

Levy Details

1 Mil

10 Years

Cost: \$2.56 per month,
per household
(Based upon house
valuation of \$100,000)

Commences in 2009

Protective Services Levy Facts


www.VOTETOPROTECT.org

How do you explain to an 8 year old that the sexual abuse she has suffered is not her fault? Or explain to a 70 year old that she cannot remain in her home because someone has stolen all of her money? In Fairfield County this crisis is increasing at an alarming rate to the extent that only 40% of these horrific tragedies can be investigated due to inadequate funding. Our system is crumbling; these innocent victims need to have someone answer their cry for help. Only *you* can assure that Fairfield County provides a stable foundation for what family life should be in our community.

What Are Child Protective Services?

The job of CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES is to help children have a *safe* and *stable* place to live.

It is best if children are raised by their parents, because we know they are damaged when they are removed from their home. However, sometimes children are at risk of being harmed by family or household members.

When we receive a call about a suspected case of abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or exploitation we thoroughly screen the referral to determine whether or not a formal

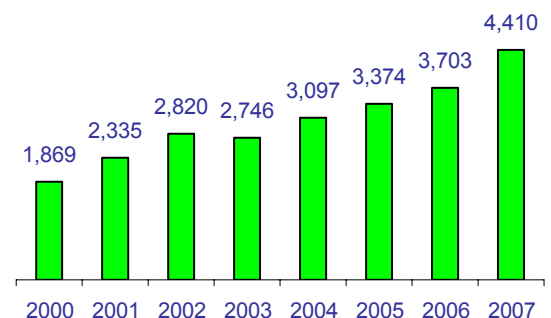
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Did You Know?

Fairfield County Child Protective Services (CPS) will receive more than 4,000 reports of abuse, neglect, maltreatment, and exploitation in 2007. The number of reports has **more than doubled** since 2000. Nearly one-third (1/3) of all reports are received from the educational communities throughout Fairfield County.

Continued on Page 2

Annual Reports of Child Abuse, Neglect,
and Exploitation in Fairfield County



Levy Purpose

For the purpose of **PROTECTIVE SERVICES** for **CHILDREN** who are physically and sexually abused, neglected, maltreated, or exploited and the **ELDERLY** of Fairfield County who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



What Are Child Protective Services? *Continued from Page 1*

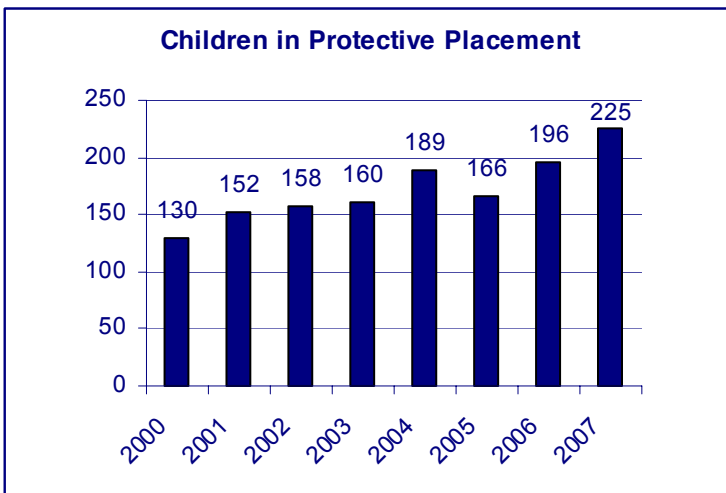
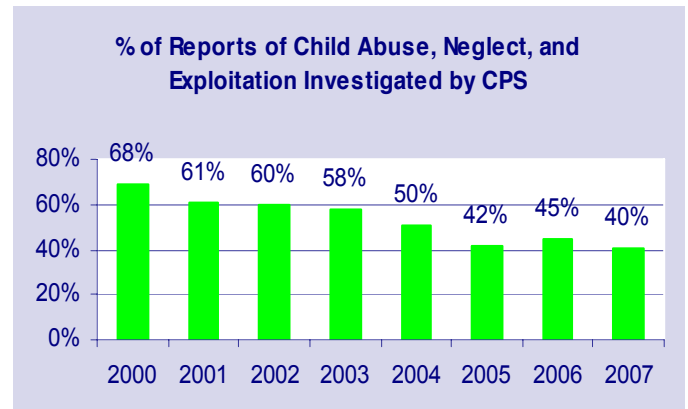
investigation is warranted. If a formal investigation is indicated, a thorough investigation is conducted by specially trained child welfare professionals. If we find abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or exploitation, our primary concern is for the safety of the child.

