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SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION: WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2020

Federal planning guidelines require community assessments to be completed every five years and reviewed annually for needed updates. The Head Start Policy Council and Board of the West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) approved this Assessment in _____. According to federal guidance, this Assessment will be used by the Board and staff at WOCAP to research the local needs and plan warranted types of programming and services that will be provided using Community Services Block Grant and Head Start funds. Such funds must be used for programming aligned with the three National Community Action Results Oriented Management Accountability (ROMA) goals that guide the types of services that help families and individuals thrive.

The 2022 WOCAP Community Assessment has been completely updated to provide expanded information necessary to provide the rationale and justification for the programs and services provided by and yet to be developed by WOCAP. The assessment was compiled with the assistance of the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission and Allen County Public Health. WOCAP acknowledges their technical support and extends its sincere appreciation for their hard work and commitment to this process.

1.1 Goals & Objectives

The overall goal of the assessment was to capture the state of well-being of people in our service area and identify the vulnerable populations within the community specifically targeting the inclusion of low-income, elderly, young children, expectant women, minority, and disabled residents. We intended to identify those available internal and external data sets to develop the most comprehensive overview of the community using our community partners in the planning process. The efforts to compile and analyze the data provided herein will help identify community weaknesses and build upon local strengths and resources to close the gap between the community's needs and the services accessible to everyone.

WOCAP's objective was to meet the regulatory requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and satisfy both Community Services Block Grant and Head Start Program planning requirements, and specifically address CSBGs national ROMA directives that require: (1) Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security; (2) Communities where people with low income live are healthy and offer economic opportunity; (3) People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

1.2 WOCAP History

West Ohio CAP was founded as a non-profit private organization in 1993 to serve our community in meeting the needs of both young and old low-income families in Allen County, Ohio. After nearly three years of effort by the United Way of Greater Lima, the Black Ministerial Alliance, the City of Lima's Mayor, and the Allen County Commissioners, West Ohio CAP was designated on February 1, 1994 as the Community Action Agency for Allen County.

Upon opening, West Ohio CAP operated two emergency assistance programs, the local Federal Emergency Management Assistance and the Home Energy Assistance Program, with four employees and a budget of \$345,000. On September 12, 1994, a Micro Enterprise Coordinator was hired and the Allen/Lima Enterprise Assistance Program became the first program created by the new Community Action Agency. In 1995, the Federal Head Start program was secured. With the inception of this program, Head Start became the agency's biggest funded program by serving 571 children in Allen County. West Ohio CAP continued its focus on low-income early childhood

development by successfully adding 80 children in the Early Head Start Program with child care partners in 2015.

Twenty-nine years later, with an operating budget that has grown to \$16 million dollars and a staff of 110 employees, West Ohio CAP now offers fourteen programs in three counties, Allen, Auglaize and Mercer. West Ohio CAP's programs are continually evolving and changing as part of a continuing effort to meet the ever-growing needs of our community and our neighbors. Over the years, West Ohio CAP has well realized that as our community and the economic environment in which we live change – our plans, goals, and services must change as well. Therefore, West Ohio CAP is “On the Move”. West Ohio CAP facility locations include Celina, Harrod, Lima, and Wapakoneta. The Lima location at 540 Central Avenue is our headquarters, which is centrally located in Lima and is accessible by public transportation or pedestrians.

With pride in service and a commitment to excellence, West Ohio CAP provides opportunities for people to reach their highest potential by providing stepping stones to success. We open paths to self-sufficiency and empowerment for individuals and families to enhance our community. West Ohio CAP programming has grown to include: Early Head Start, Head Start and Preschool, Kindergarten Kamp, Most Valuable Parents (MVP) Program, Rent Assistance, Fair Housing, Financial Management, Home Repair Program, Lead Safe Home Program, Utility Assistance (HEAP), Rent/Mortgage Assistance, Water Assistance, Emergency Services and the Start-Up Lab.

West Ohio CAP has been involved with establishing and nurturing many initiatives that have grown to become other successful non-profit programs in the community, such as the federally qualified health clinic, now the Dr. Gene Wright Health Center; family violence prevention which is now Partnership for Violence Free Families; and The Start Up Lab for minority small business development.

West Ohio CAP has a proven thirty-year track record of ethics in operations and fiscal accountability by continually achieving “clean” audit opinions during our annual agency wide single audits. In 2014 and 2019, the Chamber of Commerce named West Ohio CAP “Non-Profit Business of the Year”. In 2016, West Ohio CAP was awarded the Exemplary Program award from the John Glenn Institute for our newest program, Steps to Success, a comprehensive self-sufficiency program for low-income adults. We have also been awarded seven Best Practice Awards from The Ohio State University's John Glenn Institute for Public Policy and Public Service. This award is presented to non-profit agencies for innovative efforts to help low-income people make life-changing differences and lead them on the path to self-sufficiency. In 2019, West Ohio CAP was again chosen as recipient for the Exemplary Program award for our “No Excuses” Program initiated in Allen County as an effort to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable population and create a safer living environment. Our agency also received the Community Impact Award in 2019 from Dominion Energy for our Lead Safe Home Program, and in 2020 Dominion Community Impact Award for our efforts to reduce homelessness. On July 8, 2022, West Ohio CAP received the Compass Award today from Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague. The Compass Award is presented for demonstrating innovation and excellence in the field of financial literacy.

We are known throughout the community as an organization of integrity that is a leader in collaboration, partnering and advocating for low-income families. A hallmark of our organization is our ability to collaborate with a wide variety of community agencies. We have partnerships with more than 100 agencies in our region to meet the goals of helping people reach their full potential.

West Ohio CAP currently serves about 9,300 individuals per year through its many programs and services in three counties. Quality of services is paramount to our continued success.

Collaborations with West Ohio CAP

West Ohio CAP has many partnerships with local community and government organizations. West Ohio CAP understands that to achieve results, we cannot do it alone. A few examples of our partnerships are given here.

West Ohio CAP partners with the United Way of Greater Lima, Family and Children First Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Lima City Schools to provide a unique five-week transition program (head start preschool curriculum into kindergarten) for at-risk children. The goal of the partnership was to identify children who did not have a preschool experience, and prepare children for kindergarten, educate teachers about early learning institutions, and develop relationships between kindergarten teachers and head start teachers. The program is a huge success - increasing children's kindergarten testing scores from 14 points to 19 points (the average) and earning West Ohio CAP an award from the John Glenn Institute for Best Practices.

West Ohio CAP partners with five childcare centers in Lima to coordinate early childhood services for working parents. We combine resources, space and funding to ensure high quality services are available and to increase the childcare's capacity for excellence through curriculum development, staff training, and financial support.

West Ohio CAP partners with 13 organizations in three counties to coordinate homeless prevention services in each county. The Homeless Planning Region 12 develops policy for how services will be provided, monitors quality of services and ensures that families are permanently and stably housed. Our partnership has resulted in the first ever participation in the annual homeless count by both Auglaize and Mercer Counties, bringing awareness to those communities of the need for services.

1.3 WOCAP's Philosophy & Guidance

WOCAP has a long and storied history of success. And much of that success is predicated upon the direction and guidance provided by the Policy Board, our parents, and staff, who have collectively developed specific statements to guide the direction, development, and delivery of services so needed across this community. To meet the needs of those we dedicate our services we adopt the following statements:

Mission Statement:

West Ohio Community Action Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)(3), Community Action Agency that provides opportunities for people to reach their highest potential by providing stepping stones to success. We shall open paths to self-sufficiency and empowerment for individuals and families to enhance our community.

Value Statement:

Together, we the staff, board and policy council of West Ohio Community Action Partnership, commit to making a difference in our community, through actions and behaviors that demonstrate our dedication to these values:

Welcoming, accepting, and recognizing that each person has unique and diverse qualifications and strengths

Offering services with dignity, kindness, and compassion

Communicating with directness and honesty to find creative solutions

Accomplishing our common goals by providing the tools to build bridges to success

Pioneering the way forward in high standards of education and community achievement

Vision Statement:

WOCAP's vision is to continue to provide the tools and services needed to build a respected, strong foundation in our community through programs and partnerships.

1.4 WOCAP & Current Collaboration

As an agency, WOCAP has developed its programming and shared its successes with other community stakeholders. And, as a result, WOCAP now has over 100 partnerships with the local community and government organizations. However, WOCAP understands that to achieve results; it cannot do it alone. A few examples of successful program partnerships in 2015-2019 include:

- With the United Way of Greater Lima, Family & Children First Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lima City Schools, WOCAP provides a unique five-week transition program (head start preschool curriculum into kindergarten) for at-risk children. The partnership aims to identify children who did not have a preschool experience, prepare children for kindergarten, educate teachers about early learning institutions, and develop relationships between Kindergarten Teachers and Head Start Teachers. The program has proven to be a huge success - increasing children's kindergarten testing scores from 14 points to 19 points (the average) and earning WOCAP an award from the John Glenn Institute for Best Practices.
- WOCAP currently works with five childcare centers in Lima to coordinate early childhood services for working parents. We combine resources, space and funding to ensure high quality services are available and increase the childcare's capacity for excellence through curriculum development, staff training, and financial support.
- Coordinating with 15 organizations across three counties, the agency works to deliver homeless prevention services. The Homeless Planning Region 12 develops policy regarding how services are provided, monitors the quality of services and ensures that families are permanently and stably housed. The partnership has resulted in the development of Annual Homeless Counts conducted in both Auglaize and Mercer counties and helped to raise the level of public awareness in those communities regarding the need to provide homeless services. In 2021 WOCAP served 129 households that were identified as homeless, as well as assisting another 1,385 households with housing assistance.

- The vision of West Ohio Cap was to design a lead abatement project to focus both on lead abatement and home repair to remove lead hazards and preserve safe and affordable housing. In addition, we recognized that eliminating other unsafe home repairs was necessary to ensure the home was safe for occupancy when each home was completed. To reach this goal, West Ohio Cap had to leverage 1.75 million of private funds with State home repair funds, agency funds, City of Lima funds, and Ohio Department of Health Funds. West Ohio Cap planned to abate 40-50 homes in the area, with a priority for homes with children who have already been poisoned by lead. Ten area contractors and government organizations collaborated with WOCAP to move this project forward.
- West Ohio CAP earned an emergency home repair grant for \$140,000 from the Ohio Development Services and is expected to serve 16 households.

1.5 Overview & Data Limitations

The data collected for this Assessment was assembled from various sources across various periods. Data sets varied by date and period and did not automatically lend themselves to inclusion in this Report. Statistical manipulations using geographic information systems were used to assimilate data across geographies and periods.

The 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census datasets were used as baseline information across the entire report. Where available data is presented at the census tract level, defaults fall to county or political subdivision levels. The second section addresses the local population by geography, household structure, age, educational attainment, and income; poverty and employment conclude the socioeconomic indices. Section III reviews housing data made available by the decennial census, the ACS, and data obtained from the Allen County Auditor. Section III provides insights relative to the housing stock by size, tenure, age, perceived value, sales values, residency, vacancy status, and quality. Group quarters, mobile/manufactured homes, and manufactured home parks are also addressed before an analysis of housing rehabilitation, affordability, and homelessness is presented. The subsequent sections address a review of housing foreclosures, vacancies and blight. Based on the antipoverty programming undertaken by WOCAP, Section IV examines various metrics of the local school districts and the educational opportunities presented across the community at post-secondary institutions, non-degree granting primarily post-secondary educational facilities, local school districts and child care facilities. Most of the data were obtained from the Ohio Department of Education and the New America Federal Education Budget Project; ancillary data was obtained from school websites and related periodicals. Data herein supports educational attainment data provided in Section II and provides greater insights into the various programs locally available, as well as provides greater insights into the various locally available programs and the financial, demographic, and performance of those public-school districts. Data relative to local school districts facilities and KRA data is incorporated therein. Data within Section V has been supported and or provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Allen County Auditor's Office, Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission, Allen County Public Health, City of Lima Police Department, City of Lima Building & Zoning Department, and City of Lima Code Enforcement Office. Section V examines the implications of crime, housing, and substance abuse with respect to policy decisions governing land use, housing, resource management, criminal justice services, and health. Before a Summary of Findings & Recommendations is presented, Section VI provides an overview of poverty and health disparities, including those associated with the local physical environment. Section VI concludes with a needs assessment completed by WOCAP's clients and parents and summarizes

WOCAP's services, partners, and compliance issues related to the delivery of Head Start and Early Head Start services.

The report readily acknowledges "borrowing" statements and statistical findings from the Centers for Disease Control, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Ohio Health Policy Institute to address the complicated relationships between the environment and disease as well as to link statistically significant findings obtained at the state/national levels with the local environment and expected health determinants and policy recommendations developed across Sections V, VI and VII.

SECTION 2 POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS

To assess the community's needs and address anti-poverty programming, a better understanding of the local population is warranted. Assessing a community's population and its respective demographic measures, including age, gender, race, educational attainment, household structure, and income, is essential to understanding the related demand and consumption of education, employment, health and housing services provided by local community service providers. Recognizing and understanding how economic factors impact the population furthers the discussion and assessment of existing services and unmet needs and allowing these local service providers to develop sound policies and support the wise expenditure of public funds.

2.1 Population & Area

The service area under review in this document spans the entirety of Allen County, including its cities and villages. The study area encompasses the Cities of Delphos and Lima, the incorporated villages of Bluffton, Cairo, Elida, Harrod, Lafayette, and Spencerville, and all 12 townships including Amanda, American, Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Marion, Monroe, Perry, Richland, Shawnee, Spencer and Sugar Creek (Map 2-1).

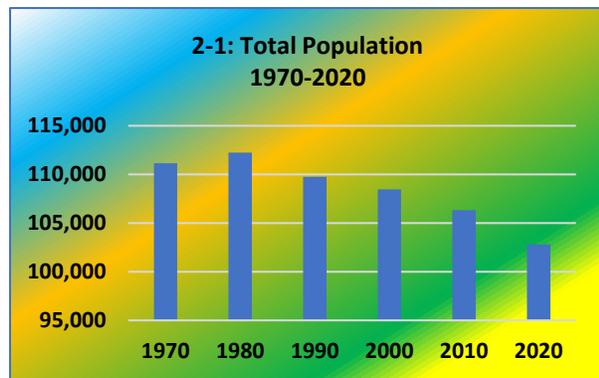
Major roads include Interstate 75, State Routes 65, 115, and 696, which run north and south, and U.S. Route 30 and State Routes 81, 117, and 309, which cross the county east to west. In addition, the Auglaize and Ottawa Rivers flow through Allen County. The total study area reflects some 407 square miles. Two base maps are provided showing location by roads (Map 2-1) and census tracts (Map 2-2).

The population of Allen County in 2020, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, was 102,206 persons. This population, however, is not uniform in its demographics, distribution, or density. Therefore, the remainder of this section attempts to highlight specific characteristics of the community's population and provide broad generalizations that will further the planning process.

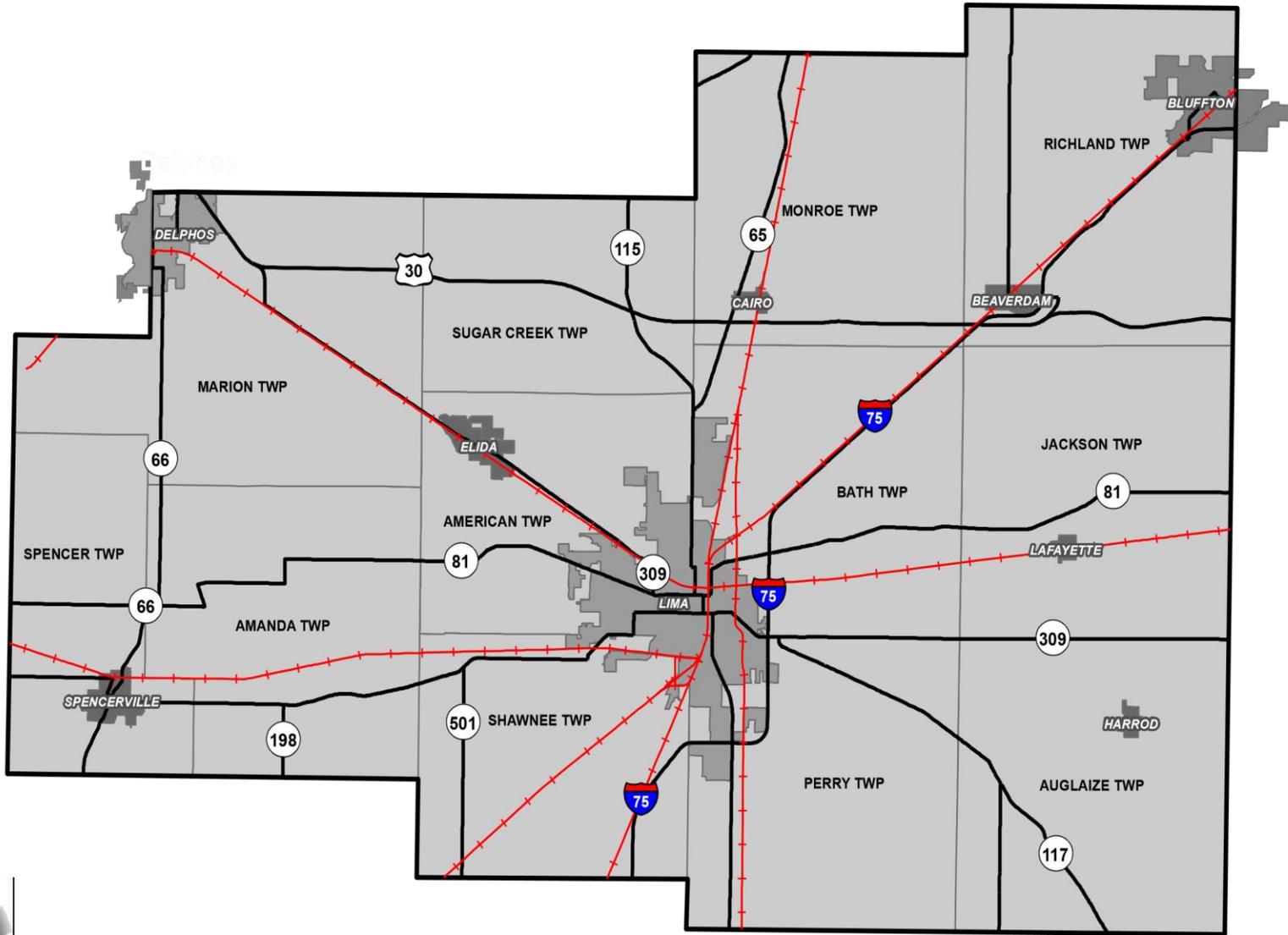
2.2 Population & Population Change

In this report, the term population refers to the number of inhabitants in a given place and time. The data within this report was gathered from The U.S. Census Bureau for the 2016 – 2020 5-year American Community Survey estimates and The 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data where applicable.

Table 2-1 provides population data for Allen County and its political subdivisions by decennial census periods and the most recent ACS estimate. The population of Allen County has changed over time with an extended period of relatively slow growth – up through 1980, followed by a gradual decline. As identified in Table 2-1 and demonstrated in Illustration 2-1, the County's population reached a peak of 112,241 persons in 1980. Since, it has decreased by 10,035 persons or 8.9 percent. For comparison purposes, the State of Ohio experienced a population growth of 10.7% over the same 40-year period.



Map 2-1: Allen County Road Base Map 2022



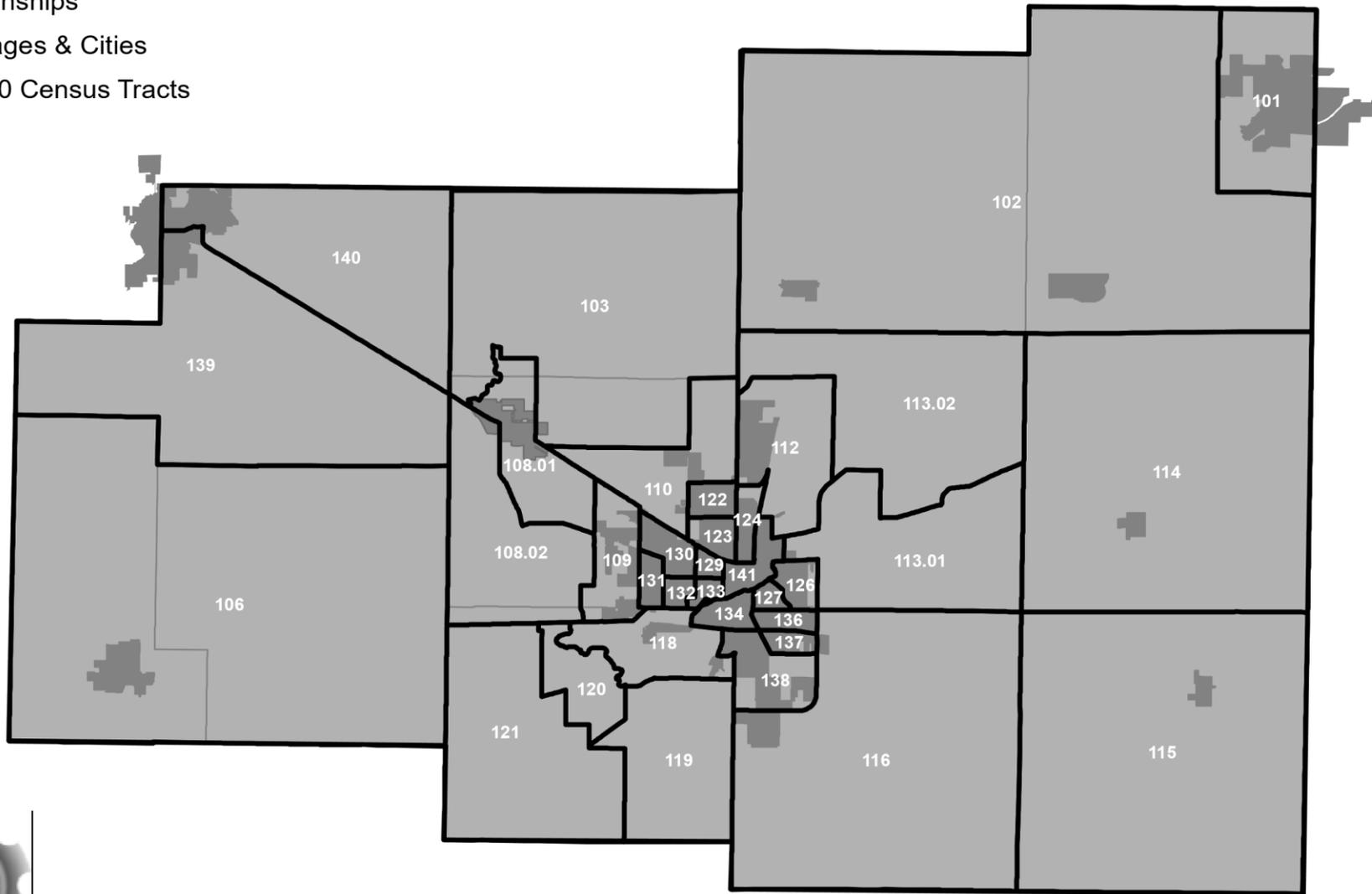
March 2022



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

Map 2-2: Allen County Census Tract Base Map 2022

- Townships
- Villages & Cities
- 2020 Census Tracts



2-3



March 2022



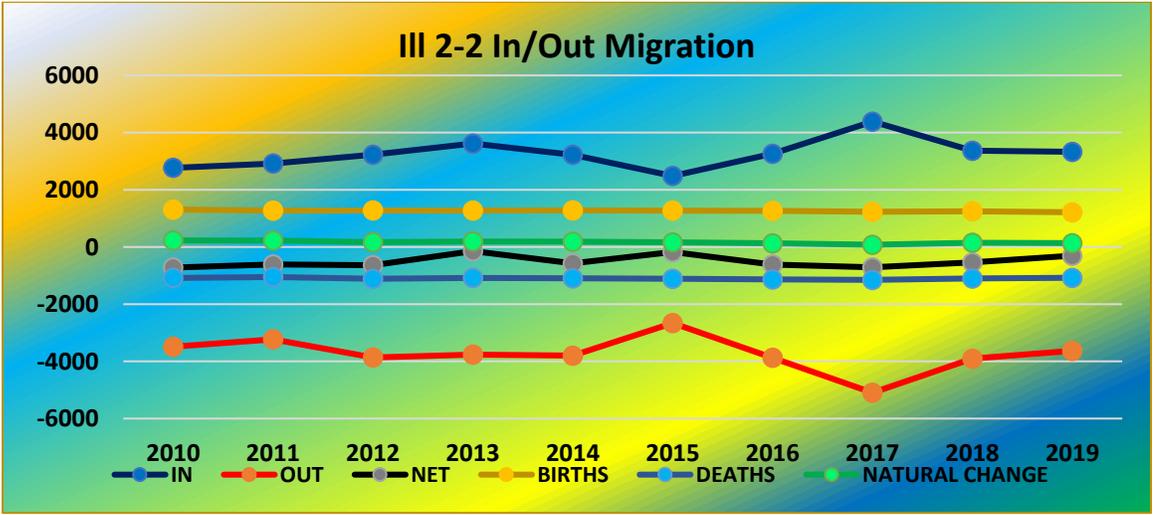
0 1 2 4 6 Miles

TABLE 2-1 TOTAL POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (1960-2020)								
Political Subdivision	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	PCT Change 1960-2020
Allen County	103,691	111,144	112,241	109,755	108,473	106,331	102,206	-1.45%
Beaverdam	514	525	492	467	356	382	319	-37.94%
Bluffton	2,591	2,935	3,237	3,206	3,719	3,952	3,763	48.90%
Cairo	566	587	596	473	499	524	517	-8.66%
Delphos	3,716	4,301	3,984	3,901	3,901	3,938	3,935	3.98%
Elida	1,215	1,211	1,349	1,486	1,917	1,905	1,923	58.27%
Harrod	563	533	506	537	491	417	423	-24.87%
Lafayette	476	486	488	449	304	445	406	-14.71%
Lima	51,037	53,734	47,827	45,549	40,081	38,771	35,579	-30.29%
Spencerville	2,061	2,241	2,184	2,288	2,235	2,223	2,198	6.65%
Amanda Twp	1,217	1,498	1,769	1,773	1,913	2,071	2,061	69.35%
American Twp	9,184	8,766	11,476	10,921	13,599	12,476	12,615	37.36%
Auglaize Twp	1,740	2,245	2,042	2,241	2,359	2,366	2,334	34.14%
Bath Twp	8,307	9,323	9,997	10,105	9,819	9,725	9,399	13.15%
Jackson Twp	1,523	1,761	2,214	2,288	2,632	2,611	2,737	78.59%
Marion Twp	2,222	2,644	2,734	2,775	2,872	2,777	2,694	25.20%
Monroe Twp	1,386	1,490	1,621	1,622	1,720	1,702	1,550	11.83%
Perry Twp	5,045	3,751	3,586	3,577	3,620	3,531	3,382	-32.96%
Richland Twp	1,530	1,515	1,628	1,821	2,015	1,955	1,789	10.72%
Shawnee Twp	9,658	9,734	12,344	12,133	12,220	12,433	12,482	29.24%
Spencer Twp	863	960	925	832	871	844	869	0.70%
Sugar Creek Twp	1,166	1,209	1,242	1,311	1,330	1,283	1,231	5.57%

*Data gathered from 2020 DEC

Since 2000, a 2.8% population loss is due largely to out-migration.

Population change is the net result of the relationship between the number of births and the number of deaths in a population (sometimes referred to as natural change) coupled with the net migration within the community. Comparing 2000 DEC Redistricting Data with the 2020 Census tabulations, Allen County lost 6,267 residents, a loss in population of 6 percent in twenty years. Data indicates that out migration is the principal component of population decline as people leave the community to fulfill opportunities elsewhere. For comparison purposes, the State of Ohio grew by 2.8 percent during the 20-year period. Illustration 2-2 provides additional insights into the components of population change over the 2010 thru 2019 period.



Whether related to growth or decline, population change is not static nor uniform. For example, Allen County experienced an overall population decrease of 1.5 percent when examining the entire period spanning the 1960 to 2020 period while, as depicted in Table 2-1, many political subdivisions within Allen County have experienced an extended period of continued growth.

Data suggests that the older urban centers of Allen County witnessed a general decline of population since 1970.

Data suggests that the older urban centers of Allen County witnessed a general population decline since 1970, while younger suburban and exurban townships have increased in the overall population. For example, Lima, the county seat, witnessed a 5.3 percent increase in population between 1960 and 1970 before beginning a 30-year decline and dropping 30 percent in size by 2020. The Villages of Beaverdam, Harrod, and Lafayette also experienced precipitous decreases between 1960 and 2020. However, Amanda Township, a township without an incorporated area, experienced sizeable percentage growth over the 60 years witnessing a population growth of 69.35 percent, respectively. Of concern is the effect of annexation on the unincorporated areas over the 60-year period. However, the actual annexation of the population is considered negligible as most annexation initiatives target undeveloped/unpopulated land.

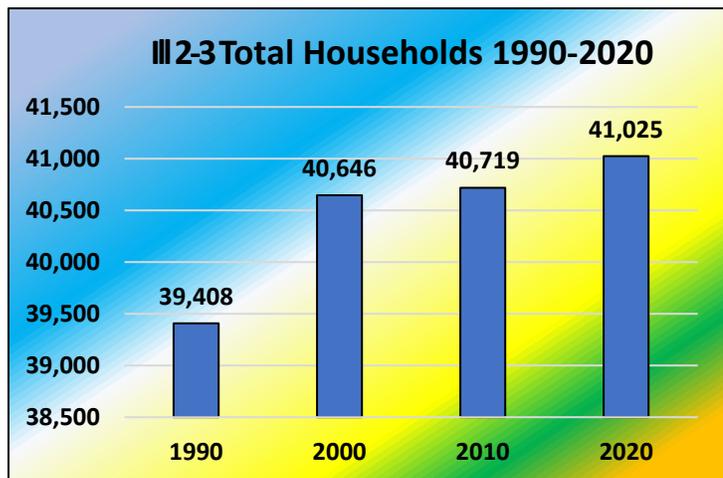
2.3 Households & Household Size

Another population-related factor to recognize is a change in the number and size of local households. This measure is important since each household requires a dwelling unit. In most cases, the household size will determine specific housing components such as the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, square footage, play area, etc. Therefore, housing consumption changes as the number of households change in number or character. As the characteristics of the household change, new residency patterns are established. From a public policy perspective, it is

From a public policy perspective, it is important to balance the available housing supply with the housing demand.

important to balance the available housing supply with the housing demand, otherwise, voids develop whereby housing remains unoccupied/vacant, and housing needs go unmet.

ACS data reveals the total number of households and the rate of change in total households reported between 1990 and 2020. Illustration 2-3 shows the trend over time in total households in Allen County. Table 2-2 explains the decline in total households between 2010 and 2020. In 2020 there were 41,025 households, an increase of 0.8 percent from the 2010 figure of 40,719 households.



The increase in number of households was not uniform across the county. Jackson, Perry, and Sugar Creek townships all saw significant decreases in the number of households.

Household size is an interesting factor. Table 2-2 presents information relative to the changing size of households. The average household size in Allen County has decreased slightly to 2.4 persons per household between 2010 and 2020, a decline of 4 percent. In comparison, in 2010, the State average size of 2.46 persons per household saw a decline of 2.0 percent in 2020. Notice also that household size varies by political subdivision across Allen County.

TABLE 2-2 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS & AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Total Households 2010	Avg. Household Size 2010	Total Households 2020	Avg. Household Size 2020	PCT Change Total HH	PCT Change H.H. Size
Allen County	40,719	2.5	41,025	2.4	0.8%	-4.0%
Beaverdam	186	2.3	177	2.5	-4.8%	8.2%
Bluffton	1,330	2.6	1,450	2.4	9.0%	-6.2%
Cairo	144	2.4	236	2.9	63.9%	22.9%
Delphos	1,603	2.4	1,655	2.3	3.2%	-4.6%
Elida	797	2.7	796	2.5	-0.1%	-7.0%
Harrod	197	2.9	138	2.9	-29.9%	-1.0%
Lafayette	101	2.8	153	2.5	51.5%	-10.6%
Lima	14,618	2.5	14,426	2.4	-1.3%	-3.7%
Spencerville	859	2.6	850	2.5	-1.0%	-1.2%
Amanda Twp	709	2.8	697	2.6	-1.7%	-8.2%
American Twp	5,052	2.7	5,529	2.3	9.4%	-13.7%
Auglaize Twp	838	2.7	832	2.7	-0.7%	1.5%
Bath Twp	3,833	2.5	3,761	2.5	-1.9%	-2.4%
Jackson Twp	1,018	2.7	912	2.7	-10.4%	0.7%
Marion Twp	1,039	2.6	1,129	2.4	8.7%	-5.5%
Monroe Twp	638	2.8	661	2.7	3.6%	-6.0%
Perry Twp	1,565	2.3	1,318	2.5	-15.8%	11.9%
Richland Twp	706	2.4	741	2.4	5.0%	1.7%
Shawnee Twp	4,665	2.6	4,813	2.5	3.2%	-4.9%
Spencer Twp	316	2.6	314	2.6	-0.6%	-0.4%
Sugar Creek Twp	505	2.7	437	2.8	-13.5%	6.4%

Table 2-3 examines household composition. In 2020, approximately two-thirds of households (29,718) or 72.4 percent of all households were identified without children. This data may very well indicate that a historical trend of families with children is changing to more two-person households, single-parent households with children under the age of 18 years, and households comprised of retirees. In addition, as the average household size declines the trend of smaller households becomes evident; as of 2020, there were 27,692 (67.5%) households comprised of one or two individuals within Allen County. The implications of smaller sized households should be monitored by local policy experts and reflected in local housing policies, building codes and zoning regulations.

The implications of smaller size households should be monitored by local policy experts and reflected in local housing policies, building codes and zoning regulations.

TABLE 2- 3 HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN BY TYPE (2020)									
Political Subdivision	2020 Total Households	Total w/ Children	PCT of Total H.H.	Married w/ Children	PCT Married H.H.	Single Male w/ Children	PCT Male HH	Single Female w/ Children	PCT Female HH
Allen County	41,025	11,307	27.6%	6,290	55.6%	1,288	11.4%	3,729	33.0%
Beaverdam	177	46	26.0%	32	69.6%	1	2.2%	13	28.3%
Bluffton	1,450	446	30.8%	350	78.5%	11	2.5%	85	19.1%
Cairo	236	73	30.9%	46	63.0%	6	8.2%	21	28.8%
Delphos	1,655	496	30.0%	331	66.7%	78	15.7%	87	17.5%
Elida	796	229	28.8%	153	66.8%	22	9.6%	54	23.6%
Harrod	138	41	29.7%	40	97.6%	0	0.0%	1	2.4%
Lafayette	153	64	41.8%	23	35.9%	14	21.9%	27	42.2%
Lima	14,426	4,316	29.9%	1,501	34.8%	583	13.5%	2,232	51.7%
Spencerville	850	320	37.6%	188	58.8%	57	17.8%	75	23.4%
Amanda Twp	697	178	25.5%	151	84.8%	0	0.0%	27	15.2%
American Twp	5,529	1,084	19.6%	715	66.0%	74	6.8%	295	27.2%
Auglaize Twp	832	209	25.1%	155	74.2%	54	25.8%	0	0.0%
Bath Twp	3,761	1,085	28.8%	607	55.9%	163	15.0%	315	29.0%
Jackson Twp	912	229	25.1%	159	69.4%	64	27.9%	6	2.6%
Marion Twp	1,129	294	26.0%	217	73.8%	51	17.3%	26	8.8%
Monroe Twp	661	142	21.5%	129	90.8%	13	9.2%	0	0.0%
Perry Twp	1,318	265	20.1%	172	64.9%	0	0.0%	93	35.1%
Richland Twp	741	133	17.9%	109	82.0%	24	18.0%	0	0.0%
Shawnee Twp	4,813	1,458	30.3%	1,013	69.5%	73	5.0%	372	25.5%
Spencer Twp	314	105	33.4%	105	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	437	94	21.5%	94	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Large households (6 or more persons) usually have more difficulty finding housing particularly affordable rental housing, due to a lack of supply. Such households are also at greater risk of experiencing housing discrimination based on familial status. Table 2-4 suggests that 37.4 percent of large households in Allen County reside in the City of Lima.

Large households (6 or more persons) usually have more difficulty finding housing particularly affordable rental housing due to a lack of supply.

TABLE 2-4 HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)					
Political Subdivision	Household Size 6	Household Size 7+	Household Size 6 & 7+	PCT HH w/ 6+ Occupants	PCT of County 6+ Households
Allen County	719	286	1005	2.4%	100.0%
Beaverdam	11	0	11	6.2%	1.1%
Bluffton	24	31	55	3.8%	5.5%
Cairo	2	9	11	4.7%	1.1%
Delphos	6	0	6	0.4%	0.6%
Elida	25	4	29	3.6%	2.9%
Harrod	0	2	2	1.4%	0.2%
Lafayette	0	2	2	1.3%	0.2%
Lima	247	129	376	2.6%	37.4%
Spencerville	47	4	51	6.0%	5.1%
Amanda Twp	8	0	8	1.1%	0.8%
American Twp	31	0	31	0.5%	3.1%
Auglaize Twp	0	8	8	1.0%	0.8%
Bath Twp	85	0	85	2.3%	8.5%
Jackson Twp	49	8	57	6.3%	5.7%
Marion Twp	47	9	56	5.0%	5.6%
Monroe Twp	0	0	0	0.0%	0
Perry Twp	13	45	58	4.4%	5.8%
Richland Twp	18	10	28	3.8%	2.8%
Shawnee Twp	84	8	92	1.9%	9.2%
Spencer Twp	9	0	9	2.9%	0.9%
Sugar Creek Twp	13	15	28	6.4%	2.8%

Single parent households, especially female heads of households, are also at risk of experiencing fair housing discrimination based on familial status. Table 2-5 reveals the distribution of single female-headed households across the County, excluding those living alone. This data suggests the highest concentration of single female heads of households in Allen County is located in the City of Lima at 22.9%.

TABLE 2-5 SINGLE FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)			
Political Subdivision	Total Households	Female Head of Household	PCT Female Head of Household
Allen County	41,025	5,817	14.2%
Beaverdam	177	18	10.2%
Bluffton	1,450	134	9.2%
Cairo	236	35	14.8%
Delphos	1,655	146	8.8%
Elida	796	126	15.8%
Harrod	138	4	2.9%
Lafayette	153	32	20.9%
Lima	14,426	3,301	22.9%
Spencerville	850	116	13.6%
Amanda Twp	697	39	5.6%
American Twp	5,529	634	11.5%
Auglaize Twp	832	7	0.8%
Bath Twp	3,761	425	11.3%
Jackson Twp	912	48	5.3%
Marion Twp	1,129	28	2.5%
Monroe Twp	661	18	2.7%
Perry Twp	1,318	353	26.8%
Richland Twp	741	17	2.3%
Shawnee Twp	4,813	530	11.0%
Spencer Twp	314	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	437	7	1.6%

2.4 Age & Age Cohorts

Age is a critical characteristic of a community's population. Age reflects certain attitudes and beliefs. Age also reflects demands for education, employment, housing, and related services. Age cohorts attempt to identify a specific population within a certain particular age grouping and are

Age reflects the degree to which specific services will be required.

important in attempts to identify specific needs or the degree to which that particular population segment will require specific services. As sex is a protected class under the Fair Housing Act, this construct provides valuable insights into fertility and morbidity issues, workforce availability, and housing

consumption by age and gender. Table 2-6 provides a breakdown of the County's population by age cohorts and gender based on 2020 ACS estimates.

Age Cohort	Male	PCT of Male Pop	Female	PCT of Female Pop	Total	PCT of Total Pop
< 5	3338	6.40%	2924	5.70%	6262	6.1%
5 - 9	3354	6.50%	2887	5.70%	6241	6.1%
10 - 14	3560	6.90%	3476	6.80%	7036	6.8%
15 - 19	3838	7.40%	3378	6.60%	7216	7.0%
20 - 24	3779	7.30%	3109	6.10%	6888	6.7%
25 - 29	3793	7.30%	3027	6%	6820	6.6%
30 - 34	3011	5.80%	2851	5.60%	5862	5.7%
35 - 39	2871	5.50%	3004	5.90%	5875	5.7%
40 - 44	3343	6.40%	3048	6%	6391	6.2%
45 - 49	3023	5.80%	2776	5.50%	5799	5.6%
50 - 54	3187	6.10%	3135	6.20%	6322	6.1%
55 - 59	3301	6.40%	3829	7.50%	7130	6.9%
60 - 64	3534	6.80%	3273	6.40%	6807	6.6%
65 - 69	2941	5.70%	2605	5.10%	5546	5.4%
70 - 74	2016	3.90%	2774	5.50%	4790	4.7%
75 - 79	1364	2.60%	1758	3.50%	3122	3.0%
80 - 84	960	1.80%	1224	2.40%	2184	2.1%
85≤	737	1.40%	1780	3.50%	2517	2.4%

Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging. The median age of the County population is 39.4 years. That compares with a median of 39.5 and 38.2 years with the State of Ohio and the United States respectively. Table 2-7 indicates the variance in median age between the various political subdivisions. Within the County there is considerable variance. The City of Lima had a median age of 33.5 years, compared to Amanda Township with a median age of 50.7 years, more than 10 years older than the median of Allen County. Appendix A provides further defining characteristics related to age by geography and race.

Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging.

TABLE 2-7 AGE OF POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)			
Political Subdivision	Median Age	PCT Under 18	PCT Over 65
Ohio	39.5	22.2%	24.2%
Allen County	39.4	23.1%	17.7%
Beaverdam	35.9	20.8%	13.3%
Bluffton	39.3	23.3%	22.7%
Cairo	29.9	23.2%	22.5%
Delphos	36.6	22.0%	22.5%
Elida	42	22.8%	30.2%
Harrod	34.6	25.4%	20.1%
Lafayette	32.4	32.0%	15.2%
Lima	33.5	24.9%	19.6%
Spencerville	33.6	35.5%	21.8%
Amanda Twp	50.7	19.6%	23.1%
American Twp	45.2	17.8%	36.2%
Auglaize Twp	43.1	18.7%	22.8%
Bath Twp	38.1	23.1%	21.2%
Jackson Twp	41.5	25.1%	25.8%
Marion Twp	39.2	22.4%	46.4%
Monroe Twp	40.3	20.9%	20.7%
Perry Twp	43.6	24.2%	30.0%
Richland Twp	43.3	18.2%	58.8%
Shawnee Twp	42.9	22.8%	26.5%
Spencer Twp	35.6	25.2%	34.8%
Sugar Creek Twp	40.6	20.6%	22.7%

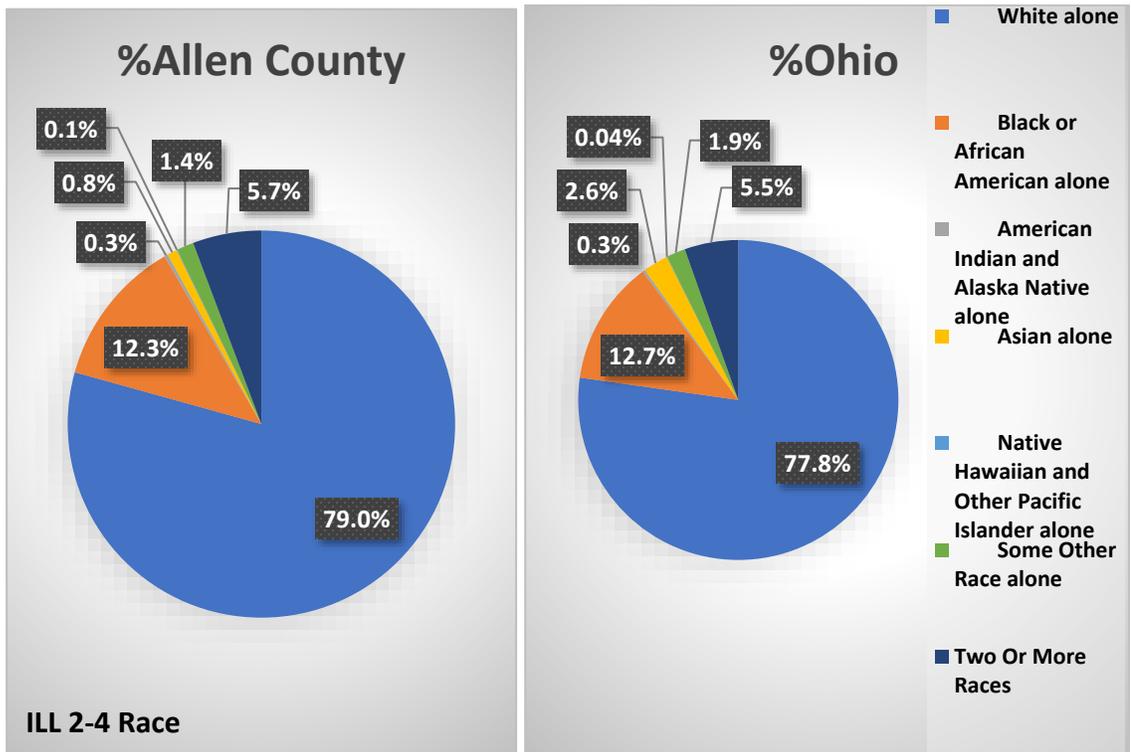
Age data reveals that 6.1 percent of the County's population is less than five years of age (Table 2-6) and nearly a quarter (23.1%) is below the age of 18 (Table 2-7). Data suggests that simply due to the age of the population (Under 16 and over 65), over a third of the population (40.8%) is unable to fully contribute to the economic growth and earning power of the community. Data shows that an additional 19.8 percent of the population is categorized in the pre-retirement age group (50-64) and may be readying for retirement. An examination of the community's population reveals an increasing senior population, totaling 17.7 percent of the population, up from 14.8 percent in 2010. Concerns center on the availability of a younger workforce and the need for appropriate senior housing services and public transportation to accommodate pre-retirement and post-retirement households.

Data suggests that simply due to age a third of the population is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth of the community.

2.5 Race & Ethnic Diversity

One of the key components of the assessment is an examination of the community's racial and ethnic make-up and its associated concentration. Federal policies have defined minority populations in several ways. Included are persons of all non-white races, Hispanics of any race, and persons of multiple races. The Census identifies seven major minority racial/ethnic classifications, including American Indian and Alaska Natives; Black or African-American; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders; persons of other races; persons of two or more races; and persons of Hispanic or Latino origin. 2020 ACS data revealed that representatives of all minority classifications lived within Allen County, except for Pacific Islander. Ethnicity is somewhat harder to identify when considering race and/or minority relationships. Ethnicity typically refers to a person's country of origin and their cultural ties. It should be understood that this demographic measure is distinctly different from one's racial stock. The Census indicates ethnicity in terms of Ancestry and Hispanic Origin. Illustration 2-6 reveals the extent to which Allen County compares to the State of Ohio by a racial breakdown.

Census 2010 data revealed that representatives of all minority classifications lived within Allen County, except for Pacific Islander.



Following the national trend, Allen County's population has grown more racially and ethnically diverse during the past decade (Table 2-8). Racially, Whites comprise the largest percentage of the population at 78 percent. The largest minority group within Allen County is the Black/African-

The community has followed national trends and grown more racially diverse since 2010.

American population, 12.2 percent of the total population. Those minority groups that identify as two or more races comprise 5 percent of Allen County's population. All other minority groups comprise approximately 2.6 percent of the county population

(Illustration 2-6). Although dispersed across the County, the County's largest minority, the African-American population is primarily concentrated in the City of Lima, where it constitutes 27.6 percent of the City's population.

Table 2-8 reveals the extent of racial diversity across the local political subdivisions of Allen County and the pace of the changing complexion in each by census/ACS period.

Table 2-8 Minority Population						
Political Subdivision	Minority Pop. 2010	PCT Minority 2010	Minority Pop. 2020	PCT Minority 2020	Change '10-'20	PCT Change '10-'20
Allen County	18,623	17.51%	22,515	22.03%	3,892	20.90%
Beaverdam	14	3.66%	42	13.17%	28	200.00%
Bluffton	222	5.62%	382	10.15%	160	72.07%
Cairo	20	3.82%	52	10.06%	32	160.00%
Delphos	147	3.73%	408	10.37%	261	177.55%
Elida	128	6.72%	190	9.88%	62	48.44%
Harrod	9	2.16%	29	6.86%	20	222.22%
Lafayette	14	3.15%	24	5.91%	10	71.43%
Lima	13,489	34.79%	14,515	40.80%	1,026	7.61%
Spencerville	93	4.18%	177	8.05%	84	90.32%
Amanda Twp	52	2.51%	157	7.62%	105	201.92%
American Twp	1,780	14.27%	2,682	21.26%	902	50.67%
Auglaize Twp	73	3.09%	140	6.00%	67	91.78%
Bath Twp	777	7.99%	1,095	11.65%	318	40.93%
Jackson Twp	57	2.18%	122	4.46%	65	114.04%
Marion Twp	51	1.84%	87	3.23%	36	70.59%
Monroe Twp	38	2.23%	88	5.68%	50	131.58%
Perry Twp	340	9.63%	455	13.45%	115	33.82%
Richland Twp	50	2.56%	99	5.53%	49	98.00%
Shawnee Twp	1,218	9.80%	1,627	13.03%	409	33.58%
Spencer Twp	19	2.25%	59	6.79%	40	210.53%
Sugar Creek Twp	32	2.49%	85	6.90%	53	165.63%

TABLE 2-9								
TOTAL MINORITY (RACE & ETHNICITY) POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)								
Political Subdivision	Black & African - American	Asian	American Indian	Other Races	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Total	Percent
Allen County	12475	835	233	583	5117	3272	22,515	22.03%
Beaverdam	1	0	0	0	28	13	42	13.17%
Bluffton	98	34	4	29	132	85	382	5.57%
Cairo	3	3	1	0	31	14	52	10.06%
Delphos	29	7	8	9	128	227	408	6.26%
Elida	56	7	0	11	73	43	190	9.88%
Harrod	4	1	0	0	16	8	29	6.86%
Lafayette	5	0	0	0	7	12	24	5.91%
Lima	9833	203	116	272	2606	1485	14,515	40.80%
Spencerville	14	2	15	34	72	40	177	8.05%
Amanda Twp	22	9	6	15	69	36	157	7.62%
American Twp	1409	165	24	74	557	453	2,682	21.25%
Auglaize Twp	9	3	1	3	84	40	140	6.00%
Bath Twp	256	134	19	43	357	286	1095	11.65%
Jackson Twp	8	3	1	6	76	28	122	4.49%
Marion Twp	9	7	2	0	41	28	87	4.71%
Monroe Twp	4	3	0	3	61	17	88	5.68%
Perry Twp	187	2	5	17	176	68	455	13.45%
Richland Twp	4	2	2	6	42	43	99	1.53%
Shawnee Twp	512	245	27	56	479	308	1627	13.03%
Spencer Twp	6	3	1	2	33	14	59	6.79%
Sugar Creek Twp	6	2	1	3	49	24	85	6.90%

The 2020 Census data suggests that the minority populations in Allen County have continued to grow. While the Black/African-American population experienced a slight decline of < 1 percent, the Hispanic population, which currently makes up 3.2 percent of the population in Allen County, and a saw steady growth with 23.2 percent growth between 2010 and 2020. (Table 2-10). Table 2-11 Breaks down those of Hispanic and Latino Origin by Race.

The 2020 DEC census results reveal that the minority populations in Allen County have continued to grow in the last ten years.

TABLE 2-10 ALLEN COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2010-2020)						
Race	Pop. 2010	PCT 2010	Pop. 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
White	87,708	82.49%	79,691	77.97%	-8,017	-10.06%
Black	12,508	11.76%	12,475	12.21%	-33	-0.26%
Hispanic	2,513	2.36%	3,272	3.20%	759	23.20%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	162	0.15%	233	0.23%	71	30.47%
Asian	725	0.68%	835	0.82%	110	13.17%
Some Other Race	284	0.27%	583	0.57%	299	51.29%
Two or More Races	2,431	2.29%	5,117	5.01%	2686	52.49%

Table 2-11 Allen County Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race 2020		
Race Identified As	Total	Percent
White	1893	55.63%
Black or African American	22	0.65%
American Indian and Alaska Native	54	1.59%
Asian	10	0.29%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00%
Some other race	908	26.68%
Two or more races	516	15.16%
Total	3403	100.00%

The growth of the minority populations and the movement of people amongst the townships changed the distribution of white and minority populations between 2010 and 2020. Maps 2-2 and 2-3 depict the re-distribution of White and minority residents between 2010 and 2020 by census tract.

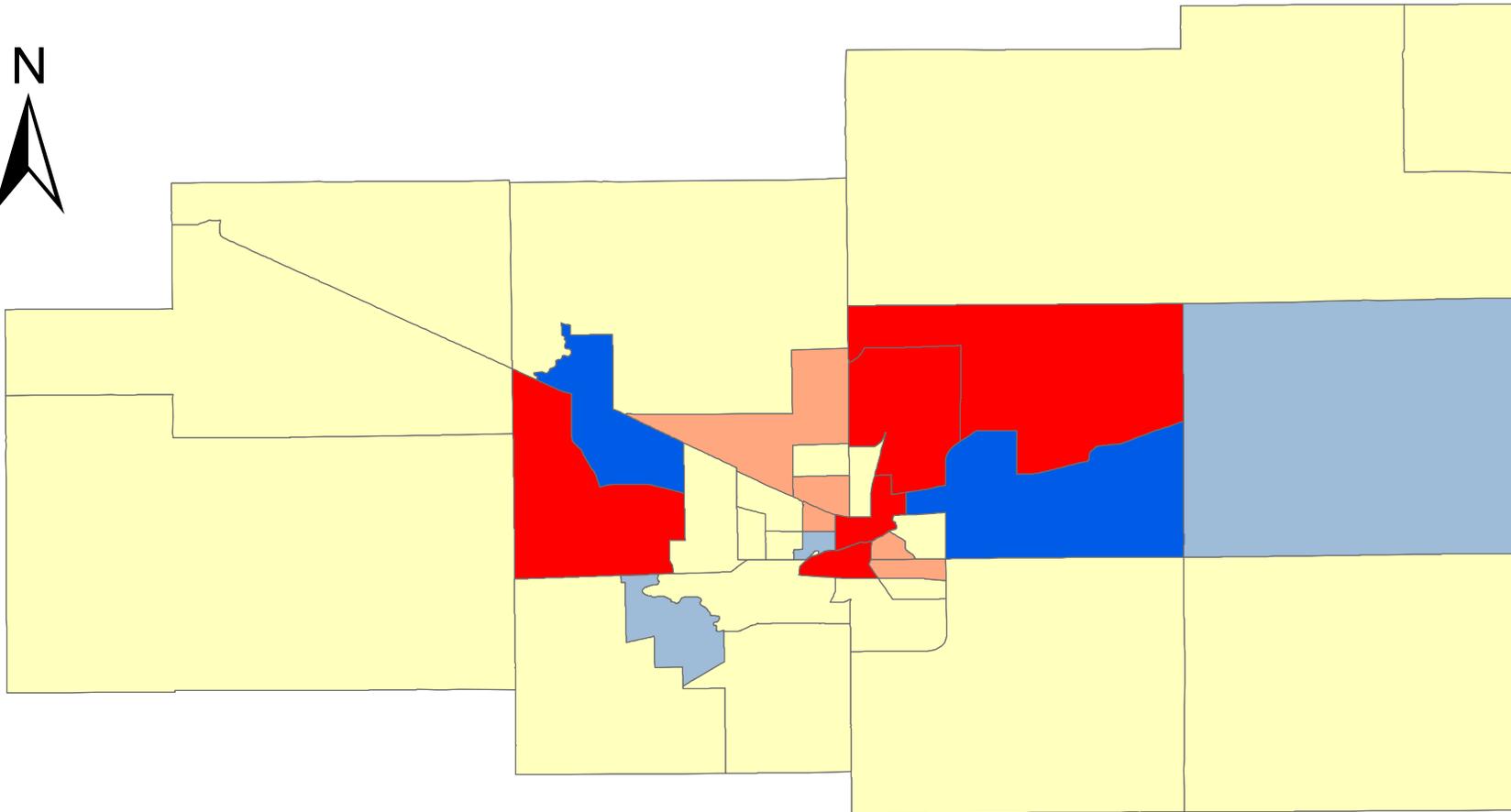
Map 2-3 suggests that the White populations in the townships stayed relatively stable while areas

The growth of the minority populations coupled with the movement of populations amongst the townships changed the distribution of white and minority populations between 2010 and 2020.

closer to Lima experienced varying levels of growth and decline. However, this pattern is not exclusive to the White population. Segments of the Black/African American population also left the central City area (Map 2-4). This does not suggest that more or less segregation for the migrations is

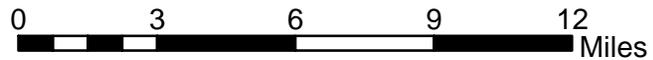
predicated on several factors, including the availability of housing, the cost of housing, the quality of housing and community services, and the proximity of housing to employment opportunities.

Percent Change In White Population 2010-2020



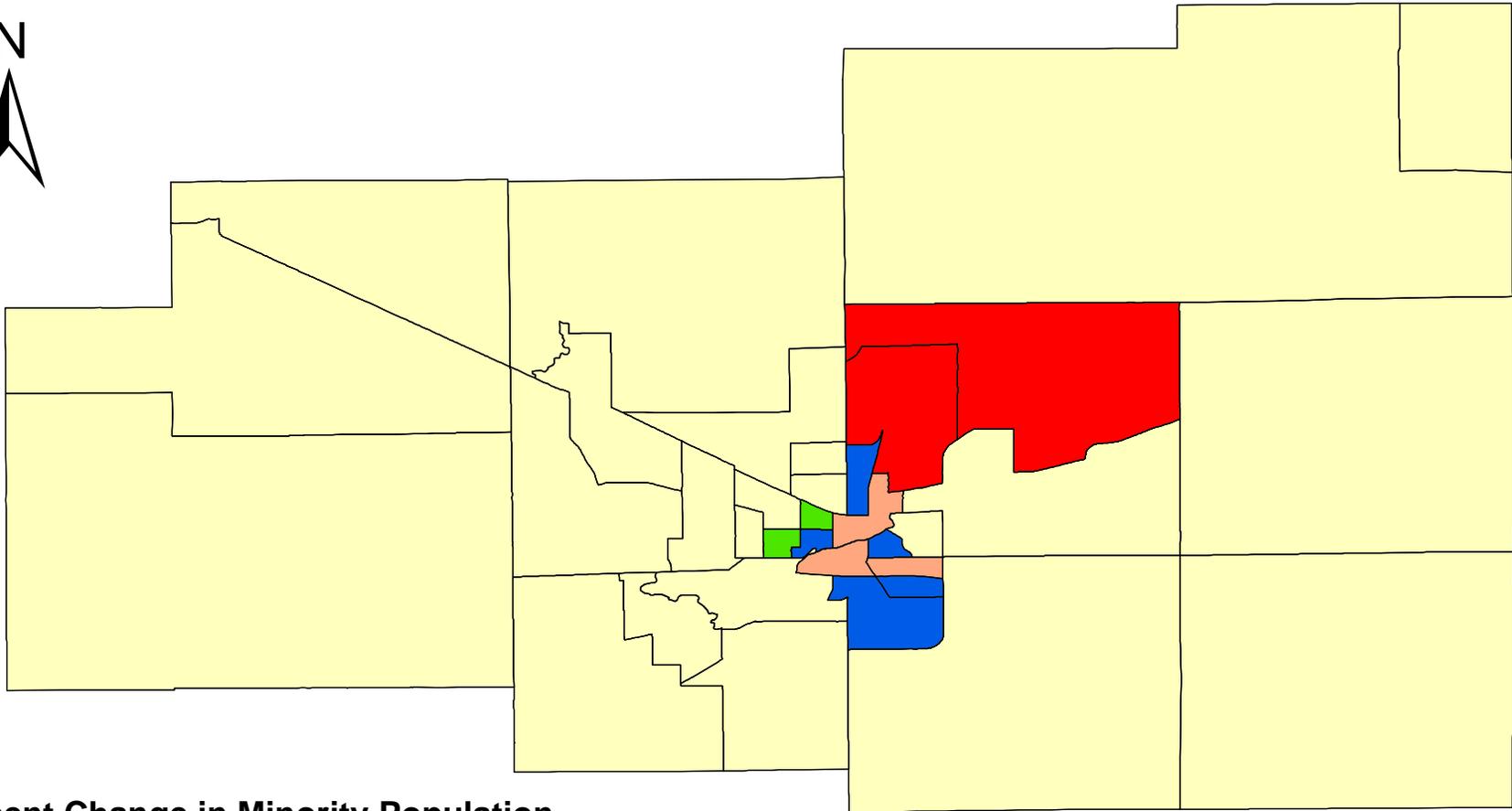
Percent Change in White Population

-  < - 25 %
-  -25 % - -16 %
-  -15 % - 0%
-  1 %- 25 %
-  > 25 %

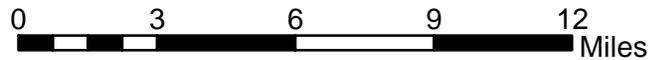


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Percent Change in Minority Population



Percent Change in Minority Population



April 2022

2.6 The Disabled Population

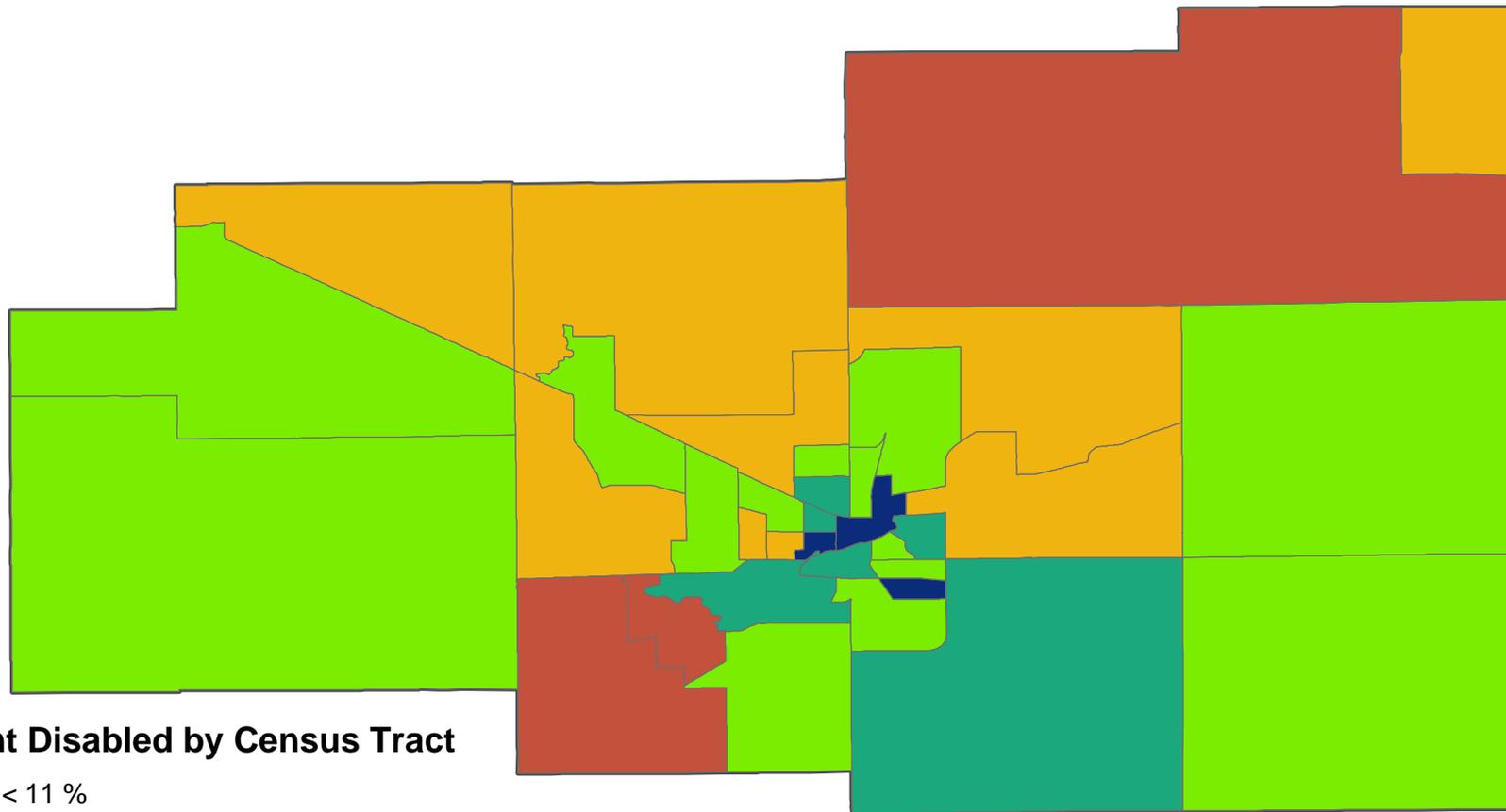
Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing choice due to needed accessibility features and access to public transit, support services and/or affordability. Advocacy groups, through various Federal legislative initiatives, have established the civil rights of the disabled, especially regarding housing, employment, education, and transportation. Each of these Acts also utilizes different terms and definitions to address specific eligibility criteria and/or services. 2020 ACS 5-year estimates on the disabled population within Allen County have reported that 16,773 persons have a disability, representing 16.7 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. Map 2-5 depicts the disability rate by census tract. For purposes of this report, it is important to mention that of persons under the age of 5 years residing in Allen County, 60, or 1 percent have a disability.

