Big City Problems in Ohio's Small Towns

The Troubled Prospects of Ohio's 88 Capital Cities and Villages

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FINAL REPORT

Appalachian Diseases of Despair

AUGUST 2017

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Appalachian Regional Commission

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The Walsh Center
for Rural Health Analysis
NORC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ARC
APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ONE NATION, DIVISIBLE

The Divide Between America's Prosperous Cities and Struggling Small Towns—in 20 Charts

https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-divide-between-americas-prosperous-cities-and-struggling-small-townsin-20-charts-1514543401

http://www.publicinsightdata.com/

47 Small Hub Towns and Cities combined population of 1,170,570 (~ 10 percent)

- Seat of county government (34 of 47);
- Presence of a four-year public or private college or university (20 of 47)
- Presence of a hospital (35 of 47, three of which have two hospitals).

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Types of Small Hub Towns and Cities

- "**Heartland Towns**" – 27 hub villages and cities w/o university – combined population of 764,064 and average population 28,299

- "**Public College Towns**" – 5 cities with public four-year universities – combined population is 128,613 and average population 25,723

- "**Private College Towns**" 15 cities with private four-year universities – combined population is 277,893 and average population 18,526

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Benchmarks

- State of Ohio Overall
- Ohio's 8 "Big Cities" – combined population of 2,291,171 (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Akron, Canton, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown)
- 15 broadly representative "Suburbs" – combined population of 336,012, and average population of 22,401

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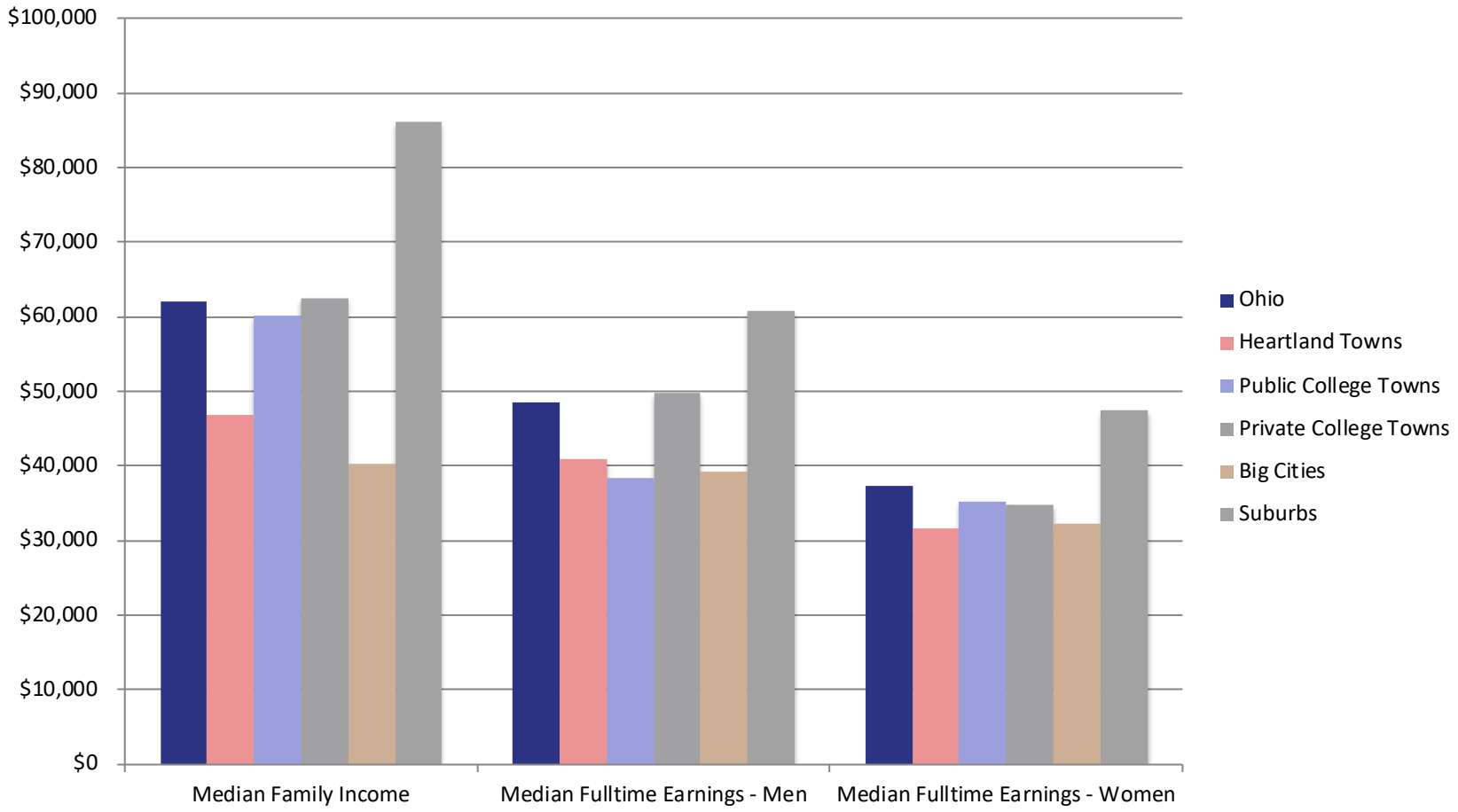
Ohio's County Seats

Villages (19) (<5,000)	Small Towns (28) (5,000-14,999)	Large Towns (21) (15,000-29,999)	Small Cities (12) (30,000-64,999)	Large Cities (8) (65,000 +)	Suburb Benchmark Communities (15)
58,722	273,434	446,477	535,796	2,264,055	331,382
Batavia Cadiz Caldwell Carrollton Gallipolis Georgetown Jefferson Lisbon McArthur McConnelsville Millersburg Mt. Gilead New Lexington Ottawa Paulding Pomeroy Waverly West Union Woodsfield	Bellefontaine Bryan Bucyrus Cambridge Celina Chardon Circleville Coshocton Eaton Greenville Hillsboro Ironton Jackson Kenton Logan London Marietta Napoleon Port Clinton Ravenna St. Clairesville Upper Sandusky Urbana Van Wert Wapakoneta Washington Court House Wauseon Wilmington	Ashland Athens Chillicothe Defiance Fremont Lebanon Marysville Medina Mt. Vernon New Philadelphia Norwalk Painesville Portsmouth Sandusky Sidney Steubenville Tiffin Troy Wooster Xenia Zanesville	Bowling Green Delaware Elyria Findlay Hamilton Lancaster Lima Mansfield Marion Newark Springfield Warren	Akron Canton Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus Dayton Toledo Youngstown	Blue Ash Boardman Township Fairlawn Fairview Gahanna Green Hilliard Huber Heights Loveland Norwood Oakwood Strongsville Sylvania University Heights Worthington

