

Community Profile



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South Euclid: A History Written in Bluestone

South Euclid was originally a part of Euclid Township; it incorporated as a village in 1917 and as a city in 1941. After farming, South Euclid's best-known occupation was quarrying. In 1867, Duncan McFarland opened a stone quarry along Euclid Creek, providing Euclid bluestone. The small village of Bluestone sprang from this single industry. It was most commonly used to make sidewalks before the advent of concrete. At the peak of its growth in the 1890s, immigrant laborers from Ireland, Sweden, Italy, and Canada were working five quarries. Bluestone Village became part of South Euclid in 1917.

South Euclid is surrounded by Euclid and Richmond Heights on its north border, Lyndhurst to the east, University Heights to the south, and Cleveland Heights to the west.

South Euclid's population peaked at 29,600 people in 1970; by 2007, the number had declined to an estimated 21,500 residents. Between 1980 and 2007 the population decreased 16 percent, less than the transitional suburbs' average decline of nearly 19 percent. The racial breakdown of residents changed from 75 percent White and 21 percent Black in 2000 to 61 percent Black and 35 percent White from 2005 to 2007. Both rate changes were statistically significant.¹

South Euclid and Lyndhurst compose a school district. The 2007 high school graduation rate was 98.7 percent, higher than the transitional suburbs' average of 92.1 percent. The 2008 Ohio Graduation Test score was 58.7 percent, higher than the transitional suburbs' average of 53 percent, but well below the remaining suburbs' score of 84.8 percent.²

Of South Euclid residents 25 and over, 90 percent graduated from high school in 2000, 5 percentage points above the transitional suburban average. The proportion with an Associate's degree or more was 43 percent in 2000, 11 percentage points above the average. Estimates for 2005 to 2007 increased for both educational attainment groups, but, statistically speaking, we cannot conclude that the rates changed significantly.³

South Euclid's Medicaid recipient rates were lower than the transitional suburban average in 2009. However, the proportion of female-headed families with children increased from 23.5 percent in 2000 to 29 percent in the period from 2005 to 2007; the poverty rate nearly doubled from 4.5 percent to 8 percent. Both rate changes were statistically significant.³

Four percent of South Euclid homeowners were delinquent on property taxes in 2007, below the transitional suburban rate of 5 percent. The 2007 median home value was \$118,700, matching all transitional suburbs, but below the county median of \$126,000.

1. The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey now provides multi-year data averages based on three successive years of samples (2005, 2006, and 2007) for municipalities with populations between 20,000 and 65,000. Changes are significant at the 90 percent confidence interval. See article and corresponding Table 2 on Community Solutions' Website for more information.
2. Students must demonstrate performance at the proficient level or above in all five subject areas (social studies, mathematics, science, reading, and writing) to meet graduation requirements. See article and corresponding Table 2 on Community Solutions' Website for more information.
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