If parents agree to get help, and the home is basically safe and stable, we leave the child in the home and encourage the family as we monitor their progress. If there is a serious risk of harm to the child, we will ask the juvenile court to remove the child from that household and place the child in a safe and stable home—either in the home of a family member or in a quality foster home.

If the parents' behavior improves, the child is returned to their home and the family is reunited. If parents are unwilling or unable to change their behavior so that children can safely return to the home, we petition the juvenile court for the permanent custody of the child, so that they can be placed in a safe, stable, and permanent adoptive home.

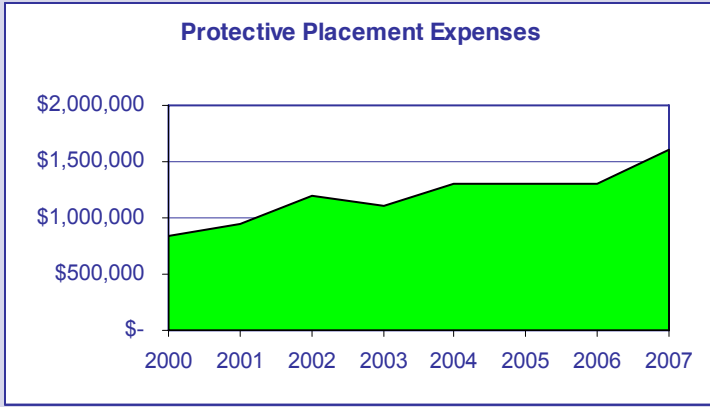
Did You Know? *Continued from Page 1*

Due to *significantly* limited resources, only 40% of the more than 4,000 reports are assigned for investigation compared to the 68% of all reports received in 2000. The passage of this levy will provide greater protection to children through a dramatic increase in the number of reports investigated.



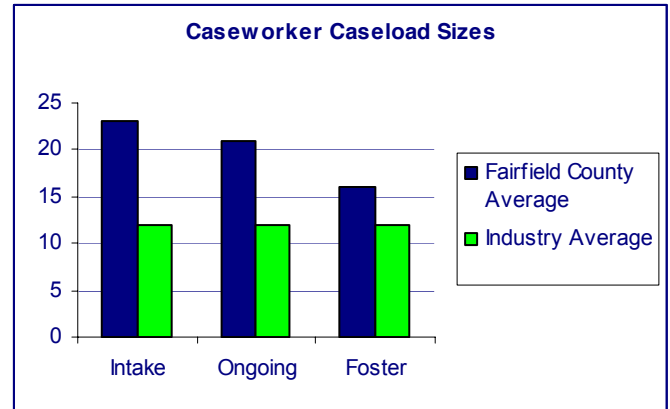
The number of children court ordered into agency custody has risen from **130** in 2000 to **225** in 2007. As a result of the significant damage inflicted upon children, cost to care for children in agency custody has risen **90%** since 2000 (from \$843,150 to \$1,600,000).

