

Growing Educational Opportunities & Challenges in South Texas

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Disclaimer: The views expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily those of her institution and affiliations.

Education & the Labor Market in South Texas

South Texas presents education and labor market challenges and opportunities for the state & nation.

The region has traditionally **lagged behind** the rest of the state **with respect to educational attainment**.

Educational levels have been rising but they have not narrowed the gap with the state or nation.

As such, it is not surprising that South Texas has relatively **low levels of employment and high poverty**.

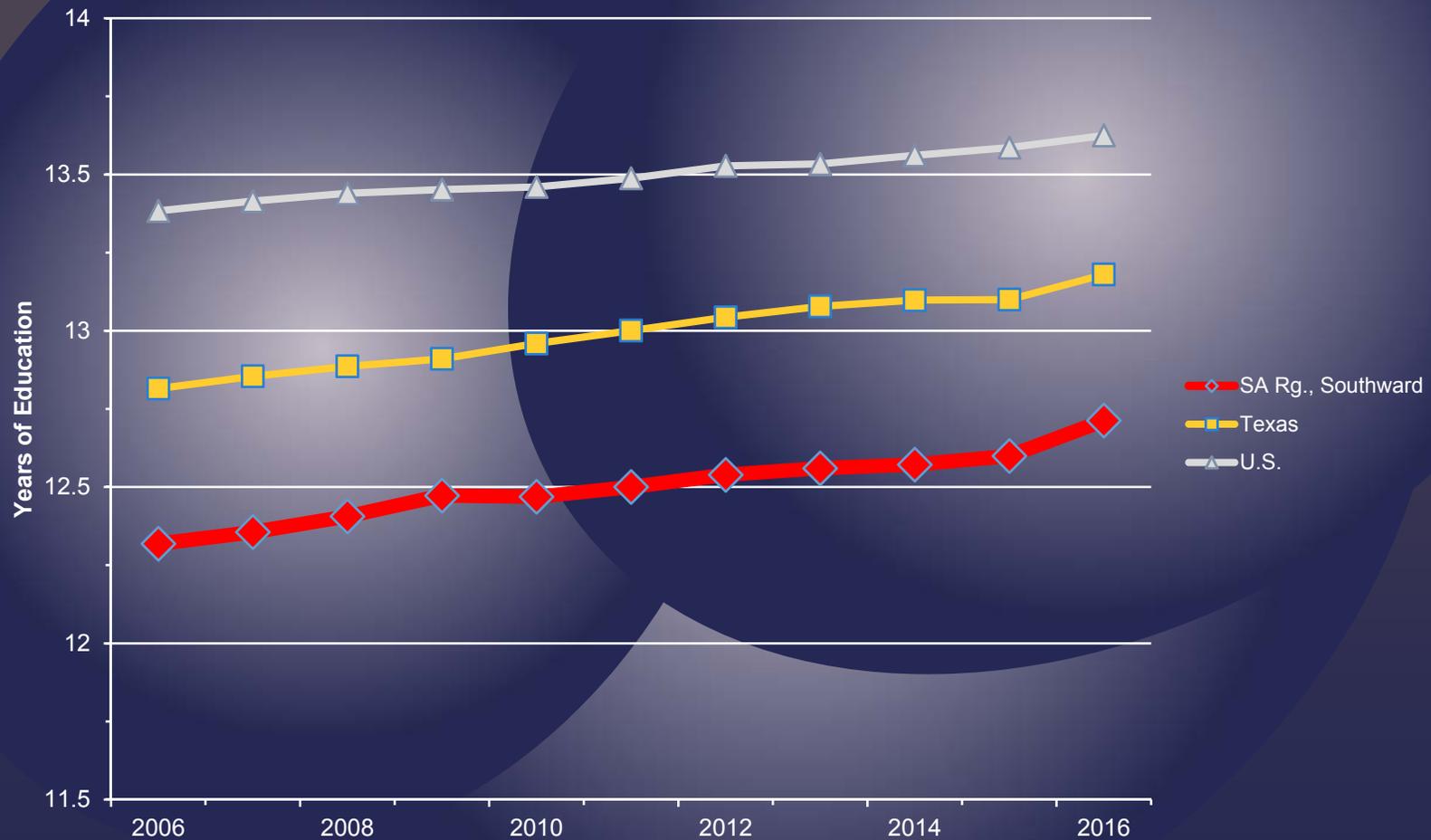
The lower schooling levels are not only an immigrant story—**they also exist among the U.S.-born** population.

Yet the **region presents opportunities** for the state & nation.

The predominately Hispanic population is relatively **young, largely bilingual, and growing in numbers.**

