



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

2000

VS.

2006





PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE COMPARISON FOR THE YEARS 2000 and 2006

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide the Portage County Combined General Health District and other agencies with a demographic profile of Portage County that may assist in identifying populations in need of targeted interventions to impact health and well-being.

DATA SOURCES

1) Year 2000 Decennial Census

An actual enumeration conducted every 10 years of the entire population of residents in the United States and its territories and island areas. Data is available for a variety of geographical areas, including states, counties, county subdivisions, census tracts and blocks. The Decennial Census consists of:

Short Form – 100% sample

- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Gender
- Housing Tenure
- Housing Vacancy

Long Form – Sample of approximately 1 in 6 households

- Other categories

2) Year 2006 American Community Survey (ACS)

An annual nationwide survey of a sample of approximately 3 million households in the United States. Information is available for all states, counties with a population of 65,000 or more, cities of 65,000 or more and congressional districts of 65,000 or more

TECHNICAL NOTES

Comparability of the Data

The base population for the 2000 Decennial Census consisted of all persons living in housing units and/or group quarters. Alternatively, the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) was conducted among a sample of all persons living in housing units and/or group quarters. The group quarters population includes all persons residing in such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' facilities, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. It is expected that the social, housing, and economic characteristics of many group quarters populations vary greatly from the housing unit population. Further, the U.S. Census Bureau states that "there are global differences that exist between the 2006 ACS and Census 2000", including "differences in residence rules, universes, and reference periods" (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007). However, subject matter specialists at the U.S. Census Bureau have concluded that, for most populations, valid comparisons can be made between the 2006 ACS and the 2000 Decennial Census.

Accuracy of the Data

Estimations in this document are based on data that may be subject to sampling and/or non-sampling error. The 2006 ACS and the long form of the 2000 Decennial Census (which includes questions regarding occupation, income, housing value, etc) were conducted among a sample of the population rather than the 100-percent population. Therefore, statistics based on these samples may differ from those that would have been obtained had the entire population been surveyed. This difference is referred to as sampling error and is represented by the margin of error (MOE).

The U.S. Census Bureau provides MOEs with the population estimations obtained from ACS data (the MOEs associated with estimates from the 2000 Census are assumed to be minimal in most comparisons and are not reported). An MOE can be represented in many ways, but for the purposes of this report it is documented as $\pm n$ or $\pm x\%$, the number or percentage that can be subtracted and added to the estimate to form a range of possible true estimates of the 100-percent population. A value of ***** for an MOE indicates that the estimate was controlled by the U.S. Census Bureau during sampling and therefore, an estimation of sampling error is not appropriate.

In this report, changes in the estimates from 2000 to 2006 are identified as statistically significant (Y) or not statistically significant (N). To determine whether or not an observed change is significant, a statistical test was performed that took into account the MOE estimates of the data and the possibility that the difference was observed by chance alone. The result of the statistical test is a two-sided probability value (p-value) that, when less than 0.10 ($p < 0.10$), indicates that there is less than a ten percent chance that the change is being observed in error. Conversely, it indicates that there is a 90 percent chance that the population estimates truly changed from 2000 to 2006. Further information regarding the accuracy of the data is available from the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 and U.S. Census Bureau, 2006).

Estimates in this document are also subject to non-sampling error. Unlike sampling error, non-sampling error can affect both sample data and 100-percent data. Further, it can either be random or systematic. Because random error occurs at random, it tends to increase the range of possible true estimates and, therefore, should be included as part of the MOE. Systematic error, on the other hand, tends to bias the data in one direction because the errors occur in a consistent manner. For instance, if respondents to a survey tend to consistently overestimate their housing value (possibly because of social norms), then the data will reflect erroneously high housing values. Data biases such as this are not reflected in the MOE and usually cannot be measured. Hence, the possibility of various types of non-sampling error should be taken into account when interpreting the estimates provided in this document.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Summit County Health District's Office of Epidemiology and Biostatistics conducted all analyses, constructed all tables and figures, and wrote the commentary for this report.

The U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder system was utilized to document estimates obtained from both the 2000 Decennial Census and the 2006 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008). All geographical maps were created in ESRI ArcMap, version 9.1 using the 2007 TIGER/Line Shapefile for Portage County available from the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008).

**PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE COMPARISON
2000 v. 2006**



SECTION 1

**SOCIAL
CHARACTERISTICS**

- Age**
- Gender**
- Race**
- Ethnicity**
- Place of Birth**
- Marital Status**
- School Enrollment**
- Educational Attainment**
- Residential Population Map**



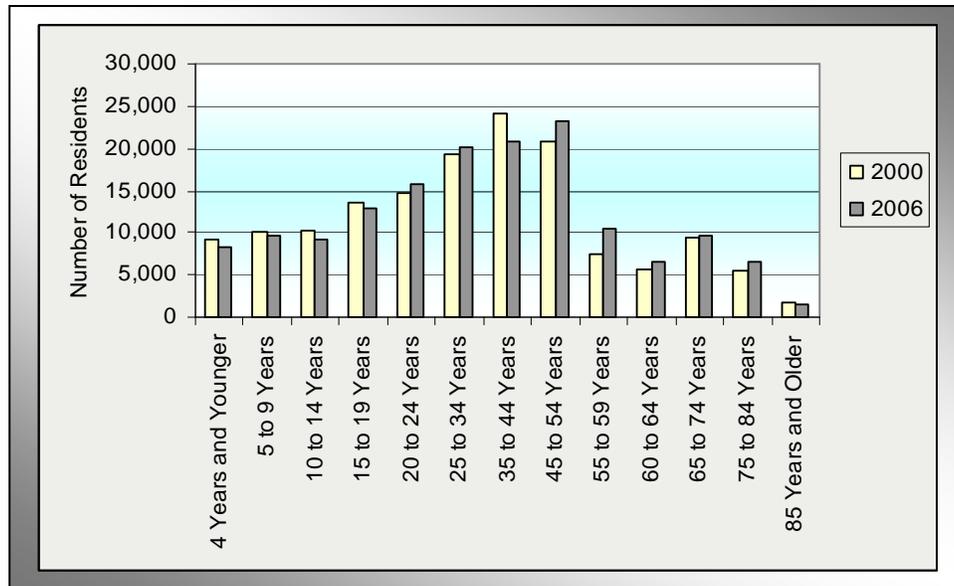
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The table below is a profile of the total Portage County population by age. The chart that follows displays the aging trend in the county and illustrates that, with the exception of the “35-44 years” and “85 years and over” categories, the population over age 20 has grown in the years between 2000 and 2006, while the population under age 20 has declined.

Table 1: Age Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000-2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
AGE							
4 years and younger	9,297	6.1%	8,306	5.4%	618	-10.7%	Y
5-9 years	10,167	6.7%	9,567	6.2%	914	-5.9%	N
10-14 years	10,345	6.8%	9,215	5.9%	855	-10.9%	Y
15-19 years	13,494	8.9%	13,026	8.4%	549	-3.5%	N
20-24 years	14,600	9.6%	15,725	10.1%	851	7.7%	Y
25-34 years	19,374	12.7%	20,189	13.0%	742	4.2%	Y
35-44 years	24,155	15.9%	20,829	13.4%	385	-13.8%	Y
45-54 years	20,762	13.7%	23,289	15.0%	518	12.2%	Y
55-59 years	7,471	4.9%	10,552	6.8%	975	41.2%	Y
60-64 years	5,708	3.8%	6,550	4.2%	1,008	14.8%	N
65-74 years	9,471	6.2%	9,668	6.2%	202	2.1%	N
75-84 years	5,541	3.6%	6,620	4.3%	483	19.5%	Y
85 years and over	1,676	1.1%	1,476	1.0%	438	-11.9%	N
TOTAL POPULATION	152,061	100.0%	155,012	100.0%	*****	1.9%	*****
Median age	34.4	*****	35.7	*****	0.5	3.8%	Y

Figure 1:
Age Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006



Portage County’s social demographic profile also includes the following:

GENDER

- In 2000, males made up 48.8% of the population; females made up 51.2%
- In 2006, males made up 48.2% of the population; females made up 51.8%

RACE

The table below shows the race profile of Portage County in 2000 and 2006. Portage County remains predominantly Caucasian, with only the Caucasian and Asian populations showing a significant increase between 2000 and 2006.

