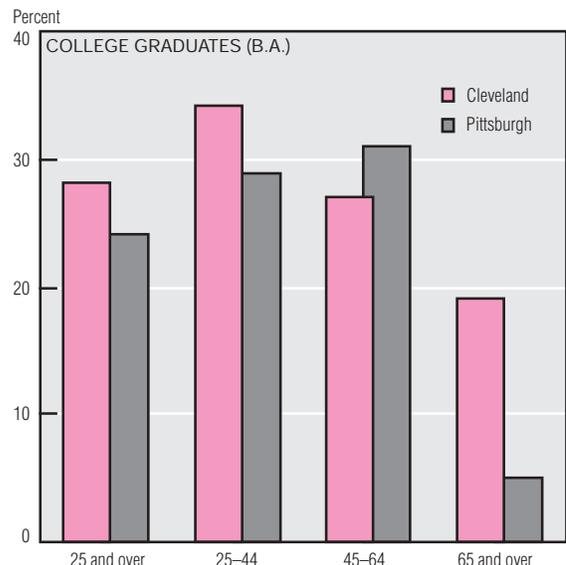
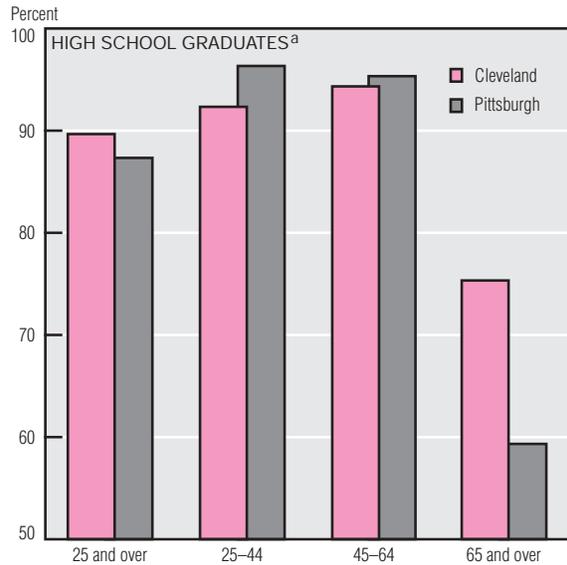
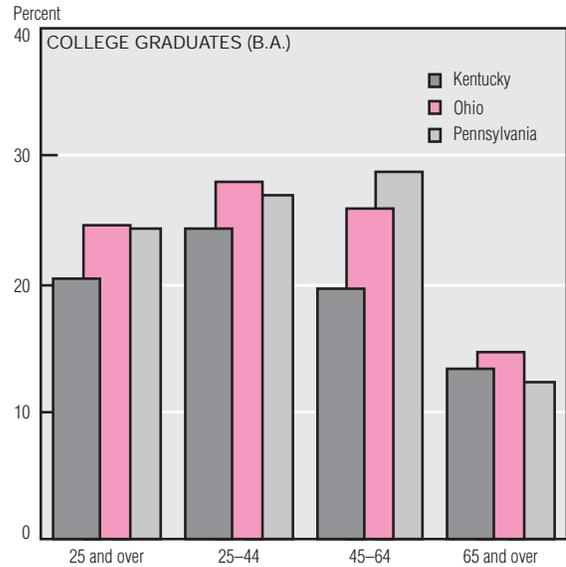
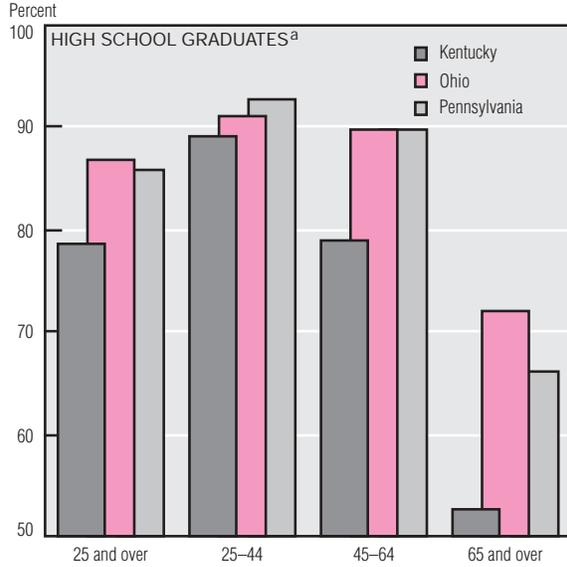


Educational Attainment



a. Includes general equivalency diploma.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, March 2000.

The *Current Population Survey* (CPS) allows analysis of educational attainment for the 25 largest states and 15 largest metropolitan areas in the country. The Fourth District states included in this group are Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as are the Pittsburgh and Cleveland-Akron metropolitan areas.

Since the CPS began tracking educational attainment in 1949, the high school graduation rate has risen steadily, as has the share of the population completing bachelor's degrees. The most recent CPS (March

2000 data) gives a cross-sectional view of this trend: The younger the age cohort, the larger the share of high school graduates within it. The CPS data suggest that secondary education is now almost universal among individuals aged 25 to 44.

