

2024 Profile of the Legal Profession in Ohio



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
LEGAL EDUCATION	4
ATTORNEY DEMOGRAPHICS	6
ECONOMIC IMPACT	11
POPULATION DATA	12



INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Bar Association compiled this report in order to provide a more complete picture of the legal profession in Ohio. The report is a reference for legal professionals and the public so that we may better understand the practice of law in the state, from its impact on the economy to its makeup in terms of gender, ethnicity, geography and area of practice. The data here is compiled from many different sources, including the Ohio Supreme Court, the American Bar Association and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, as well as various studies commissioned by the Ohio Bar to survey attorneys in Ohio.

The legal profession is in a state of rapid change and our hope is that we can provide a clear vision of where we are now, so that we can better prepare for where we are heading in the future.

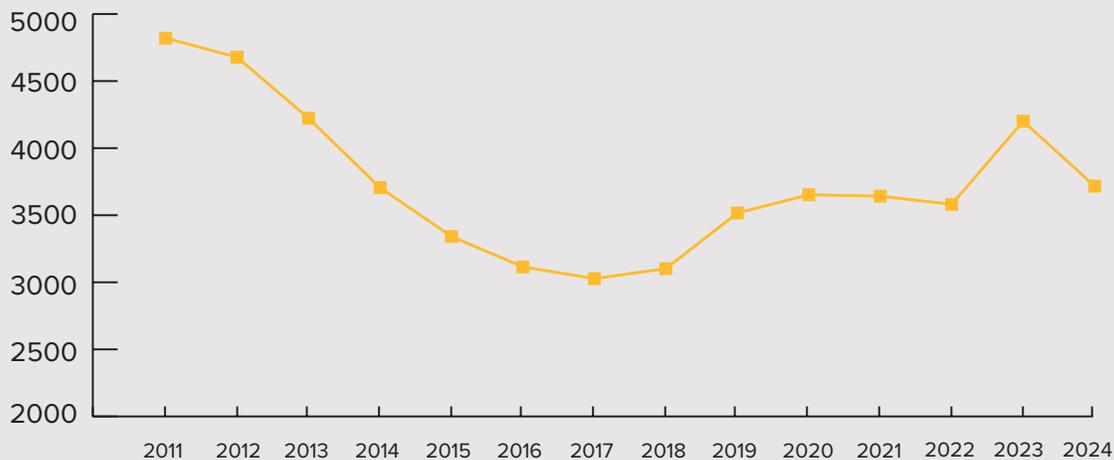
LEGAL EDUCATION

Ohio Law school enrollment began a steady decline in 2011, but in 2017, numbers began a slight upward trend. Enrollment numbers dipped again after a 2023 spike.

Nationwide, women outnumbered men in law schools for the eighth year in a row in 2024, according to the American Bar Association. In Ohio, women 1L students outnumber men by about 150 students.



OHIO LAW SCHOOL TOTAL JD ENROLLMENT



American Bar Association fall 2024 law school enrollment data

OHIO LAW SCHOOL 1L ENROLLMENT, FALL 2024



2024-25
Class Total
1,419



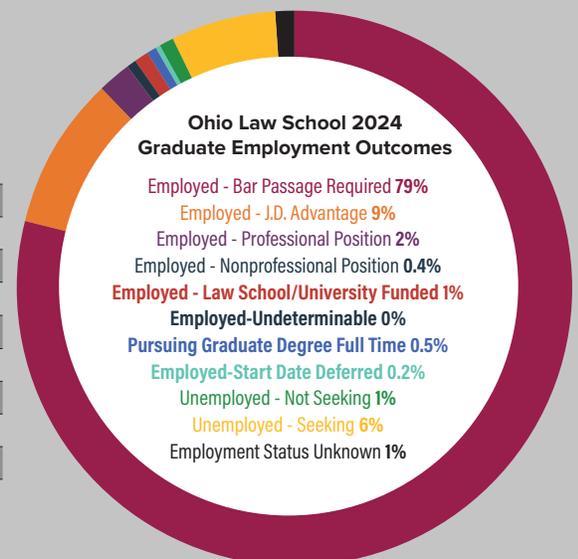
Men
626



Women
778

Other/Prefer Not To Report
15

School	2024-25 Class Total	Men	Women	Other/Prefer Not to Report
University of Akron	153	71	82	0
Capital University	178	68	110	0
Case Western Reserve University	198	87	108	3
University of Cincinnati	137	56	76	5
Cleveland State University	192	107	82	3
University of Dayton	130	60	70	0
Ohio Northern University	121	48	71	2
Ohio State University	160	71	88	1
University of Toledo	150	58	91	1



