

US Census

Persons below the poverty rate: 2009-2013

Oregon = 16.2%

Forest Grove = 21%

Douglas County = 18.7%

Lane County = 20%

Josephine County = 20.2%

Jackson County = 17.2%

Polk County = 16.5%

Washington County 11.4%

Homelessness: from Oregonian series, Jan. 7, 2015

Oregonians who are homeless from point in time count, 2014 =
12,000 plus

The current crisis stems from decisions made over a generation: The flood of returning Vietnam-era vets in the 1970s coincided with a national push to de-institutionalize mental hospitals. In the 1980s and '90s, under both Republican and Democratic presidents, the federal government got out of the business of building public housing and pushed direct responsibility for caring for poor and vulnerable people to state, county and city governments.

Top 5 causes of homelessness – in order....

1 – lack of affordable housing

2 – lack of a livable wage

3 – lack of accessible health care

4 – domestic violence

5 – mental illness

POVERTY REPORT: KEY FINDINGS

- The poverty rate in Oregon (16.2%) remained above the national poverty rate (15.4%).
- There were approximately 615,000 people living in poverty in Oregon in 2013, an increase of nearly 100,000 from 2010.
- Rural counties continued to face the highest poverty rates
 - Malheur, Benton, Sherman, Josephine, and Lake counties all had poverty rates over 20%.
- Children were disproportionately represented in the population living in poverty.
 - Children under 18 made up 22% of the total population, but 30% of the population in poverty.
- Poverty rates are significantly higher for people of color than for white Oregonians.
 - The poverty rate among whites was 14.7% and ranged from 15.9% for Asians to 34.1% for African Americans.