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## **SECTION 1**

### **INTRODUCTION: WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2022**

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 \_\_\_\_\_. 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 2022 WOCAP Community Assessment has been completely updated to provide expanded information necessary to provide the rationale and justification for the programs and services provided by, and yet to be developed by WOCAP. The assessment was compiled with the assistance of the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission and Mercer 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**

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

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

571 children in Allen County. West Ohio CAP continued its focus on low-income early childhood development by successfully adding 80 children in the Early Head Start Program with child care partners in 2015.

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

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

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

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

We are known throughout the community as an organization of integrity that is a leader in collaboration, partnering and advocating for low-income families. A hallmark of our organization

is our ability to collaborate with a wide variety of community agencies. We have partnerships with more than 100 agencies in our region to meet the goals of helping people reach their full potential.

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

### **Collaborations with West Ohio CAP**

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

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

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

West Ohio CAP partners with 15 organizations in three counties to coordinate homeless prevention services in each county. The Homeless Planning Region 12 develops policy for how services will be provided, monitors quality of services and ensures that families are permanently and stably housed. Our partnership has resulted in the first ever participation in the annual homeless count by both Auglaize and Mercer Counties, bringing awareness to those communities of the need for services.

## **1.3 WOCAP's Philosophy & Guidance**

WOCAP has a long and storied history of success. And much of that success is predicated upon the direction and guidance provided by the Policy Board, our parents and staff who have collectively developed specific statements to guide the direction, development and delivery of services so needed across this community. 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 West Ohio Community Action Partnership, commit to making a difference in our community, through actions and behaviors that demonstrate our dedication to these values:

Welcoming , accepting, and recognizing that each person has unique and diverse qualifications and strengths  
Offering services with dignity, kindness, and compassion  
Communicating with directness and honesty to find creative solutions  
Accomplishing our common goals by providing the tools to build bridges to success  
Pioneering the way forward in high standards of education and community achievement

**Vision Statement:**

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

**1.4 WOCAP & Current Collaboration**

As an agency WOCAP has developed its programming and shared its successes with other community stakeholders. And, as a result WOCAP now has over 100 partnerships with 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. In 2021 WOCAP served 129 households that were identified as homeless, as well as assisting another 1,385 households with housing assistance.
- In total, WOCAP assisted 4,259 households in 2021, which also greatly reduced the impact from evictions that would have occurred in our communities. Landlords and local businesses benefitted from West Ohio CAP funding of \$5,331,455 that was spent in Allen, Auglaize and Mercer Counties

- 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 private funds with State home repair funds, agency funds, City of Lima Funds, and Ohio Department of Health Funds. West Ohio Cap planned to abate 40-50 homes in the area, with a priority for homes 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 2020 ACS datasets were used as baseline information across the entire report. Decennial Census information was used as available and where applicable across the County, townships, and cities/villages. 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 Mercer 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, Mercer County Auditor's Office, Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission, Mercer County Public Health, The Mercer County Sheriff's Department, The City of Celina Police Department, and the City of Celina Engineering Department. Section V examines the implications of crime, housing and substance abuse with respect to policy decisions governing land use, housing, resource management, criminal justice services and health. Before a Summary of Findings &

Recommendations is presented, Section VI provides an overview of poverty and health disparities, including those associated with the local physical environment. Section VI concludes with a needs assessment completed by WOCAP's clients and parents and summarizes WOCAP's services, partners and compliance issues related to the delivery of Head Start and Early Head Start services.

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

## SECTION 2

### POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS

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

#### 2.1 Population & Area

The service area under review in this document spans the entirety of Mercer County, including its cities and villages. The study area encompasses the City of Celina, the incorporated villages of Chickasaw, Coldwater, Fort Recovery, Mendon, Montezuma, Rockford, St. Henry and Burekettsville, and all 13 townships including Black Creek, Butler, Center, Dublin, Franklin, Gibson, Granville, Hopewell, Jefferson, Liberty, Marion, Recovery, Union, and Washington. (Map 2-1).

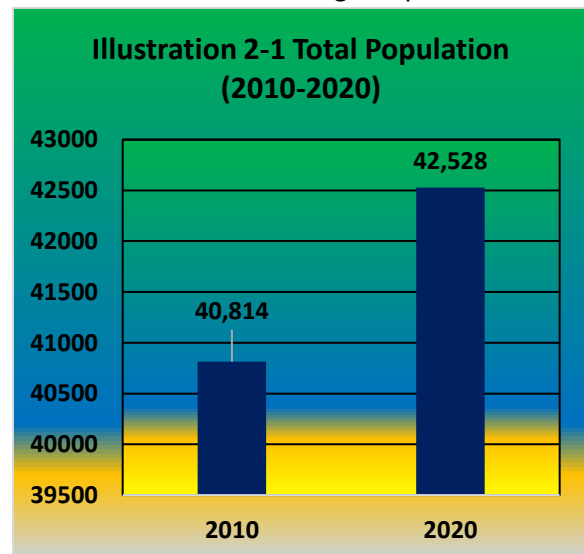
Major roads include US Route 127 Which runs north and south and US Route 33 in the northern section of the county which crosses the county from the northwest to the southeast. In addition, Mercer County is home to Grand Lake St. Marys, the largest inland lake in Ohio. The total study area reflects some 462.4 square miles. Two base maps are provided showing location by roads (Map 2-1) and census tracts (Map 2-2).

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

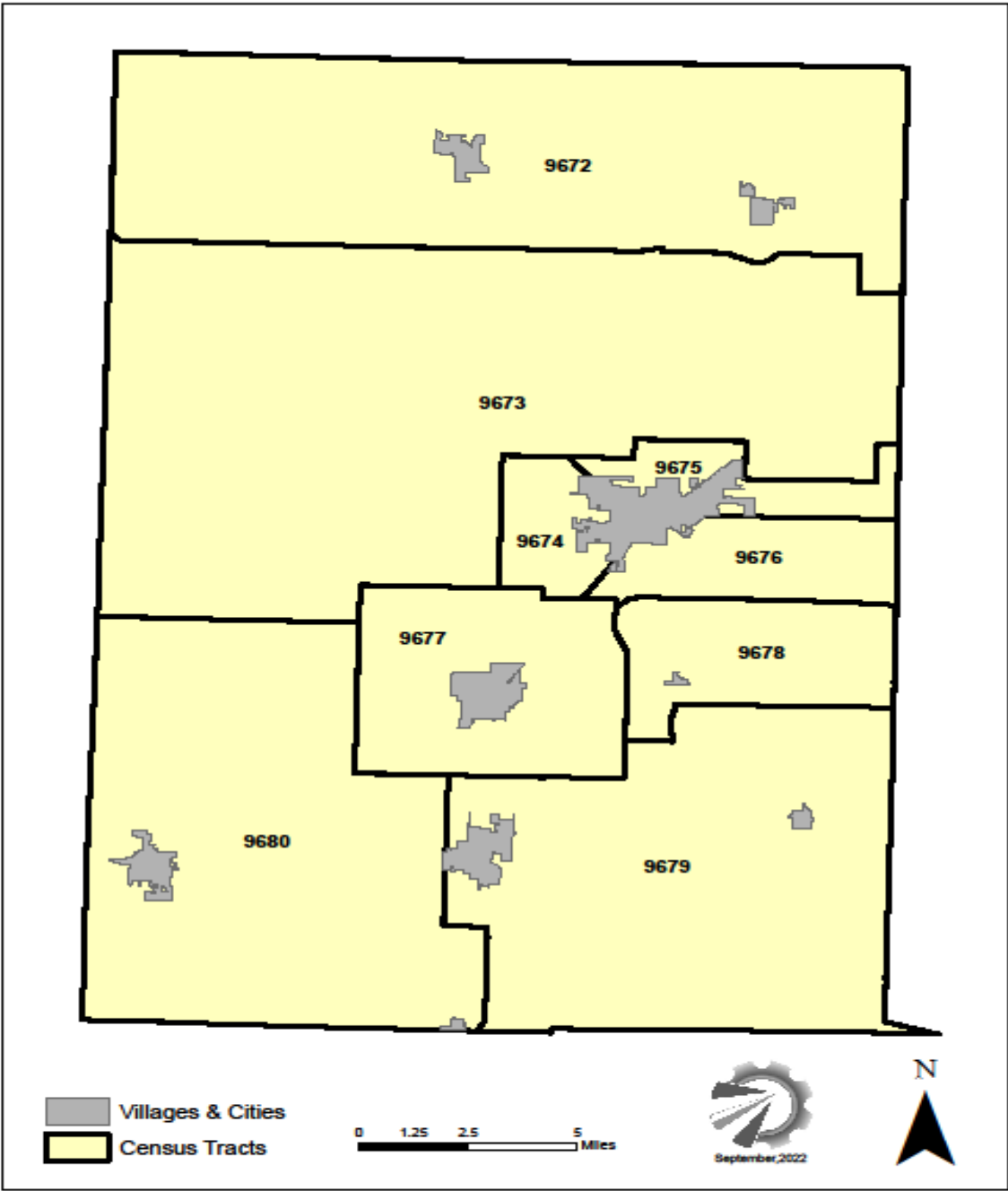
#### 2.2 Population & Population Change

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

Table 2-1 provides population data for Mercer County and its political subdivisions by decennial census periods and the most recent ACS estimate. As identified in Table 2-1 and demonstrated in Illustration 2-1, the County's population grew by 4.2% between 2010-202. For comparison purposes, the State of Ohio experienced a population growth of just 2.3% over the same 10-year period.



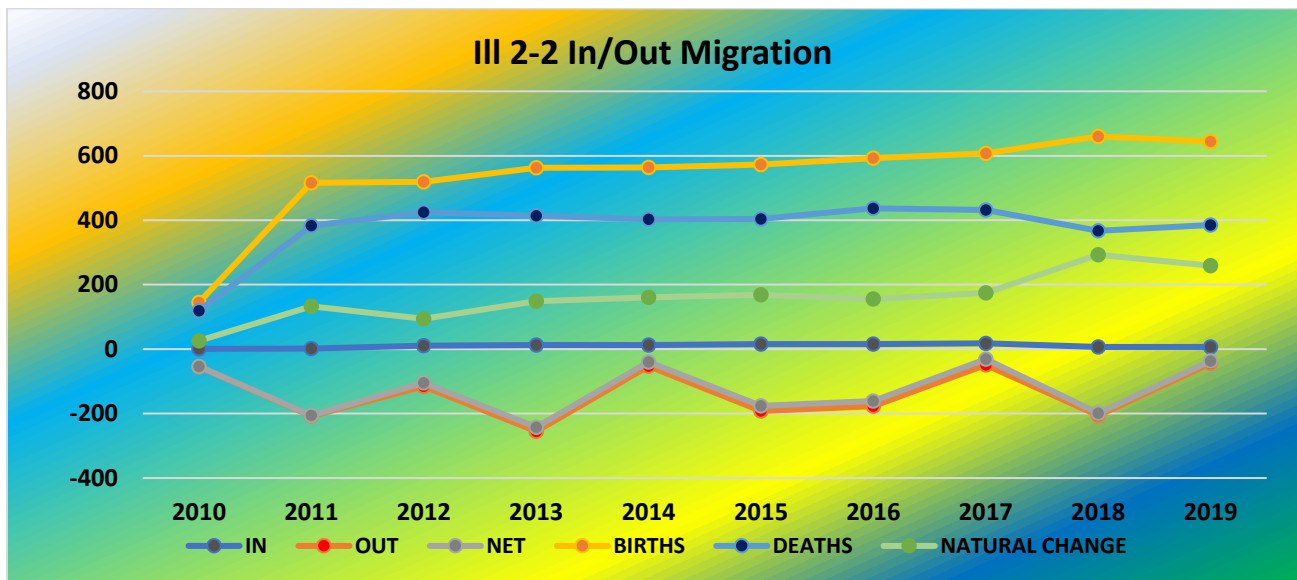
**Map 2-1: MERCER COUNTY CENSUS TRACT BASEMAP (2020)**



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

Population change is the net result of the relationship between the number of births and the number of deaths in a population (sometimes referred to as natural change) coupled with the net migration within the community. Comparing 2010 DEC Redistricting Data with the 2020 Census tabulations, Mercer County gained 1,700 resident in 10 years, a 4.2% increase. For comparison purposes, the State of Ohio grew by 2.8 percent during the 10-year period. Illustration 2-2 provides additional insights into the components of population change over the 2010 thru 2019 period.

TABLE 2-1			
TOTAL POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)			
Political Subdivision	2010	2020	PCT Change
Mercer County	40,814	42,528	4.2%
Black Creek	612	611	-0.2%
Butler	1,918	1,879	-2.0%
Center	1,086	1,099	1.2%
Dublin	1,018	1,081	6.2%
Franklin	2,120	2,359	11.3%
Gibson	968	1,025	5.9%
Granville	1,433	1,428	-0.3%
Hopewell	1,033	1,024	-0.9%
Jefferson	2,777	2,867	3.2%
Liberty	918	909	-1.0%
Marion	2,680	2,964	10.6%
Recovery	1,228	1,118	-9.0%
Union	753	702	-6.8%
Washington	1,190	1,201	0.9%
Burkettsville	170	203	19.4%
Celina	10,389	10,998	5.9%
Chickasaw	290	358	23.4%
Coldwater	4,427	4,774	7.8%
Fort Recovery	1,430	1,501	5.0%
Mendon	662	628	-5.1%
Montezuma	165	152	-7.9%
Rockford	1,120	1,051	-6.2%
St. Henry	2,427	2,596	7.0%
Data Source: P1 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census			



Whether related to growth or decline, population change is not static nor uniform. For example, Mercer County experienced an overall population increase of 4.2 percent. But when examining the entire county over the 10-year period, as depicted in Table 2-1, all of the political subdivisions within Mercer County have experienced either growth or decline.

The City of Celina, the county seat, witnessed a 5.9 percent increase in population between 2010 and 2020. The Villages of Burketsville and Chickasaw both saw increase in population of about 20 percent within the 10-year period.

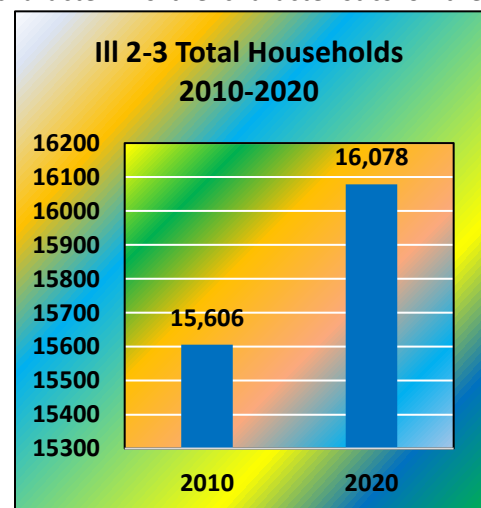
## 2.3 Households & Household Size

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

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

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 2020. Illustration 2-3 shows the trend over time in total households in Mercer County.



Household size is an interesting factor. Table 2-2 presents information relative to the changing size of households. The average household size in Mercer County has decreased slightly to 2.52 persons per household between 2010 and 2020, a decline of 3 percent. In comparison, in 2010, the State average size of 2.46 persons per household saw a decline of 2.0 percent in 2020. Notice also that household size varies by political subdivision across Mercer County.

TABLE 2-2 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS & AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Total Households 2010	Average Household Size 2010	Total Households 2020	Average Household Size 2020	PCT Change Total HH	PCT Change HH Size
<b>Mercer County</b>	15,606	2.60	16,078	2.52	3.02%	-3.1%
<b>Black Creek</b>	206	1.83	218	2.10	5.83%	14.8%
<b>Butler</b>	640	2.82	835	2.66	30.47%	-5.7%
<b>Center</b>	470	2.72	402	2.50	-14.47%	-8.1%
<b>Dublin</b>	394	2.65	379	2.33	-3.81%	-12.1%
<b>Franklin</b>	988	2.10	996	2.12	0.81%	1.0%
<b>Gibson</b>	336	2.84	272	2.61	-19.05%	-8.1%
<b>Granville</b>	356	2.84	400	3.64	12.36%	28.2%
<b>Hopewell</b>	381	2.59	320	2.68	-16.01%	3.5%
<b>Jefferson</b>	1,116	2.30	1150	2.33	3.05%	1.3%
<b>Liberty</b>	335	2.74	386	3.08	15.22%	12.4%
<b>Marion</b>	763	3.41	1073	2.49	40.63%	-27.0%
<b>Recovery</b>	344	3.26	347	2.87	0.87%	-12.0%
<b>Union</b>	279	2.64	386	2.16	38.35%	-18.2%
<b>Washington</b>	427	3.23	391	3.35	-8.43%	3.7%
<b>Burkettsville</b>	69	2.39	73	2.44	5.80%	2.1%
<b>Celina</b>	4,526	2.37	4416	2.38	-2.43%	0.4%
<b>Chickasaw</b>	111	2.38	142	2.2	27.93%	-7.6%
<b>Coldwater</b>	1,629	2.49	1551	2.47	-4.79%	-0.8%
<b>Fort Recovery</b>	447	2.58	719	2.38	60.85%	-7.8%
<b>Mendon</b>	222	2.6	256	2.51	15.32%	-3.5%
<b>Montezuma</b>	75	2.23	59	1.78	-21.33%	-20.2%
<b>Rockford</b>	502	2.41	411	2.03	-18.13%	-15.8%
<b>St. Henry</b>	990	2.79	896	3.01	-9.49%	7.9%
Data Source: B11012 & B25010 ACS 2010 & 2020						



Table 2-3 examines household composition. In 2020, approximately 6,341, or 40 percent, of all households were identified without children. This data may very well indicate that a historical trend of families with children is changing to more two-person households, single-parent households with children under the age of 18 years, and households comprised of retirees. In addition, as the average household size declines the trend of smaller households becomes evident; as of 2020, there were 10,163 (63%) households comprised of one or two individuals within Mercer County. The implications of smaller sized households should be monitored by local policy experts and reflected in local housing policies, building codes and zoning regulations.

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

TABLE 2-3								
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN BY TYPE (2020)								
Political Subdivision	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
<b>Mercer County</b>	9,737	60.56%	8277	51.48%	861	5.36%	599	3.73%
<b>Black Creek</b>	35	16.06%	35	16.06%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Butler</b>	832	99.64%	832	99.64%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Center</b>	190	47.26%	91	22.64%	82	20.40%	17	4.23%
<b>Dublin</b>	245	64.64%	232	61.21%	0	0.00%	13	3.43%
<b>Franklin</b>	456	45.78%	377	37.85%	59	5.92%	20	2.01%
<b>Gibson</b>	220	80.88%	154	56.62%	29	10.66%	37	13.60%
<b>Granville</b>	475	118.75%	475	118.75%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Hopewell</b>	240	75.00%	199	62.19%	35	10.94%	6	1.88%
<b>Jefferson</b>	249	21.65%	222	19.30%	0	0.00%	27	2.35%
<b>Liberty</b>	394	102.07%	343	88.86%	0	0.00%	51	13.21%
<b>Marion</b>	548	51.07%	518	48.28%	30	2.80%	0	0.00%
<b>Recovery</b>	383	110.37%	383	110.37%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Union</b>	145	37.56%	117	30.31%	0	0.00%	28	7.25%
<b>Washington</b>	429	109.72%	429	109.72%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>Burkettsville</b>	43	58.90%	40	54.79%	0	0.00%	3	4.11%
<b>Celina</b>	2,028	45.92%	1388	31.43%	322	7.29%	318	7.20%
<b>Chickasaw</b>	89	62.68%	67	47.18%	16	11.27%	6	4.23%
<b>Coldwater</b>	1,061	68.41%	889	57.32%	161	10.38%	11	0.71%
<b>Fort Recovery</b>	479	66.62%	405	56.33%	68	9.46%	6	0.83%
<b>Mendon</b>	140	54.69%	109	42.58%	24	9.38%	7	2.73%
<b>Montezuma</b>	12	20.34%	3	5.08%	9	15.25%	0	0.00%
<b>Rockford</b>	103	25.06%	90	21.90%	10	2.43%	3	0.73%
<b>St. Henry</b>	941	105.02%	879	98.10%	16	1.79%	46	5.13%
Data Source: B11012 ACS								

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 26 percent of large households in Mercer County reside in the City of Celina.

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

TABLE 2-4					
FAMILY SIZE BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)					
Political Subdivision	Household Size 6	Household Size 7+	Household Size 6 & 7+	PCT HH w/ 6+ Occupants	PCT of County 6+ Households
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	
Black Creek	8	0	8	3.7%	1%
Butler	117	15	132	15.8%	16%
Center	9	0	9	2.2%	1%
Dublin	20	0	20	5.3%	2%
Franklin	18	20	38	3.8%	5%
Gibson	19	10	29	10.7%	3%
Granville	0	25	25	6.3%	3%
Hopewell	0	0	0	0.0%	0%
Jefferson	0	4	4	0.3%	0%
Liberty	12	0	12	3.1%	1%
Marion	16	38	54	5.0%	6%
Recovery	30	36	66	19.0%	8%
Union	7	7	14	3.6%	4%
Washington	24	6	30	7.7%	4%
Burkettsville	0	0	0	0.0%	0%
Celina	66	155	221	5.0%	26%
Chickasaw	7	2	9	6.3%	1%
Coldwater	48	0	48	3.1%	6%
Fort Recovery	18	0	18	2.5%	2%
Mendon	7	2	9	3.5%	1%
Montezuma	0	0	0	0.0%	0%
Rockford	4	0	4	1.0%	0%
St. Henry	48	44	92	10.3%	11%
Data B25010 ACS 5-year estimates					

Single parent households, especially female heads of households, are also at risk of experiencing fair housing discrimination based on familial status. Table 2-5 reveals the distribution of single

female-headed households across the County, excluding those living alone. This data suggests the highest concentration of single female heads of households in Mercer County is located in Granville Township with 48.3% of households being single-female households.

TABLE 2-5 SINGLE FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)			
Political Subdivision	Total Households	Female Head of Household	PCT Female Head of Household
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>4,899</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Black Creek	218	32	14.7%
Butler	835	305	36.5%
Center	402	136	33.8%
Dublin	379	171	45.1%
Franklin	996	322	32.3%
Gibson	272	64	23.5%
Granville	400	193	48.3%
Hopewell	320	176	55.0%
Jefferson	1150	360	31.3%
Liberty	386	94	24.4%
Marion	1073	339	31.6%
Recovery	347	149	42.9%
Union	386	44	11.4%
Washington	391	104	26.6%
Burkettsville	73	26	35.6%
Celina	4416	1072	24.3%
Chickasaw	142	40	28.2%
Coldwater	1,551	562	36.2%
Fort Recovery	719	260	36.2%
Mendon	256	61	23.8%
Montezuma	59	22	37.3%
Rockford	411	100	24.3%
St. Henry	896	267	29.8%

## 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 that particular population segment will require specific services. As sex is a protected class under the Fair Housing Act, this construct provides valuable insights into fertility and morbidity issues, workforce availability, and housing consumption by age and gender. Table 2-6 provides a breakdown of the County's population by age cohorts and gender based on 2020 ACS estimates.

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

TABLE 2-6						
MERCER COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE COHORT & GENDER (2020)						
Age Cohort	Male	PCT of Male Pop	Female	PCT of Female Pop	Total	PCT of Total Pop
< 5	1,557	7.50%	1,489	7.30%	3,046	7.42%
5 -9 years	1,309	6.30%	1,326	6.50%	2,635	6.42%
10 -14 years	1,717	8.30%	1,453	7.10%	3,170	7.73%
15 -19 years	1,409	6.80%	1,290	6.30%	2,699	6.58%
20 - 24 years	1,195	5.80%	1,147	5.60%	2,342	5.71%
25 to 29 years	1,256	6.10%	1,123	5.50%	2,379	5.80%
30 to 34 years	1,178	5.70%	1,052	5.20%	2,230	5.43%
35 to 39 years	1,168	5.60%	1,064	5.20%	2,232	5.44%
40 to 44 years	1,173	5.70%	1,057	5.20%	2,230	5.43%
45 to 49 years	1,165	5.60%	1,235	6.10%	2,400	5.85%
50 to 54 years	1,248	6.00%	1,240	6.10%	2,488	6.06%
55 to 59 years	1,536	7.40%	1,548	7.60%	3,084	7.52%
60 to 64 years	1,436	6.90%	1,409	6.90%	2,845	6.93%
65 to 69 years	1,059	5.10%	1,084	5.30%	2,143	5.22%
70 to 74 years	967	4.70%	960	4.70%	1,927	4.70%
75 to 79 years	672	3.20%	693	3.40%	1,365	3.33%
80 to 84 years	354	1.70%	538	2.60%	892	2.17%
85 ≤	300	1.40%	627	3.10%	927	2.26%
Total	20,699		20,335		41,034	
Data Source: S0101 ACS						

Age data reveals that 7.4 percent of the County's population is less than five years of age (Table 2-6) and nearly a quarter (24.1%) is below the age of 18 (Table 2-7). Data suggests that simply due to the age of the population (Under 16 and over 65), 37 percent of the population is unable to fully contribute to the economic growth and earning power of the community. Data shows that an additional 19.8 percent of the population is categorized in the pre-retirement age group (50-64) and may be readying for retirement. An examination of the community's population reveals an increasing senior population, totaling 31 percent of the population. Concerns center on the availability of a younger workforce and the need for appropriate senior housing services and public transportation to accommodate pre-retirement and post retirement. Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging. The median age of the Mercer County population is 39.4 years. That compares with a median of 39.5 and 38.2 years with the State of Ohio and the United States respectively. Table 2-7 indicates the variance in median age between the various political subdivisions. Within the County there is considerable variance. The City of Celina had a median age of 38.7 years. Appendix A provides further defining characteristics related to age by geography and race.

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

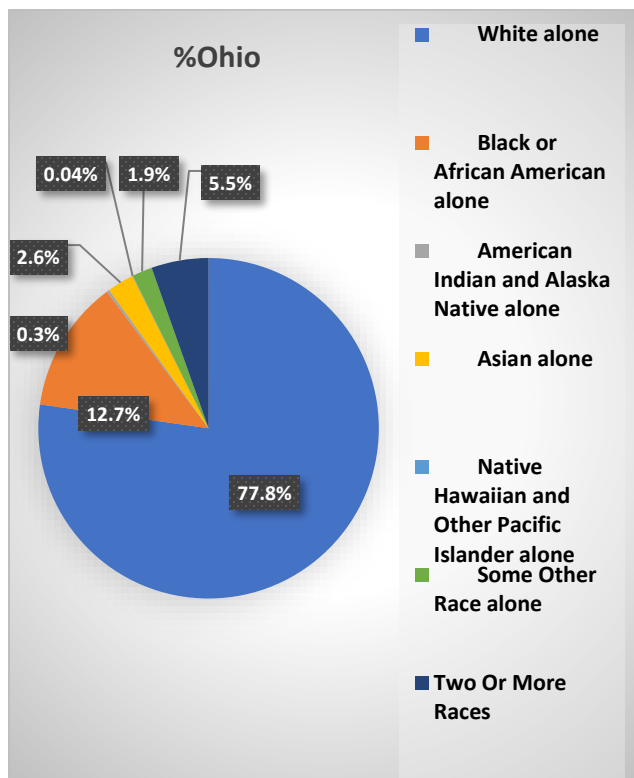
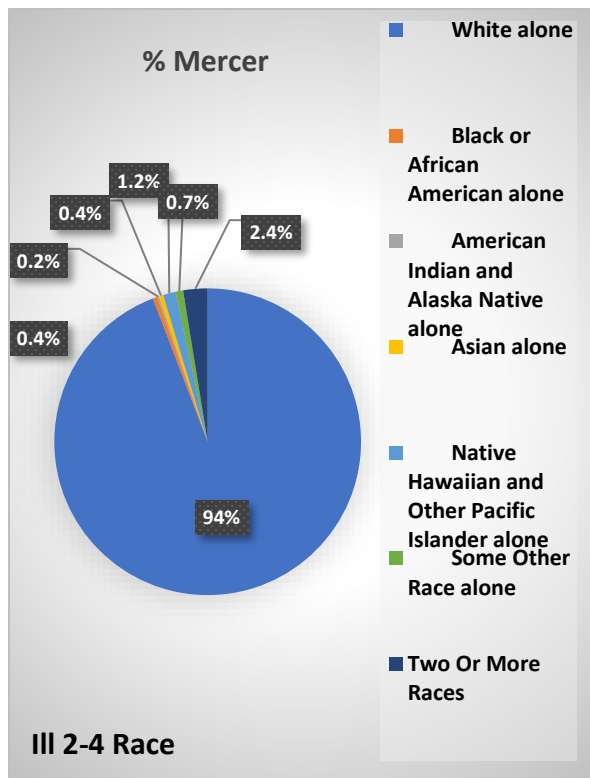
*Data suggests that simply due to age 37 percent of the population is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth of the community.*

TABLE 2-7			
AGE OF POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)			
Political Subdivision	Median Age	PCT Under 18	PCT Over 65
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>24.10%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
Black Creek	55.2	30.93%	25.86%
Butler	34.2	16.87%	15.75%
Center	48.2	25.93%	17.74%
Dublin	46.2	22.48%	24.70%
Franklin	46.9	29.04%	20.22%
Gibson	33.6	41.37%	6.54%
Granville	31.6	35.64%	10.43%
Hopewell	39.4	39.84%	16.7%
Jefferson	41.6	24.69%	19.9%
Liberty	38.4	15.40%	26.4%
Marion	43.7	26.18%	10.1%
Recovery	40.1	35.69%	24.2%
Union	46.4	18.80%	39.7%
Washington	36.3	29.06%	11.1%
Burkettsville	39.3	78.82%	10.34%
Celina	38.7	25.59%	16.04%
Chickasaw	38.9	37.43%	20.95%
Coldwater	36	38.98%	15.04%
Fort Recovery	34.3	20.25%	20.12%
Mendon	41.4	22.77%	17.99%
Montezuma	57.9	38.82%	10.5%
Rockford	50.3	27.69%	24.1%
St. Henry	31.3	30.78%	16.14%

## 2.5 Race & Ethnic Diversity

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

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



Following the national trend, Mercer 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 94 percent. The largest single minority group within Mercer County is the Hispanic/Latino population which makes up approximately 30 percent of the minority population. Notable is the population of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders the majority of which live in Celina. Many Marshall Islands natives have made Mercer County their home due to the attractive amenities of good schools, employment opportunities, safe atmosphere and relatively low costs of living. Also notable is those within the population that identify as Two or More Races. Although dispersed across the County, it makes up 34 percent of the minority population. Table 2-8 reveals the extent of racial diversity across the local political subdivisions of Mercer 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.*

<b>Table 2-8</b>						
<b>TOTAL MINORITY (RACE) POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION</b>						
<b>2020</b>						
<b>Political Subdivision:</b>	<b>Minority Pop. 2010</b>	<b>PCT Minority 2010</b>	<b>Minority Pop. 20</b>	<b>PCT Minority 2020</b>	<b>Change '10 - '20</b>	<b>PCT Change '10 - '20</b>
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>115.13%</b>
<b>Black Creek</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>463.64%</b>
<b>Butler</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.52%</b>
<b>Center</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>59.38%</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>226.67%</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>122.50%</b>
<b>Gibson</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>211.11%</b>
<b>Granville</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.50%</b>
<b>Hopewell</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9.38%</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11.43%</b>
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-11.11%</b>
<b>Marion</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>238.10%</b>
<b>Recovery</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19.23%</b>
<b>Union</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-4.55%</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72.50%</b>
<b>Burkettsville</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Celina</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>136.79%</b>
<b>Chickasaw</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Coldwater</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>379.10%</b>
<b>Fort Recovery</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>151.22%</b>
<b>Mendon</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>134.62%</b>
<b>Montezuma</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>133.33%</b>
<b>Rockford</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>108.93%</b>
<b>St. Henry</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4.43%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>180.49%</b>

TABLE 2-9 TOTAL MINORITY (RACE & ETHNICITY) POPULATION BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)									
Political Subdivision	Black & African - American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pac Islr	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Total	Percent
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>7.46%</b>
Black Creek	0	4	0	4	11	24	19	62	10.15%
Butler	7	9	0	4	0	11	18	49	2.61%
Center	2	0	0	0	6	27	16	51	4.64%
Dublin	0	1	1	1	0	36	10	49	4.53%
Franklin	4	3	5	2	0	42	33	89	3.77%
Gibson	5	0	0	4	0	13	6	28	2.73%
Granville	3	0	5	1	0	19	15	43	3.01%
Hopewell	2	0	0	0	0	16	17	35	3.42%
Jefferson	24	7	27	7	0	102	67	234	8.16%
Liberty	1	0	1	1	0	12	9	24	2.64%
Marion	6	1	1	0	0	31	32	71	2.40%
Recovery	3	3	2	0	0	8	15	31	2.77%
Union	0	2	0	3	0	11	5	21	2.99%
Washington	4	3	3	4	0	28	27	69	5.75%
Burkettsville	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.99%
Celina	116	36	112	401	89	442	381	1,577	14.34%
Chickasaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.06%
Coldwater	14	10	9	73	0	113	102	321	6.72%
Fort Recovery	3	4	11	4	0	39	42	103	6.86%
Mendon	6	0	0	22	0	18	15	61	9.71%
Montezuma	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	7	4.61%
Rockford	2	0	7	17	4	56	31	117	11.13%
St. Henry	5	0	5	20	0	29	56	115	4.43%



The 2020 Census data suggests that the minority populations in Mercer County have continued to grow. Table 2-10 gives a further breakdown into the growth of the minority population in Mercer County.

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

Table 2-10						
MERCER COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE BY RACE/ETHNICITY						
2010 -2020						
Race:	Pop. 2010	PCT 2010	Pop. 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
White	39,453	96.7%	39,752	93.5%	299	0.8%
Black & African American	91	0.2%	191	0.4%	100	109.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	83	0.2%	63	0.1%	-20	-24.1%
Asian	180	0.4%	189	0.4%	9	5.0%
Some Other Race	18	0.0%	78	0.2%	60	333.3%
Two or More Races	307	0.8%	763	1.8%	456	148.5%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	614	1.5%	928	2.2%	314	51.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	68	0.2%	564	1.3%	496	729.4%
Data Source: B02001 ACS						

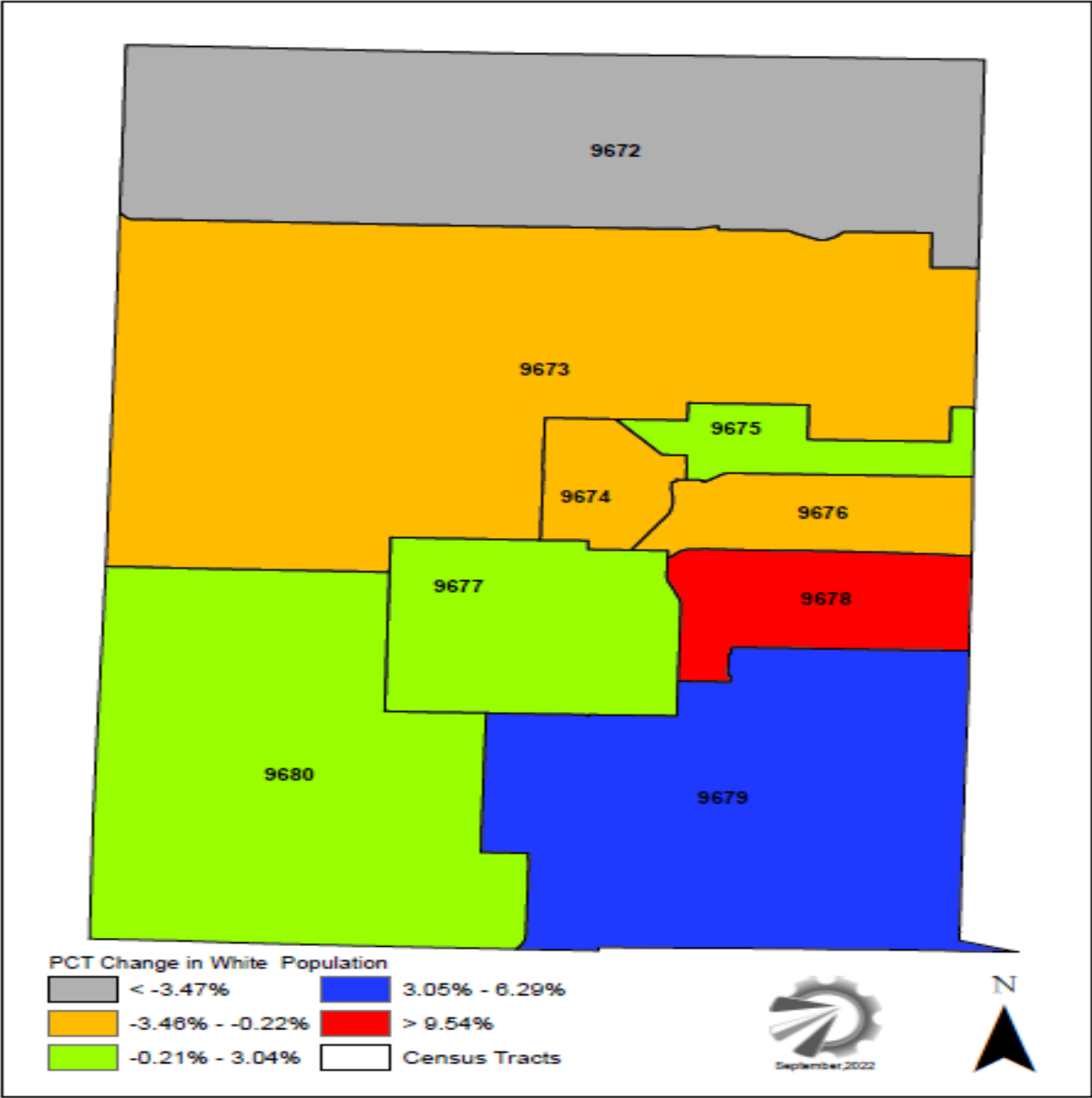
The growth of the minority populations and the movement of people amongst the townships changed the distribution of white and minority populations between 2010 and 2020. Maps 2-2 and 2-3 depict the re-distribution of White and minority residents between 2010 and 2020 by census tract.

Table 2-11 Mercer County Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race 2020		
Race Identified	Total	Percent
White	603	77.61%
Black or African American	0	0.00%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.00%
Asian	0	0.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	30	3.86%
Some other race	102	13.13%
Two or more races	42	5.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

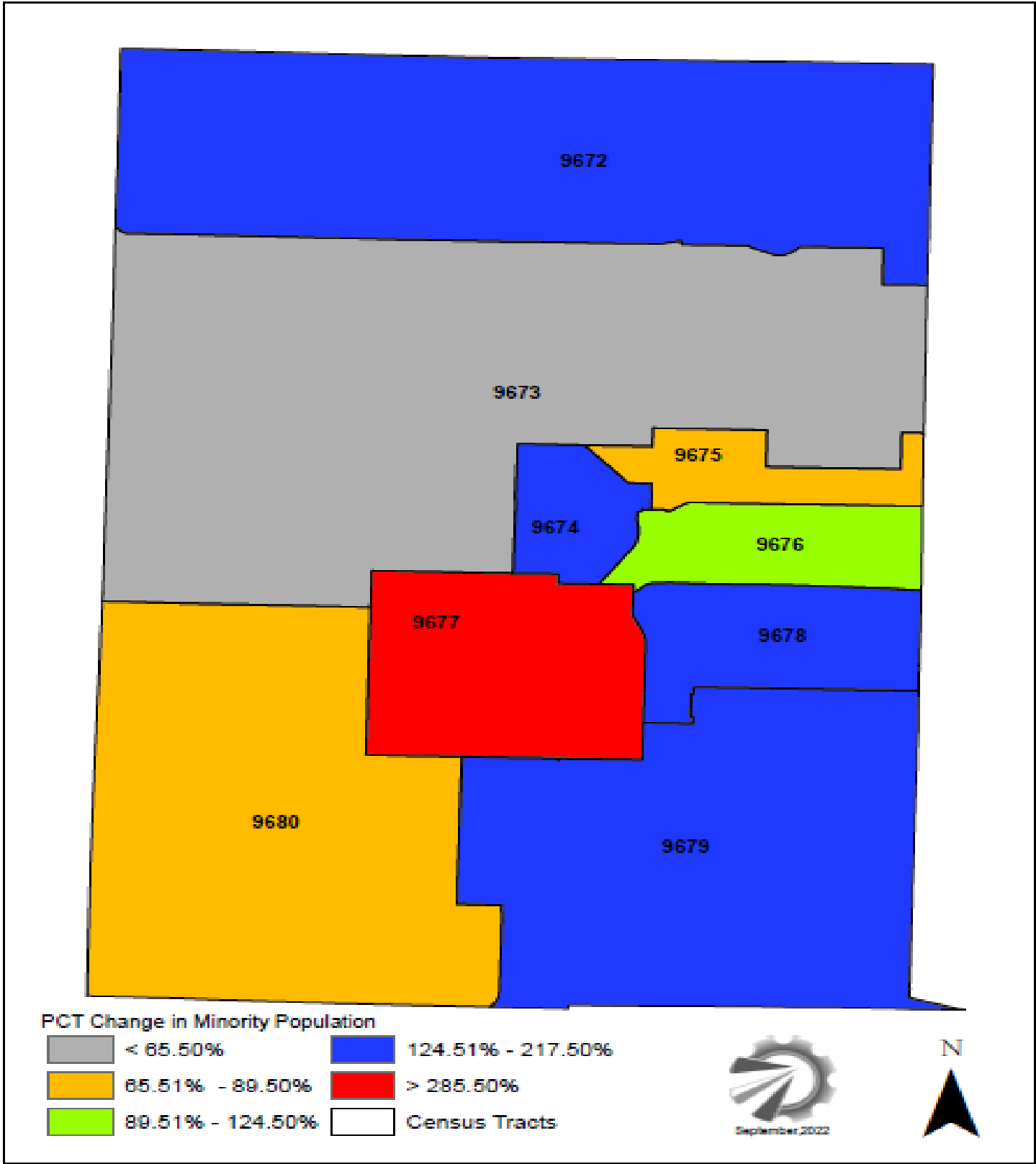
Map 2-3 suggests that the White populations in the townships stayed relatively stable while areas closer to Celina experienced varying levels of growth and decline. However, this pattern is not exclusive to the White population. Segments of the Black/African American population also left the central City area (Map 2-4). This does not suggest that more or less segregation for the migrations is predicated on several factors, including the availability of housing, the cost of housing, the quality of housing and community services, and the proximity of housing to employment opportunities.

