



2017-05-11

Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem and Educational Aspirations

Anika Price

Brigham Young University - Provo, morleyanika@gmail.com

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Price, Anika, "Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem and Educational Aspirations" (2017). *FHSS Mentored Research Conference*. 332.

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Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem & Educational Aspirations

Student Investigator: Anika Price | Mentor: Mikaela Dufur | Department of Sociology

Introduction

- Immigrants experience unique stresses & discrimination, which leads to lower levels of self-esteem. (Stets & Burke, 2003; Kao, 1999; Gee et al., 2010).
- Do Second-Generation Immigrants experience the same thing?
- If so, will that affect their educational expectations for the future?

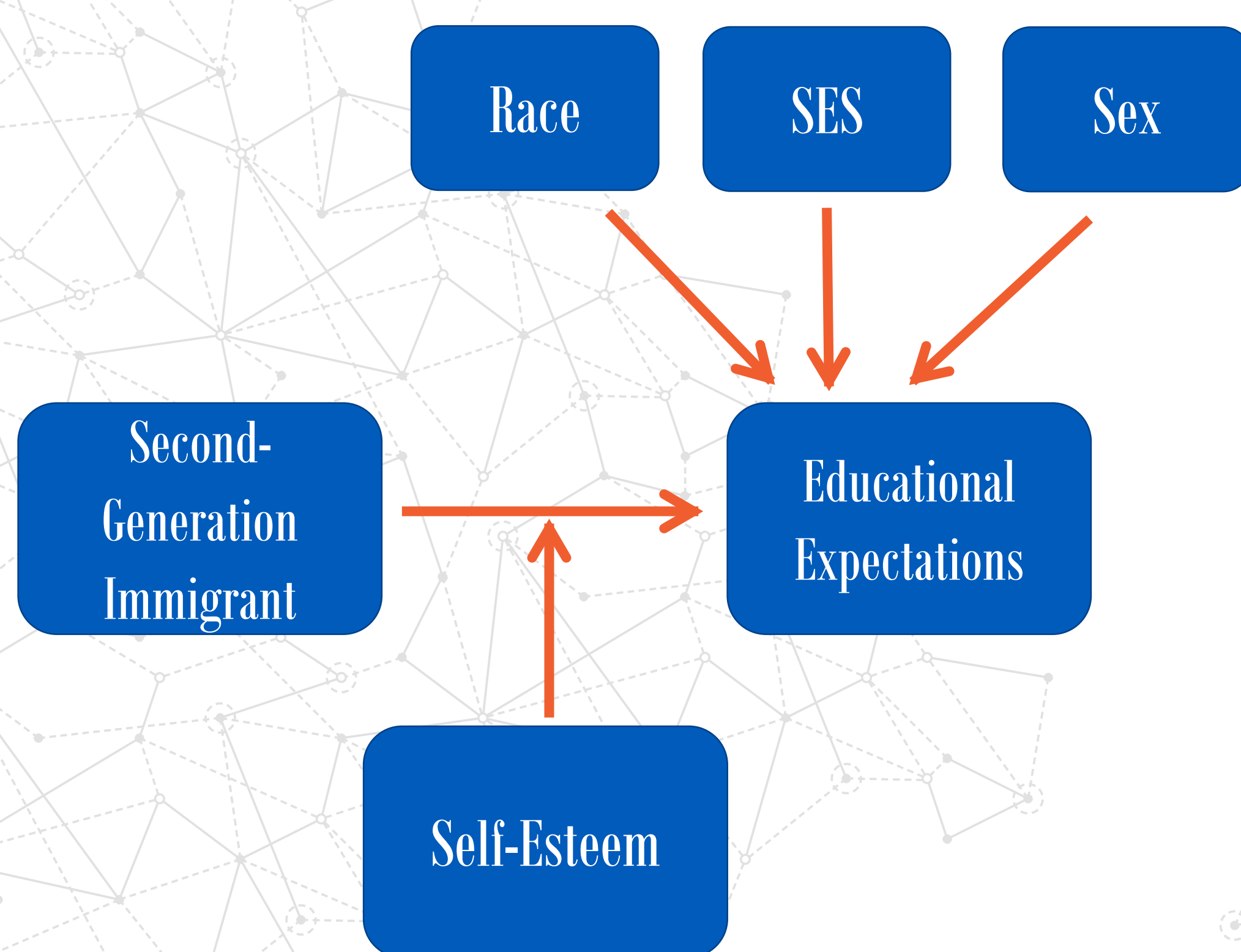
Hypotheses

- The children of immigrants will have lower self-esteem than their peers.
- This lower self-esteem will negatively affect their educational expectations for the future.

