



OHIO URBAN RESOURCES SYSTEM

Improving The Lives of Ohio's Urban Core

Ohio Urban Resources
System (OURS)

**Community Impact
Assessment**

Prepared for OURS by the Community Building Institute

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Table of Contents

Sections

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	2
Themes	7
Agency Profiles	13
Data Snapshot	36
Appendix	64

Tables

Table 1: Population Change, 2000 and 2014-2018	37
Table 2: Population Change by County, 2000 and 2014-2018	38
Table 3: Change in Poverty, 2000 and 2014-2018	40
Table 4: 2014-2018 Poverty	42
Table 5: Poverty by Age for OURS and State, 2014-2018	46
Table 6: Poverty by Age for OURS and State, 2014-2018	47
Table 7: Poverty by Age, Under 5 years, 2014-2018	47
Table 8: Poverty by Race, 2014-2018	48
Table 9: Poverty by Ethnicity, 2014-2018	49
Table 10: Population in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-2018	50
Table 11: Households with No Computer, 2014-2018	59
Table 12: Underlying Health Conditions, 2017	60
Table 13: Highest Educational Attainment, 2014-2018	61
Table 14: Unemployment Rate, 2000, 2009, and 2019	62
Table 15: Social Vulnerability, 2016	63

Figures

Figure 1: Percent Change in Poverty, 2000 and 2014-2018	40
Figure 2: Change in Poverty by Agency Geography Served, 2000 and 2014-2018	41
Figure 3: Poverty Rate by County, 2014-2018	43
Figure 4: Percent in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity Group, 2014-2018	50
Figure 5: Percent Change in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018	51
Figure 6: Outcomes for Low Income Families by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018	53
Figure 7: Outcomes for Middle Income Families by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018	53

Maps

Map 1: Total Population Change, 2000 and 2014-2018	39
Map 2: Population in Poverty, 2014-2018	44
Map 3: Change in Poverty, 2009-2013 to 2014-2018	45
Map 4: Eventual Household Incomes, 2018	54
Map 5: Service Occupations, 2014-2018	56
Map 6: Food Access, 2014-2018	57
Map 7: Renter Cost Burden, 2014-2018	58

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Ohio Urban Resources System (OURS) is to empower Ohio's Urban Community Action Agencies for maximum impact. OURS envisions the Ohio Urban Resources System as a leading entity strengthening the social and economic security of families and their communities.

The OURS network has expanded over three decades to serve not only urban populations living in poverty, but also rural and suburban populations that are increasingly experiencing poverty. In 2018, OURS communities were home to more than 55 percent of all Ohioans, including more than 1 million Ohioans living in poverty.

Ohio has a bifurcated economy and a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. The COVID-19 pandemic is only likely to deepen that division and dampen economic gains made since the last recession.

Between mid-March and mid-May, Ohio had nearly 1.2 million claims for unemployment benefits. The unemployment rate went from 4.1 percent in February 2020 to a staggering 16.8 percent in April 2020 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Families are also experiencing the illness and loss of loved ones; 2,002 people have died in Ohio as a result of the virus, a disproportionate number of them poor Black Ohioans (as of May 27, 2020, Ohio Department of Health).

As this crisis continues to touch families in Ohio there will need to be an "all hands on deck" response to the short-term emergency situations that poor households will find themselves in.

OURS organizations are uniquely positioned to be able to support families with immediate emergency needs this year, and with the longer-term task of putting lives and households back together in the coming years.

As resources are marshaled from local, state, and federal governments and from philanthropic and corporate sources, OURS organizations will be critical partners to make sure resources go where they are most needed and deployed in ways that have the most impact. OURS organizations are on the ground all day, every day supporting poor Ohio families. Based on their ongoing work, and what they are dealing with now in this early stages of the COVID-19 crisis, OURS communities are focused on the critical issues of housing and education, including the technology access needed by students and their families to maintain learning outside the classroom.

OURS organizations know how to connect with communities and create and implement solutions because they have been part of communities for over 50 years in most cases. This depth of community knowledge and long term and steadfast commitment is what it takes to address poverty and the worsening wealth gap.



Introduction

This report, commissioned by the Ohio Urban Resource System (OURS), is intended to provide an overview of the member organizations work to support families and address the growing needs of those who find themselves in poverty in Ohio. OURS is a network of 11 Community Action Agencies that represent the largest cities in Ohio. OURS agencies formed this network in 1985 to better serve those in poverty in urban parts of the state where poverty rates have been consistently higher than other parts of the state, with the exception of southeastern Appalachian counties.

The mission of the Ohio Urban Resources System (OURS) is to empower Ohio's Urban Community Action Agencies for maximum impact. OURS envisions the Ohio Urban Resources System as a leading entity strengthening the social and economic security of families and their communities. The OURS network has expanded over three decades to serve not only urban populations living in poverty, but also rural and suburban populations that are increasingly experiencing poverty. The Community Action Agencies represented by OURS support communities where over 50 percent of all Ohioans live. Today there are over 1.6 million poor people in Ohio, and one million of them live in OURS communities. The poverty rate overall in Ohio is 15 percent and in OURS communities it is 16 percent.

**OURS
represents
Ohio.**

2000 - 2018:

- 1) Continued loss of manufacturing jobs**
- 2) Sharp rise in poverty**
- 3) New investment in urban centers.**

Between 2000 and 2018, Ohio, along with the rest of the country, went through a difficult recession and then an economic recovery in the latter half of the decade. Recent significant investments in the largest central cities of Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati led to urban renaissances throughout the state. Franklin County and Columbus posted a significant population increase in the last decade (over 200,000 people). Alongside this new investment, Ohio continued to lose manufacturing jobs. Between 2000 and 2010, Ohio's population employed in manufacturing went from 1 million to 621,000. This loss was compounded by decades of manufacturing job losses. A total of 750,000 jobs were lost in the four decades between 1969 and 2009. Regions dependent on manufacturing like Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Warren, Stark, Butler, and Cleveland and its surrounding areas were hit especially hard. All except Butler County are OURS communities.

**2000 - 2018:
40% increase
in poverty
across Ohio.**

By the start of 2020, Ohio was making economic gains, adding jobs, and improving income levels. It feels good to be on the “comeback trail,” but these gains have not been felt equally. In the midst of these accomplishments and economic growth, there are almost a half a million more Ohioans living in poverty today than there were in 2000, a 40 percent increase. OURS communities include half of all White people in Ohio in poverty, 75 percent of all Latino people in Ohio in poverty, and over 90 percent of Black people in poverty in Ohio.

Increases in poverty have been felt throughout the state, even in places like Franklin County that have seen significant population increases. Franklin County’s increase in population happened alongside the largest rise in poverty in the state. The OURS communities with poverty rates higher than the statewide rate are generally the counties with the largest population, but there are three exceptions: Mahoning, Trumbull, and Summit. Mahoning and Trumbull in Northeast Ohio both have higher rates than the state but relatively smaller total population numbers; Summit has a lower rate than the state but a relatively larger total population number.

Today Ohio has a bifurcated economy and a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. The COVID-19 pandemic is only likely to deepen that division and dampen economic gains made since the last recession.



Between mid-March and mid-May, Ohio had nearly 1.2 million claims for unemployment benefits. The unemployment rate went from 4.1 percent in February 2020 to a staggering 16.8 percent in April 2020 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

**COVID-19
has already
had a
devastating
impact
on Ohio’s
economy and
its families.**

Families are also experiencing the illness and loss of loved ones; 2,002 people have died in Ohio as a result of the virus, a disproportionate number of them poor Black Ohioans (as of May 27, 2020, Ohio Department of Health).

As this pandemic continues to touch families in Ohio there will need to be an “all hands on deck” response to the short-term emergency situations that poor households will find themselves in. A sudden loss of income for some families will mean they are looking for support they have never had to access before. Families are going to need support with basics like food and housing. They are experiencing trauma and loss and the isolation of being disconnected from schools, jobs, and their support networks.

**COVID-19
requires both
a short-term
emergency
response and
a long term
response.**

This crisis has made clear the huge inequities in Ohio and the very different circumstances people find themselves in. There will also be longer-term needs as families try to recover from the disruption this crisis has caused.

OURS agencies are critical partners to ensure resources are targeted where most needed and have the biggest impact.

OURS organizations are uniquely positioned to be able to support families with immediate emergency needs this year, and with the longer-term task of putting lives and households back together in the coming years. As resources are marshaled from local, state, and federal governments and from philanthropic and corporate sources, OURS organizations will be critical partners to make sure resources go where they are most needed and deployed in ways that have the most impact. OURS organizations are on the ground all day, every day supporting poor Ohio families. Based on their ongoing work, and what they are dealing with now, in this early stages of the COVID-19 crisis there are critical issues that must be addressed.

Critical Recovery Issues

Housing Ohioans

Housing insecurity has been a growing concern among OURS organizations and the communities they serve for years. The housing affordability crisis in major cities has been made worse by the good economy and rising housing prices and rents. Extremely poor building conditions in much of the affordable housing that does exist make it unsafe and unhealthy. We know that 11 percent of households in Ohio were paying over 50 percent of their income for rent in 2019. Low wages that are not keeping up with rising costs has also contributed to the affordable housing shortage. Now with no or greatly diminished incomes, these same households who are renters are going to be faced with eviction and for low-income owners with foreclosure.

In the short term, keeping people in housing is going to be critical to the state's ability to control this pandemic, and fully recover economically. To get people back to work and children back in school, families need stable, healthy housing. Short-term funds to support rent and mortgage assistance are going to be critical over the remainder of 2020 to stem what could be a huge wave of homelessness. As an example of crisis response, IMPACT Community Action in Columbus will provide rent and mortgage assistance for about 2,000 households as part of a larger \$2.1 million effort in Franklin County to support families stay in their homes.

OURS organizations understand that it is much easier to support people who are housed than to try to get people on the road to self-sufficiency when they are homeless. The trauma children experience as a result of homelessness negatively impacts their health, their school performance, and their mental health, and breaks the family support networks that are so important to a child's healthy development. Keeping people in housing in the short-term should be of the highest priority to the recovery in Ohio.

Housing stability is the highest short-term priority for recovery in Ohio.

COVID-19 also highlights the need for longer term solutions to ensure a more equitable housing market that serves all Ohioans.

In the longer term, creating a more equitable housing market that provides housing choices for all Ohioans in the places they want to live that work for their families is also critical to a complete recovery. The strategies that OURS organizations have been working on include creating more affordable housing, better integrating affordable housing into more parts of metropolitan areas to improve access to opportunities, higher property maintenance standards, more flexible zoning that allows a broader range of housing options, and more funding for the housing choice voucher program and for public housing upgrades and tax incentives to stimulate affordable housing construction. These longer term solutions that OURS organizations and many others in urban Ohio have been working on will take decades to fully accomplish, but this pandemic makes it clear that we need to redouble these efforts and make big changes in how our housing markets work now, or poor families will continue to be forced to live in unhealthy conditions and faced with the stresses of housing insecurity.

COVID-19's impact on education magnifies the digital divide, and its potentially deep and lasting impacts.

Educating Ohio's Children



Getting children ready for school and providing them the “head start” they need to be successful is what most CAAs do. Early learning and connecting with families with young children has been one of the benchmarks of OURS agencies for 50 years. Connecting with families and supporting moms, dads and their children around education is something CAAs know well. The terrible disconnect that has happened between many children and their schools and early learning centers during this pandemic is heartbreaking. Schools and teachers have done their very best to stay connected to their students and to continue to educate them, as schools and day care centers across the state have had to close. This task is made almost impossible for households without the internet connections and digital devices that many households take for granted. Students who have not been in school for months are losing out on precious instructional time that they will never get back, putting them farther behind their peers with these kinds of instructional supports. This too is a situation that requires a short-term emergency response along with a much more comprehensive long-term strategy around equitable access to quality education.

Parents need support to keep their children engaged and learning outside of the classroom. CAAs can be a critical part of addressing this need.

Students and their families need laptops and digital devices that will give them access to the teachers and other resources they need to keep learning outside the classroom. Poor households need internet access. It is becoming clear that reliable internet access is just as basic a service as power and water, also services that are surprisingly tenuous for many poor households. Families also need help with at home instruction. They need support to engage with their children and academic materials to help their children stay competitive and be successful. In the short-term, resources to get children and their families the digital materials and access they need is going to be necessary as we head into the 2020-21 school year. CAAs have the relationships, and networks to be a critical part of this process.

As we move into the future it is clear that educational instruction is going to have to be delivered in-person and virtually. Children who do not have access to the virtual side of the equation will fall behind. In the long-term, this support needs to include new kinds of relationships between early learning centers, schools, teachers and children and their families. Closer coordination between schools, CAAs, libraries, recreation centers, art centers, and children and families will also help to support poor children who will increasingly be looking for educational experiences in more community settings. A recent study completed in Cincinnati about the experiences of youth suggested “It’s time to wake the Village,” implying that while we all understand the saying – it takes a village to raise a child, the village needs to step up now more than ever, and CAAs will be a critical part of coordinating those efforts for poor families.

OURS agencies are on the front lines of the COVID-19 emergency response, connecting with Ohioans in crisis.

Their expertise and compassion will be needed in the longer term to address the growing poverty and wealth gap that negatively impacts all Ohioans.

This report discusses the work of OURS organizations in Ohio and highlights the communities in which they have been making a difference for decades. It also outlines the systemic issues that keep people in poverty from being successful. Housing insecurity, education, and employment are the most pressing issues in the urban and suburban communities served by OURS agencies right now. But Ohio, like the rest of the country, has become a very different place for people who are poor and everyone else. For what is certainly more than 1.6 million Ohioans in poverty today, these are some very difficult times, and a recovery for everyone is not going to be complete as long as that many of our neighbors do not have an opportunity to have a decent life.

OURS organizations are deeply embedded in their communities and they understand who needs help and how to best provide that help. Everyone in Ohio has an interest in providing the best and most cost-effective service for families who struggle with poverty.

In Trumbull County, it is the Trumbull County Action Program, who is still supporting families who are suffering the loss of jobs at the Lordstown GM plant. In Dayton, the Miami Valley Community Action Partnership is still providing housing and mental health support long after the tornadoes and the cameras have gone. Each OURS organization tailors its approach to meet unique community needs.

OURS organizations know how to deliver programming and services, but maybe more importantly, hope and dignity to families in Ohio who need a hand. They understand how to provide quality early childhood learning, who needs help with emergency housing and utility assistance, who needs some encouragement and a job, and who is abusing the system.

OURS organizations know how to connect with communities and create and implement solutions because they have been part of communities for over 50 years in most cases. This depth of community knowledge and long term and steadfast commitment is what it takes to address poverty and the worsening wealth gap.

Themes

Community Connections and Local Knowledge

OURS member agencies are on the ground working with clients in their communities every day. Agency staff proactively build relationships in the community that make them more effective. They are interwoven with the community fabric. They understand the interconnected challenges and opportunities facing families and children living in poverty, and how these challenges and opportunities change over time. This understanding helps agencies to develop programs and initiatives that are effective at supporting low-income families and children. In addition to providing services, agencies also support local economies through employment and local spending.

OURS member agencies are local, regional, state, and national experts on poverty. They use this local knowledge to advocate for policies, programs, and spending that help families living in poverty become more successful.

Agencies as Innovator

OURS Member agencies are innovating solutions that support the families they serve. A car leasing program in Cincinnati and a bicycle shop run by youth in Lorain County help address public transportation challenges by providing alternatives. In Columbus, youth are connected to skilled trade training opportunities linked to the development of affordable housing. This program is increasing job opportunities for youth while addressing the affordable housing shortage in Columbus and Franklin County. In Toledo, Brothers United is supporting

men as they face the challenges of fatherhood, including developing healthy co-parent relationships and supporting the future of their children. The success of the program has led to Sisters United, a program aimed at supporting mothers.

Many agencies are piloting referral and connections services to ensure that the families and individuals have access to all the services that can support them. They know that stable supportive families support their children's success.

Long-Term Investment

OURS member agencies, big and small, are not just providing programs and connecting individuals and families with resources, they are investing in the future of Ohio. The support community action agencies provide in moving poor Ohio children and families from crisis to stability to self-sufficiency is long-term.

Children attending Head Start benefit educationally, with expected higher educational attainment, and socially and emotionally, with a lasting positive impact on behavioral outcomes included self-control and self-esteem (The Long-Term Impact of the Head Start Program, Brookings, 2016).

Training programs that provide certification for occupations with good wages and case management to support families as they transition to financial self-sufficiency can benefit all of Ohio by increasing economic growth and prosperity.

Communicating Impact

OURS member agencies are dedicated to improving data collection and reporting systems. Agencies recognize the need to clearly demonstrate their impact through tangible outcomes. Agencies are dedicating time and resources to improve the systems that make this communication possible.

Agency Staff Support

The impact of OURS member agencies depends on the quality of its staff and programming. Some members are leading by example in the minimum wage policy discussion by increasing their minimum wage to \$15 per hour. In Cincinnati, the Community Action Agency increased staff wages to \$15 per hour in 2019. As the agency supports clients in obtaining livable wages, they are also now able to ensure a livable wage for their own staff. This change has had a huge impact on staff. One mother shared that the increase in wages has allowed her to better support her family and has changed her life. She can now afford more necessities and can pay bills without additional assistance. Agencies are also looking for educational and training opportunities to increase staff capacity.

Several members talked about an intentional culture shift for their staff. In these cases, staff are encouraged to meet individuals and families where they are, to be more empathetic and understanding, and to recognize the many challenges that clients may be holding when they come to agencies for help.

Declining Social Mobility

OURS member agencies have been a positive agent of change in their communities for decades while facing incredible headwinds.

Access to opportunity is not distributed evenly and social mobility is declining as evidenced by the Opportunity Atlas, developed by Raj Chetty and others at Harvard University in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau:

“Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Atlas tracks the outcomes of 20 million Americans from childhood to their mid-30s in all 70,000 census tracts with the ability to analyze findings by race, gender, and income. In the past, we could measure neighborhood wealth and poverty at a given moment, but never before could we see how early childhood experiences can influence income into adulthood.

Sadly, the new findings challenge the bedrock principle that America remains a land of opportunity for all. Two broad trends emerge. First, adjacent neighborhoods with similar household incomes and racial makeup can produce children whose adult lives veer off in very different directions. And second, in a single neighborhood, children growing up in almost identical households (in terms of income and family composition) can diverge dramatically as adults—with race being the only differing characteristic.”¹

¹ <https://www.rwjf.org/en/blog/2019/01/data-maps-the-lifelong-impact-of-where-a-child-grows-up.html>

This research provides some context to the work of OURS agencies across the state.

COVID-19 has illuminated that headwind and its impacts.

“A great divide separates affluent Americans, who fully enjoy the benefits of life in the wealthiest nation on earth, from the growing portion of the population whose lives lack stability or any real prospect of betterment.”²

“New data from the December 2019 round of the Urban Institute’s Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey of non-elderly adults show that despite the nation being at the tail end of its longest economic expansion on record, many hourly and self-employed workers were already struggling to make ends meet before the outbreak.”³

In Northeast Ohio, **The Two Tomorrows** (Fund for Our Economic Future) identified a “call for a collective sense of purpose – for choosing a better tomorrow shared by residents of all races across all places. Step one is coming together around shared regional priorities that connect Growth & Opportunity through Job Creation, Job Preparation and Job Access, with deliberate attention to systemic race-based inequities and the barriers to opportunity they create and exacerbate.”

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/opinion/coronavirus-inequality-america.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>

³ https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/even-coronavirus-outbreak-hourly-and-self-employed-workers-were-struggling-meet-basic-needs?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=UIU+-+3.24.2020&cm_pla=VPL+6666+for+List+179&cm_ite=https%3a%2f%2fwww.urban.org%2furban-wire%2feven-coronavirus-outbreak-hourly-and-self-employed-workers-were-struggling-meet-basic-needs&cm_ainfo=&&utm_source=%20urban_newsletters&&utm_medium=news-UIU&&utm_term=URBAN_COVID19&&

In Franklin County, **Rise Together: A Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Franklin County** (Franklin County Board of Commissioners), a steering committee was charged to identify ways for the county to more effectively identify and support pathways to prosperity, recognizing the urgent need to mitigate local poverty and propose solutions. The coalition’s goals were to improve economic mobility, family stability, and equitable access to opportunity throughout Central Ohio. This report addresses racial inequities head-on: “In taking a frank assessment of poverty in Franklin County, the steering committee identified and prioritized the need to be candid and direct about the historic and current role race and racial inequities play in perpetual poverty [...] This led to the committee members’ understanding that, if real change is to take place, there must be an effort to disrupt the institutional racism and unconscious biases that continue to permeate the community. The steering committee recognizes that facing the challenge of racial inequities in the county will require a sustained effort to engage and change. It identified steps and action items in the blueprint to address these issues in individual organizations.”

