

# Long-run effects of post-secondary education in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

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# What is the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study?

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- ▲ A one-third random sample of high school graduates in the "Class of 1957"
- ▲ 10,317 original members of the sample
- ▲ Born in and around 1939, ~64 during 2003
- ▲ Surveyed in 1957, 1964, 1975-77, and 1992-94
- ▲ 8500 graduates interviewed in 1992-93
- ▲ About 5,500 siblings, older and younger than graduates
- ▲ Data on education, careers, family, health

# What are future plans for the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study?

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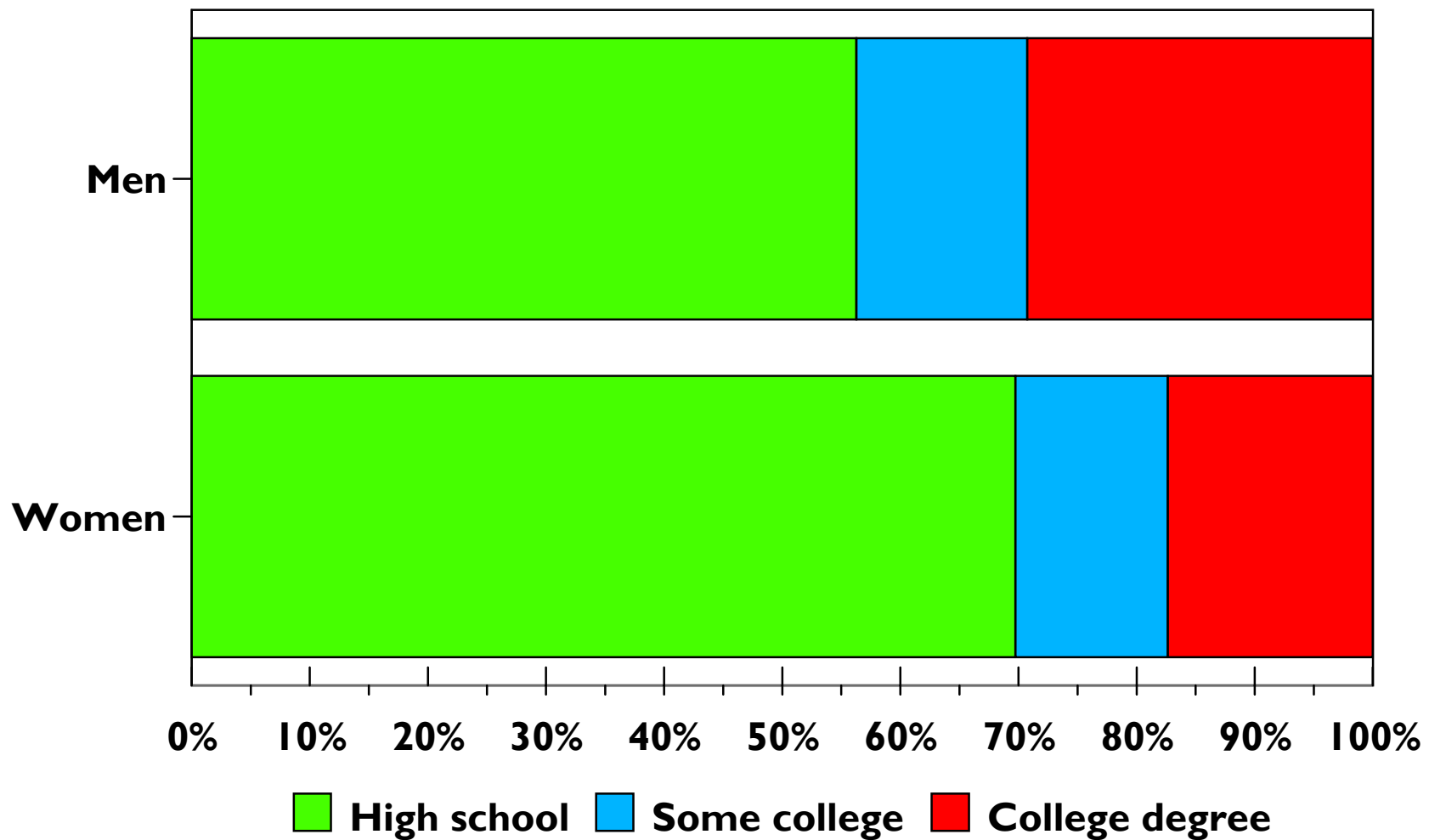
- ▲ New surveys of graduates, siblings, spouses, and widows
- ▲ Focus on family, health, and retirement
- ▲ Major funding from the National Institute on Aging
- ▲ 50+ investigators in sociology, demography, epidemiology, economics, social and cognitive psychology, industrial engineering, neuroscience, social work, psychiatry, law, nursing, and medicine

# Education and adult outcomes

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- ▲ Education: high school, some college, college or more
- ▲ Outcomes
  - Jobs and income
  - Assets (home ownership, net worth)
  - Health and health behavior
  - Social participation (organizations, charity)
- ▲ Why do they matter?
  - Private goods
  - Public goods

