



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**SEVEN YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE GREAT RECESSION, HOUSEHOLD INCOMES IN OHIO HAVE NOT RECOVERED**

*With another recession possibly looming, household self-sufficiency continues to lag*

**COLUMBUS** – The number of Ohioans living in households with incomes low enough to make them eligible for help from foodbanks has increased by more than 356,000 people since the end of the Great Recession. Data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) show that from 2011-2015, about 34 percent of all individuals in Ohio, or more than 3.8 million people, lived in households with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$40,000 a year for a family of three. That’s up from about 31 percent, or about 3.46 million people, from 2005-2009.

“With state revenues failing to meet estimated projections, it’s a troubling sign that a possible recession may be ahead,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “We are extremely concerned about the reality that not only have household incomes still not recovered, but that the recovery period might, in fact, be over.”

Ohio’s metropolitan areas, which represent about 83 percent of Ohio’s total population, have collectively seen an 11.39 percentage increase in the number of residents living below self-sufficiency from 2005-2009 (2,750,729 people) to 2011-2015 (3,064,056 people).

Ohio Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Number of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2009 5-Year Estimates)	Percentage of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2009 5-Year Estimates)	Number of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2015 5-Year Estimates)	Percentage of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2015 5-Year Estimates)	Percentage Change from 2009 to 2015 (number of people)
Akron	200,241	29.25 percent	218,998	31.83 percent	+9.37%
Canton-Massillon	123,140	30.96 percent	132,973	33.78 percent	+7.99%
Cincinnati	560,726	26.85 percent	622,922	29.78 percent	+11.09%
Cleveland-Elyria	609,293	29.59 percent	658,644	32.55 percent	+8.10%
Columbus	487,645	28.48 percent	600,267	31.27 percent	+23.10%
Dayton	247,031	30.46 percent	274,591	35.48 percent	+11.16%
Lima	33,768	33.54 percent	39,073	38.53 percent	+15.71%
Mansfield	38,767	32.68 percent	44,768	39.03 percent	+15.48%
Springfield	47,016	34.47 percent	51,955	38.94 percent	+10.50%
Toledo	213,910	32.70 percent	219,996	37.28 percent	+2.85%
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman	189,192	34.26 percent	199,869	37.22 percent	+5.64%

*U.S. Census Bureau S1701 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates and U.S. Census Bureau S1701 2005-2009 ACS 5-Year Estimates (see attached tables)*

“Our network of foodbanks is watching these trends closely, because we have to be prepared for what’s ahead,” said Hamler-Fugitt. “We can’t wait and hope that some remnants of the recovery trickle down to the most vulnerable people in our state. We’ve continued to have more and more people visiting our pantries to put food on their table when their paychecks or meager Social Security checks run out. More than a third of the people in our state are living in households with incomes that don’t always stretch to meet all of their basic needs.”

At the county level, 22 counties have 4 in 10 or more of their residents living in households eligible for help from foodbanks. And two counties (Adams and Athens) have more than half of their residents eligible for help from foodbanks.

County	Number of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2015 5-Year Estimates)	Percentage of Individuals Eligible for Foodbank Services (2015 5-Year Estimates)	Rank
Athens	28,097	50.76%	1
Adams	13,978	50.37%	2
Scioto	34,689	46.84%	3
Pike	12,991	46.67%	4
Jackson	15,047	46.40%	5
Vinton	6,038	46.11%	6
Meigs	10,426	45.05%	7
Highland	19,120	44.91%	8
Morgan	6,504	44.68%	9
Gallia	13,078	43.97%	10
Ashtabula	41,283	42.97%	11
Coshocton	15,303	42.20%	12
Guernsey	16,430	42.04%	13
Fayette	11,761	41.85%	14
Perry	14,886	41.72%	15
Muskingum	34,813	41.71%	16
Lucas	173,571	40.74%	17
Marion	24,059	40.59%	18
Hardin	11,925	40.56%	19
Williams	14,626	40.48%	20
Monroe	5,765	40.17%	21
Ross	28,579	40.12%	22

*U.S. Census Bureau S1701 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates (see attached tables)*

Of Ohio’s 88 counties, 75 still had more individuals living in households with incomes below the self-sufficiency standard from 2011-2015 than from 2005-2009.

