

Stark County Community Assessment 2019 Edition

Indicators of Health, Social and
Economic Conditions



Dear Stark County,

As many of you may know, Stark Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Stark County were instrumental in the development of the 2017, data-driven *Strengthening Stark* report. The data revealed our county will continue to get smaller, older and poorer unless a major investment is made in economic development. As two organizations that care deeply about the strength and vibrancy of Stark County, we remain committed to investing in our community and recognize how the social fabric of our community plays a critical role in our economy.

In an effort to better understand our community's conditions and the people it serves, we partnered with The Center for Community Solutions to develop a comprehensive data report for Stark County. For many years, we have discussed the need for a central source of Stark County data. Data can be scattered among multiple sources, making it difficult for anyone to gain a full picture of conditions affecting our community. As grantmakers, we know how important data is in identifying needs and opportunities plus tracking and measuring our county's progress.

The *2019 Stark County Community Assessment* is meant to pull together, in one place, the most timely, relevant data on health, social, and economic conditions in Stark County. This resource is not meant to be an exhaustive compilation of all data on Stark County, but rather a curated set of data to inform decision-making. Specific indicators were selected based on their relationship to key community conditions, availability and reliability and based on feedback provided by local leaders. The following pages provide detailed data on six community conditions:

1. Stark County Overview
2. Families, Households and Neighborhoods
3. Education
4. Economics
5. Environment
6. Health

It is our intent that this data will be updated periodically to determine if our community is moving in the right direction. We recognize that work to address these indicators is underway and collaborative initiatives are showing promise and progress. In the meantime, this data will be used to create a companion piece to *Strengthening Stark* that will have a hyper focus on social conditions including recommendations for our community to consider. The publication is expected to be released early 2020.

We hope you find this resource helpful and look forward to working with all of you to improve Stark County.

Regards,

Maria Heege
President and CEO
United Way of Greater Stark County

Mark Samolczyk
President and CEO
Stark Community Foundation

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Data Sources

Researchers utilized a variety of reliable, timely, trusted sources of information to compile the data in this report. Sources for individual indicators are noted throughout the document. In addition, there are three online resources that are particularly useful for those who wish to examine data on community conditions in greater detail.

American Community Survey (ACS)

The ACS is an annual survey performed by the U.S. Census Bureau that includes data on a wide variety of demographic, social and economic variables. This data can be accessed at <http://data.census.gov/>

County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings website ranks all counties within each state on a number of health-related measures. In addition to more typical health statistics such as mortality, number of uninsured and obesity rates, County Health Rankings also measure environmental factors such as air pollution, access to healthy foods and social factors such as number of children in poverty and crime rates. The data can be downloaded from www.countyhealthrankings.org

Ohio's State Agencies

Several state agencies provide data on their websites.

- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) collects and publishes data on all school districts in Ohio. This data can be found at <http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>
- The Ohio Public Health Information Warehouse, found at <http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/EDW/DataCatalog>, is maintained by the Ohio Department of Health and contains data on a variety of health conditions.
- The research department at the Ohio Development Services Agency compiles data from a variety of sources, including many used in this assessment. It includes county profiles and a variety of economic data. This data can be found at https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_research.htm

Local Health Assessments

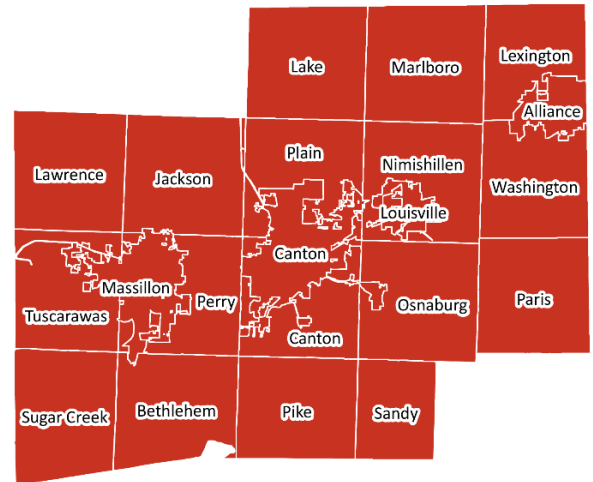
Local and county health departments and hospitals are required to complete community health assessments every three years. These reports contain a substantial amount of data on health conditions within Stark County. The 2019 Stark County Community Health Assessment is available at <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/community-health-assessment>

Stark County Overview

Stark County is located in Northeast Ohio and is part of the Canton-Massillon Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the seventh-largest county in Ohio, and is home to 3.2 percent of Ohio's population. Stark County is comprised of four cities and 17 townships, and there are 17 school districts in Stark County.



Stark County Municipalities

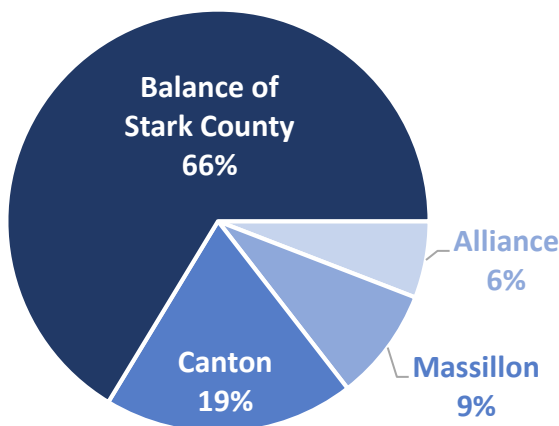


Population

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

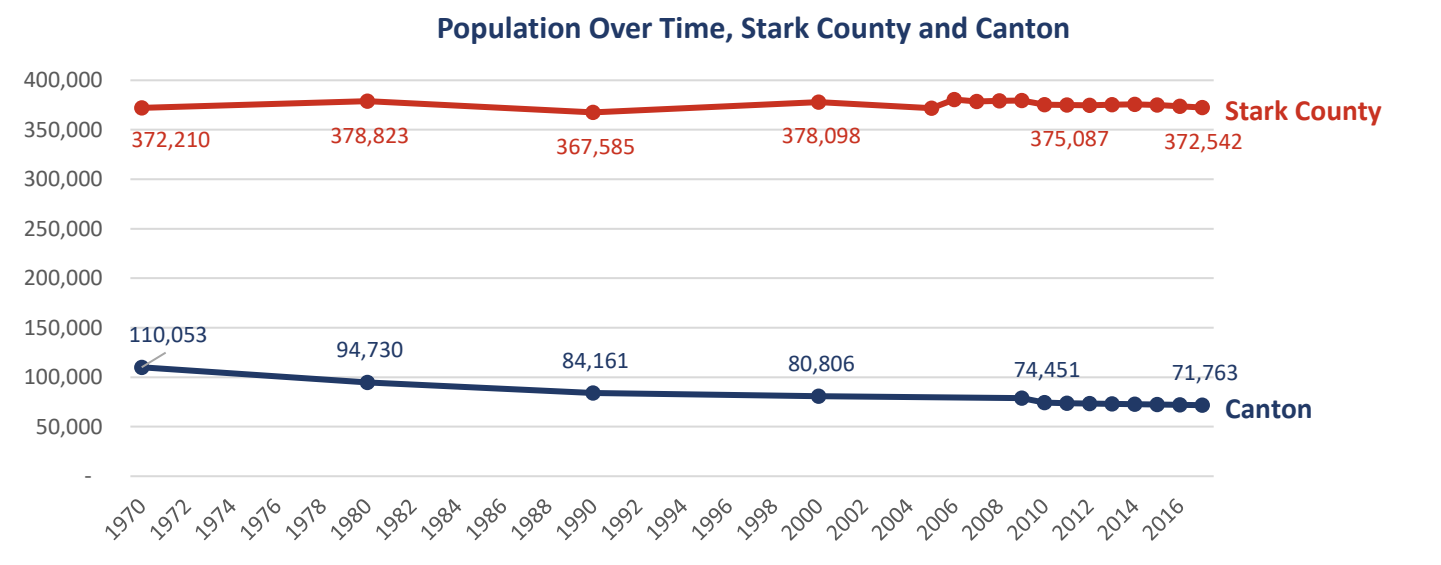
Stark County's population in 2017 was 374,273 residents. Canton has the largest population within the county with over 70,000 residents. Sandy Township is the smallest municipality within the county with an estimated 3,684 residents.

Stark County Population, Share in Largest Cities, 2017



Municipality	Population
Alliance City	21,961
Bethlehem Township	5,319
Canton City	71,763
Canton Township	13,050
Jackson Township	40,487
Lake Township	30,067
Lawrence Township	13,761
Lexington Township	5,423
Louisville City	9,332
Marlboro Township	4,381
Massillon City	32,320
Nimishillen Township	9,567
North Canton City	17,400
Osnaburg Township	5,626
Paris Township	5,692
Perry Township	28,338
Pike Township	3,963
Plain Township	35,120
Sandy Township	3,684
Sugar Creek Township	6,526
Tuscarawas Township	5,880
Washington Township	4,613

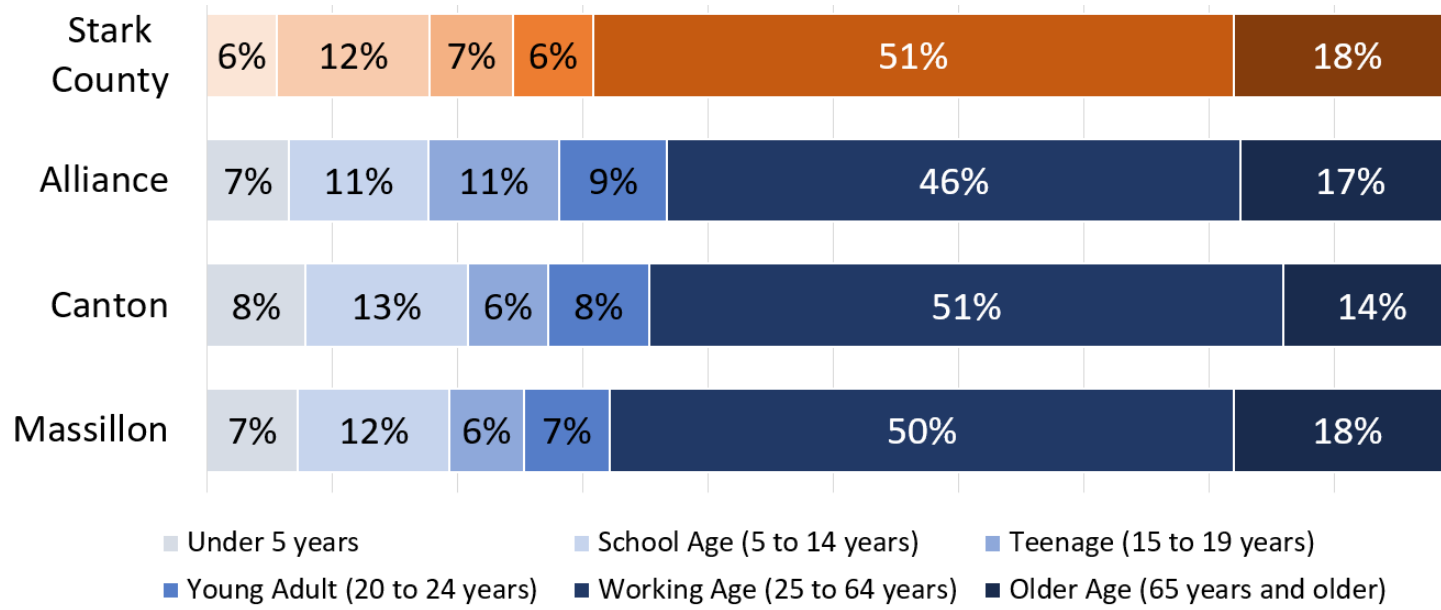
About one-third of Stark County’s residents live in the three largest cities: Alliance, Canton and Massillon. While the county’s population has remained relatively steady over the past several decades, where people are living has not. People have moved out of the central cities and into surrounding communities. Canton’s population has slowly fallen and the city has lost about 30,000 people, or 30 percent of its population, since 1970. In that year, nearly 30 percent of Stark County residents lived in Canton compared to only 19 percent today.



Age Distribution

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Stark County, like the rest of Ohio, is aging. Today, adults ages 60 and older outnumber children under age 18. Stark County has a slightly older population than Ohio as a whole, yet Canton has a slightly younger population. Alliance has the highest percentage of residents under age 25.



Race and Ethnicity

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

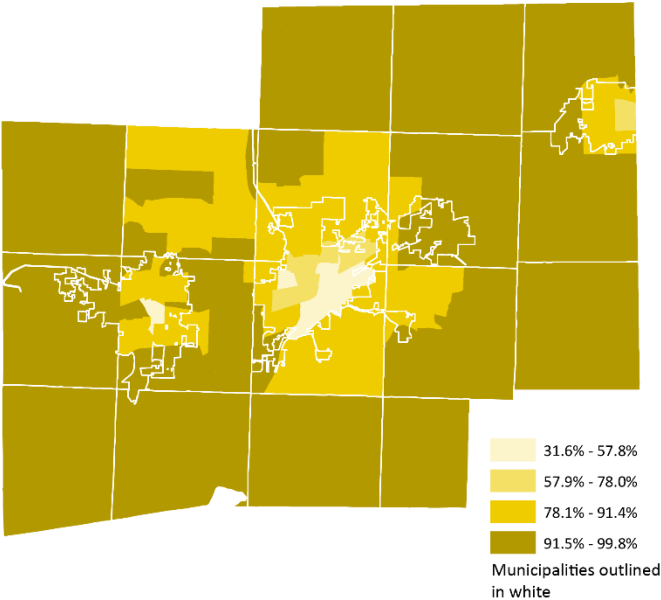
Most Stark County residents (88 percent) are white, which is more than the state average (82 percent). However, nearly 1 in 4 residents of Canton are Black, and another 6 percent identify as two or more races. The U.S. Census Bureau counts Hispanic or Latino as an ethnicity, meaning that people who identify as Hispanic or Latino can be of any race. Less than 2 percent of Stark County's population is Hispanic or Latino, but the three largest cities have slightly higher shares.

Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2017

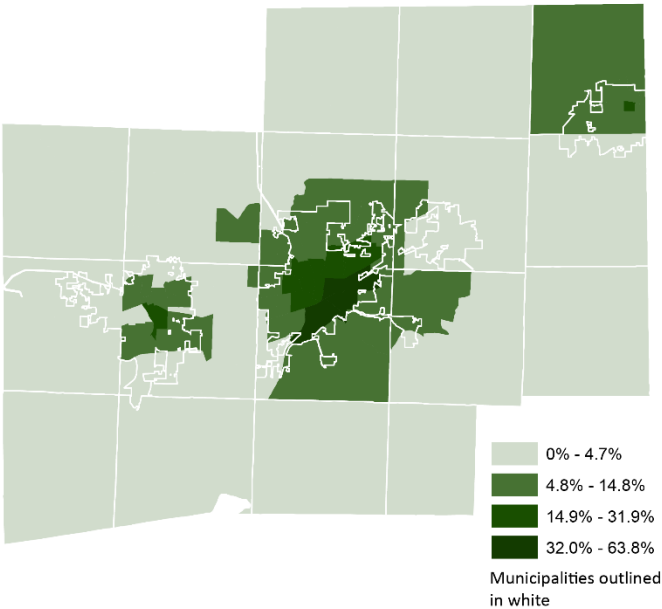
	Stark County		Alliance		Canton		Massillon	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	330,293	88.2%	18,395	83.8%	49,493	69.0%	28,396	87.9%
Black	26,706	7.1%	2,152	9.8%	16,656	23.2%	2,380	7.4%
American Indian	403	0.1%	47	0.2%	118	0.2%	64	0.2%
Asian American	3,055	0.8%	127	0.6%	288	0.4%	172	0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	67	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	0.0%	0	0.0%
Some other race	1,399	0.4%	84	0.4%	674	0.9%	69	0.2%
Two or more races	12,350	3.3%	1,156	5.3%	4,523	6.3%	1,239	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7,202	1.9%	727	3.3%	2,564	3.6%	730	2.3%

The maps below present race and ethnicity by Census Tract.

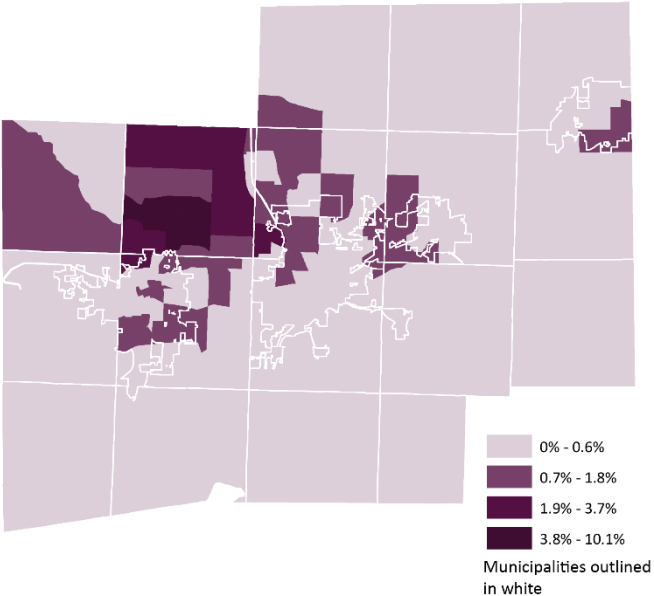
**Percent of Population that is White in
Stark County, by Census Tract**



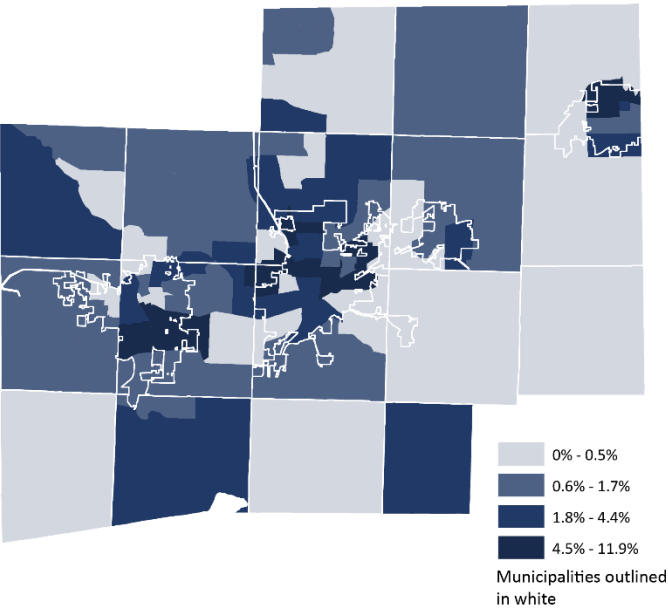
**Percent of Population that is Black in
Stark County, by Census Tract**



**Percent of Population that is Asian American in
Stark County, by Census Tract**



**Percent of Population that is Latino or Hispanic
(of any race) in Stark County, by Census Tract**



Disabilities

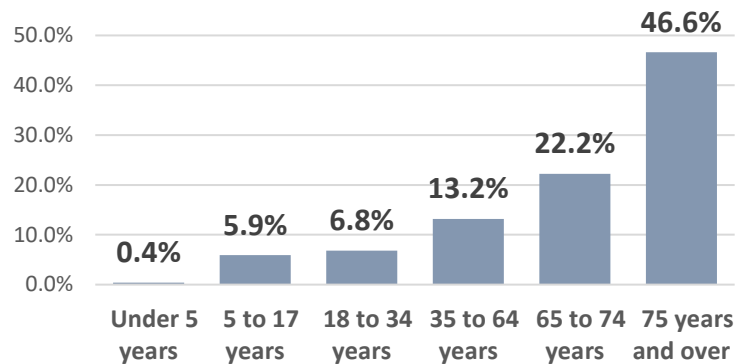
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Overall, 49,348 people in Stark County lived with a disability in 2017, which is 13.4 percent of the population. This is slightly below Ohio's rate of 13.8 percent. There are six disability types, and someone is considered to be living with a disability if they report one or more of the types of disability. These include being deaf or having serious difficulty hearing, blind or having serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses, having difficulty remembering, concentrating or making decisions because of a physical, mental or emotional problem (cognitive difficulty), having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (ambulatory difficulty), having difficulty bathing or dressing (self-care difficulty) or having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental or emotional problem (independent living difficulty).

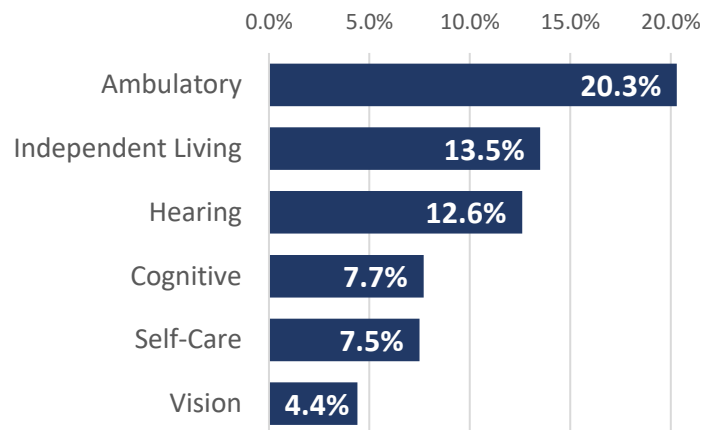
Disabilities are broadly spread among race and ethnicity and disability rates for white people and Hispanics of any race are nearly identical to the overall county rate, at 13.4 percent and 13.5 percent respectively. Rates for Black people are slightly higher (15.0 percent) and American Indian and Alaskan Native are slightly lower (11.4 percent).

The older you are, the more likely you are to live with a disability. Almost no children under age five have a disability, compared to almost half of people older than age 75. One in five older adults in Stark County live with an ambulatory disability.

Percent of People Living in Stark County with a Disability, by Age, 2017



Older Adults Ages 65 and Older with a Disability, by Type, Stark County, 2017



Families, Households and Neighborhoods

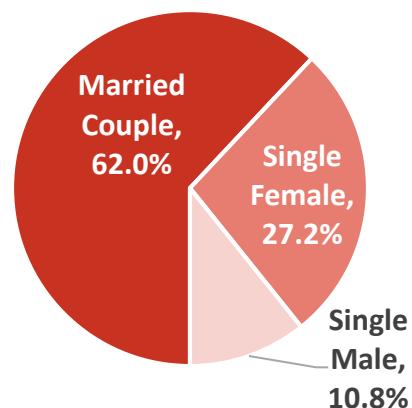
Family Structure

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

There are 154,097 households in Stark County, including 37,240 households with children. Twenty-seven percent of households have at least one member under the age of 18 and 44 percent have at least one person older than age 60. The average family size is 2.89 people but 28.7 percent of householders live alone. Two-thirds of households in Stark County live in homes that they own, while the remaining 33 percent rent.

A married couple heads more than 3 in 5 households with children in Stark County. Two parent households, when compared to single parent households, often experience improved economic stability and more ease with parental tasks (cooking, cleaning, care and transportation). Children who grow up in a household with two parents are less likely to live in poverty, more likely to meet academic benchmarks and receive better grades. However, Stark County has slightly higher rates of single parent households with children, both male and female-headed, than the Ohio average.

Head of Household, Households with Own Children, Stark County, 2017



Housing Affordability

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

When housing costs are more than 30 percent of a household's income, a family is considered to have an unaffordable housing burden. Monthly rent and utility costs are included in a renter's total burden, and owners' monthly housing costs include mortgage, second mortgage and/or home equity loans, real estate taxes, homeowners insurance, condominium fees, mobile home costs and utilities.

Housing Affordability, 2017					
		Stark County	Alliance	Canton	Massillon
OWNERS	Total occupied units	103,117	4,372	14,483	8,286
	Housing costs 30% of income or more	18,383	941	3,260	1,573
	Percent unaffordable	17.8%	21.5%	22.5%	19.0%
RENTERS	Total occupied units	45,388	3,957	15,109	4,524
	Housing costs 30% of income or more	19,878	2,030	7,621	1,987
	Percent unaffordable	43.8%	51.3%	50.4%	43.9%

Renters are more likely to be housing burdened than owners. Overall, a smaller share of Stark County residents live in unaffordable housing than the state as a whole. However, rates in Alliance and Canton are worse than both the rest of the state and county.

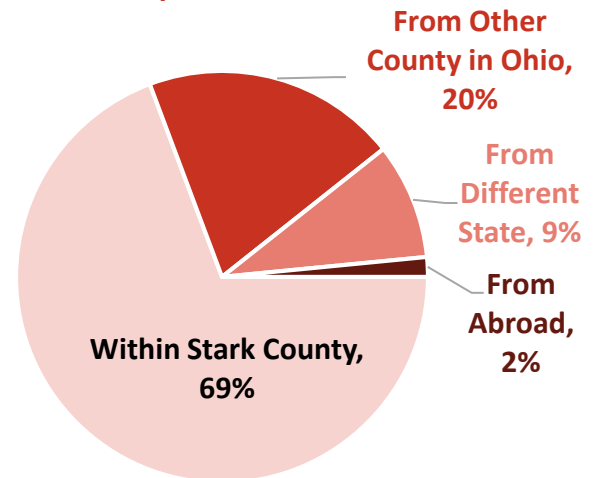
Geographic Mobility

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Overall, 87 percent of Stark County residents lived in the same home that they did one year ago. Of the 57,805 households that moved, most moved within Stark County.

The lower the income, the more likely residents are to move within the county. Seventeen percent of households who live in poverty moved within the county in the past year, compared to just 6.5 percent of those above 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Renters are more than four times as likely to move within the county as those who own their homes.

Stark County Residents Who Moved in the Last Year, by Previous Residence



Eviction

An eviction from a rental property can have a long-lasting negative impact on future housing options for families.

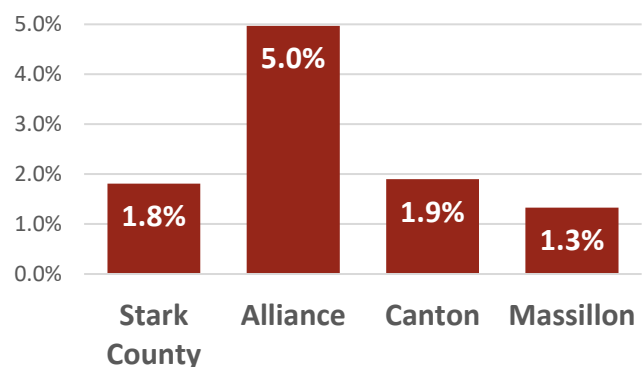
While many families find ways to avoid court-ordered evictions, there are still an average of 5.03 evictions per day in Stark County according to Eviction Lab. The filing rate per 100 rental homes in Stark County in 2016 was 5.8 percent, which is lower than the state average of 6.2 percent. The filing rate for Canton and Alliance were both higher than the county average, at 10.7 percent and 6.5 percent respectively.

Blood Lead Levels

Data Source: Ohio Department of Health, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Lead paint is a condition of housing closely tied to health outcomes for children. Many homes built before 1978 have lead paint, and lead can be inhaled or ingested by residents if it is peeling or chipping. Nearly three-quarters of Stark County's occupied housing units were built in 1979 or earlier. Many older homes have not undergone lead remediation or abatement. Lead can also be found in the soil of older industrial cities, such as those found across Northeast Ohio, as well as in older pipes and on toys manufactured in countries without lead paint regulations. In Stark County, 1.8 percent of the 5,865 young children tested in 2017 had a confirmed blood lead level above 5 ug/dL, which is considered to be a blood lead level of concern by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This rate is lower than the Ohio average. Children in Alliance were 2.5 times more likely to have elevated blood lead levels than those in the rest of the county.

Percent of Children Tested in 2017 With Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels



Residential Segregation

Data Source: County Health Rankings

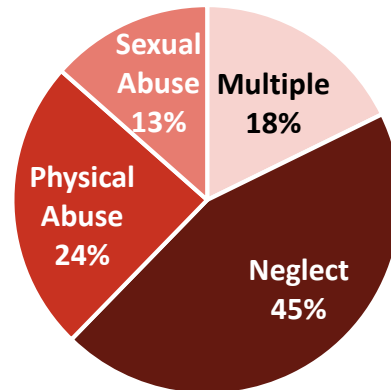
The residential segregation index provides a score of 0-100, where 0 is complete integration and 100 is total segregation. Stark County's white and non-white residential segregation score is 45, compared to the Ohio average of 58, according to County Health Rankings.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Data Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Data Dashboard.

The Stark County Department of Job and Family Services received 587 referrals for child abuse and neglect in May 2019. Of those referrals, 300 did not meet the criteria for investigation. In the same month, 56 percent of children removed from their homes by the county were removed due to parental substance use/abuse. The state average for removal due to parent use/abuse for this same point in time was 27 percent.

Referral Types or Abuse/Neglect, May 2019



Children in Stark County Custody, by Age	
Age of Child	Percent
Less than 1 Year	11%
1-3 Years	26%
4-6 Years	16%
7-9 Years	16%
10-12 Years	11%
13-15 Years	10%
16-18 Years	10%

If a case of abuse or neglect is substantiated, the county may remove the children from the home, place them in the foster care system and are then considered to be in the custody of the county. Children in the care of the county include children who are in placements such as foster care, kinship care, independent living, congregate care and other settings. More than half of children were placed in family foster care, and 30 percent were placed in kinship care with relatives.

Children between the ages of one and three-years-old make up the largest share of children in county care, and more than one-quarter of children in county custody are in this age group.

Crime

Data Sources: Ohio Department of Public Safety, Crime Statistics and Crime Reports.

The best data on crime is collected by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program and compiled by county by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. However, this data should be interpreted with caution because it is voluntarily submitted by law enforcement departments based on which department responds to the reported crime. This means the crime statistic may be reported by a municipality that is not where the crime occurred, nor is it the residency of the victim.

