

Orleans County Summary*

General Overview

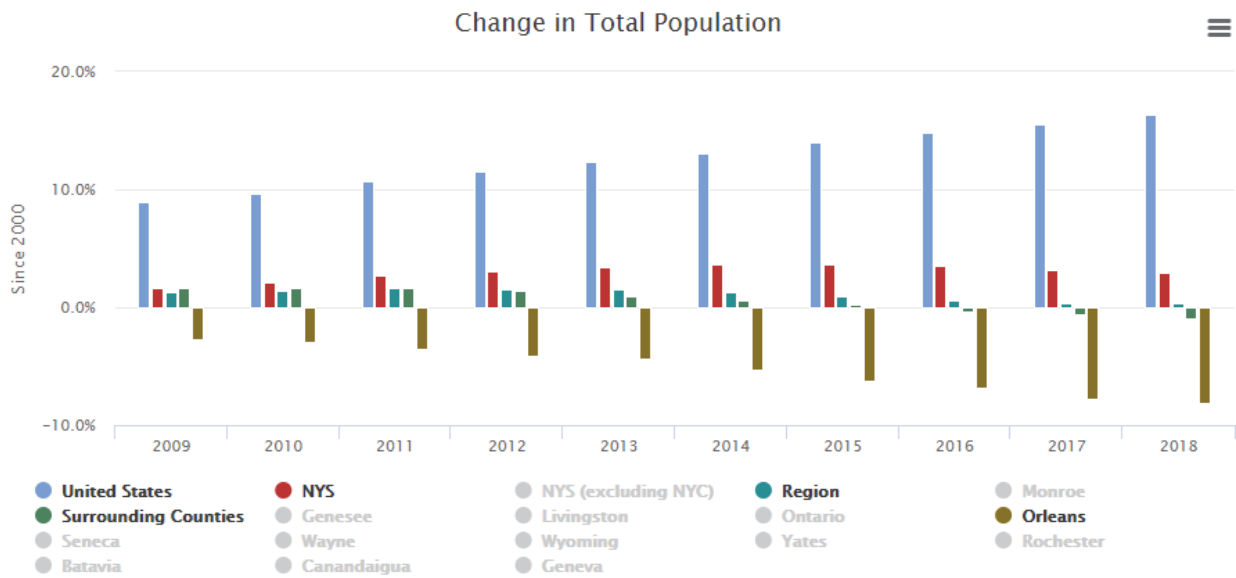
Situated between Rochester and Buffalo, Orleans County is among the smaller counties in the Finger Lakes region. Orleans was formed in 1824 from portions of Genesee County, and saw a large population increase shortly thereafter, due to the Erie Canal. Large portions of the county consist of farmland; other sectors driving the economy include Manufacturing and Government.

Orleans County has a declining population, and among the highest rates of single families and child poverty in the region. However, the high school graduation rate remains strong, as do the rates for homeownership and growth in salaries in the county.

Demographic Overview

Orleans' population is shrinking:

- Orleans lost 8.1% of its population since 2000, in contrast to increases of 16% for the nation, 3% for the state, and 0.3% for the region.
- In 2018, Orleans was home to 40,612 residents, or 3% of the regional population. Orleans was the fourth smallest county in the region by population, ahead of Wyoming, Seneca, and Yates.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit actrochester.org/all-indicators for updates.

Like other counties in the region, Orleans County has a population that is aging:

- Orleans' population of young people declined more than every other county in 2014-18,

losing 27% of residents under 20 years old, and 19% of those 20-39.

- During that same period, the number of residents 60-84 increased by 38% from 2000 to 2014-18, and those over 85 by 21%.

Orleans was the second most diverse county in the region, after Monroe:

- In 2014-18, 90% of Orleans residents were white, the smallest share in the region besides Monroe. African Americans made up the largest minority group, at 6%, followed by Hispanic (5%) and Asian (1%) residents.
- From 2000 to 2014-18, the African American and white populations shrank (19% and 7%, respectively), while the Asian and Hispanic populations grew (243% and 12% respectively). Orleans, like Wyoming County, had the largest decrease of any county in its African American population, and its white population shrank faster than the state and region.

