

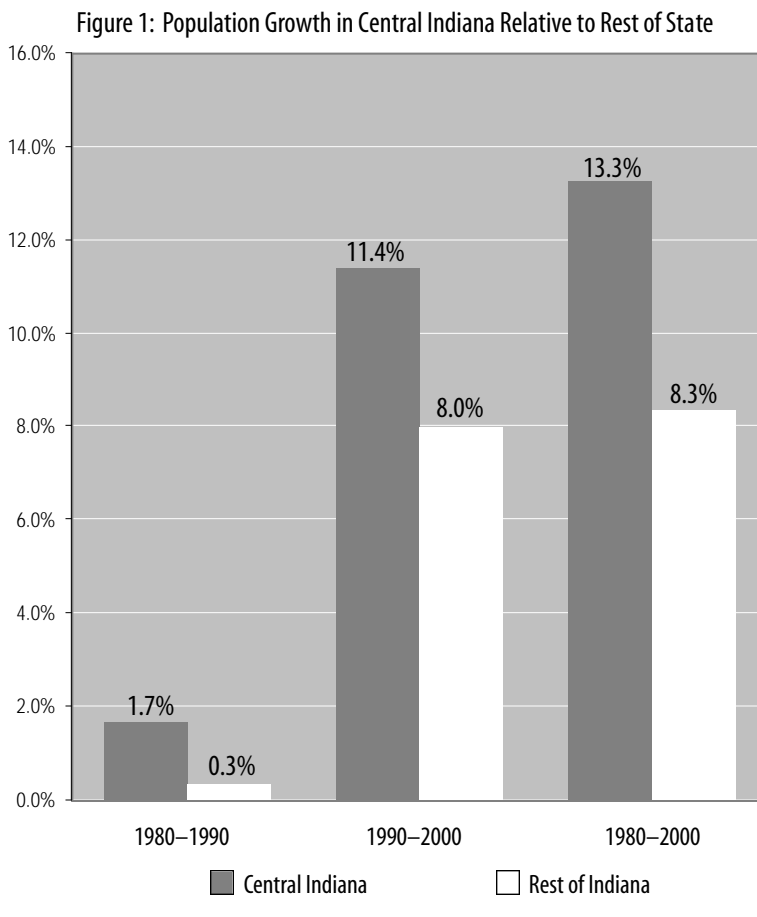
Central Indiana Growing Faster Than Rest of the State

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 1980, 1990, and recently released 2000 Decennial Censuses indicate that population growth in Central Indiana has outpaced the growth of the rest of the

state. The number of persons residing in Central Indiana has grown from nearly 2.7 million (49 percent of the state) in 1980 to just over 3 million (50 percent of the state) in 2000, a growth of over 300,000 residents. The 13.3 percent population increase in the region over the

past 20 years is 5 percent higher than the rest of Indiana (see Figure 1). During the same period, the state of Indiana, as a whole, experienced population

growth (10.8 percent) at less than half the average growth rate of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (24.8 percent). Most of the Central Indiana growth occurred between 1990 and 2000 when Central Indiana grew by 312,000 residents and the rest of Indiana grew by only 224,000.

