



**Department of
Development**

Policy Research and Strategic Planning Office
A State Affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau



Ohio Poverty Report

April 2011



THE OHIO POVERTY REPORT

APRIL 2011

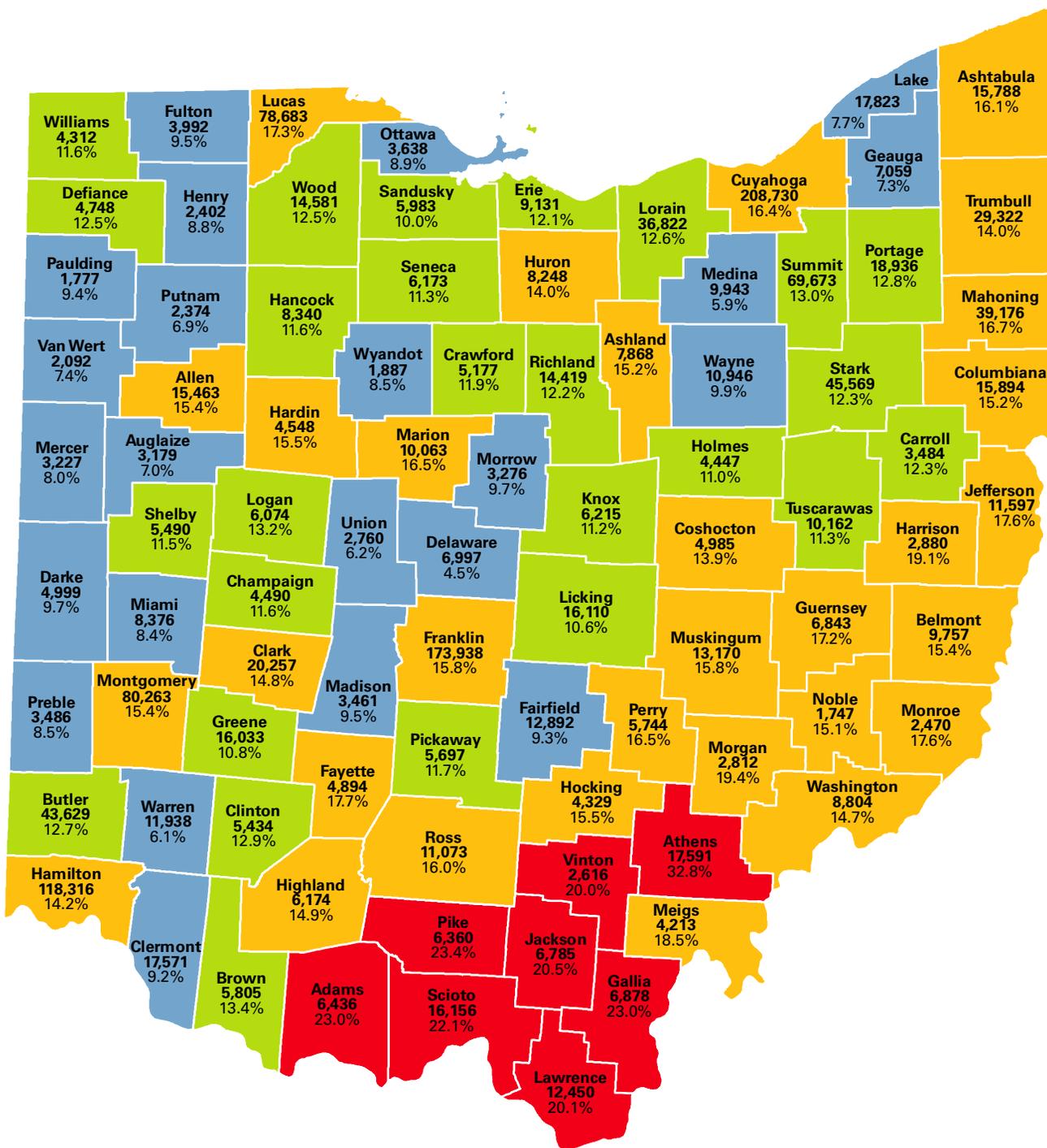
Don Larrick, Principal Analyst
Policy Research and Strategic Planning, Ohio Department of Development
PO Box 1001, Columbus, Oh. 43216-1001
Production Support:
Steven Kelley, Editor
Robert Schmidley, GIS Specialist

