The *Where We Stand* series produced by East-West Gateway (EWG) has provided comparisons of the St. Louis region with other large metropolitan areas since 1992. Over the years, a broad range of topics important to the region have been documented in these publications.

This edition, the eighth, focuses on three strategic priorities identified by the EWG Board of Directors in May of this year: economic development, workforce development, and crime and safety. This publication shows how St. Louis ranks among the 50 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in the United States—the peer regions—on 130 metrics that pertain to these strategic priorities. An introductory chapter on demographics is also included to provide an overview of the population of St. Louis and the peer regions.

The eighth edition of *Where We Stand* shows that St. Louis has many regional assets. St. Louis is above average in the number of adults with college and advanced degrees. Its location and infrastructure make it a national leader in freight and logistics, and its manufacturing sector remains vibrant. Per capita income remains at about the national average, while cost of living is lower than most peer regions. Overall crime rates, including both property and violent crime, are at about the national average.

The region has many challenges as well. It is one of the slowest growing regions in terms of population and employment, and income growth has lagged the rest of the country in recent years. Economic and educational outcomes in the region vary significantly by race and by disability status. And while overall crime rates have dropped over the long term, the rate of violent crime, particularly the murder rate, represents a major challenge for the region.

This edition of *Where We Stand* offers metrics for assessing the performance of the St. Louis region on the strategic priorities. We hope that it provokes thoughtful discussion and debate on important issues facing the St. Louis region and helps the region understand what strengths we have on which to build.

Some Highlights:

35 percent of adults in St. Louis have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 32 percent nationally.

383 million tons of freight were shipped to, from, or through St. Louis in 2016, a rate that ranks 13th.

115,000 employees work in the manufacturing industry, making up 8 percent of the workforce in St. Louis.

St. Louis has the **11th lowest cost of living** with median monthly housing costs under $1,000.

Challenges Persist:

17 people: Between 2015 and 2017, the region's population experienced a net increase of just 17 people.

St. Louis ranks in the **top 10 on racial disparities** between blacks and whites on:

- Poverty (ranks 8th)
- Unemployment (8th)
- Income (7th)
- College graduation rates (10th)
- and Homicide deaths (8th).

The region has the **3rd highest disparity in unemployment** between adults with disabilities and those without.

The **murder rate ranks as the 4th** largest among the peer regions.

ECONOMY

Introduction

The St. Louis economy has many strengths, as well as some challenges. Despite many ups and downs in the national economy, St. Louis has held its position, near the national average, on per capita income. After decades of restructuring, the region still has a vibrant manufacturing sector, as well as important competitive advantages in the freight and logistics industry. Despite these strengths, St. Louis faces many challenges as well. It lags most peer regions on both income and employment growth. St. Louis also continues to grapple with racial disparities in income and employment. And while much progress has been made on inclusion of individuals with disabilities, much work also remains to be done. This chapter provides an overview of the national and regional economy, 10 years after the Great Recession, presenting metrics on employment, income, innovation, freight, and inclusion.
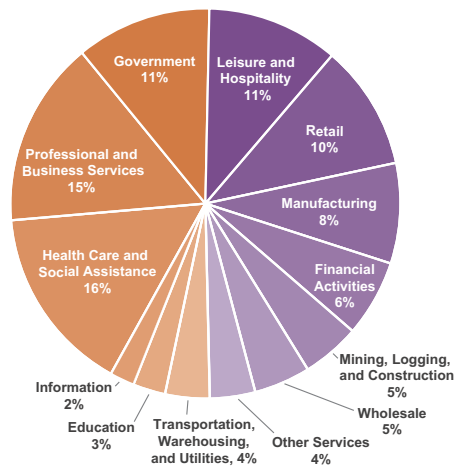
Employment

In 2017, the national unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, the lowest since 2000, and the third lowest unemployment rate since 1970. The region's unemployment rate of 3.7 percent was substantially lower than the national average.

St. Louis ranked fairly low, 40th out of 50, on employment growth from 2012 to 2017. In part, the region's low ranking is because of its small increase in the number of jobs, but the low ranking also reflects the fact that the recession was milder in St. Louis than in many of the Sunbelt regions.

The largest industries in the region are health care and social assistance (214,000 employees) and professional and business services (213,000), followed by leisure and hospitality (151,000) and government (155,000). The manufacturing sector employed 115,000 people in 2017, belying the notion that St. Louis is a postindustrial region. The distribution of jobs among industries is very similar to the national distribution.

