Social Determinants of Health

Unemployment

After peaking at 11.3% in 2009, the Oregon annual unemployment rate has fallen to 4.1% in 2017 (Figure 1). Although the Oregon unemployment rate was consistently higher than the national average throughout the recent recession, in recent years it has fallen more rapidly.

The age group with the highest unemployment rate in Oregon is 16 to 24 year olds (12%; Figure 2). Among that age group, men have a higher rate of unemployment (14%) than women (11%).
Among Oregon counties, Benton County has the lowest unemployment rate (3.9%) and Grant County has the highest (7.8%) in 2016. In general, rural and frontier counties have higher unemployment rates than urban counties (Figure 3).

About the Data: Data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of unemployed persons in the civilian labor force divided by the total civilian labor force. The civilian labor force includes all civilian non-institutionalized persons age 16 and older who are either employed or are available and looking for work. It does not include persons who are unable to work or are not looking for work.

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