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Brief Description and Analysis of the Census Bureau's 2006 Population Estimates for Incorporated Places for Cleveland and Other Ohio Cities

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Brief Description and Analysis of the Census Bureau's 2006 Population Estimates for Incorporated Places For Cleveland and Other Ohio Cities¹

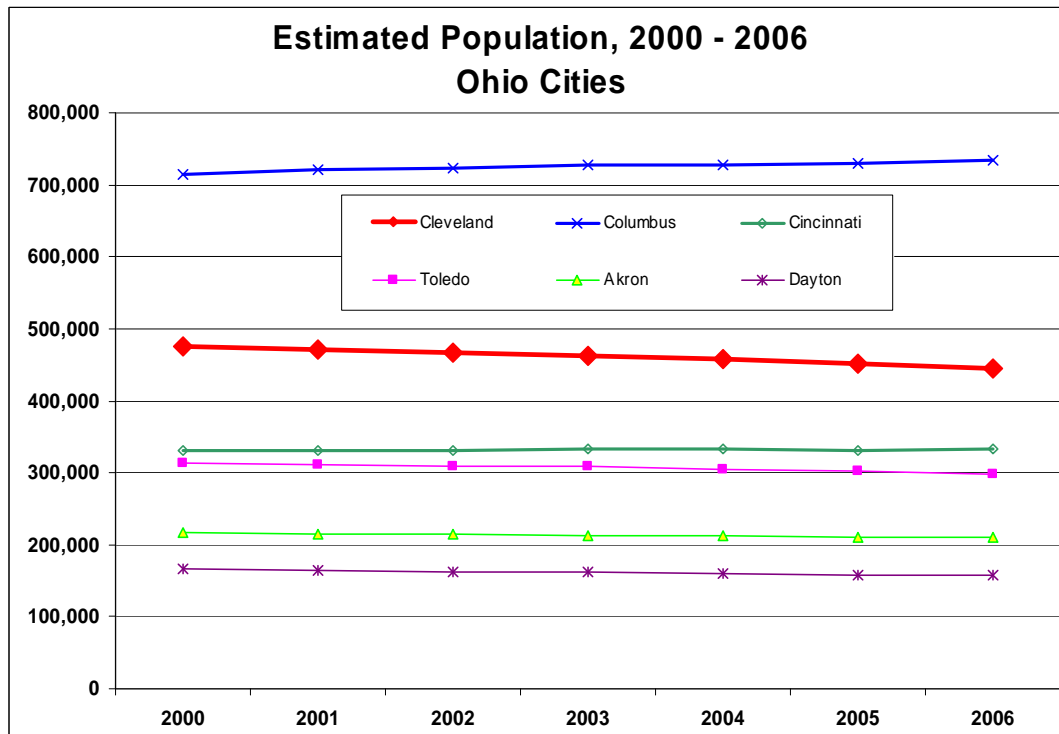
June 28, 2007

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Ohio Cities

Columbus has continued to grow in population (3.0%) between 2000 and 2006, Cincinnati has grown very slightly (0.3%), and Cleveland has continued to lose significant portions of its population (-6.9%).² Ohio's other large cities - Akron, Toledo, and Dayton - also lost significantly in the six-year period, ranging from 3.4 percent to 5.7 percent in losses.

Figure 1: Ohio Cities



Cleveland Compared to Selected Other Cities

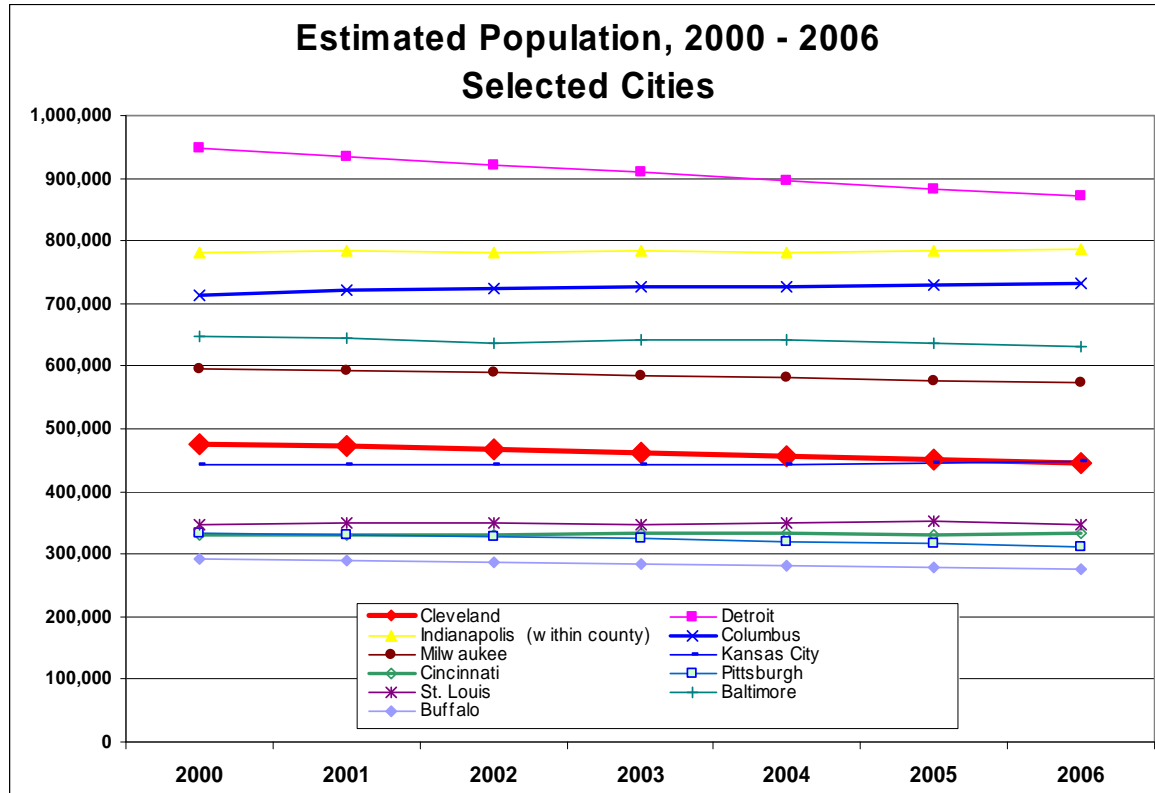
Though Cleveland's population losses are great, comparable cities such as Detroit, Baltimore (-3.0%), Milwaukee (-4.0%), Pittsburgh (-6.5%), and Buffalo (-5.7%) have all also seen declines in population in the six-year period. Detroit's losses (-8.4%) are more precipitous than Cleveland's (-6.9%).

