



# Laying *the* Foundation

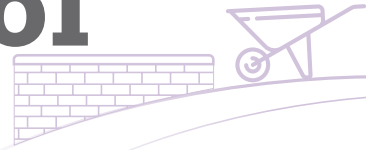
- ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL

During a child’s first five years, Ohio has a critical opportunity to lay a strong foundation for the state’s most-at risk children by investing in enriching early experiences. Quality early childhood programs have the ability to close gaps between at-risk kids and their more advantaged peers by the time they enter Kindergarten. Identifying barriers to children’s success and providing interventions must happen in the first five years of life to give all children the best shot at reaching their full potential. Children in Ohio are facing unimaginable levels of trauma and adversity before they even enter school. Ohio must do better to reach families and children through quality home visiting, child care and preschool programs. In order to improve kindergarten readiness and lifelong success for Ohio kids, the state needs to ensure early development is happening in high-quality learning environments.





# Access to Preschool



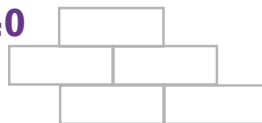
***The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) provides publicly funded preschool services for typically developing children through the Early Childhood Education (ECE) grant program. ODE awards a set of early childhood grants to qualified providers in school and private child care settings.***

Qualified providers must be highly rated (3-5 stars) under Step Up to Quality, Ohio's quality rating and improvement system. These grants can fund preschool slots for children in families that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Children who participate in the ECE program receive a high-quality preschool experience for 12.5 hours per week.

Children in high-quality preschool, like other high-quality early childhood programs, reap immediate and long-term benefits throughout their life. They are more likely to demonstrate kindergarten readiness, less likely to be held back and more likely to graduate from high school. They are also more likely to find and hold living-wage jobs, more likely to be in good health and less likely to be involved in criminal behavior. The economics behind these benefits supports the case for high-quality preschool with a \$9.20 return on investment through age 40 for every public dollar invested.

Children who have  
**ACCESS** to preschool  
**RECEIVE** a  
**HIGH-QUALITY**  
experience for  
**12.5 HOURS**  
per week.