In Cincinnati, **All-in Cincinnati: Equity is the Path to Inclusive Prosperity** (PolicyLink/PERE USC Program for Environment and Regional Equity) finds that “Hamilton County’s rising inequity and racial gaps not only hinder communities of color—they impede the whole region’s economic growth and prosperity. According to our analysis, if there were no racial disparities in income, GDP would have been \$9.9 billion higher in 2014. Unless racial gaps are closed, the costs of inequity will grow as Hamilton County becomes more diverse.”

Local, state, and national government action is needed to address the following policies and systems that impact wealth, health, and racial inequalities:

- Minimum wage, and benefits (sick and vacation leave, etc.)
- Access to health care
- Access to affordable, safe housing
- Access to benefits (addressing the benefits cliff as a deterrent from taking higher paying jobs)
- Crime and incarceration
- Transportation

Without change to these policies and systems, the impact of agencies will always be blunted. For example, while an agency can provide training and educational opportunities that can help clients get a job, if that job provides a minimum wage, it still is not a job that can provide financial self-sufficiency and security. One member agency outlined the path to self-sufficiency: as a move from crisis to stability to self-sufficiency. Agencies need support in moving families along this pathway to self-sufficiency.

Location Matters

Access to opportunity is dependent on many factors, including geography. A family's location in the city or in the region influences their access to housing, health care, quality schools, and jobs. It can also have an impact on mental health, drug abuse, and isolation.

COVID-19 Response

The communities served by OURS member agencies are likely to be hard hit by COVID-19 and the coronavirus pandemic. The economic hardships, health disparities, and housing insecurity make low-income communities especially vulnerable in both an economic downturn and the health crisis that is already playing out. The early days of COVID-19 have made clear the separations and inequalities that are pervasive in our country:

“A great divide separates affluent Americans, who fully enjoy the benefits of life in the wealthiest nation on earth, from the growing portion of the population whose lives lack stability or any real prospect of betterment. [...] Less affluent Americans will bear the brunt in health and wealth. Already they suffer disproportionately from the diseases of labor like black lung and mesothelioma; the diseases of poverty like obesity and diabetes; and the opioid epidemic that has raged in the communities where opportunity is in short supply. By one estimate, these patterns of poor health mean those at the bottom of the income spectrum are twice as likely to die from COVID-19. Many are losing their jobs; those still working generally cannot do so from the safety of the living room couch. They risk death to obtain the necessities of life.”¹

While data remains incomplete and the crisis is still raging as of this writing, the coronavirus is infecting and killing Black Americans at alarming and disproportionate rates throughout the country:

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/opinion/coronavirus-inequality-america.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>

“In Illinois, 43 percent of people who have died from the disease and 28 percent of those who have tested positive are African-Americans, a group that makes up just 15 percent of the state’s population. African-Americans, who account for a third of positive tests in Michigan, represent 40 percent of deaths in that state even though they make up 14 percent of the population. In Louisiana, about 70 percent of the people who have died are black, though only a third of that state’s population is.”²

While educational attainment is connected with unemployment and earnings, it is also correlated with whether people feel at least okay financially (self-assessment), whether they can work from home, how much paid leave they have, whether they have retirement savings, and whether they are financially okay in retirement. These benefits associated with higher educational attainment are even more important in light of COVID-19.

Lower income families are also being hit especially hard in the early days of COVID-19. According to supplemental data from April 2020 from Federal Reserve’s Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking, 39 percent of workers making less than \$40,000 had already lost their job.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/us/coronavirus-race.html>

OURS member agencies should be active participants in the immediate emergency response to the coronavirus. They know how to start and implement programs serving the communities most in need quickly and effectively.

As importantly, the agencies should be lead advocates for policy changes that will improve the lives of the families they serve. These policies might include increasing the minimum wage, guaranteeing paid sick leave, ensuring everyone has access to health insurance, affordable housing, and access to jobs and other community amenities. While this list is not all inclusive, it does represent the current dialogue around employee protections and addressing inequalities of wealth, health, and opportunity.

Agency Profiles

The Ohio Urban Resource System (OURS) is a partnership of Community Action agencies across the State of Ohio. Each organization is an independent agency uniquely positioned to serve their local communities. Through OURS they support each other and advocate on issues specific to urban areas. Some of those issues remain constant and others emerge in response to changing circumstances.

Poverty does not have one cause. It does not have one effect. Helping those in poverty requires understanding these complexities. It also requires the expertise of poverty-fighting agencies that coordinate and deliver services of greatest need. The following stories show how agencies are innovating responses to meet the needs in their community.



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

Two-generation, whole family support in Cincinnati and
Hamilton County

Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

Two-generation, whole family support in Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency has been supporting families who struggle with poverty for 56 years. While they do this in many ways, their largest initiative is providing Head Start early childhood services to young children and their families. Having children can be an overwhelming time for young moms who might not have the experience, financial resources, or family supports they need to raise their children. CAA is often the first place that a young mother can go to connect with the positive people and resources she needs to ensure her child can be successful. Children in Cincinnati-Hamilton County CAA Head Start programs are more prepared for school than children not enrolled, and their families have made the critical connection to support structures that can help them become a more sustainable family going forward.

Cincinnati-Hamilton County CAA knows that there is more to maintaining healthy successful families than children in healthy, supportive early learning environments (though that is critical). They have taken a leadership role in two important regional initiatives; the Child Poverty Collaborative and Project Lift. In partnership with the United Way, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and countless other partners they have created a more seamless system of intake and support for families who struggle with poverty. Now families can more easily access the services they need to raise their children, further their education, improve their employment skills, access transportation to get to a job, and achieve financial stability. CAA's leadership was critical to providing the deep understanding of the life experiences of poor families in Cincinnati and understanding how to support families so that children and their parents can be successful.

Total Population
812,037

Total population decreased by 4%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in
Poverty
128,930

Poverty increased by 32%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
13,514

Over 65 in
Poverty
10,050



Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership

Supporting seniors in poverty in the Mahoning Valley

Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership

Supporting seniors in poverty in the Mahoning Valley

The Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP) has programs similar to many other CAAs across the state of Ohio. They provide emergency assistance with utilities and rent, they provide employment assistance, and case management. They also set themselves apart through providing support to struggling seniors across their very diverse, urban, suburban, rural County.

About five years ago MYCAP saw a significant gap in the services available to seniors in the area. Over 20% of the population in the County is over 65, and of those seniors in poverty, many were living in true isolation and despair. MYCAP saw the need and gap in service and stepped up. Over the past five years, MYCAP has created and grown a significant set of services for seniors. They are supporting 17 senior sites with programming and emergency assistance and they are providing transportation for seniors to doctors' appointments, shopping trips, and other daily needs. They now provide case management services for over 700 seniors in the area. As a result, seniors have better health outcomes. What all of that means is that MYCAP is letting seniors in Mahoning County know that they are seen and cared about and that MYCAP is there for them. MYCAP did what CAAs across the State do, they saw a need and filled it.

Total Population
231,064

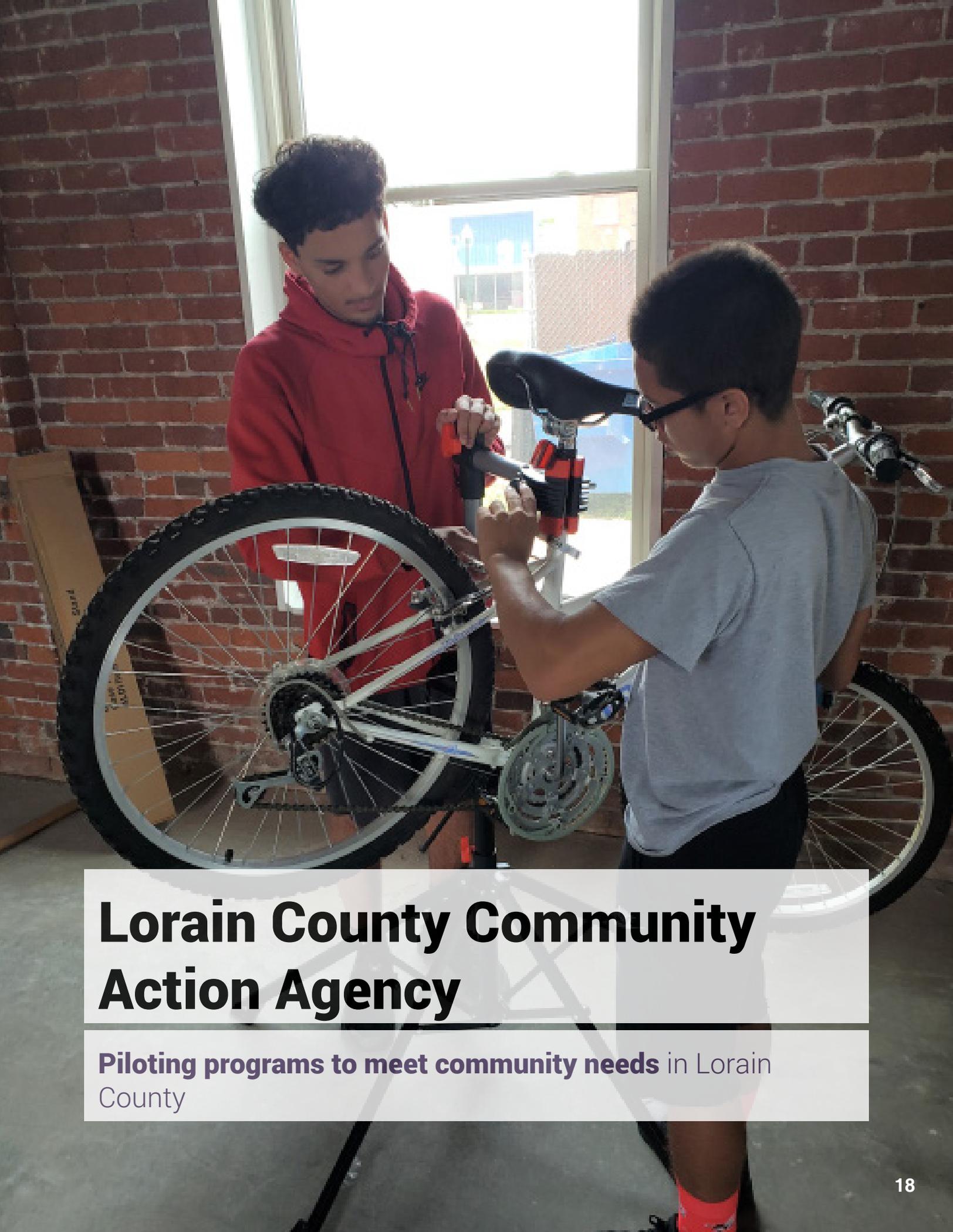
Total population decreased by 10% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Population in Poverty
39,441

Poverty increased by 26% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Under 5 in Poverty
3,901

Over 65 in Poverty
3,952



Lorain County Community Action Agency

Piloting programs to meet community needs in Lorain County

Lorain County Community Action Agency

Piloting programs to meet community needs in Lorain County

The Lorain County Community Action Agency (LCCAA) serves an area west of Cleveland along Lake Erie. This region is split between communities in the far western suburbs of Cleveland, the City of Lorain, and the much more rural south and western parts of the county. While there have been employment opportunities in the county, transportation to jobs is a significant hurdle for many of those served by LCCAA. It is a traditional CAA in that it provides early childhood Head Start programs, employment and training programs, emergency assistance and transportation assistance.

This is also an organization that innovates. When you are constantly trying to do more with less, you become good at improvising. The youth bike program is not the biggest program LCCAA runs, but it's a great example of the spirit of innovation. Staff were seeing a disconnect with teenagers as they graduated or left school. The 16-24 year olds did not have enough to do and no way to get around, so the Bike Shop was born. What if you get these youth to find and repair bikes for themselves and others? Now the young adults run the Bike Shop which refurbishes and sells bikes in the community and services bikes for the Go Lorain Bike Program. Because these young people are connected to someone and something positive, it's easier to get them connected to other programs and employment initiatives. Staff at LCCAA had an idea, gave it a try, and suddenly they have a powerful way to connect to "hard to serve" youth in ways that are meaningful to them and the community.

Total Population
306,713

Total population increased by 8%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in
Poverty
40,799

Poverty increased by 65%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
4,861

Over 65 in
Poverty
3,756



Pathway, Inc.

Addressing generational poverty through the support of fathers and mothers in Toledo

Pathway, Inc.

Addressing generational poverty through the support of fathers and mothers in Toledo

Pathway, Inc. in Toledo serves a metropolitan area at the western end of Lake Erie. Pathway believes that poverty is preventable. They have a mission to alleviate the hardships of poverty, and give people the tools and skills they need to thrive independently, believing that their success is Toledo's success. Pathways provides programming in areas including education, emergency assistance, job and career development, and senior supports. One of the greatest challenges to achieving that mission in Toledo is the culture of violence and gangs that is pervasive in low-income neighborhoods in the region.

Pathway understands that unless they reach the young men that are engaged in the culture of gangs and violence and provide an alternative, they will have a hard time with everything else they are trying to do. The fatherhood program, Brothers United, was born out of a need to reach young men and reconnect them to their children and families. That is the connection that can provide meaning and improve the outcomes for these young men and their children and their families. Pathways Toledo has become a national model of working with fathers, in a society that is not always very father-friendly. Generally, we are willing to support children and their mothers but often cut fathers out of the picture. Pathways has worked hard to develop staff and programming that reconnects fathers to their families and their communities.

Total Population
432,379

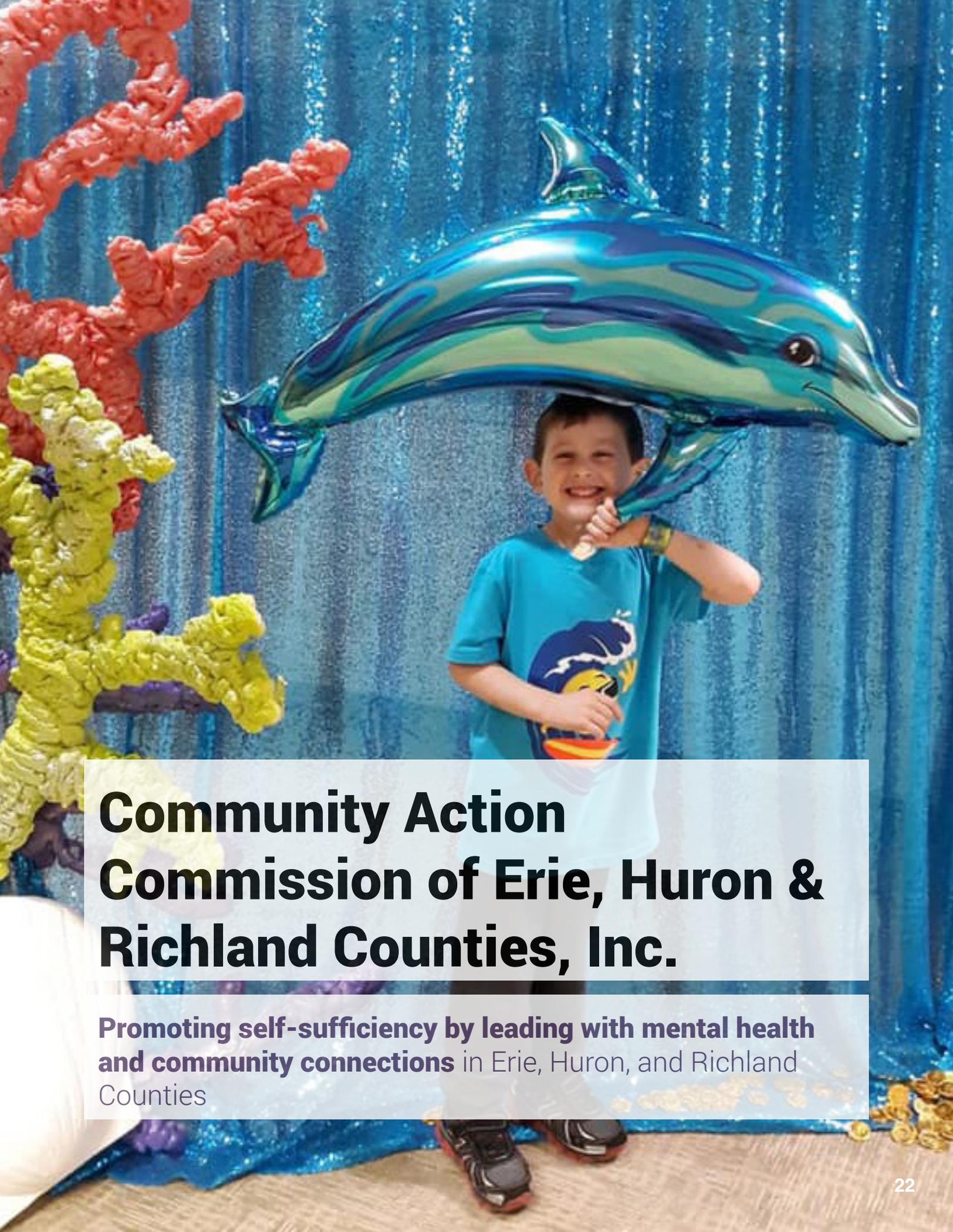
Total population decreased by 5%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in
Poverty
80,686

Poverty increased by 30%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
9,171

Over 65 in
Poverty
6,293



Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc.

**Promoting self-sufficiency by leading with mental health
and community connections** in Erie, Huron, and Richland
Counties

Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc.

Promoting self-sufficiency by leading with mental health and community connections in Erie, Huron, and Richland Counties

The Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron, and Richland Counties, Inc (CACEHR) serves a sprawling, mostly rural and suburban geography between Lake Erie and Mansfield. The mission of the organization calls on them to provide the wide range of services that many CAAs provide, including early childhood, emergency services, housing supports, employment services and lots of other gap-filling initiatives. CACEHR truly provides that safety net network of support for many small towns and rural communities. They also support the growing Latino population in the region that works in the low-wage tourist and hospitality industry along the lake. There is a large and growing problem with human trafficking, sex trades, drug abuse, and the violence that comes with these negative trends in areas along the lakefront.

Like so many households that struggle with poverty, people are living at the margins of the communities they live in. To help people with education, employment, supporting their families – all the things that CACEHR does, people have to feel like they matter, like “they are part of this world.” Mental health has become an increasingly important part of the work that needs to be done to help households achieve stability and resilience. CACEHR is increasingly connecting people to mental health services, and seeing the huge need for more services to be available to poor households in this region.