Table 2: Race Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000-2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
<i>RACE</i>							
White	143,545	94.4%	144,671	93.3%	536	0.8%	Y
Black or African American	4,840	3.2%	5,339	3.4%	749	10.3%	N
American Indian or Alaskan Native	277	0.2%	325	0.2%	211	17.3%	N
Asian	1,246	0.8%	1,946	1.3%	180	56.2%	Y
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	20	0.0%	0	0.0%	261	-100.0%	N
Other Race	328	0.2%	797	0.5%	539	143.0%	N
Two or More Races	1,805	1.2%	1,934	1.2%	788	7.1%	N
TOTAL POPULATION	152,061	100.0%	155,012	100.0%	*****	1.9%	*****

HISPANIC ETHNICITY

- In 2000, 0.7% of the population reported their ethnicity as Hispanic, with the remaining 99.3% reporting as Non-Hispanic.
- In 2006, Hispanic ethnicity was reported by 0.8% of the population and Non-Hispanic ethnicity reported by 99.2%.

PLACE OF BIRTH

- 98.0% of Portage County’s population was native-born in 2000; in 2006, the percentage was 97.1% (MOE ±0.6%). Conversely, foreign-born individuals made up 2.0% of Portage County’s population in 2000 and 2.9% in 2006 (MOE ±2.3%).

MARITAL STATUS

The table below displays marital status of Portage County residents in 2000 and 2006. The data shows a significant increase in the “Never Married” population, as well as the overall population 15 years of age and over.

Table3: Marital Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v.2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
Never Married	36,305	29.7%	42,935	33.6%	2,608	18.3%	Y
Currently Married	66,238	54.2%	63,383	49.5%	3,637	-4.3%	N
Separated	1,125	0.9%	1,350	1.1%	654	20.0%	N
Widowed	6,523	5.3%	7,336	5.7%	943	12.5%	N
Divorced	12,065	9.9%	12,920	10.1%	1,702	7.1%	N
TOTAL POPULATION 15 YEARS OR OVER	122,256	100.0%	127,924	100.0%	398	4.6%	Y

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The chart below shows school enrollment figures for Portage County residents 3 years and over in 2000 and 2006. Enrollment in college or graduate school has shown an increase, while enrollment in other categories has decreased.

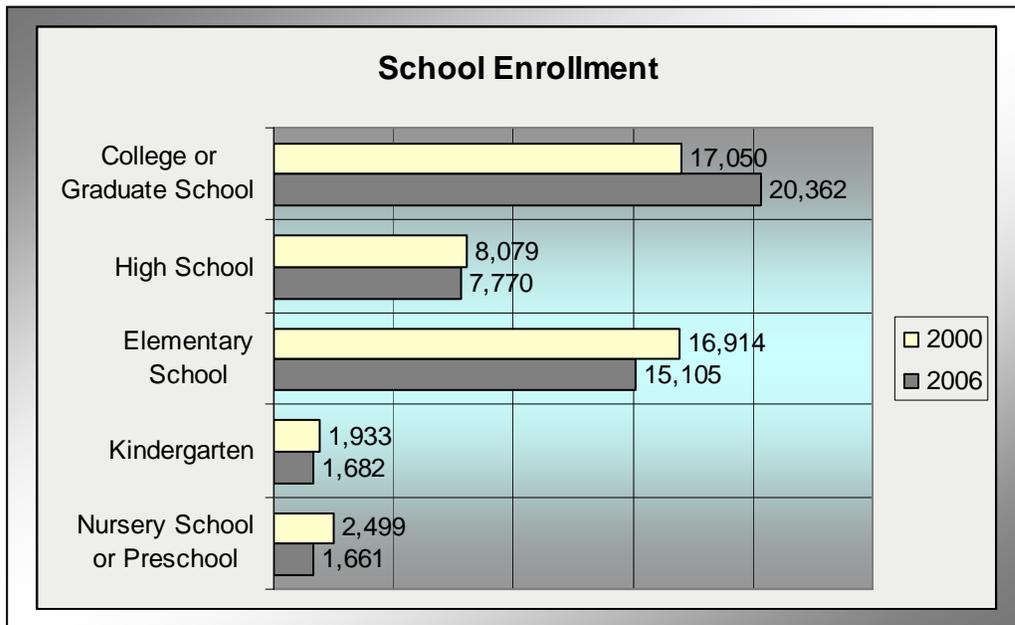


Figure 2: School Enrollment Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006

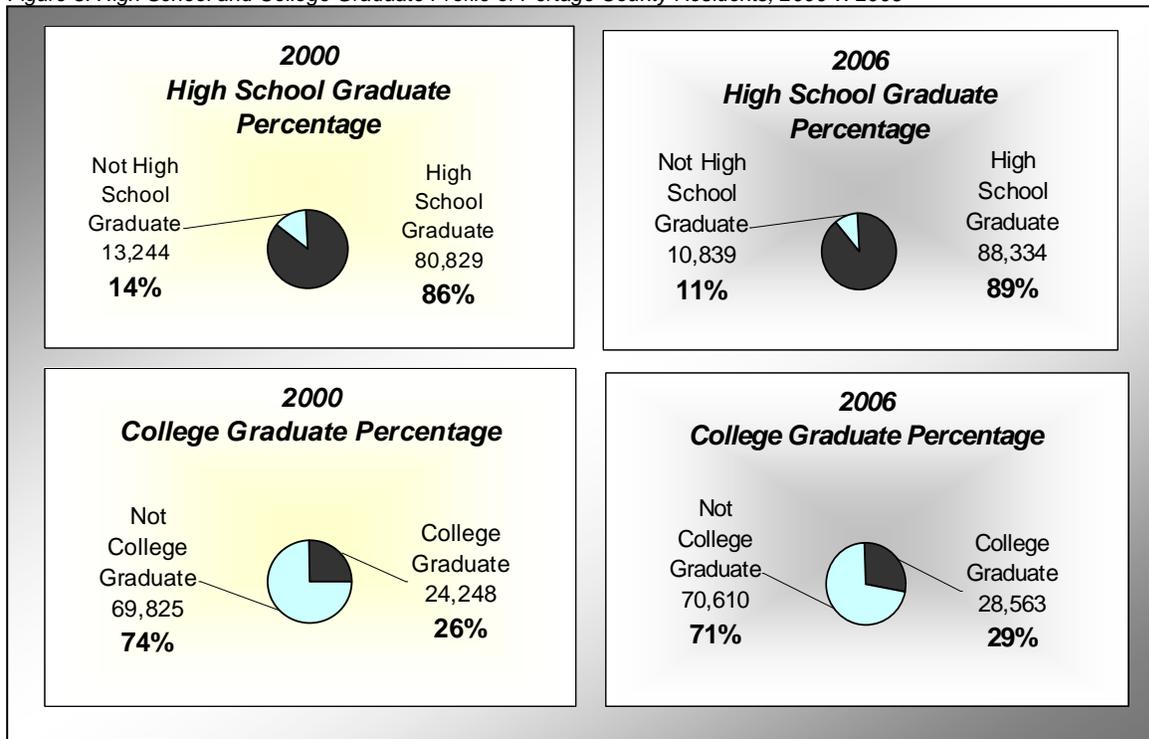
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The table and charts below show educational attainment among Portage County residents 25 years and older in 2000 and 2006.

