

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 in State Custody

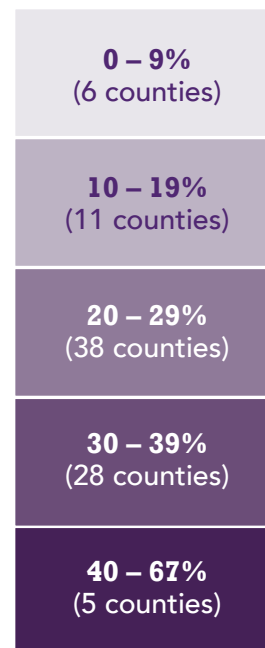
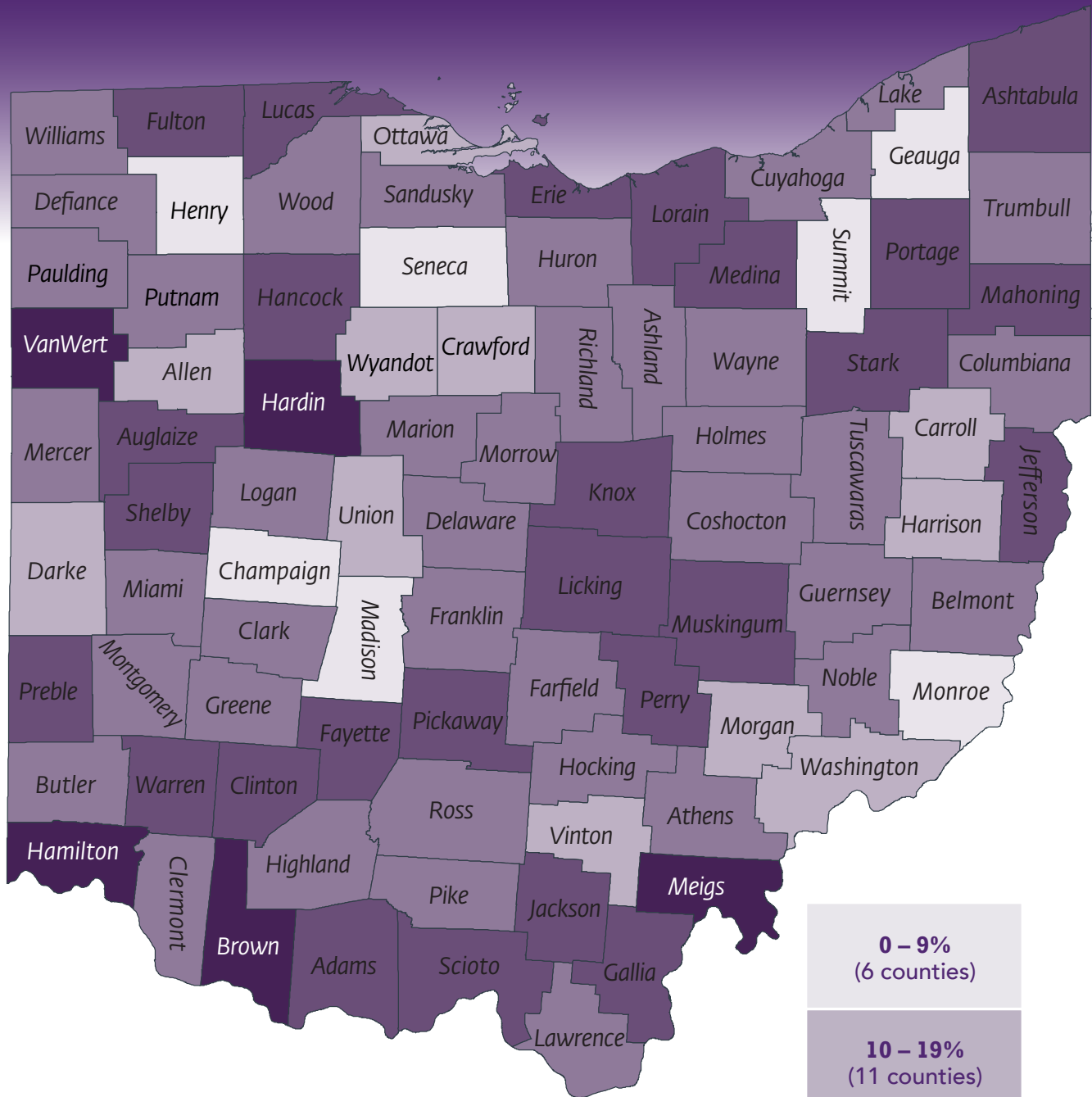
Across Ohio, more than 4,500 infants and toddlers are in state custody. Children in custody include those who are in placements such as family foster care, kinship care, independent living, congregated care, and other settings.

The vast majority of 0 – 3-year-olds in custody are living in kinship care settings (about $\frac{1}{3}$) or family foster care (nearly $\frac{2}{3}$). The most common reasons for infants and toddlers to be in state custody include:

- neglect
- maltreatment
- living with a parent or guardian addicted to drugs or alcohol
- living with a parent or guardian in jail or prison
- living with a parent or guardian who is mentally ill, suicidal or deceased, etc.

Younger children, infants and toddlers especially, are highly vulnerable to stress during the early years of development and experiencing neglect, abuse, or high levels of instability during those early years can have a significant impact on a child's physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development.

29% of infants and toddlers living in state custody are between the ages of 0 – 3.



Sources:

Infants and Toddlers More Likely Than Older Children To Enter Foster Care System, <https://www.childtrends.org/infants-and-toddlers-are-more-likely-than-older-children-to-enter-foster-care-because-of-neglect-and-parental-drug-abuse>

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Data Dashboard Point in Time Count of Children in Care, SFY 2019