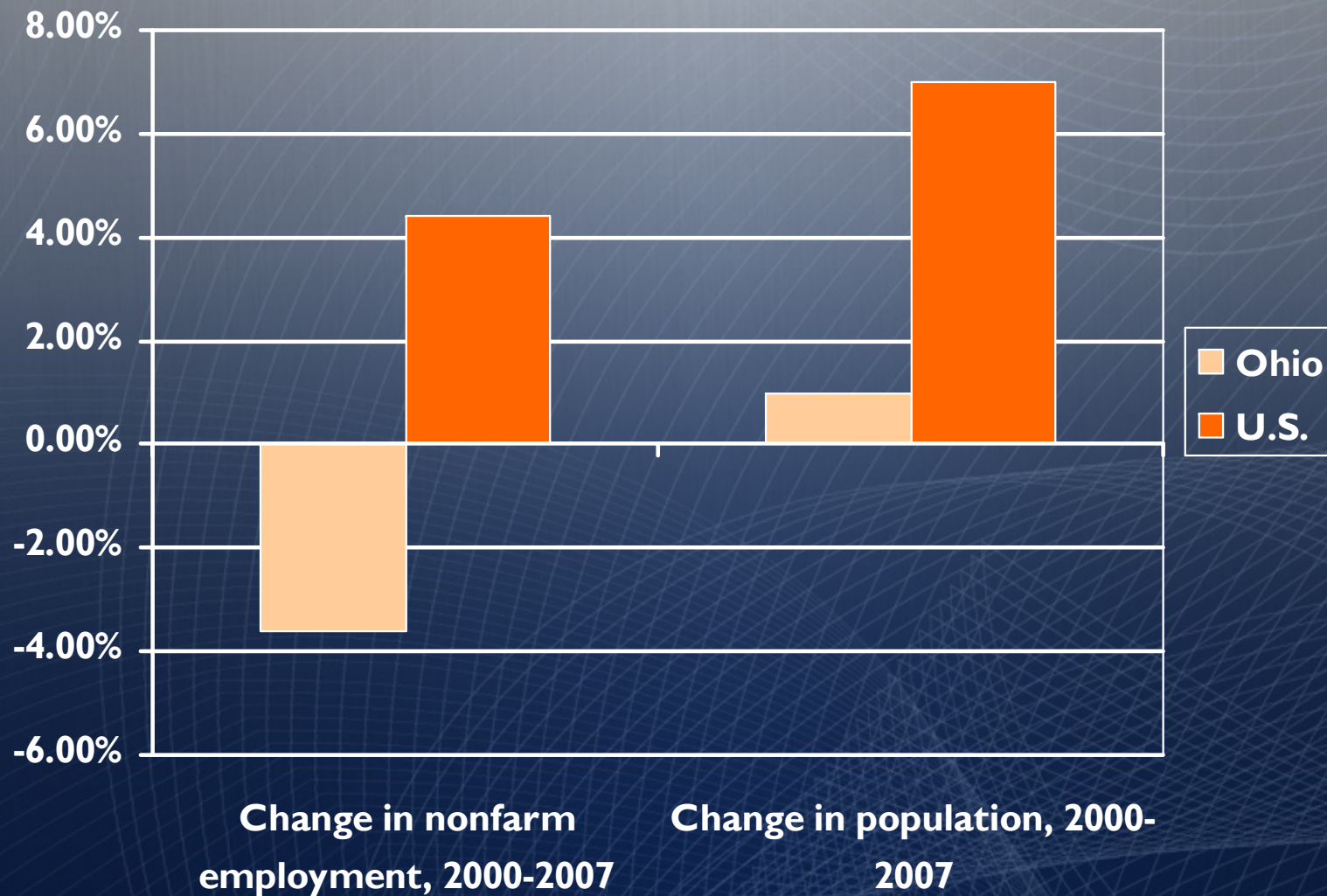


Restoring Our Prosperity

The State Role in Revitalizing
Ohio's Core Communities



Ohio faces stark challenges in the face of a changing economy



Ohio's cities face difficult challenges as they struggle to provide safe, healthy neighborhoods to their residents



Nearly 23 percent of housing units in Youngstown are vacant - nearly twice the national rate



In Cleveland, over 22 percent of families fall below the poverty line, over double the national figure