Employment by Industry
Percent of Total Employment
St. Louis MSA, 2017

Government 11%
Leisure and Hospitality 11%
Retail 10%
Professional and Business Services 15%
Manufacturing 8%
Health Care and Social Assistance 16%
Financial Activities 6%
Information 2%
Education 3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities, 4%
Other Services 4%
Wholesale 5%
Mining, Logging, and Construction 5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics.

Freight shipped to, from, or through the region was valued at **$354 billion** in 2016, one of the highest values of the peer regions.

Unemployment stands at 3.7 percent according to 2017 estimates, one of the lowest of the peer regions.

Unemployment Rate
Unemployed individuals who are looking for work as a percent of the labor force, 2017

1	Cleveland	5.7
2	Buffalo	5.4
3	Las Vegas	5.2
4	Riverside	5.1
5	Pittsburgh	5.0
6	Houston	5.0
7	Chicago	4.9
8	New Orleans	4.8
9	Philadelphia	4.7
10	Hartford	4.7
11	Atlanta	4.5
12	Sacramento	4.5
13	New York	4.5
14	Providence	4.5
15	Detroit	4.4
16	Los Angeles	4.4
	United States	4.4
17	Miami	4.3
18	Charlotte	4.3
19	Cincinnati	4.3
20	Memphis	4.3
21	Baltimore	4.3
22	Phoenix	4.2
23	Virginia Beach	4.2
24	Seattle	4.1
25	Louisville	4.1
26	Columbus	4.1
27	Birmingham	4.0
28	San Diego	4.0
29	Raleigh	4.0
30	Jacksonville	3.9
31	Tampa	3.9
32	Portland	3.9
33	Richmond	3.9
34	Oklahoma City	3.9
35	Kansas City	3.8
36	Orlando	3.8
37	St. Louis	3.7
38	Washington, D.C.	3.7
39	Dallas	3.6
40	Milwaukee	3.5
41	San Antonio	3.5
42	Boston	3.4
43	San Francisco	3.3
44	Indianapolis	3.3
45	San Jose	3.3
46	Minneapolis	3.2
47	Salt Lake City	3.1
48	Austin	3.1
49	Nashville	2.9
50	Denver	2.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Change in Employment
Percent change, 2012-2017

1	Riverside	22.5
2	Austin	22.3
3	Orlando	20.9
4	Nashville	20.0
5	San Jose	18.8
6	Las Vegas	18.4
7	Charlotte	17.7
8	San Francisco	17.4
9	Raleigh	17.2
10	Denver	17.0
11	Dallas	16.7
12	San Antonio	16.3
13	Jacksonville	16.0
14	Atlanta	15.7
15	Phoenix	15.6
16	Salt Lake City	15.6
17	Seattle	15.4
18	Tampa	15.0
19	Portland	15.0
20	Miami	15.0
21	Sacramento	14.4
22	San Diego	13.1
23	Columbus	12.0
24	Louisville	11.3
25	Los Angeles	11.0
26	Indianapolis	10.7
27	Houston	10.4
28	New York	9.5
29	Richmond	9.5
30	Kansas City	9.4
31	Detroit	9.4
	United States	9.3
32	Boston	9.2
33	Minneapolis	9.2
34	Cincinnati	8.4
35	Chicago	7.4
36	Providence	7.1
37	Washington, D.C.	6.9
38	Philadelphia	6.8
39	Oklahoma City	6.7
40	St. Louis	6.4
41	Memphis	6.4
42	Baltimore	6.3
43	Milwaukee	5.5
44	New Orleans	5.5
45	Birmingham	4.5
46	Virginia Beach	4.4
47	Cleveland	3.7
48	Buffalo	3.6
49	Hartford	3.5
50	Pittsburgh	1.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Income

Despite many ups and downs in the national economy, St. Louis has held its position, near the national average, on per capita income. St. Louis ranks 28th among the peer regions on per capita income, and is the region closest to the national average. In recent years, however, income growth has lagged the rest of the county. St. Louis ranks 46th on change in per capita income from 2012 to 2016.

A low cost of living makes a dollar go further in St. Louis than in most peer regions. St. Louis ranks 40th with a monthly median housing cost of $954. This is less than the national average ($1,048) and less than half that of the peer regions in the Bay Area.

Inclusion

A black person is three times more likely than a white person to be in poverty, and a black worker is twice as likely to be unemployed. In St. Louis, the median income in 2017 was $68,494 for white households and $33,343 for black households. The income disparity in St. Louis has grown in recent years.

