

# HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? APRIL 2013

## Eastern Wayne Region



The Eastern Wayne County region is comprised of six communities—the five Grosse Pointes and the city of Harper Woods. They range in size from the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores city, with just 2,929 residents in 2010, to the city of Grosse Pointe Woods with 16,135 residents. The region covers only 13 square miles of land area, accounting for just 2.1% of the total county. Two public school districts serve the area.

As the county has experienced continued population loss since 1990, Eastern Wayne has experienced similar erosion, primarily due to an aging population, decreasing births and smaller households. Population loss has been rather consistent across all communities in the region, with the exception of Harper Woods, ranging from a low of 2.9% in the city of Grosse Pointe Farms to a high of 7.1% in Grosse Pointe

Park. Harper Woods experienced a large increase of African Americans leaving Detroit, resulting in little change (-0.1 percent). Grosse Pointe Shores village incorporated as a city that included both the GP township section of Wayne County and the Lake township section of Macomb County.

### POPULATION 5 & UNDER

While the number of children 5 years of age and under dropped by 20.1% between 2000 and 2010 for the region as a whole, there was wide variation across communities. Three communities—the City, the Park and the Woods—experienced rates of decrease above the region average, with Grosse Pointe city's youngest cohort dropping by 38.2 percent. Harper Woods, which held its own overall, experienced only a 3.5 percent decrease in the youngest cohort.

Births in the region continued a steady decrease at a rather steady

“Eastern Wayne has experienced ... erosion, primarily due to an aging population, decreasing births and smaller households.”



Great Start Collaborative – Wayne

13305 Reeck Road, Suite 120  
Southgate, MI 48195

[www.greatstartwayne.org](http://www.greatstartwayne.org)

## BY THE NUMBERS

### POPULATION & INCOME

3,724

Number of children in region that were 0-5 years old in 2010

20.1%

Population 0-5 years dropped 20.1% between 2000 and 2010.



**10.0% of children 6 & under are in poverty.**

15.9% of children 6 & under are below 185% poverty.

pace throughout the decade. The 489 average annual births of the 2008-10 period were 31.7 percent fewer than the first three years of the decade. This is very indicative of an aging community.

#### INCOME

While socioeconomic data are not collected on an annual basis for communities smaller than 65,000 population, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) does produce 5-year aggregations. We chose to look at median family income, per capita income and child poverty as a gauge of the economic standing of children across Wayne County. An analysis of 2011 median family income at the county level showed a decrease between 1999 and 2011 of over one-third in the buying power of the average family. While the "By the Numbers" section shows the actual 2011 median family income for each community, an analysis of change over the decade revealed that, though all experienced a decrease, the range of change was less than in other regions. Grosse Pointe city and Grosse Pointe Shores were on the low end of the spectrum at 6.7 and 7.7 percent, respectively, while Harper Woods held the high end at 26.7 percent. This lessening of family buying power, though relatively small, is a strong indicator of increasing economic hardship. Decreasing income was accompanied by increasing poverty,

particularly among children. This was also based on the share of children, 6 years and under, below poverty and below 185% of poverty, a measure used to determine eligibility for free/reduced lunch in school. Due to the size of the communities in the region, estimates of poverty by age are very much prone to error. This is particularly the case with Grosse Pointe city, where the margin of error made any calculation very misleading. This is not the case for Harper Woods where the rate is a relatively high 24.0 percent.

#### ETHNICITY

While no race or ethnic group is in the majority in Wayne County as a whole, White, non-Hispanics, which include a number of ethnic groups, such as persons of Middle Eastern descent, represent the vast majority (79.6%) of Eastern Wayne's population. The loss in share from 92.3 percent in 2000 was primarily picked up by African Americans. Their share increased from 3.3 to 14.7 percent over the decade, primarily due to the major inflow from Detroit to Harper Woods. The African American share of Harper Wood's population grew from 10.2 to 45.3 percent, as their number more than tripled.

#### TEENAGE MOTHERS

The percent of new mothers below the age of 20 years showed a gradual increase over the decade but remained well below the

country average and lowest of the regions. The share took a slight uptick in the most recent period, reaching a decade high level of only 4.2 percent level in the 2008-10 period.

### PRENATAL CARE

While Wayne County and the other three regions experienced a decrease in the percent of mothers receiving adequate prenatal care during 2008-10, the Eastern region experienced improvement. Their share of 82.3 percent was up from 78.4 percent in 2005-07 and represented the highest rate of the decade.

### BABIES WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

The percent of low birthweight babies (less than 5.5 lbs.) reached its lowest point of the decade, 6.5 percent, during the 2008-10 period. This was well below the county average of 10.7 percent.

