

Liberal Egalitarian Health Justice

Daniels, *Just Health* 2008

1. Justice requires jobs and careers distributed under conditions of fair equality of opportunity
2. Fair equality of opportunity requires eliminating (socially produced) health inequalities
3. Therefore, justice requires eliminating socially produced health inequalities.

1. Justice requires jobs and careers distributed under conditions of fair equality of opportunity

- **Fair Equality of Opportunity:** opportunity made equal by adjusting for the unfair effects of SOCIAL CLASS on opportunity (i.e., social luck or the social lottery)

- examples: public education, affirmative action
- Does NOT require adjusting for the unfair effects of

natural endowments (natural luck or the biological lottery)

Which of the following best exemplify attempts at fair equality of opportunity?

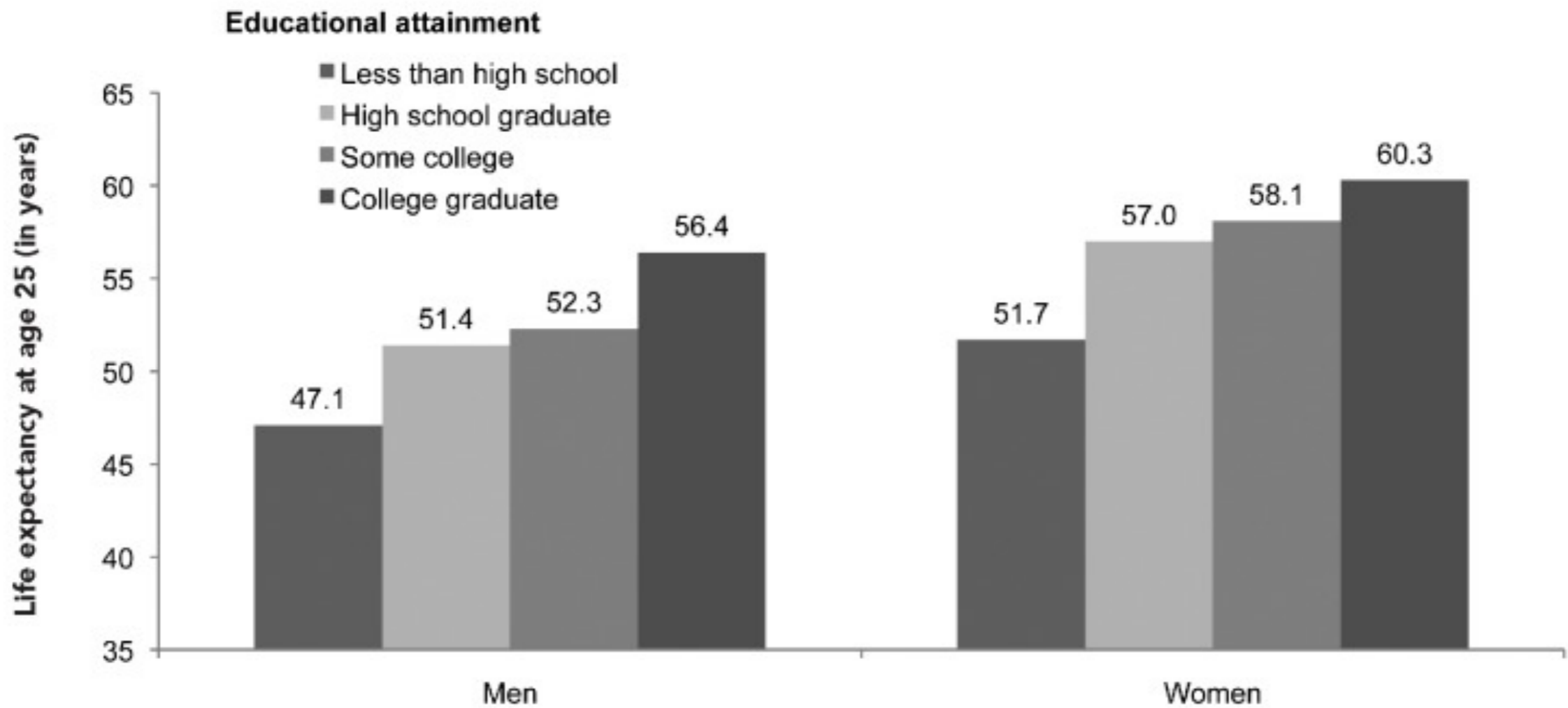
Fair Equality of Opportunity: opportunity made equal by adjusting for the unfair effects of SOCIAL CLASS on opportunity.

1. The government provides special funds for an after-school reading program in an underprivileged community
2. A company gives preference to black candidates over equally qualified white candidates because of historic racism
3. A college admits candidates based purely on standardized test scores and grades
4. A school lets all students in, regardless of aptitude
5. A magazine puts a plus-sized model on the cover to promote body acceptance

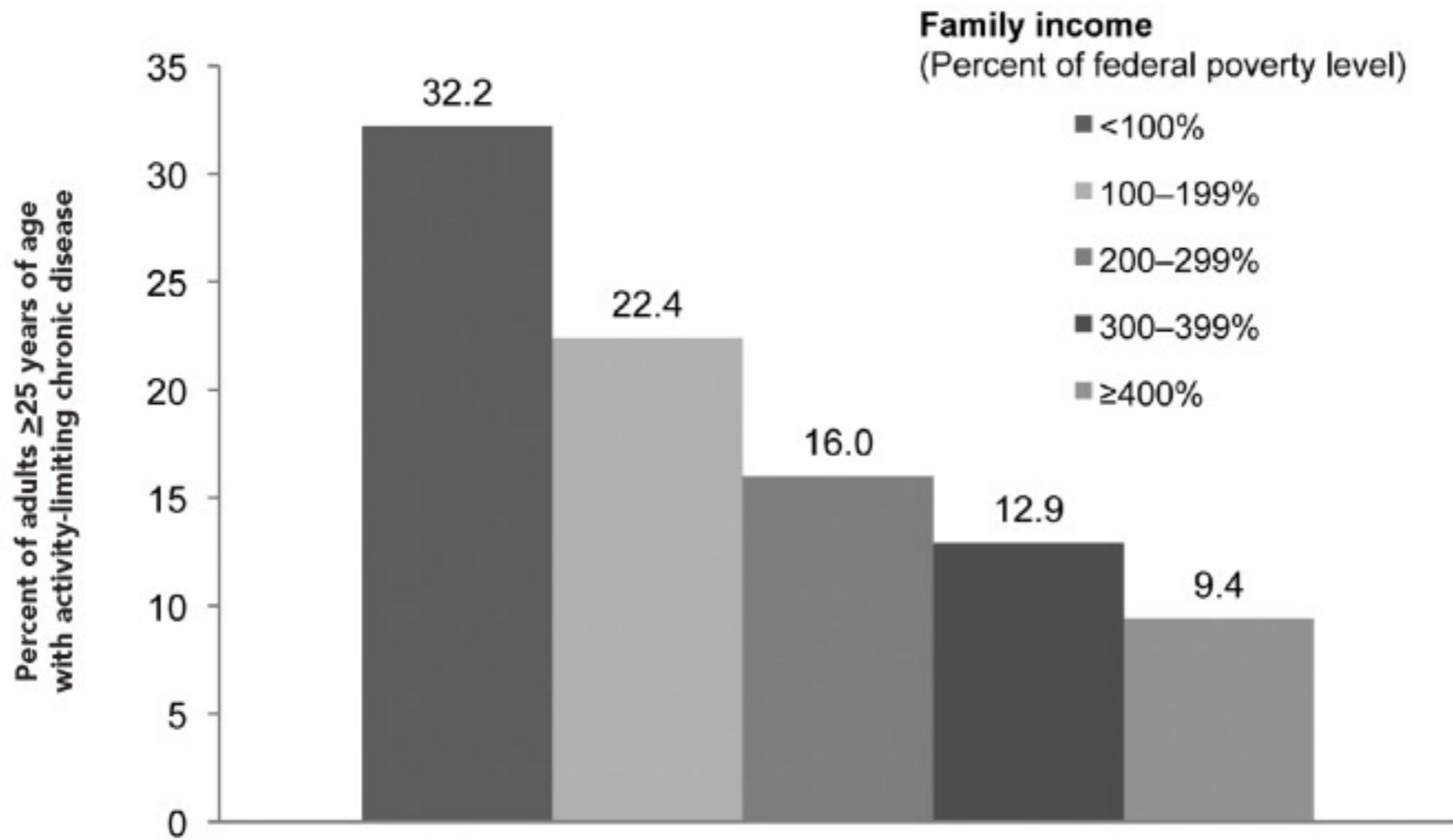
2. Fair equality of opportunity requires eliminating (socially produced) health inequalities

Social Determinants of Health

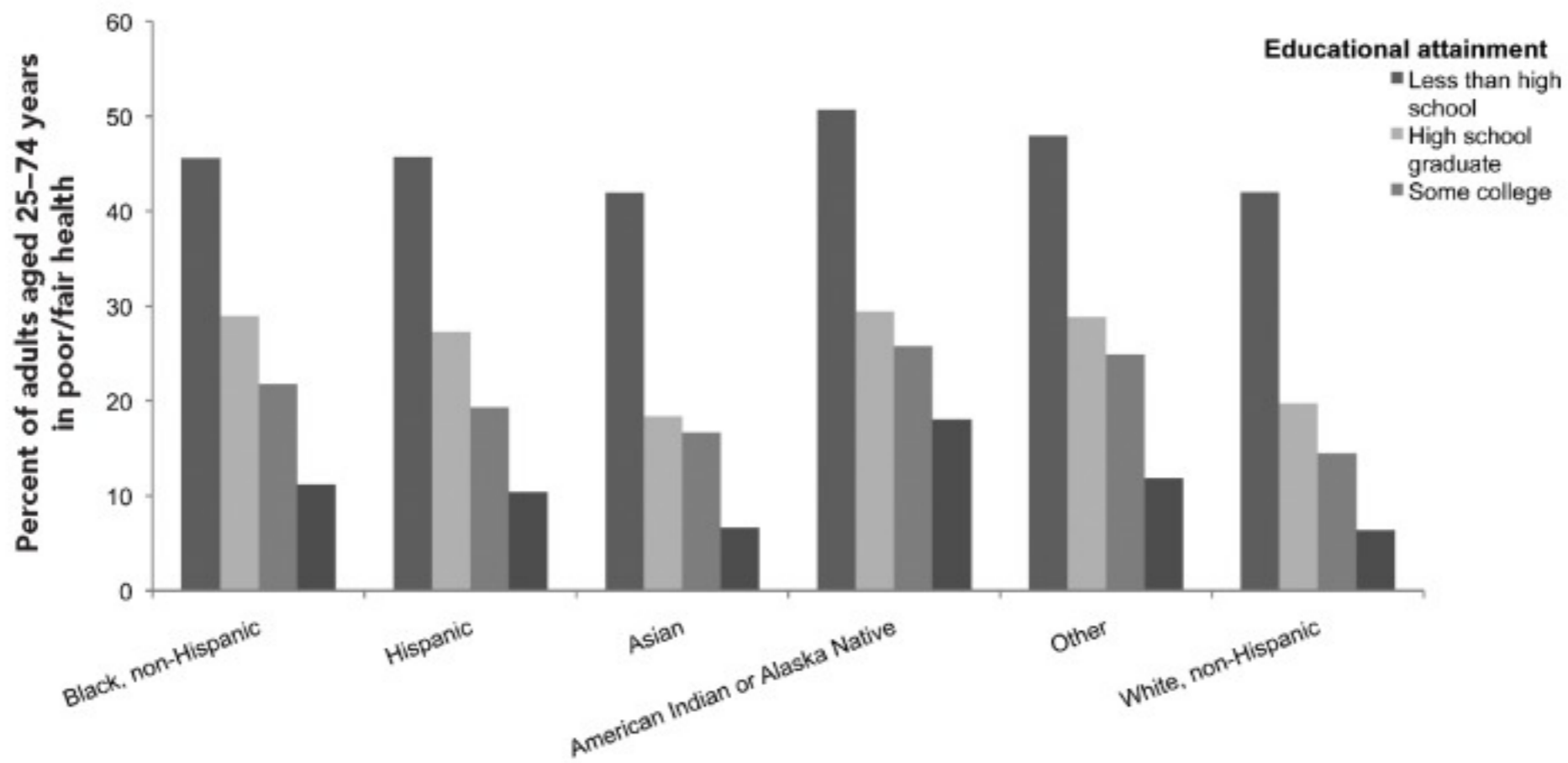
- “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age” (WHO, cited in Braveman et al 2014)



Source: Braveman P, Gottlieb L. The social determinants of health: it's time to consider the causes of the causes. Public Health Rep. 2014 Jan-Feb;129 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):19-31. doi: 10.1177/00333549141291S206. PMID: 24385661; PMCID: PMC3863696.



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3. Therefore, justice requires eliminating socially produced health inequalities.

- Equal access to health care, for example through universal programs
- Elimination or equalization of workplace risk
- Equal health education
- Elimination of race-based discrimination in health but also in jobs, education, etc
- More equal distribution of resources overall
- Eliminating the family?

Summary

1. Justice requires jobs and careers distributed under conditions of fair equality of opportunity
2. Fair equality of opportunity requires eliminating (socially produced) health inequalities
3. Therefore, justice requires eliminating socially produced health inequalities.

Liberal Egalitarian Principle of Health Justice

- To each whatever health is acquired in a society with fair equality of opportunity...
- ...including fair access to health care resources and a fair distribution of the social determinants of health

Objections

- Not clear why it is legitimate for governments to use coercive power to achieve fair opportunity
 - there is no private right to coerce others for the purpose of achieving fairness
 - This account needs to explain why it is ok for governments to do what individuals cannot
- Single-payer health plans eliminate competition between buyers and so give up many of the benefits of markets (such as in delivering innovation, coordinating supply and demand via prices, and driving down costs)
- Makes individuals responsible for the poor health choices of others