

Douglas County

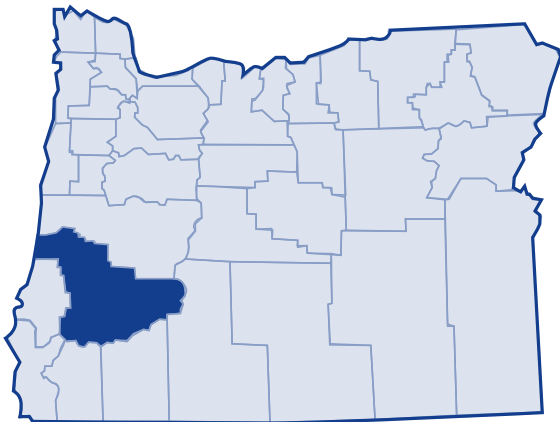
Major findings

According to the US Census, the poverty rate and the number of those in poverty decreased in Douglas County from 1989 to 1999. The median income in Douglas County increased 40.2 percent during the same period.

Thirty percent of Douglas County's population earned less than 185 percent of the poverty threshold, possibly qualifying them for public assistance. Of those who were in poverty, 36.9 percent earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold.

More than 50 percent of the families that lived in poverty in 1999 had a working household member and 15 percent had a full-time year-round worker.

In 2003, 29.2 percent of Douglas County residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

Umpqua Community Action Network (UCAN) prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Douglas County as follows:²

- **Maintaining and expanding existing services** especially for emergent basic human needs such as food, clothing, fuel assistance, blankets, heaters, and weatherization
- **Developing additional affordable housing resources**, including fuel assistance, weatherization, rent and rental deposit assistance
- **Improving and expanding UCAN facilities** to enhance the quantity and quality of services
- **Assisting with medical and dental care**, such as co-payments and prescriptions
- **Providing transportation assistance** such as fuel, car repairs car purchases, and public transportation
- **Improving community knowledge** about and access to UCAN services through the development of a 211 information and referral system
- **Creating an Early Head Start program** as funding is available
- **Expanding and enhancing childcare** and preschool services
- **Developing, expanding and enhancing resources for parents**
- **Expanding outreach** and increasing bilingual staff
- **Helping troubled teens**

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Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Douglas County grew 6.1 percent from 1989 to 1999. The Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 98,972 county residents and found that 13.1 percent (12,999 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This is a decrease of 6 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (13,828 people) in 1989. The overall percent of Douglas County's population living in poverty decreased from 1989 to 1999, as did the number of people living in poverty.

20-year trend

In the 20 years after 1979, the poverty rate in Douglas County increased from 11.1 percent of the population to 13.1 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 10,289 to 12,999 people. From 1979 to 1989, Douglas County's poverty rates increased more rapidly than those of the state and the nation did. By 1999, the rates decreased and were similar to the state and national rates.

Poverty and age

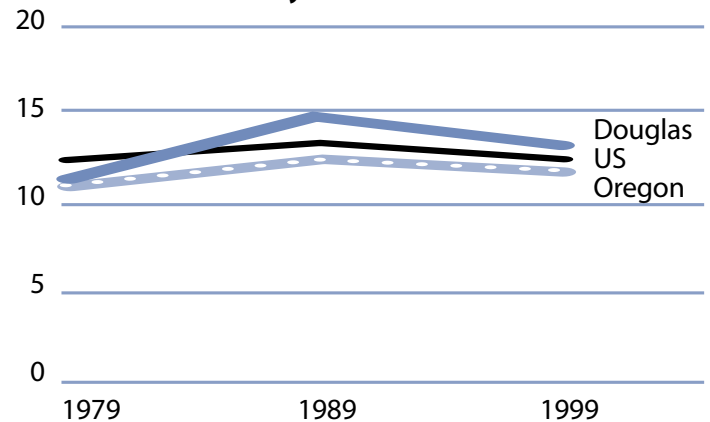
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined, children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 22.1 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 17.3 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate at 9.2 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the rate of poverty improved for people 65 years of age and older.