# Figure 1. Education by gender in the WLS

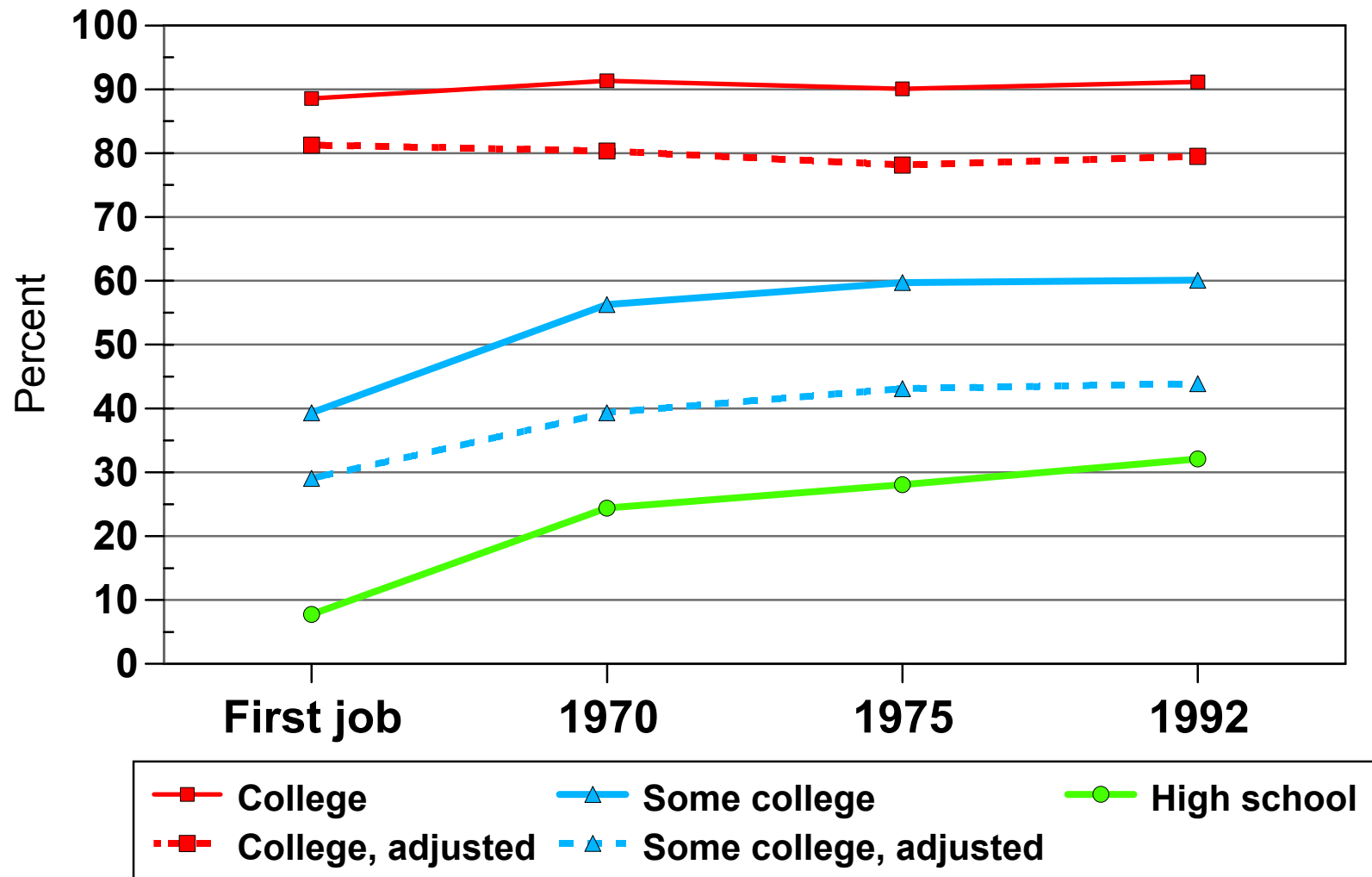


# High-status occupations

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- ▲ Which are the high status occupations?
  - Professional and technical workers
  - Managers and officials
  - Non-retail sales workers
- ▲ What is distinctive about these occupation groups?
  - High educational and skill demands
  - High complexity of work
  - High pay

**Figure 3. Men in high status occupations by post-secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



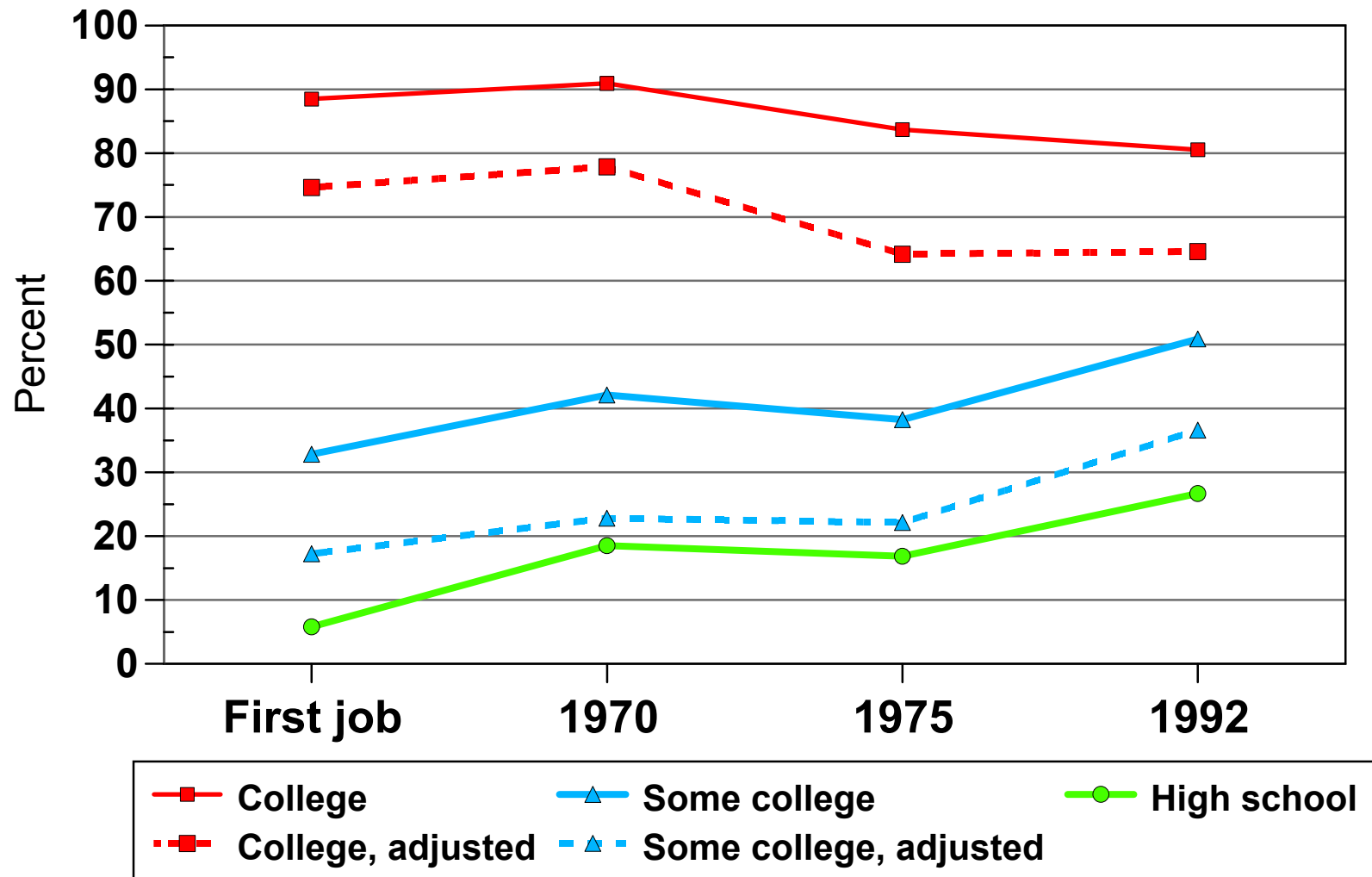
# Background variables

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- ▲ Socioeconomic background (parent's education, parent's occupational standing, family income, farm origin, size of place)
- ▲ Family structure (intact family, number of siblings)
- ▲ Academic preparation (test scores, grades, curriculum)
- ▲ Social psychological variables (parents' and teachers' encouragement, peer influence, educational and occupational aspirations)



