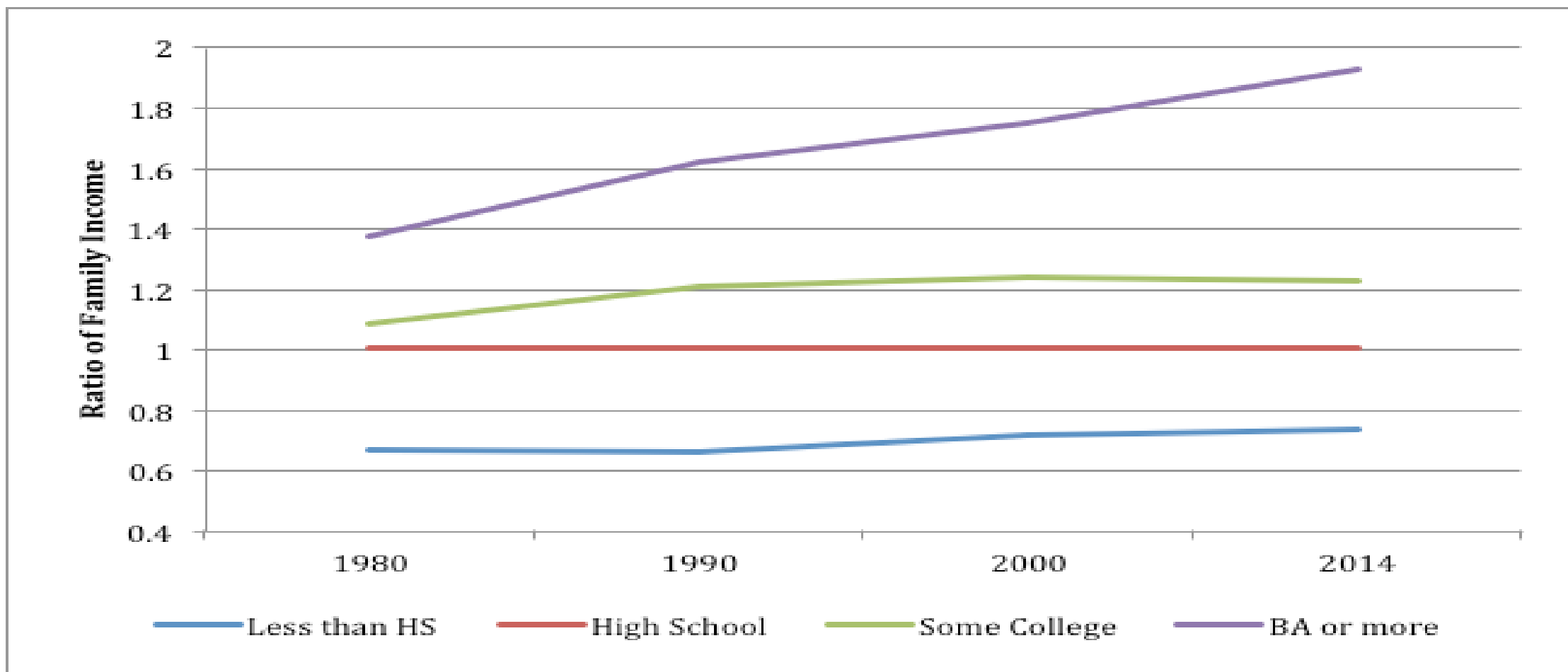
MAJOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GAINS, LOW COLLEGE COMPLETION



