

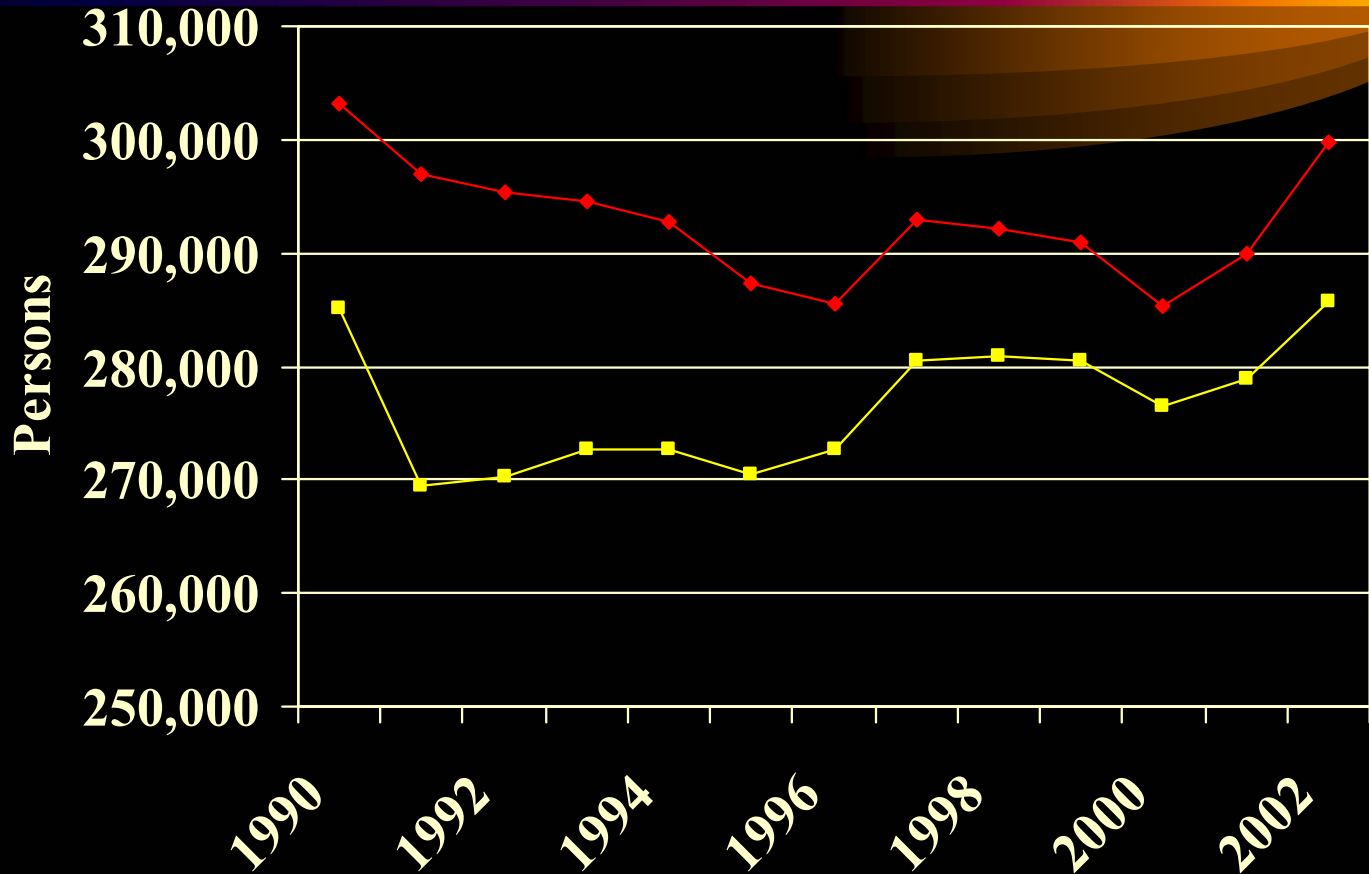
Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress
4. Economy: Labor Market



