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Changes in Poverty and Educational Attainment, 2000 to 2007 Poverty Rates Increasing for those with College Education, Too

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Changes in Poverty and Educational Attainment, 2000 to 2007

Poverty Rates Increasing for those with College Education, Too

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While poverty rates remained much lower for those with more education, there is evidence that those with higher education are being adversely impacted by the state's poor economy since 2000 as much or more as those with less education.

In **Ohio** the poverty rate increased by more than 50 percent (56.7%) for persons with some college or an Associate's degree between 2000 and 2007, based on an analysis of the 2000 Census and the 2007 American Community Survey, released August 26, 2008. An estimated increase of 66,000 persons with some college, but short of a Bachelor's degree, raised the poverty rate for this population from 5.5 percent to 8.5 percent in that period. Though more Ohioans were achieving academic success, the lack of jobs, especially those with higher wages, prevented a concurrent increase in economic viability.

Persons with a Bachelor's degree or higher educational level and below poverty in income also increased in number and percentage. Indeed, the poverty rate in Ohio increased at about the same rate for those with a Bachelor's degree (24.5%) as it did for those with less than a high school diploma (23.2%). The 2007 poverty estimate was 23.2 percent for those without a high school diploma and 3.4 percent for those with a Bachelor's degree.

There were an estimated additional 20,000 persons with a Bachelor's degree who were below poverty in 2007 than there were in 2000. The estimated number of persons with a Bachelor's degree increased by about 280,000, though as noted above, the number of them that were below the poverty level increased faster than those above the poverty income threshold.

Those with a high school diploma in Ohio experienced a 38.1 percent increase in poverty rate --- from 7.8 percent to 10.8 percent. This group swelled by an estimated 91,000 persons in those seven years.

Meanwhile, there was an estimated net loss of about 6,000 persons below poverty who did not have a high school diploma. Persons with less than a high school diploma declined in number since 2000 -- by more than 250,000 -- it was the only population group among those ages 25 and older that lost in numbers. This decline is likely due to mortality and migration of the older

population, which is generally less educated than those younger, and migration of those younger and less educated age groups to look for employment.

In **Cuyahoga County**, those with some college or an Associate's degree also had the greatest increase (39.2%) in poverty rate, from 7.2 percent to 10.0 percent. Poverty rates also increased for those with a Bachelor's degree or higher educational attainment. The county lost an estimated 21,000 persons with some college or an Associate's degree who were at or above the poverty level of income, but gained 5,300 that were below poverty. The county gained in the estimated number of persons with a Bachelor's degree – both among those above and below poverty – but those below poverty increased faster than those at or above poverty.

Meanwhile, in **Cleveland**, though the 2007 estimates are based on a small sample and should be viewed with some caution, there was an apparently smaller increase in poverty for persons age 25 and older than in the state or county --- 3.29 percent versus 29.6 percent and 15.5 percent for the state and county, respectively. In Cleveland, the increase in poverty rate was least among those with some college or an Associate's degree (15.7%) – considerably less than in the county or state. This may reflect a job availability profile that better fits the city's population than that of the rest of the county or state, as well as movement of those with some college to the inner-ring suburbs.

In summary, the spread of poverty to the suburbs of Cuyahoga County and other parts of the state is apparent in these numbers and is being felt by increasing numbers of more educated persons.

