

Major findings

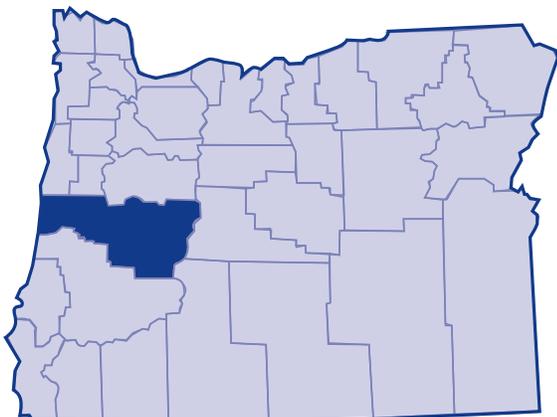
According to the US Census, the poverty rate in Lane County remained relatively constant between 1989 and 1999. However, the rate of poverty for Lane County remained slightly higher than the state and national averages due to increases experienced from 1979 to 1989.

Of the Lane County residents living in poverty, 46 percent earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold for their family type, making them very poor.

Lane County's children, families and minorities experienced the highest rates of poverty in 1999. Children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rates of poverty of all age groups. Over 20 percent of families who had children under 5 lived in poverty. Poverty affected more than half (53.3 percent) of families headed by single mothers who had a child 5 years of age or younger.

Families with one working adult could not afford Lane County's basic family budget.

In 2003, 24.9 percent of Lane county residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

Lane County Human Services Commission listed the needs of the low-income population in Lane County as follows²:

- Increased access to health care for low-income uninsured and underinsured residents
- Provide emergency and transitional assistance for households at risk of losing housing or assist with reestablishing housing through reconfiguring a blend of federal and state funding
- Maintain and increase access to crisis intervention services by Latinos and farm workers
- Funding for homeless prevention programs
- Early-intervention programs
- Increase access to emergency and respite childcare and transportation for homeless children to childcare or their school of origin
- Maintain food delivery system for low-income persons and access to available hunger resources.
- Maintain improved energy assistance access for senior and disabled persons
- Increase bilingual/cultural case management support for families who have children with disabilities
- Maintain and expand resources for case management
- Promote the electronic and referral system through www.thelane.net
- Encourage information and referral services in the community (Help Line, Help Book, Warm Line, www.thelane.net, and www.oregonhelp.org) to advertise and promote access to public health benefits

Lane County

Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Lane County grew 14.2 percent between 1989 and 1999. The US Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 316,016 county residents and found that 14.4 percent (45,423 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This is an increase of 14 percent in the number of persons in poverty (39,838 people) since 1989. The overall percent of Lane County's population living in poverty remained relatively constant from 1989 to 1999, but the number of people living in poverty did not.

20-year Trend

In the 20 years after 1979, the poverty rate in Lane County increased from 12.8 percent of the population to 14.4 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 34,264 people to 45,423 people. Lane County's poverty rates were higher than the state and national poverty rates by 1999.

Poverty and Age

In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined, children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 20.9 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 16.8 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate: 7.5 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the rate of poverty was consistently highest for children younger than 18.

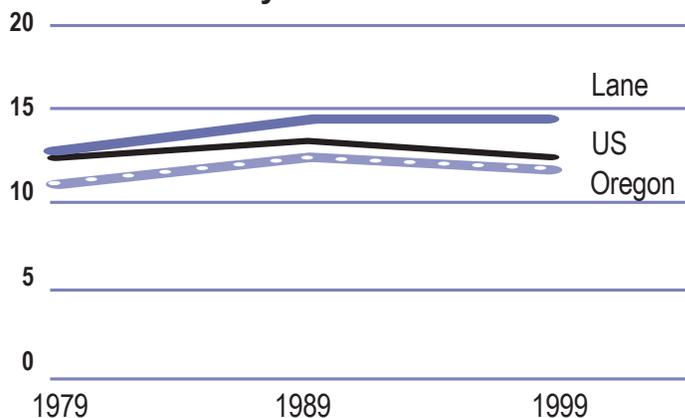
Poverty in Selected Communities

Number of persons below poverty level
(poverty rate)

	1989	1999	Percent Change (rate difference)
Lane County	39,838 (14.5%)	45,423 (14.4%)	14.0% (-0.1%)
Oregon Statewide	344,867 (12.4%)	388,740 (11.6%)	12.7% (-0.8%)
United States	31,742,864 (13.1%)	33,899,812 (12.4%)	6.8% (-0.7%)

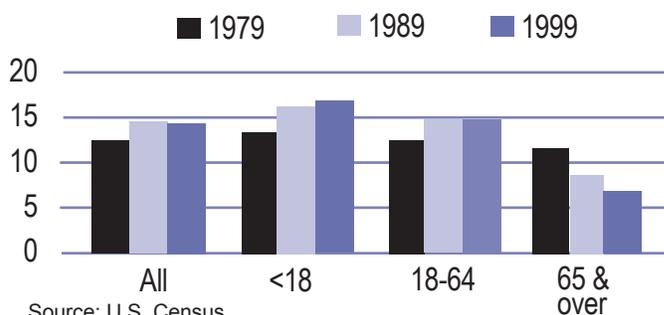
Source: U.S. Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty Rates 1979-1999



Source: U.S. Census.

