



# Are Young Ohioans Healthy & Ready to Learn?

## FAMILY PROFILE

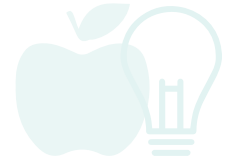
**Lori Jarvis**  
*Clermont County*



**“Head Start taught me what needed to be done before kindergarten,” Lori says. “By the time they hit kindergarten, they were reading, they were writing, they had basic math down.”**



## LORI'S STORY



Lori Jarvis learned when her youngest daughter was six months old that she had left-hemiparesis cerebral palsy, a result of a stroke in utero. Recently, doctors also discovered the three-year-old has epilepsy.

"When she was first diagnosed, they told us that there was a high possibility that she would be nonverbal, non-mobile, and she would probably be G-tube (gastrostomy tube) fed," Lori says. "Now because of the Perlman Center (at Cincinnati Children's Hospital) and all that I've learned there and all that she's learned there, she is thriving."

Lori spends, on average, four days per week at Cincinnati Children's seeing the 30 specialists on her daughter's care team. When they're home, she spends upwards of three hours per day doing therapies with her daughter.

Lori says she is immensely grateful to Head Start, which helped get her daughter diagnosed and where all four of her children have attended early learning programs.

"Head Start taught me what needed to be done before kindergarten," Lori says. "By the time they hit kindergarten, they were reading, they were writing, they had basic math down."

The family's Head Start home visitor also helped Lori get her youngest daughter enrolled in Help Me Grow, an initiative that promotes early learning and assesses if children are developing on track.

Though her children are doing well, Lori says she and her husband, who works full-time, constantly worry about losing Medicaid coverage, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and their youngest daughter's Social Security disability benefits. To Lori's endless frustration, each program has different income eligibility guidelines.

Earning just one dollar over the threshold, Lori says, can get them disqualified. "Then we spend months trying to adjust only...to be set back into debt...then we're reapplying for assistance again. There should be some type of step-down process."

She says her husband has turned down overtime and raises to ensure any additional income doesn't leave them worse off financially.

Lori says her "fantasy" is that she wouldn't have to worry about which bill to pay and that all she had to think about was getting her daughter to the right appointments.

**Watch  
Lori's Video**



→ [youtu.be/eUrhRVvgJeo](https://youtu.be/eUrhRVvgJeo)



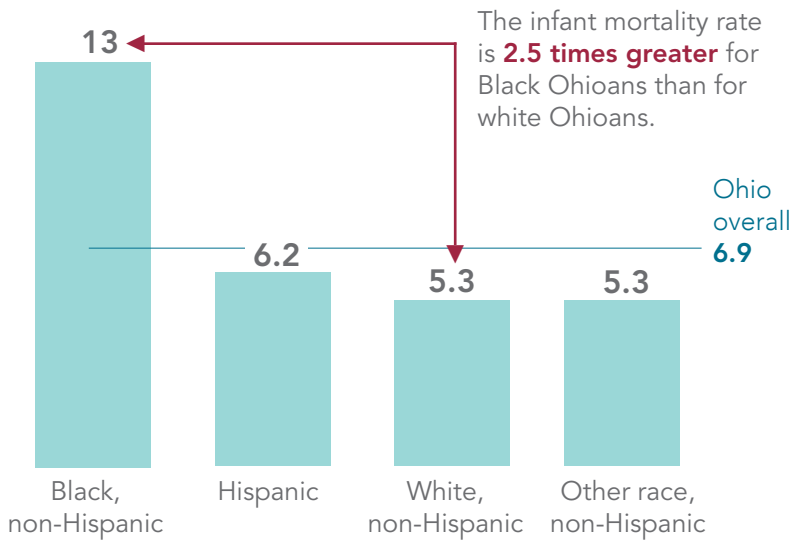


The foundation for a healthy life starts early — before a baby is born. Without increased investment and support, some young children and their mothers can face lifelong challenges to their physical and mental health and well-being.

## Young child health: What does the data tell us?

More than 1 in 150 Ohio babies **don't live to see their first birthday**. Black and Hispanic Ohioans are disproportionately affected by infant mortality.