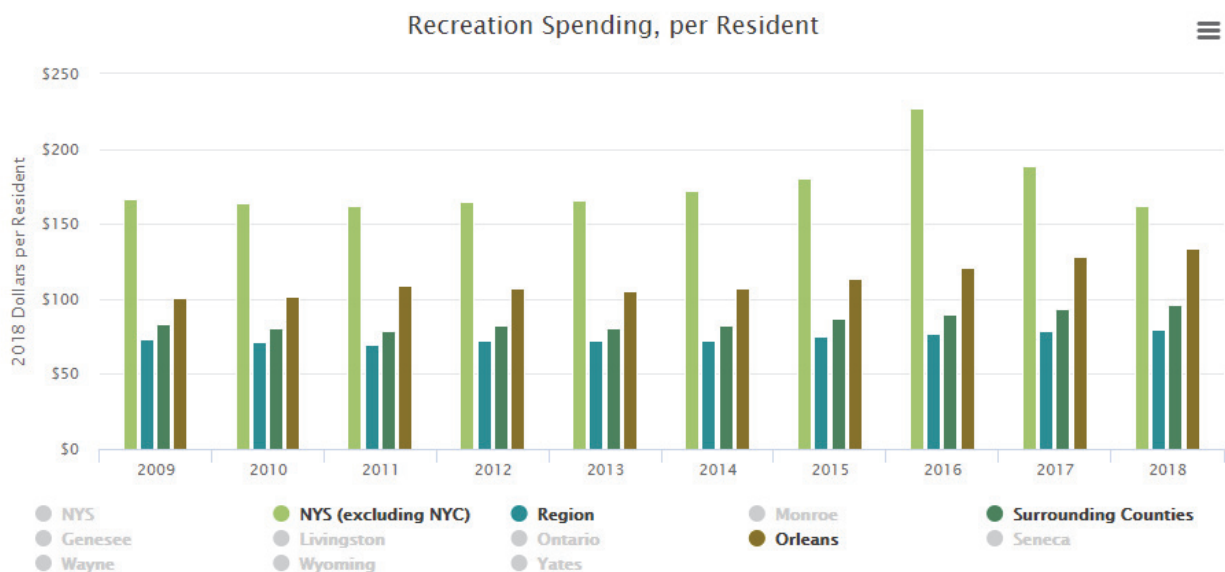
Community Vitality

Despite a substantial increase from 2005 to 2007, tourism revenue per resident in Orleans County has grown steadily since and was the second lowest in the region in 2018:

- In 2018, tourism revenue per resident was \$710, well below the state excluding NYC (\$2,259) and the region (\$1,419). Only Wayne County had lower revenue per resident than Orleans.

Recreation spending per resident has increased the most since 2005:

- From 2005 to 2007, recreation spending per resident more than quadrupled, far beyond any county or the state. Orleans' recreation spending per resident level in 2018 was slightly above 2007 levels.
- In 2018, recreation spending was \$134 per resident, above the region (\$80) and most regional counties (except for Genesee and Wyoming) but below the state excluding NYC (\$162).



Source: NYS Empire State Development

The voter registration rate in Orleans fell from a peak of 83% in 2005 to 75% in 2018, below the regional and state rates of 83% and 82%, respectively.

Orleans had one of the lowest voter turnout for the 2018 midterm elections:

- Just 39% of registered voters cast ballots in the 2018 midterms, below the region (46%) and every county in the region except Seneca. Turnout rose by 10 points from 29% in the 2014 midterms.
- Turnout for the 2016 presidential election improved from 2012 – 50% of voters cast ballots, on par with the state and below the 59% for the region. Orleans’ turnout in 2016 was lower than every other county in the region.