January 2003

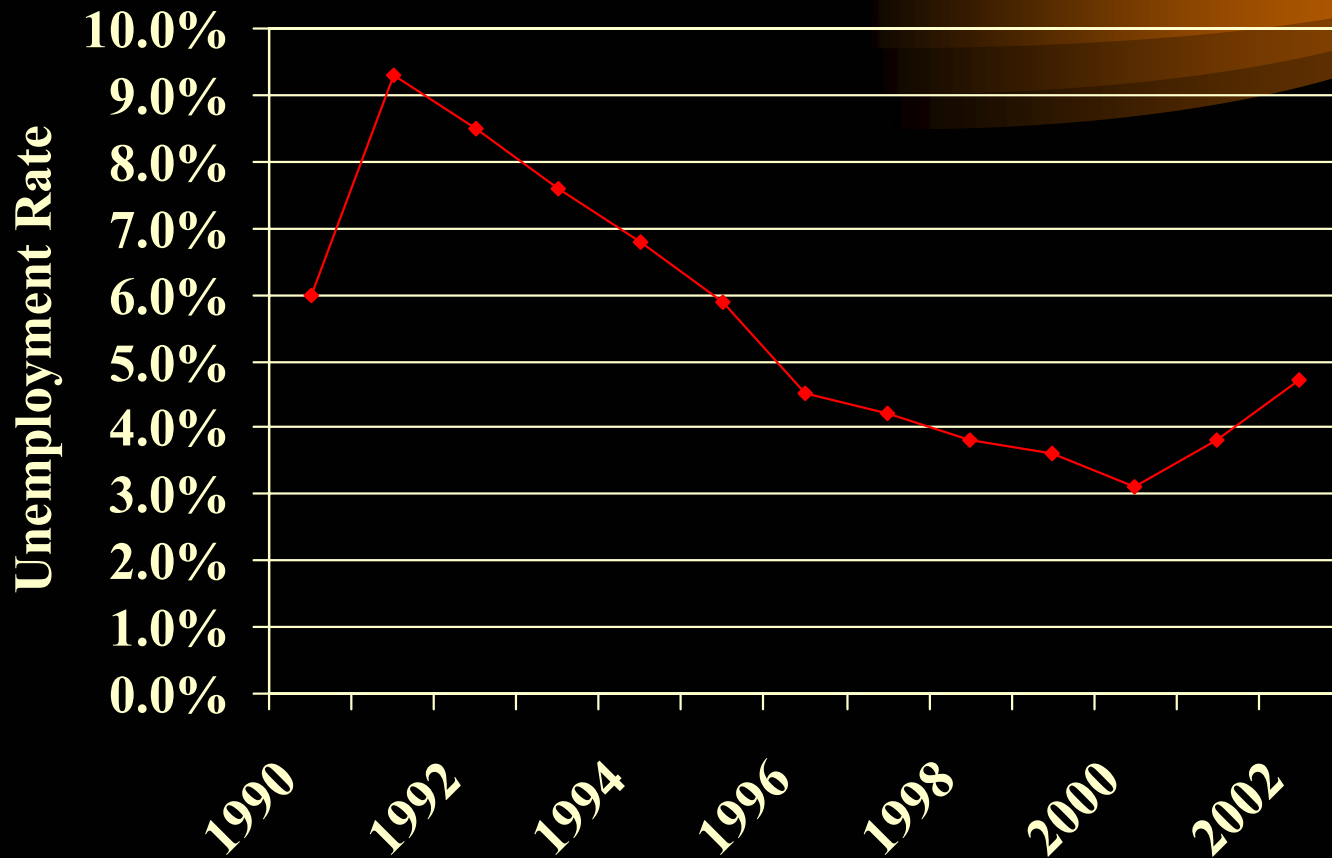
Prepared by the Plan for Progress Data Analysis Work Team
and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

After shrinking in the 1990s, the labor force and employment have begun to rebound.



