



# Metropolitan Mirror: Facts and Trends Reflecting the St. Louis Region

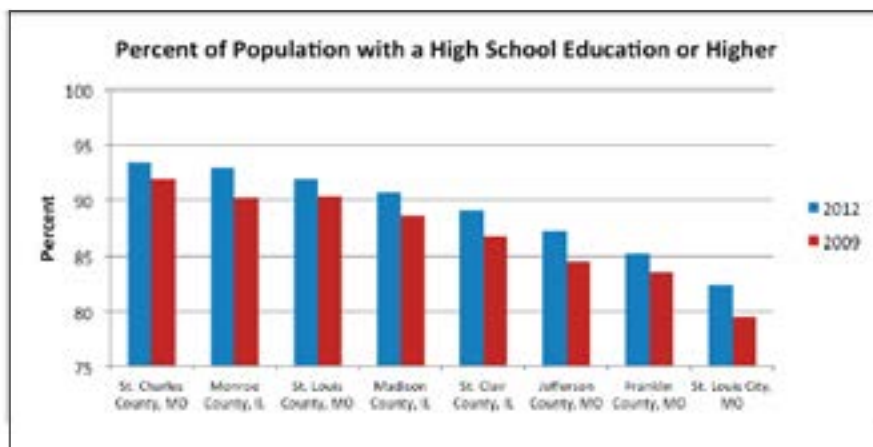
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## Changes in Educational Attainment for the St. Louis Region: 2009 to 2012

The St. Louis Region, as a whole, has increased in every measure of educational attainment from 2009 to 2012. In looking at the eight county core of the region, the average percent of population that has received a high school education or higher (including high school equivalency) is 89.1 percent, a mean increase of 2.2 percentage points from 2009.<sup>1</sup> St. Charles County has the highest percent of persons with a high school education, at 93.4 percent. St. Louis City has the lowest with 89.1 percent. However, St. Louis City does show the largest percentage increase of 2.9 between the two years, suggesting the City's educational attainment level is catching up to other counties in the area. St. Louis County shows the smallest increase at only 1.4 percentage points. The figure below illustrates the percent of population with a high school education or higher for each county for 2009 and 2012.

Percent of Population with a High School Education or Higher in the East West Gateway Region			
	2012	2009	Change
St. Charles Co, MO	93.4	91.8	+1.6
Monroe County, IL	92.9	90.2	+2.7
St. Louis County, MO	91.8	90.4	+1.4
Madison County, IL	90.6	88.6	+2.0
St. Clair County, IL	89.1	86.6	+2.5
Jefferson County, MO	87.1	84.5	+2.6
Franklin County, MO	85.2	83.5	+1.7
St. Louis City, MO	82.4	79.5	+2.9
<i>Average of Counties</i>	89.1	86.9	+2.2

