

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Intergenerational economic mobility – the likelihood that children born into families with low wealth can achieve a higher standard of living – is often hampered by high rates of poverty, shrinking populations, and declining economic standing. The Economic Mobility strategy is about making sure kids start kindergarten ready to learn and paving career pathways to financial success.

Starting Strong

In Geauga County, a third of children are not ready for kindergarten at the start of the school year, starting school at a disadvantage. The disparity varies by school district. Early childhood education should be prioritized, particularly in communities with the highest need. Overall, students experience low mobility during the school year, meaning students are more stable within a school or district.

Pathways to Financial Success

Young adults, in particular, need support to identify and pursue pathways to financial stability and success, such as career planning, post-secondary education, and homeownership opportunities. In Geauga County, residents have a higher share of bachelor's and graduate degrees than the state and mean earnings rise with education levels, yet some groups are less likely to attain a bachelor's degree or higher. Unemployment remains low in the county, with some post-pandemic increases.



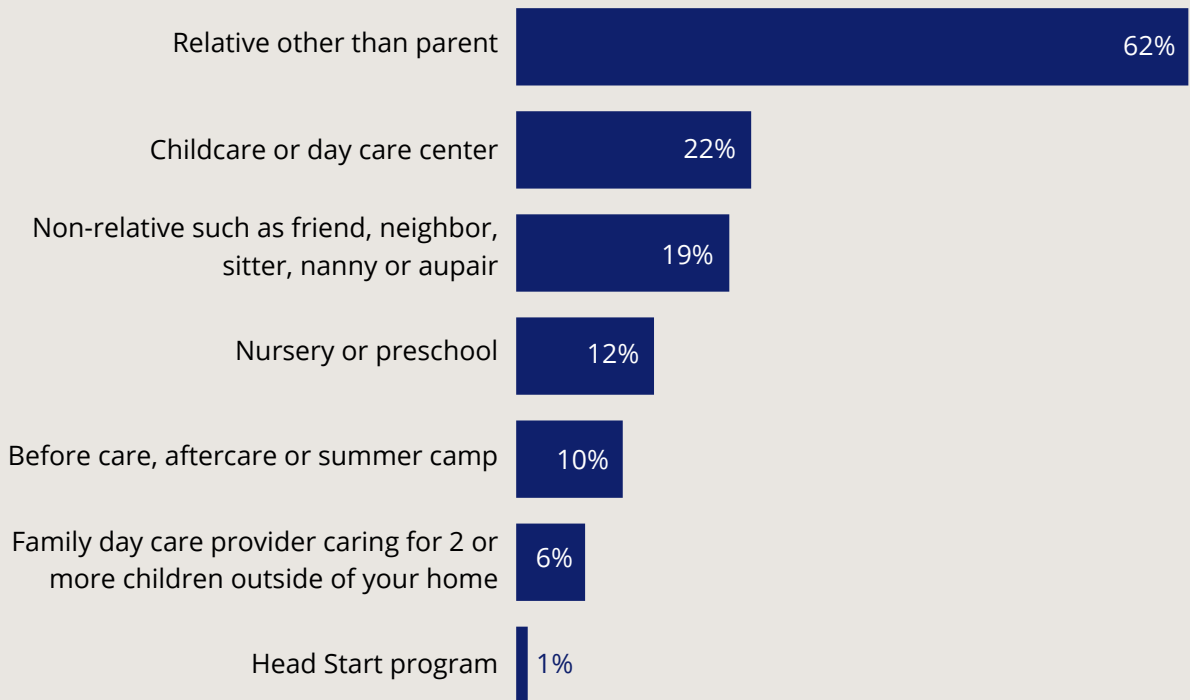
SECONDARY DATA: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OUTCOMES

Child Care

For families with young children, paying for childcare can be a substantial portion of their regular expenses. Of those in Ohio who paid for during the first half of February 2023, the mean payment for a week of childcare was \$291.00. During that same time period, the most common arrangement for childcare was with a relative other than a parent. The relative may be a sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other non-parent. The second most common arrangement was at a childcare or day care center. The least common arrangement was in federally funded Head Start programs.

Arrangements for Child Care

Census Household Pulse Data, Ohio
Week 54, February 1 - February 13, 2023

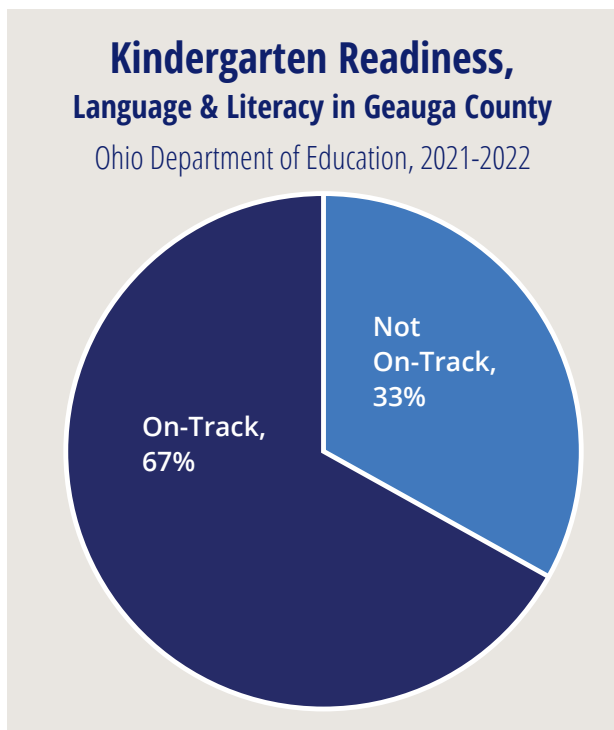
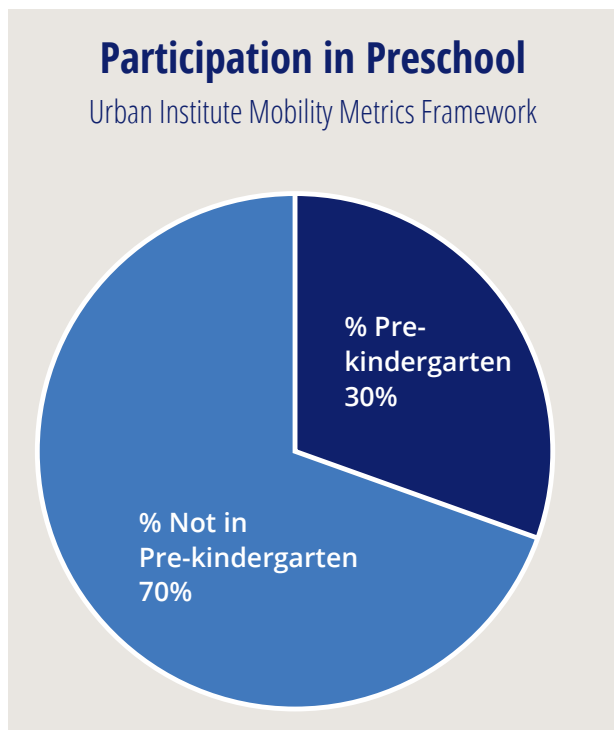


Source: U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey Data, 2023

Kindergarten Readiness

Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Framework examines participation in preschool as an important indicator of early childhood education and its potential impact on future outcomes. By measuring access to and enrollment in preschool programs, the framework aims to provide insights into the potential long-term effects on educational and economic mobility for individuals and families in urban areas.

