Wayne County Summary*

General Overview

Formed in 1823, Wayne County is the birthplace of the Church of Latter Day Saints, an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and a fertile fruit-growing region. Situated on the shore of Lake Ontario, Wayne is the northeastern-most county in the Finger Lakes region. Wayne is the third-largest county by population in the region, after Monroe and Ontario, and the largest in the region by land area.

Trends in Wayne County largely mirror the region, with declining median income, a shrinking and aging population, and increasing child poverty; yet, homes are relatively affordable and most crime rates are falling. Although tourism revenue is the lowest in the region and has fallen substantially, the county is home to several interesting spots, including Chimney Bluffs State Park and Hill Cumorah, an historic site where Joseph Smith said he found the golden tablets which were the basis for the Book of Mormon and which hosts an annual Mormon pageant.

Demographic Overview

Wayne’s population is falling, but is still higher than most counties in the region:

- In 2018, Wayne was home to approximately 90,000 residents, making it the third largest county in the region behind Monroe and Ontario. Wayne accounted for 7% of the total regional population.
- Wayne lost 4% of its population from 2000 to 2018, in comparison to increases nationally (16.3%), statewide (3%), and for the region as a whole (0.3%).

Wayne County's population is aging:

- The number of residents aged 60 to 84 grew by 48% from 2000 to 2013-17, while the 85 and older age group grew by 38%. Both figures are comparable to large increases nationally, regionally, and for most regional counties.
- During the same period, Wayne’s population under 20 shrank by 19% (a greater decrease than for the state and region), while its population aged 20 to 39 declined by 17% (also more than the region).

Despite increases in its Asian and Hispanic populations, Wayne remains primarily white:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, Wayne’s Asian and Hispanic populations grew by 57% and 74% respectively, while the White population shrank by 3%.
- Wayne, with a population that is 94% white, is less diverse than the state (64% white) and region (83% white). Hispanics made up 4% of the total population, African Americans 3%, and Asian residents 1%.

*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit actrochester.org/all-indicators for updates.
Community Vitality

Wayne had both the lowest tourism revenue per resident in the region and the greatest decrease since 2005:

- In 2017, tourism revenue was $453 per resident, well below the state excluding NYC ($2,089), region ($1,368), and the other counties in the region.
- Wayne’s revenue per resident fell by 11% from 2005 to 2017, compared to increases for the state excluding NYC and the region (both 9%).

Wayne County also had the largest regional decrease in recreational tourism revenue, dropping 32% from $31 per resident in 2005 to $21 in 2017—the lowest rate in the region.

Voter registration in Wayne County matched regional rates:
- In 2018, 83% of eligible voting-age adults were registered to vote, slightly higher than the state (82%), and on par with the region.
- Wayne’s voter registration rate fell by 2 points from 2000, in contrast to small increases for the state and region (up 3 and 1 point, respectively).

In the 2014 midterm election, 36% of eligible voters in Wayne turned out to vote, down 2 points from 2010 but higher than for the state (25%) and similar to the region (35%). Turnout for the 2016 presidential election (56%) was higher than the state (50%) and many regional counties, just above the nation (55%), and just below the region as a whole (58%).
Wayne County’s share of registered library borrowers decreased 43 points since 2000, but library visits have increased:
- In 2017, 48% of residents in Wayne’s county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (56%) and region (61%).
- The number of library visits has increased by 20% since 2000, outperforming the state (8%), and the region (5%).

In 2016, residents in Wayne County gave 1.2% of their income to benefit charitable causes, a stabilized rate since 2011. Wayne’s rate was lower than that of the state and region, but similar to many other regional counties.

In 2013-17, Wayne had a lower share of households without a vehicle (7%) than the nation (9%), the region, and the state (excluding NYC) (both 10%). Though Wayne’s rate rose 1 point from 2000, it remained the second lowest in the region after Wyoming County.

**Children and Youth**

Child poverty was relatively low in Wayne but has increased more than the nation and state since 2000:
- In 2013-17, 17% of Wayne’s children lived below the poverty line, slightly lower than the state (21%), region, and nation (both 20%).
- From 2000 to 2013-17, the poverty rate increased by 6 points, a larger increase than for the nation (3 points), state (1 point), and the same as the region (6 points).

![Children Living in Poverty](chart.png)
Consistent with regional trends, Wayne County has experienced an increase in the proportion of single-parent families:

- In 2013-17, 36% of Wayne families were headed by a single parent, close to the nation (34%), on par with the state, and below the region (39%).
- Wayne’s rate rose by 8 points from 2000 to 2013-17, a greater increase than the state (3 points) and nation (5 points) and equal to the region.