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

Map 2-3: White Population Redistribution (2010-2020)



Map 2-4: Minority Population Redistribution (2010-2020)



## 2.6 The Disabled Population

Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing choice due to needed accessibility features and access to public transit, support services and/or affordability. Advocacy groups, through various Federal legislative initiatives, have established the civil rights of the disabled, especially regarding housing, employment, education, and transportation. Each of these Acts also utilizes different terms and definitions to address specific eligibility criteria and/or services. 2020 ACS 5-year estimates on the disabled population within Mercer County have reported that 4,233 persons have a disability, representing 10.4 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. Map 2-5 depicts the disability rate by census tract. For purposes of this report, it is important to mention that of persons under the age of 5 years residing in Mercer County, 74, or > 1 percent are reported to have a disability.

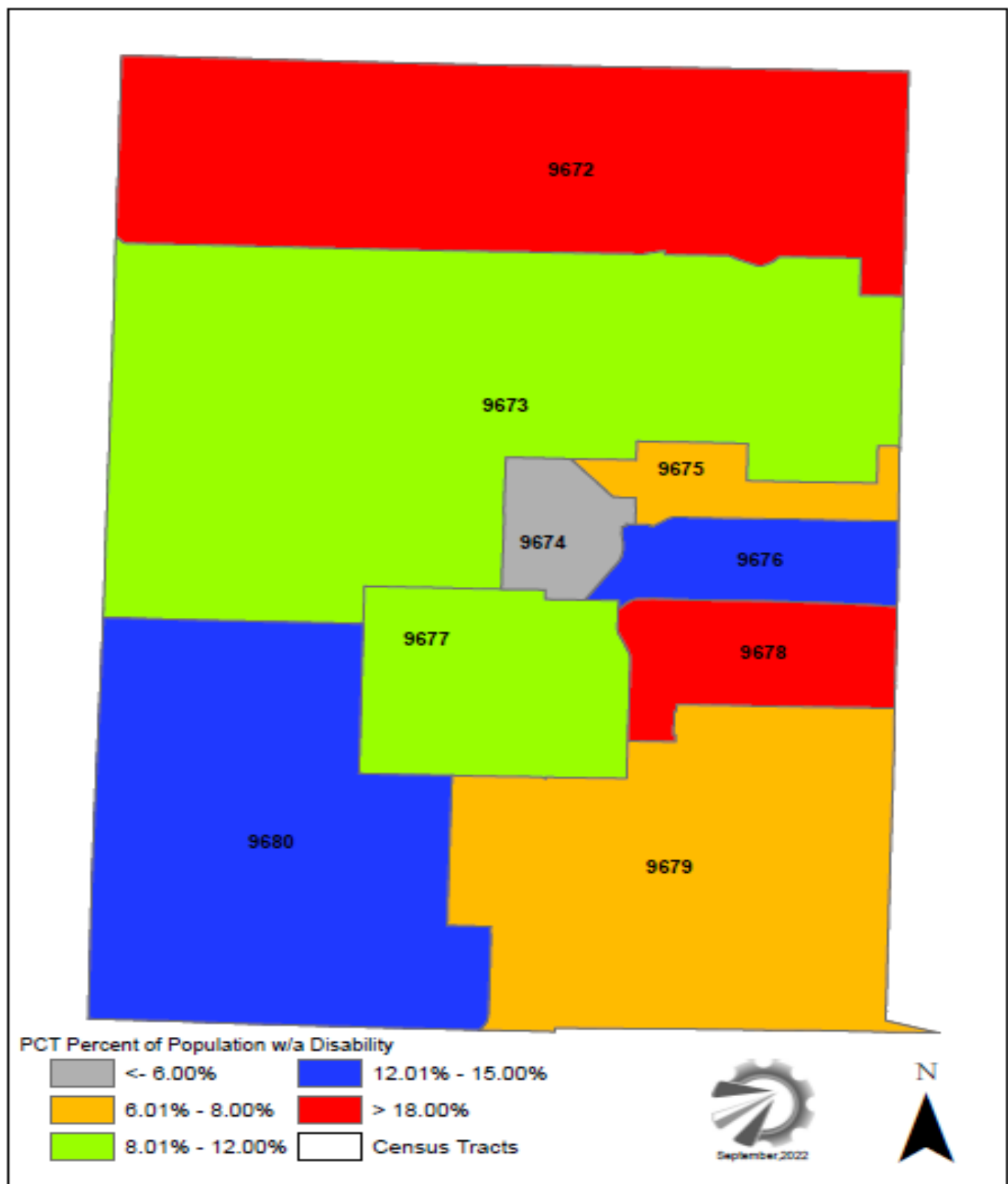
*Within Mercer County  
16,773 persons, age 5 or  
older, suffer from a*

Within the four primary conditions which define the disabled population, the Census further identifies persons whose disability restricted employment and those whose disability affected their ability to "go-outside-the-home" without assistance. The U.S. Census Bureau identifies those with a go-outside-the-home disability as "mobility-impaired". This mobility-impaired component of the larger disabled population is that group of individuals most likely need specialized paratransit consideration, as they would most likely not be able to drive, walk independently or utilize public fixed-route transportation services. Map 2-6 reveals the proportion of Mercer County's mobility-limited population by census tract. ACS tabulations suggested that 1,881 persons were considered ambulatory-impaired or 4.6 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons, identified as 65 or older, 1,223 were deemed mobility-impaired or 5.9 percent of the total elderly population.

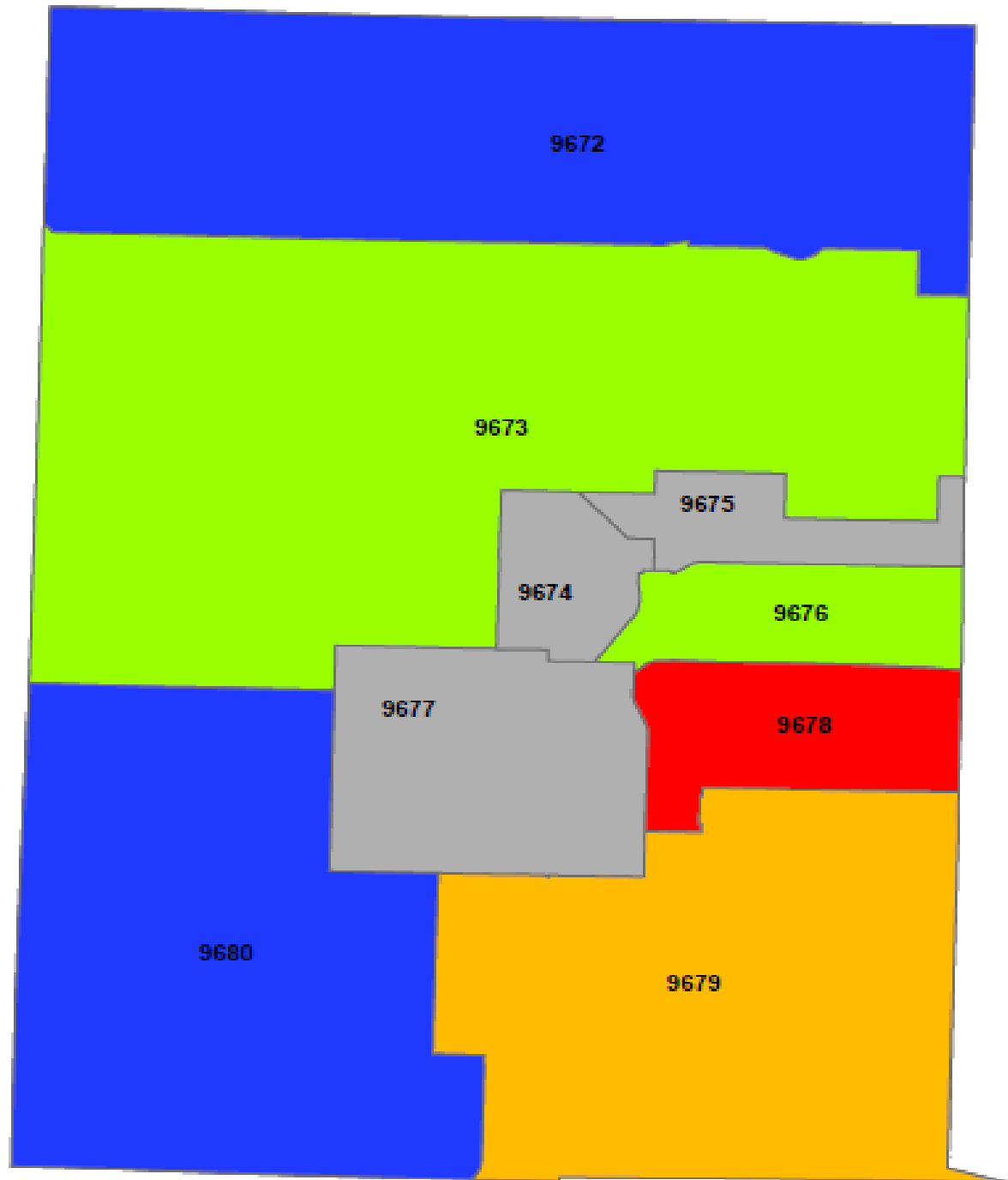
**TABLE 2-12  
AGE & DISABILITY STATUS RESIDENTS OF MERCER COUNTY 2020**

Political Subdivision	NI POP	# DIS	% DIS	Hearing	Vision	Cognitive	Ambulatory	Self-Care	Ind. Living
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>40,597</b>	<b>4,233</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1,279</b>
Black Creek	457	66	14.4%	10	17	32	17	18	17
Butler	2,519	143	7.2%	57	19	8	85	0	36
Center	1004	80	8.0%	22	0	49	29	9	20
Dublin	1,009	163	18.5%	30	9	75	76	18	62
Franklin	2,130	256	12.4%	71	22	68	163	12	72
Gibson	842	16	5.3%	10	1	6	0	8	19
Granville	1,455	178	8.7%	139	10	20	31	0	22
Hopewell	856	111	13.0%	71	17	8	96	25	79
Jefferson	2,510	456	14.0%	100	70	164	138	37	125
Liberty	1,189	129	10.8%	27	5	35	87	84	91
Marion	2,708	132	5.2%	54	23	38	101	23	36
Recovery	1,081	61	6.3%	22	8	18	22	0	8
Union	744	131	14.3%	23	27	59	101	7	37
Washington	1,310	36	2.7%	5	0	14	11	0	20
Burkettsville	25	2	1.0%	0	0	0	0	2	0
Celina	10,586	1352	13.0%	559	185	554	504	153	408
Chickasaw	313	26	8.30%	15	3	9	6	2	3
Coldwater	3844	313	8.10%	131	32	129	127	38	66
Fort Recovery	1714	131	7.60%	50	3	15	75	16	21
Mendon	643	67	10.40%	34	9	26	23	0	18
Montezuma	105	21	20%	7	0	7	17	0	6
Rockford	843	180	21.40%	37	26	62	116	19	59
St. Henry	2710	183	6.80%	121	23	25	56	12	54

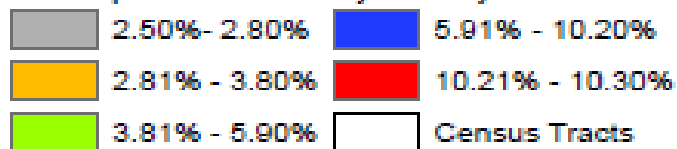
**Map 2-5: Disability Rate of Population 18 & Over (2020)**



**Map 2-6: Mobility Disability Rate (2020)**



PCT Population w/a Mobility Disability



September 2022



## 2.7 Educational Attainment

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

*Although higher educational attainment levels have demonstrated capacity for higher income earning, only 19% of Mercer County residents 25 years+ have completed a 4-year college degree program or higher.*

Table 2-13 presents data summarizing the Mercer County population aged 25 years or older educational attainment levels. This data shows that 2,058 individuals or 7.74 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older have not completed a high school education. This statistic compares favorably against national attainment levels where 11.5 percent of the population fails to earn high school diplomas. However, given that there are several very respectable post-secondary schools locally accessible, it is somewhat disappointing that only 5,046 adult residents, or 19 percent, have completed a 4-year and/or graduate degree program, especially when compared to State (28.9%) and National (32.9%) benchmarks.

*Local post-secondary schools include:*

- The Ohio State University
- Ohio Northern University
- Rhodes State College
- Bluffton University
- University of Northwestern Ohio
- Wright State Lake Campus

Table 2-13						
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER ( 2020)						
Educational Attainment:	White Population		Black Population		Total Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than High School Diploma	2025	7.7%	33	25.8%	2,058	7.74%
High School Graduate or GED	11618	43.9%	47	36.7%	11,665	43.89%
Some College or Associates Degree	7773	29.4%	37	28.9%	7,810	29.38%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5035	19.0%	11	8.6%	5,046	18.98%
Data Source: C15002A & C15002B ACS						

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



## 2.8 Income: Household, Family & Per Capita

Data for the three most widely used indices of personal income, including per capita income, household income, and family income, are displayed in Table 2-14. The data suggests the median household income within Mercer County has remained steady with that of Ohio and the United States since before the 2000 decennial census period. Median family incomes across the County increased over the last decennial period when comparing them to State and national trend lines.

*Mercer County has remained steady with the State and national income levels with respect to household, family, and per capita income.*

TABLE 2-14 COMPARATIVE INCOME MEASURES (2010-2020)					
Income Measure	Mercer County	Ohio	US	Mercer County PCT of OH	Mercer County PCT of US
<b>2020</b>					
Median Household	\$65,566	\$58,116	\$64,994	112.82%	100.88%
Median Family	\$81,506	\$74,391	\$80,069	109.56%	101.79%
Median Non-Family	\$39,475	\$34,626	\$39,027	114.00%	101.15%
Per Capita	\$30,975	\$32,465	\$35,384	108.99%	100.00%
<b>2010</b>					
Median Household	\$49,719	\$47,358	\$51,914	104.99%	95.77%
Median Family	\$60,215	\$59,680	\$62,982	100.90%	95.61%
Median Non-Family	\$24,217	\$27,366	\$31,305	88.49%	77.36%
Per Capita	\$22,348	\$25,113	\$27,334	148.66%	136.58%

In 2020, the median non-family income increased significantly from 2010 at 114 percent of the State's median value and 101 percent of the entire nation. In 2020 Mercer County's per capita income was 109 percent of that of the State and 100 percent of the national figure.

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

Table 2-15 provides a detailed breakdown of household income by type and income levels for 2020. Households with incomes less than \$15,000 in 2020 totaled 5.4 percent of all households in Mercer County. An examination of family and non-family households provides greater detail. Data suggests that 2 percent of all families and 13.2 percent of all non-family households earned less than \$15,000 in 2020. Examination of income by household type reveals that the largest concentration of household incomes is in the \$45,000 to \$59,999 income bracket.

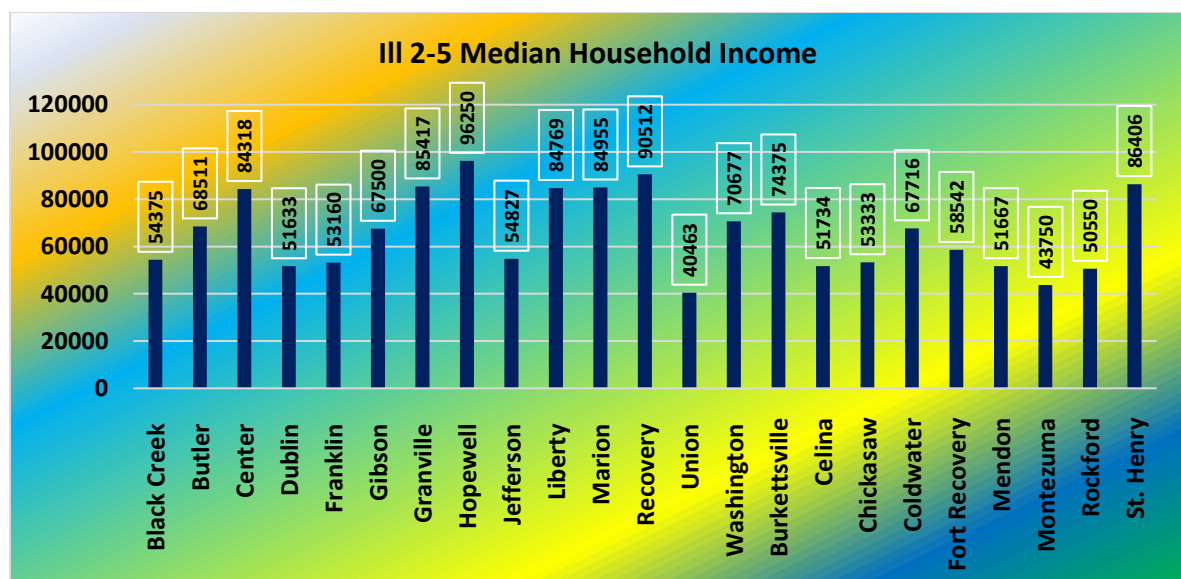
*The incomes of 2 in 5 (41.9%) non-family households were concentrated below \$25,000.*

Between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of households with low and very low incomes, \$25,000 and \$15,000 respectively, decreased in Mercer County. In 2020, 13.9 percent of households had incomes of less than \$25,000. A decrease of 8 percent. 5.4 percent had incomes less than \$15,000, a decrease of 6 percent.

*Between 2010 and 2020 the percentage of households earning less than \$25,000 decreased by 8 percent.*

TABLE 2-15						
INCOME IN MERCER COUNTY BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE (2020)						
Income Range	Total Households		Family		Non-Family	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$10,000	514	3.2%	143	1.3%	377	7.4%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	354	2.2%	77	0.7%	296	5.8%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	1367	8.5%	549	5.0%	918	18.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1318	8.2%	692	6.3%	673	13.2%
\$35,000 - \$44,999	2380	14.8%	1164	10.6%	1193	23.4%
\$45,000 - \$59,999	3312	20.6%	2459	22.4%	872	17.1%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	2846	17.7%	2295	20.9%	505	9.9%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	2749	17.1%	2492	22.7%	158	3.1%
\$150,000 - \$199,000	675	4.2%	659	6.0%	153	0.3%
\$200,000 or more	547	3.4%	450	4.1%	92	1.8%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,979</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5,099</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Data Source: SP03 & B19201 ACS						

Median household income levels in the political subdivisions ranged from \$40,463 to \$96,250 in 2020. Illustration 2-5 highlights the income disparities across the community. The median household income in Celina was 21 percent lower than the County median (\$65,566) and significantly lower than the median in several other local political subdivisions.



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

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

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

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

TABLE 2-16						
LOW HOUSEHOLD INCOMES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)						
Political Subdivision	Households	PCT ≤ \$10,000	PCT \$10,000 - \$14,999	PCT \$15,000 - \$24,999	HH ≤ \$25,000	PCT ≤ \$25,000
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2.80%</b>
Black Creek	218	1.00%	2.10%	4.40%	16	7.50%
Butler	835	0.00%	0.00%	6.50%	54	6.50%
Center	402	6.60%	2.50%	8.70%	72	17.80%
Dublin	379	1.40%	4.90%	11.30%	67	17.60%
Franklin	996	1.30%	1.20%	8.30%	108	10.80%
Gibson	272	4.00%	0.30%	4.20%	23	8.50%
Granville	400	4.70%	0.00%	6.90%	46	11.60%
Hopewell	320	5.30%	2.10%	10.30%	57	17.70%
Jefferson	1150	0.00%	0.00%	4.70%	54	4.70%
Liberty	386	2.40%	0.90%	6.20%	37	9.50%
Marion	1073	2.20%	0.00%	12.90%	162	15.10%
Recovery	347	1.60%	13.70%	19.80%	122	35.10%
Union	386	0.00%	0.00%	7.90%	30	7.90%
Washington	391	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
Burkettsville	73	3.20%	2.20%	8.50%	10	13.90%
Celina	4416	0.00%	1.00%	3.10%	181	4.10%
Chickasaw	142	4.40%	2.70%	11.00%	26	18.10%
Coldwater	1,551	0.70%	7.70%	4.20%	195	12.60%
Fort Recovery	719	0.80%	2.50%	4.60%	57	7.90%
Mendon	256	3.10%	1.30%	13.10%	45	17.50%
Montezuma	59	2.70%	5.10%	5.10%	8	12.90%
Rockford	411	0.00%	1.70%	11.90%	56	13.60%
St. Henry	896	6.10%	2.70%	10.90%	177	19.70%
Data Source: 1901 ACS						

The 2020 ACS provides information on the number of individuals and families within Mercer County whose incomes fall below the established poverty level. ACS 2020 5-year estimates revealed that 2,270 individuals, or 5.34 percent of all individuals, and 2,418 families or 9.5 percent of all families were below the established poverty level based on income and household size.

TABLE 2-17 RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL AMONG INDIVIDUALS (2020)		
Poverty Level	Number	Percent
Below 50% of Poverty Level	842	1.98%
50% to 99% of Poverty Level	1,428	3.36%
100% to 149% of Poverty Level	3,248	7.64%
150% to 199% of Poverty Level	2,721	6.40%
200% of Poverty Level or More	32,057	75.38%
<b>C17002 2020 ACS Mercer County</b>		

Families with children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering from poverty, 6.2 percent had children, and 6.7 percent had children under 5 years of age. For comparison purposes, data indicates that 36 percent of all households and 16.1 percent of all families within the State of Ohio were below the established poverty level. Map 2-7 reveals the extent of household poverty by political subdivision, while Map 2-8 identifies the proportion of elderly existing below the poverty level by political subdivision. An examination of income data from the 2020 census report reveals a positive trend in the proportion of individuals in poverty. 226 individuals in Mercer County rose from poverty status between 2010 and 2020 tabulations.

TABLE 2-18 POVERTY BY FAMILY STATUS (2020)				
Family Type	Total	Percent of Total	Number in Poverty	Percent of Type
Married w/ Children	3,690	33.6%	40	1.1%
Male Alone w/ Children	441	4.0%	34	7.7%
Female Alone w/ Children	615	5.6%	219	35.6%
Family - No Children	6,233	56.8%	107	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,979</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>Data Source: B17010 ACS Mercer</b>				

## 2.10 Labor Force Profile

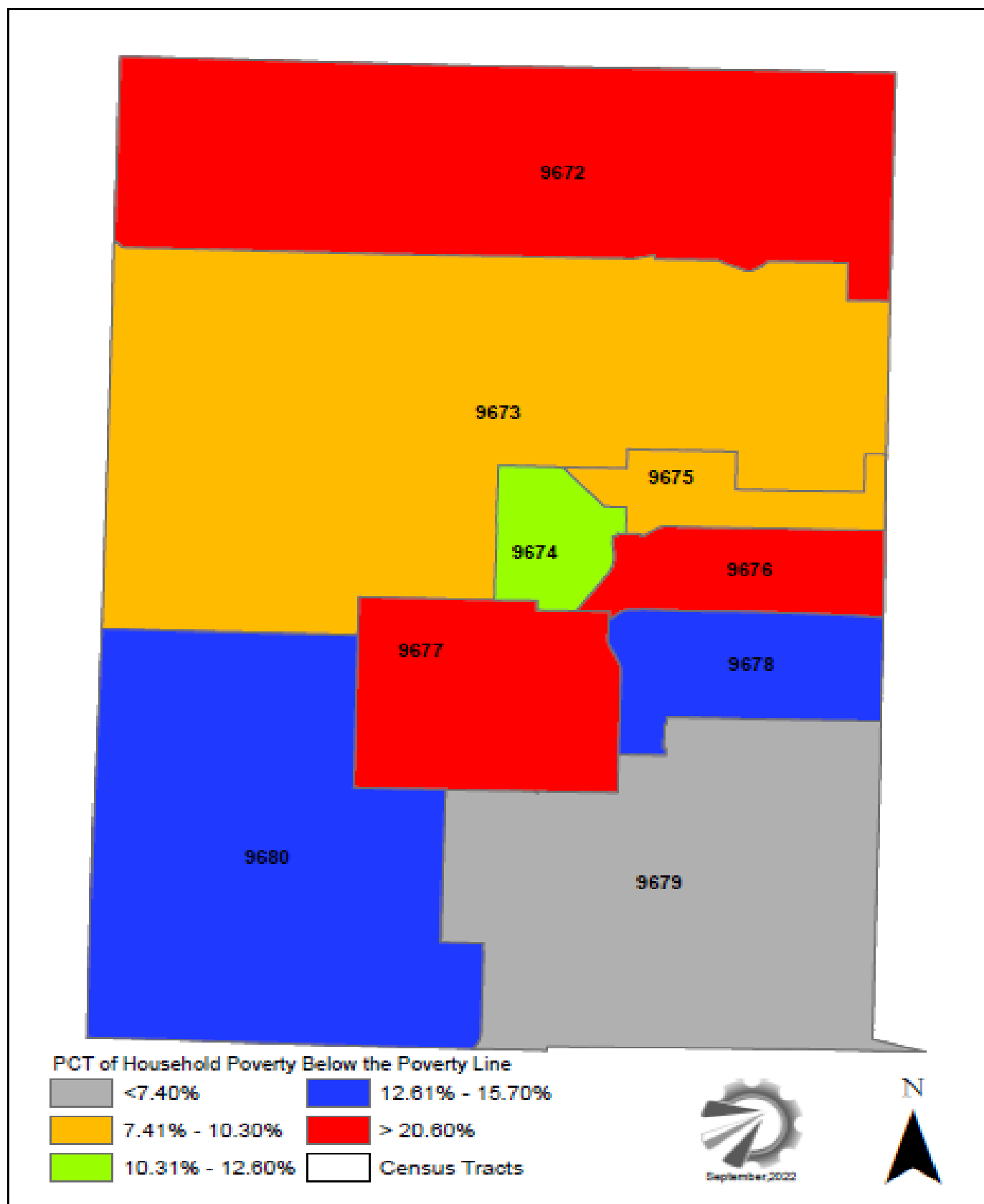
The total labor force in Mercer County, reflecting those 16 years of age and over, numbered 21,358 persons according to the ACS 2020 5-year estimates; those not participating in the labor force reflected 9,839 or 31 percent of the total available labor force. As documented by the ACS 2020 5-year estimates, the civilian labor force in Mercer County was 21,905 of which 21,358 (67.3%) were employed.

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

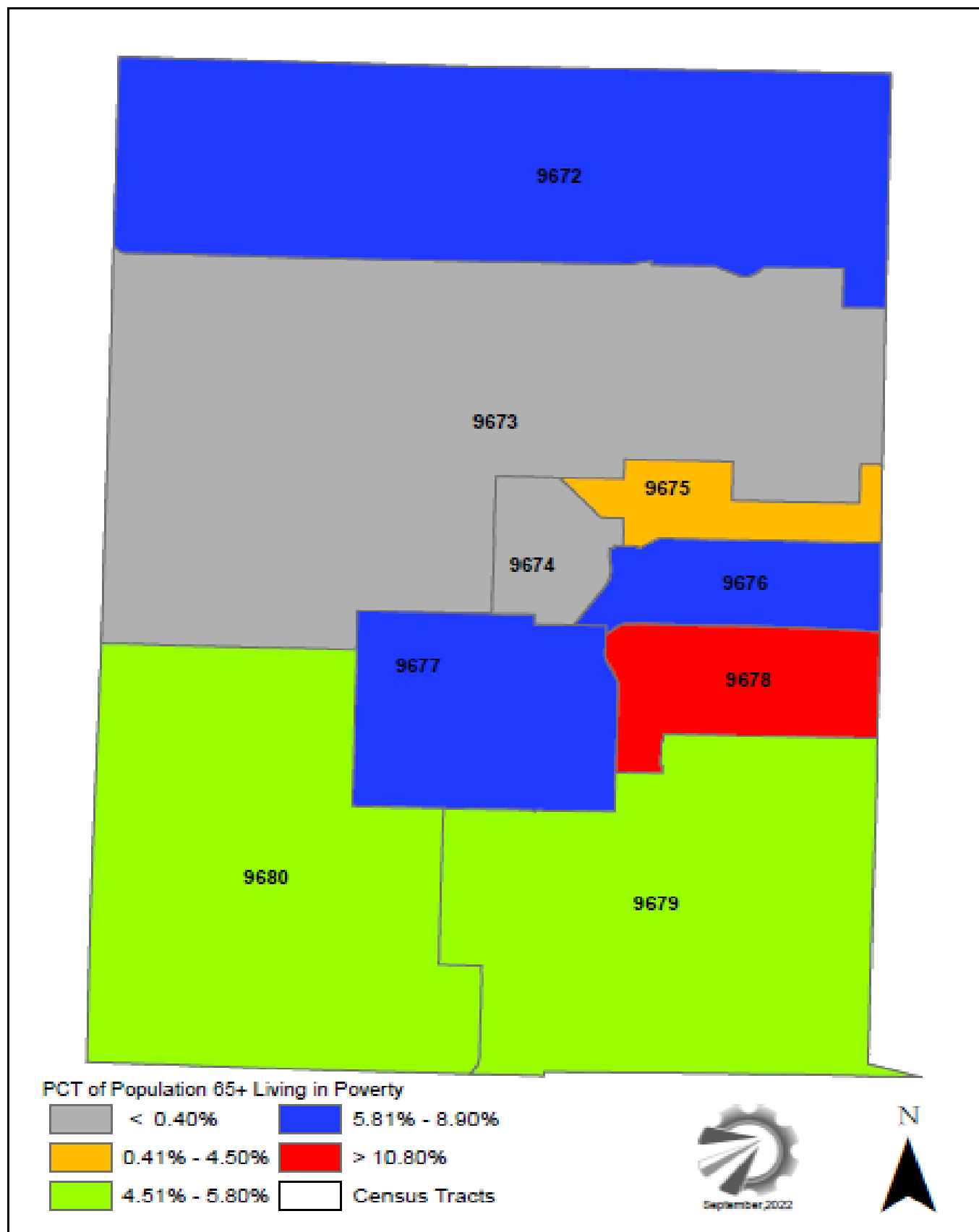
A perspective on the labor force can be gained by examining the number of employed persons by type of occupation. Table 2-18 uses ACS 2020 5-year estimates to identify the dominant occupations in the region: Educational services, health care, and social assistance (3,718), Manufacturing (7,323), followed Retail Trade (2,183). In Mercer County, the employment-population ratio, the proportion of the population 16 years of age and over in the workforce, has ticked up over the last ten years from 64.6 percent in 2010 to 67.3 percent in 2020.

TABLE 2-19			
LABOR FORCE BY OCCUPATION (2020)			
Industry	NAICS	Employees	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	11 & 21	801	3.75%
Construction	23	1,246	5.83%
Manufacturing	31-33	7,323	34.29%
Wholesale trade	42	502	2.35%
Retail trade	44-45	2,183	10.22%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	22& 48-49	788	3.69%
Information	51	242	1.13%
Finance and insurance Real estate and rental and leasing	52 & 53	814	3.81%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	54 - 56	746	3.49%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	61 & 62	3,718	17.41%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71 & 72	1,296	6.07%
Other services, except public administration	ICS	1311	6.14%
Public Administration	92	388	1.82%
Total Labor Force		21,358	100
Data Source: DP03			

**Map 2-7: Household Poverty Rate (2020)**

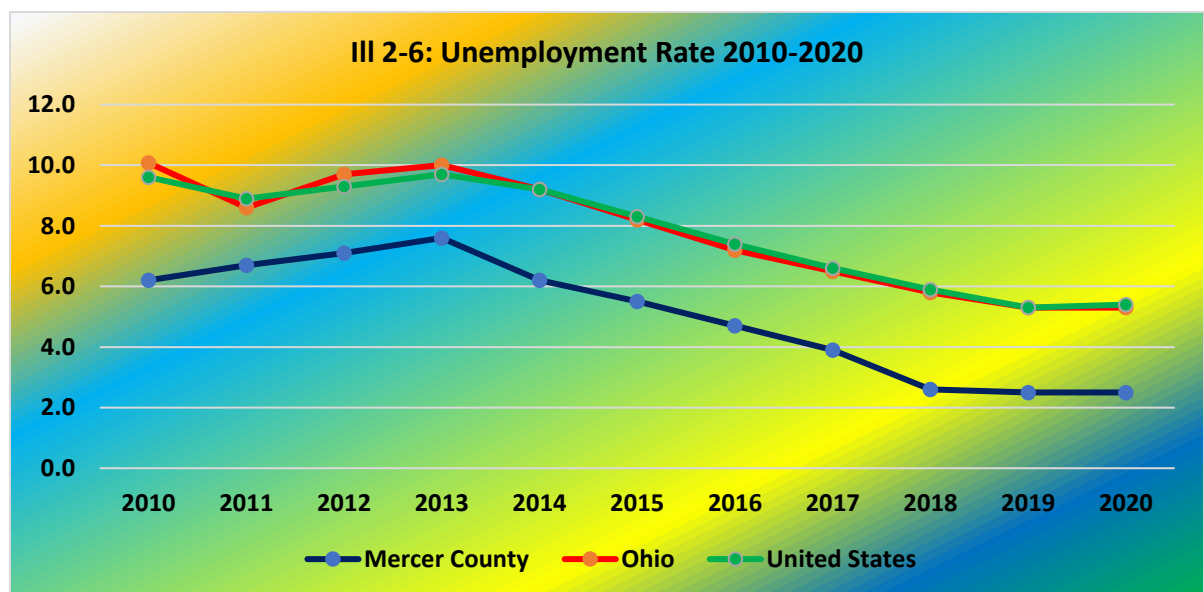


## Map 2-8: Poverty Rate of Population 65 and over (2020)



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

Two major barriers to employment for those living in poverty are education and transportation. While lack of education keeps a person from available jobs they do not qualify for, a lack of transportation is a barrier to available potential employment. Although in the case of Mercer County, 95.8 percent of the employed population have access to a vehicle.





## 2.11 Summary

The population of Mercer County has experienced an increase in the last 10 years gaining a little over 1,700 residents. However, population change is not static, nor is it uniform. Many political subdivisions within Mercer County have experienced an extended period of continued growth while some experienced a decline. Summary Tables 2-1 and 2-2 provide an overview of key demographic groups by census tract and political subdivisions that need to be considered during this assessment.

An important demographic factor to consider is change in local households' total number and size. Census data reveals the composition, size and number of households is changing. The total number of Mercer County households in 2020 was 16,078, an increase of 3 percent from the 2010 figure. In 2020, there were 10,163 (63.2%) households comprised of only one or two individuals. The implications of smaller households are important and should be monitored by local policy experts and reflected in the local housing policies, building codes, and zoning regulations.

Consistent with national trends, the County's population is aging. The median age of the population is 39.4 years. That compares with a median age of 39.5 and 38.2 years in the State of Ohio and the United States, respectively. By 2020, the elderly population within Mercer County grew to 7,254 persons or approximately 17 percent of the population. To compound matters more, the elderly made up 5.6 percent of all individuals existing below the poverty level. While the largest concentration of the impoverished were residents of Recovery Township 35 percent of all outlying areas were found to have concentrations of the elderly poor. The housing stock will need to reflect this influx and be designed or retrofitted to accommodate the lifestyle of senior citizens. Data suggests that simply due to the age of the population, more than a third of the population is not able to fully contribute to the economic growth and earning power of the community. The desire of the elderly to age in place, the design, and inclusion of appropriate housing designs, and the need for assisted living arrangements must be reflected in local fair housing planning efforts.

ACS 2020 5-Year estimates on the disabled within Mercer County have reported that 4,233 persons have a disability, representing 16.7 percent of all non-institutionalized persons. For persons under the age of 5 years 74, or < 1 percent have a disability within the County. Persons with disabilities face some of the greatest barriers to fair housing due to needed accessibility features and access to public transit, support services and/or affordability. ACS tabulations suggested that 1,881 persons were considered mobility-impaired, or 4 percent of all non-institutionalized individuals. Among those non-institutionalized persons identified as 65 or older, 1,223 were deemed mobility-impaired, or 5.9 percent of the total elderly population.

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

The County's population has grown more racially and ethnically diverse during the past decade. Racially, the white population comprises the most significant percentage of the population at 93.5 percent. The largest minority group within Mercer County is the Hispanic/Latino community making up 2.2 percent of the total population. All other minority groups comprise approximately 4.5 percent of the entire County population. Also notable is those within the population that identify as Two or More Races. Although dispersed across the County, it makes up 34 percent of the minority population.

Many factors affect employment rates among adults. None, however, may be as important as educational attainment levels. Data shows that over 2,058 individuals or 7.74 percent of all individuals 25 years of age or older have not completed a high school education. However, given that many very reputable post-secondary schools are readily accessible, it is disappointing that only 19 percent of adult residents have completed a 4-year and/or master's degree program.

Mercer County income has continued to maintain an equilibrium with the income levels across the state of Ohio and the nation. Mercer County income levels are upwards of 100 percent of Ohio's and the US median family income in 2020

*Mercer County income has continued to maintain an equilibrium with that of the state and the rest of the US.*

ACS 2020 5-year estimates revealed, , that 2,270 individuals, or 5.34 percent of all individuals, and 400 families, or 3.6 percent of all families, were below the established poverty level based on income and household size.