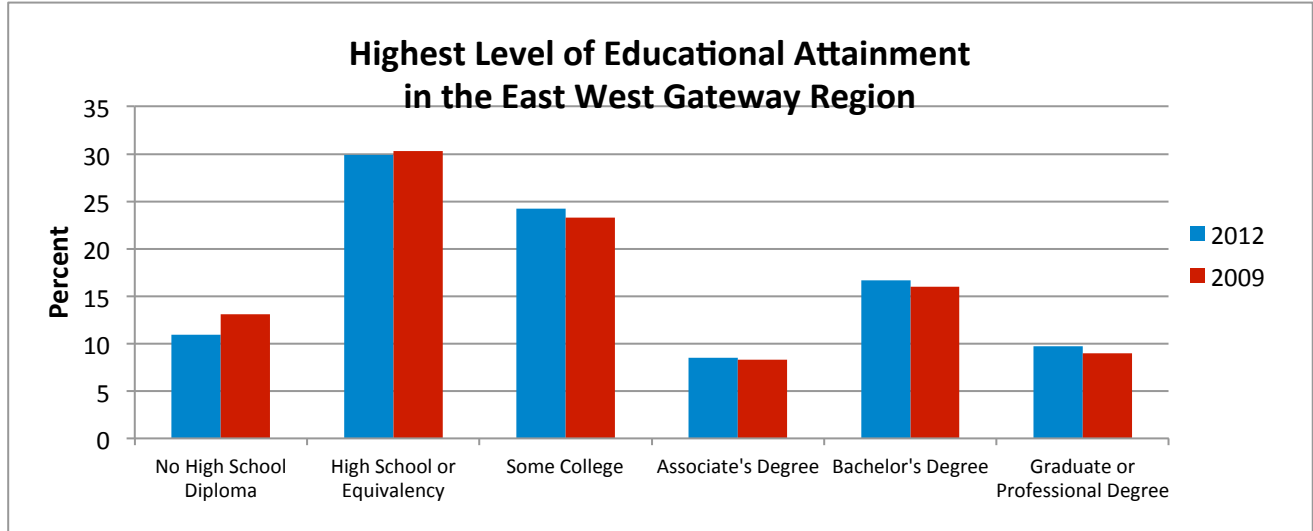
On average, the highest level of educational attainment has increased for every level of education beyond high school from 2009 to 2012. The mean percentage of people in all counties who have achieved past a high school diploma increased by 2.6 percentage points to 59.2 percent in 2012. St. Louis County has the highest percent of people with greater than a high school education, at 69.1 percent, up from 66.8 percent in 2009. Franklin County has the lowest population percentage with higher education at 50.9 percent, 2.3 percentage points higher than in 2009. While a high school education or equivalency still makes up the largest educational attainment level, this is down 0.4 percentage points



<sup>1</sup> Calculations are from 2012 and 2009 5-year estimates in the American Community Survey, using adult populations aged 25 and older.



from 2009, to 29.9 percent in 2012. Similarly, the percentage of persons receiving less than a high school education also is down by a larger margin, falling from 13.1 percent to 10.9 percent in 2012. In total, the number of St. Louis area residents who have achieved past a high school education increased from 2009 to 2012. The figure below details the average educational attainment for all counties.



Highest Level of Educational Attainment							
County	Year	No High School Diploma	High School or Equivalency	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Franklin County	2012	14.8	34.3	25.2	8.4	10.6	6.7
	2009	16.5	34.9	23.6	8.3	10.7	6.0
Jefferson County	2012	12.9	34.5	26.0	9.8	11.6	5.3
	2009	15.5	34.6	24.5	9.3	10.8	5.5
Madison County	2012	9.4	33.8	24.6	8.7	15.2	8.3
	2009	11.4	33.4	24.3	8.3	14.7	7.9
Monroe County	2012	7.1	34.2	23.8	9.4	17.5	8.0
	2009	9.8	32.1	23.0	10.6	16.4	8.0
St. Charles County	2012	6.6	26.5	24.0	8.1	23.2	11.7
	2009	8.2	27.6	23.8	7.8	22.2	10.4
St. Clair County	2012	10.9	27.9	25.9	10.3	15.5	9.4
	2009	13.4	29.1	24.8	9.5	14.8	8.4
St. Louis City	2012	17.6	25.3	22.2	6.4	16.5	12.0
	2009	20.5	27.4	20.8	5.8	14.9	10.6
St. Louis County	2012	8.2	22.7	22.1	7.2	23.5	16.3
	2009	9.6	23.5	21.7	6.6	23.3	15.2
All Counties	2012	10.9	29.9	24.2	8.5	16.7	9.7
	2009	13.1	30.3	23.3	8.3	16.0	9.0

Breaking educational attainment down by county reveals similar results. Generally, the percent of people having only achieved a high school degree or less has decreased, and the percent of people receiving beyond a high school degree has increased. Shaded regions in the table above indicate instances where the opposite trend or no change between the two periods is observed. Only 8 percent of Monroe County's population received a graduate or professional degree in both periods, and the percent of people with an associate's degree actually fell 1.2 percentage points to 9.4 percent in 2012. The other highlighted cells only show a minor decrease between 2009 and 2012, 0.4 percentage points or less. St. Louis County has the largest percentage of people with a high school education at 16.3