Participation in preschool measures the share of 3- to 4- year-olds in a community who are in nursery school or preschool. A little less than one-third (30%) of all children aged 3 to 4 in Geauga are in nursery school or preschool. This means that a majority of toddlers may lack helpful skills that will help them to learn more easily in the classroom.

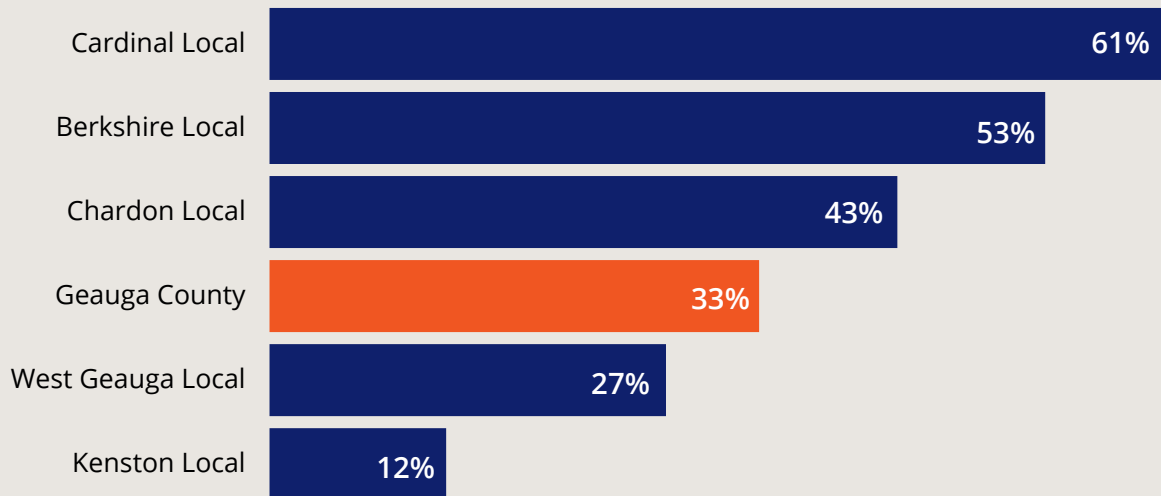


Source: Urban Institute Mobility Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, 2018, Provided February 2023



Students Not On-Track to be Ready for Kindergarten

Ohio Department of Education, 2021-2022



Source: Ohio Department of Education, 2021-2022

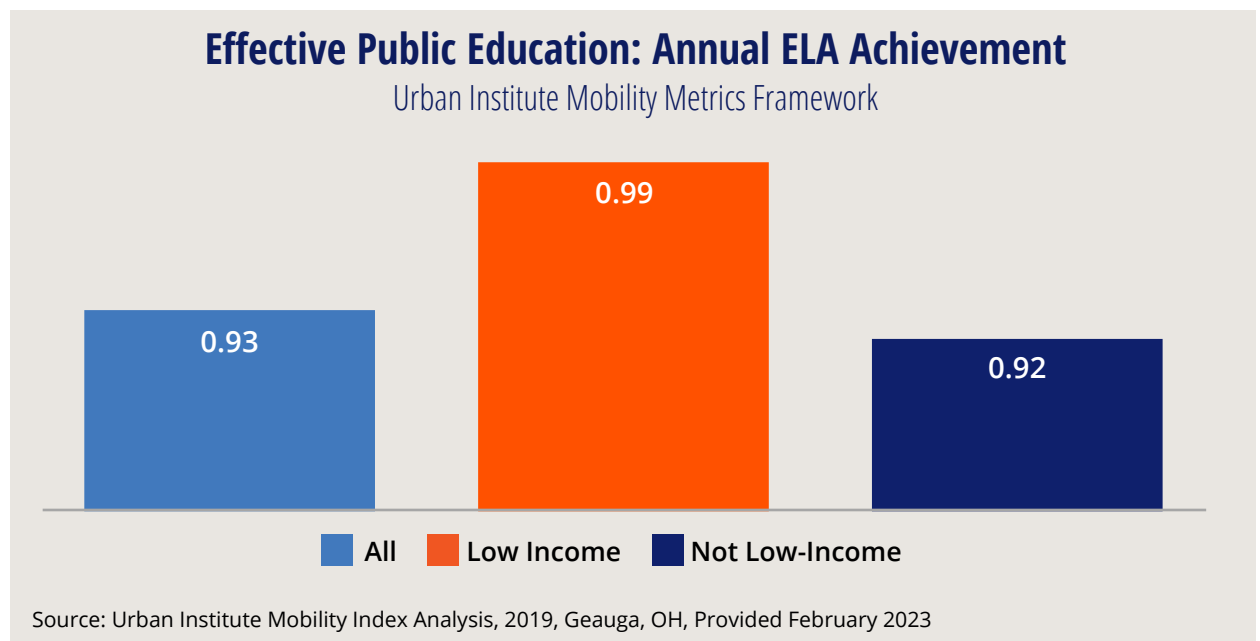
One-third of the children in the county are not on-track to be ready for Kindergarten according to data provided by the Ohio Department of Public Education. More than half of children entering Kindergarten in two school districts in Geauga County are not on-track in the areas of language and literacy, indicating a significant need for early childhood education interventions.

Source: Urban Institute Mobility Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, Provided February 2023



K-12 Education

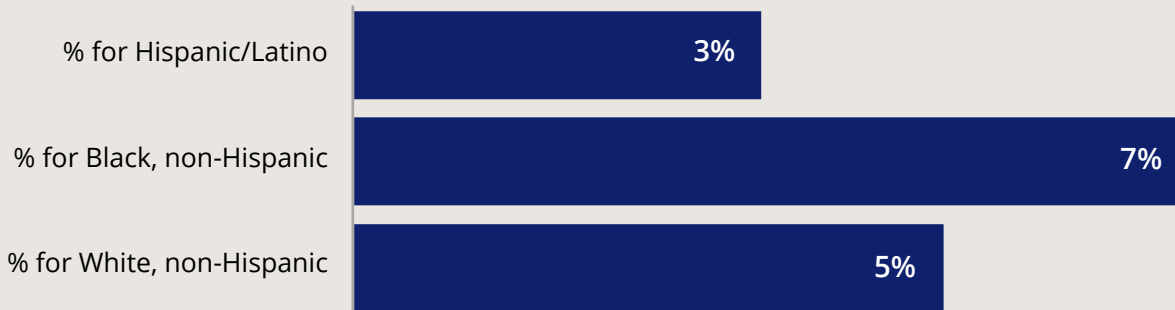
Proficiency in reading at the 3rd grade level and mathematics at the 8th grade level are significant predictors of an individual's future academic success in high school, postsecondary education, and of their earnings potential. Effective Public Education is a metric that looks at public students' average of improvement per year in English/Language Arts (ELA) between third and eighth grades. A score of 1 indicates learning at an average rate, while below 1 is slower than average, and above 1 is faster than average. The score in Geauga County is below the average for all students, regardless of income. This places students at a disadvantage that could predict struggles in future academic success or earnings potential. The Urban Institute states that research suggests students in low-income households is above those in higher income households because students in more advantaged households, on average, start with lower levels of English language skills and can improve more quickly than children with higher baseline skills.