Within Allen County 16,773 persons, age 5 or older, suffer from a disability.

Within the four primary conditions which define the disabled population, the Census further identifies persons whose disability restricted employment and those whose disability affected their ability to "go-outside-the-home" without assistance. The U.S. Census Bureau identifies those with a go-outside-the-home disability as "mobility-impaired". This mobility-impaired component of the larger disabled population is that group of individuals most likely need specialized paratransit consideration, as they would most likely not be able to drive, walk independently or utilize public fixed-route transportation services. Map 2-6 reveals the proportion of Allen County's mobility-limited population by census tract. ACS tabulations suggested that 7,891 persons were considered ambulatory-impaired or 7.9 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons, identified as 65 or older, 3,629 were deemed mobility-impaired or 20.8 percent of the total elderly population.

TABLE 2-12 DISABILITY STATUS OF RESIDENTS OF ALLEN COUNTY (2020)									
Political Subdivision	NI POP	# DIS	% DIS	Hearing	Vision	Cognitive	Ambulatory	Self-Care	Ind. Living
Allen	100,261	16,773	16.73%	4,504	3229	6,237	7,891	2,327	4,731
Beaverdam	443	70	15.80%	6	31	31	24	2	4
Bluffton	3,761	425	11.30%	100	51	105	243	47	147
Cairo	684	91	13.30%	32	21	43	44	7	49
Delphos	3,770	639	16.95%	217	188	177	460	114	204
Elida	1,995	309	15.49%	109	24	95	150	50	55
Harrod	402	59	14.68%	23	17	20	32	11	12
Lafayette	387	66	17.05%	15	10	31	35	10	29
Lima	34,987	6,835	19.54%	1,349	1,247	2,914	3,540	1,029	2,132
Spencerville	2,149	483	22.48%	50	132	252	189	19	128
Amanda	1,797	191	10.63%	68	68	53	76	47	64
American	11,782	1,976	16.77%	705	365	647	805	261	704
Auglaize	2,259	398	17.62%	138	8	157	152	27	123
Bath Twp	9,473	1,335	14.09%	540	313	474	351	153	201
Jackson	2,533	408	16.11%	161	160	119	137	21	91
Marion Twp	2,955	435	14.72%	127	17	54	291	32	89
Monroe	1,707	163	9.55%	55	23	25	89	14	29
Perry Twp	3,350	672	20.06%	136	58	290	351	127	142
Richland	1,759	160	9.10%	68	21	36	77	17	72
Shawnee	12,050	1,695	14.07%	491	367	643	717	315	399
Spencer	785	194	24.71%	24	87	28	71	17	38
Sugar Creek	1,233	169	13.71%	90	21	43	57	7	19

Map 2-5 Allen County Disabled Population



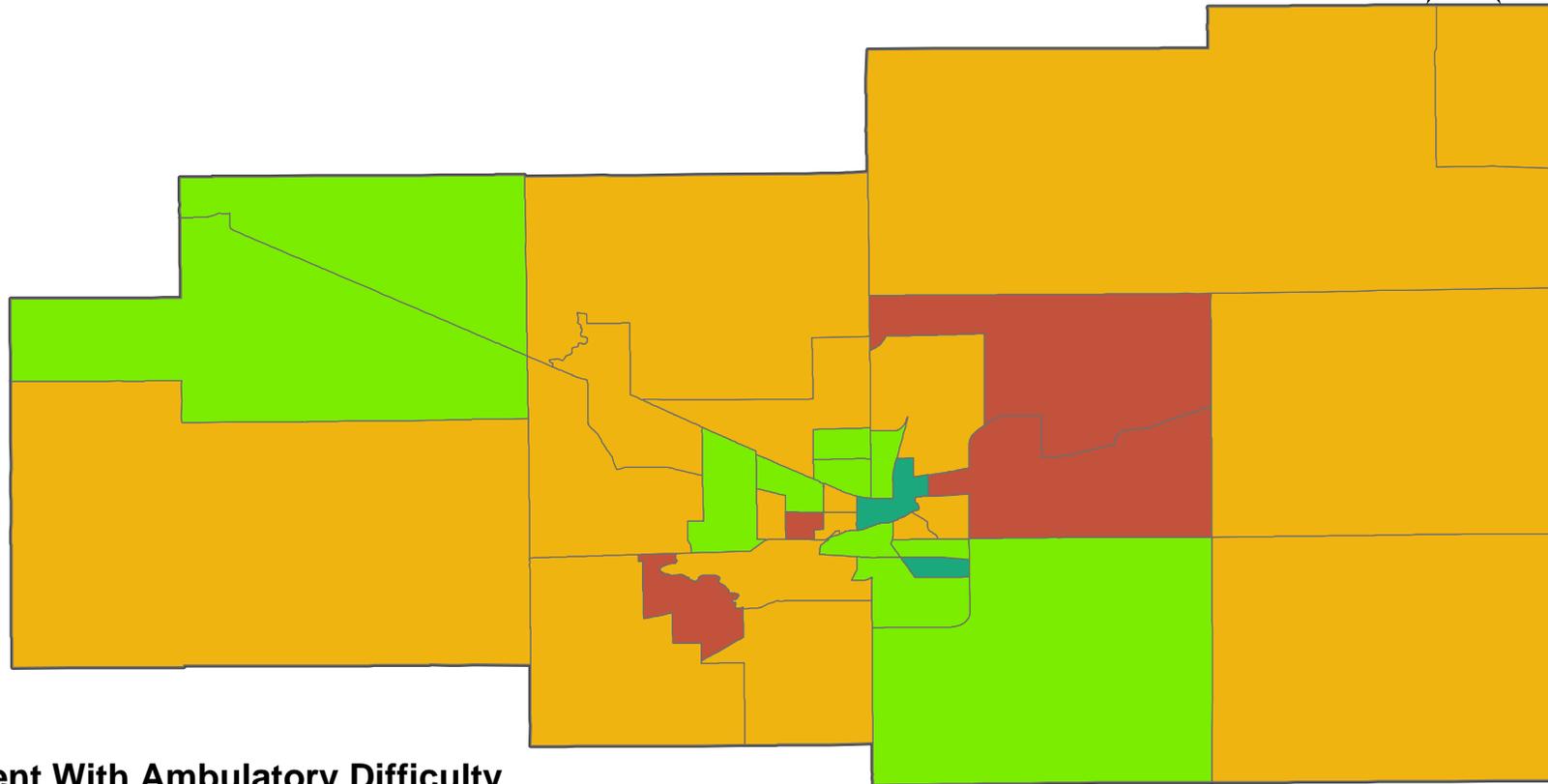
Percent Disabled by Census Tract

-  < 11 %
-  11 % - 15 %
-  16 % - 20 %
-  21 % - 30 %
-  > 30 %



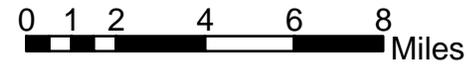
April 2022

Map 2-6 Percent of Allen County with Mobility Difficulty



Percent With Ambulatory Difficulty

-  < 5 %
-  6 % < 9 %
-  10 % - 14 %
-  > 15 %



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2.7 Educational Attainment

Many factors affect income and employment rates among adults. None, however, may be as important as educational attainment levels. Higher levels of educational attainment have repeatedly demonstrated higher income earnings regardless of gender. In addition, higher educational attainment positions tend to offer more job satisfaction. Moreover, individuals with lower educational attainment levels, those with no high school diploma or GED, experience higher unemployment rates (nearly 3 times the rate for those who have completed a bachelor degree) and less income when employed.¹ Therefore, it is imperative to support local school initiatives, post-secondary advancement, and continuing education programs to strengthen the skill sets of the local population and labor force.

Although higher educational attainment levels have demonstrated capacity for higher income earning, only 18.65% of Allen County residents have completed a 4-year college degree program or higher.

Table 2-13 presents data summarizing the Allen County population aged 25 years or older educational attainment levels. This data shows that 6522 individuals or 9.43 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older have not completed a high school education. This statistic compares favorably against national attainment levels where 11.5 percent of the population fails to earn high school diplomas. However, given that there are several very respectable post-secondary schools locally accessible, it is somewhat disappointing that only 12,902 adult residents, or 18.65 percent, have completed a 4-year and/or graduate degree program, especially when compared to State (28.9%) and National (32.9%) benchmarks.

Local post-secondary schools include:

- *The Ohio State University*
- *Ohio Northern University*
- *Rhodes State College*
- *Bluffton University*
- *University of Northwestern Ohio*
- *University of Findlay*

TABLE 2-13 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER (2020)						
Educational Attainment	White Population		Minority Population		Total Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than High School Diploma	4,583	7.80%	1,939	18.65%	6,522	9.43%
High School Graduate or GED	23,557	40.08%	3,562	34.26%	27,119	39.21%
Some College or Associates Degree	19,115	32.53%	3,507	33.73%	22,622	32.71%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11,513	19.59%	1,389	13.36%	12,902	18.65%

¹<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

2.8 Income: Household, Family & Per Capita

Data for the three most widely used indices of personal income, including per capita income, household income, and family income, are displayed in Table 2-14. The data suggests Allen County's income has continued to lag behind that of State and national income trend lines. The median household income within Allen County has lagged behind that of Ohio and the United States since before the 2000 decennial census period. As a result, the income gap with the State has increased from -7.9 percent in 2010 to -10.7 percent in 2020 for median household incomes. Results are more drastic when compared to the United States; the deficit increased from -15.9 percent in 2010 to -20.2 percent in 2020.

Allen County is lagging behind the State and national income levels with respect to household, family, and per capita income.

TABLE 2-14 COMPARATIVE INCOME MEASURES (2010-2020)					
Income Measure	Allen County	Ohio	US	Allen County PCT of OH	Allen County PCT of U.S.
2020					
Median Household	\$51,892	\$58,116	\$64,994	89.29%	79.84%
Median Family	\$64,913	\$74,391	\$80,069	87.26%	81.07%
Median Non-Family	\$29,974	\$34,626	\$39,027	86.57%	76.80%
Per Capita	\$27,231	\$32,465	\$35,384	83.88%	76.96%
2010					
Median Household	\$40,719	\$47,358	\$51,914	86.00%	78.40%
Median Family	\$55,549	\$59,680	\$62,982	93.10%	88.20%
Median Non-Family	\$23,701	\$27,366	\$31,305	86.60%	75.70%
Per Capita	\$21,713	\$25,113	\$27,334	86.50%	79.40%

Examining family median income, a similar pattern exists. Median family incomes across the County slipped over the last decennial period when comparing them to State and national trend lines. Median family income in Allen County is 81.07 percent of the median family income in 2020, a decrease of 7.1 percent compared to the 2010 level (88.2%). When comparing Allen County's median family income against the State, the data shows the gap continued to grow, adding 5.8 percent difference between the two.

In 2020, the median non-family income remained steady from 2010 at 86.6 percent of the State's median value and 76.8 percent of the entire nation. Per capita income for Allen County in 2020 jumped of 20.3 percent from 2010 figures. This compares with the State and national per capita increases, 22.6 and 22.8 percent respectively. national figures over the ten years. In 2020 Allen County's per capita income was 83.9 percent of that of the State and 76.9 percent of the national figure.

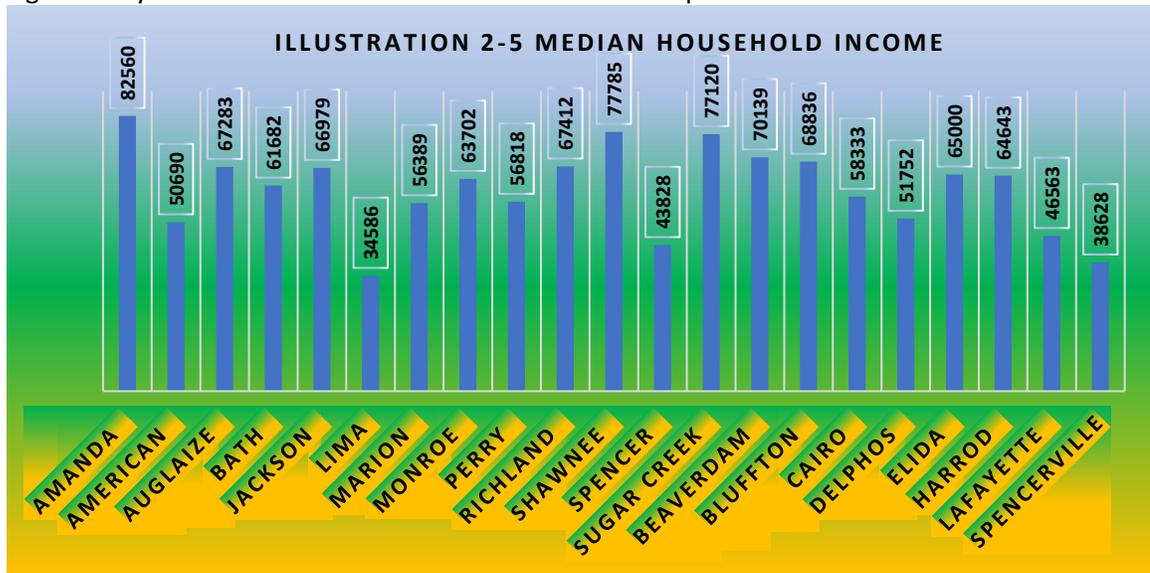
Allen County per capita income level growth was comparable to State and national figures over the same 10-yr period.

Table 2-15 provides a detailed breakdown of household income by type and income levels for 2020. Households with incomes less than \$15,000 in 2020 totaled 11.9 percent of all households in Allen County. An examination of family and non-family households provides greater detail. Data suggests that 6.7 percent of all families and 20.6 percent of all non-family households earned less than \$15,000 in 2020. Examination of income by household type reveals that the largest concentration of household incomes is in the \$60,000 to \$99,999 income bracket. About a quarter (24 percent) of households are concentrated below \$25,000.

The incomes of 2 in 5 (41.9%) non-family households were concentrated below \$25,000.

TABLE 2-15 INCOME IN ALLEN COUNTY BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (2020)						
Income Range	Total Households		Family		Non-Family	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$10,000	2,816	6.9%	1,189	4.6%	1,725	11.2%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	1,949	4.8%	535	2.1%	1,450	9.4%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	4,667	11.4%	1,567	6.1%	3,293	21.3%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	4,574	11.1%	2,197	8.6%	2,432	15.7%
\$35,000 - \$44,999	4,245	10.3%	2,595	10.1%	1,967	12.7%
\$45,000 - \$59,999	4,903	12.0%	3,452	13.5%	1,541	10.0%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	10,520	25.6%	7,887	30.8%	2,145	13.9%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	4,854	11.8%	4,048	15.8%	628	4.1%
\$150,000 - \$199,000	1,454	3.5%	1,191	4.7%	140	0.9%
\$200,000 or more	1,043	2.5%	919	3.6%	124	0.8%
Totals:	41,025	100.00%	25,580	100.00%	15,445	100.00%

Median household income levels in the political subdivisions ranged from \$34,586 to \$82,560 in 2020. Illustration 2-7 highlights the income disparities across the community. The median household income in Lima was 33.3 percent lower than the County median (\$51,892) and significantly lower than the median in several other local political subdivisions.



Between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of households with low and very low incomes, \$25,000 and \$15,000 respectively, decreased in Allen County. In 2020, 23.1 percent of households had incomes of less than \$25,000. A decrease of 5.6 percent. 11.4 percent had incomes less than \$15,000, a decrease of 3.6 percent.

Between 2010 and 2020 the percentage of households earning less than \$25,000 decreased by 5.6 percent.

2.9 Poverty Status: Persons & Families Below Poverty Level

Another way to examine the income disparity across the county is to identify the distribution of persons with low incomes throughout the County. Table 2-16 depicts those households earning less than \$25,000 annually.

In 2020, 13.0% of all individuals, and 9.5% of all families in Allen County were below poverty level.

Lima stands out for having the county's largest proportion of low-income residents. This is particularly true when examining the lowest-income households. For example, 18.9 percent of Lima's households earned less than \$15,000, which is 61.5 percent higher than the percentage for the entire county (11.7%).

TABLE 2-16						
LOW HOUSEHOLD INCOMES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)new						
Political Subdivision	Households	PCT ≤ \$10,000	PCT \$10,000 - \$14,999	PCT \$15,000 - \$24,999	HH ≤ \$25,000	PCT ≤ \$25,000
Allen County	41,025	6.9%	4.8%	11.4%	9,432	23.0%
Beaverdam	177	2.3%	2.3%	10.2%	26	14.7%
Bluffton	1,450	3.7%	4.6%	13.0%	310	21.4%
Cairo	236	3.8%	2.1%	8.1%	33	14.0%
Delphos	1,655	6.2%	3.3%	10.8%	336	20.3%
Elida	796	2.3%	2.1%	8.2%	100	12.6%
Harrod	138	0.7%	4.3%	2.9%	11	8.0%
Lafayette	153	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	17	11.1%
Lima	14,426	12.9%	6.0%	15.6%	4,991	34.6%
Spencerville	850	7.2%	4.2%	25.8%	316	37.2%
Amanda Twp	697	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1	0.14%
American Twp	5,529	5.9%	8.3%	9.6%	1318	23.8%
Auglaize Twp	832	0.0%	1.1%	7.4%	71	8.5%
Bath Twp	3,761	3.5%	1.3%	9.1%	523	13.9%
Jackson Twp	912	4.9%	0.5%	6.8%	112	12.3%
Marion Twp	1,129	2.5%	0.6%	11.8%	168	14.9%
Monroe Twp	661	0.0%	7.1%	6.1%	87	13.2%
Perry Twp	1,318	5.9%	10.9%	7.7%	324	24.6%
Richland Twp	741	1.2%	0.0%	17.0%	135	18.2%
Shawnee Twp	4,813	1.5%	3.4%	4.9%	474	9.8%
Spencer Twp	314	2.5%	0.0%	12.7%	48	15.3%
Sugar Creek Twp	437	0.0%	0.9%	6.2%	31	7.1%

ACS 2016-2020 S1901

The 2020 ACS provides information on the number of individuals and families within Allen County whose incomes fall below the established poverty level. ACS 2020 5-year estimates revealed that 12,702 individuals, or 12.9 percent of all individuals, and 2,418 families or 9.5 percent of all families were below the established poverty level based on income and household size.

Families with children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering from poverty, 50.6 percent had children, and 19 percent had children under 5 years of age. For comparison purposes, data indicates that 36 percent of all households and 16.1 percent of all families within the State of Ohio were below the established poverty level. Map 2-7 reveals the extent of household poverty by political subdivision, while Map 2-8 identifies the proportion of elderly existing below the poverty level by political subdivision. An examination of income data from the 2020 census report reveals a positive trend in the proportion of individuals in poverty. 7,015 individuals rose from poverty status between 2010 and 2020 tabulations, representing a drop of 35.6 percent.

TABLE 2-17		
RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL AMONG INDIVIDUALS (2020)		
Poverty Level	Number	Percent
Below 50% of Poverty Level	5,846	5.9%
50% to 99% of Poverty Level	6,856	7.0%
100% to 149% of Poverty Level	9,481	9.6%
150% to 199% of Poverty Level	10,202	10.3%
200% of Poverty Level or More	66,207	67.2%
C17002 2020 ACS Allen County		

TABLE 2-18				
POVERTY BY FAMILY STATUS (2020)				
Family Type	Total	Percent of Total	Number in Poverty	Percent of Type
Married w/children	6685	26.13%	268	4.01%
Male alone w/children	1384	5.41%	139	10.04%
Female Alone w/children	4152	16.23%	1519	36.58%
Family - No children	13359	52.22%	492	3.68%
Total	25580	100.00%	2418	9.45%
ACS 2016-2020 B17010 Allen County				

2.10 Labor Force Profile

The total labor force in Allen County, reflecting those 16 years of age and over, numbered 81,851 persons according to the ACS 2020 5-year estimates; those not participating in the labor force reflected 31,300 or 38.2 percent of the total available labor force. As documented by the ACS 2020 5-year estimates, the civilian labor force in Allen County was 50,516, of which 47,687 (94.4%) were employed.

2020 employment data presented 47,668 full and part time jobs in Allen County. According to the USDOC, employment was largely restricted to 3 industry sectors that represent over half (56.2%) of jobs within Allen County.

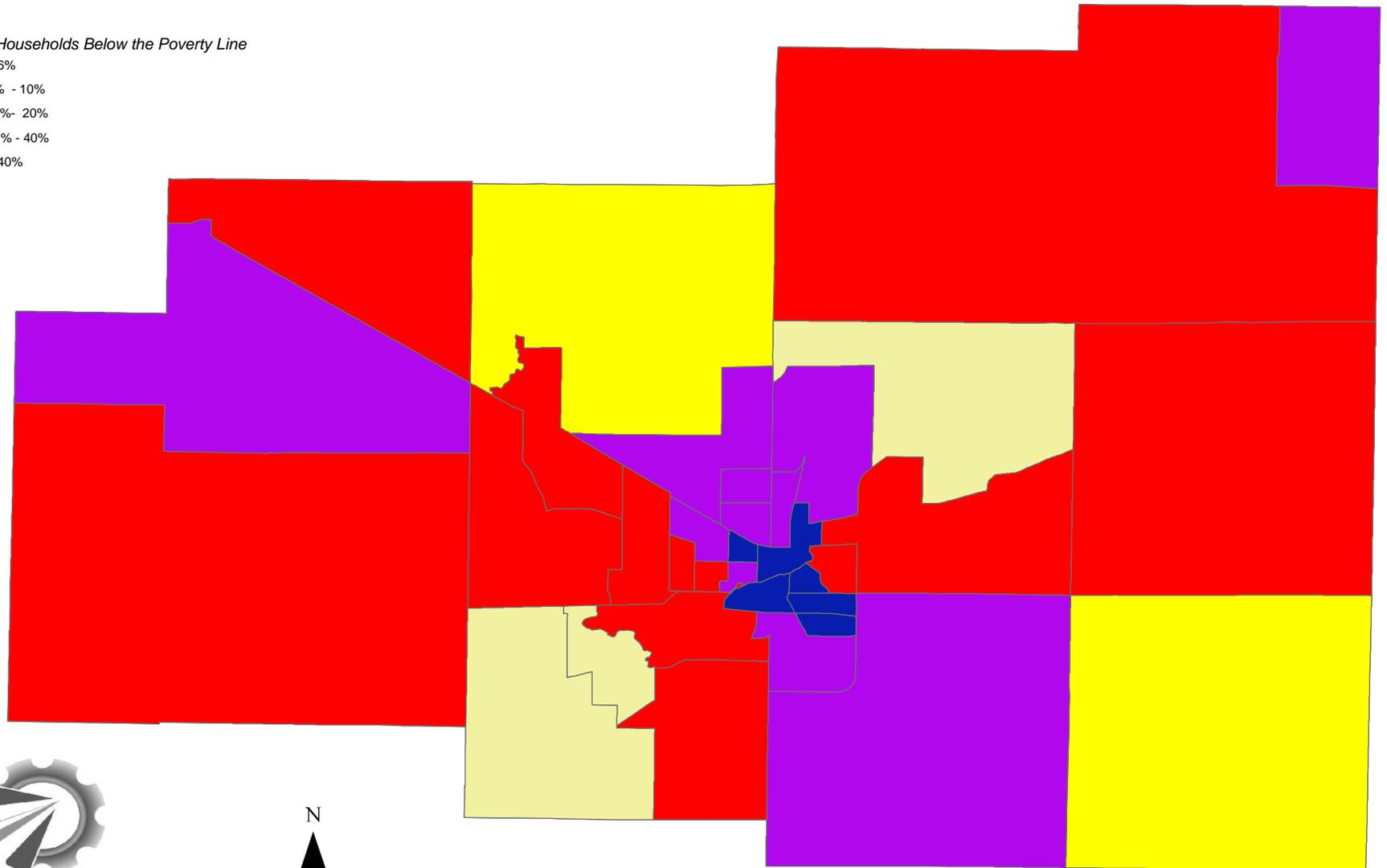
A perspective on the labor force can be gained by examining the number of employed persons by type of occupation. Table 2-19 uses ACS 2020 5-year estimates to identify the dominant occupations in the region: Educational services, health care, and social assistance (11,325), Manufacturing (10,259), followed Retail Trade (5,513). In Allen County, the employment-population ratio, the proportion of the population 16 years of age and over in the workforce, has ticked up over the last ten years from 57.0 percent in 2010 to 61.8 percent in 2020.

TABLE 2-19 LABOR FORCE BY OCCUPATION (2020)			
Industry	NAICS	Employees	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	11	547	1.15%
Construction	23	2472	5.19%
Manufacturing	31-33	10259	21.52%
Wholesale trade	42	1237	2.60%
Retail trade	44-45	5513	11.00%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	22, 48-49	2743	5.75%
Information	51	645	1.35%
Finance and insurance, real estate renting and leasing	52-53	1947	4.08%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	54,55,56	3190	6.69%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	61-62	11,325	23.76%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71-72	4132	8.67%
Other services, except public administration	81	2076	8.67%
Public Administration	92	1582	3.32%
Total Labor Force		47,668	100%

Map 2-7: Household Poverty Rate (2020)

PCT of Households Below the Poverty Line

-  < 6%
-  6% - 10%
-  11% - 20%
-  21% - 40%
-  > 40%

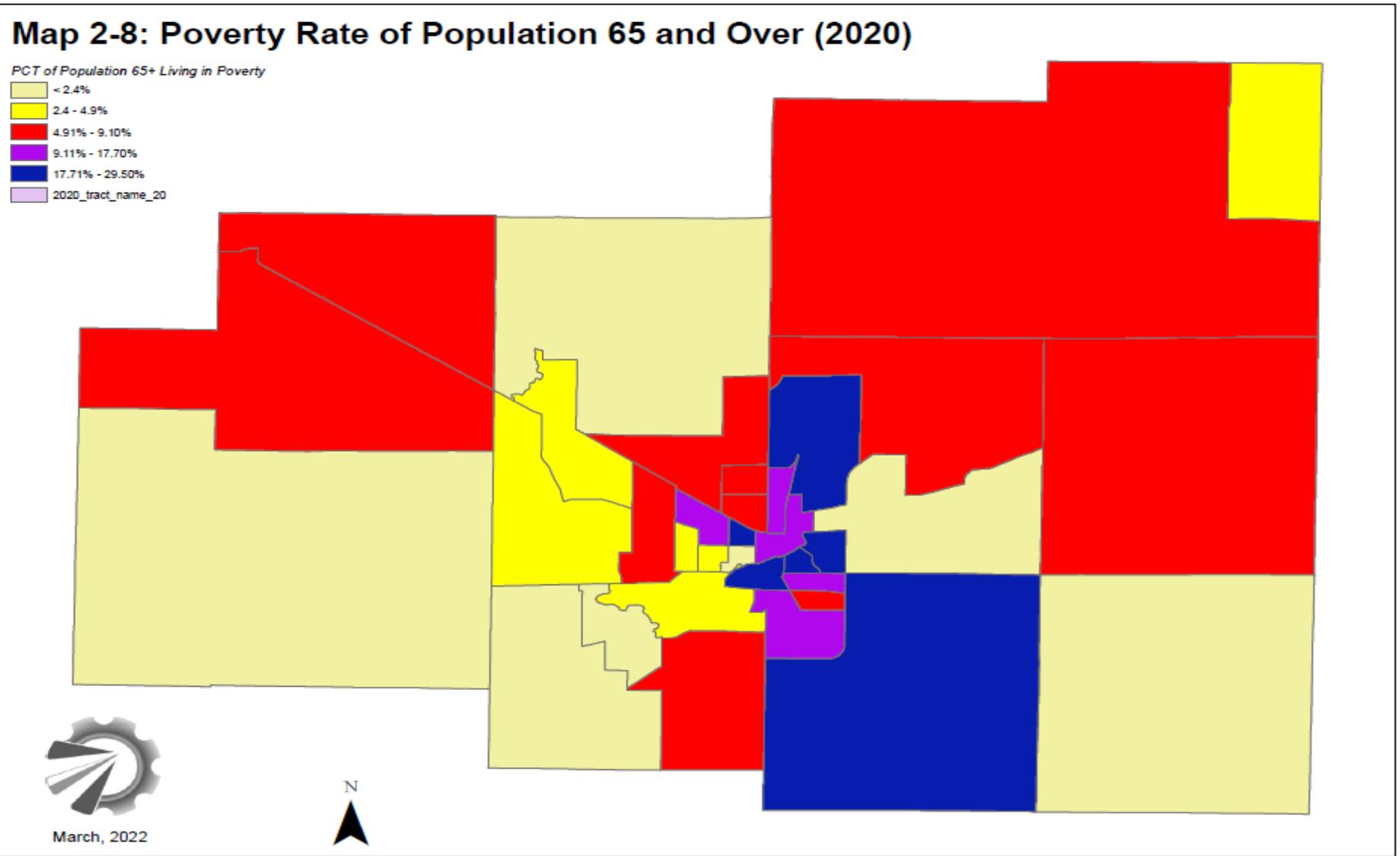


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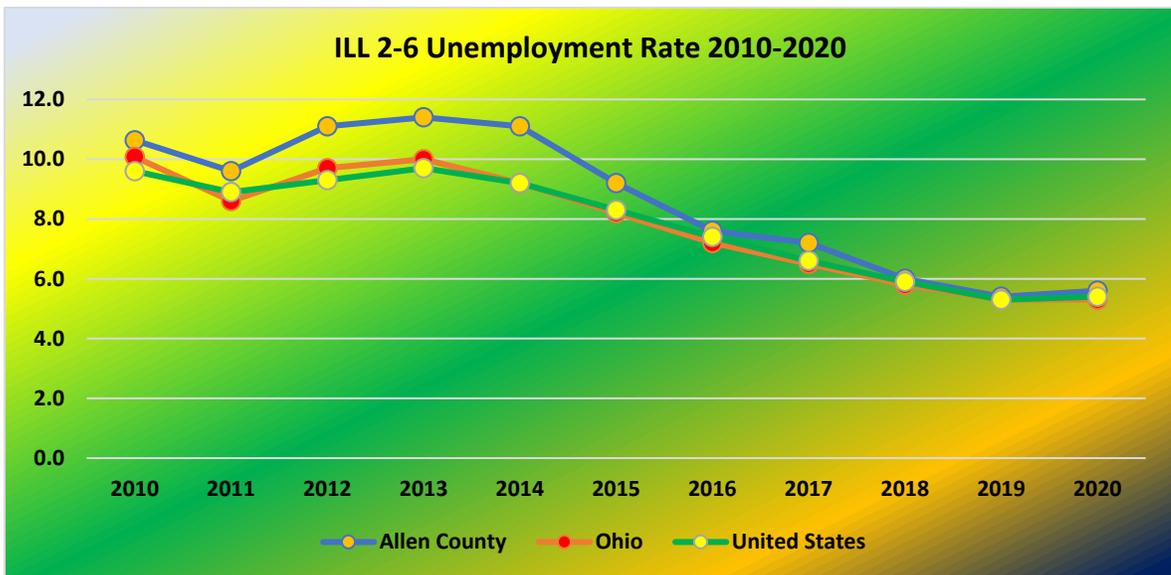


March, 2022





Over the past 10 years, unemployment rates reflect the impact of major employers relocating or instituting major cutbacks in response to market events or economic trends. Illustration 2-8 suggests that Allen County typically experiences higher unemployment rates than that experienced by the State of Ohio or the nation as a whole. After a significant and steady rise from 2012 to 2014, the County witnessed some relief. Unemployment in Allen County dropped below 2010 levels and began to show an equilibrium with those rates of Ohio and The United States through 2019. A significant impact on the unemployment levels came with the shutdown of businesses across the nation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The full impact of the shutdown is still being determined but it continues to affect the unemployment rates even as we begin to see businesses open back up.



Two major barriers to employment for those living in poverty are education and transportation. While lack of education keeps a person from available jobs they do not qualify for, a lack of transportation is a barrier to available potential employment. Currently, more than 40 percent of Allen County households are limited to one or no vehicles available, making juggling family and work transportation needs a challenge.

2.11 Summary

The population of Allen County has experienced a general decline since 1980, when it reached a plateau of 112,241 persons. A comparison to the 1980 population reveals the current population has decreased by 10,035 persons or 8.9 percent. Examining more recent 2010-2020 data, Allen County has lost only 4,125 residents, a loss in population of 3.9 percent. However, population change is not static, nor is it uniform. Many political subdivisions within Allen County have experienced an extended period of continued growth, while others have experienced overall growth in cyclical spurts since 1960. Summary Tables 2-1 and 2-2 provide an overview of key demographic groups by census tract and political subdivisions that need to be considered during this assessment.

An important demographic factor to consider is change in local households' total number and size. Census data reveals the composition, size and number of households is changing. The total number of Allen County households in 2020 was 41,025, an increase of 0.8 percent from the 2010 figure. In 2020, there were 27,298 (66.5%) households comprised of only one or two individuals. The implications of smaller households are important and should be monitored by local policy experts and reflected in the local housing policies, building codes, and zoning regulations.

Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging. The median age of the population is 38.6 years. That compares with a median age of 39.5 and 38.2 years in the State of Ohio and the United States, respectively. By 2020, the elderly population within Allen County grew to 18,159 persons or approximately 17.8 percent of the population. To compound matters more, the elderly made up 17.3 percent of all individuals existing below the poverty level. While the largest concentration of the impoverished were residents of the City of Lima, 65.0 percent of all outlying areas were found to have concentrations of the elderly poor. The housing stock will need to reflect this influx and be designed or retrofitted to accommodate the lifestyle of senior citizens. Data suggests that simply due to the age of the population, more than a third of the population is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth and earning power of the community. The desire of the elderly to age in place, the design, and inclusion of appropriate housing designs, and the need for assisted living arrangements must be reflected in local fair housing planning efforts.

ACS 2020 5-Year estimates on the disabled within Allen County have reported that 16,773 persons have a disability, representing 16.7 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. For persons under the age of 5 years 60, or 1 percent have a disability within the County. Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing due to needed accessibility features and access to public transit, support services and/or affordability. ACS tabulations suggested that 7,891 persons were considered mobility-impaired, or 7.8 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons identified as 65 or older, 3,629 were deemed mobility-impaired, or 20.8 percent of the total elderly population.

Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to employment and housing.

The County's population has grown more racially and ethnically diverse during the past decade. Racially, the white population comprises the most significant percentage of the population at 77.9 percent. The largest minority group within Allen County is African-Americans, 12.2 percent of the total population. All other minority groups comprise approximately 9.8 percent of the entire County population. Although dispersed across the County, the County's largest minority, the African-American population, is primarily concentrated in the City of Lima where it constitutes 27.8 percent of the City's population.

Many factors affect employment rates among adults. None, however, may be as important as educational attainment levels. Data shows that over 6,522 individuals or 9.43 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older have not completed a high school education. However, given that many very reputable post-secondary schools are readily accessible, it is disappointing that only 18.6% of adult residents have completed a 4-year and/or master's degree program.

Allen County income has continued to lag behind state and national income trend lines. The gap increased when comparing median household income to the State in the 2020 ACS (-10.7%). The gap nationally was -20.2 percent. Median family income in Allen County was only 87.3 percent of Ohio's median family income in 2020 and only 81.1 percent of the national median income. The median non-family income was 86.6 percent of the State's median value and about 76.8 percent of the entire nation. In 2020 Allen County's per capita income was only 83.9 percent of that of the State and 76.9 percent of the national figure.

Allen County income has continued to lag behind that of State and national income trend lines.

ACS 2020 5-year estimates revealed, , that 12,702 individuals, or 12.9 percent of all individuals, and 2,418 families, or 9.5 percent of all families, were below the established poverty level based on income and household size.

The ACS revealed 18.9 percent of all households were below the established poverty level in 2011. Of all families suffering poverty conditions, eight in ten (88.2%) had children.

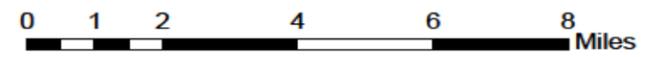
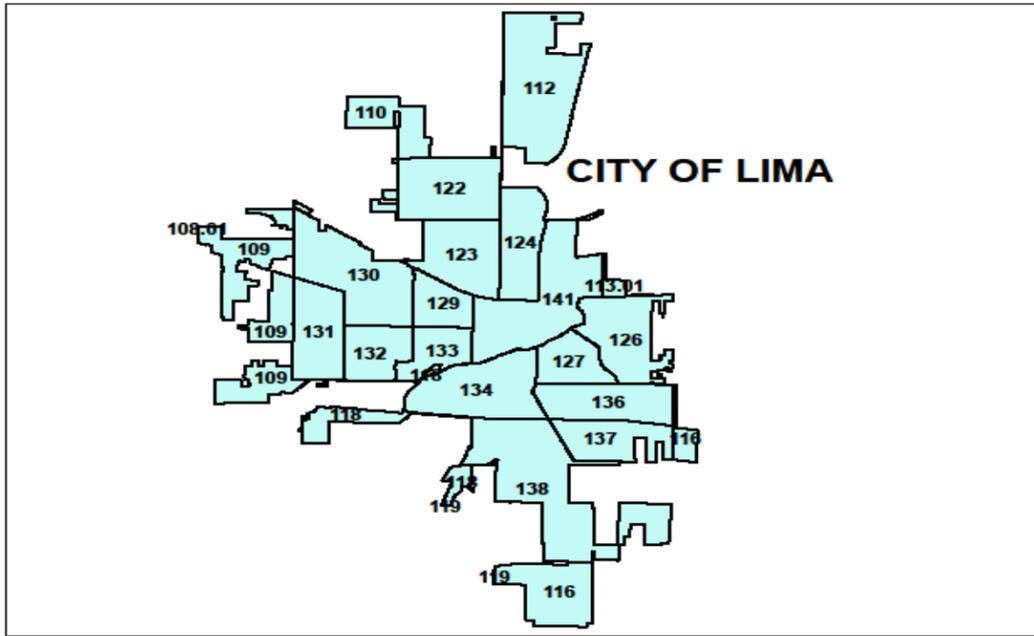
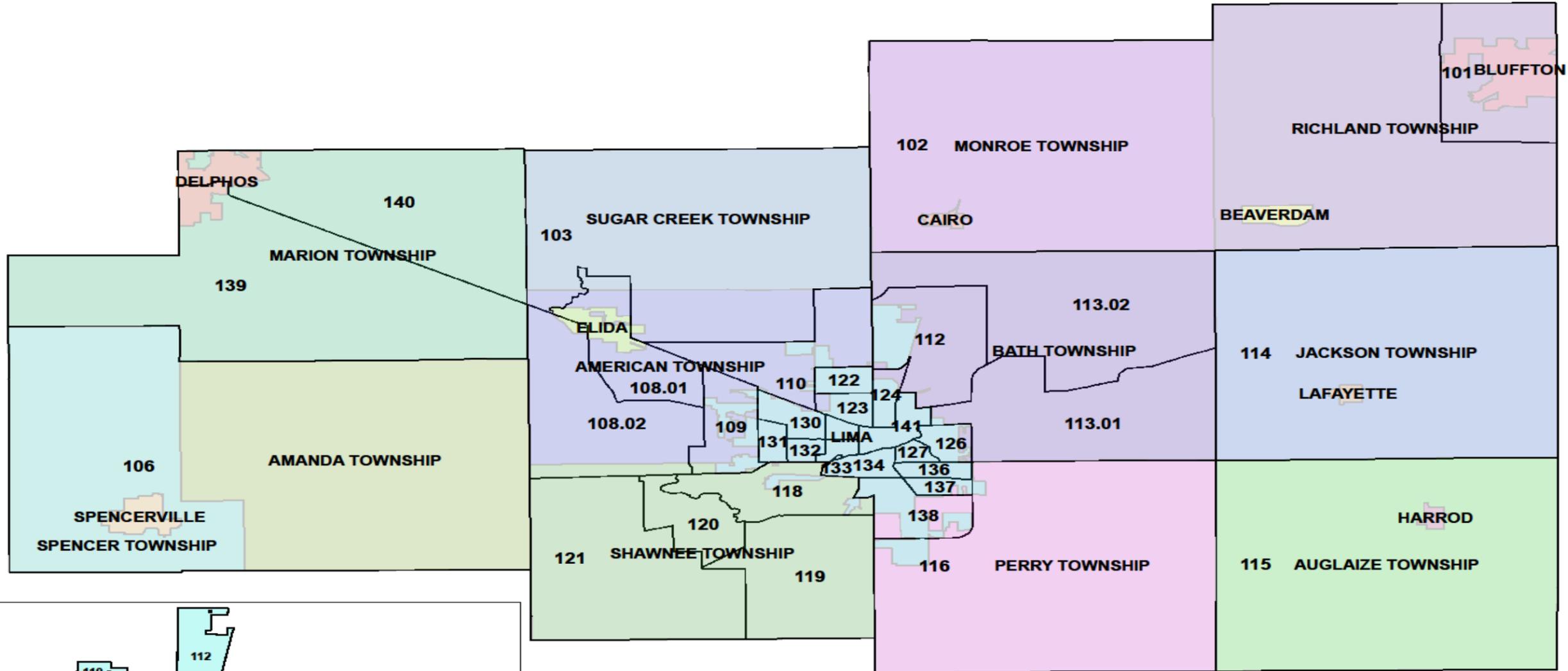
Families with children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering from poverty, 80.9 percent had children,

and 37.1 percent had children under 5 years of age. For comparison purposes, data indicates that 14.4 percent of all households and 10.8 percent of all families within the State of Ohio were below the established poverty level.

**SUMMARY TABLE 2-1
POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS
ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS 2020**

Tract	Total Pop 2010	Total Pop 2020	PCT Change '10-'20	Total H.H 2010	Total H.H. 2020	PCT Change '10-'20	Avg. H.H. Size 2020	PCT HH 6+ Ind. 2020	PCT Single Female w/ Children 2020	Median Age	PCT U18	PCT O65	PCT Minority	Minority PCT Change 10-'20	PCT Disabled	PCT Mobility Disability	PCT HS Grad	Median H.H Income	PCT HH Inc. < 25,000	PCT Ind U100% POV	PCT HH POV	PCT FAM w/ Kids in POV	PCT O65 in POV	PCT Unemp.
101	4,405	4,126	-6.33%	1,524	1,720	12.86%	2.3	3.20%	4.90%	40.8	22%	24.60%	10.00%	72.70%	11.80%	14.20%	30.00%	\$65,132	24.80%	2.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.70%	2.00%
102	4,110	3,812	-7.25%	1,480	1,545	4.39%	2.68	3.20%	2.20%	43.3	24%	18.40%	6.60%	137.70%	9.90%	9.50%	39.20%	\$71,194	10.50%	5.90%	2.10%	69.70%	1.40%	1.40%
103	1,676	1,600	-4.53%	625	604	-3.36%	2.66	4.60%	3.00%	43	18%	21.10%	5.90%	143.60%	15.30%	8.40%	45.50%	\$76,630	8.20%	2.00%	0.50%	100.00%	0.30%	0.50%
106	5,138	5,128	-0.19%	1,884	1,861	-1.22%	2.54	3.70%	5.50%	42.3	26%	16.30%	7.70%	139.60%	18.30%	16.30%	41.80%	\$56,174	19.60%	7.20%	4.00%	100.00%	0.40%	1.60%
108	7,994	8,055	0.76%	3,311	3,257	-1.66%								72.70%										
108.01		4,453			1,894		2.37	2.50%	4.30%	46	21%	26.60%	10.80%		16.50%	14.70%	43.40%	\$64,167	13.20%	4.30%	3.00%	29.80%	1.20%	1.70%
108.02		3,602			1,363		2.63	2.80%	16.70%	40.8	28%	17.90%	14.70%		14.80%	15.10%	24.30%	\$67,455	18.40%	5.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.80%	1.00%
109	4,515	4,545	0.66%	1,755	1,958	11.57%	1.86	0.00%	5.50%	35.2	10%	22.60%	25.90%	43.90%	17.80%	21.20%	33.60%	\$53,239	18.60%	9.20%	1.00%	100.00%	1.30%	4.20%
110	5,445	5,437	-0.15%	2,331	2,535	8.75%	2	0.00%	11.20%	36.4	21%	15.90%	33.20%	55.20%	13.60%	14.90%	40.20%	\$37,526	39.20%	24.80%	11.20%	90.50%	0.90%	6.00%
112	4,218	2,843	-32.60%	484	598	23.55%	2.64	6.20%	7.50%	44.8	11%	11.70%	29.80%	-37.50%	16.70%	12.00%	44.90%	\$60,000	23.70%	8.30%	9.50%	57.90%	1.50%	0.90%
113	7,559	7,309	-3.31%	2,848	2,942	3.20%								69.00%										
113.01		4,538			2,043		2.07	1.60%	6.80%	45	20%	20.60%	13.00%		14.30%	9.70%	38.60%	\$46,130	15.10%	11.60%	4.00%	53.10%	0.20%	2.20%
113.02		2,771			899		3.07	1.80%	9.90%	32.2	24%	9.60%	6.50%		10.30%	3.70%	24.00%	\$93,625	5.20%	1.70%	2.20%	0.00%	0.70%	5.30%
114	3,056	3,143	2.85%	1,119	1,065	-4.83%	2.74	5.50%	3.10%	41.5	24%	16.50%	4.60%	105.60%	16.20%	13.20%	55.50%	\$66,979	12.10%	4.90%	1.70%	22.20%	1.00%	0.50%
115	2,783	2,757	-0.93%	1,035	970	-6.28%	2.74	1.20%	0.10%	43.1	19%	17.10%	6.10%	106.10%	17.20%	15.00%	51.00%	\$67,283	8.40%	4.70%	3.00%	89.70%	0.20%	2.80%
116	2,693	2,579	-4.23%	1,238	1,121	-9.45%	2.43	3.00%	8.30%	44.6	22%	24.90%	9.50%	54.10%	21.20%	21.40%	46.60%	\$56,328	24.80%	11.30%	0.70%	0.00%	4.80%	2.60%
118	2,346	2,298	-2.05%	936	946	1.07%	2.48	2.30%	3.50%	42.3	25%	21.90%	15.40%	32.20%	20.40%	16.00%	31.00%	\$72,981	11.90%	4.50%	1.50%	78.60%	0.80%	2.20%
119	3,208	3,089	-3.71%	1,261	1,214	-3.73%	2.15	0.60%	6.00%	47.3	15%	19.10%	10.40%	56.10%	18.50%	18.20%	44.00%	\$61,900	16.50%	4.70%	2.40%	55.20%	1.20%	3.20%
120	2,410	2,593	7.59%	880	940	6.82%	2.58	1.80%	3.40%	45.3	21%	22.10%	11.80%	33.20%	8.40%	9.00%	17.80%	\$98,625	5.70%	1.70%	0.30%	100.00%	0.30%	1.20%
121	3,455	3,438	-0.49%	1,223	1,207	-1.31%	2.75	1.70%	6.80%	42.3	22%	15.50%	14.00%	34.10%	8.80%	10.00%	21.90%	\$92,734	4.60%	2.20%	0.70%	100.00%	0.30%	1.80%
122	3,291	3,338	1.43%	1,404	1,578	12.39%	2.21	1.30%	15.60%	31.2	26%	18.30%	40.70%	29.30%	16.80%	21.70%	36.30%	\$38,086	36.00%	23.40%	12.90%	97.50%	1.60%	1.10%
123	4,052	3,893	-3.92%	1,570	1,802	14.78%	2.19	1.50%	7.40%	40.6	26%	14.90%	34.30%	58.70%	21.70%	29.80%	47.10%	\$34,904	34.40%	12.30%	4.70%	56.00%	1.10%	2.80%
124	2,710	2,466	-9.00%	1,094	1,016	-7.13%	2.03	4.10%	15.90%	37.6	21%	10.80%	30.30%	-0.70%	18.10%	19.00%	54.70%	\$31,558	30.80%	19.90%	14.10%	96.50%	1.90%	0.90%
126	1,834	1,742	-5.02%	852	668	-21.60%	2.79	3.60%	16.20%	31.6	35%	14.40%	26.30%	29.70%	22.00%	19.70%	44.10%	\$37,237	15.50%	31.30%	12.90%	93.00%	2.30%	6.80%
127	1,648	1,481	-10.13%	602	613	1.83%	2.41	0.30%	26.90%	30	33%	10.90%	47.30%	-4.00%	20.40%	23.00%	42.30%	\$28,799	43.90%	31.20%	16.20%	82.80%	2.40%	10.20%
129	1,741	1,668	-4.19%	689	702	1.89%	2.6	2.70%	25.80%	27	43%	12.80%	51.60%	16.70%	20.60%	26.60%	40.20%	\$20,643	56.60%	51.30%	30.10%	84.40%	2.80%	5.80%
130	3,993	4,005	0.30%	1,970	1,745	-11.42%	2.31	0.60%	8.10%	32.7	20%	18.20%	31.80%	29.30%	19.30%	23.00%	41.60%	\$38,162	24.30%	17.50%	7.00%	58.50%	2.70%	3.40%
131	2,313	2,343	1.30%	1,075	1,067	-0.74%	2.39	2.60%	3.70%	34.8	27%	13.30%	24.30%	55.90%	14.70%	16.60%	40.70%	\$57,721	15.90%	3.50%	0.80%	100.00%	0.50%	3.10%
132	1,774	1,827	2.99%	726	705	-2.89%	3.02	8.20%	16.00%	32.7	37%	12.20%	37.20%	14.30%	11.30%	11.90%	28.90%	\$54,680	11.30%	8.50%	3.00%	61.90%	0.60%	4.20%
133	1,290	1,352	4.81%	421	344	-18.29%	3.35	2.60%	28.50%	37.3	25%	20.20%	52.90%	5.50%	29.60%	19.70%	41.90%	\$55,667	21.30%	19.00%	11.30%	84.60%	0.00%	4.90%
134	2,549	2,124	-16.67%	1,044	921	-11.78%	2.7	5.00%	16.10%	32.4	38%	12.60%	44.60%	-11.30%	23.80%	22.20%	44.30%	\$25,011	49.90%	47.50%	15.30%	80.90%	3.70%	9.80%
136	1,375	1,182	-14.04%	464	423	-8.84%	2.76	1.90%	18.90%	33.5	27%	8.60%	48.80%	-11.50%	18.20%	20.60%	36.10%	\$26,985	46.80%	33.20%	23.20%	78.60%	1.40%	13.20%
137	1,156	1,095	-5.28%	420	409	-2.62%	2.49	4.60%	17.10%	36.7	25%	10.00%	64.60%	-6.70%	36.00%	40.80%	42.40%	\$24,550	51.10%	38.50%	20.80%	85.90%	0.90%	4.10%
138	2,728	2,614	-4.18%	1,019	1,103	8.24%	2.68	6.50%	26.40%	30.9	37%	15.80%	64.20%	0.50%	18.00%	18.20%	39.80%	\$30,173	36.20%	22.80%	16.60%	82.00%	1.90%	17.10%
139	3,406	3,313	-2.73%	1,293	1,501	16.09%	2.3	3.60%	3.10%	39.9	22%	20.50%	8.50%	166.00%	17.70%	18.60%	48.60%	\$44,893	21.70%	9.10%	4.10%	86.90%	1.40%	2.60%
140	3,309	3,316	0.21%	1,349	1,283	-4.89%	2.55	0.60%	5.10%	38.6	24%	23.40%	6.40%	131.50%	14.20%	21.60%	35.20%	\$68,445	14.00%	5.30%	3.00%	76.90%	1.30%	4.60%
141	2,151	1,695	-21.20%	793	662	-16.52%	1.73	2.30%	12.10%	46.5	10%	12.80%	37.60%	-17.80%	32.80%	32.90%	36.00%	\$21,250	56.00%	22.20%	8.00%	73.60%	1.50%	2.80%

ALLEN COUNTY CENSUS TRACTS



SECTION 3 COMMUNITY HOUSING STOCK

Traditionally, housing development has grown outward from village and city centers capitalizing upon easy access to employment opportunities, public utilities and transportation infrastructure. Since the 1960's however, the automobile and unbridled utility extensions coupled with cheap land fueled urban sprawl and the resultant white flight and economic segregation currently visible in urban centers around the nation, including Allen County.

In an effort to understand Allen County's housing issues and address topics ranging from homelessness, dilapidated housing, an aging infrastructure and suburban competition, local agencies have worked with stakeholders to explore specific issues related to the community housing stock. More specifically, the housing issues facing the low-income, disabled, minority and elderly populations that include:

- current housing choices that fail to fully meet the needs of individuals of all ages, incomes and ability levels;
- adapting housing incentives to changing market conditions;
- homelessness and the associated needs for supportive services;
- excessive numbers of dilapidated and abandoned residential buildings;
- weak private sector market for housing rehabilitation; and,
- obstacles to assembling sites for new large-scale housing developments.

***Data Limitations in Section III** – Data in this section primarily comes from the American Community Survey 5-year estimate which is based on sampling over the 2016-2020 time period. In smaller communities, like Allen County, the sample can easily misrepresent actual totals and changes over time. In this section, an over estimation of housing units and change in housing unit totals over the 2016-2020 period has potentially skewed the figures related to housing unit totals including tenure, vacancy, etc. It is the only current data available at this level so it is presented as is but the reader is cautioned as to its accuracy. Tables with ** following the title fall into this category.*

3.1 Historical Overview

Allen County, and more specifically its municipalities especially the City of Lima, its county seat, are overly represented by older homes many of which were built before WWII. Many of the homes were built in close proximity to railroad lines and/or factories giving residents access to available jobs. As advancements in transportation grew, the more affluent residents began to move further out, abandoning the housing in the central city neighborhoods for newer more modern housing in neighborhoods with larger lots. As families moved from the older neighborhoods to the outskirts of the communities, the quality and condition of the older housing began to decline – albeit slowly over time and from various influences including age, weathering and occupancy status. Many houses were converted to two-family and multi-family homes to accommodate new populations with lower socio-economic status that were migrating to the area.

A pattern of disinvestment in the older housing stock has left a visible scar on the face of neighborhoods in older communities.

As a result of migration patterns, the number of homes that were either rented or abandoned in the older municipalities continued unabated until a pattern of disinvestment was readily apparent. Some residents found it difficult to obtain loans from banks for home improvements or for the purchase of a home either because

of the condition of the home, the character of the neighborhood or their economic/credit status. As a result, the quality and value of housing began to decline and people moved out of the City of Lima and some of the smaller municipalities at rates which resulted in a glut of older houses on

the market further eroding home values and decreasing the community's tax base and its ability to provide government services at the level of service desired/needed by remaining residents.

3.2 Housing Stock

An overview of the housing stock is presented using various indices at varying levels of geography. Data at the county and political subdivision level is presented with census tract and street address level data introduced when required/available. The heart of the assessment relies upon 2020 ACS 5-year estimate data. County Auditor data is offered when available to provide a deeper and more current perspective. A study of the data provides a broad picture of the housing challenges faced by Allen County and its political subdivisions. Summary Tables 3-1 and 3-2, and Appendix B provide additional insights into the housing stock in terms of historical patterns and distribution of housing stock characteristics, including: tenure, vacancy status, size, age and valuation.

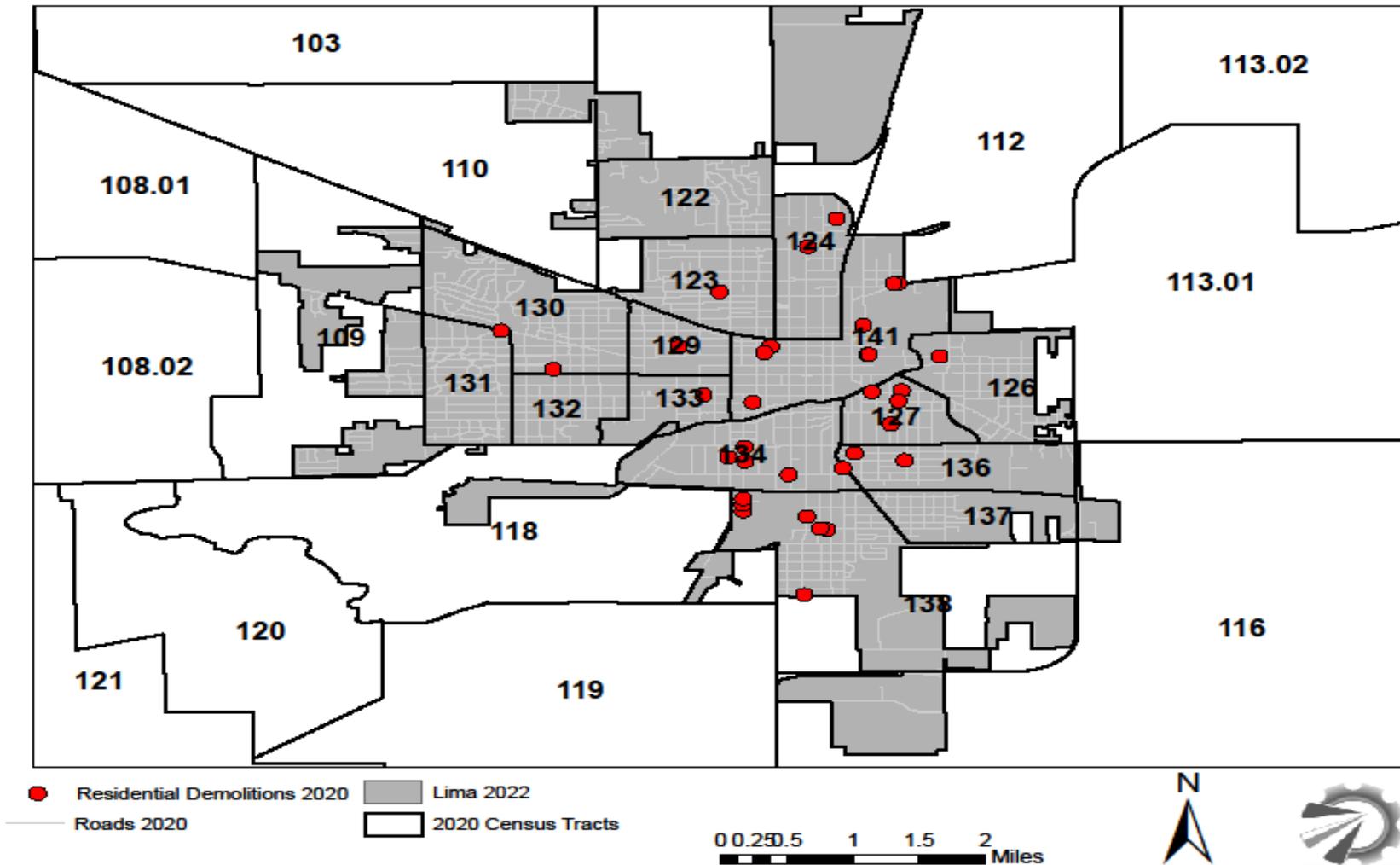
3.2.1 Housing Units

The total number of housing units available in Allen County decreased between 2010 and 2020 by 436 units or just under 1 percent. The City of Lima witnessed a decrease of 756 housing units or 4.5 percent over the same 10-year period. Map 3-1 depicts the location of recent housing demolitions conducted by the City of Lima. Table 3-1 identifies the change over time in number of units.

TABLE 3-1 TOTAL HOUSING UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)			
Political Subdivision	Units 2010	Units 2020	PCT Change
Allen County	44,999	44,563	-0.97%
Beaverdam	153	151	-1.31%
Bluffton	1,435	1,445	0.70%
Cairo	214	216	0.93%
Delphos	1,742	1,781	2.24%
Elida	741	750	1.21%
Harrod	161	173	7.45%
Lafayette	172	175	1.74%
Lima	16,784	16,028	-4.50%
Spencerville	886	897	1.24%
Amanda Twp	789	802	1.65%
American Twp	5,727	5,898	2.99%
Auglaize Twp	948	963	1.58%
Bath Twp	4,111	4081	-0.73%
Jackson Twp	1,069	1111	3.93%
Marion Twp	1,049	1,056	0.67%
Monroe Twp	669	646	-3.44%
Perry Twp	1,561	1,546	-0.96%
Richland Twp	715	691	-3.36%
Shawnee Twp	5,194	5,300	2.04%
Spencer Twp	344	338	-1.74%
Sugar Creek Twp	535	515	-3.74%

Map 3-1 Demolitions

Map 3-1 Residential Demolitions 2020



3.2.2 Tenure

In the 2016-2020 period, Allen County experienced an increase in the number of renters occupied housing units (16%) and a corresponding decrease in owner-occupied housing units (-5.6%). However, tenure varied across the community. Owner occupancy rates for Allen County fell to 66.7 percent in 2020 . The percentage of owner-occupied units increased in 8 of the 21 political subdivisions with the most significant increase in home ownership occurring in the village of Cairo m(43.4%). The percent of renter units increased in more than half of the 21 political subdivisions within Allen County. Tables 3-2 and 3-3 provide more detailed information at the political subdivision level.

