

OKLAHOMA

loves its children.



The 2003 CENSUS EDITION of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook uses the latest decennial census data (Census 2000) to provide the most comprehensive state and county demographic information available about Oklahoma's children, including population, gender, race and Hispanic/Latino origin. Additional indicators displayed from Census 2000 were chosen to capture the wide range of conditions that shape the lives of children ... as individuals, in their families and in their neighborhoods.

The federal Census 2000 provides this once in a decade opportunity to assess and display the rich and complex picture of Oklahoma's children ... establishing a new baseline for the twenty-first century, and beyond. For this one year and this one edition, the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook breaks with its established tradition of tracking benchmarks measuring the well-being of Oklahoma children over time and across counties to provide a reference useful to Oklahoma policy makers and advocates for the next several years.

Oklahomans care about all children, not just their own. They embrace the hope for a solid beginning, a successful childhood and an optimistic future for each **individual child**.

They understand that no child can be overlooked if Oklahoma is to achieve its great future. The ever-changing **families** of children nurture this future, providing the anchor and motivation required for children to be strong and resilient, keeping Oklahoma's promise. As Oklahoma families suffer or prosper, individual children will suffer or prosper. Oklahomans understand that the **neighborhoods** in which children live frame their life experiences, create their individual realities, and make Oklahoma's future possible.

Children As Individuals



If Oklahoma had only **100** children, eleven would be American Indian, ten would be African American, one would be Asian. Most of the rest would be White. Regardless of their race, eight would be Hispanic or Latino. If Oklahoma had only 100 children, twenty would live in families so poor they could not provide that child with an adequate diet. Six of those poor children would be under the age of five. If Oklahoma had only 100 children, at least six would live with a significant disability. Four of those children would be mentally disabled, probably mentally retarded. If Oklahoma had only 100 children, we would have to take care of each one. We would have none to spare. Oklahoma has only **892,360** children. We have to take care of each one. We have none to spare.

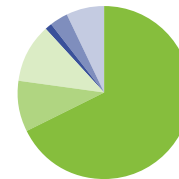
Children remain the strength, promise and future of Oklahoma. While Oklahoma's child population decreased between 1980 (854,884) and 1990 (837,007), by 2000 it had increased substantially to almost nine hundred thousand (892,360) children. One in four (25.9%) Oklahomans is under the age of eighteen (18). Boys slightly outnumber girls (51.3%, to 48.7%).

Racial categories were altered significantly between the current census and the prior ones, making comparisons over time difficult. In

a major change from Census 1990, Census 2000 asked respondents to report one or more races. In Oklahoma almost sixty-five thousand children (63,737, or 7.1%) were categorized as being of two or more races. The remaining children were identified as having only one racial identity: White, African American, American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or other. Composing about two-thirds (67.6%, or 603,525) of Oklahoma's children, the largest single race in Oklahoma remains White.

Children By Race

Under Age 18, Oklahoma: 2000
Number: 892,360



[603,525]	67.6%	White
[84,677]	9.5%	African American
[98,144]	11.0%	American Indian
[11,682]	1.3%	Asian & Hawaiian
[30,595]	3.4%	Other Single Race
[63,737]	7.1%	2 or More Races

