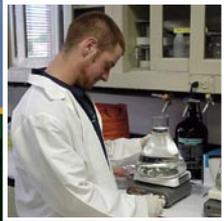


OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Vital Signs

2007



Oklahoma County Demographics, Trends and Indicators

- Economics
- Education
- Health
- Safety
- Civic Participation
- Arts and Culture

Dedication

Creating community endeavors is like rearing a family. It takes parents, friends and mentors to help children reach productive adulthood. In the work of community building, the same ingredients are critical. The 2007 Vital Signs is dedicated to two such individuals who began this work and helped it become what it is today.

Judy Rothbaum was Research Director at the Community Council of Central Oklahoma when Vital Signs first began. She was the spirit behind its early years.

Zach Taylor, Executive Director of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, was part of the initial team of community leaders who assisted Judy. He became one of Vital Signs most vocal and strenuous advocates for its development and use in regional planning.

We honor their memory and their tireless support of this community endeavor.

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The logo for Oklahoma County Vital Signs 2007. It features a large red checkmark shape on the left. The words "OKLAHOMA COUNTY" are written in a black, sans-serif font, following the top curve of the checkmark. Below this, the words "Vital Signs" are written in a large, bold, black serif font. Underneath "Vital Signs", the year "2007" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY Vital Signs 2007

Oklahoma County Vital Signs is central Oklahoma's only broad-based community evaluation. Unique locally, this document offers extensive data on key trends in our area. Rare nationally, most communities are just beginning to pursue research of this magnitude. First published in 1994 by the Community Council of Central Oklahoma and continued by United Way of Central Oklahoma, Vital Signs offers a comprehensive review of our overall well-being in Oklahoma County. If our community could have a routine physical, this would be it.

Vital Signs offers more than a decade of trend data. Published biennially, the research tracks six key areas important to our quality of life: *Economic Well-Being, Educational Achievement, Health Status, Safety, Civic Participation* plus *Arts and Culture*. This year, a section of nine new indicators has been added to enhance the data already being tracked. Each category follows multiple data sets which reveal successes and challenges.

Vital Signs is intended to be used by citizens at all levels to follow changing conditions, guide policy development and support allocation of resources. The indicators are a call to action: to celebrate progress, spur critical thinking, shape a community vision and take steps toward positive change.

What are Indicators?

Indicators are presentations of data that together show changes and trends over time and provide a view of the overall health of the community. Indicators function in the same way that heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature provide a picture of our overall personal health. Community indicators are “Vital Signs” for monitoring and measuring where we are and where we are going over time.

Vital Signs Seven Categories of Indicators:

■ Economic Well-Being	page 7
■ Educational Achievement	page 17
■ Health Status	page 23
■ Safety	page 33
■ Civic Participation	page 39
■ Arts and Culture	page 43
■ Newly Identified	page 47

Five Criteria Governed the Selection of Specific Indicators:

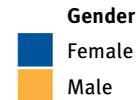
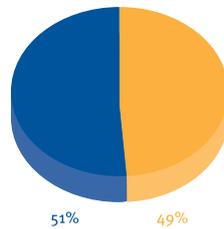
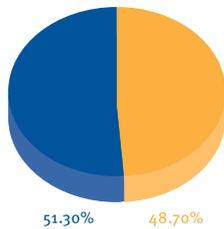
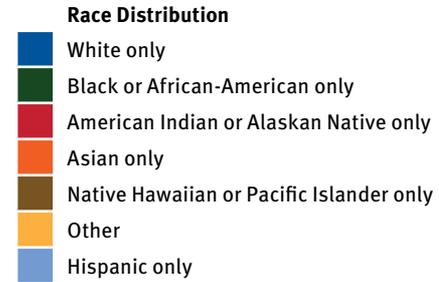
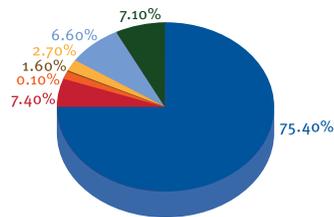
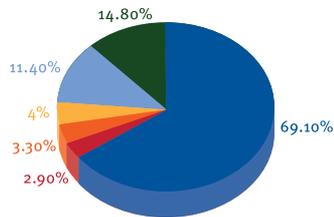
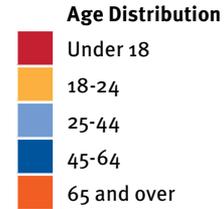
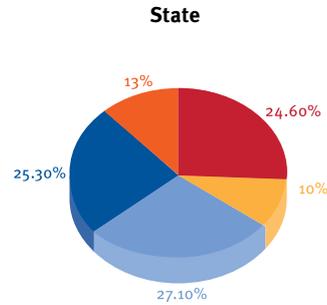
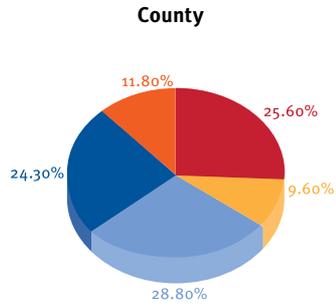
- Significance to the Local Community
- Ability to Reflect a Specific Dimension and to Contribute to the Overall Picture of the Well-being of Citizens
- Ability to Support Policy Decisions
- Ability to be Obtained Annually
- Ability to be Measured Consistently Over Time

Vital Signs Community Indicators Track Three Population Groups:

- Children and Youth From Birth Through Age 17
- Working-Age Adults From the Ages of 18-64
- Elderly Adults From the Age of 65

Current Demographics of Oklahoma County and the State of Oklahoma

	County	State
Total Population	666,904	3,433,496
Median Age	34.9	36.5



Source U.S. Census Bureau

Oklahoma County Trend Summary

Improving Indicator Trends

Arts and Culture

- Arts and Culture Attendance by Household
- Arts and Culture Attendance by Income Level
- Independent and International Films

Civic Participation:

- Registered Voters Who Vote
- Households Making Financial Contributions to Charities

Economic Well-being:

- Population Growth
- Per Capita Personal Income
- Home Ownership
- Poverty Rate for All Households

Neutral and Mixed Trends

Civic Participation:

- Citizens Who Engage in Volunteer Activities

Economic Well-being:

- Average Annual Wage and Salary Employment
- Financial Planning for Retirement
- Households With Children by Household Type
- Children Living Below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

Educational Achievement:

- Public School Dropout Rate

Declining Indicator Trends

Economic Well-being:

- Poverty Rate for Children Under 18
- Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch

Health Status:

- Prevalence of Unintended Pregnancy
- Access to Reliable, Affordable Transportation
- Educational Level of Mothers to All New Births
- Births to Unmarried Mothers
- Infant Mortality Rate

Educational Achievement:

- Adults Who Have Completed High School or Equivalent Programs
- Adults Who Have Completed a Bachelors Degree and Beyond
- Public School Graduation Rate
- Students Who Achieve Established Skill Levels in Reading and Math

Health Status:

- Births to Unmarried Mothers Under the Age of 20

Safety:

- Juvenile Arrests for Violent and Serious Offenses

Health Status:

- Mothers Who Had Live Births and Received First Trimester Prenatal Care
- Leading Causes of Death
- Health Insurance Coverage

Safety:

- Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Index Crime Rate

Safety:

- Domestic Violence Reports
- Elder Abuse

Trends Overview

Analyzing trends provides insight into larger patterns that are occurring in Oklahoma County over time. Notable changes occurring in one year may not reflect changes in a longer-term trend, but are important enough to bring to the community's attention because they may signal the impact of a significant event or change in the environment.

One-Year Changes

- The poverty rate for all households in Oklahoma County decreased slightly in 2006, but remained higher than previous years.
- The percentage of households feeling financially secure continued its upward trend.

- The percentage of Oklahoma County residents who own their own homes increased in 2005, but decreased slightly in 2006.
- The percentage of 5th grade students scoring at or above satisfactory levels on the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Math showed mixed results: reading continued to increase, but math scores slipped slightly below previous levels.
- A change in calculation of graduation and dropout rates created a new baseline for comparison between school districts.

- The eligibility for free and reduced lunches continued to rise throughout Oklahoma County.
- Health insurance coverage for poor families is still an area of concern.
- Access to reliable and affordable transportation is a barrier for many daily activities including access to childcare, employment and routine medical care.
- Reports of domestic violence increased 5.2% in 2005; this change may be related to increased awareness and willingness to report, nevertheless this indicator is still an area of concern.

Trends to Watch

- Oklahoma County residents' per capita personal income has exceeded per capita incomes for the state and nation over the past two years. *(This trend can be misleading as individuals may be earning more per job or may be working more jobs to obtain a higher level of income.)*
- Planning for retirement continued to increase as a focus on encouraging financial planning for new employees entering the workplace may be influencing this trend.
- Educational attainment continued to increase in all areas except high school graduation and GEDs. *(This trend may be slightly misleading due to the change in the methods used to calculate graduation and dropout rates.)*
- Students are achieving targeted skill levels in the core subjects of reading and math with some decline in mathematics as an area of concern. Statewide performances are more stable. A continued focus on attainment of basic core skills at earlier ages is an indicator for future education.
- Decreasing numbers of teen-age pregnancies is positive.
- The overall index crime rate for violent/non-violent crimes and juvenile arrest for violent/serious offenses continued to decrease.

- The number of child abuse and neglect cases in Oklahoma County increased slightly in 2006; the percentage of cases remained static.
- The percentage of expectant mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care increased slightly since 2001, but nearly one in four expectant mothers do not receive early prenatal care.
- Roughly one in five households in Oklahoma County are without any form of health insurance, while approximately two-thirds of those with insurance obtain it through their employer.

- The leading causes of death in Oklahoma County remain fairly unchanged: Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke and Bronchitis/Emphysema.
- Poor educational achievements of new mothers provide reason for concern as the percentage of mothers of new births who have not completed high school is 9.2% higher in Oklahoma County than nationally.



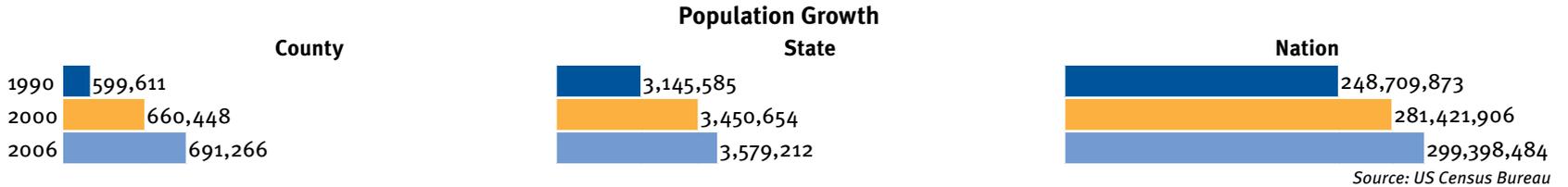


Economic Well-Being Indicators

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Population Growth: *Changes in the population of Oklahoma County.*

Oklahoma County’s population grew 4.7% since 2000 and 15.3% since 1990. This growth is higher than the state’s growth of 3.7% since 2000 and 9.7% since 1990. Both rates are lower than national growth rates. The U.S. population has grown 6.4% since 2000 and 20.4% since 1990. The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that the fastest growing segment of the population in the county, state, and nation is individuals ages 65 and over. As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement age, their numbers will outpace those of working age adults. With more retirees than working adults in the population, the demand for social services could increase dramatically. If the Census Bureau’s projections hold true, many areas of the economy will be greatly impacted.



Average Wage and Salary Employment: *Based on wage and salary employment in construction, manufacturing, energy, service, wholesale/retail trade, state and local government, federal government, transportation and public utilities, finance, insurance and real estate.*

Average annual wage and salary employment has increased dramatically since 1990; however, the increases have merely mirrored changes in national averages. The *Average Wage Per Job* analysis indicates an upward trend across the nation, state, county and metropolitan area. Oklahoma County continues to lead the other areas pacing only 12% below the national average. Coupled with job growth data, this seems to indicate that most of the wage increases are at the lower end of the wage spectrum.

Since 1995, the *Average Wage Per Job* has increased nearly 41% in state and local areas. This is below the national increase of 47%. Though the disparity is easing, there is still considerable distance between national and county averages. In 2006, Oklahoma County remained at 87% of the national average and Oklahoma at 79%. Job growth is one component of improving performance in this area, but new jobs will need to meet or exceed the *National Wage Per Job* average to close the gap in Oklahoma and Oklahoma County. Continued emphasis on post secondary education, developing a well-educated workforce and good infrastructure to support sustained growth are key components to improvement in this area.



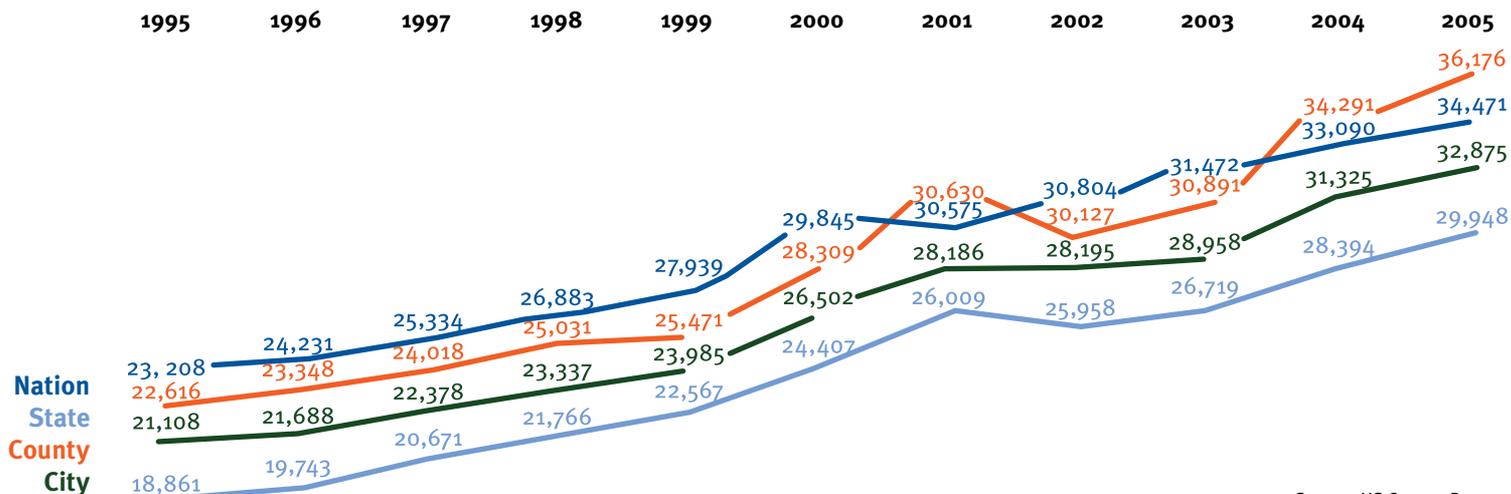
Per Capita Personal Income: Illustrates how well paid the area's employees are. Can be compared to other geographic areas and job sectors to see how well the area's employees fare.