**\$9.20 ROI**  
**THROUGH AGE 40**



FOR  
EVERY **\$1** INVESTED IN  
**PRESCHOOL**

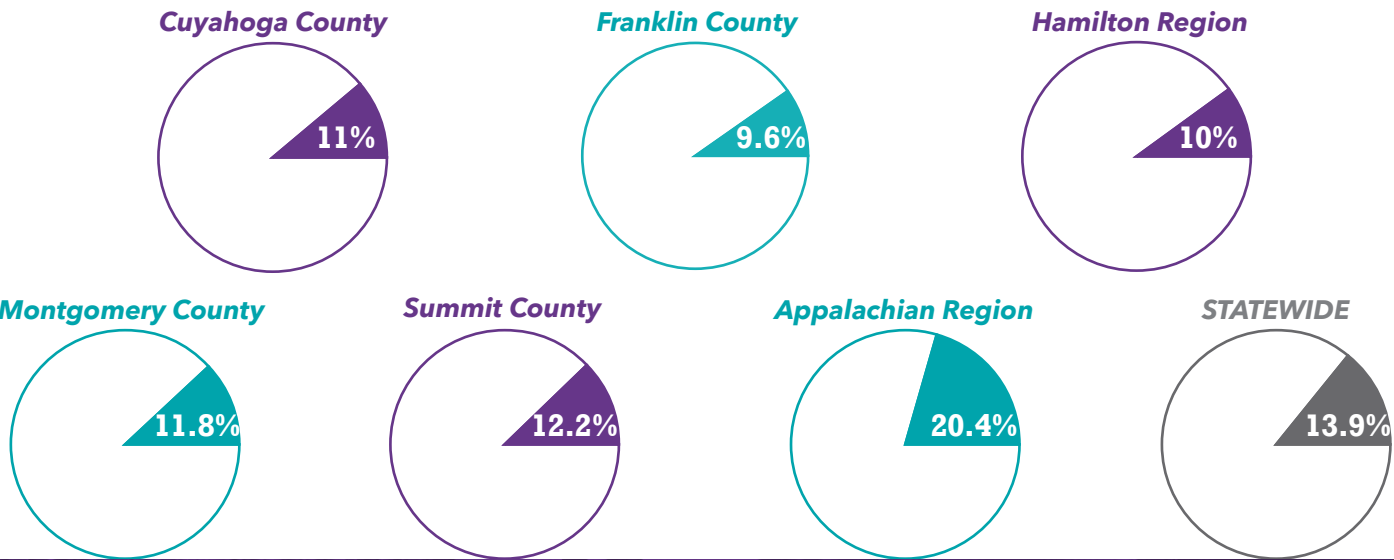
# Access to Preschool

Table 1

FY17 ODE Early Childhood Education (ECE) Slots by Region for 3-4 Year Olds

Region	# of ODE ECE Slots	Total # of 3-4 Age Under 200% FPL
Cuyahoga County	1,628	14,848
Franklin County	1,639	17,129
Hamilton County	1,037	10,383
Montgomery County	900	7,606
Summit County	641	5,259
Appalachian Region	4,982	24,400
STATEWIDE	18,387	132,443

Chart 1 Percent of Eligible Children Served by Early Childhood Education Slots



Reflections

COMPARED TO OTHER HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS SUCH AS PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD CARE AND HEAD START, THE ECE PROGRAM IS SERVING RELATIVELY FEWER CHILDREN. FURTHERMORE, THE 12.5 HOUR WEEKLY EXPERIENCE OFTEN MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES.

**IF A CHILD FALLS BETWEEN 130 AND 200% FPL, THUS QUALIFYING FOR ECE PRESCHOOL BUT NOT PFCC OR HEAD START, WHAT CHALLENGES MAY THEIR FAMILY FACE IN UTILIZING THE PROGRAM?**

# Access to Preschool

The second publicly funded preschool program provided by the Ohio Department of Education is special education preschool.

Children age 3-5 with disabilities are eligible for special education preschool services through Ohio’s K-12 school districts and Education Service Centers. ODE’s special education preschool services are open to all children with disabilities and there is no income eligibility criteria.

Table 2

FY17 Number of Children Served By ODE ECE & Special Education Preschool by Region

Region	# of ODE ECE Slots	# of Preschool Special Ed Children	Total # of Preschool Children Served by ODE
Cuyahoga County	1,628	1,858	3,486
Franklin County	1,639	2,163	3,802
Hamilton County	1,037	809	1,846
Montgomery County	900	989	1,889
Summit County	641	717	1,358
Appalachian Region	4,982	3,449	8,431
STATEWIDE	18,387	20,600	38,987

The following tables provides a summary of the number and percentage of ODE preschool children who are economically disadvantaged.

The ODE “economically disadvantaged” student meets any of the following conditions:

1. Students who are known to be eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches—a program through the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A) National School Lunch Program. The Federal eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price lunch is 185% FPL.
2. Students who have not submitted an application for free or reduced-price lunch or who have not been directly certified as eligible but reside in a household in which a member is known to be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
3. Students who are known to be recipients of or whose guardians are known to be recipients of public assistance.
4. Students whose parents or guardians have completed a Title I student income form and meet the income guidelines specified. Also, some districts have opted for the federal Community Eligibility Program (CEP) that enables eligible school districts to identify all or nearly all of their students as disadvantaged in order to remove the stigma associated with identifying a need for school lunch and breakfast.

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, FY17 School Report Card

# Access to Preschool

**Table 3** FY17 Number of ODE Preschool Children Served by Economic Status & Region

Region	# of ODE Preschool Children NOT Disadvantaged	# of ODE Economically Disadvantaged	Total # of ODE Preschool Children
Cuyahoga County	2,084	2,584	4,668
Franklin County	1,958	2,150	4,108
Hamilton County	894	1,596	2,490
Montgomery County	1,380	1,464	2,844
Summit County	307	711	1,018
Appalachian Region	2,367	4,252	6,619
STATEWIDE	20,053	17,886	37,939

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, FY17 School Report Card

Note: The total number of ODE Preschool Children reflected here is lower than the number reflected in Table 2 because different data sets were utilized to gather economic status information and not all children are coded as either disadvantaged or not disadvantaged.