The share of registered library borrowers increased by 6 points since 2000 in Orleans County, the only county in the region besides Monroe with an increase:

- In 2017, 62% of residents of Orleans’ county library system were registered borrowers, above the state (56%) and region (61%).
- Orleans ranks first in the number of library visits per capita (7.4), an increase of 4.5 visits since 2000. This increase is greater compared to that of the state, region, and every other county in the region during the same period.

In 2017, residents in Orleans County gave 1.1% of their income to benefit charitable causes, unchanged from 2011. Orleans’ rate was the lowest of all regional counties except Wyoming. Orleans was the only county to decline since 2011 (6%) with a total contribution amount in 2017 of \$9.5 million.

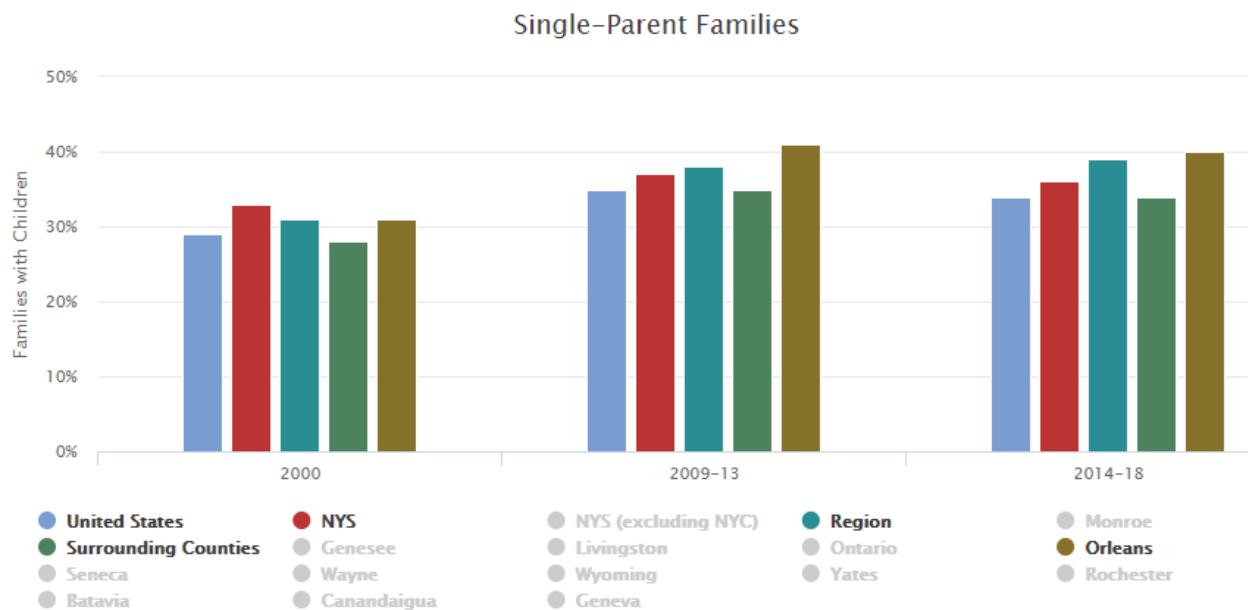
Children and Youth

The child poverty rate in Orleans has increased since 2000 and was the highest in the region:

- In 2014-18, 20% of Orleans children lived below the poverty line, on par to the nation and region and similar to the state (21%), and above all regional counties.
- The rate rose by 4 points since 2000, greater than increases for the state (1 point), nation (3 points), and similar to the region (5 points).

