



HAMILTON COUNTY

2005 County Report Card

Full Report

Board of County Commissioners

Pat DeWine

Phil Heimlich

Todd Portune

December 2005

Fellow Citizens

As your Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, we are pleased to present our first Report Card to you, the people of Hamilton County. It is a new report that we expect to produce every year. Its purpose is to show you our performance and the progress that we are making in a number of important areas. It also shows how our county and the region are changing and how we are affected by those changes.

The board is committed to a number of goals; increased accountability is one of the most important. That's why we publicly declare our goals and report progress to you. For example, in our 2005 budget goals we promised to keep county spending below the rate of inflation. If you turn to page 9, you will see our performance and how we have slowed the growth in county spending.

We are also concerned about threats that the county faces, threats that affect the county's competitive position as an economic force and, in turn, our ability to provide cost-effective, quality services. The top threats that we are especially concerned about are:

- The loss of population.
- The loss of jobs.
- The stadium fund's projected deficits.

The charts on the facing page show these troublesome trends. A more detailed explanation is presented on pages 6, 17 and 18. We intend to focus our attention on implementing strategies that will reverse the negative direction of these trends. And, we look forward to reporting back to you on our success.

In closing, we invite you to tell us what you think of the new Report Card. What's most important to you? What do you like? How should we change it? Please call 946-CARD (946-2273) or send us an e-mail (reportcard@hamiltoncountyohio.gov) to give your feedback. Additional measures and indicators are available on the county's website at www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Pat DeWine *Phil Heimlich* *Todd Portune*



Pat DeWine
Vice-President

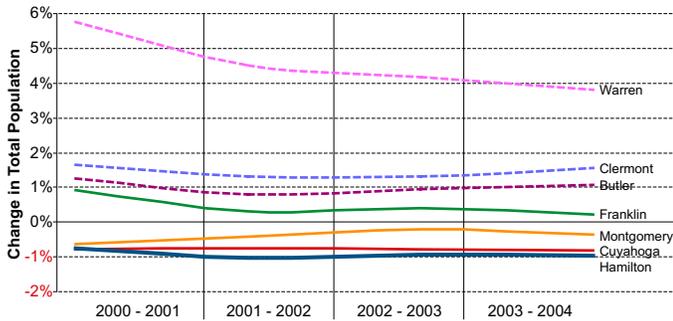


Phil Heimlich
President



Todd Portune
Commissioner

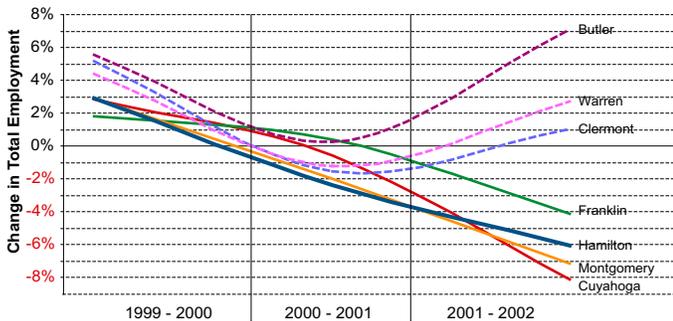
Percent Change in Population Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2004



Hamilton County has suffered the greatest percent decline in population among neighboring and urban counties in Ohio

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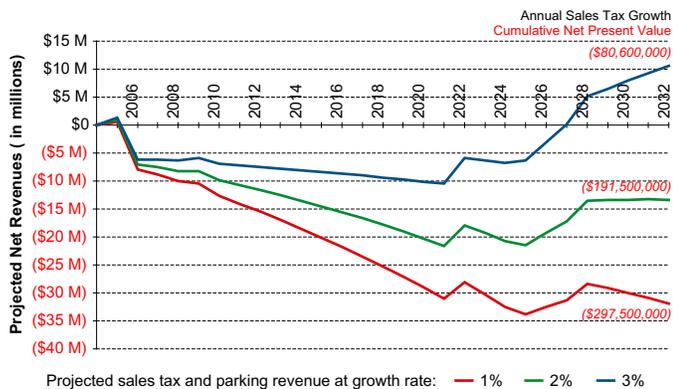
Percent Change in Total Employment Ohio Urban Counties, 1999 - 2002



Hamilton County is losing jobs

Page 18.

Stadium Fund Annual Projected Net Revenues Hamilton County, 2004 - 2032



Stagnating county sales tax revenues will cause a deficit in the stadium fund

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Introduction

The purpose of the Hamilton County Report Card is to provide citizens with information about important community issues and to provide specific measurements regarding county government performance.

How to read the Report Card

The report provides two types of information:

County Performance Measures

These measures directly reflect on county government's activities. Examples would include county spending and tax rates.

Community Indicators

These indicators provide information regarding overall community performance but not specific functions of county government. Examples would include county population and employment trends.

Icons

For each indicator or measure there will be an icon that identifies the county's trend in the area being measured. In most areas we have provided the most recent five years of data. Below is a description of the indicator symbols:

-  This icon indicates general improvement in the area of measurement.
-  This icon indicates neither improvement nor decline in the area of measurement.
-  This icon indicates general decline in the area of measurement.

Issues

Throughout the Report Card key issues will be identified by the symbol below:



Summary of County Functions and Responsibilities

As an agent of the state, the county government serves the entire county in these ways: (1) through elected officials, it administers and enforces state laws, collects taxes, assesses property, records public documents, conducts elections, issues licenses; (2) through appointed boards and officials, it provides parks, libraries, sewers, emergency management, public assistance, and hospitals. As required by state law, county government also serves unincorporated areas by providing such purely local government

facilities and services as highways, police protection, building inspection, planning and zoning. Elected county officials oversee most of these services. A city or village may contract with the county to receive a service.

Hamilton County has no top executive and no single overall governing body. Responsibility for county government is shared by the Ohio General Assembly that has legislative power; the county courts that have judicial powers and a three-person board of county com-

missioners and eight other county officials who have administrative powers. Also participating in Hamilton County government are a number of semi-independent boards and commissions created by the state, or permitted by state law and created by the authorities specified when the need arises.

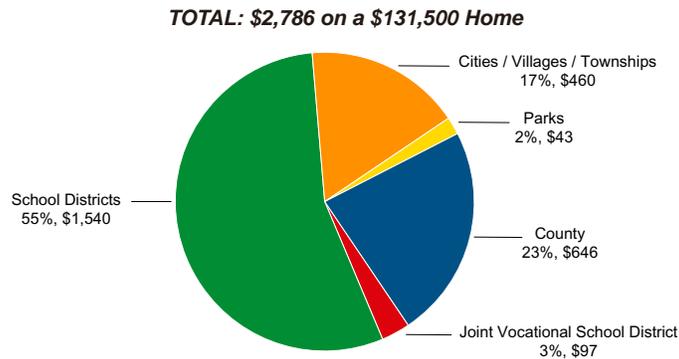
The chart below describes how major county functions are divided between the board of county commissioners, other elected officials, and various boards and commissions.

	Board of County Commissioners	Independent Boards, Commissions, Others	Other Elected Officials
Economic Development	Economic development initiatives, community development		
Environmental Control	Solid waste disposal, air and water quality management		
General Government	Taxing, budgeting, purchasing, property management, building inspections, county facilities management, planning and zoning, personnel administration, board and commission appointments	Election-related activities, library trustees	Certification of available revenue, contracting and administering property tax laws (Auditor); recording deeds and other official records, (Recorder); investment and oversight of county funds, redemption of county warrants (Treasurer)
Health		Alcohol and drug addiction services (ADAS), mental retardation - developmental disabilities services (MRDD), child fatality investigation, various children and family services, mental health services, health and hospitalization levies, hospital commission	
Judicial			Court records archive, title issuance, collecting and disbursing court costs (Clerk of Courts); operations of appeals, common pleas, municipal, juvenile, probate, and domestic relations court
Public Safety	9-1-1 service, homeland security	Legal counsel to the indigent (Public Defender), disaster planning and emergency management (EMA), regional law enforcement information network (CLEAR)	Investigation of deaths resulting from accidents/criminal acts (Coroner); county's criminal and civil attorney, counsel to the BOCC (Prosecutor); law enforcement, jail operations, court security, crime investigation, process execution (Sheriff)
Public Works	Water and sewer districts		Construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges (Engineer)
Recreation	Financing and operations of stadiums	Zoo levy, cultural activities (Museum Center levy), parks commission	
Social Services	Job and Family Services	Senior services levy, veterans services	

County Performance Measures

Breakdown of Average Tax District Bill Hamilton County, 2005

Property taxes for cities, villages, townships and school districts vary throughout Hamilton County. The total tax bill for a house with the county median home value of \$131,500 ranges from \$1,916 to \$4,276 depending on tax district. For illustrative purposes, we calculated the county's midpoint tax bill and displayed the results in the pie chart to the right. It shows that 23% of residents' property taxes are under the jurisdiction of the board of county commissioners; the other 77% is



Source: Hamilton County Auditor

controlled by the school districts, the local government and the park district. The county portion has fluctuated

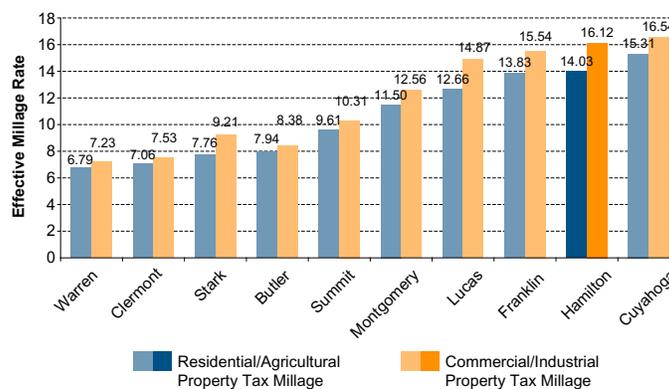
between 22 to 24 percent over the last decade.

County taxes make up 23% of residents' tax bills

Effective Millage Rates (County Portion of Tax Rate Only) Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2005

The effective millage rates presented to the right include only those rates under the jurisdiction of the board of county commissioners. The Hamilton County residential rate is made up of 2.41 unvoted mills (for general government operations), as well as 11.62 voted mills (levy funds). They do not include property taxes controlled by the park district, school districts, cities, villages, townships, or other special districts. Hamilton County commissioners have adopted a budget goal to keep special levy revenue (the revenue from voted millage) within the rate of inflation.

The Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee



Source: County Auditor's Offices

recommends appropriation amounts for each levy to the commissioners for ballot consideration.

In 2004, voters approved ballot items with the following impact on effective millage:

- A new 0.20 mill levy for the Museum Center
- A 1.04 mill increase in the MRDD levy
- A 0.02 mill increase in the Drake levy

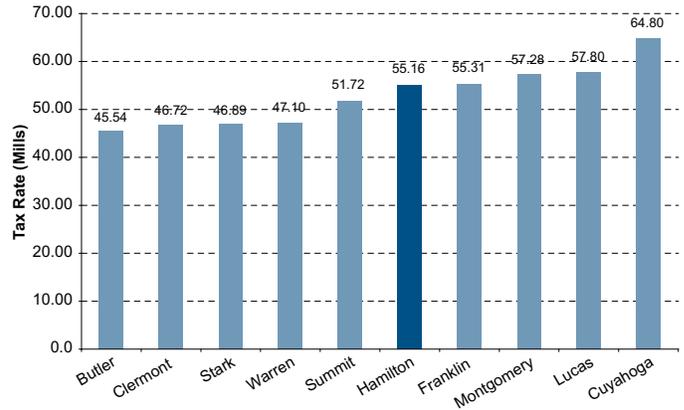
Hamilton County seeks to keep growth of levies within inflation

Hamilton County's average property tax rate* ranks fifth among the largest counties in Ohio

* The average property tax rate includes school districts, cities / villages / townships, parks, the county, the joint vocational school district, as well as all special districts (e.g. community colleges, fire districts and port authorities).

Average Property Tax Rates* Comparable and Neighboring Counties, 2003

The chart to the right compares average effective tax rates on residential property in the State of Ohio during 2003. Tax rates are presented in mills, a unit of taxation amounting to \$1.00 in property tax for every \$1,000 of assessed value. Effective millage rates are lower than those voted by taxpayers because they include reduction factors calculated by the State of Ohio. The rates presented here are applied to 35% of a property's assessed value to determine the owner's tax bill. These rates include all of the jurisdictions included in the pie chart on page 3, as well as all special districts (e.g. community colleges, fire districts and port authorities).