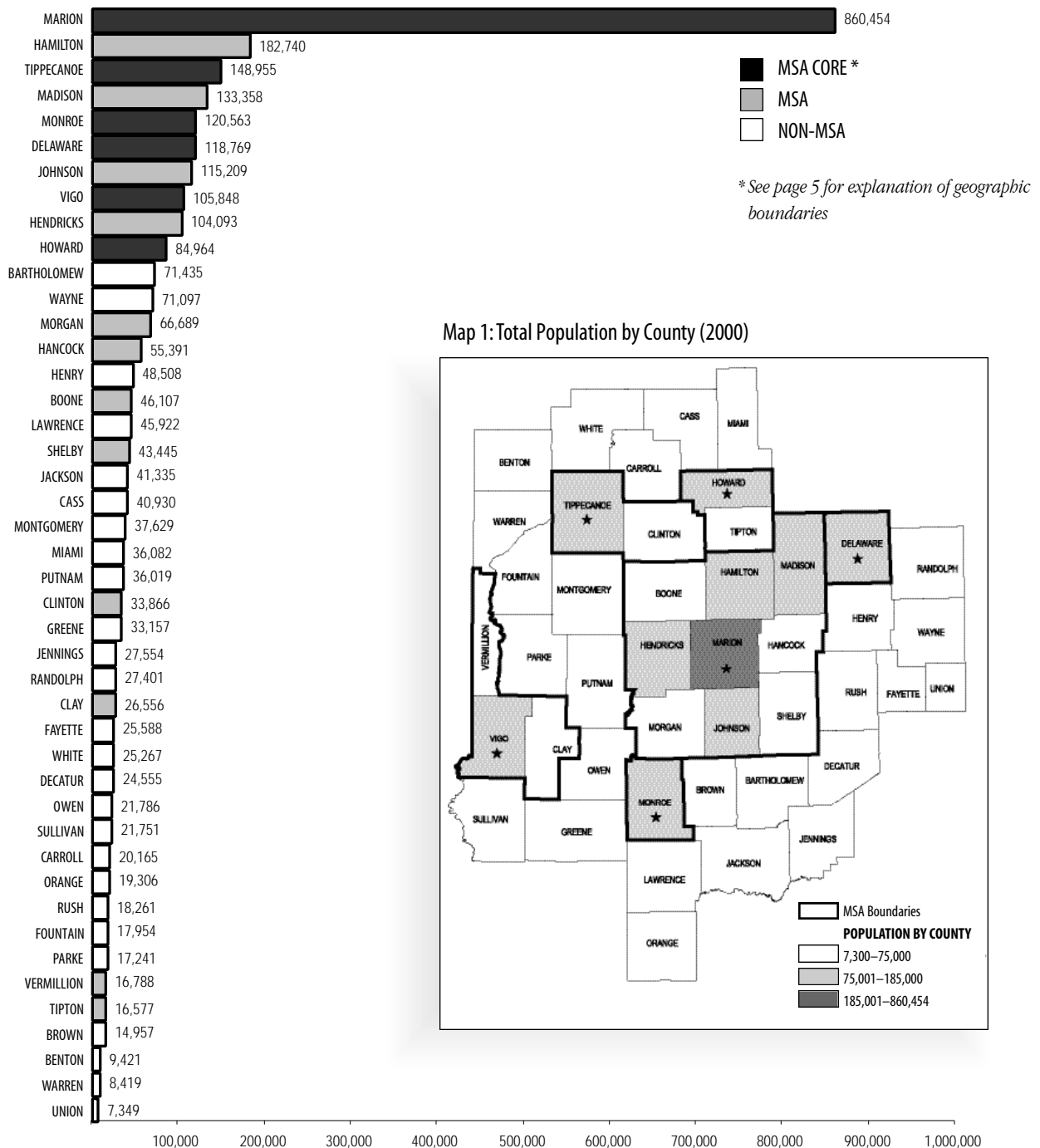




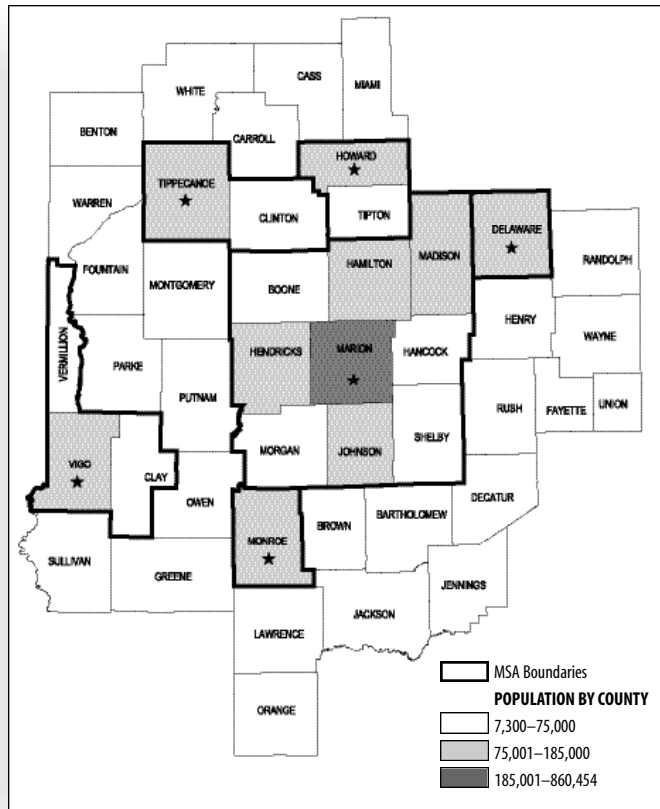
MSA Counties Maintain Population Dominance

Total population reported in 2000, as in past censuses, shows the counties with the largest populations in the Central Indiana region are in the MSAs. Figure 2 shows that 14 of the 18 MSA counties are among the top 20 counties in regard to total population. All six of the MSA core counties are among the top 10 highest-populated counties. Marion County has the highest population by a substantial margin at over 860,000 people (28.2 percent of the total region). However, Hamilton County leads the region when measured by share of growth.

