

**Township Growth & Change:
Population Characteristics of Ohio's Townships 1960 to 2000**

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Selected Highlights

The following are highlights of some of the data reported in this monograph. More detail and precise figures are found in the report's text and tables.

- There are 1,309 townships in the state of Ohio. More than 3.86 million people or 34% of Ohio's total population live in townships (Table 1).
- There is substantial variation of population among Ohio townships. The average population of an Ohio township is 2,947 residents. There are 25 townships with 348 or fewer residents (Table 2). Colerain Township in Hamilton County has 60,144 residents, the most of any township in the state. There are 21 townships in the state with more than 20,000.
- The number of Ohioans residing in townships has grown from over 2.71 million in 1960 to over 3.86 million in 2000 (Table 3). This is a net increase of 1.15 million residents during a 40 year period. During the same time period, Ohioans residing in cities or villages grew from 6.99 million to 7.49 million, an increase of just under 500,000.
- From 1990 to 2000, 849 Ohio townships (65 percent of all Ohio townships) grew from 1 to 499 residents. During the same time period, 32 townships experienced growth greater than 2,500 (Table 6).
- Townships experiencing net population increases greater than 500 people in a decade are generally located near Cincinnati-Hamilton, Columbus, or the Cleveland-Akron metropolitan areas across all four decades under consideration. In the 1970s and 1990s, this level of population growth was common near these major cities.
- Despite the steady increase in the total population residing in Ohio townships, population change has not been uniform across all townships (Table 5). A large number of Ohio townships consistently lost population. In the 1960s and the 1980s, 516 and 557 townships respectively lost population. Even during the 1970s, when net population growth in townships was the largest of any decade under consideration, 224 townships lost population.
- Seven Ohio counties have township populations greater than 100,000, all of which are located either in the northeast or southwest regions of the state (Map 16). In general, the counties with the largest number of residents living in townships are part of a metropolitan area, such as Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton-Springfield, Cleveland-Akron, Canton, or Toledo.
- The metropolitan area with the largest number of township residents in 2000 is Cincinnati-Hamilton with 690,783 township residents (Table 8). Cleveland Akron has the second most township residents, with 476,747 area residents living in township.

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Introduction:

This report focuses on Ohio townships. The focus in this document is on population characteristics of townships in 2000, patterns of population change in townships since 1960, and comparisons of the number of Ohioans living in townships versus cities and villages. The goal is to better understand townships, at least in terms of population, and identify spatial patterns of township population growth.

This is one in a series of reports related to townships¹. Future reports will include data about land use; economic and business characteristics; and agriculture. In addition, a series of townships reports (compiled by county) are available in conjunction with this report at the following website: <http://aede.ag.ohio-state.edu/programs/exurbs/>.

Notes on Data:

Definitions:

Three types of general-purpose local governments exist in the state of Ohio: counties, townships, and municipalities. Counties are the major local government subdivision of the state, with all of the state's territory and population contained within one of Ohio's 88 counties. Municipalities in the state are classified as either a village (population less than 5,000) or city (population 5,000 or greater). Municipalities may adopt laws that are not forbidden or in direct conflict with state law. In contrast, townships are administrative units of state government limited to functions specified by state law (although state law in 1991 has permitted some alternative township government with limited powers of self-government). See OSU Extension Bulletin 835-98 (online at: ohioline.ag.ohio-state.edu) for additional background information about local governments in Ohio.

Sources of Data:

To analyze township population characteristics, sub-county level data was gathered and aggregated from five decennial censuses (1960-2000). Data was summarized into a township database that included all townships that existed since 1960 and their 100% population counts and land areas. The following section explains the sources of data utilized to create the township database.

- Office of Strategic Research. The Ohio Department of Development (2001) 2000 Census of Population by age, race and Hispanic origin for Ohio's governmental units
- Office of Strategic Research. The Ohio Department of Development (2001) Decennial Census of Population for places, 1990 to 2000
- U.S. Census Bureau. (1990) 1990 Census of Population and Housing
- Geolytics. (2000) Geolytics CensusCD™ 1980: Data derived from the 1980 Census of Population and Housing
- U.S. Census Bureau. (1981) 1980 Census of Population: Volume 1 Characteristics of the Population – Number of Inhabitants Ohio: PC80-1-A37. Table 4
- U.S. Census Bureau. (1967) Area Measurement Reports – Areas and Population of Ohio 1960: GE-20, No. 37

¹ The township data reported in this study represents all persons residing in the unincorporated land in the state and does not account for the population residing in villages or cities.