Stark County's rate of 346 violent crimes per 100,000 people was higher than the state rate of 304. There are wide differences in crime rates for the law enforcement departments within Stark County. For example, the violent crime rate in Canton is nearly 3.5 times as high as the county average, while some jurisdictions reported zero violent crimes. Property crime is much more common than violent crime.

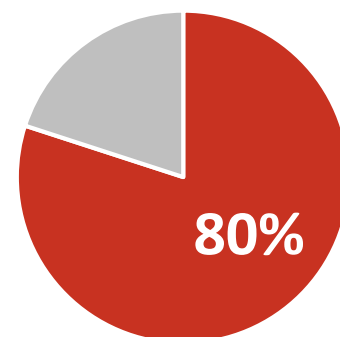
Number of Crimes and Rate Per 100,000 Population in Stark County, by Law Enforcement Department, 2017				
Agency Name	Violent Crime		Property Crime	
	Number	Rate per 100,000	Number	Rate per 100,000
Canton	836	1,177	3,766	5,302
Alliance	75	344	799	3,665
Jackson Township	58	143	1,101	2,710
Hartville	2	66	78	2,574
Uniontown	3	90	80	2,395
Magnolia	1	140	13	1,821
North Canton	12	69	281	1,620
Stark County Sheriff	122	103	1,795	1,514
Canal Fulton	2	37	75	1,382
Massillon	52	161	401	1,243
Louisville	2	21	123	1,312
Navarre	1	53	22	1,157
Lawrence Township	9	109	85	1,027
Minerva	1	52	20	1,036
Brewster	-	-	14	650
East Canton	-	-	10	629
Beach City	-	-	6	607
Stark County Total	1,176	346	8,669	2,547

Access to Exercise Opportunities

Data Source: County Health Rankings.

Access to exercise opportunities measures the percentage of individuals in a community who live reasonably close to a park or recreation facility. In urban areas, a reasonable distance is considered to be one mile and in rural areas, three miles is considered a reasonable distance. Opportunities to exercise can improve the physical and mental well-being of residents as well as strengthen social ties by gathering with community members in common spaces. Four out of 5 Stark County residents, or 80 percent, have access to exercise opportunities, a smaller share than the Ohio average of 84 percent.

Stark County Adults with Access to Exercise Opportunities, 2016



Social Associations

Data Source: County Health Rankings.

Stark County residents have a social association rate of 12.5. Social associations measure the number of membership associations per 10,000 population. Stark County has a higher rate of social associations than the state's overall rate of 11.2. Strong social connections can decrease the risk of social isolation and lead to healthier lifestyle choices as influenced by positive social networks.

Education

Quality Early Childhood Education

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

In 2017, there were more than 17,500 children under age six with all available parents in the workforce. Since their parents are working, these children need childcare. There were 4,759 children in Stark County who were enrolled in publically funded childcare in 2017, indicating that there could be a shortfall in high-quality, affordable childcare.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services administers a five-star rating and improvement system for licensed childcare facilities. The star ratings are based on standards related to learning and development, administrative and leadership practices, staff qualifications and family and community partnerships, with five stars being the highest rating. The listing of facilities below includes licensed Type A and Type B family childcare homes, licensed childcare centers and Ohio Department of Education licensed preschools. As of today, the rating program remains voluntary and about two-thirds of providers in Stark County participate. One-third of participating centers have one star, and more than one-third have achieved the highest five-star rating. The data on childcare providers is available only by ZIP code, so municipality names do not line up with the municipality data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Number of Children Under Age Six With All Available Parents in the Labor Force, 2017

Lexington Township	91%	175
Perry Township	82%	1,350
Washington Township	80%	104
Canton City	79%	4,781
Louisville City	79%	525
Osnaburg Township	78%	196
Marlboro Township	77%	152
Massillon City	76%	2,040
Sugar Creek Township	75%	286
Tuscarawas Township	74%	242
Stark County	73%	17,571
Nimishillen Township	72%	402
Alliance City	71%	1,164
Jackson Township	71%	1,422
North Canton City	67%	812
Lawrence Township	66%	486
Plain Township	66%	1,199
Paris Township	65%	265
Lake Township	65%	1,103
Sandy Township	63%	108
Canton Township	62%	471
Pike Township	52%	119
Bethlehem Township	45%	169

Number of Licensed Child Care Providers, by Step Up to Quality Rating, 2019

City by ZIP Code	Total Providers	No Rating	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
Alliance	15	2	4	-	-	3	6
Canal Fulton	6	3	-	-	-	-	3
Canton	118	40	30	6	8	10	24
East Canton	3	-	1	-	-	1	1
East Sparta	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hartville	3	1	-	-	-	1	1
Louisville	12	6	2	-	-	1	3
Massillon	41	16	9	-	-	7	9
Minerva	3	1	-	-	-	1	1
Navarre	4	-	1	-	-	1	2
North Canton	23	10	3	-	2	3	5
Uniontown	4	1	1	-	-	1	1
Waynesburg	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	234	81	52	6	10	29	56

Total School Enrollment

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Stark County has 17 school districts that enrolled a total of 55,357 students in the 2017-2018 school year. The three largest districts are Canton City (8,650 students), Plain Local (6,052 students), and Jackson Local (5,928 students). Together, these three districts account for more than one-third of all students in Stark County.

School Readiness

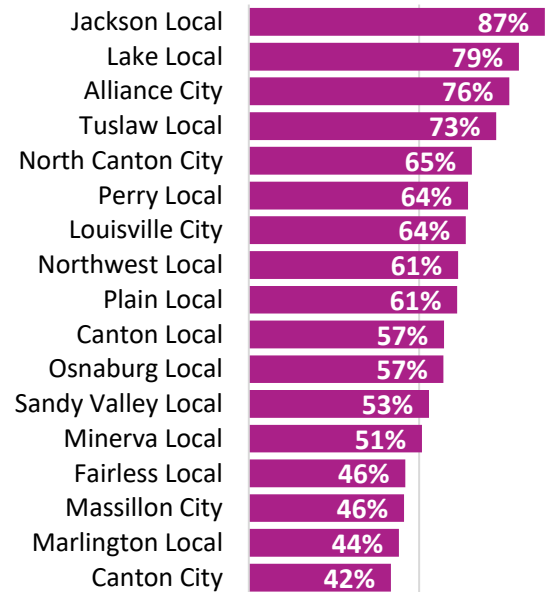
Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Students who enter publicly funded kindergarten classrooms take a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) that measures their current skill levels in language and literacy, math, physical well-being, motor development and social foundations. Students receive an overall score to identify their skills as emerging, approaching or demonstrating. Demonstrating students are considered to be fully prepared for kindergarten, while those whose skills are emerging are generally not prepared to learn in kindergarten without substantial additional assistance or interventions. The KRA also provides a measurement for language and literacy skills to gauge whether a student is on track or not.

As shown in the table, 75.1 percent of kindergarten students in the Jackson Local School district scored in the “demonstrating” range overall, indicating that three-quarters of students in that district arrived in kindergarten fully prepared and ready to learn. On the other hand, more than one-third of students in Canton City, Fairless, Massillon and Osnaburg Local School Districts scored in the “emerging” range, and would need additional interventions and supports.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Scores By School District, 2017-2018			
	Emerging (202-257)	Approaching (258-269)	Demonstrating (270-298)
Jackson Local	3.5%	21.4%	75.1%
Lake Local	7.9%	32.0%	60.1%
Alliance City	15.7%	26.0%	58.3%
Tuslaw Local	13.1%	42.9%	44.0%
Louisville City	18.4%	42.1%	39.5%
Perry Local	16.9%	43.8%	39.3%
Sandy Valley Local	31.4%	32.9%	35.7%
Northwest Local	24.4%	43.3%	32.3%
Plain Local	27.9%	40.0%	32.1%
Fairless Local	36.9%	34.4%	28.7%
Osnaburg Local	40.8%	30.6%	28.6%
Minerva Local	26.3%	45.8%	28.0%
Massillon City	34.0%	38.8%	27.2%
North Canton City	20.1%	34.2%	25.7%
Marlington Local	28.4%	47.7%	23.9%
Canton City	36.3%	40.5%	23.2%
Canton Local	27.4%	49.6%	23.1%

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment On Track for Language & Literacy, 2017-2018



Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

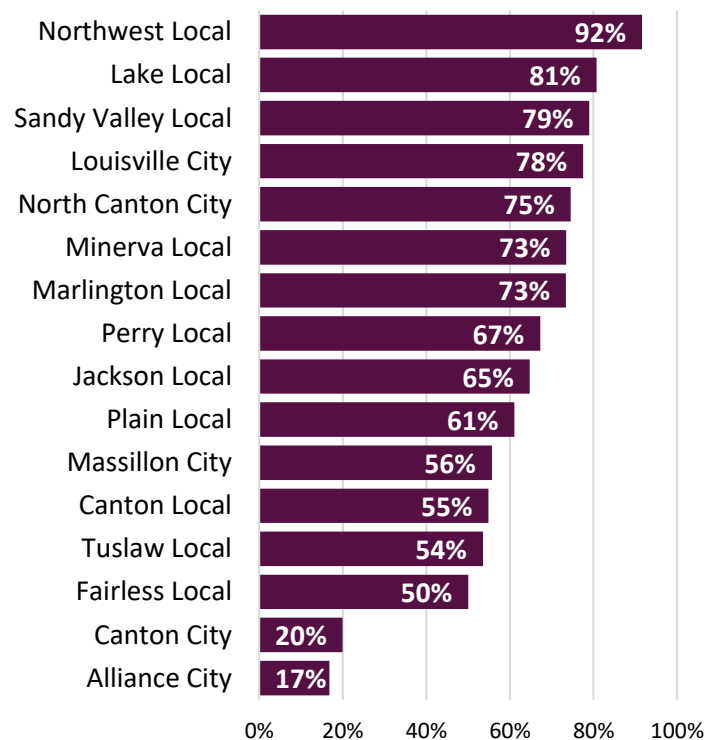
Third grade reading is an important marker of academic achievement. Third grade is the point where students switch from learning to read, to reading to learn. Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee requires that students demonstrate certain levels of literacy and reading ability in order to be promoted to fourth grade. Several districts in Stark County had 100 percent of third graders meet the reading guarantee requirements including Alliance, Fairless, Jackson, Lake, Louisville, Marlinton, Osnaburg and Sandy Valley. Many of the remaining districts came close to meeting the guarantee. These include Plain Local (99.8 percent), North Canton City (99.6 percent), Perry Local (98.8 percent), Canton Local (98.0 percent), Northwest Local (97.6 percent), Massillon City (97.5 percent), and Minerva Local (96.0 percent). Stark County has only two school districts that are below the Ohio average of 95 percent: Tuslaw Local (92.6 percent) and Canton City (81.9 percent). The very high number of children passing Third Grade Reading Guarantee requirements, even in districts with lower Kindergarten Readiness scores, indicates that schools and community supports are helping children who enter kindergarten catch up by third grade.

Eighth Grade Math

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Eighth grade math has been shown to be a marker of future academic achievement. Students who demonstrate proficiency in math in eighth grade are more likely to graduate from high school, participate in post-secondary education and have higher educational attainment. Within Stark County, there is wide variation among districts in the percent of eighth grade students who test at or above the proficient level in math. The Northwest Local school district has the highest percentage of math proficient eighth graders with 87 percent achieving proficiency. Within this district, 35 percent were proficient, 36 percent were advanced and 15 percent were accelerated. The district with the highest number of accelerated students in eighth grade math is North Canton City Schools. In contrast, Alliance had the lowest percentage of students at or above proficiency with just 15 percent reaching this level with 66 percent of students scoring at the lowest level of proficiency.

**Eighth Grade Math, At or Above Proficiency,
2017-2018**

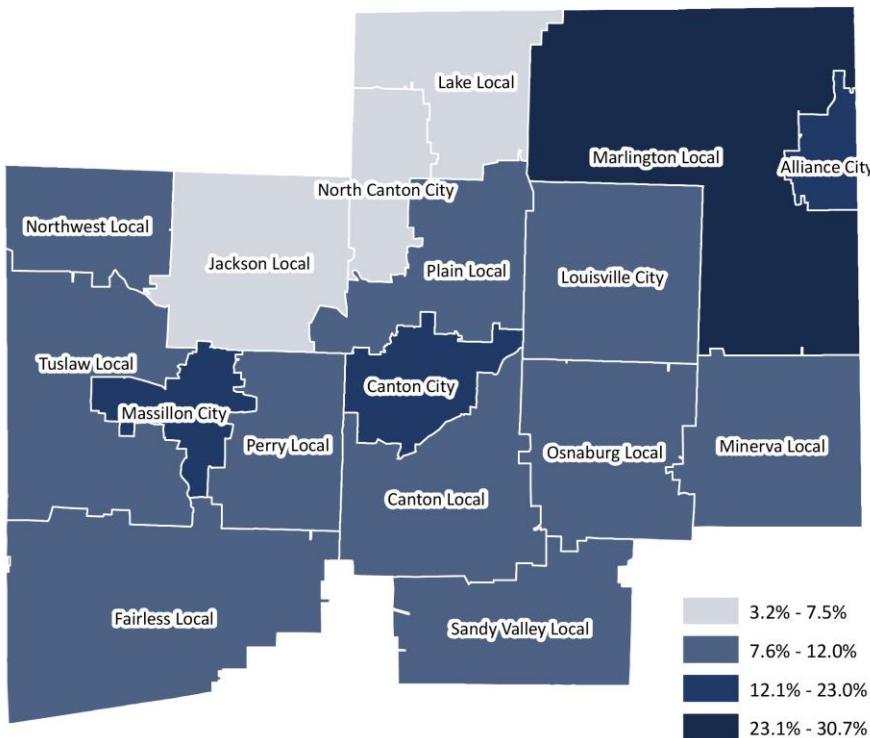


Chronic Absenteeism

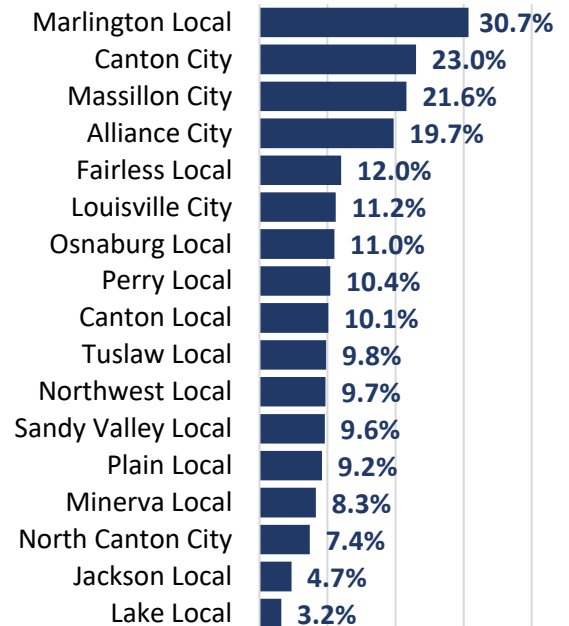
Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the academic year for any reason, including absences and suspensions. Good school attendance has been tied to academic achievement. Most of Stark County's school districts have relatively low levels of chronic absenteeism. However, there are a few notable exceptions. In Massillon City and Canton City, more than 1 in 5 students missed at least 10 percent of the academic year in 2017-2018. Marlinton Local was even worse, and has the third-highest rate of chronic absenteeism in Ohio.