# Access to Preschool

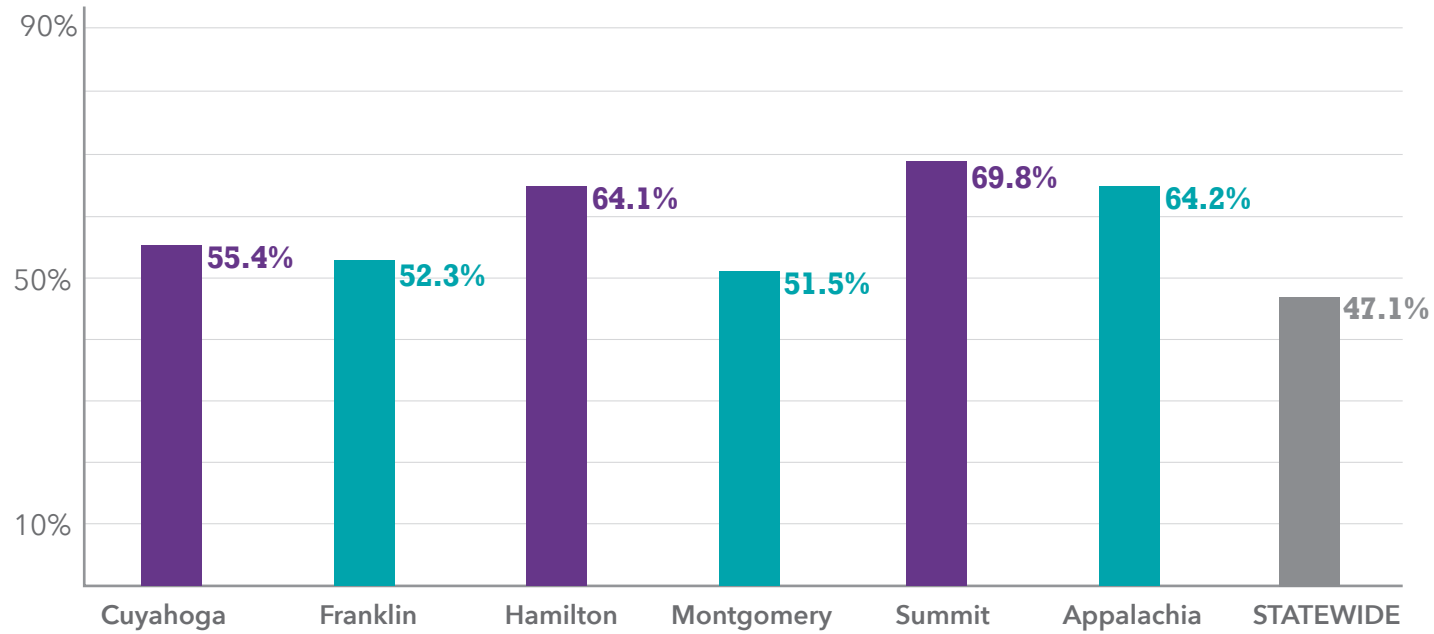
**Table 4** FY17 Number of Preschool Children Served by ODE by Race and Region

Region	# Black Preschool Children	# White Preschool Children	# Hispanic Preschool Children	# Multirace/Other Preschool Children	# Asian Preschool Children	Total # Preschool Children
Cuyahoga	1,904	2,125	208	89	129	4,455
Franklin	1,209	1,966	421	256	161	4,013
Hamilton	990	1,039	163	125	92	2,409
Montgomery	855	1,673	46	70	79	2,723
Summit	252	582	24	43	56	957
Appalachia	436	5,626	132	188	0	6,382
STATEWIDE	7,042	25,579	1,614	1,456	666	36,357

Note: An accounting of the race of preschool children served by ODE in the ECE program only was not available for FY17 at the time of this report. Accordingly, race for preschool children was reported as an aggregate of both ECE and Special Education program participants.

