



Understanding the Data

County Benchmark Key *A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding Benchmark Data*

The county is *ranked* on the combined early childhood indicators to allow you to compare this county with other counties. 1 is the best ranking; 77 is the worst ranking.

The *map* of Oklahoma has the location of the county highlighted.

The *county name* and *county seat* are along the top of each benchmark chart.

The *numbers, percentages and poverty rate of children* in the county are here.

The county is *ranked* on each indicator to allow you to compare this county with other counties. 1 is the best ranking; 77 is the worst ranking.

Seven new indicators profile the early childhood status of the counties' infants, toddlers and preschool children. See *Methodology and Sources* for a detailed explanation of each indicator.

Early Childhood Status

RANKED 77

Child Population < 6	1998	1,795
Immunizations Completed by Age 2	1995	57.0%
Lead-Based Poisoning	1994-97	0.43/ _{1,000}
Births to Mothers < 20	1998	278/ _{1,000}
Inadequate Prenatal Care	1998	10.8%
Child Care Availability	2000	0.387
Poverty - Children < 5	1997	40.8%

Adair County
County Seat: Stillwell

Number of Children (1998): 6,147
Children are 30.2% of the county population

Number of Poor Children (1997): 2,063
Child Poverty Rate: 33.3%

Indicator	Base Data	- Worsened	Improved +	Recent Data	Rank
Low Birthweight	5.3% of live births 1984-86	-10.2%		6.1% of live births 1996-98	17
Infant Mortality	9.3/1000 live births 1984-86		22.0%	7.3/1000 live births 1996-98	37
Births to Young Teens	67.2/1000 girls 15-17 1984-86		7.6%	62.1/1000 girls 15-17 1996-98	75
Child Abuse & Neglect	8.9 confirmed/1000 children FY 1984-86	-228.5%		29.1 confirmed/1000 children FY 1997-99	71
Child Deaths	7.5/100,000 children 1-14 1984-86	-293.9%		29.4/100,000 children 1-14 1996-98	39
High School Dropouts	6.6% of grades 9-12 SY 94/95-96/97		23.6%	5.1% of grades 9-12 SY 96/97-98/99	57
Violent Crime Arrests	37.1/100,000 youth 10-17 1990-92	-265.9%		135.8/100,000 youth 10-17 1997-99	41

Recent data for each new indicator presents a rate for the most recent year available. Each item specifies the recent rate and the period in which it was collected.

The *seven indicators* tracked by KIDS COUNT profile the status of children and youth in Oklahoma. See *Methodology and Sources* for a detailed explanation of each indicator. For example, High School Dropouts only count youth under age 19.

Base data for each indicator presents a rate for a previous three year period when data comparable to that measured currently was available. Each item specifies the base rate and period in which it was collected.

The *bar chart* shows the percent change between the base data and the recent data for each indicator. If the bar goes to the left of center, the county rate has worsened. If the bar goes to the right of center, the county rate has improved. The lighter colored wider bar behind the bar chart is the state rate for that indicator and allows you to compare the county with the state as a whole.

Recent data for each indicator presents a rate for the most recent three years. Each item specifies the recent rate and period in which it was collected.

Tips for Data Interpretation & Use

Understand What is Being Measured:

It is important to understand what is being measured and how. Several types of data information are available for each benchmark: numbers, average annual numbers, county and state rates, percentage change between years, base and recent data, and county rankings. A “key” directing the reader to the various types of data information is presented at the beginning of this Understanding the Data section. The Methodology and Sources later in this section details what each benchmark means, what data is included and where it is from.

Each county benchmark and the rate of change calculated for each county benchmark is rounded for presentation on the county pages. The rounding may cause the results to vary from the rates which might be calculated from the rounded numbers appearing on each county page.

