

What have We Learned About Educational Attainment?

February 2017

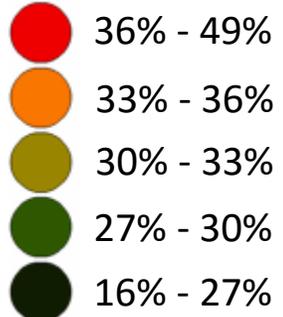
Atlanta Regional Commission

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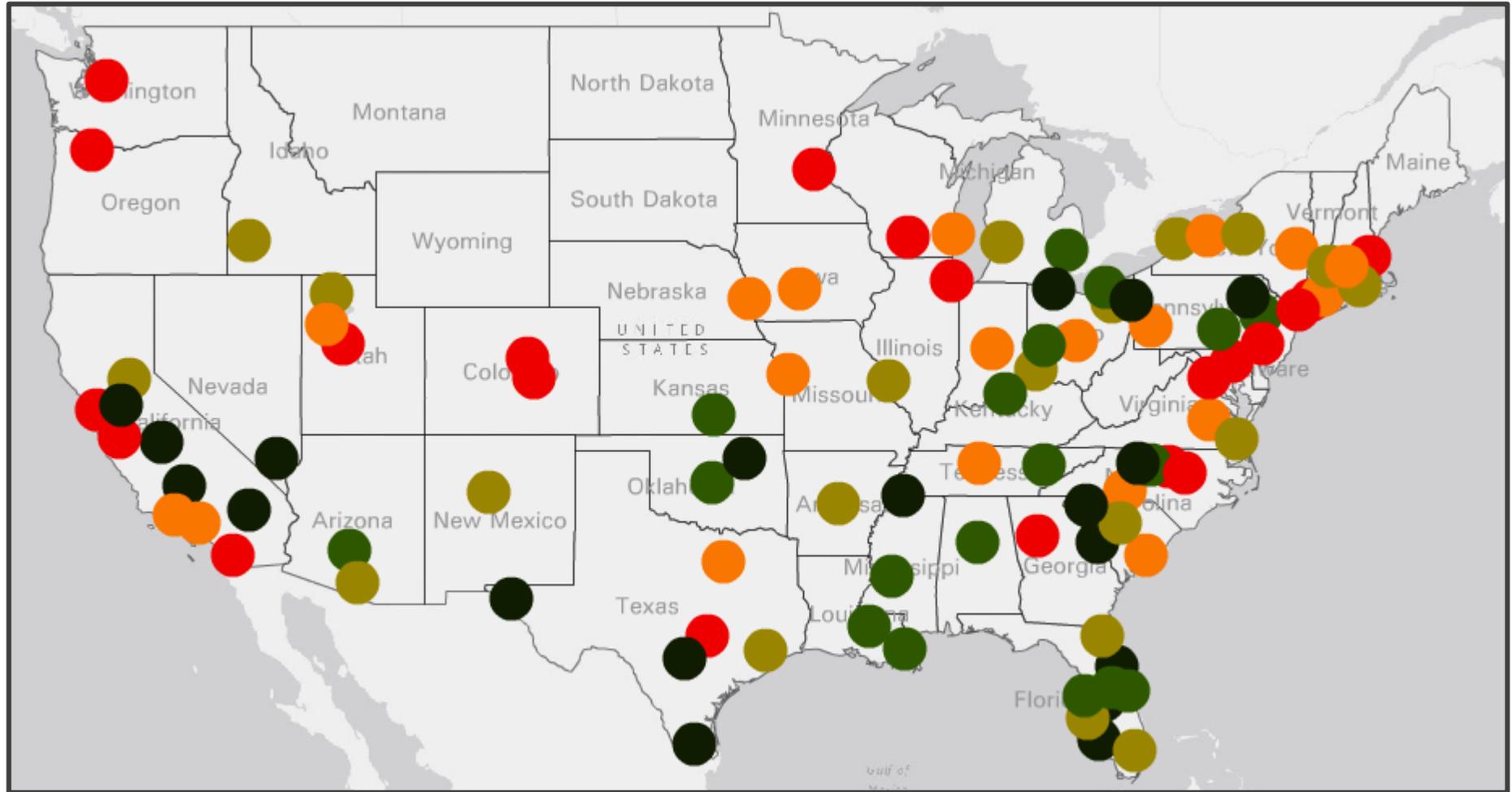
Most Educated Metros- 2015

% Population with Bachelor's degree or higher, 2015



Top 10 metros:

Washington, DC	49%
San Jose, CA	49%
San Francisco, CA	47%
Bridgeport, CT	46%
Boston, MA	46%
Durham, NC	45%
Raleigh, NC	44%
Madison, WI	44%
Austin, TX	43%
Denver, CO	42%
(Atlanta, #19)	37%