The rate of single-parent families in Orleans in 2014-18 increased 9 points since 2000 and was the highest rate in the surrounding counties:

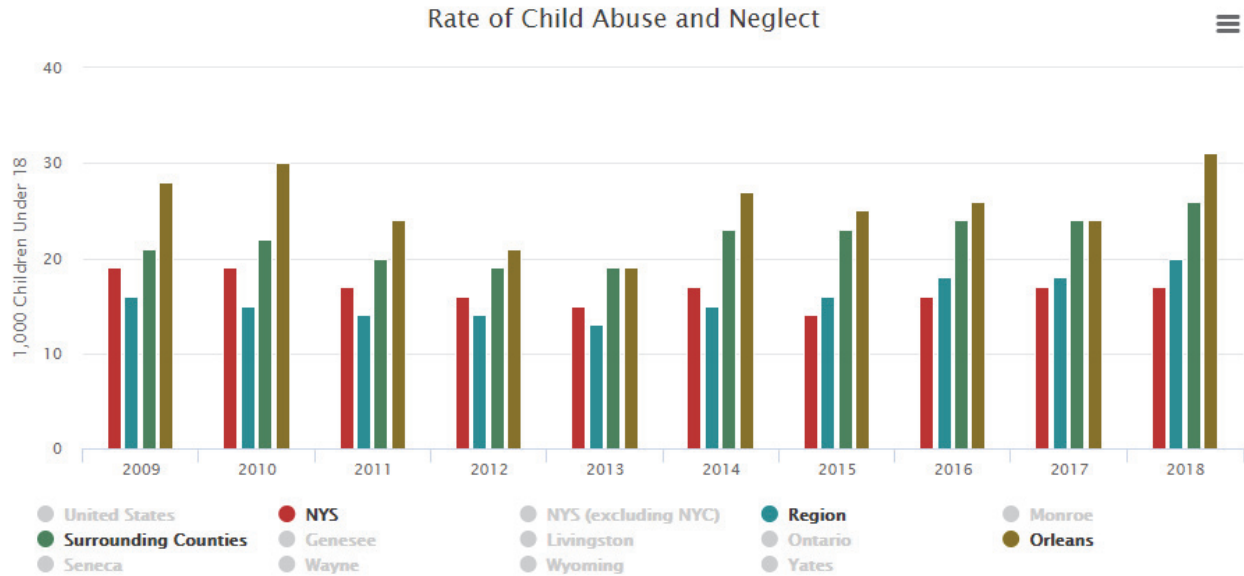
- In 2014-18, 40% of families were headed by a single parent, above the nation (34%), the state (36%) and the region (39%).



In 2017, 79% of Orleans mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, above the state and regional (both 77%) rates. Orleans early prenatal care rate has increased by 3 points since 2000.

The rate of indicated cases of child abuse and neglect more than doubled from 2000 to 2018, and was higher than the state and region:

- In 2018, there were 31 cases of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under 18, more than the state (17) and region (20).



The number of foster care admissions in Orleans decreased 48% since 2000, but remains among the highest in the region:

- In 2018, there were 2.7 per 1,000 children, a rate above the state (2.0), region (2.3) and most other regional counties.

Despite a considerable decline from 2000, the rate of teen births in Orleans County was the highest of all regional counties:

- In 2017, there were 19 live births per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years old in the county, on par with the nation, but greater than the state (12) and the region (13).
- Orleans' rate for 2017 was half the rate from 2000 (38).

Economy

Unemployment in Orleans was the highest of all regional counties, and has consistently been higher than the nation, state and region:

- In 2018, the unemployment rate in Orleans was 4.9%. Despite falling from a high of 9.7% in 2012, the rate in 2018 was higher than the nation (3.9%), state (4.1%), region (4.2%), and every other county in the region.
- Total jobs in Orleans decreased by 0.9% from 2017 to 2018, in contrast to improved job growth for the nation, state, region and all regional counties.

Total job growth since 2001 has been slightly above that of the region for most sectors:

- Orleans experienced the most job gains in Financial Activities (76%), Professional and Business Services (189%) and Natural Resources and Mining (117%). It is important to note that the small number of overall jobs for each sector means that a large increase in

the sector's employment may represent a modest increase in total jobs.