Average annual wage and salary employment has increased dramatically since 1990. *Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI)* has increased 59% over its level in 1995. However, Oklahoma County falls 2.2% below the nation on average and Oklahoma 16.4% below. Wage increases in all areas mirror the national trends, but only Oklahoma County is closing the gap. Personal income in Oklahoma County remains higher than the state.

Oklahoma County's *PCPI* in 2004 and 2005 exceeded the national average by 4.9%; this reversed a decreasing trend over the previous two years. In 2001, Oklahoma County's *PCPI* exceeded the national rate for the first time since 1995 and then dipped below the national average for 2002 and 2003. *Per Capita Personal Income* is rising, but not significantly gaining on the national average except in Oklahoma County. This gap suggests that increases in average annual wage and salary employment are in jobs at the lower end of the wage and salary scale or individuals are working more jobs to gain a higher income. The methodology in determining *Per Capita Personal Income* does not take into account the actual distribution of income within a community; thus a dramatic increase in higher incomes can offset a greater number with lower incomes. Additionally, this indicator does not take into account services provided inside the family and informal income.



Per Capita Income Comparison 1995-2005



Source: US Census Bureau

Perceived Financial Security - Percentage Feeling Very Secure: *Provides a picture of the financial security comfort level of households.*

According to the 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey, the percentage of households responding “very secure” when asked about their financial security continued its upward trend. The percentage of households responding “very secure” or “somewhat secure” fell slightly to 84%, just below the 86.3% reported in 2004. The data correlates to a higher degree of perceived security across all households both with and without children. The presence of children in the household does not seem to significantly impact the feeling of financial security.

Households having a total income at or below 150% of the *Federal Poverty Level (FPL)* feel the least positive about their current financial situation. In 2006, the *Federal Poverty Level* for a family of four was \$20,000. Perceived confidence in financial security correlates with increased home ownership, increased household income, access to transportation and availability of health insurance.

Financial Planning for Retirement: *The percentage of citizens who are engaged in planning their financial well-being after retirement.*

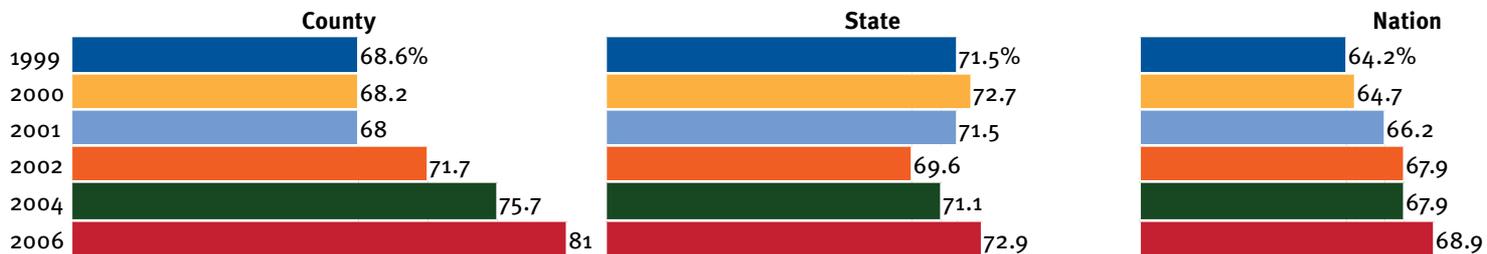
The 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey indicates that 34% of households have done little or no financial planning for their retirement years. The remaining 66% that have done either “a great deal” or a “good amount” seems to illustrate an increased awareness for retirement planning. Increased planning at earlier ages could potentially alleviate some financial concerns for social service providers in the future. Today, it is more likely that younger employees are strongly encouraged to begin saving while changes in benefit structures from traditional pension plans to deferred compensation and personal savings plans have become common throughout many sectors of the economy. This change in perspective regarding retirement savings for employees as they enter the workplace could be one factor influencing the increase in retirement planning at an earlier age.

Home Ownership: *The percentage of residents living in owner-occupied housing. Home ownership contributes to safe, stable neighborhoods and is associated with increased property values.*

Since 1998, home ownership rates in Oklahoma County have been consistently higher than national rates. In 2004, there was a 4% increase in home ownership in Oklahoma County over the previous year. This trend continued in 2006 with an increase to 81% owning their own homes. This indicator suggests Oklahoma County has a solid base of households who own their own homes.

One of the greatest factors in Oklahoma’s low cost of living is its relatively inexpensive housing. Coupled with lower interest rates and favorable economic development, an increase in home ownership is not unexpected. Changing economic pressures and interest rates may impact this trend in future years.

Historical Home Ownership Comparison

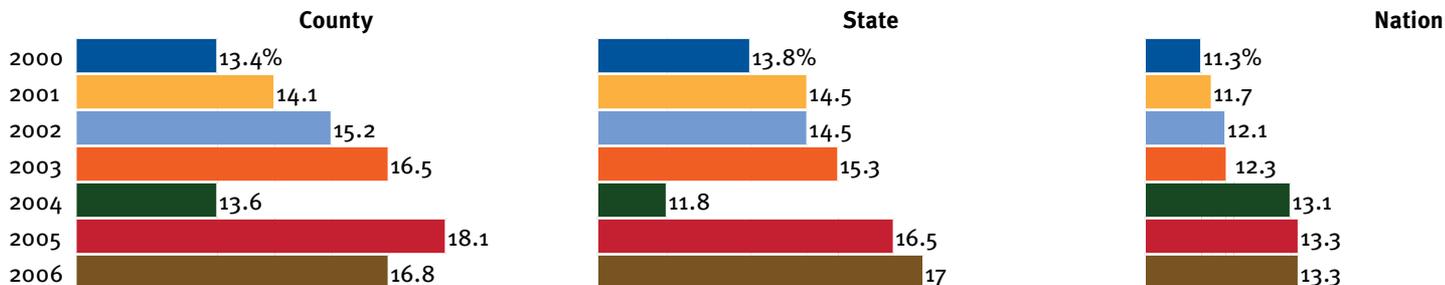


Source: US Census Bureau

Poverty Rate for All Oklahoma County Households: *The percentage of households with total annual income at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.*

Increases in wage and salary employment in 2005 and 2006 revealed a moderate improvement in the poverty rate for all households in Oklahoma County, but rates are still higher than they were in 2000. In the past six years, the county poverty rate has increased 5%. When coupled with population growth, the county has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of persons living in poverty. Both Oklahoma and Oklahoma County continue to outpace the nation for percentage of people living in poverty.

Improving wage per job averages and an increasing *Per Capita Personal Income* with a rising poverty rate suggests that many working adults continue to increase their household income by holding more than one job to provide basic needs for their families. Continued job growth and wage increases could further improve this indicator.

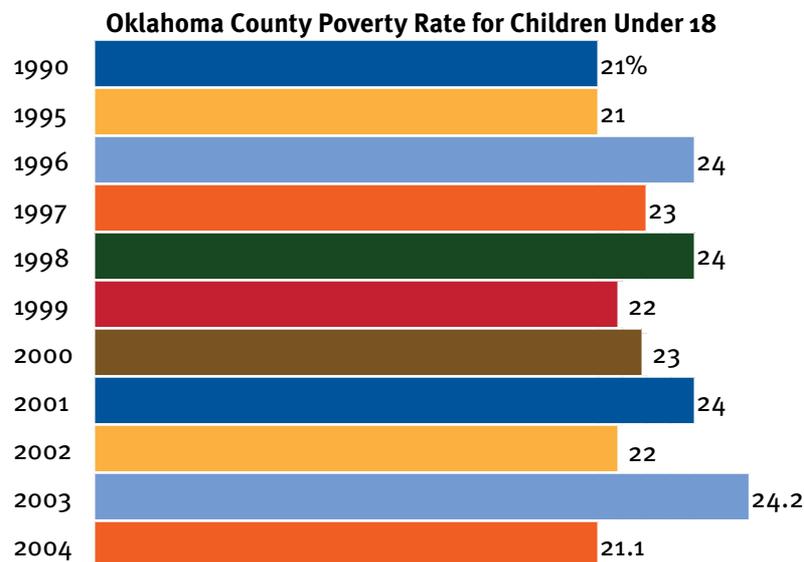


Source: US Census Bureau

Poverty Rate for Children Under 18: *The percentage of children under the age of 18 living in households with total incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. In 2006, the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four was \$20,000 in annual household income.*

Research indicates that children growing up in poverty are more likely to lack the resources necessary for meeting daily living needs: food, adequate housing, health care and clothing. Children growing up in poverty are also more likely to perform poorly academically and be at risk for child abuse and/or neglect.

In 2002, 22% of Oklahoma County children lived in poverty compared to 19.9% of children in the U.S. and 23.7% of children in Oklahoma. In 2003, the rate soared to 24.2% and then dropped to 21.1% in 2004. Viewed over the longer term, Oklahoma County's poverty rate for children under the age of 18 has consistently averaged 22% over the past decade.



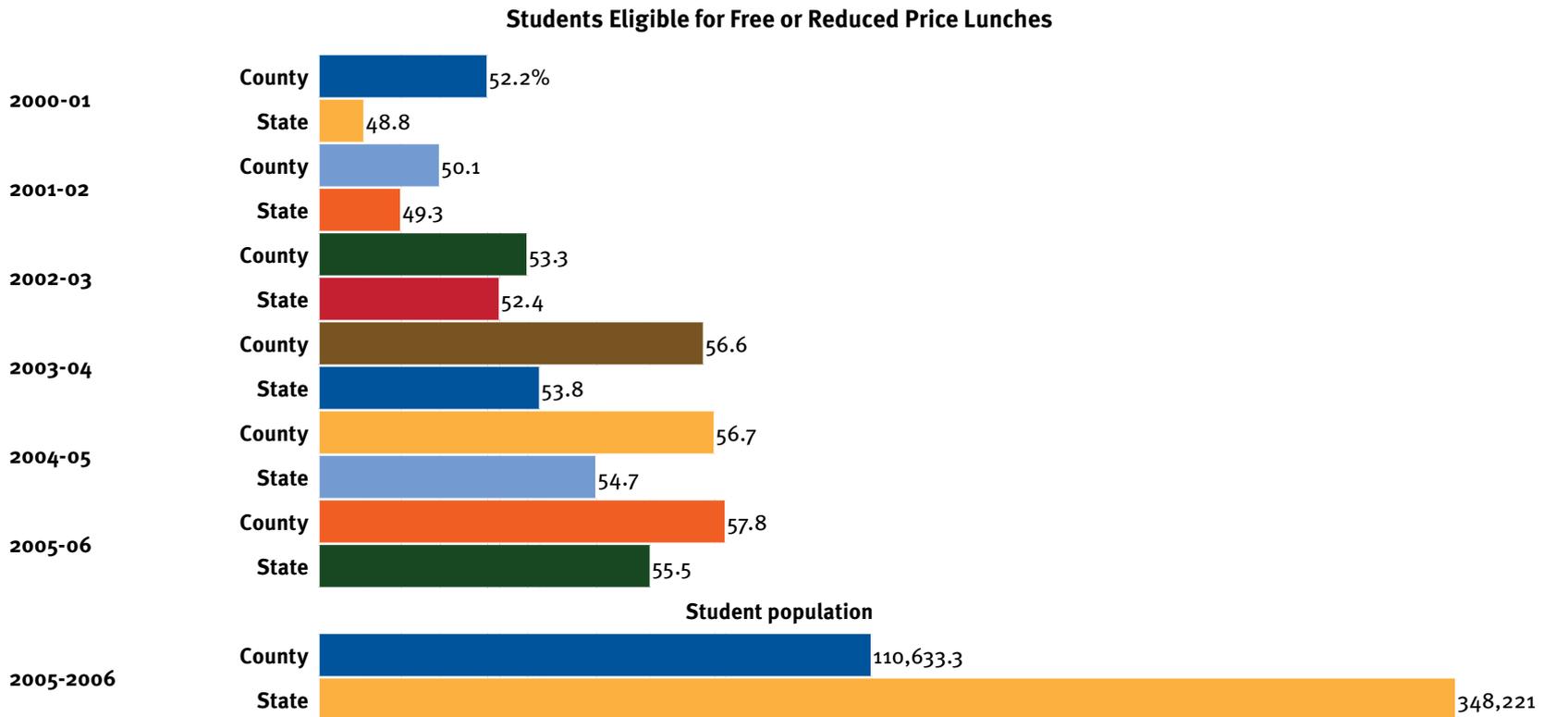
Source: US Census Bureau

Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch by County and State: *The percentage of students eligible to receive free/reduced-price lunch at school. Eligibility criteria are based upon income guidelines calculated according to household size. It should be noted that the percentage of eligible students may be higher than the percentage who receive free/reduced-price lunch because participation is based on a family's self-reported need for assistance.*

A student is eligible for a free school lunch if their family earns less than 130% of the *Federal Poverty Level (FPL)*. To qualify for a reduced lunch, a student's family must earn between 130% and 185% of the *FPL*. Over the past decade, eligibility has increased nearly seven percentage points in Oklahoma. The number of students eligible in 2006 grew 0.8% to 193,263 students statewide.

Since the 2000-2001 school year, the percentage eligible for free and reduced lunches has increased 14.9%. Some of this increase may be attributed to changing eligibility requirements. The total enrollment for districts in Oklahoma County has only increased about 1% between 2000 and 2004. Some districts have seen much higher growth rates, but the total student population in Oklahoma County has remained fairly stable. This trend seems to match population shifts in the Oklahoma County area.

