

# THE STATE OF OHIO

**2017**

A story through statistics: How Ohio measures up





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comparing Ohio to the United States, there's no denying the big takeaway: **OHIO IS FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES.** To build a better future, we'll need to confront persistent inequality and make meaningful investments that ensure this is a place of opportunity for our children and grandchildren.



*National Ranking*

INFANT MORTALITY	39th	👎
HUNGER	44th	👎
HOME FORECLOSURE	40th	👎
HEALTH INSURANCE	15th	👍

*National Ranking*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	39th	👎
COLLEGE TUITION	36th	👎
PRE-K ENROLLMENT	23th	👍

*National Ranking*

POVERTY	30th	👎
MEDIAN INCOME	32th	👎
UNEMPLOYMENT	31st	👎
JOB GROWTH	32th	👎

*National Ranking*

MEDIAN WAGE BY GENDER	42nd	👎
HOMEOWNERSHIP BY RACE	41st	👎
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BY INCOME	40th	👎

👍 Ohio is at or above the national average  
 👎 Ohio is below the national average

INFRASTRUCTURE *No National Ranking*

# INTRODUCTION



This is our 2nd THE STATE OF OHIO report. It's our annual attempt to answer the simple question:

## HOW IS OHIO DOING?

We release this report as the Governor is sharing his opinion at the yearly State of the State address. While the speech is typically used to highlight priorities and successes hand-picked by our top executive, we see it as an opportunity for the public to consider our shared goals and challenges, even if we don't like what we see. The Governor's State of the State provides a perfect opportunity to re-center the debate and re-focus on how we're really doing.

This year marks the first year that THE STATE OF OHIO coincides with a biennial state budget process, and the budget makes it clear we need a new direction. With major problems like the opiate epidemic and unaffordable college tuition, revenues are needed to invest in solutions.

Unfortunately, due to a series of tax cuts and shifts over the past 12 years, we have billions of dollars less to work with. And while these tax changes were supposed to bring jobs and econom-

ic growth, they have not. So, at the very time we need to be investing in the building blocks of a strong economy - especially education and infrastructure - we are hamstrung by past decisions.

Last year, we chose 11 metrics across the categories of **HEALTH & HOME, EDUCATION, and ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT**. Each metric allows comparison to the country, receives regular updates, and illuminates the success (or failure) of key parts of public life in Ohio. This year, we've added a 12th metric - **INFRASTRUCTURE** - that does not include national rankings, but is so critical to the state of Ohio that it could not be left out.

For each metric, we begin by sharing how Ohio ranks nationally, the definition of the terminology, and share the most basic graphs and statistics. Then, we look back at trends and look forward to possibilities. We flag notable data points and context to help tell a story about each individual metric, adding up to say something about how we're doing overall.

We've also included a category for **INEQUALITY** to highlight just a few of the myriad ways we see race, class, gender, age, and other forms of diversity show up in the data. Far too often, factors Ohioans have no control over have major impact on their outcomes - but through smart public policy, we can close these gaps.

Our goal is to use highly-respected, widely-utilized data from sources that are - like our coalition - non-partisan and interested in the public good.

While we are fierce advocates for Ohio and Ohioans, we believe that the data paints a picture of a state with serious challenges. And because of this stark reality, we believe that our coalition's focus - raising revenues to invest in public services - is more important now than it has been in quite some time.

We can find resources to invest and solve the problems detailed in this report. We can do it by closing unnecessary loopholes, modernizing our tax code, and raising income tax and business tax rates on those with the greatest ability to pay.

**We hope you'll learn from our report, share the findings, and come away with ideas and inspiration to find solutions.**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE COURSE AND ENSURE THAT THE STATE OF OHIO IS STRONG WELL INTO THE FUTURE, FOR EVERYONE.**





# BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IN OHIO ARE A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

If we measure Ohio by the needs of the most vulnerable, there is no question we have work to do. 1 in 6 Ohio families struggled to put food on the table. Our infant mortality rates got worse. Medicaid expansion was a major, positive change, but it simply is not enough.

Prosperity is not spreading to everyone – in fact, a depressing number of people are fighting for their lives.

# INFANT MORTALITY (Infant mortality is the death of children under one year.)

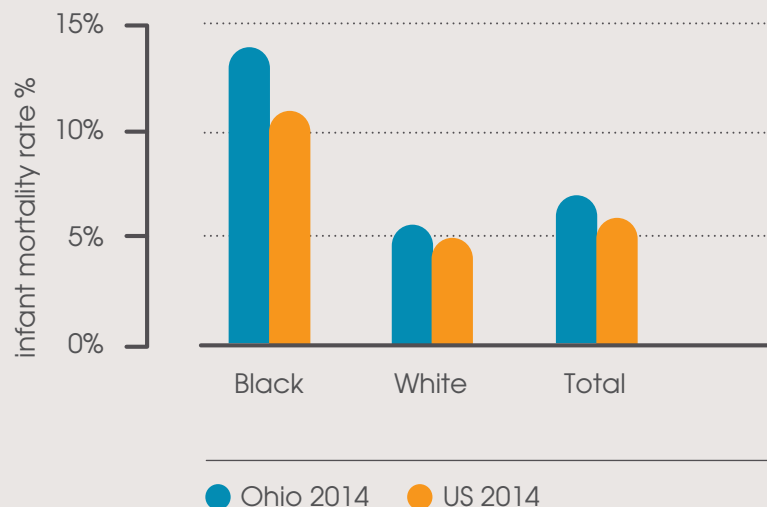


## LOOKING BACK

Ohio's infant mortality rate remains strikingly high, caused by premature births, birth defects, unsafe sleeping conditions, and more. After slight improvements noted in last year's report, the most recent data - for calendar year 2015 - show steps backward. We're now at 7.2 deaths per 1,000, up from 6.8. We are going in the wrong direction toward our state goal of 6.0 by 2020.<sup>2</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Until we see a serious reduction in the risk factors associated with poverty in our communities, we will likely have high infant mortality rates in Ohio. Meaningful investments to address poverty-related problems - hunger, access to medical care, and more - must be a priority. Investments that target health-related concerns can have an impact too. Franklin County, for example, saw a nearly 10% decrease by emphasizing safe-sleep practices, helping pregnant women receive pre-natal care, and more.<sup>3</sup> The March of Dimes has found that a ½ pound increase in birth weight - a result of healthy nutrition and pre-natal care - can save an average of \$12-16,000 in first year medical expenses.<sup>4</sup> This is a problem we can solve.



INFANT MORTALITY IN OHIO WAS ALREADY BAD, BUT THE DATA SHOW IT'S GETTING WORSE - ESPECIALLY FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN BABIES. **OUR RATE IS 15% HIGHER THAN THE NATION OVERALL (6.85 VS. 5.82)<sup>1</sup>.**

SOURCE: CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL<sup>1</sup>

# HUNGER

(A person is food insecure (hungry) if they are without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of nutritious food.)