70,078 children,
7.9% of all children, are
Hispanic or Latino

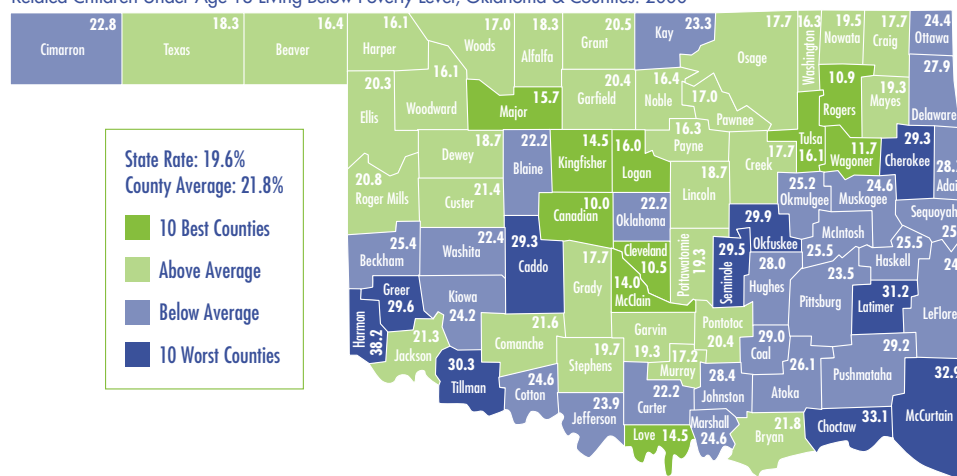
Child Population

By Age and Gender, Oklahoma: 2000

AGE	# of children	% of all state children	♂	♀
> 1	47,533	5.3%	24,490	23,043
1	48,123	5.4%	24,630	23,493
2	47,521	5.3%	24,464	23,057
3	46,627	5.2%	23,953	22,674
4	46,549	5.2%	24,068	22,481
5	46,855	5.3%	24,056	22,799
6	47,696	5.3%	24,457	23,239
7	48,901	5.5%	24,954	23,947
8	50,409	5.6%	25,792	24,617
9	50,664	5.7%	25,871	24,793
10	51,114	5.7%	26,103	25,011
11	49,593	5.6%	25,355	24,238
12	49,708	5.6%	25,274	24,434
13	49,950	5.6%	25,579	24,371
14	51,664	5.8%	26,538	25,126
15	51,781	5.8%	26,583	25,198
16	52,756	5.9%	27,229	25,527
17	54,916	6.2%	28,232	26,684
0-17	892,360	100.0%	457,628	434,732
18	54,321	n/a	28,093	26,228
19	55,599	n/a	28,985	26,614

Poverty Among Children

Related Children Under Age 18 Living Below Poverty Level, Oklahoma & Counties: 2000



The largest single non-White race of Oklahoma children is American Indian (11.0%, or 98,144). The fastest growing segment of Oklahoma's young population, Hispanic or Latino children which may be of any race, now number over seventy thousand (70,078, or 7.9%).

The Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook begins its measure of individual child well-being with a comprehensive account of children living in poverty. Poverty among children is more than an inconvenience. Being poor means living in a family unable to purchase enough food for an adequate diet. Poor children are more likely than non-poor children to stay too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer, to score low on standardized tests, to drop out of school, to receive little health care, and to die during their childhood.

The immediately preceding edition of this Oklahoma KIDS COUNT series took an initial look at how poor Oklahoma children were faring under the 1996 federal welfare reform effort, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (see, Oklahoma KIDS

COUNT Factbook 2002). Census 2000 enables this edition of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT series to generate a detailed portrait of poverty for Oklahoma and all seventy-seven Oklahoma counties.

One in every five (19.6%) Oklahoma children, more than one hundred seventy thousand (171,929), lives in poverty. Oklahoma's poverty rate for children is higher than that for all children in the United States (16.6%), placing Oklahoma near the bottom (41st) of the national rankings. Only nine states (New York, Texas, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, West Virginia, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi) have a larger share of children living

in poverty than Oklahoma. Among Oklahoma counties the proportion of children living in poverty ranges from the lowest and best rate found in Canadian County (10%) to the highest and worst rate almost four times higher found in Harmon County (38.2%).

Problems associated with having few resources are exacerbated for those living far below the federal poverty line. More than seventy thousand (70,851, or 8.1%) Oklahoma children live in extreme poverty, existing on family incomes which fail to reach even half of a poverty income. Rates of children living in extreme poverty in Oklahoma range from a low of 3.5% in Alfalfa County to a

Just over sixty thousand (60,075, or 34.9%) of the related children under age eighteen who live in poverty reside in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together are populated by slightly more than one-third (315,868, or 35.5%) of all related children in Oklahoma.

high of 24.0% in Harmon County. While poverty affects all ages, over one-third (35.0%) of its Oklahoma victims are children. Even then child impoverishment is less than even-handed. Child poverty discriminates against Oklahoma's very youngest, those who are not White, and children living with only one parent.

