

# **An Examination of PIAAC Data for Unemployed Adults Aged 45 to 74**

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# Background

- Middle-aged and older adults important segment of U.S. labor force
- Dynamic job market requires continuous skill-upgrading
- Little previous research has focused on these age groups
- Current study fills important gap in research

# Study Purpose

- To examine associations between key human capital indicators and employment in the second half of adult life
- Focused on ages 45 to 74

# Research Questions

- 1. Lifelong learning by employment status:** Are there differences in participation in adult education and training (AET) based on employment status?
- 2. Literacy skills and use by employment status:** Are there differences in literacy skills or use of reading and writing skills at home based on employment status?

# Research Questions

- 3. Literacy skills and use by retirement status:** Are there differences in literacy skills or use of reading and writing skills at home among the retired, employed, and unemployed?

# Methodology

- Key variables examined include demographic characteristics, employment and health status, literacy, lifelong learning, and skill use at home
- Indices for skill use at home (e.g., reading books and newspapers) derived from series of PIAAC survey items
- Skill use at home examined to understand informal learning

# Methodology

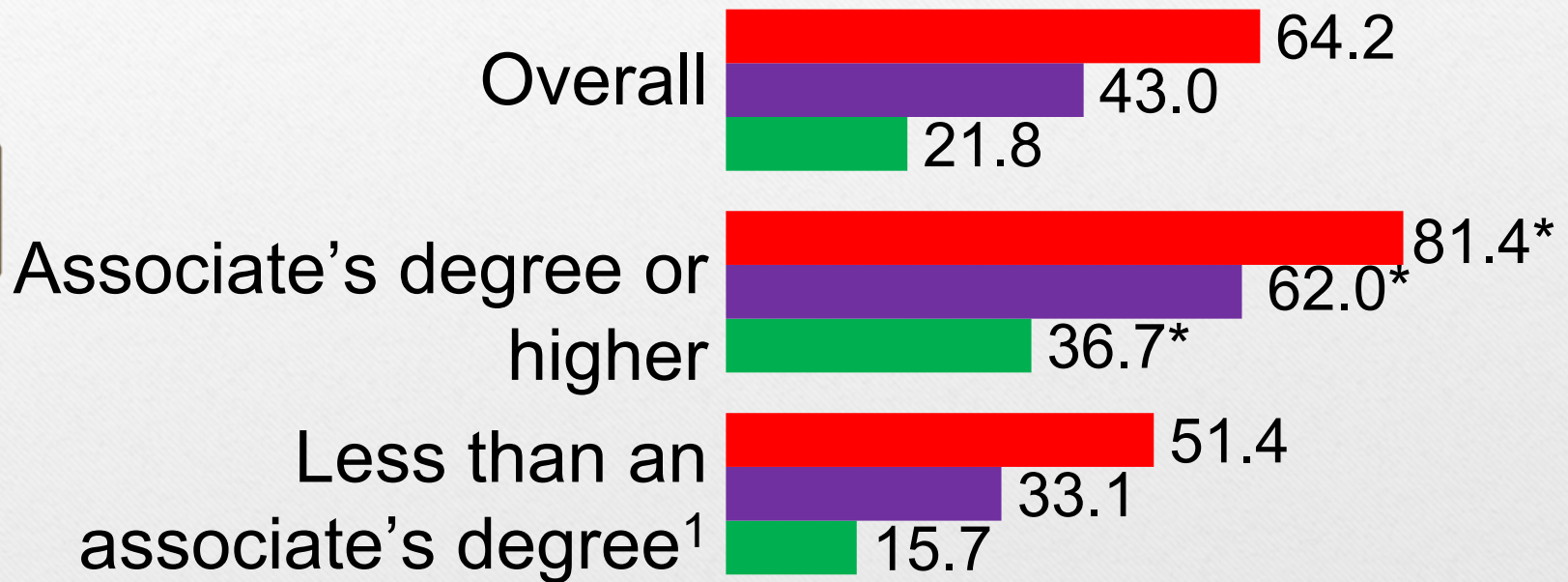
- Used SAS macro program to account for complex survey design
- Weighted descriptive statistics
- Binary logistic regression

# Findings: Research Question 1

- Overall, employed participants participate more in AET than unemployed or out of the labor force
- For all employment groups, people with higher levels of education were more likely to participate in AET