TABLE 3-2						
OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Owner 2010	PCT 2010	Owner 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	28,986	71.2%	27,373	66.7%	-1,613	-5.6%
Beaverdam	143	76.9%	134	75.7%	-9	-6.3%
Bluffton	976	73.4%	1,014	69.9%	38	3.9%
Cairo	143	99.3%	205	86.9%	62	43.4%
Delphos	996	62.1%	1,133	68.5%	137	13.8%
Elida	708	87.9%	617	77.5%	-91	-12.9%
Harrod	167	84.8%	100	72.5%	-67	-40.1%
Lafayette	86	74.5%	87	56.9%	1	1.2%
Lima	8,003	54.7%	6,696	46.4%	-1,307	-16.3%
Spencerville	665	77.4%	493	58.0%	-172	-25.9%
Amanda Twp	699	98.6%	648	93.0%	-51	-7.3%
American Twp	3,517	60.1%	3,606	57.0%	89	2.5%
Auglaize Twp	725	70.0%	755	77.8%	30	4.1%
Bath Twp	3,001	78.3%	3,216	85.5%	215	7.2%
Jackson Twp	903	80.7%	879	82.5%	-24	-2.7%
Marion Twp	1021	38.6%	1,010	36.3%	-11	-1.1%
Monroe Twp	524	67.0%	600	66.9%	76	14.5%
Perry Twp	1,156	73.9%	1,024	77.7%	-132	-11.4%
Richland Twp	661	29.7%	695	29.4%	34	5.1%
Shawnee Twp	4,140	88.7%	3,806	79.1%	-334	-8.1%
Spencer Twp	299	25.4%	297	25.5%	-2	-0.7%
Sugar Creek Twp	453	89.7%	358	81.9%	-95	-21.0%

S2501 Census 2020

TABLE 3-3 RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Renter 2010	PCT 2010	Renter 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	11,733	28.8%	13,652	33.3%	1,919	16.4%
Beaverdam	43	23.1%	43	24.3%	0	0.0%
Bluffton	354	26.6%	436	30.2%	82	23.2%
Cairo	1	0.7%	31	13.1%	30	3000.0%
Delphos	607	37.9%	522	33.1%	-85	-14.0%
Elida	89	11.2%	179	22.5%	90	101.1%
Harrod	30	15.2%	38	27.5%	8	26.7%
Lafayette	15	14.9%	66	43.1%	51	340.0%
Lima	6,615	45.3%	7,730	53.6%	1,115	16.9%
Spencerville	194	22.6%	357	42.0%	163	84.0%
Amanda Twp	10	1.4%	49	7.0%	39	390.0%
American Twp	1,535	34.8%	1,923	34.8%	388	25.3%
Auglaize Twp	113	13.5%	77	9.3%	-36	-31.9%
Bath Twp	832	21.7%	545	14.5%	-287	-34.5%
Jackson Twp	115	11.3%	33	3.6%	-82	-71.3%
Marion Twp	18	1.7%	119	10.5%	101	561.1%
Monroe Twp	114	17.9%	61	9.2%	-53	-46.5%
Perry Twp	409	26.1%	294	22.3%	-115	-28.1%
Richland Twp	45	6.4%	46	6.2%	1	2.2%
Shawnee Twp	525	11.3%	1007	20.9%	482	91.8%
Spencer Twp	17	5.4%	17	5.4%	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	52	10.3%	79	18.1%	27	51.9%
S2501 Census 2020						

3.2.3 Vacancy Rate

The 2020 vacancy rate in Allen County increased to 9.1% percent from 6.0 percent in 2010. The Villages of Elida, Lafayette and Spencerville also saw significant increases. 9 of the 21 political subdivisions experienced a decline in vacancies with Jackson Township seeing the biggest decline of almost 8 percent. Table 3-4 reveals the extent of change by political subdivision. Map 3-2 depicts the location and density of vacant residential units in Lima at the block group level identified in the 2020 ACS.

The Village of Beaverdam witnessed a significant drop in vacancies as did American, Marion and Spencer Townships.

TABLE 3-4 RESIDENTIAL VACANT UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Vacant 2010	PCT 2010	Vacant 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	4,380	6.00%	4,146	9.3%	-234	-5.34%
Beaverdam	9	5.90%	33	15.70%	24	266.67%
Bluffton	91	6.00%	53	3.30%	-38	-41.76%
Cairo	16	7.50%	13	5.20%	-3	-18.75%
Delphos	130	7.50%	205	6.30%	75	57.69%
Elida	33	4.50%	12	1.50%	-21	-63.64%
Harrod	18	11.20%	10	6.80%	-8	-44.44%
Lafayette	11	6.40%	31	16.80%	20	181.82%
Lima	2,563	15.30%	2,218	13.30%	-345	-13.46%
Spencerville	69	7.80%	97	10.20%	28	40.58%
Amanda Twp	30	3.80%	25	3.50%	-5	-16.67%
American Twp	383	6.70%	195	3.41%	-188	-49.09%
Auglaize Twp	55	5.80%	47	5.35%	-8	-14.55%
Bath Twp	284	6.90%	316	7.80%	32	11.27%
Jackson Twp	66	6.20%	60	6.17%	-6	-9.09%
Marion Twp	33	3.10%	19	1.66%	-14	-42.42%
Monroe Twp	35	5.20%	7	2.81%	-28	-80.00%
Perry Twp	108	6.90%	222	14.40%	114	105.56%
Richland Twp	27	4.30%	24	3.14%	-3	-11.11%
Shawnee Twp	361	7.00%	493	9.30%	132	36.57%
Spencer Twp	18	5.20%	46	12.78%	28	155.56%
Sugar Creek Twp	40	7.50%	20	4.40%	-20	-50.00%
Census ACS DP04 & B25002 2020						

3.2.4 Size of Housing Units

The size of housing units can be evaluated by looking at both the number of rooms in a unit as well as the total square footage. The ACS provides tabulations on the number of rooms and bedrooms per unit. Table 3-5 suggests that the median number of rooms in a house including kitchen, dining room, family room, bedrooms, utility rooms and bathrooms ranged from a high of 7.1 rooms in Sugar Creek Township to a low of 5.4 rooms in the Village of Spencerville. The median number of rooms per dwelling unit in Allen County was 6 rooms. 20 percent of the housing units in Allen County contain 3 or more bedrooms. Data on the square footage of residential units within Allen County was acquired from the County Auditor. The most recent data shows the average size of a housing unit in Allen County at 1,636sqft. Broken down by political subdivision the average sizes range from 1,438sqft (Lima) to 1,935sqft (Shawnee Township).

TABLE 3-5 HOUSING UNITS BY NUMBER OF ROOMS, BEDROOMS AND SIZE (2020)							
Political Subdivision	Median Rooms	PCT No BR	PCT BR 1	PCT 2 BRs	PCT 3 BRs	PCT 4 BRs	PCT 5 or More BRs
Allen County	6	4.50%	26.50%	19.80%	20.00%	12.80%	16.30%
Beaverdam	5.8	0.50%	5.70%	17.10%	67.60%	8.10%	1.00%
Bluffton	6.4	3.50%	6.90%	19.70%	48.20%	17.00%	4.80%
Cairo	6.1	0.00%	5.60%	21.70%	55.80%	12.00%	4.80%
Delphos	6.2	2.50%	9.20%	24.40%	41.80%	16.70%	5.40%
Elida	6.3	0.20%	0.70%	11.00%	67.70%	19.40%	0.90%
Harrod	6.5	0.00%	3.40%	14.90%	62.80%	10.80%	8.10%
Lafayette	6.1	0.00%	15.20%	26.60%	34.80%	19.60%	3.80%
Lima	5.6	2.70%	12.10%	27.40%	45.70%	10.60%	1.50%
Spencerville	5.4	0.00%	3.90%	40.70%	40.00%	11.50%	3.90%
Amanda Twp	7	0.00%	0.00%	12.70%	53.70%	19.70%	13.90%
American Twp	5.9	1.90%	6.50%	26.50%	49.60%	13.00%	2.40%
Auglaize Twp	6.3	0.00%	1.20%	18.30%	66.00%	13.30%	1.20%
Bath Twp	6.2	0.40%	2.40%	19.40%	54.00%	16.80%	7.00%
Jackson Twp	6.4	0.00%	3.30%	13.60%	59.90%	15.80%	7.40%
Marion Twp	6.7	2.40%	8.70%	17.80%	47.20%	16.90%	7.00%
Monroe Twp	6.5	0.00%	7.20%	12.50%	59.90%	14.90%	5.50%
Perry Twp	5.8	0.00%	12.80%	27.40%	39.00%	18.60%	2.20%
Richland Twp	6.5	2.30%	4.40%	15.30%	50.60%	22.40%	5.00%
Shawnee Twp	6.4	1.10%	2.30%	21.10%	48.50%	22.30%	4.80%
Spencer Twp	5.9	0.70%	2.80%	33.90%	47.10%	11.30%	4.10%
Sugar Creek Twp	7.1	0.00%	2.00%	18.20%	59.30%	17.30%	3.30%

Census ACS DP04 2020

3.2.5 Age of Housing Stock

The villages of Lafayette and Beaverdam have the distinction of having the oldest housing stock in Allen County with a median year built of 1939 and 1949, respectively. According to the 2020 ACS, the median year in which residential structures date in Lima is 1951, as compared to the County median of 1963. The oldest housing in the City of Lima is found in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the central business district, while the newest is located in the Jerry Lewis and Westgate neighborhoods that lie closer to the city's western and northern borders with American Township. Table 3-6 identifies the number of housing units and median age by political subdivision.

TABLE 3-6 HOUSING UNITS BY AGE & VALUE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION										
Subdivision	Total Units	Prior to 1940	1940 to 1959	1960 to 1979	1980 to 1989	1990 to 1999	2000 to 2009	After 2010	Median Year Built	Median Value
Allen County	45,005	23.80%	22.10%	29.00%	7.70%	9.20%	7.50%	0.70%	1963	\$110,900
Beaverdam	194	43.30%	16.00%	30.40%	5.70%	2.10%	2.60%	0.00%	1949	\$74,300
Bluffton	1,747	32.30%	19.90%	19.30%	5.80%	12.20%	9.30%	1.10%	1958	\$147,200
Cairo	213	39.40%	23.00%	20.70%	4.20%	2.80%	9.90%	0.00%	1952	\$91,400
Delphos	3,211	32.70%	22.20%	22.90%	4.90%	10.00%	5.90%	1.40%	1956	\$90,200
Elida	732	17.20%	21.40%	10.80%	12.80%	31.80%	5.90%	0.00%	1980	\$143,200
Harrod	154	51.90%	11.70%	20.10%	8.40%	3.90%	2.60%	1.30%	1939	\$76,300
Lafayette	183	53.00%	26.80%	1.10%	9.30%	6.00%	3.80%	0.00%	1939	\$81,600
Lima	17,019	34.70%	29.30%	23.70%	4.30%	4.60%	3.30%	0.10%	1951	\$66,000
Spencerville	889	33.90%	23.70%	21.00%	7.50%	6.70%	5.30%	1.80%	1954	\$83,100
Amanda Township	700	14.00%	11.60%	28.60%	13.30%	13.30%	14.10%	5.10%	1978	\$168,900
American Township	5,369	5.80%	13.60%	47.90%	12.00%	9.80%	10.90%	0.00%	1974	\$127,800
Auglaize Township	907	31.10%	12.90%	28.80%	4.60%	16.20%	2.60%	3.70%	1962	\$123,000
Bath Township	4,254	7.60%	17.70%	33.80%	10.00%	16.60%	13.90%	0.30%	1975	\$125,700
Jackson Township	985	12.10%	6.80%	28.50%	10.20%	21.80%	17.10%	3.60%	1977	\$152,900
Marion Township	1,150	23.10%	14.00%	23.70%	12.90%	14.50%	11.80%	0.00%	1959	\$112,800
Monroe Township	639	20.70%	12.50%	22.40%	15.60%	5.90%	12.40%	10.50%	1969	\$126,800
Perry Township	1,502	21.30%	24.00%	21.30%	13.40%	9.70%	10.30%	0.00%	1968	\$88,100
Richland Township	601	42.40%	13.50%	16.00%	1.50%	19.60%	7.00%	0.00%	1955	\$148,000
Shawnee Township	5,215	7.20%	22.50%	42.30%	9.80%	8.40%	8.90%	1.00%	1969	\$143,900
Spencer Township	365	48.50%	7.70%	11.00%	8.80%	1.90%	22.20%	0.00%	1953	\$95,700
Sugar Creek Township	482	34.20%	14.10%	25.50%	7.50%	14.70%	3.90%	0.00%	1961	\$133,700

3.2.6 Residential Housing Quality

The quality of housing varies across the County. The quality of construction largely reflects the architectural detail, the quality of the materials used and age of the housing stock. Table 3-7 identifies the quality of the housing with a general grading of the single-family residential housing in Allen County. The grading reflects the extent of architectural detail, quality of materials and workmanship as reflected in appraisals conducted for the Allen County Auditor in 2020. The grading scale works from A thru E with multiple levels within each letter grade e.g., AAA to EE. Variations within each letter grade reflect the extent and type of material used on such components as: the exterior roofs (heavy slate, shake/wood shingles, copper flashing, ornamental wood cornices versus asbestos shingles, roll or metal roofing); exterior walls (stucco, brick, stone granite versus aluminum siding, vinyl siding); interior finish (hardwood trim throughout, excellent built-in kitchen China, broom, linen cabinetry; high grade decorating, ornamental woodwork in all major rooms, tiled bathrooms with high quality shower doors and large vanities versus pine/fir doors, plywood or composite cabinetry, drywall/plaster/plywood walls); and, flooring (marble, slate, hickory, cherry, oak, versus other hard/soft wood flooring, carpeting, vinyl, asbestos tile flooring). Within the grading system:

- *Grade A residences reflect the highest quality materials and workmanship exhibiting unique and elaborate architectural styling and treatments and having all the features typically characteristics of mansion type homes.*
- *Grade B units reflect good quality materials and workmanship exhibiting pronounced architectural styling and treatments and having an ample number of built-in features. Custom built tract homes typically fall into this category.*
- *Grade C homes are constructed of average quality materials and workmanship, exhibiting moderate architectural styling and treatment and having a minimal number of built-in features. Typical tract-built housing normally falls into this classification.*
- *Grade D dwellings are constructed of fair quality material and workmanship, generally lacking architectural styling and treatment and having only a scant number of built-in features. Economy mass-built homes normally fall into this classification.*
- *Grade E residences are constructed of cheap quality material and poor workmanship void of any architectural treatment and built-in features. Such units are typically self-built with mechanical contractor assistance.*

TABLE 3-7 ASSESSED QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)									
Political Subdivision	# of Homes	A	B	% A/B	C	% C	D	E	% D/E
Allen County	36,383	487	2,875	9.2	21,922	60.3	10,938	161	30.5
Beaverdam	128	1	0	0.8	25	19.5	102	0	79.7
Bluffton	1,155	6	136	12.3	702	60.8	309	2	26.9
Cairo	211	0	0	0.0	90	42.7	121	0	57.3
Delphos	1,390	6	100	7.6	501	36.0	777	6	56.3
Elida	726	1	157	21.8	463	63.8	105	0	14.5
Harrod	155	0	0	0.0	38	24.5	113	4	75.5
Lafayette	145	0	1	0.7	92	63.4	51	1	35.9
Lima	12,232	53	256	2.5	7,390	60.4	4,505	28	37.1
Spencerville	783	0	3	0.4	349	44.6	427	4	55.0
Amanda Twp	779	8	50	7.4	533	68.4	181	7	24.1
American Twp	4,651	81	405	10.4	3,685	79.2	476	4	10.3
Auglaize Twp	844	1	25	3.1	385	45.6	424	9	51.3
Bath Twp	3,281	18	458	14.5	2,077	63.3	691	37	22.2
Jackson Twp	992	1	41	4.2	514	51.8	425	11	44.0
Marion Twp	1,021	1	69	6.9	627	61.4	318	6	31.7
Monroe Twp	604	1	22	3.8	353	58.4	222	6	37.7
Perry Twp	1,137	1	15	1.4	453	39.8	645	23	58.8
Richland Twp	676	1	32	4.9	422	62.4	220	1	32.7
Shawnee Twp	4,668	305	1,083	29.7	2,769	59.3	503	8	10.9
Spencer Twp	323	1	10	3.4	186	57.6	124	2	39.0
Sugar Creek Twp	482	1	12	2.7	268	55.6	199	2	41.7

Source: Allen County Auditor's Database

30.1% of the Allen County housing stock is rated fair or below average quality.

Map 3-3 illustrates the quality of residential properties. For mapping purposes all letter grades were collapsed to a simple A thru E. As depicted in the map, housing located closer to the central and southeast side of Lima was found in the lowest grades. The housing in neighborhoods along the border of the City of Lima are rated above average quality; but 37.1 percent of the units in Lima are rated below average quality (D & E) by the County Auditor's Office—as compared to 30.5 percent of the housing in the County as a whole.

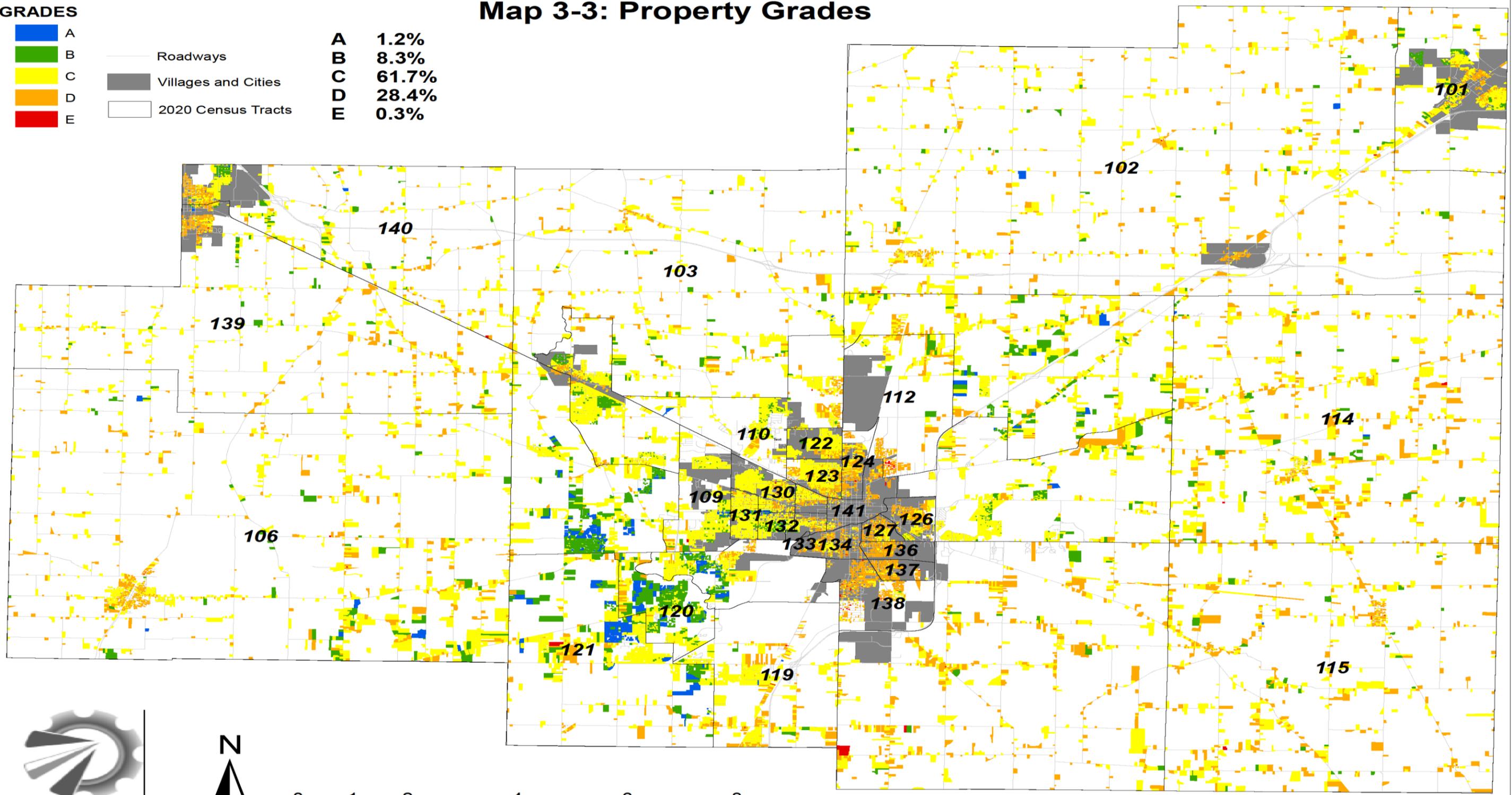
Map 3-3: Property Grades

GRADES

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

- Roadways
- Villages and Cities
- 2020 Census Tracts

A	1.2%
B	8.3%
C	61.7%
D	28.4%
E	0.3%



July 2022



3.2.7 Housing Value

As housing quality varies across Allen County so does the value of such housing. According to the ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates, the median housing value of owner-occupied units in the City of Lima was \$68,900 as compared to \$120,300 for Allen County. Table 3-8 indicates homes with the highest median value were located in Amanda Township (\$190,100) and the City of Lima had the lowest median values (\$68,900) which is a decline of almost 6 percent in the median home value. Lima was the only political subdivision to see a decline between 2010 and 2020. The largest increases were seen in Amanda Township (32.29%) and the Village of Bluffton (28.81%).

The City of Lima ranks as one of the most affordable cities in the US.

TABLE 3-8 MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)				
Political Subdivision	Median Value 2010	Median Value 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	\$104,800	\$120,300	\$15,500	14.79%
Beaverdam	\$75,300	\$83,800	\$8,500	11.29%
Bluffton	\$126,000	\$162,300	\$36,300	28.81%
Cairo	\$86,900	\$88,200	\$1,300	1.50%
Delphos	\$85,000	\$96,800	\$11,800	13.88%
Elida	\$139,900	\$157,000	\$17,100	12.22%
Harrod	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$0	0.00%
Lafayette	\$84,400	\$89,800	\$5,400	6.40%
Lima	\$73,200	\$68,900	(\$4,300)	-5.87%
Spencerville	\$84,500	\$98,600	\$14,100	16.69%
Amanda Twp	\$143,700	\$190,100	\$46,400	32.29%
American Twp	\$119,000	\$133,000	\$14,000	11.76%
Auglaize Twp	\$139,700	\$142,300	\$2,600	1.86%
Bath Twp	\$125,900	\$130,900	\$5,000	3.97%
Jackson Twp	\$141,400	\$148,300	\$6,900	4.88%
Marion Twp	\$109,400	\$120,200	\$10,800	9.87%
Monroe Twp	\$117,600	\$121,000	\$3,400	2.89%
Perry Twp	\$96,200	\$131,000	\$34,800	36.17%
Richland Twp	\$130,300	\$157,900	\$27,600	21.18%
Shawnee Twp	\$141,800	\$159,700	\$17,900	12.62%
Spencer Twp	\$89,000	\$114,100	\$25,100	28.20%
Sugar Creek Twp	\$133,000	\$157,000	\$24,000	18.05%
Census B25077 ACS 2020				

3.2.8 Manufactured/Mobile Homes

The ACS documented 1,575 manufactured/mobile homes within Allen County in 2020, that number is up from 1,452 in 2017. ACS data suggests that manufactured/mobile homes represented roughly 3.5 percent of the total housing stock in Allen County in 2020.

The largest concentration of mobile homes was found in Bath Township (641 units), and when coupled with those in the City of Delphos (193 units) they reflect over half of all units (53%) in Allen County. When considering occupancy, 82.3 percent of all occupied units were owner occupied and 17.6 percent were renter occupied. These owner occupancy rates are higher than the rates established for all housing units documented at 66.7 percent. In 2020 the average occupants per unit for owner occupied manufactured mobile homes across Allen County was 1.63 persons, lower than rental units at 3.04 persons. Owner occupancy ranged in size from 0.00 persons per unit, to almost 6 persons (5.92). Table 3-9 examines tenure and occupancy of manufactured homes.

Political Subdivision	Mobile Homes	Owner Occ	Owner -Occ./Unit	Renter Occ.	Rent-Occ/Unit
Allen County	1575	1297	1.63	278	3.04
Beaverdam	23	9	1.78	14	4.07
Bluffton	19	19	2.05	0	0.00
Cairo	15	8	1.50	7	6.71
Delphos	193	49	2.08	144	1.74
Elida	3	0	0.00	3	3.33
Harrod	5	5	1.20	0	0.00
Lafayette	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lima	152	144	1.80	4	5.50
Spencerville	115	111	1.00	8	1.00
Amanda Twp	14	14	1.57	0	0.00
American Twp	103	100	1.54	3	3.33
Auglaize Twp	43	5	1.20	38	3.61
Bath Twp	641	548	1.55	93	2.67
Jackson Twp	68	56	1.77	12	3.83
Marion Twp	57	39	1.82	18	1.00
Monroe Twp	33	26	5.92	7	6.71
Perry Twp	116	95	1.34	21	5.05
Richland Twp	23	9	1.78	14	4.07
Shawnee Twp	185	137	1.62	48	2.77
Spencer Twp	128	124	1.15	4	2.00
Sugar Creek Twp	12	0	0.00	12	1.00

Census S2504 & B25033 ACS 2016-2020

3.2.9 Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks

Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks are licensed and controlled by the Ohio Manufactured Home Commission. Such parks are required to be annually inspected and licensed when 3 or more such homes are used for habitation on any tract of land. In 2020 the Allen County Auditor identified 24 licensed and approved manufactured/mobile home parks. Table 3-10 identifies the mobile parks by political subdivision, number of units, size of park and density. Notice the disparity in the density of such parks between political subdivisions. Mobile home parks are identified in Map 3-5.

3.3 Group Quarters

The Census Bureau identifies two general types of group quarters: institutional (e.g., nursing homes, hospital wards, hospices and prisons) and non-institutional (e.g., college dormitories military barracks, group homes, shelters, missions, etc.). Many group quarters house persons with disabilities – both physical and cognitive as well as people with severe mental illnesses. Group quarters should be equally distributed so that persons with disabilities are not segregated into certain areas within the community. However, persons occupying group quarters often require services that are most readily available in an urban/suburban setting. Map 3-6 depicts the distribution of group

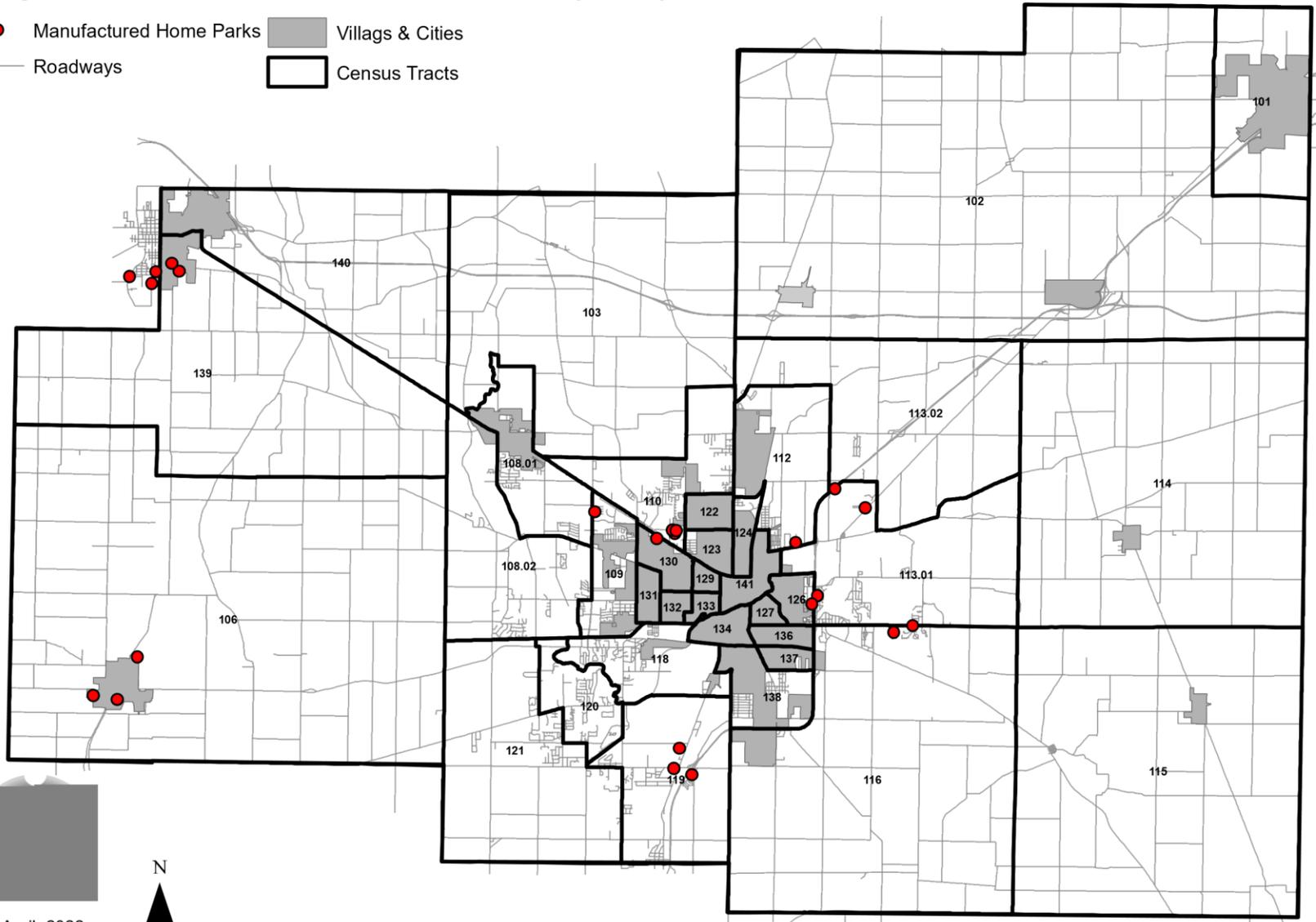
TABLE 3-10 MOBILE HOME PARKS IN ALLEN COUNTY (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Park	Units	Ares	Units per Acre
Delphos	Holland Court	62	7.4	8.3
	Southside Community	56	10.7	5.2
	Ulm's Mobile Home Court	91	14.2	6.4
	Ulm's Mobile Home Court II	65	8.4	7.7
	Park Court (Park Trailer Park)	7	0.4	17.5
Lima	Crestwood Estates	199	34.7	5.7
	Maplewood MHC	99	17.5	5.7
Spencerville	Westwood Park	16	1.3	12.1
	Village Court I	21	2.8	7.4
	Village Court II	13	1.0	12.4
American Twp	Hunter Chase	135	31.6	4.3
	Woodlawn Trailer Park	63	4.7	13.3
	Woodlawn Trailer Park I	40	3.3	12.2
	Woodlawn Trailer Park II	4	1.1	3.7
Bath Twp	Country Estates	225	39.7	5.7
	Marilee Estates	22	2.9	7.6
	Oakhaven Park	43	6.5	6.6
	Offenbacher	42	3.7	11.4
	Plaza Mobile Home Park	119	13.6	8.7
Perry Twp	The Colony Park	139	40.0	3.5
	Eastwood Estates	168	55.7	3.0
Shawnee Twp	Indian Village	204	65.6	3.1
	Mobile Living Estates	72	14.4	5.0
	Shawnee Park	67	10.3	6.5
Allen County		1972	391.5	5.0
Allen County Auditor				

quarters across the study area. Data reveals a concentration of such group quarters in and immediately adjacent to, the City of Lima. In 2020, the U. S Census identified 3,522 individuals residing in Group Quarters. The institutionalized population, 2,479 individuals, resided in correctional facilities (1,513) and nursing homes (966). The non-institutionalized population resided in college dormitories (788) and other facilities (255) (Table 3-11). Since 2010 the group quarter population has decline by 40.6 percent to a 2020 value of 3,522. Table 3-11 depicts the population breakdown of group quarters by type in 2020.

Table 3-11 GROUP QUARTER POPULATION IN ALLEN COUNTY (2020)		
Type of Group Quarter	Population	
Institutionalized	Correctional Facility	1,513
	Nursing Home	966
	Other Institutions	0
Non-Institutionalized	College Dormitory	788
	Other Non-Institutionalized	255
Allen County		3522
P5 2020 Census		

Map 3-5: Manufactured Home Parks (2020)

- Manufactured Home Parks
- Villages & Cities
- Roadways
- Census Tracts



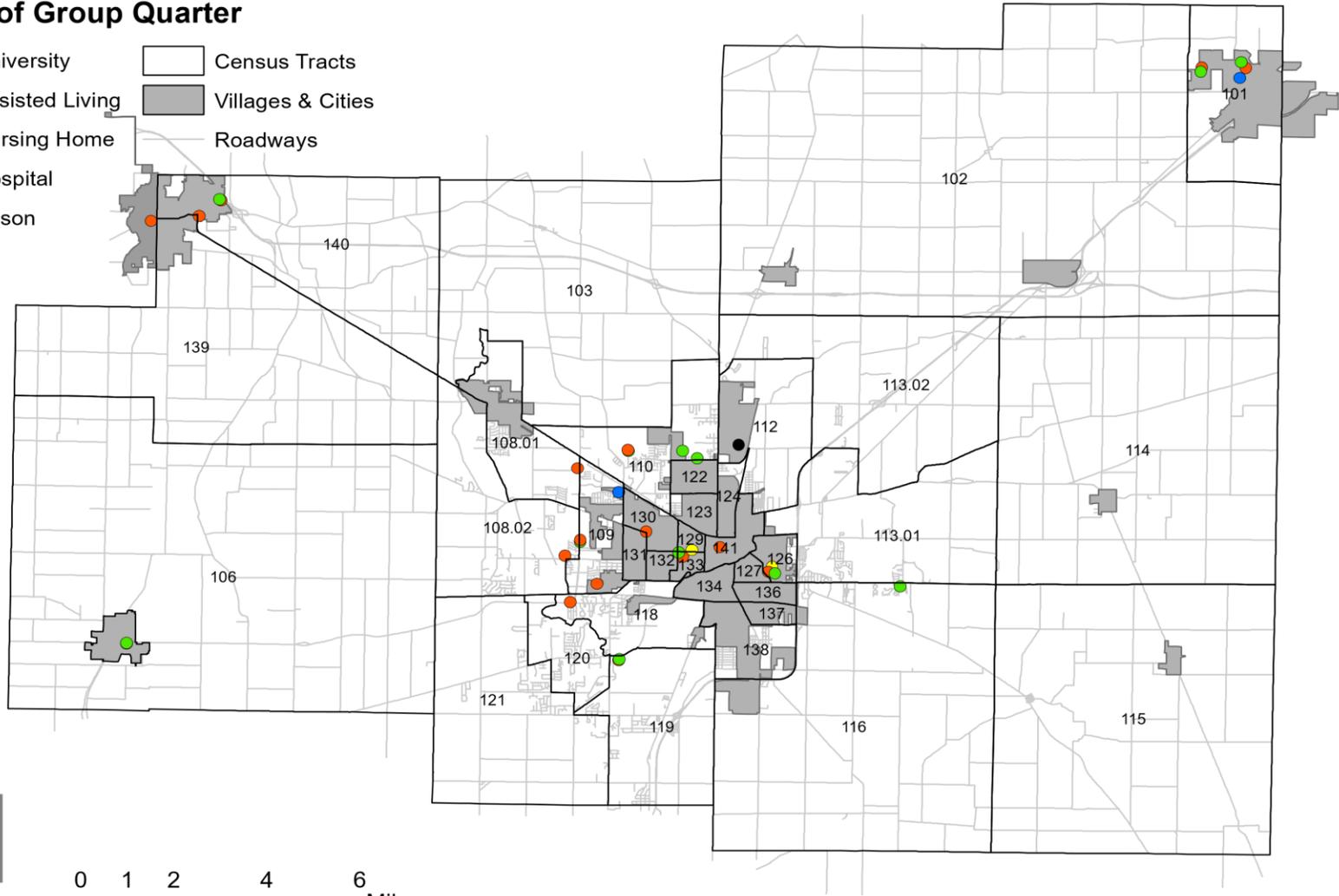
3 - 15

Map 3-6: Group Quarter Locations (2020)

Types of Group Quarter

- University
- Assisted Living
- Nursing Home
- Hospital
- Prison
- Census Tracts
- Villages & Cities
- Roadways

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April, 2022

0 1 2 4 6 Miles

3.4 Housing Rehabilitation Needs

Data that identifies the condition of housing or the extent to which housing rehabilitation needs exist do not exist at the County or political subdivision level of analysis. The lack of a countywide building code and the absence of any specific conditional assessment in the appraisal and re-appraisal process short of demolitions, prevent any such systematic assessment. However, for purposes of this report proxy indicators have been considered in establishing rehabilitation needs of the existing housing stock.

3.4.1 Essential Amenities

To provide additional insights into the condition and need for improved housing conditions, the extent of absent housing amenities is presented. The total number of units lacking complete kitchen facilities in 2020 totaled 501 units. The total number of units lacking complete plumbing facilities in 2020 totaled 162 units. Table 3-12 indicates the number of units lacking kitchen and plumbing facilities by political subdivision coupled with the number of those units built prior to 1940 which are presumed to need extensive rehabilitation as well as the number of vacant units to summarize the extent of rehabilitation needs in Allen County.

TABLE 3-12				
HOUSING STOCK PRESUMED TO NEED REHABILITATION (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Housing Units Built Pre-1940	Lack of Complete Kitchen Facilities	Lack of Complete Plumbing Facilities	Vacant Units
Allen County	10,852	501	162	4,101
Beaverdam	100	0	0	33
Bluffton	423	24	0	53
Cairo	108	0	0	13
Delphos	1,052	35	0	205
Elida	165	4	4	12
Harrod	58	0	0	10
Lafayette	88	0	2	31
Lima	5,893	268	93	2,218
Spencerville	287	0	0	97
Amanda Twp	186	14	14	25
American Twp	536	63	13	207
Auglaize Twp	274	0	0	57
Bath Twp	247	33	8	316
Jackson Twp	271	0	2	91
Marion Twp	1,064	27	0	179
Monroe Twp	291	0	0	20
Perry Twp	297	8	7	222
Richland Twp	916	24	0	110
Shawnee Twp	333	64	12	493
Spencer Twp	391	0	13	143
Sugar Creek Twp	153	0	0	20
Census DP04				

3.4.2 Lead-Based Paint

Lead-based paint was used in area housing until 1978. When chips of this paint are exposed, they may be ingested, or ground into dust which may be ingested or inhaled. HUD (US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development) estimates that 90 percent of pre-1940 housing units have lead-based paint, 80 percent of those units built between 1940 and 1959 have lead-based paint and 62

Given the age of the housing stock, vacancy rates and occupancy status, there may be exposure to lead hazard in some 6,395 units.

percent of housing built from 1960 to 1979 have lead-based paint. Given the age of the housing stock it would suggest that approximately 26,000 housing units in Allen County still contain lead-based paint. An estimate of the number of units

with lead-based paint in Allen County is provided by political subdivision in Table 3-13 (25,688 units). Of concern, the potential of lead paint exposure reflects 57.1 percent of all the housing stock in Allen County.

Political Subdivision	Pre-1940		1940 to 1959		1960 to 1979		Total Units w/ Lead Paint Exposure
	Built	Lead Paint Exposure	Built	Lead Paint Exposure	Built	Lead Paint Exposure	
Allen County	10,729	9,656	9,930	7,944	13,045	8,088	25,688
Beaverdam	84	76	31	25	59	37	137
Bluffton (Part)	564	508	348	278	338	210	996
Cairo	84	76	49	39	44	27	142
Delphos (Part)	1,050	945	714	571	734	455	1,971
Elida	126	113	157	126	79	49	288
Harrod	80	72	18	14	31	19	106
Lafayette	97	87	49	39	2	1	128
Lima	5,900	5,310	4,979	3,983	4,028	2,497	11,791
Spencerville	301	271	211	169	187	116	556
Amanda Twp	98	88	81	65	200	124	277
American Twp	313	282	730	584	2,572	1,595	2,460
Auglaize Twp	282	254	117	94	261	162	509
Bath Twp	325	293	752	602	1,439	892	1,786
Jackson Twp	119	107	67	54	281	174	335
Marion Twp	266	239	161	129	272	169	537
Monroe Twp	132	119	80	64	143	89	271
Perry Twp	320	288	361	289	320	198	775
Richland Twp	255	230	81	65	96	60	354
Shawnee Twp	375	338	1,172	938	2,204	1,366	2,642
Spencer Twp	177	159	28	22	40	25	207
Sugar Creek Twp	165	149	68	54	123	76	279

Estimates from HUD based on national surveys suggest that only a percentage of these approximately 26,000 units actually pose a lead hazard and are in need of lead abatement. HUD suggests that of those units built before 1940, 44.0 percent pose a hazard, with those built between 1940 and 1959 identified at a somewhat lesser rate at 18.0 percent of units, while the hazard of those built after 1960 thru 1979 is established at just 9.5 percent. Table 3-14 identifies the extent of a lead hazard in housing units by political subdivision by year of construction. (6,447 units)

HUD estimates suggest that low to moderate income (LMI) households occupy 44.5 percent of dwellings with lead hazards. The exposure to the Allen County population of LMI households reflects some 1,530-owner occupied and 920 renter occupied units. Table 3-15 reveals the lead hazard exposure to the LMI population in occupied housing units.

In order to address and minimize the potential negative impact of lead to human health the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Allen County Health Department (ACHD) commonly monitor and test school age children for lead poisoning. The ACHD also provides education to at-risk children. In 2020, 681 children under the age of 6 years were tested for elevated lead levels in their blood reflecting a sample of approximately 23 percent of all children under 6 years. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Allen County Health Department (ACHD) confirmed 14 cases of elevated blood levels for lead (>5ug/dL).

**TABLE 3-14
ESTIMATED EXPOSURE TO LEAD HAZARD BY YEAR OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION (2017)**

Political Subdivision	Pre-1940		1940 to 1959		1960 to 1979		Total Pre-1940 to 1979	
	Lead Paint Exposure	Hazard	Lead Paint Exposure	Hazard	Lead Paint Exposure	Hazard	Lead Paint Exposure	Hazard
Allen County	9,656	4,249	7,944	1,430	8,088	768	25,688	6,447
Beaverdam	76	33	25	4	37	3	137	41
Bluffton (Part)	508	223	278	50	210	20	996	293
Cairo	76	33	39	7	27	3	142	43
Delphos (Part)	945	416	571	103	455	43	1,971	562
Elida	113	50	126	23	49	5	288	77
Harrod	72	32	14	3	19	2	106	36
Lafayette	87	38	39	7	1	0	128	46
Lima	5,310	2,336	3,983	717	2,497	237	11,791	3,291
Spencerville	271	119	169	30	116	11	556	161
Amanda Twp	88	39	65	12	124	12	277	62
American Twp	282	124	584	105	1,595	151	2,460	381
Auglaize Twp	254	112	94	17	162	15	509	144
Bath Twp	293	129	602	108	892	85	1,786	322
Jackson Twp	107	47	54	10	174	17	335	73
Marion Twp	239	105	129	23	169	16	537	145
Monroe Twp	119	52	64	12	89	8	271	72
Perry Twp	288	127	289	52	198	19	775	198
Richland Twp	230	101	65	12	60	6	354	118
Shawnee Twp	338	149	938	169	1,366	130	2,642	447
Spencer Twp	159	70	22	4	25	2	207	76
Sugar Creek Twp	149	65	54	10	76	7	279	82

TABLE 3-15 ESTIMATED LEAD HAZARD AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS IN ALLEN COUNTY (2017)								
Year Built	Tenure	Total Occupied Units	PCT w/ Lead Paint	Number w/ Lead Paint	PCT w/ Hazard	Number w/ Hazard	PCT Units Occupied by LMI	LMI Units w/ Lead Hazard Exposure
Pre-1940	Owner	5,346	90.0%	4,811	44.0%	2,117	44.5%	942
	Renter	3,501	90.0%	3,151	44.0%	1,386	44.5%	617
1940 to 1959	Owner	6,017	80.0%	4,814	18.0%	866	44.5%	386
	Renter	3,027	80.0%	2,422	18.0%	436	44.5%	194
1960 to 1979	Owner	7,733	62.0%	4,794	9.5%	455	44.5%	203
	Renter	4,155	62.0%	2,576	9.5%	245	44.5%	109
Pre-1940 to 1979	Owner	19,096	75.5%	14,419	18.0%	3,439	44.5%	1,530
	Renter	10,683	76.3%	8,149	19.3%	2,067	44.5%	920
	Total	29,779	75.8%	22,568	25.0%	7,445	44.5%	3,313

3.5 Affordable Housing

Data in Section II identified the character and complexity of the local population, examining the community's demographics including household size, age, income and disability status in order to develop the background necessary to understand the community's housing needs. Earlier in this section, data was presented that establishes the parameters of the current housing stock in Allen County. However, the nature and scope of affordable housing remains to be addressed. The local demand for safe, appropriate and affordable housing is the focus of the remaining subsection. The extent to which affordable housing exists in a community can be assessed based on a number of factors. Census data allows us to examine housing affordability on a number of different measures, included within such baseline housing parameters as overcrowding, rental rates and ownership costs.

3.5.1 Overcrowding

Census data identifying the number of occupants per room is considered another measure of poverty that provides insights into housing affordability, for as the number of occupants rise over the threshold of 1.0 person per room, overcrowding is thought to be experienced. This measure helps identify the relationship between housing costs, size of units and size of household. Table 3-16 identifies the extent of overcrowding by degree and political subdivision for renter occupied units while Table 3-17 identifies the degree of overcrowding in owner occupied units by political subdivision.

Data suggests that in 2020, overcrowding was experienced in 217 rental units in Allen County representing 1.6 percent of the 13,652 occupied rental units. Almost 80 percent or 119 of the rental units experiencing overcrowding were found within the City of Lima. However, as so many rental units are located within the City (7,730), this represents only a small proportion as overcrowding was experienced in only 1.5 percent of all Lima's rental units. Data from the 2020 ACS suggests that less than 1 percent of owner-occupied units were found to be experiencing overcrowding in the County as a whole.

**TABLE 3-16
OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2020)**

Political Subdivision	Renter Occupied Units	1.00 or Less	PCT	1.01 to 1.50	PCT	1.51 or More	PCT	Over-crowded Units (>1.00)
Allen County	13,652	13,435	98.41%	123	0.90%	94	0.69%	1.59%
Beaverdam	43	43	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bluffton	464	464	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cairo	31	25	80.65%	0	0.00%	6	19.35%	19.35%
Delphos	1004	1004	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Elida	179	177	98.88%	0	0.00%	2	1.12%	1.12%
Harrod	88	88	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lafayette	66	66	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lima	7,730	7,558	97.77%	119	1.54%	53	0.69%	2.23%
Spencerville	357	341	95.52%	0	0.00%	16	4.48%	4.48%
Amanda Twp	49	49	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
American Twp	1,923	1,921	99.90%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Auglaize Twp	77	77	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bath Twp	545	528	96.88%	0	0.00%	17	3.12%	3.12%
Jackson Twp	33	33	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marion Twp	119	115	96.64%	4	3.36%	0	0.00%	3.36%
Monroe Twp	61	61	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Perry Twp	294	294	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Richland Twp	46	46	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Shawnee Twp	1007	1007	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Spencer Twp	17	17	100.00%	0	0.00%	16	94.12%	94.12%
Sugar Creek Twp	79	79	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Census B25014 ACS 2020								

**TABLE 3-17
OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2020)**

Political Subdivision	Owner Occupied Units	1.00 or Less	PCT	1.01 to 1.50	PCT	1.51 or More	PCT	Over-crowded Units (> 1.00)
Allen County	27,373	27,209	99.40%	128	0.47%	36	0.13%	0.60%
Beaverdam	134	134	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bluffton	1,073	1,073	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cairo	205	205	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Delphos	2,033	2,033	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Elida	617	617	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Harrod	100	100	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lafayette	87	87	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lima	6,696	6,633	99.06%	63	0.94%	0	0.00%	0.94%
Spencerville	493	493	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Amanda Twp	648	648	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
American Twp	3,606	3,606	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Auglaize Twp	755	755	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bath Twp	3,216	3,195	99.35%	21	0.65%	0	0.00%	0.65%
Jackson Twp	879	864	98.29%	15	1.71%	0	0.00%	1.71%
Marion Twp	1,010	172	17.03%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Monroe Twp	600	600	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Perry Twp	1,024	990	96.68%	10	0.98%	24	2.34%	3.32%
Richland Twp	695	695	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Shawnee Twp	3,806	3,786	99.47%	8	0.21%	12	0.32%	0.53%
Spencer Twp	297	297	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Sugar Creek Twp	358	347	96.93%	11	3.07%	0	0.00%	3.07%

Census B25014 ACS 2020

3.5.2 Housing Costs

The extent to which affordable housing can be secured in a community can be assessed based on the relationship between income and housing costs. Housing costs must therefore reflect mortgage payments or rental payments plus related costs including taxes, insurance, fees and utilities. Mortgage payments tend to reflect the value of owner-occupied units while rent tends to reflect the utility value of the unit as it varies by size, character, location and condition. Table 3-8 reveals the median value of owner-occupied units and the increased valuation experienced between 2010 and 2020 political subdivision. Table 3-18 reveals median rent by political subdivision and the percent change over the same 10-year period by political subdivision. The change in gross rent over this time period varied greatly throughout the political subdivisions. Sugar Creek Township saw the greatest increase in rent, experiencing a 32.9 percent increase while Auglaize Township saw its median gross rent decrease by 16.5 percent.

TABLE 3-18				
MEDIAN GROSS RENT (2010-2020)				
Political Subdivision	Median Gross Rent 2010	Median Gross Rent 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	\$663	\$722	59	8.90%
Beaverdam	\$729	\$829	100	13.72%
Bluffton	\$609	\$743	134	22.00%
Cairo	\$647	\$681	34	5.26%
Delphos	\$733	\$755	22	3.00%
Elida	\$769	\$839	70	9.10%
Harrod	\$688	\$615	-73	-10.61%
Lafayette	\$850	\$816	-34	-4.00%
Lima	\$626	\$687	61	9.74%
Spencerville	\$721	\$682	-39	-5.41%
Amanda Twp	\$884	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Twp	\$734	\$810	76	10.35%
Auglaize Twp	\$640	\$534	-106	-16.56%
Bath Twp	\$749	\$788	39	5.21%
Jackson Twp	\$728	\$760	32	4.40%
Marion Twp	\$688	\$698	10	1.45%
Monroe Twp	\$668	\$712	44	6.59%
Perry Twp	\$432	\$400	-32	-7.41%
Richland Twp	\$702	\$757	55	7.83%
Shawnee Twp	\$766	\$795	29	3.79%
Spencer Twp	\$707	\$669	-38	-5.37%
Sugar Creek Twp	\$774	\$1,029	255	32.95%
Census B25064 ACS 2020				

To examine affordability, the census looks at housing related costs including rent/mortgage, utilities, taxes, etc., and defines a housing burden when housing costs are greater than 30 percent of household income. The Census also differentiates such costs based on owner occupied and renter occupied. Table 3-19 reveals that the proportion of renters paying in excess of 30 percent of their household income increased by 8.9 percent between 2010 and 2020. As of 2020, 43 percent of all renter occupied housing units were costing more than 30 percent of said household's income. The same burden is also seen in owner occupied households as 14 percent of these households are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. The trend, however, for owner occupied households is declining as 37 percent less owner-occupied households faced this burden in 2020 than in 2010.

When reviewing the issue of affordability however, the obvious question is how much is too much and how much can you afford to pay? HUD and most state housing departments consider annual housing costs to be "affordable" if they do not exceed 30 percent of a family's annual income

(including utility payments). Geographic variations do exist and where you select to live has implications on housing costs (rent/mortgages) as costs are a product of the area's economy. In addition to the place (political subdivision, rural/urban), the unit type selected (apartment, house, etc.), the condition, amenities, and proximity to employment can all influence the housing costs for a given property.

TABLE 3-19								
OWNER/RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT COSTS GREATER THAN 30% OF INCOME (2010-2020)								
Political Subdivision	> 30% Owner Occupied Units				> 30% Renter Occupied Units			
	Units 2010	Units 2020	Change	PCT Change	Units 2010	Units 2020	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	6,216	3,931	-2,285	-36.8%	5,358	5,835	477	8.9%
Beaverdam	25	23	-2	-8.0%	14	27	13	92.9%
Bluffton	143	159	16	11.2%	130	360	230	176.9%
Cairo	30	36	6	20.0%	0	11	11	+
Delphos	156	269	113	72.4%	350	758	408	116.6%
Elida	138	138	0	0.0%	36	82	46	127.8%
Harrod	26	11	-15	-57.7%	4	6	2	50.0%
Lafayette	15	27	12	80.0%	8	2	-6	-75.0%
Lima	2,160	1,064	-1,096	-50.7%	3,344	3,743	399	11.9%
Spencerville	175	55	-120	-68.6%	77	255	178	231.2%
Amanda Twp	147	102	-45	-30.6%	0	0	0	N/A
American Twp	675	639	-36	-5.3%	676	889	213	31.5%
Auglaize Twp	153	109	-44	-28.8%	19	24	5	26.3%
Bath Twp	732	497	-235	-32.1%	331	204	-127	-38.4%
Jackson Twp	147	227	80	54.4%	31	20	-11	-35.5%
Marion Twp	175	205	30	17.1%	18	222	204	1133.3%
Monroe Twp	83	108	25	30.1%	11	30	19	172.7%
Perry Twp	331	141	-190	-57.4%	187	58	-129	-69.0%
Richland Twp	111	183	72	64.9%	0	238	238	+
Shawnee Twp	693	551	-142	-20.5%	119	227	108	90.8%
Spencer Twp	15	64	49	326.7%	0	160	160	+
Sugar Creek Twp	86	41	-45	-52.3%	3	20	17	566.7%

Census S2503 ACS 2020

Using ACS 2020 5-year estimates, Tables 3-20 and 3-21 identify the available housing stock for low to moderate income households by quantifying the units available at less than 30 percent of the median income by tenure and political subdivision. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) annually releases “*Out of Reach*” to identify across the 50 states the “Housing Wage” or wage one must earn in order to afford a modest

rental home by state.¹ Its latest report identifies the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Allen County, Ohio at \$767. In order to afford this level of rent (and utilities) – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – a household must earn \$30,680 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a “housing wage” of \$14.75 per hour. However, in Ohio the minimum wage is \$9.30 per hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 64 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or a household must include 1.6 minimum wage earners working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

TABLE 38				
AVAILABLE OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Units	30% Median	Unit Costs ≤ 30%	PCT Units Available
Allen County	27,373	\$19,423	23,262	84.98%
Beaverdam	134	\$22,607	119	88.81%
Bluffton	1,073	\$22,798	958	89.28%
Cairo	205	\$20,375	184	89.76%
Delphos	2,033	\$18,652	1,859	91.44%
Elida	617	\$24,069	530	85.90%
Harrod	100	\$21,375	94	94.00%
Lafayette	87	\$16,125	66	75.86%
Lima	6,696	\$14,101	5,560	83.03%
Spencerville	493	\$15,406	463	93.91%
Amanda Twp	648	\$26,550	546	84.26%
American Twp	4,223	\$19,836	3,519	83.33%
Auglaize Twp	855	\$20,599	746	87.25%
Bath Twp	3,216	\$19,952	2,709	84.24%
Jackson Twp	966	\$20,587	739	76.50%
Marion Twp	2,143	\$20,194	1,919	89.55%
Monroe Twp	805	\$20,109	697	86.58%
Perry Twp	1,024	\$20,022	883	86.23%
Richland Twp	1843	\$22,041	1,651	89.58%
Shawnee Twp	3,806	\$25,956	3,250	85.39%
Spencer Twp	790	\$16,688	726	91.90%
Sugar Creek Twp	358	\$23,120	317	88.55%
Census S2503 ACS 2020				

¹ <http://nihc.org/oor>

TABLE 3-21				
AVAILABLE RENTAL HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Units	30% Median Monthly	Unit Costs ≤ 30%	PCT Units Available
Allen County	13,652	\$774	6,981	51.14%
Beaverdam	43	N/A	22	51.16%
Bluffton	464	\$1,073	235	50.65%
Cairo	31	\$1,098	15	48.39%
Delphos	1,004	\$806	499	49.70%
Elida	179	\$1,093	88	49.16%
Harrod	38	\$1,313	20	52.63%
Lafayette	66	N/A	55	83.33%
Lima	7,730	\$671	3,724	48.18%
Spencerville	357	\$673	128	35.85%
Amanda Twp	49	\$1,105	34	69.39%
American Twp	2,102	\$805	963	45.81%
Auglaize Twp	115	\$1,186	68	59.13%
Bath Twp	545	\$1,061	329	60.37%
Jackson Twp	99	\$992	62	62.63%
Marion Twp	641	\$848	351	54.76%
Monroe Twp	92	\$1,264	52	56.52%
Perry Twp	294	N/A	230	78.23%
Richland Twp	525	\$1,169	271	51.62%
Shawnee Twp	1,007	\$1,467	696	69.12%
Spencer Twp	374	\$654	145	38.77%
Sugar Creek Twp	79	N/A	56	70.89%
Census S2503 ACS 2020				

In Allen County, the estimated hourly mean renter wage is \$15.24. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1 worker earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

Nearly 40% of Lima households and 25% of Allen County households earn less than \$25,000 annually.

Income data presented in Table 2-14 revealed that 34.6 percent of Lima households earned less than \$25,000 annually and nearly a quarter (23.0%) of those across Allen County fail to earn more than \$25,000 creating a squeeze on disposable income and housing affordability.

3.5.3 Utility Costs & Affordability

The “energy burden” of utility bills was examined by the Economic Opportunity Study in conjunction with Oak Ridge National Laboratories to assess the impact on discretionary spending and on household well-being.² The report suggested that heating and cooling together make up 50-60 percent of annual low-income consumer bills. The energy burden was determined to be the percent of annual income a household would spend to buy utilities and all other residential fuels. The report summary suggests numerous tools other than direct payment assistance can contribute to relieving energy burden the most efficient of which were: home energy efficiency investments, increased household income, and a lowering of energy prices. The "home energy affordability gap" was examined by state and county, estimating residential energy prices and home energy bills predicated upon:

The 2020 Home Energy Assistance Gap Ranking revealed an average gap of \$867 for Ohio low income households.

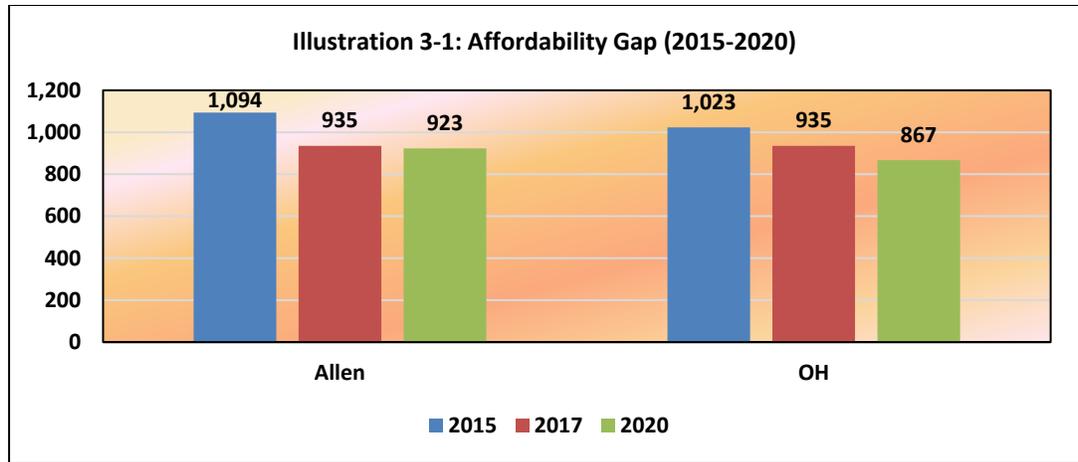
- Energy use intensities (by fuel)
- Tenure of household (by tenure)
- Housing unit size (by tenure)
- Household size (by tenure)
- Heating fuel mix (by tenure)
- Heating Degree Days and Cooling Degree Days

Home energy bills reflected all home energy end uses, including heating, cooling, lighting, electric appliances and hot water. Calculation of home energy bills also reflected main stream home heating fuels including natural gas, electricity, propane (LPG) and fuel oil. It also detailed the extent to which federal/state energy assistance programs are inadequate and the amount which low-income energy bills exceeded “affordable” energy bills capped at 6% of gross income.

The annual update to this study revealed an average gap in Allen County energy affordability of \$923 in 2020.³ For comparison purposes the gap in 2015 was \$1,094 and \$935 in 2017. Illustration 3-1 shows the affordability gap from 2015 to 2020 for both Allen County and Ohio.

² Economic Opportunity Studies, The Burden of FY 2008 Residential Energy Bills on Low-Income Consumers, March 2008.

³ http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a_affordabilityData.html



3.5.4 Homelessness

Once a year, for a twenty-four-hour period, volunteers, and people working with the homeless try to get an accurate count of how many people are truly homeless. In 2020 when the count was performed there were 118 counted. Of those counted 69 were in the various shelters in Allen County. The remaining 49 were either staying with friends/family, in a hotel room provided by someone else, in their car. Only three individuals were living on the street. Sheltered individuals are split at 54.62 percent male and 46.37 percent female. Family units account for 62.50 percent of the females while the majority (81.08%) of the sheltered males are individuals. Six of the sheltered and six of the unsheltered individuals stated that they were vets. Over half (51.69%) of the individuals counted were white, another third (35.59%) were Black or African American.

Allen County has nine emergency shelters, three serve women, (one serves women with or without children), one serves men twenty-one or older, one serves adult males and females and one serves families. The shelters together have enough beds to serve 110 individuals at one time. The shelters do what they can to meet the needs, but most of the time the shelters still have waiting list. Allen County also has two agencies that have transitional housing and can serve up to 48 individuals. Allen County also has several agencies that will pay the rent for someone to keep them from becoming homeless if that person/family can be sustainable in the future.

The Lima Allen County Housing Consortium through its Continuum of Care subcommittee engaged a core group of 16 local social service and government agencies representing education, mental health and social service worked to identify the extent and contributing factors to homelessness. Advocates identified the causes of homelessness in a 2007 publication entitled “Allen County: Blueprint to End Homelessness”. The Blueprint to End Homelessness was a 10-Year strategic plan designed to identify the extent and scope of homelessness and worked to identify resources, both financial and institutional as well as gaps in services in order to develop an effective continuum of care for the homelessness in Allen County.

The “Blueprint” Report found the community possessed limited resources for addressing the housing needs of the homeless. The Lima Rescue Home provides temporary lodging and meals for transient men while Lima’s Samaritan House provided shelter and meals for homeless women and children. Samaritan House also offers counseling services, job referrals, transportation and other services on a temporary basis for clients as

needed. Crossroads Crisis Center provides emergency housing and food for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault of women and their children. A critical gap that was identified in 2007 was the lack of available housing for intact families. From the need “Family Promise” developed and has worked with various community partners to help homeless families achieve and sustain independence by helping them gain employment and housing - providing food, shelter, and support services for homeless families; and providing advice and advocacy for at-risk families to prevent their becoming homeless.

A detailed listing of resources identified through surveys conducted by the Continuum of Care subcommittee is updated periodically to keep abreast of changes in the availability of services.

