

The State of Youth Development in Ohio



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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Preface

Purpose

The purpose of a program review is to guide program development on a continual basis. A program review is a process that evaluates the status, effectiveness, and progress of programs and helps identify future direction and priorities. Program reviews are a standard practice in youth development programs (Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2016) and higher education (Halonen & Dunn, 2017). The Ohio State University Extension 4-H Youth Development program review is a voluntary practice for self-study and external review.

The Review Includes Five Elements

- The State of Youth Development in Ohio
- Ohio State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Internal Self-Study
- Ohio State University Extension Crowdsourcing Insight Summary: 4-H Youth Development
- External committee visits and final report
- Key stakeholder communication throughout the process

Context

Ohio State University Extension embarked upon a multi-year effort to build the Extension organization of the future. That journey began with the [Vice President's Conversation on the Future of Extension](#). The overall goal of that effort was to ensure that OSU Extension remains relevant and responsive to the needs of Ohioans well into the future.

Data gathered through the *Vice President's Conversation* was used as a foundation for a [designEXT effort to put ideas into action](#). One of the designEXT steps includes partnering with individuals and communities to co-create multi-faceted solutions for current and emerging issues.

The *OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Review* is the first of a series of OSU Extension program reviews. This project timing coincides with a national search for a new statewide leader.

“Seaman Knapp, known to many of us as the Father of Extension, reportedly advised new faculty against ever referring to themselves as ‘experts.’ More than 100 years ago, new Extension agents in Ohio were introduced to their communities as ‘not a man who comes to criticize existing methods and force his own ideas, but is rather a clearing house where all may bring their problems and work them out together.’ ...

“By working in this way, we become a partner in co-creating solutions to issues people care about. The ‘work’ therefore involves bringing local knowledge and science-based information together in a manner that recognizes and honors both.”

*(excerpted from u.osu.edu/conspectus,
Roger Rennekamp – December 13, 2016)*

Contact

Ohio State University Extension Program Reviews are conducted on behalf of Dr. Roger Rennekamp, director of OSU Extension and associate dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Program Reviews are led by Dr. Julie Fox, with support from Michelle Gaston.

<https://extension.osu.edu/strategic-initiatives/ohio-4-h-program-review>

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This report examines youth development in Ohio. Only a brief description of 4-H Youth Development is included in the Youth Organizations section of this report as it is the focus of a separate report.

Introduction

Youth Development Definitions

A general definition of youth development is the stages that all youth go through to obtain the necessary skills, values, and attitudes to become a successful adult (US Department of Education, 2007, p.1). Most definitions of youth development state that the goal of youth development is not the prevention of problem behaviors, but the “other side of the coin,” the establishment of life skills and positive assets to help youth navigate through the adolescent years (US Department of Education, 2007; Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2003; Benson & Saito, 2000). Roth and Brooks-Gunn (2003) go a step further and state that preventative programs designed to stop problematic behaviors do not equip youth with the necessary tools to thrive as adults, and the philosophy of youth development programs is to “approach youth as resources that can be developed rather than issues to be managed” (p. 94).

Hamilton, Hamilton, and Pittman (2004) give three definitions of youth development: as a process, as a set of principles, and as a list of practices. As a natural process of development, they define it as the capacity of a youth to understand and act on their environment. As a set of principles, they define it as a philosophy emphasizing the support of the capacity of young people by individuals and organizations at the community level. As a range of practices, it is defined as an application of the principles to organize and structure activities to foster the developmental process. These principles highlight the significant role youth organizations with an overall goal of promoting youth development.

Other definitions of youth development include specifics of what youth should achieve during this life stage. Lerner, Fisher, and Weinberg (2000) established five key youth development outcomes known as the “Five C’s.” They are Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, and Compassion. Organizations that are youth development focused provide services, opportunities, and supports with the intended outcomes of the 5 C’s.

Youth.gov (n.d.), the official website of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, states the definition of positive youth development as “an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youths’ strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.” Since 4-H is under USDA, a member of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, this is the official definition that 4-H utilizes at the federal/national level.

Benson and Saito (2000) suggest that youth development occurs in four primary situations: programs, organizations, socializing systems, and community. We will focus on the former two in the context of out-of-school time. Out-of-School Time is defined as supervised programs and activities that young people attend while they are not engaged in school. This includes on campus and afterschool programs, academic programs, specialty programs, and programs that offer a variety of activities such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, 4-H, etc. (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018).

For the purpose of this report, we will be focusing on out-of-school (OST) activities such as afterschool programs. Youth development as defined in this report encompasses both promotion (assets, life skills, competencies) and prevention (substance use, delinquency, risky behaviors) fields as an integrative approach that are not inversely related (Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2016).

Youth Development Models

There are numerous youth development models or theories that are meant to help guide youth organizations. Currently, there is not one youth development model that garners consensus as ideal to explain the process of youth development. Since youth development is a part of human development, we suggest utilizing the developmental sciences principle that an effective model should describe, explain, and optimize human development across the life span.

Most youth development models emphasize the important role of the interaction between youth and their surrounding contexts or systems. Three examples of this perspective include: 1) Search Institute's Developmental Assets model (Benson & Scales, 2009) which focus on youth assets of skills, abilities, and strengths for positive youth development or "thriving" which occurs when the developmental assets of youth are supported through external environments of developing youth; 2) Stage-Environment Fit model which highlights the "fit" between contextual variables (families, schools, programs) and individual characteristics (motivation, values, expectations) to promote healthy youth development (Eccles, et al., 1993). They posit that social contexts in a developmentally appropriate setting are needed to foster youth development; and 3) Resiliency model offers a holistic framework across the life span with emphasis on age-relevant developmental tasks (Masten, 2014). Resilient youth experience adversity and can adapt and constructively handle challenging situations. Attention in this approach is on both positive and problem behaviors in the formation of resilient youth.

Youth development models used in the national 4-H organization to guide programs have included the Targeting Life Skills Model (Hendricks, 1996), Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development (Kress, 2005), the 5 "Cs" of Youth Development (Lerner & Lerner, 2013) and most recently the Thriving Model of 4-H Youth Development (Arnold, 2018). The Targeting Life Skills model centers on the 4 "H"s of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, with each branching out into two areas then into life skills. For example, "Heart" leads to "Caring" (life skills: empathy, sharing) and "Relating" (life skills: communication, cooperation).

The Essential Elements model consists of eight critical elements required for positive youth development programs: 1) positive relationship with a caring adult, 2) a safe emotional and physical environment, 3) an inclusive environment, 4) engagement in learning, 5) opportunity for mastery, 6) opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future, 7) opportunity for self-determination, and 8) opportunity to value and practice service to others (Kress, 2005). It is noteworthy that studies which define youth development programs by essential elements find positive effects of program participation compared to programs not incorporating these contextual components (Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2003; Durlak & Weissberg, 2007).

The 5 "C"s of youth development (competence, confidence, character, connection, and caring) as mentioned earlier, were part of a national longitudinal study of 4-H. Researchers (Lerner, Dowling, & Anderson, 2003) suggested that a sixth C, contribution (to oneself and others) results when the 5 Cs are present.

The most current model proposed for 4-H Youth Development is the Thrive Model (Arnold, 2018). The strength of this model is that it attempts to explain how 4-H program contexts lead to positive youth developmental outcomes via a “thriving trajectory.” The thriving trajectory consists of six indicators which lead youth from one indicator to another on their path to positive outcomes such as social competence, academic success, and personal standards. The promotive indicators were identified by the Search Institute (2014, as cited in Arnold, 2018, p. 150) as a thriving model orientation in a report for the Thrive Foundation for Youth. The six sequential indicators are: openness to challenge and discovery, hopeful purpose, transcendent awareness, positive emotionality, pro-social orientation, and intentional self-regulation. It is too early to determine how the model will be utilized and supported by empirical investigations.

It appears from existing models and research studies that youth development models which encompass an integrative approach of promotive (assets, life skills, competencies) and preventive (problem behaviors, substance use, school failure) aspects are more likely to explain/guide effective youth development organizations and programs. More research is needed to ultimately address a multipart question of what is positive youth development as posed by Borstein to Lerner and his colleagues, “What interventions, with what components, of what duration, with what youth, at what age or developmental levels, in what communities, at what historical time, will result in what positive individual psychological, social, cognitive, and physical outcomes?” (Lerner, Burkhard, Murray, & Robinson, 2018, p. 1694).

