



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

Mercer County

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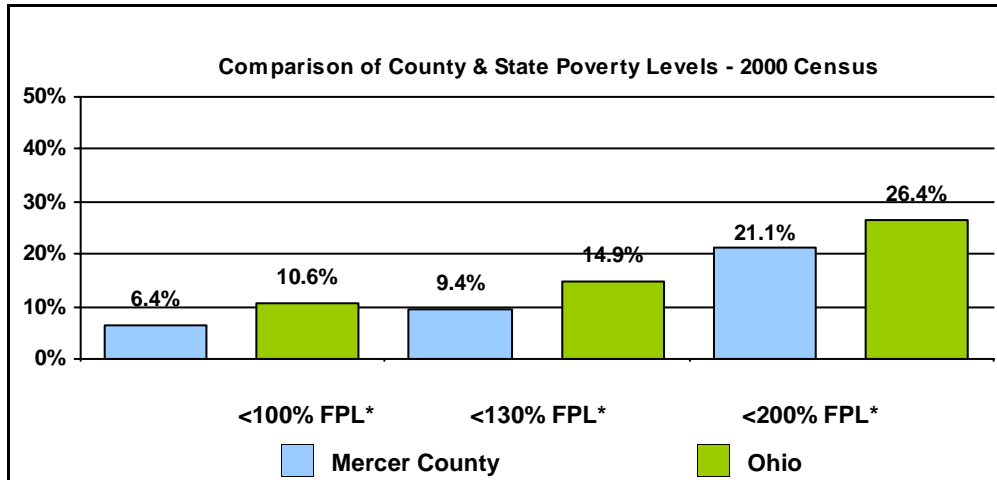
**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mercer County

Job and Family Services Profile

County Overview

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



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

Population	2007 Census Population	40,888	2000 Census Population	40,924
	Population		% of Total Population	
Age Census (2006)	County	State	County	State
Age 0-19	12,089	3,082,492	29.3%	26.9%
Age 60 and Older	7,704	2,051,874	18.7%	17.9%
Median Age (2000)	35.7	36.2		
Average Household Size (2000)	2.74	2.49		
High School Graduation Rate (2005-2006)	96.3%	86.1%		
High School Honors Graduation Rate (2005-2006)	23.2%	17.8%		

Vital Statistics	2006			
	County	County Rate per 1,000	State	State Rate per 1,000
All Births	562	13.6	150,510	13.1
Teen Births:				
<15 Years of Age	2	1.2	238	0.6
15-17 Years of Age	6	6.3	4,764	19.8
18-19 Years of Age	33	62.5	10,835	68.9
Marriages	293	7.1	72,833	6.4
Divorces	112	2.7	40,314	3.5

Dependency Rate	County	State
Rate of Dependency on Income Supports* (2005)	15.6%	17.1%
County Rank	71 of 88	N/A

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

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Family Services

Child Support

The Mercer County Child Support Enforcement Agencies establish paternity and obtains, enforces, and collects child support funds for children.

\$4,406,057 in IV-D child support was collected by the county during 2007.

Child Support Cases	FFY 2007		FFY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Cases	1,922	979,749	1,909	956,491
Paternity Establishment Rate*	111.9%	87.9%	115.6%	89.9%
Cases with Support Orders	1,785	723,521	1,763	701,380
Percentage of Cases with Support Orders	92.9%	73.8%	92.4%	73.3%
Collection Rate on Current Support Due	76.2%	68.9%	76.4%	69.1%
Rate of Cases Paying on Arrears	81.3%	67.1%	79.3%	67.3%

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

Food Stamps (FS)

The federal Food Stamp Program helps families pay for food, targeting those families whose gross monthly income is within 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Half of all recipients are children, and 65 percent live in single-parent households.

Food Stamps	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Average Monthly Adult Recipients	843	611,173	796	589,300
Average Monthly Child Recipients	753	550,242	737	537,920
Total # of Recipients (Annual Unduplicated)	2,778	1,686,146	2,650	1,635,591
Percent of Population	6.8%	14.7%	6.5%	14.3%
Net Expenditures	\$1,638,496	\$1,329,422,597	\$1,592,531	\$1,273,752,532
Average Annual FS Payment per Recipient	\$590	\$788	\$601	\$779

Ohio Works First (OWF)

Ohio Works First (OWF) is the financial-assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash benefits to needy families for up to 36 months.

10 out of every 1,000 residents in Mercer County received cash benefits through OWF during CY 2007.