Median Annual Family Income by Type of Small Hub Towns and Cities



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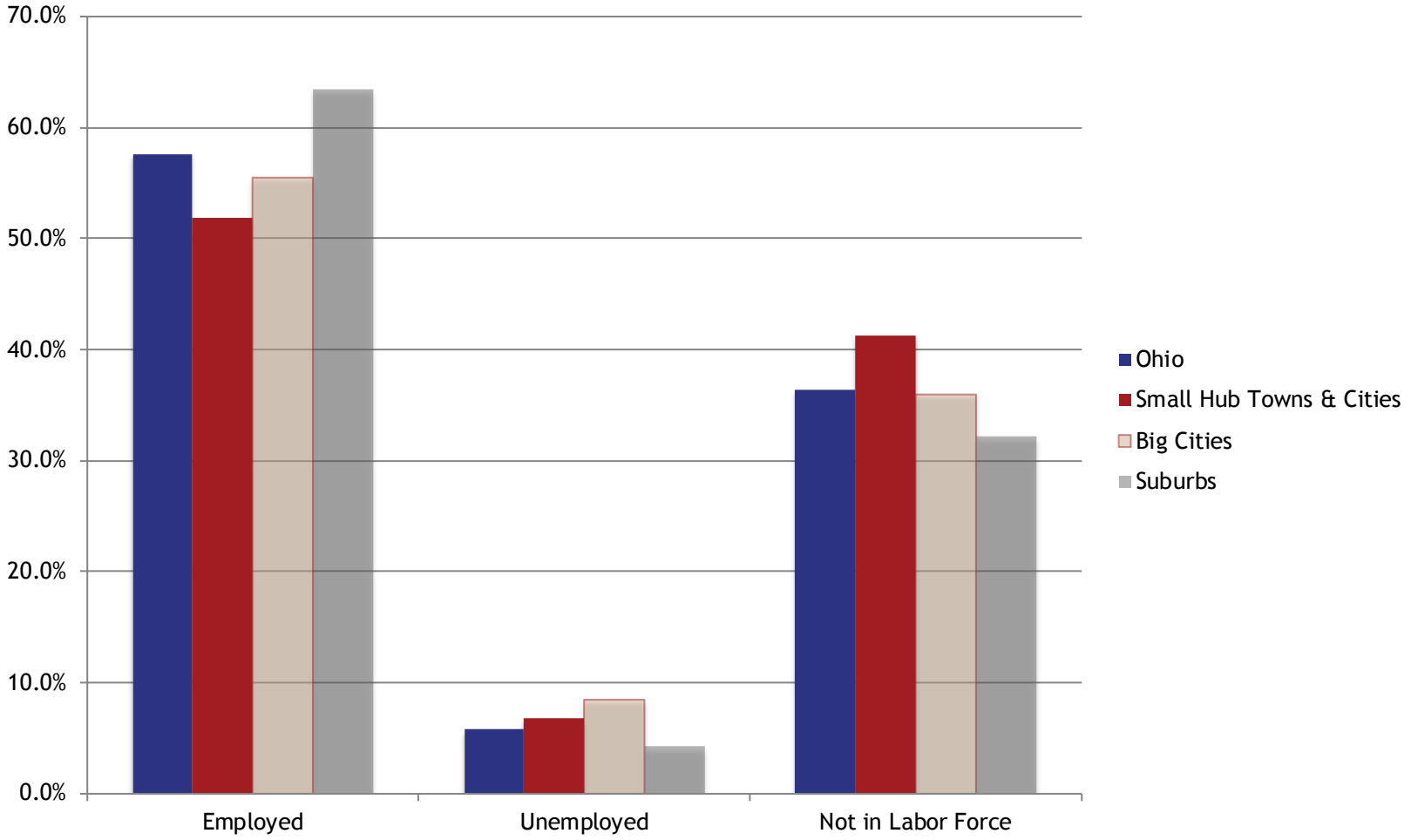
Civilian Labor Force Participation - Age 16 or Older



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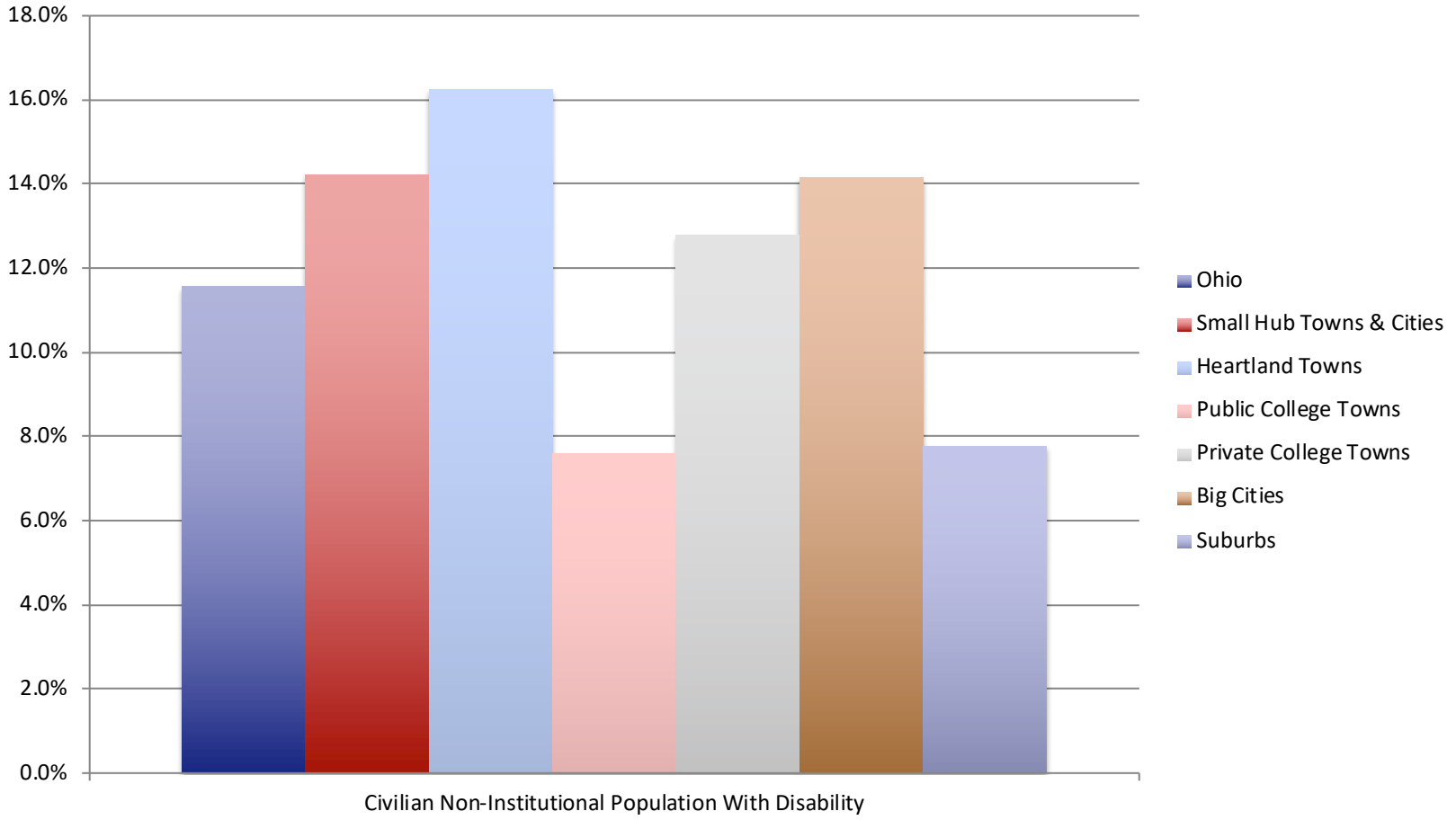
Civilian Non-Institutional Population Ages 18 - 64 With Disability