Youth Organization/Program Definitions and Classifications

As youth move through their school-age years, many contexts and systems influence how they develop, especially from family, schools, and communities. If youth development is viewed in its totality, youth programs would only contribute a small dosage of time in any given year. An estimate of time for youth who participate in an after-school program/organization for three hours a day, five days a week would be less than 10% of their time a week. Nevertheless, youth organizations/programs are often the best available option for youth during the critical after-school hours and summertime. In addition, there have been encouraging studies about the benefits of youth organizations for positive youth development.

How youth organizations are defined depends on the research study or how defined by the youth organization itself. To categorize these youth organizations there is not a consistent approach in the literature. From a recent text about youth in out of school time (Witt & Caldwell, 2018), gender was used as the primary determinate to categorize youth organizations as either girl-serving youth organizations (Girl Scouts, YWCAs, etc.), boy-serving youth organizations (Boy Scouts, YMCAs, etc.), or mixed gender (Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, FFA, etc.). For this report, we are taking a broad definition of youth organizations to capture the many types of organizations that exist in Ohio in which some may or may not be “youth development” organizations. These may include art, church, after-school, sport, broad-based, recreation, dance, music, and other areas along with comprehensive, multi-subject, activity youth organizations.

Ohio also has networks, associations, and learning centers that advocate, support, and/or fund youth development organizations and programs. These are critically important for youth-serving organizations and include the Ohio Afterschool Network whose mission is to “convene stakeholders to advocate for, support, and facilitate the development of quality, sustainable out-of-school time programs for Ohio’s children and youth” (Ohio Afterschool Network, n.d.). There

were over 280,000 youth in Ohio's afterschool programs in 2014 (Afterschool Alliance, n.d.). In addition, Ohio has 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) which provide funds to programs "for children who come from economically disadvantaged families and attend low-performing schools to receive academic supports" that is administered through the Ohio Department of Education (n.d.). In 2019, there were over 77 21st CCLC funded youth organizations or programs in Ohio. Refer to this link for these CCLC supported programs: [21st CCLC - 2019](#).

Youth organizations are funded in Ohio from multiple sources at the federal (e.g., Child and Adult Care Food Programs – after school at-risk programs), state (e.g., Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services – licensed school age care programs), city (e.g., Columbus – recreation and parks youth programs), and local levels (e.g., Washington Township, youth care programs). Funding is critical for them to achieve their goals; however, volunteers and donations are just as essential to achieve positive youth development outcomes.

The findings in this report about youth organizations were classified primarily based on the organization's activities and subject focus. Organizations offering a variety of activities and subject/content areas were labeled, "Comprehensive." Organizations with a primary subject or activity focus were labeled, "Subject-Focused." It is also noted for each youth organization as offered "statewide" (throughout Ohio) or "local" (specific area or region). Therefore, the general classification of "comprehensive" would include groups such as Boys and Girls Clubs (statewide) or Inspiring Minds (local – Mahoning Co.). These youth organizations provide a variety of activities across various subject areas. "Subject-Focused" youth organizations would include YouthBuild (statewide) which concentrates on developing construction, entrepreneur skills for career development or Young Artists at Work (local – Lucas Co.) with an emphasis on art and music.

It is difficult to know exactly how many youth are involved in organizations throughout Ohio or any other state. In central Ohio alone from a Facebook search using the descriptor, "youth organizations in central Ohio" a non-exhaustive list of youth organizations is identified. See Appendix A.

It is possible to estimate how many youth maybe involved in a youth organization using percentages from two national studies. Based on these two studies, 92% or 68% were involved in some type of youth organization, while 36% or 23% reported being in a youth development organization. The first percentages (92% and 36%) are from the 4-H Longitudinal Study of Positive Youth Development which was sampled youth from schools and community youth programs (Lerner et al., 2005; Balsano, Phelps, Theokas, Lerner, & Lerner, 2009). The second percentages (68% and 23%) of participation were from a study using an online survey of 1,800 15-year-olds (Scales, Benson, & Roehlkepartain, 2011). The youth development organizations would have characteristics such as a caring adult leader, life-skill building activities, and promoted leadership or empowerment (Lerner et al. study) or warm/trusting relationships in the youth program, involvement in their passions, feelings of empowerment (Scales et al. study).

The youth organizations listed in this report are a sample of all youth organizations in Ohio. The list does contain many of the major youth organizations in Ohio and provides information according to their mission, description, reach, and goals/vision. The conclusions section in this report provides estimates of total youth participation in Ohio for both out-of-school and youth development organizations.

Youth Demographics in Ohio

Age and Population

The youth population (age 5-17) in Ohio is centered around the major urban centers of Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Toledo (Refer to Figure 1). From 2010 to 2017, the youth population has been steadily decreasing, from approximately 2,723,119 to 2,605,235 and 51% male (1,331,794) and 49% female (1,273,441) (Kids Count, 2019.) According to Ohio.gov, the total number of youth, age range 5 to 19, is 2,214,641, with 1,132,314 male youth and 1,082,327 female youth (Ohio.gov, 2019). The distribution of youth by age in Ohio is similar in the U.S. (See Table 1).

Table 1. Age Distribution in Ohio and United States for 2017

Age	Ohio %	US %
5 to 11	39%	39%
12 to 14	17%	17%
15 to 17	18%	17%

Adapted from “Kids Count: Child population by age group,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

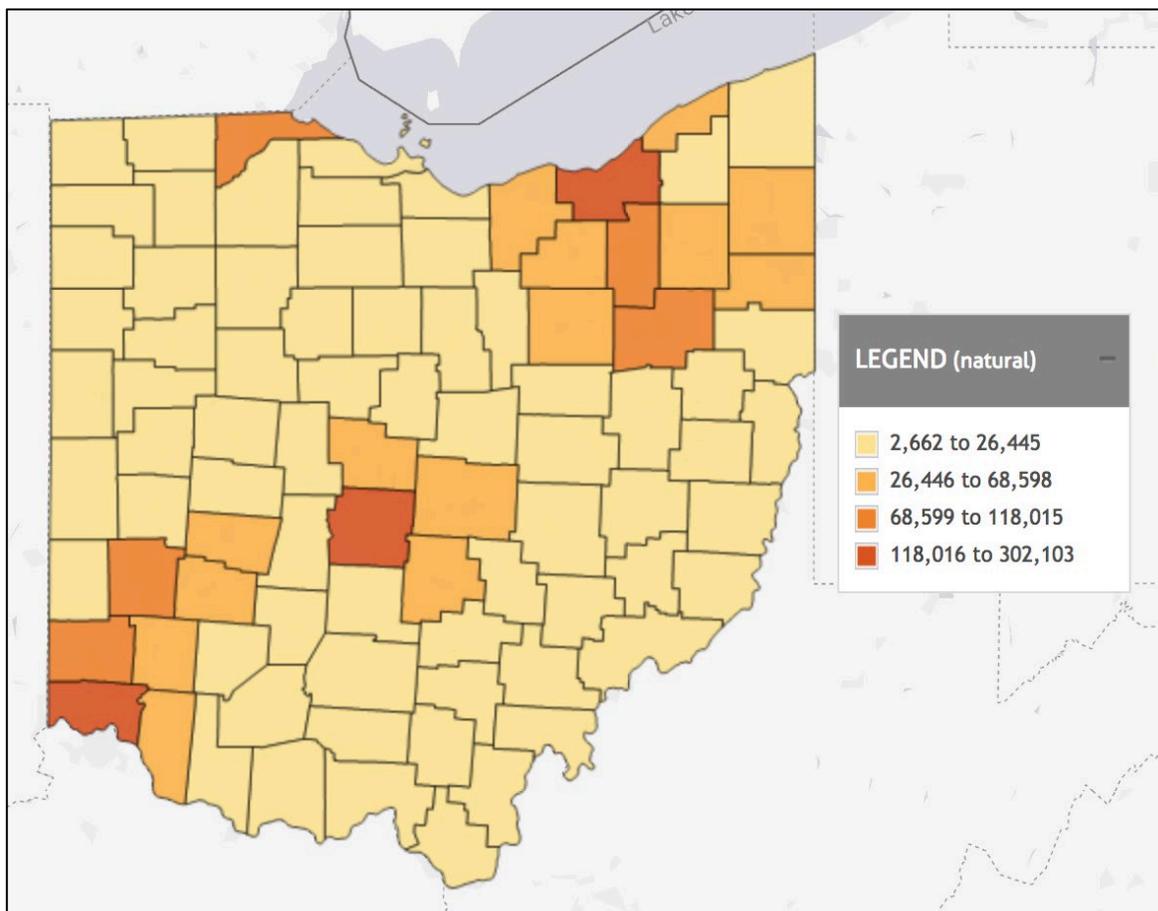


Figure 1. Population density of children in the state of Ohio. Adapted from “Kids Count: Child Population in Ohio,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

Ethnicity

Ohio’s youth population is largely non-Hispanic white (72%), followed by a minority of non-Hispanic Black (15%) and Hispanic/Latino youth (6%) (See Figure 2). Non-Hispanic Black youth live mostly in the urban centers of Ohio. The top 5 counties by percent of youth that are non-Hispanic Black are Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Franklin, Lucas, and Montgomery, in rank order. Meanwhile, the population of Hispanic/Latino youth are centered around Northern Ohio, specifically Sandusky, Lorain, Defiance, Fulton, and Henry counties (Kids Count, 2019). As a trend, the youth population in Ohio is becoming more diverse over time, with the percentage of Ohio youth that are Black, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino increasing since 2010 (Kids Count, 2019). In comparison to the United States, Ohio is more white with a significantly smaller Hispanic/Latino youth population (Refer to Figure 3).

