

READY, SET SOAR OHIO



Early Investments, A Lifetime of Success.

DATA NOTE: COVID-19 has had a significant impact on children and families in Ohio, exacerbating the challenges faced by many who were already working to overcome obstacles associated with poverty and racial and geographic inequities. The data in this fact sheet reflect the experience of children and families prior to COVID-19 and will serve as a benchmark as we gauge the impact of and recovery from the pandemic.



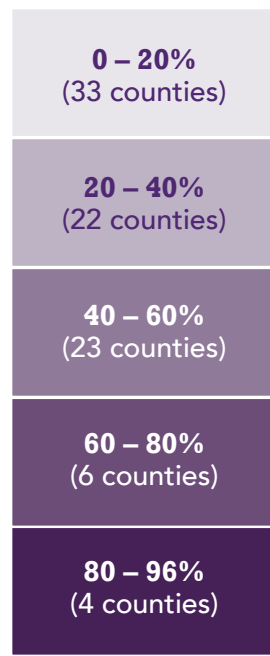
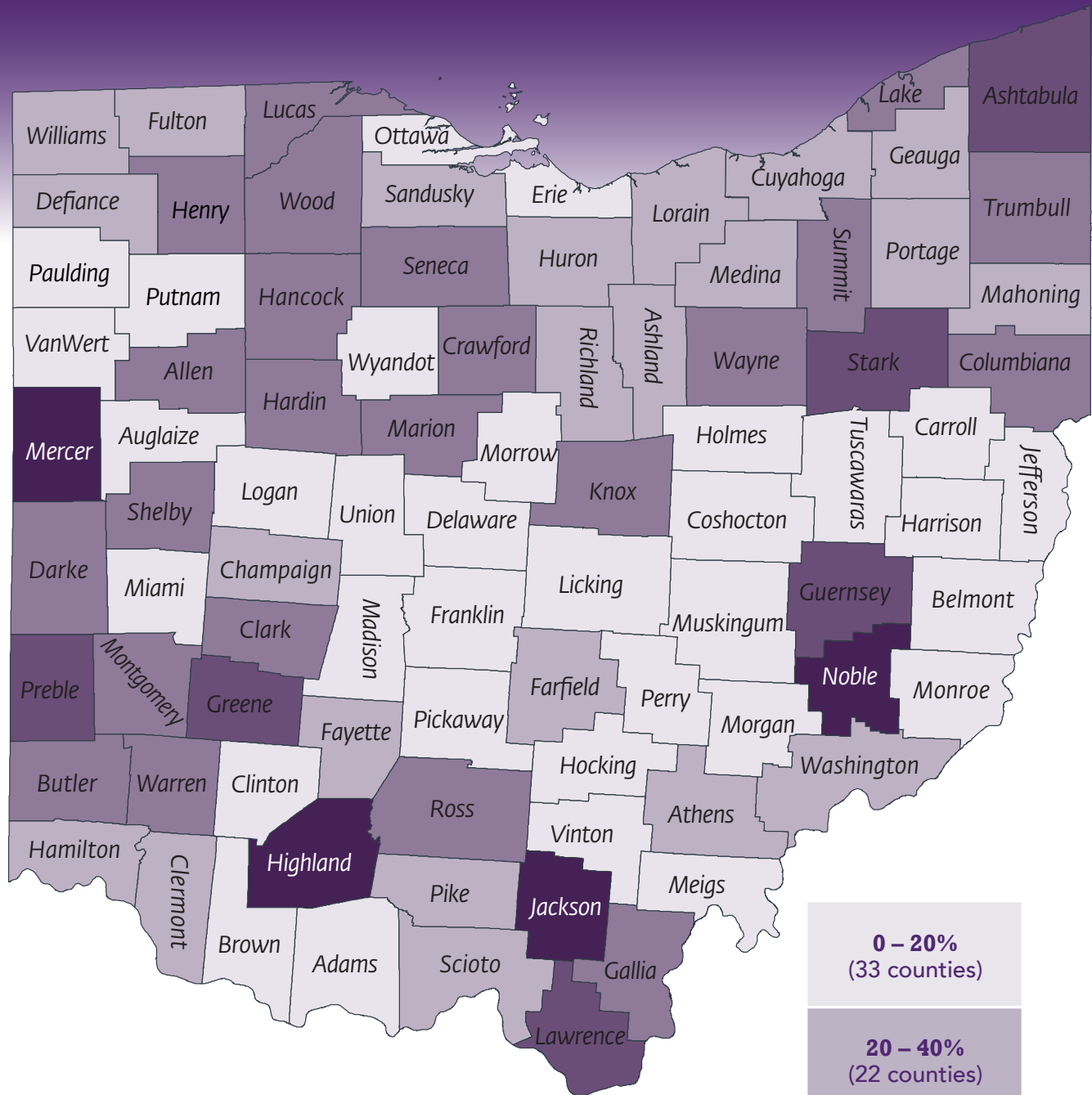
Infants & Toddlers Accessing High-Quality Publicly Funded Child Care

High-quality early learning experiences, such as Ohio's quality child care programs, can have a transformative impact on young children's short- and long-term success.

In the first three years of life, an infant's brain is rapidly growing with over a million neural connections every second, resulting in 80% of brain development by age 3. These neural connections are a result of interactions between the baby and the world around them. Infants and toddlers who are in high-quality child care settings are more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, closing the gap between them and their higher-income peers, and laying a strong foundation for years to come.

Only 35%* of Ohio's infants and toddlers are accessing publicly funded child care are enrolled in a high-quality rated program.

*This percentage represents those infants and toddlers receiving publicly funded child care (PFCC) who are in high-quality (3- to 5-star rated in Ohio's Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system) as compared to all infants and toddlers accessing PFCC.



Sources:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Data Production, February 2020

American Community Survey, 2017