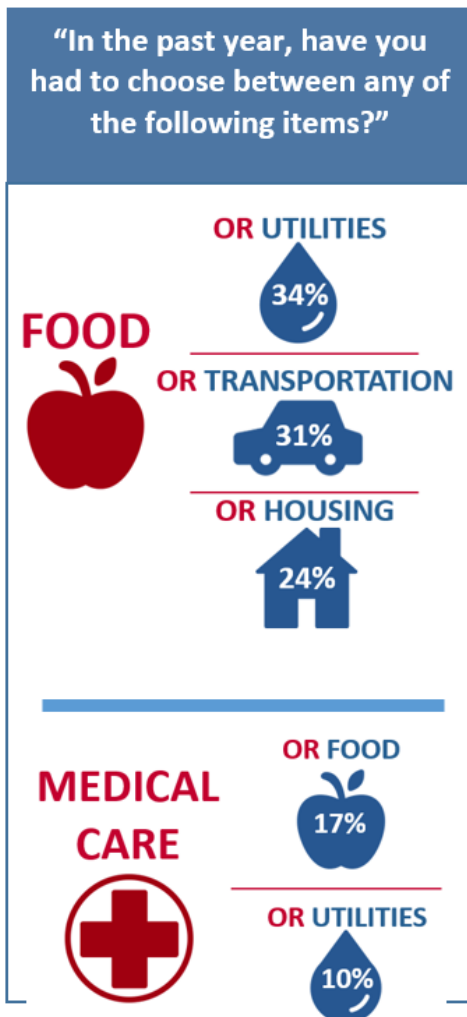


Who is in poverty in Cuyahoga County?

- Nearly 1 in 5 people in Cuyahoga County live in poverty. The Federal Poverty Level is \$21,330 for a family of three.
- Today, **nearly 220,000 people in Cuyahoga County live in poverty.**
- 31% percent of people in poverty in Cuyahoga County are children, and another 30% percent are older adults over age 60
- The poverty rate in Cuyahoga County today (18 percent) is above what it was during the height of the 2008 recession (15.6 percent), even though unemployment rates are very low.
- In May 2019, just under half (48.5 percent) of respondents were employed either full- or part-time
- More than half (55 percent) of our poll respondents believe it is more difficult to rise out of poverty now than it was before the Great Recession



The working poor

- 1 in 6 people who live at or near poverty who are working said they are not able to get enough hours at work.
- Those with household incomes below \$25,000 per year were nearly twice as likely to report not being able to get enough hours at work than those with higher incomes (31 percent versus 17 percent)
- In 2017 people older than age 16 who live in poverty saw an unemployment rate of 29 percent, four times as high as the overall unemployment rate of 7.3 percent.
- Ohio’s current minimum wage of \$8.55 per hour is low enough that anyone in a family of three or more people could work full-time, year-round and still live in poverty.

Tough choices

- More than half of Cuyahoga County residents with household incomes below \$25,000 per year were forced to make at least one trade-off.
- Most common tradeoffs were choosing between food and either utilities, transportation or housing.
- Families with children were significantly more likely to have to choose between child care and food.

August 7, 2019

- More than 1 in 5 Cuyahoga County children were food insecure in 2017, meaning that there were times during the year when there wasn't enough nutritious food for all family members to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Even with help from SNAP (food stamps) and food pantries more than 1 out of every 3 low-income Cuyahoga County residents had to choose between paying utility bills or paying for food.

What about emergencies?

- Nearly one-third of residents living in or near poverty would not have the financial resources to cover a \$400 emergency if it happened today
- An additional one-third would rely on borrowing money from friends or family or selling something they own.

