



Ohio

Department of
Job and Family Services

2013

Mercer County Profile

Statistical and Demographic Data



Grand Lake St. Mary's, Celina. Photo: Tonya Mescher

Mercer County

Job and Family Services Profile

County Overview

Through its partnerships with community organizations and state and federal government agencies, Mercer County provides a number of services to families and individuals in need of assistance. These services range from food assistance, cash assistance, and child care subsidies to child support enforcement, job training, and access to medical care.

2011 Census Poverty Levels as a Percentage of the Federal Poverty Level*

	County	Ohio	U.S.
<18 Years of Age in Poverty:	12.4%	23.9%	22.5%
All Ages in Poverty:	9.1%	16.3%	15.9%

*Federal Poverty Level as issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and published in the Federal Register.

Population	2012 Census Population	40,875	2000 Census Population	40,924
Ohio Total Population (2012)	11,544,225			
Age Census (2012)	County	State	County	State
Age 0-17	10,463	2,663,674	25.6%	23.1%
Age 65 and Older	6,633	1,705,122	16.2%	14.8%
Median Age (2012)	39.9	39.2	N/A	N/A

Vital Statistics

	County	2011 State	County	2010 State
All Births	532	138,024	536	139,034
Teen Births: <15 Years of Age	0	130	0	158
15-17 Years of Age	9	3,255	4	3,699
18-19 Years of Age	29	8,825	25	9,806

	County	2011 State	County	2010 State
Marriages	266	67,606	276	66,433
Divorces	106	39,306	116	39,524

Income

The per capita income of a region provides a good barometer of its economic health. Over the last decade, per capita income fluctuations in Ohio have been highly correlated with employment growth or decline.

Per Capita Income Comparisons	County	Ohio	U.S.
Per Capita Income 2011	\$37,992	\$37,836	\$41,560
Per Capita Income 2000	\$25,442	\$28,206	\$29,845

Dependency Rate

	County	2011 State	County	2010 State
Rate of Dependency on Income Supports*	17.6%	21.4%	18.3%	21.5%
County Rank	81 of 88	N/A	77 of 88	N/A

*The 'Rate of Dependency on Income Supports' is the total amount of income support provided by taxpayer dollars (e.g. Retirement and Disability payments, Unemployment Compensation, Worker's Compensation, TANF, SSI, etc.) divided by total personal income. Note: Ranking based on highest (1) Rate of Dependency to lowest (88) Rate of Dependency.

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Jobs

Food Security

Prevalence of Household-Level Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security 2009-2011 (Average) and 2010-2012 (Average)

Ohio Compared to Adjacent States and U.S.

	Food Insecurity ¹			Very Low Food Security ²		
	Average 2010-2012 (Percent)	Average 2007-2009 (Percent)	Change 2007-2009 to 2010-2012 (Percentage Pts)	Average 2010-2012 (Percent)	Average 2007-2009 (Percent)	Change 2007-2009 to 2010-2012 (Percentage Pts)
U.S.	14.7	13.5	1.2	5.6	5.2	0.4
Ohio	16.1	14.8	1.3	7.1	6.1	1.0
Indiana	12.6	11.5	1.1	4.8	5.0	-0.2
Kentucky	15.6	13.4	2.2	6.2	5.0	1.2
Michigan	13.4	13.4	0.0	5.3	5.0	0.3
Pennsylvania	12.3	11.8	0.5	4.8	4.4	0.4
West Virginia	14.2	13.4	0.8	4.9	5.3	-0.4

¹Food insecurity is a condition that arises from lack of money and other resources to acquire food.

²Very low food security is a severe range of food insecurity in which the food intake of some household members was reduced and normal eating patterns were disrupted due to limited resources.

Source: Data for the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) food security reports are compiled from an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as a supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey. Information about the survey, data, and methods available at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ap-administrative-publication/>

Jobs

Workforce Investment Act

The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is a federally funded program that assists employers in obtaining skilled and productive employees; expands the available pool of skilled workers whose skills match current job opportunities; and measures program achievements in terms of customer outcomes and increased local accountability. Ohio has 31 comprehensive, full-service One-Stop sites, and 59 satellite sites throughout 20 local workforce development areas, with at least one site in every Ohio county. The following data is from Ohio's Annual Report for Program Year 2011:

Adult Programs

Total Participants	7
Total Exiters	9
Entered Employment Rate	77.8%
Retention Rate	87.0%
Average Earnings	\$17,054

Dislocated Worker Programs

Total Participants	11
Total Exiters	11
Entered Employment Rate	100.0%
Retention Rate	90.5%
Average Earnings	\$14,960

Youth Programs

Total Participants	17
Total Exiters	20
Placement in Employment or Education Rate	85.0%
Attainment of Certificate or Diploma Rate	37.5%
Literacy/ Numeracy Gains Rate	50.0%

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Labor Force and Employment

The size of a county's labor force is an indication of economic health. It is influenced by both the economy and the size and composition of the population. Data as of July 2013.