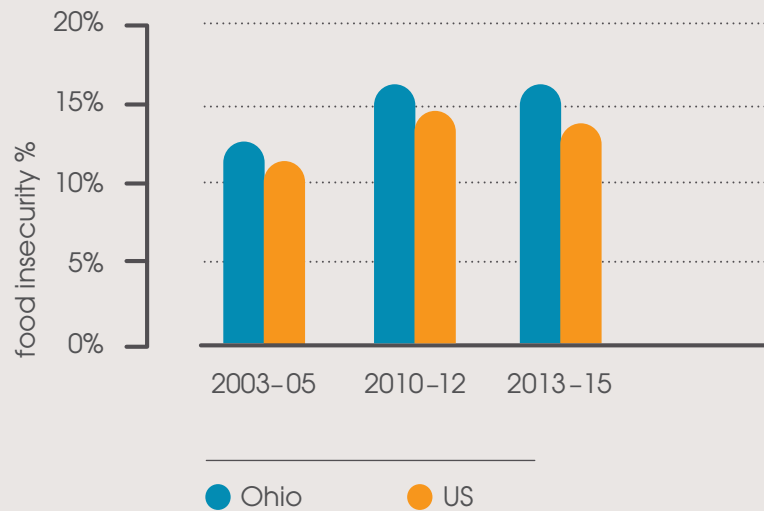


## LOOKING BACK

Ohio's hunger rate is a result of poverty. The rate has remained steady for each of the past two 3-year periods tracked by the USDA (2010-2012 and 2013-2015), up considerably from the pre-recession rates a decade ago (16.1% vs. 12.6% in 2003-2005). 85% of hungry households with children have an adult who works, and the rise in low-wage jobs makes it unlikely that this trend will stop any time soon.

## LOOKING FORWARD

In order for hunger rates to go down, the economy will need to improve for low-income people. In the meantime, we should be doing everything we can to end hunger for Ohioans, especially for Ohio's children. Feeding America estimates that it would cost just \$911 million to end hunger in Ohio<sup>6</sup> - far less than the impact of income tax changes in the last budget. Not only would this alleviate Ohioans' suffering, it will lead to better outcomes in education, mental health, and other health care costs.



HUNGER RATES IN OHIO REMAIN PERSISTENTLY HIGH. **16.1% OF OHIOANS HAD DIFFICULTY PROVIDING ENOUGH FOOD FOR ALL THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS DUE TO POVERTY,** COMPARED TO 13.7% NATIONALLY.<sup>5</sup>

SOURCE: USDA<sup>5</sup>



# HOME FORECLOSURE

(The number of mortgaged homes where homeowners are unable to make their payments.)



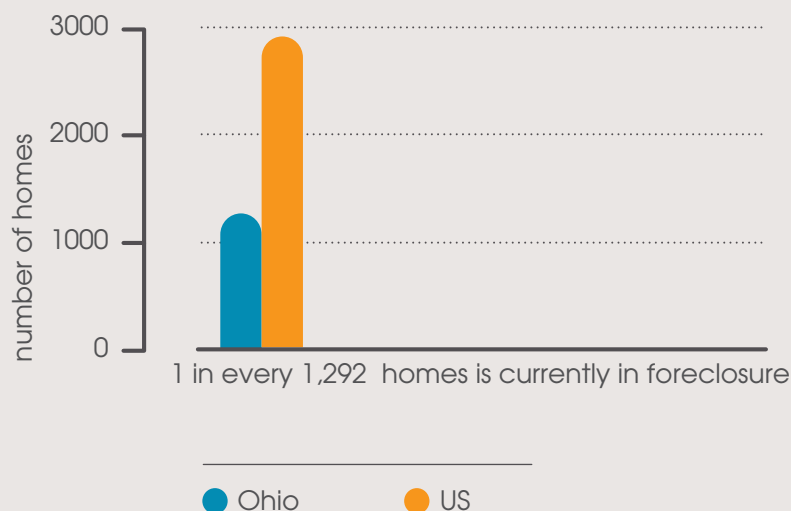
**40<sup>th</sup>**  
National Ranking

## LOOKING BACK

Many Ohio families struggle to find housing stability because they lack the financial resources to acquire safe, decent, and affordable housing. The scarcity of affordable housing was made worse by the sub-prime mortgage crisis that contributed to the 2008 recession. Like any crisis situation, housing instability can lead to families spiraling out of control and struggling to regain normalcy. With so many foreclosed upon homes, many sit empty and begin to decay. These vacant properties lower home values, attract crime, and undercut the local property tax base that funds schools and public services. Although rents in Ohio remain more affordable than many other states, they're still out of reach for anyone who earns less than \$14.45 an hour.<sup>8</sup> In recent history, Ohio has seen slight improvements. Last year, Ohio was 46th in the nation for foreclosures with a rate of 1 in every 1,017 homes. However, our improvement remain sluggish.

## LOOKING FORWARD

To create housing stability, Ohio needs to increase the number of households with living wage jobs. A family needs to earn more than \$30,000 a year to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio, yet too many families don't earn enough.<sup>1d</sup> While Ohio continues to explore ways to grow our economy, legislators should invest in a continuum of housing services to create housing stability, so that those living on the edge can regain stability. For example, increased funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund will provide valuable public dollars to help make this a reality.



**OHIO'S HIGH FORECLOSURE RATE CONTINUES TO SLOW OUR ECONOMY AND HURT OHIO COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES.** 1 IN EVERY 1,292 HOMES IN OHIO IS IN FORECLOSURE.<sup>7</sup> HOMEOWNERSHIP AND HOUSING STABILITY ARE CORNERSTONES TO THE AMERICAN DREAM.

SOURCE: REALTY TRAC<sup>7</sup>

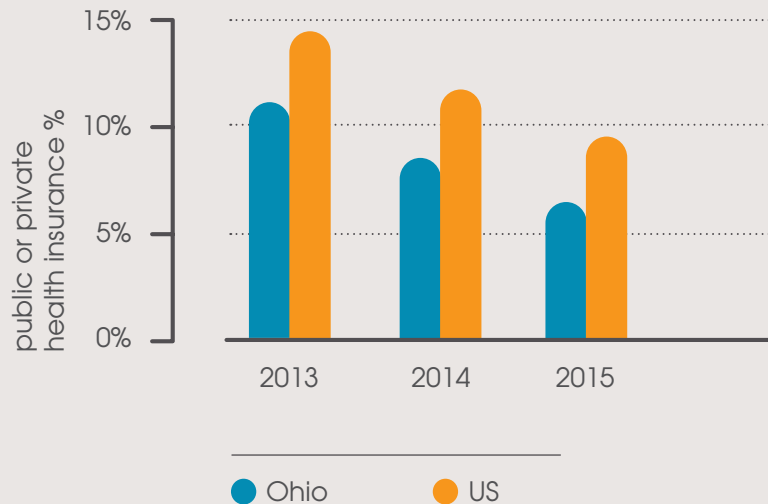
# HEALTH INSURANCE

(The percentage of the population in Ohio that has public or private health insurance.)



