

Lincoln County

Major findings

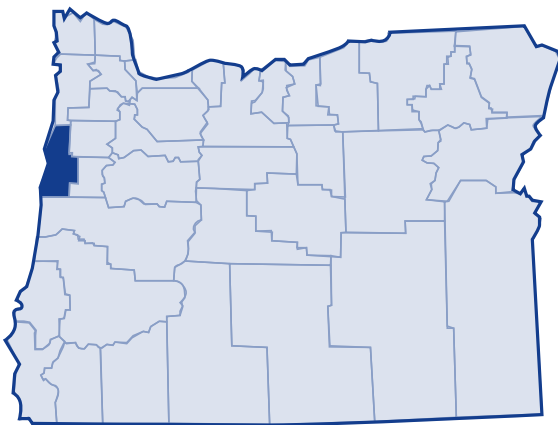
According to the US Census, Lincoln County's poverty rate declined slightly between 1989 and 1999. However, the rate remained slightly higher than the state and national averages due to increases experienced from 1979 to 1989.

Of the county population in poverty, 40 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. More than 20 percent of Lincoln County families who had children under 5 lived in poverty. More than 30 percent of the American Indian and Other populations experienced poverty.

Families with one adult earning median income in Lincoln County could not afford the basic family budget.

In 2003, 42.7 percent of Lincoln county residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

Community Services Consortium prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Lincoln County as follows:²

- Assist households to save energy and improve their living conditions through home weatherization, energy education, house diagnostics, and efficiency testing of appliances
- Provide transitional housing and case management services to help households move toward self-sufficiency
- Provide energy conservation education to enable households to reduce their energy burden and increase resources for other needs
- Improve housing conditions for low- and moderate-income families
- Prevent hunger by soliciting, transporting, storing and distributing food
- Provide homeless families with the skills and strategies to obtain and maintain housing
- Provide youth education and employment and adult and dislocated worker employment and training
- Continue to integrate, improve and evaluate the delivery of services in county
- Provide information and referral services for medical, dental, alcohol and drug treatment, and other basic needs
- Aid in transportation costs such as gas, car repairs, and public transportation
- Provide new affordable housing opportunities, community facilities, and grant management services
- Plan for, allocate, and monitor homeless funding to local service providers
- Provide Head Start services

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Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Lincoln County grew 14.4 percent between 1989 and 1999. The US Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 43,880 county residents and found that 13.9 percent (6,084 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This was an increase of 10.1 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (5,524 people) since 1989. The overall percent of the county population living in poverty slightly decreased between 1989 and 1999, but the number in poverty did not.

20-year trend

In the 20 years after 1979, the poverty rate in Lincoln County increased from 11.5 percent of the population to 13.9 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 4,008 people to 6,084 people. Lincoln County's poverty rates were higher than the state and national poverty rates from 1989 to 1999 due to an increase from 1979 to 1989.

Poverty and age

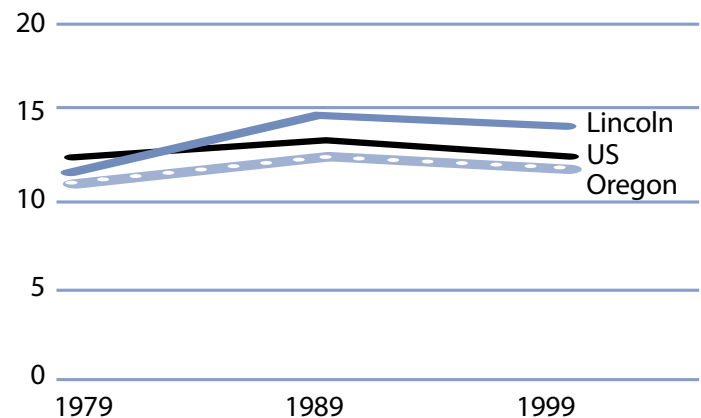
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined, children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 23.9 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 20.8 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate: 7.2 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the rate of poverty was consistently highest for people children younger than 18.

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

	1989	1999	Percent Change
Lincoln County	5,524 (14.4%)	6,084 (13.9%)	10.1% (rate difference) (-0.5%)
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%)

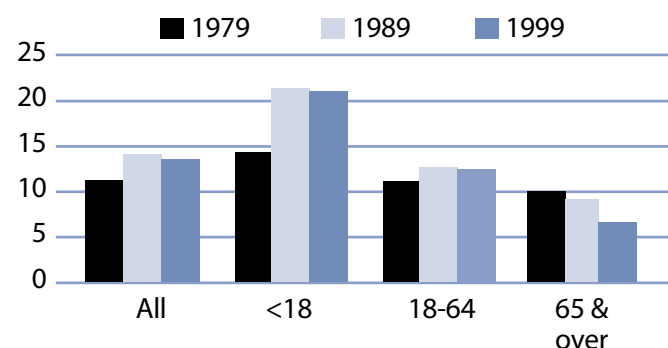
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty rates 1979-1999



Source: US Census.

Rate of poverty by age



Source: US Census.

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Poverty and Lincoln County families

In 1999, 1,216 Lincoln County families lived in poverty (9.8 percent). Of the families in poverty, 66.7 percent (811 families) had a worker and 13 percent (158 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 17.9 percent. Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at the higher rate of 23.8 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 35.2 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 48.9 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 9.4 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 248 families in 1979 to 531 families in 1999.

Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,³ White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 82.3 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 12.6 percent. Other and American Indian experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among Other was 34.7 percent, while American Indian had a 30.3 percent rate.

