

# West Ohio Community Action Partnership



## Community Assessment



OCTOBER 2019

540 S. Central Avenue  
Lima, Ohio 45804  
[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
FOREWORD	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
LIST OF TABLES, SUMMARY TABLES, MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS	
1	INTRODUCTION: WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2019
1.1	Goals & Objectives ..... 1 - 1
1.2	WOCAP History ..... 1 - 1
1.3	WOCAP's Philosophy & Guidance ..... 1 - 3
1.4	WOCAP & Current Collaboration ..... 1 - 3
1.5	Overview & Data Limitations ..... 1 - 4
2	POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS
2.1	Population & Area ..... 2 - 1
2.2	Population & Population Change ..... 2 - 1
2.3	Households & Household Size ..... 2 - 5
2.4	Age & Age Cohorts ..... 2 - 9
2.5	Race & Ethnic Diversity ..... 2 - 11
2.6	The Disabled Population ..... 2 - 16
2.7	Educational Attainment ..... 2 - 17
2.8	Income: Household, Family & Per Capita ..... 2 - 17
2.9	Poverty Status: Persons & Families Below Poverty Level ..... 2 - 22
2.10	Labor Force Profile ..... 2 - 23
2.11	Summary ..... 2 - 27
3	COMMUNITY HOUSING STOCK
3.1	Historical Overview ..... 3 - 1
3.2	Housing Stock ..... 3 - 2
3.2.1	Housing Units ..... 3 - 2
3.2.2	Tenure ..... 3 - 4
3.2.3	Vacancy Rate ..... 3 - 4
3.2.4	Size of Housing Units ..... 3 - 7
3.2.5	Age of Housing Stock ..... 3 - 7
3.2.6	Residential Housing Quality ..... 3 - 8
3.2.7	Housing Value ..... 3 - 11
3.2.8	Manufactured/Mobile Homes ..... 3 - 13
3.2.9	Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks ..... 3 - 13
3.3	Group Quarters ..... 3 - 14
3.4	Housing Rehabilitation Needs ..... 3 - 17
3.4.1	Essential Amenities ..... 3 - 17
3.4.2	Lead-Based Paint ..... 3 - 17
3.5	Affordable Housing ..... 3 - 20
3.5.1	Overcrowding ..... 3 - 20
3.5.2	Housing Costs ..... 3 - 20
3.5.3	Utility Costs & Affordability ..... 3 - 25
3.5.4	Homelessness ..... 3 - 26

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
<b>4</b>	<b>LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>
4.1	Local Education Policy Impact..... 4 - 2
4.2	Post Secondary Institutional Opportunities..... 4 - 2
4.2.1	Bluffton University ..... 4 - 3
4.2.2	The Ohio State University – Lima Campus..... 4 - 4
4.2.3	The University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) ..... 4 - 5
4.2.4	Rhodes State College ..... 4 - 6
4.3	Non-Degree Granting - Primarily Post-Secondary Institutions..... 4 - 6
4.3.1	Apollo Career Center ..... 4 - 6
4.3.2	The Ohio State Beauty Academy ..... 4 - 7
4.4	Local K-12 School Opportunities..... 4 - 7
4.5	Local School Districts ..... 4 - 8
4.6	Educational Performance ..... 4 - 10
4.7	Federal Funding Streams ..... 4 - 11
4.7.1	Title I ..... 4 - 11
4.7.2	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ..... 4 - 11
4.7.3	Federal School Meals Program ..... 4 - 11
4.8	Early Childhood Education..... 4 - 12
4.9	Childcare & Education..... 4 - 14
4.10	WOCAP's Head Start & Early Head Start Programming..... 4 - 16
<b>5</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS: QUALITY OF LIFE &amp; HUMAN HEALTH</b>
5.1	Modernity, Development & Impacts on the Environment ..... 5 - 1
5.2	The Natural Environment ..... 5 - 2
5.2.1	Climate ..... 5 - 2
5.2.2	Floodplains & Wetlands..... 5 - 3
5.2.3	Soils & Hydric Soils..... 5 - 6
5.2.4	Water Quality..... 5 - 8
5.2.5	Drinking Water Quality ..... 5 - 10
5.2.6	Air Quality ..... 5 - 12
5.3	Cumulative Impacts on the Natural Environment ..... 5 - 13
5.4	The Local Built Environment..... 5 - 13
5.4.1	Transportation Impact ..... 5 - 14
5.4.2	Transportation & Air Pollution..... 5 - 14
5.4.3	Roadways & Motor Vehicle Crashes..... 5 - 15
5.4.4	Industrial Land & Potential Hazards ..... 5 - 20
5.5	Other Health & Safety Effects of the Built Environment ..... 5 - 23
5.5.1	Housing Foreclosures, Vacancies & Blight ..... 5 - 24
5.5.2	Criminal Activity, Impacts & Reintegration..... 5 - 27
5.5.3	Alcohol Permits & Alcohol Consumption..... 5 - 31
5.5.4	Food Outlets, Food Deserts & Limited Access to Healthy Foods..... 5 - 32
5.5.5	Recreational Opportunities & Physical Exercise ..... 5 - 35
<b>6</b>	<b>POVERTY, NEEDS &amp; WOCAP PROGRAMMING</b>
6.1	Poverty..... 6 - 1
6.2	Self-Sufficiency..... 6 - 4

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
6	POVERTY, NEEDS & WOCAP PROGRAMMING (Continued)
6.3	Local Health Disparity Issues.....6 - 5
6.3.1	Asthma .....6 - 6
6.3.2	Dental Care .....6 - 7
6.3.3	Obesity .....6 - 8
6.3.4	Diabetes .....6 - 9
6.3.5	Mental Health .....6 - 11
6.3.6	Opioid Use.....6 - 12
6.3.7	Strokes .....6 - 12
6.3.8	Special Needs Children .....6 - 13
6.4	Criminality, Recidivism & Re-entry .....6 - 13
6.5	WOCAP Client Needs Assessment .....6 - 15
6.6	WOCAP Services.....6 - 16
6.7	Disability Status & Special Education.....6 - 18
6.7.1	Service Delivery.....6 - 18
6.7.2	WOCAPs Partners: Disabilities & Service .....6 - 18
6.7.2.1	Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities.....6 - 19
6.7.2.2	Lima City Schools .....6 - 19
6.7.2.3	Allen County Schools .....6 - 19
6.7.3	WOCAP Response & Services.....6 - 19
6.8	WOCAP - Head Start & Early Head Start.....6 - 20
7	SUMMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS
7.1	Summation of WOCAPs Approach.....7 - 1
7.1.1	Health Services Program Planning .....7 - 1
7.1.2	Building a Healthy Foundation for Learning & Life.....7 - 2
7.1.3	Health Assessments: Staffers, Parents & Community Stakeholder Involvement.....7 - 3
7.1.4	Family Health & Wellness .....7 - 4
7.1.5	Ensuring Child Health & Safety .....7 - 5
7.1.6	Health & Human Services Priority Population Groupings .....7 - 6
7.1.7	Environmental Health Assessments & Community Development .....7 - 8
7.1.8	Educational Attainment, Financial Literacy & Asset Building .....7 - 9
7.1.9	Advancing Employment Opportunities.....7 - 10
7.2	Recommendations .....7 - 11

## APPENDICES



## LIST OF TABLES, SUMMARY TABLES, MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS

<b><u>TABLES</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Table 2-1	Total Population by Political Subdivision (1960-2017) ..... 2 - 4
Table 2-2	Total Households & Average Household Size by Political Subdivision (2010-2017)..... 2 - 6
Table 2-3	Households with Children by Type (2017)..... 2 - 7
Table 2-4	Household Size by Political Subdivision (2017)..... 2 - 7
Table 2-5	Single Female Head of Household by Political Subdivision (2017) ..... 2 - 8
Table 2-6	Allen County Population by Age Cohort & Gender (2017) ..... 2 - 9
Table 2-7	Age of Population by Political Subdivision (2017) ..... 2 - 10
Table 2-8	Total Minority (Race) Population by Political Subdivision (2017)..... 2 - 12
Table 2-9	Total Minority (Race & Ethnicity) Population by Political Subdivision (2017)..... 2 - 13
Table 2-10	Allen County Population Change by Race/Ethnicity (2010-2017) ..... 2 - 13
Table 2-11	Age & Disability Status of Residents of Allen County (2017)..... 2 - 16
Table 2-12	Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years & Over (2017) ..... 2 - 17
Table 2-13	Comparative Income Measures (2010-2017) ..... 2 - 20
Table 2-14	Income in Allen County by Household Type (2017)..... 2 - 21
Table 2-15	Low Household Incomes by Political Subdivision (2017)..... 2 - 22
Table 2-16	Ratio of Income to Poverty Level Among Individuals (2017)..... 2 - 23
Table 2-17	Poverty by Family Status (2014) ..... 2 - 23
Table 2-18	Labor Force by Occupation (2017)..... 2 - 26
Table 3-1	Total Housing Units by Political Subdivision (2010-2017) ..... 3 - 2
Table 3-2	Owner Occupied Housing Units (2010-2017) ..... 3 - 4
Table 3-3	Renter Occupied Housing Units (2010-2017) ..... 3 - 5
Table 3-4	Residential Vacant Units by Political Subdivision (2010-2017)..... 3 - 5
Table 3-5	Housing Units by Number of Rooms, Bedrooms and Size (2017)..... 3 - 7
Table 3-6	Housing Units by Age & Value by Political Subdivision..... 3 - 8
Table 3-7	Assessed Quality of Residential Properties by Political Subdivision (2017) ..... 3 - 9
Table 3-8	Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units (2010-2017)..... 3 - 11
Table 3-9	Mobile Home Occupancy (2017) ..... 3 - 13
Table 3-10	Mobile Home Parks in Allen County (2017)..... 3 - 14
Table 3-11	Group Quarter Population in Allen County (2010) ..... 3 - 14
Table 3-12	Housing Stock Presumed to Need Rehabilitation (2017) ..... 3 - 17
Table 3-13	Presence of Lead Based Paint by Year of Housing Construction (2017)..... 3 - 18
Table 3-14	Estimated Exposure to Lead Hazard by Year of Housing Construction (2017)..... 3 - 19
Table 3-15	Estimated Lead Hazard Affected Households in Allen County (2017)..... 3 - 19
Table 3-16	Occupants per Room in Renter Occupied Households (2017) ..... 3 - 21
Table 3-17	Occupants per Room in Owner Occupied Households (2017) ..... 3 - 21
Table 3-18	Median Gross Rent (2010-2017)..... 3 - 22
Table 3-19	Owner/Renter Occupied Housing Unit Costs Greater than 30% of Income (2010-2017) ..... 3 - 23
Table 3-20	Available Owner-Occupied Housing Stock at ≤ 30% of Median Household Income (2017)..... 3 - 24
Table 3-21	Available Rental Housing Stock at ≤ 30% of Median Household Income (2017)..... 3 - 24
Table 4-1	Ohio Department of Education - 2013 School District Typologies ..... 4 - 10
Table 4-2	Allen County's Public School Districts Performance & Demographics (2017/2018) .... 4 - 13
Table 4-3	Allen County's Public School Districts by Funding Source (2017/2018) ..... 4 - 13
Table 4-4	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (2017/2018) ..... 4 - 14
Table 4-5	3rd Grade Performance Measures - Students at or Above Proficiency (2017/2018)... 4 - 15

**LIST OF TABLES, SUMMARY TABLES, MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS**  
(Continued)

<b><u>TABLES</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Table 5-1	Pollutants by Type & Effects ..... 5 - 16
Table 5-2	Cancer Risk Per Million (2015) ..... 5 - 23
Table 5-3	Pct of Foreclosures by Census Tract (2012-2017)..... 5 - 24
Table 6-1	Poverty Guidelines (2018)..... 6 - 4
Table 6-2	The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Allen County (2018)..... 6 - 5
Table 6-3	WOCAP Programming & Services ..... 6 - 17

**SUMMARY TABLES**

Table 2-1	Population & Socioeconomic Demographics Allen County - Census Tracts..... 2 - 29
Table 2-2	Population & Socioeconomic Demographics Allen County - Political Subdivisions ..... 2 - 30
Table 3-1	Community Housing Stock Allen County - Census Tracts ..... 3 - 28
Table 3-2	Community Housing Stock Allen County - Political Subdivisions..... 3 - 29
Table 4-1	Local Educational Opportunities Allen County - Census Tracts ..... 4 - 18
Table 4-2	Local Educational Opportunities Allen County - Political Subdivisions..... 4 - 19
Table 4-3	Local Educational Opportunities Allen County - School Districts ..... 4 - 20
Table 5-1	Environmental Determinants: Quality of Life & Human Health Allen County - Census Tracts ..... 5 - 40
Table 5-2	Environmental Determinants: Quality of Life & Human Health Allen County - Political Subdivisions..... 5 - 41
Table 5-3	Housing and Crime Statistics Summary Allen County - Census Tracts ..... 5 - 42

**MAPS**

Map 2-1	Allen County Road Base Map (2017) ..... 2 - 2
Map 2-2	Allen County Census Tract Base Map (2017) ..... 2 - 3
Map 2-3	White Population Redistribution (2010-2017) ..... 2 - 14
Map 2-4	Minority Population Redistribution (2010-2017) ..... 2 - 15
Map 2-5	Disability Rate of Population 18 and Over (2017) ..... 2 - 18
Map 2-6	Mobility Disability Rate (2017) ..... 2 - 19
Map 2-7	Household Poverty Rate (2017)..... 2 - 24
Map 2-8	Poverty Rate of Population 65 and Over (2017)..... 2 - 25
Map 3-1	Demolitions (2017) ..... 3 - 3
Map 3-2	Vacant Housing Units (2017) ..... 3 - 6
Map 3-3	Property Grade (2017) ..... 3 - 10
Map 3-4	Average Home Sale Price (2017)..... 3 - 12
Map 3-5	Manufactured Home Parks (2017) ..... 3 - 15
Map 3-6	Group Quarter Locations (2017)..... 3 - 16
Map 4-1	Allen County School Districts (2018)..... 4 - 9
Map 4-2	Allen County Childcare Providers (2018) ..... 4 - 17
Map 5-1	Allen County Floodplains ..... 5 - 5
Map 5-2	Allen County Wetlands ..... 5 - 7
Map 5-3	Allen County Hydric Soils ..... 5 - 9
Map 5-4	Waterlines..... 5 - 11
Map 5-5	Traffic Crashes (2016 & 2017)..... 5 - 18
Map 5-6	Bike & Pedestrian Crashes (2016 & 2017) ..... 5 - 19

**LIST OF TABLES, SUMMARY TABLES, MAPS & ILLUSTRATIONS**  
(Continued)

<b><u>MAPS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Map 5-7 Generalized Land Use (2017) .....	5 - 21
Map 5-8 Major Pipelines & TRI Sites .....	5 - 22
Map 5-9 Foreclosures (2016-2017) .....	5 - 25
Map 5-10 UCR Part 1 Incident Reports (2017) .....	5 - 29
Map 5-11 UCR Part 1 Arrests (2017) .....	5 - 30
Map 5-12 Alcohol Sale Permit Holders (2017) .....	5 - 33
Map 5-13 Drug/Alcohol Related Traffic Crashes (2016 & 2017) .....	5 - 34
Map 5-14 Grocery & Convenience Stores .....	5 - 37
Map 5-15 Restaurants .....	5 - 38
Map 5-16 Parks .....	5 - 39
Map 6-1 Change in Poverty Rate (2010-2017) .....	6 - 3
 <b><u>ILLUSTRATIONS</u></b>	
Illustration 2-1 Total Population (1970-2017) .....	2 - 1
Illustration 2-2 Population Change by Component: 2005-2015 .....	2 - 4
Illustration 2-3 Total Households (1990-2017) .....	2 - 5
Illustration 2-4 Average Household Size by Race (2010) .....	2 - 8
Illustration 2-5 2017 Allen County/Ohio Population by Age Cohort .....	2 - 10
Illustration 2-6 Racial Breakdown of Allen County and Ohio (2017) .....	2 - 11
Illustration 2-7 Median Household Income (2017) .....	2 - 21
Illustration 2-8 Unemployment Rates (2000-2017) .....	2 - 26
Illustration 3-1 Affordability Gap (2012-2017) .....	3 - 26
Illustration 4-1 Percent of Student Body Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch (2016) .....	4 - 12
Illustration 5-1 Days in Exceedance of Ozone NAAQS .....	5 - 12
Illustration 5-2 Daily Maintenance Emission Budgets .....	5 - 14
Illustration 5-3 Total Crashes vs. Injury Crashes .....	5 - 17
Illustration 5-4 Foreclosures in Allen County .....	5 - 26
Illustration 5-5 National UCR Part 1 Crime in Millions (1995-2017) .....	5 - 27
Illustration 5-6 Lima UCR Part 1 Crime (2013-2017) .....	5 - 28
Illustration 6-1 Poverty Rates (2010-2017) .....	6 - 2
Illustration 6-2 Poverty by Type (2017) .....	6 - 2
Illustration 6-3 Health Insurance Coverage by Age .....	6 - 6
Illustration 6-4 Percent of Population with Asthma by Age .....	6 - 6
Illustration 6-5 Obesity (BMI > 30) in Adults~Ohio .....	6 - 8
Illustration 6-6 Opioid Deaths in Ohio by Type (1999-2017) .....	6 - 12
Illustration 6-7 Felons by Degree .....	6 - 14
Illustration 6-8 WOCAP Services Parts B & C .....	6 - 20

## **SECTION 1**

### **INTRODUCTION: WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2019**

Federal planning guidelines require community assessments 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 December of 2019. Pursuant 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 provide guidance for the types of services that help families and individuals thrive.

The 2019 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. Our intention was 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 needs of the community and the services that are 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**

The West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP), formerly known as the Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs (LACCA), was founded as a non-profit private organization in 1993 to serve the needs of both young and old low-income families in Allen County, Ohio. The Organization grew out of the efforts of the United Way of Greater Lima, the Black Ministerial Alliance, the City of Lima, and the Allen County Commissioners. The Organization was officially designated on February 1, 1994 as the Community Action Agency for Allen County.

Upon opening, with four employees and a budget of \$345,000, the Organization operated two emergency assistance programs, Federal Emergency Management Assistance programming and the Home Energy Assistance Program. 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 serving 571 children in Allen County. The Organization 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.

West Ohio Community Action Partnership became the official name of the Organization in 2016 after regionalizing services in a three-county area, Allen, Auglaize and Mercer counties. Our new presence in these counties has led to an unprecedented growth in the area of workforce development. One of the hallmarks of our work force development program, Steps-To-Success, is to remove barriers to full time, living wage employment. In April of 2016, WOCAP won the Exemplary Program Award for Steps to Success given by the John Glenn Institute for Public Policy and Public Service.

Now, 25 years since its inception, with an operating budget that has grown to \$10 million and a staff of 130 employees, WOCAP offers twelve programs across three west central Ohio counties - Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer. WOCAP'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, WOCAP has realized that as the economic environment and social conditions change so too must WOCAP's – plans, goals, and services. Therefore, WOCAP is "On the Move".

WOCAP has secured facilities and staffed programming in the region's largest cities including Celina, Lima and Wapakoneta, as well as in the villages of Harrod, Spencerville, and Lima, and the unincorporated areas of Shawnee townships geographically located between Lima and Wapakoneta. The Lima facility located at 540 Central Avenue remains WOCAP's headquarters due to the size of the Lima Urbanized Area population, the availability of supportive services and its accessibility with both inter and intra city public transportation services.

With pride in service and a commitment to excellence, WOCAP continues to provide people with opportunities to reach their highest potential by providing stepping stones to success. WOCAP services open paths to self-sufficiency and empowerment for individuals and families to enhance our community.

Currently, WOCAP programming has grown to include: Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), Emergency Assistance, Homeownership/Down Payment Assistance (First Home Lima), Fair Housing, Lead Abatement, Home Repair, Head Start, Early Head Start, State Preschool, Nurturing Fathers, Rx/AIM Prescription Assistance, Financial Literacy, Homeless Prevention Services (HCRP), and Kindergarten Kamp.

WOCAP has partnered with other like-minded agencies to establish and nurture many initiatives that have grown to become successful non-profit programs in their own right including the federally qualified health clinic, now the Dr. Gene Wright Health Center; and family violence prevention which is now Prevention Awareness Support Services.

WOCAP has a proven 25-year track record of ethical operations and fiscal accountability by continually striving to achieve "clean" audit opinions during our annual Agency wide single audit. In 2014 and 2019 the Greater Lima Chamber of Commerce named WOCAP "Non-Profit Business of the Year". The Agency has also been awarded 7 Best Practice Awards from the John Glenn Institute for Public Policy and Public Service. These awards are presented to non-profit agencies who demonstrate innovative efforts to help low income people make life-changing differences and lead them on the path to self-sufficiency.

WOCAP is recognized throughout the community as an organization of integrity that is a leader in collaboration, partnering and advocating for low-income families. A hallmark of the Agency is its ability to collaborate with a wide variety of community agencies. We have developed partnerships with more than 100 agencies across our region in order to better meet the goal of helping people reach their full potential. WOCAP currently serves 10,000 individuals per year, nearly 6,000 in Allen County alone, through its many programs and services in the region. And, the organization realizes that maintaining the quality of services is paramount to its continued success.

### **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. In order to meet the needs of those we dedicate our services to... we adopt the following statements:

#### **Mission Statement:**

West Ohio 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 the West Ohio Community Action Partnership, commit to making a difference in our community through actions and behaviors that demonstrate our dedication to these values:

- Leading the way in high standards of personal and agency achievement
- Accomplishing our common goals by providing the tolls to build bridges to success
- Compassionately providing services with dignity and kindness
- Communicating with directness and honesty to find creative solutions
- Accepting and recognizing that each person has unique and diverse qualities and strengths

#### **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 local community and government organizations. 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 goal of the partnership is 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 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 to increase the childcare's capacity for excellence through curriculum development, staff training, and financial support.
- Coordinating with 15 organizations across 3 counties the agency works to deliver homeless prevention services. The Homeless Planning Region 12 develops policy as to how services are provided, monitors 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 helping to raise the level of public awareness in those communities regarding the need to provide homeless services which resulted in a Rotary Club donation of \$15,200 for program outreach.
- The vision of West Ohio Cap was to design a lead abatement project to focus both on lead abatement as well as home repair to remove lead hazards and preserve safe and affordable housing. We recognized that eliminating other unsafe home repairs that were needed 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 Husky funds with State home repair funds and agency funds. West Ohio Cap planned to abate 40-50 homes in the area, with a priority for homes that have 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 are 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 2017 ACS 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 are presented. A review of housing foreclosures, vacancies and blight are addressed in subsequent sections. 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 was

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 also provides greater insights into the various programs locally available, as well as 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

In order to assess the needs of the community 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 important 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 as well as affording these local service providers the opportunity 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 inclusive of 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).

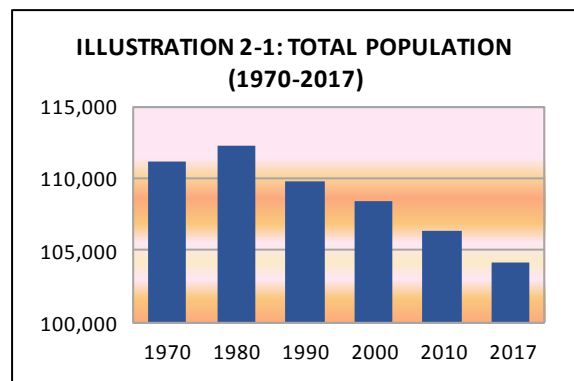
Major roadways include Interstate 75, and State Routes 65, 115 and 696 which run north and south, and U.S. Route 30 and State Routes 81, 117 and 309 which cross the county east to west. The Auglaize and Ottawa Rivers flow through Allen County. The total study area reflects some 407 square miles. Two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

The population of Allen County in 2017 according to the American Community Survey (ACS) was 104,157 persons. This population however, is not uniform in its demographics, distribution or density. 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

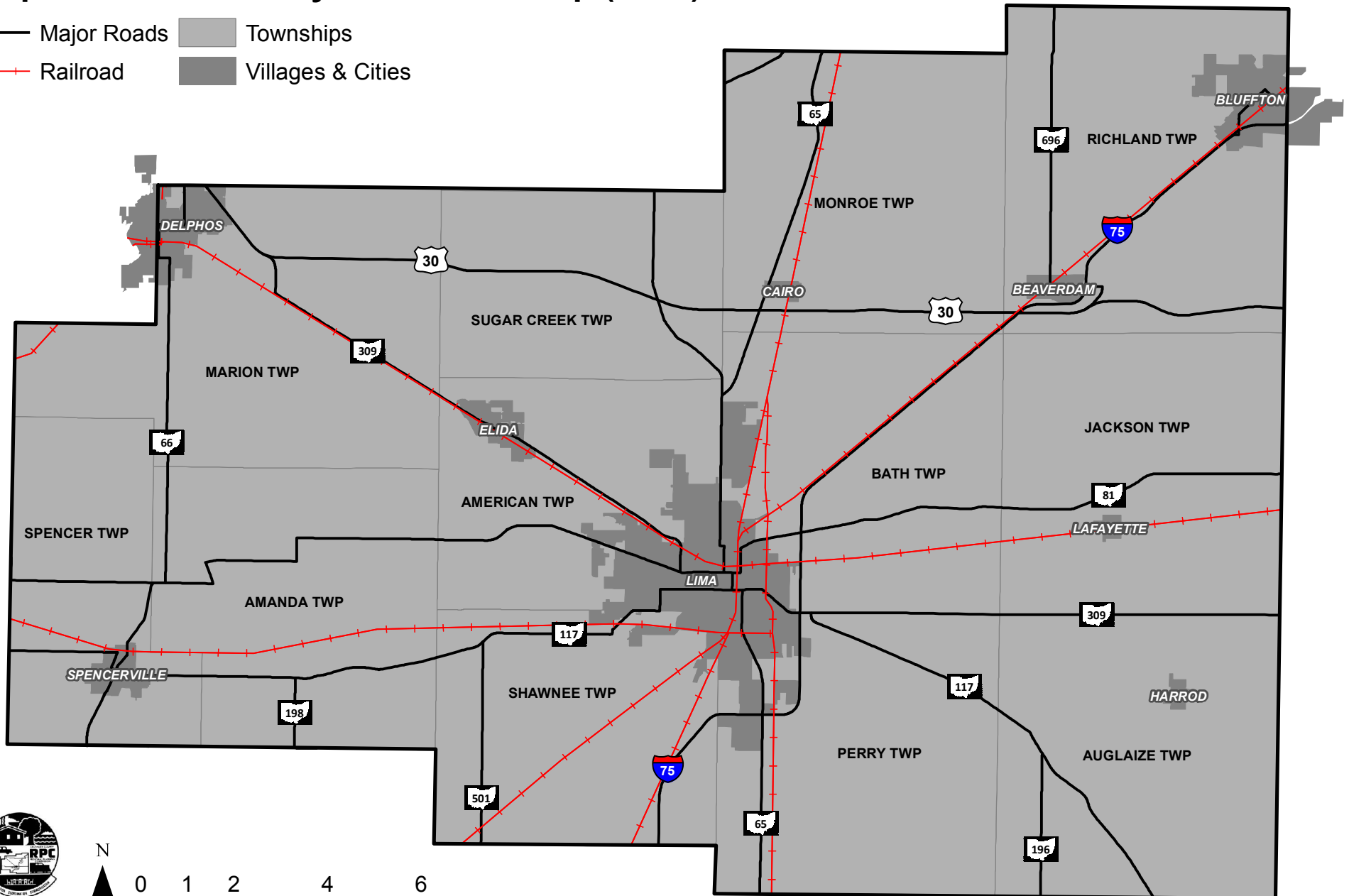
In the context of this report, the term population refers to the number of inhabitants in a given place and time. Herein, unless otherwise noted, population data reflects the total number of residents in a specific political subdivision as prescribed by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2013 – 2017 5-year American Community Survey estimate. 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 8,084 persons or 7.2 percent. For purposes of comparison the State of Ohio experienced a population growth of 7.5 percent over the same 37-year period.



## Map 2-1: Allen County Road Base Map (2017)

- Major Roads    Townships  
- - - Railroad    Villages & Cities



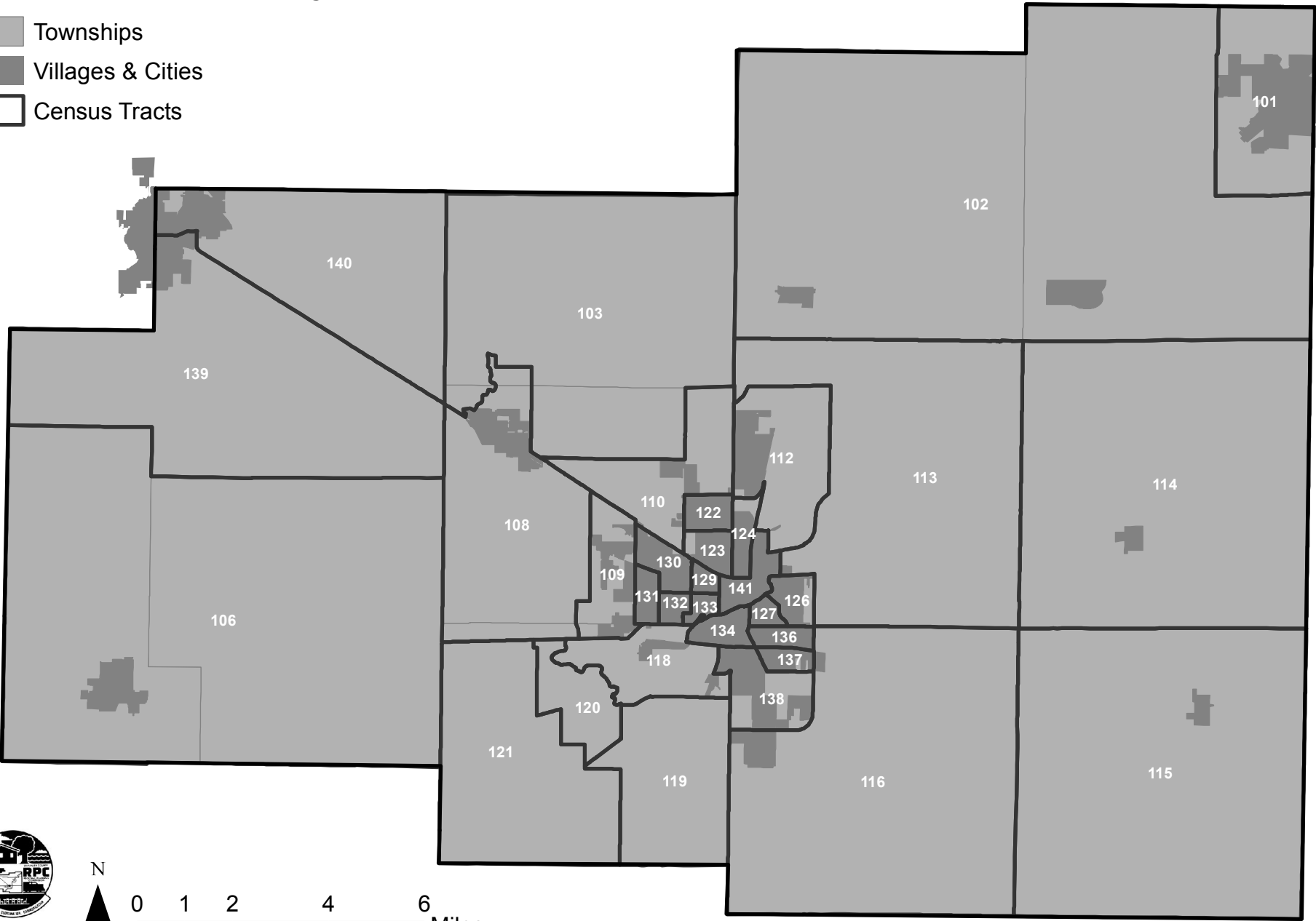
May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

# Map 2-2: Allen County Census Tract Base Map (2017)

- Townships
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



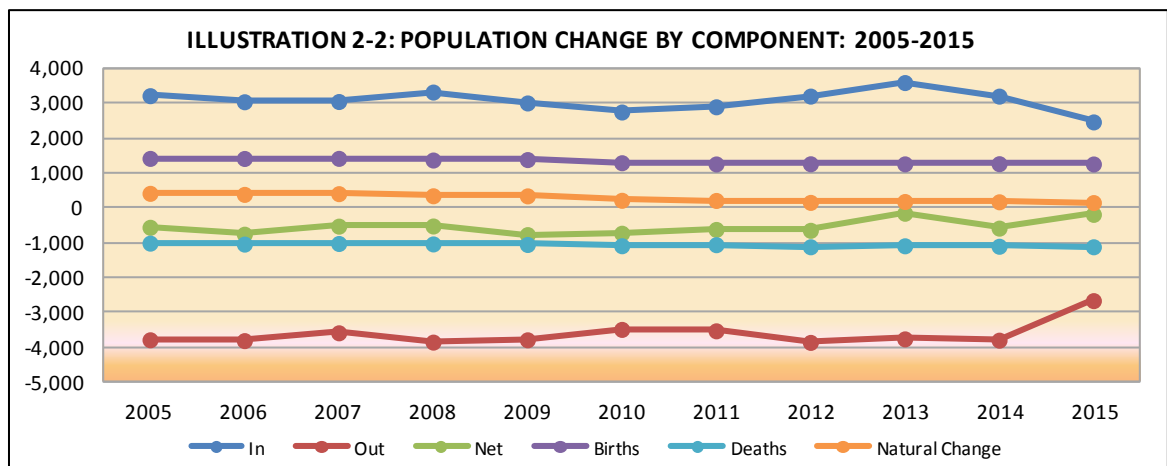
0 1 2 4 6 Miles

TABLE 2-1 TOTAL POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (1960-2017)								
Political Subdivision	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	PCT Change '60-'17
Allen County	103,691	111,144	112,241	109,755	108,473	106,331	104,157	0.4%
Beaverdam	514	525	492	467	356	382	469	-8.8%
Bluffton	2,591	2,935	3,237	3,206	3,719	3,952	4,383	69.2%
Cairo	566	587	596	473	499	524	534	-5.7%
Delphos	3,716	4,301	3,984	3,901	3,901	3,938	7,123	91.7%
Elida	1,215	1,211	1,349	1,486	1,917	1,905	1,910	57.2%
Harrod	563	533	506	537	491	417	399	-29.1%
Lafayette	476	486	488	449	304	445	402	-15.5%
Lima	51,037	53,734	47,827	45,549	41,578	38,771	37,592	-26.3%
Spencerville	2,061	2,241	2,184	2,288	2,235	2,223	2,240	8.7%
Amanda Twp	1,217	1,498	1,769	1,773	1,913	2,071	1,861	52.9%
American Twp	9,184	8,766	11,476	10,921	13,599	12,476	12,182	32.6%
Auglaize Twp	1,740	2,245	2,042	1,936	2,359	2,366	2,314	33.0%
Bath Twp	8,307	9,323	9,997	10,105	9,819	9,725	9,590	15.4%
Jackson Twp	1,523	1,761	2,214	2,288	2,632	2,611	2,565	68.4%
Marion Twp	2,222	2,644	2,734	2,775	2,872	2,777	2,864	28.9%
Monroe Twp	1,386	1,490	1,621	1,622	1,720	1,702	1,827	31.8%
Perry Twp	5,045	3,751	3,586	3,577	3,620	3,531	3,464	-31.3%
Richland Twp	1,530	1,515	1,628	1,821	2,015	1,955	1,527	-0.2%
Shawnee Twp	9,658	9,734	12,344	12,133	12,220	12,433	12,176	26.1%
Spencer Twp	863	960	925	832	871	844	798	-7.5%
Sugar Creek Twp	1,166	1,209	1,242	1,311	1,330	1,283	1,248	7.0%

Since 2000, a 2.3% 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 2017 ACS data against the 2000 Census tabulations Allen County lost 4,316 residents, a loss in population of 4.0 percent in seventeen 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 2.3 percent during the 17-year period. Illustration 2-2 provides additional insights into the components of population change over the 2000 thru 2017 period.



Population change, whether related to growth or decline is not static nor is it uniform. For example, with the population decline since 1980 noted, the County has actually experienced an overall population increase of 0.4 percent when examining the full period spanning the 1960 to 2017 period. In fact, as depicted in Table 2-1, 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.

*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 decline of population since 1970, while younger suburban and exurban townships have increased in overall population. For example, Lima, the county seat witnessed a 5.3 percent increase in population between 1960 and 1970 before dropping 27.8 percent in size by 2017. The Villages of Beaverdam and Harrod also experienced precipitous declines between 1960 and 2017. However, Amanda Township, a townships without an incorporated area, experienced sizeable percentage growth over the 57-year period witnessing population growth of 24.2 percent respectively. Of some concern is the effect of annexation on the unincorporated areas over the 57-year period. However, the actual annexation of population is considered negligible as most annexation initiatives target undeveloped/unpopulated land.

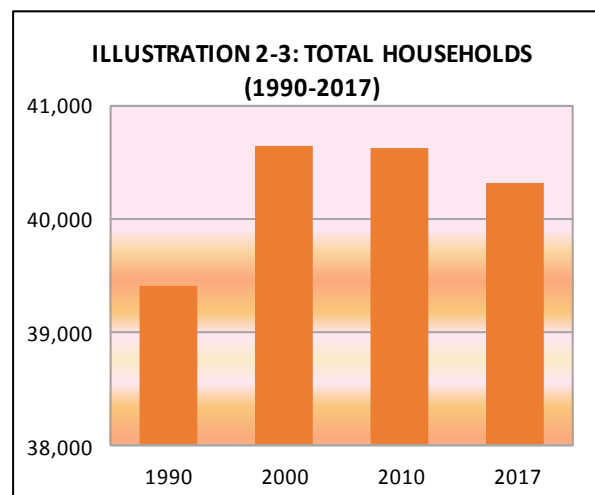
### 2.3 Households & Household Size

Another population related factor to recognize is change in the number and size of local households. This measure is important since each household requires a dwelling unit, and in most cases the size of the household will determine specific housing components such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, square footage, play area, etc. Therefore, as the number of households change in number or character, housing consumption changes. As the

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

characteristics of the household change, new residency patterns are established. From a public policy perspective, it is 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 2010 and 2017. Illustration 2-3 shows the trend over time in total households in Allen County. Table 2-2 explains in more detail the decline in total households between 2010 and 2017. In 2017 there were 40,319 households, a decrease of 0.9 percent from the 2010 figure of 40,691 households. The decline in number of households was not uniform across the county, places like Beaverdam, Bluffton and Monroe and Spencer Townships all saw increases in the number of households.



Household size is an interesting factor. Table 2-2 presents information relative to the changing size of households. While the average household size in Allen County has decreased slightly to

2.48 persons per household between 2010 and 2017, a decline of 1.2 percent. In comparison, the State average size of 2.44 persons per household saw a decline of 2.0 percent from the 2000 value. Notice also that household size varies by political subdivision across Allen County.

TABLE 2-2 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS & AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2017)						
Political Subdivision	Total Households 2010	Avg. Household Size 2010	2017 Total Households	2017 Average Household Size	PCT Change Total HH	PCT Change HH Size
Allen County	40,691	2.51	40,319	2.48	-0.9%	-1.2%
Beaverdam	144	2.60	194	2.42	34.7%	-6.9%
Bluffton	1,428	2.57	1719	2.31	20.4%	-10.1%
Cairo	198	2.70	183	2.92	-7.6%	8.1%
Delphos	2,893	2.38	2,890	2.42	0.0%	1.7%
Elida	708	2.67	699	2.73	-1.3%	2.2%
Harrod	143	2.87	145	2.75	1.4%	-4.2%
Lafayette	161	2.72	153	2.63	-5.0%	-3.3%
Lima	14,221	2.39	14,312	2.42	0.6%	1.3%
Spencerville	817	2.62	851	2.57	4.2%	-1.9%
Amanda Twp	759	2.72	700	2.66	-7.8%	-2.2%
American Twp	5,344	2.46	5,190	2.38	-2.9%	-3.3%
Auglaize Twp	893	2.69	810	2.85	-9.3%	5.9%
Bath Twp	3,827	2.52	3,751	2.5	-2.0%	-0.8%
Jackson Twp	1,003	2.61	933	2.74	-7.0%	5.0%
Marion Twp	1,016	2.60	1,068	2.46	5.1%	-5.4%
Monroe Twp	634	2.70	1,068	2.46	68.5%	-8.9%
Perry Twp	1,453	2.49	1,350	2.52	-7.1%	1.2%
Richland Twp	604	2.64	711	2.26	17.7%	-14.4%
Shawnee Twp	4,833	2.54	4,767	2.54	-1.4%	0.0%
Spencer Twp	326	2.61	391	2.58	19.9%	-1.1%
Sugar Creek Twp	495	2.54	452	2.76	-8.7%	8.7%

Table 2-3 examines household composition. In 2017, approximately two-thirds of households (27,771) or 69.9 percent of all households were identified without the presence of children. This data may very well indicate that a historical trend of families with children is changing to more

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

two person households, single-parent households with children under the age of 18 years, and households comprised of retirees. As the average household size declines the

trend of smaller households becomes evident, as of 2017 there were 26,344 (65.3%) 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.

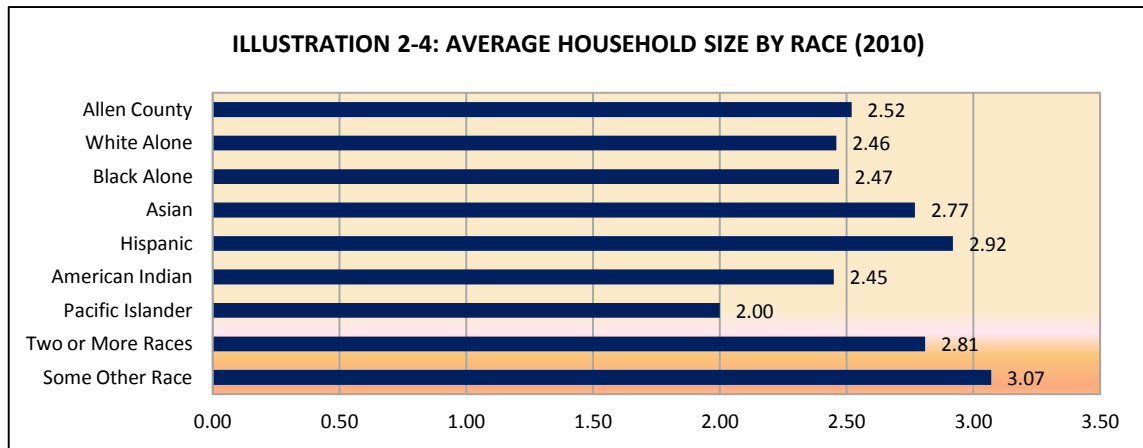
Large households (6 or more persons) usually have more difficulty finding housing particularly affordable rental housing due to a lack of supply. Such households are also at greater risk of experiencing housing discrimination based on familial status. Table 2-4 suggests that 29.4 percent of large households 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 2-3 HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN BY TYPE (2017)								
Political Subdivision	Total w/ Children	PCT of Total HH	Married w/ Children	PCT Married HH	Single Female w/ Children	PCT Female HH	Single Male w/ Children	PCT Male HH
Allen County	12,548	31.1%	7,341	58.5%	3,811	30.4%	1,300	10.4%
Beaverdam	61	31.4%	37	60.7%	22	36.1%	0	0.0%
Bluffton	497	28.9%	389	78.3%	35	7.0%	66	13.3%
Cairo	60	32.8%	37	61.7%	9	15.0%	7	11.7%
Delphos	1,001	34.6%	594	59.3%	67	6.7%	229	22.9%
Elida	240	34.3%	170	70.8%	37	15.4%	33	13.8%
Harrod	58	40.0%	36	62.1%	14	24.1%	8	13.8%
Lafayette	49	32.0%	31	63.3%	11	22.4%	5	10.2%
Lima	4,699	32.8%	1,766	37.6%	2,391	50.9%	501	10.7%
Spencerville	358	42.1%	188	52.5%	133	37.2%	37	10.3%
Amanda Twp	232	33.1%	188	81.0%	44	19.0%	0	0.0%
American Twp	1,382	26.6%	948	68.6%	268	19.4%	166	12.0%
Auglaize Twp	336	41.5%	208	61.9%	36	10.7%	81	24.1%
Bath Twp	1,102	29.4%	746	67.7%	316	28.7%	33	3.0%
Jackson Twp	274	29.4%	223	81.4%	19	6.9%	15	5.5%
Marion Twp	306	28.7%	210	68.6%	39	12.7%	57	18.6%
Monroe Twp	246	39.6%	180	73.2%	58	23.6%	8	3.3%
Perry Twp	218	16.1%	177	81.2%	36	16.5%	5	2.3%
Richland Twp	172	30.7%	133	77.3%	13	7.6%	17	9.9%
Shawnee Twp	1,389	29.1%	1,080	77.8%	241	17.4%	68	4.9%
Spencer Twp	133	34.0%	133	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	140	31.0%	104	74.3%	0	0.0%	36	25.7%

TABLE 2-4 HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)					
Political Subdivision	Household Size 6	Household Size 7+	Household Size 6 & 7+	PCT HH w/ 6+ Occupants	PCT of County 6+ Households
Allen County	762	349	1,111	2.8%	100.0%
Beaverdam	13	0	13	6.7%	1.2%
Bluffton	0	17	17	1.0%	1.5%
Cairo	2	12	14	7.7%	1.3%
Delphos	52	0	52	1.8%	4.7%
Elida	16	2	18	2.6%	1.6%
Harrod	4	0	4	2.8%	0.4%
Lafayette	4	1	5	3.3%	0.5%
Lima	188	139	327	2.3%	29.4%
Spencerville	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Amanda Twp	17	4	21	3.0%	1.9%
American Twp	132	4	136	2.6%	12.2%
Auglaize Twp	35	18	53	6.5%	4.8%
Bath Twp	124	20	144	3.8%	13.0%
Jackson Twp	16	11	27	2.9%	2.4%
Marion Twp	20	5	25	2.3%	2.3%
Monroe Twp	0	7	7	0.7%	0.6%
Perry Twp	32	35	67	5.0%	6.0%
Richland Twp	20	0	20	2.8%	1.8%
Shawnee Twp	108	54	162	3.4%	14.6%
Spencer Twp	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	16	20	36	8.0%	3.2%

Illustration 2-4 reveals that the largest households are those with householders that identify as a Race not specified in the census. This is followed by householders that identify as two or more races (2.81 persons), Hispanic (2.92 persons) or Asian (2.77 persons). Both White and African American households' average below 2.5 individuals, 2.46 and 2.47 respectively.



Single parent households, especially female head 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, excluding those living alone, across the County. This data suggests the highest concentration of single female head of households in Allen County is located in the City of Lima (22.8%) followed by the Village of Spencerville (20.8%). Comparatively Spencer Township had the lowest percentage of single female head of households at 0.0 percent.

TABLE 2-5 SINGLE FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)			
Political Subdivision	Total Households	Female Head of Household	PCT Female Head of Household
Allen County	40,319	5,559	13.8%
Beaverdam	194	27	13.9%
Bluffton	1719	129	7.5%
Cairo	183	25	13.7%
Delphos	2,890	306	10.6%
Elida	699	75	10.7%
Harrod	145	16	11.0%
Lafayette	153	18	11.8%
Lima	14,312	3,262	22.8%
Spencerville	851	177	20.8%
Amanda Twp	700	79	11.3%
American Twp	5,190	455	8.8%
Auglaize Twp	810	36	4.4%
Bath Twp	3,751	448	11.9%
Jackson Twp	933	56	6.0%
Marion Twp	1,068	48	4.5%
Monroe Twp	1,068	58	5.4%
Perry Twp	1,350	123	9.1%
Richland Twp	711	24	3.4%
Shawnee Twp	4,767	348	7.3%
Spencer Twp	391	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	452	11	2.4%



## 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 important in attempts to identify specific needs or the degree to which specific services will be required by that particular population segment. The construction of a population pyramid furthers an analysis of age and age cohorts by gender differences. As sex is a protected class under the Fair Housing Act this construct provides valuable insights not only into fertility and morbidity issues but also 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.