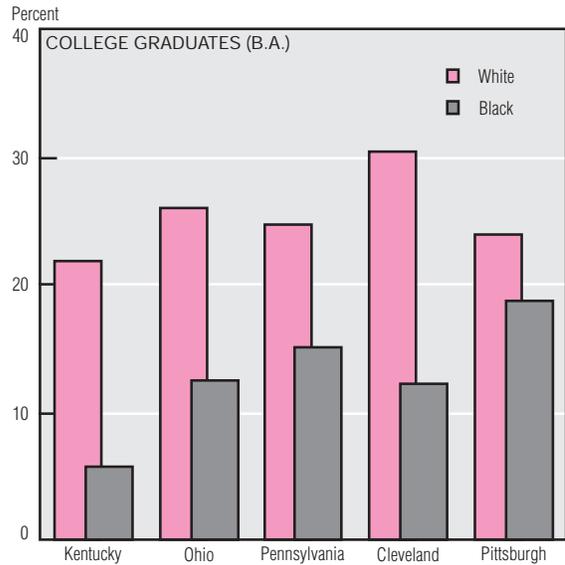
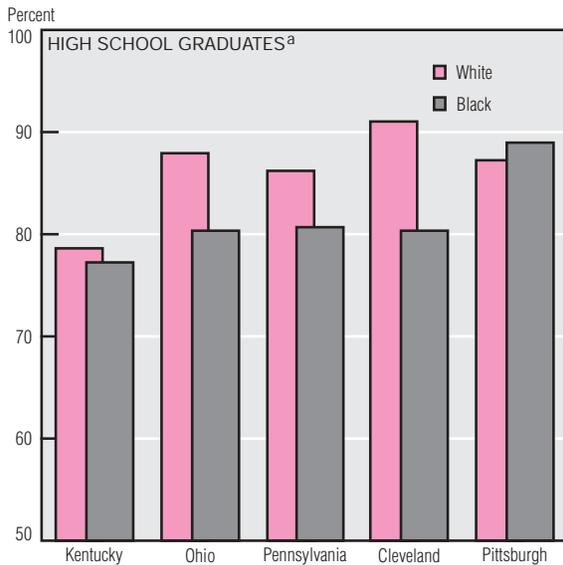
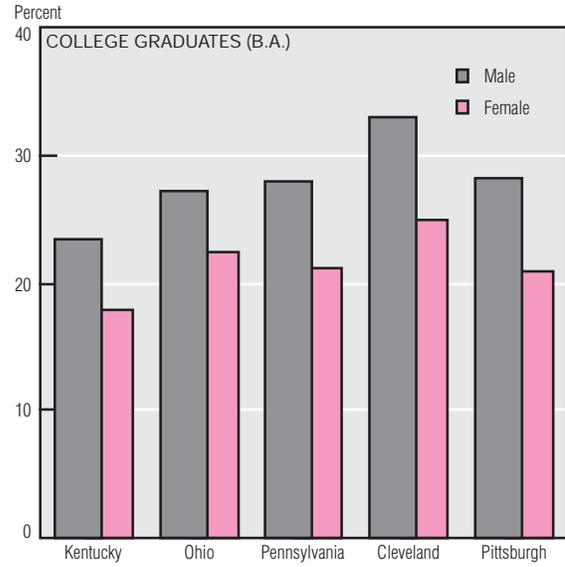
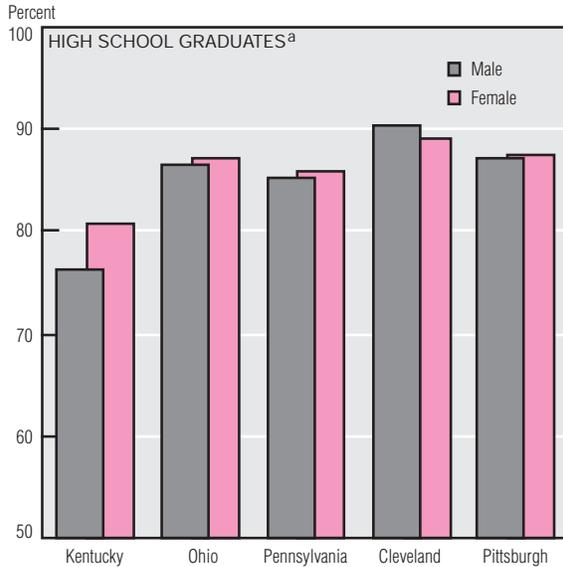
Generational differences in both high school graduation rates and the share of individuals with bachelor's degrees reflect an evolving workforce with changing needs. The Fourth District, long dominated by manufacturing and heavy industry in the north and mining and agriculture in the

south (all with extensive on-the-job training), has more recently begun to need workers with skills gained in an academic setting. People who are now 65 or older found it more profitable to start work in high-skill positions providing on-the-job training than to get a college degree or, to a lesser extent, a high school diploma. This was especially true in Pittsburgh, where the steel industry dominated in the first half of the twentieth century.

Technological advances and the 1980 recession reduced the availability of skilled, high-paying jobs in industry,

(continued on next page)

Educational Attainment (cont.)



a. Includes general equivalency diploma.
NOTE: All data are for individuals aged 25 or older.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Survey*, March 2000.

so people of all ages looked to education to improve their positions and pay. Kentucky made this transition later than the northern part of the District. Kentucky's base industries, agriculture and mining, gave way to heavy industry (primarily automobiles) just as high-paying jobs in heavy manufacturing were becoming less available in the District's northern region. The same change occurred much later in Kentucky, a delay reflected in the state's significantly lower share of people aged 45–64 with high school diplomas compared to Ohio or Pennsylvania.

In most areas, females have higher high school graduation rates, indicating that a larger share of young males would rather start work than attend school in the hope of attaining a better job in the future. While a larger share of females start college, the males who start have a higher rate of graduation with a bachelor's degree. The reasons for this are unclear.

Although the CPS samples are too small to compare educational attainment among all race categories, they do allow comparison between blacks and whites. Differences in high school graduation rates in the Fourth

District's two largest metropolitan areas are notable: Whites have a far higher graduation rate in Cleveland, while in Pittsburgh blacks have a significantly higher rate. Differences between races at the state level become more pronounced between high school and college graduation, especially in Kentucky, where the shares of blacks and whites graduating from high school are nearly equal, but the share of whites who obtain a bachelor's degree is four times that of blacks.