Similarly, working-age individuals with a disability are three times more likely to be unemployed than those without a disability, the 3rd highest rate of disparity among the peer regions. In St. Louis, 26.7 percent of individuals between the ages of 18 and 64 with disabilities were in poverty. This compares to a poverty rate of 9.3 percent for people in this age cohort who do not have disabilities
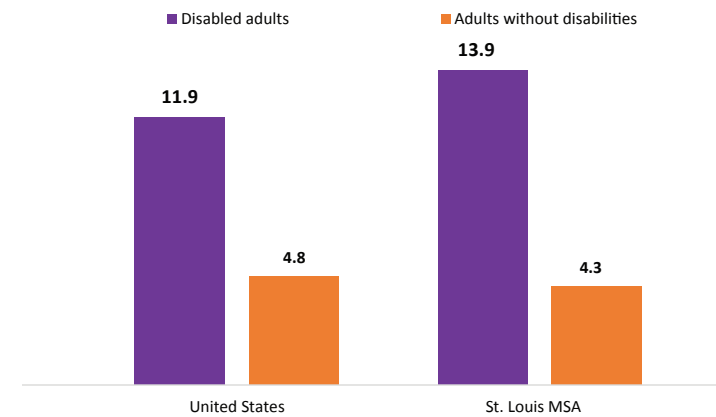
Per Capita Income
In dollars, 2016

1	San Jose	87,643
2	San Francisco	84,675
3	Boston	70,157
4	Washington, D.C.	66,786
5	New York	65,846
6	Seattle	64,553
7	Hartford	59,343
8	Philadelphia	58,589
9	Baltimore	57,189
10	Los Angeles	57,160
11	Denver	56,892
12	Minneapolis	56,723
13	Chicago	55,621
14	San Diego	55,168
15	Richmond	53,340
16	Nashville	52,450
17	Miami	52,210
18	Houston	51,913
19	Austin	51,566
20	Milwaukee	51,444
21	Sacramento	51,370
22	Pittsburgh	51,187
23	Dallas	51,099
24	Portland	50,489
25	Raleigh	50,444
26	Providence	49,940
27	Indianapolis	49,681
28	St. Louis	49,519
	United States	49,246
29	Cleveland	48,968
30	Detroit	48,692
31	Cincinnati	48,668
32	Kansas City	48,514
33	Columbus	47,725
34	Atlanta	47,348
35	New Orleans	47,205
36	Charlotte	46,679
37	Buffalo	46,511
38	Salt Lake City	46,023
39	Virginia Beach	45,904
40	Birmingham	45,795
41	Louisville	45,525
42	Jacksonville	45,468
43	Oklahoma City	44,646
44	San Antonio	44,284
45	Tampa	43,807
46	Memphis	43,498
47	Las Vegas	42,284
48	Phoenix	42,218
49	Orlando	40,169
50	Riverside	36,807

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (CA4)

Change in per Capita Income
Percent change 2012-2016, adjusted to 2016 dollars

1	San Jose	16.7
2	San Francisco	16.1
3	Nashville	11.8
4	Seattle	11.8
5	Sacramento	11.0
6	Riverside	10.5
7	Detroit	10.4
8	Denver	10.4
9	Portland	10.2
10	Salt Lake City	10.2
11	Chicago	10.2
12	Atlanta	10.0
13	San Diego	9.9
14	Orlando	9.3
15	Miami	9.1
16	Los Angeles	8.6
17	San Antonio	8.2
18	Boston	7.5
19	Austin	7.3
20	Phoenix	6.9
21	Minneapolis	6.7
	United States	6.4
22	Cleveland	6.4
23	New York	6.2
24	Raleigh	6.2
25	Philadelphia	6.1
26	Indianapolis	5.7
27	Dallas	5.5
28	Buffalo	5.5
29	Columbus	5.5
30	Providence	5.4
31	Baltimore	5.3
32	Richmond	5.1
33	Pittsburgh	5.0
34	Cincinnati	4.9
35	Las Vegas	4.9
36	Tampa	4.8
37	Birmingham	4.8
38	Jacksonville	4.7
39	Louisville	4.7
40	Hartford	4.7
41	Memphis	3.7
42	Virginia Beach	3.5
43	Milwaukee	3.5
44	Washington, D.C.	2.9
45	Kansas City	2.7
46	St. Louis	2.2
47	Oklahoma City	1.7
48	New Orleans	1.6
49	Charlotte	0.6
50	Houston	-3.9

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (CA4); Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Rate by Disability Status
St. Louis MSA and United States, 2017

■ Disabled adults   ■ Adults without disabilities

United States: 11.9 (Disabled adults), 4.8 (Adults without disabilities)
St. Louis MSA: 13.9 (Disabled adults), 4.3 (Adults without disabilities)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B18120)

St. Louis entrepreneurs attracted **$287 million in venture capital** investment in 2017, ranking 28th among the peer regions.

Between 2005 and 2015, nearly **7,000 utility patents** were granted to inventors living in St. Louis.