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction and Executive Summary	1
Introduction.....	2
Executive Summary	3
Ohio’s Poverty Rate History, with Comparisons to the U.S.	5
Recent Trends in Individual Poverty Rates	7
Recent Trends in Family Poverty Rates.....	9
The Relation of Ohio’s Poverty Rate with Selected Economic Variables	11
The Geographic Distribution of Poverty in Ohio	13
Counties 2005-2009	15
Other Types of Areas 2005-2009.....	17
The Poor and the Near Poor	19
The Circumstances of Poverty: Variations and Trends	21
Employment Status	23
Household Type and the Presence of Related Children.....	25
Cash Public Assistance	27
Educational Attainment.....	29

Age Groups	31
Race and Hispanic Status	33
Appendices	35
Defining and Measuring Poverty.....	36
Experimental Measures of Poverty	38
Family Income Inequality and Poverty Rates.....	40
Detailed Tables	41
Table A1: Persons and Families in Ohio and the U.S. in Poverty, 1989-2009.....	42
Table A2: Ohio's Poverty and Unemployment Rates, and Inflation-Adjusted Per Capita Personal Income, 1989-2009	43
Table A3a: The Number and Percentage of Poor Persons by County, 1989-2009.....	44
Table A3b: The Number and Percentage of Poor Persons in Selected Areas, 1989-2009	47
Table A4: The Ratio of Income to Poverty Level for Persons by County, 2005-2009.....	50
Table A5: Poverty by Family Type and Work Experience for Selected Years	53
Table A6: Poverty by Household Type and Presence of Related Child(ren) for Selected Years.....	57
Table A7: Cash Public Assistance Reciprocity by Poverty Status and Family Type for Selected Years	58
Table A8: Poverty by Educational Attainment Among Persons Age 25 and Older for Selected Years.....	59
Table A9: Poverty by Age Group for Selected Years	60
Table A10: Poverty by Race and Hispanic Status for Selected Years.....	61
Notes	62
Sources and References Cited.....	65

THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY IN OHIO



Poverty in Ohio by County 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Statewide Poverty
1,526,350
13.6%

Percentage
County Population
in Poverty

- 4.5% - 9.9%
- 10% - 13.5%
- 13.6% - 19.9%
- 20% - 32.8%

This map shows the 2005-2009 American Community Survey estimates of the number and percentage of persons in poverty by county

Source:
2005-2009 American Community Survey,
U.S. Census Bureau

Prepared by:
Ohio Department of Development,
Policy Research and Strategic Planning
April 2011

COUNTIES 2005-2009

The map above shows the variation in poverty rates across Ohio during the 2005-9 period, the first data from the American Community Survey covering all counties since the 2000 Census. The rates ranged from 4.5 percent in Delaware to 32.8 percent in Athens.⁴ Altogether, 23 counties had poverty rates less than 10 percent, 26 had rates ranging from 10 to 13.4 percent – less than the 13.6 percent characterizing the state as a whole, 31 counties had rates above the state average but less than 20 percent, and eight counties had rates of 20 percent or higher. The median county poverty rate in the state was 12.75 percent; 44 counties were above that mark, and 44 were below.