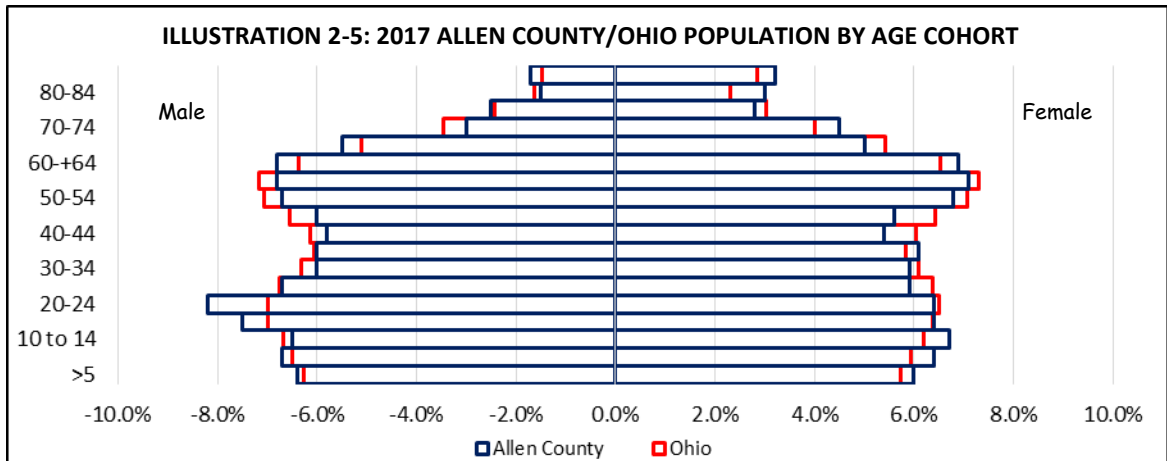
*Age reflects the degree to which specific services will be required.*

TABLE 2-6 ALLEN COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE COHORT & GENDER (2017)						
Age Cohort	Male	PCT of Male Pop	Female	PCT of Female Pop	Total	PCT of Total Pop
< 5	3,351	6.4%	3,106	6.0%	6,457	6.20%
5 - 9	3,507	6.7%	3,278	6.4%	6,785	6.51%
10 - 14	3,429	6.5%	3,433	6.7%	6,862	6.59%
15 - 19	3,947	7.5%	3,278	6.4%	7,225	6.94%
20 - 24	4,308	8.2%	3,294	6.4%	7,602	7.30%
25 - 29	3,521	6.7%	3,032	5.9%	6,553	6.29%
30 - 34	3,156	6.0%	3,020	5.9%	6,176	5.93%
35 - 39	3,146	6.0%	3,163	6.1%	6,309	6.06%
40 - 44	3,029	5.8%	2,771	5.4%	5,800	5.57%
45 - 49	3,144	6.0%	2,908	5.6%	6,052	5.81%
50 - 54	3,519	6.7%	3,528	6.8%	7,047	6.77%
55 - 59	3,560	6.8%	3,649	7.1%	7,209	6.92%
60 - 64	3,553	6.8%	3,539	6.9%	7,092	6.81%
65 - 69	2,911	5.5%	2,595	5.0%	5,506	5.29%
70 - 74	1,554	3.0%	2,337	4.5%	2,337	2.24%
75 - 79	1,323	2.5%	1,461	2.8%	2,784	2.67%
80 - 84	785	1.5%	1,524	3.0%	2,309	2.22%
85≤	871	1.7%	1,627	3.2%	2,498	2.40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,614</b>		<b>51,543</b>		<b>104,157</b>	

The following construct, Illustration 2-5, depicts an age/gender profile of Allen County's population as documented in the 2017 ACS against the State of Ohio for the same period. When compared to the State of Ohio, the population pyramid suggests Allen County has a proportionally larger population of 15 to 24 year old males. This trend can most likely be explained by Allen County's incarcerated population, which makes up almost 1% of the county's total population.

Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging. The median age of the County population is 38.6 years. That compares with a median of 39.3 and 37.8 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 32.9 years, compared to Amanda Township with a median age of 47.3 years, almost 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.*



Political Subdivision	Median Age	PCT Under 18	PCT Over 65
Ohio	39.3	22.6	15.9
Allen County	38.6	23.3%	16.3%
Beaverdam	32.8	26.0%	13.0%
Bluffton	40.2	20.5%	21.6%
Cairo	38.5	31.5%	16.1%
Delphos	38.8	22.4%	17.7%
Elida	41.8	25.9%	14.5%
Harrod	35.4	27.8%	12.3%
Lafayette	35.9	24.9%	15.7%
Lima	32.9	24.7%	12.0%
Spencerville	32.0	29.6%	15.1%
Amanda Twp	47.3	23.2%	12.8%
American Twp	42.4	21.9%	22.2%
Auglaize Twp	36.3	29.3%	9.0%
Bath Twp	39.7	21.1%	18.2%
Jackson Twp	44.5	25.5%	18.6%
Marion Twp	42.0	18.2%	19.6%
Monroe Twp	33.8	31.9%	13.0%
Perry Twp	45.5	16.0%	21.2%
Richland Twp	41.8	22.2%	18.1%
Shawnee Twp	45.5	21.7%	20.0%
Spencer Twp	33.1	29.3%	16.8%
Sugar Creek Twp	33.0	24.9%	16.2%

Age data reveals that 6.2 percent of the County's population is less than 5 years of age (Table 2-6) and nearly a quarter (22.6%) is below the age of 18 (Table 2-7). Data suggests that simply due to age of the population (Under 16 and over 65), over a third of the population (35.6%) is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth and earning power of the community. Data shows that an additional 20.5 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 16.3 percent of the

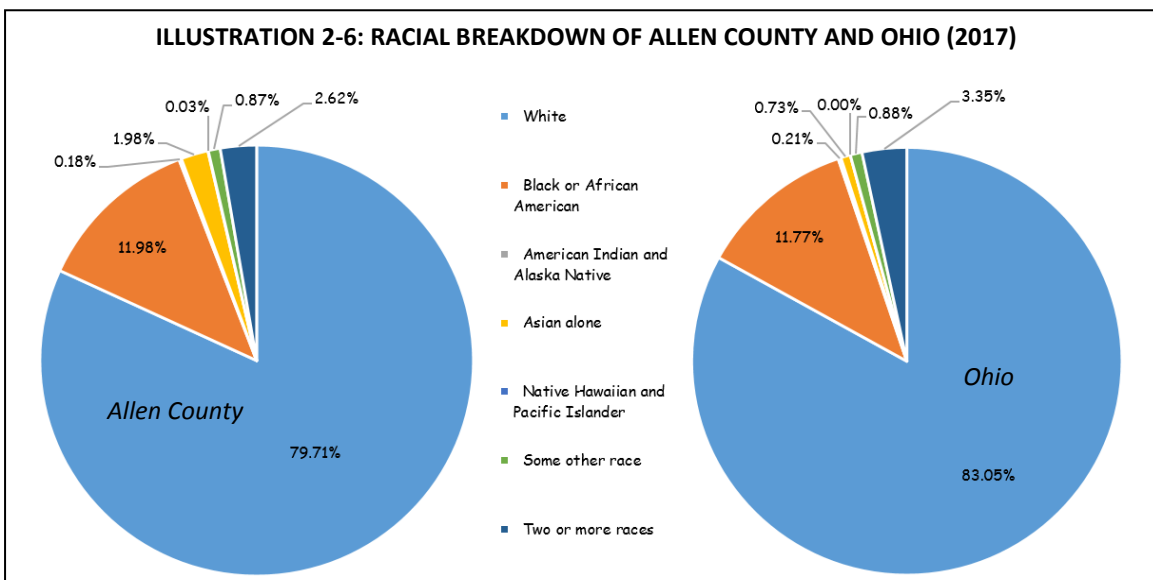
*Data suggests that simply due to age a third of the population is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth of the community.*

population, up from 14.8 percent in 2010. Concerns center on the availability of a younger work force and the need for appropriate senior housing services and public transportation to accommodate pre-retirement and post-retirement households.

## 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 a number of 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. 2017 ACS data revealed that representatives of all minority classifications lived within Allen County, except for Pacific Islander. Ethnicity is a term somewhat harder to identify when considering race and/or minority relationships. Ethnicity typically refers to a person's country of origin and his or her 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 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 83.1 percent. The largest minority group within Allen County is the Black/African-American population, which comprises 11.8 percent of the total population. All other minority groups together comprise approximately 5.1 percent of the total County population (Illustration 2-5). 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 26.0 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.

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

TABLE 2-8 TOTAL MINORITY (RACE) POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)						
Political Subdivision	Minority Pop. 2010	PCT Minority 2010	Minority Pop. 2017	PCT Minority 2017	Change '10-'17	PCT Change '10-'17
Allen County	17,242	16.3%	17,650	16.9%	408	2.4%
Beaverdam	12	2.7%	7	1.5%	-5	-41.7%
Bluffton	192	4.7%	200	4.6%	8	4.2%
Cairo	12	2.4%	10	1.9%	-2	-16.7%
Delphos	103	2.6%	447	6.3%	344	334.0%
Elida	109	6.1%	198	10.4%	89	81.7%
Harrod	3	0.7%	13	3.3%	10	333.3%
Lafayette	10	2.6%	0	0.0%	-10	-100.0%
Lima	12,759	33.2%	12,645	33.6%	-114	-0.90%
Spencerville	78	3.8%	65	2.9%	-13	-16.7%
Amanda Twp	40	2.0%	104	5.6%	64	160.0%
American Twp	1,601	12.8%	1,582	13.0%	-19	-1.2%
Auglaize Twp	49	2.1%	134	5.8%	85	173.5%
Bath Twp	677	7.0%	820	8.6%	143	21.1%
Jackson Twp	43	1.6%	18	0.7%	-25	-58.1%
Marion Twp	30	1.1%	123	4.3%	93	310.0%
Monroe Twp	31	1.7%	0	0.0%	-31	-100.0%
Perry Twp	323	9.2%	132	3.8%	-191	-59.1%
Richland Twp	33	1.8%	26	1.7%	-7	-21.2%
Shawnee Twp	1,097	8.9%	1,298	10.7%	401	44.7%
Spencer Twp	15	1.5%	42	5.3%	27	180.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	25	2.0%	13	1.0%	-12	-48.0%

When consideration is given to Hispanic ethnicity, which can include persons of any race and added on top of all non-white classifications, the number of minority residents within Allen County climbs to 19,539 persons, or 18.7 percent of the total Allen County population (Table 2-9). The largest minority population remains the Black/African-American population, however the Hispanic population now ranks second, as the second largest minority group in Allen County at 2.9 percent.

The 2017 Census data suggests that the minority populations in Allen County have continued to grow. While the Black/African-American population experienced a 3.0% decline, the Hispanic population saw steady growth with 19.2 percent growth between 2010 and 2017 (Table 2-10). Most notably the highest rate of minority growth took place in the City of Delphos (334.0%) and the Village of Harrod (333.3%, Table 2-8).

*The ACS 2017 5-year estimates reveal that the minority populations in Allen County have continued to grow in the last seven years.*

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 2017. Maps 2-2 and 2-3 depict the re-distribution of White and minority residents between 2010 and 2017 by census tract.

TABLE 2-9 TOTAL MINORITY (RACE & ETHNICITY) POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)								
Political Subdivision	Black & African - American	Asian	American Indian	Other Races	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Total	Percent
Allen County	12,260	756	221	921	3,492	2,995	19,539	18.7%
Beaverdam	0	0	3	0	4	4	11	0.0%
Bluffton	102	37	0	26	35	49	215	5.0%
Cairo	0	4	0	0	6	21	28	5.2%
Delphos	11	0	0	198	11	220	242	6.1%
Elida	139	0	0	2	57	61	257	13.5%
Harrod	0	0	0	13	0	13	13	3.3%
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.5%
Lima	9,633	288	124	350	2,250	1,434	13,664	36.3%
Spencerville	37	0	4	14	10	18	65	2.9%
Amanda Twp	0	73	0	0	31	21	125	7.2%
American Twp	974	7	20	107	474	402	1,851	13.1%
Auglaize Twp	0	0	19	0	115	206	252	9.3%
Bath Twp	480	146	0	105	89	186	901	10.4%
Jackson Twp	0	0	0	0	18	48	66	2.2%
Marion Twp	103	0	0	0	11	8	131	1.9%
Monroe Twp	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Perry Twp	67	0	28	0	37	5	137	4.1%
Richland Twp	3	0	0	0	23	0	26	0.4%
Shawnee Twp	711	201	14	93	279	186	1,400	13.0%
Spencer Twp	0	0	0	0	42	0	42	1.4%
Sugar Creek Twp	0	0	0	13	0	111	111	9.8%

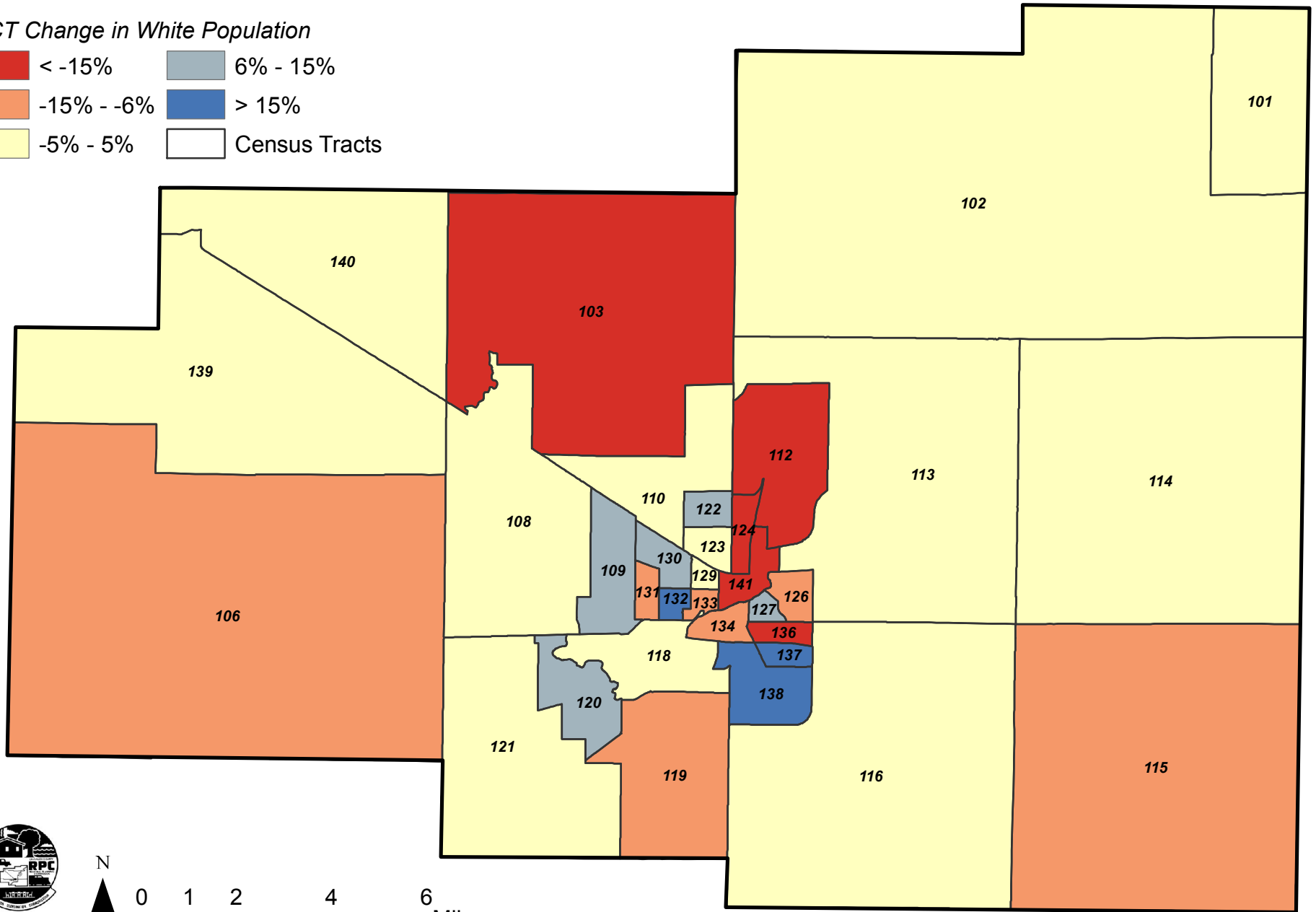
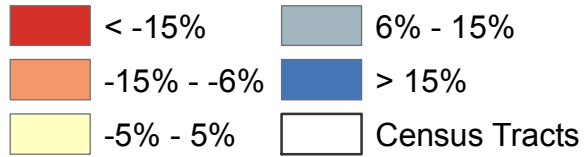
TABLE 2-10 ALLEN COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2010-2017)						
Race	Pop. 2010	PCT 2010	Pop. 2017	PCT 2017	Change	PCT Change
White	86,576	81.4%	86,507	83.1%	-69	-0.1%
Black	12,639	11.9%	12,260	11.8%	-379	-3.0%
Hispanic	2,513	2.4%	2,995	2.9%	482	19.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	207	0.2%	221	0.2%	14	6.8%
Asian	740	0.7%	756	0.7%	16	2.2%
Some Other Race	845	0.8%	921	0.9%	76	9.0%
Two or More Races	2,763	2.6%	3,492	3.4%	729	26.4%

Map 2-3 suggests that the White populations in the townships stayed fairly stable while areas 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 more or less segregation for the migrations are predicated on a number of 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.

*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 2014.*

## Map 2-3: White Population Redistribution (2010 - 2017)

*PCT Change in White Population*



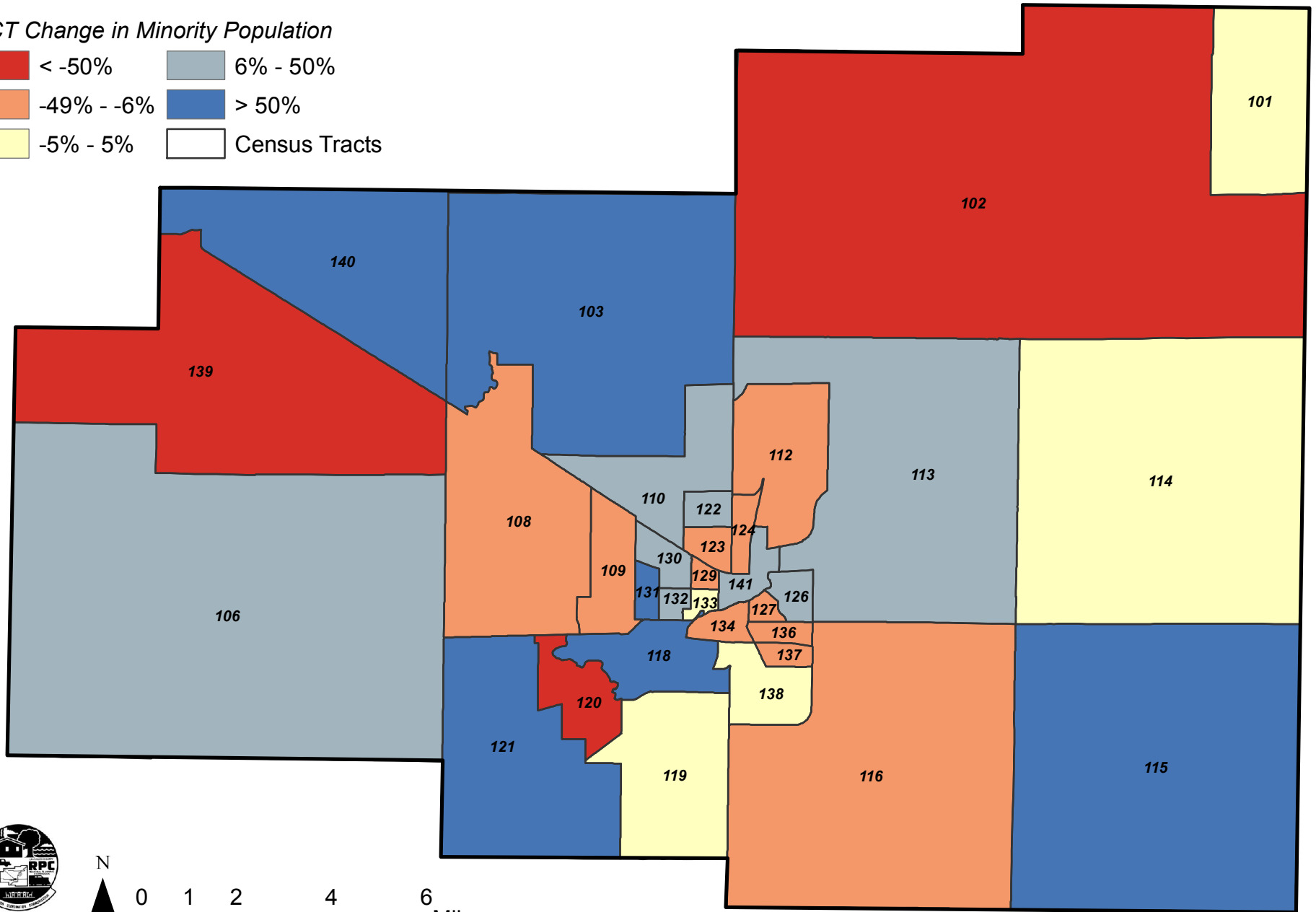
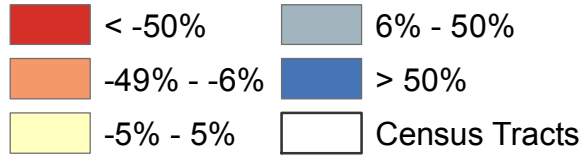
May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

## Map 2-4: Minority Population Redistribution (2010 - 2017)

*PCT Change in Minority Population*



May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

## 2.6 The Disabled Population

Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing choice due to needed accessibility features, as well as 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 as it relates to areas of housing, employment, education, and transportation. Each of these Acts also utilizes different terms and definitions to address specific criteria of eligibility and/or services. 2017 ACS 5-year estimates on the disabled population within Allen County have reported that 15,563 persons suffer from a disability, representing 15.3 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. Map 2-5 depicts the disability rate for those 16 years of age and older 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, 100 or 1.5 percent have a disability.

*Within Allen County 15,563 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 in need of 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 7,342 persons were considered ambulatory-impaired or 7.2 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons, identified as 65 or older, 3,350 were considered mobility-impaired or 19.7 percent of the total elderly population.

TABLE 2-11 AGE & DISABILITY STATUS OF RESIDENTS OF ALLEN COUNTY (2017)									
Political Subdivision	NI POP	# DIS	% DIS	Hearing	Vision	Cognitive	Ambulatory	Self-Care	Ind. Living
<b>Allen County</b>	<b>101,696</b>	<b>15,563</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>4,579</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>6,002</b>	<b>7,342</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>4,825</b>
Beaverdam	469	71	15.1%	8	22	31	28	7	12
Bluffton	4,248	525	12.4%	156	102	91	304	27	143
Cairo	534	96	18.0%	37	15	40	73	4	38
Delphos	6,996	1,124	16.1%	431	216	378	565	122	420
Elida	1,908	190	10.0%	66	11	90	81	35	77
Harrod	399	56	14.0%	24	12	23	23	7	11
Lafayette	402	53	13.2%	13	6	17	40	13	8
<b>Lima</b>	<b>35,799</b>	<b>6,824</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>3,138</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>2,183</b>
Spencerville	2,186	377	17.2%	77	80	120	186	42	123
Amanda Twp	1,861	233	12.5%	127	45	71	68	27	47
American Twp	12,008	1,606	13.4%	635	292	588	800	256	607
Auglaize Twp	2,314	231	10.0%	31	0	104	122	48	48
Bath Twp	9,590	1,059	11.0%	358	266	272	499	153	296
Jackson Twp	2,565	361	14.1%	169	111	87	120	36	35
Marion Twp	2,864	326	11.4%	166	79	47	149	37	108
Monroe Twp	1,827	233	12.8%	34	25	64	114	0	49
Perry Twp	3,402	689	20.3%	239	153	153	352	155	215
Richland Twp	1,457	198	13.6%	111	0	20	58	10	37
Shawnee Twp	12,106	1,600	13.2%	460	268	618	812	313	482
Spencer Twp	798	137	17.2%	26	52	8	183	23	45
Sugar Creek Twp	1,248	146	11.7%	52	51	52	57	14	9



## 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, positions that require higher educational attainment levels tend to offer more

job satisfaction. Moreover, individuals with lower educational attainment levels, those with no high school diploma or GED, experience higher rates of unemployment (nearly 3 times the rate for those that have completed a bachelor degree) and less income when they are employed.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is extremely important to support local school initiatives, post-secondary advancement and continuing educational 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 17.2% of Allen County residents have completed a 4-year college degree program or higher.*

Table 2-12 presents data summarizing the educational attainment levels of the Allen County population aged 25 years or more. This data shows that there are 7,209 individuals or 10.7 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older that have not completed a high school education. This statistic compares favorably against national attainment levels where high school diplomas fail to be earned by 12.7 percent of the population.

However, given that there are a number of very respectable post-secondary schools locally accessible, it is somewhat disappointing that only 11,777 adult residents or 17.6 percent have completed a 4-year and/or graduate degree program, especially when compared to State (27.2%) and National (30.9%) 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 2-12 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER (2017)						
Educational Attainment	White Population		Black/African-American Population		Total Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than High School Diploma	5,613	9.44%	1,596	20.92%	7,209	10.75%
High School Graduate or GED	22,987	38.68%	2,702	35.41%	25,689	38.30%
Some College or Associates Degree	19,766	33.26%	2,625	34.40%	22,391	33.39%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11,070	18.63%	707	9.27%	11,777	17.56%

## 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 2-13. The data suggests Allen County 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. The income gap with the State has increased from -7.9 percent in 2010 to -8.6 percent in 2017 for median household incomes levels. The

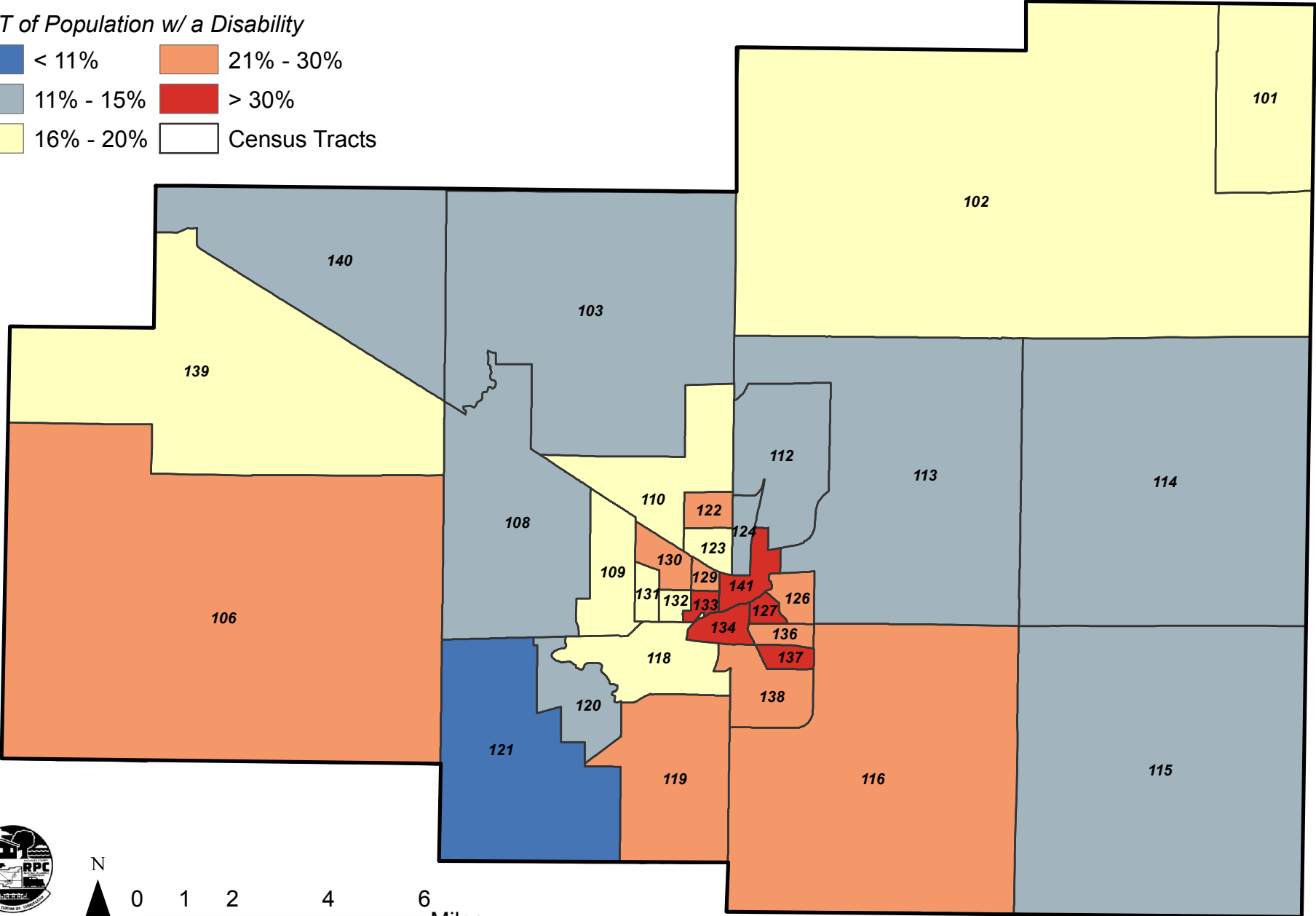
*Allen County is lagging behind the State and national income levels with respect to household, family, and per capita income.*

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm)

# Map 2-5: Disability Rate of Population 18 and Over (2017)

*PCT of Population w/ a Disability*

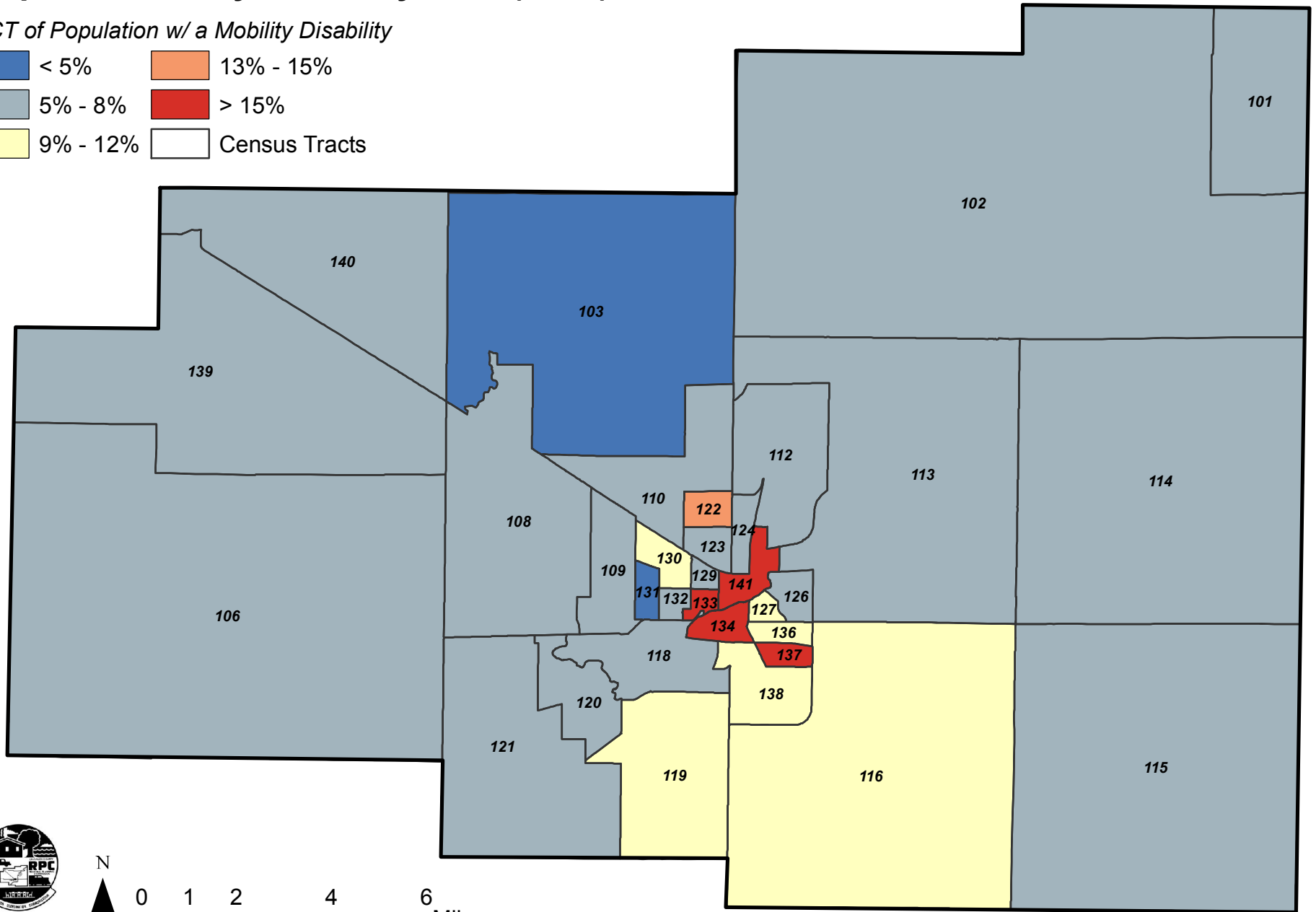
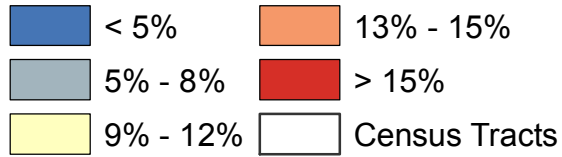
- |   |           |   |               |
|---|-----------|---|---------------|
|  | < 11%     |  | 21% - 30%     |
|  | 11% - 15% |  | > 30%         |
|  | 16% - 20% |  | Census Tracts |



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

## Map 2-6: Mobility Disability Rate (2017)

*PCT of Population w/ a Mobility Disability*



May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

results however, are more drastic when compared to the United States; the deficit increased from -15.9 percent in 2010 to -16.9 percent in 2017.

TABLE 2-13 COMPARATIVE INCOME MEASURES (2010-2017)					
Income Measure	Allen County	Ohio	US	Allen County PCT of OH	Allen County PCT of US
<b>2017</b>					
Median Household	\$47,905	\$52,407	\$57,652	91.40%	83.10%
Median Family	\$59,752	\$66,885	\$70,850	89.30%	84.30%
Median Non-Family	\$24,647	\$30,986	\$34,611	79.50%	71.20%
Per Capita	\$24,551	\$29,011	\$31,177	84.60%	78.70%
<b>2010</b>					
Median Household	\$40,719	\$47,358	\$51,914	86.0%	78.4%
Median Family	\$55,549	\$59,680	\$62,982	93.1%	88.2%
Median Non-Family	\$23,701	\$27,366	\$31,305	86.6%	75.7%
Per Capita	\$21,713	\$25,113	\$27,334	86.5%	79.4%

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 slipped to 84.3 percent of the nation's median family income in 2017, a decrease of 3.9 percent when 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 an additional 3.8 percent difference between the two.

The median non-family income for the County followed a downward trend during the decennial period. In 2017, the median non-family income was 79.5 percent of the State's median value and 71.2

*Allen County per capita income level growth was comparable to State and national figures over the same 7-yr period.*

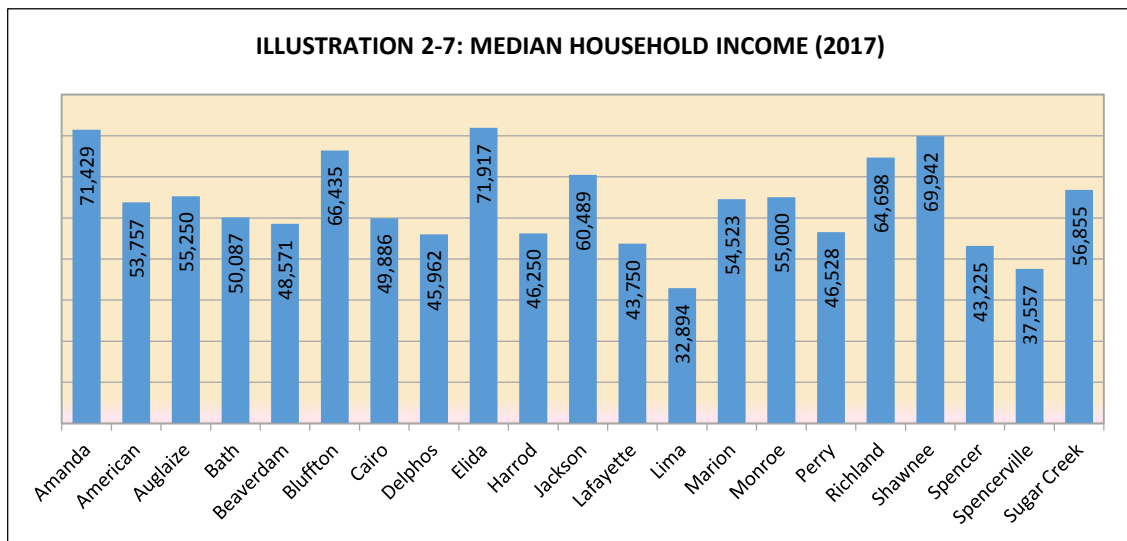
percent of the entire nation. While in 2010, the County's proportion of median non-family income levels was higher at 86.6 percent and 75.7 percent of the State and national levels respectively. Per capita income for Allen County in 2017 was \$24,551, a jump of 13.1 percent from 2010 figures. This compares with the increases of the State and national per capita figures, 15.5 and 14.1 percent respectively. Therefore, per capita income level growth was slower in comparison to State and national figures over the seven year period. In 2017 Allen County per capita income was 84.6 percent of that of the State and 78.7 percent of the national figure.

*The incomes of 5 in 10 (46.6%) non-family households were concentrated below \$25,000.*

Table 2-14 provides a detailed breakdown of household income by type and income levels for 2017. Households with incomes less than \$15,000 in 2017 totaled 14.5 percent of all households in Allen County. An examination of family and non-family households provides greater detail. Data suggests that 7.96 percent of all families and 27.3 percent of all non-family households earned less than \$15,000 in 2017. Examination of income by household type reveals that the largest concentration of households and family incomes were found in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income bracket with 19.8 and 26.7 percent respectively; the incomes of five in ten (46.6%) non-family households were concentrated below \$25,000.

TABLE 2-14 INCOME IN ALLEN COUNTY BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (2017)						
Income Range	Total Households		Family		Non-Family	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$10,000	4,292	10.50%	1,348	5.09%	2,491	18.40%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	1,635	4.00%	784	2.96%	1,205	8.90%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	4,373	10.70%	2,140	8.07%	2,613	19.30%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	3,515	8.60%	2,588	9.76%	1,083	8.00%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	5,886	14.40%	3,678	13.87%	2,396	17.70%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	8,093	19.80%	6,272	23.66%	2,220	16.40%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	5,313	13.00%	4,401	16.60%	311	2.30%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	5,804	14.20%	3,344	12.61%	961	7.10%
\$150,000 - \$199,000	1,185	2.90%	1,186	4.47%	54	0.40%
\$200,000 or more	777	1.90%	768	2.90%	217	1.60%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>40,872</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>26,509</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>13,539</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Median household income levels in the political subdivisions ranged from \$32,894 to \$71,917 in 2017. Illustration 2-7 highlights the income disparities across the community. The median household income in Lima was 31.4 percent lower than the County median (\$40,319) and significantly lower than the median in a number of other local political subdivisions.



Another way to examine the income disparity across the County is to identify the distribution of persons with low incomes throughout the County. Table 2-15 depicts those households earning less than \$25,000 annually.

Between 2010 and 2017 the proportion of households with low and very low incomes \$25,000 and \$15,000 respectively, decreased in Allen County. In 2017, 27.0 percent of households had incomes of less than \$25,000 and 14.5 percent had incomes less than \$15,000. Between 2010 and 2017 the percentage of households with incomes less than \$15,000 decreased by 5.2 percent while the overall percentage of households earning less than \$25,000 decreased by 5.9 percent.

*Between 2010 and 2017 the percentage of households earning less than \$25,000 decreased 5.9 percent.*

TABLE 2-15 LOW HOUSEHOLD INCOMES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)						
Political Subdivision	Households	PCT ≤ \$10,000	PCT \$10,000 - \$14,999	PCT \$15,000 - \$24,999	HH ≤ \$25,000	PCT ≤ \$25,000
Allen County	40,319	8.4%	6.1%	12.5%	10,886	27.0%
Beaverdam	194	3.1%	3.6%	14.4%	41	21.1%
Bluffton	1,719	6.0%	6.5%	8.4%	359	20.9%
Cairo	183	12.6%	1.6%	5.5%	36	19.7%
Delphos	2,890	6.3%	4.6%	14.0%	720	24.9%
Elida	699	0.6%	1.9%	8.4%	76	10.9%
Harrod	145	5.5%	7.6%	6.9%	29	20.0%
Lafayette	153	0.0%	5.2%	16.3%	33	21.6%
Lima	14,312	13.4%	9.5%	16.2%	5,596	39.1%
Spencerville	851	9.2%	12.0%	13.9%	298	35.0%
Amanda Twp	700	1.3%	0.0%	8.3%	67	9.6%
American Twp	5,156	8.4%	5.3%	13.7%	1,413	27.4%
Auglaize Twp	807	9.3%	0.0%	9.0%	148	18.3%
Bath Twp	3,751	6.2%	3.7%	10.2%	754	20.1%
Jackson Twp	930	5.1%	0.8%	4.1%	92	9.9%
Marion Twp	1,150	2.5%	3.1%	8.6%	164	14.3%
Monroe Twp	639	6.7%	3.6%	3.8%	90	14.1%
Perry Twp	1,350	7.2%	6.7%	16.7%	414	30.7%
Richland Twp	552	2.5%	1.4%	3.3%	40	7.2%
Shawnee Twp	4,767	2.5%	4.0%	6.6%	629	13.2%
Spencer Twp	304	0.0%	7.9%	21.1%	88	28.9%
Sugar Creek Twp	452	2.2%	0.9%	11.1%	64	14.2%

Lima stands out for having the largest proportion of low income residents in the County. This is particularly true when examining the lowest income households. Almost a quarter (22.9%) of Lima's households earned less than \$15,000 which is 57.9 percent higher than the percentage for the entire county (14.5%).

## 2.9 Poverty Status: Persons & Families Below Poverty Level

The 2017 ACS provides information for the number of individuals and families whose incomes fall below the established poverty level. ACS 2017 5-year estimates revealed, 14,835 individuals or 14.9 percent of all individuals, 6,335 households or 15.7 percent of all households and 2,889 families or 10.9 percent of all families were below the established poverty level based on income and household size.

*In 2017, 15.0% of all individuals, 15.7% of all households and 10.9% of all families in Allen County were below poverty level.*

Families with children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering poverty conditions, 80.9 percent had children and 37.1 percent had children under 5-years of age. For purposes of comparison, 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. 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.

TABLE 2-16 RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL AMONG INDIVIDUALS (2017)		
Poverty Level	Number	Percent
Below 50% of Poverty Level	8,156	8.20%
50% to 99% of Poverty Level	6,679	6.70%
100% to 149% of Poverty Level	8,484	8.50%
150% to 199% of Poverty Level	7,691	7.70%
200% of Poverty Level or More	68,717	68.90%

TABLE 2-17 POVERTY BY FAMILY STATUS (2014)				
Family Type	Total	Percent of Total	Number in Poverty	Percent of Type
Married w/ Children	7,341	27.7%	462	6.3%
Male Alone w/ Children	1,285	4.8%	272	21.2%
Female Alone w/ Children	3,167	11.9%	1,599	50.5%
Family - No Children	14,072	53.1%	550	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,865</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

An examination of income data from the 2010 census report reveals positive trend in the proportion of individuals in poverty. In fact, 1,820 individuals rose from poverty status between 2010 and 2017 tabulations, representing a drop of 10.9 percent.

## 2.10 Labor Force Profile

The total labor force in Allen County, reflecting those 16 years of age and over, numbered 82,706 persons according to the ACS 2017 5-year estimates; those not participating in the labor force reflected 30,601 or 37.0 percent of the total available labor force. The civilian labor force in Allen County, as documented by the ACS 2017 5-year estimates, was 52,104 of which 48,352 (92.8%) were employed.

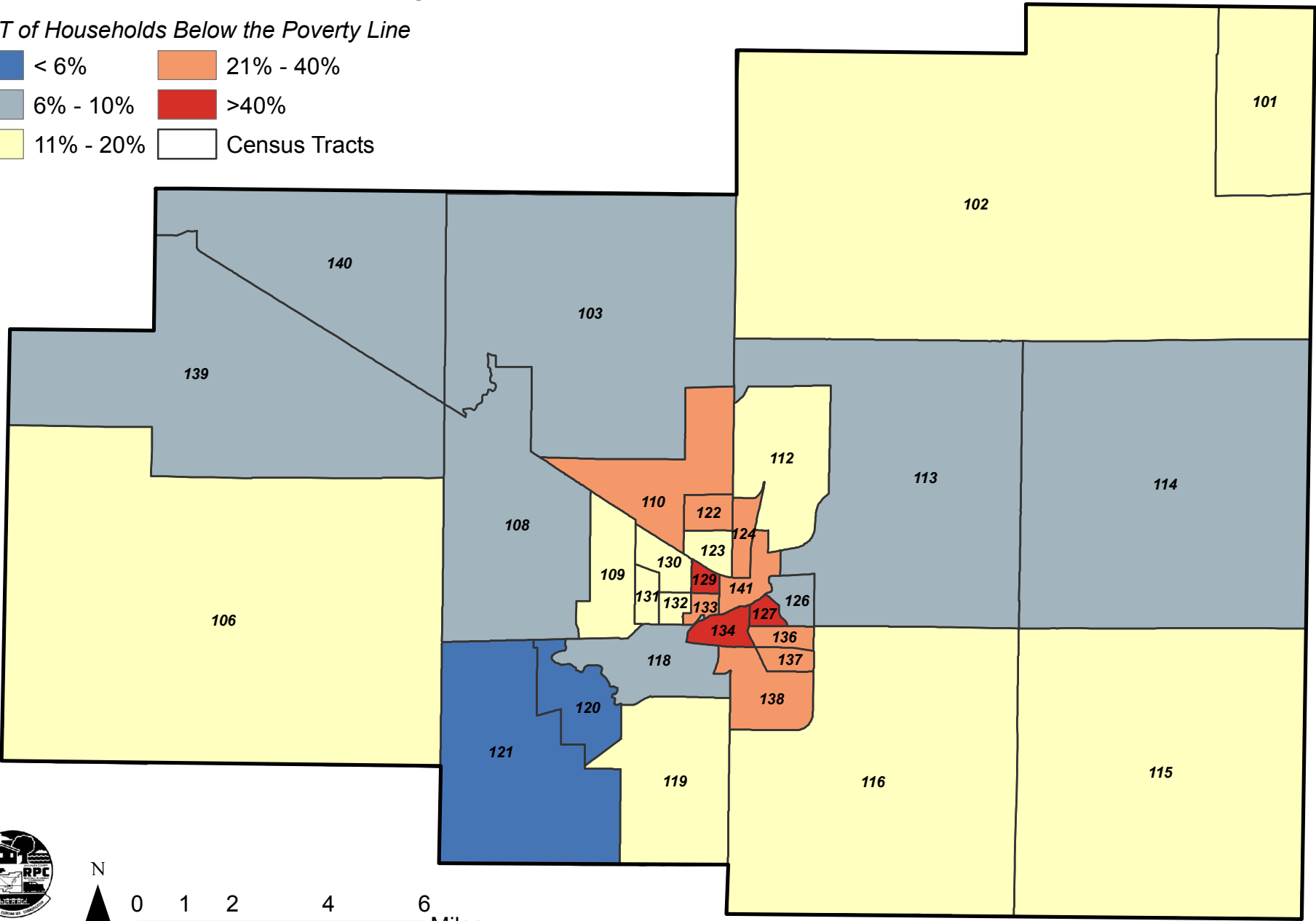
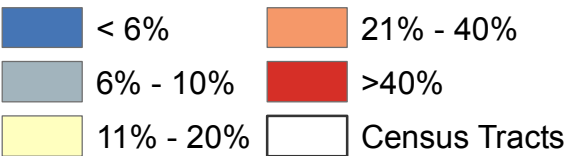
*In 2018 employment data presented 44,289 full and part time jobs in Allen County. According to the USDOC, employment was largely restricted to 5 sectors that represent 2/3 of jobs (65.1%) within Allen County.*

▪ Manufacturing	10,175	21.0%
▪ Health Care & Social Assistance	8,037	16.6%
▪ Retail Trade	5,338	11.0%
▪ Education	3,836	7.9%
▪ Food & Accommodations	4,087	8.5%

A perspective on the labor force can be gained by examining the number of employed persons by type of occupation. Table 2-18 uses ACS 2017 5-year estimates to identify the dominant occupations in the region: Manufacturing (10,175) followed by Healthcare & Social Services (8,037), Retail Trade (5,338), Accommodation & Food Services (4,087) and Educational Services (3,836). 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 seven years, from 57.0 percent in 2010 to 58.5 percent in 2017. The unemployment rates over the past 17 years reflect the impact of major employers relocating or instituting major cutbacks in response to market events or economic trends between 2008 and 2010 and then a recovery to nearly 2000 level rates since 2015. 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 severe stress from 2008 to 2010 the County witnessed some relief, and unemployment in Allen County has dropped to early 2000 levels.