## LOOKING BACK

For the majority of the 20th century, health insurance was obtained through your employer or through government programs for the poor or elderly. As our economy has shifted away from large employers of industry, it has created a crisis where too many Americans lacked health insurance. The federal passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 decreased the uninsured population in Ohio and across the nation, with the most notable changes beginning in 2014. The overall population without health insurance decreased in Ohio from 11 to 6.5% in two years (a decrease of 40%). Nationally, it has decreased from 14.5% to 9.4% over the same time (a decrease of 35%). With the acceptance of Medicaid expansion, 700,000 Ohioans gained health insurance.



WITH MEDICAID EXPANSION CONTINUING, **OHIO SAW A 22% REDUCTION OF UNINSURED OHIOANS, BRINGING OUR UNINSURED RATE DOWN TO 6.5%.** THIS REPRESENTS A 40% DECREASE IN OHIO'S UNINSURED RATE SINCE 2013.<sup>9</sup>

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS<sup>9</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ensuring every Ohioan will require federal and state policy changes that leave no one behind, likely through further improvements that build on the Medicaid expansion. Medicaid represents about 4% of Ohio's economy, insures 45% of Ohio's children and covers about half of all births in the state.<sup>10</sup> Now that more people have access to health insurance, state policy should focus on how to turn that into better healthcare by providing incentives for medical clinics and doctors to set up and do outreach in historically underserved communities in rural and urban Ohio. For example, 20% of Americans live in a community without enough primary care doctors, and 30% of Americans live in communities without enough mental health practitioners.<sup>11</sup> Ohio leads the nation in opiate overdose deaths.<sup>12</sup> Developing incentives and investing in health services in underserved areas could improve Ohio's health while fighting the opiate epidemic.



# EDUCATION



EDUCATED OHIOANS ARE THE BACKBONE OF A STRONG ECONOMY - WE HAVE TO DO BETTER.

Education leads to wage growth and business possibilities. But, Ohio is barely keeping up on pre-k investment, falling behind in high school graduation, and college affordability is at a breaking point.

21st century success - and ensuring our kids and grandkids have opportunities in Ohio - depends on education. It's time to get serious about investment.

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

(The main metric used to track student achievement at public, 4 year high schools.)

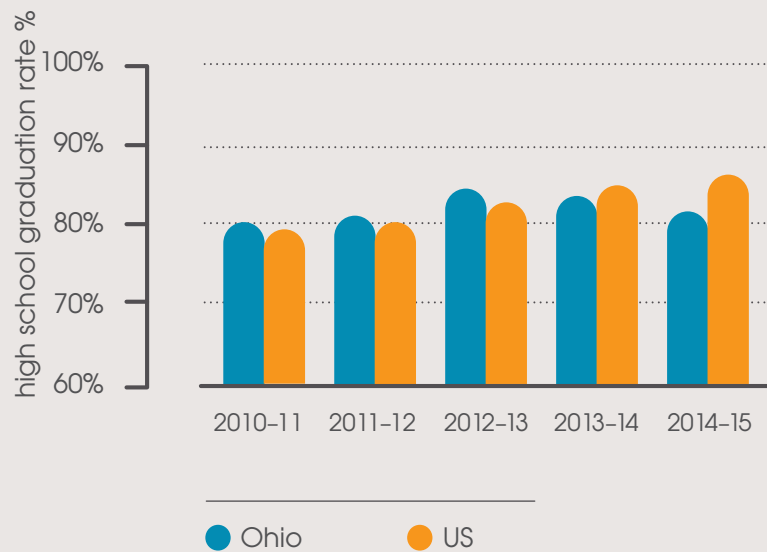


## LOOKING BACK

Ohio's failure to invest in a 21st century education system has left Ohio's schools static. Ohio's graduation rate over the past 5 years has remained relatively unchanged (.7% increase) while the national average has increased 5.3%. A major contributing factor to Ohio falling behind in graduation rates is related to a lack of equity in education. White students are 24% more likely to graduate than their African American peers (ranking Ohio 47th for racial disparity) and low-income students are 12% less likely to graduate than the overall population in Ohio (ranking us 45th for income disparity).

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs to create equity and adequacy in our educational system to improve high school graduation. Ohio needs to develop equity based on income, race, geography, and more.. Rural districts in Ohio continue to struggle with tight budgets. Students in districts with wealth are more likely to take AP classes in high school than students from low-income districts (60% to 10% likelihood).<sup>14</sup> With continued inequality based on wealth, too many Ohio students will continue to fall behind. Investments into early childhood education today will help prepare students for kindergarten and 1st grade. This not only helps those individual students, but allows the teachers to move more quickly through material for all the students. With continued and targeted assistance to these specific populations that are struggling the most, Ohio can be a leader in public education.



**OHIO'S GRADUATION RATE OF 80.7% DECREASED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND IS FALLING FARTHER BEHIND THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. OUR RACIAL GRADUATION GAP IS 24% - ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE NATION.**<sup>13</sup>

SOURCE: GOVERNING<sup>13</sup>



# COLLEGE TUITION

(The average cost of a full-time education at Ohio's public colleges and universities.)

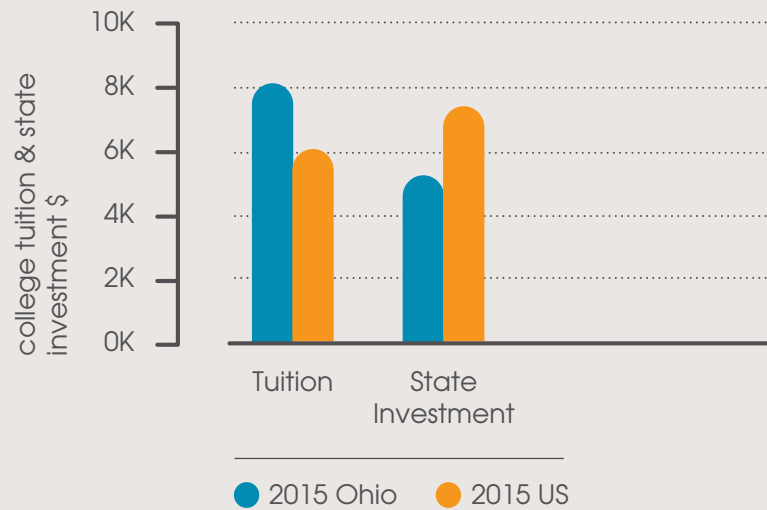


## LOOKING BACK

Public colleges and universities are financed primarily by 1) state investment into systems of higher education and 2) tuition paid by students and their families. The rise in tuition is largely attributed to the states failure to invest in higher education. Since 2000, Ohio has cut state investment by more than 33% per student. A similar trend has occurred nationally but with only a 21% decrease per student. Despite an increase in student enrollment of 46,000, the state of Ohio reduced our higher education budget by \$1 billion between FY 2001 and FY 2016.<sup>16</sup> Tuition fell from 2013 to 2014, but rose again in 2015.

