**County Facts: Mercer County, OH**

Population 41,000

### The Local Economy

- **Unemployment rate**: 3.1% (Mercer County), 4.4% (OH), 5.0% (United States)
- **Poverty rate**: 9.6% (Mercer County), 16% (OH), 15.4% (United States)
- **Median family income (000s)**: $58 (Mercer County), $52 (OH), $57 (United States)
- **Population growth 2000-2017**: -0% (Mercer County), 3% (OH), 16% (United States)
- **Manufacturing share of workforce**: 16% (Mercer County), 15% (OH), 10% (United States)
- **Farming share of workforce**: 2.3% (Mercer County), 1.0% (OH), 1.7% (United States)
- **Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)**: 5.9% (Mercer County), 4.9% (OH), 4.7% (United States)

### How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- **Percent graduating any college**: 60% (Mercer County), 47% (OH), 46% (United States)
- **Percent reaching upper-middle class**: 28% (Mercer County), 20% (OH), 20% (United States)
- **Percent achieving American Dream**: 16% (Mercer County), 10% (OH), 8% (United States)
- **Percent giving birth as a teen**: 18% (Mercer County), 13% (OH), 10% (United States)
- **Percent landing in jail**: 20% (Mercer County), 1.3% (OH), 0.3% (United States)
- **Local school expenditure per student (000s)**: $6.4 (Mercer County), $5.1 (OH), $6.1 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges
- **Low-income share of students**: 2.9% (Bluffton Univ.), 9.3% (Ohio 4-year-college average), 15.6% (U.S. 4-year-college average)
- **Low-income student success rate**: 6.0% (Bluffton Univ.), 50.5% (Ohio 4-year-college average), 29.1% (U.S. 4-year-college average)

### 2-Year Colleges
- **Low-income share of students**: 9.5% (Bluffton Univ.), 12.4% (Ohio 2-year-college average), 15.6% (U.S. 2-year-college average)
- **Low-income student success rate**: 15.6% (Bluffton Univ.), 25.8% (Ohio 2-year-college average), 29.1% (U.S. 2-year-college average)

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mercer County</th>
<th>OH</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent Black, Percent Hispanic, Percent over age 65, Percent college grad, Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents), Life expectancy (years), Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)*
The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics

- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend

- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau