

1.3 Education

1.3.1 Educational Attainment

The U.S. Census collects information on school attendance, educational attainment, and current employment status. Looking at these variables together provides an indicator of youth high school dropout rates: youth who are not attending school, have not already graduated from high school or attained a G.E.D., and are not employed are likely high school dropouts. One limitation of using this statistic as an indicator of high school dropout rates is that when a person moves to a new area and are not yet enrolled in school, they would be counted among the new area's youth as not in school.

From 2010, the percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 years who were not in school, not high school graduates, and not employed was lower in Kalamazoo County (1.7%) than in Michigan (4.1%) and in the United States (4.0%).

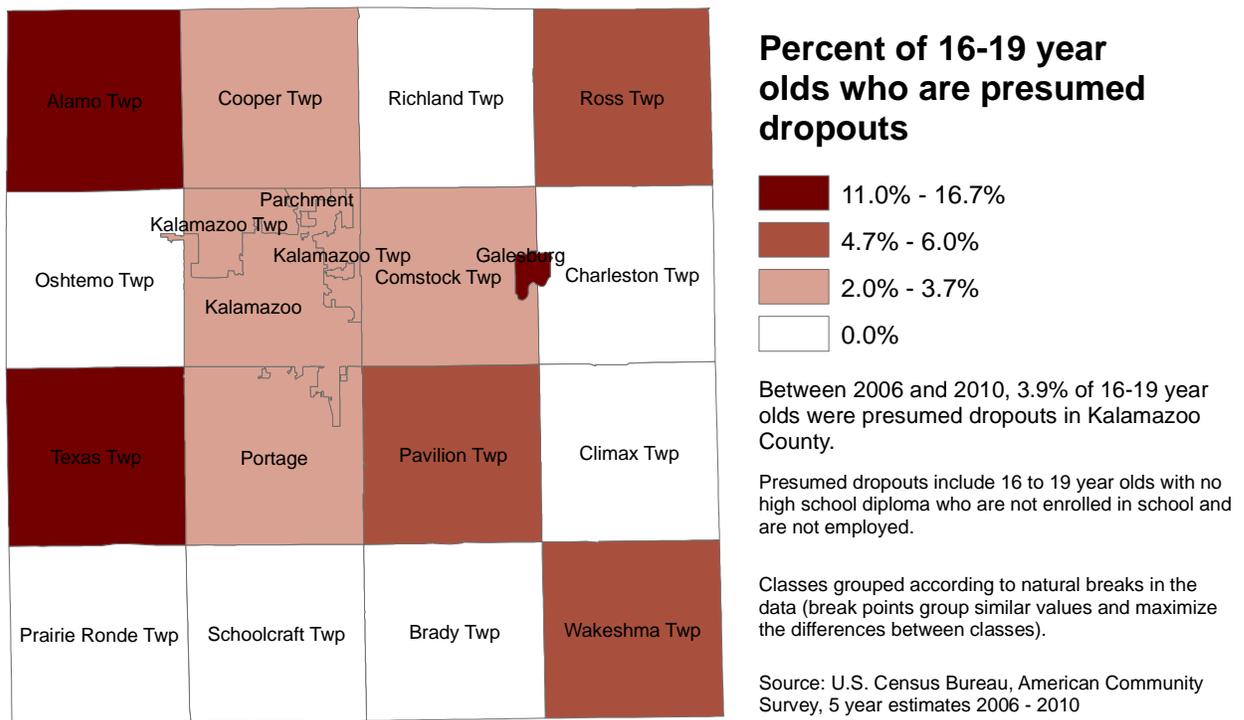
Kalamazoo County, Michigan, and the United States Youth (16 – 19 Years) Not in School, Not Working, and Without a High School Diploma or GED, 2010

Geography	Total 16-19 year olds	16-19 Year-Olds with no High School Diploma Who Are Not Enrolled in School and Who Are Not Employed	
		#	%
United States	17,881,160	717,276	4.0%
Michigan	596,846	24,573	4.1%
Kalamazoo County	16,594	278	1.7%

Source: American Community Survey 2010, 1-year Estimates, B14005

Data on youth ages 16 to 19 years who were not in school, not high school graduates, and not employed was available for years 2006-2010 by city and township of Kalamazoo. While the percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 years who were not in school, not high school graduates, and not employed for Kalamazoo County, at 1.7%, remained lower than the state of Michigan (4.1%) over this five-year time period, several townships in the county experienced percentages higher than the state average (Alamo Township, Galesburg City, and Wakeshma Township).

