Appendix B: Peer metropolitan statistical area comparison of the Denver region

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is often used as a benchmark for other rapidly growing regions. For the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, DRCOG staff has chosen to use several similarly sized and rapidly growing markets as peers for comparison, including:
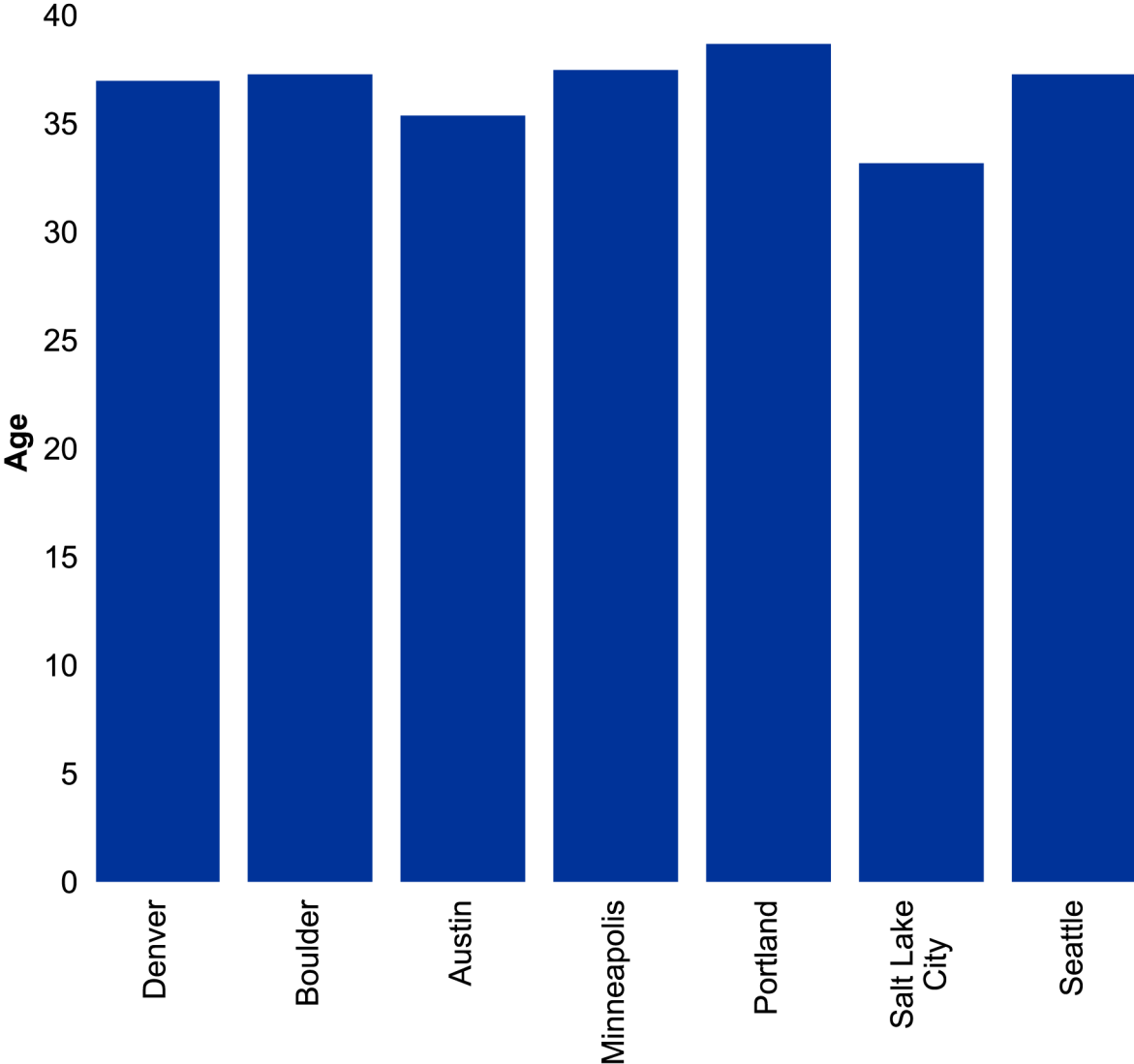
• Salt Lake City, Utah.

• Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas.

• Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Washington.

• Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin.

• Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Oregon-Washington.

The Denver region incorporates both the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan statistical area as well as the Boulder metropolitan statistical area. Both are included in the peer comparison charts that follow.

