

## Major Findings

In 2000, 16 percent of the county's residents had incomes less than the federal poverty level (\$21,100 for a family of four). The percentage of public school students qualified for free and reduced-price lunches grew from 55 percent in 2000 to 64 percent in 2007. To be eligible for this assistance, these families lived on incomes of no more than 185 percent of the poverty level.

Since 2001, the unemployment rate dropped from 8.2 percent to 5.7, only half of a percentage point higher than the state as a whole. However, in that same time the county lost 3.6 percent of its non-farm jobs. Local Government (schools) employed the largest number of people, with 107 positions averaging \$27,173 per year.

OHCS found that in Wheeler County a two-parent family with one preschool-aged child needed an annual income of \$35,076 to pay for basic needs. This was more than twice the federal poverty level and more than what most local industries paid.

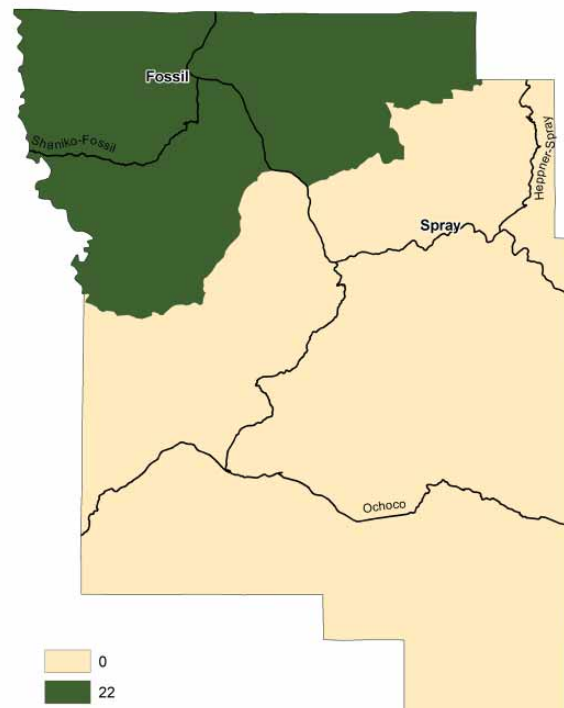
	Wheeler County	Oregon	United States	
2000	<b>Number in Poverty</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>388,740</b>	<b>33,899,812</b>
	<b>Percent in Poverty</b>	15.6%	11.6%	12.4%
1990-2000	<b>Percent change in Number in Poverty</b>	-17.9%	12.7%	6.8%
	<b>Percent change in Population</b>	10.8%	20.4%	13.2%
	<b>Number of additional people in Poverty</b>	<b>- 52</b>	<b>+ 43,873</b>	<b>+ 2,156,948</b>
	<b>Number of additional Population</b>	+ 151	+ 579,078	+ 32,712,033

## Community Action Agency

Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO)  
 721 SE 3rd Street Ste. D  
 Pendleton, OR 97801  
 (800) 752-1139  
 Fax (541) 276-7541  
[www.capeco-works.org](http://www.capeco-works.org)



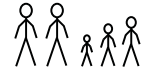
## Affordable Housing Units by Census Block Group