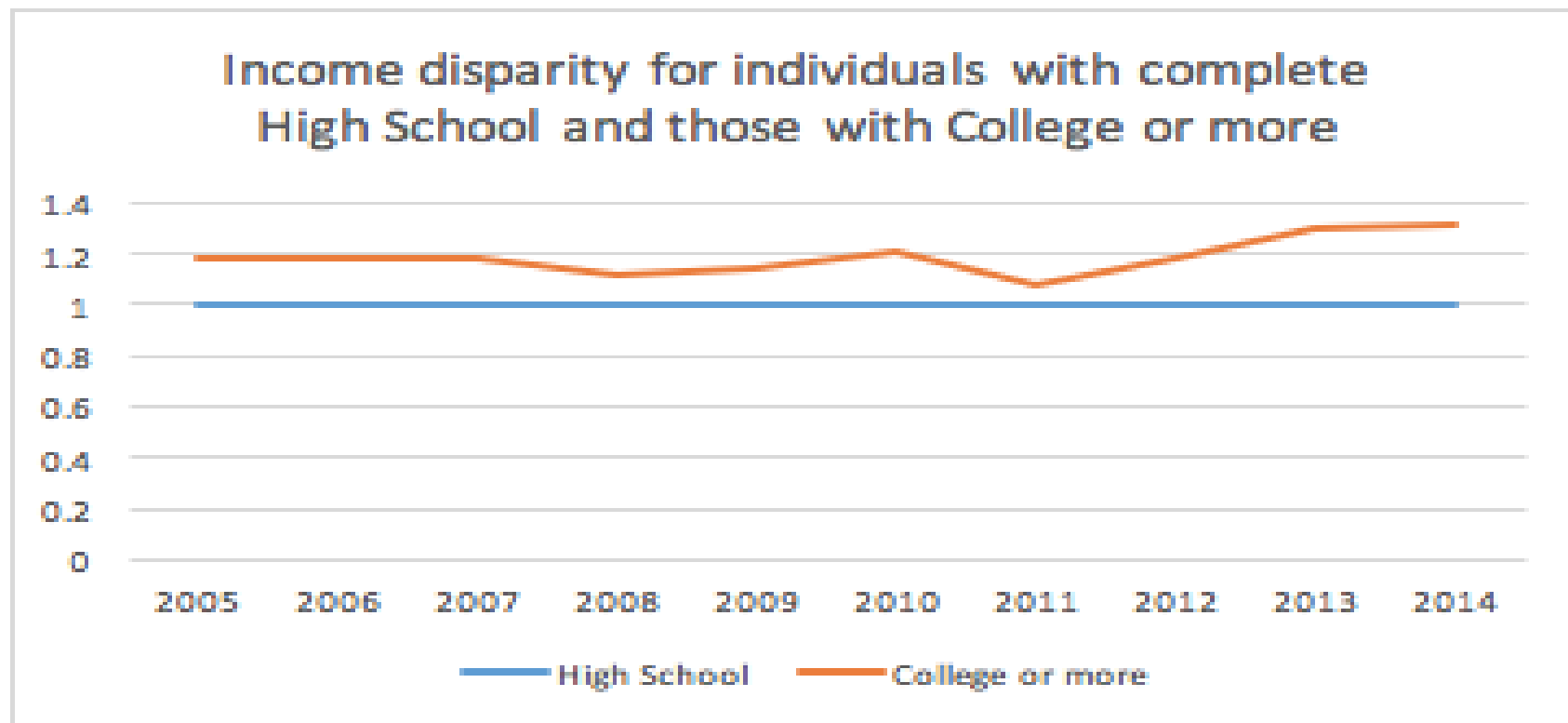
Growing College Completion Gap, San Diego County, 1980-2010



MEDIAN INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL, CA, 1980-2014



BAJA CALIFORNIA INCOME BY EDUCATION, 2005-2014



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Students and families need to understand consequences
- Schools must strongly emphasize higher education
- Financial information and aid
- Expansion of schools with strong college preparation
- Language development training for those with need
- Open spaces for poor and minority students in successful schools
- Wage and labor policies to increase rewards and incentives
- Strong policies against unequal schools and discrimination

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON U.S. INEQUALITIES

- Civilrightsproject.ucla.edu
- Patricia Gandara, *THE LATINO EDUCATIONAL CRISIS:
CONSEQUENCES OF FAILED SOCIAL POLICY*