

# THE PULSE

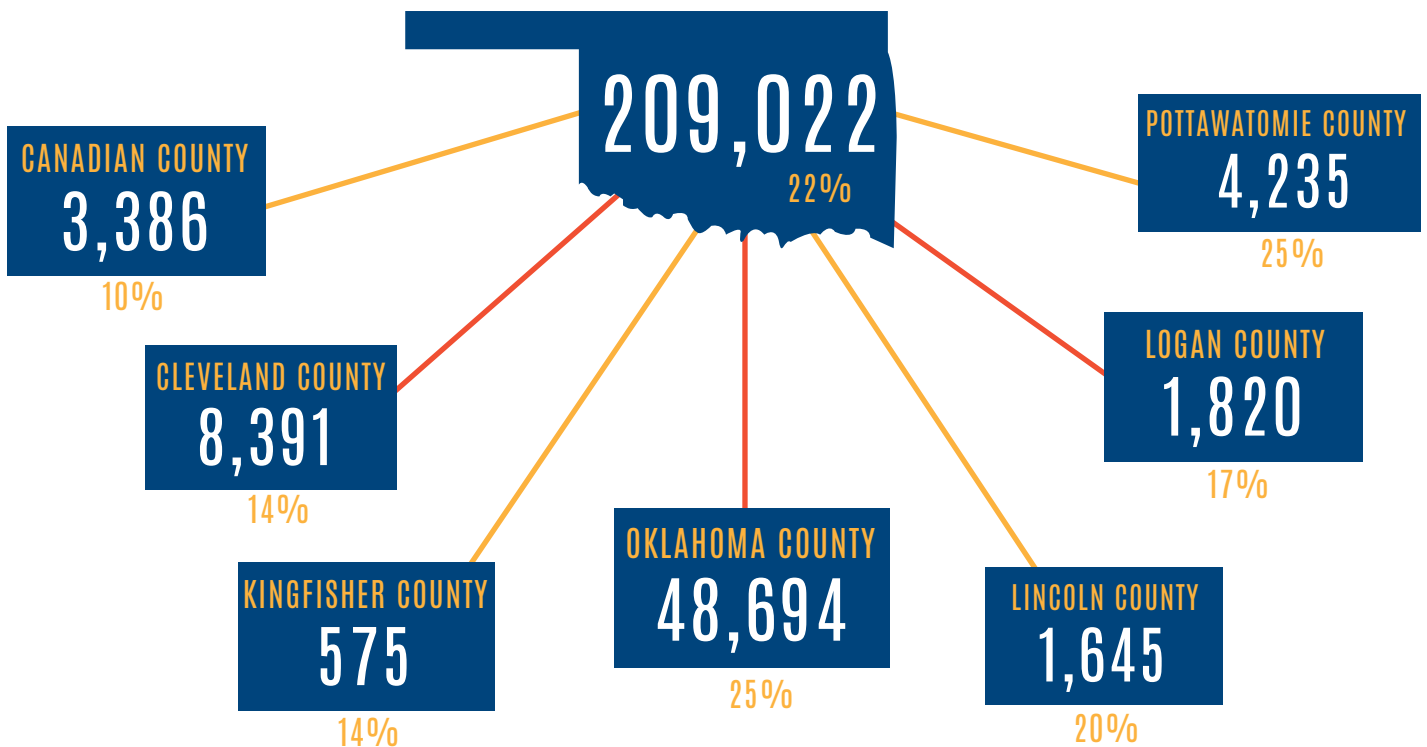
Checking our pulse is essential in monitoring our Vital Signs. The Pulse highlights a specific indicator of human well-being that is contained in United Way of Central Oklahoma's Vital Signs report or is being noticed through United Way's work in the community.

## YOUTH FACTS: OKLAHOMA

Afterschool programs are beneficial to both youth and their working parents. Afterschool programs can improve academic performance, improve classroom behavior, reduce drug use, encourage healthy behaviors and provide a safe and structured environment for youth to go to while their parents are at work.<sup>11</sup> It is important that affordable afterschool programs are accessible to Oklahoma families.

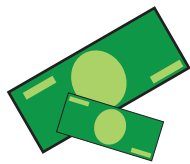
United Way of Central Oklahoma invests more than \$3.5 million in Partner Agency programs that focus on successful kids. In 2015, more than 43,000 central Oklahoma youth were able to participate in leadership and character development programs because of our Partner Agencies. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure children have the opportunity to grow and become strong, compassionate and productive citizens of our community.

## CHILD POVERTY ANNUAL ESTIMATE 2014<sup>1</sup> IN OKLAHOMA



**CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY.**

25%



OF OKLAHOMA WORKING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE **LOW-INCOME**.<sup>2</sup>

35%



OF OKLAHOMA CHILDREN GROW UP IN **SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES**.<sup>3</sup>

37%

OF OKLAHOMA EIGHTH GRADERS ARE **NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH**.<sup>5</sup>



19%  
OF OKLAHOMA THIRD GRADERS ARE **NOT READING AT A PROFICIENT LEVEL**.<sup>4</sup>

DURING THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR, **7%** OF OKLAHOMA CHILDREN RECEIVED IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION WHILE **6%** RECEIVED OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION.<sup>6</sup>

IN 2014, **488** OKLAHOMA JUVENILES WERE **ARRESTED FOR VIOLENT CRIMES**.<sup>7</sup>

4%

OF OKLAHOMA YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 17 HAVE REPORTED **ABUSING ALCOHOL OR DRUGS** WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.<sup>8</sup>

16%



OF OKLAHOMA CHILDREN ARE **NOT IN EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD HEALTH**.<sup>9</sup>



12%

OF OKLAHOMA CHILDREN LIVE IN **UNSAFE COMMUNITIES**.<sup>10</sup>

# LIVE UNITED



**United Way of Central Oklahoma**

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The Pulse is a product of Vital Signs; Oklahoma's only broad-based community evaluation with over two decades of trend data in six key areas important to our quality of life.

Interested in printed copies of Vital Signs or a presentation?  
Contact United Way of Central Oklahoma's Community Impact Department at  
[info@unitedwayokc.org](mailto:info@unitedwayokc.org) or (405) 236-8441

## NOTES AND CITATIONS

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1. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
3. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
4. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center
5. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center
6. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center
7. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
8. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
9. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
10. Annie E. Casey Foundation. KIDS COUNT data center.
11. Youth.gov. Benefits for Youth, Families, & Communities.

**We would like to thank Boeing for their support of the United Way of Central Oklahoma's community education efforts.**