# Map 2-7: Household Poverty Rate (2017)

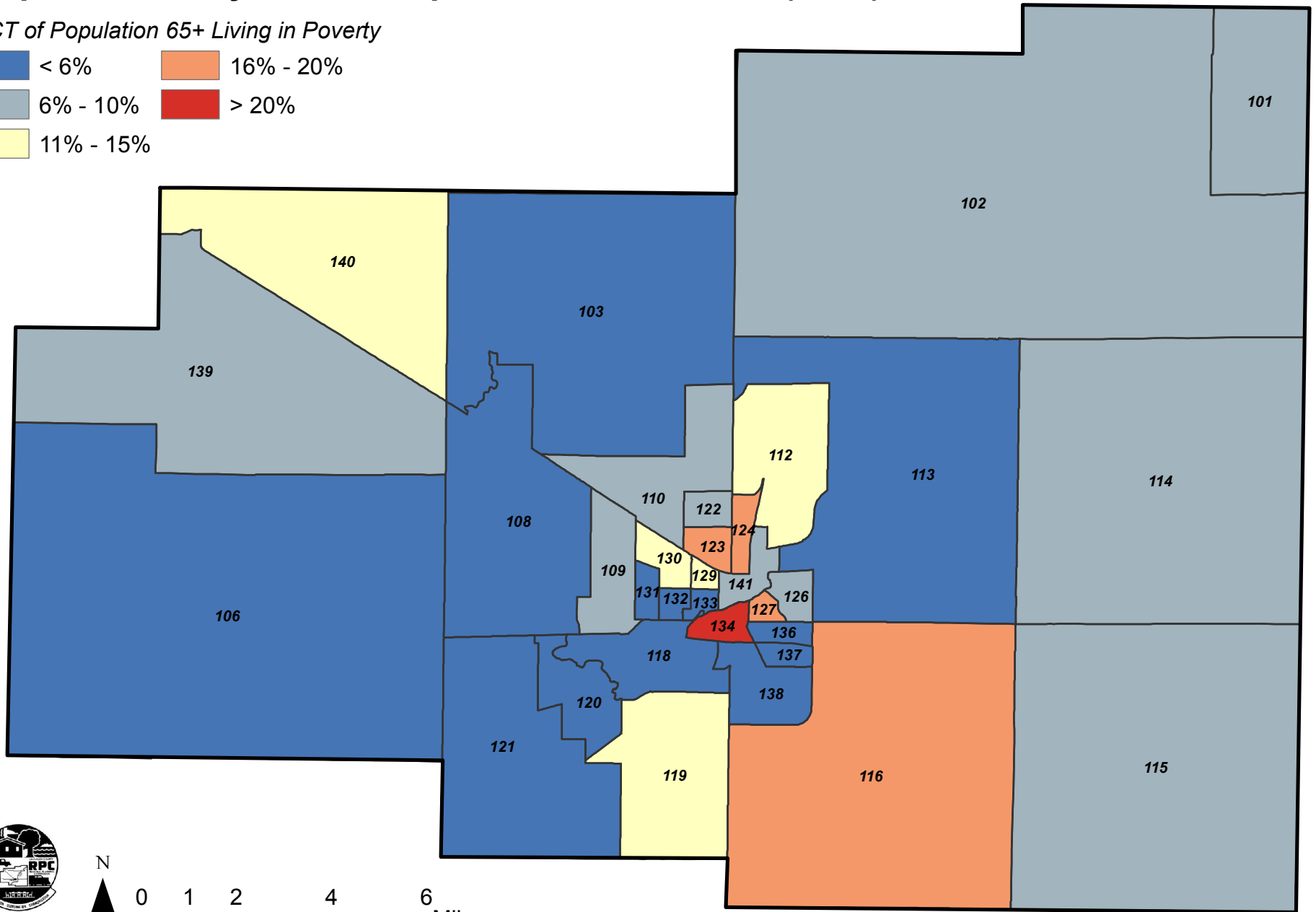
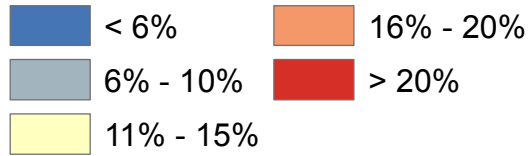
*PCT of Households Below the Poverty Line*





## Map 2-8: Poverty Rate of Population 65 and Over (2017)

*PCT of Population 65+ Living in Poverty*



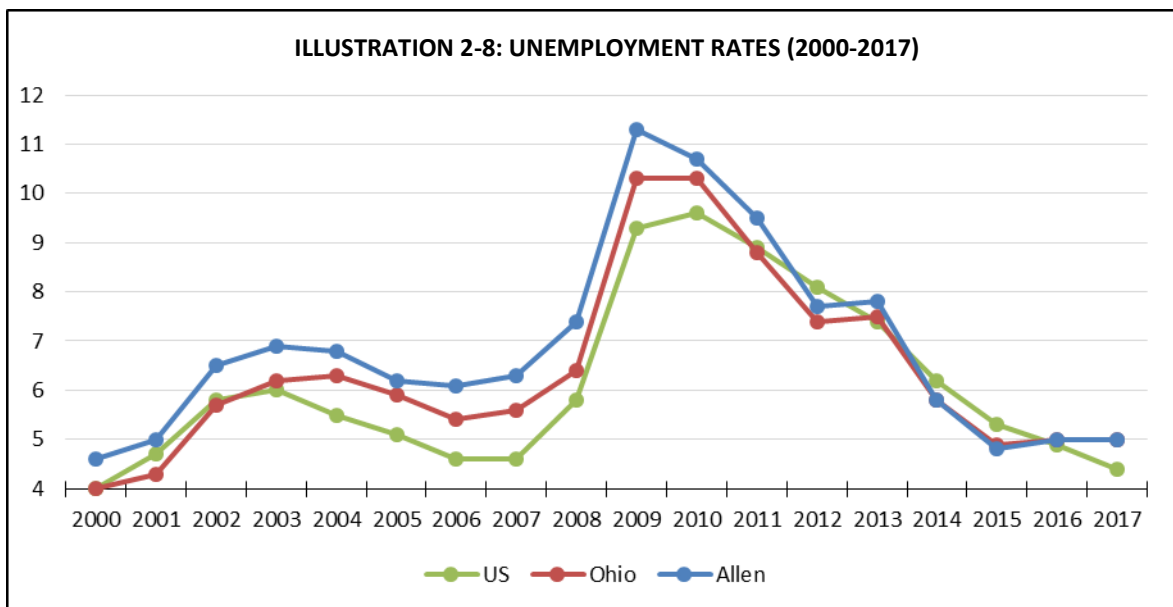
May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

Two of the 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 from 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.

TABLE 2-18 LABOR FORCE BY OCCUPATION (2017)			
Industry	NAICS	Employees	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	350	0.70%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	21	64	0.10%
Utilities	22	269	0.60%
Construction	23	2,483	5.10%
Manufacturing	31-33	10,175	21.00%
Wholesale trade	42	1,413	2.90%
Retail trade	44-45	5,338	11.00%
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	1,876	3.90%
Information	51	614	1.30%
Finance and insurance	52	1,331	2.80%
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	743	1.50%
Professional, scientific and technical services	54	1,250	2.60%
Management of companies and enterprises	55	37	0.10%
Administrative, support and waste management services	56	1,929	4.00%
Educational services	61	3,836	7.90%
Health care and social assistance	62	8,037	16.60%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71	523	1.10%
Accommodation and food services	72	4,087	8.50%
Other services, except public administration	81	2,185	4.50%
Public Administration	92	1,811	3.70%
Total Labor Force		44,289	48,351



## 2.11 Summary

The population of Allen County has experienced a general decline since 1980 when it reached a population plateau of 112,241 persons. Comparison to the 1980 population reveals the current population has decreased by 8,084, or 7.2 percent. Examining more recent 2010-2017 data, Allen County has lost only 2,174 residents, a loss in population of 2.1 percent. However, population change is not static nor is it uniform. Many of the 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 the total number and size of local households. Census data reveals the composition, size and number of households is changing. The total number of Allen County households in 2017 was 40,319, an increase of 0.4 percent from the 2010 figure. In 2017, there were 26,344 (65.3%) households comprised of only one or two individuals. The implications of smaller size 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 39.3 and 37.8 years with the State of Ohio and the United States respectively. By 2017, the elderly population within Allen County grew to 16,988 persons or approximately 16.3 percent of the population. To compound matters more, the elderly made up 8.2 percent of all individuals existing below the poverty level and while the largest concentration of the impoverished were residents of the City of Lima, 85.0 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 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 need to be reflected in local fair housing planning efforts.

ACS 2017 5-Year estimates on the disabled within Allen County have reported that 15,563 persons suffer from a disability, representing 15.3 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. For persons under the age of 5 years 100 or 1.5 percent have a disability within the County. Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing due to needed accessibility features, as well as access to public transit, support services and/or affordability. ACS tabulations suggested that 7,342 persons were considered mobility-impaired or 7.7 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons, identified as 65 or older, 3,350 were considered mobility-impaired or 19.7 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 largest percentage of the population at 83.1 percent. The largest minority group within Allen County is African-American, which comprises 11.8 percent of the total population. All other minority groups comprise approximately 5.1 percent of the total 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 25.6 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 there are over 7,209 individuals or 10.75 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older that have not completed a high school education. However, given that there are a number of very reputable post-secondary schools readily accessible, it is disappointing that less than 17.6% of adult residents have completed a 4-year and/or master's college degree program.

Allen County income has continued to lag behind that of State and national income trend lines. The gap increased when comparing median household income to the State in the 2017 ACS (-8.6%). The gap nationally was -16.9 percent. Median family income in Allen County was only 89.3 percent of Ohio's median family income in 2017 and only 84.3 percent of the national median income. The median non-family income was 79.5 percent of the State's median value and about 71.2 percent of the entire nation. In 2017 Allen County per capita income was only 84.6 percent of that of the State and 78.7 percent of the national figure.

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

ACS 2017 5-year estimates revealed, 14,835 individuals or 14.9 percent of all individuals, 6,335 households or 15.7 percent of all households and 2,889 families or 10.9 percent of all families were below the established poverty level based on income and household size. Families with

*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.*

children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering poverty conditions, 80.9 percent had children and 37.1 percent

had children under 5-years of age. For purposes of comparison, 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																						
Tract	Total Pop.	PCT Change '10-'17	Total HH	PCT Change '10-'17	Avg. HH Size	PCT HH 6+ Ind.	PCT Single Female w/ Children	Median Age	PCT U18	PCT O65	PCT Minority	PCT Change 10'-17'	PCT Disabled	PCT Mobility Disability	PCT HS Grad	Median HH Income	PCT HH Inc. < 25,000	PCT U100% POV	PCT HH POV	PCT FAM w/ Kids in POV	PCT O65 in POV	PCT Unemp.
101	4,535	2.49%	1,745	14.50%	2.45	1.55	7.39	40.4	21.4	21.1	5.07	1.75	12.4	7.6	26.7	\$66,545	20.6	6.36	11.3	4.7	8.5	2.3
102	4,076	1.60%	1,476	-3.40%	2.65	2.98	9.08	39.4	27.8	15.1	1.23	2.81	13.9	7	43.2	\$55,846	14	11.88	10.5	16.5	6.2	4.1
103	1,509	-6.45%	568	-10.83%	2.55	6.34	2.46	42.3	23	18	8.22	-7.04	12.3	4.9	49.7	\$65,658	9.3	4.72	5.3	9	3.7	3.7
106	4,899	-3.62%	1,855	-5.98%	2.8	1.13	13.80	38	27.1	14.5	4.74	0.32	15.4	7.4	39.5	\$55,604	24.4	14.22	13.4	22.4	1.5	5.2
108	7,542	-11.87%	2,937	-14.00%	2.56	5.89	5.75	42.9	23.8	22.8	8.07	0.22	12.1	6.1	36.3	\$64,978	16.8	3.09	6	0	3.9	3.1
109	4,641	-3.21%	1,720	-11.98%	2.31	0.29	5.87	27.7	15.8	16.8	15.66	2.52	13.1	6.9	38.1	\$52,303	25.8	13.73	14.2	8	9.8	11.1
110	5,624	-1.35%	2,474	-9.51%	2.57	1.54	14.96	35.9	23.7	16.1	28.06	-5.54	12.3	6.8	38.2	\$39,902	39.9	23.25	21.7	31.5	6.4	7.4
112	2,759	-4.33%	531	-11.20%	2.47	7.53	7.34	44.3	9.5	10.4	28.09	1.94	12.8	6.4	41.1	\$45,114	26.2	13.65	13.4	13.2	13.2	5.2
113	7,572	2.56%	2,950	-1.67%	2.46	3.80	10.88	40.9	20.2	19.4	8.44	-2.49	9.9	5.1	35.1	\$55,685	18.3	8.06	9.4	5	4.6	3.3
114	2,967	-2.43%	1,083	-11.08%	2.71	2.95	6.83	44.5	22	18.2	2.29	-1.04	14	5.6	47.2	\$60,489	11.5	7.22	6.3	10.2	5.5	3.3
115	2,713	-3.25%	952	-11.61%	2.82	5.99	5.46	36.3	29.1	9.5	9.77	-6.17	10.6	5.6	46.6	\$55,250	18.6	9.25	10.1	23.2	5	2.3
116	2,650	-2.79%	1,074	-18.51%	2.13	4.93	9.87	48.1	15.6	22.9	3.51	0.20	20.3	10.5	40.5	\$39,545	33.2	13.18	15.3	0	19.6	9.1
118	2,486	-2.01%	1,019	0.79%	2.4	1.47	8.73	45.3	21.2	20.4	18.26	-9.67	14.5	7.6	24	\$62,358	17.9	6.93	5.7	12.4	3.8	3.6
119	2,907	-10.53%	1,243	-6.33%	2.27	1.05	10.38	47.4	17.6	21.8	6.64	2.78	20	10	40.2	\$55,923	21.8	14.50	14.3	32.7	10.7	9.4
120	2,474	10.79%	967	0.52%	2.37	4.03	5.79	47.5	23	23.5	4.49	1.16	10.5	6	25	\$91,875	5.7	0.85	1.7	0	3.6	1
121	3,553	4.87%	1,266	1.44%	2.6	5.13	4.66	45.4	23.6	18.6	16.44	-10.27	8.9	5.4	23.1	\$80,625	9.6	3.43	4	3.4	1.8	5
122	3,699	15.77%	1,440	-6.61%	2.56	0.00	28.33	29	31.8	11.5	36.01	-5.87	17.8	12.7	32.4	\$35,637	43.1	21.30	24.3	28.6	8.5	6.6
123	3,813	-6.57%	1,594	-10.35%	2.61	1.51	20.51	34.5	25.3	10.2	17.83	1.79	18.4	6.5	38.7	\$38,214	26.8	17.19	12.4	24.5	16.2	6.2
124	2,154	-16.99%	1,012	-17.92%	2.5	1.09	25.69	29.9	27.9	10	28.88	-2.13	10.5	7.2	46.9	\$29,863	40.6	24.28	25.2	31.3	16.7	9.6
126	1,863	-10.95%	709	-25.53%	2.6	0.00	16.64	34.6	14.9	15.2	25.76	-0.10	19.7	5.4	52.4	\$39,132	22.6	18.59	9.2	15.8	7.3	14.2
127	1,685	16.37%	611	-25.85%	3.16	4.58	32.90	29.4	32.9	8	40.12	-11.04	22.2	11.1	35.3	\$21,722	55.9	45.46	43.5	44.9	15.6	14.4
129	1,641	-14.97%	632	-17.39%	2.66	5.22	30.22	31	30.4	6.9	40.89	6.42	21.8	5.9	33.7	\$18,529	62.3	40.96	56.3	47	11.7	8.8
130	4,402	1.24%	1,846	-14.93%	2.44	2.87	19.61	33.3	25.2	17.4	23.81	-2.63	17.9	9	45.3	\$35,781	36.1	17.20	19.2	16.6	13.5	12.1
131	2,482	1.60%	1129	1.35%	2.25	1.24	10.36	37.6	20.9	12.8	31.87	-14.47	12.8	4.7	30.3	\$51,558	20.6	12.61	16.9	12.8	0	6.6
132	2,149	12.04%	763	-0.91%	2.44	2.49	17.82	32.7	19.7	13.8	36.67	-12.37	15.9	7.5	29.6	\$54,241	24.4	16.80	17.4	15.9	4.7	12.2
133	1,222	-0.49%	405	-31.24%	2.69	1.73	36.05	45.5	29.1	17.3	55.24	-7.52	22.3	15.2	39.7	\$33,125	32.1	21.72	24.4	36.4	0	11
134	2,321	-18.33%	1,021	-23.75%	2.5	0.88	28.80	38.4	25.2	14.5	41.28	4.50	30.3	15.2	44.9	\$20,547	57.8	46.79	46.1	64.2	27.4	15.3
136	1,147	-19.28%	397	-38.73%	2.84	1.01	36.02	35.5	28.2	9	46.82	-11.07	25.8	10.4	43.1	\$24,453	50.9	41.76	39	57.7	0	14.8
137	1,130	-6.92%	389	-30.91%	3.01	5.14	31.36	36.1	34.9	13.7	56.28	11.18	32.9	17.7	33.3	\$29,410	41.6	35.40	29.8	43.2	1.3	16.5
138	2,942	16.51%	1,058	-26.22%	2.54	6.14	25.52	28.3	28.7	9.6	55.85	20.27	17.7	11.8	39	\$32,679	37.1	24.44	23.1	17.4	2.1	22.5
139	3,408	4.44%	1,393	-3.13%	2.54	2.44	11.06	41.5	21.2	17.1	1.17	3.42	14.4	6.6	47	\$52,790	22.9	10.62	8.4	16.5	8	5.4
140	3,397	-2.19%	1,328	-1.99%	2.53	0.45	2.86	42.7	21.3	21.1	9.80	-6.81	12.4	5.6	43.7	\$59,779	21.1	7.83	8.7	8.1	14.6	4.3
141	1,795	-16.04%	732	-30.35%	2.11	1.91	23.77	33.8	27.4	8.4	49.97	-10.45	30.8	15.9	36.9	\$21,908	54	33.59	38.8	30.4	9.9	20.3

SUMMARY TABLE 2-2 POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS ALLEN COUNTY - POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS																						
Tract	Total Pop.	PCT Change '10-'17	Total HH	PCT Change '10-'17	Avg. HH Size	PCT HH 6+ Ind.	Single Female w/ Children	Median Age	PCT U18	PCT O65	PCT Minority	PCT Change '10-'17	PCT Disabled	PCT Mobility Disability	PCT HS Grad	Median HH Income	PCT HH Inc. ≤ 25,000	PCT U100% POV	PCT HH POV	PCT FAM w/ Kids in POV	PCT O65 in POV	PCT Unemp.
Allen County	104,157	0.40%	40,319	-0.90%	2.48	100.00%	3,811	38.6	23.30%	16.30%	16.90%	2.40%	15.30%	7.22	89	\$47,905	27.00%	15	15.71	20.8	7.6	9.2
Beaverdam	469	-8.80%	194	34.70%	2.42	1.20%	22	32.8	26.00%	13.00%	1.50%	-41.70%	15.10%	5.97	81.6	\$50,724	21.10%	23.3	16.49	49.6	8.2	9
Bluffton	4,383	69.20%	1719	20.40%	2.31	1.50%	35	40.2	20.50%	21.60%	4.60%	4.20%	12.40%	7.16	93.1	\$66,435	20.90%	6.6	11.52	5.2	8.6	2.4
Cairo	534	-5.70%	183	-7.60%	2.92	1.30%	9	38.5	31.50%	16.10%	1.90%	-16.70%	18.00%	13.67	87.3	\$49,886	19.70%	21.9	14.21	50	4.7	3.2
Delphos	7,123	91.70%	2,890	0.00%	2.42	4.70%	67	38.8	22.40%	17.70%	6.30%	334.00%	16.10%	8.08	91.2	\$45,962	24.90%	11.9	11.21	15.2	9.2	8
Elida	1,910	57.20%	699	-1.30%	2.73	1.60%	37	41.8	25.90%	14.50%	10.40%	81.70%	10.00%	4.25	96.5	\$71,917	10.90%	1.3	1.57	0	2.5	4
Harrod	399	-29.10%	145	1.40%	2.75	0.40%	14	35.4	27.80%	12.30%	3.30%	333.30%	14.00%	5.76	91.7	\$46,250	20.00%	15	14.48	20.7	26.5	8.1
Lafayette	402	-15.50%	153	-5.00%	2.63	0.50%	11	35.9	24.90%	15.70%	0.00%	-100.00%	13.20%	9.95	94.2	\$43,750	21.60%	11.5	7.19	16.2	7.9	4.2
Lima	37,592	-26.30%	14,312	0.60%	2.42	29.40%	2,391	32.9	24.70%	12.00%	33.60%	-0.90%	19.10%	8.77	83	\$32,894	39.10%	25.8	26.03	34.2	11	15.7
Spencerville	2,240	8.70%	851	4.20%	2.57	0.00%	133	32	29.60%	15.10%	2.90%	-16.70%	17.20%	8.51	88.8	\$37,557	35.00%	25.5	23.38	39.3	3.4	8.3
Amanda Twp	1,861	52.90%	700	-7.80%	2.66	1.90%	44	47.3	23.20%	12.80%	5.60%	160.00%	12.50%	3.65	92.4	\$71,429	9.60%	5.2	4.86	12.8	0	2.5
American Twp	12,182	32.60%	5,190	-2.90%	2.38	12.20%	268	42.4	21.90%	22.20%	13.00%	-1.20%	13.40%	6.66	93.9	\$53,757	27.40%	9.8	13.50	10.5	4.4	4.9
Auglaize Twp	2,314	33.00%	810	-9.30%	2.85	4.80%	36	36.3	29.30%	9.00%	5.80%	173.50%	10.00%	5.27	91.9	\$55,250	18.30%	9.2	9.29	13.7	5	2.3
Bath Twp	9,590	15.40%	3,751	-2.00%	2.5	13.00%	316	39.7	21.10%	18.20%	8.60%	21.10%	11.00%	5.20	88.8	\$50,087	20.10%	10.5	10.77	14.4	6.2	4.5
Jackson Twp	2,565	68.40%	933	-7.00%	2.74	2.40%	19	44.5	25.50%	18.60%	0.70%	-58.10%	14.10%	4.68	95.2	\$60,489	9.90%	7.2	6.13	13.3	5.5	3.3
Marion Twp	2,864	28.90%	1,068	5.10%	2.46	2.30%	39	42	18.20%	19.60%	4.30%	310.00%	11.40%	5.20	93.7	\$54,523	14.30%	9.2	8.53	12.4	11.4	4.9
Monroe Twp	1,827	31.80%	1,068	68.50%	2.46	0.60%	58	33.8	31.90%	13.00%	0.00%	-100.00%	12.80%	6.24	94.2	\$55,000	14.10%	12.3	11.27	23.7	3.4	2.1
Perry Twp	3,464	-31.30%	1,350	-7.10%	2.52	6.00%	36	45.5	16.00%	21.20%	3.80%	-59.10%	20.30%	10.35	80.4	\$46,528	30.70%	11.1	12.81	0	16.1	7.9
Richland Twp	1,527	-0.20%	711	17.70%	2.26	1.80%	13	41.8	22.20%	18.10%	1.70%	-21.20%	13.60%	3.98	91.6	\$64,698	7.20%	7.8	10.63	10.6	8.8	3.5
Shawnee Twp	12,176	26.10%	4,767	-1.40%	2.54	14.60%	241	45.5	21.70%	20.00%	10.70%	44.70%	13.20%	6.71	94.9	\$69,942	13.20%	6.4	6.36	8.2	4.9	4.5
Spencer Twp	798	-7.50%	391	19.90%	2.58	0.00%	0	33.1	29.30%	16.80%	5.30%	180.00%	17.20%	22.93	88.1	\$43,225	28.90%	19.8	5.26	29	2.3	7.2
Sugar Creek Twp	1,259	7.00%	452	-8.70%	2.76	3.20%	0	33	24.90%	16.20%	1.00%	-48.00%	11.70%	4.57	95.5	\$56,855	14.20%	5.3	5.53	8.5	2.5	3.4

## 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 2013-2017 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 2013-2017 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 2017 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.

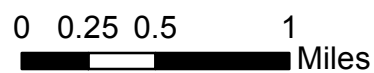
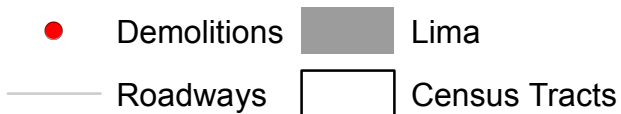
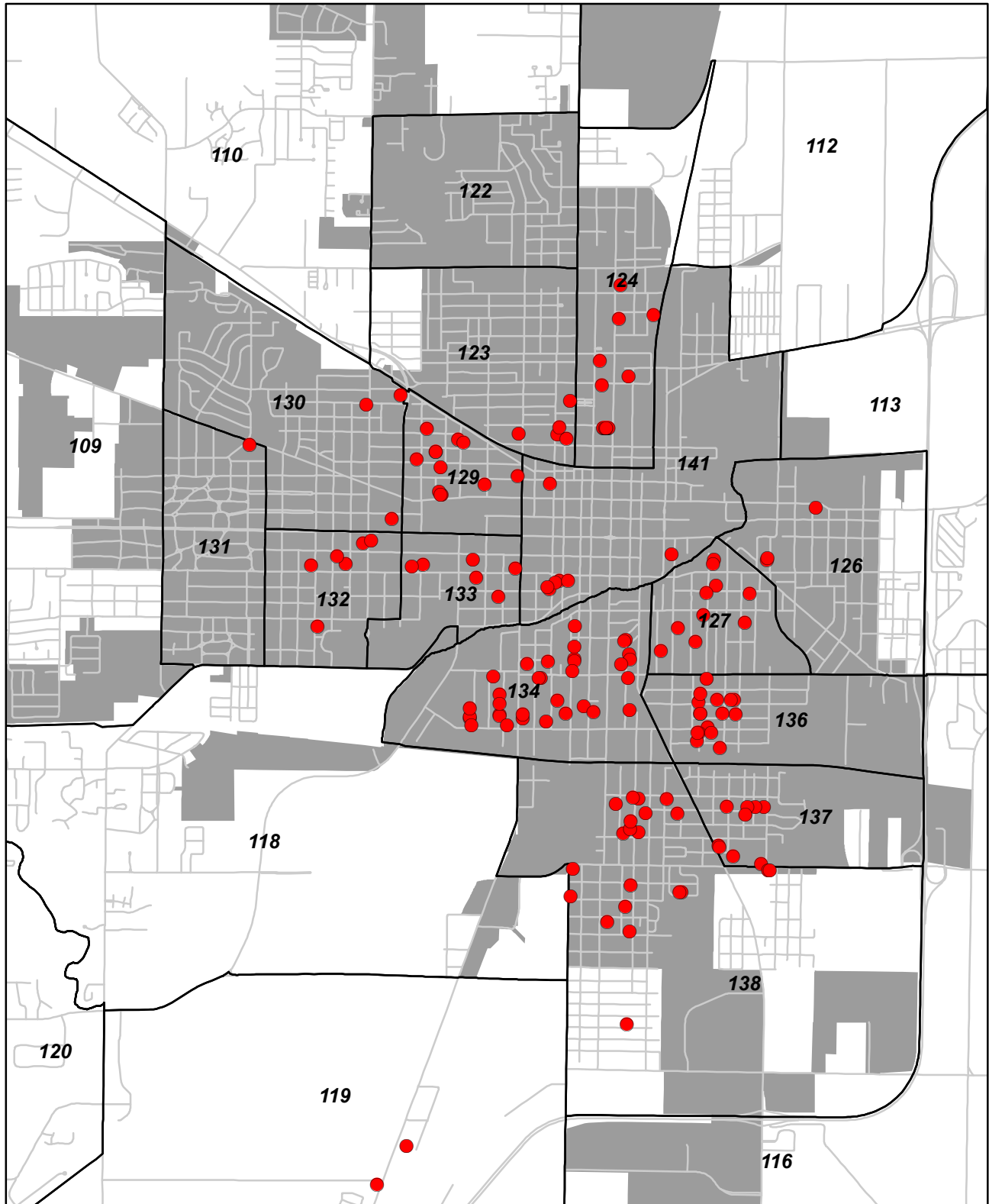
### 3.2.1 Housing Units

In 2017, ACS efforts documented 45,005 housing units existing in Allen County. The total number of housing units available in Allen County increased between 2010 and 2017 by 6 units or 0.1 percent. The City of Lima witnessed an increase of 235 housing units or - 1.4 percent over the same 7-year period. Map 3-1 depicts the location of recent housing demolitions conducted by the City of Lima. Meanwhile new housing construction (built in 2010 or after) accounted for more than one percent in 16 of the 21 political subdivisions while over a quarter of said housing (27.0%) was built in American and Shawnee Townships. Table 3-1 identifies the change over time in number of units.

TABLE 3-1 TOTAL HOUSING UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2017)				
Political Subdivision	Units 2010	Units 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	44,999	45,005	6	0.01%
Beaverdam	153	194	41	26.80%
Bluffton	1,522	1,747	225	14.78%
Cairo	214	213	-1	-0.47%
Delphos	3,137	3,211	74	2.36%
Elida	741	732	-9	-1.21%
Harrod	161	154	-7	-4.35%
Lafayette	172	183	11	6.40%
Lima	16,784	17,019	235	1.40%
Spencerville	886	889	3	0.34%
Amanda Twp	789	700	-89	-11.28%
American Twp	5,727	5,369	-358	-6.25%
Auglaize Twp	948	907	-41	-4.32%
Bath Twp	4,111	4,254	143	3.48%
Jackson Twp	1,069	985	-84	-7.86%
Marion Twp	1,049	1,150	101	9.63%
Monroe Twp	669	639	-30	-4.48%
Perry Twp	1,516	1,502	-14	-0.92%
Richland Twp	631	601	-30	-4.75%
Shawnee Twp	5,194	5,215	21	0.40%
Spencer Twp	344	365	21	6.10%
Sugar Creek Twp	535	482	-53	-9.91%



# Map 3-1: Demolitions (2017)



May 2019

### 3.2.2 Tenure

In the 2013-2017 period, Allen County experienced an increase in the number of renter occupied housing units (9.2%) and a corresponding decrease in owner-occupied housing units (-5.2%). However, tenure varied across the community. Owner occupancy rates for Allen County fell to 66.1 percent in 2017. The percentage of owner-occupied units increased in five of the 21 political subdivisions. Those experiencing an increase in home ownership occupancy were Beaverdam (23.6%), Bluffton (19.6%), Cairo (-26.9%), Marion Township (9.2%) and Monroe Township (2.4%). The number and rate of renter-occupied units increased across the County; the percent of renter units increased in all but six 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 (2010-2017)						
Political Subdivision	Owner 2010	PCT 2010	Owner 2017	PCT 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	28,099	69.2%	26,645	66.1%	-1,454	-5.2%
Beaverdam	106	73.6%	131	67.5%	25	23.6%
Bluffton	957	67.0%	1,145	66.6%	188	19.6%
Cairo	161	81.3%	162	88.5%	1	0.6%
Delphos	2,122	73.3%	1,904	65.9%	-218	-10.3%
Elida	622	87.9%	620	88.7%	-2	-0.3%
Harrod	125	87.4%	115	79.3%	-10	-8.0%
Lafayette	120	74.5%	112	73.2%	-8	-6.7%
Lima	7,191	50.6%	6,515	45.5%	-676	-9.4%
Spencerville	594	72.7%	541	63.6%	-53	-8.9%
Amanda Twp	690	90.9%	620	88.6%	-70	-10.1%
American Twp	3,589	67.2%	3,276	63.5%	-313	-8.7%
Auglaize Twp	776	86.9%	672	83.3%	-104	-13.4%
Bath Twp	3,064	80.1%	2,932	78.2%	-132	-4.3%
Jackson Twp	893	89.0%	881	94.7%	-12	-1.3%
Marion Twp	938	92.3%	1,024	89.0%	86	9.2%
Monroe Twp	549	86.6%	562	87.9%	13	2.4%
Perry Twp	1,162	80.0%	1,075	79.6%	-87	-7.5%
Richland Twp	625	90.8%	487	88.2%	-138	-22.1%
Shawnee Twp	4,170	86.3%	4,069	85.4%	-101	-2.4%
Spencer Twp	292	89.6%	273	89.8%	-19	-6.5%
Sugar Creek Twp	417	84.2%	364	80.5%	-53	-12.7%

### 3.2.3 Vacancy Rate

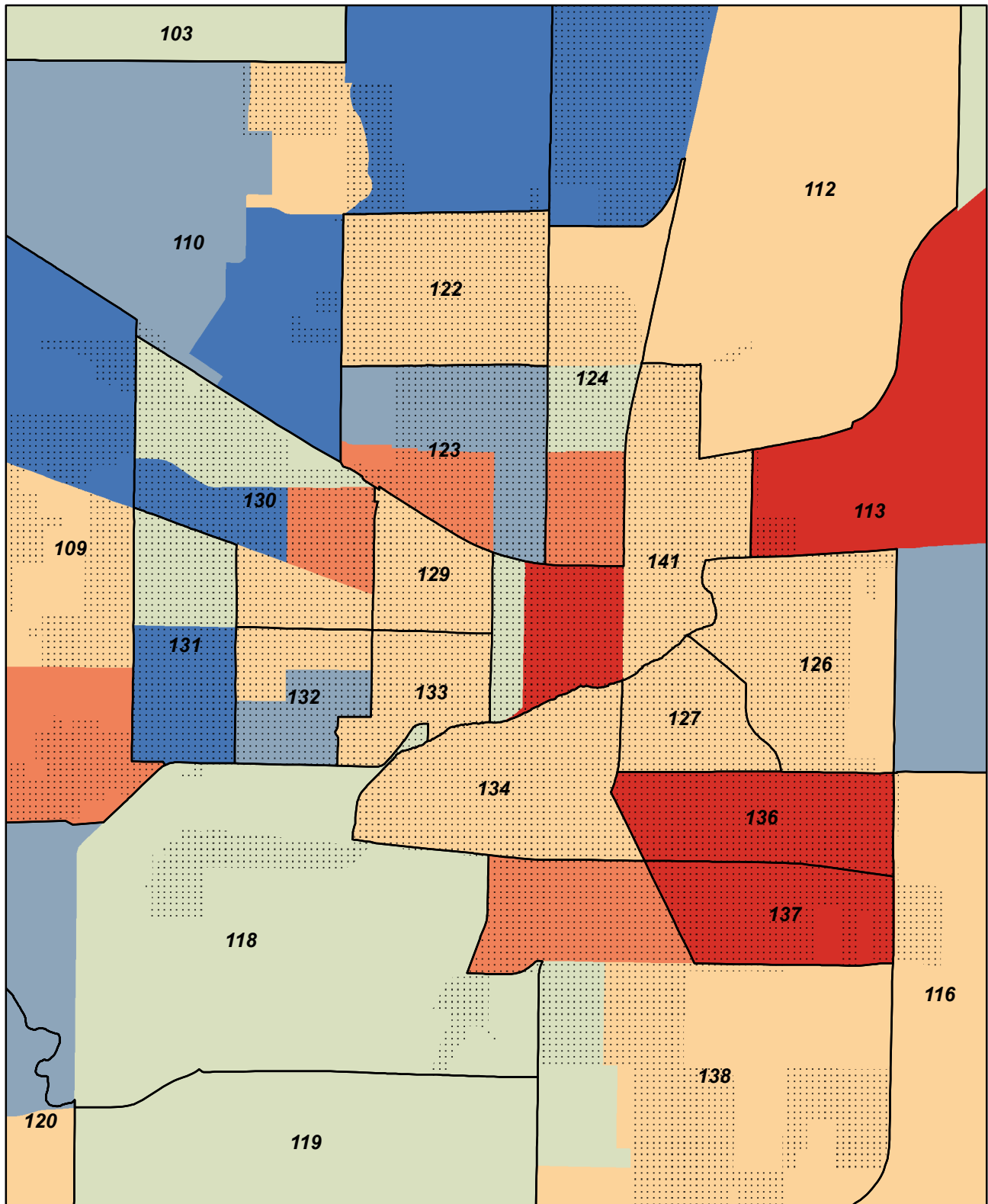
The 2017 vacancy rate in Allen County increased to 10.4 percent from 6.0 percent in 2010. The Village of Lafayette, the City of Delphos and Spencer Township saw their vacancies more than double between 2010 and 2017 increasing 172.7, and 238.9 percent, respectively. The Villages of Beaverdam, Bluffton and Harrod, as well as Amanda, Marion and Monroe Townships experienced a decline of over 50% in vacant properties over the 2010 through 2017 time period. 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 2017 ACS.

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

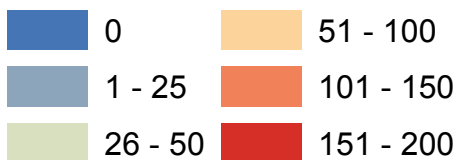
TABLE 3-3 RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2017)						
Political Subdivision	Renter 2010	PCT 2010	Renter 2017	PCT 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	12,520	30.8%	13,674	33.9%	1,154	9.2%
Beaverdam	38	26.4%	63	32.5%	25	65.8%
Bluffton	471	33.0%	574	33.4%	103	21.9%
Cairo	37	18.7%	21	11.5%	-16	-43.2%
Delphos	771	26.7%	986	34.1%	215	27.9%
Elida	86	12.1%	79	11.3%	-7	-8.1%
Harrod	18	12.6%	30	20.7%	12	66.7%
Lafayette	41	25.5%	41	26.8%	0	0.0%
Lima	7,030	49.4%	7,797	54.5%	767	10.9%
Spencerville	223	27.3%	310	36.4%	87	39.0%
Amanda Twp	69	9.1%	80	11.4%	11	15.9%
American Twp	1,755	32.8%	1,880	36.5%	125	7.1%
Auglaize Twp	117	13.1%	135	16.7%	18	15.4%
Bath Twp	763	19.9%	819	21.8%	56	7.3%
Jackson Twp	110	11.0%	49	5.3%	-61	-55.5%
Marion Twp	78	7.7%	126	11.0%	48	61.5%
Monroe Twp	85	13.4%	77	12.1%	-8	-9.4%
Perry Twp	291	20.0%	275	20.4%	-16	-5.5%
Richland Twp	63	9.2%	65	11.8%	2	3.2%
Shawnee Twp	663	13.7%	698	14.6%	35	5.3%
Spencer Twp	34	10.4%	31	10.2%	-3	-8.8%
Sugar Creek Twp	78	15.8%	88	19.5%	10	12.8%

TABLE 3-4 RESIDENTIAL VACANT UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2017)						
Political Subdivision	Vacant 2010	PCT 2010	Vacant 2017	PCT 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	4,380	6.0%	4,686	10.4%	306	7.0%
Beaverdam	9	5.9%	0	0.0%	-9	-100.0%
Bluffton	91	6.0%	28	1.6%	-63	-69.2%
Cairo	16	7.5%	30	14.1%	14	87.5%
Delphos	130	7.5%	321	10.0%	191	146.9%
Elida	33	4.5%	33	4.5%	0	0.0%
Harrod	18	11.2%	9	5.8%	-9	-50.0%
Lafayette	11	6.4%	30	16.4%	19	172.7%
Lima	2,563	15.3%	2,707	15.9%	144	5.6%
Spencerville	69	7.8%	38	4.3%	-31	-44.9%
Amanda Twp	30	3.8%	0	0.0%	-30	-100.0%
American Twp	383	6.7%	213	4.0%	-170	-44.4%
Auglaize Twp	55	5.8%	100	11.0%	45	81.8%
Bath Twp	284	6.9%	503	11.8%	219	77.1%
Jackson Twp	66	6.2%	55	5.6%	-11	-16.7%
Marion Twp	33	3.1%	0	0.0%	-33	-100.0%
Monroe Twp	35	5.2%	0	0.0%	-35	-100.0%
Perry Twp	108	6.9%	152	10.1%	44	40.7%
Richland Twp	27	4.3%	49	8.2%	22	81.5%
Shawnee Twp	361	7.0%	448	8.6%	87	24.1%
Spencer Twp	18	5.2%	61	16.7%	43	238.9%
Sugar Creek Twp	40	7.5%	30	6.2%	-10	-25.0%

# Map 3-2: Vacant Housing Units (2017)



## # of Vancant Units



0 0.25 0.5 1  
Miles



May 2019

### 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 Amanda Township to a low of 5.4 rooms in the City of Lima. The median number of rooms per dwelling unit in Allen County was 5.9 rooms. Of note, nearly two-thirds (64.2%) 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 1,636 sqft. Broken down by political subdivision the average sizes range from 1,438 sqft (Lima) to 1,935 sqft (Shawnee Township).

TABLE 3-5 HOUSING UNITS BY NUMBER OF ROOMS, BEDROOMS AND SIZE (2017)							
Political Subdivision	Median Rooms	PCT No BR	PCT 1 BR	PCT 2 BRs	PCT 3 BRs	PCT 4 BRs	PCT 5 or More BRs
Allen County	5.9	1.90%	7.60%	23.30%	49.20%	15.00%	3.00%
Beaverdam	6	1.00%	3.10%	20.60%	53.60%	19.10%	2.60%
Bluffton	6.5	0.00%	9.00%	23.90%	51.70%	11.90%	3.40%
Cairo	6.1	1.00%	3.10%	20.60%	53.60%	19.10%	2.60%
Delphos	6.1	0.20%	8.80%	26.30%	48.20%	13.20%	3.30%
Elida	6.6	0.00%	1.90%	16.00%	60.10%	17.40%	4.70%
Harrod	6.6	0.20%	8.80%	26.30%	48.20%	13.20%	3.30%
Lafayette	6.6	0.40%	2.00%	8.30%	67.10%	21.40%	0.70%
Lima	5.4	0.00%	2.60%	15.60%	59.10%	16.90%	5.80%
Spencerville	6.2	0.00%	5.50%	22.40%	47.00%	19.70%	5.50%
Amanda Twp	7.1	0.00%	2.30%	13.40%	50.90%	24.30%	9.10%
American Twp	6	0.60%	4.40%	28.80%	47.80%	17.30%	1.10%
Auglaize Twp	6.1	0.00%	2.30%	13.40%	50.90%	24.30%	9.10%
Bath Twp	6	1.10%	7.70%	23.30%	47.30%	17.70%	3.00%
Jackson Twp	6.6	1.10%	1.90%	16.50%	61.90%	17.10%	1.50%
Marion Twp	6.5	0.40%	3.80%	24.80%	49.00%	18.80%	3.20%
Monroe Twp	6.4	0.00%	1.90%	10.40%	70.80%	15.30%	1.60%
Perry Twp	5.7	1.10%	0.80%	13.50%	61.50%	18.40%	4.70%
Richland Twp	6.8	0.00%	9.10%	8.90%	57.90%	14.40%	9.70%
Shawnee Twp	6.6	0.90%	14.00%	26.80%	40.50%	15.60%	2.30%
Spencer Twp	6.4	0.00%	0.00%	6.30%	56.70%	26.80%	10.10%
Sugar Creek Twp	6.7	0.40%	2.90%	16.50%	51.20%	22.20%	6.90%

### 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 2017 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 BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION										
Subdivision	Total Units	Prior to 1940	1940 to 1959	1960 to 1979	1980 to 1989	1990 to 1999	2000 to 2009	2010 & After	Median Year Built	Median Value
Allen County	45,005	23.8%	22.1%	29.0%	7.7%	9.2%	7.5%	0.7%	1963	\$110,900
Beaverdam	194	43.3%	16.0%	30.4%	5.7%	2.1%	2.6%	0.0%	1949	\$74,300
Bluffton	1,747	32.3%	19.9%	19.3%	5.8%	12.2%	9.3%	1.1%	1958	\$147,200
Cairo	213	39.4%	23.0%	20.7%	4.2%	2.8%	9.9%	0.0%	1952	\$91,400
Delphos	3,211	32.7%	22.2%	22.9%	4.9%	10.0%	5.9%	1.4%	1956	\$90,200
Elida	732	17.2%	21.4%	10.8%	12.8%	31.8%	5.9%	0.0%	1980	\$143,200
Harrod	154	51.9%	11.7%	20.1%	8.4%	3.9%	2.6%	1.3%	1939	\$76,300
Lafayette	183	53.0%	26.8%	1.1%	9.3%	6.0%	3.8%	0.0%	1939	\$81,600
Lima	17,019	34.7%	29.3%	23.7%	4.3%	4.6%	3.3%	0.1%	1951	\$66,000
Spencerville	889	33.9%	23.7%	21.0%	7.5%	6.7%	5.3%	1.8%	1954	\$83,100
Amanda Twp	700	14.0%	11.6%	28.6%	13.3%	13.3%	14.1%	5.1%	1978	\$168,900
American Twp	5,369	5.8%	13.6%	47.9%	12.0%	9.8%	10.9%	0.0%	1974	\$127,800
Auglaize Twp	907	31.1%	12.9%	28.8%	4.6%	16.2%	2.6%	3.7%	1962	\$123,000
Bath Twp	4,254	7.6%	17.7%	33.8%	10.0%	16.6%	13.9%	0.3%	1975	\$125,700
Jackson Twp	985	12.1%	6.8%	28.5%	10.2%	21.8%	17.1%	3.6%	1977	\$152,900
Marion Twp	1,150	23.1%	14.0%	23.7%	12.9%	14.5%	11.8%	0.0%	1959	\$112,800
Monroe Twp	639	20.7%	12.5%	22.4%	15.6%	5.9%	12.4%	10.5%	1969	\$126,800
Perry Twp	1,502	21.3%	24.0%	21.3%	13.4%	9.7%	10.3%	0.0%	1968	\$88,100
Richland Twp	601	42.4%	13.5%	16.0%	1.5%	19.6%	7.0%	0.0%	1955	\$148,000
Shawnee Twp	5,215	7.2%	22.5%	42.3%	9.8%	8.4%	8.9%	1.0%	1969	\$143,900
Spencer Twp	365	48.5%	7.7%	11.0%	8.8%	1.9%	22.2%	0.0%	1953	\$95,700
Sugar Creek Twp	482	34.2%	14.1%	25.5%	7.5%	14.7%	3.9%	0.0%	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 2017. 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 amount 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 amount 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 amount 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.*

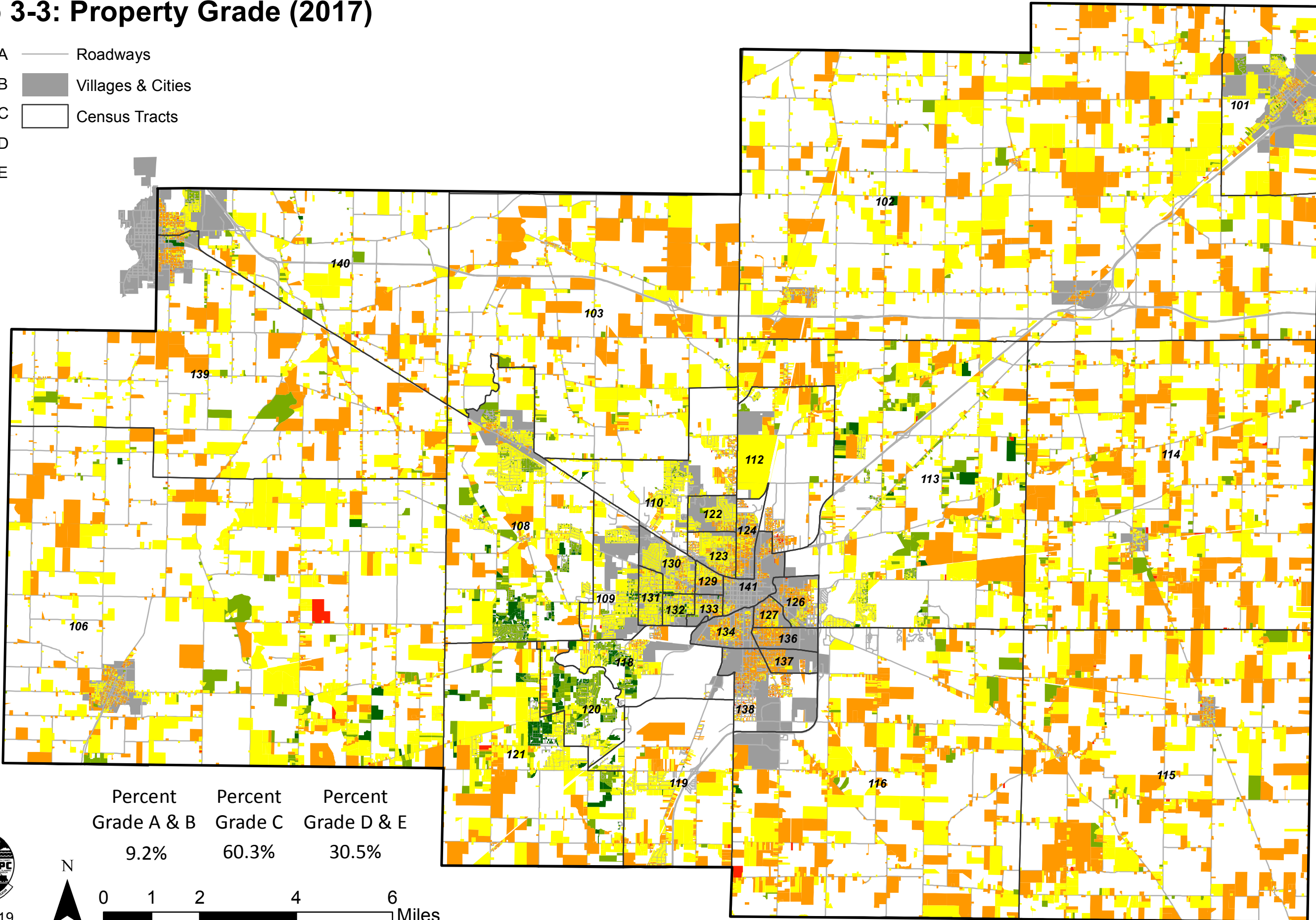
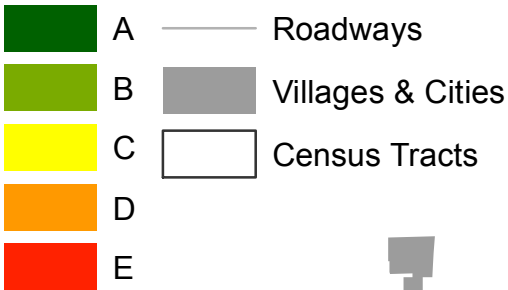
TABLE 3-7 ASSESSED QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2017)									
Political Subdivision	# of Homes	A	B	% A/B	C	% C	D	E	% D/E
Allen County	36,383	487	2,875	9.2	21,922	60.3	10,938	161	30.5
Beaverdam	128	1	0	0.8	25	19.5	102	0	79.7
Bluffton	1,155	6	136	12.3	702	60.8	309	2	26.9
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 Grade (2017)



Percent Grade A & B	Percent Grade C	Percent Grade D & E
9.2%	60.3%	30.5%





### 3.2.7 Housing Value

As housing quality varies across Allen County so does the value of such housing. According to the ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates, the median housing value of owner-occupied units in the City of Lima was \$66,000 as compared to \$110,900 for Allen County. Table 3-8 indicates homes with the highest median value were located in Amanda Township (\$168,900) and the City of Lima had the lowest median values (\$66,000). The largest declines in median owner occupied home valuations between 2010 and 2017 were experienced in Auglaize Township (-12.0%) and the Village of Harrod (-18.0%). The largest increases were seen in Amanda Township (17.5%) and the Village of Bluffton (16.8%).

