
SECTION 3. EDUCATION

Educational attainment is critical for economic opportunities and quality of life. Higher levels of education tend to correspond with better employment, increased income, greater wealth, improved health, and lower rates of poverty.

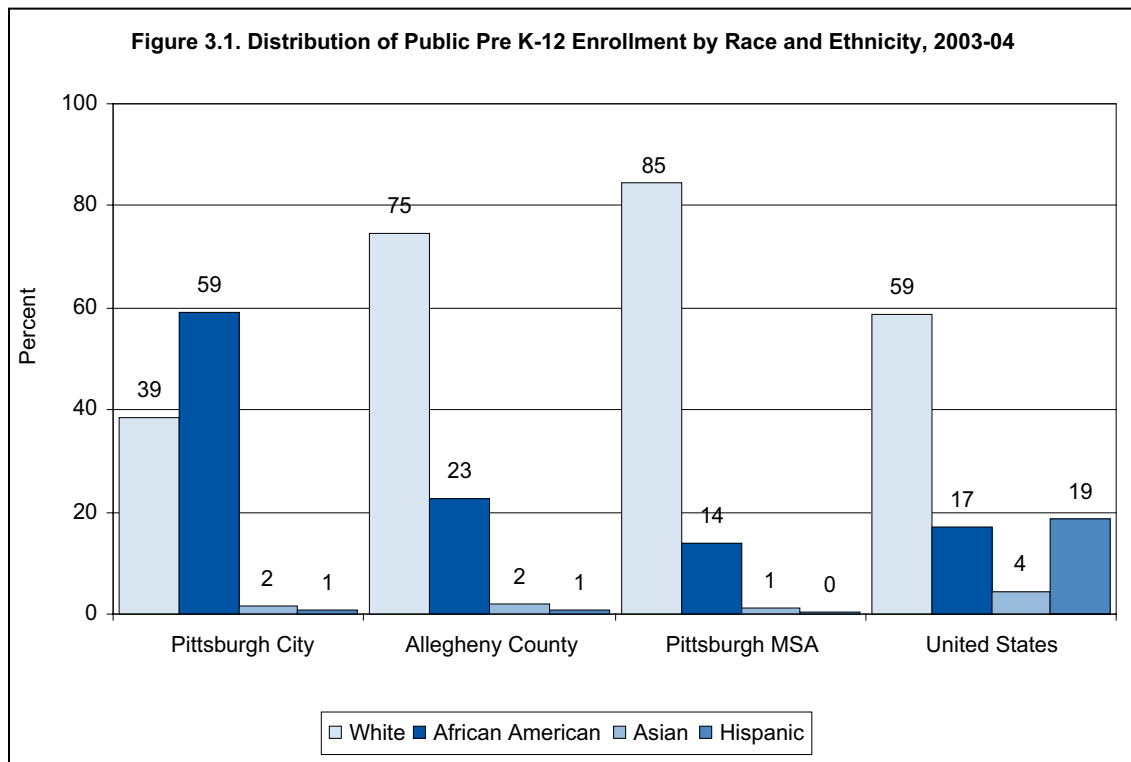
In this section we present data on racial and ethnic disparities in education in the Pittsburgh area and the nation. The topics covered are:

- Public elementary and secondary school enrollment
- Reading and math skills
- High school diploma recipients
- Bachelor degrees conferred
- Education attainment

Section 3. Education

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Public school enrollment reflects racial and ethnic diversity among the youth population and racial and ethnic differences in access to schools.

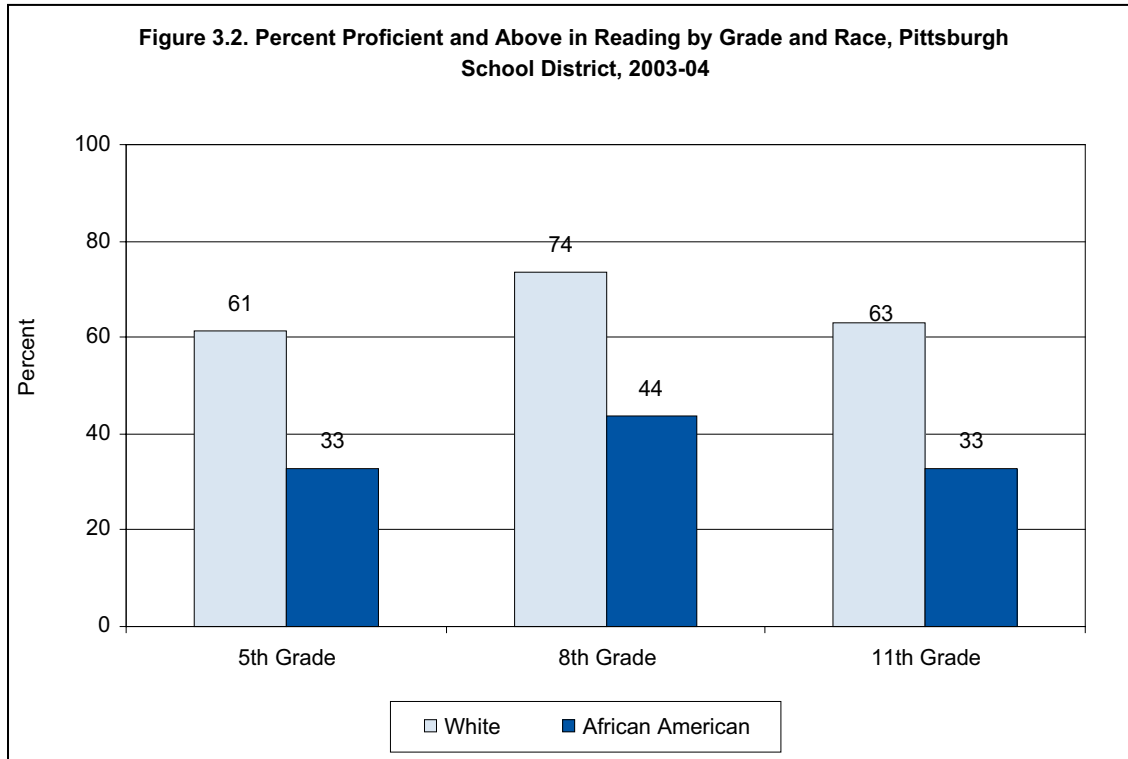


Source: Appendix 3.1

- The majority of students enrolled in public schools in the city of Pittsburgh are African American, whereas the majority of students in Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh MSA, and the U.S. are White.
- The highest percentage of White enrollment in public pre-kindergarten to grade 12 is in the Pittsburgh MSA (85%) while the lowest percentage is in the city (39%).
- Asians and Hispanics each comprise 2% or less of students enrolled in the Pittsburgh area but have substantially higher shares of enrollment in the nation.

READING AND MATH SKILLS

Reading and math are basic skills required to function in American society. Performance on standardized reading and math tests is often used to indicate academic ability and achievement. Academic ability and achievement are key predictors of future social and economic mobility.