**SUMMARY TABLE 3-1
COMMUNITY HOUSING STOCK
ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS**

Census Tract	Housing Units	PCT Owner Occupied	PCT Vacant	PCT Mobile Homes	PCT Built Before 1940	Median Value	2020 Home Sales	Avg. Sale Price	PCT Fair Quality Housing	Median Rooms	PCT Pop in Group Quarters	PCT Housing Units w/ Lead Hazard	Owner-Occupied Units - Housing Costs < 30% Inc	Renter-Occupied Units - Housing Costs < 30% Inc
101	1,589	80.81%	7.99%	0.00%	32.70%	\$160,000	2	\$237,450	74.84%	6.4	16.12%	13.1%	19.4%	50.0%
102	1,560	87.44%	5.13%	0.45%	38.70%	\$129,500	4	\$51,811	59.86%	6.6	0.00%	19.2%	21.2%	32.3%
103	661	74.58%	7.56%	0.30%	30.10%	\$159,000	0	\$0	71.50%	7	0.00%	19.3%	25.4%	35.0%
106	2,037	70.59%	5.11%	2.50%	28.40%	\$158,300	5	\$138,800	63.43%	6.4	0.86%	17.6%	22.3%	47.2%
108.01	1,920	78.96%	4.64%	0.47%	12.90%	\$165,300	2	\$91,250	92.01%	6.3	0.00%		30.0%	33.7%
108.02	1,480	67.91%	4.66%	2.57%	0%	\$192,400	3	\$218,333	95.70%	6.8	0.00%		29.6%	48.9%
109	2,091	56.48%	6.79%	0.00%	4.90%	\$124,500	1	\$3,000	98.16%	6.1	5.04%	5.8%	17.2%	51.1%
110	2,706	41.13%	8.76%	0.00%	3.30%	\$113,800	0	\$0	84.52%	4.7	3.11%	5.0%	32.0%	57.4%
112	589	89.47%	10.19%	0.00%	10.40%	\$65,600	0	\$0	37.94%	5.7	53.22%	15.0%	53.7%	8.8%
113.01	2,051	87.32%	5.80%	1.51%	3.10%	\$135,900	1	\$100,000	94.01%	6	2.34%		25.6%	50.0%
113.02	1,075	73.12%	3.16%	2.33%	5.90%	\$163,800	2	\$30,000	86.21%	7.3	0.00%		29.9%	17.3%
114	1,286	75.12%	5.91%	0.70%	23.40%	\$148,300	7	\$65,573	65.23%	6.4	0.00%	14.3%	42.5%	24.4%
115	1,136	75.26%	7.75%	0.44%	26.70%	\$142,300	5	\$53,840	49.40%	6.3	0.00%	16.2%	25.4%	26.1%
116	1,211	71.76%	6.85%	1.73%	18.60%	\$150,500	3	\$205,000	52.33%	6	1.71%	11.1%	33.3%	20.6%
118	1,079	65.15%	7.51%	3.15%	10.20%	\$145,000	3	\$50,000	86.01%	6.4	0.57%	10.9%	29.3%	19.6%
119	1,398	68.03%	8.51%	1.57%	9.30%	\$104,000	1	\$55,000	80.20%	5.7	3.88%	9.7%	30.3%	32.0%
120	1,074	81.19%	6.70%	4.00%	3.50%	\$195,200	5	\$153,150	97.16%	7.5	0.04%	6.3%	28.8%	14.9%
121	1,350	67.93%	3.78%	0.00%	4.10%	\$172,300	2	\$50,500	90.55%	6.5	0.15%	8.6%	12.3%	23.3%
122	1,536	49.02%	4.10%	0.00%	3.20%	\$77,500	0	\$0	90.25%	5.1	0.00%	6.0%	10.5%	46.5%
123	1,654	63.24%	6.77%	1.69%	32.90%	\$64,200	0	\$0	74.37%	5.6	0.13%	24.0%	42.9%	52.0%
124	1,185	37.64%	11.81%	0.00%	52%	\$58,300	0	\$0	35.94%	5.3	0.00%	20.3%	57.7%	37.2%
126	777	47.49%	10.42%	0.00%	37.50%	\$64,400	0	\$0	38.12%	5.9	4.02%	18.5%	13.9%	31.2%
127	677	29.54%	18.17%	0.00%	73.70%	\$40,000	0	\$0	39.41%	5.9	0.00%	29.8%	73.5%	46.4%
129	705	40.14%	14.75%	0.00%	67.80%	\$46,900	0	\$0	74.13%	5.8	0.00%	25.8%	65.0%	74.5%
130	1,989	45.30%	10.96%	3.72%	22.20%	\$73,900	0	\$0	86.89%	5.4	4.24%	15.1%	42.0%	41.0%
131	1,096	77.46%	6.75%	2.92%	5.20%	\$99,300	0	\$0	94.99%	5.9	0.00%	13.8%	13.0%	54.7%
132	793	43.13%	6.81%	3.66%	59.50%	\$93,800	0	\$0	94.96%	6.5	0.60%	23.2%	20.0%	41.4%
133	569	25.48%	14.76%	0.00%	45.60%	\$69,100	0	\$0	68.90%	5.6	5.70%	27.5%	7.4%	30.7%
134	1,117	29.63%	12.98%	0.81%	51.50%	\$38,800	0	\$0	39.27%	5.5	0.42%	21.7%	60.9%	46.9%
136	515	34.76%	16.12%	5.05%	32.90%	\$31,800	0	\$0	10.76%	5.8	0.00%	28.0%	29.8%	76.4%
137	507	33.53%	14.00%	2.56%	62%	\$32,600	0	\$0	12.22%	5.6	0.00%	24.1%	20.1%	60.4%
138	1,265	34.15%	15.18%	1.66%	38.50%	\$55,900	1	\$900	21.35%	5.5	0.23%	17.9%	15.4%	43.4%
139	1,458	73.94%	6.79%	1.99%	27.90%	\$100,300	3	\$24,500	49.82%	6.3	0.24%	16.7%	20.7%	40.3%
140	1,379	77.23%	6.45%	0.00%	45.50%	\$139,900	1	\$110,000	64.54%	7.3	4.01%	17.3%	17.1%	35.2%
141	1,048	14.60%	20.52%	2.19%	65.30%	\$35,700	0	\$0	23.72%	4.3	7.32%	16.0%	108.8%	55.4%

SECTION 4 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Early in the election cycle of each presidential nomination since 1976 there have been broad discussions regarding the future of the nation's educational system and educational funding at the national and state levels. Most of the hot policy issues swing back and forth from liberal to conservative views and are recycled by the candidates on a regular basis. Consider President Jimmy Carter's (1977-1981) work to create the Department of Education (1979); or, President Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) who tried to abolish the Department of Education and return schools to local & state control; President George H. W. Bush, Sr. (1989-1993) promoted the testing of all students in 4th, 8th and 12th grades in his State of the Union Address in 1990; President Bill Clinton (1993-2001) campaigned on the adoption of school uniforms and promised to require teacher testing; President George W. Bush (2001-2009) signed the No Child Left behind Act in 2002; and, President Barack Obama (2009-2017) who signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA/2015) also advocated for Universal Pre-K and eliminating tuition at community colleges in his State of the Union Addresses in 2016 and 2015 respectively.

4.1 Local Education Policy Impact

Federal education policies have direct and indirect impacts at the state and local levels. The loss of federal funding, reimbursement rates, the availability of grants & loans, changes in testing requirements, reporting criteria, or graduation requirements all have implications for the students, families, teachers and tax payer. Every day discussions are taking place at the federal, state and local levels with more regularity as the cost, controls and content of our public educational system are called into question.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has advocated; modernizing technology in Ohio schools; reducing required testing and promoting more learning by reducing standardized testing; introducing modern technologies and more funding for vocational career and technical schools; creating public college tuition guarantees for each entering class so students will never pay more than they did their freshman year; developing wrap-around programming for Ohio students, and, support an overhaul of the child care system.^{7,8,9} At issue, however, is whether the Ohio General Assembly can do what Ohio's Supreme Court ordered done two decades ago: reform - not tweak - public school funding.^{10,11}

A bi-partisan bill introduced by Senators Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson), was approved in the summer of 2021. The 'Fair School Plan,' helps determine the best teacher-student ratio, provides technology devices for each student, provides \$422 per student living in poverty in state funding to local schools, increase funds for special education students, and provide funding for high quality preschool for all economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds.

Should the General Assembly and the Governor coalesce around a shared vision for child care the: eligibility level for publicly funded early childhood programs for working families would rise from 130 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent of the federal poverty level; number of

⁷ <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2019/03/gov-dewines-wraparound-services-funding-could-be-boost-to-cleveland-other-school-districts.html>

⁸ <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/April-1-2019/Ohio-Gov-Mike-DeWine-releases-RecoveryOhio-Adviso>

⁹ <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/ohio-governor-race-dewine-says-wants-make-these-changes-ohio-early-childhood-programs/j4S1MBMV39RvyXbfbVUDnL/>

¹⁰ <https://web.archive.org/web/20080507133032/http://www.rightforohio.com/derolph.php>

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph_v._State

families serviced thru home-visits would triple; public schools would be required to implement a prevention-based program to combat the current drug epidemic; and public schools would have access to mental health professionals.

Perhaps nothing is more controversial or is as important to parents as the education of their children. But families in Allen County are struggling. While national and state unemployment rates are experiencing record levels, Lima’s unemployment rate is hovering around 12.0 percent and its poverty rate is still at 25.8%. And nothing is more important to raising a child’s future earnings and quality of life than an education. Luckily, Allen County is the home of a good many quality schools and institutions that can help minimize the adverse impacts of poverty.

4.2 Post-Secondary Institutional Opportunities

Within Allen County are several post-secondary institutions including: Bluffton University, the University of Northwestern Ohio, the Ohio State University and Rhodes State College; and, within 20 miles are Ohio Northern University and Findlay University. These campuses coupled with the on-line degree programs that exist at a plethora of accredited institutions suggest that proximity to post-secondary education should not be an obstacle to attaining a college degree for Allen County residents.

However, college affordability still remains a crisis in Higher Education. Since 2010, Public and Private Tuition fees have increased by 15 and 13 percent respectively. A report from Sallie Mae revealed that fewer families are saving for college and those that are saving are saving less. The Sallie Mae report indicated that tax policies developed for families to save for future college expenses largely benefit upper income families. Not only do lower-income families get less help to save, but rules in public benefits programs can actually penalize families who do. Asset limits restrict the amount of money a household can have and be eligible to participate. The increased costs associated with a college education continue to rise even as a family’s ability to pay decline resulting in a major gap in the traditional forms of financial aid for post-secondary education. And unfortunately, this translates to a perception that college is inaccessible in the minds of parents/students who have the most to gain from that credential.¹²

The increased costs associated with a college education continue to rise even as a family’s ability to pay decline resulting in a major gap in the traditional forms of financial aid for post-secondary education.

Department of Education study found only 60% of all students who enroll in a 4-year university will have obtained a bachelor’s degree within 6 years.

Moreover, there are questions of accountability with various researchers suggesting that college graduation rates are unsatisfactory and costs are too high. In a recent study the U.S. Department of Education noted that only about 60 percent of all students who enroll in a 4-year university will have obtained

a bachelor’s degree within 6 years. Graduation rates are even lower at 2-year colleges with just 38 percent of students having obtained a certificate or associate’s degree in 3 years.¹³

In order to provide insights as to local post-secondary school programming baseline data for each of the public and private institutions in Allen County was obtained from the New American Foundation Federal Education Budget Project. Data relative to costs, federal financing, demographics, outcomes and financial aid outcomes are identified from the data source. Information relative to the institution’s academic courses is also provided to provide some insights as to the institutions philosophical leaning and applicability to future employment.

¹² https://www.salliemae.com/assets/core/how-America-Saves/HowAmericaSaves_Report2013.pdf

¹³ <https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport10/>

4.2.1 Bluffton University^{14,15}

Bluffton University is a Christian liberal arts college located in Bluffton, Ohio at the very northeastern edge of Allen County in close proximity to the City of Lima. The campus has ready access to the I-75 corridor and located approximately 15 miles north of the City of Lima. The university founded in 1899 is situated on a 234-acre campus and nature preserve. The university provides educational options from more than 86 undergraduate academic programs and 3 graduate programs that are nationally recognized for excellence. In 2016, U.S. News & World Report identified the University as one of America's top tier Midwest baccalaureate colleges; while the University was also cited in Barron's Best Buys in College Education in 2013.

Bluffton University has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Barron's as a Best Buy.

Total enrollment at Bluffton University was 751 undergraduate students and 63 graduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year; 693 or 85.1 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 52 percent of students were female, 8.8 percent were African American, 4.1 percent were Hispanic and 0.6 percent Asian. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total costs with room and board and fees at \$49,848. The average net price for low-income students was \$23,407.

The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 47 percent of total student enrollment. The percent of students receiving federal loans was 73 percent. The average Federal Loan volume received was \$7,225. The percent of Pell Grant recipients was 55 percent of the student body, with an average award of \$3,811. Recipients of Federal work study grants totaled 432; and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Recipients totaled 18. Probing graduation rates data revealed 67 percent of students graduate; but only 44 percent of students in a 4-year program.

Bluffton University holds a certificate of authorization from the Ohio Board of Regents to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science across over 90 academic majors, as well as a Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Organizational Management, and Master of Business Administration. Bluffton University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a member of the North Central Association, and the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities.

4.2.2 The Ohio State University – Lima Campus^{16,17}

The Ohio State University at Lima is one of 4 regional campuses and the Wooster Agricultural center serving the main campus of the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The local campus founded in 1960 on a 160+ acre tract of land is located just northeast of Lima. The University offers 1 associate degree and 13 bachelor degree programs with 2+2 programming supporting 200 plus majors at the Columbus campus. Total enrollment was 998 students in 2020; 800 or 80 percent of the students were full time students, there were 10 graduate students. Examining demographics 56 percent of

Ohio State - Lima offers 1 graduate degree, 10 4-year degree programs, and 2+2 programming supporting 160+ majors.

¹⁴ <http://www.bluffton.edu/>

¹⁵ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/301600>

¹⁶ <http://lima.osu.edu/>

¹⁷ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/309001>

students were female, 7 percent were African American, 1.9 percent were Asian and 4.4 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition and fees costs at \$8,550 (in-state).

The percent of Pell Grant recipients totaled 32 percent of the student enrollment with an average award of \$4,441. The percent of students receiving federal loans totaled 79 percent. Probing graduation rates data revealed 38 percent of students in a 4-year program graduate from OSU-Lima. This reflects the fact that many students transfer to the Columbus campus to finish their degrees.

Bachelor's degrees are conferred in 13 subject areas, including Biology, Business Management, Educations, Engineering Technology, History, Psychology, Social Work, Theatre, and Zoology.

4.2.3 The University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH)^{18,19}

The University of Northwestern Ohio is a private, not-for-profit, University founded in 1920. The campus is located northwest of the City of Lima. Total enrollment in 2020 was 3,655 students from all 40 states and 49 countries; 94.1 percent of the students were full time students, there are 86 graduate students. Examining demographics only 20 percent of students were female, 4 percent were African American and 3 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition and costs at \$23,600. The average net price for low-income students was \$14,822.

Military personnel and veterans who are in the College of Applied Technologies are entitled to a 10% tuition discount while attending UNOH.

The percent of students receiving federal loans totaled 70 percent of total student enrollment. The percent of Pell Grant recipients was 46 percent with an average award of \$5,382. Recipients of Federal work study grants totaled 123; and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Recipients totaled 1,140. Probing graduation rates data revealed 57 percent of students graduate; but only 40 percent of students in a 4-year program.

Within the university are five colleges: the College of Business, College of Applied Technologies, College of Health Professions, College of Occupational Professions, and the Graduate College. Online degrees are available for most areas of study. UNOH is a co-educational institution authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents and the Higher Learning Commission/North Central



Association to grant master's degrees, baccalaureate degrees and associate degrees. In the UNOH College of Applied Technology associate degrees in the following areas are available: Agricultural Equipment, Automotive & Diesel, High Performance. Technical certifications are available for: Agricultural Equipment, Automotive & Diesel, High Performance, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Refrigeration, High Performance Automotive and Commercial Driver License Certification (CDL).

¹⁸ <http://www.unoh.edu/>

¹⁹ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/486100>

Baccalaureate and associate degree programs in the College of Business include: Accounting, Forensic Accounting, Business Administration and Marketing. The College of Occupational Professions award associate degrees in the following areas: Agribusiness Marketing/Management Technology, IT - Computer Forensics, IT - Digital Multimedia Design, IT - Network Security, Legal Assisting, Office Management, Sport Marketing and Management and Travel and Hotel Management. Programmatic diplomas are issued for: Agribusiness Management, Executive Assistant, IT - Microsoft Networking Technology, Paralegal, Travel and Hospitality, and Word Processing; with certification programs in Microsoft Administration and Networking. In the College of Health Professions, a 4-yr degree in Health Care Administration is awarded. Associate degrees are available in Medical Assistant Technology and Medical Office Management with certifications provided in Medical Coding and Medical Transcriptionist. The degree of Master of Business Administration is also awarded by the University.

4.2.4 Rhodes State College^{20,21}

Rhodes State College is a public, 2-year state-assisted institution of higher learning which is chartered to provide degree granting career education programs, non-credit workforce development, and consulting for business and industry. The institution shares the grounds and facilities on the Ohio State Lima Campus located just northeast of the City of Lima. The college prepares students for entry into careers, develops the regional workforce through credit and non-credit occupational training, and offers curricular programs that prepare students for transfer for completion of baccalaureate programs at selected colleges and universities.



Data for Rhodes State was limited as it is a 2-year institution. Total enrollment was 3,324 students in 2020; 594 or 17.8 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 63 percent of students were female, 5 percent were African American and 1 percent were Hispanic. In-state tuition costs were \$5,045.

The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 53 percent of total student enrollment. The percent of Pell Grant recipients was 52 percent with an average award of \$3,909. Recipients of federal loans totaled 73 percent of the student body with an average loan of \$2,695. Recipients of Federal work study grants totaled 84; and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Recipients totaled 237. Graduation rates data revealed 54.1 percent of full-time students graduate.

²⁰ <http://www.rhodesstate.edu/>

²¹ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/1002700>

4.3 Non-Degree Granting - Primarily Post-Secondary Institutions

Allen County residents have ready access to 2 non-degree granting primarily post-secondary institutions. Vocational-oriented, these schools serve specific educational training necessary for state or journey-man licensures/certifications. The Apollo Career Center is multifaceted. The Ohio State Beauty Academy is largely restricted to cosmetology.

4.3.1 Apollo Career Center^{22,23}

The Apollo Career Center is located approximately 3 miles southeast of Lima on a 90+ acre campus off Shawnee Road between Breese and Reed roads in

Apollo typically serves some 4,000 adults annually across 11 full-time programs and 60 part-time training and special interest courses.

Shawnee Township. The vocational center provides skills training for the Lima area and those employers, residents and students in a 9-county service area. Apollo provides career development (full-time training programs), career enhancement (part-time classes to upgrade skills) and special interest classes. Apollo typically serves some 4,500 adults annually across 11 full-time programs in the Health Care, Manufacturing, Computer Technology, Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Construction, Truck Driving, and Early Childhood Education; and, some 60 part-time training and special interest courses. Apollo also provides career technical training to some 450 high school juniors and seniors each year. Local participating school districts include: Ada, Allen East, Bath, Bluffton, Columbus Grove, Elida, Hardin Northern, Perry, Shawnee, Spencerville, and Wapakoneta. Programs reflect concentrations in: Administrative and Medical Office Technology, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Automotive Collision Technology, Automotive Technology, Building Maintenance, Carpentry, Computer Information Support, Construction and Equipment Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Floral Design/Interiors, Health Careers, Hospitality Industry, Multimedia Technology, Print and Graphics, Spa and Esthetics Technology, Sports Fitness and Exercise Science, and Welding Fabrication.

Data for Apollo Career Center was limited as it is a non-degree granting institution. Total enrollment was 551 students in 2020; 104 or 18.9 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 64 percent of students were female, 15.2 percent were African American, 2.5 percent were Hispanic and 1 percent Asian. Average net price was \$10,728, while the average net price for low-income students was \$8,125.

The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 58 percent of total student enrollment. Some 172 students received Pell Grants with an average award of \$4,411. Recipients of federal loans totaled 10 percent of the student body with an average loan of \$6,111. Probing graduation rate data revealed 59 percent of students graduate.

²² <http://www.apollocareercenter.com/>

²³ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/2562300>

4.3.2 The Ohio State Beauty Academy^{24,25}

The Ohio State Beauty Academy is located just northwest of the City of Lima adjacent to the University of Northwestern Ohio campus. The Academy offers specialized training required in the field of cosmetology. The Beauty Academy provides courses in cosmetology, manicurist and cosmetology & management. Data for Ohio State Beauty Academy was limited as it is a non-degree granting institution. Total enrollment was 72 students in 2020; 100 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 84.7 percent of students were female, 11.3 percent were African American and 6.9 percent were Hispanic. Average net price after factoring in grants and loans was \$7,502.



The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 66 percent of total student enrollment with an average award of \$4,921. Data relative to graduation rates revealed 60 percent of students graduate. The Ohio State Beauty Academy is accredited by the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences (NACCAS) and licensed by the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology.

4.4 Local K-12 School Opportunities

Within Allen County are 57 schools serving grades kindergarten thru 12th grade. Of these schools – 41 are public schools, 3 are community schools and 13 are private schools. And while most recognize the status of public schools and private schools, given the changes in education and funding over the last decade it is not surprising to find hybrid schools in the form of community schools. Community schools are public, non-profit, non-sectarian schools operating independently of any school district, but under a contract with a sponsoring entity whose authority is established in statute or approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). While community schools receive state and federal funds, they are purposefully designed by statute to have greater operational autonomy and provide greater flexibility in programs. Flexibility provides community school administrators and teachers multiple paths to design unique curriculum and instruction models, and autonomy is the key element that allows these schools to operate in a structure and environment that can be more flexible and responsive than that of larger, traditional public-school districts. Of the 310 community schools operating in Ohio during the 2019-2020 school year, 3 were located in Allen County.²⁶ Of note is that the 13 K-12 private schools are not specifically included in this assessment due to data limitations and that further attempts to include these schools is warranted. The complete list of schools is found in Appendix C at the back of this Assessment, along with Summary Tables 4-1, 4-2 and 4-3 which provide data on school districts and students by census tracts and political subdivisions.

The 14 K-12 private schools are not specifically included in this assessment due to data limitations, however further attempts to include these schools is warranted.

²⁴ <http://www.ohiostatebeauty.com/about/>

²⁵ <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/1028000>

²⁶ <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/About/Annual-Reports/19-20-Community-Schools.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

4.5 Local School Districts

The public schools are served by 12 public school districts, spanning 5 counties. Their respective service areas within Allen County are mapped to provide geographic relevance to the data compiled for each (Map 4-1).

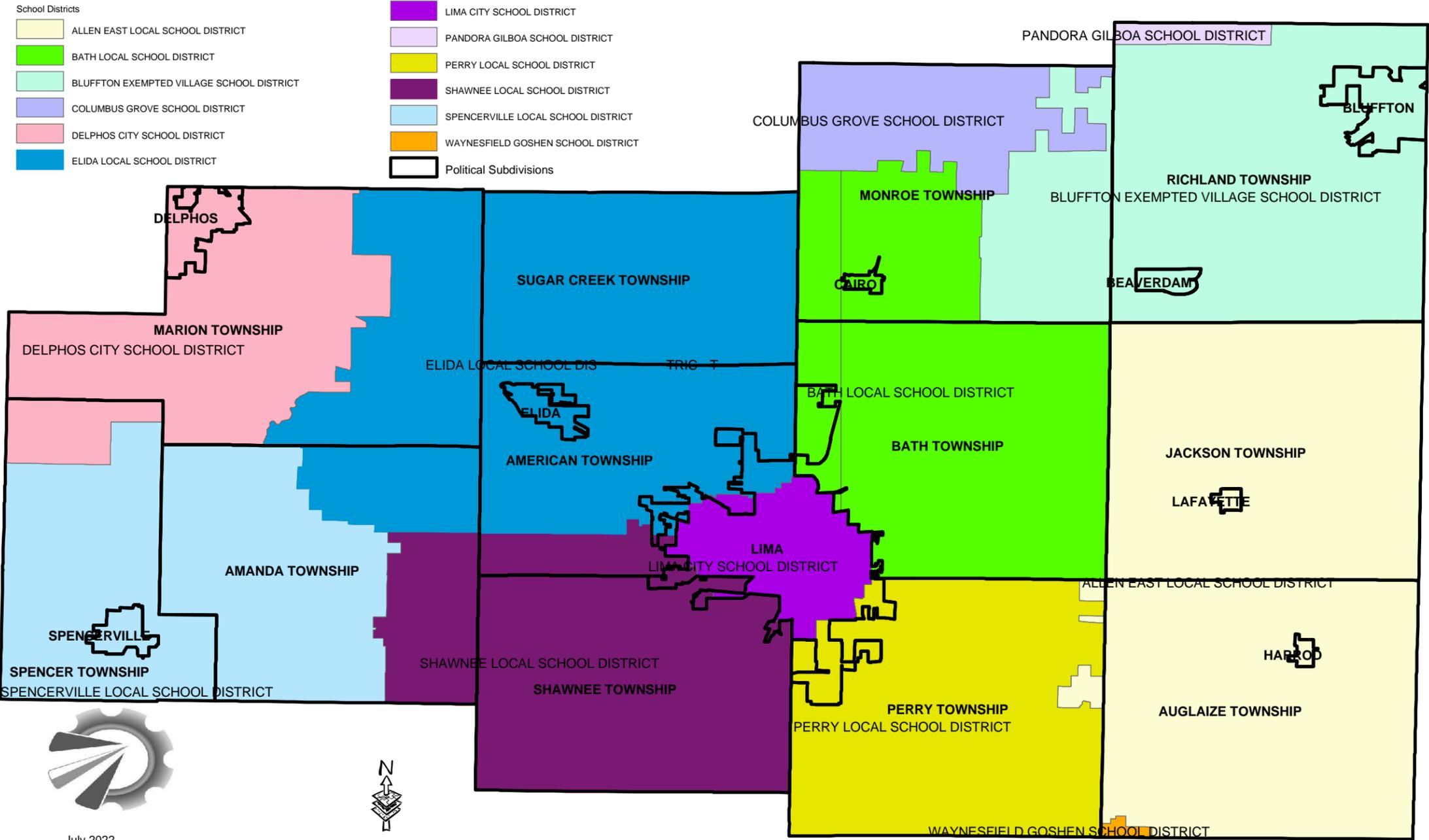
The Ohio Dept. of Education (ODE) classifies public school districts by typology for purposes based on a statistical analysis of shared demographic and geographic characteristics. In 2013, the department took advantage of new data and created a new typology for districts. The revised typology, which remains in effect for the 2020 school year, reflects four major groupings: Rural, Small Town, Urban and Suburban; two classifications based on poverty levels and student enrollment provide further differentiation and create a total of 8 typology classifications (Table 4-1).^{27,28} The new classifications were created to accommodate the outlying towns and county seats that share many characteristics of Urban districts despite their rural locations. The statistical method used to create the classifications is similar to the previous typology versions and is aligned to the “similar districts” used for comparisons on the Local Report Card presented by ODE.



²⁷ <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Typology-of-Ohio-School-Districts>

²⁸ - http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Data-Gallery/school_district_typology.pdf.aspx

Allen County Political Subdivisions & School Districts



July, 2022

The typologies of public-school districts serving Allen County students reflect all 4 major groupings. However, student enrollment and poverty indicators precluded the use of certain typologies: (1) Rural - High Student Poverty & Small Student Population; (6) Suburban - Very Low Student Poverty & Large Student Population; and, (8) - Urban - Very High Student Poverty & Very Large Student Population. Of interest is that student poverty rates varied widely between as well as within the various typologies. Total variance ranged from just 21 percent in Bluffton Exempted Village to 81 percent in Lima City Schools. And even within the same typology 2 - Rural - Average Student Poverty & Very Small Student Population poverty rates varied by a factor of 18.

TABLE 4-1 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - 2013 SCHOOL DISTRICT TYPOLOGIES		
Typology	Major Grouping	Full Descriptor
1	Rural	Rural - High Student Poverty & Small Student Population
2	Rural	Rural - Average Student Poverty & Very Small Student Population
3	Small Town	Small Town - Low Student Poverty & Small Student Population
4	Small Town	Small Town - High Student Poverty & Average Student Population Size
5	Suburban	Suburban - Low Student Poverty & Average Student Population Size
6	Suburban	Suburban - Very Low Student Poverty & Large Student Population
7	Urban	Urban - High Student Poverty & Average Student Population
8	Urban	Urban - Very High Student Poverty & Very Large Student Population

As suggested by the typologies, school districts varied by geographic size and location, performance metrics and student demographics. Type 2 and 3 school districts ranged in size between 582 and 1,111 students. Type 2 school districts (2) were the most varied while Type 3 schools were the most similar amongst typologies. Type 4 schools showed a greater range in size varying from roughly 832 to 2,464 students and significantly higher proportion of disadvantaged students. The lone Type 5 school district had the highest median income coupled with lower disadvantaged and minority populations than Types 4 and 7. Type 7 reflected the largest school district in terms of student enrollment with the lowest performance metrics and most challenging socio-economic factors. Student attendance was very similar across all typologies. Lowest ACT participation was correlated with those districts serving the most economically disadvantaged and having the highest minority concentrations. Table 4-2 reveals each of the public-school districts by current typology, performance metrics and student demographics. Map 4-1 reveals the service area of each school district relative to Allen County and census tracts of interest to the Assessment.

Lowest ACT participation was correlated with those districts serving the most economically disadvantaged and having the highest minority concentrations.

having the highest minority concentrations. Table 4-2 reveals each of the public-school districts by current typology, performance metrics and student demographics. Map 4-1 reveals the service area of each school district relative to Allen County and census tracts of interest to the Assessment.

4.6 Educational Performance

Predicated on ever increasing demands, the State of Ohio developed an accountability system to help evaluate the performance of both school districts and individual schools across the state. Each grade 3rd through 8th conducts achievement tests in both reading and mathematics, with 5th and 8th grades also administering a science test. Both 10th and 11th grades administer an Ohio Graduation Test that covers everything from writing to social studies. These achievement scores demonstrate a student’s level of proficiency at one point in time, the progress letter grade reflects how much progress the student body made since the last year. Graduation rate and attendance are also evaluated to make up as many as 26 separate

Each grade 3rd through 8th conducts achievement tests in both reading and mathematics, with 5th and 8th grades also administering a science test.

indicators schools are graded on annually. However, the state's education community experienced unprecedented disruptions during the end of the 2019-2020 and the whole of the 2020-2021 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, and in line with legislative action allowing schools to forego certain state tests, limited data is available for the above-mentioned academic years compared to prior years and there are no ratings in regards to certain metrics.

4.7 Federal Funding Streams

There is a wide array of local, state and federal funding dedicated and allocated to local educational agencies (LEAs). Based on the local demographics of interest in this assessment, we provide a summation at the school district level of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), especially part 619 B and the Federal school meals program.

4.7.1 Title I

Title I monies are allocated to those local educational agencies (LEAs) with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet the ever increasingly challenging state academic standards. Title I, provides financial grant assistance to LEAs based on the proportion of disadvantaged and minority students under basic, concentrated and targeted guidelines.²³

4.7.2 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

IDEA monies flow from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These Federal special education funds are distributed through state grant programs and several discretionary grant programs. Part B of the law, the main program, authorizes grants to state and local education agencies to offset part of the costs of the K-12 education needs of children with disabilities; it also authorizes preschool state grants. Part B, section 619 is targeted specifically at children aged 3 to 5. This program provides grants to states, to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities, ages 3 through 5 and, with a state's discretion, to include 2-year-olds with disabilities who will

This program provides grants to states, to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities, ages 3 through 5 and, with a state's discretion, to include 2-year-olds.

turn 3 during the school year. At their discretion, states may include preschool-age children who are experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the state and measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, that need special education and related services.^{24,25} Table 4-2 outlines the amounts each district

received per funding stream.

²³ <https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=1067>

²⁴ <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Whose-IDEA-Is-This-A-Parent-s-Guide-to-the-Individ>

²⁵ [http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/State-Performance-Plan/State-Advisory-Panel-for-Exceptional-Children-\(SAP](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/State-Performance-Plan/State-Advisory-Panel-for-Exceptional-Children-(SAP)

SUMMARY TABLE 4-2 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALLEN COUNTY - SCHOOL DISTRICTS						
School District	Typology	Enrollment	Per Pupil	Operating Budget (millions)	Title I	IDEA B
Allen East	2	1,060	\$7,029	\$10.86	\$119,348	\$219,397
Bath	4	1,889	\$7,223	\$17.63	\$268,809	\$358,689
Bluffton Exempted Village	3	1,103	\$7,072	\$11.33	\$82,615	\$210,248
Columbus Grove	2	897	\$8,458	\$9.32	\$89,112	\$193,725
Delphos City	3	1,111	\$8,005	\$9.31	\$186,345	\$342,345
Elida	4	2,464	\$7,834	\$23.23	\$583,218	\$559,405
Lima City	7	4,033	\$11,271	\$55.43	\$2,827,412	\$1,156,105
Pandora-Gilboa	2	543	\$9,989	\$7.48	39,663	\$103,151
Perry	4	832	\$8,744	\$8.68	\$187,107	\$949,857
Shawnee	5	2,527	\$7,956	\$25.32	\$243,650	\$490,975
Spencerville	2	950	\$7,896	\$10.50	144,528	\$207,335
Waynesfield-Goshen	2	582	\$10,580	\$7.55	67,046	\$91,761

4.7.3 Federal School Meals Program

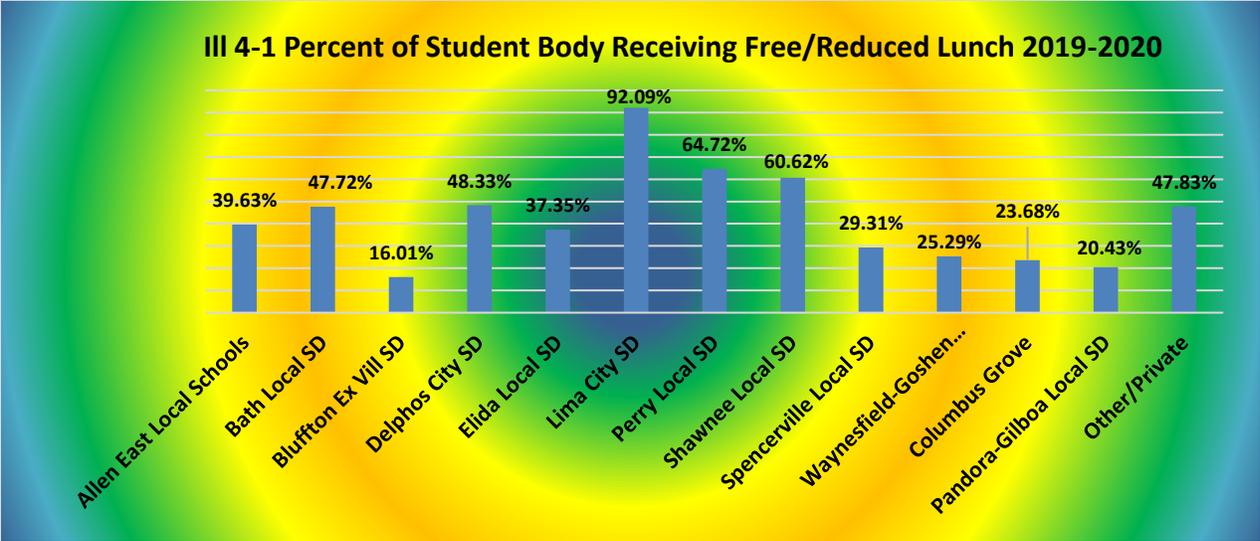
The Federal School Meals Program provides student lunches for free or at reduced prices based on household income levels established by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Household incomes below 130 percent of poverty receive free lunches; students with family incomes below 185 percent of poverty are eligible for reduced price lunches. Schools cannot charge children who receive reduced price lunches more than 40 cents per meal, but each local public school district sets the exact student contribution.^{26,27,28}

Due to the pandemic, in school year 2020-2021, the USDA approved districts and schools to provide free meals to students through the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option. The majority of the districts and schools did not participate in the National School Lunch Program and thus did not collect nor report October 2020 Free and Reduced data. Therefore 2019-2020 school year data is used here.

²⁶ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/slp>

²⁷ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm>

²⁸ <http://febp.newamerica.net/background-analysis/federal-school-nutrition-programs>



4.8 Early Childhood Education

During preschool and kindergarten years, children are developing many of the skills that help them read, write and speak with others. Most children are born with the potential to learn these skills, but many need instruction and guidance to fully develop the basics of reading to support the foundation for future educational endeavors.

The ODE developed an assessment tool, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) used by teachers to help assess early reading skills, social foundations, mathematics and motor skills in children entering kindergarten. This assessment is required of all public-school children in Ohio entering kindergarten for the first time. The assessment tests social foundations, mathematics, language and literacy, and motor development. Interpretation of children’s responses can provide direction for future educational support needed for children at all levels of learning. Children’s scores fall into three main categories; 1) Demonstrating Readiness (270-298) – These children demonstrated foundational skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio’s kindergarten standards, 2) Approaching Readiness (258 - 269) – These children demonstrated some of the foundational skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio’s kindergarten standards, and 3) Emerging Readiness (202 - 257) – These children demonstrated minimal skills and behaviors that prepare them for instruction based on Ohio’s kindergarten standards. The hope is that more students’ scores designate them as being prepared for kindergarten and the learning that comes with starting school. Tables 4-3 and 4-4 show the results of the KRA’s and the performance measures for the 2020-2021 School years.



Children’s KRA responses can provide direction for future educational support.

TABLE 4-3 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (2020/2021)				
District Name	KRA Avg. Score (202-298)	Demonstrating (270-298)	Approaching (258-269)	Emerging (202-257)
Allen East Local	265.6	35.1%	41.6%	23.4%
Bath Local	267.0	43.1%	37.4%	19.5%
Bluffton Exempted Village	272.2	58.2%	34.5%	7.3%
Delphos City	267.1	43.8%	32.9%	23.3%
Elida Local	263.6	28.3%	45.9%	25.8%
Lima City	267.4	41.3%	33.1%	25.7%
Perry Local (Allen)	261.7	26.1%	43.5%	30.4%
Shawnee Local	272.1	59.6%	29.8%	10.5%
Spencerville Local	271.3	53.5%	31.4%	15.1%
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	275.9	66.7%	26.7%	6.7%
Columbus Grove Local	262.4	26.4%	47.2%	26.4%
Pandora-Gilboa Local	273.3	78.4%	13.5%	8.1%

A separate analysis for this report found an association between the kindergarten assessment and 3rd-grade scores in reading and math on the Ohio Achievement Test (OAT). The analysis showed that schools districts with kindergartners who scored higher on the KRA/KRA-L tend to have 3rd-grade students who scored higher on the OAT. Because these results measure scores of different tests taken by separate cohorts of students, they are not evidence of a causal effect; they do, however, provide strong suggestive evidence that higher KRA/KRA-L scores among kindergartners may be carrying over to 3rd-grade test results.

TABLE 4-4 3RD GRADE PERFORMANCE MEASURES - STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENCY (2020/2021)			
District	3 rd Grade Enrollment	PCT Reading	PCT Math
Allen East Local	79	50.6	62.0
Bath Local	137	74.6	88.3
Bluffton Exempted Village	72	77.8	90.3
Delphos City	63	76.9	81.5
Elida Local	156	63.4	78.2
Lima City	244	37.2	50.2
Perry Local (Allen)	49	65.3	63.3
Shawnee Local	156	77.4	82.4
Spencerville Local	68	80.9	76.5
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	36	72.2	83.3
Columbus Grove Local	49	61.2	83.7
Pandora-Gilboa Local	34	83.3	52.8

4.8.1 Opportunities to Learn

As previously stated, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, educators were faced with unique challenges in the way instruction was delivered and presented to students. At the height of the pandemic, fully remote or hybrid options were offered to students. Schools needed to take into account each individual student’s “opportunity to learn.” The phrase “opportunity to learn” refers to a student’s ready access to regularly offered educational opportunities. Internet and technology device access, conditions of learning, and attendance and engagement policies – all of which provide important context for understanding student success. In some cases, students’ opportunity to learn was hampered in fully remote or hybrid educational delivery models if students lacked access to technology, including hardware, such as computers and smartphones, and high-speed internet.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ohio has been collecting information on technology access, connectivity and types of learning models to provide context around students’ opportunity to learn. Districts and schools made their



education delivery model decisions locally to best meet the needs of their students and communities, including opening their schools for full-time, in-person classes, offering a hybrid learning model or, in some cases, offering a model that was 100% remote during the 2020-2021 school year.³⁷ Table 4-5 provides data by school district that shows those enrolled in school that have access to the necessary tools to engage in fully remote or hybrid education delivery models.

³⁷https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Annual-Reports-and-Information/20-21_State_Report_Card.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US

See Appendix C for breakdown by Census Tract as well as access by household.

Table 4-5 "Opportunity to Learn" availability by School District 2020										
Grade Level										
School District	Enrolled in School	PreK-4th		5th-8th		9th-12th		Undergrad or Higher		Pct Enrolled w/access
		Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	
Allen East	1207	489	0	336	0	261	0	119	2	99.8%
Bath	2917	737	18	602	10	736	0	768	46	97.5%
Bluffton Exempted Village	1344	411	50	330	5	224	10	314	0	95.2%
Columbus Grove	991	446	0	165	0	229	0	143	8	99.2%
Delphos City	1739	504	45	289	9	510	0	361	21	95.7%
Elida	3951	1135	202	839	88	827	96	699	65	88.6%
Lima City	7303	2322	252	1563	119	1445	319	1182	101	89.2%
Pandora-Gilboa	792	357	0	223	0	128	0	84	0	100.0%
Perry Local	1037	296	0	302	0	125	0	314	0	100.0%
Shawnee	3966	1079	53	900	10	953	2	969	0	98.4%
Spencerville	1141	375	54	335	0	301	5	71	0	94.8%
Waynesfield-Goshen	915	255	11	116	9	382	9	133	0	96.8%

Census Table B28012 2020 ACS 5-year estimates

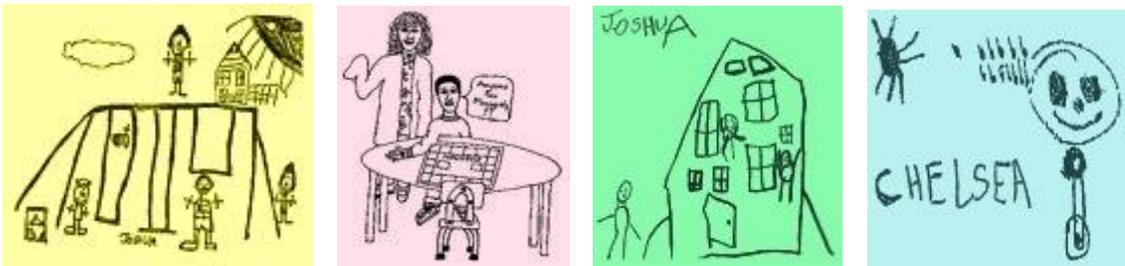
Tables 4-6 outlines the performance index and demographics by school district. (For prior year scores please see Appendix C)

TABLE 4-6 ALLEN COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE & DEMOGRAPHICS (2020/2021)											
District Name	2013 Typology	Enrollment	Attendance	Performance Metrics					Demographics		
				Performance Index	Pct HS Algebra I at/above Prof.	Pct HS English II at/above Prof.	5 Year Graduation Rates (2019 Grad Class)	% Taken ACT	Median Income	PCT Economically Disadvantaged Students	PCT Minority
Allen East	2	1,060	>95.0	85.9	73.2	66.3	94.2	91.5	\$34,093	32%	4%
Bath	4	1,889	>95.0	90.3	49	67.8	95.8	96.4	\$31,910	46%	9%
Bluffton Exempted Village	3	1,103	>95.0	95.5	75.3	80.6	96.9	98.6	\$35,332	21%	4%
Columbus Grove	2	897	>95.0	92.6	80.9	75.9	98.7	96.8	\$34,165	29%	8%
Delphos City	3	1,111	>95.0	94.8	77.8	77.8	87.7	91.8	\$29,977	43%	5%
Elida	4	2,464	>95.0	83.4	66.5	64.6	89.5	91.9	\$29,976	47%	21%
Lima City	7	4,033	92.7	59.6	26.6	43.8	75.8	73.3	\$20,747	81%	57%
Pandora-Gilboa	2	543	>95.0	96.9	82.1	68.4	97.7	93.5	\$34,344	24%	9%
Perry	4	832	>95.0	71.9	34	51.5	94.5	89.3	\$25,994	72%	33%
Shawnee	5	2,527	>95.0	92.3	64.3	82.8	93.9	95.9	\$37,198	29%	14%
Spencerville	2	950	>95.0	91.9	61.5	76.5	95.1	94.9	\$31,661	42%	6%
Waynesfield- Goshen	2	582	>95.0	84.1	55.3	74.2	88.1	90.2	\$33,219	26%	3%

4.9 Childcare & Education

Parents must often make a very difficult and important decision with whom to place the care of their child while they work or attend school. And childcare is expensive; the economics of childcare sometimes working against the best interest of the child. As a result, all too often child care is stigmatized under terms such as babysitting and daycare services. But childcare is a broad and important topic covering a wide spectrum of types and services from in-home, commercial, and institutional settings, either part-time or full-time, to various levels and intensities of programming inclusive of age-appropriate physical activities, social interactions, play activities and educational activities.

The majority of licensed childcare providers have extensive training in first aid and are CPR certified for both infants and children; certainly, commercial daycares are. In Ohio and Allen County, criminal background checks and physical examinations are also required for licensure by the state. The Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services (ODJFS) addresses child care licensures.



Parents may choose from several types of childcare providers including: Commercial and Institutional Child Care Centers, Type A Homes, Type B Homes, and Child Day camps.

- Commercial or institutional child care centers that serve 7 or more children of any age. Centers must be licensed by the State of Ohio. Commercial child care centers often referred to as daycares are open for set hours, and provide a standardized and regulated system of care for children.
- Type A Homes are classified as those that serve 7-12 children (or 4 to 12 children if 4 children are under 2 years of age) where care is made available in a providers personal residence. Type A family day care homes are licensed by the state.
- Type, B Homes are classified as those that serve 1-6 children cared for in the provider's personal residence when no more than 3 children are under 2 years of age. While anyone can operate a Type B Home without a license, homes must be certified by the county department of Job and Family Services if child care is paid for with public funds.
- Child Day Camp programming operates for less than 7 hours a day and only during the vacation of the public schools, care only for school-age children, and is at least 50 percent outdoor based. Child day camps must register with the state each year. If child care is paid for with public funds, the camp must also meet American Camping Association Accreditation standards, or be approved by ODJFS.

The ODJFS website provides information relative to all licensed childcare providers with respect to location, enrollment by capacity/age, accreditation/affiliation and inspection records. In Allen County there are 35 full-time commercial/institutional day care centers (ODJFS-Type 1 Providers) providing child care services including those provided by Head Start. While most day care centers are located in Lima, centers are also present in the Bluffton, Delphos, Elida, Harrod and Spencerville communities. Type A Homes (ODJFS-Type 4 Providers) are almost exclusively

restricted to Lima with a lone home located in the Village of Spencerville. Type B Homes are more difficult to document, because those serving 6 or less children and not accepting public funding for delivery of such care, are not required to secure licensure. There are however, 10 certified Type B- Homes in Allen County all located within the City of Lima. Map 4-2 reveals the locations of the daycare providers by type including Centers, and Type A Homes, Type B Homes, and Child Day Camps; also, identified are those centers where Head Start and Early Head Start Services are provided.

Educational programming, social interaction and staff expertise will vary greatly across childcare providers and parents are urged to consider the needs of the child when selecting a provider. Active well-adjusted children will thrive in educational activities supported by a quality childcare provider; positive outcomes reflect independence, academic achievement and socialization. Childcare centers that tend primarily for 3- and 4-year-old children are often considered pre-schools or pre-Kindergarten facilities. Quality educational programming can be based in a center, family child care home or a public school predicted upon the training and skills of the provider.

In Allen County, WOCAP provides Head Start as a federally funded program for low-income children ages 3 through 5 and their families. Similarly, Early Head Start serves low-income children birth to 3 years of age. Head Start programming has been developed and implemented to provide comprehensive child development services for low-income children and families. Such programming aims to advance school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

4.10 WOCAP's Head Start & Early Head Start Programming

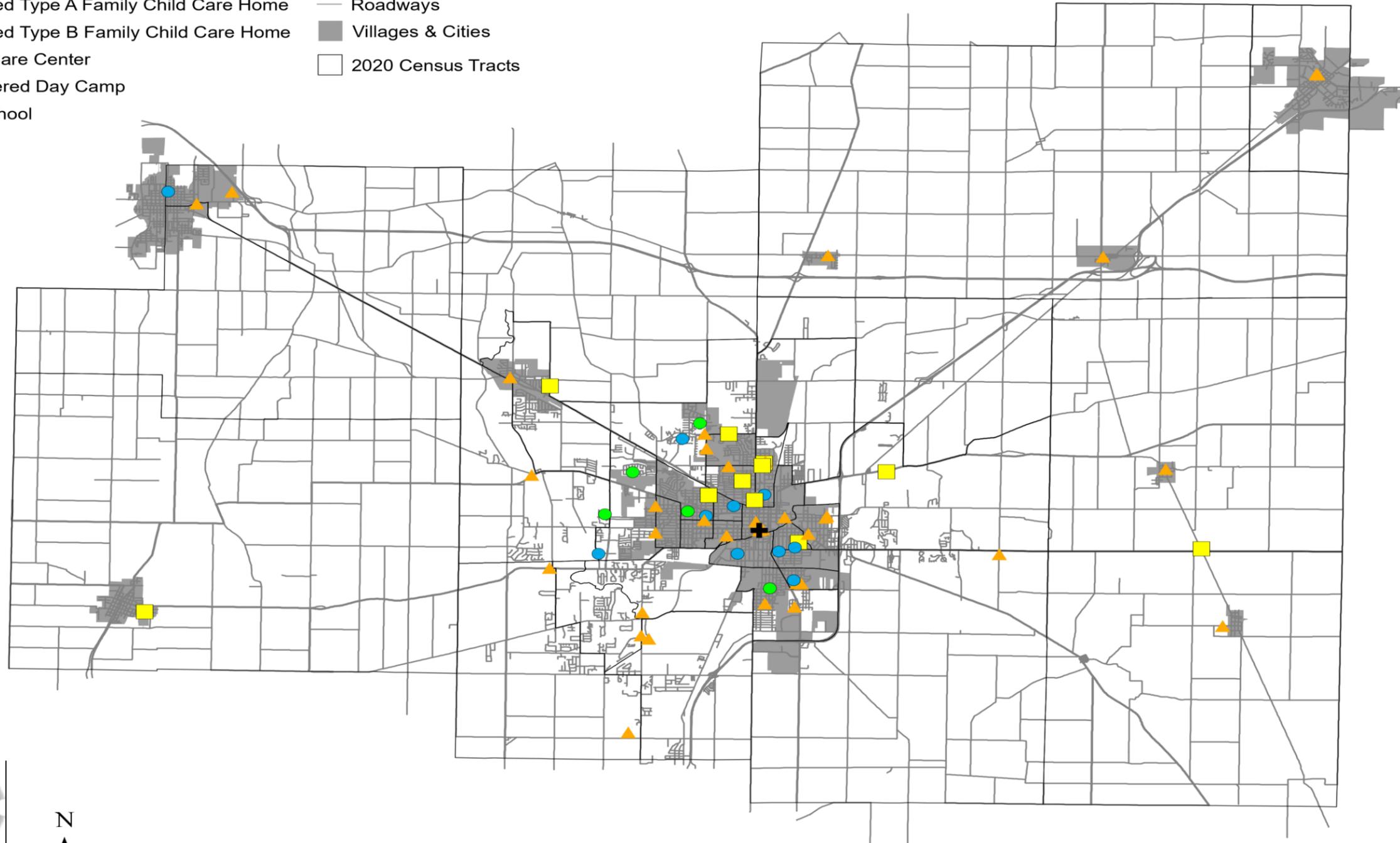
Study after study confirms what every elementary teacher knows: young children who experience secure, stimulating environments with rich learning opportunities from an early age are better prepared to thrive in school. And Head Start programming offers the opportunity to support the kind of early learning that prepares them for success in school — and works to alleviate disparities that could challenge them the rest of their lives. WOCAP's Policy Board, Administration, and staff are committed to closing the costly, unfair opportunity gap by delivering high-quality pre-school opportunities for every child placed in our care, and working to enhance early learning services for children from birth through age 5 years.



WOCAP contends that it provides a premiere quality child development program for income eligible children from birth till 5 years of age. Our Head Start program provides educational, medical, social service, and parent involvement opportunities for the families served and stresses positive attitudes, which are instrumental in developing individual abilities for those aged 3 to 5 years. Our Early Head Start programming is a federally funded community-based program for income eligible families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. We are proud and humbled to serve hundreds of Allen County children and their families each and every year. The location of WOCAP Head Start and Early Head Start facilities are presented in Map 4-2. Further information relative to Head Start/Early Head Start students and WOCAP's compliance with regulatory planning requirements established by Head Start are provided in Section VI.

Map 4-2: Allen County Childcare Providers (2020)

- Licensed Type A Family Child Care Home
- Licensed Type B Family Child Care Home
- ▲ Child Care Center
- ⊕ Registered Day Camp
- Pre-School
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- 2020 Census Tracts



2020

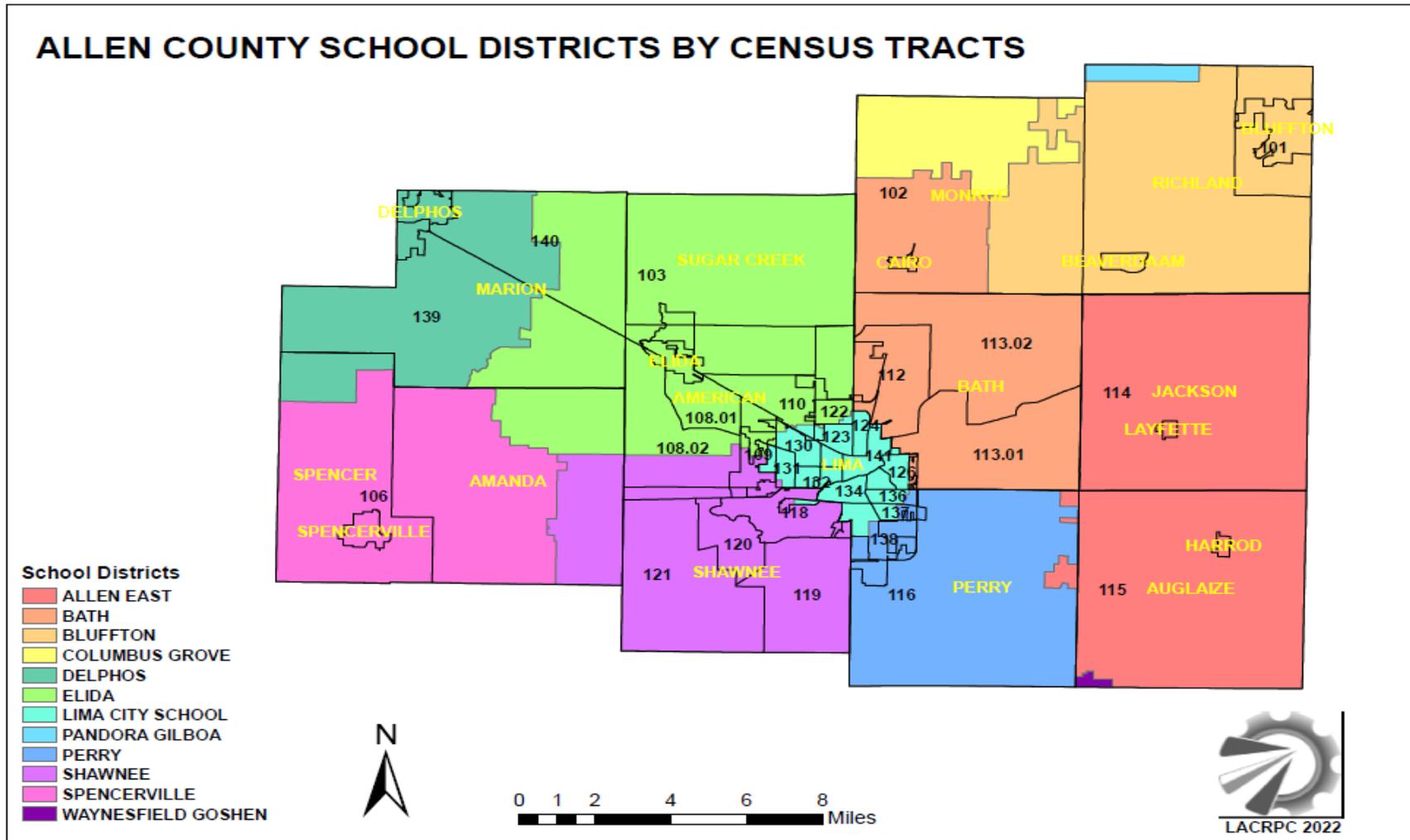


0 1 2 4 6 Miles

**SUMMARY TABLE 4-1
LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS**

Census Tract	% 3-4 Enrolled	% 15-17 Enrolled	% Enrolled in Private School	Childcare Centers	CCP/EHS/ HS Sites	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Post-Secondary
101	7.4	82.5	27.9	2	0	1	1	1	1
102	24.7	100	11.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
103	15.2	100	24.9	0	0	1	1	0	0
106	43.2	100	13.3	2	0	1	1	1	0
108.01	68.4	96.2	16.5	2	0	0	0	1	0
108.02	100	100	49.2	2	0	0	0	0	0
109	63.8	100	37.5	5	1	1	2	2	2
110	67.4	100	23	6	0	1	1	1	0
112	3.2	91.1	24.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
113.01	52.3	100	9.8	2	0	1	1	1	2
113.02	21.6	100	17.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
114	70	100	15.9	1	0	2	2	2	0
115	52.9	10	6.7	1	1	0	0	0	0
116	0	100	25.1	1	0	1	1	1	0
118	24.3	100	8.4	1	0	1	1	1	0
119	44.7	100	18	1	0	1	0	0	1
120	12.9	100	18.1	2	1	0	1	0	0
121	0	100	31.9	2	1	1	0	1	0
122	41.4	100	14.8	1	0	0	0	0	0
123	76.1	84.5	9.7	3	0	2	2	0	0
124	63.9	100	15	2	0	2	2	0	0
126	23	73	26.9	3	1	1	1	1	0
127	49.5	65.5	9.7	2	0	1	0	0	0
129	30.8	54.4	11.5	2	0	0	0	0	0
130	22	100	24.6	3	0	1	0	0	0
131	5.2	100	31.6	1	0	0	1	0	0
132	20.3	100	41.5	0	1	0	0	0	0
133	86.5	100	40.5	4	0	0	0	0	0
134	0	93	8.9	3	1	1	0	0	0
136	67.6	100	8.2	1	0	1	1	1	0
137	39.5	100	12.7	4	2	1	0	0	0
138	88.5	100	18.7	3	2	0	0	0	0
139	90.3	100	46.9	0	0	3	2	2	0
140	54.3	100	32.6	1	0	1	0	0	0
141	20.7	100	23.7	4	2	1	1	2	0

Map 4-3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY CENSUS TRACT AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION



**SECTION 5
HOUSING FORECLOSURES, VACANCIES, AND BLIGHT**

Local administrators have long been grappling with the quality and condition of the local housing stock and the problems associated with vacant homes. They are still trying to deal with the consequences of the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Government officials are struggling with a loss of property tax income, an erosion of values of homes near vacant and foreclosed structures, resident concerns over possible health and safety risks, and more complexities added to already complicated and challenging neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The deterrence of pollution, substance abuse, blight, crime and poverty are necessary candidates for policy decisions, infrastructure investments and public discourse; their collective impacts cannot be understated. This section looks to examine some of the health & safety challenges facing community leaders and local service providers today that include:

- Housing Foreclosures, Vacancies & Blight
- Criminal Activity, Impacts & Reintegration
- Alcohol Permits & Alcohol Consumption
- Food Outlets, Food Deserts & Limited Access to Healthy Foods
- Recreational Opportunities & Physical Exercise

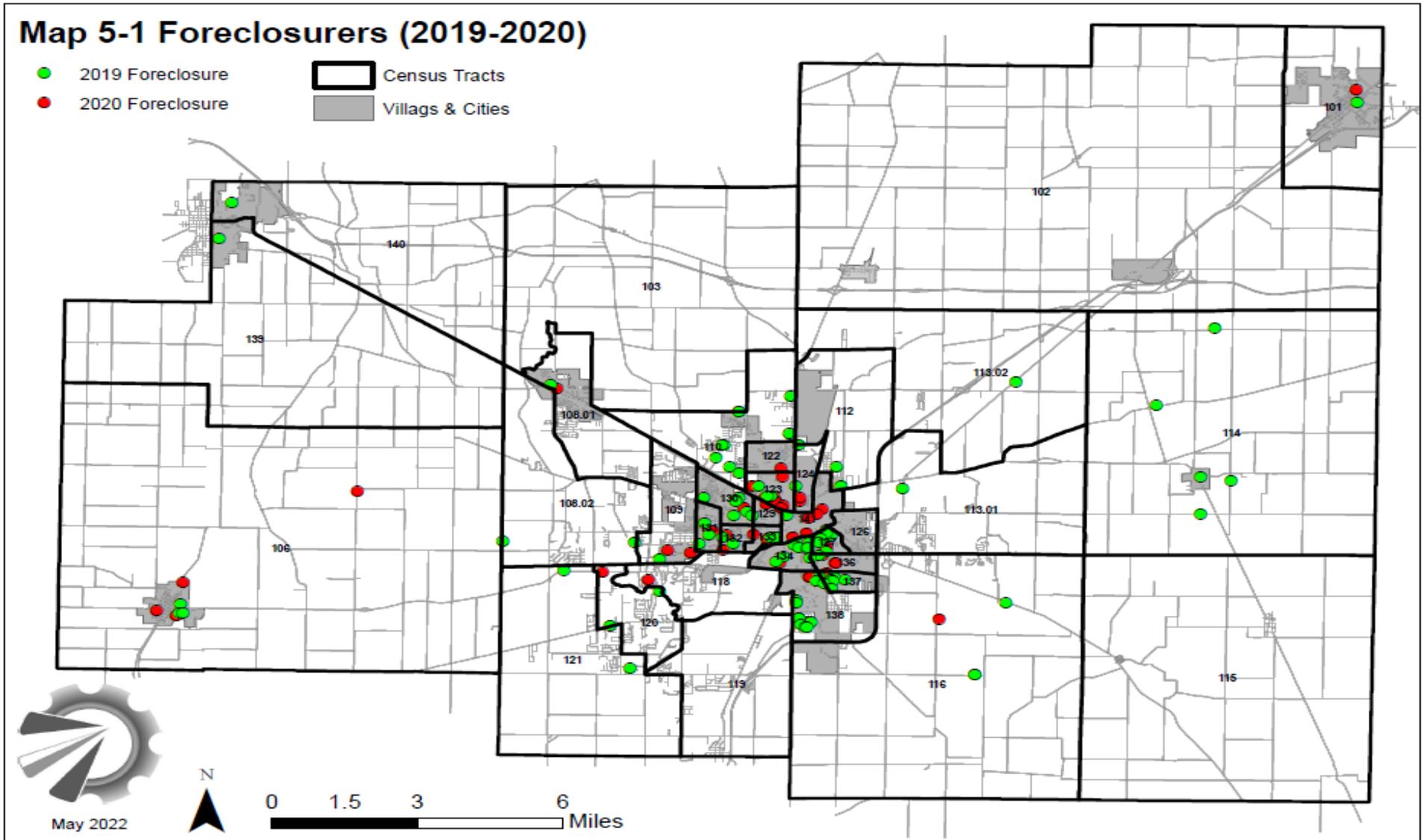
5.1 Housing Impacts

Section III highlighted the community housing stock at various geographies. The total units, age of units, and size of units were all addressed as were tenure, vacancy, quality and affordability. Section III also worked to establish the number of homes where the presence of lead posed a risk (estimated at 6,447 homes). What was not addressed was the overall impact of housing on the built environment and its implications for the social cohesiveness, criminality, and other health and safety issues across community.

