

Neighborhood Profile

Forest Hills: A Picturesque Past

By Terry Lenahan

Forest Hills was once part of a resort complex developed by John D. Rockefeller in 1873, which extended into East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights. After that venture failed, the estate served as the Rockefeller family's summer home until 1917. This neighborhood was part of the Village of Glenville, incorporated in 1870. It was a semi-rural area known as the "garden spot of Cuyahoga County" due to its numerous vegetable farms. Its scenic qualities attracted many of the region's wealthiest residents. The City of Cleveland annexed the Village of Glenville in 1905.

This elongated east-side neighborhood is bordered by Bratenahl to the north, Glenville to the west and south, and South Collinwood and East Cleveland to the east. Three park segments extend through Forest Hills from Bratenahl to East Cleveland.

After reaching a high of 31,500 residents in 1930, Forest Hills' population remained stable until 1970. The 2000 population was 15,700, down 28 percent since 1980, partially due to the 1968 racial rioting in adjacent Glenville. In comparison, Cleveland's total population dropped 16.5 percent in this time period. The racial composition changed from less than 1 percent to 98 percent African American between 1950 and 1970.

The population percentages of persons under age 18 and over age 65 were higher than Cleveland as a whole, and its birth rate was higher. Forest Hills residents' educational attainment was lower than Cleveland's averages, as was its percentage of residents in the labor force. Thirty percent of the residents had incomes below the federal poverty level, compared to 26 percent in Cleveland. A lower percentage of older residents had incomes below \$15,000 or were Medicaid recipients than in Cleveland.

Two-thirds of all Forest Hills' families with

children were headed by females in 2000, 15 percentage points higher than in Cleveland. The child maltreatment rate exceeded Cleveland's average. In 2001, the juvenile property delinquency rate was above the city's average; its juvenile violent delinquency rate was lower.

In 2000, over half of Forest Hills' residents rented their homes. The 2001 residential housing value was \$44,800, about \$10,000 lower than Cleveland's average. Median age of housing is 87 years, eight years older than the city average. Percentages of tax delinquent parcels and vacant properties were higher than in Cleveland overall.

More information is available in our Social Indicators series: *Education, Employment, and Income; Children and Families; Community Health; Older Persons; and Housing*. A sixth report, *Youth Development*, will be available in the spring. The reports are available for free from our Website, www.CommunitySolutions.com, as are previous *Planning & Action* neighborhood profiles. For more information, contact Terry Lenahan at (216) 781-2944, ext. 101 (tlenahan@CommunitySolutions.com). Neighborhood history includes information gathered from NeighborhoodLink, a service of The Center for Neighborhood Development, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University (www.nhlink.net) and *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, maintained by Case Western Reserve University (<http://ech.cwru.edu>). ■

Maps and tables on pages 16-19.

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Forest Hills Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland, Suburbs, and Cuyahoga County

	Forest Hills SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Community Demographics				
Population Trends (1,000s)				
1980	21.9	572.8	925.5	1,498.3
1990	17.4	505.6	906.5	1,412.1
2000	15.7	478.4	915.6	1,394.0
Percent Change				
1980 to 1990	-20.5	-11.7	-2.0	-5.8
1990 to 2000	-9.6	-5.4	1.0	-1.3
1980 to 2000	-28.1	-16.5	-1.1	-7.0
Racial Group Percentage Distribution				
One Race				
White	0.8	41.5	80.9	67.4
Black	98.0	51.0	15.1	27.4
Asian	0.0	1.3	2.1	1.8
Other	0.4	3.9	0.5	1.7
Two or More Races	0.8	2.2	1.4	1.7
Percent Hispanic Ethnicity	0.6	7.3	1.3	3.4
Age Group Percentage Distribution				
Less Than Age 18	31.6	28.5	23.1	25.0
Ages 18 to 64	53.0	59.0	59.7	59.5
Ages 65 and Over	15.4	12.5	17.2	15.6
Socioeconomic Characteristics				
Educational Attainment Percentages, Population 25 and Over				
High School Graduate or More	66.3	69.0	87.5	81.6
Associate's Degree or More	10.3	15.8	37.2	30.4
Percent in Civilian Labor Force (Age 16 and Over)	52.9	57.3	65.0	62.4
Percent Persons below Federal Poverty Level	29.9	26.3	6.3	13.1
Percent Households Ages 65 and Over with Income Less than \$15,000	35.5	40.2	22.5	27.6
Percent Medicaid Recipients, October 2002				
Of Total Population	38.7	33.1	9.7	17.7
Of Ages 65 and Over Population	5.4	11.0	5.0	6.6
Children and Families				
Births, 1996 to 2001 Average Annual				
To Females Ages 15 to 44	300	8,387	10,548	18,935
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15 to 44	83.6	76.0	55.5	63.1
To Females Ages 15 to 17	26	634	257	891
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15 to 17	60.8	66.1	14.4	32.5
Child Maltreatment Cases, 2001				
Total	265	6,695	2,831	9,526
Per 1,000 Children Less than 18	53.4	49.1	13.4	27.4
Percent Female-Headed Families with Children	67.3	52.3	22.4	33.4

Forest Hills Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland and Cuyahoga County

