

Population Health Vital Statistics Brief:

Demographics of Summit County, 2000-2022

The *Population Health Vital Statistics Data Brief* series was created to provide regular updates to the Community Health Assessment and to provide the community with additional important information about population health. For more information on the Community Health Assessment and to access other reports in the *Vital Statistics Data Brief* series, please visit scph.org/assessments-reports



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Population Change In Summit County

Summit County was home to approximately 540,000 people in 2020. By 2022, that number had dropped to just under 536,000 (Figure 1).

Population projections -- The Ohio Development Services Agency projects that Summit County's population will drop to just over 450,000 by 2050; a decline of about 16% from 2020 (Figure 2).

What is causing Summit County's population decline? -- There are three main drivers of Summit County's current and projected population decline. First, trends in annual births and deaths are changing. Before 2017, births per year slightly outpaced deaths. However, births have been slowly declining at least since 2007, while deaths have been slowly increasing during those same years (Figure 3).

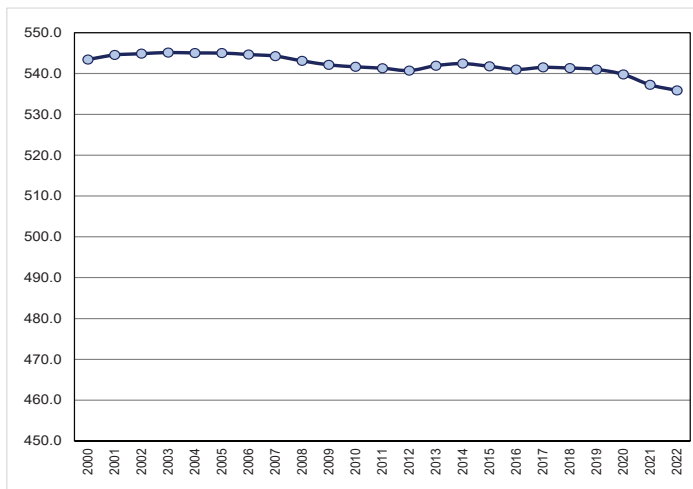


Figure 1: Population Change in Summit County, 2000-2022. Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

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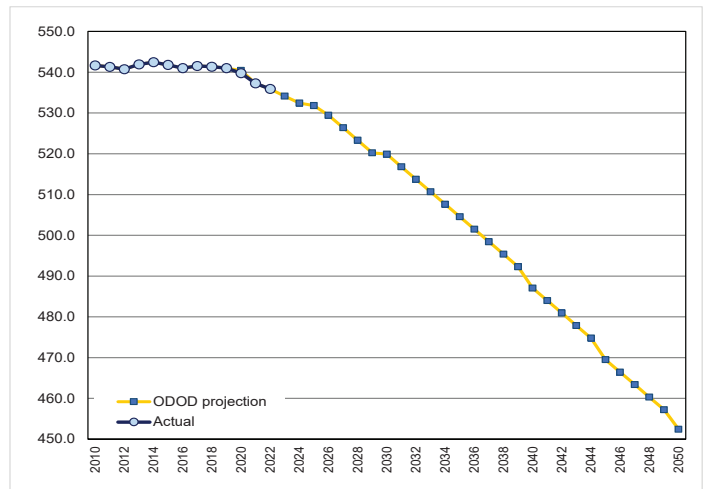


Figure 2: Population Projection, Summit County, 2010-2050 Projection. Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages; Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA).

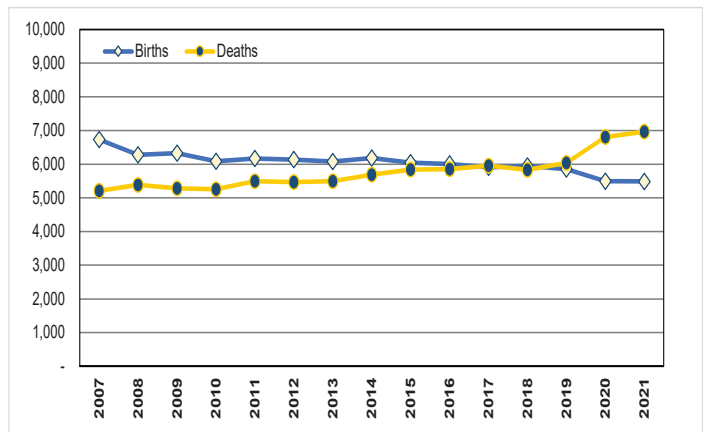


Figure 3: Change in Births and Deaths, 2007-2021; Source: Ohio Department of Health Birth and Death Certificate Databases

On top of these trends, COVID-19 significantly drove up the number of deaths and may have helped hold down birth rates as well. Since 2020, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of more than 2,000 Summit County residents, driving annual deaths up from just over 6,000 before the pandemic to nearly 7,000 in each of the last two years for which data is available.

On the birth side, COVID-19 led to a decline in birth rates across the nation and in many other countries (at least initially). Birth rates declined in the months after the pandemic first hit then partially rebounded later.¹ Local figures provided by ODH haven't been finalized beyond 2020 yet, but 2020 data seems to suggest that the same effect is happening here in Summit County.

A third factor reducing Summit County's population is a net loss of population because of migration. Because America is a highly mobile society, people change addresses frequently (an average of 11 moves in a lifetime according to Census estimates).² For example, national trends over the past several decades have seen people from the midwest and east coast migrate to areas in the south and southwest, leading to long-term population loss in many cities and states.

Figure 4 shows one way to track migration. The Census Bureau maintains a county-level migration database using the American Community Survey. This migration data is based on questions about a respondent's current address and their address one year prior. Those data are then combined to estimate five-year total net migration into and out of each county in the nation.