# Wheeler County

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

2007 Wheeler County's  
Basic Family Budget



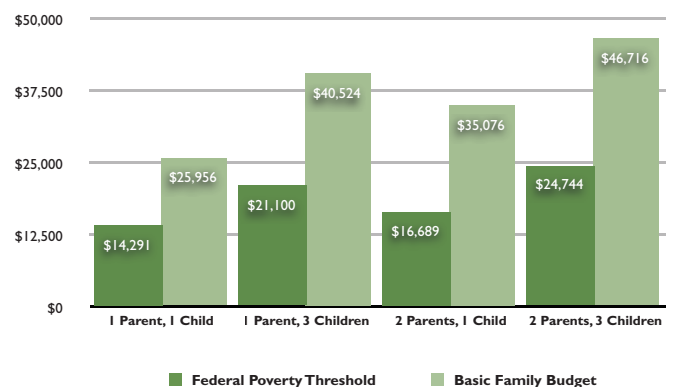
Householder(s)	1 Parent	1 Parent	2 Parents	2 Parents
Children	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old
Housing	\$603	\$817	\$603	\$817
Food	\$316	\$615	\$512	\$774
Child Care	\$378	\$916	\$378	\$916
Transportation	\$390	\$390	\$524	\$524
Healthcare	\$247	\$308	\$359	\$424
Other Necessities	\$285	\$444	\$346	\$493
Taxes	-\$56	-\$113	\$201	-\$55
Monthly Total	\$2,163	\$3,377	\$2,923	\$3,893
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$25,956</b>	<b>\$40,524</b>	<b>\$35,076</b>	<b>\$46,716</b>
Hourly Wage needed for Basic Family Budget	\$12.48	\$19.48	\$8.43	\$11.23
Federal Poverty Threshold (FPT)	\$14,291	\$21,100	\$16,689	\$24,744
<b>Percent of Basic Family Budget</b>	<b>55.1%</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>53.0%</b>

### Low-Income Needs

Community Action Program of East Central Oregon identified the following needs of Wheeler County's low-income population:

- Energy assistance and conservation education
- Hunger prevention
- Housing assistance
- Housing maintenance—weatherization and rehabilitation
- Senior nutrition
- Low-cost medical care







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



## Population and Economy

Wheeler 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				
Local Government	107	-5	-4%	\$27,173
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	33	4	14%	\$30,443
Leisure & Hospitality	28	3	12%	\$10,524
Education & Health Services	28	2	8%	\$21,538
Greatest Increase in the Number of Positions				
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	33	4	14%	\$30,443
Leisure & Hospitality	28	3	12%	\$10,524
Education & Health Services	28	2	8%	\$21,538
Greatest Decrease in the Number of Positions				
Local Government	107	-5	-4%	\$27,173
Financial Activities	21	-1	-5%	\$17,573
Construction	10	-1	-9%	\$21,463

## 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
WHEELER	 1.3%	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,565	1,570
Fossil	 -1.1%	470	470	470	460	460	460	460	465
Mitchell	 2.9%	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	175
Spray	 14.3%	140	140	140	140	140	140	160	160
Unincorporated	 0.0%	770	770	770	780	780	780	775	770

# Wheeler County

## 2007 Community Action Agency Activities

educated residents about how to access the federal economic stimulus payments

### Energy assistance

conducted energy conservation education workshops for households accessing payment assistance

improved the payment history of participants through case management services which allowed them to participate in affordable “equal pay” plans

### Hunger prevention

increased the food supply for the county’s food pantries

### Housing assistance

incorporated transitional housing with case management services to improve the ability of households to secure permanent housing

### Housing maintenance

installed weatherization measures

addressed health and safety issues in homes

### Senior nutrition

local provider eliminated financial support of senior congregate meals and the community is working together to retain the program

experienced a decrease in the number of federally allotted supplemental food box slots for seniors

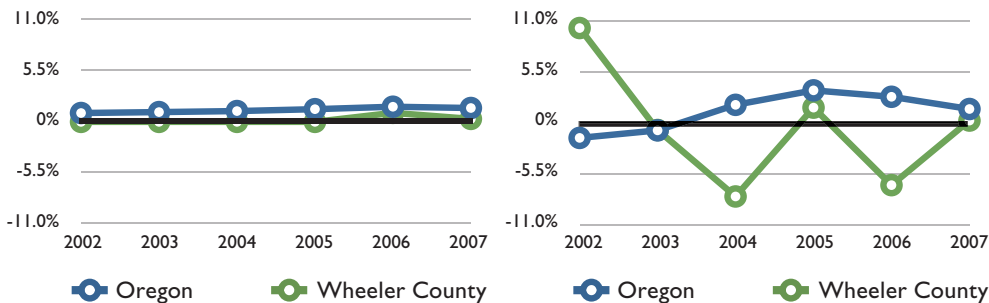
provided health and nutrition education to program participants