Chronic Absenteeism Rate in Stark County, by School District (2017-18)



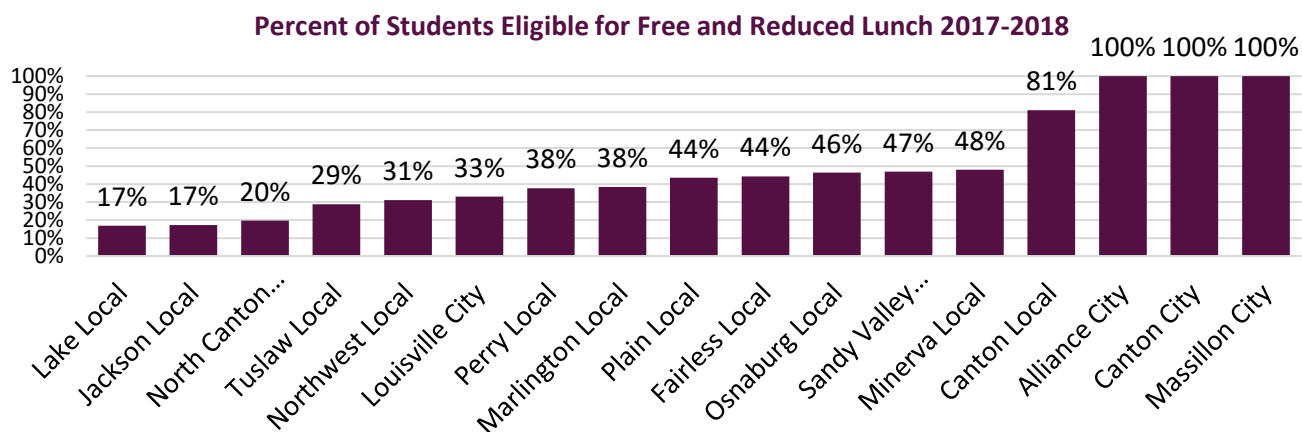
Percent of Chronic Absenteeism by District, 2017-2018



Free/Reduced Lunch

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Students whose household income is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for the free and reduced-price meals through their school district. However, to reduce administrative burden, the federal government allows schools who have a high percentage of students who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or government food assistance, to provide free lunch to all students in the district. Therefore, while all students in three districts, Alliance City, Canton City and Massillon City, can receive free and reduced-price lunches, it does not mean that 100 percent of the students are economically disadvantaged.



School Suspensions

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Students can be suspended from school for a number of reasons including truancy, fighting or violence, vandalism, theft, false alarms, bomb threats, disobedient or disruptive behavior, harassment or intimidation, unwelcome sexual conduct, firearm look-a-likes, serious bodily injury, and use, possession, sale, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or weapons. Suspensions are either in-school or out-of-school. For this report, school suspensions are reported as a rate per 100 students based on total district enrollment. A student can be suspended multiple times in a school year, although most districts have a threshold where students who are repeatedly suspended can be expelled.

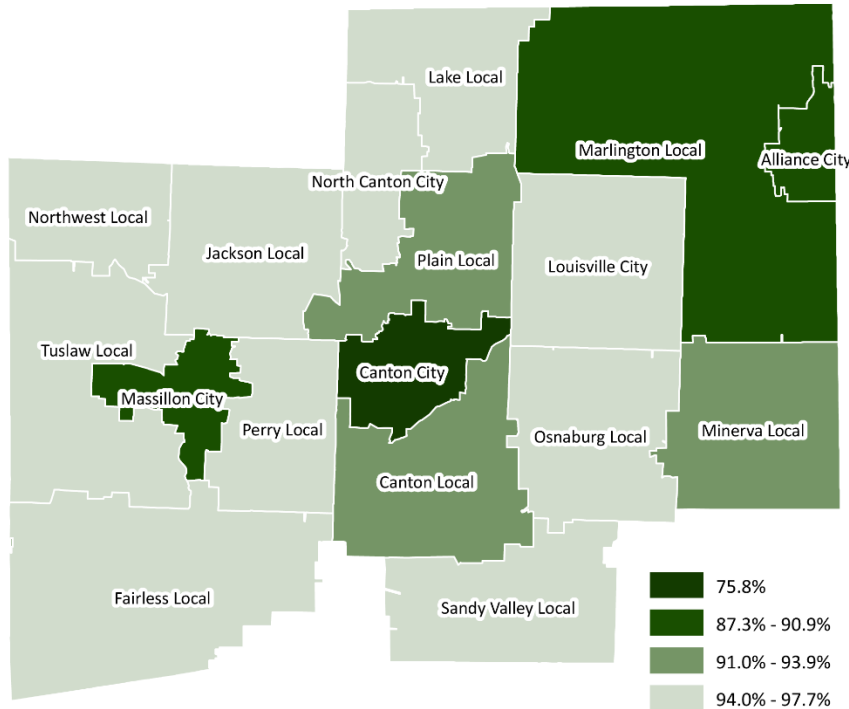
School Suspensions, By District, 2017-2018					
	Out of School Suspension	In-School Suspension	Total Suspensions	Enrollment	Rate of Suspensions Per 100 Students*
Canton City	2,360	4,560	6,920	8,650	80.0
Sandy Valley Local	123	111	234	613	38.2
Alliance City	970	132	1,102	2,980	37.0
Fairless	110	132	242	665	36.4
North Canton City	121	180	301	842	35.7
Marlinton Local	103	176	279	829	33.7
Lake Local	96	89	185	557	33.2
Massillon City	446	760	1,206	3,901	30.9
Jackson Local	275	-	275	1,019	27.0
Plain Local	500	171	671	2,633	25.5
Minerva Local	85	105	190	860	22.1
Perry Local	109	217	326	1,792	18.2
Louisville City	98	50	148	939	15.8
Northwest Local	43	30	73	565	12.9
Canton Local	114	73	187	1,555	12.0
Tuslaw Local	20	24	44	390	11.3
Osnaaburg Local	20	20	40	383	10.4

On Time Graduation

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education.

Except for Canton City, all school districts in Stark County are above the Ohio average four-year graduation rate of 84.1 percent. Most districts are very close to full, on-time graduation.

Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rate in Stark County, by School District (Class of 2017)



Four Year Longitudinal Graduation Rate, Class of 2017

Jackson Local	98%
Lake Local	97%
Tuslaw Local	96%
Louisville City	96%
North Canton City	96%
Northwest Local	96%
Perry Local	96%
Osnaburg Local	96%
Fairless Local	96%
Sandy Valley Local	95%
Plain Local	94%
Canton Local	94%
Minerva Local	93%
Alliance City	90%
Marlinton Local	88%
Massillon City	87%
Canton City	76%

Educational Attainment

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

The education levels of adults in a community can indicate the quality of the labor force. By age 25, many people have completed their education and entered the workforce. Stark County has an unusually high percentage of adults who have no education beyond high school. Only 1 in 5 Stark County residents has earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Earning potential and economic independence is closely tied to educational attainment. In Stark County, median earnings increase and poverty decreases with each level of education.

Stark County Educational Attainment, Population 25 and Older, 2017

Less than High School			Associate's Degree		Graduate or Professional Degree
9%	High School Diploma or Equivalent	Some College, No Degree	8%	Bachelor's Degree	8%
	38%	23%		14%	
	99,137 people	59,311 people		36,783 people	
23,285 people			20,806 people		20,602 people

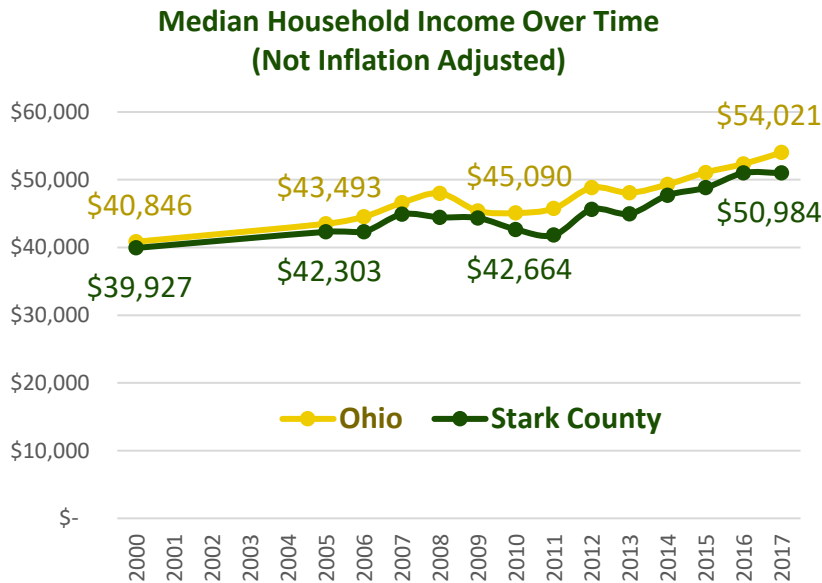
Economics

Median Household Income

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Median income is the income amount where half the households in a community earn more and half earn less. It is a clearer reflection of the actual economic conditions for families in an area than the statistical average (mean) income because a few households with very high incomes can skew that number.

The median household income for Stark County in 2017 was \$50,117, which is below Ohio's median income. The majority of communities within Stark County have median household incomes higher than the county average, with just five municipalities below the average. Canton City had the lowest household income at \$32,912, while Lake Township had the highest at \$77,147.



Before adjusting for inflation, median household income has increased in Stark County since 2000. However, median income in 2017 would need to be more than \$57,000 to have kept up with inflation.

Municipality	2017 Median Household Income
Canton City	\$ 30,837
Alliance	\$ 32,912
Massillon	\$ 44,265
Bethlehem	\$ 44,631
Canton township	\$ 48,314
Stark County	\$ 50,117
Lexington	\$ 51,038
Paris	\$ 52,331
Sandy	\$ 53,424
Perry	\$ 53,775
Osnaburg	\$ 54,327
Louisville	\$ 54,827
Sugar Creek	\$ 54,954
Plain	\$ 56,882
North Canton	\$ 57,003
Tuscarawas	\$ 58,681
Pike	\$ 59,813
Washington	\$ 60,652
Lawrence	\$ 63,385
Nimishillen	\$ 65,453
Jackson	\$ 70,443
Marlboro	\$ 71,232
Lake	\$ 77,147

Poverty

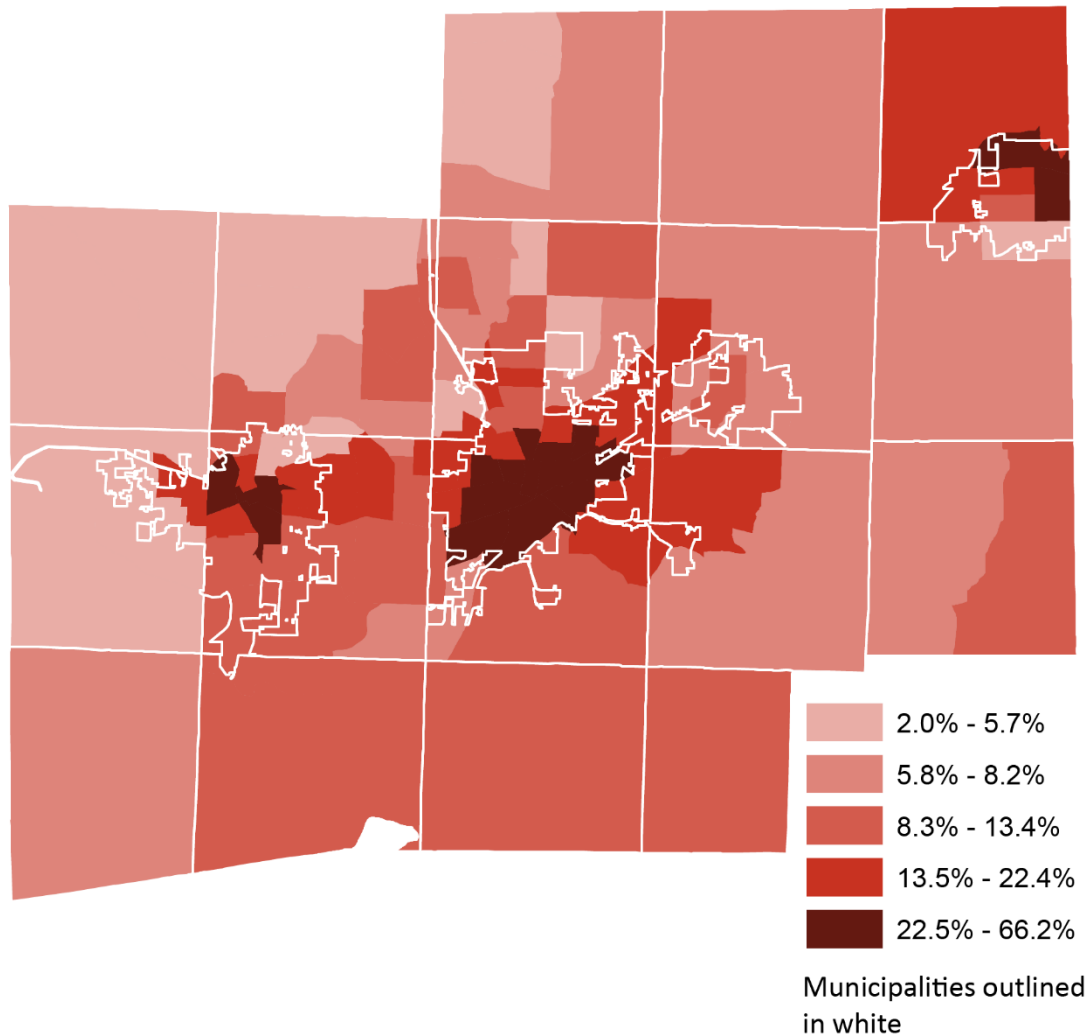
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Poverty is an indication of a lack of financial resources. Each year, the federal government identifies poverty guidelines that vary by family size. These guidelines, often called federal poverty level (FPL), are used to determine eligibility for many public assistance programs and other services. The guidelines in the table at right correspond to 100 percent FPL. The U.S. Census Bureau uses similar thresholds to calculate official poverty statistics, which vary by family size, composition and age of householder.

