

Bowling Green State University

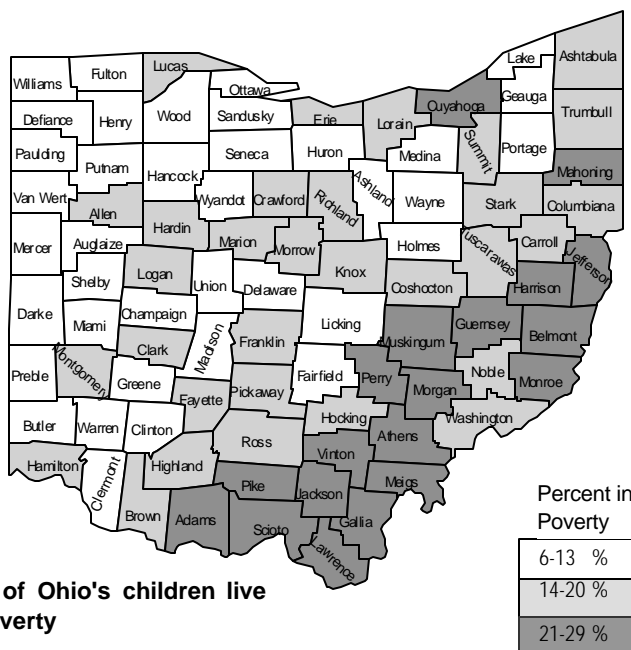
Ohio Population News: Child Well-Being

Data released from the 2000 Census provide counts of the total population as well as the adult population aged 18 or older, by race and Hispanic origin. Consequently, the number of children in Ohio can be calculated by subtracting the total population from the '18 or over' population. Children are concentrated in those counties that have experienced average to high rates of growth. (See map at right). The Census Bureau expects to release information this summer that will enable researchers to assess the number of children in Ohio by single years of age, gender, Hispanic origin and race. Other information will also be included that is important to areas of child and family research. With the new data, researchers can describe how many of Ohio's children live in homes headed by a single parent, or by two parents, and to examine any change during the 1990-2000 period.

OHIO'S CHILDREN IN POVERTY

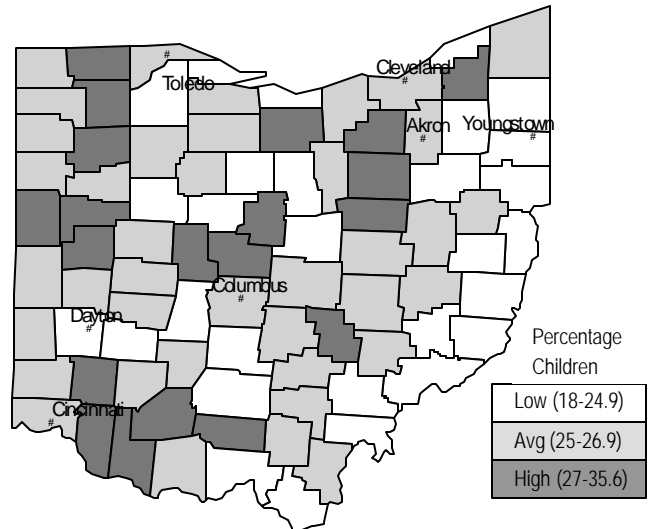
On a national level, roughly 20.5% of people under the age of 18 lived below the federal poverty line in 1997. In Ohio, the percentage was slightly lower at 16%. However there is wide variation in this figure at the county level. The map below identifies the estimated percentage of people under 18 living in poverty by county, and shows that children in the south and southeastern part of the state experience the highest poverty rates. These estimates are based on the March 1998 Current Population Survey. (In 1997, the poverty threshold was \$10,473 for a family of two, \$12,802 for a family of three and \$16,400 for a family of four.)

Percentage of People Under Age 18 in Poverty by County:



16% of Ohio's children live in poverty

Percentage of Residents Age 17 or Under by County: Ohio 2000



OHIO'S CHILDREN ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In 1998 there were 140,286 Ohio families (roughly 4% of all families in Ohio) receiving Temporary cash Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), averaging 1.9 recipient children. In fact, nearly half (45.1%) of those families receiving TANF had just one child. On the national level, 3,175,646 families received TANF, averaging 2.0 children per family. Table 1 provides the total number of *children receiving aid*, as well as percent distribution by age group. Over 40% of the children receiving TANF are very young, under 5 years of age.

Table 1: Percent Distribution of TANF Recipient Children by Age Group-1999

Age Groups of Children	Ohio	US
0-1	15.8	12.2
2-5	26.4	26.0
6-11	34.0	35.8
12-15	15.1	26.7
16-19	7.1	7.8
Unknown	1.6	1.5
Total Number	210 464	5 318 722

Source: National Emergency IANF Database, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

HEALTH INDICATORS OF OHIO'S CHILDREN

Ohio was close to the national average on several indicators of a healthy start to life. Table 2 provides a general assessment by county for the year 1998.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 births. Ohio's IMR for 1998 was 8.0 per 1,000 births down from 9.8 in 1990. The IMR for the US as a whole was 7.0.