Figure 2: Total Population by County (2000)



Map 1: Total Population by County (2000)

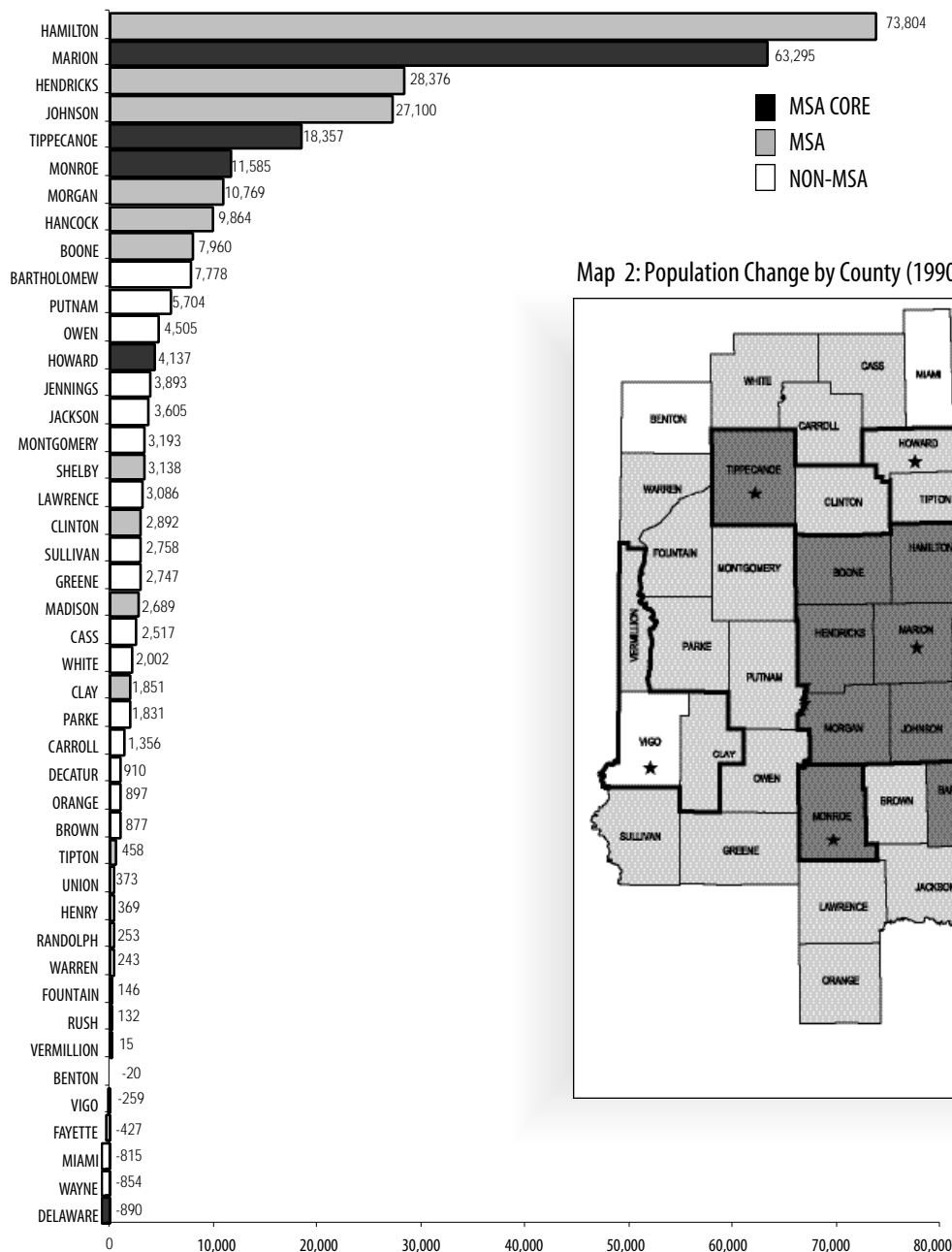




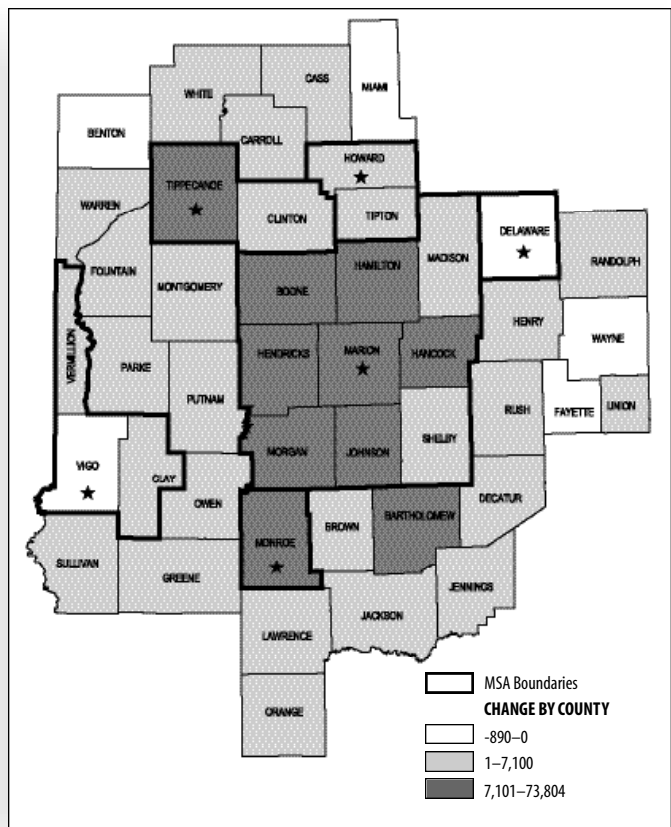
Population Growth in Non-Core MSA Counties Shows Increasing Decentralization From Largest Urban Core

Figure 3 illustrates the amount of growth in population from 1990 to 2000. Only six Central Indiana counties lost population over the past decade. Two of the counties losing population are core MSA counties. However, generally, MSA counties experienced the most growth over the past 10 years. Nine of the top 10 counties are MSA counties. Since 1990, the greatest amount of growth occurred in Hamilton County by a margin of 10,509 more people than the next highest county, Marion County. Map 2 shows that many of the high growth areas are located within the Indianapolis MSA.

Figure 3: Population Change by County (1990–2000)



Map 2: Population Change by County (1990–2000)



