

Neighborhood Profile

Kamm's Corners: A Slice of Suburbia

By Terry Lenahan

This west-side neighborhood was named after Oscar Kamm, a local resident who opened a grocery store in 1875 at the intersection of Lorain Road and Rocky River Drive. Kamm was later a postmaster at the same site. He had mail delivery postmarked to "Kamm's Ohio." During the mid-nineteenth century, the area was a community of isolated homes and rutted wagon paths. Lorain Road was a wooden plank toll road with rest stops for people traveling between Cleveland and points west.

Kamm's Corners is the hub of the West Park neighborhood, the last large suburb to merge with Cleveland. This suburb extended from West 117th Street to the Rocky River Valley and from Lakewood's southern border to Brookpark Road. Kamm's Corners is bordered by the suburbs of Fairview and Lakewood to the west and north, and the Cleveland SPAs of Jefferson, Puritas-Longmead, and Riverside to the east and south.

Kamm's Corners' population increased steadily between 1920 and 1960, and peaked in 1970, with 26,600 residents. The population has declined 14 percent in the last twenty years, down to 19,500 in 2000. Whites comprised 95 percent of the population. Compared to the city as a whole, a higher proportion was older residents and a lower proportion was youths.

Many of Kamm's Corners indicators are closer to the suburban rates than to Cleveland's averages. For example, most socioeconomic characteristics, such as educational attainment and persons below the poverty level, mirrored the suburban rates. The birth rate in Kamm's Corners was about the same as Cleveland's, yet the teen birth rate was very low, even lower than the suburban average, as was the percentage of female-headed families with children. HIV/AIDS rates and juvenile delinquency rates were also lower than the average suburban rate.

In 2000, Kamm's Corners' median family income was \$56,200, \$12,500 higher than the next highest Cleveland

SPA (Riverside), but \$3,500 less than the suburban average. The value of residential housing in Kamm's Corners was \$103,900 in 2001, three-fourths of the suburban average, yet this was 52 percent higher than the city average of \$54,100. With a median age of 63 years in 2004, age of housing in this neighborhood fell about midway between the city and the suburbs.

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 (tlenanah@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 12-15.

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Kamm's Corners Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland, Suburbs, and Cuyahoga County

	Kamm's Corners SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Community Demographics				
Population Trends (1,000s)				
1980	22.8	572.8	925.5	1,498.3
1990	20.7	505.6	906.5	1,412.1
2000	19.5	478.4	915.6	1,394.0
Percent Change				
1980 to 1990	-9.5	-11.7	-2.0	-5.8
1990 to 2000	-5.4	-5.4	1.0	-1.3
1980 to 2000	-14.3	-16.5	-1.1	-7.0
Racial Group Percentage Distribution				
One Race				
White	94.7	41.5	80.9	67.4
Black	1.7	51.0	15.1	27.4
Asian	1.3	1.3	2.1	1.8
Other	1.1	3.9	0.5	1.7
Two or More Races	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.7
Percent Hispanic Ethnicity	3.1	7.3	1.3	3.4
Age Group Percentage Distribution				
Less Than Age 18	21.0	28.5	23.1	25.0
Ages 18 to 64	61.6	59.0	59.7	59.5
Ages 65 and Over	17.4	12.5	17.2	15.6
Socioeconomic Characteristics				
Educational Attainment Percentages, Population 25 and Over				
High School Graduate or More	87.6	69.0	87.5	81.6
Associate's Degree or More	33.2	15.8	37.2	30.4
Percent in Civilian Labor Force (Age 16 and Over)	65.9	57.3	65.0	62.4
Percent Persons below Federal Poverty Level	5.6	26.3	6.3	13.1
Percent Households Ages 65 and Over with Income Less than \$15,000	32.6	40.2	22.5	27.6
Percent Medicaid Recipients, January 2004 ¹				
Of Total Population	9.6	34.6	10.5	18.6
Of Ages 65 and Over Population	6.2	11.9	5.0	6.9
Children and Families				
Births, 1996 to 2001 Average Annual				
To Females Ages 15 to 44	309	8,387	10,548	18,935
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15 to 44	73.1	76.0	55.5	63.1
To Females Ages 15 to 17	3	634	257	891
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15 to 17	8.7	66.1	14.4	32.5
Child Maltreatment Cases, 2003				
Total	37	4,625	2,106	6,731
Per 1,000 Children Less than 18 ¹	8.8	34.3	10.2	19.8
Percent Female-Headed Families with Children	15.1	52.3	22.4	33.4

Kamm's Corners Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland and Cuyahoga County