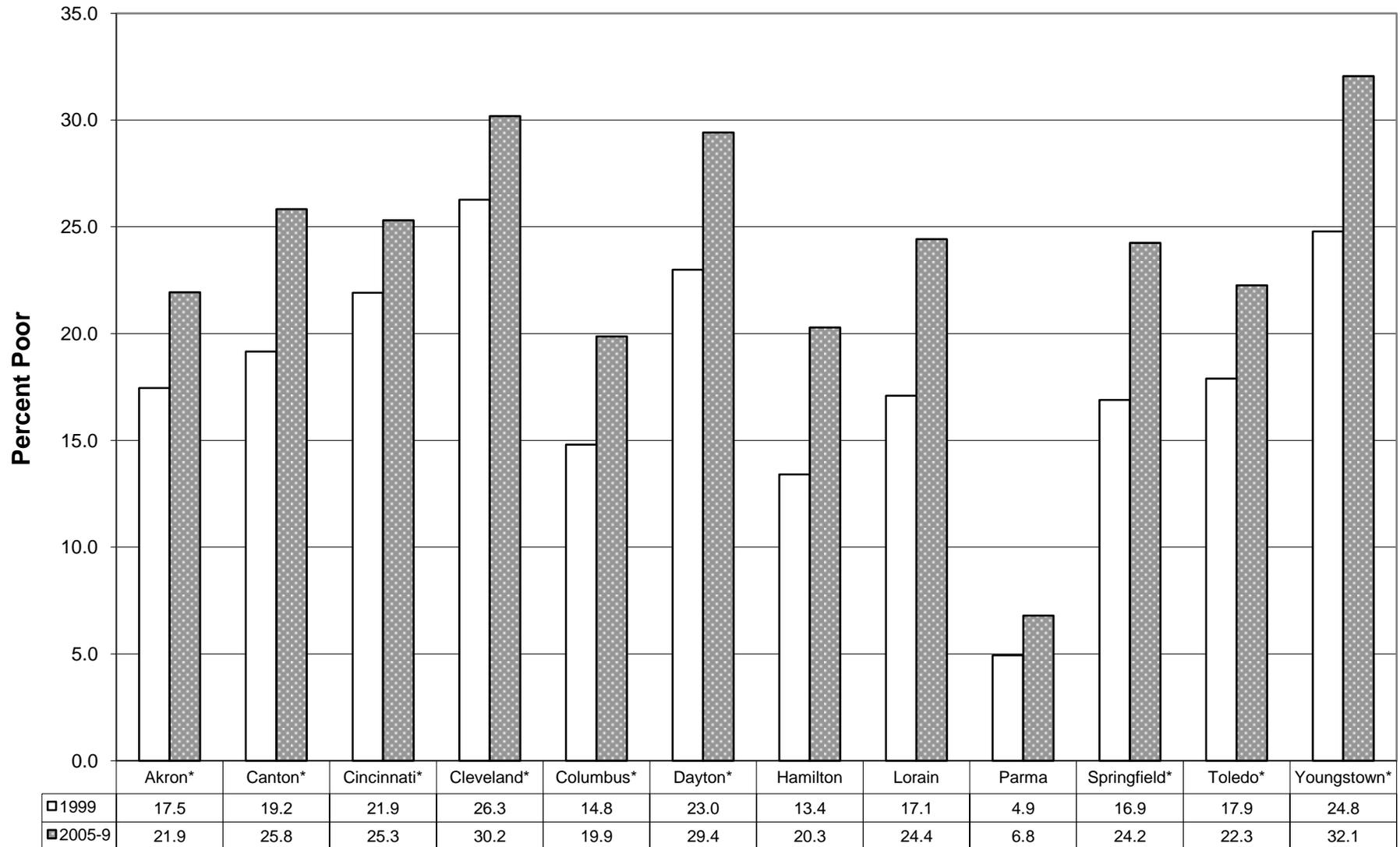
Some types of areas had poverty rates higher than other types. Most notably, the 32-county Appalachian area⁵ had a poverty rate of 16.0 percent – about 313,500 of its 1,958,000-plus people in Ohio. Although poverty rates among Appalachian counties range from 9.2 to 32.8 percent, the 11 counties with the highest poverty rates in Ohio were Appalachian. The poverty rates for counties in the remainder of Ohio ranged from 4.5 to 17.7 percent, with an area average of 13.1 percent – about 1,212,000 people out of almost 9,236,000.

A closer look at the map above also reveals relatively high poverty rates in most of the counties with metropolitan area central cities. Allen (Lima), Clark (Springfield), Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), Hamilton (Cincinnati), Jefferson (Steubenville), Lucas (Toledo), Mahoning (Youngstown), Montgomery (Dayton), Trumbull (Warren) and Washington (Marietta) all had poverty rates higher than the state average of 13.6 percent. The remaining counties with metropolitan area central cities – Butler (Middletown), Erie (Sandusky), Richland (Mansfield), Stark (Canton) and Summit (Akron) – had poverty rates below the state average. However, Summit's poverty rate – 13.0 percent – is just above the county median. The 16 counties collectively had nearly 967,000 poor out of almost 6,429,000 people for whom poverty status was determined – a poverty rate of 15.0 percent. The 967,000 also comprise 63.4 percent of all poor people in Ohio.

The data in Appendix Table A3a show that the poverty rate for the state rose significantly from 10.6 percent in 1999 to 13.6 percent for the 2005-2009 period. The increase was widespread across the state with significant increases evident in 66 counties. (Although there is an overlap in ranges of population sizes, counties where significant increases were noted tend to be larger than those where no significant changes were observed.) Not one county had a significant decrease in its poverty rate.