“Unfortunately, there are few exceptions to what seems to be a new norm for Ohio households,” said Hamler-Fugitt. “With the serious potential for deep, harmful cuts and changes to programs like SNAP and Medicaid at the federal level, we urge Ohio to make its own investments in policies and programs that promote livable wages and support emergency safety nets.”

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is seeking \$30 million per year in the 2018-19 state biennial budget to support a comprehensive approach to hunger relief.

For more information, visit the [U.S. Census Bureau FactFinder](#) to view American Community Survey data or visit the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).

**About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks**

*The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2016, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 208 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state's largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).*

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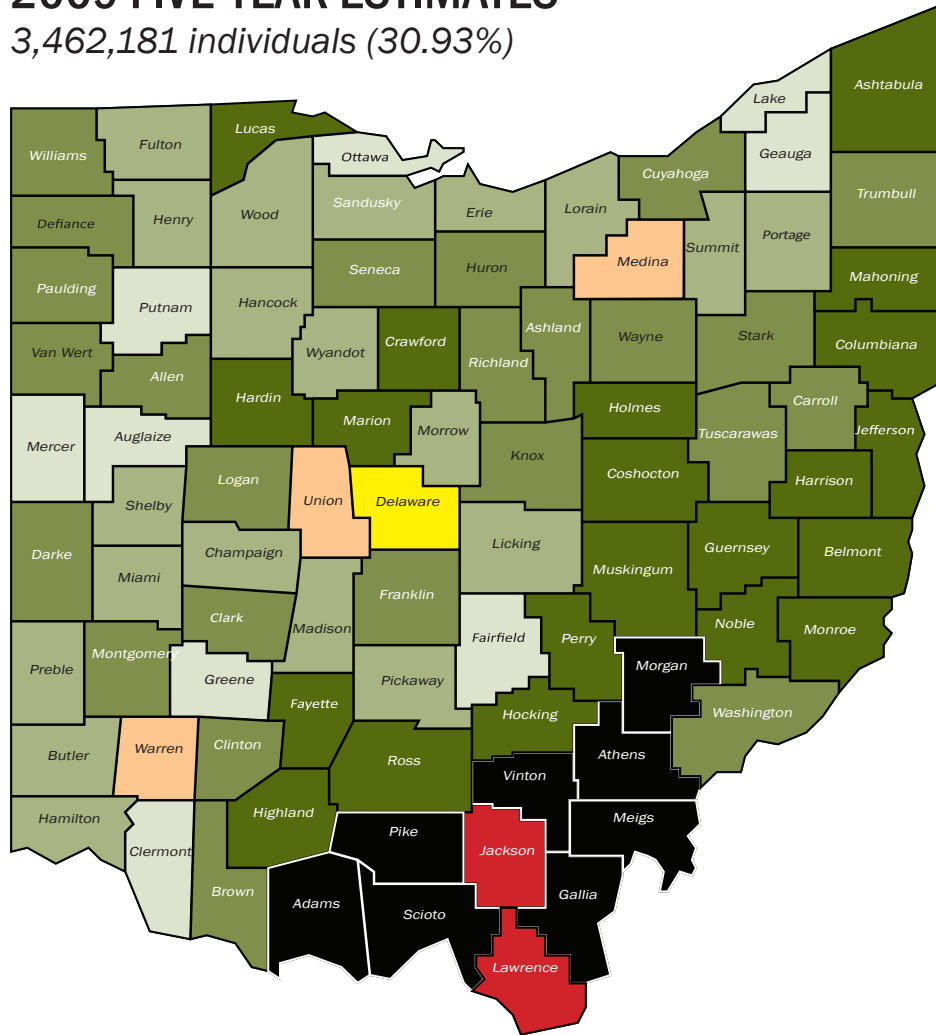
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# Mapping an Increase in Eligibility for Foodbank Services in Ohio

