

Reaching for a Healthier Life

Facts on Socioeconomic Status and Health in the U.S.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Research Network on Socioeconomic Status and Health

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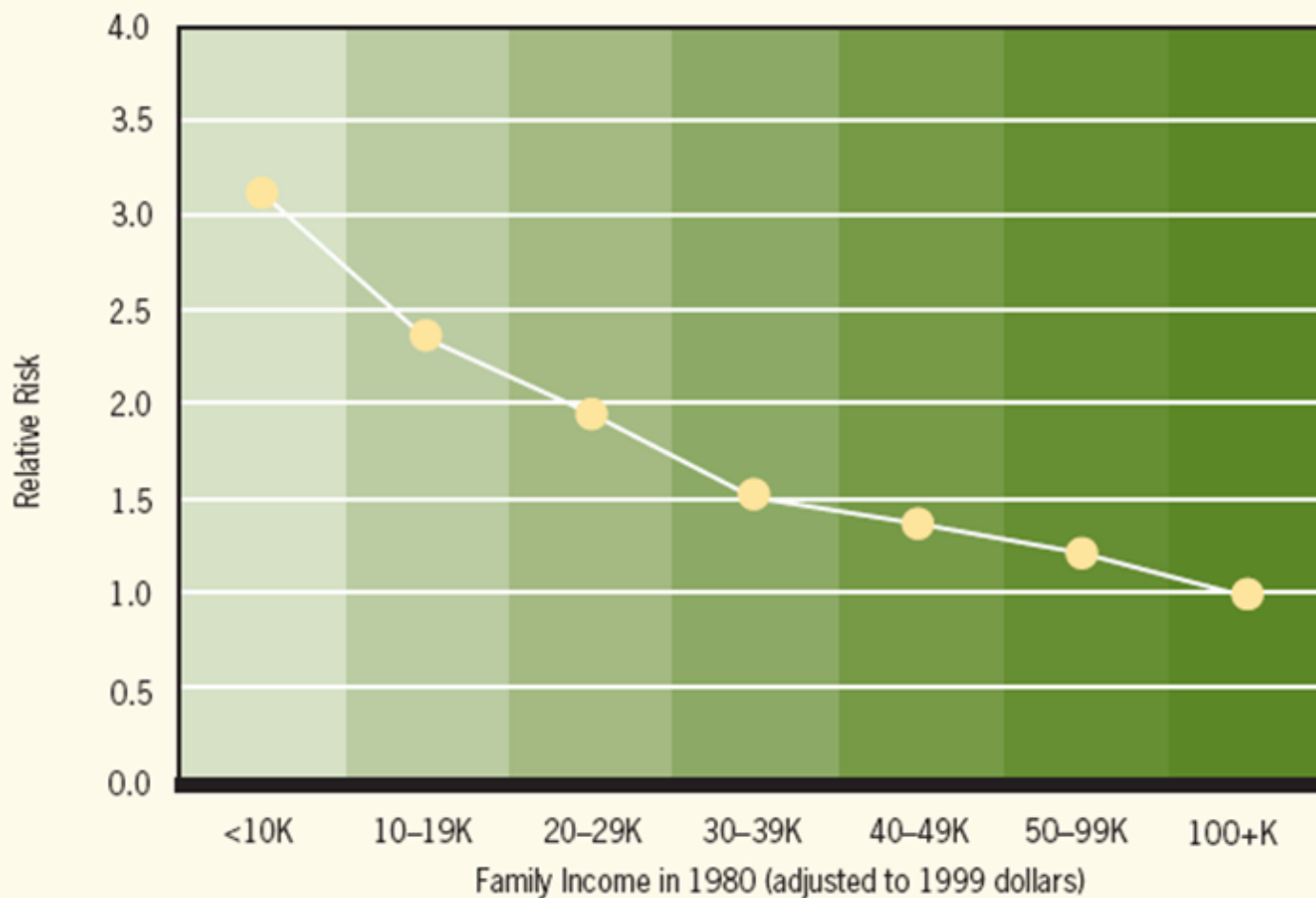


Figure 1. Relative Risk of Premature Death by Family Income (U.S. Population).