See Table A3a

Changes in Poverty Rates in Ohio's 12 Largest Cities: 1999 to 2005-9



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: * - A metropolitan area central city.

OTHER TYPES OF AREAS 2005-2009

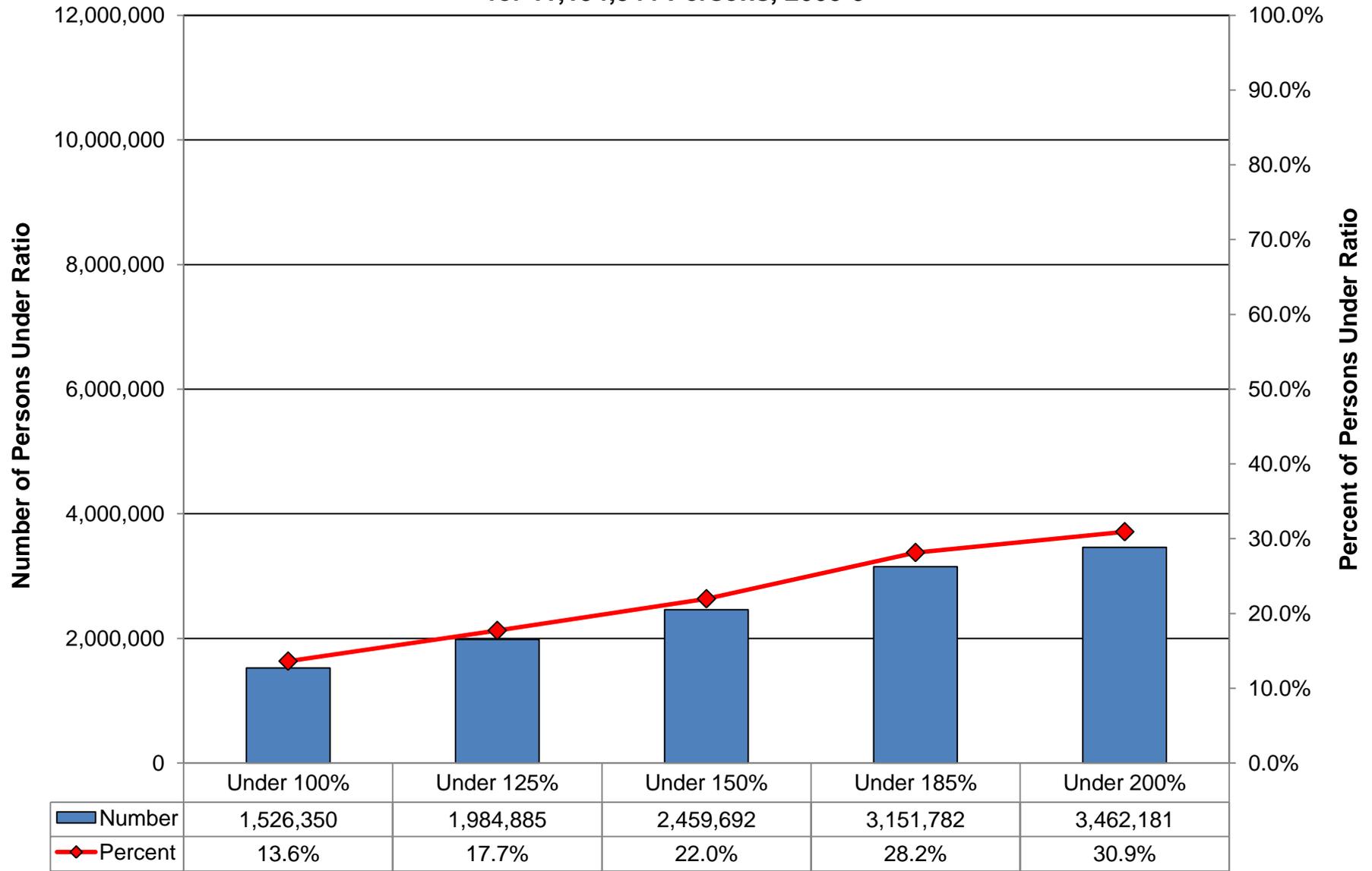
The chart above shows how the poverty rates of the 12 largest cities in Ohio have changed since 1999: all were significantly higher in 2005-9 than in 1999. Collectively, the cities have 22.8 percent of all Ohioans for whom poverty status was determined in 2005-9, and 39.5 percent of all Ohioans in poverty. It should also be noted that 11 of the 12 cities have higher poverty rates than the counties in which they are located. This is true of Akron (Summit), Canton (Stark), Cincinnati (Hamilton), Cleveland (Cuyahoga), Columbus (Franklin), Dayton (Montgomery), Hamilton (Butler), Lorain (Lorain), Springfield (Clark), Toledo (Lucas) and Youngstown (Mahoning). The only exception is Parma (Cuyahoga).