Beware of Small Numbers:

County populations vary significantly. Such variations should be considered when interpreting the differences among counties. Be aware that small counties may have a small number of events (e.g., child deaths, arrests for violent crimes) which can cause rates to vary considerably from year to year without reflecting real change. For this reason, the benchmarks use three-year averages to improve the reliability of rate comparisons.

Low rates may appear in counties with large populations. Relying solely on rates, without considering the numbers involved, may result in overlooking locations which have large numbers of suffering children.

Remember the Uses and Limits of Data:

Benchmarks provide important baseline information. Effective use of benchmarks requires them to be understood in a broad context. They provide one way to look at how children are doing in a county or state. Benchmarks can provide the starting place to initiate dialogue with others who share your interest. There are many important perspectives required to piece together a complete picture. Collect additional data and viewpoints to flesh out the most useful view of child well-being in your own area.

Methodology and Sources

Data and information used in this Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook came from a wide variety of sources in Oklahoma and around the nation. This section identifies the sources for the information found in this document and the method used for computations where applicable.

There is no agreement about the specific terminology or the number of categories which should be used to classify race and ethnicity. The categories listed in this report are the categories in the sources relied upon for information. At times different sources will use different categories to report racial characteristics. Some indicators were not available by race at all. This makes it difficult to look across the indicators by race. Persons within each race or ethnic group are encouraged to re-title or refer to the data in a manner which reflects their preferences.

Extreme caution should be used when reviewing, using and comparing data related to Hispanic populations. Some agencies count Hispanic children as a race and others consider Hispanic to be a nationality whose children can be any race (White, African American, Native American, and so on). Of those counting Hispanic children as a nationality, only a few maintain statistics on the proportion of children who are Hispanic.

As a result, when Hispanic is considered to be a race, data may appear as follows:

White	70.0%
Native American	10.0%
American Indian	10.0%
Hispanic	5.0%
Asian	2.0%
Other	3.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

When Hispanic is considered to be a nationality, data may appear as follows:

Asian	2.0%	non-Hispanic	95.0%
Other	4.0%	Hispanic	5.0%
White	72.0%	TOTAL	100.0%
Native American	11.0%		
American Indian	11.0%		
TOTAL	100.0%		

Child Population is the total resident population under age 18 including dependents of Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. Child population data for 1980 and 1990 for the state and counties are counts from the 1980 and 1990 Census. Current child population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1998.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 1A and 2B and U.S.

Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A and Summary Tape File 2B. Current population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

Early Childhood County Index combines the ranks of seven individual indicators for each county to assess the relative improvement the county needs to achieve in order to provide the best start for its youngest citizens. All indicators were given the same weight, making no attempt to judge relative importance. Taken together, these indicators provide a comprehensive picture of a county's early childhood status in a manner which can be ranked, updated and tracked from year to year. Individual rankings are based on the following seven indicators related to early childhood care and education:

Population of Young Children Birth Through Age Five (1998) — identifying counties with the largest numbers of infants, toddlers and preschool children

SOURCE: Data provided by Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

Required Immunizations Which Have Been Completed by Age Two (1995) — measuring the provision of preventive health services to infants and toddlers in the community

SOURCE: Data provided by PLUTO, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. [NOTE: Counties without local health departments were assigned the state immunization rate for comparison purposes].

Elevated Lead-based Poisoning Tests per 1,000 Tests Administered (1994 - 1997) — measuring community environmental hazards dangerous to young children

SOURCE: Data provided by Family Health Services, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Births to Mothers Under Age 20 per 1000 Live Births (1998) — counting children born into the community less likely to have adequate emotional and financial resources

SOURCE: Data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Inadequate (late, little or no) Prenatal Care (1998) — counting pregnancies in the community likely to result in health problems for the babies

SOURCE: Data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Licensed Child Care Slots per Child Under Age 6 with Working Parents (2nd Quarter, 2000) — measuring the availability of licensed child care in the community

SOURCE: Data provided by Planning and Research Unit, Office of Finance, Department of Human Services (DHS): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Poverty Among Children Under Age Five (1997, estimates) — a measure of the presence of very poor infants, toddlers and preschool children in the community

SOURCE: Data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program: State and County Income and Poverty Estimates - 1996 and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program: State and County Income and Poverty Estimates - 1997. [NOTE: 1997 poverty for children under age five was estimated by applying the percent difference between 1996 poverty among those under 18 and under age five to the 1997 poverty under age 18 in each county.]