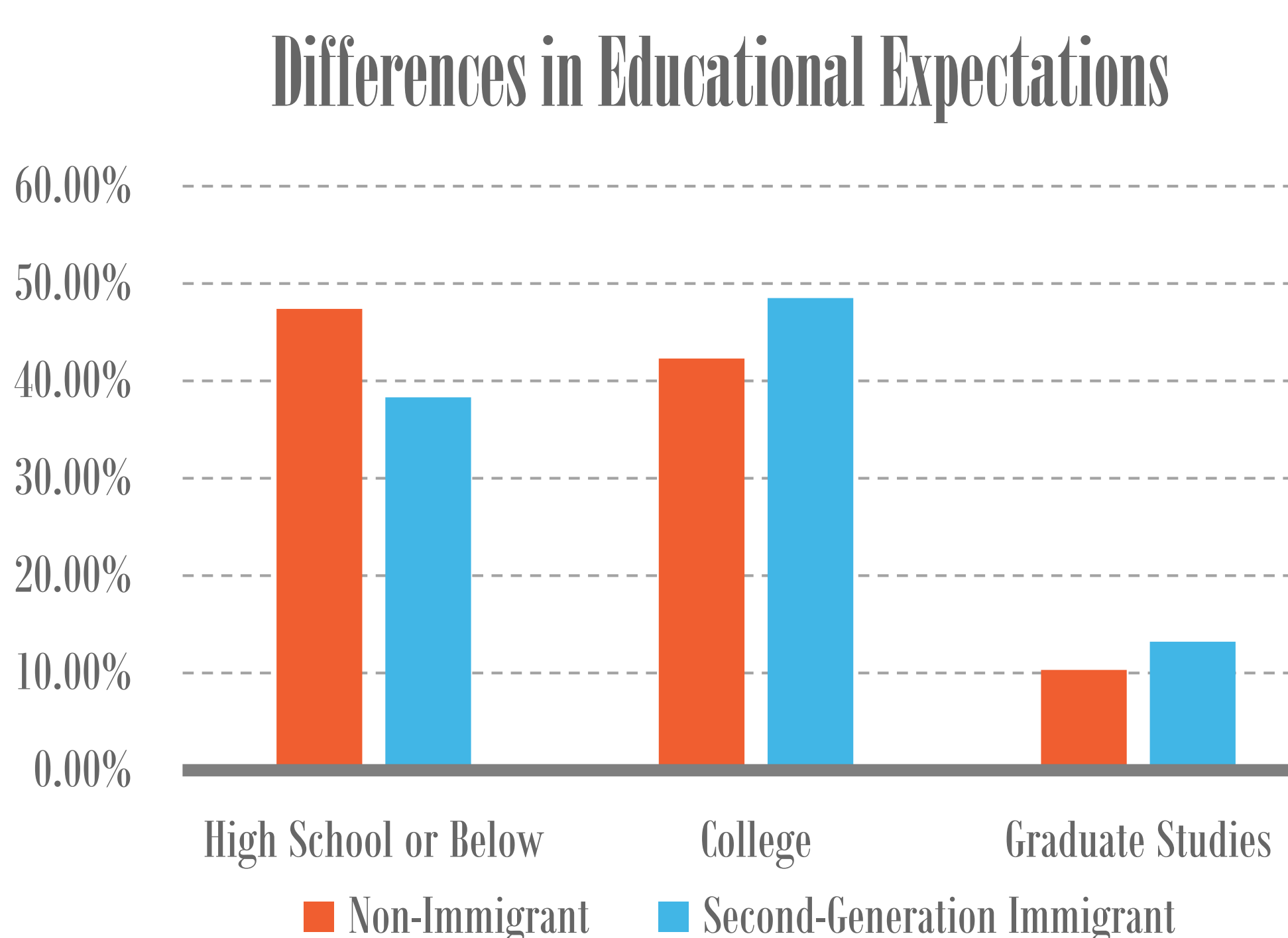
Data

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79)
- Sample Size: 3,999
 - Ages 14-18
 - 522 second-generation immigrants

