

A report from



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

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Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

Philadelphia: **The State of the City**

A 2016 Update

Overview

Philadelphia in 2016 is a growing city undergoing a sweeping transformation, most evident in the age and diversity of those who live here.

The city's population has risen for nine consecutive years, up another 5,880 in the most recent count. The increase since 2006 stands at 78,732, a stark reversal after a decrease of nearly 600,000 over the previous five decades.

More compelling, though, are some of the factors that underlie the city's growth.

One is age. As the United States has gotten older, Philadelphia has become younger—largely because of the growth of the city's young adult population, the much-discussed millennials. A decade ago, Philadelphia had a median age of 35.3, only a year below the nation's 36.4. In the most recent census, the city's age was down to 33.8, while the national figure had risen to 37.7—a difference of nearly four years. Remarkably, this happened over a time in which the number of children in the city was declining.

Philadelphia is again a city of immigrants, as it had been for most of its history—but not for much of the 20th century. As recently as 1990, Philadelphia had barely more than 100,000 foreign-born residents. Today, it has in excess of 200,000, mostly from Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, with no single nationality accounting for more than 13 percent of the whole.

Partly as a result of this immigrant influx, Philadelphia is becoming increasingly diverse. Twenty-five years ago, only 9 percent of residents identified themselves as something other than African-American or non-Hispanic white. Today, that figure is 23 percent and growing—14 percent Latino, 7 percent Asian, and 2 percent everyone else—creating a richer and more complex civic landscape in one neighborhood after another.

This is a lot of change in a relatively short time. But other aspects of life in Philadelphia have not changed—at least not enough to make much of a difference.

Poverty, arguably Philadelphia's most daunting and intractable problem, falls into that category. At last count, the city's poverty rate stood at 26 percent, down slightly in the past few years but still the highest among the nation's 10 largest cities. More than 400,000 Philadelphians live below the federal poverty line, including 37 percent of children and 43 percent of Latinos.

Helping to explain this poverty and the low median income rate is the low level of educational attainment. Only slightly more than 1 in 4 Philadelphians over the age of 25 have at least a four-year college degree. That's better than in recent years but far behind many other cities. In Boston, about 300 miles north of Philadelphia, nearly half of all adults are college graduates; in Washington, 130 miles to the south, more than half are.

A number of other indicators also have improved over time but remain troublesome.

In 2015, for instance, unemployment in Philadelphia fell to 7 percent on an annualized basis, the lowest in eight years. But the rate remained higher than the national figure of 5.3 percent and greater than in a number of other cities, including Cleveland and Chicago. The city's job count reached 680,800, the highest since 2002. But it grew by less than 1 percent in 2015, hardly cause for celebration when the national job total increased by more than twice as much.

The number of violent crimes, which has been declining gradually during the past decade, was virtually unchanged in 2015, while homicides rose by 13 percent from historic lows the previous two years. Philadelphia's

per capita homicide rate was lower than those in Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, and Washington but higher than those in Boston, Chicago, and Houston.

Home sales increased for the fourth year in a row, and residential building permits came in only slightly lower than the record number in 2014. But civic leaders and neighborhood activists expressed concerns about rising rents, the availability of affordable units, and the sustainability of the housing boom, particularly if the uncertainty and turmoil surrounding the city's school system continue.

For nearly a decade, Philadelphia has been transformed by demographic trends that have produced growing populations across much of urban America. The question is whether those trends are forming a foundation for real progress on the city's most persistent challenges.

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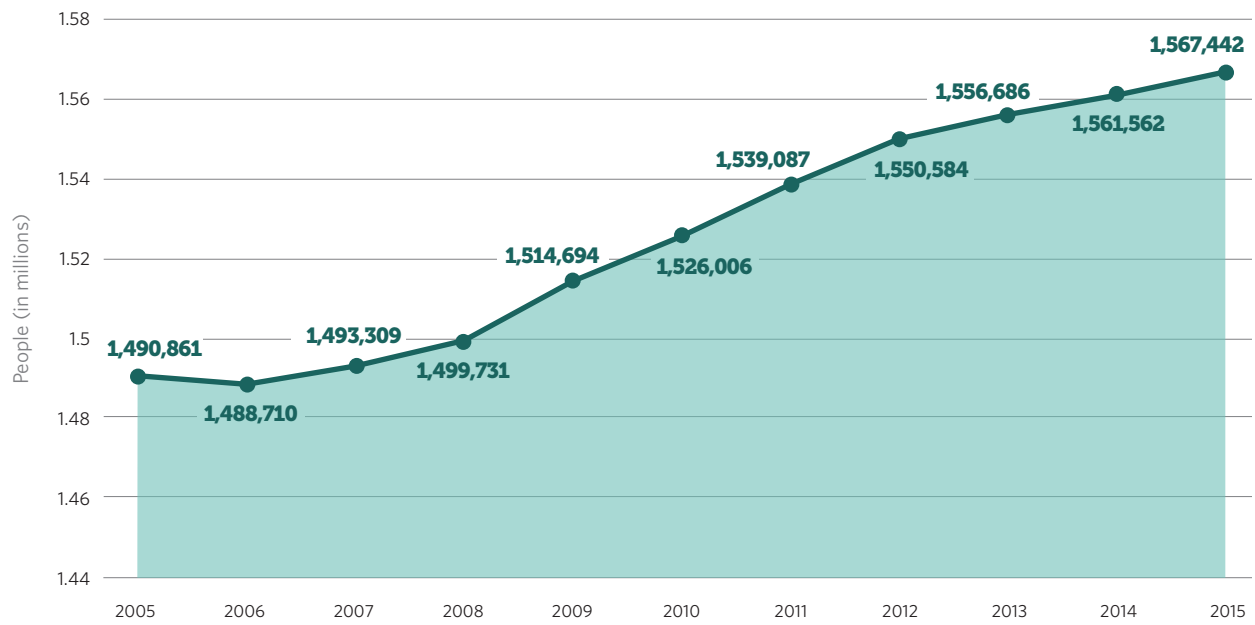
Figure 1
Portrait of the City