¹ The data reported on here are from Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places Over 100,000, Ranked by July 1, 2006 Population: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (SUB-EST2006-01), Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Release Date: June 28, 2007.

² Population changes reported by the Census Bureau take into account changes in city boundaries, such as through annexation. Thus the 2000 population for this analysis has been adjusted based on current boundaries.

While population losses in these cities is reflective of regional economies and the loss of jobs, losses also occurred in Chicago (-2.2%) and San Francisco (-4.2%) - two cities that are generally viewed as among the economically more vibrant cities in the nation. Population losses in major cities are also due to urban sprawl and changes in family size. Families with children continue to move to suburbs, leaving smaller families and single person or two-adult households in the central cities.

Figure 2: Selected City Comparison



Extending Trends

The 2006 estimate of population for Cleveland is 444,313. Recent population trends for the city may not continue, and in fact could be reversed with increased regional economic growth, job opportunities, and more demand for housing in the city. Nevertheless we look here at the recent trends in population to state what the results of this continued population loss would mean in future years.

Based on the trend in population change from 2000 to 2006, Cleveland's population will fall to fewer than 400,000 by 2015.³ It will fall below 300,000 by 2033, less than 200,000 by 2052.

At this rate of change, the city would have no population by the year 2089, some 82 years from now.

It is emphasized that this analysis is a projection of recent data - it is not a forecast or prediction based on reasonable assumptions about the causes of population change. It is presented merely as a point of interest and discussion.

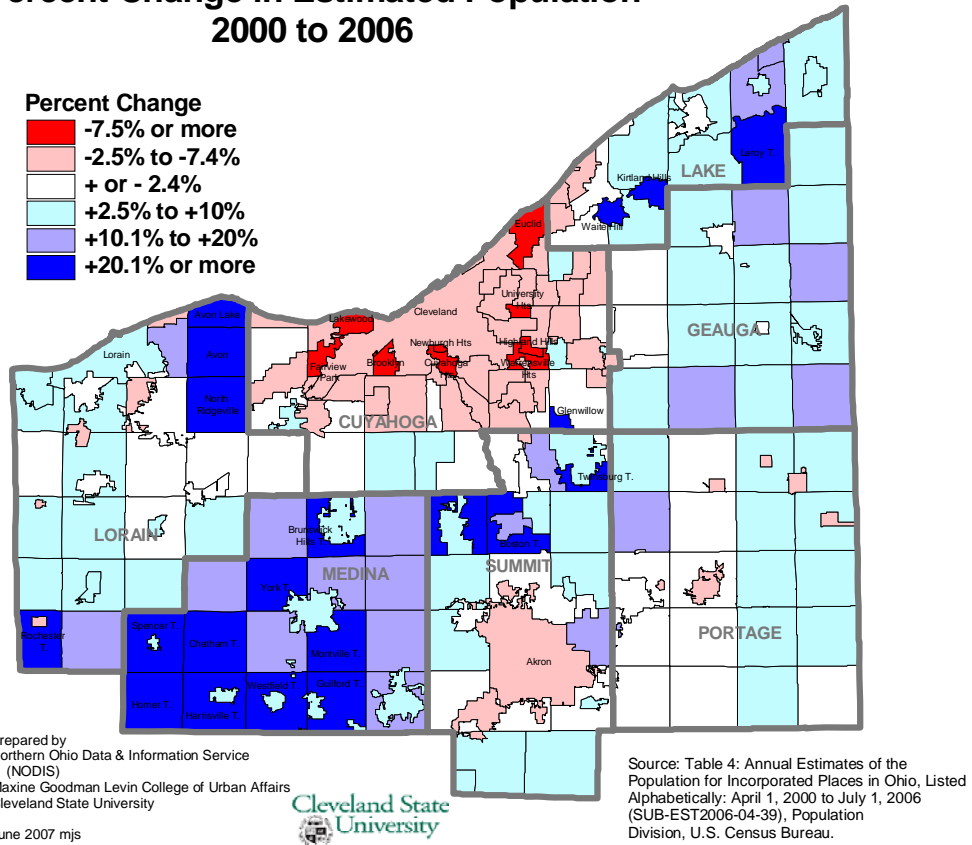
³ Projections are based the slope (rate of change) derived from a linear regression using all years from 2000 through 2006. The rate of change is applied to each projected year.

Geographic Trends

Map 1 shows that population continued to move to suburban and exurban portions of the region. Greatest percentage losses were in the inner-ring suburbs of Cuyahoga County; greatest percentage increases were in suburban areas between the larger cities (Cleveland, Akron, and Lorain) and where the interstate highway system facilitates growth in new housing. Map 2 shows that this pattern of urban sprawl at the cost of population losses in the central cities is also evident statewide.

Map 1: Change in the Seven County Area

Percent Change in Estimated Population 2000 to 2006



Map 2: Statewide Change