Protecting our children and elderly... a community responsibility



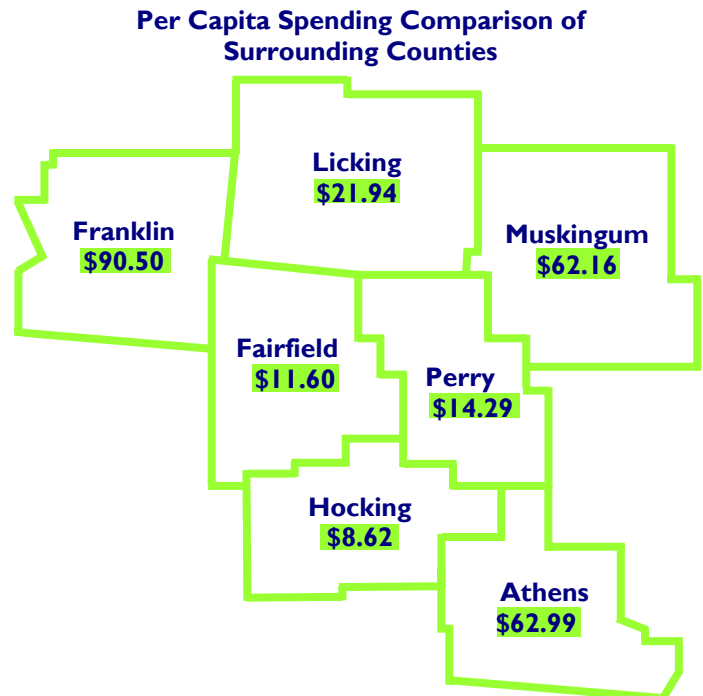
Due to the limited number of foster homes available in their own community, one-half (1/2) of all children in foster care are placed outside of Fairfield County, resulting in multiple school changes, increased casework and placement costs, and hindering a child’s potential success when returning to their home school.

Fairfield County Child Protective Services employs 27 specially trained child welfare investigators and caseworkers. Caseload sizes for investigators and caseworkers on average are nearly double the recommended state and national standards.



What Do Other Counties Spend on Protective Services?

Fairfield County funding for CPS is among the lowest in the state. **Despite the dramatic increase in population and referrals, local spending for child protective services has been frozen since 1999 and is one of the lowest among comparable counties within Ohio** based upon county population, caseload sizes, and demographics. There has not been a levy for protective services in Fairfield County since 1994.



Per capita spending is the amount that each county resident contributes in local taxes toward the protection of children. For example, if a county contributes \$2,000,000 in local dollars for CPS and the county has 100,000 residents, then the per capita cost is \$20.

County	County Population	Per Capita Spending
Athens	62,000	\$62.99
Muskingum	85,000	\$62.16
Lorain	300,000	\$30.66
Ashtabula	101,000	\$29.70
Clark	142,000	\$29.15
Richland	127,000	\$24.41
Licking	155,000	\$21.94
Greene	135,000	\$20.00
Allen	102,000	\$19.60
Clermont	188,000	\$15.95
Wayne	120,000	\$15.83
Delaware	150,000	\$13.33
Fairfield	140,000	\$11.60



Levy Revenue

The LEVY will support the following services to children:

- Increase the number of child abuse investigations and case management services
- Aggressively prosecute those who commit crimes against children
- Increase service linkage to children under the age of eight to prevent long lasting damage
- Provide support to relatives caring for grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins
- Increase parental involvement to promote parents' responsibility in caring for their children
- Provide local support services to older youth who are leaving foster care/treatment services (independent living services)
- Provide assistance with background checks to community organizations who serve children
- Foster care (to reimburse foster parents for expenses associated with care for children in the legal custody of the county or to assist relatives that may open their hearts and homes to provide safe placement while parents work on the issues causing the need for separation)
- Foster care recruitment, training, and quality oversight
- Train students, teachers, and school volunteers using evidence-based abuse prevention and internet predator curriculum

If the Levy is successful, the % of reports investigated will dramatically increase

For specific details on the long-term strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the child protective services system in Fairfield County, visit www.fcjfs.org and click on the Protective Services Levy icon.

Working to Earn Your Trust and Support

The Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) departments have worked diligently over the past decade to earn the trust and support of taxpayers prior to seeking voter approval of a levy for the protection of abused, neglected, and exploited children and the elderly.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In 2006, following three years of intensive self-study and preparation, Fairfield County CPS and APS achieved accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA) headquartered in New York City.

Fairfield County is one of only 22 counties in Ohio to achieve national accreditation for service delivery, continuous quality improvement, fiscal and human resource practices, organizational planning, risk management and overall governance. In short, COA accreditation is an objective, reliable, and ongoing verification that we are an organization that you can trust and rely on. It is one way that we can demonstrate our commitment to providing abused, neglected, and exploited children and the elderly with the very best services possible with the limited resources available.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY AND PLANNING PANELS

The Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services departments value the feedback and input of citizens, community partners, and key stakeholders, and have implemented a number of mechanisms for ongoing continuous quality improvement, including the Community Advisory and Planning Panel (CAPP) concept.

More than 120 stakeholders, community partners, and residents of Fairfield County currently serve on the 13 CAPPs.