Population	1,567,442	Percentage of adult residents who:	Percentage of workers employed by:
Percentage of residents who are:		Graduated from college	The private sector
Under the age of 20	25%	Did not graduate from high school	83%
Age 20-34	27%		Government agencies
Age 35-54	24%	Percent of adults who are:	13%
Age 55 or older	24%	Married or live as a couple	Their own businesses
Black or African-American	41%	Never married	4%
Non-Hispanic white	36%	Divorced or separated	Total housing units
Hispanic or Latino	14%	Widowed	670,445
Asian	7%	Percentage of women who gave birth in the previous 12 months who were unmarried	Percentage of units listed as:
Other	2%	60%	Vacant
Percentage of residents who:		Median household income	14%
Were born in Pennsylvania	68%	\$39,043	Occupied
Were born in other states	15%	Percentage of households with annual income of:	86%
Were born in Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory	4%	Less than \$35,000	Percentage of units built before 1939
Were foreign born	13%	\$35,000 to \$74,999	41%
Speak a foreign language at home	23%	\$75,000 to \$99,999	Median monthly rent
Number of school-age children	237,092	\$100,000 or more	\$936
Number of students enrolled in college or graduate school	140,956	Percentage of population below poverty level	Percentage of units
		26%	Owner-occupied
		Percentage of households with:	52%
		No vehicles available	Rented
		31%	48%
		Two or more vehicles available	Where residents lived the previous year:
		25%	Same house
			86%
			Different house in Philadelphia
			9%
			Somewhere in the U.S.
			4%
			Abroad
			1%
			Percentage of residents without health insurance
			13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Figure 2
Philadelphia Population, 2005-15



After reaching its lowest point in a century in 2006, Philadelphia's population has risen nine consecutive years, adding a total of 78,732 residents.

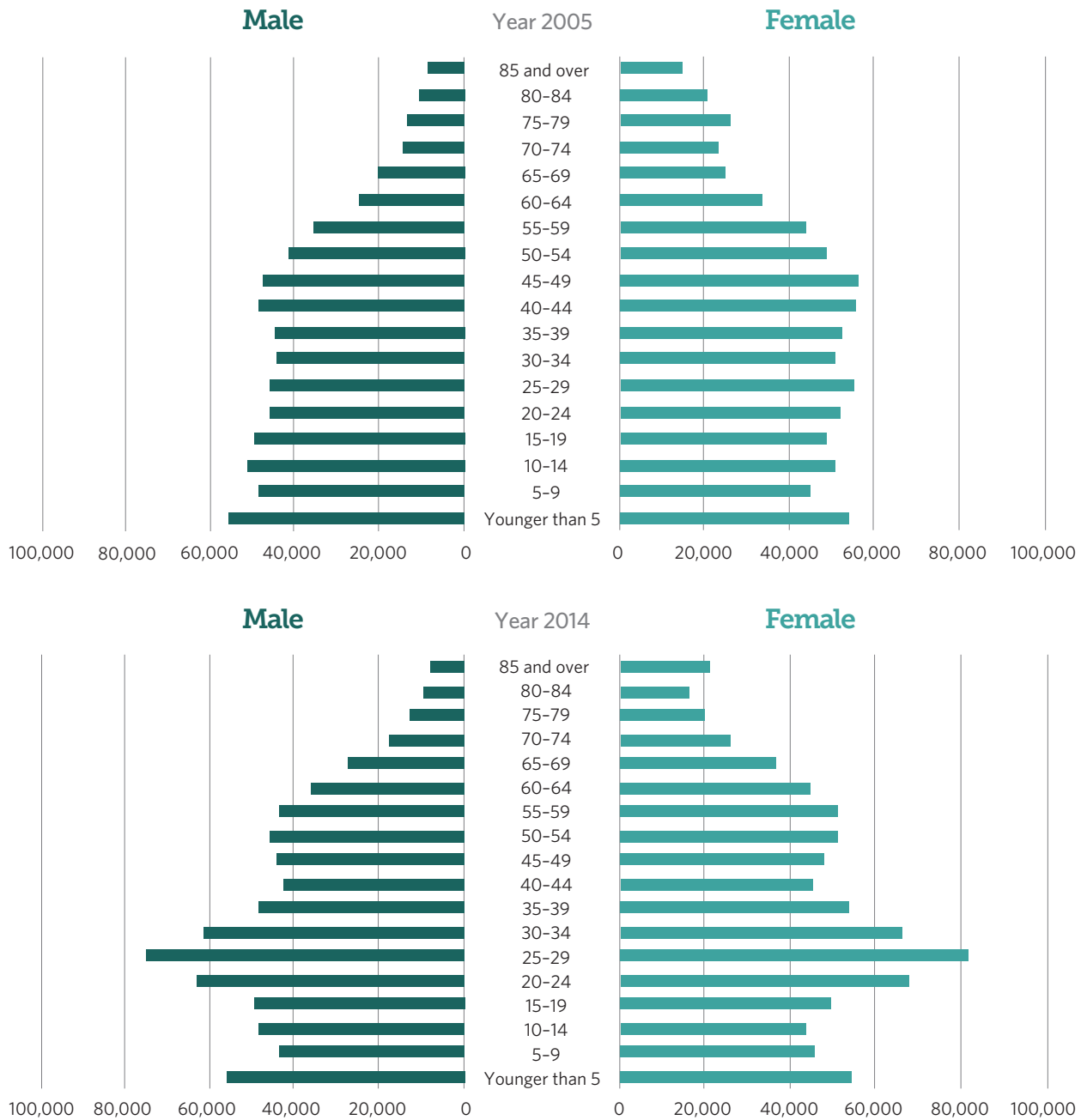
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