*Age and sex-adjusted relative risk of dying prior to age 65
Based on 9-year mortality data from the National Longitudinal Mortality Survey

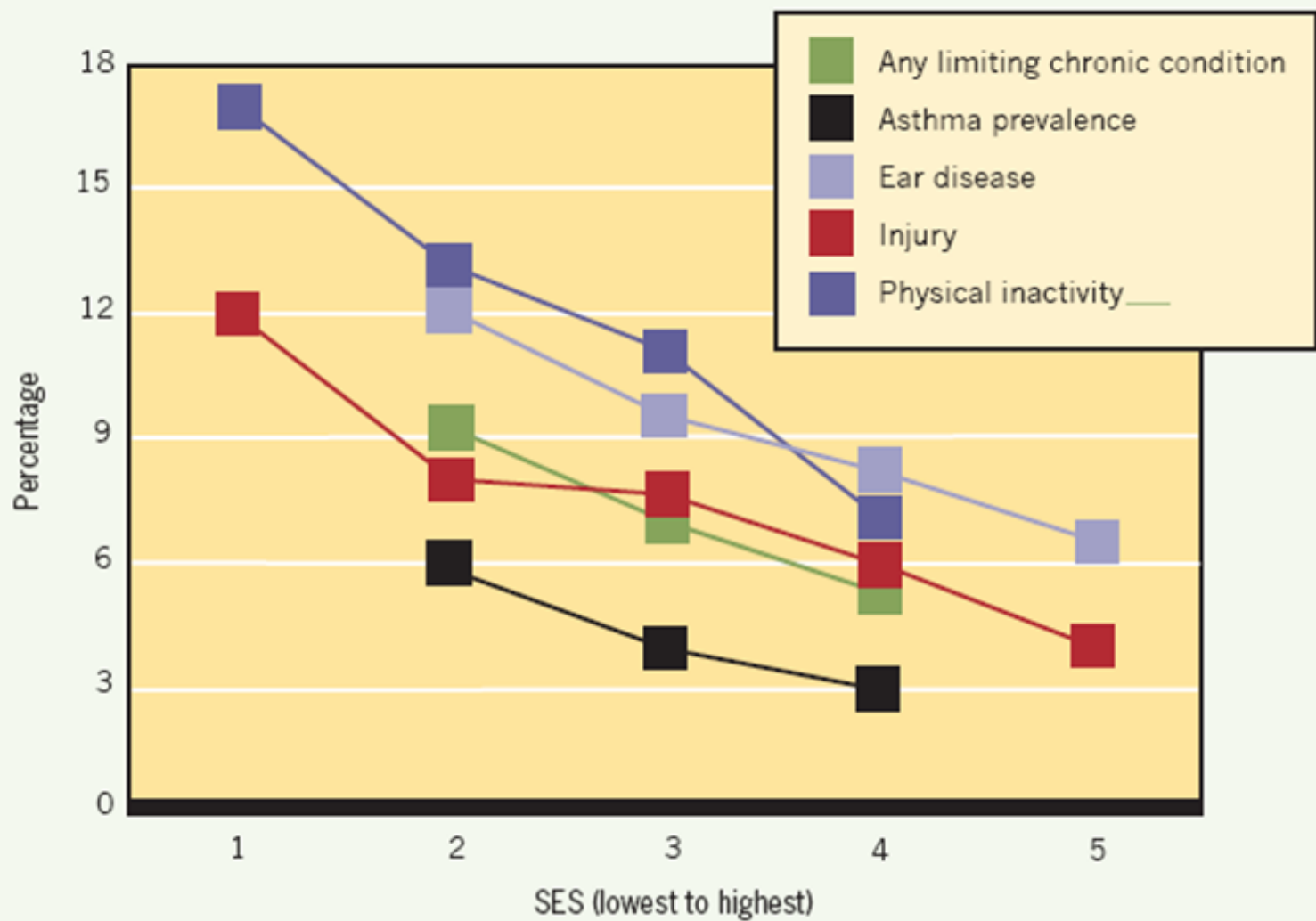


Figure 3. Prevalence of Health Problems in Children.