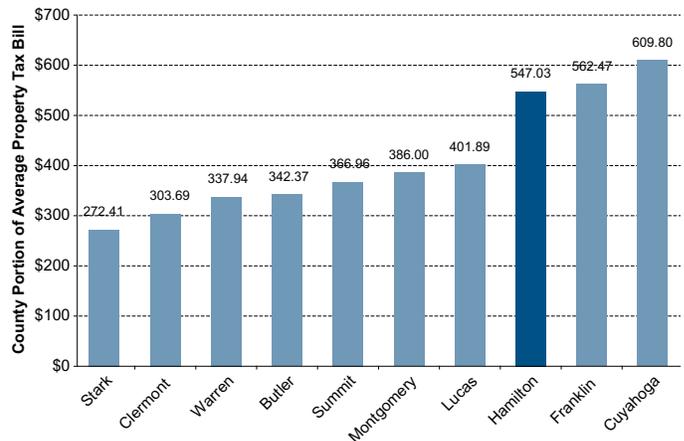


Source: Ohio Department of Taxation, tax.ohio.gov

Hamilton County tax bills rank third among Ohio's three largest counties and ranks highest in our region

County Portion of Average Property Tax Bill Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2005

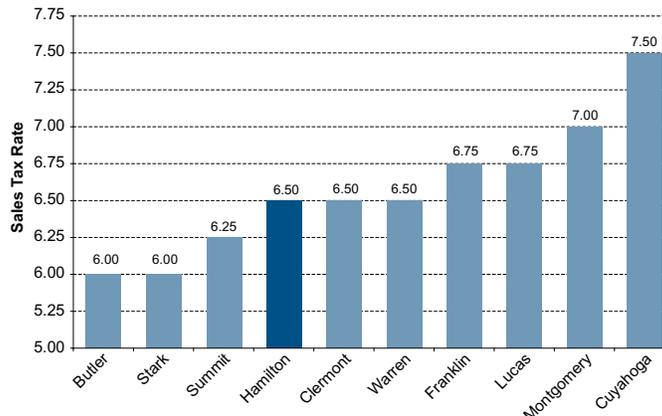
The average county tax bills were calculated by applying the effective millage rates in each county to 35% of the median value of a home in that county. Within our region and among Ohio's three largest counties, Hamilton County has the second highest effective millage and the third highest average tax bill. The difference in the rank of these two measures results from the median value of a home in Franklin County (\$137,007) being higher than one in Hamilton County (\$131,513).



Note: Millage includes General Fund plus voted tax levies.
Sources: County Auditor's Offices, Ohio Department of Development's Ohio County Profiles, 2000

Sales Tax Rates Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2005

The State of Ohio mandates and receives 5.5% in sales tax on all taxable items sold in the state. Each county may ask voters to approve additional sales taxes. The citizens of Hamilton County have approved an additional one-half cent tax revenue for the county general fund, and one-half cent dedicated for riverfront development, including the stadium and ballpark (70%), and property tax rollback (30%).



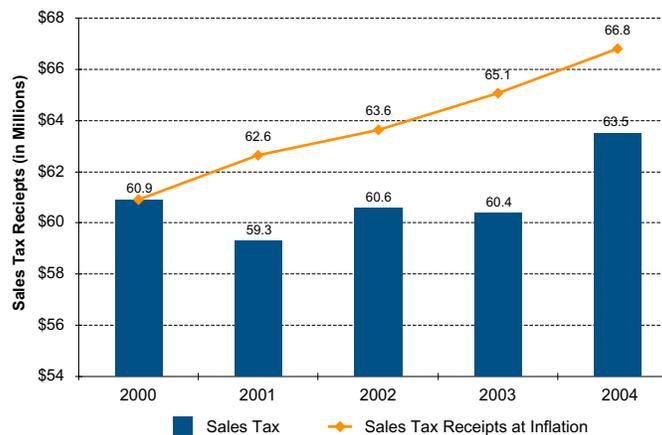
Note: Franklin County 1/2 cent sales tax increase (to 6.75%) effective after October 1, 2005.
Source: Ohio Department of Taxation, 2005

Hamilton County sales tax is average among Ohio counties

Sales Tax Receipts and Inflation Hamilton County, 2000 - 2004

Sales tax collections are the single largest revenue stream in the county general fund, making up nearly 27% of total general fund revenue. An equal amount of sales taxes are collected outside the county general fund, where they are used for stadium debt service and operations, property tax relief and Cincinnati Public Schools.

Hamilton County has continued to meet ongoing expenses despite sales tax revenues that have consistently fallen below inflation rates. County sales tax collections increased 4.3% in the last five years, less than one-half the rate of inflation.



Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

If sales tax income stagnation continues, the revenues may be insufficient to meet other county obligations after satisfying stadium debt service requirements as early as 2006.

Sales tax receipts have not kept pace with inflation

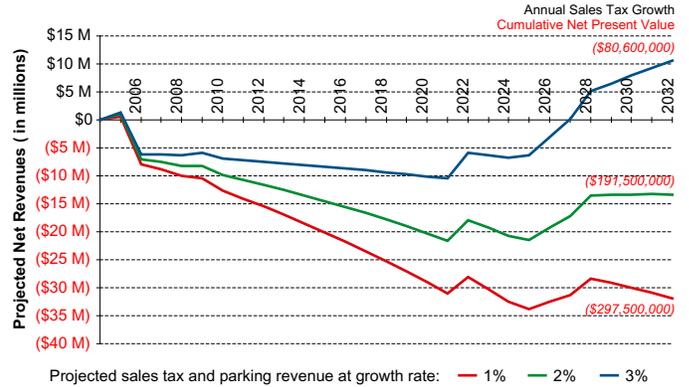
Key Issue

New strategies for economic development are needed.

Stagnating county sales tax revenues will cause a deficit in the stadium fund

Stadium Fund Annual Projected Net Revenues Hamilton County, 2004 - 2032

The chart to the right shows the stadium fund net revenue shortfall growing to a \$33.8 million deficit should sales tax grow at only 1% in future years. An influx of \$14 million in late 2004 will likely delay the fund deficit, but there are, nevertheless, substantial issues to be resolved if sales tax revenue fails to grow. (The positive change in direction of the trends is the result of the end of payments to Cincinnati Public Schools in 2022 and 2026 and the end of debt payments in 2028.)



Historical Sales Tax Growth: 5 Year Average = 1.3% 10 Year Average = 3.15%

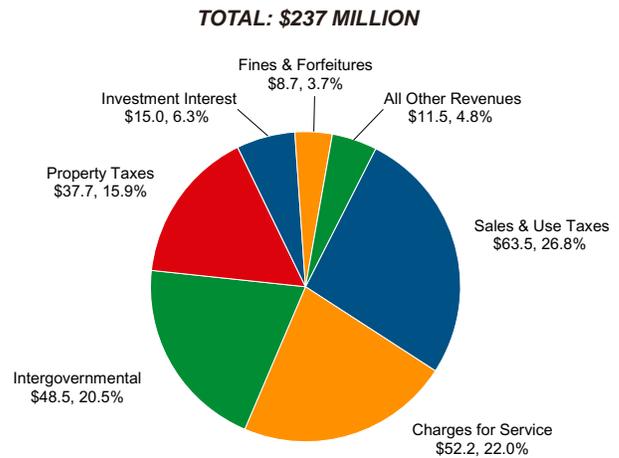
Note: Sales tax revenue projections are based on 2004 revenues assuming an expanded sales tax base, and additional revenues from the phone services tax. This financial model does not include \$10M, which remains outstanding from the State of Ohio's original \$81 million promise.

Source: Public Financial Management, Inc. 7/14/04

Sales tax makes up 26.8% of all general fund revenues

General Fund Revenues by Source Hamilton County, 2005

Primary general fund revenues are sales taxes, charges for service, intergovernmental revenue and property tax. General fund sales taxes are collected from a half-cent tax levied in 1970 for county operations. Charges for services include various fees collected from citizens, businesses, and other government agencies for county services. Intergovernmental revenues are largely income from the State of Ohio, through the local government fund, and other mechanisms through which the state shares income with local jurisdictions. General fund property tax collections are the result of 2.26 mills of taxation that has not increased since 1932.

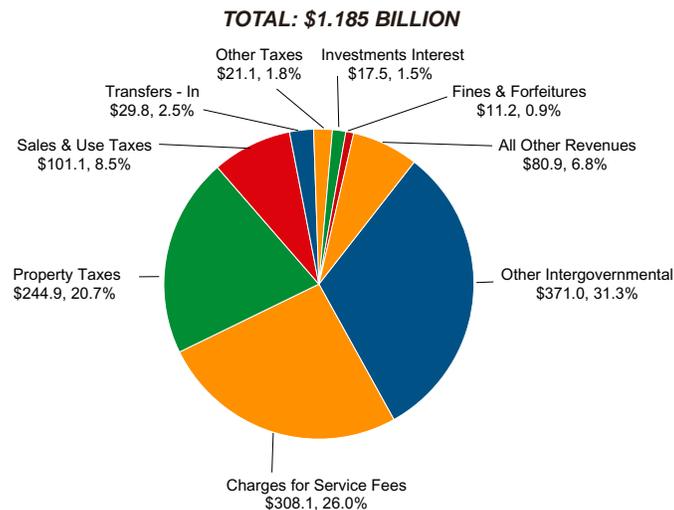


Note: The "all other revenues" category includes transfers from restricted funds, unclaimed funds, auction proceeds, donated funds, loan repayments, various reimbursements, and other revenues.

Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

All-Fund Revenues by Source Hamilton County, 2005

78% of all-fund revenues is made up of intergovernmental revenues, charges for service and property taxes. Intergovernmental revenues are largely pass-through funding in Job and Family Services (e.g., child care dollars) and county grants. Charges for service include substantial revenue in Metropolitan Sewer District billings. Property taxes outside the general fund are mostly tax levies approved by the voters.

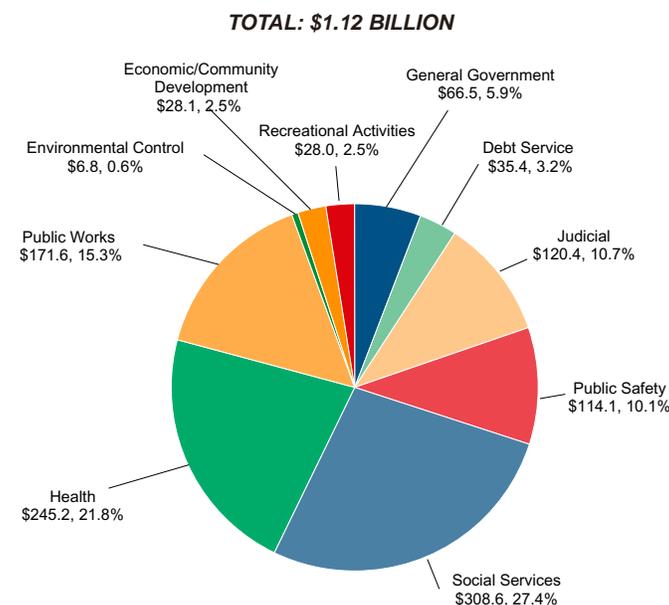


Note: Does not include pass through revenue such as JFS entitlements.
Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

All-fund revenues include grants, tax levies, sewer fees and pass-through dollars

All-Funds Expenditures by Function Hamilton County, 2004

All-fund expenditures include the county's general fund, all grant funds, levy funds, debt service, and other reimbursable and rate-supported expenses of the county. The public works function includes the Metropolitan Sewer District and the County Engineer. Health includes the MRDD, Mental Health, Indigent Care and Drake levies. Social services is comprised of Job and Family Services, including child support, public assistance and children's services. Public safety includes Sheriff's township patrol and central warrants division, as well as general fund functions such as the operation of the county jail system.