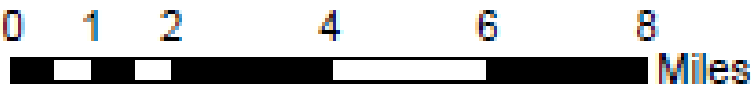
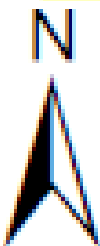
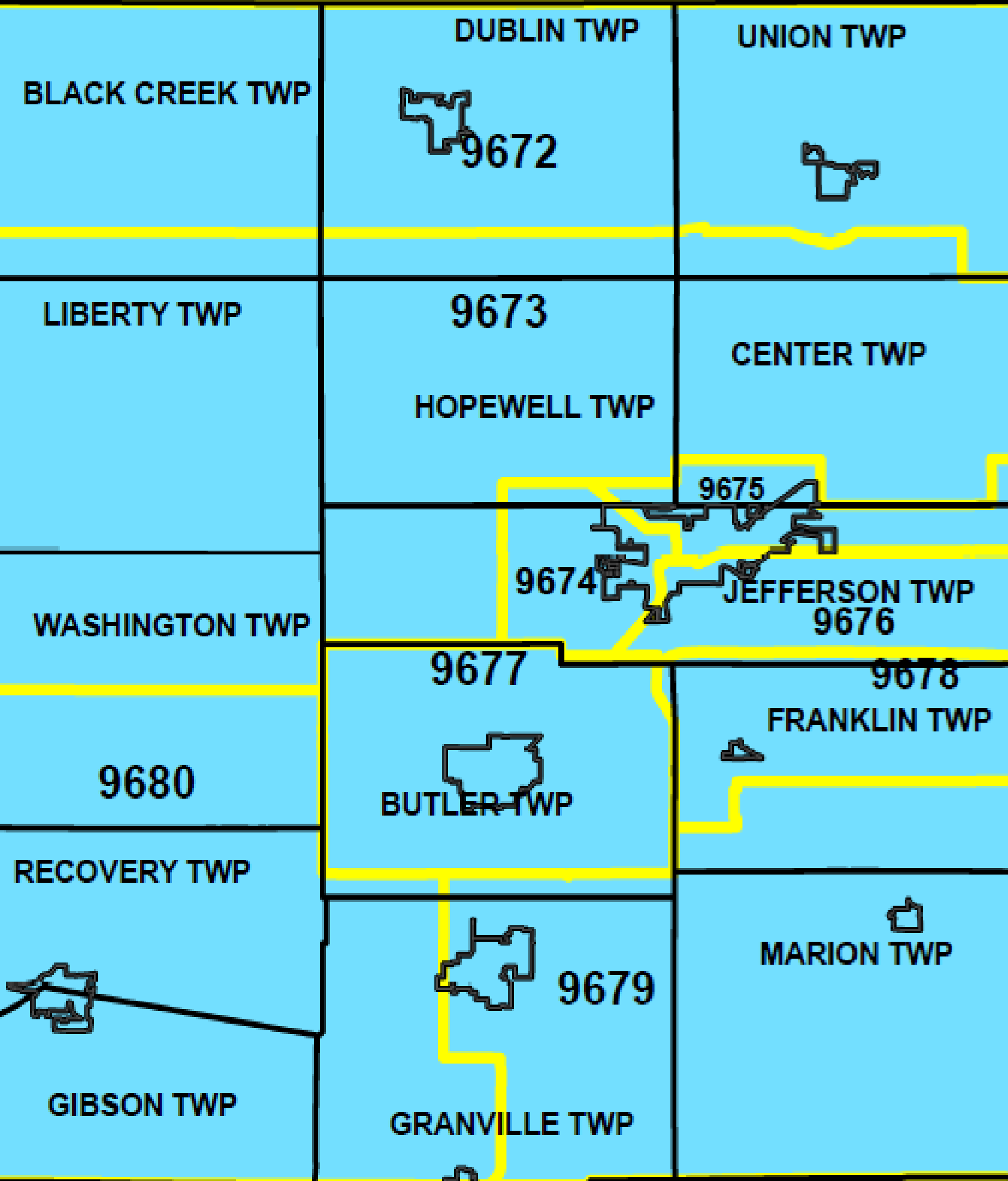
*The ACS revealed 18.9 percent of all households were below the established poverty level in 2011. Of all families suffering poverty conditions, eight in ten (88.2%) had children.*

Families with children were more likely to encounter poverty status than those families without children. In fact, of all families suffering from poverty, 46.1 percent had children,

and 6.7 percent had children under 5 years of age. For comparison purposes, data indicates that 14.4 percent of all households and 10.8 percent of all families within the State of Ohio were below the established poverty level.

SUMMARY TABLE 2-1																								
POPULATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS																								
MERCER COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS 2020																								
Tract	Total Pop 2010	Total Pop 2020	PCT Change '10-'20	Total H.H 2010	Total H.H. 2020	PCT Change '10-'20	Avg. H.H. Size 2020	PCT HH 6+ Ind. 2020	PCT Single Female w/ Children 2020	Median Age	PCT U18	PCT O65	PCT Minority	Minority PCT Change 10'-'20	PCT Disabled	PCT Mobility Disability	PCT HS Grad	Median H.H Income	PCT HH Inc. < 25,000	PCT Ind U100% POV	PCT HH POV	PCT FAM w/ Kids in POV	PCT O65 in POV	PCT Unemp.
9672	3,769	3,662	-2.84%	1,438	1,500	4.31%	2.23	1.67%	3.40%	47.4	19%	27.40%	3.55%	-2.84%	15.73%	8.93%	39.68%	\$48,900	20.60%	6.06%	2.60%	0.67%	2.08%	2.80%
9673	4,417	4,383	-0.77%	1,800	1,653	-8.17%	2.68	1.39%	1.75%	42.1	26%	19.80%	2.53%	-0.77%	10.38%	5.66%	33.68%	\$83,569	9.00%	4.24%	2.36%	0.00%	0.00%	3.20%
9674	4,602	4,857	5.54%	1800	1927	7.06%	2.44	4.36%	14.53%	36.5	25%	13.30%	4.08%	5.54%	13.90%	5.15%	38.58%	\$49,375	18.90%	13.32%	6.54%	4.98%	1.09%	2.30%
9675	5,296	5,650	6.68%	2,313	2,308	-0.22%	2.32	4.81%	8.88%	42.4	21%	21.50%	3.19%	6.68%	10.96%	2.28%	27.50%	\$52,562	18.90%	8.44%	3.42%	3.42%	1.73%	1.80%
9676	2,785	2,929	5.17%	1,256	1,110	-11.62%	2.25	1.71%	3.06%	43.8	17%	17.50%	5.12%	5.17%	15.02%	8.33%	30.45%	\$66,618	15.70%	2.66%	1.26%	0.54%	1.60%	7.00%
9677	6168	6,453	4.62%	2250	2,339	3.96%	2.69	7.70%	4.62%	34.1	31%	15.30%	1.92%	4.62%	6.90%	3.29%	30.88%	\$68,963	7.40%	1.58%	0.64%	0.04%	0.79%	1.90%
9678	1951	2,185	11.99%	1001	941	-5.99%	1.99	1.91%	6.38%	55.4	18%	24.90%	2.11%	11.99%	12.68%	8.24%	33.68%	\$52,031	15.20%	4.16%	1.38%	0.00%	1.14%	10.70%
9679	6,825	7,333	7.44%	2,190	2,505	14.38%	2.8	7.62%	1.84%	34.5	30%	12.80%	1.06%	7.44%	6.42%	2.22%	27.31%	\$83,496	10.30%	4.39%	1.72%	1.52%	0.52%	0.60%
9680	5,001	5,076	1.50%	1,558	1,795	15.21%	2.79	8.30%	7.35%	36.1	31%	16.60%	1.46%	1.50%	5.42%	2.52%	29.77%	\$72,435	12.60%	2.86%	1.78%	1.23%	0.06%	0.50%

# Mercer County Townships by Census Tracts



LACRPC 2022

### 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 Mercer County.

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

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

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

#### 3.1 Historical Overview

Mercer County, and more specifically its municipalities especially the City of Celina, 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 Celina and some of the smaller municipalities at rates which resulted in a glut of older houses on

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

### 3.2 Housing Stock

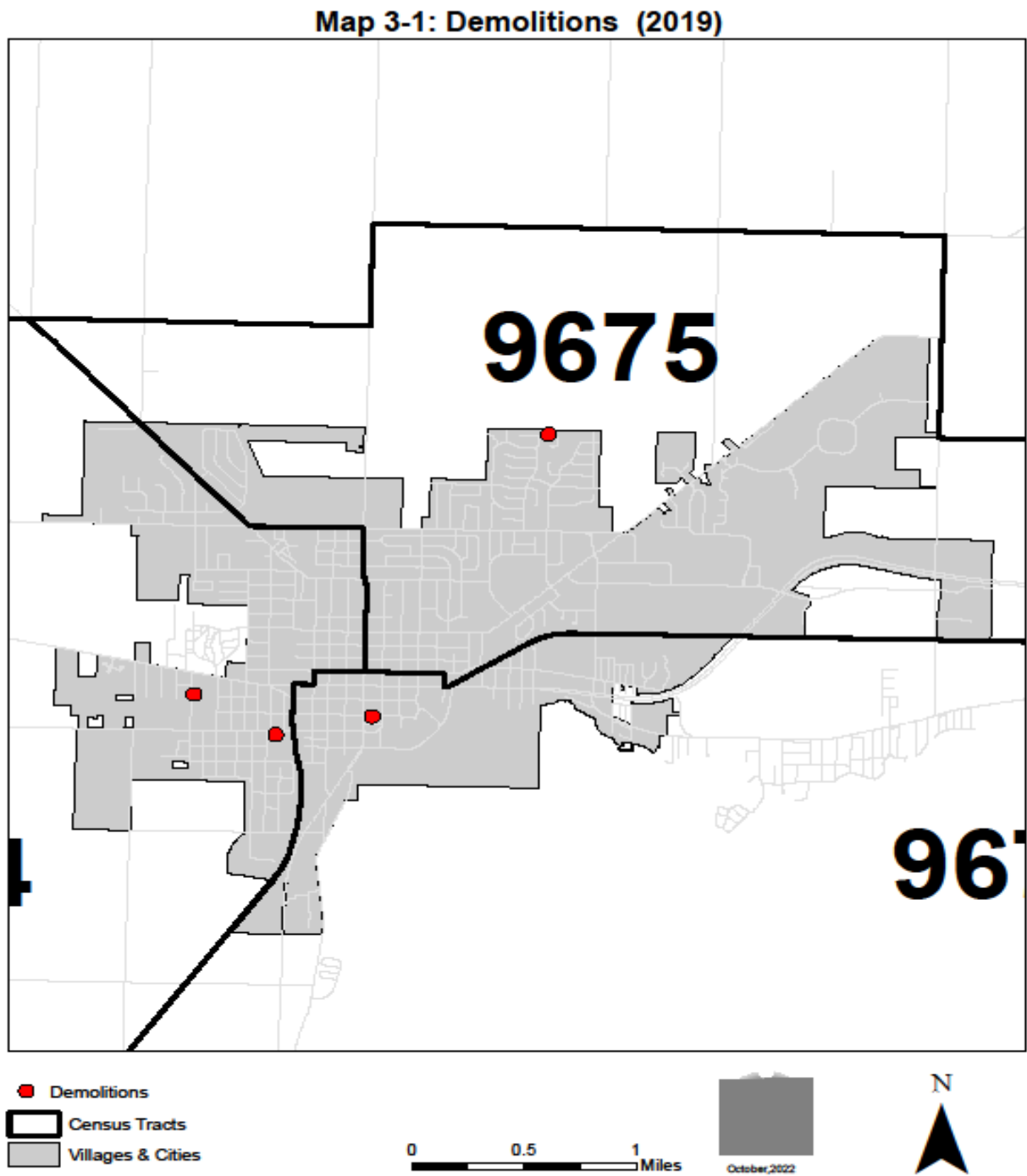
An overview of the housing stock is presented using various indices at varying levels of geography. Data at the county and political subdivision level is presented with census tract and street address level data introduced when required/available. The heart of the assessment relies upon 2020 ACS 5-year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

#### 3.2.1 Housing Units

The total number of housing units available in Mercer County increased between 2010 and 2020 by 255 units or just over 1 percent. The City of Celina witnessed an increase of 127 housing units or 2.6 percent over the same 10-year period. Map 3-1 depicts the location of recent housing demolitions conducted by the City of Celina. Table 3-1 identifies the change over time in number of units.

TABLE 3-1 TOTAL HOUSING UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)				
Political Subdivision	Units 2010	Units 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>17,633</b>	<b>17,888</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1.45%</b>
Black Creek	238	228	-10	-4.20%
Butler	672	695	23	3.42%
Center	434	434	0	0.00%
Dublin	404	405	1	0.25%
Franklin	1804	1704	-100	-5.54%
Gibson	309	333	24	7.77%
Granville	446	465	19	4.26%
Hopewell	408	400	-8	-1.96%
Jefferson	1292	1316	24	1.86%
Liberty	363	364	1	0.28%
Marion	919	966	47	5.11%
Recovery	374	381	7	1.87%
Union	326	312	-14	-4.29%
Washington	419	429	10	2.39%
Burkettsville	78	78	0	0.00%
Celina	4846	4973	127	2.62%
Chickasaw	131	152	21	16.03%
Coldwater	1817	1906	89	4.90%
Fort Recovery	589	604	15	2.55%
Mendon	288	270	-18	-6.25%
Montezuma	89	86	-3	-3.37%
Rockford	495	455	-40	-8.08%
St. Henry	892	932	40	4.48%

Map 3-1 Demolitions



### 3.2.2 Tenure

In the 2016-2020 period, Mercer County experienced an increase in the number of renters occupied housing units (13.8%) and a slight increase in owner-occupied housing units (0.54%). However, tenure varied across the community. Owner occupancy rates for Mercer County fell to 79.28 percent in 2020. The percentage of owner-occupied units increased in 8 out of 23 political subdivisions with the most significant increase in home ownership occurring in Butler Township. The percent of renter units increased in almost half of the 22 political subdivisions within Mercer County. Tables 3-2 and 3-3 provide more detailed information at the political subdivision level.

Table 3-2 OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Owner 2010	PCT 2010	Owner 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>12,679</b>	<b>81.24%</b>	<b>12,747</b>	<b>79.28%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0.54%</b>
Black Creek	206	100.00%	179	82.11%	-27	-13.11%
Butler	581	90.78%	719	86.11%	138	23.75%
Center	444	94.47%	391	97.26%	-53	-11.94%
Dublin	375	95.18%	321	84.70%	-54	-14.40%
Franklin	947	95.85%	835	83.84%	-112	-11.83%
Gibson	410	142.36%	364	184.77%	-46	-11.22%
Granville	328	77.18%	325	70.65%	-3	-0.91%
Hopewell	374	98.16%	294	91.88%	-80	-21.39%
Jefferson	920	82.44%	913	79.39%	-7	-0.76%
Liberty	316	94.33%	323	83.68%	7	2.22%
Marion	665	87.16%	852	79.40%	187	28.12%
Recovery	235	71.00%	233	61.48%	-2	-0.85%
Union	258	92.47%	330	85.49%	72	27.91%
Washington	387	90.63%	353	90.28%	-34	-8.79%
Burkettsville	75	85.23%	91	92.86%	16	21.33%
Celina	2972	65.67%	2909	66.51%	-63	-2.12%
Chickasaw	91	81.98%	110	77.46%	19	20.88%
Coldwater	1285	78.88%	1256	80.98%	-29	-2.26%
Fort Recovery	400	89.49%	591	82.20%	191	47.75%
Mendon	177	79.73%	209	81.64%	32	18.08%
Montezuma	73	97.33%	41	69.49%	-32	-43.84%
Rockford	360	71.71%	316	76.89%	-44	-12.22%
St. Henry	800	80.81%	750	83.71%	-50	-6.25%



TABLE 3-3 RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Renter 2010	PCT 2010	Renter 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	2,927	18.76%	3,331	20.72%	404	13.80%
Black Creek	0	0.00%	39	17.89%	39	N/A
Butler	59	9.22%	116	13.89%	57	96.61%
Center	26	5.53%	11	2.74%	-15	-57.69%
Dublin	19	4.82%	58	15.30%	39	205.26%
Franklin	41	4.15%	161	16.16%	120	292.68%
Gibson	21	7.29%	3	1.52%	-18	-85.71%
Granville	9	2.12%	50	10.87%	41	455.56%
Hopewell	7	1.84%	26	8.13%	19	271.43%
Jefferson	196	17.56%	195	16.96%	-1	-0.51%
Liberty	19	5.67%	63	16.32%	44	231.58%
Marion	98	12.84%	221	20.60%	123	125.51%
Recovery	14	4.23%	19	5.01%	5	35.71%
Union	21	7.53%	56	14.51%	35	166.67%
Washington	40	9.37%	38	9.72%	-2	-5.00%
Burkettsville	13	14.77%	7	7.14%	-6	-46.15%
Celina	1554	34.33%	1507	34.45%	-47	-3.02%
Chickasaw	20	18.02%	32	22.54%	12	60.00%
Coldwater	344	21.12%	295	19.02%	-49	-14.24%
Fort Recovery	47	10.51%	128	17.80%	81	172.34%
Mendon	45	20.27%	47	18.36%	2	4.44%
Montezuma	2	2.67%	18	30.51%	16	800.00%
Rockford	142	28.29%	95	23.11%	-47	-33.10%
St. Henry	190	19.19%	146	16.29%	-44	-23.16%
Data Source: S2504 ACS 2020 & 2010						

### 3.2.3 Vacancy Rate

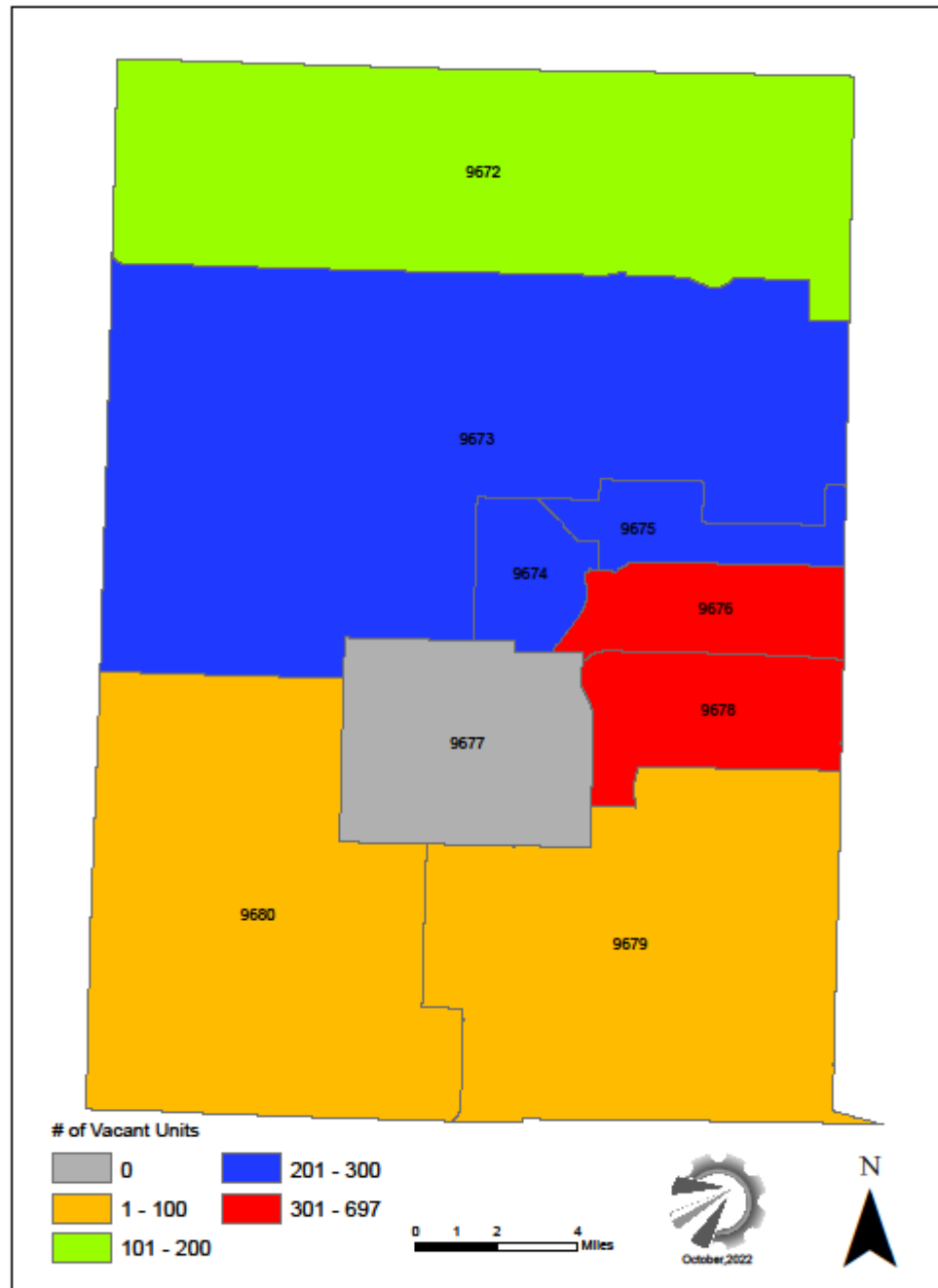
The vacancy rate in Mercer County increased by almost 13 percent between 2010 and 2020. 10 of the 23 political subdivisions experienced a decline in vacancies. Table 3-4 reveals the extent of change by political subdivision. Map 3-2 depicts the location and density of vacant residential units in Celina at the block group level identified in the 2020 ACS.

*Mercer County witnessed an almost 13% increase in vacancies*

TABLE 3-4 RESIDENTIAL VACANT UNITS BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2010-2020)						
Political Subdivision	Vacant 2010	PCT 2010	Vacant 2020	PCT 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>10.50%</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>11.30%</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>12.71%</b>
Black Creek	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	N/A
Butler	103	4.30%	14	0.60%	-89	-86.41%
Center	54	10.30%	30	6.90%	-24	-44.44%
Dublin	69	7.20%	90	10.20%	21	30.43%
Franklin	560	34.50%	697	39.80%	137	24.46%
Gibson	124	15.90%	33	4.00%	-91	-73.39%
Granville	57	3.90%	14	1.00%	-43	-75.44%
Hopewell	28	6.80%	37	10.40%	9	32.14%
Jefferson	764	11.90%	852	13.40%	88	11.52%
Liberty	9	2.60%	66	14.60%	57	633.33%
Marion	11	1.20%	41	3.30%	30	272.73%
Recovery	13	2.70%	39	6.60%	26	200.00%
Union	22	4.20%	91	12.40%	69	313.64%
Washington	12	2.70%	54	12.10%	42	350.00%
Burkettsville	7	7.40%	6	5.80%	-1	-14.29%
Celina	515	10.20%	684	13.50%	169	32.82%
Chickasaw	11	9.00%	9	6.00%	-2	-18.18%
Coldwater	74	4.30%	0	0.00%	-74	-100.00%
Fort Recovery	61	12.00%	43	5.60%	-18	-29.51%
Mendon	22	9.00%	37	12.60%	15	68.18%
Montezuma	21	21.90%	27	31.40%	6	28.57%
Rockford	58	10.40%	56	12.00%	-2	-3.45%
St. Henry	12	1.20%	8	0.90%	-4	-33.33%
Census ACS DP04 2020 & 2010						

## Map 3-2 Vacant Housing Units

**Map 3-2 Vacant Housing Units (2020)**



### 3.2.4 Size of Housing Units

The size of housing units can be evaluated by looking at both the number of rooms in a unit as well as the total square footage. The ACS provides tabulations on the number of rooms and bedrooms per unit. Table 3-5 suggests that the median number of rooms in a house including kitchen, dining room, family room, bedrooms, utility rooms and bathrooms ranged from a high of 7.7 rooms in Black Creek Township to a low of 5.2 rooms in Franklin Township. The median number of rooms per dwelling unit in Mercer County was 6.2 rooms. 68 percent of the housing units in Mercer County contain 3 or more bedrooms.

TABLE 3-5							
HOUSING UNITS BY NUMBER OF ROOMS, BEDROOMS AND SIZE (2020)							
Political Subdivision	Median Rooms	PCT No BR	PCT BR 1	PCT 2 BRs	PCT 3 BRs	PCT 4 BRs	PCT 5 or More BRs
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>4.90%</b>	<b>21.20%</b>	<b>51.70%</b>	<b>17.10%</b>	<b>4.30%</b>
Black Creek	7.7	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	46.80%	32.60%	11.90%
Butler	6.4	0.00%	4.40%	15.30%	54.80%	22.60%	2.90%
Center	6.9	4.30%	12.30%	3.70%	61.10%	20.80%	2.10%
Dublin	6.9	0.00%	7.30%	17.30%	48.90%	18.50%	3.80%
Franklin	5.2	0.00%	5.00%	42.00%	40.90%	10.00%	2.10%
Gibson	6.4	2.6%	6.50%	17.40%	48.30%	19.40%	8.30%
Granville	6.4	0.00%	0.80%	15.50%	54.20%	23.00%	3.90%
Hopewell	7.1	1.3%	3.90%	0.00%	51.30%	18.50%	26.30%
Jefferson	5.8	0.00%	7.10%	26.20%	49.80%	11.20%	4.30%
Liberty	7	0.00%	2.00%	15.00%	49.60%	29.60%	3.80%
Marion	6.5	0.00%	1.20%	9.60%	67.90%	16.70%	4.50%
Recovery	6.2	0.00%	0.80%	22.20%	53.60%	21.30%	2.00%
Union	6.3	0.00%	2.90%	22.50%	50.20%	22.10%	2.30%
Washington	7.5	0.00%	0.00%	7.90%	52.60%	36.40%	3.10%
Burkettsville	6.1	0.00%	0.00%	16.30%	73.10%	10.60%	0.00%
Celina	5.7	1.4%	8.20%	27.60%	48.70%	9.50%	4.70%
Chickasaw	6.1	0.00%	2.60%	15.90%	72.20%	6.60%	2.60%
Coldwater	6.3	0.00%	6.80%	12.70%	57.00%	21.30%	2.20%
Fort Recovery	5.9	0.00%	7.60%	28.70%	48.00%	12.70%	2.90%
Mendon	6.2	0.00%	7.20%	25.30%	45.10%	21.50%	1.00%
Montezuma	6	0.00%	3.50%	43.00%	36.00%	10.50%	7.00%
Rockford	6.2	6.2%	5.10%	21.60%	48.80%	15.20%	3.00%
St. Henry	6.3	4.0%	1.20%	16.00%	54.50%	22.20%	2.00%
Census ACS DP04 2020							

### 3.2.5 Age of Housing Stock

According to the 2020 ACS, the median year in which residential structures date in Celina is 1966, as compared to the County median of 1972. The oldest housing in the City of Celina is found in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to the central business district. Table 3-6 identifies the number of housing units and median age by political subdivision.

TABLE 3-6										
HOUSING UNITS BY AGE & VALUE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION										
Subdivision	Total Units	Prior to 1940	1940 to 1959	1960 to 1979	1980 to 1989	1990 to 1999	2000 to 2009	After 2010	Median Year Built	Median Value
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>18.80%</b>	<b>18.80%</b>	<b>37.60%</b>	<b>10.00%</b>	<b>12.50%</b>	<b>9.50%</b>	<b>22.00%</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>\$163,800</b>
Black Creek	218	50.50%	50.50%	101.00%	0.00%	6.90%	11.90%	18.80%	1939-	\$165,500
Butler	835	13.80%	13.80%	27.60%	6.80%	14.00%	6.40%	20.40%	1974	\$171,900
Center	402	17.80%	17.80%	35.60%	11.10%	19.70%	6.70%	26.40%	1973	\$193,500
Dublin	379	41.00%	41.00%	82.00%	6.80%	7.70%	5.00%	12.70%	1954	\$101,100
Franklin	996	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	12.40%	15.40%	20.40%	35.80%	1979	\$158,800
Gibson	197	19.90%	19.90%	39.80%	10.20%	11.20%	17.90%	29.10%	1974	\$162,200
Granville	460	15.00%	15.00%	30.00%	11.60%	11.30%	12.60%	23.90%	1979	\$234,400
Hopewell	320	19.00%	19.00%	38.00%	0.00%	32.50%	9.00%	41.50%	1975	\$213,700
Jefferson	1,150	16.00%	16.00%	32.00%	9.60%	11.30%	7.60%	18.90%	1969	\$136,500
Liberty	386	29.20%	29.20%	58.40%	4.90%	9.30%	1.10%	10.40%	1962	\$174,300
Marion	1,073	19.20%	19.20%	38.40%	19.30%	14.60%	12.20%	26.80%	1982	\$257,300
Recovery	379	19.30%	19.30%	38.60%	9.90%	20.20%	13.10%	33.30%	1975	\$213,400
Union	386	36.00%	36.00%	72.00%	11.70%	1.90%	2.90%	4.80%	1952	\$93,000
Washington	391	32.10%	32.10%	64.20%	12.10%	12.80%	5.40%	18.20%	1972	\$208,100
Burkettsville	98	34.60%	18.30%	19.30%	15.40%	5.80%	6.70%	0.00%	1958	\$122,800
Celina	4,374	16.30%	28.70%	23.20%	10.50%	9.00%	8.70%	18.40%	1966	\$123,100
Chickasaw	142	12.60%	6.70%	54.30%	11.30%	10.60%	4.00%	10.00%	1973	\$181,800
Coldwater	1,551	14.30%	25.50%	27.60%	7.70%	15.70%	4.30%	28.40%	1972	\$157,700
Fort Recovery	719	20.30%	25.80%	6.70%	14.20%	15.60%	11.80%	0.00%	1975	\$128,800
Mendon	256	38.60%	24.50%	22.90%	7.20%	2.00%	4.80%	11.10%	1953	\$80,600
Montezuma	59	38.40%	38.40%	4.70%	5.80%	12.80%	0.00%	3.00%	1952	\$101,800
Rockford	411	41.30%	23.80%	25.30%	2.80%	4.10%	2.80%	14.10%	1949	\$95,100
St. Henry	896	7.00%	14.10%	28.40%	9.80%	14.40%	13.30%	7.00%	1981	\$231,700
Data Source: B25035 & DP04 ACS 2020										

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

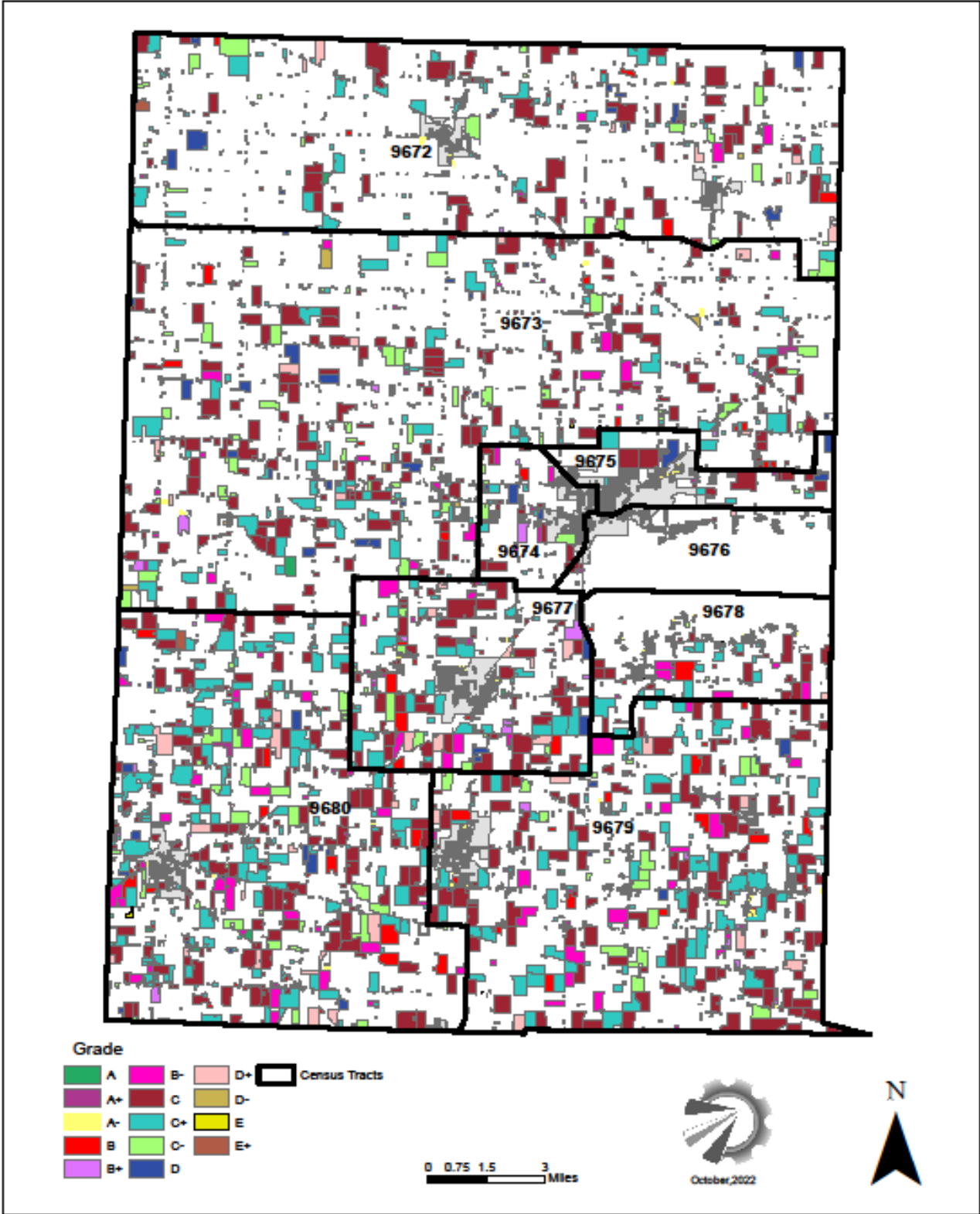
- *Grade A residences reflect the highest quality materials and workmanship exhibiting unique and elaborate architectural styling and treatments and having all the features typically characteristics of mansion type homes.*
- *Grade B units reflect good quality materials and workmanship exhibiting pronounced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

30.1% of the Mercer  
County housing stock is  
rated fair or below

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 Celina was found in the lowest grades. The housing in neighborhoods along the border of the City of Celina are rated above average quality; but 37.1 percent of the units in Celina 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.

TABLE 3-7 ASSESSED QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (2020)								
Political Subdivision	Total Units	Units Graded	PCT Graded	A	B	C	D	E
<b>Mercer County</b>	17,888	14,847	83.00%	117	1,985	10,691	1,501	25
<b>Black Creek</b>	228	208	91.23%	1	8	168	31	0
<b>Butler</b>	695	667	95.97%	8	136	482	41	0
<b>Center</b>	434	372	85.71%	3	59	272	37	1
<b>Dublin</b>	405	359	88.64%	3	36	270	50	0
<b>Franklin</b>	1,704	1,214	71.24%	18	191	710	287	8
<b>Gibson</b>	333	697	209.31%	6	67	275	20	1
<b>Granville</b>	465	473	101.72%	10	97	353	12	2
<b>Hopewell</b>	400	363	90.75%	0	30	304	28	1
<b>Jefferson</b>	1,316	1,214	92.25%	6	172	819	150	1
<b>Liberty</b>	364	340	93.41%	0	7	257	75	1
<b>Marion</b>	966	873	90.37%	16	180	648	29	0
<b>Recovery</b>	381	419	109.97%	2	39	218	19	0
<b>Union</b>	312	277	88.78%	2	14	219	41	1
<b>Washington</b>	429	369	86.01%	3	34	294	36	2
<b>Burkettsville</b>	78	66	84.62%	0	1	61	4	0
<b>Celina</b>	4,973	3,307	66.50%	18	447	2,505	336	1
<b>Chickasaw</b>	152	127	83.55%	0	6	117	4	0
<b>Coldwater</b>	1,906	1,544	81.01%	10	217	1,260	56	1
<b>Fort Recovery</b>	604	469	77.65%	2	52	318	96	1
<b>Mendon</b>	270	240	88.89%	0	3	189	48	0
<b>Montezuma</b>	86	71	82.56%	0	1	40	28	2
<b>Rockford</b>	455	377	82.86%	1	17	300	57	2
<b>St. Henry</b>	932	807	86.59%	8	171	612	16	0

Map 3-3 Property Grade (2020)





### 3.2.7 Housing Value

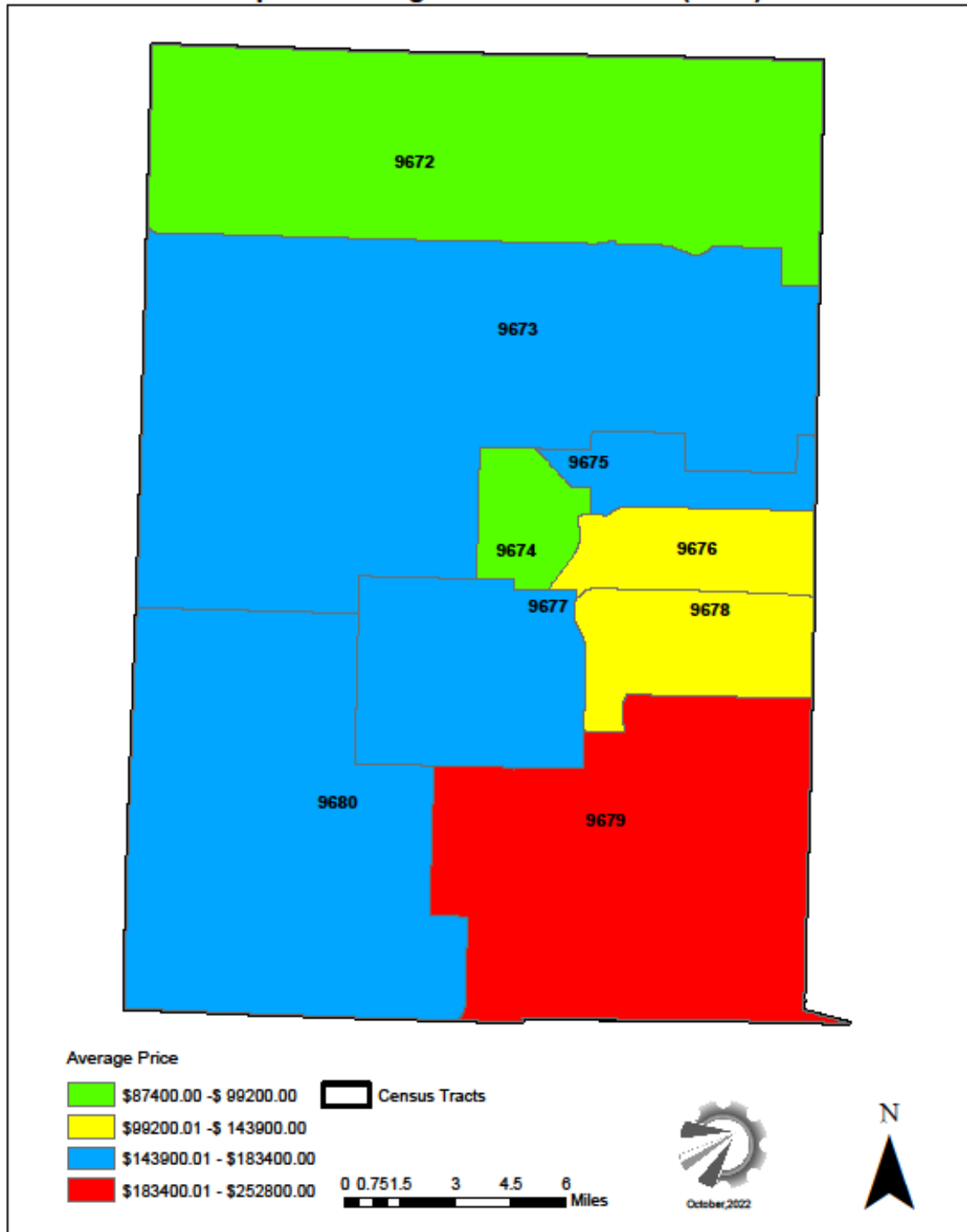
As housing quality varies across Mercer County so does the value of such housing. According to the ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates, the median housing value of owner-occupied units in the City of Celina was \$123,100 as compared to \$163,800 for Mercer County.

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

Table 3-8 indicates homes with the highest median value were located in Marion Township (\$257,300) and the City of Mendon had the lowest median values (\$80,600).

Table 3-8 MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS (2010-2020)				
Political Subdivision	Median Value 2010	Median Value 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>\$125,600</b>	<b>\$163,800</b>	<b>\$38,200</b>	<b>30.41%</b>
Black Creek	\$100,900	\$165,500	\$64,600	64.02%
Butler	\$141,900	\$171,900	\$30,000	21.14%
Center	\$119,400	\$193,500	\$74,100	62.06%
Dublin	\$105,000	\$101,100	(\$3,900)	-3.71%
Franklin	\$131,700	\$158,800	\$27,100	20.58%
Gibson	\$128,500	\$162,200	\$33,700	26.23%
Granville	\$154,800	\$234,400	\$79,600	51.42%
Hopewell	\$145,500	\$213,700	\$68,200	46.87%
Jefferson	\$111,300	\$136,500	\$25,200	22.64%
Liberty	\$113,100	\$174,300	\$61,200	54.11%
Marion	\$161,900	\$257,300	\$95,400	58.93%
Recovery	\$153,400	\$213,400	\$60,000	39.11%
Union	\$99,900	\$93,000	(\$6,900)	-6.91%
Washington	\$115,800	\$208,100	\$92,300	79.71%
Burkettsville	\$98,100	\$122,800	\$24,700	25.18%
Celina	\$95,900	\$123,100	\$27,200	28.36%
Chickasaw	\$129,200	\$181,800	\$52,600	40.71%
Coldwater	\$128,900	\$157,700	\$28,800	22.34%
Fort Recovery	\$96,000	\$128,800	\$32,800	34.17%
Mendon	\$74,300	\$80,600	\$6,300	8.48%
Montezuma	\$75,400	\$101,800	\$26,400	35.01%
Rockford	\$83,100	\$95,100	\$12,000	14.44%
St. Henry	\$153,900	\$231,700	\$77,800	50.55%
Census B25077 ACS 2020				

**Map 3-4 Average Home Sale Price (2020)**



### 3.2.8 Manufactured/Mobile Homes

The ACS documented 689 manufactured/mobile homes within Mercer County in 2020. ACS data suggests that manufactured/mobile homes represented roughly 3.5 percent of the total housing stock in Mercer County in 2020.