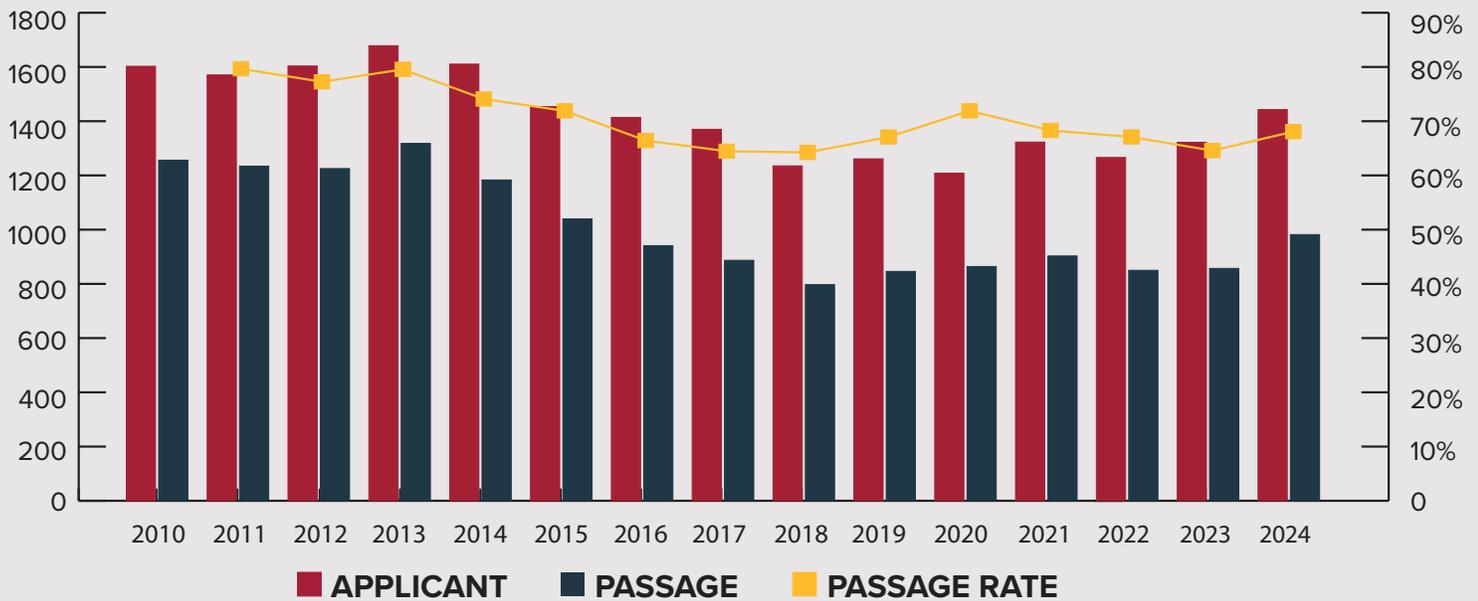
American Bar Association fall 2024 law school enrollment data

American Bar Association Section of Legal Education Employment Summary Reports. Required disclosures were reported in spring of 2025 and data may change throughout the year.



2024 saw the first upward trend in bar passage rates since 2020 as well as the highest number of applicants since 2015.

OHIO BAR EXAM APPLICANT/# OF PASSERS / PASSAGE RATE



Ohio Supreme Court Bar Examination results

LAW SCHOOL DEBT



Private Practitioners

Overall: \$73,106

Gen Z: \$73,500
 Millennials: \$104,649
 Gen X: \$79,777
 Baby Boomers: \$31,488



Government/ Judicial Attorneys

Overall: \$69,521

Gen Z: \$51,333
 Millennials: \$115,895
 GenX: \$65,606
 Baby Boomers: \$26,667



In-House Counsel

Overall: \$73,667

Gen Z: --*
 Millennials: \$145,750
 GenX: \$70,955
 Baby Boomers: \$33,688



Legal Aid/Nonprofit

Overall: \$87,667

Gen Z: --*
 Millennials: \$100,429
 GenX: --*
 Baby Boomers: --*

Data based on voluntary responses to Ohio Bar 2024 Economics of Law Practice Survey. Values represent mean data points.