## LOOKING FORWARD

By 2020, more than 60% of jobs in Ohio will require some type of post-secondary education.<sup>17</sup> Unless we want the economy to continue to slip out of Ohio, we need to identify ways to improve access to higher education. Increased student loan debt is not a realistic solution with current national debt over \$1.3 trillion.<sup>18</sup> Instead of the continued over-reliance on student loans, Ohio should invest to strengthen our community colleges and public four-year schools. Community college students sometimes transfer to a four-year school, but also complete certifications and short-degree programs to prepare them for the workforce today. Expansion of the Ohio College Opportunity Grant will help many working individuals be able to return to school and complete a program to move up in their field. Ohio should also restore State Share of Instruction (SSI) funding to levels pre-2005, where the state paid for 50% or more of higher education per student. While Ohio currently only covers 39.4% of the cost of higher education, we should strive to reach at least the national average of 53%.<sup>15</sup>



**STUDENTS IN OHIO PAY, ON AVERAGE, ABOUT 35% MORE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR COLLEGE.** OUR AVERAGE ANNUAL TUITION IS \$8,151 COMPARED TO \$6,006.<sup>15</sup>

SOURCE: SHEEO<sup>15</sup>

# PRE-K ENROLLMENT

(3 & 4 year olds enrolled in a class providing educational experiences for children before Kindergarten.)

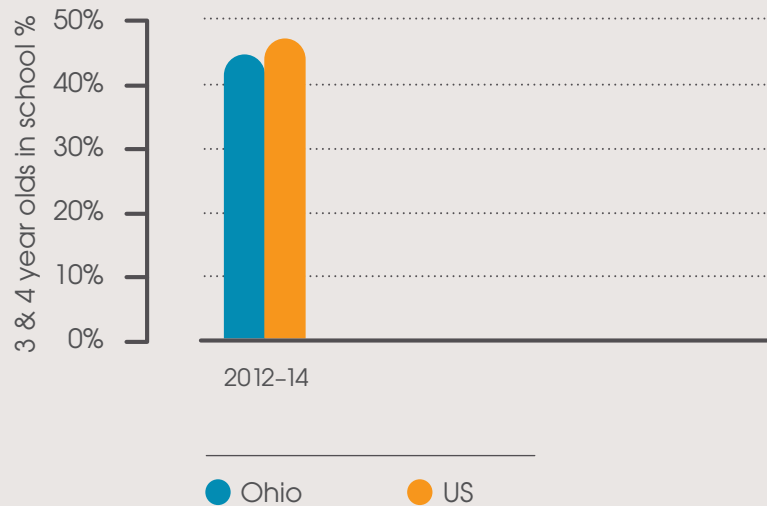


## LOOKING BACK

Ohio established its public preschool program in 1990, but legislators have never fully funded it at a level that would allow every student to access preschool in Ohio. Despite Ohio’s ranking as the 7th most populous state, we are 27th for state resources invested in preschool. In recent years, Ohio has made some progress toward improving our investment in young children. Ohio increased spending by \$15 million in the last budget (a 33% increase to \$60 million). However, we continue to trail Michigan, which invests \$243 million, Pennsylvania (\$136 million), Wisconsin (\$190 million), and Illinois (\$314 million). Without a substantial investment, we will continue to slip farther behind.<sup>20</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs a large scale investment to prioritize early childhood education. Research continues to show that preschool is a smart investment with an economic benefit of \$8 for every \$1 invested.<sup>21</sup> Preschool improves a child’s readiness to learn in the early grades and detects and reduces the need for long-term special education services. Local communities have already implemented effective strategies that the state can model statewide. Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati have all prioritized expansion of preschool programs. In fact, because school districts and local communities know the value that these programs, 61% of school districts already offer some form of preschool.<sup>22</sup> Through state investment, we can build off of these successes and strengthen early childhood educational opportunities for all of Ohio’s children.



**FROM 2012-14, 45% OF OHIO CHILDREN ATTENDED PRESCHOOL. OHIO IS TIED WITH THREE OTHER STATES, PUTTING US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK NATIONALLY FOR PRE-K ENROLLMENT.<sup>19</sup>**

SOURCE: KDSCOUNT<sup>19</sup>



# ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT



OHIO'S ECONOMY IS SLUGGISH. OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN DISREPAIR.

We have been outperformed by the country in job growth and income growth. We have major infrastructure needs that hamper our ability to be a business hub. We aren't seeing wealth spread, instead there's a rise of the low-wage economy.

It's time to get back to the basics by making investments in the foundation of the economy, areas like infrastructure and education.

# POVERTY

(Poverty is defined as a family of four earning less than \$24,300.)

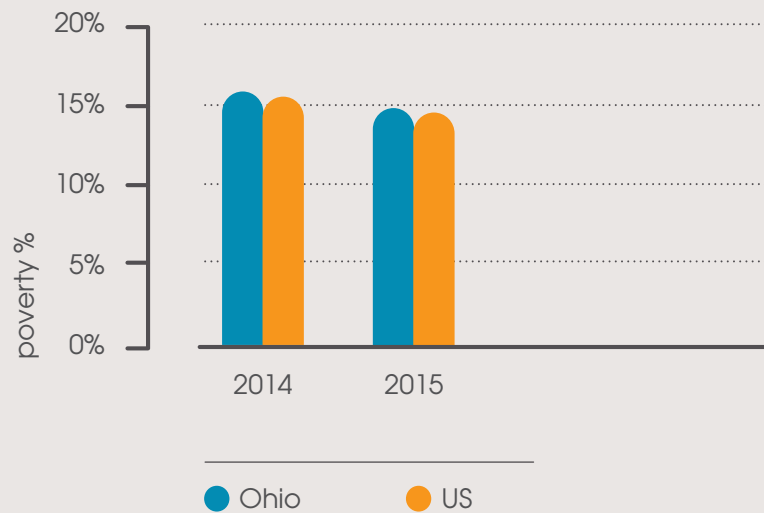


## LOOKING BACK

Poverty remains a serious issue in Ohio because incomes are not rising, job growth is not fast enough, and the sectors of employment that are growing do not pay well. Our poverty rate fell this year (from 15.8% in 2014 to 14.8% in 2015), but we remain above the national average (14.7%). We have not yet reached our pre-recession rate of 13.1% in 2007, and the last time we were below 10% was in 2000 (9.8%).<sup>23</sup> Moreover, when families making just 200% of poverty (a level often discussed as “self-sufficiency”) are included, nearly 1/3rd of families are clearly struggling.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Poverty can be alleviated by a growing economy, but it will slide backwards if our economy is sluggish. Poverty will also remain stubborn if economic gains are not broadly shared, including rising wages for low-income and middle-income Ohioans. Public assistance programs like SNAP (food stamps) are used by 14.3% of Ohioans, and they help in the short run.<sup>23</sup> But, long-term solutions have been elusive. As a result, 43% of children are now living below 200% of Federal Poverty Limit.<sup>25</sup> Solutions include programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which will ensure more money goes into the pockets of working Ohioans who need a boost as they work to get ahead.



