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Challenges Facing Youth Entering the Labor Market

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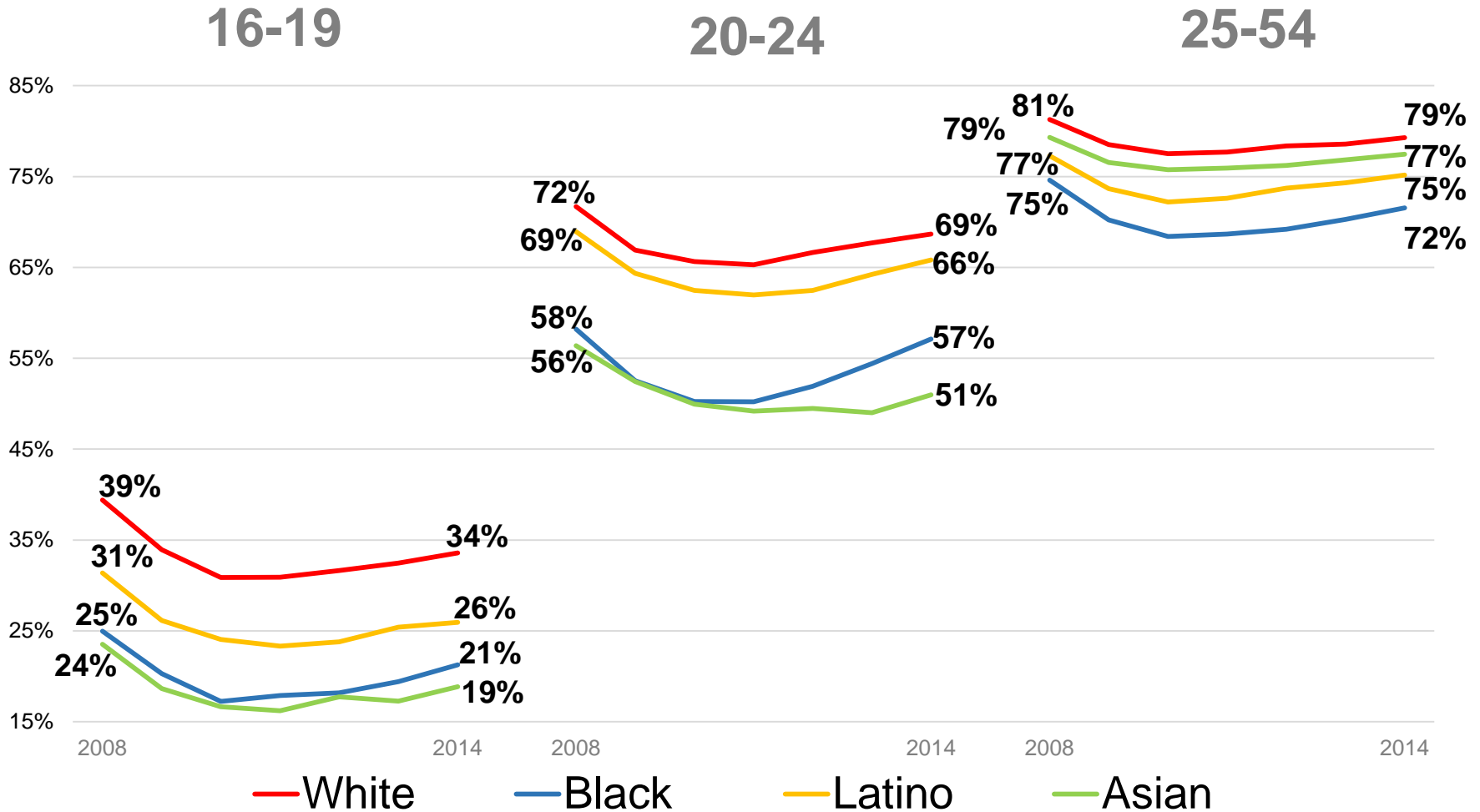
Challenges facing youth and young adults entering the labor market

Martha Ross

April 4, 2018

Among all races/ethnicities, employment rates start fairly low among teens and increase with age

Employment by race/ethnicity and age, 2008-2014, U.S.