¹ Melissa S. Kearney, P. L., Drescher, J., Sana Sinha, N. Z., & Bharadwaj, A. (2022, May 3). US births are down again, after the Covid baby bust and rebound. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/us-births-are-down-again-after-the-covid-baby-bust-and-rebound/>

² <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-many-times-the-average-person-moves/>

Between 2016 and 2020, Summit County saw a net loss of about 3,400 people to over 44 states and 400 counties across Ohio, the nation, and regions around the world. For Summit County, the biggest net loss was to Franklin County (an estimated -589 people), while the biggest gain was from Portage County (an estimated +892 people). Outside Ohio, the biggest net loss was to Shelby County, TN (an estimated -288 people), while the biggest gain was from Monroe County, NY (an estimated +302 people).

Population and households -- According to the Census Bureau, a household is defined as one or more people living in a housing unit. Households come in two types; family and non-family. Changes in the number, size, and type of households can reflect important changes happening in families, communities, and housing markets.

Social and Demographic Changes in Households -- Figure 5 shows the changes in both population and households since 2000. During that time, the population in Summit County dropped by about 1%, while the number of households grew by about 6%.

Figure 6 shows the average household size, which dropped by about 6.5% since 2000.

Figure 7 shows changes in family vs. non-family households. Since 2000, family households have dropped by 3%, while non-family households grew by more than 24%.

Finally, Figure 8 shows changes in non-family households of people living alone, or not living alone (such as unmarried partners or householders with a roommate). Since 2000, non-family households living alone grew by 23%, while those not living alone grew by about 30%.

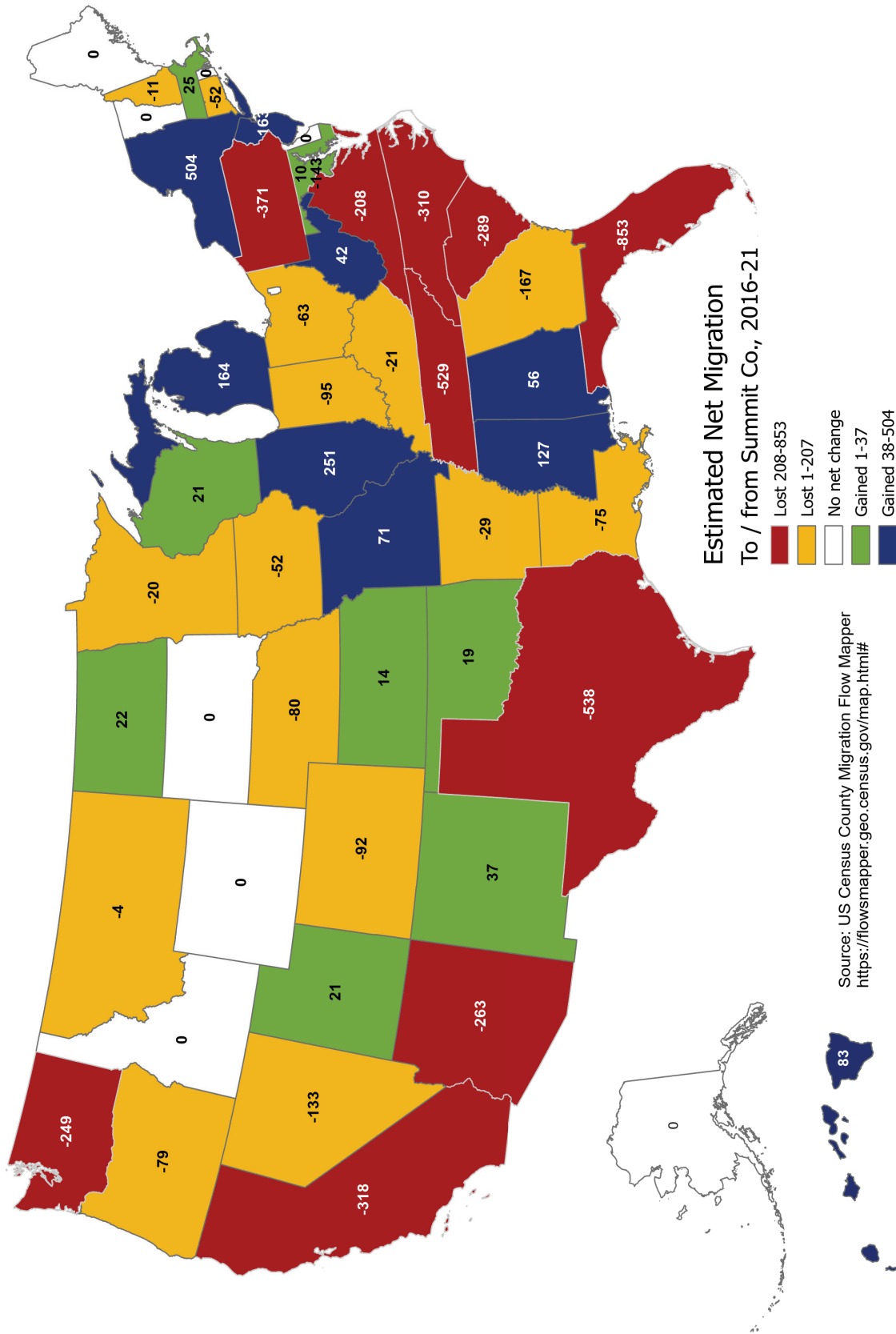


Figure 4: Estimated Net Migration To / From Summit County, 2016-2021; Source: US Census County Migration Flow Mapper

What do all these changes mean? -- Declining population and rising households often show a community that is becoming more socially fragmented; fewer people living further apart from each other. This can be negative, like a family household becoming a non-family household due to a divorce, separation, or death of a spouse. However, it can also be positive, like a young adult moving out of their parent's home and establishing one of their own. Other times, it simply reflects changes in social structure, such as society's movement away from marriage and towards choosing to live together, remaining single, or marrying later in life.