Total Population
254,917

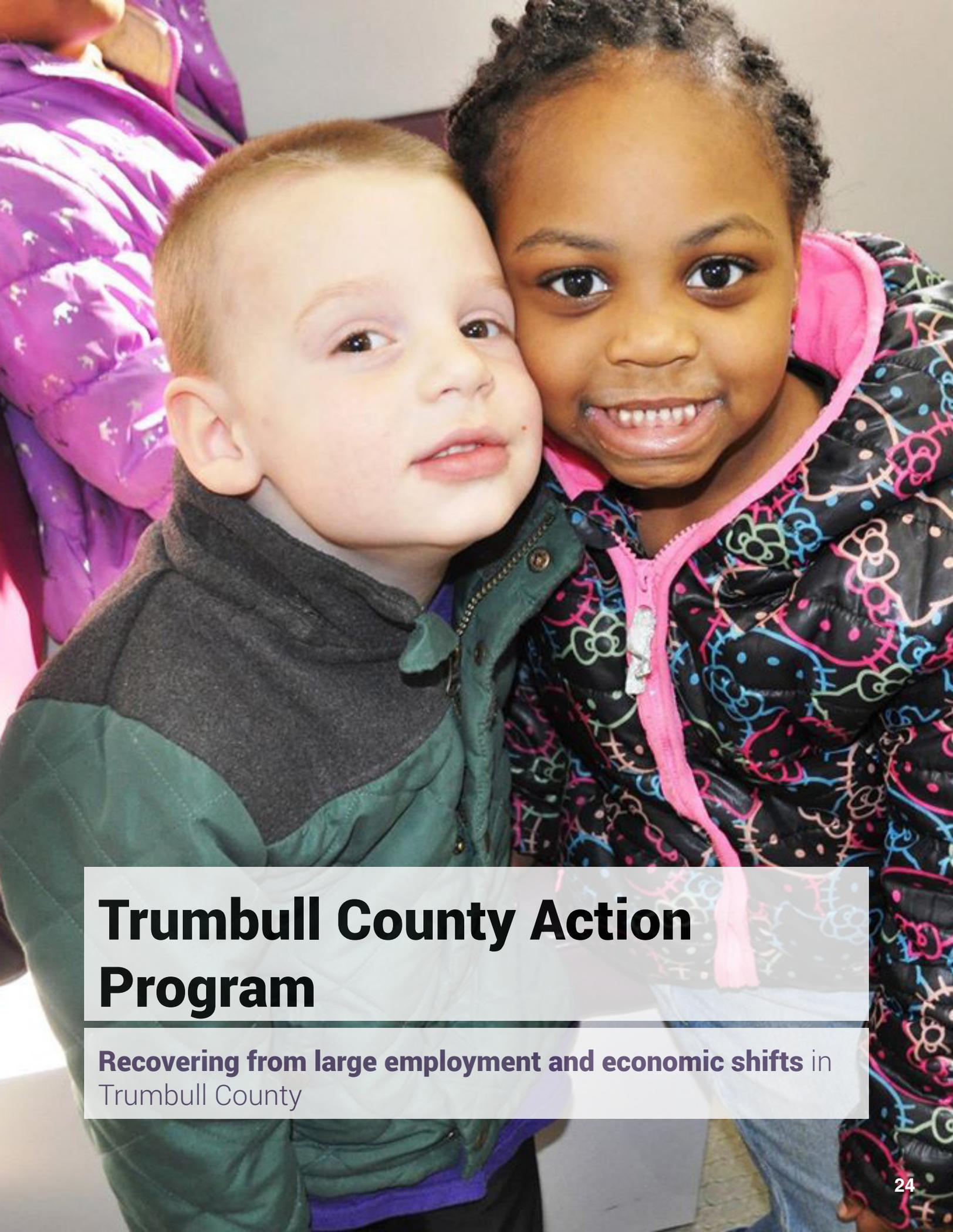
Total population decreased by 5% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Population in Poverty
32,893

Poverty increased by 35% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Under 5 in Poverty
3,541

Over 65 in Poverty
3,371



Trumbull County Action Program

Recovering from large employment and economic shifts in Trumbull County

Trumbull County Action Program

Recovering from large employment and economic shifts in Trumbull County

The Trumbull Community Action Program (TCAP) serves people in Northeast Ohio in the area between Cleveland, Youngstown, Akron and Canton. Trumbull, just outside of Youngstown, has Warren as its center. The area is more rural than many of the other CAAs in the OURS network and serves a population who live on small family farms on section line roads where there is no public transportation. TCAP is the Head Start provider in the area and devotes much of its resources to getting children ready for school and supporting their families. It is the way they do this work, trying to support the whole family, which makes them so vital in this community. To get better connected to families, TCAP established a program in middle schools to provide a needed link from early learning to high school. They even held a family dance to connect with families in a more positive setting than is typical. TCAP was able to offer parents another way to connect with their children that did not feel like punishment for them or their children.

This connection to families is what put TCAP in a position to reach out and support the community when the Lordstown GM plant closed in 2019. When the cameras left, TCAP was there to witness what happened to the over 21,000 employees and their families when they lost their jobs. They are supporting the newly poor trying to make sense of a system they have never encountered, including the multi-generation families whose breadwinner moved far away to keep a paycheck coming and younger households who now find themselves financially unstable with little to fall back on. It is this deep connection to community that makes it possible for TCAP to find new ways to reach out and support a community that will be suffering for some time, even as some new jobs return, the new jobs will not come close to replacing the jobs lost in the region. CAAs have firsthand knowledge about what is happening and how to best support their communities in difficult times like these.

Total Population
201,794

Total population decreased by 10% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Population in Poverty
34,604

Poverty increased by 52% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Under 5 in Poverty
3,741

Over 65 in Poverty
3,098



IMPACT Community Action

How to address poverty in a region that is full of opportunity, but not for all in Columbus and Franklin County

IMPACT Community Action

How to address poverty in a region that is full of opportunity, but not for all in Columbus and Franklin County

Columbus, Ohio, the state capital, is by most accounts a very successful metropolitan area with a vibrant corporate and small business environment, and a large university with research activity that has attracted and created smart city technology that promises to grow future economic activity. One might think that the strong economic picture would ease the work of a community action agency in Columbus. IMPACT Community Action's mission is to fight poverty in Columbus and Franklin County by giving people hope, and inspiring people to connect to real opportunities for self-sufficiency. In the midst of all this opportunity it is still very hard to be poor, and life outcomes for poor families are just as difficult in Columbus as anywhere, maybe worse. With the strength of the Greater Columbus economy, it can be easy to overlook the hardships of families in poverty. While employment and population grow, growing poverty and an affordable housing crisis are also markers of the Columbus economy.

IMPACT Community Action actively engaged in regional discussions to bring these dual realities to the forefront. Their advocacy role at the Housing Stabilization Coalition, the Ohio CDC Association, the Countywide Poverty Study and countless other tables is critical to bringing the real plight of poor people in Columbus to light. Many CAAs in the state deal with environments where there are very few opportunities. Here the challenge is to provide access and get people connected in a meaningful way to opportunities. Working through the barriers of race and class are very real here, and throughout the State. IMPACT is focused on getting people connected to employment, stabilizing their housing and accessing public transportation. IMPACT's role is critical to raising the voice of the poor in Columbus and Franklin County and helping poor residents see what might be possible. It is also critical to getting mainstream Columbus to realize the need and suffering that exists.

Total Population
1,275,333

Total population increased by 19%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in
Poverty
203,044

Poverty increased by 67%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
22,616

Over 65 in
Poverty
12,874



Stark County Community Action Agency

Supporting families in poverty in smaller communities within a larger region in Stark County

Stark County Community Action Agency

Supporting families in poverty in smaller communities within a larger region in Stark County

The Stark County Community Action Agency (SCCAA) serves the tradition rich City of Canton, the smaller cities of Alliance and Massillon as well as the suburban and rural parts of Stark County. Families in poverty throughout the County all share challenges with mobility. Getting around without access to public transportation or a reliable vehicle can make getting to a job or school or even to the grocery almost impossible. For rural residents in particular it can be hard to get to the centralized social services and community activities they need, and this can create a true sense of isolation for many.

SCCAA understands that to influence the conditions of poverty and help move people to self-sufficiency requires engagement of the whole family helping connect them to valued community partnerships. SCCAA administers the Head Start program, which provides needed early childhood readiness services that provide a solid base of preparation for both a child and their family in the transition to kindergarten. Helping parents understand their role in the success of their children's education is just as important as getting children ready for school. In addition to the Head Start program, the Community Action Pathways HUB engages expectant mothers supporting healthy prenatal practices and positive birth outcomes. This has a direct impact on reducing infant mortality rates. One of the most heartbreaking illustrations of racial disparity in Ohio is the difference between infant mortality rates among White and Black births: the infant mortality rate for White mothers was 5.8 while for Black mothers it was 14 (2015-2017 Nation Center for Health Statistics)

SCCAA through its Workforce Development Programs to support youth and adults in job readiness and obtaining employment. SCCAA's approach to this work is much more comprehensive than many typical employment programs. They work with participants to think through their own skills and talents and truly explore their aspirations. They help people identify career pathways, not just jobs. This approach helps people understand that a home health aide job can lead to becoming a registered nurse, and put people on the road to financial self-sufficiency for the long term, and lead to a much more fulfilling work life.

SCCAA does what so many OURS organizations do which is to deliver programming in family and community-centered ways that make them effective, and truly help individuals and families who struggle with the barriers that poverty creates move beyond them to live their best lives.

Total
Population
373,475

**Total
population
decreased
by 1%**
between
2000 and
2014-2018

Population
in Poverty
50,408

**Poverty
increased
by 49%**
between
2000 and
2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
5,270

Over 65 in
Poverty
4,885



Miami Valley Community Action Partnership

Responding to a crisis with resiliency in the Miami Valley

Miami Valley Community Action Partnership

Responding to a crisis with resiliency in the Miami Valley

The Miami Valley Community Action Partnership (MVCAP) serves the City of Dayton, Montgomery County and the surrounding suburban and rural counties of Greene, Preble, Darke, and Warren. This region includes many smaller cities like Trotwood, Beavercreek, Greenville, Xenia, and Eaton. Miami Valley CAP provides a variety of services to support individuals and families that struggle with poverty including emergency services, utility assistance, housing counseling, shelter services, senior and veteran transportation, micro-enterprise programs, weatherization, and a legal clinic. Supporting households with many different needs in regular times is a challenge. In times of crisis, it can be overwhelming.

In May of 2019, Miami Valley CAP supported the community recovery following a horrendous round of tornadoes that destroyed thousands of housing units and tore families apart. Then just three months later, the community endured a mass shooting where nine people lost their lives in the Oregon District in Dayton. This one-two punch laid bare the systemic inequity and needs of the poor in the community. The physical needs created by the tornadoes was exacerbated by the emotional needs and feelings of vulnerability that these events caused.

CAAs are used to dealing with families who have experienced trauma, but in this case the whole community was experiencing rounds of grief and trauma. The MVCAP mobilized in the days right after the tornadoes but stayed at the table through the long road to recovery – which continues even a year later. They have worked with regional partners to coordinate services and activities and kept the voice of those in need at the forefront of everything they have done. Now they are not alone in dealing with the third hit, the COVID-19 epidemic. Miami Valley CAP understands well that when disaster happens, those in poverty are most at risk, hardest hit, and often most ignored in relief efforts. As Ohio looks to restart after the pandemic closures, there is a lot to learn from this community and MVCAP.

Total Population
790,786

Total population decreased by 2%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in
Poverty
118,726

Poverty increased by 48%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in
Poverty
12,753

Over 65 in
Poverty
10,471



Community Action Akron Summit

Responding to pollution's disproportionate impact on low-income families in Akron

Community Action Akron Summit

Responding to pollution's disproportionate impact on low-income families in Akron

Community Action Akron Summit (CA) serves a community with lots to be proud of but one that faces significant challenges ahead. The region was recently identified in a report by the Brookings Institution, as a place where the wealth gap is significant and African American households have 5% of the accumulated wealth that white households do. There have been advances and strong development in downtown Akron, but poor neighborhoods and the people who live there are not experiencing these economic benefits. Reporting and highlighting the advances made in Akron often hides the plight of poor households in the region. CA provides services to poor families that include the largest Head Start program in the region, the Pathways Community HUB, foster grandparent supports, emergency assistance, and employment assistance.

Like other CAAs, CA is always looking out on their region and thinking about what comes next. CA has been increasingly involved with partners across the region on improving health outcomes and addressing social determinants of health. Akron has a legacy of manufacturing and the pollution and contamination that it leaves behind. While there have been significant cleanup efforts like Summit Lake that are improving poor neighborhoods (and also driving some gentrification), poor households are much more likely to contend with toxins in their environment, such as housing with lead pipes and the other risks associated with environmental pollutions in their communities. CA is partnering with area hospitals and health care providers to deal with high infant mortality issues, smoking cessation, lead exposure, chronic health conditions, and other poor health outcomes for poor families.

Total Population
541,810

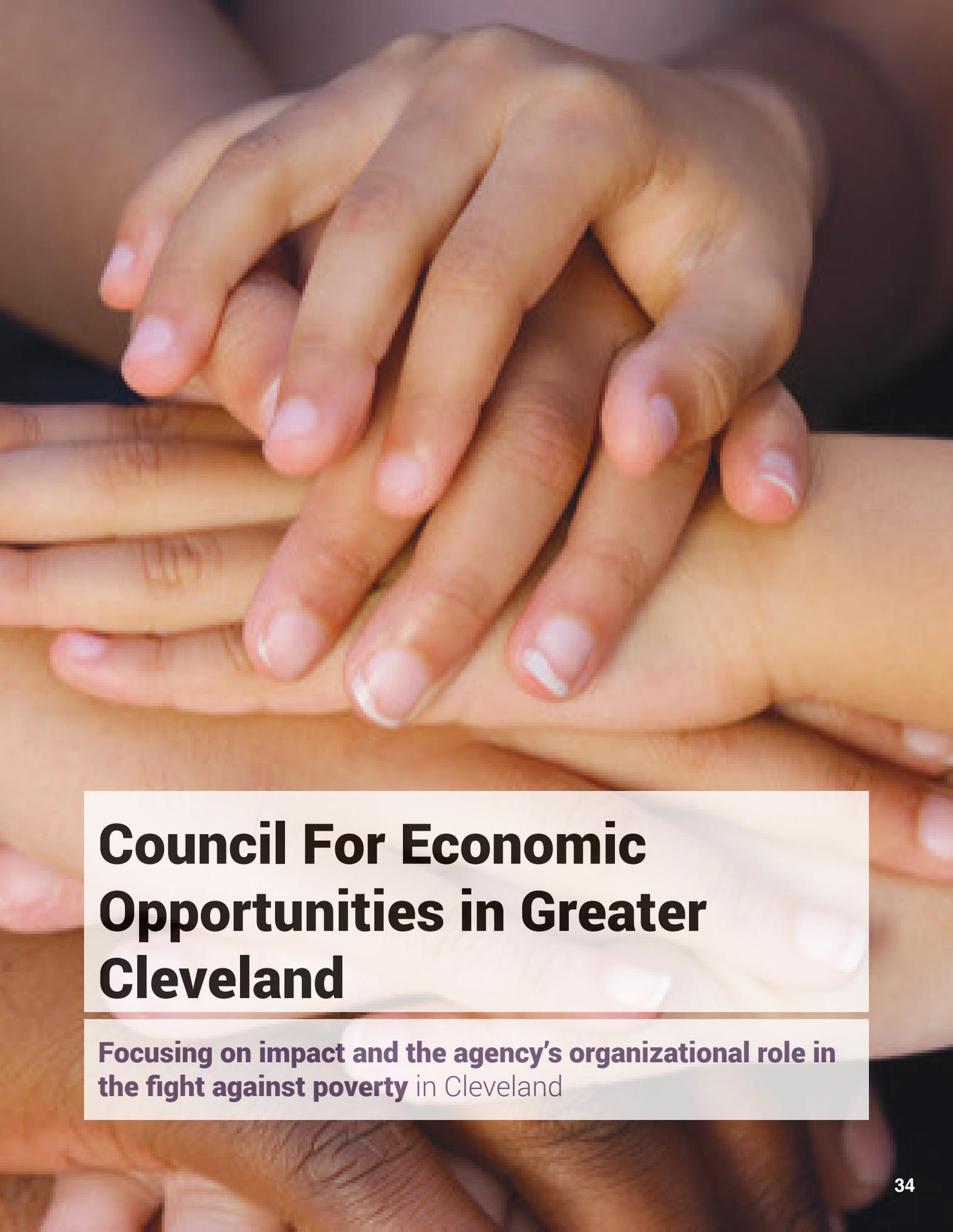
Total population decreased by less than 1%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Population in Poverty
69,576

Poverty increased by 31%
between 2000
and 2014-2018

Under 5 in Poverty
6,444

Over 65 in Poverty
6,121



Council For Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland

Focusing on impact and the agency's organizational role in the fight against poverty in Cleveland

Council For Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland

Focusing on impact and the agency's organizational role in the fight against poverty in Cleveland

Cleveland is a big place, and there are lots of different kinds of people who struggle with poverty in this big metropolitan area. What they all share is a lack of options and choices about how to support themselves and their families. Most people in this situation lack a sense of hope that a different outcome than what they see around them is even possible. The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) is there to support people in poverty with one of the largest Head Start program in the State of Ohio, with emergency assistance, personal development programming, employment, and job placement services. CEOGC has been at this work for over 50 years, and understands the breadth and scope of the issues households in poverty face in the region, and they understand how those needs have changed over time.

Over its long history in Greater Cleveland, CEOGC as an organization has maintained its focus and its role in the community. It has always had as its mission to support and lift up households in poverty, and it has deep knowledge of what the larger community needs to change outcomes for people and help them become valued, contributing members of the community. When a Puerto Rican mom needs help with a driver's license, or a suburban white youth needs a way to get to a job, or a Black senior needs help understanding their medication, or a first time mom needs to get her child enrolled in Head Start, CEOGC is there to provide what a household needs. They understand the network of services and organizations in the region working on these issues and how to serve people in need with all the complexity that comes with that mission. CEOGC is working to become the convener of this network in a way that makes sure they always have the voice of those in need at the heart of what they do.

Total Population
1,253,783

Total population decreased by 10% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Population in Poverty
221,899

Poverty increased by 24% between 2000 and 2014-2018

Under 5 in Poverty
21,029

Over 65 in Poverty
22,520

Data Snapshot

1: Total Population

Total OURS population decreased slightly between 2000 and 2014-2018

2014-2018 Total Population: 6,474,091 (56% of OH)

2000 Total Population: 6,522,129

Table 1: Population Change, 2000 and 2014-2018

	POPULATION IN 2000.	ESTIMATED POPULATION, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	Total Change: 2000 to 2014-2018	Percent Change: 2000 to 2014-2018
OURS	6,522,129	6,474,091	▼ -48,038	-0.7%
Ohio	11,353,140	11,641,879	▲ 288,739	2.5%
OURS total as a share of state total	57%	56%		

While the total population living in OURS communities across the state decreased slightly, there are large differences at the county level.

See Table 2 and Map 1.

Northeast Ohio counties had the greatest decrease: Cuyahoga, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties all had population losses of just over 10 percent between 2000 and 2014-2018.

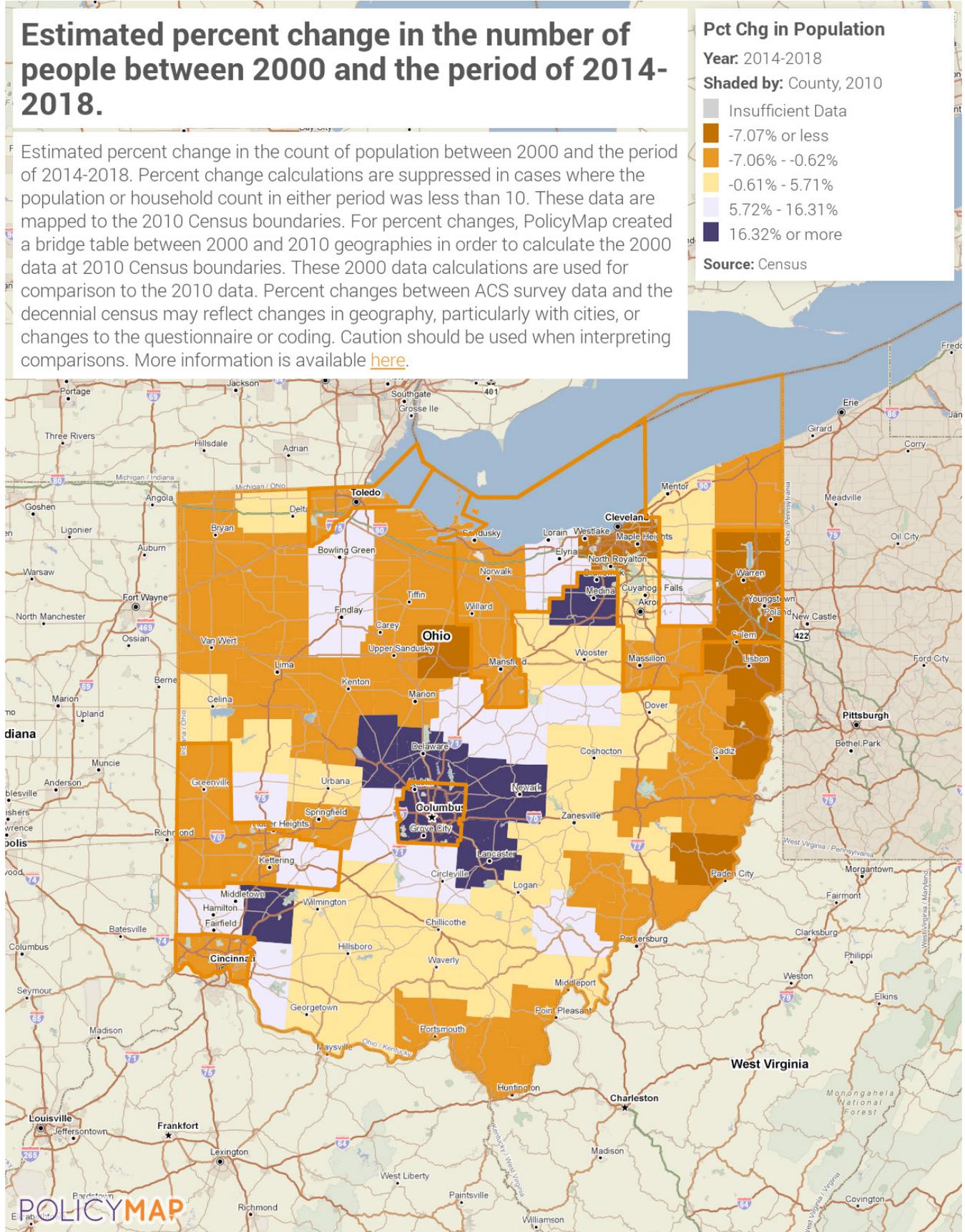
Franklin County had the greatest increase in population: population increased more than 19 percent between 2000 and 2014-2018.

