

## OHIO POPULATION NEWS: Ohio's Young Children

The number of Ohio's young people under age five declined by six percent, from roughly 784,600 in 1990 to an estimated 732,000 in 2005.<sup>1</sup> Between 2000 and 2005, most counties across the state experienced declines in this age group. The largest percentage increases were found in Delaware (25%) and Franklin (8%) Counties, while Portage and Paulding Counties each experienced 14% declines in their young child population. This research brief presents a description of the demographic and economic characteristics of Ohio's young children by examining the characteristics of the households and families in which they live. Results are based primarily on analyses conducted using the 2005 American Community Survey and several years of the Current Population Survey.

### Relationship to Householder, Race/Ethnicity

In 2005, eighty-eight percent of Ohio's children ages 0 to 4 were counted as the son or daughter of the householder (this includes biological, step and adopted children), while another 9-percent were listed as a grandchild of the householder. The remaining three percent of children fell into categories such as 'other relative of householder', 'foster child' and 'other nonrelative of householder.' Just over three-quarters (76.2- percent) of Ohio's young children were reported as non-Hispanic white, 14.3-percent non-Hispanic black, 1.7-percent non-Hispanic Asian, 4-percent non-Hispanic other race, while 3.4 percent of Ohio's young children are reported as Hispanic of any race. For young children, the distribution of race and Hispanic ethnicity varies by the relationship of the householder. For example, while non-Hispanic black children represented roughly 14 percent of the young-child population, they were over-represented among grandchildren (21.5-percent).

### Characteristics of Households

Most of Ohio's young children live in married-couple households (68%), while a quarter reside in a household headed by a single parent (24.6%). The remaining 8 percent of young children in the State of Ohio live in an unmarried-partner household. The type of household varies widely across race and ethnicity. Among non-Hispanic whites 76-percent reside in a married couple household, 8-percent reside in a cohabiting household, and 17-percent reside in a single parent household. Comparable figures for non-Hispanic black young children are 26% (married couple household), 10% (cohabiting household) and 64% (single parent household); and among Hispanic children the figures are 64%, 8% and 28%, respectively.

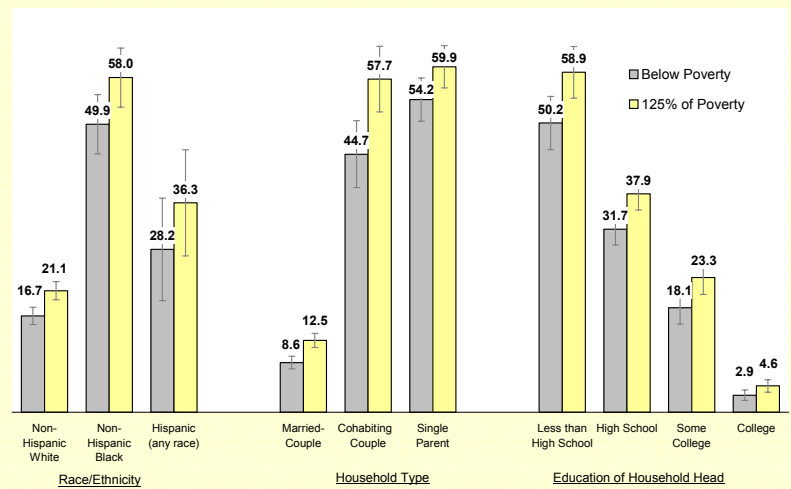
Almost **three-quarters of Ohio's young children live in households in which the head is employed**, while just over six-percent live in households in which the head is unemployed. The remaining 19-percent of children live in a household where the head is not in the labor force. Eight percent of young children live in a household in which the head is attending college. **Two out of five Ohio children ages 3 and 4 attended a public or private preschool in 2005.**

In 2005, nearly 8 percent of young children ages 0 to 4 in Ohio lived in a household that received public assistance or welfare payments, while 24 percent resided in a household that received food stamps.

## Ohio's Young Children in Poverty 2005

Many of Ohio's young children live in households that have incomes which fall below the federal poverty thresholds. **Households are classified as poor when the total income of the household in the last year falls below the established poverty threshold.** To put it in perspective, in 2005 the federal poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was roughly nineteen thousand dollars. A household composed of two adults with two children with a total income that fell below the threshold amount of \$19,000 would be considered living in poverty. The depth of poverty is often measured by the ratio of income to poverty threshold. For example, in the above example, if the same family had an income of \$23,000 they would be considered *living below 125% of the poverty level or near poverty.*

**Figure 1: 2005 Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Household Type, and Educational Attainment of Household Head, Ohio Children (0 to 4).**



Note: Point estimates were calculated from 2005 ACS Ohio PUMS data, US Census Bureau. Standard errors adjusted using replicate weights. The error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals--a 95 percent probability that the true value is contained with the interval defined by the error bars.

**In 2005, 22.8% of Ohio's young children (0 to 4) lived below the poverty level, while 27.8% lived below or near poverty. Over 18-percent of all children (0 to 17) lived in households below the poverty level, while 23 % lived below or just above poverty.**

Nearly 170 thousand Ohio children ages 0 to 4 lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. This varied across race/ethnicity, household types, and the education of the household head. (Figure 1). While non-Hispanic black children compose just over 14% of the young child population in the state, they are over-represented among the poor population--31% of poor children ages 0 to 4 are non-Hispanic black.

Fewer than nine percent of Ohio's young children residing in married-couple families live in poverty, while 44.7 % of children living in a cohabiting-couple family live in poverty. **Well over half (54.2%) of young children living in a single-parent home live in poverty.** In addition, young children living in households headed by those with a college education have significantly lower levels of poverty and near poverty than children living in other households.