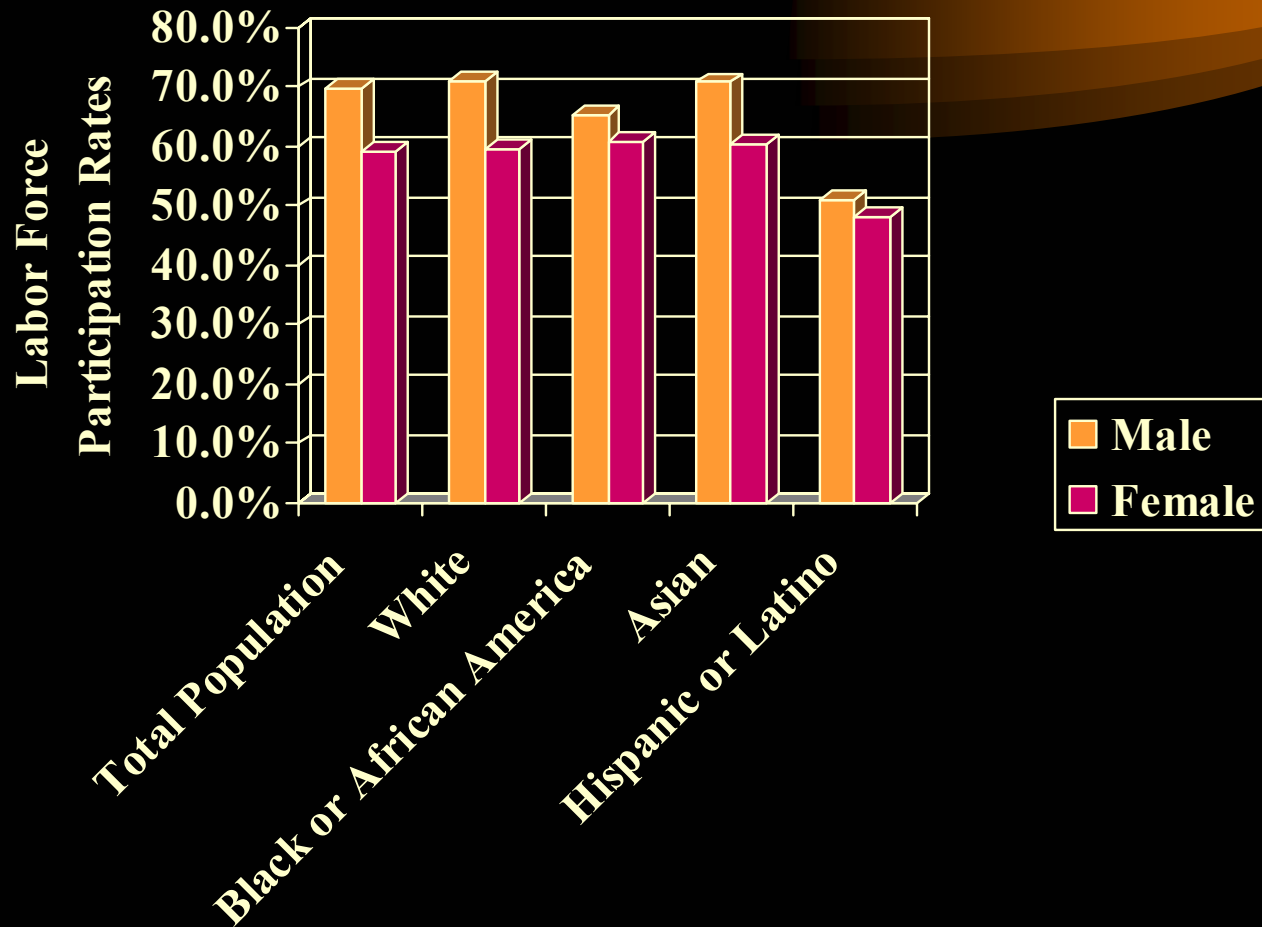
Through
October

*Unemployment reached unprecedented lows
in the late 1990s.*