Number of infant deaths, under age 1, per 1,000 live births (2019)

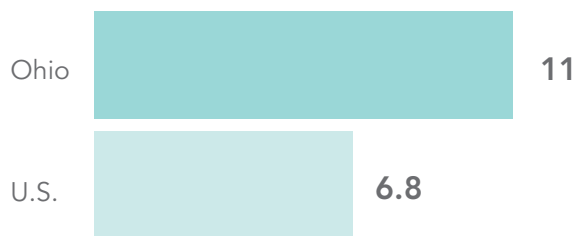


Racism can directly affect maternal and infant health and is a primary driver of infant mortality. For example, repeated exposure to racial discrimination can contribute to maternal toxic stress, which is linked to preterm births, low birthweight, and infant mortality.<sup>3</sup> Racial disparities in infant mortality persist despite maternal income or education level.<sup>4</sup>

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) (2019)

There are almost twice as many cases of **neonatal abstinence syndrome** in Ohio than in the U.S. overall.

Number of neonatal abstinence syndrome cases among newborn hospitalizations, per 1,000 newborn hospitalizations (2018)



Neonatal abstinence syndrome is a withdrawal syndrome that can occur in newborns exposed to certain substances, including opioids, during pregnancy.<sup>3</sup> Symptoms vary and are impacted by factors, such as length of parental substance use and type of substance.

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (2018)



## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Birth outcomes</b>			
<b>Neonatal abstinence syndrome.</b> Number of neonatal abstinence syndrome cases among newborn hospitalizations, per 1,000 newborn hospitalizations	11.0 (2018)	No change	Worse
◆ <b>Low birthweight.</b> Percent of live births where the infant weighed less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds)	8.5% (2020)	No change	Same
Asian, non-Hispanic infants	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Black, non-Hispanic infants	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
◆ <b>Infant mortality.</b> Number of infant deaths, under age 1, per 1,000 live births	6.9 (2019)	No change	Worse
Black, non-Hispanic infants	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
Hispanic infants	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
<b>Preterm birth.</b> Percent of infants born preterm (before 37 completed weeks of gestation)	10.3% (2020)	No change	Same

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.

◆ = disaggregated data is available. Only groups with moderate or large disparities are displayed (see data appendix for all disaggregated data)

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Young child health</b>			
<b>Young child mortality.</b> Number of child deaths, ages 1-5, from all causes, per 100,000 children, ages 1-5	22.5% (2020)	Improved	Same
◆ <b>Elevated blood lead levels.</b> Percent of children, ages 0-5, who received a blood lead test and had elevated blood lead levels	1.9% (2020)	Improved	N/A
<b>Behavioral health diagnoses.</b> Percent of Medicaid enrollees, ages 0-9, who have been diagnosed with a behavioral health condition	13.9% (2019)	N/A	N/A
<b>Oral health problems.</b> Percent of children, ages 1-5, with oral health problems	9.3% (2018-2020)	N/A	Same

For additional information on the data and analysis, see the data appendix.

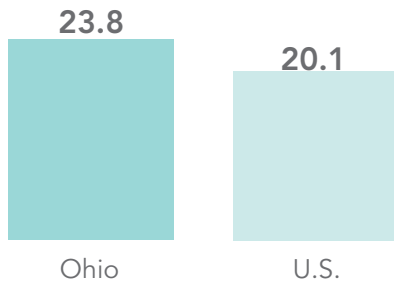
◆ = data provided by a state agency (Ohio only)



## Maternal health: What does the data tell us?

**More mothers are dying** from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in Ohio than in other states.

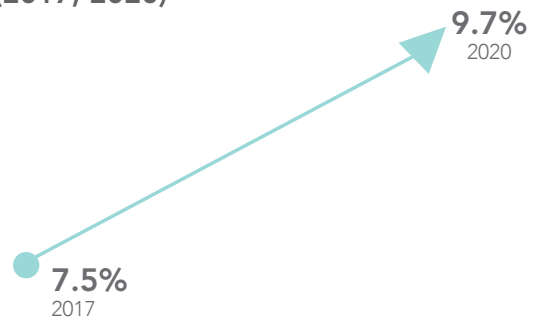
Number of deaths from causes related to pregnancy or its management, per 100,000 live births (2019)



Source: CDC WONDER, as compiled by America's Health Rankings (2019)

**Postpartum depression** increased 29% among Ohio women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Percent of women with a live birth who experienced postpartum depression (2017, 2020)



