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*North Central States: Recent Trends in Population
and Key Southern Baptist Statistics, 1990 to 2000*

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Introduction

This report examines recent trends in the work of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in seven states in the North Central area of the United States. The states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin are served by six state conventions, with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention covering two states. Data tables for population, churches, membership, and other SBC items are provided in the appendix. The source for all the population data is the Bureau of the Census, while all SBC data was collected by the denomination's Annual Church Profile or its predecessor, the Uniform Church Letter (1980 and 1990).

All SBC data is accumulated by geographical state rather than by state convention affiliation. This facilitates comparisons between growth in population, churches, and membership.

Population

The 2000 Census counted over 53 million people in the seven North Central states. Table 1 provides population counts for the last three censuses. Growth in the region during the 1990s was 3.8 million persons, a 7.8 percent increase. The rate of growth for the region was less than for the nation as a whole, which was 13.2 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Each of the seven states gained population during the 1990s. Illinois had the largest net gain in population, about 989,000. Minnesota led in the region in population growth rate, experiencing a 12.4 percent gain. Ohio's growth rate of 4.7 percent was the lowest of the seven states.

None of the North Central states matched the national decadal growth rate of 13.2 percent. The South (17.3%) and West (19.7%) regions of the country continued to lead in population growth rates during the 1990s.

Churches

The number of SBC churches in the North Central states was 2,288 according to the 2000 Annual Church Profile (ACP) database. This number does not include church-type missions. Data for church-type missions are included in subsequent tables showing membership and other denominational statistics. Table 2 shows that the region has grown steadily in the number of churches from 1980 (when there were 1,955 churches) to 2000. From 1990 to 2000 the net gain in number of churches was 161, representing 7.6 percent growth from the 1990 count of 2,127 churches.

Illinois' net gain of 64 churches was the largest numerical increase during the 1990s. Indiana gained 37 churches and Michigan gained 26. The highest percentage gain was 40.6 percent in Minnesota, as that state grew from 32 to 45 churches. Iowa (21.0%), Indiana (12.0%), Michigan (10.9%), and Wisconsin (10.3%) all exceeded the national growth rate of SBC churches (9.5%) during the decade.

Population per Church

The population per church ratios in table 3 are useful in comparing the growth in number of SBC churches to the growth in population. Since SBC churches are still concentrated in the South, the population per church ratios in the North Central region and its individual states are higher than the ratios for the nation. In 2000 there were 23,165 persons for every SBC church in this region compared to 6,767 for the entire nation. Minnesota (109,000) and Wisconsin (84,000) have very large populations compared to the number of SBC churches in those two states.

Table 3 also provides an index of change for the population per church. This index compares the population per church ratios in 2000 and 1990. The index for the North Central states is 100.2, which shows that the population per church ratio was almost identical in 1990 and 2000. In fact,

the ratio only changed from 23,113 to 23,165. Another way to think of this comparison is that an index of 100 also indicates that the rates of growth of the population and of churches were identical. Note that the population in the region grew by 7.8 percent from 1990 to 2000, while the number of churches grew by 7.6 percent.

Although Minnesota still has the largest population per church ratio in 2000, it experienced the most improvement since 1990, from 137,000 to 109,000. The index of change for Minnesota was 80.0, considerably better than a “par” score of 100. Minnesota’s growth rate in churches (40.6%) far exceeded its growth rate of population (12.4%). Iowa also saw its population per church ratio improve significantly, from 44,800 in 1990 to 39,000 in 2000.

Membership

The reporting of membership figures on the ACP may be somewhat artificially deflated in 2000 due to reporting practices of congregations. Table 4 and table 5 show trends for total and resident membership, respectively. Resident membership is the preferred measure of church size, so table 5 will be the primary focus of membership.

Resident membership reported by SBC congregations in the North Central states was over 575,000 in 2000, up from 549,000 in 1990, an increase of 7.0 percent. Illinois gained almost 22,000 resident members from 1990 to 2000, and Wisconsin’s resident membership grew by 42.7 percent. Only two states, Michigan and Iowa, reported less resident membership in 2000 than in 1990. Both of these states may have experienced reporting difficulties in 2000. Both reported substantially more resident membership in 1995 than 2000.

Table 6 shows population per resident membership ratios for 1980, 1990, and 2000. The population per resident member ratio changed little from 1990 to 2000, remaining around 122 persons per Southern Baptist resident member.

Baptisms

Table 7 provides total baptisms for the years 1980, 1990, 1995, and 2000. Baptisms throughout the SBC have hovered around the 400,000 mark for several years. Congregations in the North Central states reported 19,077 baptisms on the 2000 ACP. This was less than 1980 and 1995, but more than 1990.