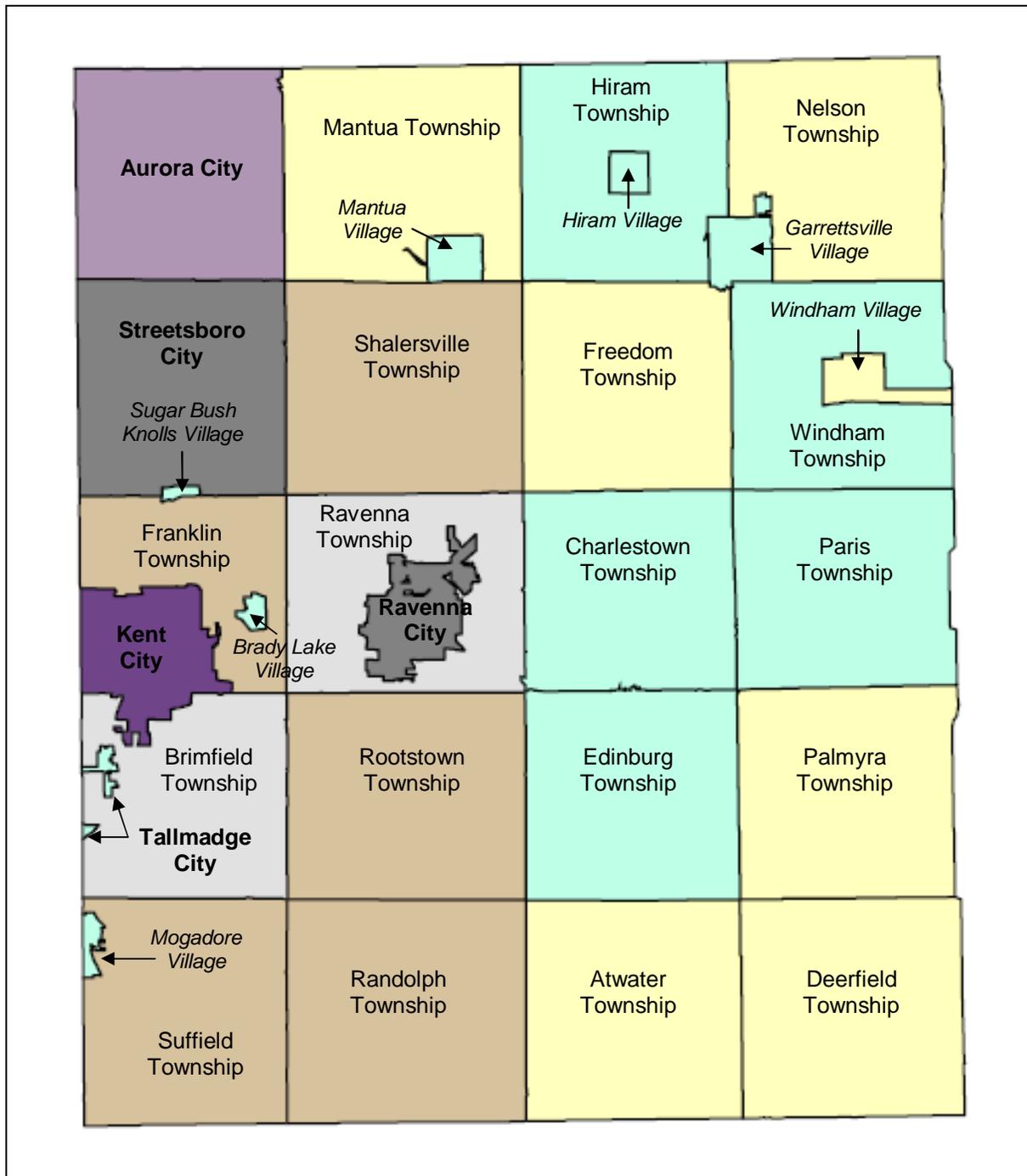
Table 4: Educational Attainment Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000-2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT							
Less than 9 th Grade	2,768	2.9%	2,543	2.6%	690	-8.1%	N
9 th to 12 th Grade, No Diploma	10,476	11.1%	8,296	8.4%	1,582	-20.8%	Y
High School Graduate or Equivalent	37,558	39.9%	40,142	40.5%	2,165	6.9%	Y
Some College, No Degree	19,023	20.2%	19,629	19.8%	1,981	3.2%	N
Associate's Degree	4,469	4.8%	5,199	5.2%	1,067	16.3%	N
Bachelor's Degree	13,132	14.0%	15,403	15.5%	1,806	17.3%	Y
Graduate or Professional Degree	6,647	7.1%	7,961	8.0%	1,050	19.8%	Y
TOTAL POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OLDER	94,073	100.0%	99,173	100.0%	780	5.4%	Y

Figure 3: High School and College Graduate Profile of Portage County Residents, 2000 v. 2006



Map 1: Residential Population in Portage County Subdivisions, 2000*



* 2006 ACS data is not available at the geographic subdivision level in Portage County; comparisons may be available at a later date.

**PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE COMPARISON
2000 v. 2006**



SECTION 2

**HOUSING
CHARACTERISTICS**

- Year Housing Unit Built**
- Housing Occupancy**
- Housing Tenure**
- Occupants per Room**
- House Heating Fuel**
- Mortgage Status**
- Vehicles Available**
- Housing Value**
- Monthly Owner Costs**
- Monthly Renter Costs**
- Housing Density Map**



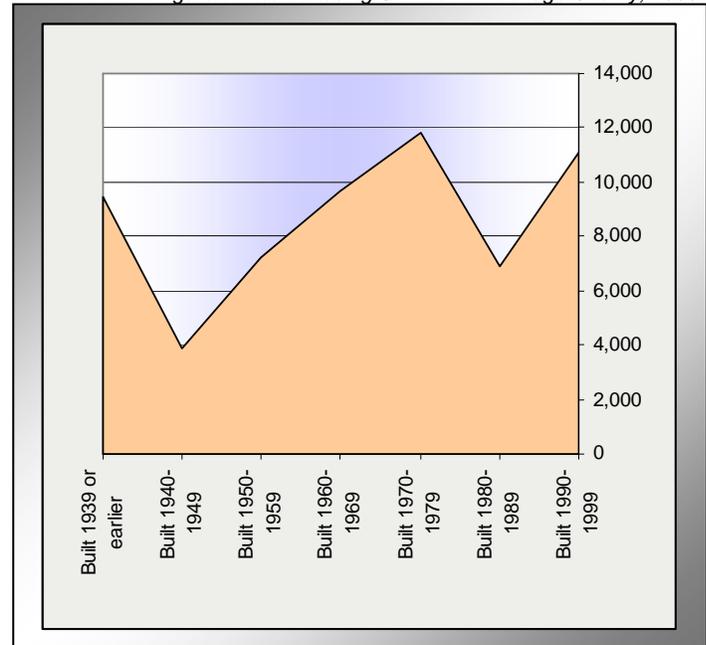
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

YEAR HOUSING UNIT BUILT

Portage County's housing profile shows that:

- **15.8%** of housing structures were built in **1939 or earlier**
- **6.5%** of housing structures were built between **1940 and 1949**
- **12%** of housing structures were built between **1950 and 1959**
- **16.1%** of housing structures were built between **1960 and 1969**
- **19.7%** of housing structures were built between **1970 and 1979**
- **11.5%** of housing structures were built between **1980 and 1989**
- **18.5%** of housing structures were built between **1990 and 1999**

Figure 4: Year Housing Unit Built in Portage County, 2000



HOUSING OCCUPANCY

Portage County census data showed a total of 60,096 **housing units** in 2000, and an estimated 64,762 (MOE ± 115) in 2006, revealing a statistically significant increase of 7.8% in the total number of housing units. Of the total housing units in 2000, 56,449 (93.9%) were **occupied** and 3,647 (6.1%) were **vacant**. In 2006, 59,689 units (92.2%) were **occupied** (MOE $\pm 1,290$) and 5,073 (7.8%) were **vacant** (MOE $\pm 1,283$).

HOUSING TENURE

There were 56,449 **occupied housing units** reported in Portage County in 2000, and 59,689 units (MOE $\pm 1,290$) reported in 2006. The majority of these were **owner-occupied**: 40,242 (71.3%) in 2000 and 41,824 (70.1%) in 2006 (MOE $\pm 1,634$). The number of **renter-occupied** units in 2000 was 16,207 (28.7%) and in 2006 the number was 17,865 (29.9%, MOE $\pm 1,660$). Although increases were shown in both categories, neither is statistically significant.