In 2016, 70% of Wayne mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, below the nation (75%), state (77%) and the region (80%). The rate of mothers receiving early prenatal care dropped by 5 points from 2000.

The rate of pregnancies among 15 to 19 year-olds in Wayne County declined from 5% in 2000 to 2% in 2017, a 60% decrease. Wayne’s 2017 rate was on par with the region and the state.

Wayne’s rate of babies born with low birth weight in 2017 (7%) was among the highest in the region, but was still slightly below the region, state and nation (all 8%).

Despite declining since 2000, Wayne County had among the highest teen birth rates in the region:

- In 2017, there were 18 live births per 1,000 females 15 to 19 years old in the county, a 45% decrease from 2000.
- Wayne’s teen birth rate was the second highest in the region after Orleans (19), similar to the nation (19), and higher than the state and the region (12 and 13, respectively).

**Economy**

The unemployment rate has fallen since the Great Recession, but is still slightly higher in Wayne than in the nation and state:

- In 2018, the unemployment rate in Wayne was 4.2%, equal to the region, slightly above the state (4.1%), and higher than the nation (3.9%).
- The unemployment rate fell by almost 5 points from its peak in 2010, and is now less than 1 point above its low of 3.8% in 2000.

In Wayne, total jobs declined by 1.8% from 2016 to 2017, though some sectors performed better than others relative to the region:

- Wayne’s decline in jobs contrasts to the growth of experienced by the nation and the state (both 1.4%), and 0.5% for the region during the same period.
- Jobs in Manufacturing, Government, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities shrank, by 25%, 3%, and 11%, respectively. For the region, Manufacturing and Government decreased 36% and 2%, respectively, while Trade, Transportation and Utilities increased 7%.
Wayne’s growth in average salary outpaced the region:

- From 2001 to 2017, the average salary in Wayne grew by 10%, on par with the nation and the state. However, Wayne’s average salary increase was smaller than several other regional counties.
- In 2017, Wayne’s average salary was $41,528, lower than the nation ($55,375) and state ($70,538).

**Education**

Prekindergarten participation has increased dramatically and is now higher than the state and region:

- In 2017, 60% of eligible children participated in prekindergarten, higher than the rate for the state (52%), region (44%), and most regional counties.
- Wayne’s rate rose by 55 points from 2001 to 2017, a much greater increase than for the state and region (up by 37 and 33 points, respectively over that period).

Performance on state tests was mixed, but generally on par or worse than the region:

- Student performance on grade 3 Math (42%), was below the region (48%) and the state (54%). Grade 3 English performance at 37% was below the region (43%) and the state (51%).
- Wayne students fared worse than the region on 8th grade English (36% vs. 41%), and 8th grade Math (36% vs. 45%).
- A notable exception was on the Common Core Algebra 1 Regents exam, which 78% of Wayne students passed, versus 73% for the region. The passing rate on Regents English in Wayne (85%) was also above the region (78%).
- We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2018 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2018, 19% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English or Math exams.
The four-year graduation rate in Wayne was 87% in 2018, above the state (83%) and the region (85%).

Wayne County adults age 25 and over attended less college than the region, state or nation:
- In 2013-17, 55% of adults in Wayne had attended at least some college, compared to 62% in the region and 60% in the state and nation. Wayne also had a much lower rate of adults who had attained a bachelor’s or higher (22%) than the state (35%), nation (31%), and region (32%).

Total spending per student by school districts in Wayne County was $23,047 in 2017, below the state (excluding NYC, $23,741) and above the region ($22,208). Wayne’s rate rose by 57% from 2000 to 2017, above the state (excluding NYC, 47%), and the region (50%).

In 2017, Wayne County spent $15,993 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student’s classroom experience), similar to the region ($15,778), but below the state ($18,604). Wayne’s instructional spending per student has increased 50% since 2000, more than the region (43%), but much less than the state (60%).

**Economic Security**

Wayne’s median household income, once among the highest in the region, has fallen considerably since 2000:
- In 2013-17, the median household income in Wayne was $53,693, below the nation ($57,652), state ($62,765), and region ($54,972).
- From 2000 to 2013-17, median income fell by 17% in Wayne, a greater decrease than the nation (7%), state (2%), and region (14%). Wayne’s drop exceeded every other county in the region.
Despite increasing from 2000, the poverty rate in Wayne is lower than the state, nation, and region:

- In 2013-17, 12% of Wayne residents lived below the poverty line, versus 15% for the state and nation and 14% for the region.
- Wayne’s rate rose by 3 points from 2000 to 2013-17, a greater increase than for the state (no change), below the region (4 points), and on par with the nation.