Figure 1

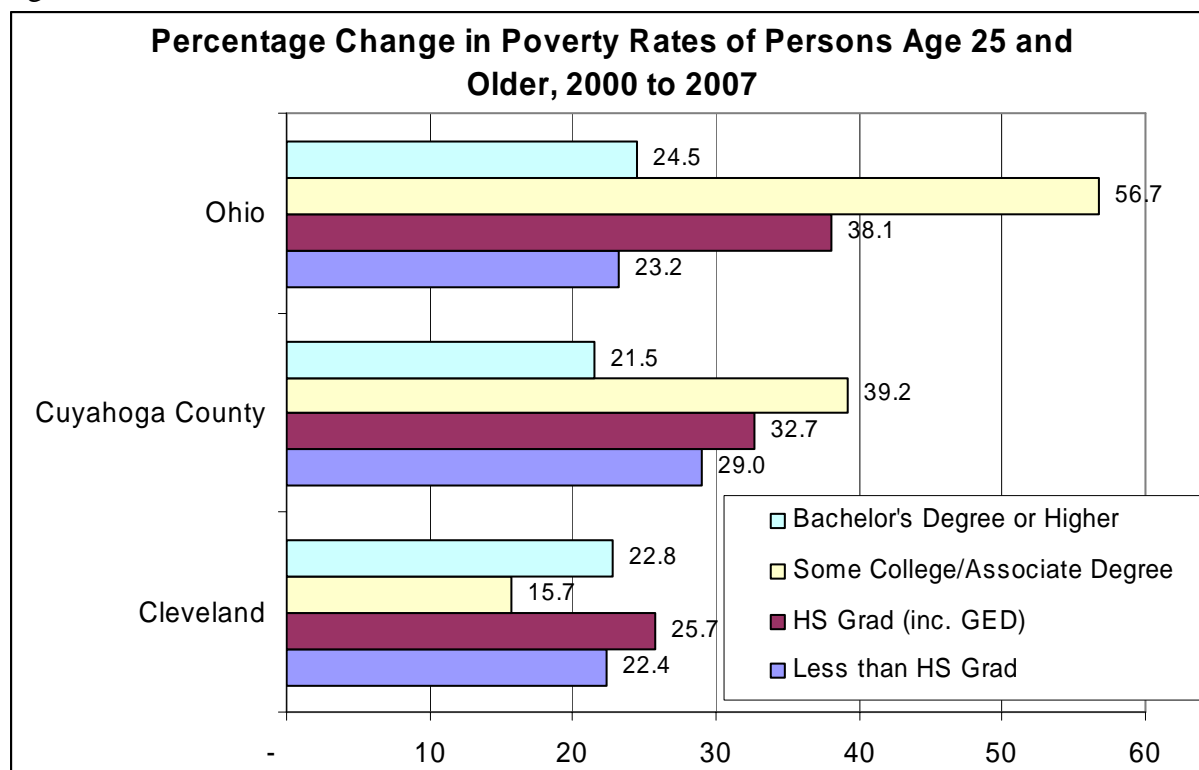


Table 1

		Cleveland				Percent Change in Percent
Educational Attainment	Poverty Status	2000 Estimate	2000 Percent	2007 Poverty	2007 Percent	
Less than HS Grad	Below Poverty	27,398	30.81	24,394	37.70	22.38
	At or Above Poverty	61,534		40,309		
HS Grad (inc. GED)	Below Poverty	18,165	19.09	22,369	24.01	25.75
	At or Above Poverty	76,987		70,811		
Some College/Associate Degree	Below Poverty	9,883	14.11	10,261	16.32	15.65
	At or Above Poverty	60,139		52,601		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Below Poverty	2,421	6.73	2,749	8.26	22.76
	At or Above Poverty	33,555		30,526		
All 25+	Below Poverty	57,867	19.95	59,773	23.53	17.96
	At or Above Poverty	232,215		194,247		
Total		290,082		254,020		
		Cuyahoga County				Percent Change in Percent
Educational Attainment	Poverty Status	2000 Estimate	2000 Percent	2007 Poverty	2007 Percent	
Less than HS Grad	Below Poverty	36,974	22.29	34,786	28.74	28.97
	At or Above Poverty	128,920		86,235		
HS Grad (inc. GED)	Below Poverty	28,649	10.45	37,662	13.87	32.72
	At or Above Poverty	245,589		233,963		
Some College/Associate Degree	Below Poverty	17,653	7.20	22,959	10.03	39.23
	At or Above Poverty	227,367		205,920		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Below Poverty	7,665	3.25	9,599	3.95	21.53
	At or Above Poverty	228,117		233,356		
All 25+	Below Poverty	90,941	9.87	105,006	12.15	23.01
	At or Above Poverty	829,993		759,474		
Total		920,934		864,480		
		Ohio				Percent Change in Percent
Educational Attainment	Poverty Status	2000 Estimate	2000 Percent	2007 Poverty	2007 Percent	
Less than HS Grad	Below Poverty	224,047	18.68	217,691	23.24	24.44
	At or Above Poverty	975,655		719,065		
HS Grad (inc. GED)	Below Poverty	204,147	7.78	294,766	10.75	38.13
	At or Above Poverty	2,418,196		2,446,474		
Some College/Associate Degree	Below Poverty	102,790	5.45	168,598	8.53	56.70
	At or Above Poverty	1,784,529		1,806,887		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Below Poverty	41,544	2.69	61,113	3.35	24.45
	At or Above Poverty	1,500,586		1,761,725		
All 25+	Below Poverty	572,528	7.90	742,168	9.93	25.73
	At or Above Poverty	6,678,966		6,734,151		
Total		7,251,494		7,476,319		