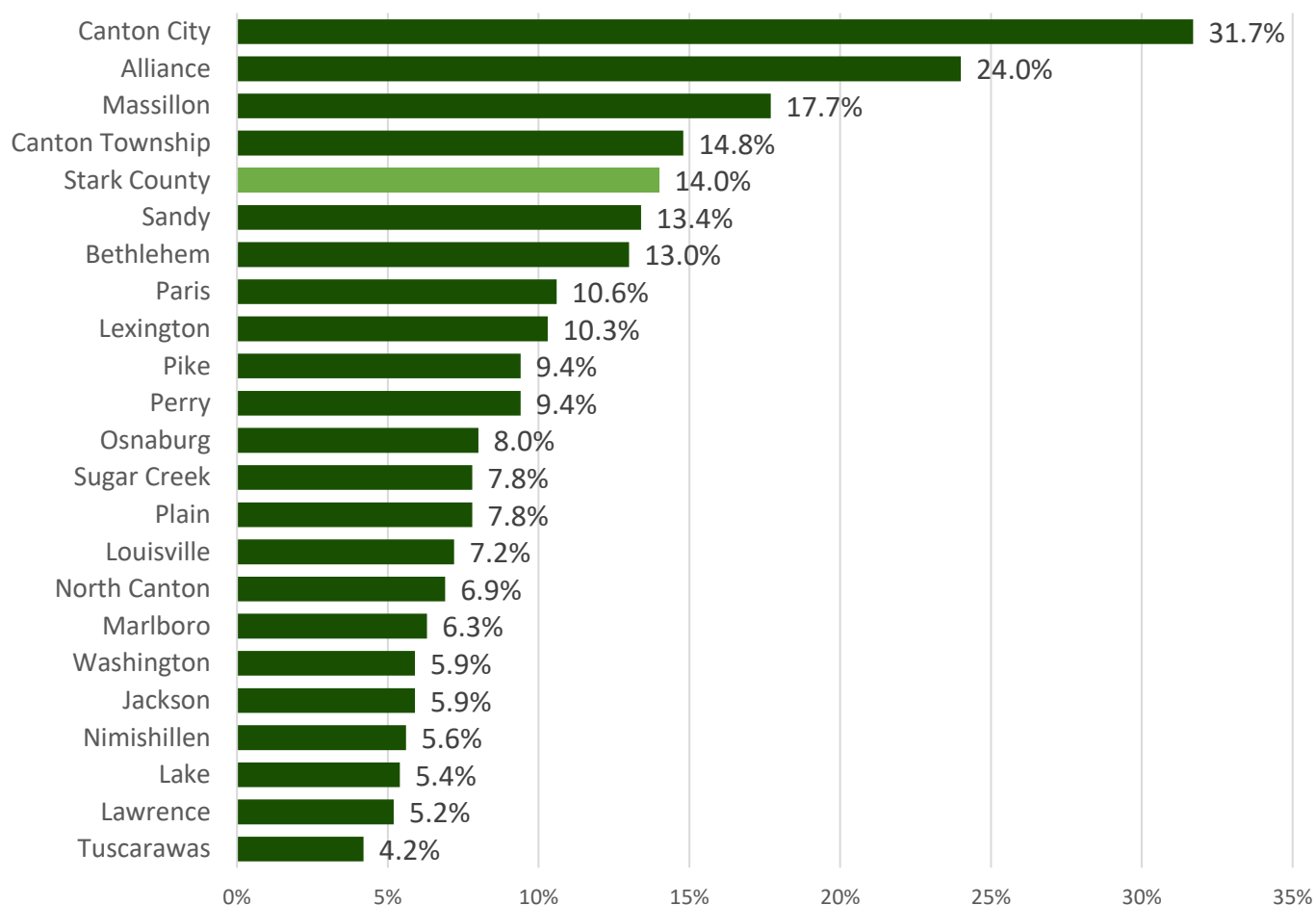
2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Family Size	Poverty Guideline
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8	\$43,430

Stark County's poverty rate, at 14.0 percent, is better than the Ohio average, and most municipalities within the county are below Stark County's rate. However, the poverty rate in Canton is more than twice that of the county as a whole, while Alliance is 1.5 times as high. As the map shows, poverty is concentrated within certain areas of Stark County, mainly in the larger cities.

Poverty Rate in Stark County, by Census Tract

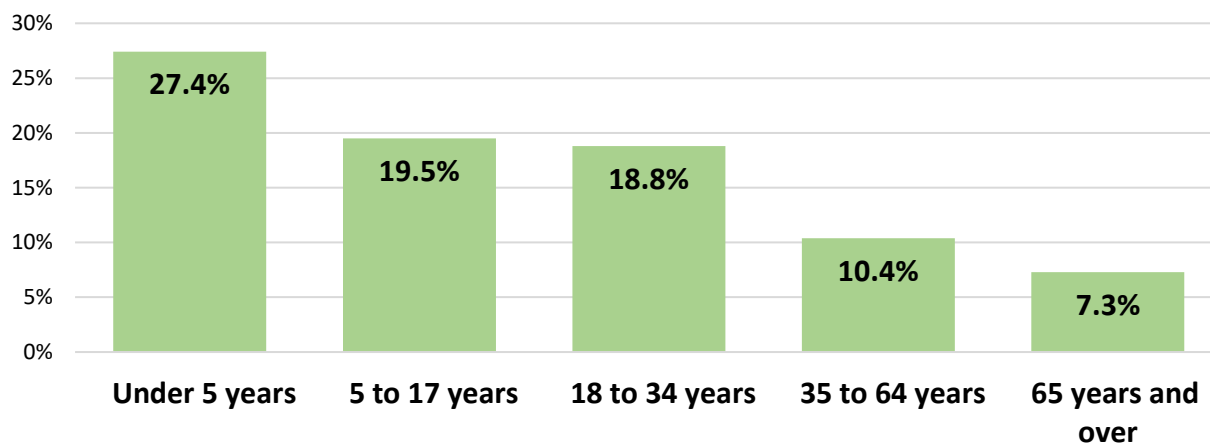


Percent Below Poverty, By Municipality

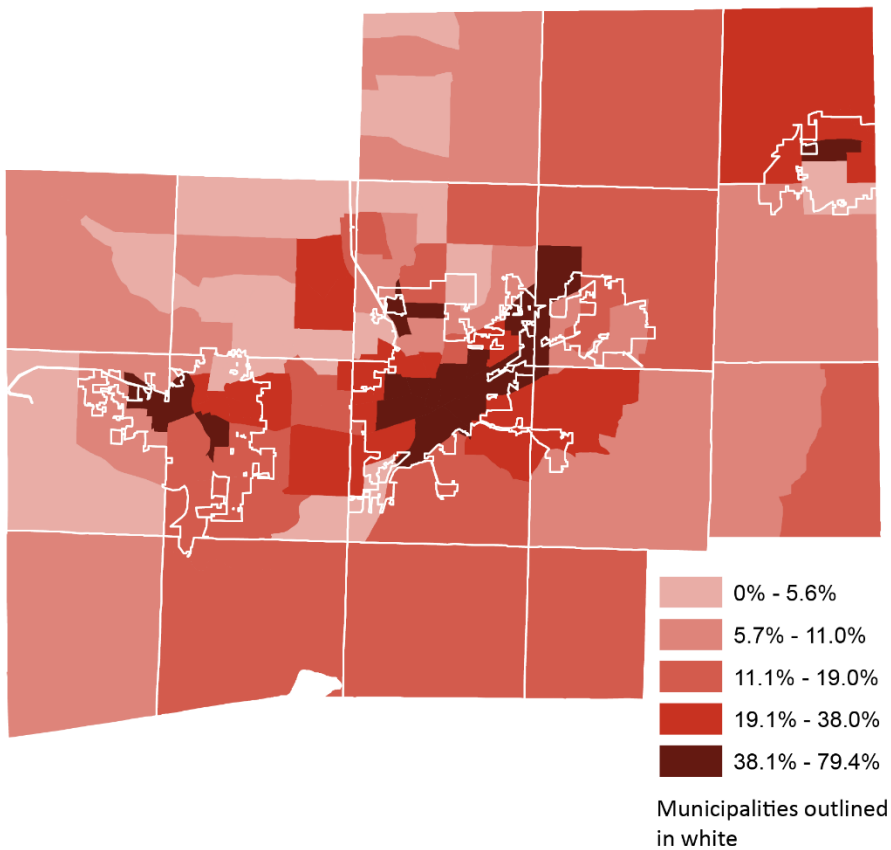


Within the county, and across the state, the younger you are the more likely you are to be living in poverty. While more than 1 in 4 young children in Stark County live in poverty, just seven percent of older adults over age 65 live in poverty. This is thanks in large part to Social Security, which counts as income in poverty statistics. Child poverty in Canton is of particular concern as nearly half of all children in the city live below poverty.

Poverty Rates by Age Stark County, 2017



Child (Age 0-17) Poverty Rate in Stark County, by Census Tract



While poverty can affect anyone, Black people and other people of color are more likely to live in poverty.

Poverty in Stark County, by Race and Ethnicity, 2017

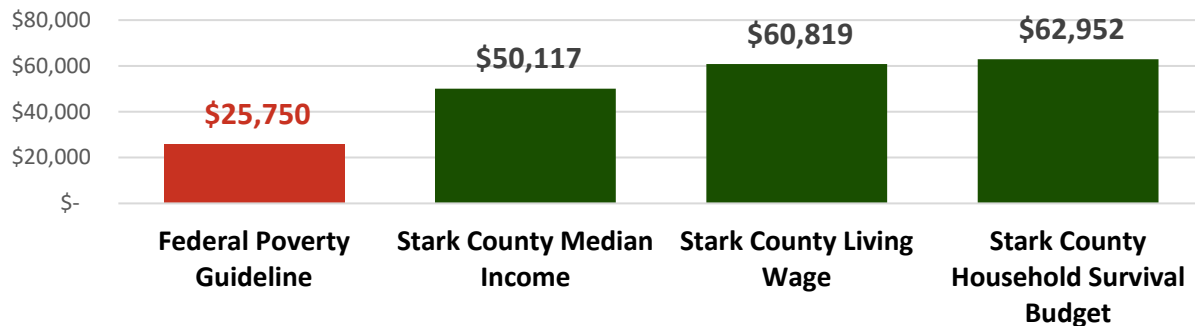


Struggling Households

Source: ALICE Report, 2017.

Most experts agree that official measures of poverty do not capture the number of families who struggle to make ends meet. Two other measures of economic self-sufficiency are the living wage calculated by researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the household survival budget, which is described in more detail below.

**Estimates of Annual Household Income for Economic Self-Sufficiency,
Family of Four in Stark County**

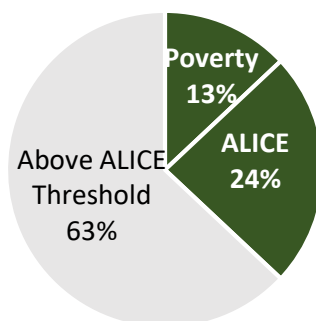


Household Survival Budget, Stark County		
	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 infant, 1 preschooler
Housing	\$422	\$684
Child Care	-	\$1,375
Food	\$182	\$603
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$214	\$800
Miscellaneous	\$143	\$477
Taxes	\$208	\$535
Technology	\$55	\$75
Hourly Wage	\$9.44	\$31.48
Monthly Total	\$1,573	\$5,246
Annual Total	\$18,476	\$62,952

The household survival budget represents the minimum cost option for each of five basic household items needed to live and work in today's economy. Spending amounts in the survival budget allow for a two-bedroom apartment, registered home-based childcare, food costs based on the USDA Thrifty Food Plan, use of a car, the "cost of shared responsibility" under the Affordable Care Act, and 9 to 11 percent of the budget to be reserved for various federal, state and local taxes. It should be considered the basic cost of living for the county.

Households who earn more than the FPL but less than the household survival budget have been labeled Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE). The ALICE threshold is calculated based on the age of the householder and set at \$50,000 for most Stark County households and \$30,000 for households with members older than age 65. The 48,681 households in Stark County who fall below ALICE income levels struggle to reach financial stability. Similar to poverty, Canton has both the highest percentage and high number of struggling households.

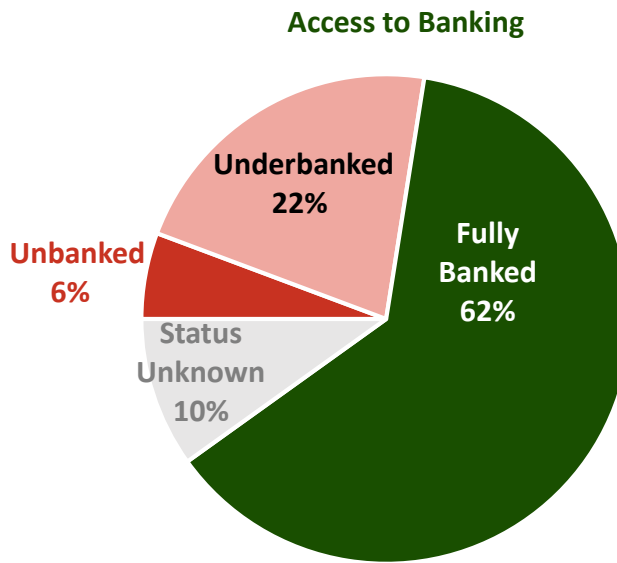
Stark County Struggling Households, 2016



Unbanked and Underbanked

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households.

When families manage their money using traditional financial services, such as checking and savings accounts, traditional loans and credit cards, they establish banking relationships that enable them to conduct financial transactions and secure their savings. Alternative financial services, such as payday loans and check cashing services, usually carry large interest rates, do not help families meet long-term financial goals, and have been shown to contribute to financial instability. Nearly 1 in 3 people in Stark County are not “fully banked.” About 6 percent of households are unbanked, lacking accounts at insured financial institutions, while an additional 22 percent are underbanked and have at least one check or savings account, but still utilize alternate financial services.



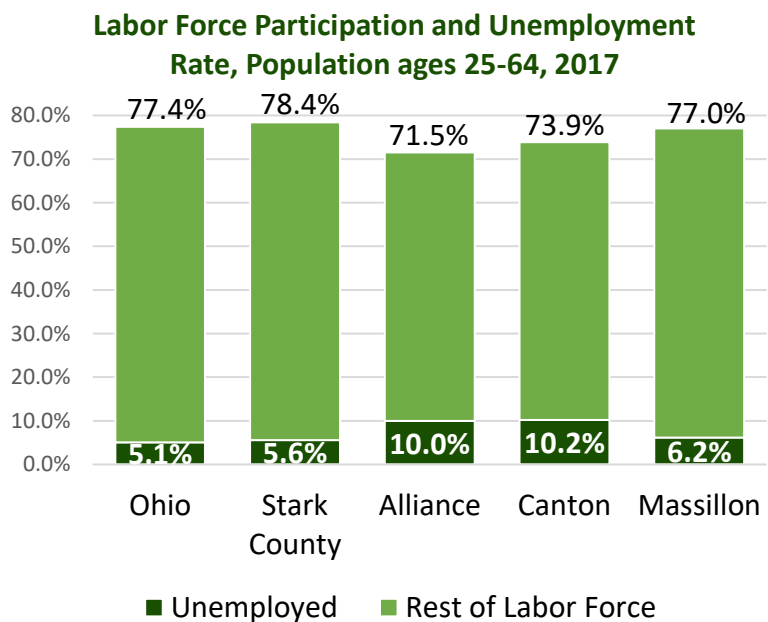
Unemployment, Employment, and Labor Force Participation

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Labor Force Participation counts the number of adults who are employed and the number who are currently unemployed, but actively looking for work. The unemployment rate is calculated differently by the U.S. Census Bureau than by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which issues monthly employment statistics.