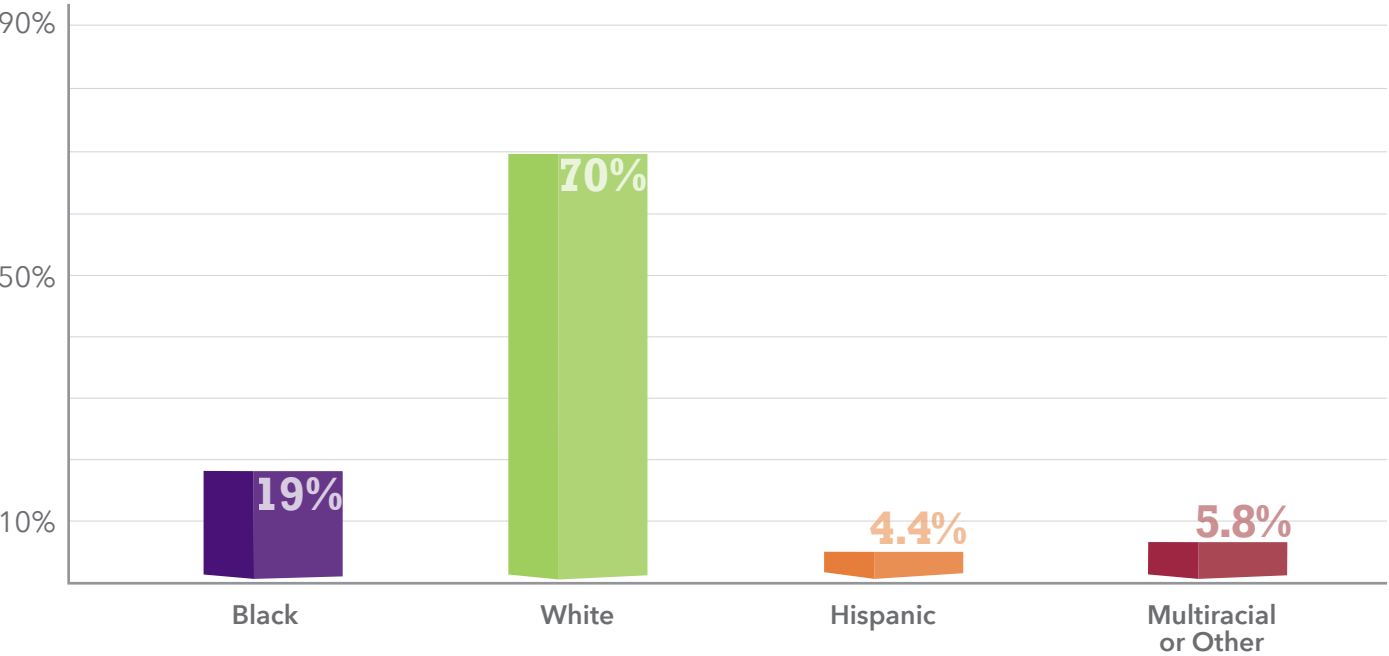
Table 4 and the following regional charts provide a summary of ODE Preschool children served by race for the state as a whole and the six communities selected for this analysis.