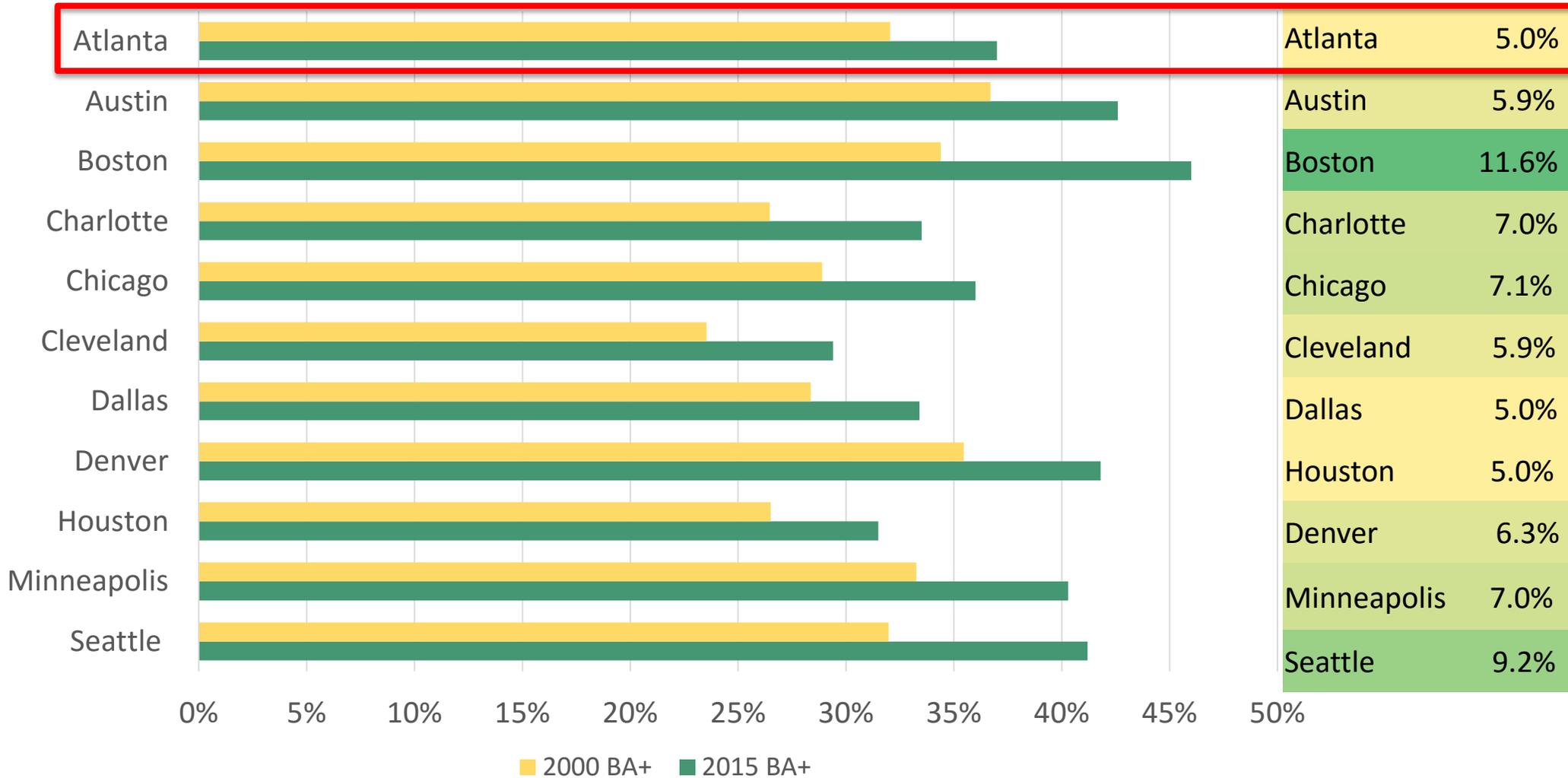
Metro Atlanta is an educated place. About 37 percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, which ranks in the top 20 of all metros.