There were 4.4 baptisms in the region for every 100 resident members. This ratio compares favorably to the SBC Convention-wide ratio of 3.6 baptisms per 100 resident members. Each of the seven states exceeded the Convention average, led by Iowa with 5.7 baptisms per 100 resident members, followed by Minnesota (5.2) and Michigan (4.9).

Church Program Enrollments

One indicator of the strength of Southern Baptist congregations is enrollment in traditional church programs. Tables 8 through 12 show enrollment trends for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music, Brotherhood, and Women’s Missionary Union (WMU), respectively.

Table 8 shows that Sunday School enrollment in the North Central states declined by 3.5 percent during the 1990s, although the SBC experienced a modest 2.2 percent gain. Iowa and Wisconsin had significant increases in enrollment.

Discipleship Training enrollment also decreased by 3.6 percent in the region (table 9). Indiana has increased reported enrollment by almost 20 percent since 1990.

Enrollment in music programs declined during the 1990s nationally by 10 percent and in the region by 15 percent. The only exception to the declining trend occurred in the state of Wisconsin, with an increase of almost 20 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Tables 11 and 12 show that mission education programs in the North Central states declined sharply during the 1990s, both WMU (43% decrease) and Brotherhood (34% decrease).

Financial

Total gifts to missions reported by congregations includes gifts to the Cooperative Program, the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, state missions offerings, associational missions, and other missions causes. Table 13 shows that congregations in the North Central states increased gifts to missions causes from \$21 million in 1990 to \$36 million in 2000.

The resulting increase of 72 percent far exceeded the SBC increase of 30 percent during the 1990s. Both Indiana and Iowa reported well over 100 percent increase in supporting missions during the decade.

Table 14 shows total receipts reported by congregations. For the entire North Central region, total receipts grew by 70 percent between 1990 and 2000. This mirrored the growth in missions expenditures noted above. Iowa, with growth in total receipts of almost 150 percent, far outpaced the SBC average as well as the other North Central states.

One conclusion from the two financial tables is that gifts to missions kept pace with total receipts during the 1990s in the North Central states, while this was not true of the SBC as a whole.

Appendix

Table 1
Population Trends

State	Population			Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	32,712,033	13.2 %
North Central States	48,671,995	49,160,796	53,000,840	3,840,044	7.8
Illinois	11,426,518	11,430,602	12,419,293	988,691	8.6
Indiana	5,490,224	5,544,159	6,080,485	536,326	9.7
Iowa	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324	149,569	5.4
Michigan	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	643,147	6.9
Ohio	10,797,630	10,847,115	11,353,140	506,025	4.7
Minnesota/Wisconsin	8,781,737	9,266,868	10,283,154	1,016,286	11.0
Minnesota	4,075,970	4,375,099	4,919,479	544,380	12.4
Wisconsin	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	471,906	9.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 2
Trends in Number of Churches

State	Number of Churches				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	35,831	37,974	40,087	41,588	3,614	9.5 %
North Central States	1,955	2,127	2,273	2,288	161	7.6
Illinois	909	917	952	981	64	7.0
Indiana	274	308	338	345	37	12.0
Iowa	59	62	82	75	13	21.0
Michigan	191	238	272	264	26	10.9
Ohio	454	512	521	514	2	0.4
Minnesota/Wisconsin	68	90	108	109	19	21.1
Minnesota	21	32	51	45	13	40.6
Wisconsin	47	58	57	64	6	10.3

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 3
Population per Church Trends

State	Population per Church			Index of Change 1990 to 2000
	1980	1990	2000	
United States	6,323	6,549	6,767	103.3
North Central States	24,896	23,113	23,165	100.2
Illinois	12,570	12,465	12,660	101.6
Indiana	20,037	18,001	17,625	97.9
Iowa	49,387	44,786	39,018	87.1
Michigan	48,493	39,056	37,646	96.4
Ohio	23,783	21,186	22,088	104.3
Minnesota/Wisconsin	129,143	102,965	94,341	91.6
Minnesota	194,094	136,722	109,322	80.0
Wisconsin	100,123	84,341	83,807	99.4

Note: The index of change in population per church is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-church ratio by the 1990 population-per-church ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-church ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 4
Total Membership Trends

