

# 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 Publicly Funded Child Care

**For many working Ohioans, infant and toddler child care is essential to giving parents the opportunity to work and support their families.**

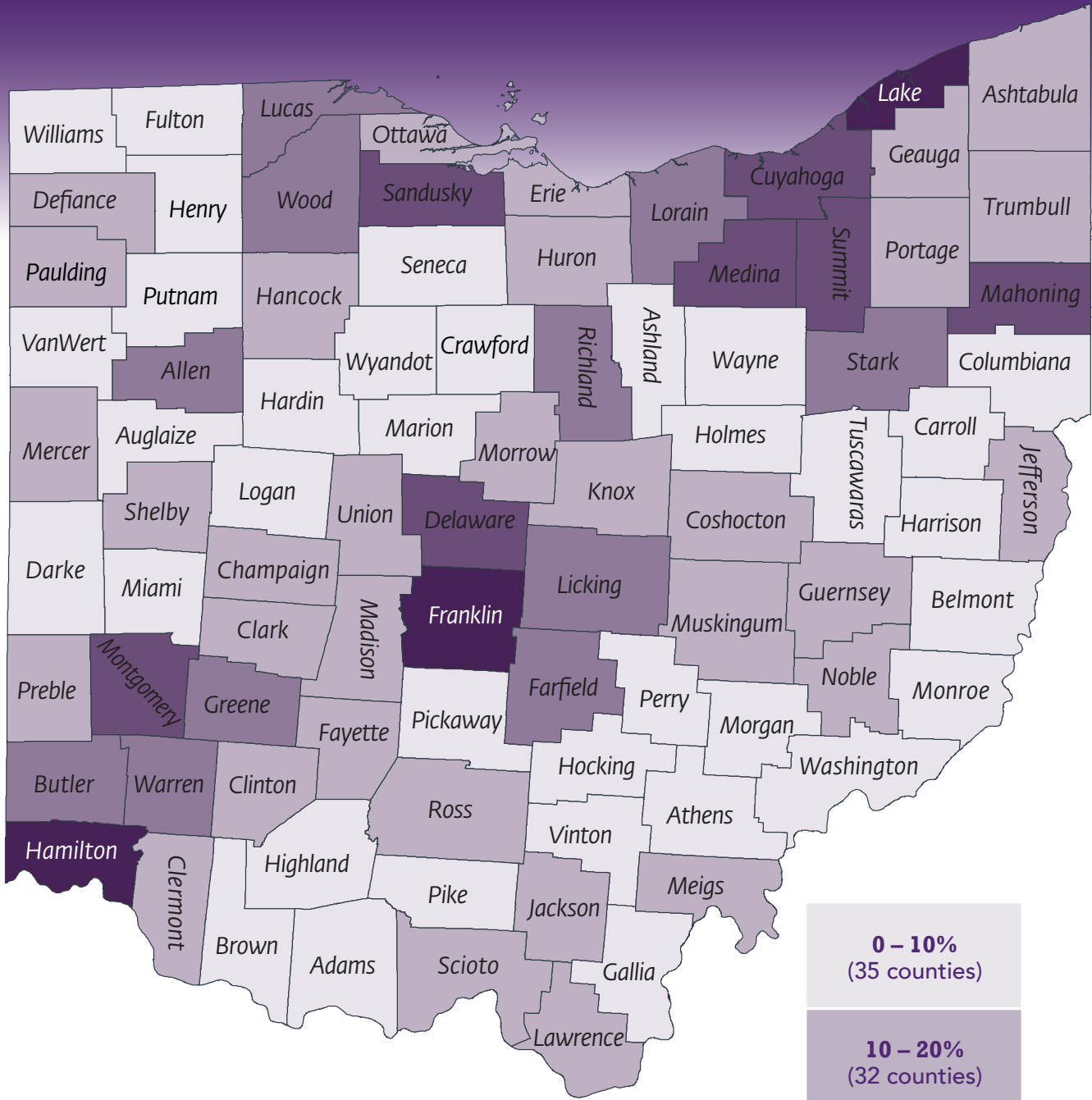
High-quality child care not only allows parents and caregivers to participate in the workforce, but also exposes their child to enriching early learning experiences that promote cognitive, social, and emotional growth. When families don't have access to child care options for infants and toddlers, either because no options are available or because they can't afford those that are, parents are forced to make tough decisions about their child's safety and wellbeing, their own participation in the workforce, and the ways in which they can best support their families.

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**Only 27%** of Ohio's infants and toddlers are accessing publicly funded child care.

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**In more than two thirds of Ohio's counties, fewer than 20%** of infants and toddlers are accessing publicly funded child care.



**Sources:**

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

American Community Survey, 2017