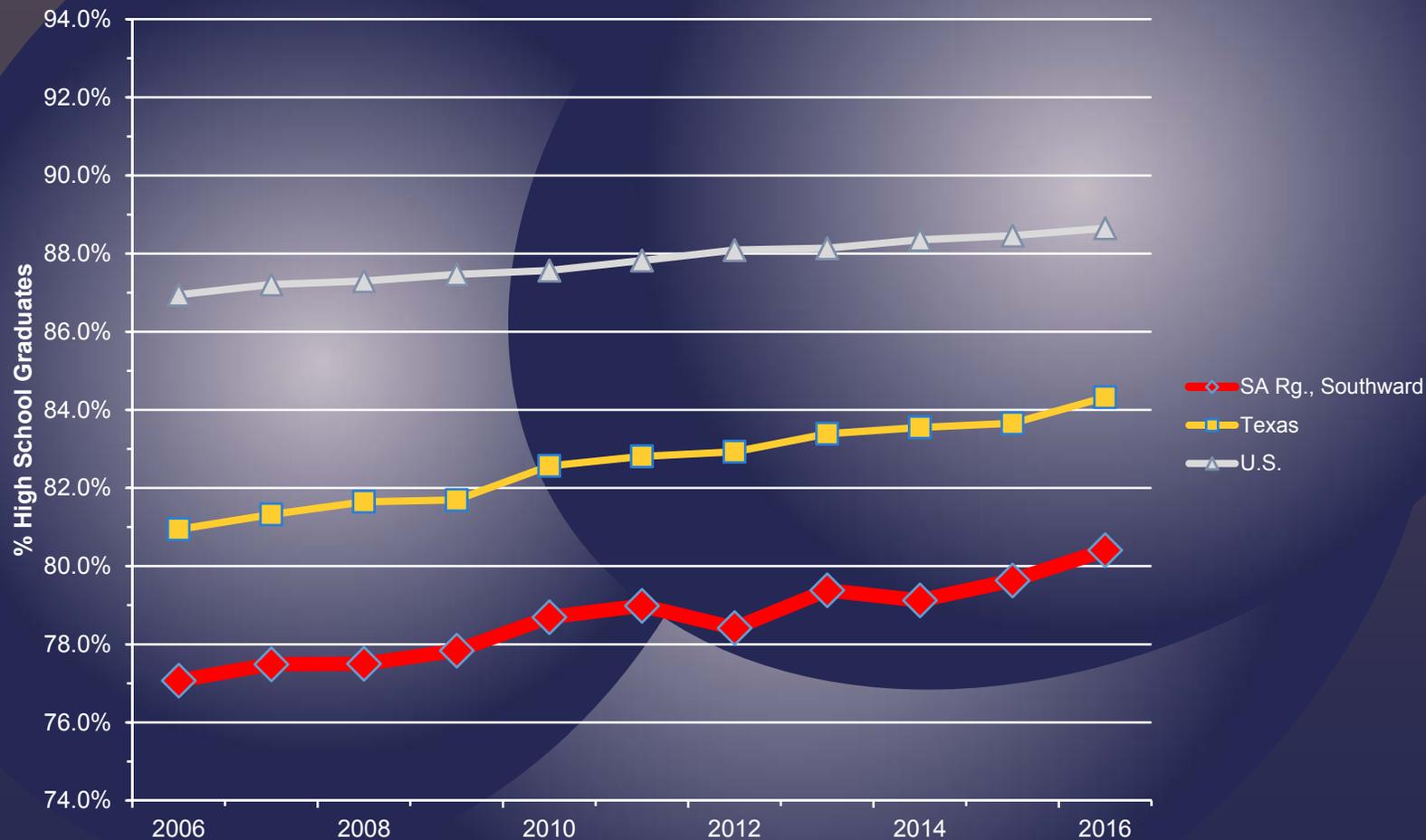
Addressing educational disparities should go a long way in helping to prepare the future workforce and stimulate economic development and prosperity in the region, state, and nation.

Average Education Levels in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



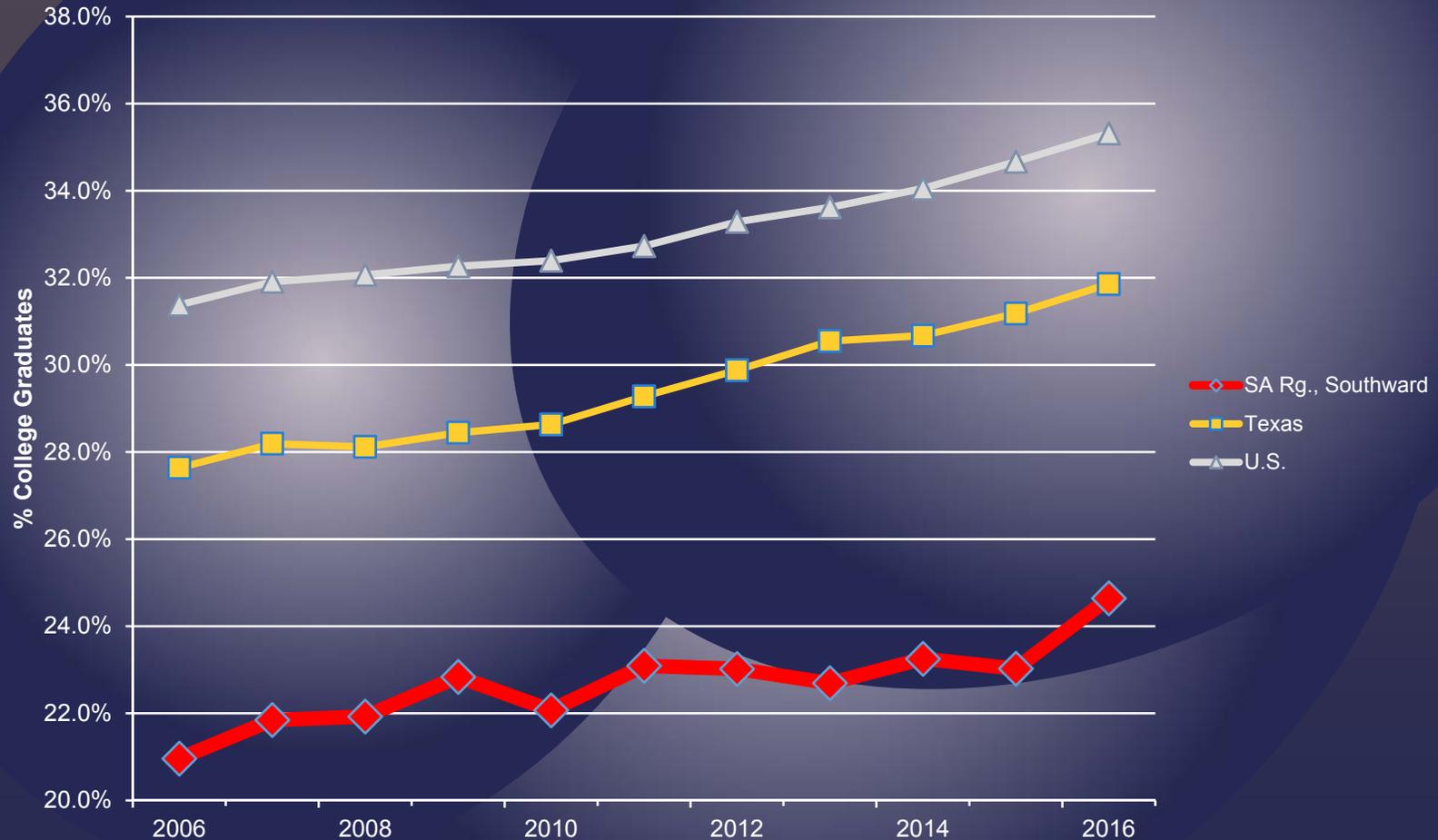
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Share of High School Graduates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



