

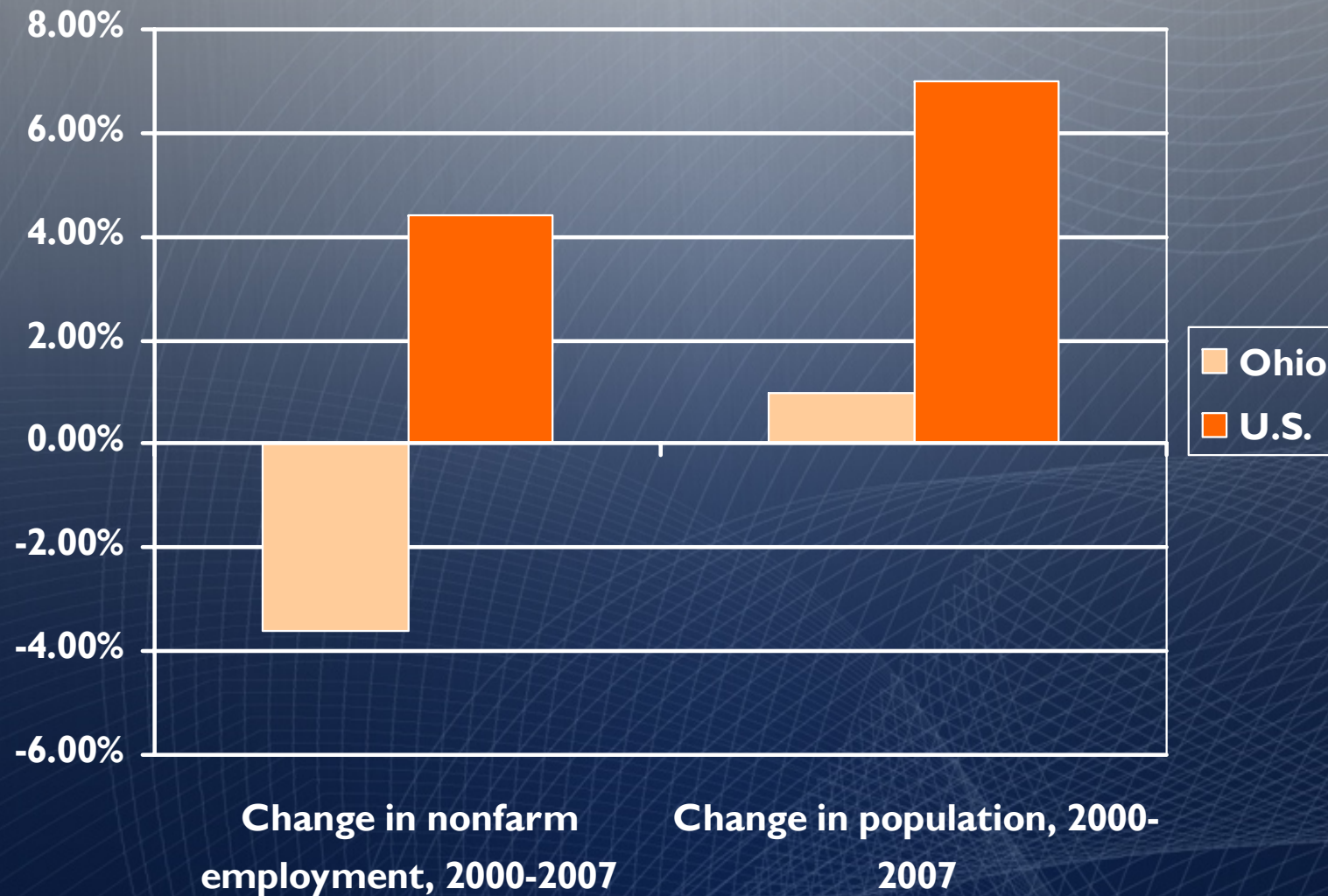
Restoring Our Prosperity

The State Role in Revitalizing
Ohio's Core Communities



Rob Greenbaum
Blair Russell
Tricia Petras
“Innovation and Economic Development”
Columbus, OH
September 10, 2008

Ohio faces stark challenges in the face of a changing economy



Ohio's Urban Core has faced particular challenges



Ohio's 32 core cities lost, on average, 4% of their population between 1990 and 2000, while non-core county subdivisions averaged a 10.6% increase



Core cities lost, on average, 7.8% of their business establishments between 2000 and 2007, Ohio's Big 8 cities lost 12.3%, and non-core places averaged an 8% increase



