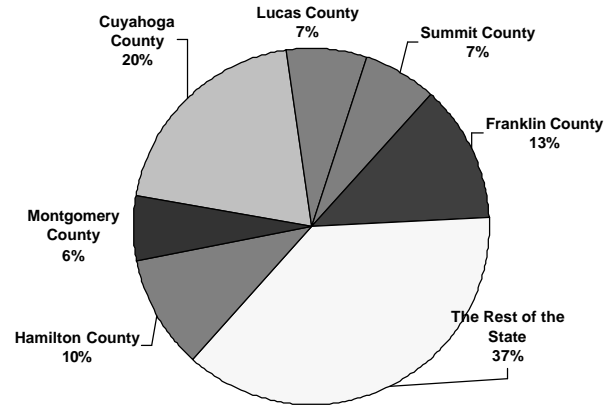


Center for Family and Demographic Research

Bowling Green State University

OHIO TANF RECIPIENTS BY COUNTY: OHIO 2001



The distribution of welfare recipients is not even among all 88 counties in the state. Cuyahoga County (20%) has the largest single county share of recipients, followed by Franklin County (13%) and Hamilton County (10%). (See chart above).

The County Share of the Population and Welfare Caseload for Ohio: April 2000.

	2000 Population	April 2000 Welfare Caseload	Ratio Caseload to Population
Cuyahoga	12.28	25.55	2.08
Franklin	9.42	11.06	1.17
Hamilton	7.45	8.40	1.13
Summit	4.78	7.73	1.62
Lucas	4.01	7.77	1.94
Mahoning	2.27	3.96	1.75

Source: 2000 Census, OWF Demographic Reports

When considering the distribution of the welfare caseload among the 88 Ohio counties it is important to consider the distribution of the population as well. The table above illustrates **the counties in Ohio that shoulder a disproportionate share of the welfare caseload in relation to their population.**

For example, Cuyahoga County had 12.3% of the total state population in 2000, yet had over a quarter of the state's welfare cases. This is a rough measure indicating that Cuyahoga County was shouldering twice as many welfare cases as it should be based solely on its population size. With only 4-percent of the total state population yet almost 8-percent of the welfare cases, Lucas County had the next highest ratio with 1.94 (nearly twice its share of the welfare caseloads.)

OHIO POPULATION NEWS: Welfare in Ohio

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) better known as 'Welfare Reform' dramatically changed the nations welfare system. This legislation created the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, replacing the old welfare system program Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). TANF is a monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under 18 years of age. Some of the main features of Welfare Reform were a focus on work requirements, time limits, and devolution of the welfare system, transferring much of the control over to the states. Since the implementation of Welfare Reform in 1996, there has been a *fifty-three percent decline in the number of US families receiving welfare*. In the state of Ohio, the rate of decline was even steeper with a **57% decline occurring between August '96 and August '00**. Welfare Reform legislation is up for reauthorization in one year.

In Ohio, each county makes a decision on how to spend the TANF funds within guidelines set by the state. **The main TANF program in Ohio is known as Ohio Works First (OWF). It is the primary program that provides cash assistance to needy families for up to 36 months.** (There are some exceptions to this limit). After the family has been off of assistance for 2 years, they could be eligible for 24 more months of assistance. There are eligibility requirements that must be met in order to obtain welfare benefits: the assistance group must contain a minor child, or a pregnant woman (at least 6 months); unmarried minor parents and pregnant minors must reside with a parent or legal guardian, or live in an approved adult-supervised living arrangement; adults and minor heads of households must sign and comply with a self-sufficiency contract. The terms of the self-sufficiency contract revolve around the mandatory participation in work activities, which may include developmental or alternate work activities. If the adult/minor head of household does not comply with the terms of the contract then cash assistance can be terminated.

Source: Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services

The Total Number of Families Receiving TANF: January 1993 to January 2001

Year	Ohio		United States	
	Number of Families	Rate of Decline	Number of Families	Rate of Decline
Jan-93	257 665	*	4 963 050	*
Jan-94	251 037	-2.6	5 052 854	1.8
Jan-95	232 574	-7.4	4 963 071	-1.8
Jan-96	209 830	-9.8	4 627 941	-6.8
Jan-97	192 747	-8.1	4 113 775	-11.1
Jan-98	147 093	-23.7	3 304 814	-19.7
Jan-99	121 142	-17.6	2 733 932	-17.3
Jan-00	102 051	-15.8	2 325 867	-14.9
Jan-01	86 483	-15.3	2 143 631	-7.8