*Omitted due to low response rate.

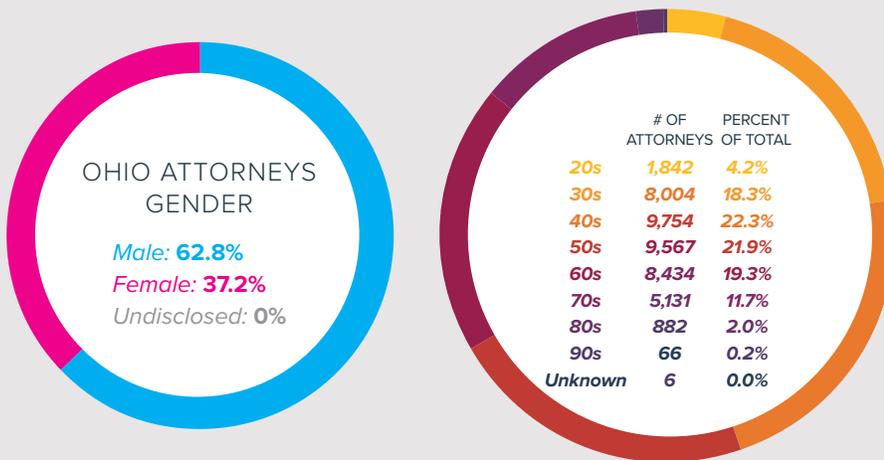
OHIO ATTORNEYS

Though law school enrollment figures paint a promising picture for the future of the legal profession, Ohio attorneys have a ways to go when it comes to achieving gender parity, closing the wage gap and attaining true racial diversity.

However, the legal profession is also one of the most giving, with attorneys being several times more likely to serve on the board of a nonprofit than other professions. Close to three quarters of attorneys in Ohio provide legal services at no cost to those in need.



DEMOGRAPHICS

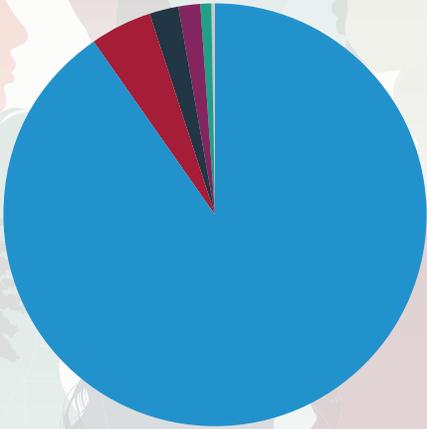


36,946

2024 REGISTERED ATTORNEYS WITH OHIO SUPREME COURT AND OHIO BUSINESS ADDRESS

Gender and age demographics based on 2024 Supreme Court and Ohio Bar member data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