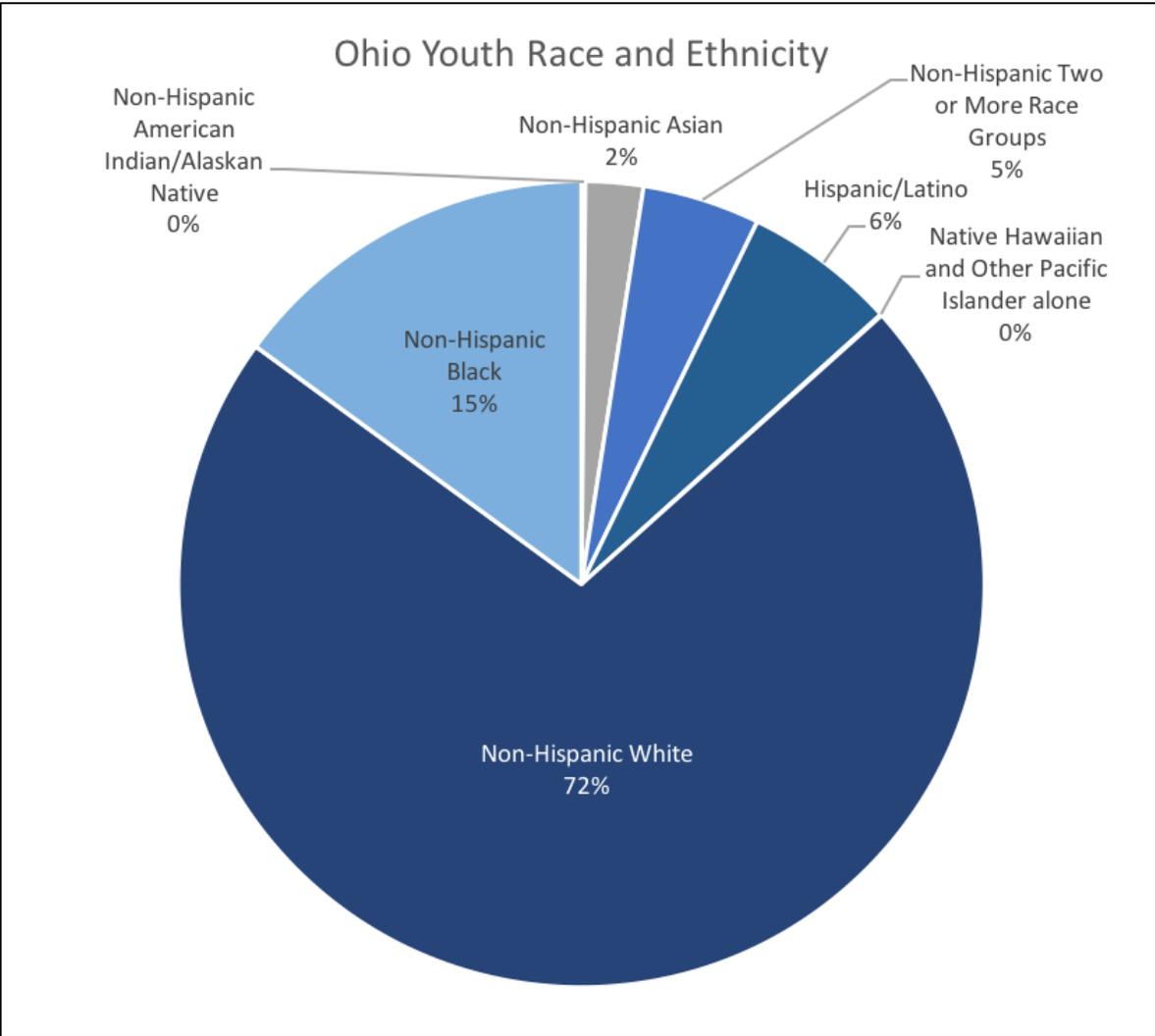


Figure 2. Ohio youth race and ethnicity. Adapted from “Kids Count: Child Population by Race,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

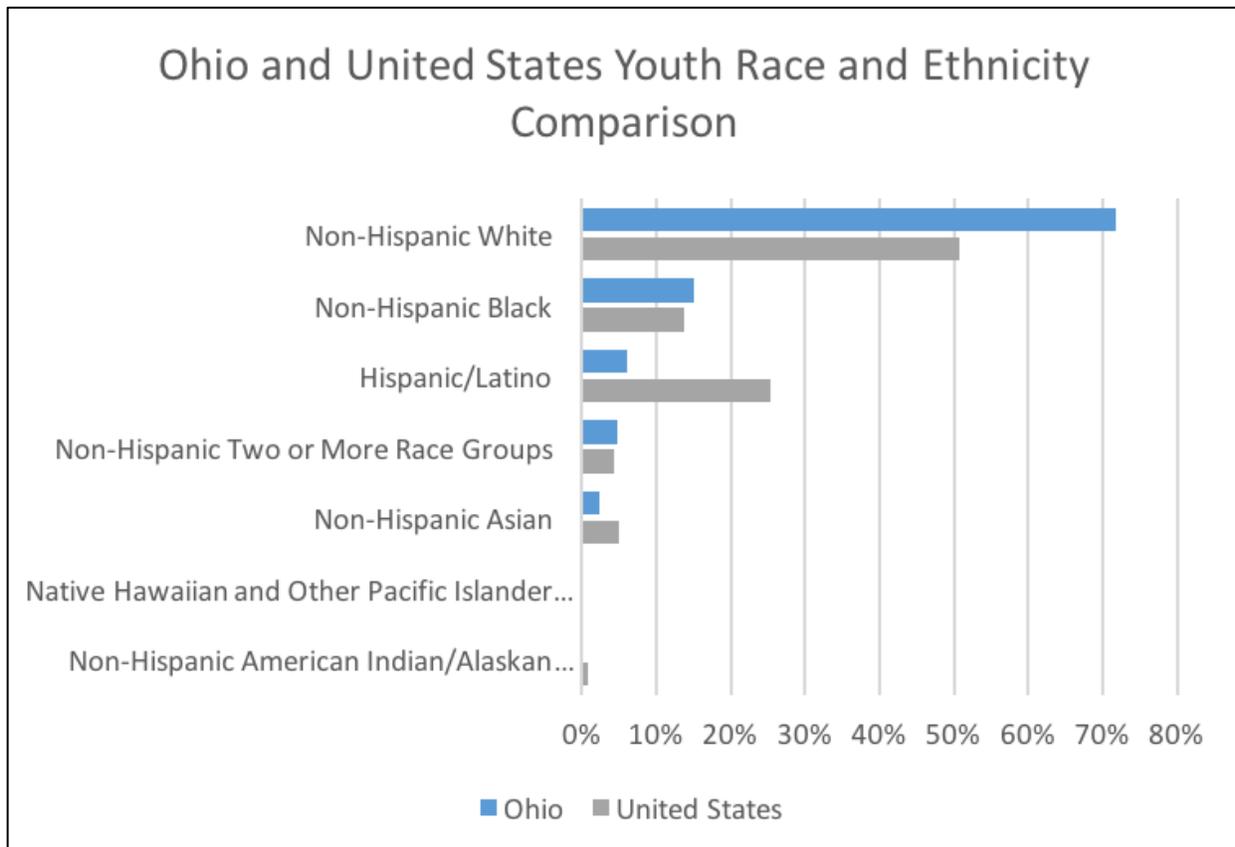


Figure 3. Ohio and U.S youth race and ethnicity comparison. Adapted from “Kids Count: Child Population by Race,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

Socioeconomic Status

The median household income (in rank order) is highest in Delaware, Union, Warren, Geauga, and Medina counties (Kids Count, 2019). The counties with the highest median household income in Ohio are largely the suburbs of major urban centers; such as Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland (See Figure 4). The counties with the lowest median household income are (Vinton, Morgan, Adams, Scioto, and Meigs) all located in South Eastern Ohio, in the Appalachian region (Kids Count, 2019).