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000.
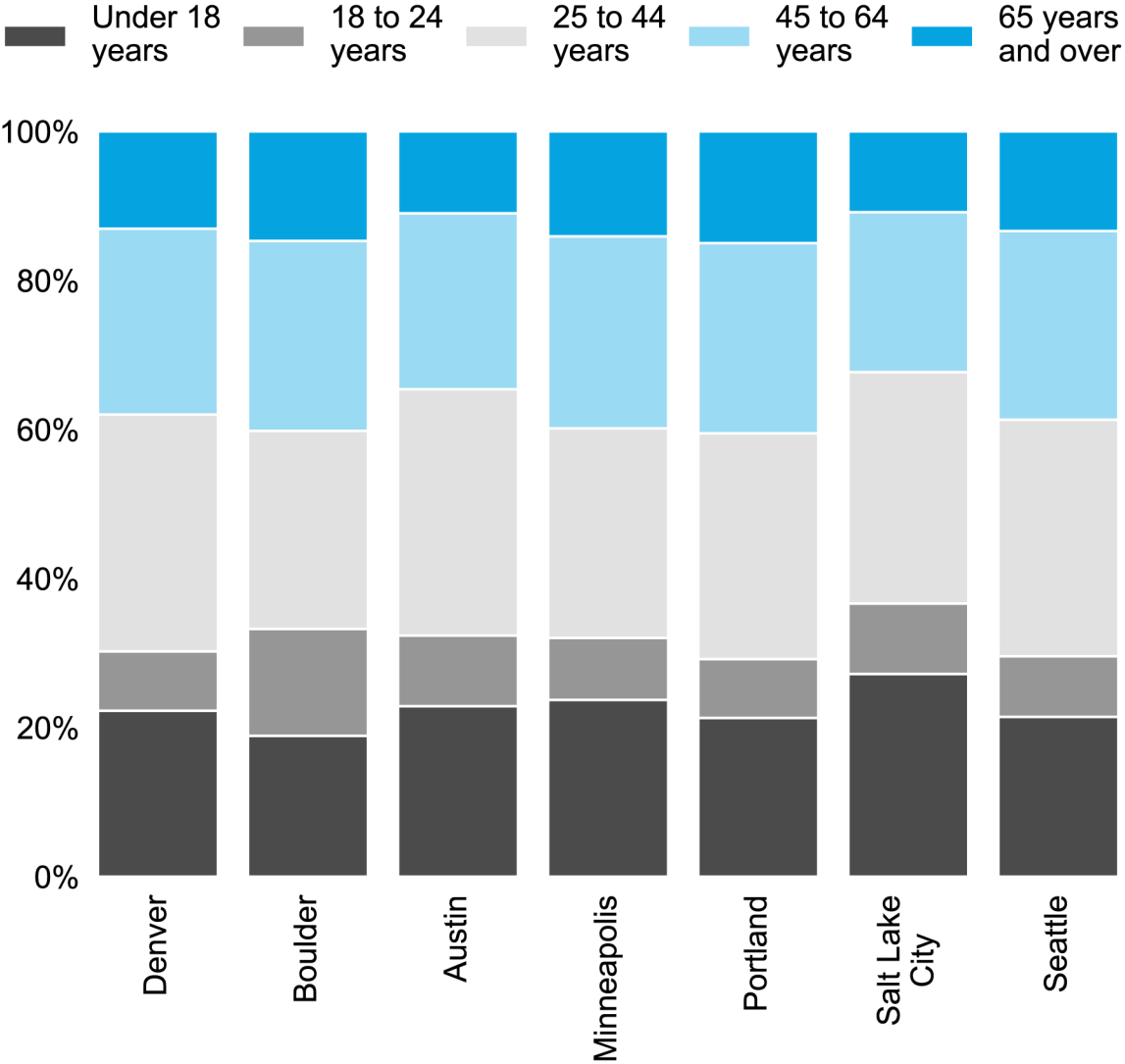
Median age by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
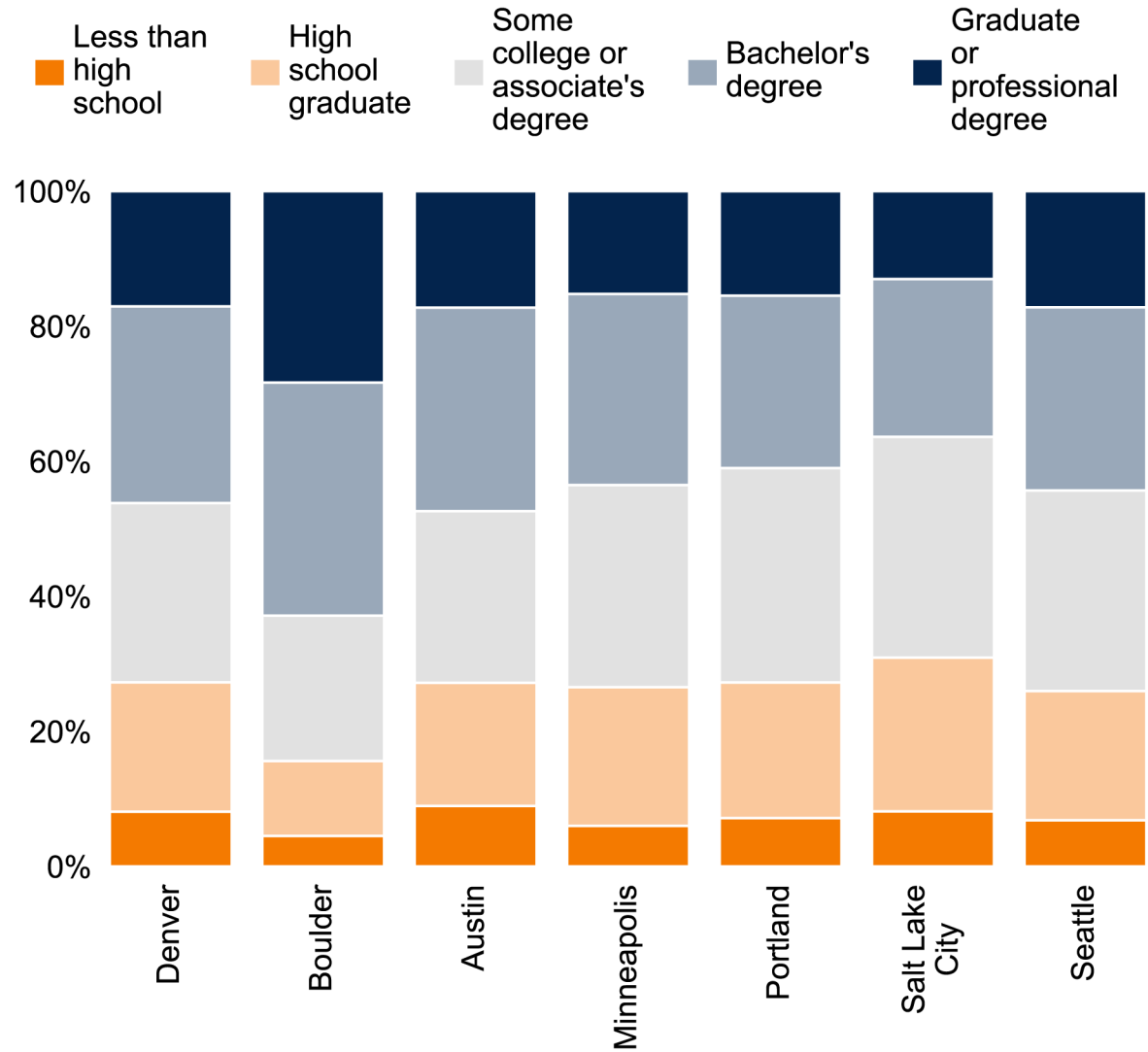
Age distribution by metropolitan statistical area

Legend: Under 18 years | 18 to 24 years | 25 to 44 years | 45 to 64 years | 65 years and over

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Racial composition by metropolitan statistical area

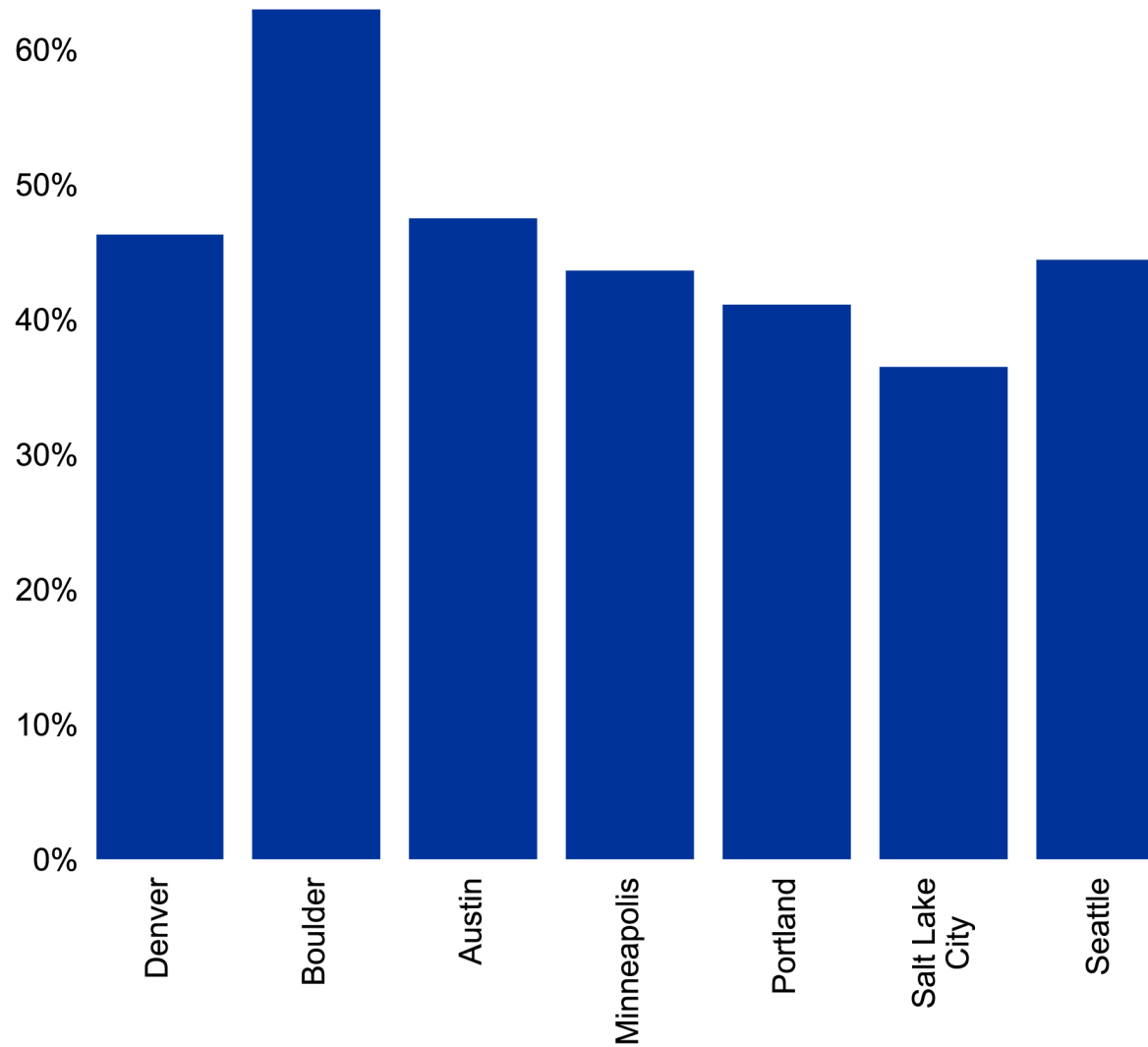| Name	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, Colorado	75.10%	5.60%	0.70%	4.30%	0.10%	5.30%	8.80%
Boulder, Colorado	84.90%	0.90%	0.40%	4.70%	0.10%	2.20%	6.70%
Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas	68.70%	7.30%	0.70%	6.20%	0.10%	7.30%	9.90%
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin	76.40%	8.80%	0.50%	6.80%	0.00%	2.40%	5.00%
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Oregon-Washington	77.40%	2.80%	0.80%	6.90%	0.50%	3.60%	8.00%
Salt Lake City, Utah	76.60%	1.80%	0.90%	3.90%	1.50%	8.80%	6.50%
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Washington	64.80%	5.90%	0.80%	14.50%	0.80%	4.00%	9.20%