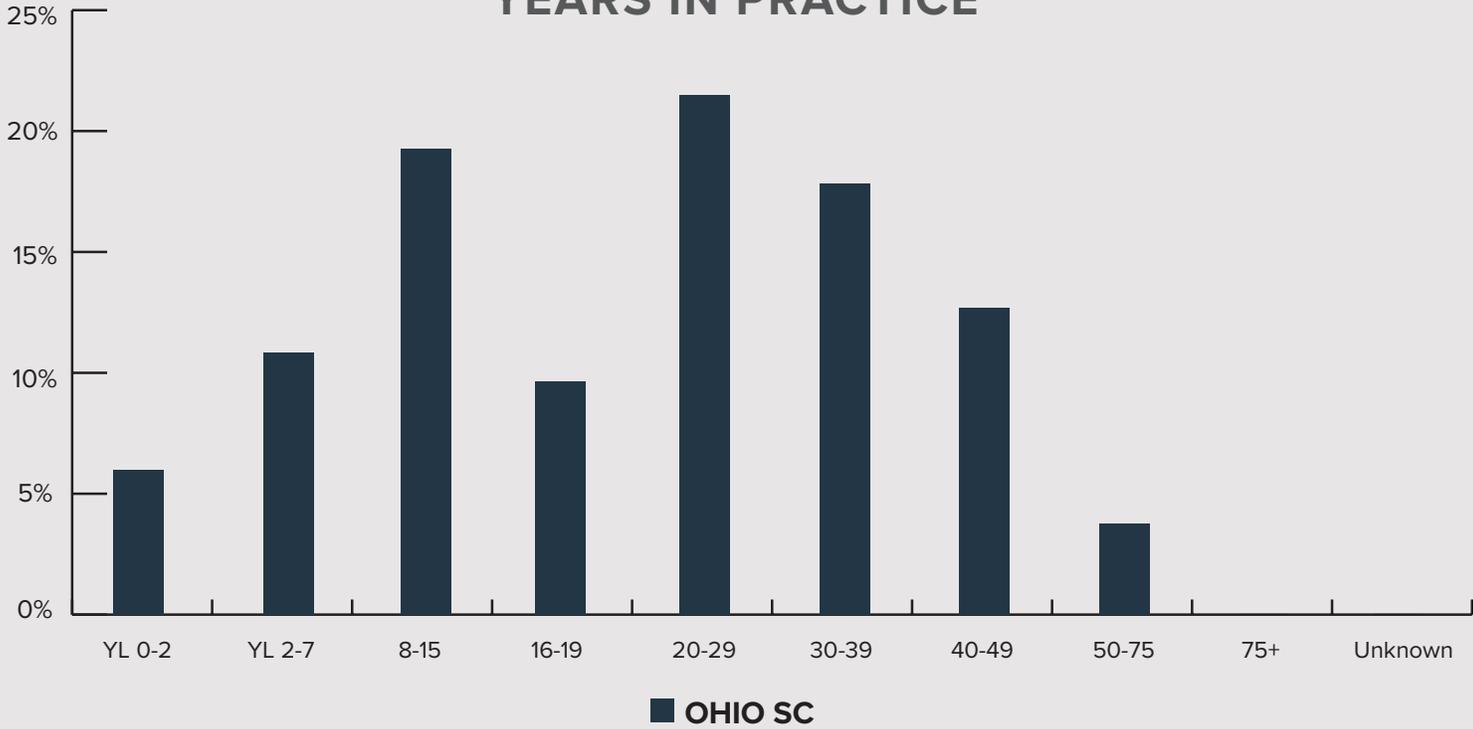
RACE/ETHNICITY



Ohio SC

- 0% Other
- 0% Not Provided
- 0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific
- 0.7% Am. Indian/Alaskan
- 1.8% Hispanic
- 2.3% Asian
- 4.6% Black/African American
- 90.4% White

YEARS IN PRACTICE



Ohio Supreme Court 2024 registered attorney data.
 Data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

The majority of private practitioners believe their economic circumstances will remain the same over the next couple years.

PRIVATE PRACTITIONER SALARY & HOURLY RATES

3-5
YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$97,000 | \$75,000
2018 \$73,500 | \$78,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$250/HR.
2018 \$200/HR.



6-10
YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$130,000 | \$125,000
2018 \$90,000 | \$67,500



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$300/HR.
2018 \$215/HR.

More than 40% of private practitioners have been able to reach new clients on virtual platforms, but the profession remains worried about the impact of virtual platforms on personal relationships.



SALARY

2023 \$130,000 | \$102,000
2018 \$120,000 | \$82,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$300/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.



11-15
YEARS IN PRACTICE

Figures represent median values. Values are based on Ohio Bar member responses to the 2019 and 2024 Economics of Law Practice surveys.

● = Male ● = Female

16-25

YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$184,000 | \$127,500
2018 \$111,000 | \$115,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$303/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.

Most attorneys practice in solo or small firms and one-third of them do not use administrative or paralegal support.



SALARY

2023 \$160,000 | \$150,000
2018 \$150,000 | \$85,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$278/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.