Changes in Summit County's population and households reflect all of these factors. Since 2000, the number of married-couple households dropped by 10%, while those in the single, never-married category rose by 32%. In addition, there was a 15% growth in the divorced or separated category. The number of households headed by a widow or widower dropped by 11%. Combined with the nearly 7% decline in average household size (from 2.45 people in 2000 to 2.29 in 2022), these changes show a long-term shift away from the more traditional married-couple with children arrangement. Summit County is experiencing a growth of smaller, non-family and a decline of larger family households than in the past. Within the non-family category, both single, never married (living alone) and unmarried partners (not living alone) are growing, as are households headed by someone who is divorced.

Households and Families -- Another way to look at households is by looking at their living arrangements. The ACS tracks four major types of based on living arrangements, married-couple, cohabiting-couple, female-headed, and male-

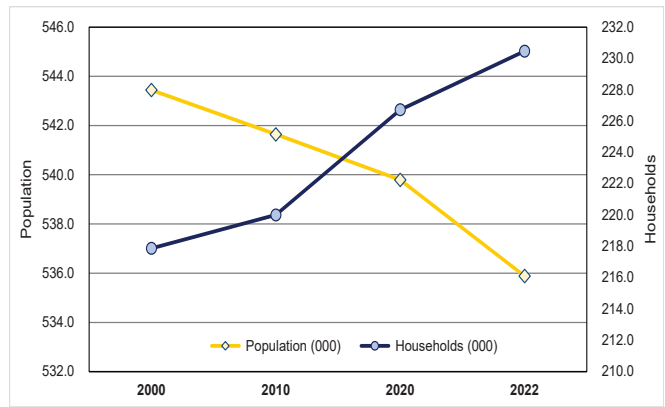


Figure 5: Change in Population & Households, 2000-2022
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

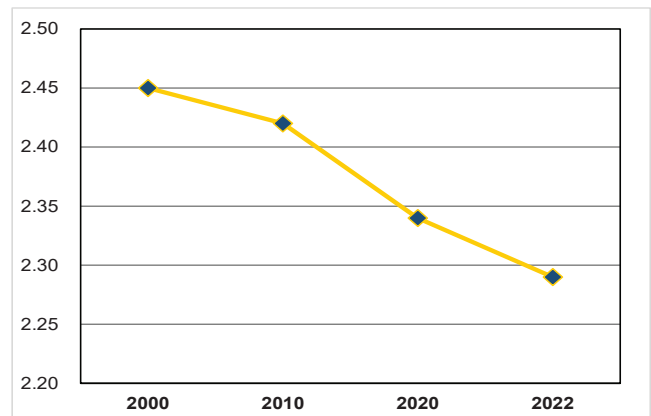


Figure 6: Change in Persons Per Household
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

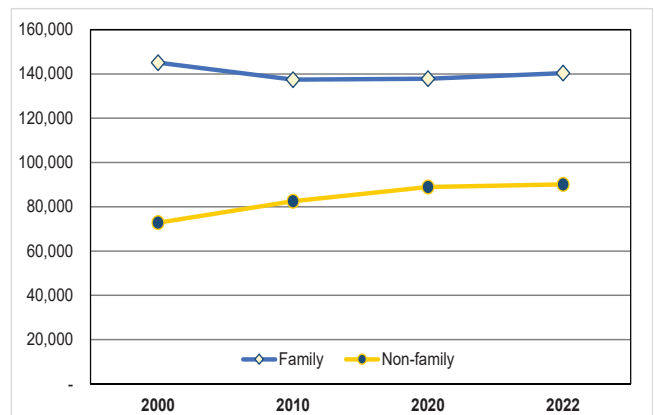


Figure 7: Change in Family and Non-Family Households
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

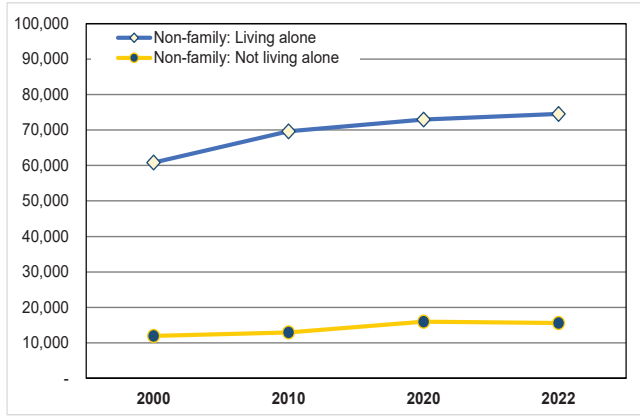


Figure 8: Change in Non-Family Households Living Alone / Not Living Alone Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

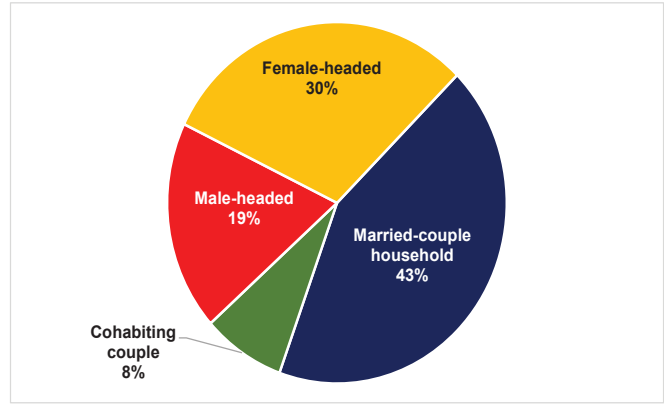


Figure 9: Household Type, 2022 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

headed. Married couples are still the most common type, accounting for 43% of the county's households. Female-headed makes up just over 30%, while male-headed makes up about one-in-five households. Finally, 8% are classified as cohabiting couple households.

