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Wayne County

General Overview

Formed in 1823, Wayne County is the birthplace of the Church of Latter Day Saints, an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and a fertile fruit growing region. Situated on the shore of Lake Ontario, Wayne is the northeastern-most county in the Finger Lakes region. Wayne is the third-largest county by population in the region, after Monroe and Ontario, and the largest in the region by land area.

Trends in Wayne County largely mirror the region, with declining median income, a shrinking and aging population, and increasing child poverty; yet, homes are affordable and most crime rates are falling. Although tourism revenue is the lowest in the region and has fallen substantially, the county is home to several interesting spots, including Chimney Bluffs State Park and Hill Cumorah, an historic site where Joseph Smith said he found the golden tablets which were the basis for the Book of Mormon and which hosts an annual Mormon pageant.

Demographic Overview

Wayne's population is falling, but is still higher than most counties in the region:

- In 2016, Wayne was home to nearly 91,000 residents, making it the third largest county in the region behind Monroe and Ontario. Wayne accounted for 7% of the total regional population.
- Wayne lost 3.2% of its population from 2000 to 2016, in comparison to increases nationally (14.8%), statewide (4%), and for the region as a whole (1.1%). Wayne County experienced the third largest decrease in population over the same time period, behind Orleans and Wyoming.

Wayne County's population is aging:

- The number of residents aged 60 to 84 grew by 30% from 2000 to 2016, while the 85 and older age group grew by 35%. Both figures are comparable to large increases nationally, regionally, and for most regional counties.
- During the same period, Wayne's population under 20 shrank by 19% (a greater decrease than for the state and region), while its population aged 20 to 39 declined by 18% (also more than the state and region).

Despite increases in its Asian and Hispanic population, Wayne remains primarily white:

- From 2000 to 2016, Wayne's Asian and Hispanic populations grew by 43% and 67% respectively, while the African American and White populations shrank by 5% and 3%, respectively.
- Wayne, with a population that is 93% white, is less diverse than the state (64% white) and region (82% white). Hispanics made up 4% of the total population, African Americans 3%, and Asian residents under 1%.

Wayne has seen a drop in the share of households composed of married couples with children:

- In 2012-16, 19% of Wayne households were composed of married couples with children, similar to the region (17%) and on par with the state. The rate is 7 points lower than in 2000.
- Over the same period, the share of households composed of married couples without children increased by 2 points to 33%, and those living alone raised 4 points to 26% in 2012-16.

Arts, Culture and Leisure

Wayne had both the lowest tourism revenue per resident in the region and the greatest decrease since 2005:

- In 2016, tourism revenue was \$438 per resident, well below the state (\$3,240), region (\$1,305), and the other counties in the region.
- Wayne's revenue per resident fell by 11% from 2005 to 2016, compared to increases for the state (18%) and region (7%).

Wayne County also had the largest regional decrease in recreational tourism revenue, dropping 31% from \$30 per resident in 2005 to \$20 in 2016—the lowest rate in the region.

Children and Youth

Child poverty was relatively low in Wayne but has increased more than the nation and state since 2000:

- In 2012-16, 17% of Wayne's children lived below the poverty line, slightly lower than the state (22%), region, and nation (both 21%).
- From 2000 to 2012-16, the poverty rate increased by 6 points, a larger increase than for the nation (4 points), state (2 points), and region (7 points).

Consistent with regional trends, Wayne County has experienced an increase in the proportion of single-parent families:

- In 2012-16, 36% of Wayne families were headed by a single parent, close to the nation and state (35% and 37% respectively), and below the region (39%).
- Wayne's rate rose by 8 points from 2000 to 2012-16, a greater increase than the state (4 points) and nation (6 points) and less than the region (8 points).

In 2015, 69% of Wayne mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, below the state (76%) and the region (79%). The rate of mothers receiving early prenatal care dropped by 7 points from 2014.

The rate of pregnancies among 15- to 19-year-olds declined throughout the decade from 4.9% in 2000 to 2.3% in 2015. Wayne's 2015 rate was slightly higher than the region's rate (2.2%).

Wayne's rate of low-weight births in 2015 (8%) was slightly higher than the region (7.6%) and state (7.8%), and it rose by more than 2 points from 2000 (compared to little change for the state, region, and nation).