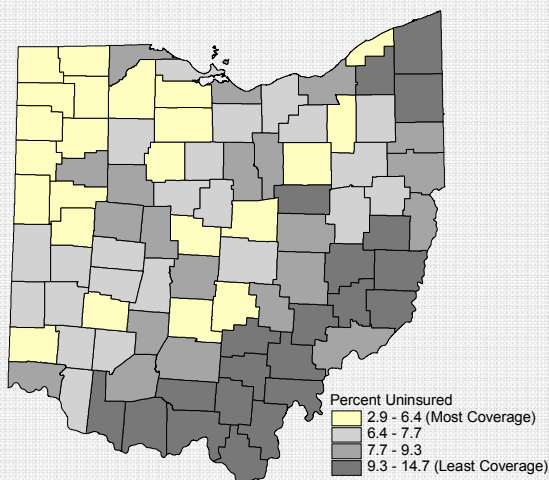
**Table 1: Poverty Status among Ohio Families with Children, 2005.**

Families with Children	Married-Couple Family	MOE (+/-)	Other Family <sup>1</sup>	MOE (+/-)
Under 5 years only	6.2	1.2	44.9	3.0
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	8.6	1.1	53.3	3.2
5 to 17 years only	4.6	0.4	28.3	1.4

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2005 Table B17010. 1. 'Other Family' includes male and female householders with no spouse present.

*Estimates suggest that sixteen percent of all families with related children under the age of 18 were living below the poverty level in 2005. Clear variation is seen by age of children present and family type (Table 1).*

**Figure 2: Percent children (ages 0-17) lacking health insurance coverage, Ohio counties 2000.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program.

**Just under 7-percent (6.9) of Ohio's young children under the age of 5 lack health insurance coverage** (three year average 2003-2005). In addition, three out of five Ohio's uninsured young children are living in families below 200% of the federal poverty level. Across the state, **eight percent of all children ages 0 to 17 lack health insurance coverage.**<sup>1</sup>

1. Authors calculations from Current Population Survey ASEC 2004-2006. Three year average 2003-2005.

**Table 2: Uninsurance Rate for Children: Three Year Average 2003-2005**

Ages	Ohio	MOE (+/-)	US	MOE (+/-)
0 to 5	7.0	1.7	10.2	1.7
6 to 12	8.0	1.8	10.6	1.3
13 to 18	10.0	1.9	13.7	1.5

Source: State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. *Whose Kids are Covered? A State-by-State Look at Uninsured Children.* Data source 2004-06 March CPS.

Note: The ACS surveys the population living in households, so none of the information provided here includes the population living in group quarters.

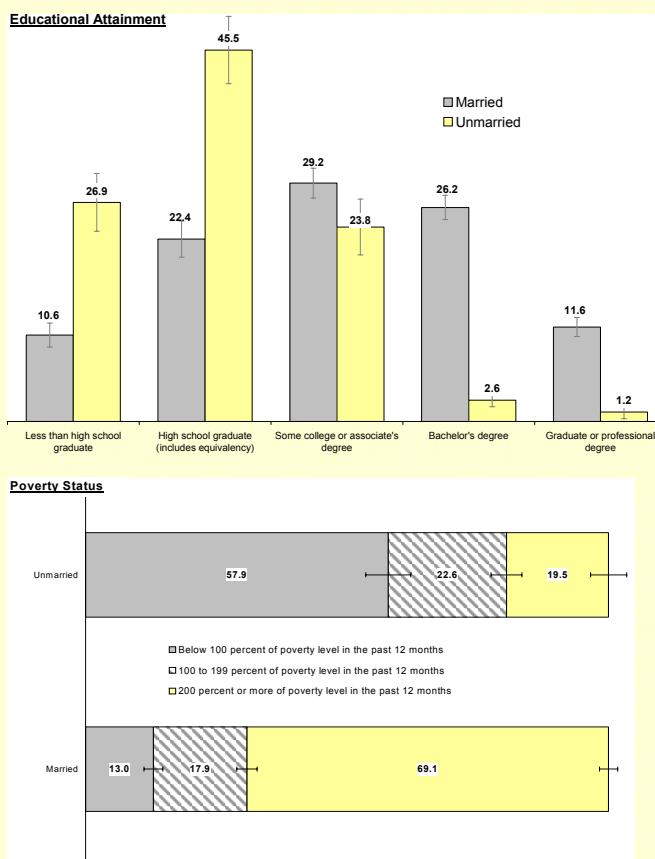
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<http://www.bgsu.edu/organizations/cfdr/ohiopop.html>

### Ohio's Infants

Preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Health report that there were 145,405 births occurring to Ohio mothers. Of these, **39-percent were to unmarried women; 8.1-percent were reported as low-birth weight (under 2500 grams or 5.5 lbs); and 17.4-percent smoked during pregnancy.** The American Community Survey (ACS) captures the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women who had a birth in the last 12 months. Information such as age, marital status, labor force participation, poverty status and educational attainment of recent mothers is important for agencies and policy makers in order to target a need for programs and services.

**Figure 2: Educational Attainment and Poverty Status by Marital Status, Women ages 15 to 50 Experiencing a Birth in the Last Year, Ohio 2005.**



Source: 2005 American Community Survey, Ohio. Tables B13010 and B13014. Adjusted standard errors. The vertical bars represent the 90 percent margin of error.

Over half of the 2005 births were attributed to married women ages 20 to 34 years of age, with fourteen percent to married women ages 35 to 50. Just under a quarter (23.4-percent) was to unmarried women ages 20 to 34, 6-percent to young women ages 15 to 19, and 3-percent to women ages 35 to 50.