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

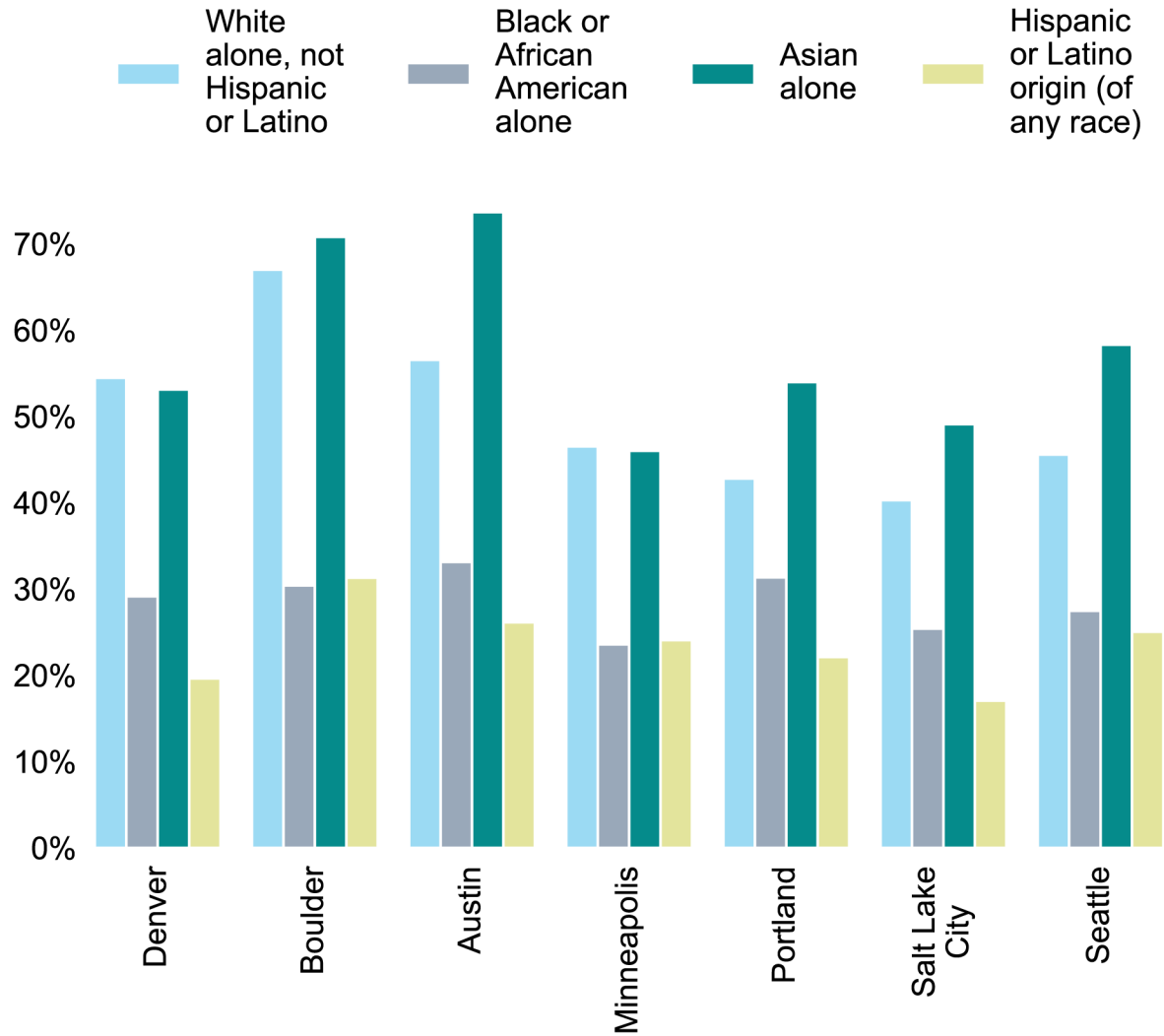# Educational attainment by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Share of population with bachelor's degree or higher by metropolitan statistical area
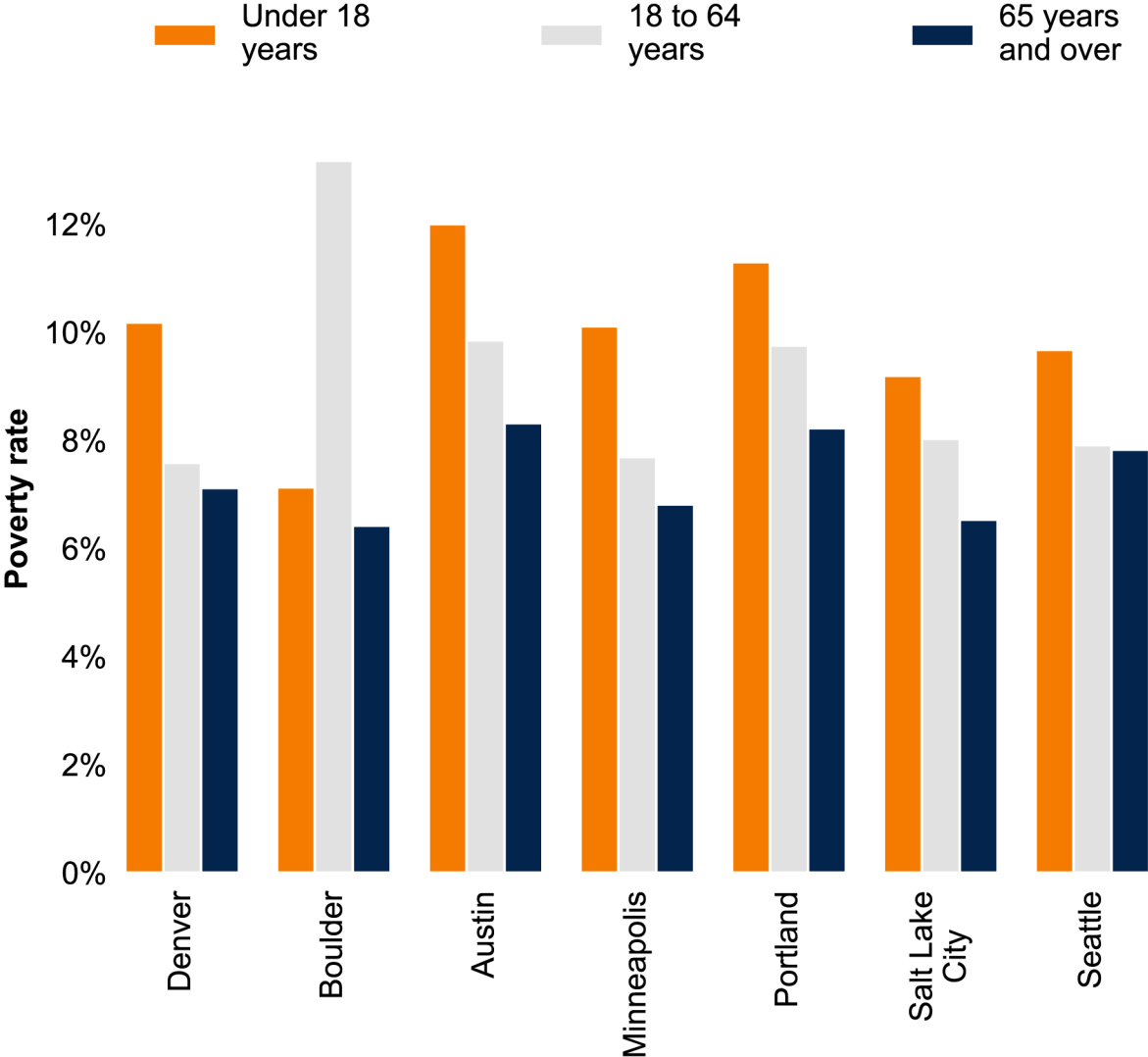

