

Neighborhood Profile

Puritas-Longmead: Shaped by Its Past

By Terry Lenahan

The northeast section of Puritas-Longmead, along with parts of West Boulevard, was once part of a much larger Linndale, which prospered briefly as a railroad town where trains changed their steam locomotives for electric engines before entering Cleveland. Many of the African-American porters who worked on the trains settled near the station, establishing a small black enclave in the predominantly white neighborhood. Later, Puritas-Longmead was part of the Village of West Park, which also included Kamms Corners, Jefferson, and Riverside SPAs. This village, named after Benjamin West, an early settler, was annexed by Cleveland in 1923.

This west-side neighborhood is shaped like a backward "L," bounded by Rocky River Drive to the west, Brookpark Drive to the south, and Puritas Road on part of its northern border. Puritas-Longmead is bordered by Jefferson and Riverside SPAs, and the cities of Brook Park, Brooklyn, and Linndale. Rail lines and industrial parks separate its neighborhoods, as do Interstates 71 and 480.

Puritas-Longmead reached its peak population of 21,000 people in 1960 but by 2000 there were 15,200 residents, resulting in a 28 percent decrease in the 40-year period. This was lower than Cleveland's 45 percent decrease in this time period. In 2000, the residents were 69 percent White, 23 percent African-American, and 8 percent Other Races.

Educational attainment in 2000 differed from Cleveland's averages in an unusual way: a higher proportion of Puritas-Longmead residents had high school diplomas but a lower proportion of its residents ages 25 and older had an Associate's degree or higher. Sixty-three percent of its residents were in the labor force, higher than Cleveland's 57 percent average and closer to the suburbs' 65 percent average.

The percentages of Medicaid recipients and persons below the poverty level were lower than in Cleveland. However, families with children below the federal poverty level increased 10 percent since 1990. The percentage of older Medicaid recipients was lower than in Cleveland and also lower than in the suburbs.

Puritas-Longmead's teen birth rate and child maltreatment rate were lower than Cleveland's averages, as were the HIV/AIDS rate and most death rates. The exception was the death rate from all cancers, which was higher than in Cleveland.

Puritas-Longmead's juvenile and adult property crime rates were lower than Cleveland's averages, as were the percentage of residents renting their home and the percentage of tax-delinquent parcels among home-owners. The median age of housing is 54 years, only 6 years more than in the suburbs, yet 30 years less than in Cleveland overall.

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, as are previous *Planning & Action* neighborhood profiles. For more information, contact Terry Lenahan at (216) 781-2944, ext. 101 (tlenahan@fcp.org). 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). ■

Maps and tables follow on pp. 4-7.

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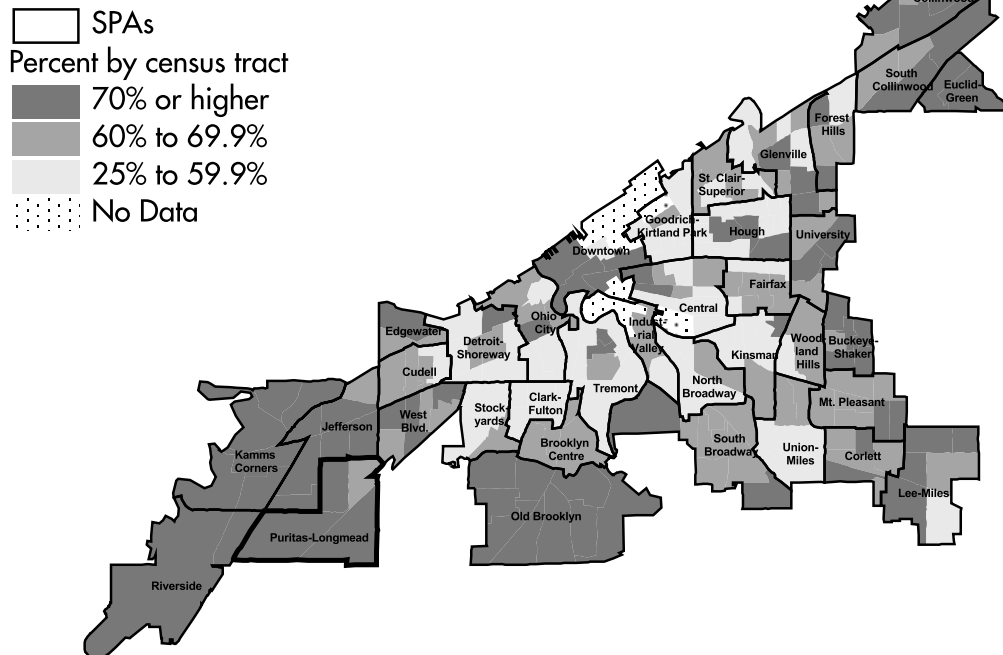


Puritas-Longmead Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland, Suburbs, and Cuyahoga County