Examining local data, shows that there were 865 foreclosures that occurred over between 2015 to 2020 period (Table 5-1). Map 5-1 reflects foreclosure activity across Allen County for the 2019 through 2020 period. Illustration 5-1 reflects the distribution of foreclosures by census tract each year since 2005. Data indicates that over half of the Allen County Foreclosures (51.9%) were located within the City of Lima.

Table 5-1 FORECLOSURES BY CENSUS TRACT (2015-2020)					
Tract:	Foreclosures	Tract:	Foreclosures	Tract:	Foreclosures
101	9	115	12	130	54
102	23	116	13	131	29
103	7	118	20	132	25
106	34	119	19	133	21
108.01	20	120	16	134	41
108.02	12	121	8	136	25
109	11	122	28	137	21
110	36	123	60	138	63
112	15	124	32	139	21
113.01	23	126	22	140	12
113.02	14	127	34	141	35
114	23	129	27		

Map 5-1 Foreclosures



Previous community reports have indicated “Predatory Lending” and the use of adjustable-rate mortgages with lower “teaser” rates, and “Sub-Prime Lending”, also called “B-Paper”, “Near Prime”, or “Second Chance” lending, as contributing to the number of foreclosures. Local data presented in Illustration 5-1 suggests that the number of foreclosures is dropping.



As documented in previous sections of this assessment, the community is witnessing a declining population, a shifting population, an aging population, a deteriorated housing stock, a flagging housing market, and some underperforming schools; all factors that make certain communities less than desirable places to live than others and all factors that contribute to vacancy and blight. Recently, continued foreclosures, stubborn unemployment rates and increasing mortgage rates have exacerbated the problem.

Criminal justice experts and child advocates agree that the impact of vacant and abandoned properties on kids is a real concern.

But the housing problems are hard to ignore. Data in Table 3-4 indicates that vacancy rates in Allen County declined by 5.0 percent between 2010 and 2020 and that 9.3 percent of all units in the City of Lima were vacant in 2020. The County Auditor data finds 30.5 percent of homes in a deteriorated condition (Table 3-7). And local housing realtors have suggested that abandonment reduced home values between 5.0 percent and as much as 20 percent in neighborhoods with the emptiest lots and structures.

The impact of vacant, abandoned and sometimes boarded up properties extends beyond economic loss. The quality of life in a neighborhood is impacted as neighbor’s hopes and optimism in their life investment dim as the sure signs of neglect and disinvestment appear in terms of empty, overgrown lots and abandoned houses. Not only do the neighborhood residents understand the signs, but so too do those in the larger community. This perhaps is the most damning of all because the restoration of neighborhood pride, civic engagement and attracting new investment opportunities wane and become ever more difficult to identify.¹

Criminal justice experts and early childhood educators suggest the impact of vacant and abandoned properties on children is a real concern and suggest that abandoned, foreclosed properties pose risk factors for crime, safety and health.

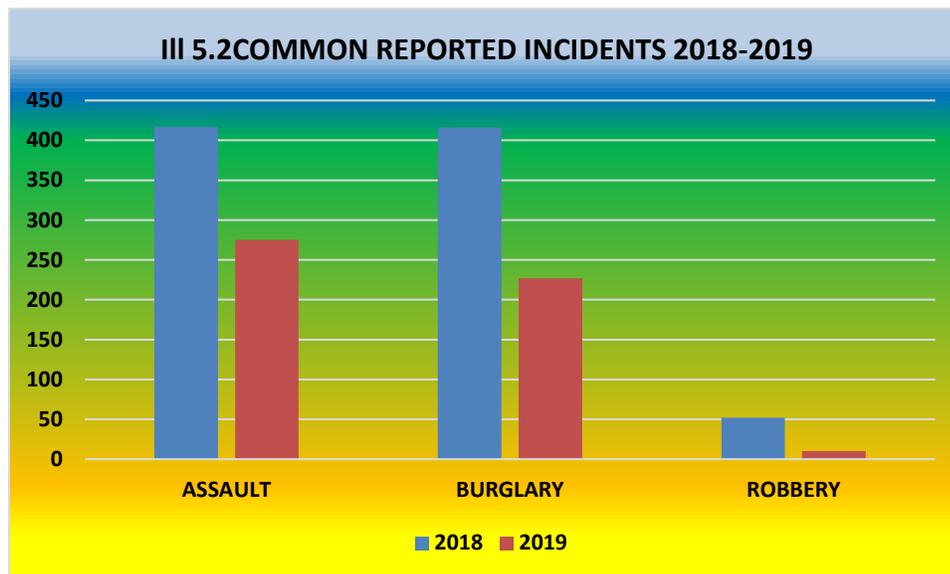
¹ http://www.popcenter.org/problems/pdfs/abandoned_buildings_and_lots.pdf

To what degree vacant property contributes to neighborhood disinvestment is unclear and studies point inconclusively to various issues including various housing maintenance/rental codes and models of law enforcement.²

From the perspective of neighborhood organizations and community activists resources need to be concentrated on comprehensive supportive services geared to mending the social fabric and improving the educational outcomes, improving the housing stock, health, and overall well-being of children who live there. Among the first orders of business is to identify safe routes for children – to walk to and from their schools without having to travel mean streets of empty lots and abandoned buildings.³ Some urban planners argue that within all this upheaval lies an opportunity to redesign certain neighborhoods in ways better suited to their declining populations, such as expanding narrow lots to accommodate fewer, but wider and more marketable tracts, and trading abandoned lots and buildings for greenways, community gardens, recreational space and other appealing features that might help stimulate local housing markets.

5.2 Criminal Activity, Impacts & Reintegration

The root of crime has been tied to everything from lead-based paint, poverty and absentee fathers to limited educational attainment and unemployment rates. And various researchers have held that in many urban centers high crime and violence rates are undermining growth, threatening human welfare, and impeding social development. The national FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) released for 2019 suggest violent crime has continued its downward trend across the last 20 years.⁴ Property crime also declined to hit a ten-year low. Comparing overall crime rates over a ten-year period shows a decrease from 2010-2020. 2010 had a total of 3,923 offenses. The amount of change of offenses from 2010-2020 is reported at 1,438 (a 36.66% decrease). Despite the positive trend, crime remains a serious problem in some urban pockets riddled with gangs, drugs, and poverty.



² <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/mortgage-fraud-and-vacant-property-crime>

³ Safe Routes to School, Implementing Safe Routes to School in Low Income Schools and Communities, 2010.

⁴ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>

Data made available by the Lima Police Department details the highest police incident call locations as illustrated in Map 5-2. These crimes are defined as offenses that involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator, including homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crime in Lima, represented as an annual rate per 100,000 residents, reached 477 in 2019 which is 1.8 times greater than the U.S. average. The 2019 Lima crime rate rose by 2% compared to 2018.⁵

Drawing on some of the performance measures/variables discussed in the immediately preceding subsection, Summary Table 5-3 is offered at the end of this section to provide insights on criminal activity and neighborhood housing variables. Whereby calls for service, arrests, and foreclosed properties are portrayed by census tract. Housing ratios are offered for purposes of comparison.

The CDC has documented that high levels of violent crime compromise physical safety and psychological well-being and tends to deter residents from pursuing healthy behaviors such as exercising outdoors. Additionally, exposure to crime and violence has been shown to increase stress, which can exacerbate hypertension and other stress-related disorders and may contribute to obesity. Exposure to chronic stress also contributes to the increased prevalence of certain illnesses such as upper respiratory illness and asthma in neighborhoods with high levels of violence.⁶

Housing and neighborhood activities have advocated for increased surveillance tools, neighborhood watch groups, community-oriented policing and zero tolerance programs;⁷ while social service and mental health professionals, as well as, jurists have argued for drug courts and family treatment outreach and counseling/facilities designed to address the root of most violent crime, drug addiction and mental health issues.

Related to crime and criminal activities are local attempts to accommodate the reintegration of non-violent ex-offenders. The community is struggling with efforts to find employment and training opportunities that incorporate the mentoring, job training, and other comprehensive transitional services necessary to reduce recidivism. Some criminal justice and mental health advocates suggest working within faith-based organizations to provide mentoring and the soft-skills and training necessary to make a successful transition.⁸ Others argue that services need to include technical training for occupational skills typically available at community colleges and technical schools. Still others suggest changes in the legal system wherein convictions for minor drug offenses are not classified as felonies that typically preclude ex-offenders from most living wage employment opportunities.⁹ Yet most will agree that the way to eliminate criminal activity is to encourage community-wide approaches that work to eliminate drugs, eradicate gangs, heighten educational standards and educational attainment levels and provide living wage employment opportunities. Of concern to community leaders and local service agencies is the impact of incarceration on parent-child relationships, childhood development, and families. Considering the challenges faced by children with incarcerated parents, local agencies contend that the community must offer multiple services and programs to help children, their families, and prisoners cope with their experiences.

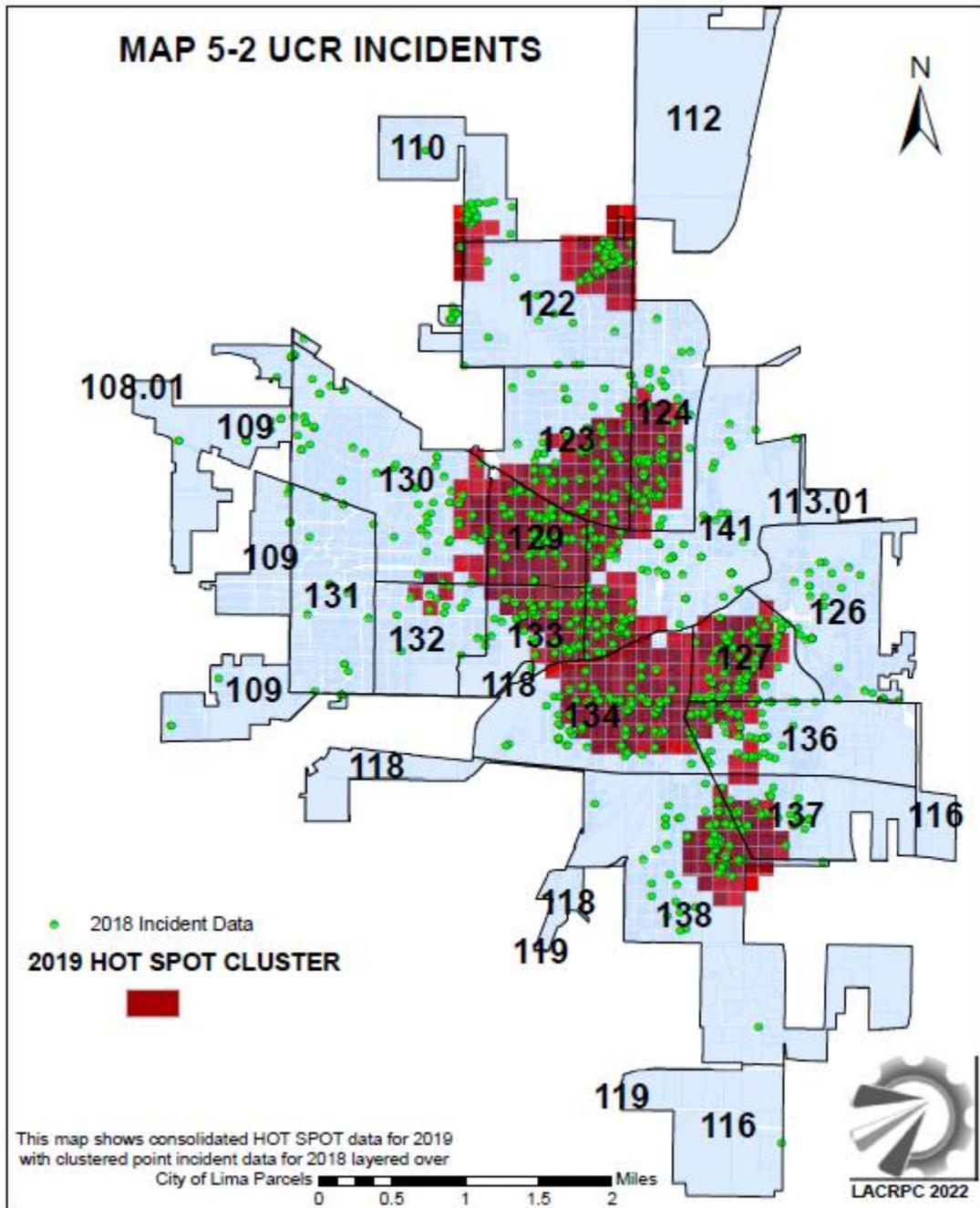
6 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s_cid=rr5807a1_e

7 Community Oriented Policing and Community-Based Crime Reduction Programs: An Evaluation in New York City; Anthony L. Sciarabba. *Professional Issues in Criminal Justice* (2009) vol. 4(2) pp 27-41.

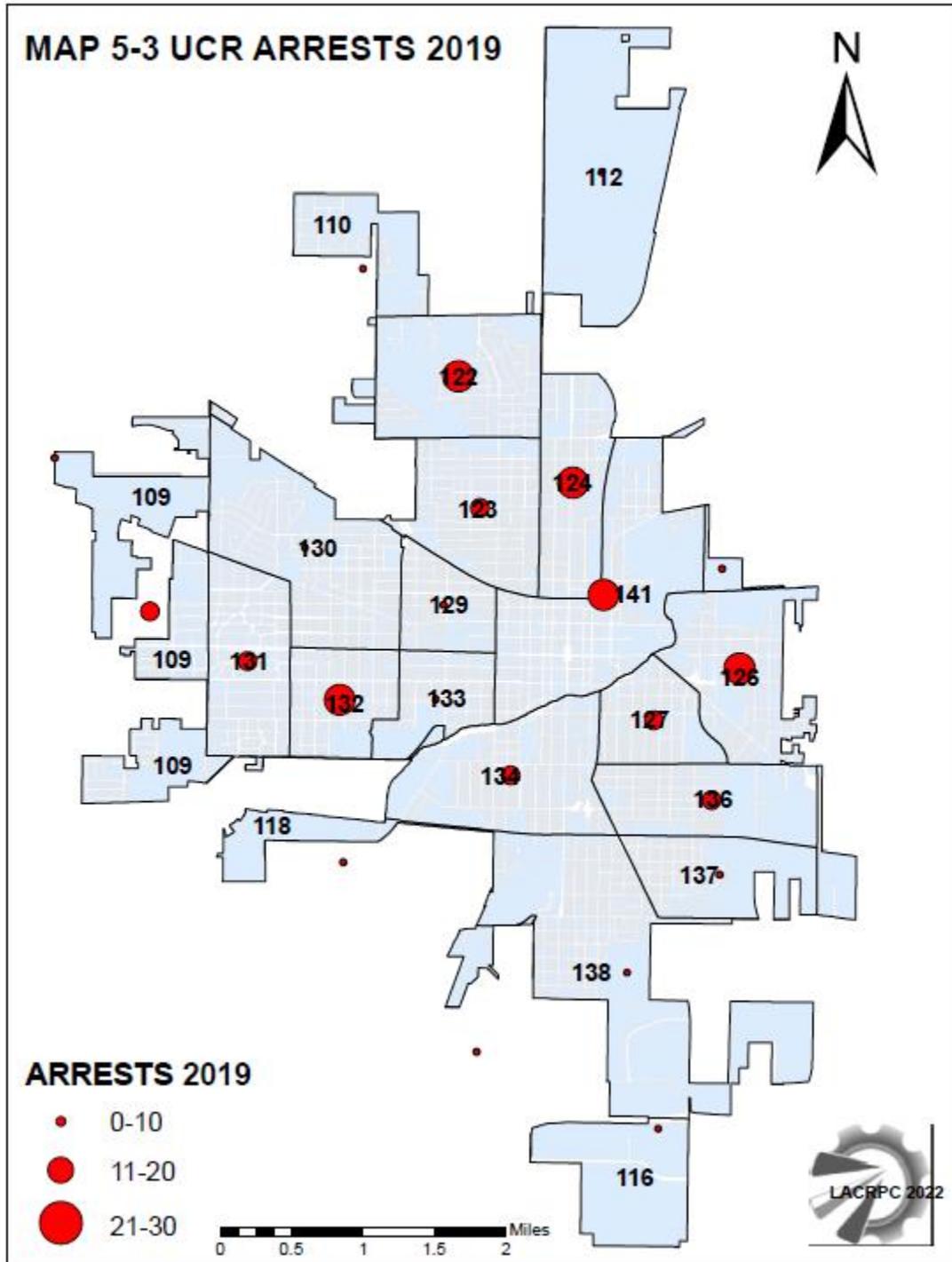
8 Community Policing or Zero Tolerance: Preferences of Police Officers from 22 Countries in Transition; Cynthia Lum. *British Journal of Criminology* (2009) vol. 49 (6): pp 788-809.

9 <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/205621.pdf>

Map 5-2 UCR Incidents



Map 5-3 Arrests



5.3

Alcohol Permits & Alcohol Consumption

In many older urban centers one can readily find neighborhood bars/eateries on adjacent corners with a regular following. More recently, adult entertainment districts are the rage in urban centers complete with a wide array of venues touting upscale and/or ethnic cuisines, musical options to taste, and theatre - all served up with alcoholic beverages. But, research continues to find that areas with higher alcohol establishment density are more likely to experience higher violent and non-violent crime rates regardless of on premise establishments (e.g. bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants) or off premises establishments (e.g., liquor and convenience stores). Moreover, some studies have found that increasing the distance of off-premise alcohol outlets to home tends to decrease excessive consumption. The CDC reports there are approximately 88,000 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use each year in the United States. This makes alcohol use the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death for the nation. Excessive alcohol use is responsible for 2.5 million years of potential life lost (YPLL) annually, or an average of about 30 years of potential life lost for each death.¹⁰

Excessive alcohol consumption is the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the nation.

Alcohol outlets in Allen County totaled 545 in 2020, or approximately 5 for every 1,000 residents, or 7 per 1,000 adults over 21 years of age.

The number of alcohol outlets in Allen County totaled 545 in 2020, or approximately 5 for every 1,000 residents, or 7 per every 1,000 adults over 21 years of age. The majority of alcohol outlets are found in Central Business Districts. Map 5-4 reveals alcohol sales permits by site and census tract. Of some interest is the number of calls for police and the number of alcohol permits by census tract. Raw data indicates a correlation between law enforcement activities and alcohol permits in within certain census tracts. Map 5-5 identifies the location of alcohol involved motor vehicle crashes across Allen County.

The rate of binge drinking in Allen County is lower than the State average.

In a 2020 health assessment of Allen County, 17 percent of those residents 18 years of age or older reported engaging in binge drinking or excessive drinking on a regular basis.¹¹ The rate has stayed steady since 2012 and is 3 percent lower than the state average (20%). Excessive drinking is a risk factor for a number of adverse health outcomes such as alcohol poisoning, hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, family problems, sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, depression, suicide, inter-personal violence, unemployment, and motor vehicle crashes.¹²

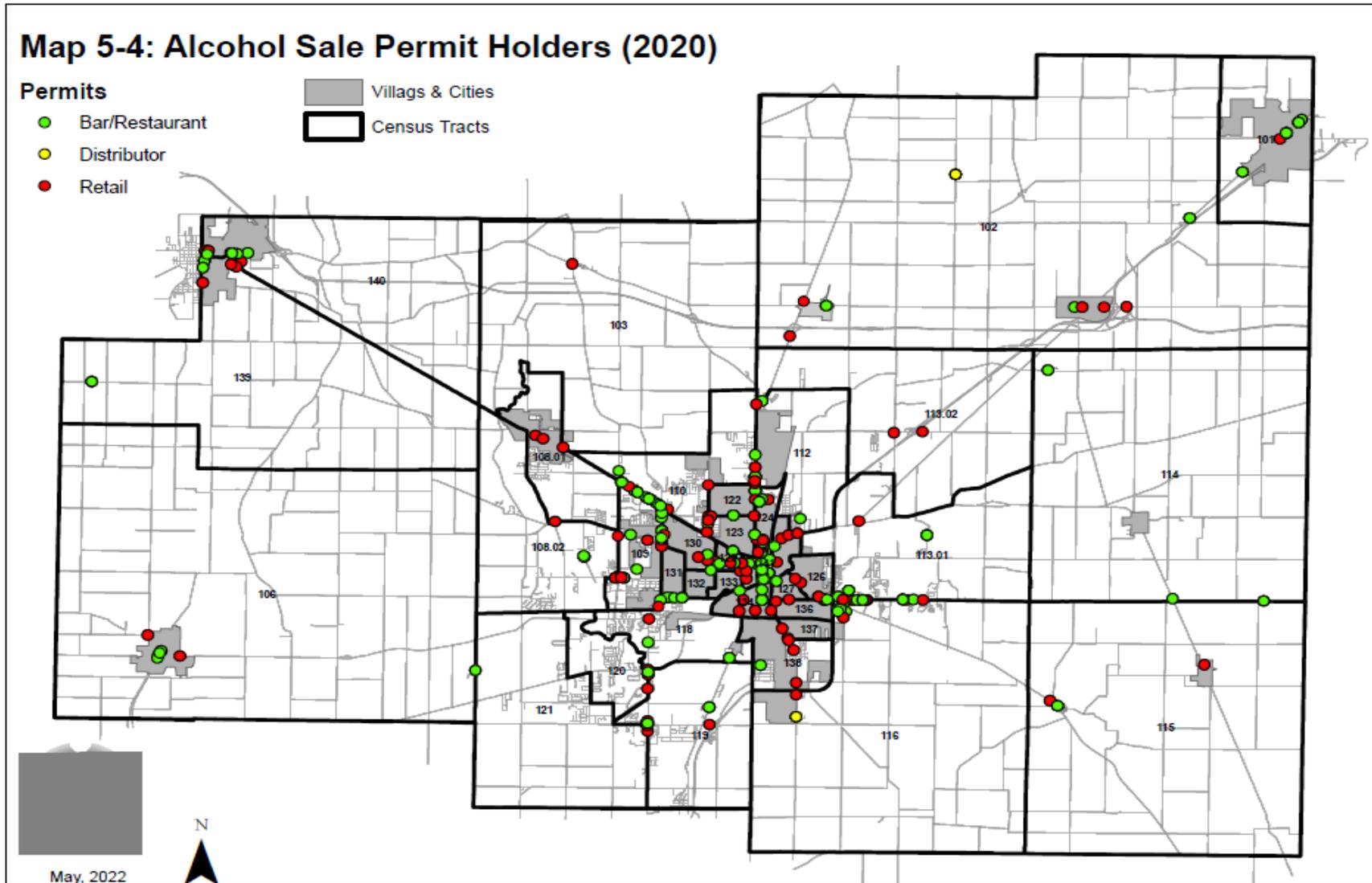
Health and safety advocates, including law enforcement, argue for lowering the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits for drivers' as well as multi-component interventions across a broad-based coalition, including such efforts as sobriety checkpoints, training in responsible beverage service, education and mass media public awareness campaigns, as well as, vigorous enforcement of existing underage consumption laws and minimum legal drinking age, inclusive of retailer compliance checks.

¹⁰ <https://www.ncadd.org/about-addiction/alcohol/facts-about-alcohol>

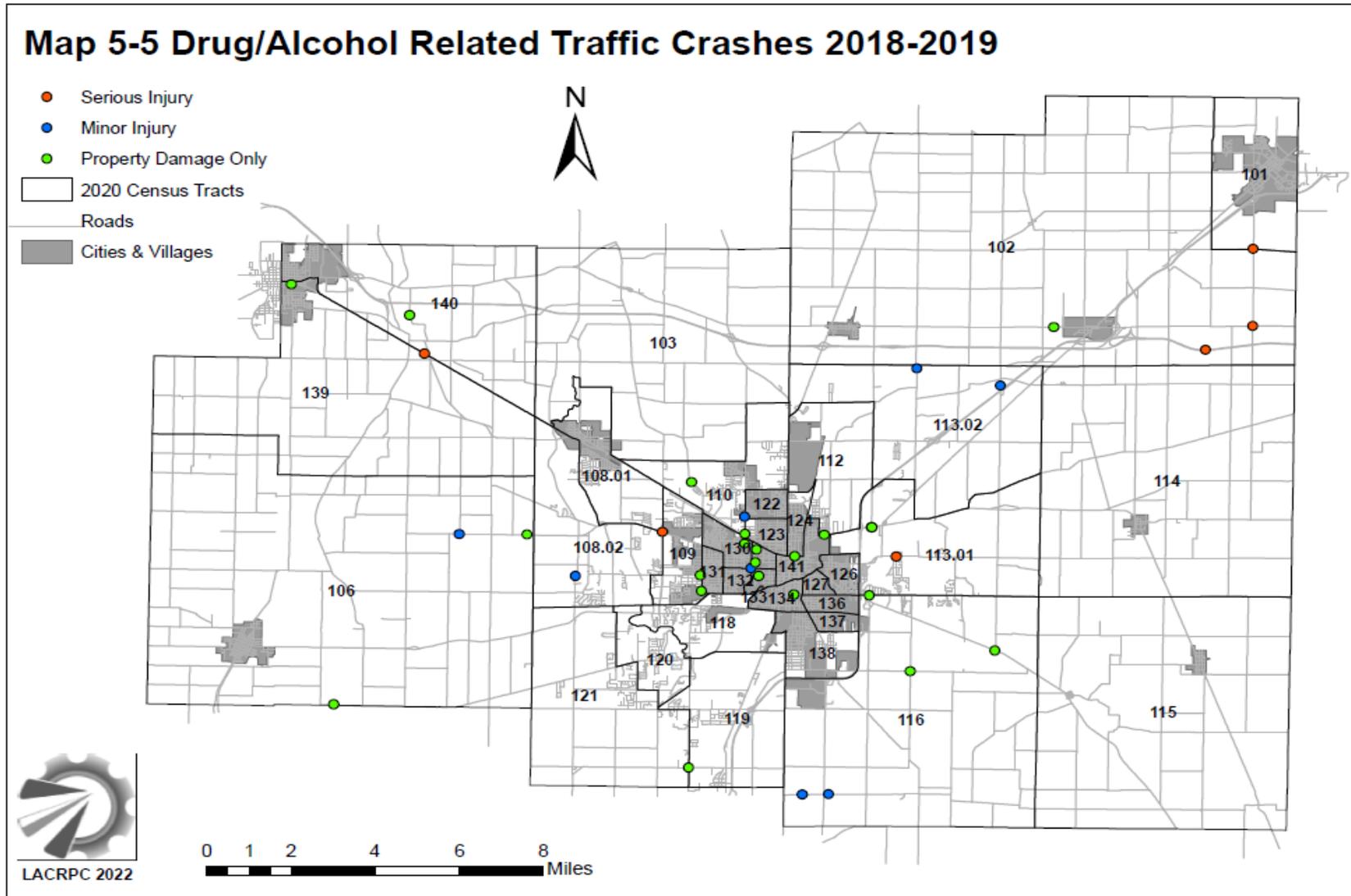
¹¹ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2016/rankings/allen/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

¹² <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>

Map 5-4 Alcohol Permits



Map 5-5 Drug/Alcohol Related Traffic Crashes



5.4 Food Outlets, Food Deserts & Limited Access to Healthy Foods

Research examining the relationship between the density and accessibility of fast food, restaurants and food outlets to health outcomes is in its early stages. However, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests access to fast food outlets and residing in a food desert have positively correlated with a higher prevalence of obesity, diabetes and premature death. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 23.5 million persons in urban and rural areas of the United States live in "food deserts" (i.e., low-income areas without access to healthy foods). Literature has repeatedly asserted that the caloric intake of Americans (especially minority and poverty populations) has increased over the past several decades. Studies have also indicated that among children, fast food restaurants are the second highest energy provider, second only to grocery stores. And, while traditional grocery stores provide a wide range of fresh fruits and vegetables, thus healthier options, their locations in Allen County are somewhat limited; convenience stores fill the void with only a limited supply of products considered to be healthy and nutritious. Limited access to full-service groceries captures a large proportion of low-income urban residents, as well as some rural residents in Allen County. Approximately 15 percent of all Allen County residents are food insecure. With 33 percent of those above 185% of poverty excluding them from Nutrition Assistance Programs. Recognizing that proximity to a grocery store is defined differently in rural (10-mile radius) and urban areas (1 mile radius).¹³ Map 5-5 reveals the locations of supermarkets & convenience stores by census tract. Appendix D identifies grocery and convenience stores that participate in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program (Appendix D - Map D2) and those that have permits to sell tobacco (Appendix D - Map D1)

In 2020 Allen County ranked 11th highest of all Ohio counties in the proportion of restaurants in a county that are fast food establishments.¹⁴ In 2020 there were 162 restaurants in Allen County; 66 percent of those were limited-service fast-food establishments. The national goal established by Healthy People 2020 was set at 25 percent. In addition, the ratio of convenience stores to full-service grocery stores was 6 to 1 with convenience stores accounting for 86.4% of all food retail locations. Map 5-6 identifies the locations of limited-service eateries & full-service restaurants by census tract. Moreover, data suggests that populations residing in census tracts 138, 130 and 110 resided in what the USDA refers to as food deserts (Low-Income & Low-Access).

Allen County ranked 11th in the proportion of restaurants that are fast food establishments of all 88 Ohio counties.

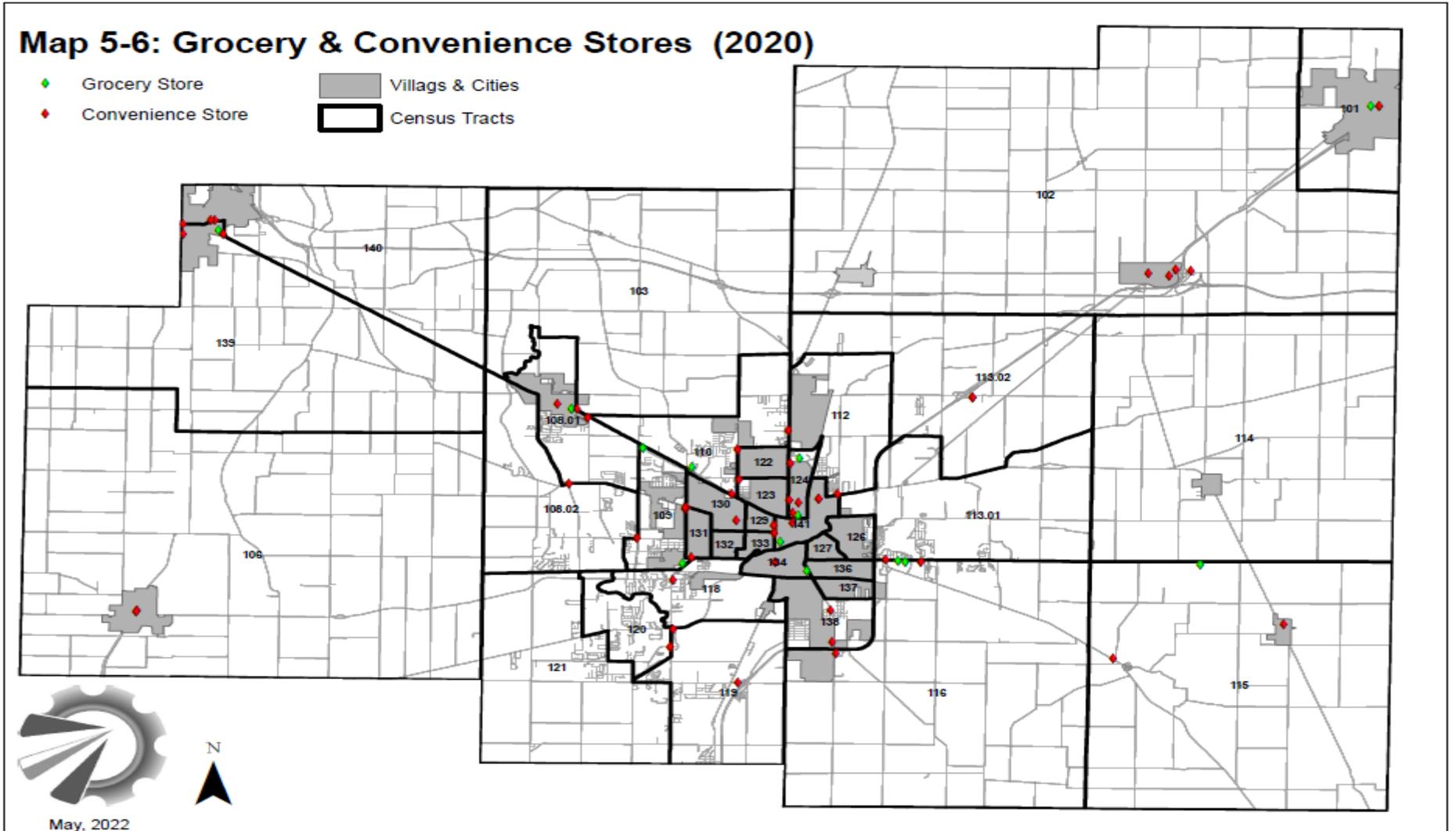
Health advocates and neighborhood activists argue for more localized grocery services providing better access and a wider array of healthy, affordable foods. Some urban planners argue for density limitations posing restrictions on fast food outlets and convenience stores. Policy planners and nutritionists argue for local convenience stores to participate in regulated food and nutrition assistance program; while urban agriculturists argue for increased availability of locally grown foods including farmers markets and neighborhood gardens, to eliminate food insecurities.¹⁵

¹³<http://americannutritionassociation.org/newsletter/usda-defines-food-deserts>

¹⁴ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2013/measure/factors/84/map>

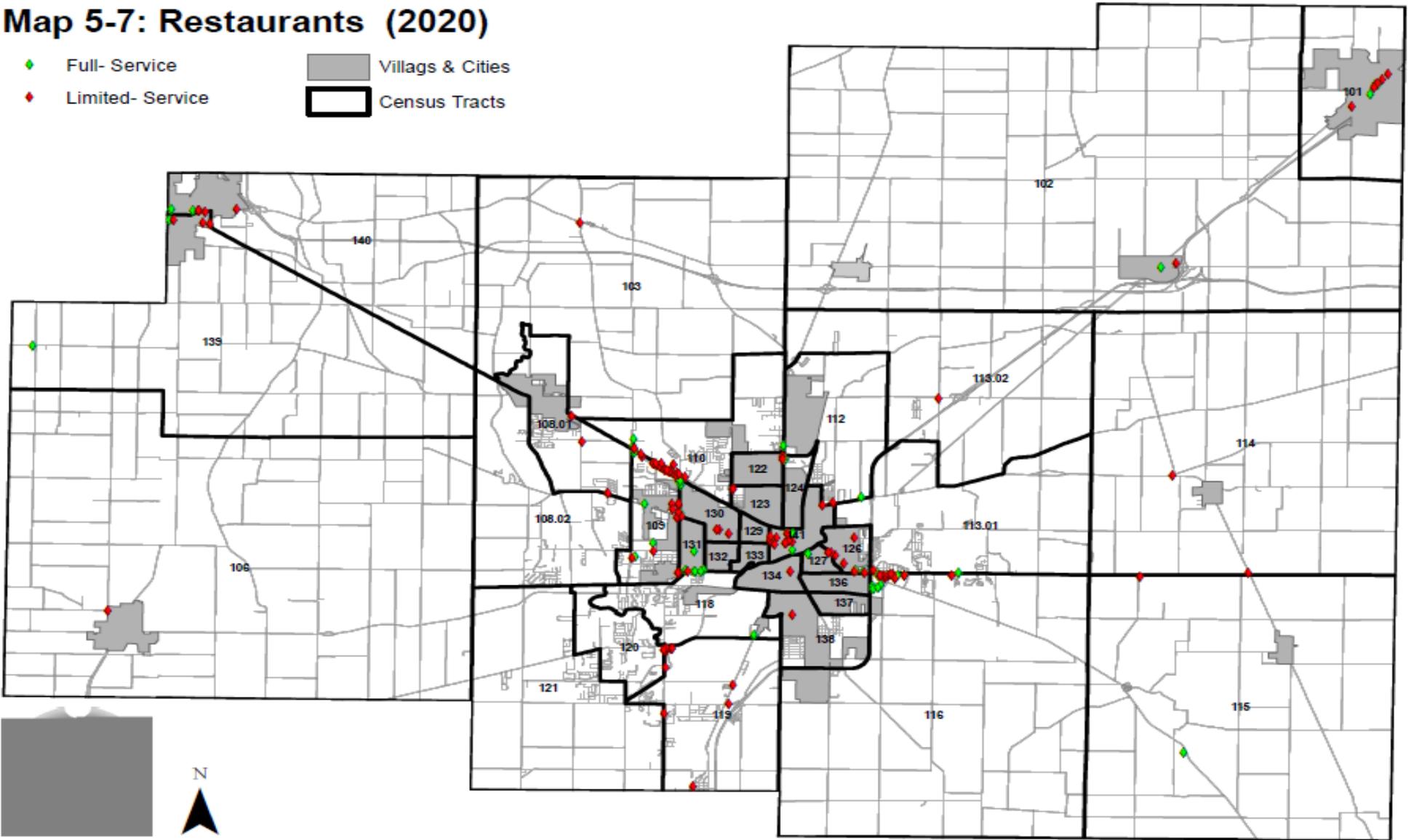
¹⁵http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s_cid=rr5807a1_e

Map 5-6 Grocery & Convenience Stores



Map 5-7: Restaurants (2020)

- ◆ Full- Service
- ◆ Limited- Service
- Villags & Cities
- Census Tracts



**SUMMARY TABLE 5-1
HOUSING AND CRIME STATISTICS SUMMARY
ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS**

Tract	Total Pop.	Total Housing Units	Pct Vacant Housing Units	Total Vacant Housing Units	Foreclosures (2020)	Foreclosure Rate (per 1,000)	UCR Incident Reports	UCR Incidents Per 1,000 Pop.	UCR Arrests	UCR Arrests Per 1,000 Incidents	Alcohol Permits	Restaurants	Convenience Stores	Grocery Stores
Allen County	102,206	44,563	8%	3,628	865	19.4	889	8.7	127	14.3	545	162	46	13
101	4,126	1,589	7.99%	127	9	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	14	9	1	2
102	3,812	1,560	5.13%	80	23	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	17	2	4	0
103	1,600	661	7.56%	50	7	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	4	1	1	0
106	5,128	2,037	5.11%	104	34	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	10	1	2	0
108.01	4,453	1,920	4.64%	89	20	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	4	3	2	1
108.02	3,602	1,480	4.66%	69	12	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	8	0	2	0
109	4,545	2,091	6.79%	142	11	0.0	8	1.8	4	0.5	48	37	2	2
110	5,437	2,706	8.76%	237	36	13.3	44	8.1	0	0	33	13	3	1
112	2,843	589	10.19%	60	15	25.5	0	0.0	0	0	7	2	0	0
113.01	4,538	2,051	5.80%	119	23	11.2	0	0.0	0	0	21	3	0	0
113.02	2,771	1,075	3.16%	34	14	13.0	0	0.0	0	0	7	1	1	0
114	3,143	1,286	5.91%	76	23	17.9	0	0.0	0	0	6	2	0	0
115	2,757	1,136	7.75%	88	12	10.6	0	0.0	0	0	8	2	2	1
116	2,579	1,211	6.85%	83	13	10.7	0	0.0	0	0	52	20	2	2
118	2,298	1,079	7.51%	81	20	18.5	3	1.3	0	0	14	3	1	0
119	3,089	1,398	8.51%	119	19	13.6	0	0.0	0	0	28	11	2	0
120	2,593	1,074	6.70%	72	16	14.9	0	0.0	0	0	3	1	1	0
121	3,438	1,350	3.78%	51	8	5.9	0	0.0	0	0	4	0	0	0
122	3,338	1,536	4.10%	63	28	18.2	67	20.1	14	2.1	9	2	0	0
123	3,893	1,654	6.77%	112	60	36.3	83	21.3	3	0.4	4	0	1	0
124	2,466	1,185	11.81%	140	32	27.0	68	27.6	18	2.6	42	1	4	2
126	1,742	777	10.42%	81	22	28.3	23	13.2	14	6.1	9	7	0	0
127	1,481	677	18.17%	123	34	50.2	53	35.8	4	0.8	7	3	0	0
129	1,668	705	14.75%	104	27	38.3	80	48.0	2	0.3	19	0	1	0
130	4,005	1,989	10.96%	218	54	27.1	71	17.7	1	0.1	13	4	1	0
131	2,343	1,096	6.75%	74	29	26.5	20	8.5	9	4.5	8	6	2	0
132	1,827	793	6.81%	54	25	31.5	32	17.5	18	5.6	1	0	0	0
133	1,352	569	14.76%	84	21	36.9	39	28.8	2	0.5	2	0	1	0
134	2,124	1,117	12.98%	145	41	36.7	90	42.4	4	0.4	17	1	1	0
136	1,182	515	16.12%	83	25	48.5	31	26.2	5	1.6	5	0	0	0
137	1,095	507	14.00%	71	21	41.4	33	30.1	0	0	4	0	0	0
138	2,614	1,265	15.18%	192	63	49.8	66	25.2	0	0	7	1	2	0
139	3,313	1,458	6.79%	99	21	14.4	0	0.0	0	0	26	5	2	1
140	3,316	1,379	6.45%	89	12	8.7	0	0.0	0	0	26	6	3	0
141	1,695	1,048	20.52%	215	35	33.4	78	46.0	29	3.7	58	15	2	1

SECTION 6 POVERTY, NEEDS & WOCAP PROGRAMMING

There is no one definition of poverty. The term has been defined many ways by various government and nongovernmental organizations based upon attempts to quantify, qualify and establish specific thresholds. The World Bank defines poverty as “characterized by low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity typically reflective of low levels of health and education, poor access to clean, sanitary living conditions, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one’s life”.¹ The World Bank uses this definition – more qualitative in nature; while the US Census Bureau – chooses another more quantitative approach. The United States Census Bureau defines poverty using a set of monetary income thresholds that “vary by family size to determine who is in poverty”... wherein “if a family's total income is less than the family's size determined poverty threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).” It should be noted that the census definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).²

Poverty has been defined in many ways; some qualitative others quantitative.

Section II of this report defined poverty using the quantitative assessment provided by the Census Bureau. But the dimensions of poverty are grey. Webster provides a more concise definition of poverty reporting it as “the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions”.³ The remainder of this section works to identify the nature and scope of poverty in Allen County and document the needs across the community. Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this report look at the adequacy of Census defined poverty thresholds with regard to income levels required for self-sufficiency. Section 6.3 examines health disparities often associated with poverty. After a brief discussion of criminality, recidivism and reentry the section concludes by identifying the concerns of WOCAPs clients before a discussion of WOCAPs services.

6.1 Poverty

Poverty is a critical indicator of the well-being of our nation’s children. Children who live in poverty, especially young children, are more likely than their peers to have cognitive and behavioral difficulties, to complete fewer years of education, and, as they grow up, to experience more years of unemployment.⁴

In 2020, the American Community Survey reported that 1 in 8 Americans are currently residing in poverty - nearly 41 million people or 12.8 percent of the US population suffer from conditions of poverty. Children in poverty fell below 13 million (12.5), or 17.5 percent of all children under the age of eighteen. Examining poverty by race of those under 18 years of age reflected: 36.1 percent of African-American children and 42 percent of Hispanic children live in poverty. In Ohio, poverty rates for children were slightly higher; 31.5 percent of children were in poverty in 2020 with 38.3 percent of Black, and 46.6 percent of Hispanic children found to be in poverty.

¹ http://www.niesr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dp435_0.pdf

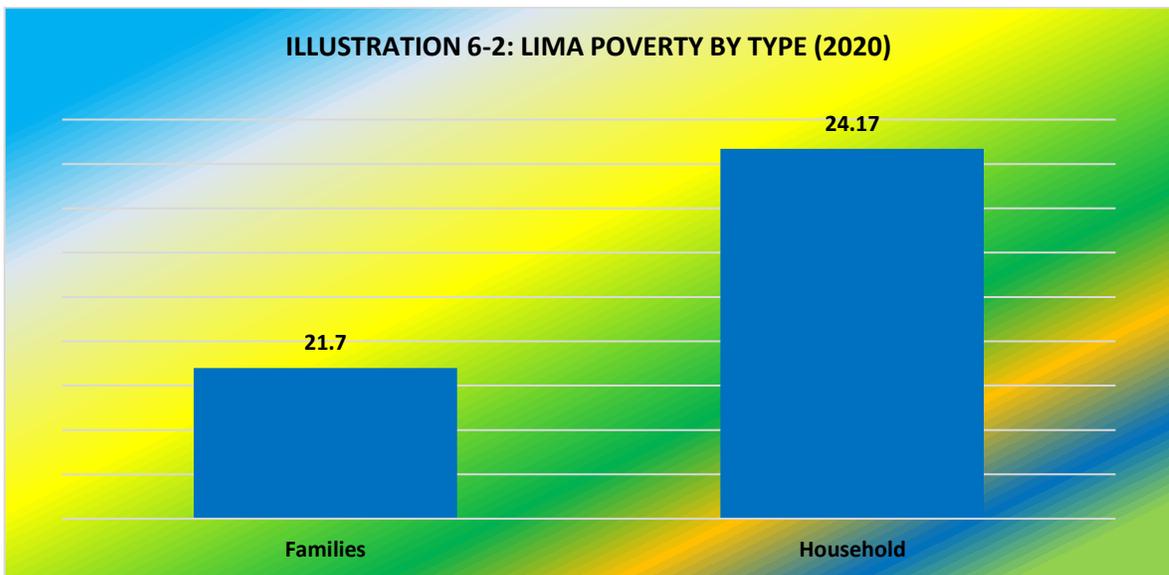
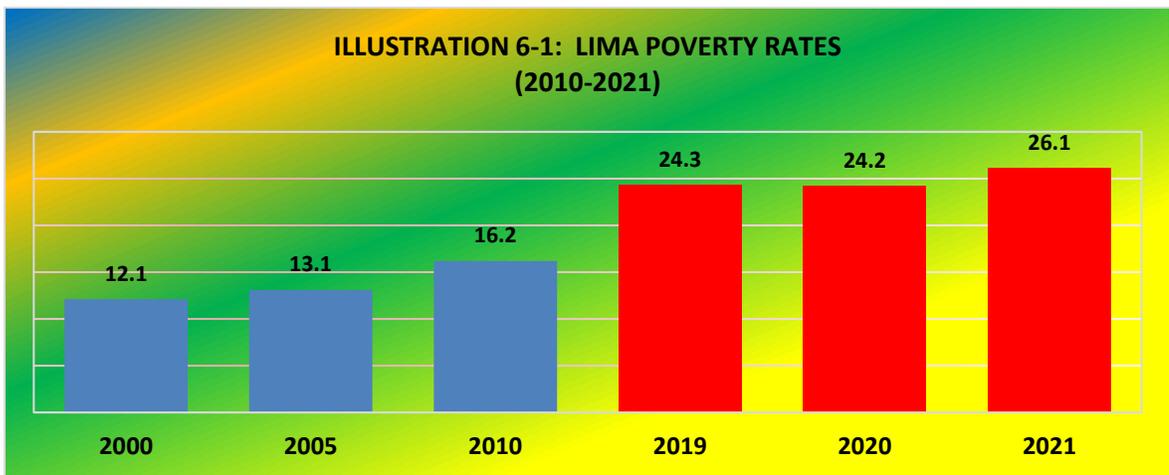
² <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>

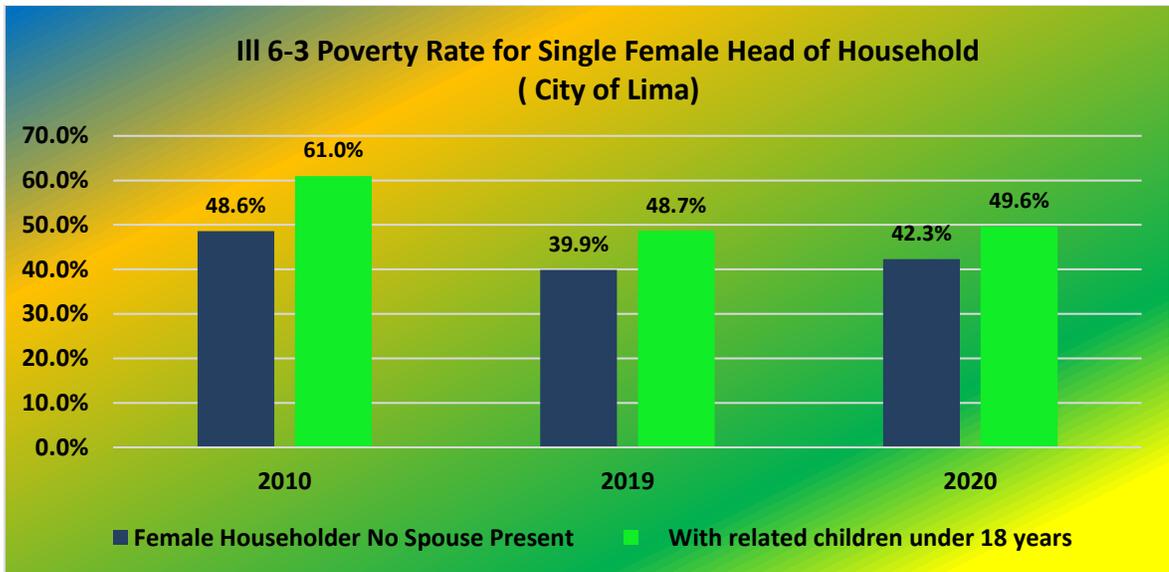
³ Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Springfield MA, Merriam Webster, 1985.

⁴ United States Census Bureau, Child Poverty in the United States 2009 and 2010: Selected Race Groups and Hispanic Origin, 2011.

Putting that into a local perspective, the 2020 ACS data for Allen County revealed that the county poverty rates are nearly identical to those of the state. Nearly 13.0 percent, or 1 in 8 of the local population is shown to be residing in poverty. The data indicates nearly 6000 area households and 2,500 families existing below the established poverty thresholds based on income and household size. Furthermore, of families experiencing poverty in 2020, 53.6 percent had children under 18 and 19 percent had children under 5-years of age.

Over the last decade, Lima, like many small and mid-sized urban metropolitan areas in the Midwest, experienced declining manufacturing-based economies and fractured housing markets. This event followed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 have kept poverty rates at high levels. Poverty rates have more than doubled from 12.1 percent in 2000 to 26.1 percent in 2021. (Illustration 6-1). Examining poverty by type in 2020 identifies the contrast in financial security between households and families. The current rate of households in poverty (24.17%) is higher than the current family poverty rate of 21.7 percent (Illustration 6-2).





Another important measure is the poverty rate for Single-Female Households. 2010 saw Poverty rates among single female householders with children rise to 61 percent. A decade later in 2020, the rate dropped to 49.6%, but remains higher than pre-pandemic levels the year before.

Periods of recession in the early to late 2000's, caught the community unprepared to deal with the dynamics required to assemble all the necessary services such as public transportation options, accessible/appropriate housing, job-loss and employment opportunities, and delivery of health services - due in part to less governmental financial resources and fewer well-financed non-profit service providers. While the U.S. saw an economic upturn of an average of 2.3 percent growth per year between mid-2009 through the end of 2019, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the business shutdowns that followed, up-ended a 10-year period of recovery and the economy saw a decline of 5.1 percent of GDP during the first quarter of 2020. The second quarter of 2020 saw an even sharper decline of 31.2 percent.⁵

Demographic and geographic changes in those suffering from poverty is evident. While the majority of people living in poverty in 2020 remain inside the City of Lima, the census tracts experiencing the largest increases in poverty were located in the urban fringe and rural areas (Map 6-1).

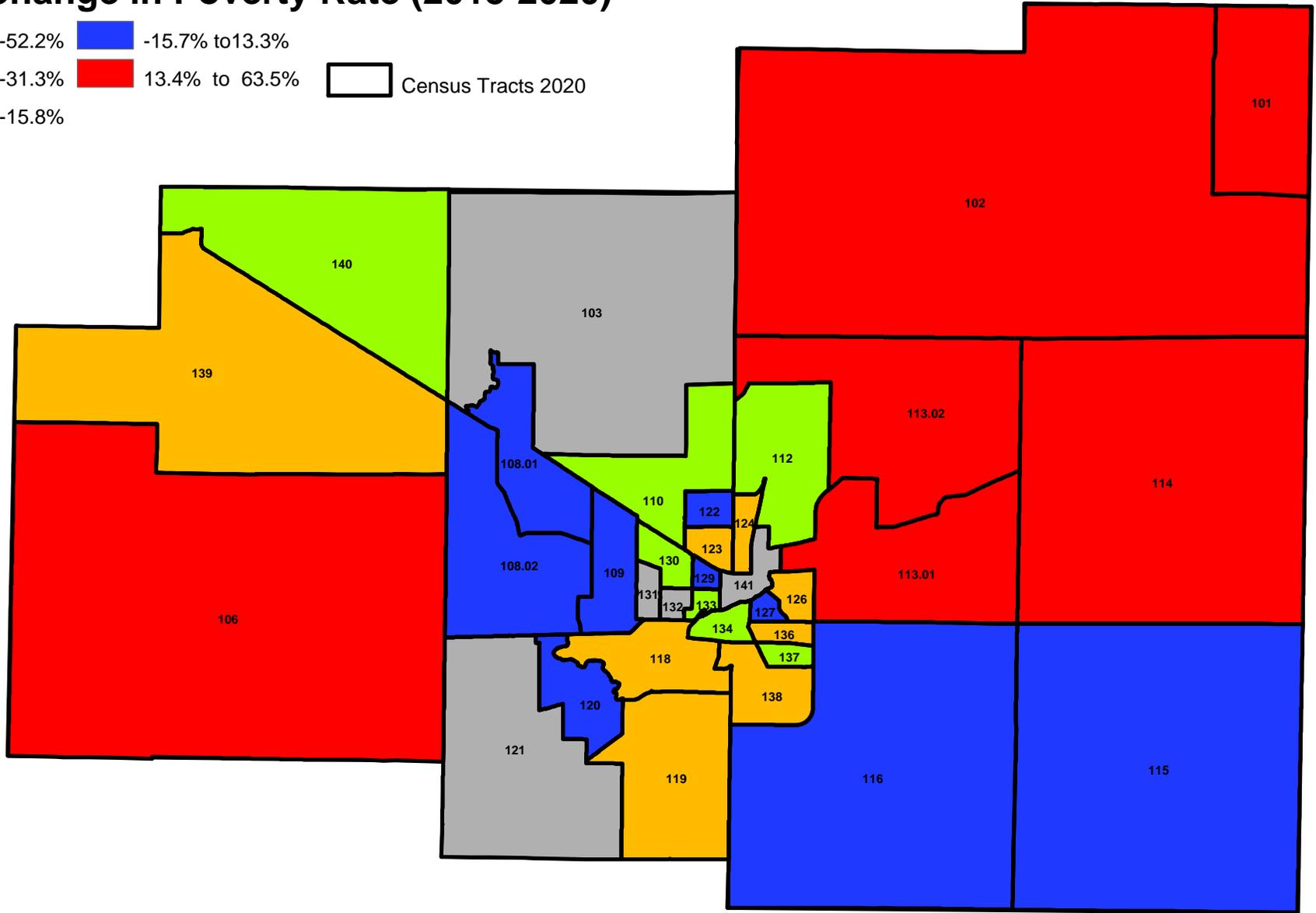
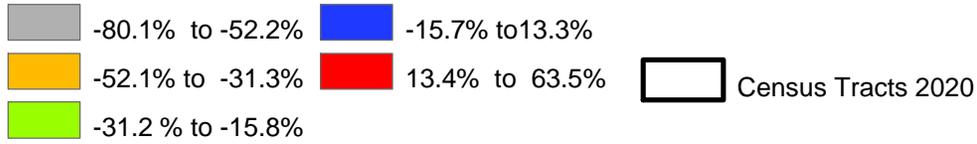
In the United States the Census Bureau establishes the thresholds without any regard for geographical variations in climate, housing costs, food costs, utility costs, transportation costs, food costs or state/local laws governing minimum wage. In Ohio, the current (2020) poverty threshold for a family of 4 is \$25,100 (Table 6-1).⁶

⁵ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/economy/tracking-the-post-great-recession-economy#:~:text=Economic%20Growth%20From%20Mid%2D2009,American%20Recovery%20and%20Reinvestment%20Act.>

⁶ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

Map 6-1 Change in Poverty Rate

Map 6-1 Change in Poverty Rate (2015-2020)



June, 2022

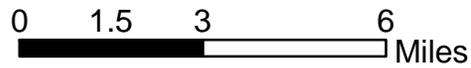


TABLE 6-1 POVERTY GUIDELINES (2020)						
Family Size	Percent of Annual Poverty Guideline					
	100%	125%	150%	175%	185%	200%
1	\$ 12,760	\$ 15,950	\$ 19,140	\$ 22,330	\$ 23,606	\$ 25,520
2	\$ 17,240	\$ 21,550	\$ 25,860	\$ 30,170	\$ 31,894	\$ 34,480
3	\$ 21,720	\$ 27,150	\$ 32,580	\$ 38,010	\$ 40,182	\$ 43,440
4	\$ 26,200	\$ 32,750	\$ 39,300	\$ 45,850	\$ 48,470	\$ 52,400
5	\$ 30,680	\$ 38,350	\$ 46,020	\$ 53,690	\$ 56,758	\$ 61,360
6	\$ 35,160	\$ 43,950	\$ 52,740	\$ 61,530	\$ 65,046	\$ 70,320
7	\$ 39,640	\$ 49,550	\$ 59,460	\$ 69,370	\$ 73,334	\$ 79,280
8	\$ 44,120	\$ 55,150	\$ 66,180	\$ 77,210	\$ 81,622	\$ 88,240
Family Size	Percent of Monthly Poverty Guidelines					
	100%	125%	150%	175%	185%	200%
1	\$ 1,063	\$ 1,329	\$ 1,595	\$ 1,861	\$ 1,967	\$ 2,127
2	\$ 1,437	\$ 1,796	\$ 2,155	\$ 2,514	\$ 2,658	\$ 2,873
3	\$ 1,810	\$ 2,263	\$ 2,715	\$ 3,168	\$ 3,349	\$ 3,620
4	\$ 2,183	\$ 2,729	\$ 3,275	\$ 3,821	\$ 4,039	\$ 4,367
5	\$ 2,557	\$ 3,196	\$ 3,835	\$ 4,474	\$ 4,730	\$ 5,113
6	\$ 2,930	\$ 3,663	\$ 4,395	\$ 5,128	\$ 5,421	\$ 5,860
7	\$ 3,303	\$ 4,129	\$ 4,955	\$ 5,781	\$ 6,111	\$ 6,607
8	\$ 3,677	\$ 4,596	\$ 5,515	\$ 6,434	\$ 6,802	\$ 7,353
Note: For family units of more than 8 members add \$4,320 for each additional member.						

6.2 Self-Sufficiency

A report published by the Center for Women’s Welfare and the University of Washington established the self-sufficiency standards for Ohio (2015). Therein various measures including housing, child care, food, health care, transportation and miscellaneous items as well as the cost of taxes and the impact of tax credits were used to establish the level of income necessary for households of various compositions to survive without public or private assistance across Ohio counties.⁷ While the full report has not been updated, new values are available for 2020 (Table 6-2). The numbers suggests that the poverty threshold of \$26,200 for a family of 4 cited by the Census Bureau is grossly inadequate to cover real costs without continued public and private assistance programs. Moreover, the report found that the cost of self-sufficiency varies greatly across Ohio based on geographic location and family type.

Of some interest is that the 2020 minimum wage in Ohio was established at \$8.70 or roughly 100 percent of the income necessary to support self-sufficiency for a single adult; but, only 39 percent of what would be required to sustain a household of 1 adult, 1 preschooler and 1-school age child.

⁷ <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/node/4> p.1.

TABLE 6-2 THE SELF-SUFICIENCY STANDARD FOR ALLEN COUNTY (2019)					
Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School-age	Adult + Adult + Infant + Preschooler	Adult + Adult + Preschooler + School-age
Housing	\$562	\$687	\$687	\$687	\$687
Child Care	\$0	\$758	\$1,291	\$1,580	\$1,291
Food	\$223	\$338	\$509	\$621	\$685
Transportation	\$273	\$281	\$281	\$536	\$536
Health Care	\$201	\$494	\$516	\$570	\$580
Miscellaneous	\$126	\$256	\$328	\$399	\$378
Taxes	\$224	\$463	\$705	\$846	\$769
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$72)	(\$2)	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$60)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$333)
Hourly	\$9.14	\$16.91	\$22.06	\$13.65	\$12.76
Monthly	\$1,608	\$2,977	\$3,882	\$4,806	\$4,492
Annual	\$19,299	\$35,722	\$46,580	\$57,675	\$53,898
Emergency Savings Fund (Monthly Contribution)	\$35	\$83	\$106	\$63	\$60

The self-sufficiency standard for Allen County helps identify the needs of the disadvantaged in terms of transitioning from dependency to self-sufficiency. The standard helps demonstrate the need for child care, health care and educational training/certification. The standard can also be used for counseling and targeted consumption arguing for post-secondary educational opportunities including training for occupations that are non-traditional for women and people of color.

6.3 Local Health Disparity Issues

In 2020 Allen County was ranked 61 of 88 counties for positive health factors by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute.⁸ Problems associated with various health and social behaviors including poor diet and exercise, sexual activity, violent crime and childhood poverty all came in above the Ohio average.

Allen County ranked 61 of 88 Ohio counties for positive health factors.