Individuals in households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

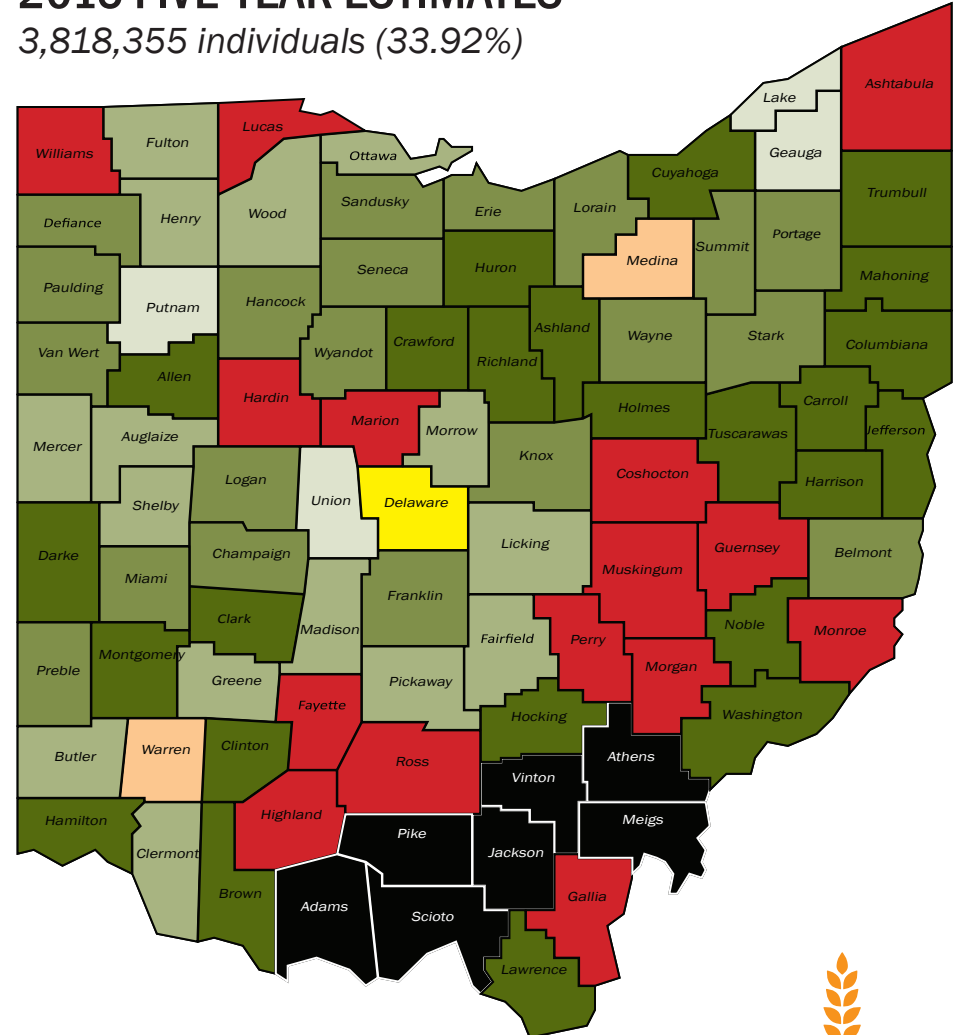
## 2009 FIVE-YEAR ESTIMATES

3,462,181 individuals (30.93%)



## 2015 FIVE-YEAR ESTIMATES

3,818,355 individuals (33.92%)



Percentage of Residents in Households Eligible for Foodbank Services (income  $\leq$  200% federal poverty level), by County



10 to 15%



15.1 to 20%



20.1 to 25%



25.1 to 30%



30.1 to 35%



35.1 to 40%



40.1 to 45%



> 45.1%

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Total: Population for whom poverty status is determined (2011-2015)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2011-2015)	Percentage of individuals below 200 FPL (2011-2015)	Total: Population for whom poverty status is determined (2005-2009)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2005-2009)	Percentage of individuals below 200 FPL (2005-2009)	Percentage Change in Number of Individuals below 200 FPL from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates
Akron, OH Metro Area	688,114	218,998	31.83%	684,517	200,241	29.25%	9.37%
Canton-Massillon, OH Metro Area	393,702	132,973	33.78%	397,747	123,140	30.96%	7.99%
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN Metro Area	2,091,618	622,922	29.78%	2,088,485	560,726	26.85%	11.09%
Cleveland-Elyria, OH Metro Area	2,023,177	658,644	32.55%	2,059,423	609,293	29.59%	8.10%
Columbus, OH Metro Area	1,919,841	600,267	31.27%	1,712,411	487,645	28.48%	23.10%
Dayton, OH Metro Area	773,985	274,591	35.48%	810,873	247,031	30.46%	11.16%
Lima, OH Metro Area	101,412	39,073	38.53%	100,675	33,768	33.54%	15.71%
Mansfield, OH Metro Area	114,690	44,768	39.03%	118,619	38,767	32.68%	15.48%
Springfield, OH Metro Area	133,440	51,955	38.94%	136,411	47,016	34.47%	10.50%
Toledo, OH Metro Area	590,052	219,996	37.28%	654,134	213,910	32.70%	2.85%
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA Met	537,053	199,869	37.22%	552,259	189,192	34.26%	5.64%