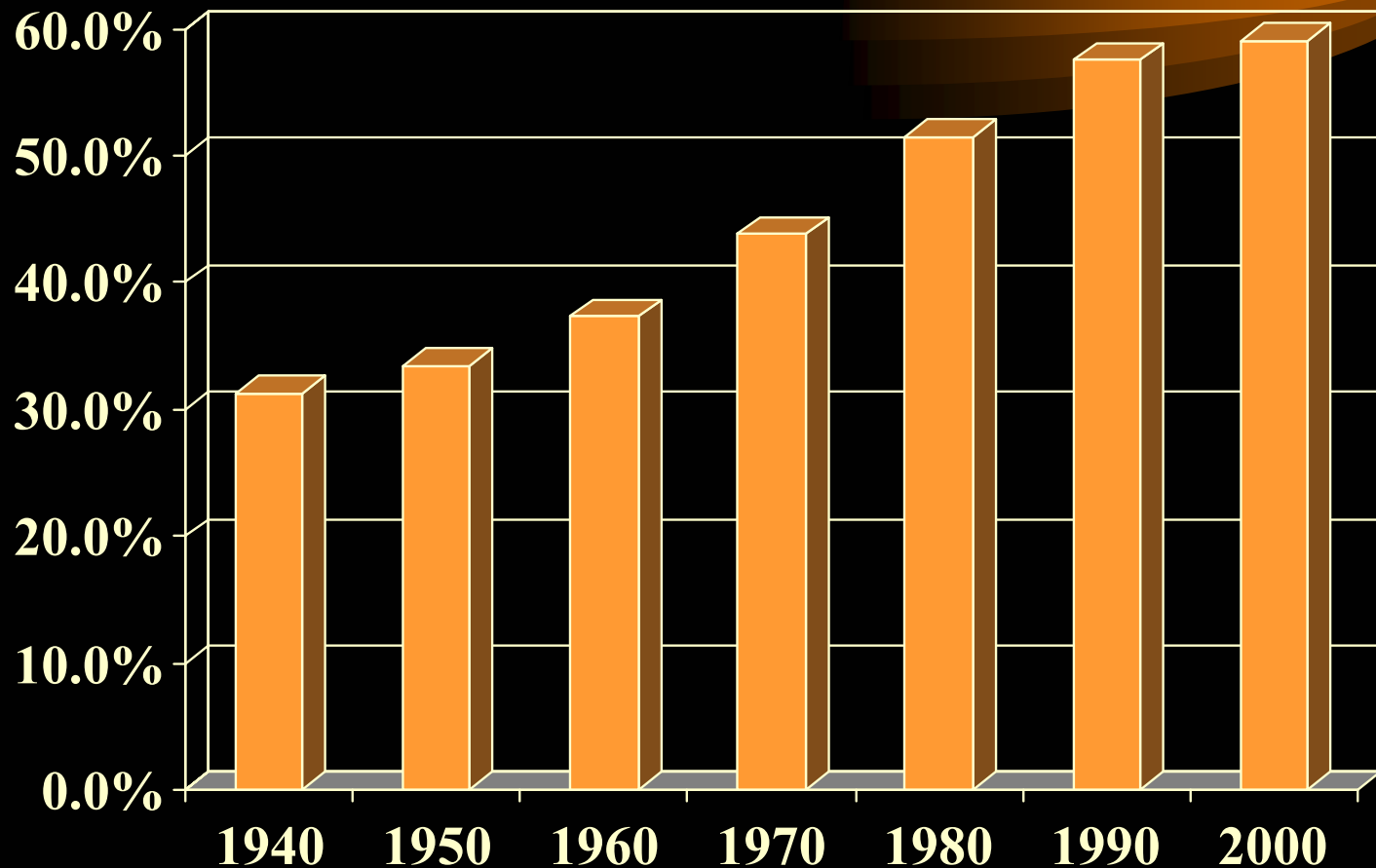


Through
October

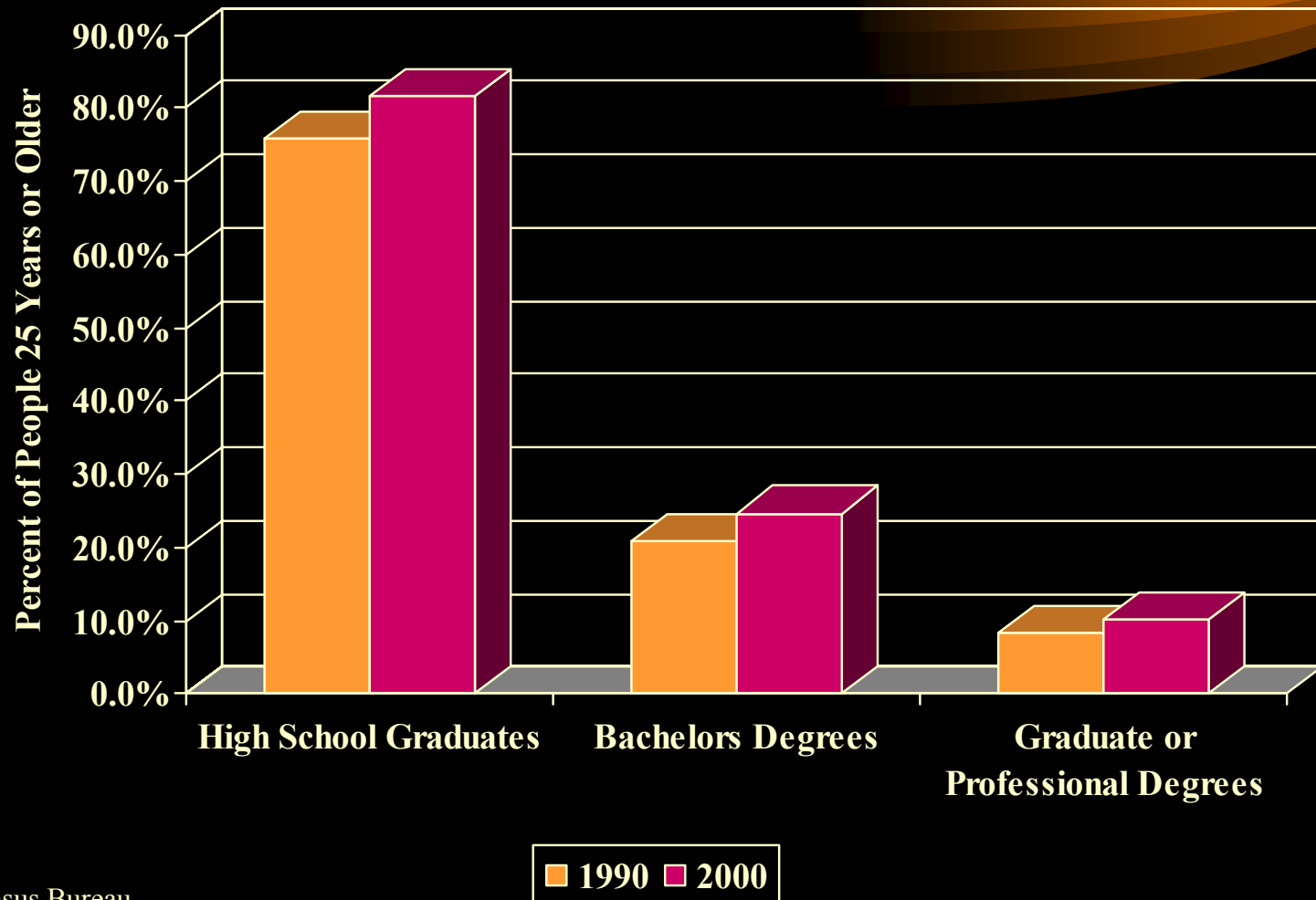
Labor force participation varies by gender and race.