Change in Selected Metros: 2000-2015

Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2000 & 2015

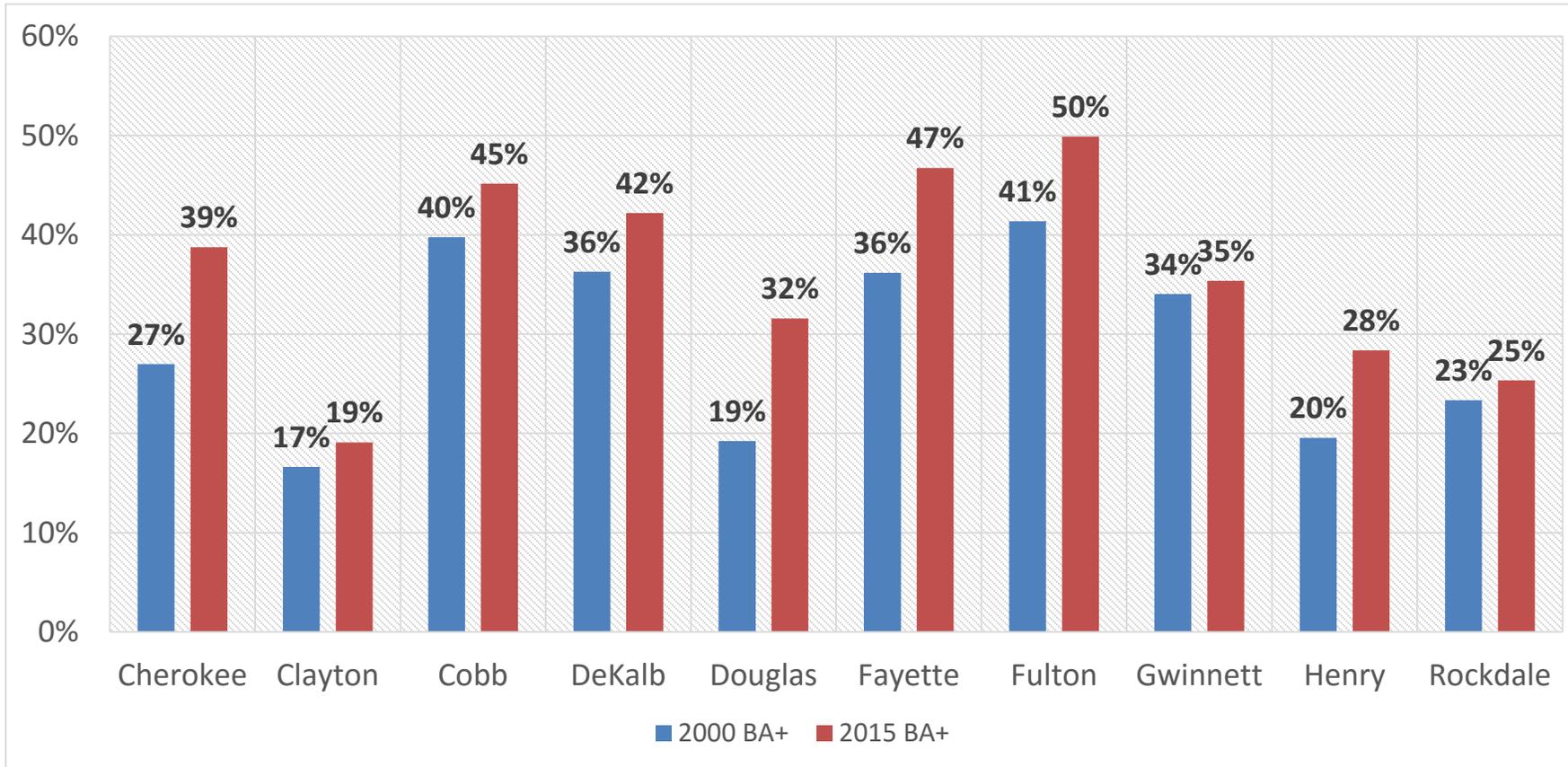
% Change 2000-2015



Among some selected peer metros, Atlanta has seen one of the smallest increases in adults with at least a bachelor's degree, on par with the increases seen in Dallas and Houston, the other so-called sunbelt metros on this list.



10-County Region: Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Levels of education attainment vary throughout the region

2000: Highest and lowest % with BA+	
Fulton	41%
Clayton	17%

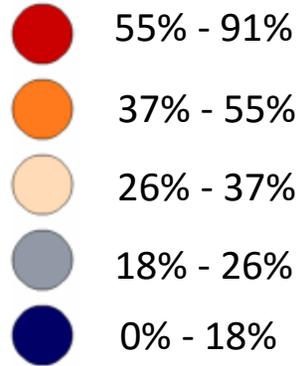
2015: Highest and lowest % with BA+	
Fulton	50%
Clayton	19%

In looking locally at educational attainment, some counties in the Atlanta region have experienced significant increases in the percentage of those with at least a bachelor's degree. Douglas County, for example, has experienced a 13 percentage-point increase in those with at least a bachelor's degree since 2000, tops in the region. Cherokee also experienced a significant increase (+12 percentage points). Overall, though, Fulton leads the region in the percentage of those with at least a bachelor's degree.