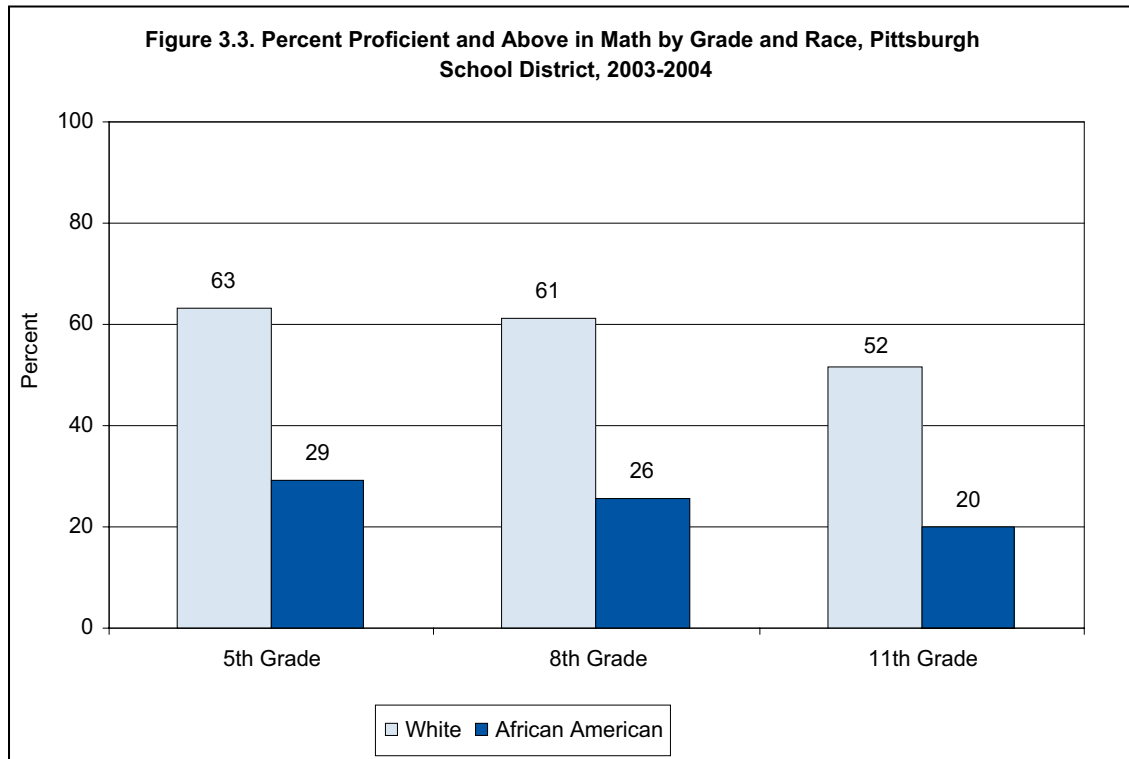


Source: Appendix 3.2

Note: Asian and Hispanic data are not available.

- Recent data from Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests reveal that significantly higher percentages of White students than African American students in 5th, 8th and 11th grades achieved proficiency in reading.
- Among White students, a higher percentage scored at the level proficient or above in 8th grade (74%) than in grades 5 (61%) or 11 (63%).
- Similarly, a higher percentage of African American 8th graders (44%) than 5th (33%) or 11th graders (33%) achieved or exceeded proficiency in reading.

READING AND MATH SKILLS continued

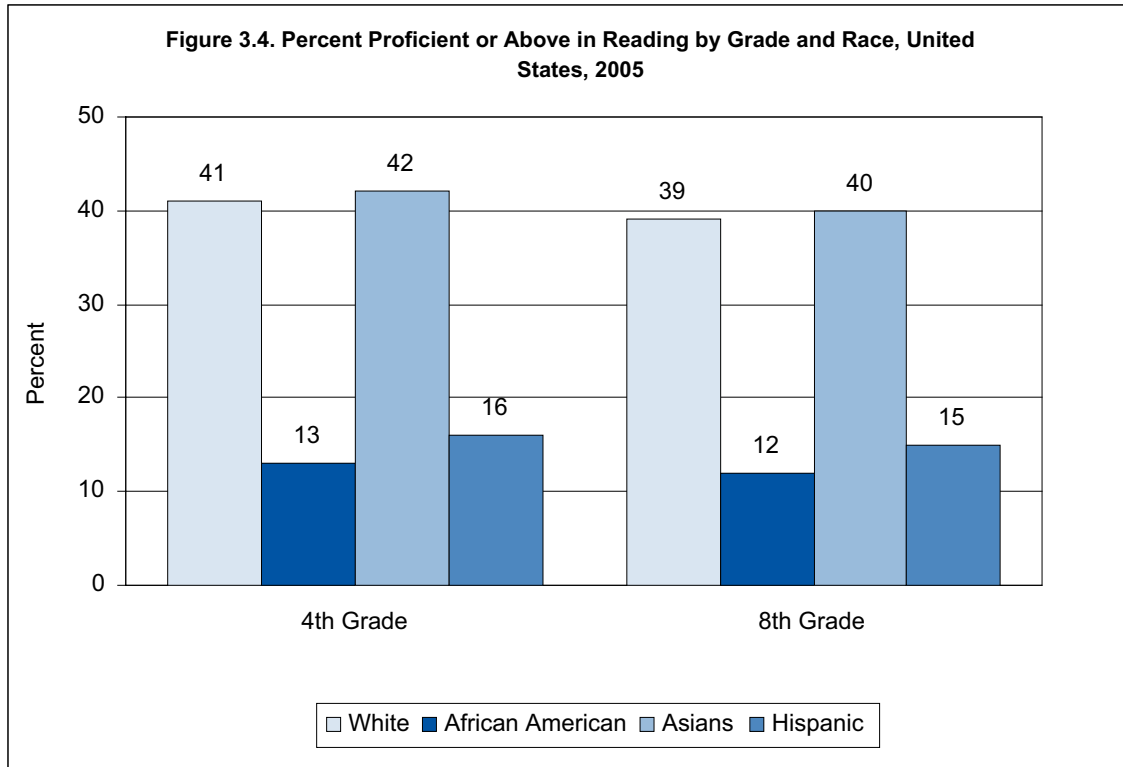


Source: Appendix 3.2

Note: Asian and Hispanic data are not available.

- Consistent with the data on reading, PSSA data also show that substantially larger percentages of White students than African American students score at or above the proficient level in math. White 5th (63%) and 8th graders (61%) achieved proficient and above math scores at higher rates than White 11th graders (52%).
- Among African American students, fewer than one third of 5th graders (29%) and only about a quarter of 8th (26%) and one-fifth of 11th graders (20%) achieved proficiency and above in math.