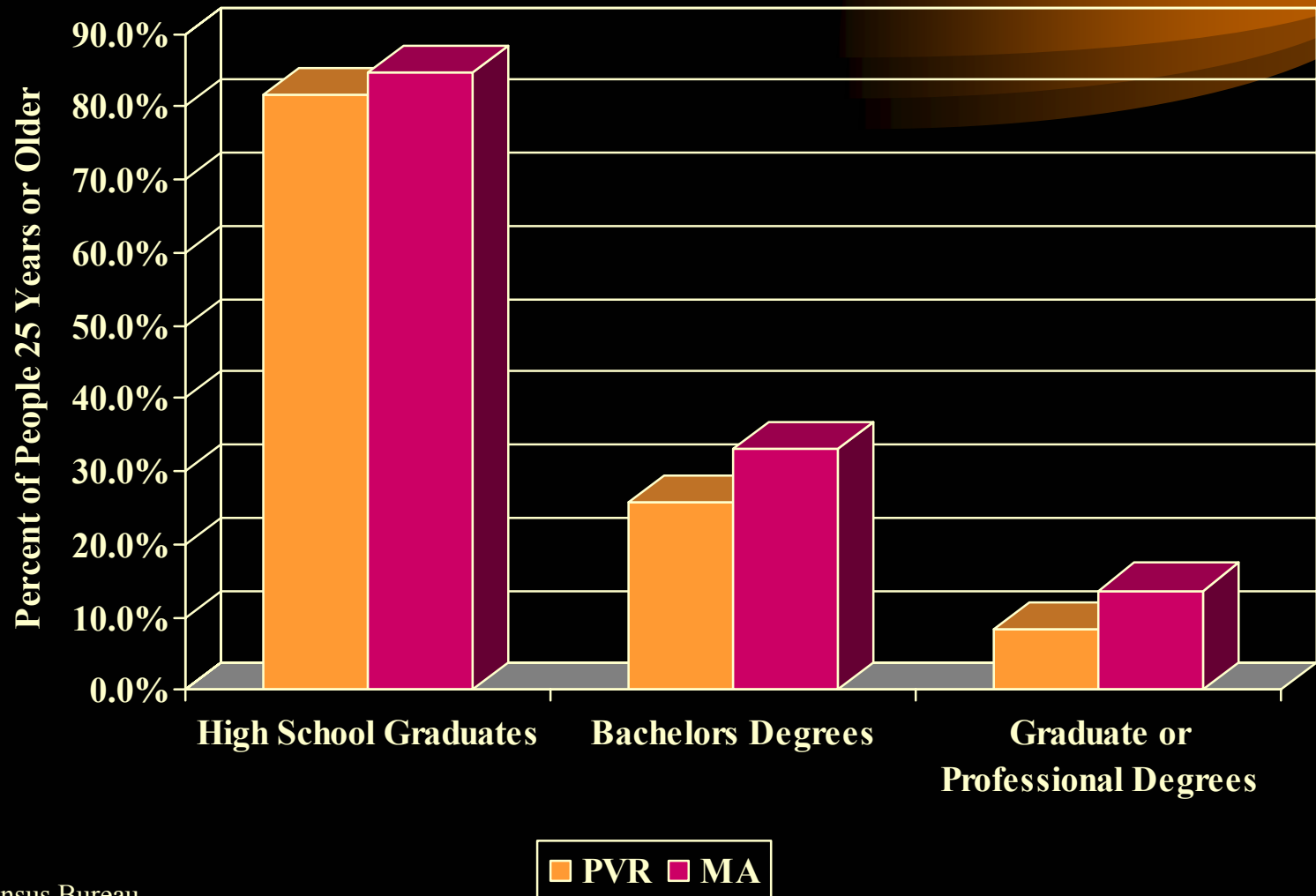
The female labor force participation rate continues its dramatic rise.



