



**A Community Assessment UPDATE
For Allen County in Ohio 2020**

Prepared by

West Ohio Community Action Partnership

**(With data from the Community Action Partnership/Community Commons Online Community
Assessment Tool)**

10 Page Summary



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This update to the community assessment for Allen County does not reflect all of the changes that have occurred within Allen County; rather it highlights some significant changes in the way we see barriers to low-income families attaining family stability; and the way in which we may approach possible solutions.

Allen County has a higher percentage of poverty of all ages with 14.4%, as compared to Auglaize and Mercer Counties (WOCAP service area), 6.9% and 7.6%, respectively.

A significant observation is the 19.00% or 18,852 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level, and approximately 32.53% or 32,283 individuals are living in households with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Both of these figures are higher than the state and national averages. The concentration of poverty in Allen County is a concern and a priority for West Ohio CAP services.

Allen County's unemployment rate significantly rose in 2020 from 3.8% to 5.2%, with peak rates in April, May and June of 20.5%, 15.2% and 11% respectively due to the pandemic.

A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits.

The West Ohio Food Bank experienced a 69% increase in the number of individuals served with food assistance in the year 2020 over their 11 counties they serve. Allen County was provided 6,516,971 pounds of food for an equivalent of 5,430,809 meals. According to West Ohio Food Bank, 206,749 people were served in Allen County in 2020. It is important to note that due to COVID registration protocols, this number accounts for number of times a person received food and is a duplicated count of individuals.

For the year 2021 we will focus on continuing our efforts on reducing the burdens the COVID-19 pandemic caused to customers in our service area by increasing access to services and assistance in the community, while also making them easily accessible virtually and online.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020

West Ohio CAP implemented new initiatives to address the challenges in our communities, bridge the gaps, partner with local agencies, and adapt to the changes faced daily. We understood the importance of continuing to move forward while keeping the safety and health of our staff & customers as our utmost priority. We maintained a full operation of services during the pandemic

Rent and Mortgage Assistance

West Ohio CAP provided rent and mortgage assistance to individuals affected by COVID-19 due to employment changes, childcare changes, and more through the Home Relief Grant. Through this grant, the agency provided rent and mortgage assistance to 378 customers in 2020.

Homeless/Shelter Assistance

West Ohio CAP partnered with local agencies to provide non-congregate shelter to homeless families who needed to quarantine or isolate to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in shelters and our communities.

Adapted Virtually

Most of our staff served clients by phone, held meetings and housing classes virtually, trained new staff, and conducted interviews to continue the hiring process.

Emergency Assistance

West Ohio CAP continued to actively respond to the changing conditions to fulfill the needs in the communities we serve through areas such as food, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, hand soap, masks, gloves, housing and shelter.

Head Start

Teachers provided the students with virtual story time, Zoom meetings, and lesson plan activities that align with the curriculum to ensure the children stay on track and maintain a positive home and school interaction. Staff members provided a meal delivery for our Head Start families. Each week, our staff with the help of the Ohio Army National Guard, have loaded our buses with food and delivered meals and snacks. As of June 2020, we distributed food to 216 families, which includes a total of 491 children.

Demographics

Total Population

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), there were a total of 103,175 people residing in Allen County. The female population comprised 49.96% of the report area, while the male population represented 50.04%. Allen County is predominantly white representing 82.54% of the population, while the black population represented 11.85%, and persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 3.49%.

Population Change

Population change within the report area from 2000-2019 is shown below. During the sixteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area declined by -4.88 percent, decreasing from 108,473 persons in 2000 to 103,175 persons in 2019.

Poverty

2018 poverty estimates show a total of 13,901 persons living below the poverty level in the report area, totaling a rate of 14.4%, which exceeds the poverty rate in Ohio and the United States. Poverty information is at 100% of the federal poverty income guidelines.

Poverty Change

According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 3.8%, compared to a national increase of 1.8%.

Households in Poverty

Of the 40,650 total households in Allen County, it is estimated that there were 5,721 households, or 14.1%, living in poverty within the report area.

Poverty Rate

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates, an average of 13.93% of all persons lived in a state of poverty. The poverty rate for all persons living in the report area is greater than the national average of 13.42%. In the report area 32.53% or 32,283 individuals are living in households with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In the report area 19% or 18,852 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health

services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Families in Poverty by Family Type

According to ACS 5 year estimates for the report area, there were 2,601 (9.9%) families living in poverty, compared to the national average of 9.5%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 68.9% (1,793) of all households in poverty, compared to 25.6% (142) and 5.5% (666) of households headed by married couples and males, respectively.