### Low-cost medical care

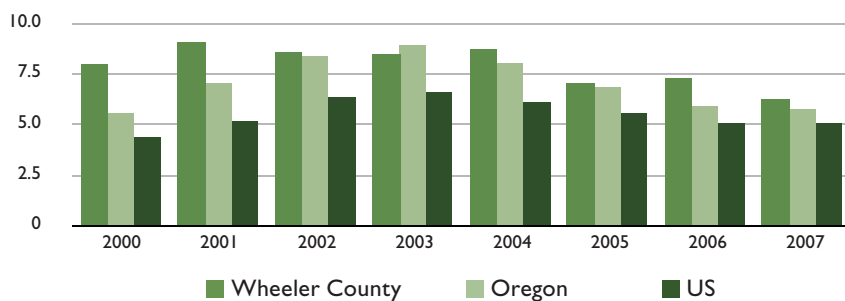
helped individuals apply for the Medicaid prescription programs

sent flyers to educate low income households about Medicaid eligibility requirements

## Population Change vs. Employment Change Since 2001



## Unemployment Rates



### Birth Rates

2002-2005, average Birth Rate per 1,000

Wheeler County

5

State of Oregon

13

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

Wheeler County

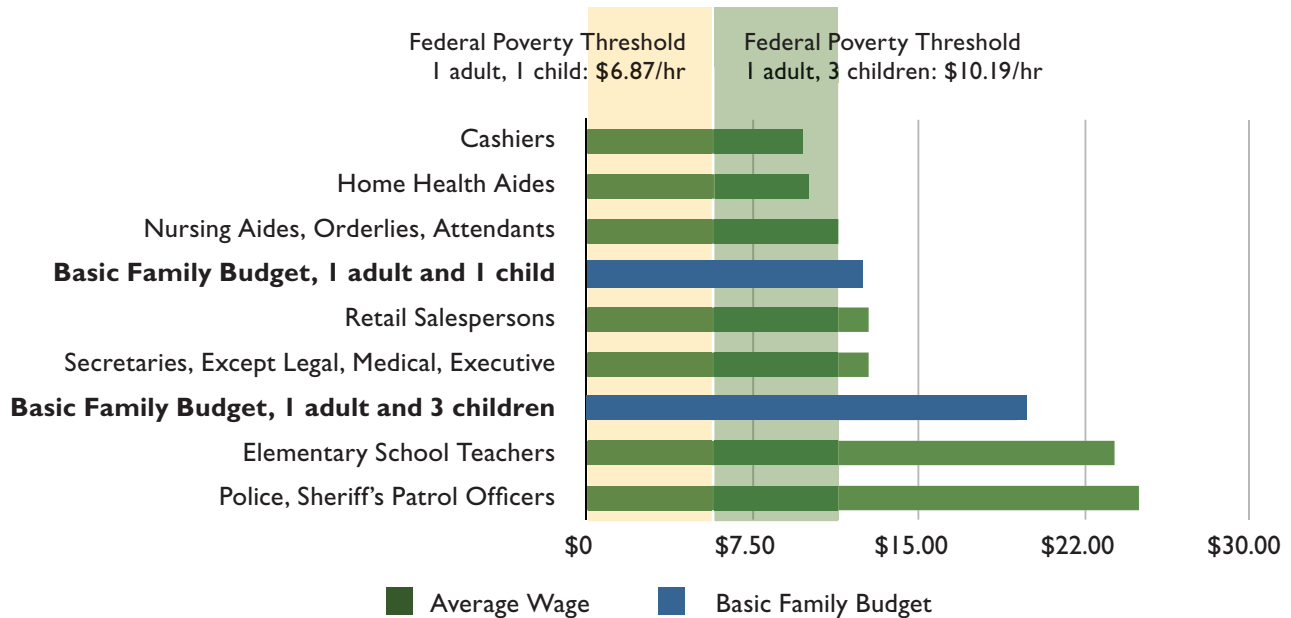
46

State of Oregon

34

## Average Hourly Wages 2007

### Occupational Earnings



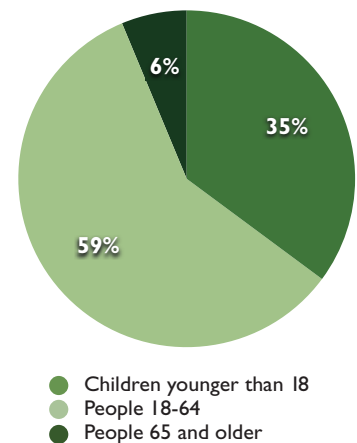
## Poverty Population Characteristics

Poverty Rates by Age & Disability Status - 2000	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	16%	-	-