Geography	Total population for whom poverty status is determined (2011-2015)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2011-2015)	Percent in households with incomes under 200 percent of poverty level (2011-2015)	Total Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined (2005-2009)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2005-2009)	Percent in households with incomes under 200 percent of poverty level (2005-2009)	Actual Change in Number of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates	Change in Percentage of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates	Percentage Change in Number of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates
Adams County, Ohio	27,750	13,978	50.37%	28,024	12,822	45.75%	1,156	4.62%	9.02%
Allen County, Ohio	101,412	39,073	38.53%	100,675	33,768	33.54%	5,305	4.99%	15.71%
Ashland County, Ohio	50,940	18,474	36.27%	51,810	18,124	34.98%	350	1.28%	1.93%
Ashtabula County, Ohio	96,064	41,283	42.97%	98,021	39,175	39.97%	2,108	3.01%	5.38%
Athens County, Ohio	55,353	28,097	50.76%	53,648	27,924	52.05%	173	-1.29%	0.62%
Auglaize County, Ohio	45,167	12,574	27.84%	45,733	10,159	22.21%	2,415	5.63%	23.77%
Belmont County, Ohio	65,538	22,605	34.49%	63,514	23,440	36.91%	-835	-2.41%	-3.56%
Brown County, Ohio	43,277	16,814	38.85%	43,216	13,748	31.81%	3,066	7.04%	22.30%
Butler County, Ohio	360,759	104,580	28.99%	343,652	97,840	28.47%	6,740	0.52%	6.89%
Carroll County, Ohio	27,960	10,331	36.95%	28,265	9,469	33.50%	862	3.45%	9.10%
Champaign County, Ohio	38,436	12,023	31.28%	38,856	11,178	28.77%	845	2.51%	7.56%
Clark County, Ohio	133,440	51,955	38.94%	136,411	47,016	34.47%	4,939	4.47%	10.50%
Clermont County, Ohio	198,241	52,167	26.31%	191,441	45,635	23.84%	6,532	2.48%	14.31%
Clinton County, Ohio	40,527	14,859	36.66%	41,966	12,888	30.71%	1,971	5.95%	15.29%
Columbiana County, Ohio	101,934	38,591	37.86%	104,508	37,901	36.27%	690	1.59%	1.82%
Coshocton County, Ohio	36,266	15,303	42.20%	35,766	13,894	38.85%	1,409	3.35%	10.14%
Crawford County, Ohio	41,926	16,537	39.44%	43,564	15,403	35.36%	1,134	4.09%	7.36%
Cuyahoga County, Ohio	1,236,839	460,406	37.22%	1,269,094	430,086	33.89%	30,320	3.34%	7.05%
Darke County, Ohio	51,628	18,675	36.17%	51,450	15,648	30.41%	3,027	5.76%	19.34%
Defiance County, Ohio	37,843	12,439	32.87%	37,862	11,669	30.82%	770	2.05%	6.60%
