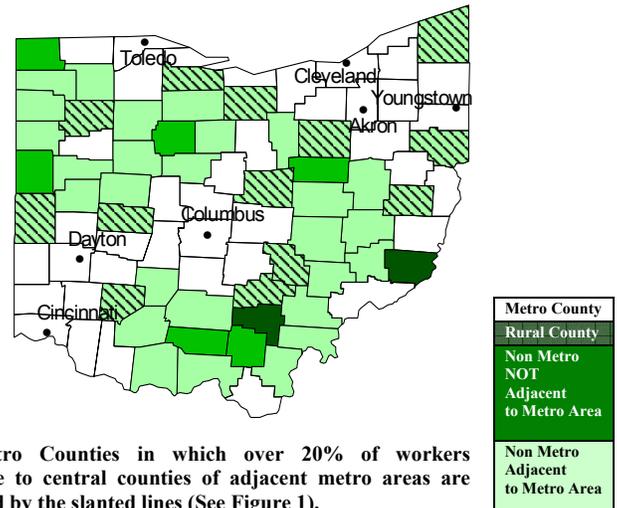


## OHIO POPULATION NEWS Ohio's Rural Population

Close to a quarter of Ohio's residents (2.6 million) reside in a rural area according to the 2000 Census. For the Nation, the percentage of the population living in rural areas was slightly less—21 percent. There are several ways in which researchers and policymakers measure rurality. The Census Bureau uses a rural-urban definition which defines urban as all those urbanized areas with at least 50,000 people and other places with at least 2,500 people. In order to provide better data, the Census Bureau began classifying all territory, population and housing units located within an urbanized area (UA) or an urban cluster (UC) as 'urban'. Both UCs and UAs encompass densely settled territory consisting of core block groups or blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile. UAs have at least 50,000 people, and UCs have between 2,500 and 49,999 people. **Rural areas consist of all areas outside of a UAs and UCs with fewer than 2,500 residents.** The boundary lines for the new urban distinctions are based on aggregates of blocks and block groups. This means that even within geographic entities such as census tracts, counties or places, the population and housing units they contain may be classified as partly rural or partly urban. **The county in Ohio with the highest proportion of rural residents is Monroe County located in Southern Ohio with 98 percent of its residents living in areas classified as rural.** The most urban was Cuyahoga County with less than one percent of its population living in a rural area. Across the nation Vermont had the highest proportion (62 percent) of the population residing in rural areas, and California had the least (6 percent).

Figure 1: Map of Metro and Non Metro Ohio Counties, 2000.



Non-Metro Counties in which over 20% of workers commute to central counties of adjacent metro areas are indicated by the slanted lines (See Figure 1).

### METRO AND NON METRO COUNTIES

Another definition of rural and urban involves the classification of metro and nonmetro counties. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metro counties based on two conditions—they are central counties with one or more urbanized areas or they are outlying counties that are economically tied to the core counties. **Metro counties contain a core area containing a center along with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that core.** Counties are classified as *nonmetro* if they are outside the boundaries of metro areas. **Nonmetro areas are divided into *noncore* counties and *micropolitan* areas, which are centered on urban clusters of 10,000 or more residents.** Just under half of Ohio's counties are metro—40 out of 88. Twenty-nine are classified as micropolitan, and the remaining 19 are nonmetro noncore.

### RURAL URBAN CONTINUUM CODES (RUC)

Another manner of defining urban and rural areas are rural-urban continuum codes used by the USDA Economic and Research Service (ERS) which classify counties as metro and nonmetro but take into account the degree of rurality. This classification scheme distinguishes metro counties based on the population size of their metro area and the nonmetro counties by the level of urbanization and adjacency to metro areas. To be considered an adjacent county, a nonmetro county must physically adjoin one or more metro areas and have at least two percent of its employed labor force commuting to central metro counties. (Table 1).

Source: [www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/)

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Table 1: Poverty and Education by Rural Urban Continuum Codes, Ohio 2000

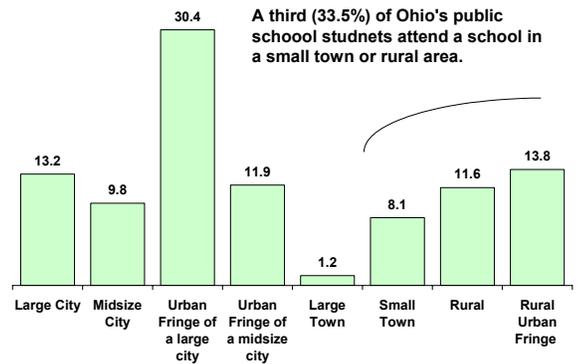
Code	Rural Urban Continuum Designation	# of Counties	# of People in Poverty	Group Poverty Rate	Pet HS Dropout
<b>County in metro area with ...</b>					
1	1 million population or more	18	531,281	10.2	16.2
2	250,000 to 1 million population	15	329,185	10.7	16.1
3	fewer than 250,000 population	7	74,440	11.6	18.1
<b>Nonmetro county with urban population of</b>					
4	20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area	20	142,661	10.8	18.9
6	2,500-19,999, adjacent to a metro area	20	67,188	11.2	20.3
7	2,500-19,999, not adjacent to a metro area	6	21,329	10.8	25.5
<b>Nonmetro county completely rural or less than 2,500 population ...</b>					
8	Adjacent to metro area	1	2,085	13.9	21.2
9	Not adjacent to metro area	1	2,529	20.0	29.3
<b>Ohio State Average</b>		88	1,170,698	10.6	17.0