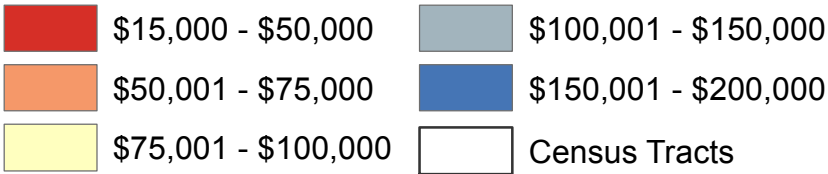
*The largest positive jump in valuation was seen in Amanda Township (10.7%).*

TABLE 3-8 MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2017)				
Political Subdivision	Median Value 2010	Median Value 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	\$104,800	\$110,900	\$6,100	5.8%
Beaverdam	\$75,300	\$74,300	-\$1,000	-1.3%
Bluffton	\$126,000	\$147,200	\$21,200	16.8%
Cairo	\$86,900	\$91,400	\$4,500	5.2%
Delphos	\$85,000	\$90,200	\$5,200	6.1%
Elida	\$139,900	\$143,200	\$3,300	2.4%
Harrod	\$93,000	\$76,300	-\$16,700	-18.0%
Lafayette	\$84,400	\$81,600	-\$2,800	-3.3%
Lima	\$73,200	\$66,000	-\$7,200	-9.8%
Spencerville	\$84,500	\$83,100	-\$1,400	-1.7%
Amanda Twp	\$143,700	\$168,900	\$25,200	17.5%
American Twp	\$119,000	\$127,800	\$8,800	7.4%
Auglaize Twp	\$139,700	\$123,000	-\$16,700	-12.0%
Bath Twp	\$125,900	\$125,700	-\$200	-0.2%
Jackson Twp	\$141,400	\$152,900	\$11,500	8.1%
Marion Twp	\$109,400	\$112,800	\$3,400	3.1%
Monroe Twp	\$117,600	\$126,800	\$9,200	7.8%
Perry Twp	\$96,200	\$88,100	-\$8,100	-8.4%
Richland Twp	\$130,300	\$148,000	\$17,700	13.6%
Shawnee Twp	\$141,800	\$143,900	\$2,100	1.5%
Spencer Twp	\$89,000	\$95,700	\$6,700	7.5%
Sugar Creek Twp	\$133,000	\$133,700	\$700	0.5%

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

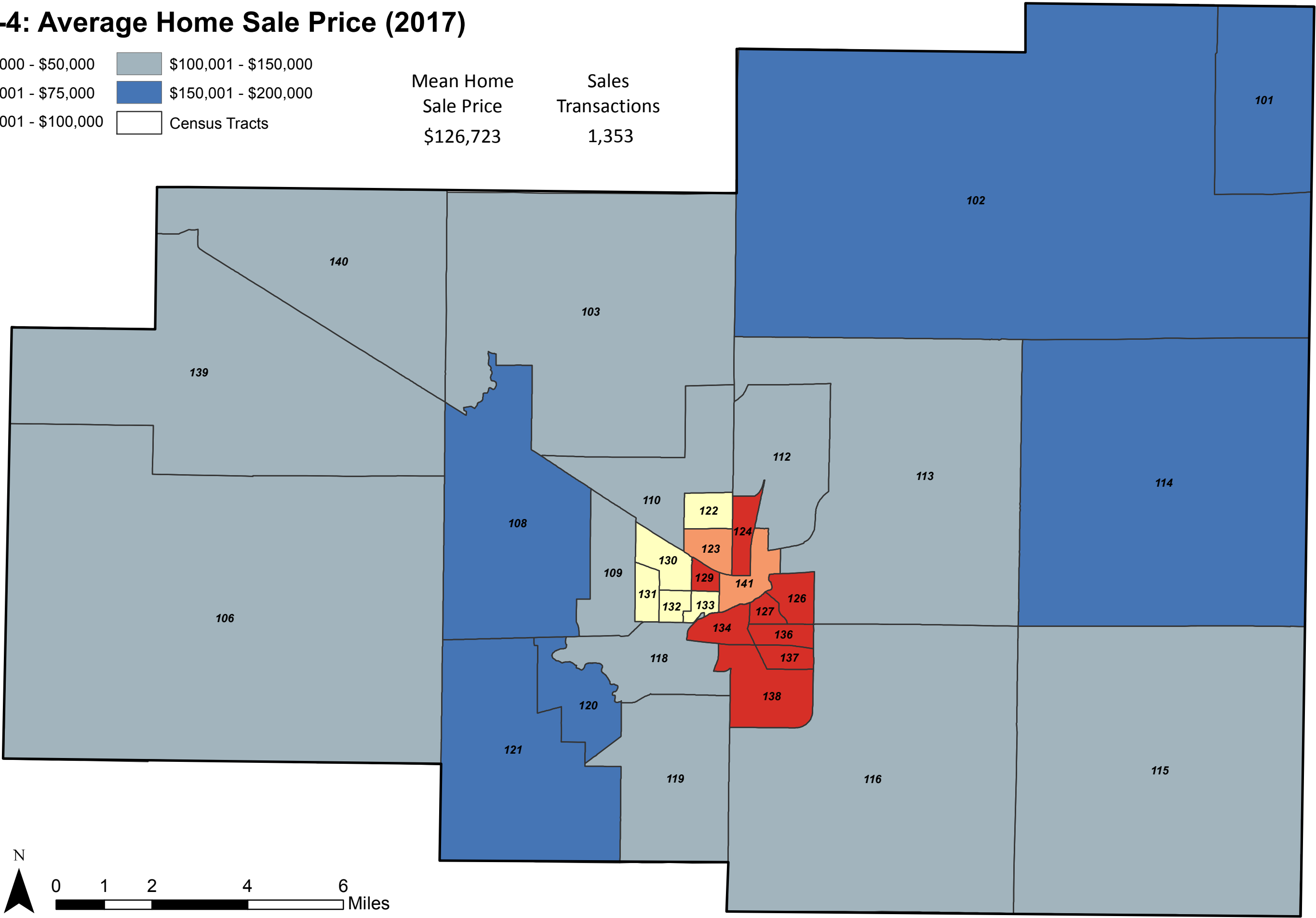
In order to provide a more recent picture of housing valuation, Map 3-4 reflects more than 1,300 home sales by census tract occurring in 2017. The data, obtained from the Allen County Auditor's Office, includes the number of home sales and the mean sale price by tract. The highest mean sales price occurred in census tract 120 located in Shawnee Township while the lowest mean sale prices occurred within census tracts 127, 134, 136, and 137 all located in the southeast quadrant of the City of Lima. Map 3-4 identifies 2017 housing unit sales and mean sale prices by census tract.

Map 3-4: Average Home Sale Price (2017)



Mean Home  
Sale Price  
\$126,723

Sales  
Transactions  
1,353



### 3.2.8 Manufactured/Mobile Homes

The ACS documented 1,452 manufactured/mobile homes within Allen County in 2017, that number is down from 1,810 in 2014. ACS data suggests that manufactured/mobile homes represented roughly 3.2 percent of the total housing stock in Allen County in 2017.

The largest concentration of mobile homes were found in Bath Township (433 units), and when coupled with those in the City of Delphos (275 units) they reflect almost half of all units (48.7%) in Allen County. When considering occupancy, 84.6 percent of all occupied units were owner occupied and 15.4 percent were renter occupied. These owner occupancy rates are higher than the rates established for all housing units documented at 66.1 percent. In 2017 the average occupants per unit for owner occupied manufactured mobile homes across Allen County was 1.9 persons, lower than rental units at 3.1 persons. Owner occupancy ranged in size from 1.00 persons per unit in Elida to 5.00 persons per unit in Sugar Creek Township. Table 3-9 examines tenure and occupancy of manufactured homes.

TABLE 3-9 MOBILE HOME OCCUPANCY (2017)					
Political Subdivision	Mobile Homes	Owner Occ.	Own - Occ./Unit	Renter Occ.	Rent - Occ./Unit
Allen County	1,452	1,228	1.90	224	3.10
Beaverdam	45	16	1.44	29	3.17
Bluffton	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Cairo	6	0	0.00	6	11.67
Delphos	275	120	2.12	155	2.15
Elida	2	2	1.00	0	0.00
Harrod	10	8	1.38	2	3.00
Lafayette	3	3	3.33	0	0.00
Lima	186	186	2.15	0	0.00
Spencerville	63	25	1.36	38	3.92
Amanda Twp	22	22	1.27	0	0.00
American Twp	83	83	1.60	0	0.00
Auglaize Twp	16	8	4.63	8	3.88
Bath Twp	433	401	1.73	32	1.94
Jackson Twp	104	93	2.00	11	4.00
Marion Twp	59	48	1.46	11	2.00
Monroe Twp	51	51	2.29	0	0.00
Perry Twp	168	168	1.90	0	0.00
Richland Twp	10	0	0.00	10	6.10
Shawnee Twp	129	89	2.09	40	3.05
Spencer Twp	8	0	0.00	8	1.00
Sugar Creek Twp	17	12	5	4.83	1.00

### 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 2017 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.

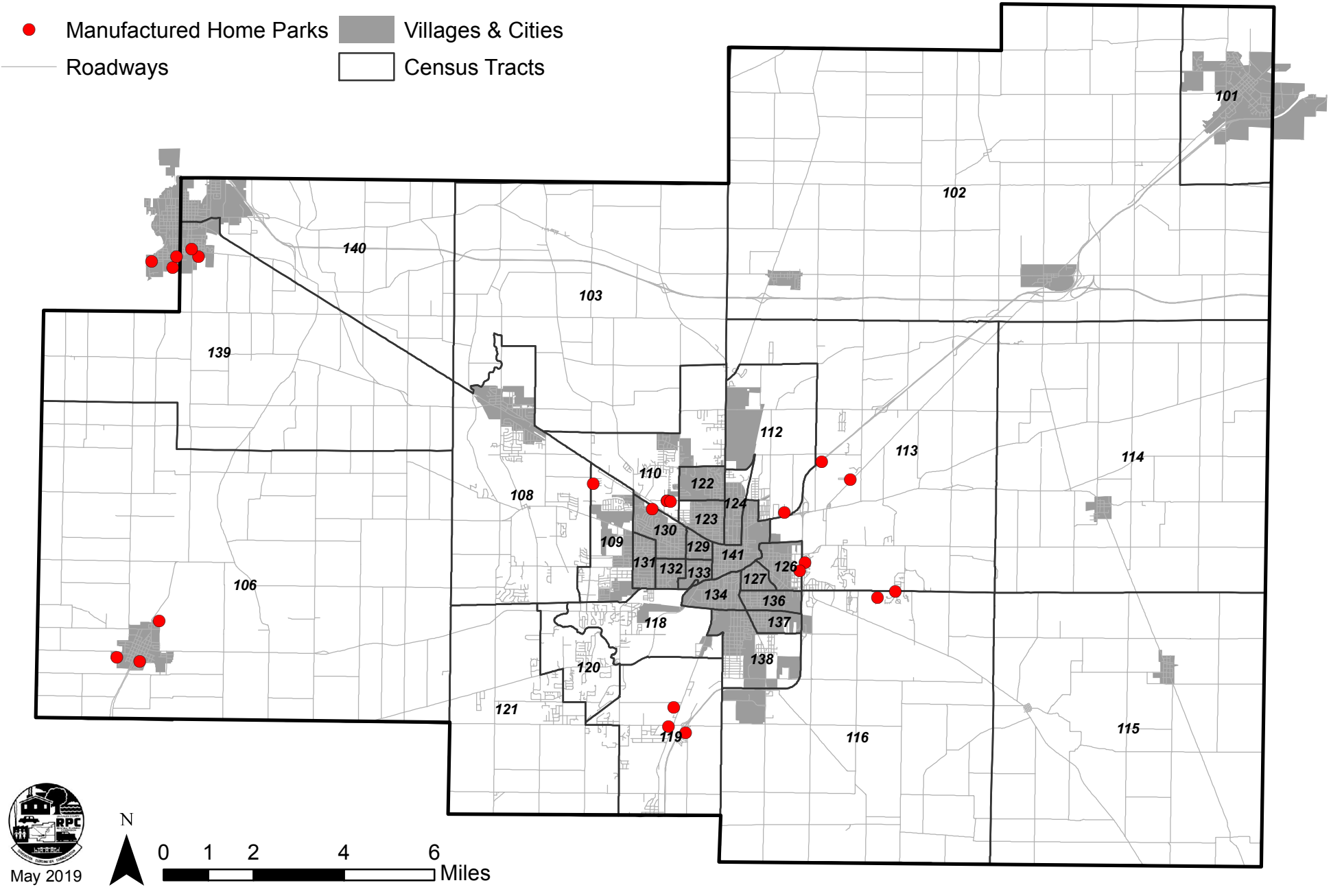
TABLE 3-10 MOBILE HOME PARKS IN ALLEN COUNTY (2017)				
Political Subdivision	Park	Units	Acres	Units Per Acre
City of Delphos	Holland Court	62	6.5	9.5
	Southside Community	56	10.7	5.2
	Ulm's Mobile Home Court	91	14.2	6.4
	Ulm's Mobile Home Court II	65	8.8	7.4
	Park Court	7	0.3	24.1
City of Lima	Crestwood Estates	199	35.6	5.6
Spencerville Village	Westwood Park	16	1.0	16.5
	Village Courts I	21	3.3	6.4
	Village Courts II	13	1.2	11.2
American Township	Hunter's Chase	135	31.7	4.3
	Woodlawn Trailer Park	63	4.7	13.3
	Woodlawn Trailer Park I	40	3.2	12.6
	Woodlawn Trailer Park II	4	1.0	3.8
Bath Township	Country Estates	225	37.5	6.0
	Marilee Estates	22	2.9	7.6
	Maplewood MHC	99	17.5	5.6
	Oakhaven Park	43	7.2	6.0
	Offenbacher	42	3.4	12.4
	Plaza Mobile Home Park	119	13.9	8.5
Perry Township	The Colony Park	139	41.4	3.4
	Eastwoods Estates	168	113.1	1.5
Shawnee Township	Indian Village	204	48.4	4.2
	Mobile Living Estates	72	14.3	5.0
	Shawnee Park	67	10.4	6.5
<b>Allen County</b>		<b>1,972</b>	<b>432.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>

### 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 quarters across the study area. Data reveals a concentration of such group quarters in and immediately adjacent to, the City of Lima. In 2010, the U. S Census identified 5,934 individuals residing in Group Quarters. The institutionalized population, 4,143 individuals, resided in correctional facilities (3,096), nursing homes (983), and other facilities (64). The non-institutionalized population resided in college dormitories (1,361) and other facilities (430) (Table 3-11). Since 2010 the group quarter population has decline by 28.6 percent to a 2017 value of 4,236. Table 3-11 depicts the population breakdown of group quarters by type in 2010.

TABLE 3-11 GROUP QUARTER POPULATION IN ALLEN COUNTY (2010)		
Type of Group Quarter		Population
Institutionalized	Correctional Facility	3,096
	Nursing Home	983
	Other Institutions	64
Non-Institutionalized	College Dormitory	1,361
	Other Non-Institutionalized	430
<b>Allen County</b>		<b>5,934</b>

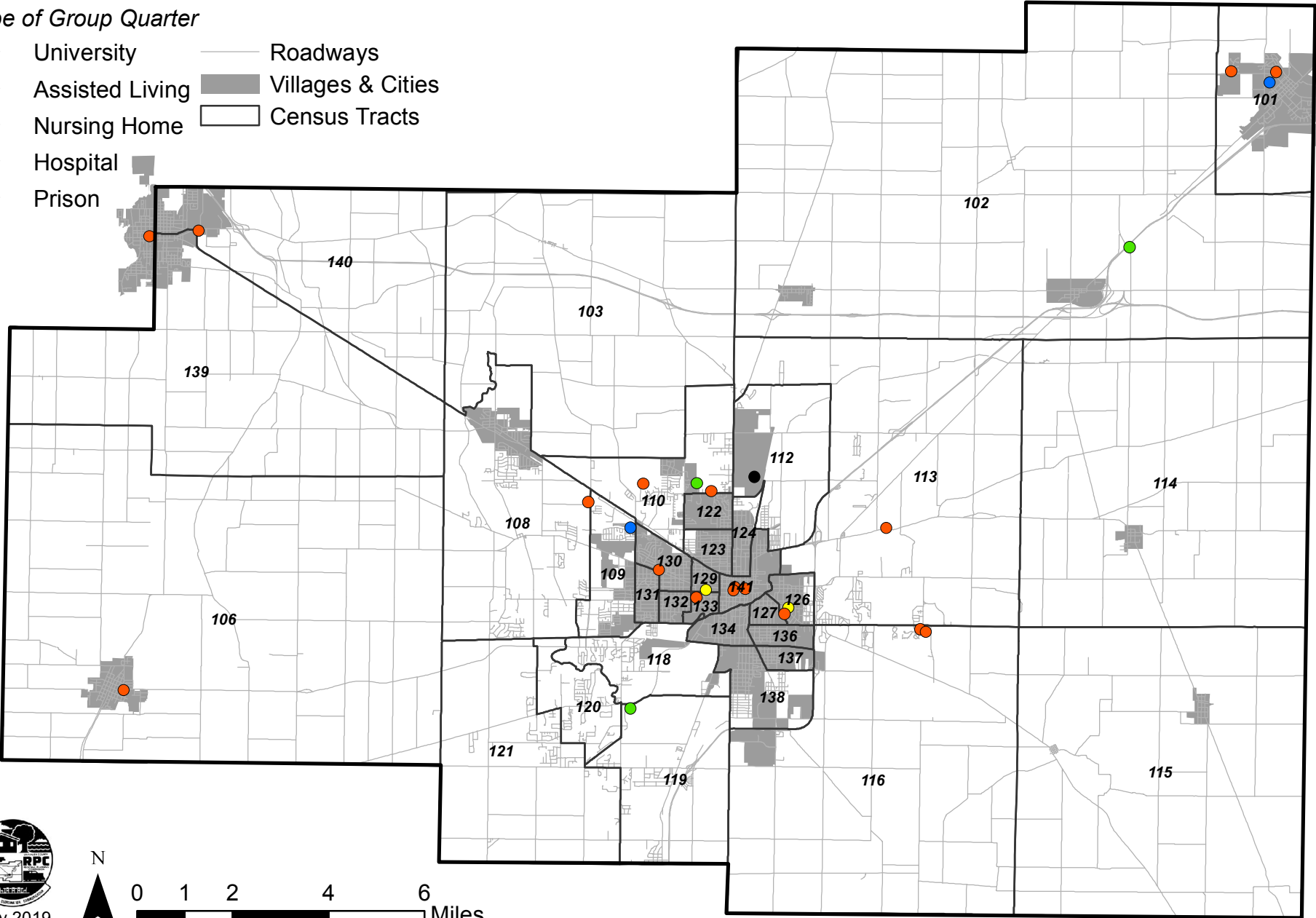
# Map 3-5: Manufactured Home Parks (2017)



# Map 3-6: Group Quarter Locations (2017)

Type of Group Quarter

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



May 2019



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 2017 totaled 3,047 units. The total number of units lacking complete plumbing facilities in 2017 totaled 1,746 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 (2017)				
Political Subdivision	Housing Units Built Pre-1940	Lack of Kitchen Facilities	Lack of Plumbing Facilities	Vacant Units
Allen County	10,729	3,047	1,746	4,686
Beaverdam	84	0	0	0
Bluffton	564	30	10	28
Cairo	84	6	6	30
Delphos	1,050	189	30	321
Elida	126	30	14	33
Harrod	80	0	0	9
Lafayette	97	19	21	30
Lima	5,900	2,033	1,224	2,707
Spencerville	301	21	0	38
Amanda Twp	98	0	0	0
American Twp	313	139	14	213
Auglaize Twp	282	87	78	100
Bath Twp	325	209	141	503
Jackson Twp	119	32	32	55
Marion Twp	266	0	0	0
Monroe Twp	132	0	0	0
Perry Twp	320	73	73	152
Richland Twp	255	0	0	49
Shawnee Twp	375	154	73	448
Spencer Twp	177	27	0	61
Sugar Creek Twp	165	30	30	30

#### 3.4.2 Lead-Based Paint

Lead-based paint was used in area housing until 1978. Any house built before 1979 therefore may have layers of lead paint present. 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 percent of housing built from 1960 to 1979 have lead-based paint. Given the age of the housing stock it would suggest that approximately

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

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. Of concern, the potential of lead paint exposure reflects 57.1 percent of all the

housing stock in Allen County. However, 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. Given the age of the housing stock, vacancy rates and occupancy status, there may be exposure to lead hazard in some 6,400 units. Table 3-14 identifies the extent of a lead hazard in housing units by political subdivision by year of construction.

Table 3-13 identifies the number of total housing units with lead paint (25,688) while Table 3-14 identifies the total number of units with potential lead hazards (6,447) stemming from conditions of age, weathering and a lack of maintenance. Examining tenure and occupancy statistics, data suggest that 3,439 of units with lead hazards are owner occupied while rentals account for 2,067; vacancies, abandoned and dilapidated housing consume the remainder. 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.

TABLE 3-13 PRESENCE OF LEAD BASED PAINT BY YEAR OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION (2017)							
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



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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,779</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>22,568</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>7,445</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>3,313</b>

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 2017, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Allen County Health Department (ACHD) confirmed 13 cases of elevated blood levels for lead (>10ug/dL). In 2017, 1,124 children under the age of 6 years were tested for elevated lead levels in their blood reflecting a sample of approximately 14.4 percent of all children under 6 years. Test results found 13 children with elevated levels suggesting .17 percent of all children under the age of 6 years with elevated blood levels for lead.

### **3.5 Affordable Housing**

Allen County has routinely been recognized as one of the most affordable communities in the United States. CNN identified the Lima community as the 7th most affordable small city in the United States in 2014.<sup>1</sup> Almost 92.5 percent of all homes were determined affordable to median-income families earning \$54,200 annually. The median priced home was \$85,000.

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**

Tables 2-16 and 2-17 in Section II identified poverty rates by person and family units. Map 2-7 identified households in poverty by political subdivisions. 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 2014, overcrowding was experienced in 212 rental units in Allen County representing 1.6 percent of the 13,674 occupied rental units. Over half (55.7%) or 118 of the rental units experiencing overcrowding were found within the City of Lima. However, as so many rental units are located within the City (7,797), this represents only a small proportion as overcrowding was experienced in only 1.5 percent of all Lima's rental units.

Similar data from the 2017 ACS suggests that 1.0 percent of owner occupied units were found to be experiencing overcrowding in the County as a whole. Sugar Creek Township experienced the highest proportion of overcrowding in owner occupied units with 6.9 percent of such units. Auglaize (4.8%), Bath (1.9%), Perry (3.3%) and the City of Lima (1.8%) all experienced overcrowding greater than the countywide average (1.0%).

#### **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 2017 by

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://money.cnn.com/gallery/real\\_estate/2014/02/20/affordable-housing-markets/7.html](http://money.cnn.com/gallery/real_estate/2014/02/20/affordable-housing-markets/7.html)

TABLE 3-16 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2017)								
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	13,674	13,462	98.40%	150	1.10%	62	0.50%	1.60%
Beaverdam	63	63	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bluffton	574	574	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cairo	21	15	71.40%	0	0.00%	6	28.60%	28.60%
Delphos	986	986	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Elida	79	76	96.20%	0	0.00%	3	3.80%	3.80%
Harrod	30	30	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lafayette	41	41	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lima	7,797	7,679	98.50%	92	1.20%	26	0.30%	1.50%
Spencerville	310	293	94.50%	17	5.50%	0	0.00%	5.50%
Amanda Twp	80	80	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
American Twp	1,880	1,848	98.30%	32	1.70%	0	0.00%	1.70%
Auglaize Twp	135	135	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Bath Twp	819	805	98.30%	0	0.00%	14	1.70%	1.70%
Jackson Twp	49	49	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marion Twp	126	117	92.90%	9	7.10%	0	0.00%	7.10%
Monroe Twp	77	77	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Perry Twp	275	262	95.30%	0	0.00%	13	4.70%	4.70%
Richland Twp	65	65	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Shawnee Twp	698	698	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Spencer Twp	31	31	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Sugar Creek Twp	88	88	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%

TABLE 3-17 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2017)								
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	26,645	26,368	99.00%	203	0.80%	74	0.30%	1.00%
Beaverdam	131	130	99.20%	1	0.80%	0	0.00%	0.80%
Bluffton	1,145	1,145	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cairo	162	162	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Delphos	1,904	1,904	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Elida	620	618	99.70%	2	0.30%	0	0.00%	0.30%
Harrod	115	115	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lafayette	112	112	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Lima	6,515	6,399	98.20%	83	1.30%	33	0.50%	1.80%
Spencerville	541	536	99.10%	0	0.00%	5	0.90%	0.90%
Amanda Twp	620	620	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
American Twp	3,276	3,276	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Auglaize Twp	672	640	95.20%	10	1.50%	22	3.30%	4.80%
Bath Twp	2,932	2,876	98.10%	56	1.90%	0	0.00%	1.90%
Jackson Twp	881	881	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marion Twp	1,024	1,019	99.50%	5	0.50%	0	0.00%	0.50%
Monroe Twp	562	562	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Perry Twp	1,075	1,040	96.70%	21	2.00%	14	1.30%	3.30%
Richland Twp	487	487	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Shawnee Twp	4,069	4,069	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Spencer Twp	273	273	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Sugar Creek Twp	364	339	93.10%	25	6.90%	0	0.00%	6.90%

political subdivision. Table 3-18 reveals median rent by political subdivision and the percent change over the same 5-year period by political subdivision. The change in gross rent over this time period varied greatly throughout the political subdivisions. Gross rent increased by more than 10 percent in Jackson Township (10.3%), Perry Township, the Village of Harrod (12.6%) and the Village of Lafayette (28.1%) while 15 of the 21 political subdivisions had gross rent decline over the 5-year period.

TABLE 3-18 MEDIAN GROSS RENT (2010-2017)				
Political Subdivision	Median Gross Rent 2010	Median Gross Rent 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	\$663	\$611	-52	-7.8%
Beaverdam	\$729	\$688	-41	-5.6%
Bluffton	\$609	\$486	-123	-20.2%
Cairo	\$647	-	N/A	N/A
Delphos	\$733	\$628	-105	-14.3%
Elida	\$769	\$679	-90	-11.7%
Harrod	\$688	\$775	87	12.6%
Lafayette	\$850	\$1,089	239	28.1%
Lima	\$626	\$588	-38	-6.1%
Spencerville	\$721	\$620	-101	-14.0%
Amanda Twp	\$884	-	N/A	N/A
American Twp	\$734	\$649	-85	-11.6%
Auglaize Twp	\$640	\$483	-157	-24.5%
Bath Twp	\$749	\$660	-89	-11.9%
Jackson Twp	\$728	\$803	75	10.3%
Marion Twp	\$688	\$630	-58	-8.4%
Monroe Twp	\$668	\$623	-45	-6.7%
Perry Twp	\$432	\$711	279	64.6%
Richland Twp	\$702	\$581	-121	-17.2%
Shawnee Twp	\$766	\$674	-92	-12.0%
Spencer Twp	\$707	\$625	-82	-11.6%
Sugar Creek Twp	\$774	\$520	-254	-32.8%

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 15.9 percent between 2010 and 2017. As of 2017 45.0 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 22.1 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 7.8 percent less owner occupied households faced this burden in 2017 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 (2010-2017)								
Political Subdivision	> 30% Owner Occupied Units				> 30% Renter Occupied Units			
	Units 2010	Units 2017	Change	PCT Change	Units 2010	Units 2017	Change	PCT Change
Allen County	6,216	4,546	-1,670	-26.9%	5,358	6,211	853	15.9%
Beaverdam	25	18	-7	-28.0%	14	28	14	100.0%
Bluffton	171	101	-70	-40.9%	141	275	134	95.0%
Cairo	30	43	13	43.3%	0	10	10	+
Delphos	338	273	-65	-19.2%	460	410	-50	-10.9%
Elida	138	75	-63	-45.7%	36	27	-9	-25.0%
Harrod	26	19	-7	-26.9%	4	12	8	200.0%
Lafayette	15	12	-3	-20.0%	8	6	-2	-25.0%
Lima	2,160	1,151	-1,009	-46.7%	3,344	3,864	520	15.6%
Spencerville	175	111	-64	-36.6%	77	158	81	105.2%
Amanda Twp	147	91	-56	-38.1%	0	25	25	+
American Twp	675	621	-54	-8.0%	676	725	49	7.2%
Auglaize Twp	153	79	-74	-48.4%	19	92	73	384.2%
Bath Twp	732	542	-190	-26.0%	331	230	-101	-30.5%
Jackson Twp	147	142	-5	-3.4%	31	20	-11	-35.5%
Marion Twp	175	129	-46	-26.3%	18	26	8	44.4%
Monroe Twp	83	91	8	9.6%	11	48	37	336.4%
Perry Twp	331	249	-82	-24.8%	187	127	-60	-32.1%
Richland Twp	111	67	-44	-39.6%	0	19	19	+
Shawnee Twp	693	738	45	6.5%	119	297	178	149.6%
Spencer Twp	15	32	17	113.3%	0	0	0	0.0%
Sugar Creek Twp	86	64	-22	-25.6%	3	40	37	1233.3%

Using ACS 2017 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. Notice that the number of rental units available is extremely limited with less than 30 percent (26.2%) of all rental units available, based on affordability. 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.<sup>2</sup> Its latest report identifies the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Allen County, Ohio at \$695. In order to afford this level of rent (and utilities) – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – a household must earn \$27,800 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a “housing wage” of \$13.37 per hour. However, in Ohio the minimum wage is \$8.55 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.

<sup>2</sup> <http://nlihc.org/oor>

TABLE 3-20 AVAILABLE OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2017)				
Political Subdivision	Units	30% Median	Unit Costs ≤ 30%	PCT Units Available
Allen County	26,645	\$18,362	23,528	88.30%
Beaverdam	131	\$17,344	131	100.00%
Bluffton	1,145	\$24,794	1,096	95.70%
Cairo	162	\$15,794	133	82.10%
Delphos	1,904	\$17,147	1,877	98.60%
Elida	620	\$24,000	611	98.50%
Harrod	115	\$17,531	114	99.10%
Lafayette	112	\$13,875	95	84.80%
Lima	6,515	\$15,100	6,007	92.20%
Spencerville	541	\$14,006	499	92.20%
Amanda Twp	620	\$1,872	550	88.70%
American Twp	3,276	\$1,583	2,886	88.10%
Auglaize Twp	672	\$1,567	627	93.30%
Bath Twp	2,932	\$1,429	2,653	90.50%
Jackson Twp	881	\$1,598	670	76.10%
Marion Twp	1,024	\$1,557	944	92.20%
Monroe Twp	562	\$1,434	481	85.60%
Perry Twp	1,075	\$1,424	981	91.30%
Richland Twp	487	\$1,917	460	94.50%
Shawnee Twp	4,069	\$1,948	3,654	89.80%
Spencer Twp	273	\$1,384	264	96.70%
Sugar Creek Twp	364	\$1,719	354	97.30%

TABLE 3-21 AVAILABLE RENTAL HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2017)				
Political Subdivision	Units	30% Median Monthly	Unit Costs ≤ 30%	PCT Units Available
Allen County	13,647	\$631	3,576	26.20%
Beaverdam	63	\$839	46	73.00%
Bluffton	574	\$641	293	51.00%
Cairo	21	-	-	-
Delphos	986	\$778	558	56.60%
Elida	79	\$951	58	73.40%
Harrod	30	\$609	8	26.70%
Lafayette	41	\$1,070	14	34.10%
Lima	7,797	\$566	2,596	33.30%
Spencerville	310	\$525	51	16.50%
Amanda Twp	80	\$1,253	70	87.50%
American Twp	1,880	\$726	944	50.20%
Auglaize Twp	135	-	-	-
Bath Twp	819	\$967	660	80.60%
Jackson Twp	49	\$854	25	50.00%
Marion Twp	126	\$755	75	59.70%
Monroe Twp	77	\$708	41	53.10%
Perry Twp	275	\$442	152	55.30%
Richland Twp	65	\$650	30	46.00%
Shawnee Twp	698	\$836	333	47.70%
Spencer Twp	31	\$543	9	28.70%
Sugar Creek Twp	88	\$615	9	10.20%

In Allen County, the average wage for a renter is \$10.72. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 50 hours per week, 52 weeks

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

per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.25 workers earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

Income data presented in Table 2-14 revealed that almost 4 in 10 (39.1%) Lima households earned less than \$25,000 annually and nearly a third (27.0%) 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 2017 Home Energy Assistance Gap Ranking revealed an average gap of \$935 for Ohio low income households.*

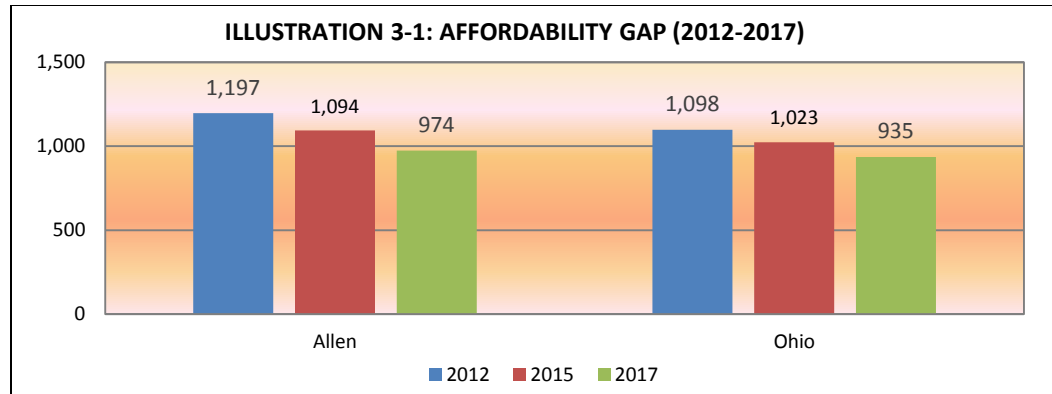
- Energy use intensities (by fuel)
- Tenure of household (by tenure)
- Housing unit size (by tenure)
- Household size (by tenure)
- Heating fuel mix (by tenure)
- Heating Degree Days and Cooling Degree Days

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 \$974 in 2017.<sup>4</sup> For comparison purposes the gap in 2015 was \$1,094 and \$1,197 in 2012. Illustration 3-1 shows the affordability gap from 2012 to 2017 for both Allen County and Ohio.

<sup>3</sup> Economic Opportunity Studies, The Burden of FY 2008 Residential Energy Bills on Low-Income Consumers, March 2008.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a\\_affordabilityData.html](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 2018 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 individual 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 individual 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 six 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	Demolitions 2017	PCT Owner Occupied	PCT Vacant	PCT Mobile Homes	PCT Built Before 1940	Median Value	2017 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	1,800	28	67.6	3.1	3.1	33.1	\$154,300	62	\$157,475	73.9	6.7	8.95	13.1	8.56	48.67
102	1,528	27	85.4	3.4	3.4	34.2	\$127,800	49	\$175,602	56.4	6.5	1.72	19.2	17.38	48.61
103	612	1	86.3	7.2	7.2	35.6	\$138,800	18	\$149,611	68.6	6.5	0.00	19.3	18.16	30.77
106	1,954	0	77.3	5.1	5.1	29.5	\$123,000	60	\$130,653	60.6	6.7	1.10	17.6	16.32	43.47
108	3,077	2	77.8	4.5	4.5	8.6	\$148,500	121	\$176,018	91.6	6.6	0.00	7.9	13.74	32.06
109	1,888	3	58.9	8.9	8.9	2.1	\$121,400	65	\$123,796	98.2	6	17.93	5.8	20.73	45.54
110	2,542	4	45	2.7	2.7	3.7	\$109,400	81	\$113,487	86.1	4.9	3.47	5.0	23.52	46.54
112	615	8	76.3	13.7	13.7	10.9	\$75,400	14	\$100,643	40.0	5.6	53.10	15.0	22.47	21.43
113	3,318	9	81.3	11.1	11.1	7.6	\$132,900	116	\$147,622	90.1	6.2	2.59	6.7	17.93	26.45
114	1,168	12	91.7	7.3	7.3	18.5	\$152,900	39	\$179,749	59.7	6.6	0.00	14.3	15.51	28.89
115	1,061	7	82.7	10.3	10.3	34.1	\$123,000	32	\$130,756	44.6	6.1	0.00	16.2	12.45	57.58
116	1,218	13	78.8	11.8	11.8	21.7	\$115,700	27	\$126,375	49.6	5.6	2.34	11.1	27.66	46.05
118	1,089	14	77.3	6.4	6.4	7	\$135,500	48	\$127,599	86.7	6.2	1.61	10.9	24.75	32.03
119	1,416	29	82	12.2	12.2	9.3	\$102,000	38	\$122,008	79.9	5.9	0.86	9.7	13.84	61.61
120	1,034	30	97	6.5	6.5	2.7	\$181,400	62	\$202,484	97.5	7.5	0.00	6.3	17.48	34.48
121	1,379	31	85.9	8.2	8.2	10.1	\$148,900	64	\$192,494	90.1	7.1	0.23	8.6	17.57	41.90
122	1,574	15	49.5	8.5	8.5	3.9	\$73,800	34	\$79,713	90.1	5	0.22	6.0	11.92	50.62
123	1,730	5	55.8	7.9	7.9	27.1	\$59,500	45	\$56,894	73.7	5.7	0.58	24.0	16.65	42.84
124	1,252	10	40.8	19.2	19.2	38.5	\$51,500	25	\$35,014	36.1	5.3	0.00	20.3	16.46	56.26
126	856	11	64	17.2	17.2	29.7	\$58,700	23	\$48,172	35.9	5	4.99	18.5	10.57	32.94
127	745	16	36	18	18	59.5	\$33,900	9	\$18,444	36.6	5.6	0.00	29.8	14.55	56.01
129	798	17	24.2	20.8	20.8	65.2	\$44,400	7	\$41,914	71.3	5.9	3.41	25.8	37.25	72.23
130	2,096	6	53	11.9	11.9	27.4	\$68,900	76	\$80,913	86.5	5.3	2.27	15.1	32.28	46.48
131	1,177	18	62.4	4.1	4.1	8.1	\$92,700	49	\$78,853	95.0	5.7	0.36	13.8	6.39	44.00
132	839	19	57.1	9.1	9.1	54.8	\$96,500	37	\$94,161	94.1	6.2	0.00	23.2	13.53	33.94
133	567	20	50.6	28.6	28.6	59.1	\$55,900	9	\$77,667	68.9	6	7.20	27.5	28.78	38.50
134	1,311	21	31.5	22.1	22.1	42.3	\$36,700	13	\$25,598	40.1	5.1	1.59	21.7	31.68	35.77
136	564	22	45.6	29.6	29.6	45.2	\$31,400	6	\$22,750	11.6	5.6	0.00	28.0	6.08	64.35
137	540	23	42.7	28	28	56.5	\$49,400	7	\$21,914	10.8	5.4	0.00	24.1	9.04	31.84
138	1,326	24	43.9	20.2	20.2	33.3	\$46,900	12	\$34,517	20.4	5.2	0.00	17.9	5.82	45.96
139	1,543	25	79	9.7	9.7	30.1	\$102,600	54	\$109,253	47.2	6.4	0.38	16.7	10.99	47.95
140	1,378	26	78.2	3.6	3.6	34	\$121,600	42	\$141,152	62.5	6.6	2.97	17.2	17.23	19.03
141	1,010	32	23.1	27.5	27.5	69.4	\$38,200	9	\$52,456	27.9	4.4	10.25	16.0	27.81	36.59

SUMMARY TABLE 3-2 COMMUNITY HOUSING STOCK ALLEN COUNTY - POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS															
Political Subdivisions	Housing Units	Demolitions 2017	PCT Owner Occupied	PCT Vacant	PCT Mobile Homes	PCT Built Before 1940	Median Value	2015 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
Allen County	45,005	161	66.09	10.41	4.00	23.8	\$110,900	1,387	\$125,555	69.5	5.9	3.9	6,447	80.5	48.1
Beaverdam	194	0	67.53	0.00	23.20	43.3	\$74,300	6	\$86,500	20.3	6	0.0	41	86.3	54.0
Bluffton	1,747	3	67.53	1.60	0.00	33.6	147200	56	\$151,714	73.1	6.5	9.3	293	91.2	47.9
Cairo	213		67.53	14.08	2.82	39.4	\$91,400	8	\$68,863	42.7	5.8	0.0	43	73.5	42.9
Delphos	3,211	0	67.53	10.00	9.25	37.6	\$90,200	50	\$89,052	43.6	6	2.0	562	84.3	51.5
Elida	732	0	88.70	4.51	0.27	17.2	\$143,200	22	\$165,973	85.6	6.6	0.0	77	87.9	63.3
Harrod	154	0	79.31	5.84	11.04	51.9	\$76,300	8	\$91,556	24.5	6.6	0.0	36	83.5	40.0
Lafayette	183	1	73.20	16.39	1.64	53.0	\$81,600	4	\$111,750	64.1	6.6	0.0	46	89.3	39.0
Lima	17,019	146	45.52	15.91	1.53	34.7	\$66,000	386	\$72,747	62.9	5.4	7.8	3,291	81.3	45.9
Spencerville	889	2	63.57	4.27	7.09	33.9	\$83,100	26	\$90,512	45	6.2	2.4	161	79.5	38.4
Amanda Twp	700	1	88.57	0.00	3.14	14.0	\$168,900	21	\$165,710	75.8	7.1	0.0	62	85.3	56.3
American Twp	6,101	0	66.54	4.03	1.36	5.8	\$127,800	220	\$138,679	89.6	6	1.4	381	79.3	52.8
Auglaize Twp	1061	1	82.67	10.27	4.90	31.1	\$123,000	25	\$144,670	48.7	6.1	0.0	144	88.2	31.9
Bath Twp	4,254	0	78.17	11.82	13.09	7.6	\$125,700	134	\$140,120	77.8	6	2.0	322	81.0	61.5
Jackson Twp	1,168	1	91.69	7.28	8.90	12.1	\$152,900	35	\$187,520	56	6.6	0.0	73	83.9	26.7
Marion Twp	2,921	1	78.65	6.85	2.02	23.1	\$112,800	47	\$159,351	68.3	6.5	0.0	145	94.4	55.6
Monroe Twp	852	0	88.08	3.52	5.99	20.7	\$126,800	18	\$214,717	62.2	6.4	0.0	72	83.8	29.9
Perry Twp	1,502	2	79.63	10.12	12.78	21.3	\$88,100	35	\$115,167	41.2	5.7	1.8	198	76.8	53.8
Richland Twp	2476	0	71.53	3.11	0.40	42.4	\$148,000	29	\$200,593	67.3	6.8	4.6	118	93.6	60.0
Shawnee Twp	5,215	2	85.36	8.59	3.24	7.2	\$143,900	227	\$169,667	89	6.6	0.6	447	81.3	46.1
Spencer Twp	1254	1	70.48	7.89	2.71	48.5	\$95,700	13	\$154,308	61	6.4	0.0	76	88.3	74.2
Sugar Creek Twp	482	0	80.53	6.22	6.64	34.2	\$133,700	17	\$124,118	58.3	6.7	0.0	82	82.4	26.1

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

More recently, on April 26, 2017 President Donald J. Trump issued an Executive Order to protect and preserve State and local control over the curriculum, administration, and personnel of educational institutions, schools, and school systems, consistent with applicable law, including Every Child Succeeds Act (ESEA), and ESEA's restrictions related to the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative. In essence it worked to enforce statutory prohibitions on federal control of education in order to further local control of schools.<sup>7,8</sup> A summation of the Trump Education Policy to date is nested in 3 major themes: (1) promoting and supporting school choice; (2) rolling back ESSA State Plans, accountability and funding for Public elementary and secondary schools; and, (3) shrinking federal funding for public education.<sup>9,10,11,12,13</sup> The 2020 federal Education budget released by the Trump Administration this spring is similar to that which was proposed in 2018 and 2019. But Congress has been averse to some of the Trump Administration policies affecting funding for primary and secondary public education. In fact, in 2018 and 2019 a Republican controlled Congress increased allocations for core public school programs and rejected the neo-voucher proposal floated by Secretary Betsy DeVos. But funding for charter schools increased as did school safety activity monies, while funding for grants and loans for post-secondary education was cut or eliminated. Given the current Administration's penchant for cost cutting, state and local funding will need to increase their funding to ensure students in both public and private schools a quality education.

