



Understanding Data

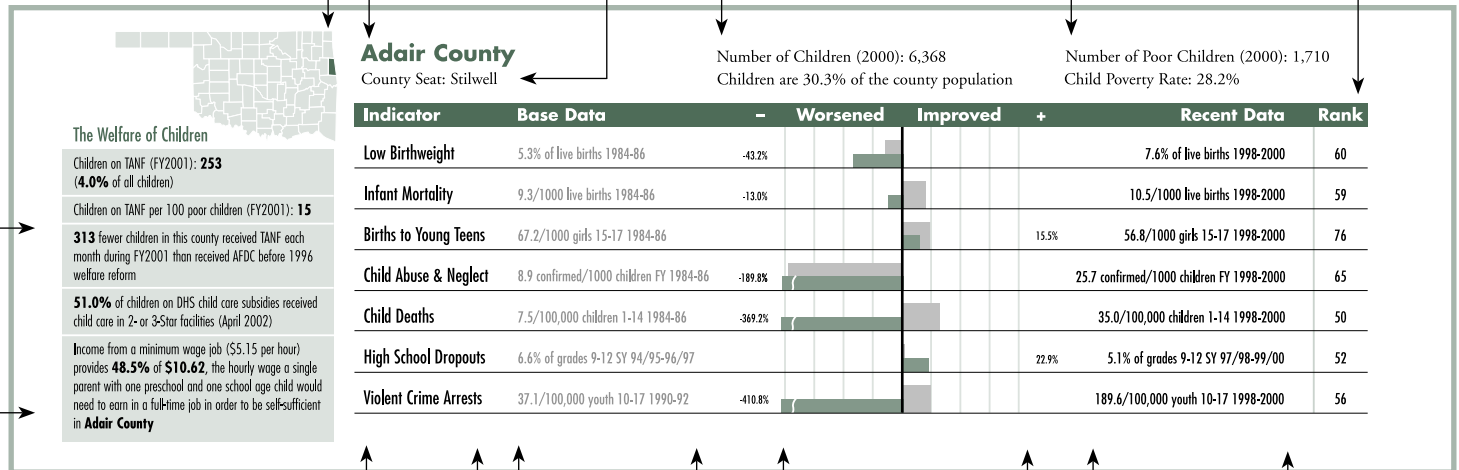
County Benchmark Key *A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding Benchmark Data*

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 rates for this county with other counties. 1 is the best ranking; 77 is the worst ranking.



Five new indicators profile the welfare of children in this country after welfare reform. See *Methodology and Sources* for a detailed explanation of each indicator.

The Welfare of Children
 Children on TANF (FY2001): **253** (4.0% of all children)
 Children on TANF per 100 poor children (FY2001): **15**
313 fewer children in this county received TANF each month during FY2001 than received AFDC before 1996 welfare reform
51.0% of children on DHS child care subsidies received child care in 2- or 3-Star facilities (April 2002)
 Income from a minimum wage job (\$5.15 per hour) provides **48.5%** of **\$10.62**, the hourly wage a single parent with one preschool and one school age child would need to earn in a full-time job in order to be self-sufficient in **Adair County**

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.

Interpreting the Data

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 its source.

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 the 2002 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:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| White | 72.0% | | |
| Native American | 11.0% | | |
| American Indian | 11.0% | | |
| Asian | 2.0% | Hispanic | 5.0% |
| Other | 4.0% | non-Hispanic | 95.0% |
| TOTAL | 100.0% | 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, 1990 and 2000 for the state and counties are counts from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census.

SOURCE: Data provided by 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 and 2B; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing

1990, Summary Tape File 1A and Summary Tape File 2B; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

Children in Poverty counts the related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. 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. Data counts poor related children calculated as a percent of all related children. Trends compare percent of child poverty in 1990 to the percent of child poverty in 2000. Updated annually using the Consumer Price Index, the poverty thresholds, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 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.

For example, in 2001, a single adult (under age 65) with one child would be counted as poor if their income fell below \$1,013/month; with two children below \$1,189/month; with three children below \$1,502/month; and so on.

