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Henry County, Ohio

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Civic Participation

Civic participation includes a wide range of activities. Examples include voting, volunteering, and participating in group activities. Some are individual activities that benefit society (e.g., voting) or group activities that benefit either the group members (e.g., recreational softball teams) or society (e.g., volunteer organizations).

Measures of Civic Participation | Social Capital

U.S. News and World Report produced a Social Capital Score that combines a measurement of nonprofits with voter participation.

- **Nonprofit Rate**: the number of social services organizations with 501(c)(3) status per 100,000 total population (2018; Internal Revenue Service)
- **Voter Participation Rate**: the number of votes cast in the 2016 presidential election as a percentage of total voting-age citizens (2016, Townhall.com/GitHub, U.S. Census Bureau)

The nonprofit rate and the voter participation rate is combined to create the Social Capital Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher civic participation.

Henry County had the second highest Social Capital Score among itself and neighboring counties at 53.4.
- Putnam County was the only county with a higher score at 54.3.
- Lucas County had the lowest score at 40.5.

**Figure 1.1** County Rankings on the Social Capital Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
Discrimination
The Oxford dictionary defines *discrimination* as the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex and *equity* as the quality of being fair and impartial. Therefore, we will employ U.S. News and World Report measures of four domains of equity; Education, Health, Income, and Social to paint a picture of possible discrimination evident in our local area.

Measures of Discrimination | Educational Equity
- **Racial Disparity in Educational Attainment**: The relative difference across racial/ethnic groups in attainment of a bachelor’s degree or higher by adults 25 and older. The following population subgroups are used in the calculation: non-Hispanic White; Hispanic; and Black. (2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates; U.S. Census Bureau)
- **Neighborhood Disparity in Educational Attainment**: The relative difference in attainment of a bachelor’s degree or higher by adults 25 and older across census block groups (2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates; U.S. Census Bureau)

The racial disparity in educational attainment measure and neighborhood disparity in educational attainment measure are combined to create an Educational Equity Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher educational equity.

Henry County scored 74 points out of 100 and the third highest among neighboring communities.
- The top-ranking county was Fulton County with a score of 77.
- The lowest ranking county was Lucas County with a score of 42.

**Educational Equity Score**
(neighborhood disparity in educational attainment + racial disparity in educational attainment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fulton County, OH</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam County, OH</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry County, OH</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulding County, OH</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams County, OH</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance County, OH</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock County, OH</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood County, OH</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas County, OH</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.2** County Rankings on the Educational Equity Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
Measures of Discrimination | Health Equity

- **Air Toxics Exposure Disparity Index Score**: The relative difference in air pollution exposure across racial/ethnic population groups. The following four racial/ethnic categories are included: non-Hispanic White; Hispanic; Black; and Other race. (2014; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- **Premature Death Disparity Index Score**: The disparity in deaths that occur before age 65 across racial/ethnic groups. The following population subgroups are used in the calculation: non-Hispanic White; Hispanic; and Black. (2010-2016; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The air toxics exposure disparity index score and premature death disparity index score are combined to create a Health Equity Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher health equity.

Henry County had a Health Equity Score of 86 out of 100. Three neighboring counties had scores higher and five had scores lower.
- The highest score was given to Wood County with 94 out of 100.
- The lowest score was given to Lucas County with 47 out of 100.

**Figure 1.3** County Rankings on the Health Equity Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
Measures of Discrimination | Income Equity

- **Gini Index Score**: Income inequality index score (2012-2016 ACS 5-year est.; U.S. Census Bureau)
- **Racial Disparity in Poverty**: Relative difference in poverty rates across racial/ethnic population groups. The following population subgroups are used in the calculation: non-Hispanic White; Hispanic; and Black. (2012-2016 ACS 5-year est.; U.S. Census Bureau)
- **Neighborhood Disparity in Poverty**: Relative difference in poverty rates across census tracts (2012-2016 ACS 5-year est.; U.S. Census Bureau)

The Gini Index score, racial disparity in poverty measure and neighborhood disparity in poverty measure are combined to create an Income Equity Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher income equity.

Henry County’s Income Equity Score fell in the middle of neighboring counties at 70 out of 100.
- The highest rated county was Putnam County with a 90 out of 100.
- The lowest rated county was Lucas County with a 20 out of 100.

**Figure 1.4** County Rankings on the Income Equity Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
 Measures of Discrimination | Social Equity

- **Disability Employment Gap**: The relative disparity in unemployment rates between the total population and the disabled population (2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates; U.S. Census Bureau)
- **Segregation Index Score**: Racial segregation using the Theil Index. Population groups used in the measurement are non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic. (2010, U.S. Census Bureau)

The disability employment gap and segregation index score are combined to create a Social Equity Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher social equity.

