

## Community Profile

# Brooklyn: A Bridge into Cleveland

By Terry Lenahan

**B**rooklyn, once part of Brooklyn Township, was organized nearly two centuries ago, in 1818. This territory was a significant part of Cleveland's early west side, extending to Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River. Several municipalities were incorporated from this township, including Brooklyn Village in 1927, which was chartered as the city of Brooklyn in 1950.

Brooklyn is surrounded by Cleveland on its east, north, and west borders; its southern neighbor is Parma. Old Brooklyn in Cleveland and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo are located to the east, and I-71 is on its northern border. The Plain Dealer printing and distribution facility is near I-480, which bisects Brooklyn's southern end. A portion of Big Creek Reservation is also located here.

Brooklyn's population peaked at 13,100 people in 1970; by 2007, the number had declined to an estimated 10,600 residents. Between 1980 and 2007 the population decreased 14.5 percent, less than the transitional suburbs' average decline of nearly 19 percent and Cleveland's nearly 24 percent decrease. Less than one of 10 residents are minority races. Twenty-two percent of residents were over age 65, a higher percentage than the average (16 percent) or in Cleveland (12.5 percent).

Brooklyn's 2007 Ohio Graduation Test score<sup>1</sup> was above the transitional suburbs' average; the 2007 high school graduation rate was the same as the average of 92 percent. For persons 25 and over in the last census, the high school graduation rate was five percentage points below the 85 percent average; the proportion with an Associate's degree or more was 18 percent, 14 points lower than the average.

Twelve percent of Brooklyn residents received Medicaid in 2008, lower than the transitional suburban average (15 percent), as was the percentage of residents that lived below the poverty threshold in the last census. Brooklyn also had lower-than-average Medicaid and poverty rates for residents ages 75 and over.

In 2008, Brooklyn's children were enrolled at a higher rate than the transitional suburbs' average in Healthy Start, the state's health insurance program for children. The death rates for all causes, heart disease, and coronary heart disease were also lower, although the cancer death rate was higher.

Less than 2 percent of residents were delinquent on their home's taxes in 2007, well below Cleveland's rate of 12 percent. The 2007 median home value was \$121,100, well above Cleveland's median of \$69,300 but below the county median value of \$126,000.

A map of community resources and a data table for this suburb with comparisons to Cleveland, transitional suburbs, remaining suburbs, and Cuyahoga County can be found on our Website: [www.CommunitySolutions.com](http://www.CommunitySolutions.com). More information is available in our 2003-2005 *Social Indicators* series and the 2005-2008 *Social Indicators Updates*. The reports are available for free from our Website, as are previous *Planning & Action* Cleveland neighborhood and transitional suburban profiles. For more information, contact Terry Lenahan at (216) 781-2944, ext. 101, or e-mail at [tlenahan@CommunitySolutions.com](mailto:tlenahan@CommunitySolutions.com). History includes information gathered from *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, sponsored jointly by Case Western Reserve University and the Western Reserve Historical Society (<http://ech.cwru.edu>).

### Reference:

1. Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007, students must pass all five parts of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) in order to receive high school diplomas.



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