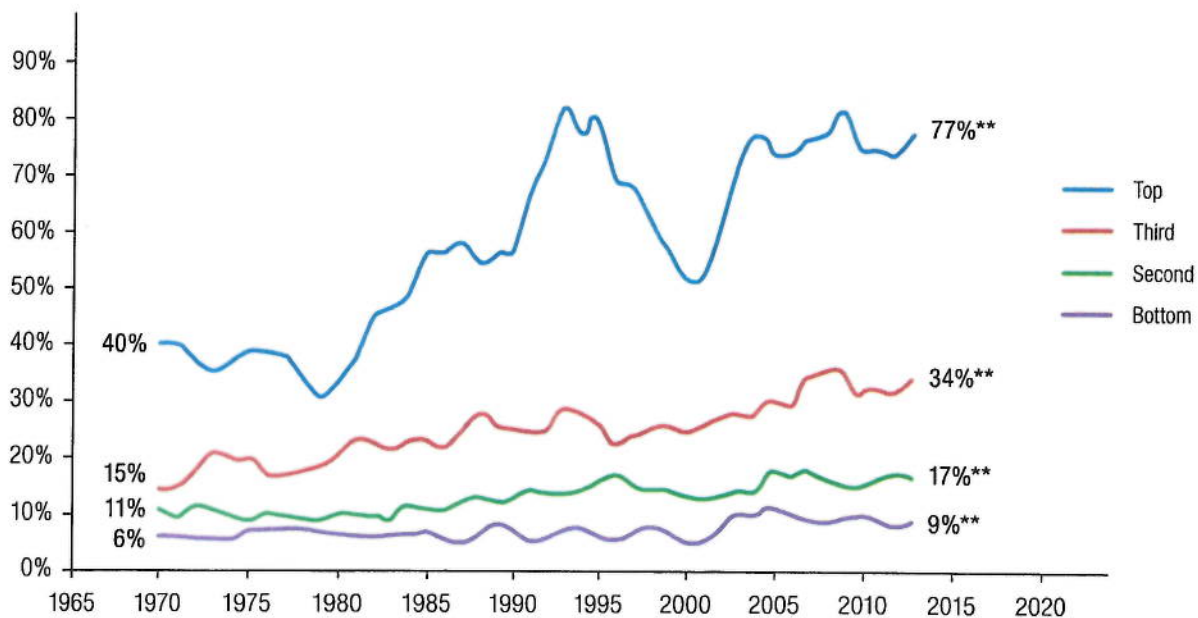


## Equity Indicator 5a: How Does Bachelor's Degree Attainment by Age 24 Vary by Family Income?

In 2013 individuals from the highest-income families were 8 times more likely than individuals from low-income families to obtain a bachelor's degree by age 24 (77 percent vs. 9 percent). This income gap in bachelor's degree attainment is not only quite large (66 percentage points), but also greater than 43 years ago. In 1970, students from high-income families were 6 times more likely than students from low-income families to have earned a bachelor's degree by age 24 (40 percent vs. 6 percent).

**Equity Indicator 5a: Bachelor's degree attainment by age 24 for dependent family members by family income quartile: 1970-2013**



### How Are We Doing? High Inequality and Widening Gap

In 2013 those from high-income families were 8 times more likely to obtain a bachelor's degree by age 24 than those from low-income families. In 1970 individuals from high-income families were 6 times more likely to obtain a bachelor's degree than those from low-income families.

**Note:** \*\*These data represent dependent students only and cannot be assumed to represent the percent of the entire population of individuals who have obtained a bachelor's degree by the family income quartiles. Data for the top quartile for dependent students are especially likely to overestimate degree attainment relative to entire population of individuals from the top family quartile.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, October Education Supplement*. Data from 1970 to 1986 consider unmarried 18 to 24 year olds and data from 1987 to 2013 are based on dependent 18 to 24 year olds. We used data in Table 14 in Census Bureau P20 report on School Enrollment. After 2006, the Census Bureau no longer published Table 14. We received unpublished data. Mortenson, Thomas, 2014, "Unequal Family Income and Unequal Higher Education Opportunity, 1970 to 2013", Postsecondary Educational Opportunity, no. 267, Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, Washington DC, September. <http://www.postsecondary.org/>