**Figure 4. Women in high status occupations by post-secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**

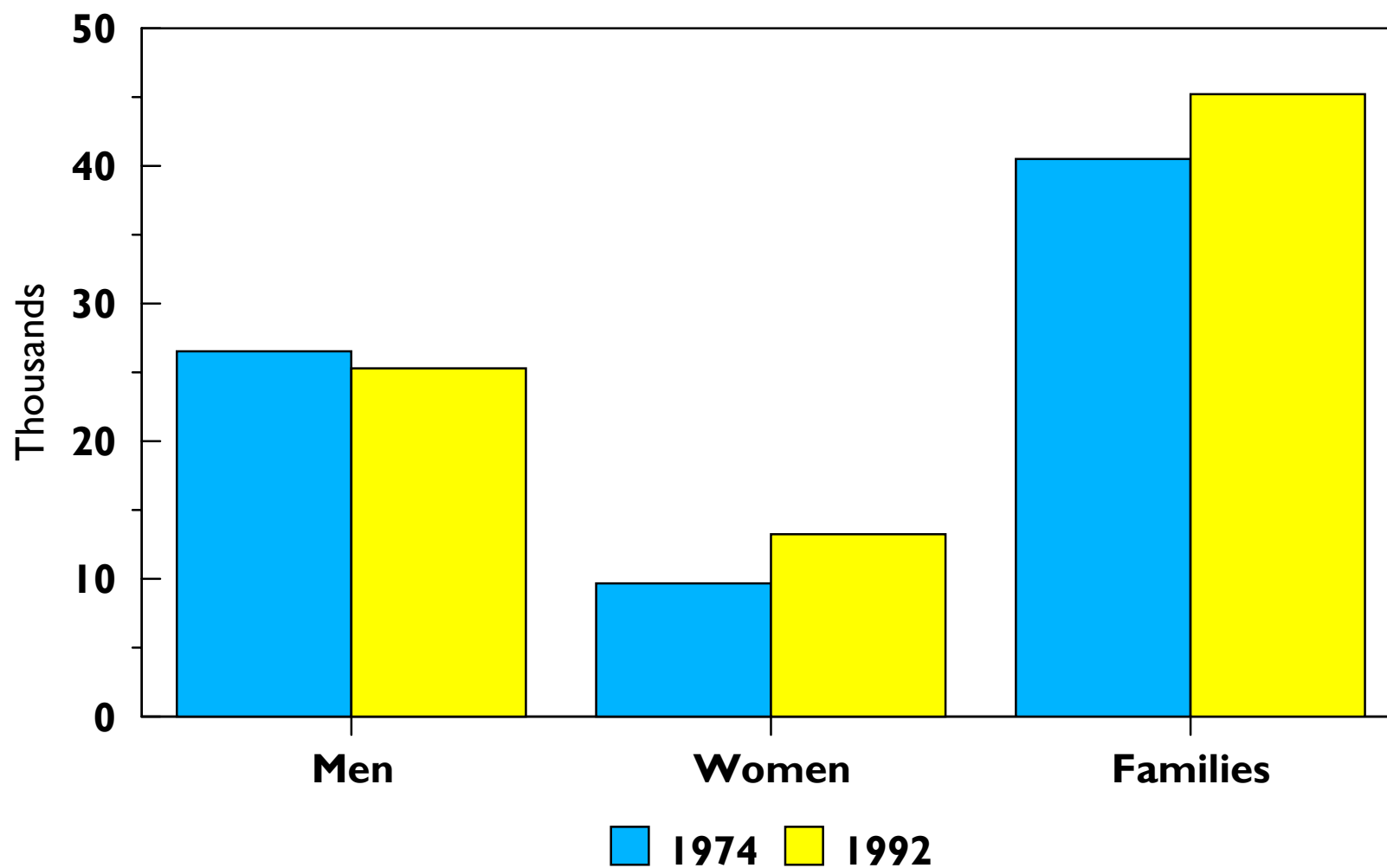


**Table 1. Median family income in 2001 dollars by post-secondary schooling: WLS graduates**

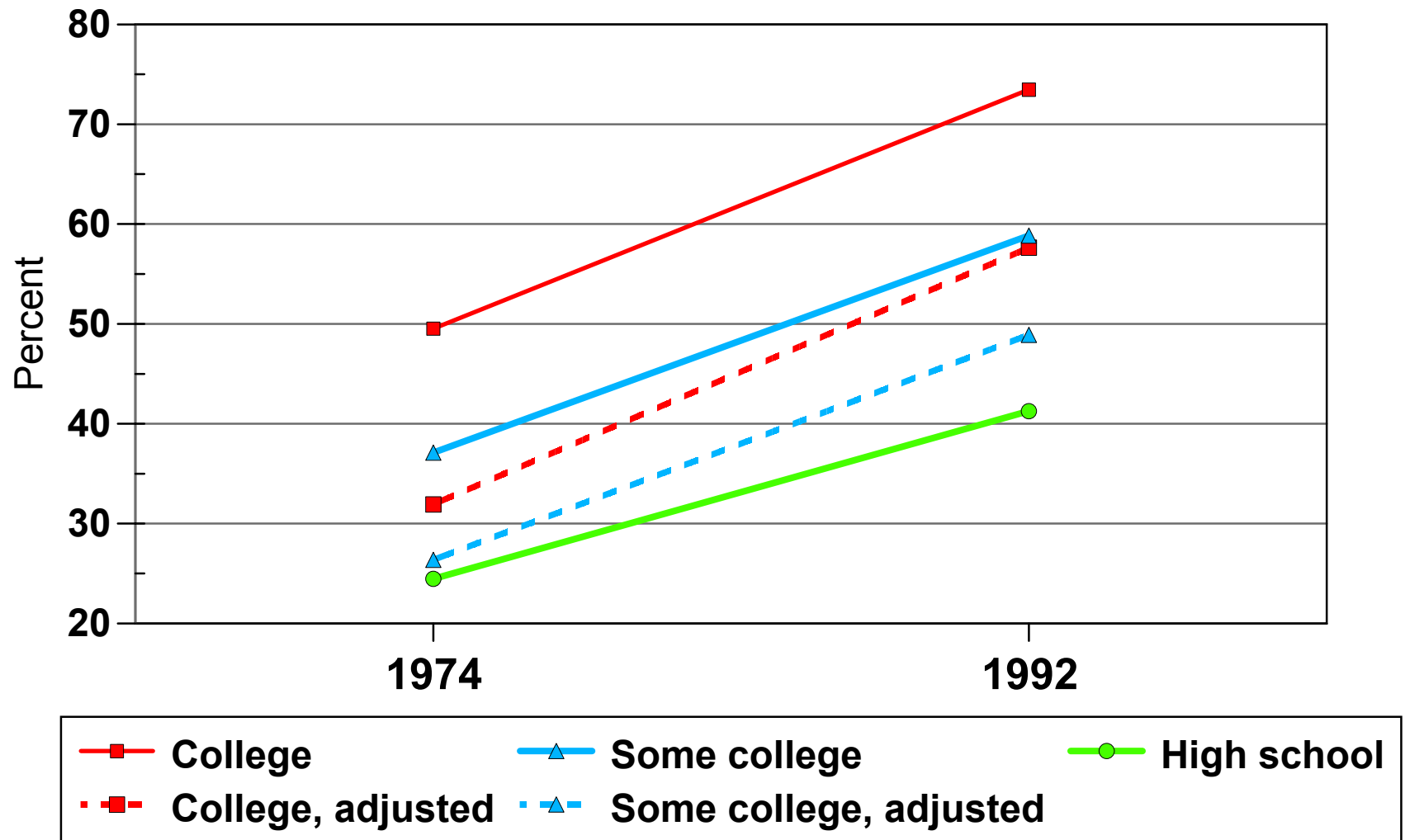
1974	High school	Some college	College degree
Men	\$45,845	\$50,241	\$60,604
Women	\$43,961	\$49,613	\$52,753
1992	High school	Some college	College degree
Men	\$59,351	\$80,989	\$100,154
Women	\$50,695	\$64,080	\$77,898