#### **Current Concerns**

- *Parents and college students struggling with student loans and the loss of Pell Grants are challenging on-time graduation rates and college affordability.*
- *High school curriculum for those not planning to attend college is not preparing students for the workplace of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*
- *Development standards, kindergarten entry assessments of school readiness and systems to promote school readiness remain priorities of educators.*

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-enforcing-statutory-prohibitions-federal-control-education/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2017/05/02/reflecting-on-education-policy-during-trumps-first-100-days-and-predicting-whats-next/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/budget-fy2019.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-11-29/pdf/2016-27985.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/education/commentary/trumps-education-budget-cuts-justified>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/03/12/white-house-wants-12-percent-cut-education-spending>

<sup>13</sup> [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2017/03/trump\\_budget\\_massive\\_cuts\\_education\\_boosts\\_school\\_choice.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2017/03/trump_budget_massive_cuts_education_boosts_school_choice.html)

#### 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.<sup>14,15,16</sup> 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.<sup>17,18</sup>

This spring Senators Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson) proposed a bi-partisan Bill that would reform state education funding in Ohio more in-line with Supreme Court order. The 'Fair School Plan,' as proposed, would determine the best teacher-student ratio, provide technology devices for each student, provide \$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 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

---

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2019/03/gov-dewines-wraparound-services-funding-could-be-boost-to-cleveland-other-school-districts.html>

<sup>15</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/April-1-2019/Ohio-Gov-Mike-DeWine-releases-RecoveryOhio-Adviso>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/ohio-governor-race-dewine-says-wants-make-these-changes-ohio-early-childhood-programs/j4SiMBMV39RvyXbfbVUDnL/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20080507133032/http://www.rightforohio.com/derolph.php>

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph\\_v.\\_State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph_v._State)

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.<sup>19</sup>

*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.<sup>20</sup>

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.

#### **4.2.1 Bluffton University<sup>21,22</sup>**

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 85 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 Barons as a Best Buy.*

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.salliemae.com/assets/core/how-America-Saves/HowAmericaSaves\\_Report2013.pdf](https://www.salliemae.com/assets/core/how-America-Saves/HowAmericaSaves_Report2013.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <https://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport10/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.bluffton.edu/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://febfp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/301600>

Total enrollment at Bluffton University was 770 students in the 2017-2018 academic year; 655 or 85.1 percent of the students were full time students. There were 87 graduate students enrolled in 2017. 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 \$43,566. The average net price for low-income students was \$18,942.

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<sup>23,24</sup>**

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

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

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 graduate degree and 10 bachelor degree programs with 2+2 programming supporting 160 plus majors at the Columbus campus. Total enrollment was 1,018 students in 2017; 845 or 83.0 percent of the students were full time students, there were 18 graduate students. Examining demographics 54 percent of students were female, 4.4 percent were African American, 1.8 percent were Asian and 3.5 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition and fees costs at \$7,644 (in-state). The in-state tuition at OSU Lima has not increased since 2012, remaining an affordable option.

The percent of Pell Grant recipients totaled 40 percent of the student enrollment with an average award of \$3,521. The percent of students receiving federal loans totaled 52 percent; average loans received equaled \$6,088. Probing graduation rates data revealed 38 percent of students graduate; but only 10 percent of students in a 4-year program, this reflects the fact that many students transfer to the Columbus campus to finish their degrees.

Bachelor's degrees are conferred in 28 subject areas, including Biology, Business, Education, English, Family Financial Services, Health Sciences, History, Psychology, Social Work, and Theatre. A graduate degree is awarded for a Masters of Social Work.

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://lima.osu.edu/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/309001>

#### 4.2.3 The University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH)<sup>25,26</sup>

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 2015 was 3,741 students from all 50 states and 32 countries; 83.6 percent of the students were full time students, there were 103 graduate students. Examining demographics only 21 percent of students were female, 3.3 percent were African American and 2.5 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 \$5,027. 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 20 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). 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.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.unoh.edu/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://febfp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/486100>



#### 4.2.4 Rhodes State College<sup>27,28</sup>

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 3,760 students in 2017; 838 or 22.3 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 62 percent of students were female, 4.2 percent were African American and 0.8 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition costs at \$10,067. The average net price for low-income students was \$10,128.

The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 83 percent of total student enrollment. The percent of Pell Grant recipients was 70 percent with an average award of \$4,166. Recipients of federal loans totaled 70 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.

#### 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<sup>29,30</sup>

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 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

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

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.rhodesstate.edu/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/1002700>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.apollocareercenter.com/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/2562300>

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 521 students in 2017; 200 or 38.1 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 73 percent of students were female, 15.2 percent were African American, 2.5 percent were Hispanic and 0.8 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.

#### **4.3.2 The Ohio State Beauty Academy<sup>31,32</sup>**

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 115 students in 2017; 100 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 98 percent of students were female, 11.3 percent were African American and 6.1 percent were Hispanic. Average net price was \$13,380. The average net price for low-income students was \$8,442.



The percent of students receiving federal aid totaled 70 percent of total student enrollment. Some 176 students received Pell Grants equating to 61 percent of the student enrollment with an average award of \$4,650. 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Of these schools – 41 are public schools, 3 are community schools and 13 are private schools. And while most

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.ohiostatebeauty.com/about/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/higher-ed/OH/1028000>

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

*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.*

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 2017-2018 school year, 3 were located in Allen County.<sup>33</sup> 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.

#### 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 to replace an earlier typology created in 2007. The revised typology, which remains in effect for the 2017 school year, reflects four major groupings: Rural, Small Town, Urban and Suburban; two classifications based on poverty levels and student enrolment provide further



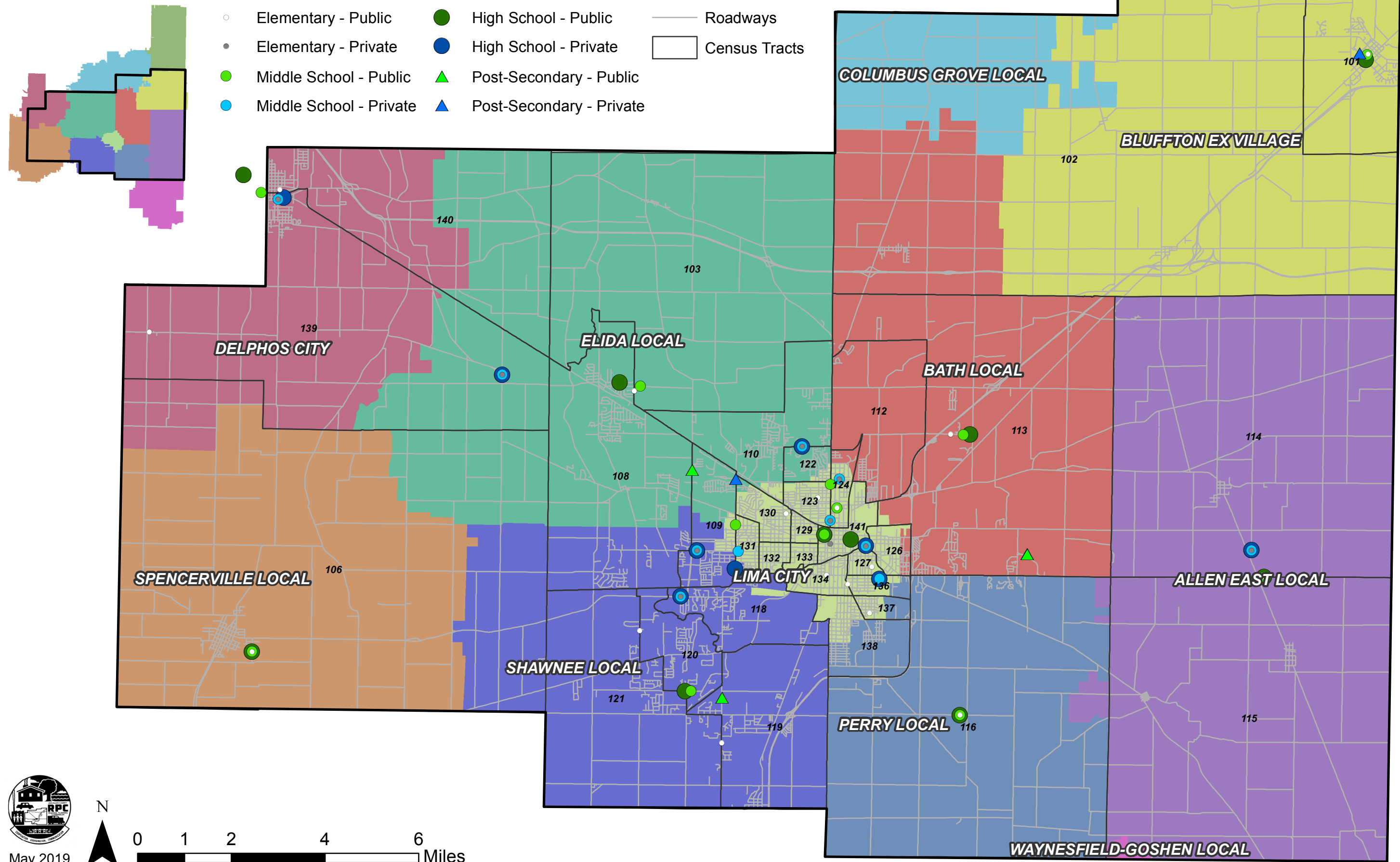
differentiation and create a total of 8 typology classifications (Table 4-1).<sup>34,35</sup> The new classifications were created to accommodate the outlying towns and county seats that share many characteristics of Urban districts despite their rural locations. The statistical method used to create 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.

<sup>33</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/2012-Year-end-Reports/The-2011-2012-Annual-Report-on-Community-Schools.pdf.aspx>

<sup>34</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Typology-of-Ohio-School-Districts>

<sup>35</sup> - [http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Data-Gallery/school\\_district\\_typology.pdf.aspx](http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Data-Gallery/school_district_typology.pdf.aspx)

Map 4-1: Allen County School Districts (2018)





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 3 percent in Waynesfield-Goshen 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 14.

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 503 and 1,116 students and had much lower minority concentrations than the Allen County average (18.7%) and lower median household median incomes (\$47,905). Type 2 school districts (4) 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 741 to 2,363 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.

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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> conducts achievement tests in both reading and mathematics, with 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades also administering a science test. Both 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> conducts achievement tests in both reading and mathematics, with 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades also administering a science test.*

indicators schools are graded on annually. Overall District scores that encompass all the scored measures were release for the 2017/2018 school year. Table 4-2 provides specific performance metrics and demographics for each school district.<sup>30</sup>

In Allen County the overall district grade, which measure grade-level achievement, ranged from 55.6 (Lima) to 85.2 (Bluffton). Attendance was above 94

*All but two districts, Lima City and Perry Local achieved over 90% graduation rates.*

percent in all school districts serving Allen County students and Lima City School and Perry Local school districts were the only two district suffering from below 90 percent graduation rates. For previous year district performance records please refer to Appendix C.

#### 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.<sup>31</sup>

##### 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

*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 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.<sup>32,33</sup>

##### 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

<sup>30</sup> <http://ilrc.ode.state.oh.us/default.asp>

<sup>31</sup> <https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=1067>

<sup>32</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Whose-IDEA-Is-This-A-Parent-s-Guide-to-the-Individ>

<sup>33</sup> [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)

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.<sup>34,35,36</sup> Lima City and Perry Local school districts have the most students receiving free and reduced lunches by over 20 percent.

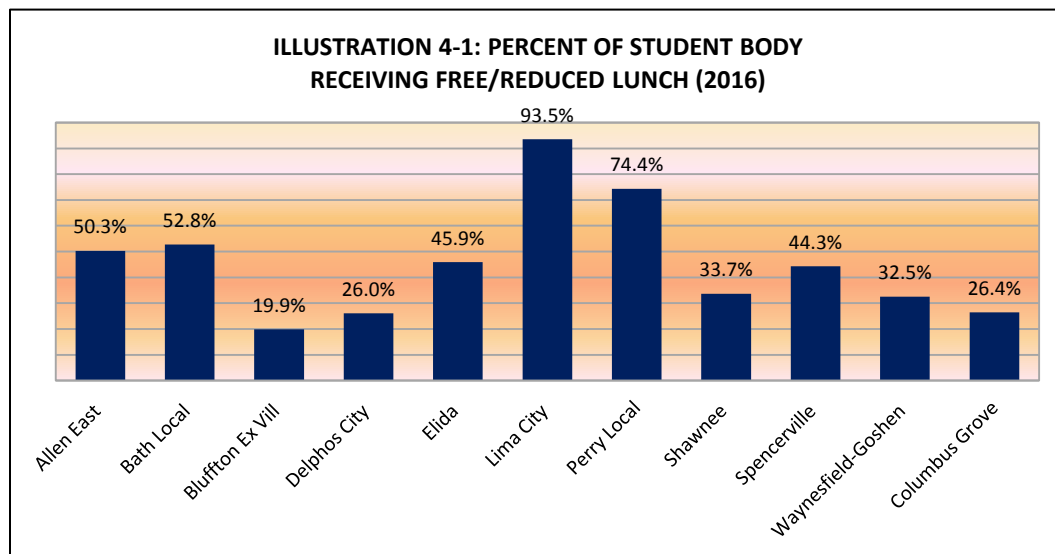


Table 4-3 reveals the range in school budgets both within and across typologies. Across typologies the range from greatest to smallest operating budget was nearly a factor of 10 while per capita expenditures varied by more than a quarter.

#### 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



<sup>34</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/slp>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm>

<sup>36</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/background-analysis/federal-school-nutrition-programs>

**TABLE 4-2**  
**ALLEN COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE & DEMOGRAPHICS (2017/2018)**

District Name	2013 Typology	Enrollment	Attendance	Performance Metrics					% Taken ACT	Demographics		
				Performance Index	Overall District Grade	HS Algebra I Pr	HS English I Prof.	5 Year Graduation Rates		Median Income	PCT Economically Disadvantaged Students	PCT Minority
Allen East	2	1,081	96.1	78.3	C	B	66.7	93.8	59.1	\$36,187	20.5%	3.1%
Bath	4	1,736	96.1	80.7	B	D	81.5	91.9	63.8	\$34,189	39.9%	12.9%
Bluffton Exempted Village	3	1,116	94.6	85.2	B	B	87.5	97.5	73.5	\$38,351	18.7%	4.9%
Columbus Grove	2	837	94.8	78.8	B	D	90.8	100	66.7	\$33,350	23.7%	5.8%
Delphos City	3	944	95.4	82.8	C	C	72.3	98.8	60.7	\$32,850	45.8%	7.0%
Elida	4	2,363	95.0	75.5	C	D	80.8	92.9	54.7	\$31,046	51.0%	28.9%
Lima City	7	3,621	95.8	55.6	F	F	36.9	73.5	35.7	\$22,813	100.0%	64.3%
Pandora-Gilboa	2	536	94.9	79.3	C	C	68.4	95.5	73.4	\$34,004	18.7%	4.6%
Perry	4	741	94.1	74.4	C	F	63.8	85.5	43.2	\$29,470	100%	42.8%
Shawnee	5	2,373	94.4	82.3	B	C	87.5	96.4	68.9	\$38,678	27.4%	15.9%
Spencerville	2	955	96.1	80.1	B	C	80.6	91.5	62.3	\$35,203	38.2%	5.5%
Waynesfield-Goshen	2	503	94.9	76.7	C	C	62.1	98.1	60.2	\$34,566	25.7%	2.6%

**TABLE 4-3**  
**ALLEN COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY FUNDING SOURCE (2017/2018)**

District Name	2013 Typology	Per Pupil Expenditure	Operating Budget (Millions)	Title I	Federal School Meals	IDEA Part B		
						Student	Per Student	Total
Allen East Local	2	\$9,095	\$12.33	\$139,106	\$159,000	102	42,023	\$206,312
Bath Local	4	\$9,037	\$18.69	\$272,379	\$390,000	162	\$2,230	\$361,238
Bluffton Exempted Village	3	\$9,050	\$11.23	\$83,590	\$115,000	88	\$2,352	\$207,012
Delphos City	3	\$10,033	\$11.23	\$182,568	\$251,000	169	\$1,465	\$295,917
Elida Local	4	\$8,937	\$26.57	\$563,268	\$620,000	260	\$1,654	\$540,927
Lima City	7	\$13,776	\$68.30	\$2,872,587	\$2,834,000	763	\$1,446	\$1,194,476
Perry Local (Allen)	4	\$11,435	\$9.80	\$197,311	\$335,000	59	\$3,073	\$181,300
Shawnee Local	5	\$10,213	\$25.09	\$242,229	\$374,000	107	\$2,518	\$503,536
Spencerville Local	2	\$10,194	\$12.04	\$133,063	\$216,000	115	\$1,615	\$185,763
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	2	\$12,882	\$7.24	\$67,439	\$106,000	61	\$1,847	\$112,691
Columbus Grove Local	2	\$10,812	\$11.28	\$89,297	\$129,000	131	\$1,318	\$184,500
Pandora-Gilboa Local	2	\$11,750	\$8.61	\$41,890	\$70,000	64	\$1,633	\$104,522



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.

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

Table 4-4 reveals that in the Fall of 2017 Lima City Schools, Elida Local Schools and Columbus Grove City Schools all had more than 20 percent of students still designated as Emerging (36.6%, 22.5% and 33.3%, respectively). That same year two school districts identified more than 7 in 10 students as Demonstrating Readiness, including, Wanyesfield-Goshen (91.9%) and Pandora-Gilboa (77.5%). For prior year scores please see Appendix C and note.

TABLE 4-4 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (2017/2018)					
District Name	Students w/ Valid KRA-L Scores	KRA Avg. Score (202-298)	Demonstrating (270-298)	Approaching (258-269)	Emerging (202-257)
Allen East Local	268.9	46.4%	36.9%	16.7%	268.9
Bath Local	266.8	39.4%	43.0%	17.6%	266.8
Bluffton Exempted Village	271.5	57.0%	38.4%	4.7%	271.5
Delphos City	269.7	50.9%	36.4%	12.7%	269.7
Elida Local	264.7	32.5%	45.0%	22.5%	264.7
Lima City	261.2	22.8%	40.7%	36.6%	261.2
Perry Local (Allen)	263.0	21.0%	58.1%	21.0%	263.0
Shawnee Local	271.4	55.0%	31.7%	13.3%	271.4
Spencerville Local	273.3	53.1%	46.9%	0.0%	273.3
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	283.0	91.9%	5.4%	2.7%	283.0
Columbus Grove Local	261.8	24.6%	42.1%	33.3%	261.8
Pandora-Gilboa Local	277.4	77.5%	17.5%	5.0%	277.4

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 (Bluffton, Delphos, Shawnee, Waynesfield-Goshen, Pandora-Gilboa, and Spencerville) 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. See Table 4-5.

#### 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.

TABLE 4-5 3RD GRADE PERFORMANCE MEASURES - STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENCY (2017/2018)			
District	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Enrollment	PCT Reading	PCT Math
Allen East Local	74	76.3	80.3
Bath Local	130	84.7	89.3
Bluffton Exempted Village	92	83.5	88.0
Delphos City	67	91.0	94.0
Elida Local	187	64.1	70.6
Lima City	276	42.7	51.4
Perry Local (Allen)	62	56.5	69.4
Shawnee Local	176	73.9	84.7
Spencerville Local	73	78.7	77.3
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	44	72.7	88.6
Columbus Grove Local	57	63.8	65.5
Pandora-Gilboa Local	36	89.2	97.3

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**

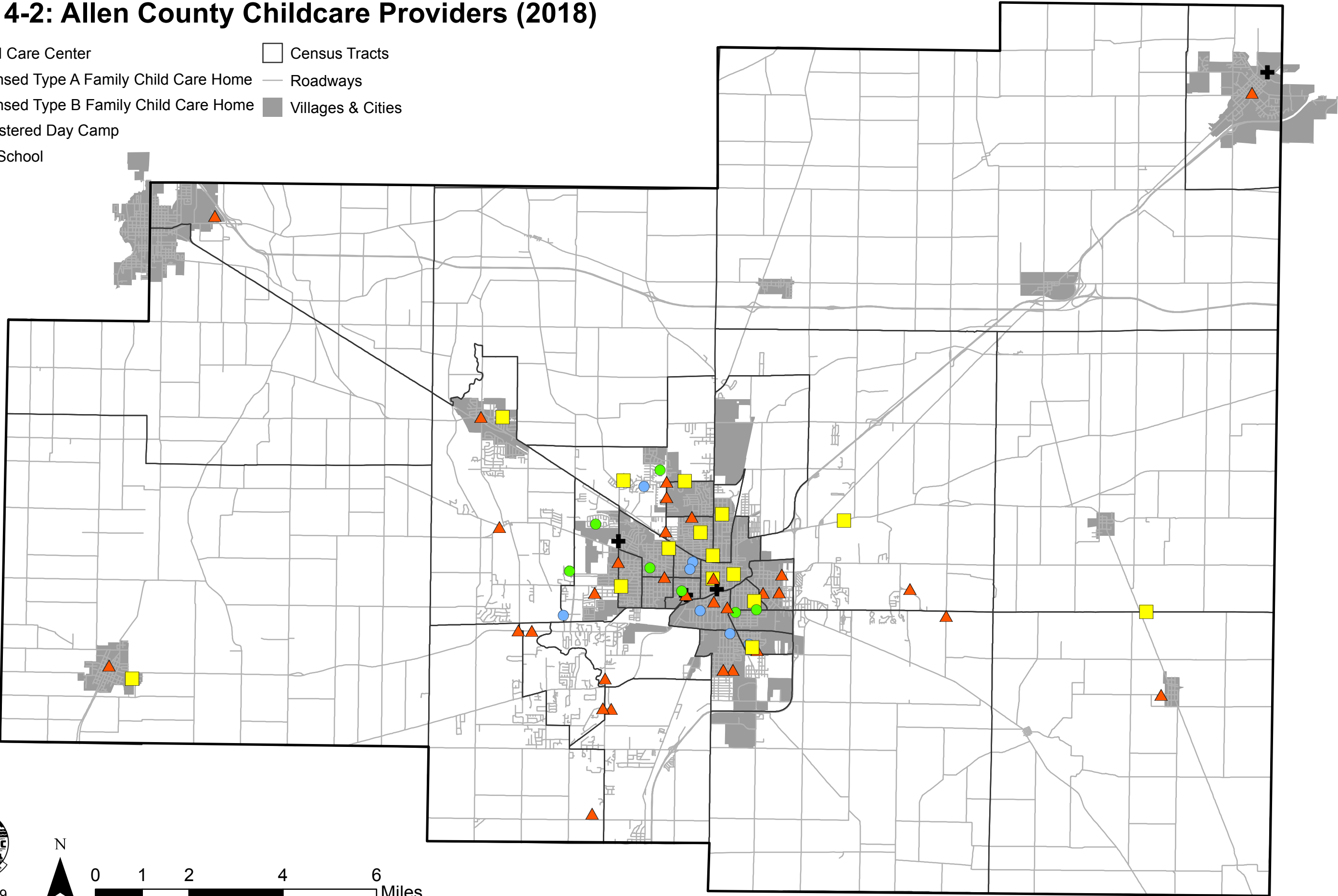
Study after study confirms what every elementary teacher knows: young children who experience secure, stimulating environments with rich learning opportunities from an early age are better prepared to thrive in school. And Head Start programming offers the opportunity to support the kind of early learning that prepares them for success in school — and works to alleviate disparities that could challenge them the rest of their lives. WOCAPs 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

# Map 4-2: Allen County Childcare Providers (2018)

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



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

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.

<b>SUMMARY TABLE 4-1</b> <b>LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> <b>ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS</b>									
<b>Census Tract</b>	<b>% 3-4 Enrolled</b>	<b>% 15-17 Enrolled</b>	<b>% Enrolled in Private School</b>	<b>Childcare Centers</b>	<b>CCP/EHS/ HS Sites</b>	<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>	<b>Post-Secondary</b>
101	18.3	92.6	24.8	2	0	1	1	1	1
102	34.1	100	10.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
103	33.3	100	18.3	0	0	1	1	0	0
106	61.2	100	17.3	2	0	1	1	1	0
108	88.5	100	18.4	4	0	0	0	1	0
109	26	100	33.1	5	1	1	2	2	2
110	49.7	94.8	11.1	6	0	1	1	1	0
112	0	100	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
113	36	100	9.3	2	0	1	1	1	2
114	58.7	100	6.2	1	0	2	2	2	0
115	31.5	95.6	2.9	1	1	0	0	0	0
116	19.7	100	15.9	1	0	1	1	1	0
118	0	94	13	1	0	1	1	1	0
119	65.4	100	15.4	1	0	1	0	0	1
120	54.7	100	21.5	2	1	0	1	0	0
121	29.5	100	42.8	2	1	1	0	1	0
122	23.5	78.6	11.4	1	0	0	0	0	0
123	70.8	100	10.8	3	0	2	2	0	0
124	49	95.3	12.1	2	0	2	2	0	0
126	34.2	100	13.3	3	1	1	1	1	0
127	32.7	100	8.9	2	0	1	0	0	0
129	22	80.7	18.4	2	0	0	0	0	0
130	29.7	100	24.1	3	0	1	0	0	0
131	0	100	23.7	1	0	0	1	0	0
132	36	100	16.8	0	1	0	0	0	0
133	18.2	100	13.9	4	0	0	0	0	0
134	0	100	8.2	3	1	1	0	0	0
136	68.4	100	2.3	1	0	1	1	1	0
137	69.6	100	9.4	4	2	1	0	0	0
138	63.5	100	19.5	3	2	0	0	0	0
139	16.4	94.1	30.1	0	0	3	2	2	0
140	100	100	21.2	1	0	1	0	0	0
141	11.8	100	22.1	4	2	1	1	2	0

**SUMMARY TABLE 4-2  
LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
ALLEN COUNTY - POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

<b>Political Subdivision</b>	<b>% 3-4 Enrolled</b>	<b>% 15-17 Enrolled</b>	<b>% Enrolled in Private School</b>	<b>Childcare Centers</b>	<b>CCP/EHS/ HS Sites</b>	<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>	<b>Post-Secondary</b>
Allen County	44.2	97.4	17.6	67	13	27	22	18	6
Beaverdam	27.3	100.0	11.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bluffton	18.3	91.4	26.2	2	0	1	1	1	1
Cairo	33.3	100.0	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delphos	62.6	100.0	24.8	1	0	2	1	1	0
Elida	90.6	100.0	20.5	2	0	0	0	1	0
Harrod	66.7	96.3	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lafayette	41.7	100.0	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lima	46.3	95.7	17.3	37	9	11	9	5	1
Spencerville	64.9	100.0	6.8	2	0	0	0	0	0
Amanda Twp	0.0	100.0	25.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Twp	50.4	97.5	18.2	11	0	3	3	2	1
Auglaize Twp	24.4	95.5	2.9	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bath Twp	27.2	99.0	8.9	2	0	1	1	1	2
Jackson Twp	62.7	100.0	6.3	1	0	2	2	2	0
Marion Twp	48.1	95.6	36.3	0	0	2	1	1	0
Monroe Twp	45.1	100.0	9.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry Twp	16.0	100.0	13.1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Richland Twp	0.0	100.0	10.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shawnee Twp	50.8	99.1	27.6	7	3	3	2	2	1
Spencer Twp	53.3	100.0	25.2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Sugar Creek Twp	28.3	100.0	13.8	0	0	0	0	0	0

SUMMARY TABLE 4-3 LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALLEN COUNTY - SCHOOL DISTRICTS																		
School District	Typology	Enrollment	Per Pupil	Operating Budget	Title I	Federal School Meals	IDEA B	Attendance	Performance Index	KRA - PCT Demonstrating Readiness	3rd Grade Reading	3rd Grade Math	11th Grade Mean Percent Proficient	Graduation Rates	Mean ACT Scores	Median Income	PCT Economically Disadvantaged Students	PCT Minority
Allen East Local	2	1,115	\$7,100	\$10.32	\$158,332	\$159,000	\$197,841	95.1	75.2	52.7	94.0	89.2	92.8	97.4	22	\$34,093	29.0	2.0
Bath Local	4	1,713	\$8,450	\$17.60	\$376,635	\$390,000	\$359,827	95.4	74.2	33.9	89.6	65.4	96.6	96.8	23	\$31,910	45.6	11.4
Bluffton Exempted Village	3	1,028	\$8,391	\$9.37	\$90,533	\$115,000	\$195,748	96.0	96	62.2	96.0	92.0	95.9	99.0	24	\$35,332	19.9	6.4
Columbus Grove Local	2	843	\$8,299	\$9.81	\$81,481	\$129,000	\$179,804	96.5	96.5	65.9	88.7	70.0	94.5	98.6	23	\$34,165	30.0	7.7
Delphos City	3	1,087	\$7,313	\$11.44	\$211,692	\$251,000	\$290,984	96.1	76.8	28.3	96.2	92.2	92.2	97.3	21	\$29,977	50.3	4.9
Elida Local	4	2,395	\$7,465	\$24.34	\$607,579	\$620,000	\$518,477	94.8	73.0	17.1	89.3	68.2	94.4	90.5	21	\$29,976	51.5	26.7
Lima City	7	3,852	\$9,709	\$61.05	\$3,373,617	\$2,834,000	\$1,185,012	93.6	53.4	12.2	68.2	57.8	75.1	69.1	18	\$20,747	100.0	60.7
Pandora-Gilboa Local	2	539	\$9,446	\$7.22	66,316	\$70,000	\$102,064	95.6	77.5	52.7	95.0	90.0	92.7	95.1	23	\$34,344	23.7	4.5
Perry Local (Allen)	4	767	\$8,981	\$8.87	\$149,125	\$335,000	\$178,156	94.5	61.4	33.3	82.4	54.4	94.4	95.7	18	\$25,994	80.2	40.2
Shawnee Local	5	2,423	\$8,893	\$23.95	\$290,866	\$374,000	\$498,502	95.5	80.7	56.7	93.0	73.0	95.5	94.9	24	\$37,198	29.3	17.5
Spencerville Local	2	950	\$8,017	\$10.20	139,543	\$216,000	\$179,297	96.2	77.8	95.3	90.1	80.2	92.3	95.3	21	\$31,661	41.3	4.9
Waynesfield-Goshen Local	2	539	\$9,250	\$6.52	68,801	\$106,000	\$115,253	95.5	73	35.6	81.6	81.6	93	100.0	23	\$33,219	34.8	3.9

## SECTION 5

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS: QUALITY OF LIFE & HUMAN HEALTH

There seems to be a growing body of research that land use, housing and transportation decisions can support or hinder environmental conditions and the quality of life within a community. Policy-makers have realized that decisions about how we build our communities have significant impacts on the natural environment and the human condition. As a result we are finding communities across the United States more frequently examining aspects of their natural and built environments to assess strategies that mitigate some of the most egregious effects of current development practices and improve environmental conditions necessary for a heightened quality of life.

While the environmental impacts resulting from industrial pollution have been documented extensively, the environmental effects of land use decisions are less widely accepted in spite of their overall long term effect. The patterns of modern development dependent upon automobile-based transportation and related infrastructure, and the location, design and density of commercial buildings and residential homes have largely framed the built environment and directly affected the natural environment from whence it developed.

Scientists have come to a general agreement that the natural ecosystem serves a variety of functions that provide people with necessary and valuable goods and services by maintaining healthy air quality, regulating temperature and precipitation, preventing flooding, providing clean water for drinking, maintaining healthy and productive soil, controlling pests and diseases, and providing open space and recreation areas. How we use and impact the natural environment determines to a large measure the environment we create for ourselves and that which society's most vulnerable most navigate.<sup>1</sup> The detriments to quality of life that are outlined in this section are presented by census tracts and political subdivisions in Summary Tables 5-1 and 5-2.

#### 5.1 Modernity, Development & Impacts on the Environment

The modern urban setting grew out of a dependency of processing natural resources, on factories and mills to fabricate such resources and transportation systems to move finished goods and the people who come to work in the factories and mills. From the canals that birthed communities like Delphos and Spencerville in the 1840s to the railroads which provided added impetus to growth in Lima and surrounding areas. Up thru the 1940s urban development was relatively compact, but with the advent of the automobile things started to change rapidly. Today a dependency upon the private automobile has become an almost sacrosanct assumption of modernity and has greatly added to the sprawl of urban development.

Since the 1950s the private automobile has supported new urban architecture (parking lots, drive-in, drive-thru's, motels) and land use patterns (suburban large lot residential development, tract housing, suburban malls). The post 1950 development patterns exhibit an ever expanding impact on the natural environment. The increased separation of activities, between residential and commercial services for example, results in greater overall distances one needs to commute to address



---

<sup>1</sup> The Economic, Social & Ecological Value of Ecosystem Services: A Literature Review, Final Report for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London England, 2005.



basic needs such as food, employment and education, as well as, an ever increasing consumption of natural lands to accommodate low density development. Increased mileage also has the net effect of ever escalating automobile emitted pollutants, gradually declining air quality. In addition, the effect of roads, buildings and low density sprawl requiring roofs and masses of concrete and asphalt coupled with the removal of green space and trees have worked to modify urban environs in terms of structure and mass and worked to create what researchers call heat islands, sometimes 6 to 8 degree warmer than the rural outlying region - effecting precipitation patterns. Moreover, most modern urban settings are served by large expanses of parking and impervious surfaces vexing pollutant loadings and stormwater runoff, damaging water quality and water capture capabilities.<sup>2</sup>

So where we develop and how we develop determines the health and safety of the local population; and, the location and distribution of residential, commercial and economic services/opportunities, which in turn determines how far people must travel to meet their daily needs. And so where and how we develop in terms of land use, housing and transportation policies can disproportionately affect children, the elderly and people with disabilities — groups that can be especially vulnerable to the health effects of adverse risk and exposure. Of concern is that these groups, typically people of lower socioeconomic status, often have fewer options of where to live and work.

## **5.2 The Natural Environment**

The previous sections examined the human and household dimensions of Allen County. This section looks to examine the natural and built environment as a closed environment where human habitation coexists with nature and address the consequences of human actions not only on the health of the environment but on the health of the community's human populace. This section looks to highlight those environmental factors that help shape the community's needs as well as demand for local services.

Allen County occupies a unique location on the planet determined as much by its latitude and longitude as its natural and human resources. The geographic location of Allen County lies at approximately 40.7° N Latitude and 84.0° W Longitude. The natural environment is in part determined by that geographic location, and the respective climate, and natural resources including topography, riverine environment, floodplains, wetlands and soils. The Census Bureau recognizes Allen County's size as some 407 square miles and there is considerable diversity across the county in terms of the physiographic and geographic features. Of particular importance to local service agencies is: climate and weather conditions as they relate to heating/cooling requirements/costs, floodplains & wetlands as they relate to water quality, impacts to wildlife and limiting human habitation sites, and soils especially as they relate to development potential and the selection of appropriate human habitation sites.

### **5.2.1 Climate**

Allen County's global location results in a moist mid latitude climate with relatively cold winters and exhibits the characteristics of Dfa climate. Allen County experiences this climate of warm summers and cold winters largely because of its general location on the North American land mass. The climate is somewhat moderated because of its proximity to the Great Lakes. The community generally experiences distinct warm summers that contribute to a growing season that ranges from 5 to 6 months long. Summers are complete with humid evenings and thunderstorms. Winters are relatively cold with blustery winds and snowfall, sometimes with severe blizzards.

---

<sup>2</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency, Our Built & Natural Environments, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2001/2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2013.

*The average annual precipitation totals 35.98 inches, snowfall accounts for approximately 19.2 inches.*

Allen County is relatively cold in winter and hot in summer. In winter, the average temperature is 27.9 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 19.9 degrees. The lowest temperature on record, which was observed in Lima on

January 19, 1994, is -21 degrees. In summer, the average temperature is 72.0 degrees and the average daily maximum temperature is 83.0 degrees. The highest recorded temperature, which occurred on July 15, 1936, is 109 degrees.

The average total annual precipitation is approximately 35.98 inches. Of this, 19.94 inches, or 55.4 percent, usually falls May thru October. The heaviest 1-day rainfall during the period of record was 4.38 inches on June 14, 1981. Thunderstorms occur on about 39 days each year, and most occur between April and September. The average seasonal snowfall is 19.2 inches. The greatest snow depth at any one time during the period of record was 19 inches. On average, 40 days of the year have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. The number of such days varies greatly from year to year. The heaviest 1-day snowfall on record was more than 18.0 inches on January 13, 1964.



The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is about 60 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 82 percent. The sun shines 74 percent of the time possible in summer and 45 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the west/southwest. Average wind speed is highest, 12 miles per hour, from January through April.<sup>3</sup>

### 5.2.2 Floodplains & Wetlands

The relatively flat topography and riverine system of Allen County, coupled with the local climate and moderate precipitation, result in localized flooding and seasonal ponding. Given the community's relative position with respect to other West Central Ohio counties in the Maumee River watershed, the community occasionally experiences severe flooding. Floodplains are those high hazard areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as areas with a 1 percent chance per annum of flooding. Wetlands are lands that are flooded or saturated at or near the ground surface for varying periods of time during the year. Wetlands like floodplains serve to store water, prevent flooding and erosion, serve local wildlife populations, filter water and overall improve water quality.

Based on extensive hydraulic and hydrologic engineering analyses, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey

*The USGS completed base mapping in 2011 depicting high hazard flood prone areas across Allen County.*

<sup>3</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center; National Weather Service GIS - AWIPS Shapefile Database.

(USGS) service and local governments have completed new base (2011) mapping depicting high hazard flood prone areas of Allen County. The mapping exercise has resulted in some 15,548 acres of land or 5.9 percent of the land in the County being subject to a heightened regulatory environment. Map 5-1 portrays the 1% flood prone areas for Allen County.<sup>4</sup>

Allen County is served by multiple rivers, streams and ditches that have and will continue to flood parts of Allen County under certain weather conditions. Flooding within Allen County can result from moderate to heavy rains over an extended period, flash floods, normal rains on saturated land and from melting snow and ice. The waterways of highest concern are the Ottawa River, Little Ottawa River, Riley Creek, Little Riley Creek and Flat Fork Creek. These waterways pose the most prominent flood threat to residential properties within Allen County. Other waterways that have a history of flooding that impact primarily agricultural areas include the Auglaize River, Jennings Creek, Honey Run, Dug Run, Pike Run, Two Mile Creek, Camp Creek, Wrestle Creek, Sugar Creek, Plum Creek, Cranberry Creek, Lost Creek, Hog Creek, Little Hog Creek, Sycamore Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Kessler Run, McBride Ditch, Beaver Creek, Six Mile Creek and Pigeon Run.



The vast majority of Allen County floodplains are engaged in agricultural uses in the rural areas of the County. And with increased commodity prices there has been a reciprocal increase in the intensity of planting requiring increased tiling. The net result has been encroachment into more fragile floodplains, increased agricultural runoff, accelerated erosion and increased sedimentation and water turbidity.

Urban pressures from residential and commercial users including illicit discharges have resulted in increased levels of toxicity, fish kills, septic discharges and a general decline in local water quality. Residents are urged to take serious precautions when residing along these watercourses as dozens of existing structures have and will continue to flood under the right conditions without future mediation. Some local governments have adopted zoning, subdivision and floodplain regulations to restrict urban uses in these areas but Ohio is a property-rights state and infringement is often treated with disdain. Agronomists, environmentalists and safety advocates argue for increased conservation and preservation of local floodplains with tightened building requirements especially for sensitive facilities, water/sewer plants, schools, hospitals, etc.; the mandatory use of riparian buffers, filter strips and grass waterways to improve water quality within our water ways; and increased enforcement of off lot septic discharges and illicit discharges to minimize negative development consequences.

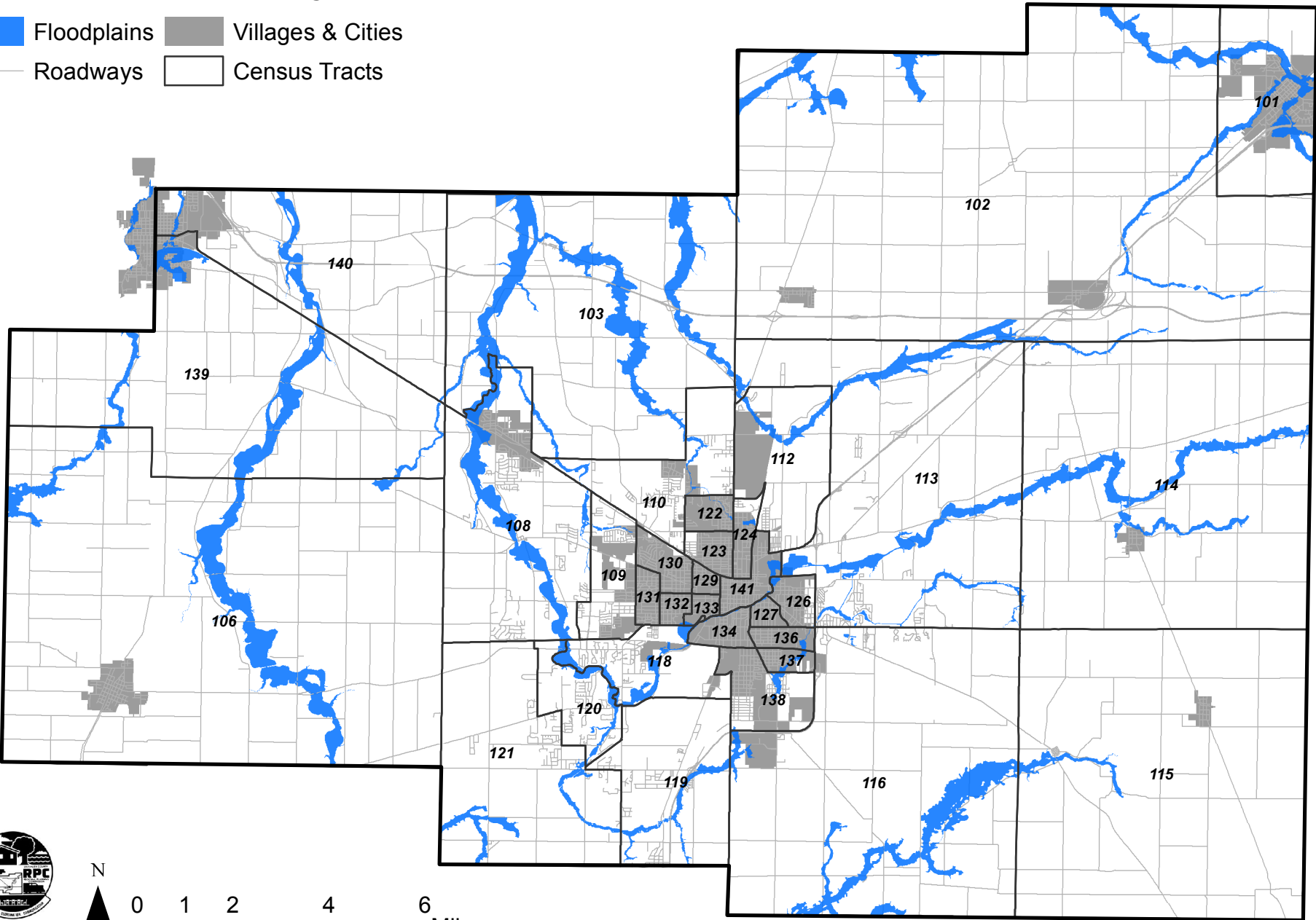


---

<sup>4</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Study for Allen County Ohio and Incorporated Areas, Effective Date: May 2, 2013.

# Map 5-1: Allen County Floodplains

- Floodplains
- Villages & Cities
- Roadways
- Census Tracts



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

May 2019

Wetlands are the most regulated body of water in the US. Federal regulations restrict encroachment and determine mitigation activities. Identifying local wetlands can help developers and local residents avoid costly setbacks during planning and construction phases of projects. Wetland delineations are predicated upon determinations of the United States Department of the Interior (USDI) and the National Wetlands Inventory. Map 5-2 identifies wetlands documented by the USDI. Because of the nature and size of floodplain, many of the wetland areas are indistinguishable from the larger floodplain.

### 5.2.3 Soils & Hydric Soils

A detailed soil analysis, completed in 1996 and published in 2002 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS),<sup>5</sup> found 69 different soil types in Allen County. The soil analysis is useful in assessing the characteristics of the various soils for: (1) characteristic properties, including permeability, depth, parent material, organic matter, and slope; (2) agricultural uses, including soil management concerns; and, (3) urban uses, including load bearing capacities, septic system suitability, and permeability. Soil surveys classify soils by

*Local soil surveys indicate 3 limiting factors including: ponding, compaction and erosion.*

limiting factors that restrict their ability to support specific applications or uses. Three principal limiting factors occur in the soils of Allen County according to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and include ponding, compaction, and erosion.