Student Poverty Concentration measures the share of students attending schools with high concentrations of classmates with poverty. Students are more successful academically when they attend more economically and racially diverse schools, which correlates with better economic outcomes. Overall, only a small percentage of students in Geauga County attend schools with higher concentrations of student poverty. A slightly higher percentage of Black students (7%) are in schools with student poverty concentration than Latino (3%) or White students (5%). But, less than 10 percent of students in all three groups experience this in the county.

Student Poverty Concentration

Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Framework

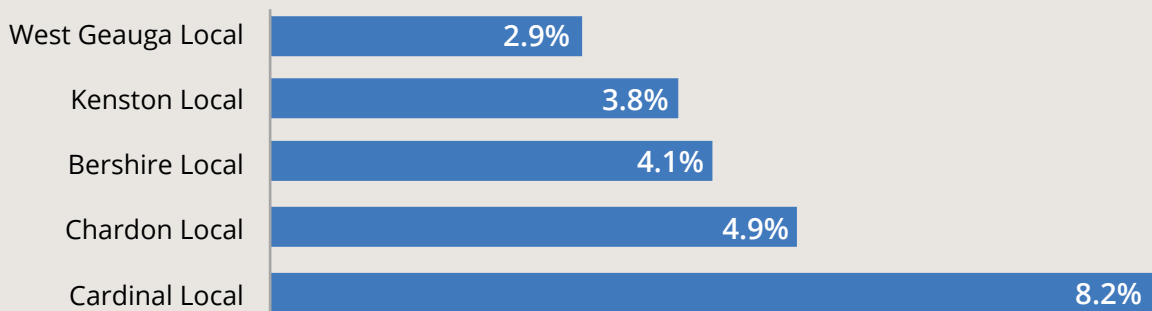


Source: Urban Institute Mobility Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, Provided February 2023

Student Mobility refers to students moving schools or school districts, at times in the middle of a school year. Students may switch schools due to moving in and out of districts, for discipline reasons or in search of a better academic fit. Students who move schools frequently, i.e. attending 4 different school during their elementary years, are more likely to experience challenges with staying on track for their learning objectives. High mobility within a district can cause instability. Frequent changes to the make-up of a classroom creates a sense of constant change which can cause disruption to students who are looking for stability in a school setting. In Geauga County, Cardinal Local school district has the highest rate of mobility at 8.2 percent, which is two times or more than that of three other districts (Berkshire, Kenston, West Geauga), and almost double that of Chardon Local. It is notable that Cardinal has both the highest rate of student mobility, and the fewest number of kindergarteners who are on-track in the areas of language and literacy.

Student Mobility by District

Ohio Department of Education, 2021-2022



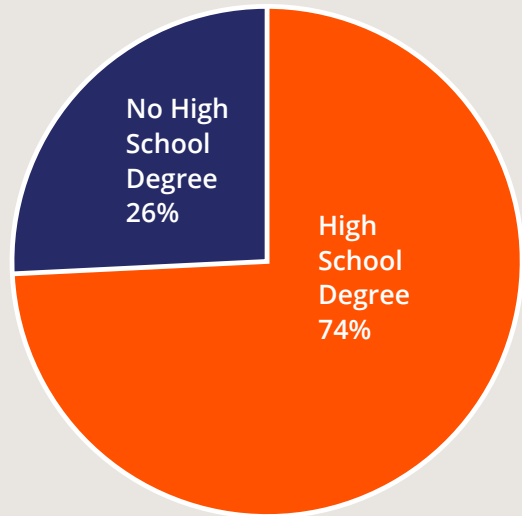
Source: Ohio Department of Education, 2021-2022

College Readiness

Attaining a high school degree is generally a measure of an individual's readiness to attend college. On average, those who complete a college degree typically have a higher income than those with only a high school education. College readiness measures the share of 19 to 20 year-olds with a high school degree. In Geauga County, 74% of all residents in this age bracket have a high school degree. Over a quarter of young adults do not have a diploma and may lack a basic education, which can negatively impact their earnings potential.

College Readiness: % with a High School Degree

Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Framework



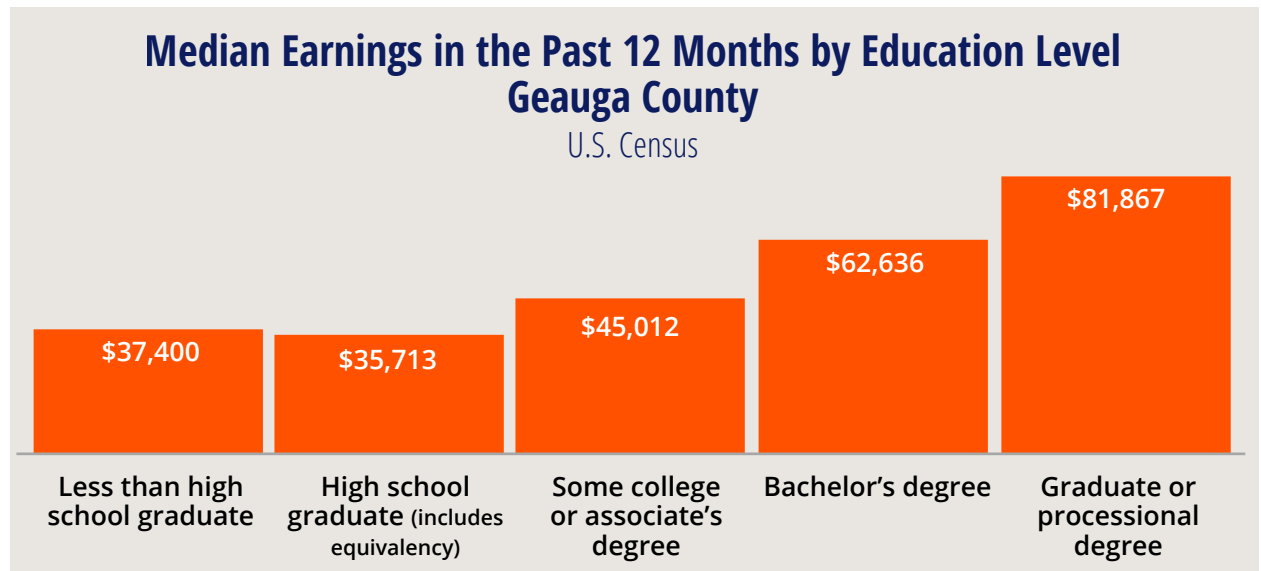
Source: Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, 2021, Provided June 2023