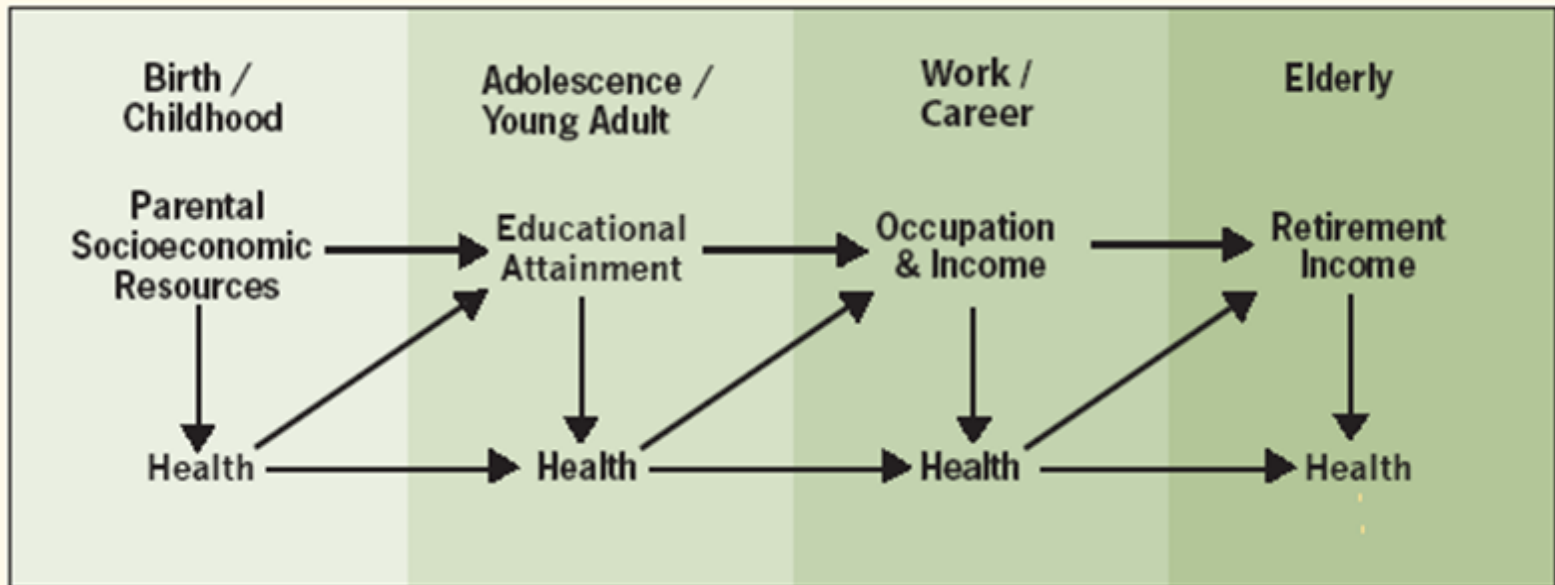
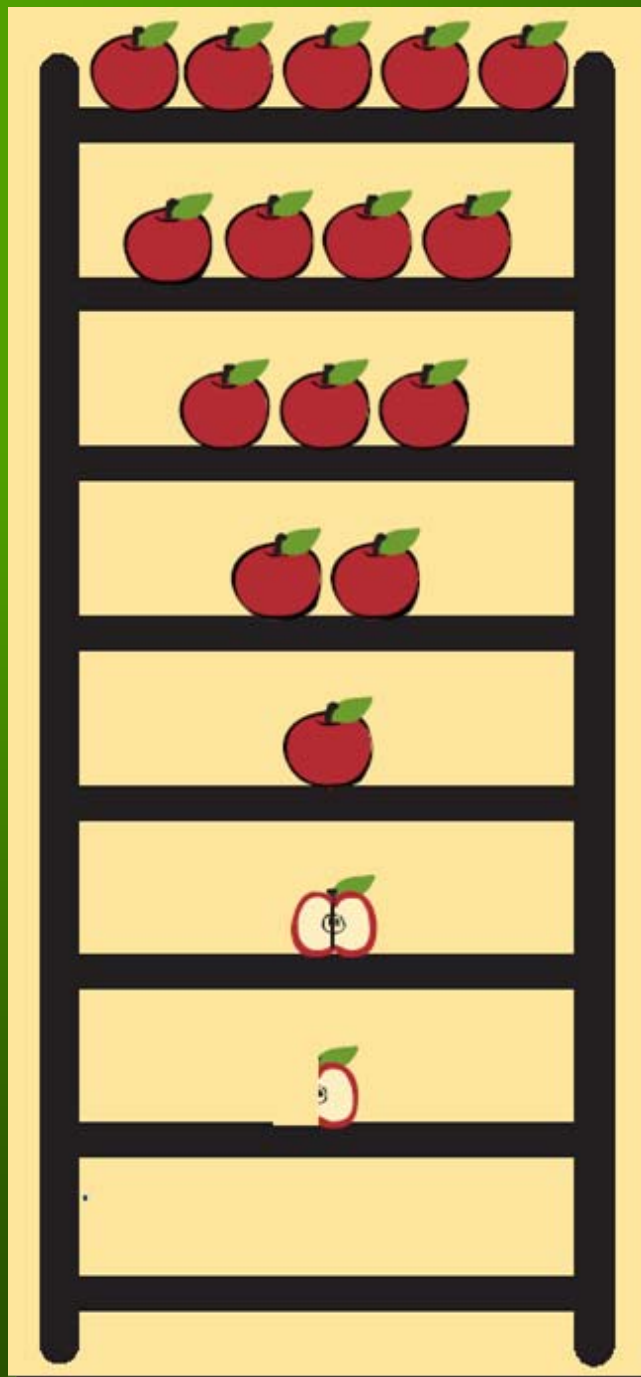