This indicator seems to support the conclusion that child poverty is still increasing in Oklahoma County even as household incomes continue to rise.



Source: Education Oversight Board Office of Accountability

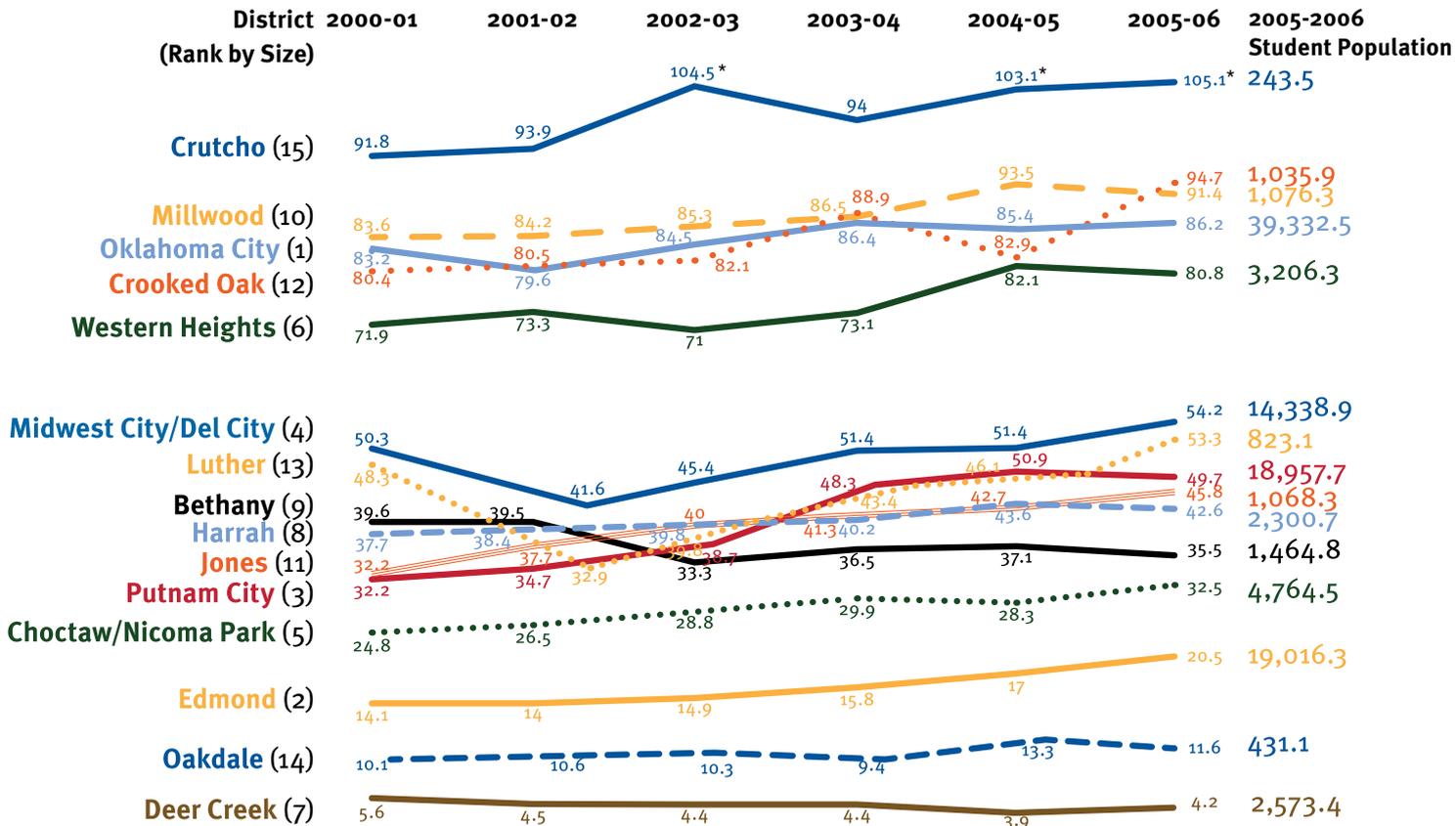
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch by School District: 2000-2006: Provides a picture of the percentage of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch by Oklahoma County school district for the 2000-2006 school years.

Five school districts have percentages of eligible students higher than the county wide average of 57.8%. These districts are Crutcho, Crooked Oak, Millwood, Oklahoma City, and Western Heights. These districts consistently have a higher number of students eligible for free and reduced lunches.

The six largest school districts by student population have percentages of eligible students ranging from 86.4% to 15.8%. These districts are Oklahoma City, Western Heights, Midwest City/Del City, Putnam City, Choctaw/Nicoma Park and Edmond. Child poverty affects inner city, suburban, large and small school districts in Oklahoma County. The chart below indicates the percentages of free/reduced lunches by school district over the past six school years along with school district population size. Oklahoma County saw an increase in eligibility of 14.7% during this period.

The overall rate of free/reduced price lunch eligibility continues to grow at steady rate. As the federal poverty limit changes and incomes of households in poverty remain fairly flat, the number of students that qualify for assistance will continue to grow.

Percentage of Students Eligible Free and Reduced Lunch by School Districts



Source: Education Oversight Board Office of Accountability
 * Amount of students eligible for free and reduced lunch may exceed the initial number of enrolled students at the time of enrollment.

Households with Children by Household Type: Reports the percentage of children living in single-parent and two-parent households in Oklahoma County. Understanding the composition of families helps provide a picture of how children are living.

Family composition affects the resources available to children. Research indicates that children growing up in single-parent households are more likely to be living in poverty than children growing up in two-parent households. Historically, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, families headed by single females have the highest poverty levels followed by families headed by single males.

In 2006, there were 277,811 households in Oklahoma County. Of those, 43.4% were married, 4.3% were headed by a single male and 12.9% were headed by a single female. In households with persons 65 or older, 25.6% lived alone. This compares to 50.5% of married households in the state and 49.7% nationwide. Single males headed 4.6% and single females 11.9% of households in Oklahoma. Non-Family households in Oklahoma were 33.1%. Nationwide, single male households were 4.6% and 12.5% were headed by single females.



Children by Employment Status of Parents: *Measures the percentage of children living in households in which all parents work. This indicator is related to the availability of quality, affordable child care.*

Slightly more than two-thirds of Oklahoma County’s children and youth live in households in which all parents in the family work outside the home. Comparatively, 53.5% of children nationwide and 50.4% of children in Oklahoma live in homes in which all parents work. In Oklahoma, the number of households with children who live with two working parents is on a steady increase and has been since 2003. Children of single parents or parents who both work outside the home need some type of childcare or after-school care. In 2006, there were 140,507 licensed childcare providers in the state.

In Oklahoma County, 58% of households have at least one child under the age of 18. Of those children, 8% are under the primary care of a grandparent and another 7% indicated that another relative provided childcare. Of households with children under six years of age, 56% reported that their children attended a childcare or preschool program. Slightly more than half of those had more than one child in childcare. 8% of respondents said that obtaining quality childcare is an issue for their family. Primary barriers for accessing care included high costs and lack of availability during non-traditional hours.

According to Rainbow Fleet, an agency specializing in childcare procurement, the average cost of care for children of all ages continues to increase. In 2006, the overall cost per day per child was \$16.84 on average statewide. In metropolitan counties, the cost was 25% higher at \$18.88 per day. Factors influencing cost include star rating, type of care and age of the child. The mean annual childcare cost for infant care in a care center was \$5,568 in 2003, a slight decrease from 2001 figures.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, primary concerns regarding childcare in Oklahoma County include:

- Difficulty locating full-time infant care as well as part-time infant and toddler care. The greatest access is available through family childcare homes.
- Fast growing demand for after-school, evening, and weekend care as well as for sick and special needs children.

Economic Well-Being Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Population Growth	
	Per Capita Income	
	Poverty Rate for All Households	
	Home Ownership	
Mixed/Neutral Trend	Average Annual Wage and Salary Employment	
	Children Living Below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level	
	Households with Children by Household Type (Two-Parent and Single-Parent Families)	
	Children by Employment Status of Parents (Households Where All Parents Work)	
Negative Trend	Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch	





Educational Achievement Indicators

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Educational Attainment: Provides a picture of the highest level of educational achievement among adults ages 18-64. Of particular concern are the percentage of adults who have at least a high school diploma or GED and the percentage of adults who have completed at least a Bachelor's degree.

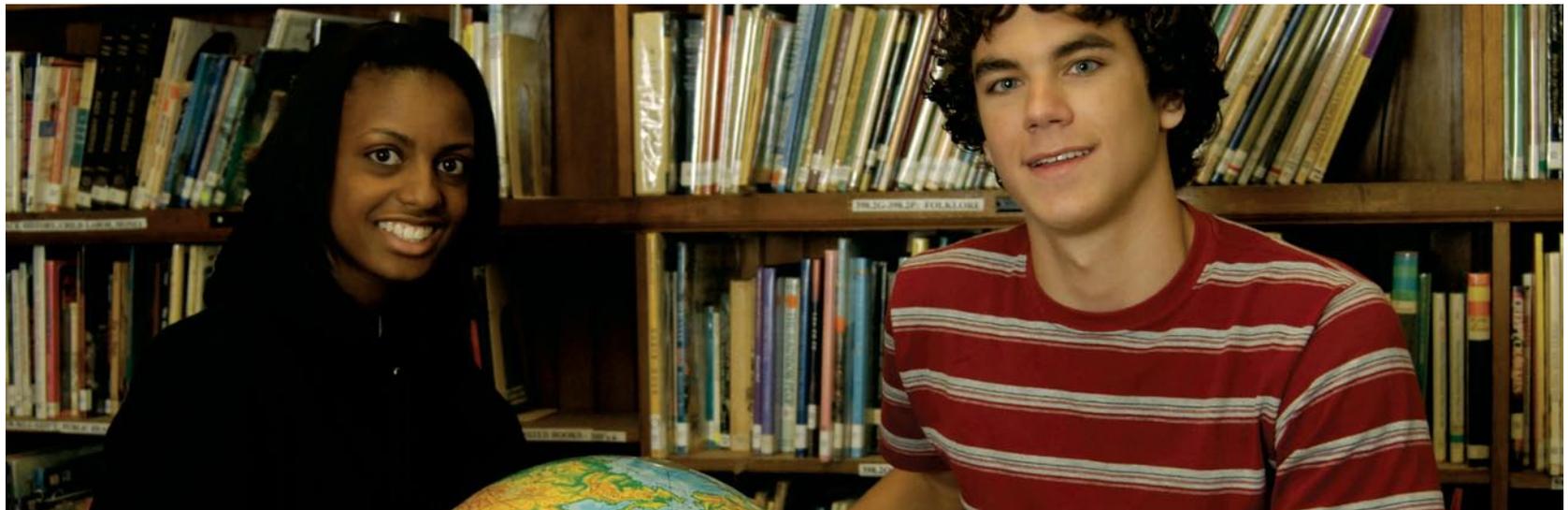
College or technical career education beyond a high school education is becoming critical to ensure employment at a livable wage. The 2006 Household Survey reveals that nearly 40% of those in Oklahoma County have at least a Bachelor's degree; a further 31% have either acquired an Associates degree or attended at least some college.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates, based on the 2006 American Community Survey, that approximately 87% of Oklahoma residents above the age of 25 have at least a high school diploma. Statewide, 84.3% have completed high school compared to 84.1% nationally. Oklahoma residents match national percentages with 27% of residents at both levels having at least a Bachelor's degree.

Increases in degree-holding individuals correlates to decreasing high school dropout rates and increases in college and other post secondary educational programs.

Educational Attainment of 18 - 64 Year Olds							
	Some High School	High School Graduate or GED	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Beyond Bachelor's	Total Bachelor's & Beyond
1999	5.7%	23%	29.2%	6.5%	24.3%	11.2%	35.5%
2000	5.3	25	29.4	5	23.3	12.1	35.4
2001	5.8	23.7	28.6	6.2	22.4	13.4	35.8
2002	6.8	22.4	31.4	5.1	24.5	9.9	34.4
2003	5.85	25.65	26.85	5.5	22.85	14.3	37.15
2004	4.9	28.9	22.3	5.9	21.2	18.7	39.9
2006	7	21	25	6	23	17	40

Source: 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey



5th/8th Grade Math, Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test:

Measures the percentage of 5th and 8th grade students in public school who scored at or above the satisfactory level on the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test in math. The satisfactory level is set by the Oklahoma Department of Education.

The Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test is used statewide to measure student performance in reading and math, as well as other academic subjects. Educators, parents and employers view standardized tests as one way of determining whether students are leaving school prepared for college or a job that will enable them to earn a living wage. Solid skills in both reading and math are critical foundations for all future learning and life skills.

Since 2003, fifth and eighth grade math scores of students in Oklahoma county have remained equal to those on the state level. Significant improvement began in 2003 and has steadily increased since then. The single exception is fifth grade math scores in Oklahoma County which decreased by 2 percentage points in 2006. Overall the trend is positive.

5th/8th Grade Reading, Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test:

Measures the percentage of Oklahoma County 5th and 8th grade students in public school who scored at or above the satisfactory level on the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test in reading. The satisfactory level is set by the Oklahoma Department of Education.

The 2003 school year seems to be a rallying point for scores across several educational indicators. An increase in early childhood education and a focus on both reading and mathematics may have contributed to the steady improvement in test scores. In 2006, reading scores improved to 85% scoring satisfactorily in Oklahoma County for both fifth grade and eighth grade. Statewide, fifth grade scores remained flat at 79% scoring satisfactorily while eighth graders statewide improved their average 1% to 83% scoring satisfactorily or above.

Increased sampling will allow a better understanding of this trend as well as additional comparison among the same groups of kids over several years. Again, a focus on core competencies in both reading and math continues to produce higher test scores in these areas.

