

Gilliam County

Major findings

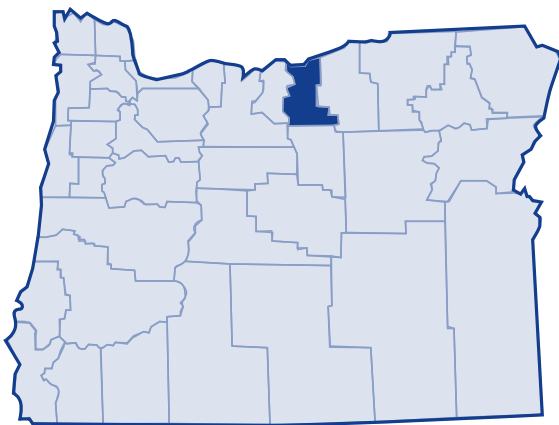
According to the US Census, the poverty rate and the number of those in poverty decreased in Gilliam County from 1989 to 1999. Of those living below the federal poverty threshold, 40 percent earned 50 percent of the poverty threshold or less for their family type.

Of those living below the federal poverty threshold, 36.4 percent earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold for their family type.

Children and minorities experienced the highest rates of poverty in 1999. Children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rates of poverty among all age groups. People 65 and older had the lowest rates of poverty.

Thirty-five percent of individuals of Hispanic Origin found themselves living in poverty. More than 45 percent of those identifying themselves as "Other" were in poverty.

In 2003, 16.0 percent of Gilliam County residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

Community Action Program East Central Oregon prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Gilliam County as follows:²

- Emergency rental/transitional housing opportunities for households who are homeless or at risk of losing housing
- Maintain access to Emergency Food Boxes and promote hunger awareness in the community
- Continue providing access to energy assistance funds during the high-cost winter months
- Increase access to low-cost medical care via the Oregon Health Plan; retain local medical services
- Provide assistance for Emergency Lodging / Emergency Shelter for homeless households
- Continue the programs that promote early childhood education
- Retain and improve transportation programs to serve rural communities
- Provide access to quality childcare and voucher assistance
- Promote the development of low-income housing and create safe housing opportunities for community members
- Job training to help households obtain living wage jobs
- Expand opportunity for area residents to receive weatherization services thus providing safe and healthy living environments
- Assist households in obtaining adequate clothing suitable for the seasonal weather conditions
- Improve and expand counseling/family case management for households in crisis to help them become self-reliant

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Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Gilliam County grew 11.5 percent from 1989 to 1999. The Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 1,910 county residents and found that 9.1 percent (173 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This is a decrease of 15.2 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (204 people) in 1989. The overall percent of Gilliam County's population living in poverty decreased from 1989 to 1999, as well as the number of people living in poverty.

20-year trend

In the 20 years after 1979, the poverty rate in Gilliam County increased from 7.3 to 9.1 percent of the population. The number of persons in poverty rose from 148 people to 173 people. Gilliam County's poverty rates remained lower than the state and national poverty rates throughout this period.

Poverty and age

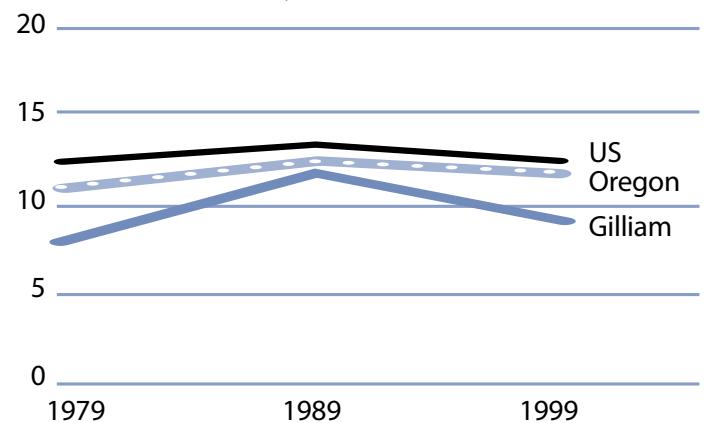
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined, children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 14.6 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 11.2 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate at 6.6 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the poverty rate increased for all age categories.

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

	1989	1999	Percent Change
Gilliam County	204 (11.9%)	173 (9.1%)	(rate difference) -15.2% (-2.8%)
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% (-0.8%)

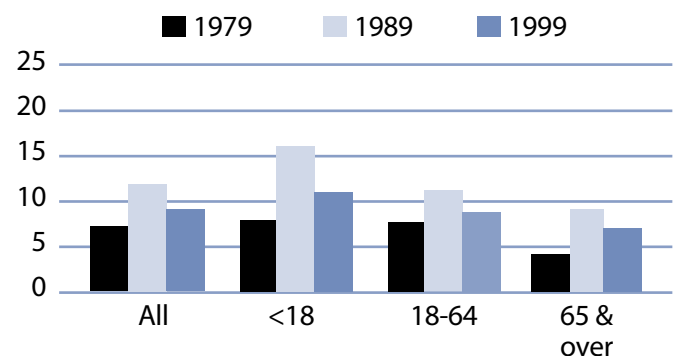
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty rates 1979-1999



Source: US Census.

Rate of poverty by age



Source: US Census.

Poverty and Gilliam County families

In 1999, 37 Gilliam County families lived in poverty (6.7 percent). Of the families in poverty, 54.1 percent (20 families) had a worker and 27 percent (10 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 10.2 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at the higher rate of 12.9 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 37.8 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 85.7 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 4.4 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from nine families in 1979 to 17 families in 1999.

Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,³ White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 94.8 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 8.9 percent. Other and Hispanic Origin experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among Other was 47.4 percent and 34.6 for Hispanic Origin. Between 1989 and 1999, poverty rates increased for Other and Hispanic Origin.