Note: Does not include JFS entitlements, expenditures resulting from a JFS accounting change, riverfront construction, the call on Courthouse debt, or reclassification of the Hartford Building advance. Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

Expenditures outside the general fund are restricted to specific uses

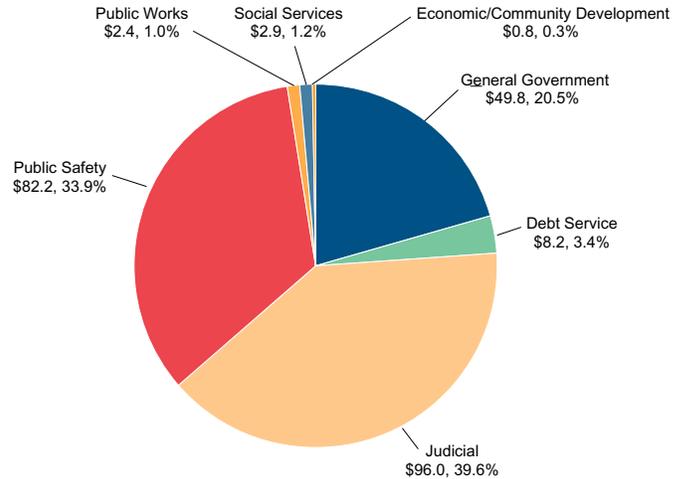
Judicial and public safety expenditures are 74% of the general fund

General Fund Expenditures by Function and Department Hamilton County, 2004

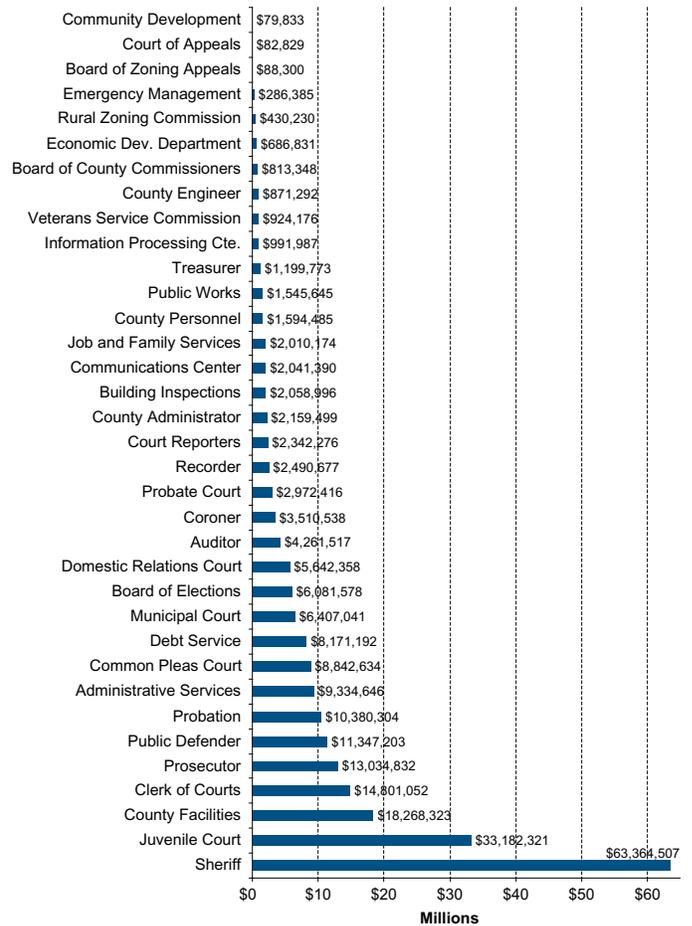
The general fund is the primary operating fund of county government. The judicial function encompasses the court system, including the Common Pleas, Municipal, Juvenile, Domestic Relations, Probate, and Appeals. Other departments under this function are the Prosecutor, Public Defender and Probation. The public safety function is largely the Sheriff's Department, including the operations of the county jail system.

General Fund Expenditures by Function

TOTAL: \$242 MILLION



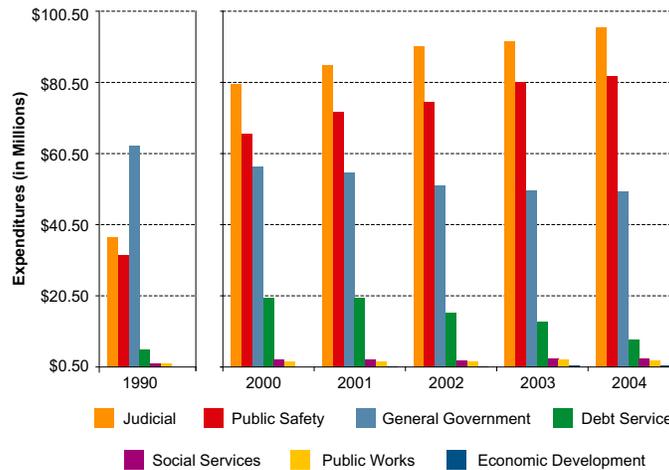
General Fund Expenditures by Department



Note: Does not include the call on Courthouse debt or reclassification of the Hartford Building advance.
Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

General Fund Expenditures by Function Hamilton County, 1990 and 2000-2004

General government and debt service functions have seen annual decreases in expenditures over the past five years. Increases in spending (22% since 2000) for public safety and judicial functions are largely personnel-related. The majority of Sheriff's employees have negotiated salary adjustments as part of their collective bargaining agreements.



Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

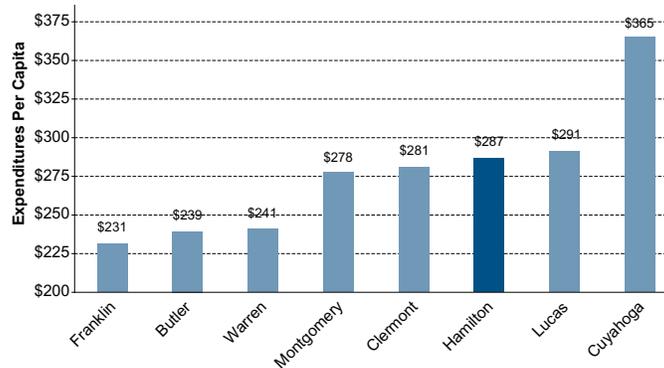
↓ Judicial and public safety spending increasing

Key Issue

Strategies must be identified to control growth in judicial and public safety.

General Fund Expenditures Per Capita Hamilton County, 2005

Hamilton County 2005 general fund expenditures per capita are slightly high compared to comparable and neighboring counties.

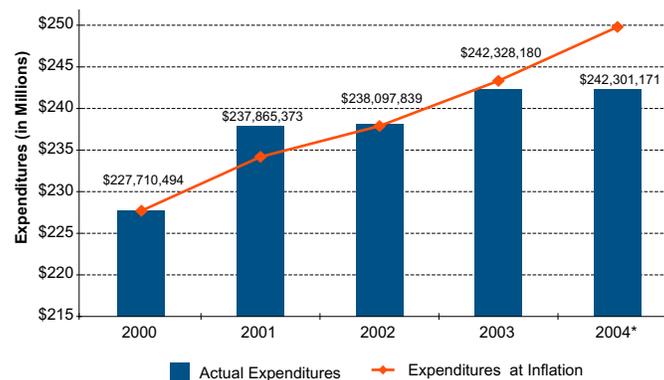


Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

■ General fund expenditures are consistent with but slightly higher than comparable and neighboring counties

General Fund Expenditures and Expenditures at Inflation Hamilton County, 2000-2004

The county's general fund expenditures have fallen below the rate of inflation since 2002. The actual expenditures for 2004 reflect a decrease in spending from 2003. County general fund expenditures increased 6.4% in the last five years, two-thirds the rate of inflation. In 2004, actual spending reflects a \$7.5 million savings over inflation-adjusted spending.



Note: *Does not include Hartford reclassification or Call of Courthouse Debt
Source: Hamilton County Budget Office

▲ Consistent with a board goal, general fund expenditures have remained under inflation for three years

Hamilton County's high bond rating suggests that the county manages its finances responsibly

General Obligation Bond Ratings Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2004

Bond ratings are an indicator of how the financial community views the fiscal stability of an organization. Organizations are judged on their local economy, financial and overall management practices, as well as the maintenance of a structurally-balanced budget and healthy reserves. High bond ratings produce favorable interest rates when the county needs to borrow funds.

This independent validation provides confidence about the county's financial health to investors and taxpayers alike. The Moody's credit rating is an opinion on the ability of an entity to meet its financial commitments. Hamilton County's rating of Aa2 is reflective of "high grade, high quality."

County	Rating
Butler County	Aa3
Clermont County	Aa3
Cuyahoga County	Aa1
Franklin County	Aaa
Hamilton County	Aa2
Lucas County	A1
Montgomery County	Aa2
Warren County	Aa2

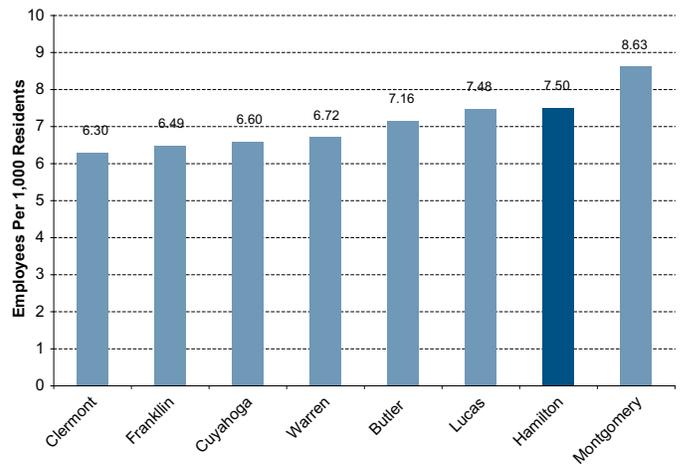
Ratings (Moody's):
 Aaa - Prime, maximum safety.
 Aa1, Aa2, Aa3 - High grade, high quality.
 A1, A2, A3 - Upper medium grade.

Source: County Budget and Finance Offices

County staff size is slightly higher than most peer counties

Budgeted Employees Per 1,000 Residents Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2004

Hamilton County ranks second in employee positions per capita among peer counties, though its results are similar to the majority of the counties in the middle of the array. Total county positions have increased by 6.4% over the last ten years. Cuyahoga County has reduced its staff by 1,400 positions since 2001, but recently restored 200 positions in 2005.

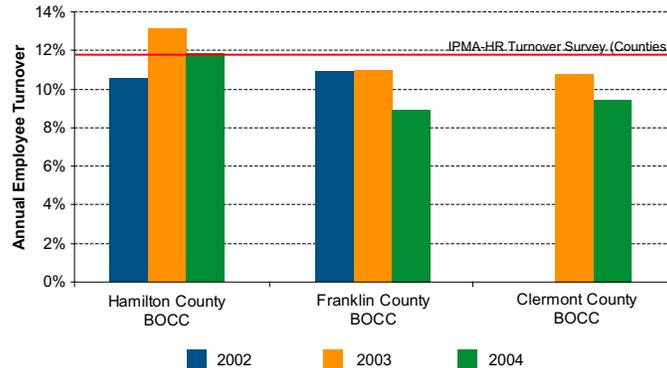


Source: County Budget Offices

Annual Employee Turnover Rate Hamilton, Franklin, and Clermont Counties, 2002 - 2004

Long term turnover remains consistent

A fully competent workforce is a key to delivering quality county services. It is a county goal to retain competent staff in order to benefit from the investment in employee training and experience. One measure of employee satisfaction is the annual turnover rate.



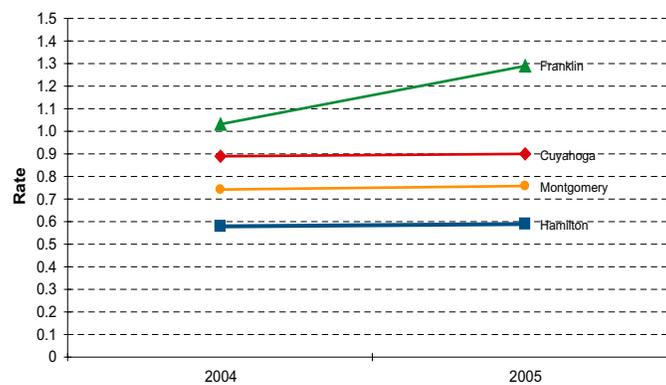
Note: Franklin County Children's services employee turnover data has been added to Franklin County BOCC to more accurately compare with Hamilton and Clermont County data, which include Job and Family Services employees. Data not available for Clermont County 2002.
Source: County personnel offices, IPMA-HR Turnover Survey

This data is not consistently kept by our comparable counties. The available data is displayed to the right. The national average, received from the International Public Management Association's Turnover Survey, is 11.76% and is displayed by the horizontal line. Hamilton County's average rate, for board departments, is 11.94% and includes JFS employees.

Workers' Compensation Rate Ohio Urban Counties, 2004 - 2005

Hamilton County has lowest workers' compensation loss experience among Ohio urban counties

This is a comparison of experience between the four counties for workers' compensation losses. The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation sets the base rate, based upon losses, at 1.0. If a county's rate is above 1.0 it is paying a premium, which is undesirable. If a rate is below 1.0 it receives a discount, which is desirable. Hamilton County paid .58 of the base rate in 2004 and will pay .59 in 2005.



Source: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Child abuse reports are declining and fewer children are in foster care 

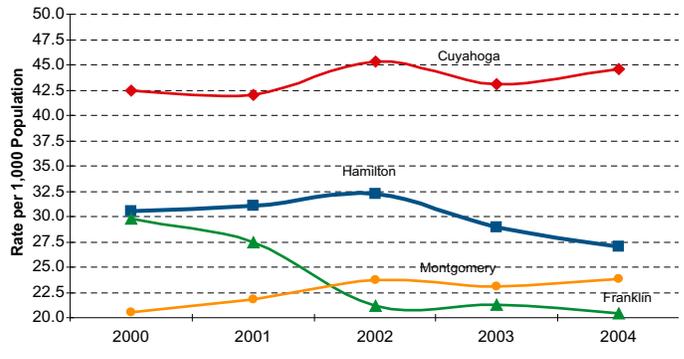
Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect and Number of Children Entering Substitute Care Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2004

The number of substantiated (confirmed) incidents of child abuse and neglect has been declining. Several factors could explain this. There has been a decrease in calls to 241-KIDS, the county's child abuse reporting line, and a decrease in reports. In addition, the process for confirming child abuse and neglect has become more refined and caseworkers consider many factors before they substantiate an allegation.