Percentage of Average or Above Scores on the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test for Math

	5th - County	5th - State	8th - County	8th - State
96-97	78%	80%	67%	72%
97-98	76	82	67	71
98-99	82	85	70	75
99-00	82	85	68	71
00-01	74	72	67	71
01-02	70	71	65	70
02-03	71	71	67	71
03-04	79	79	77	77
04-05	83	84	76	76
05-06	81	84	80	80

Source: Education Oversight Board Office of Accountability

Percentage of Average or Above Scores on the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test for Reading

	5th - County	5th - State	8th - County	8th - State
96-97	75%	77%	72%	72%
97-98	74	76	73	75
98-99	77	80	79	81
99-00	76	76	75	77
00-01	74	75	75	78
01-02	69	72	73	77
02-03	70	73	73	78
03-04	75	76	82	82
04-05	81	79	83	81
05-06	85	79	85	83

Source: Education Oversight Board Office of Accountability

Public School Dropout Rate¹ by County and State: *The percentage of Oklahoma County public school students under the age of 19 in grades 9-12 who drop out of school in a given year.*

It is more difficult for adults to earn a living wage without a strong education. Most jobs that pay a living wage require education and training beyond the high school level. Students who do not complete high school lack the education and training to be competitive in the workforce.

The change in methodology and reporting for numbers underlying this metric make comparisons difficult before and after 2005. Nevertheless, the 2006 school year showed a .5% decrease in statewide in dropouts, but more importantly, a 2.8% decrease in Oklahoma County. This trend should be closely monitored as it directly affects the quality of employees in the area.

Public School Dropout Rate ¹		
	County	State
2000-01	5.6%	4.7%
2001-02	5.4	3.9
2002-03	4.2	3.6
2003-04	4.6	3.5
2004-05**	19.3**	14.5**
2005-06**	16.5**	14.1**

** Denotes new calculation methodology
Source: Education Oversight Board Office of Accountability

Public School Dropout Rate¹ by School District: *The percentage of Oklahoma County public school students under the age of 19 in grades 9-12 who drop out of school in a given year.*

The State of Oklahoma does not currently maintain the databases required to calculate this metric consistently. To address this concern, a new methodology was designed in 2005 to approximate attendance and enrollment levels to assist in this calculation. The Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, *Profiles 2006 State Report* discusses this change in methodology.

The common perception of a high school dropout rate is the percentage of a graduating class that drops out of school over the course of their high school career. Single-year dropout figures are deceiving because the rates must be compounded four times to get the graduating class perspective on the percentage of students lost.

To create a metric that closely approximates the dropout rate, the state ascertains total student loss by looking at *Average Daily Membership (ADM)* as a basis for total number of students. The dropout rate is then calculated by adding up the dropouts from 9th grades through 12th grades for the graduating class. That number is then divided by itself plus the current year graduating count to derive the rate. As a result of the change in this calculation, this indicator reflects historical rates and new rates but notes that they are not comparable before and after 2005.

Public School Dropout Rate ¹ by District													
	Bethany	Choctaw/ Nicoma Park	Crooked Oak	Deer Creek	Edmond	Harrah	Jones	Luther	Midwest City/Del City	Millwood	Oklahoma City	Putnam City	Western Heights
2001-02	5.1%	2.8%	2.8%	2%	2.4%	3.3%	3.9%	9.1%	2.2%	0.9%	9.9%	5.6%	7.4%
2002-03	1.4	3.3	6.5	1.2	1.7	2.9	4.3	4.4	1.6	0.9	6.4	5.3	11.6
2003-04	2.8	3.3	6.9	0.5	1.7	2.1	2.7	6.3	1.9	0.3	7.1	6.4	9.5
2004-05	2.8	3.3	6.9	0.5	1.7	2.1	2.7	6.3	1.9	0.3	7.1	6.4	9.5
2005-06**	16.4**	12**	19.3**	4.4**	7.2**	13.4**	16.9**	17**	6.7**	2.8**	32.9**	23.8**	37.6**
2006-07**	10**	9.9**	40**	2.4**	5.5**	11.8**	17.1**	25**	9.3**	1.7**	26.1**	21.1**	28**

** Denotes new calculation methodology
Source: Oklahoma Office of Accountability, Profiles 2006 District Reports

Public School Graduation Rate by School District: *Provides a slightly different perspective between graduation rates and dropout rates.*

The Oklahoma Department of Education and the Office of Accountability have sought to alleviate confusion by clearly defining the difference and disclosing the methodology behind the calculations for both graduation and dropout rates. The graduation rate is the percentage of students who complete all four years of high school.

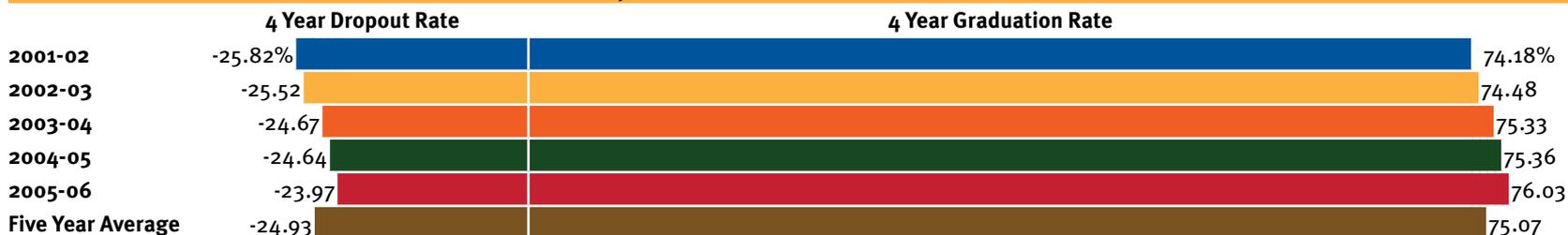
Public School Graduation Rate² by District

	Bethany	Choctaw/ Nicoma Park	Crooked Oak	Deer Creek	Edmond	Harrah	Jones	Luther	Midwest City/Del City	Millwood	Oklahoma City	Putnam City	Western Heights	State
2005-06	96.8%	98.8	95.8	98.5	99.3	96.2	92	95.1	98.8	100	98.1	97.8	94.7	97.3
2006-07	96.9%	99.4	92.3	99.4	99.1	94.9	94.4	93.8	98.4	100	98.3	98	94.5	97.2

Source: Oklahoma Office of Accountability, Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program Profiles 2006 Background and Methodologies Report

Statewide, beginning in 2002, the loss of students at the end of each grade is approximately 25%.

Four Year Dropout Rate¹ Versus Four Year Graduation Rate²



Source: Oklahoma Office of Accountability, Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program Profiles 2006 Background and Methodologies Report

¹ 4 Year Dropout Rate

Total number of dropouts for a graduating class is calculated by adding the dropout counts (under age 19) for the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades over the previous four-year period, respectively. This sum is labeled *Legal Dropouts*. The four-year dropout rate for a given graduating class is generated by dividing *Legal Dropouts* by the sum of their graduates plus *Legal Dropouts*. It is assumed that this denominator accounts for all members of the graduating class except for those who were dropped from the rolls for legitimate reasons. *Source: Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program Profiles 2006 Background and Methodologies Report.*

² Senior Graduation Rate

The *Senior Graduation Rate* is computed by dividing the number of graduates by the sum of the graduate count plus senior dropouts (under age 19). It is assumed that this denominator accounts for all seniors except for those who were dropped from the rolls for legitimate reasons. *Source: Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program Profiles 2006 Background and Methodologies Report.*

Educational Achievement Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Adults Who Have Completed High School or an Equivalent Program
	Adults Who Have Completed a Bachelor’s Degree or Beyond
	Students Who Achieve Established Skill Levels in Reading and Math
	Public School Graduation Rate
Mixed/Neutral Trend	Public School Dropout Rate





Health Status Indicators

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Educational Level of Mothers of All New Births: Research indicates that one of the most important predictors of positive outcomes for children is the educational level of the mother and that a child's success in school is linked to the mother's educational level.

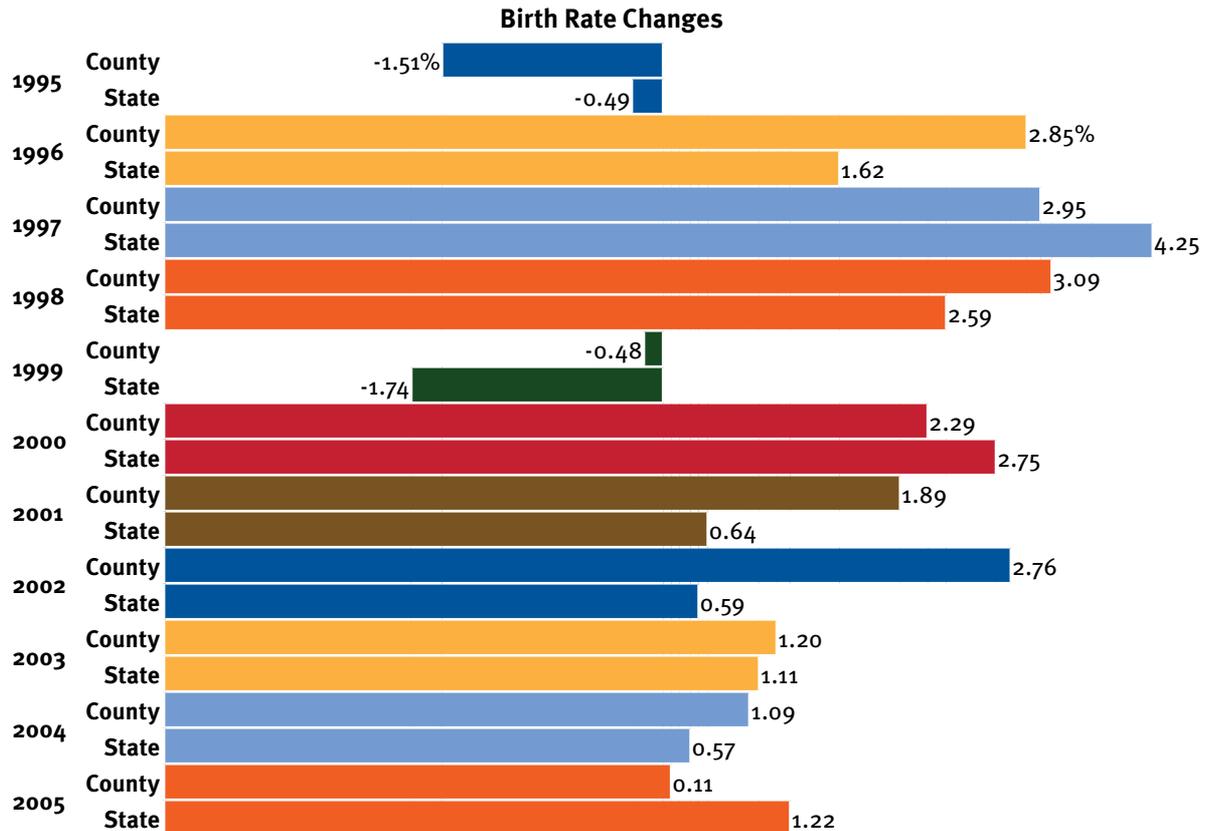
In Oklahoma, 22.3% of mothers of all new births have not completed high school. The percentage in Oklahoma County is even higher at 26.7% compared to 17.5% nationally. With young teenage pregnancies on the decrease, this trend is unsettling as it indicates that non-teenage mothers have not completed high school. Children born into a home without basic high school education are more at risk for decreased earning potential, poorer health, and decreased social mobility.

Infant Mortality Rate: This is an indicator of the care provided to mother and child. The infant mortality rate is reported as deaths of infants less than one year of age per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality remains a significant problem in Oklahoma County. The infant mortality rate in Oklahoma County continues to be higher than the rates for the state and the nation. The national infant mortality rate has slowly declined over the past fifteen years with a small exception in 2002.

Infant mortality in Oklahoma County changed drastically over the same term. Oklahoma County peaked at 11.6% in 2000 and decreased over the next two years only to rise again. The county rate typically mirrors the state trend showing decreases toward state levels, but the infant mortality rate in 2004 exceeded the national rate by 2.7 points. Birth rates continue to show minor increases since 2000 and have increased an average of 1.3% over the previous 5-year term. Infant death rates are only increasing by 0.5%.

Infant Mortality											
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
OK County	10.4	9.4	8.9	11.2	9.7	11.6	8.4	7.7	9.2	10.1	9.7
State	8.3	8.4	7.4	8.5	8.5	8.4	7.2	8.1	7.8	7.9	8.1
Nation	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.8	7	6.9	6.8	6.8



Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

Mothers Who Receive First Trimester Prenatal Care: *The percentage of mothers who receive prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.*

Mothers who receive early prenatal care are more likely to carry their babies to term and to deliver a normal-weight baby. Mothers who receive prenatal care are less likely to smoke or abuse drugs during their pregnancy.

During the 1990's, the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester fluctuated dramatically. However, since 2001 that number has remained within a 1.2% margin. In 2005, approximately 78% of mothers in Oklahoma County and 76% of mothers in Oklahoma received early prenatal care compared to 85.4% of mothers nationally.

Percentage of Mothers Who Receive First Trimester Prenatal Care																
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
County	54.03%	60.11	58.82	60.45	60.84	65.16	62.38	61.64	54.53	52.59	56.01	76.31	75.45	76.90	76.38	77.22
State	65.63%	66.45	67.22	67.81	69.19	69.15	68.05	67.32	66.16	66.52	68.62	75.46	74.34	75.10	75.76	75.49

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health



Births to Unmarried Mothers: *The percentage of births to unmarried mothers of all ages.*

From 1995 to 2005, nearly 29.5% of all births in Oklahoma County were to unmarried mothers; in the State of Oklahoma it was 34.7%. During this period, the percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Oklahoma County has consistently averaged 5% higher than the statewide average. Nationwide in 2005, 34.6% of births were to unmarried mothers, compared to 37.1% for Oklahoma and 42.6% for Oklahoma County.

Births to Unmarried Mothers of All Ages																
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
County	30.12%	33.70	34.52	35.25	35.15	35.66	34.95	36.77	38.07	38.61	39.29	40.72	41.93	42.55	44.10	43.80
State	24.96%	27.10	28.35	29.14	29.76	30.50	30.79	32.24	33.20	33.18	34.25	35.22	36.44	37.09	38.46	39.07

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

Births to Unmarried Mothers Under the Age of 20: *The percentage of births to unmarried mothers under the age of 20.*

Young women who become pregnant while they are still teenagers limit their ability to obtain the education and skills needed to become financially self-sufficient. Teen mothers and their children are more likely to live in poverty than women who delay pregnancy until the age of 20 or later.