The largest concentration of mobile homes was found in Jefferson Township (341 units) with the majority of those units being located in the City of Celina. When considering occupancy, 77.6 percent of all occupied units were owner occupied and 22.3 percent were renter occupied. In 2020 the average occupants per unit for owner occupied manufactured mobile homes across Mercer County was 2.18 persons, higher than rental units at 1.88 persons. Owner occupancy ranged in size from 0.00 persons per unit, to almost 5 persons (4.89). Table 3-9 examines tenure and occupancy of manufactured homes.

TABLE 3-9					
MOBILE HOME OCCUPANCY (2020)					
Political Subdivision	Mobile Homes	Owner Occ	Owner -Occ./Unit	Renter Occ.	Rent-Occ/Unit
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1.88</b>
Black Creek	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Butler	59	59	2.32	0	0.00
Center	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Dublin	49	44	2.00	5	4.80
Franklin	106	96	1.23	10	1.00
Gibson	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Granville	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hopewell	23	14	3.86	9	1.00
Jefferson	341	239	2.12	102	1.34
Liberty	9	9	4.89	0	0.00
Marion	22	0	0.00	22	4.55
Recovery	39	36	2.11	3	1.67
Union	11	8	1.88	3	1.67
Washington	30	30	4.23	0	0.00
Burkettsville	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Celina	227	176	2.15	51	1.00
Chickasaw	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Coldwater	59	59	2.32	0	0.00
Fort Recovery	39	36	2.11	3	1.67
Mendon	11	8	1.88	3	1.67
Montezuma	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rockford	25	20	1.35	5	4.80
St. Henry	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Census S2504 & B25033 ACS 2016-2020					

### 3.2.9 Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks

Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks are licensed and controlled by the Ohio Manufactured Home Commission. Such parks are required to be annually inspected and licensed when 3 or more such homes are used for habitation on any tract of land. In 2020 the Mercer 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.

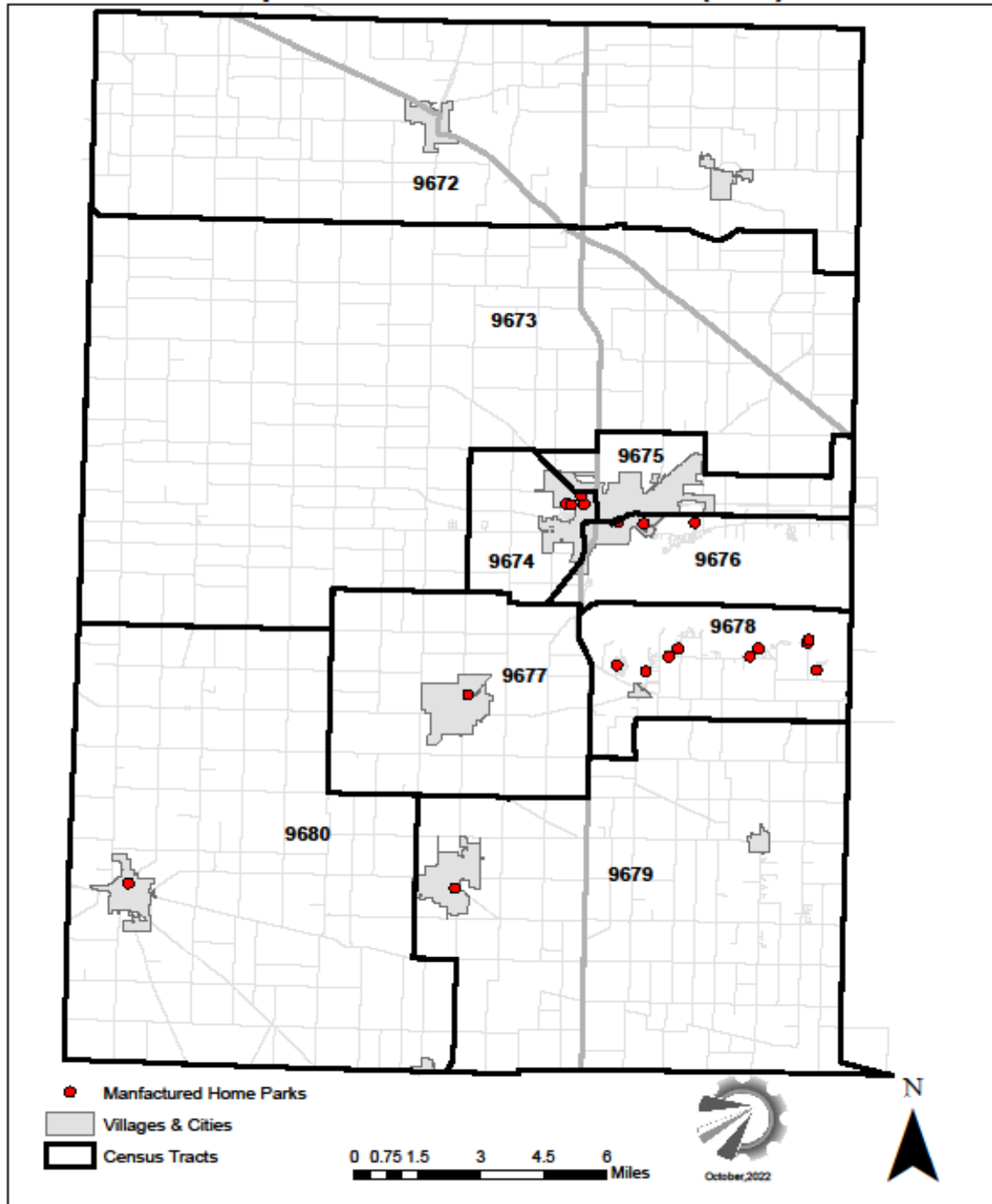
<b>TABLE 3-10</b>		
<b>MOBILE HOME PARKS IN MERCER COUNTY</b>		
<b>Political Subdivision</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Units</b>
Celina	Hecht's Landing MHP	70
	Lakeshore Resort	5
	Abbeywood Estates	38
	Bayview Trailer Park	6
	Grand Manor	90
	Zeb's Landing	38
	Cottonwood Park, Inc.	51
	Grand Lake MHP	98
	Duckfoot Arnold Landing & Sons	8
	Behm's Landing	22
	Helton Lodge	11
	Livingston MHP	8
	Celina MHP	37
	Westside MHC	78
	Park Grand	20
	Woodhaven Park	36
	Arrowhead Estates	84
Coldwater	Northview MHC	87
Fort Recovery	Broadway Mobile Court	50
Saint Henry	Osterholt Mobile Park	6
<b>Mercer County</b>		<b>843</b>

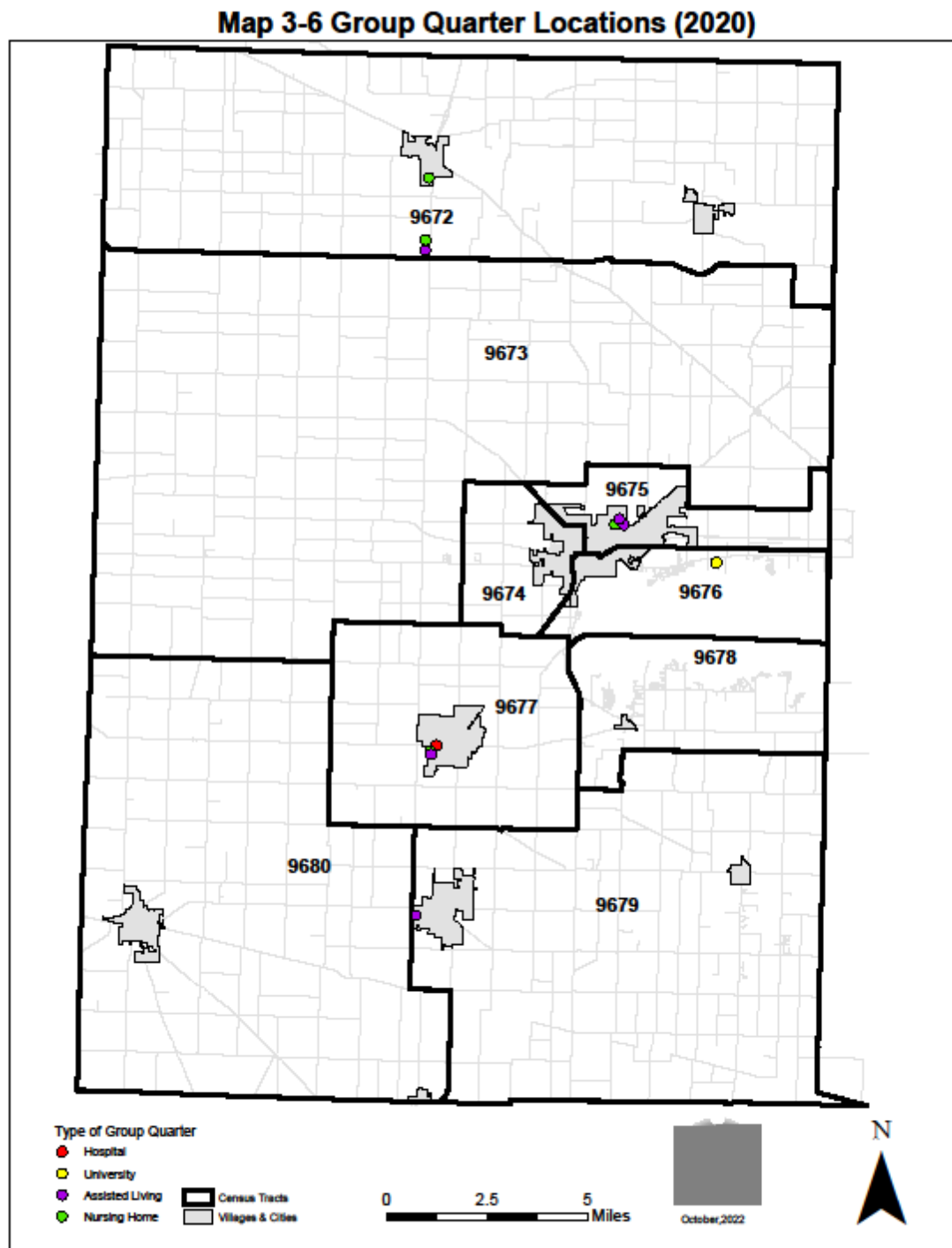
### 3.3 Group Quarters

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 Celina. In 2020, the U. S Census identified 535 individuals residing in Group Quarters. Table 3-11 depicts the population breakdown of group quarters by type in 2020.

Table 3-11		
GROUP QUARTER POPULATION IN MERCER COUNTY (2020)		
Type of Group Quarter		Population
Institutionalized	Correctional Facility	37
	Nursing Home	397
	Other Institutions	0
Non-Institutionalized	College Dormitory	74
	Other Non-Institutionalized	27
Mercer County		535
P5 2020 Census		

**Map 3-5 Manufactured Home Parks (2020)**





### 3.4 Housing Rehabilitation Needs

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

#### 3.4.1 Essential Amenities

To provide additional insights into the condition and need for improved housing conditions, the extent of absent housing amenities is presented. The total number of units lacking complete kitchen facilities in 2020 totaled 204 units. The total number of units lacking complete plumbing facilities in 2020 totaled 37 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 Mercer County.

TABLE 3-12				
HOUSING STOCK PRESUMED TO NEED REHABILITATION (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Housing Units Built Pre-1940	Lack of Complete Plumbing Facilities	Lack of Complete Kitchen Facilities	Vacant Units
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>2,058</b>
Black Creek	110	0	0	0
Butler	330	0	35	14
Center	77	0	0	30
Dublin	361	2	29	90
Franklin	175	10	3	697
Gibson	162	0	10	33
Granville	207	9	20	14
Hopewell	68	0	0	37
Jefferson	1,021	16	67	852
Liberty	132	0	0	66
Marion	241	0	0	41
Recovery	115	0	0	39
Union	264	0	40	91
Washington	143	0	0	54
Burkettsville	36	0	0	6
Celina	826	0	51	684
Chickasaw	19	0	0	9
Coldwater	222	0	35	0
Fort Recovery	155	0	10	43
Mendon	113	0	0	37
Montezuma	33	0	3	27
Rockford	193	2	20	56
St. Henry	63	0	11	8
Data Source: DP04 ACS				



### 3.4.2 Lead-Based Paint

Lead-based paint was used in area housing until 1978. Any house built before 1979 may have layers of lead paint present. When chips of this paint are exposed, they 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 26,000 housing units in Mercer County still contain lead-based paint. An estimate of the number of units with lead-based paint in Mercer County is provided by political subdivision in Table 3-13 (6,549 units). Of concern, the

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

potential of lead paint exposure reflects 36.6 percent of all the housing stock in Mercer County. However, estimates from HUD based on national surveys suggest that only a percentage of these

approximately 1,865 units actually pose a lead hazard and are in need of lead abatement. HUD suggests that of those units built before 1940, 44.0 percent pose a hazard, with those built between 1940 and 1959 identified at a somewhat lesser rate at 18.0 percent of units, while the hazard of those built after 1960 thru 1979 is established at just 9.5 percent. Table 3-14 identifies the extent of a lead hazard in housing units by political subdivision by year of construction.

HUD estimates suggest that low to moderate income (LMI) households occupy 23.9 percent of dwellings with lead hazards. The exposure to the Mercer County population of LMI households reflects some 244-owner occupied and 89 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**

Subdivision	Prior to 1940		1940 to 1959		1960 to 1979		Total Units w/Lead Paint Exposure
	Built	Paint Exposure	Built	Paint Exposure	Built	Paint Exposure	
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>6,549</b>
Black Creek township	110	96	10	7	44	11	114
Butler township	108	94	124	86	208	52	232
Center township	77	67	95	66	81	20	153
Dublin township	168	146	34	23	84	21	191
Franklin township	142	124	254	175	430	108	406
Gibson township	54	47	53	37	66	17	100
Granville township	120	104	70	48	22	6	158
Hopewell township	68	59	48	33	93	23	116
Jefferson township	195	170	240	166	436	109	444
Liberty township	132	115	82	57	94	24	195
Marion township	222	193	109	75	134	34	302
Recovery township	69	60	0	0	145	36	96
Union township	151	131	80	55	118	30	216
Washington township	143	124	49	34	98	25	183
Burkettsville village	24	21	12	8	17	4	33
Celina city	826	719	1451	1,001	1174	294	2,013
Chickasaw village	19	17	10	7	82	21	44
Coldwater village	222	193	395	273	429	107	573
Fort Recovery village	155	135	197	136	51	13	284
Mendon village	113	98	72	50	67	17	165
Montezuma village	33	29	33	23	4	1	52
Rockford village	193	168	111	77	118	30	274
St. Henry village	63	55	127	88	256	64	206

TABLE 3-14								
ESTIMATED EXPOSURE TO LEAD HAZARD IN HOUSING BY YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION								
Subdivision	Prior to 1940		1940 to 1959		1960 to 1979		Total Period Units	
	w/Paint	w/Hazard	w/Paint	w/Hazard	w/Paint	w/Hazard	w/Paint	w/Hazard
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>2553</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>6580</b>	<b>1,865</b>
Black Creek township	96	42	7	1	11	1	114	44
Butler township	94	41	86	15	52	5	232	62
Center township	67	29	66	12	20	2	153	43
Dublin township	146	64	23	4	21	2	191	71
Franklin township	124	54	175	32	108	10	406	96
Gibson township	47	21	37	7	17	2	100	29
Granville township	104	46	48	9	6	1	158	55
Hopewell township	59	26	33	6	23	2	116	34
Jefferson township	170	75	166	30	109	10	444	115
Liberty township	115	51	57	10	24	2	195	63
Marion township	193	85	75	14	34	3	302	102
Recovery township	60	26	0	0	36	3	96	30
Union township	131	58	55	10	30	3	216	71
Washington township	124	55	34	6	25	2	183	63
Burkettsville village	21	9	8	1	4	0	33	11
Celina city	719	316	1001	180	294	28	2013	524
Chickasaw village	17	7	7	1	21	2	44	10
Coldwater village	193	85	273	49	107	10	573	144
Fort Recovery village	135	59	136	24	13	1	284	85
Mendon village	98	43	50	9	17	2	165	54
Montezuma village	29	13	23	4	1	0	52	17
Rockford village	168	74	77	14	30	3	274	90
St. Henry village	55	24	88	16	64	6	206	46

<p><b>TABLE 3-15</b></p> <p><b>ESTIMATED LEAD HAZARD AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS IN ALLEN COUNTY BY YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION AND TENURE</b></p>								
Year Built	Tenure	Total Occupied Units	Percent w/Lead Paint	Number w/Lead Paint	Percent w/Lead Hazard	Number Occupied Units w/Lead Hazard	Percent Units LMI Occupied	LMI Households w/Lead Hazard Exposure
Prior to 1940	Owner	1,697	87.00%	1476	44.00%	650	23.90%	155
	Renter	725	87.00%	631	44.00%	278	23.90%	66
1940 to 1959	Owner	2,426	69.00%	1674	18.00%	301	23.90%	72
	Renter	614	69.00%	424	18.00%	76	23.90%	18
1960 to 1979	Owner	3,027	25.00%	757	9.50%	72	23.90%	17
	Renter	746	25.00%	187	9.50%	18	23.90%	4
Owner Occupied		7,150	54.64%	3,907	26.18%	1,023	23.90%	244
Renter Occupied		2,085	59.52%	1,241	29.94%	372	23.90%	89
Total Occupied		9,235	55.74%	5,148	27.08%	1,394	23.90%	333

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

### 3.5 Affordable Housing

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

#### 3.5.1 Overcrowding

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

Data suggests that in 2020, overcrowding was experienced in 119 rental units in Mercer County representing 3.57 percent of the 3,331 occupied rental units. Data from the 2020 ACS suggests that less than 1 percent of owner-occupied units were found to be experiencing overcrowding in the County as a whole.

TABLE 3-16 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2020)								
Political Subdivision	Renter Occupied Units	1.00 or Less	PCT	1.01 to 1.50	PCT	1.51 or More	PCT	Over-crowded Units (>1.00)
<b>Mercer County</b>	3,331	3,212	96.43%	68	2.04%	51	1.53%	3.57%
Black Creek	39	39	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Butler	411	411	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Center	11	11	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Dublin	153	153	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Franklin	179	179	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Gibson	123	123	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Granville	203	171	84.24%	0	0.00%	32	15.76%	15.76%
Hopewell	26	26	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Jefferson	1,702	1637	96.18%	46	2.70%	19	1.12%	3.82%
Liberty	63	63	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marion	253	231	91.30%	22	8.70%	0	0.00%	8.70%
Recovery	27	27	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Union	103	103	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Washington	38	38	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Burkettsville	7	7	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Celina	1,507	1442	95.69%	46	3.05%	19	1.26%	4.31%
Chickasaw	32	32	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Coldwater	295	295	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Fort Recovery	128	128	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Mendon	47	47	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Montezuma	18	18	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Rockford	95	95	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
St. Henry	146	114	78.08%	0	0.00%	32	21.92%	21.92%
Census B25014 ACS 2020								

TABLE 3-17 OCCUPANTS PER ROOM IN OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS (2020)								
Political Subdivision	Owner Occupied Units	1.00 or Less	PCT	1.01 to 1.50	PCT	1.51 or More	PCT	Over- crowded Units (> 1.00)
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>12,747</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>4.28%</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>0.80%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.12%</b>	<b>0.92%</b>
Black Creek	179	179	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Butler	1,975	1230	62.28%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Center	391	391	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Dublin	637	88	13.81%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Franklin	876	856	97.72%	20	2.28%	0	0.00%	2.28%
Gibson	659	645	97.88%	14	2.12%	0	0.00%	2.12%
Granville	1,166	1118	95.88%	36	3.09%	12	1.03%	4.12%
Hopewell	294	294	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Jefferson	3,822	3803	99.50%	19	0.50%	0	0.00%	0.50%
Liberty	323	323	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Marion	962	960	99.79%	2	0.21%	0	0.00%	0.21%
Recovery	529	515	97.35%	11	2.08%	3	0.57%	2.65%
Union	539	539	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Washington	353	353	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Burkettsville	91	91	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Celina	2,867	2848	99.34%	19	0.66%	0	0.00%	0.66%
Chicksaw	110	108	98.18%	2	1.82%	0	0.00%	1.82%
Coldwater	1,256	1256	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Fort Recovery	591	574	97.12%	14	2.37%	3	0.51%	2.88%
Mendon	209	209	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Montezuma	41	41	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Rockford	316	316	100.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
St. Henry	750	718	95.73%	20	2.67%	12	1.60%	4.27%
Census B25014 ACS 2020								

### 3.5.2 Housing Costs

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

<b>TABLE 3-18</b>				
<b>MEDIAN GROSS RENT (2010-2020)</b>				
<b>Political Subdivision</b>	<b>Median Gross Rent 2010</b>	<b>Median Gross Rent 2020</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>PCT Change</b>
<b>Mercer County</b>	\$606	\$676	\$676	11.55%
Black Creek	-	-	N/A	N/A
Butler	\$599	\$592	(\$7)	-1.17%
Center	\$681	-	N/A	N/A
Dublin	\$613	\$521	(\$92)	-15.01%
Franklin	\$649	\$806	\$157	24.19%
Gibson	\$806	\$496	(\$310)	-38.46%
Granville	\$564	\$660	\$96	17.02%
Hopewell	-	-	N/A	N/A
Jefferson	\$613	\$714	\$101	16.48%
Liberty	-	\$852	N/A	N/A
Marion	\$557	\$666	\$109	19.57%
Recovery	\$728	\$527	(\$201)	-27.61%
Union	\$594	\$591	(\$3)	-0.51%
Washington	\$722	\$519	(\$203)	-28.12%
Burkettsville	\$613	-	N/A	N/A
Celina	\$634	\$713	\$79	12.46%
Chickasaw	\$625	\$565	(\$60)	-9.60%
Coldwater	\$575	\$590	\$15	2.61%
Fort Recovery	\$769	\$508	(\$261)	-33.94%
Mendon	\$666	\$730	\$64	9.61%
Montezuma	-	\$763	N/A	N/A
Rockford	\$564	\$679	\$115	20.39%
St. Henry	\$568	\$637	\$69	12.15%
Census B25064 ACS 2020				

To examine affordability, the census looks at housing related costs including rent/mortgage, utilities, taxes, etc., and defines a housing burden when housing costs are greater than 30 percent of household income. The Census also differentiates such costs based on owner occupied and renter occupied. Table 3-19 reveals that the proportion of renters paying in excess of 30 percent of their household income decreased by 28 percent between 2010 and 2020. As of 2020, 43 percent of all renter occupied housing units were costing more than 40 percent of said household's income. The same burden is also seen in owner occupied households as 14 percent of these households are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. The trend, however, for owner occupied households is declining as 22.5 percent less owner-occupied households faced this burden in 2020 than in 2010.

When reviewing the issue of affordability however, the obvious question is how much is too much and how much can you afford to pay? HUD and most state housing departments consider annual housing costs to be "affordable" if they do not exceed 30 percent of a family's annual income (including utility payments). Geographic variations do exist and where you select to live has implications on housing costs (rent/mortgages) as costs are a product of the area's economy. In addition to the place (political subdivision, rural/urban), the unit type selected (apartment, house, etc.), the condition, amenities, and proximity to employment can all influence the housing costs for a given property.

TABLE 3-19 OWNER/RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT COSTS GREATER THAN 30% OF INCOME (2010-2020)								
Political Subdivision	> 30% Owner Occupied Units				> 30% Renter Occupied Units			
	Units 2010	Units 2020	Change	PCT Change	Units 2010	Units 2020	Change	PCT Change
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>2320</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>-522</b>	<b>-22.5%</b>	<b>1349</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>-377</b>	<b>-28.0%</b>
Black Creek	38	16	-22	-58.0%	0	6	6	N/A
Butler	299	327	28	9.5%	207	94	-113	-54.6%
Center	40	98	58	142.6%	18	0	-18	-100.0%
Dublin	123	88	-35	-28.3%	79	48	-31	-39.3%
Franklin	216	127	-89	-41.3%	5	72	67	1343.5%
Gibson	114	82	-32	-28.1%	10	26	16	159.2%
Granville	162	81	-81	-50.1%	80	28	-52	-65.0%
Hopewell	76	82	6	8.0%	0	0	0	N/A
Jefferson	786	660	-126	-16.1%	851	567	-284	-33.3%
Liberty	104	26	-78	-75.0%	0	0	0	N/A
Marion	104	69	-35	-33.4%	31	51	20	64.3%
Recovery	106	47	-59	-55.5%	22	11	-11	-49.9%
Union	68	64	-4	-5.7%	40	69	29	72.5%
Washington	86	31	-55	-64.1%	7	0	-7	-100.0%
Burkettsville	16	2	-14	-87.5%	0	0	0	N/A
Celina	588	474	-114	-19.5%	760	531	-229	-30.1%
Chickasaw	20	11	-9	-45.1%	6	10	4	66.7%
Coldwater	202	173	-29	-14.2%	195	71	-124	-63.6%
Fort Recovery	59	56	-3	-5.4%	16	24	8	50.2%
Mendon	23	32	9	39.1%	40	22	-18	-45.0%
Montezuma	14	1	-13	-92.9%	2	9	7	350.0%
Rockford	89	38	-51	-57.3%	60	39	-21	-35.1%
St. Henry	97	48	-49	-50.4%	80	28	-52	-65.0%
Census S2503 ACS								

Using ACS 2020 5-year estimates, Tables 3-20 and 3-21 identify the available housing stock for low to moderate income households by quantifying the units available at less than 30 percent of the median income by tenure and political subdivision. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) annually releases “*Out of Reach*” to identify across the 50 states the “Housing Wage” or wage one must earn in order to afford a modest rental home by state.<sup>1</sup> Its latest report identifies the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Mercer County, Ohio at \$738. In order to afford this level of rent (and utilities) – without paying more than 30% of income on housing – a household must earn \$29,520 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a “housing wage” of \$14.19 per hour. However, in Ohio the minimum wage is \$9.30 per hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 64 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or a household must include 1.5 minimum wage earners working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

TABLE 3-20 AVAILABLE OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2020)				
Political Subdivision	Units	30% Median	Unit Costs ≤ 30%	PCT Units Available
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>12,747</b>	<b>\$22,210</b>	<b>10,936</b>	<b>85.79%</b>
Black Creek	179	N/A	163	91.06%
Butler	1,975	\$22,862	1,648	83.44%
Center	391	\$25,656	293	74.94%
Dublin	637	\$18,402	539	84.62%
Franklin	876	\$18,121	749	85.50%
Gibson	659	\$20,922	577	87.56%
Granville	1166	\$28,235	1,085	93.05%
Hopewell	294	\$29,700	212	72.11%
Jefferson	3822	\$20,079	3,162	82.73%
Liberty	323	\$25,379	297	91.95%
Marion	962	\$26,866	893	92.83%
Recovery	529	\$27,276	479	90.55%
Union	539	\$13,125	475	88.13%
Washington	353	\$21,516	322	91.22%
Burkettsville	91	\$22,875	89	97.80%
Celina	2867	\$19,356	2,393	83.47%
Chickasaw	110	\$21,375	99	90.00%
Coldwater	1256	\$21,777	1,083	86.23%
Fort Recovery	591	\$18,328	532	90.02%
Mendon	209	\$17,475	177	84.69%
Montezuma	41	\$17,625	40	97.56%
Rockford	316	\$16,500	278	87.97%
St. Henry	750	\$31,125	702	93.60%
Census S2503 ACS 2020				

<sup>1</sup> <http://nlihc.org/oor>



In Mercer County, the estimated hourly mean renter wage is \$14.50. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1 worker earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

<b>TABLE 3-21</b> <b>AVAILABLE RENTAL HOUSING STOCK AT ≤ 30% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b> <b>(2020)</b>				
<b>Political Subdivision</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>30% Median Monthly</b>	<b>Unit Costs ≤ 30%</b>	<b>PCT Units Available</b>
<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>\$12,578</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>59.59%</b>
Black Creek	39	\$10,313	15	38.46%
Butler	411	\$15,013	281	68.37%
Center	11	N/A	0	0.00%
Dublin	153	\$9,125	104	67.97%
Franklin	179	\$11,363	92	51.40%
Gibson	123	\$15,609	97	78.86%
Granville	203	\$14,890	136	67.00%
Hopewell	26	\$12,333	17	65.38%
Jefferson	1702	\$11,361	1,023	60.11%
Liberty	63	\$35,391	51	80.95%
Marion	253	\$16,366	110	43.48%
Recovery	27	N/A	13	48.15%
Union	103	\$6,694	22	21.36%
Washington	38	N/A	24	63.16%
Burkettsville	7	N/A	0	0.00%
Celina	1507	\$11,315	909	60.32%
Chickasaw	32	\$9,938	15	46.88%
Coldwater	295	\$12,019	209	70.85%
Fort Recovery	128	\$15,656	101	78.91%
Mendon	47	\$11,125	22	46.81%
Montezuma	18	9624.9	8	44.44%
Rockford	95	12062.4	55	57.89%
St. Henry	146	14294.1	96	65.75%
Census S2503 ACS 2020				

### 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

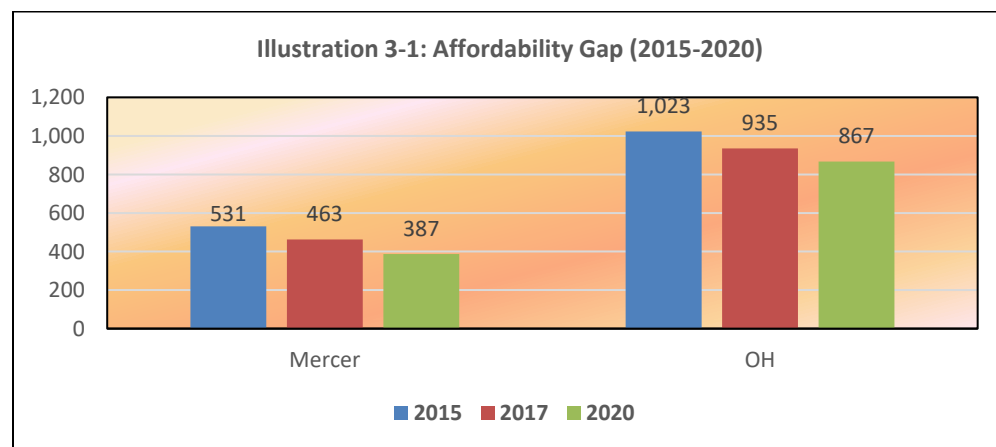
*The 2020 Home Energy Assistance Gap Ranking revealed an average gap of \$867 for Ohio low-income households.*

discretionary spending and on household well-being.<sup>2</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:

- 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 Mercer County energy affordability of \$387 in 2020.<sup>3</sup> For comparison purposes the gap in 2015 was \$531 and \$463 in 2017. Illustration 3-1 shows the affordability gap from 2015 to 2020 for both Mercer County and Ohio.



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

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a\\_affordabilityData.html](http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a_affordabilityData.html)

#### **3.5.4 Homelessness**

Mercer County has 3 emergency shelters; one provides services to veterans and their families, and one is designated for victims of domestic violence only, and the third helps provide housing, utility and rent subsidies

In an ongoing effort to help those who are dealing with homelessness, several outreach programs within Mercer County are available to assist in finding and providing temporary housing and services which help individuals and families to transition into permanent and safe housing.

The Family Crisis Center, located in Celina helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They provide temporary shelter for victims and their children along with ongoing case management and education materials.

In 2020 Lord's abounding Grace Church of Celina paired up with The Mercer County Homeless Coalition in order to build and provide a transitional refuge for the county's homeless population. The Hand Up Village is located behind the church grounds and through it's partnership with the homeless coalition aims to offer long term solutions for the county's homeless issues. The facilities, or "cabins" , are equipped with bunks, and a microwave. There are shared bathroom and laundry facilities on the grounds as well.

All applicants are screened and must not have any record of violence or sexual crimes. Those who stay in the cabins have to save at least 50% of their income to put toward a new place to live. Applicants come from all walks of life, including single mothers with children, the elderly and young men. Some have just been released from jail, others have been evicted or are looking for a way out of domestic abuse.

Since 2015, the cabins have hosted 95 people, including 32 individuals and 19 families. Among the service providers are Mercer County Jobs and Family Services, West Ohio Community Action Partnership and Foundations Behavioral Health Services.

<https://dailystandard.com/archive/2020-07-13/stories/40881/groups-unite-to-aid-area-homeless>  
<https://www.ourhomefrc.com/family-crisis-network/>

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

Census Tract	Housing Units	Demolitions 2020	PCT Owner Occupied	PCT Vacant	PCT Mobile Homes	PCT Built Before 1940	Median Value	2020 Home Sales	Avg. Sale Price	PCT Fair Quality Housing	Median Rooms	PCT Pop in Group Quarters	PCT Housing Units w/ Lead Hazard	Owner-Occupied Units - Housing Costs < 30% Inc	Renter-Occupied Units - Housing Costs < 30% Inc
9672	1,502	0	83.5%	9.3%	5.9%	41.6%	\$99,200	62	\$157,475	75.1%	6.7	2.65%	18%	17.20%	35.00%
9673	1,752	0	89.6%	11.5%	5.0%	20.7%	\$183,400	49	\$175,602	78.0%	6.9	0.00%	9%	17.90%	42.00%
9674	2101	2	71.0%	11.2%	12.0%	21.9%	87,400,	18	\$149,611	66.6%	5.7	1.24%	10%	24.00%	31.60%
9675	2,496	1	68.4%	9.1%	0.0%	8.6%	\$168,300	60	\$130,653	67.1%	5.9	2.27%	4%	18.90%	45.90%
9676	1,499	1	63.3%	25.4%	8.8%	21.2%	\$138,000	121	\$176,018	58.8%	5.8	0.00%	9%	9.90%	23.30%
9677	2,530	0	82.4%	0.0%	2.5%	14.1%	\$172,300	65	\$123,796	81.4%	6.4	0.77%	6%	27.40%	25.10%
9678	1,693	0	85.5%	42.6%	25.6%	8.1%	\$143,900	81	\$113,487	52.3%	5.1	0.00%	4%	33.00%	24.00%
9679	2501	0	80.8%	2.5%	0.9%	15.5%	\$252,800	14	\$100,643	88.0%	6.4	1.66%	7%	9.70%	34.60%
9680	1,814	0	89.5%	4.2%	2.1%	7.6%	\$132,900	116	\$147,622	182.9%	6.5	0.00%	3%	20.40%	20.70%

## 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.

#### 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>7,8,9</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>10,11</sup>

##### **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.cleveland.com/news/2019/03/gov-dewines-wraparound-services-funding-could-be-boost-to-cleveland-other-school-districts.html>

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph\\_v.\\_State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph_v._State)

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

Should the General Assembly and the Governor coalesce around a shared vision for child care the: eligibility level for publicly funded early childhood programs for working families would rise from 130 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent of the federal poverty level; number of 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. And nothing is more important to raising a child's future earnings and quality of life than an education. Luckily, Mercer 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

There are several post-secondary institutions within 50 miles of The city of Celina; the County Seat of Mercer County. In addition to those within Mercer County: Bluffton University, the University of Northwestern Ohio, the Ohio State University Lima and Rhodes State College, and Ohio Northern University, there is Findlay University in Hancock County and The Wright State Lake Campus in Mercer County. These campuses coupled with the on-line degree programs that exist at a plethora of accredited institutions suggest that proximity to post-secondary education should not be an obstacle to attaining a college degree for Mercer 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>12</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

<sup>12</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)

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>13</sup>

In order to provide insights as to local post-secondary school programming, baseline data for each of the public and private institutions within an approximate 30-45minute drive time from Mercer 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>14,15</sup>

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

*Bluffton University has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Barons as a Best Buy.*

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

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.bluffton.edu/>

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

#### 4.2.2 The Ohio State University – Lima Campus<sup>16,17</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 associate degree and 13 bachelor degree programs with 2+2 programming supporting 200 plus majors at the Columbus campus. Total enrollment was 998 students in 2020; 800 or 80 percent of the students were full time students, there were 10 graduate students. Examining demographics 56 percent of students were female, 7 percent were African American, 1.9 percent were Asian and 4.4 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition and fees costs at \$8,550 (in-state).

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

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

#### 4.2.3 The University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH)<sup>18,19</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 2020 was 3,655 students from all 40 states and 49 countries; 94.1 percent of the students were full time students, there are 86 graduate students. Examining demographics only 20 percent of students were female, 4 percent were African American and 3 percent were Hispanic. Tuition and financial aid data reflected total tuition and costs at \$23,600. The average net price for low-income students was \$14,822.

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

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

<sup>16</sup> <http://lima.osu.edu/>

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

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.unoh.edu/>

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



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.

#### 4.2.4 Rhodes State College<sup>20,21</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.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.rhodesstate.edu/>

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

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

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

#### **4.3 Non-Degree Granting - Primarily Post-Secondary Institutions**

Mercer 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>22,23</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

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

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

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

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

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

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>24,25</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 72 students in 2020; 100 percent of the students were full time students. Examining demographics 84.7 percent of students were female, 11.3 percent were African American and 6.9 percent were Hispanic. Average net price after factoring in grants and loans was \$7,502.



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

#### **4.4 Local K-12 School Opportunities**

Within Mercer County are 57 schools serving grades kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Of these schools – 41 are public schools, and 1 is a private school. And while most recognize the status of public schools and private schools, given the changes in education and funding over the last decade it is not surprising to find hybrid schools in the form of community schools. Community schools are public, non-profit, non-sectarian schools operating independently of any school district, but under a contract with a sponsoring entity whose authority is established in statute or approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). While community schools receive state and federal funds, they are purposefully designed by statute to have greater operational autonomy and provide greater flexibility in programs. Flexibility provides community school administrators and teachers multiple paths to design unique curriculum and instruction models, and autonomy is the key element that allows these schools to operate in a structure and environment that can be more flexible and responsive than that of larger, traditional public-school districts. Of 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.

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

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

#### 4.5 Local School Districts

The public schools are served by 6 public school districts, spanning 4 counties. Their respective service areas within Mercer County are mapped to provide geographic relevance to the data compiled for each (Map 4-1).