Collapsing the various soil types into more general soil classifications furthers the ability for comparison between tracts of land. There are 7 general soil types found to be representative of Allen County, including the following:

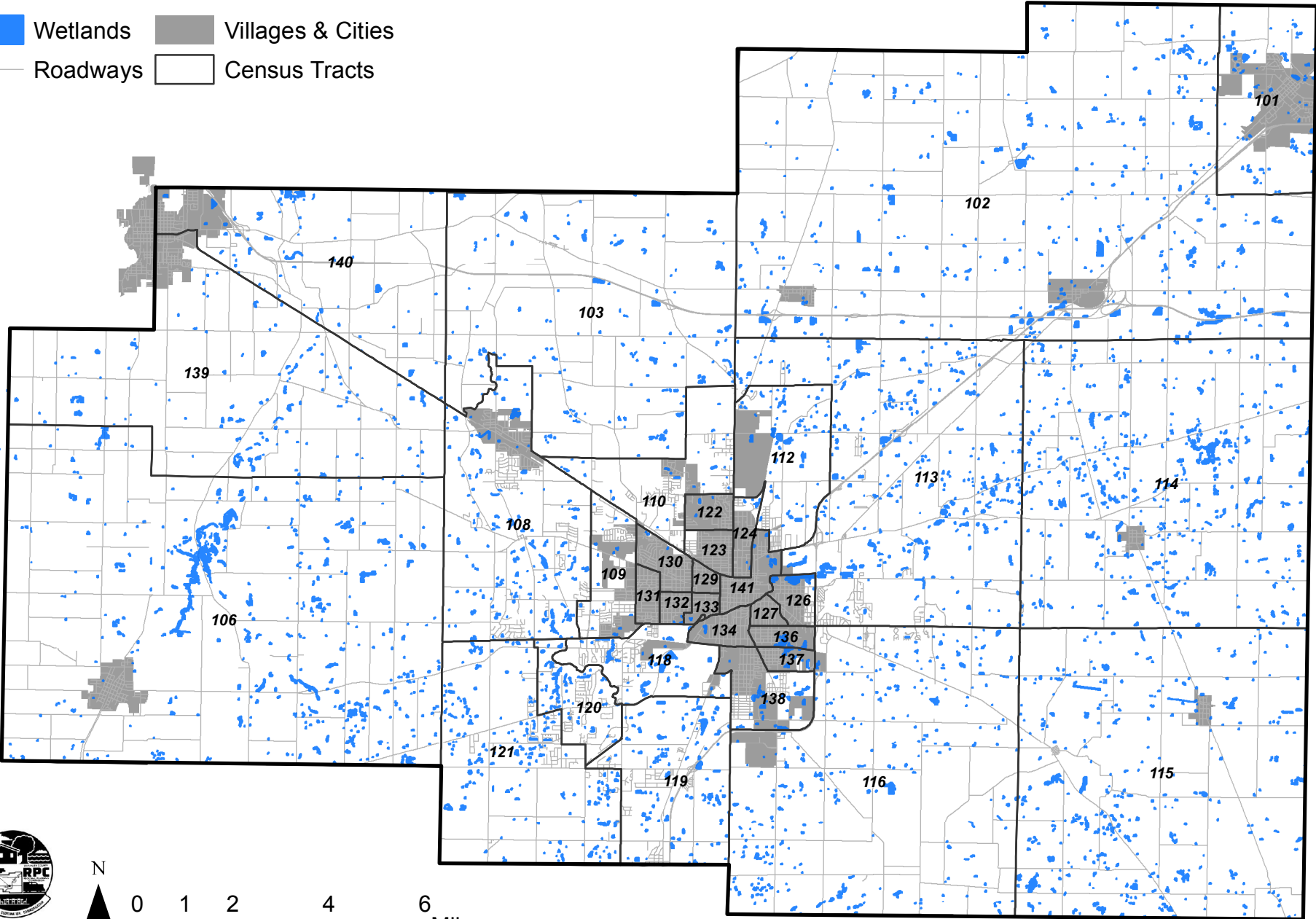
- **Blount-Pewamo:**  
Very deep, level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained, and very poorly drained soils that formed in till. Such soils are suitable for cropland, pasture, and woodlands. Concerns include seasonal wetness, erosion, ponding, and compaction.
- **Blount-Glynwood-Pewamo:**  
Very deep, level to strongly sloping, somewhat poorly drained, moderately well drained, and very poorly drained soils that formed in till. Such soils are suitable for cropland, pasture, woodland, and urban uses. Concerns include erosion, seasonal wetness, ponding, and compaction.
- **Pewamo-Blount:**  
Very deep, level to gently sloping, poor, and very poor drained soils that formed in till. Such soils are suitable for cropland, pasture, and woodland. Concerns stem from seasonal wetness, erosion, compaction, and ponding.
- **Cygnet-Renssler-Alvada:**  
Very deep, level or nearly level, moderately well drained, and very poorly drained soils that formed in loamy deposits and underlying till. Such soils are suitable for cropland and woodland. Concerns stem from seasonal wetness, compaction, and ponding.
- **Renssler-Cygnet-Gallman:**  
Very deep, level to strongly sloping, very poorly to moderately drained and well-drained soils that formed in loamy deposits largely and/or underlying till. Suitable uses include cropland, pasture, and woodland. Concerns include seasonal wetness, erosion, and ponding.

---

<sup>5</sup> The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil Analysis of Allen County, Ohio, 2002.

# Map 5-2: Allen County Wetlands

- Wetlands
- Villages & Cities
- Roadways
- Census Tracts



0 1 2 4 6 Miles



- **Hoytville-Shawtown:**

Very deep, level to gently sloping, very poorly drained and moderately drained soils that formed in till or in stratified water-sorted deposits overlying till. Such soils are suitable for cropland. Concerns include seasonal wetness, ponding, high clay content, erosion, and compaction.

- **Westland-Gallman-Thackery:**

Very deep, level to strongly sloping, very poorly drained, and moderately drained soils that formed in loamy deposits and the underlying outwash. Such soils are suitable for cropland and woodland. Concerns include seasonal wetness, erosion, compaction, and ponding.

Based on a soils analysis completed by the USDA-NRCS, 17 soil types were classified as hydric soils. Hydric soils are soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding. Such soils tend to support the growth and regeneration of vegetation that depends on continued high water saturation. Some hydric soil types encounter periods

*Hydric soils depend on the existing water table, flooding and ponding for survival and are indicative of wetlands and floodplain.*

when they are not saturated and depend on the existing water table, flooding, and ponding for survival. The presence of hydric soils is an indicator of wetlands and floodplain areas. However, hydric soil criteria must also meet EPA's wetland criteria in order for it to be classified as a wetland.

Hydric soils have a number of agricultural and non-agricultural limitations. Such limitations can be minimized with sound policy decisions predicated upon local land-use planning, conservation planning, and assessment of potential wildlife habitats. Hydric Soils are presented in Map 5-3.

#### 5.2.4 Water Quality

Water is essential to all life functions. Water is the essence of our ecosystem and it sustains both the natural environment and the man made environment; and, as such the purity of water is critical to the overall quality of life we enjoy. Our natural waterways are regulated by the Clean Water Act of 1972 which attempts to establish maximum loadings of toxic and natural materials in our waterways and meet minimal standards necessary to support local wildlife and recreational activities.

Allen County is served by two primary watersheds the Ottawa River (Lima) and Auglaize River (Upper). In 2012, a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study found that water quality in the Ottawa River watershed met only 9 percent recreation criteria and 68 percent for aquatic life. The study found the Ottawa River main branch impaired for human health use. Data was insufficient to assess support of the public drinking water supply use. The Ottawa River watershed is included in the statewide fish advisory for mercury.<sup>6</sup> The environmental quality of the Auglaize River is currently under EPA review and publication is expected in 2019. However, based on the previous studies and local estimates, in Allen County the watershed suffers from the same urban and rural agricultural stressors. EPA testing resulted in excessive levels for chemical/physical parameters including metals (lead, zinc, copper, and arsenic) and fecal coliform.<sup>7</sup>

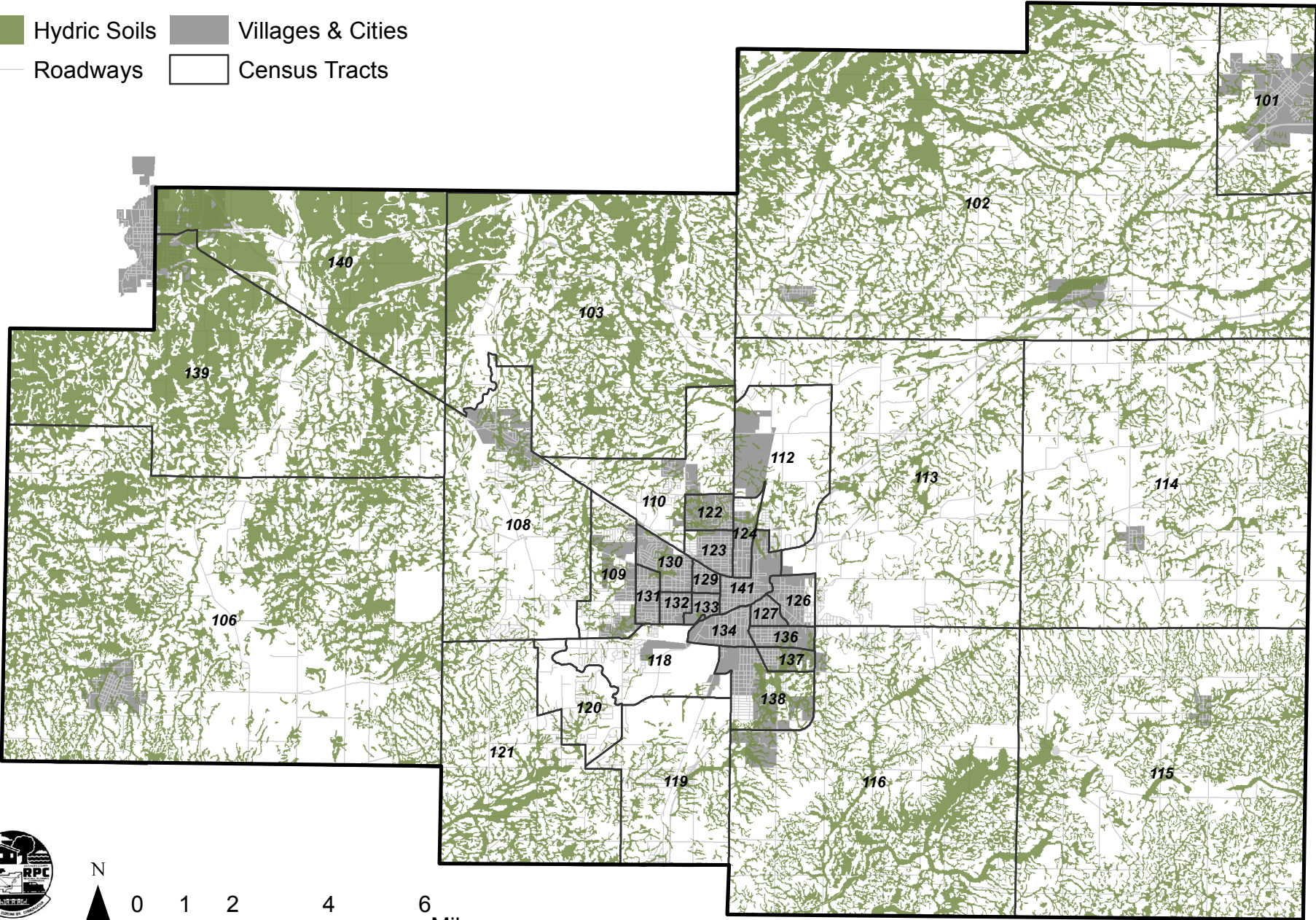
*Water quality in the Ottawa River watershed met only 9% recreation criteria and 68% for aquatic uses.*

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/Portals/35/tmdl/OttawaLima\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/Portals/35/tmdl/OttawaLima_Report_Final.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Total Maximum Daily Load for the Watershed, 2002. Upper Auglaize Watershed AGNPS Modeling Project - Final Report, Toledo Harbor AGNPS Project Team, 2005.

# Map 5-3: Allen County Hydric Soils

- Hydric Soils
- Villages & Cities
- Roadways
- Census Tracts





Of primary significance is the difference between rural and urban development and that the infrastructure taken for granted by the urban resident does not exist in the rural environment. Public concerns range from industrial and municipal waste entering the waterways, to rural fire protection, to failing septic system leachate and agricultural runoff causing water contamination. All these sources impact the quality of drinking water. In urban areas environmentalists call for: reductions from municipal point source discharges, industrial point sources, and combined sewer overflows among others. While in rural settings, conservationists and agriculturists call for increased use of riparian buffers, grass waterways, no-till conservation practices, reforestation of watersheds, better manure management, improved application of fertilizers - especially phosphorous and nitrogen, as well as mandating corrective actions to failing home septic sewage treatment systems.



#### 5.2.5 Drinking Water Quality

The Clean Water Act does not directly address groundwater contamination. Groundwater protection provisions are included in the Safe Drinking Water Act, (SDWA) which is intended to ensure safe drinking water for the public. Pursuant to the act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to set standards for drinking water quality and oversee all states, localities, and water suppliers who implement these standards. SDWA applies to every public water system in the United States. The Allen County Health Department issues permits for well construction and private water systems.<sup>8</sup>

Drinking water comes from a variety of sources, including public water systems, private wells, or bottled water. In Allen County a half dozen public water systems provide water to residents and businesses both within and outside their corporate boundaries. All of the municipalities are serviced by public water with the exception of the villages of

*In Allen County a half dozen public water systems provide water to residents and businesses both within and outside their corporate boundaries.*

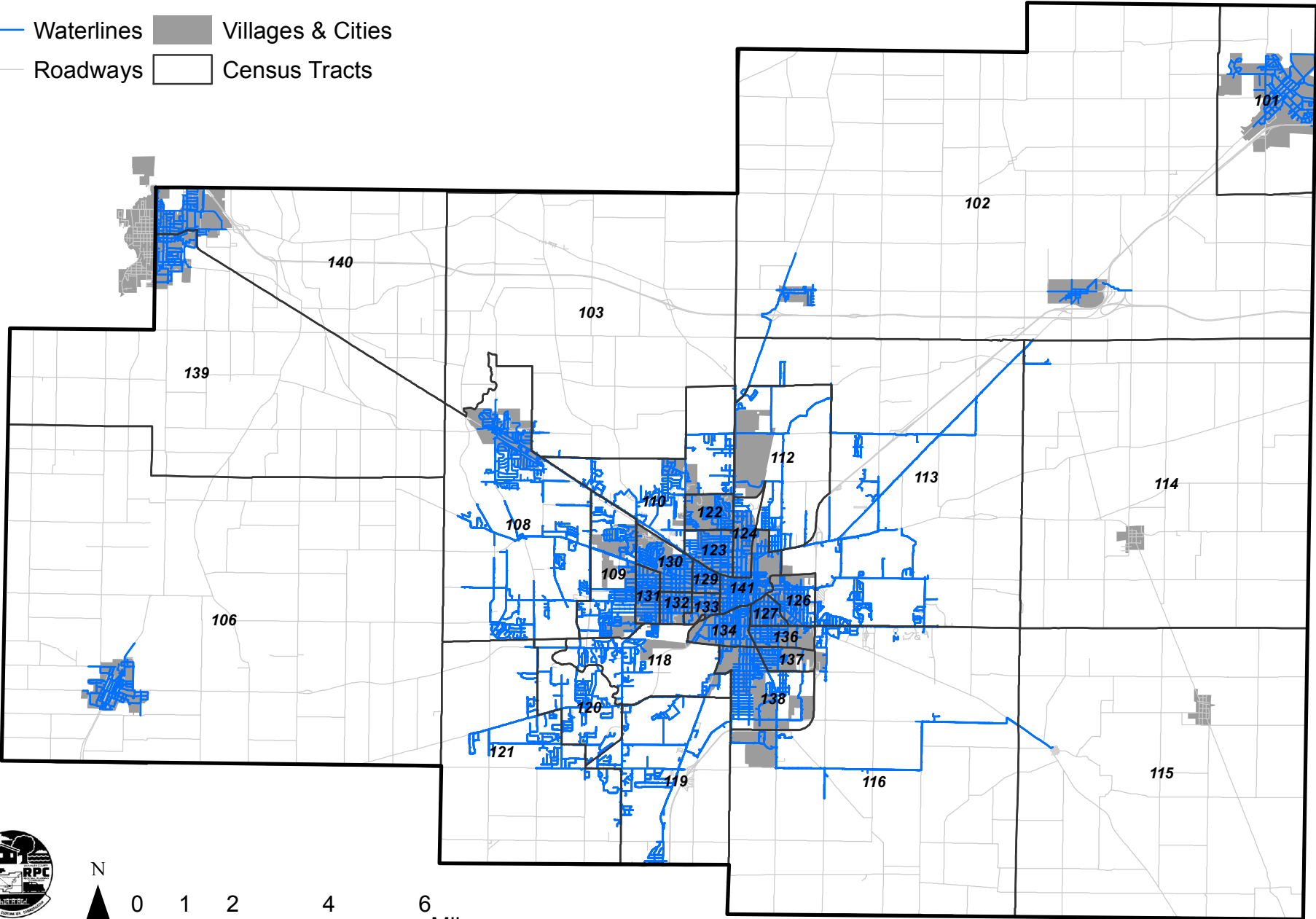
Harrod and Lafayette. However, there are a large number of residents that have no public water source and use wells to serve their personal/household water needs. Map 5-4 depicts the service areas covered by the various municipal water systems.

Ensuring the safety of drinking water is important to prevent illness, birth defects, and death for those with compromised immune systems. Other known health problems associated with contaminated water are nausea, lung irritation, skin irritation, and

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/regulatory-information-topic/regulatory-information-topic-water>

# Map 5-4: Waterlines

- Waterlines
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

cancer, along with kidney, liver, and nervous system damage.<sup>9</sup> The percentage of the local Allen County population getting water from public water systems with at least one health-based violation since 2014 equated to 8.1 percent as compared to 2 percent statewide.<sup>10</sup> Health-based violations include maximum contaminant level, maximum residual disinfectant level and treatment technique violations. Because groundwater is the primary source for local wells outside public systems contamination from agricultural runoff and/or the surface and subsurface disposal of liquid waste, including leachate from septic systems can be problematic. Private well systems owners are responsible for maintaining the potability of wells and 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing is a necessity.<sup>11</sup>

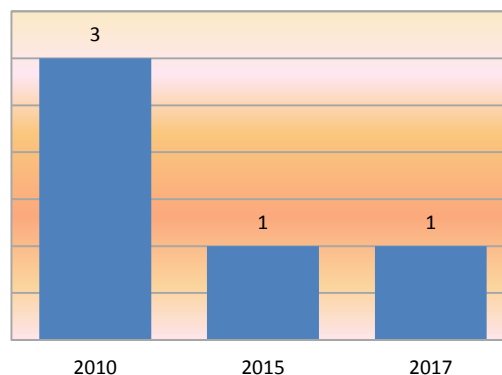
## 5.2.6 Air Quality

Pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to ensure minimal health impacts protecting the health of "sensitive" populations (asthmatics, children, and the elderly); and, protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The EPA developed an Air Quality Index (AQI) to provide citizens information relative the cleanliness of the air - based on calculations of five major air pollutants including: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

*Allen County is in full attainment with the NAAQS as of 2013.*

The AQI data for Allen County is collected daily by the Ohio EPA at a monitoring station in Bath Township east of IR-75 and adjacent to Bath High School. The AQI specifically tracks fine particulate matter (PM<sup>2.5</sup>) and ozone.<sup>12</sup> In Allen County, the number of unhealthy days due exceedance of the ozone standard (>70 ppb) for sensitive populations amounted to 3 in 2010, 1 in 2015 and 1 in 2017 (Illustration 5-1). Based on previous regulations Allen County was in attainment and had no days in exceedance since 2013. The new US EPA regulations that came into effect Fall 2016 tightened standards on both PM<sup>2.5</sup> and ozone concentrations. The new standards brought the acceptable threshold for PM<sup>2.5</sup> down to 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> from 15.0 and down to 70ppb from 75 ppb for ozone. As a community that has only maintained attainment for a decade and supports an industrial based economy, Allen County's ability to meet these new standards consistently is not a given. Allen County 2017 data demonstrates the small cushion the County has under the new regulations. In 2017 the measured ozone concentration was at 67 ppb, just barely under the new standard and the PM<sup>2.5</sup> level was more assuredly under the new standard at 8.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Maintaining these 2017 concentrations is paramount to the continued success of the area's industrial base, as regulations will tighten if the area falls back into non-attainment.

**ILLUSTRATION 5-1: DAYS IN EXCEEDANCE OF OZONE NAAQS**



<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyhomes/bytopic/water.html>

<sup>10</sup> [https://iaspub.epa.gov/enviro/sdw\\_form\\_v3.create\\_page?state\\_abbr=OH](https://iaspub.epa.gov/enviro/sdw_form_v3.create_page?state_abbr=OH)

<sup>11</sup> <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/well/>

<sup>12</sup> Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Air Pollution Control, 2011 Allen County Air Quality Report, 2012.

### **5.3 Cumulative Impacts on the Natural Environment**

The previous snippets of information provide a glimpse into the interconnected and complicated natural environment in which we reside. Climate and weather conditions affect not only the degree to which we must heat or cool our homes but one's ability to move when inclement weather arrives, especially those who are aged or suffering from a health condition or disability. Our soils offer specific characteristics that preclude human occupation and urban uses – yet we push the engineering limits of the soils and our current technology, placing homes and septic systems in soils that are not supportive of same. Moreover we have filled floodplains and wetlands that endanger the quality of our water and removed natural flood storage areas. Absent trees and green space, temperatures spike in urban areas as a result from concrete, asphalt, brick and steel. Local weather patterns are changing to one of extremes due to increased temperatures affecting precipitation patterns and changes to the hydrologic cycle whereby we experience more frequent flooding events as evidenced in 2007 and 2011 and again in 2019, where 1% annual chance floods disrupted County services and roadways.<sup>13</sup>

Such changes are starting to challenge human and wildlife occupants of the natural environment. The suburban and exurban development continues to remove wood lots and fill wetland and floodplains which removes water storage areas and creates conflict with the habitats and movement of birds and wildlife. Increased flooding places both our public infrastructure (water/sewer/transportation systems) at risk and residents within harm's way. And extreme heat has already placed many of the elderly and those with chronic health problems in jeopardy.

### **5.4 The Local Built Environment**

The built environment, can affect a community's physical, behavioral, and emotional health. The structure of the built environment and its overall design, has implications for a community's general wellbeing. Everyday interactions occur in communities where population density, traffic, noise, and disparate economic activities combine to affect more than local air and water quality, they affect our local health and safety.

Beyond the natural environment and topography a community's overall design is reflective of human decisions and actions. A number of factors including a community's roadway system, railroads, its economic base, and historical development established the foundation and skeletal infrastructure of the community. Its land use is dependent on a regulatory environment and policy decisions that typically control types and location of economic and human activities, as well as the density and character of such activities. The overall design of a community impacts a plethora of variables that affect local employers, community residents, and visitors to varying degrees.

Managing the development of urban spaces, suburban sprawl, and the rural environment across the 407 square miles of Allen County is the responsibility of 20 divergent governments and dozens of other local, state, and federal agencies. Their respective jurisdictional level of responsibility is typically defined by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), or some contractual relationship. As such, the built environment provides the basis from which to draw insights and develop possible opportunities to adopt local policies and programs to minimize the impacts of land use, transportation and housing, and employment opportunities as well as health and safety conditions.

---

<sup>13</sup> United States Department of Transportation, The Federal Highway Administration's Climate Change & Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessment Framework – 2012.

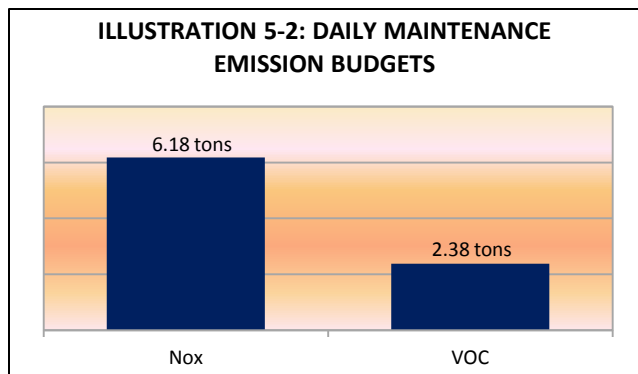
#### 5.4.1 Transportation Impact

The local community is well served with some 1,400 plus miles of streets and highways. And, in the urban setting these roadways comprise a significant proportion of the total land area – in some areas as much as 10 percent of total land area. But even there, its cumulative impact is greater than that of pavement width. As stated earlier of concern are the automobile emissions on air quality and the stormwater runoff and pollutant loadings impacting water quality in our streams and ultimately water tables. Of some importance is the fact that since the widespread adoption of the automobile in the 1950s, most people in the community have stopped walking, biking and using public transportation to travel to work, to school, for shopping, socializing or recreating. The most current ACS data shows 86 percent of the employed labor force in Allen County drive alone in a car or truck to work. This has had a negative effect in terms of air and water quality, but also declining activity levels and social engagement.

Perhaps as a result of moving from active transportation options to the private automobile we have seen a disconnect from historical behaviors and we are now starting to experience disparate results in terms of accidents, injuries and illnesses. Consider the impact of automobile crashes, automobile-bicycle crashes and automobile-pedestrian crashes on motorists, families of injured parties and costs borne by society; consider the millions of dollars lost annually in medical costs and lost wages related to such events locally. Also, reflect on those conditions, behaviors and attitudes that contribute to such crashes and what strategies could be used to mitigate same including impaired driving. Of concern is the general decline in walking and physical activities – the cumulative impact on the human health condition is being challenged with rising rates of obesity and diabetes amongst adults and children alike.<sup>14,15</sup>

#### 5.4.2 Transportation & Air Pollution

Land use, development activities and transportation combine to significantly affect air quality. The EPA has developed the NAAQS to establish baseline measures necessary to protect public health and the environment. The EPA has set standards to six principal pollutants, which are called "criteria" pollutants, including carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, ozone, and sulfur dioxides.<sup>16</sup> The Federal standards developed by USEPA set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for the various pollutants. Locally effective June 15, 2007, the USEPA issued a determination of attainment, essentially re-designating Allen County as attaining the 8-hour ozone standard. The re-designation included maintenance emission budgets for NOx and VOC under the 8-hour ozone standard at 6.18 and 2.38 tons per day for on-road mobile sources; nearly 9 tons of pollutants/toxins per day (Illustration 5-2).<sup>17,18</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Center for Environmental Excellence, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Indirect Effects/Cumulative Impacts, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States, 2009.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs>

<sup>17</sup> [http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/27/SIP/Nonattain/Letter\\_Lima062006.pdf](http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/27/SIP/Nonattain/Letter_Lima062006.pdf)

With the exception of lead which was eliminated from gasoline fuel in 1996 motor vehicles emissions contribute all 6 criteria pollutants to our air. And while the automobile becomes ever

*More than 30% of the US population continues to reside in counties that fail to meet air quality standards.*

cleaner and more efficient with the fuel they do use, the dramatic increase in vehicle miles of travel tend to counter such environmental improvements. However, effective the USEPA has worked with Congress and the auto industry experts to improve the overall impact of the automobile although almost 30 percent of the US population continues to reside in counties that fail to meet air quality standards.<sup>19</sup>

Researchers have suggested the relationship between elevated air pollution—particularly fine particulate matter and ozone—and compromised health. The negative consequences of ambient air pollution include decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, asthma, and other adverse pulmonary effects.<sup>20</sup> Table 5-1 identifies air pollutants by type and possible effects.

Transportation and environmental planners, as well as, medical professionals and health advocates strongly urge: increased use of high occupancy vehicles (transit, carpool, vanpool options) to reduce single occupancy commutes; increased walking and biking on commutes, especially those of 3 miles or less; retrofitting of school bus and off road vehicles to minimize exhausts; and, incorporation of alternative fuels programs in public fleets. To advance improved air quality standards urban planners have called for mixed use and transit oriented design standards in urban centers to minimize congestion and resultant air quality issues, software developers and private entrepreneurs have suggested that “smart phone” software applications and new rent/share a ride bikes/cars offer some unique and innovative solutions to increased public transportation usage rates, private automobile occupancy rates and increased taxi/jitney transportation services. Public transportation policy advocates and data suggests that increased funding for public transportation and alternative active transportation options pose the most desirable long term solution to the single occupant commute. And that future support must come in the form of increased subsidies for operations and capital acquisitions of public transportation vehicles and increased funding for active transportation infrastructure.

#### **5.4.3 Roadways & Motor Vehicle Crashes**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers motor vehicle crashes a very serious public health problem. The CDC reports in 2018 that motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. More than 2.5 million adult drivers and passengers were treated in emergency departments as the result of being injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2015 alone. The economic impact is also notable, with the lifetime costs of crash-related injuries and deaths among drivers and passengers reaching \$63 billion for 2015 crashes alone.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0050-0002>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/air-quality-national-summary>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/air-research/research-health-and-environmental-effects-air-quality>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/costs/index.html>

**TABLE 5-1  
POLLUTANTS BY TYPE & EFFECTS**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Human Health Effects</b>	<b>Environmental and Climate Effects</b>
Ozone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases lung function and causes respiratory symptoms such as coughing and shortness of breath.</li> <li>Aggravates asthma and other lung diseases, leading to increased medication use, hospital admissions, emergency department visits, and premature mortality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damages vegetation by injuring leaves, reducing photosynthesis, impairing reproduction and growth, and decreasing crop yields.</li> <li>Ozone damage to plants can alter ecosystem structure, reduce biodiversity, and decrease plant uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>Contributes to the warming of the atmosphere.</li> </ul>
Particulate Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term exposures can aggravate heart or lung diseases leading to symptoms, increased medication use, hospital admissions, emergency department visits, and premature mortality.</li> <li>Long-term exposures can lead to the development of heart or lung disease and premature mortality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impairs visibility, harms ecosystem processes, and damages and/or soils structures and property.</li> <li>Impairs visibility, harms ecosystem processes, and damages and/or soils structures and property.</li> <li>Has variable climate impacts depending on particle type. Most particles are reflective and lead to cooling, while some (especially black carbon) absorb energy and lead to warming.</li> </ul>
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damages the developing nervous system, resulting in IQ loss and impacts on learning, memory, and behavior in children.</li> <li>Causes cardiovascular and renal effects in adults and early effects related to anemia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harms plants and wildlife, accumulates in soils, and harms both terrestrial and aquatic systems.</li> </ul>
Sulfur Oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggravate asthma, leading to wheezing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, increased medication use, hospital admissions, and emergency department visits.</li> <li>At very high levels can cause respiratory symptoms in people without lung disease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the acidification of soil and surface water and mercury methylation in wetland areas.</li> <li>Injure vegetation and local species losses in aquatic and terrestrial systems.</li> <li>Contribute to particle formation with associated environmental effects. Sulfate particles contribute to the cooling of the atmosphere</li> </ul>
Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggravate lung diseases leading to respiratory symptoms, hospital admissions, and emergency department visits.</li> <li>Increased susceptibility to respiratory infection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the acidification and nutrient enrichment (eutrophication, nitrogen saturation) of soil and surface water.</li> <li>Lead to biodiversity losses.</li> <li>Affect levels of ozone, particles, and methane with associated environmental and climate effects.</li> </ul>
Carbon Monoxide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces the amount of oxygen reaching the body's organs and tissues.</li> <li>Aggravates heart disease, resulting in chest pain and other symptoms leading to hospital admissions and emergency department visits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes to the formation of ozone.</li> </ul>
VOCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some cause cancer and other serious health problems.</li> <li>Contribute to ozone formation with associated health effects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to ozone formation with associated environmental and climate effects.</li> <li>Contribute to the formation of CO<sub>2</sub> and ozone, greenhouse gases that warm the atmosphere.</li> </ul>
Mercury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Causes liver, kidney, and brain damage and neurological and developmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposits into rivers, lakes, and oceans where it accumulates in fish, resulting in exposure to humans and wildlife.</li> </ul>
Other Air Toxins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cause cancer; immune system damage; and neurological, reproductive, developmental, respiratory, and other health problems.</li> <li>Some contribute to ozone and particle pollution with associated health effects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harm wildlife and livestock.</li> <li>Some accumulate in the food chain.</li> <li>Some contribute to ozone and particle pollution with associated environmental and climate effects</li> </ul>

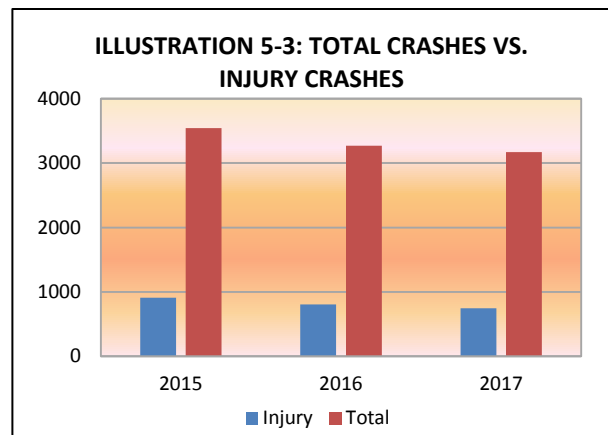


*Alcohol involvement was cited in 37.5% of all fatal crashes and 5.5% of all injury crashes occurring in Allen County in 2015.*

In 2017, Allen County roadways supported almost 1.2 billion vehicle miles of travel.<sup>22</sup> Such traffic inevitably results in traffic crashes and injuries with many causal factors. Data suggests that in 2017, motorists experienced 3,172 crashes,

with injury crashes totaling 746, or 23.5 percent of all traffic crashes. Map 5-5 reveals the location of all crashes. Fatal crashes (11) reflected \$63.9 million in societal costs in 2017; with total crash costs exceeding \$174.9 million for the year. Teen drivers were involved in 749 or 23.6 percent of all crashes. Speed related crashes accounted for 11.7 percent of all crashes, and 15.7 percent of all injury crashes experienced in 2017. Drug and alcohol involvement was cited in 171 cases, or 5.4 percent of all crashes; while, alcohol involvement was cited in 27.3 percent of all fatal crashes and 8.9 percent of all injury crashes in that year.<sup>23</sup> Of those sustaining fatal injuries, 45.5 percent were not wearing safety equipment. The use of vehicle safety equipment in Allen County is below the State average, with seat belt usage rates for Allen County at 80.4 percent, below the state average of 84.4 percent as established by the Ohio Department of Public Safety.<sup>24</sup> Lower seat belt usage means potential for more serious injuries when residents are involved in a crash.

Injury crashes as a percentage of all crashes in Allen County have generally stayed steady over the 2015-2017 period (Illustration 5-3). In addition, the mortality crash rate, as measured per 100,000 population, has risen slightly in 2016 and 2017 over the 2015-level; 2015 (8), 2016 (11), 2017 (10). Other crash trends have also seen an increase. Pedestrian and bicycle crash rates continue to be of concern for the community;



between 2013 and 2017, the community experienced a higher than expected bicycle and pedestrian crash rate per 100,000 population. In fact, Allen County had the highest pedestrian (109.1) and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bicycle (94.0) crash rate of those counties in Ohio with a population between 50,000 and 135,000.<sup>25</sup> Map 5-6 reveals the location of such crashes by type.

Of concern was the number of crashes involving children. In 2017, 253 children 5 years of age and under were involved in motor vehicle crashes. This reflects approximately 3.5 percent of all persons involved. While the vast majority (89.3%) incurred no injuries as a result of the experience; data indicates that 16.2 percent of those involved in the crashes were not restrained within child safety seats or booster chairs. And even more frightening was that 11.6 percent of the children restrained in child seats/booster



<sup>22</sup> <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/TechServ/traffic/Pages/DVMT.aspx>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.lacrpc.com/pdfs/2017%20Allen%20County%20Traffic%20Crash%20Summary%20Report--COMPLETE.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.lacrpc.com/public-safety/seatbelt-usage.aspx>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.lacrpc.com/pdfs/2011%20Allen%20County%20Traffic%20Crash%20Incident%20Summary%20Report--COMPLETE.pdf>



# Map 5-5: Traffic Crashes (2016 & 2017)

- Fatal

Injury

Property Damage
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



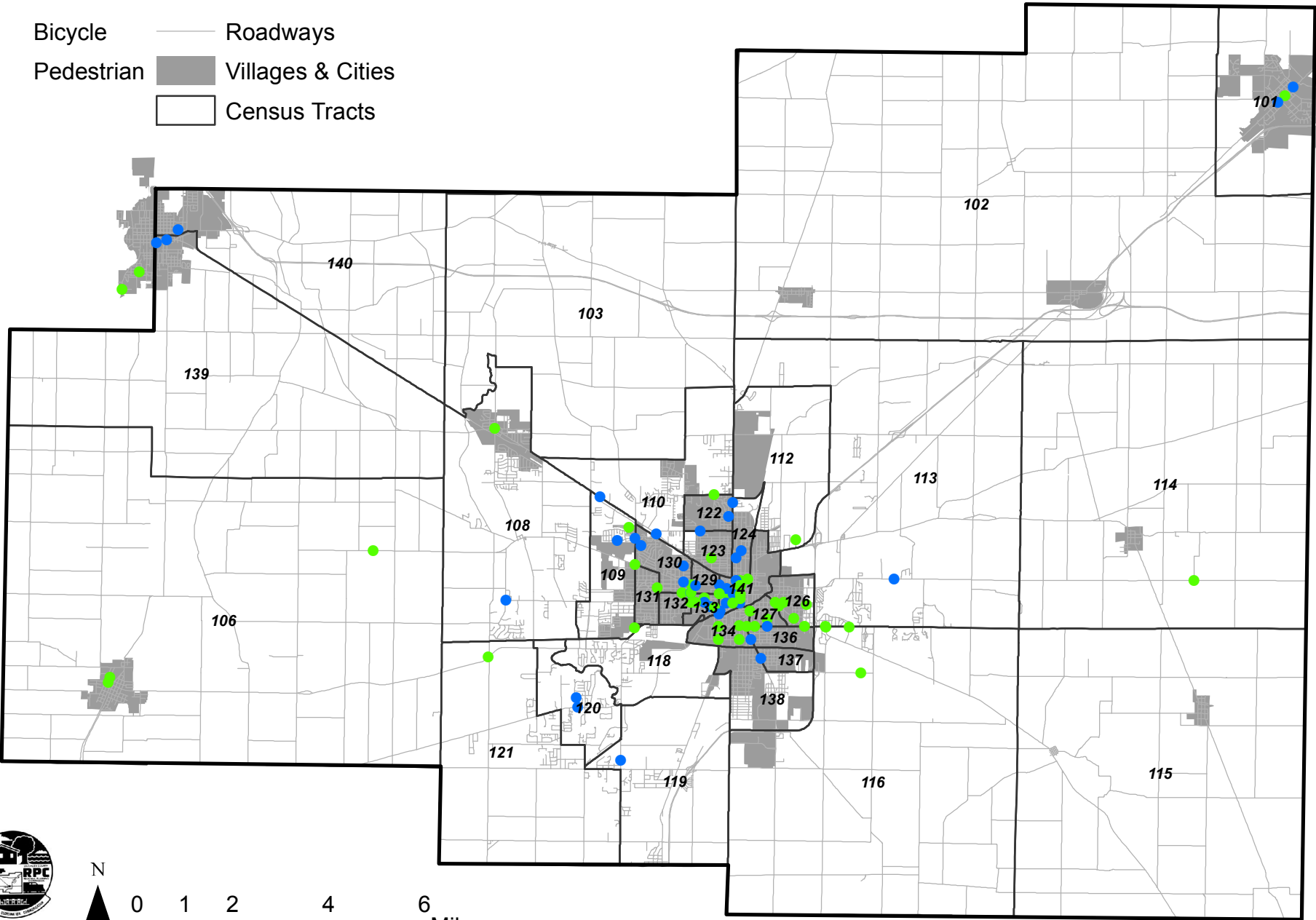
May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

# Map 5-6 - Bike & Pedestrian Crashes (2016 & 2017)

- Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

chairs as required, experienced incapacitating, non-incapacitating or possible injury. Further reflection indicates that often child safety restraints were not installed properly. Crash data indicates, and safety advocates argue, that public information and awareness efforts could reduce the numbers of crashes and the resultant injuries. Such efforts should target improved compliance with car seat and booster seat requirements, as well as, seat belt use. Public information and education efforts should also target risk awareness education related to impaired driving and distracted driving. Also of significant importance is the targeted prevention of pedestrian and bicycle injuries. Such efforts would help minimize the risks for everyone, including those groups most at risk - child passengers, teen drivers, and older adult drivers. Increased law enforcement involvement in public outreach efforts about at-risk behaviors related to bicycle and pedestrian conduct and enforcement of same have been identified as an effective tools to curb such behaviors. Additional infrastructure development especially in urban settings has been associated with reduced crash rates.

The Allen County Safe Community Coalition housed in the Regional Planning Commission has championed child safety restraint systems and underwritten, with the assistance of local stakeholders, the costs of acquiring such safety seats and installing them properly with trained technicians. However, as liability increased and costs for certification increased at the same time said funding dwindled – the local service was abandoned across the County. The need for proper child restraint seats, their installation, use and restraint enforcement would be valuable to minimize the potential long term consequences to our children and future community leaders.

#### **5.4.4 Industrial Land & Potential Hazards**

The local community has a long and storied manufacturing history in the petroleum, chemical, automotive, railroad, steel and military defense sectors. And in many communities such industrial activities have left a legacy of soil and water contaminants at former industrialized sites. Historically, such sites have been located in high density

*The likelihood of toxins and chemical pollutants associated with industrial sites and their proximity to existing residential homes and schools raise concerns compromised environmental and human health.*

residential areas, near social and cultural institutions and near playgrounds. And, while some of these sites are still active some have passed into other adaptive reuse or sit vacant. Today the likelihood of toxins and chemical pollutants associated with such sites and their proximity to existing residential homes, schools and community centers raise concerns to a range of issues including compromised environmental and human health.

Map 5-7 depicts the landscape of Allen County by land use type. The map reflects the existing presence of industrial practices/properties; it fails to necessarily reference or identify those sites that had previously existed and where some contamination had possibly occurred. Also of note is the lack of specificity in identifying those “commercial activities” historically associated with hazardous chemicals/materials such as printing presses and newspapers where lead was a common element used in the printing process, gas stations where past practices or leaking fuel tanks may have resulted in the contamination of subsurface soils, or dry cleaning operations where improper disposal or maintenance of chemicals resulted in the contamination of subsurface soils. Map 5-8 reveals the location and extent of pipelines in Allen County as well as those fixed site facilities that release air toxics known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious human health effects and/or ecosystem damage. Sites such as factories, refineries and power plants are monitored by the EPA who conducts National-Scale Air Toxics

# Map 5-7: Generalized Land Use (2017)

- Agriculture

Commercial

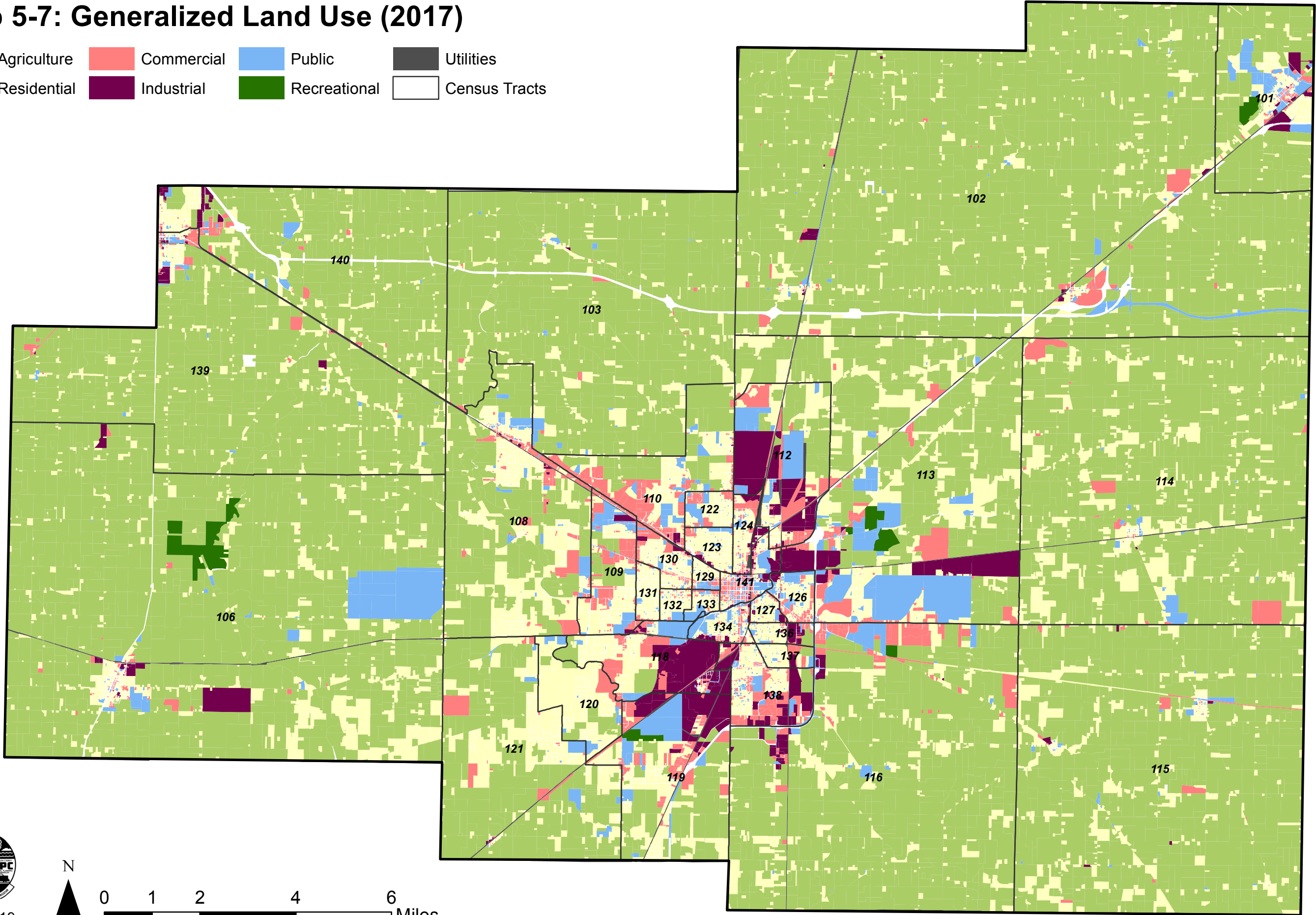
Public

Utilities
- Residential

Industrial

Recreational

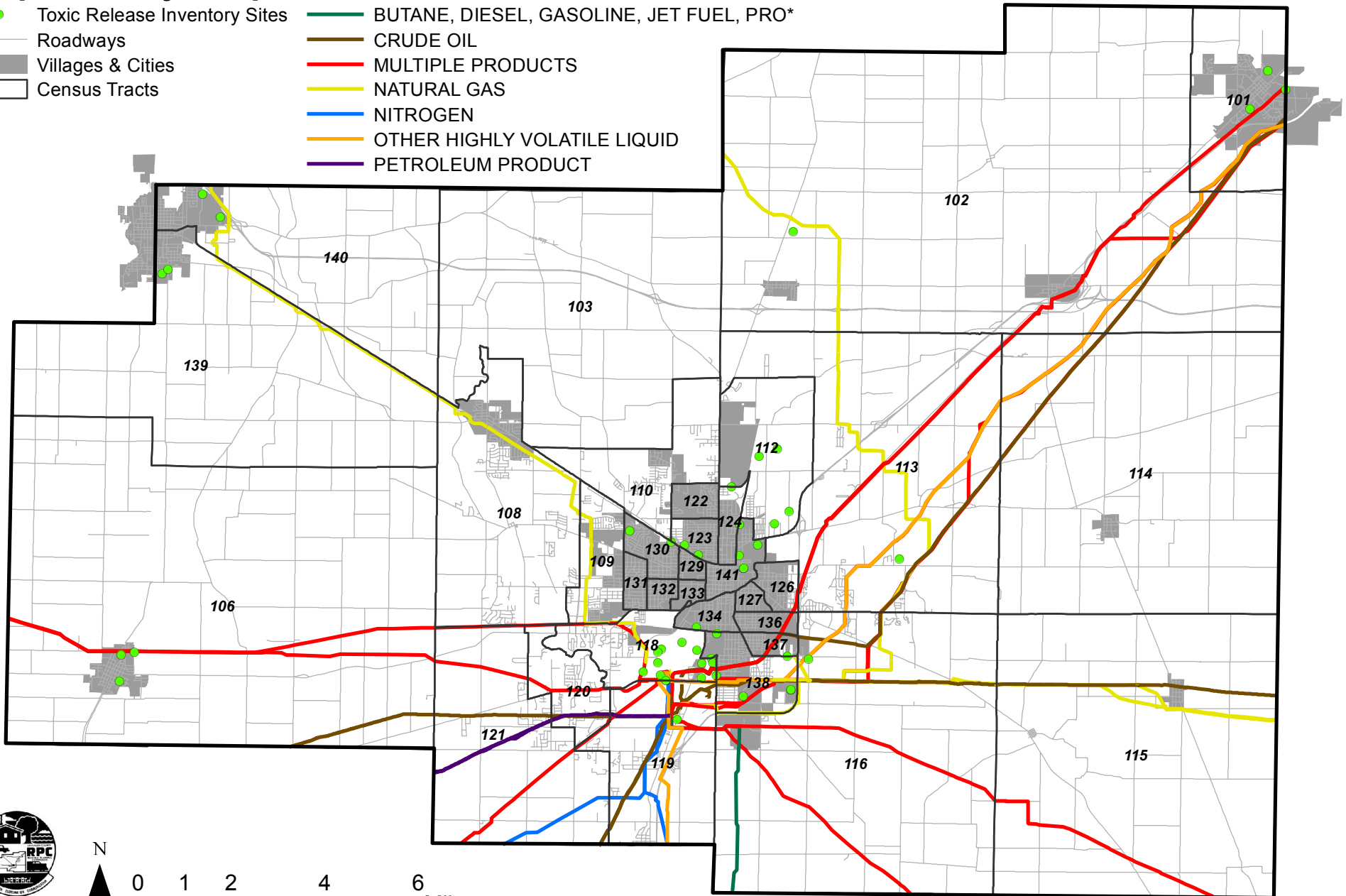
Census Tracts



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

# Map 5-8: Major Pipelines & TRI Sites

- Toxic Release Inventory Sites
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts
- BUTANE, DIESEL, GASOLINE, JET FUEL, PRO\*
- CRUDE OIL
- MULTIPLE PRODUCTS
- NATURAL GAS
- NITROGEN
- OTHER HIGHLY VOLATILE LIQUID
- PETROLEUM PRODUCT



0 1 2 4 6 Miles



Assessments to estimate the risk of cancer and other serious health effects from inhaling air toxics. And while, federal, state and local authorities remain actively vigilant such facilities present an ever present danger to the environmental and community health. Table 5-2 reveals the increased exposure risks to hazardous health conditions by air toxin in Allen County based on the most recent analysis conducted by the EPA for the state of Ohio.<sup>26</sup> Of note is the concentration of such facilities in those census tracts where low income and minority populations reside given the prevailing northeasterly wind patterns. While, the EPA has worked to limit the air toxins emitted and hazardous chemicals stored at industrial sites, unfortunately modernity requires such chemicals. While some urban planners have attempted to segregate such activities from residential activities others have worked to identify adaptive reuse of such structures.<sup>27,28,29</sup> Of concern to local service providers is where their sites are located and recognizing the exposure that their clients and students have or could develop as a result of residing in impacted areas or over exposure.<sup>30</sup>

TABLE 5-2 CANCER RISK PER MILLION (2015)		
Toxin/Emission	Statewide	Allen
ACETALDEHYDE	3.95955	3.68475
CARBON TETRACHLORIDE	3.28257	3.28242
CHROMIUM VI (HEXAVALENT)	0.97272	3.06050
ACRYLONITRILE	0.11005	1.63500
1,3-BUTADIENE	1.92180	1.37156
NAPHTHALENE	1.46976	0.83674
NICKEL COMPOUNDS	0.20351	0.83675
ETHYLBENZENE	0.63830	0.41809
PAH,POM	0.29533	0.27777
ARSENIC COMPOUNDS	0.29796	0.25639
<b>Total Cancer Risk</b>	<b>37.03076</b>	<b>36.67009</b>

## 5.5 Other Health & Safety Effects of the Built Environment

The built environment's impact on the local community's health and safety is greater than exposure to simply air quality, water quality and traffic safety concerns. The built environment also helps determine: ones access to healthy foods; the extent to which physical exercise can be integrated into ones daily life; and, the level of social engagement one can easily integrate into his/her lifestyle. Of course the deterrence of pollution, substance abuse, blight, crime and poverty are also necessary candidates for policy decisions, infrastructure investments and public discourse; their collective impacts cannot be understated.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2011-nata-assessment-results#pollutant>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/re-powering/learn-more-about-re-powering#why>

<sup>28</sup> Environmental Contamination, Brownfields Policy, and Economic Redevelopment in an Industrial Area of Baltimore, Maryland; Miriam Schoenbaum, Land Economics February 1, 2002 vol. 78 (1) pp 60-71.

