

Appalachian Cincinnati

Introduction

The term Appalachian is not synonymous with poverty. The vast majority of Appalachians in the metropolitan area are not poor, not on welfare, and are not high school dropouts. Most own their homes and have relatively stable families. They are a predominantly blue collar group. About 10 percent hold managerial and professional jobs. In socioeconomic status white Appalachians, as a group, hold a position between non-Appalachian whites and African Americans. In inner city Cincinnati (and probably Covington and Newport), however, Appalachians in some respects hold a socioeconomic position closer to African Americans than to non-Appalachian whites. African American Appalachians tend to blend into the larger African American community and so are not identifiable in the type of analysis offered here. Other studies show them to be about 16 percent of the Appalachian population in Cincinnati(1).

Figure 6 shows the relationship of Appalachians to poverty. Most of the tracts considered Appalachian are also high poverty areas. In addition to the areas mentioned in Cincinnati there are many Appalachian sections beyond the city limits – in Norwood, Covington, and Newport for example. Clermont County is an Appalachian county. South Lebanon, Western Hamilton County and Dearborn County also have Appalachian concentrations for example, in Harrison and West Harrison.

In previous editions of this report, Figure 6 showed Appalachian enclaves on both the west and east sides. The current data (Figure 6) shows Appalachians concentrated mainly on the west side and heavily African American (Figure 5) tracts increasing on the west side. The Appalachian population in the East End, Oakley, and Linwood has probably declined as these neighborhoods become more upscale. Linwood is no longer on the list of Appalachian neighborhoods. Along the Mill Creek, Carthage, Camp Washington, one tract

in South Fairmount and Lower Price Hill are still mainly Appalachian but the lower half of Northside did not meet the criteria as it has in the past. The largest concentration of Appalachians in Cincinnati includes East Price Hill, one tract in West Price Hill, Lower Price Hill,

The largest concentration of Appalachians in Cincinnati includes East Price Hill, one tract in West Price Hill, Lower Price Hill, Sedamsville-Riverside and Riverside-Sayler Park.