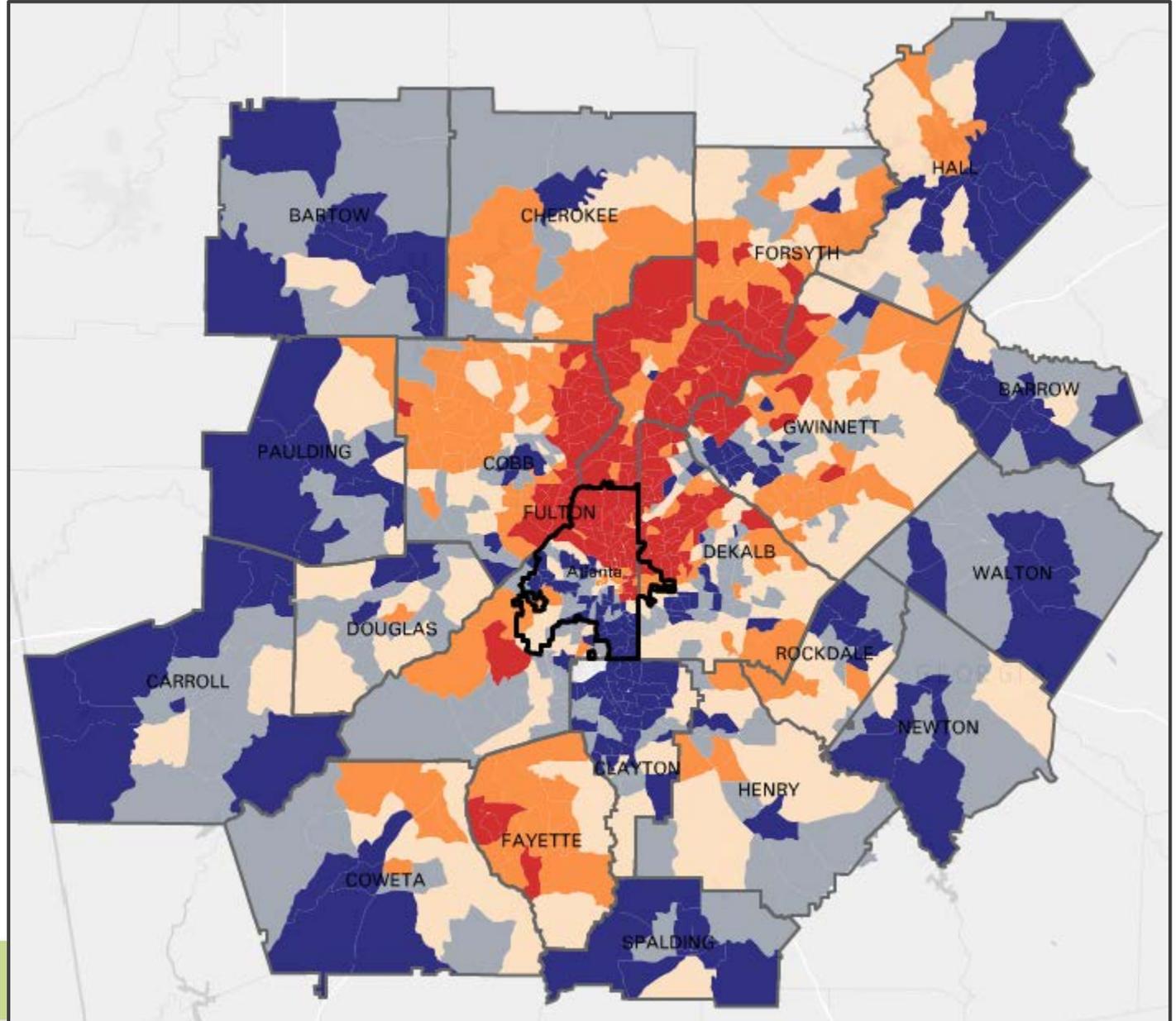


Where do residents with the highest educational attainment live?

% Population with a Bachelor's degree or higher (2011-2015 average)



The heaviest concentrations of residents with at least a Bachelor's degree are in the northern part of the City of Atlanta, extending upwards through Fulton, Forsyth, and Cobb counties



What neighborhoods added the most educated residents?

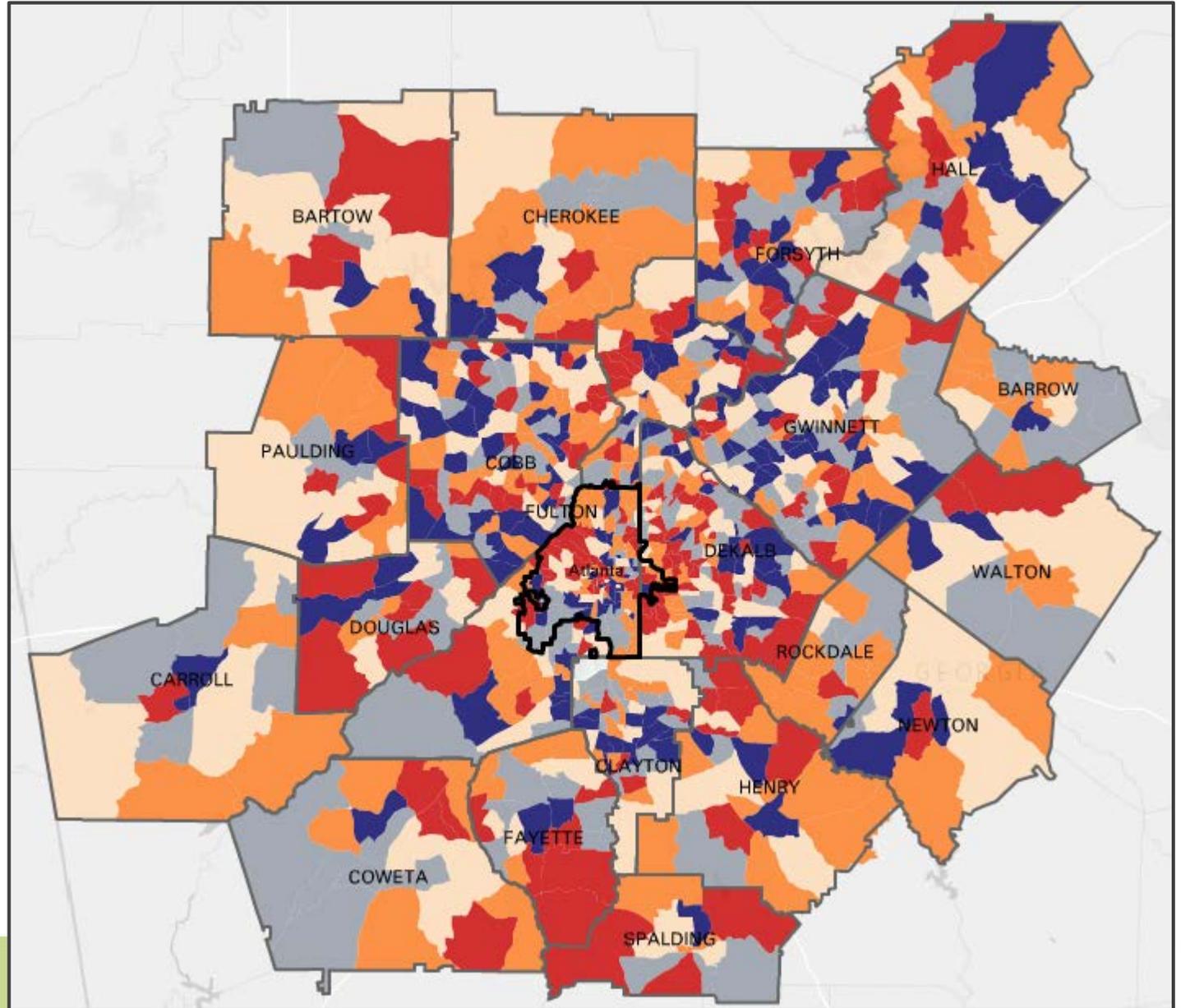
Percentage Point Change in Population with a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2006-2010 average & 2011-2015 average)



By looking at these two distinct 5-year averages from the American Community Survey, we can compare change.

