Data Sources for Educational Attainment

We obtained data on educational attainment by state (bachelor’s degree or higher) from three sources. The data stored in excel format and pdf documents are included in this Educational Attainment Data folder.

For pre-2000 years, we used the Census Bureau’s decennial census results listed on the USDA’s Economic Research Service website: <https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?ID=17829#Pdfd417323117476cb56cc694d5316e98_3_224iT2>. As mentioned in the paper, using these decennial data points, we interpolated and artificially created a linear trend to fill in the gaps pre-2000.

For the years 2000 through 2005, we used the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (CPS) results.

For 2000: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2000/demo/educational-attainment/p20-536.html#:~:text=Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20by%20State%2C%20Including%20Confidence%20Intervals%20of%20Estimates%3A%20March%202000%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D>.

For 2001: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2001/demo/educational-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html#:~:text=Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20By%20State%2C%20Including%20Confidence%20Intervals%20of%20Estimates%3A%20March%20200%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D>.

For 2002: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2002/demo/educational-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html#:~:text=Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20By%20State%2C%20Including%20Confidence%20Intervals%20of%20Estimates%3A%20March%202002%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D>.

For 2003: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2003/demo/educational-attainment/p20-550.html#:~:text=Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20By%20State%2C%20Including%20Confidence%20Intervals%20of%20Estimates%3A%202003%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D>.

For 2004: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2004/demo/educational-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html#:~:text=Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20By%20State%2C%20Including%20Margin%20of%20Error%3A%202004%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D>.

For 2005: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2005/demo/educational-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html#:~:text=of%20Error%3A%202005-,Table%2013.%20Educational%20Attainment%20of%20the%20Population%2025%20Years%20and%20Over%2C%20By%20State%2C%20Including%20Margin%20of%20Error%3A%202005%20%5B%3C1.0%20MB%5D,-Table%2014.%20Educational>.

For the years 2006 through 2021, we used the Census Bureau’s annual American Community Survey (ACS) results posted on Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED): <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/release/tables?rid=330&eid=391444&od=2006-01-01#>.