Children in Poverty counts the related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold (poverty income guidelines). Related children are the children related to the “family head” by birth, marriage or adoption and include relatives such as nieces and nephews. Children under age 18 who do not live in a household where they are related to the head of the household are not included in this analysis. The Poverty Income Guidelines, as defined by the U.S. Office of

Management and Budget, are based upon the amount of money that is required to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. A family is classified as poor if its income falls below this minimum standard. Data counts poor children calculated as a percent of all children.

SOURCE: Data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program: State and County Income and Poverty Estimates - 1997.

Low Birthweight Infants are live births weighing under 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams). **Very Low Birthweight Infants** are live births weighing under 3 pounds, five ounces (1,500 grams). The data is reported by place of mother’s residence, not place of birth. Births count both the total resident live births and the low-weight births and compare two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1996 through 1998), resulting in a three-year rate. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other races are included in numbers and calculations for White. Beginning in 1989, the “race of child” was redefined to reflect the mother’s race. State totals may vary from the total of all the counties since state totals may include births for which the county of residence was unknown. Beginning in 1998, information on the ethnicity of the mother allows display of low birthweight rates for the Hispanic population. **Level of Prenatal Care** addresses the timing and amount of medical care and monitoring an expectant mother receives. Levels of care include: adequate (the recommended level of care beginning in the first trimester with ten or more visits),

intermediate (care beginning in the first trimester with four through nine visits OR care beginning in the second trimester with four or more visits), early (care beginning in the first trimester), late (care beginning in the third trimester with one or more visits), little (care beginning in the first or second trimester with one through three visits), and no care. Rates are calculated as percentages of all live births. Births count both the total resident live births and the level of care for the three-year period from 1996 through 1998, resulting in a three-year rate.

SOURCE: Data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Infant Mortality is death occurring to an infant under 1 year of age. The data is reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth or death. Rates are calculated per 1,000 live births. The data counts the total resident live births and the deaths for two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1996 through 1998), resulting in a three-year rate. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other races are included in numbers and calculations for White. Beginning in 1989, the "race of child" was redefined to reflect the mother's race. State totals may vary from the total of all the counties since state totals may include births for which the county of residence was unknown.

SOURCE: Birth and mortality data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health(OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Births to Young Teens are live births which occur to mothers ages 15 through 17. The data is reported by place of mother's residence, not place of birth. Births count the total resident live births to mothers in this age group for two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1996 through 1998). Rates are displayed as births per 1,000 females between ages 15 through 17. Base female teen population data for the state and counties is the midpoint between the 1980 and 1990 Census populations. Current population for the state is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and adjusted by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce to arrive at 1996 through 1998 estimates of females between the ages of 15 through 17 for the state and each county, resulting in three-year rates. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other races are included in numbers and calculations for White. Beginning in 1989, the "race of child" was redefined to reflect the mother's race. State totals may vary from the total of all the counties since state totals may include births for which the county of residence was unknown.