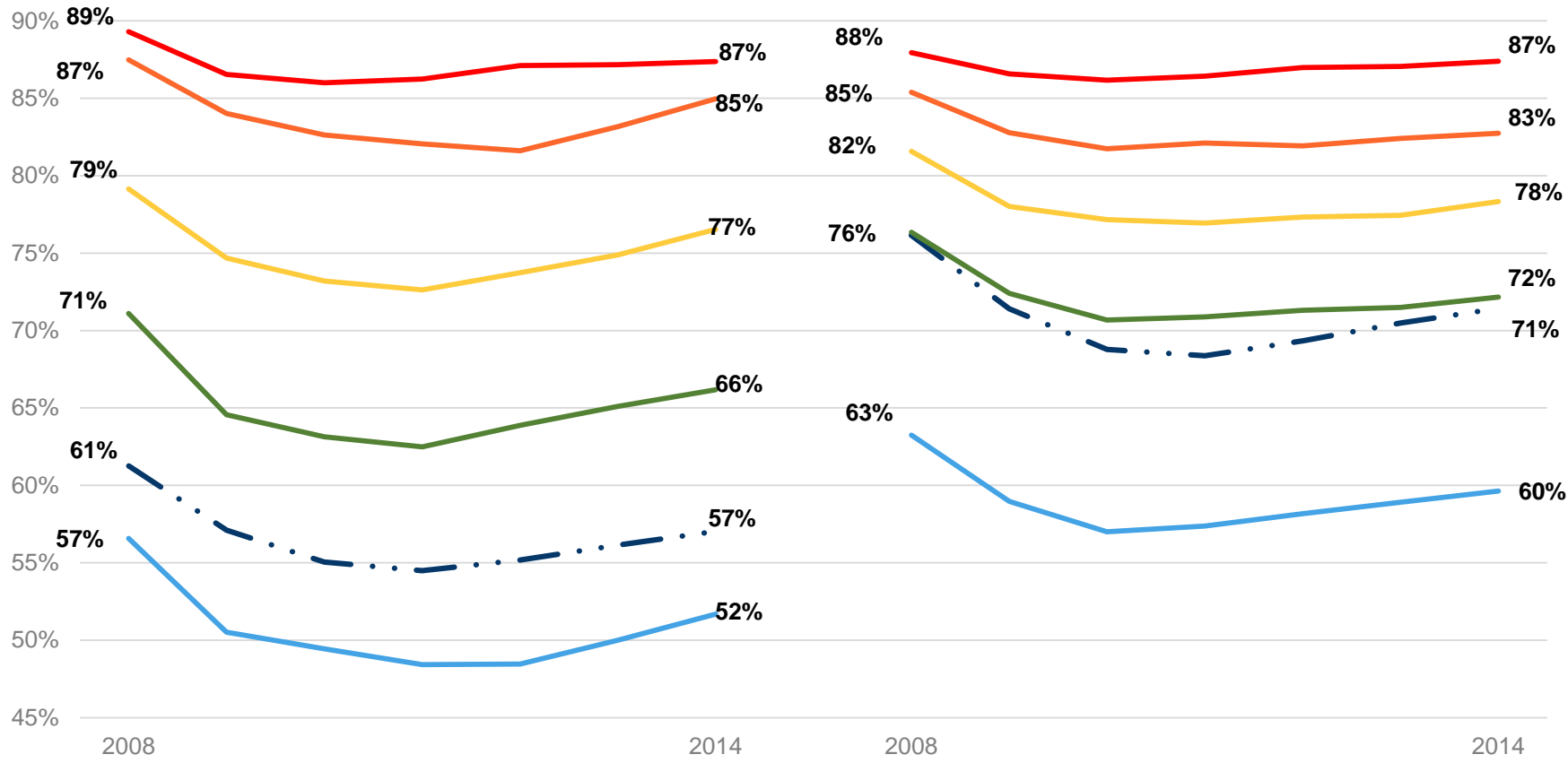
Source: Brookings analysis of American Community Survey Public Use Microdata

Employment rates vary by as much as 27 percentage points by educational attainment