*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.*

The Ohio Dept. of Education (ODE) classifies public school districts by typology for purposes based on a statistical analysis of shared demographic and geographic characteristics. In 2013, the department took advantage of new data and created a new typology for districts. The revised typology, which remains in effect for the 2020 school year, reflects four major groupings: Rural, Small Town, Urban and Suburban; two classifications based on poverty levels and student enrollment provide further differentiation and create a total of 8 typology classifications (Table 4-1).<sup>26,27</sup>

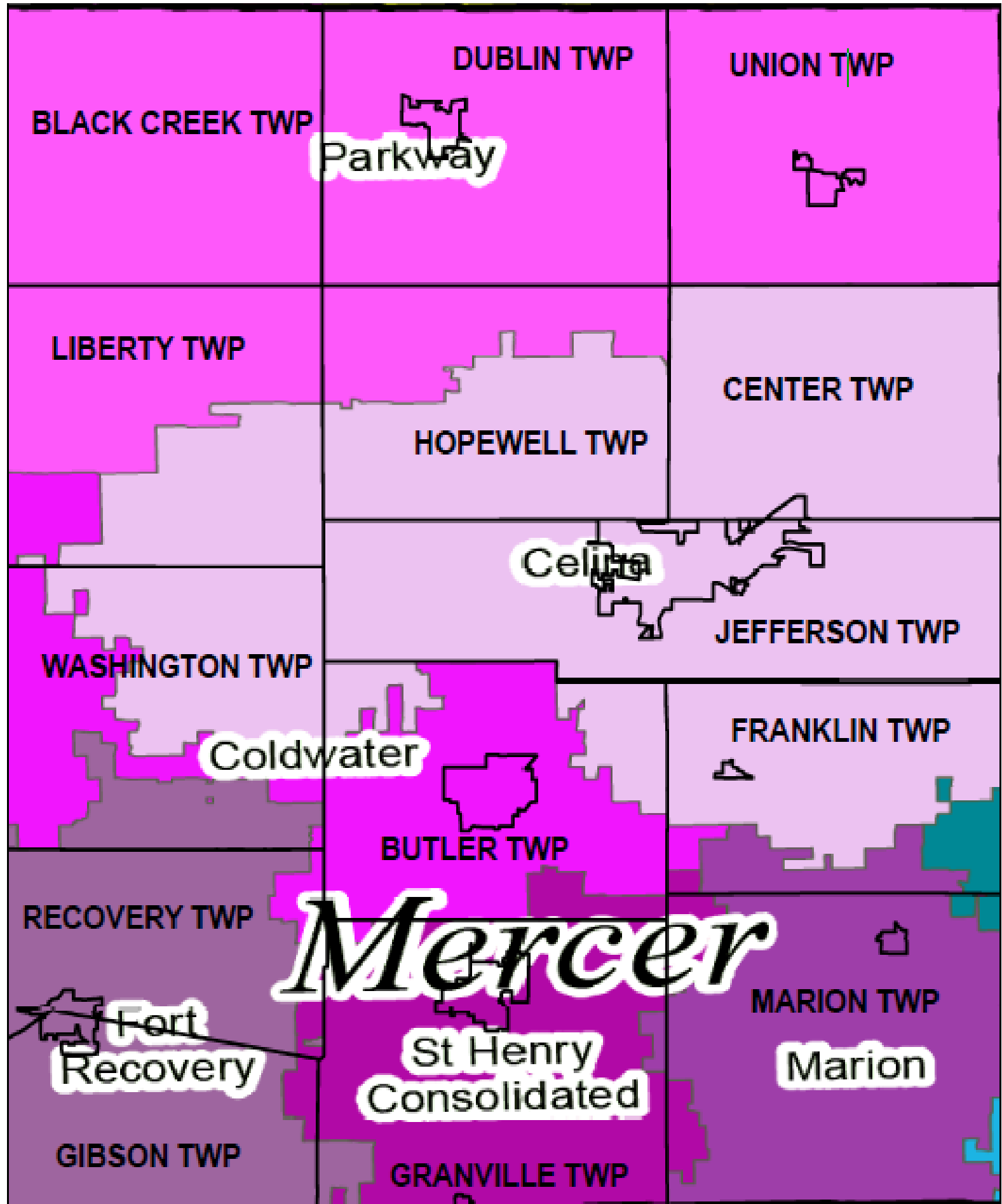


The new classifications were created to accommodate the outlying towns and county seats that share many characteristics of Urban districts despite their rural locations. The statistical method used to create the classifications is similar to the previous typology versions and is aligned to the “similar districts” used for comparisons on the Local Report Card presented by ODE.

<sup>26</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Typology-of-Ohio-School-Districts>

<sup>27</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 Mercer County School Districts



The typologies of public-school districts serving Mercer 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 12 percent in New Bremen to 41 percent in Both St. Mary's and Celina City school districts. And even within the same typology 2 - Rural - Average Student Poverty & Very Small Student Population poverty rates varied by a factor of 12.

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. The majority of the schools in Mercer County fall under Type 2 and have enrollment between 889 and 1,049 students. Celina city schools are the only type 4 with an enrollment of 2,716 students. Table 4-2 reveals each of the public-school districts by current typology, performance metrics and student demographics.

TABLE 4-2 AUGLAIZE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE & DEMOGRAPHICS (2020/2021)											
District Name	2013 Typology	Enrollment	Attendance	Performance Metrics					Demographics		
				Performance Index	Pct HS Algebra I at/above Prof.	Pct HS English II at/above Prof.	5 Year Graduation Rates (2019 Grad Class)	% Taken ACT	Median Income	% Economically Disadvantaged Students	% Minority
Parkway Local	2	1,049	>95.0	104.1	56.2	77.0	98.6	97.8	\$30,255	33%	2%
Fort Recovery Local	2	963	>95.0	102.9	86.3	85.5	100.0	99.1	\$35,037	16%	3%
Marion Local	2	889	>95.0	99.3	77.1	94.2	97.1	93.2	\$36,646	6%	0%
St Henry Consolidated Local	2	938	>95.0	86.9	85.1	81.3	98.8	89.1	\$35,495	10%	1%
Coldwater Exempted Village	3	1,410	>95.0	85.5	77.9	77.3	98.1	89.2	\$33,690	15%	2%
Celina City	4	2,716	>95.0	84.1	67.5	56.4	91.5	90.2	\$28,729	39%	5%



#### 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

*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.*

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

#### 4.7 Federal Funding Streams

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

##### 4.7.1 Title I

Title I monies are allocated to those local educational agencies (LEAs) with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet the ever increasingly challenging state academic standards. Title I, provides financial grant assistance to LEAs based on the proportion of disadvantaged and minority students under basic, concentrated and targeted guidelines.<sup>22</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

*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.*

is targeted specifically at children aged 3 to 5. This program provides grants to states, to make special education and related services available to children with disabilities, ages 3 through 5 and, with a state's discretion, to include 2-year-olds with disabilities who will turn 3 during the

school year. At their discretion, states may include preschool-age children who are

<sup>22</sup> <https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=1067>

experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the state and measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, that need special education and related services.<sup>23,24</sup> Table 4-2 outlines the amounts each district received per funding stream.

<b>SUMMARY TABLE 4-3</b> <b>LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> <b>AUGLAIZE COUNTY - SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>						
School District	Typology	Enrollment	Per Pupil	Operating Budget (millions)	Title I	IDEA B
Parkway Local	2	1,049	\$8,253	\$11.36	\$148,400	\$208,687
Fort Recovery Local	2	963	\$8,234	\$10.70	\$70,225	\$179,944
Marion Local	2	889	\$7,777	\$8.94	\$43,812	\$151,672
St Henry Consolidated Local	2	938	\$7,759	\$9.99	\$23,310	\$177,153
Coldwater Exempted Village	3	1,410	\$8,759	\$15.33	\$75,769	\$261,517
Celina City	4	2,716	\$10,063	\$35.78	\$431,422	\$641,297

#### 4.7.3 Federal School Meals Program

The Federal School Meals Program provides student lunches for free or at reduced prices based on household income levels established by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Household incomes below 130 percent of poverty receive free lunches; students with family incomes below 185 percent of poverty are eligible for reduced price lunches. Schools cannot charge children who receive reduced price lunches more than 40 cents per meal, but each local public school district sets the exact student contribution.<sup>25,26,27</sup>

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

<sup>23</sup> <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Whose-IDEA-Is-This-A-Parent-s-Guide-to-the-Individ>

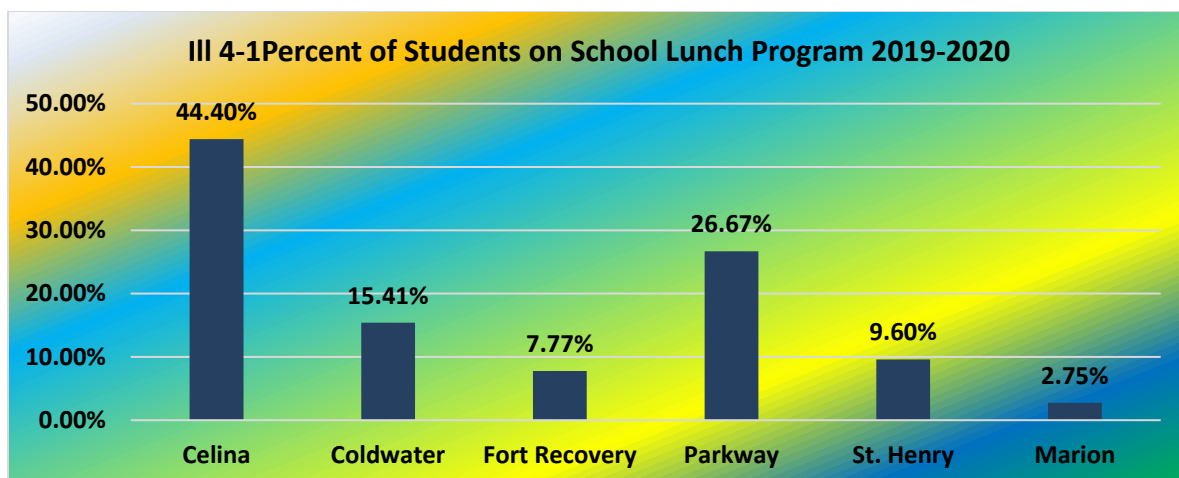
<sup>24</sup> [http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/State-Performance-Plan/State-Advisory-Panel-for-Exceptional-Children-\(SAP\)](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/State-Performance-Plan/State-Advisory-Panel-for-Exceptional-Children-(SAP))

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/slp>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm>

<sup>27</sup> <http://febp.newamerica.net/background-analysis/federal-school-nutrition-programs>





#### 4.8 Early Childhood Education

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

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



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

TABLE 4-4 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (2020/2021)				
District Name	KRA Avg. Score (202-298)	Demonstrating (270-298)	Approaching (258-269)	Emerging (2020-257)
Celina City	265.6	33.33%	49.44%	17.22%
Coldwater Exempted Village	265.9	37.50%	32.50%	30.00%
Fort Recovery Local	273.1	68.29%	26.83%	4.88%
Marion Local	275.4	70.51%	25.64%	3.85%
Parkway Local	268.3	50.00%	26.67%	23.33%
St Henry Consolidated Local	275.7	76.00%	20.00%	4.00%

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

TABLE 4-5 3RD GRADE PERFORMANCE MEASURES - STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENCY (2020/2021)			
District	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Enrollment	PCT Reading	PCT Math
Celina City	163	100	59.8
Coldwater Exempted Village	94	98.7	79.8
Fort Recovery Local	68	100	89.4
Marion Local	72	100	68.8
Parkway Local	69	100	95.9
St Henry Consolidated Local	61	100	83.3

#### 4.8.1 Opportunities to Learn

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

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



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

<sup>37</sup> [https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Annual-Reports-and-Information/20-21\\_State\\_Report\\_Card.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Annual-Reports-and-Information/20-21_State_Report_Card.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US)

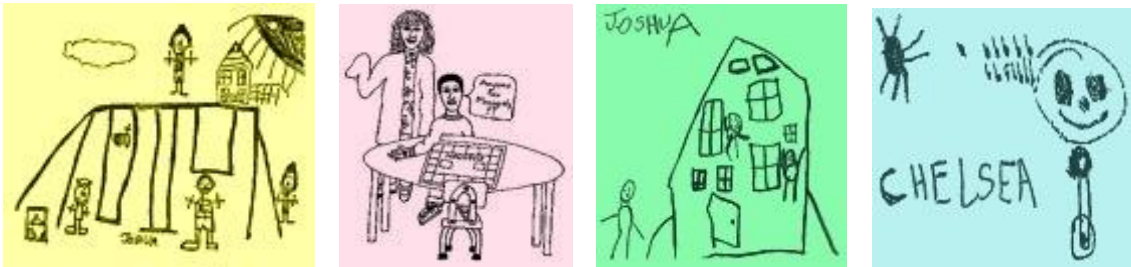
See Appendix C for breakdown by Census Tract as well as access by household.

Table 4-6 "Opportunity to Learn" availability by School District 2020										
Grade Level										
		PreK-4 <sup>th</sup>		5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>		9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>		Undergrad or Higher		
School District	Enrolled in School	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Computer and Internet	No Computer or Internet	Pct Enrolled w/access
Celina City	4088	1303	41	1103	38	892	18	693	0	97.63%
Coldwater Exempted Village	1655	746	0	379	49	331	49	101	0	94.08%
Fort Recovery Local	1118	333	3	329	13	366	0	74	0	98.57%
Marion Local	934	279	0	204	2	316	1	131	1	99.57%
Parkway Local	1185	346	69	305	49	222	11	183	0	89.11%
St Henry Consolidated Local	1102	434	0	183	16	328	6	127	8	97.28%
Census Table B28012 2020 ACS 5-year estimates										

#### 4.9 Childcare & Education

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

The majority of licensed childcare providers have extensive training in first aid and are CPR certified for both infants and children; certainly, commercial daycares are. In Ohio and Mercer 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.

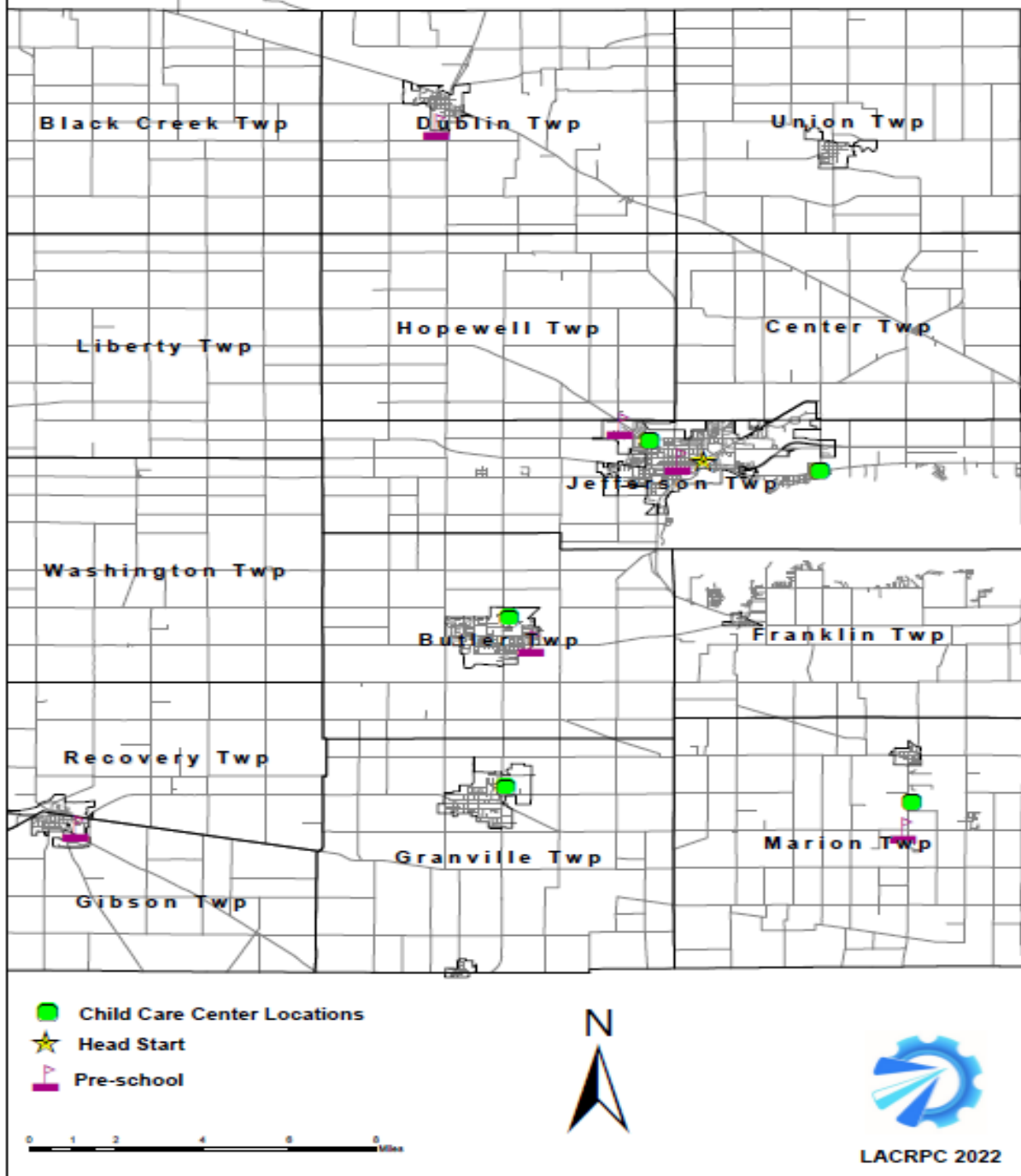
- Commercial or institutional child care centers that serve 7 or more children of any age. Centers must be licensed by the State of Ohio. Commercial child care centers often referred to as daycares are open for set hours, and provide a standardized and regulated system of care for children.
- Type A 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 Mercer County there are 12 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 Celina, centers are also present in the Rockford, Coldwater, St. Henry, and Fort Recovery. 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.

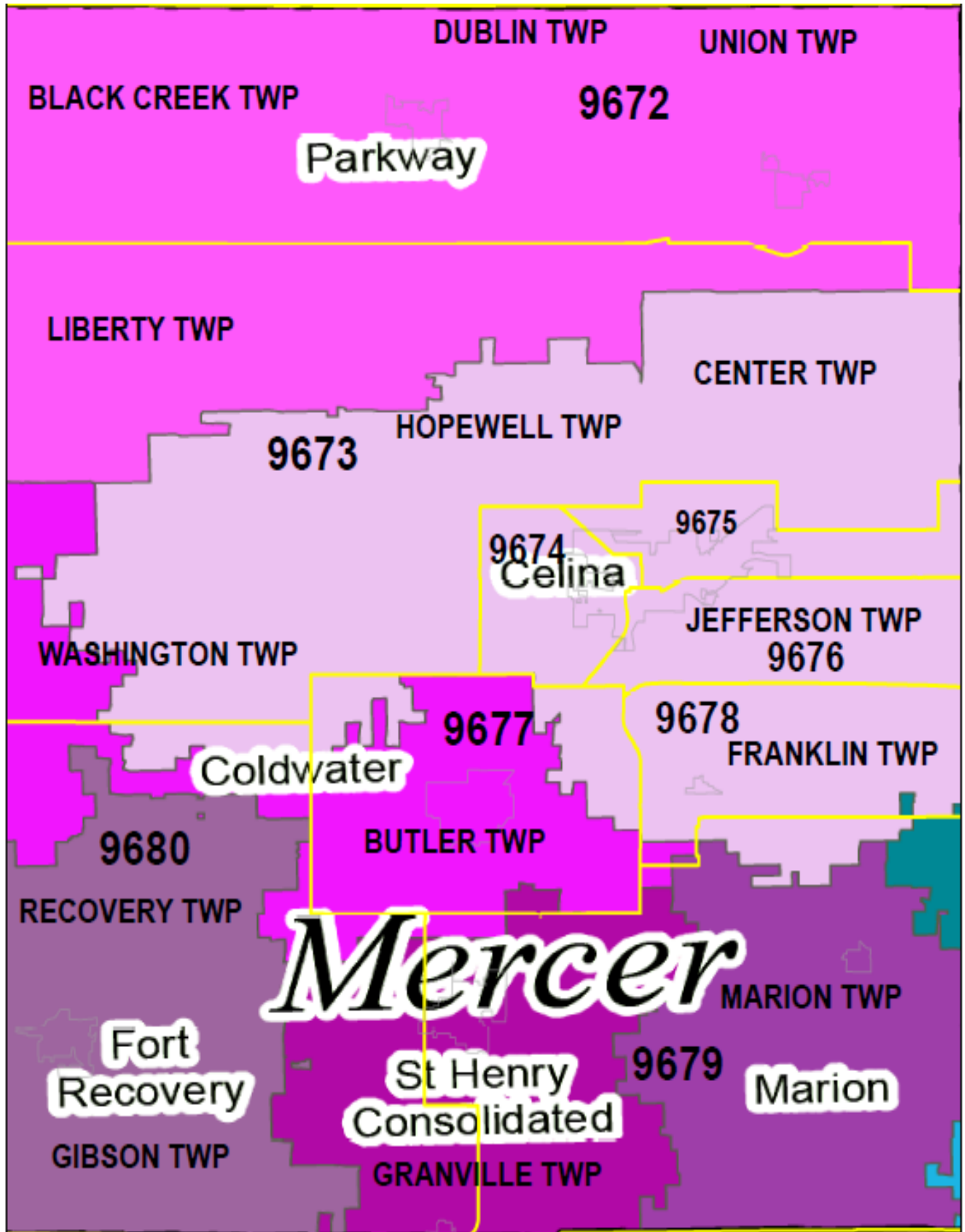
# Mercer County Childcare Centers



<b>SUMMARY TABLE 4-1</b> <b>LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> <b>MERCER 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>
9672	39.3	100	13.6	0	1	0	1	1	0
9673	44.4	100	58.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
9674	55.6	100	8.9	1	1	2	0	0	0
9675	85.4	100	81.4	0	2	1	1	2	0
9676	41.4	100	29.2	1	0	0	0	0	1
9677	83.3	100	44.6	1	1	1	1	1	0
9678	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9679	51.7	100	21.8	2	1	2	1	2	0
9680	9.5	100	0	0	1	0	1	1	0



Map 4-3 Mercer County Schools by Census Tracts



## SECTION 5 HOUSING FORECLOSURES, VACANCIES, AND BLIGHT

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

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

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

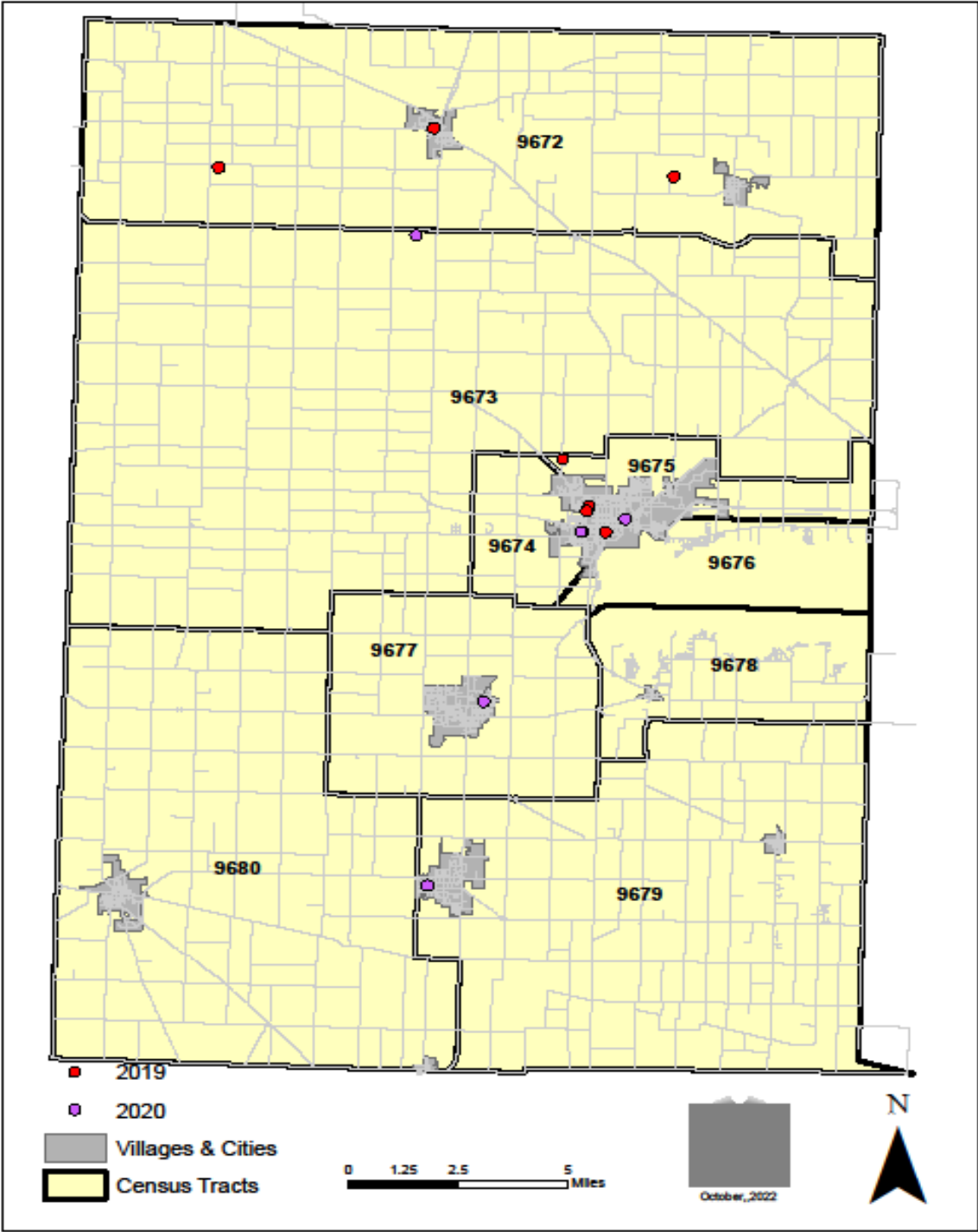
### 5.1 Housing Impacts

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

Examining local data, shows that there were 14 foreclosures in Mercer County in 2019 (Table 5-1). Map 5-1 reflects foreclosure activity across Mercer County for the 2019 through 2020 period. Data indicates that almost half of the Mercer County Foreclosures (42%) were located within the City of Celina.

Tract	Foreclosures (2019-2020)
Census Tract 9672	4
Census Tract 9673	1
Census Tract 9674	4
Census Tract 9675	2
Census Tract 9676	1
Census Tract 9677	1
Census Tract 9678	0
Census Tract 9679	1
Census Tract 9680	0

Map 5-1: FORECLOSURES (2019-2020)



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

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

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

But the housing problems are hard to ignore. Data in Table 3-4 indicates that vacancy rates in Mercer County remained steady at approximately 11 percent between 2010 and 2020 and that 9 percent of all units in the City of Celina were vacant in 2020. The County Auditor data find that 10 percent of graded homes in a deteriorated condition (Table 3-7). And local housing realtors have suggested that abandonment reduced home values between 5.0 percent and as much as 20 percent in neighborhoods with the emptiest lots and structures.

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

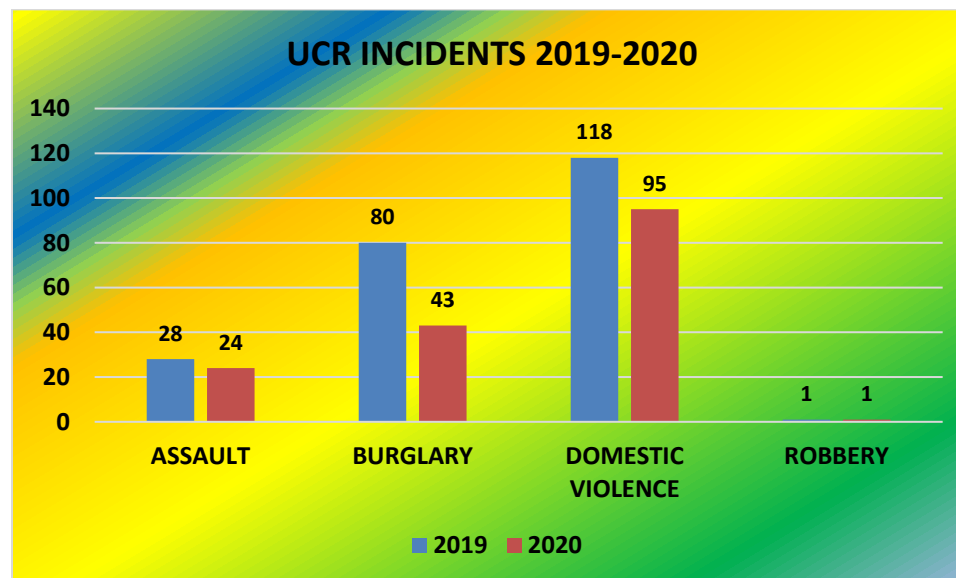
Criminal justice experts and early childhood educators suggest the impact of vacant and abandoned properties on children is a real concern and suggest that abandoned, foreclosed properties pose risk factors for crime, safety and health.

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>2</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>3</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.

## 5.2 Criminal Activity, Impacts & Reintegration

The root of crime has been tied to everything from lead-based paint, poverty and absentee fathers to limited educational attainment and unemployment rates. And various researchers have held that in many urban centers high crime and violence rates are undermining growth, threatening human welfare, and impeding social development. The national FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) released for 2019 suggest violent crime has continued its downward trend across the last 20 years.<sup>4</sup> Property crime also declined to hit a ten-year low. Comparing overall crime rates over a ten-year period shows a decrease from 2019-2020. There were 386 separate incident calls within the City of Celina between 2019 and 2020. Illustration 5.1 shows the most common types of calls.



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

<sup>3</sup> Safe Routes to School, Implementing Safe Routes to School in Low Income Schools and Communities, 2010.

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

Data made available by the Celina Police Department details the highest police incident call locations as illustrated in Map 5-2. These crimes are defined as offenses that involve face-to-face confrontation between the victim and the perpetrator, including domestic violence, burglary, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crime in Celina, represented as an annual rate per 1000 residents, reached 35 in between 2019 and 2020.

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

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

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

Related to crime and criminal activities are local attempts to accommodate the reintegration of non-violent ex-offenders. The community is struggling with efforts to find employment and training opportunities that incorporate the mentoring, job training, and other comprehensive transitional services necessary to reduce recidivism. Some criminal justice and mental health advocates suggest working within faith-based organizations to provide mentoring and the soft-skills and training necessary to make a successful transition.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> Yet most will agree that the way to eliminate criminal activity is to encourage community-wide approaches that work to eliminate drugs, eradicate gangs, heighten educational standards and educational attainment levels and provide living wage employment opportunities. Of concern to community leaders and local service agencies is the impact of incarceration on parent-child relationships, childhood development, and families. Considering the challenges faced by children with incarcerated parents, local agencies contend that the community must offer multiple services and programs to help children, their families, and prisoners cope with their experiences.

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

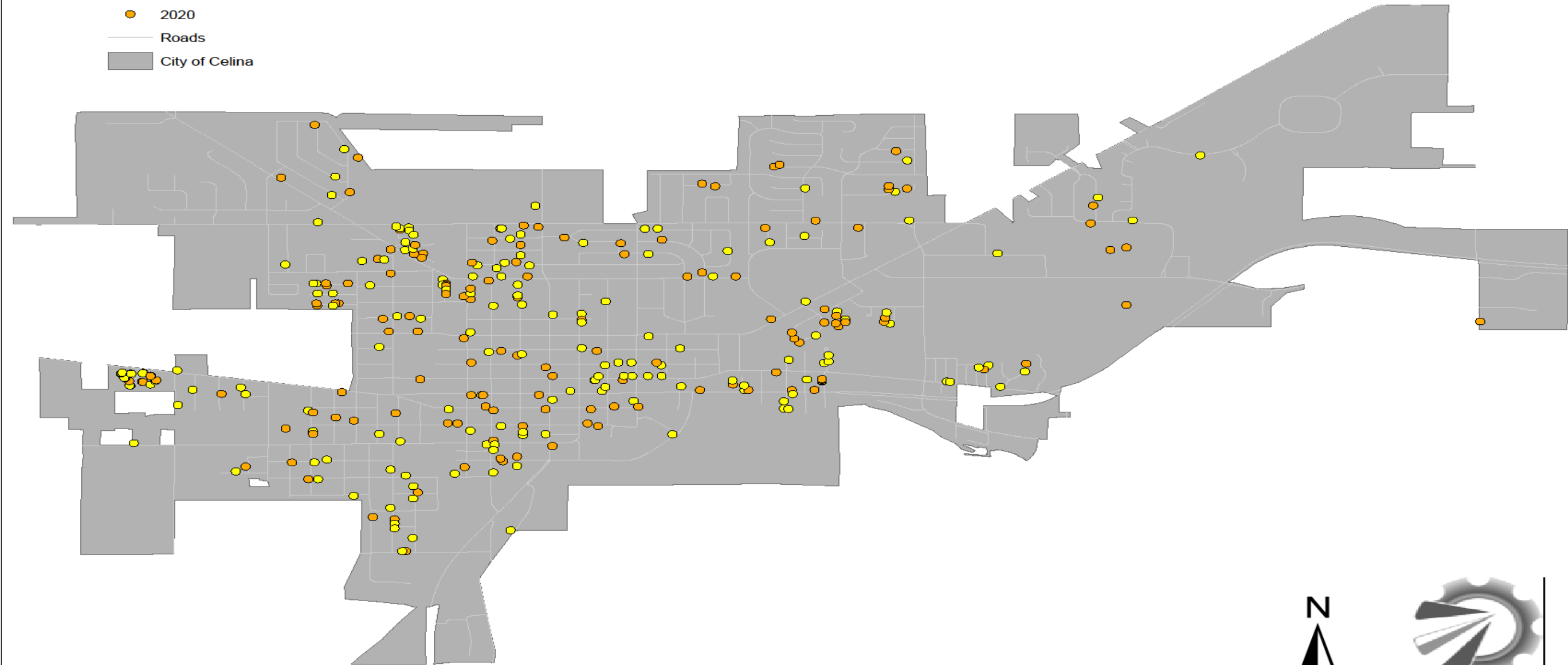
7 Community Oriented Policing and Community-Based Crime Reduction Programs: An Evaluation in New York City; Anthony L. Sciarabba. *Professional Issues in Criminal Justice* (2009) vol. 4(2) pp 27-41.

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

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

MAP 5-2 UCR INCIDENTS 2019-2020

- INCIDENTS  
YEAR
- 2019
  - 2020
  - Roads
  - City of Celina

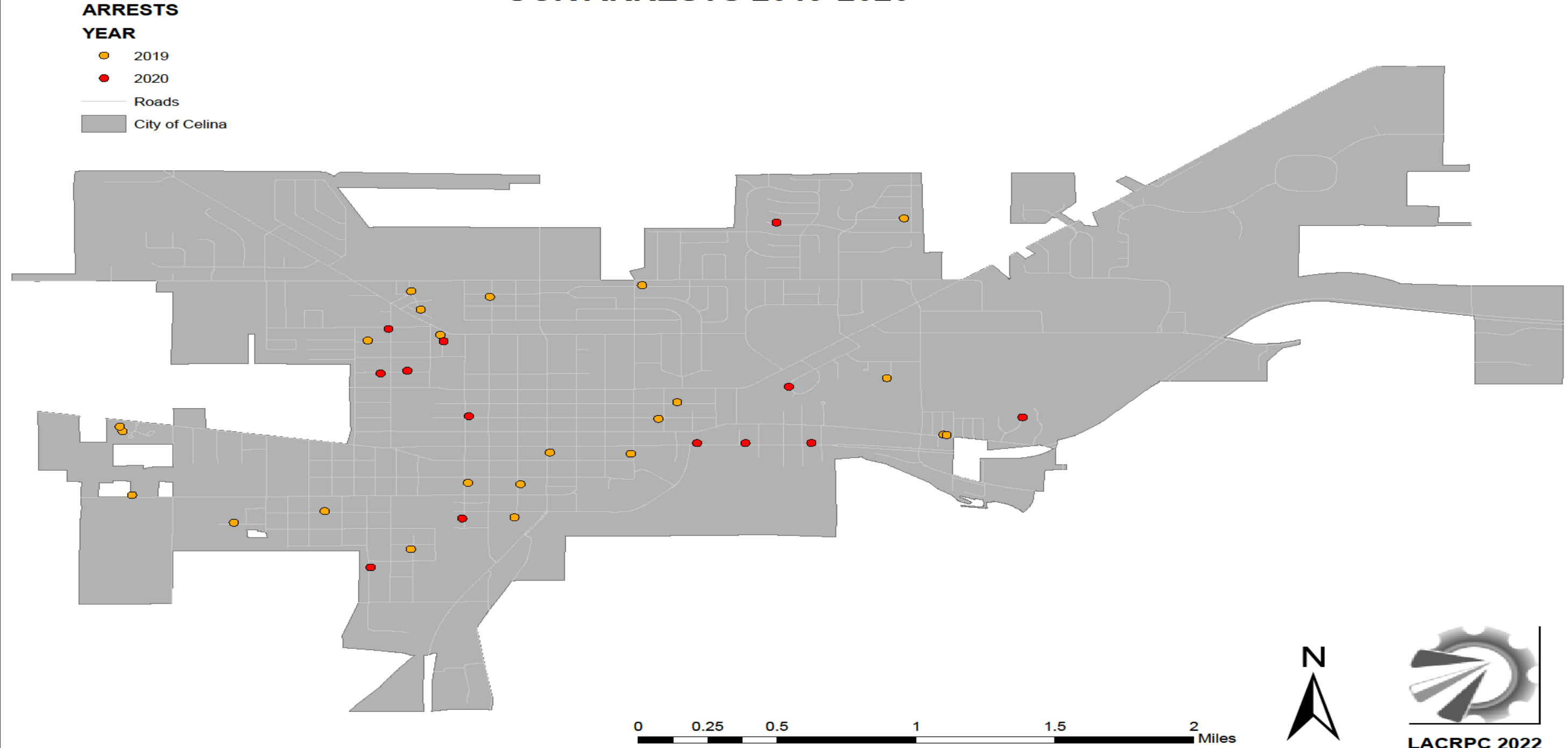


0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



LACRPC 2022

UCR ARRESTS 2019-2020





### 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

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

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 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>10</sup>

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

The number of alcohol outlets in Mercer County totaled 122 in 2020, or approximately 3 for every 1,000 residents, or 4 per every 1,000 adults over 21 years of age. The majority of alcohol outlets are found in Central Business Districts. Map 5-4 reveals alcohol sales permits by site and census tract. Of some interest is the number of calls

for police and the number of alcohols permits by census tract. Raw data indicates a correlation between law enforcement activities and alcohol permits in within certain census tracts. Map 5-5 identifies the location of alcohol involved motor vehicle crashes across Mercer County.