Ohio's overall population increased by 2.5 percent over between 2000 and 2014-2018, compared with less than 1 percent growth in the OURS communities.

Table 2: Population Change by County, 2000 and 2014-2018

	POPULATION IN 2000.	ESTIMATED POPULATION, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	Total Change: 2000 to 2014-2018	Percent Change: 2000 to 2014-2018
Cuyahoga	1,393,978	1,253,783	▼ -140,195	-10.1%
Darke	53,309	51,734	▬ -1,575	-3.0%
Erie	79,551	75,136	▬ -4,415	-5.5%
Franklin	1,068,978	1,275,333	▲ 206,355	19.3%
Greene	147,886	165,811	▬ 17,925	12.1%
Hamilton	845,303	812,037	▼ -33,266	-3.9%
Huron	59,487	58,457	▬ -1,030	-1.7%
Lorain	284,664	306,713	▬ 22,049	7.7%
Lucas	455,054	432,379	▬ -22,675	-5.0%
Mahoning	257,555	231,064	▼ -26,491	-10.3%
Montgomery	559,062	532,034	▼ -27,028	-4.8%
Preble	42,337	41,207	▬ -1,130	-2.7%
Richland	128,852	121,324	▬ -7,528	-5.8%
Stark	378,098	373,475	▬ -4,623	-1.2%
Summit	542,899	541,810	▬ -1,089	-0.2%
Trumbull	225,116	201,794	▬ -23,322	-10.4%
OURS	6,522,129	6,474,091	▼ -48,038	-0.7%
Ohio	11,353,140	11,641,879	▲ 288,739	2.5%
OURS total as a share of state total	57%	56%		

Map 1: Total Population Change, 2000 and 2014-2018



Themes

Agency Profiles

Data Snapshot

2: Total Poverty

While the total OURS population remained relatively consistent, people living poverty increased dramatically in OURS communities and throughout Ohio

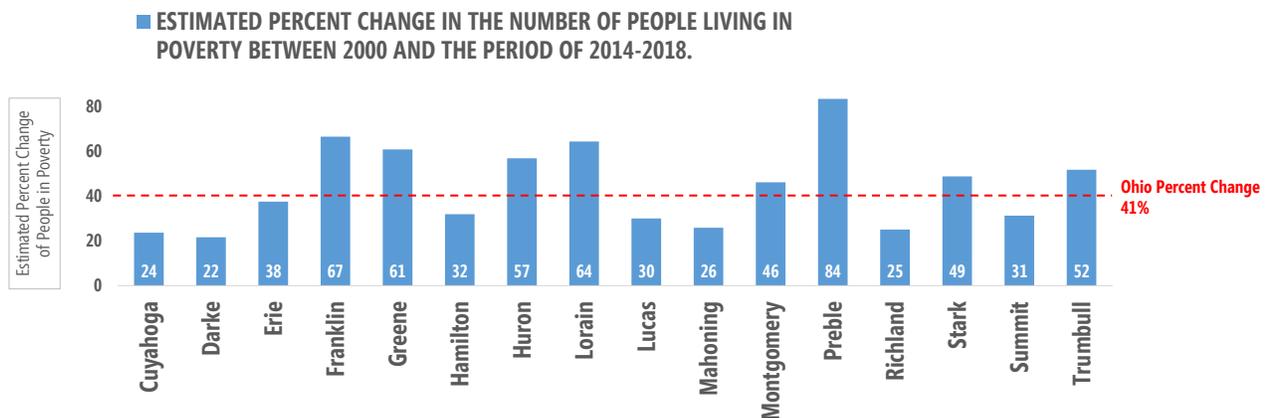
2014-2018 People in Poverty: 1,021,006 (62% of OH)

2000 People in Poverty: 731,143

Table 3: Change in Poverty, 2000 and 2014-2018

	NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2000.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	Total Change: 2000 to 2014-2018	Percent Change: 2000 to 2014-2018
OURS	731,143	1,021,006	▲ 289,863	39.6%
Ohio	1,170,698	1,645,986	▲ 475,288	40.6%
OURS total as a share of state total	62%	62%		

Figure 1: Percent Change in Poverty, 2000 and 2014-2018



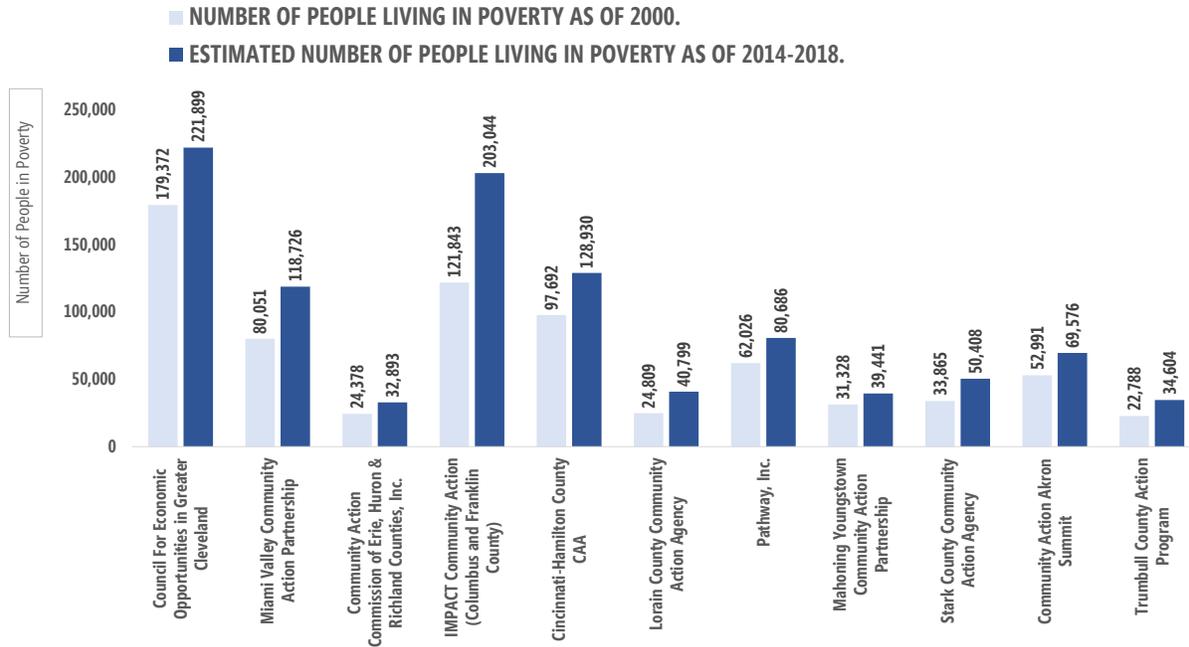
Poverty has increased significantly in every community served by OURS agencies.

See Figure 2.

IMPACT Community Action had the greatest number and percent increase in poverty: more than 81,000 (67 percent) people in poverty in 2014-2018 than in 2000.

The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland had the smallest increase (24 percent) but the greatest number of people in poverty (both in 2000 and in 2014-2018).

Figure 2: Change in Poverty by Agency Geography Served, 2000 and 2014-2018



3: Poverty Rate

The poverty rate in OURS communities has increased by 5 percentage points in less than 20 years:

2014-2018 Poverty Rate: 16%

2000 Poverty Rate: 11%

Table 4: 2014-2018 Poverty

	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	221,899	18
Darke	5,124	10
Erie	8,858	12
Franklin	203,044	16
Greene	19,065	12
Hamilton	128,930	16
Huron	7,845	14
Lorain	40,799	14
Lucas	80,686	19
Mahoning	39,441	18
Montgomery	89,854	17
Preble	4,683	12
Richland	16,190	14
Stark	50,408	14
Summit	69,576	13
Trumbull	34,604	17
Ohio	1,645,986	15

OURS poverty rate of 16 percent was just above the Ohio statewide poverty rate of 15 percent. OURS communities fall both below and above the statewide rate.

See Figure 3 and Map 2.

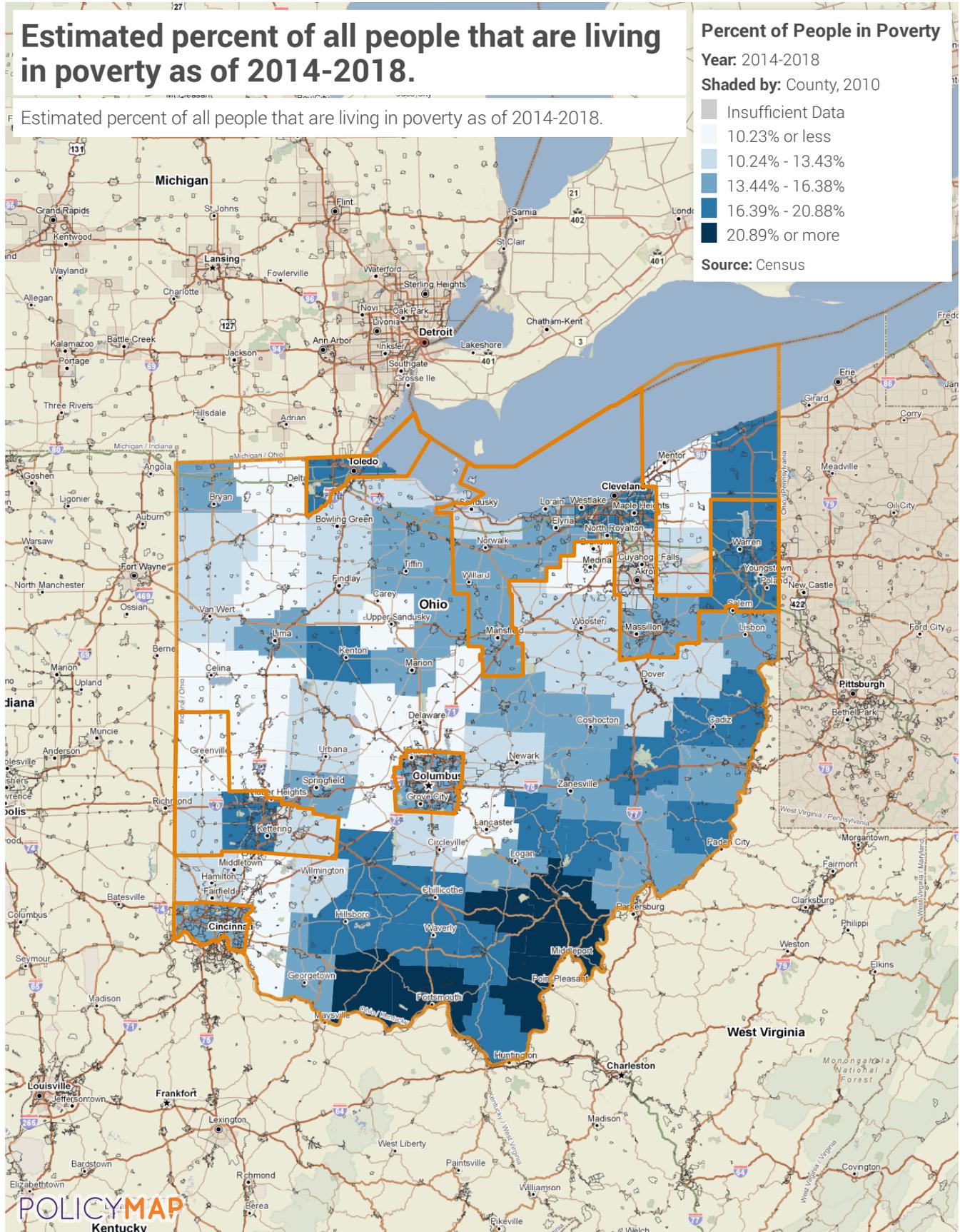
The OURS communities with poverty rates higher than the statewide rate are generally the counties with the largest population, but there are three exceptions: Mahoning and Trumbull in Northeast Ohio both have higher rates than the state but relatively smaller total population numbers; Summit has a lower rate than the state but a relatively larger total population number.

While urban areas have the highest concentration of those living in poverty, most of the largest increases in poverty are occurring in suburban and rural areas. See Map 2 and Map 3.

Figure 3: Poverty Rate by County, 2014-2018



Map 2: Population in Poverty, 2014-2018



Themes

Agency Profiles

Data Snapshot

Map 3: Change in Poverty, 2009-2013 to 2014-2018

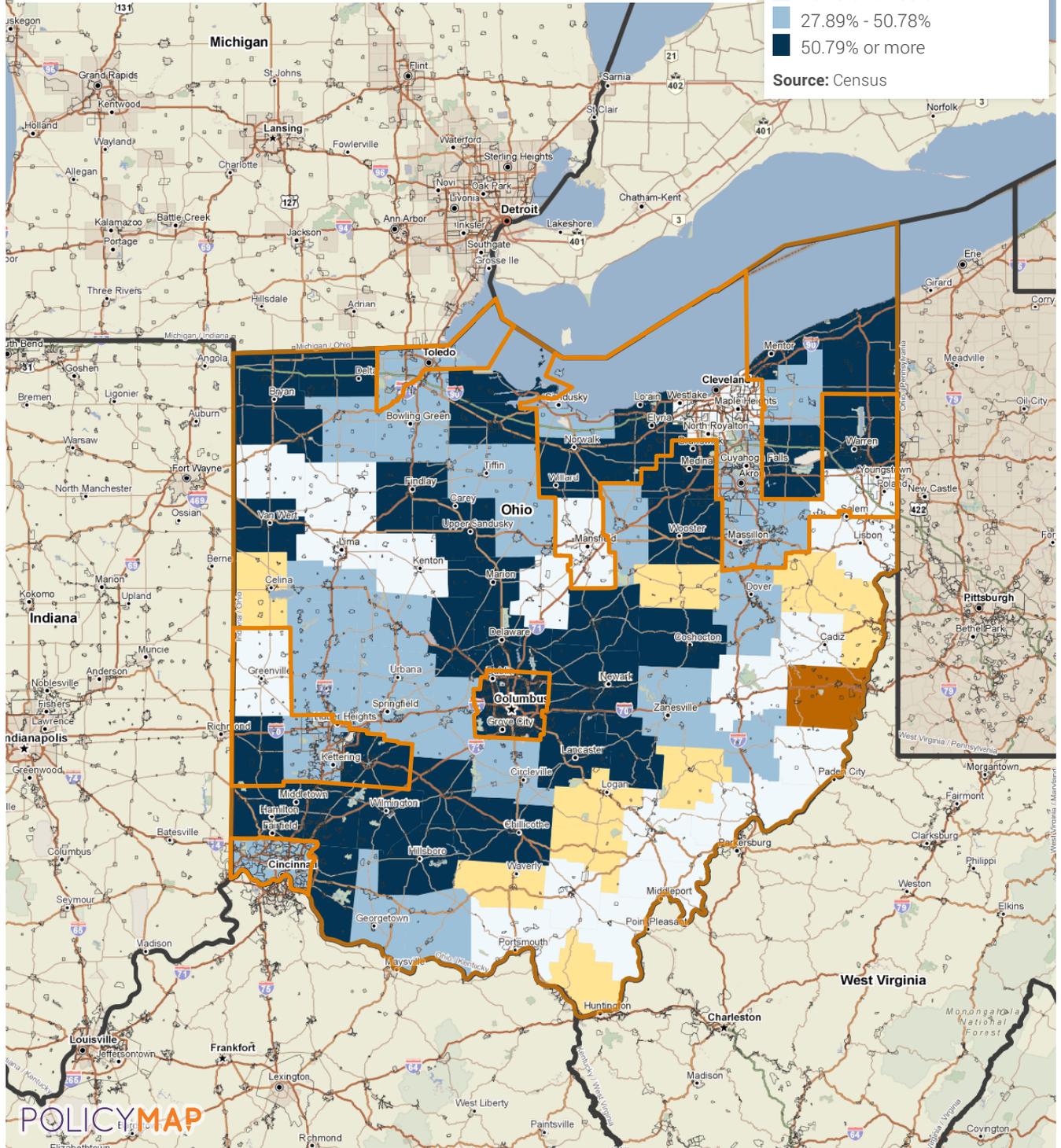
Estimated percent change in the number of people living in poverty between 2000 and the period of 2014-2018.

Estimated percent change in the number of people living in poverty between 2000 and the period of 2014-2018.

Pct Chg in People in Poverty
Year: 2014-2018
Shaded by: County, 2010

- Insufficient Data
- 8.65% or less
- 8.64% - 10.42%
- 10.43% - 27.88%
- 27.89% - 50.78%
- 50.79% or more

Source: Census



Themes

Agency Profiles

Data Snapshot

4: Poverty by Age

Children under 5 are the most likely to live in poverty:

Percent of Population under 5 in Poverty in Ohio: 24%

Percent of Population under 18 in Poverty in Ohio: 21%

Percent of Population over 65 in Poverty in Ohio: 8%

Table 5: Poverty by Age for OURS and State, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE UNDER 5 WHO LIVE IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE UNDER 18 WHO LIVE IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE 65 OR OLDER WHO LIVE IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	29%	27%	11%
Darke	15%	14%	5%
Erie	22%	18%	5%
Franklin	25%	24%	9%
Greene	21%	17%	6%
Hamilton	26%	24%	9%
Huron	23%	21%	7%
Lorain	28%	21%	7%
Lucas	34%	27%	10%
Mahoning	34%	28%	9%
Montgomery	31%	27%	9%
Preble	18%	15%	8%
Richland	28%	19%	9%
Stark	26%	22%	7%
Summit	21%	19%	7%
Trumbull	36%	29%	8%
Ohio	24%	21%	8%

Table 6: Poverty by Age for OURS and State, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER 5 LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER 18 LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE 65 OR OLDER LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.
OURS	106,841	336,874	87,391
Ohio	166,076	533,838	147,490
OURS total as a share of state total	64%	63%	59%

Table 7: Poverty by Age, Under 5 years, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER 5 LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ALL PEOPLE UNDER 5 WHO LIVE IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	21,029	29%
Darke	460	15%
Erie	865	22%
Franklin	22,616	25%
Greene	1,912	21%
Hamilton	13,514	26%
Huron	815	23%
Lorain	4,861	28%
Lucas	9,171	34%
Mahoning	3,901	34%
Montgomery	9,996	31%
Preble	385	18%
Richland	1,861	28%
Stark	5,270	26%
Summit	6,444	21%
Trumbull	3,741	36%
Ohio	166,076	24%

Nearly one in four children in Ohio live in poverty in the state and 64 percent of those children live in OURS communities.

See Tables 6 and Table 7.

10 of the 16 OURS communities have a rate of poverty for children under 5 that is higher than the state average.

In the OURS communities, the rate of poverty for children under 5 ranges from 15 percent in Darke County to 36 percent in Trumbull County.

In total numbers, Franklin County and Cuyahoga county have the most children under 5 in poverty: 21,029 in Cuyahoga and 22,616 in Franklin. These two counties also have the highest total population numbers.

5: Poverty by Race & Ethnicity

White people make up the majority of those in poverty in Ohio and the OURS community, but are disproportionately less likely to be poor:

In the OURS communities, people that are White make up 73 percent of the population but 51 percent of those in poverty

In the OURS communities, people that are Black make up 20 percent of the total population but 39 percent of those in poverty

Table 8: Poverty by Race, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED WHITE PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.		ESTIMATED BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	
	Number	Percent of Poverty	Number	Percent of Poverty
OURS	515,854	51%	395,083	39%
Ohio	1,062,495	65%	428,990	26%
OURS total as a share of state total	49%		92%	

	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WHITE PEOPLE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.		ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	
	Number	Percent of Total Population	Number	Percent of Total Population
OURS	4,724,139	73%	1,267,378	20%
Ohio	9,489,832	82%	1,438,271	12%
OURS total as a share of state total	50%		88%	

Table 9: Poverty by Ethnicity, 2014-2018

ESTIMATED HISPANIC OR LATINO PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.		
	Number	Percent of Poverty
OURS	80,624	8%
Ohio	108,209	7%
OURS total as a share of state total	75%	
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HISPANIC OR LATINO PEOPLE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.		
	Number	Percent of Total Population
OURS	293,335	5%
Ohio	431,327	4%
OURS total as a share of state total	68%	

Hispanic and Latino Ohioans are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty.

