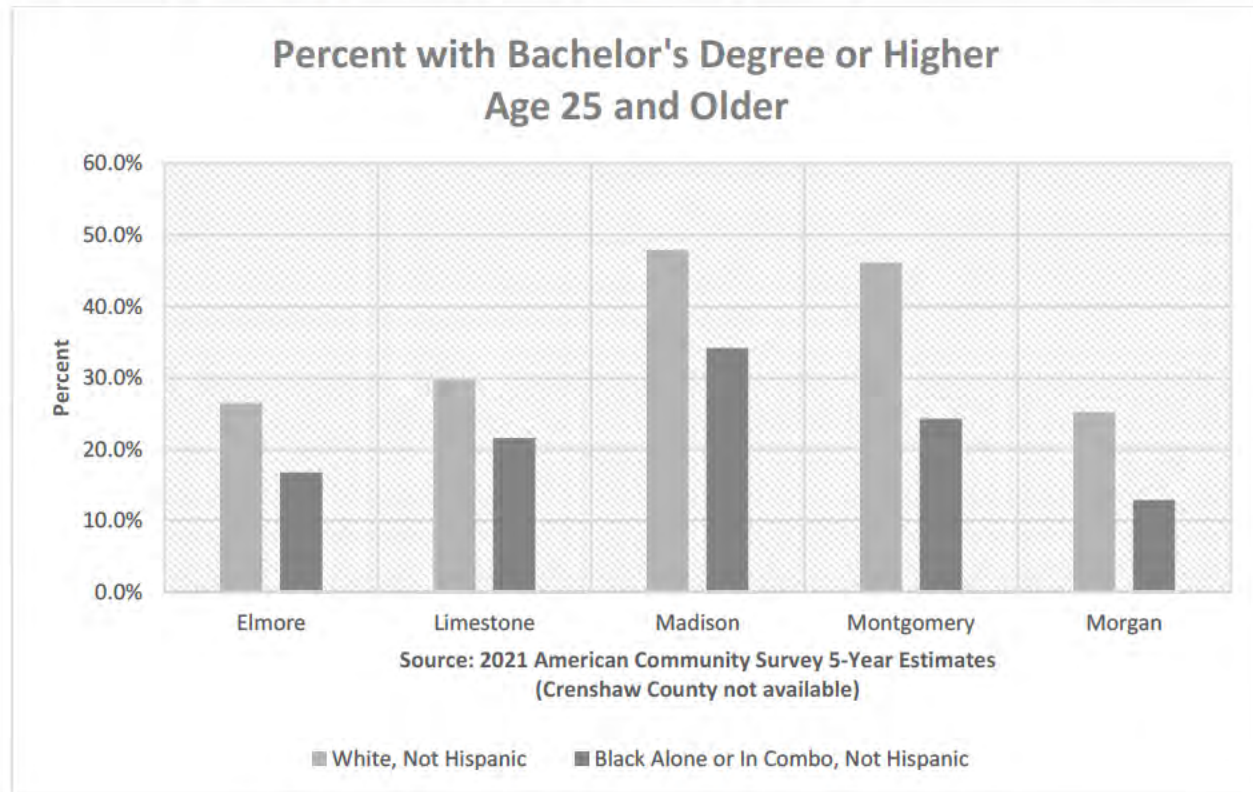


Figure 5: Percent of Alabama Adults Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, by Race. Source: American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates.



Additional Measures of Socioeconomic Status and Race

Income, poverty, and other socioeconomic factors also affects voting to the extent that greater resources can make it easier to overcome the costs of voting, such as having the ability to afford time off work to go to the polls.³³ Much of the impact of socioeconomic status happens through education, because educational attainment affects income, poverty, and employment.³⁴ However, these factors may exert an independent influence on voting as well.

Data from the American Community Survey show that there are large disparities along several measures of socioeconomic status between Black and White Alabama residents. For instance, as Figure 6 shows, the median household income for Black Alabama households is \$36,104, compared with \$62,545 for White Alabama households. White-headed households also are richer in each of the six counties analyzed in Figure 6. Black unemployment is more than twice as high as White unemployment statewide and in most counties depicted in Figure 7. Statewide, Black family poverty is nearly three times as high as White family poverty; in several

³³ Verba, Schlozman, and Brady 1995.

³⁴ Long, Mark C. 2010. "Changes in the returns to education and college quality." *Economics of Education Review* 29 (3):338-347.