The trend continues for both the state of Ohio and the United States, with male householders being the least and female householders being the most.

Population Age 65+

Of the estimated 103,175 total population in the report area, an estimated 17,747 persons are adults aged 65 and older, representing 17.20% of the population

Seniors in Poverty

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year data, an average of 7.0% of people lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for people living in the report area is less than the national average of 9.3%.

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 8.17% of the adult population in the report area is veterans, which is more than the national average of 7.29%.

| Report Area | Veterans Total | Veterans Male | Veterans Female | % Pop Over 18 Total | % Pop Over 18 Males | % Pop Over 18 Females |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Allen County, OH | 6,474 | 6,110 | 364 | 8.17% | 15.38% | 0.92% |
| Ohio | 709,287 | 656,611 | 52,676 | 7.84% | 15.02% | 1.13% |
| United States | 18,230,322 | 16,611,283 | 1,619,039 | 7.29% | 13.68% | 1.26% |

Employment

Current Unemployment

Overall, the report area experienced an average 5.2% unemployment rate in December 2020. The unemployment rate for Allen County is equivalent to Ohio's rate, and less than the United States' rate of 6.5%. In 2020 there was expanded eligibility for Coronavirus unemployment help through the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (or "PUA") program, which provided benefits for many individuals ineligible for state unemployment benefits, including self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers and part-time workers.

Unemployment Change

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment from December 2019 to December 2020 grew from 3.8% to 5.2%.

Thirteen Month Unemployment Rates

Unemployment change within the report area from December 2019 to December 2020 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this thirteen month period grew from 3.8% to 5.2%. The largest increase in unemployment rates can be seen between March 2020 and April 2020.

| Report Area | Dec. 2019 | Jan. 2020 | Feb. 2020 | Mar. 2020 | Apr. 2020 | May 2020 | June 2020 | July 2020 | Aug. 2020 | Sept. 2020 | Oct. 2020 | Nov. 2020 | Dec. 2020 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Allen County, OH | 3.8% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 5.4% | 20.5% | 15.2% | 11.0% | 8.7% | 8.5% | 7.5% | 6.0% | 5.3% | 5.2% |
| Ohio | 3.8% | 5.0% | 4.7% | 5.4% | 17.3% | 13.5% | 11.1% | 9.2% | 8.8% | 8.0% | 5.8% | 5.2% | 5.2% |
| United States | 3.45 | 4.0% | 3.8% | 4.5% | 14.4% | 13.0% | 11.2% | 10.4% | 8.5% | 7.7% | 6.6% | 6.4% | 6.5% |

Household Income

The median household income for Allen County is \$50,301, less than both the state (\$56,155) and national (\$61,937) median household income.

Commuter Travel Patterns

Of the 47,375 workers in the report area, 85.9% drove to work alone while 7.6% carpooled. 0.7% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 1.6% walking or riding bicycles, and 1.4% used taxicabs to travel to work.

Education

Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. The program's goal is to help children become ready for kindergarten while also providing the needed requirements to thrive, including health care and food support. This indicator reports the number and rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under age 5. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2018 Head Start locator. Population data is from the 2010 US Decennial Census. The report area has a total 14 Head Start programs with a rate of 20.71 per 10,000 children under 5 years old

| Report Area | Children Under Age 5 | Total Head Start Programs | Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children) |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Allen County, OH | 6,761 | 14 | 20.71 |
| Ohio | 720,856 | 849 | 11.78 |
| United States | 20,426,118 | 21,511 | 10.53 |

Our agency's Head Start staff remained active with the children and their families during the stay at home order in 2020 to continue reaching milestones in development. Virtual meetings and check-ins occurred with weekly lesson plans to assist parents and caregivers with staying on track with their children. Meals, diapers, formula and other supplies were delivered and made available for families who were in need.

Educational Attainment

Allen County reported 11.5% of the population aged 25 and older have obtained an Associate's level degree or higher. For the selected area, 11.5% have obtained a Bachelor's level degree or higher while 38.8% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school. 9.7% of the reported area has no high school diploma.

Youth Not Working and Not in School

Of those youth age 16-19 who are not currently enrolled in school and who are not employed, the report area has a total population of 5,918, which equates to 6.07% who are not in school and not employed.

Housing

Housing Age

Of the 45,081 total housing units in the report area, the median year built is 1963 with a median age of 56.