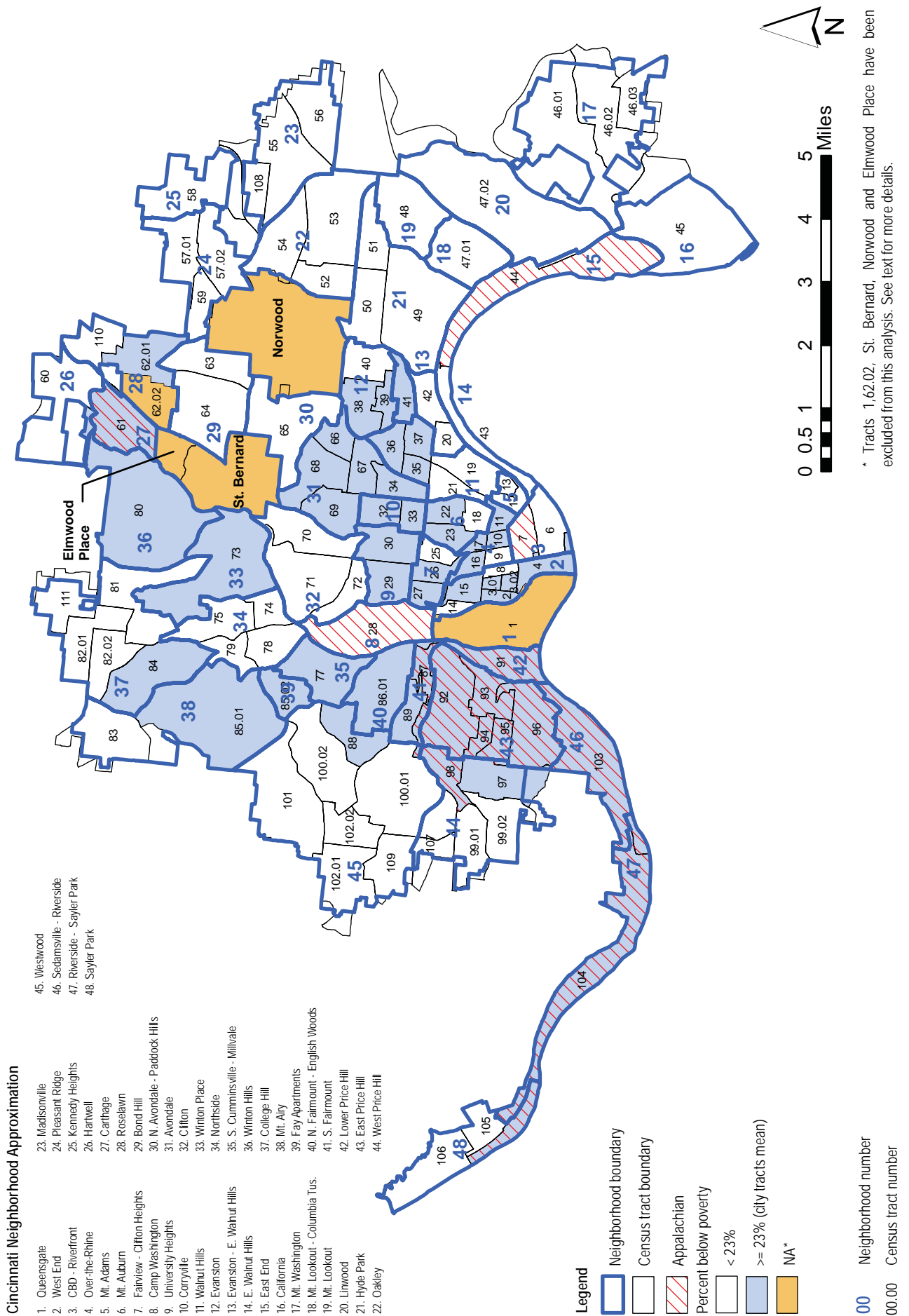
Sedamsville-Riverside and Riverside-Sayler Park. People of Appalachian heritage, at various stages of assimilation or non-assimilation, now live in every section of Cincinnati and its environs and are estimated to comprise as much as 40% of the total regional population.

All of the Appalachian areas are in SES I and II. There are no high SES areas that would parallel Kennedy Heights and North Avondale, which are high SES African-American areas. As far as we know, higher status Appalachians do not concentrate in ethnic enclaves. White Appalachians do not face discrimination unless they have a noticeable accent or class identifiers such as living in a low income area, poor

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clothing, or the wrong kind of car. Schooling is still a big problem for inner city Appalachians. Some of the highest dropout rates and lowest adult education levels are in Appalachian neighborhoods. See Chapter 6, Figures 7, 8, and 9. See also the section on poverty in white working class communities in Chapter 4.

2005-2009 Cincinnati City Appalachians and Areas of Poverty



Defining Appalachian

One of the concerns in describing Appalachian neighborhoods in Cincinnati is the problem of identifying them. In the 1960s most Cincinnatians probably thought that Appalachians lived in Over-The-Rhine and knew little beyond that. Over the years the list expanded to include Lower Price Hill, Northside, Camp Washington, East End and several other city neighborhoods. (By 1980, Over-the-Rhine was primarily African American.)

In *The Social Areas of Cincinnati, Second Edition* (1986) a set of criteria was defined and a formal list of Appalachian neighborhoods was developed. These criteria have been revised for this edition and are displayed in Table 5a and include the percent below poverty, percent of African American population, high school dropouts, joblessness rate, occupational status and family size.

1. Greater than 23% of the families are below the poverty level
2. Less than 41.0% of families are African American
3. Less than 80% of the persons 25 years or older are high school graduates
4. More than 7% of the persons 16-19 years old who are not in school are not high school graduates
5. More than 62% of the persons 16-19 years old are jobless (includes those unemployed and those not in the civilian labor force)
6. More than 3 persons per average family

If a community met six of the seven criteria, it was considered to have a majority of Appalachian population. If at least four criteria were met, the neighborhood was identified as having a significant Appalachian population, but not as long as the African American population was more than 41.0 (the city wide) percentage.