Employment rate by educational attainment and age, U.S., 2008-2014

20-24

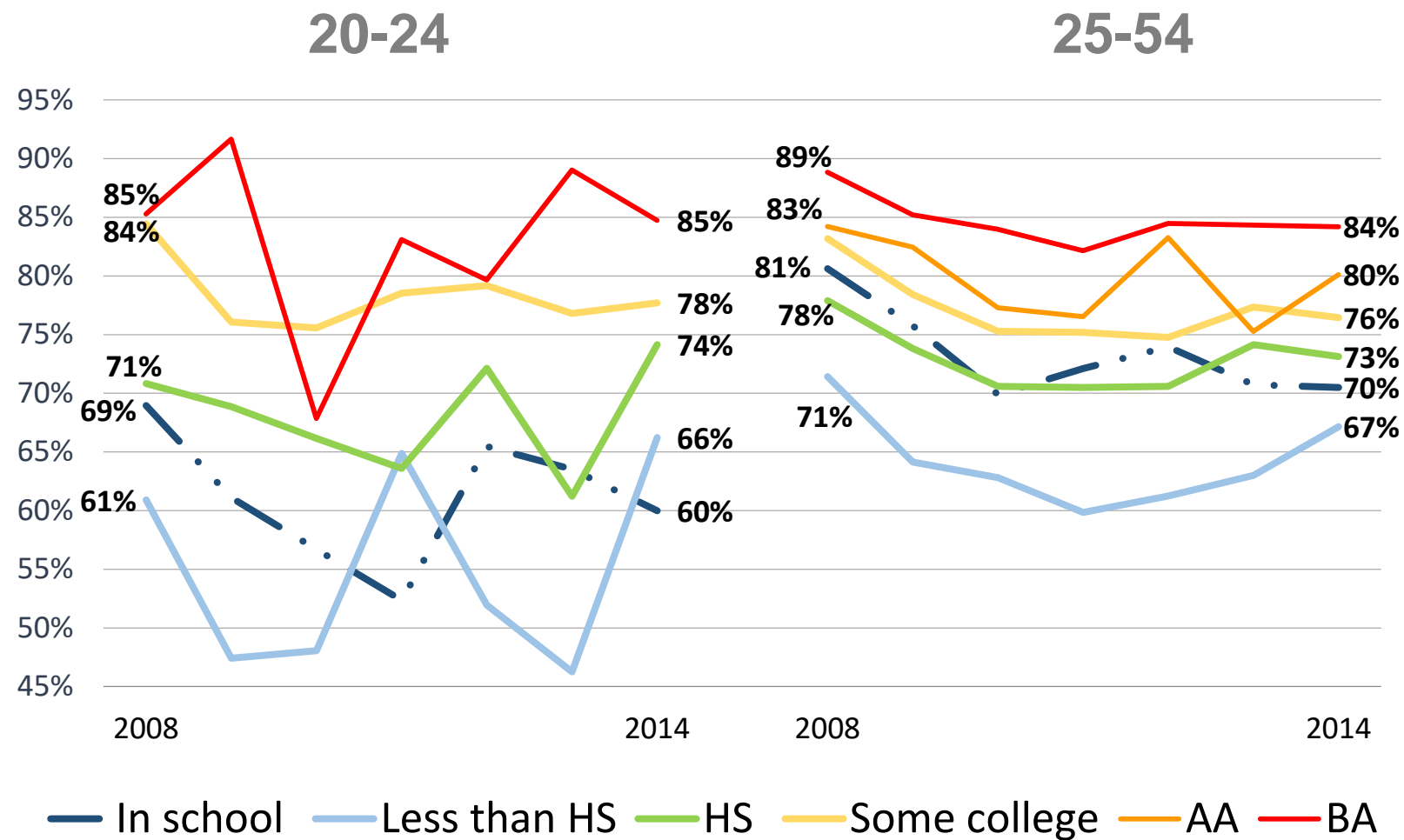
25-54



— In school — Less than HS — HS — Some college — AA — BA

The employment/ed pattern holds in the Las Vegas metro, though the differences aren't quite as great

Employment rate by educational attainment and age, Las Vegas metro, 2008-2014



THE EDUCATION PIPELINE

How many 18-24 year-olds are on track to a post-secondary credential?

52%

ATTENDING SCHOOL

9%
high school

41%
college/
post secondary

2%
graduate
school

8%

NOT IN SCHOOL,
HAS A COLLEGE DEGREE

6%
B.A.

2%
A.A.

40% ⚠️

NOT IN SCHOOL, NO COLLEGE DEGREE

11%
some college

22%
high school
diploma

7%
less than
high school



Fewer young adults in Las Vegas and Clark County are in school than the national average

Educational status of 18-24 year-olds

	In school	Not in school, has AA/BA	Not in school, no degree
U.S.	52%	8%	40%
Las Vegas	38%	5%	57%
Clark	40%	5%	56%

Most young adults who are not in school are working, but others are disconnected

	In school	Not in school	
		<i>Working</i>	<i>Not working</i>
U.S.	52%	33%	15%
Las Vegas	38%	41%	21%
Clark	40%	41%	19%

Most young adults who have left school and are working have a high school diploma or less

	Working and not in school				
	<i>Less than HS</i>	<i>HS</i>	<i>Some college</i>	<i>AA</i>	<i>BA</i>
U.S.	10%	42%	26%	6%	16%
Las Vegas	16%	47%	28%	n/a	6%
Clark	16%	47%	28%	3%	7%

The majority of the out-of-work have a high school diploma or less

	Out of work 18-24-year-olds			Out of work 25-64-year-olds		
	<i>HS or less</i>	<i>Some college</i>	<i>AA/BA</i>	<i>HS or less</i>	<i>Some college</i>	<i>AA/BA</i>
U.S.	65%	26%	9%	55%	20%	24%
Las Vegas	69%	25%	6%	58%	22%	20%
Clark	78%	18%	4%	55%	24%	21%

We need more and better options to help young people move from school to work

- Much stronger advising in HS and college
- Dual enrollment programs that allow high school students to earn college credits
- Redesigned high schools to better prepare students for both post-secondary education and careers
- Reforms within community colleges to increase graduation rates

We need more and better options to help young people move from school to work

- Stronger pathways into the labor market: work-based learning in high school, sector strategies tailored to young adults, and apprenticeships
- Changes in employer behavior, such as increased partnerships with education and training institutions and recruitment focused on skills rather than degrees