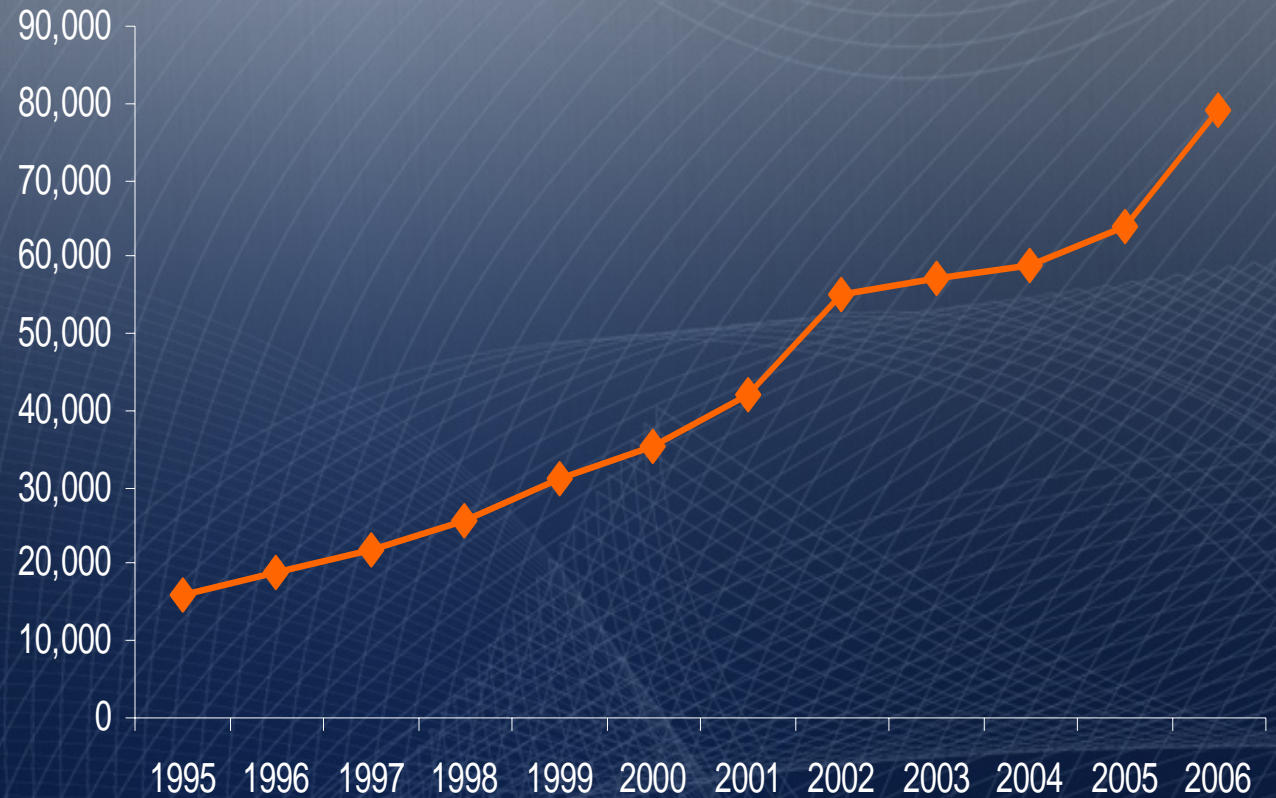
Compared to a national rate of 27 percent, just over 15 percent of Dayton adults 25+ have a BA degree or higher



State programs and policies have generally failed to leverage key assets like innovation, human capital, infrastructure and **quality places**

The state has been slow to respond with financial assistance to help stem the tide of decline wrought by the mortgage crisis

Foreclosure Filings, OH



Past efforts tended to be reactive, unfocused, failing to provide communities with necessary flexibility and support



Ohio's urban **enterprise zone (UEZ)** program is not targeted to places in need; it covers 215 zones in 85 out of the state's 88 counties



ODOD programs like the **Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund** or the **Job Ready Sites program**, provide only limited targeting to urban areas and places in need



The financing formula for the state's **school facilities construction program** favors rural areas over urban areas; school construction is rarely coordinated with housing, economic development, and other activities in the same communities.

The state can take a lesson from innovators at the local level



Toledo's "New Schools, New Neighborhoods" program integrates school development into a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy



A **Cleveland**-based partnership has initiated a strategy to acquire foreclosed properties for rehabilitation or removal



Dayton is trying to "grow green", building a revitalization strategy around partnerships with the University of Dayton and local hospitals



Dayton and **Youngstown** have acknowledged becoming smaller and embraced the concept of "rightsizing"

Ohio needs to frame a state agenda for neighborhood revitalization



Level the playing field between older urban areas and the rest of the state



Use state resources to leverage comprehensive and coordinated neighborhood change



Adopt market-based strategies for neighborhood change








Engage key anchor institutions as partners in revitalization



Take immediate action to address the impact of foreclosures and abandoned properties on neighborhood stability and vitality

This agenda should advance specific policy priorities to improve the quality of place in OH


Stabilize neighborhoods and cities hard hit by the mortgage crisis:

-  Enact a stronger, more flexible land banking statute
-  Expand and improve foreclosure prevention tools
-  Strengthen code enforcement and nuisance abatement tools to minimize harm to impacted neighborhoods
-  Provide targeted funding for the demolition of abandoned properties
-  Develop and implement an integrated property information system” to track foreclosures and abandonment

This agenda should advance specific policy priorities to improve the quality of place in OH

Create a new Urban Markets Initiative to unveil and leverage the market potential of core neighborhoods :

 Create a state-supported Urban Markets Initiative

 Identify select “Opportunity Neighborhoods” which merit the concentration of state and local resources

 Target state resources to comprehensive strategies in “Opportunity Neighborhoods”