Kalamazoo County Youth Ages 16-19 Years Presumed to be High School Dropouts by City and Township, 2006 - 2010



**Kalamazoo County Township and City Youth (16 – 19 Years)
Not in School, Not Working, and Without a High School Diploma or GED, 2006-2010**

City or Township	Total 16 – 19 Year-Olds	16 – 19 Year-Olds With No High School Diploma Who Are Not Enrolled in School and Who Are Not Employed	
		#	%
Alamo Township	180	12	6.7%
Brady Township	197	0	0.0%
Charleston Township	82	0	0.0%
Climax Township	117	0	0.0%
Comstock Charter Township	834	25	3.0%
Cooper Charter Township	460	9	2.0%
Galesburg City	84	14	16.7%
Kalamazoo City	8,403	327	3.9%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	869	20	2.3%
Oshtemo Charter Township	1,037	0	0.0%
Parchment City	164	4	2.4%
Pavilion Township	334	10	3.0%
Portage City	2,122	29	1.4%
Prairie Ronde Township	136	0	0.0%
Richland Township	515	0	0.0%
Ross Township	123	3	2.4%
Schoolcraft Township	386	0	0.0%
Texas Charter Township	994	37	3.7%
Wakeshma Township	64	3	4.7%

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2006-2010, B14005

The percentage of the population that is at least 25 years of age and has not graduated from high school or received a G.E.D. is another indicator of community educational attainment. The percentage of adults without a high school degree or G.E.D. in Kalamazoo County was 8.2% during the 2008-2010 time period. This was lower than both the percentage for Michigan (11.6%) and the percentage for the United States (14.7%).

**Population Aged 25 Years or Older
Without a High School Diploma or GED, 2008-2010**

Geography	Total Population Age 25+	Population Age 25+ with no High School Diploma or GED	
		#	%
United States	202,053,193	29,688,195	14.7%
Michigan	6,560,571	762,625	11.6%
Kalamazoo County	154,071	12,650	8.2%
Kalamazoo City	38,305	4,404	11.5%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	14,765	1,679	11.4%
Oshtemo Charter Township	13,039	578	4.4%
Portage City	30,761	1,351	4.4%

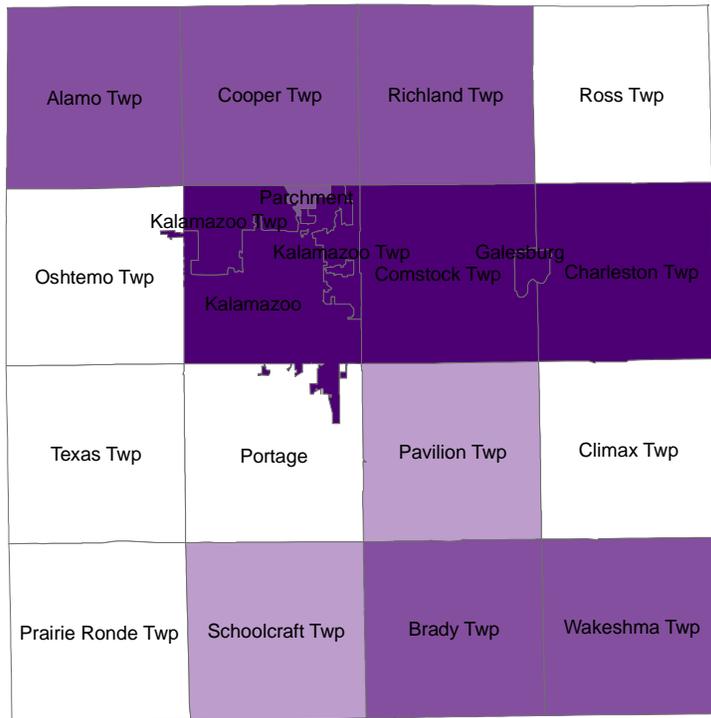
Source: American Community Survey, 3-year Estimates, 2008-2010, B15002