Between 1990 and 2005, the percentage of births to unmarried mothers under the age of 20 was 11.6%. This is higher than the statewide percentage of 10.7%. According to data from the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 19,781 unmarried Oklahoma County women under the age of 20 have given birth since 1990. This compares to 83,044 women statewide during the same term. Oklahoma County’s average is consistently about 1% higher than the state average. The overall trend shows continued reduction in the births to unmarried mothers under the age of 20, though the births to unmarried mothers continues to increase. This implies that pregnancy during teenage years is decreasing.

Unmarried Mothers Under 20																
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
OK County	1,108	1,250	1,200	1,235	1,198	1,154	1,208	1,209	1,273	1,306	1,275	1,299	1,253	1,294	1,300	1,219
State	4,336	4,732	4,831	4,870	4,868	4,998	5,188	5,556	5,587	5,493	5,621	5,452	5,457	5,333	5,375	5,347
Total Births/County	9,795	10,132	10,053	10,067	10,005	9,854	10,135	10,434	10,756	10,704	10,949	11,156	11,464	11,602	11,729	11,742
Total Births/State	46,428	47,667	47,471	46,100	45,507	45,282	46,014	47,971	49,215	48,359	49,690	50,009	50,303	50,863	51,151	51,773
All Births/County	11.31%	12.34	11.94	12.27	11.97	11.71	11.92	11.59	11.84	12.20	11.64	11.64	10.93	11.15	11.08	10.38
All Births/State	9.34%	9.93	10.18%	10.56	10.70	11.04	11.27	11.58	11.35	11.36	11.31	10.90	10.85	10.49	10.51	10.33

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health





Prevalence of Unintended Pregnancy: 1996-2005: *An unintended pregnancy is defined as one that at the time of conception was mistimed (desired at a later time) or unwanted.*

Research indicates that women with unintended pregnancies are at increased risk of experiencing medical complications and of delivering a low birth weight baby. Research also indicates that women having unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience violence with a partner or spouse. Nationally nearly eight out of ten teen pregnancies are unintended or unwanted. In 2005, 50.39% of live births in Oklahoma were the result of unintended pregnancies (wanted later or not at all) according to the Oklahoma Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2004 - 2005.

Teen Pregnancy																
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
State	5.68%	6.03	6.12	6.26	6.53	6.45	6.32	6.20	5.72	5.46	5.25	4.85	4.63	4.35	4.40	4.12
County	5.89%	6.56	6.36	6.75	6.38	6.26	6.22	5.98	5.24	5.60	5.46	5.39	4.56	4.85	4.65	4.29

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

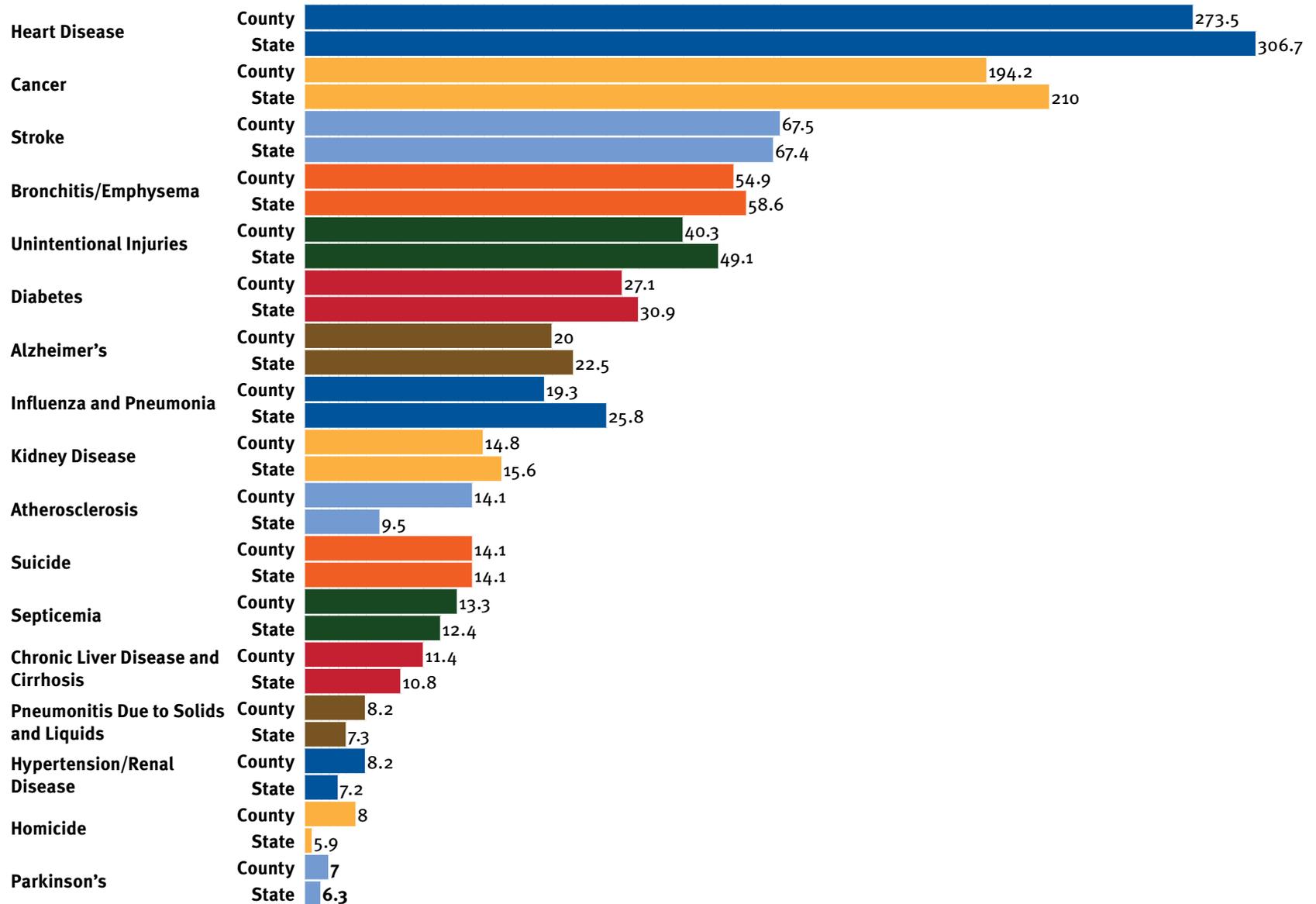
Oklahoma Birth Rates																
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Birth Rate	15.1%	15.1	14.8	14.2	13.9	13.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.3	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.6	
Teenage Birth Rate	66.8%	72.1	69.8	68.3	65.6	63.7	63.1	63.7	61.4	60.1	59.7	58.3	58	55.9	55.6	

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

Leading Causes of Death, Oklahoma County

Oklahoma County continues to experience large numbers of preventable deaths from chronic diseases and injuries. Tobacco use, poor nutrition, low levels of physical activity and alcohol abuse contribute substantially to these deaths. In Oklahoma, the leading causes of death from 1992 through 2001 were Heart Disease, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer), Stroke, Bronchitis/Emphysema, Unintentional Injuries and Influenza/Pneumonia.

Leading Causes of Death for 2000 to 2005 per 100,000



Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

Leading Causes of Death and Age-Adjusted Death Rates: *Age-adjusted death rates are reported as the rate per 100,000 population. These measures provide a picture of health status of citizens.*

Oklahoma County’s age-adjusted death rates have shown some improvement over the past two years. A look at the full trend shows Oklahoma County’s age-adjusted death rate for Heart Disease, Cancer, Bronchitis/Emphysema, Accidental Death and Diabetes have all decreased and are lower than the rate for the state. Compared to national trends, Oklahoma has higher rates in every single category except Influenza/Pneumonia and Alzheimer’s. The overall health status of Oklahoma County citizens is poor but improving slowly. Poor health status contributes to lower productivity, premature and preventable deaths, higher health care costs, increased absenteeism from work/school and generally a lower quality of life. Changes in lifestyle and other behaviors are necessary to bring these rates more in line with national trends.

Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000

	State	County	Nation
Heart Disease	289	278.6	210.3
Cancer	199.8	198.1	183.8
Cerebrovascular Diseases	63.5	68.8	46.6
Bronchitis/Emphysema	55.7	56.3	43.2
Accidents	48.4	40.7	38.8
Diabetes	29.4	27.6	24.5
Influenza/Pneumonia	24.2	19.7	20.3
Alzheimer’s	21	20.4	22.9
Kidney Failure	14.8	15	14.7
Suicide	14.1	14.2	10.6
Septicemia	11.7	13.5	11.2
Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	10.5	11.6	8.9
Atherosclerosis	8.8	14.4	*
Lung Disease	6.9	8.4	*
Hypertension/Kidney Disease	6.8	8.3	8
Parkinson’s	6	7.2	6.4
Homicide	5.9	7.9	5.9
Aortic Aneurysm	5.3	5.1	*
Other Tumors	4.9	4.6	*
Miscarriage/Stillbirth	4.3	6	*
Birth Defects	4.4	4.8	*
Viral Hepatitis	2.9	4	*
HIV	2.7	4.8	*

* Information not available

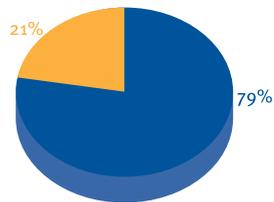
Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health



Health Insurance Coverage: *A picture of the extent to which households have health insurance coverage. Health status depends, in large part, on access to health care. Health insurance coverage is a significant factor in the ability of citizens to access health care.*

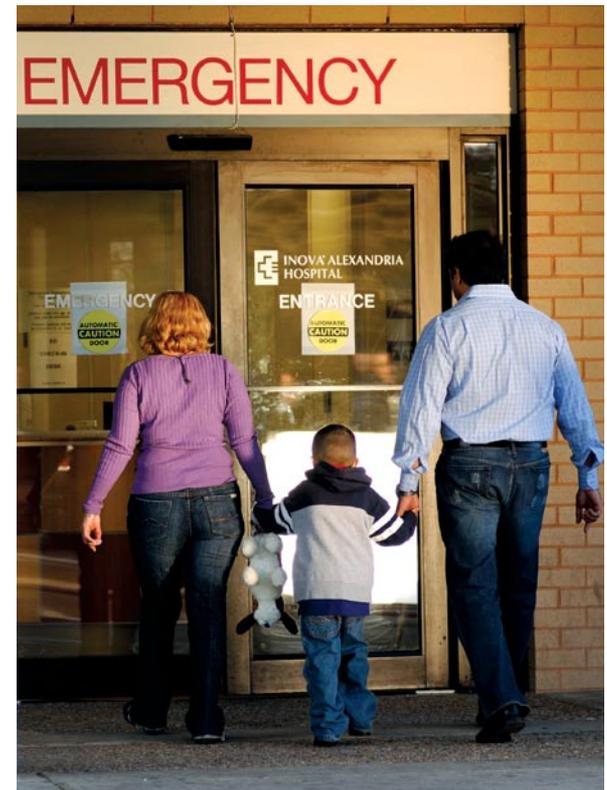
The 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey indicates that 21% of Oklahoma County residents currently do not have private health care coverage. Of the 79% that do have coverage, 63% of that coverage is provided by an employer. About 31% is paid for separately. The primary vehicle for insurance is the employer, implying that disruption in employment could be a significant factor in health care coverage for an individual or family. Changes in legislation, most notably *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)*, has provided some relief for transferring between insurance providers. In addition, *Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)*, allows unemployed workers to continue their health coverage in the short term albeit without employer subsidies, resulting in extremely high costs.

In Oklahoma County, approximately 40% of people have at least one member of their household currently on Medicare and a further 17% have at least one member of their household that receives Medicaid. When asked about unobtainable medical services, 10% expressed a need for services ranging from assistance with prescription medication to dental care. The high cost of these services was the reason for more than 80% of those surveyed. Increasing numbers of individuals over 65 and continued changes to Medicare and Medicaid requirements and fees will continue to affect that segment of the population that can least afford care in the current environment.



Health Insurance Coverage in Oklahoma County
■ With Health Coverage
■ Without Health Coverage

Source: 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey



The United Health Foundation ranks Oklahoma 44th in the nation for health care at 13.1% below the national average. Oklahoma continues to improve, but has only increased its score 6.4% in the past fifteen years. Major factors in Oklahoma's ranking are a dramatic increase in obesity from 11.6% to 26.8%, an increase in the violent crime rate and cancer death rate.

Access to Reliable and Affordable Transportation: *The ability of citizens to access reliable and affordable transportation is a factor in a citizen's access to health care services.*

According to the 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey, approximately 8% of working-age adults and 8% of seniors feel their access to transportation is either "not too good" or "totally inadequate". For these citizens, lack of access to affordable and reliable transportation could be a barrier to receiving needed services. Poor bus service and the inability to afford a car were among the highest responses. For elderly citizens, the inability to drive is also a factor.

Population trends coupled with the geography of Oklahoma County could drastically impact these numbers as age and other demographic factors begin to increase older citizens' dependence on external sources of transportation.



Health Status Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Mothers Who Receive First Trimester Prenatal Care	↑
	Births to Unmarried Mothers Under the Age of 20	
Mixed/Neutral Trend	Educational Level of Mothers of All New Births	=
	Prevalence of Unintended Pregnancy	
	Leading Causes of Death	
	Health Insurance Coverage	
Negative Trend	Infant Mortality Rate	↓
	Births to Unmarried Mothers	
	Access to Reliable and Affordable Transportation	





Safety Indicators

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Index Crime Rate: *The index crime rate compares the number of arrests for violent and non-violent crimes to the population and is reported as a rate per 1,000 population. Violent index crimes include murder, felonious assault and rape. Nonviolent index crimes include breaking and entering, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.*

Over the past six years, the *Index Crime Rate* increased to a peak of 80.79 in 2003 and then continued with an average 3-point decline each year since. In individual categories, the trends are mixed. Murders peaked in 2003 and have held relatively steady over the past two years at the state level, but increased by about 40% in the county in 2005. Vehicle thefts are also show a significant increase at both the state and county levels. Generally speaking, violent crime is decreasing from a peak in 2003 with the exception of murder. Non-violent crime and property crimes are holding relatively steady. Continued investment of time, resources, and services in areas that mitigate and prevent causes and opportunities of criminal behavior should continue.