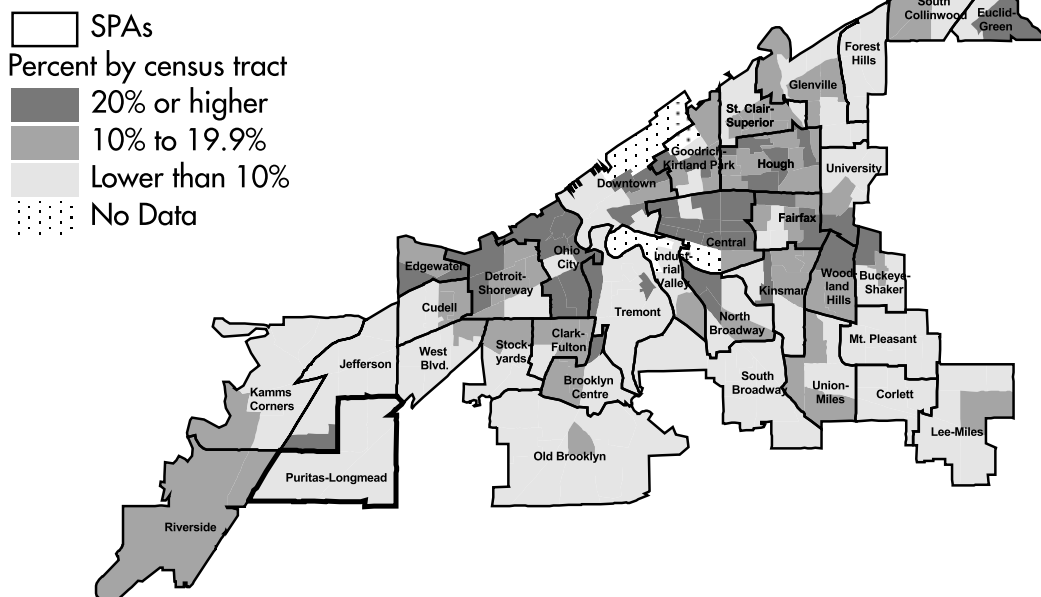
	Puritas-Longmead SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Community Demographics				
Population Trends (1,000s)				
1980	17.6	572.8	925.5	1,498.3
1990	15.6	505.6	906.5	1,412.1
2000	15.2	478.4	915.6	1,394.0
Percent Change				
1980 to 1990	-11.1	-11.7	-2.0	-5.8
1990 to 2000	-2.8	-5.4	1.0	-1.3
1980 to 2000	-13.6	-16.5	-1.1	-7.0
Racial Group Percentage Distribution				
One Race				
White	68.5	41.5	80.9	67.4
Black	23.4	51.0	15.1	27.4
Asian	2.0	1.3	2.1	1.8
Other	3.5	3.9	0.5	1.7
Two or More Races	2.5	2.2	1.4	1.7
Percent Hispanic Ethnicity	7.0	7.3	1.3	3.4
Age Group Percentage Distribution				
Less Than Age 18	26.2	28.5	23.1	25.0
Ages 18 to 64	61.1	59.0	59.7	59.5
Age 65 and Older	12.7	12.5	17.2	15.6
Socioeconomic Characteristics				
Educational Attainment Percentages, Population 25 and Older				
High School Graduate or More	73.9	69.0	87.5	81.6
Associate's Degree or More	13.4	15.8	37.2	30.4
Percent in Civilian Labor Force (Age 16 and Over)	63.3	57.3	65.0	62.4
Percent below Federal Poverty Level	13.9	26.3	6.3	13.1
Percent Households Age 65 and over with Income Less than \$15,000	27.0	40.2	22.5	27.6
Percent Medicaid Recipients, October 2002				
Of Total Population	22.3	33.1	9.7	17.7
Of Age 65 and Older Population	3.9	11.0	5.0	6.6
Children and Families				
Births, 1996 to 2001 Average				
To Females Ages 15-44	233	8,387	10,548	18,935
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-44	69.4	76.0	55.5	63.1
To Females Ages 15-17	15	634	257	891
Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-17	48.3	66.1	14.4	32.5
Child Maltreatment Cases, 2001				
Total	137	6,695	2,831	9,526
Per 1,000 Children Less than 18	34.4	49.1	13.4	27.4
Percent Female-Headed Families with Children	33.9	52.3	22.4	33.4

Cleveland Statistical Planning Areas

Percent High School Graduate or Higher, 2000



Percent 65+ Medicaid Recipients, 2002



Puritas-Longmead Statistical Planning Area Profile with Comparisons to Cleveland, Suburbs, and Cuyahoga County

	Puritas-Longmead SPA	Cleveland	All Suburbs	Cuyahoga County
Health				
Low-Weight Births, 1996 to 2001				
Average Annual	21	964	770	1,725
Per 100 Births	8.9	11.5	7.3	9.1
Infant Deaths, 1997 to 2001 ¹				
Average Annual	1	109	71	180
Per 1,000 Births	3.3	13.2	6.8	9.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence per 100,000 Persons, 2002 and 2001 ²				
Living AIDS Cases	111.8	242.9	34.6	106.1
Living HIV/AIDS Cases	177.6	383.6	110.6	204.3
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000 Persons, 1997-2001 Average ¹				
All Causes	1,079.5	1,142.6	830.3	932.2
Heart Disease	367.2	394.8	288.5	322.4
Coronary Heart Disease	278.4	307.9	222.1	249.2
All Cancer	274.4	260.7	205.2	222.5
Public Safety				
Per 100,000 Juveniles Ages 10-17, 2001 ³				
Violent Delinquency Cases	3,168	3,851	1,422	2,295
Property Delinquency Cases	2,211	3,491	1,664	2,321
Per 100,000 Residents, 2001 and 1999 ⁴				
Property Crimes	3,834	5,960	2,680	3,790
Housing				
Percent Renters	23.7	51.5	29.5	36.8
Percent Tax Delinquent Parcels, 2001	4.7	8.2	2.3	4.0
Percent Vacant	5.6	11.7	5.0	7.4
Value of Parcels, 2001 (\$1,000)	\$57.8	\$54.1	\$133.8	\$110.5
Median Age in Years ⁵	54	84	48	54
City/County Data				
Unemployment Rate, December 2003 ⁶	n/a	11.6	n/a	6.2

Note: Data are for year 2000 unless otherwise noted.

1. Excludes 1998 data due to problems with data coding; 2. 2002 data for Cleveland and SPAs, 2001 data for Cuyahoga County; 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, 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 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, 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/ (*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*)