	YTD CY 2013			CY 2012		
	County	State	U.S.	County	State	U.S.
Labor Force	25,500	5,821,000	157,196,000	24,800	5,748,000	154,975,000
Employment	24,300	5,397,000	145,113,000	23,800	5,335,000	142,469,000
Unemployment	1,100	425,000	12,083,000	1,100	413,000	12,506,000
Unemployment Rate	4.5	7.3	7.7	4.4	7.2	8.1
1st UC Benefit Payments	23	18,895	N/A	456	251,259	N/A
Total UC Benefits Issued	\$1,412,154	\$824,078,573	N/A	\$2,461,835	\$1,440,491,728	N/A
Average Weekly Benefit	\$283	\$308	N/A	\$297	\$305	N/A
UC Duration	15.1	16.9	N/A	15.6	16.6	N/A

Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN)

WARN provides protection to workers, their families and communities by requiring employers to provide notification 60 calendar days in advance of plant closings and mass layoffs.

	CY 2012		CY 2011	
	County	State	County	State
Employer WARN Notices	0	83	0	58
WARN Employees Affected	0	11,223	0	8,840

Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA)

48 Mercer County residents, during FFY 2012, participated in the Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) program, which provides unemployed job seekers with services that promote quicker re-entry into the workforce.

NOTE: The number of REAs completed in 2012 significantly decreased due largely to the passage of legislation requiring states to offer a program similar to REA to all claimants receiving federal extended benefits. Due to capacity issues, One-Stops were unable to serve as many REA claimants as had been in the past.

*To learn more about Labor Market and Employment information, go to:

<http://lmi.state.oh.us/asp/laus/vbLAUS.htm>

Commuting to Work*

Metropolitan areas tend to draw the most commuters from their own and neighboring counties. In Mercer County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 32.00% of workers who are at least 16 years of age commute to jobs that are outside their county of residence. An average commute time is 18.9 minutes.

*NOTE: Blank field = "N/A" (Data Not Available)

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Family Services

Child Support

The Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agency establishes paternitys and obtains, enforces, and collects child support funds for children.

\$4,128,262 in IV-D child support was collected by the county during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012.

Child Support Cases	FFY 2012		FFY 2011	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Cases	2,056	925,695	1,996	953,163
Paternity Establishment Rate*	95.1%	107.4%	105.3%	92.1%
Cases with Support Orders	1,937	788,208	1,896	783,566
Percentage of Cases with Support Orders	94.2%	85.1%	95.0%	82.2%
Collection Rate on Current Support Due	72.3%	66.6%	73.8%	66.6%
Rate of Cases Paying on Arrears	75.3%	63.8%	74.8%	64.1%

*The Paternity Establishment Rate is the total number of children born out-of-wedlock, who had active child support cases, for whom paternity was established or acknowledged at the end of the reporting period, divided by the total number of children born out-of-wedlock, who had active child support cases, as reported 12 months prior to the reporting period. In some cases, the rate can exceed 100%.

Food Assistance (FA)

The Food Assistance program is designed to raise nutritional levels, to expand buying power and to safeguard the health and well-being of individuals and families whose gross monthly income is within 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

Food Assistance	SFY 2013		SFY 2012	
	County	State	County	State
Adult Recipients	2,586	1,421,518	2,781	1,427,182
Child Recipients	2,090	979,415	2,160	989,858
Total # of Recipients (Annual Unduplicated)	4,676	2,400,933	4,941	2,417,040
Percent of Population	11.4%	20.8%	12.1%	20.9%
Net Expenditures	\$4,426,852	\$2,972,410,717	\$5,094,270	\$2,983,899,907
Average Annual FA Payment per Recipient	\$947	\$1,238	\$1,031	\$1,235

Ohio Works First (OWF)

Ohio Works First (OWF) is the financial-assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash benefits to needy families for up to 36 months. Currently, 9 out of every 1,000 residents in Mercer County received cash benefits through OWF during SFY 2013.

Cash Assistance (CA)	SFY 2013		SFY 2012	
	County	State	County	State
Adult Recipients	105	72,573	205	110,936
Child Recipients	268	193,976	387	245,825
Total # of Recipients (Annual Unduplicated)	373	266,549	592	356,167
Percent of Population	0.9%	2.3%	1.4%	3.1%
Net Expenditures	\$369,116	\$321,177,604	\$542,247	\$392,535,664
Average Annual CA Payment per Recipient	\$990	\$1,205	\$916	\$1,102

TANF Work Participation Programs

Federal law requires that families eligible to receive cash assistance through Ohio Works First (OWF) participate in work activities. At least 50% of all able-bodied adults receiving benefits are required to participate in work activities at least 30 hours a week. For households with two able-bodied parents receiving benefits, at least 90% are required to participate in work activities at least 35 hours a week, or 55 hours a week if they are using subsidized child care. Allowable work activities may include on-the-job training, community service and education directly related to employment.

