

Appalachian Rural Health Institute

ARHI

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

County Profiles

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OVERVIEW

A brief county profile for each of the counties included in the community assessment is provided (i.e., Athens, Hocking, Pike, and Vinton). County demographics and data were mostly obtained through local Chambers of Commerce and through the online Children's Defense Fund-Ohio. The four Appalachian counties included in this study all have socioeconomic indicators that suggest residents are at risk for chronic illness. Through the local College of Medicine program, the Healthy Adult Project (HAP), provides clinics, health screenings, and immunizations in southeastern Ohio throughout the year and includes these four counties. HAP is funded as part of the Community Outreach Department in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

ATHENS COUNTY

In 2003, the total population of Athens County was 64,380. 640 child births were recorded. Athens, the county seat, is the largest city in Athens County with approximately 21,342 residents. According to census data, in 2000, the population was 93.5% Caucasian. The county has 22 public schools, one vocational school, two private schools, and one school operated by the county board for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD). In 2000, high school graduates were 82.9% (compared with 83% in Ohio). Twenty six percent had bachelor's

degrees compared to 21.1% in the state. Ohio University is located in Athens County, and Hocking College is located in Nelsonville. Ohio University enrolls over 19,000 undergraduate students at its main campus; the university offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees, as well as a four-year program in osteopathic medicine. Hocking College offers numerous two year programs (e.g., culinary arts, industrial ceramics, e-commerce, forestry, nursing).

The Athens County Library Services has a main office in Athens and branches in six other locations. The Vernon R. Alden Library and Annex associated with Ohio University is also located in Athens. Major employers in the region include the Athens City Board of Education, Athens County Government, Doctors Hospital of Nelsonville, Hocking Technical College, Kroger Company, McBee Systems, O'Bleness Memorial Hospital, Ohio University, and Wal-Mart. The county also has numerous entrepreneurs, artists, academics, and researchers.

Athens County Health Care Services

A number of health care services are available in Athens County. Health services include Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services, Health Recovery Services, Doctors Hospital in Nelsonville (15 acute care beds and 10 sub-acute care beds), O'Bleness Memorial Hospital (75 beds), University Medical Associates, Holzer Clinic, Coolville Health Center, and Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Inc. Resources for physical activity include Curves for Women, Well Works - Ohio University, and Athens Community Center. Assisted living care is available at The Lindley Inn, Hickory Creek Nursing Center, and Echoing Meadows Residential Center. Approximately 116 physicians (medical doctors and osteopathic doctors) are located in the Athens County area; some of these are involved with the College of Medicine at Ohio University. While there are 10 general dentistry practices available in Athens, access to those with Medicaid is limited.

Economics of Athens County

In 2003, the median household income was \$27,322 and the unemployment rate was 4.7%. In 1999, a total of 27.5% of county residents were below the poverty level and the per capita income was \$14,171.

Poverty	27.4%
Child Poverty	21.9%
Adults receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	475
Children receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	926

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

The following table provides information about the 2002-2003 graduation rates and students' proficiency scores.

EDUCATION • ATHENS COUNTY, 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR				
School District	All Students			9th Grade Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level on all 5 tests
	High School Graduation Rates	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	6th Grade Math Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	
State Standard	90%	75%	75%	75%
Alexander Local	91.1%	51.6%	37.9%	78.8%
Athens City	95.0%	74.5%	70.9%	66.7%
Federal Hocking Local	80.4%	38.8%	27.8%	58.8%
Nelsonville-York City	74.0%	46.8%	32.5%	55.8%
Trimble Local	89.2%	48.7%	20.7%	49.2%
Ohio	83.9%	42.7%	29.1%	23.5%

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

HOCKING COUNTY

Hocking County is located in southeast Ohio and, in 2003, the population was 28,644. Logan, the county seat, is the largest city in the county with a population of about 6,704. According to census data, in 2000, the population was 97.5% Caucasian. The county has 10 public schools with about 4,205 students and two non-public schools with about 129 students. In 2000, high school graduates were 78% (compared with 83% in Ohio) and 9.8% had bachelors degrees (compared with 21.1% in Ohio). Two public libraries and a mobile unit are located in the county. The major employers in the county are Wal-Mart, Smead Manufacturing, Logan-Hocking Schools, General Electric Company, Kroger Company, and Hocking Valley Community Hospital. Nearly 2,000 people commute to Columbus daily to work. Travel and tourism in the Hocking Hills is a large part of the local economy due to its nine state parks and having part of Wayne National Forest. The county has a number of lodges, cabins, inns, and bed and breakfasts to accommodate tourists. Many artists make the area home.

Hocking County Health Care Resources

Presently, there are 21 physicians working within the county. That being the case, the provider to patient ratio is approximately 1 doctor for every 1,120 residents. Hocking Valley Community Hospital (103 beds) is the only hospital in the county and has a new 5 bed intensive care unit. Care Now is an urgent care center open seven days a week from noon to 10 p.m. Three pharmacies are situated in Hocking County: Kroger, Wal-Mart, and CVS. Other health care facilities in the county include the Hocking County Health Department. Five general practice dentists are located in Logan.