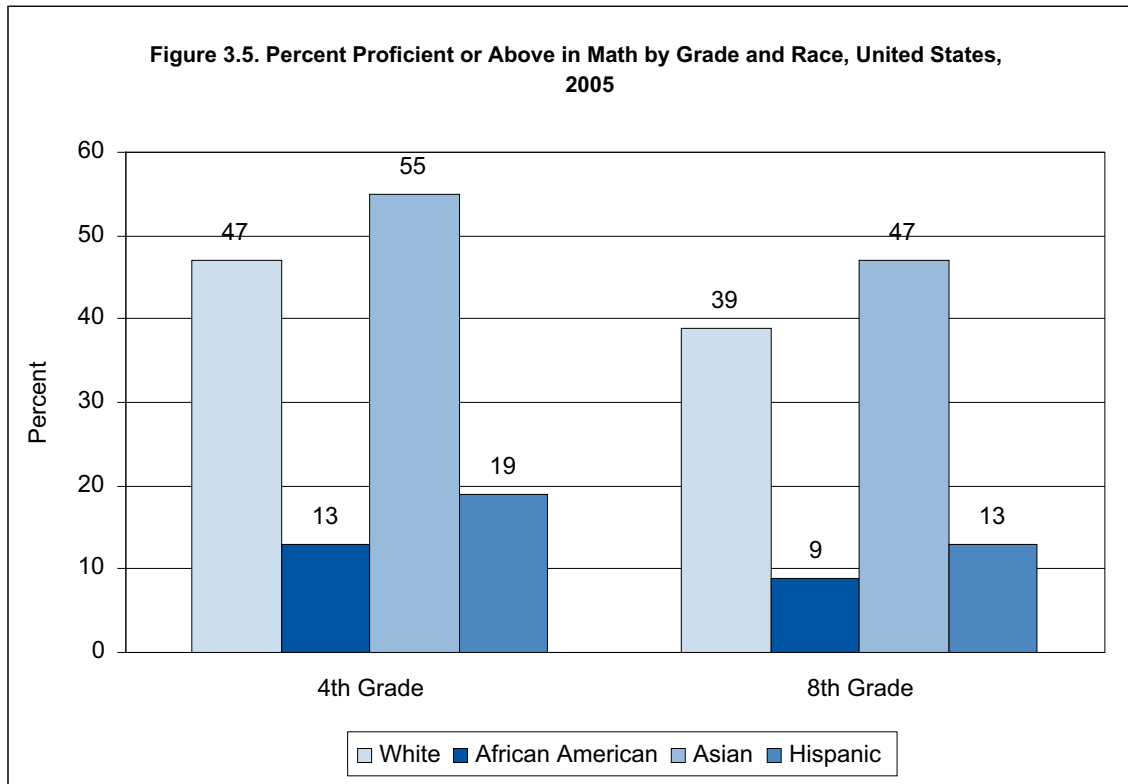
READING AND MATH SKILLS continued



Source: Appendix 3.3

- A different test is used in the U.S. than in Pennsylvania to assess basic skills proficiency. Nationally, White and Asian 4th and 8th graders consistently score higher than African American and Hispanic students in reading.
- White students in grade 4 performed similarly to White students in grade 8: 41% of White 4th graders and 39% of White 8th graders scored proficient or above in reading.
- Among African Americans, just 13% of 4th graders and 12% of 8th graders scored at the proficient or advanced level in reading.
- Asian 4th and 8th graders had levels of achievement in reading comparable to those of White students.
- Among Hispanic students, only 16% of 4th graders and 15% of 8th graders performed at or above a proficient level in reading.

READING AND MATH SKILLS continued

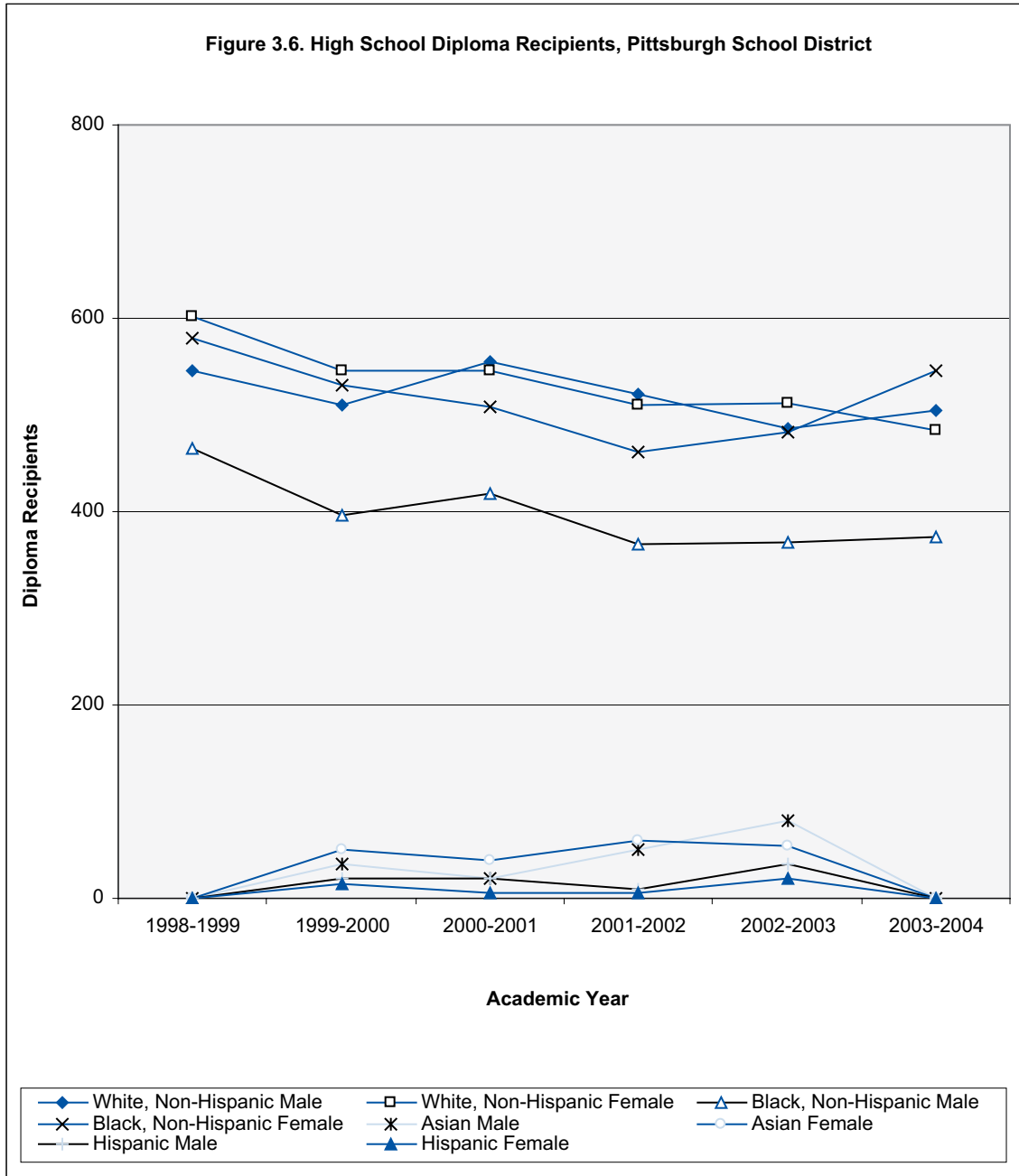


Source: Appendix 3.3

- Across the nation, approximately half or fewer of American young people achieved or exceeded proficiency in math.
- The percentage of students who achieved proficiency in math is highest among Asian students, somewhat lower among White students, substantially lower among Hispanic students, and lowest among African American students.
- Within the racial/ethnic groups, higher percentages of 4th graders than 8th graders scored at the proficient level or above in math.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

Higher education institutions and most jobs require a high school degree. Students who do not graduate from high school are likely to have serious social and economic problems. In addition, a well-educated population is crucial for a competitive and productive workforce.