Index Crime Rate						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
State	45.59	46.07	47.4	48.12	47.43	45.47
County	77.81	73.39	78.66	80.79	77.36	73.30

Crime Occurrence Rate							
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Murder	County	45	51	42	55	44	61
	State	182	185	163	206	186	187
Rape	County	459	468	513	425	447	437
	State	1,422	1,486	1,573	1,501	1,557	1,480
Robbery	County	1,138	1,221	1,294	1,537	1,311	1,338
	State	2,615	2,746	2,966	3,224	3,090	3,229
Assault	County	2,968	3,043	2,977	3,275	3,163	3,359
	State	12,958	13,308	12,885	12,827	12,802	13,126
Burglary	County	8,901	10,110	10,237	10,056	10,109	10,834
	State	31,661	34,569	35,171	34,846	35,244	35,658
Larceny	County	386	34,895	39,142	41,144	39,268	34,973
	State	96,116	94,527	100,185	103,404	101,271	93,745
Vehicle Theft	County	4,212	4,082	4,253	4,499	4,420	5,338
	State	12,348	12,568	12,772	12,958	12,957	13,886

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 2000 - 2005

Juvenile Arrests for Violent and Serious Offenses: Based on the number of arrests of youth under the age of 17 for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Figures include repeated arrests of the same individual for different offenses.

All types of juvenile arrests continue to decrease by double digits both in Oklahoma County and in the state. Since 1996, the overall arrest rate for juveniles has decreased nearly 34%. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, nationally the number of juvenile arrests has declined in every violent crime category despite steady growth in the juvenile population during the past ten years. General perceptions and increased media coverage of some juvenile crimes has contributed to exaggerated perceptions of juvenile violence. It should be noted that this indicator is solely based on arrest data and does not include other criminal behavior activities not resulting in arrest. Areas for concern such as gang activity and other precursors to criminal activity and violence are not currently tracked. Current data about youth gang activity is not normalized for comparison among geographic areas. Other indicators such as *Per Capita Personal Income*, *Graduation Rates*, *Dropout Rates* and educational attainment should be monitored for signs of decay which could indicate a shift in this trend. Continued investment in prevention, interdiction, education and out-of-school activities should continue as they may be responsible for this favorably downward trend. A reversal of this trend could lead to a strong feeling of insecurity among citizens and cause for concern in other areas of society.

	Juvenile Arrest in Oklahoma					Adult Arrest in Oklahoma				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Murder	13	16	10	9	18	161	143	165	162	148
Rape	56	51	46	41	40	381	314	308	309	239
Robbery	157	120	108	109	174	602	558	531	553	597
Assault	770	682	611	567	518	4,136	4,163	4,139	4,019	3,864
Violent Total	996	869	775	726	750	5,280	5,178	5,143	5,043	4,848
Burglary	1,013	1,077	948	817	869	2,092	2,150	2,115	2,165	2,193
Larceny	4,364	4,761	4,752	3,671	3,102	7,485	8,548	8,649	7,882	6,693
Motor Vehicle	543	399	381	269	241	1,232	878	742	875	791
Non Violent Total	5,920	6,237	6,081	4,757	4,212	10,809	11,576	11,506	10,922	9,677
Total	6,916	7,106	6,856	5,483	4,962	16,089	16,754	16,649	15,965	14,525

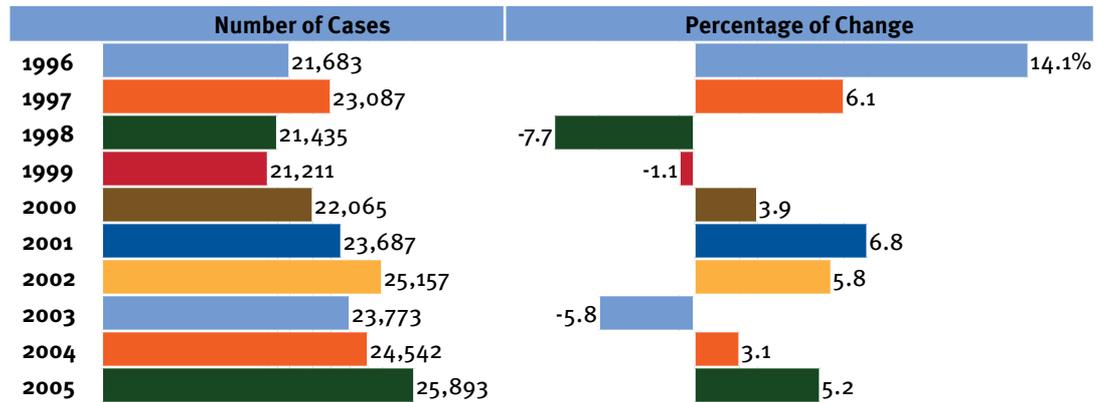
Source: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Reports 2002-2006

	Total Number of Arrests in Oklahoma				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Juvenile Violent	n/a	869	775	726	750
Juvenile Non Violent	n/a	6237	6081	4757	4212
Adult Violent	n/a	5178	5143	5043	4848
Adult Non Violent	n/a	11576	11506	10922	9677

Source: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Reports 2002-2006

Domestic Violence Reports: *Reflects domestic abuse reports received by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation from local law enforcement agencies. Research indicates a strong link between domestic violence and poverty.*

Domestic violence rates have increased between 4% and 7% each year since 2000. The number of reported cases peaked in 2005 with a record 25,893 reported cases. 2003 marks the only reduction in domestic violence reports in the past six years; a decrease of roughly 6% occurred that year. Since that period reported cases have increased between 3% and 5%. Over the term from 2000 through 2005, reported cases are up approximately 19%; about 4,500 reported cases in six years. The increase may be a combination of actual incidences, increased community awareness, better training of law enforcement, increased reporting or other factors. The fact remains that more domestic violence cases are being reported each year. Increased training, education, and resources may be needed to redirect this trend. Stressor factors for domestic violence can include economic insecurity, poor educational attainment, marital problems or divorce, substance abuse, and pregnancy. The negative trend of this indicator and the lasting effects of domestic abuse on children in the home should be cause for great concern.



Source: Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Elder Abuse: *The abuse of persons 65 and over. Follows referrals for elder abuse as well as the numbers of elder abuse cases substantiated after investigation.*

The number of referrals for elder abuse and neglect has continued to increase an average of 7% each year while the percent of substantiated referrals has remained fairly static, even decreasing slightly during this time. Population increases and demographic shifts could partially explain the increase in referrals. This trend may indicate that more elderly are being referred and are able to benefit from earlier intervention. Additionally, as elder citizens continue to make up a larger portion of the overall population, these numbers are projected to increase. Continued support of services to identify, prevent and protect this growing segment of the population is important.



Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect: *The number of cases of child abuse and neglect confirmed after investigation.*

Child abuse and neglect are serious problems that cross socioeconomic boundaries. Research indicates that children who experience abuse are at increased risk of abusing their own children. Research also indicates a link between family financial stress and child abuse and/or neglect.

Since 2002, the rate of child abuse and neglect has remained steady. Each year approximately 14,000 children in Oklahoma and 3,200 children in Oklahoma County are abused or neglected. Annually, 22% of reported cases in Oklahoma and 28% of cases in Oklahoma County are confirmed. Peaking in 2004 in Oklahoma County, the volume of confirmed cases is slowly decreasing. The state saw an increase in 2006 for the first time since 2004. Many factors influence child abuse and neglect. Not all cases are due to physical violence. Economic stresses, loss of employment, substance abuse and poor education levels often correlate with confirmed cases of abuse. The population in the State of Oklahoma continues to become more urbanized, bringing higher concentrations of people to Oklahoma and surrounding counties. The static nature of this indicator could be related to this population shift resulting in the fairly modest changes in the overall trend demonstrated in the chart below.

As with many of the indicators in this report, continued education, training and awareness among teachers, parents, law enforcement, health professionals and the general public will allow earlier intervention. Continued focus on other related indicators such as financial stress, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy may further improve this problem.

Cases of Child Abuse						
	Investigated	Assessed	State Confirmed	Confirmed	Investigated	Assessed
					County Confirmed	Confirmed
2002	62,795		13,903	22%	11,272	2,756
2003	62,626		12,971	21	11,064	3,097
2004	60,770		12,347	20	11,235	3,412
2005	61,613		13,328	22	11,549	3,206
2006	63,108		13,827	22	11,680	3,219

Source: Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Safety Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Juvenile Arrests for Violent and Serious Offenses	
Mixed/Neutral Trend	Index Crime Rate	
	Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect	
Negative Trend	Domestic Violence Reports	
	Elder Abuse	





Civic Participation Indicators

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Eligible Voters Who Vote: Tracks the extent to which Oklahoma County registered voters vote in presidential and congressional elections.

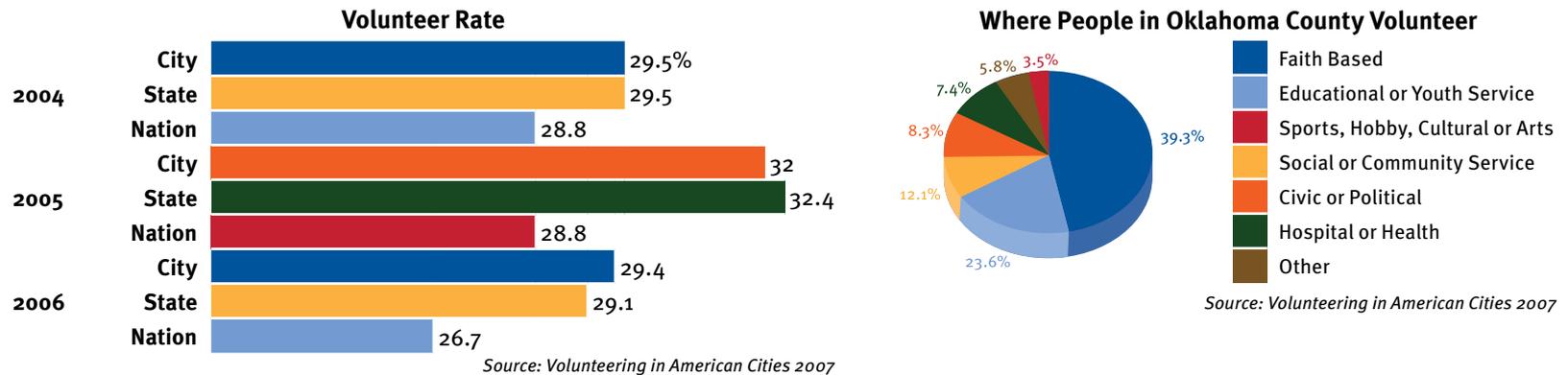
Voting is an important measure of participation in civic life. Voter registrations in both Oklahoma County and the state increased up to the year 2000; since then registrations have been decreasing, although data for 2006 has not been made available. The percentage of eligible voters who voted in presidential elections fell 5% between the 1992 and 2000 elections. The trend for congressional elections is mixed.



Citizens Who Engage in Volunteer Activities: The number of hours per week that adults and the elderly spend in volunteer activities with community organizations.

Volunteering is a way for citizens of all ages to connect to the community. Volunteers enhance the ability of the community to respond to the needs of area citizens. In 2006, 29.4% of Oklahoma County citizens took part in volunteer activities which is greater than the national rate of 26.7%. On average, Oklahoma City had approximately 302,000 volunteers, who served 37 million hours per year between 2004 and 2006.

Faith-based organizations, educational and youth service organizations, and community-based organizations continue to be the most common places for citizens to volunteer.



Households Making Financial Contributions to Charities: Tracks the percentage of all Oklahoma County households who report making financial contributions to charitable organizations within the past two years.

Charitable giving is a common way for people to participate in the civic life of the community. Charitable giving increases the resources available for addressing community problems. The 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey indicates that 73% of respondents had a household member that donated to a non-profit or charitable organization in the past twelve months. Faith-based organizations continue to be the most frequent recipients of charitable contributions with medical organizations and social service organizations being the second most common recipients of contributions.



Source: 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey



Civic Participation Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Eligible Voters Who Vote in General Elections
	Households Making Financial Contributions to Charities
Mixed/Neutral Trend	Citizens Who Engage in Volunteer Activities







Arts and Culture Indicators

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Arts and Culture Attendance by Income Level: *Percentage of households below and above 150% of Federal Poverty Level in Oklahoma County that have attended arts and culture events over the past 12 months.*

According to the 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey, households that earn less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level attend fewer arts and culture events than families earning more than 150% of the FPL.

Attendance at Art and Culture Events by Household: *Percentage of households in Oklahoma County who indicated that at least one member of their household attended live music concerts, stage performances, live dance performances, art and culture festivals and/or art and culture school events in the last 12 months.*

Attendance at public performances and selected arts and culture organizations has increased over the past several years. Increased facilities, infrastructure and awareness of arts and culture activities have contributed to this increase in participation.

According to the 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey:

- 31% attended a live country, jazz, blues or rock performance
- 24% attended a live performance of classical or symphonic music orchestras event in the last 12 months
- 39% attended a play, musical, or some other kind of stage performance
- 17% attended a live dance performance
- 39% participated in the Festival of the Arts, Red Earth or other art event
- 34% indicated they attended a school performance, concert or play at an Oklahoma County school



Reasons for Not Attending Arts or Cultural Events: *Explains the reason for not attending arts or cultural events in the last 12 months.*

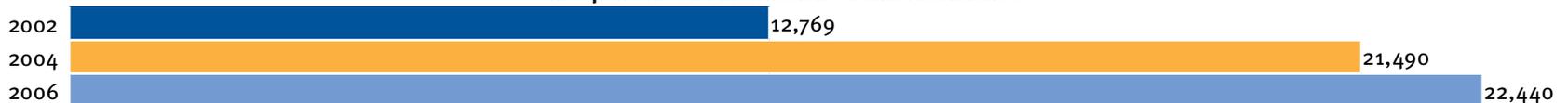
38% responded saying they didn't care about attending the arts and 26% of the respondents said they didn't have enough time to attend, according to the 2006 Oklahoma County Household Survey.



Independent and International Films: *Measures the availability of independent and international films in Oklahoma County. These films have become a dynamic aspect of the community’s artistic and cultural offerings.*

The number of independent and international films shown in Oklahoma County continues to increase each year along with the number of persons in attendance. Increased movie production in Oklahoma, academic exposure, events outside of Oklahoma County as well as improved facilities contributes to the growing interest and attendance. The overall trend for Independent and International films is positive.