**Chart 2** FY17 Percentage of ODE Preschool Children that are Economically Disadvantaged by Region



Data Source: Ohio Department of Health

**STATEWIDE** FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race

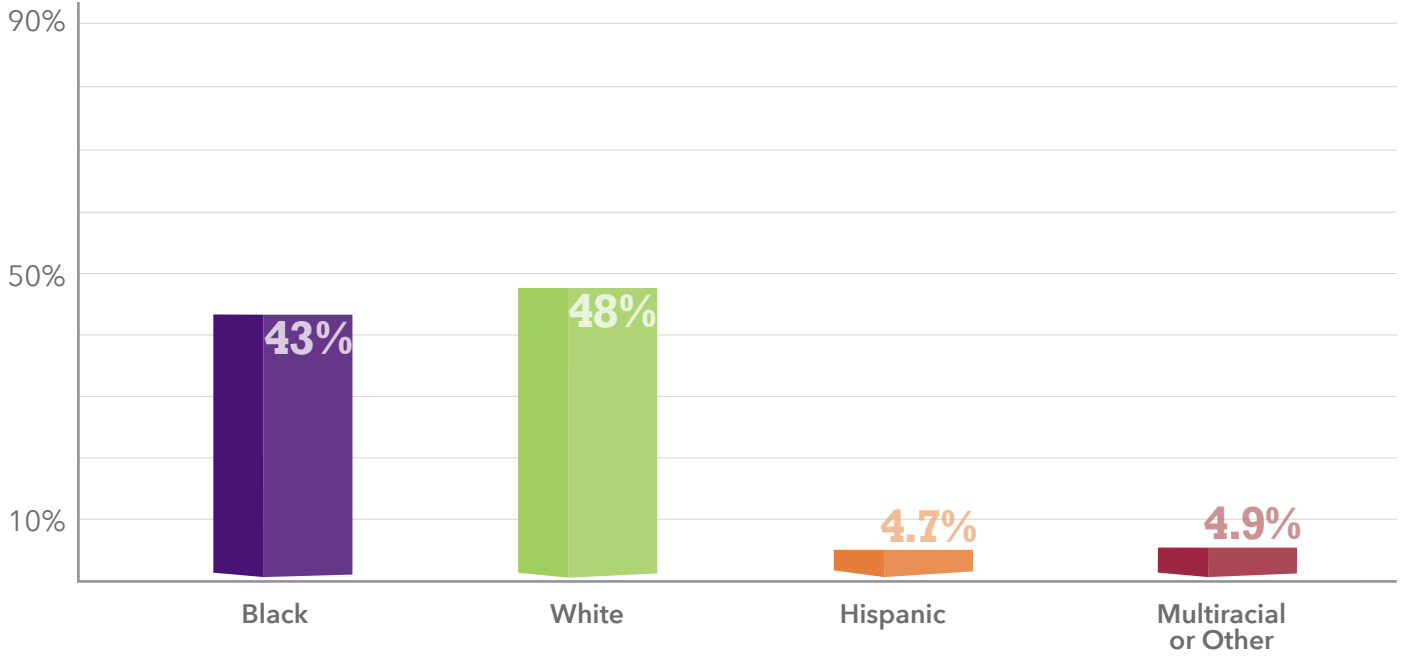


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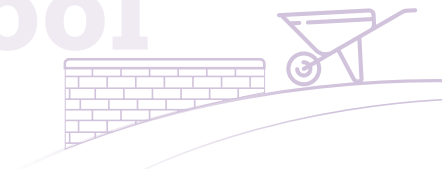