Sources Used: 2000 US Census, Economic and Research Service of the USDA.

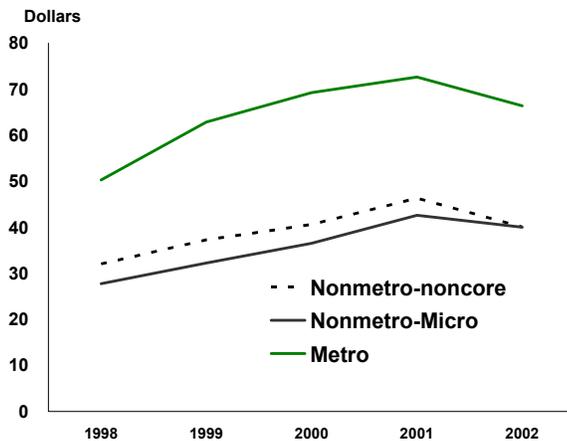
Note: In Ohio, there are no counties classified as (5) NonMetro with a population of 20,000 or more not adjacent to a metro area.

## Ohio's Rural School Population 2001

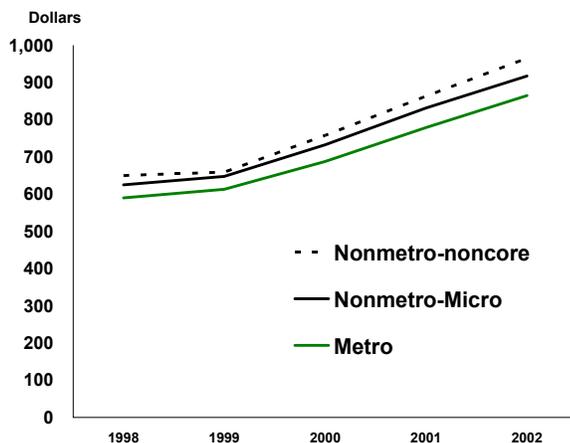
Just over a quarter of the state's elementary and secondary public school students attend a school that is in a rural area. More specifically, roughly 12 percent of Ohio's students attend a school in a rural area that is not within proximity of a metro area, while 14 percent attend a rural school that is near a metropolitan area. Across the nation, rural education levels continue to rise, yet still lag behind those of more urban residents. **Among Metro Ohio residents ages 25 to 34, twenty nine percent have at least a bachelors degree; in rural areas (counties defined as noncore, nonmetro) only ten percent in the same age group have at least a bachelor's degree.** This could in large part be due to the movement of many young adults from rural areas to metro areas in search of education or employment opportunities.



## Per capita TANF benefit: Ohio 1998-2002



## Per capita Medicaid benefit: Ohio 1998-2002



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Account Data.

## Income, Poverty and Welfare

The geographic distribution of poverty is important to understand when creating policies geared toward economic improvement and poverty reduction. Table 1 details levels of poverty measured in the 2000 Census across the rural continuum codes. **On average, levels of poverty are higher and education levels are lower among nonmetro populations.** In 2002, Ohio spent nearly 50 billion dollars on government transfers (such as disability payments, veterans' benefits, income maintenance, etc) to individual residents. Of this, roughly 80 percent went to individuals living in Metro areas. On a per capita basis, Ohio Metro residents received more transfers than did non metro residents (\$4,730 per person compared to \$4,687). **With per capita income of \$30,541 in metro areas and \$23,635 in non-metro areas, government transfers account for 20 percent of non-metro income and 15 percent of metro income.** However, the share of transfers across program type is roughly the same between metro and non-metro areas. When examining just income maintenance payments—which consist of supplemental social security income payments (SSI), TANF, food stamp payments, and other assistance payments, including general assistance, Ohio's metro residents have higher per capita receipt (\$410) than do non-metro residents (\$385). There is some variability across these specific programs—for instance, per capita Medicaid and SSI benefits are higher in the more rural counties (non-metro, noncore) compared with metro areas, whereas TANF and food stamps benefits are lower.

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Sources used:

- USDA Economic and Research Service <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality>
- The Rural Policy Research Institute <http://www.rupri.org>
- US Census Bureau [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov>



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