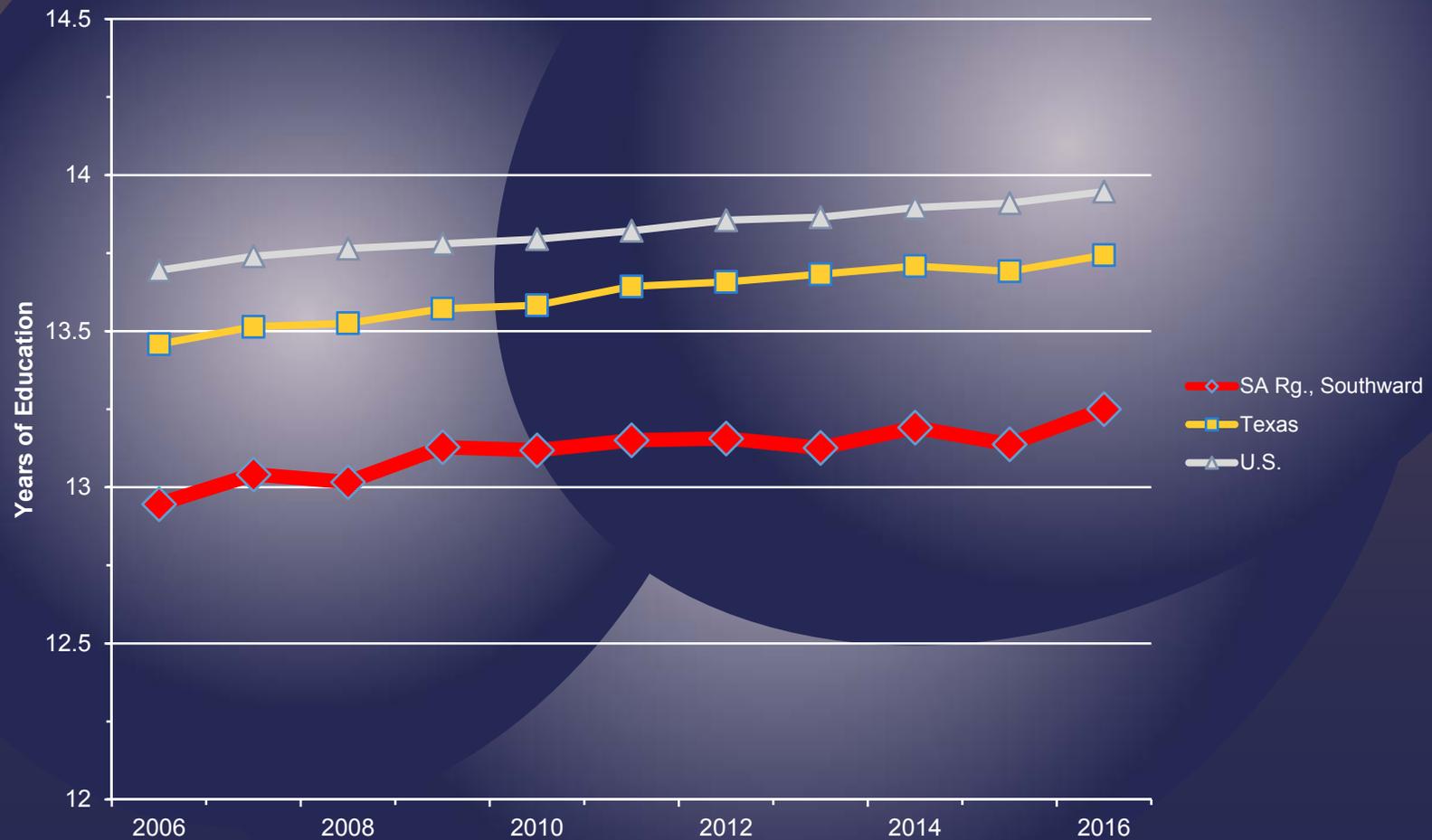
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Share of College Graduates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