Protecting our children and elderly... a community responsibility



Children and Families Involved with Child Protective Services

ALICE was a mother in need of therapeutic treatment for her 15 year old son. After exhausting all insurance benefits and savings, she turned to CPS for help. Unfortunately, local funding is unavailable to assist her so she is forced to choose between keeping her family together and relinquishing custody of her child. “As a taxpayer, I’m embarrassed to live in a county where this is my only option.”

JOHNNY is a 3-month old child whose life started out with being thrown into a dumpster as a result of his family seeing no other way out. Early intervention would have prevented this innocent life from being treated like trash. However, insufficient funding makes it impossible for CPS to get to these families and assist in making a plan for other caregivers.

BAILEY & HANNAH are sisters. When their parents were arrested by local authorities, they never mentioned they had a 4 month old baby and 4 year old little girl at home waiting for them. The girls were left alone throughout the night and were found by police at 11am the next morning after the 4 year old was discovered in the street “looking for Mom”. The children went into foster care as CPS worked with their grandmother to assist her in caring for them full time. The grandmother was tragically diagnosed with cancer and died shortly thereafter. Because CPS was unable to reunite the children with their parents (they were still unable to provide a safe and stable home), the girls entered foster care.

TONY & APRIL are drug addicts. Because of their drug abuse during pregnancy, Tony and April’s baby was court ordered into the custody of Child Protective Services when April went into the hospital to give birth. CPS placed the baby in the care of Tony’s parents. In an

JOANNIE is a 2 year old little girl on life support. As a result of being shaken so severely, she cannot even close her eyelids. Her adoptive mother must continuously monitor the clock to assure eye drops are constantly applied to prevent her crystal blue eyes from drying out.

effort to regain custody of their child, Tony and April entered a treatment facility to address their issues with drug addiction. They felt hopeless about their situation and, having no where to go, were residing in a shelter. With guidance and assistance from CPS and other community resources, Tony and April are now participating in treatment on a daily basis, are living in their own home, and have had their child returned to them. They are now both employed and have been off drugs for over four months. April stated that she feels like she finally “has a family” for the first time!





What are Adult Protective Services?

The job of ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES is to investigate allegations of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation (theft or misuse of funds) of older adults.

Adult Protective Services (APS), as mandated by law, is the only governmental agency entrusted to provide for the safety and protection of older adult victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation by accessing or initiating services that maximize independence and quality of life.



Did You Know?

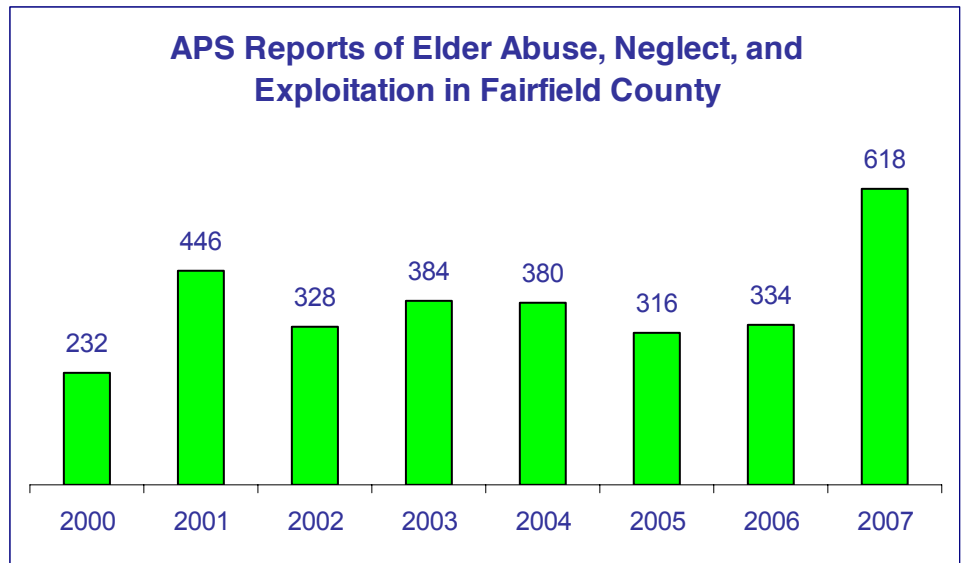
Fairfield County Adult Protective Services (APS) will receive over 600 reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in 2007. **The number of annual reports to APS has nearly tripled since 2000.**

Although a state mandated service, APS receives only \$3,000 annually from the State of Ohio.