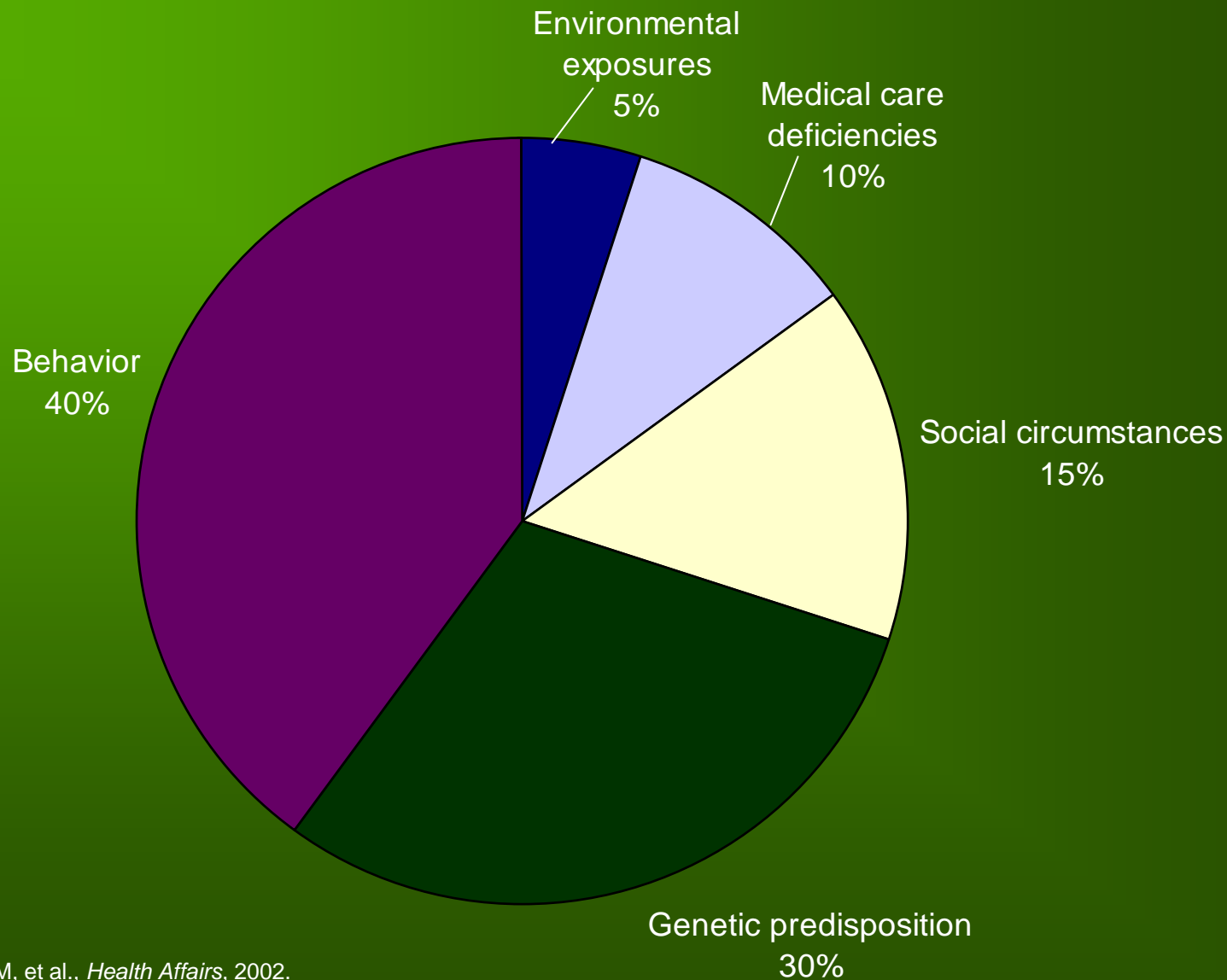