About one third of both married- and cohabiting-couples have children under 18 living in the home. That figure falls to 20% for female-headed and just 6% for male-headed households.

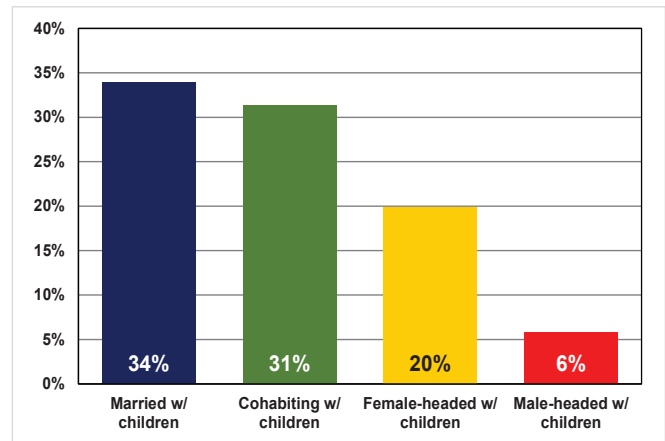


Figure 10: Percent of Households With Children by Type, 2022 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Marital Status -- Nearly half of people age 15 and older say they are married, while another third have never been married. About 12% of those age

15 and older say they are divorced or separated, while a final 7% say they were a widow or widower (Figure 11).

Marital Status - Number	2000	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	Trend
Never married	111,642	144,893	147,713	153,376	6%	
Married	231,752	210,089	209,286	207,832	-1%	
Separated	5,793	6,761	7,438	3,838	-43%	
Widowed	31,700	29,643	28,352	29,682	0%	
Divorced	48,031	53,480	54,812	51,135	-4%	
Total	428,918	444,866	447,601	445,863	997	

Marital Status - Percent	2000	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	Trend
Never married	26.0%	32.6%	33.0%	34.4%	5.6%	
Married	54.0%	47.2%	46.8%	46.6%	-1.3%	
Separated	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	-43.4%	
Widowed	7.4%	6.7%	6.3%	6.7%	-0.1%	
Divorced	11.2%	12.0%	12.2%	11.5%	-4.6%	
% divorced / separated	12.5%	13.5%	13.9%	12.3%	-8.9%	

Figure 11: Change in Marital Status, 2011-2022 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

Region of Birth / Citizenship / Language -- In 2022, just over 30,000 Summit County residents said they were born in a foreign country, or just under 6% of the total population. The foreign-born population has been growing since 2000, when there were just under 18,000 foreign-born residents (Figure 12). About two-thirds of the foreign-born population were naturalized U.S. citizens as of 2022; a figure which more than doubled since 2000.

Many foreign-born residents came to the U.S. in 2010 or later; about 44% by 2022. This figure rose from just 17% in the 2011-2015 period and 36% in the 2016-2020 period.

Region of Birth - In 2014, one-quarter of the foreign-born population in Summit County were born in Europe. In the years that followed, the regions of birth for most foreign-born residents shifted, with those born in Asia accounting for just under two-thirds of the foreign-born population (63%). Those born in Latin America were the next fastest-growing group, rising from 5.6% in 2014 to 11% in 2022. The net gain of about 7,400 foreign-born residents from Asia and Latin America offset declines in residents born in Europe, Oceania, and other parts of North America; a decline of about 1,100 people (Figure 13).

Language Spoken At Home - About 35,000 Summit County residents report through the ACS

U.S. Citizenship Status	2000	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	Trend
Total population	542,899	541,847	540,810	535,882	-1%	
Foreign-born population	17,729	24,917	29,156	30,396	71%	
Naturalized U.S. citizen	9,514	13,190	15,328	19,187	102%	
Not a U.S. citizen	8,215	11,727	13,828	11,209	36%	
Native-born population	525,170	516,930	511,654	505,486	-4%	
Percent foreign-born	3.3%	4.6%	5.4%	5.7%	74%	
Naturalized as % of foreign-born	53.7%	52.9%	52.6%	63.1%	18%	

Figure 12: Citizenship Status of Summit County Residents, 2000-2022
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

Foreign-born population	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	Trend
Entered 2010 or later	4,183	15,328	13,462	222%	
Entered before 2010	20,734	13,828	16,934	-18%	
Total	24,917	29,156	30,396	22%	

Foreign-born population	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	Trend
Entered 2010 or later	16.8%	35.7%	44.3%	164%	
Entered before 2010	83.2%	64.3%	55.7%	-33%	
Total	24,917	29,156	30,396	22%	

Figure 13: Year of Arrival of Foreign-Born Residents, 2011-2022
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

Region of Birth	2014	2019	2022	Change	Trend
Europe	24.9%	19.5%	17.6%	-29%	
Asia	58.5%	58.3%	63.2%	8%	
Africa	5.2%	8.6%	5.7%	10%	
Oceania	1.2%	0.6%	0.3%	-75%	
Latin America	5.6%	10.8%	11.0%	96%	
Northern America	4.5%	2.3%	2.3%	-49%	

Figure 14: Region of Birth of Foreign-Born Residents, 2014-2022
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

that they speak a language other than English in their homes; about 7% of the population over age 5 in Summit County.

The majority of those who speak a language other than English in their homes speak one or more Indo-European languages (51%). Spanish is spoken in about one-fifth of these homes, with Asian and/or Pacific Island languages accounting for another fifth.

About half of those speaking an Indo-European or Asian / Pacific Island language say they speak English less than very well; a figure which falls to just 36% for Spanish and 29% for other languages (Figure 14).