Fairfield County APS works closely with physicians, hospitals, and home health agencies to assure the safety of older adult patients.

APS also collaborates with police departments, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, local prosecuting attorneys, and the State Attorney General's Office to prepare and ensure successful prosecution of perpetrators of elder abuse and exploitation.

APS provides education and information to community agencies and businesses, including law enforcement, banks, social service providers, and others. In addition, APS partners with community social service agencies throughout Fairfield County to access services that enhance the long-term independence of senior citizens.



Protecting our children and elderly... a community responsibility



Older Adults Involved with Adult Protective Services

ETHEL is an 88 year old widow who was befriended by a woman who frequented the same beauty parlor. Diagnosed with early stage dementia, Ethel accepted the young woman's offer to help her around the house. Within a period of months, the woman had moved into the elderly woman's home, convinced her to change her will, and talked her into signing documents allowing for a joint checking and savings account. By the time the case was referred to APS, the woman had stolen over \$100,000 from the elderly widow. She was subsequently prosecuted, found guilty, and incarcerated.

ELIZABETH, an 84-year-old woman living by herself, was referred to Fairfield County Adult Protective Services by a pizza deliveryman after he noticed that her nightgown was soiled with urine and feces. As a result of the APS investigation, the woman was removed from her deplorable living conditions and admitted to the hospital with skin lesions caused by months of neglect. Her adult nephew, as her designated Power of Attorney, had not provided care or checked on her for over six months.

WALTER, an 80-year-old man, purchased a home for his son, his son's wife, children, and himself. Soon after moving in together, the son became verbally abusive and physically threatened his elderly father, who was confined to a wheelchair as the result of a stroke. As the result of APS intervention, the adult son moved out and the elderly man received in-home services to help him remain independent within his own home.

Levy Revenue

The LEVY will support the following services to elderly residents of Fairfield County:

- On-call, 24/7 response to reports of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Investigation of allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and comprehensive assessment of needs
- Aggressively prosecute those who commit crimes against the elderly
- Ongoing monitoring to ensure the safety of older adults
- Arrange for and access available community services necessary to assure the safety of the older adult and facilitate independence
- Arrange for and assist with moving to safer residence when the older adult resides in an unhealthy or threatening environment
- Enhanced collaboration with law enforcement and prosecutors in preparing for the prosecution of perpetrators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Provide guidance to families of older adults in accessing services to assist with maximizing their quality of life



For additional information, call the

PROTECTIVE SERVICES LEVY HOTLINE

(740) 687-6815

Members of the *Citizens to Protect Children and the Elderly from Abuse and Neglect* are available to answer questions related to the levy. Your call will be returned within 24 hours.

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1 Mil

10 Years

Cost: \$2.56 per month, per household
(Based upon house valuation of \$100,000)

Commences in 2009

Visit our website

www.VOTETOPROTECT.org

for more information.

To Be a CHAMPION in Protecting Our County's Children and Elderly

- **Make a financial donation to the Levy Committee**
- **Serve on the Levy Committee**
- **Host potluck/dinner for an Informational Session/Presentation**
- **Be a business sponsor/partner**
 - **Display information at your business**
 - **Display on the marquee at your business**
 - **Invite a CPS or APS representative to speak at a staff meeting**
- **Provide a letter of support or sign a letter of endorsement:**
 - **To local media**
 - **In our newsletter**
 - **In your newsletter**
 - **In your church bulletin**
- **Sponsor an advertisement**
- **Volunteer**
 - **Chair or participate on a subcommittee**
 - **Distribute informational brochures in your neighborhood**
 - **Serve on a phone committee**
 - **Distribute yard signs**
 - **Display a yard sign**
- **Provide a link from your website to the Protective Services Levy Fact Webpage**
- **Be featured on the radio to demonstrate support**

www.VOTETOPROTECT.org

Protecting our children and elderly... a community responsibility

Paid for by *Citizens to Protect Children and the Elderly from Abuse and Neglect*