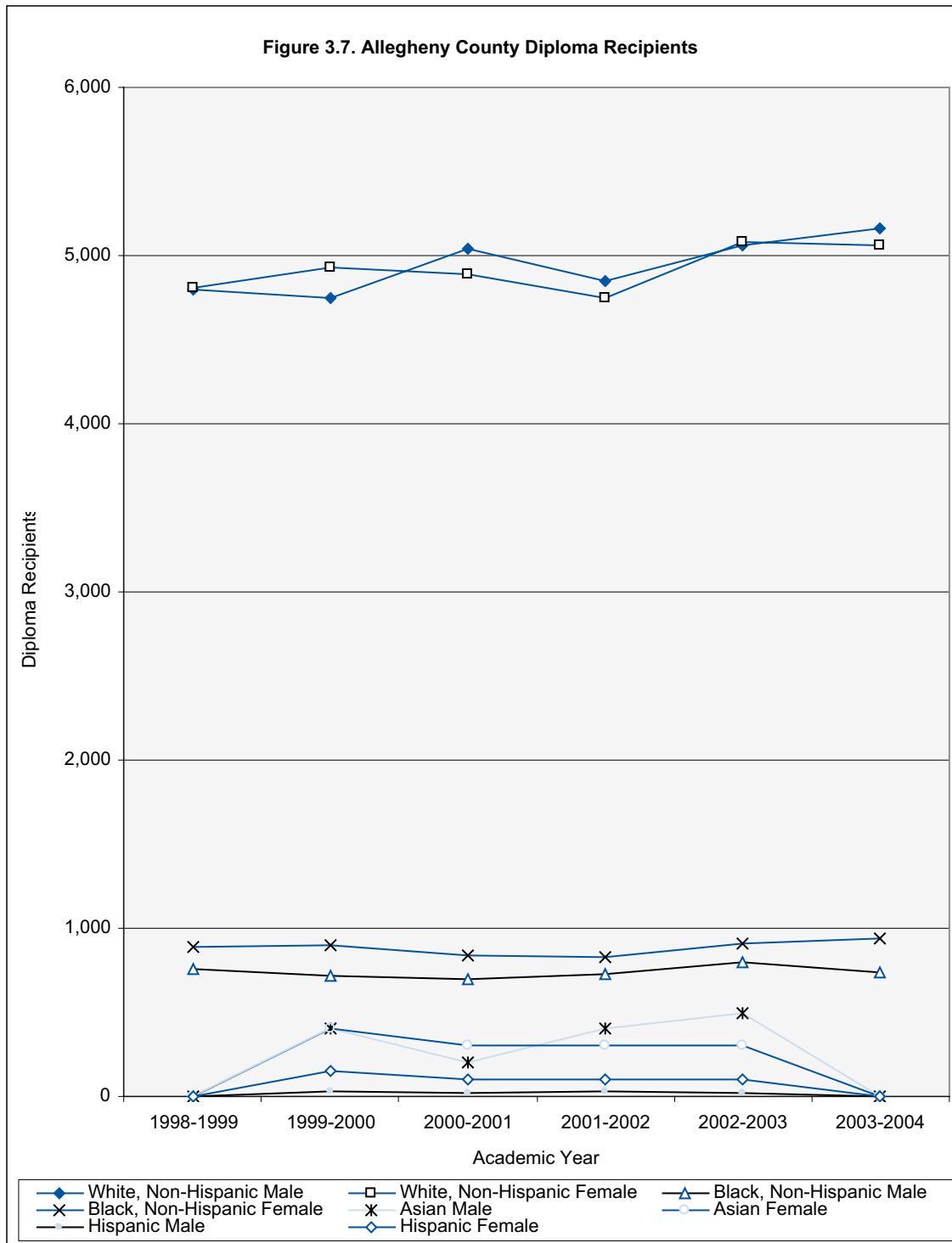


Source: Appendix 3.4

Note: Asian and Hispanic data are not available.

- Figure 3.6 shows trends in the number of students by race and gender in the Pittsburgh Public Schools who received high school diplomas. Consistent with the loss of residents in the city of Pittsburgh, the data indicate that the number of White and African American high school diploma recipients was lower in 2003-04 than five years earlier. The biggest drop was among White females. In 1998-99, 602 White females graduated from high school compared to 485 in 2003-04.
- Despite the fact that the majority of students enrolled in Pittsburgh Public Schools are African American, the majority of high school diplomas are awarded to Whites.
- The number of African American girls graduating from high school increased substantially from 482 in 2002-03 to 546 in 2003-04.
- Over the past five years, the number of African American men in Allegheny County who received high school diplomas has been much lower than the number of African American women, White men, or White women.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS continued

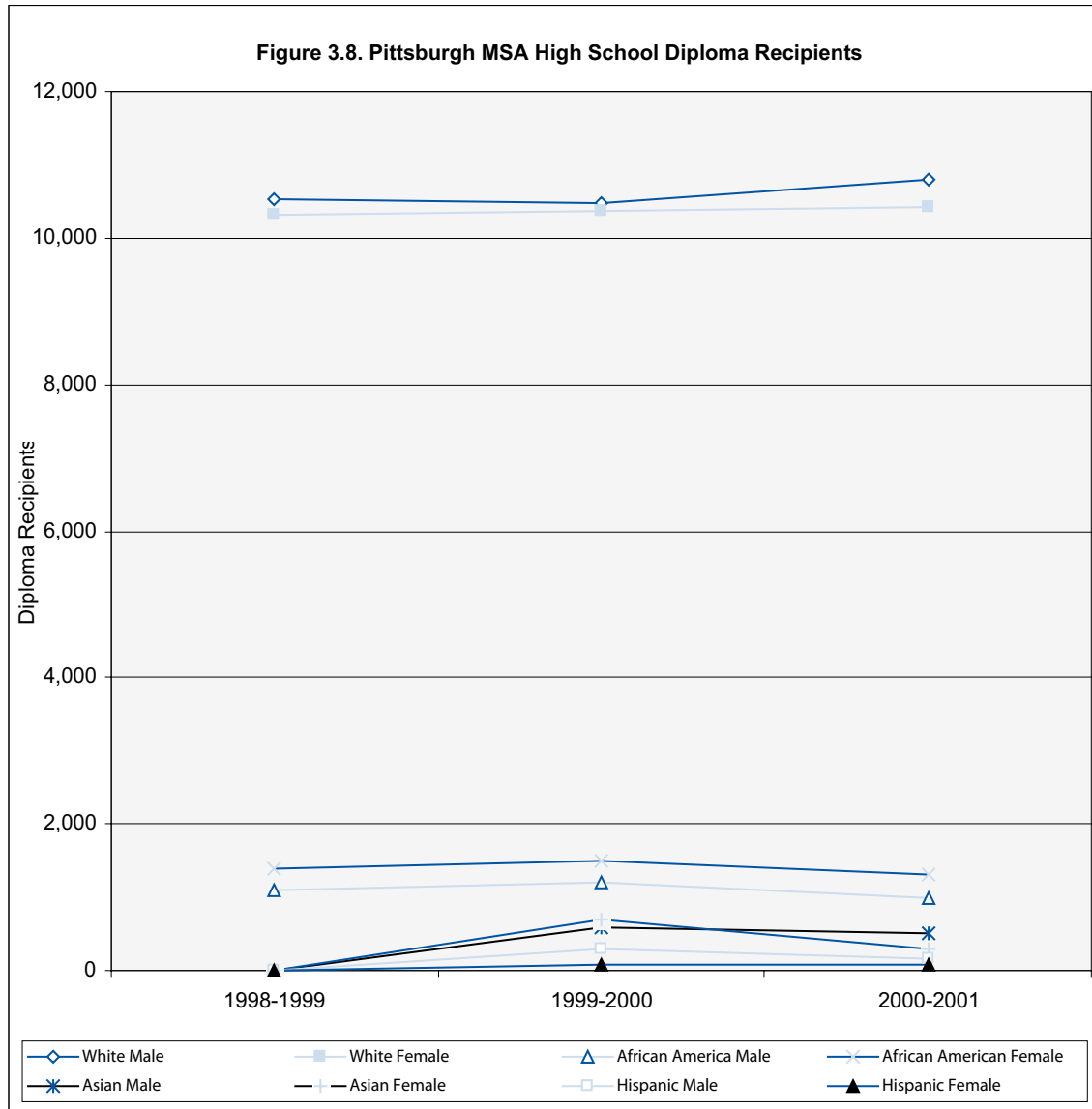


Source: Appendix 3.4

Note: Asian and Hispanic data are not available.

- The number of White male and female and African American female students who graduated from high school in Allegheny County increased slightly in recent years.