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Peter Tobia

Figure 3
Philadelphia's Changing Age Profile, 2005-14

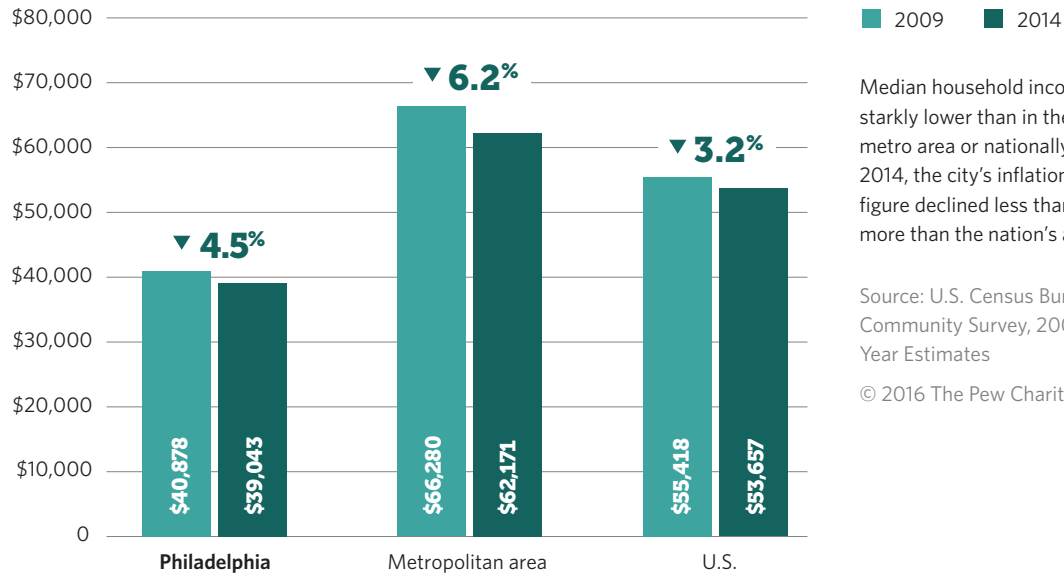


In recent years, Philadelphia recorded one of the largest percentage increases of millennials of any major city in the country. From 2005 to 2014, the number of residents ages 20 to 34 grew by more than 120,000, helping to drive the city's population increase.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005 and 2014, One-Year Estimates

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Figure 4
Median Household Income, 2009-14

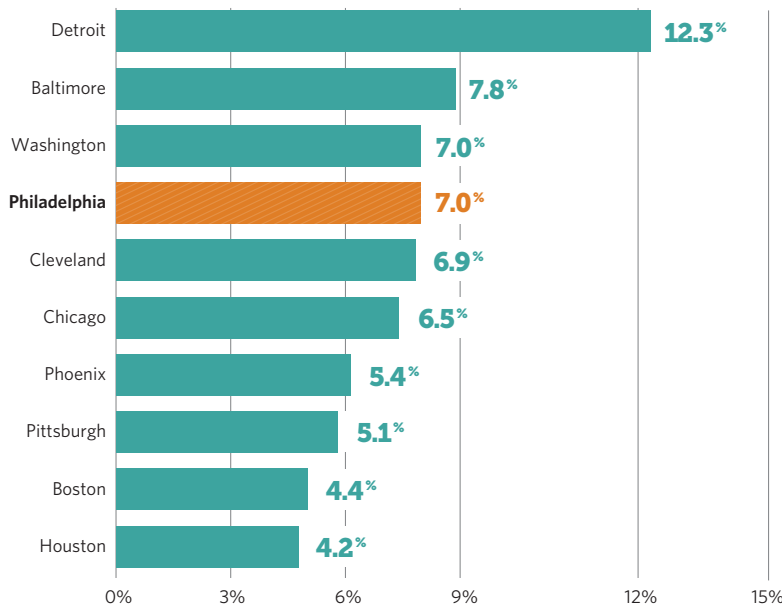


Median household income in Philadelphia is starkly lower than in the greater Philadelphia metro area or nationally. From 2009 to 2014, the city's inflation-adjusted income figure declined less than the region's, but more than the nation's as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009 and 2014, One-Year Estimates

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Figure 5
Unemployment in Comparable Cities, 2015