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Share of population with bachelor's degree or higher by race and ethnicity and metropolitan statistical area
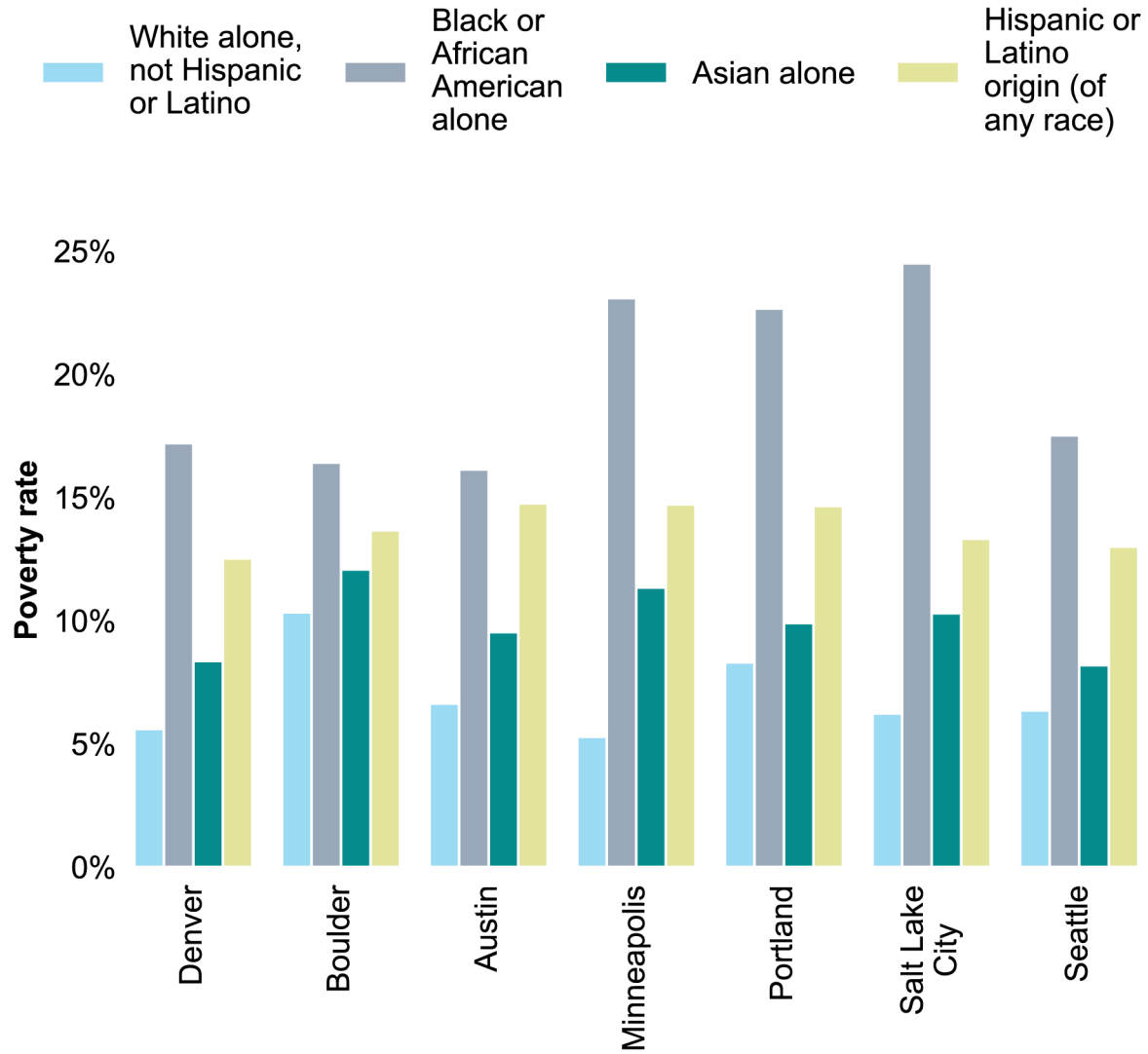

Legend:
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American alone
- Asian alone
- Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Poverty rate by age and metropolitan statistical area

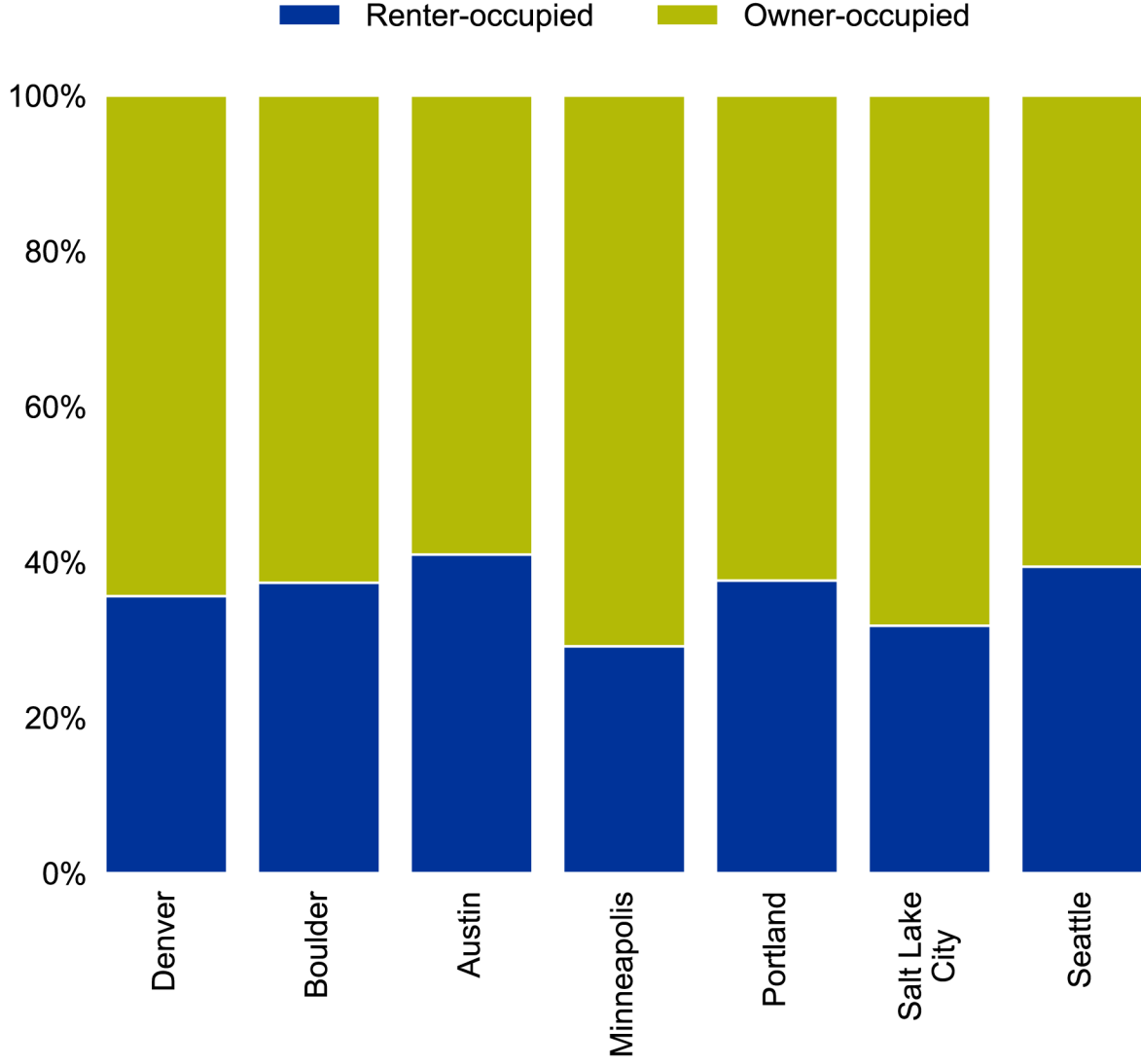■ Under 18 years   ■ 18 to 64 years   ■ 65 years and over