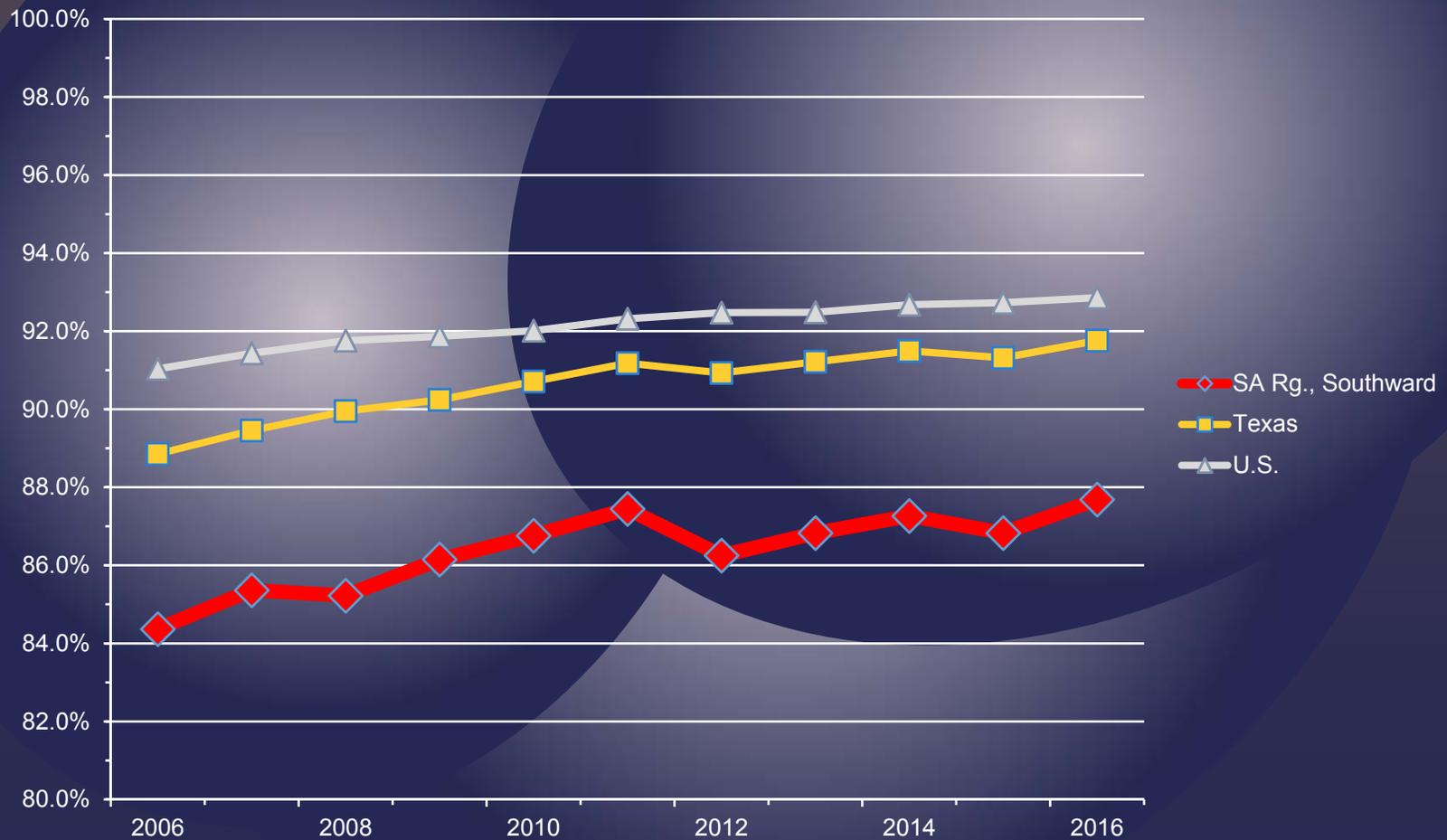
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Average Education Levels of the U.S.-Born Population in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



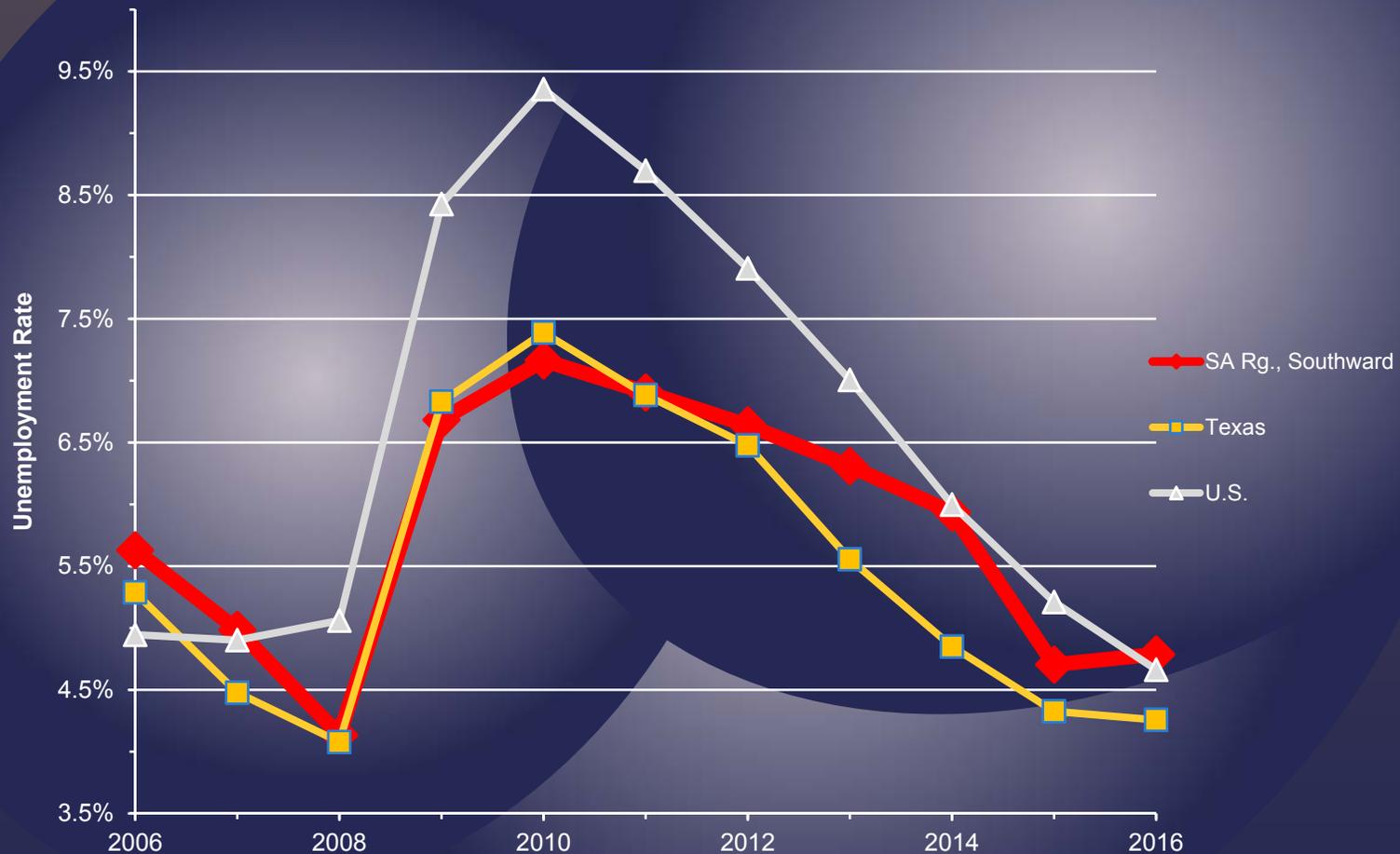
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Share of High School Graduates of the U.S.-Born Population in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Unemployment Rates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