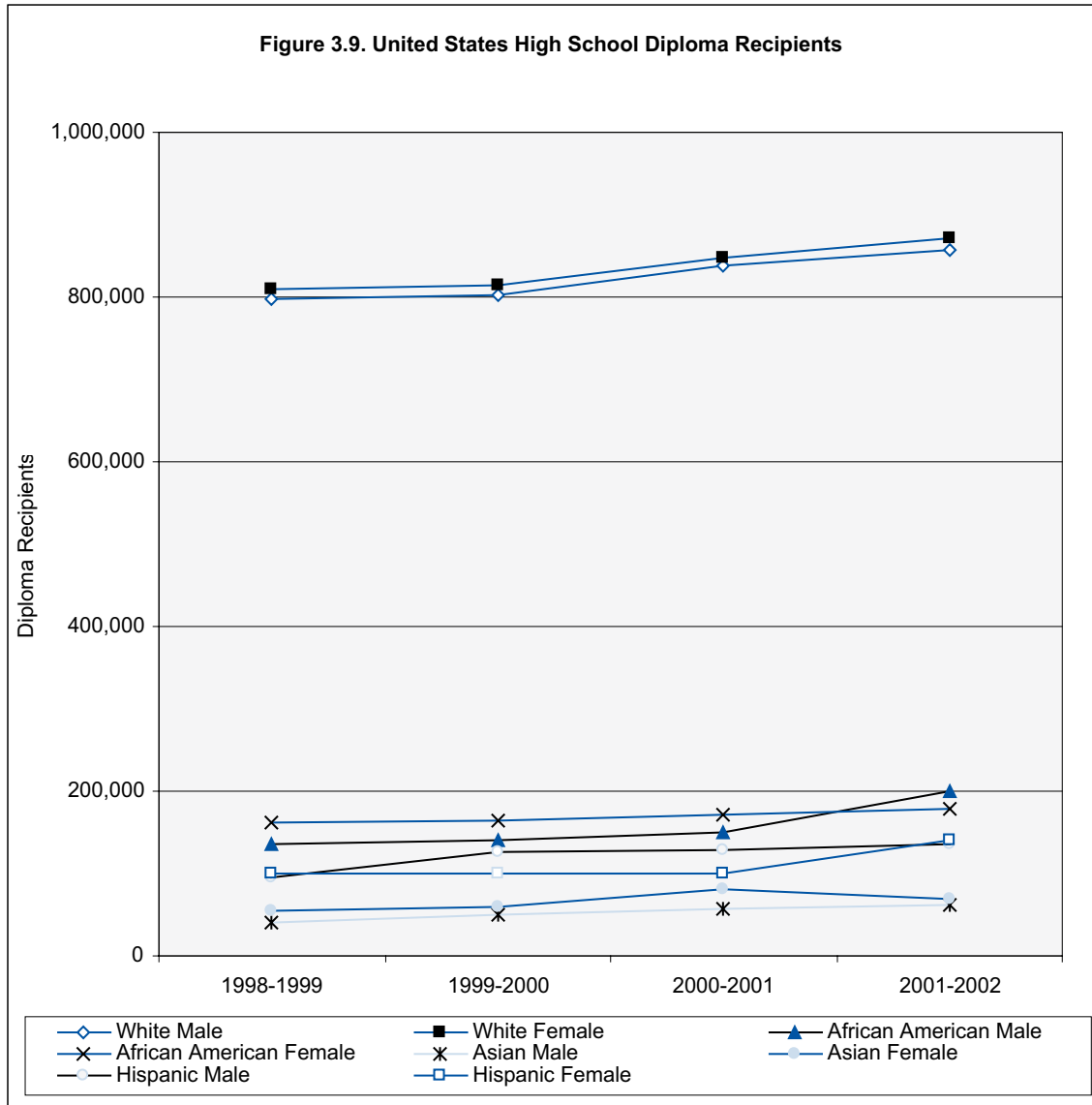
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS continued



Source: Appendix 3.4

- Consistent with the findings for the county, many more White students graduate from high school than African American, Asian and Hispanic students in the Pittsburgh MSA.
- The number of White male and female, public and private high school diploma recipients increased in the Pittsburgh MSA in recent years. More White men graduate each year in the region than White women.
- The number of African American male and female diploma recipients slightly declined or remained steady in the Pittsburgh MSA. More African American women than men graduate each year in the region.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS continued



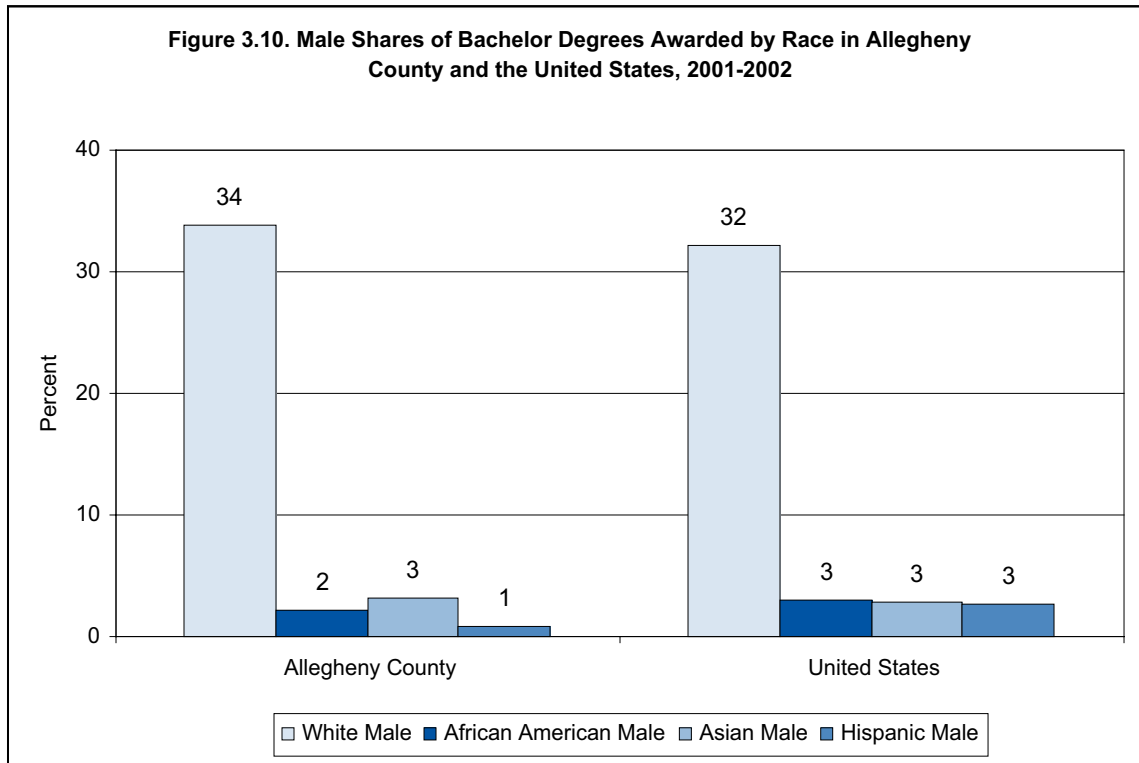
Source: Appendix 3.4

- In recent years the number of Whites and African Americans who received high school diplomas in the nation has increased significantly.
- The number of Asians and Hispanics receiving high school diplomas increased in recent years.

BACHELOR’S DEGREES CONFERRED

College graduates have much better economic outcomes, on average, than people without a college degree. For example, college graduates generally have higher incomes, greater amounts of wealth, and lower rates of poverty and unemployment.

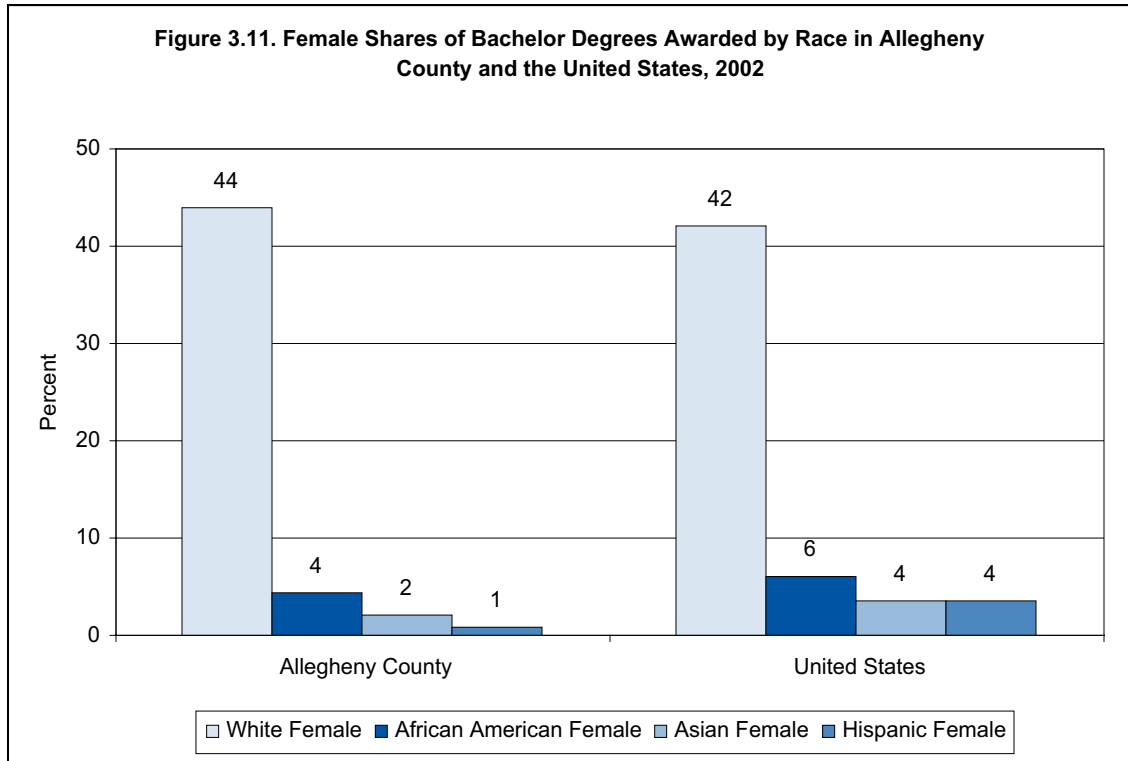
In the United States, about 1.3 million bachelor degrees are awarded each year (Appendix 3.5). Because of the large number of colleges and universities in the Pittsburgh area, a relatively large number of four-year college degrees are awarded in the region (about 15,000 annually in Allegheny County).