OCCUPANTS PER ROOM

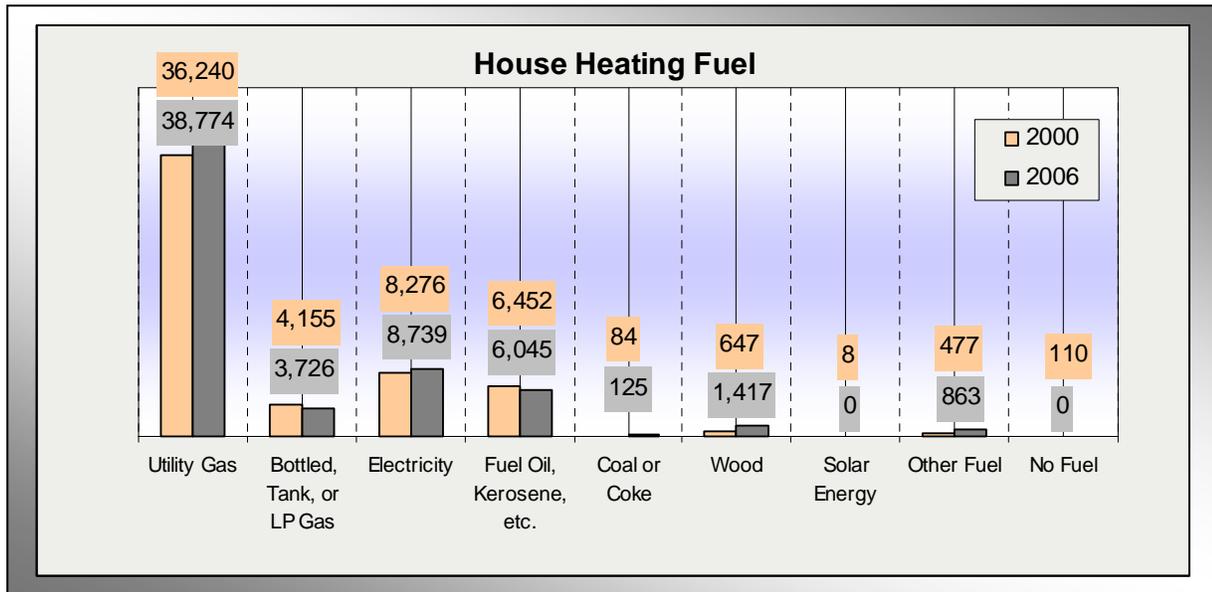
Among the 56,449 **occupied housing units** in 2000, 55,732 (98.7%) had an occupancy rate of **1.0 or fewer** occupants per room. There were 571 units (1.0%) which had an occupancy rate of **1.1 to 1.5** occupants per room and there were 146 units (0.3%) with an occupancy rate of **1.6 or more** occupants per room.

In 2006, among the 59,689 **occupied housing units** (MOE $\pm 1,290$), 58,815 units (98.5% - MOE $\pm 1,307$) had an occupancy rate of **1.0 or fewer** occupants per room. There were 807 units (1.4% - MOE ± 509) which had an occupancy rate of **1.1 to 1.5** occupants per room and there were 67 units (0.1% - MOE ± 111) with an occupancy rate of **1.6 or more** occupants per room.

HOUSE HEATING FUEL

Utility gas continues to be the predominant source of house heating fuel in Portage County. In the 2000 census, 36,240 households (64.2%) reported using utility gas and in 2006, the numbers increased to 38,774 (65.0%, MOE $\pm 1,825$). The figures for utility gas and other types of heating fuel utilized by Portage County residents are shown in the chart below.

Figure 5: Heating Fuel Utilized Among Housing Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



MORTGAGE STATUS

AMONG OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS IN 2000:

- 69% (27,751) reported having a **mortgage**
- 31% (12,474) reporting having **no mortgage**
- 0.0% (17) were **unknown**

AMONG OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS IN 2006:

- 69.7% (29,140) reported having a **mortgage** (MOE $\pm 1,754$)
- 30.3% (12,684) reported having **no mortgage** (MOE $\pm 1,324$)
- 0.0% (0) were **unknown**

None of the reported changes were statistically significant.

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

The table below shows the number of vehicles available among occupied housing units in 2000 and 2006.

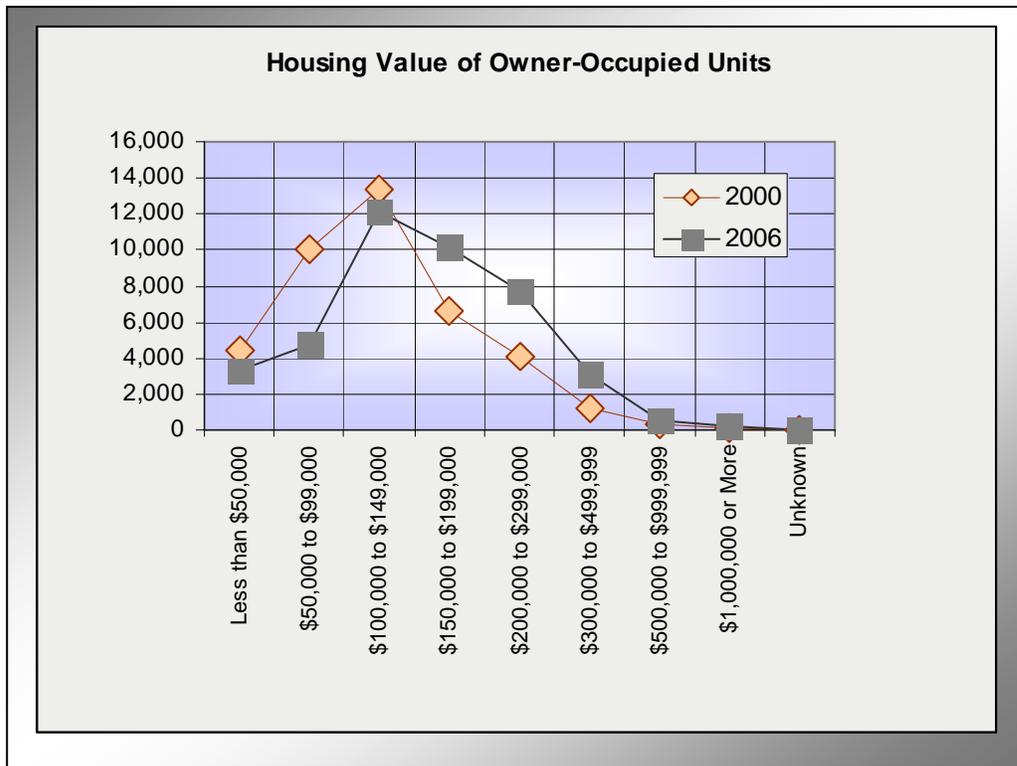
Table 5: Vehicles Available Among Occupied Housing Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
VEHICLES AVAILABLE							
None	2,836	5.0%	3,097	5.2%	908	9.2%	N
1	16,140	28.6%	17,780	29.8%	1,789	10.2%	N
2	24,275	43.0%	24,942	41.8%	2,030	2.7%	N
3 or more	13,198	23.4%	13,870	23.2%	1,530	5.1%	N
TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	56,449	100.0%	59,689	100.0%	1,290	5.7%	Y

HOUSING VALUE

The chart below is a comparison of the value of owner-occupied units in 2000 and 2006. The median value of owner-occupied housing units in 2000 was \$118,300; in 2006, the median value was \$153,500 (MOE ±\$6,125). The increase of 29.8% was statistically significant.

Figure 6: Housing Value among Owner-Occupied Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



MONTHLY OWNER COSTS

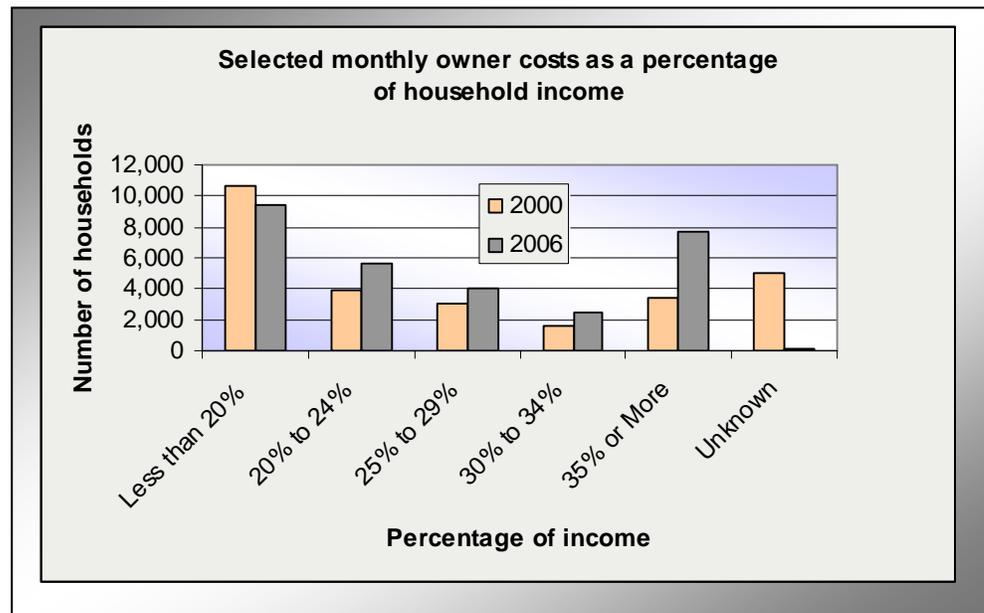
The table below lists selected monthly owner costs for owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage. The median monthly owner cost in 2000 was \$1,024; in 2006 it was \$1,335, with a MOE of \pm \$44. Median monthly owner costs increased 30.4% between 2000 and 2006, which was statistically significant.