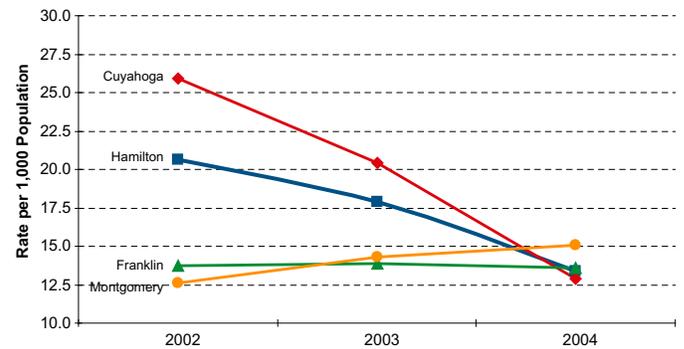
Better social work practice is also a factor in the downward trend for the number of children entering substitute care, such as foster homes. Both the law and good child welfare practice call for caseworkers to use every means possible to keep families intact while working with them to resolve the problems that led to child abuse or neglect.

Fewer children in foster care, however, does not automatically mean lower costs. Many foster children today struggle with serious emotional and behavioral problems. Some require treatment services and institutional placements that are very expensive. Systems are in place to monitor these services so they are not used more than is necessary.

Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect in Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2004 - Rate per 1,000 Population

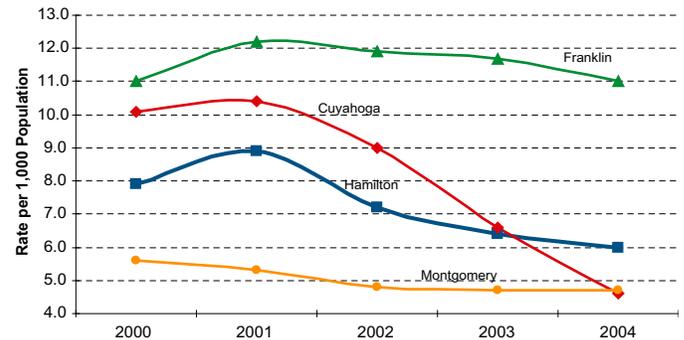


Substantiated/Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect - Numbers of Children - Rate per 1,000 Population



Note: Due to changes in data definitions, numbers for 2000 and 2001 are not comparable.

Number of Children Entering Substitute Care, 2000 - 2004
Rate per 1,000 Population



Sources: HCJFS, ODJFS, US Census Bureau

Public Assistance Recipients: Monthly Averages on Assistance Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2004

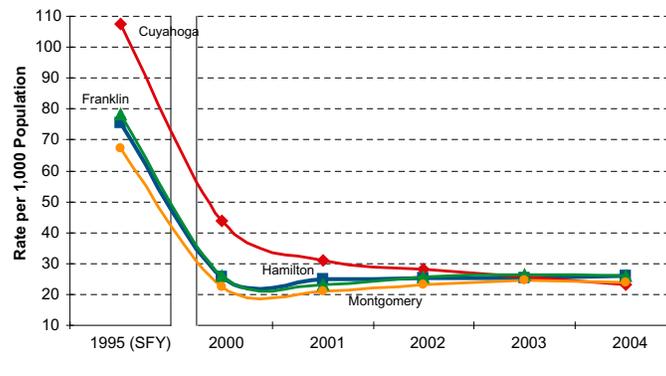
Because of welfare reform, the number of families receiving welfare today is a fraction of what it was a decade ago. Since 2000, the rate has leveled because a greater proportion of welfare recipients today have significant barriers to employment such as mental illness and drug abuse. In 2004, a monthly average of 9,388 families (21,011 individuals) received welfare in Hamilton County. That is about one out of every 38 county residents. The vast majority are children.

The number of people receiving food stamps and Medicaid has been increasing. In 2004, about one out of every 11 county residents received food stamps – most of them working people making low wages. About one in seven county residents receives Medicaid, the largest public assistance program by far.

Helping needy families strengthens the community. Public assistance:

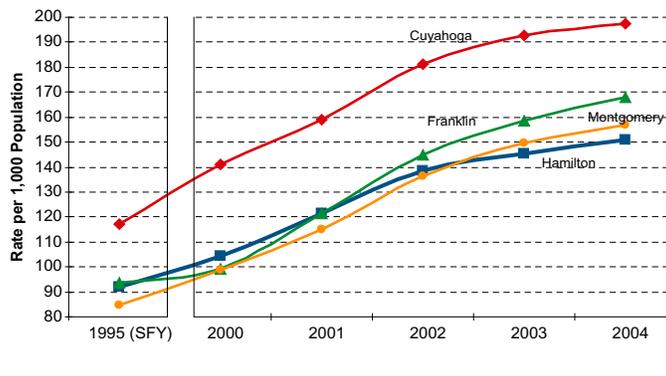
- Supports families as they move into the workforce and become self-sufficient
- Reduces the uncompensated-care burden on local hospitals
- Helps businesses contain costs for employee benefits
- Brings in more federal revenue that helps local resources stretch further.

Welfare Trends
Monthly Averages - Rate per 1,000 Population



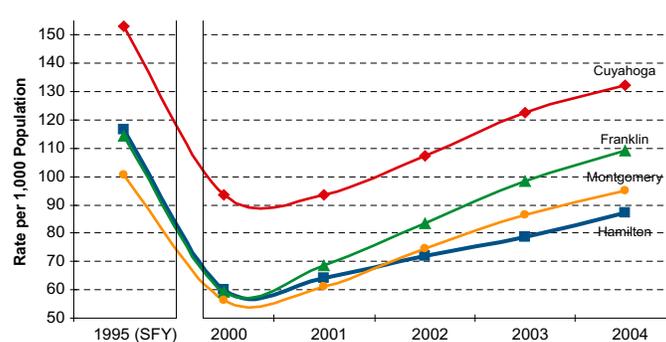
Welfare use has leveled off since plummeting in the 1990s due to welfare reform

Medicaid Participant Trend
Monthly Averages - Rate per 1,000 Population



The rise in health insurance for the poor – Medicaid – is due to economic factors, aging of the population, and outreach to enroll more families with children

Food Stamps Participant Trend
Monthly Averages - Rate per 1,000 Population



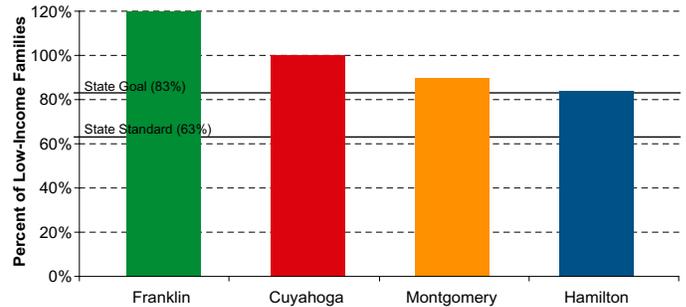
After dropping with welfare reform, food stamp use is rebounding as more families move from welfare to low-wage jobs

Sources: HCJFS, ODJFS, 1990 UC Decennial Census, 2000 US Census; 2002-2003 US Census - American Community Survey

Families in Hamilton County are less likely to use food stamps

Percent of Low-Income Families (with children) Using Food Stamps Ohio Urban Counties, 3rd Quarter FFY (Federal Fiscal Year) 2005

Hamilton County residents who are eligible for food stamps are less likely to receive them than are families in Ohio's other urban counties. The reasons for this are unknown, but speculation is that more families in conservative Hamilton County are reluctant to accept government help. Food stamps and other supports, however, are a way to help families become more stable and avoid crises such as utility shut-offs, eviction and continual reliance on food pantries. Representatives of Job and Family Services, the FreeStore/Foodbank, Legal



Sources: HCJFS, ODJFS
 Note: Figures for some counties exceed 100% because the population count is from the 2000 census and the food stamp count is for 2005.

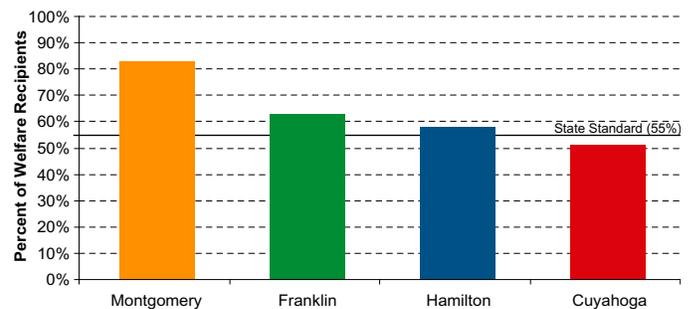
Aid Society and other groups have been working together on an outreach project to help struggling families. As a result, food stamp use among eligible low-income

families has increased by more than 10% since late 2003. In June, 2005, it stood at 84%, which was 1% above the state goal.

Hamilton County is currently meeting state and federal work participation rate standards

Percent of Welfare Recipients Participating in Required Work Activity Ohio Urban Counties, 2004

Because welfare is temporary, Job and Family Services is required to help recipients become self-sufficient by preparing them for employment. Ohio can earn incentive money from the federal government if it exceeds work participation standards. For 2004, Hamilton County hovered slightly above the state standard for the percentage of welfare recipients who are working or participating in activities that prepare them for work (55%). Community Link, a partnership of JFS and private agencies, helps welfare recipients



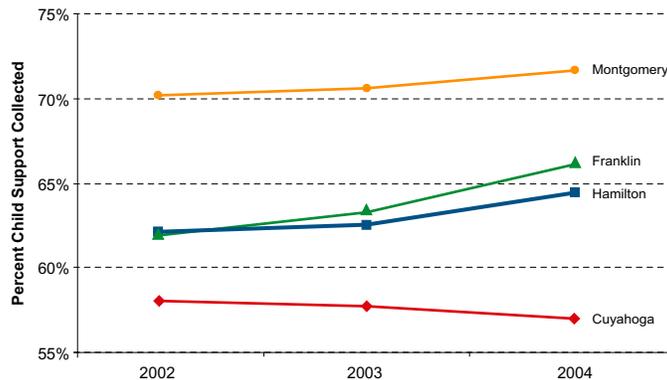
Sources: HCJFS, ODJFS

move into the workforce. Community Link handles about 4,000 clients a month and refers them to hundreds of services.

Collections on Current Child Support Orders Ohio Urban Counties, 2002 - 2004

This chart shows how much child support was paid by parents with current court orders, compared with how much they owed. In federal fiscal year 2004, for example, Hamilton County collected about 64% of the child support that was owed by parents with current orders. That means more than 35 percent of the money currently owed to children went unpaid. On the positive side, Hamilton County's collection percentage has been increasing.

Child support is very complex. This chart is only part of the picture. More than 90% of child support cases have late or missing payments at some time during the year. That means cases accumulate arrearages,



Sources: ODJFS; 2002-2003 U.S Census, American Community Survey

or overdue support. Some parents make payments on arrearages, but many more do not. In addition, many cases do not even have court orders because the father has not been legally identified.

In 2004, Hamilton County collected \$154.9 million in child support. Child support

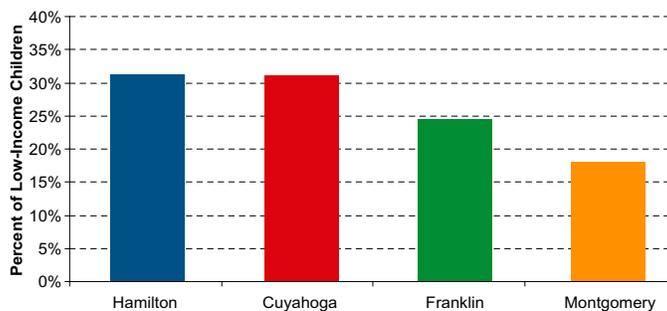
is a massive program, affecting about one out of every three people in Hamilton County. (Based on an average monthly case load of 94,671 consisting of three people – mother, father and one child.)

Child Support collections have been increasing, but a lot of child support goes unpaid

Percent Low-Income Children Receiving Publicly-Funded Child Care Ohio Urban Counties, 2004

Among Ohio's urban counties, Hamilton County is best at ensuring that low-income parents receive vouchers that help them pay for child care while they work or attend school. Without help to cover the high cost of child care, many low-income parents would be unable to work or would be more likely to leave their children unsupervised or with inappropriate caregivers.