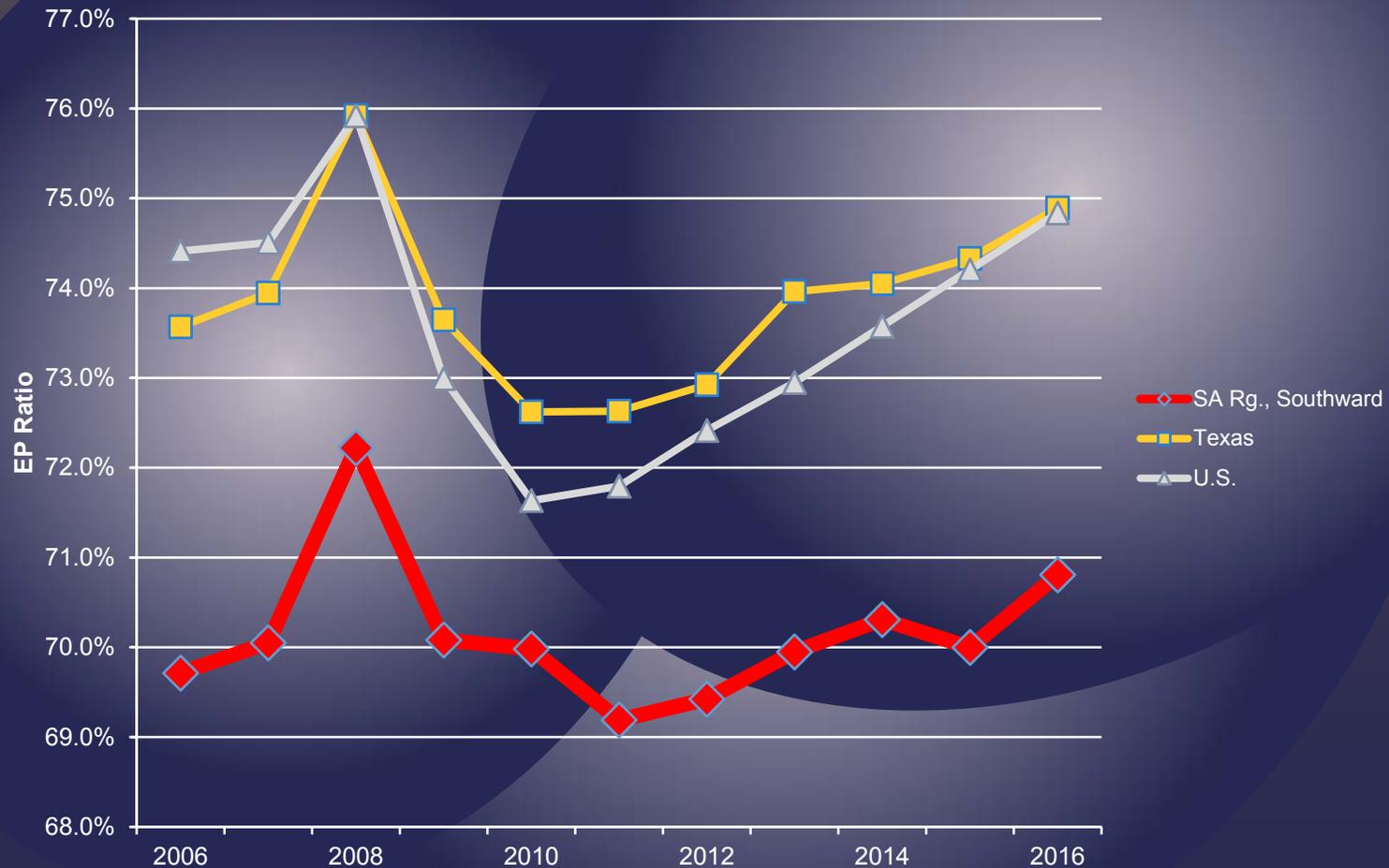
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Labor Force Participation Rates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



