Ohio | Department of Development

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Prepared Statement of

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"Census Data and Its Use in the Development Process"

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Chairman Clay, Ranking Member Turner, and the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives, I am pleased to share with you Ohio's State Data Center experience of working with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and its many data products. The data provided by the Bureau is part of the warp and weave of policy and development here in the state. Everyday the numbers are referenced for a benchmark or trend line and are the starting points for future planning.

The first Joint Statistical Agreement between the Census Bureau and the State of Ohio was signed in 1979, forming the Ohio Census State Data Center network. This mutually supported network is comprised of 47 government, planning, academic, and library agencies widely spread across the state.

The State Data Center lead agency is housed in the Ohio Department of Development. The Office of Strategic Research is a relatively unique combination of multiple census sharing programs - the state data center, population estimates, and population projections programs all within a single state governmental agency. The Department has directly assisted the Bureau in promoting three decennial censuses. (1980, 1990, 2000)

The Office of Strategic Research's website is anchored by over 10,000 pages of value-added census data products, with a daily user volume of 663 sessions. Our most popular data product, "Ohio County Profiles" derives much of the five-page content from Census Bureau sources.

In 2006, the Ohio Data Center Network responded to over 10,000 personal requests for census information and hosted over 2.1 million aggregate user sessions on their web sites. The volume of census data queries reflected in these numbers attests to a vigorous and continuous use of census information by the citizens and governmental agencies of Ohio.

Using the Data
The most obvious use of census data is in the allocation of federal dollars. For Ohio, an annual average of $7.6 Billion in federal funding is appropriated based on census counts. This figure was derived from a ten-year review (1995-2004) of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report.

I would like to share with you several examples of how census data is incorporated into the everyday marketing and planning of government activity. The first example is a color map display of County Population Estimates. This map is used to show population concentrations and how those counties are changing annually. As can be seen, twelve counties are growing faster than the national rate while twenty-two counties are experiencing negative growth patterns.

Changing demographics of the population also have an important impact on the cost and delivery of government services. The chart on the Daily Net Growth of the Sixty-five and Over Population from 1995 to 2025 clearly demonstrated to the General Assembly of Ohio as it deliberated on the State Biennial Budget the impact of an aging population. In 2007 Ohio is experiencing a growth of thirty-six people a day in the age sixty-five and over cohort. In 2011 when the first baby-boomers, those born in 1946, reach sixty-five the daily growth jumps to one hundred forty-two per day and stays over a hundred a day for the next fifteen years. Population numbers have impact.

There are several other examples of policy and planning that I would like to mention to demonstrate the wide use of census data. The Ohio Jobs and Family Services recognized that language was a barrier for many of their clients. Using the census they were able to tailor the language options to the neighborhood rather than defaulting to limited statewide options.

Recently, The State Data Center has assisted state agencies to identify housing stock at the census tract level built pre-1950 as an indicator of lead paint. Again the census data allowed for services to be focused in areas of need.

Another highly sought after set of statistics are the number of individuals and households at, or as a percentage of, poverty as levels of eligibility for health care coverage for children. These numbers are used by the General Assembly to determine the size and scope of state assistance to populations in need.

Private Development finds that tying census numbers to a specific geography is the critical factor. The ability to cross tabulate place with population with income or education provides the decision criteria for many retailers and other business services. For major employers, the commuting pattern data helps determine the potential labor pool for a specific location. The TIGER geography program allows business to map the census data across a wide area without changing scale or paying for the creation of a base analysis map.

Census Products of Interest
The benchmark product is the Decennial Census. This one hundred percent count provides the a ccuracy and the geographic detail that provide a foundation for all other data and numbers. There is a general concern in the field that the "continuing resolution" funding of the U.S. Department of Commerce is forcing the Census Bureau to postpone the rollout and testing of the 2010 forms and methods, thus delaying the update of basic required data for community development.

The Population Estimates Branch provides annual updates on the basic building blocks – the cities, villages and townships. Here in Ohio these estimates are used to determine the eligible areas for additional liquor licenses. For many of our large cities, there is concern that the estimates methodology is biased to areas of rapid building rather than stable housing stock. The Estimates Branch is to be applauded for its completeness and timeliness, however alternative procedures should be explored.

The Current Population Survey, while the least well known, is probably the most important tool for state and local development, as it is the source for many of our performance metrics. The unemployment rate and the size of the civilian labor force at the state, county and central cities are the most basic of our metrics. Each month these numbers provide the only thermometer of local economic conditions. In addition, the annual release of educational attainment, income distribution and poverty rates are carefully studied and compared for improvement year-to-year.