Child care services are administered by the department of Job and Family Services. The benefit



Sources: HCJFS, ODJFS

partially covers the cost of child care for eligible low and moderate-income families. In 2004, JFS provided child care services to a monthly average of 12,217 children.

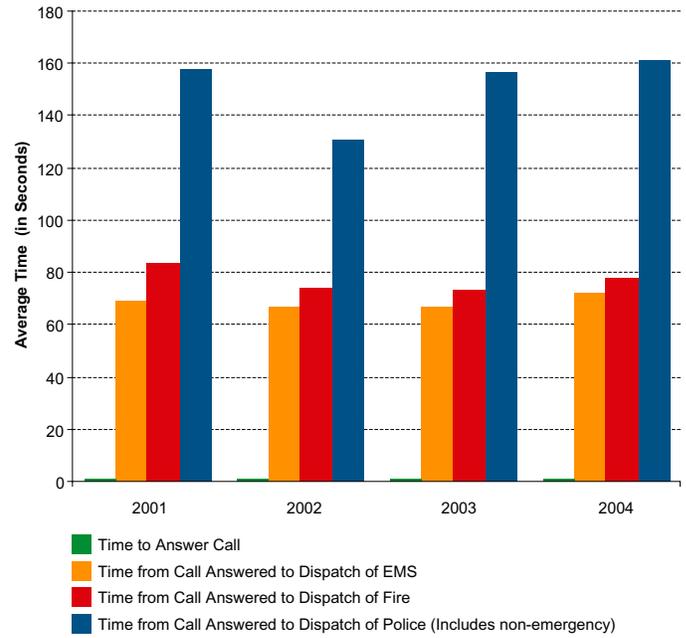
Hamilton County is a state leader in providing child care

Hamilton County exceeds national standards in 9-1-1 answering and dispatch

9-1-1 Answering and Response Hamilton County, 2001 - 2004

The 9-1-1 national standard is at least 90% of the calls for emergency medical assistance are answered within 10 seconds during the average busy hour. In 2004 the Hamilton County Communication Center average 9-1-1 call answering time was two seconds.

The national standard for the time between the first notification of a medical emergency and receipt of the first dispatch message by the responding EMS unit should never exceed two minutes. In 2004 the Hamilton County Communications Center 9-1-1 call processing time was 1.2 minutes.

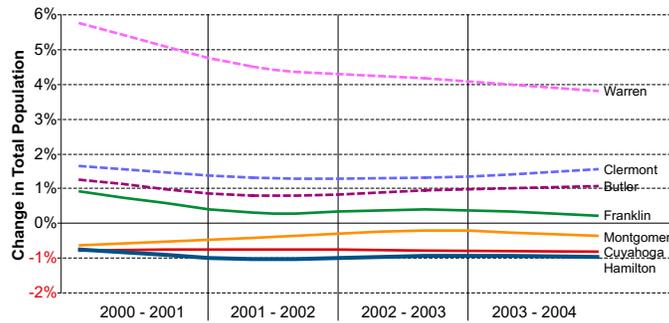


Source: Hamilton County Communication Center

Community Indicators

Percent Change in Population Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2000 - 2004

Hamilton County's population has steadily declined by more than 1% each year, over the past four years, since it peaked in 1970. It lost its status as the second most populous of Ohio's counties when Franklin County, which was and is gaining population, passed it in 1981. Still, it does have a larger population than it did in 1950, which is not true of Cuyahoga County. Except for Franklin County, which continues to add population, all Ohio urban counties are losing residents.



Source: US Bureau of Census

Yet, the region continues to grow and population loss of the central city and older suburbs continues to drag down the county's population. Most of those leaving

the county, however, stay in the region. Those who leave the region tend to be more highly skilled and educated.

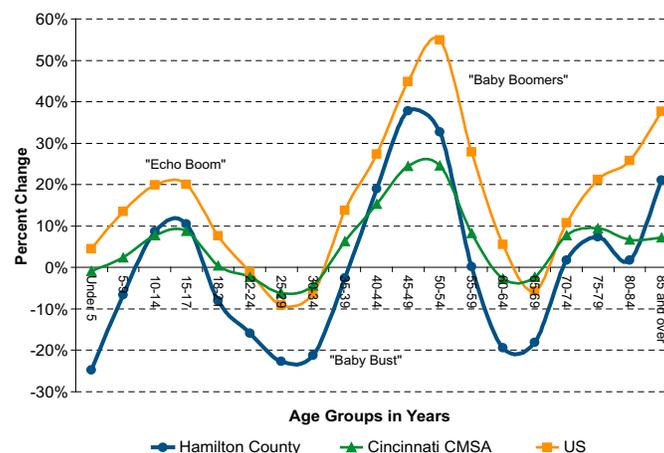
Hamilton County has suffered the greatest percent decline in population among neighboring and urban counties in Ohio

Key Issue

The loss of population can have many negative impacts, including higher per capita tax burdens; loss of sales tax revenues; longer commute times; loss of jobs; school closings; higher infrastructure costs; etc., suggesting, if unaddressed, that the county may be on a downward spiral.

Percent Population Gain/Loss by Age Group US, Cincinnati CMSA, and Hamilton County, 1990 - 2000

The county has lost population in three groups: under five, 22 - 34 and 60 - 69. The middle group, often called the "entrepreneurial group" is a key loss because they are considered to be the ones who will take the risks to start new business ventures. They are also the most technically current and skilled, an important fact in an economy that is more service than manufacturing based. While the U.S. lost 10% of this group from 1990 - 2000, Hamilton County lost 20%, twice as much. More troubling, is that the loss was 40% of that population in the county.



Source: US Bureau of Census

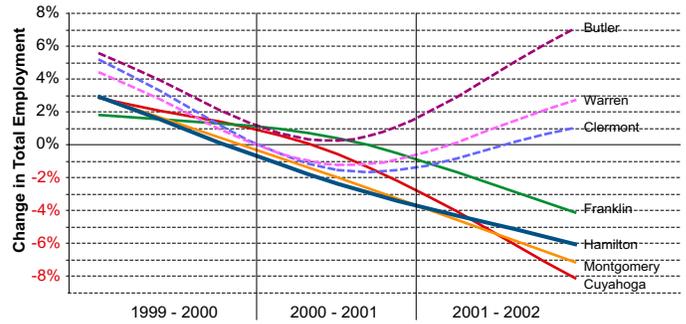
Hamilton County is losing entrepreneurial age group members

Hamilton County and comparable Ohio urban counties are losing jobs. This occurs because of recession, transition to service economy, and jobs moving to suburbs

Percent Change in Total Employment Ohio Urban Counties, 1999 - 2002

Loss of jobs is always a cause for concern – although it is to be expected during a national recession. The 2001 recession has caused a downturn in employment in Ohio’s largest counties – or urban counties. Two other factors have contributed to the plight of Ohio’s largest urban counties: the change in types of jobs – from manufacturing to service sectors – and the loss of population and jobs to neighboring suburban counties.

Hamilton County, with the third largest employment in the state, has lost about 50,000 jobs from 2000 to 2002. Its neighboring Ohio counties have gained jobs.



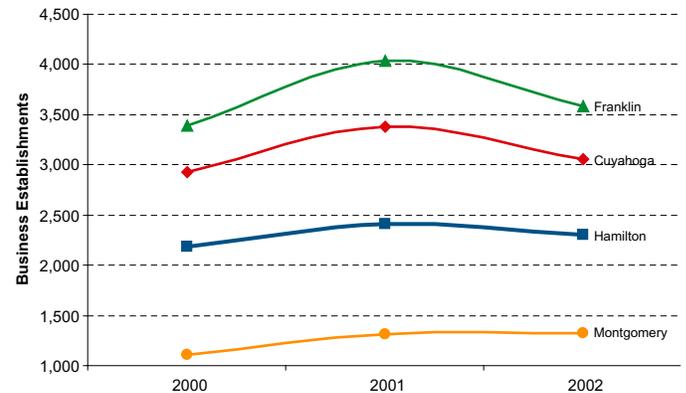
Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS)

The chart shows the percent change in jobs for 1999 to 2000, 2000 to 2001, and 2001 to 2002. In 1999 Hamilton County had 540,671 jobs. By 2002 the number of jobs dropped to 510,618, a 5.6% decrease.

Hamilton County continues to generate new business starts, despite the 2001 recession

Business Starts Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2002

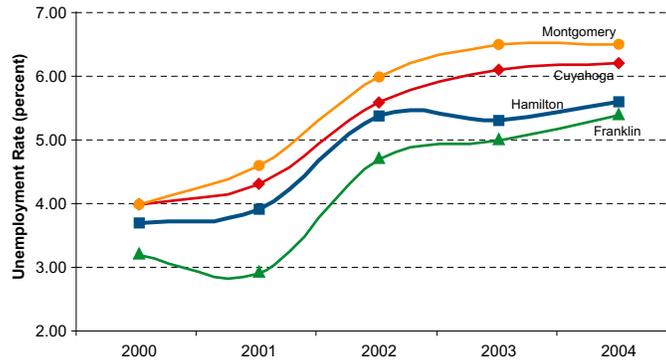
Large numbers of business starts are an indicator of dynamism in a local economy and Hamilton County has had an average of about 2,250 business starts each year since 1987. Hamilton County has been fairly strong in continuing new business starts despite the 2001 recession. Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties produce a higher number of annual business starts but have not fared as well during the recession.



Source: Ohio Department of Development

Unemployment Rate Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2004

All urban counties in Ohio experienced rising unemployment following the recession in 2001 with each increasing more than a percentage point that year. But, from 2002 to 2004 the increase has been less drastic. Among those counties, Hamilton County experienced a decrease in 2003 but then rebounded to 2002 levels the next year.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

While below Cuyahoga and Montgomery counties, Hamilton County's unemployment rate grew between 2003 and 2004

Because of high overall demand for labor (the gap between the labor force and total employment), the average Hamilton County unemployment rate, prior to 2002, has been low for several years. Only five years since 1990 has the county's unemployment rate gone above 5%, and it remained below the national average until 2004 when the county's rate grew one tenth above

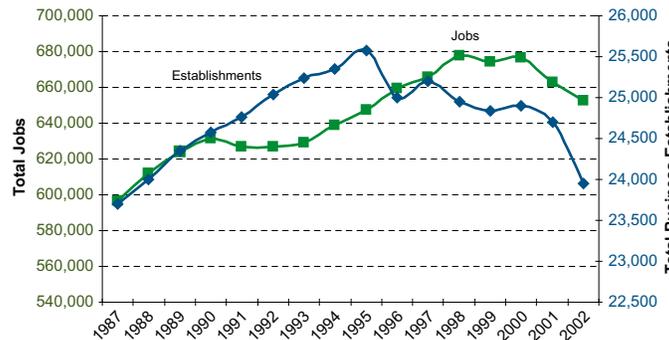
the national average of 5.5%. This is an indication of a tight labor market.

This conventional reporting method may under report the total number of persons not working by about 7% or more because it does not include "discouraged workers" (those who stopped looking for a job). Nor does the unemployment rate reflect all persons of working

age (16 to 64) not working. Finally, the rate does not account for many persons not seeking employment such as homemakers, persons with disabilities, students, and institutionalized persons. In Hamilton County, the total jobless rate (all persons aged 16 to 65 who are not working) was over 22% in 2000.

Total Business Establishments and Total Employment Hamilton County, 1987 - 2002

The 2001 recession has caused a downturn in employment and resulted in even greater losses of businesses than what occurred since 1995. Some of the job loss can be attributed to a decrease in the number of businesses, while others have been through "job leakage" to neighboring counties. By reviewing the total number of establishments (shown in blue) along the right side of the graph, it can be seen that the number of businesses in Hamilton County in 2002 dropped, since 1996, to almost the



Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS)

same level of businesses in 1987. Especially hard hit in this loss have been the small business owners – those with one to four employees.

Recent data shows fewer places to work and declining number of jobs

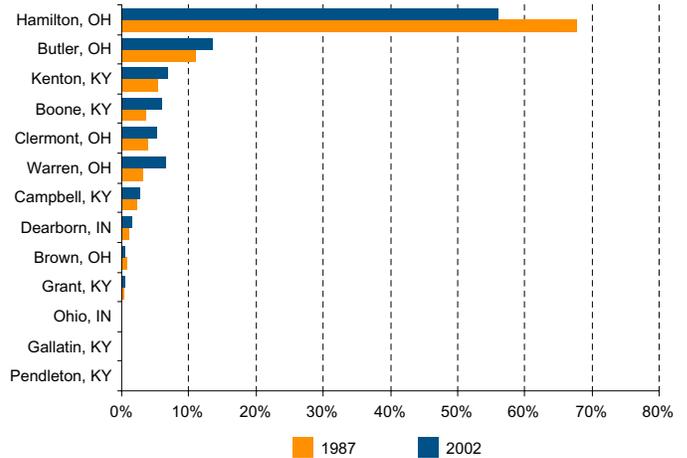
Key Issue

As the economic recovery takes hold, the effects upon population, jobs and businesses should be closely monitored. In the meantime, strategies should be created to reverse the recent negative trends.