	Kamm's Corners SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Health				
Low-Weight Births, 1996 to 2001				
Average Annual	20	964	770	1,725
Per 100 Births	6.5	11.5	7.3	9.1
Infant Deaths, 1997 to 2001 ²				
Average Annual	3	109	71	180
Per 1,000 Births	8.8	13.2	6.8	9.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence per 100,000 Persons, 2002 ³				
Living AIDS Cases	30.7	242.9	55.9	120.1
Living HIV/AIDS Cases	51.2	383.6	78.4	183.1
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000 Persons, 1997 to 2001 Average ²				
All Causes	991.5	1,142.6	830.3	932.2
Heart Disease	354.4	394.8	288.5	322.4
Coronary Heart Disease	248.5	307.9	222.1	249.2
All Cancer	238.2	260.7	205.2	222.5
Public Safety				
Per 1,000 Juveniles Ages 10 to 17, 2003 ⁴				
Violent Delinquency Cases	5.3	41.3	16.7	25.9
Property Delinquency Cases	12.6	32.1	21.0	25.2
Per 1,000 Residents, 2003 and 1999 ⁵				
Property Crimes	23.7	58.0	26.8	37.9
Housing				
Percent Renters	27.5	51.5	29.5	36.8
Percent Tax Delinquent Parcels, 2001	1.4	8.2	2.3	4.0
Percent Vacant	3.2	11.7	5.0	7.4
Value of Residential Housing, 2001 (\$1,000s)	\$103.9	\$54.1	\$133.8	\$110.5
Median Age in Years ⁶	63	84	48	54
City/County Data				
Unemployment Rate, November 2004 ⁷	n/a	12.8	n/a	6.8

Note: Data are for year 2000 unless otherwise noted.

1. Using 2004 population estimates (Medicaid Recipients) and 2003 population estimates (Child Maltreatment) based on 2000 census to calculate rates; 2. Excludes 1998 data due to problems with data coding; 3. 2002 living HIV and AIDS cases, using 2000 census total population to calculate rates; 4. Based on residence of juvenile, using 2003 population estimates based on 2000 census to calculate rates; 5. 2003 data for Cleveland and SPAs, using 2003 population estimates based on 2000 census, 1999 data for All Suburbs and Cuyahoga County (reporting municipalities only, excludes 12 east-side and 7 west-side municipalities); 6. In 2004, based on 2001 Cuyahoga County Auditor records; 7. 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, 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*)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services monthly case and individual extract files from CRIS-E (*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 for All Suburbs and Cuyahoga County*)

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

Northern Ohio Data and Information Service (NODIS), Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, CSU (*Socioeconomic Characteristics: Medicaid Recipients; Children & Families: Child Maltreatment; Public Safety: Violent Delinquency, Property Delinquency, Property Crimes*)

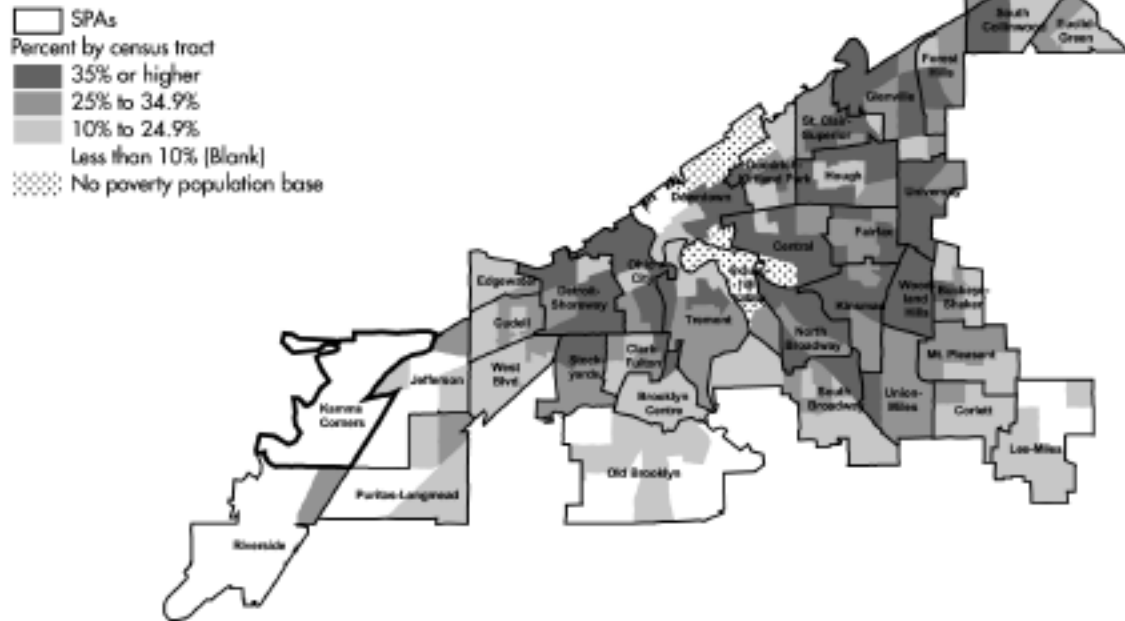
Ohio Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, death certificate files (*Health: Infant Deaths, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates*); birth certificate files (*Children & Families: Births, Teen Births; Health: Low-Weight Births*)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov> (*City/County Data: Unemployment Rate*)