SOURCE: Data provided by Information Management, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1980, Summary Tape File 3A, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 1990, Summary Tape File 3A and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 3.

Welfare Reform is used as the term for the federal policy changes put in place after the passage of the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996*. The following terms and acronyms are commonly used in discussions of welfare reform.

AFDC: Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the cash grant available to eligible families and children prior to welfare reform in 1996

Asset level: The amount of countable assets a family can have and remain eligible for TANF benefits

Benefit level: The amount of the cash grant available to an eligible TANF family

CCDF: Child Care Development Fund, federal funding to states to provide assistance to low-income families in achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency and toward improving the overall quality of child care

Child outcome: An aspect of a child’s development or well being (i.e., health, school performance, behavior)

Child support enforcement: Policies requiring a TANF recipient to assign rights to child support to the state and cooperate with paternity establishment.

DHHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

DHS: Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Diversion: Assistance offered to a family as an alternative to ongoing TANF assistance, typically includes short term cash assistance and/or referral to job placement or alternative service programs

Family cap: A policy which does not allow the increase of benefits to a family when a child is born more than nine months after the family began receiving benefits

FFY: Federal fiscal year, running from October 1 to September 30

Food insecurity: Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways

Food security: Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life

Hunger: The recurrent and involuntary lack of access to food

Income disregards: The amount of money welfare recipients can earn before their benefits are reduced

Poverty guidelines: A federal measure of poverty issued each year by DHHS for administrative purposes, including determining financial eligibility for income-based programs; DHHS poverty guidelines are a simplification of the Census Bureau's poverty threshold

Poverty threshold: A federal measure of poverty issued by the U.S. Bureau of Census for statistical purposes, including counting the number of people living in poverty

PRWORA: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

Sanctions: Options a state has to reduce or terminate the assistance payable to a family not engaging in the required work or work activities

Self-Sufficiency Standard:
A measure of the amount of income needed for a family of a given composition in a given place to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance

SFY: State fiscal year, running from July 1 to June 30

TANF: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the cash grant available to eligible families after welfare reform in 1996

Time limits: The total amount of time a family is eligible to receive welfare benefits

Welfare dependence: More income from public assistance (i.e., food stamps, housing assistance) than earnings

Welfare leavers: Prior recipients not now receiving a cash grant

Welfare stayers: Current recipients of a cash grant

Welfare-to-Work: The term generally used to describe welfare reform programs, requiring a recipient of a cash grant to participate in activities designed to obtain employment and move off welfare

Work exemptions: Options under PRWORA allowing states to permit a family to not comply with its work requirements and still receive a cash grant for a period of time; such families are not counted in the calculations a state must make to prove they are in compliance with federal participation rates

Work requirement waivers: Permission for which states can apply in order to adopt state work requirements which are not consistent with federal law and policy

The text boxes labeled *The Welfare of Children* display several data items related to the impact of welfare reform on Oklahoma children. Taken together the data items provide one view of welfare reform for Oklahoma and each county. The data items should be used in conjunction with other state and county indicators available in the 2002 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook and from other sources. Data in the text boxes include the following:

Children on TANF (FY2001) — counting the unduplicated number of children (under age 18) receiving cash grants between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001; displaying the number of children on TANF as a percent of all children in the state or county.

SOURCE: TANF data provided by Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), from Annual Report Fiscal Year 2001, Table 35 Commerce (ODOC); Population data provided by Information Management, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

Children on TANF per 100 poor children (FY2001) — displaying the number of children (under age 18) receiving cash grants between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001, for every 100 children living on incomes which fall below 100% of the federal poverty threshold.

SOURCE: TANF data provided by Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), from Annual Report Fiscal Year 2001, Table 35; Poverty data provided by Information Management, Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC), using U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 3.

Number of children receiving TANF compared to number of children receiving AFDC (FY2001 and pre-1996 welfare reform) — comparing the number of children receiving TANF cash grants each month during

FY2001 to the number of children receiving AFDC cash grants each month during FY1996, to determine how many fewer children currently receive cash grants each month than did before welfare reform.

