

# Clackamas County

## POVERTY & FOOD ASSISTANCE

This profile looks at economic well-being and nutrition and food assistance in Clackamas County. It provides a context for discussion of poverty and food security issues in Clackamas County.

The profile presents statistical indicators of the following:

- Economic well-being (household income, unemployment, household poverty, and rental costs as a percentage of income)
- Poverty (overall poverty rate, child poverty, elder poverty, and poverty by racial/ethnic categories)
- Nutrition and food assistance (participation in Food Stamps; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); child nutrition programs; congregate or home-delivered meals to older adults; emergency food; farmers' markets; and others)

The profile also contains a map showing the percentage of the population under 185% of the poverty level broken down by geographic areas of the county. In Oregon, 185% of the poverty level is the income guideline used for federal food programs such as food stamps, child nutrition, and WIC.

The tables on pages 2 and 3 show levels of these indicators in Clackamas County and how the county's statistics compare to Oregon's statistics.

The county map shows how poverty and prosperity are distributed among census block groups (CBGs) within the county. The CBG is the U.S. Census Bureau's statistical equivalent of a neighborhood. Each CBG has an average of 1,100 people, or about 400 families. Thus, the more populated areas of the county have many tiny CBGs, and sparsely settled sections have CBGs that cover larger areas.

If we rank all census block groups *statewide* in terms of the percent of the population with incomes below 185% of poverty, we find the following (keyed to map color):

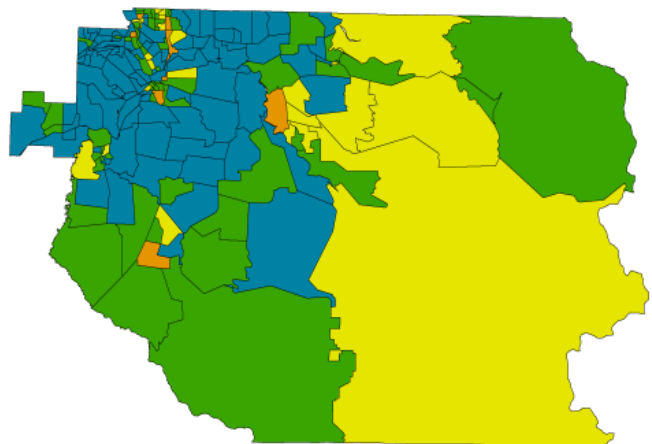
- The most well-off quarter of the CBGs have 0 to 17.1 percent of their population below 185% of the poverty level (blue/purple).

- The next quarter of the CBGs have between 17.2 and 26.8 percent of their population below 185% of poverty levels (green/blue).
- The next quarter of CBGs have between 26.9 and 37.6 percent of their population below 185% of poverty levels (yellow).
- The quarter of CBGs at the bottom of the ranking have 37.7 or more of their population below 185% of poverty levels (orange). We have identified the subset of the bottom quartile of CBGs with 50 percent or more of their population below 185% of poverty levels as a separate category (red).

In other words, as you proceed from cold to warm colors, economic distress increases. Not all maps have all quantiles because the ranges for the quantiles are determined statewide. Richer counties will have colder colors.

Companion profiles for the state of Oregon and for the other Oregon counties have maps showing these indicators statewide and for each county.

Clackamas County, 2000  
Percentage of population under 185% of poverty level,  
by block group



		Population (%)
Top quartile	●	0.0–17.1
	●	17.2–26.8
	●	26.9–37.6
Bottom quartile	●	37.7–49.9
	●	50.0–100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

# Clackamas County

## Economic Well-being and Poverty

	County	Oregon
<b>Economic well-being</b>		
Median household income (1999)	\$52,080	\$40,916
Percentage of labor force that is unemployed (2000)	5.0	6.5
Percentage of households with income less than 185% of poverty level (1999)	16.5	26.9
Percentage of renters paying 30% or more of income in rent (2000)	36.6	40.0
<b>Poverty (1999)</b>		
Poverty rate (percent of population that is poor)	6.6	11.6
Percentage of related children who are poor	7.6	14.0
Percentage of older adults who are poor	5.1	7.6
Percentage of Whites who are poor	5.8	10.2
Percentage of Blacks who are poor	9.9	24.1
Percentage of Native Americans who are poor	8.7	22.2
Percentage of Asians who are poor	4.7	12.5
Percentage of Pacific Islanders who are poor	*	18.2
Percentage of other races who are poor	25.7	26.8
Percentage of Hispanics who are poor	20.7	24.9

\*Population sizes < 100 not reported

### Explanations of data

**Median household income:** All sources of income are included. This statistic is based on 1999 total household income. Households with no income are included in the computation.