As of 2017, **per capita income is $49,510** in the St. Louis region, very close to the national verage.

Introduction

The development of the region's workforce begins as early as childhood and continues throughout adulthood. The first section of this chapter focuses on the existing workforce of the region, including educational attainment and workforce engagement. The second section discusses the inputs and investments for the future workforce: the funding and quality of learning environments in elementary and secondary schools. Over the last decade, St. Louis has improved on a number of measures, but challenges remain.

Educational Attainment and Workforce Engagement

Several education related measures are moving in desirable directions. Over the last decade, the percentages of adults with college degrees and advanced degrees have increased at rates higher than the national average.

The region also experienced one of the biggest drops in adults lacking a high school diploma or equivalent. Changes within the senior age group explain over half of the region's decrease in adults without a high school diploma.

The employment picture is improving for many individuals in the St. Louis region, but some workers still struggle to find employment. Racial disparities in educational attainment persist even as the overall educational attainment levels of the region increase, and less than half of disabled adults aged 18 to 64 are employed.

274,000 adults have an advanced degree, making up 14.1 percent of adults of this region and ranking 18th.

White adults are more than **twice as likely** to attain a college education compared to black adults.

No High School Diploma by Age Group

Percent of age group without a high school diploma or equivalent
St. Louis MSA, 2005 to 2017

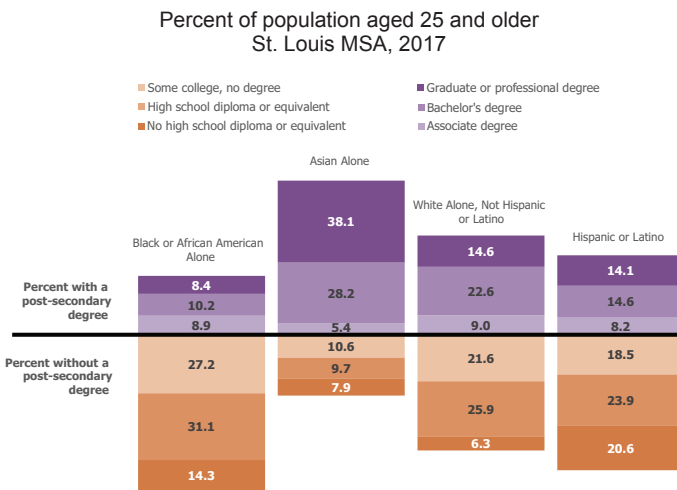Recession — 25 to 34 years — 35 to 64 years — 65 years and older
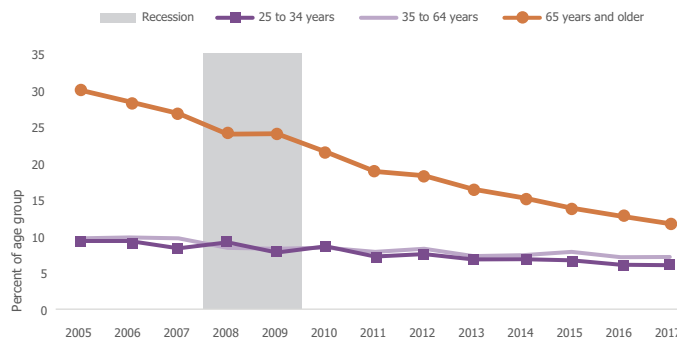
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B15001).

Out of 185,000 working-age adults who live with a disability, only **38.3 percent** are employed, ranking 30th.

St. Louis has had one of the **largest increases** in college attainment in the country, ranking 8th.

Educational Attainment by Race

Percent of population aged 25 and older
St. Louis MSA, 2017

Some college, no degree | Graduate or professional degree
High school diploma or equivalent | Bachelor's degree
No high school diploma or equivalent | Associate degree

	Black or African American Alone	Asian Alone	White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Percent with a post-secondary degree	8.4 / 10.2 / 8.9	38.1 / 28.2 / 5.4	14.6 / 22.6 / 9.0	14.1 / 14.6 / 8.2
Percent without a post-secondary degree	27.2 / 31.1 / 14.3	10.6 / 9.7 / 7.9	21.6 / 25.9 / 6.3	18.5 / 23.9 / 20.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (B15001, B15002D, B15002H, B15002I).