Hamilton County's share of jobs in the region is decreasing 

Percent Share of Jobs Cincinnati CMSA Counties, 1987 and 2002

Hamilton County's share of the total has dropped from 68% to 56% during the past 15 years. While still dominating the 13 county metropolitan region, the share is shrinking as is the number of jobs (see Percent Change in Total Employment on page 20), some of which formerly were located in Hamilton County. The historical dominance can be a mixed blessing since there may be a propensity to see the glass as half full. At present, there is no agreed upon set of strategies guiding county actions to reverse the current trend.



Sources: US Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Census

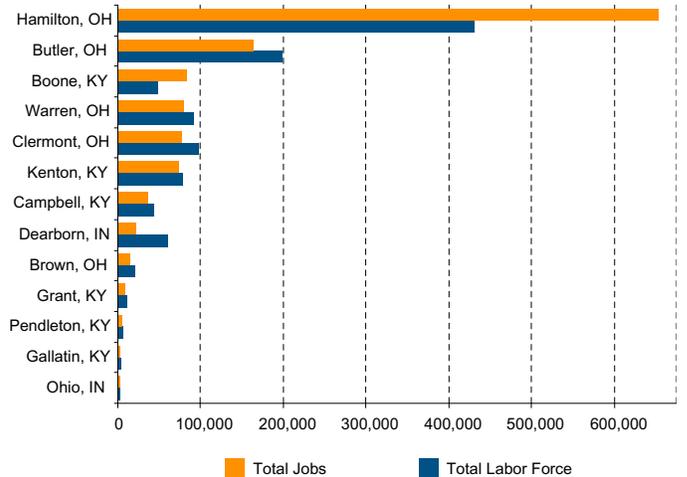
Key Issue

Hamilton County currently benefits from the job-labor force imbalance. If not addressed, however, businesses may expand in or move to areas where sufficient labor is trained or educated to meet job needs.

Hamilton County depends on the region to fill workforce gap 

Total Labor Force vs. Total Jobs Cincinnati MSA Counties, 2002

The total number of jobs available in Hamilton County in recent years has far outstripped the resident civilian labor force. This is in contrast with other counties of the CMSA region where there are fewer jobs than workers. In fact, in only two of the region's counties — Hamilton and Boone — does the number of jobs exceed the labor force. This underscores the role played by Hamilton County in providing work for much of the metropolitan population.



Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS)

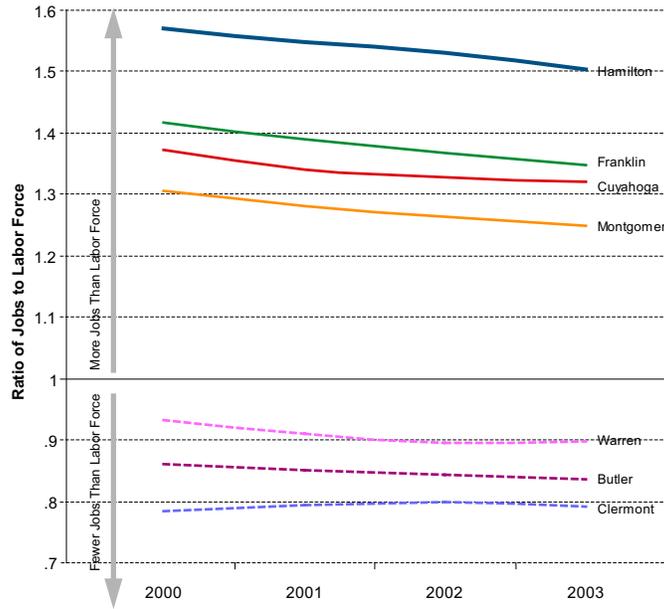
With a shortage of qualified workers, however, Hamilton County and the other counties in the region will need to consider policies to retain and attract workforce talent to increase the size of the

labor force. It will not be sufficient simply to bring in workers; there must be a match between skills and education of the workers with the needs of the businesses and the industries.

Ratio of Jobs to Labor Force Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2000 - 2003

With the onset of the 2001 recession, the gap between the number of jobs available and the total labor force required in Hamilton County has gradually narrowed. Still, the labor force in Hamilton County is not sufficient to supply the needs of the economy. Jobs not filled by Hamilton County residents are filled by workers from the surrounding counties, linking all the counties of the metropolitan region in a common labor market.

The Hamilton County labor force is growing slightly. This can occur despite decreasing population as new segments of the population reach working age every day. In addition, when there is an economic downturn



Sources: US Bureau of Census, County Business Patterns

and jobs are lost, more than one household member may seek work in an effort to increase household income.

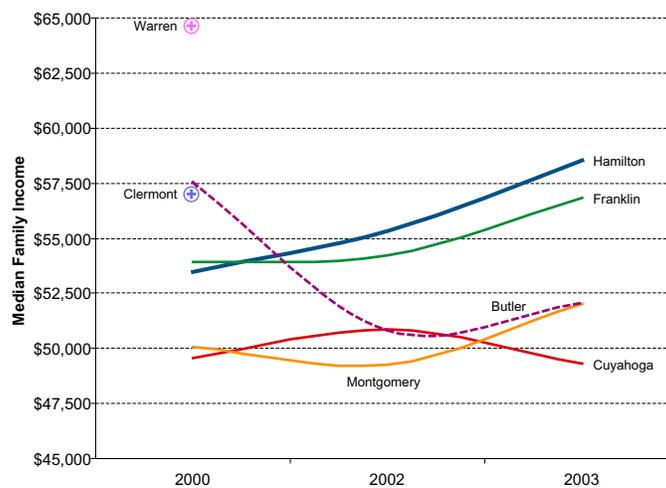
Number of jobs declining toward the labor force level in Hamilton County

Key Issue

Hamilton County currently benefits from the job-labor force imbalance. In the long term, however, businesses may expand in or move to areas where sufficient labor is trained or educated to meet job needs.

Median Family Income Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2000 - 2003

Hamilton County has the highest median family income out of the four peer Ohio urban counties, with an increase of \$5,117 (not inflation adjusted) from 2000 to 2003. While households earning median income can easily buy into the region's housing market, families earning lower incomes have more difficulty finding a house they can afford to purchase.



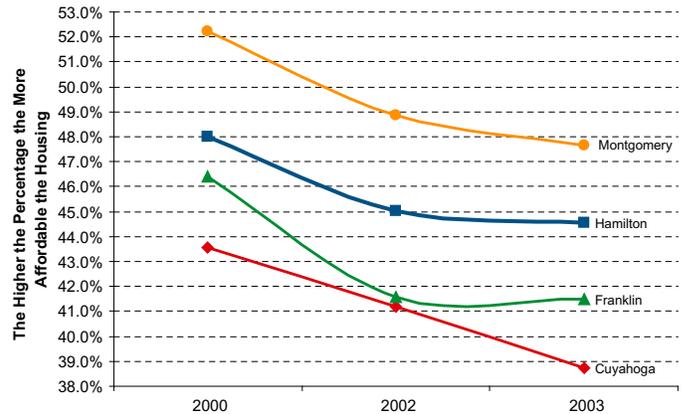
Note: Information for Clermont and Warren Counties is not available for 2002 and 2003. Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Hamilton County median income higher than peer counties

Housing is becoming less affordable in Hamilton County and peer Ohio Counties

Housing Affordability Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2003

Ohio urban counties, along with the rest of the United States, have enjoyed a housing purchasing and re-financing boom since 1997, mainly due to low interest rates. However, the percentage of people able to afford homes has decreased. Housing affordability has decreased for all Ohio's peer urban counties, but has decreased at a lesser rate in Hamilton County. Hamilton County's housing prices are still relatively low compared to many other regions in the U.S. While median home values increased \$20,000 from 2000 to 2003 in the county, median family income increased by only \$5,000.



Source: US Bureau of Census

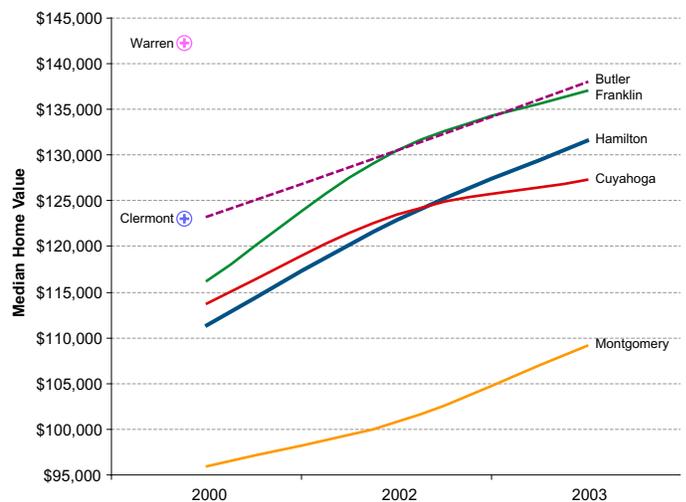
Potential home buyers with moderate incomes are finding affordable homes primarily in Cincinnati and its "first suburbs." Higher-priced homes in the Cincinnati region are increasingly being built in new suburbs outside of Hamilton County.

Housing affordability is median family income divided by median housing value. A decreasing trend line, as above, indicates that housing is becoming less affordable. Many formulas determine the threshold of "housing affordability" as being 30% of net income.

Hamilton County median home value moves into second place among urban counties

Median Home Value Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2000 - 2003

Home values for Ohio's urban counties have been steadily increasing with an average gain of \$17,000 in the short period from 2000 to 2003. Hamilton County's median home value reached \$131,500 in 2003.



Note: Information for Clermont and Warren Counties is not available for 2002 and 2003. Source: US Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

As the median value of homes increases, however, homeownership becomes more difficult for moderate to low-income households. Persons with moderate incomes (80% of median) may be able to buy housing in some neighborhoods in Cincinnati or the "first suburbs," but are unlikely to afford the latest-developing suburb. Additionally, these

moderate and low-income households often experience difficulty in reaching jobs

that are increasingly located in or near the newer suburbs.

Key Issue

Over the period of 2000 to 2003, Hamilton County has seen its median family income increase more than its urban county counterparts in Ohio. Housing prices, however, have also escalated. Those who own homes are benefiting from the recent increases in home values. For those unable to afford a home, the recent increases may put ownership further out of reach.

Percent of People Below Poverty Level in Past 12 Months Top 50 Cities, 2003

The 2003 U.S. Census American Community Survey ranked Cincinnati 16th among 50 U.S. cities with the highest percentage of residents living below the official federal poverty level. In Cincinnati (excluding the rest of Hamilton County) more than one-fifth of the residents were below the poverty level. This was second in Ohio only to Cleveland, the most impoverished city in the country, with nearly one-third of the people in poverty. Ohio has four cities within the top 35 poorest cities in the country.