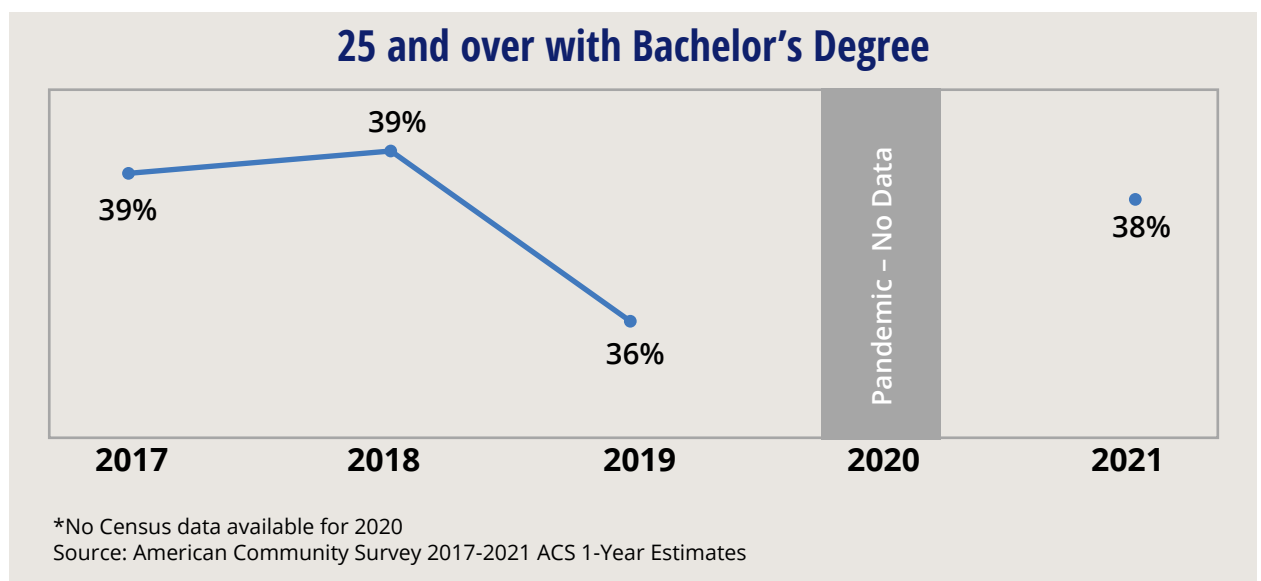
Educational Attainment

Higher educational attainment is associated with higher earnings.

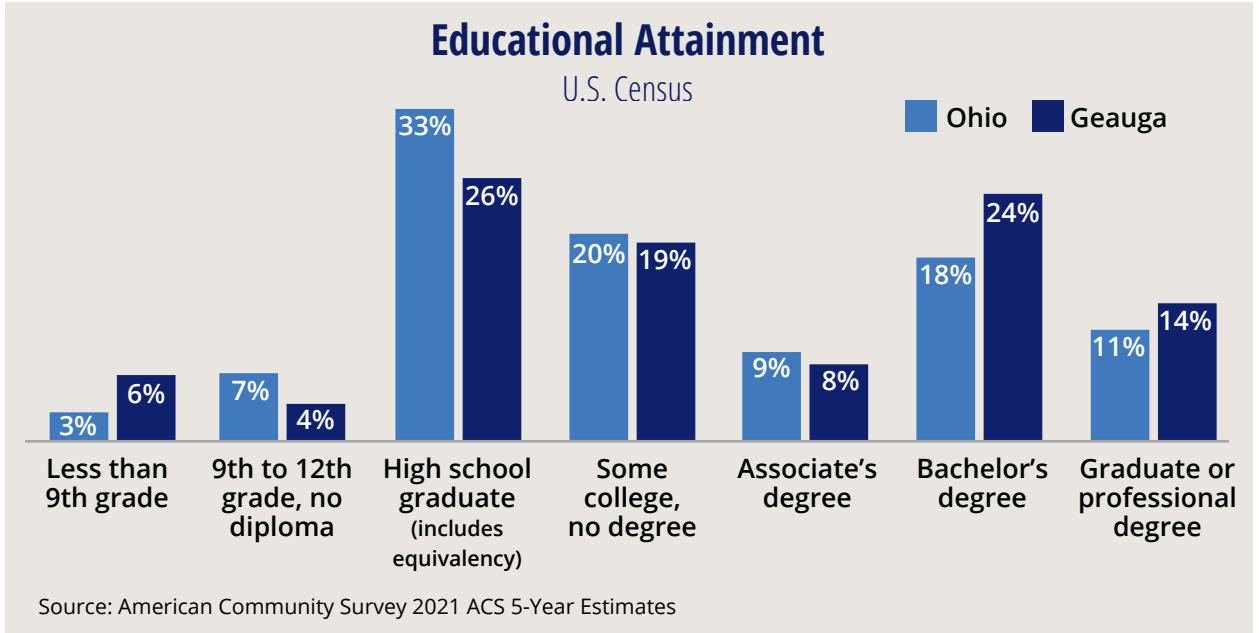
The greatest jump in median incomes occurs between attainment of a bachelor's and a graduate or professional degree. The mean earnings differential between these two levels of attainment is slightly more than \$19,000. Another large increase of median earnings occurs between some college or an associate's degree and a bachelor's with an added \$17,000 at the higher education level.



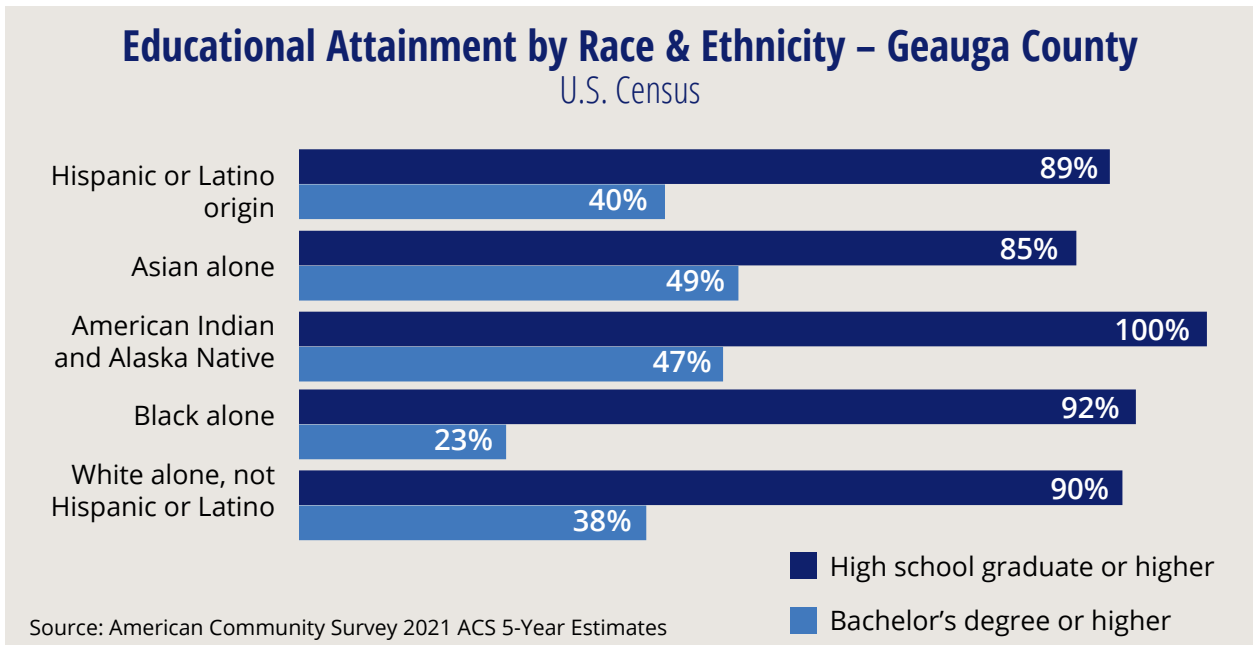
The percentage of individuals aged 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher has not changed over the past 5 years and remains at a little more than one-third of this population in Geauga.



Geauga County has slightly higher rates than the state overall in the lowest levels of educational attainment, lower than the 9th grade, and the highest levels associated with higher median earnings, bachelor's and graduate/professional degree.