	Forest Hills SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Health				
Low-Weight Births, 1996 to 2001				
Average Annual	41	964	770	1,725
Per 100 Births	13.8	11.5	7.3	9.1
Infant Deaths, 1997 to 2001 ¹				
Average Annual	3	109	71	180
Per 1,000 Live Births	11.3	13.2	6.8	9.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence per 100,000 Persons, 2002 ²				
Living AIDS Cases	222.6	242.9	55.9	120.1
Living HIV/AIDS Cases	330.7	383.6	78.4	183.1
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000 Persons, 1997 to 2001 Average ¹				
All Causes	1,017.9	1,142.6	830.3	932.2
Heart Disease	306.4	394.8	288.5	322.4
Coronary Heart Disease	240	307.9	222.1	249.2
All Cancer	291.3	260.7	205.2	222.5
Public Safety				
Per 100,000 Juveniles Ages 10 to 17, 2001 ³				
Violent Delinquency Cases	3,562	3,851	1,422	2,295
Property Delinquency Cases	3,655	3,491	1,664	2,321
Per 100,000 Residents, 2001 and 1999 ⁴				
Property Crimes	5,630	5,960	2,680	3,790
Housing				
Percent Renters	52.9	51.5	29.5	36.8
Percent Tax Delinquent Parcels, 2001	13.1	8.2	2.3	4
Percent Vacant	14	11.7	5	7.4
Value of Residential Housing, 2001 (\$1,000s)	\$44.8	\$54.1	\$133.8	\$110.5
Median Age in Years ⁵	87	84	48	54
City/County Data				
Unemployment Rate, July 2004 ⁶	n/a	12.3	n/a	6.6

Note: Data are for year 2000 unless otherwise noted.

¹Excludes 1998 data due to problems with data coding; ² 2002 living HIV and AIDS cases, using 2000 census total population to calculate rates;

³ Based on residence of juvenile; ⁴ 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); ⁵ In 2004, based on 2001 Cuyahoga County Auditor records;

⁶ Not available at the SPA or All Suburbs level

Sources:

Center for Housing Policy & Research Program, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, CSU, data from Cuyahoga County Auditor tax billing data files (*Housing: Tax Delinquency, Value of Residential Housing, 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: HIV/AIDS Rates*)

Ohio Dept. of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, death certificate files (*Health: Infant Deaths, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates*);

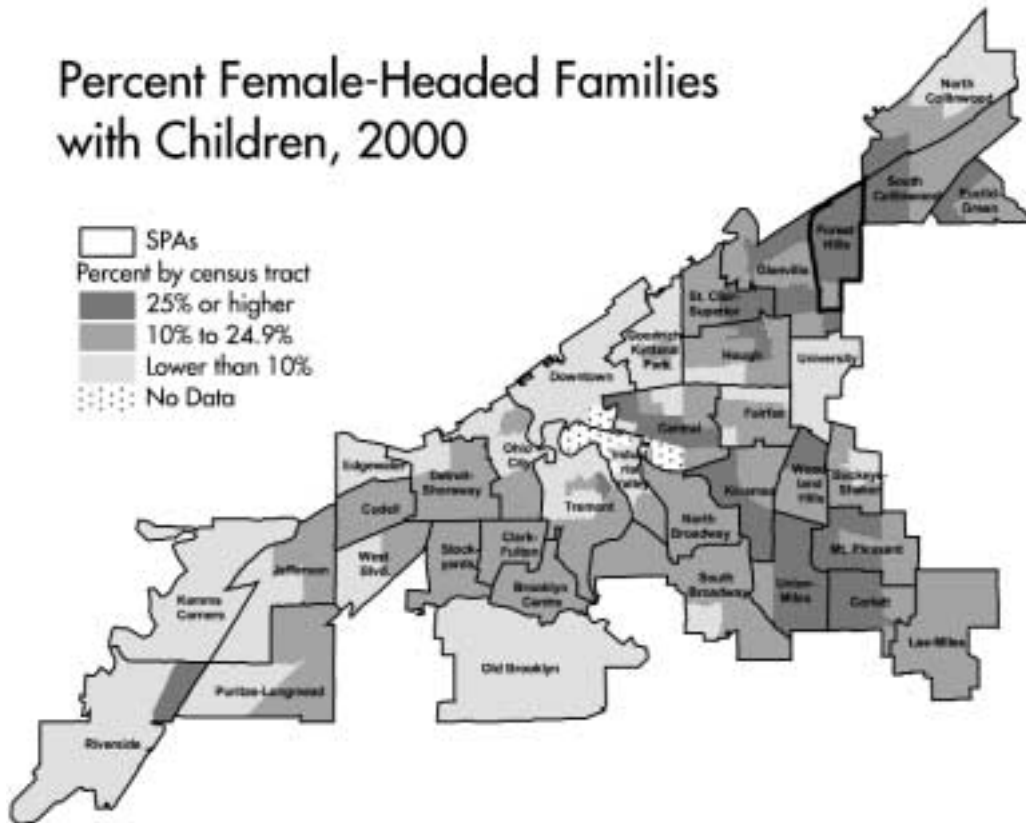
birth certificate files (*Children & Families: Births, Teen Births; Health: Low-Weight Births*)

Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services Website: 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

Percent Female-Headed Families with Children, 2000



Percent Tax-Delinquent Parcels, 2001