<sup>29</sup> What Drives Participation in State Voluntary Cleanup Programs? Evidence from Oregon; Allen Blackman, Sarah Darley, Thomas P. Lyon, and Kris Wernstedt. Land Economics November 1, 2010 vol. 86 (4) pp 785-799.

<sup>30</sup> Environmental Health Perspectives, Separate and Unequal: Residential Segregation and Estimated Cancer Risks Associated with Ambient Air Toxics in U.S. Metropolitan Areas, v.114(3); 2006.

The remainder of this section looks to examine some of the other 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

#### 5.5.1 Housing Foreclosures, Vacancies & Blight

Section III highlighted the community housing stock at various geographies. Total units, age of units, 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.

Allen County has long been considered a very affordable community based on the ACCRA Cost of Living Assessment of 365 metropolitan areas in the United States<sup>31</sup> and other national housing data service sources. And local administrators who have long been grappling with the quality and condition of the local housing stock and the problems associated with vacant homes 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.

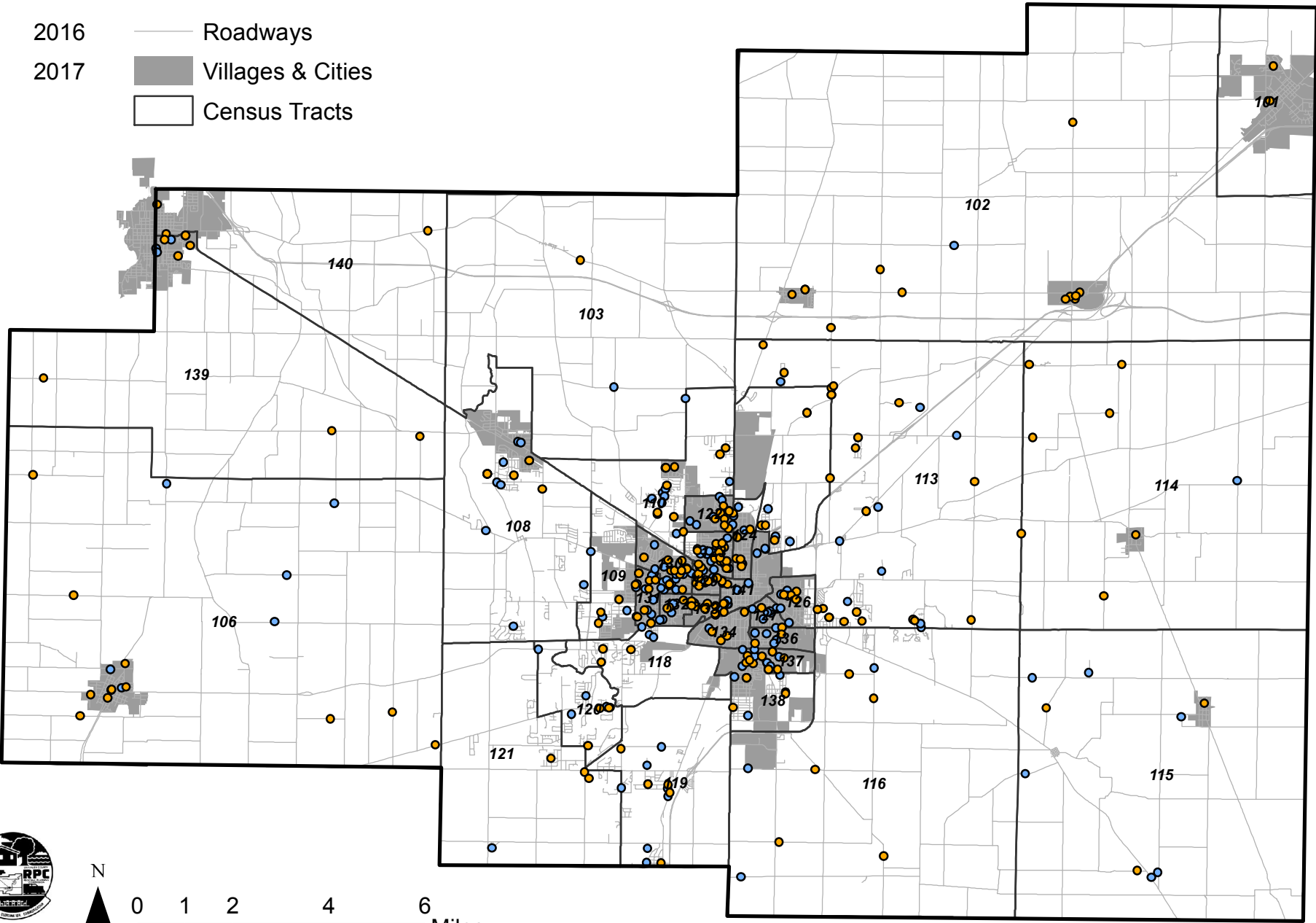
Examining local data, shows that there were 351 foreclosures that occurred over the 2016 to 2017 period (Table 5-3). Map 5-9 reflects foreclosure activity across Allen County for the 2016 through 2017 period. Illustration 5-4 reflects the distribution of foreclosures by census tract each year since 2005. Data indicates that over half of the Allen County Foreclosures (51.9%) were located within the City of Lima. When identifying foreclosure activity by census tract, over a quarter (24.5%) of all foreclosure activity happened within five census tracts (106, 108, 113, 122, & 130).

TABLE 5-3 PCT OF FORECLOSURES BY CENSUS TRACT 2012-2017							
Tract	Foreclosures	Tract	Foreclosures	Tract	Foreclosures	Tract	Foreclosures
101	1.2%	114	3.7%	124	3.9%	136	1.8%
102	3.4%	115	2.6%	126	2.7%	137	1.9%
103	1.3%	116	1.8%	127	2.3%	138	3.0%
106	4.3%	118	2.7%	129	3.4%	139	3.1%
108	4.2%	119	4.0%	130	6.7%	140	1.5%
109	2.6%	120	2.1%	131	3.8%	141	3.2%
110	4.0%	121	1.9%	132	3.0%		
112	1.4%	122	4.4%	133	2.1%		
113	4.9%	123	7.0%	134	2.5%		

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.coli.org/AboutIndex.asp>

# Map 5-9: Foreclosures (2016 - 2017)

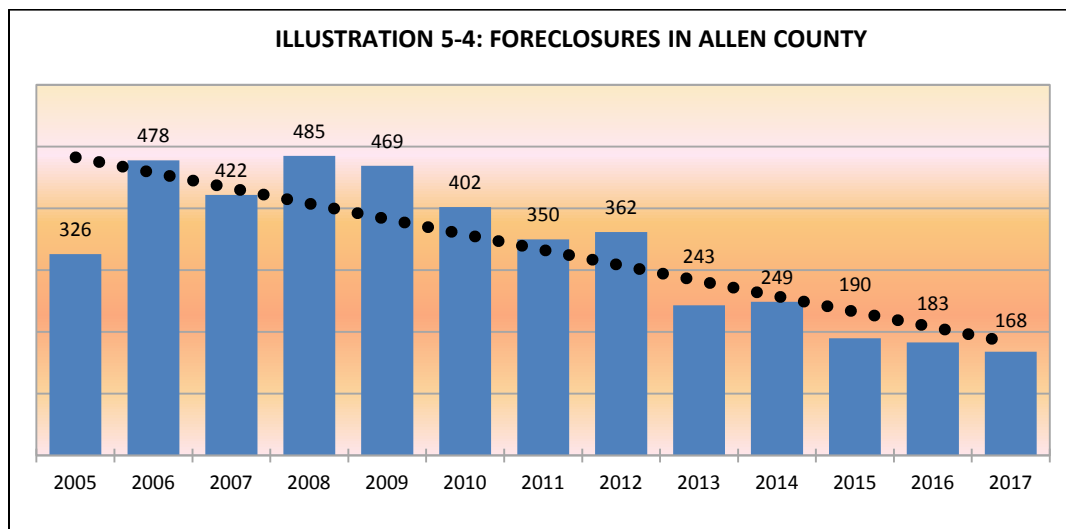
- 2016
- 2017
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



0 1 2 4 6 Miles



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 5-4 suggests that the number of foreclosures is dropping.



As documented in previous sections of this assessment, the community is witnessing a declining population (Illustration 2-1 & Table 2-1), a shifting population (Map 2-3 & Map 2-4), an aging population (Table 2-6 & Table 2-7), a deteriorated housing stock (Table 3-6/Map 3-3), a flagging housing market (Map 3-4), and some underperforming schools (Table 4-2); 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.*

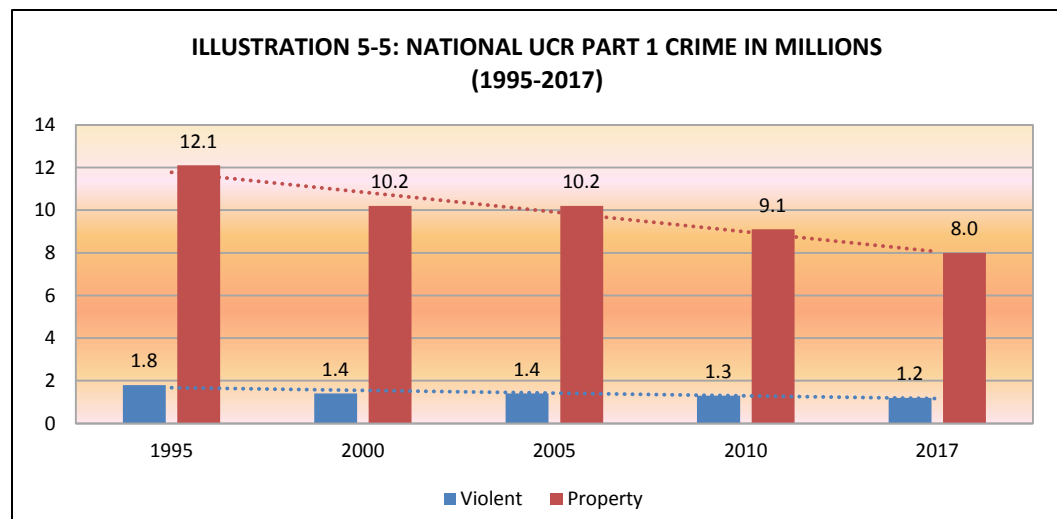
But the housing problems are hard to ignore. Data in Table 3-4 indicates that vacancy rates in Allen County jumped by 7.0 percent between 2010 and 2017 and that 15.9 percent of all units in the City of Lima were vacant in 2017. The County Auditor data finds 30.5 percent of homes in a deteriorated condition (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 most empty lots and structures.

But 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.

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. 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.<sup>32,33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> 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.

### 5.5.2 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.<sup>35</sup> 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 2017 suggest violent crime has continued its downward trend across the last 20 years. Property crime also declined to hit a ten-year low (Illustration 5-5). Despite the positive trend, crime remains a serious problem in some urban pockets riddled with gangs, drugs, and poverty. Over the last 5 year the City of Lima has seen a relative downward trend in violent crime while property crime has actually ticked up (Illustration 5-6).

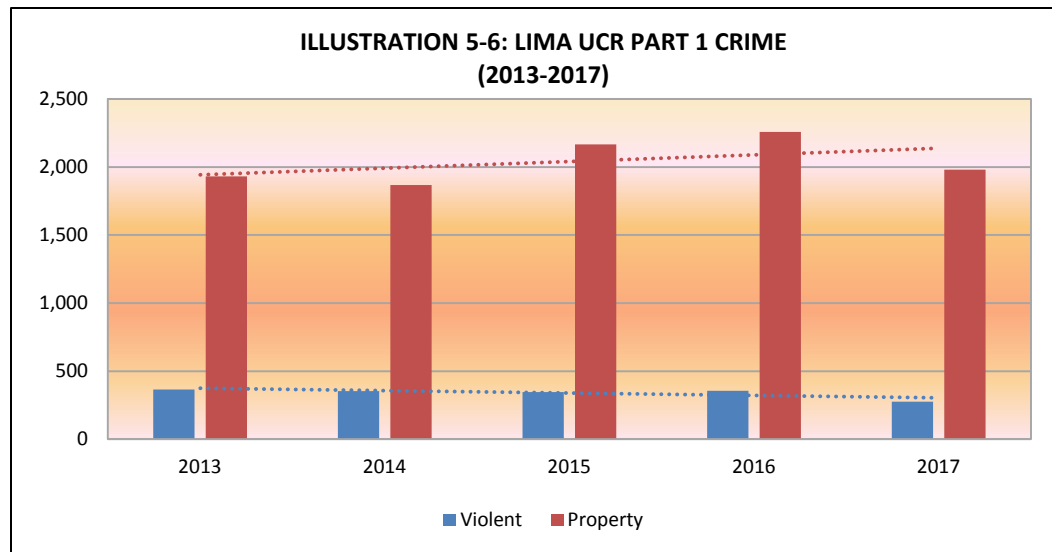


<sup>32</sup> [http://www.popcenter.org/problems/pdfs/abandoned\\_buildings\\_and\\_lots.pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/problems/pdfs/abandoned_buildings_and_lots.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/mortgage-fraud-and-vacant-property-crime>

<sup>34</sup> Safe Routes to School, Implementing Safe Routes to School in Low Income Schools and Communities, 2010.

<sup>35</sup> <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014>



In 2017, data made available by the Lima Police Department indicated that the highest police incidents (calls for service with police reports) were located in census tracts 141, 129 and 134 (see Map 5-10). With the vast majority of UCR Part 1 arrests made in census tracts 141, 127, 122, 129, 134 and 124. These violent 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 738.8 in 2018 well above the national rate of 382.9 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. Map 5-11 reveals the FBI's Uniform Crime Report Part 1 Arrests for 2017 by Census Tract location. 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, vacancies, foreclosed and boarded-up housing are portrayed by census tract. Population and 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.<sup>36</sup>

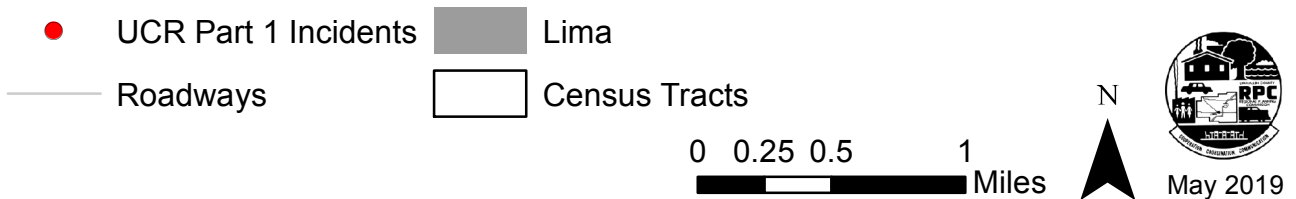
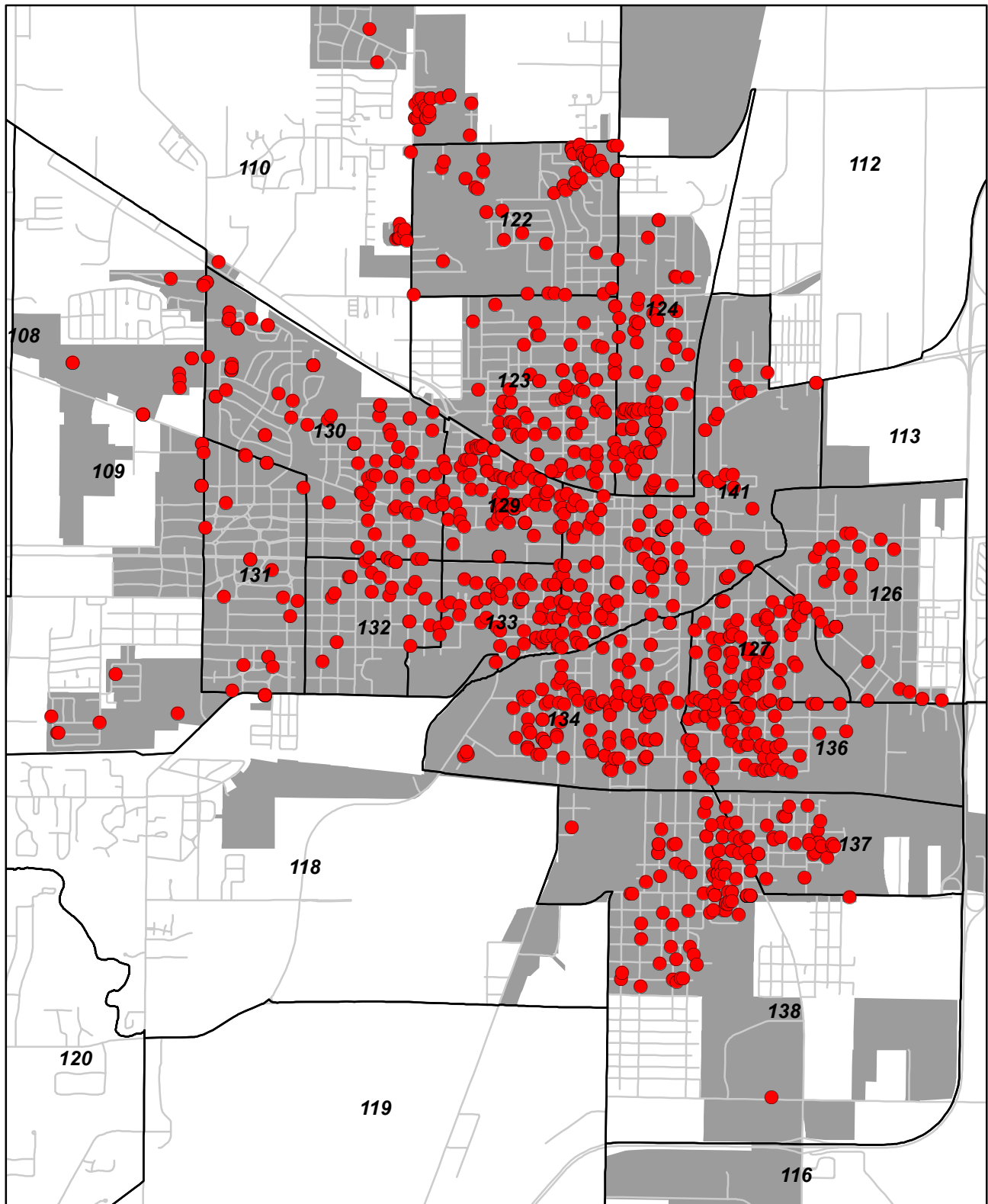
Housing and neighborhood activities have advocated for increased surveillance tools, neighborhood watch groups, community oriented policing and zero tolerance programs;<sup>37,38</sup> while social service and mental health professionals, as well as, jurists

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5807a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s_cid=rr5807a1_e)

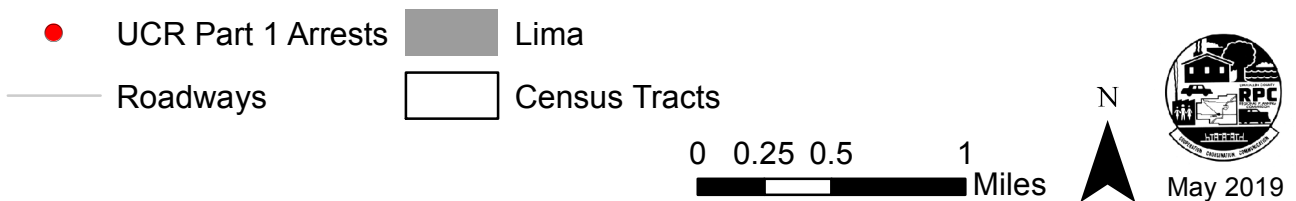
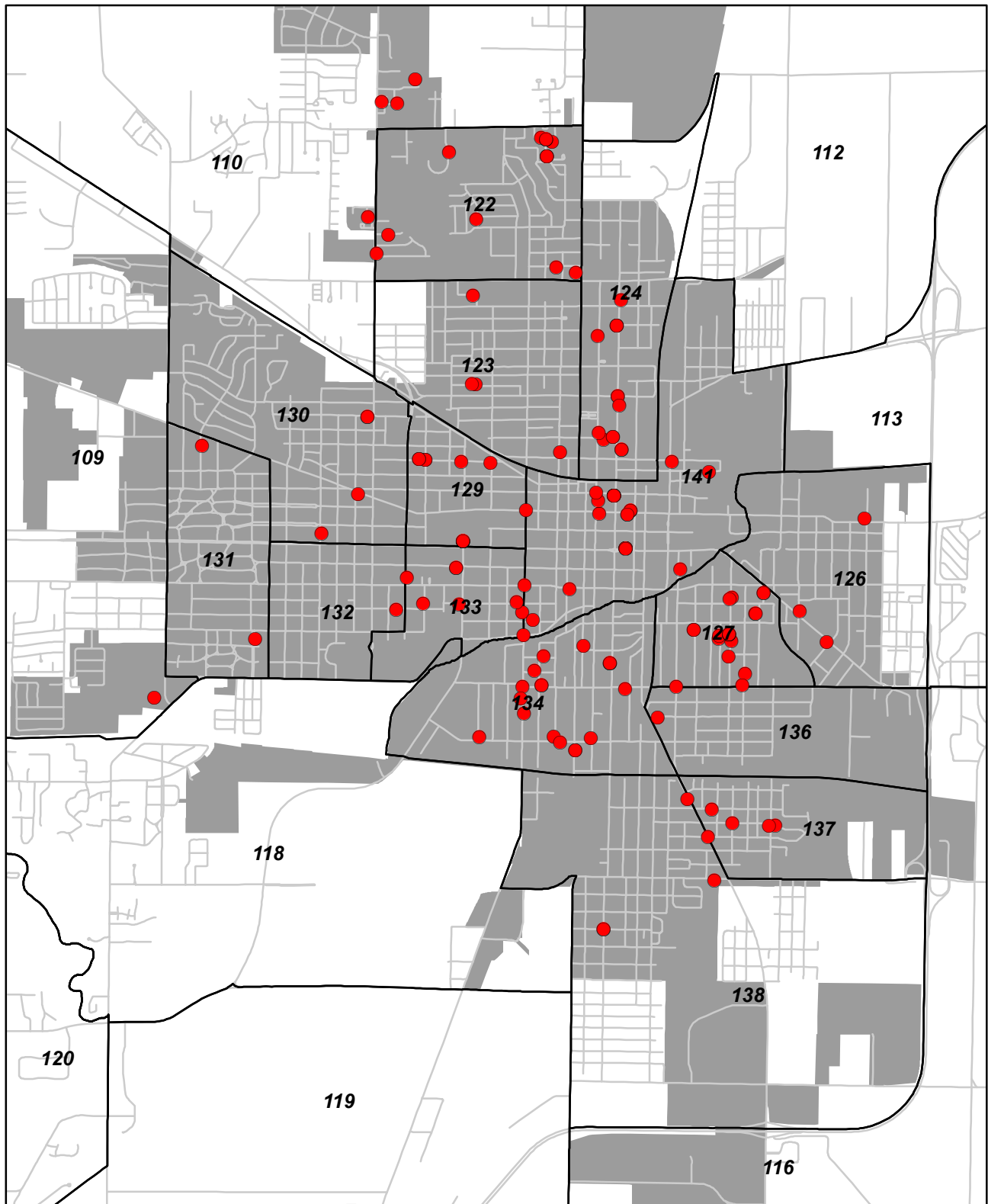
<sup>37</sup> Community Oriented Policing and Community-Based Crime Reduction Programs: An Evaluation in New York City; Anthony L. Sciarabba. Professional Issues in Criminal Justice (2009) vol. 4(2) pp 27-41.

<sup>38</sup> 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.

# Map 5-10: UCR Part 1 Incident Reports (2017)



# Map 5-11: UCR Part 1 Arrests (2017)



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.<sup>39</sup>

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. 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. 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. These agencies argue that specialized programming is needed for inmates during and after prison to support successful re-entry and reduce recidivism; but that efforts should be concentrated on children long before they become involved in the criminal justice system. Helping teach parents how to parent, offering free quality educational and daycare services, and improving financial assistance to poor families would help stem future problems. Focusing on improving the life chances and life qualities of those children with incarcerated parents is essential. Considering that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure suggests specialized programming could resolve current relationship problems and prevent future social problems.

### 5.5.3 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 3<sup>rd</sup> leading lifestyle-related cause of death for the nation. Excessive

*Excessive alcohol consumption is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the nation.*

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/205621.pdf>

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.<sup>40</sup>

*Alcohol outlets in Allen County totaled 240 in 2015, or approximately 2 for every 1,000 residents, or 3 per 1,000 adults over 21 years of age.*

The number of alcohol outlets in Allen County totaled 240 in 2017, or approximately 2 for every 1,000 residents, or 3 per every 1,000 adults over 21 years of age. Several tracts had less than 200 residents per alcohol sales permit (Census Tracts 109, 116, 124, and 141). The heaviest concentrations of on-site alcohol outlets are found in census tracts 141 and 109, while retail off-premise operations were found primarily in tracts 109, 113, and 124. Numerous alcohol outlets were found in Central Business Districts (CBDs), interchanges at IR-75 and US 30, and on state routes within or adjacent to the cities of Lima and Delphos. Map 5-12 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 census tracts 109, 110, 113, 124 and 141, which all reported over 30 crimes and had more than 10 alcohol sale permits. Map 5-13 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 2015 health assessment of Allen County, 16 percent of those residents 18 years of age or older reported engaging in binge drinking or excessive drinking on a regular basis.<sup>41</sup> The rate has stayed steady since 2012 and is 3 percent lower than the state average (19%). 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.<sup>42</sup>

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.

#### **5.5.4 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

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.ncadd.org/about-addiction/alcohol/facts-about-alcohol>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2016/rankings/allen/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

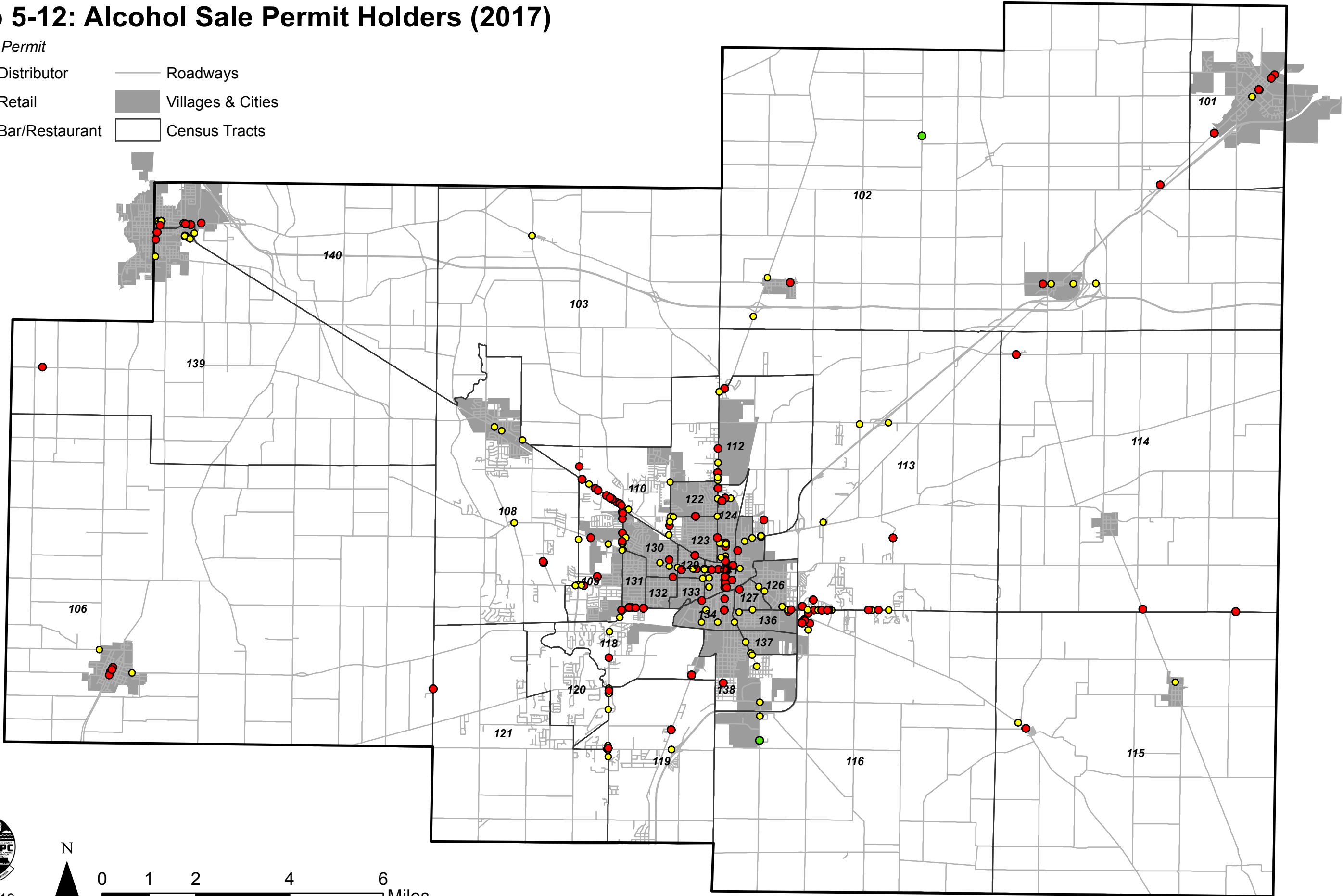
<sup>42</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>



# Map 5-12: Alcohol Sale Permit Holders (2017)

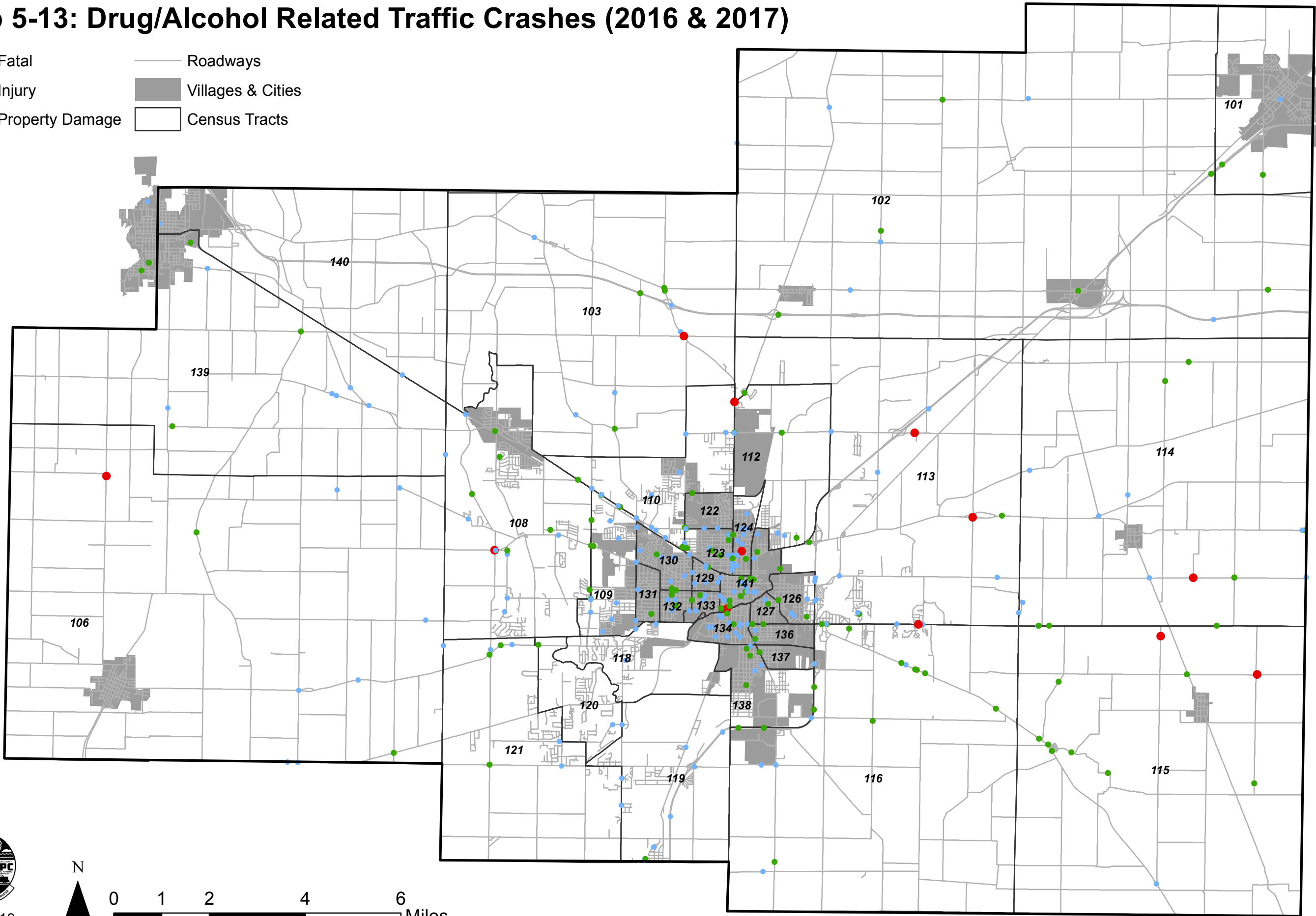
Type of Permit

- Distributor
- Retail
- Bar/Restaurant
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



# Map 5-13: Drug/Alcohol Related Traffic Crashes (2016 & 2017)

- Fatal
- Injury
- Property Damage
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

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).<sup>43</sup> Map 5-14 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 2017 Allen County ranked 11th highest of all Ohio counties in the proportion of restaurants in a county that are fast food establishments.<sup>44</sup> In 2017 there were 150 restaurants in Allen County; 62.4

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

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 5-15 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).

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.<sup>45</sup>

### 5.5.5 Recreational Opportunities & Physical Exercise

The CDC argues that the availability and accessibility of recreational and physical exercise facilities can influence individuals' and communities' choices to engage in physical activity. Researchers contend that proximity to places with recreational opportunities is associated with higher physical activity levels, which in turn is associated with lower rates of adverse health outcomes associated with poor diet, lack of physical activity, and obesity.<sup>46</sup> Therefore, increasing the number of facilities and/or enhancing access to recreational places for physical activity to accommodate recreational pursuits and physical exercise are important to both mental and physical health. However propinquity, costs and safety factors can and do have impacts on accessibility to such facilities.

<sup>43</sup> <http://americannutritionassociation.org/newsletter/usda-defines-food-deserts>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2013/measure/factors/84/map>

<sup>45</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5807a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s_cid=rr5807a1_e)

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/10\\_0292.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/10_0292.htm)

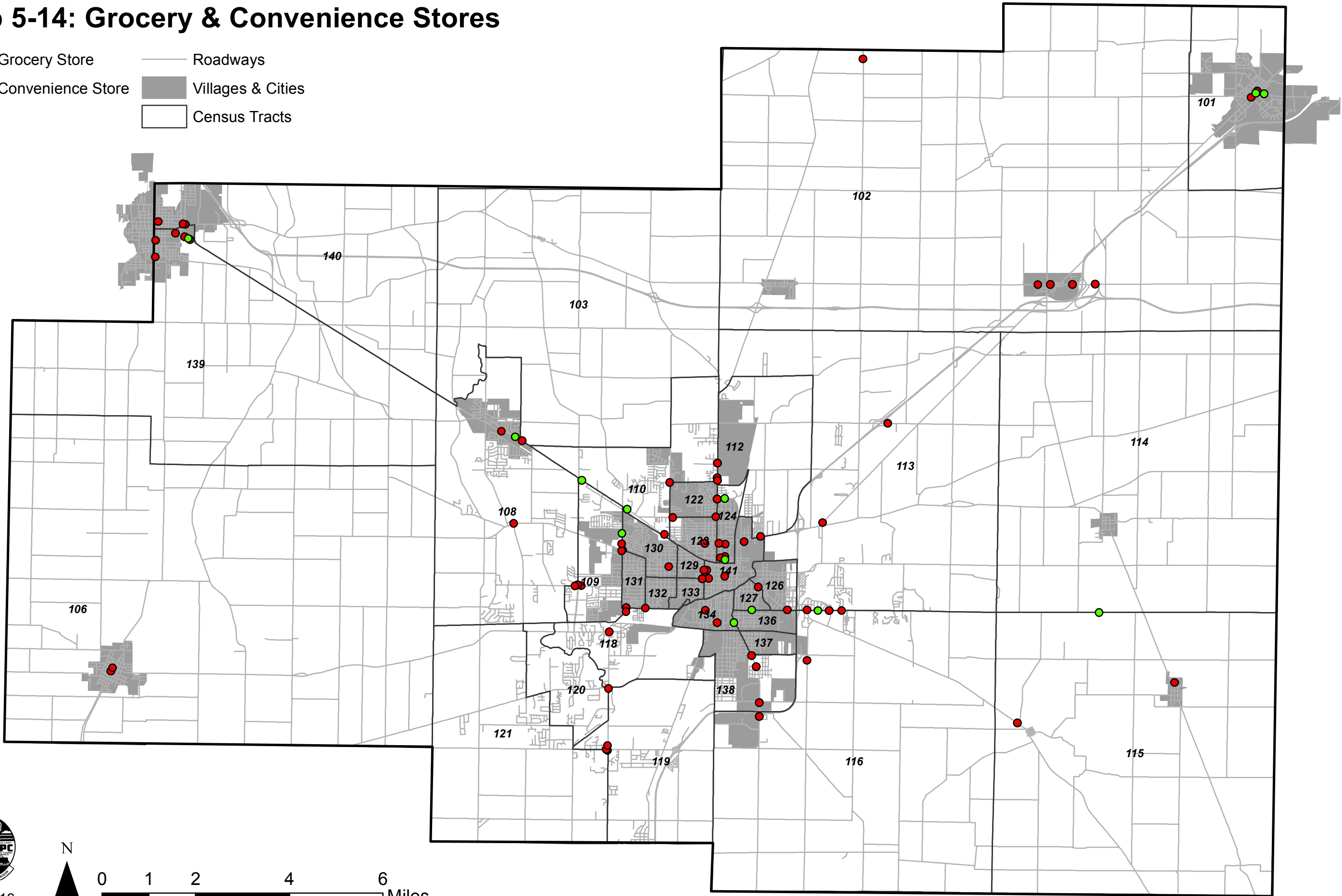
Allen County has various municipal parks, several (3) township parks and a growing metropolitan park district. Municipal and township parks typically serve both active and passive recreational pursuits while the Metropolitan Parks only address passive recreational activities. Recreational space is necessary to relax, exercise, enjoy and embrace nature and our friends and family. They are also the most likely places for people to engage in physical exercise whether it be walking, biking, organized sporting activities or unorganized play activities. The community's largest city and county seat Lima offers activities both passive and active at 12 different parks straddling over 300 acres. The Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District reflects 10 parks and some 1,500 plus acres to support various passive activities. The ratio of county residents to Park acreage equates to about 23.5 acres per 1,000 residents; the City of Lima has a ratio of 8.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Based on the ratio of outdoor recreational acres per 1,000 residents, both the county and the city of Lima meet The National Recreation and Park Association's recommended minimum park acreage ratio of 6.25 per 1,000 residents.<sup>47</sup> Map 5-16 reveals the location of local public parks. Recreational facilities defined as establishments primarily engaged in operating fitness and recreational sports facilities, featuring exercise and other active physical fitness conditioning or recreational sports activities such as swimming, skating, or racquet sports resulted in a ratio of 28 per 100,000 individuals.

