

Section 3: Population change in Ohio townships, 1960-2000

Townships by population percent population growth, 1960 to 2000: Table 5, Maps 5 thru 8

- 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 that have consistently lost population between 1960 and 2000. 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.
- From 1990 to 2000, 446 townships grew from zero to nine percent. Thirty-nine townships experienced growth greater than 50 percent. In the 1960s and 1970, two to three times as many townships experienced growth in excess of 50 percent (78 in the 1960's and 116 in the 1970's).
- During the 1960s (Map 5), township population growth tended to be highest around the Cleveland-Akron, Columbus, Cincinnati-Hamilton, and Dayton-Springfield Metropolitan Areas. Population loss occurred in townships throughout the state, with the largest number of townships with losses found in the south, east, and northwest parts of the state. The spatial pattern of population loss during the 1970s (Map 6) reflects widespread population growth throughout the state, although, there were pockets of population loss.
- In the 1980s, population losses occurred throughout the state, with a large number of townships with population loss located in the west central portion of the state and in areas of the northwest (Map 7). In the 1990s, population loss persisted in some parts of the northwest and east, but modest to high population gains occurred in many townships along the Interstate 71 corridor between Cleveland and Cincinnati, with substantial growth occurring in townships east of Cincinnati and south of Cleveland (Map 8)

Townships by net population change categories, 1960 to 2000: Table 6, Maps 9 thru 12

- Simply focusing on percent population change can overstate the level of growth occurring in Ohio townships as small net changes in a township's population can result in substantial percentage changes if the township is relatively small initially. Across all four decades from 1960 to 2000, the most common level of change was an increase of 1 to 499 residents in a township (Table 6). In the 1990s, 849 Ohio townships (65 percent of all townships) experienced growth of between 1 and 499 residents. During the same time period, 32 townships experienced growth greater than 2,500.
- Townships experiencing net population increases greater than 500 are consistently located near Cincinnati, Columbus, or the Cleveland-Akron metropolitan areas across all four decades. In the 1970s and 1990s, this level of population growth was quite common near these major cities.

Townships by Population Density Categories, 1960 to 2000: Table 7, Maps 13 thru 15

- One result of net or percent township population growth is steadily increasing population densities of Ohio townships throughout the state. In the 1960s, most Ohio townships (884 of 1330 townships) had population densities of less than 50 persons per square mile (Table 7). In the 1960s, medium and higher density townships, with more than 50 people per square miles, were primarily located in the Cleveland-Akron region and the Cincinnati to Dayton corridor (Map 13).
- By 1980, population growth resulted in an increased number of townships with high density; in 1960 there were 209 townships with density greater than 100 persons per square mile and in 1980 there were 297. There was an increase in higher density townships in both the northeast and southwest areas of the state, but also an increase in township density in central Ohio (Map 14). By the 1990s, there were 348 Ohio townships with population density greater than 100 residents and a continuation of the trend of higher density townships around the major urban areas and along the transportation corridors emanating from them (Map 15).