See Table 9.

Just 4 percent of the total population identified as having Hispanic or Latino ethnicity in 2014-2018, but 7 percent of the people living in poverty identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Black Ohioans face the highest poverty rate of any race or ethnicity group in most OURS community. The rate ranges from 12 to 40 percent.

Black Ohioans face the highest poverty rate of any race or ethnicity group in most OURS communities. The rate ranges from 12 to 40 percent.

See Figure 4 and Table 10.

Black poverty is concentrated more in urban environments. There are only two OURS communities where the number of Black people living in poverty is higher than the number of White people living in poverty: Hamilton and Cuyahoga - two of Ohio's most urban counties.

The non-White population in rural counties like Darke and Preble is very low, and so the number of non-White people living in poverty is similarly low.

Hispanic and Latino Ohioans experienced the largest increases in poverty between 2000 and 2014-2018 in the OURS community. The increases ranges from 53 to 514 percent.

The increase in the number of Hispanic and Latinos in poverty has occurred throughout the state and in both urban and rural communities.

Figure 4: Percent in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity Group, 2014-2018

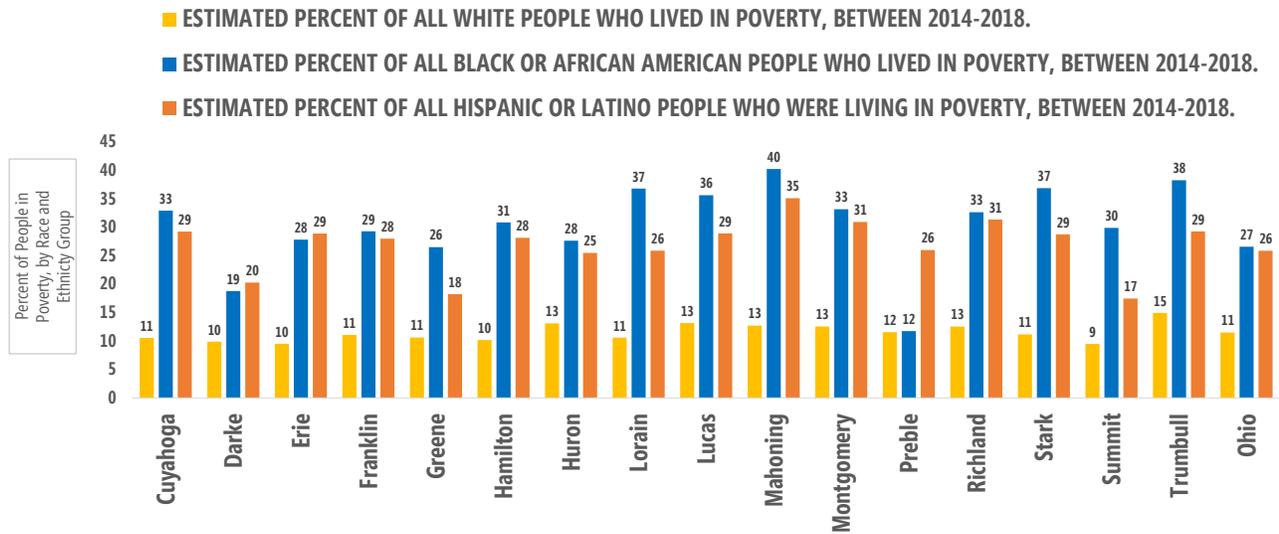
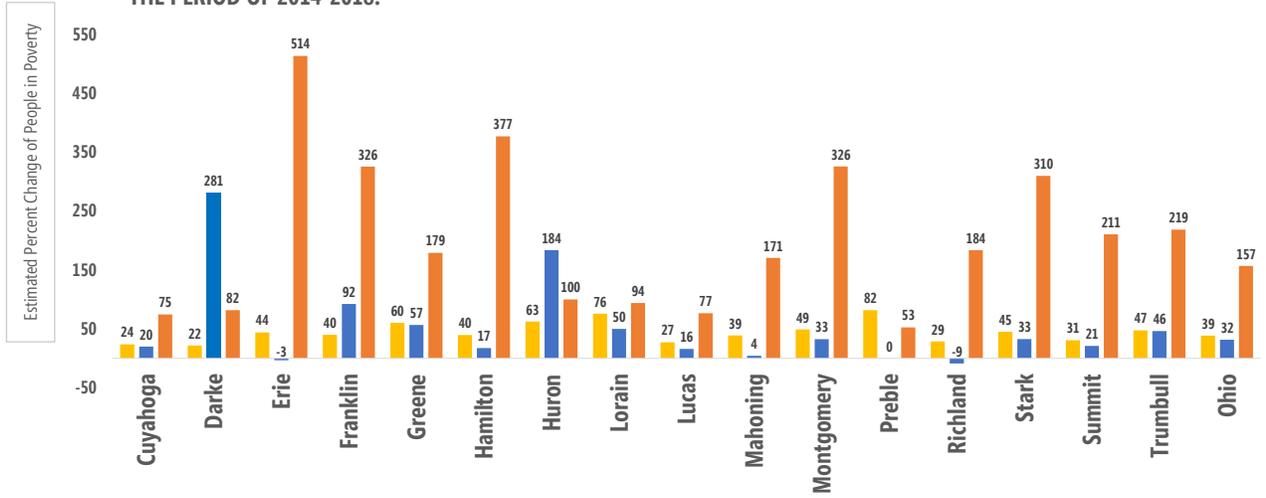


Table 10: Population in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY AS OF 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WHITE PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HISPANIC OR LATINO PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, BETWEEN 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	221,899	80,900	119,489	20,860
Darke	5,124	4,890	61	160
Erie	8,858	6,038	1,828	921
Franklin	203,044	91,892	81,498	19,089
Greene	19,065	14,434	2,457	793
Hamilton	128,930	54,489	63,072	7,112
Huron	7,845	7,147	230	950
Lorain	40,799	26,993	8,774	7,543
Lucas	80,686	40,081	28,243	8,550
Mahoning	39,441	22,860	13,255	4,500
Montgomery	89,854	46,944	35,537	4,530
Preble	4,683	4,550	21	87
Richland	16,190	12,677	2,226	559
Stark	50,408	35,719	9,692	2,071
Summit	69,576	39,893	22,734	1,895
Trumbull	34,604	26,347	5,966	1,004
OURS	1,021,006	515,854	395,083	80,624
Ohio	1,645,986	1,062,495	428,990	108,209

Figure 5: Percent Change in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018

- ESTIMATED PERCENT CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF WHITE PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY BETWEEN 2000 AND THE PERIOD OF 2014-2018.
- ESTIMATED PERCENT CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY BETWEEN 2000 AND THE PERIOD OF 2014-2018.
- ESTIMATED PERCENT CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF HISPANIC OR LATINO PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY BETWEEN 2000 AND THE PERIOD OF 2014-2018.



No matter if they grow up in a poor family or a middle income family, Black children growing up in Ohio can expect to earn much less than their White counterparts

“Opportunity Insights, a team of researchers and policy analysts based at Harvard University, conducted a longitudinal study of economic and social conditions of adults based on where they were raised. One of the products of this study was a dataset published at <https://opportunityinsights.org/>. This dataset includes average household earnings and incarceration rates for adults who were raised in low income households in a given tract, county, or commuting zone.

The researchers used demographic data from the 2000 and 2010 Census short forms, combined with data from the 2000 Census long form and 2015 American Community Survey. They linked this Census data with tax returns from 1989, 1994, 1995, and 1998 to 2015. By combining all this data at the person level, they were able to match people who were born from 1978 to 1983 with the census tracts where they were born and raised, and with the household earnings of their parents. They used this longitudinal dataset to calculate the incarceration rate (per 100 people) for people raised in households with incomes less than the 25th percentile based on whether they were in jail or prison on April 1, 2010, the reference date of the 2010 Census for two genders—men and women—and three racial and ethnic groups—Black, Hispanic, and White. Average household income was also calculated for this age cohort and parental income group using the income data from the tax returns.”¹

The following figures and maps demonstrate how Black low income and middle income children can expect to earn much less than White children from families with the same income level. This pattern holds true for very low income families as well.

See Figures 6 and 7 and Map 4.

¹ <https://xavier-policymap-com.nocdbproxy.xavier.edu/data/our-data-directory/#Census%20and%20Opportunity%20Insights>

The eventual income of Black children raised in low income families is 56 - 75 percent of their White counterparts.

For Hispanic children raised in low income families, eventual income is 72 - 103 percent of their White counterparts.

The eventual income of Black children raised in middle income families is 51 - 73 percent of their White counterparts.

For Hispanic children raised in low income families, eventual income is 71 - 92 percent of their White counterparts.

Figure 6: Outcomes for Low Income Families by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018

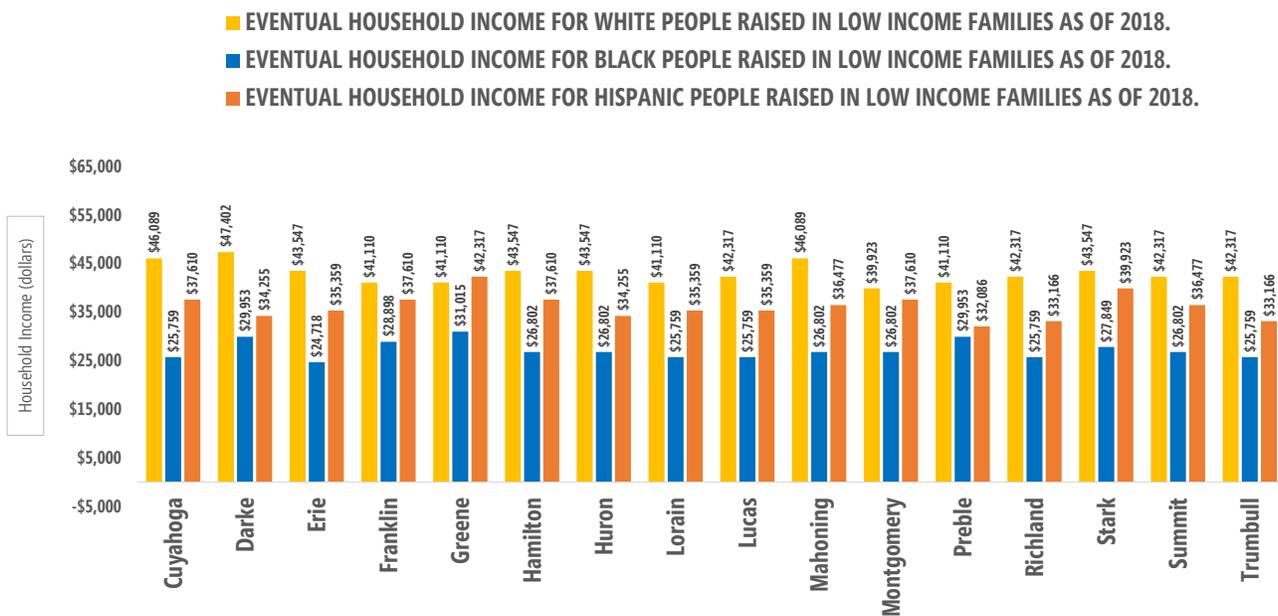
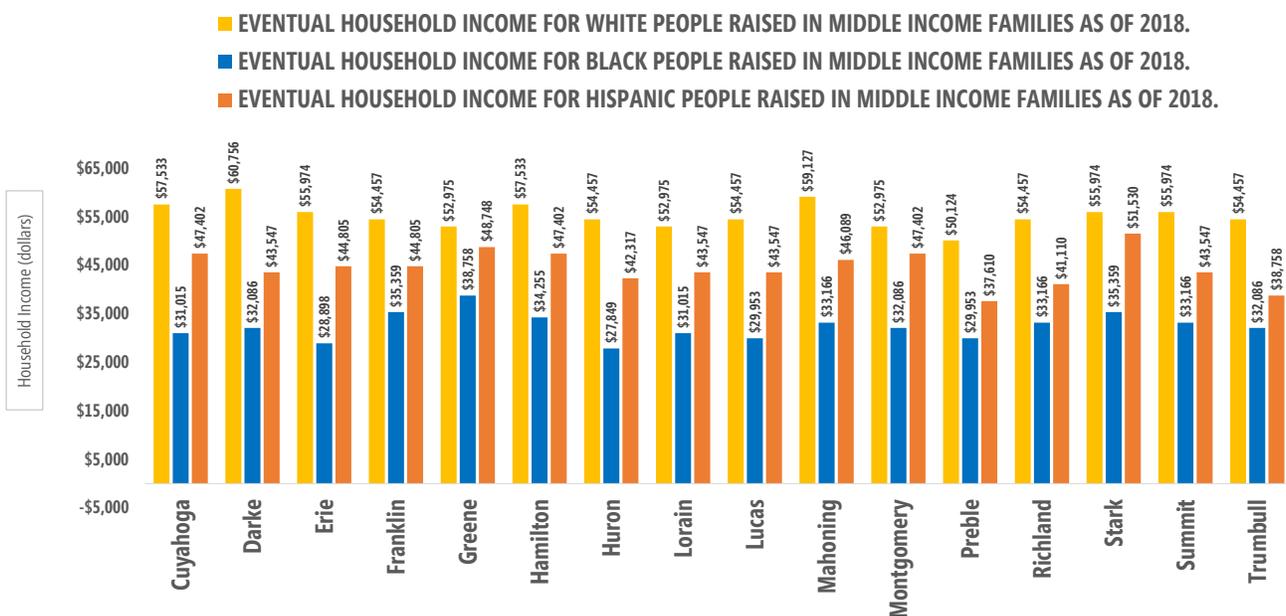
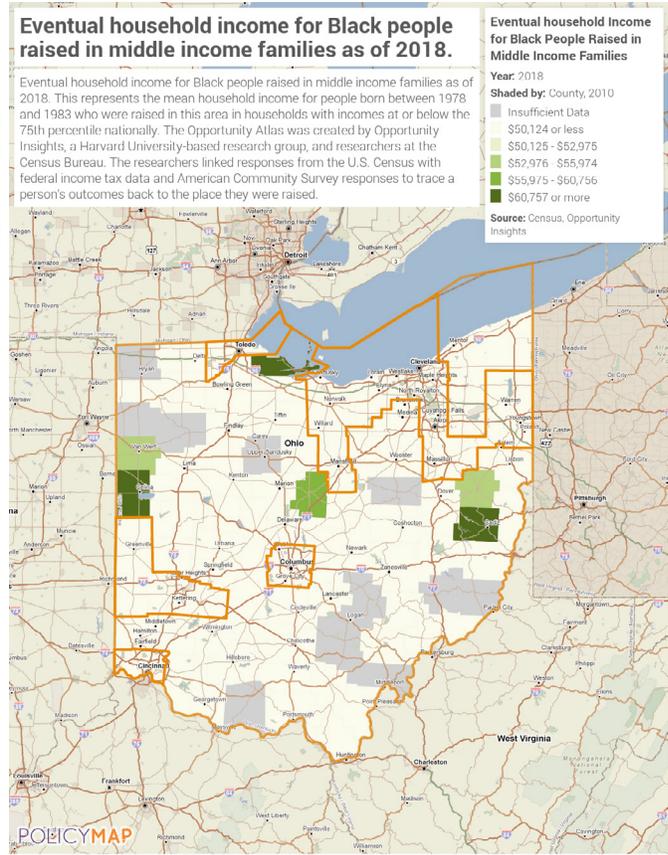
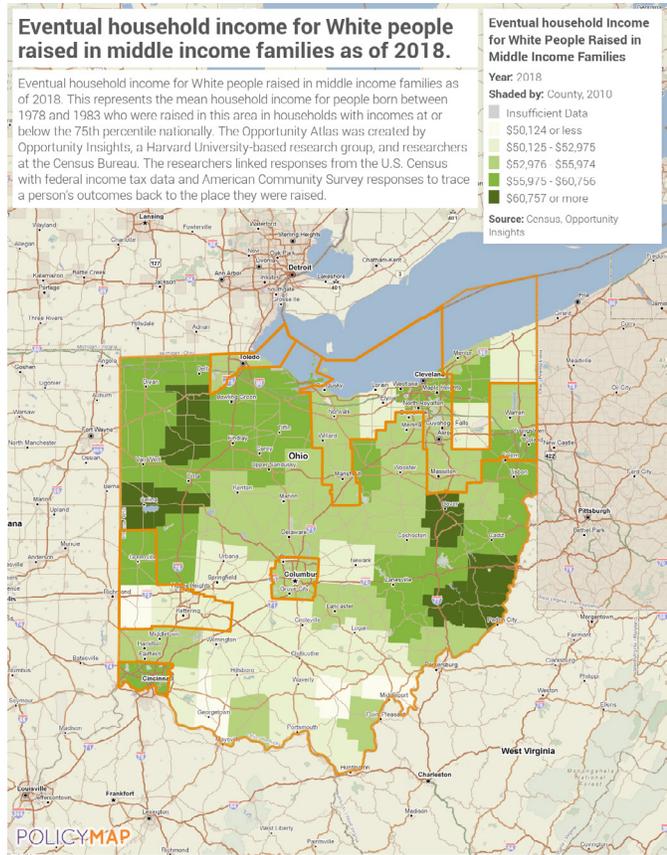
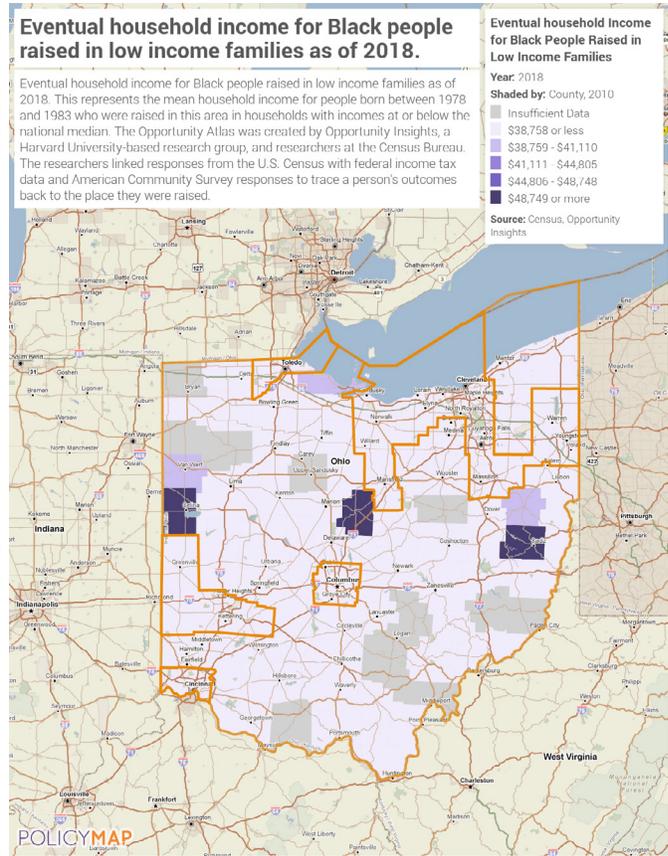
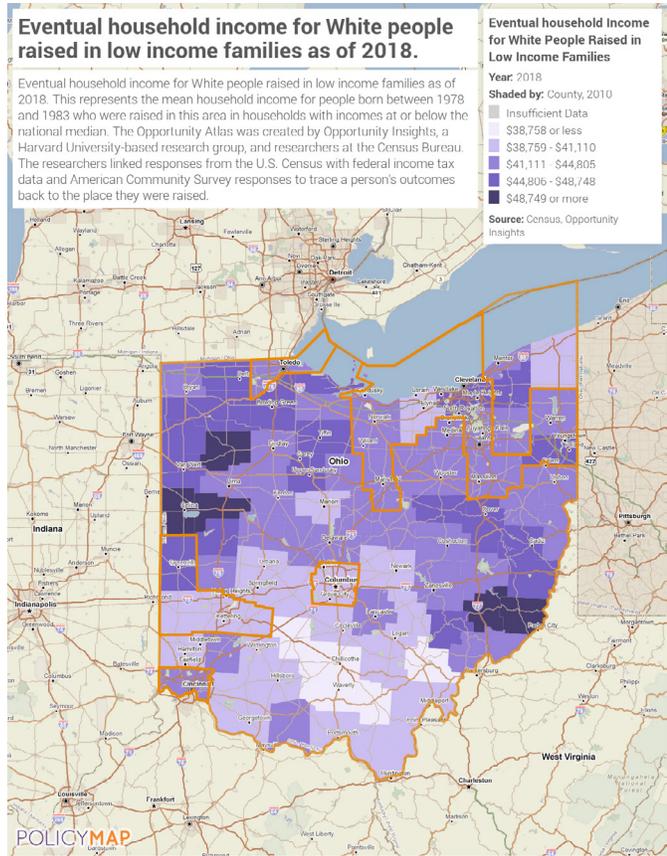


Figure 7: Outcomes for Middle Income Families by Race and Ethnicity Group, between 2000 and 2014-2018



Map 4: Eventual Household Incomes, 2018



Themes

Agency Profiles

Data Snapshot

6: Additional Data

COVID-19 is magnifying already disparate and inequitable health and socioeconomic outcomes. The expected impact of the virus, and how families can weather it, is impacted by preexisting community conditions.