**Figure 5. Median income (2001 dollars) of persons and families by year: United States**

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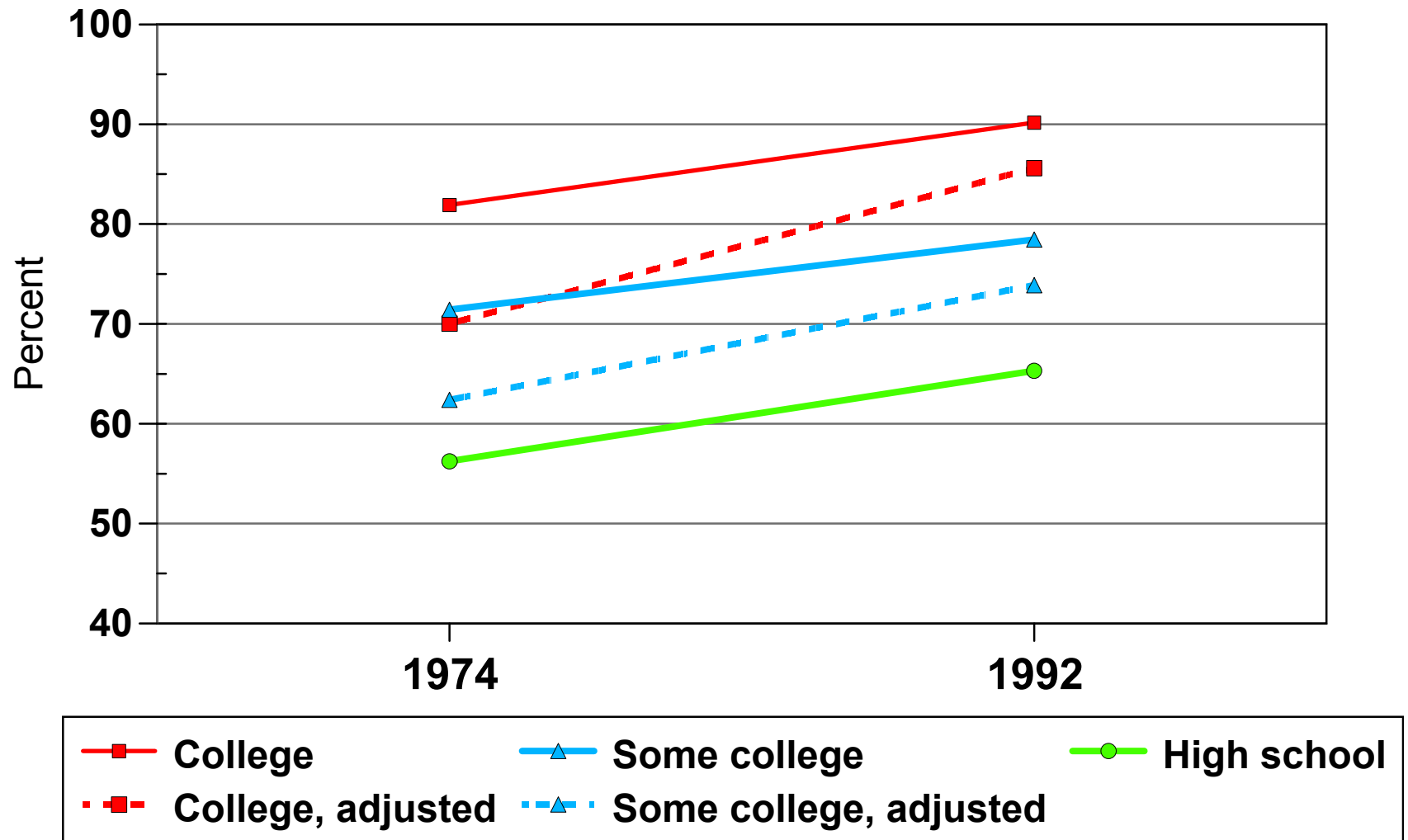
**Figure 6. Percentage of families with more than 150% of national median family income by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



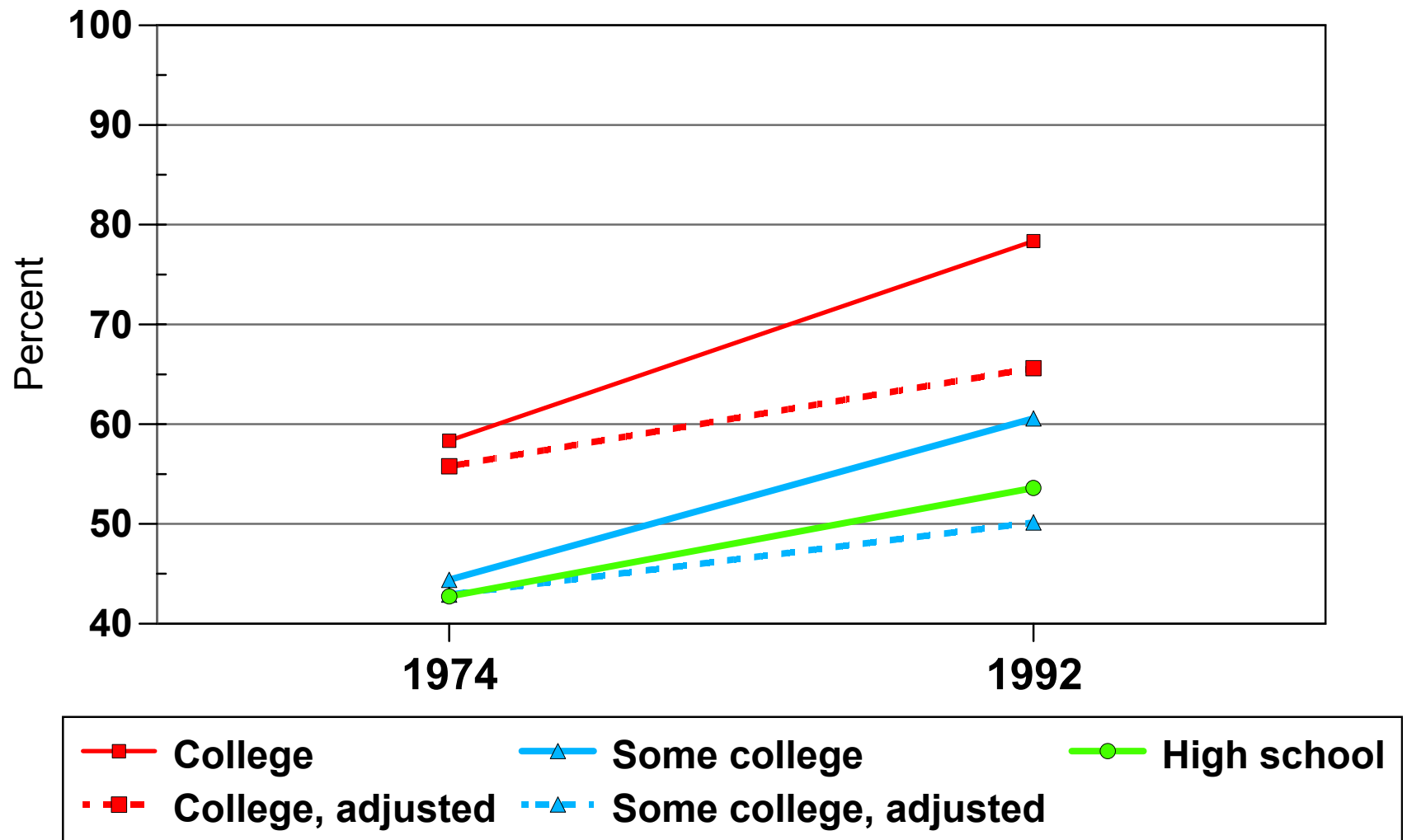
**Table 2. Median personal income in 2001 dollars by post-secondary schooling: WLS graduates**