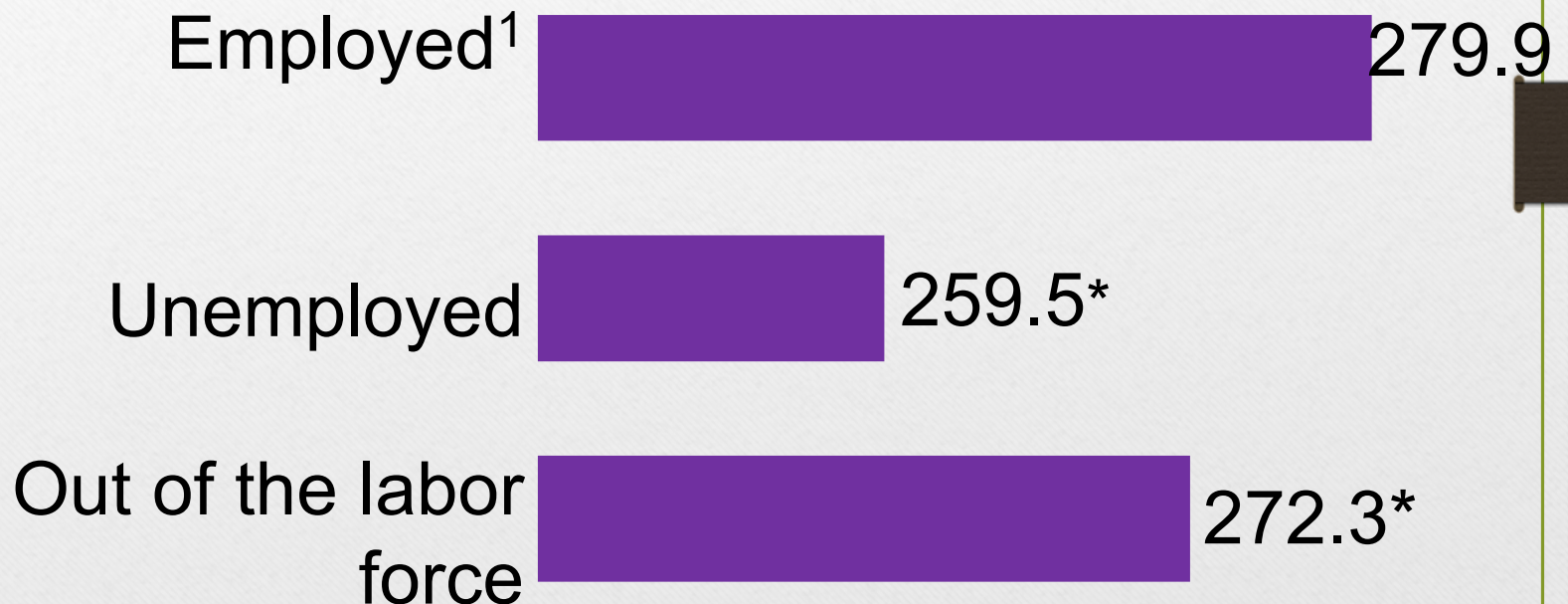
# Findings Research Question 1: Participation in AET Ages 45 – 65 (percent)



■ Employed ■ Unemployed ■ Out of the Labor Force

1. Reference Group

# Findings Research Question 2: Literacy Skills and Employment Status Ages 45 - 64

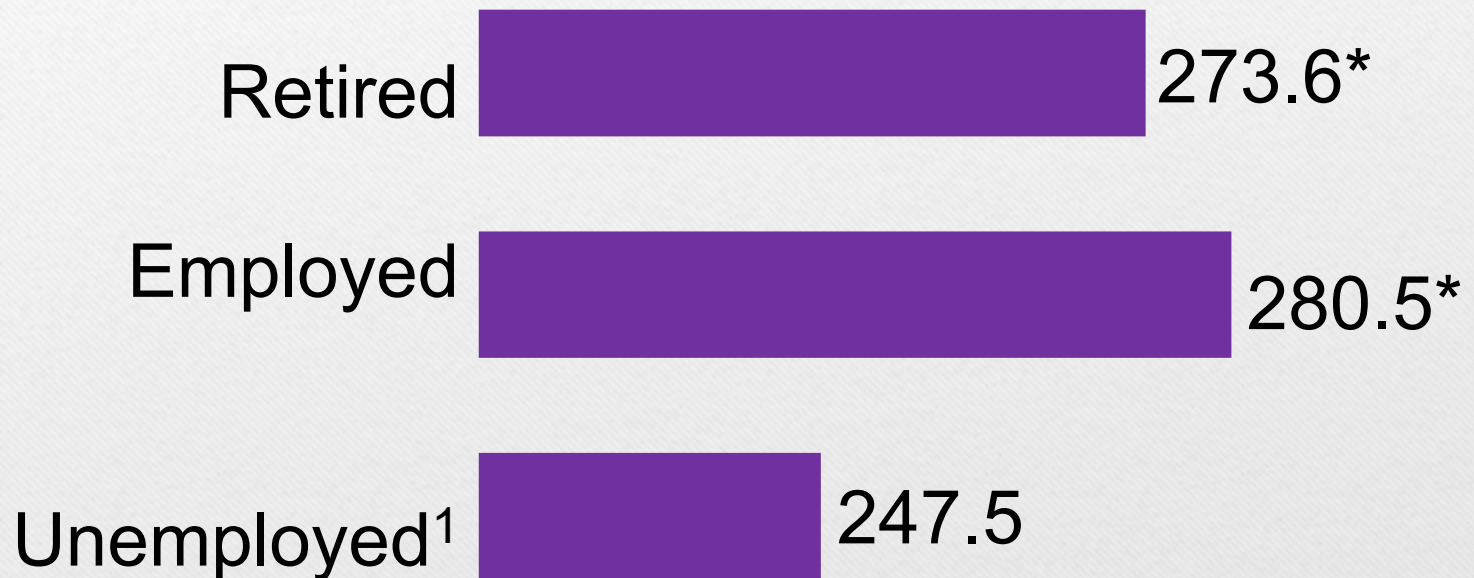


1. Reference group

## Reading/Writing Skill use at Home and Retirement Status: Ages 45 - 65

- There was a significant difference between employed (2.11) and retired (1.93) in the use of writing skills at home
- There was no significant difference between employed and retired in the use of reading skills at home

# Findings Research Question 3: Literacy Skills and Retirement Status Ages 45 - 64



1. Reference group

## Reading/Writing Skill use at Home and Employment Status: Ages 66 - 75

- There was no significant difference between employed and retired in the use of reading skills at home
- There was no significant difference between employed and retired in the use of writing skills at home

# Policy and Practice Implications

- Programs are needed to better inform middle-aged and older adults about the importance of lifelong learning and continuous skills upgrades
- More targeted outreach for lifelong learning opportunities are necessary, especially for the unemployed, out of the labor force, and retired