Lincoln 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	838 (8.1%)	1,129 (10.1%)	1,216 (9.8%)					45.1% (1.7%)
With Children under 18	490 (11.1%)	843 (17.8%)	943 (17.9%)					92.4% (6.8%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	248 (36.0%)	437 (48.0%)	531 (35.2%)					114.1% (-0.8%)

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

Lincoln 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	90.3% (39,645)	82.3% (5,008)	12.6%	13.7%
Black	0.2% (98)	0.3% (16)	16.3%	71.2%
American Indian	2.7% (1,192)	5.9% (361)	30.3%	35.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.3% (297/117)	0.6%/0.4% (37/24)	12.5%/20.5%	25.3%*
Other	1.8% (810)	4.6% (281)	34.7%	4.6%
2 or More Races	3.9% (1,721)	5.9% (357)	15.4%	NA
Hispanic Origin	4.7% (2,058)	9.7% (589)	28.6%	16.6%

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

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From 1989 to 1999, most categories experienced improvements in poverty rates. Poverty increased for Other and Hispanic Origin.

County income

On a per capita basis, Lincoln County's personal income was \$26,029 in 2002, about 90 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 84 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Lincoln County rose 2.5 percent between 2001 and 2002. The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, in per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.2 percent. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$24,835 in Lincoln County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

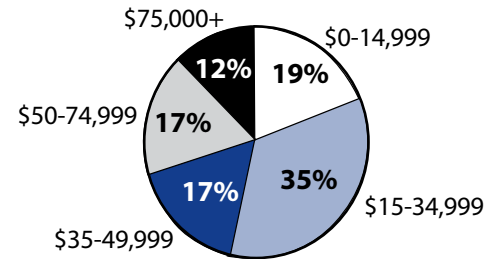
Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Lincoln County. The 2000 Census showed that 2,446 people or 40.2 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, 32.7 percent of Lincoln County's population, or 14,332 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, 821 households or 4.2 percent of all households in Lincoln County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$2,664. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households that reported receiving public assistance income, from 844 households or 5.8 percent of all households in 1979.

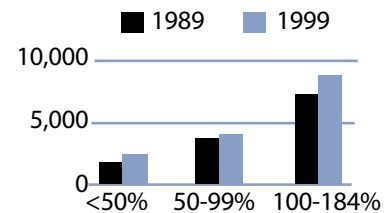
1999 household income distribution—Lincoln County



Source: US Census.

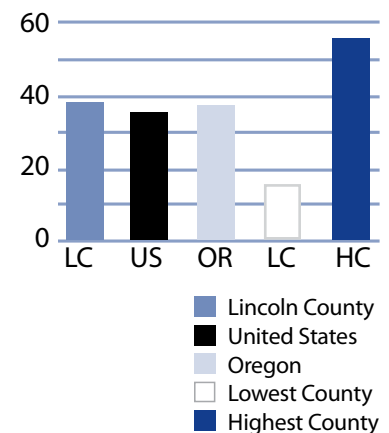
Note: The median household income in Lincoln County was \$32,769 in 1999 compared to \$22,883 in 1989 (43.2 percent increase).

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

Families with one adult earning Lincoln County's median income cannot 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 Lincoln County could afford 41.0 to 44.2 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Lincoln County is \$439.68. The manufacturing industry had the highest weekly average of \$723.06 and the retail trade industry had the lowest weekly average of \$286.87.

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

Of the family types profiled, only the family with two working adults and one child could afford the basic family budget, if they earned Lincoln County's average wage.

Lincoln 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	\$510	\$710	\$510	\$710
Food	\$230	\$489	\$388	\$647
Child Care	\$404	\$878	\$404	\$878
Transportation	\$197	\$197	\$277	\$277
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$229	\$372	\$278	\$421
Taxes	\$351	\$552	\$441	\$645
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,166	\$3,443	\$2,591	\$3,871
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$25,994	\$41,310	\$31,097	\$46,447
Median Annual Income (Census 2000)	\$18,646	\$18,646	\$50,342	\$50,342
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	71.7%	45.1%	161.9%	108.4%

Poverty and Lincoln 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	44.2%	41.0%	43.1%	42.8%

Lincoln County wages and the basic budget

	1 Worker 1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Worker 1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Workers 2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Workers 2 Adults/ 3 Children
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$1,891	\$1,891	\$3,782	\$3,782
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,166	\$3,443	\$2,591	\$3,871
Difference (SSW-AMW)	-\$275	-\$1,552	\$1,191	-\$89
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	87.3%	54.9%	145.9%	97.7%

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

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Lincoln County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	38,889 ¹	44,479 ²	44,057	44,494	44,667
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	14.4% ¹	13.9% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$22,883 ¹	\$32,769 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	7	6.2	6.9	7.6	8.6
8th Grade Drug Use	28.8% ³	20.2%	NA	20.3%	NA
HS Dropout	8.3% ⁴	8.7%	7.6%	6.0%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	18.7	12.6	18.3	10.8	NA
Prenatal Care	74.9%	82.5%	77.8%	75.6%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	0	18.9	16.3	15.6	NA
Homeownership Rate	66.0% ¹	65.7% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	43.9% ¹	48.5% ²	NA	NA	NA
Lincoln County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	46	47	41	45	58
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	133	0	29	102	38
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$2.1 m	\$0	\$2.1 m	\$3.0 m	\$1.3 m
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	13	6	6	15	12
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$1.1 m	\$507,262	\$614,464	\$1.3 m	\$1.3 m
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	1,702	1,439	1,385	1,580
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	37.5%	28.4%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	3,032	3,116	2,774	3,025	3,049
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	45.4%	48.0%	43.5%	49.5%	51.1%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	32.9%	27.4%
% if Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	4.6%	3.7%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	32.5%	34.0%	42.7%
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 Services Consortium'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.