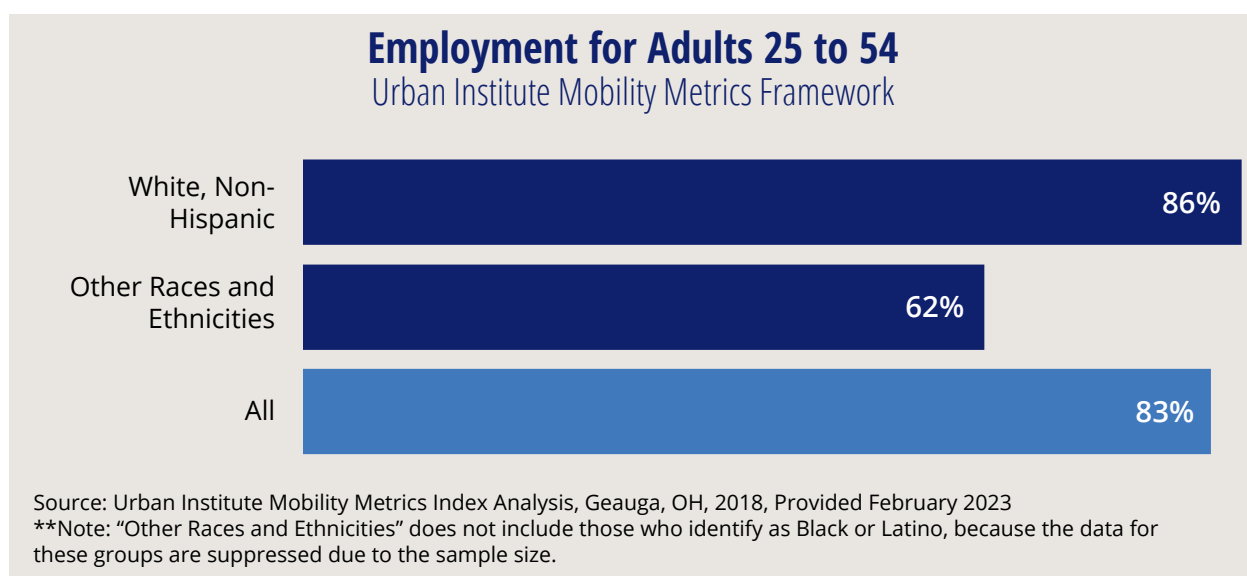


When examined by race and ethnicity, Asians have the highest percentage of residents who achieve a Bachelor's degree or higher with 49 percent holding this degree. American Indian or Alaska Native residents have the second highest rate at 47 percent. Black residents have the second highest rate of high school diploma and also the lowest rate of Bachelor's degree attainment, which indicates a lower earning potential among this subgroup.



Employment

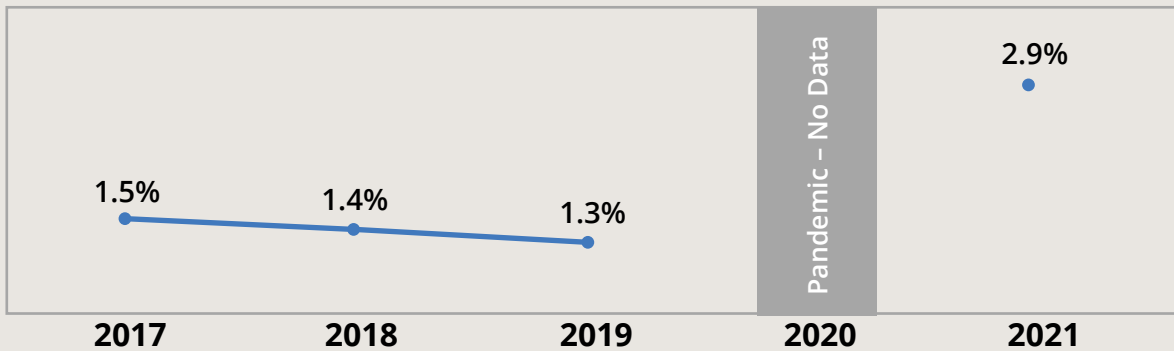
Experiencing unemployment can result in a loss of income and lower earnings in future employment, especially for those who are out of work for extended periods of time. In households where someone is unemployed, children's academic performance can also suffer due to the additional stressors brought on by the loss of income. The employment ratio measures the number of employed adults to the total number of adults between the ages of 25 and 54 in a given jurisdiction. Eighty-three percent of all residents in this age group in Geauga County are employed. The percentage of white residents in the county who are employed (86%) is even higher, while the percentage of residents of other races and ethnicities (62%), including those who identify as Black or Latino, is over 20 percent lower than these categories. This places them in a more disadvantaged position to gain higher earnings and avoid the negative impacts of unemployment.



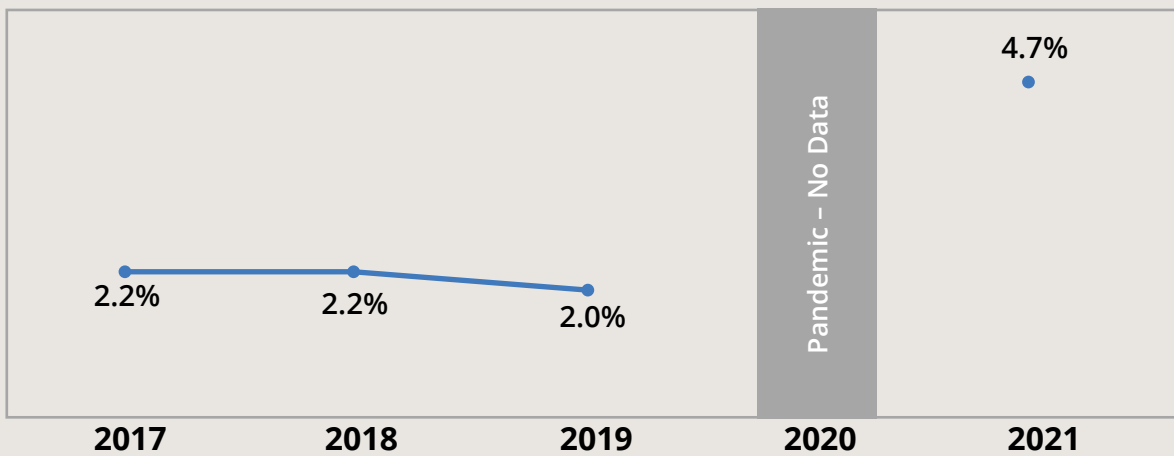
While employment is important, individuals need to be paid a living wage relative to the cost of living in the area they reside in, in order to secure economic security. This metric is computed by dividing the average earnings for a job in an area by the cost of meeting a family of three's basic expenses in that area. A value that is greater than 1 indicates that the typical job pays more than the cost of living, while values less than 1 suggest that the typical job pays less than the cost of living. In Geauga, the ratio of pay to a living wage is less than 1 at .74, indicating that the average resident may not be able to cover all of the expenses.

In Gauga County, 2 percent of the total population that was 16 years of age and older was unemployed in 2021¹. The unemployment rate, a measurement of the percentage of the labor force that are without a job, but actively seeking work, was 3.1 percent in Gauga County in 2021.

The percentage of those aged 16 and older who were unemployed remained steady in Gauga since 2017, but saw a significant increase after the pandemic in 2021.