As a comparison to the Median Household Income of the United States, Ohio has a lower median income by approximately \$13,500, and has recovered at a slower pace than the rest of the country (Kids Count, 2019). In 2017, the median income for an Ohio household was \$54,077, while the median income for the general United States was \$71,400 (See Figure 5).

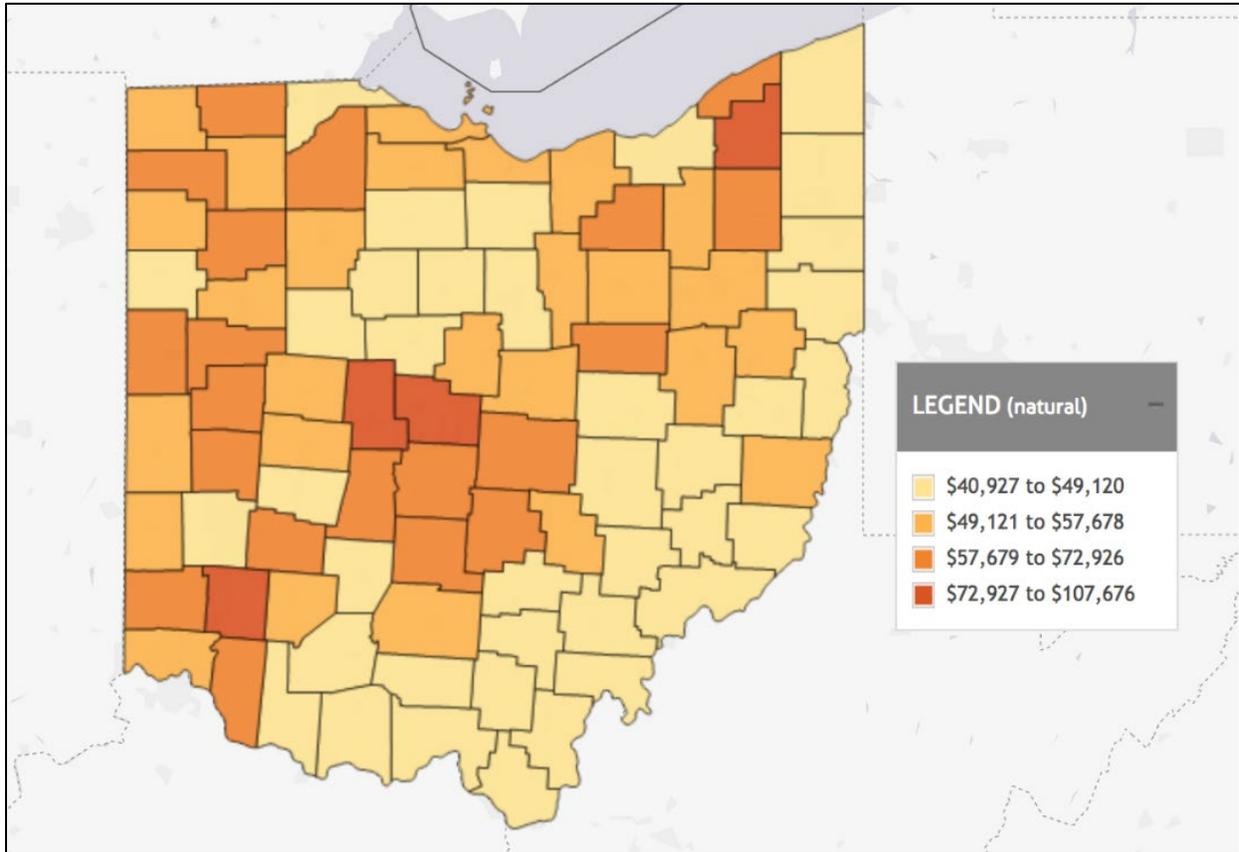


Figure 4. Ohio median household income by county. Adapted from “Kids Count: Median family income among households with children,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

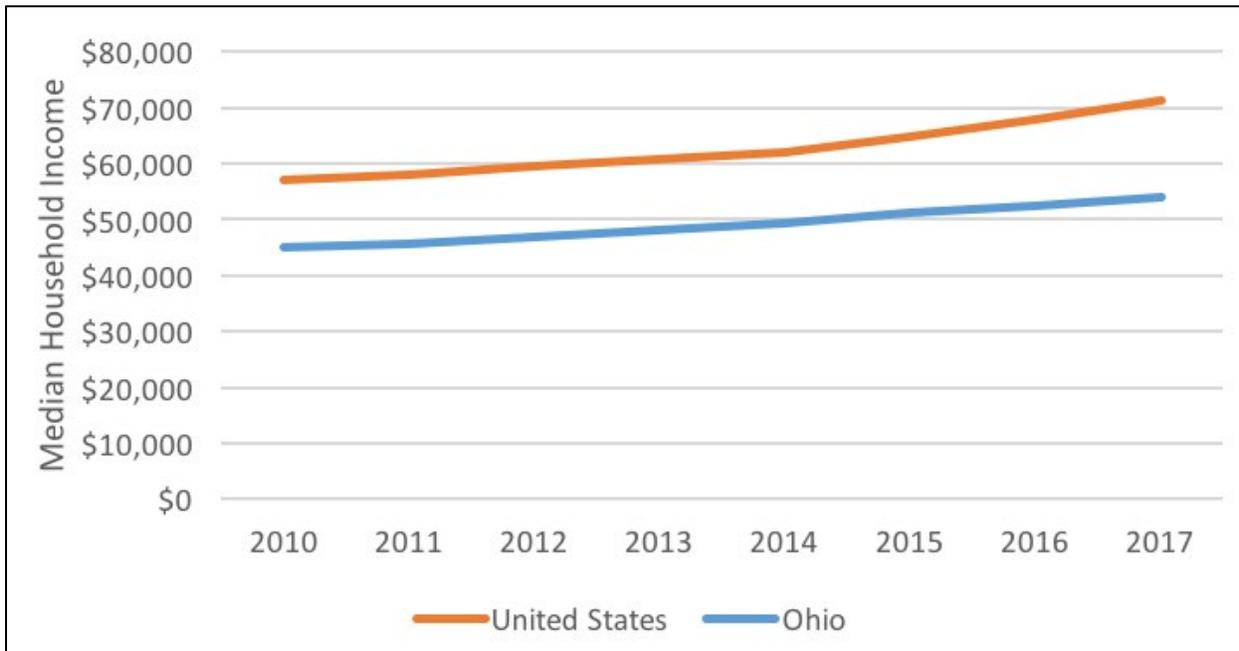


Figure 5. Ohio and U.S. median household income comparison. Adapted from “Kids Count: Median family income among households with children,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

Child Poverty

Child poverty in Ohio is centered around the major urban centers of the state and in Appalachia. See Figure 7. The top five counties with the highest poverty rates are Meigs, Pike, Scioto, Vinton, and Mahoning counties. The five counties with the lowest poverty rates are Delaware, Warren, Union, Geauga, and Putnam counties (Kids Count, 2019).