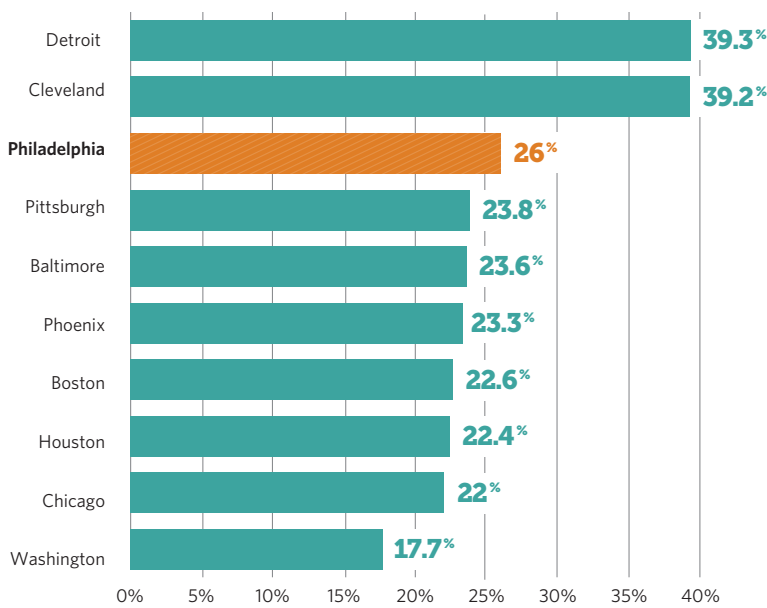


Philadelphia's unemployment rate declined in 2015 to 7 percent on an annualized basis, its lowest level since 2007. In the years since the Great Recession, the jobless level in Philadelphia has declined more slowly than in some comparable cities, including Chicago and Cleveland. The national unemployment rate in 2015 was 5.3 percent.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2015

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Figure 6
Poverty Rate, 2014

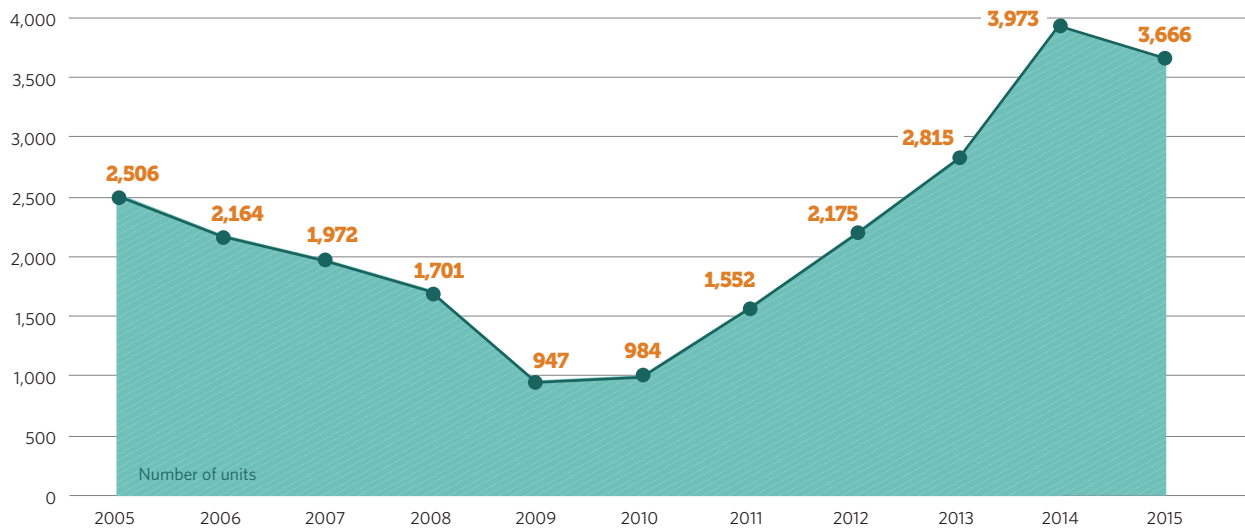


Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate of the nation's 10 largest cities. Among our comparison cities, it ranks third and is among seven with poverty rates ranging from 22 to 26 percent. Philadelphia's poverty rate has declined slightly in recent years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, One-Year Estimates

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Figure 7
Residential Building Permits Issued in Philadelphia, 2005-15

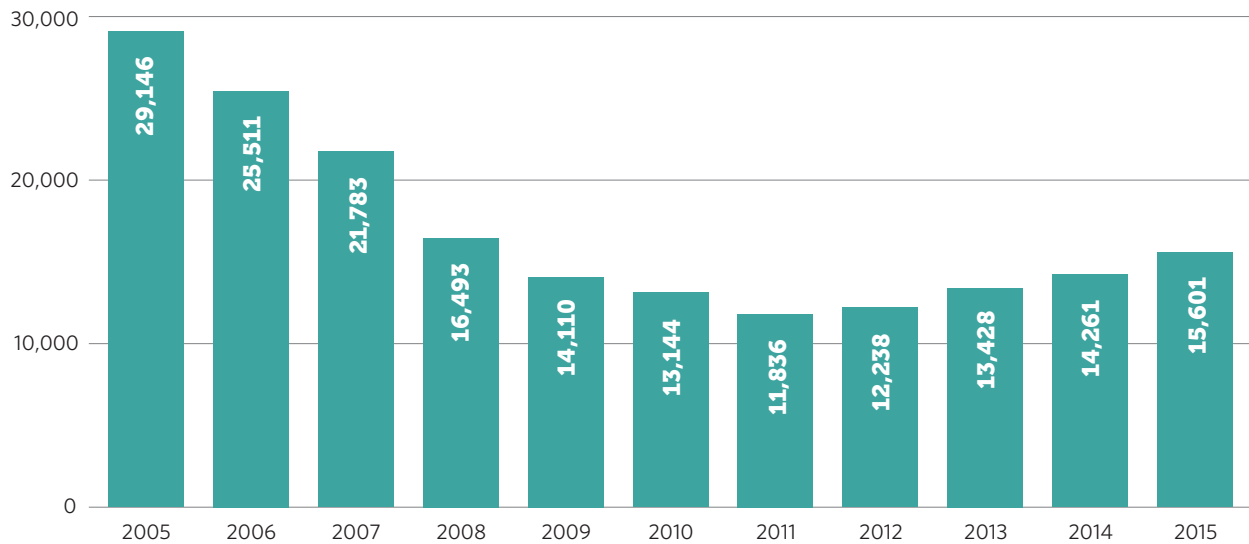


Philadelphia's residential construction boom continued in 2015. The number of units for which building permits were issued, 3,666, was the second-highest in the last 20 years, down slightly from the peak of 3,973 in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits

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Figure 8
Sales of Residential Units in Philadelphia, 2005-15

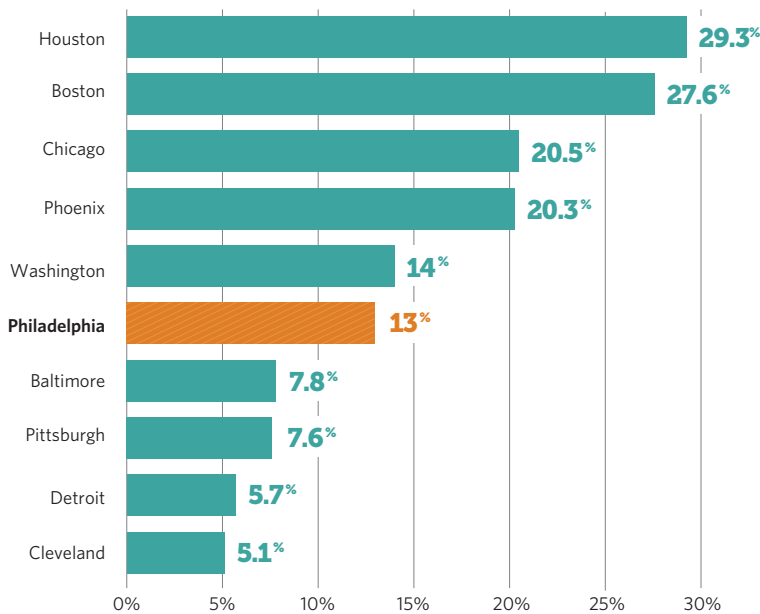


In 2015, sales of residential units rose for the fourth straight year and reached the highest level since 2008.

Source: Kevin Gillen, senior research fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation

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Figure 9
Percentage of Residents Born Outside the U.S., 2014

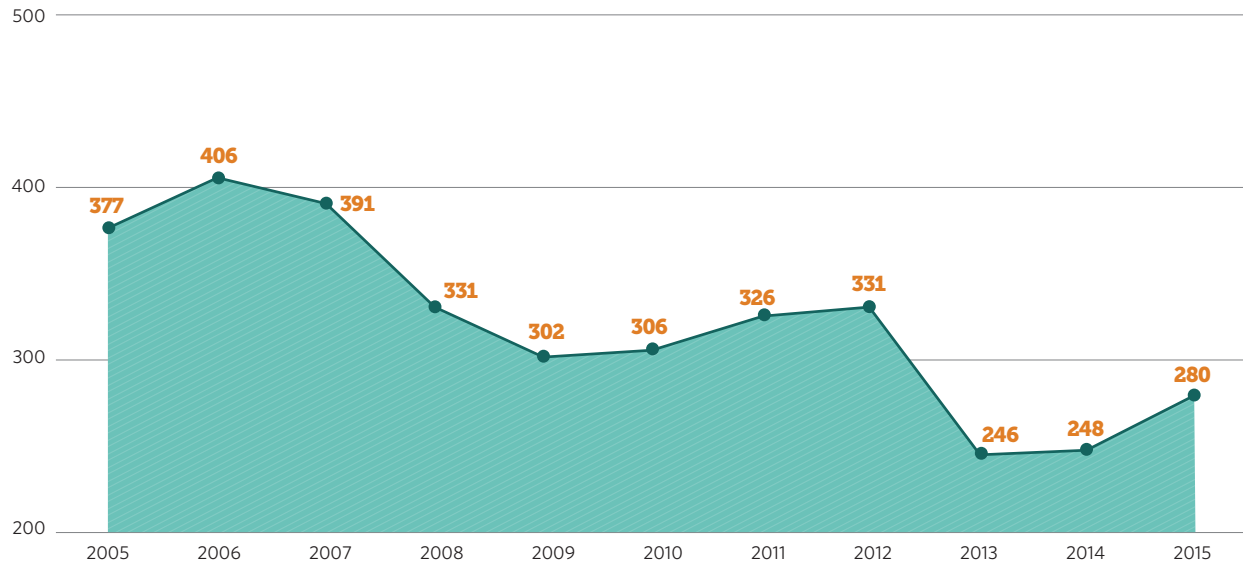


The percentage of Philadelphians born in other countries has increased gradually in recent years. At 13 percent, the figure is almost in line with the national average. The largest share of foreign-born Philadelphians, 41 percent, come from Asia, primarily from China, India, and Vietnam.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, One-Year Estimate

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Figure 10
Homicides in Philadelphia, 2005-15