Delaware County, Ohio	182,502	24,177	13.25%	157,007	19,752	12.58%	4,425	0.67%	22.40%
Erie County, Ohio	75,129	23,474	31.24%	75,529	21,860	28.94%	1,614	2.30%	7.38%
Fairfield County, Ohio	146,126	39,919	27.32%	138,036	32,949	23.87%	6,970	3.45%	21.15%
Fayette County, Ohio	28,105	11,761	41.85%	27,642	10,049	36.35%	1,712	5.49%	17.04%
Franklin County, Ohio	1,188,079	414,899	34.92%	1,101,487	354,880	32.22%	60,019	2.70%	16.91%
Fulton County, Ohio	42,038	10,753	25.58%	41,886	11,280	26.93%	-527	-1.35%	-4.67%
Gallia County, Ohio	29,743	13,078	43.97%	29,894	13,747	45.99%	-669	-2.02%	-4.87%
Geauga County, Ohio	93,104	20,591	22.12%	97,062	19,952	20.56%	639	1.56%	3.20%
Greene County, Ohio	154,910	42,763	27.61%	148,388	35,425	23.87%	7,338	3.73%	20.71%
Guernsey County, Ohio	39,078	16,430	42.04%	39,788	14,842	37.30%	1,588	4.74%	10.70%
Hamilton County, Ohio	786,547	275,592	35.04%	831,100	244,129	29.37%	31,463	5.66%	12.89%
Hancock County, Ohio	73,294	23,440	31.98%	71,724	21,027	29.32%	2,413	2.66%	11.48%
Hardin County, Ohio	29,402	11,925	40.56%	29,397	10,501	35.72%	1,424	4.84%	13.56%
Harrison County, Ohio	15,341	5,900	38.46%	15,082	5,792	38.40%	108	0.06%	1.86%
Henry County, Ohio	27,514	7,806	28.37%	27,372	7,587	27.72%	219	0.65%	2.89%
Highland County, Ohio	42,574	19,120	44.91%	41,555	15,673	37.72%	3,447	7.19%	21.99%
Hocking County, Ohio	28,192	11,247	39.89%	27,950	10,723	38.36%	524	1.53%	4.89%
Holmes County, Ohio	42,526	16,298	38.32%	40,577	15,942	39.29%	356	-0.96%	2.23%
Huron County, Ohio	58,144	20,562	35.36%	58,986	19,486	33.03%	1,076	2.33%	5.52%
Jackson County, Ohio	32,429	15,047	46.40%	33,173	14,663	44.20%	384	2.20%	2.62%
Jefferson County, Ohio	65,557	25,380	38.71%	66,048	25,200	38.15%	180	0.56%	0.71%
Knox County, Ohio	57,650	20,012	34.71%	55,337	17,850	32.26%	2,162	2.46%	12.11%
Lake County, Ohio	226,533	53,999	23.84%	232,220	49,458	21.30%	4,541	2.54%	9.18%
Lawrence County, Ohio	61,006	24,240	39.73%	61,893	26,666	43.08%	-2,426	-3.35%	-9.10%
Licking County, Ohio	164,687	48,369	29.37%	151,978	39,447	25.96%	8,922	3.41%	22.62%
Logan County, Ohio	44,856	15,124	33.72%	46,176	14,444	31.28%	680	2.44%	4.71%
Lorain County, Ohio	293,365	89,485	30.50%	292,559	81,335	27.80%	8,150	2.70%	10.02%
Lucas County, Ohio	426,061	173,571	40.74%	455,275	162,654	35.73%	10,917	5.01%	6.71%
Madison County, Ohio	38,217	9,949	26.03%	36,543	9,662	26.44%	287	-0.41%	2.97%