**1 IN 7 OHIO HOUSEHOLDS (14.8%) LIVE IN POVERTY.**<sup>23</sup> NEARLY 1/3RD ARE AT 200% OF POVERTY - A LEVEL OF INCOME THAT MAKES IT VERY HARD TO GET BY.<sup>24</sup>

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS<sup>24</sup>



# MEDIAN INCOME

(Median household income is the halfway point of income. Half of households earn more, half earn less.)

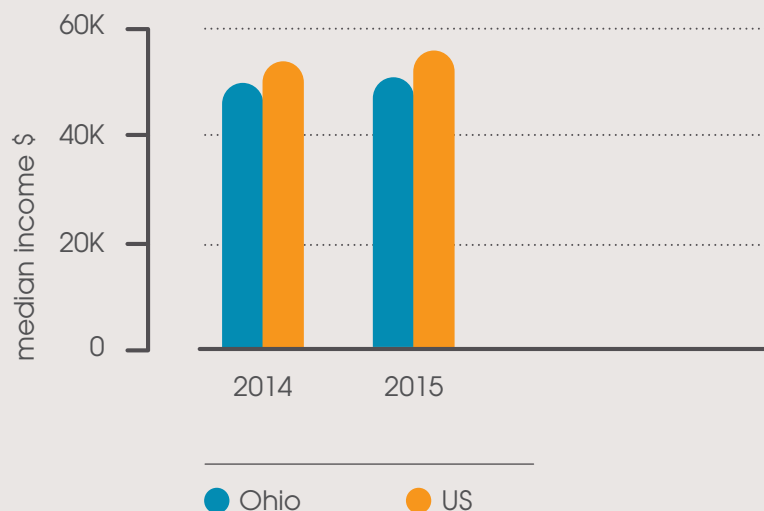


## LOOKING BACK

Median household income is not rising because the fastest growing job sectors - food service, health care, retail sales, and more - do not pay wages above the current median.<sup>27</sup> As Ohio's economy has shifted from a manufacturing economy to a service economy, we have not been able to keep up. While our median income did rise in the past year, our rates did not keep up with the nation's so we remain 8.4% behind. Ohio saw a 3.5% growth in wages between 2014 and 2015, compared to a 3.8% growth rate for the nation.<sup>26</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

To see median income growth as a state over the long term, we will need to focus on a well-educated workforce, as there is a clear correlation between wages and education. In the shorter term, effective workforce development and higher minimum wage laws could be effective as well. Economists are predicting wage growth will continue in 2017, but there are also widespread concerns about looming economic woes.<sup>28</sup> Median wage concerns hit the hardest in African American families, where children in Ohio are growing up in homes making 2/3rds less than their white counterparts.<sup>29</sup> We must prioritize median wage growth as a metric that will impact nearly every other determinant for success in Ohio.



**OHIO CONTINUES TO TRAIL THE NATION IN HOUSEHOLD WAGES (\$51,075 TO \$55,775).** WITHOUT WAGE GROWTH, NEARLY EVERY OTHER MAJOR CHALLENGE IN OHIO WILL BE HARD TO SOLVE.<sup>26</sup>

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS<sup>26</sup>

# UNEMPLOYMENT

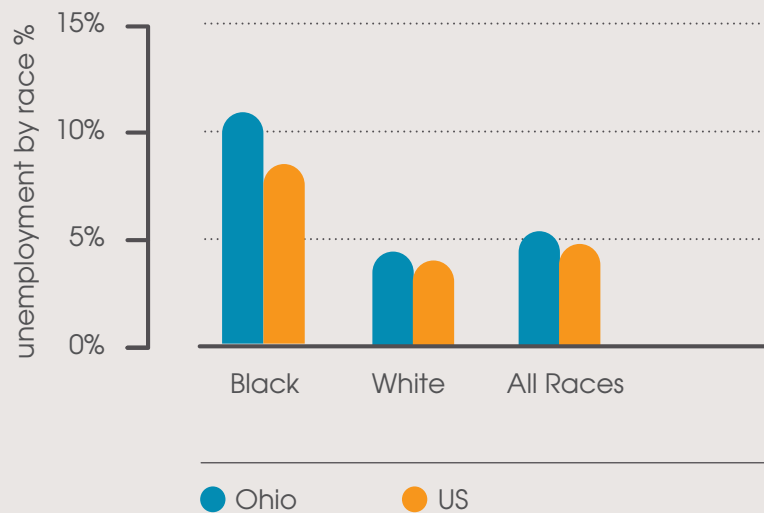
(Unemployment is calculated by a ratio of people not employed who are in the labor force.)



## LOOKING BACK

At the end of 2015, Ohio’s unemployment was 4.8% and now we are 4.9%. However, the national unemployment rate dropped from 5% to 4.7%. Ohio is sitting stagnant, while others are continuing to grow their economies at a faster rate. In December of 2009, at the height of the recession, Ohio’s unemployment rate was 11%.

Ohio’s workforce participation rate, which is a measure of working aged adults who are actively engaged in the workforce, (either employed or seeking work) is low. The workforce participation rate nationally is also low, but showing signs of improvement since the fall of 2015 (increasing .5% to 63.9%). However, the state of Ohio remains sluggish with a work force participation rate of 62.3%.<sup>31</sup>



**OHIO’S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT THE END OF 2016 WAS 4.9%.** THIS IS ABOVE THE NATIONAL RATE OF 4.7%. IN THE PAST YEAR, OHIO DROPPED FROM 24TH TO 31ST AS OTHER STATE ECONOMIES ARE GROWING MUCH QUICKER THAN OHIO’S.<sup>30</sup>

SOURCE: ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE <sup>30</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs more months of job creation and people re-entering the workforce to really grow our economy. The foundations of a strong economy are reliable infrastructure and a well-educated workforce. Investments in these areas will attract jobs and encourage people to grow businesses in Ohio. We will also need to work toward an economy with jobs that pay a living wage. We cannot build our economy on just the service sector and entry level positions. Investments into research and development, healthcare, technology access, and other industries will help grow Ohio’s economy and create the new jobs needed. In the meantime, Ohio needs to maintain a strong unemployment compensation system. Once a person loses their benefits, they are more likely to fall out of the workforce. Unemployment compensation, along with other benefits, can keep a family stable so that they can return to employment after a temporary period of unemployment.