Starting with a list of neighborhoods created from this criteria, in 1996 Fred Hoeweler updated the list using the same criteria and applied them using block group data from the 1990 census. The Hoeweler version of the 1986

Maloney/Heller list deleted Oakley and added East Price Hill. For the present edition, Christopher Auffrey deleted the occupational index from the criteria and derived a list of neighborhoods which met at least four of the six remaining criteria. They are Camp Washington, Carthage, East End (part), East Price Hill, Lower Price Hill, Riverside-Sayler Park, West Price Hill (part), Sedamsville-Riverside, CBD-Riverfront (part) and South Fairmount (part). All together ten neighborhoods are considered Appalachian (Table 5b). The authors acknowledge the circular reasoning involved in using these negative criteria to define Appalachian neighborhoods. We can say minimally that Cincinnati’s Appalachian leaders concur that these are Cincinnati neighborhoods with high percentages of people of Appalachian origin.

Neighborhood	Appalachian Census Tracts				
CBD-Riverfront	7				
Camp Washington	28				
East End	44				
Carthage	61				
East Price Hill	92	93	94	95	96
West Price Hill	98				
Lower Price Hill	91				
Sedamsville-Riverside	103				
Riverside – Sayler Park	104				
South Fairmount	87				

^a Met at least four of the six criteria for classifying census tracts as Appalachian (see Table 5a).

Tracts with populations of African Americans greater than 41.0% are not considered Appalachian.

Overall Trends, 1970, 2000, and 2005-2009 Population Loss

Tables 5c and 5d present neighborhood indicators from 1970, 2000 and 2005-2009. This comparison allows us to make conclusions regarding Cincinnati’s Appalachian neighborhood changes during this period. Before looking at socioeconomic indicators, we will look at the

population of these areas. The first conclusion is that all neighborhoods except Riverside-Sayler Park and CBD-Riverfront lost population. This is not surprising. During the same period the City of Cincinnati lost 112,314 people. The most severe losses in percentage terms were in Lower Price Hill, the East End, South Fairmount, Camp Washington, and Sedamsville-Riverside. These lost about half of their respective populations. East Price Hill has reversed its pattern of population loss.

Socioeconomic Status

Between 1970 and 2005-2009, four of the ten Appalachian neighborhoods had overall gains in socioeconomic status (Tables 5d and 9). In the most recent period, 2005-2009, a total of four neighborhoods had gains. Sedamsville-Riverside had a decline in SES. The biggest gains were in the East End and Lower Price Hill. (As noted above, we have low confidence in ACS data for small neighborhoods such as Lower Price Hill.) The other six neighborhoods experienced a decline in SES index between 2000 and 2005-2009. The biggest losses were in Riverside-Sayler Park (38.4) and West Price Hill (22.2).

Poverty

During the 1980s poverty increased dramatically in Ohio’s metropolitan centers. In Hamilton County the increase was 18 percent. In inner city neighborhoods the increase was even higher than in the county as a whole. Deindustrialization, migration of jobs to suburbia, and the shift to lower paying service jobs are all believed to be factors in the increase of poverty. Poverty rates doubled in several Cincinnati Appalachian neighborhoods, increased in all of them, and tripled in East Price Hill. In South Fairmount the poverty rate went from 11.5 percent in 1970 to 28.1 percent in 2000. Poverty in Camp Washington also increased considerably from 1970 to 2000. Between 2000 and 2005-2009, the poverty rate (Table 5d) doubled in Carthage and Sedamsville-riverside, increased in East End, East Price Hill, South Fairmount and Riverside-Sayler Park. It declined in Camp Washington, West Price Hill and Lower Price Hill.