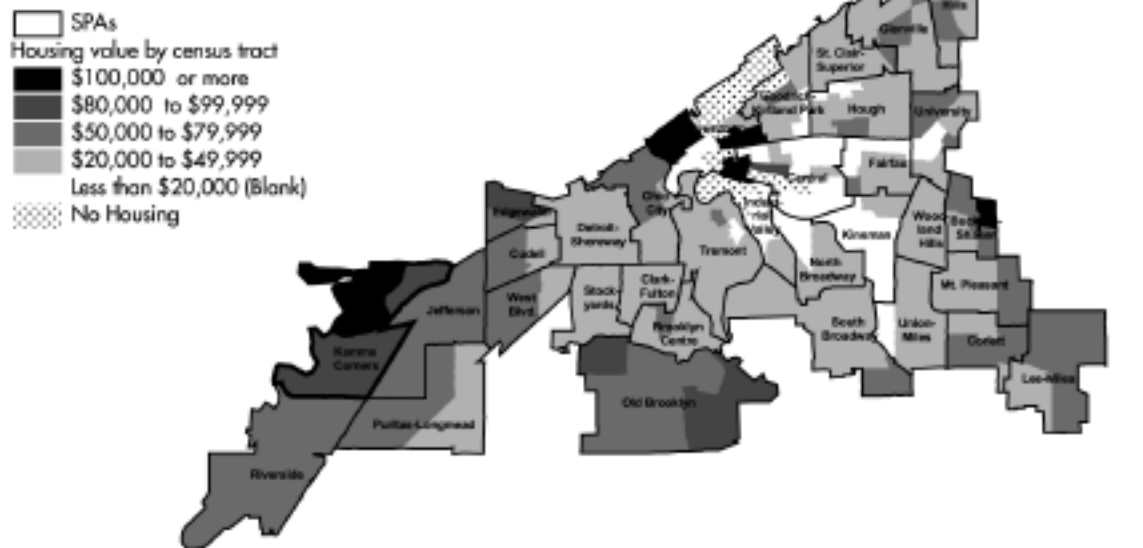
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, 100-Percent Data (*Community Demographics: All; Socioeconomic Characteristics: Educational Attainment, Civilian Labor Force Rates Ages 16+, Federal Poverty Level, Medicaid Recipients; Children & Families: Birth Rates Females Ages 15-44 and Females Ages 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 Persons below Poverty Level, 2000



Value of Residential Housing, 2001



2005 Human Services Institute: Helping You Make Your Community a Better Place to Live

By Inajo Davis Chappell

What forum can you attend to learn about and discuss current social and economic issues like these?

- Health-Related Consequences and Initiatives of Poverty
- Youth & Community Service
- Medicaid & the Governor's 2006-2007 Executive Budget
- Community Influences on Teens' Sexual Decisions
- Improving the Status of Ohio's Working Families
- Early Care and Education: Its Role in Ohio's Economy & Return on Public Investment
- The White House Conference on Aging
- Enhancing Effectiveness in Grantmaker/Seeker Relationships

Where can you go to connect with colleagues and make new contacts? How can you best renew your commitment to making your community a better place to live? What, Where, How? The 63rd annual Human Services Institute on Friday, March 18, at the Cleveland Convention Center.

At this year's Institute, not only will you be able to choose from 16 different workshops in eight tracks, you will also hear plenary addresses by two noted experts:

- Barbara Ehrenreich, social commentator and author of *Nickel & Dimed: On (not) Getting By in America*



*Morning Keynote Speaker
Barbara Ehrenreich*



*Luncheon Keynote Speaker
Judge Glenda A. Hatchett*

- Judge Glenda Hatchett, nationally recognized authority on juvenile and social issues, author of *Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say*, and featured celebrity on the syndicated television program *Judge Hatchett*.

At the Luncheon, you will have the opportunity to celebrate in the presentation of two coveted community awards:

- Most Treasured Volunteer (MTV) Awards, sponsored by Medical Mutual of Ohio, and
- Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award, \$20,000 for outstanding service by a nonprofit organization. The award fund is held by The Cleveland Foundation.

Exhibits and informational materials from nonprofit organizations representing the health and social service, civic, and cultural fields will be made available to you. You can also share your own organization's message with an exhibit or by placing an ad in the program book.