- The manufacturing sector in Orleans grew by 25% from 2001 to 2018 – an extraordinary achievement, given large losses in the sector for the nation (down 20%), state (down 34%) and region (down 36%). Orleans was the only county besides Yates to experience an increase in manufacturing jobs over that period.
- The Government, Information; and Trade, and Transportation sectors lost jobs from 2001 to 2018 (14%, 30% and 12%, respectively).

Growth in average salary in Orleans has been relatively strong:

- In 2018, the average salary in Orleans was \$42,727, an increase of 17% from 2000. This increase compares to an increase of 11% for both the nation and state.
- However, Orleans' average salary in 2018 was lower than the nation (\$57,265), and state (\$72,902).

Education

Student performance on Common Core-aligned tests in 2019 generally fell behind the state:

- The percentages of students passing the 3rd grade English and 3rd grade Math tests (47% and 50% respectively) were similar to the regional rates, but 5 points below the state rates.
- The percentage of students passing 8th grade English (36%) was below the region and state (45% and 48%, respectively).
- The percentage of students passing 8th grade Math in Orleans (39%) was below the region and the state (49% and 52%, respectively).

We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2019 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2019, 15% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English exam and 16% opted not to take the Math exam.

In 2019, for both the English and Algebra 1 Common Core Regents tests, Orleans was above the region and state:

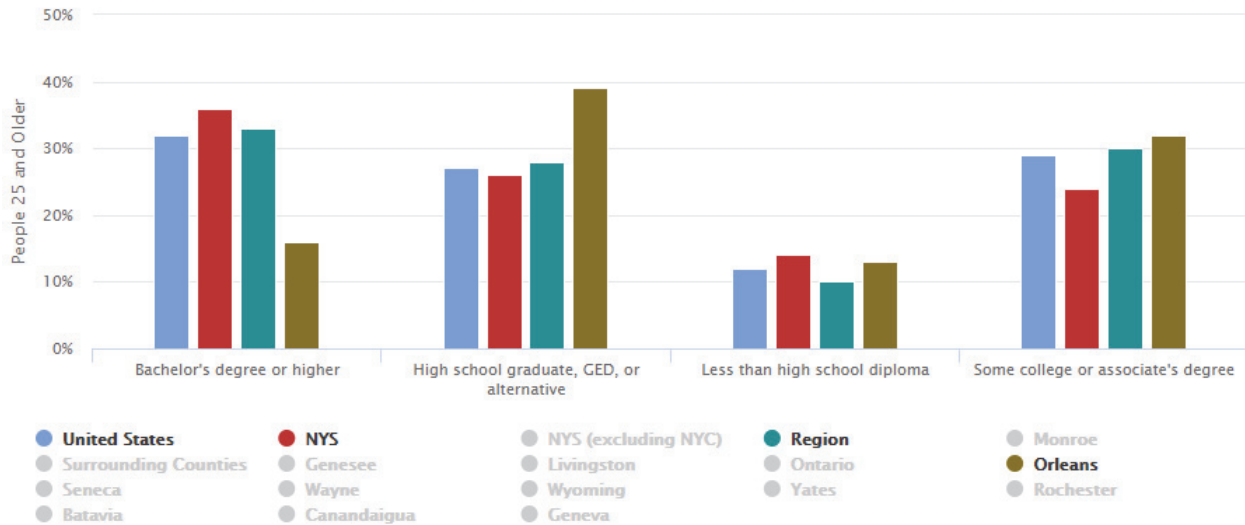
- The passing rate in Orleans for the Algebra 1 test was 84% in 2019, above the region and state (73% and 71% respectively).
- The passing rate in Orleans for the English regents was 86% in 2019, above the region and state (83% and 84% respectively).

The 4-year graduation rate in Orleans in 2019 (88%) moved ahead of the region and state by 2 and 5 points respectively. Orleans' graduation rate rose by 5 points from 2009 to 2019.