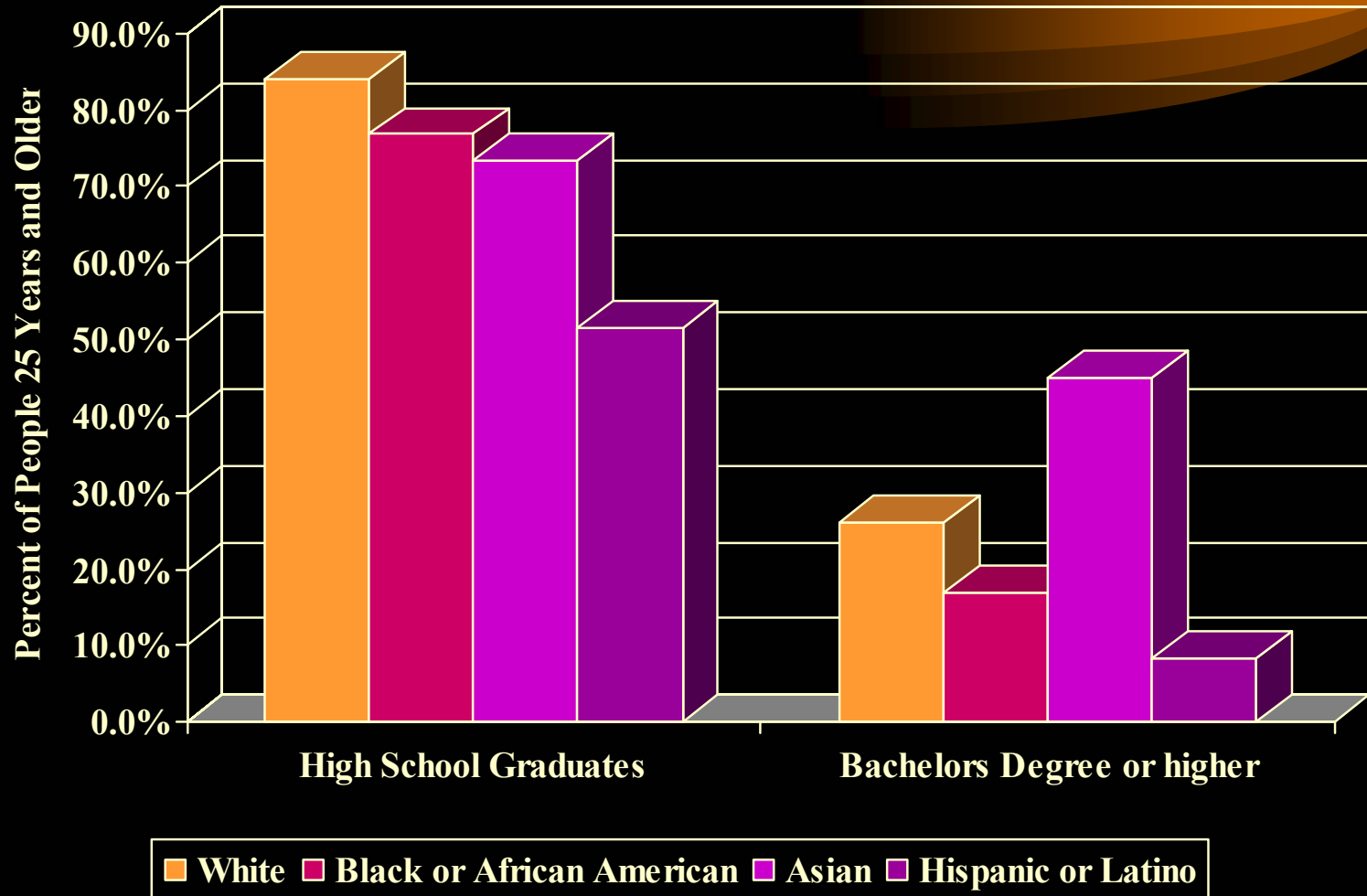
The region's labor force is becoming better educated.



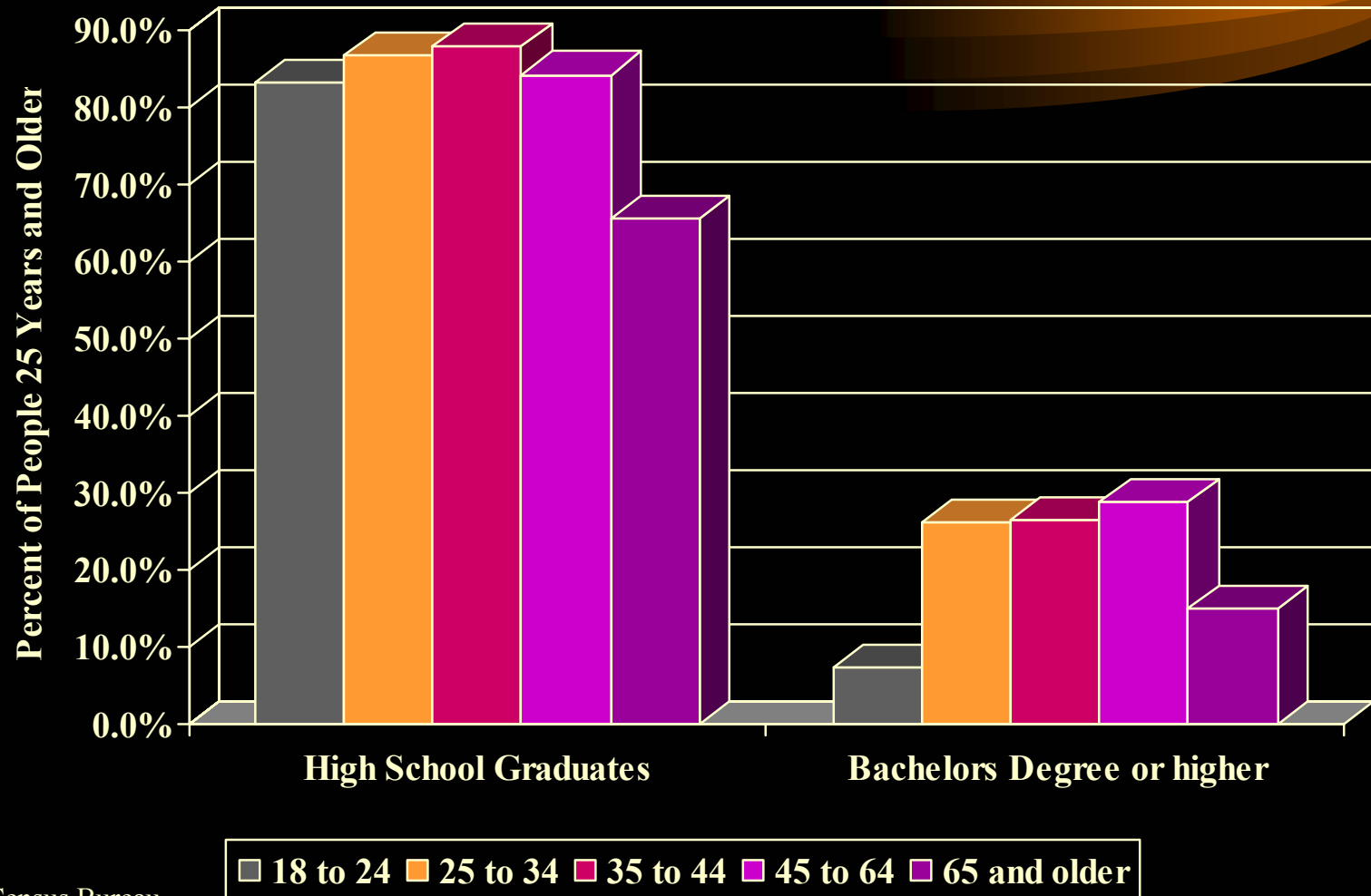
The region's people remain less well-educated than Massachusetts as a whole.



