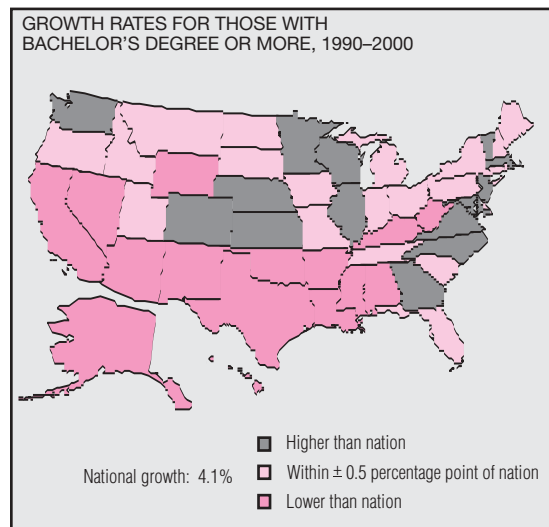
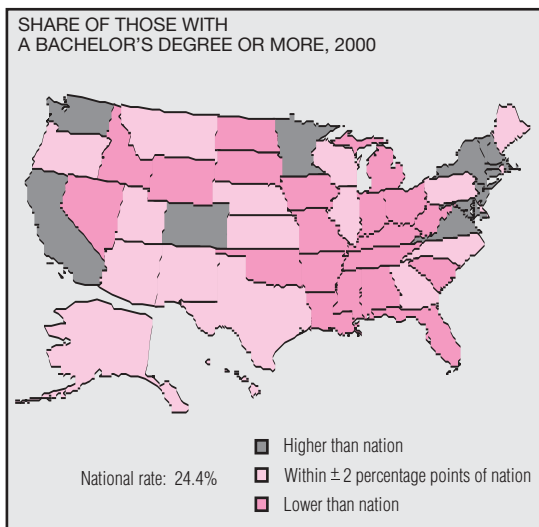
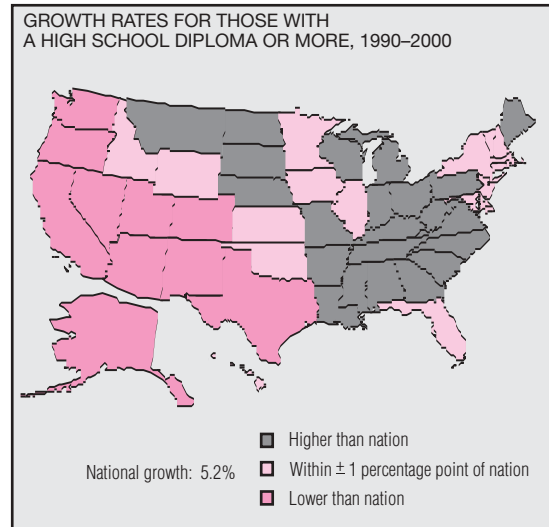
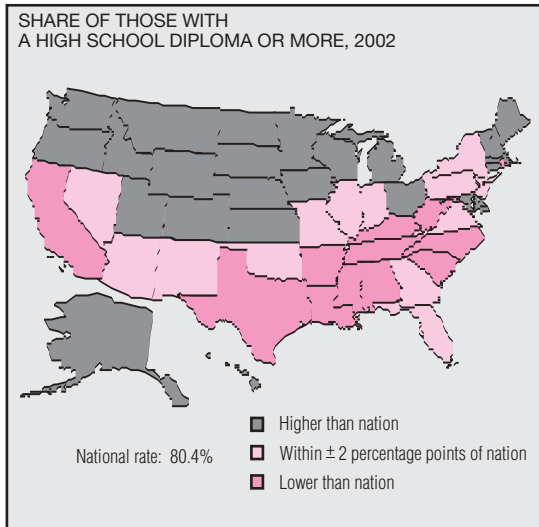


Census 2000: Educational Attainment



NOTE: All data refer to persons who are 25 and older.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3.

The Census Bureau recently released information on educational attainment from the 2000 Census (Summary File 3). It provides data on those 25 and older for two attainment levels: a high school diploma or more and a bachelor's degree or more.

In 2000, 80.4% of people in the U.S. had at least a high school diploma or equivalent. The states with higher percentages of high school graduates are in the Northwest, Great Plains, Upper Midwest, and New England regions; the states with lower percentages are in the South plus California and Rhode Island.

Between the censuses of 1990 and 2000, the South and parts of the Midwest and Great Plains improved their educational attainment rates more quickly than the nation as a whole; the western states had slower growth rates than the U.S. For the nation, the share of people 25 and older with at least a high school diploma increased 5.2% over the decade. In six states, the shares of high school grads rose less than 3%; in California, the increase was less than 1%.