Geography	Total population for whom poverty status is determined (2011-2015)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2011-2015)	Percent in households with incomes under 200 percent of poverty level (2011-2015)	Total Population for Whom Poverty Status is Determined (2005-2009)	Total: All Individuals below 200 percent of poverty level (2005-2009)	Percent in households with incomes under 200 percent of poverty level (2005-2009)	Actual Change in Number of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates	Change in Percentage of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates	Percentage Change in Number of Individuals below 200 percent FPIG from 2009 5-year to 2015 5-year estimates
Mahoning County, Ohio	226,923	88,558	39.03%	234,133	83,401	35.62%	5,157	3.40%	6.18%
Marion County, Ohio	59,274	24,059	40.59%	60,815	22,863	37.59%	1,196	3.00%	5.23%
Medina County, Ohio	173,336	34,163	19.71%	168,488	28,462	16.89%	5,701	2.82%	20.03%
Meigs County, Ohio	23,143	10,426	45.05%	22,782	10,865	47.69%	-439	-2.64%	-4.04%
Mercer County, Ohio	40,303	11,079	27.49%	40,385	9,792	24.25%	1,287	3.24%	13.14%
Miami County, Ohio	102,296	31,768	31.05%	99,288	25,150	25.33%	6,618	5.72%	26.31%
Monroe County, Ohio	14,350	5,765	40.17%	14,003	5,497	39.26%	268	0.92%	4.88%
Montgomery County, Ohio	516,779	200,060	38.71%	522,132	174,688	33.46%	25,372	5.26%	14.52%
Morgan County, Ohio	14,558	6,504	44.68%	14,469	7,297	50.43%	-793	-5.76%	-10.87%
Morrow County, Ohio	34,580	10,035	29.02%	33,879	9,900	29.22%	135	-0.20%	1.36%
Muskingum County, Ohio	83,464	34,813	41.71%	83,214	31,870	38.30%	2,943	3.41%	9.23%
Noble County, Ohio	11,955	4,512	37.74%	11,546	4,055	35.12%	457	2.62%	11.27%
Ottawa County, Ohio	40,580	11,023	27.16%	40,767	8,921	21.88%	2,102	5.28%	23.56%
Paulding County, Ohio	18,978	6,641	34.99%	18,949	5,835	30.79%	806	4.20%	13.81%
Perry County, Ohio	35,678	14,886	41.72%	34,771	13,524	38.89%	1,362	2.83%	10.07%
Pickaway County, Ohio	51,856	14,953	28.84%	48,843	13,172	26.97%	1,781	1.87%	13.52%
Pike County, Ohio	27,835	12,991	46.67%	27,169	12,549	46.19%	442	0.48%	3.52%
Portage County, Ohio	155,103	48,599	31.33%	147,982	42,533	28.74%	6,066	2.59%	14.26%
Preble County, Ohio	41,030	13,885	33.84%	41,065	11,768	28.66%	2,117	5.18%	17.99%
Putnam County, Ohio	33,880	7,949	23.46%	34,205	7,118	20.81%	831	2.65%	11.67%
Richland County, Ohio	114,690	44,768	39.03%	118,619	38,767	32.68%	6,001	6.35%	15.48%
Ross County, Ohio	71,239	28,579	40.12%	69,234	25,187	36.38%	3,392	3.74%	13.47%
Sandusky County, Ohio	59,111	20,478	34.64%	59,724	17,398	29.13%	3,080	5.51%	17.70%
Scioto County, Ohio	74,052	34,689	46.84%	73,255	33,922	46.31%	767	0.54%	2.26%
Seneca County, Ohio	52,838	18,328	34.69%	54,462	18,046	33.14%	282	1.55%	1.56%
Shelby County, Ohio	48,487	13,510	27.86%	47,864	13,820	28.87%	-310	-1.01%	-2.24%
Stark County, Ohio	365,742	122,642	33.53%	369,482	113,671	30.76%	8,971	2.77%	7.89%
Summit County, Ohio	533,011	170,399	31.97%	536,535	157,708	29.39%	12,691	2.58%	8.05%
Trumbull County, Ohio	202,248	74,480	36.83%	208,851	70,964	33.98%	3,516	2.85%	4.95%
Tuscarawas County, Ohio	91,350	32,192	35.24%	89,823	29,862	33.25%	2,330	1.99%	7.80%
Union County, Ohio	49,924	11,833	23.70%	44,638	7,883	17.66%	3,950	6.04%	50.11%
Van Wert County, Ohio	28,040	9,728	34.69%	28,244	8,693	30.78%	1,035	3.92%	11.91%
Vinton County, Ohio	13,095	6,038	46.11%	13,090	6,493	49.60%	-455	-3.49%	-7.01%
Warren County, Ohio	213,668	34,135	15.98%	196,155	31,683	16.15%	2,452	-0.18%	7.74%
Washington County, Ohio	59,453	21,582	36.30%	59,917	20,791	34.70%	791	1.60%	3.80%
Wayne County, Ohio	111,438	38,809	34.83%	111,069	34,162	30.76%	4,647	4.07%	13.60%
Williams County, Ohio	36,128	14,626	40.48%	37,026	11,539	31.16%	3,087	9.32%	26.75%
Wood County, Ohio	121,953	35,672	29.25%	116,206	31,055	26.72%	4,617	2.53%	14.87%
Wyandot County, Ohio	22,084	7,523	34.07%	22,125	6,515	29.45%	1,008	4.62%	15.47%
STATEWIDE	11,258,461	3,818,355	33.92%	11,194,344	3,462,181	30.93%	356,174	2.99%	10.29%