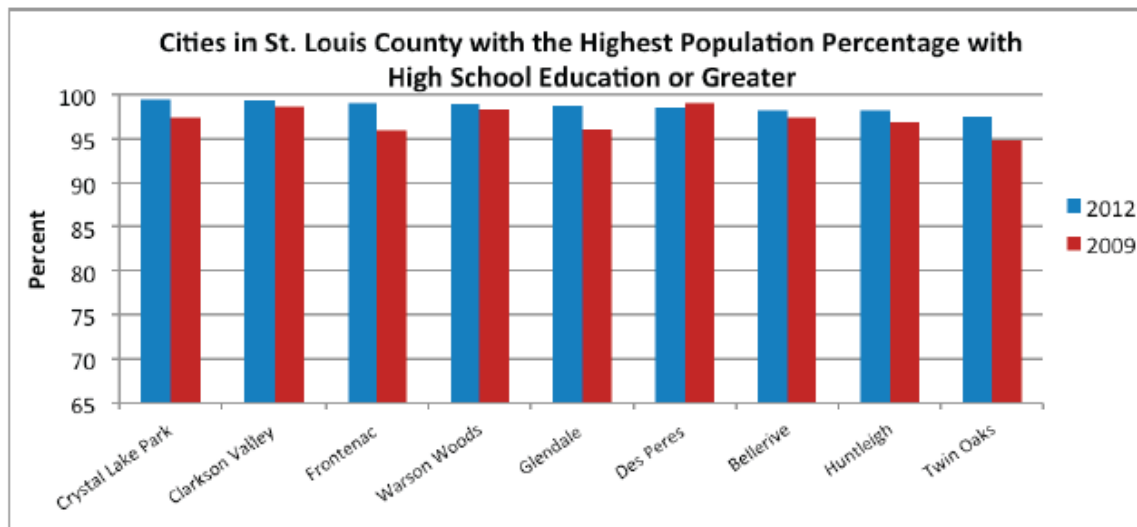
percent, and Jefferson County has the lowest at 5.3 percent, down from 5.5 percent in 2009. A similar pattern is seen in the percent of people with a bachelor’s degree, with St. Louis County at the highest with 23.5 percent, and Franklin County at the lowest with 10.6 percent. Jefferson County has the second lowest percent of persons with a bachelor’s degree, at 11.6 percent.

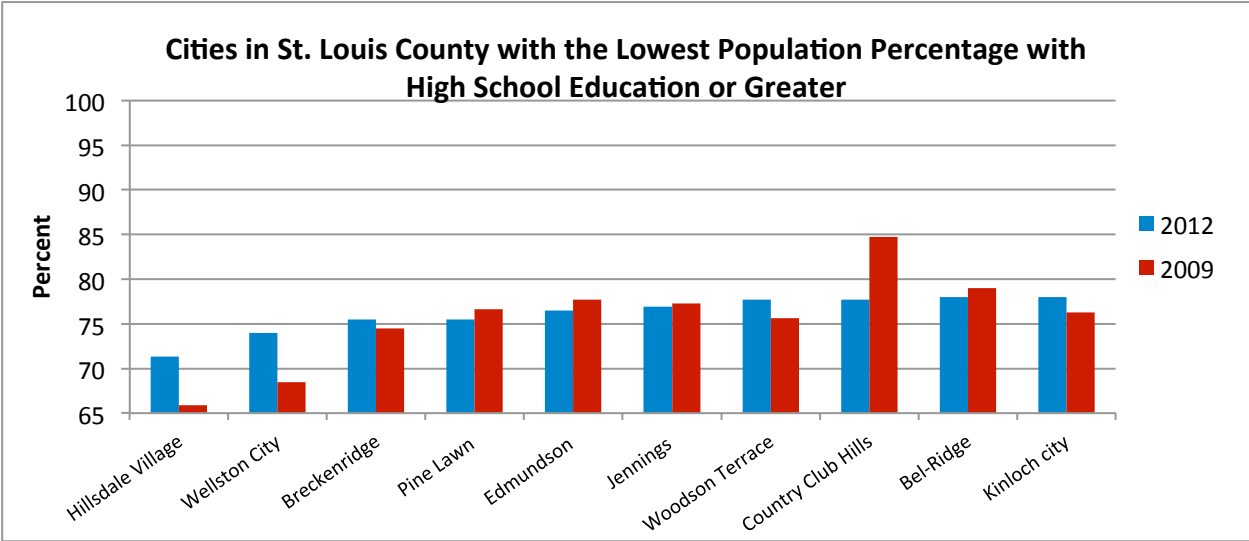
At the municipal level, the educational attainment pattern continues. For most municipalities within St. Louis County, the number of people with a high school education or greater largely increases from 2009 to 2012. However,

