



Oregon

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Housing and Community Services



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Report on Poverty Describes the Problem at the Local Level

Salem, Oregon (October 10, 2006) – In 2005, 22 percent of Oregon children under the age of 5 lived in poverty, and 56 percent of families headed by single mothers with children younger than age 5 lived in poverty.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) new *Report on Poverty 2006* provides both a national and a local perspective on poverty. Benefiting from recent data provided by the American Community Survey, the new report describes ongoing effects of the 2001 recession, high unemployment, rising energy costs, and housing price inflation.

The report pulls together data from the US Census, Oregon Department of Revenue, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Employment Department and a variety of federal and independent studies to paint a picture of poverty in Oregon.

Among the report's key findings:

- In 2005, poverty affected 14.1 percent of Oregonians
- Poverty disproportionately affects the state's minority populations
- Among Oregon families with children, 15.9 percent lived in poverty in 2005
- Oregon housing price increases ranked in the top four among states for the year ending March 2006
- 25 percent of Oregon homeowners pay more than 35 percent of their income toward housing costs
- Oregon ranked as the 3rd most unaffordable rental market in the nation

- more -

For more information regarding the Poverty Report 2006, contact Lisa Joyce at 503.986.0951 or e-mail at lisa.joyce@hcs.state.or.us. The report is available on the department's website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is the State's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The Department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community service programs. The OHCS mission is to "Reach out for opportunities to create partnerships that improve Oregonians' lives and the quality of our communities." For more information, visit our website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A list of key findings by county follows.

Selected findings by county

Baker—Per capita income in 2004 in Baker County was 73 percent of the state average.

Benton—Benton County per capita income in 2004 was 111 percent of the state average.

Clackamas—Clackamas County had the second highest median income among the counties in 2000.

Clatsop—Clatsop County gained 1,010 non-farm positions between 2001 and 2005.

Columbia—The number of children who qualified for free or reduced priced lunches rose from 24.7 percent of students in 2000-2001 to 31.8 percent during the 2004 to 2005 school year.

Coos—During the 2004-2005 school year, more than half of the county's student qualified for free or reduced price lunches.

Crook—Unemployment in Crook County dropped from 9.5 percent in 2003 to 6.7 percent in 2005.

Curry—Between the 2000-2001 and 2004-2005 school years, the percentage of children qualifying for free and reduced price lunches grew from 43.8 to 54.9.

Deschutes—Deschutes County unemployment fell from 7.6 percent in 2003 to 5.5 percent in 2005.

Douglas – 43 percent of single women with children under 18 lived in poverty n 1999.

Gilliam—Per capita personal income in Gilliam County rose 16.2 percent from 2003 to 2004, bringing it to 83 percent of the state average.

Grant—Grant County's population fell 8 percent from 2000 to 2005 – from 7,935 people to 7, 297.

Harney—Harney County's population continued to fall from 2000 to 20005, from 7,609 people to 6,898 people ... a 9.3 percent drop.

Hood River—Per capita income in Hood River County rose 4.9 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Jackson—Per capita income in Jackson County rose at an average rate of 3.8 percent between 1994 and 2004.

Jefferson—Per capita income in 2004 was \$22,735, or 74 percent of the state average.

Josephine—Unemployment dropped from a high of 8.9 percent in 2003 to 6.9 percent in 2005.

Klamath—The high school drop out rate decreased from 5.7 percent in 2000 to 3.6 percent in 2005.

Lake—Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$25,974 in Lake County in contrast to \$35,005 for the state.

Lane—The percentage of Lane County renters who spent 30 percent or more of their income on housing rose to nearly 63 percent in 2004.

Lincoln—Unemployment in Lincoln County fell from 9 percent in 2003 to 6.7 percent in 2005.

Linn—During the 2004-2005 school year, nearly 50 percent of Linn County's school-age children qualified for free or reduced price lunches.

Malheur—Per capita income in 2004 in Malheur County was 66 percent of the state average.

Marion—The percentage of Marion County residents living in poverty grew from 13.6 percent in 2002 to 18.3 percent in 2004, according to the American Community Survey.

Morrow—In 2003 and 2004, per capita income in Morrow County rose 15.4 percent.

Multnomah—By 2005, 57.6 percent of renters paid more than 30 percent of their total income on rent.

Polk—The percentage of student qualifying for free- or reduced-price lunches fell from 43.9 percent in the 2003-2004 school year to 39.9 percent for the last school year.

Sherman—More than half (51.1 percent) of Sherman County families headed by a single mother lived in poverty in 1999.

Tillamook—The recession hit Tillamook County hard, with unemployment increasing from 4.4 percent in 2000 to 9.5 in 2003.

Umatilla—Between 2001 and 2005, Umatilla County lost 740 non-farm positions.

Union—Per capita income in Union County rose 4.0 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Wallowa—Average earnings per job in 2004 in Wallowa County were \$23,303 compared to \$35,005 for the state.

Wasco—From 2000 to 2005, Wasco County's population fell from 23,791 to 23,593.

Washington—The percentage of Washington County residents in poverty grew from 9.4 percent to 10.3 percent between 2002 and 2005.

Wheeler—Wheeler County's population fell 5.9 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Yamhill—Between 2001 and 2005, Yamhill County gained 2,470 non-farm positions.