Independent and International Films Attendance



Source: OCU Film Institute, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma (Fred Films) and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art Film Program

Arts and Culture Indicator Summary

Positive Trend	Arts and Culture Attendance by Income Level
	Attendance at Art and Culture Events by Household
	Independent and International Films







Newly Identified Indicators

In 2007, nine new indicators were identified for study. Changing demographics, shifts in other trend data, growing community initiative projects and other factors played a role in determining new indicators worth following. With only one year of data, trends for these indicators have not been established. In time, trends will form and these new indicators will provide further insight into the overall well-being of our community.

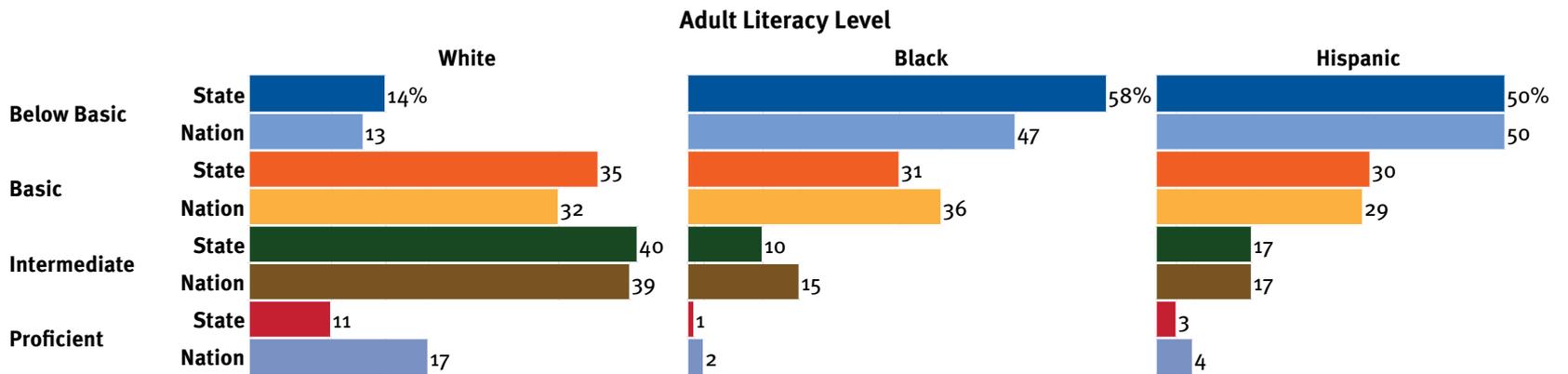
1. Literacy Levels of Adults in Oklahoma	48
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Literacy Levels of Adults: *The literacy levels of adults in Oklahoma and the nation.*

The 2003 National and State Assessment of Adult Literacy study offered new data on adult literacy in the United States. Oklahoma was one of a handful of states to be included in the research. The research shows results in four levels of literacy for three ethnic groups.

- Below Basic** *Indicates no more than the most simple and concrete literacy skills. Can locate easily identifiable information in very simple documents.*
- Basic** *Indicates skills necessary to perform simple and everyday literacy activities. Reading and understanding information in simple documents.*
- Intermediate** *Indicates skills necessary to perform moderately challenging literacy activities. Reading, understanding and summarizing information from moderately dense, less commonplace texts.*
- Proficient** *Indicates skills necessary to perform more complex and challenging literacy activities. Reading, integrating and synthesizing information from complex, abstract texts- analyzing and making inferences from multiple pieces of information.*

According to the study, the average literacy of whites, blacks and hispanics in Oklahoma was comparable to that in the nation. The percentage of whites in Oklahoma with *Proficient* literacy was statistically significantly lower than that of whites nationally.



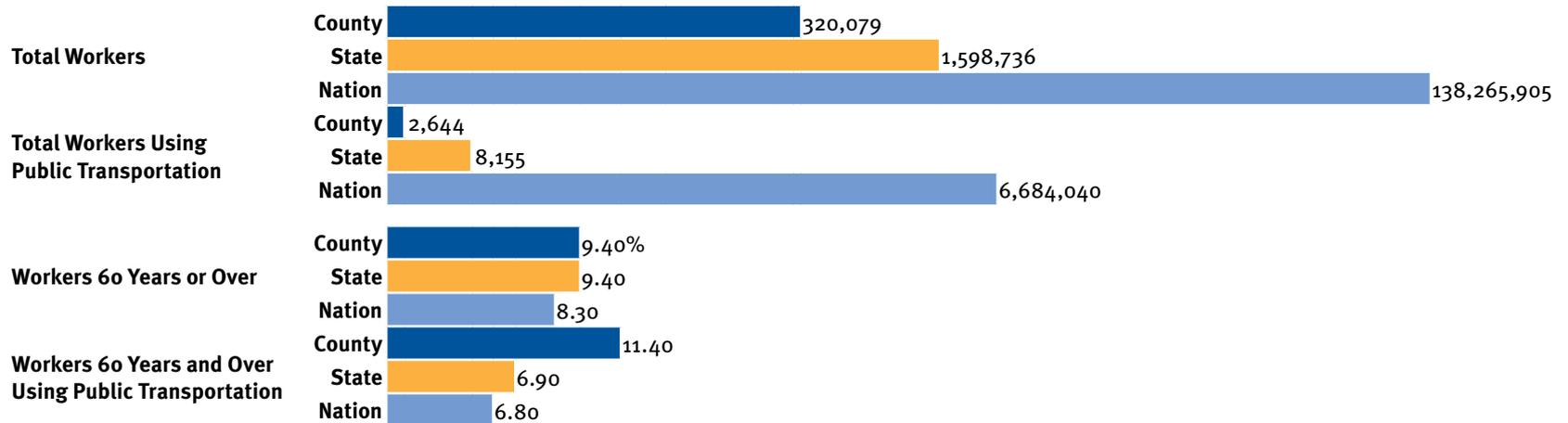
Source: 2003 State Assessment of Adult Literacy and 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy



Number of Elderly Using Public Transportation: *The amount of working adults ages 60 and older who use public transportation to travel to work.*

Working senior adults in Oklahoma County rely more heavily on public transportation than elders in the State of Oklahoma or even in the nation. 11.4% of working elders in Oklahoma County use public transportation to get to work, compared to 6.8% in the nation.

Number of Elderly Using Public Transportation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: *Percentage of grandparents who are over the age of 60 and responsible for their grandchildren.*

In 2006, Oklahoma ranked sixth in the nation for the percentage of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren. 2.6% of Oklahomans over the age of 60 are accountable for their grandchildren.

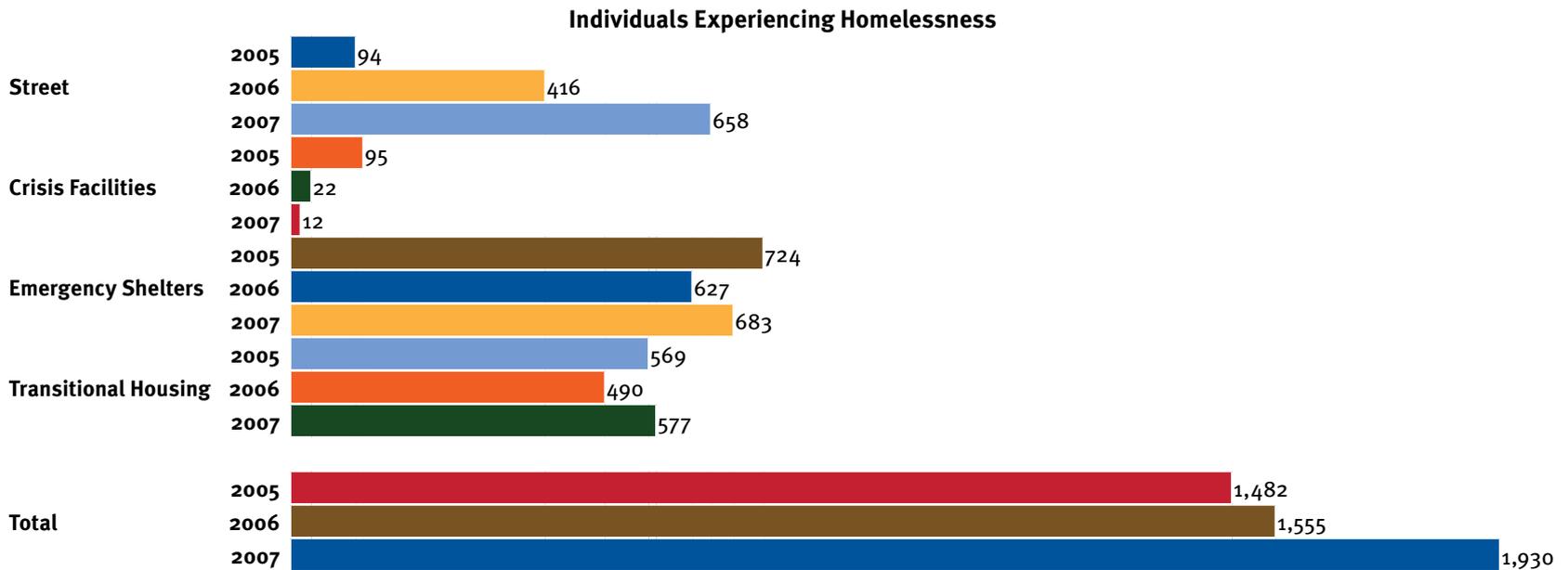
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

Population Experiencing Homelessness: *Population of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Oklahoma City Metro Area.*

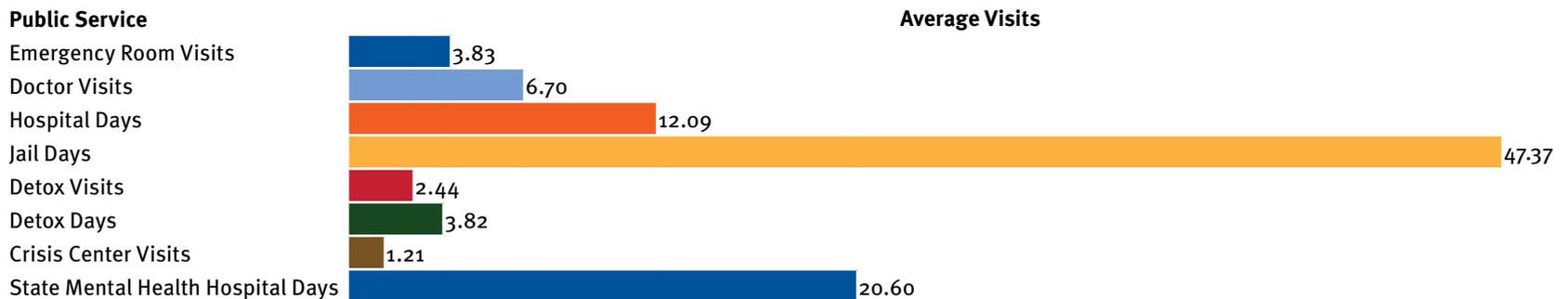
Current results from an Oklahoma City Point-in-Time Count Survey on the night of January 25, 2007 counted a total of 1,930 homeless individuals in Oklahoma City. A steep increase in individuals living on the streets can be seen from 2005 and 2006. However, there has not been much change in the number of homeless individuals living in crisis facilities, emergency shelters or transitional housing.



Source: 2007 Oklahoma City Point-in-Time Count Survey, OKC Homeless Alliance

Public Services Accessed by the Homeless Population: *Usage of Public Services by the homeless population in the Oklahoma City Metro Area.*

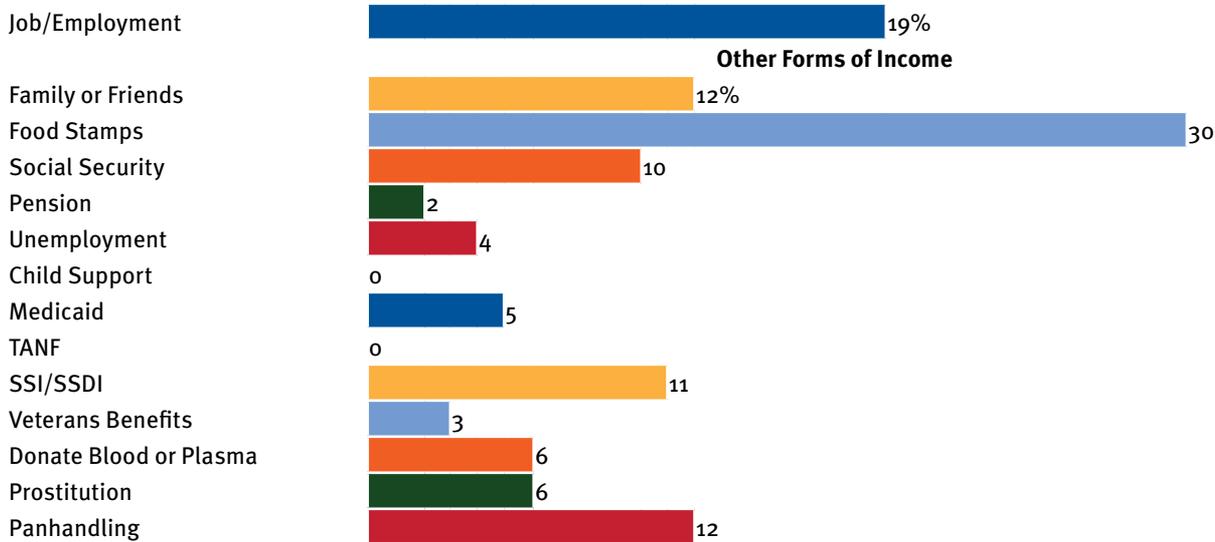
Public services are accessed at a much higher rate by the homeless population than the housed population according to the 2007 Oklahoma City Point-in-Time Count survey. The most used public service is jail, followed by a state mental health hospital.



Source: 2007 Oklahoma City Point-in-Time Count Survey

Income Generated by the Homeless Population: Sources of income for individuals who make up the homeless population in the Oklahoma City Metro Area.

In the Oklahoma City metro area, 19% of the homeless population (roughly 2,000 people) generates income through some sort of employment, working a median of 25 hours a week for a median wage of \$6.50 an hour. Various other sources of income are earned by the homeless, but few if any of non-employment sources generate enough regular income to secure housing.