26-35

YEARS IN PRACTICE

OTHER SEGMENT SALARIES



IN-HOUSE SALARY

2023 \$200,000 | \$141,000
2018 \$125,000 | \$109,000



GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2023 \$100,000 | \$100,000
2018 \$77,000 | \$71,000



LEGAL AID/NONPROFIT SALARY**

2023 \$85,000 | \$72,250

Figures represent median values. Values are based on Ohio Bar member responses to the 2019 and 2024 Economics of Law Practice surveys.

● = Male ● = Female

*New segment for 2024 Economics of Law Practice survey.

IOLTA 18,917

ACTIVE ATTORNEYS WITH REGISTERED IOTA/IOLTA ACCOUNTS

IOLTA accounts are a good indication of the amount of lawyers in the state who work with clients and maintain client funds. Interest earned on these accounts provide financial support to Ohio's legal aids.

This data was compiled Sept. 2024 and may change throughout the year.

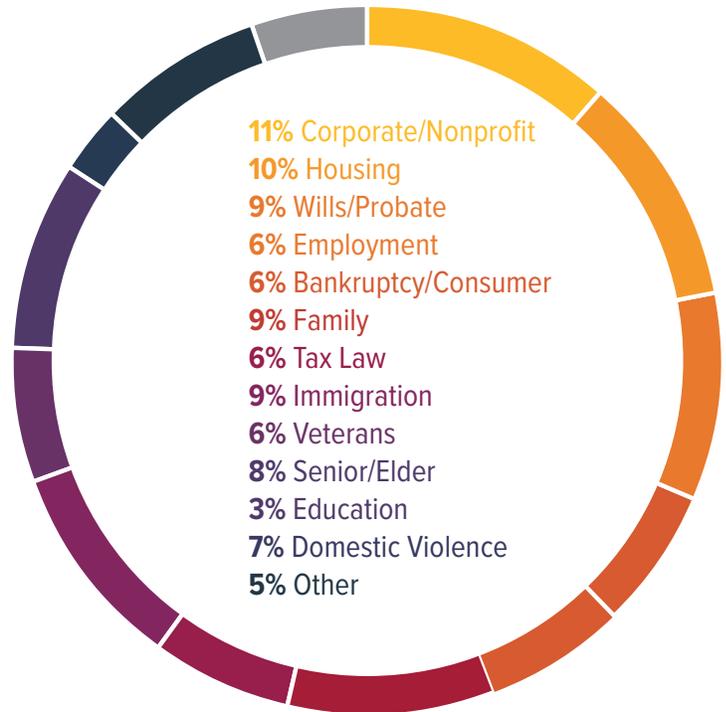
PRO BONO 99,830

 PRO BONO HOURS REPORTED
31% INCREASE FROM 2022

\$24,957,500

VALUE OF REPORTED PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

PRACTICE AREAS OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES



Data from Ohio Access to Justice Foundation
2023 Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

At the state level, an attorney is 11 times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit as would be expected based on their occupational representation. This is an increase from 2012, when lawyers were four to eight times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit.

Nonprofit Board Participation by Region:

- Cincinnati: 39.7%
- Cleveland: 37.6%
- Columbus: 37.1%
- Other Urban Areas: 48.5%
- Rural Areas: 47.1%



Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services
Industry prepared for the Ohio Bar by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Ohio’s legal services industry is a major employer, directly employing 44,427 people and paying more than \$3.6 billion in wages. An additional 58,394 jobs are created due to the profession’s indirect employment and \$2.7 billion in indirect wages are generated via direct expenditure on wages.

Overall, the profession has a total economic impact of \$6.3 billion in household earnings and the creation of 102,821 jobs.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRIVATE OHIO LAW FIRMS

\$3.6 Billion DIRECT WAGES **44,427** DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

\$2.7 Billion INDIRECT WAGES **58,394** INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