Source: Appendix 3.5

- White men receive a high percentage of the bachelor’s degrees awarded in both the county and the U.S. In the county each year, White men receive 34% of the degrees awarded, while African American men receive 2%, Asian men 3%, and Hispanic men 1%. The nation’s percentages are similar.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES CONFERRED continued

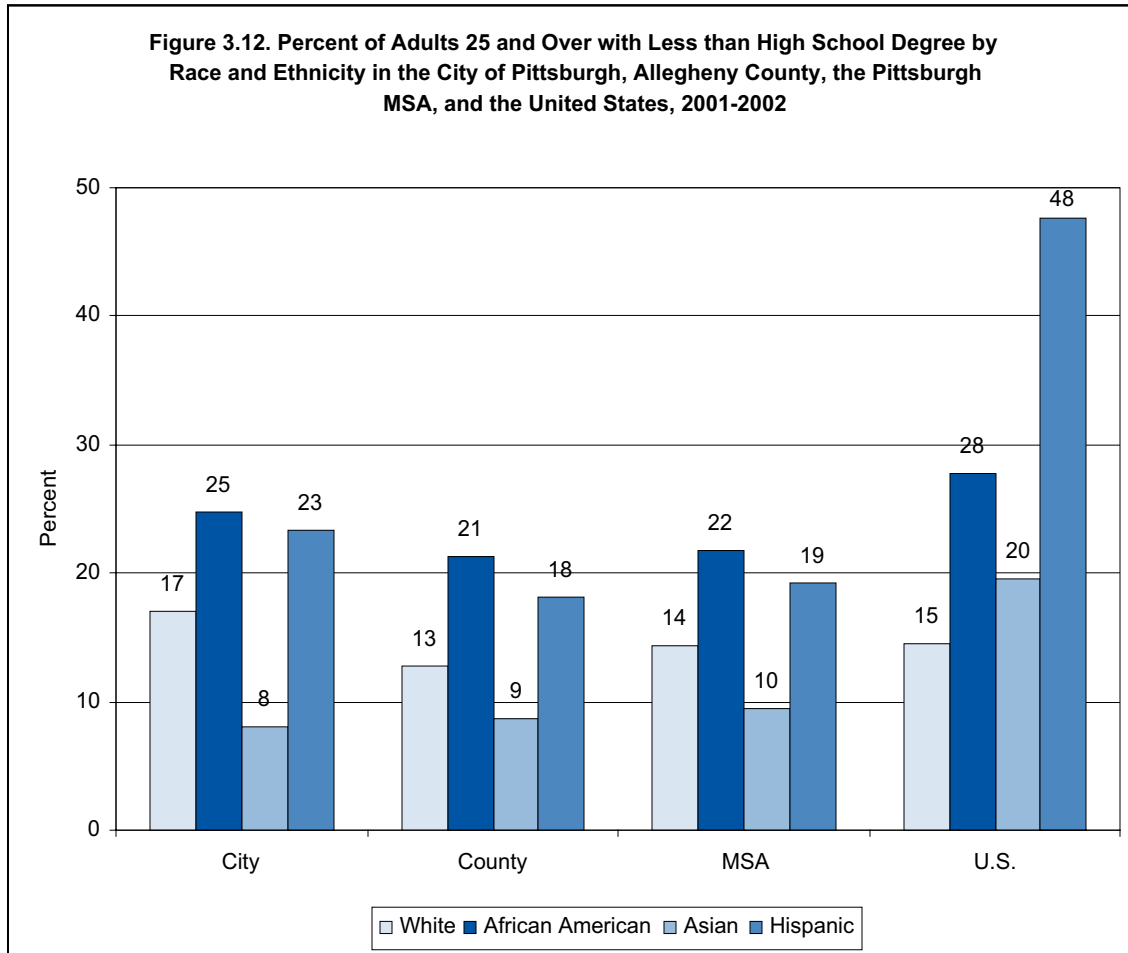


Source: Appendix 3.5

- White women receive many more bachelor's degrees than African American, Asian, and Hispanic women in the county and the U.S.
- African American women receive a higher percentage of bachelor's degrees than Asian and Hispanic women in the county and the U.S.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

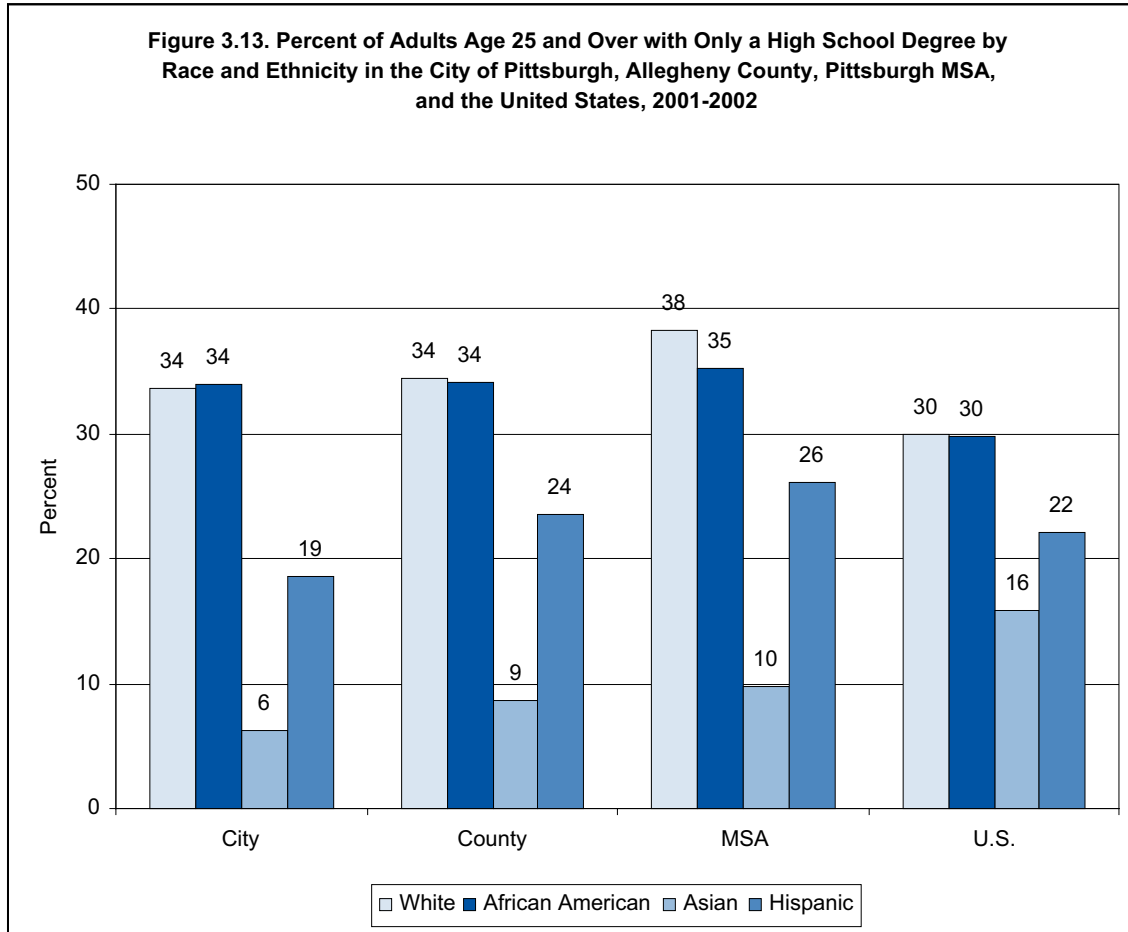
A high school degree is often necessary for even low-paying jobs. Higher levels of education are usually associated with higher incomes, higher standards of living, and above average health. In the U.S. educational attainment has increased for all major racial and ethnic groups over the last several decades. In addition, the educational attainment gap between races is decreasing.