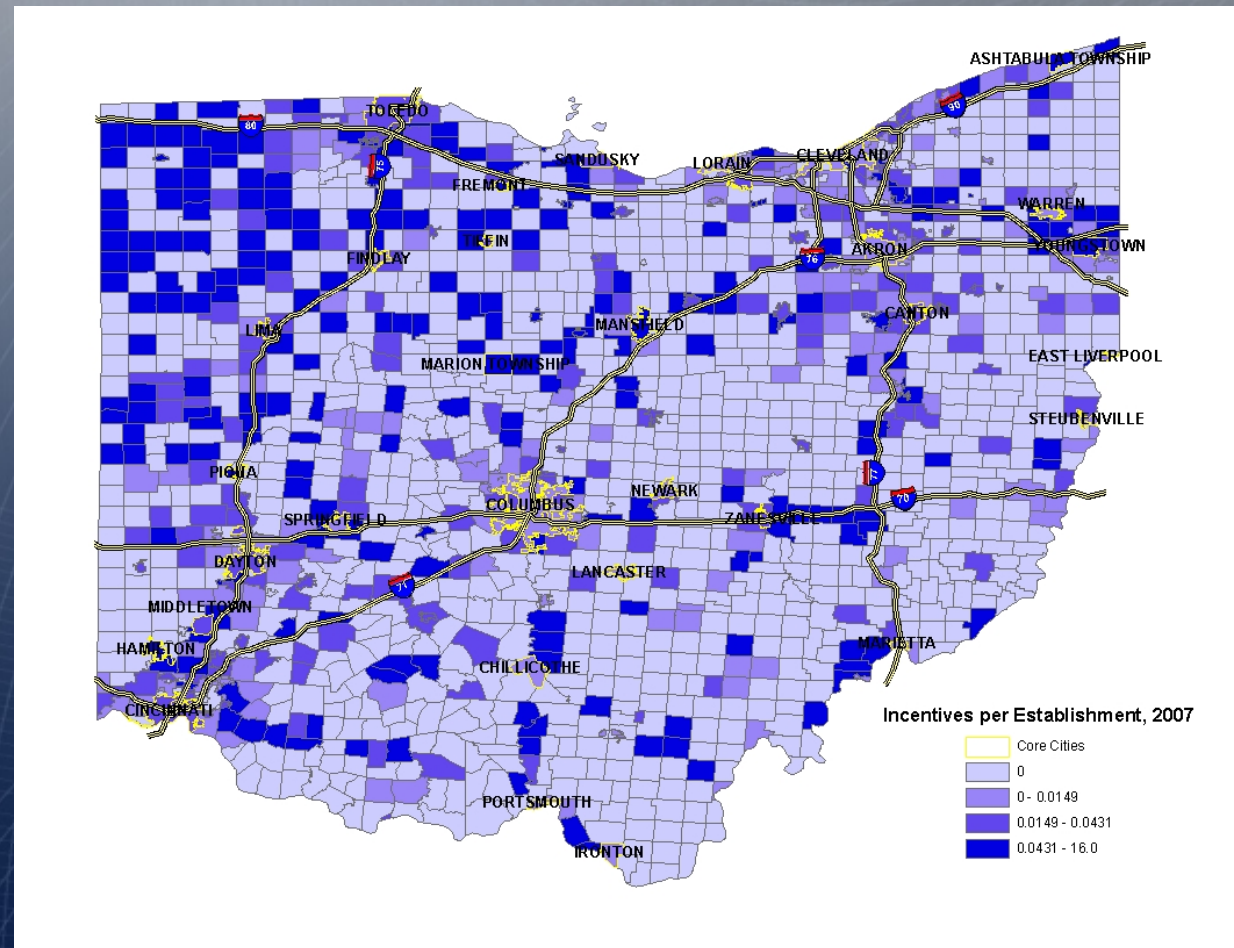
Total **Wages** grew by an average of 68.6% in Ohio's rural county subdivisions between 2000 and 2007 compared to only 23.3% in urban county subdivisions



The average fraction of **high school graduates** is similar in urban (89%) and rural (88%) county subdivisions

State programs and policies have generally failed to leverage key assets like innovation, human capital, infrastructure, quality places

For example, programs such as ODOD's Enterprise Zone, Community Reinvestment Areas, and Job Creation Tax Credit and Treasury's Grow Now program have not focused on Core Cities (on a per-establishment basis)



Past efforts tended to lack a strategic focus



Ohio has a Myriad of economic development programs, including 13 separate business tax incentive programs and many other programs intended for activities such as spurring business innovation and commercialization, clean up brownfields, and train workers

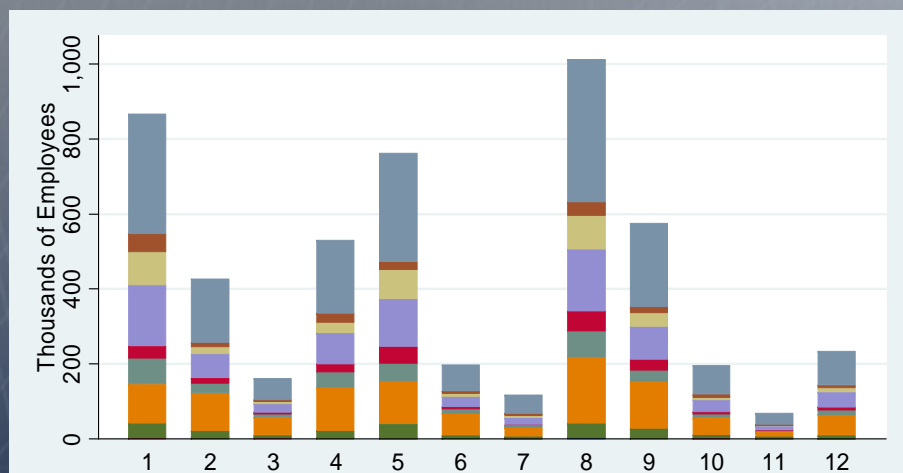


Ohio's urban **enterprise zone (UEZ)** program is insufficiently targeted to places in need; it covers 215 zones in 85 out of the state's 88 counties

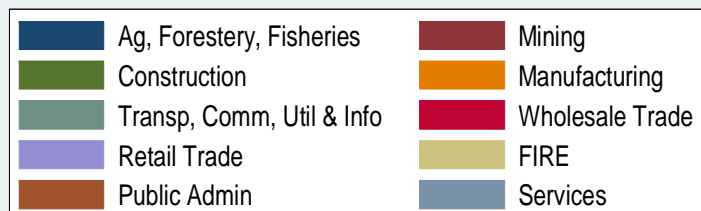


This lack of focus has started to be addressed by ODOD's new strategic plan

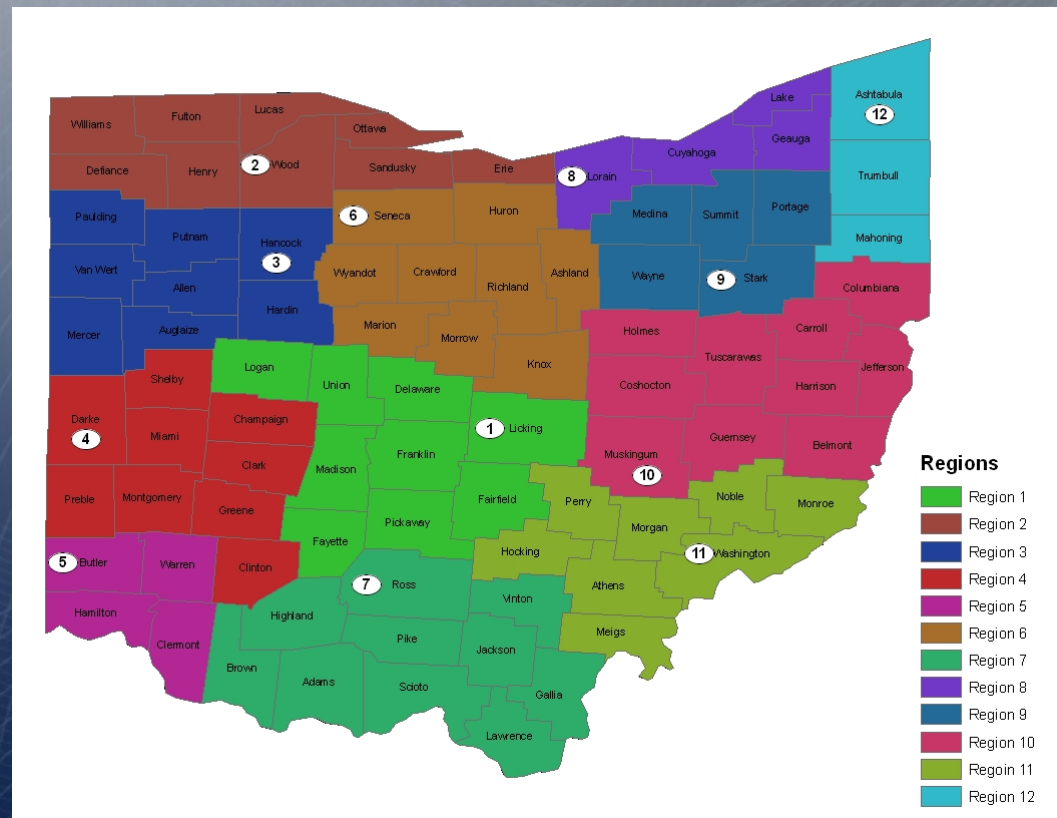
Ohio's regions have different needs



Region



Industry



Ohio needs to leverage innovation and local economic strengths



Make “anchor institutions” central to the state’s renewal strategy and a primary source of local and regional economic development



Build on the unique strengths of the different regions



Level the playing field between older urban areas and the rest of the state



Create incentives for metro wide and regional cooperation rather than competition



Adopt market-based strategies



Make downtown revitalization a priority

This agenda should advance specific policy priorities to encourage job creation and innovation



Better target policies geographically to build on clusters



Replace expiring business tax incentive programs with policies such as “Economic Transformation Zones” to bolster growth around anchor institutions



Set concrete goals for downtown residency and consider tax credits to spur downtown residential construction and rehabilitation



Create interagency teams within the governor’s office to implement downtown revitalization



Require that downtowns be given first priority for locations for state offices and facilities

To restore prosperity to Ohio, innovation and economic development must be part of a unified strategy

A comprehensive strategy must take into account the importance of



Neighborhood revitalization



Investments in human capital



Investments in physical infrastructure and transportation



The relationships among downtowns, core cities, and suburban, exurban, and rural areas