**Kalamazoo County Township and City Population Ages 25 Years or Older
Without a High School Diploma or GED, 2006-2010**

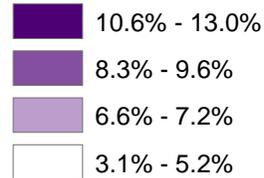
Geography	Total Population Age 25+	Population Age 25+ With No High School Diploma or GED	
		#	%
United States	199,726,659	29,898,483	15.0%
Michigan	6,561,843	784,988	12.0%
Kalamazoo County	152,139	12,635	8.3%
Alamo Township	2,699	223	8.3%
Brady Township	3,078	265	8.6%
Charleston Township	1,368	150	11.0%
Climax Township	1,527	66	4.3%
Comstock Charter Township	9,656	1,109	11.5%
Cooper Charter Township	6,808	656	9.6%
Galesburg City	1,203	156	13.0%
Kalamazoo City	38,165	4,496	11.8%
Kalamazoo Charter Township	14,612	1,549	10.6%
Oshtemo Charter Township	12,504	591	4.7%
Parchment City	1,228	111	9.0%
Pavilion Township	3,824	254	6.6%
Portage City	30,394	1,592	5.2%
Prairie Ronde Township	1,524	48	3.1%
Richland Township	4,826	406	8.4%
Ross Township	3,632	155	4.3%
Schoolcraft Township	5,465	394	7.2%
Texas Charter Township	8,630	330	3.8%
Wakeshma Township	996	85	8.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2006-2010, B15002

Kalamazoo County Adults Aged 25 Years and Older with No High School Diploma or GED by City and Township, 2006 - 2010



Percent of adults 25+ years who did not have a high school diploma or GED

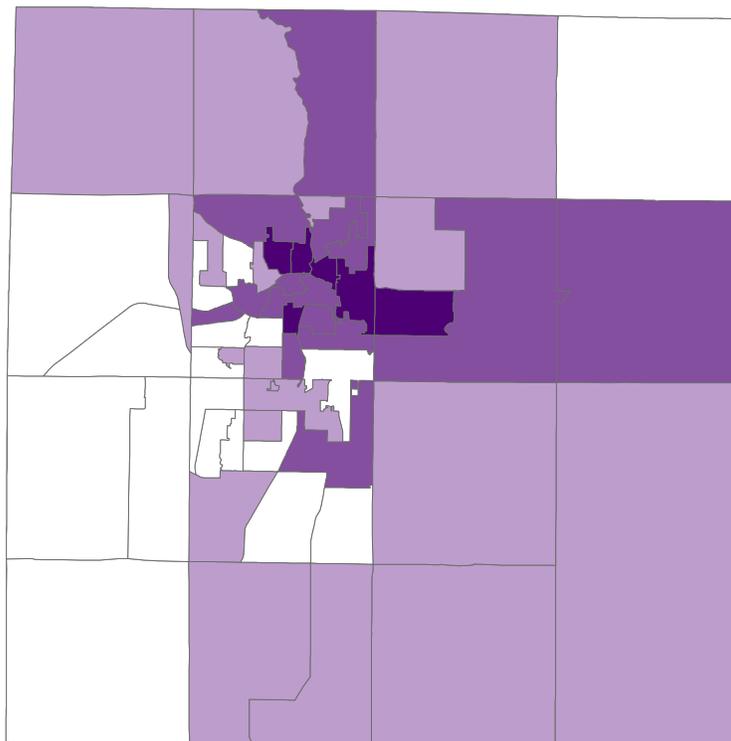


Between 2006 and 2010, 7.9% of adults aged 25 years and older in Kalamazoo County did not have a high school diploma or GED.

