

## Neighborhood Profile

# Fairfax: Prayers, Plays, Patients — and Poverty

By Terry Lenahan

Fairfax's first residents were New Englanders and European immigrants. Many of Cleveland's largest and most architecturally distinguished churches were built in this neighborhood. One of the earliest remaining examples is Euclid Avenue Congregational Church at East 96th Street, a Gothic/Romanesque building constructed in 1872. The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Playhouse, and Karamu House are located in Fairfax.

This east-side neighborhood is bordered by five SPAs (Hough, University, Woodland Hills, Kinsman, and Central). Fairfax is bounded by Euclid Avenue to the north, Woodland Avenue to the south, East 105th to the east and East 70th to the west.

Fairfax reached its peak population of nearly 40,000 people in 1950. During the next 50 years, this neighborhood lost over 80 percent of its population, compared to Cleveland's overall loss of 48 percent in this time period. In 2000, the residents were 96 percent African-American.

Median household income in 2000 was \$17,000, a 54 percent increase since 1990, compared to Cleveland's 10 percent increase. The median age of housing is nearly a century. Recently, new housing is being built in Beacon Place and Bicentennial Village.

One in ten of Fairfax's residents ages 25 and older had an Associate's degree or higher in 2000, less than Cleveland's 16 percent average and much less than the suburbs' 37 percent average. Forty-six percent of its residents were in the labor force, lower than Cleveland's 57 percent average. The percentages of Medicaid recipients and persons below the poverty level were higher than in Cleveland. Nearly one in five residents were ages 65 and older, higher than in Cleveland overall. The percentages of older Medicaid recipients and of older households with incomes less than \$15,000 were also higher than in Cleveland.

Female-headed families comprised two-thirds of all Fairfax families, compared to over half of all Cleveland families and 22 percent of all suburban

families. Nearly half of Fairfax's female-headed families were below the poverty level in 2000. Teen pregnancy and child maltreatment rates were much higher than in Cleveland. This neighborhood's HIV/AIDS rate and death rates were also higher than in Cleveland.

Fairfax's juvenile and adult property crime rates were higher than in Cleveland, as were the percentage of residents renting their home and the percentage of tax-delinquent parcels among home-owners. Nearly one-fourth of housing was vacant in 2000, doubling Cleveland's average.

More information is available in our Social Indicators series: *Education, Employment, and Income; Children and Families; Community Health; Older Persons; Housing; and Public Safety*. The reports are available for free from our Website, [www.fcp.org](http://www.fcp.org), as are previous Planning & Action neighborhood profiles. For more information, contact Terry Lenahan at (216) 781-2944, ext. 101 ([tlenahan@fcp.org](mailto:tlenahan@fcp.org)). Neighborhood history includes information gathered from NHLINK, Cleveland Neighborhood Housing Information, [www.nhlink.net/neighborhoodtour/](http://www.nhlink.net/neighborhoodtour/). ■

### Correction:

In the September/October 2003 Neighborhood Profile, the West Boulevard 2002 HIV/AIDS rates and map were incorrect. The correct HIV rate is 132.9 per 100,000 and for AIDS, 219.4 per 100,000. The combined HIV/AIDS rate is 352.3 per 100,000. The corrected map of 2002 HIV/AIDS rates by SPA is on page 13.