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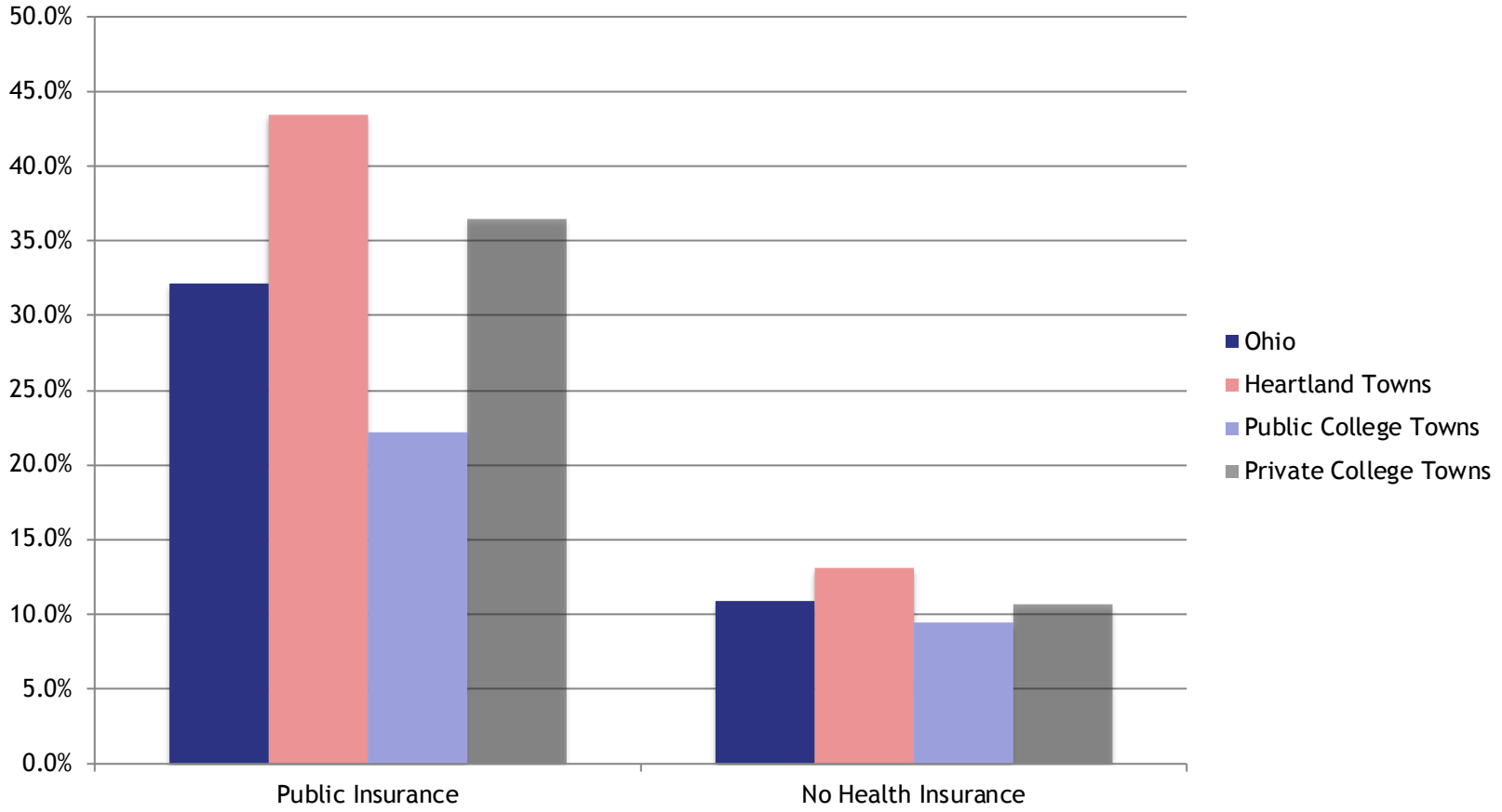
Health Insurance Coverage by Type of Small Hub Towns and Cities



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Average Economic Impact of Publicly Funded Employers on Small Hub Towns & Cities

	County Governments (n=34)		Hospitals (n=31)		Public Schools (n=47)	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
Civilian Labor Force > Age 16 of Host Hub Towns & Cities	10,644	12,518	11,180	12,562	10,003	16,256
Estimated Employment	601	693	882	1,017	564	640
Estimated Annual Spending 2014-15	$ 157,838,361	$ 235,803,380	$ 123,127,000	$ 139,676,000	$ 34,123,269	$ 36,676,967

	Public Universities (n=5)		Public Community Colleges/Branch Campuses (n=23)		Private Nonprofit Universities (n=15)	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
Civilian Labor Force > Age 16 of Host Hub Towns & Cities	11,600	13,091	10,386	13,446	5,830	8,920
Estimated Employment	3,554	3,003	258	306	526	542
Estimated Annual Spending 2014-15	$ 485,422,604	$ 413,085,363	$ 20,044,604	$ 23,028,929	54,701,705	$ 66,880,446

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Sources of U.S. Hospital Revenue					
	Medicare	Medicaid	Other Gov't.	Private Insurance	Self Pay
PERCENT OF HOSPITAL PATIENT REVENUE - 2014	37.9%	18.20%	5.80%	35.10%	3.10%