Gilliam County families in poverty

Number Below Poverty Level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change
				1979-99 (rate difference)
All Families	45 (7.2%)	44 (8.8%)	37 (6.7%)	-17.8% (-0.5%)
With Children	28 (9.3%)	31 (14.2%)	26 (10.2%)	-7.1% (0.9%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	18 (31.0%)	9 (50.0%)	1017 (37.8%)	88.9% (6.8%)

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

Gilliam 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	96.8% (1,848)	94.8% (164)	8.9%	11.4%
Black	0.1% (2)	0.0% (0)	NA	NA
American Indian	1.0% (19)	0.0% (0)	NA	NA
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3%/0.0% (6/0)	0.0%/0.0% (0/0)	0.0%/NA	84.6%*
Other	1.0% (19)	5.2% (9)	47.4%	0.0%
2 or More	0.8% (16)	0.0% (0)	NA	NA
Hispanic	1.4% (26)	5.2% (9)	34.6%	17.5%

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

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Poverty for Black and American Indian remained at 0.0 throughout the decade.

County income

On a per capita basis, Gilliam County's personal income was \$18,416 in 2002, about 64 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 60 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Gilliam County rose 13.8 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, shows no growth in per capita income. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$25,883 in Gilliam County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

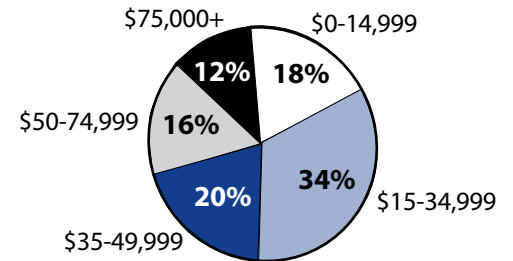
Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Gilliam County. The 2000 Census showed that 63 people or 36.4 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, 30.6 percent of Gilliam County's population, or 585 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, 19 households or 2.3 percent of all households in Gilliam County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$5,168. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households who received public assistance income, from 28 households or 3.6 percent of all households in 1979.

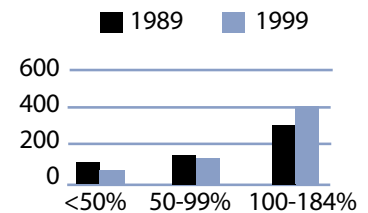
1999 household income distribution—Gilliam County



Source: US Census.

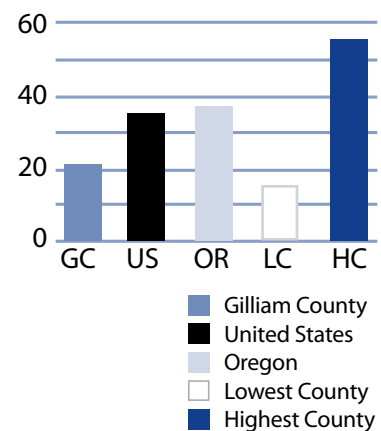
Note: The median household income in Gilliam County was \$33,611 in 1999 compared to \$24,020 in 1989 (39.9 percent increase).

Number of persons in poverty Threshold percentiles



Source: US Census.

Public assistance in Oregon Rate per thousand population



Source: US Census.

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 Gilliam County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses.

One adult who earned median income in Gilliam County could not afford this basic family budget. Two adults earning median family income for Gilliam County could not afford this basic budget if they had three children. Two workers could support themselves and one child.

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 Gilliam County could afford 42.4 to 46.3 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Gilliam County was \$477.66. The transportation, communications and utilities industry had the highest weekly average of \$701.07 and the manufacturing industry had the lowest weekly average of \$143.11.

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

One adult working full-time and earning Gilliam County's average wage could not afford the basic family budget for one or more children.

Gilliam 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	\$395	\$872	\$395	\$872
Transportation	\$197	\$197	\$277	\$277
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$219	\$355	\$268	\$404
Taxes	\$305	\$518	\$419	\$589
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,068	\$3,333	\$2,517	\$3,739
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$24,818	\$39,997	\$30,199	\$44,864
Median Family Income (Census 2000)	\$22,147	\$22,147	\$43,500	\$43,500
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	89.2%	55.4%	144.0%	97.0%

Poverty and Gilliam 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	46.3%	42.4%	44.4%	44.3%

Gilliam County wages and the basic budget

	1 Worker	1 Worker	2 Workers	2 Workers
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$2,054	\$2,054	\$4,108	\$4,108
	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,068	\$3,333	\$2,517	\$3,739
Difference (SSW-AMW)	-\$14	-\$1,279	\$1,591	\$369
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	99.3%	61.6%	163.2%	109.9%

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

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Gilliam County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	1,717 ¹	1,915 ²	1,888	1,860	1,778
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	11.9% ¹	9.1% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$24,020 ¹	\$33,611 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	3.2	4.7	6	6.4	6.6
8th Grade Drug Use	17.3% ³	14.0%	NA	17.6%	NA
HS Dropout	0.8% ⁴	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	0	0	18.9	9	NA
Prenatal Care	85.7%	82.4%	100.0%	71.4%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	0	6.2	7.5	5.2	NA
Homeownership Rate	66.7% ¹	70.2% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	59.1% ¹	52.3% ²	NA	NA	NA
Gilliam County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	0	0	1	2	4
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	0	0	0	146	0
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$1.3 m	\$0
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	1	0	1	0	0
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$57,341	\$0	\$43,000	\$0	\$0
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	59	50	47	37
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	14.1%	11%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	106	121	108	103	113
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	28.1%	34.3%	30.6%	30.3%	35.8%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	9.6%	8.3%
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	0.8%	1.1%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	25.0%	19.8%	16.0%
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 Community Action Program East Central Oregon 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.