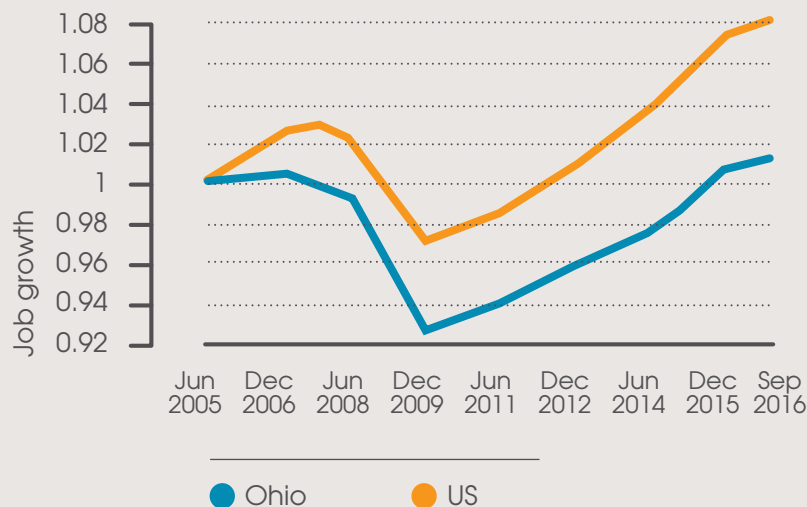


# JOB GROWTH (The rate of new jobs added or subtracted from the economy.)



## LOOKING BACK

Ohio has had sluggish job growth for years as the U.S. economy shifts from a manufacturing base to a more service-oriented economy. Through downsizing, automation, and manufacturing jobs going overseas, Ohio has lost many good paying jobs. The closing of a factory not only hurts those employees, but the teachers, restaurants, and stores that supported those workers. In recent history, Ohio continues to trail the nation in job growth. Since June of 2005, (when Ohio began the tax cutting experiment to spur job growth) Ohio has only had an increase of around 80,000 jobs or 1.5% compared to a national growth rate of 7.1%. Likewise, since the recession, Ohio has gained only 75,300 jobs or a rate of 1.4% compared to a national rate of 4.0%. For the calendar year of 2016, Ohio saw a job growth rate of 0.63% compared to a national job growth rate of 1.41%.<sup>32</sup>



**OHIO'S JOB GROWTH RATE CONTINUED TO TRAIL THE NATIONAL GROWTH RATE - DROPPING OHIO 3 SPOTS FROM LAST YEAR. WE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY UNABLE TO MATCH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**<sup>30</sup>

SOURCE: U.S BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS<sup>30</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs a well-rounded approach to growing our economy and creating living wage jobs. Through targeted public investments we can rebuild our infrastructure, train the workforce of tomorrow, and attract new businesses to start and grow here. Another key step to creating new jobs is encouraging and empowering students to stay in Ohio after high school or college graduation. By lowering college costs, and reducing debt, students will have more capital to invest. Moreover, Affordable tuition can attract the best and brightest from other states. A strong economy can fix many of our other problems. However, after more than a decade of tax cuts and tax shifting we have not seen the results in Ohio. Other states that adopted similar strategies - such as Kansas - are reversing course and seeking new revenue for education and other critical public investments to grow their economy.<sup>33</sup>

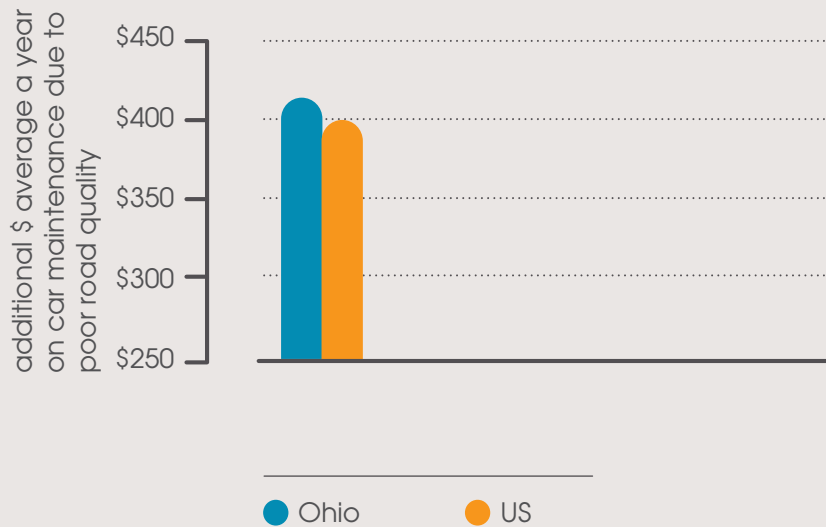
# INFRASTRUCTURE

*(The physical structures needed for transportation, communication, energy delivery, and waste removal.)*



## LOOKING BACK

Ohio, and most states, have failed to invest adequately to maintain their infrastructure that was built decades ago. In 2013, it was estimated that 15% of Ohio’s roads are in poor condition - costing the average Ohio driver an additional \$413 a year - and nearly 1 in 4 Ohio bridges are functionally obsolete or structurally deficient.<sup>34</sup> The price tag will continue to grow if Ohio delays routine maintenance. Recently, Ohio has moved some new resources into infrastructure projects. For example, Ohio’s capital budget begins to tackle the \$500 million backlog of maintenance within our state parks.<sup>35</sup> However, state investments into state-owned resources will not be enough because much of the infrastructure in Ohio is actually controlled by local communities. For example, Ohio will need an estimated \$14 billion in wastewater treatment investments and an additional \$12 billion for clean water infrastructure over the next 20 years.



**INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDES ALL THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES NEEDED FOR A COMMUNITY TO FUNCTION -**

INCLUDING UTILITIES, ROADS, RAILS, BRIDGES, COMMUNICATIONS, SANITATION AND MUCH MORE. WITH THE DIVERSITY OF STATES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCURATELY COMPARE ONE TO ANOTHER.

SOURCE: INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD<sup>34</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs to think long-term about our infrastructure needs, and guarantee that we have adequate revenue to fund not only maintenance, but improvements to create 21st century transportation, energy, and communications systems. Investments into high-speed internet are a necessity for businesses in remote areas. Likewise, investments into state and county roads and bridges improves road safety and will create jobs. While many people are excited about the potential of new national infrastructure investments, we need to remember that state and local government cover more than 75% of infrastructure spending.<sup>36</sup> While new federal investment can create new opportunities, day-to-day maintenance and growth will rely on state and local governments.



# INEQUALITY



OPPORTUNITY IN OHIO IS  
TOO OFTEN DETERMINED  
BY RACE, CLASS,  
GENDER, AND MORE.

We need to take inequality in Ohio head on, especially for children. Characteristics we are born with should not influence our lives to the degree that they do.