Community Engagement

Voter registration in Wayne County matched regional rates:

- In 2016, 82% of eligible voting-age adults were registered to vote, higher than the state (80%), and on par with the region (82%).
- Wayne's voter registration rate fell by 3 points from 2000, in contrast to small increases for the state and region (up 2 and 1 point respectively).

In the 2014 midterm election, 36% of eligible voters in Wayne turned out to vote, down 2 points from 2010 but higher than for the state (25%) and similar to the region (35%). Turnout for the 2016 presidential election (56%) was higher than the state (50%) and many regional counties, just above the nation (55%), and just below the region as a whole (58%).

Wayne County's share registered borrowers decreased by almost 41 points since 2000, but library visits have increased:

- In 2016, 50% of residents in Wayne's county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (55%) and region (63%).
- The number of library visits has increased by 41% in Wayne, a much larger increase than for the state (2%) and region (7%), but still a smaller increase than for many other counties in the region.

Charitable giving in Wayne County lagged behind some regional counties:

- On average, Wayne County residents gave about \$2,800 in 2015, far below the nation (\$6,000), state (\$6,950), region (\$4,440) and every other regional county.
- Average charitable giving increased by 12% since 2011, compared to a 23% increase at the national level and a 26% increase for the state.

Economy

The unemployment rate has fallen since the Great Recession, but is still slightly higher in Wayne than in the region:

- In 2016, the unemployment rate in Wayne was 4.9%, equal to the nation and slightly above the state (4.8%) and region (4.7%).
- The unemployment rate fell by almost 4 points from its peak in 2010, and is now just 1.1 points above its low of 3.8% in 2000.

In Wayne, total jobs declined by 1% from 2001 to 2016, though some sectors performed better than others relative to the region:

- Wayne's 1% decline in jobs is striking when compared to the growth of 17% experienced by the nation, 18% by the state, and 4% for the region during the same time period. Wayne and Wyoming counties were the only regional counties to not experience job growth in this time period.
- All three of Wayne's three largest sectors – Manufacturing, Government, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities – shrank, by 17%, 4%, and 6% respectively. For the region, Manufacturing and Government decreased 34% and 3% respectively while Trade, Transportation and Utilities increased 4%.
- Wayne's share of regional jobs was disproportionately lower than its share of regional population – in 2015, Wayne had 7% of the total regional population, but made up just 5% of the total regional jobs.

Wayne's growth in average salary outpaced the region:

- From 2000 to 2016, the average salary in Wayne grew by 10%, compared to increases of 9% for the nation, 8% for the state, and 3% for the region. However, Wayne's average salary increase was smaller than several other regional counties.
- In 2016, Wayne's average salary was \$40,330, lower than the nation (\$52,950), state (\$67,090), and region (\$46,460).

Education

Prekindergarten participation has increased dramatically and is now higher than the state and region:

- In 2016, 58% of eligible children participated in prekindergarten, higher than the rate for the state (52%), region (44%), and most regional counties.
- Wayne's rate rose by 53 points from 2001 to 2016, a much greater increase than for the state and region (up by 37 and 33 points respectively over that period).

Performance on state tests was mixed, but generally on par or worse than the region:

- Student performance on grade 8 math was on par with the region (15%) but below the state (22%). Grade 8 English performance at 36% was below the region (40%) and the state (45%).
- Wayne students fared a bit worse than the region on 3rd grade English (35% vs. 37%) and 4th grade math (36% vs. 41%).
- A notable exception was on the Common Core Algebra 1 Regents exam, which 86% of Wayne students passed, versus 78% for the region. The passing rate in Wayne (88%) was above the region (84%) on Regents English.

The four-year graduation rate in Wayne was 87% in 2017, above the state (82%) and the region (85%).

Wayne County adults age 25 and over had less formal education than in the region, state or nation:

- In 2012-16, 54% of adults in Wayne had attended at least some college, compared to 62% in the region and 59% in the state and nation. Wayne also had a much lower rate of adults who had attained a bachelor's or higher (21%) than the state (35%), nation (30%), and region (31%).

Total spending per student by school districts in Wayne County was \$21,424 in 2016, below the state (\$23,361) and above the region (\$21,163). Wayne's rate rose by 50% from 2000 to 2016, slightly below the state (52%) but above the region (46%).