Cash Assistance (CA)	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Average Monthly Adult Recipients	38	40,496	55	43,369
Average Monthly Child Recipients	108	127,124	122	131,949
Total # of Recipients(Annual Unduplicated)	416	340,861	472	354,866
Percent of Population	1.0%	3.0%	1.2%	3.1%
Net Expenditures	\$254,399	\$306,467,349	\$315,838	\$317,628,259
Average Annual CA Payment per Recipient	\$612	\$899	\$669	\$895

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Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) and TANF Support Services

The PRC program is the part of Ohio's TANF program designed to provide job training, employment assistance, and work support services to help parents find and maintain employment.

PRC/TANF Service Category	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Training, Employment and Career Advancement	\$27,975	\$46,509,880	\$14,831	\$42,733,492
Help Me Grow	\$119,647	\$38,453,319	\$127,072	\$38,200,855
Short-Term Basic Needs	\$55,171	\$31,469,757	\$31,843	\$28,935,686
Child Welfare and Family Support	\$35,987	\$24,152,026	\$68,505	\$28,040,775
Youth Education and Support	\$4,087	\$17,706,397	\$15,810	\$16,231,783
Transportation	\$11,081	\$12,687,131	\$9,567	\$11,995,067
After School Program (Student Intervention Project)	\$0	\$3,795,558	\$0	\$1,587,378
Out-of-wedlock Pregnancy Prevention	\$40,678	\$3,553,326	\$49,001	\$4,379,912
Community and Economic Development	\$0	\$2,258,970	\$0	\$1,632,660
Domestic Violence	\$8,927	\$1,454,792	\$4,568	\$1,329,610
Disaster Assistance	\$0	\$562,580	\$0	\$485,368
TOTAL PRC Expenditures	\$303,553	\$182,603,737	\$321,197	\$175,552,585

To find out more about the county's PRC program, go to:

<http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/owf/prc/county/countytable.stm>

Help Me Grow

Ohio's Help Me Grow (HMG) program is designed to promote the health, learning, and development of children up to age 3. It offers welcome home visits to parents of newborns, health screenings, developmental information, and early intervention to identify developmental delays.

# At Risk Children	# Completed Newborn Home Visits	SFY 2006	
		# Referred for Ongoing HMG Services	% Referred for Ongoing HMG Services
168	327	6	1.8%

Mercer County

Job and Family Services Profile

Family Services

Child Safety and Care/Placement

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

	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Reports and Investigations - Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases	174	81,371	184	76,167
Number of Children Reunified	9	6,746	24	9,315
Number of Children Reunified within 12 Months	7	5,001	22	7,138
Percent of Child Reunifications <12 Months	77.8%	74.1%	91.7%	76.6%

	CY 2007		
	County	State	
Children in Licensed/Certified Foster Homes	16	8,894	
Children Entering Custody	20	11,148	
Children Reentering Custody	6	1,283	
Children in Permanent Custody	18	5,435	
Number of Child Deaths	0	90	
Number of Child Deaths in Substitute Care	0	16	

		CY 2006	
		County	State
Homes/Institutions Average Monthly # Children		11	6,461
Homes/Institutions Total Annual Expenditures		\$134,913	\$74,381,463
Annual Unduplicated Number of Children in Care/Placement*		52	28,569

*Number of children in care/placement is calculated by counting the number of children in the care/placement of public agencies on January 1 of the reporting year, plus the unduplicated number of children who entered care/placement during the year. Any child who was in care/placement, even for a single day, was counted. Even if a child re-entered care/placement during the year, they were only counted once. The source data is from FACSIS, which may include children in the care of Juvenile Court.

Adoption

Ohio counties provide a comprehensive scope of services to birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptive children, particularly those children who have been in foster care.

	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Children Adopted	1	1,661	1	1,829
Adoptions Completed within 24 Months	1	581	1	609

Kinship Permanency Incentive

KPI provides time-limited incentive payments to relatives caring for minor children who would be at risk of harm if they remained in their own homes.

	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Children Receiving KPI Payments	9	4,364	4	1,778

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Family Services

Child Care

Ohio counties provide child care services and early learning opportunities that families need to succeed at work and at school. Through state and federal funding, families whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline can receive payment for all or part of their monthly child care expenses while parents work or attend job training.

The state's Early Learning Initiative (ELI), which was implemented in 2006, gives low-income children the kinds of social and educational experiences they need to be ready for kindergarten.

Children Served	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Number of Children Using Publicly Funded Child Care (Unduplicated Count)	326	191,172	280	185,059
Public Funds Used for Child Care Expenditures	\$587,087	\$512,179,646	\$482,483	\$460,727,131
Annual Average Expenditure per Child	\$1,801	\$2,679	\$1,723	\$2,490
Children Enrolled in Early Learning Initiative Programs (ELI)	0	15,318	0	13,280

Providers

Number of Licensed Child Care Centers	10	3,597	11	3,433
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*Includes licensed full-time, part-time, Head Start, school-based and combination centers with 7 or more children.