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Poverty rate by race and ethnicity and metropolitan statistical area
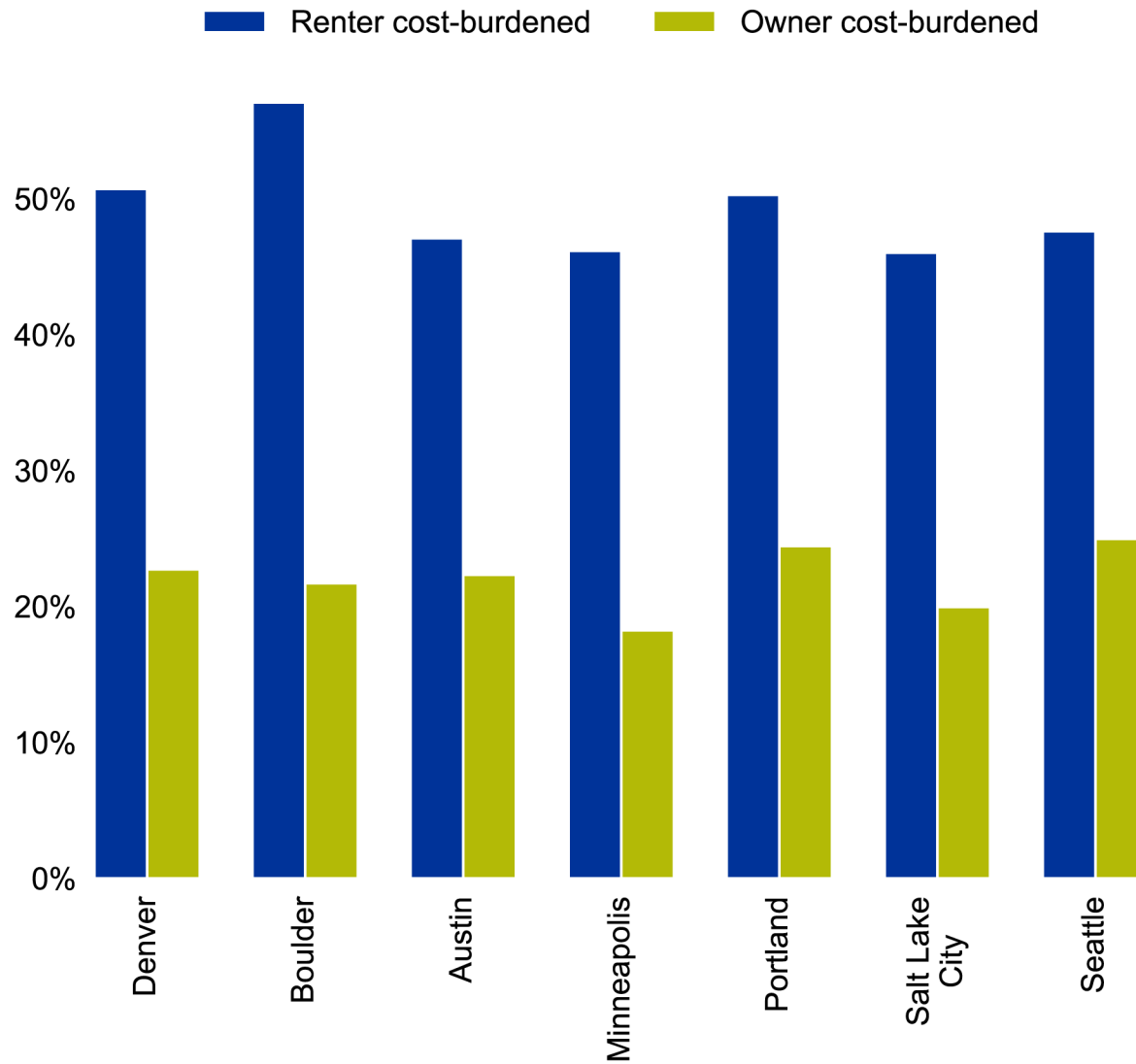
■ White alone, not Hispanic or Latino   ■ Black or African American alone   ■ Asian alone   ■ Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Tenure by metropolitan statistical area
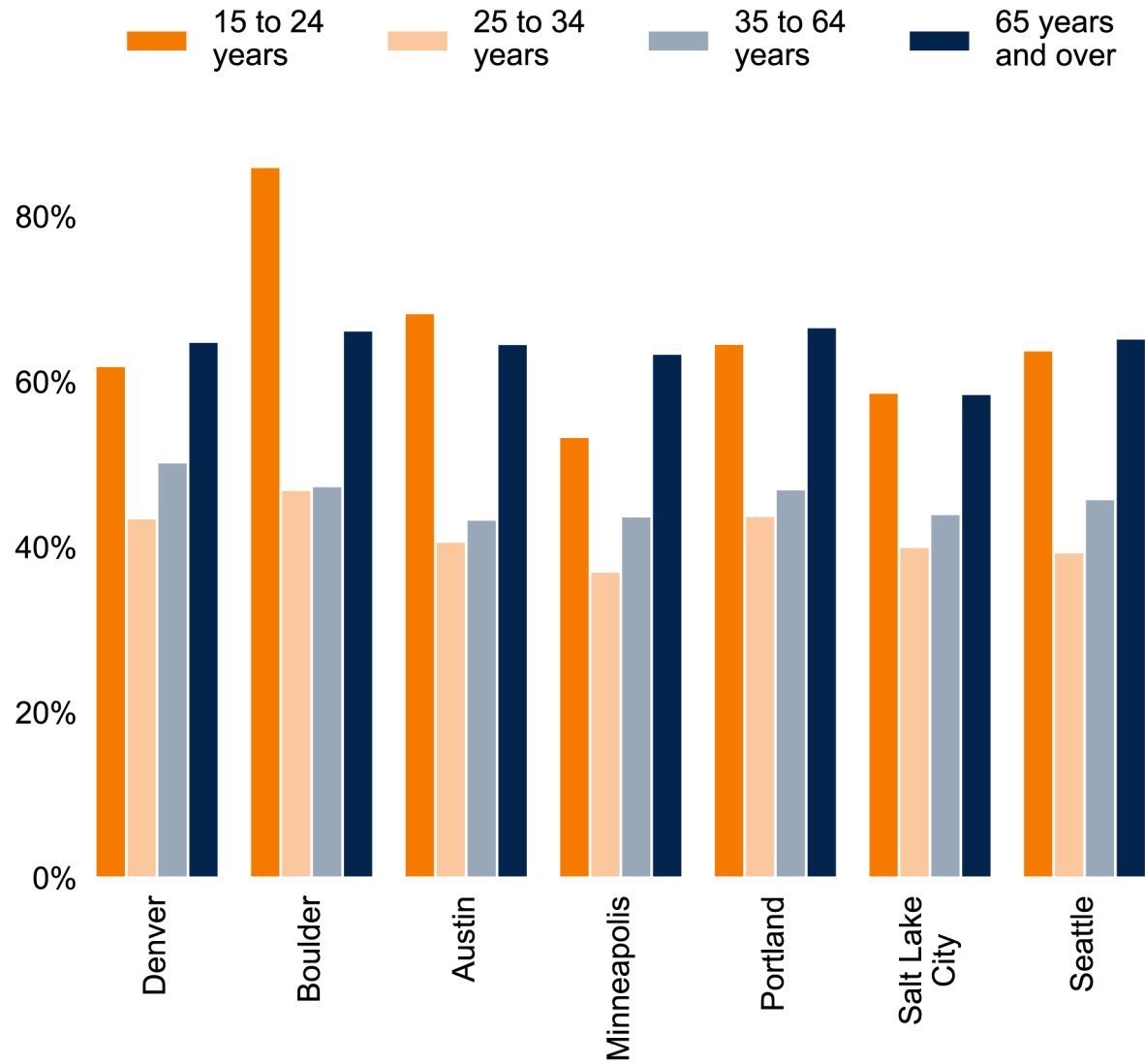
■ Renter-occupied   ■ Owner-occupied