Table 6: Selected Monthly Owner Costs among Owner-Occupied Housing Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (\pm n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS							
Less than \$300	204	0.7%	114	0.4%	134	-44.1%	N
\$300 to 499	1,473	5.3%	933	3.2%	558	-36.7%	N
\$500 to 699	3,478	12.5%	1,405	4.8%	449	-59.6%	Y
\$700 to 999	8,475	30.5%	5,050	17.3%	955	-40.4%	Y
\$1,000 to 1,499	9,428	34.0%	10,953	37.6%	1,320	16.2%	Y
\$1,500 to 1,999	3,076	11.1%	6,998	24.0%	1,002	127.5%	Y
\$2,000 or more	1,617	5.8%	3,687	12.7%	749	128.0%	Y
TOTAL NUMBER OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS WITH A MORTGAGE	27,751	100.0%	29,140	100.0%	1,634	5.0%	N

Figure 7: Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income among Owner-Occupied Housing Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

The chart to the right illustrates selected monthly owner costs for owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage as a percentage of household income. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the number of households in Portage County spending 35% or more of household income on housing costs between 2000 and 2006 rose significantly by 125.5%.



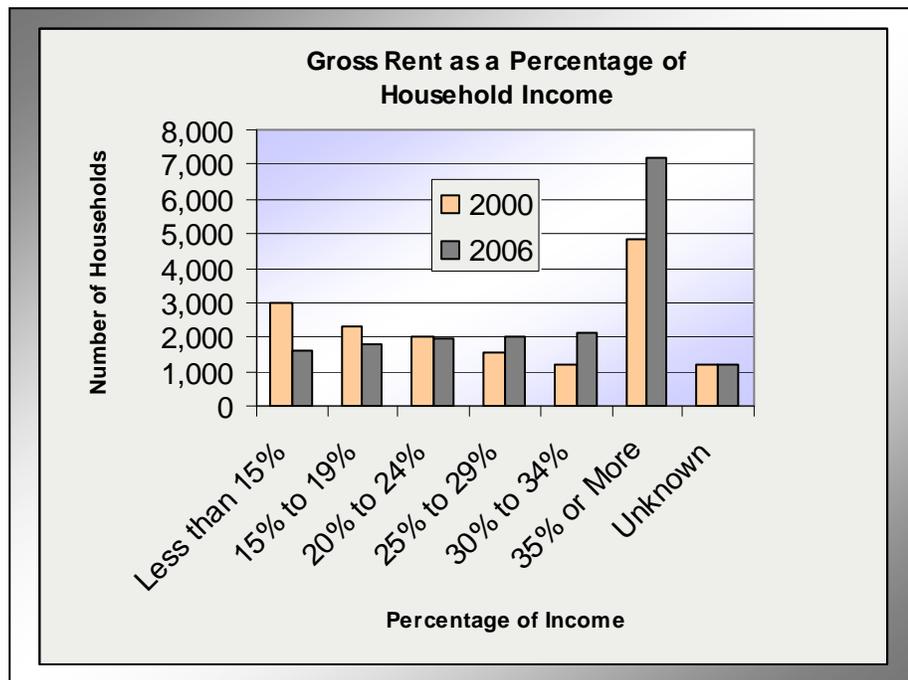
MONTHLY RENTER COSTS

The table below details a comparison of gross rent between 2000 and 2006 in Portage County. The median monthly renter cost reported in 2000 was \$544; in 2006 it was \$686, with a MOE of \pm \$29. This reflects an increase of 26.1%, which is statistically significant.

Table 7: Gross Rent among Renter-Occupied Housing Units in Portage County

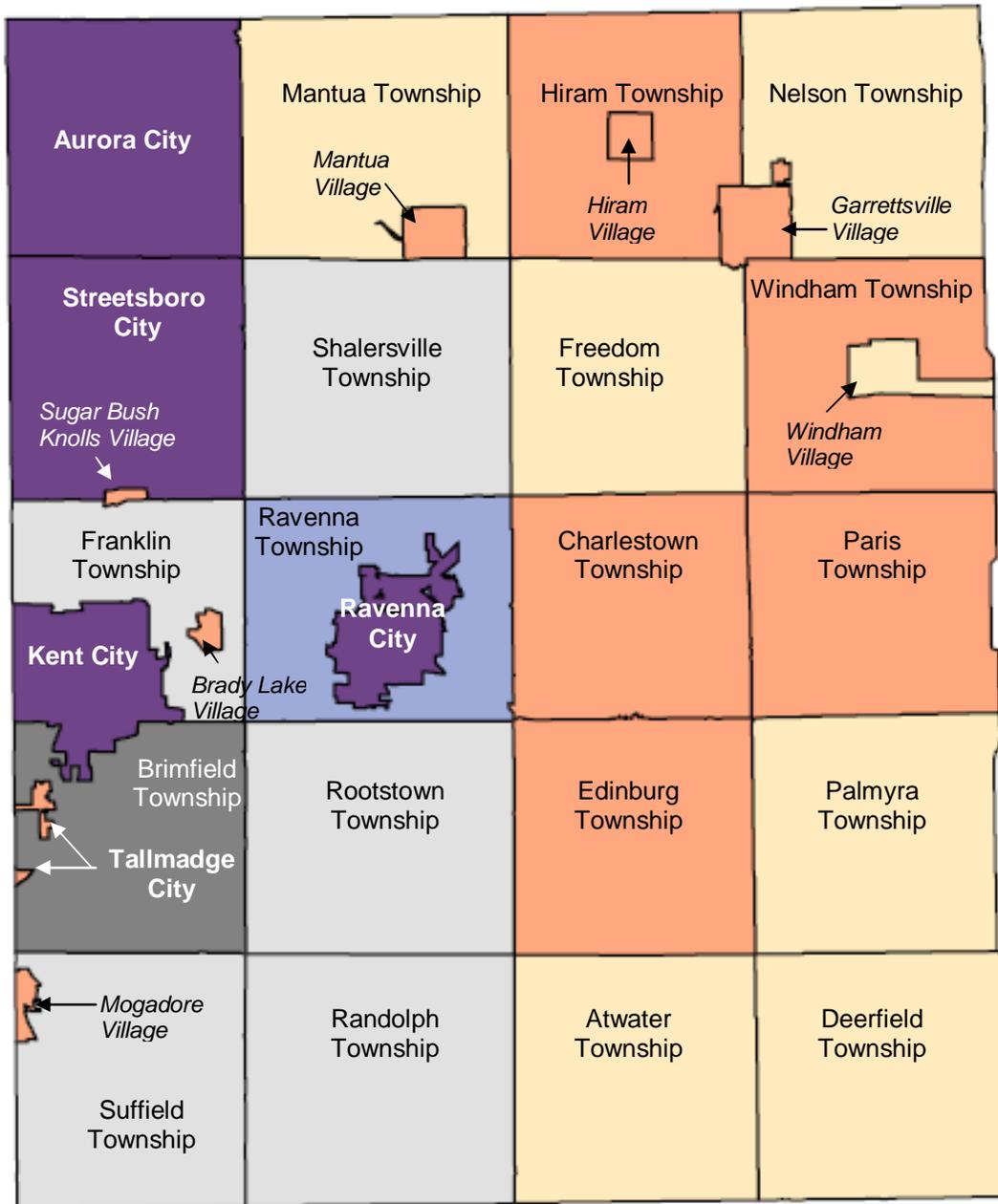
	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (\pm n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
MONTHLY RENTER COSTS							
Less than \$200	828	5.1%	453	2.5%	344	-45.3%	Y
\$200 to 299	869	5.4%	439	2.5%	371	-49.5%	Y
\$300 to 499	4,504	24.8%	2,163	12.1%	693	52.0%	Y
\$500 to 749	6,194	38.2%	7,488	41.9%	1,376	20.9%	N
\$750 to 999	2,100	13.0%	4,124	23.1%	999	96.4%	Y
\$1,000 to 1,499	707	4.4%	2,211	12.4%	782	212.7%	Y
\$1,500 or more	100	0.6%	212	1.2%	237	112.0%	N
None	607	3.7%	775	4.3%	466	27.7%	N
Unknown	298	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%	****
TOTAL NUMBER OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	16,207	100.0%	17865	100.0%	1660	10.2%	N