The unemployment rate in Gauga remained steady between 2017 and 2019, but more than doubled in 2021 after the pandemic.

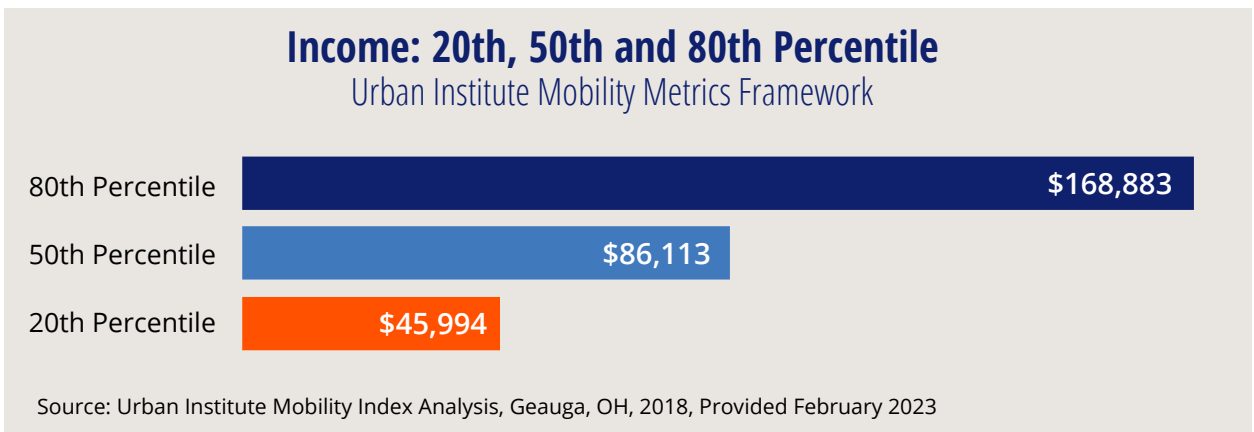


¹data.census.gov/table?q=unemployment&g=050XX00US39035,39055&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP03&moe=false

Economic Success

Higher income is often an indicator of higher educational attainment and academic achievement, helping to ensure economic security. Income percentiles measure financial resources available to low-, middle-, and high-income households, as well as the extent of income inequality.

Income percentiles show the distribution of household income in a certain area, in order to compare them. The 20th percentile represents the income level threshold at which eighty percent of households would have a higher income. The 50th percentile income (or median income) is the point at which half of the population makes income that is below that amount and the other half makes income that is above it. The 80th percentile is the income level threshold where the richest twenty percent of households would have higher income.



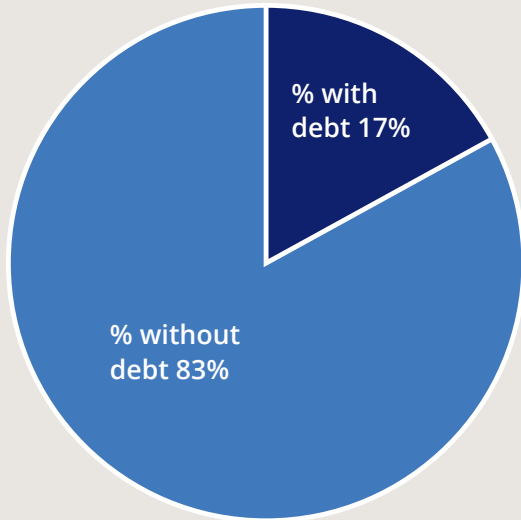
For Geauga County, the median income or 50th percentile mark for all residents is over \$86,000. The poorest twenty percent of all households earn a little over \$45,000, while the richest twenty percent earn more than \$168,000. The average income amongst the 20th percentile is higher than in other counties, like Cuyahoga. However, the income gap between the poorest and richest residents in Geauga is steep, as residents at the 80th percentile make over three-and-a-half times that of those at the 20th percentile.

Households with overdue debt generally have limited assets and savings, making it difficult to cover unexpected expenses. Financial security looks at the share of people in an area with a credit bureau record with debt that has progressed from being past-due to being in collections. In Geauga, seventeen percent of all residents have debt in collections, indicating less resources to build wealth with.

Paying down debt was the most often reported plan for using stimulus money provided during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Nearly sixty percent of Ohioans reported they would apply their stimulus funds towards debt, 30 percent had plans to spend the funds and 11 percent planned to save the funds for future use.

Financial Security: % with Debt in Collections

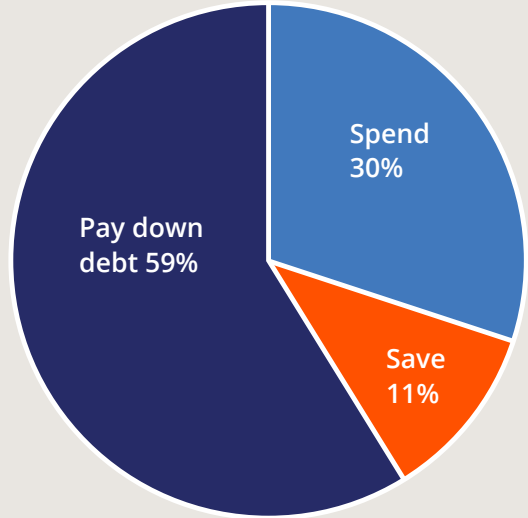
Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Framework



Source: Urban Institute Mobility Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, 2018, Provided February 2023

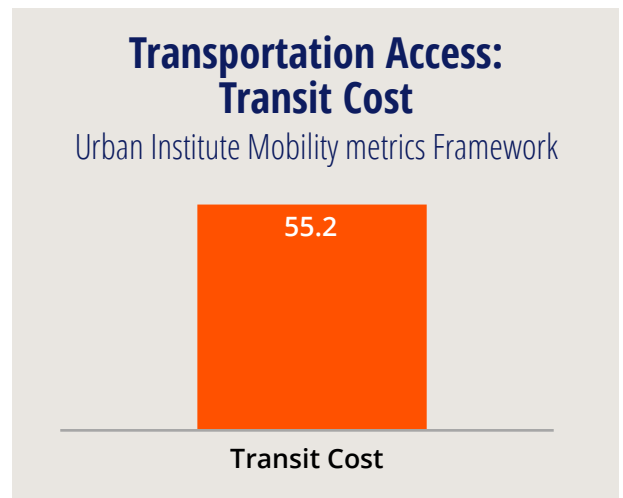
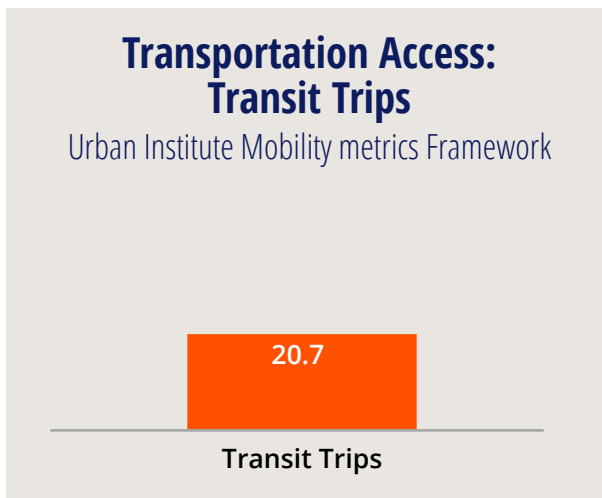
Ohioans reporting of plans for stimulus payment

Census Household Pulse Survey
Week 33, June 23-July 5, 2021



Transportation

Transportation access is a measure of annual transit trips and local transportation costs for a three-person, single-parent family with income at 50 percent of the median income for renters. Transit trips looks at the number of public transit trips taken annually, while transit cost looks at affordability for transit and cars as a percent of renters' incomes. A higher score out of a total of 100 in these measures indicates better access to and lower costs for public transportation. Geauga has a score of 20.7 for transit trips and a slightly higher score of 55.2 for transit cost. This indicates transportation that is highly inaccessible, and has room for improvement in affordability throughout the county. The AARP Livability Index provides an estimate of transportation costs for each municipality and village within Geauga County. The average annual transportation costs for residents of the county is \$ 17,684. Communities with lower annual costs are more likely to purchase less expensive cars and have more residents without cars who rely on public transit or other modes of getting around.