Source: Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (2017, 2020)

## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>Maternal health</b>			
<b>Maternal mortality.</b> Number of deaths from causes related to pregnancy or its management, per 100,000 live births	23.8 (2019)	N/A	Worse
<b>Maternal morbidity.</b> Number of severe maternal morbidity events per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations	71.9 (2019)	No change	N/A
Asian, non-Hispanic mothers	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Black, non-Hispanic mothers	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Hispanic mothers	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
<b>Postpartum depression.</b> Percent of women with a live birth who experienced postpartum depression	9.7% (2020)	Worsened	N/A

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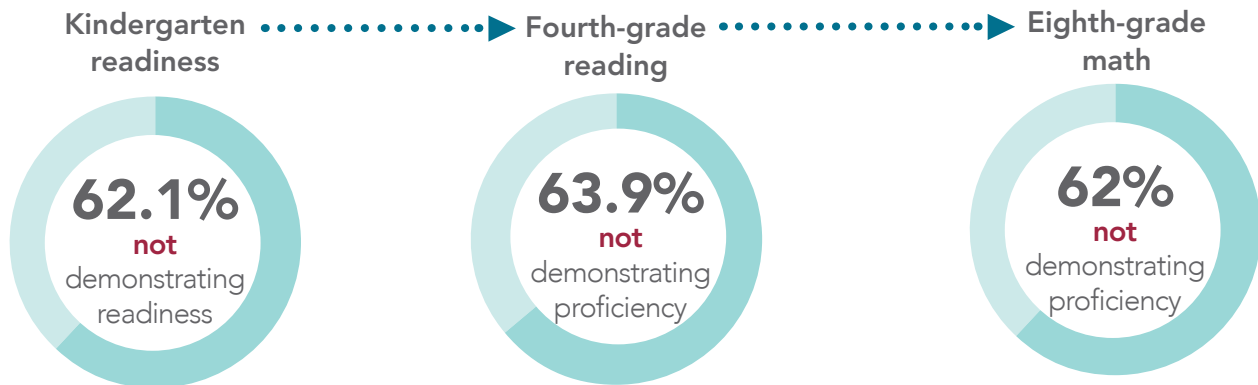


# Are Young Ohioans Ready to Learn?

Children who start school ready to learn are more likely to demonstrate stronger math, reading, and social skills later in life, whereas children who enter kindergarten underprepared are at a disadvantage for future success.<sup>4</sup> Ensuring that children are ready for school gives them a fair chance to succeed and creates greater opportunities for a more inclusive and prosperous Ohio.

## School readiness and academic achievement: What does the data tell us?

Ohio kids are **starting behind and staying behind**. There is a strong connection in research between a child’s readiness to enter kindergarten and their math and reading scores throughout their academic career.<sup>5</sup> When we prepare our children for kindergarten, we are preparing them for a future of academic success.



Source: Ohio Department of Education (2021-2022)