**Percentage of labor force that is unemployed:** The unemployed are civilian men and women age 16 or older who did not have a job during the reference week in 2000, were looking for work during the past 4 weeks, and were available to accept a job. (The labor force is the sum of the employed plus the unemployed.)

**Percentage of households with income less than 185% of poverty level:** These are households that are eligible for food stamps.

**Percentage of renters paying 30% or more of income in rent:** Includes households paying cash rent. For specified renter-occupied housing units that reported paying cash rent and reported positive income, a ratio of monthly gross rent to monthly income is calculated. "Specified renter-occupied units" include all renter-occupied units except one-unit attached or

detached houses on 10 acres or more. Statewide, the average (median) renter household paid \$620 in gross monthly rent, which represented between 25 and 30 percent of their 1999 household income.

**Poverty rate:** This is the percentage of the population defined as poor, meaning that the person lives in a household whose income in 1999 was below the federal government's official income threshold defining poverty status for that household.

**Percentage of related children and older adults who are poor:** "Related children" are all people under 18 years old related to the householder, regardless of marital status; spouses of householders are excluded from this calculation if under 18. "Older adults" are those over 64 years of age.

**Percentage of races and ethnicities who are poor:** Census 2000 had greatly expanded categories for race. We report percentages of Blacks or African Americans, American Indian or Native Alaskans, Asians, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, other races, and Hispanics or Latinos who are poor.

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Prepared by Sally Bowman, Extension family development specialist; Ellen Schuster, Extension nutrition and foods specialist; and Bruce Weber, Extension economist; all of Oregon State University.

© 2003 Oregon State University. This publication may be photocopied or reprinted in its entirety for noncommercial purposes. Produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Published November 2003.

### Acknowledgments

We are grateful for the assistance of many people. Mindy Crandall of Oregon State University produced the maps and assembled the poverty data; Kim Thomas, Angela Harris, and Sharon Thornberry of the Oregon Food Bank; Anne Hoisington of the OSU Extension Service; and Heidi Dupuis of the Oregon Department of Education reviewed an early draft of this publication. Julie Reeder and Craig White of the Oregon Department of Education; Steve Randolph of the Oregon Food Bank; and Lee Girard and Maria Menor of the Oregon Department of Human Services reviewed drafts and provided data. Jane Sabatino of the Oregon Department of Human Services and Barbara Cracknell of the Oregon Department of Education provided data.

## Clackamas County Nutrition and Food Assistance

	County	Oregon
<b>Food stamps (January 2003)</b>		
Total participants	19,987	393,277
Child participants	9,767	171,599
Percentage of population participating	5.8	11.3
Percentage of children participating	11.1	20.0
Average monthly food stamp benefit	\$77.20	\$80.37
<b>Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (January 2003)</b>		
Total participants	5,444	96,273
Women	1,297	23,200
Infants	1,051	18,110
Children	3,096	54,963
<b>School lunch (2002–2003)</b>		
Children receiving free and reduced-price school lunch	13,062	211,982
Percentage of children receiving free and reduced-price school lunch	23.5	38.8
<b>Summer feeding sites (2002)</b>		
Sites	2	310
<b>Older adults (2002)</b>		
Average monthly congregate meals	5,904	87,486
Average monthly home-delivered meals	10,047	123,187
<b>Emergency food (2001–2002)</b>		
People receiving food from food box per month (average)	7,510	130,490
Food boxes distributed each month (average)	2,496	43,159
<b>Farmers' markets participating in nutrition programs (2002)</b>		
Farmers' markets in WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	3	52
Farmers' markets and farm stands in Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	18	238
<b>Other (2003)</b>		
Coalitions that address food security	0	7
Gleaning groups	1	31

### Sources of data

**Food stamps:** January 2003 Public Assistance Data, Oregon Department of Human Services, <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/assistance/data/papage.htm>, January 2003 Food Stamp File for DHS, State of Oregon.

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** January 2003 Participating Caseload data from Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Services, Office of Family Health.

**School lunch:** 2002–2003 school participation data as of October 31, 2002, Oregon Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs.

**Summer feeding sites:** 2002 school-year data, Oregon Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs (represents Summer Food Program sites or Seamless Summer Waiver Program sites or both).

**Older adults:** Oregon Department of Human Services—Seniors and People with Disabilities, FFY 2002 USDA meal count.

**Emergency food:** 2001–2002 data, Oregon Food Bank.

**Farmers' markets participating in nutrition programs:** 2002 data, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Services, Office of Family Health.

**Other:** Oregon Food Bank (January 2003).