Source: Urban Institute Mobility Metrics Index Analysis, Geauga, OH, 2016, Provided February 2023.



EXISTING ECONOMIC MOBILITY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

Team NEO's Aligning Opportunities in the Northeast Ohio Region 2022

The Aligning Opportunities report by Team NEO provides data-driven insights into the talent demand/supply gap in our region. Recently, Intel announced a \$20 billion investment creating over 20,000 jobs in the state, while Ford intends to add 2,000 new jobs in Lorain County focused on electric vehicle production, and Ultium Cells LLC is ramping up production at one of the world's largest electric battery facilities in the Mahoning Valley. Despite these developments, there is still a mismatch between talent supply and demand in the region, with demand outpacing supply. The pandemic has exacerbated this situation, especially in high-performing industries like health care, manufacturing, and IT, where occupations cut across multiple industries. The need for a diverse talent base has become increasingly important. Addressing labor force participation as a community will be crucial moving forward. While population and labor force declines have impacted our competitiveness over the last two decades, labor force participation is only down by 1%, and unemployment is slightly lower. Higher education still offers opportunities to increase one's quality of life and long-term earnings potential, with postsecondary degrees in demand, although employers are also valuing skills. STEM careers offer higher wages than non-STEM occupations and are projected to grow. Team NEO is promoting a talent development strategy that includes on-the-job training, certifications, associate's, and two-year pathways. Only 17% of jobs in the region offer a living wage for two adults and two kids (\$72,571), while 70% offer a self-sustaining wage (\$32,531). Prosperity, as measured by family-sustaining wages, is a key metric in a vibrant economy.

Team NEO's Lost Opportunities & Misaligned Opportunities

The wage gap has a disproportionate impact on women's ability to repay student loans, particularly for minority women, which affects their loan repayment timeline. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) reports that women hold two-thirds of the total student debt, with women graduating with an average of nearly \$22,000 in debt, compared to \$18,880 for men. Black women, in particular, graduate with an average of \$37,558 in student debt. The burden of student loan debt is particularly challenging for Black graduates, leading to limited professional growth, reduced workforce opportunities, and negative impacts on the economy, such as delayed home purchases and marriages.

LifeLine, Inc.'s 2021 Social Services Needs Assessment

Transportation continues to be a significant barrier to employment and basic services in Geauga County, with no fixed route public transit available. This seems to be a significant barrier to self-sufficiency for low-income people in Geauga County based on feedback in focus groups and client surveys.

Historically, the unemployment rate in Geauga County has been fairly stable and low. During the focus groups conducted in conjunction with the needs assessment, the most significant discussion around employment was the dilemma of not being able to accept a job offer without childcare in place, but not being able to secure childcare without a job offer letter indicating that it will be affordable. In every focus group there was discussion around the need for childcare opportunities for swing shift and overnight shift employees and that childcare is just not affordable for low-income people.



211 DATA TRENDS

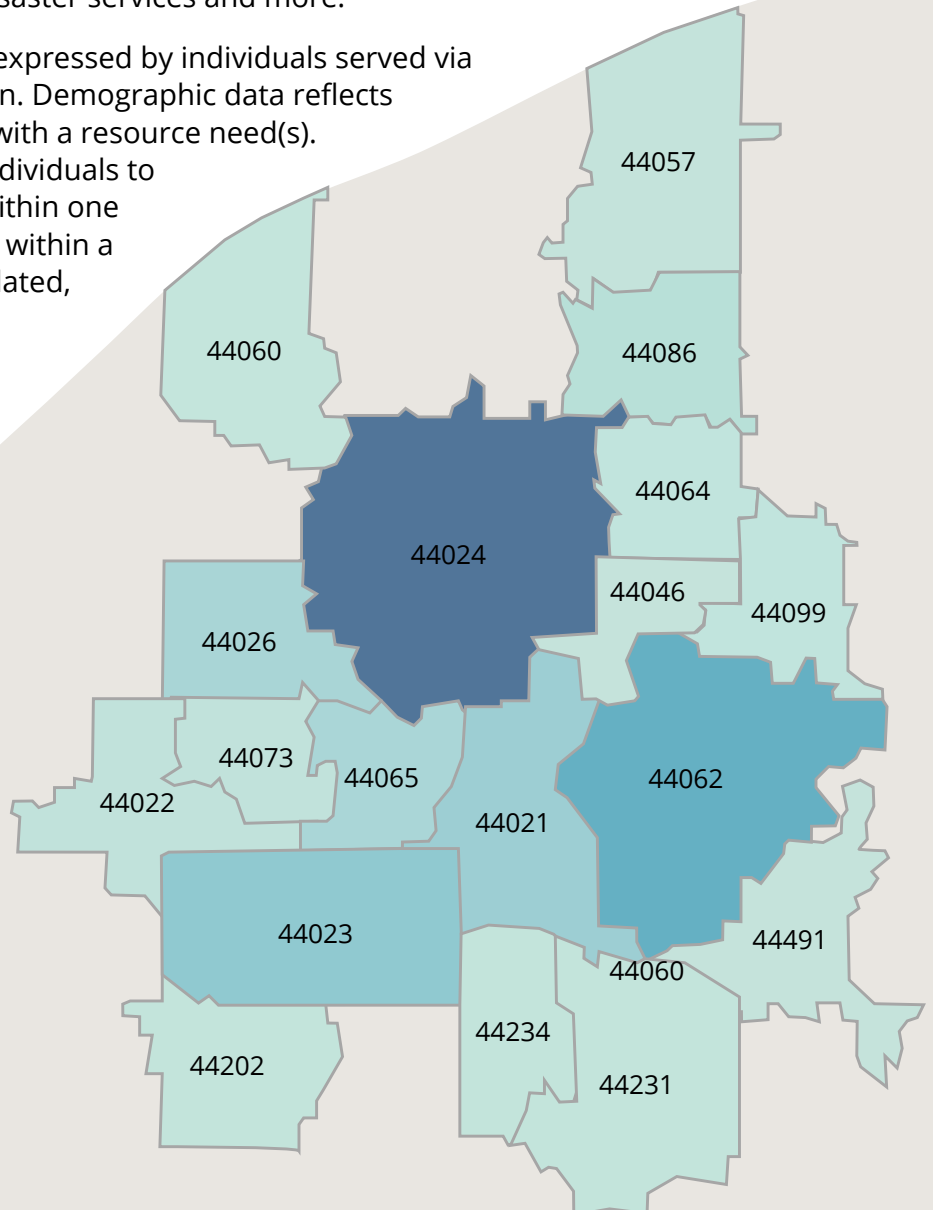
211 Overview

The data for this report was obtained from United Way of Greater Cleveland 211 and covers the period from 2018 to March 2023. The analysis was conducted on needs expressed in Geauga County.