Change in Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Percentage point difference, 2007-2017

1	Portland	7.6
2	Nashville	7.5
3	Pittsburgh	7.4
4	Denver	7.4
5	San Jose	7.1
6	Richmond	6.6
7	San Francisco	6.5
8	St. Louis	6.5
9	Philadelphia	6.4
10	Austin	6.4
11	Salt Lake City	6.2
12	Baltimore	6.2
13	Seattle	5.8
14	Boston	5.8
15	Chicago	5.4
16	Indianapolis	5.4
17	Milwaukee	5.4
18	San Diego	5.3
19	Buffalo	5.2
20	Louisville	5.1
21	Birmingham	5.1
22	Virginia Beach	5.1
23	Cincinnati	5.0
24	Kansas City	4.9
25	Jacksonville	4.9
26	Minneapolis	4.9
27	Raleigh	4.8
28	Dallas	4.7
29	Detroit	4.6
30	Houston	4.6
31	New York	4.6
	United States	4.5
32	Phoenix	4.5
33	Los Angeles	4.2
34	Orlando	4.1
35	Cleveland	4.1
36	Tampa	4.0
37	Providence	3.9
38	New Orleans	3.9
39	Hartford	3.9
40	Atlanta	3.8
41	San Antonio	3.8
42	Miami	3.6
43	Columbus	3.5
44	Washington, D.C.	3.5
45	Memphis	3.4
46	Oklahoma City	3.2
47	Las Vegas	3.0
48	Sacramento	2.9
49	Charlotte	2.9
50	Riverside	2.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B15002)

Segregation: St. Louis ranks 6th on segregation between school districts. Research suggests that high rates of school segregation perpetuate academic achievement gaps between black and white students. A report from the National Center for Education Statistics finds black students who attend schools that are over 60 percent black tend to perform worse academically than black students who attend schools with smaller shares of black students. The report finds that these achievement gaps persist even after controlling for variables related to socioeconomic status.

School Quality and Learning Environments

A more competitive workforce begins with the K-12 education system. St. Louis ranks fairly well on several measures related to quality of instruction. By national standards, St. Louis has low pupil-teacher ratios, and there is a relatively high level of experience for teachers in the region. Teachers in the St. Louis region are also absent less frequently than in most peer regions.

There is, however, a large disparity between predominantly white districts and predominantly black districts in St. Louis. In districts with a student population that is more than 50 percent black, over 20 percent of teachers have less than two years of experience; this is double the rate of districts with student populations that are less than 50 percent black.

On average, black students miss more than **six times as many days of school** because of suspension than white students.
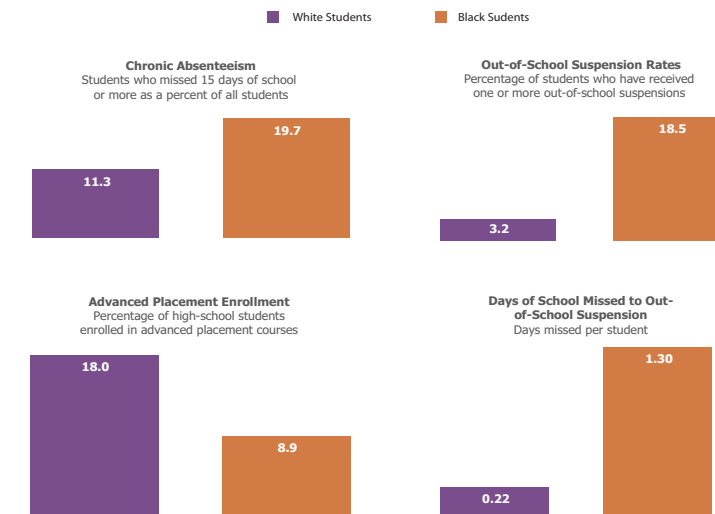
Pupil-Teacher Ratio
2015-2016

1	Riverside	24.6
2	Los Angeles	24.3
3	San Diego	23.6
4	San Jose	23.1
5	Sacramento	22.8
6	San Francisco	22.5
7	Las Vegas	20.9
8	Portland	19.9
9	Seattle	19.3
10	Indianapolis	19.0
11	Detroit	18.7
12	Columbus	18.4
13	Cincinnati	18.3
14	Denver	18.1
15	Birmingham	17.5
16	Louisville	17.2
17	Milwaukee	17.1
18	Oklahoma City	16.9
19	Cleveland	16.8
20	Charlotte	16.6
21	Miami	16.6
22	Jacksonville	16.5
23	Memphis	16.4
24	Minneapolis	16.4
25	Virginia Beach	16.3
26	Houston	16.2
27	Chicago	16.1
28	Richmond	16.1
29	Atlanta	15.9
	United States	15.9
30	Raleigh	15.8
31	San Antonio	15.8
32	Nashville	15.4
33	Dallas	15.3
34	Orlando	15.3
35	St. Louis	15.1
36	Baltimore	15.0
37	Washington, D.C.	14.9
38	Kansas City	14.9
39	Austin	14.8
40	Philadelphia	14.5
41	Tampa	14.3
42	Pittsburgh	14.2
43	Buffalo	13.7
44	Providence	13.7
45	New York	13.3
46	New Orleans	13.3
47	Boston	13.2
48	Hartford	12.4