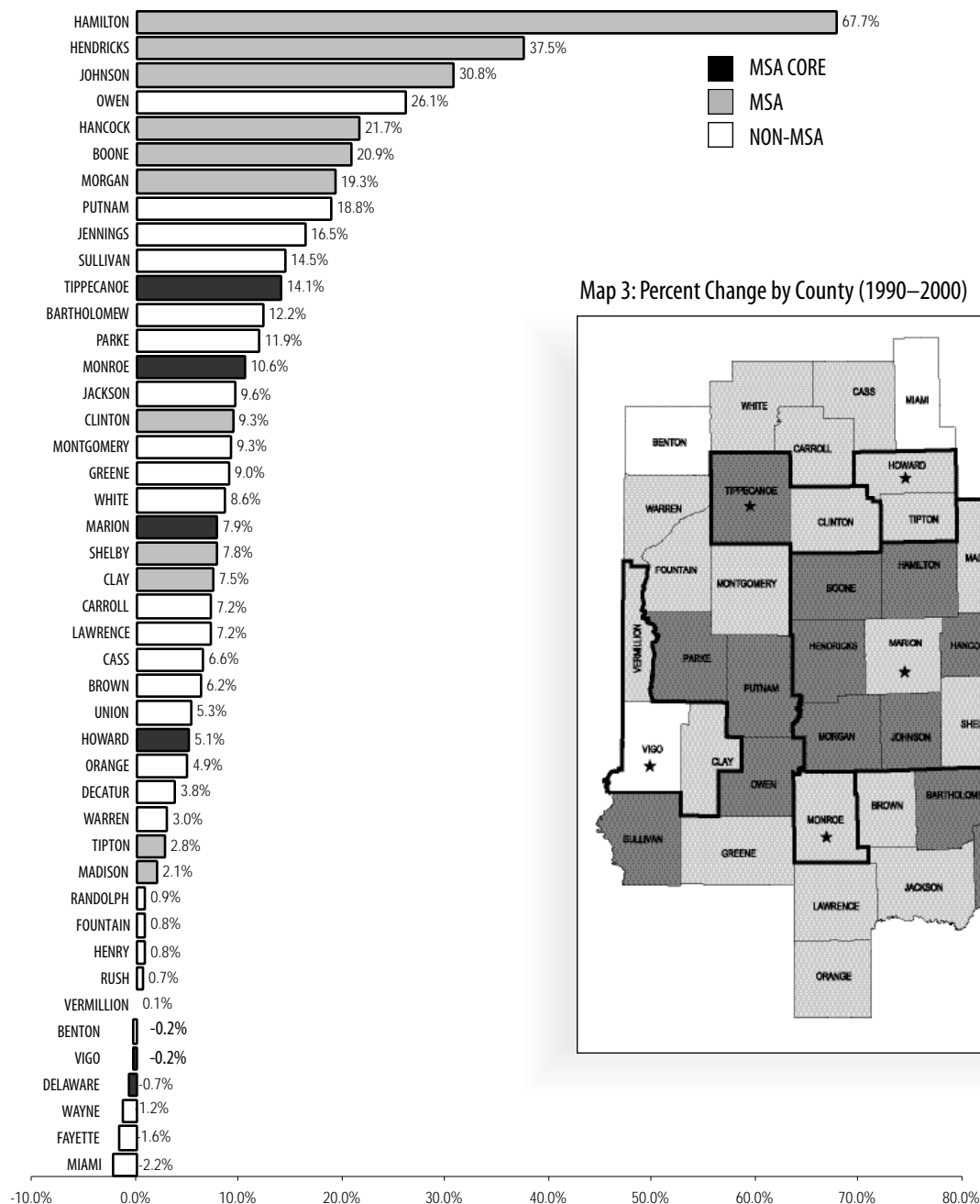


Fastest Growing Counties Include MSA and Non-MSA Counties

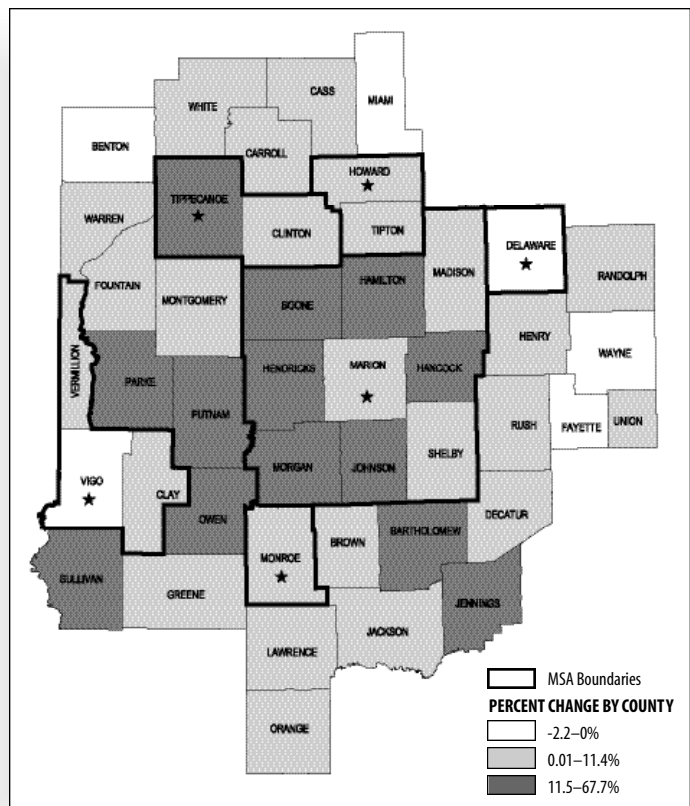
Figure 4 shows the relative rate of county population growth over the past 10 years. None of the top 10 fastest-growing counties in the region are core MSA counties. Four of the top 10 fastest-growing counties are non-MSA counties.

Map 3 shows the spatial distribution of counties experiencing high growth rates (areas that grew faster than the entire region's growth rate of 11.4 percent) between 1990 and 2000. This illustration shows that almost all of the fastest-growing MSA counties are the Indianapolis collar counties. Some non-MSA counties also are experiencing higher growth rates. Tippecanoe County was the only core county that experienced a faster growth rate than the entire region.