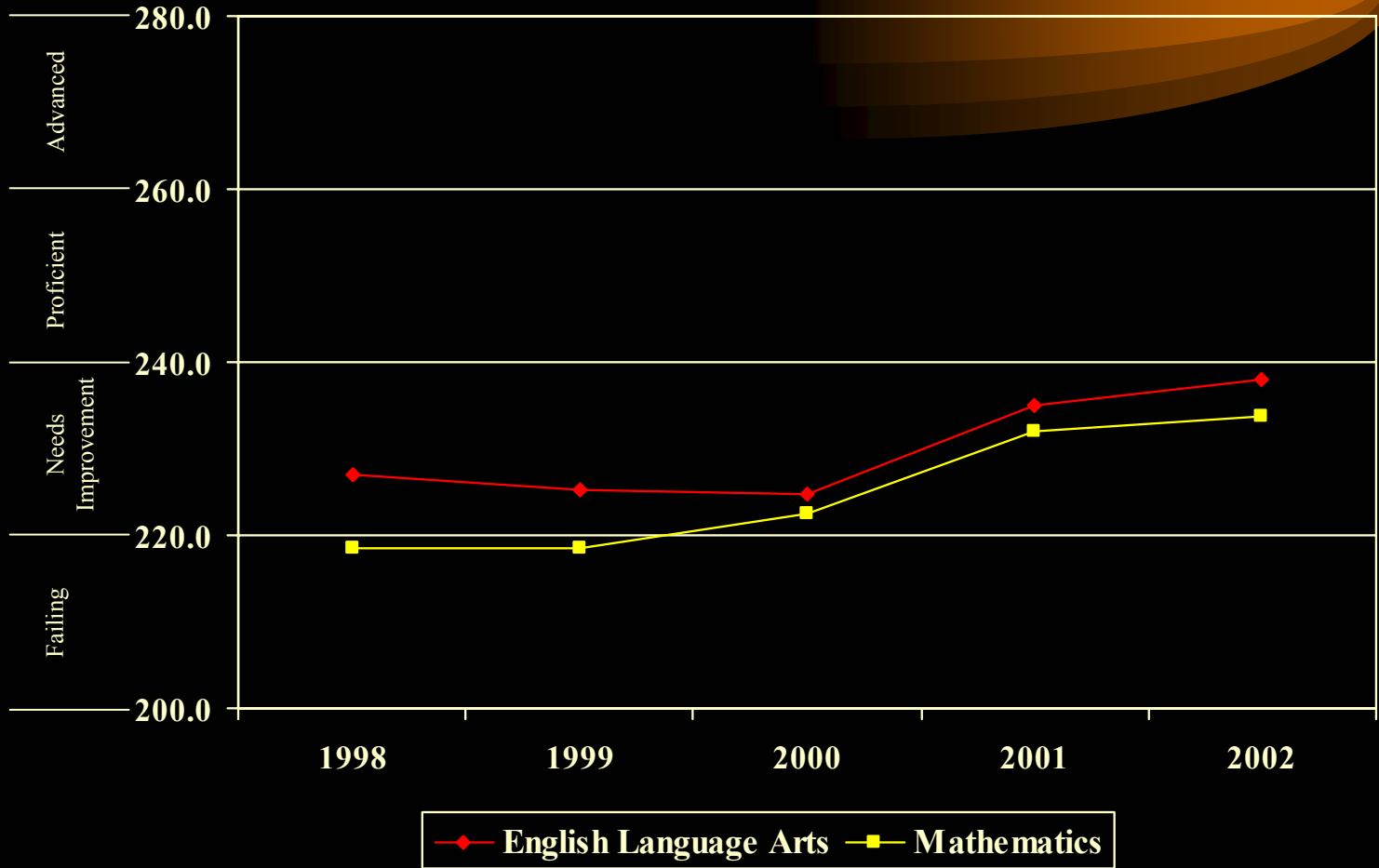
Educational attainment varies widely by race and ethnicity.