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Days of School Missed to Out-of-School Suspension

Days missed per student, 2015-2016

1	Memphis	0.80
2	Virginia Beach	0.61
3	Buffalo	0.59
4	Richmond	0.57
5	St. Louis	0.50
6	Cleveland	0.50
7	Oklahoma City	0.43
8	Columbus	0.39
9	Charlotte	0.39
10	Raleigh	0.39
11	Detroit	0.38
12	New Orleans	0.38
13	Kansas City	0.36
14	Atlanta	0.35
15	Louisville	0.35
16	Las Vegas	0.32
17	Orlando	0.30
18	Birmingham	0.28
19	Milwaukee	0.28
20	Indianapolis	0.25
21	Philadelphia	0.25
22	Phoenix	0.25
23	Cincinnati	0.25
24	Nashville	0.23
25	Seattle	0.23
26	Jacksonville	0.22
	Peer Average	0.22
27	Tampa	0.21
28	Pittsburgh	0.21
29	Baltimore	0.20
30	Washington, D.C.	0.20
31	Hartford	0.18
32	Sacramento	0.18
33	Houston	0.17
34	New York	0.17
35	Dallas	0.17
36	Providence	0.16
37	Riverside	0.16
38	San Antonio	0.16
39	Denver	0.14
40	Chicago	0.14
41	Minneapolis	0.14
42	Portland	0.13
43	San Diego	0.13
44	Austin	0.12
45	Boston	0.11
46	San Francisco	0.10
47	Miami	0.07
48	San Jose	0.07
49	Salt Lake City	0.07
50	Los Angeles	0.06

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

Racial Disparity in Learning Environments

St. Louis MSA, 2015-2016

White Students | Black Students

Chronic Absenteeism
Students who missed 15 days of school or more as a percent of all students
White: 11.3 | Black: 19.7

Out-of-School Suspension Rates
Percentage of students who have received one or more out-of-school suspensions
White: 3.2 | Black: 18.5

Advanced Placement Enrollment
Percentage of high-school students enrolled in advanced placement courses
White: 18.0 | Black: 8.9

Days of School Missed to Out-of-School Suspension
Days missed per student
White: 0.22 | Black: 1.30

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

With around 15 students per teacher, St. Louis has one of the **lowest pupil-teacher ratios** of the peer regions.

The region **ranks 5th** on the use of out-of-school suspension as a disciplinary tactic.

Introduction

Crime and safety are consistently expressed as concerns in the St. Louis region. A recent increase in violent crimes, particularly homicides, nationally as well as in the St. Louis area has heightened that concern.

This chapter seeks to start a baseline for a discussion among St. Louis regional leaders on how to address crime and the safety of residents in the region. First, the chapter provides a description of current crime rates for the St. Louis MSA, the United States, and peer regions. Second, it takes a closer look at two key factors in the recent rise in crime—firearm homicides and opioid-related deaths. These are not the sole factors for the increase in crime, but significant increases have occurred for both in the past few years.

Trends in Crime

There has been a long-term decline in crime rates, both nationally and in the St. Louis region. The United States observed the longest and steepest declines in crime rates since World War II during the 1990s and 2000s. In the past few years, some cities have seen an uptick in violent crimes, particularly murders, although even those cities are not at historically high rates. The reason for this increase is inconclusive.

The property crime rates in 2017 were half what they were in the early 1990s for both the nation as a whole and the St. Louis MSA.

Violent crime followed a similar pattern with the rates cut in half for both geographies.

The murder rate in St. Louis was about the same as the nation in 2003 but has been higher since. For the last four years, the rate for the St. Louis MSA has been at least twice that of the United States. In the St. Louis MSA, the number of murders was about 200 per year from 2004 through 2013 and has since increased.

Violent Crime Rate
Crimes per 100,000 population
St. Louis MSA and United States, 1991 to 2017
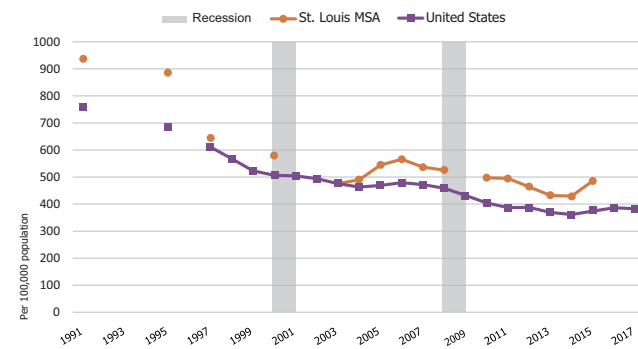
Source: Where We Stand 6th Edition; FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Tables 1, 6).