\$6.3 BILLION
102,821 JOBS

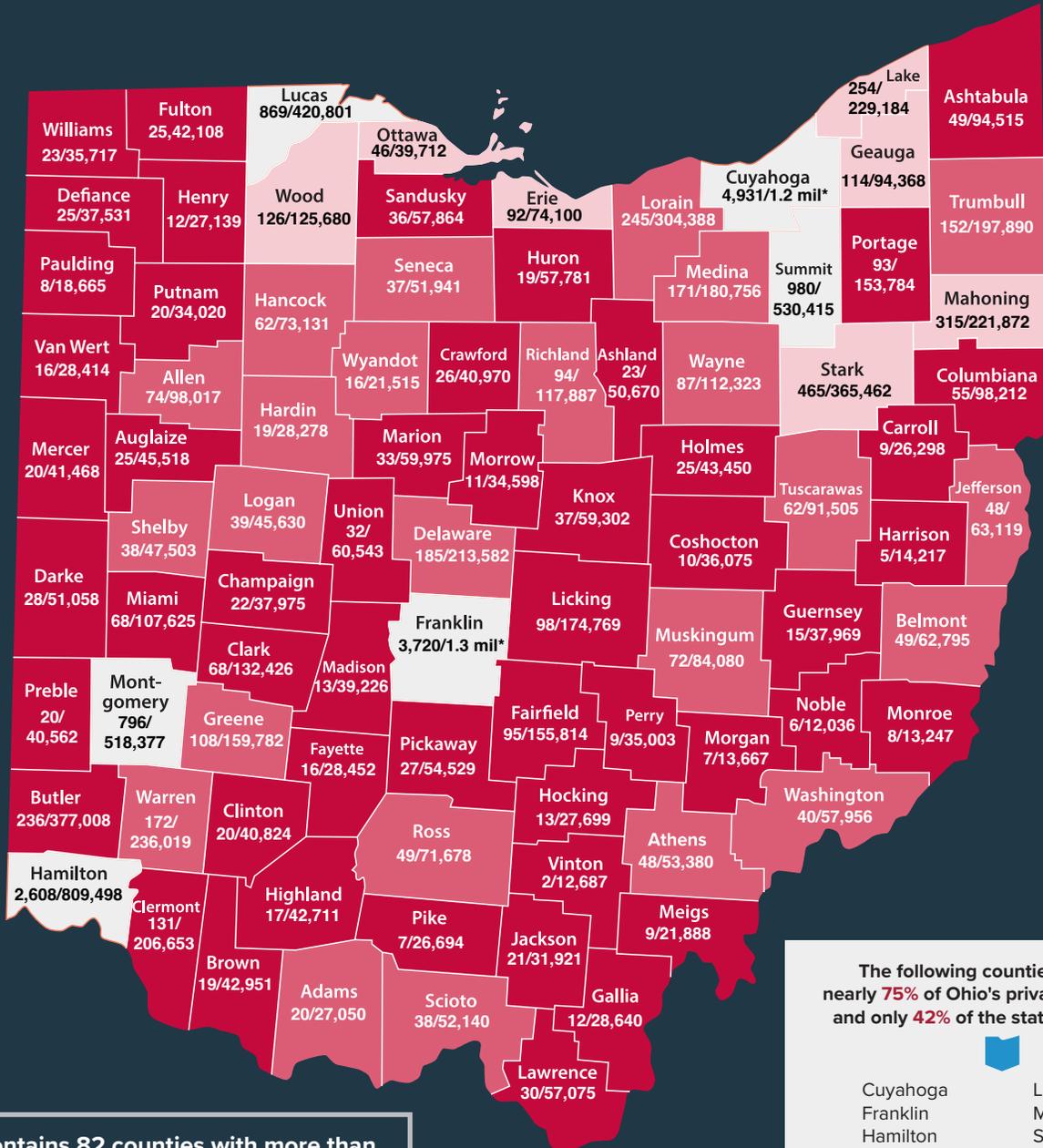
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Region	Total Earnings Impact	Share of State Impact	Total Employment Impact	Share of State Impact
Akron	\$343,980,422	5.4%	5,321	5.2%
Canton	\$119,757,30	1.9%	2,061	2.0%
Cincinnati	\$934,049,094	14.8%	13,898	13.5%
Cleveland	\$2,081,887,567	32.9%	30,207	29.4%
Columbus	\$1,283,589,742	20.3%	19,721	19.2%
Dayton	\$302,398,904	4.8%	4,793	4.7%
Toledo	\$216,648,978	3.4%	3,813	3.7%
Youngstown	\$93,667,928	1.5%	1,822	1.8%
Appalachia Region	\$251,135,289	4.0%	4,914	4.8%
State of Ohio	\$6,326,140,448	100.0%	102,821	100.0%

Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio’s Legal Services Industry prepared for the Ohio Bar by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center.