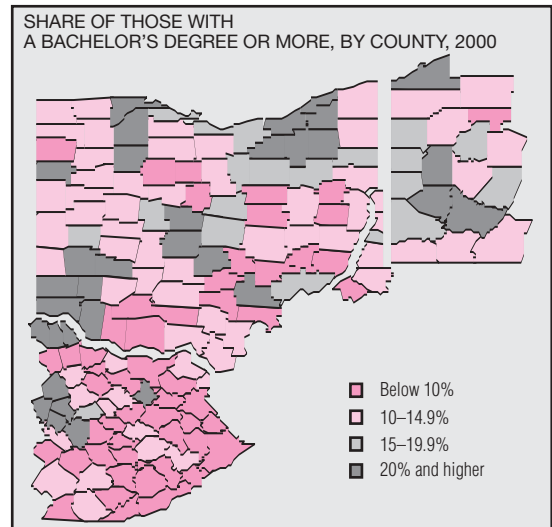
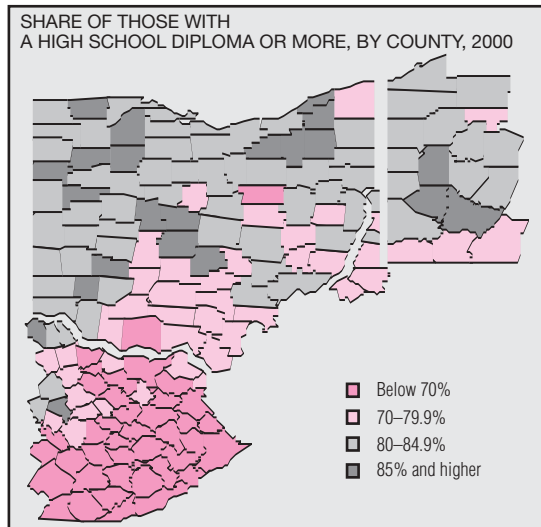
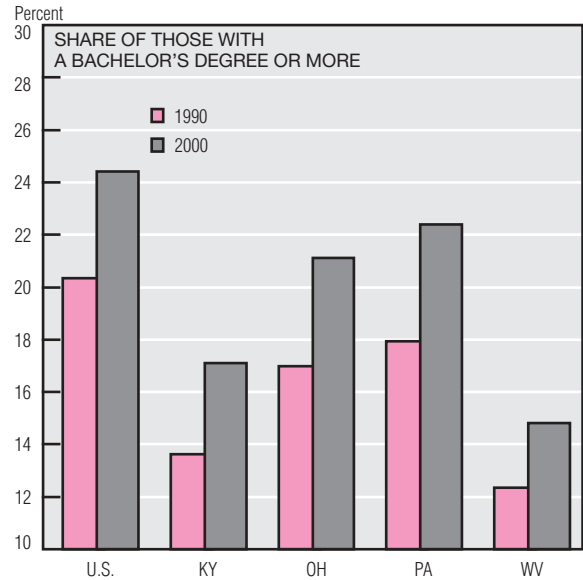
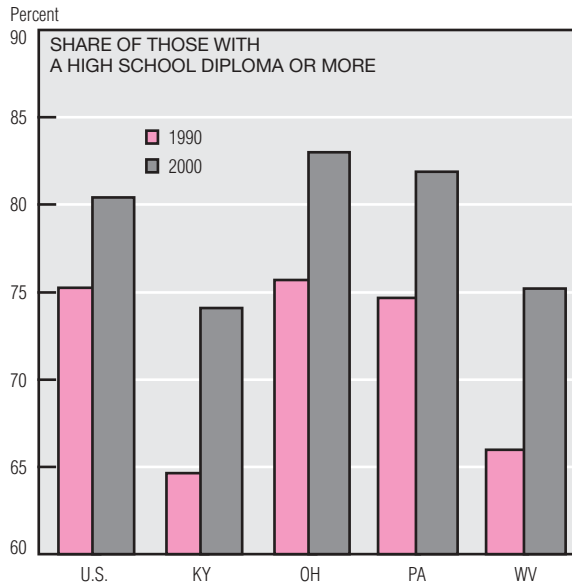
Almost 25% of people in the U.S. have at least a bachelor's degree, with higher rates in Washington,

California, Colorado, and Minnesota as well as the Washington, D.C., area and some New England states. In Connecticut, Maryland, Colorado, and Massachusetts, more than 30% of the population has at least a bachelor's degree.

Between 1990 and 2000, states that had the highest growth rates for the share of the population with at least a bachelor's degree were scattered all over the nation. Burgeoning numbers of high-tech jobs in Washington, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland could account for some of the increase in those states.

(continued on next page)

Census 2000: Educational Attainment (cont.)



NOTE: All data refer to persons who are 25 and older.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3.

Every Fourth District state increased the percentage of those at both attainment levels—high school and college. In 1990, Ohio was the only state in the District to exceed the nationwide percentage of those with at least a high school diploma (75.7% versus 75.2%). By 2000, rates in both Ohio and Pennsylvania were higher than the nation. Kentucky and West Virginia were still among the least educated states in the nation (second and fourth from the bottom); however, the shares of those with at least a high school diploma improved considerably. Districtwide, the percent of those with at least a bachelor's

degree lagged the nation again in 2000; however, Pennsylvania's rate of increase was higher than the nation's.

Counties near major cities generally have a higher share of people with at least a high school diploma; however, this is not always true of counties in which those cities are located. The counties with the lowest percentages are concentrated in eastern Kentucky, which relies heavily on agriculture, and Holmes County, Ohio, which has a large Amish population.

The counties with the highest percentages of the population with a bachelor's degree or beyond are focused in and around counties with

major cities. The counties with the lowest percentages are in Eastern Kentucky and in pockets of southern, eastern, and central Ohio. For both levels of attainment, rural counties with a college or university often have higher rates than the surrounding counties (for example, Rowan County, Kentucky has Morehead State University, and Athens County, Ohio has Ohio University). Counties that have smaller colleges or at least one major employer (particularly hospitals and private companies) often surpass neighboring countries' shares of people with a bachelor's degree or more.