



Helping People in Mahoning County

Federally Funded Health and Human Services

Total County Population (2010 Census): 238,823

Total State Population: 11,536,504



35%
below self-sufficiency

Federally funded health and human service programs are crucial for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities — across the state and in Mahoning County, where 35% of the county population survives at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (also known as the self-sufficiency standard). With statewide unemployment hovering around 9% for most of 2011, more people are seeking support to meet their basic needs. That's why these safety-net programs must be preserved in the federal budget.

Source: Ohio Department of Development April 2011 Ohio Poverty Report

Food Stamp Program



Recipients in Mahoning County (May 2011): 47,253

Recipients in Ohio: 1,781,161

Commonly known as the **food stamp program**, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program administered through the states and counties that provides low-income people with money to purchase food.

- From December 2007 to May 2011, the number of food stamp recipients statewide increased by 58%.
- More than 1 in 4 families with children did not have enough money to buy food in the last year.
- Ohio ranks 20th in the nation for food hardship (struggling to afford food).

Source: ODJFS Public Assistance Monthly Statistics, December 2007 and May 2011

20%
of residents

up 56%
since 2007

Medicaid



Recipients in Mahoning County (May 2011): 50,085

Recipients in Ohio: 2,086,220

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low-income families, children, seniors, and some people with disabilities that is jointly funded by the federal and state governments and administered by the state.

- Medicaid is the single largest payer of health care services in the state and the largest insurer for low-income children.
- Medicaid covers 38% of children and 40% of births in Ohio.

Source: ODJFS Public Assistance Monthly Statistics, December 2007 and May 2011

21%
of residents

up 18%
since 2007

Medicare



Recipients in Mahoning County (2011): 49,060

Recipients in Ohio: 1,909,462

Medicare is the federal health insurance program available to all people age 65 and over, regardless of income or health status, established in 1965 and expanded in 1972 to cover people younger than 65 with permanent disabilities.

- In 2009, nearly 97% of Ohio's seniors were enrolled in Medicare.
- Almost half of all people enrolled in Medicare have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Source: State-level data from Kaiser State Health Facts Total Number of Medicare Beneficiaries, 2011

21%
of residents

Earned Income Tax Credit



Recipients in Mahoning County (Tax Year 2008): 20,283

Recipients in Ohio: 879,580

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable federal tax credit that primarily benefits low- to moderate-income working families with children by offsetting social security taxes and providing an incentive to work.

- Half of all families with children receive the EITC at some point.
- In 2009, the EITC lifted an estimated 6.6 million people across the nation out of poverty, including 3.3 million children.

Source: Brookings EITC Interactive (<http://www.brookings.edu/projects/EITC.aspx>)

8%
of filers in
county

Social Security Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)



Recipients in Mahoning County (2010): 54,950

Recipients in Ohio: 2,124,650

Social Security's Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Income (OASDI) provides monthly benefits to workers after retirement. Benefits are provided by the federal government and funded through a payroll tax.

- In 2008, nationally Social Security was the primary source of income for 64% of retirees, and one-third of retirees relied on Social Security for at least 90% of their income.
- This program has reduced poverty among seniors in Ohio from 35% in 1960 to 8% today.

Source: SSA, <http://www.ssa.gov>

23%
of residents

up 2%
since 2007

Unemployment Compensation



Regular Benefit Recipients in Mahoning County (Aug. 2011): 1,996

Regular Benefit Recipients in Ohio: 107,472

Regular **unemployment compensation benefits** provide up to 26 weeks of support to workers who lose their jobs. Normally, unemployment compensation benefits are financed by a state payroll tax paid by employers, but during the recession Ohio has borrowed \$2.3 billion from the federal government to pay regular benefits. In addition, since the recession started, the federal government has paid for extended benefits beyond the regular 26 weeks. Eligibility for extended benefits is scheduled to expire December 31, 2011, unless Congress renews the program.

- In Ohio, the average weekly benefit is \$283 (no dependents).
- Over 300,000 newly unemployed Ohioans accessed regular benefits during 2010.
- From August 2010 to July 2011, nearly 130,000 Ohioans started federal extended unemployment compensation, meaning that they had been unemployed for at least 27 weeks.

Sources: UC 236 C.W. Weekly Claims by County, All Available Years (<http://ohiolmi.com/uc/UCReports.htm>); data for 2nd week of August 2007 and 2011; U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Admin., EUC Aggregate Program Activity, Data from 2008-Present



The Center for Community Solutions compiled the data and gave presentation recommendations for this fact sheet.



Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition that works to maintain vital public services – health, human services, and early care & education – at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.

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