

Issue: People

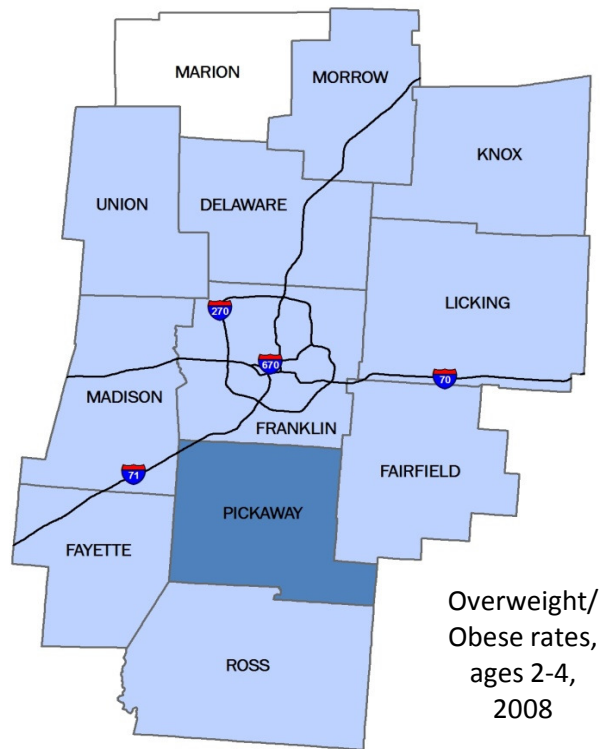
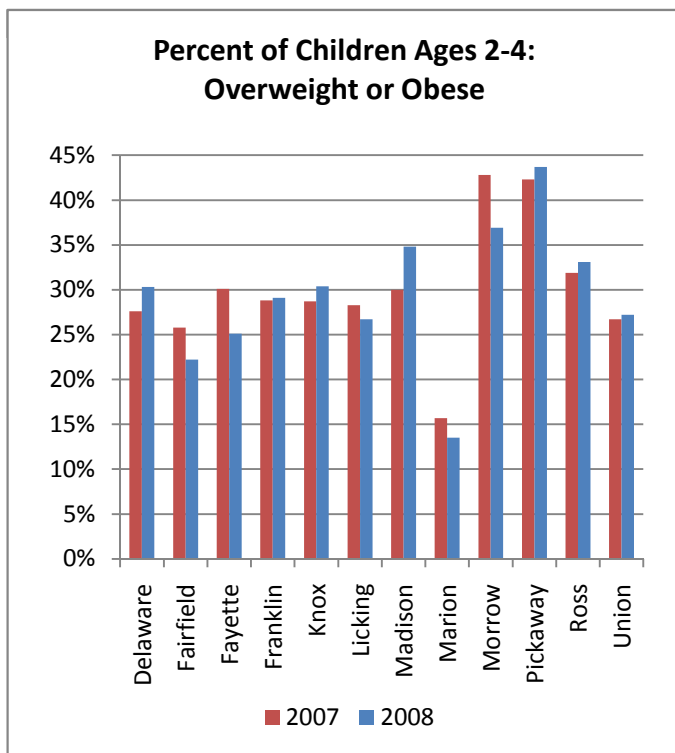
Metric: Child Obesity

	% of Children Ages 2-4: Overweight or Obese	
	2007	2008
Delaware	27.6%	30.3%
Fairfield	25.8%	22.2%
Fayette	30.1%	25.1%
Franklin	28.8%	29.1%
Knox	28.7%	30.4%
Licking	28.3%	26.7%
Madison	30.0%	34.8%
Marion	15.7%	13.5%
Morrow	42.8%	36.9%
Pickaway	42.3%	43.7%
Ross	31.9%	33.1%
Union	26.7%	27.2%
Region	28.7%	28.7%
Ohio	27.6%	28.0%
USA	31.3%	n/a

Childhood overweight and obesity rates have been growing throughout the U.S. in recent decades. Childhood obesity is linked to land development patterns in which people drive more, exercise less, and eat less healthily.

This visual shows the percentage of young children (ages 2-4) who are overweight or obese in central Ohio as of 2008. The region has a slightly higher early childhood obesity rate than the state as a whole. Between 2007 and 2008, the region's early childhood obesity rate did not change, whereas the state's increased. The highest overweight/obesity rates for young children in central Ohio are in Pickaway County, while Marion County has the lowest rates by far.

Both the state and the region have lower rates than the national average. Throughout Ohio, there is little difference between urban and rural counties in terms of overweight and obesity rates.



Source: [Ohio Department of Health](http://www.ohio.gov/odh)