

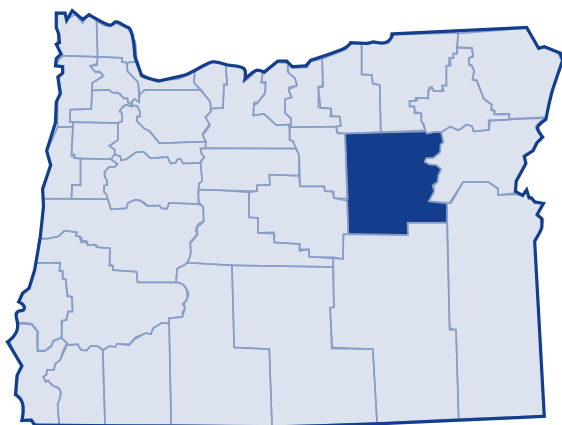
Grant County

Major findings

Grant County grew only 1 percent from 1989 to 1999. The number of people living in poverty, however, grew 8.7 percent during the same period. While average poverty rates decreased in Oregon and the nation, Grant County's poverty rate increased. In 1999, the Grant County poverty rate was slightly higher than the state and national average.

According to the 2000 Census, incomes in Grant County did not keep pace with statewide levels. In 1999, unemployment reached 11.3 percent and 19 percent of the county's residents earned \$14,999 or less. One-third of the population earned less than 185 percent of the poverty threshold and was possibly qualified for state and federal programs such as food stamps. Of those in the county 5 years of age or younger, 18 percent lived in poverty. Over a quarter of the American Indian population experienced poverty in 1999, while 44.2 percent of those categorized as "Other" experienced poverty.

In 2003, 21.5 percent of Grant County residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Grant County as follows:²

- **Energy Assistance**—Assist households in paying winter heating bills and those facing shut-off notices
- **Emergency Assistance**—Rental assistance for at-risk households
- **Weatherization/Housing Repair**—Eliminate general heat waste in client's homes, completing priority weatherization measures such as insulating, repairing or replacing doors/windows, etc. Continue rehabilitation projects by completing structural, electrical and plumbing repairs to improve and preserve the area's housing stock.
- **Tenant Based Assistance**—Offer six months assistance with rent while clients move towards self-sufficiency
- **Food Bank**—Maintain current food delivery systems with local food banks and access to hunger resources
- **Transportation**—Transport senior citizens, people with disabilities, low-income and the public to doctor appointments, shopping, mealsites, recreation and field trips
- **Health Clinics**—Increase client's ability to access health clinics within senior centers
- **Tax and Legal Assistance**—Continue to refer clients to Legal Aid and Oregon Law Centers at senior centers; train volunteers to assist clients in preparing their income taxes
- **Telephone Reassurance**—Call clients to ensure their safety and to make sure they have taken needed medication

Grant County

Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Grant County grew 1 percent from 1989 to 1999. The Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 7,812 county residents and found that 13.7 percent (1,069 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This is an increase of 8.7 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (983 people) in 1989. The overall percent of Grant County's population living in poverty increased 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 Grant County increased from 12.3 percent of the population to 13.7 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 993 people to 1,069 people. By 1999, Grant County's poverty rates rose above the state and national poverty rates.

Poverty and age

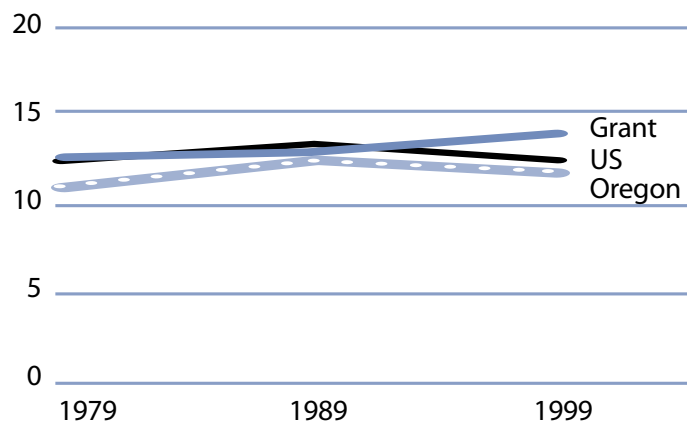
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 18 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 17.1 percent. People 65 and over experienced the lowest rate at 10.2 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the rate of poverty improved for people 65 and older.