Homeowners

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 27,263 owner occupied homeowners of the estimated 45,081 housing units in the report area in 2019. This 60.48% is a decrease over the 72.06% owner occupied homes in 2000.

| Report Area | Total Housing Units 2000 | Owner Occupied Homes 2000 | Owner Occupied Homes | Total Housing Units 2019 | Owner Occupied Homes 2019 | Owner Occupied Homes 2019 |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allen County, OH | 40,646 | 29,288 | 72.06% | 45,081 | 27,263 | 60.48% |
| Ohio | 4,445,773 | 3,072,522 | 69.11% | 5,202,304 | 3,089,046 | 59.38% |
| United States | 105,480,101 | 69,815,753 | 66.19% | 137,428,986 | 77,274,381 | 56.23% |

Vacancy Rates

Residential and business vacancy rates for the report area in the second quarter of 2019 are reported. For this reporting period, a total of 2,008 residential addresses were identified as vacant in the report area, a vacancy rate of 4.2%. 701 business addresses were also reported as vacant at a rate of 15.8%, exceeding 12.7% in Ohio and 9.1% in the United States.

Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes

U.S. Census data shows 88 occupied housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS 5 year estimates show an increase of 151 housing units in the report area were without plumbing.

Evictions

The Eviction Lab reports that of 13,939 homes in the report area, there were 886 eviction filings, for an eviction filing rate of 6.36%. 529 of the eviction filings ended in an eviction, for an eviction rate of 3.8%. Our staff attended eviction court in Allen County once they opened up again after being closed due to the pandemic. Between June 2020 and December 2020 our staff assisted 92 individuals.

Income

Income Levels

According to the American Community Survey, the median household income for Allen County is \$50,552, lower than both state of Ohio (\$54,533) and United States (\$60,293).

| Report Area | Median Household Income | Per Capita Income |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Allen County, OH | \$50,552 | \$25,662 |
| Ohio | \$54,533 | \$30,304 |
| United States | \$60,293 | \$32,621 |

Nutrition

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Out of 14,843 total public school students in Allen County, 3,575 were eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 24.1% of public school students, which is lower than the state average of 24.6%.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 5,376 households (or 13.23%) received SNAP payments during 2019. During this same period there were 2,594 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments. On average, SNAP households received about \$246 a month in fiscal year 2020. The average SNAP benefit per person was about \$125 per month, which works out to about \$1.39 per person per meal.

| Report Area | Households Receiving SNAP Total | Households Receiving SNAP Percent | Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty | Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty | Households Not Receiving SNAP Total | Households Not Receiving SNAP Percent | Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty | Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Allen County, OH | 5,376 | 13.23% | 3,127 | 2,249 | 35,274 | 86.77% | 2,594 | 32,680 |
| Ohio | 612,607 | 13.10% | 325,290 | 287,317 | 4,063,751 | 86.90% | 314,309 | 3,749,442 |
| United States | 14,171,567 | 11.74% | 6,707,025 | 7,464,542 | 106,584,481 | 88.26% | 8,903,117 | 97,681,364 |

SNAP Authorized Food Stores

The report area contains 99 total SNAP-Authorized Retailers with a rate of 9.31.

Food Insecurity Rate

The population experiencing food insecurity comprises 15% of Allen County, or a total of 17,873 individuals. Children under the age of 18 that experienced food insecurity are 20.1% of the 24,279 children in Allen County. Of those food insecure children, 27% are ineligible for assistance. According to the West Ohio Food Bank, in the year 2020 there were a total of 14,480 individuals considered food insecure in Allen County, 4,570 in Auglaize County and 3,870 in Mercer County.

Uninsured Population

Of the 103,175 total population, 5,884 or 5.7% are uninsured individuals.

Health Care

Medicare and Medicaid Providers

Total institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for the report area are shown.

| Report Area | Total Institutional Providers | Hospitals | Nursing Facilities | Federally Qualified Health Centers | Rural Health Clinics | Community Mental Health Centers |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Allen County, OH | 41 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Ohio | 3,620 | 266 | 960 | 357 | 51 | 3 |
| United States | 74,721 | 7,027 | 15,491 | 9,215 | 4,455 | 125 |

Persons Receiving Medicare

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 21,723 persons were receiving Medicare benefits. A total of 3,447 disabled persons in the report area received Medicare benefits.

Deaths of Despair

This indicator reports the rate of death due to intentional self-harm (suicide), alcohol-related disease, and drug overdoses per 100,000 population. This indicator is relevant because suicide is an indicator of poor mental health.

| Report Area | Total Population | Avg. Annual Deaths, 2011-2017 | Mortality Rate, 2001-2007 | Mortality Rate, 2011-2017 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allen County, OH | 104,705 | 49 | 19.3 | 47.07 |
| Ohio | 11,591,507 | 6,077 | 29.2 | 52.4 |
| United States | 318,679,623 | 129,605 | 28.9 | 40.67 |