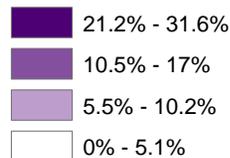
Classes grouped according to natural breaks in the data (break points group similar values and maximize the differences between classes).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 year estimates 2006 - 2010

Adults Aged 25 Years and Older with No High School Diploma or GED in Kalamazoo County by Census Tract, 2006-2010



Percent of population aged 25 years or older with no high school diploma or GED



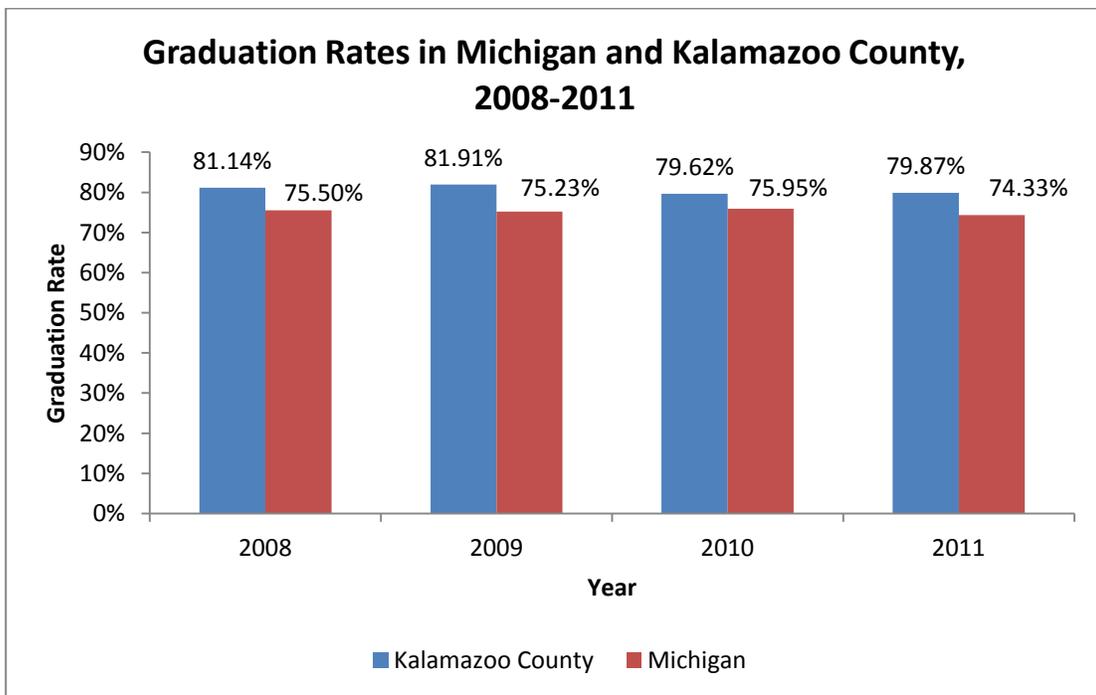
In Kalamazoo County 7.9% of the population of adults aged 25 years and older had no high school diploma or GED in 2006-2010.

Classes grouped according to natural breaks in the data (break points group similar values and maximize the differences between classes).

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2006-2010

1.3.2 School Dropout and Graduation

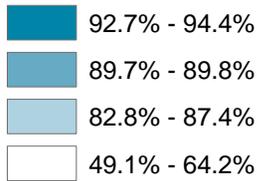
Beginning in 2003, the method for measuring graduation rates changed. The graduation rates and dropout rates are now found by following the student’s progression from 9th to 12th grade, taking 4-year cohort measurements. Therefore the 2011 cohort represents the total number of students who were identified as first time 9th graders in 2007. Over the years adjustments to the cohort are made accordingly, by taking into account the transfer of students both in and out of the schools, along with exempting those students who move out of district, building, or the public school system. New 4 year cohort graduation rates are found by dividing the number of on-track graduated students by the cohort. The dropout rate’s percentage represents the number of students who left permanently and/or whereabouts are unknown divided by the cohort.