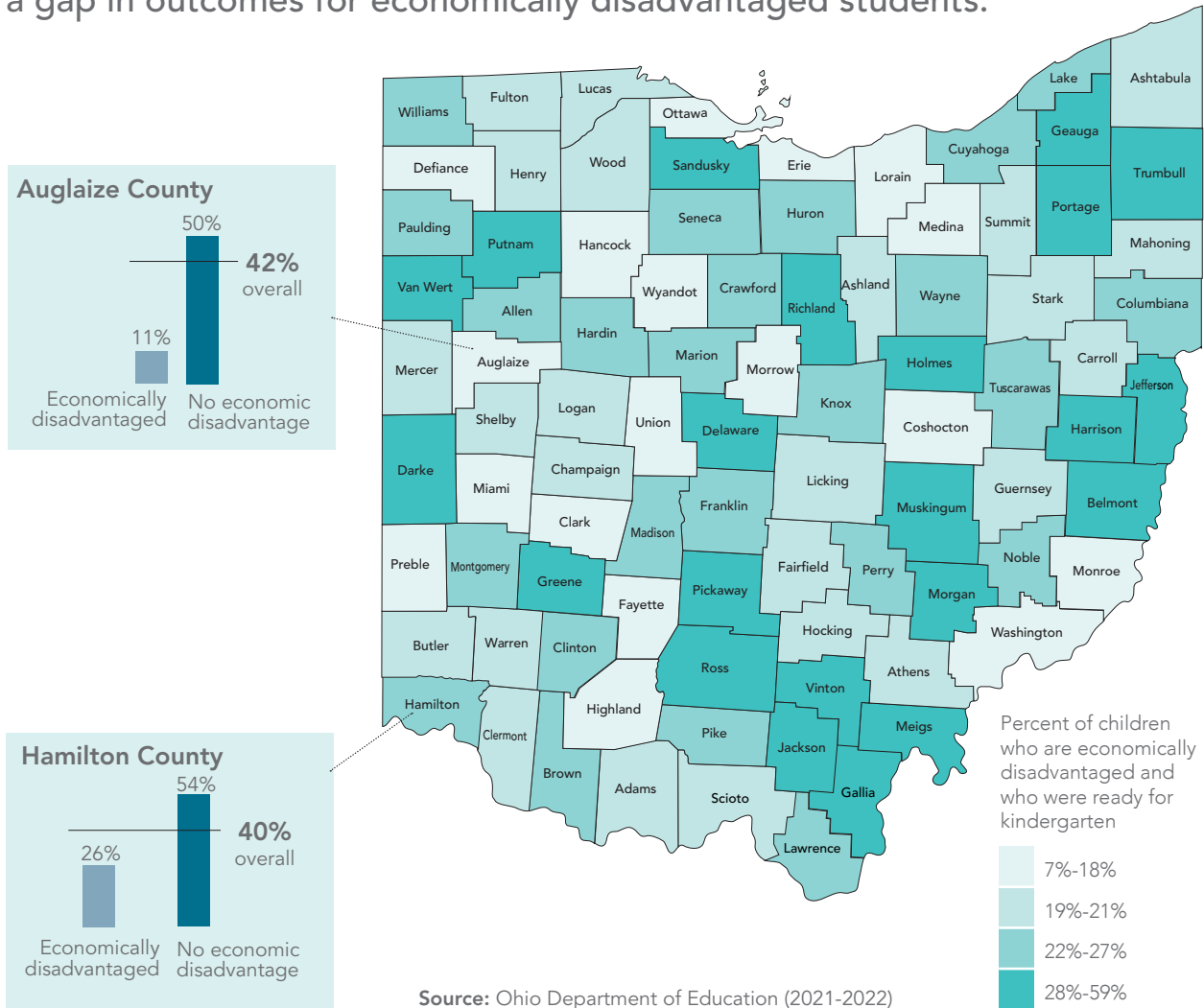
Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (2019)

Source: NAEP (2019)



Students who are economically disadvantaged are more than two times less likely to **demonstrate kindergarten readiness** than students with no economic disadvantage. A similar disparity exists across every county in Ohio.

The gap in kindergarten readiness exists in suburban, Appalachian, rural, and urban counties. Even counties that perform relatively well overall see a gap in outcomes for economically disadvantaged students.





## Ohio's performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
<b>School readiness and academic achievement</b>			
<b>Kindergarten readiness.</b> Percent of students demonstrating kindergarten readiness based on the Ohio Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised (KRA-R)	37.9% (2021-2022)	No change	N/A
American Indian or Alaskan Native students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Black, non-Hispanic students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Hispanic students	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
Multiracial students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Students who are economically disadvantaged	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
Students with a disability	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
<b>On track for literacy.</b> Percent of students "on-track" for language and literacy based on the Ohio Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised (KRA-R)	47.5% (2021-2022)	Worsened	N/A
<b>Fourth grade reading proficiency.</b> Percent of fourth grade students proficient in reading based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress	36.1% (2019)	No change	Same
Black students	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
Hispanic students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Multiracial students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
<b>Eighth grade math proficiency.</b> Percent of eighth grade students proficient in math based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress	38% (2019)	No change	Better
<b>Chronic absenteeism.</b> Percent of students in grades K-3 missing at least 10% of school attendance time in a year	26.4% (2021-2022)	Worsened	N/A
American Indian or Alaskan Native students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Black, non-Hispanic students	Large disparity (most-recent year)		
Hispanic students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Multiracial students	Moderate disparity (most-recent year)		
Students who are economically disadvantaged	Large disparity (most-recent year)		

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