Model

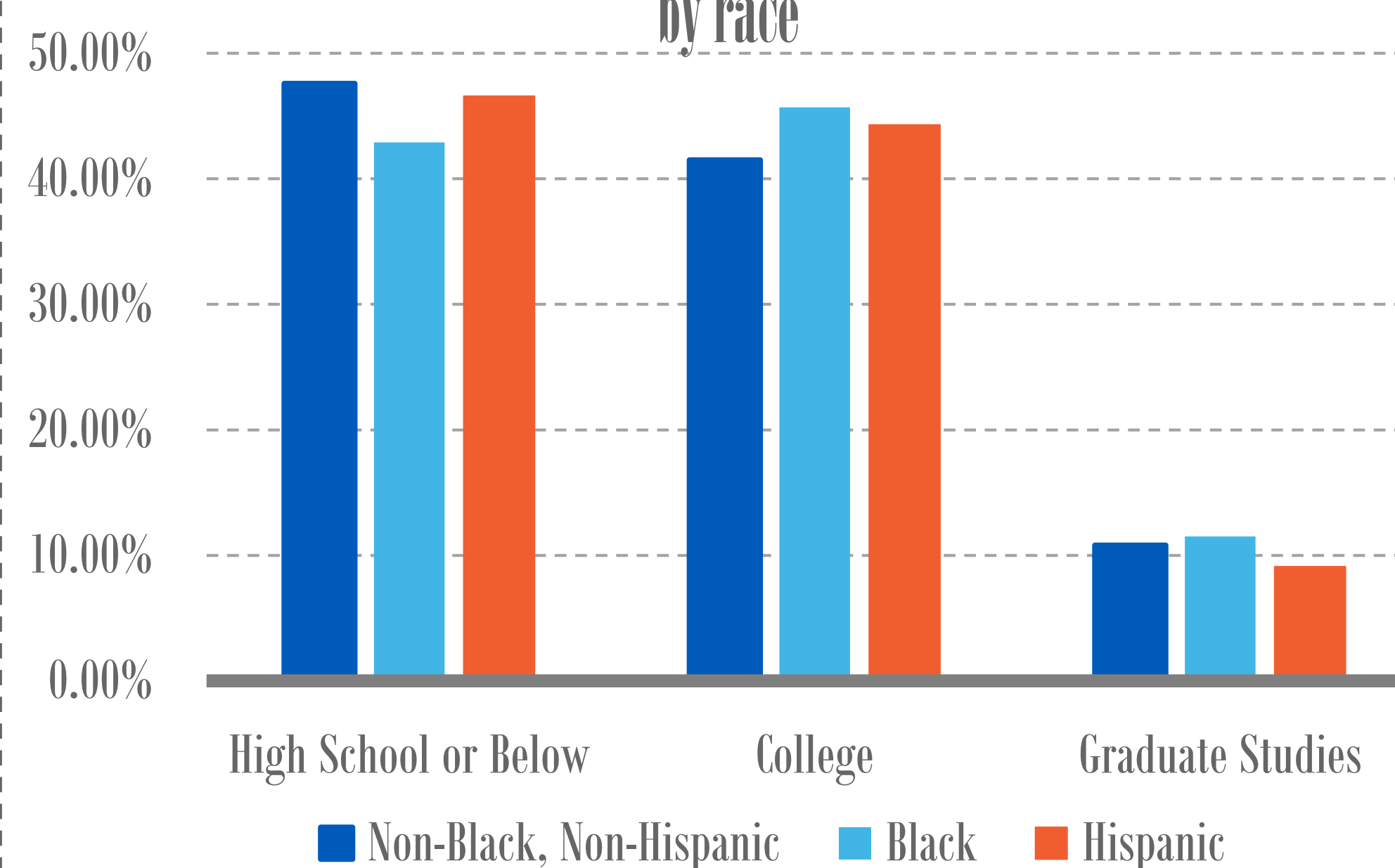


* A t-test shows that the average difference in self-esteem is not statistically significant



* A t-test shows that the average difference in educational expectations is statistically significant ($p < .001$)

Differences in Educational Expectations by race



Results

- **More Non-Immigrants have high levels of self-esteem (38.5%) than Second-Generation Immigrants (35.4%).**
- Second-Generation Immigrants expect to go to about **1 Year more** of school than Non-Immigrants
- Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to expect to **go to graduate school** than Non-Immigrants
- With every 1 unit increase in self-esteem, a person expects to go to **0.2 more years** of school.
- **Blacks have higher** educational expectations than other racial groups, while **Hispanics have the lowest** expectations.



Linear Regression of Educational Expectations on Second-Generation Immigrant Status

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Second-Generation Immigrant	0.358** (0.111)	0.402*** (0.105)	0.964*** (0.109)
Self-Esteem		0.194*** (0.009)	0.145*** (0.008)
Sex			-0.238*** (0.065)
Black			0.774*** (0.080)
Hispanic			0.494*** (0.104)
Mother's Education			0.142*** (0.014)
Father's Education			0.131*** (0.012)
Income			0.256*** (0.038)
Constant	13.705*** (0.040)	9.523*** (0.193)	4.995*** (0.371)
Observations	3,999	3,999	3,999
R-Squared	0.003	0.111	0.249
Standard Errors in Parentheses	* $p < 0.05$	** $p < 0.01$	*** $p < 0.001$

Conclusion

- Although Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to have lower self-esteem than Non-Immigrants, the difference is small, and does not seem to affect their educational expectations.
- Second-Generation Immigrants actually have higher educational expectations!

Future Research

- What are Second-Generation Immigrants doing different?
- Are they reaching their expectations?
- Do race & country of origin matter?