Diocesan Social Action Office

Poverty at a Glance in Ohio

- 29.5% of Clevelanders live in poverty. Cleveland holds the dubious distinction of ranking #2 in poverty among major U.S. cities (2007). (State of Poverty in Ohio).

Cities	Rank	Median Income
Cleveland	2	$26,535
Cincinnati	10	$31,103

County	People in poverty	Children in poverty
Cuyahoga	17.1	25.8
Ashland	12.4	11.4
Lorain	11.7	17.0
Summit	11.6	16.0
Wayne	10.5	14.5
Lake	7.8	11.4
Medina	5.4	7.0
Geauga	5.4	7.8

- Cincinnati ranks as the 10th poorest city with 23.5% of its population living below the poverty line. (American Community Survey).

- The poverty rate in Ohio is 13.3%. (1.5 million) The population grew by 10%, poverty by 43% (1969-2006). The poverty rate increased 2 percentage points since 2000. (Governor's Task Force on Poverty).

- 23% of Ohio's children under age 5 are living in poverty; 18.5% of all children are living in poverty. (Governor's Task Force on Poverty).

- 12.2% of people in Ohio (ranked 17; an increase of .8% since 2002) are hungry or at risk of hunger (Children's Hunger Alliance).

- 1 in 6 children is hungry or at risk of hunger; 129,000 are hungry – 495,000 children are food insecure (Children's Hunger Alliance).

- More than 1.1 million Ohio households (1 in 10 Ohioans) received food stamps in 2007. (Department of Jobs & Family Services).

- Since 2003, food bank use is up 27% in Ohio (OASHF). Served were 1,172,777 households w/out children and 981,270 households with children for a total of 2,162,150 households; 5,266,089 people in these households were served through foodbanks.

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- The number of unemployed has increased by 118,000 in the past 12 months from 347,000. The December unemployment rate (6%) for Ohio was up from 5.8% in December 2007. (Dept. of Jobs & Family Services).

- Over the past 12 months, nonagricultural wage and salary employment fell 89,000. Goods-producing industries dropped 61,000 due chiefly to losses in manufacturing. Construction was 19,100 lower, while natural resources and mining advanced 400. Service-providing industries lost 28,000 jobs over the year. The largest declines were in professional and business services. 18,300) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-16,200). Other services (-3,800), information (-1,800), government (12,800, and financial activities -700) also had reduced employment.

- The value of the minimum wage has dropped dramatically since the 1960's. In 2008, the minimum wage of $6.55 represents **74%** of the poverty level for a family of three.

- Affordable housing is out of the reach of thousands of Ohioans. In Ohio, a person now needs to make $13.07 per hour to afford a two bedroom fair market rental unit. (The State of Poverty in Ohio 2008).

- 1.3 million Ohioans do not have health insurance. This is about 13% of Ohio's population. (The State of Poverty in Ohio 2008).

- Ohio had 16.8 foreclosure filings in 2007 for every 1,000 households. For these counties, the rate per 1000 was: Cuyahoga 24.1, Summit 20.4, Lorain 19.7, Lake 14.3, Medina 13.1, Ashland 12.1, Geauga 10.8, Wayne 10.4. (The State of Poverty in Ohio 2008).

- Ohio ranks very low in its support for higher education. Ohio poor and working class families must devote 57% of their income, even after aid, to pay costs at a public 4 year college. (National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education).

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