SOURCE: Birth data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1996; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1997; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

Child Abuse and Neglect means harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare. Abuse includes sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or non-accidental physical or mental injury. Sexual Abuse includes rape, incest and lewd or indecent acts or proposals by a person responsible for the child's welfare. Sexual Exploitation includes a person responsible for the child's welfare allowing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or pornography or engaging in child pornography. Neglect means failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care. 10 O. Supp. 2000 § 7102. Data includes reports of suspected abuse or neglect for which there were formal investigations and, of those, the number for which abuse or neglect was confirmed. The data compares child abuse and neglect confirmations for two three-year periods (Fiscal Years 1984 through 1986 and Fiscal Years 1997 through 1999). Rates are displayed as confirmations per 1,000 children (under age 18). Base child population data for the state and counties is the midpoint between the 1980 and 1990 Census populations. Current child population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1996, 1997 and 1998. Race is reported as White, Black, Indian, Hispanic, Asian and Other/Unknown. Hispanic children, for the purposes of this data, are counted as races, rather than as ethnic groups preventing precise racial comparisons between this data and other data in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook.

SOURCE: Child abuse and neglect data provided by the Division of Child Welfare, Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division,

Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1996; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1997; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

Child Deaths are the number of deaths of children from ages 1 through 14. **Teen Deaths** are the number of deaths of youth from ages 15 through 19. The data is reported by place of residence, not place of death. The data counts deaths from all causes. The data compares the death rates for two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1996 through 1998), resulting in three-year rates. Rates are displayed as deaths per 100,000 children from ages 1 through 14 and deaths per 100,000 teens from ages 15 through 19. Base child population data for the state and counties is the midpoint between the 1980 and 1990 Census populations. Current child population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1996, 1997 and 1998 and adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at a current estimate of the number of children from the ages of 1 through 14. Current teen population data for the state is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1996, 1997 and 1998 and adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at a current estimate of the number of teens from the ages of 15 through 19. State totals may vary from the total of all the counties since state totals may include deaths for which the county of residence was unknown. **Cause of Death** measures the percent of deaths that are

caused by diseases, accidents and violence. By definition, deaths by violence include murder, suicide and deaths that occur during legal interventions. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other races are included in numbers and calculations for White.

SOURCE: Death data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH); Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1996; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1997; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

High School Dropouts count youths of any age who quit school without graduating. The data presents the number of high school drop-outs for a three-year period (School Year 1996/97 through 1998/99). The data also presents the total number of high school drop-outs who are under the age of 19. **High School Dropout Rates** compare number of high school drop-outs under age 19 to the enrollment in grades 9 through 12. School officials in Oklahoma are required to notify the State Department of Education of the name, address, race and age of any pupil dropping out of school. 70 O.Supp. 1996 § 35e(A). Race is reported as White, Black, Indian, Asian and Hispanic. There is no provision for reporting other races. Hispanic children, for the purposes of this data,

are counted as a race, rather than an ethnic group preventing precise racial comparisons between this data and other data in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook.

SOURCE: Data provided by the Office of Accountability, Education Oversight Board: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests count arrests of youth from the ages of 10 through 17 for violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault). The annual arrest figures include all arrests for violent offenses during the year, including repeated arrests of the same individual for different offenses. Rates compare the number of arrests of youth ages 10 through 17 for violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault) to all children ages 10 through 17 and is reported as a rate per 100,000 youths. The data compares juvenile violent crime rates for two three-year periods (1990 through 1992 and 1997 through 1999). Base child population data for the state and counties is the 1990 Census population. Current child population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1997 and 1998 and adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at an estimate of the number of children from the ages of 10 through 17. Increases in the number of arrests may reflect increases in juvenile crime, changes in police activity and changes in public policy. While policies and practices regarding juvenile arrests may vary from county to county and city to city, it is widely believed that the policies are more consistent for violent crimes than for less serious crimes. Data collected counts juveniles by age or by

race, but age and race cannot be compared. Race is reported as White, Black, Indian, and Asian. There is no provision for reporting other races. Hispanic Origin is counted separately and as an ethnicity, not as a race. Oklahoma KIDS COUNT reports juvenile violent crime arrest data on a state and county basis. Several counties reported no juvenile violent crime arrests in the years included in the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook.

SOURCE: Arrest data provided by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI); Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Population data provided by the Oklahoma State Data Center, Planning and Research Division, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 1A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1997; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1998.

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