Assistance Groups (AGs) Engaged in Work Participation Programs	County	State
Federal 2-Parent Families	87.50%	59.52%
Federal All-Family	68.00%	55.05%

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Child Safety and Care/Placement

The Mercer County Public Children Services Agency administers local adoption assistance, foster care services, and child welfare intervention programs. The agency strives to reunify children with their families when possible, or find other permanent living arrangements for them when they cannot safely return home.

Ohio's Differential Response System

Differential Response offers child welfare agencies options for responding to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect by requiring that such reports be assigned to either the "Traditional Response (TR)" pathway or the "Alternative Response (AR)" pathway. In some instances, a traditional child protection response is needed in order to determine whether abuse or neglect has occurred and to ensure child safety and well-being. AR sets aside fault finding and substantiation decisions and applies only to reports that do not allege serious or imminent harm. In an AR response, caseworkers partner with families and ensure they are connected with the services and supports they need to keep their children safe.

By August 2011, thirty three counties had implemented the Differential Response System. As of September, 2012 an additional fifteen counties went 'live,' increasing the grand total to forty eight 'active' counties. To date, 70 counties have implemented Differential Response.

Determination of Case Status CY 2009 – Year-To-Date CY 2013, as of June 2013.



TRADITIONAL RESPONSE REPORT TYPES

Substantiated or Indicated -	Reports with a "Substantiated" or "Indicated" finding.
Unsubstantiated -	CPS reports with a finding of "Unsubstantiated:" due to intentionally false report; other than intentionally false report.
Closed/no finding -	Cases Closed Without Finding.
Other -	Case Closed For Other Reasons; Unknown or Missing.
Dates of conclusion -	The period of time that children in the Total had a completed CPS investigation or assessment.
Total Dispositions -	Child Protective Services (CPS) report investigation or assessments completed during the Report Period.

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CHILD WELFARE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) Performance Measures

In 2004, the U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, mandated a Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) process to gauge the effectiveness of child-welfare programs. The CFSR is a review of state child welfare systems and a guide that validates successful strategies and provides insight for areas needing improvement.

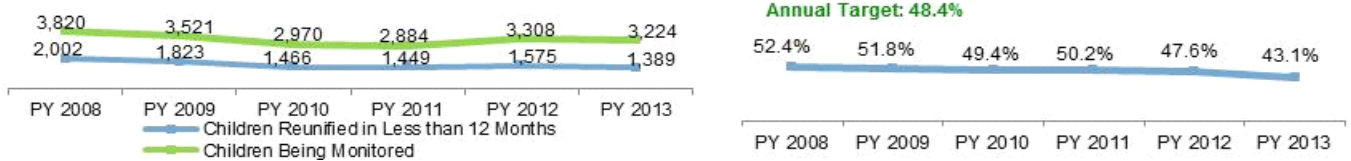
The Ohio CFSR Dashboard is a program evaluation and management tool. It empowers managers to detect problems in performance and make changes to programs prior to the end of the review period, thereby avoiding financial penalties.

The program year for the federal reporting period is April 1 to March 31. Data presented is as of March 31, 2013.

Note: The 'Annual Target' is the Program Year value that must be met or exceeded to be compliant with Federal Government Standards and avoid penalties.

CFSR Permanency Measure C1-3: Entry Cohort Reunification in < 12 months

Of all children entering foster care for the first time between October and March, (6 months) prior to the beginning of the evaluation period, and remained in care for longer than one week, what percent was discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? Target: At least 48.4% of the children must be reunified to avoid risk of Federal penalty.



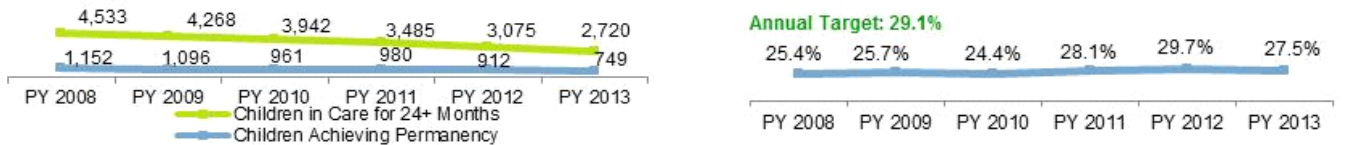
CFSR Permanency Measure C2-3: Children in Care 17+ Months, Adopted by the end of the Year

Of all children in foster care for 17+ months on April 1 of the evaluation year (and not discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of living with a relative, reunification, or guardianship), what percent was discharged from foster care to finalized adoption by the last day of the evaluation period? Target: At least 22.7% of the children must be adopted to avoid risk of Federal penalty.



