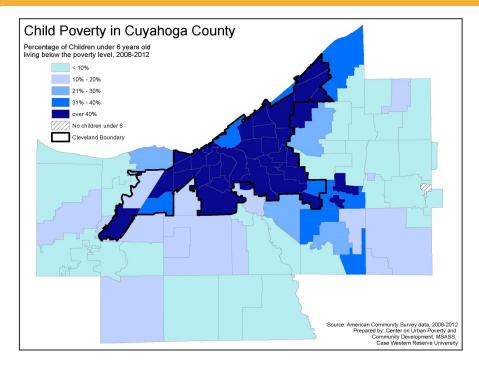
County Child Poverty

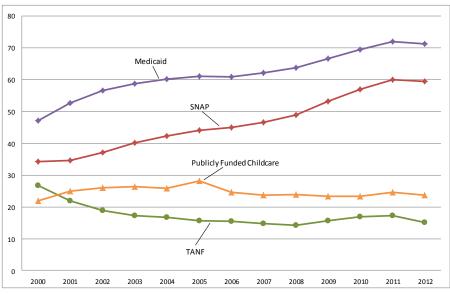
Pamily income is one of the strongest predictors of child well-being. The effects of poverty on early childhood development are well documented, including higher rates of health and cognitive impairments, and emotional and behavioral difficulties¹. Since 2000, poverty rates among children in Cuyahoga County increased by nearly 40% (see Table 1 on p. 2). Poverty among young children has been on the rise nationally; however, increases in Cuyahoga County and the state of Ohio are higher than the national increase of 32% since 2000.

Currently, nearly one third of children under six in Cuyahoga County live below the federal poverty level (FPL; see Table 1 on p. 2). The FPL reflects a basic subsistence level for families adjusted for family size and inflation. In 2012, an income level of \$19,090 for a family of three was set as the cut-off for "poverty level."



The poverty rate in the city of Cleveland is higher than the rate for Cuyahoga County, over 40% in some neighborhoods (see Map above). This amount of concentrated poverty (defined as 40% of the tract population living below the FPL) though disturbing, is not surprising, as Cleveland has consistently ranked among the poorest cities in the nation over the last decade. Countywide, suburban poverty has increased as well; within the last 10 years, 75% of Cleveland's suburbs experienced an increase in their poverty rate². Cuyahoga County ranks 20th out of 88 counties in the state of Ohio in child poverty.

Percent of Children under Six Receiving Public Assistance, Cuyahoga County



Data Source: Cuyahoga County Department of Employment and Family Services.

Poverty statistics only describe families falling below the FPL, but many others are living with limited resources. As a result, guidelines for federal safety net programs have higher thresholds for benefits. For example, families may qualify for Ohio's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, "food stamps") if their gross monthly income is at or below 130% of the FPL. As financial difficulty and public assistance go hand in hand, receipt of benefits like SNAP have increased for children under six in the County (see adjacent line graph). For the past 2 years, approximately 60% of children six and under received SNAP benefits and over 70% received Medicaid at some point in the year. However, as shown in Table 2 (see p. 2), many more children received public assistance for part of the year, than the entire year.

Financially struggling families with children presents a call to action. Failure to act will deepen a set of economic factors that have plagued the region for decades.









Child Poverty

Table 1. Percent of Children Under Six in Poverty, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and U.S.

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	Cuyahoga County		State	of Ohio	United States							
Year	% Poor	90% CI	% Poor	90% CI	% Poor	90% CI						
2000	22.9	17.8 - 28.0	17.4	15.7 - 19.0	19.3	19.0 - 19.6						
2001	24.2	18.4 - 29.9	18.6	17.1 - 20.0	18.6	18.3 - 18.9						
2002	22.9	18.3 - 27.4	20.0	18.6 - 21.4	19.7	19.3 - 20.0						
2003	21.3	16.9 - 25.7	21.4	20.1 - 22.7	20.2	19.9 - 20.5						
2004	20.1	15.7 - 24.4	22.1	20.4 - 23.7	20.8	20.5 - 21.1						
2005	27.9	24.9 - 30.9	22.3	21.5 - 23.2	21.0	20.8 - 21.2						
2006	22.9	20.6 - 25.3	22.4	21.7 - 23.3	20.8	20.6 - 20.9						
2007	27.6	24.6 - 30.5	21.7	20.9 - 22.6	20.5	20.4 - 20.7						
2008	25.0	22.7 - 27.3	22.7	21.9 - 23.5	20.9	20.7 - 21.1						
2009	29.7	27.4 - 31.9	26.3	25.6 - 27.1	22.9	22.7 - 23.1						
2010	33.2	30.7 - 35.7	28.2	27.4 - 29.0	24.8	24.6 - 25.0						
2011	31.2	28.9 - 33.5	29.5	28.7 - 30.3	25.6	25.4 - 25.8						
2012	31.7	29.5 - 33.9	28.3	27.3 - 29.1	25.5	25.3 - 25.7						

Data Source: American Community Survey 2000 to 2012, Detailed Tables.

Table 2. Number of Children Under Six Receiving Public Assistance, Cuyahoga County

	Medicaid		Food Stamps		Childcare Vouchers		TANF	
Year	Monthly Average	Unduplicated Annual Total						
2000	36,432	51,814	24,938	37,801	12,629	24,192	17,226	29,502
2001	42,269	56,966	24,420	37,394	15,068	27,010	12,014	23,663
2002	45,843	59,963	26,388	39,395	15,445	27,651	10,437	19,972
2003	47,222	61,158	29,169	41,742	15,398	27,411	9,508	18,017
2004	47,510	61,308	30,654	43,114	13,407	26,346	8,884	16,958
2005	46,914	61,007	31,316	44,010	12,358	28,142	8,118	15,656
2006	45,793	59,569	31,163	44,074	12,511	24,096	7,855	15,137
2007	45,300	59,552	31,196	44,737	11,936	22,767	7,456	14,192
2008	45,479	59,878	32,320	45,892	11,825	22,412	6,817	13,277
2009	47,294	61,137	35,627	48,830	11,525	21,352	7,753	14,398
2010	49,580	62,395	38,509	51,160	12,164	20,957	8,763	15,234
2011	50,645	63,737	40,196	53,117	11,503	21,684	8,716	15,212
2012	50,245	63,406	39,881	52,816	10,736	21,132	6,876	13,367

Data Source: Cuyahoga County Department of Employment and Family Services.

¹See The Connecticut Commission on Children (2004) Children and the long-term effects of poverty. http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/pdfs/poverty/2004_poverty_report.pdf

²See Piiparinen, R. and Coulton, C. (2012) briefly Stated: The changing face of poverty in Northeast Ohio http://blog.case.edu/msass/2012/01/19/report_the_changing_face_of_poverty_in_northeast_ohio.html

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