Rank	City	Percent	Rank	City	Percent
1	Cleveland, OH	31.3	26	Boston, MA	19.1
2	Newark, NJ	30.4	27	New York, NY	19.0
3	Detroit, MI	30.1	28	Tucson, AZ	18.8
4	Fresno, CA	28.4	29	San Antonio, TX	18.5
5	Miami, FL	27.9	30	Lexington, KY	18.1
6	El Paso, TX	24.5	31	Minneapolis, MN	17.6
7	Long Beach, CA	24.1	31	Phoenix, AZ	17.6
8	Atlanta, GA	23.5	33	Oklahoma City, OK	17.0
8	Memphis, TN	23.5	34	Corpus Christi, TX	16.8
10	Louisville, KY	22.5	35	Columbus, OH	16.5
11	Philadelphia, PA	22.3	36	Kansas City, MO	16.4
12	Milwaukee, WI	22.1	36	Santa Ana, CA	16.4
13	Buffalo, NY	22.0	38	Pittsburgh, PA	16.1
14	St. Louis, MO	21.8	39	Austin, TX	16.0
15	Tampa, FL	21.3	40	Portland, OR	15.6
16	Cincinnati, OH	21.1	41	St. Paul, MN	15.4
17	Dallas, TX	21.0	42	Tulsa, OK	15.2
18	New Orleans, LA	20.8	43	Fort Worth, TX	14.9
19	Baltimore, MD	20.6	44	Oakland, CA	14.7
19	Stockton, CA	20.6	45	Nashville, TN	14.6
21	Houston, TX	20.3	46	San Diego, CA	14.5
21	Toledo, OH	20.3	47	Jacksonville, FL	14.2
23	Los Angeles, CA	20.1	48	St. Petersburg, FL	13.8
24	Washington, DC	19.9	49	Indianapolis, IN	13.6
25	Chicago, IL	19.3	50	Omaha, NE	13.5

Ohio and other cities used as Hamilton County comparisons in this report are highlighted.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey

One-fifth of Cincinnati residents live in poverty

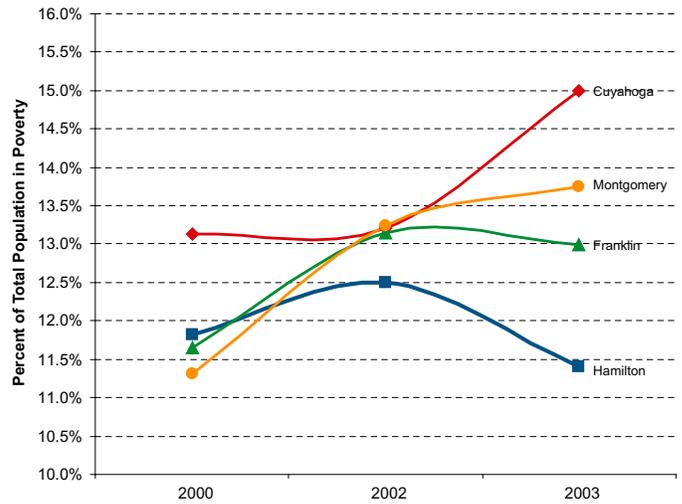
Poverty in Hamilton County less than other Ohio urban counties 

 **Key Issue**

While better off than the peer counties, Hamilton County still has sizeable pockets of poverty (e.g., one in five in Cincinnati families is poor)

Percent of Persons In Poverty Ohio Urban Counties, 2000 - 2003

Compared to other central counties in Ohio, the percent of persons in poverty is low and has even recently decreased. This could be due to various reasons, including success and wide coverage of workfare programs in Hamilton County. Hamilton County offers a host of welfare programs helping unemployed, single mothers, and unskilled to move from welfare to work. Between 1996 and 2002, the welfare case load seeking cash assistance decreased from 17,683 to 8,000. The program includes services through Hamilton County's Jobs and Family Services such as "one-stop" job search service that connects job seekers and employers. Hamilton County also benefits from service programs, such as Accountability and Credibility Together (ACT)



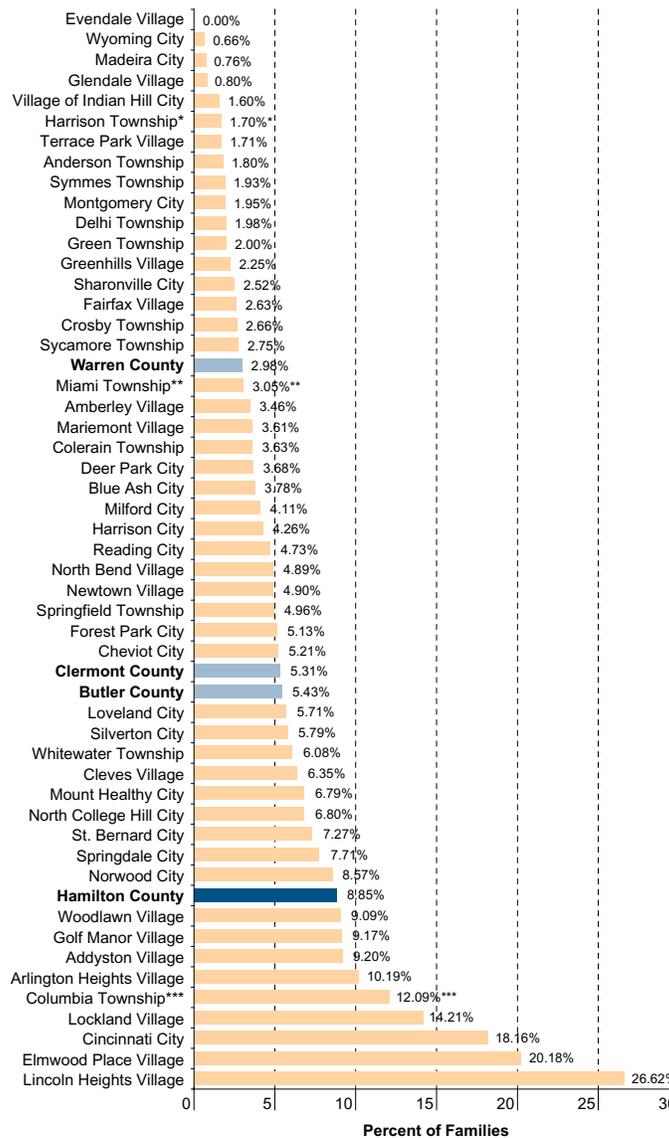
Source: US Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

that diverts possible welfare candidates to educational, job preparedness, search, and retention classes. Usually urban counties of metropolitan areas show higher levels of poverty. In this regard, Hamilton County performs better than other urban counties in Ohio.

Percent of Families in Poverty Hamilton County Municipalities and Townships, 2000

Hamilton County has a variety of communities at different poverty levels; poverty is concentrated in several communities

A variety of wealthy, middle class, and poorer communities exist in Hamilton County as the percent of families in poverty varies from fewer than 1% to almost one-third. Forty out of 49 communities show poverty levels below the county average of 8.85%. Only nine communities exceed the county poverty average, with Lincoln Heights, Elmwood Place, and Cincinnati having the greatest concentrations of poverty. Their poverty levels are more than twice the county average. In numbers, Cincinnati, with the largest population, has the highest number of poor with 12,251 families and 61,531 individuals in poverty. This follows the national trend of poverty concentrations in the central city and county of U.S. metropolitan areas. Compared to other Ohio counties in the Cincinnati metropolitan area, Hamilton County shows the highest percentage of families in poverty thanks to Cincinnati.



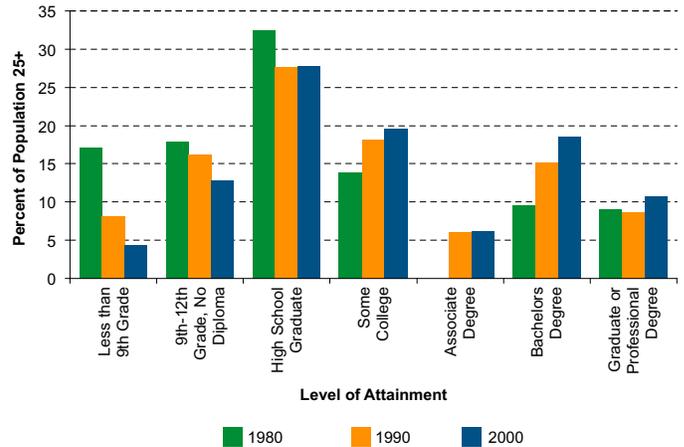
*Includes the City of Harrison
 **Includes the Villages of Addyston, Cleves and North Bend
 *** Includes Fairfax Village
 Source: 2000 US Census Bureau; SF3 Data

Overall education level in Hamilton County has steadily increased since 1980



Education Levels of Residents Aged 25 Years and Over Hamilton County, 1980, 1990, and 2000

The level of education attainment (apart from some stagnation at the high school graduate level) in Hamilton County has increased steadily over the last 20 years. While this is a very positive development, there is room for improvement. The importance of education and training for our current and future workforce cannot be overstated in our modern economy. Today's manufacturing jobs, for example, frequently demand a far higher degree of technical literacy than in the past. In fact, most manufacturing jobs today are "high tech." Although this does not necessarily mean every high school graduate needs a bachelor's degree to succeed, the message is clear



Source: US Bureau of Census

that workers will go further with some amount of post-high school education.

Additionally, our "knowledge economy" requires knowledge workers with a new mind-set of work plus continuous learning. Greater

Cincinnati requires an educated workforce that is willing to continuously learn and upgrade its skills in order to keep pace with other peer metropolitan areas (such as Pittsburgh and Columbus) that are higher ranked in education levels.

Hamilton County ranks in the middle of college enrollment among its peer counties



Percent 18 - 24 Population Enrolled In College or Graduate School Ohio Urban Counties, 2000

Greater Cincinnati sits squarely in the middle of a group of seven peer metropolitan regions in the number of young adults attending college. The percentage of 18-24 year olds enrolled in college or graduate school in Hamilton County, at 36%, falls behind Allegheny and Franklin Counties and just slightly less than Montgomery County.

Hamilton County's middle-of-the-pack situation might be explained by the number, size and quality of the universities and colleges in each area. The Pittsburgh area is particularly rich

Metro Area	Central County	Central City
Columbus, OH MSA 39.7	Franklin County, OH 43.3	Columbus City, OH 45.4
Dayton-Springfield, OH MSA 39.9	Montgomery County, OH 37.6	Dayton City, OH 47.9
Cincinnati--Hamilton, OH--KY--IN CMSA 34.3	Hamilton County, OH 36.4	Cincinnati City, OH 40.7
Cleveland--Akron, OH CMSA 31.8	Cuyahoga County, OH 30.2	Cleveland City, OH 22.6

Note: A CMSA or Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area contains more than one Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Cincinnati - Hamilton CMSA includes the Cincinnati MSA and the Hamilton-Middletown MSA.

Source: Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission; US Census Bureau

in colleges and universities, and the Columbus area is home to Ohio State University, the largest university in the state system. Higher education is more important than ever for

individual career success and continued economic development in our region.

School District Ratings Hamilton County, 2001 - 2005

In order to measure school and school district achievement, the Ohio Department of Education administers annual academic proficiency tests. A school district can be placed into one of five rating categories based on student test scores and other performance measurements.

In Hamilton County, the number of *Excellent* (top-performing) school districts has remained steady over the last four years. Districts ranked *Effective* increased as performance in some schools improved, moving them out of the *Continuous Improvement* category. In the last

Rating	Number of Districts Receiving Rating				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Excellent	7	8	8	9	8
Effective	1	3	2	4	7
Continuous Improvement	13	9	9	7	7
Academic Watch	1	1	2	2	0
Academic Emergency	0	1	1	0	0

Source: Ohio Department of Education

school year, no district was ranked *Academic Emergency* and only two were on *Academic Watch*.

While overall district rankings are easy to understand, they mask a great deal of the total education picture in the county. In the 2004 school year, 13 districts received high ranking compared with

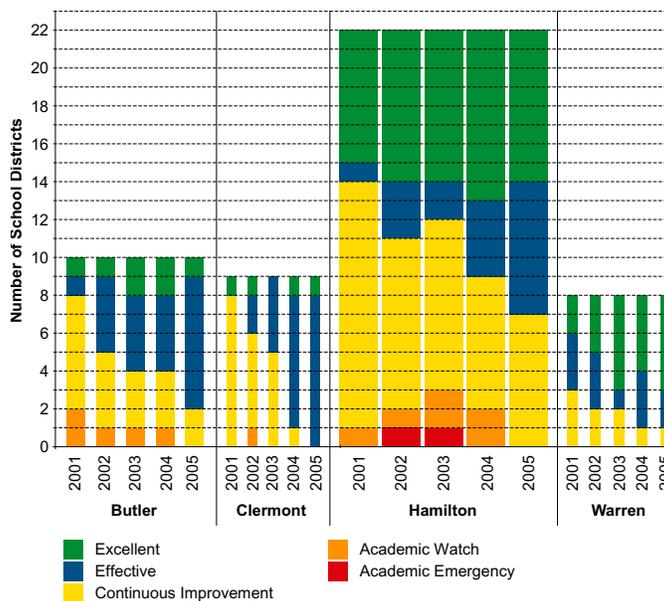
only two that received lower ranking. However, one of the lower-ranked districts is the largest school district - Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS). CPS's advancement from *Academic Emergency* to *Continuous Improvement* in 2005 is a noteworthy achievement.



Fifteen of Hamilton County's 22 school districts ranked *Excellent* or *Effective*. All others are under *Continuous Improvement*.

School District Ratings Neighboring Counties, 2001 - 2005

The quality of local school districts is an important factor when people choose where to live and raise a family. Of Hamilton County's 22 school districts, 15 are currently in the top two rating categories (eight are rated as *Excellent* and seven rated as *Effective*). School districts have shown steady progress in recent years both in terms of the number of districts in the top rating categories and in the reduction of districts on *Academic Watch* or *Academic Emergency*. These ratings are based on overall student achievement as measured by the Ohio Department of Education's standardized examinations. With approximately 110,000 students in 205 different schools,



Note: Bar width reflects total enrollment by county.
Source: Ohio Department of Education

Hamilton County's public school system is responsible for educating the majority of

students in the metropolitan area.