The newest and, now, most carefully watched information source, is the American Community Survey. The large city poverty statistics posted over the last three years have drawn attention, as Ohio Cities have been ranked as having the highest poverty rates in the Country. The ranking process became problematic as many local statisticians began looking at the size of sample, the margins of error, and the modified definitions of the new survey to recognize that a range rather than a rank would best represent the community. In Cleveland the rank of first should have been reported as in the first tier of largest cities.

For the rest of the State – our rural and suburban places the limited sample size of the American Community Survey has made "updated" numbers unavailable. As the survey grows in years and size, we are hopeful that local communities and colleges can collaborate with the Census Bureau to increase the potential of the American Community Survey. Together in partnership with the Census Bureau we should be able to deliver on its promise of more data in a timely fashion.

In the last decade, new technologies have made the census accessible to more and more people on a twenty-four hour basis. The State Data Center in Ohio has seen the demand for data and information grow exponentially. As the Census Bureau adapts and changes, local communities and businesses alike are saying – more data in timely and standardized formats.

Thank You for the opportunity to share with the subcommittee Ohio's experience with census data. At this time I will be glad to answer your questions.

Ohio's Population

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Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the nation.

Ohio is home to 11,478,006 people—3.8 percent of the U.S. total of 299,398,484.

The state's population grew rapidly during the 1950s, after which growth moderated.

During the 1950s, Ohio gained 1.8 million residents, growing 22 percent—compared to 19 percent for the nation.

From 1960 to 2000, Ohio gained 1.6 million residents and experienced a growth rate much slower than the nation.

Since the 2000 Census, Ohio has added 125 thousand people.

From April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006, Ohio's population grew 1.1 percent, while the nation's population grew 6.4 percent.

Ohio ranked 31st in numeric growth and 48th in percentage change.

On average, Ohio added 115 people a day as a result of more births than deaths. The state experienced net out-migration of 64 people a day.

On a net basis, Ohio gained 51 people a day.

Two Ohio counties rank among the 100 fastest growing counties in the nation. (counties with over 10,000 people)

- Delaware County ranks 13th with a 43 percent increase in population from 2000 to 2006.

- Warren County ranks 80th with a 27 percent increase.

Four out of five Ohioans live in a metropolitan area.

- This ratio has been fairly constant over the course of the last several decades.

- Just under half of all Ohioans live in the three largest metro areas: Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus.

- About a third live in the four northeast Ohio metro areas: Akron, Canton, Cleveland, and Youngstown.

- About one in five live in the two southwestern metro areas: Cincinnati and Dayton.

Ohio's population is aging.

From 2000 to 2030, based on U.S. Census Bureau projections:

- the percentage of Ohioans age 65 and older will increase from 13 percent to 20 percent;

- the old-age dependency ratio (age 65 and older / age 20 – 64) will increase from 23 to 38;

- the state's median age will increase from 36.2 to 40.2.

Net growth in Ohioans 65 and older will increase from 14 per day, currently, to 119 per day in 2012.

Minorities comprise 16 percent of Ohio's population.

About one in six Ohioans is a member of a racial minority or is Hispanic. For the U.S., the ratio is three out of ten—almost twice as high.

Find out more information on Ohio's population

Census counts

Article I of the U.S. Constitution requires that a census—or complete count—be taken every 10 years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives.

Population figures, based on the Census Bureau's effort to count all people residing in the U.S. on April 1, 2000, are available as profiles (DP-1) or look-up statistics from the Census 2000 Gateway for a wide variety of geographic units.

Estimates

Population estimates are calculations of population size (or characteristics) for past dates based on data collected for those points in time from sample survey data or administrative records such as birth and death certificates and tax records.

The Census Bureau is the primary source of government-produced population estimates.

The Census Bureau annually releases estimates of the total population for states, counties, and cities, villages and townships. (Links to local government data are for Ohio only.)

In addition, the Bureau estimates population by age (selected age groups or single years for age) and racial groups, including persons of Hispanic Origin for states and counties.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis provides Census Bureau estimates in a time series format (1969 through 2004) for states, metro and micropolitan areas, and counties (first, select table CA1 - 3, then population, geographic unit(s), and time period).

As part of the 2000 Census, the Census Bureau sent a long-form survey to approximately one in six households.

Estimates of social/economic characteristics derived from this effort are available as summary profiles, look-up tables, detailed profiles (Ohio counties and large cities only), Summary File 3 reports, county-to-county commuting pattern tables, and circle—or radius—reports.