Financial Self-Sufficiency

Wayne's median household income, once among the highest in the region, has fallen considerably since 2000:

- In 2012-16, the median household income in Wayne was \$51,630, below the nation (\$55,320), state (\$60,740), and region (\$54,110).
- From 2000 to 2012-16, median income fell by 19% in Wayne, a greater decrease than the nation (9%), state (3%), and region (13%). Wayne's drop exceeded every other county in the region.

Despite increasing from 2000, the poverty rate in Wayne is lower than the state, nation, and region:

- In 2012-16, 12% of Wayne residents lived below the poverty line, versus 15% for the state and nation and 14% for the region.
- Wayne's rate rose by 3 points from 2000 to 2012-16, a greater increase than for the state (no change), below the region (4 points), and on par with the nation.

In Wayne county 1.1% of the population received temporary assistance, below the state (2.9%) and region (2.8%). Similar to trends in other regional counties excluding Monroe, Wayne experienced an increase in the number of residents receiving temporary assistance, up 0.2 points from 2001 to 2016. Rates in the region and state declined during this time period (0.3% and .8% respectively).

In 2016, Wayne served 8.1 emergency meals per resident—more than quadruple the number served per resident in 2000.

Health

The rate of uninsured has fallen slightly and remains below the state and nation:

- In 2015, 6% of Wayne residents lacked health insurance, similar to the region (6%) but below the nation (11%) and state (8%).
- Wayne's uninsured rate fell by 5 points from 2008 to 2015, similar to the decreases at the state, nation, region and surrounding counties over the same timeframe.

Like other counties in the region, the mortality rate has decreased since 2000 in Wayne:

- In 2015, there were 760 deaths per 100,000 residents, above the rate of 634 for the state and 706 for the region.
- The rate fell by 13% from 2000 to 2015, on par with the regional decrease of 13%, but smaller than the statewide decrease of 21%.

The rate of chlamydia infections has doubled since 2001, but remains lower than the state, region, and most regional counties.

In 2014, Wayne had the second-lowest rate of doctors among every regional county at only 8 per 10,000 residents. This is considerably lower than the state (37), and regional (32) rates in 2014.

Housing

Median home values have fallen in Wayne and remain lower than the nation and state:

- In 2012-16, the median home value in Wayne was \$115,100, below the nation (\$184,700), state (\$286,300) and region (\$130,460).
- Wayne's median home value fell about 2% from 2000 to 2012-16, similar to the small regional decrease (2%) and in contrast to larger increases for the state (39%) and nation (19%).

In 2012-16, the homeownership rate in Wayne was 77%, little-changed from 2000. This rate was higher than the region (68%), state (54%), and nation (64%).

Although housing and rent have become more unaffordable over time, both are more affordable in Wayne than the state, nation, and region:

- In 2012-16, the ratio of median home value to median income was 1.9, on par with the region, and lower than the state (3.4), and nation (2.6). A ratio below 3 or 4 is considered affordable.
- The ratio rose nearly 19% from 2000 to 2012-16, a smaller increase than for the nation (24%) and state (42%) but similar to the region (17%).
- In 2012-16, 32% of renters' income went to rent, similar to the nation and below the state and region. The rate rose by 5 points from 27% in 2000, similar to the regional increase and slightly below the point-increases seen for the state and nation (each 6 or higher). A rate of 30% or below is considered affordable.

Public Safety

From 2000 to 2016, the rate of serious crime in Wayne fell 32% (from 229 to 156 per 10,000 residents), a smaller decrease than in the state and region over that timeframe, though similar to the national decrease of 31%. The rate stood at 156 per 10,000 residents, lower than the state, region, and nation, but above several regional counties.

The rate of violent crimes in Wayne increased from 13 to 16 per 10,000 residents from 2000 to 2016, a 25% increase that was greater than the increase in the region and in sharp contrast to the decline across the country and state over the same timeframe.

The property crime rate fell to 140 per 10,000 residents in 2016, a 35% decrease from 2000. This decrease was larger than the national, though smaller than the decreases in the state and region.

The rate of juvenile delinquency intakes in Wayne decreased between 2000 and 2016, falling 54% to 72 per 10,000 children between ages 7 and 16. This rate is much higher than the state (45) and the region (51) and is the second highest among the regional counties.

Note: Data research and analysis completed by [the Center for Governmental Research](#)