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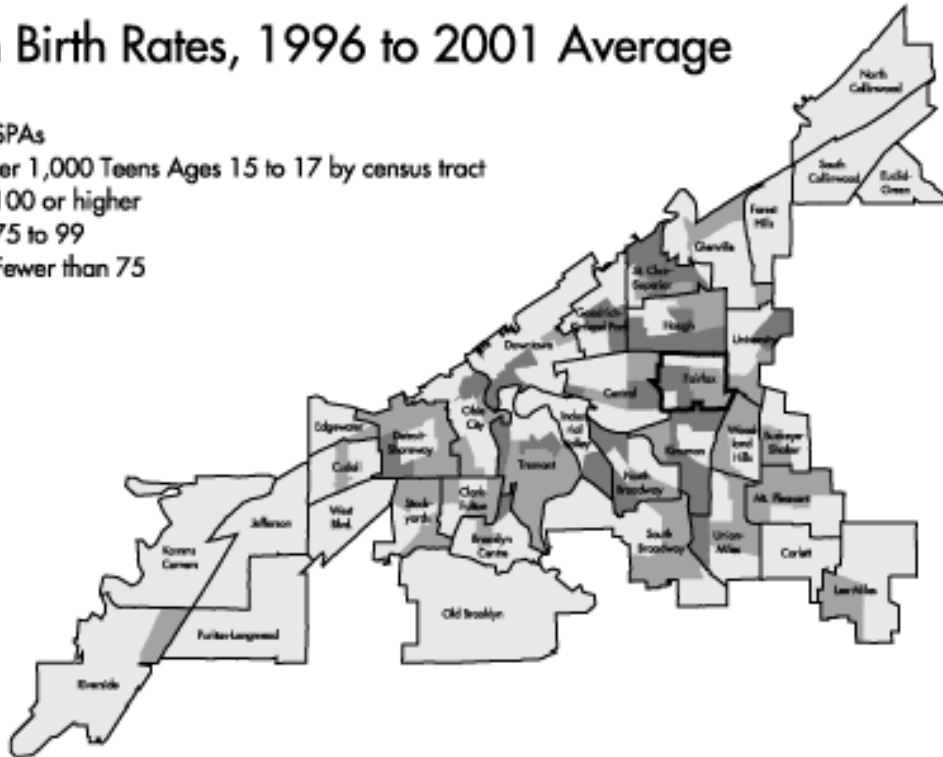
## Fairfax Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland, Suburbs, and Cuyahoga County

	Fairfax SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
<b>Community Demographics</b>				
Population Trends (1,000s)				
1980	12.7	572.8	925.5	1,498.3
1990	9.0	505.6	906.5	1,412.1
2000	7.4	478.4	915.6	1,394.0
Percent Change				
1980 to 1990	-29.1	-11.7	-2.0	-5.8
1990 to 2000	-18.1	-5.4	1.0	-1.3
1980 to 2000	-41.9	-16.5	-1.1	-7.0
Racial Group Percentage Distribution				
One Race				
White	2.2	41.5	80.9	67.4
Black	95.5	51.0	15.1	27.4
Asian	0.1	1.3	2.1	1.8
Other	0.6	3.9	0.5	1.7
Two or More Races	1.5	2.2	1.4	1.7
Percent Hispanic Ethnicity	1.0	7.3	1.3	3.4
Age Group Percentage Distribution				
Less Than Age 18	28.8	28.5	23.1	25.0
Ages 18 to 64	52.1	59.0	59.7	59.5
Age 65 and Older	19.2	12.5	17.2	15.6
<b>Socioeconomic Characteristics</b>				
Educational Attainment Percentages, Population 25 and Older				
High School Graduate or More	61.3	69.0	87.5	81.6
Associate's Degree or More	9.9	15.8	37.2	30.4
Percent in Civilian Labor Force (Age 16 and Over)	46.2	57.3	65.0	62.4
Percent below Federal Poverty Level	33.1	26.3	6.3	13.1
Percent Households Age 65+ with Income Less than \$15,000	54.5	40.2	22.5	27.6
Percent Medicaid Recipients, October 2002				
Of Total Population	48.9	33.1	9.7	17.7
Of Age 65 and Older Population	21.6	11.0	5.0	6.6
<b>Children and Families</b>				
Births, 1996 to 2001 Average				
To Females Ages 15-44	134	8,387	10,548	18,935
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-44	89.6	76.0	55.5	63.1
To Females Ages 15-17	17	634	257	891
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-17	101.3	66.1	14.4	32.5
Child Maltreatment Cases, 2001				
Total	153	6,695	2,831	9,526
Per 1,000 Children Less than 18	72.3	49.1	13.4	27.4
Percent Female-Headed Families with Children	65.6	52.3	22.4	33.4