Earnings and employment impacts include 2019 payrolled employees, self-employed individuals, and extended proprietors. The total earnings and employment impacts of the regions due not sum to the total for the State of Ohio. The nine regions analyzed do not encompass all counties in the State of Ohio, and the Appalachian region encompasses seven counties included in other metropolitan areas analyzed.

Ohio Attorneys/County Population*



Ohio contains 82 counties with more than 700 residents per attorney.

The following counties represent nearly 75% of Ohio's private practitioners and only 42% of the state's population.

Cuyahoga
Franklin
Hamilton

Lucas
Montgomery
Summit

13,904/4,801,508

- 51 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of more than 1,500 people per attorney.
- 24 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of between 1,000 and 1,499 people per attorney.
- 7 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of between 700 and 999 people per attorney.
- 6 remaining counties have fewer than 700 people per active attorney.

*Number of private practitioners is based upon attorneys with IOTA/IOLTA accounts, i.e. those who handle client funds, according to the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation. Population data sourced from 2020 U.S. Census.

**Rounded for space

Ohio Attorney Per Resident

Adams	1 per 1,353	Licking	1 per 1,783
Allen	1 per 1,325	Logan	1 per 1,170
Ashland	1 per 2,203	Lorain	1 per 1,242
Ashtabula	1 per 1,929	Lucas	1 per 484
Athens	1 per 1,112	Madison	1 per 3,017
Auglaize	1 per 1,821	Mahoning	1 per 704
Belmont	1 per 1,282	Marion	1 per 1,817
Brown	1 per 2,261	Medina	1 per 1,057
Butler	1 per 1,597	Meigs	1 per 2,432
Carroll	1 per 2,922	Mercer	1 per 2,073
Champaign	1 per 1,726	Miami	1 per 1,583
Clark	1 per 1,947	Monroe	1 per 1,656
Clermont	1 per 1,578	Montgomery	1 per 651
Clinton	1 per 2,041	Morgan	1 per 1,952
Columbiana	1 per 1,786	Morrow	1 per 3,145
Coshocton	1 per 3,608	Muskingum	1 per 1,167
Crawford	1 per 1,576	Noble	1 per 2,006
Cuyahoga	1 per 250	Ottawa	1 per 863
Darke	1 per 1,824	Paulding	1 per 2,333
Defiance	1 per 1,501	Perry	1 per 3,889
Delaware	1 per 1,154	Pickaway	1 per 2,020
Erie	1 per 805	Pike	1 per 3,813
Fairfield	1 per 1,640	Portage	1 per 1,654
Fayette	1 per 1,778	Preble	1 per 2,028
Franklin	1 per 347	Putnam	1 per 1,701
Fulton	1 per 1,684	Richland	1 per 1,254
Gallia	1 per 2,387	Ross	1 per 1,463
Geauga	1 per 827	Sandusky	1 per 1,607
Greene	1 per 1,479	Scioto	1 per 1,193
Guernsey	1 per 2,531	Seneca	1 per 1,372
Hamilton	1 per 310	Shelby	1 per 1,250
Hancock	1 per 1,180	Stark	1 per 786
Hardin	1 per 1,488	Summit	1 per 541
Harrison	1 per 2,843	Trumbull	1 per 1,302
Henry	1 per 2,262	Tuscarawas	1 per 1,476
Highland	1 per 2,512	Union	1 per 1,892
Hocking	1 per 2,131	Van Wert	1 per 1,776
Holmes	1 per 1,738	Vinton	1 per 6,344
Huron	1 per 3,041	Warren	1 per 1,372
Jackson	1 per 1,520	Washington	1 per 1,449
Jefferson	1 per 1,315	Wayne	1 per 1,291
Knox	1 per 1,603	Williams	1 per 1,553
Lake	1 per 902	Wood	1 per 997
Lawrence	1 per 1,902	Wyandot	1 per 1,345

Calculations are based upon data compiled at a single point in time from the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Census Bureau