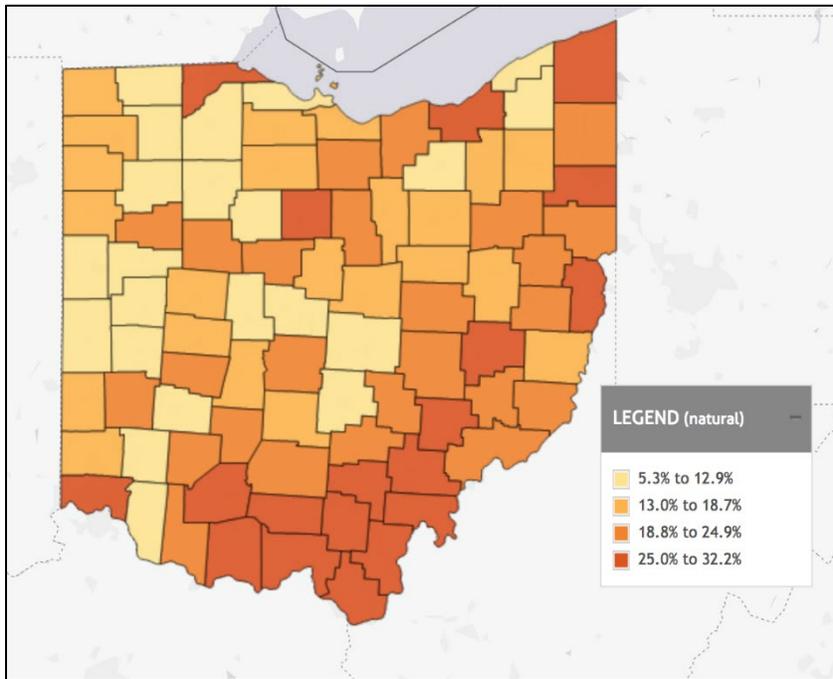


Figure 7. Percent of youth in poverty by county. Adapted from “Kids Count: Children in Poverty,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

Family Households

In the state of Ohio, married couple households make up the majority, yet are slowly on the decline. Mother- and father-only households are becoming more prevalent over time (See Table 3). There are approximately 13,725 youth in foster care in the state of Ohio, and 113,000 youth in kinship care. 187,000 youth live in crowded housing and 166,00 have at least one unemployed parent. About 920,000 youth are in a single parent household (Kids Count, 2019).

Table 3. Household Statistics of Ohio

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
Married Households	66%	65%	65%	64%	64%	63%	62%	64%	63%	63%
Father-Only Households	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%
Mother-Only Households	26%	27%	27%	27%	27%	28%	29%	27%	27%	28%

Adapted from “Kids Count,” by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2019.

Youth Organizations in Ohio

This section contains a sample list of youth organizations in Ohio. The youth organizations are categorized as comprehensive or subject/content focused. We could not conclusively determine which youth organizations would be considered “youth development” organizations based on the youth development definitions in the Introduction section. It appears that most of the comprehensive, multi-activity organizations are “youth development” organizations. However, a subject-focused organization could be a “youth development” organization.

It is important to note that only in this section is 4-H Youth Development included in this report. 4-H Youth Development is the focus of a separate in-depth report that is part of this overall review of OSU Extension, 4-H Youth Development.

The sources used to gather this information is provided along with each youth organization rather than in the reference section. A sample of 17 “Comprehensive” and 17 “Subject-Focused” youth organizations are listed on the following pages. If reach or enrollment numbers of the youth organization is unknown or not publicly available, then is not included in the information describing the organization.

Comprehensive Youth Organizations

Youth Organization:	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.”
Description:	Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation’s largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.
Reach:	More than 6,200 are reached annually.
Goals or Vision:	All children achieve success in life.
Annual Report:	https://www.bbbs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-BBBSA-Annual-Impact-Report-2-2019.pdf
Website:	http://www.bbbsnwo.org

Youth Organization:	Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.”
Description:	Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national organization of local chapters which provide after-school programs for young people.
Reach:	In 2017, Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus alone served over 5,900 youth.
Goals or Vision:	“Provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.”
Annual Report:	https://www.bgca.org/about-us/annual-report
Websites:	https://www.bgca.org ; http://www.bgccolumbus.org

Youth Organization:	Boy Scouts of America
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”
Description:	Scouting is a youth organization that uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness for every member. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) makes Scouting available to our nation’s youth by chartering community organizations to operate Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, and Explorer Posts. The chartered organization must provide an adequate and safe meeting place and capable adult leadership and must adhere to the principles and policies of the BSA. The BSA local council provides unit leader training, program ideas, camping facilities, literature, and professional guidance for volunteer leaders.
Reach:	16 Boy Scouts of America local councils in Ohio, with over 18,000 youth.
Goals or Vision:	“A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.”
Annual Report:	https://www.scouting.org/about/annual-report
Website:	https://www.scouting.org

Youth Organization:	Camp Fire
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Our Promise: Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are. In Camp Fire, it begins now. Light the fire within!”
Description:	Camp Fire, formerly Camp Fire USA and originally Camp Fire Girls of America, is a co-ed inclusive youth development organization. Camp Fire was the first nonsectarian, multicultural organization for girls in America. Its programs emphasize camping and other outdoor activities for youth.
Reach:	Serving youth from ages 3-18, Camp Fire helps boys and girls learn – and play – side by side in comfortable, informal settings. Their coed programs allow parents to consolidate schedules for both their daughters and sons.
Goals or Vision:	Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are.
Annual Report:	https://campfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Final-Annual-Report-2017-2018.pdf
Website:	https://campfire.org

Youth Organization:	Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC)
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Cincinnati, Hamilton County
Mission:	“CYC empowers vulnerable children and young adults to overcome obstacles and succeed in education, career, and life.”
Description:	The CYC makes a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable young people from 2nd grade to college by providing services designed to keep kids in school, prepare for college and career, and stay on the pathway to success. Bringing together over 1,500 volunteers and over 100 corporate partners, CYC strives for dropout prevention by offering mentoring, college readiness and success, and career preparation.
Reach:	CYC has created a pathway to success for 180,000 disadvantaged students in our community. In 2017 alone they served over 4,000 students.
Goals or Vision:	All children will achieve their full potential.
Annual Report:	https://www.cycyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CYC_annual-report_2018_fnl_web.pdf
Website:	https://www.cycyouth.org

Youth Organization:	Fadia Young Women's Program
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Akron, Summit County
Mission:	
Description:	A leading girl empowerment group, which allows young women to explore thoughtful and innovative opportunities to strive for a better way of life.
Reach:	Girls are ages 11 to 18 years old. There are over 100 Fadia Girls.
Goals or Vision:	Leading by example, the program mentors help demonstrate and exemplify grace and integrity. This program also inspires young women in the program to be active and engage, while discovering their own greatness and talents.
Annual Report:	https://www.linkedin.com/in/fadia-young-women-s-program-inc-ba922159
Website:	http://www.fadiayoungwomensprogram.com

Youth Organization:	FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America)
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	"FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education."
Description:	FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success. Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and premier professionals in many career fields.
Reach:	The Ohio FFA Association has 25,237 members in 315 chapters throughout Ohio.
Goals or Vision:	FFA looks to its mission as it develops programs and creates opportunities for FFA members. National FFA staff is focused on engaging students, supporting advisors, and telling the FFA story by growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture.
Annual Report:	http://ohioffa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/2017-Annual-Report.pdf
Websites:	http://ohioffa.org ; https://www.ffa.org/agricultural-education

Youth Organization:	Girls Inc.
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.”
Description:	In partnership with schools, Girls Inc. focuses on development of the whole girl. She learns to value herself, take risks, and discover and develop her inherent strengths. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, they also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for girls.
Reach:	Girls Inc. serves girls ages 6-18 at more than 1,400 sites in 400 cities across the United States and Canada.
Goals or Vision:	Girls Inc. girls live healthy and active lifestyles and are less likely to engage in risky behavior; they are eager to learn, be successful in school, and more likely to graduate from post-secondary education; and they display diligence, perseverance, and resilience.
Annual Report:	https://girlsinc.org/app/uploads/2017/04/2017-Girls-Inc-Annual-Report-PDF.pdf
Website:	https://girlsinc.org

Youth Organization:	Girl Scouts of America
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.”
Description:	A collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects.
Reach:	Estimated more than 18,000 girls are reached in Ohio annually.
Goals or Vision:	Being a Girl Scout helps girls thrive in five key ways: Develops a strong sense of self; Displays positive values; Seeks challenges and learns from setbacks; Forms and maintains healthy relationships; Learns to identify and solve problems in her community.
Annual Report:	https://www.gswo.org/content/dam/gswow/documents/Annual%20Documents/Fund%20Development/Annual%20Report%20-%20Short.pdf
Websites:	https://www.gsoh.org ; https://www.gswo.org ; https://www.gsneo.org

Youth Organization:	Inspiring Minds
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Warren and Youngstown, Mahoning County
Mission:	“To engage, inspire, and empower youth to reach their full potential through education and exposure to life-changing experiences.”
Description:	Inspiring Minds offers free after-school and summer programming to disadvantaged youth.
Reach:	500 students served annually
Goals or Vision:	“To see every student graduate high school, complete college or a vocational school and become strong, successful members of our society.” And “To inspire youth to discover their passions and equip them with the tools needed to pursue them.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://imyouth.org