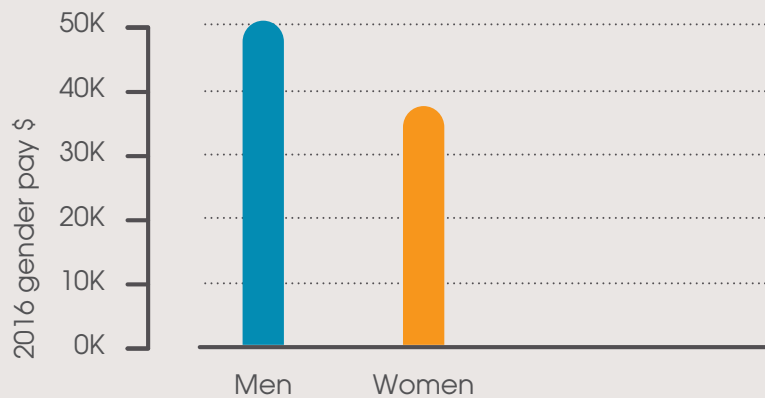
We should aim to stamp out inequality in all its forms.

# MEDIAN WAGE BY GENDER (The median wage of women compared to the median wage of men.)



## LOOKING BACK

Women continue to face discrimination in Ohio and throughout the country. Some of this is explicit discrimination by a male employer who treats women poorly, and other times the inequality reflects ingrained policies - both public and corporate - that penalize women. Policies such as time off, maternity leave, proximity to daycare, family-friendly working conditions, and much more contribute to the pay gap. The result of the paygap and other discriminatory factors is that women struggle with poverty at a rate 27% greater than men. Inequality between men and women doesn't begin and end with the pay gap either. In retirement, for example, women's pension, social security, and other benefits are also lower because of earning less. Women are more likely to enroll in college than men. In 1994, 66% of white women graduating high school enrolled in college, while only 62% of white men did. In 2012, women outpaced men in each racial category for college enrollment. Increased educational enrollment helps to lessen the paygap, but that alone will not be enough.



**WOMEN IN OHIO EARN A MEDIAN WAGE OF \$37,365 - 75% OF WHAT MEN EARN IN OHIO. THE NATIONAL PAY GAP IS 5% BETTER, AT 80%.<sup>37</sup>**

SOURCE: AMERICAN ASSOC. UNIVERSITY WOMEN<sup>37</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Gender inequality will take a long time to overcome in both the hearts of people and in our public policies. The state, however, can take steps immediately to improve the working conditions for women. The state needs to invest in workforce protections for women, and invest in appropriate policies to protect workers regardless of gender. Appropriate maternity, paternity, and sick-leave policies can help close the paygap. Investments into early childhood education and childcare policies will assist working mothers receive further education in order to be successful.



# HOME OWNERSHIP BY RACE

(The disparity between the rate at which white households are classified as homeowners and the rate at which black households are classified as homeowners.)



## LOOKING BACK

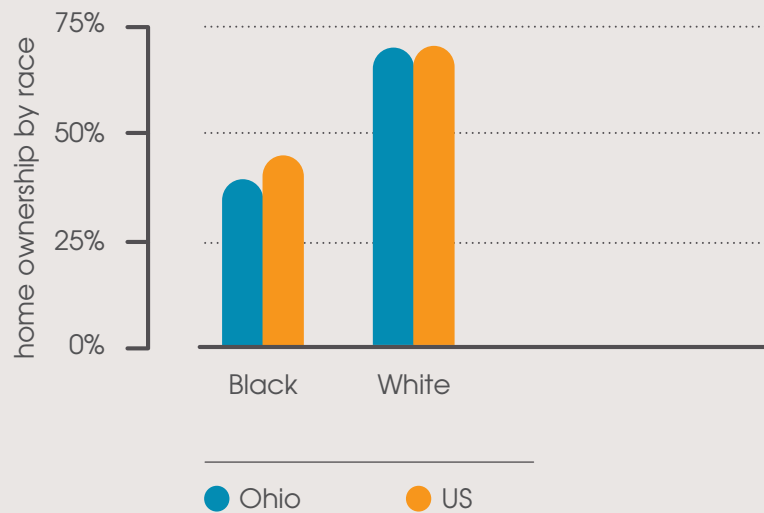
71% of white families in Ohio and nationally are homeowners, compared to 38.8% of African American households in Ohio. This trails the national average of African American homeownership rates of 44.4%. The disparity of home ownership in Ohio between the races can be traced to many issues. For example, wealth is passed from generation to generation, and without the legacy of wealth, families struggle to enter into the middle class. In addition to a lack of wealth, research has found that discrimination continues to exist in housing.<sup>39</sup>

PREVIOUS 12

NEXT 10

## LOOKING FORWARD

It will take a lot of work to undo our history of slavery, Jim Crow, and housing segregation in Ohio (and across the country). Segregation in housing is one of the legacies of systemically racist public policies that we can all agree were wrong. To right these inequities and help improve neighborhoods and home ownership, we can invest in community development corporations and other efforts. Improving equity in the home ownership rate would be one of the biggest steps toward economic racial equality because it would reduce the wealth gap by 1/3.<sup>40</sup> This would allow African American families to build wealth to pass along to the next generation, to invest in new businesses, to send kids to college, and much more. Addressing the housing gap will be essential to address all of the racial gaps that continue to exist in our communities.



HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES ARE ONE METRIC TO MEASURE “THE AMERICAN DREAM.” **THAT DREAM IS NOT AS OBTAINABLE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OHIO AS IT IS FOR THEIR WHITE NEIGHBORS, WHO ARE 45% MORE LIKELY TO BE HOMEOWNERS.**<sup>38</sup>

SOURCE: CORP. FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOP.<sup>38</sup>

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BY INCOME

*(The disparity between students from low income homes and the general public in achieving a high school diploma.)*

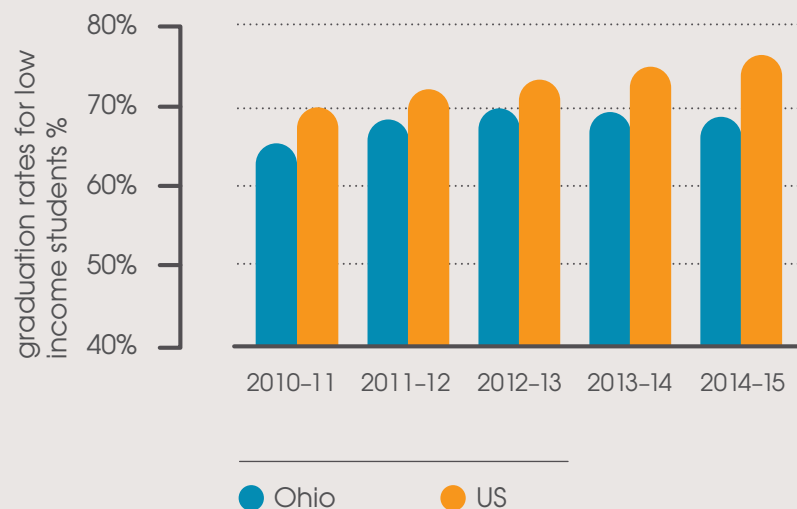


## LOOKING BACK

Students struggling with housing, food security, and other issues of poverty are more likely to struggle in school. “Poverty has adverse effects on language through both effects on parenting and increased stress, suggesting opportunities for early detection and treatment.”<sup>42</sup> Our education system can address these inequalities and help students break the cycle of poverty. In Ohio, students from low-income families are likely to live in resource-strapped school districts, yet we continue to have an over-reliance on property taxes to fund our public schools. Since the 2010-11 school year, Ohio’s low-income student graduation rate has improved from 65% to 68%, but the national rate has improved from 70% to 76% - a rate of growth that is nearly double ours.<sup>41</sup>