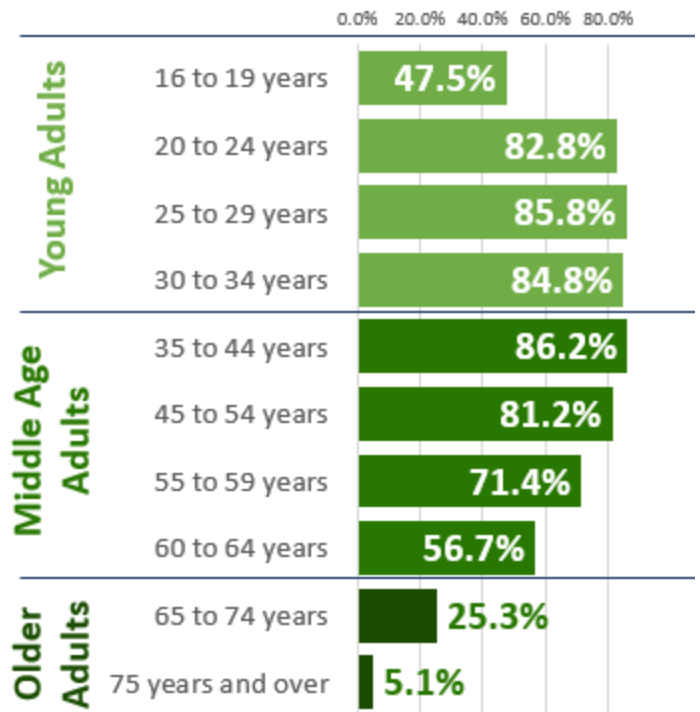
The labor force participation rates for Stark County, Canton and Massillon are similar to the Ohio rate. However, the unemployment rates for Alliance and Canton are nearly twice the rate of Stark County as a whole.

The labor force participation rate for white people (62.7 percent), Black people (63.6 percent) and Hispanic or Latinos of any race (67.4 percent) in Stark County are similar. However, people of color are less likely to be employed and more likely to be looking for work. The unemployment rate for Hispanics or Latinos of any race in Stark County (20.8 percent) is nearly four times the rate for white people (5.8 percent), and the rate Black people, at 16.8 percent, is nearly three times as high as white people.



Labor force participation in Stark County is more than 80 percent for people ages 20 to 54. Beyond age 55, as they grow older, people are less likely to remain in the labor force, and they may retire or stop working or looking for work due to illness or disability.

Labor Force Participation Rate, By Age, Stark County, 2017

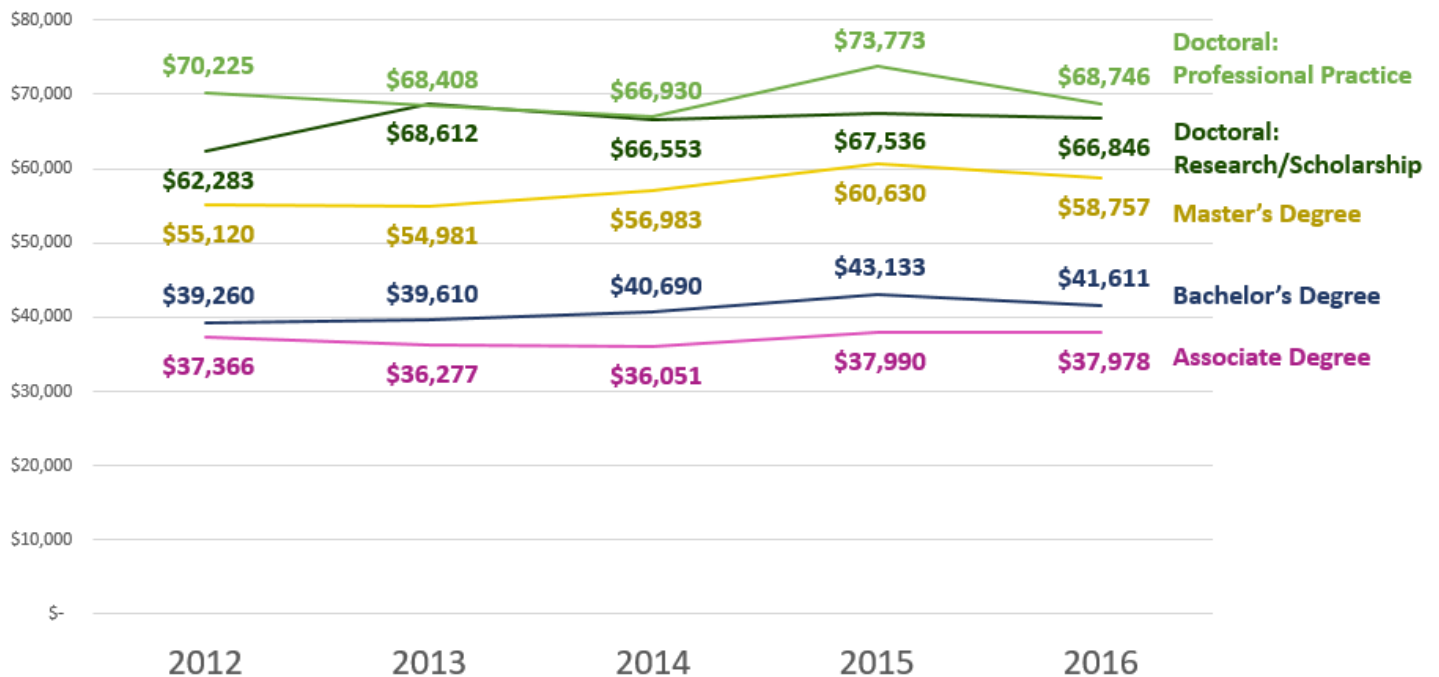


First-Year Earnings of Ohio Residents

Data Source: Ohio Department of Higher Education, In-State Retention and Salary Analysis of Spring Graduates.

The higher the level of post-secondary education, the more new graduates can expect to be paid following graduation. Across Ohio, people who graduated with a master's degree earned more than \$17,000 more in their first year of employment than those who earned a bachelor's degree. These gains are compounded over a lifetime, so that people with a master's degree earn more than \$1 million more over their lifetimes than someone with an associate's degree, according to research conducted by Georgetown University.

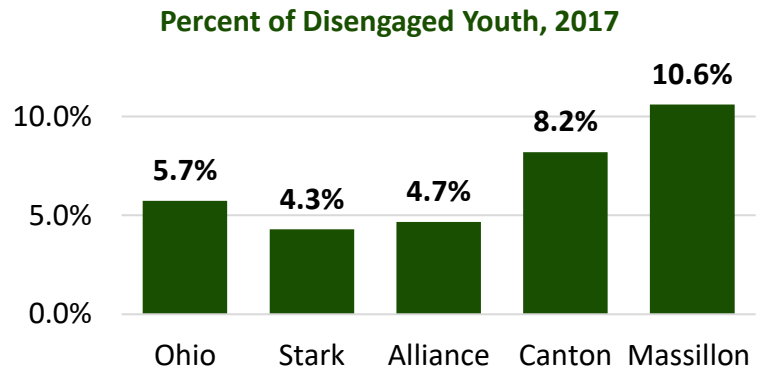
Average First-Year Earnings, Full-Time Salary of Ohio Resident Spring Term Graduates, by Degree Level, in Constant 2016 Dollars (adjusted for inflation)



Disengaged Youth

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Economically disengaged youth are individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not working. In Stark County, 4.3 percent of youth are disengaged, which is lower than the Ohio rate of 5.5 percent. However, Massillon's youth are more than twice as likely to be disengaged from school and work than the county as a whole.



Environment

Air Pollution

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences defines air pollution as “a mixture of natural and man-made substances in the air we breathe, and is typically separated into two categories: outdoor air pollution and indoor air pollution.” Examples of outdoor air pollution include ground-level ozone, particles produced by fossil fuels and urban smog. Indoor air pollutants can be in the form of building materials, such as asbestos and lead, as well as tobacco smoke, mold, carbon monoxide and radon.

In Stark County, the Air Quality Index on average is rated “good” per the scale used by the AirNow database from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The amount of particulate matter in the air on average was 12.2 micrograms per cubic meter. Long-term exposure to air pollution increases premature death risk among people age 65 and older, and poses health risks to those with asthma and other respiratory conditions. These particles are emitted from sources such as forest fires, or they can form when gases released from power plants, industries and automobiles react in the air.

Drinking Water Violations

The Safe Drinking Water Information System shows that there are drinking water violations in Stark County. This means that at least one area in the county was in violation of EPA's drinking water regulations, such as maximum containment levels, treatment techniques, or monitoring and reporting requirements. A multitude of health problems have been linked with drinking contaminated water, such as nausea, lung and skin irritation, cancer, kidney, liver and nervous system damage.

County Health Ranking

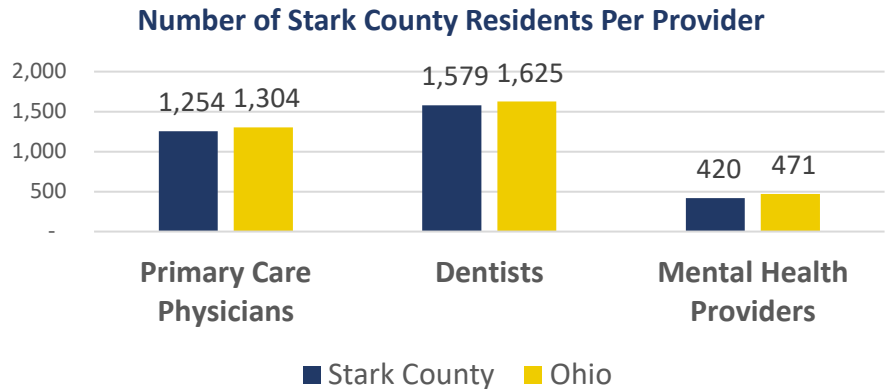
Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute examine data on a variety of indicators related to health and release rankings of all counties in all 50 states. In the 2019 health rankings, Stark fell in the middle of Ohio's counties, at 44 out of 88. The rankings incorporate data on health behaviors, clinical care, the physical environment, social and economic factors. Stark County is near the state average for many of the indicators considered by County Health Rankings, and has remained in the middle of counties since the rankings began in 2011.

Health Care Providers

Data Source: County Health Rankings.

In the 2019 County Health Rankings, Stark County ranked ninth out of Ohio's 88 counties for clinical care, which includes indicators of access to care, such as the number of providers and health insurance coverage, and the quality of care such as preventable hospital stays, mammography screenings and flu vaccinations. The ratios of providers represent the number

of individuals served by one provider in the county, if the population was equally distributed across providers. A lower ratio is desirable. Stark County's provider ratio for primary care physicians (1,254:1), dentists (1,579:1), and mental health providers (420:1) is better than the state average. The availability of providers likely contributes to the fact that 89 percent of adults and 98 percent of children have a usual source of care, according to the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey.



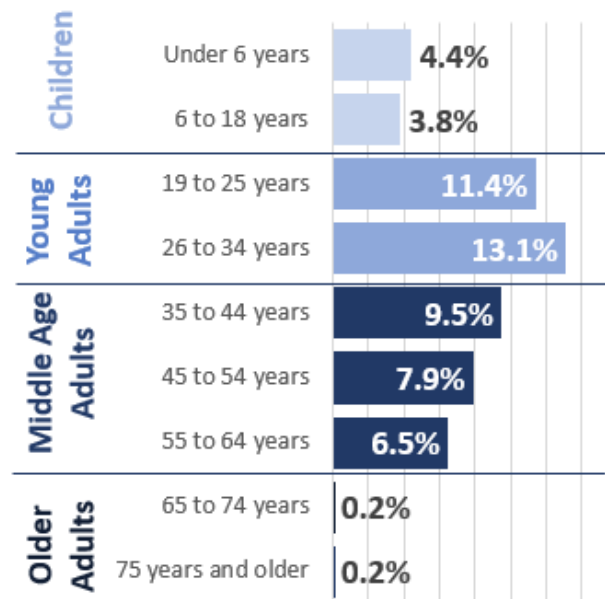
Health Insurance Coverage

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Estimates.

Another factor related to access to health care is having insurance coverage. The number of Ohioans who are uninsured fell dramatically following the Medicaid expansion in 2014, especially among working-age adults. However, the highest rate of uninsured are those between the ages of 26 and 34. These young adults who are usually no longer eligible to be covered under their parents' plans, and may have not secured coverage through an employer. Nearly all older adults are covered by health insurance, thanks to the availability of public coverage through Medicare for those older than age 65.

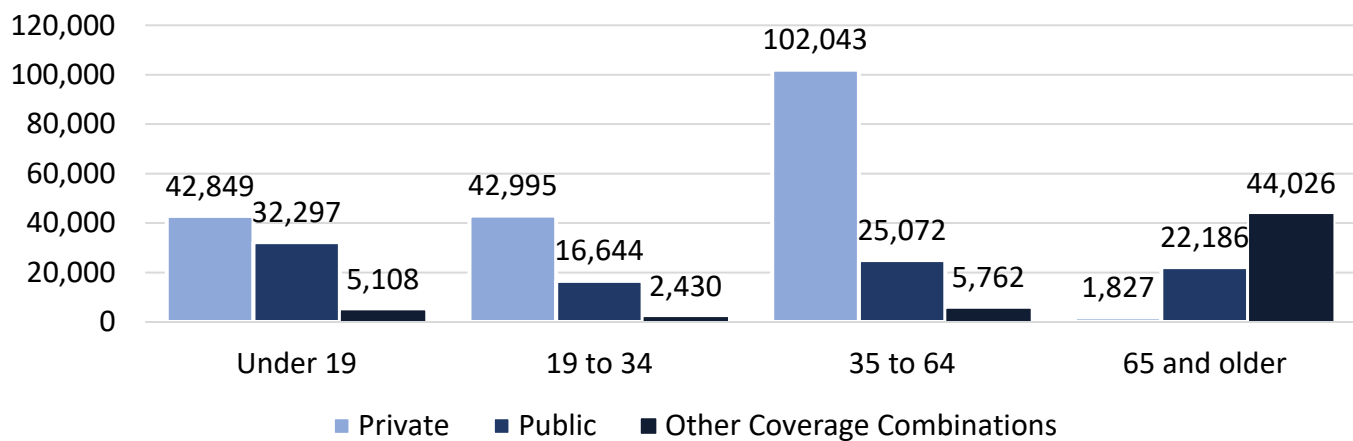
Overall, 6.5 percent of Stark County's population is uninsured. More than one-quarter (25.3 percent) of people who are unemployed are uninsured, and people who did not complete high school are more than twice as likely to be uninsured than the overall adult population.

Percent Uninsured, by Age, Stark County, 2017



Most people in Stark County who have health insurance are covered by private insurance, usually accessed through an employer. Older adults typically have a combination of coverage types, usually including both public coverage, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and private insurance, which is usually either employer-sponsored or directly purchased. These privately purchased health care options include Medicare Supplement or MediGap plans that provide additional coverage beyond traditional Medicare.

