

## Major Findings

Poverty in Columbia County defied trends seen in most other counties. About half the rate of people lived in poverty as did in the state as a whole: 7 percent in Columbia County versus 13 percent for the state. The poverty rate in the county fell two percentage points between 2000 and 2007. In those same seven years, county population grew 9 percent. Unemployment remained slightly higher than the state at 5.7 percent in 2007, but well below its 2003 peak of 10.4 percent. Median household income was almost \$8,000 more than the state median.

The county experienced steady job growth of nearly 8 percent from 2001 to 2007. In the last year, three economic sectors lost jobs: Natural Resources and Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing. Wages in these industries averaged more than \$35,000 a year. Growth in Professional and Business Services; Leisure and Hospitality; Local Government; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities replaced most of these lost positions.

	Clatsop County	Oregon	United States	
2007 (3 years avg)	<b>Number in Poverty</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>488,896</b>	<b>38,567,903</b>
	<b>Percent in Poverty</b>	7.2%	13.5%	13.3%
2000-2007	<b>Percent change in Number in Poverty</b>	-11.7%	25.8%	13.8%
	<b>Percent change in Population</b>	12.5%	7.9%	6.2%
	<b>Number of additional people in Poverty</b>	<b>- 456</b>	<b>+ 100,156</b>	<b>+ 4,668,091</b>
	<b>Number of additional Population</b>	<b>+ 5,436</b>	<b>+ 263,630</b>	<b>+ 16,976,436</b>

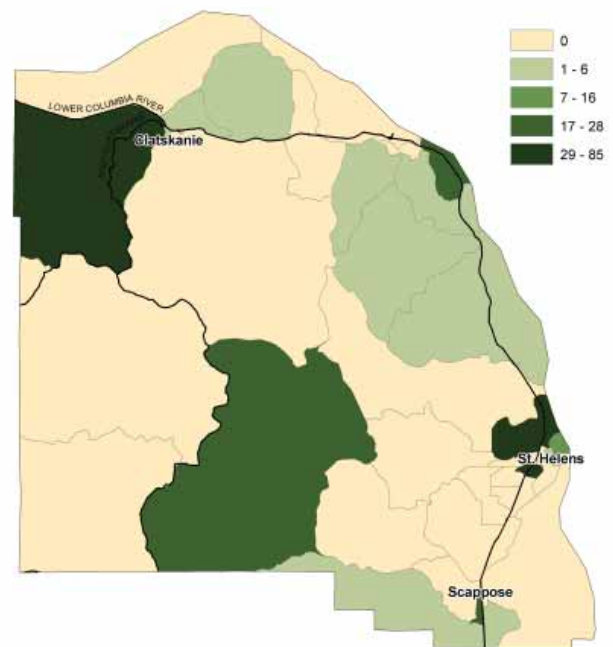
OHCS analyzed the costs of necessities and found that in Columbia County a single parent with one child needed to make \$31,776 in 2007 to make ends meet, equivalent to an hourly wage of \$15.28. Pay from jobs such as cashiers, sales clerks, and secretaries could not pay for this basic family budget.

## Community Action Agency

Community Action Team, Inc.  
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 St. Helens, OR 97051  
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 Fax (503) 397-3290  
[www.cat-team.org](http://www.cat-team.org)



## Affordable Housing Units by Census Block Group



# Columbia County

## Basic Family Budget, an Alternative to the Federal Poverty Threshold

2007 Columbia County's  
Basic Family Budget



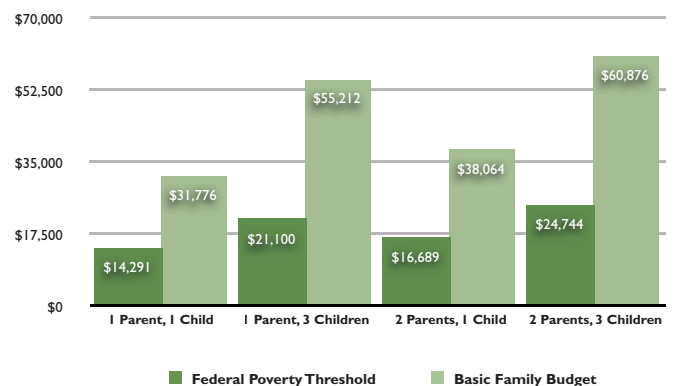
Householder(s)	1 Parent	1 Parent	2 Parents	2 Parents
Children	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old
Housing	\$737	\$1,073	\$737	\$1,073
Food	\$316	\$615	\$512	\$774
Child Care	\$453	\$1,123	\$453	\$1,123
Transportation	\$318	\$318	\$447	\$447
Healthcare	\$230	\$295	\$325	\$393
Other Necessities	\$326	\$523	\$387	\$573
Taxes	\$268	\$654	\$311	\$690
Monthly Total	\$2,648	\$4,601	\$3,172	\$5,073
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$31,776</b>	<b>\$55,212</b>	<b>\$38,064</b>	<b>\$60,876</b>
Hourly Wage needed for Basic Family Budget	\$15.28	\$26.54	\$9.15	\$14.63
Federal Poverty Threshold (FPT)	\$14,291	\$21,100	\$16,689	\$24,744
<b>Percent of Basic Family Budget</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>