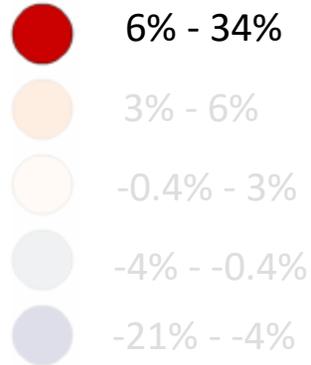
The areas in red experienced the greatest increase in residents with at least a Bachelor's degree, although there is no clear pattern, as there are areas in nearly every county that both lost and gained educated residents.

Note: We did not include tests of statistical significance for this map. Thus several areas that show change might actually fall within the margins of error.



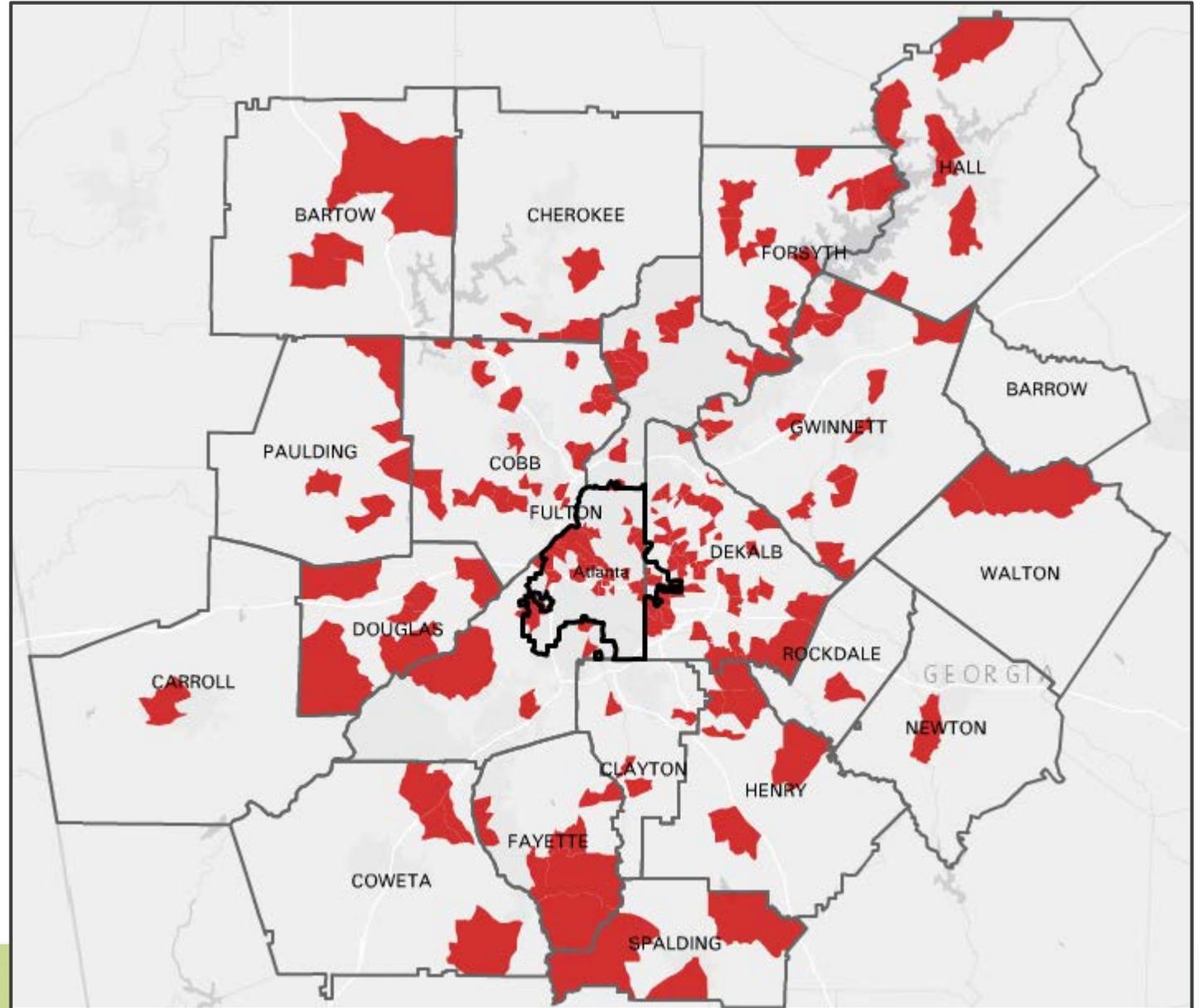
What neighborhoods added the most educated residents?