Figure 2. The Dynamic Relationship Between Health and Ladder Position.

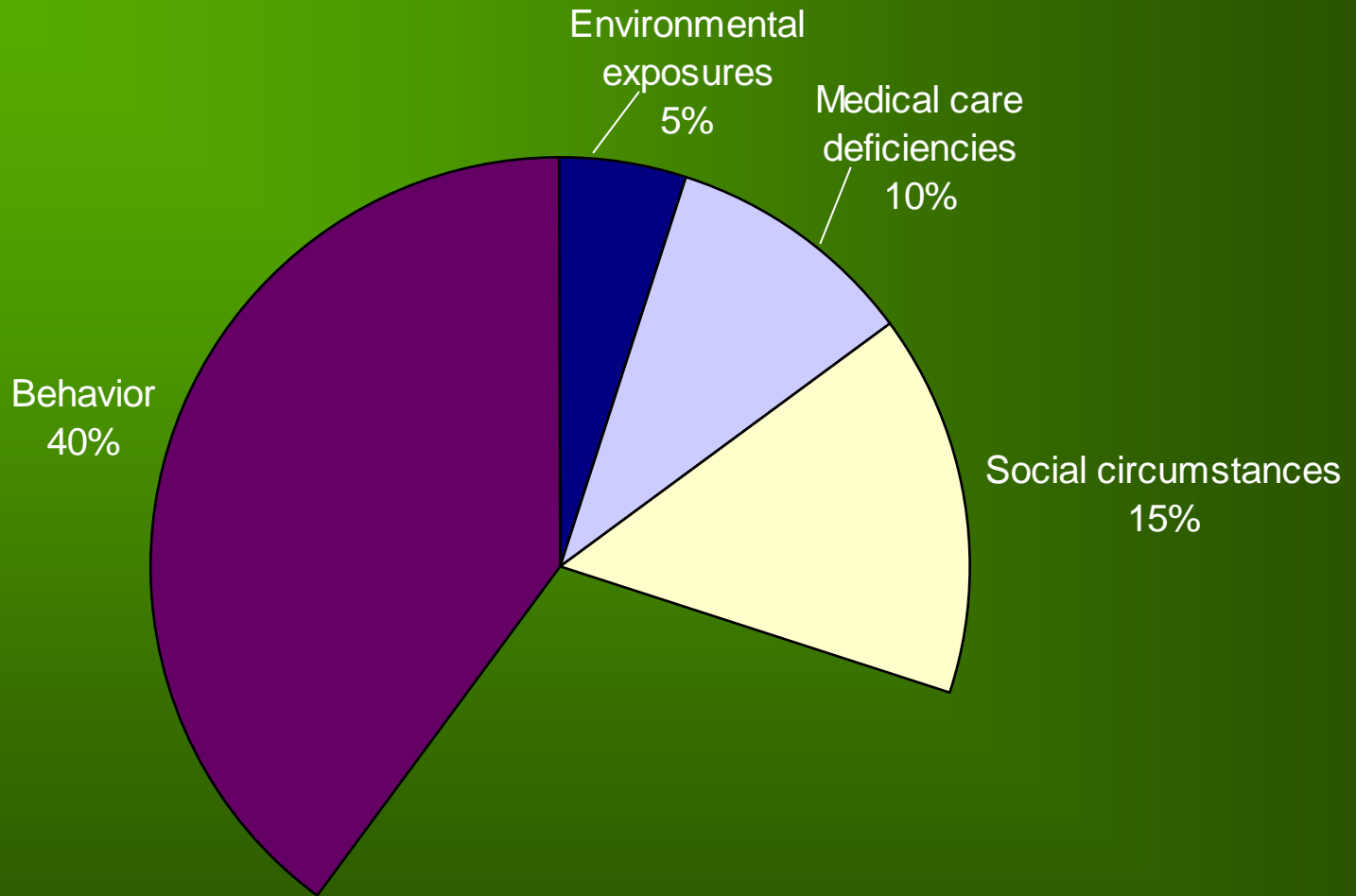


Contributors to premature mortality:



Source: McGinnis JM, et al., *Health Affairs*, 2002.