Low Birth Weight Babies (LBW) are babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth. These babies have an increased chance of dying prematurely or of suffering from physical or learning disabilities. The number and percentage of low birth weight babies has slowly risen in Ohio. In 1998, 1 in 13 babies was born LBW in Ohio.

Late or no prenatal care is the percentage of births that occurred to mothers who reported receiving prenatal care only in the last stages of their pregnancy, or reported receiving no prenatal care at all. On average 4.2% of mothers received late or no prenatal care in 1998. In 1997 and 1998, the number of births to mothers who report receiving late or no medical care prior to the birth was roughly 25% higher than in 1996.

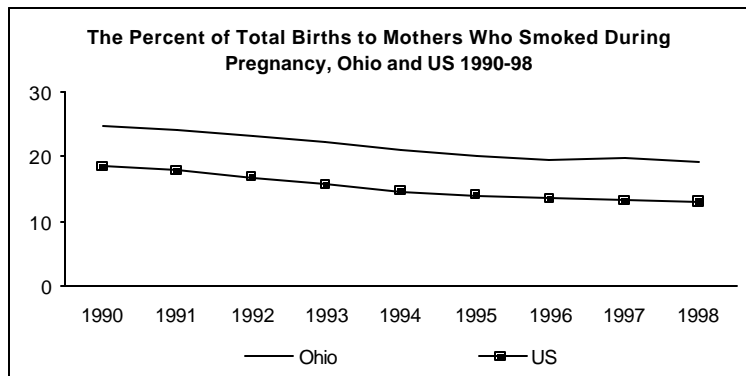
Low maternal education is the percent of births to mother's with less than 12 years of education. In 1998, 18% of all births in Ohio were to mothers with low levels of education, compared with 22 % on the national level.

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Child Trends KIDS COUNT*

Table 2: Top 10 and Lowest 10 Ranking Counties on Infant Mortality Rate, Low Birth Weight Babies, and Mother's Receiving Late of No Prenatal Care
(ranking is 1= the best, 88=the worst among Ohio counties)

Infant Mortality Rate			Mother's Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care			Low Birth Weight Babies		
Highest in Ohio			Highest in Ohio			Highest in Ohio		
County	Rate	Rank	County	Percent	Rank	County	Percent	Rank
Monroe	21.4	88	Holmes	49.6	88	Ottawa	10.4	88
Pike	18.6	87	Wayne	27.5	87	Hocking	9.9	87
Vinton	18.2	86	Noble	26.7	86	Vinton	9.7	86
Jefferson	17.3	85	Morgan	26.0	85	Harrison	9.3	85
Scioto	14.6	84	Mahoning	23.8	84	Cuyahoga	9.1	84
Carroll	13.9	83	Hardin	23.7	83	Lucas	9.1	83
Mahoning	12.9	82	Athens	23.6	82	Meigs	8.9	82
Brown	12.8	81	Williams	23.5	81	Summit	8.9	81
Jackson	12.7	80	Ashland	20.9	80	Hamilton	8.8	80
Union	12.5	79	Marion	20.3	78*	Muskingum	8.8	79
OHIO	8.0			4.2			7.7	
US	7.0			3.9			7.6	
Lowest in Ohio			Lowest in Ohio			Lowest in Ohio		
County	Rate	Rank	County	Percent	Rank	County	Percent	Rank
Morgan	0.0	1	Delaware	4.2	1	Mercer	3.7	1
Noble	0.0	1*	Lake	5.4	2	Noble	4.3	2
Sandusky	2.4	3	Medina	6.8	3*	Wyandot	4.3	2*
Lawrence	2.6	4	Warren	6.8	3	Ashland	4.7	4
Henry	2.8	5	Wood	7.0	5	Crawford	5.0	5
Columbiana	2.9	6	Clermont	8.4	6*	Darke	5.0	5
Greene	2.9	6	Portage	8.4	6	Geauga	5.0	5
Shelby	2.9	6*	Licking	8.6	8	Morgan	5.1	8
Mercer	3.2	9	Shelby	8.7	9	Putnam	5.1	8
Crawford	3.3	10	Greene	9.5	10	Holmes	5.2	10

Nearly one-fifth (19.3%) of Ohio mothers smoked during pregnancy in 1998. That is higher than the national average of 12.9%, but is down from the state average of 24.9% in 1990.



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, *The Right Start State Trends*

In Brief: Ranking Ohio

In 1997:

Low Birth Weight: 26 states had better low-birthweight rates than Ohio.

Prenatal Care: 12 states ranked better in early prenatal care than Ohio.

Infant Mortality Rate: 34 states that had lower infant mortality rates than Ohio.

Teen Births: 29 states had lower teen birth rates than Ohio.

[Source: *Yearbook 2000: The State of America's Children*. [Children's Defense Fund](http://www.childrensdefense.org), Washington DC].

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