# Cleveland Statistical Planning Areas

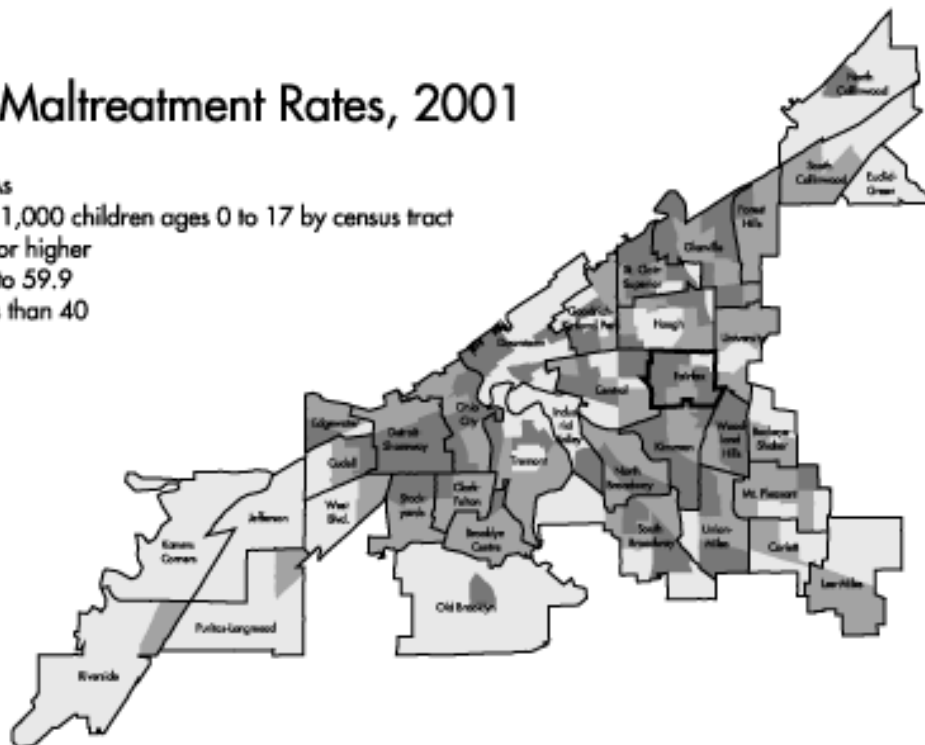
## Teen Birth Rates, 1996 to 2001 Average

SPAs  
 Births per 1,000 Teens Ages 15 to 17 by census tract  
 100 or higher  
 75 to 99  
 Fewer than 75



## Child Maltreatment Rates, 2001

SPAs  
 Cases per 1,000 children ages 0 to 17 by census tract  
 60 or higher  
 40 to 59.9  
 Less than 40



## Fairfax Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland and Cuyahoga County

	Fairfax SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
<b>Health</b>				
Low-Weight Births, 1996 to 2001				
Average Annual	20	964	770	1,725
Per 100 Births	15.0	11.5	7.3	9.1
Infant Deaths, 1997 to 2001 <sup>1</sup>				
Average Annual	2	109	71	180
Per 1,000 Births	15.5	13.2	6.8	9.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence per 100,000 Persons, 2002 and 2001 <sup>2</sup>				
Living AIDS Cases	299.2	242.9	34.6	106.1
Living HIV/AIDS Cases	693.7	383.6	110.6	204.3
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000 Persons, 1997-2001 Average <sup>1</sup>				
All Causes	1,634.6	1,142.6	830.3	932.2
Heart Disease	513.3	394.8	288.5	322.4
Coronary Heart Disease	418.2	307.9	222.1	249.2
All Cancer	364.2	260.7	205.2	222.5
<b>Public Safety</b>				
Per 100,000 Juveniles Ages 10-17, 2001 <sup>3</sup>				
Violent Delinquency Cases	5,972	3,851	1,422	2,295
Property Delinquency Cases	4,645	3,491	1,664	2,321
Per 100,000 Residents, 2001 and 1999 <sup>4</sup>				
Property Crimes	7,218	5,960	2,680	3,790
<b>Housing</b>				
Percent Renters	59.5	51.5	29.5	36.8
Percent Tax Delinquent Parcels, 2001	17.2	8.2	2.3	4.0
Percent Vacant	23.5	11.7	5.0	7.4
Median Age in Years <sup>5</sup>	98	83	47	53
<b>City/County Data</b>				
Unemployment Rate, November 2003 <sup>6</sup>	n/a	11.3	n/a	6.0

**Note:** Data are for year 2000 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 1998 data due to problems with data coding; <sup>2</sup> 2002 data for Cleveland and SPAs, 2001 data for Cuyahoga County;

<sup>3</sup> Based on residence of juvenile; <sup>4</sup> 2001 data for Cleveland and SPAs, 1999 data for All Suburbs and Cuyahoga County (reporting municipalities only, excludes 12 east-side and 7 west-side municipalities); <sup>5</sup> Based on 2001 Cuyahoga County Auditor records;

<sup>6</sup> Not available at the SPA or All Suburbs level

### Sources:

Center for Housing Policy & Research Program, Levin College of Urban Affairs, CSU, data from Cuyahoga County Auditor tax billing data files (*Housing: Tax Delinquency, Median Age*)

