

Lane County

Major findings

Between the years of 2001 and 2005, Lane County generated 7,686 positions, with the three largest industries generating 3,294 positions. Unemployment dropped from a high of 8.0 percent in 2003 to 6.1 percent in 2005.

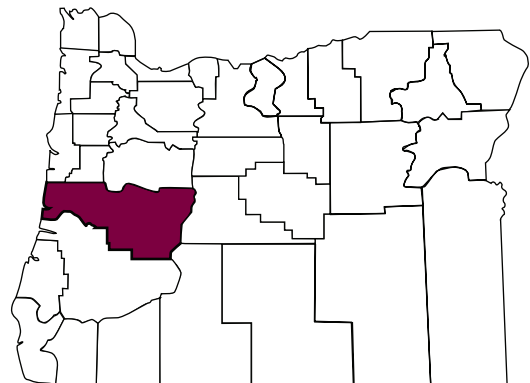
Although unemployment was low and the economy generated jobs, the 2005 wage could not fund expenses for one earner families. The 2005 average wage of \$2,692 was not enough to cover the basic family budget for one adult and one child or more. Families earning poverty level wages could not afford half of basic expenses. In 1999, 7,478 families in Lane County (9.0 percent) lived in poverty, although 67.5 percent of those families had a worker.

According to American Community Survey data, Lane County median income rose to \$38,082 in the 2004 survey. However, poverty rates remained high at 15.3 percent and the percentage of renters who spend 30 percent or more rose from 58.8 percent in the 2002 survey to 62.9 percent in the 2004 survey.

Prioritized low-income needs

Lane County Human Services Commission (LCHSC) prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Lane County as follows:

- Medical services including doctor and dentist visits, prescriptions and insurance premium assistance
- Utility bill assistance to prevent shut-offs
- Housing assistance including critical home repairs and rent assistance
- Legal aid
- Employment services
- Basic needs including clothing, appliances and transportation
- Food



Recent efforts

LCHSC developed a system infrastructure to improve access to housing and services. More than 9,000 unduplicated client records were entered in the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Analytical Database. Lane County, in partnership with OHCS and statewide CAP agencies, uses the state's OPUS system for collecting client data. 146 intake workers and case managers at 16 Lane County sub-grantee agencies have received training in the use and security of OPUS since April 2005. Monthly reports and special requested reports by agencies help to verify their data as a matter of quality assurance and service management. User accounts are reviewed weekly for security and to analyze data and maintain a secure database.

LCHSC increased prevention resources and services to low-income households to reduce the number of individuals and families entering the homeless service system.

Lane County CoC sponsored three community forums which generated consumer input from homeless individuals, homeless youth and homeless families. This resulted in increasing knowledge of public officials surrounding service gaps and innovative strategies to address homelessness.

Access to library services, local transportation and computer access was increased for people who are homeless.

A problem solving meeting was held to identify and plan for eliminating barriers between people who are homeless and living on the street and who are attempting to access both mainstream services and permanent housing (April 2006).

The efforts of City of Eugene Staff, Housing Policy Board and local service providers were coordinated to address myths and misconceptions surrounding homeless prevention and intervention as described in Register Guard. The local newspaper featured a community education article on ending homelessness in Lane County authored by the City of Eugene Staff, Housing Policy Board and local service providers (March, 2006).

The Human Service Commission's Community Health Centers of Lane County, was established in January 2004, and operates with an annual budget of \$3.2 million which includes 30 FTE in six locations in FY 2005. Half of the staff are Spanish-speaking bilingual including three of the six practitioners. The clinics provided 8,147 low-income people with 19,318 visits from January 1 to December 31, 2005. Of these patients, 1,748 were homeless. Ninety six percent of those served were below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Preventive dental services were provided for approximately 3,890 preschool and elementary children.

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County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Lane County's per capita personal income was \$27,788 in 2004, 91 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 84 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Lane County rose 5.1 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.6 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$30,284 in Lane County compared to \$35,005 for the state.

Basic family budget

According to a US Department of Agriculture report, from 2002 to 2004 11.9 percent of Oregon households struggled to meet their basic need for food. The following chart outlines typical expenses for four family types in Lane County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Lane County's basic family budget

Basic family budget/month	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Housing	\$687	\$961	\$687	\$961
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$542	\$1,092	\$542	\$1,092
Transportation	\$326	\$326	\$458	\$458
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$307	\$478	\$361	\$522
Taxes	\$444	\$612	\$446	\$394
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,848	\$4,298	\$3,297	\$4,509
Basic family budget total/annual	\$34,176	\$51,576	\$39,564	\$54,108
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$16.43	\$24.80	\$19.02	\$26.01
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	37.5%	37.5%	40.7%	41.8%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Lane County could afford 37.5 percent to 41.8 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Lane County in 2005 were \$2,692. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,564 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,073.