SOURCE: Data provided by Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), from Annual Report Fiscal Year 2001, Table 35, and FY 1996 Annual Report, Table 11.

Percent of children on DHS child care subsidies receiving child care in 2- or 3-Star facilities (April 2002) — measuring the proportion of low-income children from working families receiving subsidies to help pay for child care who receive that care in a facility (includes both centers and homes) which is Two- or Three-Star rated, indicating the facility provides a higher quality of care (through activities such as receiving additional staff or administrator training, reading to children daily, involving parents, creating weekly lesson plans, becoming nationally accredited)

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

Minimum wage as a percent of a self-sufficiency wage — comparing the income received from a minimum wage job (\$5.15 per hour) and the hourly wage a single parent with one preschool child and one school age child would need to earn in a full-time job in order to be self-

sufficient. The Oklahoma text box compares the minimum wage with the average wage necessary for that three-person family to be self-sufficient in a metropolitan county and in a non-metropolitan county. Each county text box compares the minimum wage with the average wage necessary for that three-person family to be self-sufficient in that county. A self-sufficiency wage is the amount of income needed for a family of a given composition in a given place to adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance. Self-sufficiency standards are calculated for seventy different family types in each of Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties. A single parent family of three (one preschool child and one school age child) was chosen for display in the text boxes placed in the overview and county benchmark section of this Factbook. The three-person family most closely approximates the type of family typically receiving a cash grant. A single parent family of four (one infant, one preschool child and one school age child) was added to the text box in the section focusing on welfare reform in this Factbook. The four-person family most closely approximates a family recently leaving welfare.

SOURCE: Data provided by Community Action Project of Tulsa County from the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oklahoma published in February 2002, by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Community Action Project of Tulsa County.

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 1998 through 2000), resulting in three-year rates. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other races are included in numbers and calculations for White. The "race of child" reflects 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 1998 through 2000, 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 1998 through 2000), resulting in three-year rates. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. The “race of child” reflects 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 teens 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 teens in this age group for two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1998 through 2000), resulting in three-year rates. 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 population of females between ages 15 through 17. Current child population data for the state and counties is estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1998 and 1999, as adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at a current estimate of the number of females between ages 15 through 17, and the 2000 Census population of females between ages 15 through 17. Race is reported as White, Black and American Indian. Other and unknown races are reported separately. 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 Information Management, 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, 1998; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1999; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

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 confirmation for two three-year periods (Fiscal Years 1984 through 1986 and Fiscal Years 1998 through 2000), resulting in three-year rates. 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 1998 and 1999, and the 2000 Census population. Race is reported as White, Black, Indian, Asian and Unknown. Because of changes in the race categories after FY 1998, only FY 1999 and FY 2000 are included in the race tabulations.

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 Information Management, 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, 1998; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1999; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

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 deaths for two three-year periods (1984 through 1986 and 1998 through 2000), 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 1998 and 1999, as adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at a current estimate of the number of children from the

ages of 1 through 14, and the 2000 Census population for 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 1998 and 1999, as adjusted by the State Data Center to arrive at a current estimate of the number of teens from the ages of 15 through 19, and the 2000 Census population for 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 the White race.

SOURCE: Death data provided by Family Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Population data provided by Information Management, 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, 1998; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1999; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

School Dropouts count youths of any age who quit school without graduating. **High School Dropouts** count youths under age 18 who quit high school (grades 9 through 12). The data presents the number of school dropouts and high school dropouts for two three-year periods (School Year 1994/1995 through 1996/1997 and School Year 1997/1998 through 1999/2000). **High School**

Dropout Rates compare number of high school drop-outs under age 19 to the enrollment in grades 9 through 12. The data compares the high school dropout rates for two three-year periods (School Year 1994/1995 through 1996/1997 and School Year 1997/1998 through 1999/2000). 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 1998 through 2000). 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 1998 and 1999, as adjusted

by the State Data Center to arrive at an estimate of the number of children from the ages of 10 through 17, and the 2000 Census population for 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, 1998; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Estimates Branch, 1999; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population and Housing 2000, Summary Tape File 1.

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