	1974	High school	Some college	College degree
Men		\$40,821	\$46,787	\$56,522
N		2,280	574	1,184
Women		\$12,560	\$12,560	\$23,080
N		1,843	318	512
	1992	High school	Some college	College degree
Men		\$45,717	\$59,351	\$80,371
N		1,965	528	1,164
Women		\$21,886	\$25,966	\$42,658
N		2,444	495	711

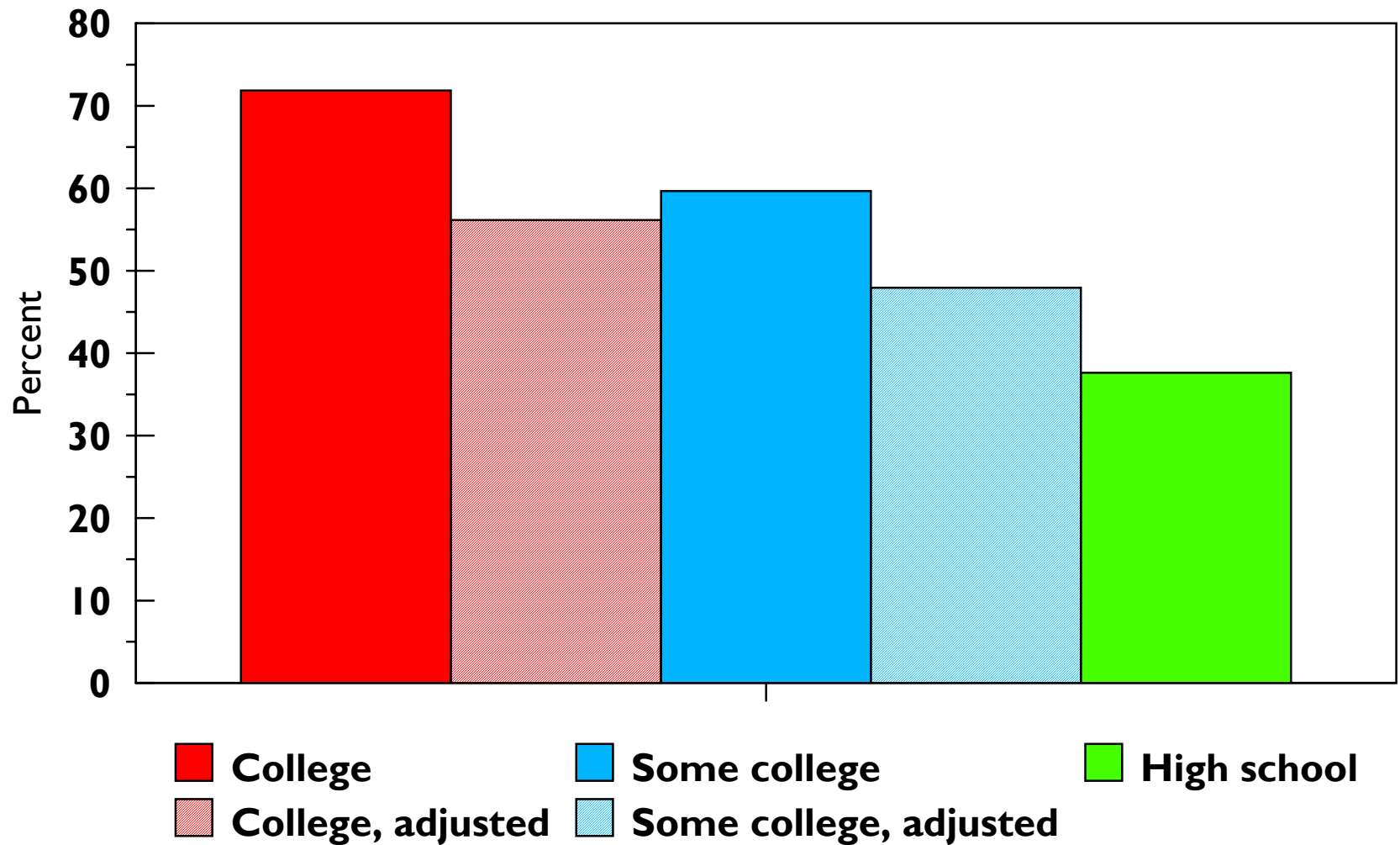
**Figure 7. Percentage of men with more than 150% of national median personal income by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



**Figure 8. Percentage of women with more than 150% of national median personal income by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**