The following chart illustrates a family's ability to be self-sufficient based on earnings of average wages for Lane County. The two-worker scenario relies on both workers earning average wages. Using this basic budget, one adult who earned Lane County's average monthly wage could not afford basic expenses for themselves and one child or more.

Lane County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,692	\$2,692	\$5,384	\$5,384
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,848	\$4,298	\$3,297	\$4,509
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$156	-\$1,606	\$2,087	\$875
Wages as % of self sufficiency	94.5%	62.6%	163.3%	119.4%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005 **Based on basic family budget for Lane County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Covered Employment and Wages, Lane County added 7,686 employment positions from 2001 to 2005.

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Largest three industries in Lane County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	27,571	+ 1,602	\$28,754
Manufacturing	20,257	+ 560	\$39,906
Educational and health services	19,070	+ 1,132	\$35,800

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, state government experienced the largest job growth—22.0 percent—from 5,599 positions in 2001 to 6,829 in 2005. Private non-classified saw the largest decrease—49.0 percent—from 49 positions to 25 positions, primarily due to a reclassification of home care workers.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Lane County	39,838 (14.5%)	45,423 (14.4%)	14.0% (-0.1%)
Oregon	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

Rates of poverty by age (1979-1999)

	All	Children younger than 18	People 18-64	People 65 and older
1979	12.8%	14%	12.4%	11.5%
1989	14.5%	16.1%	15.0%	9.0%
1999	14.4%	16.8%	14.9%	7.5%

Source: US Census

In 1999, children younger than 18 years of age experienced the highest rate of poverty in Lane County.

Lane County poverty and race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity	% Total population 1999 (population)	% Poverty population 1999 (poverty population)	Poverty rate by race 1999	Poverty rate by race 1989
White	90.6% (286,315)	82.5% (37,485)	13.1%	13.8%
Black	0.7% (2,337)	1.4% (617)	26.4%	28.4%
American Indian	1.1% (3,431)	1.8% (837)	24.4%	26.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8%/0.2% (5,754/575)	3.9%/0.3% (1,790/149)	31.1%/25.9%	33.4%*
Other	2.0% (,406)	3.9% (1,788)	27.9%	25.6%
2 or more races	3.5% (11,198)	6.1% (2,757)	24.6%	NA
Hispanic origin	4.5% (14,156)	8.5% (3,859)	27.3%	24.0%

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

Lane County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	6,092 (8.5%)	6,946 (9.4%)	7,478 (9.0%)	22.8% (0.5%)
With children younger than 18	4,709 (12.3%)	5,362 (14.6%)	6,002 (14.8%)	27.5% (2.5%)
Single women with children younger than 18	2,572 (39.3%)	2,988 (41.9%)	3,601 (39.5%)	40.0% (0.2%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Lane County families

In 1999, 7,478 of Lane County's 82,869 families lived in poverty (9.0 percent). Of the 7,478 families in poverty, 67.5 percent (5,049 families) had a household member who worked and 13.8 percent (1,033 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	322,959	324,437	326,879	330,012	331,567	335,180
People living below poverty level-%	14.4% ¹	NA	15.7% ²	14.8% ²	15.3% ²	16.1% ²
Median income	\$36,942 ¹	NA	\$33,360 ²	\$36,887 ²	\$38,082 ²	\$37,290 ²
Unemployment rate	5.4	6.9	7.1	8.0	7.3	6.1
8th grade drug use	13.0%	NA	19.1%	18.0%	17.3%	NA
HS dropout	5.4%	3.9%	3.8%	3.5%	3.3%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	12.2	9.8	9.7	10.9	NA	NA
Prenatal care	78.3%	80.2%	76.5%	76.0	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	25.3	22.7	21.5	NA	19.6	NA
Homeownership rate	62.3% ¹	NA	60.2% ²	61.8% ²	62.6% ²	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	52.2% ¹	NA	58.8% ²	57.0% ²	62.9% ²	NA
Lane County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	1,818	1,606	1,558	1,384	1,301 *	1,293
New units created with OHCS funding resources	95	105	142	166	522 *	375
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$3.1 m	\$3.0 m	\$5.0 m	\$3.8 m	\$3.1 m *	\$15.0 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	82	75	95	80	99	82
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$6.9 m	\$6.4 m	\$8.7 m	\$7.8 m	\$11.1 m	\$9.5 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	7,913	5,441	7,062	5,414	6,089	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	410	249	130
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	18.3%	15.5%	12.0% *	11.4%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	15,664	16,864	17,785	18,625	19,518	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	32.5%	35.1%	36.9%	39.0%	41.0%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	17.3%	16.6%	13.8% *	13.8%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	3.2%	2.5%	1.1% *	1.0%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	26.4%	26.9%	24.9%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
* Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						
¹ 2000 US Census						
² American Community Survey						