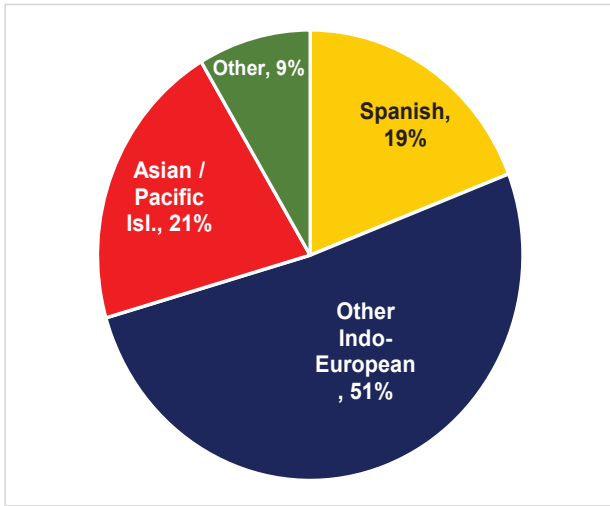


Figure 15: Percent Speaking A Language Other Than English, 2022
 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

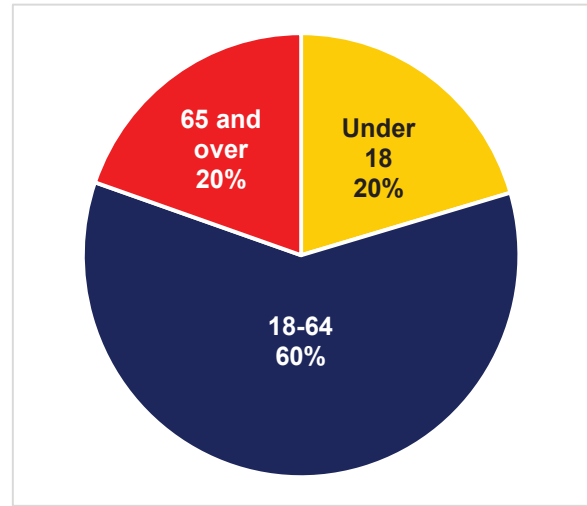


Figure 18: Age Breakdown by Age Group, 2022
 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

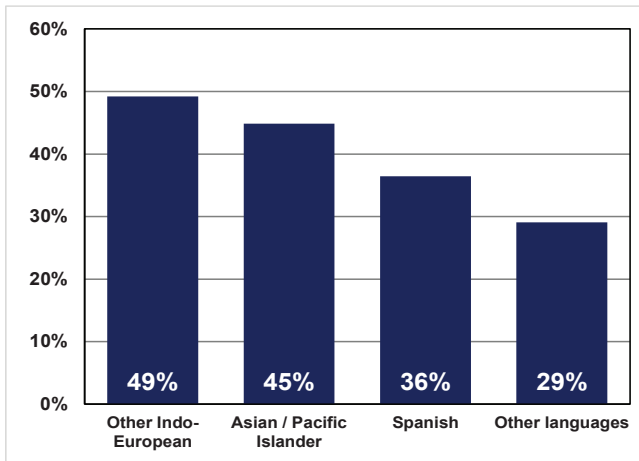


Figure 16: Percent Speaking English Less than Very Well, 2022
 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

between 1946 and 1964). Figures 19 and 20 on the following page show the population pyramid by sex for Summit County after the 2010 and 2020 Census counts. The shaded areas on the pyramid show that the bulk of the Baby Boom generation was between the ages of 43 and 62 in 2010 (53 and 72 by 2020). By 2030, all but the youngest Boomers will have moved into retirement age (at least 63 years old). In fact, the Ohio Development Services Agency projections mentioned earlier show that Summit County's senior population will peak around 2035 at about 116,000 people age 65 and older. As of 2022, Summit County has an estimated 105,400 seniors age 65 and older.

Age / Sex / Race / Ethnicity

Age -- The fastest growing segment of the population is seniors age 65 and over, which grew by 37% since 2000. The rise in seniors is being driven by the Baby Boom generation (born

By far, the biggest declines came in the under 20 population, which dropped by 16% between 2000 and 2020, and by another 4% between 2020 and 2022. As of 2022, Summit County has just over 120,000 people under age 20.

Age category	Population by age group				Change	Trend
	2000	2011-15	2016-20	2022		
Under 20	149,564	132,698	126,197	120,391	-20%	
Age 20-64	316,590	323,963	317,627	310,058	-2%	
Age 65+	76,745	85,186	96,986	105,433	37%	
Total	542,899	541,847	540,810	535,882	-1%	

The population of working-age adults 20-64 remained relatively steady at about 310,000 in 2022; a decline of just 2% since 2000.

Figure 17: Age Breakdown by Age Group (number)
 Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