### Low-Income Needs

Columbia County Community Action Team identified the following as the primary needs for the low-income population of Columbia County:

- Housing; including restoration of flood damaged housing in Vernonia, permanent housing for homeless persons, emergency mortgage assistance, and affordable housing
- Nutrition for seniors
- Early Childhood Development
- Health: Emergency dental care services








**Basic Family Budget vs. Federal Poverty Threshold**



## Population and Economy

Columbia County Employment	2007 Number of Positions	2006-2007 Change in Number of Positions	2007 Percent Gain in Positions	2007 Average Pay Per Position
Industries with the Largest Number of Employees, 2007				
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,086	39	2%	\$30,650
Manufacturing	1,898	-33	-2%	\$49,881
Local Government	1,769	40	2%	\$38,316
Greatest Increase in the Number of Positions				
Professional & Business Services	657	54	9%	\$27,217
Leisure & Hospitality	1,108	41	4%	\$12,208
Local Government	1,769	40	2%	\$38,316
Greatest Decrease in the Number of Positions				
Natural Resources & Mining	519	-124	-19%	\$35,728
Construction	522	-49	-9%	\$36,439
Manufacturing	1,898	-33	-2%	\$49,881

## Population Change Since 2000

	2000-2007 % Growth	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OREGON	 9.0%	3,436,750	3,471,700	3,504,700	3,541,500	3,582,600	3,631,440	3,690,505	3,745,455
COLUMBIA	 8.8%	43,700	44,300	44,600	45,000	45,650	46,220	46,965	47,565
Clatskanie	 11.8%	1,530	1,530	1,610	1,650	1,650	1,660	1,675	1,710
Columbia City	 22.6%	1,595	1,620	1,650	1,720	1,760	1,785	1,890	1,955
Prescott	 -14.3%	70	70	60	60	60	60	60	60
Rainier	 5.0%	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,750	1,750	1,760	1,705	1,775
St. Helens	 19.6%	10,100	10,380	10,780	11,250	11,370	11,795	11,940	12,075
Scappoose	 21.2%	5,025	5,160	5,260	5,480	5,590	5,700	5,840	6,090
Vernonia	 5.6%	2,240	2,220	2,260	2,260	2,260	2,275	2,340	2,365
Unincorporated	 0.4%	21,450	21,630	21,290	20,830	21,210	21,185	21,515	21,535

# Columbia County

## 2007 Community Action Agency Activities

### Housing

operated the main Recovery Center in Vernonia and assisted more than 700 households affected by the flood. Staff helped families access insurance, federal assistance, and donated resources to rebuild their homes. CAT helped 70 families restore their homes, with repairs or replacements planned for another 100 homes.

completed construction of a 20-bed transitional housing facility for ex-offenders in Columbia County, now in full operation

### Early Childhood Development

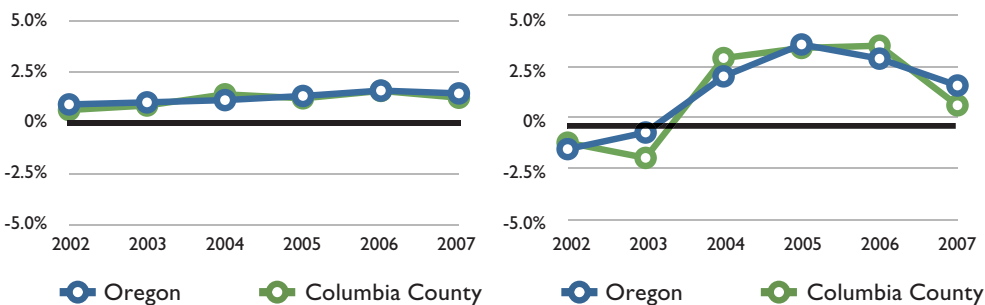
expanded Head Start Program by 108, now serving 365 children