The following data highlights the status of access to technology, education, employment, and health conditions before the crisis. These markers can help show where communities will be most at risk in the near-term and where they will help need help rebuilding to increase resiliency in the long-term.

Workers in **service occupations**, including workers in health care and food preparation have continued leaving home to go to work. They have been the on the front lines of crisis response, attending to the health crisis and ensuring we all have access to essential services and goods. See Map 5.

Increasing unemployment and economic uncertainty will have an impact on those already experiencing **food and housing insecurity**, measured by food access and housing affordability. See Maps 6 and 7.

Access to a computer can impact distance learning for school children and the ability to work from home for adults. See Table 11.

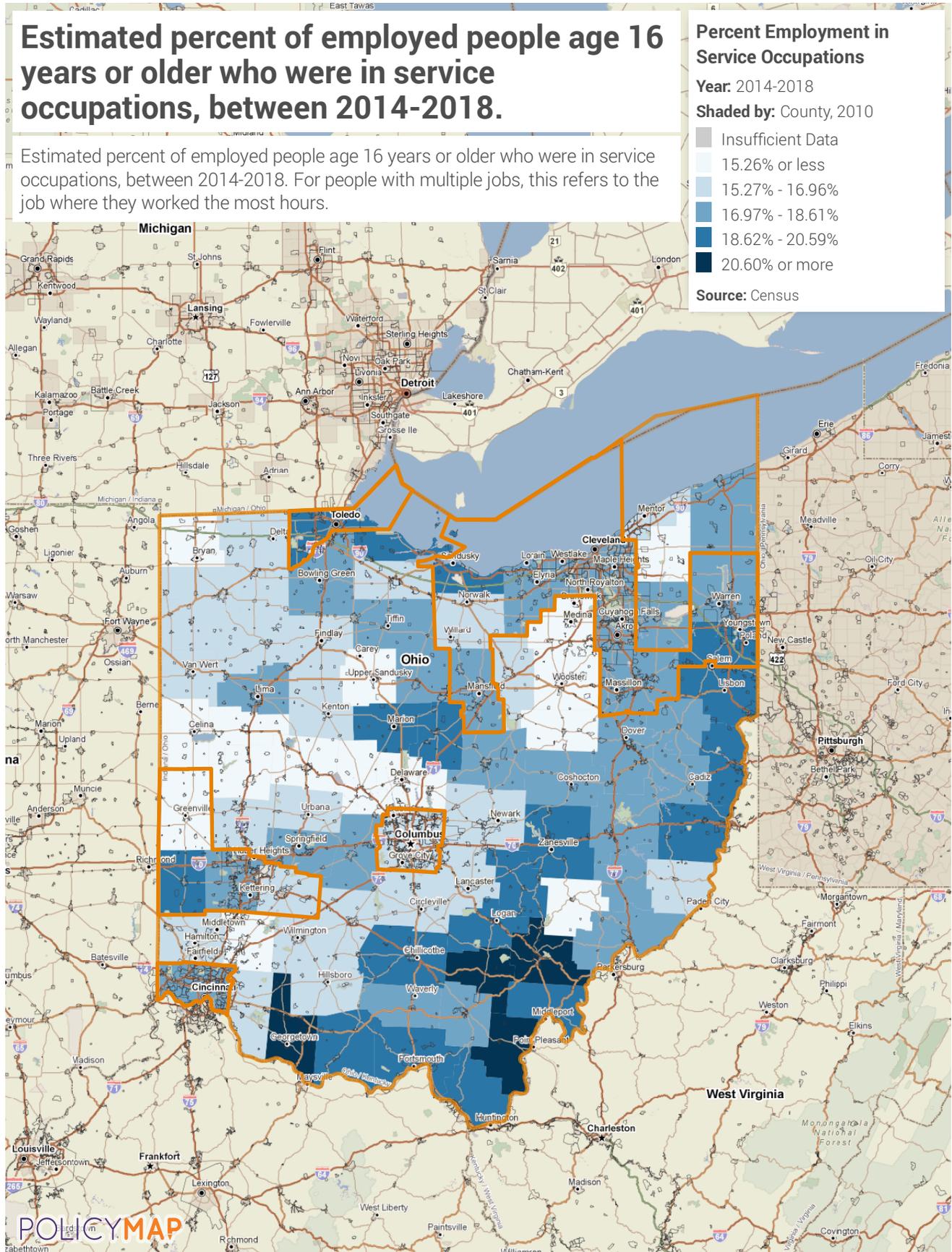
People with **underlying chronic health conditions** like asthma and diabetes might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.¹ See Table 12.

Educational attainment is connected with unemployment and earnings. “According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, earnings increase and unemployment decreases as educational attainment rises.”² See Tables 13 and 14.

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/underlying-conditions.html>

2 <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2016/data-on-display/education-matters.htm>

Map 5: Service Occupations, 2014-2018

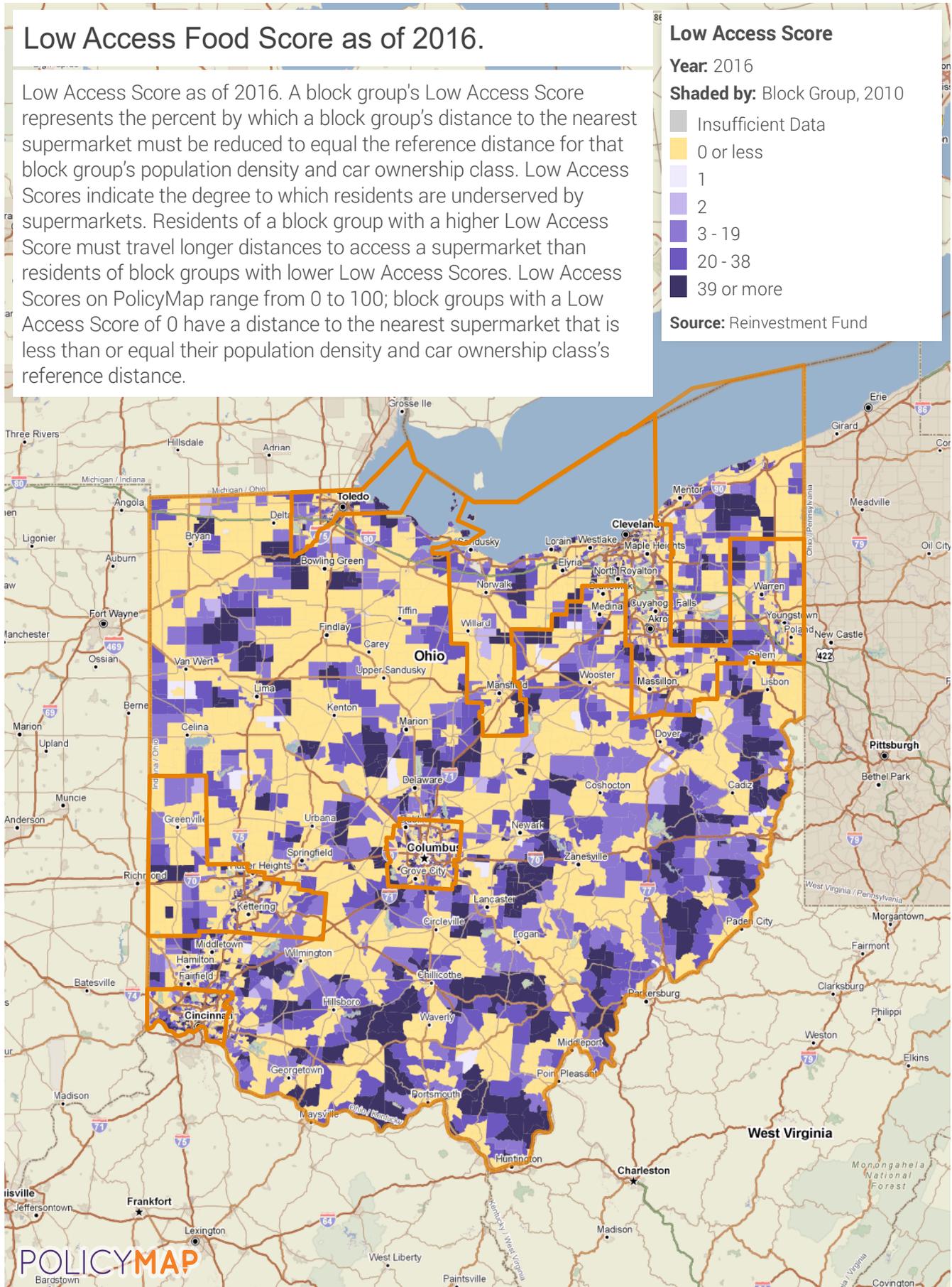


Themes

Agency Profiles

Data Snapshot

Map 6: Food Access, 2014-2018



Map 7: Renter Cost Burden, 2014-2018

Estimated percent of all renters who are cost burdened, between 2014-2018.

Percent of renter households for whom gross rent is 30% or more of household income, between 2014-2018. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials that result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment. Percentage calculations are suppressed in cases where the denominator of the calculation was less than 10 of the unit that is being described (e.g., households, people, householders, etc.). According to the Census, these data should not be compared with 2000 Census figures.

Percent of Renters who are Burdened

Year: 2014-2018

Shaded by: County, 2010

- Insufficient Data
- 29.47% or less
- 29.48% - 35.48%
- 35.49% - 40.28%
- 40.29% - 45.15%
- 45.16% or more

Source: Census

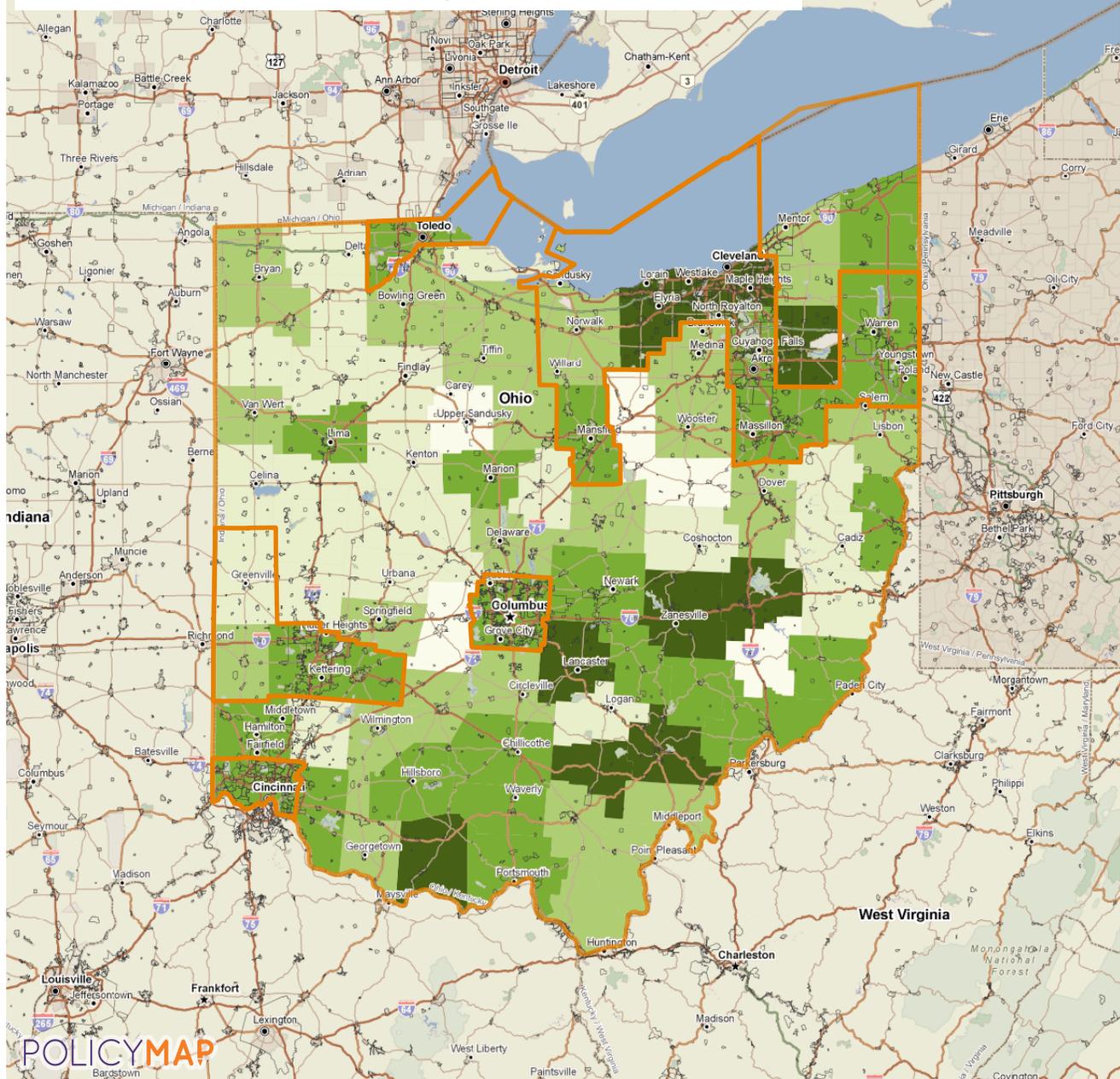


Table 11: Households with No Computer, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF COMPUTER, BETWEEN 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	14
Darke	15
Erie	13
Franklin	8
Greene	9
Hamilton	12
Huron	13
Lorain	11
Lucas	12
Mahoning	15
Montgomery	12
Preble	14
Richland	17
Stark	13
Summit	13
Trumbull	17
Ohio	13

A computer can be a desktop or laptop, a smartphone, a tablet or other portable wireless computer, or some other type of computer. Percentage calculations are suppressed in cases where the denominator of the calculation was less than 10 of the unit that is being described (e.g., households, people, householders, etc.).

Table 12: Underlying Health Conditions, 2017

	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ADULTS REPORTING TO HAVE ASTHMA IN 2017.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ADULTS EVER DIAGNOSED WITH CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE, EMPHYSEMA, OR CHRONIC BRONCHITIS IN 2017.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ADULTS EVER DIAGNOSED WITH DIABETES IN 2017.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF ADULTS EVER DIAGNOSED WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (HYPERTENSION) IN 2017.
Cuyahoga	9.8	8.0	12.8	36.3
Darke	9.5	10.0	11.9	35.5
Erie	9.7	9.7	12.7	36.8
Franklin	9.6	6.8	9.9	30.0
Greene	9.3	7.2	9.9	30.7
Hamilton	9.8	7.6	11.4	33.7
Huron	9.5	9.1	11.2	33.5
Lorain	8.9	7.9	11.6	33.4
Lucas	10.1	8.5	11.9	33.9
Mahoning	9.8	9.4	13.0	37.1
Montgomery	9.6	7.9	11.7	34.6
Preble	9.1	9.8	12.0	34.7
Richland	9.6	9.4	12.1	35.7
Stark	9.7	9.3	11.9	35.2
Summit	9.4	7.9	11.3	33.7

Table 13: Highest Educational Attainment, 2014-2018

	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND NO COLLEGE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH SOME COLLEGE OR AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.	ESTIMATED PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, BETWEEN 2014-2018.
Cuyahoga	28.0	29.5	31.9
Darke	48.6	27.4	14.7
Erie	37.8	31.4	22.7
Franklin	24.8	26.9	39.3
Greene	24.4	30.0	39.0
Hamilton	26.4	27.5	37.1
Huron	46.6	28.1	13.6
Lorain	31.5	34.1	24.0
Lucas	29.7	33.2	26.3
Mahoning	38.0	28.8	24.2
Montgomery	28.1	34.6	27.4
Preble	43.7	29.9	15.8
Richland	39.8	29.2	17.8
Stark	37.8	30.8	22.8
Summit	30.6	28.9	32.1
Trumbull	44.9	25.7	18.5
Ohio	33.3	29.1	27.8

Table 14: Unemployment Rate, 2000, 2009, and 2019

	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 2000.	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 2009.	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 2019.
Cuyahoga	2.8	8.7	4.2
Darke	4.2	11.4	3.7
Erie	4.5	11.8	4.9
Franklin	3.3	8.5	3.5
Greene	3.9	9.8	3.7
Hamilton	3.9	9.1	3.8
Huron	5.7	15.8	5.7
Lorain	2.9	9.6	4.3
Lucas	4.8	12.4	4.7
Mahoning	5.4	12.6	5.7
Montgomery	4.2	11.6	4.2
Preble	4	12.3	3.8
Richland	5.3	12.9	4.5
Stark	4.4	11.4	4.5
Summit	4.4	10	4.3
Trumbull	5.3	13.9	6.1
Ohio	4	10.3	4.1

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percent of people in the labor force. Data was collected before COVID-19. The unemployment rate went from 4.1 percent in February 2020 to a staggering 16.8 percent in April 2020 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Table 15: Social Vulnerability, 2016

	SOCIAL VULNERABILITY LEVEL AS OF 2016.
Cuyahoga	Moderate to High
Darke	Low
Erie	Low to Moderate
Franklin	Moderate to High
Greene	Low
Hamilton	Moderate to High
Huron	Low to Moderate
Lorain	Moderate to High
Lucas	Moderate to High
Mahoning	Moderate to High
Montgomery	Moderate to High
Preble	Low
Richland	Moderate to High
Stark	Low to Moderate
Summit	Low to Moderate
Trumbull	Low to Moderate

Social vulnerability level as of 2016. Social vulnerability refers to populations that are particularly vulnerable to disruption and health problems as a result of natural disasters, human-made disasters, climate change, and extreme weather. The Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) within the CDC created the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to help flag areas that will be in greatest need of support and recovery assistance in the case of a disaster or extreme weather event. The index is comprised of four categories of vulnerability—socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing and transportation. Data from the 2012-2016 ACS informs the score for each category.

Appendix

Eventual household income for Black people raised in low income families as of 2018.

Eventual household income for Black people raised in low income families as of 2018. This represents the mean household income for people born between 1978 and 1983 who were raised in this area in households with incomes at or below the national median. The Opportunity Atlas was created by Opportunity Insights, a Harvard University-based research group, and researchers at the Census Bureau. The researchers linked responses from the U.S. Census with federal income tax data and American Community Survey responses to trace a person's outcomes back to the place they were raised.

