

## **Section 4: Townships Population by County and Metropolitan Area**

### **Township Population by County, Map 16 & Map 17**

- 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 (see Map 18 to identify Ohio metropolitan areas and associated counties).
- In terms of proportion of total population residing in townships, there are 14 Ohio counties in which over 70 percent of the population resides in townships (Map 17). These counties are primarily located along the southwest portion of the state. Many of the counties with the lowest proportion of residents living in townships are the counties that contain a large city, such as the case in Cuyahoga County (city of Cleveland) or Franklin County (city of Columbus).

### **Townships Population, Metro versus Nonmetro, Map 18, Figure 4 & 5**

- The metropolitan and nonmetropolitan status of counties is a common contrast to identify the effect of proximity to a large city. Metropolitan areas are defined as counties containing a city of 50,000 or more residents and those counties closely tied to the large city through commuting patterns or the presence of some portion of the core cities urbanized area within the county. In Ohio there are 15 metropolitan areas, encompassing 39 counties. Map 18 identifies the metropolitan areas and the associated counties.
- Since 1960, there has consistently been a large proportion of Ohio's township population residing in one of the 39 counties currently defined as metropolitan (Figure 4). Over this forty-year period, these 39 counties have experienced an increase of 806,933 township residents, while the nonmetropolitan counties had an increase of 340,160 residents in townships.
- The rate of growth in metropolitan versus nonmetropolitan township population has varied across the 1960 to 2000 time period (Figure 5). During the 1960s and 1980s, metropolitan township population increased at a higher rate than did nonmetropolitan township population. In the 1970s and 1990s, nonmetropolitan township population grew faster than metropolitan township population.
- Across all time periods, population growth rates of metropolitan townships have exceeded the growth rate of the cities and villages in metropolitan areas (Figure 5). In the 1970's the difference was the greatest, with metropolitan township population growing 12.1 percent while there was a population decrease 0.3 percent in metropolitan cities and villages. In the most recent time period, metropolitan township population grew 5.9 percent while metropolitan city and village population grew 4.4 percent.

## Township Population by Metropolitan Area, Table 8 and Map 19

- The Ohio metropolitan area with the largest proportion of population residing in townships<sup>2</sup> is the Youngstown-Warren metropolitan area, with 53 percent of the population residing in townships (Map 19). Canton-Massillon with 52.9 percent of its population residing in townships, Lima with 45.3 percent of its population residing in townships, and the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton metropolitan area with 44.4 percent of its population residing in townships are also metropolitan areas with a substantial proportion of persons living in townships.
- The Ohio 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 township residents. Generally, all metropolitan areas have experienced increases in the number of township residents since 1960. Dayton-Springfield and Toledo are exceptions, with modest net losses for the time period (although from 1990 to 2000, the decline of 45,940 township residents in Dayton-Springfield is substantial).

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<sup>2</sup> Steubenville-Weirton, Wheeling, Parkersburg-Marietta, and Huntington-Ashland metropolitan areas are all only partially contained in the state of Ohio and none of the central cities of these metropolitan areas are located in the state either. Thus a high proportion of percent township population in these metropolitan areas is the result of the core urban areas not being included in the computation, as the core is located in other states.