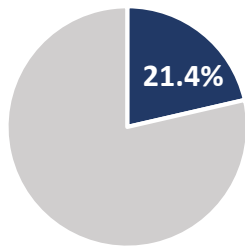
Type of Insurance by Age, Stark County, 2017



Overall Health

Data Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2017 and County Health Rankings.

Adults with Poor or Fair Health
Overall, Stark County, 2017



More than 62,000 Stark County adults reported that they were in poor or fair health according to the 2017 Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey. Physical ailments, illness and disease, a lack of exercise and physical activity, and smoking or drinking alcohol can all contribute to poor overall health.

Data from the County Health Rankings show that Stark County adults reported an average of 3.9 poor physical health days a month and 4.1 poor mental health days, slightly better than the Ohio average of 4.0 and 4.3 respectively.

Unmet Health Needs

Data Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2017.

Not getting prescription medications due to cost was the most common unmet health need for Stark County adults in 2017. Availability of providers, transportation challenges, health insurance coverage and cost can all contribute to unmet health needs.

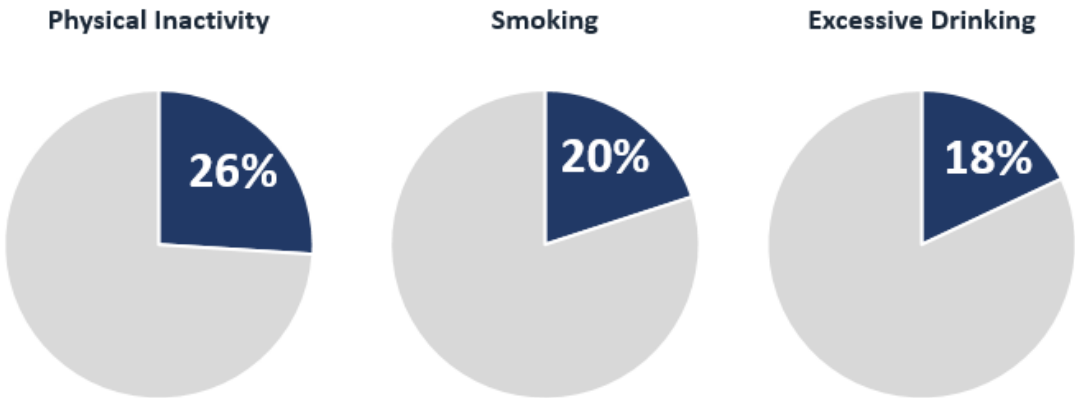
Adults with Unmet Health Needs, Stark County, 2017		
	Number	Percent
Prescription	43,018	15.0%
Dental	33,004	11.5%
Vision	29,141	10.2%
Other Unmet Needs	27,814	9.7%
Mental Health	18,614	6.5%

Health Behaviors

Data Source: County Health Rankings.

Despite well-known evidence of the harmful effects of smoking, 1 in 5 Stark County adults are current smokers. Another negative health behavior is not engaging in leisure-time physical activity, and in Stark County, more than a quarter of adults age 20 and older engaged in no leisure-time physical activity. This is a slightly higher rate than the state average of 25 percent.

Adults Engaged in Unhealthy Behaviors, Stark County, 2016



Cancer

Data Source: Ohio Department of Health, Public Health Information Warehouse.

There were more than 11,000 cases of cancer in Stark County between 2012 and 2016. The most common types of were breast, prostate, lung and bronchial.

Diabetes

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Diabetes Surveillance System.

In 2016, the age-adjusted percentage of adults in Stark County who had been diagnosed with diabetes was 10.4, which was higher than the Ohio average of 9.7 percent. Men were more likely to have diabetes than women, with an age-adjusted percentage of 11.5 and 9.5 respectively. This rate is adjusted for age, which removes the influence of age when comparing the rate across different populations.

Obesity

Data Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2017.

Nearly 100,000 adults and 14,000 children in Stark County are obese. Stark's adult obesity rate of 35.3 percent is similar to the state average. Obesity can be a contributing factor to many health conditions, including diabetes.

Premature Death

Data Source: County Health Rankings.

Premature death can indicate the overall health of a community. Years of potential life lost measures the number of years a person would have lived if they had not died before the age of 75. Therefore, someone who passes away at age 55 has 20 years of potential life lost. It is calculated as a rate per 100,000 population. Stark County's rate of 8,251 per 100,000 people for 2015 through 2017 was better than Ohio's rate of 8,492.

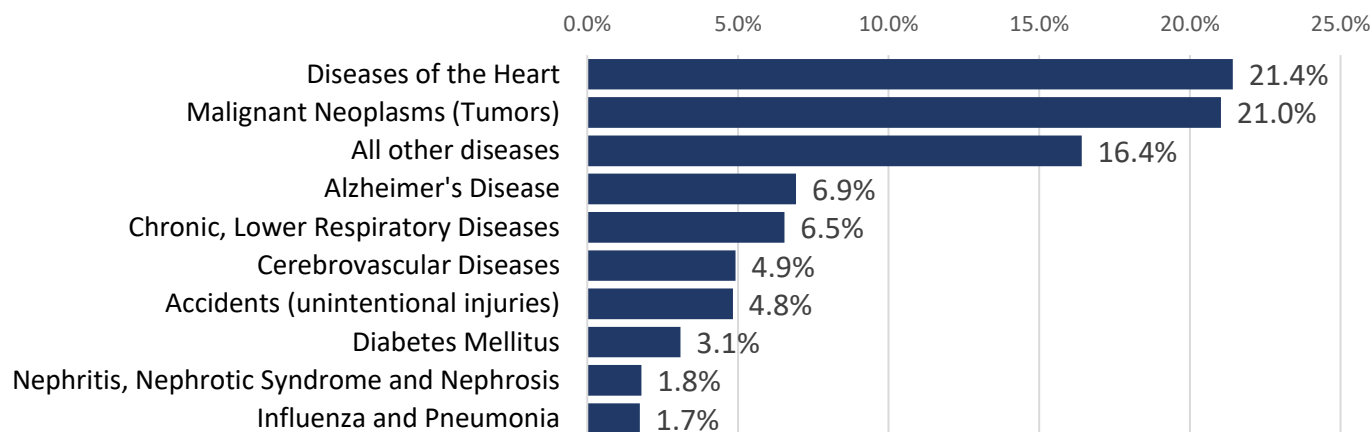
Stark County Cancer Incidence, 2012-2016		
Site/Type	Cases	Age-Adjusted Rate
Lung and Bronchus	1,748	67.2
Breast	1,577	65.6
Prostate	1,379	113.1
Other Sites/Types	935	37.4
Colon & Rectum	867	35.2
Bladder	673	26.1
Melanoma of Skin	568	24.2
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	414	16.9
Kidney & Renal Pelvis	379	15.6
Uterus	351	26.9
Oral Cavity & Pharynx	341	13.7
Pancreas	302	11.7
Thyroid	259	13.1
Leukemia	224	9.7
Brain and Other CNS	162	7.2
Stomach	155	6.1
Esophagus	149	5.7
Ovary	140	11
Multiple Myeloma	139	5.4
Liver & Intrahepatic Bile Duct	127	4.9
Larynx	109	4.3
Cervix	69	6.6
Testis	55	6.8
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	49	2.5

Leading Cause of Death

Data Source: Ohio Death Records Accessed via Summit County Public Health Statewide Mortality Data Dashboard.

Between 2016 and 2018, 11,581 people died in Stark County. More than one-third were older than age 85 at the time of their death. Diseases of the heart or malignant neoplasms (cancer) caused more than two out of every five deaths in Stark County.

Most Common Leading Causes of Death, By Share of All Deaths, Stark County, 2016-2018



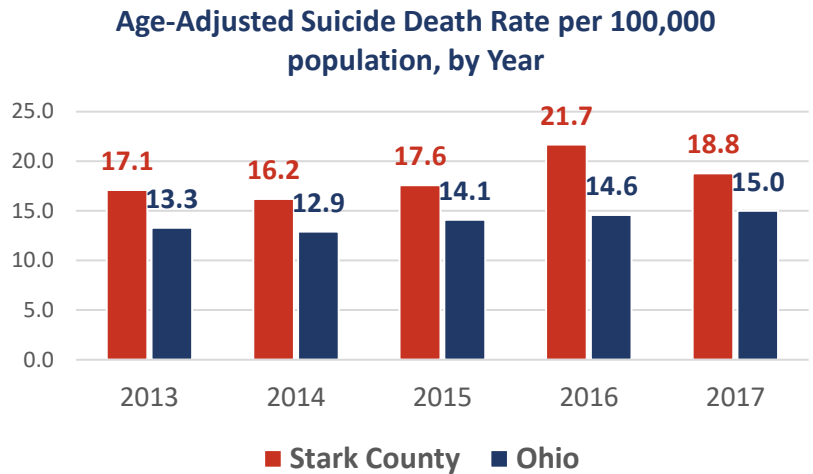
Causes of death vary by age. Accidents and suicide accounted for 60 percent of the deaths of children and young adults, but less than 3 percent of deaths of older adults.

Leading Cause of Death, by Age Group, Stark County, 2016-2018				
Rank	Children Ages 1-19	Young Adults Ages 20-34	Middle Age Adults Ages 35-64	Older Adults Over Age 65
1	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	Malignant Neoplasms	Diseases of the Heart
2	Intentional Self-Harm (suicide)	Intentional Self-Harm (suicide)	Diseases of the Heart	Malignant Neoplasms
3	All Other Diseases	All Other Diseases	All Other Disease	All Other Disease
4	Assault (homicide)	Assault (homicide)	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	Alzheimer's Disease
5	Benign/Uncertain Type Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases

Suicide

Data Source: 2019 Stark County Community Health Assessment and Stark County Health Department, "Epi-Aid 2018-025: Increase in youth suicides – Stark County, Ohio, 2018"

As shown above, suicide was the second most common cause of death for children and young adults in Stark County. For all ages, Stark County's age-adjusted rate of deaths due to intentional self-harm per 100,000 population was 18.8 in 2017, significantly higher than the state average. The suicide death rate has more than doubled for ages 25-34 since 2013.

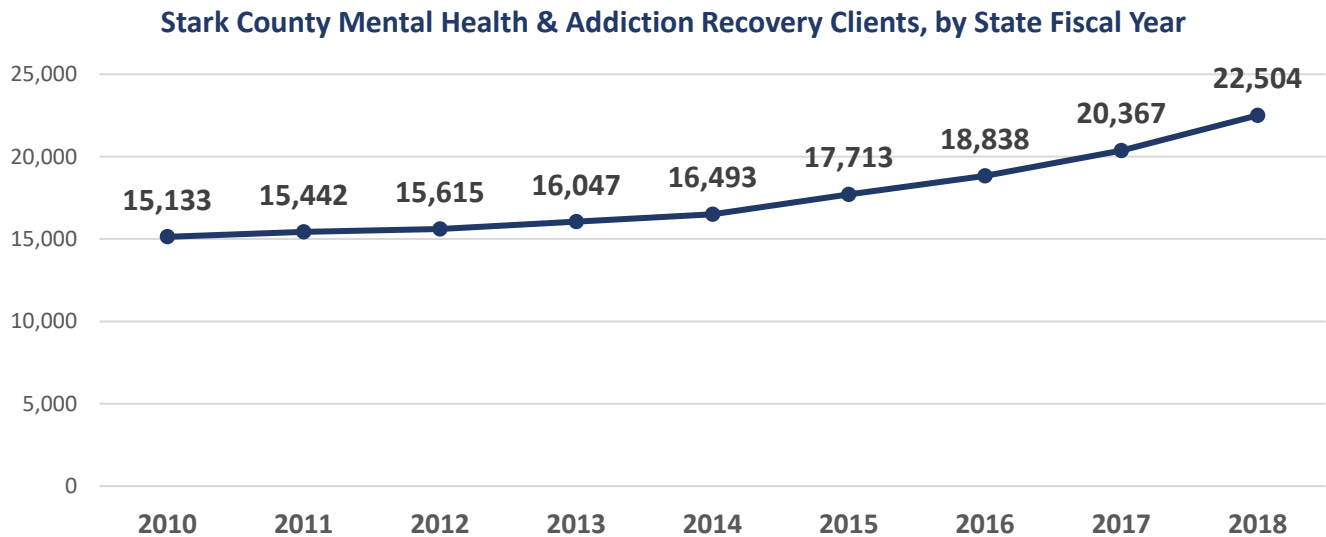


Between August 2017 and March 2018 youth suicides in Stark County increased rapidly to 20 deaths per 100,000 persons ages 10-19. The Stark County Health Department reported that this was more than 7 times the U.S. national rate and 11 times the rate for Stark County in previous years. The final Epi-Aid report provided several recommendations to increase protective factors among youth, support prevention activities, and address suicide risk.

Behavioral Health

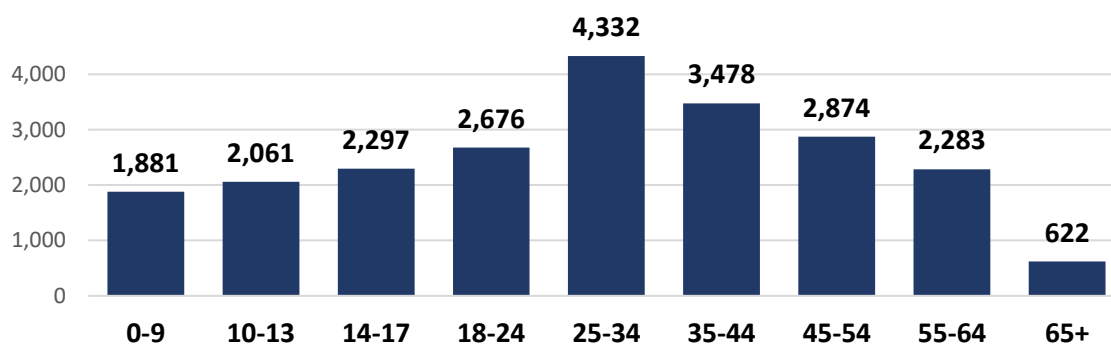
Source: Data provided by Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery.

Over the past several years, the number of people served by Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery has increased, to more than 22,500 in State Fiscal Year 2018.



In 2018, 28 percent of people served by the public behavioral health system were children and 72 percent were adults, evenly split between men and women.