Fewer adults attended college in Orleans than their peers in the nation, state and region:

- In 2014-18, 48% of adults 25 and older in Orleans had attended at least some college, well below the region (62%), the state (60%) and nation (61%). Orleans had the lowest figure of any regional county.
- Adults who had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher made up a smaller share of the population (16%) than the state, nation, and region. Orleans had a higher share of high school graduates (39%) than the state, nation and region.
- The share of adults who had less than a high school diploma (13%) was above the region (10%) and the nation (12%), and below the state (14%).

Education Levels of Adults, 2014–18



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Spending per student by school districts in Orleans increased at a higher rate than most of the region with an 80% increase since 2000. In 2018, Orleans school districts spent \$23,203 per student, below the state (\$25,845), and slightly below the region (\$22,703).

In 2018, Orleans County spent \$15,361 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student's classroom experience), below the region (\$16,363), and the state (\$19,637). The county's instructional spending per student has increased 56% since 2000, more than the region (45%), but less than the state (60%).

Economic Security

Orleans, like the nation, state and region, experienced a drop in median household income, after adjusting for inflation:

- In 2014-18, the median household income in Orleans was \$51,843, the lowest among the counties in the region and below the nation (\$60,293) and state (\$65,323).
- Median household income in Orleans fell by 9% from 2000 to 2014-18, a larger drop than the nation (5%), but less than the regional decline (12%).

Orleans' poverty rate was highest of all regional counties, except Livingston:

- In 2014-18, 14% of Orleans residents were living in poverty – an increase of 3 points from 2000.
- Orleans' rate in 2014-18 was on par with the region and nation and similar to the state.

In 2018, 2.5% of Orleans residents received temporary assistance, slightly below the state rate (2.7%) and similar to the region (2.3%). Orleans' rate was higher than every county besides Monroe.

In 2014-18, Orleans County had a higher number of residents receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits than any other county in the region. Orleans' rate for 2014-18 (16%) was higher than the region (14%), state (15%), and nation (12%).