Property Crime Rate
Crimes per 100,000 population
St. Louis MSA and United States, 1991 to 2017
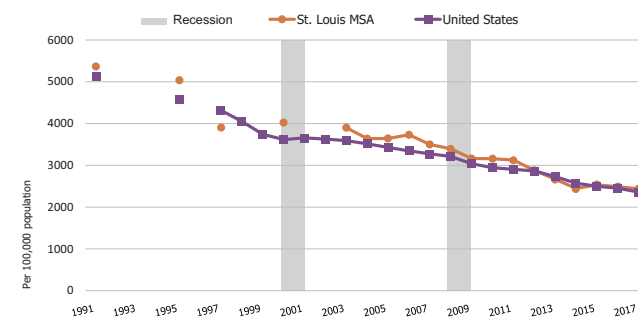
Source: Where We Stand 6th Edition; FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Tables 1, 6).

Murder Rate
Murders per 100,000 population
St. Louis MSA and United States, 2003 to 2017
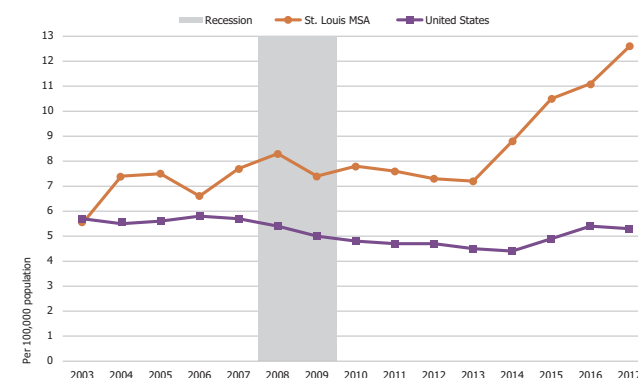
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Tables 1, 6).

384 people were murdered in 2017, a rate of 12.6 murders per 100,000 people.

Murder Rate
Per 100,000 population, 2017

1	New Orleans	17.1
2	Memphis	16.3
3	Baltimore	14.7
4	St. Louis	12.6
5	Las Vegas	10.8
6	Louisville	9.5
7	Chicago	9.4
8	Indianapolis	8.3
9	Jacksonville	8.2
10	Philadelphia	8.1
11	Columbus	7.9
12	Detroit	7.9
13	Milwaukee	7.9
14	Virginia Beach	7.9
15	Nashville	7.8
16	Oklahoma City	7.6
17	Cleveland	7.2
18	Atlanta	6.7
19	Houston	6.4
20	San Antonio	6.4
21	Miami	6.1
22	Phoenix	5.7
23	Pittsburgh	5.4
24	Charlotte	5.3
	United States	5.3
25	Dallas	5.2
26	Cincinnati	5.1
27	Orlando	5.0
28	Los Angeles	4.8
29	Denver	4.6
30	Riverside	4.6
31	Washington, D.C.	4.5
32	Buffalo	4.3
33	Sacramento	4.3
34	San Francisco	4.2
35	Hartford	3.9
36	Salt Lake City	3.7
37	Tampa	3.6
38	Seattle	3.0
39	New York	2.8
40	Boston	2.6
41	Minneapolis	2.6
42	Portland	2.6
43	Austin	2.5
44	San Diego	2.4
45	San Jose	2.4
46	Providence	2.0

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports (Tables 1, 6)

A recent study by the National Institute of Justice provides an exploration of two factors that are often discussed as reasons for this recent increase—the opioid epidemic and what is often referred to as "the Ferguson effect." The research identifies both as "plausible candidates" that merit further research. The drug epidemic is seen as a potential cause since a heightened drug market will lead to increased disputes that cannot be settled with legitimate means. Broadly, the Ferguson effect is the idea that police shootings have led to police making fewer arrests, people being empowered to challenge law enforcement, and a greater mistrust of law enforcement, particularly among African Americans. The report discusses a multitude of perspectives on this theory, ultimately finding that the picture is "complex and uncertain."

Drug- and Alcohol-Related Deaths

In 2016, over 100,000 people in the United States and 1,101 people in the St. Louis MSA died of drug- and alcohol-related causes. Nationally, deaths due to overdoses of opioids increased by almost 30 percent from 2015 to 2016, now accounting for two-thirds of all drug-related deaths. In the St. Louis region, the increase was 48 percent.