Poverty in selected communities
Number of persons below poverty level
(poverty rate)

	1989	1999	Percent Change (rate difference)
Douglas County	13,828 (14.9%)	12,999 (13.1%)	-6.0% (-1.7%)
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%)

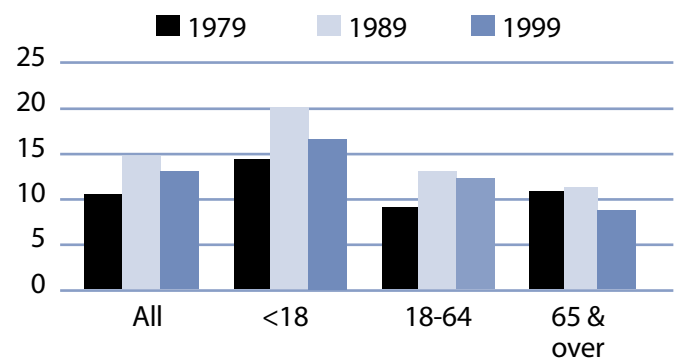
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty rates 1979-1999



Source: US Census.

Rate of poverty by age



Source: US Census.

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Poverty and Douglas County families

In 1999, 2,731 Douglas County families lived in poverty (9.6 percent). Of the families in poverty, 55.8 percent (1,524 families) had a householder who worked and 15.2 percent (414 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 15.5 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at the higher rate of 21.3 percent.

The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 43 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 58.6 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 7.6 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 853 families in 1979 to 1,116 families in 1999.

Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,³ White comprised 90.4 percent of the population in poverty. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 12.7 percent. The category "Other" experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among Other was 31.9 percent. From 1989 to 1999, most categories except Other experienced improvements in poverty rates.

Douglas County families in poverty

Number Below Poverty Level (poverty rate)	Year			% Change 1979-99 (rate difference)
	1979	1989	1999	
All Families	2,250 (8.5%)	3,105 (11.5%)	2,731 (9.6%)	21.4% (1.1%)
With Children under 18	1,816 (12.7%)	2,279 (17.5%)	1,973 (15.5%)	8.6% (2.8%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	853 (43.2%)	1,194 (52.0%)	1,116 (43.0%)	30.8% (-0.2%)

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

Douglas County poverty and race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	% Total 1999 Population (population)	% Poverty 1999 Population (poverty population)	Poverty Rate by Race 1999	Poverty Rate by Race 1989
White	93.7% (92,723)	90.4% (11,750)	12.7%	14.4%
Black	0.2% (189)	0.2% (23)	12.2%	37.9%
American Indian	1.6% (1,568)	2.1% (275)	17.5%	30.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6%/0.0% (593/48)	0.5%/0.1% (68/8)	11.5%/16.7%	24.2*%
Other	0.8% (841)	2.1% (268)	31.9%	27.0%
2 or More Races	3.0% (3,010)	4.7% (607)	20.2%	NA
Hispanic Origin	2.9% (2,892)	6.2% (800)	27.7%	25.9%

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

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County income

On a per capita basis, Douglas County's personal income was \$24,644 in 2002, about 86 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 80 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Douglas County rose 4.7 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, of per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.4 percent.

Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$27,921 in Douglas County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

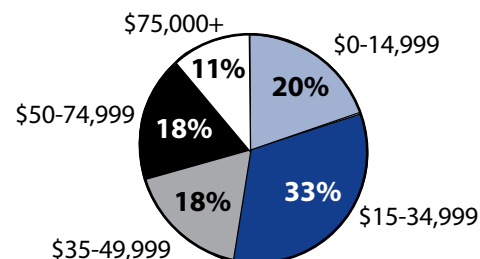
Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Douglas County. The 2000 Census showed that 4,800 people or 36.9 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 of 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, 31.6 percent of Douglas County's population, or 31,273 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, 1,732 households or 4.3 percent of all households in Douglas County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$2,770. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households who received public assistance income, from 2,581 households or 7.7 percent of all households in 1979.