used Community Development Block Grant to create a new center in St. Helens

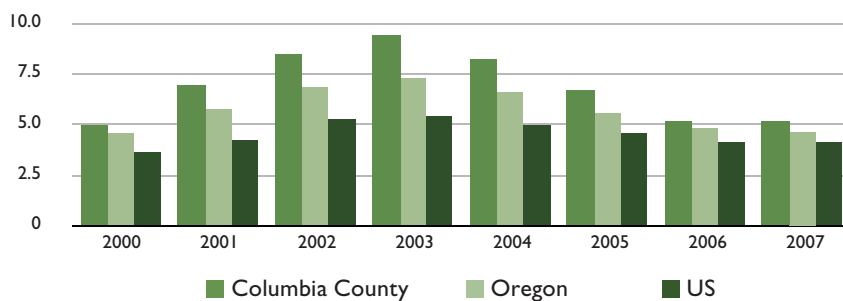
### Healthcare

brought a mobile dental clinic to Venonia, Clatskanie, and St. Helens and provided dental care to 30 people

## Population Change vs. Employment Change Since 2001



## Unemployment Rates



### Birth Rates

2002-2005, average Birth Rate per 1,000

Columbia County

11

State of Oregon

13

2002-2005, average Teenage Birth Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19

Columbia County

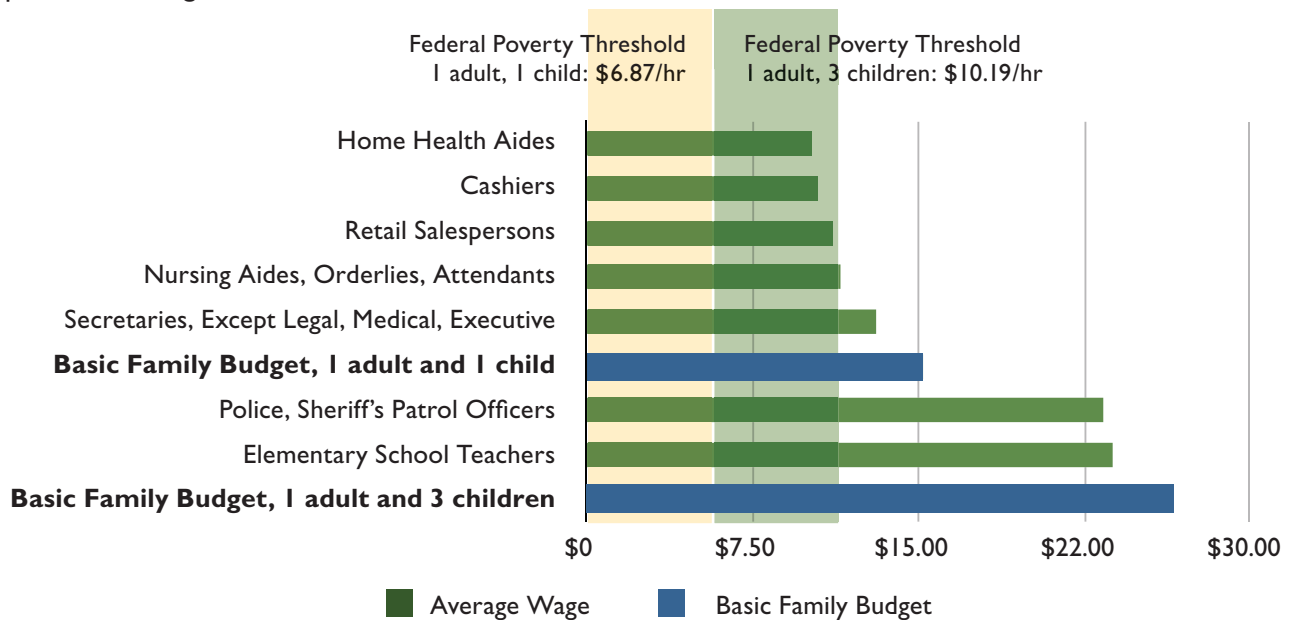
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State of Oregon

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## Average Hourly Wages 2007