Figure 4: Percent Change by County (1990–2000)



Map 3: Percent Change by County (1990–2000)

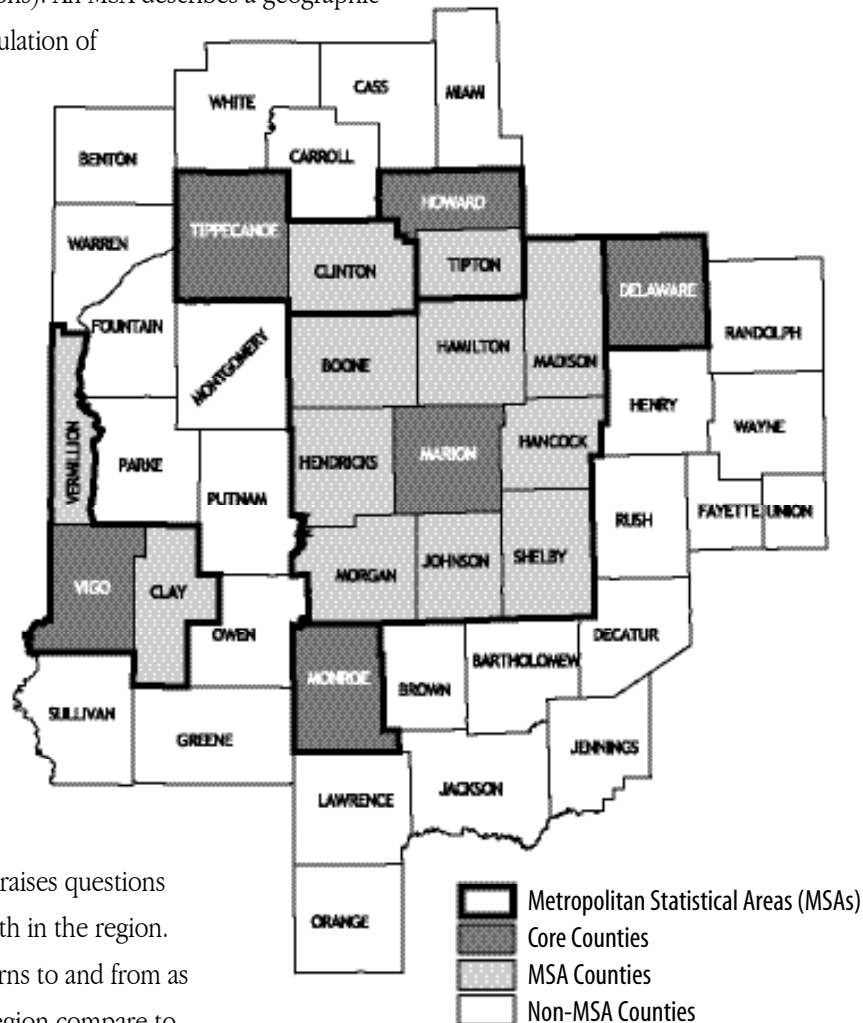


Central Indiana

The center analyzes Central Indiana, consisting of 44 counties, as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis based on commuting and media patterns (see Central Indiana: Visions of A Region, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment [2000] for a discussion of Central Indiana definitions). An MSA describes a geographic area consisting of a central city with a population of

at least 50,000 surrounded by a densely populated area that is socially and economically integrated. The core county of the MSA includes the central city and the non-core counties are all the other counties within the MSA. These non-core counties are included in an MSA if they meet requirements such as population density and minimum urban population.

The Central Indiana region includes six MSAs that consist of a total of 18 counties. The other 26 counties in Central Indiana are non-MSA counties.



Future Research

The growth of the Central Indiana region and the counties within the region raises questions about the implications of population growth in the region. For example, what are the migration patterns to and from as well as within the region? How does the region compare to similar regions across the nation? These research questions will be addressed in future issue briefs.



Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment has launched a new research project—Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices—funded by an award of general support from the Lilly Endowment. The aim of the project is to increase understanding of the region and to inform decision-makers about the array of options for improving the quality of life for Central Indiana residents. Researchers from several universities are working to understand how the broad range of investments made by households, governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations within the Central Indiana Region contribute to quality of life. The geographic scope of the project includes 44 counties in an integrated economic region identified by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The number of people who choose to live in a region has varying impacts on the amount of investment in the area by households as well as by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Consequently, changes in the types and amounts of investment impact policy choices. Central Indiana, which is experiencing faster population growth than the rest of the state, perhaps faces greater challenges because of this growth. These challenges are shared throughout the region because most of the growth in Central Indiana has occurred within the Indianapolis MSA, but the impact is being felt in other counties as well.

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment is part of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis. For more information about the Central Indiana Project or the research reported here, contact the center at 317-261-3000 or visit the center's Web site at www.urbancenter.iupui.edu.

Author

Seth Payton, policy analyst, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment



CENTER FOR URBAN POLICY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

342 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1708
www.urbancenter.iupui.edu