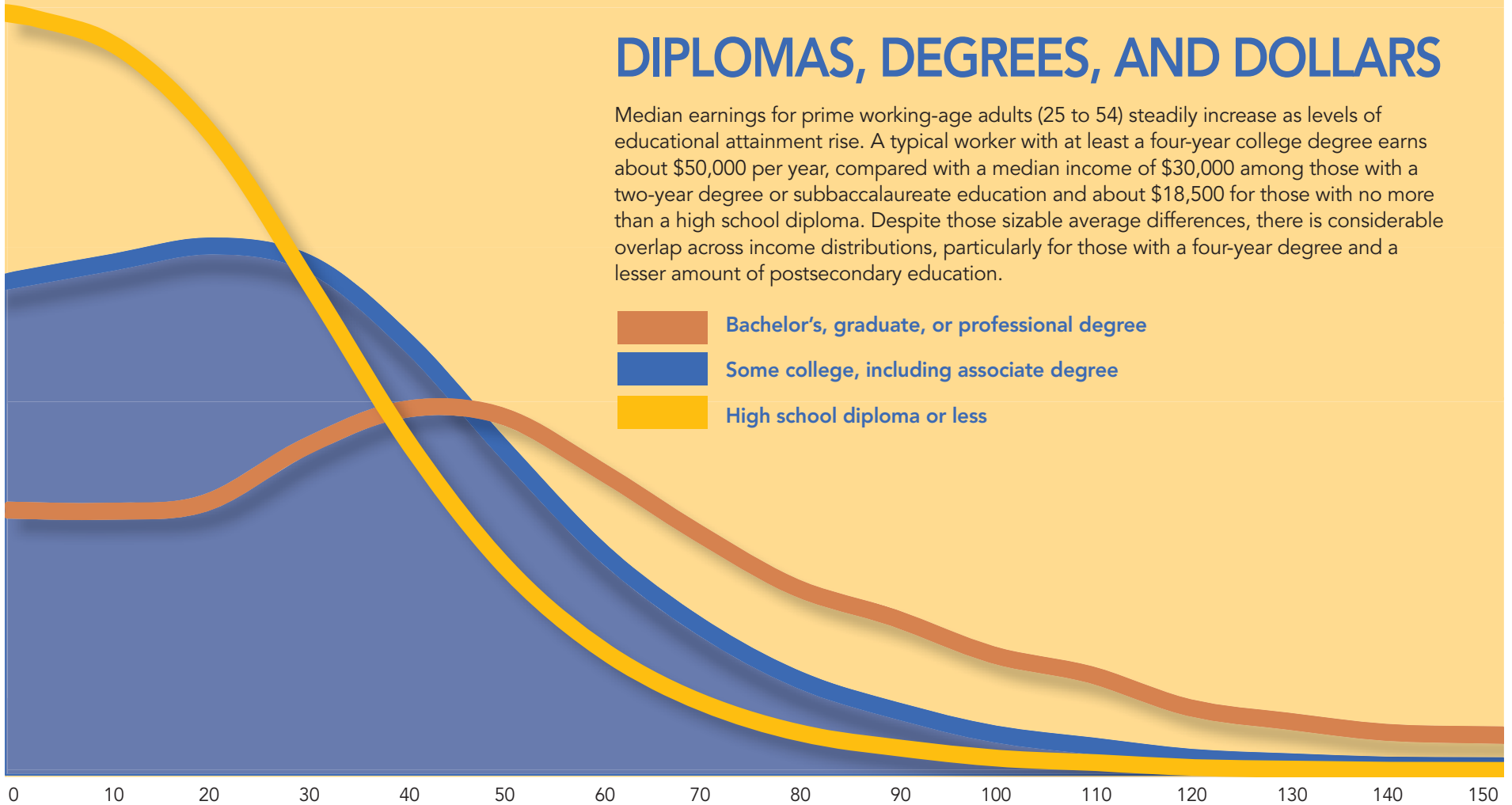


DIPLOMAS, DEGREES, AND DOLLARS

Median earnings for prime working-age adults (25 to 54) steadily increase as levels of educational attainment rise. A typical worker with at least a four-year college degree earns about \$50,000 per year, compared with a median income of \$30,000 among those with a two-year degree or subbaccalaureate education and about \$18,500 for those with no more than a high school diploma. Despite those sizable average differences, there is considerable overlap across income distributions, particularly for those with a four-year degree and a lesser amount of postsecondary education.



SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2011

Median Income by Educational Level in \$1,000s
(percent distribution of prime working-age adults)