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

In a 2020 health assessment of Mercer County, 22 percent of those residents 18 years of age or older reported engaging in binge drinking or excessive drinking on a regular basis.<sup>11</sup> The rate has stayed steady since 2012 and is 2 percent lower than the state average (20%). Excessive drinking is a risk factor for a number of adverse health outcomes such as alcohol poisoning, hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, family problems, sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, depression, suicide, inter-personal violence, unemployment, and motor vehicle crashes.<sup>12</sup>

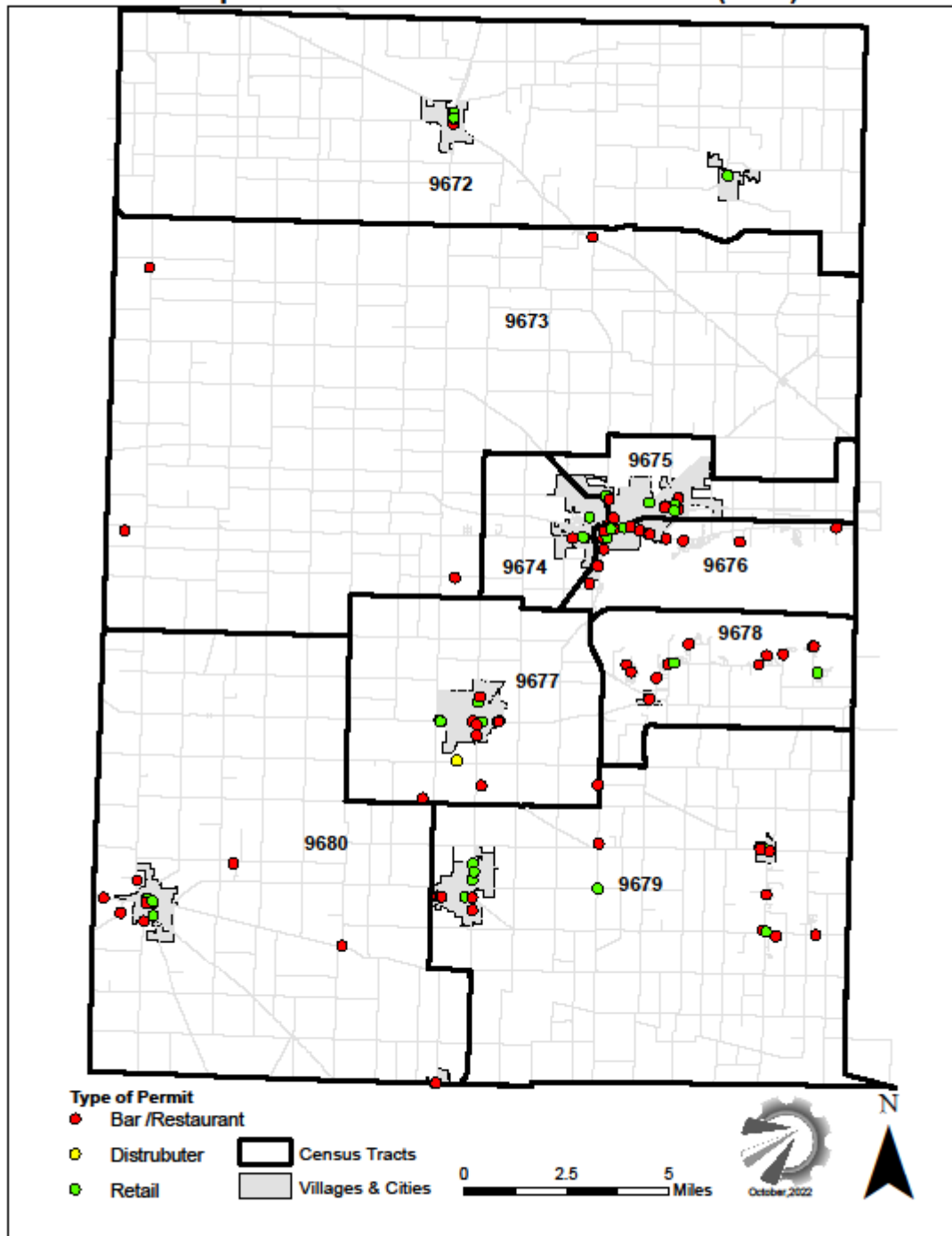
Health and safety advocates, including law enforcement, argue for lowering the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits for drivers' as well as multi-component interventions across a broad-based coalition, including such efforts as sobriety checkpoints, training in responsible beverage service, education 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/Mercer/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

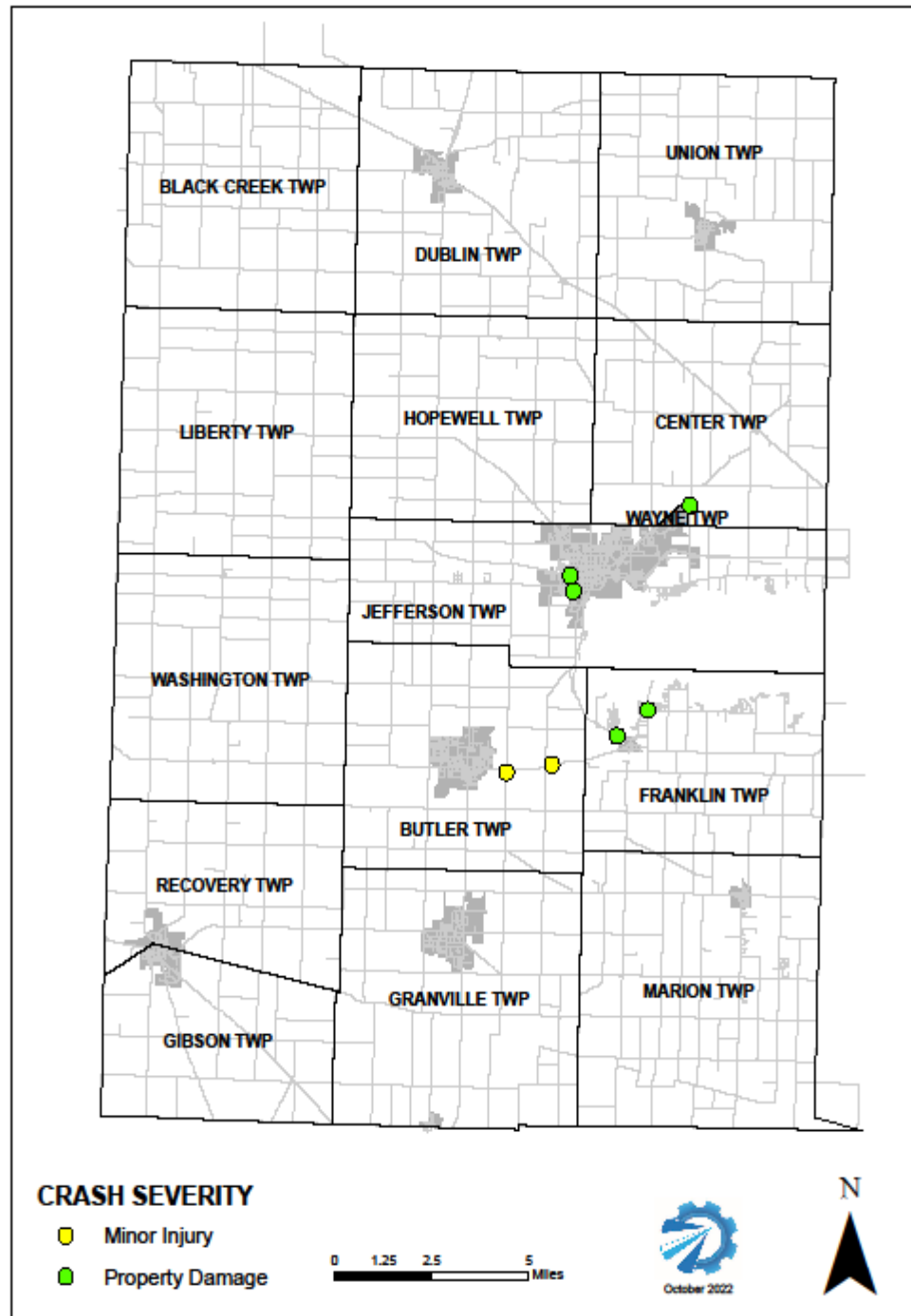
<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>

Map 5-12: Alcohol Sale Permit Holders (2020)



Map 5-5 Drug/Alcohol Related Traffic Crashes

### DRUG/ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES 2018-2020



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

Research examining the relationship between the density and accessibility of fast food, restaurants and food outlets to health outcomes is in its early stages. However, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests access to fast food outlets and residing in a food desert have positively correlated with a higher prevalence of obesity, diabetes and premature death. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 23.5 million persons in urban and rural areas of the United States live in "food deserts" (i.e., low-income areas without access to healthy foods). Literature has repeatedly asserted that the caloric intake of Americans (especially minority and poverty populations) has increased over the past several decades. Studies have also indicated that among children, fast food restaurants are the second highest energy provider, second only to grocery stores. And, while traditional grocery stores provide a wide range of fresh fruits and vegetables, thus healthier options, their locations in Mercer 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 Mercer County. Approximately 15 percent of all Mercer 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>13</sup> Map 5-5 reveals the locations of supermarkets & convenience stores by census tract. Appendix D identifies grocery and convenience stores that participate in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program (Appendix D - Map D2) and those that have permits to sell tobacco (Appendix D - Map D1)

In 2020 Mercer County ranked 11th highest of all Ohio counties in the proportion of restaurants in a county that are fast food establishments.<sup>14</sup> In 2020 there were 51 restaurants in Mercer County; 50 percent of those were limited-service fast-food establishments. The national goal established by Healthy People 2020 was set at 25 percent. In addition, convenience stores account for 27% of all food retail locations. Map 5-6 identifies the locations of limited-service eateries & full-service restaurants by census tract.

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

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>15</sup>

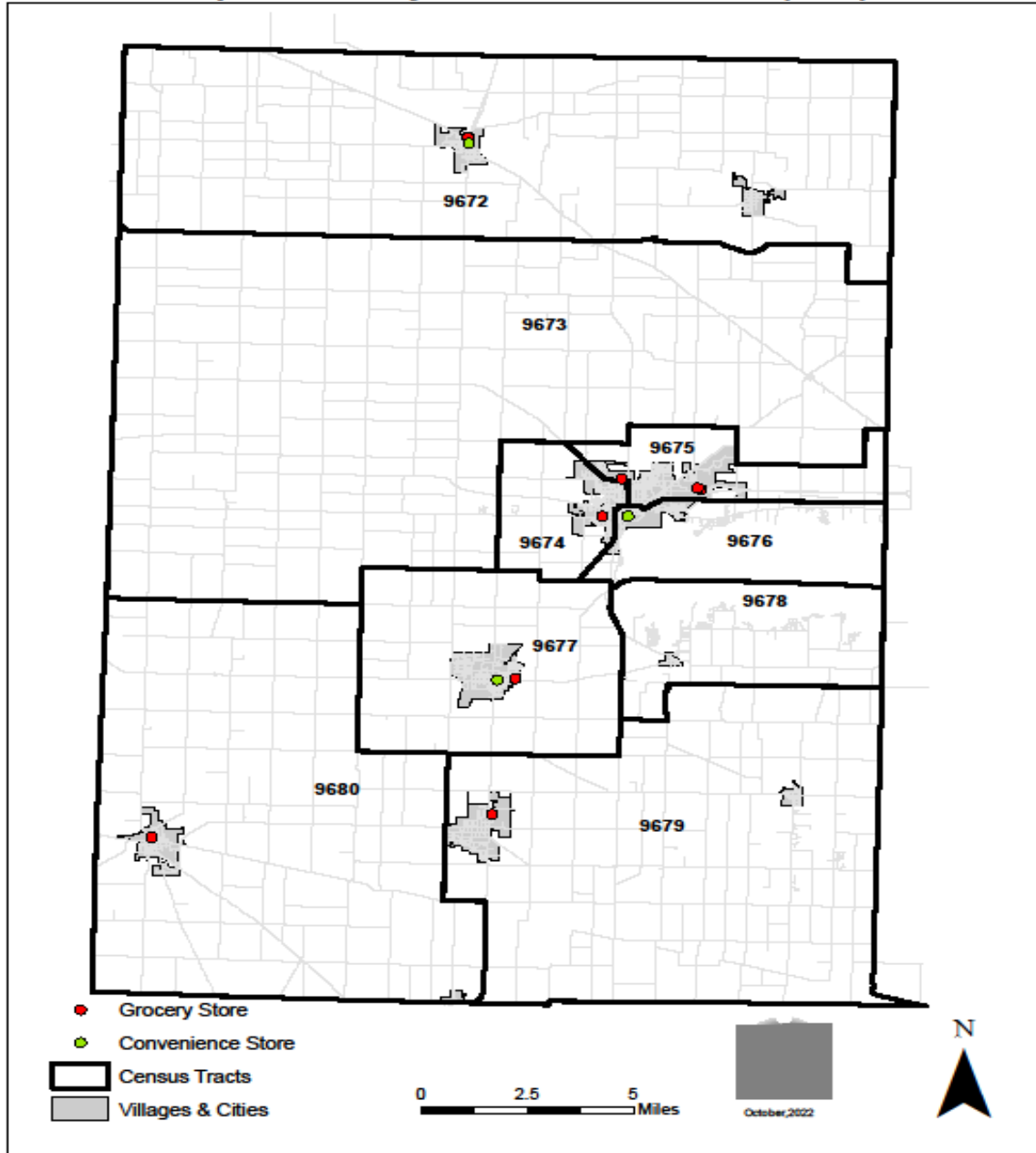
<sup>13</sup><http://americannutritionassociation.org/newsletter/usda-defines-food-deserts>

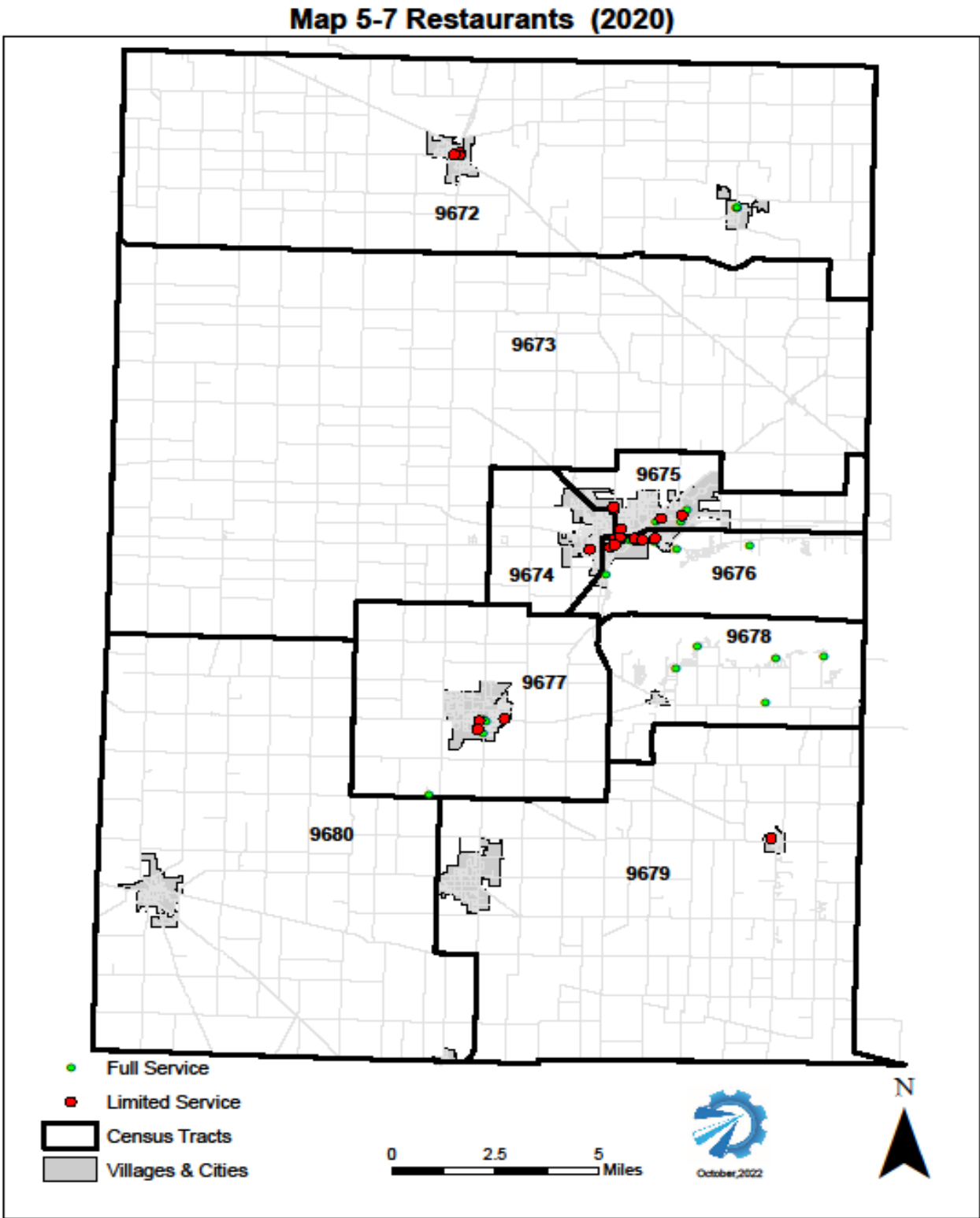
<sup>14</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2013/measure/factors/84/map>

<sup>15</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)

Map 5-6 Grocery & Convenience Stores

**Map 5-6: Grocery & Convenience Stores (2020)**





HOUSING AND CRIME STATISTICS SUMMARY MERCER COUNTY - CENSUS TRACTS														
Tract	Total Pop.	Total Housing Units	Pct Vacant Housing Units	Total Vacant Housing Units	Foreclosures (2020)	Foreclosure Rate (per 1,000)	UCR Incident Reports	UCR Incidents Per 1,000 Pop.	UCR Arrests	UCR Arrests Per 1,000 Incidents	Alcohol Permits	Restaurants	Convenience Stores	Grocery Stores
9672	3,662	1,502	9.30%	140	4	2.7	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	1
9673	4,383	1,752	11.50%	201	1	0.57	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
9674	4,857	2101	11.20%	235	4	1.90	185	38	17	3	6	21	1	0
9675	5,650	2,496	9.10%	227	2	0.80	106	18	7	1	14	8	0	3
9676	2,929	1,499	25.40%	381	1	0.67	95	32	14	5	26	5	1	0
9677	6,453	2,530	0.00%	0	1	0.40	0	0	0	0	17	1	1	1
9678	2,185	1,693	42.60%	721	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0
9679	7,333	2501	2.50%	63	1	0.40	0	0	0	0	19	7	0	1
9680	5,076	1,814	4.20%	76	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	15	2	0	1

## SECTION 6

### POVERTY, NEEDS & WOCAP PROGRAMMING

There is no one definition of poverty. The term has been defined many ways by various government and nongovernmental organizations based upon attempts to quantify, qualify and establish specific thresholds. The World Bank defines poverty as “characterized by low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity typically reflective of low levels of health and education, poor access to clean, sanitary living conditions, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one’s life”.<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 Mercer 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 2020, the American Community Survey reported that 1 in 8 Americans are currently residing in poverty - nearly 41 million people or 12.8 percent of the US population suffer from conditions of poverty. Children in poverty fell below 13 million (12.5), or 17.5 percent of all children under the age of eighteen. Examining poverty by race of those under 18 years of age reflected: 36.1 percent of African-American children and 42 percent of Hispanic children live in poverty. In Ohio, poverty rates for children were slightly higher; 31.5 percent of children were in poverty in 2020 with 38.3 percent of Black, and 46.6 percent of Hispanic children found to be in poverty.

<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)

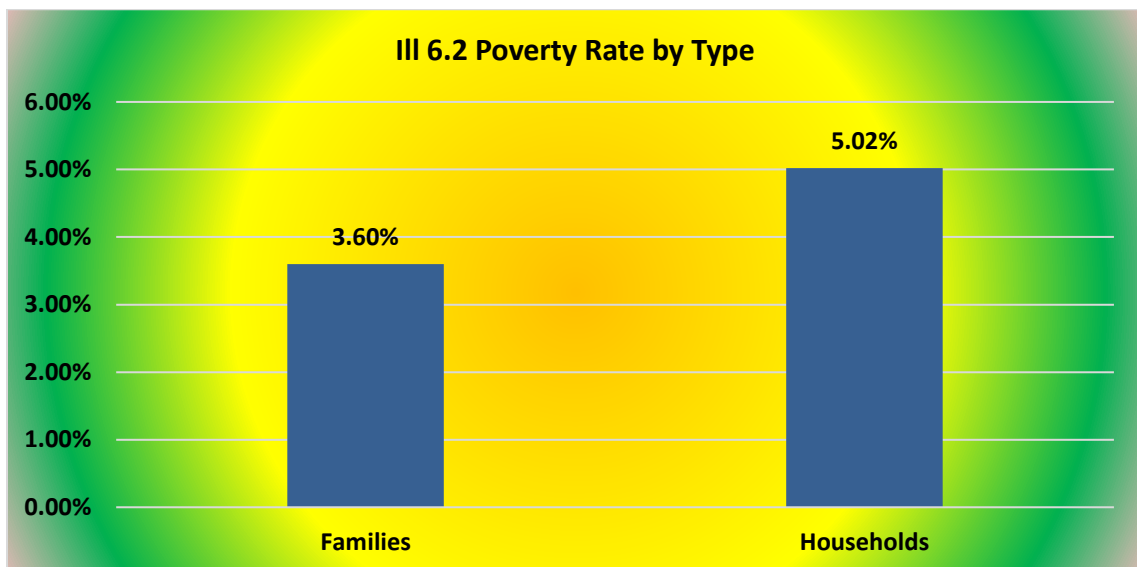
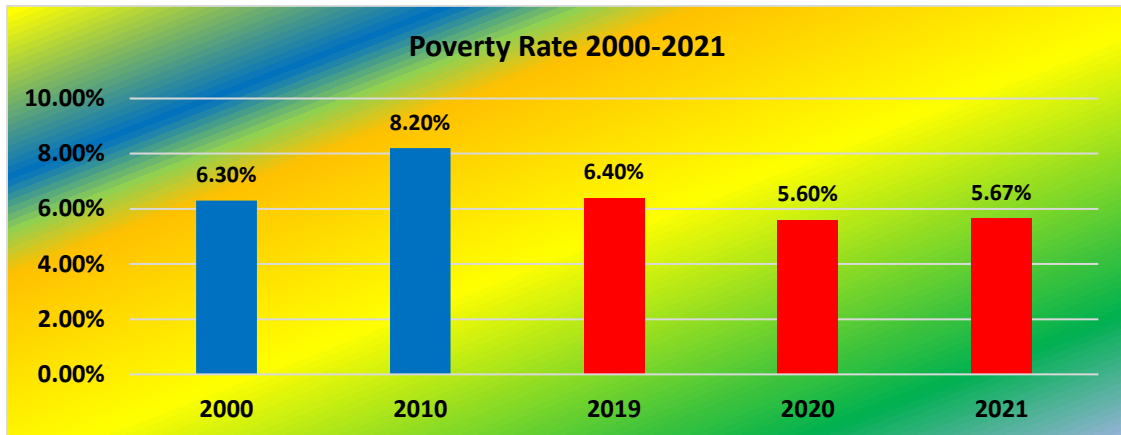
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>

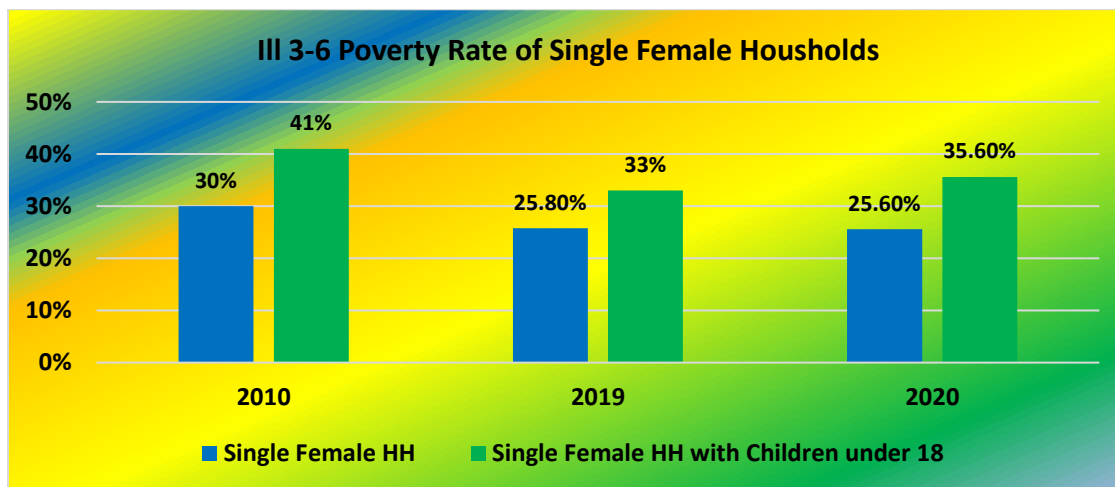
<sup>3</sup> Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, Springfield MA, Merriam Webster, 1985.

<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 2020 ACS data for Mercer County revealed that the county poverty rates at 5.60 percent are lower than that of the state. The data indicates nearly 584 area households and 614 families existing below the established poverty thresholds based on income and household size. Furthermore, of families experiencing poverty in 2020, 6.2 percent had children under 18 and 6.7 percent had children under 5-years of age.





Another important measure is the poverty rate for Single-Female Households. 2010 saw Poverty rates among single female householders with children rise to 41 percent. A decade later in 2020, the rate dropped to 35.6%, but remains higher than pre-pandemic levels the year before.

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

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

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

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

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

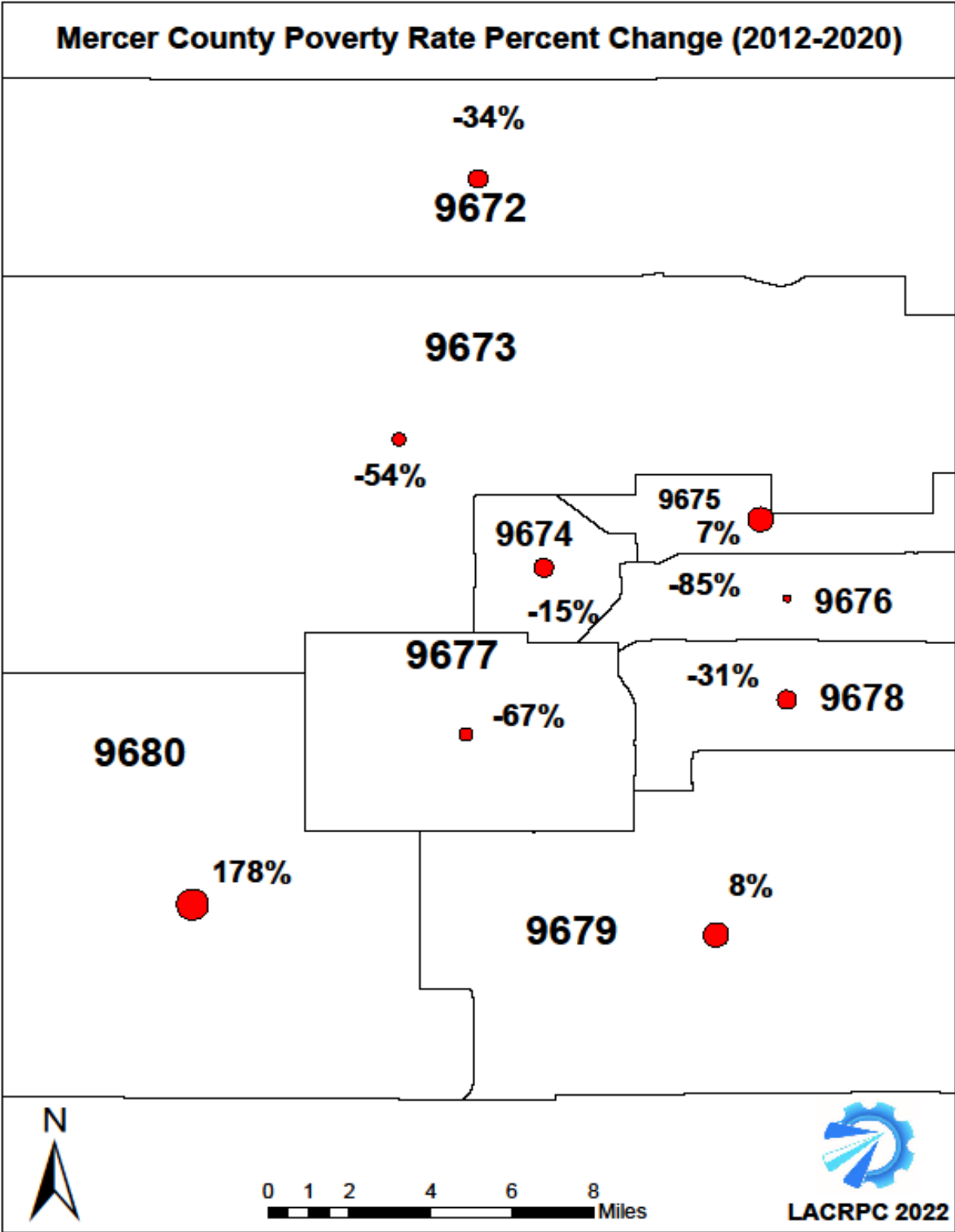


TABLE 6-1 POVERTY GUIDELINES (2020)						
Family Size	Percent of Annual Poverty Guideline					
	100%	125%	150%	175%	185%	200%
1	\$ 12,760	\$ 15,950	\$ 19,140	\$ 22,330	\$ 23,606	\$ 25,520
2	\$ 17,240	\$ 21,550	\$ 25,860	\$ 30,170	\$ 31,894	\$ 34,480
3	\$ 21,720	\$ 27,150	\$ 32,580	\$ 38,010	\$ 40,182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

## 6.2 Self-Sufficiency

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

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

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

TABLE 6-2 THE SELF-SUFICIENCY STANDARD FOR MERCER COUNTY (2019)					
Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + Preschooler	Adult + Preschooler + School- age	Adult + Adult + Infant + Preschooler	Adult + Adult + Preschooler + School- age
Housing	\$521	\$682	\$682	\$682	\$682
Child Care	\$0	\$950	\$1,649	\$2,031	\$1,649
Food	\$223	\$338	\$509	\$621	\$685
Transportation	\$273	\$281	\$281	\$536	\$536
Health Care	\$203	\$499	\$521	\$576	\$585
Miscellaneous	\$122	\$275	\$364	\$445	\$414
Taxes	\$212	\$583	\$835	\$1,015	\$903
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$106)	(\$89)	\$0	(\$35)
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$63)	(\$105)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$167)	(\$333)	(\$333)	(\$333)
Hourly	<b>\$8.73</b>	<b>\$15.68</b>	<b>\$19.71</b>	<b>\$12.64</b>	<b>\$11.96</b>
Monthly	\$1,537	\$2,760	\$3,469	\$4,451	\$4,209
Annual	\$18,441	\$33,118	\$41,626	\$53,412	\$50,511
Emergency Savings Fund (Monthly Contribution)	\$34	\$84	\$106	\$60	\$59

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

### 6.3 Local Health Disparity Issues

In 2020 Mercer County was ranked 8 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.

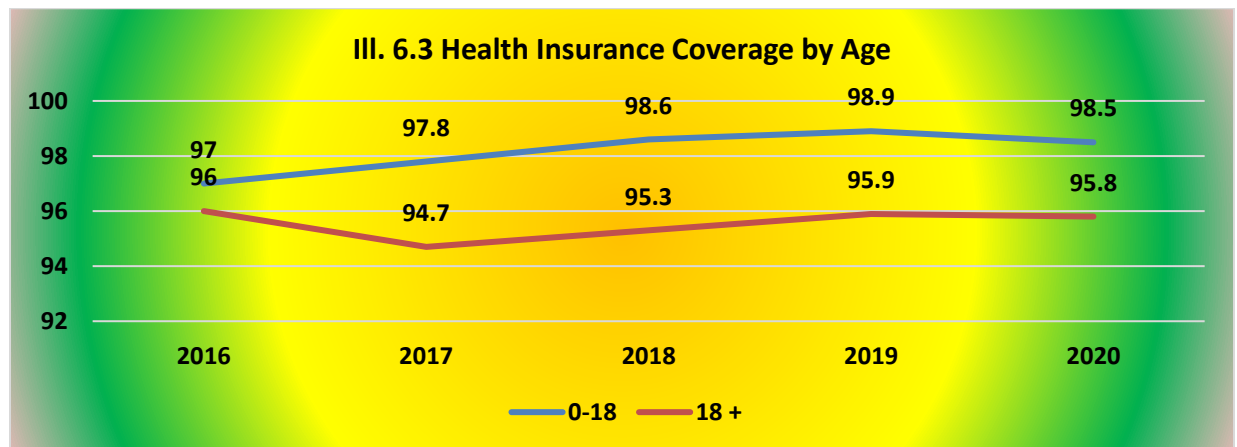
*Mercer County ranked 9 of 88 Ohio counties for positive health factors.*

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 (Mercer County: 27% vs Ohio: 26%), adult obesity (Mercer County: 35% vs Ohio: 32%), number of sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 (Mercer County: 181 vs Ohio: 527), and number of teen births per 1,000 females (Mercer County: 20 vs Ohio: 24). Corollaries to some are reflective in the following social and economic factors also rated: some college attainment (Mercer County: 63% vs Ohio: 65%), children in single-parent families (Mercer County: 23% vs Ohio: 36%), and number of violent crimes (Mercer County: 83 vs Ohio: 293). The report also identifies deficiencies in terms of the

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

ratio of available primary care physicians to residents (Mercer County: 2,040:1 vs Ohio: 1,310:1) and dentists (Mercer County: 3,410:1 vs Ohio: 1,610:1).<sup>9</sup>

Adding to such insights is information provided by Mercer County Public Health and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) who work with local hospitals, physicians offices and schools, and regularly conduct surveys to assess community's health. An overall positive in Mercer County residents' health is that both adults and children in Mercer County are covered by some type of health insurance at a rate greater than 90 percent.



### 6.3.1 Asthma

In 2020 Asthma affected nearly 20.5 million adults in the United States or approximately 8.4% of the entire adult population.<sup>10</sup> Asthma is 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” such as cigarette smoke, dust mites, outdoor air pollution, cockroach allergen, pets mold, and smoke from burning wood or grass. Physical exercise; some medicines; weather, breathing in cold, dry air; and some foods, food additives, and fragrances can also trigger an asthma attack.<sup>11</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 2020, 14.1 percent of Mercer County adults and in 2019 81 percent percent of children age 0 to 17 live with asthma. Asthma affects different populations differently especially for those children living in poverty and for African-American children.<sup>12</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>13</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 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>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=39\\_003](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/compare/snapshot?counties=39_003)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/asthma.htm>

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

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.asthma.partners.org/NewFiles/BoFACChapter15.html>

<sup>13</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)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/schools\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/schools_fact_sheet.pdf)

TABLE 6-3 Emergency Department Visit and Hospitalization Rates per 10,000 Residents for Patients with a Primary Diagnosis of Asthma, 2016-2020						
Mercer County	Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	0-4 Years	61.8**	53.7**	42.0**	41.0**	*
	5-11 Years	32.0**	*	42.6**	40.1**	*
	12-17 Years	*	*	*	*	*
	18+ Years	14.5	18.8	14.5	13.4	14.1
Ohio Overall	Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	0-4 Years	120	110	128.8	110.5	43.6
	5-11 Years	98.6	99.4	99.9	92.5	43.8
	12-17 Years	54.2	53.7	52.8	52.4	29.7
	18 + Years	44.8	44.1	43.5	42.9	31.8
Data Sources: OHA Clinical-Financial Database, 2016-2020; Bridged-Race Population Estimates, on CDC WONDER On-line Database, 2016-2020 *Rates based on fewer than 10 hospitalizations/ED visits do not meet standards of reliability or precision and are suppressed. ** Rates based on fewer than 20 hospitalizations/ED visits should be interpreted with caution						

### 6.3.2 Dental Care

According to the CDC, each year, 68 percent of Americans make visits to dentists and in 2018, an estimated \$135 billion was spent on dental services in the United States. Yet, tooth decay

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

affects approximately 1 in 6 of U.S. children aged 6 - 11 years and more than half of those aged 12–19 years. The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years with untreated tooth decay is 3 times as high for those from low-income families compared with children from higher-income households.<sup>15</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>16</sup>

42 percent of U.S. adults have some form of gum disease. Half of the cases of severe gum disease in the United States are the result of cigarette smoking. The prevalence

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

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

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/childrens-oral-health/index.html>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral\\_health\\_disparities/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/oral_health_disparities/index.htm)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/Mercer/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

<sup>18</sup> 2018 Mercer County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment, Mercer County Public Health

<sup>19</sup> <http://oralcancerfoundation.org/facts/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/index.html>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/oralcavityandoropharyngealcancer/detailedguide/oral-cavity-and-oropharyngeal-cancer-key-statistics>

The 2021 Mercer County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project determined that 47 percent of Mercer County adults had visited a dentist or dental clinic in the past year. Up from 65 percent in 2012. 75 percent of those aged 65 years and older visited a dentist within the last year.

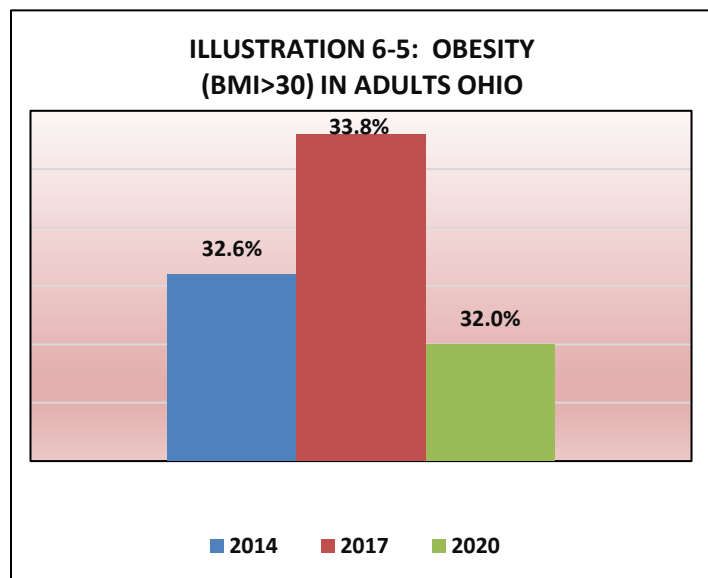
### 6.3.3 Obesity

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). Mercer County is slightly above the state average with 43 percent of adults having a BMI over 30.<sup>22</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>23</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>24</sup> According to the 2018 Mercer County Health Risk and Community Assessment, 18 percent of Mercer County youth were obese, as measured by Body Mass Index (BMI) by age with

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2020/rankings/Mercer/county/factors/2/snapshot>

<sup>23</sup> <http://stateofobesity.org/healthcare-costs-obesity/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>



the majority of those who are overweight being 17 or older.<sup>25</sup> For children ages 2 to 19 household income was a determining factor in rate of obesity, with 18.9 percent of those in households in the lowest income group identified as obese and 19.9 percent identified in households in the middle income group while only 10.9 percent those in the highest income group.<sup>26</sup>

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>27</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>28</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>29</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.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.Mercercountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mercer-County-CHA-8-29-17-FINAL.pdf>

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

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6002a2.htm>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/strategies/healthy-food-env.html>

<sup>29</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 2020 there were 37.3 million Americans suffering from diabetes, 11.3 percent of the US population.<sup>30</sup> Another 96 million adults are in a pre-diabetic condition. Diabetes is associated with: high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, pregnancy complications,

kidney disease, dental disease, neuropathies and non-traumatic amputations. People with pre-diabetes have an increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Total costs of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2020 reflects \$237 billion in direct medical costs and \$90 billion in reduced productivity. And after adjusting for population age and sex differences, the ADA suggests the average medical expenditures among people with diagnosed diabetes were 2.3 times higher than what expenditures would be in the absence of diabetes. Diabetes affects persons disproportionately with the elderly (29.2%), males (12.7%) and certain minority groups over represented. The rates of diagnosed diabetes in adults by race/ethnic background are: 7.4 percent in non- Hispanic white adults, the risk of diagnosed diabetes was 8 percent among Asian Americans, 11.8 percent among Hispanics, and 12.1 percent among non-Hispanic black adults.<sup>31</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>32</sup>

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

Studies in the United States and abroad have found that glucose control, blood pressure, improved control of LDL cholesterol, 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>33</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>34</sup> The 2021 Mercer County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment project reported that 11.8 percent of Mercer County adults had been diagnosed with diabetes, with such rates increasing to 23 percent of those over the age of 65. For purposes of comparison, the 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) reported that Ohio had a 11 percent rate and the U.S. had a rate of 10 percent. The average age of diagnosis was 50.4 years and 68% of diabetic adults said they had taken a

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/statistics-report.html>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r101022.html>

<sup>33</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>34</sup> [http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/27/suppl\\_1/s47](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/27/suppl_1/s47)

course or class on how to manage their diabetes. Mercer County adults diagnosed with diabetes also had one or more of the following characteristics or conditions: 73% had been diagnosed with high blood pressure, 90% were obese or overweight., and 52% had been diagnosed with high blood cholesterol.<sup>35</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-being in

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

which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to the community. It is estimated that only about 17 percent of U.S adults are considered to be in a state of optimal mental health. The CDC defines mental illness as “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>36</sup>

Local data for mental health recipients is very limited. 29 percent of Mercer County adults had used a program or service to help with depression, anxiety, or other emotional problems for themselves or a loved one.

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

Mental health is known to play a large part in both suicide and attempted suicide rates across the nation. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States with 45,979 deaths in 2020. The suicide rate in Mercer County over the 2015-2019 period was 10.5. 34% of all Mercer County suicide deaths occurred among those ages 25 to 34 years old. 2% of Mercer County adults considered attempting suicide.