percentages vary by municipality. The table to the right indicates the percent of people with a high school education or higher in the years 2009 and 2012; the table gives information for the municipalities with the 10 lowest and 10 highest percentages as of 2012. An approximately 20-30 percent disparity exists between the top 10 and the lowest 10 cities. 100 percent of residents above

Percentage of Population with a High School Education or Greater for Municipalities in St. Louis County, Missouri						
	Bottom 10			Top 10		
		2012	2009		2012	2009
1	Hillsdale Village	71.3	65.9	Country Life Acres	100.0	96.2
2	Wellston City	74.0	68.5	Crystal Lake Park	99.5	97.4
3	Breckenridge Hills	75.5	74.5	Clarkson Valley	99.3	98.7
4	Pine Lawn	75.5	76.6	Frontenac	99.0	95.9
5	Edmundson	76.5	77.7	Warson Woods	98.9	98.4
6	Jennings	76.9	77.3	Glendale	98.8	96.0
7	Woodson Terrace	77.7	75.6	Des Peres	98.5	99.1
8	Country Club Hills	77.7	84.7	Bellerive	98.3	97.4
9	Bel-Ridge	78.0	79.0	Huntleigh	98.2	96.9
10	Kinloch city	78.0	76.3	Twin Oaks	97.6	94.9

the age of 25 in County Life Acres have a high school education or higher. On the other end of the spectrum, only 71.3 percent of the population of Hillsdale Village has graduated high school, which is up 5.4 percentage points from 2009. For every municipality within the bottom 10, over one fifth of the population has not graduated high school, compared to less than 4 percent in the top 10 cities. The figures below illustrate the difference between the highest and lowest municipalities.





While overall, the percent of people who graduated high school increased from 2009 to 2012, some municipalities did experience a decrease during this time period as well. For instance, 84.7 percent of the population in Country Club Hills had a high school education or above in 2009, yet this number had decreased by 7 percentage points by 2012, when only 77.7 percent of persons had a high school degree. However, a percentage point decrease is not always indicative of a low high school graduation rate. Glen Echo Park and Norwood Court also experienced some of the largest decreases in population that graduated high school, yet these municipalities still have a relatively high percentage of residents graduating high school, 84.9 percent and 91.1 percent, respectively. For municipalities experiencing an

Municipalities with the Greatest Percentage Point Change in High School Graduates from 2009 to 2012			
Greatest Decrease		Greatest Increase	
Country Club Hills	-7.0	Bellefontaine Neighbors	+31.4
Flordell Hills	-6.9	Wilbur Park	+9.0
Glen Echo Park	-6.6	Beverly Hills	+9.0
Norwood Court	-5.8	Vinita Terrace	+7.3
Winchester	-3.5	Northwoods	+6.3
Lakeshire	-3.0	Riverview	+5.8
Cool Valley	-3.0	Oakland	+5.7

increase in percentage points during the time periods, Bellefontaine Neighbors showed a sharp increase of 31.4 percentage points from 54.7 percent to 86.1 percent. This is likely a factor of a smaller population and people moving into and out of the area. Of the municipalities experiencing the greatest increase in percentage points, Beverly Hills has the lowest percentage of people who have graduated high school (86 percent). In general, the increases in percent of high school graduates are greater than the decreases in

percent of high school graduates.