---

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.mybigspring.com/land\\_standards](http://www.mybigspring.com/land_standards)

# Map 5-14: Grocery & Convenience Stores

- Grocery Store
- Convenience Store
- Roadways
- Villages & Cities
- Census Tracts



May 2019



0 1 2 4 6 Miles

# Map 5-15: Restaurants

- Full-Service

Limited-Service

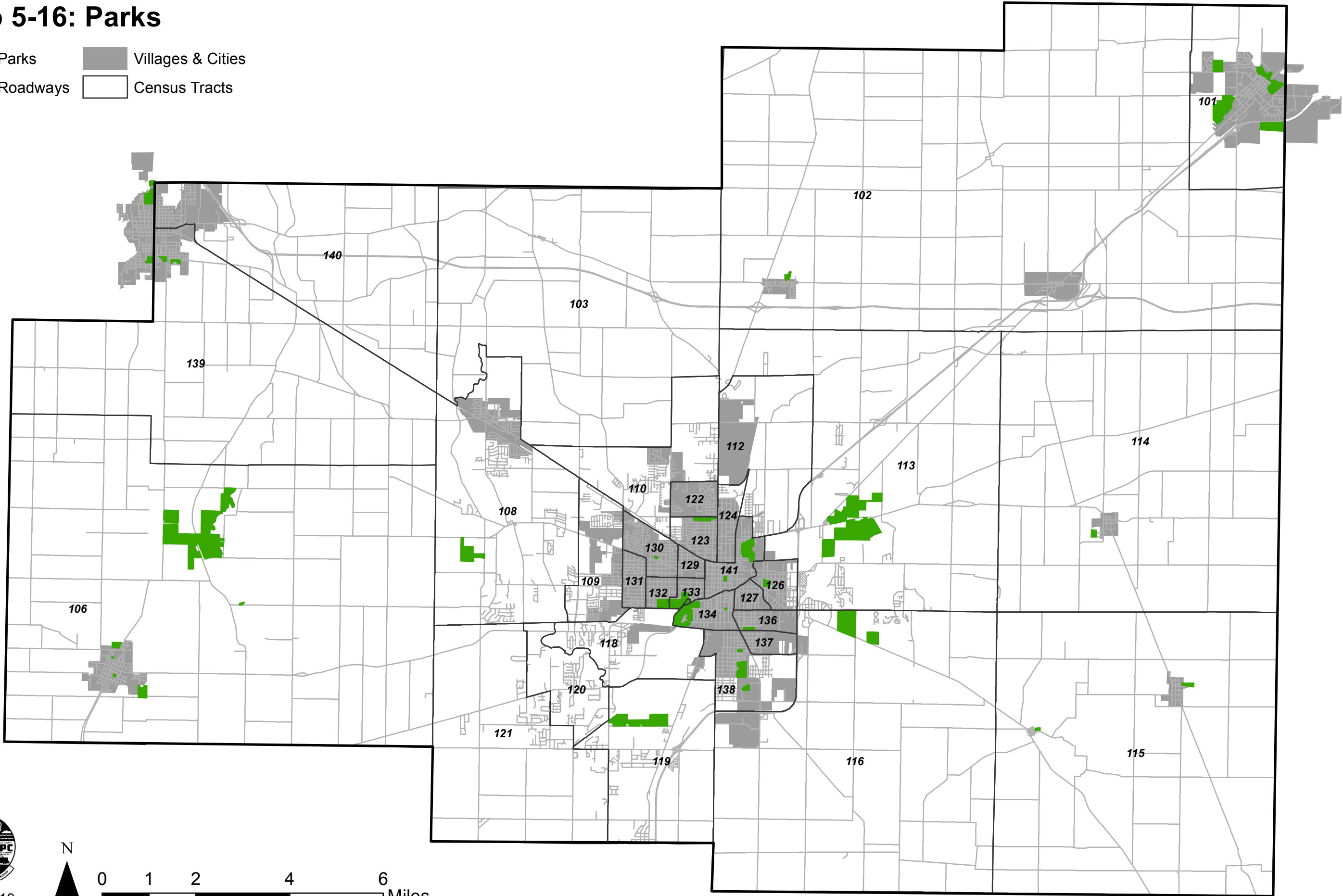
Roadways

Villages & Cities

Census Tracts
- 
- 
- May 2019
- 
- 0 1 2 4 6 Miles
- 5 - 38



Map 5-16: Parks



May 2019





SUMMARY TABLE 5-1 ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS: QUALITY OF LIFE & HUMAN HEALTH ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS																		
Census Tract	Floodplain (acres)	Wetlands (acres)	Hydric Soils (acres)	Industrial (acres)	Agriculture (acres)	Traffic Crashes (2017)	Bike Crashes (2017)	Pedestrian Crashes (2017)	Crashes w/ Injury or Fatality	Injury/Fatal Crashes w/ Drug/Alcohol	Foreclosures (2017)	UCR Part 1 LPD Incidents	UCR Part 1 LPD Arrests	Alcohol Permits	Fast Food	Convenience Stores	Grocery Stores	Park (acres)
101	793.7	63.8	3,601.2	180.1	4,341.0	54	0	0	11	2	0	0	0	14	4	4	2	250.7
102	2,660.7	467.8	19,721.4	71.3	41,930.8	199	0	0	47	4	1	0	0	17	2	5	0	9.2
103	4,998.7	152.1	29,402.5	2.7	17,951.7	73	0	0	20	3	2	0	0	4	1	1	0	0.0
106	2,827.3	592.4	24,740.1	115.5	32,287.0	112	0	1	29	1	6	0	0	10	0	2	0	981.7
108	2,980.2	149.5	15,809.2	15.7	5,068.5	165	1	1	44	5	8	0	0	12	3	3	1	71.0
109	31.7	9.5	1,096.0	35.9	320.7	215	2	1	51	3	3	29	1	48	17	5	1	0.0
110	2,054.0	12.6	6,021.4	646.6	2,060.2	139	1	0	27	1	8	38	4	33	8	4	1	0.0
112	1,111.4	69.7	8,653.6	1,445.3	1,631.4	72	0	0	11	1	3	0	0	7	1	2	0	0.0
113	3,813.1	331.0	11,538.4	941.9	9,311.0	224	0	0	49	2	9	0	0	25	2	4	0	441.9
114	1,312.7	399.6	7,734.6	319.3	20,585.3	63	0	0	16	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	9.6
115	1,437.9	326.1	9,405.0	29.5	20,868.5	70	0	0	23	5	6	0	0	8	0	2	1	13.5
116	1,755.8	208.4	8,294.3	178.6	17,447.9	200	0	3	46	7	3	1	0	55	10	5	1	159.0
118	2,661.2	75.1	186.2	930.9	268.2	82	0	0	15	0	3	7	0	14	0	2	0	87.0
119	1,659.5	122.3	1,957.1	1,268.5	2,337.8	156	0	0	24	1	7	0	0	28	8	4	0	145.8
120	1,995.6	48.9	557.3	0.0	388.7	36	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	3	1	0	0	0.0
121	1,750.8	157.4	12,394.6	3.0	6,046.9	77	0	0	16	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0.0
122	15.7	3.2	238.0	0.0	46.6	25	1	1	8	0	7	63	14	9	2	1	0	0.0
123	0.0	0.0	77.1	18.9	0.0	62	1	0	19	4	12	83	4	4	3	2	0	22.1
124	22.2	6.1	480.9	125.2	0.0	85	1	0	23	1	6	84	14	42	0	7	2	0.0
126	1,362.8	44.6	6.1	27.8	0.0	89	0	3	19	0	5	37	3	9	4	1	0	9.3
127	1,330.3	0.0	0.0	17.3	0.0	47	0	2	11	1	7	84	18	7	1	2	1	0.0
129	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	72	0	1	29	1	5	103	14	19	0	1	0	0.0
130	0.0	1.2	75.2	28.6	0.0	89	2	0	17	1	14	93	4	13	4	1	1	1.7
131	0.0	0.0	127.5	0.0	0.0	66	0	1	16	1	8	20	2	8	1	2	0	0.0
132	56.3	3.1	3.9	0.0	0.0	26	0	1	7	2	4	25	1	1	0	1	0	87.0
133	1,381.9	0.6	7.5	0.0	0.0	58	3	2	20	1	3	62	9	2	0	2	0	87.0
134	1,326.7	3.5	0.0	41.7	0.0	73	0	2	24	2	1	123	18	17	1	2	1	103.0
136	40.1	28.1	1,027.3	72.6	44.9	40	0	1	10	2	5	71	2	5	0	0	0	8.3
137	74.2	17.1	1,154.0	28.6	33.7	10	0	0	2	0	3	37	4	4	0	0	0	0.0
138	75.4	41.3	1,611.5	468.5	71.9	64	1	0	14	3	9	95	5	7	0	3	0	48.4
139	2,216.0	116.6	25,319.5	82.4	16,150.3	74	0	0	21	3	3	0	0	26	4	5	1	11.4
140	1,507.4	84.4	25,977.0	115.2	8,137.6	51	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	26	1	3	0	6.6
141	1,328.7	9.4	60.7	135.1	0.0	248	7	6	64	5	10	148	29	58	7	5	0	62.2

SUMMARY TABLE 5-2 ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS: QUALITY OF LIFE & HUMAN HEALTH ALLEN COUNTY - POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS																
Political Subdivision	Floodplain (acres)	Wetlands (acres)	Hydric Soils (acres)	Industrial (acres)	Agriculture (acres)	Traffic Crashes (2017)	Bike Crashes (2017)	Pedestrian Crashes (2017)	Crashes w/ Injury or Fatality	Injury/Fatal Crashes w/ Drug/Alcohol	Foreclosures (2017)	Alcohol Permits	Fast Food	Convenience Stores	Grocery Stores	Park (acres)
Allen County	37,627.9	3,593.3	219,732.8	5,599.0	193,854.6	3,113	21	26	749	66	168	545	105	82	13	2,797
Beaverdam	0.0	3.9	989.2	11.8	472.3	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	0	0.0
Bluffton	721.4	19.4	2,039.1	180.1	1,668.0	39	0	0	6	0	0	14	1	4	2	250.7
Cairo	0.0	1.9	210.5	2.8	430.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	9.2
Delphos	283.2	10.7	2,792.2	177.1	681.4	43	0	0	7	1	3	46	2	8	1	65.0
Elida	2,882.9	22.1	393.6	12.4	622.0	37	0	1	9	1	2	4	2	1	1	0.0
Harrod	0.0	3.7	2,861.2	4.6	542.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	10.1
Lafayette	210.0	2.0	104.8	1.7	176.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Lima	4,253.2	158.6	7,889.3	2,582.6	1,688.9	1,142	16	19	308	24	95	204	23	29	4	336.2
Spencerville	0.0	0.5	10,485.2	59.6	586.7	20	0	1	3	0	2	7	1	2	0	42.4
Amanda Twp	2,283.1	515.9	20,875.2	2.0	18,452.8	70	0	0	17	1	4	0	2	0	0	939.4
American Twp	3,888.5	175.5	17,044.4	782.2	10,739.5	402	3	0	91	9	17	76	13	12	2	71.0
Auglaize Twp	1,437.9	325.9	9,405.0	29.3	22,328	75	0	0	24	6	6	6	3	1	1	13.5
Bath Twp	3,877.6	405.1	12,278.6	2,414.2	10,088.6	321	1	3	65	5	13	48	10	6	1	441.9
Jackson Twp	1,313.3	399.0	7,734.6	319.3	21,578.8	59	0	0	15	2	1	6	5	0	0	9.6
Marion Twp	2,452.8	190.4	29,681.1	126.3	25,788.1	80	0	0	28	2	0	6	4	0	0	0.0
Monroe Twp	1,725.2	191.1	12,265.4	49	23,632.6	74	0	0	24	3	1	7	3	1	0	9.2
Perry Twp	1,836.2	231.9	8,582.7	644.3	17,941.5	186	0	2	42	5	6	55	9	6	1	159.0
Richland Twp	1,315.5	318.1	17,557.2	159.8	24,338.3	131	0	0	27	3	0	4	3	1	0	204.9
Shawnee Twp	3,684.6	417.9	13,960.9	1,637.2	8,630.0	356	1	0	61	2	17	49	12	7	0	195.2
Spencer Twp	544.1	75.2	14,108.4	101.9	13,216.1	17	0	0	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	40.1
Sugar Creek Twp	4,918.2	124.6	28,474.2	2.7	16,268.8	57	0	0	18	2	1	2	6	0	0	0.0

SUMMARY TABLE 5-3 HOUSING AND CRIME STATISTICS SUMMARY ALLEN COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS															
Tract	Total Pop.	Total Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	PCT Vacant HU	Foreclosures (2017)	Foreclosure Rate (per 1,000)	Demolitions (2017)	Demolition Rate (per 1,000 HU)	Boarded Up Properties (2017/2018)	Boarded Up Properties Rate (per 1,000 HU)	UCR Incident Reports	UCR Incidents Per 1,000 Pop.	UCR Arrests	UCR Arrest Rate Per 1,000 Pop	UCR Arrests Per 1,000 Incidents
Allen County	104,157	45,005	4,686	10.4%	168	3.7	161	3.6	902	8.66	1,203	11.5	146	1.4	121.4
101	4,535	1,800	55	3.1%	0	0.0	3	1.7	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
102	4,076	1,528	52	3.4%	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
103	1,509	612	44	7.2%	2	3.3	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
106	4,899	1,954	99	5.1%	6	3.1	4	2.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
108	7,542	3,077	140	4.5%	8	2.6	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
109	4,641	1,888	168	8.9%	3	1.6	0	0.0	0	N/A	29	6.2	1	0.2	34.5
110	5,624	2,542	68	2.7%	8	3.1	0	0.0	0	N/A	38	6.8	4	0.7	105.3
112	2,759	615	84	13.7%	3	4.9	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
113	7,572	3,318	368	11.1%	9	2.7	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
114	2,967	1,168	85	7.3%	1	0.9	2	1.7	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
115	2,713	1,061	109	10.3%	6	5.7	1	0.9	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
116	2,650	1,218	144	11.8%	3	2.5	1	0.8	0	N/A	1	0.4	0	0.0	0.0
118	2,486	1,089	70	6.4%	3	2.8	0	0.0	0	N/A	7	2.8	0	0.0	0.0
119	2,907	1,416	173	12.2%	7	4.9	2	1.4	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
120	2,474	1,034	67	6.5%	5	4.8	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
121	3,553	1,379	113	8.2%	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
122	3,699	1,574	134	8.5%	7	4.4	0	0.0	3	0.81	63	17.0	14	3.8	222.2
123	3,813	1,730	136	7.9%	12	6.9	5	2.9	51	13.38	83	21.8	4	1.0	48.2
124	2,154	1,252	240	19.2%	6	4.8	15	12.0	67	31.10	84	39.0	14	6.5	166.7
126	1,863	856	147	17.2%	5	5.8	3	3.5	30	16.10	37	19.9	3	1.6	81.1
127	1,685	745	134	18.0%	7	9.4	10	13.4	170	100.89	84	49.9	18	10.7	214.3
129	1,641	798	166	20.8%	5	6.3	12	15.0	46	28.03	103	62.8	14	8.5	135.9
130	4,402	2,096	250	11.9%	14	6.7	3	1.4	38	8.63	93	21.1	4	0.9	43.0
131	2,482	1,177	48	4.1%	8	6.8	1	0.8	6	2.42	20	8.1	2	0.8	100.0
132	2,149	839	76	9.1%	4	4.8	6	7.2	23	10.70	25	11.6	1	0.5	40.0
133	1,222	567	162	28.6%	3	5.3	6	10.6	27	22.09	62	50.7	9	7.4	145.2
134	2,321	1,311	290	22.1%	1	0.8	33	25.2	72	31.02	123	53.0	18	7.8	146.3
136	1,147	564	167	29.6%	5	8.9	16	28.4	115	100.26	71	61.9	2	1.7	28.2
137	1,130	540	151	28.0%	3	5.6	9	16.7	97	85.84	37	32.7	4	3.5	108.1
138	2,942	1,326	268	20.2%	9	6.8	21	15.8	91	30.93	95	32.3	5	1.7	52.6
139	3,408	1,543	150	9.7%	3	1.9	1	0.6	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
140	3,397	1,378	50	3.6%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
141	1,795	1,010	278	27.5%	10	9.9	7	6.9	66	36.77	148	82.5	29	16.2	195.9

## 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”.<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup>

*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”.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

In 2017, the American Community Survey reported that 1 in 7 Americans are currently residing in poverty - nearly 47.1 million people or 14.6 percent of the US population suffer from conditions of poverty. Children in poverty fell below 15 million (14.9), or 20.3 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 29.7 percent of Hispanic children live in poverty. In Ohio, poverty rates for children were slightly higher; 21.3 percent of children were in poverty in 2017, with 46.0 percent of Black, and 33.6 percent of Hispanic children found to be in poverty.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.niesr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dp435\\_0.pdf](http://www.niesr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dp435_0.pdf)

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

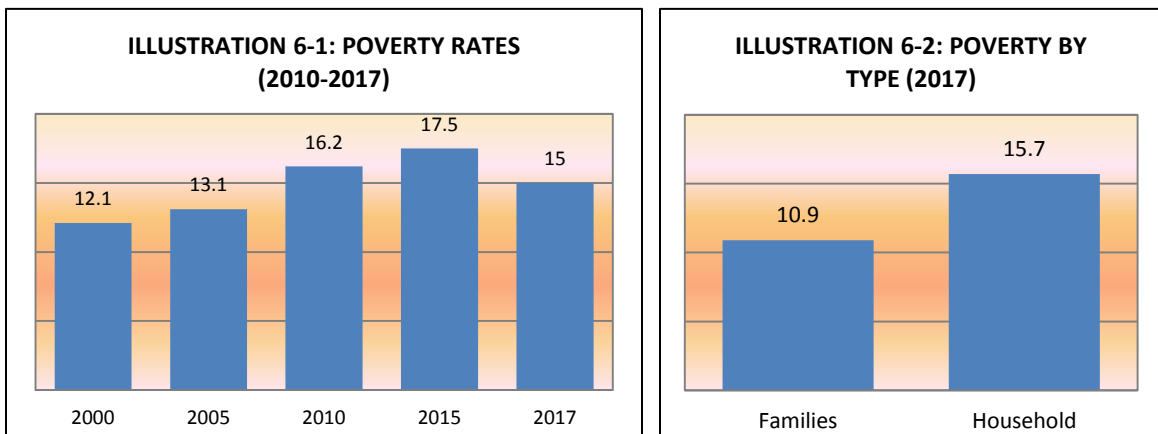
<sup>3</sup> Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Springfield MA, Merriam Webster, 1985.

<sup>4</sup> 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 2017 ACS data for Allen County revealed 15.0 percent of the local population residing in poverty; that's nearly 1 in 7 residents residing in poverty and nearly 3 percent (14.6%) higher than the 2017 national average. The data indicates nearly 6,335 area households and 2,889 families existing below the established poverty thresholds based on income and household size. Furthermore, of families experiencing poverty in 2017, 77.5 percent had children under 18 and 17.9 percent had children under 5-years of age.

*The 2017 ACS data for Allen County revealed 15.0% of the local population residing in poverty; only slightly higher than the 2017 national average (14.6%).*

Over the last decade, Lima like many small and midsize urban metropolitan areas in the Midwest, experienced the Great Recession on the back of a declining manufacturing-based economy and fractured housing market. Poverty rates have risen from 12.1 percent in 2000 to a peak of 18.8 percent in 2012 and have since started a downward trend with the 2017 value at 15.0 percent (Illustration 6-1). Examining poverty by type in 2017 identifies the contrast in financial security between households and families. The current rate of households in poverty (15.7%) is significantly higher than the current family poverty rate of 10.9 percent (Illustration 6-2).



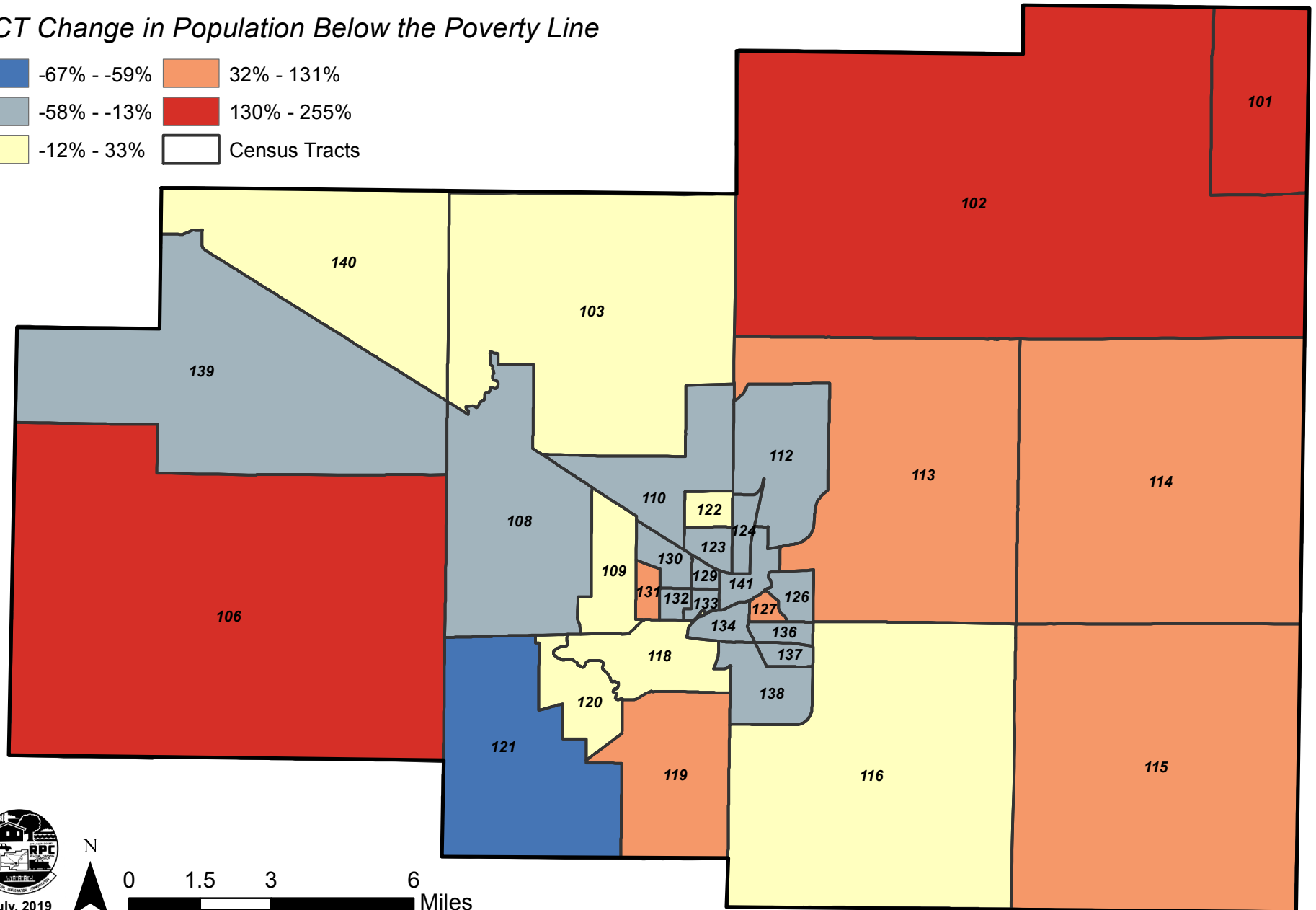
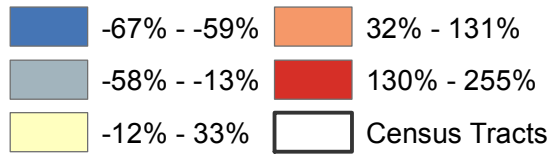
The magnitude, scale and duration of the Great Recession caught the community unprepared to deal with the dynamics required to assemble all the necessary services such as public transportation options, accessible/appropriate housing, job-loss and employment opportunities, and delivery of health services - due in part to less governmental financial resources and fewer well-financed non-profit service providers. Demographic and geographic changes in those suffering from poverty are evident. While the majority of people living in poverty in 2017 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 (2018) poverty threshold for a family of 4 is \$25,100 (Table 6-1).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

# Map 6-1: Change in Poverty Rate (2010 -2017)

*PCT Change in Population Below the Poverty Line*



July, 2019



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

TABLE 6-1 POVERTY GUIDELINES (2018)						
Family Size	Percent of Annual Poverty Guideline					
	100%	125%	150%	175%	185%	200%
1	\$12,140	\$15,175	\$18,210	\$21,245	\$22,459	\$24,280
2	\$16,460	\$20,575	\$24,690	\$28,805	\$30,451	\$32,920
3	\$20,780	\$25,975	\$31,170	\$36,365	\$38,443	\$41,560
4	\$25,100	\$31,375	\$37,650	\$43,925	\$46,435	\$50,200
5	\$29,420	\$36,775	\$44,130	\$51,485	\$54,427	\$58,840
6	\$33,740	\$42,175	\$50,610	\$59,045	\$62,419	\$67,480
7	\$38,060	\$47,575	\$57,090	\$66,605	\$70,411	\$76,120
8	\$42,380	\$52,975	\$63,570	\$74,165	\$78,403	\$84,760
Family Size	Percent of Monthly Poverty Guidelines					
	100%	125%	150%	175%	185%	200%
1	\$1,012	\$1,265	\$1,518	\$1,770	\$1,872	\$2,023
2	\$1,372	\$1,715	\$2,058	\$2,400	\$2,538	\$2,743
3	\$1,732	\$2,165	\$2,598	\$3,030	\$3,204	\$3,463
4	\$2,092	\$2,615	\$3,138	\$3,660	\$3,870	\$4,183
5	\$2,452	\$3,065	\$3,678	\$4,290	\$4,536	\$4,903
6	\$2,812	\$3,515	\$4,218	\$4,920	\$5,202	\$5,623
7	\$3,172	\$3,965	\$4,758	\$5,550	\$5,868	\$6,343
8	\$3,532	\$4,415	\$5,298	\$6,180	\$6,534	\$7,063
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.<sup>6</sup> While the full report has not been updated new values are available for 2018 (Table 6-2). The numbers suggests that the poverty threshold of \$25,100 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 vary greatly across Ohio based on geographic location and family type. The same report completed in 2013 found that of the top 10 most common occupations in Ohio for women - only that of a registered nurse earned a wage above what is determined to be self-sufficient for a household of 1 adult, 1 preschooler and 1-school age child. The self-sufficiency standard for Allen County in 2018 was \$37,187 for a 1 adult, 1 preschooler and 1-school age child household or 178.9 percent of the federal poverty level.<sup>7</sup>

*Of the top 10 most common occupations in Ohio - only that of a registered nurse earned a wage above what is determined to be self-sufficient for a 1 adult, 1 preschooler and 1-school age child.*

Of some interest is that the current minimum wage in Ohio is established at \$8.55 or roughly 100 percent of the income necessary to support self-sufficiency for a single adult; but, only 48.5 percent of what would be required to sustain a household of 1 adult, 1 preschooler and 1-school age child.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/node/4> p.1.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/node/4> p.3.



TABLE 6-2 THE SELF-SUFICIENCY STANDARD FOR ALLEN COUNTY (2018)					
Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School-age	Adult + Adult + Infant + Preschooler	Adult + Adult + Preschooler + School-age
Housing	\$549	\$695	\$695	\$695	\$695
Child Care	\$0	\$646	\$1,023	\$1,423	\$1,023
Food	\$222	\$337	\$509	\$621	\$684
Transportation	\$238	\$246	\$246	\$468	\$468
Health Care	\$184	\$429	\$436	\$510	\$517
Miscellaneous	\$119	\$235	\$293	\$372	\$339
Taxes	\$188	\$344	\$436	\$684	\$501
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$125)	(\$153)	\$0	(\$128)
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$68)	(\$115)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$157)	(\$228)	(\$333)	(\$305)
Hourly	\$8.53	\$14.67	\$17.61	\$12.33	\$10.50
Monthly	\$1,502	\$2,582	\$3,099	\$4,340	\$3,694
Annual	\$18,021	\$30,981	\$37,187	\$52,076	\$44,333
Emergency Savings Fund (Monthly Contribution)	\$35	\$83	\$107	\$62	\$61

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 2017 Allen County was ranked 53 of 88 counties for positive health factors by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute.<sup>8</sup> 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 53 of 88 Ohio counties for positive health factors.*

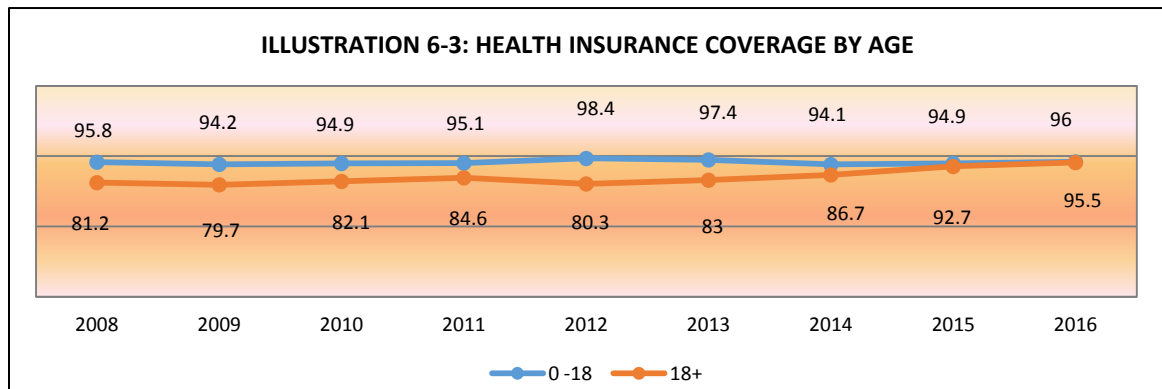
The prevalence of certain specific behaviors or the results of certain behaviors were of alarm and trailing the county benchmark for Ohio including: physical inactivity (Allen County: 32% vs Ohio: 26%), adult obesity (Allen County: 31% vs Ohio: 25%), number of sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 (Allen County: 567 vs Ohio: 474), 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: 62% vs Ohio: 65%), children in single-parent families (Allen County: 40% vs Ohio: 36%), and number of violent crimes (Allen County: 435 vs Ohio: 290). The report also identifies deficiencies in terms of the ratio of available primary care physicians to residents (Allen County: 1,370:1 vs Ohio: 1,310:1) and dentists (Allen County: 1670:1 vs Ohio: 1,660:1).<sup>9</sup>

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

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2013/rankings/outcomes/overall>

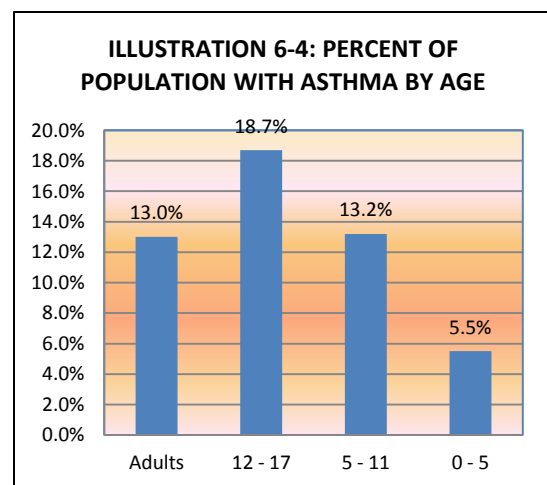
<sup>9</sup> [http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2016/compare/snapshot?counties=39\\_003](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2016/compare/snapshot?counties=39_003)

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 14.3 percent since 2008 in adult coverage (Illustration 6-3).<sup>10</sup>



### 6.3.1 Asthma

In 2017 Asthma affected nearly 19.9 million adults in the United States or approximately 7.7% of the entire adult population.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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 2017, 13.0 percent of Allen County adults (7862) and 37.4 percent (2065) 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>



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

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.lacrpc.com/health/access-to-health-services/adults-with-health-insurance.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/asthma.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.asthma.partners.org/NewFiles/BoFACchapter15.html>

<sup>14</sup> [http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2017\\_SHS\\_Table\\_C-1.pdf](http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2017_SHS_Table_C-1.pdf)

asthma 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.<sup>15</sup>

### 6.3.2 Dental Care

According to the CDC, each year, Americans make about 883.7 million visits to dentists and in 2017, an estimated \$113 billion was spent on dental services in the United States. Yet, tooth decay affects approximately 1 in 5 of U.S. children aged 5 - 11 years and 1 in 7 of those aged 12–19 years. The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years with untreated tooth decay is twice as high for those from low-income families (25%) compared with children from higher-income households (11%).<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup>

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

Advanced gum disease affects 9 percent of U.S. adults. 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 21 percent of adults and 13 percent of High School students smoke regularly.<sup>18,19</sup> Data suggests 22.27 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.<sup>20</sup> In 2019, The American Cancer Society predicts there will be more than 53,000 new cases of oral cancer diagnosed.<sup>21,22</sup>

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

The 2017, Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project determined that more than three-fifths (62%) 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. Female adults were more likely to have visited a dentist in the last year than males (64% vs 59%). Meanwhile, 7 in 10 of those aged 65 years and older (56%) and those with incomes greater than \$25,000 (72%) also exceeded the 63 percent average. Similar numbers were experienced by Allen County youth in grades 6-12 (79%) and those 17 years of age or older (62%) who had visited the dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work in the past year.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/schools\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/schools_fact_sheet.pdf)

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

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral\\_health\\_disparities/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral_health_disparities/index.htm)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2017/rankings/allen/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

<sup>19</sup> 2014 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment, Allen County Public Health

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

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

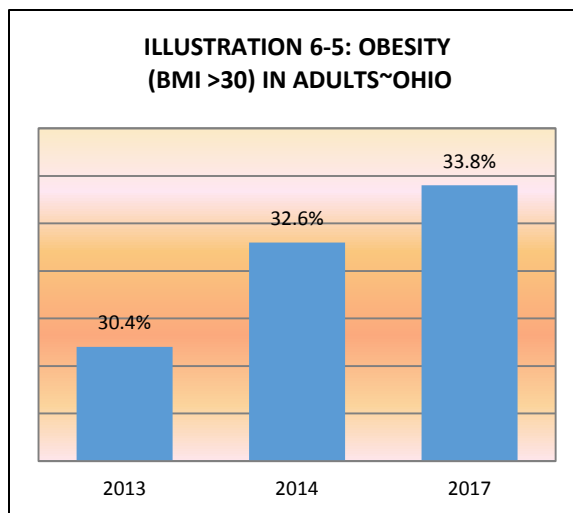
<sup>22</sup> <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/oralcavityandoropharyngealcancer/detailedguide/oral-cavity-and-oropharyngeal-cancer-key-statistics>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.lacrpc.com/health/oral-health.aspx>

In summation, local data collected by Allen County Public Health indicates 21 percent of those under 18 years of age and 44 percent of those over 65 years of age did not have a dental check-up for any reason in the 2017 calendar year. Such data supports recent Howard Woods Johnson research cited earlier that documented restricted access to health care, including dentistry.

### 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 35 percent of adults having a BMI over 30.<sup>24</sup>



*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.<sup>25</sup>

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.<sup>26</sup> Ohio Department of Health Body Mass Index (BMI) data of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Allen County indicates that students identified as overweight or obese has increased from 35 percent to 39.3 percent from the 2004 academic year to the 2009-10 academic year.<sup>27</sup> For children age's 2 to 4 household income was a determining factor in rate of obesity, with 18.9 percent of those in households in the lowest income group

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2016/rankings/allen/county/factors/2/snapshot>

<sup>25</sup> <http://stateofobesity.org/healthcare-costs-obesity/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/health-resources/reports/2011bmireport.pdf?la=en>

identified as obese while only 19.9 percent identified in households in the middle income group and 10.9 percent those in the highest income group.<sup>28</sup> Additional data is lacking and increased participation of schools and parents is needed.

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.<sup>29</sup> 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 vegetables<sup>30</sup>; 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.<sup>31</sup>

#### **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.

---

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6002a2.htm>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/strategies/healthy-food-env.html>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/promotion/calltoaction.htm>

*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 2017 there were 30.3 million Americans suffering from diabetes, 9.4 percent of the US population.<sup>32</sup> Another 84.1 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 costs of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2017 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 (25.2%), 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, 12.1 percent among Hispanics, and 12.7 percent among non-Hispanic black adults.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup>

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.<sup>35</sup> 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.<sup>36</sup> The 2017 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project reported that 13 percent of Allen County adults had been diagnosed with diabetes, with such rates increasing to 26 percent of those over the age of 65. An earlier 2009 report established the rate for Allen County adults at 12 percent and suggests ongoing efforts have been less than successful. 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

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/statistics-report.html>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r101022.html>

<sup>35</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Take Charge of Your Diabetes*. 4th edition. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007.

<sup>36</sup> [http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/27/suppl\\_1/s47](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/27/suppl_1/s47)

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: 91 percent were obese or overweight, 73 percent had been diagnosed with high blood pressure, and 66 percent had been diagnosed with high blood cholesterol. On a more positive note the percent of diabetic Medicare enrollees that received HbA1c screenings increased from 83 percent in 2014 to 86 percent in 2017.<sup>37</sup>

### 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-

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

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 contributions 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.<sup>38</sup>

Local data for mental health recipients is very limited. However, 2017 data reports that 46 percent of Allen County adults reported that they or a family member were diagnosed with depression while only 10 percent of adults reported using a program or service to help with depression, anxiety, or other emotional problems for themselves or a loved one.

*Approximately 10% of adults age 18 years and older sought assistance in 2017 for mental health related issues.*

Mental health is known to play a large part in both suicide and attempted suicide rates across the nation. The 2017 national death rate by suicide was 14 per 100,000 residents. The average annual suicide rate in Allen County over the 2014/2016 period was 15 per 100,000 residents. Suicide impacts the youth of Allen County as well with 15.0 percent of 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting having seriously considered suicide in the past year and 3.0 percent admitting actually attempting suicide in the same year.<sup>39</sup>

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

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.lacrpc.com/health/diabetes.aspx.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/basics.htm>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-Allen-County-CHA.pdf>

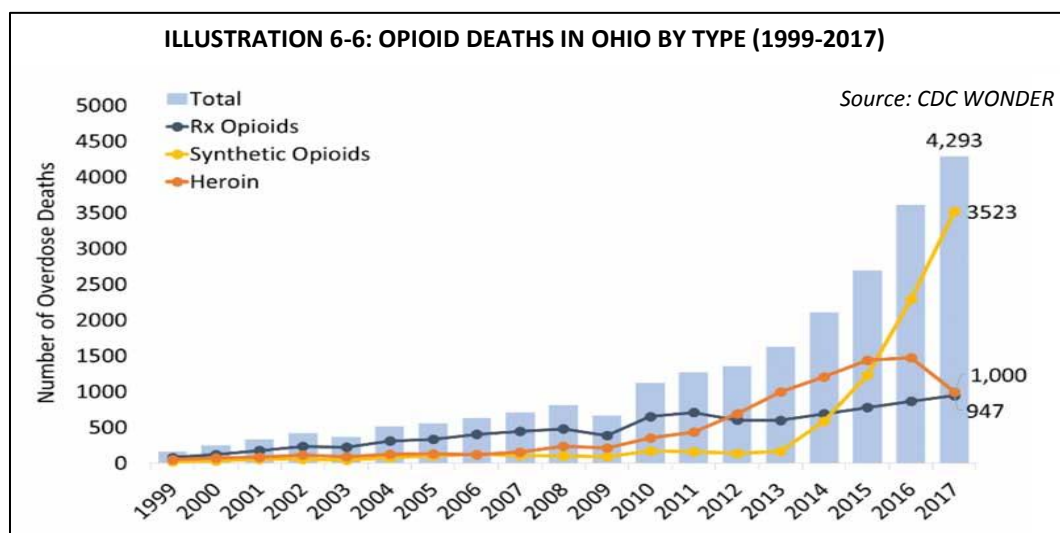


intervention and wellness programs are critically necessary to mitigate the impact of costly, chronic physical health conditions.

### 6.3.6 Opioid Use

In 2017 the number of opioid deaths continued to grow nationally and locally. In 2017 Ohio saw 4,293 overdose deaths with synthetic opioids being responsible for over 80 percent (82.1%) of those deaths. As recently as 2011 prescription opioids were the main underlying cause of overdose deaths in Ohio (Illustration 6-6). The 4,293 deaths in 2017 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. In 2017 the Allen County overdose death rate was higher than the state average with 40.9 overdose deaths per 100,000.

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.<sup>40</sup> 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.<sup>41</sup> 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.



### 6.3.7 Strokes

Strokes were another health disparity identified by Allen County Health District personnel as a local health concern. Strokes are the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Ohio

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/ohio-opioid-summary>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.pcsao.org/programs/opiate-epidemic>

and in the United States and are a major cause of disability.<sup>42</sup> 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.<sup>43</sup> 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.<sup>44</sup> 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.

In 2017 strokes accounted for 5 percent of all Allen County Deaths and in 2017 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 was 37.5

#### **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 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

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

#### **6.4 Criminality, 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

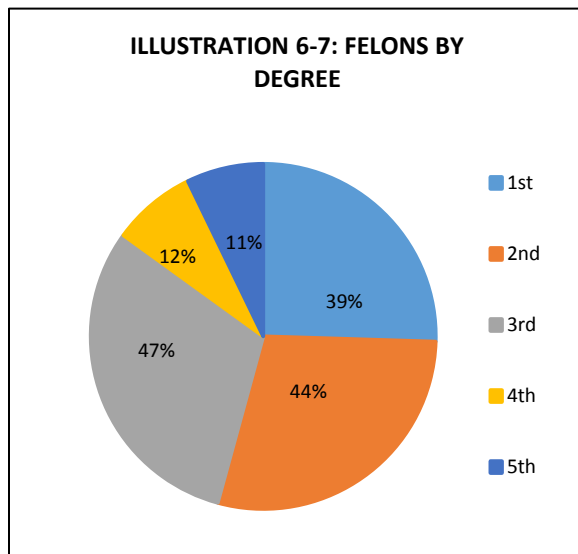
<sup>42</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/Stroke/index.htm>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/faqs.htm#8>

<sup>44</sup> [http:// insurance](http://insurance) and cause subsequent growth in the uninsured and publically insured populations

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 157 adult felons were imprisoned in Allen County in 2018, Illustration 6-7 breaks them down by degree. Of the 157 incarcerated there were 4 life/death sentences received. Of the 157 felons, 136 were male and 21 female.<sup>45</sup> 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 2012 – 2014 the recidivism rate in Allen County was 29.0 percent; 3.2 percent for a technical violation and 25.8 percent for a new crime. As of 2014, 7 in 10 parolees (71.0%) had not returned to the criminal justice within the three year period.<sup>46</sup>



The 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.<sup>47</sup>

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.<sup>48</sup>

*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

<sup>45</sup> [https://drc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/FY2018%20COMMITMENT%20REPORT\\_1.pdf](https://drc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/FY2018%20COMMITMENT%20REPORT_1.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> <https://drc.ohio.gov/reports/recidivism>

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

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

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.<sup>49</sup>

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 childhood.<sup>50</sup>

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

The negative consequences for children with an incarcerated parent can be substantial, including financial instability, changes in family structure, shame, and social stigma.<sup>51</sup> 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 March 2019 indicated that:

- Help paying utility bills was needed by 63.9 percent of respondents
- Help with Homelessness and Emergency Housing was needed by 58.4 percent of survey respondents
- Crime Prevention was identified as a needed service by 57.3 percent of respondents
- Help seeking employment was needed by 57.1 percent of respondents
- Rent/Mortgage Assistance was needed by 56.5 percent of survey respondents
- Safe housing was needed by 56.1 percent of respondents
- Adult education services were needed by 54.6 percent of respondents

Other services identified by the survey results reflected abuse/domestic violence services, mental health and prescription drug payment services and childcare and parenting skills services. Survey respondents totaled 1,516. 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.

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> <http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/COIP-Fact-Sheet-2013-06-19.pdf>

## 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).

*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. WOCAP now offers emergency home repair in Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Hancock and Putnam Counties to provide up to \$7,500 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI.

In 2018, in an effort to better coordinate services with local social services providers, WOCAP expanded the emergency services program to provide 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 change was in response to the expanded services for adults with dependant children through Allen County Dept. of Job & Family Services. WOCAP was able to mirror those services to adults who were not eligible because they did not have dependant children. WOCAP also witnessed a decrease in the number of participants in several housing programs, including fair housing, homeownership and financial literacy. Most of the reduction is due to a lack of qualified and interested clients in homeownership and an unwillingness of fair housing clients to report problems with their landlords. WOCAP will use this data in future planning efforts.

On a positive note, there has been a significant decrease in participants needing services in the RX-AIM program. This program provides one-time financial assistance in getting prescriptions filled, for low income individuals with no insurance or high co-pays. The two biggest reasons for decreased participation in the program have been the affordable health care options (mainly Medicaid expansion) and cheap generic substitutes offered by most pharmacies.

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 that support 418 children each year. 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 serves 96 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 2017/2018 281 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 4,282 households in 2017/2018. Winter Crisis Program (WCP) runs November 1 <sup>st</sup> through March 31 <sup>st</sup> and Summer Crisis Program (SCP) runs July 1 <sup>st</sup> through August 31 <sup>st</sup> if funds are available. The Winter and Summer Crisis programs seved 1,448 households in 2017/2018. Percentage of Income Program (PIPP) customers who join the program only pay a portion of utility costs based on income.The PIPP program served 4,380 households in 2017/2018.
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 2017/2018, 36 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 and served 40 participants. 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 2017/2018, 281 participants successfully completed the program and 10 purchased a home through this program.
1 <sup>st</sup> Time Homebuyer / Self-Sufficiency	This program provides \$3,000.00-\$6,000.00 for a first-time homebuyer in the City of Lima. Clients earn credits toward this money by taking homeownership classes, volunteering, and timely bill payments These programs are offered year round. The program is supported by combined funds through City of Lima Home funds, Ohio Housing Trust Fund, and Community Services Block Grant. In 2017/2018, 10 participants 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. 329 people 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. Fathers and Mothers work towards positive relationships with their child and their mothers, and financial support of their children through employment supports. 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 served 68 participants and 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 \$7,500 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI.
Miscellaneous	In 2018/2019, WOCAP’ SEAL Xmas program provided 100 households with Chief giftcards, 70 with turkey/ham vouchers and 189 children with Christmas gifts. WOCAP also delivered food and household supply baskets to 35 seniors.

## **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 2017 ACS 5-year estimate, the total population in Allen County is 104,157, and 6,457 or 6.2 percent of the population is children under the age of 5 years. Data suggests that as of 2018 421 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 472 students during the 2018/2019 academic cycle. The vast majority, nearly 8 in 10, of the 421 Part B cases documented reflected speech/language impairments (79.6%). 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 2018-2019, ACBDD provided Part C services to 172 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 213 including special need services (Part B) to 124 preschool children in Allen County with a diagnosed disability in 2018-2019. Special need services are provided in the LCS preschool classroom and in area preschool classrooms via dual services with an itinerant/intervention specialist. LCS reported they provided services to 70 children diagnosed with a speech/language impairment, 8 diagnosed with developmental delays, 20 diagnosed with OT and 16 diagnosed with PT, 2 diagnosed with autism and 21 students who have been evaluated needing to have IEP/ETR meeting as paperwork is completed.

#### **6.7.2.3 Allen County Schools**

In 2018-2019, 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.

### **6.7.3 WOCAP Response & Services**

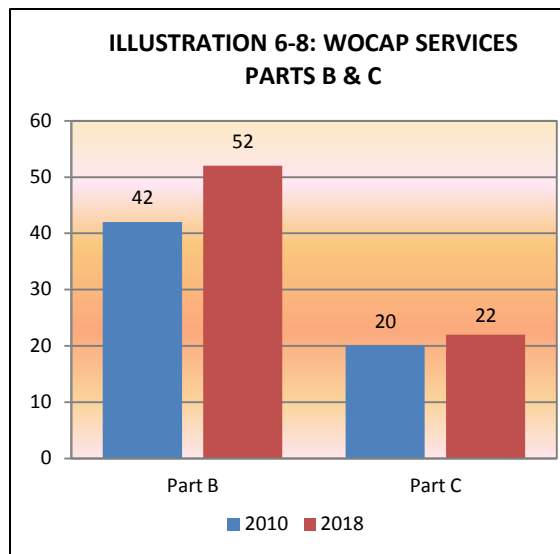
All children enrolled in the WOCAP Child Development Services receive a developmental screenings within the first 45 calendar days of enrollment. The developmental screening provides information in three major developmental areas: visual/motor, language and cognition, and gross motor/body awareness. 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 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.

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

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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 to 52 Part B children through an interagency agreement/MOU with LEAs (local education agency); 38 children were diagnosed with speech/language impairment and 12 diagnosed with non-categorical/developmental delays. In comparison, in 2010-2011 WOCAP Head Start served 42 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 2018-2019 Early Head Start program WOCAP provided services to 22 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 fostercare, 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 2017 5-Year estimates there are a total of 1,876 children aged 5 years and younger living below the poverty line, residing in Allen County. This accounts for 24.1 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 69.6 percent of those 1,876 children living within the city limits. When looking at Early Head Start eligible children between birth and 3 years old, an estimated 1,248 children are in poverty in Allen County with 900 of those residing in the City of Lima. In terms of Head Start eligible children (4-5 years old in poverty) a total of 625 children live in Allen County with 405 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 Headstart/Preschool services in Allen County are being met. Early Headstart 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

*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.*

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 2018/2019 academic cycle, 52 were diagnosed as having a Part B disability.

*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.

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 2015 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

*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.*

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.

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 amount 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 West Ohio Community Action Partnership service area spans three counties, including Allen, Auglaize and Mercer counties. 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 olds receive priority), 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 in foster care, have parents deployed in the military, are currently homeless, 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 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.

*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.*

A list of contributing factors is also provided so that special circumstances are considered. The enrollment criteria is approved annually by the Board and Policy Council to guarantee the greatest needs of local families are addressed. WOCAP maintains a significant waitlist of income

*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.*

eligible children in the County to maintain full enrollment. 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 and there openings at a site in which no eligible child can attend.

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.

The City of Lima, is the densest Head Start Service area in Allen County. The City of Lima is a hub for health care, retail, business, industry, education, recreation, transportation, arts and cultural activities, social services, spiritual development and government. 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. Transportation is offered to children and families at this location. 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 Kibby 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 across the street from the Regional Transit Authority's Transfer Center. 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 & Cridersville 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. Harrod is well known for its pork rind festival, even though its neighbor, Westminster, is renowned as, "The Pork Rind Capital of the World". The population is largely low to moderate income, and 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 old.
- 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.

## 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. And, WOCAP contends that its financial literacy and housing assistance programs are delivered in a very professional and effective manner. But WOCAP is looking to expand those roles. 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 services 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 WOCAPs 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 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.

*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.*



Protecting children from the effects of poverty to help them strive 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 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

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

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; and,
- 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 needs<sup>1</sup> 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.



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

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 implementation of health awareness programs that focus on special populations.

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



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.

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. WOCAP strives to maintain a diverse staff that represents the racial and cultural demographics of the population being served. Currently, the

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

racial makeup of the staff is 22 percent minority. WOCAP dedicates a significant amount of funding to the advancement of entry level employees through degree attainment. WOCAP has supported 32 staff members (19% of current employees) in obtaining post-secondary degrees. WOCAP also makes an effort to recruit and employ low income clients to entry level positions whenever appropriate. Currently, 21 percent of staff are former or current clients of the Agency.

#### **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.<sup>2</sup>

*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-

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

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.<sup>3</sup> The Ford Foundation and others have found that asset building approaches to financial success based on accumulated savings and purchase of long-term assets is critical to end the cycle of poverty.<sup>4</sup> Research conducted throughout the last decade on financial literacy and the

*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.*

effects of asset building indicate positive results extend beyond tangible assets accumulated.<sup>5,6</sup> 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.<sup>7,8,9</sup> 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

*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.*

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.

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

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app#/ohio/2013/allen/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.fordfoundation.org/pdfs/library/building\\_assets.pdf](http://www.fordfoundation.org/pdfs/library/building_assets.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://assets.newamerica.net/taxonomy/term/384>

<sup>6</sup> <http://assets.newamerica.net/taxonomy/term/1514>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.fordfoundation.org/pdfs/library/building\\_assets.pdf](http://www.fordfoundation.org/pdfs/library/building_assets.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org/ExclusiveCommentary.aspx?id=3bd398cc-4dec-4957-a201-39eefc5bca9e>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.capabilityapproach.com/pubs/2\\_5\\_Schuerz.pdf](http://www.capabilityapproach.com/pubs/2_5_Schuerz.pdf)

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 “Wealth Prep” program does just this. As evidence of its commitment WOCAP has worked with the City of Lima to develop and successfully implement its “Home Ownership” and “First Time Home Buyers” program. The success of WOCAPs programming reflects an enviable 96% success rate of graduates over a 20-year period wherein 1,441 homes were purchased; unfortunately, 65 foreclosures have taken place for numerous reasons (disability, loss of job, divorce, etc.). WOCAP recognizes its clients can experience financial difficulties and has developed “Foreclosure Prevention” programming in cooperation with local lending institutions to assist those that have experienced monetary setbacks.



#### 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

*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.*

the economic ladder. 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.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup>

Reports underwritten by the Annie E. Casey Foundation<sup>12,13</sup> 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;

<sup>10</sup> <http://community.thewomensfoundation.org/Document.Doc?id=170>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.earn.org/static/uploads/files/2\\_-\\_Advancing\\_Financial\\_Coaching\\_for\\_Low-Income\\_Populations\\_-\\_Midstream\\_Lessons\\_from\\_EARN.pdf](http://www.earn.org/static/uploads/files/2_-_Advancing_Financial_Coaching_for_Low-Income_Populations_-_Midstream_Lessons_from_EARN.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.aecf.org/upload/publicationfiles/fes3622h961.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/EngagingEmployers\\_JI.pdf](http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/EngagingEmployers_JI.pdf)



- 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.<sup>14</sup> 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. And however demanding, such partnerships are worthwhile and necessary endeavors to address the economic disparities and poverty conditions within the community.

## 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.



<sup>14</sup> <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0706IMPROVINGTANF.PDF>

- 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 provide 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 2019 Allen County Traffic Safety Coalition is just 86.7 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 appropriate 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.