% Change in population with a Bachelor's degree or higher (2006-2010 average & 2011-2015 average)



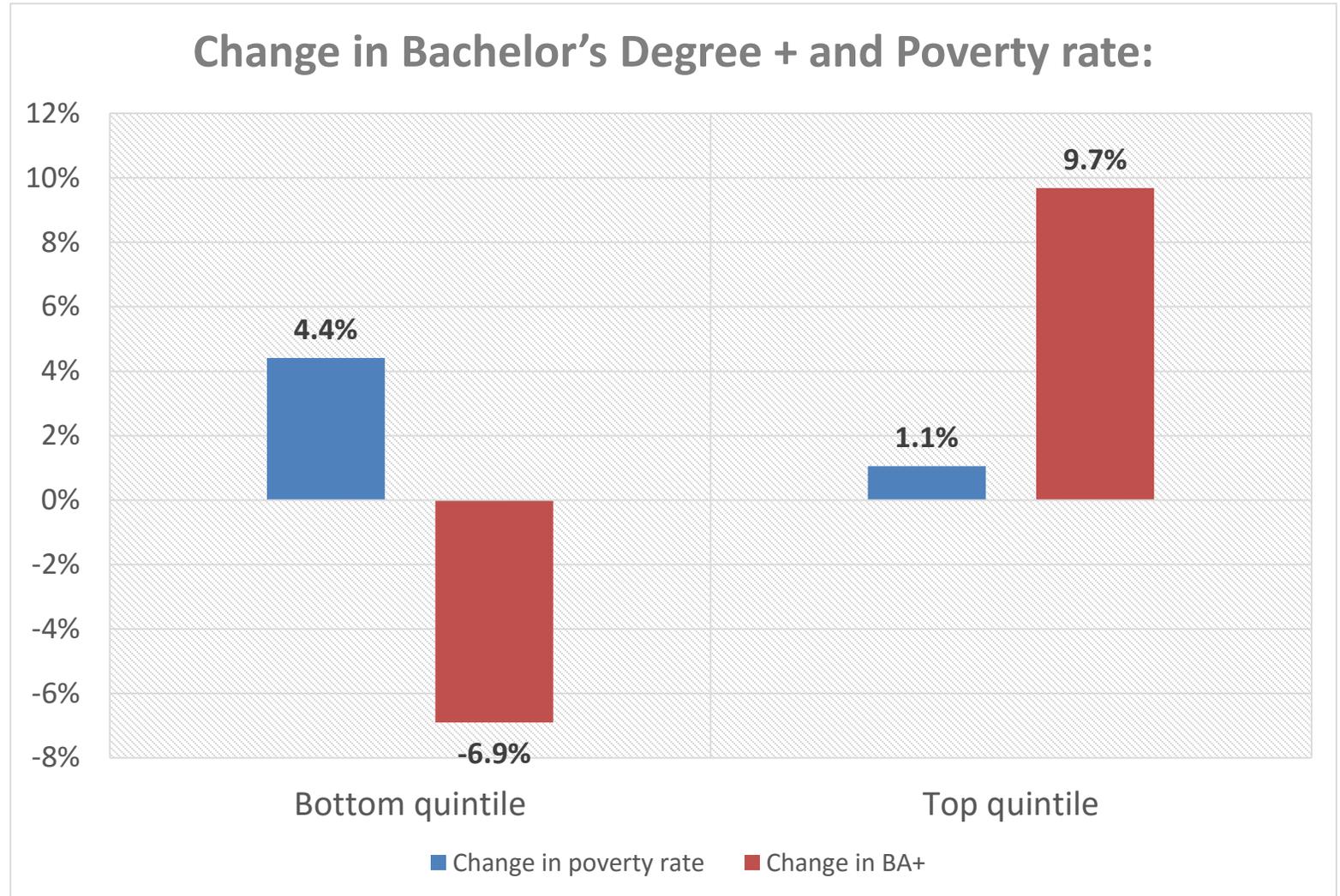
These red areas are the *top quintile*, or the top 20% that experienced the greatest percentage-point increases in residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