In Wayne County, 1.1% of the population received temporary assistance, below the state (2.7%) and region (2.3%). Similar to trends in other regional counties, Wayne experienced an increase in the number of residents receiving temporary assistance, up 0.2 points from 2001 to 2018. Rates in the region and state declined during this period (0.8% and 0.9%, respectively).

The rate of disengaged youth in Wayne County was 8% for 2013-17, higher than the region (6%), state and nation (both 7%), and unchanged from the rate in 2000.

In 2013-17, 11% of households in Wayne County participated in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This rate is less than the region (14%), state (15%), and unchanged from 2000.

**Health**

The rate of uninsured has fallen slightly and remains below the state and nation:

- In 2017, 5% of Wayne residents lacked health insurance, on par with the region, but below the nation (10%) and state (7%).
- Wayne’s uninsured rate fell by 6 points from 2008 to 2017, similar to the decreases at the state, nation, region and surrounding counties over the same timeframe.

Like other counties in the region, the mortality rate has decreased since 2000 in Wayne:

- In 2016, there were 742 deaths per 100,000 residents, above the rate of 624 for the state, and 685 for the region.
- The rate fell by 15% from 2000 to 2016, similar to the regional decrease of 16%, but smaller than the statewide decrease of 22%.

In 2016, Wayne had the second-lowest rate of doctors among every regional county at only 6 per 10,000 residents. This is considerably lower than the state (40), and regional (34) rates in 2016.

Wayne experienced mixed results for reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections:

- The rate of chlamydia infections has more than doubled since 2001. In 2017, Wayne had 29 cases per 10,000 residents.
- In 2017, Wayne County reported 7 gonorrhea cases per 10,000 residents in the region. Wayne’s rate was much lower than the region and the state (both 17 per 10,000 residents), and half the rate it experienced in 2016 (15).
- In 2016, 0.4 cases of early syphilis per 10,000 residents were reported in Wayne County, less than the region (0.8) and the state (3.1). Wayne’s rate has increased 33% since 2014.
Housing

Median home values have fallen in Wayne and remain lower than the nation and state:
  • In 2013-17, the median home value in Wayne was $118,900, below the nation ($193,500), state ($293,000) and region ($13,156).
  • Wayne’s median home value fell about 4% from 2000 to 2013-17, similar to the small regional decrease (1%) and in contrast to larger increases for the state (35%) and nation (18%).

In 2013-17, the homeownership rate in Wayne was 77%, a little.changed rate from 2000. This rate was higher than the region (68%), state (54%), and nation (64%).

Housing and rent in Wayne County has become more unaffordable over time. However, in 2013-17, both rates indicated that housing in Wayne County was similarly, or more, affordable than the state, nation, and region:
  • In 2013-17, the ratio of median home value to median income was 2.2, similar to the region, but lower than the state (4.7), and nation (3.4). A ratio below 2 or 3 is considered affordable.
  • The ratio rose 16% from 2000 to 2013-17, a smaller increase than for the nation (26%) and state (38%) but similar to the region (14%).
  • In 2013-17, 33% of renters’ income went to rent, similar to the nation and below the state and region. The rate rose by 6 points from 27% in 2000, below the regional increase. A rate of 30% or below is considered affordable.

![Overall Housing Cost Burden](image)

The rate of vacant housing units was 12% in Wayne County for 2013-17, a 20% increase from 2000. Wayne’s vacant housing rate was higher than the region as a whole (10%), as well as the state and nation (both also 12%).
Public Safety

From 2000 to 2017, the rate of serious crime in Wayne fell 28% (from 229 to 164 per 10,000 residents), a smaller decrease than in the state and region over that timeframe, closer to the national decrease of 33%. Wayne’s rate was lower than the state, region, and nation, but above several regional counties.

The rate of violent crimes in Wayne increased from 13 to 21 per 10,000 residents from 2000 to 2017, a 62% increase that was greater than the increase in the region and in sharp contrast to the decline in the nation and state over the same timeframe.

Wayne County had approximately 179 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2017. Arrests in the county saw a decrease of 31% from 2000 (260), and was less than the region (198) and the state (226).

Wayne County had an incarceration rate of approximately 10 per 10,000 residents in 2017, the lowest rate in the region, and below than the state (12) and the region (14). Incarcerations in Wayne for 2017 were 25% lower than in 2008.

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