The Exurban Change Program

Exurban Change Program
Analyzing Rural-Urban Change
Today’s Talk

• What is Exurbia?
• Trends in Exurbia
• Comparing Exurban Townships
• Questions
Exurban Change Project: Resource for Ohio Communities

• Goal: To improve understanding of changes in Ohio occurring at the Rural-Urban Interface

• Resources:
  – Data on population, land use, and other trends for Ohio townships
  – Statewide reports that analyze growth and change in Ohio
  – Customize data, analysis and consultation

• Personnel
  – Jill Clark, Program Manager
  – Jeff Sharp, Program Co-Leader
  – Elena Irwin, Program Co-Leader
What is *Exurbia*...?

**Exurban**: Areas outside the outer-belt of a major metro area, but within its commutershed.

General Characteristics:
10 to 50 miles from urban centers of approximately 500,000; or 5-30 miles from a city of at least 50,000
Commuters travel at least 25+ minutes each way to work
Communities containing a mix of long-term and newer residents
Low density development
A mix of urban and rural land uses

*Adapted from: Daniels, 1999.*
## Ohio 2000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of Ohio population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>1,309</td>
<td>3,860,763</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villages*</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>862,080</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Cities**</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>3,642,579</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cities***</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2,987,918</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ohio Population</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.3 million</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Villages are incorporated places of 0 to 4,999 residents  
**Small cities are incorporated places of 5,000 to 49,999 residents  
***Large Cities are incorporated places of 50,000 or more residents
Exurban Land Use Trends

• The fastest rates of urban land conversion are in areas located at the rural-urban interface of Ohio.

• New, lower density development has led to an increasing pattern of low-density urban land areas at the rural-urban interface.

• Urban development has caused substantial farmland loss in exurban areas
  – Ohio ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the nation in acres of prime farmland lost to urban development between 1992-1997.
Township Typology: Analyzing Differences among Ohio Exurban Communities
Identifying Township Types

Research Questions:
• What are the “stages of exurbanization”?
• What are the characteristics of townships at different stages of exurbanization?
• Can we predict how a township will progress through these stages and how it will change?
### Stages of Exurbanization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Percent of All Townships</th>
<th>Percent of Township Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1: Low urban, slow growth</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2: Low urban, above average growth</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3: Low urban, fast growth</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 4: Medium urban, above average growth</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 5: Med-high urban, below average growth</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 6: High urban, average growth</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Urban areas
Rural Townships
Exurban Townships
Stage 6
Stage 1
Stage 2
Stage 3
Stage 4
Stage 5
County boundary
Exurban Stage of Development
“Almost Rural”
Low urban, slow growth
Exurban Stage 2

“Taking Off”
Low urban,
Above average growth
Exurban Stage 3

"Rapid Change" Low urban, Fast growth

Mid Stage
“In Full Gear”
Medium urban,
Above average growth
Exurban Stage 5

“Mature”
Medium urban,
Below average growth
Exurban Stage 6

Late Stage

“Urban Equivalent”
High urban,
Above average growth
Socioeconomic Characteristics

• Differences exist among townships at various stages of exurbanization
  – **Early stage townships**
    • Most are racially homogeneous
    • Differ in terms of average income levels, degree of economic dependence, and strength of local ag sector
  – **Mid-stage townships**
    • Most are economically dependent
    • Differ in terms of the strength of the local ag sector and the mix of jobs in which residents are employed.
  – **Late stage townships**
    • Most are economically independent, have a weak ag sector, and a higher than average % of residents employed in professional, public sector, and wholesale jobs
    • Differ in terms of average income level of residents
Observations

- **Townships do not necessarily progress from stage 1 through 6**
  - Stages 1-4 appear to be a progression
  - Stage 5 may be a final exurban stage
  - Only in limited circumstances (such as adjacency to large cities) might a township evolve to stage 6

- **Some regions are “further along” than others**
  - Northeast Ohio and Cincinnati areas are dominated by later stage townships

- **Stage of exurbanization is important, but it doesn’t determine everything**
  - Economic dependence is strongly associated with stages
  - Higher and lower income townships exist at all stages
  - Strength of ag sector and job mix differ across early and mid-stages
Further Questions

- What factors determine a township’s progression through these stages?
- How fast does a township progress from one stage to the next?
- How does managing change at an earlier stage influence a community’s quality of life in later stages?
- Can earlier stage townships learn from later stage townships?
Possible Applications

• Public education on local and regional growth and change

• Community visioning

• Learning from others, e.g., identifying “sister communities”
Exurban
Change Program
Analyzing Rural-Urban Change

http://aede.osu.edu/programs/exurbs/
The Exurban Change Program analyzes economic, social, agricultural and land use change throughout Ohio’s townships, regions, and exurban/rural landscapes.

- NEW SERIES EX-5: Employment

**Introduction:** [Introduction, purpose, outreach and project objectives]

**Statewide Analysis:** [Statewide analysis and reports for Ohio]

**Township Tool:** [Data and resources for townships (grouped by county)]

**Data:** [Download data sets used for statewide analysis]

**Maps:** [Downloadable maps for Ohio and all Ohio townships]

**Research:** [Related research projects]

**Presentations:** [Presentations on Ohio’s exurban growth and change]

**Resources:** [Links to Ohio data and other exurban resources]

**Participants:** [Program collaborators, supporters and participants]