The new American Community Survey (ACS) is designed to replace the long-form survey as part of an effort to provide more timely and accurate social and economic estimates. The Office of Strategic Research recently prepared a series of charts for Ohio's ten largest cities featuring 2005 ACS data.

Projections

Population projections are calculations of population size derived for future dates using assumptions about future trends and data from censuses, surveys, and administrative records.

The Census Bureau projects population by age, sex, and race through the year 2030 for the nation and the 50 states.

The Office of Strategic Research projects population by age and sex through the year 2030 for Ohio, the 88 counties, and the Ohio portions of metropolitan areas.

Geographic Dispersion

The Census Bureau makes available a wide range of reports online—many with tables and maps using data from the 2000 Census. American FactFinder allows users to create their own thematic maps using a variety of Census statistics.

Tables and maps illustrating population dispersion in Ohio can be found in Ohio County Indicators, an annual publication prepared by the Office of Strategic Research.

Ohio 2006 County Population Estimates
Annualized Percent Change 2000 – 2006

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Williams 38,719 -0.19%
Fulton 42,900 0.31%
Lucas 445,281 -0.35%
Ottawa 41,331 0.13%
Lake 232,892 0.37%
Ashtabula 102,703 -0.00%
Defiance 39,091 -0.17%
Henry 29,520 0.17%
Wood 124,183 0.41%
Sandusky 61,625 -0.04%
Erie 78,116 -0.29%
Lorain 301,993 0.95%
Cuyahoga 1,314,241 -0.94%
Geauga 95,676 0.82%
Trumbull 217,362 -0.56%
Paulding 19,432 -0.69%
Putnam 34,744 0.01%
Hancock 73,824 0.56%
Seneca 57,255 -0.39%
Huron 60,313 0.22%
Medina 169,353 1.84%
Summit 545,931 0.09%
Portage 155,012 0.31%
Mahoning 251,026 -0.41%
Van Wert 29,303 -0.19%
Allen 105,788 -0.40%
Hardin 31,966 0.01%
Wyandot 22,553 -0.25%
Crawford 45,047 -0.67%
Richland 127,010 -0.23%
Ashland 54,727 0.66%
Wayne 113,950 0.34%
Stark 380,575 0.10%
Columbiana 110,542 -0.22%
Mercer 41,303 0.15%
Auglaize 47,060 0.15%
Marion 65,583 -0.15%
Morrow 34,529 1.41%
Knox 58,561 1.16%
Holmes 41,574 1.05%
Tuscarawas 91,766 0.15%
Carroll 29,189 0.19%
Jefferson 70,125 -0.83%
Shelby 48,884 0.32%
Logan 46,189 0.06%
Union 46,702 2.14%
Delaware 156,697 5.83%
Coshocton 36,976 0.14%
Harrison 15,799 -0.06%
Darke 52,780 -0.16%
Champaign 39,921 0.42%
Licking 156,287 1.15%
Guernsey 40,876 0.03%
Belmont 68,771 -0.33%
Miami 101,914 0.49%
Franklin 1,095,662 0.40%
Muskingum 86,125 0.29%
Clark 141,872 -0.32%
Madison 41,496 0.50%
Noble 14,165 0.12%
Monroe 14,606 -0.61%
Preble 42,491 0.06%
Montgomery 542,237 -0.49%
Greene 152,298 0.47%
Fairfield 140,591 2.19%
Perry 35,313 0.57%
Morgan 14,821 -0.08%
Washington 61,867 -0.35%
Fayette 28,305 -0.07%
Pickaway 53,606 0.26%
Hocking 28,973 0.41%
Butler 354,992 1.04%
Warren 201,871 3.96%
Clinton 43,399 1.10%
Ross 75,556 0.48%
Vinton 13,519 0.87%
Athens 61,860 -0.09%
Hamilton 822,596 -0.43%
Highland 42,833 0.75%
Pike 28,269 0.33%
Jackson 33,543 0.44%
Meigs 23,092 0.01%
Clermont 192,706 1.28%
Brown 44,423 0.79%
Adams 28,516 0.68%
Scioto 76,441 -0.56%
Gallia 31,313 0.13%
Lawrence 63,179 0.22%

Annualized Percent Change County Population 2000 – 2006

- -0.94% to -0.19%
- -0.18% to +0.18%
- +0.19% to +1.00%
- +1.01% to +5.83%
- County with population of 300,000 or more

Ohio

2006 Estimate	11,478,006		
2000 Census Population	11,353,140		
Percent Change (Annualized) 2000 to 2006	+0.18%		Greater than Ohio
U.S. Percent Change (Annualized) 2000 to 2006	+1.00%		Greater than U.S.