SES related: Contributors to premature mortality



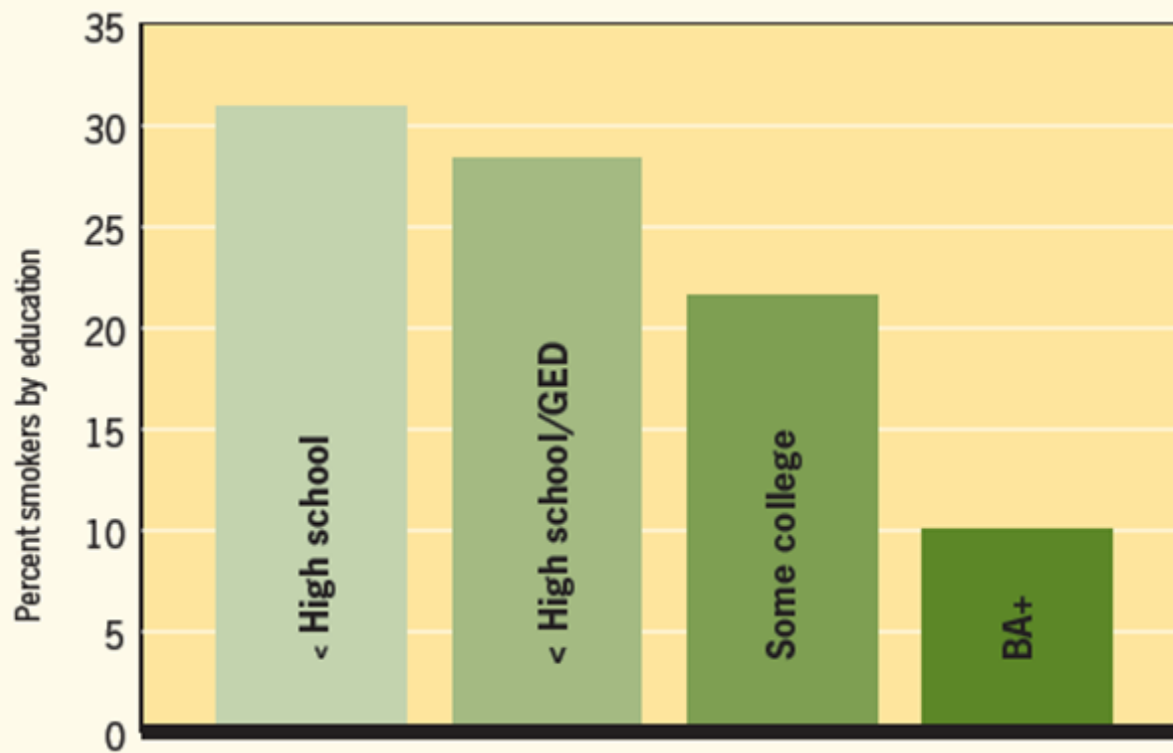


Figure 8. Current Cigarette Smoking by Adults Age 25 Years.

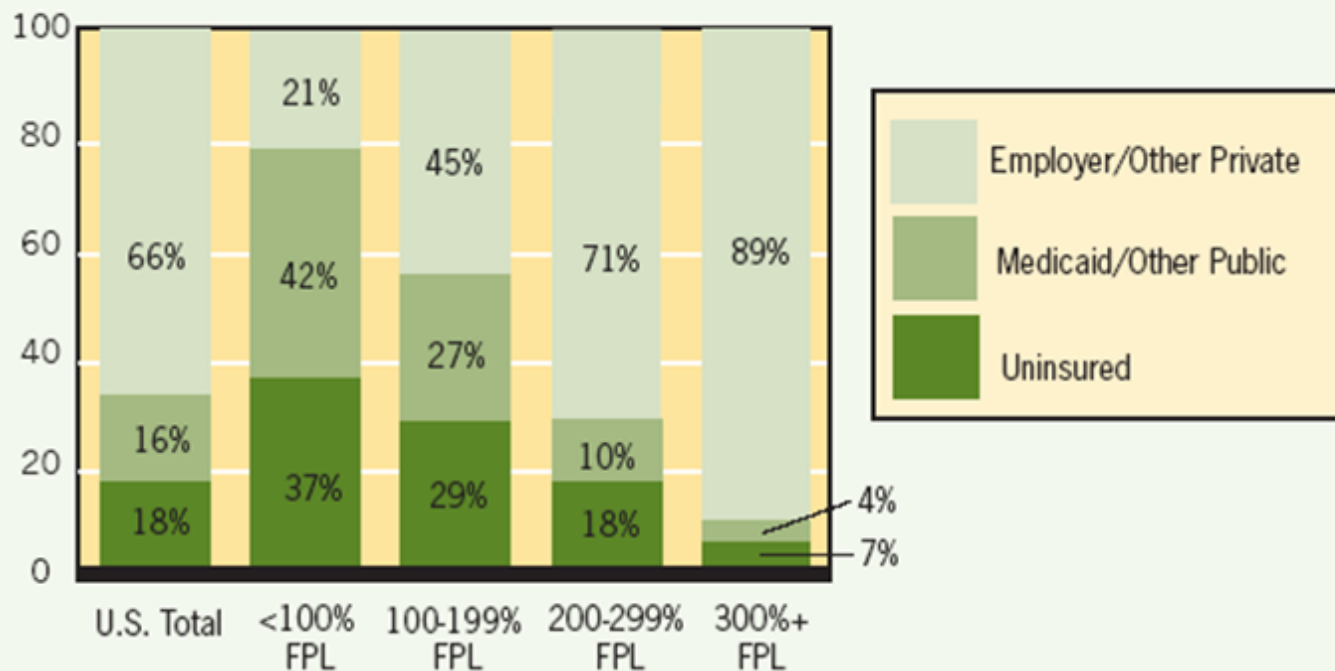


Figure 9. Health Insurance Coverage by Income Level, 2004.