Youth Organization:	OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“4-H Youth Development education creates positive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens.”
Description:	The 4-H name represents four personal development areas: head, heart, hands, and health. Youth complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and civic engagement in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. 4-H is delivered by University Extension – a community of more than 100 public universities. For more than 100 years, 4-H has given youth a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.
Reach:	503,826 Ohio youth: 12% in organized clubs, 11% in school enrichment, 75% special interest (such as community nutrition, EFNEP and SNAP-Ed), 2% camp. 16,074 adult volunteer leaders and 6,793 youth volunteers. 4-H reaches 7 million young people in more than 50 countries.
Goals or Vision:	“Ohio 4-H is the state’s premier leader in developing youth to become positive productive citizens and catalysts for effective change to improve our diverse society.”
Annual Reports:	https://ohio4h.org/about/ohio-statistics ; https://4-h.org/about/annual-report
Websites:	https://ohio4h.org ; https://4-h.org

Youth Organization:	Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness.”
Description:	The Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network (OLYPN) is a network of youth-led substance misuse prevention providers and youth across the state committed to the cornerstones of youth-led prevention, peer prevention, positive youth development, and community service. The OYLPN Youth Council allows youth to make a difference in the lives of teens across Ohio, develop their leadership, public speaking, and advocacy skills, and build relationships with other teens dedicated to making our world a better place.
Reach:	The OYLPN Youth Council consists of up to 25 high school students from every region of Ohio. In 2017, they impacted all 88 counties and hundreds of communities in Ohio and other states. They have worked with 250 community coalitions, youth-led prevention organizations, colleges, and others throughout Ohio. In 2017, 1,800 young people from 73 organizations across Ohio marched in the We Are The Majority Rally.
Goals or Vision:	Organizes and leads the We Are The Majority Rally to raise awareness about the fact that most youth do not use drugs. Empowers teens across the state to take a stand for their communities. Promotes protective factors in their peers lives to help prevent drug use.
Annual Report:	https://preventionactionalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2017-PAA-Annual-Report-final-draft.pdf
Website:	https://preventionactionalliance.org/connect/ohio-youth-led-prevention-network/oypn-youth-council

Youth Organization:	See Kids Dream
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Columbus, Franklin County
Mission:	“To empower youth with the skills, motivation, and confidence to make the world a better place.”
Description:	See Kids Dream offers three different service-learning programs. Each of these programs follow the nationally recognized model of service learning, but vary in their depth of different elements, based upon the method of program delivery (classroom-based, extra-curricular, or after-school).
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	Their service-learning programs provide positive outcomes for students in areas of critical thinking, problem-solving, speaking and listening skills, research and observation skills, civic engagement, leadership and teamwork.
Annual Report:	
Websites:	https://www.seekidsdream.org

Youth Organization:	Urban League of Ohio (Education and Youth Development)
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Urban Leagues in Ohio: Akron, Greater Cleveland, Columbus, Greater Southwestern Ohio, and Greater Toledo
Mission:	Sample by location – “The mission of the Columbus Urban League is to empower African Americans and disenfranchised groups through economic, educational, and social progress” (Columbus).
Description:	Sample by location – “We proudly offer an authentic, integrated system of services through 21 different initiatives across every neighborhood in Columbus and Franklin County. This work strengthens families, overcomes barriers, achieves economic mobility, fosters entrepreneurship, constructs on-ramps to wealth creation through smart financial practices, and teaches children critical academic and life skills.”
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	Sample by location – “The Columbus Urban League is a premier customer-driven organization advocating to empower individuals and deliver transformational services with integrity, innovation, and collaboration. We are committed to being the preferred provider to our families, communities, stakeholders, and philanthropic entities.” (Columbus).
Annual Report:	
Websites:	https://www.akronurbanleague.org ; https://www.cul.org ; http://www.ulgso.org ; http://ulcleveland.org ; http://www.gtul.org

Youth Organization:	Victory Project
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Dayton, Montgomery County
Mission:	[Without government funding] “Empower young men to discover the life God intended by mastering self-awareness, self-sufficiency, and selfless service, building an uncommon alliance with uncommon youth for uncommon results.”
Description:	The Victory Project is a privately funded 501(c)(3) after-school program, mentoring disengaged young men in the city with groundbreaking 3E curriculum - Educate, Entrepreneurship, and Enlightenment.
Reach:	30-50 students annually
Goals or Vision:	“Offering America’s youth an alternative to the street.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://www.victoryproject.org

Youth Organization:	YMCA
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“To serve the whole community through programs expressing Judeo-Christian principles that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body.”
Description:	An inclusive organization of men, women, and children joined together by a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of social responsibility.
Reach:	The YMCA in Ohio offers eight programs catering to youth development.
Goals or Vision:	The Y nurtures the potential of every child/teen by supporting their unique youth development journey through holistic programming. From cradle to career, the Y provides all youth with the tools and resources they need to succeed in life.
Annual Report:	http://ymcacolumbus.org/annual-report-2017
Websites:	https://www.ymca.net/youth-development ; https://ymcacolumbus.org

Youth Organization:	Youth Empowered for Success (Y.E.S.)
Classification:	Comprehensive
Location:	Caldwell, Noble County
Mission:	“We strive to stimulate and encourage opportunities which enhance conditions for which people live, learn, and work through public service and assistance. Our myriad of programs encompasses Newborn to Senior Citizens and all ages in between. Services are available to all income eligible in accordance with prescribed programmatic and fiscal limitations.” (GMN Tri-County CAC, Inc.)
Description:	The Y.E.S. Program is designed to assist high school youth in successfully completing high school, preparing them for college or entering the workforce. Emphasis is placed on leadership, academics, goal-setting, career planning, and social growth.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	
Annual Report:	
Website:	https://gmntrico.org

Subject-Focused Youth Organizations

Youth Organization:	All Ohio-State Youth Choir
Classification:	Subject-focused – Art/Music
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“To provide a high-quality musical and social experience for young musicians, while simultaneously entertaining fairgoers and contributing to the positive, family-friendly atmosphere of the Ohio State Fair.”
Description:	The 200 members of the choir are selected each spring on the basis of their ability and experience, the recommendation of their high school choral director, and the consent and support of their parent or guardian. Five days before the opening of the Ohio State Fair, the new choir meets at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus and launches into a rigorous schedule that includes vocal training, sectional and full rehearsals, solo auditions, and marching instruction. Once the fair opens, the Youth Choir sings six to eight concerts a day and marches up to ten miles a day to various performance sites around the 360-acre fairgrounds.
Reach:	200 choir members annually
Goals or Vision:	The All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir will affect the lives of young people by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building musicianship in an environment that focuses on health and safety for singers.• Providing a positive atmosphere that fosters the building of life-long friendships and encourages networking.• Establishing an environment conducive to the development of social/emotional skills and promoting teamwork and servant leadership.• Modeling and teaching members to be responsible, participating, encouraging and positive members of society.• Living out the name “Ohio’s Singing Ambassadors of Goodwill” and promoting the Ohio State Fair – through concerts at the Fair and an annual reunion concert, through “on call” appearances at inaugurations and other state functions, and through the Cardinal Chorale’s concerts throughout the state.
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://www.aosfyc.org

Youth Organization:	Awana Clubs Ministry
Classification:	Subject-focused – Religion/Youth Groups
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“...to equip leaders to reach kids with the Gospel and discipleship.”
Description:	Awana is a world-wide nonprofit ministry focused on providing Bible-based evangelism and discipleship solutions for ages 2-18. As the global leader in child and youth discipleship, Awana gives children the opportunity to know, love, and serve Jesus, no matter their background.
Reach:	673,440 youth members in the United States
Goals or Vision:	“To reach children in every corner of the globe as we walk boldly into the future and continue to be used by God to help change the world.”
Annual Report:	https://www.awana.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/AnnualReport2017.pdf
Website:	https://www.awana.org

Youth Organization:	Contemporary Youth Orchestra (CYO)
Classification:	Subject-focused – Art/Music
Location:	Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
Mission:	Contemporary Youth Orchestra (CYO) inspires young people to discover their full potential through creativity and performance. We provide artistic opportunities for all students and work to improve the quality of cultural life in Cleveland.
Description:	CYO musicians bring the energy of youth and the quality of professional playing to the concert stage. CYO is in residence at Cuyahoga Community College, Metro Campus.
Reach:	Made up of talented young musicians ages 12 to 18 and representing 64 schools in Ohio.
Goals or Vision:	CYO values and embraces the full spectrum of human differences They promote diversity and inclusion within the organization, the students and families they serve, and all others with whom they interact.
Annual Report:	
Website:	https://cyorchestra.org

