

## Major findings

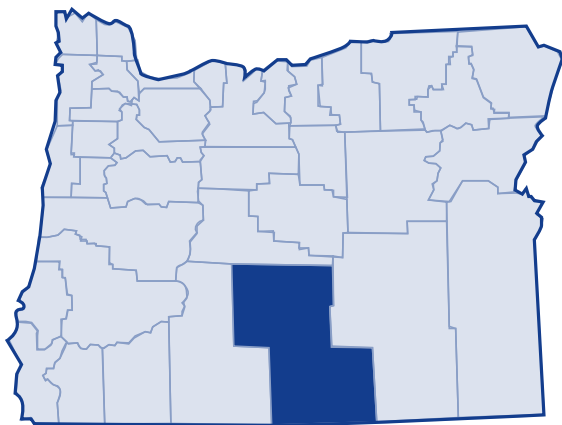
According to the US Census, the poverty rate and the number of those in poverty increased in Lake County from 1989 to 1999. Lake County's poverty rate for this period was higher than the state and national averages.

Of those living in poverty in 1999, 32 percent earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold.

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 from 1979 to 1999; 20 percent of families who had children under 5 lived in poverty. Families headed by single mothers who lived in poverty rose from 46 families in 1979 to 88 families in 1999.

Looking at poverty by race and ethnicity, 30 percent of individuals who identified themselves as Other or Hispanic found themselves living in poverty.

In 2003, 29.5 percent of Lake county residents received services from the Department of Human Services.<sup>1</sup>



## Low-income needs

Klamath and Lake Community Action Agency listed the needs of the low-income population in Lake County as follows:<sup>2</sup>

- Increase and improve assistance for households including transitional housing, permanent housing, and emergency shelters for low-income consumers
- Freeing up more resources for existing providers and improving communication and coordination of services within the community
- Increase resources for women in domestic violence situations who do not have children and cannot access mainstream resources to assist them in obtaining housing or jobs
- Assistance with transportation, particularly in rural areas of the county in cooperation with Department of Human Services' and Veterans' transportation programs
- Increase job opportunities for low-income moving off public assistance in collaboration with workforce investment partners and other organizations
- Connect clients facing mental health problems or alcohol and drug dependency with the county mental health departments
- Increase availability of affordable after-school childcare, quality childcare, and latchkey programs
- Ensure clients can access food box programs and congregate meal sites
- Help non-English speaking clients find interpreters
- Improve access to dental services

# Lake County

## Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Lake County grew 3.3 percent from 1989 to 1999. The US Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 7,344 county residents and found that 16.1 percent (1,184 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This is an increase of 19.4 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (992 people) in 1989. The overall percent of Lake County's population living in poverty increased 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 Lake County increased from 13.3 percent of the population to 16.1 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 994 people to 1,184 people. Lake County's poverty rates remained higher than the state and national poverty rates throughout this period.

## Poverty and age

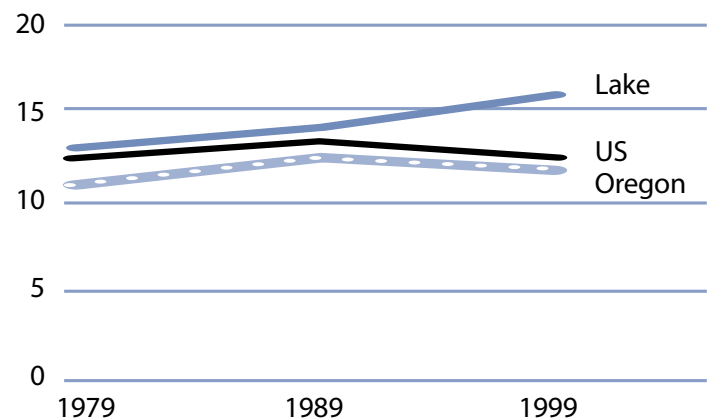
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined, children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 24 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 21.1 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate: 9.5 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, children younger than 18 consistently faced the highest poverty rate.