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

### 6.3.6 Opioid Use

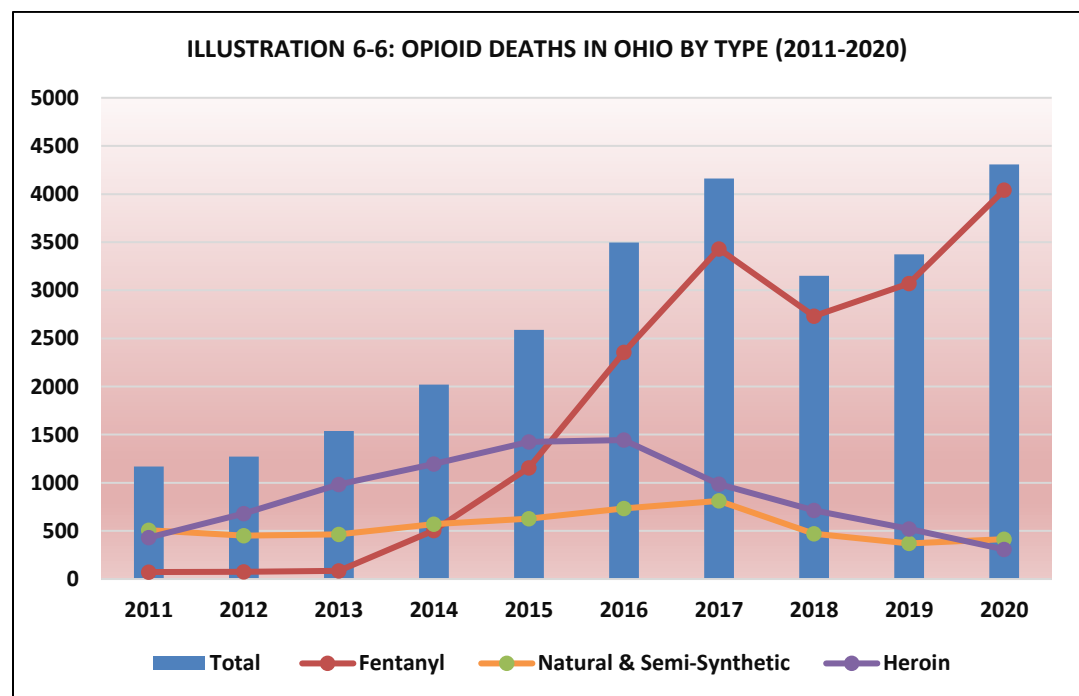
In 2020 the number of opioid deaths continued to grow nationally and locally. In 2020 Ohio saw 4,308 overdose deaths with synthetic opioids being responsible for over 90 percent of those deaths. As recently as 2011 prescription opioids were the main underlying cause of overdose deaths in Ohio (Illustration 6-6). The 4,308 deaths in 2020 correlate to an overdose death rate of 39.2 deaths per 100,000 persons in Ohio. When

<sup>35</sup><https://www.Mercercountypublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mercer-County-CHA-8-29-17-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/learn/index.htm>

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.

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>37</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>38</sup> In Mercer County, the annual death rate from unintentional drug overdose is 10.5 percent.



### 6.3.7 Strokes

Strokes were another health disparity identified by Mercer County Health District personnel as a local health concern. Strokes are the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Ohio and in the United States and are a major cause of disability.<sup>39</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>40</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

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/ohio-opioid-summary>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.pcsao.org/programs/opiate-epidemic>

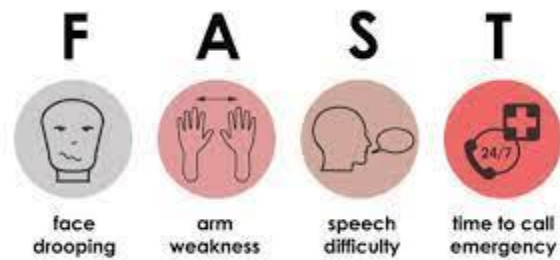
<sup>39</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/Stroke/index.htm>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/faqs.htm#8>

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>41</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.

Stroke is one of the seven leading causes of death in Mercer County. According to the Mercer County Community Health report, between 2018-2020 there were 13 cases of strokes accounted for in Mercer County.



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<sup>41</sup> [http:// insurance](http://insurance) and cause subsequent growth in the uninsured and public ally insured populations

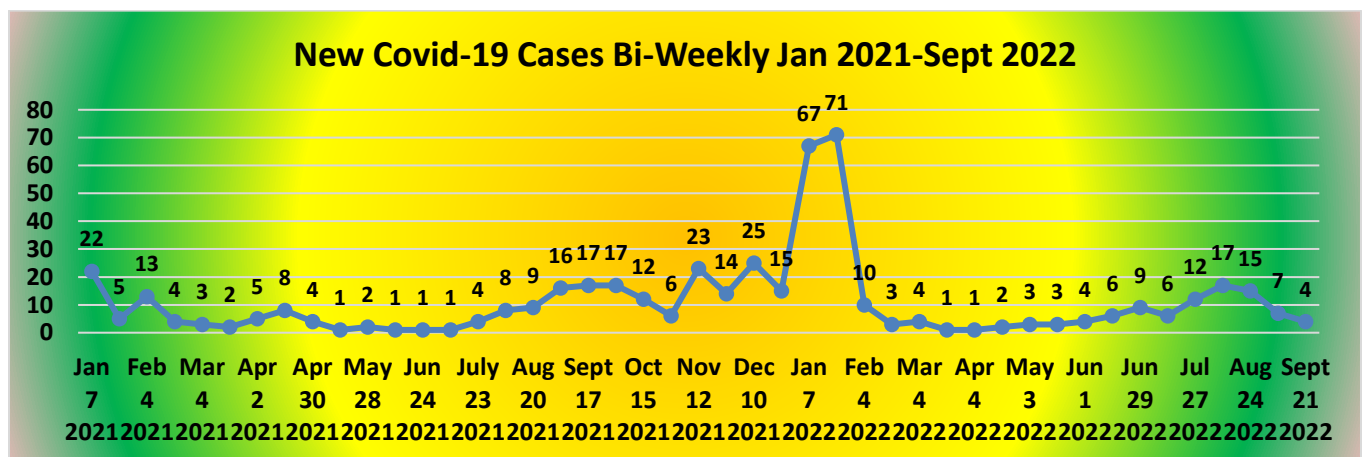
### 6.3.8 Special Needs Children

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

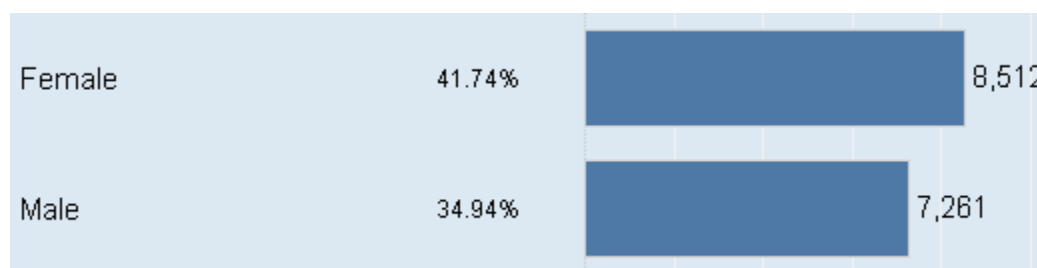
*A recent release by the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019) found 32 percent of children (< 18) in Ohio had special health care needs.*

### 6.3.9 COVID-19 Pandemic

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



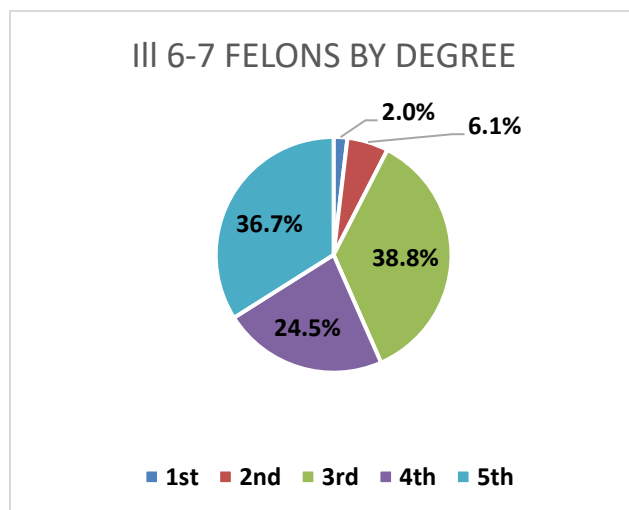
According to the Ohio COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, 38% of Mercer County residents were fully vaccinated. The below graph shows a breakdown of those who were fully vaccinated by gender. “Fully vaccinated” indicates that all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses have been reported from an individual, and the person is considered fully immunized. Vaccine status accounts for the total number of doses needed to be fully immunized only, which is completion of the original vaccine series; other specific requirements (dose spacing, age restrictions) vary depending on COVID-19 vaccine product. The chart below taken from the Ohio Department of County Health, shows the vaccine status by sex in Mercer County.



#### 6.4 Criminality, Recidivism & Re-entry

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

Data obtained from the Ohio Department of Corrections revealed 49 adult felons were imprisoned in Mercer County in 2020, Illustration 6-7 breaks them down by degree. Of the 49 incarcerated there were 2 life/death sentences received. 42 were male and 7 females.<sup>42</sup> Local data related to incarceration and recidivism rate was obtained from the Ohio Department of Corrections for Mercer County. Data indicated that over a 3-year period 2016– 2019 the recidivism rate in Mercer County was 37.3 percent; 6.8 percent for a technical violation and 30.5 percent for a new crime. As of 2019, roughly 6 in 10 parolees (63%) had not returned to the criminal justice within the three-year period.<sup>43</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.

<sup>42</sup> <https://drc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/FY2020%20COMMITMENT%20REPORT.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <https://drc.ohio.gov/reports/recidivism>



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>44</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>45</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 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>46</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>47</sup> The negative consequences for children with an incarcerated parent can be substantial, including financial instability, changes in family structure, shame, and social stigma.<sup>48</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.

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

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.gmuace.org/newsletters/Advancing%20Practice%20March%202012.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/sim-overview/intercept-4>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> <http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/COIP-Fact-Sheet-2013-06-19.pdf>



## 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.

## 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 Mercer 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 Mercer, Mercer, 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 knows offers emergency home repair in Mercer, Mercer, Mercer, Hancock and Putnam Counties to provide up to \$10,000 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AML.

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

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

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

<p><b>TABLE 6-4</b></p> <p><b>WOCAP PROGRAMMING &amp; SERVICES</b></p>	
<b>Program/Target Area</b>	<b>Service</b>
Early Head Start (EHS) & EHS Childcare Partnership / Early Childhood Education	This program provides comprehensive health, education, nutritional, social and other services to 190 infant and toddlers up to age three. There are seven locations in Allen County: WOCAP Central Building, Lima Senior High School, The Children’s Place, Kingdom Daycare, Shawnee Weekday, Trinity Daycare and Little Rascal Child Development Center. Home based services are provided as well as center-based options. Early Head Start is supported by Health and Human Services Funds. Outcomes for this program are available through program staff.
Head Start (HS) / Early Childhood Education	This program provides comprehensive school readiness, health, education, nutritional, social and other services to low-income preschool children age 3-5 years. This program normally runs September through May. It is funded with Health and Human Services funds and supported 255 children in 2021. Outcomes for this program are available through program staff.
Kindergarten Kamp / Early Childhood Education	This is a 5-week summer program involving children from Lima City Schools and WOCAP Head Start to assist children transitioning into kindergarten. The focus is on literacy and socialization skills and to increase the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy (KRAL) scores. The program served 76 children and is supported with United Way funds. Outcomes for this program are available from Head Start staff.
Fair Housing / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This program provides information, referral, and public education for fair housing issues and accepts complaints regarding housing discrimination in all of Allen County which is then forwarded to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission if discrimination is evident. In 2021 363 households were served in this program.
Utility Assistance	The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) assists elderly and low-income families with seasonal utility bills to avoid utility shut-off, HEAP served 5,677 households in 2021. Winter Crisis Program (WCP) runs November 1 <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 saved 1,542 households in 2021. Percentage of Income Program (PIPP) customers who join the program only pay a portion of utility costs based on income. The PIPP program served 3,206 in 2021.
Wealth Prep Program / Financial Literacy	The Wealth Prep program provides classes that help participants develop and their own finances, budgeting, and identifying resources to help families move towards economic independence. In 2021, 114 participants participated in this program. This program is supported with Community Services Block Grant funds and donations from two financial institutions.
Foreclosure Prevention / Financial Literacy	This program offers workshops available to homeowners that have defaulted or are in danger of defaulting on their mortgage. The program is a partnership with the Allen County Housing Consortium. The Program is underwritten with Community Service Block Grant funds.
Homeownership / Self-Sufficiency	WOCAP provides twelve (12) hours of homeownership classes through a program that identifies the process in which homeownership is accomplished. Speakers discuss home financing, establishing and maintaining good credit, home repair, home maintenance, and the value of neighborhood associations. This program is supported by a combination City of Lima Community Development Block funds, Ohio Housing Trust Fund, and Community Service Block Grants totaling. In 2021, 96 participants successfully completed the program and 7 purchased a home through this program.
Rent/Mortgage Assistance / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This program provides housing assistance to individuals who are homeless or in need to prevent homelessness. This program’s funding sources are combined with Community Service Block Grant, Federal Emergency Management agency and Ohio Homeless Crisis Funds. 1,385 households were served by this program.
Most Valuable Parents / Strengthening Family & Supportive Services	Using the Nurturing Parents Curriculum, MVP is a group of parents coming together to support one another in the role of being a parent. Through a series of 10 workshops, 95 parents and caregivers worked towards fostering positive relationships with their children. This program is supported through Community Service Block Grants funds.
Emergency Services / Social Equity & Improved QOL	This Emergency Assistance program provides very low-income individuals at 125% of poverty or below with needed services such as rent, auto repair, appliances, work uniforms, transportation, eye glasses, dentures, prescription assistance, food, clothing, minor home repairs, and more. This program s is supported with Community Service Block grant funds.
Lead Abatement/Home Repair	The Lead Safe Home Program offers assistance to low- and moderate-income families with children under the age of six, or pregnant women, in making their homes lead-safe for children by eliminating lead hazards in the home including replacement of windows and siding. Provides up to \$10,000 in emergency home repair and handicapped accessibility modifications for homeowners below 50% AMI.
Miscellaneous	In 2018/2019, WOCAP’ SEAL Xmas program provided 86 children with Christmas gifts. WOCAP also served 40,535 meals and procived 294 health screenings.

## 6.7 Disability Status & Special Education

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

According to the 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, the total population in Mercer County is 45,709, and 2,834 or 6.2 percent of the population is children under the age of 5 years. Data suggests that as of 2020 1000 children have been identified by the Local Education Agency (LEA) as having a Part B disability.

### 6.7.1 Service Delivery

The Celina City Schools, Mercer County Schools and Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities complete assessment and evaluation procedures for Head Start and Early Head Start children in Mercer 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 Mercer County Part C services for children birth to 3 years of age are provided by Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD). Mercer 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 Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities and home-based specialized services. Mercer 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.

Table 6-5 2020 PART B SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS				
DISTRICT	Total Public Students wth Disabilities	Performance Index	4-year Grad Rates 2020	5-Year Grad Rates 2019
Celina City	536	52.5	73.8%	84.4%
Coldwater Exempted Village	141	53.8	87.5%	100.0%
Marion Local	102	77.3	80.0%	66.7%
Parkway Local	148	73.2	66.7%	92.9%
St. Henry Consolidated	118	61.9	100.0%	90.9%
Fort Recovery Local	120	60.2	75.0%	100.0%

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

## SECTION 7

### SUMMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

#### 7.1 Summation of WOCAPs Approach

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

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

##### 7.1.1 Health Services Program Planning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **7.1.2 Building a Healthy Foundation for Learning & Life**

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

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



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



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



Protecting children from the effects of poverty to help them 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

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

underfunded. For example, it is estimated that WOCAP is serving 30 percent of individuals in poverty in Mercer County. The Agency's work then becomes focused on making the largest impact on children in poverty as possible. This factor requires WOCAP involve multiple partnerships and collaborations within the community,

providing a cornucopia of services and programs that engage low-income families in self-sufficiency.

## **7.2 Recommendations**

Completion of this Community Assessment has presented new data, new issues, new challenges, and new potential partners to WOCAP's 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:

- Implement multi-media educational outreach to parents and children about the negative effects of the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and non-authorized prescription drugs.



- Actively support the development of safe, appropriate and readily accessible recreation facilities necessary to support a physically active and healthy lifestyle for young children thru active and intentional engagement with parents, families, community groups, faith-based organizations and local elected governments.
- Advocate for safe well-designed walkways to needed medical and professional services, retail services, fixed route transit services, green space and schools. Promote sidewalk construction, sidewalk extensions and reconstruction when warranted. Promote sidewalk amenities to include lighting, and street furniture.
- Execute an effective public awareness campaign to raise the level of understanding of traffic laws and mitigate the alarming number of injuries associated with bicycle and pedestrian crashes threatening the community's children.
- Vigorously promote safe and appropriate housing in neighborhoods. Ensure that the community provides equal access to safe and appropriate housing. Develop walkable communities with pleasant streetscapes to promote more socially active and healthy residents. Tree lined streetscapes will improve air quality, provide shade and support increased property values thereby providing residents with a higher quality of life. Develop safe street concepts to 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 2023 Mercer County Traffic Safety Coalition is just 82 percent compliance – yet the proper use of safety restraints is a state law. Access to and proper use of child restraints is a barrier to increasing the safety of children during vehicle travel. WOCAP provides its own car-seats to transport children to and from its facilities. WOCAP staff is aware through observation, that particularly older children are not being transported, according to current law, in booster seats to/from WOCAP facilities by parents and caregivers. WOCAP will work with other community stakeholders to develop and integrate broad community recognition of the law and the need to properly secure children.
- Diligently work to ensure Health & Human Services targeted populations are adequately served. Residents of certain census tracts have been omitted from certain WOCAP services mapped in this assessment. Administrators will investigate and modify public outreach and information services should disparities be found to exist. Sites should be explored for future funding opportunities.
- Enthusiastically underwrite efforts to improve the quality of the housing stock. Advocate for the construction and rehabilitation of decent, affordable, energy efficient and appropriately sized housing in the community. This includes growing the lead abatement efforts across the county.



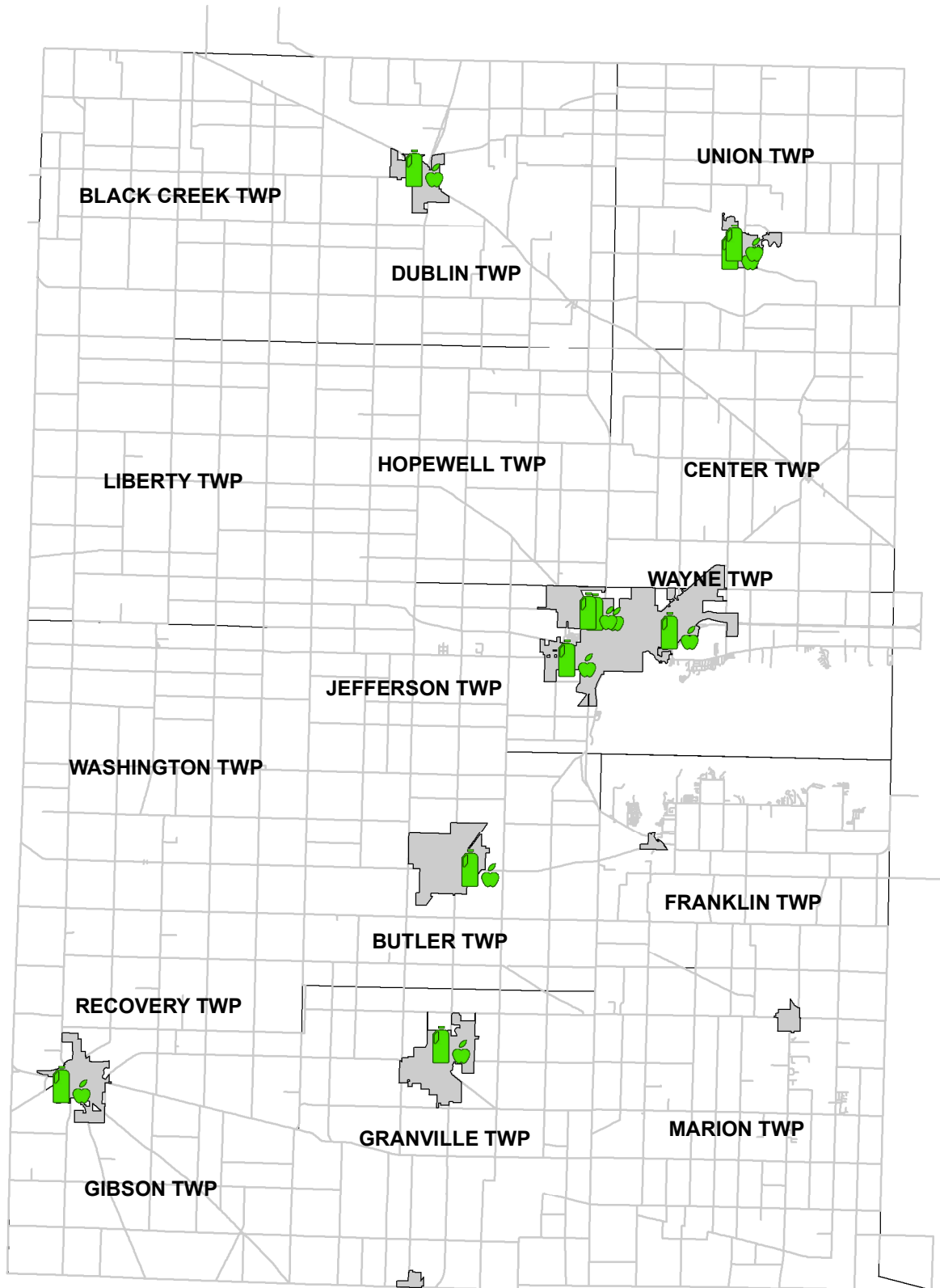
- Expand efforts to increase educational and programming regarding efficient energy usage in homes. A significant number of low-income households are paying more than 35 percent of their income towards housing. Housing utility costs exceed the amount available and force difficult decisions endangering children. Proper weatherization of homes would promote more efficient energy use, reduce heating/cooling costs. WOCAP commits to work with local government officials, the HHWP Community Action Commission and local housing advocates and neighborhood associations to address weatherization needs and services in Mercer 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 Mercer 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 challenges facing our community is the creation of an economic and social system that promotes and advances the needs of the young, the weak, the elderly and the frail while supporting the sustainability of the environment on which life depends. WOCAP believes that its mission lies with addressing the needs of the disadvantaged cognizant of the larger physical and social environment. WOCAP believes that through community collaboration and consensus building that the problems of poverty can be faced and minimized. It is this core belief and the pursuit of excellence that pushes the Agency forward to serve its clients each and every day.

# WIC LOCATIONS MERCER COUNTY



Mercer\_Address\_Points\_LBRS selection



Villages & Cities

— 2206\_roads

0 2.5 5  
Miles

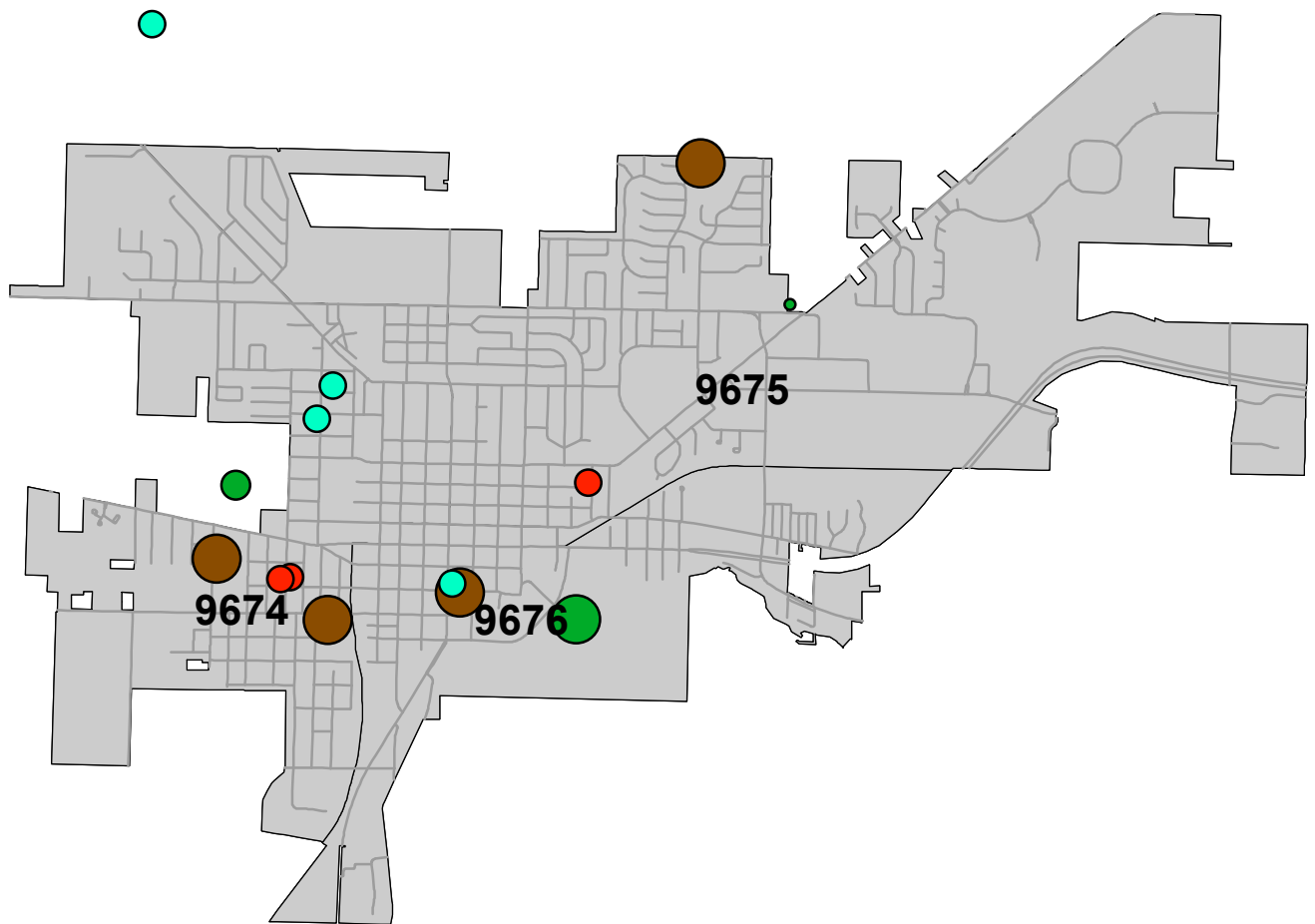


October, 2022

N



# SUMMARY MAP



## Vacant

- 230
- 231 - 244
- 245 - 378



Demolitions

## Foreclosures

- 2019
- 2020

0 0.5 1 Miles

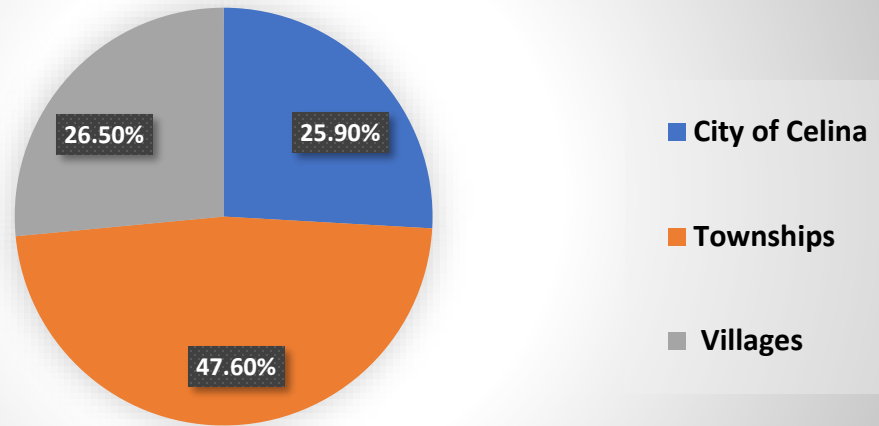


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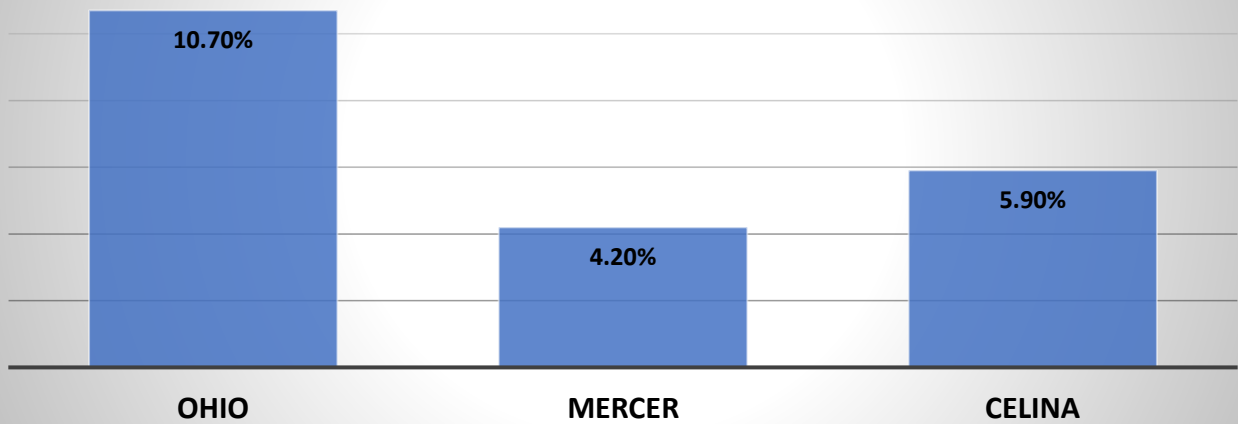


# APPENDIX A

III A-1 Mercer County Population Distribution

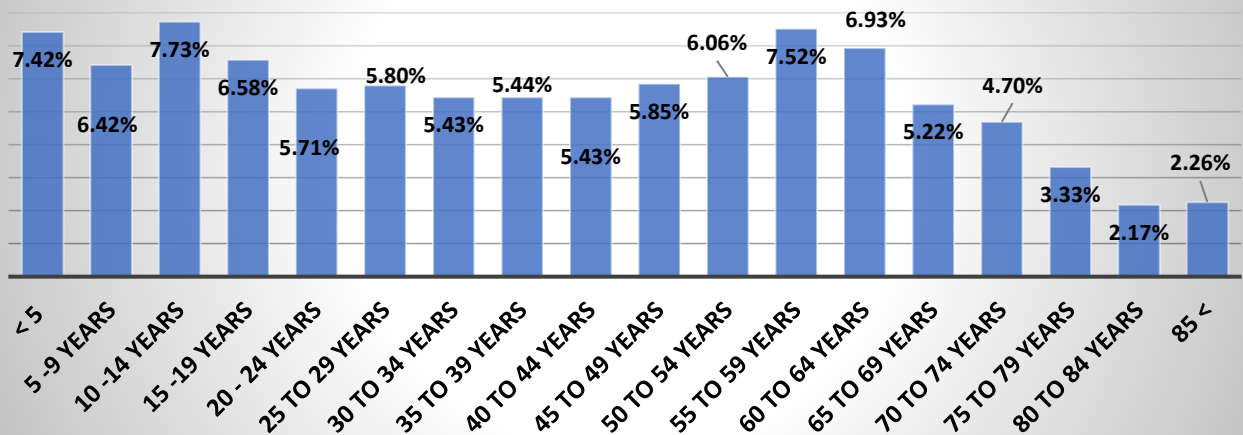


III A-2 Mercer County Population Change 2010-2020

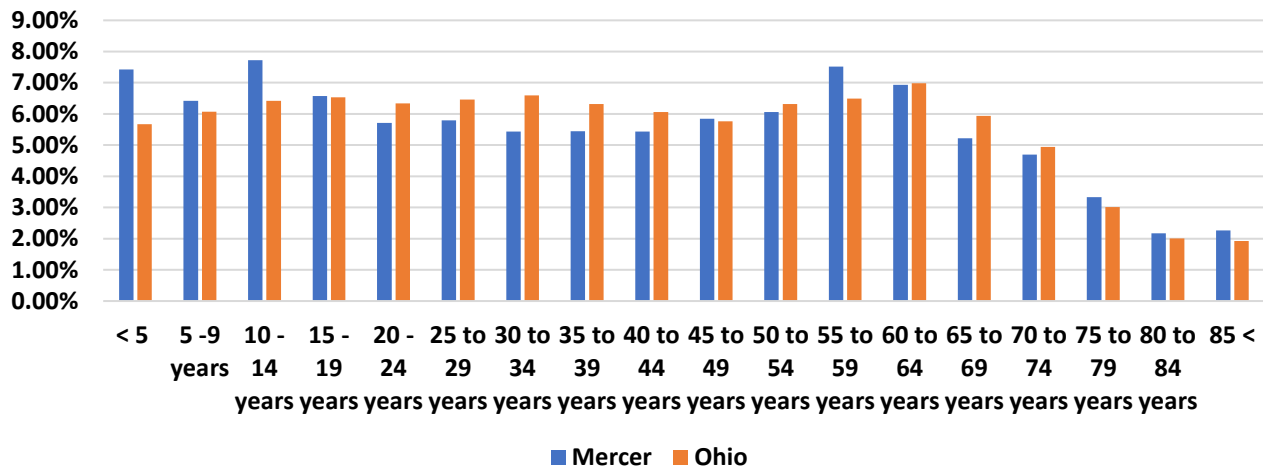


# APPENDIX A

## III A-3 Age Cohorts as a Percent of Total Population

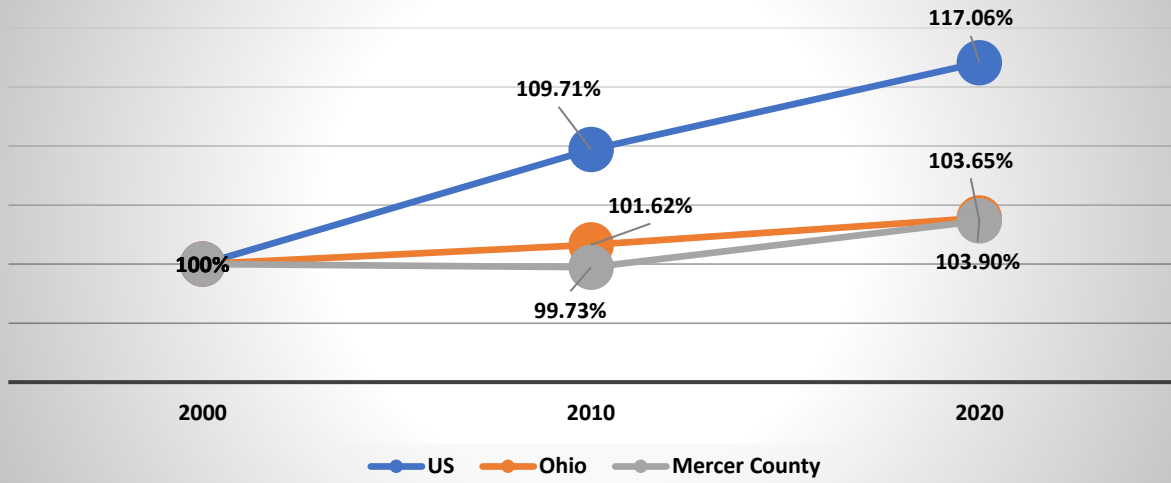


## III A-4 Age Cohorts as a Percent of Population

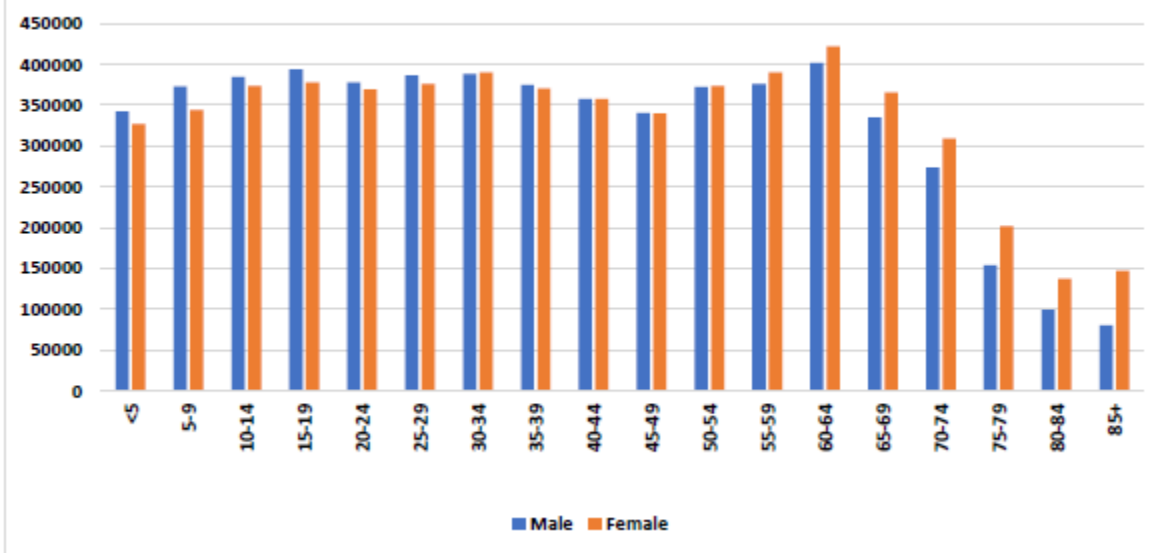


# APPENDIX A

## III A-5 Population Change Since 2000



## Illustration A5A Age Cohorts by Gender (2020 Ohio)



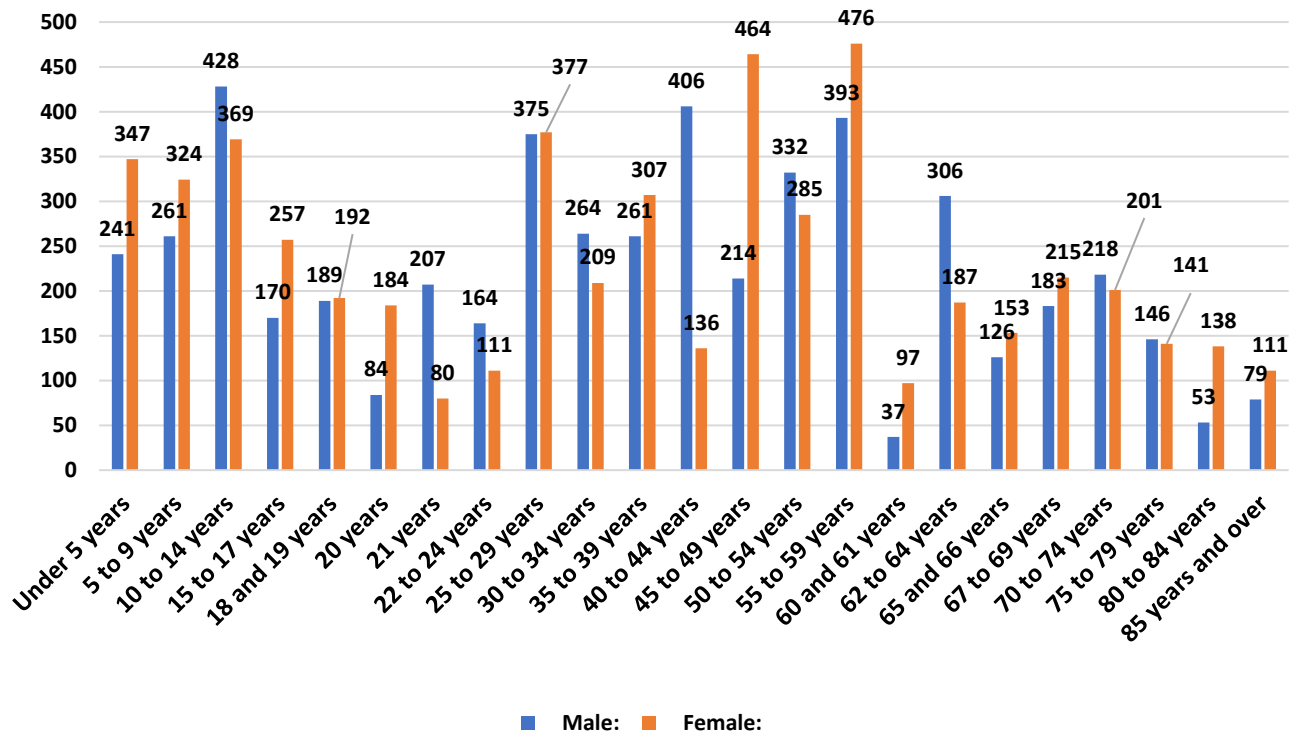


# APPENDIX A

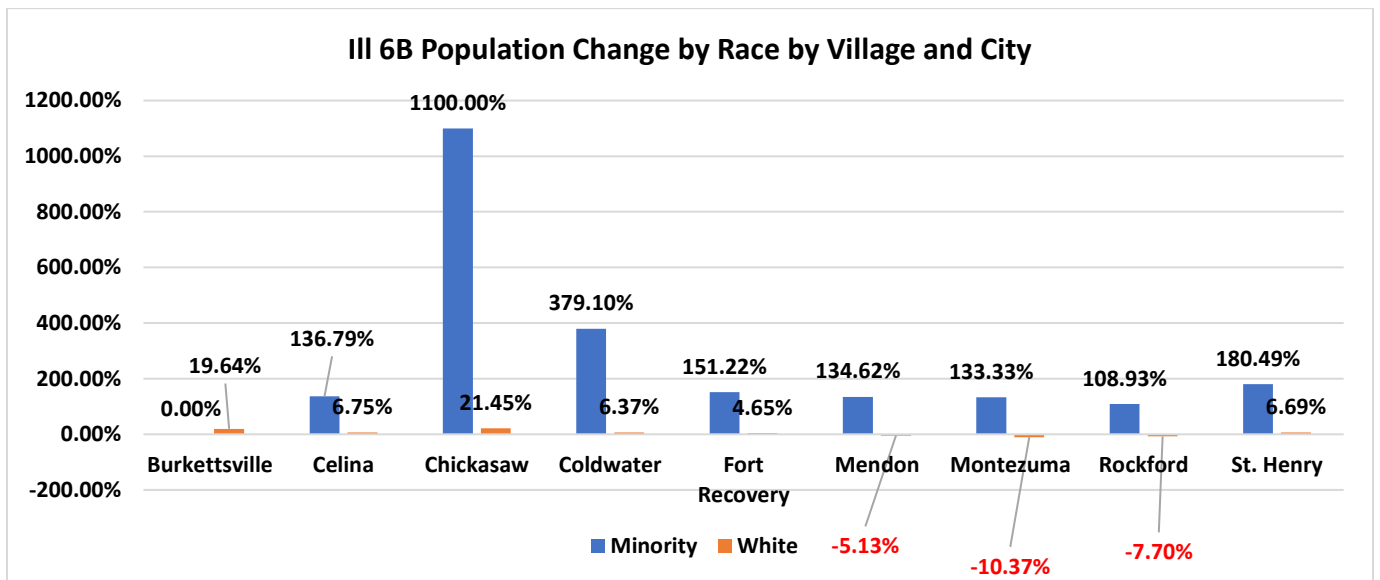
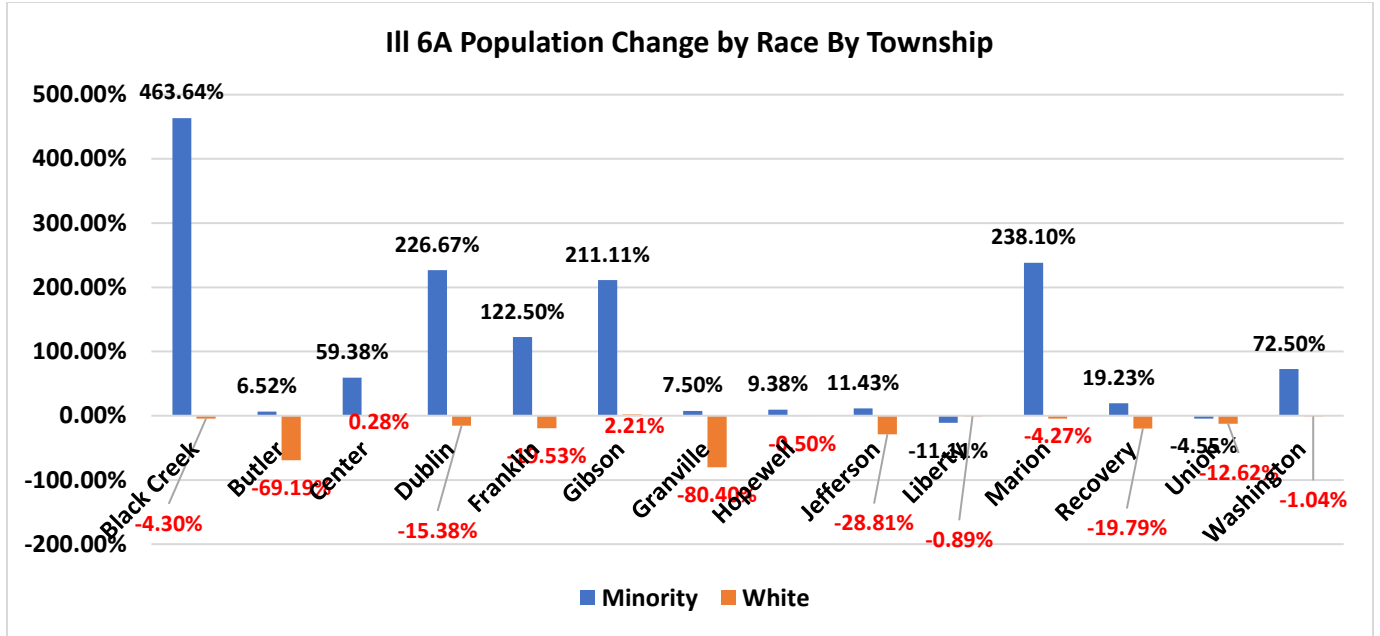
## III A 5B Age Cohorts by Gender