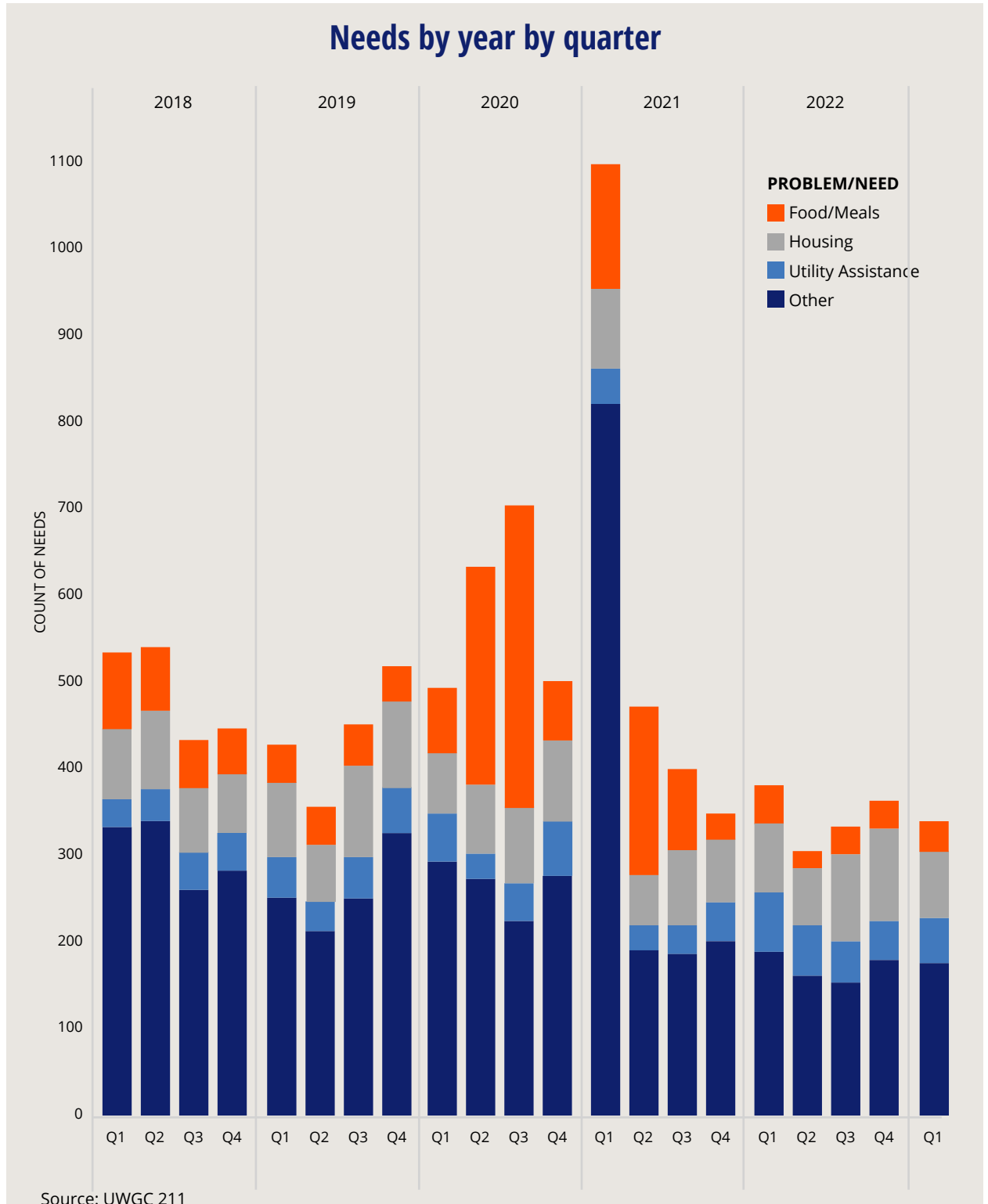
United Way 2-1-1 is a free and confidential service for anyone seeking resources to address health and social service needs. The typical 211 client is reaching out during a crisis. Cupboards are bare, housing eviction may be imminent, utilities may already be shut off. AIRS certified Information and Referral Specialists are trained to listen, engage, ask questions, assess needs and connect individuals to the best and closest community resource from a database of over 18,000 resources, including supplemental food and nutrition programs, utility assistance, behavioral health care, educational resources, job training, disaster services and more.

Data here reflects needs expressed by individuals served via phone, chat, and in person. Demographic data reflects the primary individual(s) with a resource need(s).

It is not uncommon for individuals to express multiple needs within one contact. Expressed needs within a contact may be closely related, such as only tangentially aligned such as utility assistance and job training.



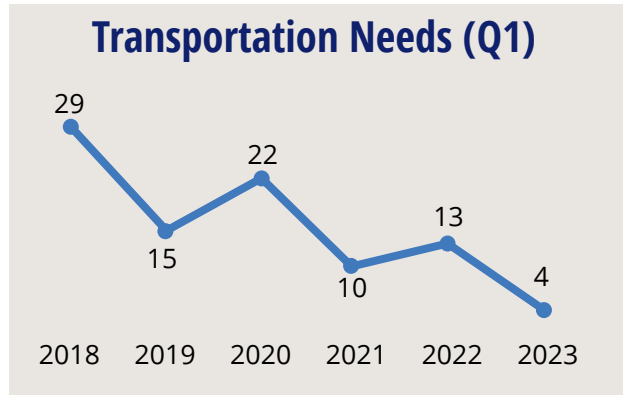
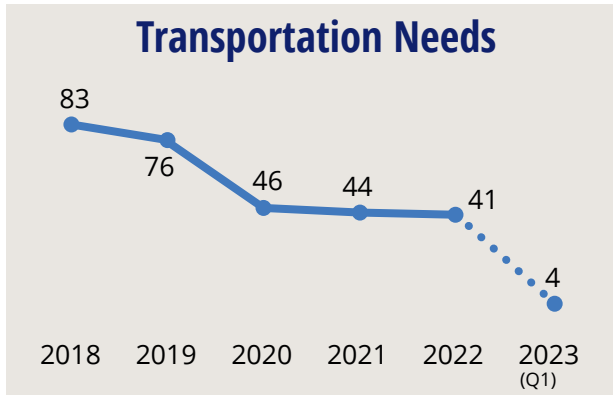
Geauga County calls were analyzed for each indicator, but low numbers makes it difficult to draw conclusions from the data. However, it is important to note that low call volume does mean that Geauga County is without need for resources, assistance, and services.



Transportation

Expressed needs for transportation assistance were highest in 2018 with 83 and dropped dramatically to a low of 41 in 2022. Calls were often highest in quarters 1 and 4 during the years, but the pattern is not consistent throughout the years. With the exception of 2018, transportation needs were highest for adults over 55 years of age.

The majority of transportation needs related to transportation expenses, followed by medical transportation.



Digital Connectivity

Expressed needs in digital connectivity and internet access peaked in 2020, then fell in 2021 and rose in 2022. Most needs were from adults aged 55 and over, with the exception of 2022, when 25-44 aged adults made up the majority.