State	Total Members				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	13,606,808	15,044,413	15,668,077	15,960,308	915,895	6.1 %
North Central States	496,355	549,225	585,810	575,437	26,212	4.8
Illinois	223,177	234,224	246,938	248,856	14,632	6.2
Indiana	77,046	92,269	99,792	101,160	8,891	9.6
Iowa	9,145	11,216	12,902	10,836	-380	-3.4
Michigan	46,799	49,211	51,238	45,364	-3,847	-7.8
Ohio	129,200	149,650	158,639	152,947	3,297	2.2
Minnesota/Wisconsin	10,988	12,655	16,301	16,274	3,619	28.6
Minnesota	2,663	4,125	5,382	4,497	372	9.0
Wisconsin	8,325	8,530	10,919	11,777	3,247	38.1

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 5
Resident Membership Trends

State	Resident Membership				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	9,750,601	10,570,299	11,097,382	11,392,310	822,011	7.8 %
North Central States	375,982	406,854	444,941	435,272	28,418	7.0
Illinois	156,759	160,365	176,383	182,248	21,883	13.6
Indiana	62,235	73,161	79,671	78,191	5,030	6.9
Iowa	7,322	8,115	9,940	7,992	-123	-1.5
Michigan	35,914	38,329	38,282	33,852	-4,477	-11.7
Ohio	104,302	116,774	127,022	119,516	2,742	2.3
Minnesota/Wisconsin	9,450	10,110	13,643	13,473	3,363	33.3
Minnesota	2,027	3,112	3,949	3,486	374	12.0
Wisconsin	7,423	6,998	9,694	9,987	2,989	42.7

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 6
Population per Resident Member Trends

State	Population per Resident Member			Index of Change 1990 to 2000
	1980	1990	2000	
United States	23.2	23.5	24.7	105.0
North Central States	129.5	120.8	121.8	100.8
Illinois	72.9	71.3	68.1	95.6
Indiana	88.2	75.8	77.8	102.6
Iowa	398.0	342.2	366.2	107.0
Michigan	257.9	242.5	293.6	121.1
Ohio	103.5	92.9	95.0	102.3
Minnesota/Wisconsin	929.3	916.6	763.2	83.3
Minnesota	2,010.8	1,405.9	1,411.2	100.4
Wisconsin	633.9	699.0	537.1	76.8

Note: The index of change in population-per-resident member is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-resident member ratio by the 1990 population-per-resident member ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-resident member ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 7
Total Baptisms Trends

State	Total Baptisms			
	1980	1990	1995	2000
Southern Baptist Convention	429,742	385,031	393,811	414,657
North Central States	23,389	16,631	19,346	19,077
Illinois	8,081	5,449	7,212	7,632
Indiana	3,795	2,893	3,590	3,481
Iowa	760	456	495	452
Michigan	2,495	1,743	1,864	1,669
Ohio	7,461	5,295	5,215	5,233
Minnesota/Wisconsin	797	795	970	610
Minnesota	183	258	310	181
Wisconsin	614	537	660	429

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 8
Sunday School Enrollment Trends

State	Sunday School Enrollment				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	7,433,405	8,009,498	8,207,860	8,186,415	176,917	2.2 %
North Central States	311,257	299,450	310,372	289,056	-10,394	-3.5
Illinois	131,850	124,185	131,955	125,508	1,323	1.1
Indiana	50,493	46,200	47,959	43,559	-2,641	-5.7
Iowa	7,477	6,165	7,204	6,789	624	10.1
Michigan	26,902	25,928	26,343	23,850	-2,078	-8.0
Ohio	87,890	86,826	86,263	79,091	-7,735	-8.9
Minnesota/Wisconsin	6,645	10,146	10,648	10,259	113	1.1
Minnesota	1,933	3,930	4,240	3,413	-517	-13.2
Wisconsin	4,712	6,216	6,408	6,846	630	10.1

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 9
Discipleship Training Trends

State	Discipleship Training				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	1,795,619	2,206,252	2,171,993	2,208,427	2,175	0.1 %
North Central States	55,316	73,875	72,857	71,208	-2,667	-3.6
Illinois	18,973	33,403	33,057	30,130	-3,273	-9.8
Indiana	10,575	9,402	10,618	11,277	1,875	19.9
Iowa	1,803	1,815	1,728	1,771	-44	-2.4
Michigan	6,727	6,600	7,107	6,881	281	4.3
Ohio	16,067	18,861	17,608	18,061	-800	-4.2
Minnesota/Wisconsin	1,171	3,794	2,739	3,088	-706	-18.6
Minnesota	444	1,263	943	588	-675	-53.4
Wisconsin	727	2,531	1,796	2,500	-31	-1.2