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

	1989	1999	Percent Change
Lake County	992 (13.9%)	1,184 (16.1%)	19.4% (2.2%) <small>(rate difference)</small>
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%)

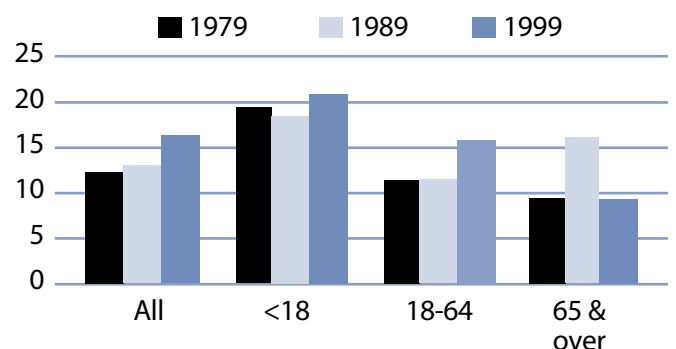
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

**Poverty rates 1979-1999**



Source: US Census.

**Rate of poverty by age**



Source: US Census.

## Poverty and Lake County families

In 1999, 288 Lake County families lived in poverty (13.4 percent). Of the families in poverty, 10.3 percent (168 families) had a worker and 16.7 percent (48 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 19.9 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at a higher rate of 20.6 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 45.4 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 61.3 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 9.5 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 46 families in 1979 to 88 families in 1999.

## Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,<sup>3</sup> White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 83 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 14.8 percent. Other and Hispanic experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among Other was 31.6 percent, while Hispanic Origin had a 30 percent rate. Poverty increased for White between 1989 and 1999.

## Lake County families in poverty

Number Below Poverty Level (poverty rate)				% Change
	1979	1989	1999	1979-99 (rate difference)
All Families	225 (10.7%)	195 (9.4%)	288 (13.4%)	28.0% (2.7%)
With Children under 18	161 (15.3%)	134 (13.8%)	189 (19.9%)	17.4% (4.6%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	46 (38.3%)	40 (42.6%)	88 (45.4%)	91.3% (7.1%)

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

## Lake 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	90.4% (6,641)	83.0% (983)	14.8%	12.9%
Black	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	NA	0.0%
American Indian	3.2% (238)	5.7% (67)	28.2%	37.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.1% (51/8)	0.0%/0.2% (0/2)	0.0%/25.0%	6.5%*
Other	2.8% (206)	5.5% (65)	31.6%	52.3%
Two or More Races	2.7% (200)	5.7% (67)	33.5%	NA
Hispanic Origin	4.9% (360)	9.1% (108)	30.0%	35.0%

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

# Lake County

## County income

On a per capita basis, Lake County's personal income was \$21,854 in 2002, about 76 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 71 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Lake County fell 0.4 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, in per capita income shows average annual growth of 2.9 percent. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$23,449 in Lake County compared to \$33,063 for the state.<sup>4</sup>

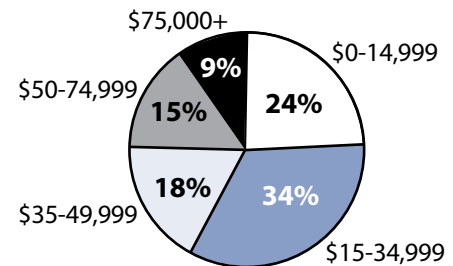
## Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Lake County. The 2000 Census showed that 378 people or 31.9 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 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, 37.4 percent of Lake County's population, or 2,749 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, 116 households or 3.7 percent of all households in Lake County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$1,809. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households that reported receiving public assistance income, from 190 households or 6.9 percent of all households in 1979.

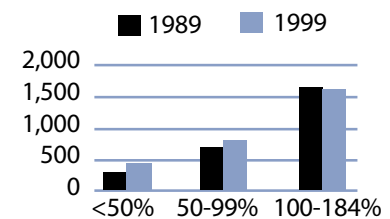
**1999 household income distribution—Lake County**



Source: US Census.

