

Ohio Population News - Issue 29

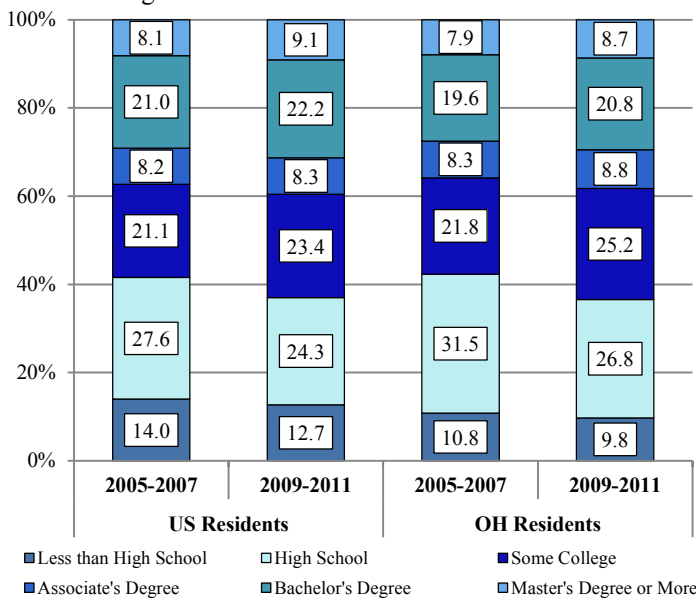
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Education in Ohio: A Focus on Young Adults

Ohio Education on Par with the Nation^{1,2}

Ohio is ranked fifth in the nation with respect to the number of institutions of higher education, with just over 100 four-year public and nonprofit private colleges and universities. Yet in terms of the share of young adults (defined here as those aged 25-34) who are college educated, Ohio ranks #28. During the period 2007-2011, 29% of young adults in the United States had a college degree (i.e., a bachelor's degree or higher), although this varied widely by state. Similar to the nation, 31% of young adults in Ohio had a college degree. Massachusetts ranked #1 (48% of young adults had a college degree) and New Mexico ranked #50 (21% of young adults had a college degree). This issue of the Ohio Population News focuses on young adults to provide a contemporary portrait of education in Ohio.

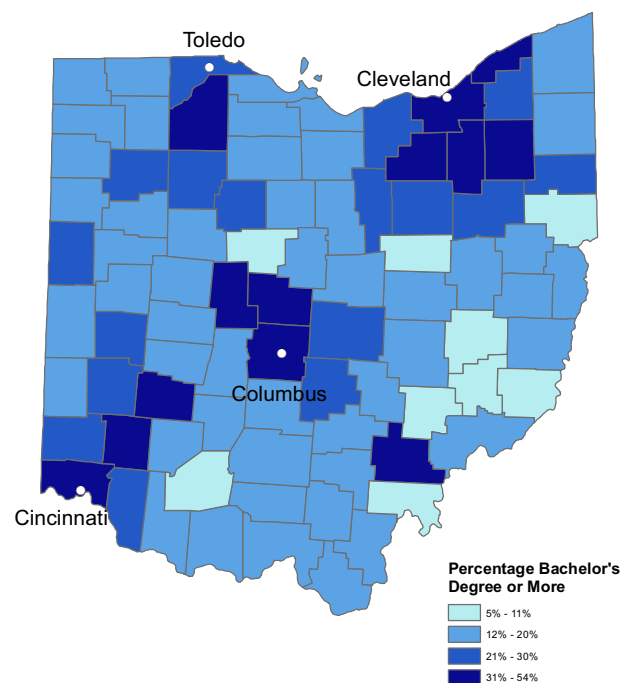
Figure 1: Educational Attainment of Individuals Aged 25-34 for 2005-2007 and 2009-2011^{3,4}



Geographic Variation in Educational Attainment²

The average level of educational attainment among young adults in Ohio masks wide variation across counties. As seen in Figure 2, the counties surrounding Ohio's four most populous cities had the highest concentration of young adults with a bachelor's degree or more. Delaware County had the highest concentration of college graduates, while Morgan County had the lowest (54% and 6%, respectively).

Figure 2: Educational Attainment of Individuals Aged 25-34: Ohio Counties 2007-2011²



Educational Attainment and the Great Recession^{3,4}

Educational attainment among young adults in the United States and Ohio increased following the Great Recession that took place between December 2007 and June 2009 (Figure 1). Prior to the recession (2005-2007), 29% of young adults in the U.S. had at least a college degree compared to 31% following the recession (2009-2011). The share of young adults in Ohio with a college degree increased from 28% to 30% during the same time period. The percentage of young adults in Ohio who had some college or an associate's degree increased as well. Specifically, the share of young adults with this level of education shifted from 29% to 32% (respectively) at the national level and from 30% to 34% in Ohio.



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Retention and Completion⁵

The percentage of entering freshmen in 4-year institutions that continued to their second year of college has slightly declined in Ohio. Of the 2006 college entry cohort 77% remained enrolled in 2007, while 75% of the 2010 cohort remained in 2011. For the U.S., 79% of the 2006 cohort remained going into 2007, and 79% of the 2010 cohort remained in 2011.

College students in Ohio have completed their 4-year degrees at about the same speed as the rest of the country. Amongst the 2004 Ohio cohort, 36% finished with a bachelor’s degree within 4 years, and 58% completed within 6 years. Similarly, 37% of the 2004 U.S. Cohort had finished with a bachelor’s degree within 4 years, and 59% had finished within 6 years.

Financial Aid⁵

Many incoming first-time students in Ohio received financial aid (e.g., grants or loans). In 2011, 79% of first-time students in four-year institutions in Ohio had grant aid, slightly higher than the 75% of first-time students in the U.S. overall. Likewise, in 2011, 67% of first-time students in Ohio had student loans, while 57% of first-time students nationally had loans.

The amount of financial aid has increased over time for first-time students in 4-year institutions. From 2005 to 2011, average financial aid increased by 43% among Ohio students and 59% among U.S. students. In 2011, the average financial aid awarded to first-time students was \$13,853 in Ohio and \$14,323 in the U.S.

Brain Gain Cancels Brain Drain: Residential Mobility Among Ohio’s Residents⁴

Following the 2007 recession, more than 47,000 young adults aged 25 to 34 moved from Ohio to other states. Over half (52%) of these movers, or out-migrants, had earned at least a bachelor’s degree compared to roughly 29% of their peers who remained in Ohio. This potential “brain drain” of college graduates is partially offset by a “brain gain”—nearly half (48%) of the 50,000 young adults, moving into Ohio during the same time period held at least a bachelor’s degree.

Figure 3: Post-Recession Educational Attainment of Individuals Aged 25-34⁴

	OH Out-migrants		OH Residents (Excludes OH In-migrants)		OH In-migrants	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than a Bachelor’s Degree	22,394	47.6	973,731	71.2	26,373	52.3
Bachelor’s Degree or More	24,659	52.4	393,515	28.8	24,060	47.7
Total	47,053	100.0	1,367,246	100.0	50,433	100.0

Sources:

- 1 - College Navigator. National Center for Education Statistics.
- 2 - American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2007-2011.
- 3 - American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2005-2007.
- 4 - American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009-2011.
- 5 - Integrated PostSecondary Educational Data Systems, 2005-2011. National Center for Education Statistics.