Children younger than 18	25%	35%	22%
People 18-64	17%	59%	55%
People 65 and older	4%	6%	23%
People with a disability	15%	18%	19%

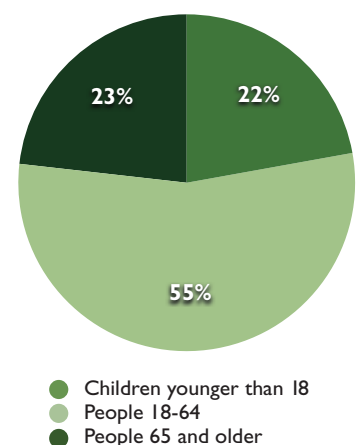
Poverty Rates by Family - 2000	% in Poverty	% of Families in Poverty	% of all Families
All Families	13%	-	-
Families with children under 18	23%	63%	35%
Single women with children under 18	39%	20%	6%

Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity - 2000	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	16%	-	-
White	14%	88%	95%
Black	0%	0%	0%
American Indian	0%	0%	1%
Asian	0%	0%	0%
Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%
Other	56%	6%	2%
2 or more races	38%	6%	2%
Hispanic origin	60%	13%	3%

## Poverty by Age – 2007



## Population by Age – 2007



-- indicates data was suppressed due to confidentiality.