Source: Appendix 3.6

- African Americans and Hispanics across the Pittsburgh region and the U.S. are more likely than Whites and Asians to have less than a high school degree.
- African Americans in the city and nation are more likely to have less than a high school degree than African Americans in the county and the Pittsburgh MSA.
- African Americans in the Pittsburgh area have lower rates of not having a high school degree than African Americans in the nation.
- Whites in the city of Pittsburgh have a higher rate of not having a high school degree than Whites in the nation.

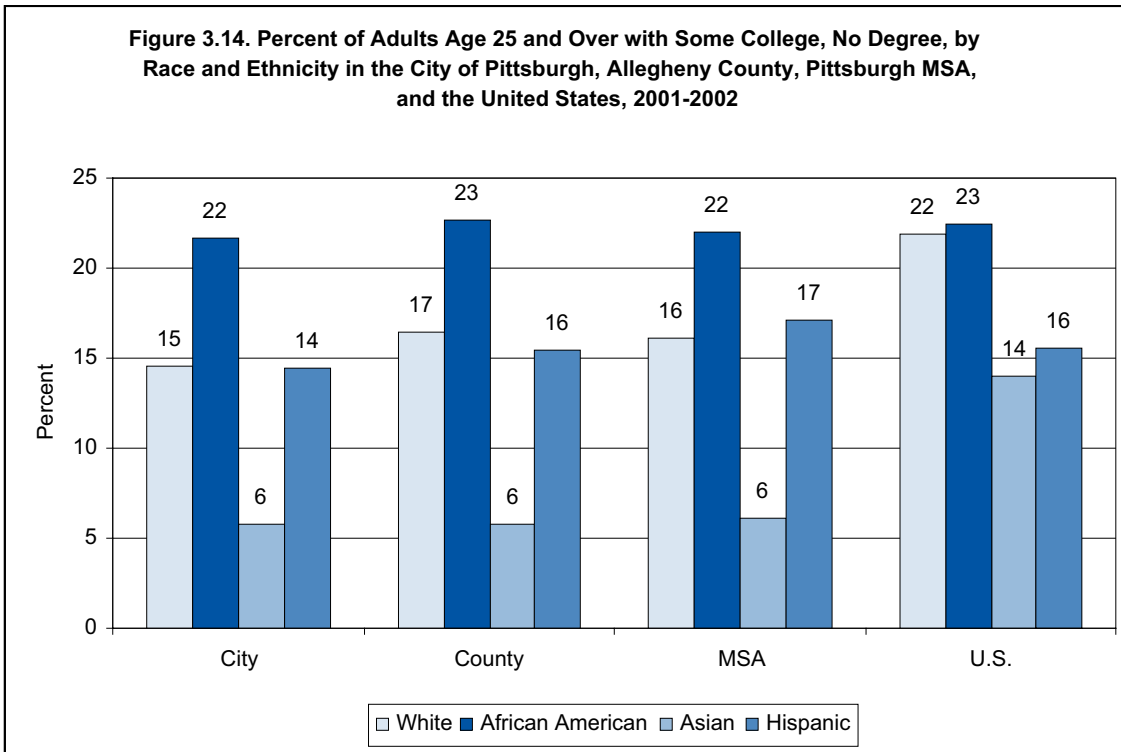
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT continued



Source: Appendix 3.6

- Whites, followed closely by African Americans, are more likely to have only a high school degree. Meanwhile, Asians are less likely than any other racial/ethnic group to have only a high school degree.
- The percentage of Whites with only a high school degree is higher in the Pittsburgh area than in the nation.
- The percentage of African Americans with only a high school degree is higher in the Pittsburgh area than in the nation.
- Asians in the nation are more than twice as likely as Asians in the Pittsburgh area to have only a high school degree.

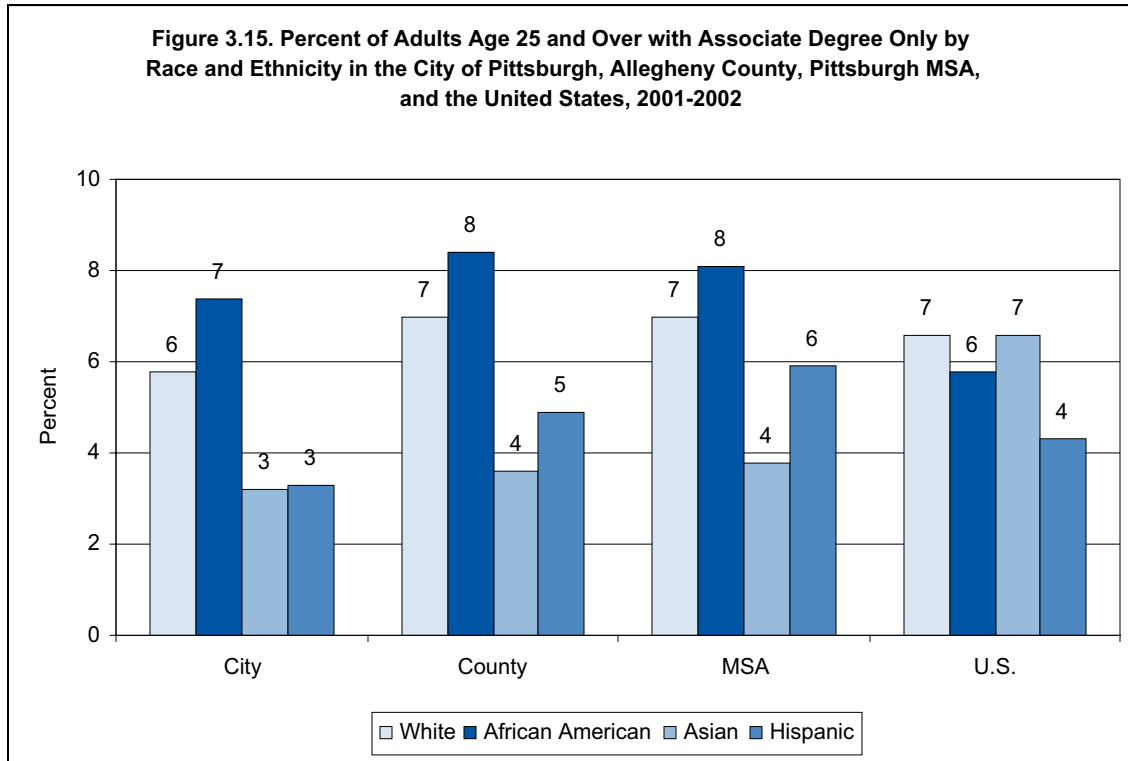
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT continued



Source: Appendix 3.6

- In all of the geographic areas, higher shares of African Americans than Whites, Asians and Hispanics have some college, but no degree. Of all the races, Asians are the least likely to have some college and no degree.
- The percentage of Whites with some college, no degree in the U.S. is slightly higher than in the region.
- African Americans across the four geographic areas are equally likely to have some college, no degree.
- Asians in the U.S. are more than twice as likely as Asians in the Pittsburgh area to have some college, no degree.
- Hispanics across the four geographic areas are about equally likely to have some college, no degree.