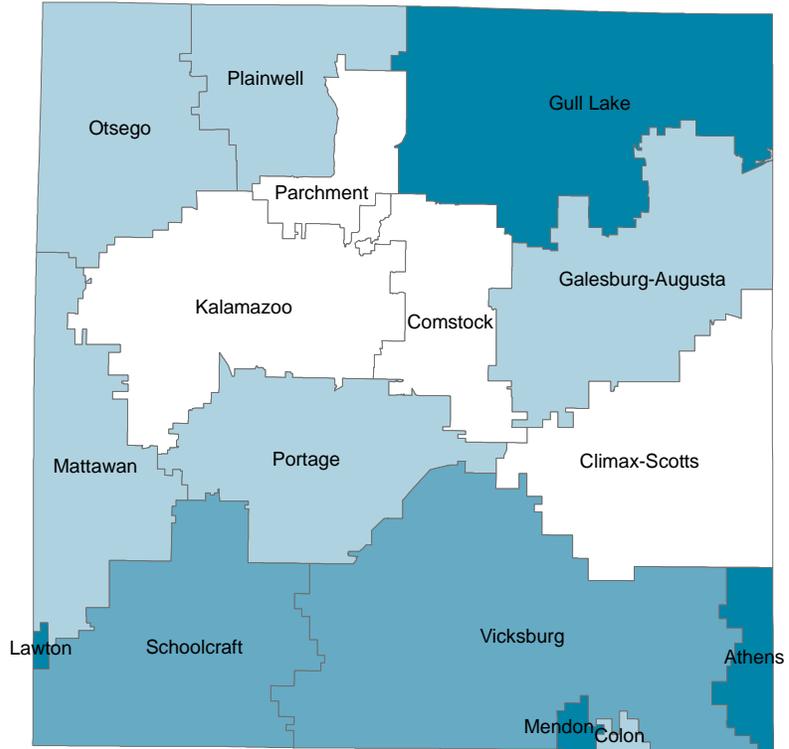
Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information

Graduation Rates by School District, 2011 Cohort

Graduation rate



The graduation rate is calculated as the number of students graduating after four years (on-track) divided by the number of students in the cohort starting 9th grade for the first time in 2007 (with adjustments for transfers in and out of the school).



Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information

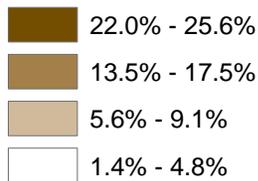
**Graduation Rates Among School Districts with
Kalamazoo County Resident Students, 2008-2011**

School District	2008 4-year cohort	2009 4-year cohort	2010 4-year cohort	2011 4-year cohort
	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate
Athens Area Schools	88.89%	80.65%	69.39%	92.73%
Climax-Scotts Community Schools	57.50%	69.15%	58.43%	61.54%
Comstock Public Schools	61.82%	55.82%	51.72%	49.13%
Galesburg-Augusta Comm. Schools	86.60%	86.92%	92.86%	86.90%
Gull Lake Community Schools	91.16%	97.01%	95.57%	93.24%
Kalamazoo Public School District	64.41%	63.74%	63.06%	64.19%
Mattawan Consolidated School District	89.82%	89.19%	81.42%	86.25%
Mendon Community School District	89.23%	88.14%	92.65%	94.12%
Otsego Public Schools	90.67%	92.82%	91.76%	87.37%
Parchment School District	64.15%	62.05%	62.43%	58.44%
Plainwell Community Schools	82.59%	87.11%	88.52%	82.83%
Portage Public Schools	83.23%	85.77%	82.01%	84.95%
Schoolcraft Community Schools	97.00%	98.00%	98.28%	89.80%
Vicksburg Community Schools	88.89%	90.43%	86.61%	89.67%
Kalamazoo County	81.14%	81.91%	79.62%	79.87%
Michigan	75.50%	75.23%	75.95%	74.33%