Figure 8: Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income among Renter-Occupied Housing Units in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



The chart to the left shows gross rent as a percentage of household income and reveals that the majority of renters continue to spend 35% or more of their household income on rent. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the percentage of renters in Portage County spending 35% or more of their income on rent has increased by 48.4% between 2000 and 2006, which is statistically significant.

Map 2: Housing Density in Portage County, 2000*



LEGEND	
Housing Units: 999 or Fewer	Housing Units: 3,000 to 3,999
Housing Units: 1,000 to 1,999	Housing Units: 4,000 to 4,999
Housing Units: 2,000 to 2,999	Housing Units: 5,000 or more

* 2006 ACS data is not available at the geographic subdivision level in Portage County; comparisons may be available at a later date.

**PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE COMPARISON
2000 v. 2006**

SECTION 3

**ECONOMIC
CHARACTERISTICS**

- Household Earnings**
- Family Earnings**
- Individual Earnings**
- Family Poverty**
- Individual Poverty**
- Poverty Map**
- Employment Status**
- Occupation**
- Industry**



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The tables below show comparison data for Portage County residents' yearly income and benefits (in inflation-adjusted dollars) as reported in 2000 and 2006.

Table 8: Household Earnings in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error ($\pm n$)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
HOUSEHOLD EARNINGS (Inflation-adjusted dollars)							
Less than 10,000	4,387	7.8%	5,823	9.8%	1,120	32.7%	Y
10,000 to 14,999	3,197	5.7%	2,383	4.0%	645	-25.5%	Y
15,000 to 24,999	6,767	12.0%	7,934	13.3%	1,410	17.2%	N
25,000 to 34,999	7,378	13.1%	6,349	10.6%	1,077	-13.9%	N
35,000 to 49,999	10,104	17.9%	11,459	19.2%	1,296	13.4%	Y
50,000 to 74,999	12,695	22.5%	10,514	17.6%	1,274	-17.2%	Y
75,000 to 99,999	6,350	11.3%	7,653	12.8%	1,079	20.5%	Y
100,000 to 149,999	3,922	7.0%	5,009	8.4%	884	27.7%	Y
150,000 to 199,999	792	1.4%	1,618	2.7%	490	104.3%	Y
200,000 or more	823	1.5%	947	1.6%	364	15.1%	N
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	56,415	100.0%	59,689	100.0%	1,290	5.8%	Y
Median Household Earnings	\$44,347	*****	\$43,840	*****	\$2,093	-4.4%	N

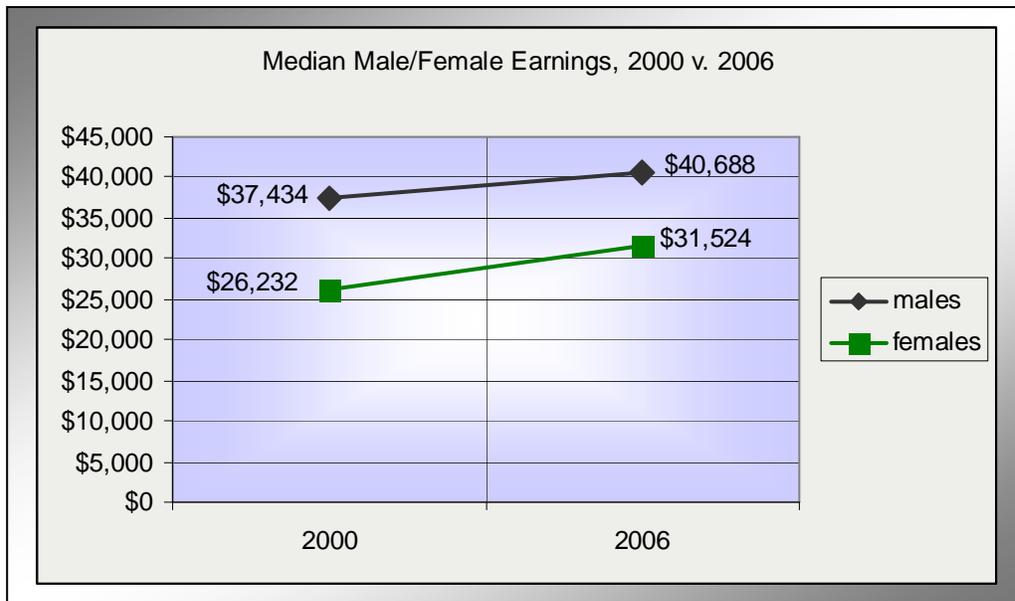
Table 9: Family Earnings in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error ($\pm n$)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
FAMILY EARNINGS (Inflation-adjusted dollars)							
Less than 10,000	1,600	4.1%	2,091	5.4%	717	30.7%	N
10,000 to 14,999	1,307	3.3%	753	1.9%	351	-42.4%	Y
15,000 to 24,999	3,405	8.6%	3,989	10.3%	1,018	17.2%	N
25,000 to 34,999	4,587	11.6%	3,134	8.1%	732	-31.7%	Y
35,000 to 49,999	7,292	18.5%	7,291	18.9%	1,084	0.0%	N
50,000 to 74,999	10,630	27.0%	8,117	21.0%	1,091	-23.6%	Y
75,000 to 99,999	5,589	14.2%	6,847	17.7%	1,035	22.5%	Y
100,000 to 149,999	3,529	9.0%	4,149	10.7%	800	17.6%	N
150,000 to 199,999	713	1.8%	1,423	3.7%	421	99.6%	Y
200,000 or more	761	1.8%	1,423	3.7%	421	99.6%	Y
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES	39,413	100.0%	38,619	100.0%	1,647	-2.0%	N
Median Household Earnings	\$52,820	*****	\$57,062	*****	\$4,297	8.0%	N

INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS

The chart below shows a comparison of earnings of male and female, full-time, year-round workers between 2000 and 2006. Earnings for males increased by 8.7%; earnings for females increased by 20.2%. Both increases were statistically significant.

Figure 9: Median Earnings among Males and Females in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



