

Population

Summary

Population trends in Wayne County have been dramatic during the early 1990's, but do not exceed historically high trends when the County was settled prior to 1900. But the impact of recent growth is somewhat more extensive due to its low-density development pattern. This Element builds upon the objectives and strategies of the Land Use and Economic Development elements.

Planning Issues

*The following is an overview of population-related planning issues. For a detailed discussion, please refer to the report **Planning Issues**.*

Wayne County continues to be a popular destination for people leaving nearby metropolitan regions. Recent growth is one of the factors that led to undertaking this Plan. Issues of growth management are vital to Wayne County and resolution to gain better direction is a desired outcome of this effort. The rate of growth has been determined during the preparation of the Plan to be acceptable. What has proven to be unacceptable is the lack of direction in focusing growth to appropriate areas of the County.

Existing Conditions and Trends

*The following is an overview of existing conditions and trends. For a detailed discussion, please refer to the report **Existing Conditions and Trends**.*

Data for this Element principally was derived from the U.S. Census and forecasts prepared by Karlsberger Planning Inc.

Historic Trends

The County has increased in population by 73 percent between 1950 and 1990, from 58,716 to 101,461 persons. The same time period shows an increase of 121 percent in the total number of households. The number of persons in the labor force increased 127 percent between 1950 and 1990. The Central Planning Area was characterized by the greatest actual growth rate between 1980 and 1990, with an increase of 2,139 persons or seven percent.

Population Characteristics

The 1990 U.S. Census reported a Wayne County population of 101,461 of which 38 percent was classified as urban population and 62 percent as rural. Twenty-eight percent was under 18 years of age and persons aged 65 and older accounted for 12 percent. Wayne County has a racial composition primarily of whites, with 98 percent reported in 1990. Blacks constituted 1.5 percent of the population.

The number of persons enrolled in school in 1990 totaled 26,038. Twenty-six percent of persons 25 years of age and older had attained an education of less than a high school diploma, 41 percent had completed high school, 18 percent had attended some college or received an associates degree and persons attaining a bachelor's degree or higher characterized 14 percent of persons 25 years and older.

Nearly two-thirds of the Wayne County population reported German, Irish or English ancestries in the 1990 U.S. Census. Fifty-nine percent of residents five years of age and older had lived at the same residence between 1985 and 1990.

Two-thirds of the population 16 years of age and older were in the labor force in 1990. The mean travel time to the workplace was 17 minutes, with 77 percent of workers reported as driving alone. Public transit as the means of transportation to the workplace accounted for less than one percent of the working population. The per capita income of Wayne County, based on 1989 income figures, was \$12,237. The median household income was \$29,190. Persons with 1989 incomes of less than \$10,000 accounted for 13 percent of the population, nearly 30 percent reported incomes of \$10,000 to \$24,999, 40 percent reported \$25,000 to \$49,999 and 18 percent of persons reported 1989 incomes of \$50,000 or greater.

Population Projections

This section presents three separate methodologies for projecting future population for Wayne County. It is important to note that projections provide a yardstick for considering potential future growth and are not necessarily accurate representations. Many factors affect population growth, such as economic conditions that are unpredictable. This presentation provides three separate projections to consider the potential impact of growth. The Land Use Plan was prepared to accommodate a population of 124,000 by 2010.

- **Methodologies** - Three methodologies were used to project population growth through 2020 for Wayne County, with the following a summary of each methodology:
 - **State of Ohio** - The State projects population based upon the 1990 US Census and federal projections for the entire state, which are assigned to individual counties. This projection represents about a 0.6 percent annual growth rate.
 - **Development Activity Projection** - This projection is based upon 1990-1995 residential development activity within Wayne County. During that period 3,093 building permits for residential new construction were issued. That averages to 516 permits per year. This represents an average annual growth rate of about one percent.
 - **Two Percent Per Year** - This methodology is based upon a two percent growth rate per year, compounded annually for the planning period. This is considered an extreme projection based on the potential net increase of 81 percent in total population over the 30-year period.
- **Projections** - These methodologies result in the following population projections for Wayne County. It is important to note that the 1995 estimated population for Wayne County (based on residential building construction) is 109,936.

**Table 8.1
Population Projections**

Year	State of Ohio Method	Development Activity Method	Two Percent Method
1990	101,461	101,461	101,461
2000	107,500	115,599	123,680
2010	114,200	129,737	150,766
2020	122,030	143,866	183,783

Net Increase	20,569	42,405	82,332
Annual Increase	664	1,368	2,656

Source: Karlsberger Planning Inc., 1996.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Policies are the basis of the Comprehensive Plan and this section presents the Population Goal and two objectives. Together these policies are the driving force behind this Element. The Implementation section presents actions for each objective. The goal is:

Population growth to be consistent with economic and land use goals.

The objectives and their respective strategies are:

Objective 1 - Resource Management Areas (RMA) - Encourage implementation of Resource Management Areas, by:

- 1.1 Working with cities and villages to update comprehensive plans to reflect Resource Management Area policies.
- 1.2 Using RMAs to guide subdivision development, infrastructure extensions and road improvements.

Objective 2 - Development Targets - Encourage conformity with development targets, by:

- 2.1 Promoting development targets to manage growth by discouraging excessive building.
- 2.2 Educating the real estate community regarding Countywide growth concerns.
- 2.3 Issuing an annual report that measures changes in development, updates population and building forecasts and summarizes implementation of the **Comprehensive Plan**.

Population Plan

The **Comprehensive Plan** establishes a population target of about 124,000 persons for the planning period (through 2010). This estimate is based upon the land use targets of the Land Use Plan, which seek to direct growth to defined areas (principally cities and villages) and at higher densities than have been typical for the County.

The population target falls below the Development Activity methodology, but exceeds the state's projections (which do not accurately reflect development activity of the early 1990's). The target should be used as a measuring stick to monitor continued building activity and to modify strategies in the Land Use Element related to managing the rate of growth.

Implementation

Implementation of the Population Plan should fall in line with implementation of the Land Use Element. A detailed set of recommended actions follows which provide direction relative to the strategies presented earlier in this chapter. Actions are intended to be very defined steps that are necessary to implement individual strategies. Parties are identified that are responsible for implementing individual actions. Recommended timeframes are also provided as a measure of success. A summary of all actions presented in the **Comprehensive Plan** is provided in the Implementation Element.