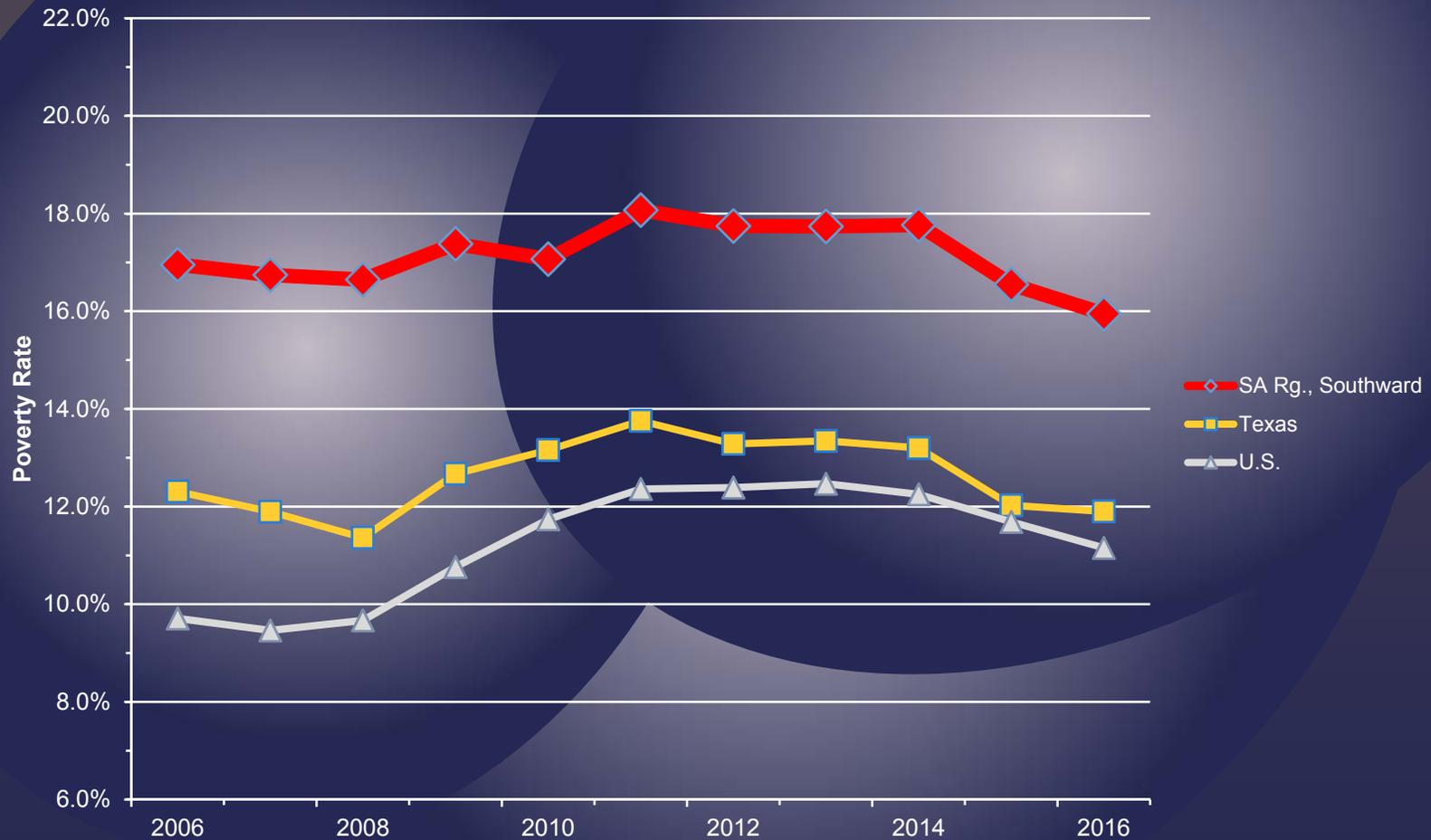
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Employment-Population Ratios in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