The principal cities of metropolitan areas (i.e., the large cities for which the metropolitan areas are named) collectively had a higher poverty rate than people not in principal cities: 23.4 vs. 9.2 percent. Both were higher than the corresponding rates of 18.9 and 6.5 percent for 1999. The American Community Survey data summarize poverty statistics for other types of areas within Ohio. Data in Appendix Table A3b show the poverty rate in urban areas (densely populated areas with at least 2,500 people) was estimated at 15.2 percent, up from 11.5 percent in 1999; the poverty rate for rural areas was estimated at 8.9 percent, also up from 7.6 percent in 1999. (Rural areas include people living on farms and in settlement clusters of less than 2,500 people.) The poverty rate for metropolitan areas was 13.5 percent, up from 10.6 percent in 1999. All of these summary percentage increases from 1999 to 2005-9 appear to be statistically significant. However, caution is warranted for such conclusions.⁶

The summary rise in the urban poverty rate is the aggregation of many local components. American Community Survey data for the 86 cities in Ohio with at least 20,000 people show that 61 experienced significant increases in their poverty rates after 1999. None of these cities had a significantly lower poverty rate during 2005-9 than it had in 1999. Beyond these summary statements, the experiences of cities varied widely. Seven cities had poverty rates exceeding 30 percent in 2005-9: Athens, Bowling Green, Cleveland, Kent, Oxford, Portsmouth and Youngstown; the increased poverty rates since 1999 were significant for all but Athens and Oxford.⁷ There were 14 cities with poverty rates below five percent: Avon Lake, Beavercreek, Dublin, Gahanna, Hilliard, Hudson, Mason, N. Royalton, Perrysburg, Solon, Strongsville, Upper Arlington, Westerville and Westlake. Yet even in Beavercreek, Hilliard, Hudson, Mason, Strongsville, Upper Arlington and Westlake, the poverty rates were significantly higher than in 1999. See Appendix Table A3b for data for all 86 cities.

See Table A3b

Poor and Near-Poor Persons in Ohio: The Ratio of Income to Poverty Level for 11,194,344 Persons, 2005-9



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

THE POOR AND THE NEAR-POOR

In addition to the number of poor people, there are programmatic needs to understand the number of people who are more or less close to being poor. The chart above illustrates how many people in Ohio are poor or relatively close to poverty. The left-most column shows the number of poor persons exceeded 1,526,000 during the 2005-2009 period of data collection. That figure was 13.6 percent of the 11,194,000-plus people for whom poverty status was determined. The right-most column shows over 3,462,000 people – 30.9 percent of the population – had (or were in families with) incomes less than 200 percent of the poverty level. Those figures include the 1,526,000-plus who were poor and an additional 1,935,000-plus – 17.3 percent – who were not poor, but more or less close to being poor. The middle three columns show numbers and percentage of Ohioans in other commonly requested categories: 125, 150, and 185 percent of the ratio of income to the poverty level. The percentages shown above differ only slightly from the national averages. The corresponding figures for the U.S. were 13.5, 17.9, 22.4, 28.7 and 31.4 percent.

As with county poverty rates, the variation of poverty-and-near-poverty rates within Ohio was notable. Delaware County had the lowest percentage of those under 200 percent of the poverty level – 12.6, and Athens County had the highest such percentage – 52.1. Altogether, 11 counties had poverty-and-near-poverty rates of at least 40 percent, 44 counties had rates between 30 and 40 percent, 29 counties had rates between 20 and 30 percent, and four counties had rates less than 20 percent. Appalachian counties collectively had 36.9 percent below 200 percent of the poverty level. The corresponding rate for non-Appalachian counties was 29.7 percent. Appendix Table A4 also shows by county the numbers and percentages of persons at other poverty-and-near-poverty rates of 125, 150 and 185 percent.

See Table A4