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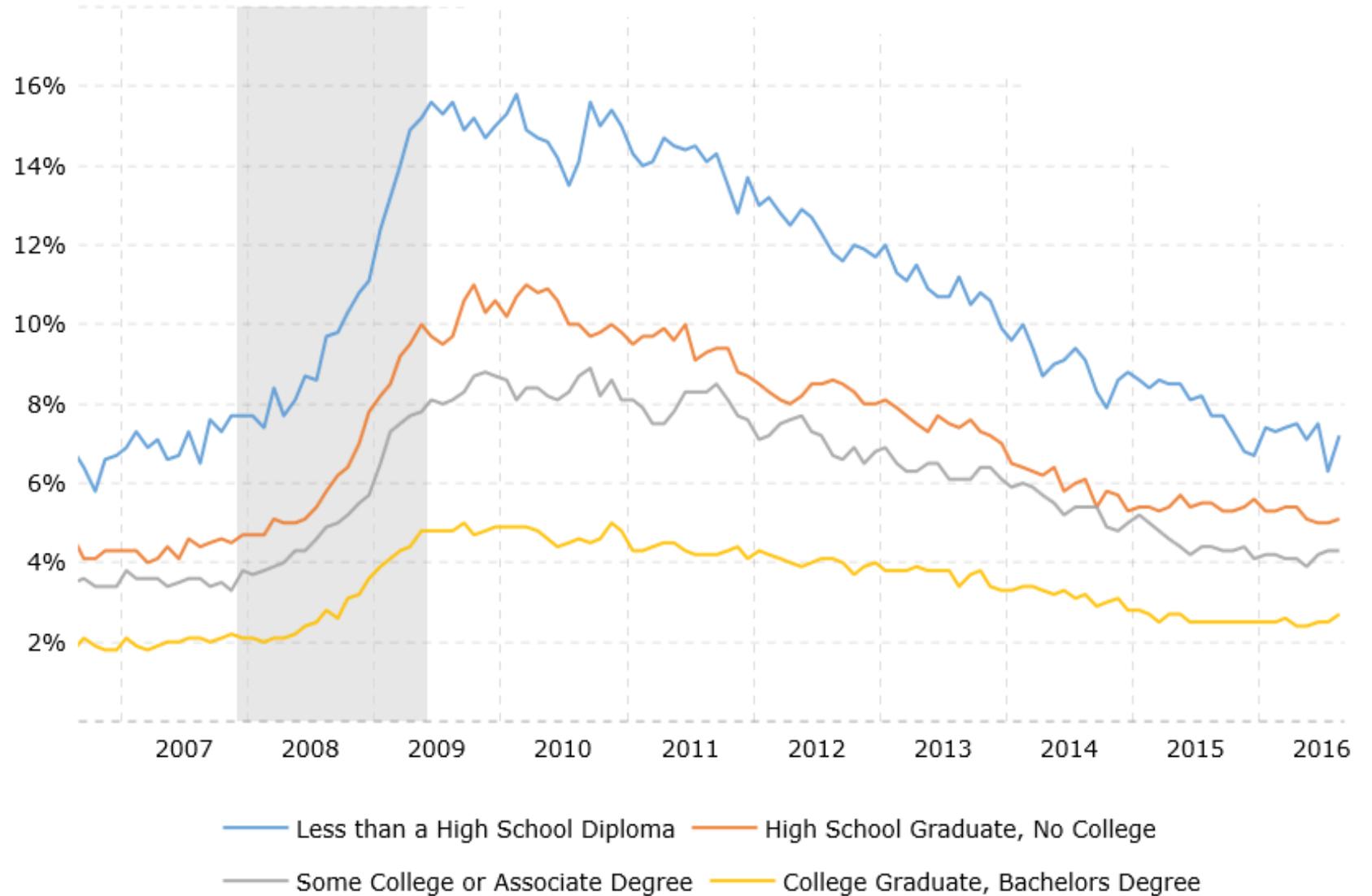
How are educational attainment and income linked?

The poverty rate for those areas in the *top quintile for change* (i.e. the areas that had the greatest increase in BA+ residents) went up only one percentage point, while the poverty rate in the *bottom quintile* (greatest decrease in BA+ residents) had a 4.4 percentage-point increase in the poverty rate. This pattern shows how poverty rate and educational attainment are linked.



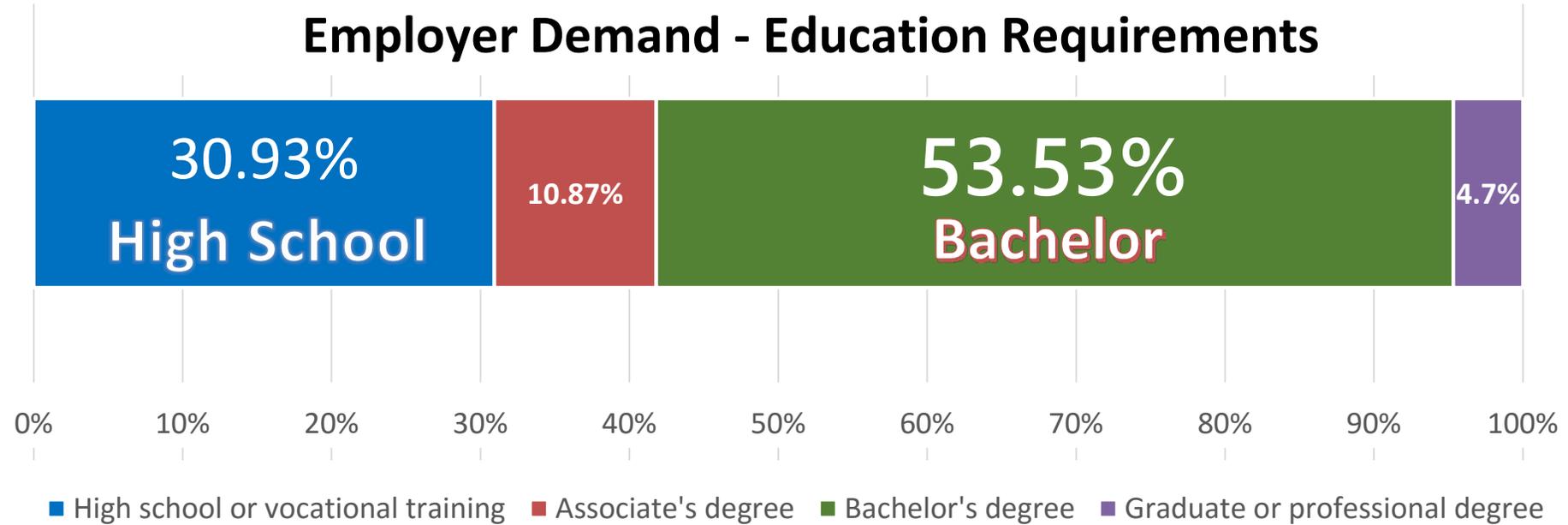
Unemployment Rate by Education Level

This graph shows national-level data on the relationship between unemployment and educational attainment. Those with at least a bachelor's degree have consistently had the lowest unemployment rates.