Opioid Drugs

This rise in drug- and alcohol-related deaths is in large part due to the abuse of opioid drugs. In 2016, opioid drugs were involved in 66 percent of all drug- and alcohol-related deaths in the United States. The proportion was about the same in the St. Louis MSA (67.3 percent), a percentage that has increased steadily from 22 percent in 1999.
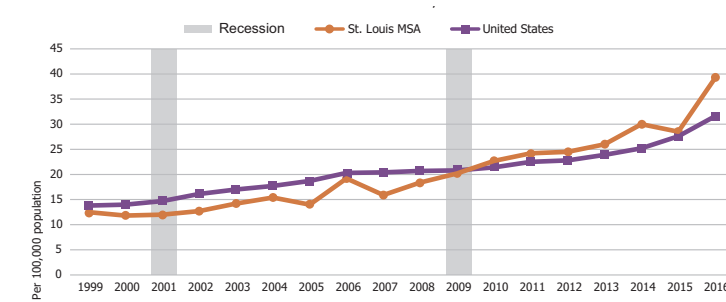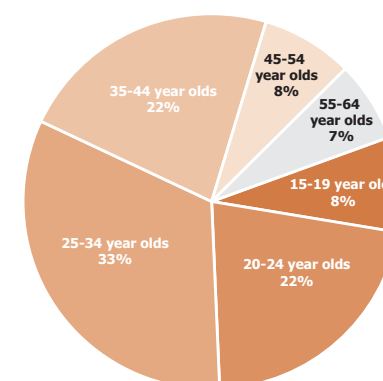
Over 1,000 people died of drug- and alcohol-related causes in 2016, which is a rate of 39.8 deaths per 100,000 people. This is the **14th highest rate** of the peer regions.

Drug- and Alcohol-Related Deaths
Deaths per 100,000 population
St. Louis MSA and United States, 1999 to 2016

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

Opioid-Drug Related Deaths
Deaths per 100,000 population, 2016

1	Baltimore	43.0
2	Cincinnati	39.4
3	Pittsburgh	38.6
4	Cleveland	37.9
5	Providence	32.0
6	Boston	29.3
7	Jacksonville	28.8
8	Buffalo	27.8
9	Hartford	26.8
10	St. Louis	26.4
11	Milwaukee	23.5
12	Louisville	23.1
13	Detroit	22.1
14	Nashville	19.5
15	Birmingham	19.3
16	Richmond	18.4
17	Virginia Beach	18.3
18	Columbus	17.3
19	Salt Lake City	16.9
20	Chicago	16.0
21	Memphis	15.5
22	New Orleans	15.3
23	Charlotte	15.0
24	New York	14.9
25	Washington, D.C.	14.8
26	Las Vegas	13.3
27	Miami	13.3
28	Indianapolis	13.2
	United States	13.1
29	Orlando	11.8
30	Tampa	10.9
31	Phoenix	10.7
32	Seattle	10.6
33	Oklahoma City	10.0
34	Denver	9.9
35	Atlanta	9.7
36	Philadelphia	9.7
37	Raleigh	9.1
38	Portland	8.3
39	Minneapolis	8.2
40	San Diego	7.6
41	Kansas City	7.4
42	Austin	6.6
43	Houston	5.6
44	Dallas	5.2
45	San Antonio	5.2
46	San Francisco	5.0
47	Los Angeles	4.7
48	Sacramento	3.7
49	San Jose	3.4
50	Riverside	3.2

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Homicides by Age Group
Percent of total homicides
St. Louis MSA, 2016

- 45-54 year olds 8%
- 55-64 year olds 7%
- 35-44 year olds 22%
- 15-19 year olds 8%
- 25-34 year olds 33%
- 20-24 year olds 22%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Opioid drugs were involved in **67 percent** of all drug-related deaths in St. Louis.

433 people died with synthetic drugs as a contributing cause.

In St. Louis, **85 percent** of homicides involved firearms in 2016.

St. Louis has the **highest black homicide** rate of all the peer regions.

How Does St. Louis Compare to our Peer Metro Regions?

**The 8th Edition, released in November 2018, presents 130 rankings for
St. Louis among the 50 most populous U.S. metropolitan regions.**

Looking for your favorite *Where We Stand* tables but don't see them in the 8th edition?

👉 **Check out our newly expanded webpage at www.ewgateway.org/wws, which provides the
tables in the 8th edition along with those seen in previous editions, updated when possible.**

***Where We Stand* provides
data for assessing
the performance of the
St. Louis region on**

Demographics	Economy
Land Use	Health
Housing	Racial Disparity
Transportation	Environment
Education	Crime
Income and Economic	Government
Opportunity	Engagement and Access

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