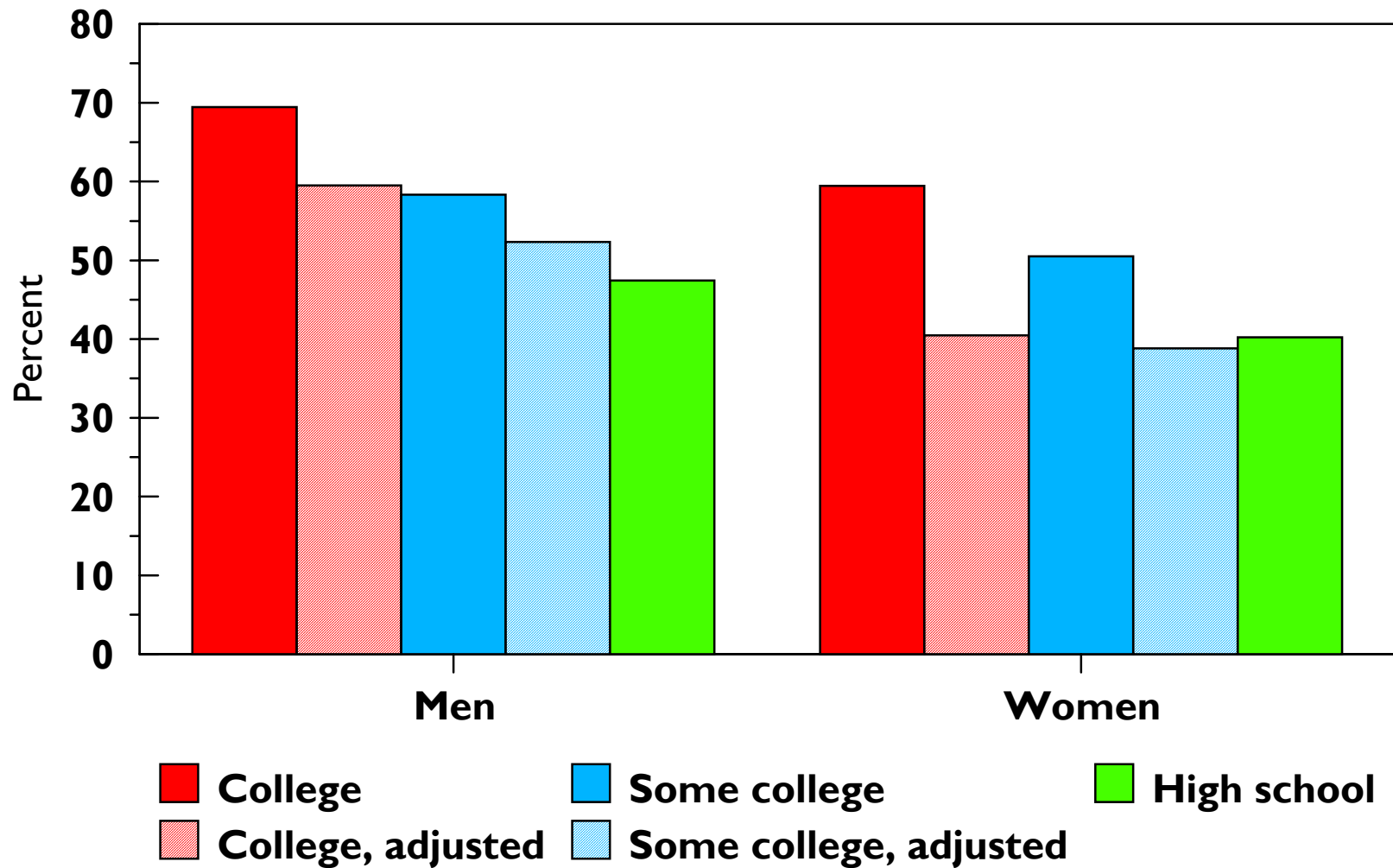


**Figure 9. Percentage of graduates owning homes worth more in 1992 than the WLS median (\$111,000 in 2001 dollars) by post-secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**