Henry County had the second lowest Social Equity Score among neighboring counties at 56 out of 100.
- The lowest score was given to Putnam County—46 out of 100.
- The highest score was given to Defiance County—84 out of 100.

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**Figure 1.5** County Rankings on the Social Equity Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
Measures of Discrimination | Equity
Combining all the above scores—education equity, health equity, income equity, and social equity—provides an overall measure operationalized as an Equity Score. The Equity Score ranges from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating higher equity.

Henry County was in the bottom half of neighboring counties with a score of 71 out of 100.
- Paulding County had the highest equity score at 80 out of 100.
- Lucas County had the lowest equity score at only 31 out of 100.

Figure 1.6 County Rankings on the Equity Score Among Henry County and its Neighboring Counties. Data Source: U.S. News and World Report Healthiest Communities, 2019 Rankings, Copyright 2019 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.
Health Factor 1 | Social & Community Context

Incarceration

Why is it important to consider incarceration when investigating health? Consistently, research indicates a strong relationship between the two factors at the individual, family, state, and county-level.

...higher levels of incarceration are associated with higher levels of both morbidity (percentage reporting fair or poor health) and mortality (life expectancy).

~Weidner & Schultz, 2019

Measures of Incarceration | Number of Prison Commitments

To examine this factor in our local area we will rely on total prison commitment data from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction.

- **Prison Commitment.** The act of sending a person charged with a crime to prison.

From 2011-2014, the number of prison commitments in Henry County were relatively stable ranging from 36-42 per year.

- Since 2014 there have been two consecutive years of reductions in the number of commitments. 2016 had the lowest total in the six years in which data are available at 19.

![Figure 1.7 Trend in the Total Number of Prison Commitments per Year for Henry County, 2011-2016. Data Source: https://drc.ohio.gov/County-Metrics](https://drc.ohio.gov/County-Metrics)
Measures of Incarceration | Prison Commitment Rate

Prison counts were standardized to a rate per 10,000 population.

- In the most recent data available (2016), Henry County had the lowest prison commitment rate of 6.8 per 10,000 population.
- Defiance County had the highest at 23.6 commitments per 10,000 population in 2016.

**Figure 1.8** County Rankings in Prison Commitment Rate per 10,000 Population for Henry County and its Neighboring Counties, 2016. Data Source: [https://drc.ohio.gov/County-Metrics](https://drc.ohio.gov/County-Metrics); U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016, ACS 5-Year Estimates
Social Cohesion

- **Social cohesion**: the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community (Kawachi & Berkman, 2000).

Healthy People 2020 emphasizes the role of relationships—conceptualized via social cohesion, social capital, social networks, and social support—and their role in physical health and psychosocial well-being. They do this without directly identifying specific types of relationships and/or groups, organizations, or institutions recognized as sources of cohesion, capital, networks and support. Therefore, in this section dedicated to social cohesion we will provide information on families, relationships, and institutions such as churches—sources of social cohesion identified by both researchers and the population of Henry County.

- Marriage, Divorce & Cohabitation
- Family Structure & Living Arrangements
- Religion & Religiosity
- Citizenship
Measures of Social Cohesion | Marriage, Divorce & Cohabitation

Adjusted Marriage and Divorce Rates

The adjusted marriage rate and adjusted divorce rate provide a more refined way of measuring marital behavior each year within a given population than the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) published crude rates. The NVSS rate includes the ENTIRE population in the denominator, whereas in the adjusted rates only those individuals at risk of marrying or divorcing are in the denominator. Nationally, the adjusted marriage rate is at a stable, but all-time low (Allred, 2019). The adjusted divorce rate is at a forty-year low, reaching levels last observed in 1970 (Allred, 2019b).

In 2016, the marriage rate in Henry County, Ohio was 34.2 per 1,000 currently single women. This rate was slightly higher than the rate in 2010 when it was 32.8. Henry County’s rate was also higher than the overall state adjusted marriage rate of 27.6.

- Henry County’s adjusted divorce rate in 2016 was 13.2 divorce per 1,000 married women. This represents a decline of over three divorce since 2010 when the rate was 16.5. While the divorce rate for the state of Ohio has also fallen since 2010, it has not done so as quickly as Henry County’s rate and was slightly higher than Henry County’s in 2016 at 15.0.

**Figure 1.9** Trend in the Adjusted Marriage Rate for Ohio and Henry County, Ohio, 2010 & 2016.

Data Sources: NCFMR @BGSU, Data Compass; Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2016; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2010, 2016

**Figure 1.10** Trend in the Adjusted Divorce Rate for Ohio and Henry County, Ohio, 2010 & 2016
Marital Status

It used to be that most adult Americans were married—In 1960, 72 percent of adults were currently married. In 2018, slightly less than half were. Nearly all the reduction is due to an increasing share who are never married. In 1960, only about one-in-ten adults (9%) were never-married, in 2018 one-third have never tied the knot.