"Step Up To Quality" Program

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

The number of Licensed Child Care Centers Earning Quality Ratings as of June 30, 2007: 0

For additional information about child care services, including the Early Learning Initiative (ELI), Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), or to search for child care in your area, go to: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>

Adult Protective Services (APS)

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

	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Adult Cases	15	16,650	28	16,427
Cases Deemed Emergencies	0	1,210	0	943
Cases in Need of Protective Services	4	7,484	2	7,629
Cases Where Protective Services Not Available	0	125	0	119
Expenditures	\$28,124	\$19,956,788	\$5,103	\$17,734,395

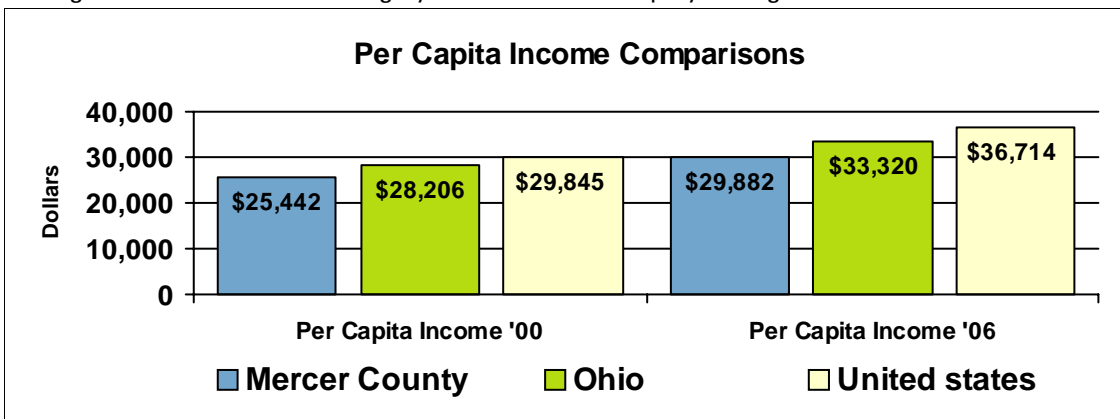
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Jobs

Income

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



Labor Force and Employment

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

	CY 2007			CY 2006		
	County	State	U.S.	County	State	U.S.
Labor Force	24,500	5,976,500	153,124,000	24,100	5,934,000	151,428,000
Employment	23,600	5,640,100	146,047,000	23,200	5,609,100	144,427,000
Unemployment	900	336,400	7,078,000	900	324,900	7,001,000
Unemployment Rate	3.8	5.6	4.6	3.8	5.5	4.6
1st UC Benefit Payments	628	278,006	N/A	552	275,431	N/A
Total UC Benefits Issued	\$2,253,291	\$1,206,523,647	N/A	\$2,015,294	\$1,177,610,230	N/A
Average Weekly Benefit	\$275	\$290	N/A	\$265	\$287	N/A
UC Duration	12.8	15.2	N/A	13.6	15.0	N/A

Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN)

WARN provides protection to workers, their families and communities by requiring employers to provide notification 60 calendar days in advance of plant closings and mass layoffs. WARN also provides for notice to State dislocation worker units so that dislocated worker assistance can be promptly provided. During calendar year 2007:

Number of Employer WARN Notices 0 **Number of Employees Affected** 0

Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA)

106 Mercer County residents, during FFY 2007, through their local One-Stop Centers, participated in the Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) program, which provides unemployed job seekers with services that promote quicker re-entry into the workforce.

* To find out more about Labor Market and Employment information, go to:
<http://www.ohioworkforceinformer.org/>

Commuting to Work

Metropolitan areas tend to draw the most commuters from their own and neighboring counties. The net commuter flow is the difference between the number of people commuting into a county for work and the number of people commuting out of the county for work. According to the 2000 census:

-40.70% / net commuter flow 19.9 minutes average commute time

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Jobs

Workforce Investment Act

The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides federal funds to states for job training and employment services. Ohio has a network of offices and 91 One-Stop Centers that provide free job training and other employment services to Ohioans looking for work. One-Stop Centers also provide services to employers looking to hire workers. The goal is to increase employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills. The following data is from Ohio's Annual Report for Program Year 2007:

Adult Program	County	State
Total Participants	54	18,863
Total Exiters	20	8,564
Entered Employment		
Exiters	10	6,107
Employed in Q1 After Exit	9	4,794
Employment Rate	90.0%	78.5%
Employment Retention		
Exiters	22	7,436
Employed in Q1, Q2, Q3 After Exit	19	6,413
Retention Rate	86.4%	86.2%
Earnings		
Exiters	15	3,715
Post-Program Earnings after Exit	\$203,504	\$55,875,189
Average Earnings	\$13,567	\$15,040
Dislocated Workers		
Total Participants	9	9,228
Total Exiters	5	3,608
Entered Employment		
Exiters	4	3,618
Employed after Exit	3	3,154
Employment Rate	75.0%	87.2%
Employment Retention		
Exiters	3	3,331
Employed after Exit	3	3,079
Retention Rate	100.0%	92.4%
Earnings		
Exiters	3	2,269
Post-Dislocation Earnings Q2 + Q3 After Exit	\$50,084	\$39,595,670
Average Earnings	\$16,695	\$17,451

Youth Programs	County	State
In-School Youth		
Total Participants	20	8,013
Total Exiters	7	2,592
Out-of-School Youth		
Total Participants	22	3,885
Exiters	6	1,488
Total Youth		
Total Participants	42	11,898
Total Youth Exiters	13	4,080
Placement in Employment or Education Exiters	4	3,616
Attainment of Employment or Education by Q1 after Exit	3	2,262
Placement in Employment or Education Rate	75.0%	62.6%
Diploma or Equivalent		
Attainment of Certificate or Diploma Exiters	8	4,162
Attainment of Certificate or Diploma By Q3 after Exit	5	2,244
Attainment of Certificate or Diploma Rate	62.5%	53.9%
Literacy/Numeracy		
Literacy _Numeracy Gains Exiters	0	882
Increased Educational Functioning Level	0	328
Literacy/ Numeracy Gains Rate	0.0%	37.2%

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Medical Assistance

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

Health Care Statistics

In Mercer County:

- 65.8%** of hospital visits occurred outside the county (2007)
- 7.5%** of all residents were enrolled in the Medicaid program (2007)
- 17.9%** of all children were enrolled in the Medicaid program (2005)
- 20.3%** of all births were paid by Medicaid (2005)
- N/A** of mothers receiving Medicaid had two or more risk factors for poor birth outcomes (2005)

Medicaid Enrollment and Expenditures

Medicaid is the state and federally funded program that pays for health care services for eligible low-income people of all ages, including children, pregnant women, families, older adults and Ohioans with disabilities. Medicaid services are delivered via contracted health care providers, ensuring that Medicaid consumers get access to needed services, such as physician visits, hospital inpatient care, prescription drugs and home health services.

	<u>CY 2007</u>		<u>CY 2006</u>	
	County	State	County	State
Residents Enrolled in Medicaid*	3,076	1,651,697	3,206	1,682,053
Annual Medicaid Expenditures**	\$23,411,296	\$11,893,762,808	\$24,198,920	\$11,952,173,555
Average Annual Medicaid Cost/Eligible	\$7,611	\$7,201	\$7,548	\$7,106

*Data is point-in-time, not cumulative

**Expenditures reflect payments made directly to providers as well as capitation payments to HMOs.

Nursing Facilities/Residential Care

	<u>CY 2007</u>		<u>CY 2006</u>	
	County	State	County	State
Nursing Homes	6	933		
Residential Care Facilities	5	547		
Medicaid Eligibles Living in Nursing Facilities	198	53,579	205	54,353
Total Expenditures	\$9,692,303	\$3,093,825,746	\$9,777,481	\$3,156,021,772

Mercer County

Job and Family Services Profile

Medical Assistance

Alternatives to Nursing Facilities (Waiver Programs)

Waiver programs allow people on Medicaid with disabilities to receive care in their homes and communities instead of in nursing homes. The following chart lists the waiver programs available in Ohio for CY 2006 and 2007, and the number of Mercer County residents participating in them.

Unduplicated Number of Residents Receiving Services Waiver Type	CY 2007		CY 2006	
	County	State	County	State
Choices - Age 60 or older	0	362	0	269
PASSPORT - Pre-admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today - Age 60 or older	38	33,334	37	32,235
Assisted living - Age 21 or older	0	405	0	71
Individual Options Waiver - Available to all ages	21	13,135	19	12,082
Level One Waiver - Available to all ages with an ICF/MR Level of Care	6	5,306	5	4,812
Ohio Home Care - Age 59 or younger	23	9,697	21	9,579
Transitions - Age 60 or older	13	3,184	11	3,235
Transitions Carve Out - All ages	2	1,575	0	548

For more Medicaid Information on Mercer County, go to:

http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/reports/documents/OMR_SFY2006.pdf