

Education

Education data are critical because it is well understood that education levels strongly influence individuals', regions', and the nation's economic success. For cities, our nation's long-run transition from a manufacturing-dominated economy to a service-oriented "knowledge" economy means that centers with a critical mass of educated workers gain competitive advantage. Cities whose populations have high levels of educational attainment are well-positioned to attract jobs, grow their tax bases, and provide a high-quality environment for their residents.

As home to three four-year universities, Fargo and the F-M metro area have high percentages of people enrolled in college

Share of population age 15 and over enrolled in a college/university, 2000

City	Population 15 or older	Population 15 or older enrolled at University	Percent
Fort Collins, CO	95,935	24,882	25.9%
Madison, WI	175,269	43,299	24.7%
Fargo	74,644	13,086	17.5%
Duluth, MN	71,686	11,678	16.3%
Lincoln, NE	179,490	28,901	16.1%
Fargo Moorhead MSA	139,746	21,449	15.3%
Columbus, OH	563,755	76,580	13.6%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	532,038	69,101	13.0%
Chicago, IL	2,253,912	209,810	9.3%
Nation	221,148,671	17,483,243	7.9%
Sioux Falls, SD	98,000	7,433	7.6%
Kansas City, MO	346,961	26,433	7.6%
Indianapolis, IN	612,692	42,498	6.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P36, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

One in three Fargo residents has a bachelor's degree, which ranks high among peer communities

Share of population age 25 and over by educational attainment, 1990-2000

City	Bachelor's Degree		High School Diploma	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Fort Collins, CO	42.7%	48.4%	91.5%	94.0%
Madison, WI	42.0%	48.2%	90.6%	92.4%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	28.7%	35.2%	82.0%	84.5%
Fargo	30.2%	34.4%	88.7%	91.0%
Lincoln, NE	28.5%	33.3%	88.3%	90.2%
Columbus, OH	24.6%	29.0%	78.7%	83.8%
Duluth, MN	22.5%	28.2%	81.4%	87.7%
Sioux Falls, SD	22.9%	27.8%	83.4%	88.5%
Kansas City, MO	22.0%	25.7%	78.8%	82.5%
Chicago, IL	19.5%	25.5%	66.0%	71.8%
Indianapolis, IN	21.7%	25.4%	76.4%	81.3%
Nation	20.3%	24.4%	75.2%	80.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P37, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

American Indians have the lowest rate of college attainment among racial and ethnic minorities in Fargo

Share of population age 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree by race/ethnicity, 2000