- In Henry County, 56% of adults are currently married and one-quarter are never married.
- Compared to neighboring counties, Henry is in the middle of the pack. Putnam County had the highest share married at 62% and the smallest share never married at 23%. Lucas County had the smallest share married at only 42%. Wood County had the largest share never married at 37%.

![Figure 1.11 County Rankings in Marital Status for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](image-url)
Cohabitation

While marriage rates are at an all-time low, and the share of adults never married are at an all-time high, the U.S. has also experienced a boom in cohabitation. Cohabitation is when a couple are in a romantic relationship and share a residence. Since 1995 the share of cohabiting households in the U.S. has more than doubled (Hemez, 2019). Furthermore, the share of women to have ever cohabited has also increased dramatically. In 1987 only one-third of women aged 19-44 had ever cohabited. By 2013 that share had nearly doubled to 64% (Hemez & Manning, 2017).

- In 2018 7.2% of households in Henry County were cohabiting (or unmarried partner) households. This is slightly higher than the national average of 6.2% and the state average of 6.7%.
- Among neighboring counties, Henry County is in the middle of the pack. Lucas County has the highest share at 7.8% whereas Putnam County has the lowest at 4.5%.

Figure 1.12 County Rankings in Unmarried Partner Households for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
There is variation in the share of individuals cohabiting by the age of the householder. Cohabitation is more prevalent among those at younger ages.

- Among householders between the ages of 18 and 34, the share cohabiting in Henry County (18%) is greater than that at the state level (13%) and the national level (10%).
- Among those between the ages of 35-64 similar shares were cohabiting—regardless of geographic level—about 6%.
- Nearly 2% nationally and statewide were in cohabiting households among those aged 65 and older. However, less than one percent were in Henry County.

**Figure 1.13** Age Variation in the Percentage of Unmarried Partner Households by Age for Henry County, Ohio & the U.S., 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Measures of Social Cohesion | Family Structure & Living Arrangements

Children’s Living Arrangements | Cohabiting Households

As the share of cohabiting households has increased, so too has the share of children living in cohabiting households in the U.S. Recent estimates indicate 59% of young adult parents had their first child before their first marriage (Hemez, 2018). Further, the majority of those births are to women in cohabiting relationships as opposed to single women (Manning, Brown, & Stykes, 2015).

- The share of children living in a household in Henry County in which the householder was in a cohabiting relationship increased between 2010 and 2018 from 7% to 12%.
- This percentage is higher than the national average of 8% and the state average of 9%.
- Henry County has the second highest percentage among neighboring counties, second only to Fulton County with 13% of children living in a cohabiting household. Putnam County has the smallest share at only 3%.

Figure 1.14 Trend in the Percentage of Children Living in Unmarried Partner Households for Henry County, Ohio, 2010 & 2018

Figure 1.15 County Rankings in Percentage of Children Living in Unmarried Partner Households for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Children’s Living Arrangements | Married-Couple Households

The share of Henry County children living in a married-couple family household has declined from 2010 to 2018.

- In 2010 three-fourths of children were living in a married-couple family household. By 2018 the share dropped to 65%.
- The share among Henry County children is comparable to the state and nation (63% and 66%, respectively). However, compared to neighboring counties, Henry County is on the low end.
- Shares range dramatically among neighboring counties at about half of children living in a married-couple family household in Lucas County to a high of 82% among children in Putnam County.

**Figure 1.16** Trend in the Percentage of Children Living in a Married-Couple Family Household for Henry County, Ohio, 2010 & 2018

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 1.17** County Rankings in Percentage of Children Living in Married-Couple Family Households for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018
Children’s Living Arrangements | Grandparent Headed Households

Another recent and significant change in children’s living arrangements are the share living with their grandparents. These households may or may not have the grandchild’s parent present.

- Between 2010 and 2018, across all levels of geography, there have been increases in the share of children living in a grandparent headed household.
- In Henry County, the share increased from 4.8% to 6.2% from 2010 to 2018.
- Henry County has a slightly smaller share living in a grandparent-headed household compared to the state (7.2%) and the nation (7.9%).

Figure 1.18 Trend in the Percentage of Children Living in Grandparent Headed Households for Henry County, Ohio, & the U.S., 2010 & 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
• The grandparents were most often responsible for younger children—46% were under the age of 6. Only about 15% were between the ages of 12 and 17.