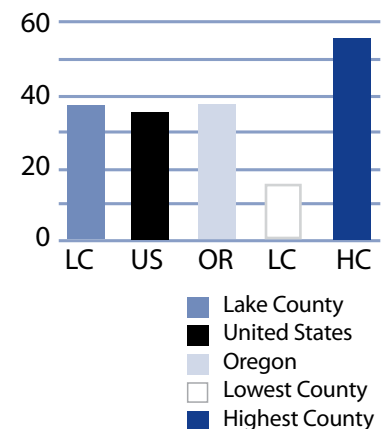
Note: The median household income in Lake County was \$29,506 in 1999 compared to \$24,659 in 1989 (19.7 percent increase).

**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 Oregon households have difficulty meeting their basic need for food. This chart outlines typical expenses for four family types in Lake County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses.

Two adults who both earned median family income in Lake County could afford the basic expenses of a family if they had one child, but not three children.

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

## What the poverty threshold buys

Families living at the poverty level in Lake County could afford 44.3 to 48.6 percent of this basic family budget.

## Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Lake County is \$464.05. The federal government had the highest weekly average of \$729.01 and the retail trade industry had the lowest weekly average of \$295.25.

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

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

Lake 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	\$344	\$773	\$344	\$773
Transportation	\$197	\$197	\$277	\$277
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$219	\$355	\$268	\$404
Taxes	\$259	\$475	\$397	\$546
<b>Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly</b>	<b>\$1,971</b>	<b>\$3,191</b>	<b>\$2,444</b>	<b>\$3,597</b>
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$23,648	\$38,288	\$29,330	\$43,165
Median Family Income (Census 2000)	\$18,273	\$18,273	\$41,786	\$41,786
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	77.3%	47.7%	142.5%	96.8%

Poverty and Lake 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	48.6%	44.3%	45.7%	46.1%

Lake 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)*	\$1,995	\$1,995	\$3,990	\$3,990
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$1,971	\$3,191	\$2,444	\$3,597
Difference (SSW-AMW)	\$24	-\$1,196	\$1,547	\$394
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	101.2%	62.5%	163.3%	111.0%

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

# Lake County

Lake County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	7,186 <sup>1</sup>	7,422 <sup>2</sup>	7,474	7,421	7,440
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	13.9% <sup>1</sup>	16.1% <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$24,659 <sup>1</sup>	\$29,506 <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	8.5	9.4	10.4	9.3	10.4
8th Grade Drug Use	17.3% <sup>3</sup>	14.0%	NA	16.9%	NA
HS Dropout	4.2% <sup>4</sup>	0.8%	4.2%	2.8%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	17.6	9	2.3	12.6	NA
Prenatal Care	56.4%	86.7%	80.0%	82.2%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	13.9	21.4	17.1	19.4	NA
Homeownership Rate	67.8% <sup>1</sup>	68.9% <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	44.5% <sup>1</sup>	38.2% <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
Lake County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	0	0	11	0	0
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	6	0	0	28	16
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$454,634	\$0	\$146,181	\$1.3 m	\$213,836
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	7	4	3	1	3
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$356,660	\$178,600	\$204,000	\$40,000	\$224,500
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	386	544	662	755
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	25.1%	20.5%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	540	568	602	533	550
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	37.7%	41.1%	45.2%	43.7%	48.2%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	20.8%	18.8%
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	3.9%	3.4%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	32.4%	33.9%	29.5%

<sup>1</sup> 1990 Census data, year is 1989  
<sup>2</sup> 2000 Census data, year is 1999  
<sup>3</sup> 1998  
<sup>4</sup> 1996  
 NA=Not Available

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Human Services Integrated Client Database.

<sup>2</sup> Klamath and Lake Community Action Agency Community Services Block Grant Work Plan for 2003-05.

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

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Economic Accounts.