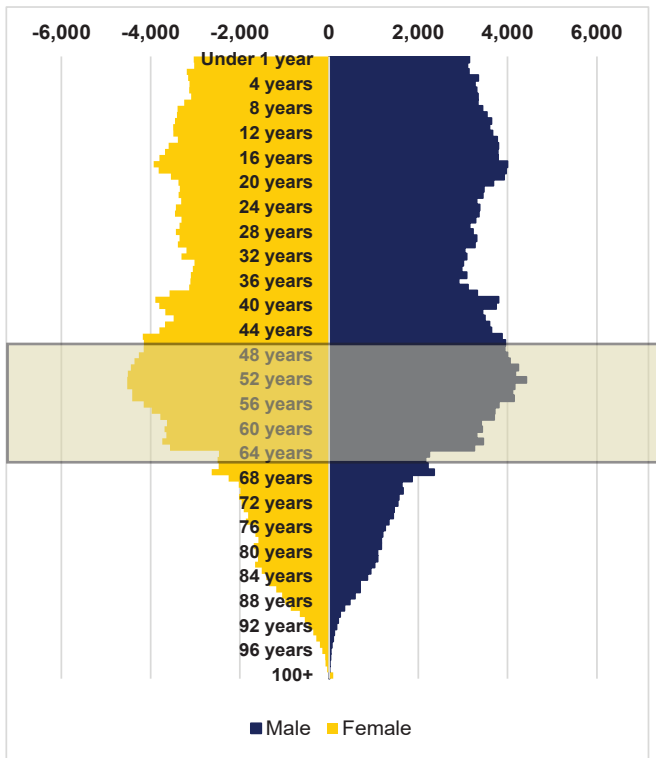


Figure 19: Population Pyramid by Sex for Summit County, 2010
 Source: U.S. Census, 2010.

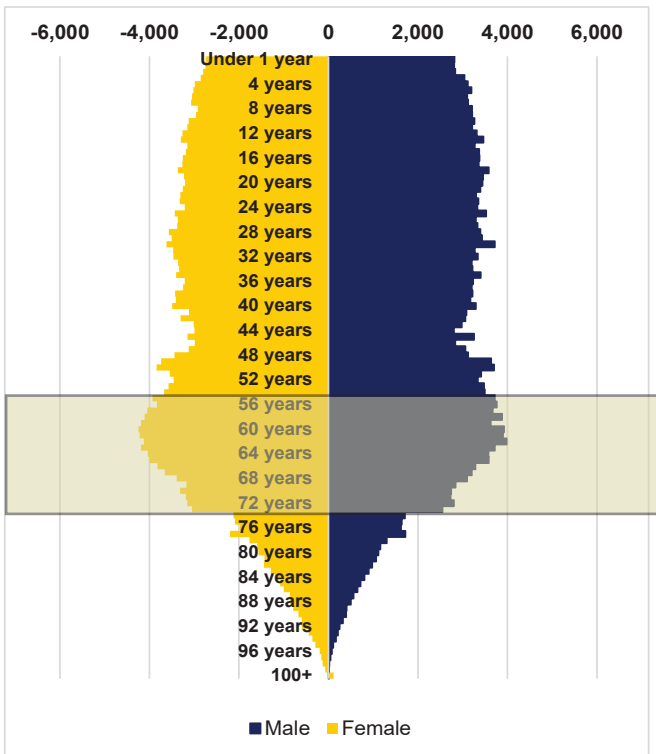


Figure 20: Population Pyramid by Sex for Summit County, 2020
 Source: U.S. Census, 2010.

Sex -- As it is in most human populations, the split between males and females is roughly even in

Summit County, at about 261,000 and 274,000, respectively. The sex ratio at birth, a common indicator of balance in populations, shows a slightly higher female balance, with males per 100 females running between 93 and 95 over the past 20 years.

Sex	Population by sex					Trend
	2000	2011-15	2016-20	2022	Change	
Male	262,066	262,467	262,188	261,597	-0.3%	
Female	280,833	279,380	278,622	274,285	-1.8%	
Males per 100 Females	93.3	93.9	94.1	95.4	1.5%	
Total	542,899	541,847	540,810	535,882	-1.1%	

Figure 21: Sex and Sex Ratio, Summit County, 2000 - 2022
 Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

Race and Ethnicity -- Most Summit County residents self-identify as members of one racial group (93%), while the remaining 7% self-identify as having two or more races (Figure 22).

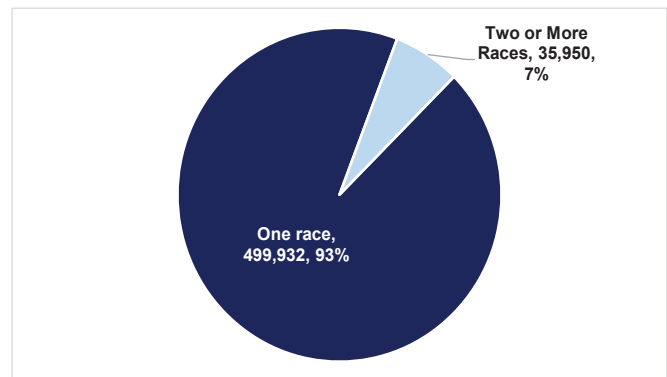


Figure 22: Race by Number of Racial Groups, 2022
 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Within the one race category, three-quarters self-identified as White only in 2022, while another 13% self-identified as Black or African-American alone. Those self-identifying as Asian were the next largest group (4% of the total population, or about 23,000 people). About 3,000 self-identified as some other racial group, and about 900 self-identified as American Indian / Alaska Native in 2022 (Figure 23).

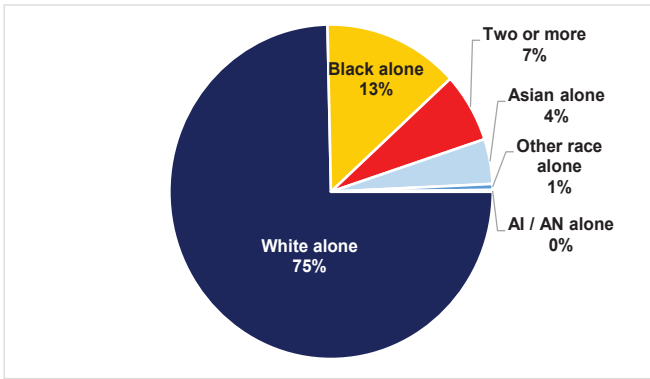


Figure 23: Summit County Residents Self-Identifying As One Race, 2022 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Figure 24 shows the self-identification choices of the 33,600 people who fell into the more than one race category. Of that group, about half self-identified as White and Black.