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

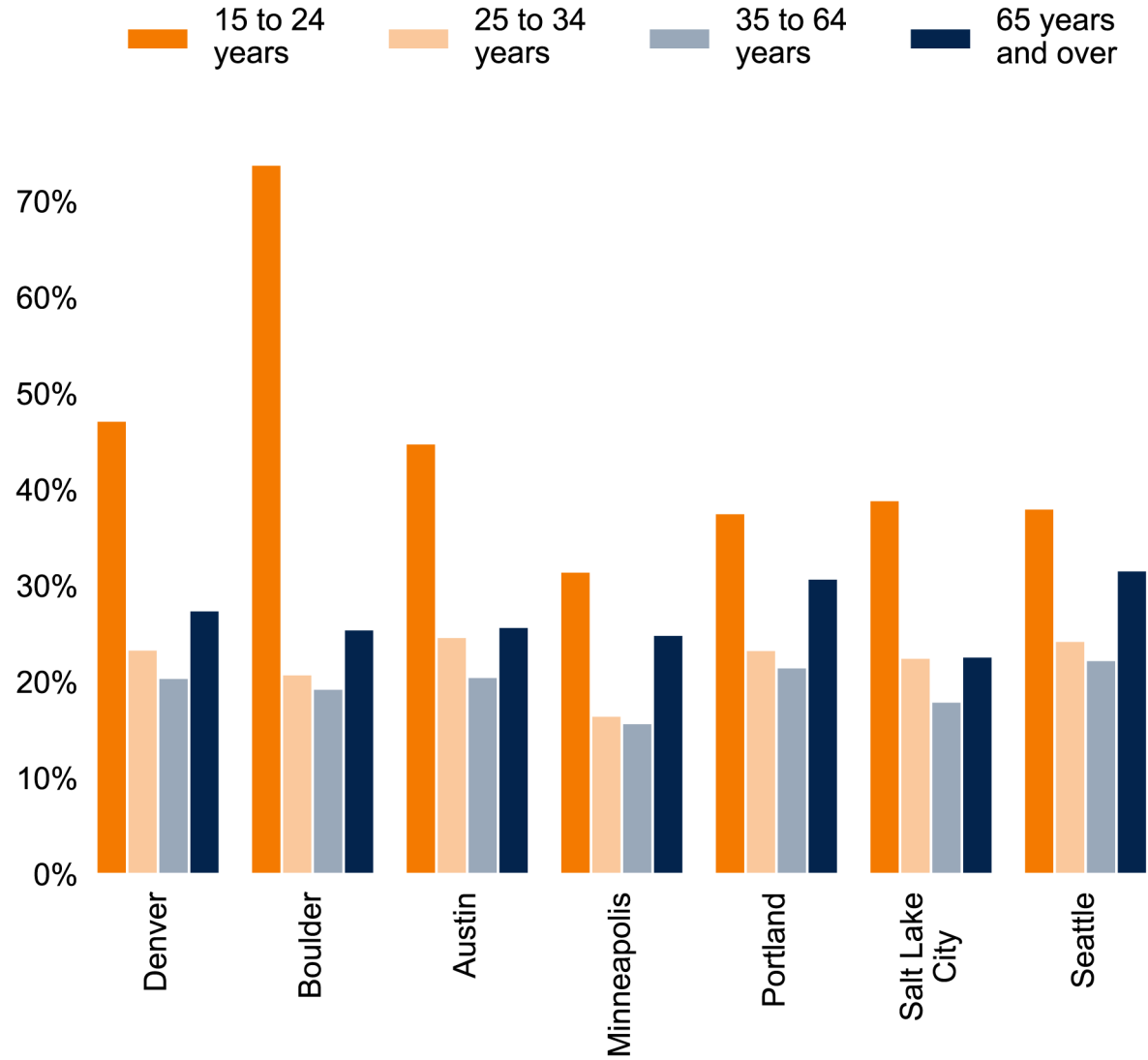**Share of cost-burdened households by tenure and metropolitan statistical area**

Legend: ■ Renter cost-burdened ■ Owner cost-burdened

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Share of cost-burdened renters by age group and metropolitan statistical area

Legend: 15 to 24 years | 25 to 34 years | 35 to 64 years | 65 years and over

Categories: Denver, Boulder, Austin, Minneapolis, Portland, Salt Lake City, Seattle
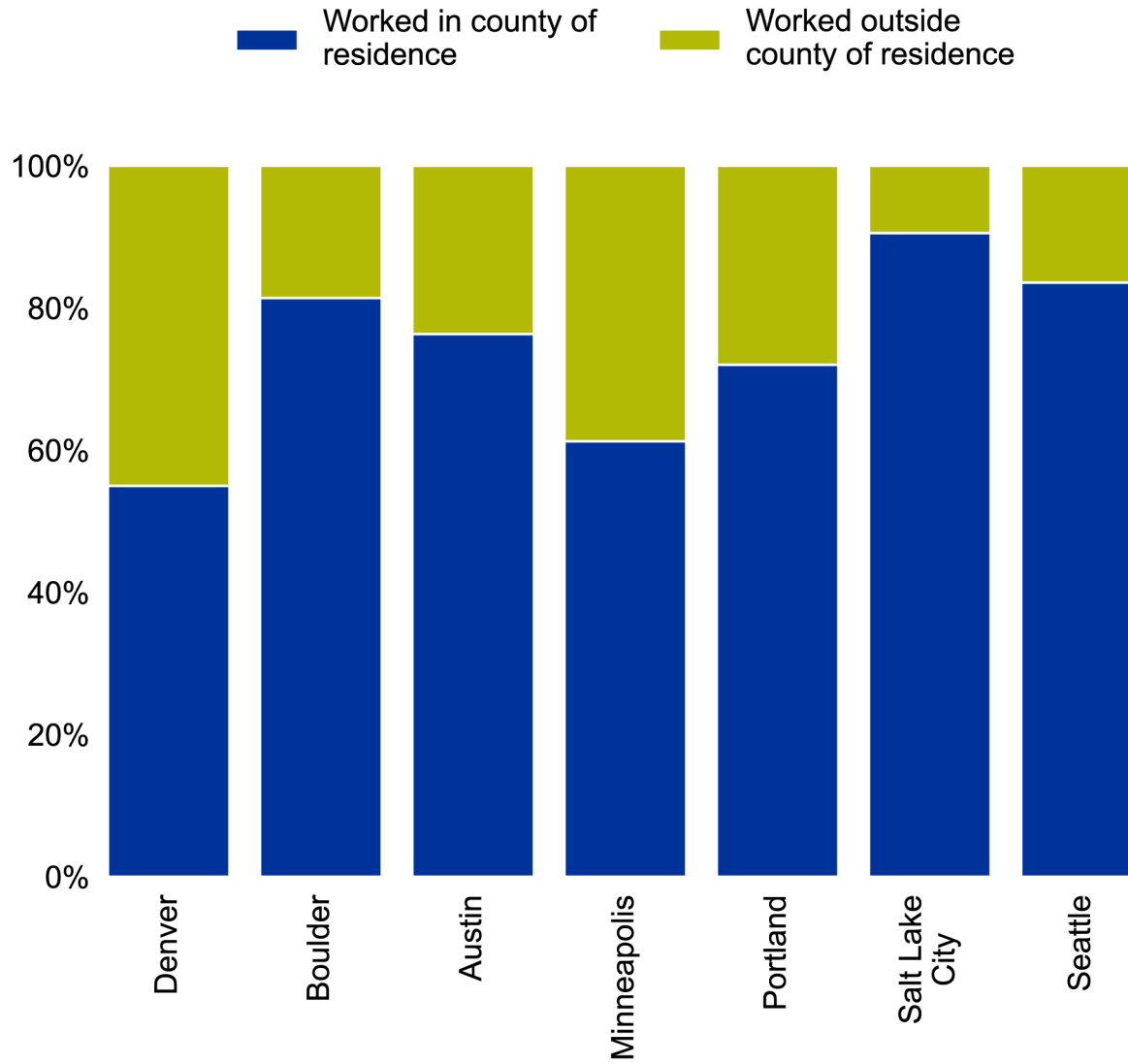
U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