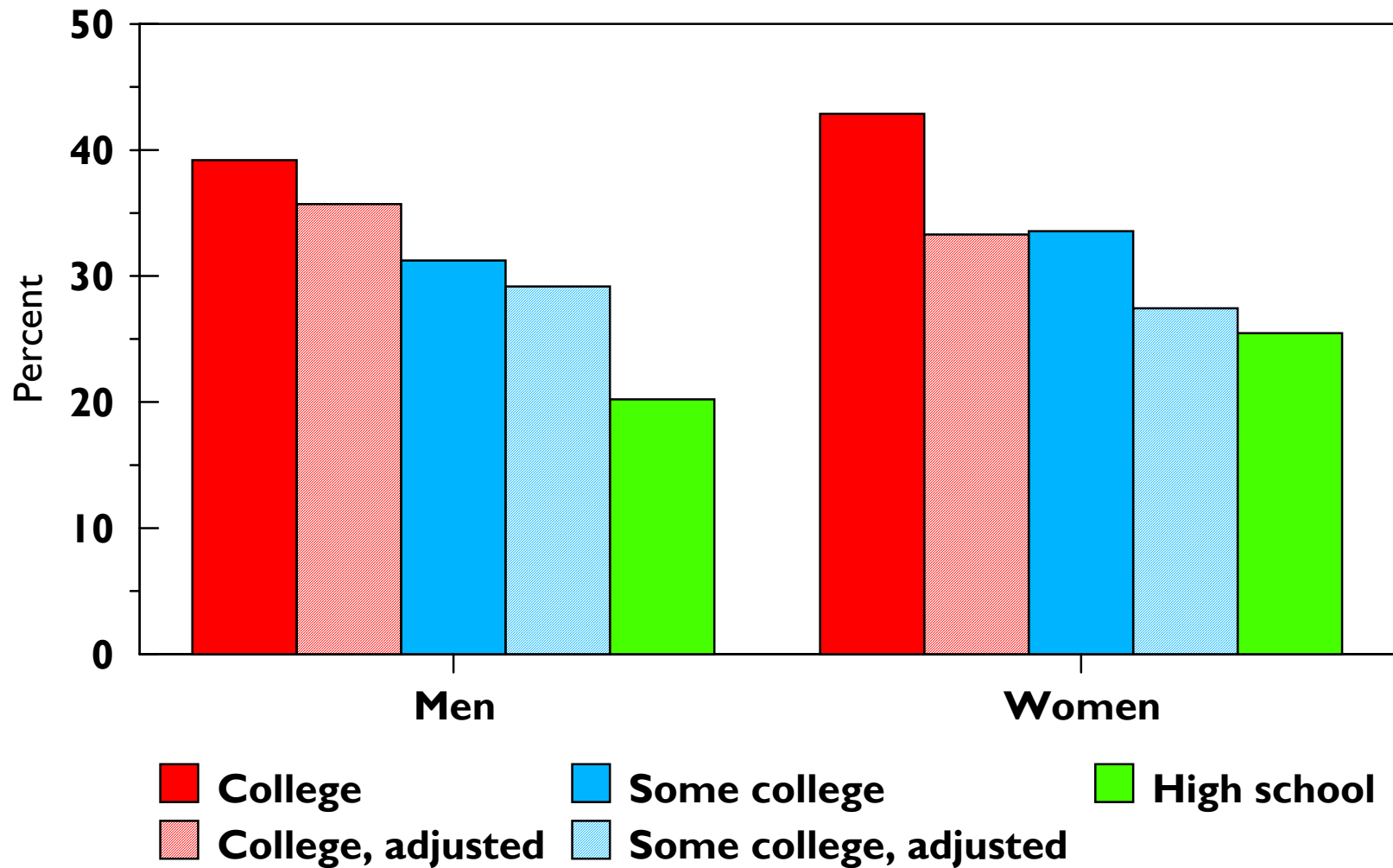




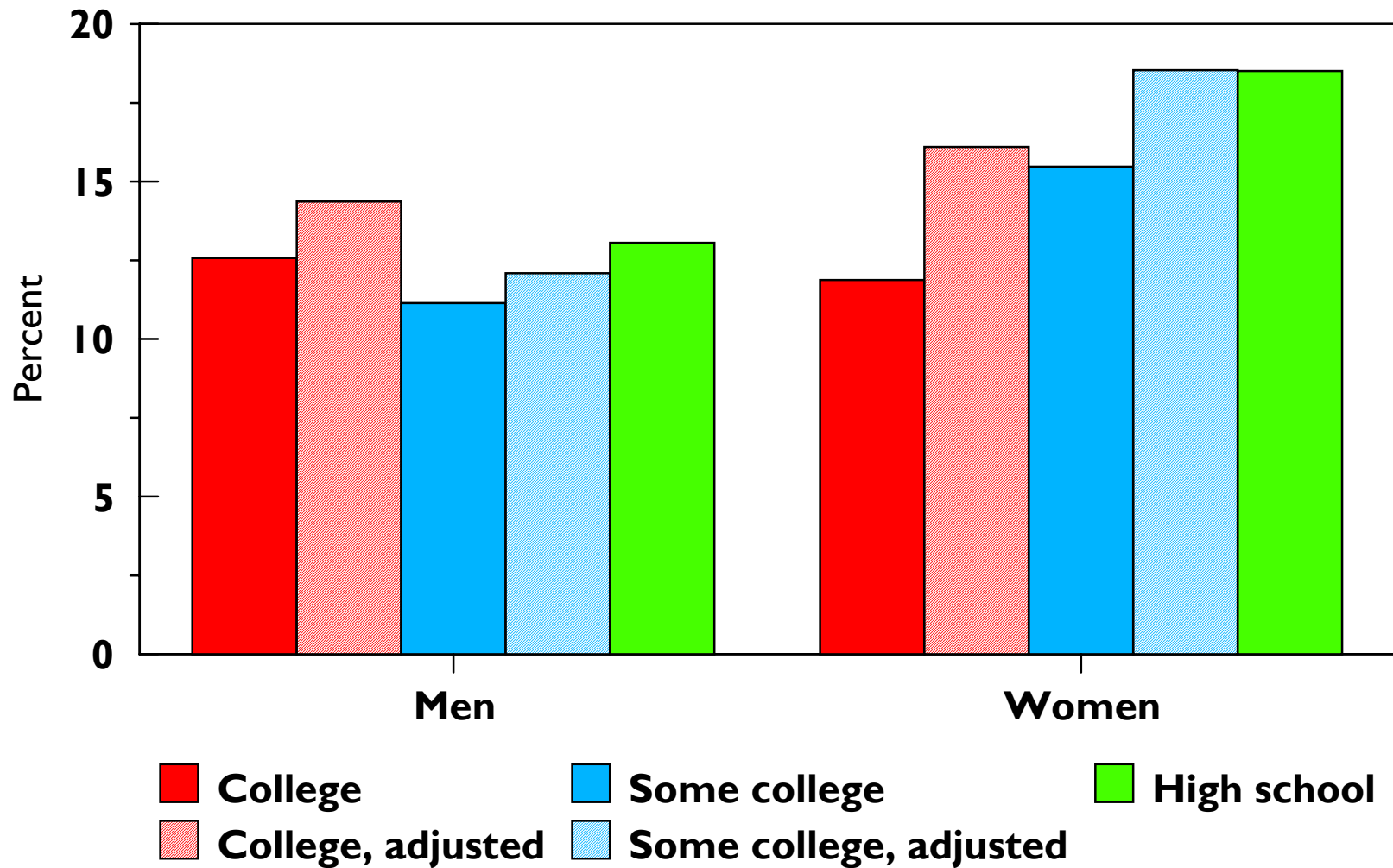
**Figure 10. Percentage of graduates with more net assets in 1992 than the WLS median (\$173,000 in 2001 dollars) by post-secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



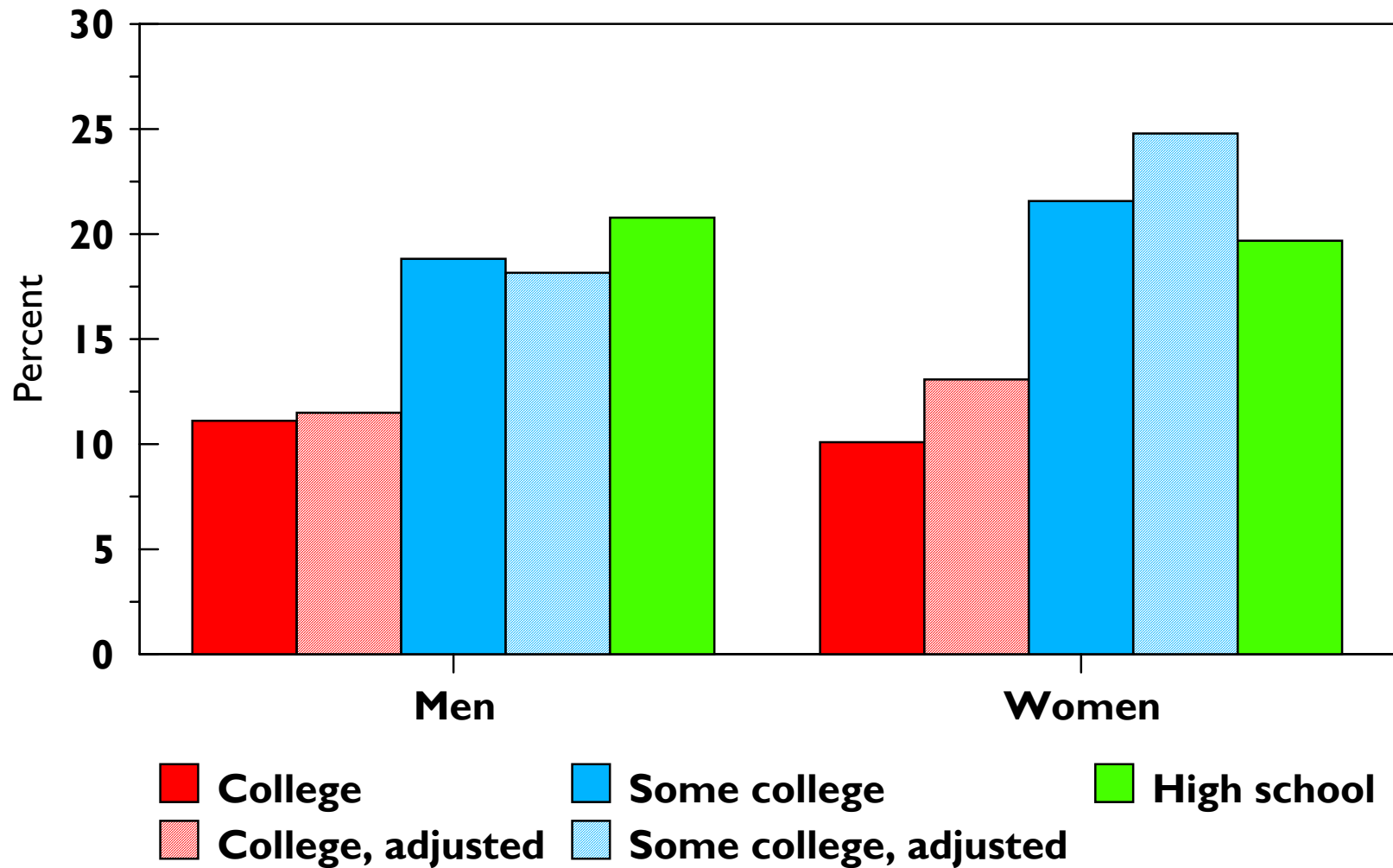
**Figure 11. Percentage of graduates with "excellent" self-reported health in 1992 by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