## Cuyahoga County

*FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race*

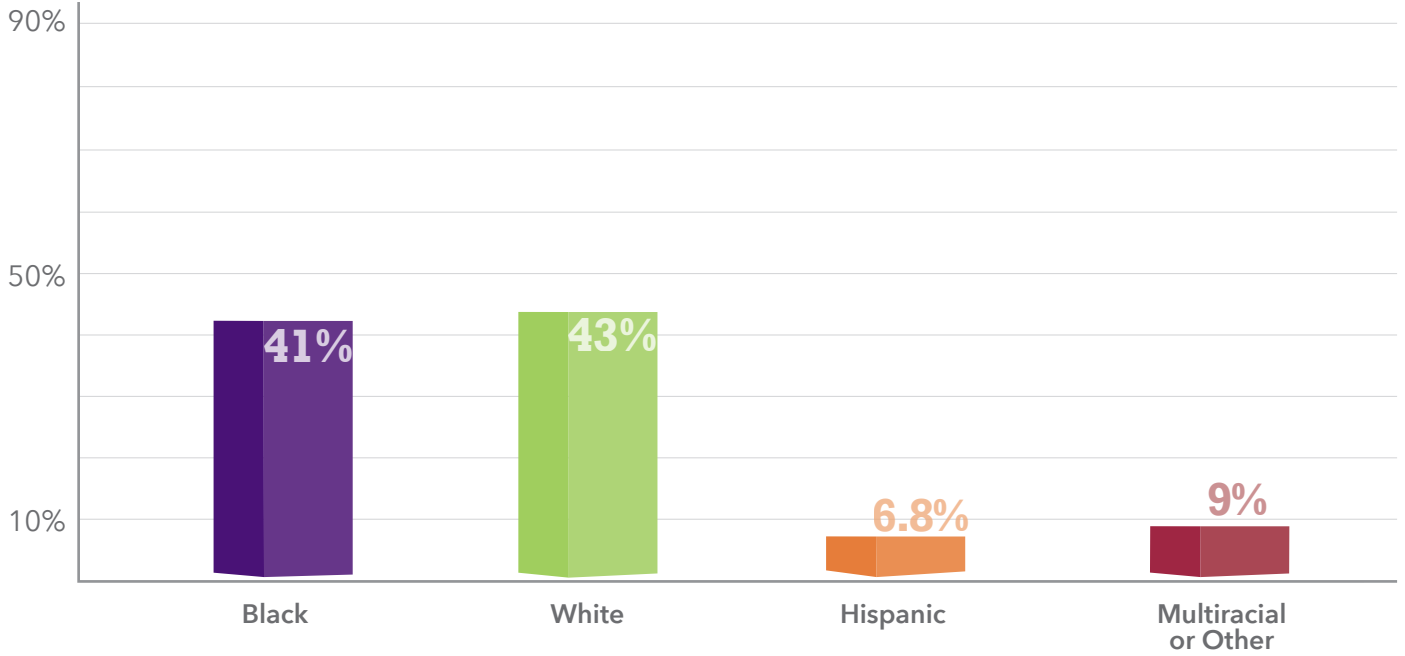


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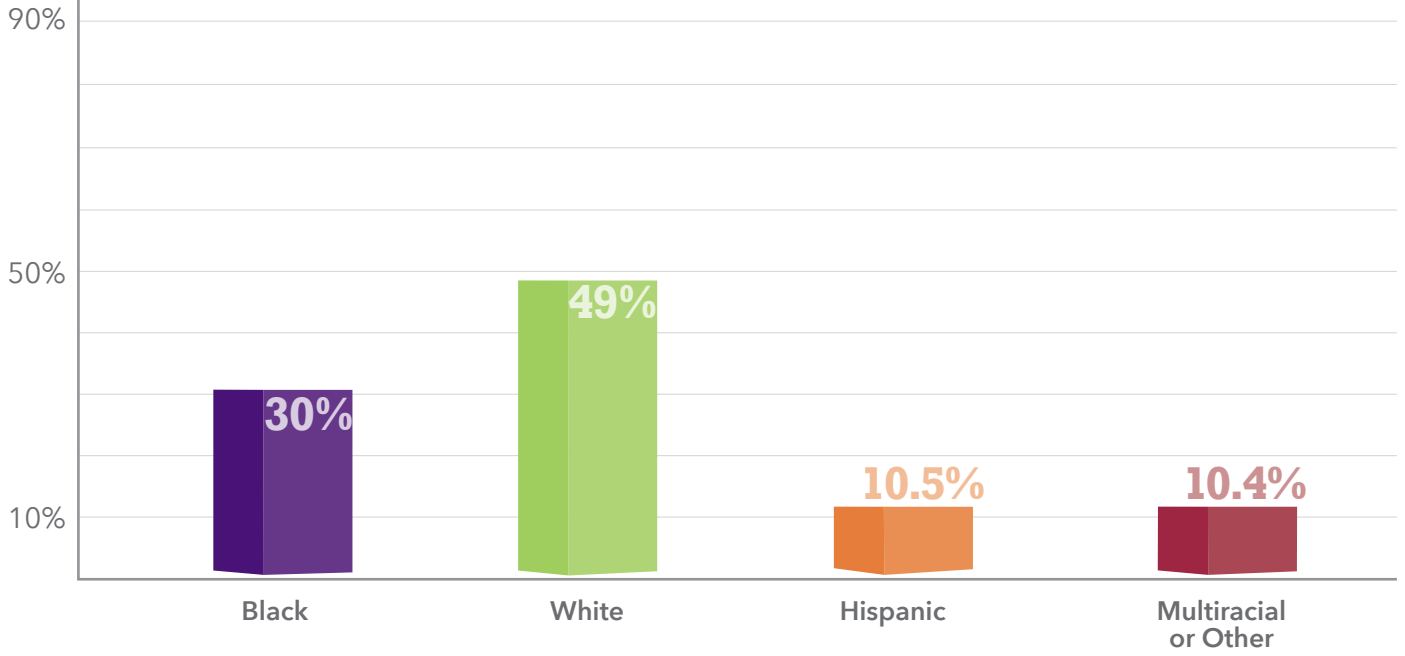
## Hamilton County

*FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race*



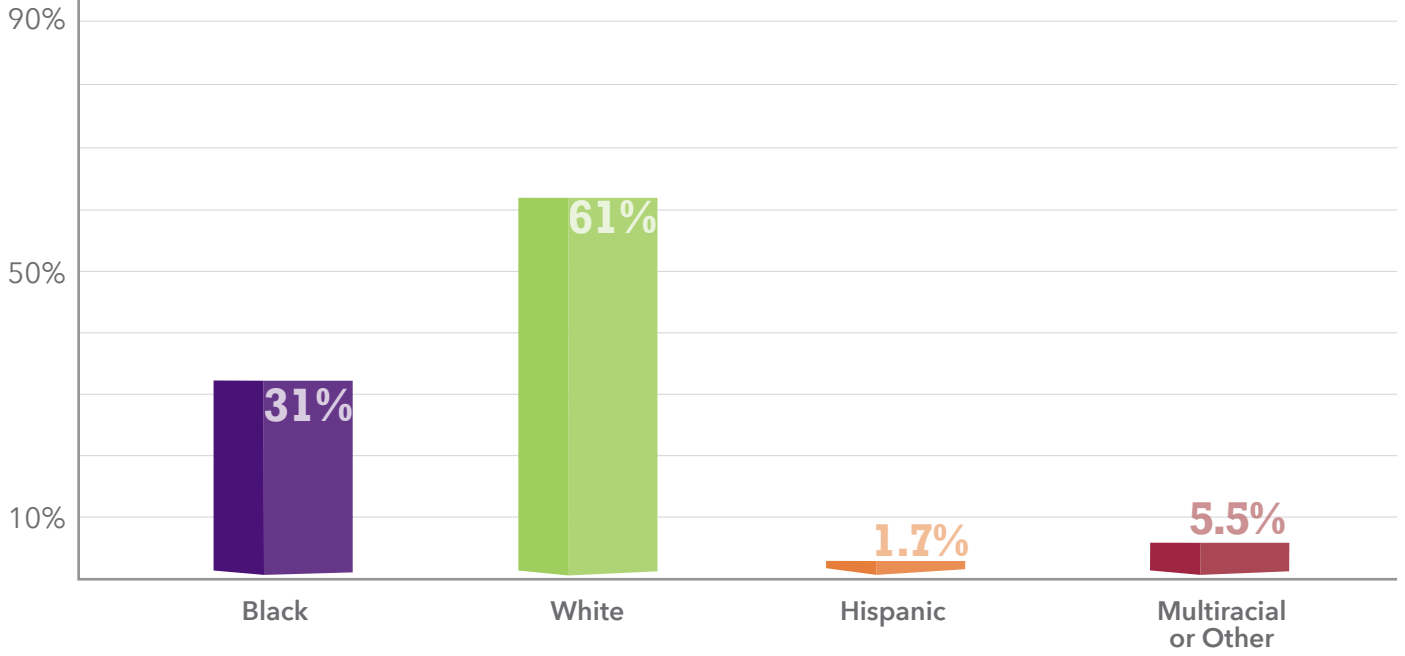
## Franklin County

*FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race*

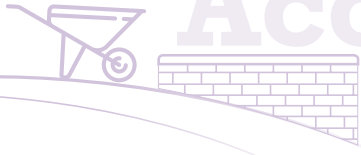


## Montgomery County

*FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race*

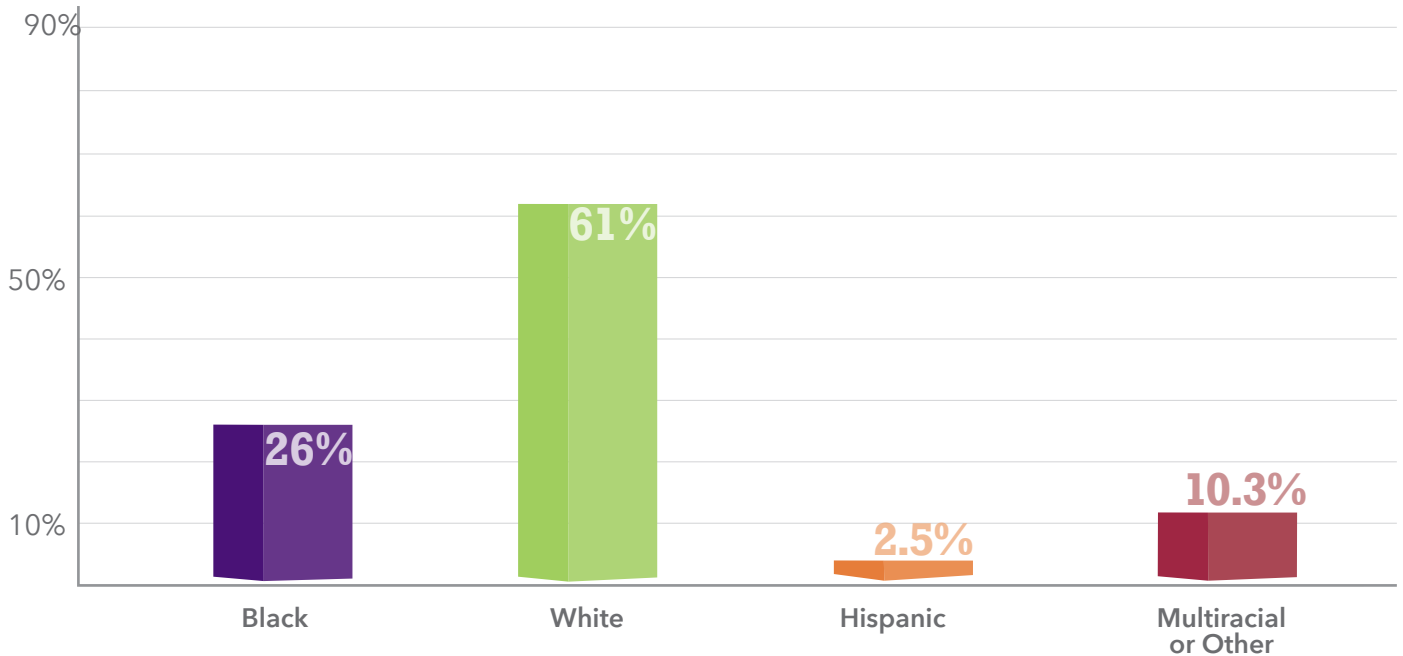


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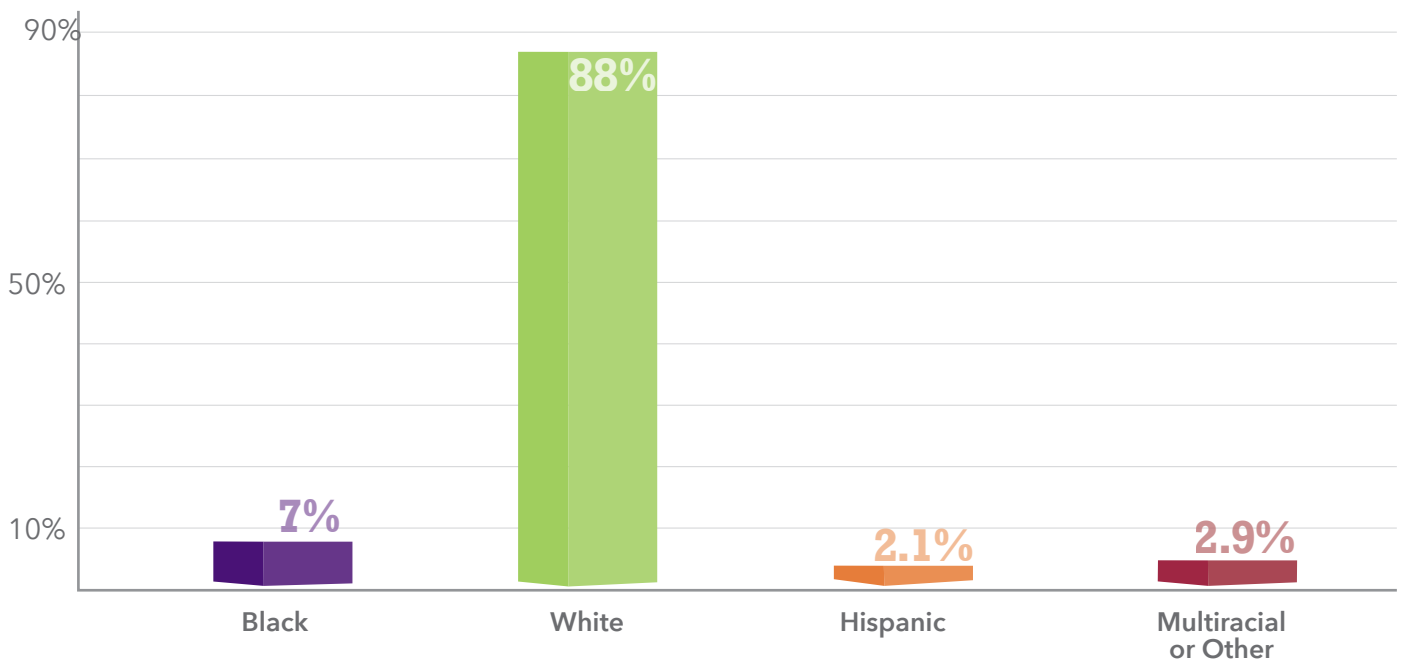
## Summit County

### FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race



## Appalachian Region

### FY17 ODE Percentage of Preschool Children Served by Race





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### SOURCES

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[https://heckmanequation.org/assets/2017/01/HeckmanMoonPin-toSavelyevYavitz\\_RateofReturnPerryPreschool\\_2010.pdf](https://heckmanequation.org/assets/2017/01/HeckmanMoonPin-toSavelyevYavitz_RateofReturnPerryPreschool_2010.pdf)

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### DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Education, FY17 School Report Cards



# Join Us.

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*Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report*

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