## LOOKING FORWARD

Ohio needs to focus on equity and adequacy in education funding to reduce economic inequality in education. We need to lift the floor so that everyone has an opportunity to succeed. Education is one key component to break the cycle of poverty. Kids coming from low-income households may need additional resources to catch up or maintain a decent educational footing while struggling with the realities of poverty. Expansion of our investments in early childhood education - including pre-k, all-day kindergarten, and special education - will also play an essential role in helping students from low-income households succeed.



**STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOMES IN OHIO ARE ONLY 68.7% LIKELY TO GRADUATE, COMPARED TO 80% OVERALL. THIS IS BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS WITH IS 76.5%.<sup>41</sup>**

SOURCE: GOVERNING<sup>41</sup>



# METHODOLOGY

## OUR QUICK REVIEW RANKING SYSTEM: THUMBS

A thumbs up 👍 was given for national rankings where Ohio performed better than half of the states. A thumbs down 👎 was given when Ohio was below the national average. However, a thumbs up does not mean success. We are disappointed when The Ohio State University Football team is ranked 25th; we should not settle for a middle-of-the-road ranking when all children are not being prepared properly to begin school.

## WHY THESE METRICS

The data points selected from the hundreds of possibilities attempted to address issues that impact everyday Ohioans. People wonder if they'll be able to afford a home, if our neighbors have enough to eat, and whether or not our children are getting the education they need to succeed. These statistics are by no means completely inclusive of all the intricacies of a particular issue. These metrics are intended to paint a big-picture view of Ohio.

Data can be used to shed a lot of light or to confuse and mislead the reader. For the metrics selected, we attempted to demonstrate the most basic definition with the most commonly used statistic for that metric. Definitions of the metric are incorporated into each page to explain as clearly as possible what we mean. For some metrics, Ohio and other states differ very slightly or changes indicated over time might be small. Most data sets we referenced indicated the level of statistical confidence and statistical significance in their footnotes. If you are looking for a more mathematical understanding of these data points, we encourage you to look to the original data sources for their analysis.

## THE YEAR OF THE DATA

Because of calculation limitations, some annual data is released toward the end of the following year. So, while data may say it is from 2014, it is the most current data available. Other data sets are averages over a period of time (such as 2011 – 2014). This is often done to avoid statistical anomalies that can occur in a given snapshot. To the best of our ability, we compared similar time frames. Three main "years" are used in this data and mentioned throughout - fiscal year (e.g. July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016), calendar year (January 1-December 31), and school year (August-June).

## AVOID BIAS THROUGH WEIGHTS

Other reports often will rank policy inputs or provide weighted influence to their preferred policies. The data used in this report is not weighted to give any advantage. The impact of weighting creates wildly varying scores and data, while the related policy approaches can be minor and sometimes unnoticeable. We want to honestly track the core metrics that will give us an idea of how Ohio is doing compared to the country. If you have suggestions for additional or different metrics or data we should use toward this end, please let us know.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This report has been prepared by:*

**NICK BATES, DM, JD:** Outreach Director for One Ohio Now

**GAVIN DEVORE LEONARD:** State Director for One Ohio Now

*We would like to thank the work put in by many individuals and organizations including:*

The One Ohio Now Steering Committee members

One Ohio Now's over 100 endorsing organizations

Vera Soper & Jerad Raines

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# ENDORERS

## A

ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women  
AFSCME Ohio Council 8  
AIR Inc.  
All Aboard Ohio  
America Votes Ohio  
Asian Services In Action

## C

Center for Working Class Studies – Youngstown State University  
Children’s Defense Fund – Ohio  
Church for All People  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Cleveland Tenants Organization  
Clintonville Beechwold Community Resources Center  
Clintonville For Change  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)  
Columbus Jobs with Justice  
Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council (MACC)  
Common Cause, Ohio  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area (CAP-Dayton)  
Community Partners for Affordable Accessible Health Care (CPAAHC)  
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)

## D

Democratic Voices of Ohio

## E

Ecumenical Communities for a Compassionate Ohio (ECCOHIO)  
Education Service Center of Lake Erie West  
Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People (ESOP)  
The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland  
Environmental Health Watch  
Equality Ohio

## F

Findlay Hope House for the Homeless, Inc.  
Faith in Public Life  
Forging Responsible Youth

## G

Georgetown Federation of Teachers  
Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless  
Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone

## H

Havar, Inc.  
Hispanic Alliance, Inc.  
The Hunger Network in Ohio

## I

Innovation Ohio  
IUE-CWA

## L

Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio  
LiveCLEVELAND!  
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry

## M

Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative (MVOC)

## N

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio Chapter  
Neighborhood Solutions, Inc.  
Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH)  
Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee  
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless  
Northern Ohioans for Budget and Legislation Equality (NOBLE)

## O

Ohio AFL-CIO  
Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans  
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies  
Ohio Association of Free Clinics  
Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO)  
Ohio Community Development Corporation (CDC) Association  
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) Local 11/AFSCME  
Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding  
Ohio Communities United  
Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)  
Ohio Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Ohio Conference on Fair Trade  
Ohio Congress of Parents and Teachers (Ohio PTA)  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Ohio Education Association (OEA)  
Ohio Environmental Council (OEC)  
Ohio Farmers Union  
Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)  
Ohio National Organization for Women (NOW)

Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC)  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
Ohio Poverty Law Center  
Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA)  
Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA)  
Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)  
Ohio Student Association  
Ohio Voice  
Ohio Voter Fund  
Ohio Votes  
Ohio Youth Voices  
Organize! Ohio  
Over-the-Rhine Community Housing

## P

People’s Empowerment Coalition of Ohio (PEC)  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Ohio  
Policy Matters Ohio  
ProgressOhio  
Putting People First

## R

Rahab’s Hideaway  
Results Cincinnati  
Results Columbus

## S

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 1199  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1

## T

Tapestry  
Toledo Jobs with Justice

## U

UHCAN Ohio  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1059  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 75  
The University of Akron AAUP

## W

We are the Uninsured  
We Believe Ohio  
Working America  
Wright State University AAUP

## Y

The Youth Empowerment Program

# INVESTING IN OHIO'S FUTURE.

