

OHIO POPULATION NEWS

Issue 34

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Ohio's Young Children

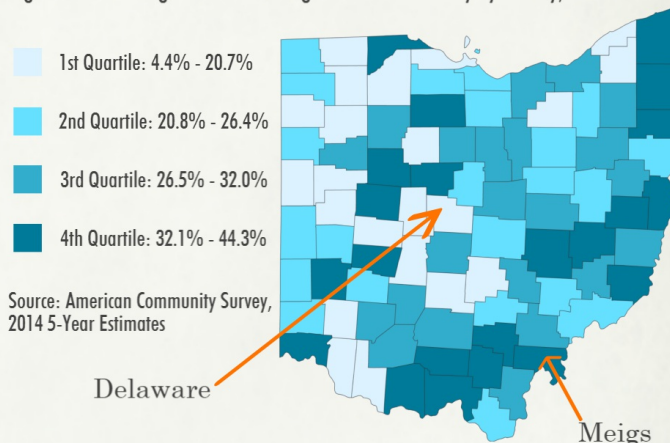
The number of young children (aged 0-4) in Ohio dropped from 735,204 in 2005 to 686,414 in 2014 – a 6.6% decrease. Overall, young children made up a little less than 6% of Ohio's total population in 2014. The majority of Ohio's young children were White (71.3%), 14.5% Black, 3.7% Hispanic of any race, 1.9% Asian, and 8.6% identify as another race.

Young Children in Poverty: Geographic Variation

In 2014, over a quarter of Ohio's young children lived in poverty (27.5 %) representing an increase over the last decade. In 2005, 22.6% of young children in Ohio lived in poverty. The poverty rate of young children in Ohio exceeds that of the nation at 24.3%.

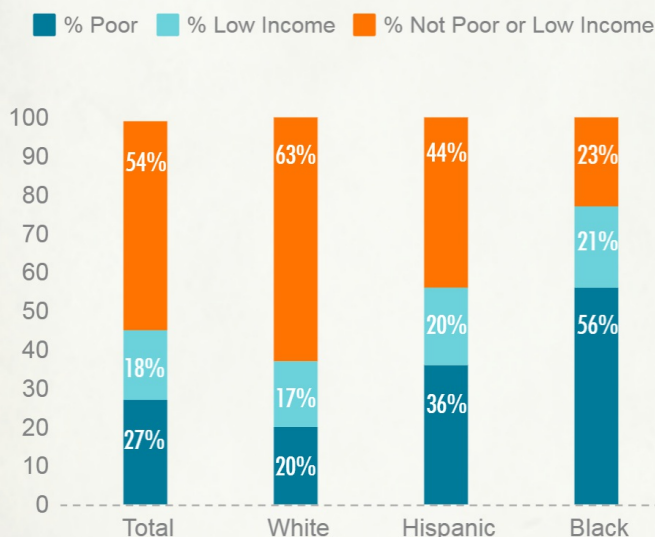
There was wide variation across counties in the proportion of young children living in poverty in 2014, ranging from a low of 4.4% in Delaware County to a high of 44.3% in Meigs County. Additionally, there was a divide between metro and non-metropolitan counties, with 26% of young children living in a metropolitan area in poverty and 31% of young children living in a non-metropolitan area in poverty.

Figure 1. Percentage of Ohio's Young Children in Poverty by County, 2014



Poverty Status by Race and Ethnicity

Figure 2: Ohio's Young Children by Poverty Status and Race/Ethnicity, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

Poverty status among children aged 0-4 varied greatly by race and ethnicity and by poverty classification. While just over 27% of all young children in Ohio lived in poverty, another 18% were considered low income and were eligible for certain forms of public assistance. This translates to almost half (45%) of all young children in Ohio living in poor or low income households in 2014, the same percentage as the U.S. as a whole. Young White children had the lowest levels of poverty at 20% followed by young Hispanic children at 36%. Over half (56%) of young Hispanic children were either considered to be living in low income or poor households in 2014. Young Black children had the highest rates of poverty at 56%, and over three-quarters (77%) of young Black children lived in poor or low income households in 2014.

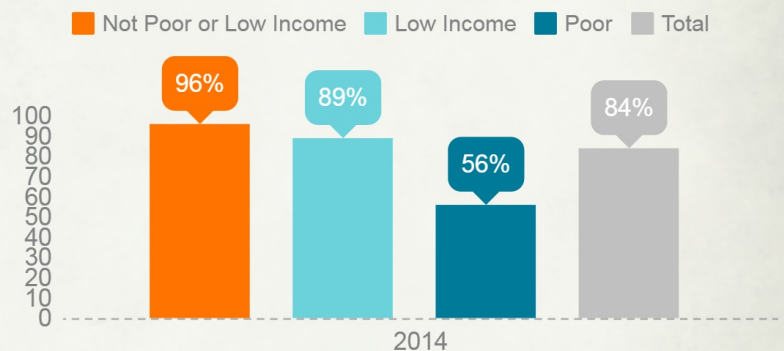
Note: In this profile, poor children are defined as those living in households with incomes 100% or below the Federal poverty line. Low income children are those between 101%-185% of the poverty line because many public assistance programs define eligibility at some level higher than the Federal poverty line but generally no higher than 185%.

Questions or comments? Email the CFDR at cfd@bgsu.edu | visit www.bgsu.edu/cfd for the latest information on upcoming events.

Poverty and Parental Employment

Even though 45% of young children in Ohio were living in poor or low income households, the majority (84%) lived in a household where at least one of their parents was employed. Even among poor households, 56% of young children lived in a household where one or more parent was employed. Among low income households, this figure rises to 89%. Among children not living in poor or low income households, almost all (96%) lived in a household where at least one parent was employed.

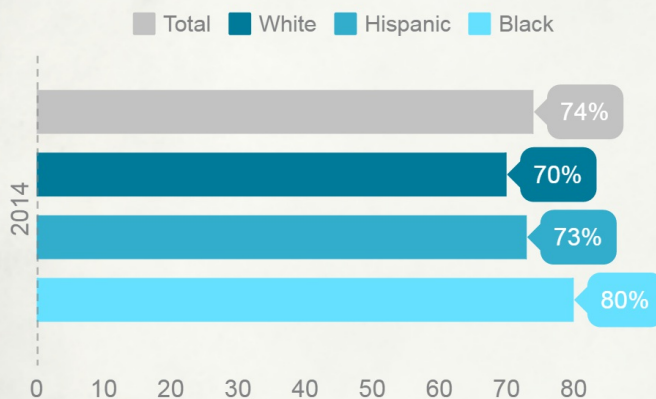
Figure 3: Percentage of Young Children in Ohio with at Least One Parent Employed, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

Food Stamp Receipt

Figure 4. Ohio's Young Children 130% of or Below the Federal Poverty Line Receiving Food Stamps, 2014



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimates

While Ohio had a higher percentage of young children in poverty than the United States as a whole in 2014, Ohioans had higher levels of food stamp receipt among poor children, an important indicator of how well the social safety net supports those in need. All households in Ohio with a gross monthly income 130% or below the Federal poverty line are eligible to receive food stamps (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, 2015). Of young children living in households eligible for food stamps in Ohio (130% or below the poverty line), nearly three-quarters received food stamps compared to 65% at the national level. Food stamp receipt in income-eligible homes was lowest for young White children at 70%, followed by young Hispanic children at 73%, and greatest among young Black children at 80%.

References:

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