FAMILY POVERTY

Table 10: Family Poverty in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

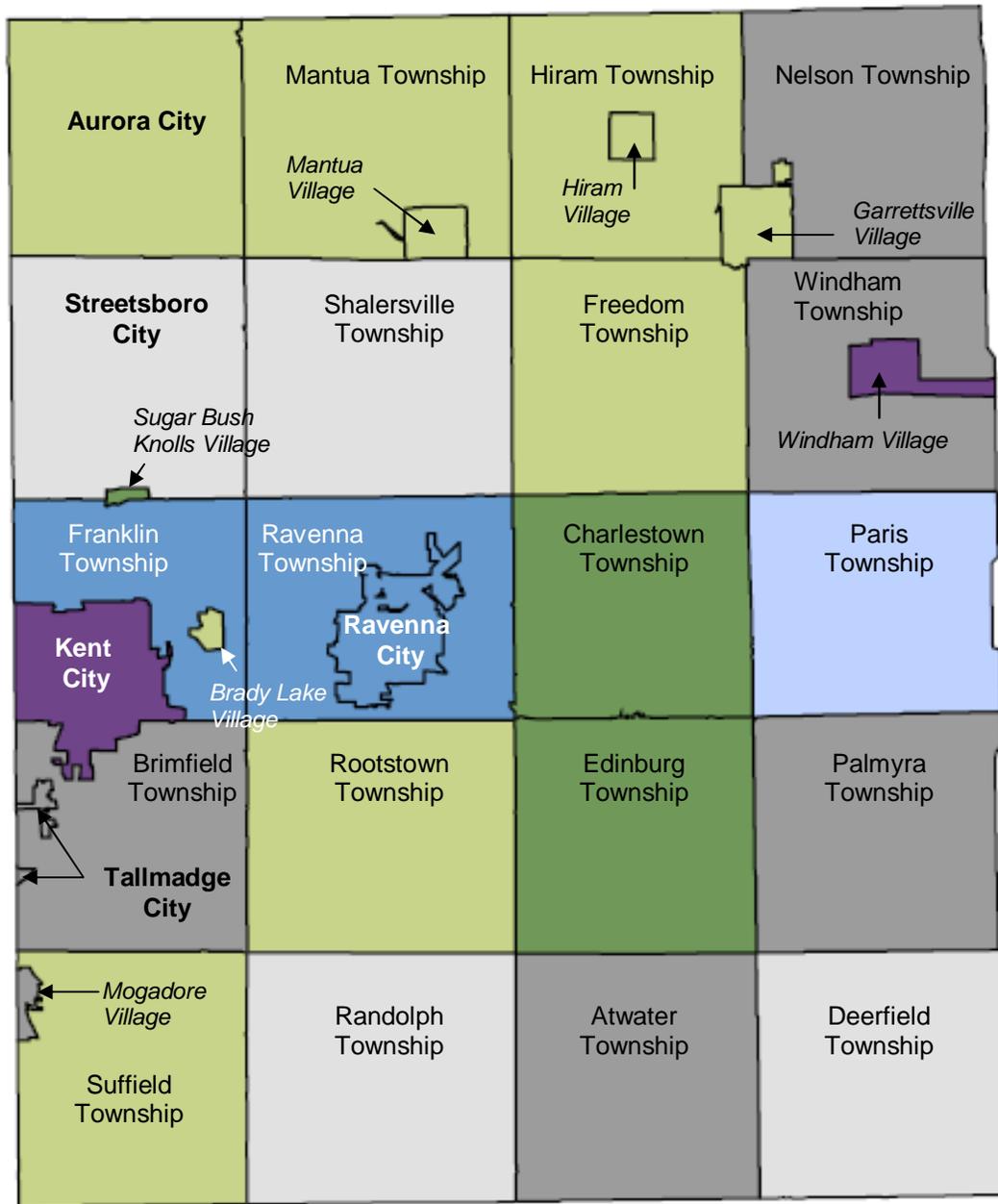
	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
FAMILY POVERTY							
Living Below Poverty Level	2,325	5.9%	3,012	7.8%	850	29.5%	N
Living Above Poverty Level	37,088	94.1%	35,607	92.2%	1,853	-4.0%	N
TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES	39,413	100.0%	38,619	100.0%	1,647	-2.0%	N

INDIVIDUAL POVERTY

Table 11: Individual Poverty in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006

	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
INDIVIDUAL POVERTY							
Living Below Poverty Level	14,142	9.3	21,392	13.8	3,565	51.3	Y
Living Above Poverty Level	137,919	90.7	133,620	86.2	*****	-3.1	*****
TOTAL POPULATION	152,061	100.0	155,012	100.0	*****	1.9	*****

Map 3: Poverty in Portage County Subdivisions, 2000*



LEGEND	
Percentage of Poverty: 2.9% or less	Percentage of Poverty: 7.5% to 8.9%
Percentage of Poverty: 3.0% to 4.4%	Percentage of Poverty: 9.0% to 10.4%
Percentage of Poverty: 4.5% to 5.9%	Percentage of Poverty: 10.5% or more
Percentage of Poverty: 6.0% to 7.4%	

* 2006 ACS data is not available at the geographic subdivision level in Portage County; comparisons may be available at a later date.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Table 12: Employment Status of Portage County Residents 16 Years and Older, 2000 v. 2006

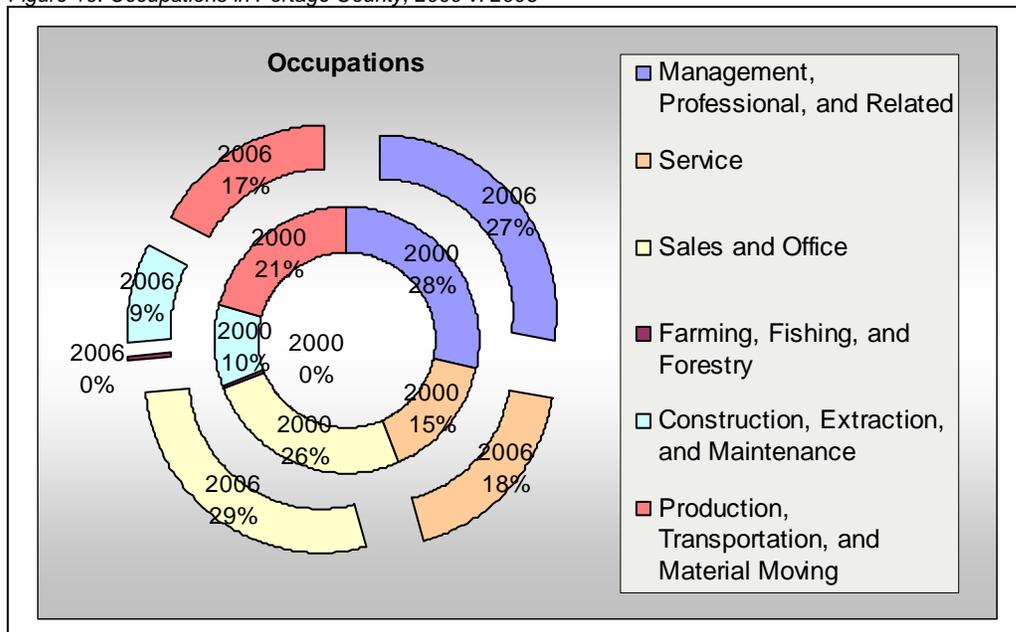
	2000		2006			Change from 2000 to 2006	
	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Number (n)	Percentage (%)	Margin of Error (± n)	Percent Change (%)	Significant Change (p<0.10)
EMPLOYMENT STATUS							
Employed	79,709	66.3%	79,818	63.5%	2,063	0.1%	N
Unemployed	3,786	3.4%	5,684	4.5%	1,128	50.1%	Y
Armed Forces	76	0.1%	0	0.0%	261	-100.0%	N
Not in the Labor Force	36,637	30.5%	40,163	32.0%	1,834	9.6%	Y
TOTAL POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OLDER	120,208	100.0%	125,665	100.0%	456	4.5%	Y

OCCUPATIONS

The chart below shows a dissection of occupations reported in Portage County. The percentages for 2000 are reflected in the inner ring, and the 2006 percentages are shown in the outer ring.

The predominant category is Management / Professional and Related Occupations, followed by Sales/Office Occupations. The Service category shows a significant increase of 22.7% from 2000 to 2006; Farming Fishing and Forestry decreased significantly by 58.7% and Production, Transportation and Material Moving decreased by a significant 18.5%. Other changes were not statistically significant.