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

	1989	1999	Percent Change (rate difference)
Grant County	983 (12.7%)	1,069 (13.7%)	8.7% (1.0%)
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%)

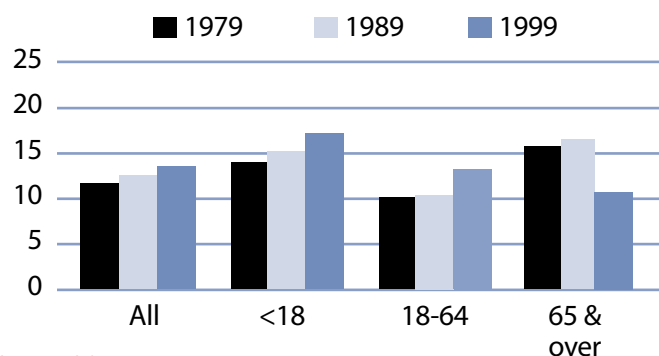
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty rates 1979-1999



Source: US Census.

Rate of poverty by age



Source: US Census.

Poverty and Grant County families

In 1999, 251 Grant County families lived in poverty (11.2 percent). Of the families in poverty, 62.9 percent (158 families) had a worker and 23.1 percent (58 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 16.3 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at a higher rate of 21.3 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 38.5 percent and was even higher with younger children (younger than 5 years) at 64.5 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 4.9 percent. From 1979 to 1999, families with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 12.7 percent in 1979 to 16.3 percent in 1999.

Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,³ White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 92.6 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate for White was 13.2 percent. The category "Other" experienced a disproportionately higher rate of poverty at 44.2 percent. American Indian and Hispanic Origin also experienced higher poverty rates, both above 20 percent. Between 1989 to 1999, Other and Hispanic Origin experienced improvements in poverty rates.

Grant County families in poverty

Number Below Poverty Level (poverty rate)	1979			1989		1999		% Change 1979-99 (rate difference)
	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999		
All Families	210 (9.0%)	212 (9.4%)	251 (11.2%)					19.5% (2.2%)
With Children under 18	156 (12.7%)	150 (13.6%)	172 (16.3%)					10.3% (3.6%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	58 (45.7%)	61 (44.5%)	79 (38.5%)					36.2% (-7.2%)

Source: US Census. Calculations may not add due to rounding.

Grant 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	96.1% (7,508)	92.6% (990)	13.2%	12.3%
Black	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	NA	NA
American Indian	1.3% (100)	2.5% (27)	27.0%	15.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1%/0.0% (8/1)	0.0%/0.0% (0/0)	0.0%/NA	NA*
Other	0.7% (52)	2.2% (23)	44.2%	65.1%
2 or More Races	1.8% (143)	2.7% (29)	20.3%	NA
Hispanic Origin	2.4% (189)	4.2% (45)	23.8%	30.5%

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

Grant County

County income

On a per capita basis, Grant County's personal income was \$24,967 in 2002, about 87 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 81 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Grant County rose 4.8 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, of per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.2 percent. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$25,852 in Grant County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

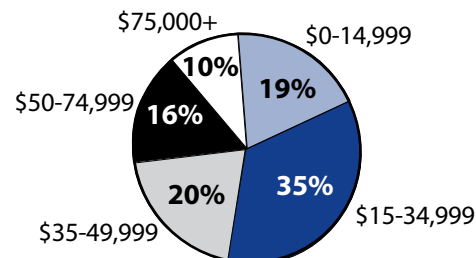
Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Grant County. The 2000 Census showed that 410 people or 38.4 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 the poverty level or more 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, 33 percent of Grant County's population, or 2,580 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, 96 households or 3 percent of all households in Grant County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$2,430. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households who received public assistance income, from 154 households or 5.2 percent of all households in 1979.