Figure 1.19 Percentage of Children Living in a Grandparent Headed Household by Age Group for Henry County, Ohio, 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

• Henry County has also experienced an increase in the share of grandparents who were responsible for their resident grandchild(ren). In 2010, 38% were responsible, whereas in 2018 half (51%) were.

Figure 1.20 Trend in the Percentage of Grandparents who are responsible for Grandchildren Living in their Households for Henry County, Ohio, 2010 & 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Children’s Living Arrangements | Foster Care

Foster care (also known as out-of-home care) is a temporary service provided by States for children who cannot live with their families. Children in foster care may live with relatives or with unrelated foster parents. Foster care can also refer to placement settings such as group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, and supervised independent living (https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/foster-care/).

The rate of children in foster care is among the population under age 18. Children are categorized as being in foster care if they entered prior to the end of the current fiscal year and have not been discharged from their latest foster care spell by the end of the current fiscal year. The Kids Count estimates come from Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Statewide, 10 out of every 1,000 children received a foster care placement in 2018. The rate in Henry County was less than half the state at 4.5 out of 1,000 children.

- Henry County’s 2018 rate represents the lowest since 2012. The highest rate was seen in 2015 with 7.3 children per 1,000.
- Lucas County had the highest foster care rate among neighboring counties at 13.6 children per 1,000.
- Paulding County did not have any child placements on record in 2018.

**Figure 1.21** Trend in the Rate of Children in Foster Care for Henry County, Ohio, 2012-2018.

**Figure 1.22** County Rankings in the Rate of Children in Foster Care for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties & Ohio, 2018.

Data Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center
Adult’s Living Arrangements | Living Alone

An aspect of social cohesion of great concern is really an indicator of a lack of social cohesion, otherwise known as social isolation and loneliness. Many studies and articles find clear links between social isolation and loneliness to health, particularly among the elderly. More information can be found here:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK537897/
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2019/05/ce-corner-isolation

Measures of isolation and loneliness are hard to come by at the county/local level, but we do have estimates of the percentage of adults living alone, which may be considered a broad indicator.

- Compared to the nation’s share of 14%, Henry County had a similar share of adults living alone at 13%. However, the share in Ohio was slightly higher at 16%.
- Compared to neighboring counties, Henry County was at the lower end—close to Putnam & Fulton counties with the lowest share (12%).
- Lucas County had the highest share at 18%.

Figure 1.23 County Rankings in the Percentage of Adults Living Alone for Henry County, its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
There is age variation in the share living alone—as age increases, so too does the percentage living alone.

- Only 4% of Henry County householders aged 18-34 lived alone in 2018 compared to 9% statewide and 7% nationally.
- Among those aged 35-64, 11% of Henry County householders were living alone, whereas 14% of Ohioans and 12% of all Americans were.
- Those in the oldest age group had the largest share with 27% of householders age 65 and older living alone in Henry County.

**Figure 1.24** Percentage of Adults Living Alone by Age Group for Henry County, Ohio, 2018 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Measures of Social Cohesion | Religion & Religiosity

Religious Adherence Rate

- In 2010 (the most recent data available), Henry County had the second highest religious adherence rate among neighboring counties at 67%.
- Putnam County had the highest religious adherence rate at 79%.
- Williams County had the lowest rate at 41%.

**Average Weekly Attendance**

- In 2010 Henry County was tied with Fulton County for the largest share of the total population attending a Christian congregation on a weekly basis at 18%.
- Lucas County had the lowest rate at 9%.
- Despite Putnam County’s high Adherence Rate, they had the second lowest percentage of total population with weekly attendance at 10%.

![Average Weekly Attendance Chart]

Number of Congregations per 1,000 Population

- Henry County had an average of 2.1 Christian congregations per every 1,000 people in 2010.
- Paulding County had the greatest, which was only slightly higher than Henry County’s (2.2).
- Lucas County had the fewest number of congregations at slightly less than 1 (0.8) per 1,000 population.

Measures of Social Cohesion | Citizenship

In the U.S. 13.5% of the population is a non-citizen or a citizen by naturalization. In other words, slightly more than 1-in-10 are foreign born. It is important to note that the term non-citizen is NOT synonymous with the term illegal/unauthorized immigrant. Unauthorized immigrants represent an estimated one-quarter of the foreign-born population (Passel, 2019).

The share in Henry County is much lower at only 1.5%, meaning most Henry County residents were born in the United States.
- Among neighboring counties, Hancock and Lucas are tied for having the largest share of non-citizen/naturalized citizen population at 3.8%.
- Williams County has the smallest at 1.1%.

![County Rankings in Percentage of Residents Who are Non-Citizens or Citizens by Naturalization for Henry County and its Neighboring Counties, Ohio, & the U.S., 2018. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](image-url)
References & Data Sources


The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, https://datacenter.kidscount.org