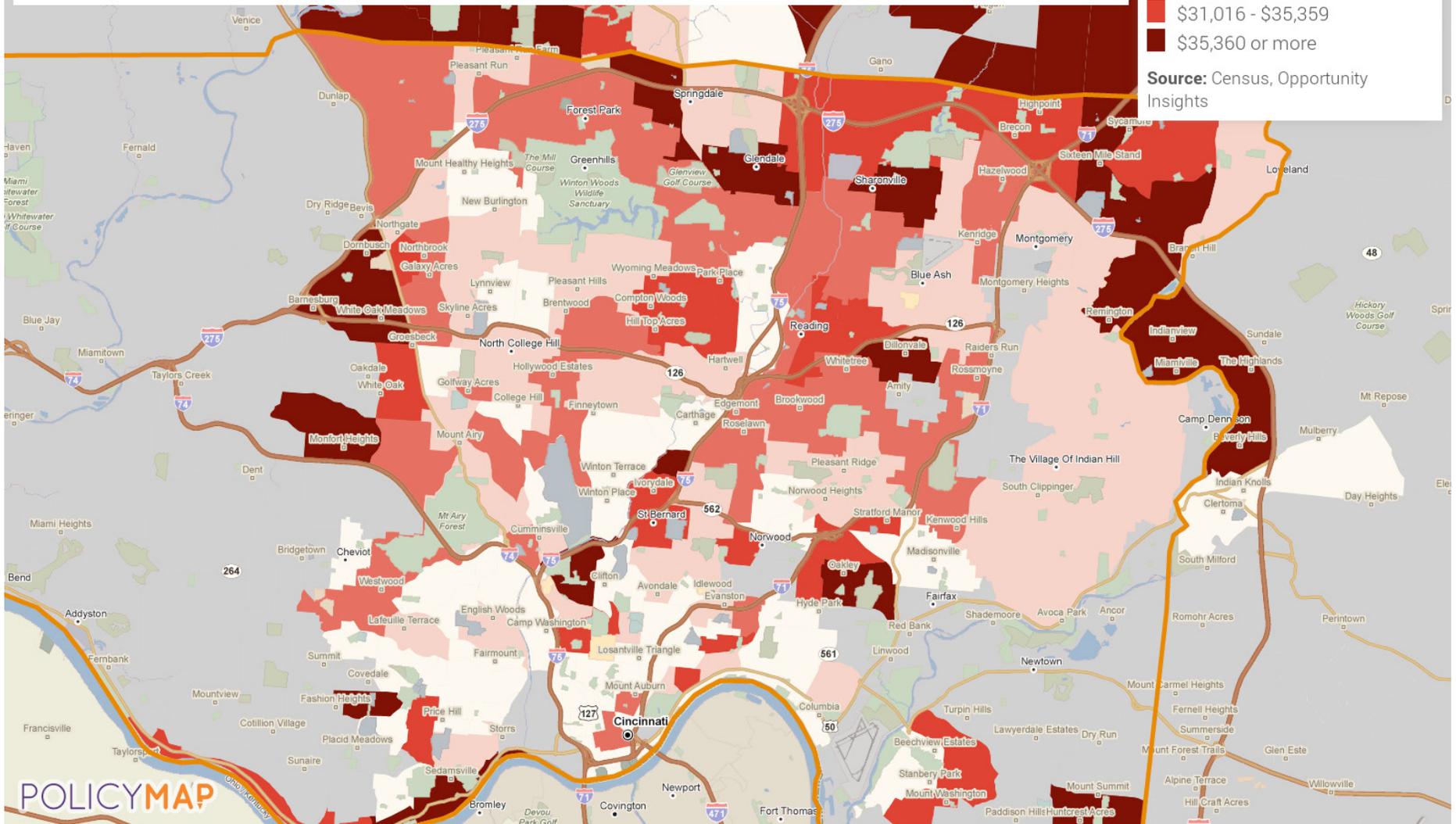
Eventual household Income for Black People Raised in Low Income Families

Year: 2018

Shaded by: Census Tract, 2010

- Insufficient Data
- \$24,718 or less
- \$24,719 - \$27,849
- \$27,850 - \$31,015
- \$31,016 - \$35,359
- \$35,360 or more

Source: Census, Opportunity Insights



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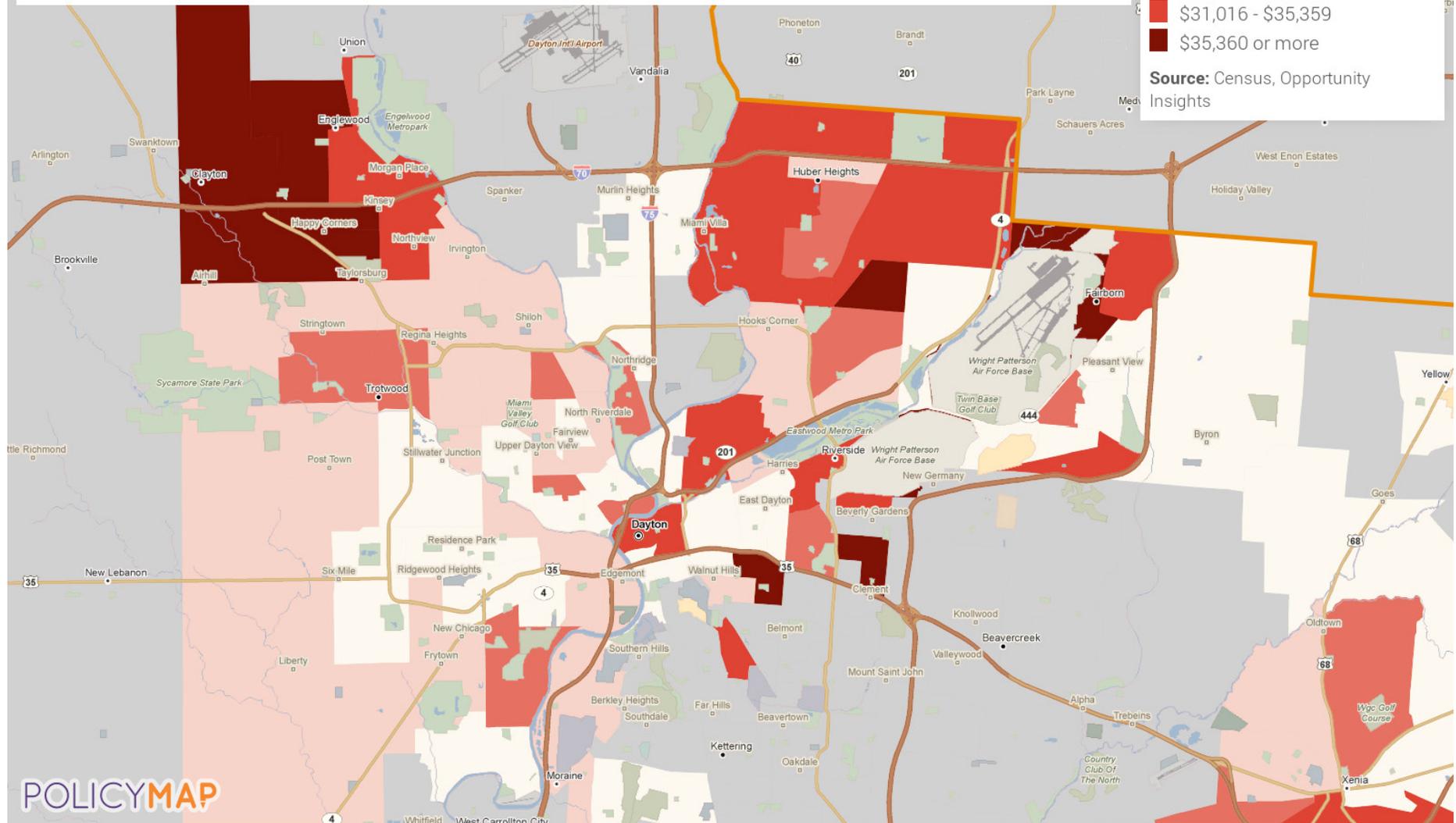
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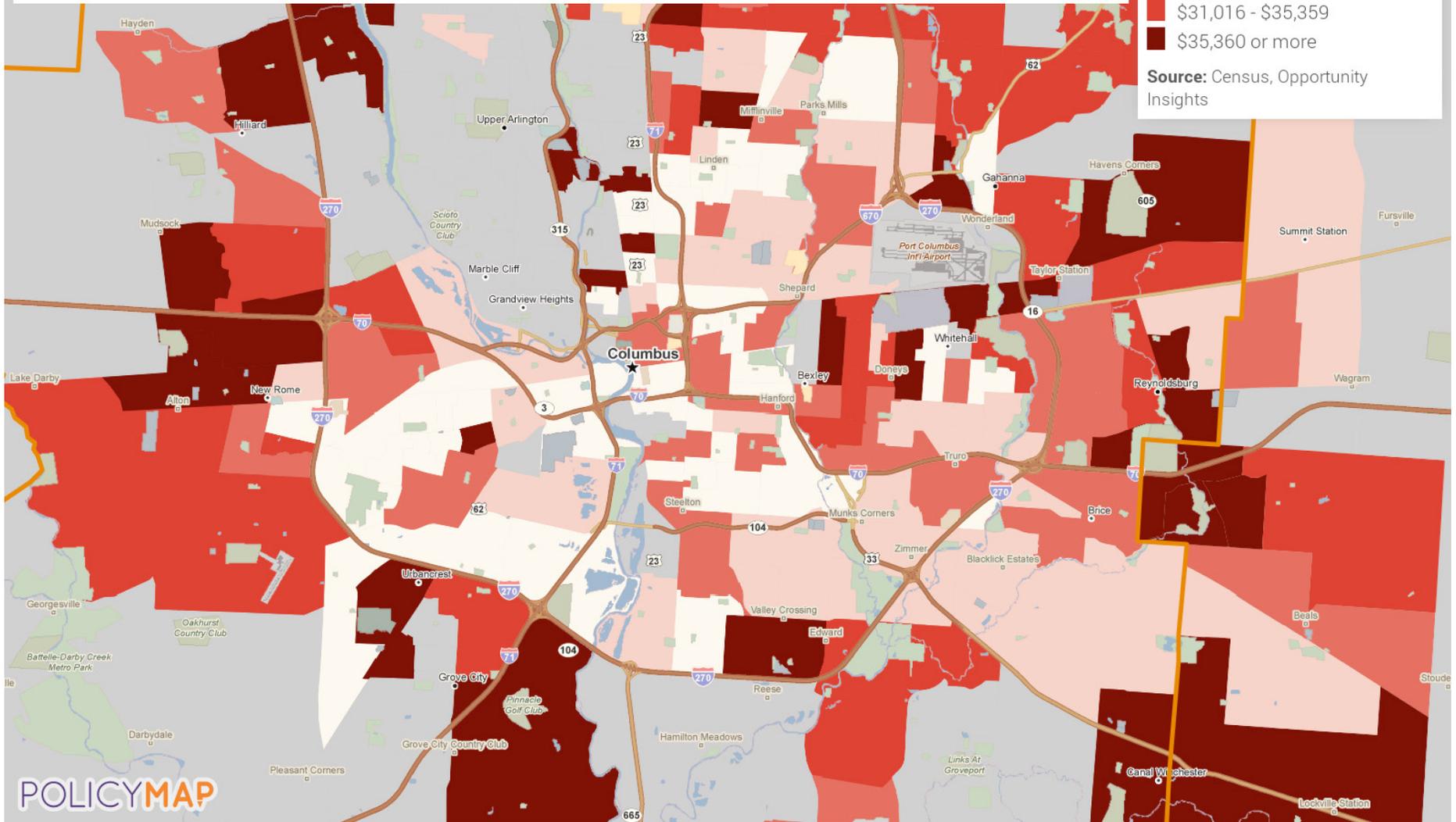
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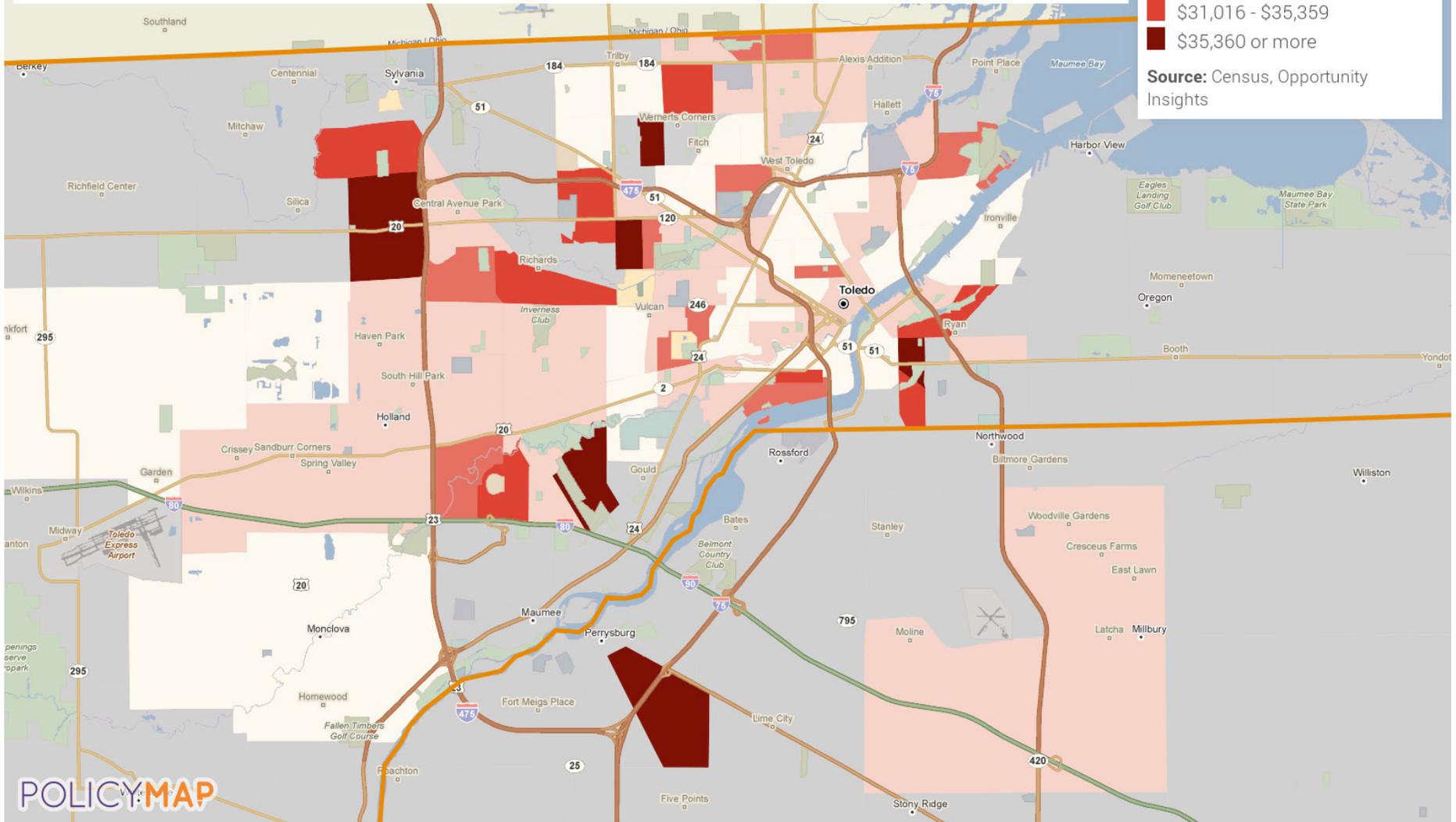
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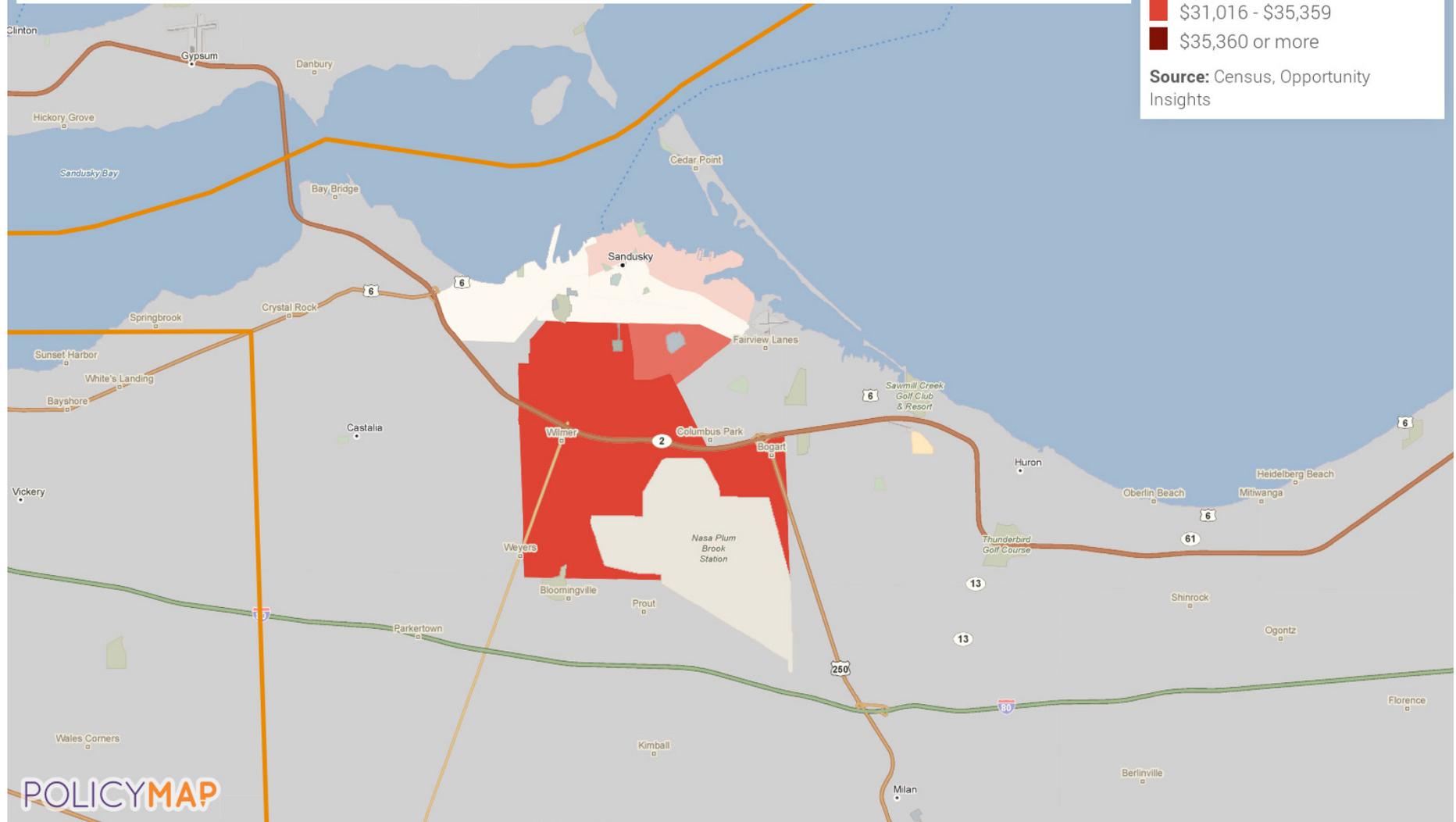
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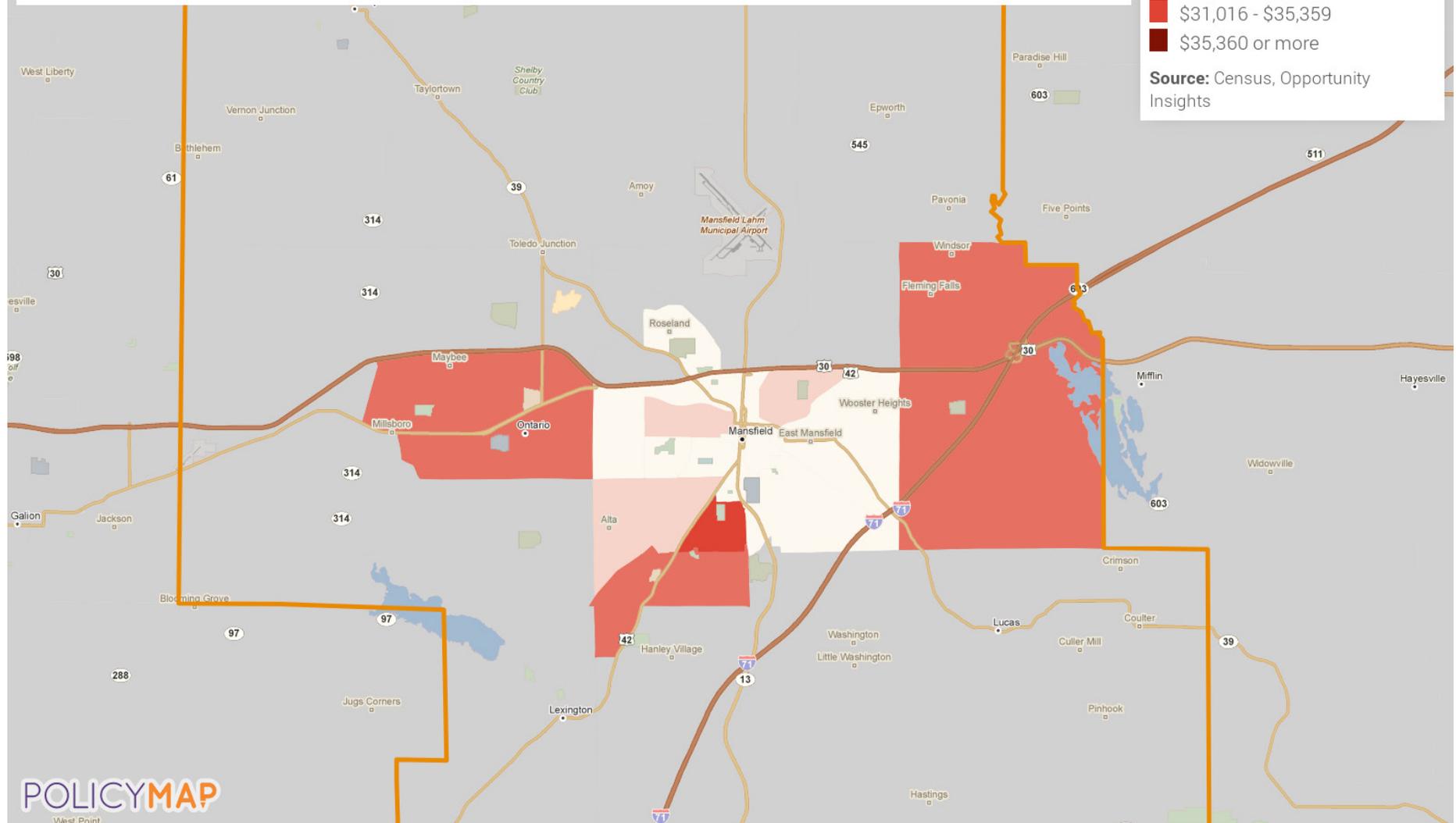
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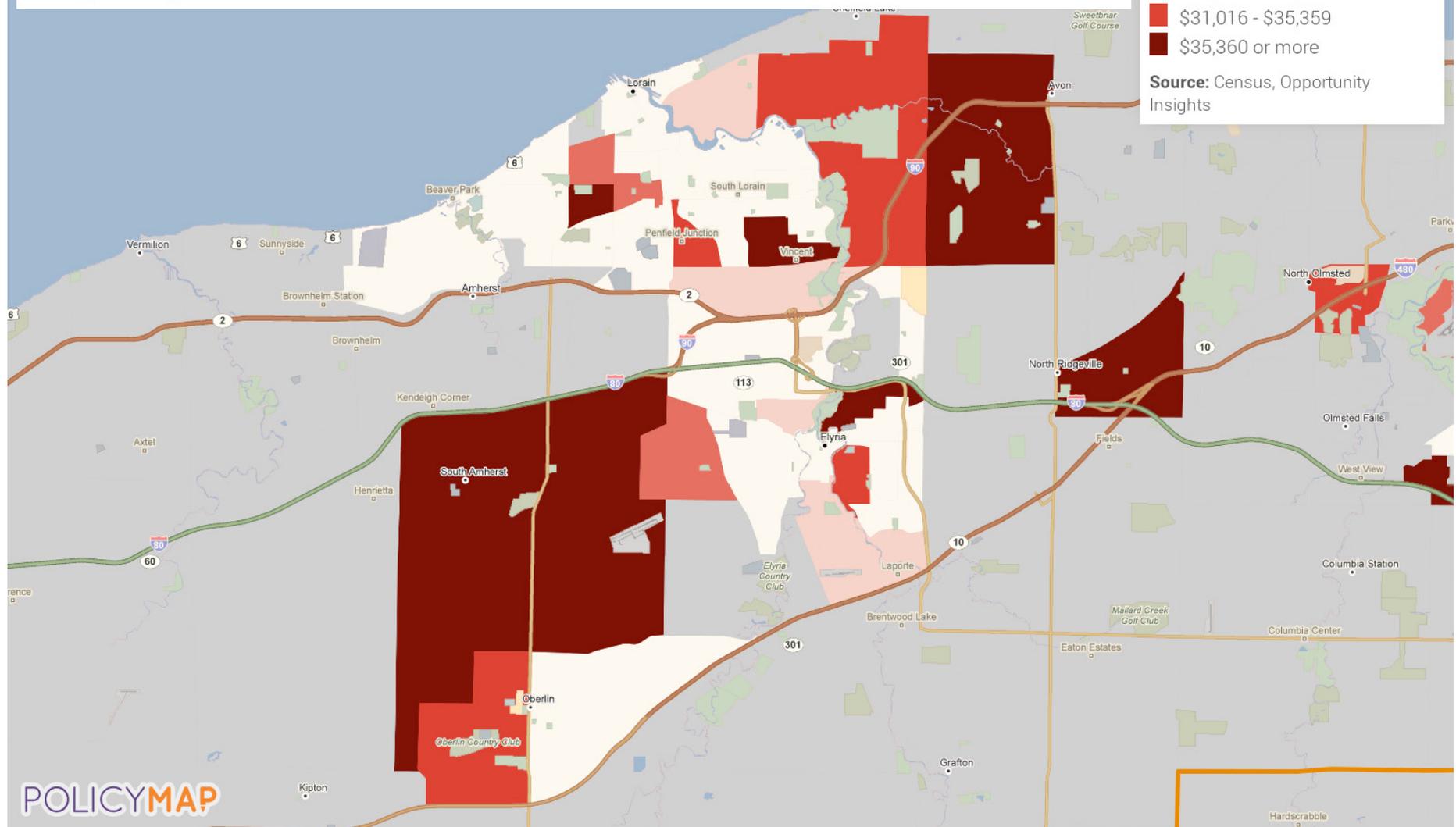
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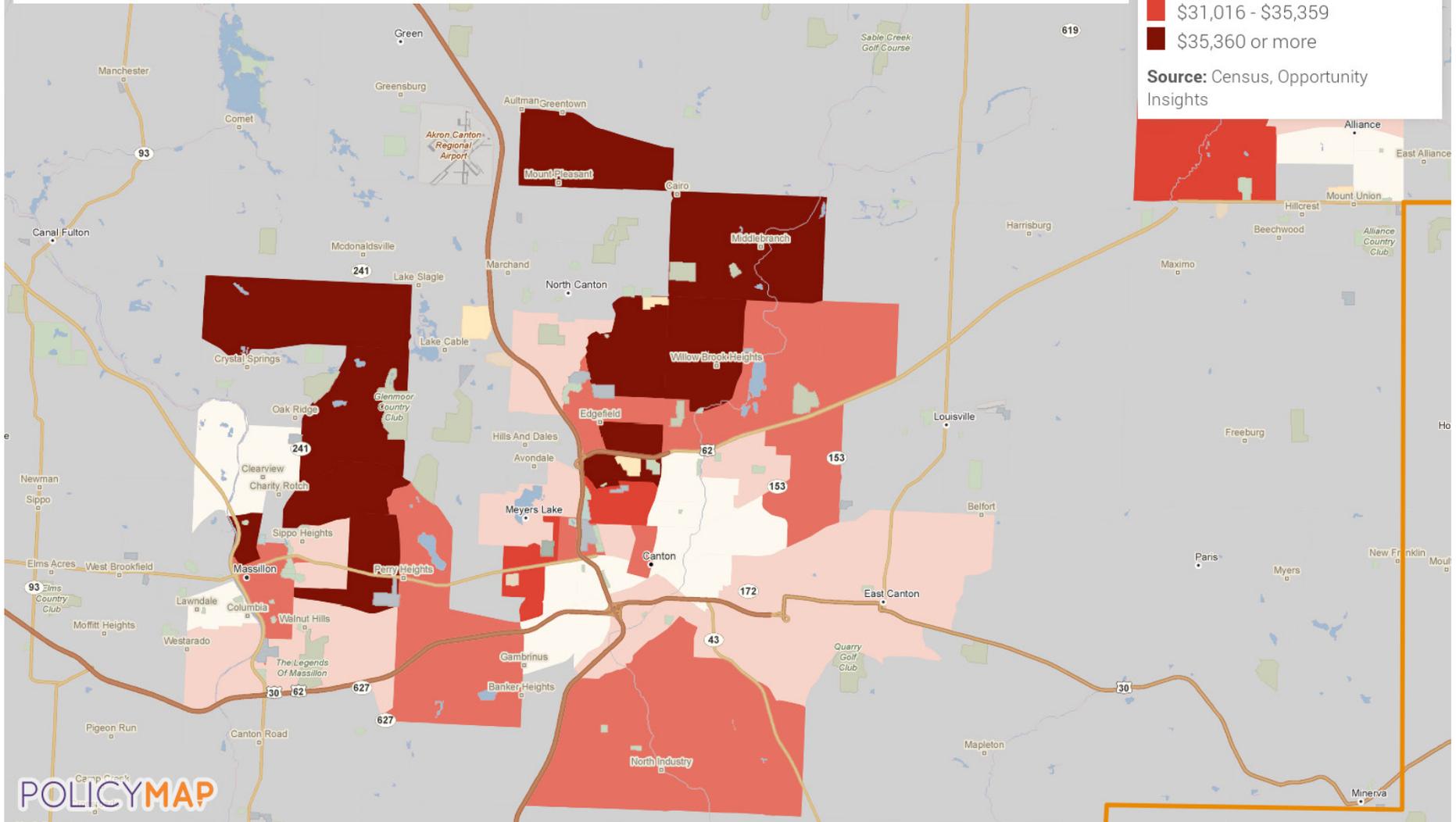
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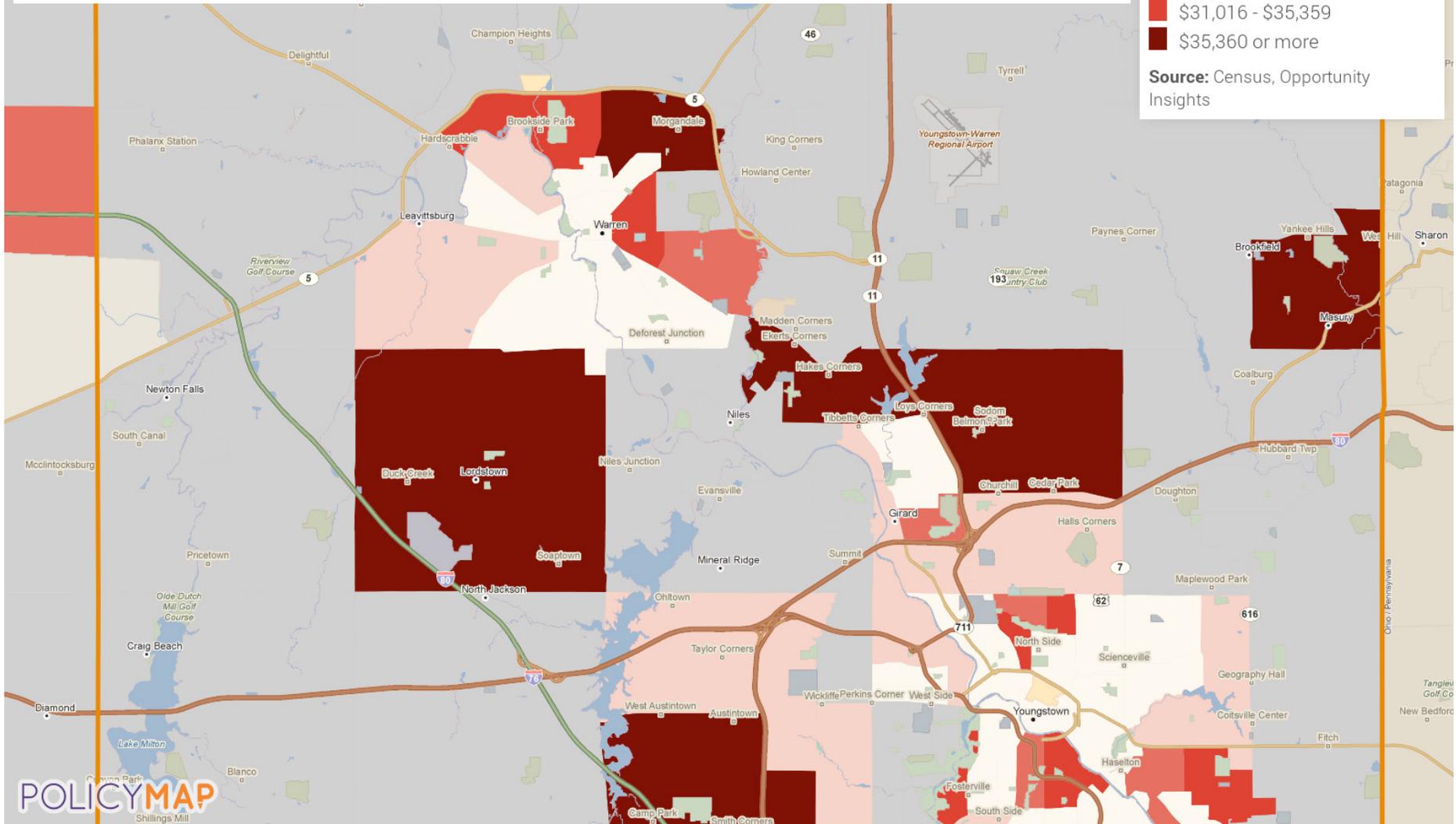
Eventual household Income for Black People Raised in Low Income Families