Rate of Poverty by Age



Source: U.S. Census.

Poverty and Lane County Families

In 1999, 7,478 Lane County families lived in poverty (9.0 percent). Of the families in poverty, 67.5 percent (5,049 families) had a householder who worked and 13.8 percent (1,033 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

The poverty rate was higher for families with children. Families with at least one child younger than 18 experienced poverty at a rate of 14.8 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at a higher rate of 20.1 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 39.5 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 53.3 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 6.4 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 2,572 families in 1979 to 3,601 families in 1999.

Poverty and Race/Ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups³, White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 82.5 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 13.1 percent. Asian experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among Asian was 31.1 percent. Other and Hispanic Origin both had poverty rates above 27 percent. From 1989 to 1999, White remained relatively constant. Poverty increased for Other and Hispanic Origin.

Lane County Families in Poverty

Number below Poverty Level (Poverty Rate)	Year			% Change '79-'99 (rate difference)
	1979	1989	1999	
All Families	6,092 (8.5%)	6,946 (9.4%)	7,478 (9.0%)	22.8% (0.5%)
With Children under 18	4,709 (12.3%)	5,362 (14.6%)	6,002 (14.8%)	27.5% (2.5%)
Female-headed with children under 18	2,572 (39.3%)	2,988 (41.9%)	3,601 (39.5%)	40.0% (0.2%)

Source: U.S. Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Lane County and Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	% Total 1999 Population (population)	% Poverty 1999 Population by Race (poverty population)	Poverty Rate 1999	Poverty Rate by Race 1989
White	90.6% (286,315)	82.5% (37,485)	13.1%	13.8%
Black	0.7% (2,337)	1.4% (617)	26.4%	28.4%
American Indian	1.1% (3,431)	1.8% (837)	24.4%	26.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8%/0.2% (5,754/575)	3.9%/0.3% (1,790/149)	31.1%/25.9%	33.4%*
Other	2.0% (406)	3.9% (1,788)	27.9%	25.6%
Two or More Races	3.5% (11,198)	6.1% (2,757)	24.6%	NA
Hispanic Origin	4.5% (14,156)	8.5% (3,859)	27.3%	24.0%

*Asian and Pacific Islander were not separate categories in the 1990 Census.

County Income

On a per capita basis, Lane County's personal income was \$26,416 in 2002, about 92 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 85 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Lane County rose 1.7 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, in per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.1 percent. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$28,545 in Lane County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

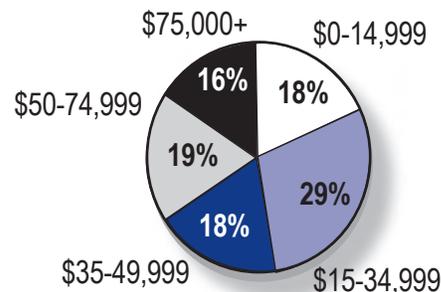
Poverty Thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Lane County. The 2000 Census showed that 20,906 people or 46 percent of those living below the federal poverty threshold actually earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold. Other segments of the population earned equal to or above the poverty level but still needed assistance. In Oregon, 185 percent of the poverty level is the income guideline used for federal food programs such as food stamps, child nutrition, and the Women, Infants, and Children program. In 1999, 30.1 percent of Lane County's population, or 95,176 people earned below 185 percent of the poverty threshold.

Public Assistance

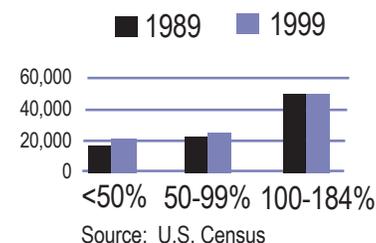
Participation in public assistance programs serves as an indirect measure—or indicator—of the extent of poverty and the measures taken to serve the public. According to the 2000 Census, 4,625 households or 3.5 percent of all households in Lane County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$2,752. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households that reported receiving public assistance income, from 7,778 households or 7.5 percent of all households in 1979.