Economics of Hocking County

The median income for families in 2003 was \$34,261 and the unemployment level was 6.4%. In 1999, a total of 13.5% of county residents were below the poverty level and per capita income \$16,095.

Poverty	13.5%
Child Poverty	16.2%
Adults receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	216
Children receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	437

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

The following table provides information about the 2002-2003 graduation rates and students' proficiency scores.

EDUCATION • HOCKING COUNTY, 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR				
School District	All Students			
	High School Graduation Rates	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	6th Grade Math Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	9th Grade Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level on all 5 tests
State Standard	90%	75%	75%	75%
Logan-Hocking Local	86.8%	75.3%	46.9%	60.9%
Ohio	83.9%	42.7%	29.1%	23.5%

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

PIKE COUNTY

In 2003, the population was 28,194 and Waverly, the county seat, is the largest city with a population of about 4,477. A total of 386 births were reported during 2003. According to census data, in 2000, the population was 96.7% Caucasian. The county has a total of 14 public schools with about 5,446 students and two non-public schools with another 114 students enrolled. In 2000, high school graduates were 70.1%, compared with 83% in Ohio, and 9.7% of the population had bachelor's degrees, compared with 21.1% in Ohio.. The major employers in the county are Wal-Mart, Brown Corporation of America, Pike Health Services, Mills Pride, Sherwood Forest Woods, the Waverly Board of Education, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Uranium Diffusion Plant. Fish farming is a new industry being developed.

Pike County Health Care Resources

One hospital is available in the county and approximately 28 physicians practice there. Health care services in the county include Pike Community Hospital (75 beds), the Pike County Health Department, the Waverly Family Health Center, Bristol Village, Beaver Valley Health Center. Approximately five general practice dentists are available

Economics of Pike County

The median family income for the county in 2003 was \$31,649 and the rate of unemployment was 8.9%. In 1999, 18.6% of the county residents were below poverty level and the median per capita income was \$16,093.

Poverty	18.6%
Child Poverty	24.4%
Adults receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	196
Children receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).	581

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

The following table provides information about the 2002-2003 graduation rates and students' proficiency scores.

EDUCATION • PIKE COUNTY, 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR

School District	All Students			
	High School Graduation Rates	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	6th Grade Math Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	9th Grade Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level on all 5 tests
State Standard	90%	75%	75%	75%
Eastern Local	86.5%	47.2%	32.8%	57.4%
Scioto Valley Local	84.9%	45.5%	32.2%	57.5%
Waverly City	89.7%	73.6%	32.9%	65.8%
Western Local	84.9%	65.3%	6.8% (sic) ¹	71.1%
Ohio	83.9%	42.7%	29.1%	23.5%

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004

VINTON COUNTY

In 2003, the population of Vinton County was 13,231 and McArthur, the county seat, had about 1,888 residents. According to census data, in 2000, the population was 98.1% Caucasian. The county has seven public schools with 2,589 students and no non-public schools. In 2000, high school graduates equal 70.7%, compared with 83% in Ohio, and 6% of the population had bachelor's degrees, compared with 21.1% in Ohio. The Herbert Westcoat Memorial Library is located in McArthur. Major employers in the county are Austin Powder Company, Crownover Lumbar Company, Huston's Nursing Home, and McArthur Supervalu.

Vinton County Health Care Resources

¹ The authors suspect that this is a typographical error in the source report which is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.cdfohio.org/publications_research/state_local_data/factsheets/everybodys_child/EC_Pike.pdf#xml=http://cdfohio.org.master.com/texis/master/search/mysite.txt?q=western%2C+6th&order=dd&id=5070103238a404bf&cmd=xml

Vinton County does not have a hospital. Health care facilities available in the county include the Vinton County Health Department, Family Health Inc., and Huston's Nursing Home. The health department offers a few specialty clinics. While several physicians travel to Vinton County from Athens and Ross County, no physicians live in the county. A single dentist is available in the county.

Economics of Vinton County

In 2003, the median family income was \$29,465 and the rate of unemployment was 12%. In 1999, 20% of the county residents were below poverty level and the median per capita income was \$13,731.

Poverty	20.0%
Child Poverty	28.3%
Adults receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).88
Children receiving cash assistance (6-month avg., 1/03-6/03).247

The following table provides information about the 2002-2003 graduation rates and students' proficiency scores.

EDUCATION VINTON COUNTY, 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR

	All Students			
School District	High School Graduation Rates	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	6th Grade Math Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level	9th Grade Proficiency Scores Percent of students at or above the proficient level on all 5 tests
State Standard	90%	75%	75%	75%
Belpre City	88.7%	73.7%	29.3%	69.6%
Fort Frye Local	87.9%	53.9%	50.5%	72.4%
Frontier Local	78.2%	58.1%	55.7%	64.2%
Marietta City	92.8%	73.1%	44.8%	62.7%
Warren Local	92.0%	69.6%	58.9%	75.8%
Wolf Creek Local	98.2%	59.3%	63.5%	66.7%
Ohio	83.9%	42.7%	29.1%	23.5%

Children's Defense Fund Ohio, 2004