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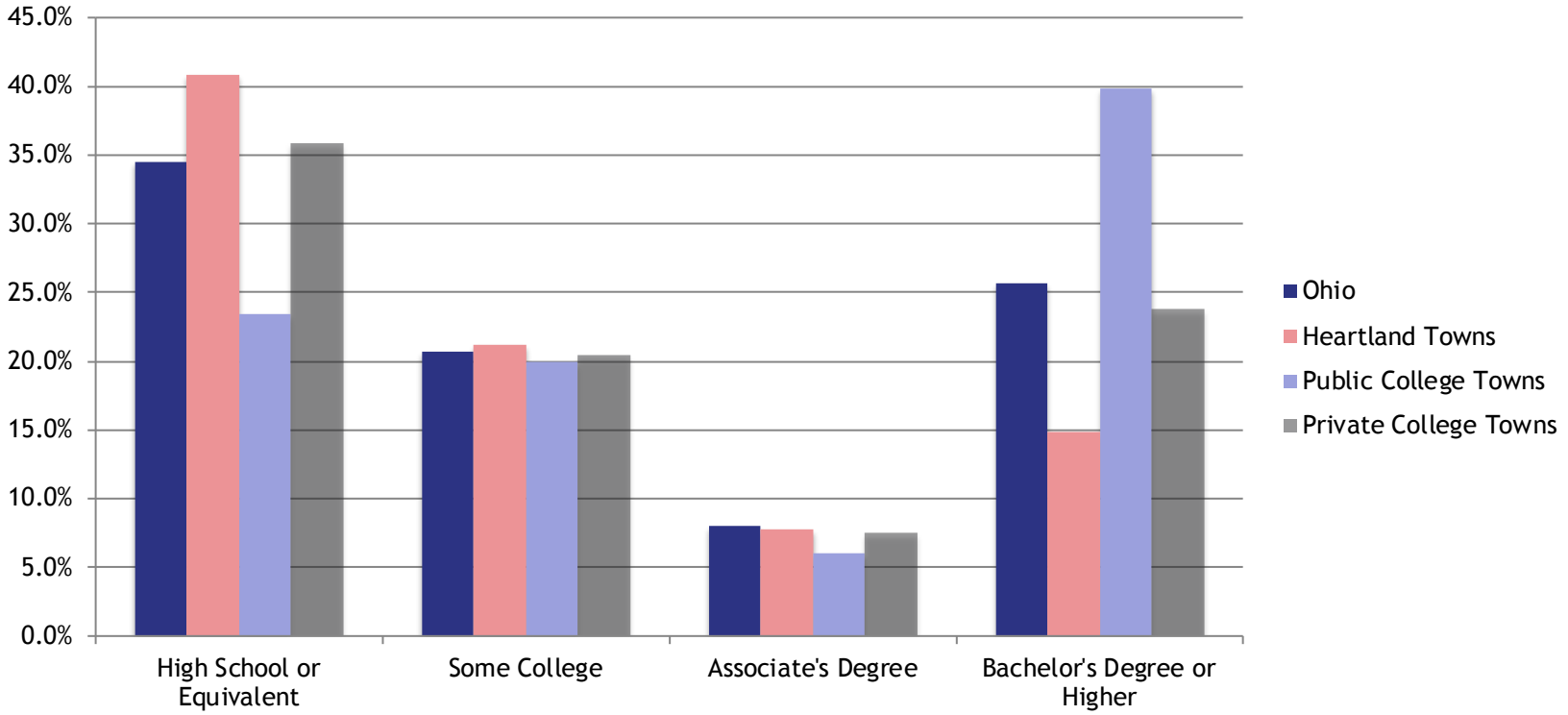
Highest Level of Educational Attainment Age 25 or Over by Type of Small Hub Towns and Cities



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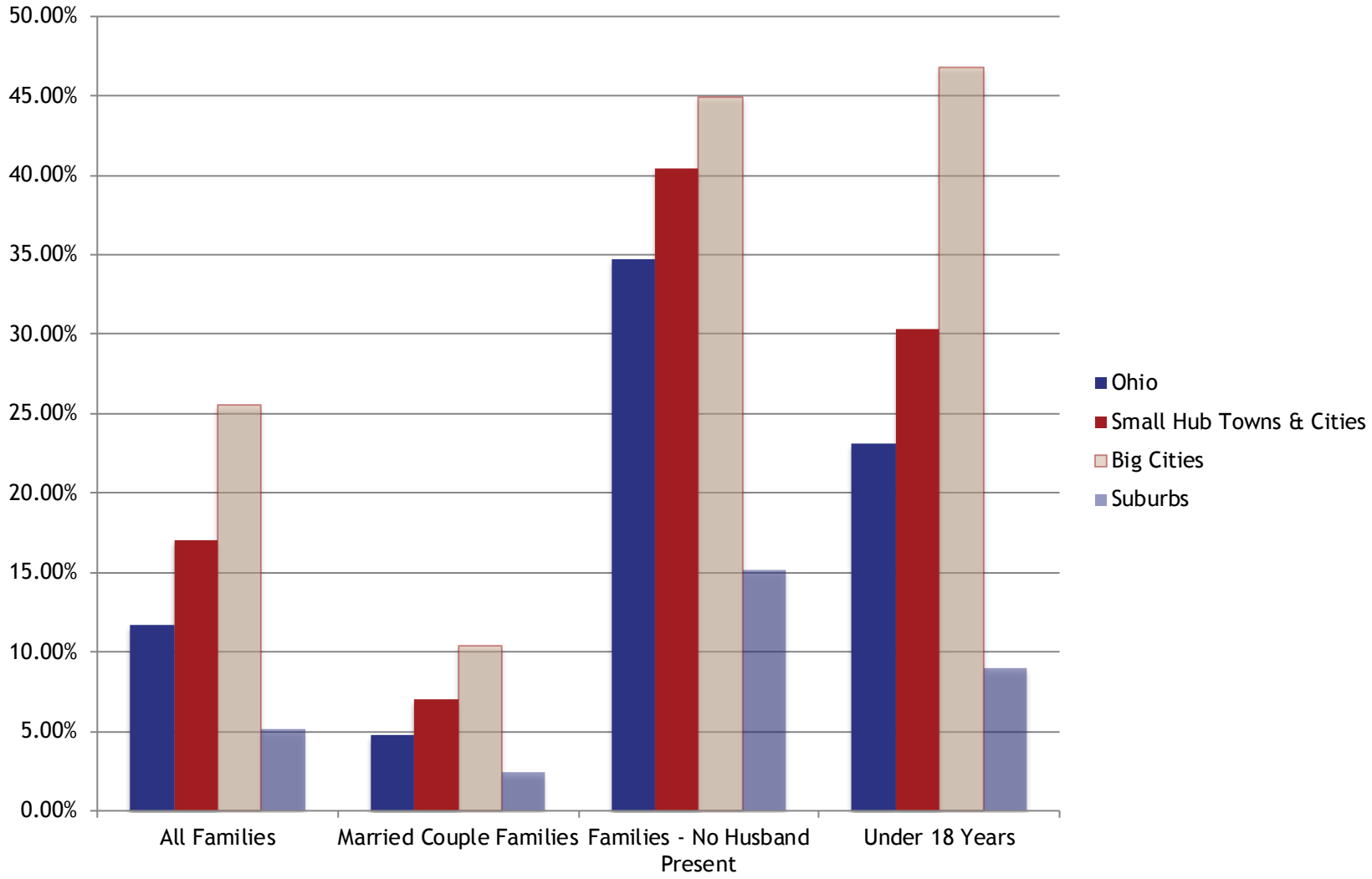
Median Poverty Rates