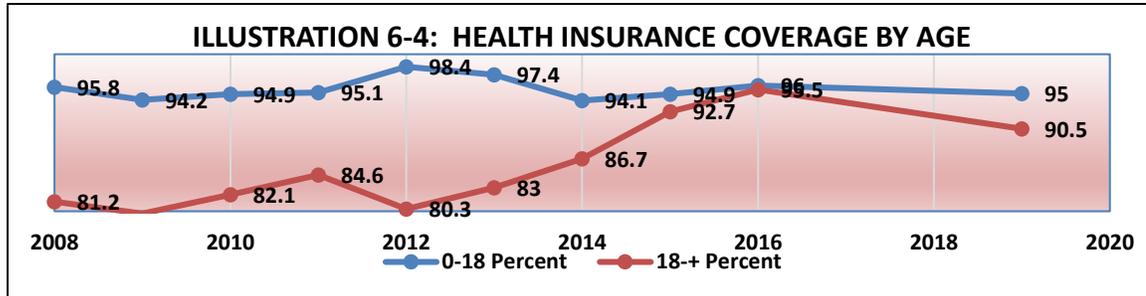
The prevalence of certain specific behaviors or the results of certain behaviors were of alarm and trailing the county benchmark for Ohio including: physical inactivity (Allen County: 28% vs Ohio: 26%), adult obesity (Allen County: 34% vs Ohio: 32%), number of sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 (Allen County: 587 vs Ohio: 527), and number of teen births per 1,000 females (Allen County: 35 vs Ohio: 28). Corollaries to some are reflective in the following social and economic factors also rated: some college attainment (Allen County: 30% vs Ohio: 24%), children in single-parent families (Allen County: 41% vs Ohio: 36%), and number of violent crimes (Allen County: 395 vs Ohio: 293). The report also identifies deficiencies in terms of the ratio of available primary care physicians to residents (Allen County: 1,520:1 vs Ohio: 1,310:1) and dentists (Allen County: 1680:1 vs Ohio: 1,610:1).⁹

Adding to such insights is information provided by Allen County Public Health and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) who work with local hospitals, physicians offices and schools, and

⁸ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/outcomes/overall>

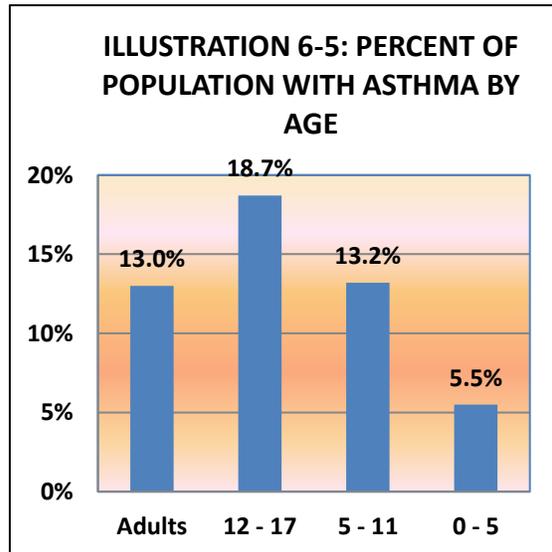
⁹ http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=39_003

regularly conduct surveys to assess community’s health. An overall positive in Allen County residents’ health is that both adults and children in Allen County are covered by some type of health insurance at a rate greater than 90 percent, an increase of almost 10 percent since 2008 in adult coverage (Illustration 6-3).¹⁰



6.3.1 Asthma

In 2020 Asthma affected nearly 20.5 million adults in the United States or approximately 8.4% of the entire adult population.¹¹ Asthma is also a leading chronic illness among children and adolescents. Asthma causes wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing. An asthma attack can happen when afflicted persons are exposed to certain “triggers”. Often such triggers include cigarette smoke, dust mites, outdoor air pollution, cockroach allergen, pets mold, and smoke from burning wood or grass. Physical exercise; some medicines; bad weather, such as thunderstorms or high humidity; breathing in cold, dry air; and some foods, food additives, and fragrances can also trigger an asthma attack.¹² Respiratory diseases including disproportionately affect the poor, African Americans and children. Given the extent of cigarette smoking and environmental air quality issues, asthma is local health concern. Data suggests that in 2020, 13.0 percent of Allen County adults and 37.4 percent of children age 0 to 17 live with asthma (Illustration 6-4). Asthma affects different populations differently especially for those children living in poverty and for African-American children.¹³ Children living in households below the poverty level are 20.3 percent more likely to suffer from the effects of asthma than those children in households earning over 200 percent the median income.¹⁴



Asthma is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. On average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. Nearly 1 in 2 children with asthma miss at least 1 day of school each year because of their asthma. Each year asthma

¹⁰ <http://www.lacrpc.com/health/access-to-health-services/adults-with-health-insurance.aspx>
¹¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/asthma.htm>
¹² <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm>
¹³ <http://www.asthma.partners.org/NewFiles/BoFACHapter15.html>
¹⁴ http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2017_SHS_Table_C-1.pdf

causes more than 10 million missed days of school. As a result, the CDC is working with state departments of education and health to institute policies and procedures to implement a national asthma control program in schools nationwide.¹⁵

6.3.2 Dental Care

According to the CDC, each year, 68 percent of Americans make visits to dentists and in 2018, an estimated \$135 billion was spent on dental services in the United States. Yet, tooth decay affects approximately 1 in 6 of U.S. children aged 6 - 11 years and more than half of those aged 12–19 years. The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years with untreated tooth decay is 3 times as high for those from low-income families compared with children from higher-income households.¹⁶ Also, adults with less than a high school education experience untreated tooth decay nearly three times that of adults with at least some college education.¹⁷

1 in 5 children aged 5-11 years and 1 in 7 of those aged 12-15 years have untreated tooth decay.

42 percent of U.S. adults have some form of gum disease. Half of the cases of severe gum disease in the United States are the result of cigarette smoking. The prevalence of gum disease is three times higher among smokers than among people who have never smoked. This increases Allen County's risk as 20 percent of adults and 13 percent of High School students smoke regularly.^{18,19} Data suggests 17 percent of U.S. adults aged 65 or older have lost all of their teeth. Nearly 9,750 people, mostly older Americans, die from oral and pharyngeal cancers each year, with the incident rate in men being twice as high as the rate in the female population.²⁰ In 2019, The American Cancer Society predicts there will be more than 53,000 new cases of oral cancer diagnosed.^{21,22}

The prevalence of gum disease is three times higher among smokers than among people who have never smoked.

The 2021, Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project determined that more than three-fifths (60%) of Allen County adults had visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past year. Such data represents a slight increase over 2009 when just 60 percent of adults visited a dentist in the previous 12-month period. 6 in 10 of those aged 65 years and older (63%) and those with incomes greater than \$25,000 (69%) also exceeded the 60 percent average. Numbers reported amongst youth who visited the dentist last saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work at the following frequencies: less than a year ago (56%), 1 to 2 years ago (14%), more than 2 years ago (10%), never (3%), and do not know (17%).

¹⁵ http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/schools_fact_sheet.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/childrens-oral-health/index.html>

¹⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral_health_disparities/index.htm

¹⁸ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/allen/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

¹⁹ 2021 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment, Allen County Public Health

²⁰ <http://oralcancerfoundation.org/facts/>

²¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/index.html>

²² <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/oralcavityandoropharyngealcancer/detailedguide/oral-cavity-and-oropharyngeal-cancer-key-statistics>

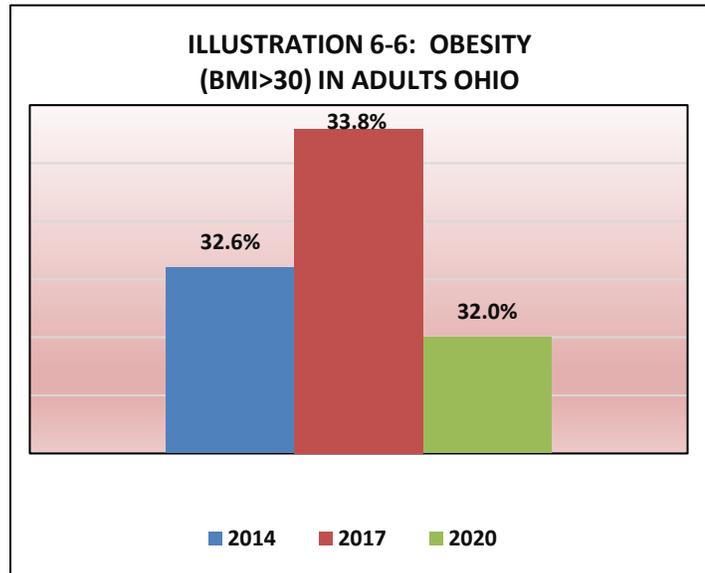
6.3.3 Obesity

The CDC supports the findings of recent research published in Journal of the American Medical Association that found that prevalence of obesity among U.S. adults (39.8%) is twice that observed in children (18.5%) and translates into nearly 93.3 million adult men and women. The rate of adults identified as obese continues to rise in Ohio with a current value of 33.8 percent (Illustration 6-5). Allen County is slightly above the state average with 34 percent of adults having a BMI over 30.²³

Obesity among U.S. adults (34%) is twice that observed in children and translates into nearly 73 million adult men and women.

On average, U.S. adults weigh 24 pounds more than they did in 1960, and they are at increased risk for health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular

disease, hypertension, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis, certain cancers and generally poor health. Although the rate of increase in obesity has slowed somewhat in the past 10 years, the costs associated with obesity have increased substantially during the same period. The estimated annual medical cost of obesity in the U.S. is between 147 to 210 billion



dollars and the annual medical costs for people who are obese are on average 42 percent higher than those at a healthy weight.²⁴

In the United States, childhood obesity affects approximately 13.7 million children and teens or 18.5 percent of that population. Changes in the prevalence of obesity from 1960 baseline data revealed a rapid increase in the US during the 1980s and 1990s, when obesity prevalence among children and teens tripled, from approximately 5 percent to 18 percent of the population. During the past 10 years, the rapid increase in obesity has slowed. However substantial racial/ethnic disparities exist, with Hispanic children (25.8%) and African-American children (22.0%) being disproportionately affected by obesity.²⁵ According to the 2021 Allen County Health Risk and Community Assessment, 29 percent of Allen County youth were obese, as measured by Body Mass Index (BMI) by age with the majority of those who are overweight being 13 or younger.²⁶ For children ages 2 to 19 household income was a determining factor in rate of obesity, with 18.9 percent of those in households in the lowest income group identified as obese and 19.9 percent identified in households in the middle income group while only 10.9 percent those in the highest income group.²⁷

²³ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/allen/county/factors/2/snapshot>

²⁴ <http://stateofobesity.org/healthcare-costs-obesity/>

²⁵ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

²⁶ <https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Allen-County-CHA-6-1-22-FINAL.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

The CDC contends that for maximum impact, the focus should be on strategies that alter the food and physical activity environments in places where people live, learn, work, play, and pray - making it easier to be healthy.²⁸ Health advocates and medical professionals argue that educational settings offer unique opportunities to address obesity. Touted practices to address younger students include: structured recess during the school day involving inclusive and actively supervised games or activities; physically active classrooms that incorporate physical activity breaks, classroom energizers, and moving activities into academic lessons; school-based obesity prevention programs seeking to increase physical activity and improve nutrition before, during, and after school; and, promotion of healthy food options, and family education and involvement. Other school based programs have targeted: enacting regulations and policies that eliminate availability of sweetened drinks, including sports drinks, in child-care settings and schools and at school events and afterschool programs; increasing availability of fresh water in parks and recreational facilities; establishing policies and guidelines for nutrition including changes in the school food supply to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans; and, eliminating sugar drinks in school vending machines. Policies to provide safe environments to support physical activity and establish habits regarding the need for regular physical activity that will support such behaviors into and through adulthood are thought essential. Employer based programs to reduce obesity have targeted: reduced energy intake including the elimination of high energy-density foods and decreasing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages while encouraging an increased consumption of fruits and vegetables²⁹; personnel policies that incentivize gym/health club membership, weight loss clinics, and increased transit/bike usage. Moreover, employers are urged to support development of breastfeeding policies and facilities for new mothers as breastfeeding has demonstrated significant health benefits for their young children including reduced risk for childhood obesity.³⁰

6.3.4 Diabetes

Diabetes refers to a group of metabolic diseases in which the person has high blood glucose (blood sugar), due to inadequate insulin production and/or the body's cells do not respond properly to insulin. The most common forms of diabetes include: Type 1 Diabetes where the body does not produce insulin; Type 2 Diabetes where the body does not produce enough insulin for proper function, or the cells in the body are insulin resistant; and, Gestational Diabetes. People usually develop Type 1 diabetes before their 40th year, often in early adulthood or teenage years. Approximately 90 percent of all diabetics worldwide are suffering from Type 2. Overweight and obese people have a much higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes compared to those with a healthy body weight.

Overall, the risk for death among people with diabetes is about twice that of people of similar age but without diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) in 2020 there were 37.3 million Americans suffering from diabetes, 11.3 percent of the US population.³¹ Another 96 million adults are in a pre-diabetic condition. Diabetes is associated with: high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, pregnancy complications, kidney disease, dental disease, neuropathies and non-traumatic amputations. People with pre-diabetes have an increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Total

²⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6002a2.htm>

²⁹ <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/strategies/healthy-food-env.html>

³⁰ <http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/promotion/calltoaction.htm>

³¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/statistics-report.html>

costs of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2020 reflects \$237 billion in direct medical costs and \$90 billion in reduced productivity. And after adjusting for population age and sex differences, the ADA suggests the average medical expenditures among people with diagnosed diabetes were 2.3 times higher than what expenditures would be in the absence of diabetes. Diabetes affects persons disproportionately with the elderly (29.2%), males (12.7%) and certain minority groups over represented. The rates of diagnosed diabetes in adults by race/ethnic background are: 7.4 percent in non- Hispanic white adults, the risk of diagnosed diabetes was 8 percent among Asian Americans, 11.8 percent among Hispanics, and 12.1 percent among non-Hispanic black adults.³² The CDC reports that research suggests that amongst youth aged less than 20 years, there are over 18,000 new cases each year of Type 1 diabetes and over 5,000 for Type 2 diabetes. Gestational diabetes presents an additional concern as women who have had gestational diabetes have up to a 70 percent lifetime chance of developing diabetes. Overall, almost 70,000 Americans each year die as a result of diabetic complications and if current trends hold it is predicted that 1 in 3 American will have diabetes by the year 2050.³³

Studies in the United States and abroad have found that glucose control, blood pressure, improved control of LDL cholesterol,

13 percent of all Allen County adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, with almost a quarter (23%) of those over the age of 65 being diagnosed.

preventative care practices for eyes, feet and kidneys offer significant benefits to people with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Most health advocates and medical practitioners report that increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables with a sensible weight loss and exercise routine allow some people to control their Type 2 diabetes symptoms.³⁴ Evidence suggests that implementing disease management programs that target multiple components of chronic diseases can improve quality of care. Regular HbA1c screening among diabetic patients is considered the standard of care. It helps assess the management of diabetes over the long term by providing an estimate of how well a patient has managed his or her diabetes over the past two to three months. When hyperglycemia is addressed and controlled, complications from diabetes can be delayed or prevented.³⁵ The 2021 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project reported that 12 percent of Allen County adults had been diagnosed with diabetes, with such rates increasing to 29 percent of those over the age of 65. For purposes of comparison, the 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) reported that Ohio had a 11 percent rate and the U.S. had a rate of 10 percent. The average age of diagnosis was 50.4 years and 68% of diabetic adults said they had taken a course or class on how to manage their diabetes. Allen County adults diagnosed with diabetes also had one or more of the following characteristics or conditions: 83% had been diagnosed with high blood pressure, 82% were obese or overweight., and 66% had been diagnosed with high blood cholesterol.³⁶

³² <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

³³ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r101022.html>

³⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Take Charge of Your Diabetes*. 4th edition. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007.

³⁵ http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/27/suppl_1/s47

³⁶ <https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Allen-County-CHA-6-1-22-FINAL.pdf>

6.3.5 Mental Health

The term mental health is commonly used in reference to mental illness. However, mental health and mental illness, albeit related, represent different psychological states. The CDC defines mental health as a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to the community. It is estimated that only about 17 percent of U.S adults are considered to be in a state of optimal mental health. The CDC defines mental illness as “collectively all diagnosable mental disorders” or “health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired functioning.” Depression is the most common type of mental illness, affecting more than 17.9 percent of the U.S. adult population. Evidence has shown that mental disorders, especially depressive disorders, are strongly related to the occurrence of many chronic diseases including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and obesity and many risk behaviors for chronic disease; such as, physical inactivity, smoking, excessive drinking, and insufficient sleep.³⁷

Depression is the most common type of mental illness, affecting more than 26% of the U.S. adult population.

Local data for mental health recipients is very limited. In 2021, 6 percent of Allen County adults had used a program or service to help with depression, anxiety, or other emotional problems for themselves or a loved one.

Approximately 6% of adults age 18 years and older sought assistance in 2021 for mental health related issues.

Mental health is known to play a large part in both suicide and attempted suicide rates across the nation. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States with 45,979 deaths in 2020. The number of suicides in Allen County over the 2013-2019 period was 85. 20% of all Allen County suicide deaths occurred among those ages 45 to 54 years old. 1% of Allen County adults considered attempting suicide. Suicide impacts the youth of Allen County as well with 17 percent of youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, and 8% attempted suicide in the past 12 months. Among youth in Allen County, 41% had ever visited a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, or counselor for a mental health problem. Thirteen percent (13%) of adults indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their mental health.³⁸

Cultural sensitivity, particularly as it relates to perceptions of stigma, is paramount for successfully engaging this group in behavioral health treatment; access to mental health treatment could be improved through health homes for adults with chronic physical health conditions that integrate behavioral health services; and, prevention, early intervention and wellness programs are critically necessary to mitigate the impact of costly, chronic physical health conditions.

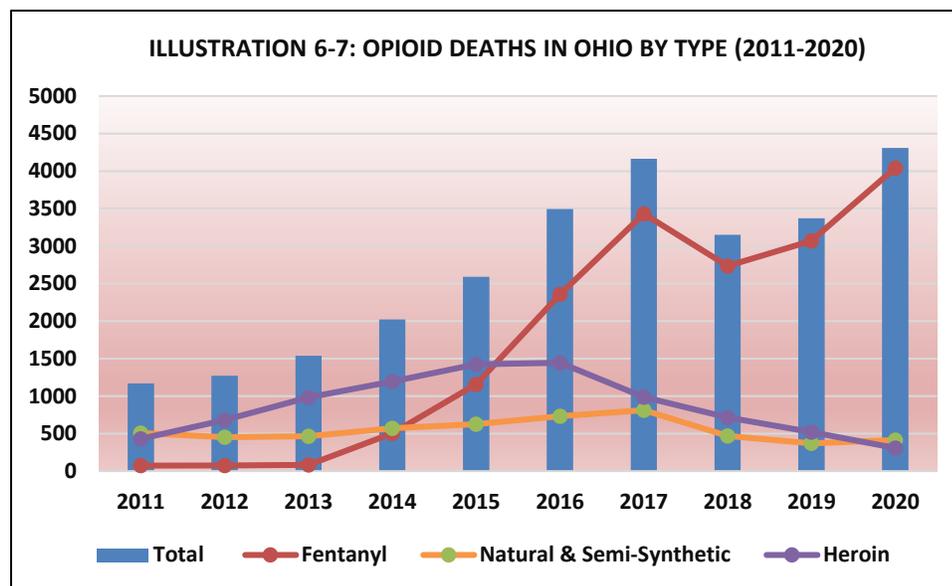
³⁷ <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/learn/index.htm>

³⁸ <https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Allen-County-CHA-6-1-22-FINAL.pdf>

6.3.6 Opioid Use

In 2020 the number of opioid deaths continued to grow nationally and locally. In 2020 Ohio saw 4,308 overdose deaths with synthetic opioids being responsible for over 90 percent of those deaths. As recently as 2011 prescription opioids were the main underlying cause of overdose deaths in Ohio (Illustration 6-6). The 4,308 deaths in 2020 correlate to an overdose death rate of 39.2 deaths per 100,000 persons in Ohio. When this rate is compared to the average national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons it becomes clear that Ohio is one of a few states facing the most significant impacts of the national opioid crisis. Between 2011-2016 the Allen County opiate related unintentional overdose deaths numbered 51.

One of the most troublesome outcomes of the opioid crisis is the impacts these deaths and addictions have on children. First, there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of NAS/NOWS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal opioid Withdrawal Syndrome) in births. In just 10 years between 2004 and 2014 an almost fivefold increase in incidences have been seen across the country. From 1.5 cases per 1,000 births in 2004 to 8.0 cases per 1,000 births in 2014.³⁹ Secondly, the Ohio foster care system has been flooded with children as death and addiction rates rise. An 11 percent increase in number of children in state custody has been seen over the last six years. In 2015 it was found that parental drug use has been identified in 50 percent of all cases where the state assumes custody. Opioid use in parents accounted for 28 percent of all child removals that year.⁴⁰ In Allen County there are currently 22 children under five in State custody, 191 in temporary custody of relatives and 62 under an order of protective supervision due to parental substance abuse.



³⁹ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/ohio-opioid-summary>

⁴⁰ <https://www.pcsao.org/programs/opiate-epidemic>

6.3.7 Strokes

Strokes were another health disparity identified by Allen County Health District personnel as a local health concern. Strokes are the 5th leading cause of death in Ohio and in the United States and are a major cause of disability.⁴¹ Strokes cost the United States an estimated \$34 billion each year. On average, one American dies from stroke every 4 minutes. Over 795,000 in the U.S. each year have a stroke; about 610,000 of these are first or new strokes; one in four are recurrent strokes.⁴² A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When this happens, part of the brain can't get the blood and oxygen it needs, so it starts to die. When part of the brain dies from lack of blood flow, the part of the body it controls is affected sometimes resulting in paralysis, difficulties with language and vision, and other problems such as balancing, thinking and memory loss.

Stroke rates vary by age and ethnicity. And, while strokes are more common amongst seniors (66%), anyone can have a stroke. African Americans' risk of having a first stroke is nearly twice that of whites. Hispanic Americans' risk falls between that of whites and African Americans. American Indians/Alaska Natives and African Americans are more likely to have had a stroke than are other racial groups.⁴³ However, certain behaviors (e.g., smoking, excessive alcohol use and physical inactivity), and medical conditions (e.g., high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, sickle cell anemia) will increase the likelihood of strokes and factors that can be monitored and controlled with proper diet, exercise and medical assistance.

The Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment published in May of 2022 gives a snapshot of the 2017-2019 period profiling those factors that indicate who is most at risk of having a stroke. Stroke is the 4th leading cause of death in Allen County. The 2017-2019 age-adjusted death rate for stroke in Allen County was 43 per 100,000 people and was tied with the Ohio rate. In the period between 2017-2019 strokes accounted for 5 percent of all Allen County Deaths and 5.0 percent of Allen County adults reported having survived a stroke, increasing to 6.0 percent in those over 65. The national death rate per 100,000 residents for strokes in 2017-2019 was 37.⁴⁴



⁴¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/Stroke/index.htm>

⁴² <http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/faqs.htm#8>

⁴³ <http://insuranceandcause.subsequentgrowthintheuninsuredandpublicallyinsuredpopulations>

⁴⁴ <https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Allen-County-CHA-6-1-22-FINAL.pdf>

6.3.8 Special Needs Children

A recent release of the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019) found 32 percent of children (< 18) in Ohio had special health care needs reflecting those children with developmental disability, who needed or received treatment or counseling. The

A recent release by the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019) found 32 percent of children (< 18) in Ohio had special health care needs.

population is diverse with health conditions spanning mild asthma and seasonal allergies to severely disabling cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. Research indicates these special needs children not only need more services than the average child, but have complex chronic conditions involving more than one organ system and/or require ongoing technical assistance (e.g., feeding tube, ventilator). And despite their small numbers, such children are a particular concern as they are more likely to have large annual out-of-pocket medical expenses, are more likely to have a family member stop working to provide care, and often have numerous unmet health care needs. The authors warn that policy changes in the economic and health care landscape may adversely affect those with decreased access to employer-sponsored

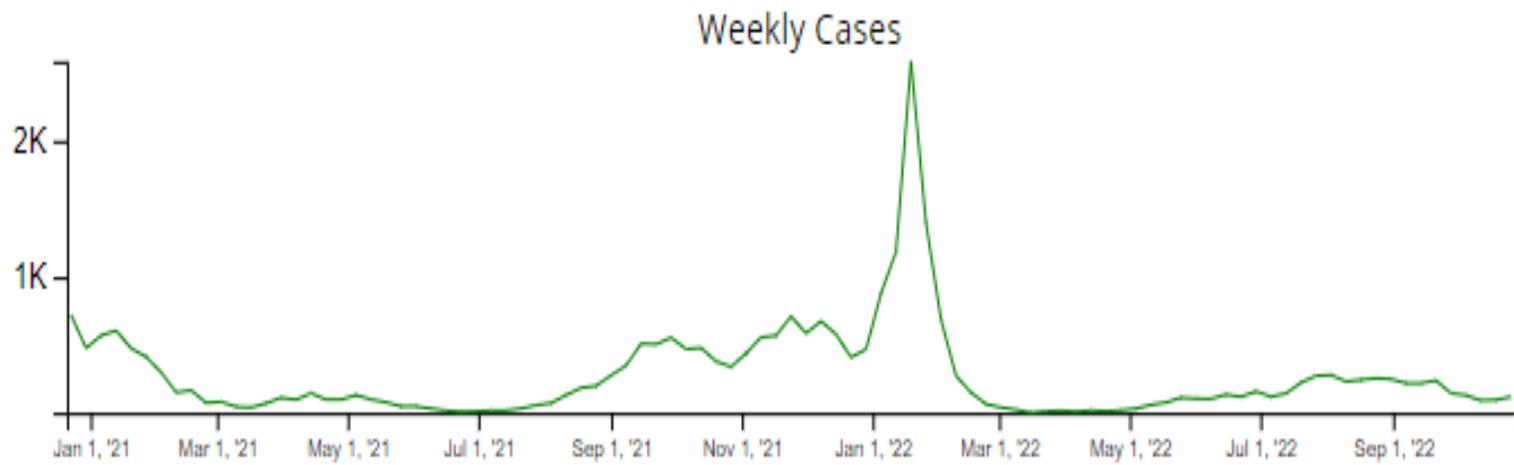
6.3.9 COVID-19 Pandemic

In March of 2020 we saw the world change with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries and cities around the world went into lockdown and shut down non-essential businesses in an attempt to control the spread of this new and unfamiliar threat. Along with the lockdowns came fear, questions, confusion, and misinformation. The economic downturn and social distancing measures implemented in response to the pandemic have increased the prevalence of economic hardship and social isolation, and existing disparities were exacerbated by the pandemic. And while we have seen the concerns of the pandemic wane, the full effects of the unseen consequences it caused will remain undetermined for years. (See Appendix I for State of Ohio American Pulse Survey Data)

According to the Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment, many Allen County adults and their families were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways: — Loss of household income (16%) — Change in mental health (13%) — Financial instability (13%) — Change in physical health (9%) — Not seeking dental care (7%) — Educational challenges (7%) — Death or serious illness of loved one(s) (7%) — Changes to employment status (7%) — Not seeking health care (6%) — Unable to afford food (6%) — Increased alcohol use (4%) — Lack of childcare (2%) — Unable to afford medicine (2%) — Unable to afford basic needs, such as personal, household, or baby care (2%) — Increased drug use (1%) — Housing instability (1%) and, Lack of Internet access (1%).

The following illustration shows the number of Covid cases on a weekly basis in Allen County from January of 2021-October of 2022 :

Figure 1 [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://www.covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)



According to the Ohio COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, 43% of Allen County residents were fully vaccinated (as of 3/24/22). The below graph shows a breakdown of those who were fully vaccinated by gender. “Fully vaccinated” indicates that all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses have been reported from an individual, and the person is considered fully immunized. Vaccine status accounts for the total number of doses needed to be fully immunized only, which is completion of the original vaccine series; other specific requirements (dose spacing, age restrictions) vary depending on COVID-19 vaccine product

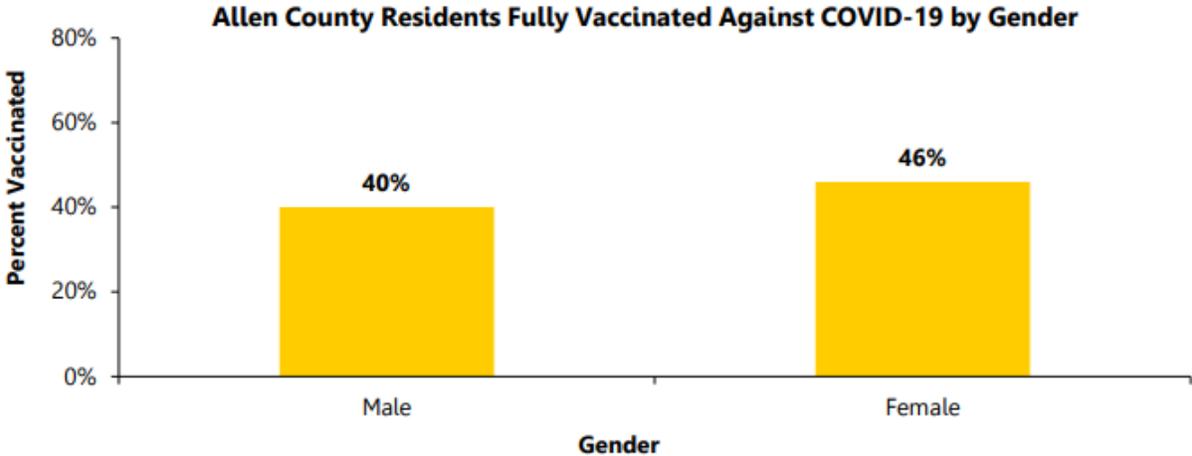


Figure 2 Allen County Community Health Assessment

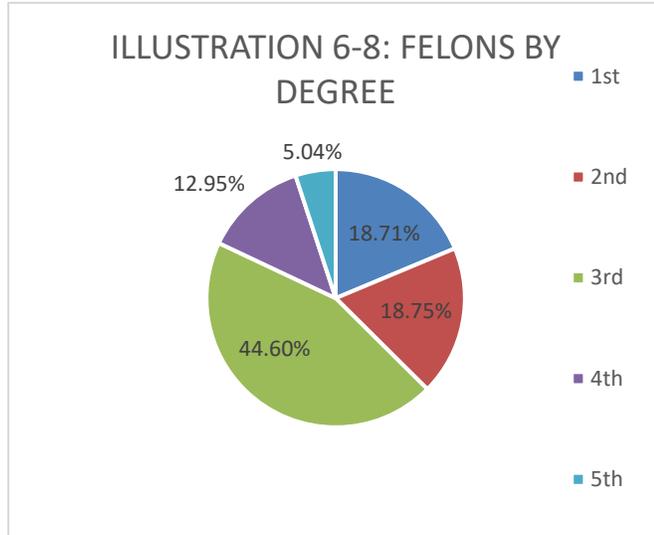
6.4 Criminology, Recidivism & Re-entry

Data presented in Section V detailed requests for service and UCR arrests in the urbanized area of Allen County as established by the Lima Police Department. They did not include statistics for the various other police departments around Allen County nor data from the Allen County Sheriff’s Office. And therefore, such data should be considered incomplete for the County but indicative of the condition prevalent within the City of Lima.

Data obtained from the Ohio Department of Corrections revealed 143 adult felons were imprisoned in Allen County in 2020, Illustration 6-7 breaks them down by degree. Of the 143 incarcerated there were 4 life/death sentences received. Of the 143 felons, 124 were male and 19 females.⁴⁴ Local data related to incarceration and recidivism rate was obtained from the Ohio Department of Corrections for Allen County. Data indicated that over a 3-year period 2016– 2019 the recidivism rate in Allen County was 31.9 percent; 10.8 percent for a technical violation and 21.1 percent for a new crime. As of 2019, roughly 7 in 10 parolees (68.0%) had not returned to

⁴⁵ <https://drc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/FY2020%20COMMITMENT%20REPORT.pdf>

the criminal justice within the three-year period.⁴⁵The process of reentry is about assimilating back into society – it's people, community, and systems. Reentry is a transitioning process whereby parolees move from one setting (prison/jail) to another (community) while improving their skill sets and ability to be a productive citizen. Researchers contend that the process of transitioning is weighted in terms of the types of services/treatment, available and needed. And without the appropriate mix of services/treatment (e.g., rehabilitation, mental health, employment, housing, etc.,) the potential exists for recidivism and a recycling through the criminal justice system.⁴⁶



And while researchers differ over policy and priorities consensus seems to be building that: Residential Treatment (e.g., live-in program with variety of services); Substance Abuse Treatment (e.g., therapeutic communities, behavioral therapies); and, Other Psychosocial Treatments (e. g. Cognitive Behavioral Therapies, Contingency Mgmt.) offer the most effective means to address successful transitioning. However, such interventions and treatments are dependent upon the quality of implementation – where trained, dedicated, and multi-disciplinary staff delivery interventions with defined aims, objectives and outcomes.⁴⁷

The mentally-ill typically have extensive experience with both the criminal justice and mental health systems.

Mental health issues can complicate the reentry process. The mentally-ill typically have extensive experience with both the criminal justice and mental health systems. People with mental illness tend to have high rates of substance abuse and dependence. So, there needs to be an emphasis on treatment and interventions that address both issues. Mentally ill people need unique treatment and services. Access to treatment services for mental health disorders is critical to reducing psychiatric symptoms. Functional impairments may make it difficult for mentally ill people to comply with standard conditions of release, such as maintaining employment and paying fines. These factors and the person's psychiatric symptoms require addressing if recidivism is to be curbed. Of special concern is assuring that the lack of medical care benefits immediately after incarceration leaves many mentally ill parolees/probationers with little or no access to needed medications.⁴⁸

Why is this data important to WOCAP? Consider the following: nearly 7 percent of children in the United States have had a custodial parent incarcerated at some point during their

Nearly 7 percent of children in the United States have had a custodial parent incarcerated at some point during their childhood.

⁴⁵ <https://drc.ohio.gov/reports/recidivism>

⁴⁶ <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

⁴⁷ <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-jvenile-justice/sim-overview/intercept-4>

childhood.⁴⁹ The negative consequences for children with an incarcerated parent can be substantial, including financial instability, changes in family structure, shame, and social stigma.⁵⁰ WOCAPs concern for family is paramount; ensuring housing stability, working to assist the disadvantaged apply for social security/disability benefits to assist with prescription services/interventions necessary to retain employment; and, assessing the community's capacity to successfully assist the reentry of these individuals with current services or those services to be developed are important steps for the criminal justice system and the community to commit to. With so many of our young involved in the criminal justice system it is important for WOCAP to recognize the means and methods to support reentry programs and stabilize families.

6.5 WOCAP Client Needs Assessment

WOCAP's front-line staffers, administrators, parents and Policy Board are engaged in client needs assessments on a regular, on-going basis. WOCAPs initial assessment of program eligibility requires a process to identify, articulate, quantify, document and validate the needs of eligible families. WOCAPs efforts are designed to meet the needs of its clients and compliment those institutions in the community that also work to serve young children and their families.

WOCAP attempts to document its clients concerns and needs and annually conducts surveys to solicit parent input into the needs assessment and service development process. The last survey completed in the summer of 2022 had a total of 194 respondents and indicated that:

- Help paying utility bills was needed by 44.2 percent of respondents
- Help with Homelessness and Emergency Housing was needed by 15 percent of survey respondents
- Help seeking employment was needed by 70 percent of respondents
- Rent/Mortgage Assistance was needed by 40 percent of survey respondents
- Safe housing was needed by 40 percent of respondents

Other services identified by the survey results reflected abuse/domestic violence services, mental health services, and Veterans services. The surveys were conducted in an uncontrolled environment and result should be viewed with care. These results as well as WOCAP services and other community resources are evaluated for gaps or redundant efforts. See Appendix G for a community resource guide.

6.6 WOCAP Services

WOCAP serves as a not-for-profit, community-based, anti-poverty agency charged with meeting the needs of the disadvantaged within Allen County. WOCAP staffers, area social service providers and health advocates argue that poverty conditions here locally are positively correlated with unmet educational outcomes especially for young children, housing needs, including stretched utility budgets and security concerns, needed employment assistance services, and disparate health consequences. As a result, WOCAP has developed a litany of partnerships with private, for profit, not-for-profit, faith-based, and public agencies to help address the economic, educational, and social disparities across the community (Appendix H).

⁴⁹ <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf>

⁵⁰ <http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/COIP-Fact-Sheet-2013-06-19.pdf>

Changing demographics, advances in technology and a globalizing economy are demanding WOCAP reconsider how it has been addressing poverty in the community.

Based on community input and client surveys WOCAP currently provides assistance to thousands of residents annually with a diversified set of more than 12 program based services targeting the disadvantaged (Table 6-3 & Appendix F - Map F1). Section 6 has been crafted in an attempt to provide a

better understanding of the rationale and justification for current programs based on the needs of the community from the perspective of WOCAP Policy Board members, WOCAP staff and data presented in earlier sections. WOCAP is cognizant that changing demographics, advances in technology, a globalizing economy and public expectations are demanding WOCAP reconsider how it has been addressing poverty in the community and continue to evolve to meet new challenges.

The most significant changes to WOCAP programming were predicated on both funding opportunities and participation of clients. WOCAP received \$1.75 million in funding to assist homeowners in Allen, Auglaize, Harding, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam Van Wert, and Wood-Counties to remove lead hazards in homes. The Lead Safe Home Program offers assistance to low- and moderate-income families with children under the age of six, or pregnant women, in making their homes lead-safe for children by eliminating lead hazards in the home including replacement of windows and siding. 1 home was completed in 2021. WOCAP now offers emergency home repair in Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Hancock and Putnam Counties to provide up to \$10,000 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI. WOCAP provided 8 emergency homerepairs and handicapped accessibility modifications in 2021.

In 2020, in an effort to better coordinate services in order to respond to the effects of the COVID -19 Pandemic, WOCAP implemented new crisis programs helped cushion the economic crisis for low-income residents effected by a loss of wages. In 2021, partnerships with City, Federal and State funders to continue to assist those in need at an enhanced level of services. This has been both a strain on our systems and an opportunity to make a bigger impact on those we serve. This impact has also benefitted the local community as well. In 2021, WOCAP aided 4,259 households which also greatly reduced the impact from evictions that would have occurred. Landlords and local businesses in Allen Auglaize, and Mercer counties benefitted from West Ohio CAP funding of \$5,331,455.

Among helping to keep residents in their homes, WOCAP provides assistance to help residents purchase a home. In 2021 WOCAP provided up to \$6,000 towards down payment and/or closing costs for 7 first-time homebuyers within the city of Lima.

In an effort to help clients remain self sufficient, WOCAP offers classes that help with credit, and budgeting. In 2021, 114 participants benefited from this service

TABLE 6-3 WOCAP PROGRAMMING & SERVICES	
Program/Target Area	Service
Early Head Start (EHS) & EHS Childcare Partnership / Early Childhood Education	This program provides comprehensive health, education, nutritional, social and other services to 190 infant and toddlers up to age three. There are seven locations in Allen County: WOCAP Central Building, Lima Senior High School, The Children's Place, Kingdom Daycare, Shawnee Weekday, Trinity Daycare and Little Rascal Child Development Center. Home based services are provided as well as center-based options. Early Head Start is supported by Health and Human Services Funds. Outcomes for this program are available through program staff.
Head Start (HS) / Early Childhood Education	This program provides comprehensive school readiness, health, education, nutritional, social and other services to low-income preschool children age 3-5 years. This program normally runs September through May. It is funded with Health and Human Services funds and supported 255 children in 2021. Outcomes for this program are available through program staff.
Kindergarten Kamp / Early Childhood Education	This is a 5-week summer program involving children from Lima City Schools and WOCAP Head Start to assist children transitioning into kindergarten. The focus is on literacy and socialization skills and to increase the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy (KRAL) scores. The program served 76 children and is supported with United Way funds. Outcomes for this program are available from Head Start staff.
Fair Housing / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This program provides information, referral, and public education for fair housing issues and accepts complaints regarding housing discrimination in all of Allen County which is then forwarded to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission if discrimination is evident. In 2021 363 households were served in this program.
Utility Assistance	The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) assists elderly and low-income families with seasonal utility bills to avoid utility shut-off, HEAP served 5,677 households in 2021. Winter Crisis Program (WCP) runs November 1 st through March 31 st and Summer Crisis Program (SCP) runs July 1 st through August 31 st if funds are available. The Winter and Summer Crisis programs saved 1,542 households in 2021. Percentage of Income Program (PIPP) customers who join the program only pay a portion of utility costs based on income. The PIPP program served 3,206 in 2021.
Wealth Prep Program / Financial Literacy	The Wealth Prep program provides classes that help participants develop and their own finances, budgeting, and identifying resources to help families move towards economic independence. In 2021, 114 participants participated in this program. This program is supported with Community Services Block Grant funds and donations from two financial institutions.
Foreclosure Prevention / Financial Literacy	This program offers workshops available to homeowners that have defaulted or are in danger of defaulting on their mortgage. The program is a partnership with the Allen County Housing Consortium. The Program is underwritten with Community Service Block Grant funds.
Homeownership / Self-Sufficiency	WOCAP provides twelve (12) hours of homeownership classes through a program that identifies the process in which homeownership is accomplished. Speakers discuss home financing, establishing and maintaining good credit, home repair, home maintenance, and the value of neighborhood associations. This program is supported by a combination City of Lima Community Development Block funds, Ohio Housing Trust Fund, and Community Service Block Grants totaling. In 2021, 96 participants successfully completed the program and 7 purchased a home through this program.
Rent/Mortgage Assistance / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This program provides housing assistance to individuals who are homeless or in need to prevent homelessness. This program's funding sources are combined with Community Service Block Grant, Federal Emergency Management agency and Ohio Homeless Crisis Funds. 1,385 households were served by this program.
Most Valuable Parents / Strengthening Family & Supportive Services	Using the Nurturing Parents Curriculum, MVP is a group of parents coming together to support one another in the role of being a parent. Through a series of 10 workshops, 95 parents and caregivers worked towards fostering positive relationships with their children. This program is supported through Community Service Block Grants funds.
Emergency Services / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This Emergency Assistance program provides very low-income individuals at 125% of poverty or below with needed services such as rent, auto repair, appliances, work uniforms, transportation, eye glasses, dentures, prescription assistance, food, clothing, minor home repairs, and more. This program is supported with Community Service Block grant funds.
Lead Abatement/Home Repair	The Lead Safe Home Program offers assistance to low- and moderate-income families with children under the age of six, or pregnant women, in making their homes lead-safe for children by eliminating lead hazards in the home including replacement of windows and siding. Provides up to \$10,000 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI.
Miscellaneous	In 2018/2019, WOCAP' SEAL Xmas program provided 86 children with Christmas gifts. WOCAP also served 40,535 meals and provided 294 health screenings.

6.7 Disability Status & Special Education

The Head Start ACT - Section 640 and the Head Start Performance Standards - Subpart A 1302.14 (b), mandate not less than 10 percent of the total number of children actually enrolled by each Head Start agency and each delegate agency will be children with disabilities who are determine to be eligible for special education and related services (Part B), or early intervention services (Part C), as appropriate as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) or by the State or local agency providing services under Section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.).

According to the 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, the total population in Allen County is 102,206 and 6,385 or 6.2 percent of the population is children under the age of 5 years. Data suggests that as of 2020 820 children have been identified by the Local Education Agency (LEA) as having a Part B disability.

6.7.1 Service Delivery

The Lima City Schools, Allen County Schools and Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities complete assessment and evaluation procedures for Head Start and Early Head Start children in Allen County to determine if additional services are needed which will assist the children with gains in the areas of speech/language, motor, cognitive, adaptive, and social/emotional development. The LEA provided Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Itinerant Teachers for Part B children. The therapist and itinerant teachers report weekly to Head Start classrooms and provide Part B direct services one on one or in small groups to children on an Individual Education Program (IEP).

In Allen County Part C services for children birth to 3 years of age are provided by Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD). Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides service coordination to Early Head Start children meeting Part C eligibility on an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Children receive early intervention services through Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities and home-based specialized services. Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides services to at risk children - Part C and at-risk factors include: first time parents that received WIC and/or Medicaid or first-time pregnant moms that received WIC and/or Medicaid.

6.7.2 WOCAPs Partners: Disabilities & Service

Turning to WOCAPs principal partners, ACBDD, Lima City Schools, and Allen County Schools. Collectively these programs and WOCAP served 710 students during the 2020/2021 academic cycle. Almost half, nearly 5 in 10, of the 421 Part B cases documented reflected speech/language impairments (45%). Disability categories reflected the full array of impairments:

- Developmental Delay
- Multiple Disabilities
- Cognitive Delay
- Hearing Impairment
- Autism
- Speech/Language Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Learning Disabilities

6.7.2.1 Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

In program year 2020-2021, ACBDD provided Part C services to 200 children; 29 children received speech therapy, 21 students received OT services, 31 children received PT services, 12 children received services by a Hearing Specialist (identified hearing loss or suspected hearing loss) and 79 children were served by Developmental Specialists.

6.7.2.2 Lima City Schools

Lima City Schools (LSC) provided preschool services to 210 including special need services (Part B) to 124 preschool children in Allen County with a diagnosed disability in 2020-2021. Special need services are provided in the LCS preschool classroom and in area preschool classrooms via dual services with an itinerant/intervention specialist.

6.7.2.3 Allen County Schools

In 2020-2021, Allen County Schools provided services (Part B) to 245 preschoolers with a diagnosed disability. Services were provided in their preschool classroom and itinerant services were provided to area preschool classrooms. Allen County Preschool reported that 227 of the Part B children were diagnosed with a speech/language impairment. Allen County reported they provided services to 84 children diagnosed with a speech/language impairment, 6 diagnosed with developmental delays, 90 diagnosed with OT and 34 diagnosed with PT, 24 diagnosed with autism and 21 students who have been evaluated needing to have IEP/ETR meeting as paperwork is completed.

6.7.3 WOCAP Response & Services

All children enrolled in the WOCAP Child Development Services receive a developmental screening within the first 45 calendar days of enrollment. The developmental screening provides information in three major developmental areas: visual/motor, language and cognition, and gross motor/body awareness. WOCAP uses the Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3 (developmental), the Ages & Stages Questionnaire-Social/Emotional, and the Early Screening Inventory. These developmental screenings help identify child strengths as well as identify areas that the child may need additional support regarding their development. Child Development staff review all screening results with parent and if the parent and/or staff have concerns about their child’s development a referral is made to the local Part C agency Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities or the Part B

WOCAPs programmatic services increased 23.8% under Part B and 10.0% under Part C since the 2010 academic cycle.

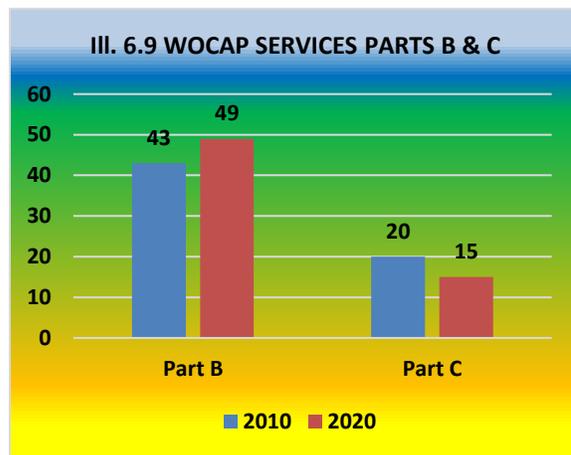
Local Education Agency (LEA) for a professional assessment. Evaluation and special need services are provided to children on an Individual Family Service Plan (Part C) or Individual Education Program.

WOCAP Child Development staff are using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment scales to document children’s progress. TS Gold provides a comprehensive view from birth through kindergarten of each child’s growth in ten school readiness domains: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies, The Arts, English Language Acquisition. The TS Gold domains correspond to the domains established and are aligned with the Ohio Early Learning Content Standard, Creative

Curriculum, and The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.

Programmatic services continued to grow and challenge available funding over the 2020-2021 academic year. Since 2010 WOCAP diagnosed the need for additional services. WOCAPs programmatic services increased 23.0 percent under Part B and 10.0 percent under Part C since the 2010 academic cycle.

WOCAPs Head Start program provided services in 2020-2021 to 49 Part B children through an interagency agreement/MOU with LEAs (local education agency); 38 children were diagnosed with speech/language impairment and 11 diagnosed with non-categorical/developmental delays. In comparison, in 2010-2011 WOCAP Head Start served 43 Part B children ages 3-5 through the interagency agreement with the LEAs, 40 children were diagnosed with speech/language impairment and 2 diagnosed with non-categorical/developmental delays (Illustration 6-8).



In the 2020-2021 Early Head Start program WOCAP provided services to 15 Part C children through an interagency agreement with Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities assisted the families with an assessment and evaluation at local hospitals. Looking back to Early Head Start programming in 2010-2011 WOCAP provided services to 20 Part C children through an interagency agreement with Help Me Grow (Illustration 6-8). Almost one percent (0.85%) of the eligible children are homeless and another 172 eligible kids are in foster care, either in agency custody (29) or temporary custody of relatives (143).

6.8 WOCAP - Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start is a premiere quality development program for income eligible children from birth till five years of age. Nationally, over a million children are served by Head Start programs every year. Early Head Start is a federally funded community-based program for income eligible families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Locally, WOCAPs programming provides educational, medical, social service, and parent involvement opportunities for families served and stresses positive attitudes, which are instrumental in developing individual abilities.

According to ACS 2020 5-Year estimates there are a total of 1,407 children aged 5 years and younger living below the poverty line, residing in Allen County. This accounts for 22.9 percent of the total 5 years and under population in Allen County. The City of Lima has the highest concentration of young children living in poverty with 80.8 percent of those 1,407 children living within the city limits. When looking at children nursery school/preschool age, an estimated 446 are living below poverty level with 352 of those residing in the City of Lima. In terms of Head Start eligible children (4-5 years old in poverty) a total of children lives in Allen County with 196 located within Lima. Almost 5 in 10 Early Head Start and Head Start eligible children (48.3%, 906) were identified by parents as a minority with over half (54.1%, 409) of those identifying African-American.

WOCAP has determined the need for services in the specific portions of the County by studying census data of the overall population, as well as birth rates and kindergarten entrance rates. The current locations of Head Start services have been chosen to provide services in the areas that have a significant low-income population of age eligible children. Due to funding restrictions, a physical location is not present in some locations however home-based services are provided countywide. Based on current data the need for Head Start/Preschool services in Allen County are being met. Early Head Start programming on the other hand as room to grow.

CFR 1305.3 C (1) The demographic make-up of Head Start eligible children and families, including their estimated number, geographic location, and racial and ethnic composition.

CFR 1305.3 C (2) Other child development and child care programs that are serving Head Start eligible children, including publicly funded State and local preschool programs, and the approximate number of Head Start eligible children served by each.

WOCAP has identified all licensed providers of age and income eligible children in the county. WOCAP has developed partnerships with childcare centers, public preschool

and disability providers to ensure that the needs of children are met in the most appropriate program option, coordinating service delivery where appropriate and ensuring Head Start is a provider of last resort.

WOCAP participates annually in the statewide Child Find Count which identifies children with disabilities and where they are receiving services. This enables WOCAP to maximize resources available to families and ensures coordination of service delivery among programs. Of the 418 children participating in the Head Start program during the 2020/2021 academic cycle, 52 were diagnosed as having a Part B disability.

CFR 1305.3 C (3) The estimated number of children with disabilities four years old or younger, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies.

CFR 1305.3 C (4) Data regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families.

The staff has also determined the need for services of all clients annually. WOCAP may not be able to provide for all of the needs of clients; therefore, staff has identified areas of concern that will require attention

and advocacy in working with community organizations to develop solutions to some of the problems/unmet needs of clients. WOCAP is currently working collaboratively with local government and community organizations to address transportation, education & training barriers (both physical and psychological), minority health, and economic development.

WOCAP collects and analyzes family needs assessments for each family participating in the program and compares that data to the community needs assessment to ensure that the most needed services are provided, located, or developed based on stated family needs. WOCAP uses extensive partnerships to coordinate service delivery when appropriate. Where there are gaps in services to meet family's needs, WOCAP has developed programming to close the gap or allocated funds to ensure that families begin to thrive.

WOCAP involves the community in identifying the needs of families countywide through participation in Policy Council activities, community surveys, and staff participation on advisory committees to both communicate the needs of Head Start families and gather input on the needs

of young children in the community. WOCAP serves Allen County as a community action agency with 25 years of service, operating more than 12 programs to provide direct services to the low-income community. The most extensive program provided to the community by WOCAP, is the early childhood program-childcare, Early Learning Initiative, Early Head Start and Head Start services. WOCAP is the largest single early childhood provider of services in Allen County, serving 512 children each year, 322 children who are of pre-school age (Appendix F – Map F2).

CFR 1305.3 C (5) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of Head Start eligible children and their families as defined by families of Head Start eligible children and by institutions in the community that serve young children.

WOCAPs experience with the early childhood programs has been extremely successful; maintaining full enrollment, with waiting lists throughout the year. The Agency is regarded as an early childhood provider expert in the community, and formally partners with the local school districts (LEA), mental health providers, children’s protective services, a federally qualified health center, The Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Allen County Department of Job & Family Services, and two area hospitals, to provide needed services to families. WOCAP’s Chief Executive Officer is currently on the steering committee of the Family and Children First Council which acts as an advisory committee for organizations serving young children in Allen County. WOCAP staff members are active members of the Family and Children First Council subcommittees.

6.8.1 Child Outcomes During The Pandemic

West Ohio Cap uses Teaching Strategies software to determine child outcomes between fall and spring of each preschool year. This data shows widely held expectations for children in each category for social and emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math skills. Children are categorized as below expectations, meets expectations and exceeds expectations based on historical child outcomes on a national level for children attending preschool. Classroom staff are trained to observe and record skill development of children in their care over time. The data only includes children who attended both in the fall when school begins and in spring.

While data for Head Start children are typically comparable to previous year’s results, there are significant changes in the skill levels of children who attended during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 program years as seen in the charts provided. Specifically, we can see significant skill level decline in the category of meets expectations in every skill level for these program years. The 2021/2022 program year results are more comparable to the 2018/2019 program years before the pandemic.

The data in program years 2019/2020 suggests that the closing of Head Start classrooms between March of 2020 and the remainder of the school year had a significant reduction in children’s skill level in all categories. However, these children attended for 7 of a 9-month program year. Similarly, the 2020/2021 program year show the lowest skill development in children. This program year had the highest rate of quarantines, classroom closings and the highest percentage of child absences in the last four years. Ongoing classroom closures, rolling quarantines of staff and children, and poor attendance due to parental health concerns have impacted children’s learning greatly. It is important to note as well that the children attending Head Start in 2021/2022 school year were on average the age of two when the pandemic began. Also, in this program year, the Centers for Disease Control lifted the childcare restrictions for pandemic

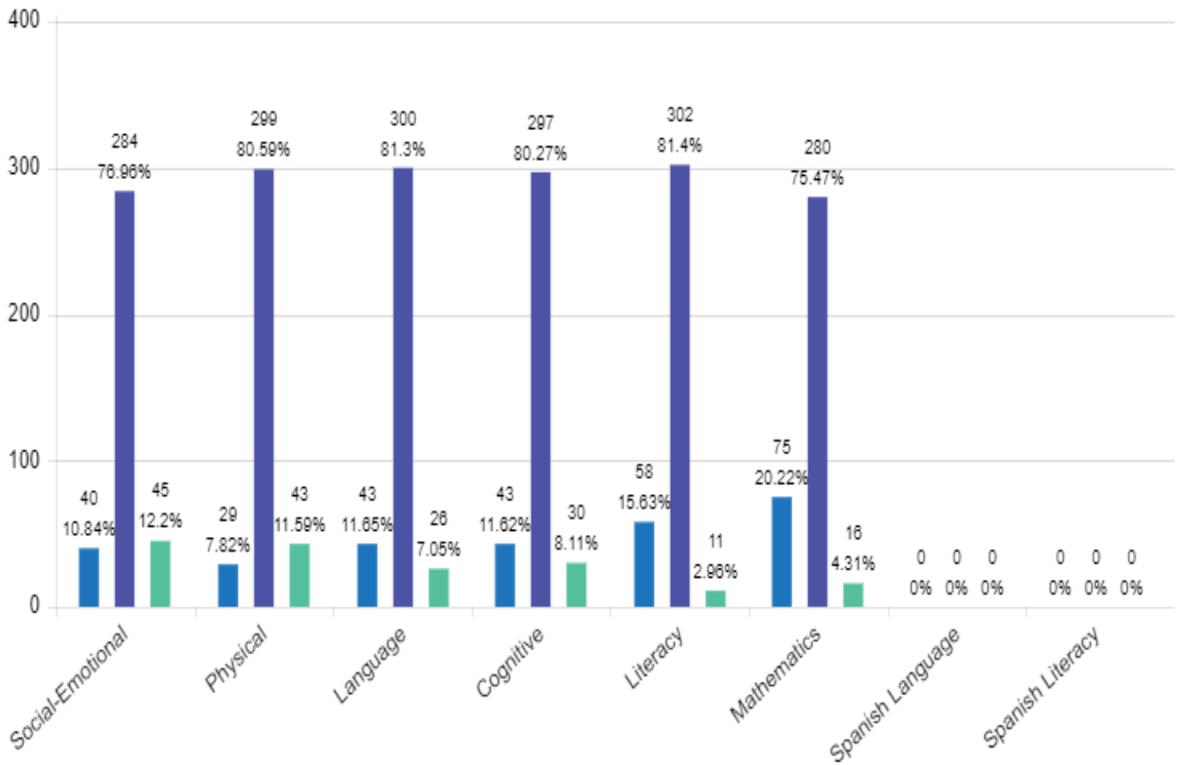
responses such as sending children home for any sign of a virus whether Covid19 or not, and 10-day quarantines.

Head Start programs across the nation have been experiencing a significant rise in staff turnover as well as staff shortages that in all likelihood, caused a reduction in the quality of early childhood teachers serving children. This issue continues in the 2022/2023 school year. The shortage of qualified teachers existed pre-pandemic, due to low pay options and degree requirements. The pandemic has exasperated these shortages.

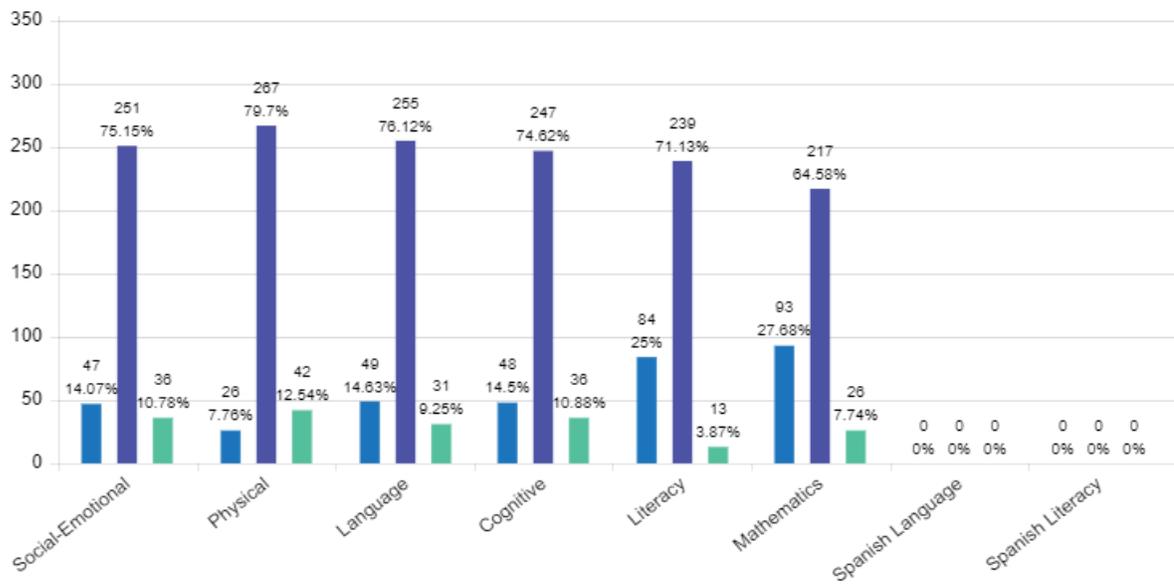
Poor attendance of children who are enrolled in the program has increased since the pandemic began and continues in the 2022/2023 program year. If an increase in funding becomes available, West Ohio CAP will convert the remainder of part-day classrooms to full day classrooms to increase the number of hours children are served to improve skill development. The following illustrations compare data from 2018 through the 2022 school years.



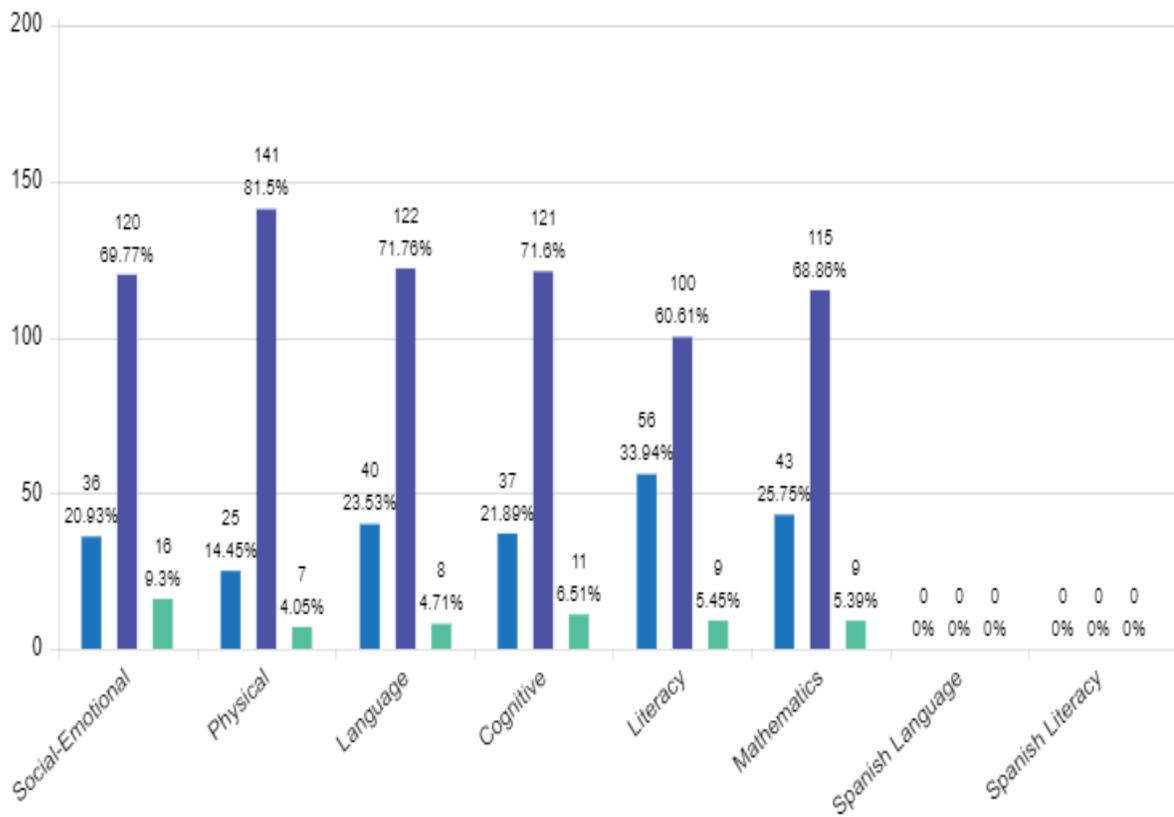
SPRING 2018/2019/ EXPECTATIONS



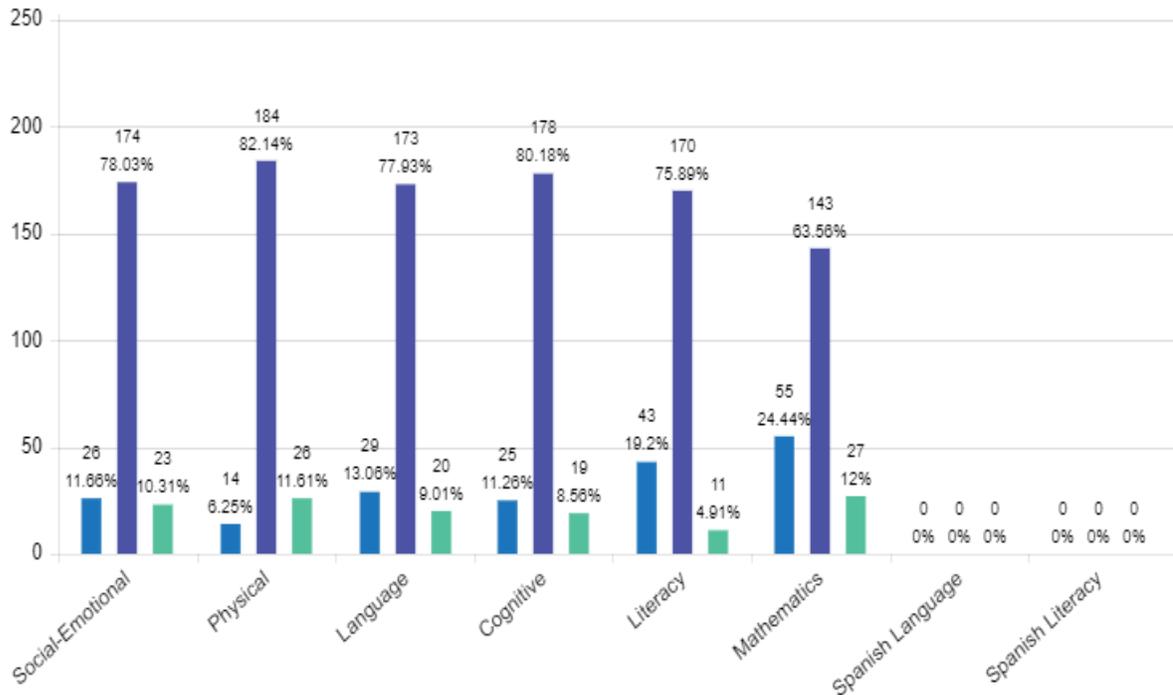
SPRING 2019/2020 EXPECTATIONS



SPRING 2020/2021 EXPECTATIONS



SPRING 2021/2022 EXPECTATIONS



6.9 Collaborations and Resources

WOCAP is currently working collaboratively with local government and community organizations to provide many of the resources needed by Head Start eligible children and their families. WOCAP in partnership with LACRPC and the Allen County Health Department has provided a Community Assessment that touches on many issues that face today's Environmental Justice populations. Issues that include, health, crime, employment, poverty, affordable housing, air and water quality, and education have been addressed. These issues provide a better understanding of both the community and the Head Start population, providing guidance for future steps aimed at improving the community.