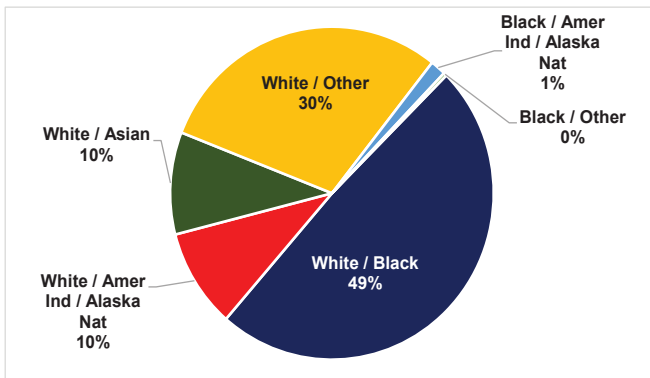


Figure 24: Summit County Residents Self-Identifying As Two or More Races, 2022 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Race - Asian -- Of the 23,000 people who self-identified as Asian, the largest single group identified as Indian; about 4,500 people or about 20% of all those identifying as Asian. Those identifying as Chinese were the next largest group (2,600 or 11%), followed by Filipinos (2,200 or 10%) and Vietnamese (1,500 or 6%). Another 437 and 87 self-identified as Korean and Japanese, respectively. Just over half of those self-identifying as Asian chose from a variety of smaller groups that were collectively classified by the American Community Survey as Other Asian.

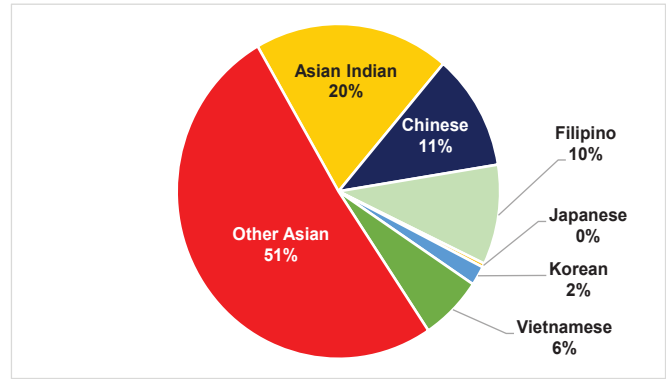


Figure 25: Summit County Residents Self-Identifying As Asian, 2022 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Ethnicity - Hispanic or Latino -- Of the 14,000 people who self-identified as Hispanic or Latino, the largest single group identified as Mexican; about 5,800 people or about 41% of the total. Those identifying as Puerto Rican were the next largest single group (3,800 or 27%), followed by Cuban (445 or 3%). The remaining 29% chose from a variety of smaller Hispanic or Latino groups.

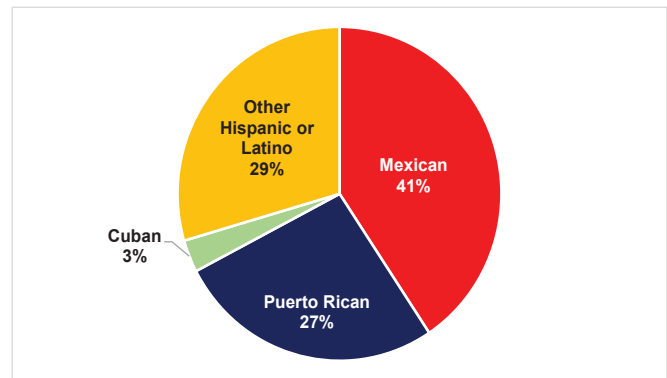


Figure 26: Summit County Residents Self-Identifying As Hispanic or Latino, 2022 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

Ancestry – In addition to race and ethnicity, the American Community Survey asks respondents about their ancestry. These data are summarized in Figure 27 on the next page. It is important to note that Figure 27 includes all reported ancestries, so those who report more than one ancestry can appear more than once. Those identifying as “American” do not include those who self-identify in another established category such as African-American or American Indian.

Ancestry Reported	2022
German	113,005
Irish	71,642
Italian	51,170
English	51,052
Polish	25,900
American	23,428
Hungarian	15,749
Scottish	11,335
French (except Basque)	9,790
Slovak	8,499
European	6,780
Welsh	6,266
Subsaharan African:	5,994
African	3,428
Nigerian	837
Ghanaian	346
Liberian	106
Sudanese	47
Kenyan	38
Ethiopian	23
Ugandan	11
South African	8
Cape Verdean	-
Senegalese	-
Sierra Leonean	-
Somali	-
Zimbabwean	-
Other Subsaharan African	1,163
Arab:	5,345
Lebanese	2,540
Other Arab	812
Palestinian	686
Arab	636
Syrian	293
Egyptian	223
Iraqi	109
Jordanian	35
Moroccan	34
Dutch	5,265
Scotch-Irish	4,957
Russian	4,842
Greek	4,496
Swedish	4,113
Czech	4,017
British	3,952
Slovene	3,696
Serbian	3,158
Swiss	2,995
Ukrainian	2,667
Eastern European	2,418
Croatian	2,353

Ancestry Reported (continued)	2022
Romanian	2,284
Austrian	2,025
Norwegian	1,969
Czechoslovakian	1,236
West Indian (except Hispanic groups):	1,200
Jamaican	724
West Indian	308
Haitian	103
Belizean	27
Bahamian	22
British West Indian	5
Trinidadian and Tobagonian	2
Barbadian	-
Bermudan	-
Dutch West Indian	-
U.S. Virgin Islander	-
Other West Indian	9
French Canadian	1,186
Lithuanian	1,176
Pennsylvania German	1,143
Scandinavian	1,139
Yugoslavian	1,060
Finnish	930
Canadian	834
Portuguese	834
Danish	789
Slavic	738
Macedonian	605
Northern European	475
Iranian	437
Belgian	329
Armenian	322
Israeli	276
Albanian	205
Brazilian	179
Celtic	107
Turkish	106
Bulgarian	68
Latvian	67
Australian	52
Afghan	37
Carpatho Rusyn	34
Icelander	24
Cypriot	14
Maltese	14
Cajun	13
Estonian	13
Soviet Union	12
Guyanese	10
Basque	8
Alsatian	6
German Russian	3
Other groups	121,767
Unclassified or not reported	115,077
Total	540,567

Figure 27: People Reporting Ancestry, 2022 Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-year averages.