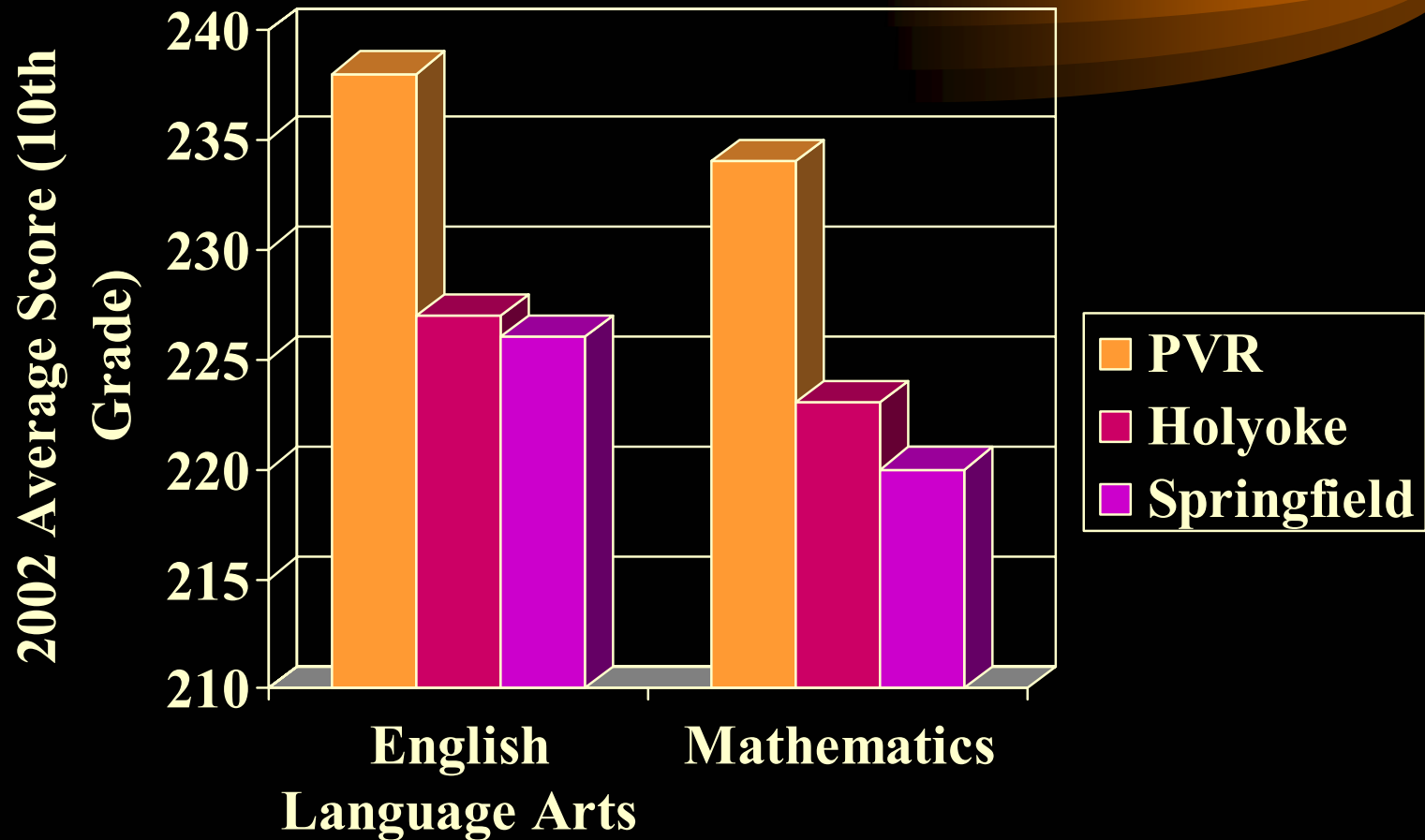
*Educational attainment is **not** improving much from generation to generation.*



Average MCAS scores of the region's students are improving.



Urban school districts are significantly behind the rest of the region on MCAS.



Absenteeism on MCAS exam days has not been substantial since 2000.

Percent of 10th Graders Failing due to Absence