Source: Data obtained from the US Administration for Children and Families

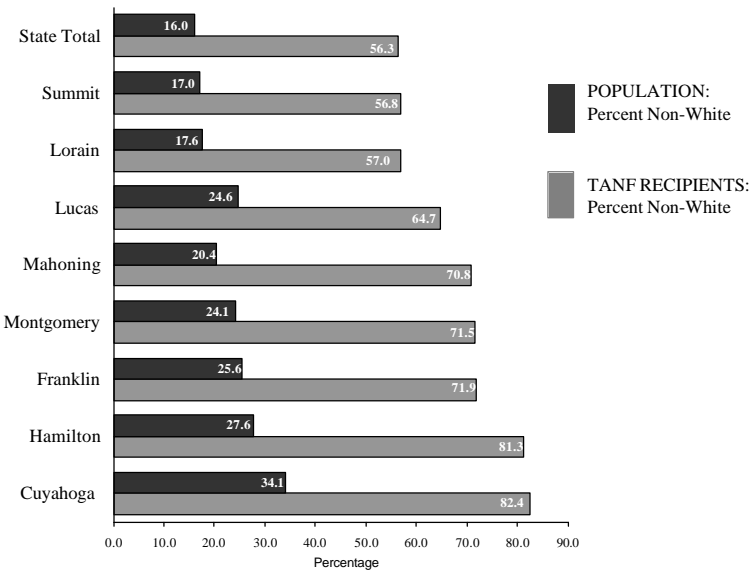
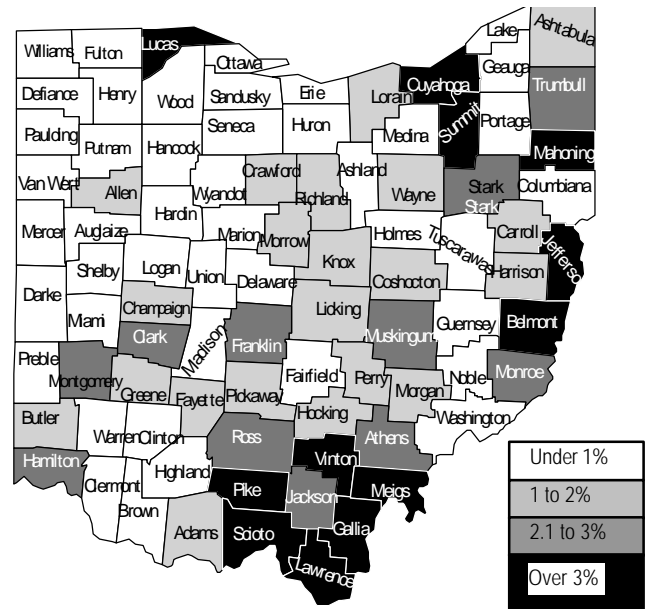
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OHIO WELFARE RECIPIENTS

As of October 2001 there were 194,073 individual TANF recipients in the state of Ohio.

Of these recipients:

- 143,592 (or 74%) are children.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the adult recipients are women.
- 3,889 TANF recipients are pregnant (6.5% of those pregnant are teens).
- Of the adult recipients, 47.5% are non-Hispanic Whites and 47.8% are non-Hispanic African Americans.
- Just over half (51%) of the adult recipients have not graduated from High School or obtained a GED.
- Three out of five (61%) adult recipients are single women.
- Sixteen percent (16%) of adult recipients are married.
- Under two-percent (1.6%) of all Ohio TANF recipients are non-citizens.

MAP: THE NUMBER OF TANF RECIPIENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY COUNTY: 2000



The bar graph above details the concentration of poverty within the minority population. For example, minorities compose 16-percent of the population in Ohio yet compose well over half of the welfare caseload.

FAMILIES ON WELFARE

To be eligible for welfare, a family of three must earn less than \$630 a month (less childcare costs paid). The cash benefit for a family of three is \$373. Of the 84,413 assistance groups receiving welfare (an assistance group is a family or individual receiving benefits) almost all (99.8%) were receiving Medicaid, the federal program of health care for the needy. Ten-percent were receiving subsidized housing, and three-quarters were receiving food stamps. Adults were employed on average 121 hours per month. If an Ohio family is on welfare, each person in that family who is able to work must sign a self-sufficiency contract stating that they will work in exchange for state assistance. If a family includes a single parent and working age children who are not in school, then they all must be working. After a total of five years in the system, all cash benefits are terminated. This applies to all members of the family, thus the children are no longer eligible for the rest of their lifetime.

Source: ODJFS <http://www.state.oh.us/odhs>

CHILDREN UNDER WELFARE

The racial distribution of children receiving TANF benefits has remained relatively unchanged during the time period June 1998 to October 2001. *Roughly 53% of the children receiving benefits are African American, 42% are non-Hispanic White, and 3.5% are Hispanic. Almost one-quarter (24%) of the children receiving TANF are aged 2 or under. Two out of five recipient children are preschool age (aged 5 or under).*

The chart at the right depicts the change in the number of TANF recipients and the change in the percentage of children in poverty over the 1993-2000 time period.

Change in Child Poverty Rate and TANF Recipients (all ages) for the US and Ohio: 1993 to 2000

	1993		2000		1993-2000	
	Child Poverty Rate (%)	TANF Recipients	Child Poverty Rate (%)	TANF Recipients	% Change in Child Poverty	% Change in TANF Recipients
OHIO	19.7	720,476	15.1	238,351	-23.4	-66.9
US	22.5	14,114,992	16.2	5,780,543	-28.0	-59.0

Sources: National Center for Children in Poverty, CPS Poverty tables

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