# Wheeler County

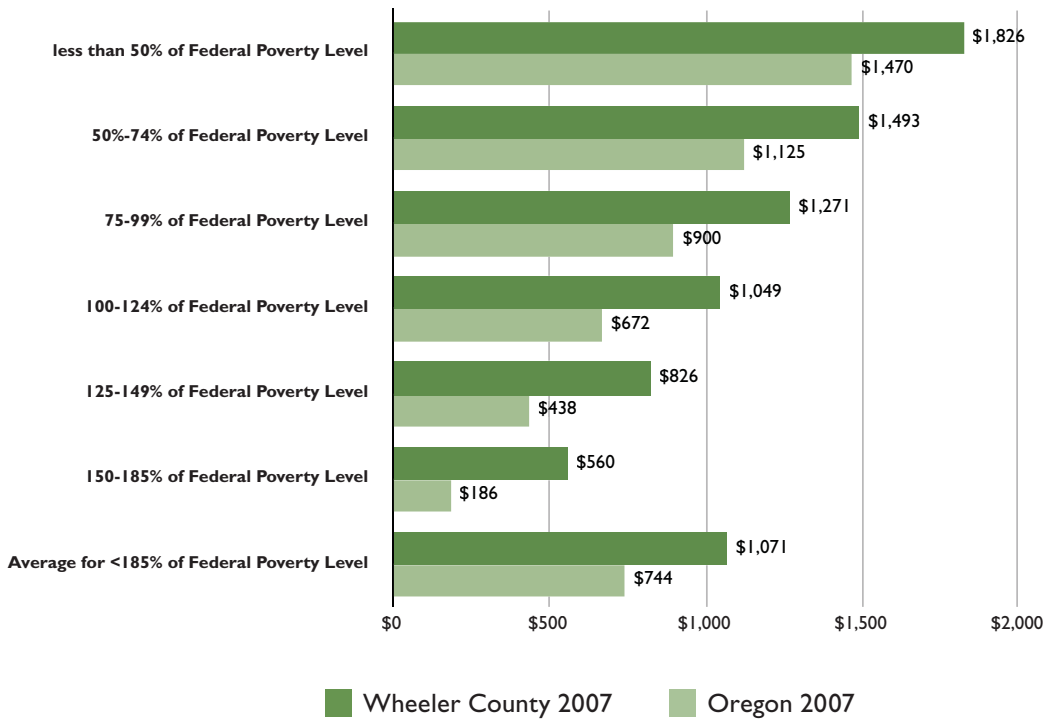
## 2000 Household Income

	Wheeler County	Oregon	United States
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$28,882</b>	<b>\$40,818</b>	<b>\$41,851</b>
Owner Median Household Income	\$32,688	\$50,713	\$51,323
Renter Median Household Income	\$23,750	\$27,197	\$27,362
Total Households	653	1,333,723	105,480,101
Renters percent income spent on housing	24%	27%	26%
Owners percent income spent on housing	16%	20%	19%
<b>Extremely Low Income (30% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$8,665</b>	<b>\$12,245</b>	<b>\$12,555</b>
Households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	29	130,651	11,699,872
Burdened households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	20	95,676	7,818,106
% Burdened	<b>70%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Very Low Income (50% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$14,441</b>	<b>\$20,409</b>	<b>\$20,926</b>
Households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	41	116,207	9,420,125
Burdened households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	17	79,730	5,574,769
% Burdened	<b>42%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Low Income (80% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$23,106</b>	<b>\$32,654</b>	<b>\$33,481</b>
Households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	68	188,180	14,338,619
Burdened households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	20	76,910	5,210,182
% Burdened	<b>29%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Workforce (120% of Median Household Income)</b>	<b>\$34,658</b>	<b>\$48,982</b>	<b>\$50,221</b>
Households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	82	219,670	16,670,770
Burdened households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	7	56,949	3,488,912
% Burdened	<b>8%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>21%</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)

Wheeler County	State of Oregon
<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>

2007 Number of Primary Care Providers per 100,000

Wheeler County	State of Oregon
<b>64</b>	<b>112</b>

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

Wheeler County	State of Oregon
<b>48%</b>	<b>71%</b>

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

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

2002-2005, average Percent of Adults who Smoke Cigarettes

Wheeler County	State of Oregon
<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>



Family homelessness is a growing problem in Oregon.

# Wheeler County

## How We Help

Wheeler County Services	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	0	0	0	0
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Single Family Loans for low-income households-#	0	0	0	0	0
Single Family Loans for low-income households-\$	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Households receiving energy assistance-#	62	51	59	61	77
Units weatherized-#	--	15	8	12	1
Units weatherized-\$	--	\$15,503	\$5,280	\$19,510	\$198
Average per unit weatherized-\$	--	\$1,034	\$660	\$1,626	\$198
Oregon Health Plan enrollment-%	11%	9%*	8%	9%	10%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	141	118	129	147	134
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	55%	55%	59%	68%	64%
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	--	12%	9%	10%	13%
Population receiving TANF-%	--	1%	0%	1%	2%

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

## Homelessness

### One Night Overview

#### Wheeler County 2008 One Night Count

Very limited services available. Wheeler County did not conduct a street count. Local service providers identified no people experiencing homelessness during the count.

### Risk Factors

2006-2007, school year  
High School Dropout Rate

Wheeler  
County  
**0%**

State of  
Oregon  
**4%**

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

Wheeler  
County  
**2%**

State of  
Oregon  
**16%**

2006  
Criminal Offenses,  
percent of population

Wheeler  
County  
**10%**

State of  
Oregon  
**12%**