Note: The federal poverty level (FPL) was \$19,307 for a family of four in 2004.

Source: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. *The uninsured and their access to health care*. November, 2005.

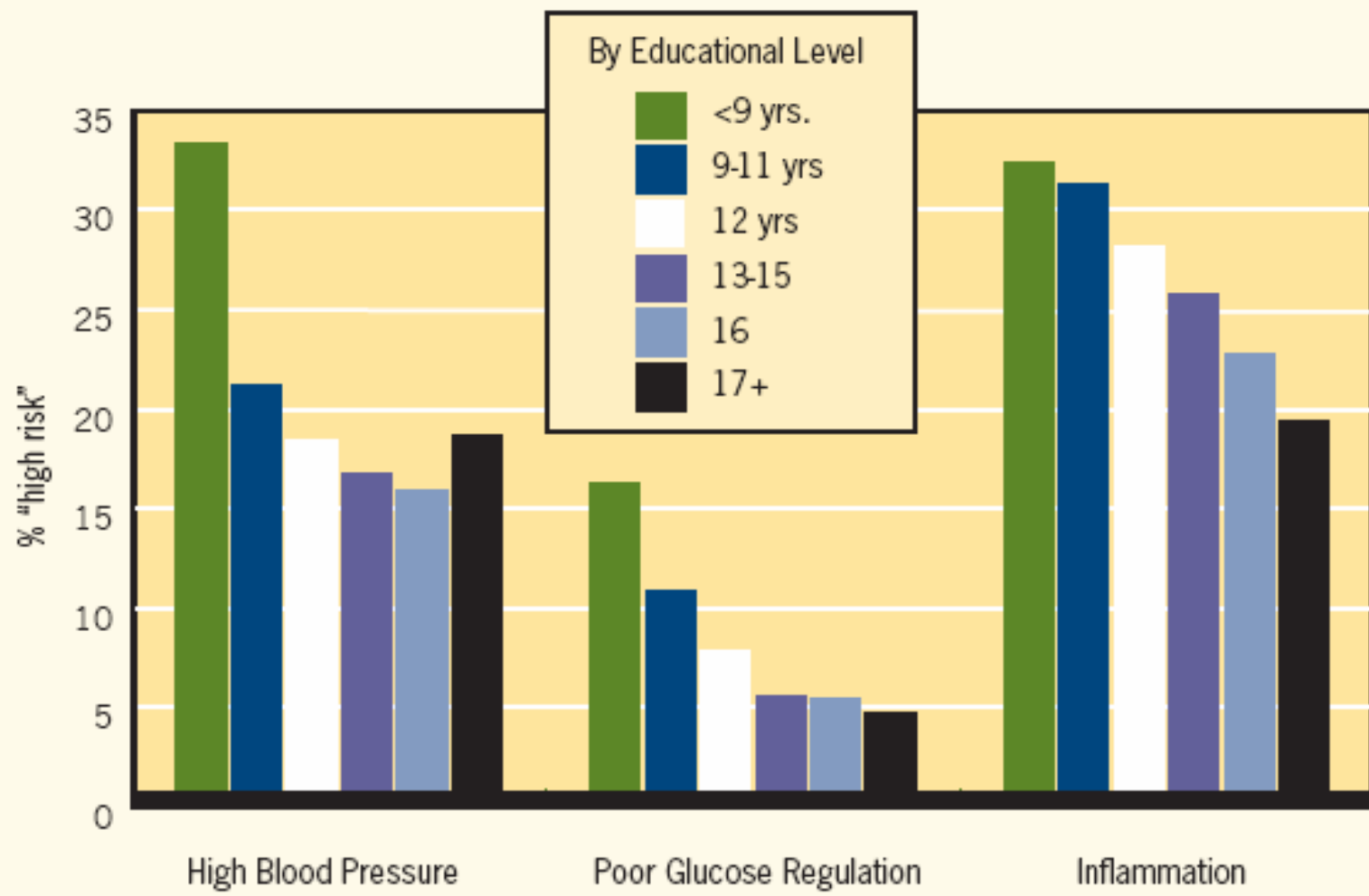


Figure 16. Frequency of Early Signals of Disease Risk by Education and Income: NHANES III, 1988-1994.