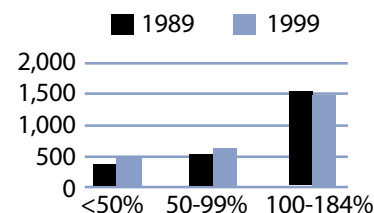
1999 household income distribution—Grant County



Source: US Census.

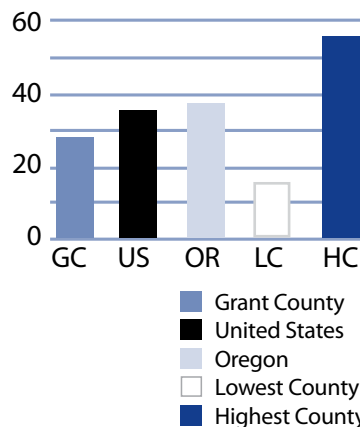
Note: The median household income in Grant County was \$32,560 in 1999 compared to \$26,640 in 1989 (22.2 percent increase).

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

Using this budget, only families comprised of two adults who earned Grant County's median family income and had only one child could afford the basic expenses.

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 Grant County could afford 42.9 to 46.9 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Grant County is \$450.81. The federal government had the highest weekly average of \$716.41 and retail trade had the lowest weekly average of \$258.56.

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

An adult who had one child and who worked full-time for average Grant County wages could not afford the basic family budget.

Grant 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	\$381	\$845	\$381	\$845
Transportation	\$197	\$197	\$277	\$277
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$219	\$355	\$268	\$404
Taxes	\$292	\$506	\$413	\$578
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,041	\$3,294	\$2,497	\$3,701
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$24,496	\$39,533	\$29,965	\$44,410
Median Family Income (Census 2000)	\$21,821	\$21,821	\$43,500	\$43,500
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	89.1%	55.2%	145.2%	98.0%

Poverty and Grant 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	46.9%	42.9%	44.8%	44.8%

Grant County wages and the basic budget

	1 Worker	1 Worker	2 Workers	2 Workers
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$1,938	\$1,938	\$3,877	\$3,877
	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,041	\$3,294	\$2,497	\$3,701
Difference (SSW-AMW)	-\$103	-\$1,356	\$1,380	\$176
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	95.0%	58.8%	155.3%	104.8%

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

Grant County

Grant County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	7,853 ¹	7,935 ²	7,524	7,437	7,454
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	12.7% ¹	13.7% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$26,640 ¹	\$32,560 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	10.2	11.2	10.3	10	11.3
8th Grade Drug Use	23.4% ³	25.0%	NA	23.9%	NA
HS Dropout	2.1% ⁴	1.5%	0.5%	0.4%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	12.1	6.4	2.2	2.1	NA
Prenatal Care	79.6%	79.1%	90.3%	90.3%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	12.3	10.4	12.1	19.1	NA
Homeownership Rate	70.8% ¹	73.5% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	34.2% ¹	38.5% ²	NA	NA	NA
Grant County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	7	0	14	17	3
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	33	30	30	0	0
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$188,607	\$750,060	\$1.2 m	\$0	\$0
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	1	1	1	0	0
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$76,532	\$86,596	\$63,894	\$0	\$0
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	305	234	231	214
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	19.2%	14.7%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	482	423	460	533	469
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	33.0%	31.3%	34.9%	42.6%	39.8%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	14.3%	12.3%
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	2.5%	1.7%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	28.4%	28.1%	21.5%

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 Connection of Northeast Oregon's 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.