### MOTHERS' EDUCATION LEVEL

Concern about the low educational attainment of new mothers is not an issue in the Eastern region, even though the 2008-10 period continued the growth that began mid-decade. The percent of new mothers with less than a high school education stood at 4.7% in the 2008-10 period, well below the other regions and about one fifth the rate of the county as a whole.

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

The infant mortality rate in the

Eastern Wayne Region dropped significantly in the 2008-09 period. The 3.0 deaths per 1,000 births in the 2008-09 period, less than half that of any other region, represented a return to the low rates at the beginning of the decade.

### SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY

The percent of New Mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy remained relatively steady over the decade at about 4.0 percent. A revision in the question after 2007 has led to an increase in the percent reporting in the affirmative. The Eastern region experienced an increase from 3.6 to 8.2 percent in 2008-10, still well below the other regions and about one half the rate of the county.

### CHILD CARE CENTERS

While the total number of child care facilities is relatively low, child care centers represent three quarters (75.0%) of the licensed programs in the Eastern Wayne Region. There are 33 Centers, 7 Family Homes, and 4 Group Homes.

### CHILD ABUSE

The number of investigated cases showed a steady increase over the three year period, as did the number of substantiated cases. The overall share of substantiated cases dropped in 2011 and then rebounded to a rate slightly lower than that of 2010.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### ISSUES

31.7%

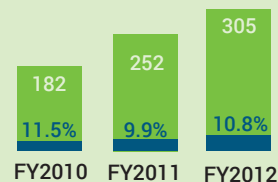
Percentage drop in annual births from 2000-2010

6.5%

Average percent of low birthweight babies (less than 5.5 lbs) during 2008-2010, the lowest point of the decade

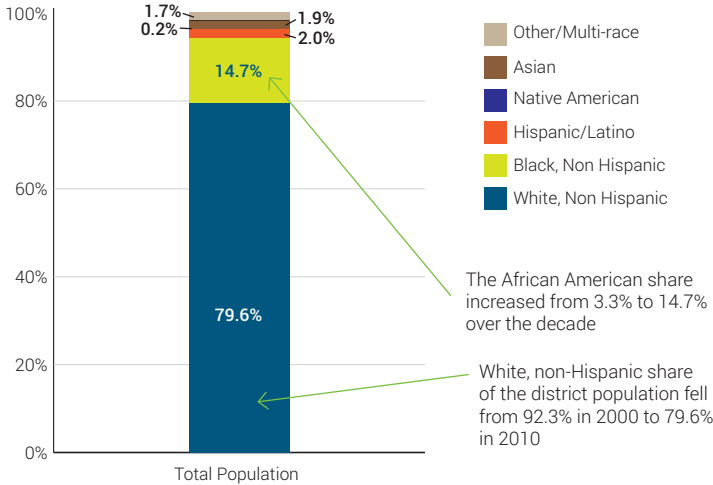
### Child abuse cases

Investigated vs Substantiated



The number of investigated cases showed a steady increase over the three year period, as did the number of substantiated cases.

## ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN EASTERN WAYNE



“The infant mortality rate in the Eastern Wayne region dropped significantly in the 2008-09 period.”

## DETAILED POPULATION DATA

	Population 0-5 years, 2010	Percent Change, 2000-10	Population 0-8 years, 2010	Percent Change, 2000-10	2011 Median Family Income	Per Capita Income, 2011	Children <6 yrs old in Poverty	Percent of children less than 6	Children <6 below 185% poverty	Percent of children less than 6
Eastern Wayne	3,724	-20.1%	6,182	-15.6%	NA	NA	375	10.0%	596	15.9%
Grosse Pointe city	290	-38.2%	544	-25.2%	\$129,531	\$51,146	**	**	**	**
Grosse Point Farms city	631	-18.3%	1,061	-13.0%	\$128,607	\$59,699	0	0.0%	15	2.2%
Grosse Pointe Park city	687	-28.4%	1,205	-22.2%	\$115,625	\$47,712	19	2.8%	66	9.7%
Grosse Pointe Woods city	940	-23.8%	1,568	-20.2%	\$105,057	\$40,223	44	3.8%	60	5.2%
Harper Woods city	1,061	-3.5%	1,611	-0.6%	\$51,101	\$22,716	218	24.0%	345	38.0%
Village of Grosse Pointe Shores city	115	-9.4%	193	-21.9%	\$177,788	\$79,796	7	11.5%	7	11.5%

\*\* Margin Of Error Too Large To Allow For Calculation.