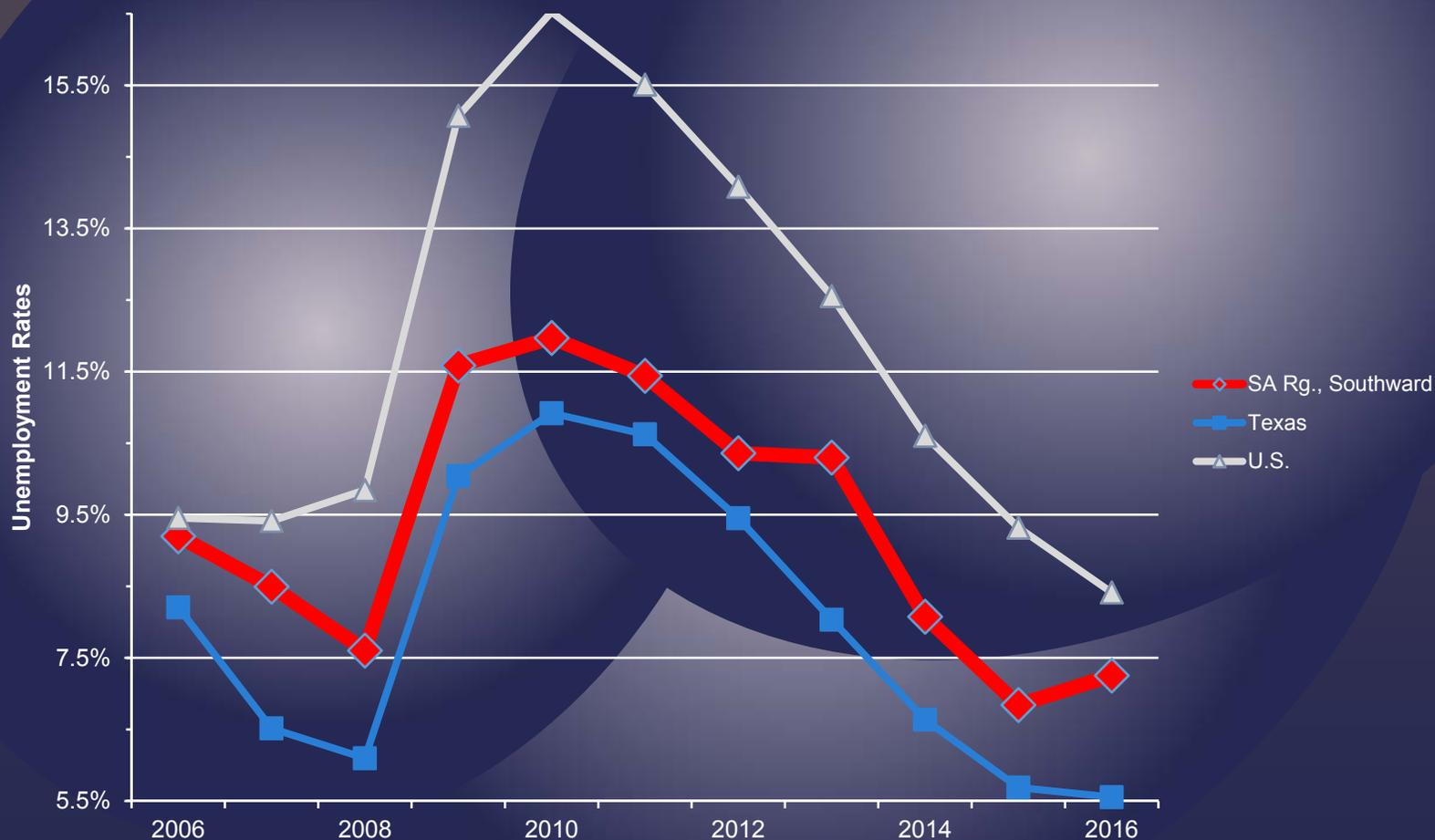
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Poverty Rates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Unemployment Rates of Workers without a High School Diploma in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Unemployment Rates of College Graduates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



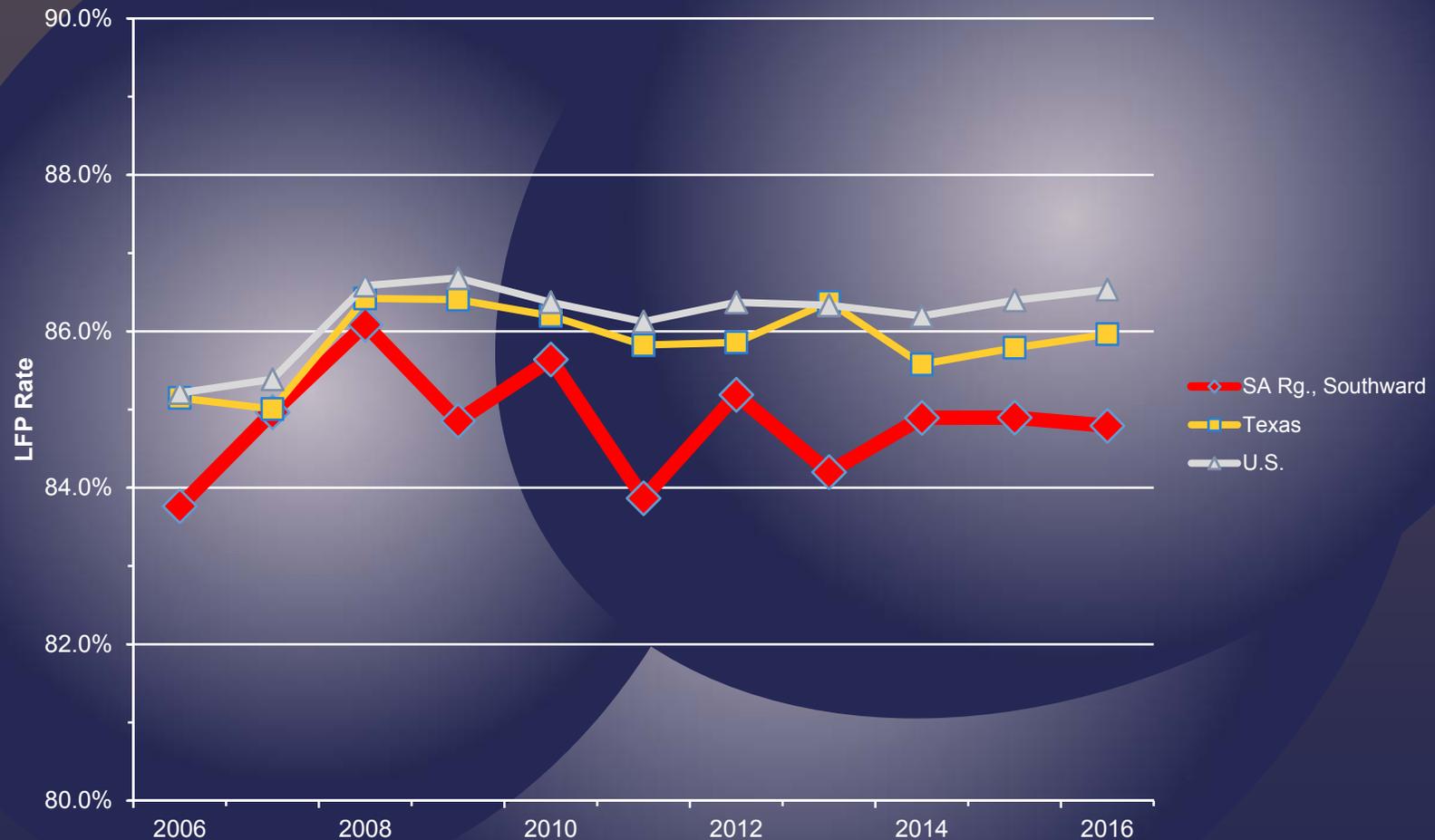
Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