### Occupational Earnings



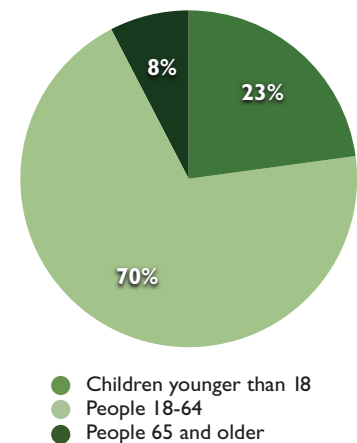
## Poverty Population Characteristics

Poverty Rates by Age & Disability Status - 2005-2007 avg	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	7%	-	-
Children younger than 18	7%	23%	23%
People 18-64	8%	70%	65%
People 65 and older	5%	8%	12%
People with a disability	12%	30%	18%

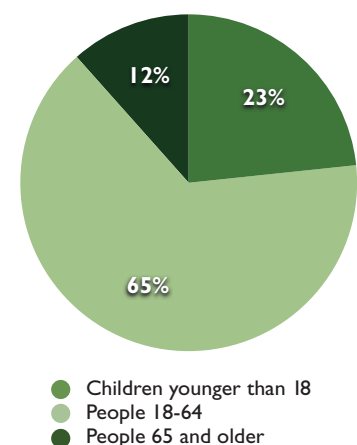
Poverty Rates by Family - 2005-2007 avg	% in Poverty	% of Families in Poverty	% of all Families
All Families	5%	-	-
Families with children under 18	8%	70%	43%
Single women with children under 18	32%	53%	8%

Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity - 2005-2007 avg	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	7%	-	-
White	7%	94%	94%
Black	--	--	--
American Indian	--	--	--
Asian	--	--	--
Pacific Islander	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--
2 or more races	--	--	--
Hispanic origin	--	--	--

## Poverty by Age – 2007



## Population by Age – 2007



-- indicates data was suppressed due to confidentiality.