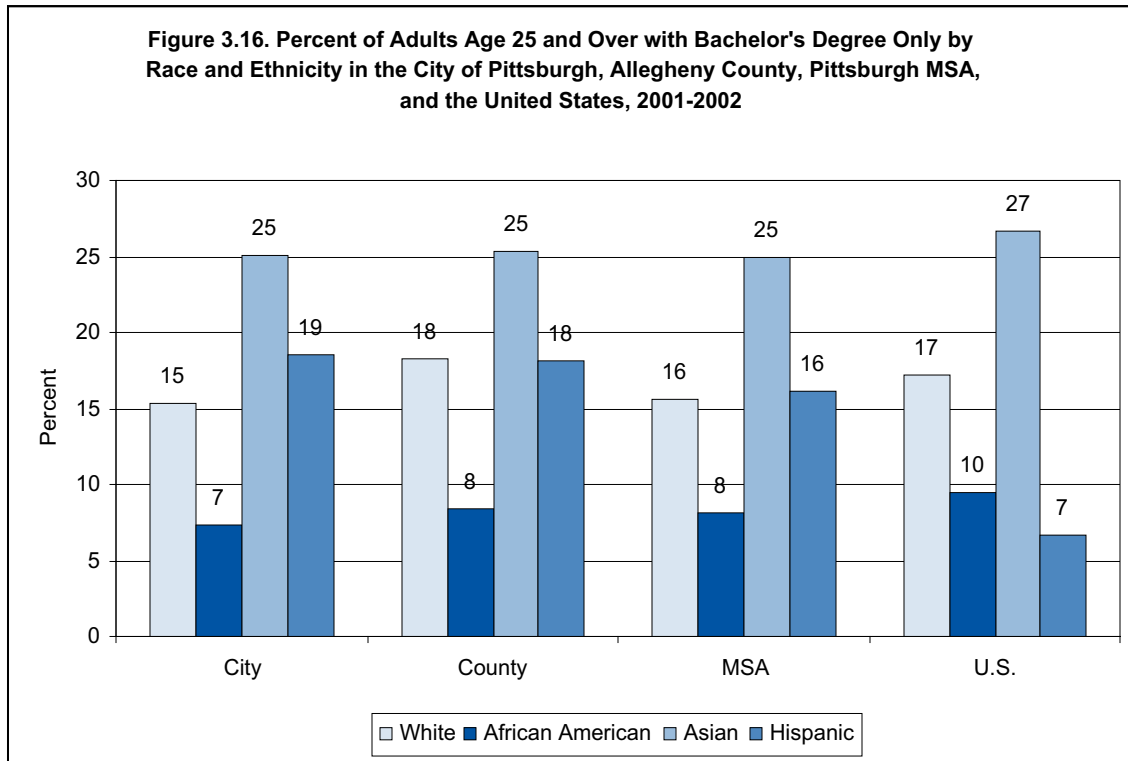
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT continued



Source: Appendix 3.6

- A small share of all adults age 25 and over has only an associate degree. However, in the city, county and the Pittsburgh MSA, a slightly higher percentage of African American adults compared to other racial/ethnic groups has only an associate degree.
- In the city, county and the MSA, Asians have the smallest percentage of adults age 25 and over with only an associate degree. The percentage of Asians in the Pittsburgh area with associate degrees is slightly lower than the percent of Asians in the nation with associate degrees.

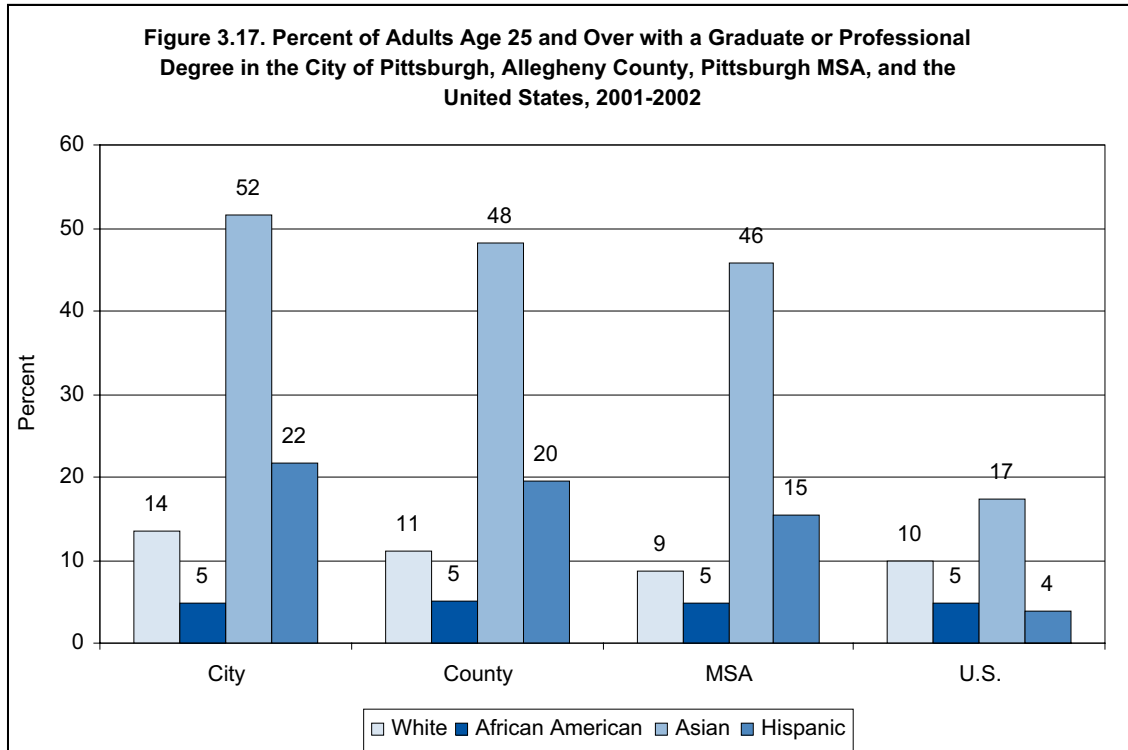
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT continued



Source: Appendix 3.6

- Across all of the geographic areas, Asians have the highest percentage of adults age 25 and above whose highest educational attainment is a bachelor's degree.
- Interestingly, in the Pittsburgh region, the percentage of Hispanics age 25 and above with only a college degree is as high or higher than the percentage of Whites in the region with only a college degree.
- African Americans in all geographic areas, except the U.S., have the smallest percentage of adults with only a bachelor's degree.
- The share of Whites possessing only a bachelor's degree is slightly lower in the city (15%) than in Allegheny County (20%), Pittsburgh MSA (16%), and the U.S. (17%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT continued



Source: Appendix 3.6

- In the Pittsburgh region, Asian and Hispanic adults are much more likely than White or African American adults to have earned a graduate or professional degree.
- Asians in the Pittsburgh area are much more highly educated than Asians in the U.S.
- Among the racial and ethnic groups, African Americans have the lowest percentage of adults age 25 and over with graduate or professional degrees in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA. In the U.S. the percentage of African Americans with graduate and professional degrees is similar to that of Hispanics.
- The percentage of Whites age 25 and over with a graduate or professional degree in the city (14%) is slightly higher than that of Whites in the county (12%), the Pittsburgh MSA (9%), and the United States (10%).