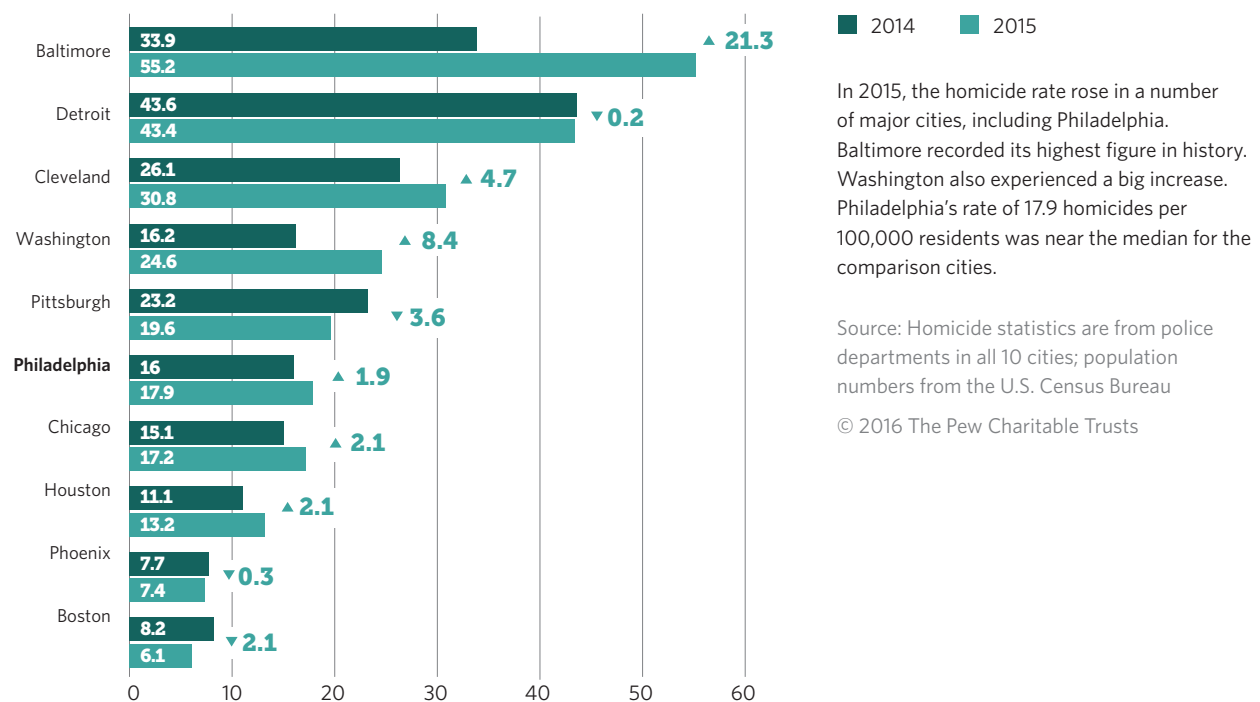


After historic lows the previous two years, the murder rate in Philadelphia rose by 13 percent in 2015.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department, Public Affairs Department

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Figure 11
Homicide Rate in Comparable Cities, 2014-15
Homicides per 100,000 residents