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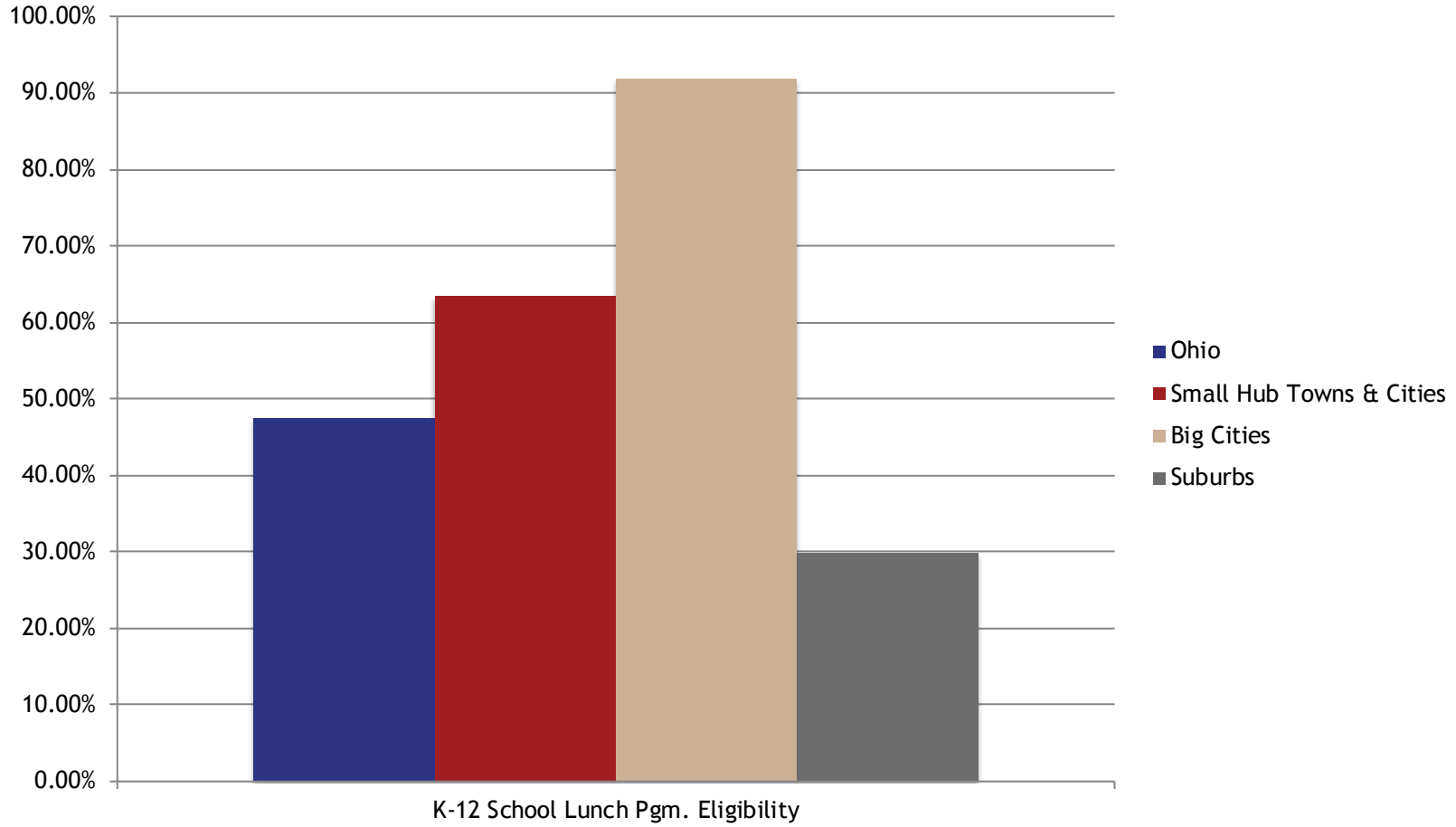
K-12 School Lunch Program Eligibility



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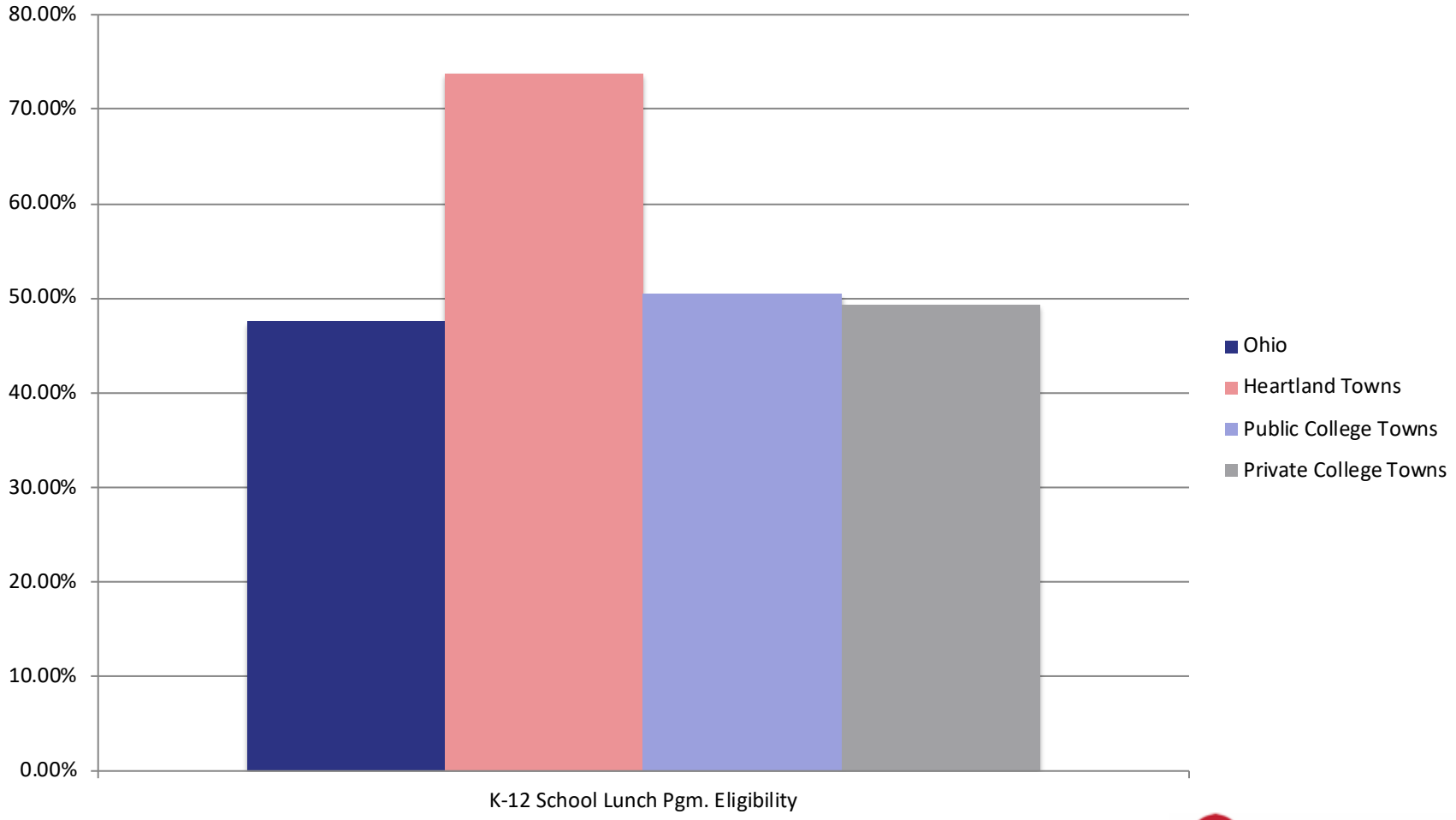
K-12 School Lunch Pgm. Eligibility by Type of Small Hub Towns and Cities