LFP Rates of Population without a High School Diploma in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

LFP Rates of College Graduates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016

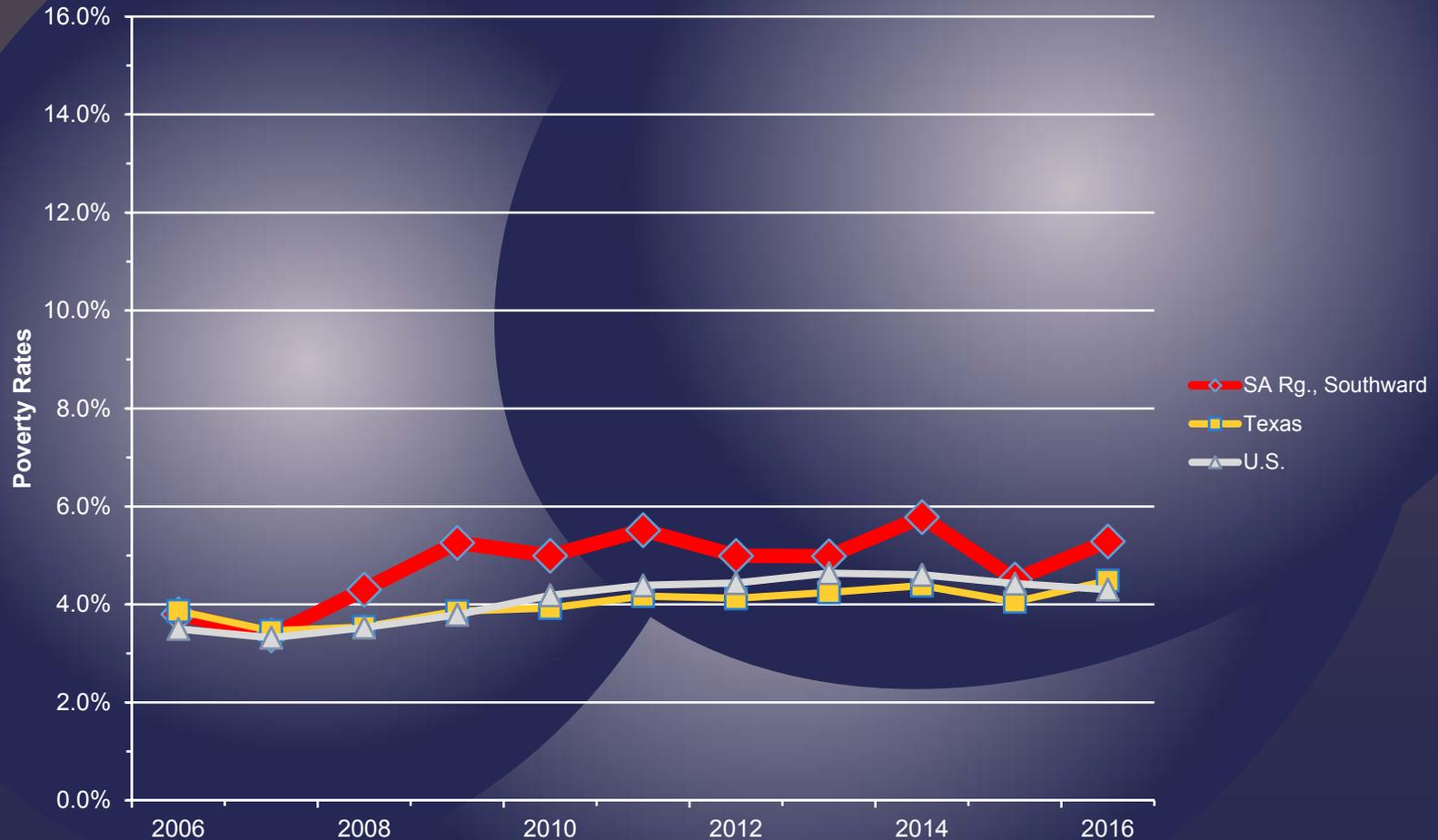


Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Poverty Rates of Population without a High School Diploma in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Poverty Rates of College Graduates in SA Region, Texas & U.S. Metropolitan Areas: 2006-2016



Source: Author's estimates using 2006-2016 ACS data in the IPUMS; only adults ages 25-64 in metropolitan areas are included.

Concluding Remarks

The under-education of South Texas translates into less employment, lower earnings (*not shown here*) and more poverty.

It is important to note that many new jobs will likely (continue to) favor high-skill (highly educated) workers.

Without additional progress in improving educational attainment, the region is likely to fall further behind, thus hindering economic growth in the state and nation.

Given changing demographics in the state and nation, **Hispanics will have an increasingly significant impact on economic growth and prosperity.**

U.S.-born Hispanics are now driving the Hispanic population growth, emphasizing the growing importance of their educational attainment.

Failing to address the **current education disparities** in the region has **economic and social implications** at the state and national levels.

Thank you!