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 10
Music Enrollment Trends

State	Music Enrollment				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	1,527,397	1,837,428	1,881,754	1,654,877	-182,551	-9.9 %
North Central States	49,308	58,381	61,780	49,394	-8,987	-15.4
Illinois	21,559	24,271	26,286	21,979	-2,292	-9.4
Indiana	7,650	8,784	8,718	7,252	-1,532	-17.4
Iowa	1,158	1,453	1,753	1,169	-284	-19.5
Michigan	4,173	5,097	5,458	3,884	-1,213	-23.8
Ohio	13,190	16,983	17,063	13,205	-3,778	-22.2
Minnesota/Wisconsin	1,578	1,793	2,502	1,905	112	6.2
Minnesota	411	545	895	414	-131	-24.0
Wisconsin	1,167	1,248	1,607	1,491	243	19.5

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 11
Brotherhood Enrollment Trends

State	Brotherhood Enrollment				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	495,666	593,844	749,310	487,410	-106,434	-17.9 %
North Central States	16,175	17,847	23,775	11,777	-6,070	-34.0
Illinois	5,987	6,998	9,508	4,591	-2,407	-34.4
Indiana	2,451	2,640	3,464	1,754	-886	-33.6
Iowa	452	523	1,043	293	-230	-44.0
Michigan	1,889	1,719	2,428	1,193	-526	-30.6
Ohio	4,974	5,297	6,062	3,465	-1,832	-34.6
Minnesota/Wisconsin	422	670	1,270	481	-189	-28.2
Minnesota	114	254	431	255	1	0.4
Wisconsin	308	416	839	226	-190	-45.7

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 12
WMU Enrollment Trends

State	WMU Enrollment				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	1,100,043	1,197,987	1,081,279	892,157	-305,830	-25.5 %
North Central States	37,605	40,754	35,672	23,253	-17,501	-42.9
Illinois	16,366	17,953	14,947	10,397	-7,556	-42.1
Indiana	5,021	5,854	5,222	3,608	-2,246	-38.4
Iowa	1,028	970	1,155	460	-510	-52.6
Michigan	4,131	3,844	3,473	2,085	-1,759	-45.8
Ohio	10,051	10,965	9,325	5,771	-5,194	-47.4
Minnesota/Wisconsin	1,008	1,168	1,550	932	-236	-20.2
Minnesota	326	485	495	409	-76	-15.7
Wisconsin	682	683	1,055	523	-160	-23.4

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 13
Total Missions Giving Trends

State	Total Missions Giving				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	401,499,506	718,476,262	858,779,214	936,520,388	218,044,126	30.3 %
North Central States	13,724,310	21,111,147	25,346,715	36,221,261	15,110,114	71.6
Illinois	6,048,941	9,136,181	10,887,234	14,563,876	5,427,695	59.4
Indiana	1,901,444	2,951,333	3,835,285	6,959,971	4,008,638	135.8
Iowa	347,844	491,099	569,126	1,099,669	608,570	123.9
Michigan	1,386,392	1,994,190	2,228,987	3,692,599	1,698,409	85.2
Ohio	3,720,139	5,917,497	6,970,052	8,864,759	2,947,262	49.8
Minnesota/Wisconsin	319,550	620,847	856,031	1,040,387	419,540	67.6
Minnesota	132,347	261,287	316,801	429,451	168,164	64.4
Wisconsin	187,203	359,560	539,230	610,936	251,376	69.9

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 14
Total Receipts Trends

State	Total Receipts				Change 1990 to 2000	
	1980	1990	1995	2000	Net	Percent
Southern Baptist Convention	2,478,327,564	4,864,440,640	6,065,863,575	8,456,836,359	3,592,395,719	73.9 %
North Central States	84,556,184	144,495,915	184,129,600	246,139,954	101,644,039	70.3
Illinois	37,672,501	58,138,735	75,407,069	95,714,730	37,575,995	64.6
Indiana	12,949,435	25,596,370	29,780,909	40,917,654	15,321,284	59.9
Iowa	2,086,073	3,157,760	4,293,732	7,830,357	4,672,597	148.0
Michigan	7,425,094	12,648,900	16,732,384	22,714,043	10,065,143	79.6
Ohio	22,115,092	40,290,630	51,899,837	71,060,689	30,770,059	76.4
Minnesota/Wisconsin	2,307,989	4,663,520	6,015,669	7,902,481	3,238,961	69.5
Minnesota	781,418	1,947,960	2,522,536	2,941,045	993,085	51.0
Wisconsin	1,526,571	2,715,560	3,493,133	4,961,436	2,245,876	82.7

Source: Annual Church Profile and Uniform Church Letter, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.