Youth Organization:	Big Bend Youth Football League
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Middleport, Meigs County
Mission:	“Our mission is to create a place that compels children to accomplish goals and work for success (and) to determine the aspects of their lives through dedication and hard work. We pride ourselves in treating all children equal.”
Description:	Big Bend Youth Football League is an organization for 3rd-6th graders. It intends to promote healthy lives using football and cheerleading. It is represented by all school districts in Meigs County, a rural county in Southern Ohio. All games are played at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Middleport, Ohio.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	
Annual Report:	
Website:	https://www.bigbendyouthfootball.com

Youth Organization:	Elementz
Classification:	Subject-focused – Art/Music
Location:	Cincinnati, Hamilton County
Mission:	“We use hip hop to teach inner city youth to find their creative voice, while strongly encouraging personal growth, and life success.”
Description:	Elementz is an urban oasis of hope and a catalyst of change for Cincinnati’s inner-city youth. What began as a way to get kids off the streets in 2001 has transformed into a thriving Urban Arts Center that fosters talent, ignites potential, and inspires possibilities. Elementz helps build dreams and brighter futures.
Reach:	Since 2006, Elementz has worked with over 1,591 teens and young adults.
Goals or Vision:	“To be a catalyst of transformation for children in the urban core, enabling them to find their artistic voice, engage in community, learn to give back, and carve a path for a successful future.”
Annual Report:	http://elementz.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Annual-Report-2015.pdf
Website:	https://www.facebook.com/ElementzHipHop

Youth Organization:	The First Tee
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.”
Description:	The First Tee is a youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to kids and teens. Through after-school and in-school programs, they help shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf.
Reach:	The First Tee has reached more than 15 million kids, positively impacting their lives. They reach more than 5 million kids in the United States annually.
Goals or Vision:	To enhance and enrich the lives of our children by using the game of golf as a medium to teach our children a variety of life skills, core values, and healthy habits.
Annual Report:	
Website:	https://thefirsttee.org

Youth Organization:	G7 Athleticz
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Toledo, Lucas County
Mission:	“G7 is dedicated to strengthening the youth of today athletically and academically to become leaders of tomorrow.”
Description:	Athletic facility that specializes in basketball, cheerleading, and dance. Includes camps, sports teams, and instruction classes. Open daily after school. Has “full and part-time staff who are trained in youth sports and development.” Also has several parent volunteers. Affordable to all youth.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	“We believe every child needs a safe place to learn and play. We offer life-enhancing programs and the opportunity for a safe and amazing future.”
Annual Report:	
Websites:	https://the419sfinest.wixsite.com/g7athleticz ; https://www.facebook.com/G7athleticz

Youth Organization:	Girls on the Run
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.”
Description:	Girls on the Run inspires girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one of a kind. Trained coaches lead small teams through research-based curricula. Over the course of the 10-week program, girls in 3rd-8th grade develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.
Reach:	6 Councils in Ohio. Girls on the run reach over 1 million girls nationwide.
Goals or Vision:	“Recognize our power and responsibility to be intentional in our decision making; Embrace our differences and find strength in our connectedness; Express joy, optimism, and gratitude through our words, thoughts and actions; Nurture our physical, emotional, and spiritual health; Lead with an open heart and assume positive intent; Stand up for ourselves and others.”
Annual Report:	https://www.girlsontherun.org/assets/img/uploads/media/GOTR_2018_Annual_Report_FINAL_LoRes.pdf
Website:	https://www.girlsontherun.org/Find-a-Council?state=OH

Youth Organization:	Junior Achievement
Classification:	Subject-focused – Academics
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Junior Achievement’s purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.”
Description:	Junior Achievement (JA) has 107 local JA Areas across the nation, and together they are the nation’s largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices.
Reach:	Junior Achievement of Central Ohio alone will reach approximately 30,000 students in the 2018-19 academic year.
Goals or Vision:	Sample - “To be recognized by businesses, educators, and policy makers as the thought leader and deliverer of relevant, responsive, and innovative programs which build young people’s capacity to spur economic development and contribute to Cleveland’s global competitiveness.”
Annual Report:	https://www.juniorachievement.org/documents/4344415/4406520/2016-2017+Alumni+Report/b515da74-19bf-41ad-8950-aefd2da9d8b7
Websites:	https://www.juniorachievement.org/web/ja-centraloh; https://www.juniorachievement.org/web/ja-grcleveland/home

Youth Organization:	Kids of Cleveland
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Life Skills
Location:	Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
Mission:	“Investing in creating a society of holistic young people who are valued and thrive in a diverse and healthy community.”
Description:	Kids of Cleveland started as an inner-city youth development basketball program teaching life skills. As time went on, they realized that there were many issues growing within the youth and the community. In 2017 the organization became a non-profit focusing on using a holistic approach to help the youth connect with themselves.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	By developing positive relationships with people in the community, the youth will value the community more.
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://kocyo.org

Youth Organization:	LiFEsports
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Columbus, Franklin County
Mission:	“To enhance the quality of youth development, sport, and recreational programs through service and outreach, teaching, and learning, and research, thereby increasing positive developmental outcomes for youth.”
Description:	LiFEsports is an Ohio State University initiative, led by the Department of Athletics and College of Social Work, and supported by the Department of Recreational Sports. It is a free, four-week experience for youth that builds off the success of the National Youth Sports Program. LiFEsports aims to increase the number and quality of sport and recreational programs available to youth, especially those from vulnerable circumstances. Each year LiFEsports work touches the lives of 600+ youth and 190 students and youth workers.
Reach:	From 2017-18 LiFEsports provided programming to over 1,400 youth.
Goals or Vision:	LiFEsports believes that through sport, recreation and play, at-risk youth can be provided with the skills necessary to overcome their life obstacles. Its mission is not only to provide programming to help youth succeed in life but also to prepare tomorrow’s youth workers and support current youth programs to improve their practice through research.
Annual Report:	http://www.osulifesports.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/LS2018AnnualReview_final.pdf
Website:	http://www.osulifesports.org

Youth Organization:	Napoleon Aquatic Club
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Napoleon, Henry County
Mission:	“Our purpose is both to develop the swimmer into an accomplished athlete and to build individual character.”
Description:	The Napoleon Aquatic Club is a USA Swimming year round competitive swim team offering high-quality professional coaching and technique instruction for all ages and abilities. All coaches are members of the American Swim Coaches Association. The Napoleon Aquatic Club, a non-profit club, is run by its elected Board of Directors.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	“The goal of our team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from novice to international competitor.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=ohnac

Youth Organization:	Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Summerfield, Noble County
Mission:	
Description:	Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp helps boys experiencing trouble work toward appropriate behavior through mentors in an outdoors setting. The program uses natural consequences for a boy’s good and unacceptable actions that immediately and directly impact him. The average camp stay is 18 months. Connection to home and repairing damaged relationships is accomplished through letter writing and regular times of reuniting. The therapeutic camping program has changed very negative behaviors and habits in boys. This camp is led, supported, and staffed by the conservative Anabaptist churches of Ohio and nearby states.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	“Our Therapeutic Camping treatment activities address camper’s problems by: Helping them form a positive view of themselves and their problems. Aiding them in respecting others and building healthy relationships. Encouraging them with self-help and problem solving skills. Teaching them that education is a positive, useful part of everyday life. Facilitating the rebuilding of healthy family relationships. Emphasizing spiritual values through daily interaction with positive role models.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://www.ohioboyscamp.org

Youth Organization:	Ohio Little League
Classification:	Subject-focused – Athletics/Recreation
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“Promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League Baseball and Softball.”
Description:	Little League is the largest organized youth sports program in the world and the only Federally Chartered youth organization. It is truly a program of service to youth, adapted to the mental and physical capacities of children in a wide range of age groups. Combining all sanctioned Little League participation, more than 2.6 million children participate each year. Programs include both softball and baseball.
Reach:	Nationally, more than 2.6 million children participate each year.
Goals or Vision:	
Annual Report:	https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/year-in-review
Website:	http://www.eteamz.com/osda

Youth Organization:	Paulding County Library Youth Services
Classification:	Subject-focused – Academics
Location:	Paulding, Paulding County
Mission:	“The Paulding County Carnegie Library Board of Trustees has identified Create, Retain and Encourage Young Readers: Emerging, Early, and Sustaining Literacy as the number one service role.”
Description:	The Paulding County Carnegie Library’s Children’s Services Department provides access to reading and information for children of all ages. From birth to tween, from parent to teacher, the well-trained staff will connect you with the books and materials to enrich, entertain, and inform.
Reach:	
Goals or Vision:	“The library will provide children from birth through middle school programs and services designed to ensure that they will be better equipped to enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen; as well as be able to continuously improve their literacy skills. We believe that if children are exposed to books and reading at an early age, they will be better equipped to become life-long readers and able to make informed decisions about their lives.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://www.pauldingcountylibrary.com/strategic-plan