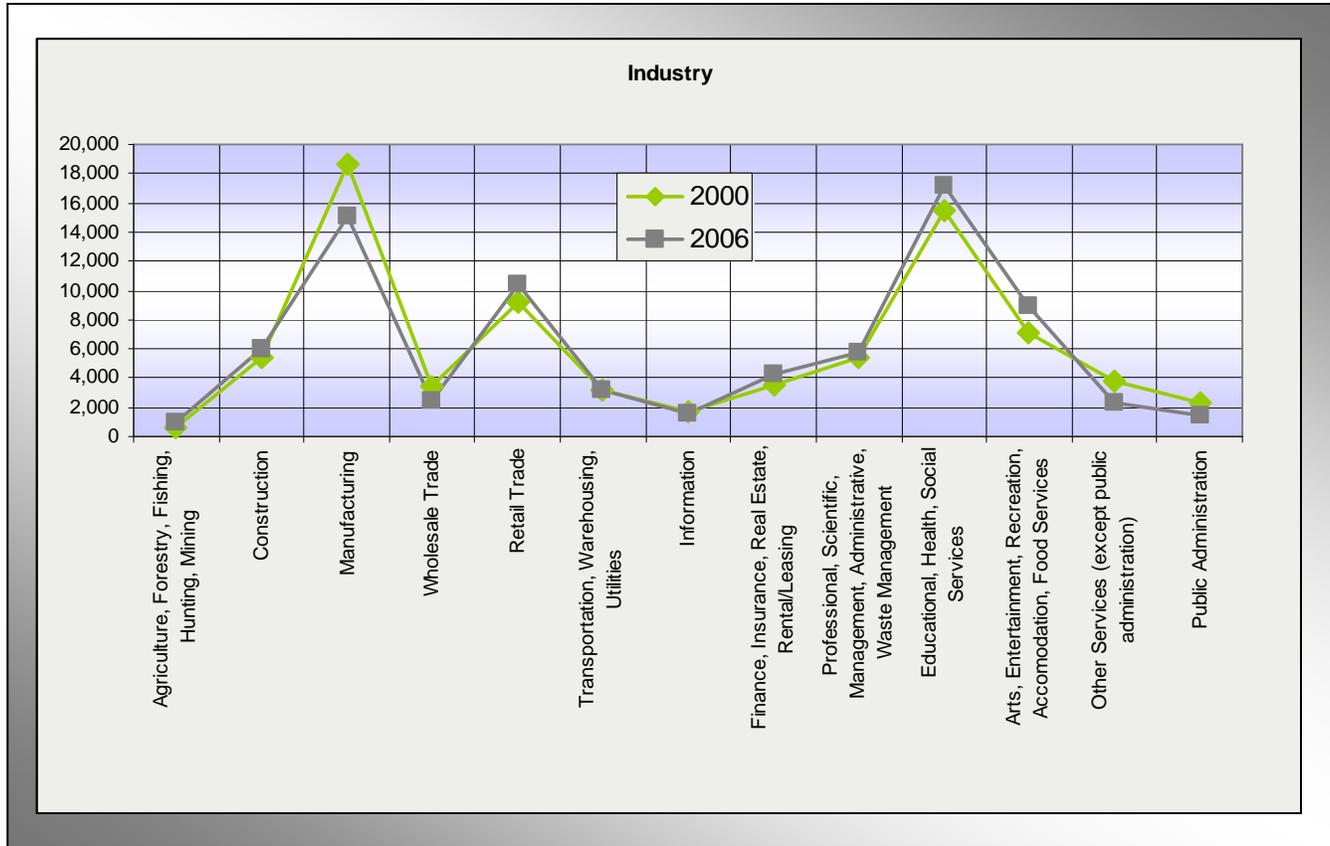
Figure 10: Occupations in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



INDUSTRY

The graph below shows industry categories reported in Portage County. Significant decreases are seen in the categories of Manufacturing (-19.1%), Wholesale Trade (-26.0%), Other Services (-39.1%), and Public Administration (-34.7%). Other changes were not statistically significant.

Figure 11: Industry in Portage County, 2000 v. 2006



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Portage County's population appears to be aging. The largest increase in population size between the years 2000 and 2006 in Portage County was seen among the early Baby Boomers (41.2%), the age group consisting of individuals 55 to 59 years of age. This mirrors the national trend as those born in the post World War II era are quickly approaching retirement. Further, the majority of the decrease in population size in Portage County was among the age groups consisting of persons younger than 20. However, there was a significant increase in the number of 20 to 24 year olds (7.7%) and 25 to 34 year olds (4.2%) residing in Portage County. This may be reflective of the trends in enrollment at the main campus of Kent State University (KSU) in western Portage County. In fact, the university reports that enrollment in 2006, among both undergraduate and graduate students, increased slightly since the year 2000 (Kent State University, 2007). Also consistent with national trends, Portage County has seen a significant decrease in the 35 to 44 year old population, a group that may be considered the heart of the work force. Hence, it appears that the work force is aging and there will be fewer individuals to replace them in the future.

The only significant changes seen from 2000 to 2006 in the racial profile of Portage County are increases among the populations of whites and Asians. In fact, the increase in the size of the population of Asians residing in Portage County was quite large (56.2%) and likely coincides with the increase of foreign-born residents and the

increase in Asian students enrolled at KSU (Kent State University, 2007). Although the simultaneous growth of both young adults residing in Portage County and KSU student enrollment is purely an ecological association and infers no causal relationship, either one or both occurrences may also be associated with other changes in social characteristics observed in Portage County. For instance, the number of residents that have never been married increased 18.3%. Similarly, there was a 19.4% rise in the number of Portage County residents enrolled in college or graduate school and a 9.3% rise in the number of high school graduates.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

In general, the change in housing characteristics from 2000 to 2006 in Portage County followed a similar pattern to the national trend. First and foremost, there was a sharp increase in the number of housing units built in the early 21st century, which follows in line with the rise that began in the early 1990s. Although the total number of housing units in Portage County increased significantly between 2000 and 2006, the occupancy rate dropped slightly and the ratio of owner to renter-occupied units essentially remained the same. As utility gas is the predominant source of heating fuel in the United States, the rise in the number of housing units in Portage County corresponds to a significant increase in the number of units that utilize it. However, it is interesting that the number of units utilizing wood for house heating fuel also increased significantly (119.0%). This may be reflective of the economic hardship and rise in the cost of oil that residents of the United States have experienced in the past five years.

Traditionally, housing in the state of Ohio has been considered affordable, especially in the metropolitan and suburban counties of the northeast when compared to other areas in the United States. Nonetheless, with the national housing boom that began in the 1990s, the median value of the housing stock in Northeast Ohio increased markedly faster than it did nationally, undoubtedly increasing the cost of living for the residents of the region. In Portage County the median value of owner-occupied housing units increased 29.8% from 2000 to 2006, reflecting an excessive rise (125.5%) in the number of residents that spend 35% or more of their income on monthly housing owner costs. A similar, but less dramatic trend was seen among renters in Portage County, with 48.4% spending 35% or more on monthly housing renter costs.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Significant changes were seen at the lower and upper ends of the household earning spectrum in Portage County from 2000 to 2006. The number of households earning \$10 to \$15 thousand decreased by 25.5%, which may be viewed as good news until it is realized that the number of households earning less than \$10 thousand increased by 32.7%. Conversely, there were significant increases in the population sizes of several of the largest income groups in Portage County and a decrease in the population size of what might be considered the middle class. Changes in family earnings from 2000 to 2006 followed a similar trend.

Individually, the income of Portage County residents appeared to increase between 2000 and 2006. Although a large disparity is evident between the individual earnings of male and female full-time, year-round workers, females (20.2%) saw a greater rise in median income over the six-year span than did males (8.7%). Additionally, both males and females in Portage County fared better in median earnings than did males and females in the nation in 2006 (approximately \$41,000 as compared to \$32,000 and \$32,000 as compared to \$22,000, respectively). However, individual poverty significantly increased by 51.3% between 2000 and 2006, again suggesting that the income classes in Portage County are polarizing.

Unemployment in Portage County rose from 3.4% to 4.5% between 2000 and 2006, an increase of 50.1%. However, unemployment in Portage County was still slightly lower than the national average which increased from 3.7% in 2000 to 4.7% in 2006. Although the distribution of occupations in Portage County remained essentially unchanged from 2000 to 2006, there were fluctuations in particular categories. Significant increases were seen in the service occupations, while significant decreases were seen in the production/transportation/material moving and farming/fishing/forestry occupations. Changes in industry in Portage County were most marked in manufacturing, wholesale trade, other services, and public administration.

REFERENCES

- Kent State University, Fact Book: 2006-2007. [WWW Document]. URL: <http://www.kent.edu/rpie/upload/2006-2007FactBook.pdf> (2007).
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Accuracy of the Data (2006). [WWW Document]. URL: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2006.pdf> (2006).
- U.S. Census Bureau, How to Use the Data: Guidance on Comparing 2006 ACS Data to Other Sources. [WWW Document]. URL: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm> (2007).
- U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 3: 2000 Census of Population and Housing: Technical Documentation. [WWW Document]. URL: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf> (2007).
- U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder. URL: <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?lang=en> (2008).
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 TIGER/Line Shapefiles. URL: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tgrshp2007/tgrshp2007.html> (2008).