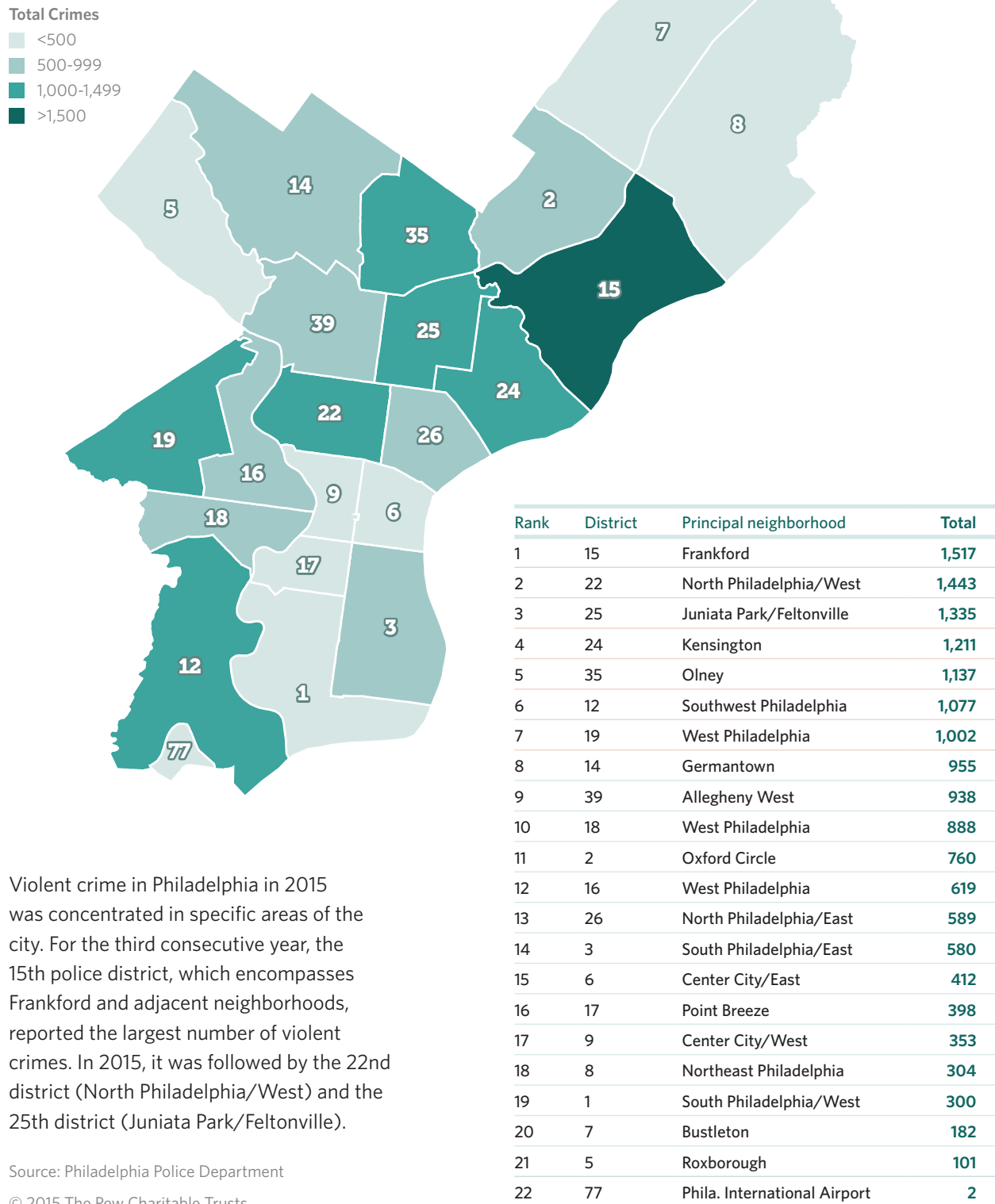


In 2015, the homicide rate rose in a number of major cities, including Philadelphia. Baltimore recorded its highest figure in history. Washington also experienced a big increase. Philadelphia's rate of 17.9 homicides per 100,000 residents was near the median for the comparison cities.

Source: Homicide statistics are from police departments in all 10 cities; population numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau

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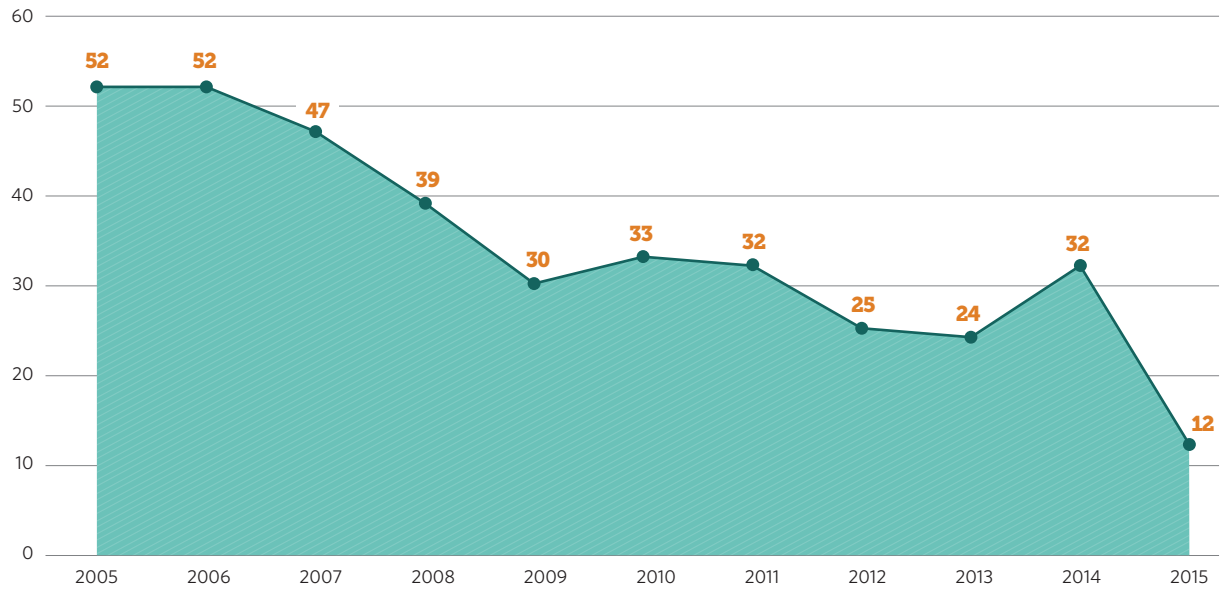
Figure 12
Violent Crime in Philadelphia, 2015
 By police district



Violent crime in Philadelphia in 2015 was concentrated in specific areas of the city. For the third consecutive year, the 15th police district, which encompasses Frankford and adjacent neighborhoods, reported the largest number of violent crimes. In 2015, it was followed by the 22nd district (North Philadelphia/West) and the 25th district (Juniata Park/Feltonville).

Source: Philadelphia Police Department
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Figure 13
Fire Deaths in Philadelphia, 2005-15



In 2015, Philadelphia had the lowest number of fire fatalities in the city's history, down 63 percent from the year before. Officials from the Philadelphia Fire Department cited their efforts to install smoke detectors in low-income households as one reason for the decline.

