

# Scioto Analysis Franklin County Poverty Snapshot

**Main Website: Find Out How**

**Prepared for the Rise Together Innovation Institute by Scioto Analysis**

All statistics below come from the 2023 Franklin County Poverty Snapshot. Further documentation of sources are detailed within the full report.

## Overall Poverty Rates

- One in seven Franklin County residents experience poverty in a given year.
- Poverty has declined in Franklin County from 18% in 2013 to below 15% in 2021

## Poverty and Race

- Black, Hispanic, and Asian residents of Franklin County all experience poverty at higher rates than white residents.
- Most people who experience poverty in Franklin County are white.
- Black, Hispanic, and white residents of Franklin County have seen poverty rates decline over the past decade.
- Asian poverty rates have stayed the same over that time period.
- Black and Hispanic residents are twice as likely as white residents to be in deep poverty, defined as having income below 50% of the federal poverty level.
- Black residents are twice as likely to be uninsured and Asian residents are four times as likely to be uninsured as non-Hispanic white residents.

## Child Poverty

- A child in Franklin County is twice as likely to be in poverty as someone at retirement age, though this disparity was even worse a decade ago.
- Black children in Franklin County are more than three times as likely to be in poverty as white children.
- Child poverty likely cost Franklin County \$5.2 billion in economic activity in 2021 in the form of reduced earnings, crime, health impacts, and child welfare impacts.
- The expiration of the 2021 child tax credit expansion will mean \$330 million less in federal support for working families in Franklin County.

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### **Poverty and Employment**

- Unemployed Franklin County residents are in poverty at five times the rate of employed residents.
- Those who did not work in the past year experience poverty at ten times the rate of people who worked full-time throughout the past year.
- Black and white residents of Franklin County participate in the labor force at the same rate, but the Black unemployment rate in Franklin County is twice the white unemployment rate.
- Residents with less than a high school education are six times more likely to be in poverty than those with a bachelor's degree.

### **Poverty and Housing**

- Most families in Franklin County live in single-family homes, but those who do not are much more likely to experience poverty.
- Franklin County families with income under \$20,000 are 28 times more likely to be housing cost burdened than families with income over \$75,000.
- In addition to experiencing higher poverty rates than homeowners, renters also are more likely to have electric heating in their homes and less likely to own a vehicle.
- Eviction rates are recently on the rise, with eviction rates in Columbus creeping over the historical average starting in late 2021.

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### **Intergenerational, Chronic, and Intermittent Poverty**

- A child born at the 25th percentile of income in Franklin County is expected to end up at a lower income percentile than a similarly-situated child in any other county in the metro area.
- A low-income child born in Columbus's Linden or East Side neighborhoods often has about a 5% chance of reaching the top 20% of the income spectrum as an adult.
- A low-income child born in Columbus's northwest suburbs often has a 25-30% chance of being high-income as an adult.
- Over 14% of black children in Franklin County are poor and expected to be poor as adults compared to only 4% of white children.
- Over 34% of Black children are expected to not have consistent work in their 20s.
- Over 20% of black children are not expected to have a high school degree by age 20.
- Black children also have higher chances of being arrested by age 20 than white children.
- By middle age, most Franklin County residents have likely experienced poverty or near poverty.
- By the time they are in their 50s, most Franklin County residents have received public assistance at some point in their lives.
- A child who spends one to three years in poverty will have about a 40% chance of experiencing poverty as an adult.
- A child who spends most of her childhood years in poverty will have an over 90% chance of experiencing poverty as an adult.

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## Poverty and Public Policy

- Hundreds of thousands of Franklin County residents are lifted from poverty by federal programs.
- The largest anti-poverty programs for Franklin County residents are social security, refundable tax credits, and economic stimulus payments.
- About one in seven Franklin County households are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, the largest anti-poverty program for working-age people in the United States.
- About half of Franklin County children received free or reduced lunch in 2022 after suspension of the federal universal free lunch program during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Countywide SNAP reciprocity fluctuated in the 160,000 and 170,000 range throughout 2022.
- Most families living below the poverty line do not receive SNAP benefits and the majority of families that receive SNAP benefits are above the federal poverty line.
- TANF only enrolled 8,000 to 9,000 beneficiaries throughout 2022, but often increased beneficiary family income by 50%.
- Franklin County allocated \$870 million to social and human service programs in 2030.
- This spending contributes \$940 million to county GDP and supports 14,000 jobs in the county.

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## Poverty Equity

- If the Black poverty rate matched the non-Hispanic white poverty rate in Franklin County, 47,000 fewer Black residents would be in poverty.
- If all age groups experienced the same rate of poverty in Franklin County as retirement-age residents, 74,000 fewer residents would be in poverty.
- If women experienced poverty at the poverty rate for men in Franklin County, then 12,000 fewer women would be in poverty.
- If people without disabilities experienced poverty rates at the rate of people with disabilities in Franklin County, 8,000 fewer residents with disabilities would be in poverty.
- If the poorest neighborhoods in Franklin County had average poverty rates, 24,000 fewer people would be in poverty.
- If foreign-born residents had the same poverty rate as other residents, 7,000 fewer foreign-born residents would be in poverty.
- If Franklin County residents without high school degrees had the same poverty rate as other adults, 13,000 fewer residents would be in poverty.

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