## III 5C Age Cohorts by Gender Celina



# APPENDIX A

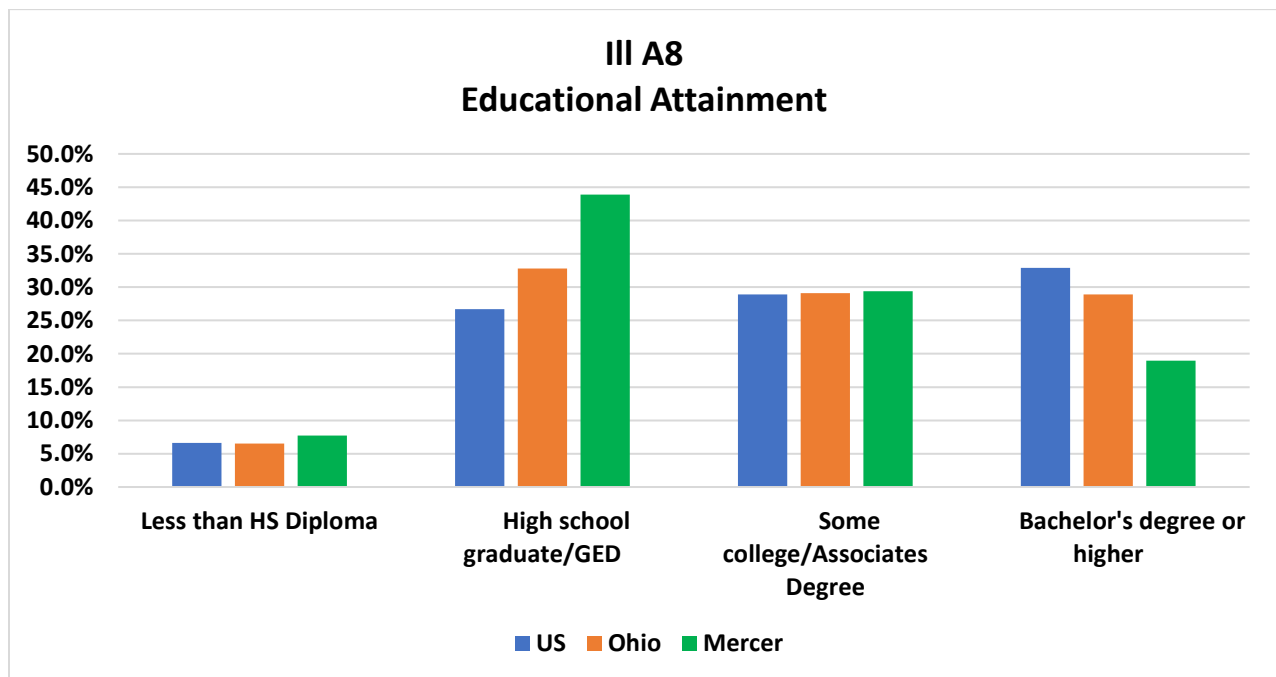
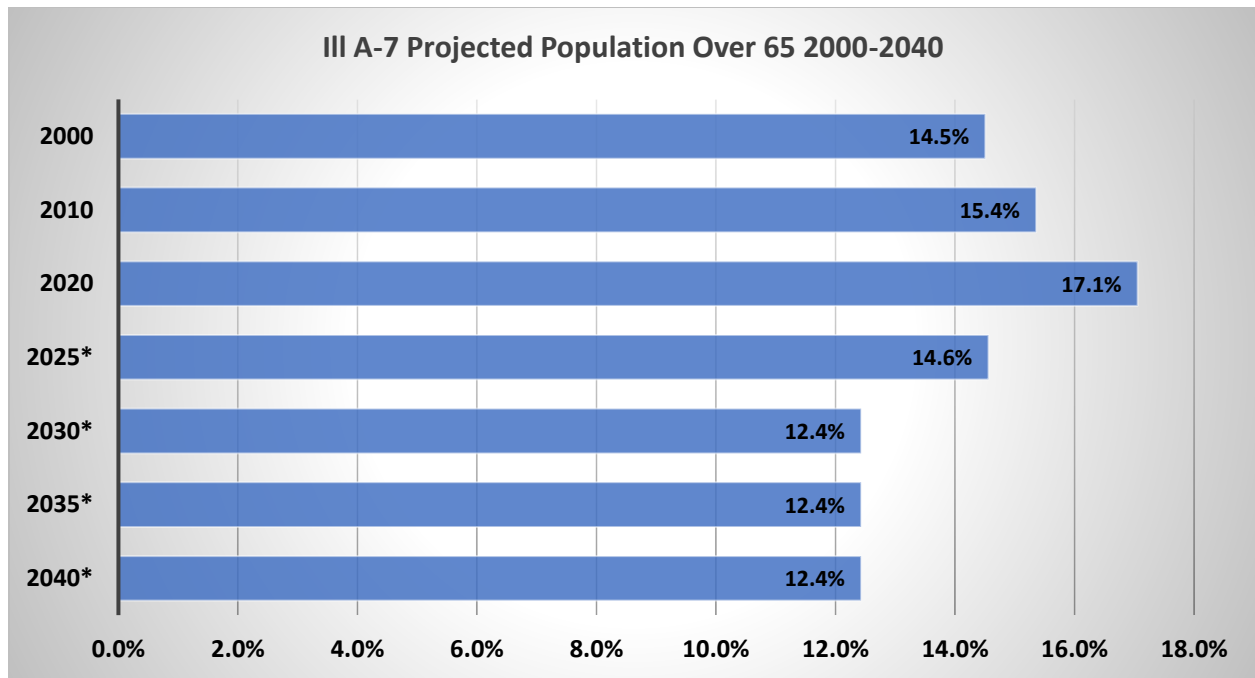


# APPENDIX A

African American Population by Age Cohort and Gender					
	Total	Male	%	Female	%
< 5	45	12	26.67%	33	73.33%
5 to 9	59	31	52.54%	28	47.46%
10 to 14	15	15	100.00%	0	0.00%
15 to 17	2	2	100.00%	0	0.00%
18 and 19	25	0	0.00%	25	100.00%
20 to 24	5	5	100.00%	0	0.00%
25 to 29	21	21	100.00%	0	0.00%
30 to 34	14	7	50.00%	7	50.00%
35 to 44	2	0	0.00%	2	100.00%
45 to 54	52	50	96.15%	2	3.85%
55 to 64	28	22	78.57%	6	21.43%
65 to 74	11	11	100.00%	0	0.00%
75 to 84	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
85 +	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

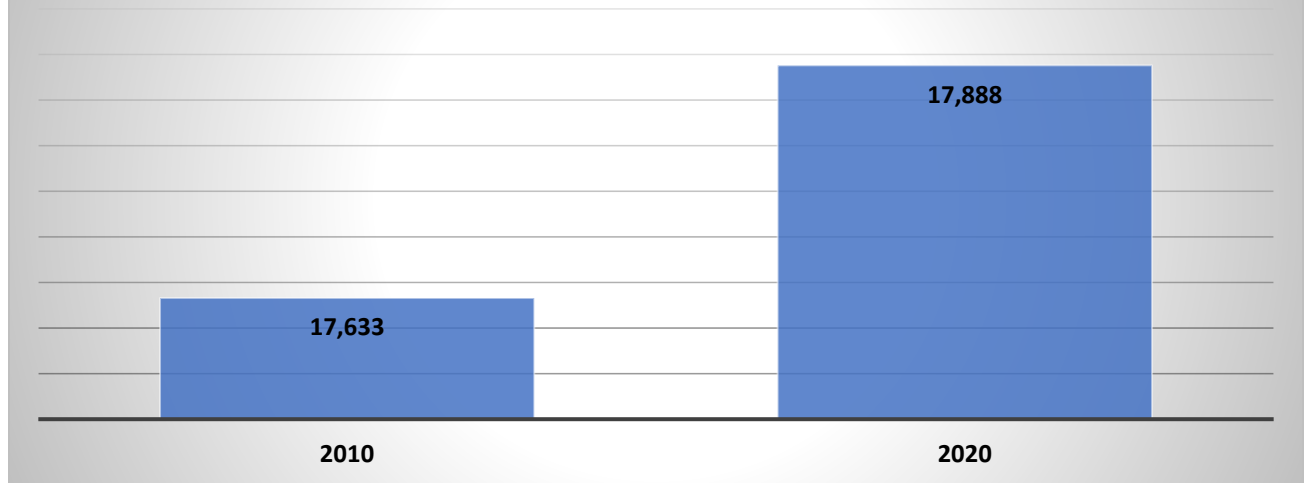
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander by Age Cohort and Gender					
	Total	Male	%	Female	%
< 5	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
5 to 9	28	28	100.00%	0	0.00%
10 to 14	67	17	25.37%	50	74.63%
15 to 17	35	18	51.43%	17	48.57%
18 and 19	60	60	100.00%	0	0.00%
20 to 24	30	0	0.00%	30	100.00%
25 to 29	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
30 to 34	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
35 to 44	94	61	64.89%	33	35.11%
45 to 54	23	10	43.48%	13	56.52%
55 to 64	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
65 to 74	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
75 to 84	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
85 +	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

# APPENDIX A

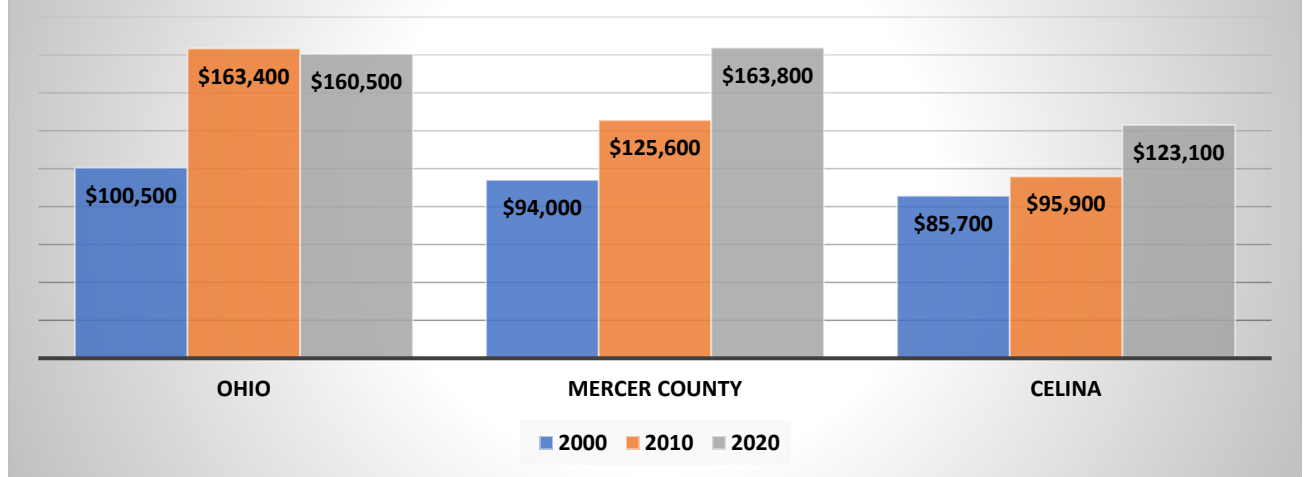


# APPENDIX B

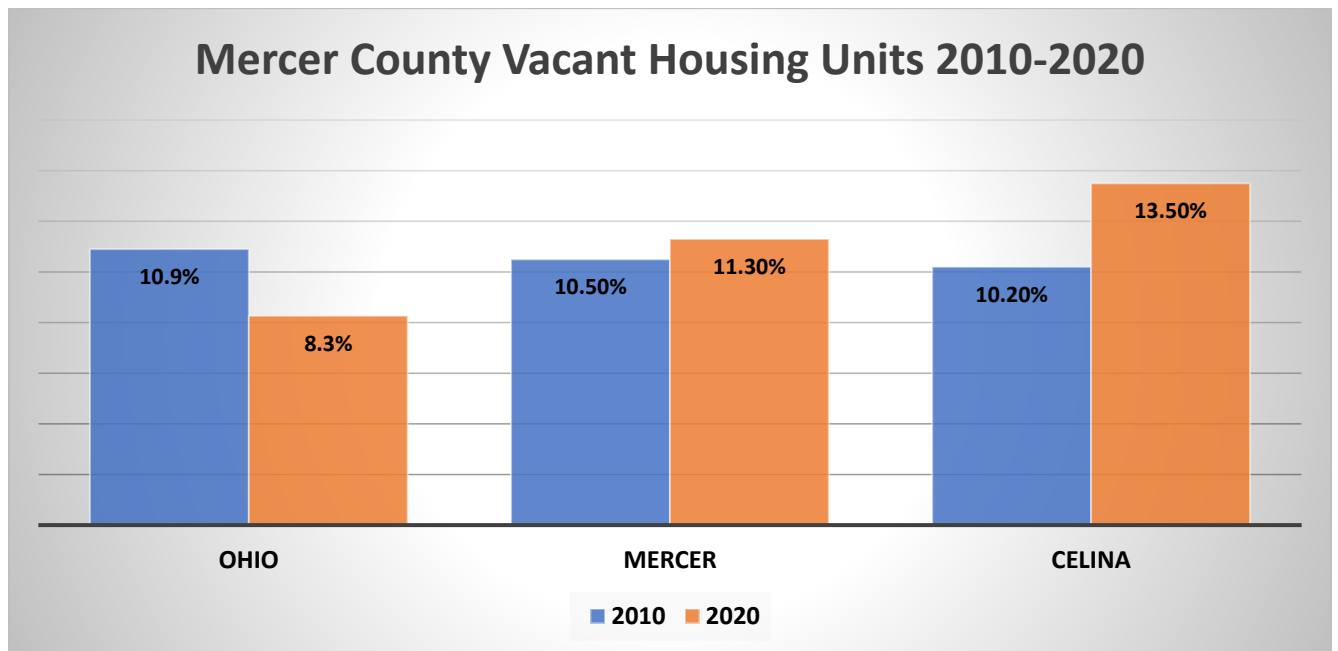
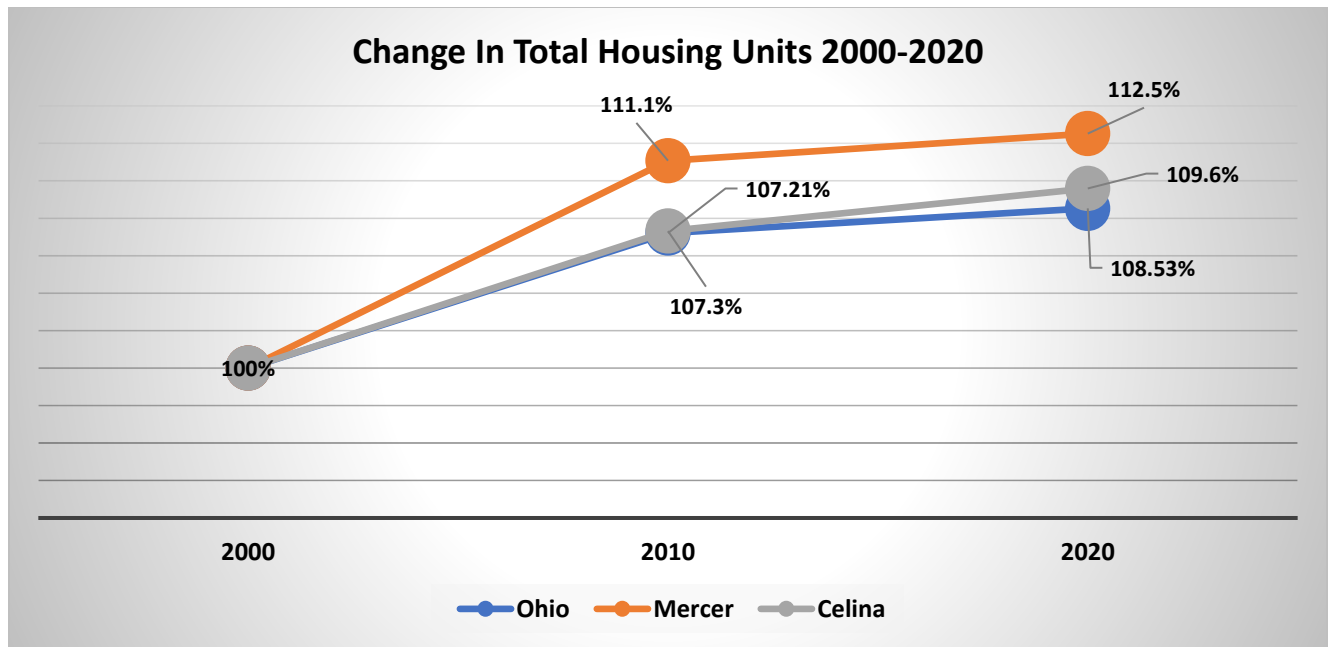
**Mercer County Housing Change 2010-2020**



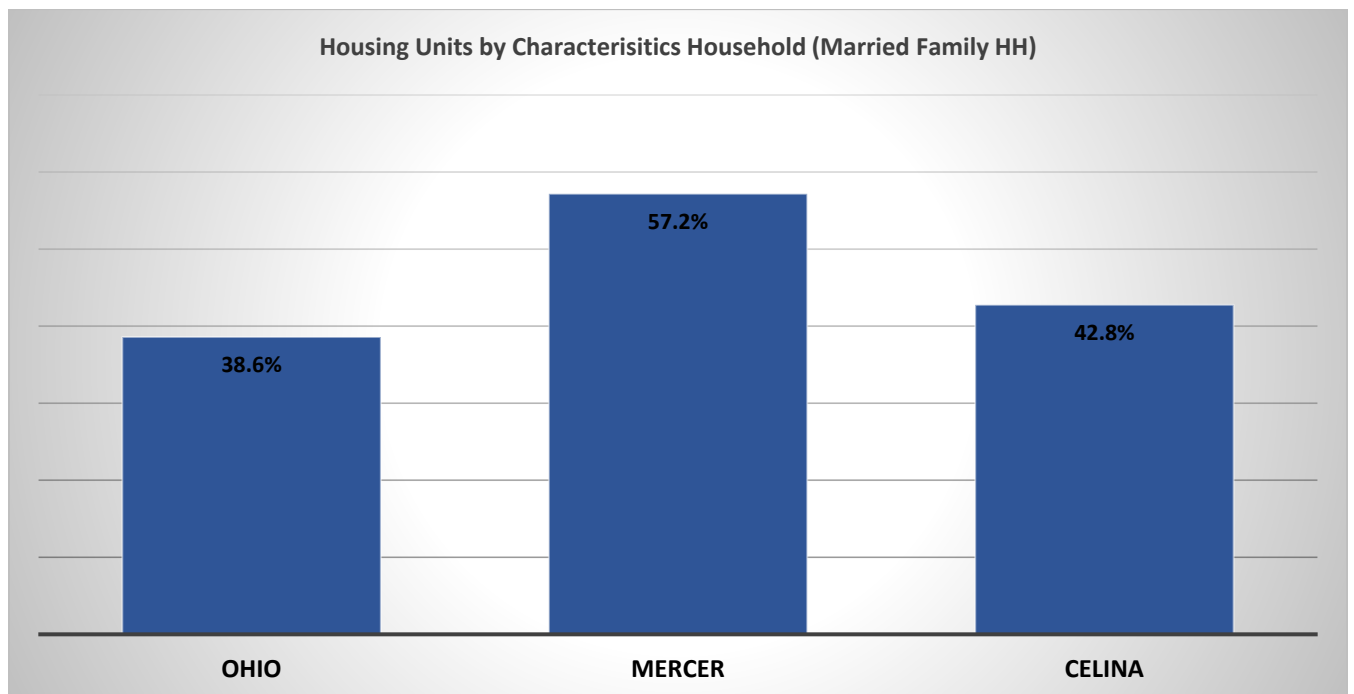
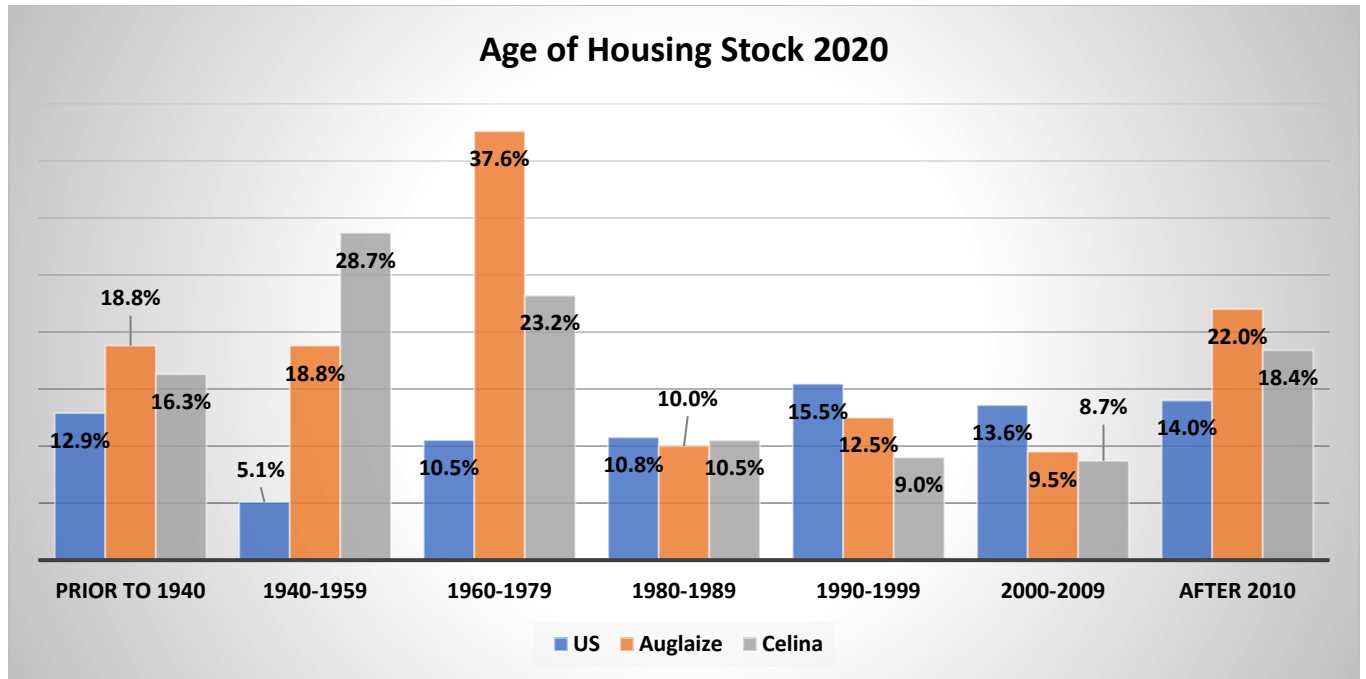
**Mercer County Median Home Value 2000-2020**



## APPENDIX B

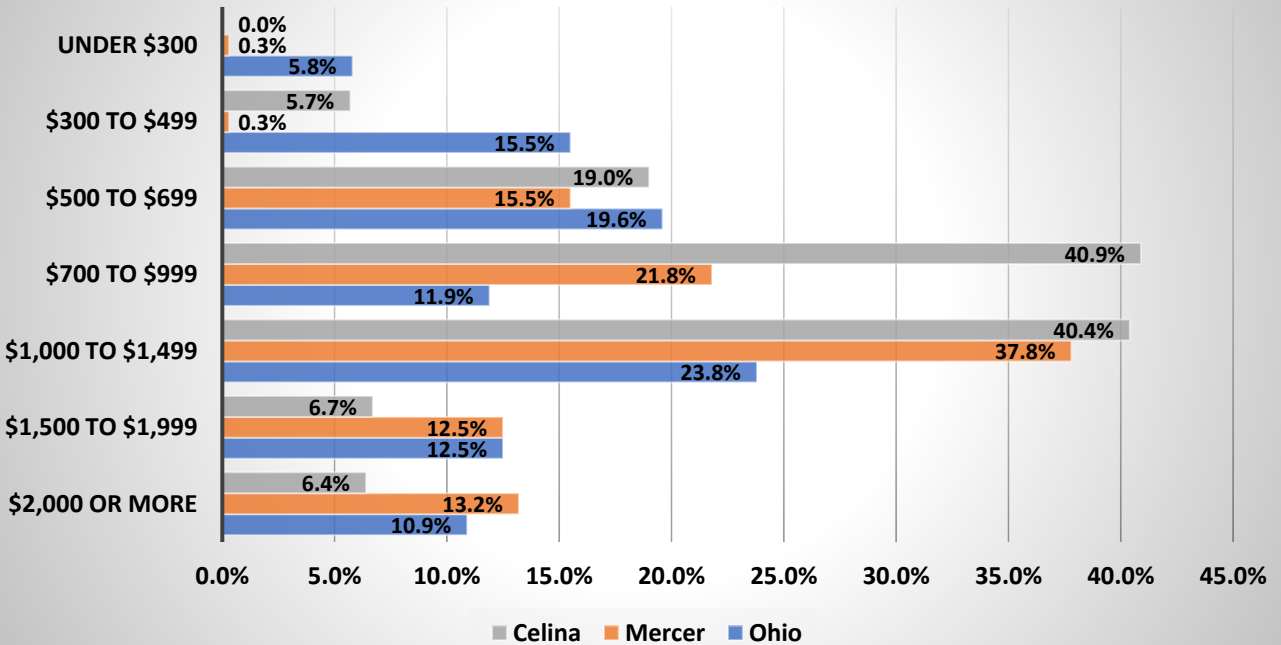


## APPENDIX B

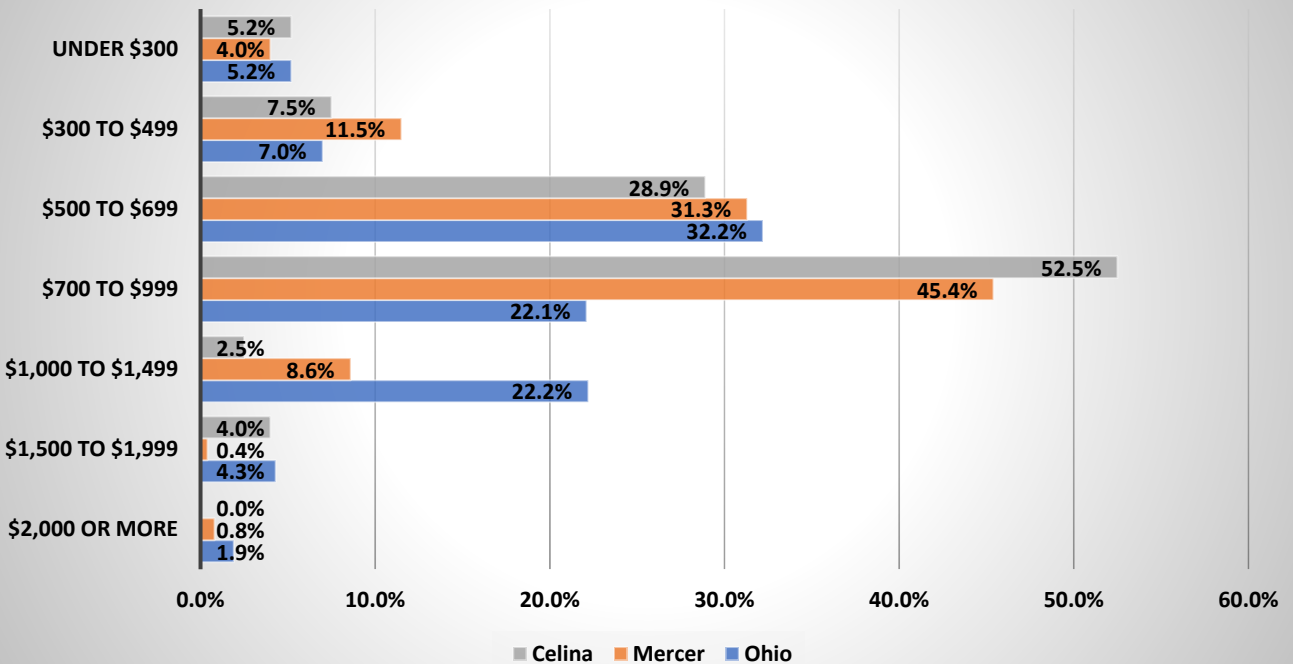


# APPENDIX B

## Owner Occupied Housing Costs



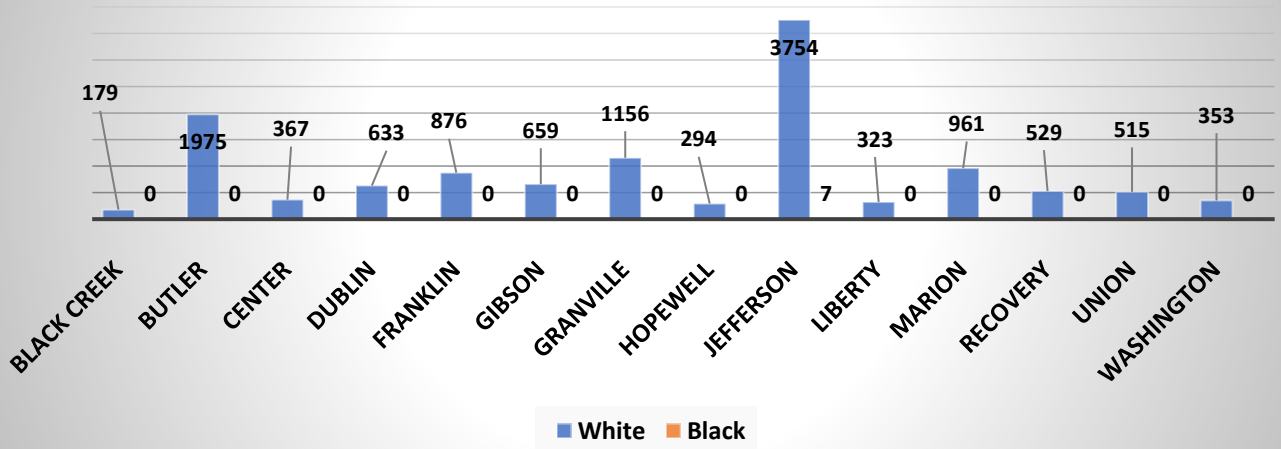
## Renter Occupied Monthly Housing Costs





# APPENDIX B

## Owner Occupied by Race



# APPENDIX C

**Table C-1**  
**K-12 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MERCER COUNTY**

Celina Middle School	615 Holly St	Celina	45822-1352	Ann E. Esselstein	(419) 586-8300
Celina High School	715 E Wayne St	Celina	45822-1332	Phillip R. Metz	(419) 586-8300
Coldwater High School	310 N 2nd St	Coldwater	45828-1242	Jason L. Hemmelgarn	(419) 678-4821
Fort Recovery Middle School	865 Sharpsburg Rd	Fort Recovery	45846-9746	Ryan J. Steinbrunner	(419) 375-2815
Celina Primary School	615 E Wayne St	Celina	45822-1543	Michelle L. Duncan	(419) 586-8300
Fort Recovery High School	400 East Butler Street	Fort Recovery	45846	Anthony T. Stahl	(419) 375-4111
Marion Local Elementary School	7956 State Route 119	Maria Stein	45860-9710	Nicholas J. Wilker	(419) 925-4595
Marion Local High School	1901 State Route 716	Maria Stein	45860-9713	Timothy J. Goodwin	(419) 925-4597
Parkway Middle School	400 Buckeye St	Rockford	45882-9267	Brian D. Woods	(419) 363-3045
Parkway High School	400 Buckeye St	Rockford	45882-9267	Brian Fortkamp	(419) 363-3045
St Henry Elementary School	251 E Columbus St	Saint Henry	45883-9575	Adam Puthoff	(419) 678-4834
St Henry Middle School	381 E Columbus St	Saint Henry	45883-9574	Kyle D. Kunk	(419) 678-4834
St Henry High School	391 E Columbus St	Saint Henry	45883-9574	Eric M. Rosenbeck	(419) 678-4834
Fort Recovery Elementary School	865 Sharpsburg Rd	Fort Recovery	45846-9746	Kelli M. Thobe	(419) 375-2768
Celina Elementary School	1225 W Logan St	Celina	45822-2068	Cory R. Ahrens	(419) 586-8300
Coldwater Elementary School	310 N 2nd St	Coldwater	45828-1242	Ted D. Shuttleworth	(419) 678-2613
Parkway Elementary School	400 Buckeye St	Rockford	45882-9267	Mark J. Esselstein	(419) 363-3045
Coldwater Middle School	310 N 2nd St	Coldwater	45828-1242	Daniel D. Pohlman	(419) 678-3331
Celina Intermediate Elementary School	227 Portland St	Celina	45822-2035	Derek A. Wenning	(419) 586-8300

# APPENDIX C

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

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

# APPENDIX C

Table C-3 Mercer County Public School Districts Performance By Year 2018-2021			
District Name	2021-2020	2019-2020	2018-2019
Celina City	83.0	NC	89.5
Coldwater Exempted Village	95.7	NC	98.8
Marion Local	107.6	NC	108.0
Parkway Local	95.5	NC	97.3
St Henry Consolidated Local	104.9	NC	105.5
Fort Recovery Local	99.7	NC	100.6

Table C-4 KRA SCORES BY DISTRICT 2020-2021				
District Name	Demonstrating	Approaching	Emerging	Avg Score
Celina City	33.3%	49.4%	17.2%	265.6
Coldwater Exempted Village	37.5%	32.5%	30.0%	265.9
Fort Recovery Local	68.3%	26.8%	4.9%	273.1
Marion Local	70.5%	25.6%	3.8%	275.4
Parkway Local	50.0%	26.7%	23.3%	268.3
St Henry Consolidated Local	76.0%	20.0%	4.0%	275.7

# APPENDIX C

Table C-4 KRA SCORES BY DISTRICT 2019-2020				
District Name	Demonstrating	Approaching	Emerging	Overall Score
Celina City	33.3%	49.4%	17.2%	265.6
Coldwater Exempted Village	37.5%	32.5%	30.0%	265.9
Fort Recovery Local	68.3%	26.8%	4.9%	273.1
Marion Local	70.5%	25.6%	3.8%	275.4
Parkway Local	50.0%	26.7%	23.3%	268.3
St Henry Consolidated Local	76.0%	20.0%	4.0%	275.7

Table C-4 KRA SCORES BY DISTRICT 2019-2020				
District Name	Demonstrating	Approaching	Emerging	Overall Score
Celina City	33.7%	40.1%	26.2%	264.3
Coldwater Exempted Village	46.2%	35.9%	17.9%	268.5
Fort Recovery Local	69.0%	23.9%	7.0%	274.3
Marion Local	65.1%	31.7%	3.2%	273.2
Parkway Local	35.8%	43.3%	20.9%	266.2
St Henry Consolidated Local	67.1%	26.0%	6.8%	273.5

CENSUS BUREAU HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY STATE OF OHIO MEASURES WEEK REPORTING PERIODS 1 THROUGH 50														
IMPACTED POPULATION	REPORTING PERIOD 4-23- 2020/7-21-2020		REPORTING PERIOD 4-23- 2020/7-5-2021		REPORTING PERIOD 4-14- 2021/7-5-2021		REPORTING PERIOD 4-23- 2020/9-26-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 7-21- 2020/9-26-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 8-19- 2020/5-9-2022		REPORTING PERIOD 8-19- 2020/9-26-2022	
	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End	% Pop Start	% Pop End
Loss in Employment Income	44.2%	47.7%												
Expected Loss in Employment Income			33.9%	6.8%										
Food Scarcity							11.2%	10.3%						
Food Assistance from School					30.0%	15.9%								
Food Assistance for Children									26.2%	25.5%				
Housing Insecurity	21.7%	23.1%									7.3%	6.1%		
Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure													33.40%	34.30%
Unable to Pay Energy Bill									18.0%	27.1%				
Difficulty Paying for Usual HH Expenses													27.80%	43.60%