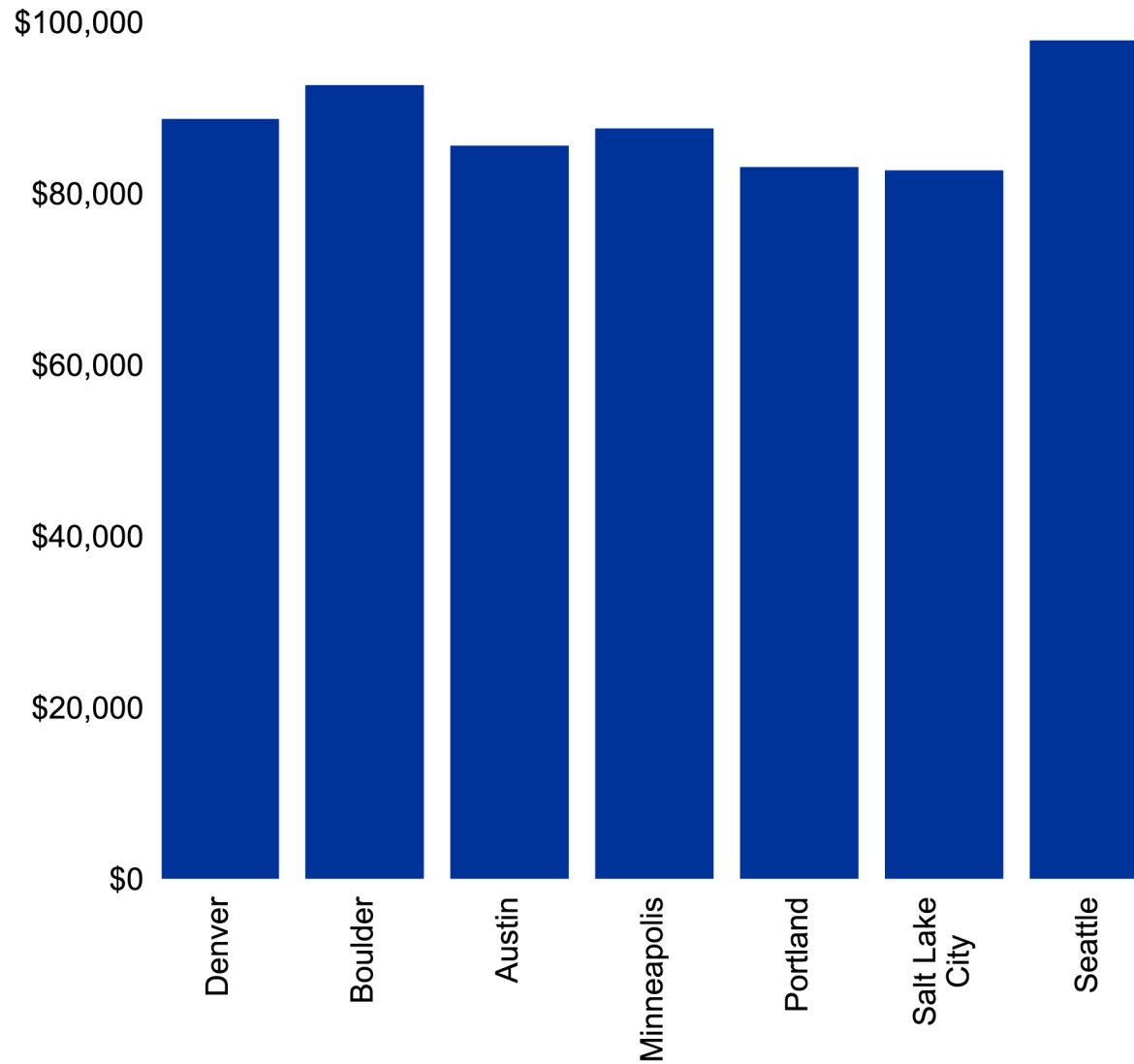## Share of cost-burdened homeowners by age group and metropolitan statistical area

- 15 to 24 years
- 25 to 34 years
- 35 to 64 years
- 65 years and over

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Commuting by metropolitan statistical area

Legend:
- ■ Worked in county of residence (blue)
- ■ Worked outside county of residence (olive)

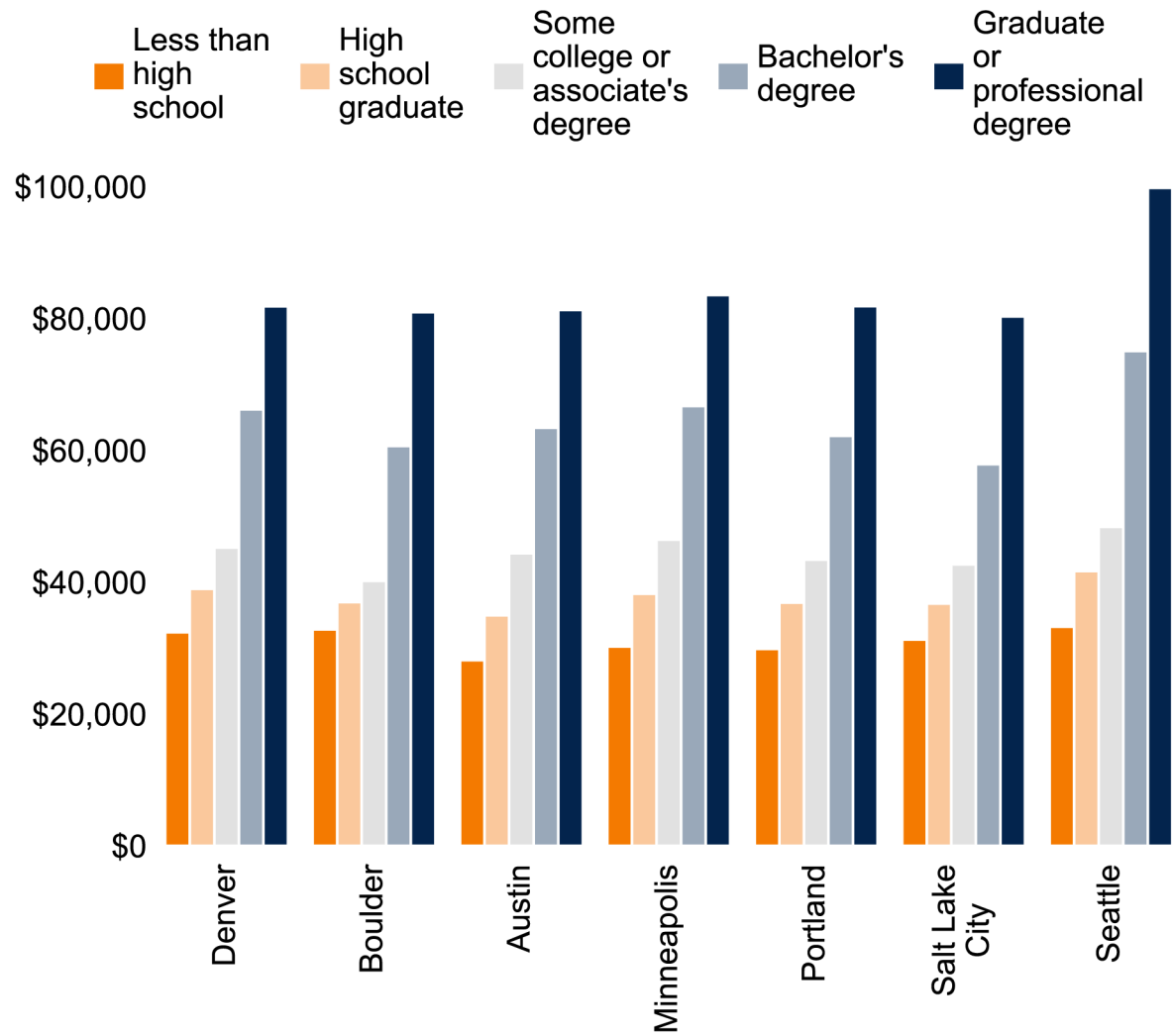| Metropolitan statistical area	Worked in county of residence	Worked outside county of residence
Denver	~55%	~45%
Boulder	~82%	~18%
Austin	~76%	~24%
Minneapolis	~62%	~38%
Portland	~72%	~28%
Salt Lake City	~91%	~9%
Seattle	~84%	~16%