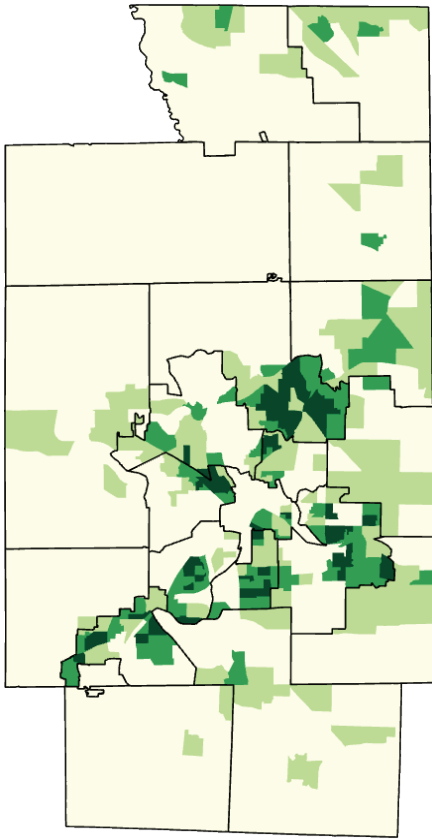


Figure 28: Density of the White Alone Population Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

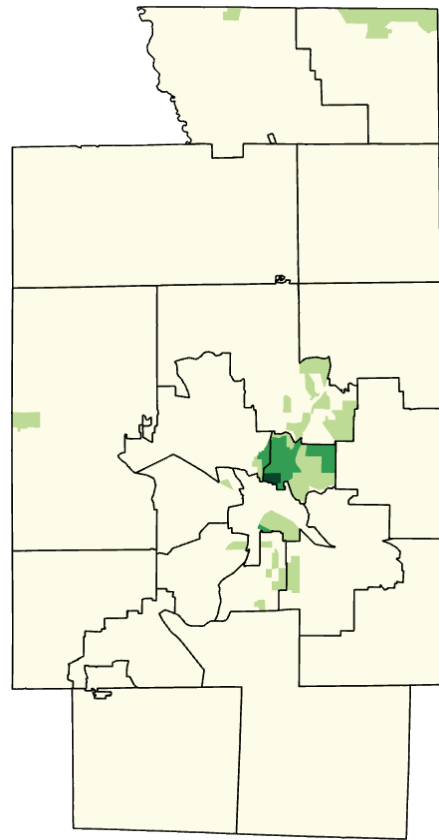


Figure 30: Density of the Asian Alone Population Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

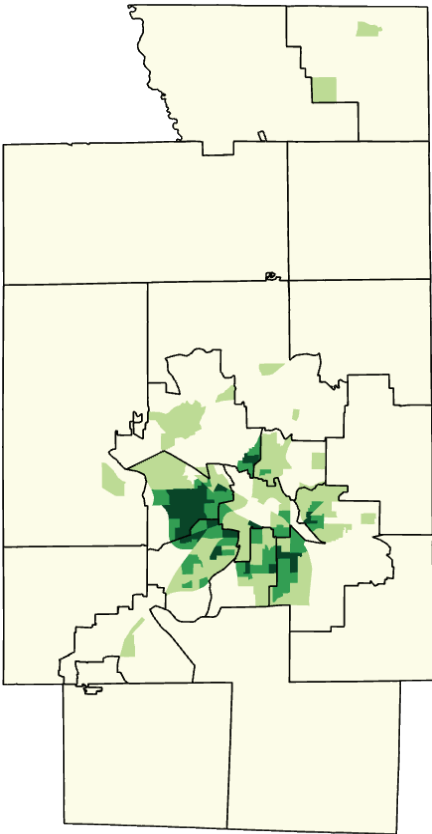


Figure 29: Density of the Black Alone Population Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.

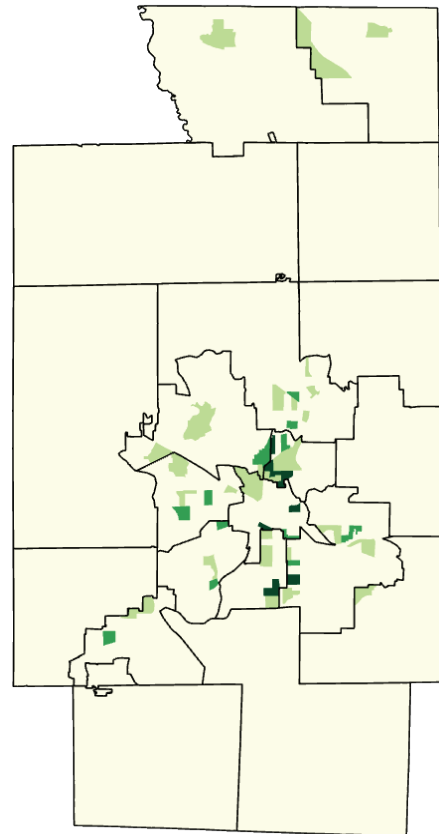


Figure 31: Density of the Hispanic Population Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year averages.