

Census 2020 Demographic Profile: Charting the Changes

Office of Research A State Affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau

Charting Ohio's Changes

Ohio's population is 11,799,448, an increase of 262,944 persons from 2010 to 2020. This 2.3 percent growth was less than the 7.4 percent increase that the nation experienced. Consequently, Ohio's proportion of the nation's population decreased. The median age for the state increased 1.0 years over the decade. The aging of the population will have implications in terms of schools, services, labor force, and many other aspects of life in Ohio. The following report is a demographic snapshot of Ohio. New data, drawn from the recently released 2020 decennial census produced by the U.S. Census Bureau, was put together with data from previous censuses to show how the face of Ohio is changing and how these changes compare to the U.S.



Total Population

Ohio added more than 260,000 persons from 2010 to 2020. This continues the slow growth that started in 1970. In the 50 years from 1970 to 2020, Ohio's population increased by roughly 1.1 million. In the 20 years prior to that, Ohio grew by 2.7 million persons. Ohio accounted for 5.4 percent of the U.S. population in 1960. In 2020, the figure dropped to 3.6 percent.

Suburban counties of Columbus had the highest growth rates with Delaware and Union, in central Ohio, having the highest at 23 and 20 percent, respectively. Harrison County in east central Ohio had the largest rate of decline at 9 percent.

14,000,000								
12,000,000								
10,000,000			-	-		-	-	-
8,000,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6,000,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4,000,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,000,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0								
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020

Change in Population

	Ohio	U.S.
1950 to 1960	22.2%	18.5%
1960 to 1970	9.7%	13.3%
1970 to 1980	1.4%	11.5%
1980 to 1990	0.5%	9.8%
1990 to 2000	4.7%	13.2%
2000 to 2010	1.6%	9.7%
2010 to 2020	2.3%	7.4%

Median Age

Ohio's median age increased 1.0 year to 39.8 years, 2010 to 2020. Ohio's median age was 27.7 in 1970, its lowest in recent years. Since then, it has increased significantly but the past decade saw the smallest increase. The U.S. median age is 38.8 years, an increase 1.6 years since 2010. The nation aged more than Ohio for the first time in recent decades.

	Median Age		
	Ohio	U.S.	
1950	31.2	30.2	
1960	29.4	29.5	
1970	27.7	28.1	
1980	29.9	30.0	
1990	33.3	32.9	
2000	36.2	35.3	
2010	38.8	37.2	
2020	39.8	38.8	



Total Population

Within Ohio, the eastern portion of the state tends to be older while the central and southwestern portion tend to be younger as they are urban counties and counties with large proportions of college students. Six of the ten highest county median ages can be found in eastern Appalachian counties. Ottawa County in the northcentral portion of the state is the highest at 50.0 years. The eastern counties of Monroe, Harrison, and Carroll, all have median ages above 46 years. The lowest median age is 29.5 years in Athens County mainly due to the university population. Franklin County, which contains Columbus city, has the 3rd lowest median age at 34.2 years.

The median age increased for all but three Ohio counties from 2010 to 2020. In general, the core metropolitan counties saw less of an increase. Hamilton County, which contains Cincinnati had a decrease of 0.2 years while Mercer County, which is rural in nature, also saw a slight decrease. Vinton county in southeastern Ohio had the largest increase at 4.0 years.

Age Structure

Roughly 24 percent of the Ohio population is aged 55 to 74, the Baby Boom Generation. Ohio will continue to see a sharp increase in the retirement-age population over the decade as this group continues to age.





Age Structure: 2020, 2010, and 1950

Ten years ago, persons in that age group accounted for 20 percent of the total. Currently for the nation, the Baby Boom cohorts account for 23 percent of the population.

The 2020 dependency ratio for Ohio is .664. The dependency ratio is an agerelated measurement of economic pressure on the productive population. It is calculated by dividing nonworkingage population by the working-age population. The dependency ratio for the nation is .636.

The dependency ratio for Ohio had been declining since 1960. The decline had been driven by a drop in the younger age groups which has offset a slower increase in the aged population. With the 2020 census the older population started making up a higher proportion of the total population and has now reversed the past downward trend.





Dependency Age Populations: 1950 through 2020

Within Ohio, the higher ratio for the older portion of the population tends to be in the eastern and north central counties. Seven of the ten highest dependency ratios for the older population are in the east with the other three in the north central area. Ottawa County, in the north, has the highest ratio of 0.471 and Monroe County, located to the east, had a ratio of 0.447.

When looking at the younger portion of the dependency ratio at the county level, the higher numbers tend to be found in the western and central part of the state. In fact, 8 of 10 of the highest dependency county ratios for the younger population are in the west and center of the state. The highest ratio for the younger population can be found in Holmes County with a figure of 0.566. This is strongly affected by the high proportion of Amish people. The second highest ratio is 0.456 for Mercer County, a mostly rural county along the western border.

Race and Hispanic Ancestry

Nearly 77 percent of Ohio's population identified itself as white alone in 2020. This compares to 82 percent in 2010. For the nation, 62 percent identified themselves as white alone in 2020 and 72 percent in 2010.

The number of white people decreased by roughly 459,000 persons during the decade while all other groups increased by roughly 722,000 with many identifying as other or two or more races.



Racial Compostion: 1990 through 2020



Hispanics and Asians are the fastest growing specific groups in Ohio. The Hispanic population increased by 47 percent, or nearly 167,000 persons, from 2010 to 2020, while the Asian population increased 55 percent, or 106,000 persons. For the nation, the Hispanic population increased 23 percent, and the Asian population increased 36 percent.