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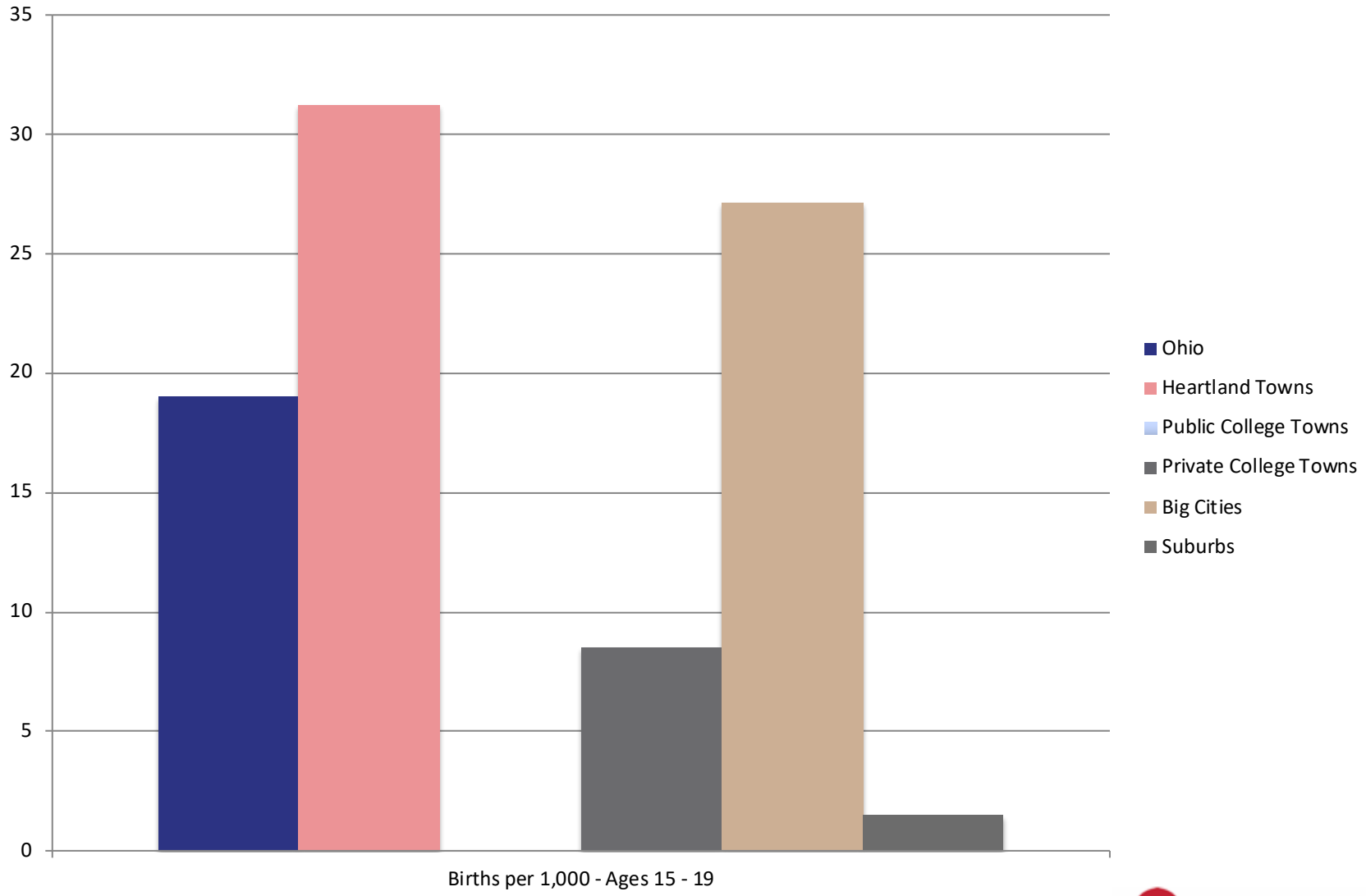
Teen Birth Rates



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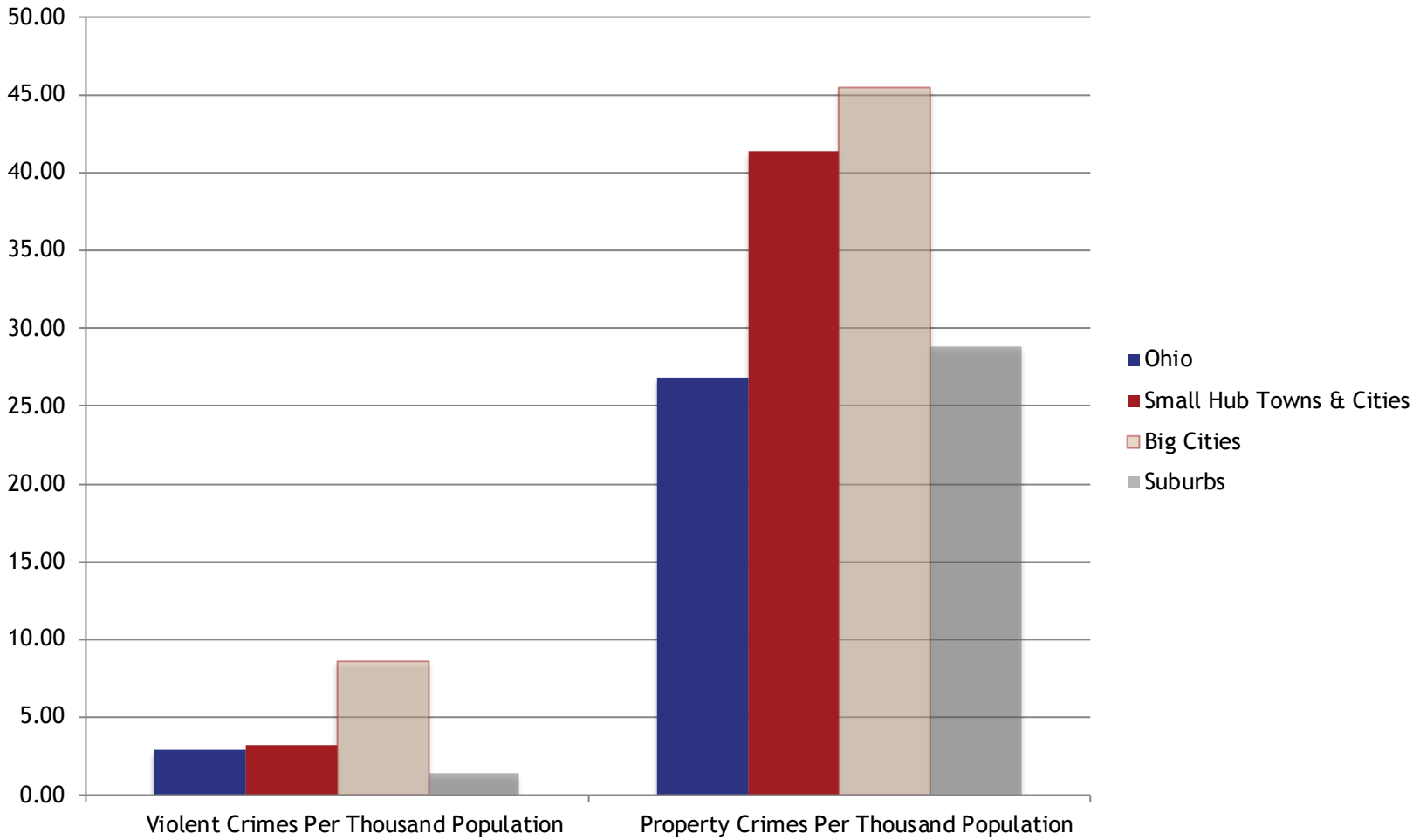
Crime Per Thousand People - 2014