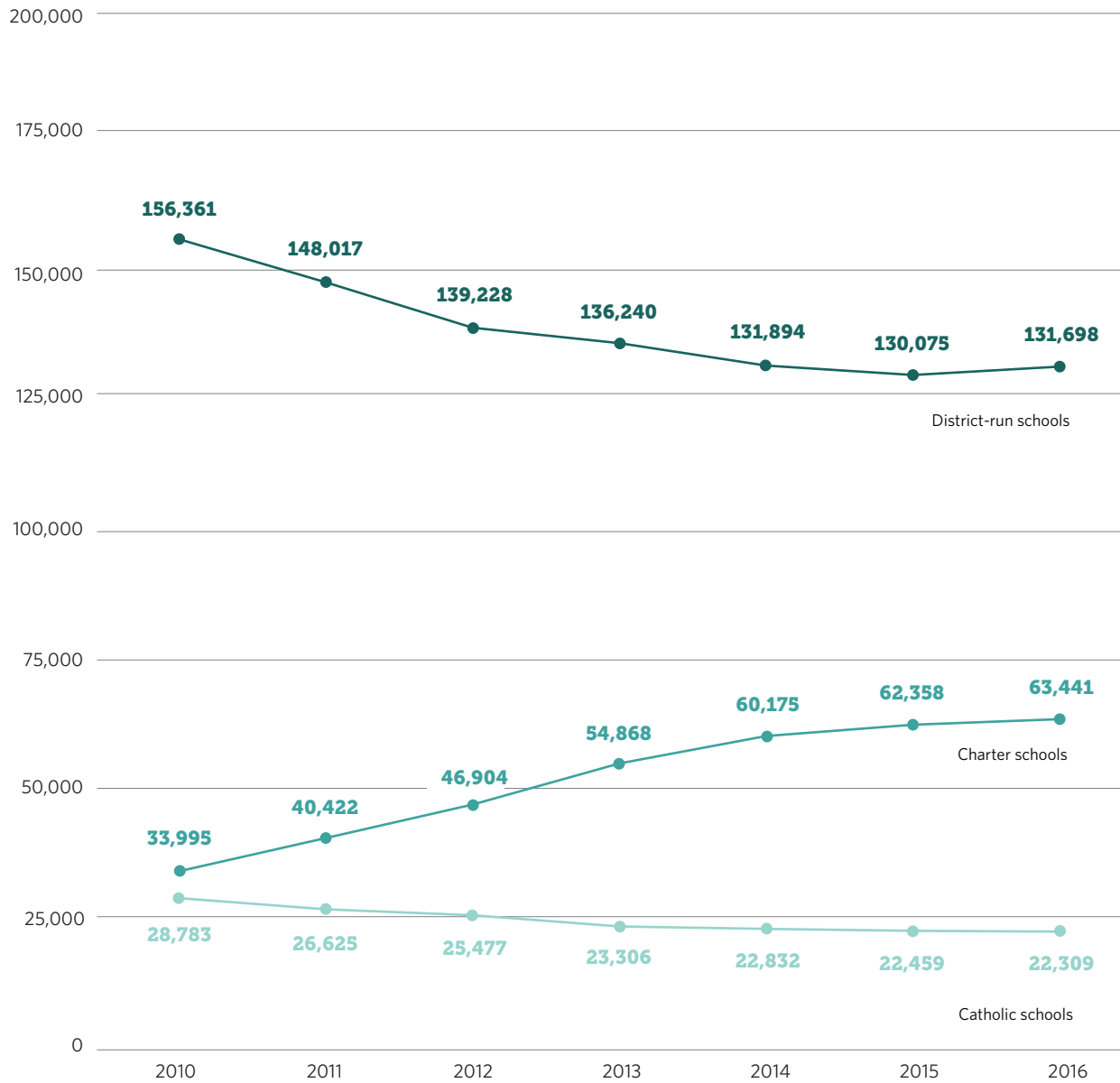
Source: Philadelphia Fire Department

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Figure 14
K-12 Enrollment Trends, 2010-16



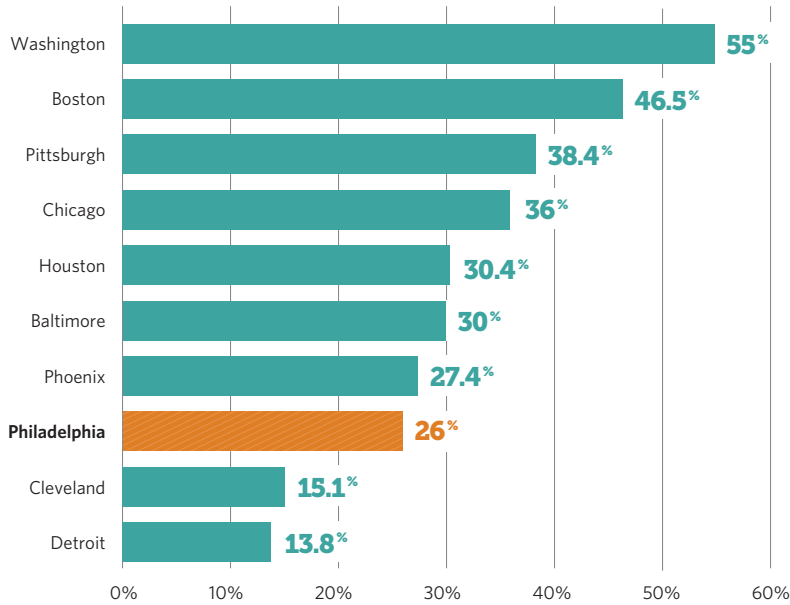
After years of decline, K-12 enrollment has stabilized in the past three years in schools run by the School District of Philadelphia and by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Enrollment in public charter schools has nearly doubled since the school year that ended in 2010.

Sources: School District of Philadelphia, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

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Figure 15

Percent of Residents Who Are College Graduates, 2014 Adults 25 and older



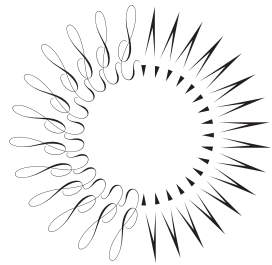
The educational attainment of Philadelphians has been rising gradually in recent years. But with levels also increasing nationally, the city continues to have a smaller share of adults with four-year college degrees than most of the comparison cities. In the region as a whole, 35.3 percent of adults have college degrees, a relatively strong number.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, One Year Estimate

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