Source: 2007 Oklahoma City Point-in-Time Count Survey



Children’s Social and Emotional Health: *Measured by how many children under the age of six have been expelled from their childcare center or family childcare home in the past twelve months.*

The social and emotional health of a child plays an important role in their readiness for school and the likelihood of success. This includes getting along with others and regulating emotions and behaviors. Behavioral problems can prevent a child from getting the most out of their time in the classroom, making it difficult for them to be fully engaged in learning.

The *2007 Market Rate Survey of Child Care Providers* conducted by the Oklahoma State University Bureau for Social Research on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services asked providers how many children under the age of six have been expelled from their childcare center or family childcare home in the past twelve months. They reported a total of 969 expulsions, or approximately 1 out of every 67 children. The results indicate a need for continued support of mental health consultants trained to address the unique needs of young children to ensure positive social and emotional development, as well as additional training and increased awareness among providers so they are well-equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to produce positive outcomes for children with challenging behavior.



Kindergarten Readiness: *Teacher perception on a child’s readiness to successfully participate in school.*

Kindergarten teachers in Oklahoma reported that 30% of students entering kindergarten during the 2006-2007 school year were not performing at kindergarten grade level, compared to 48% of students nationwide who were not ready to successfully participate in school. When students enter school unprepared, it may be difficult for them to catch up with their peers. Early learning experiences are important for laying a solid foundation for future academic achievement. By working to improve the basic knowledge and skills of children entering kindergarten, we help to level the playing field and to prepare each child to realize their full potential.

Percentage of Kindergarten students not performing at Kindergarten level in 2006



Source: Smart Start Oklahoma and National Center for Early Childhood Development and Learning

Annual Dental Visits: Tracks the percentage of dental visits within a year for all ages in Oklahoma and Oklahoma County.

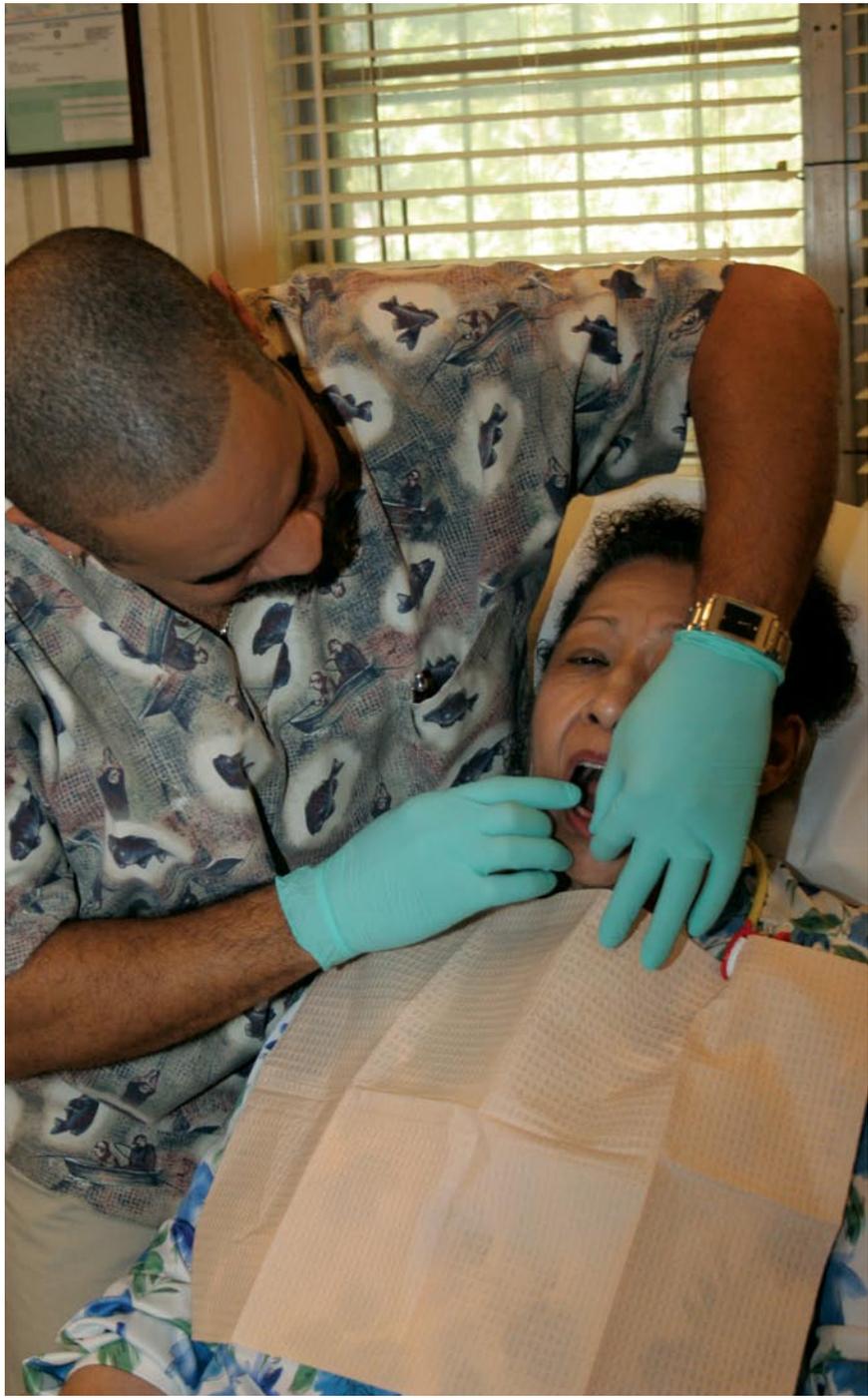
According to the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 59.7% of participants from Oklahoma County indicated they had visited the dentist in the past year compared with 58% in the state. Although the data indicates that more people in Oklahoma County typically visit the dentist than in Oklahoma, the numbers have fallen since 1999 for Oklahoma County and the state. Oklahoma County's percentage consistently stays slightly above that of the state.

The change in percentage of Oklahomans seeking dental care may be attributed to several factors, including changes in ethnic and economic status as well as access to dental insurance in the state. Studies show racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and those whose families are economically disadvantaged may suffer a disproportionate share of dental disease and seek treatment less often. The overall decline in number of visits to the dentist is concerning because regular visits to the dentist equates to better overall health.

Percentage of Annual Dental Visits

	County	State
1999	68.9%	62.3%
2002	62.9	62.8
2004	66.9	61.3
2006	59.7	58

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey





United Way - 2-1-1

2-1-1

Connected. Get Answers.

Improving our Community's Well-Being: Responding to the Data

The information revealed in the Vital Signs indicators requires response and action. Guided by the data, **United Way of Central Oklahoma** is involved in many collaborative community initiatives to address local needs. These initiatives are partnerships of social service agencies, government offices, business leaders, elected officials and community volunteers. A few current projects are highlighted here.

Smart Start Oklahoma

Smart Start Oklahoma grew from United Way's early childhood development initiative, **Success by Six**. With significant research indicating a powerful link between a child's early development experiences and long-term success as an adult, United Way collaborated with many partners to support local children's school-readiness by the age of six. The initiative is now a free-standing statewide entity known as Smart Start Oklahoma which is building a comprehensive, coordinated system to support families in raising successful children.



Smart Start Central Oklahoma

The local chapter of the state organization and housed at United Way of Central Oklahoma's offices, **Smart Start Central Oklahoma** is working to ensure that all local children are safe, healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they enter school. Believing that parents are a child's first and most important teacher, Smart Start is providing resources for families through several programs:

- **READY! for Kindergarten:** Currently offered through the Putnam City Public Schools and the Oklahoma City Public Schools, this is a free, family-based training program that provides parents with the information and learning tools they need to prepare their young children for kindergarten. The classes, which are offered three times during the school year, are designed for parents (or caregivers) of children ages birth to five years.
- **Reach Out and Read:** A literacy program for families which takes place in conjunction with well-child visits during the first five years of life. Pediatricians, family practice physicians and nurses are trained to share developmentally appropriate reading techniques and important literacy information with parents during well-child visits. They also give the young child a book at each visit, reinforcing the importance of daily reading.
- **Raising a Reader:** A program offered through child care centers, Parents as Teachers, churches and public school pre-K classrooms in central Oklahoma that fosters early literacy skills critical for kindergarten success by engaging parents in a daily read-aloud routine with their young children. Child participants bring home a bright red book bag filled with high-quality, age-appropriate books each week to be read at home with their family. The red bags are rotated among the children so that children bring home different books each week.
- **Parent Resource Rooms:** In partnership with elementary schools, the business community and foundations, these rooms offer opportunities for parents to visit informally and develop supportive relationships, to play and read to their young children in a safe, comfortable environment and to attend adult literacy and GED classes. Information and resources about parenting are always available.



Central Oklahoma Turning Point (COTP)

Central Oklahoma Turning Point was begun in 2002 as a community response to the poor health status of all Oklahomans, and particularly central Oklahoma. More than 200 stakeholders spent a year creating nine initiatives that they felt would help improve our health. Implementation of the plan began in 2004, and COTP became an official initiative of United Way of Central Oklahoma.

COTP continues to raise awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyles. Working with existing providers and programs collaborative solutions are being developed. Just two of the programs in which COTP is a partner in are:

- **The Health Alliance for the Uninsured:** Led by Dr. Murali Krishna and Pam Troup, original COTP stakeholders, the alliance was created to address ways to deliver better, more consistent, more accessible health care to our large uninsured population. Working with the area's 16 established free clinics to increase their capacity is the alliance's first project.
- **Strong and Healthy Oklahoma:** 750,000 copies of this 148-page health guidebook, published as a statewide project, are being distributed free of charge. Almost 1,000 schools will utilize a fourth-grade curriculum designed to introduce the students and their families to the need to *"eat better, move more and be tobacco free"*.



Heartline 2-1-1

HeartLine 2-1-1 connects those in need with local resources. An easy to remember number, 2-1-1 operators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week offering access to an extensive database of more than 3,000 local services and programs including everything from basic human necessities to highly specialized resources in the non-profit, faith-based and governmental communities. Callers receive information and referral based on their specific needs.

HeartLine 2-1-1 completed two years of service to its nine-county territory in central Oklahoma on November 14, 2007. Call volume has steadily climbed as residents have become familiar with the service, growing from initial call volume of 2,500 - 3,000 per month to 5,000 - 6,000 per month today. 2-1-1 proved its worth in the ice storm of December 2007 when virtually all non-emergency service calls were routed through the number. More than 50,000 calls were answered in response to the storm. By centralizing the search for help with available resources, 2-1-1 will continue to increase its numbers served.

Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition

14% of adults in Oklahoma have *Below Basic* literary skills according to the 2003 *State Assessment of Adult Literacy*. Not only do these individuals have difficulty reading documents, completing job applications, and voting, they also have negative impact on their children's educational achievement. Adults who gain literacy place higher value on education, are more supportive of their children's education and have children who attend school more regularly (*Family Literacy Programs: Who Benefits?* Ohio Literacy Resource Center).

The Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition was formed in 2006 in response to this data. A partnership of five founding organizations including Community Literacy Center, The Junior League of Oklahoma City, The Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and United Way of Central Oklahoma along with 44 other supporting organizations, the coalition seeks to strengthen literacy services through a united voice.



Homeless Alliance

The **Homeless Alliance** is dedicated to improving the system of care for the homeless in Oklahoma City through collaboration with service providers, city government, and local businesses. The Homeless Alliance hopes to end long-term homelessness in Oklahoma City through prevention and creation of greater amounts of affordable and permanent supportive housing to move those who are currently homeless back into housing.

As a means of reaching the goal of ending homelessness, the Homeless Alliance envisions a unified system of care, believing strongly that performance-based funding, centralized planning and consistent outside evaluation will dramatically improve the services provided to the homeless population.

Coalition for Increasing Family Income (CIFI)

Although *Per Capita Personal Income* is increasing in central Oklahoma, the poverty rate for children under the age of 18 is also increasing. The data suggests that more workers are seeking multiple jobs in order to improve their family income. CIFI is a collaborative effort helping low-income people in central Oklahoma increase their family's annual income through the simple step of receiving the *Earned Income Tax Credit*.

The IRS, United Way of Central Oklahoma, Community Action Agency and other partners work together annually to provide free tax filing assistance for families in need. Over 3,100 returns were prepared at eight metro area sites this spring. Eligible families earned as much as \$4,536 each through the credit with the help of trained volunteers. In total, families in the Oklahoma City area received \$3,817,911, a substantial financial boost.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to those who contributed to Vital Signs 2007: James Bost, Insight Market Research; Brian Corder; Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy; National Association of Planning Council Board of Directors; Rainbow Fleet; United Way of Central Oklahoma Board of Directors, Research and Convening Committee, Staff and Interns.

General Data Sources

United States Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oklahoma State Department of Human Services, Oklahoma State Department of Labor, Oklahoma State Department of Corrections, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City/County Health Department, Oklahoma County Department of Training and General Assistance, City of Oklahoma City, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

Research Sources

Primary data is provided through a biennial, representative telephone survey of 1,250 Oklahoma County households. The latest survey was conducted for United Way of Central Oklahoma by Insight Marketing Research in Oklahoma City. The survey provides demographic and socioeconomic data, as well as quantitative and qualitative data.

Secondary data is obtained from the most recent records and documents of public and private agencies. For those indicators where appropriate data are readily available, Oklahoma County data are compared to state and/or national data.

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Oklahoma City Museum of Art Film Program

Oklahoma City County Health Department

Oklahoma City University Film Institute

Oklahoma County Household Survey 2006

Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Oklahoma Department of Education and Office of Accountability

Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oklahoma State Department of Health
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Oklahoma State Election Board

Rainbow Fleet

Smart Start Oklahoma

State Assessment of Adult Literacy 2003 Report

U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey



Mission Statement

To improve the health, safety, education and economic well-being of individual families in need in central Oklahoma by connecting community resources with responsive and accountable health and human service agencies.

Vision

To be the leading organization building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community.

Founded in 1924, United Way of Central Oklahoma has a rich history of service to our community. Focused on successful kids, strong families, healthy citizens, independent living, and community preparedness, United Way serves an average of 350,000 people in central Oklahoma each year. Through Vital Signs, United Way monitors the well-being of the community and seeks long-term solutions for local problems.

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