CFSR Permanency Measure C3-1: Exits to Permanency Prior to 18th birthday for Children in Care for 24+ Months This includes reunification, guardianship or permanent placement with relatives.

Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on April 1 of the evaluation period, what percent was discharged? The target percent of children represents the percent released to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by March 31, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative).



CFSR Permanency Measure C4-3: Two or Fewer Placement Settings for Children In Care 24+ Months

Of all children in foster care for at least 24 months on April 1 of the evaluation year, what percent had two or fewer placement settings? The annual target of 41.8% is the minimum percent to avoid risk of Federal penalty.



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Child Care

Ohio counties provide child care services and early learning opportunities that families need to succeed at work and school. Through state and federal funding, families whose income is at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guideline can receive payment for all or part of their monthly child care expenses while parents work or attend job training/educational activities. A family may remain eligible until income increases to 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

Children Served	SFY 2013		SFY 2012	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Children Using Publicly Funded Child Care (Unduplicated Count)	337	178,132	328	188,526
Public Funds Used for Child Care Expenditure	\$668,786	\$508,988,420	\$718,712	\$571,296,382

Providers	SFY 2013		SFY 2012	
Number of Licensed Child Care Centers*	5	3,102	6	3,112

*Includes licensed full-time, part-time, Head Start, school-based and combination centers with 7 or more children.

"Step Up To Quality" Program

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is Ohio's voluntary quality rating system for child care programs. SUTQ is designed to increase the number of high-quality programs, recognize and support programs that achieve higher quality standards, and provide parents with an easy-to-use tool to assist them in making more informed choices on behalf of their children. Programs with the highest ratings qualify for monetary awards.

The number of Licensed Child Care Centers Earning Quality Ratings as of June 30, 2013: 2

For additional information about child care services, Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), or to search for child care in your area, go to:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>

Adult Protective Services (APS)

County Departments of Job and Family Services provide Adult Protective Services to the elderly who are in danger of harm, unable to protect themselves, and/or have no one to assist them.

	SFY 2012-SFY2013		SFY2011-2012	
	County	State	County	State
Adult Cases	8	14,832	6	15,475
Cases Deemed Emergencies	0	424	0	511
Cases in Need of Protective Services	0	5,905	0	6,381
Cases Where Protective Services Not Available	0	88	0	81

	SFY 2013		SFY 2012	
	County	State	County	State
Expenditures	\$2,101	\$16,070,280	\$1,155	\$17,017,750

Kinship Permanency Incentive

KPI provides time-limited incentive payments to relatives caring for minor children who would be at risk of harm if they remained in their own homes. (Blank field = N/A)

Unduplicated Counts*	SFY 2012	
	County	State
Children Approved for Initial KPI Funding	5	2,241
Children Receiving KPI Payments Redeterminations	7	4,714
Total Number of Children Receiving KPI Payments	12	6,955

*Blank Field = N/A

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Medical Assistance

Ohio offers a variety of assistance programs to give those with limited resources access to basic medical care. The most comprehensive of these is Medicaid, the federally funded, state-administered program that reimburses doctors and health-care facilities for providing services to eligible individuals with low income.

Nursing Facilities/Residential Care*

	<u>CY 2012</u>		<u>CY 2011</u>	
	County	State	County	State
Nursing Homes	6	958	6	939
Residential Care Facilities	6	608	6	599

*Total includes state-licensed and Medicaid-certified facilities.

Alternatives to Nursing Facilities (Waiver Programs)

Waiver programs allow people on Medicaid with disabilities to receive care in their homes and communities instead of in nursing homes. The following chart lists the waiver programs available in Ohio for SFY 2013 and SFY 2012, and the number of Mercer County residents participating in them.

Unduplicated Number of Residents Receiving Services Waiver Type	<u>SFY 2013</u>		<u>SFY 2012</u>	
	County	State	County	State
Choices - Age 60 or older		649	0	697
PASSPORT - Pre-admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today - Age 60 or older	43	40,781	39	40,752
Assisted Living - Age 21 or older	54	5,357	54	4,795
Individual Options Waiver - Available to all ages	28	17,739	37	17,311
Level One Waiver - Available to all ages with an ICF/MR Level of Care	72	13,031	63	11,851
Ohio Home Care - Age 59 or younger	16	10,445	13	10,442
Transitions - Age 60 or older	10	3,182	10	3,066
Transitions Carve Out - All ages	2	2,634	1	2,352