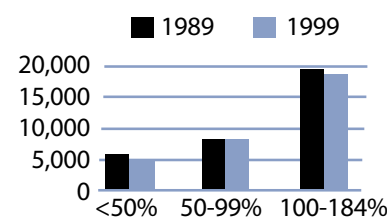
1999 household income distribution—Douglas County



Source: US Census.

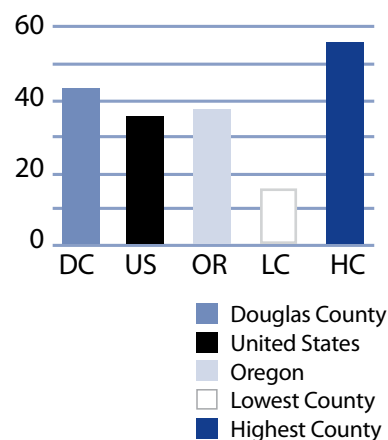
Note: The median household income in Douglas County was \$33,223 in 1999 compared to \$23,693 in 1989 (40.2 percent increase).

Number of persons in poverty Threshold percentiles



Source: US Census.

Public assistance in Oregon Rate per thousand population



Source: US Census.

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Basic family budget

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

Families with one working adult earning Douglas County's median family income could not afford the basic family budget.

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

What the poverty threshold buys

Families at the poverty level in Douglas County could afford 43.7 to 47.6 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Douglas County is \$494.40. The average wage differs by industry. The federal government had the highest weekly average of \$829.55 and retail trade had the lowest weekly average of \$281.75.

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

An adult who had three children and who worked full-time at Douglas County's average wage could not afford the basic family budget.

Douglas 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	\$477	\$657	\$477	\$657
Food	\$230	\$489	\$388	\$647
Child Care	\$363	\$803	\$363	\$803
Transportation	\$197	\$197	\$277	\$277
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$219	\$355	\$268	\$404
Taxes	\$279	\$489	\$404	\$559
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,010	\$3,235	\$2,470	\$3,640
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$24,122	\$38,815	\$29,645	\$43,675
Median Family Income (Census 2000)	\$18,310	\$18,310	\$48,151	\$48,151
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	75.9%	47.1%	162.4%	110.2%

Poverty and Douglas 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	47.6%	43.7%	45.2%	45.5%

Douglas County wages and the basic family budget

	1 Worker	1 Worker	2 Workers	2 Workers
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$2,142	\$2,142	\$4,284	\$4,284
	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,010	\$3,235	\$2,470	\$3,640
Difference (SSW-AMW)	\$132	-\$1,093	\$1,814	\$644
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	106.6%	66.2%	173.4%	117.7%

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

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Douglas County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	94,649 ¹	100,399 ²	100,307	101,142	102,332
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	14.9% ¹	13.1% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$23,693 ¹	\$33,223 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	8	7.8	8.8	8.9	10.1
8th Grade Drug Use	20.1% ³	14.4%	NA	23.4%	NA
HS Dropout	6.4% ⁴	6.4%	5.1%	4.7%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	21.7	13.6	12.8	11.2	NA
Prenatal Care	82.6%	84.6%	85.6%	89.3%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	24.9	17.6	17.3	17.1	NA
Homeownership Rate	68.9% ¹	71.7% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	40.7% ¹	43.6% ²	NA	NA	NA
Douglas County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	419	270	216	238	416
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	77	95	156	41	50
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$2.3 m	\$1.9 m	\$8.1 m	\$2.8 m	\$3.7 m
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	18	26	15	12	7
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$1.3 m	\$2.0 m	\$1.2 m	\$1.1 m	\$653,463
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	3,395	2,849	3,129	2,864
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	22.7%	19.3%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	7,470	7,299	7,012	7,517	7,690
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	44.3%	43.9%	42.2%	45.5%	49.0%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	20.4%	19.2%
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	4.0%	3.3%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	31.0%	30.8%	29.2%

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 Umpqua Community Action Network 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.