Center on Urban Poverty & Social Change, CWRU, using CAN DO, data from:

Cuyahoga County Dept. of Children & Family Services (*Children & Families: Child Maltreatment*)

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (*Public Safety: Violent Delinquency, Property Delinquency*)

Cleveland Division of Police (*Public Safety: Property Crimes*)

ODJFS monthly case and individual extract files from CRISE (*Socioeconomic Characteristics: Medicaid Recipients*)

Center on Urban Poverty & Social Change, CWRU, data from Cleveland Division of Police; Cuyahoga Regional Information System; FBI Uniform Crime Reports (*Public Safety: Property Crimes, Cuyahoga County*)

Cleveland Department of Public Health, Office of Biostatistics (*Health: AIDS/HIV Rates*)

Ohio Dept. of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, death certificate files (*Health: Infant Deaths, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates*); birth certificate files (*Children & Families: Births, Teen Births; Health: Low-Weight Births*)

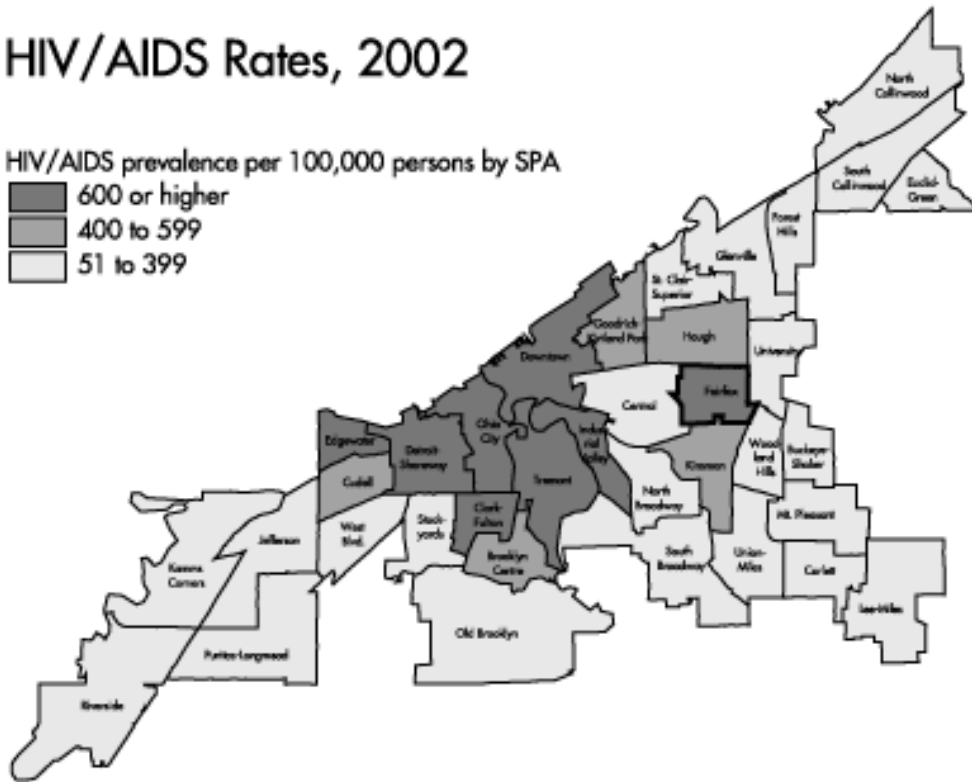
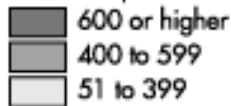
Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services Internet Website: [www.state.oh.us/odhfs/](http://www.state.oh.us/odhfs/) (*City/County Data: Unemployment Rate*)

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, 100-Percent Data (*Community Demographics: All; Socioeconomic Characteristics: Educational Attainment, Civilian Labor Force Rates Ages 16+, Federal Poverty Level, Medicaid Recipients; Children & Families: Birth Rates Females Ages 15-44 and Females Ages 15-17, Child Maltreatment Rates, Female-Headed Families with Children; Health: HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rates, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates; Housing: Renters, Vacant*)

# Cleveland Statistical Planning Areas

## HIV/AIDS Rates, 2002

HIV/AIDS prevalence per 100,000 persons by SPA



## Percent Tax-Delinquent Parcels, 2001