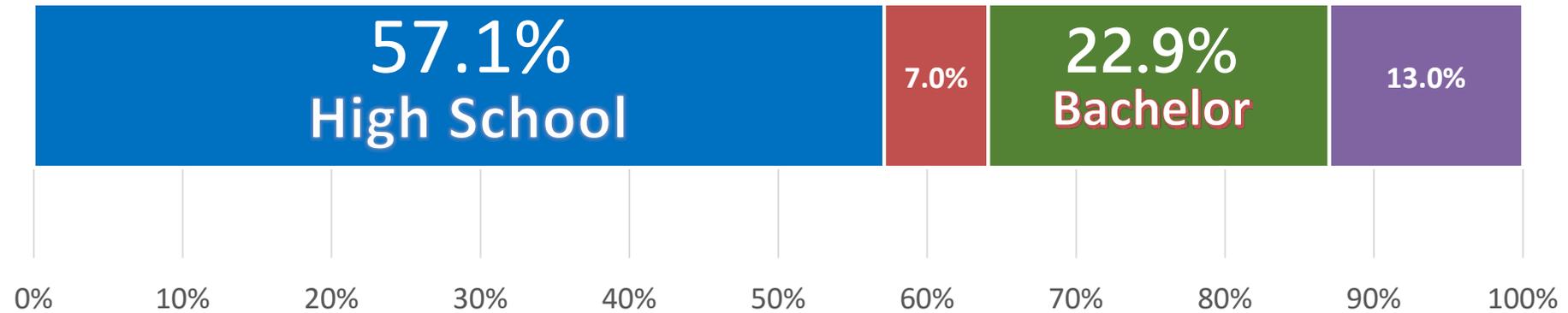
Educational Mismatch

Employer Demand - Education Requirements



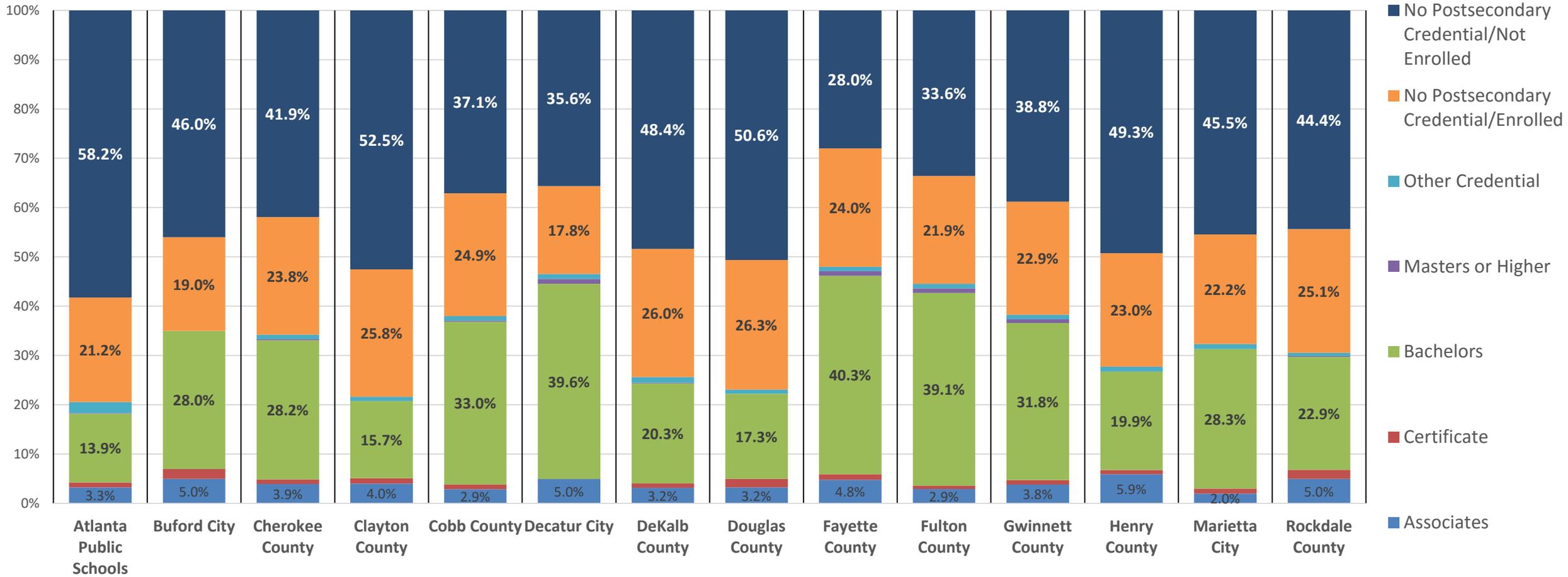
In looking at the education that employers are seeking in job postings, approximately 58 percent of these postings *require* at least a bachelor's degree, but only 36 percent of the adult population *has* at least a bachelor's degree.

There is thus a gap in the education level that employers are seeking and the education level that the current workforce has.



Population 25+ - Educational Attainment

Highest Postsecondary Credential Earned After Five Years



As is the case for educational attainment overall, there is a wide range of outcomes for high school graduates at the local school district level. In Fayette County schools, for example, some 40 percent of the graduating class of 2010 had earned a bachelor's degree by 2015, which is the highest rate in the region.