1999 Household Income Distribution-Lane County



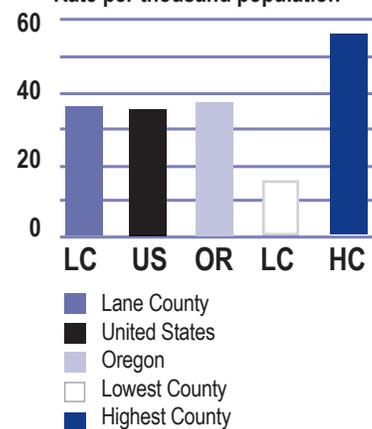
Source: U.S. Census Note: The median household income in Lane County was \$36,942 in 1999 compared to \$25,268 in 1989 (46.2 percent increase).

Number of Persons in Poverty Threshold Percentiles



Source: U.S. Census

Public Assistance in Oregon Rate per thousand population



Source: U.S. Census.

Basic Family Budget

According to US Department of Agriculture statistics released in October 1999, about 12.6 percent of Oregon households had difficulty meeting their basic need for food. The following chart outlines typical expenses for four family types in Lane County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses.

Families with one adult earning Lane County's median income could not afford the basic expenses.

To learn more about this basic family budget, see Methodology and Data References section.

What the Poverty Threshold Buys

Income for families at the poverty level in Lane County provides only 38.9 to 41.7 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Lane County is \$517.70. The federal government had the highest weekly average of \$788.16 and the retail trade industry had the lowest weekly average of \$335.50.

The following chart illustrates a family's ability to be self-sufficient based on earnings of average wages for Lane County. The two-worker scenario relies on both workers earning average wages.

An adult with one child who worked full-time at Lane County's average wage could not afford the basic family budget.

Lane County's Basic Family Budget

Basic Family Budget/Monthly	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Housing	\$597	\$833	\$597	\$833
Food	\$230	\$489	\$388	\$647
Child Care	\$408	\$886	\$408	\$886
Transportation	\$158	\$158	\$222	\$222
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$256	\$410	\$305	\$459
Taxes	\$407	\$607	\$468	\$695
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,301	\$3,628	\$2,681	\$4,035
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$27,613	\$43,542	\$32,175	\$48,419
Median Annual Income (Census 2000)	\$19,784	\$19,784	\$53,353	\$53,353
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	71.6%	45.4%	165.8%	110.2%

Poverty and Lane County's Basic Family Budget

Basic Family Budget/Monthly	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Poverty threshold	\$11,483	\$16,954	\$13,410	\$19,882
% of Basic Budget	41.6%	38.9%	41.7%	41.1%

Lane County Wages and the Basic Budget

	1 Worker 1 Child	1 Worker 3 Children	2 Workers 1 Child	2 Workers 3 Children
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$2,226	\$2,226	\$4,452	\$4,452
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,301	\$3,628	\$2,681	\$4,035
Difference (SSW-AMW)	-\$75	-\$1,402	\$1,771	\$417
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	96.7%	61.4%	166.1%	110.3%

*Source: 1999 Oregon Covered Employment and Payrolls.
** Based on Basic Family Budget for Lane County.

Lane County

Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	282,912 ¹	322,959 ²	324,674	327,327	330,527
% of People living below poverty level	14.5% ¹	14.4% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$25,268 ¹	\$36,942 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.1	6.8	6.8	7.8
8th Grade Drug Use	17.4% ³	13.0%	NA	19.1%	NA
HS Dropout	6.8% ⁴	5.4%	3.9%	3.8%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	17.3	12.2	9.8	9.7	NA
Prenatal Care	72.2%	78.3%	80.2%	76.5%	NA
Child Care available per 100 children under 13	26.1	25.3	22.7	21.5	NA
Homeownership Rate	60.8% ¹	62.3% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or more rental burden	48.6% ¹	52.2% ²	NA	NA	NA
Lane County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	1,605	1,818	1,606	1,558	1,384
# of New Units created with OHCS Funding	44	95	105	142	166
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$1.0 m	\$3.1 m	\$3.0 m	\$5.0 m	\$3.8 m
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	95	82	75	95	80
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$8.2 m	\$6.9 m	\$6.4 m	\$8.7 m	\$7.8 m
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	7,913	5,441	7,062	5,414
% of Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	18.3%	
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	15,939	15,664	16,864	17,785	18,625
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	32.9%	32.5%	35.1%	36.9%	39.0%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	20.8%	
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	3.2%	
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	26.4%	26.9%	
¹ 1990 Census data, year is 1989 ² 2000 Census data, year is 1999 ³ 1998 ⁴ 1996 NA=Not Available					

Endnotes

¹ Oregon Department of Human Services Integrated Client Database.

² Lane County Human Services Commission Community Services Block Grant Work Plan for 2003-05.

³ Please see Methodology and Data References section for information on Census Race/Ethnicity Categories.

⁴ Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Economic Accounts.