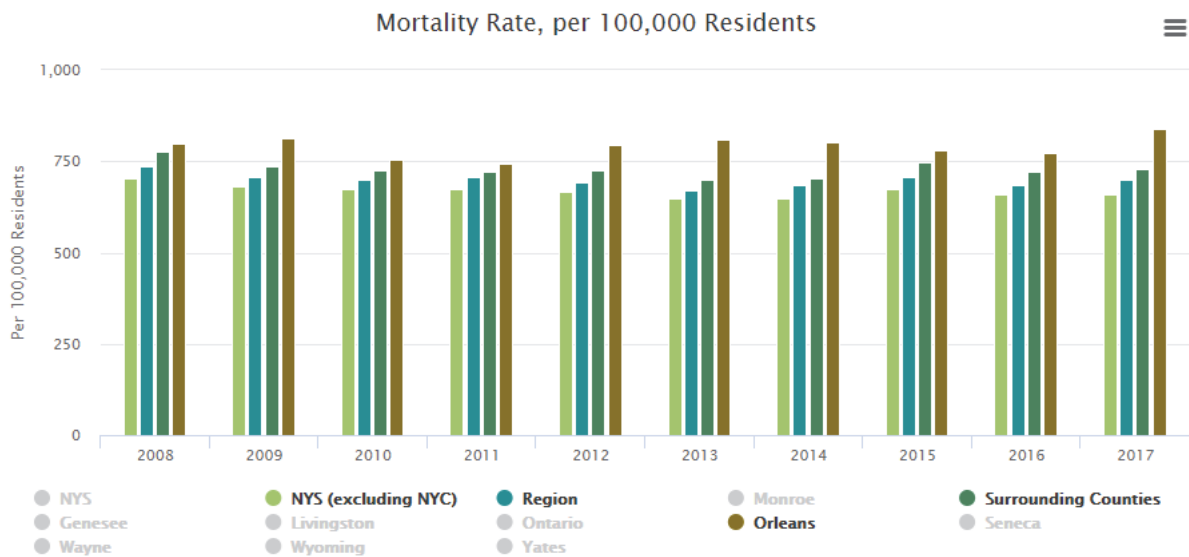
Health

In 2018, 5% of residents under the age of 65 did not have health insurance, on par with the regional rate, similar to the state (6%), and below the national (10%) figures. Since 2008, the rate has fallen by 8 points in Orleans, compared to a 7-point drop for the state, 5-point drop for the region and 6-point drop for the nation.

In 2017, there were 3 doctors per 10,000 residents in Orleans, the lowest rate in the region (35 per 10,000 residents) and surrounding counties (11 per 10,000 residents).

Orleans' mortality rate was the highest among local counties:

- In 2017, the mortality rate was 838 deaths per 100,000 residents, well above the state excluding NYC (658) and the region (700).
- Most counties, the region, and state have demonstrated a decrease in mortality rates since 2000. Orleans' decrease (6%) was less than the state excluding NYC (19%) and the regional (14%) decreases.



Source: New York State Department of Health

Orleans experienced mixed results for reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections:

- The rate of chlamydia infections has more than doubled since 2001. In 2018, Orleans had 40 cases per 10,000 residents, lower than the state (61) and regional (55) rates, but higher than all the regional counties.
- In 2018, Orleans County reported 6 gonorrhea cases per 10,000 residents in the region. Orleans's rate was much lower than the region and the state (18 and 19 per 10,000 residents respectively).

Housing

In 2014-18, the median home value in Orleans was \$95,600 – lowest among all surrounding counties, and below the state (\$302,200), nation (\$204,900), and region as a whole (\$135,915). This was a decrease of 11% since 2000, a larger decrease than the 1% drop in the region and in contrast to increases for the state (36%) and nation (22%).

In 2014-18, the homeownership rate in Orleans was 76%, among the higher rates for the

region's counties, and well above the rates for the state (54%) and nation (64%). Homeownership rates changed little from 2000 to 2014-18 for the nation, state, region and all of its counties, and Orleans was no exception.

The ratio of median home value to median household income – a measure of housing affordability – was 1.8 in 2014-18, the lowest ratio among counties in the region and well below the state (4.6) and nation (3.4). Housing affordability for homeowners has remained flat since 2000 in Orleans. Orleans was not as affordable for renters however, with rent consuming 32% of household income, slightly higher than the 30% considered affordable.

The vacant housing unit rate in Orleans County for 2014-18 was on par with the state and nation, and decreased much less since 2000 compared to most other regional counties:

- The vacant housing rate in Orleans was 12% for 2014-18. This rate was above the region (10%), but similar to or less than the majority of the region's counties, and equal to the state and nation.

Public Safety

While still low relative to the nation and region, Orleans' serious crime rate had a smaller decline compared to all other regional counties:

- In 2018, there were 146 serious crimes per 10,000 people, lower than the region (190), nation (257) and state (178).
- Orleans' rate declined 6% since 2000, in contrast to steep drops nationally (38%), regionally (46%), and statewide (42%).

After experiencing rising rates during the mid-2000s, violent crime in Orleans County dropped to a low of 14 per 10,000 residents in 2014. However, the rate has climbed steadily since then with 16 reported violent crimes per 10,000 residents in 2018, lower than the region (24), state (35), and nation (37).

Orleans County had one of the highest arrest rates for 2018 with approximately 202 arrests per 10,000 residents. Arrests in the county saw an increase of 17% from 2000 (173), the largest increase in the region, in contrast to the declines experienced by the region, state and nation during the same period.

Orleans County had an incarceration rate of approximately 15 per 10,000 residents in 2018, higher than the region (13) and the state (12). Orleans' rate has decline 11% since 2008.

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