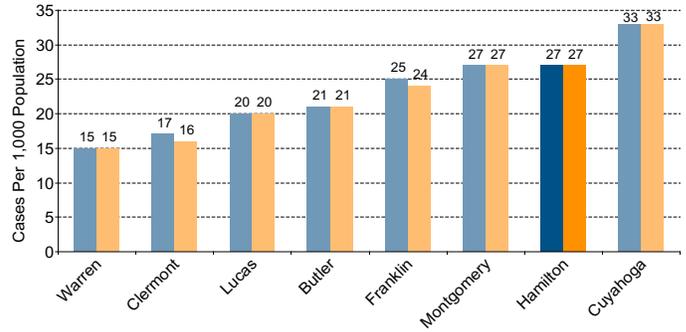
An increasing number of Hamilton County school districts are rated in the *Excellent* or *Effective* category

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas (General and Juvenile Divisions) process among the highest number of cases per citizen

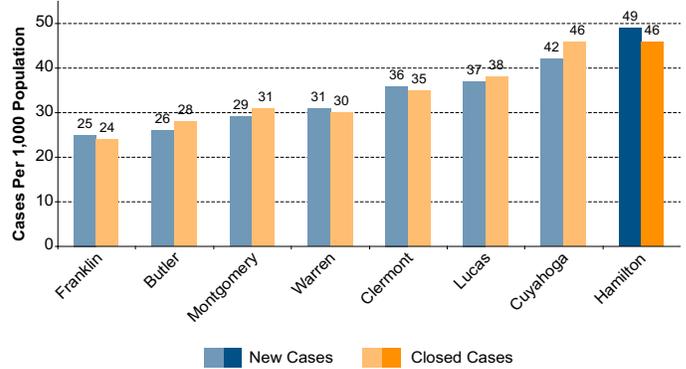
Court of Common Pleas Cases Per 1,000 Population Neighboring and Urban Counties in Ohio, 2003

The Court of Common Pleas in Hamilton County has multiple divisions. The General Division handles criminal and a variety of civil cases. The Juvenile Court Division handles cases related to individuals under 18 on such issues as delinquency, custody and child support. Other divisions include Domestic Relations and Probate Courts. The charts show the comparison between the total number of cases that entered the court in 2003 and the number of cases that were closed. New cases include those that are new filings, transfers from elsewhere and reactivations of previously closed cases. Cases are closed in a variety of ways that includes jury or bench trials, dismissals, transfers, diversion, etc.

Court of Common Pleas General Division 2003



Juvenile Court 2003



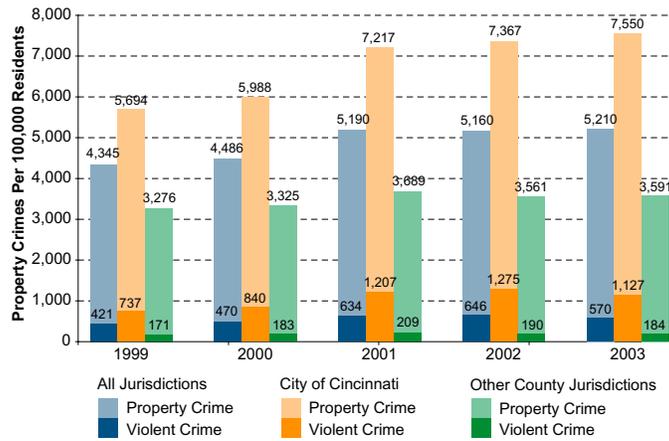
Source: County Court Systems.

Crime Per 100,000 Residents Hamilton County, 1999 - 2003

Violent crime spiked in 2001 and 2002 in Hamilton County (dark blue), and particularly in the City of Cincinnati (dark orange), but has begun to fall again in 2003. The data presented to the right indicates the trend began to reverse in 2002 for those parts of the county outside the City of Cincinnati. Property crime also increased dramatically in 2001, but the trend has continued to grow through 2003.



While violent crime is down in 2003, crime rates have yet to return to pre-2001 levels



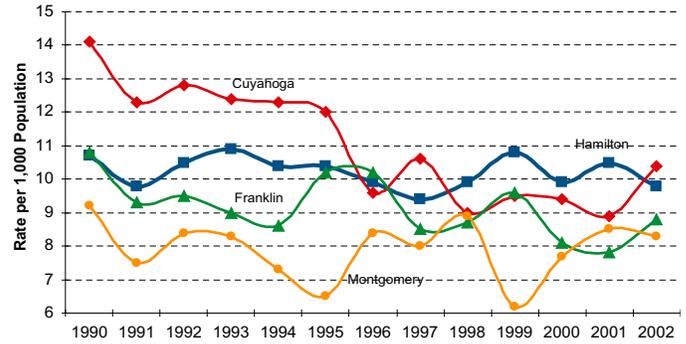
Note: Violent crime includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Bar values represent a ratio.
 Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

Infant mortality rate is higher than in other Ohio urban counties in four of the last five years



Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births Ohio Urban Counties, 1990 - 2002

Several community groups have been examining Hamilton County's high infant mortality rate and numerous programs – such as Every Child Succeeds, Healthy Moms and Babies, and Help Me Grow – have tried to turn the trend around. In 2002, for the first time since 1998, Hamilton County moved from highest infant death rate among Ohio's major population counties, to second highest, behind Cuyahoga County. The primary cause of infant death is premature birth. Many factors are linked to premature birth, including



Source: Ohio Department of Health

some that are preventable such as poor nutrition, drug abuse and lack of prenatal care. Of special concern is the high rate of infant mortality among

African-Americans. In 2003, 56% of the deaths from prematurity occurred to African-American children.

Key Issue

Hamilton County's high infant mortality rate is a warning sign about the health of our population. The high rate continues to confound experts in the field despite efforts to change it.

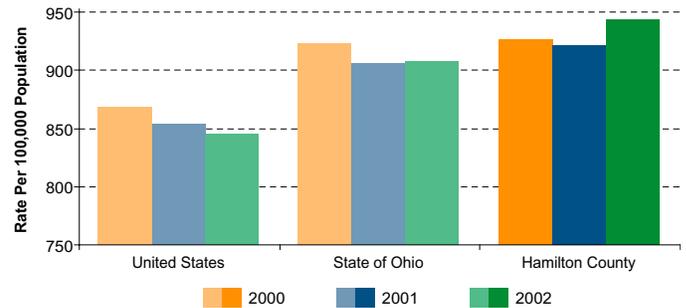
Hamilton County death rate is higher than Ohio and U.S.



Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population Hamilton County, State of Ohio, and U.S., 2000 - 2002

A total of 8,513 Hamilton County residents died in 2002, the most recent year for which statistics are available. The overall age-adjusted mortality rate was 943 per 100,000.

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate



Source: Hamilton County General Health District

Note: The un-adjusted rate is determined by dividing the number of deaths by the population and multiplying by 100,000. Age is the most important factor in mortality, so to calculate the death rate when comparing one population with another, you have to account for their differences in age distribution. A formula is used to calculate an age-adjusted death rate. The formula is based on a standard U.S. population for the year 2000. For example, if a county has a greater proportion of people over age 75 than is standard in the United States, then the county's over-75 age group is given less weight when calculating its mortality rate.

For many years, the leading cause of death has been cardiovascular disease, followed by cancer, with lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths.

Key Issue

Hamilton County has higher un-adjusted and age-adjusted mortality rates than the state of Ohio and the U.S.

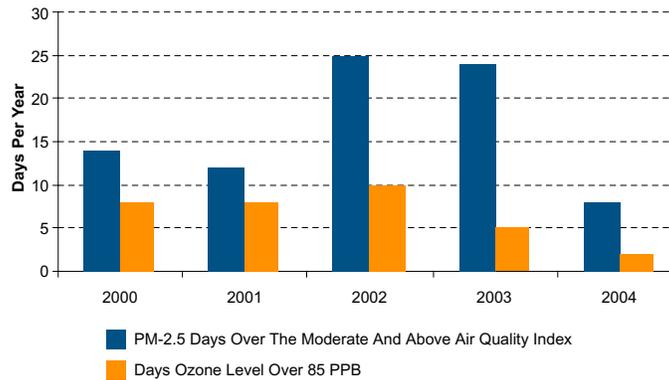
Air Quality

Hamilton County, 2000 - 2004

PM-2.5 Moderate and Above Exceedances

Particulate Matter (PM) is the term for very small solid or liquid particles found in the air. It would take about 30 PM-2.5 particles to reach the thickness of a human hair. Research has found that PM-2.5 has the ability to reach the extreme lower regions of the respiratory tract. PM-2.5 affects the respiratory system in people and animals, especially older adults and young children's developing lungs. Particulates that have high acid levels can cause damage to man-made materials and reduce visibility.

Hamilton County is in nonattainment of the annual PM-2.5 air quality standard. PM-2.5 levels are monitored at 12 sites throughout out southwestern Ohio. The chart illustrates the days per year that at least one monitor recorded a value that exceeded the moderate air quality index for PM-2.5. The 24-hour standard for PM-2.5 of 65 micrograms per cubic meter has not been exceeded anywhere in Ohio. We are only in nonattainment for the annual standard of 15 micrograms per cubic meter.



Source: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

Ozone Exceedances

In the stratosphere, ozone is useful as it shields us from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Near the ground, however, ozone is a harmful air pollutant that can cause choking, damage to the lungs and increase vulnerability to respiratory infections, especially among the young and the elderly. This graph charts the number of days per year that ozone exceeds the eight-hour ozone standard of 85 parts per billion (PPB).

Ohio Counties Comparison

In the State of Ohio, the top four counties, which exceed the PM-2.5 standard, are Montgomery, Cuyahoga, Jefferson and Hamilton for 2002 to 2004.

For ozone exceedances, the top 12 counties are 1. Geauga, 2. Ashtabula, 3. Franklin (tie), Lake (tie), Trumbull (tie), Clinton (tie), Warren (tie), 8. Butler (tie), Hamilton (tie), Summit (tie), Portage (tie), and Lucas (tie).



Cooler, wetter weather helps reduce summertime ozone levels. 2004 was cooler and wetter than normal

Summary Table

* Progress Key

 Indicates general improvement in the area of measurement.

 Indicates neither improvement nor decline in the area of measurement.

 Indicates general decline in the area of measurement.

 Data not available.

The Hamilton County Report Card is available online at www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov.

County Performance Measures	Page	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	*
Sales Tax Receipts and Inflation (Difference) (\$)	5	0	-3.3 M	-3 M	-4.7 M	-3.3 M	
General Fund Expenditures and Expenditures at Inflation (Difference) (\$)	9	0	3.7 M	0.2 M	-1.0 M	-7.5 M	
Annual Employee Turnover Rate	11			10.5%	13.1%	11.8%	
Workers' Compensation Rate (59% in '05)	11					58%	
Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect	12	30.5	31.1	32.2	28.9	27.0	
Substantiated / Indicated Child Abuse	12			21.2	17.9	13.0	
Children Entering Substitute Care	12	7.9	8.9	7.2	6.4	6.0	
Welfare Recipients	13	25.5	24.9	25.3	25.2	26.1	
Medicaid Recipients	13	60.1	64.1	72.1	78.7	87.3	
Food Stamp Recipients	13	104.5	121.5	138.3	145.2	151.0	
Collections on Child Support Orders	15			62.2%	62.6%	64.5%	
9-1-1 Answering and Response: Seconds from Call Answered to Dispatch of EMS	16		69.3	67	67.1	72.2	
9-1-1 Answering and Response: Seconds from Call Answered to Dispatch of Fire	16		83.8	74	73.7	77.4	
9-1-1 Answering and Response: Seconds from Call Answered to Dispatch of Police	16		157.7	130.5	156.8	161.6	

Community Indicators	Page	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	*
Percent Change in Population	17		-0.76%	-1.02%	-0.93%	-0.97%	↓
Percent Change in Total Employment	18	2.9%	-2.4%	-6.0%			↓
Business Starts	18	2,188	2,408	2,306			■
Unemployment Rate	19	3.7	3.9	5.4	5.3	5.6	↓
Total Business Establishments	19	24,896	24,703	23,945			↓
Ratio of Jobs to Labor Force	21	1.57	1.55	1.53	1.51		■
Median Family Income (\$)	21	53,449		55,350	58,566		↑
Housing Affordability	22	48.0%		45.0%	44.5%		↓
Median Home Value (\$)	22	111,400		122,897	131,513		↑
Percent of Persons In Poverty	24	11.8%		12.5%	11.4%		↑
Percent of School Districts Rated <i>Excellent or Effective</i> (2005 = 68%)	27	23%	36%	50%	45%	59%	↑
Violent Crimes per 100,000 Residents - All Jurisdictions	29	470	634	646	570		↓
Property Crimes per 100,000 Residents - All Jurisdictions	29	4,486	5,190	5,160	5,210		↓
Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Births	30	9.9	10.5	9.8			■
Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population	30	926.5	921.2	943.2			↓
Air Quality: PM-2.5 Days Over Moderate and Above Air Quality Index	31	14	12	25	24	8	↑
Air Quality: Days Ozone Level Over 85 PPB	31	8	8	10	5	2	↑



**Hamilton County
Board of County Commissioners**

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