# Columbia County

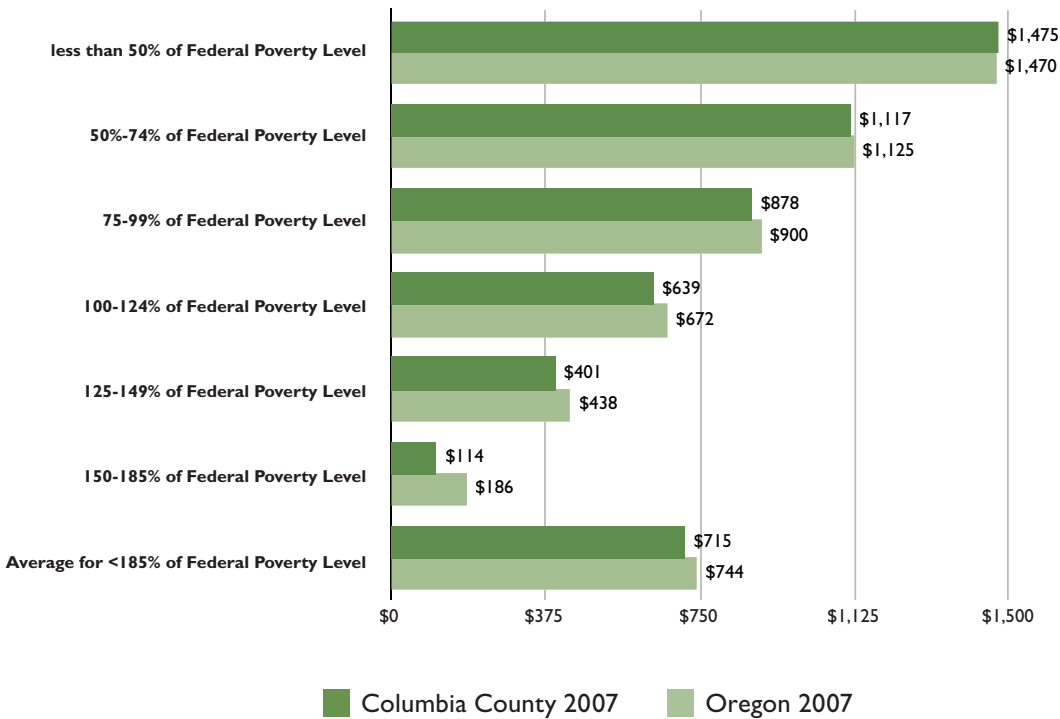
## 2005-2007 Household Incomes

	Columbia County	Oregon	United States
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$55,153</b>	<b>\$47,385</b>	<b>\$50,007</b>
Owner Median Household Income	\$61,259	\$60,521	\$62,257
Renter Median Household Income	\$34,129	\$29,072	\$30,473
Total Households	18,182	1,447,409	111,609,629
Renters percent income spent on housing	23%	30%	30%
Owners percent income spent on housing	22%	23%	21%
<b>Extremely Low Income (30% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$16,546</b>	<b>\$14,216</b>	<b>\$15,002</b>
Households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	1,734	181,434	14,381,176
Burdened households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	1,252	149,466	11,433,225
% Burdened	<b>72%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Very Low Income (50% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$27,577</b>	<b>\$23,693</b>	<b>\$25,004</b>
Households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	1,763	135,298	10,783,159
Burdened households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	923	95,037	7,003,062
% Burdened	<b>52%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Low Income (80% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$44,122</b>	<b>\$37,908</b>	<b>\$40,006</b>
Households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	3,059	231,309	17,296,662
Burdened households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	1,182	120,261	8,218,676
% Burdened	<b>39%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Workforce (120% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$66,184</b>	<b>\$56,862</b>	<b>\$60,008</b>
Households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	4,175	257,185	18,942,358
Burdened households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	1,050	83,365	5,594,941
% Burdened	<b>25%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Note: Burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of household income on gross housing costs (includes utilities).

## Energy

### Individual Household Energy Shortfall



## Health Indicators

2006 Percent of Population without Health Insurance (by Region)

Columbia County	State of Oregon
<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>

2007 Number of Primary Care Providers per 100,000

Columbia County	State of Oregon
<b>47</b>	<b>112</b>

2006 Percentage of 2 year olds who are "adequately" immunized

Columbia County	State of Oregon
<b>69%</b>	<b>71%</b>

2002-2005, average % of adults who consume at least 5 servings of fruits & vegetables per day

Columbia County	State of Oregon
<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>

2002-2005, average Percent of Adults who Smoke Cigarettes

Columbia County	State of Oregon
<b>26%</b>	<b>20%</b>



Across the state, Oregon Housing and Community Services and its partners develop safe, attractive, and affordable housing for working Oregonians.

# Columbia County

## How We Help

Columbia County Services	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	79	26	0	1
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$236,567	\$502,500	\$80,000	\$100,000
Single Family Loans for low-income households-#	5	13	11	7	11
Single Family Loans for low-income households-\$	\$501,315	\$1,537,891	\$1,501,706	\$1,071,333	\$1,869,748
Households receiving energy assistance-#	1,236	1,059	1,092	1,080	1,198
Units weatherized-#	--	19	33	30	24
Units weatherized-\$	--	\$34,528	\$101,028	\$115,639	\$116,608
Average per unit weatherized-\$	--	\$1,817	\$3,061	\$3,855	\$4,859
Oregon Health Plan enrollment-%	9%	10%*	10%	10%	9%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	2,123	2,712	2,833	2,850	2,420
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	25%	32%	33%	33%	28%
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	--	16%	16%	16%	16%
Population receiving TANF-%	--	1%	1%	1%	1%

\* indicates that data cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection.  
 -- indicates data is not available.

## Homelessness

### One Night Overview

Columbia County 2008 One Night Count	
Total Homeless Households	93
<b>Total Homeless Population</b>	<b>160</b>
<i>Total in Emergency Shelter</i>	<b>14</b>
<i>Total in Transitional Housing</i>	<b>37</b>
<i>Total Turnaway &amp; Street Count</i>	<b>109</b>
<b>Chronically Homeless Population</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Pregnant Youth</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Households with Children</b>	<b>25</b>
Stated Causes of Homelessness:**	
Couldn't afford rent	<b>76%</b>
Criminal History	<b>45%</b>
Unemployed	<b>42%</b>
Evicted by landlord	<b>35%</b>
Poor Rental History	<b>32%</b>
Credit	<b>31%</b>
Mental or Emotional disorder	<b>31%</b>
Kicked out by family/friends	<b>27%</b>
Drug/Alcohol (In Home)	<b>22%</b>
Drug/Alcohol (Self)	<b>14%</b>

\*\*Respondents may give more than one reason

### Risk Factors

2006-2007, school year  
High School Dropout Rate

Columbia  
County  
**3%**

State of  
Oregon  
**4%**

2005-2006, school year  
Percent of 8th graders who  
reported using illicit drugs in  
the previous 30 days

Columbia  
County  
**2%**

State of  
Oregon  
**16%**

2006  
Criminal Offenses,  
percent of population

Columbia  
County  
**7%**

State of  
Oregon  
**12%**