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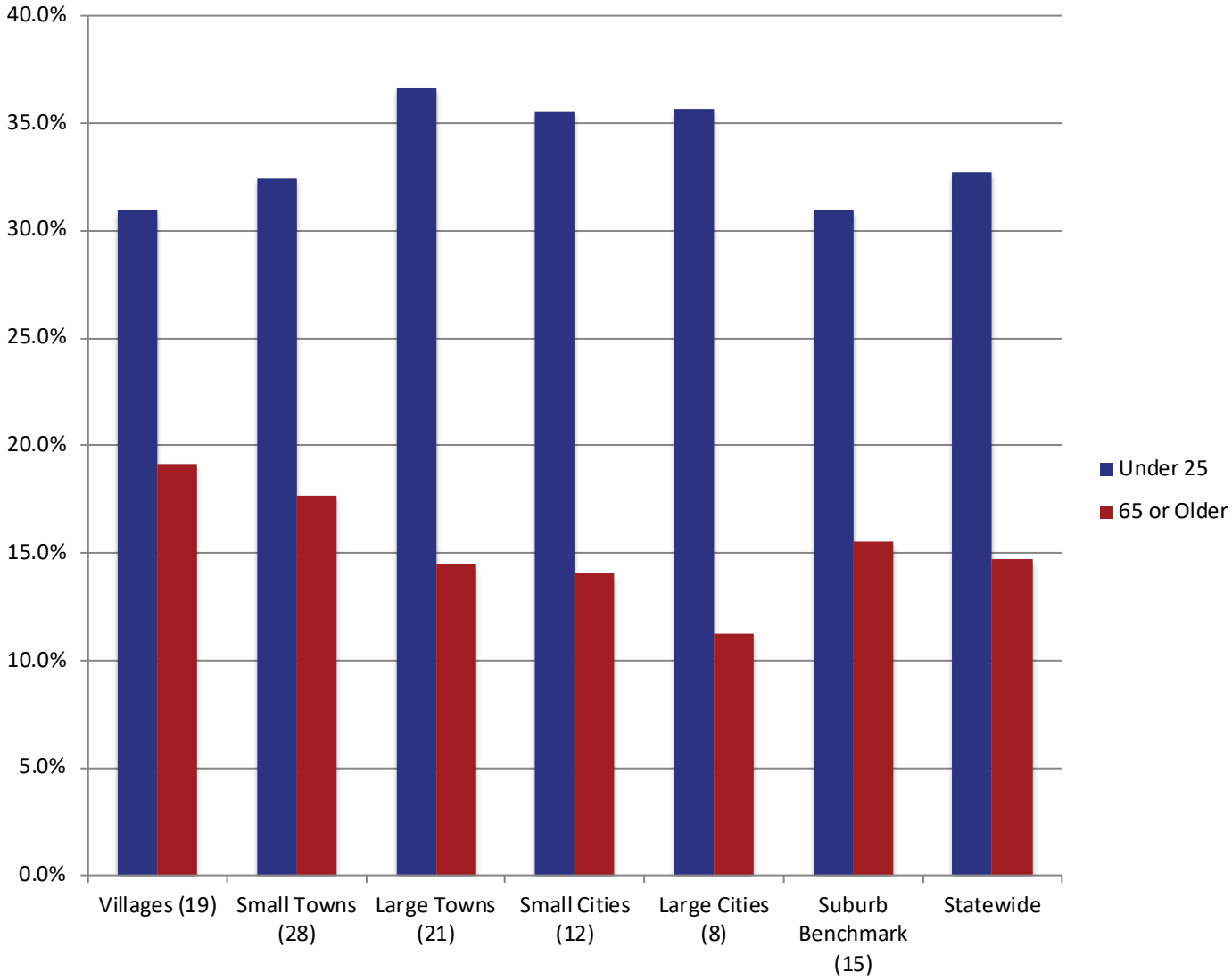
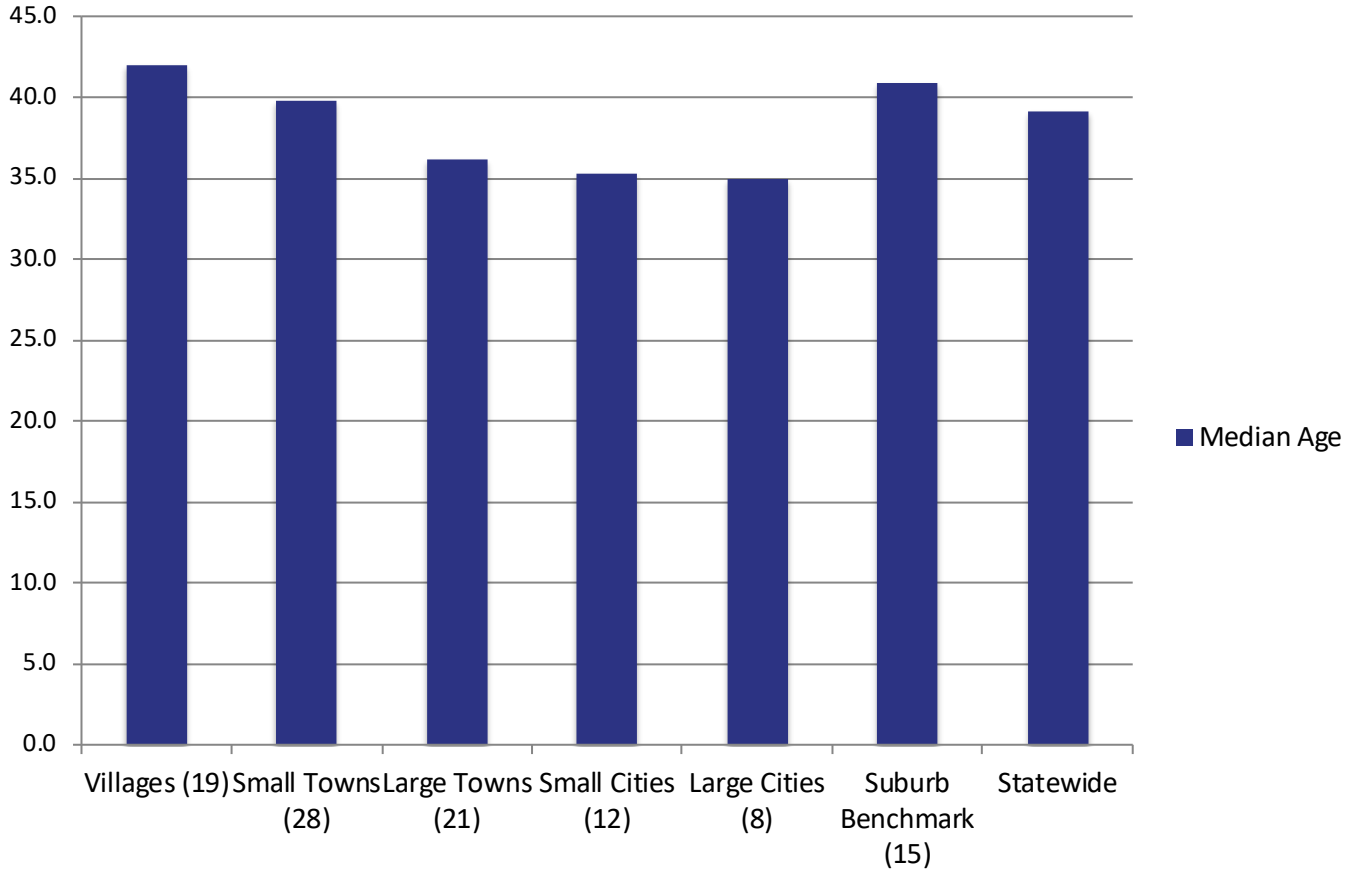
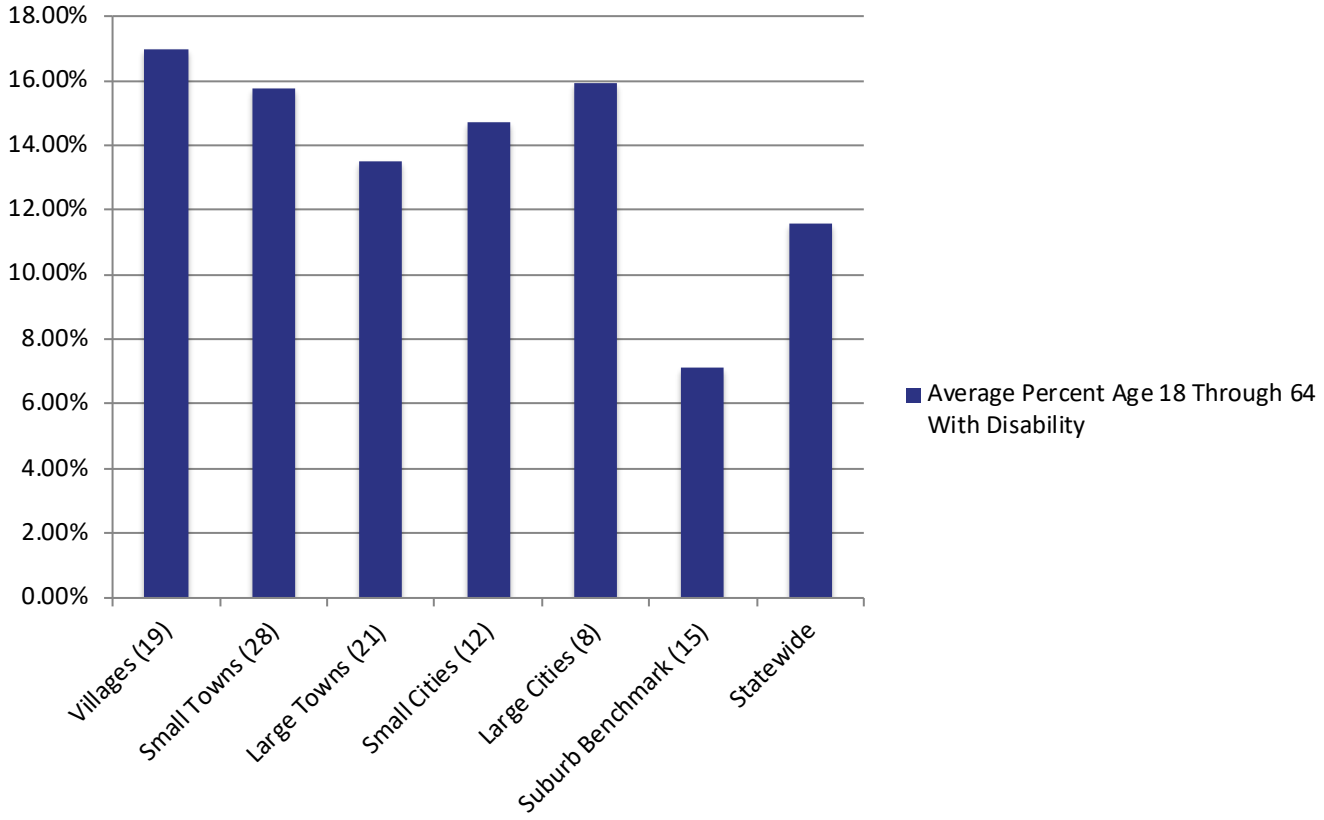
Ohio County Seats
Percent of Population by Age



Ohio County Seats
Average Median Age by Community Size



Ohio County Seats
Average Percent of Working Age Population With Disability by Community Size



Policy Options

- Create an Economic Development Fund for Ohio's Small Hub Towns.
- Krebs Plan: County Equalization Fund
- Conduct a "Blue Ribbon" Review of State – Local Revenue Sharing Programs.
- Establish an Ohio Youth Employment and Study (YES) Program – expand TANF – supported by 10,000 jobs.
- Increase state support for teen pregnancy prevention.
- Develop and sustain a statewide civic capacity building initiative through an Ohio Communities Roundtable.
- Encourage City Based and Neighborhood Based Social Services.
- Enact and Implement the Provisions of Substitute House Bill 130 of the 131st General Assembly, Creating a DataOhio Board.

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Policy Options

- Amend Article X of Ohio Constitution to Encourage Consolidation of Local Governments – Set Goal for 2030
- Reform State Taxes to Produce New Revenue Sharing for Communities that Consolidate Local Governments
  - Reduce State Sales Tax Rate and Expand Its Base
  - Enact Statewide Real Property Tax
- Major Infrastructure Initiative Supporting Economic Development in Consolidated Local Governments
- Transitional Funding to Facilitate Consolidating Local Governments