Youth Organization:	Young Artists at Work
Classification:	Subject-focused – Art/Music
Location:	Toledo, Lucas County
Mission:	“To learn creative skills and job skills alike and to connect to community through the creation of public art and salable works.”
Description:	Young Artists at Work is a six-week, paid summer apprenticeship program where teens ages 14-18 learn artistic and professional skills, under the direction of professional artists, art educators, or instructors. Apprentices work 30 hours per week.
Reach:	40+ teens annually
Goals or Vision:	To give teens “a completely unique summer employment opportunity and access to an experience designed to impact for a lifetime.”
Annual Report:	
Website:	http://theartscommission.org/youth

Youth Organization:	YouthBuild
Classification:	Subject-focused – Construction/Entrepreneurship
Location:	Statewide
Mission:	“...unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives.”
Description:	Low-income young people learn construction skills through building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people in their neighborhoods and other community assets such as schools, playgrounds, and community centers. For unemployed young people who left high school without a diploma, YouthBuild is an opportunity to reclaim their educations, gain skills for employment, and become leaders in their communities.
Reach:	Over 148,000 YouthBuild students have performed 48 million community service hours and produced over 32,000 units of affordable, increasingly green housing in rural and urban communities across the USA.
Goals or Vision:	YouthBuild programs provide those pathways by unleashing the positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives, breaking the cycle of poverty with a commitment to work, education, community, and family.
Annual Report:	https://www.youthbuild.org/sites/default/files/YouthBuild%20USA%202016%20Annual%20Report.pdf
Websites:	https://www.youthbuild.org ; https://www.ybccs.org

Conclusions and Trends of Youth Development in Ohio

Youth are developing throughout the state of Ohio. There are about 2.4 million youth in the state, ages 5 to 17, with about 51% male and 49% females. The number of youth are trending downward over the last decade from about 2,768,000 in 2008 to 2,605,000 in 2017. Most youth fall in the age group of 5-11 at 39%, with 12-14 (17%), and 15-17 (18%) and is similar with the U.S. youth population. Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton counties have the largest concentration of youth with neighboring counties in the next tier.

Ohio youth are mostly White (non-Hispanic) 72%, with 15% Black (non-Hispanic) and 6% Hispanic/Latino. As a trend, Ohio is becoming more diverse for ethnicity, but in comparison to the U.S. population Ohio is more White and less Hispanic/Latino. Black youth live mostly in urban areas and Hispanic/Latino in northern Ohio. Refer back to the demographics section for specific counties.

Households in Ohio have a lower median income (\$54,000) than the U.S. (\$71,000) and has recovered slower than the rest of the country from the last recession. Highest income families are mostly in the suburbs of Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. Lowest household incomes are in rural south eastern Ohio and the Appalachian region and correspond to the child poverty rates in Ohio.

Southern and eastern Ohio have lower health factors than the rest of the state. Factors are made up of health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. For youth health statistics, children not exercising (43%) and teens overweight obese (33%) had the highest percentages health risk factors.

Youth growing up in two-parent households is about 63%, for mother-only homes is 28%, and father-only homes is 9%. From 2019 estimates, there are over 900,000 youth living in single parent households. The trend in Ohio is declining for two-parent households and increasing for single-parent homes.

There are thousands of youth development organizations in the state ranging from those that serve tens of thousands of youth state-wide and to those that serve a few youth in one or just a few communities. Not all youth organizations have a focus on youth development. Some have goals whose primary mission is to learn a skill or knowledge in areas of music, sport, art, religion, and other areas. Many youth organizations categorized as comprehensive or offering a variety of activities and subject areas indicate youth development as an overall goal or a key component of their mission and vision as with some of the subject-focused.

Using percent participation in youth organizations from two national studies (Balsano et al., 2009; Scales et al., 2011) we can estimate about how many youth in Ohio are involved in some type of organized activity after school and those in “youth development” organizations. We took the average percent between the two studies for each to estimate 78% youth involvement in an out-of-school organized activity and 29.5% in a “youth development” organization. For the number of school-aged youth (ages 5-17) in Ohio we used the Kids Count figures which were higher than the Ohio.gov estimates for youth (ages 5-19) as noted above.

Based on the national percentages of youth involvement, we estimate that 2,032,083 or 78% of Ohio’s youth would be involved in some type of organized youth activity and 768,544 or 29.5% in a youth development organization or program. It is noteworthy that the 29.5% figure

represents all youth development organizations combined such as 4-H Youth Development, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, YWCAs, and similar organizations.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to know precisely the numbers of youth involved in organizations or programs. In a study titled *America After 3PM*, it was estimated that 284,519 Ohio children participated in afterschool programs in 2014 while 846,248 would be involved in one if available to them (Afterschool Alliance, n.d.). What is significant to recognize from this research is the need for youth development programs to reach those yet to be served.

Concerning youth development models, there was not a consistent model that was followed from the data gathered across the youth organizations listed. Many of the youth serving organizations did not indicate in their public reports a specific youth development model that they followed. It was also not clear from public available information staff were trained in the youth organizations, except where noted through professional development and training.

Since all youth development organizations combined in the U.S. are only reaching about 30% of youth nationwide, it is critical for youth development organizations to work together and partner to serve more of Ohio's youth. A cooperative, rather than a competitive approach is recommended among youth development organizations. Examples of collaborative efforts includes the Dayton out-of-school program Adventure Central (collaboration with Five Rivers Metroparks and Ohio State University Extension) and neighborhood youth program MyCOMM in Cleveland (partnerships with agencies in greater Cleveland and committed, caring adults). In addition, it is beneficial for positive youth development for youth involvement in more than just one youth development program or organization (Hamilton, 2014). Finally, to increase positive youth development exposure and outcomes, organizations must look beyond youth development programs alone, and work in tandem with programs that target families, parents, businesses, and communities.

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Appendix A

Table 1. List of Youth Organizations in Central Ohio (Non-Exhaustive) from Facebook

4-H Franklin County Ohio	Jackson Karate Academy
4Word Youth Development	Jump Start Sports Columbus
After School All-Stars Ohio	Kaleidoscope Youth Center
ALIVE	Kids Voting of Central Ohio
All THAT - Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow	L.I.P. Live in Peace
Alpha Minority Youth Engineering Program	Latinx Space for Enrichment Research
Amplified Youth Group	Mentor Central Ohio
B.L.I.N.G.G. Inc.	MY Project USA
Best Buddies Ohio	MYR- Muslim Youth Revival
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio	National Ayrshire Youth
Big Run Rams Organization	National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America Pack 74 at Overbrook	North Columbus Sports
Boy Scouts of America, Simon Kenton Council	North YMCA
Boys and Girls Clubs of Columbus	Northern Columbus Athletic Association
Camp Wyandot, Inc.	Northland Jr Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program
Capital City Equestrian, Inc.	NOW Student Ministries
Central Ohio Young Marines	Ohio 4-H Youth Development
Central Ohio Young Marines	Ohio Avenue Youth Center
Central Ohio Youth for Christ	Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Board
Choice Family and Youth Center	Ohio YMCA Youth & Government
City Life Center	Ohio Youth Advocate Program
Columbus Crusaders Youth Sports	Ohio Youth Ministries
Columbus Rams Youth Football and Cheerleading	Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network
Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra	Orphan Frontier
Columbus Youth Guild Judo Club	OSU LifeSports
Community for New Direction	Rotary District 6690
Cub Scout Pack 759	See Kids Dream
Directions for Youth and Families	Soccer Shots Columbus, OH
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	Somali Youth Outreach Program
Euro American Soccer Academy	Sports Monster Columbus
Expanding Visions Foundation	Stars Indoor Sports
Family and Community Enrichment Center, Inc.	The Arc
FCC Youth Program	The Girl's Book
Fountain of Hope, Columbus	The William H Adams Youth Foundation
Fountain of Restoration	The Youth Empowerment Program
Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland	Tree of Life Athletics
Girls on the Run of Central Ohio	Trinity Student Ministry
Grateful Acres Pets Junior Advocate Program	Urban GEMS
Greater Than Youth Ministry	West Mound Stars
Happyfeet Columbus	Y Youth and Family Services
i9 Sports	Young Life of Columbus
IC Youth Ablaze	Youth to Youth International
Indian Village Day Camp	Youthbuild Columbus Community
J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center	



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