Components of Change

Analysis of the components of change in Appalachian neighborhoods makes clear that a decline in family status indicator is significant. This seems to be related to poverty status. The neighborhoods which experienced the greatest increases in poverty tended also to be the ones with the greatest declines in family status. The unemployment rate (Table 8a) does not

**TABLE 5C
CINCINNATI APPALACHIAN CENSUS TRACT POPULATIONS, 1970-2009**

Neighborhood	Census Tract(s)	Population	Population	Population	Change	Change
		1970	2000	2005-2009	1970-2009	2000-2009
East End	44	3,751	1,262	1,728	-53.9%	36.9%
CBD-Riverfront	7	2,290	2,639	3,253	42.1%	23.3%
West Price Hill	98	3,982	2,492	2,797	-29.8%	12.2%
East Price Hill	92, 93, 94, 95	20,665	17,991	18,798	-9.0%	4.5%
Riverside-Sayler Park	104	1,435	1,530	1,577	9.9%	3.1%
Carthage	61	3,291	2,412	2,445	-25.7%	1.4%
South Fairmount	87	2,531	1,071	1,085	-57.1%	1.3%
Camp Washington	28	3,117	1,611	1,422	-54.4%	-11.7%
Sedamsville-Riverside	103	3,922	2,144	1,774	-54.8%	-17.3%
Lower Price Hill	91	3,187	1,182	758	-76.2%	-35.9%

Note: Fairview Clifton Heights, University Heights and tract 96 in East Price Hill no longer meet the criteria

as clearly seem related to a decline in family status or SES. Unemployment is over 15 percent in four Appalachian neighborhoods. It is 9 percent or more in the three others. School

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dropout rates have declined in most of these neighborhoods but have remained at over 20 percent in CBD, Camp Washington, East Price Hill, West Price Hill, Lower Price Hill, and Sedamsville-Riverside (Table 5d).

Summary

Poverty, low education levels, and unemployment still are big factors in Cincinnati's Appalachian communities. Related to this there are big changes in family structure. For example, in 1990, 82 percent of the children in the East End lived in two parent homes. By 2005-2009, this had fallen to 34.2 percent. Camp Washington and Lower Price Hill have school dropout rates of over 60 percent. In neighborhoods like East Price Hill and West Price Hill there are thousands of adults with less than a high school education.

TABLE 5D
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS: CINCINNATI APPALACHIAN NEIGHBORHOODS, 1970-2009

Neighborhood	SES Index			Unemployment			Families Below Poverty Level			Family Status			High School Dropout Rates		
	1970	2000	2005-2009	1970	2000	2005-2009	1970	2000	2005-2009	1970	2000	2005-2009	1970	2000	2005-2009
CBD-Riverfront	80.0	81.0	75.7	37.8%	6.8%	0.0%	44.0%	75.0%	100.0%	4%	6%	3%	24%	63%	61%
Camp Washington	16.2	27.8	31.2	18.1%	36.0%	16.7%	70.4%	31.5%	54.2%	9%	14%	14%	50%	34%	49%
East End	18.3	46.4	77.4	21.6%	12.0%	14.7%	75.3%	32.1%	34.2%	9%	7%	5%	36%	13%	0%
Carthage	50.7	53.0	42.2	7.4%	12.1%	31.4%	82.7%	66.7%	44.7%	5%	4%	17%	32%	41%	0%
East Price Hill	56.8	38.0	29.0	10.4%	23.0%	23.9%	79.9%	43.1%	32.8%	5%	7%	8%	22%	14%	22%
West Price Hill	79.4	75.6	55.4	8.6%	15.5%	9.4%	84.8%	39.2%	44.0%	2%	2%	9%	4%	14%	20%
Lower Price Hill	21.0	19.2	45.0	32.9%	56.0%	48.4%	71.3%	57.6%	37.6%	7%	16%	37%	46%	58%	64%
Sedamsville-Riverside	25.1	35.4	33.0	17.3%	17.0%	38.9%	83.6%	57.7%	33.3%	7%	9%	27%	37%	28%	22%
Riverside - Saylerpark	49.0	70.4	32.0	6.2%	18.2%	27.0%	82.6%	47.5%	17.4%	4%	9%	16%	21%	26%	8%
South Fairmount	42.5	29.4	35.8	11.5%	28.1%	33.3%	74.4%	39.2%	35.7%	3%	1%	12%	48%	40%	0%