CFR 1305.3 C (6) Resources in the community that could be used to address the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families, including assessments of their availability and accessibility.

CFR 1305.3 D (1) The Early Head Start and Head Start grantee and delegate agency must use information from the Community Assessment to: Help determine the grantee's philosophy, and its long-range and short-range program objectives.

WOCAP has identified data from the 2021 Annual Program Information Report regarding the education, health, nutrition and social service needs. Data from individual need assessments, completed by Head Start eligible families was also gathered to determine their perceptions of need. In addition, objective

measurement using data collected through family service worker case notes, and by way of data entry tracking systems were reviewed to verify successful service delivery and improvement areas in meeting the needs of Head Start eligible children and their families. The long- and short-term goals and objectives outlined in the grant application reflects the planned service delivery priorities based on this data.

The needs of Head Start and Early Head Start children are significant upon entry into the program. WOCAP is able to achieve milestones in meeting children's needs. Many children that are enrolled in health insurance regardless of type still enter the program without all necessary and appropriate health screenings and immunizations. Head Start staff spends a significant amount of time educating parents of the need for these screenings as well as coordinating the actual care received while in the program. WOCAP is able to meet most of the families' social service, nutrition, and education needs within the Head Start setting. Again, significant deficits exist in the family member's ability to access these services outside of Head Start.

CFR 1305.3 D (2) Determine the type of component services that are most needed and the program option or options that will be implemented.

The WOCAP Education Advisory committee has identified the kindergarten readiness needs of children through defining the skills needed for entering kindergarten. The committee recommended that children, at a minimum be able to identify colors, shapes, birthday, address, and phone number. Children should be able to write their full name, follow directions, and demonstrate listening skills. There is a need for focus on letter and number recognition, as well as counting skills. With the assistance of the Education Advisory Committee, WOCAP has ensured that the curriculum (Creative Curriculum) is aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Ages Birth Through Five, The Parent, Family and Community Framework, and the Parents as Teachers Curriculum.

CFR 1305.3 D (3) Determine the recruitment area that will be served by the grantee, if limitations in the number of resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area.

WOCAP has determine that several program options are needed in the service area that include home based, childcare partnership, and centered based for both

Head Start and Early Head Start families. In addition, support services and parent education in the areas of healthcare, social service supports such as housing assistance and emergency services, parenting skills development, and employment skills training were identified.

The Allen County service area is inclusive of its cities and villages, encompassing the Cities of Delphos and Lima, the incorporated villages of Bluffton, Cairo, Elida, Harrod, Lafayette, and Spencerville and 12 townships including: Amanda, American, Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Marion, Monroe, Perry, Richland, Shawnee, Spencer and Sugar Creek.

CFR 1305.3 D (6) Set criteria that define the types of children and families who will be given priority for recruitment and selection.

CFR 1305.3 E In each of the two years following completion of the Community Assessment the grantee must conduct a review to determine whether there have been significant changes in the information described in paragraph (b) of this section. If so, the Community Assessment must be updated and the decisions described in paragraph (c) of this section must be reconsidered.

WOCAP's priority for enrollment includes but is not limited to the age of the child (four-year-old receive priority), children in foster care or experiencing homelessness, the family composition (single parent, grandparents raising grandchildren, teen parents), and needs of the family (families in crisis, having chronic health conditions, inadequate income or housing, etc.). Children who have parents deployed in the military or have open child

protective cases are also prioritized for enrollment. Community partners refer families to us regularly who are in need of these services (The information collection requirements are

CFR 1305.3 F The recruitment area must include the entire service area, unless the resources available to the Head Start grantee are inadequate to serve the entire service area.

approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0970-0124 for paragraphs (b) and (d)). The agency conducts a review of the needs assessment and completes an updated summary of changes that is approved by both Policy Council and the board before the results are included in planning services.

Enrollment criteria have been prepared to assist in determining a child’s eligibility for the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Those children assigned the highest priority are identified as children with the greatest needs. A list of contributing factors is also provided so that special circumstances are considered. The enrollment criteria are approved annually by the Board and Policy Council to guarantee the greatest needs of local families are addressed. Children whose family incomes are above the poverty guidelines will be considered if they have a documented disability, or are within 130 percent of income levels. However, in the last couple of years, due to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, low enrollment and lack of staff have forced some

CFR 1305.3 G In determining the recruitment area when it does not include the entire service area, the grantee must: select an area or areas that are among those having the greatest need for Early Head Start or Head Start services as determined by the Community Assessment; and, answered previously but here are our sites.

classrooms to stay closed. In turn, affecting the number of children that are able to benefit from Head Start services. .

WOCAP owns and operates a facility located within the City of Lima. The majority of programming and office space is housed at

this location. However, Head Start/Early Head Start/EHS Child Care Partnership services are delivered throughout Allen County at multiple site locations. In 2022 operations began at a brand new facility located at 1825 Reese Ave., which allows WOCAP to serve the entire family in one locations with Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care.

The City of Lima, is the densest Head Start Service area in Allen County. Within Allen County, Head Start/Early Head Start/EHS Childcare Partnership operate across 13 locations (Map 4-2).

CFR 1305.3 D (5) Determine appropriate locations for centers and the areas to be served by home-based programs.

The Central Head Start facility is located at 540 S. Central Avenue in the center of Lima. There are 3 program options offered at the Central Avenue Facility:

- There are 3 infant/toddler classrooms serving Early Head Start children 6 hours per day, 5 days per week, year-round.
- The facility houses 8 Home-Based Visitors, each serving 10-12 families. Each family receives one home visit per week plus bi-monthly family day activities.
- There are 4 federally funded Head Start classrooms that serve 6 hours per day, 4 days per week, part-year.

Head Start and Early Head Start at the Central Avenue location provides services for 80 preschoolers and serves 24 infants and toddlers. Limited transportation is offered to children and families at this location based on availability, location and need. The Head Start management team, clerical, support and transportation staff operates from offices at the Central facility. The Head Start program pays for facility space and use based upon cost allocation for utilities, maintenance and occupied space. The facility is located in the Kobby Corners’ neighborhood, a low-income, multi-racial neighborhood; Community Development Block Grants target the area. The WOCAP facility meets all American’s with Disabilities Act requirements.

Lima Senior High School Early Head Start is located at 1 Spartan Way. The Early Head Start programming serves 16 children through two full-day, full-year infant and toddler classrooms that have been in operation since 2004. The site functions for 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, year-round according to the Lima Senior High school calendar. The site serves as an early education laboratory for high school students enrolled in the ECE program. The staff that operates the classrooms are employed by WOCAP. There is a priority placement for students who are teen mothers attending the high school.

Unity Early Head Start is located at 925 E. 3rd Street in the Unity Elementary School building. The Early Head Start programming serves 8 children, full-day, full-year infant and toddler classrooms. The classroom operates 7 hours per day, 5 days per week.

Howard and O'Neal Centers, program owned modular units, are located on the same plot of land at 411 E. 8th Street in Lima. Howard serves 40 preschool children and O'Neal serves 40 preschool children. The preschool center-based model operates single session classes in each unit, five days per week with 6-hour sessions. Arrival and departure are combinations of Head Start Transportation and parent transport.

Philippian Head Start facility is located at 190 E 8th Street in Lima, serving 30 children and families in a full-day center-based session, functioning five days per week for 6 hours each. The Parents provide the transportation to this site.

The Market St. Head Start facility serves most of the eligible children in this area. The 1100 W. Market St. Head Start has 2 double session center-based classrooms, functioning four days per week for 3.5 hours each, serving 68 children. This site has served the program on an in-kind basis, for 34 consecutive years. Some transportation services are provided for children and families attending Market St. Head Start. This area is also serving a significant number of Early Head Start home-based families.

Serving Shawnee, Spencerville & Crothersville is the St. Matthew Head Start center which serves 18 rural WOCAP Head Start children and families in a full-day center-based session (5 days a week for 6 hours a day). Enrollment is recruited from the three rural communities. Space at St. Matthew is donated. HS pays a small stipend for maintenance and upkeep of a portion of the premises used by HS.

Allen East Head Start serves 40 children and families from the villages of Harrod and Lafayette in a full-day center-based session, functioning five days per week for 6 hours each. The Center is

CFR 1305.3 G (2) Include as many Head Start eligible children as possible within the recruitment area, so that: (i) The greatest number of Head Start eligible children can be recruited and have an opportunity to be considered for selection and enrollment in the Head Start program, and (ii), the Head Start program can enroll the children and families with the greatest need for its services.

located within the new Allen East Community Center. Parents provide the transportation to this site. The population of Harrod has the highest concentration of poverty outside the City of Lima in the county. Lafayette is a neighboring village.

Our Early Head Start/Childcare Partnership sites serve 72 children and families with the

following options, five days per week for 48 weeks, 240 days per year, up to 10 hours per day, in ODJFS licensed Childcare Centers or Certified Family Childcare Homes:

- Little Rascals Child Development Center - serving 24 infants and or/toddlers, birth to 3 years.
- Kingdom Daycare - serving 8 infants and or/toddlers, birth to 3 years old.
- Trinity UMC Center for Creative Childcare - serving 8 toddlers, 18 months to 36 months.
- The Children's Place Daycare- serving 10 infants and or/toddlers, birth to 3 years old.
- Shawnee Weekday Early Learning Center - serving 24 infants and or/toddlers, 6 weeks to 3 years old.

**Table 6-4
Services Provided & Outcomes in 2021**

Service Area	Program Name	Description	Number Served	Comments	
Employment	Head Start Student Interns	Hands-on experience for local high school and college students	2	Due to pandemic, unable to have students on-site until November 2021	
Education	Head Start	Free program for eligible families serving ages 3-5	255		
	Early Head Start	Free program for eligible families serving ages 0-3	117		
	Childcare Partnerships		103		
	Kindergarten Kamp	5 week summer program for Allen Co. children transitioning into Kindergarten	76		
	HUD - Financial Literacy	Short term housing counseling 1-on-1 with HUD Certified Counselor	83		
Health & Social/ Behavioral Development	MVP Parenting	Free program available to parents and caregivers of minor children in Allen, Auglaize and Mercer Counties	95		
	Seal Christmas	Provides a holiday for eligible families	86		
	USDA Meals (Head Start)	WOCAP serves 2/3 of the daily nutritional needs to our children in center-based programs in Allen County	40, 535	# of Meals Served	
Civic Engagement & Community	Getting Ahead	Curriculum helps individuals in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves and their families	0	Due to pandemic, unable to hold trainings	
	Bridges Out of Poverty	Community support program with a comprehensive approach and concrete tools for reducing poverty in the community	17	Due to pandemic, unable to hold as trainings	
Income & Asset Building	Down Payment Assistance	Program targets first-time homebuyers purchasing within the City of Lima	7	Due to pandemic, lower # served	
	Wheels To Work	Households (Allen Co) will receive financial management counseling to purchase a vehicle with partner funds	0		
Housing	Homeownership	Provides \$6,000 towards down payment for first-time homebuyers within City of Lima	96		
	Financial Management	Classes that help participants with credit, budgeting and identifying resources towards self-sufficiency	114		
	Fair Housing	Provides information and education on fair housing issues in Allen & Mercer Counties	363	# of Calls Received	
	Home Repairs	Provides emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI	8		
	Lead Abatement	Eligible low-to-moderate income homeowners and landlords; making their homes lead-safe for children	1		
	Rent & Mortgage Assistance	Households served with Housing Assistance	1,385		
	Utility Assistance (Non-HEAP or PIPP)	Households served with Utility Assistance	379		
	HEAP		5,677		
	Summer Crisis Program	Provides energy assistance to eligible Allen, Auglaize and Mercer County residents	594		
	Winter Crisis Program		947		
	PIPP	Participants make utility payments that are based on their income level in Allen, Auglaize and Mercer Counties	3,206		
	(No Excuses) Homeless	Program for individuals to receive safe and warm shelter/bed when they encounter homelessness	129		
Supportive Services	Transportation	Bus passes or taxi for work, childcare and/or medical	12		
	Eligibility Determinations		0		
	Referrals		0		
	Birth Certificate		1		
	Social Security Card		0		
	Criminal Record Expungements		0		
	Immigration Support Services		0		
	Legal Assistance		0		
	Emergency Clothing Assistance		1		
	Mediation/Customer Advocacy Interventions		98	Fair Housing Program	
	Case Management		82		
	Driver's License		0		
	Other, Describe	13 Appliances		52 HH	
		1 gas card			
		3 HH/8 payments auto payment			
1 HH/ 3 payments - auto insurance					
18 HH Food					
Auto repair - 5 HH/5 repairs					
7 HH property taxes					
4 (HH) storage unit rentals for evicted clients					

SECTION 7 SUMMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Since 1965 Head Start programming has promoted a comprehensive early care and education program to promote and support: optimal physical health, emotional and social development, cognitive development, and a sense of responsibility, dignity, and self-worth for each child and family. This report and its recommendations document and support the foundation and national standards for Head Start's comprehensive health care approach and its focus on preventive health care and parental involvement.

Acknowledging this child & family-based focus WOCAP has acknowledged and integrated Head Start Program Performance Standards targeting: health and developmental services, health and safety, and nutrition. WOCAP is carefully and actively working to address and incorporate physical activity and physical health into every child's development process; engaging parents, coordinating community support, and ensuring systems level planning. WOCAP its Head Start and Early Head Start programming are working with parents and local stakeholders to promote a culture of healthy lifestyles in every classroom and in every home so that young children will embrace lifelong healthy development.

WOCAP is promoting a culture of healthy lifestyles in every classroom and in every home so that young children will embrace lifelong healthy development.

WOCAP contends that it provides excellent early childhood educational opportunities and has developed an excellent rapport with local educational service providers and health educators. Working with its established partners and locally committed government agencies, WOCAP is looking to expand on the roles that it has already assumed and undertake new responsibilities by attempting to fill those gaps in services identified in this Community Assessment as ever so important.

7.1 Summation of WOCAPs Approach

This final section of the Community Assessment is intended to highlight some of the previous findings and identify the manner in which Head Start and Early Head Start programming issues are integrated into and across WOCAPs programming. Sections 7.1.1 thru 7.1.9 work to portray WOCAPs existing commitments to Head Start and Early Head Start families and students, WOCAP clients and Agency staffers by establishing organizational philosophies and positions for baseline services such as health and safety services programming, especially protocol to address injury prevention, child abuse & neglect. The summation draws new attention to WOCAPs recent entry into a more proactive role in dealing with the social and environmental determinants of health affecting local children. WOCAP is also working to expand its efforts in those areas that help rebuild resilient effective neighborhoods that link families with resources and provide economic opportunities for its residents.

WOCAP is taking a more proactive role in dealing with the social and environmental determinants of health affecting local children.

7.1.1 Health Services Program Planning

Planning for health services begins with the community assessment as mandated by Early Head Start and Head Start. WOCAPs own community assessment is a comprehensive and dynamic process designed to collect data that identifies community health, education, nutrition, and social service needs, as well as community strengths/weaknesses and resources. Although the community assessment is required to be conducted every five years, it is updated annually. WOCAP uses the data collected during the community assessment process to make decisions

about the types of services to provide for children and families and to assist in establishing health priorities.

WOCAP has and continues to use the community assessment as the basis for:

- Documenting the community's racial, ethnic, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics;
- Inventorying the community's public/private capital infrastructure and institutional resources;
- Identifying and developing annual objectives for its client services including health services programming; and,
- Prioritizing health education outreach to children, parents, staff, and community stakeholders.

Community partners include local child care services, social service providers, medical professionals & clinicians, health educators, focused upon behavioral, cognitive, emotional and physical development.

The community assessment identifies health concerns identified by families of Head Start and Early Head Start children and by those community stakeholders that serve the community's youngest and most vulnerable. Recognizing its clients and student's families are among the neediest in the community, WOCAP's delivery of services

often overlaps with other service providers. As such a strong collaborative effort has developed with many of the local service providers and governmental services. Information sharing amongst interested parties results in a broader more comprehensive perspective of the environmental, socioeconomic and health behaviors that require clinical care, public educational outreach, and community involvement. WOCAP's community partners include local child care services, social service providers, medical professionals and clinicians, as well as health educators, all focused upon advancing the behavioral, cognitive, emotional and physical development of Head Start and Early Head Start children. A list of the collaborative partners is identified in the appendices of this report.

While most children who enter both Early and Head Start programs are not considered overweight at the time of enrollment or upon leaving the program, obesity in later school years is significant in the general population. WOCAP has begun to address healthy eating habits with parents, including providing healthier refreshments to parents and children at events. Access to affordable healthy foods is a barrier for low-income families. Storage and preparation of healthier options should be targeted for community development.

7.1.2 Building a Healthy Foundation for Learning & Life

WOCAP realizes just how fast children grow and develop physically, emotionally and cognitively. The organization and its staff are all too aware that the limited amount of time to provide opportunities and effective interventions are extremely inadequate. However, regardless of the limited amount of time with Head Start children, WOCAP has strategically positioned itself to address threats to every child's health and development, and promoting family wellness and healthy practices.

To ensure that each child's health needs are addressed WOCAP's Head Start programming works to provide comprehensive health services that include a medical evaluation, dental examination, and a screening for developmental, sensory and behavioral concerns. WOCAP's staff and local stakeholders ensure that the results of such individual medical and developmental assessments are shared with each child



WOCAP's staff and local stakeholders ensure that the results of such individual medical and developmental assessments are shared with each child and their family.

and their family. Staff uses such screening tools to identify those critical steps necessary to ensure future health care services with local medical and dental service providers and develop effective parental involvement in the provision of health care; developing an individualized health plan inclusive of immunizations, and wellness check-ups to address any medical, behavioral and oral health concerns. Staff works to ensure that screening evaluation criteria is documented, parents are informed, and any necessary provisions for individualized health services identified and discussed with the appropriate medical service provider(s) or caseworker(s). Given the fact that the screenings sometimes fail to identify a child's problem initially, staff suspicions of later ongoing concerns may necessitate a referral for a formal evaluation.



Protecting children from the effects of poverty to help them thrive in the future while helping their families out of poverty as quickly as possible is the single most important strategy that can be employed in communities to decrease the cycle of poverty. Children who are malnourished both physically and intellectually before the age of five are likely to suffer permanent consequences to their health and well-being. This holistic approach

to poverty prevention is encompassed in multiple approaches that have been proven effective over time.

Recognizing that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers, strategies towards healthy behaviors of parents and family members are needed to reduce the effects of poverty on young children. Programs that support child development from conception to adulthood are

Programs that support child development from conception to adulthood are underfunded.

underfunded. For example, it is estimated that WOCAP is serving 30 percent of individuals in poverty in Allen County. The Agency's work then becomes focused on making the largest impact on children in poverty as possible. This factor requires WOCAP involve multiple partnerships and collaborations within the community, providing a cornucopia of services and programs that engage low-income families in self-sufficiency.

7.1.3 Health Assessments: Staffers, Parents & Community Stakeholder Involvement



WOCAPs Head Start programming ensures that program staffers collect child health data within the first 45 days of enrollment. This initial screening is a time consuming and expensive process and WOCAP has employed various strategies to facilitate the screenings necessary to meet the Health & Human Services timeline including: (1) pre-enrollment parent meetings informing them of necessary screenings and providers conducting the screening; (2) communicating with parents about the

importance of maintaining an individual child health record to improve service delivery and reduce duplicative services; (3) establishing relationships with local health care providers who understand and support Head Start's programmatic requirements; (4) collaborative relationships with Rhodes State College and Apollo Career Center allowing students in nutrition, nursing, speech pathology, audiology, and other allied health fields to assist with screenings; and, (5) empowering parents to function as child advocates for wellness and health care services. WOCAP

considers this process as a first step necessary to ensure future positive outcomes for the preschoolers served in the community's Head Start programming. But WOCAP Head Start staff routinely monitor children over the course of the day. Such observations are used to identify new or any recurring medical, dental or developmental concerns so that appropriate referrals can be made. And, as part of an ongoing health wellness assessment, each child is checked at the beginning of the day for specific signs or symptoms of illness to prevent the spread of infection. While not medical practitioners - staff is trained to be sensitive to a child's condition. WOCAP ensures appropriate care with 2 LPNs who oversee the individual health needs of children who have identified needs.

Tobacco and alcohol use and abuse as well as the recreational use of illicit drugs and prescription medications is under-reported by low-income families that WOCAP serves. Parental education in the recognition of symptoms of drug abuse among children and adolescents is necessary. Strategies to better mental health behaviors and its relationship to drug and alcohol abuse are needed to find the extent of the problem and potential solutions.

Strategies to better mental health behaviors and its relationship to drug and alcohol abuse are needed to find the extent of the problem and potential solutions.

7.1.4 Family Health & Wellness

WOCAP staffers recognize that sometimes adult family members fail to recognize their personal health and well-being affects their child's growth and development. Head Start staff who work with families are trained to be sensitive to cultural values while being able to provide the resources and information that can be used to: assist parents in understanding systems of ongoing family health care; to encourage parents into becoming active partners in family health care processes; and, to provide parents with the opportunity to learn about preventive health care and specific health needs of individual children.

WOCAP staff must work within an ethnically, culturally, and religiously sensitive context to address family health and wellness issues. Addressing the various family issues often requires WOCAP to coordinate with other community professionals and service providers. In developing health and wellness services WOCAP has identified nutrition, obesity, smoking cessation, drug dependency, and bike & pedestrian safety as necessary first steps in advancing family wellness.

WOCAP's policies and procedures acknowledge the rich diversity of the community's population and work effectively to communicate respect for clients and subsequently generate the clients trust for community health care and social service providers. It is based on this appreciation and embrace of diversity – sometimes in the face of adversity – that WOCAP has been recognized as a champion and advocate of local youth and civil rights by local community groups and elected officials. In its role as a champion WOCAP has pushed the envelope to move further from traditional child and family wellness issues to that of child, family & neighborhood wellness.

Working with its Health Services Advisory Committee WOCAP has developed various strategies and services to target those conditions experienced by its students as identified by parents and staffers, and that were subsequently validated by local community stakeholders and ultimately documented in the community assessment including:

- speech/language impairments
- developmental delay and cognitive delay including autism
- hearing/vision impairments
- orthopedic impairment

- multiple disabilities.

Other personal (and household) conditions identified in the community assessment identified various factors associated with health behaviors, clinical care and the physical environment:

- obesity;
- scarcity of whole foods;
- access to health care;
- smoking; and,
- excessive alcohol consumption.

WOCAP has adopted the following strategies to address issues related to obesity:

- Monitoring and evaluate WOCAPs Nutrition Policy annually;
- Monthly newsletters to help educate parents and area stakeholders;
- Make nutrition and structured physical activity integral to the daily classroom experience;
- Educating children about healthy foods and making children aware of a variety of new foods such as whole grains, vegetables, and fruits;
- Introducing students to healthy, culture-specific foods to promote good nutrition at home;
- Educating families about healthy alternatives for meals and snacks through parent nutritional training;
- Promoting and supporting regularly scheduled sit-down family meals; and,
- Reducing sedentary time (including television/computer gaming activities) of children.

7.1.5 Ensuring Child Health & Safety

WOCAP has taken the necessary steps to establish specific policies and procedures to ensure the safety of each and every child that enters its building(s) and receives its services. The Agency's administrative personnel, staff, Policy Council, Parent Committee, Board, and Health Services Advisory Committee have researched, discussed at length, and adopted specific protocol to address: emergencies, injury prevention, child abuse & neglect; necessary equipment/emergency medical supplies; hygiene, and nutrition, as well as, sanitation and food safety. WOCAP has also taken the necessary measures to train its administrators and staff in such policies and will continually strive to educate the parents and the community stakeholders who have entrusted the Agency with the care and development of their child.



Access to green spaces and safety of children during outside physical activity is a barrier for single family households. Pedestrian safety and crime rates are seen as deterrents to the free play of children in their neighborhoods, including safe walkways for children traveling to and from school and school playgrounds that are accessible outside of school hours.

7.1.6 Health & Human Services Priority Population Groupings

Various subpopulation groups including African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and American Indians have been identified by Health & Human Services as populations with unique health care needs¹ and that these populations require special attention. This collective of priority populations also includes immigrants and refugees. Individuals in these priority populations are less likely to receive preventive care, screening services, or access to quality health care, and are more likely to have poorer overall health. Furthermore, minority women, children, and people who are poor within these priority groups are at even greater health risk. Members of these priority populations are more likely to be uninsured, thereby further compounding their ability to stay healthy and receive needed services. There is considerable ethnic and racial diversity in rural areas dispersed throughout WOCAPs service area; including small groups of first- and second-generation immigrants.



WOCAP has worked to develop internal and external cultural competencies to effectively

address family dynamics and address health and socioeconomic disparities prevalent in its client base. The social values, cultural beliefs and sometimes linguistic barriers are realities in delivering effective service interventions. WOCAP has committed to advancing the development and

There is considerable ethnic and racial diversity in rural areas dispersed throughout WOCAPs service area; small pockets of priority groups including immigrants are present.

implementation of health awareness programs that focus on special populations.

WOCAP has developed the following strategies to expand the awareness of health disparities in specific priority populations and ensure safe and equitable services:

- Developing institutional sensitivity with local medical practitioners to the needs of priority populations;
- Educating priority populations about available health services especially those that cater to minority or immigrant populations;
- Providing technical support and assistance to parents filling out health care program application forms and providing language interpretation services when needed;
- Ensuring that each student and their family has direct access to medical homes that are culturally sensitive; and,
- Implementing accurate record-keeping and reporting systems to ensure comprehensive health care services and follow-up services are received by Head Start families.

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/>

WOCAP will develop a strong culturally sensitive system for supporting effective communication between students, parents, staff, administrative personnel and community stakeholders:



- Communications shall be developed in a manner that is culturally sensitive and considerate of literacy levels of the targeted audience;
- Ongoing communication with parents and stakeholders is necessary to ensure trust and the successful delivery of student, family and stakeholder services;
 - Daily or weekly notes shall be sent home to families in their native languages;
 - Staff shall conduct home visits when sensitive information needs to be discussed.
- Language barriers and language familiarity/preferences may require the use of interpreters and/or consideration/implementation of the following:
 - Oral and written communication in the native language of the child and family using an interpreter shall be provided when necessary;
 - Staff and/or parents should be identified/trained to serve as interpreters;
 - Local college and university staff/students will be sought to further communications with priority populations and/or to obtain interpretation services;
 - Local community organizations and/or ethnic associations will be identified for possible assistance and interpretation services.
- Regular quarterly newsletters will be published touting the Agency’s accomplishments and concerns;
- Regular meetings with community stakeholders will be convened to share and discuss the Agency’s services and programming to foster community support and support an open exchange of ideas; and,
- Program orientation activities will be held at the beginning of the year for families, staff, and community partners.

WOCAPs commitment to the Health & Human Services targeted populations carry over to its employment practices. Since 2009 when HR began tracking for HS Parent/Student WOCAP has

WOCAPs commitment to the Health & Human Services targeted populations carry over to its employment practices.

hired have hired 117. Currently we have 20 on our payroll that are either a Current or Former HS Parent or Former Student. WOCAP also dedicates a significant amount of funding to the advancement of entry level employees through degree attainment. 55 of the current staff have had either classes toward degrees, licensure or Certifications paid for throughout their employment.

7.1.7 Environmental Health Assessments & Community Development

Over the last several decades it has become readily evident that the design of the built environment has had a major impact on the health and general well-being of low-income families. Health advocates and social expect more physical activity and healthier diets among persons in communities with convenient, safe walking paths and accessible sources of fresh vegetables and fruit. On the other hand, poorer health indicators are expected among residents of neighborhoods where illicit activities regularly occur where high crime rates exist, where fewer parks or walking paths exist, where residents experience traffic heavier and higher travel speeds, numerous alcohol and tobacco outlets are present, and poor access to fresh food exists.²

WOCAP wants to identify those environmental factors disproportionately affecting its clients; environments that do not support healthy behaviors and most often associated with sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition.

WOCAP is looking beyond the traditional bounds of the healthcare system to address those social and environmental determinants of health affecting children. WOCAP has recently supported various initiatives with neighborhood associations, health care advocates, social service agencies



and planning organizations to address the local built environment – the physical structure and infrastructure of local neighborhoods. WOCAP wants to identify those environmental factors disproportionately affecting its clients; environments that do not support healthy behaviors and most often associated with sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition (smoking, heart disease, stroke). WOCAP wants a physical environment that promotes a positive impact on a child's health and

development including access to clean water/clean air, safe streets, and health promoting activities such as walking, biking, and healthy eating.

WOCAP is looking to: (1) broaden and diversify the base of discussion empowering low-income client parents to advocate on behalf of their children; (2) provide opportunities for nutrition education and improved access to affordable healthful foods in a culturally sensitive manner that fosters community building and increased social interaction; and, (3) expand efforts that rebuild resilient neighborhoods that link families with resources and provide economic opportunities for its residents. WOCAP believes that changing the built environment in such ways will have a positive impact on many of the health-related issues affecting the community, from diabetes and obesity, to asthma, to traffic safety and community violence.

7.1.8 Educational Attainment, Financial Literacy & Asset Building

WOCAP recognizes research indicating that children growing up in low-income households are more likely to experience social and health conditions that place them at risk for later academic, employment, and behavioral problems.³

Families engaging in asset building also tend to experience improved health and well-being, increased civic and community involvement, and decreased rates of poverty transferred to the next generation.

The Ford Foundation and others have found that asset building approaches to financial success based on accumulated savings and purchase of

² <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm>

³ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app#/ohio/2020/allen/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

long-term assets is critical to end the cycle of poverty. Research conducted throughout the last decade on financial literacy and the effects of asset building indicate positive results extend beyond tangible assets accumulated. Families with assets develop a psychological future-orientation, an increase in stable successful marriages, and improved housing stability. Families engaging in asset building also tend to experience improved health and well-being, increased civic and community involvement, and decreased rates of poverty transferred to the next generation. Examples of forward-thinking, future-oriented, goal-driven actions and behaviors include college educations, professional training, business ownership and home ownership.^{4,5} Based on such insights WOCAPs anti-poverty agenda looks to break the link between resource-poor parents/caregivers and adverse child outcomes. To achieve this WOCAP provides anti-poverty programming support to parents as well as their children.

WOCAP empowers low-income parents to break the bonds of poverty and promote their child's well-being based on improved educational attainment levels, financial literacy and asset building. The three are essential to reversing the bonds and the cumulative legacy effects of poverty spanning generation to generation. Providing a solid educational footing for young children is the essential basis of much anti-poverty programming. The acquisition of a high school degree or its equivalent, college, and/or professional certifications is indicative of future employment opportunities and a stable income.

And while many discuss equity issues regarding employment, education, housing, and healthcare rarely do they consider financial literacy. WOCAP sees financial literacy as one of the most critical equity issues of this generation, believing that financial literacy empowers people and offers the promise of bridging differences between race, culture and class.

Asset building refers to strategies that increase personal/family financial and tangible assets, such as savings, a home, a business, etc.; asset building focuses on the long-term development of people, families and communities.

WOCAP holds that teaching individuals the universal language of money breaks down barriers and creates a sense of real opportunity and fairness especially for those who feel left behind. Asset building refers to strategies that increase personal/family financial and tangible assets, such as savings, a home, a business, etc.; asset building focuses on the long-term development of people, families and communities. WOCAPs Financial Management and Getting Ahead programs does just this.

⁴ https://www.fordfoundation.org/media/1715/2002-building_assets-to-reduce-poverty-and-injustice.pdf

⁵ <http://newamerica.org/asset-building>

7.1.9 Advancing Employment Opportunities

WOCAP looks at providing and bundling services to help families with limited incomes access the knowledge and advice they need to achieve economic stability and move up the economic ladder.

To achieve economic security, training and education, especially for female heads of household, needs to be tied to real, local employment opportunities that emphasize the need for industry and job-specific training programs, and the importance of creating more jobs with family sustaining wages.

WOCAP continues to work with local community stakeholders to offer parents' computer and GED classes, career counseling and academic enrichment, as well as employment services such as job readiness and counseling. Yet the unemployment and underemployment rates remain stubbornly high, and the majority of local female headed households remain in poverty.⁶

The ability to increase economic security, training and education especially for female heads of household, needs to be tied to real, local employment opportunities that emphasize the need for industry and job-specific training programs, and the importance of creating more jobs with family-sustaining wages. However, while educational programming and training are available, accessibility to affordable day care, affordable housing, and reliable transportation services thwarts many female head of households. Some recent researchers and practitioners have argued for "Financial Coaching" as opposed to counseling for low-income individuals where one-on-one attention is focused more on behavioral changes rather than informational exchanges.⁷

Reports underwritten by the Annie E. Casey Foundation⁸ found some states and philanthropic entities willing to fund:

- Innovative industry sector-based training models;
- Development of effective job readiness training curricula designed to achieve scale;
- Employer-driven workforce intermediaries;
- State-level advocacy based upon education and workforce data; and,
- Increasing capacity of community colleges to increase skills of low-income working adults.

States have argued that the development of employment opportunities for local income persons needs to be targeted to specific labor markets and that the development of specific skill sets and certifications need to be industry specific and conducted in such a manner as that local employers are engaged in the training process.⁹ Locally, employers have identified the need to employ more low income female and minority candidates; however, they identified that employability skills, work ethic, communication skills, and working in team environments as major hurdles in their recruitment efforts.

Local employers have identified that employability skills, work ethic, communication skills, and working in team environments are major hurdles in their recruitment efforts.

Linking workforce strategies to income and asset-building approaches that support family economic success is difficult and requires partnerships. However demanding, such partnerships are worthwhile and necessary endeavors to address the economic disparities and poverty conditions within the community.

⁶<https://thewomensfoundation.org/2016/highlights-womens-foundations-analysis-2015-poverty-data/>

⁷https://www.earn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2_-_Advancing_Financial_Coaching_for_Low-Income_Populations_-_Midstream_Lessons_from_EARN.pdf

⁸ <http://www.aecf.org/upload/publicationfiles/fes3622h961.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0706IMPROVINGTANF.PDF>

7.2 Recommendations

Completion of this Community Assessment has presented new data, new issues, new challenges, and new potential partners to WOCAPs attention. It has also identified some potential shortcomings, and some gaps in services which WOCAP has the opportunity to investigate/address. The following recommendations are offered for policy/programming purposes:

- Aggressively monitor water and air quality issues when considering, providing or facilitating childhood education/recreation facilities. Policy recommendations need to be developed to address high hazard ozone action days and water quality testing in rural facilities located beyond municipal water service areas.
- Implement multi-media educational outreach to parents and children about the negative effects of the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and non-authorized prescription drugs.
- Actively support the development of safe, appropriate and readily accessible recreation facilities necessary to support a physically active and healthy lifestyle for young children thru active and intentional engagement with parents, families, community groups, faith-based organizations and local elected governments.
- Advocate for safe well-designed walkways to needed medical and professional services, retail services, fixed route transit services, green space and schools. Promote sidewalk construction, sidewalk extensions and reconstruction when warranted. Promote sidewalk amenities to include lighting, and street furniture.
- Execute an effective public awareness campaign to raise the level of understanding of traffic laws and mitigate the alarming number of injuries associated with bicycle and pedestrian crashes threatening the community's children.
- Vigorously promote safe and appropriate housing in neighborhoods. Ensure that the community provides equal access to safe and appropriate housing. Develop walkable communities with pleasant streetscapes to promote more socially active and healthy residents. Tree lined streetscapes will improve air quality, provide shade and support increased property values thereby providing residents with a higher quality of life. Develop safe street concepts to provider safer, slower speeds on residential and mixed-use corridors where seniors and children reside.
- Widen lead-based testing for children under the age of 6 years. While approximately only one percent (1.1.%) of children who are tested for lead poisoning are identified as having high lead levels in the County, only 14.4 percent of children under the age of six are tested. Increased awareness of the importance of testing is warranted.
- Implement a public information and education campaign targeting increased use of safety restraint systems. The goal of the FFY 2023 Allen County Traffic Safety Coalition is just 82 percent compliance – yet the proper use of safety restraints is a state law. Access to and proper use of child restraints is a barrier to increasing the safety of children during vehicle travel. WOCAP provides its own car-seats to transport children to and from its facilities. WOCAP staff is aware



through observation, that particularly older children are not being transported, according to current law, in booster seats to/from WOCAP facilities by parents and caregivers. WOCAP will work with other community stakeholders to develop and integrate broad community recognition of the law and the need to properly secure children.

- Diligently work to ensure Health & Human Services targeted populations are adequately served. Residents of certain census tracts have been omitted from certain WOCAP services mapped in this assessment. Administrators will investigate and modify public outreach and information services should disparities be found to exist. Spencerville and the north end of Lima and American Township are two locations where significant low-income populations with young children reside. There are no WOCAP early childhood centers in these locations. While current funding limitations have precluded WOCAP from expanding service centers in these locations, sites should be explored for future funding opportunities. Both Spencerville and Bluffton have a significant low-income and mobility impaired senior population that are not well served by WOCAP programming and also merit future consideration.
- Enthusiastically underwrite efforts to improve the quality of the housing stock. Advocate for the construction and rehabilitation of decent, affordable, energy efficient and appropriately sized housing in the community. This includes growing the lead abatement efforts across the county.
- Expand efforts to increase educational and programming regarding efficient energy usage in homes. A significant number of low-income households are paying more than 35 percent of their income towards housing. Housing utility costs exceed the amount available and force difficult decisions endangering children. Proper weatherization of homes would promote more efficient energy use, reduce heating/cooling costs. WOCAP commits to work with local government officials, the HHWP Community Action Commission and local housing advocates and neighborhood associations to address weatherization needs and services in Allen County to ensure that low-income households' energy needs are being met.
- Push for the adoption of those policies and regulations that work to minimize insect and rodent infestations. WOCAP argues for adoption of smart—and safety conscious—tenant policies; rental property licensure to assure quality property management, maintenance and inspection requirements that ensure safe clean, quality housing; and, the development of housing guidance to establish tenant and property responsibilities. WOCAP will work with Housing Consortium members to advance this agenda item.
- Collaborate with other community stakeholders to ensure an accurate count of the homeless across the community. The Point in Time Count is a mandatory activity that occurs one day per year by State funded homeless service providers. It is widely considered to be an inaccurate method for finding the number of homeless individuals in a community. In Allen County last year there were 98 individuals who were counted as homeless. WOCAP alone served more than 93 individuals in its homeless prevention program in one year. Currently, the number of families that are struggling to keep a vehicle road worthy and insured is unknown, however WOCAP clients indicate that this is a concern for them. WOCAP will work to establish a broader understanding and recognition of the homelessness problem in the community and work to identify specific facilities to safely and properly accommodate the special needs populations.
- Support local social service agencies and transportation service providers interested in advancing affordable transportation options for child care and employment-based trips of low-income persons.
- Assertively seek partnerships with local partners to effect development of workforce intermediaries to service low-income employment opportunities within the regional labor markets. WOCAP will look to: focus on local labor market information to identify relatively high-wage, high-grow industries that offer jobs with benefits and opportunities for advancement; work to develop programs that provide occupation-specific skills needed by targeted industries and

employers with entry-level vacancies; and, engage employers in the design of education and training programs.

- Help support workforce through education and skills development activities, career and work readiness credentials, and postsecondary education by ensuring that: educational information is tied directly to work and pertains to specific occupations; short-term enrollments typically take one year or less to complete; and supportive services and assistance develop clear employment goals.
- Organize local efforts to identify an array of possible state, federal local and philanthropic funding sources to underwrite the necessary training and service delivery options to develop and deliver low-income workers to employers.

Finally, WOCAP suggests that future community assessments should be supported by aligning a broadened base of community surveys to the adopted assessment sections. Increasing the number of surveys received for the assessment and more regular surveys of WOCAP clients could be particularly useful in broadening the base of issues (e.g., criminal justice system, employment agencies, faith-based organizations, mental health providers, etc.) and establishing those concerns with temporal characteristics (e.g., academic school years, home heating and cooling costs, etc.). The assessment process should also employ the use of focus groups to provide the opportunity for more in-depth exploration of client concerns and social service delivery options. Also expanding the ownership and diversifying the authorship of the Community Assessment would add additional insights while minimizing fiscal concerns. As a final point the Community Assessment and WOCAPs responses should be shared with the community to advance community acceptance and action.

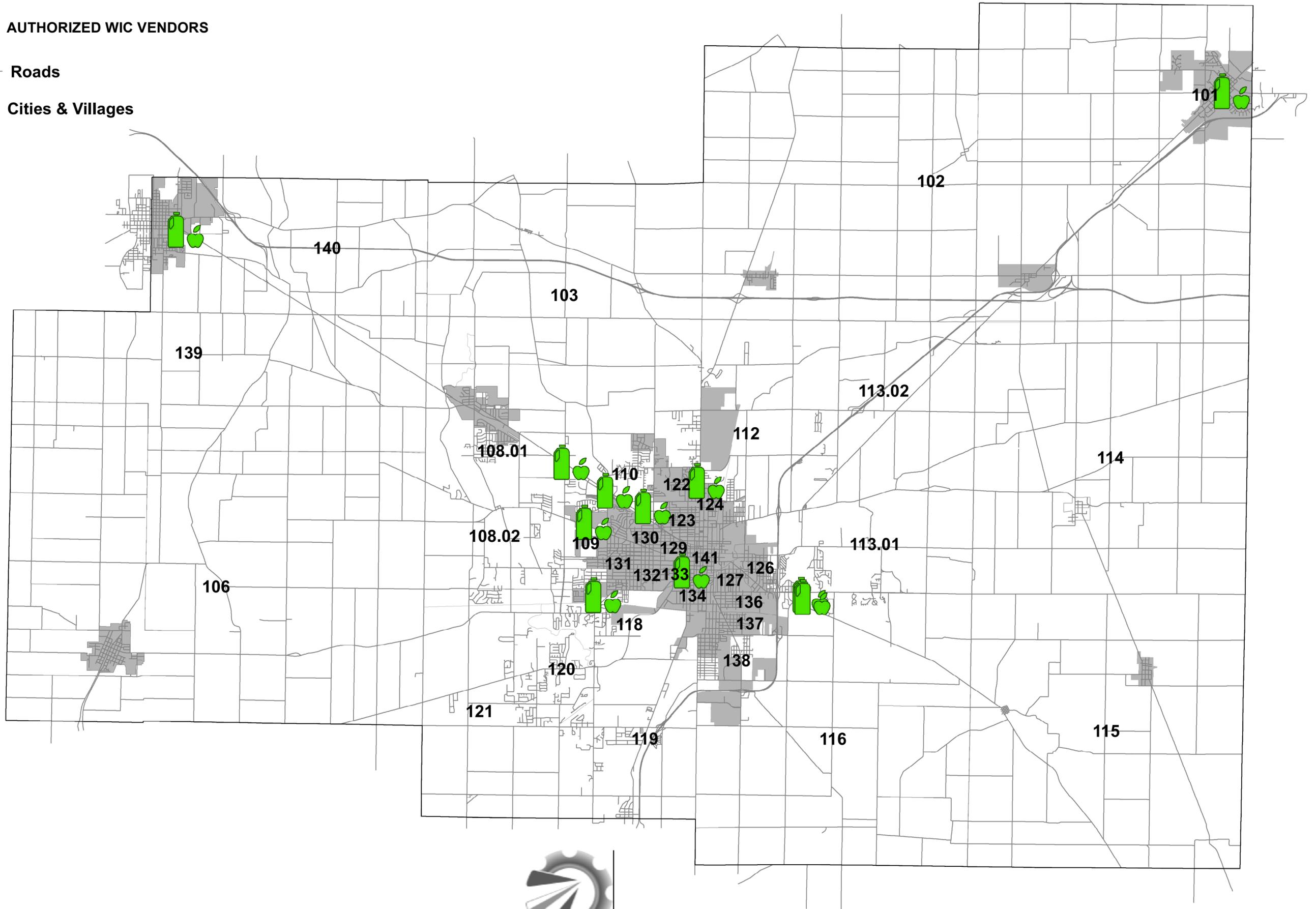
WOCAP contends that the principal challenge facing our community is the creation of an economic and social system that promotes and advances the needs of the young, the weak, the elderly and the frail while supporting the sustainability of the environment on which life depends. WOCAP believes that its mission lies with addressing the needs of the disadvantaged cognizant of the larger physical and social environment. WOCAP believes that through community collaboration and consensus building that the problems of poverty can be faced and minimized. It is this core belief and the pursuit of excellence that pushes the Agency forward to serve its clients each and every day.

WIC LOCATIONS ALLEN COUNTY OHIO (2022)

 AUTHORIZED WIC VENDORS

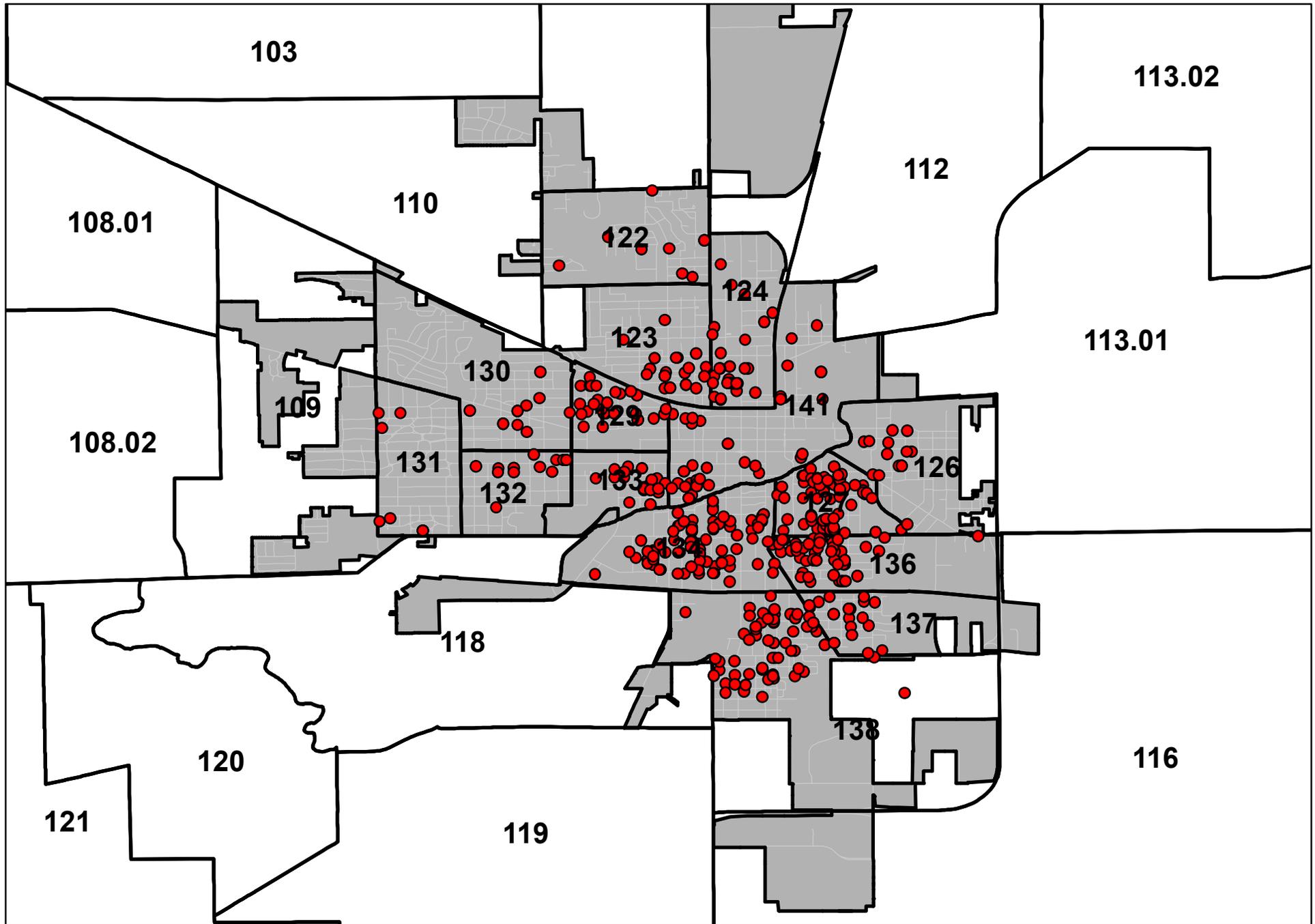
 Roads

 Cities & Villages



LACRPC 2022

BOARDED UP PROPERTIES (2020)

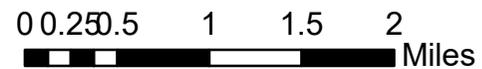


● Boarded Up Properties

■ Lima 2022

— Roads 2020

□ 2020 Census Tracts

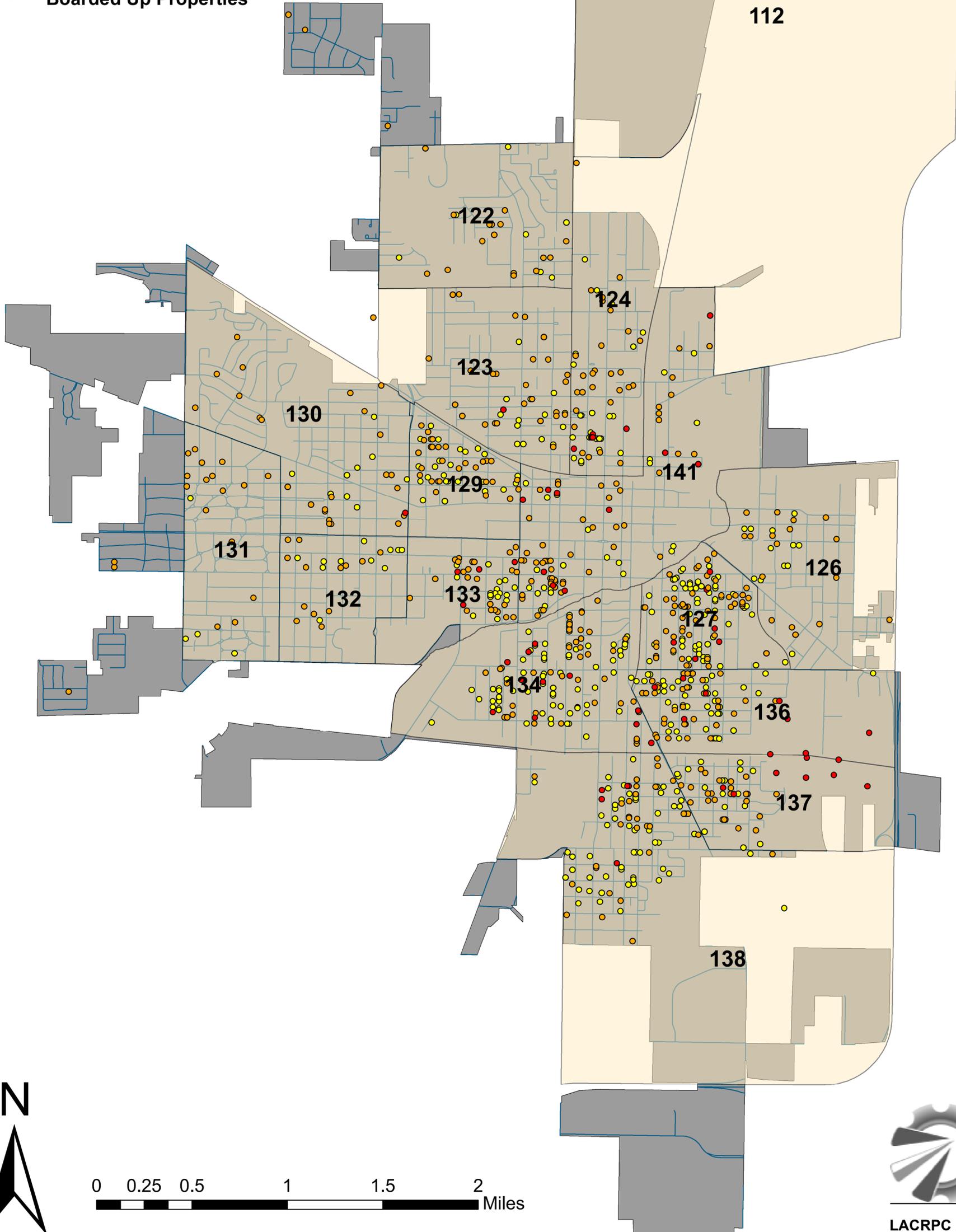


Neighborhood Stabilization Program Designated Census Tracts

 NSP TRACTS

Property Violations

-  Property Maintenance
-  Unfit for Habitation
-  Boarded Up Properties



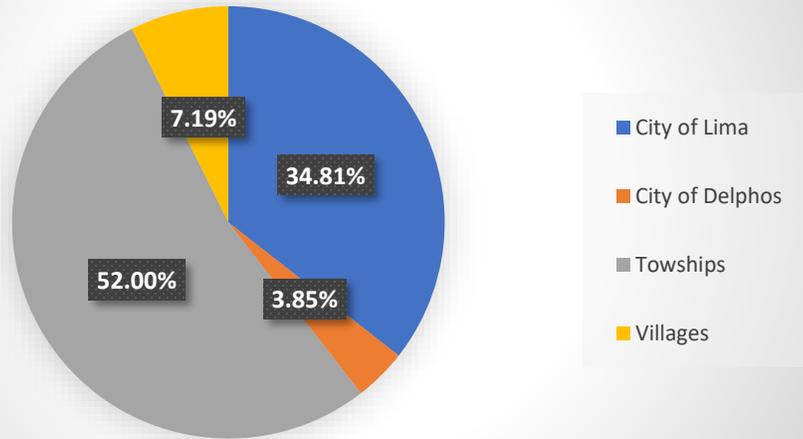
LACRPC 2022

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program identifies areas at risk for high foreclosure and abandonment/vacancy rates. These areas are scored on a scale from 1-20 with 20 being the most at risk. The tracts highlighted in this map have risk scores between 18-20.