Year: 2018

Shaded by: Census Tract, 2010

- Insufficient Data
- \$24,718 or less
- \$24,719 - \$27,849
- \$27,850 - \$31,015
- \$31,016 - \$35,359
- \$35,360 or more

Source: Census, Opportunity Insights



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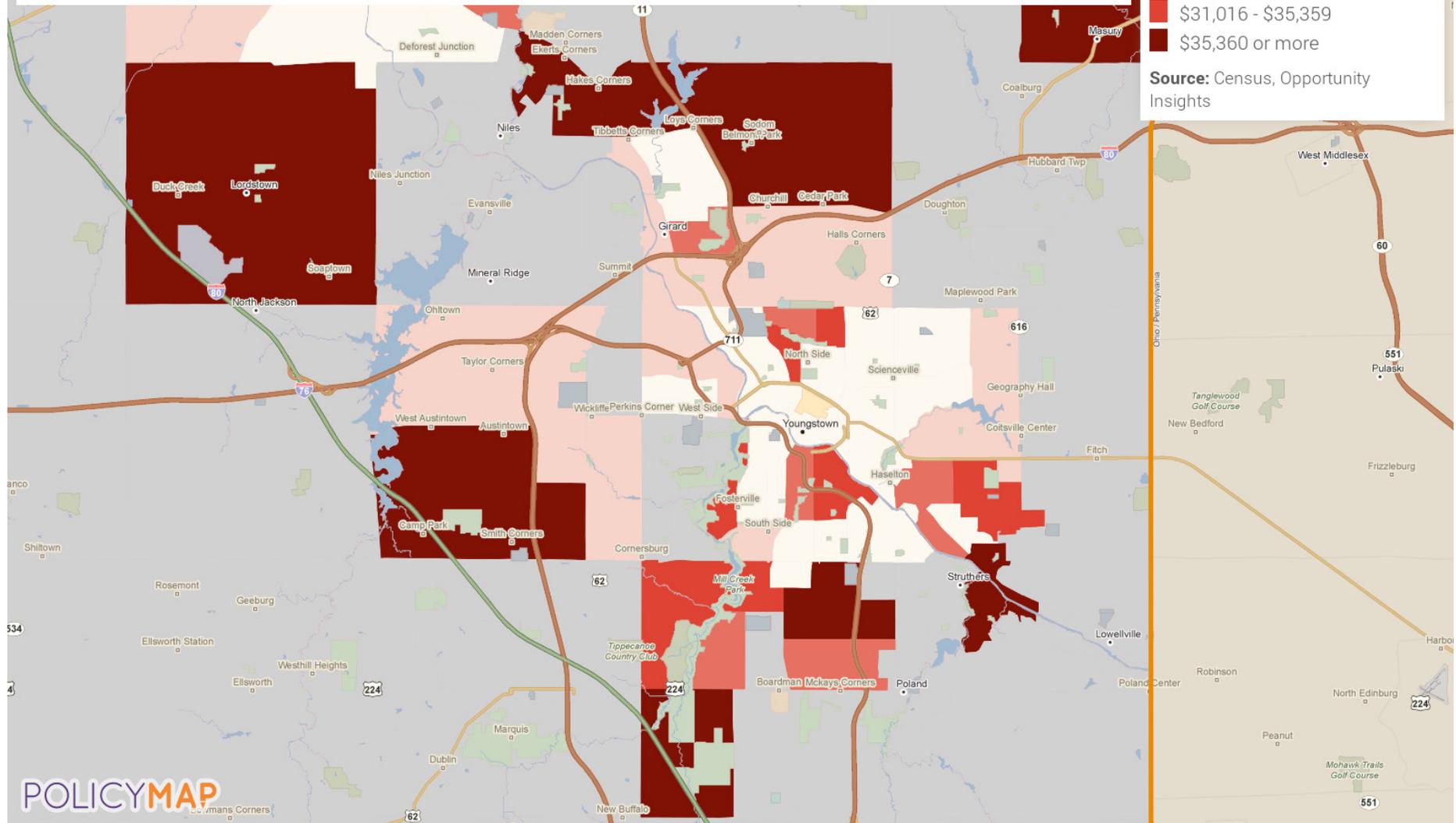
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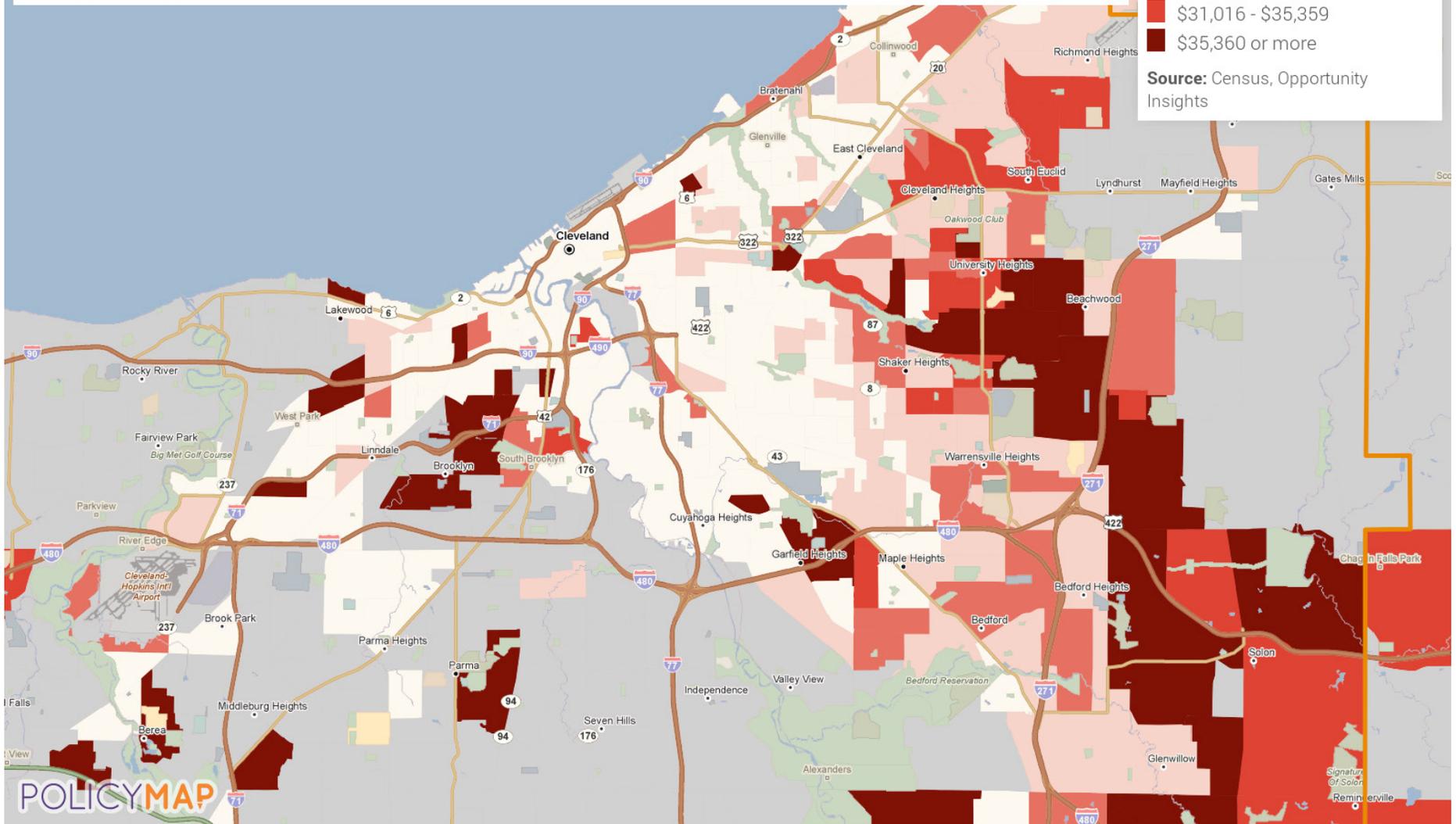
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