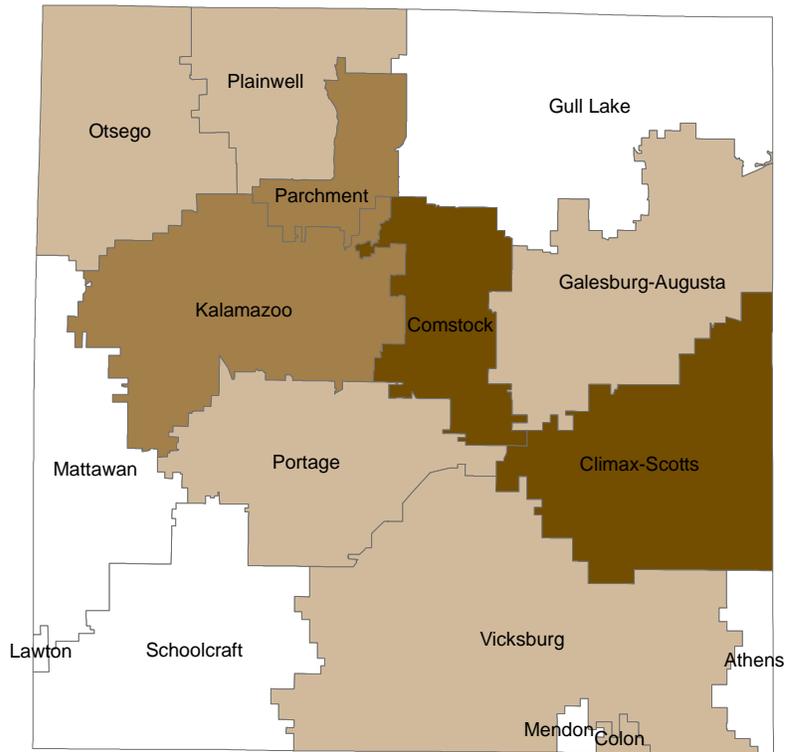
Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information.

Dropout Rates by School District, 2011 Cohort

Dropout rate



The dropout rate is calculated as the number of students in the cohort who left permanently and/or whose whereabouts are unknown divided by the number of students in the cohort starting 9th grade for the first time in 2007 (with adjustments for transfers in and out of the school).



Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information

**Dropout Rates Among School Districts with
Kalamazoo County Resident Students, 2008-2011**

School District	2008 4-year cohort	2009 4-year cohort	2010 4-year cohort	2011 4-year cohort
	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Athens Area Schools	5.56%	8.06%	14.29%	3.64%
Climax-Scotts Community Schools	25.00%	13.83%	28.09%	25.64%
Comstock Public Schools	21.62%	14.38%	16.21%	21.95%
Galesburg-Augusta Comm. Schools	7.22%	11.21%	4.76%	7.14%
Gull Lake Community Schools	8.43%	2.56%	2.96%	3.60%
Kalamazoo Public School District	17.99%	14.50%	16.62%	13.50%
Mattawan Consolidated School District	3.51%	5.79%	4.85%	4.81%
Mendon Community School District	4.62%	6.78%	4.41%	1.96%
Otsego Public Schools	4.66%	3.08%	1.65%	5.56%
Parchment School District	18.40%	15.18%	16.93%	17.53%
Plainwell Community Schools	8.53%	4.30%	4.51%	6.01%
Portage Public Schools	11.55%	7.79%	7.46%	9.05%
Schoolcraft Community Schools	1.00%	0.00%	0.86%	4.08%
Vicksburg Community Schools	6.22%	6.22%	9.38%	5.63%
Michigan	14.19%	11.33%	11.07%	11.13%

Source: Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information.