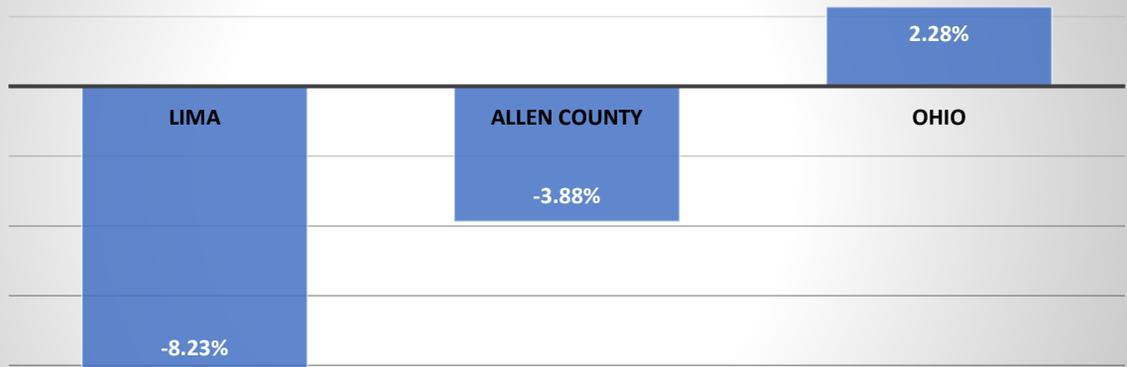
Source: U.S Dept of Housing and Urban Development

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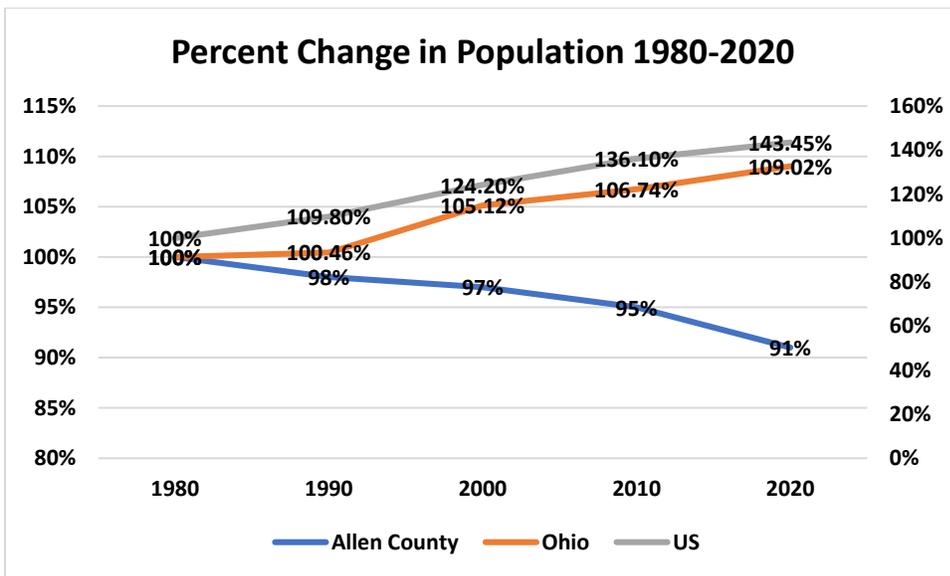
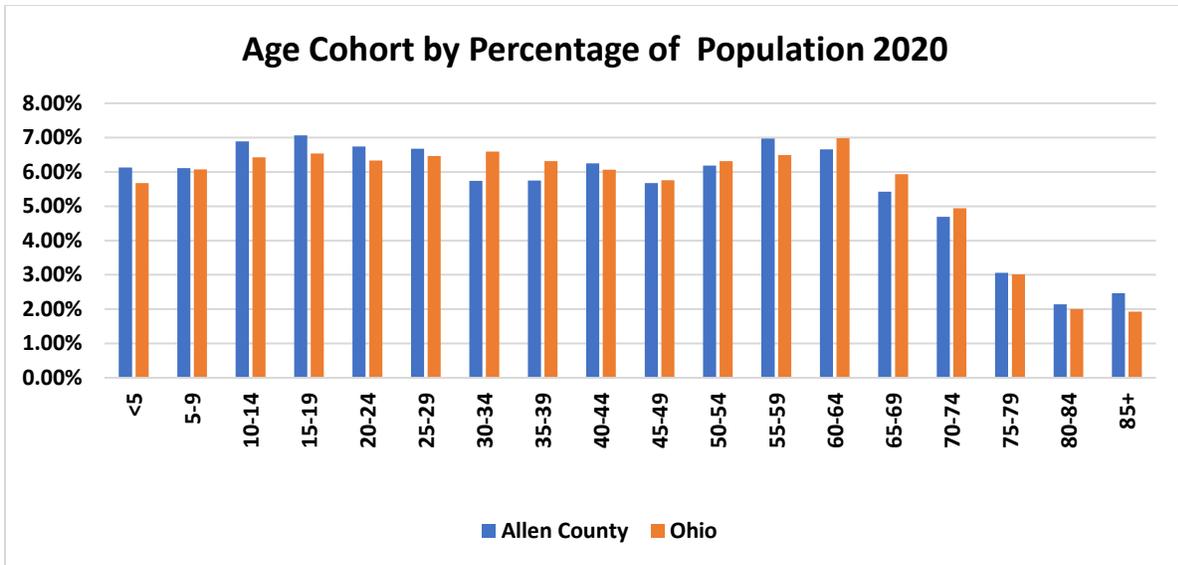
Percent Distribution 2020



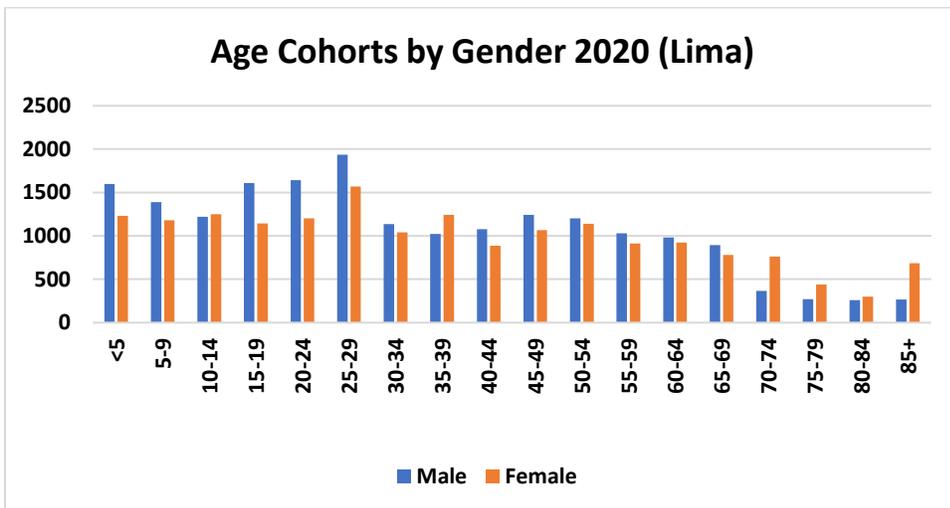
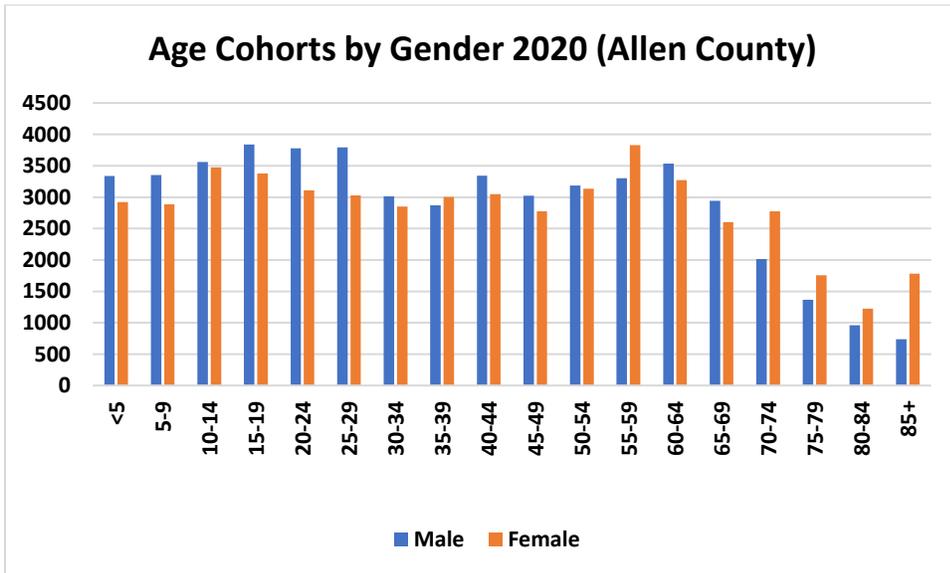
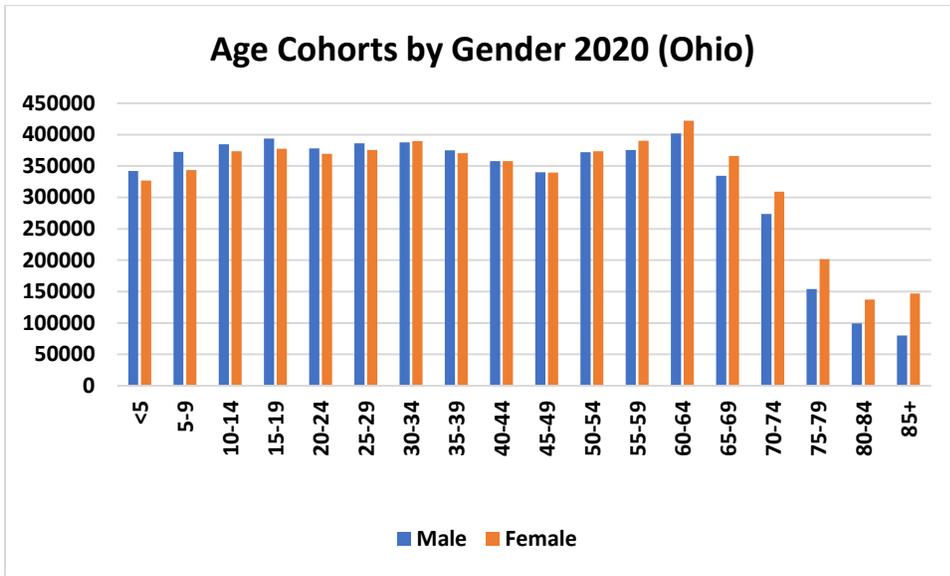
Percent Change 2010-2020



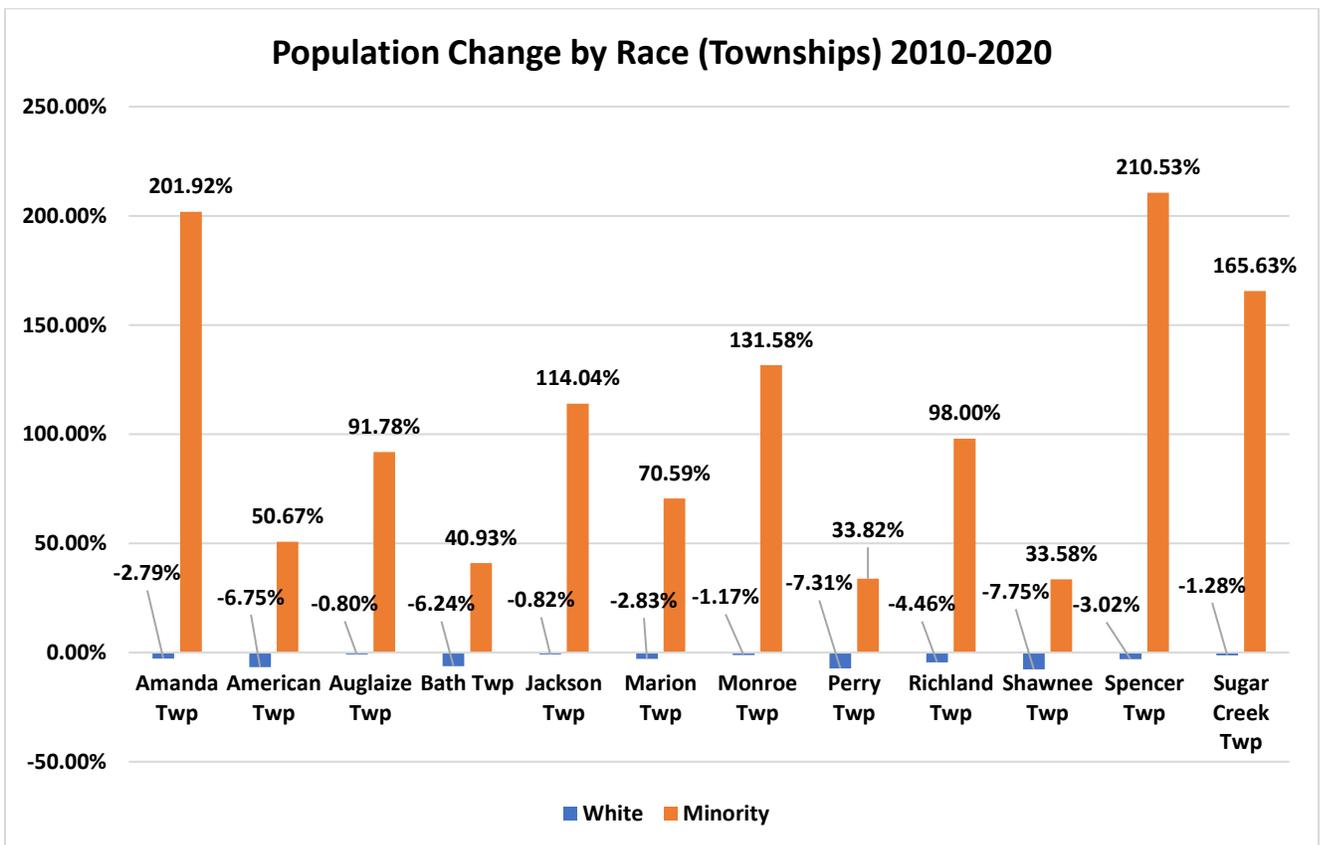
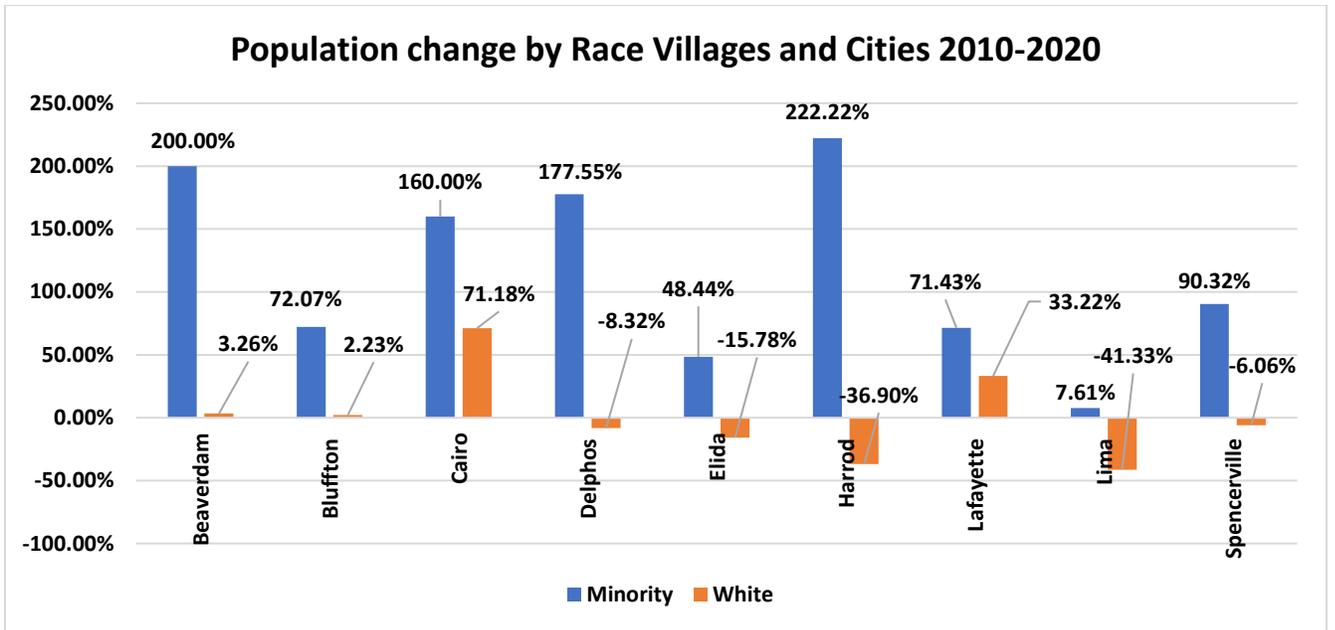
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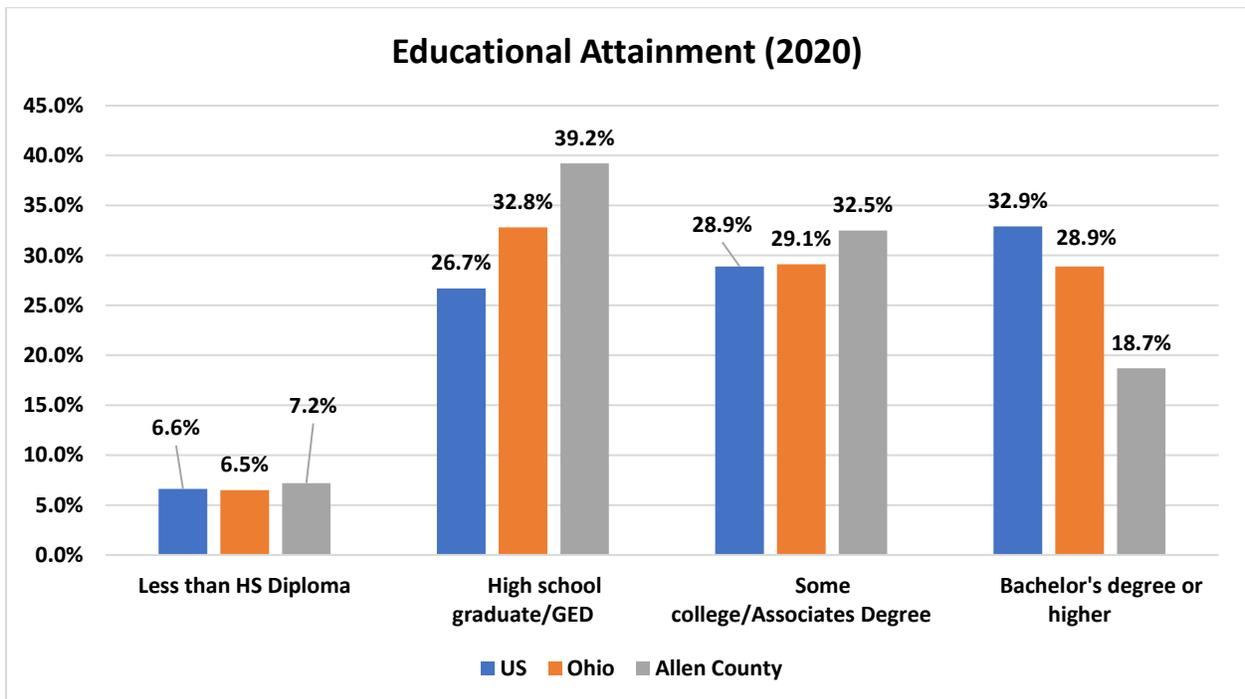
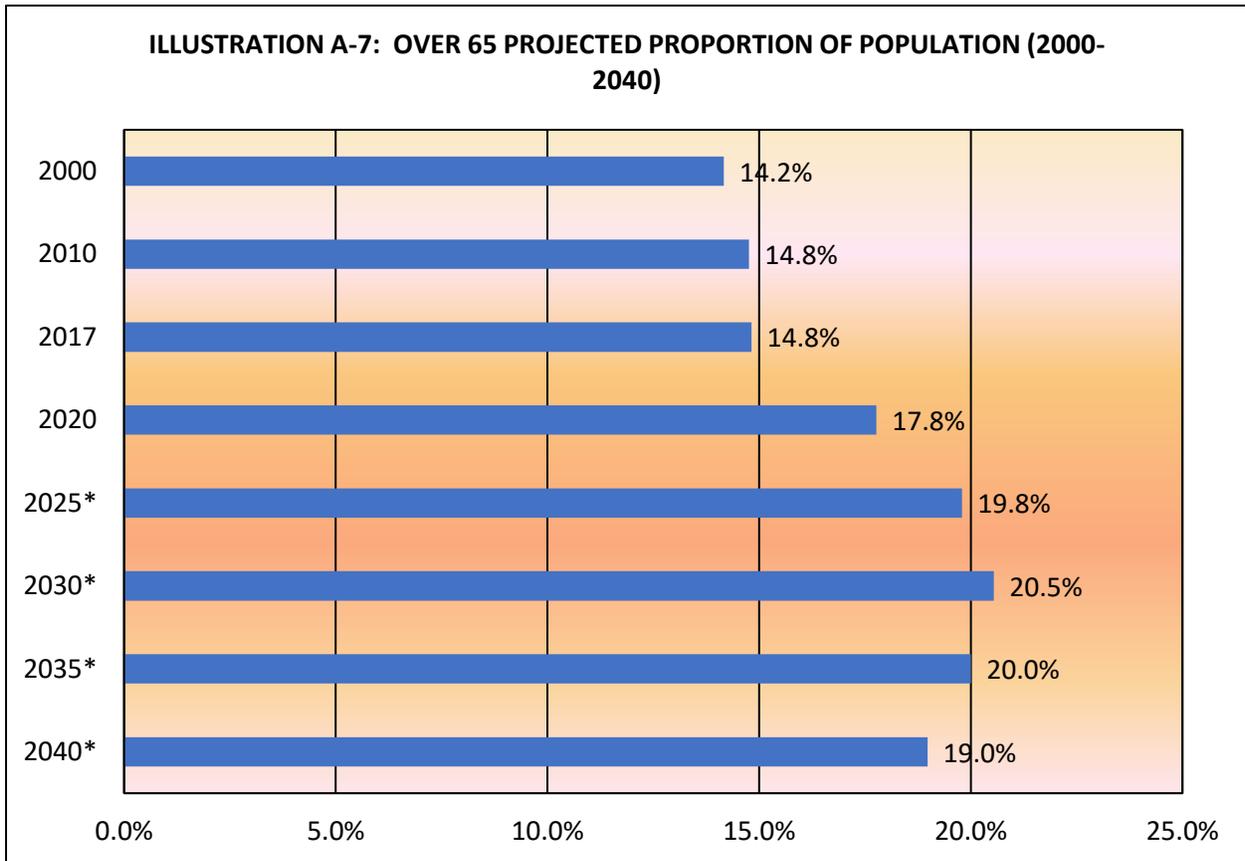


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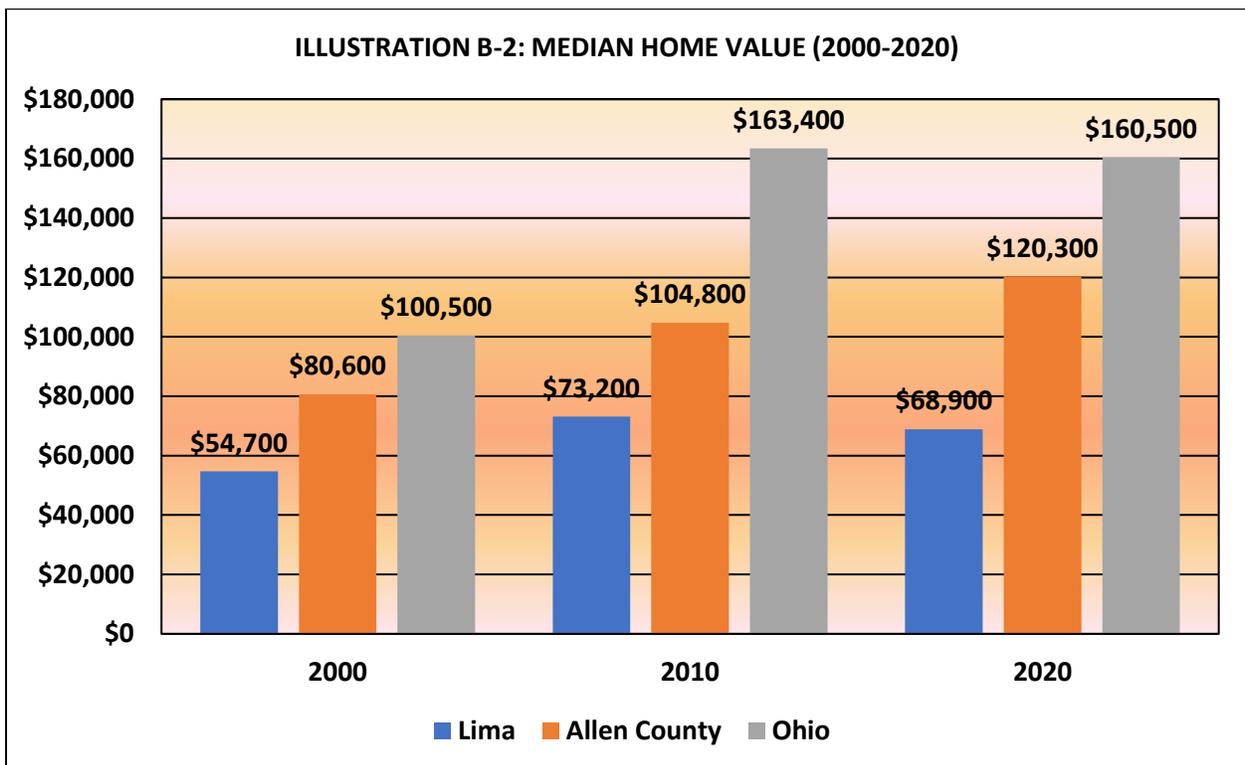
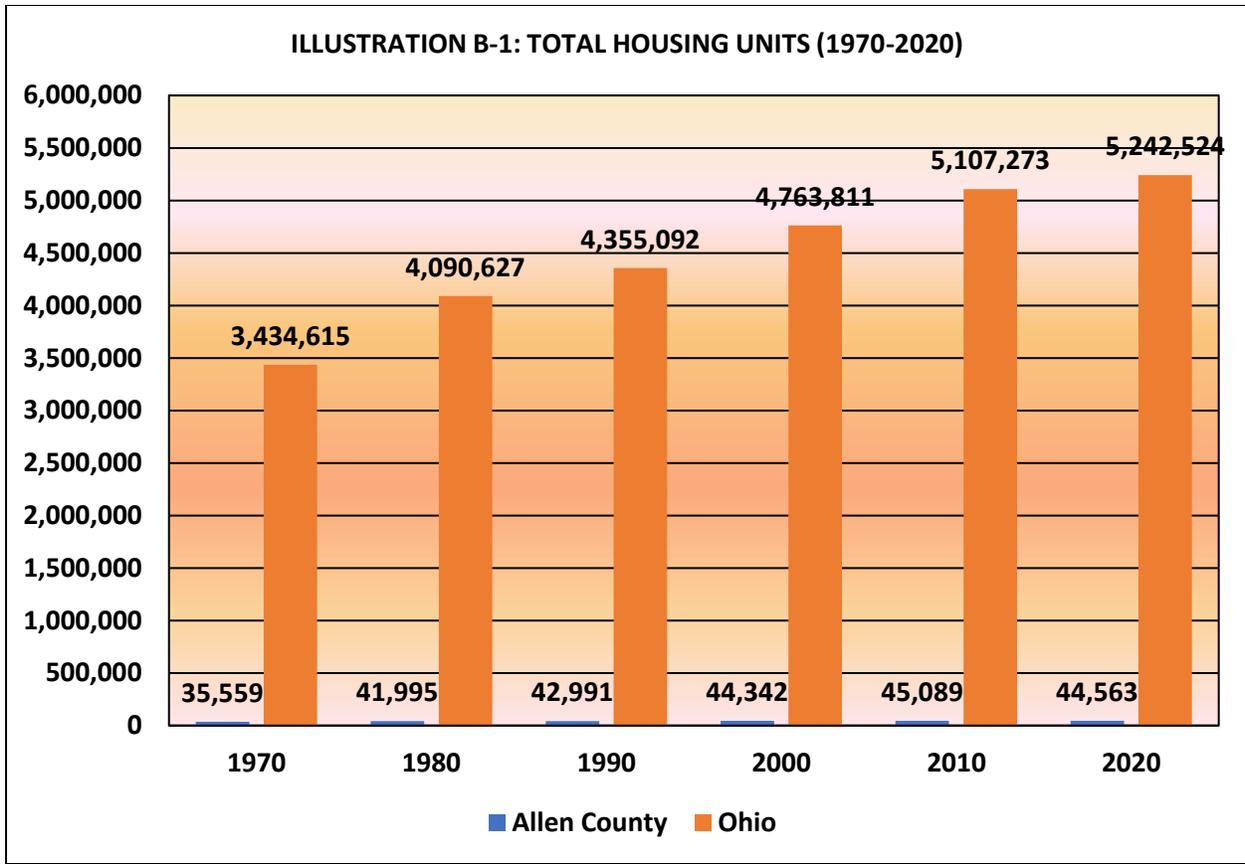
African American Population by Age Cohort and Gender City of Lima (2020)						
	Male	Percent	Female:	Percent	Total	Percent
< 5	211	4.68%	396	8.25%	607	6.52%
5 to 9	337	7.48%	410	8.54%	747	8.03%
10 to 14	233	5.17%	472	9.83%	705	7.57%
15 to 17	196	4.35%	236	4.91%	432	4.64%
18 and 19	239	5.31%	103	2.14%	342	3.67%
20 to 24	371	8.24%	274	5.71%	645	6.93%
25 to 29	315	6.99%	462	9.62%	777	8.35%
30 to 34	318	7.06%	246	11.81%	564	6.06%
35 to 44	553	12.28%	567	11.81%	1120	12.03%
45 to 54	714	15.85%	592	12.33%	1306	14.03%
55 to 64	584	12.96%	467	9.73%	1051	11.29%
65 to 74	298	6.61%	348	7.25%	646	6.94%
75 to 84	118	2.62%	149	3.10%	267	2.87%
85 +	18	0.40%	80	1.67%	98	1.05%
Total	4505		4802		9308	

Total Population by Age Cohort and Gender City of Lima (2020)					
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total
< 5	1599	8.30%	1230	6.90%	2829
5 to 9	1389	7.30%	1181	6.70%	2570
10 to 14	1220	6.40%	1249	7.00%	2469
15 to 19	1609	8.40%	1143	6.40%	2752
20 to 24	1641	8.60%	1203	6.80%	2844
25 to 29	1935	10.10%	1570	8.80%	3505
30 to 34	1137	5.90%	1039	5.90%	2176
35 to 39	1024	5.30%	1241	7.00%	2265
40 to 44	1079	5.60%	887	5.00%	1966
45 to 49	1243	6.50%	1067	6.00%	2310
50 to 54	1203	6.30%	1141	6.40%	2344
55 to 59	1031	5.40%	911	5.10%	1942
60 to 64	982	5.10%	925	5.20%	1907
65 to 69	895	4.70%	782	4.40%	1677
70 to 74	367	1.90%	763	4.30%	1130
75 to 79	271	1.40%	440	2.50%	711
80 to 84	260	1.40%	299	1.70%	559
85 +	266	1.40%	686	3.90%	952
Total	19151		17757		36908

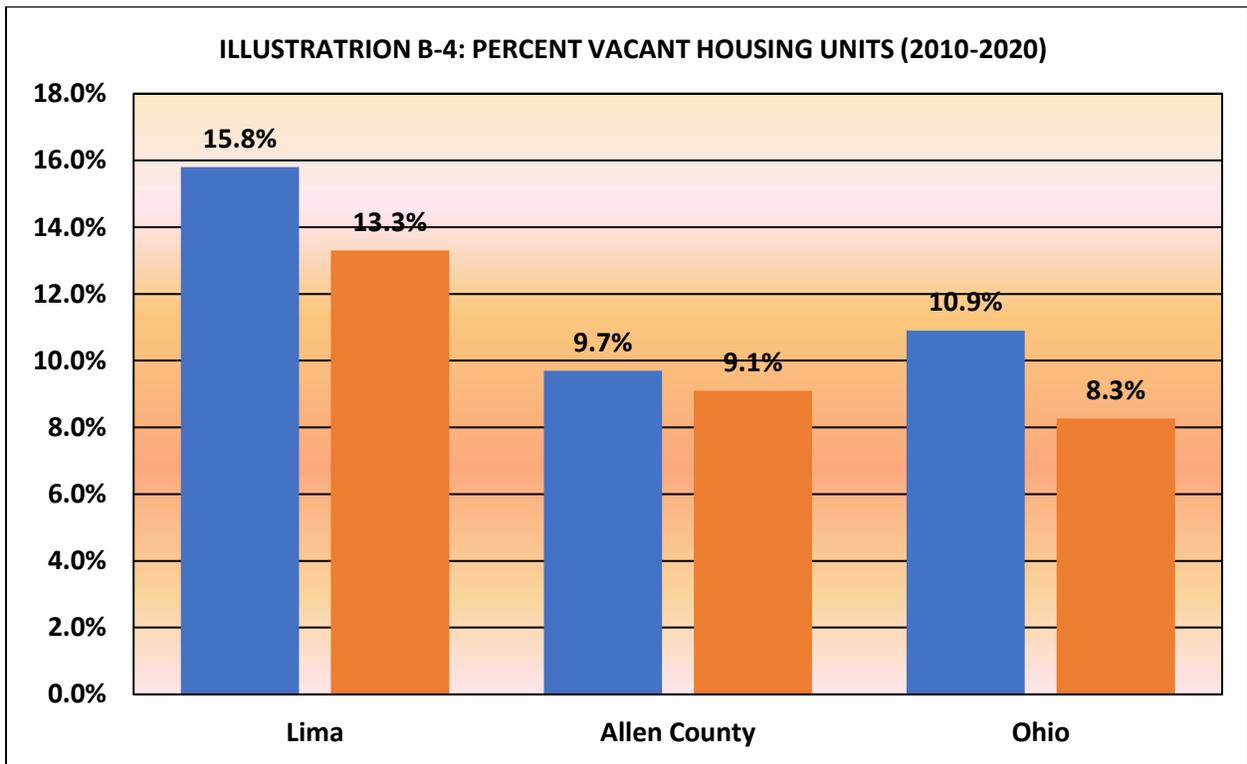
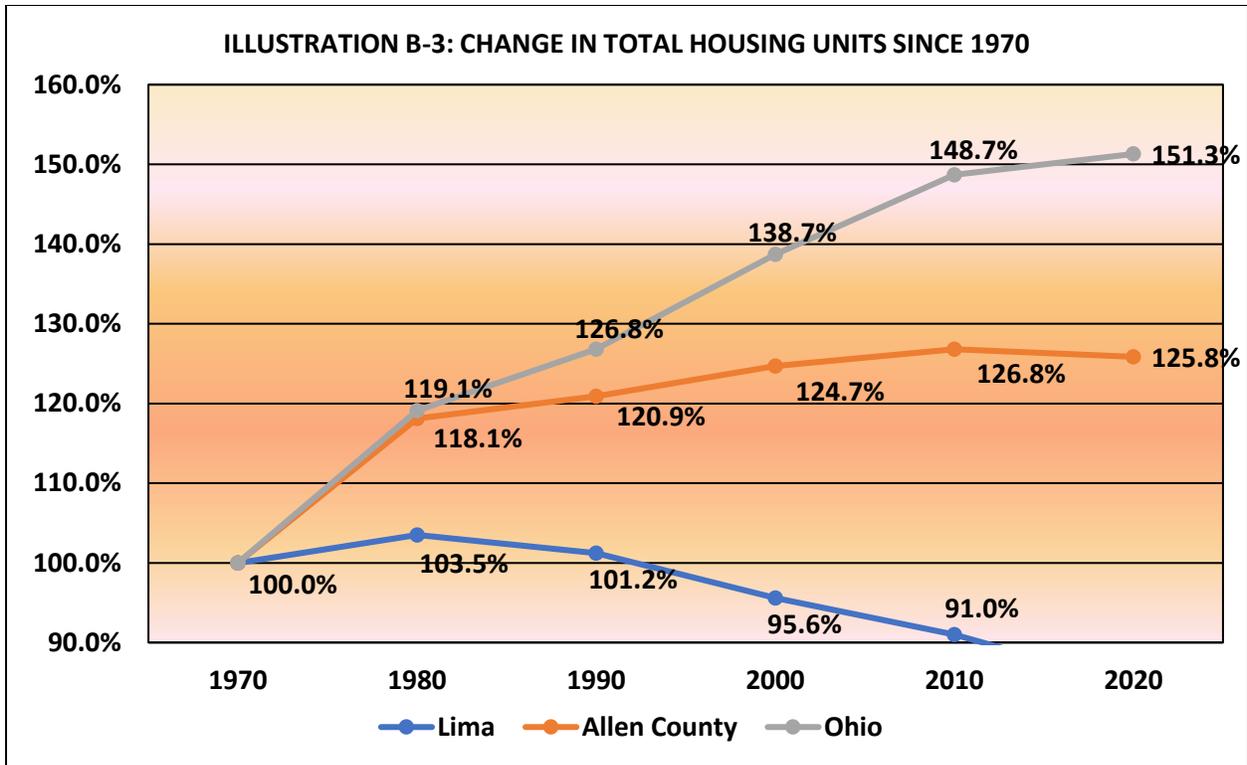
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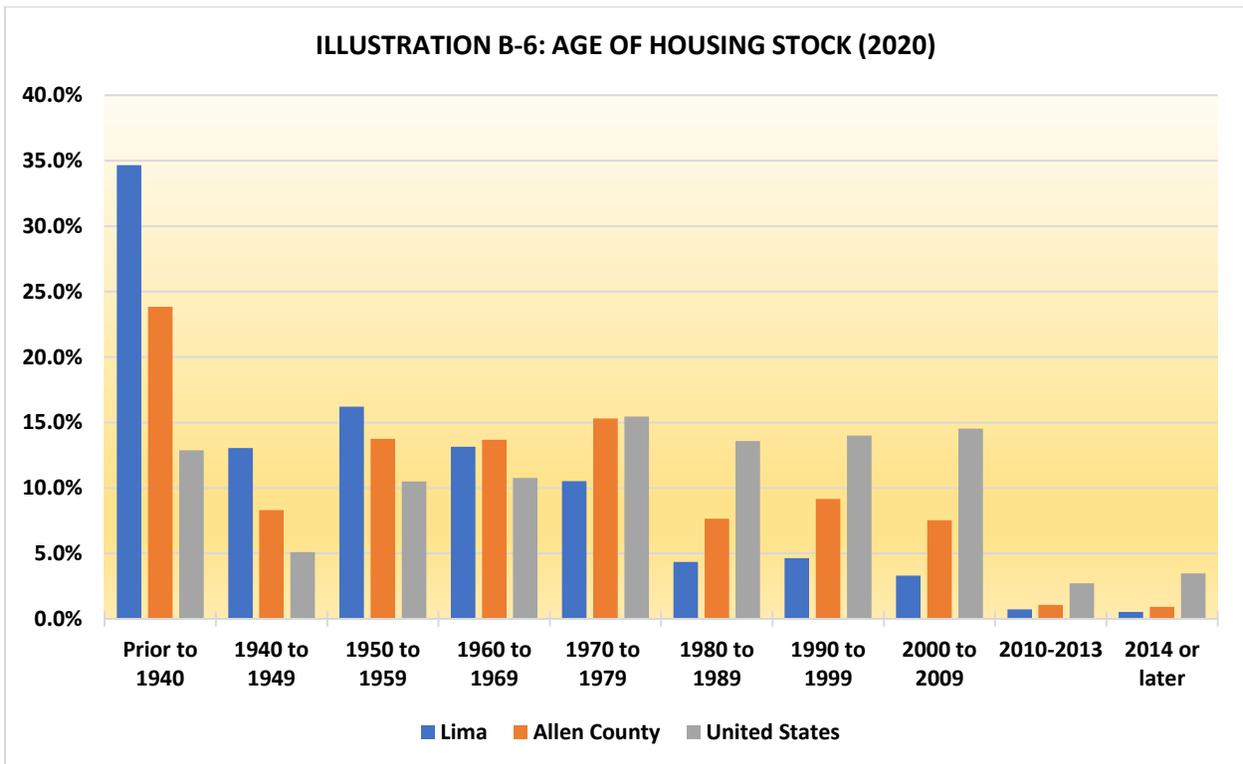
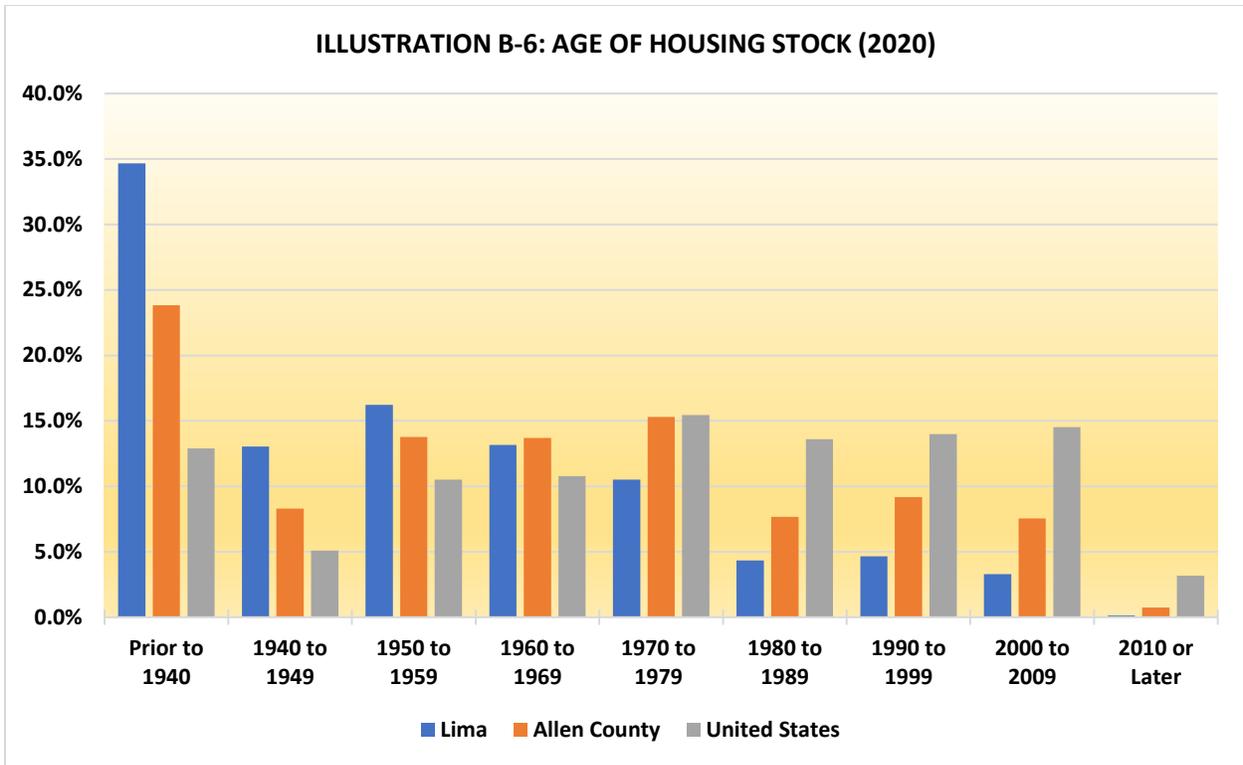
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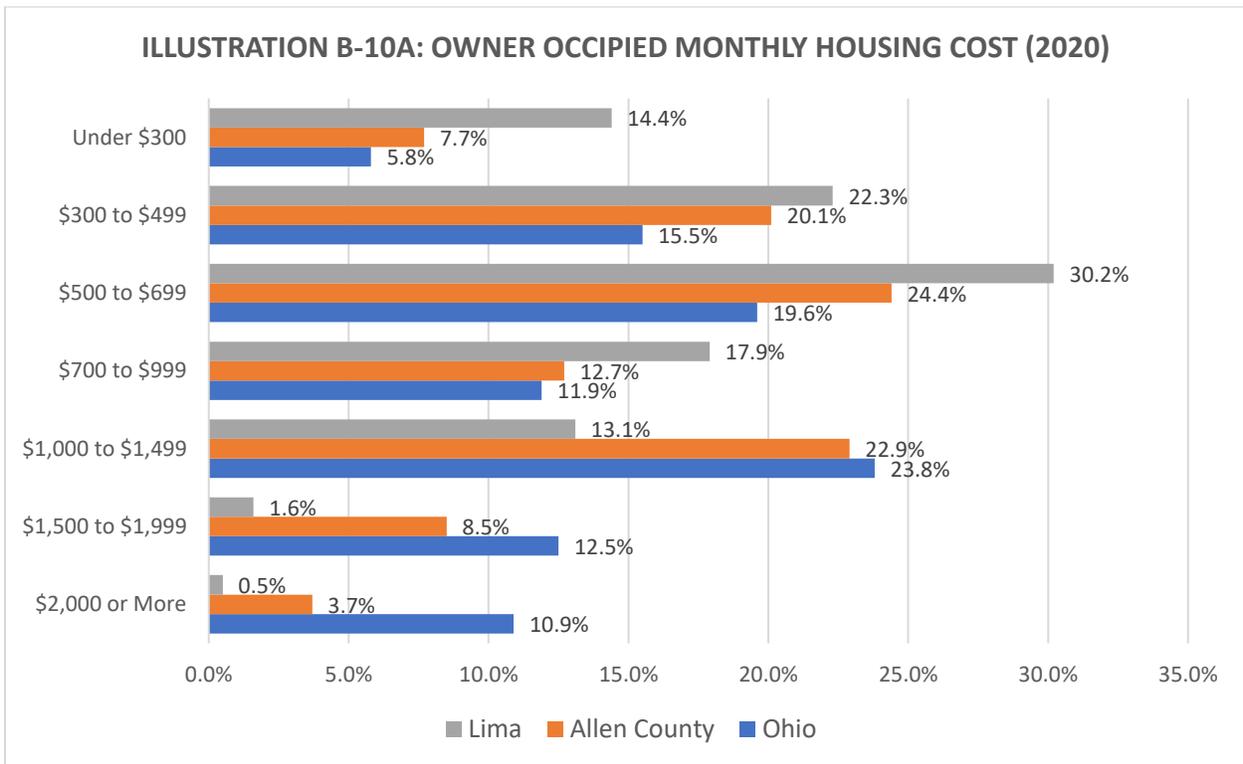
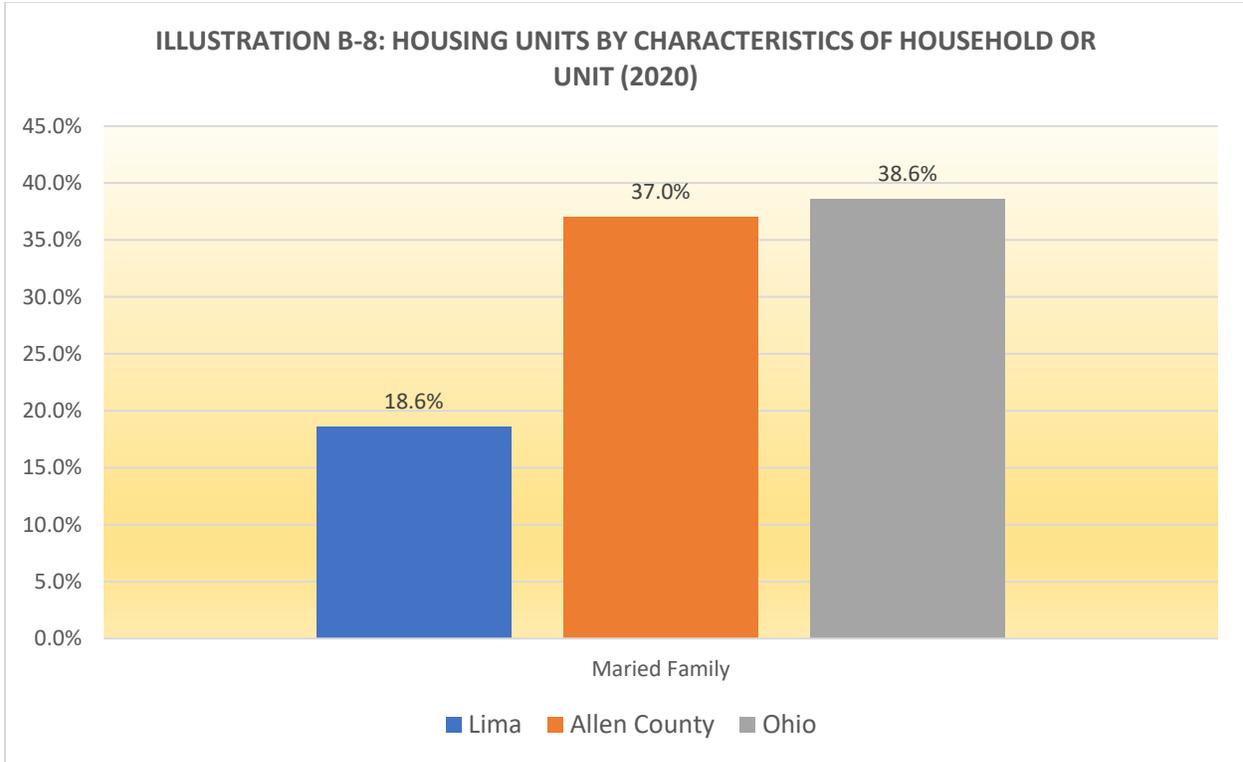
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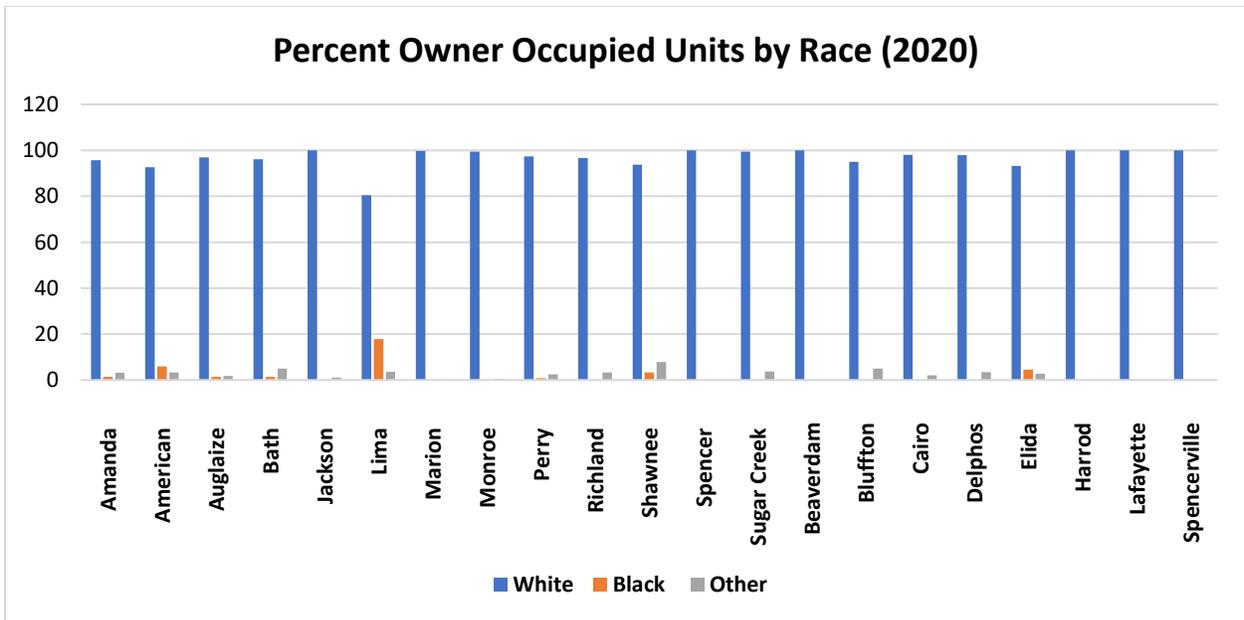
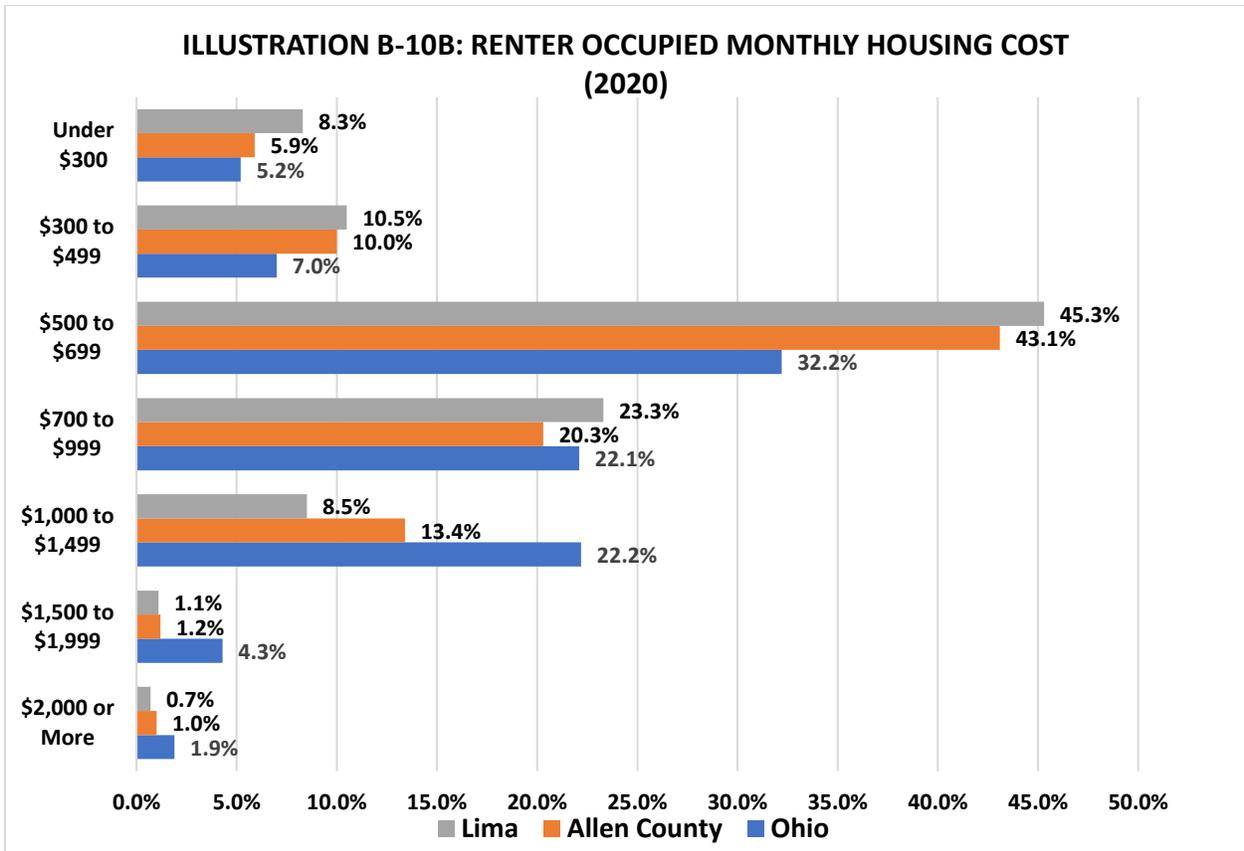
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**TABLE C-1
K-12 EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN ALLEN COUNTY
2018**

District Name	Building IRN	Building Name	County	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	Grade Span	Enrollment	Performance Index Score Grade	Overall Value-Added Grade
Allen East Local	000448	Allen East Elementary School	Allen	9105 Harding Hwy	Harrod	OH	45850	(419) 648-3333	K-6	487	C	B
Allen East Local	000364	Allen East High School	Allen	9105 Harding Hwy	Harrod	OH	45850	(419) 648-3333	7-12	315	C	C
Bath Local	001743	Bath Elementary School	Allen	2450 Bible Rd	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 221-1837	K-5	860	B	B
Bath Local	001768	Bath Middle School	Allen	2700 Bible Rd	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 221-1839	6-8	441	B	B
Bath Local	001750	Bath High School	Allen	2850 Bible Rd	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 221-0366	9-12	435	C	C
Bluffton Exempted Village	003020	Bluffton Elementary School	Allen	102 S Jackson St	Bluffton	OH	45817	(419) 358-7951	K-5	576	B	A
Bluffton Exempted Village	127639	Bluffton Middle School	Allen	116 S Jackson St	Bluffton	OH	45817	(419) 358-7961	6-8	225	B	B
Bluffton Exempted Village	003038	Bluffton High School	Allen	106 W College Ave	Bluffton	OH	45817	(419) 358-7941	9-12	285	C	C
Columbus Grove Local	007096	Columbus Grove Elementary School	Putnam	201 W Cross St	Columbus Grove	OH	45830	(419) 659-2631	K-4	304	B	C
Columbus Grove Local	038307	Columbus Grove Middle School	Putnam	201 W Cross St	Columbus Grove	OH	45830	(419) 659-2631	5-8	263	A	B
Columbus Grove Local	007104	Columbus Grove High School	Putnam	201 W Cross St	Columbus Grove	OH	45830	(419) 659-2156	9-12	270	B	B
Delphos City	012120	Franklin Elementary School	Allen	424 E 4th St	Delphos	OH	45833	(419) 692-8766	K-5	339	B	B
Delphos City	019760	Landeck Elementary School	Allen	14750 Landeck Rd	Delphos	OH	45833	(419) 695-3185	1-5	98	B	A
Delphos City	064048	Jefferson Middle School	Allen	227 N Jefferson St	Delphos	OH	45833	(419) 695-2523	6-8	218	B	B
Delphos City	018184	Jefferson High School	Allen	901 Wildcat Ln	Delphos	OH	45833	(419) 695-1786	9-12	289	D	C
Elida Local	036350	Elida Elementary	Allen	300 Pioneer Rd	Elida	OH	45807	(419) 331-7901	K-4	928	B	C
Elida Local	010082	Elida Middle School	Allen	4500 Sunnysdale St	Elida	OH	45807	(419) 331-2505	5-8	802	B	C
Elida Local	010199	Elida High School	Allen	401 E North St	Elida	OH	45807	(419) 331-4115	9-12	634	D	C
Lima City	146043	Freedom Elementary School	Allen	575 Calumet Ave	Lima	OH	45804	(419) 996-3380	K-4	237	C	D
Lima City	146050	Heritage Elementary School	Allen	816 College Ave	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 996-3390	K-4	437	D	D
Lima City	000470	Independence Elementary School	Allen	615 Tremont Ave	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 996-3330	K-4	340	D	D
Lima City	146035	Unity Elementary School	Allen	925 E 3rd St	Lima	OH	45804	(419) 996-3300	K-4	213	F	F
Lima City	000472	Liberty Arts Magnet K-8	Allen	338 W Kibby St	Lima	OH	45804	(419) 996-3320	K-8	410	C	D
Lima City	035097	Lima South Science-Technology Magnet K-8	Allen	755 Saint Johns Ave	Lima	OH	45804	(419) 996-3190	K-8	167	B	C
Lima City	005660	Lima North Middle School	Allen	1135 N West St	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 996-3100	5-6	376	F	D
Lima City	040576	Lima West Middle School	Allen	503 N Cable Rd	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 996-3150	7-8	438	D	F
Lima City	008298	Lima Senior High School	Allen	1 Spartan Way	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 996-3000	9-12	1003	F	F
Pandora-Gilboa Local	029066	Pandora-Gilboa Elementary School	Putnam	410 Rocket Rdg	Pandora	OH	45877	(419) 384-3225	K-4	204	B	B
Pandora-Gilboa Local	013458	Pandora-Gilboa Middle School	Putnam	410 Rocket Rdg	Pandora	OH	45877	(419) 384-3225	5-8	174	B	C
Pandora-Gilboa Local	029074	Pandora-Gilboa High School	Putnam	410 Rocket Ridge	Pandora	OH	45877	(419) 384-3225	9-12	158	C	C
Perry Local	029686	Perry Elementary School	Allen	2770 E Breese Rd	Lima	OH	45806	(419) 221-2771	K-6	446	B	C
Perry Local	029694	Perry High School	Allen	2770 E Breese Rd	Lima	OH	45806	(419) 221-2774	7-12	296	D	D
Shawnee Local	034207	Elmwood Elementary School	Allen	4295 Shawnee Rd	Lima	OH	45806	(419) 998-8090	K-2	529	A	NR
Shawnee Local	064303	Maplewood Elementary School	Allen	1670 Wonderlick Rd	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 998-8076	3-4	406	B	B
Shawnee Local	034215	Shawnee Middle School	Allen	3235 Zurmehly Rd	Lima	OH	45806	(419) 998-8057	5-8	783	B	B
Shawnee Local	034272	Shawnee High School	Allen	3333 Zurmehly Rd	Lima	OH	45806	(419) 998-8000	9-12	656	B	B
Spencerville Local	035337	Spencerville Elementary School	Allen	2500 Wisher Dr	Spencerville	OH	45887	(419) 647-4113	K-4	375	B	B
Spencerville Local	061960	Spencerville Middle School	Allen	2500 Wisher Dr	Spencerville	OH	45889	(419) 647-4112	5-8	300	A	B
Spencerville Local	035345	Spencerville High School	Allen	2500 Wisher Dr	Spencerville	OH	45888	(419) 647-4111	9-12	280	B	C
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	040105	Waynesfield-Goshen Local Elementary School	Auglaize	500 N Westminster St	Waynesfield	OH	45896	(419) 568-9100	K-5	269	C	B
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	040097	Waynesfield-Goshen Local High School	Auglaize	500 N Westminster St	Waynesfield	OH	45897	(419) 568-9100	6-12	234	C	C
Community School	000613	Heir Force Community School	Allen	150 W Grand Ave	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 228-9241	K-8	243	C	D
Community School	151175	West Central Learning Academy II	Allen	522 W North St	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 227-9252	7-12	90	N/A	N/A
Community School	N/A	Auglaize County Educational Academy	Allen	1130A E Albert St	Lima	OH	45804	(419) 738-4572	4-12	63	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Mennonite Christian Day School	Allen	3666 Grub Road N	Delphos	OH	45833	(419) 339-6301	1-12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	St. Charles School	Allen	2175 W Elm St	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 222-2536	3-8	329	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Lima Central Catholic	Allen	720 S Cable Rd	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 222-4276	9-12	306	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	St. John's High School	Allen	515 East 2nd St	Delphos	OH	45833	(419)692-5371	9-12	284	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Liberty Christian School	Allen	801 Bellefontaine Ave	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 229-6266	K-12	10	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Lima Temple Christian School	Allen	982 Brower Rd	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 227-1644	K-12	226	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Bible Believers Christian School	Allen	3500 Spencerville Rd	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 991-2533	K-12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Lima Christian Academy	Allen	3180 W Elm St	Lima	OH	45805	(419) 999-2219	K-12	90	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Shalom Christian School	Allen	144 N. Phillips Rd	Harrod	OH	45850	419-649-7715	K-12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	Golden Bridge Academy	Allen	319 W Market St	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 222-6858	K-4	173	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	St. Gerard School	Allen	1311 N Main St	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 222-0431	K-8	178	N/A	N/A
Private	N/A	St. Rose School	Allen	523 N West St	Lima	OH	45801	(419) 223-6361	K-8	121	N/A	N/A

**TABLE C-2
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN ALLEN COUNTY
2020**

Higher Education Institutions	James A. Rhodes State College	University Of Northwestern Ohio	Bluffton University	Ohio State University-Lima Campus	Apollo Career Center	Ohio State Beauty Academy
Address	4240 Campus Dr, Lima, Ohio, 45804	1441 N Cable Rd, Lima, Ohio, 45805	1 University Drive, Bluffton, 45817	4240 Campus Dr, Lima, Ohio, 45804	3325 Shawnee Rd, Lima, Ohio, 45806	57 Town Square, Lima, Ohio, 45801
Type	Public	Private	Private	Public	Public	Proprietary
Sector	Public- 2-year	Private not-for-profit- 4-year or above	Private not-for-profit- 4-year or above	Public- 4-year or above	Public- less-than 2-year	Private for-profit- 2-year
Level	At least 2 but less than 4 years	Four or more years	Four or more years	Four or more years	Less than 2 years (below associate)	At least 2 but less than 4 years
Degree	Degree-granting	Degree-granting	Degree-granting	Degree-granting	Non-degree-granting- primarily postsecondary	Non-degree-granting- primarily postsecondary
Enrollment 2020	3,324	3,009	750	1,018	551	72
Full-Time Enrollment 2020	594	2,786	703	845	104	72
Full-Time Retention Rate 2020	64%	54%	72%	65%	78%	81%
Total Part-Time Enrollment 2020	2,730	223	47	173	447	N/A
Graduate Enrollment Rate 2020	N/A	N/A	51	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tuition & Fees 2020	\$4,325	\$10,740	\$33,952	\$7,991	\$700	\$13,380
Total Price for Students 2020	\$20,175	\$23,340	\$44,249	\$24,301	\$1,649	\$17,380
Net Price for Students 2020	\$10,533	\$17,578	\$22,125	\$13,080	\$353	\$7,502
Net Price for Low-Income 2020	\$10,128	\$16,805	\$19,513	\$10,522	\$315	\$6,069
Percentage of White 2020	79.7%	75.5%	73.3%	83.1%	67.7%	70.8%
Percent African American 2020	4.63%	4.15%	11.6%	4.4%	16.2%	11.1%
Percent Asian 2020	1.02%	0.731%	0.4%	1.8	0%	0%
Percent Hispanic 2020	0.782%	3.82%	3.47%	3.5%	2.54%	6.94%
Average Fed/State/Local/Inst Aid 2020	\$2,880	\$7,265	\$25,109	\$5,865	\$2,443	\$4,845
Fed Percent 2020	37%	62%	90%	68%	56%	66%
Pell Grants 2020	\$3,325	\$5,356	\$4,744	\$4,563	\$3,597	\$5,190
Pell Grant Percent 2020	23%	38%	36%	36%	14%	60%
Average Total Aid 2020	\$6,205	\$12,621	\$29,853	\$10,428	\$6040	\$10,035
Fed Student Loans 2020	\$4,447	\$6,857	\$7,225	\$5,927	\$5,715	\$5,440
Federal Loan Percent 2020	17%	66%	73%	43%	10%	78%
Total Graduation Rate 2020	32.9%	62%	55%	10.6%	77%	63.6%

TABLE C-3 ALLEN COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE BY YEAR 2015-2018						
District Name	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018	
	Performance Grade	Performance Index	Performance Grade	Performance Index	Performance Grade	Performance Index
Allen East Local	C	75.2	C	76.7	C	78.3
Bath Local	C	74.2	C	78.5	C	80.7
Bluffton Ex. Village	B	85.2	B	85.8	B	85.2
Columbus Grove	C	76.5	C	77.5	C	78.8
Delphos City	C	76.8	D	54.2	B	82.8
Elida Local	C	73	C	75.4	C	75.5
Lima City	D	53.4	D	56.8	D	55.6
Pandora-Gilboa Local	C	77.5	C	77.2	C	79.3
Perry Local	D	61.4	D	61.3	D	62.0
Shawnee Local	B	80.7	B	83.0	B	82.3
Spencerville Local	C	77.8	C	79.2	B	80.1
Waynesfield-Goshen	C	73	C	74.9	C	76.7

TABLE C-4A KRAL SCORES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT FALL 2013			
District Name	Percent Band 1*	Percent Band 2**	Percent Band 3***
Allen East School	15.6%	27.8%	56.7%
Bath Local	16.3%	49.6%	34.0%
Bluffton Exempted Village	0.0%	37.8%	51.2%
Delphos City	14.8%	35.8%	49.4%
Elida Local	17.6%	38.2%	44.1%
Waynesfield-Goshen	0.0%	52.2%	34.8%
Lima City	26.8%	52.3%	20.8%
Perry Local	23.1%	44.6%	32.3%
Columbus Grove	0.0%	43.8%	47.9%
Shawnee Local	9.5%	39.0%	51.4%
Spencerville Local	0.0%	33.3%	56.4%
Pandora-Gilboa	0.0%	29.5%	59.1%

* Assess broadly for intense instruction

** Assess for targeted instruction

*** Assess for enriched instruction

TABLE C-4B KRA SCORES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT FALL 2014			
District Name	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Allen East School	11.0%	36.3%	52.7%
Bath Local	17.4%	48.8%	33.9%
Bluffton Exempted Village	4.9%	32.9%	62.2%
Delphos City	31.9%	39.8%	28.3%
Elida Local	35.3%	47.6%	17.1%
Waynesfield-Goshen	16.9%	47.5%	35.6%
Lima City	44.9%	42.9%	12.2%
Perry Local	17.7%	49.0%	33.3%
Columbus Grove	14.6%	19.5%	65.9%
Shawnee Local	17.9%	25.4%	56.7%
Spencerville Local	0.0%	4.7%	95.3%
Pandora-Gilboa	11.0%	36.3%	52.7%

TABLE C-4C			
KRAL SCORES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT			
FALL 2015			
District Name	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Allen East School	16.7%	36.9%	46.4%
Bath Local	17.6%	43.0%	39.4%
Bluffton Exempted Village	4.7%	38.4%	57.0%
Delphos City	12.7%	36.4%	50.9%
Elida Local	22.5%	45.0%	32.5%
Waynesfield-Goshen	2.7%	5.4%	91.9%
Lima City	36.6%	40.7%	22.8%
Perry Local	21.0%	58.1%	21.0%
Columbus Grove	33.3%	42.1%	24.6%
Shawnee Local	13.3%	31.7%	55.0%
Spencerville Local	0.0%	46.9%	53.1%
Pandora-Gilboa	5.0%	17.5%	77.5%

TABLE C-4D			
KRA SCORES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT			
FALL 2016			
District Name	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Allen East School	15.7%	44.6%	39.8%
Bath Local	16.4%	41.8%	41.8%
Bluffton Exempted Village	8.4%	36.4%	55.1%
Delphos City	17.8%	35.6%	46.6%
Elida Local	21.5%	44.2%	34.4%
Waynesfield-Goshen	3.3%	20.0%	76.7%
Lima City	39.6%	37.5%	22.9%
Perry Local	34.9%	34.9%	30.2%
Columbus Grove	19.3%	43.9%	36.8%
Shawnee Local	19.7%	38.8%	41.6%
Spencerville Local	7.0%	45.1%	47.9%
Pandora-Gilboa	11.6%	30.2%	58.1%

**CENSUS BUREAU HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY
STATE OF OHIO MEASURES WEEK REPORTING PERIODS 1 THROUGH 50**

IMPACTED POPULATION	REPORTING PERIOD 4-23-2020/7-21-2020		REPORTING PERIOD 4-23-2020/7-5-2021		REPORTING PERIOD 4-14-2021/7-5-2021		REPORTING PERIOD 4-23-2020/9-26-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 7-21-2020/9-26-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 8-19-2020/5-9-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 8-19-2020/9-26-2022	
	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End
Loss in Employment Income	44.2%	47.7%												
Expected Loss in Employment Income			33.9%	6.8%										
Food Scarcity							11.2%	10.3%						
Food Assistance from School					30.0%	15.9%								
Food Assistance for Children									26.2%	25.5%				
Housing Insecurity	21.7%	23.1%									7.3%	6.1%		
Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure													33.40%	34.30%
Unable to Pay Energy Bill									18.0%	27.1%				
Difficulty Paying for Usual HH Expenses													27.80%	43.60%