Minority Population

Ohio's minority population increased 31 percent, or 668,000 persons, from 2010 to 2020. The minority population is defined as all persons except non-Hispanic whites. The minority population portion of the state increased from 18.9 percent to 24.1 percent. The other category, especially two or more races, was the largest contributing group to the increase adding nearly 328,000 persons. The total minority population for the United States increased 25 percent from 2010 to 2020 and the portion of the total population increased from 36.3 percent to 42.2 percent. Even though the non-Hispanic white population decreased, and the minority population increased, Ohio has a relatively small minority population when compared to the nation.

	Ohio		U.S.	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
White, Non-Hispanic	81.1%	75.9%	63.7%	57.8%
Black, Non-Hispanic	12.0%	12.3%	12.2%	12.1%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1.7%	2.5%	4.7%	5.9%
Other, Non-Hispanic	2.1%	4.9%	3.0%	5.5%
Hispanic, Any Race	3.1%	4.4%	16.3%	18.7%





Within Ohio, the minority population is concentrated in the central counties of metropolitan areas. Cuyahoga County, the central county of the Cleveland metropolitan area, has the highest proportion of minority population at 43 percent. Franklin County (Columbus) is next at 41 percent followed by Hamilton County (Cincinnati) at 37 percent. The three counties combined account for more than 1,393,000 minority persons, or 49 percent of Ohio's minority population. Black people make up 63 percent of these three counties' minority population. The Hispanic population has a large influence on the concentrations of minority population along the northern tier of the state with the population of the counties of Sandusky, Defiance, and Lorain being over 10 percent. Fourteen counties have a minority population below 6 percent with 12 being in Appalachian portion of the state.



Some of the fastest growth in minority population has been occurring in the suburban counties. The minority population of Delaware County in central Ohio more than doubled to 42,700 since 2010 with most of this growth coming from the Asian community and people identifying as two or more races. The minority population in Clermont County more than doubled to 20,900 with much of the growth in two or more races.

Households and Housing

The number of married couple families with children declined 10 percent over the past decade and persons living alone now make up 31 percent of households.

Married couple households account for 44 percent of Ohio households in 2020. This continues a steady decline that has been going on for decades. In 2000, married couple households accounted for 51 percent of households. In 1970, the figure was 72 percent. For the nation, the

figures were 69 percent in 1970, 48 percent in 2010, and 46 percent in 2020. While all other types of households are making up a larger portion of the total, single-person households have the largest net increase, growing by 153,000, accounting for 31 percent of Ohio households. For the nation, 28 percent of households are single

person. In 2020, nearly 13 percent of all Ohioans not in group quarters live alone.

The number of households with children declined 7 percent since 2010 while the subset of married couple households with children dropped 10 percent. Families with children at home have been generally decreasing since peaking in 1970. For the nation, the number of households with children decreased less than 3 percent and married couple households with children declined 6 percent. The cohabitating couple category was new in the 2020 census.





	Persons In	Percent	
			Living
	Total	Living Alone	Alone
1990	10,585,664	1,020,450	9.6
2000	11,054,019	1,215,614	11.0
2010	11,230,238	1,328,550	11.8
2020	11,499,820	1,481,078	12.9



Families With Children Under 18: 1970 through 2020

Geographically, single-person households are concentrated in the highly urbanized counties. All the largest counties have concentrations of over 32 percent with Cuyahoga, the highest at 37 percent. These singles tend to be younger. Counties in the eastern portion of the state see a higher concentration of persons 65 and older living alone. For Mahoning, Monroe, and Morgan County, nearly 16 percent of all households consist of an elderly person living alone.



Households with children tend to be concentrated in suburban counties. In central Ohio, 37 percent of Delaware County households have children younger than 18 years while Union County is at 36 percent. In Warren County, in southwestern Ohio, 33 percent of households have children at home. Rural Holmes County had the second highest figure at 36 percent. Counties along the eastern state boundary have lower concentrations with all of them less than 24 percent. Jefferson and Trumbull County have a rate of 21 percent.



The average household size in Ohio is 2.39, a decline from 2.44 in 2010. This was a slight leveling off from the steep decline that occurred from 1960 through 2000. The nation has gone through a similar transition.

	Average Household Size		
	Ohio	U.S.	
1950	3.43	3.38	
1960	3.40	3.29	
1970	3.16	3.11	
1980	2.76	2.75	
1990	2.59	2.63	
2000	2.49	2.59	
2010	2.44	2.58	
2020	2.39	2.54	

In 2020, 65 percent of housing units are owneroccupied. The number of homeowners increased just over 1 percent since 2010 while the number of renter-occupied housing units increased more than 11 percent. Ohio's home ownership was 65.4 percent in 2020 which is a decline from 67.6 percent in 2010. Nationally, home ownership was 63.1 percent in 2020 which is down from 65.1 percent in 2010.

Geauga County in northeast Ohio and Putnam County in northwest Ohio had the highest homeownership rates at 86 and 84 percent, respectively. Many rural counties in northwest portion of the state have home-ownership rates greater than 75 percent. The heavily urbanized counties had the lowest rates with Franklin County at 55 percent.

One-third of owner-occupied houses have no mortgage. Monroe County, in southeastern Ohio, 60 percent of owner-occupied houses are owned free and clear. At the other end, Delaware County in central Ohio only 22 percent of owner-occupied houses do not have a mortgage.

From 2010 to 2020 counties along the eastern and southern border have seen declines in population of at least 3% over the last decade. Central Ohio had 3 counties grow by more than 9.7%.

Average Household Size: 1950 through 2020