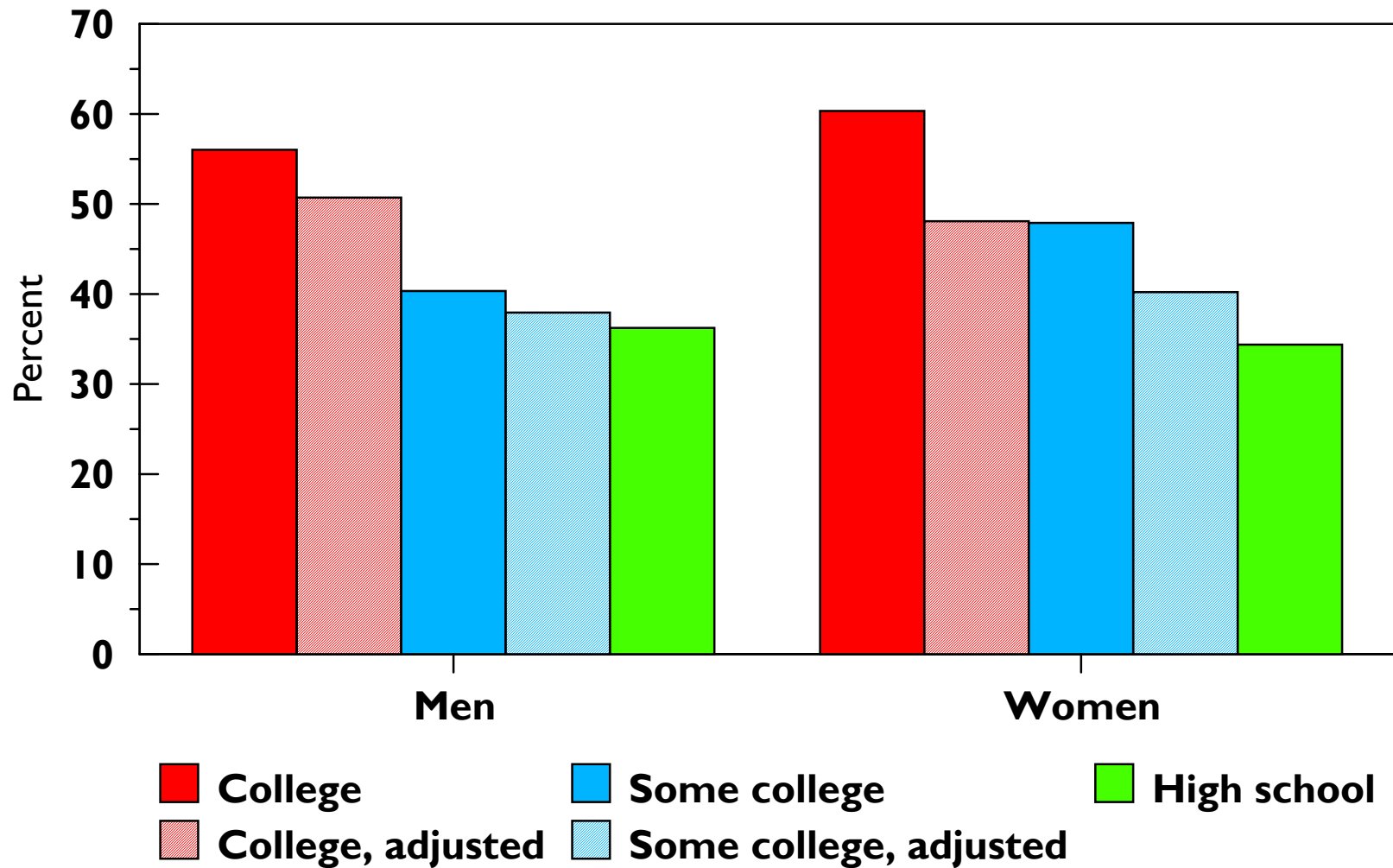
**Figure 12. Percentage of graduates with serious, self-reported depression in 1992 by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



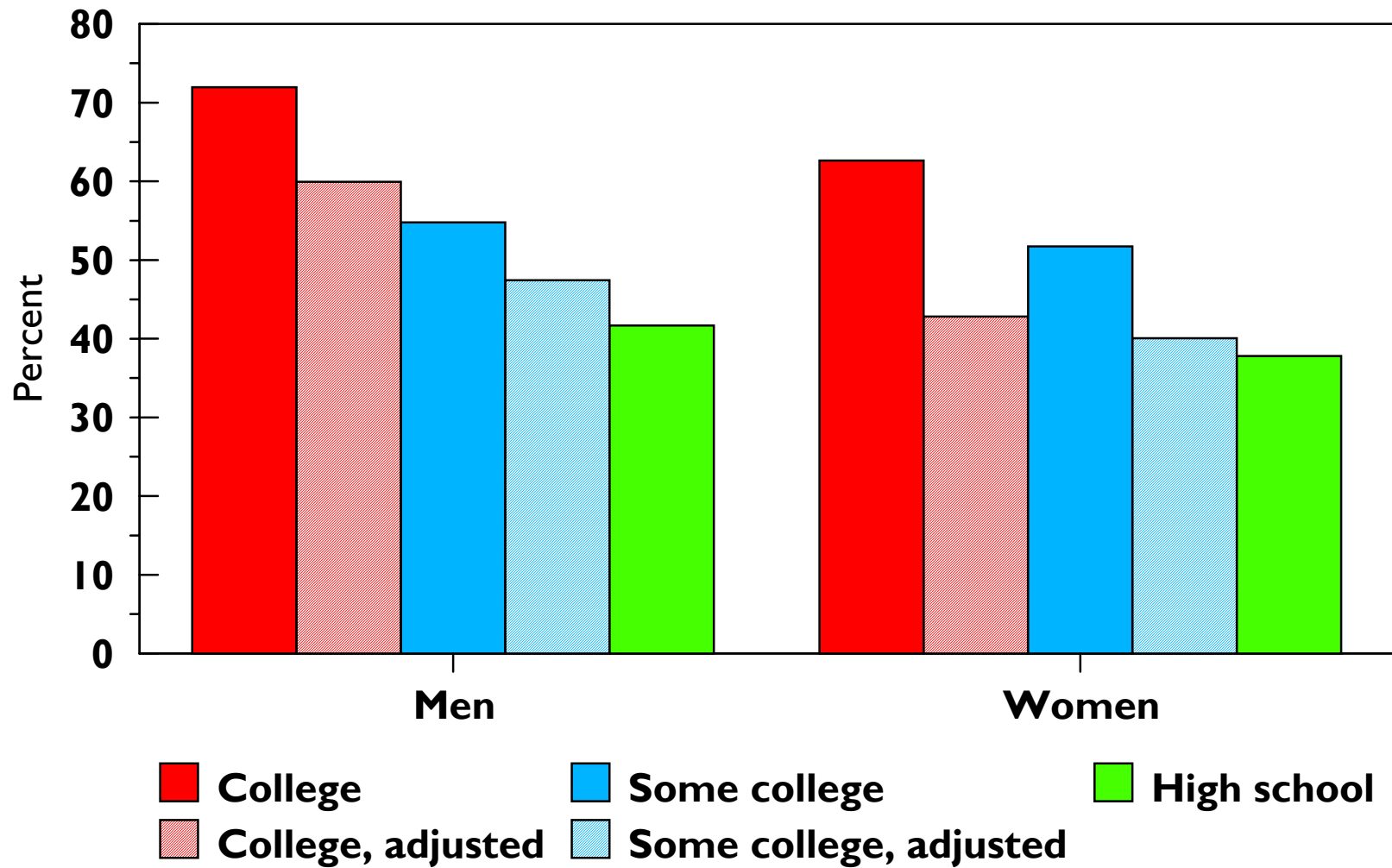
**Figure 13. Percentage of graduates who smoke cigarettes in 1992 by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



**Figure 14. Percentage of graduates who participated in more than one type of voluntary organization in 1992 by post-secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



**Figure 15. Percentage of graduates who gave more than \$500 to charities in 1992 by post- secondary education: Wisconsin high school class of 1957**



# Remember the "Happy Days"!

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