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Median household income in the past 12 months by metropolitan statistical area
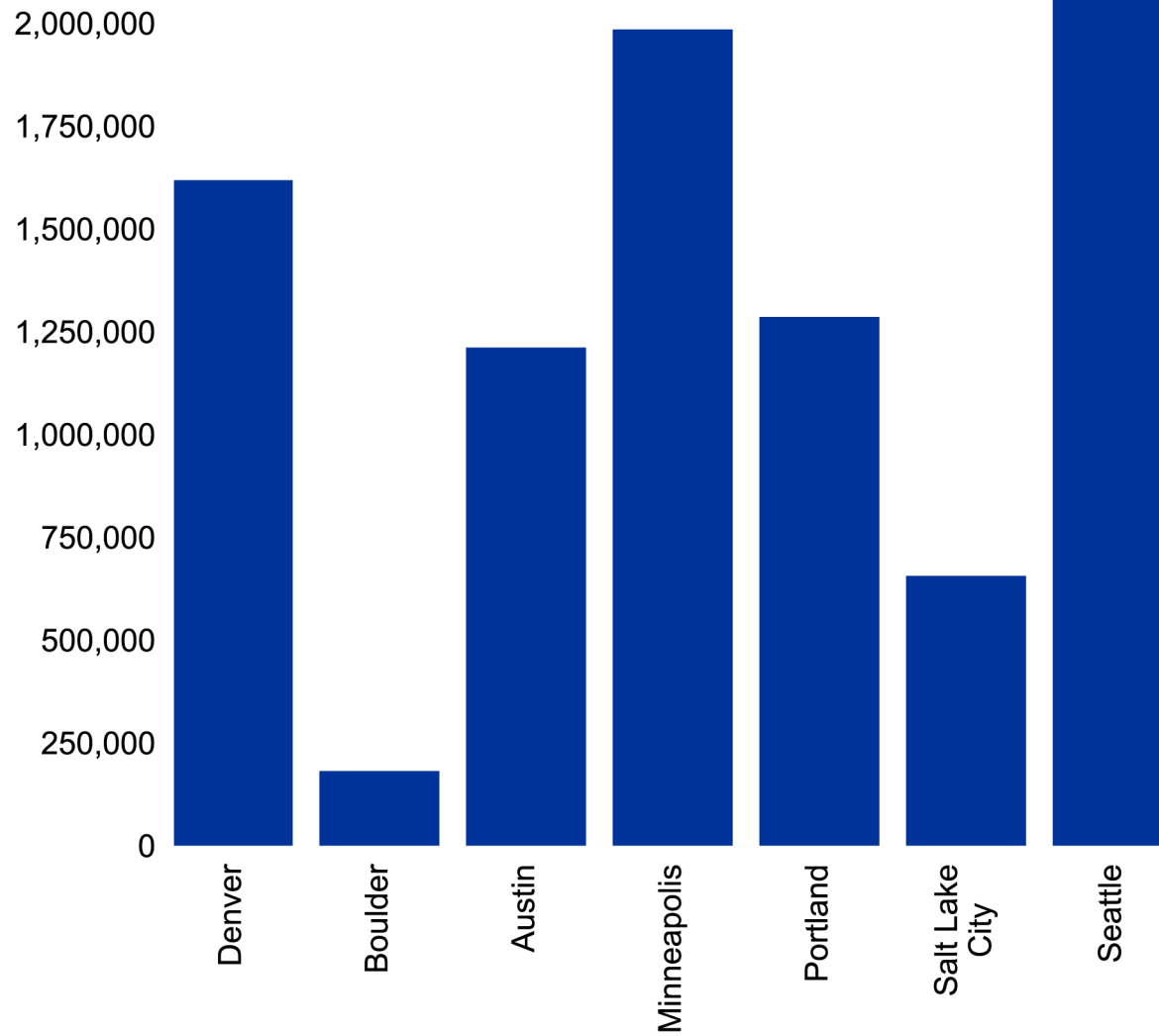

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Median earnings in the past 12 months by educational attainment and metropolitan statistical area

Legend:
- Less than high school (orange)
- High school graduate (light orange)
- Some college or associate's degree (light gray)
- Bachelor's degree (gray-blue)
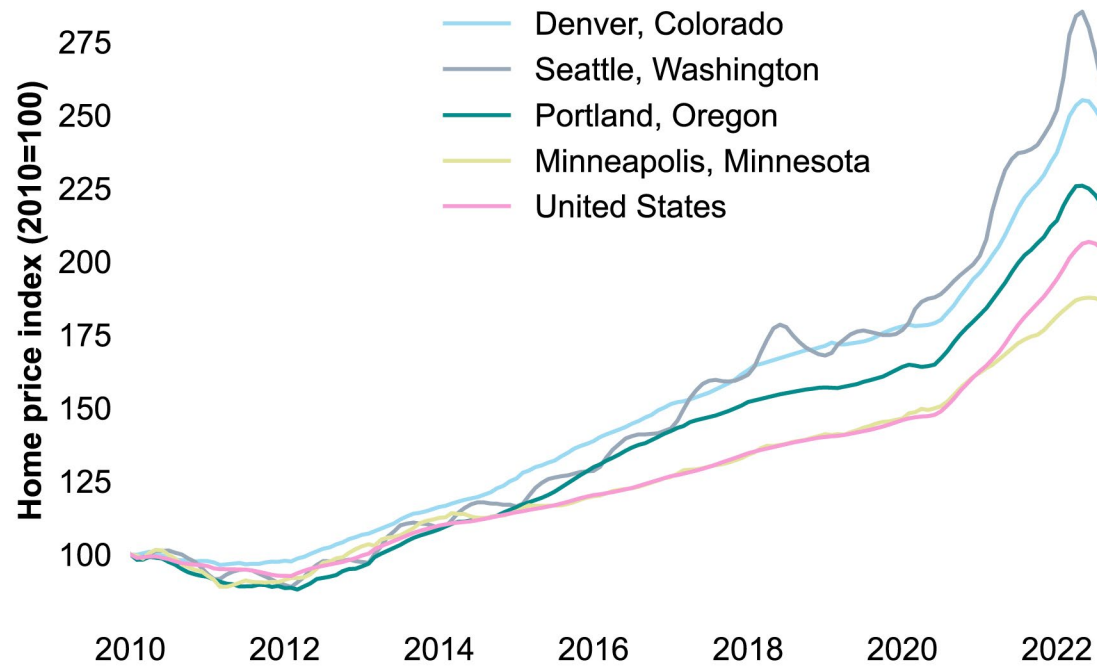- Graduate or professional degree (dark navy)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

Employed population in civilian labor force by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates

S&P/Case-Shiller home price index

Legend:
- Denver, Colorado
- Seattle, Washington
- Portland, Oregon
- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- United States

Y-axis: Home price index (2010=100)

S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. (2023) S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index