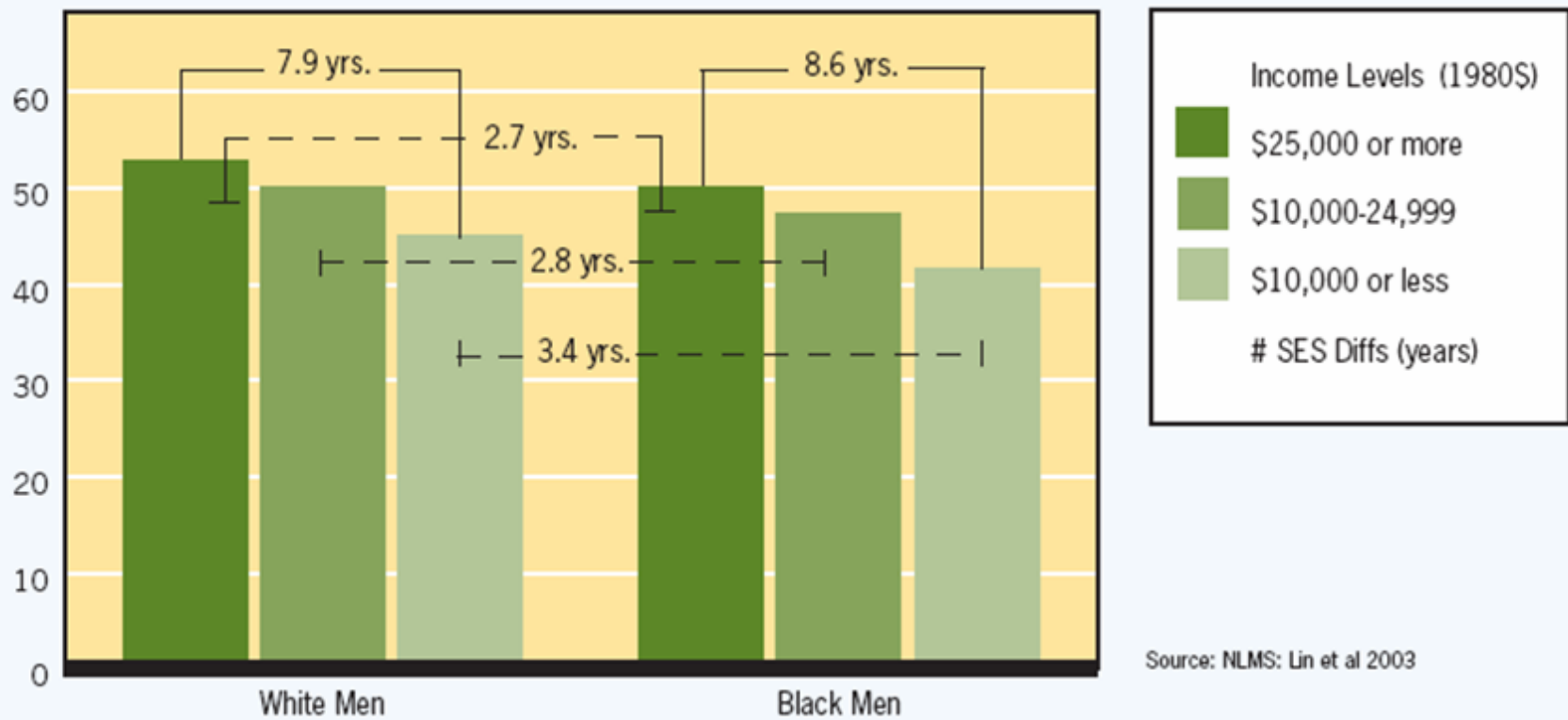


Figure 12. Life Expectancy at age 25 for U.S. Black and White Men with Similar Income Levels.

Changing ladder

- Universal access to high quality preschool
- Reducing financial barriers to college education
- Minimum wage increases
- Earned income tax credits
- Secure pensions
- Assured job training for downsized workers

Buffering position

- Increase availability of affordable housing
- Zoning that restricts noise and pollution
- Lead abatement enforcement
- Workplace redesign to increase control
- Parental leave to care for sick children
- Improved nutrition of school lunches
- Smoking bans and subsidized treatment
- Access to recreational facilities