When looking at the percentage of population receiving a bachelor’s degree or higher, the contrast between municipalities is much more striking. Where the 10 municipalities with the highest percent having at least a bachelor’s degree are upwards of 72 percent of the population, for those in the bottom 10, only the municipality ranking at the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest actually has greater than 10 percent of its population with a college degree. Kinloch ranks at the bottom, with just 1.5 percent of its population

graduating college, down 1.7 percentage points from 2009. In fact, the majority of the municipalities in the bottom category experienced a reduction in percentage points from 2009 to 2012. Country Club Hills showed the greatest decrease between the two years, falling 17.9 percentage points from 27.4 percent in

2009, to just 9.5 percent in 2012. Wellston and Hillsdale are the only 2 municipalities in the bottom 10 that saw an increase in college-educated population. In contrast, all of the municipalities in the top 10 saw an increase in the percent of their respective populations having a bachelor's degree or higher. Considering a college degree is increasingly and indicator of income, municipalities ranking lower for this measure have a reduced economic opportunity

		Bottom 10		Top 10		
		2012	2009		2012	2009
1	Kinloch	1.5	3.2	Westwood	81.0	75.3
2	Pine Lawn	3.7	4.8	Frontenac	77.4	69.8
3	Pagedale	4.3	7.0	Bellerive	76.2	66.1
4	Riverview	4.8	9.1	Warson	75.9	73.9
5	Wellston	6.0	2.6	Huntleigh	75.5	74.3
6	Flordell Hills	7.5	8.6	Clarkson Valley	74.5	73.5
7	Hillsdale	7.7	4.2	Clayton	74.5	70.9
8	Country Club Hills	9.5	27.4	Country Life Acres	72.8	61.6
9	Uplands Park	9.5	16.4	Crystal Lake Park	72.5	66.3
10	Jennings	10.4	11.4	Town and Country	72.3	70.6

compared to their more educated counterparts. The approximately 70-percentage point gap between the two groups highlights the income inequality within the St. Louis region.

Whereas percentage point change in high school graduates is not necessarily an indicator of

		Bottom 10		Top 10	
1	Country Club Hills	-17.9	Country Life Acres	+11.2	
2	Calverton Park	-10.3	Bella Villa	+10.8	
3	Fenton	-9.1	Bellerive	+10.1	
4	Uplands Park	-6.9	Richmond Heights	+7.7	
5	Sycamore Hills	-4.5	Frontenac	+7.6	
6	Riverview	-4.3	Bel-Ridge	+7.2	
7	Cool Valley	-3.2	Twin Oaks	+6.9	
8	Norwood Court	-3.2	Charlack	+6.7	
9	Eureka	-3.2	Velda City	+6.5	
10	Winchester	-2.8	Crystal Lake Park	+6.2	

actual percent of high school graduates, the case for college graduates is slightly different. Among the 10 municipalities showing the greatest decrease in percentage points, the overall population that graduated college never exceeds 40 percent in 2012. In this group, Eureka has the greatest proportion of its adult population possessing a bachelor's degree or higher, at 38.2 percent in 2012, followed by Fenton with 32.9 percent, Sycamore Hills with 24.6 percent and Winchester at 21.9 percent. All of the other municipalities in this category had less than 15 percent of their respective

populations earning a bachelor's degree. In contrast, 8 of the municipalities experiencing the greatest percentage point increase have more than 20 percent of their populations with a college degree, 5 of which are above 50 percent. For example, Country Life Acres increased the most at 11.2 percentage points, where 72.8 percent of its adult population had a college degree in 2012. Bellerive, Frontenac, and Crystal Lake Park all have over 70 percent with a college degree as well. The only municipalities with less than one fifth of their populations holding a bachelor's degree or higher are Bel-Ridge and Velda

City, at 13.6 percent and 11.8 percent respectively. Therefore, the municipalities experiencing the greatest increase in college graduates are largely those already having a higher percentage of college graduates. Conversely, the municipalities showing the greatest decrease are mostly those with a relatively low percentage of college graduates. This finding suggests that the disparity in higher education at the municipal level is increasing, thus increasing inequality between municipalities within the St. Louis region.