Stark County Mental Health & Recovery Clients, by Age Group, 2018



Top 10 Diagnostic Groups, 2018

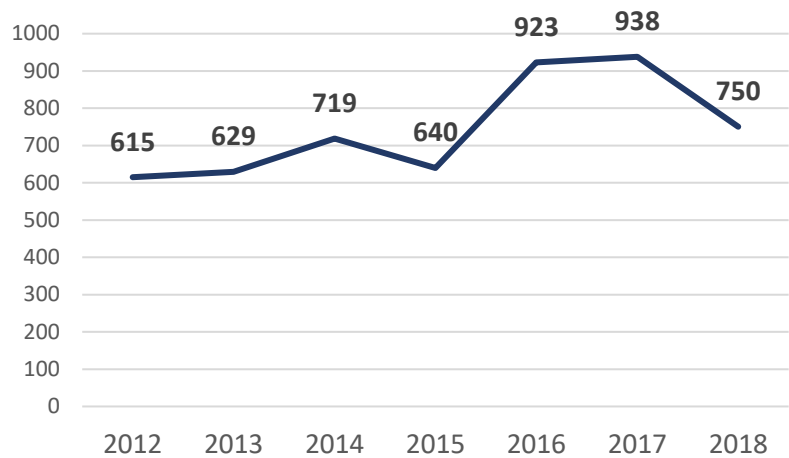
YOUTH		ADULTS	
Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Combined Type	5,326	Major Depressive Disorder, Recurrent, Moderate	7,985
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	3,223	Generalized Anxiety Disorder	6,856
Adjustment Disorder w/ Mixed Disturb of Emotions and Conduct	2,385	Bipolar Disorder, Unspecified	4,998
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Unspecified	2,117	Opioid Dependence, Uncomplicated	4,994
Generalized Anxiety Disorder	2,066	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Unspecified	4,832
Adjustment Disorder, Unspecified	1,413	Major Depressive Disorder, Single Episode, Unspecified	4,796
Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood	1,390	Major Depressive Disorder, Recurrent, Severe w/o psych feature	3,418
Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Unspecified Type	1,375	Anxiety Disorder, Unspecified	3,007
Major Depressive Disorder, Single Episode, Unspecified	1,290	Alcohol Dependence, Uncomplicated	2,177
Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder	1,244	Bipolar II Disorder	2,123

Drug Overdoses

Data Source: Ohio's EpiCenter Surveillance System Accessed via Summit County Public Health Statewide Mortality Data Dashboard.

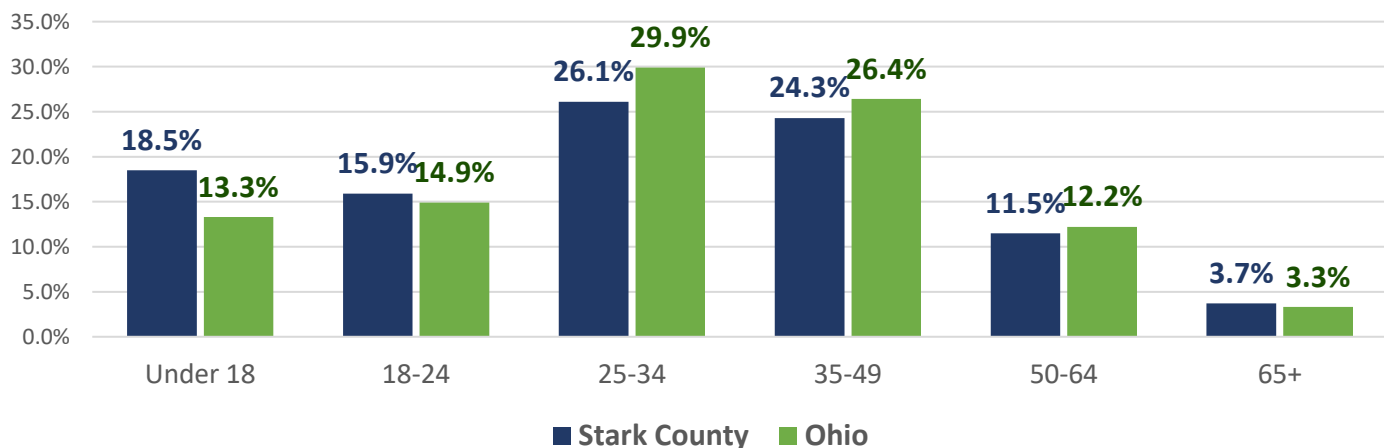
There were more than 5,000 emergency department visits for overdoses in Stark County between 2012 and 2018. Emergency visits to medical providers due to drug overdose peaked in Stark County in 2017. While opioid overdoses are a substantial share of total overdoses, this data includes other drugs as well. However, overdoses caused by suicide attempts or traumatic injuries by everyday drugs like Tylenol were removed or reclassified where identified. These totals do not include victims who were treated by safety forces and not transported to emergency rooms.

Estimated Emergency Department Visits for Drug Overdose, Stark County, by Year



The average age of people who overdosed in Stark County was slightly younger than the state average.

Overdoses by Age Category, 2012-2019



First Trimester Prenatal Care

Data Source: Analysis by The Center for Community Solutions from Ohio Birth Records.

Prenatal care can help prevent complications with pregnancy and lead the mother to engage in healthy practices. Health professionals recommend that prenatal care begin as early in a pregnancy as possible, ideally before 14 weeks gestation, or during the first trimester of pregnancy. According to the National Institutes of Health, regular prenatal care reduces the risk for complications for both mothers and babies. In Stark County, 68 percent of pregnant women had their first prenatal visit during their first trimester. Data is not shown for communities with fewer than 10 births.

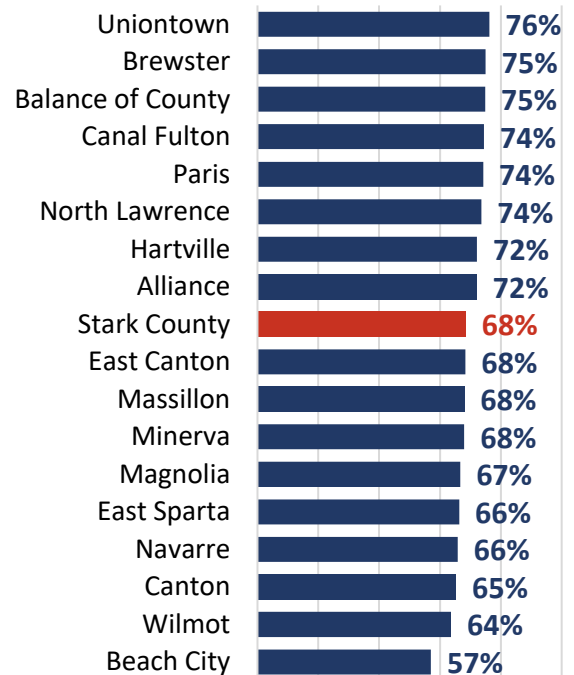
Low Birth Weight

Data Source: Analysis by The Center for Community Solutions from Ohio Birth Records.

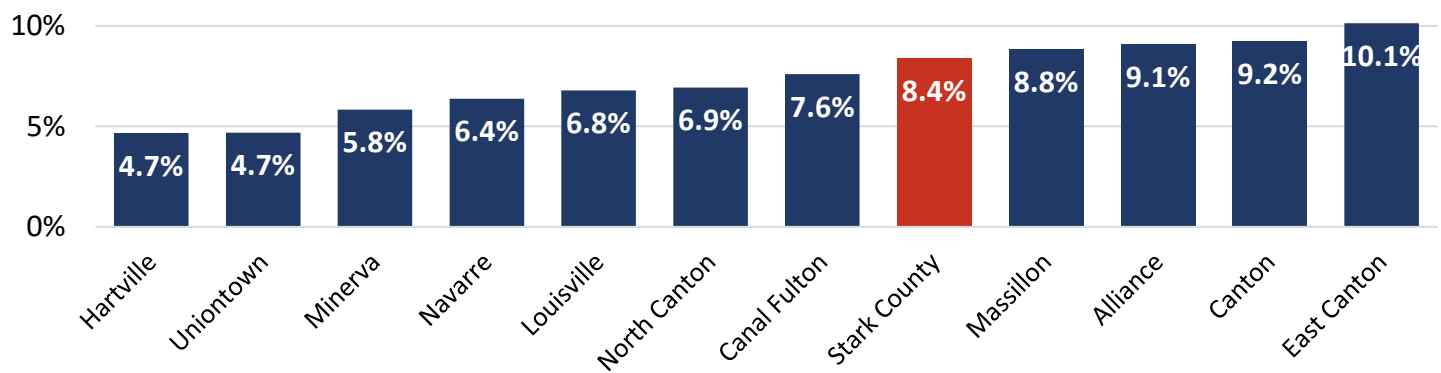
Low birth weight (weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) causes many health complications and contributes to infant mortality. Low birth weight can be attributed to the mother's stress levels, lifestyle and diet, as well as genetics and preterm birth.

Within the county, East Canton had the highest rate of low birth weight at 10.1 percent, and Uniontown and Hartville had the lowest rates of preterm birth at 4.7 percent. Ensuring that mothers in Stark County have proper prenatal and postnatal care will likely help reduce rates of low birth weight and keep mothers and infants healthy.

Percent of Pregnant Women whose First Prenatal Visit Occurred in First Trimester



Low Birth Weight, Stark County, 2013-2017

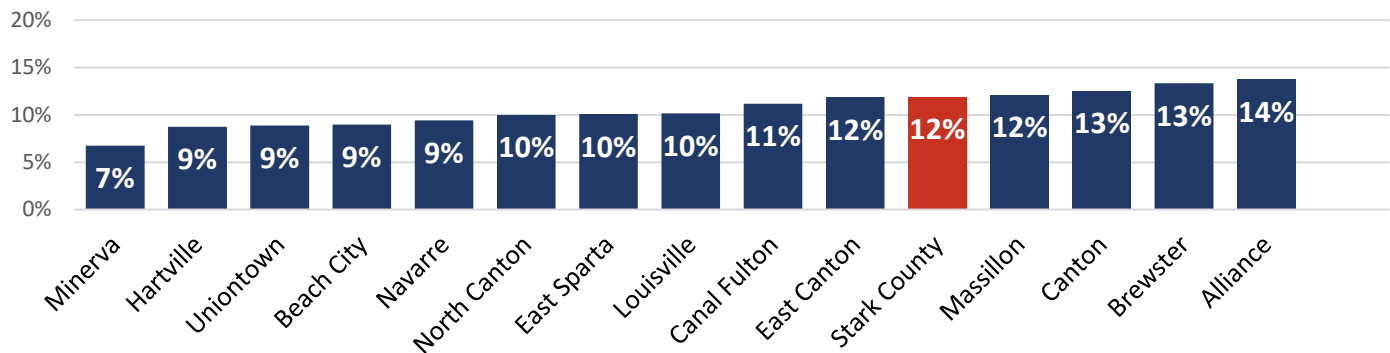


Preterm Birth

Data Source: Analysis by The Center for Community Solutions from Ohio Birth Records.

A premature birth is a birth that takes place more than three weeks before the baby's estimated due date or before the start of the 37th week of pregnancy. Infants who are born premature often have multiple medical problems and can even die. Preventative health care for mothers can increase the likelihood of healthy babies born at full term. Stark County's premature birth rate, per most recent data, is 12 percent. The City of Waynesburg had the highest percentage of preterm births at 17 percent, and Minerva had the lowest at 7 percent.

Percent of Preterm Births, Stark County, 2013-2017



Infant Mortality

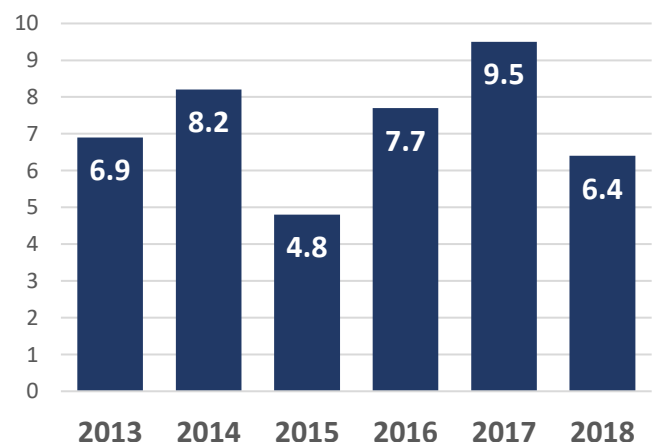
Data Source: Stark County THRIVE and Ohio Department of Health, 2017 Infant Mortality Report.

Infant mortality refers to the number of babies who die during the first year of life. In 2018, Stark County's infant mortality rate of 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births was well below the 2017 rate of 9.5 and approaching the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6.0. While Ohio's infant mortality rate has remained relatively steady over the past several years, as the chart shows, Stark County's rate has fluctuated.

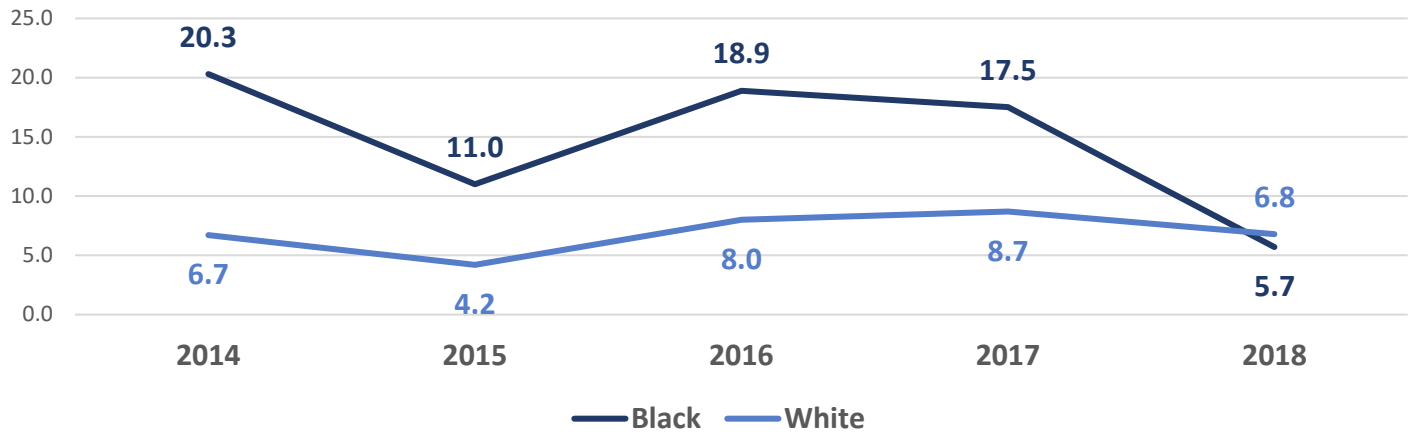
According to data from the Ohio Department of Health, About two-thirds of infant deaths in Stark County in 2017 were neonatal, meaning that they occurred during the first four weeks of life. Infant deaths in the neonatal period are often associated with other risk factors, such as premature birth and low birth weight. Thirteen of the 38 infant deaths in Stark County in 2017 were post-neonate.

Within Ohio and across the country there are substantial racial disparities related to infant mortality. Concerted efforts in Stark County seek to reduce those disparities, and most recent data is an early indication of success. In 2018, for the first time, Black babies in Stark County were less likely to die before their first birthday than white babies.

Stark County Infant Mortality Rate per 10,000 Live Births, by Year



Infant Mortality Rate, Stark County by Race, by Year



Teen Births

Data Source: Analysis by The Center for Community Solutions from Ohio Birth Records.

Teen pregnancies are overwhelmingly unplanned and impact education completion and future earnings. Teen birth rates per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19 were highest in the City of Canton at 77.9, which is more than ten times the teen birth rate in the suburban communities outside the largest cities.

Teen Birth Rate Per 1,000 Females Aged 15-19