Children who experience poverty during their preschool years have less of a chance for success than children and adolescents who experience poverty only in their later years. Oklahoma's youngest are Oklahoma's poorest (23.0%) with more than fifty thousand (53,201) infants, toddlers and preschoolers under the age of five living in

poverty. Cleveland County and Rogers County share the lowest and best poverty rate (12.9%) among their youngest children. The highest and worst rate of poverty among very young children is found in Latimer County where two of every five (41.0%) infants, toddlers and preschool children under the age of five live in poverty.

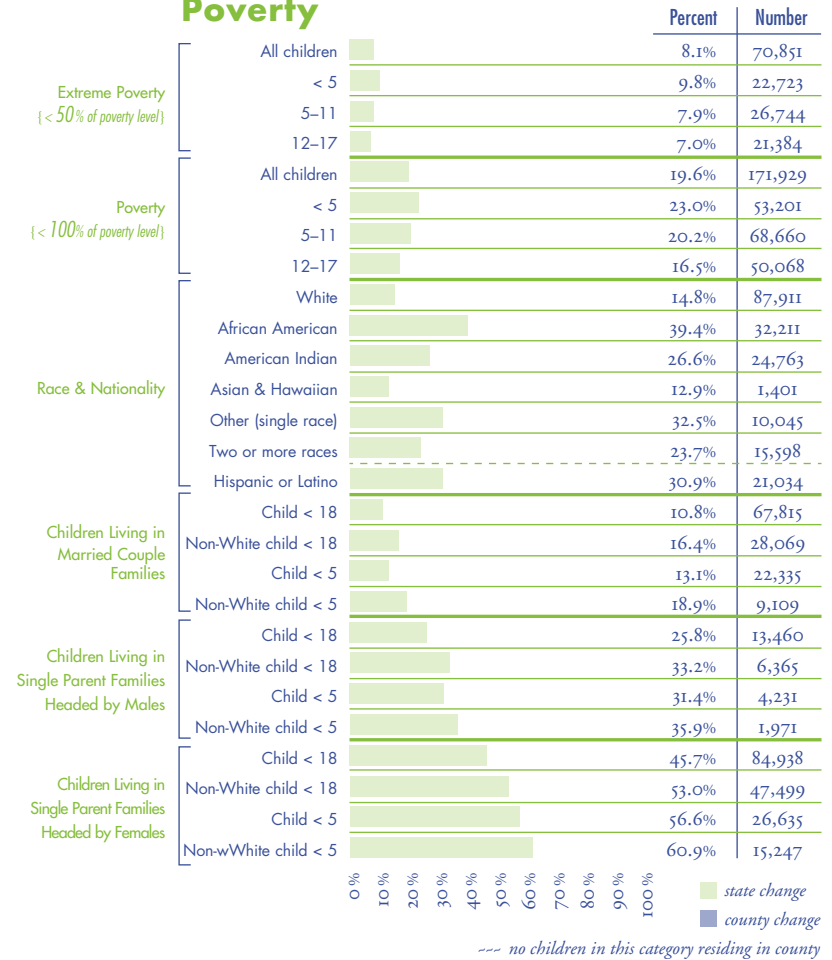
Oklahoma child poverty is racist. Most non-White children have significantly higher poverty rates than those who are White (14.8%). In Oklahoma, two of every five (39.4%) African American children and one of every four (26.6%) American Indian children live in poverty. Only Asian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander children have a lower poverty rate (12.9%) than White children (14.8%). Almost one of every three (30.9%) Hispanic or Latino children, who may be of any race, live in poverty. Poverty rates for non-White children reach almost ninety percent (88.9%) for African American children in Mayes County. All (100.0%) American Indian children in Cimarron County and all (100.0%) Asian, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander children in Harmon, Hughes, and Tillman counties were counted as poor by Census 2000.

One in every ten (10.8%) children living in married-couple families is poor. The burden of poverty increases substantially for children living in single parent families. One in every four (25.8%) children is living in poverty if their family is headed by a single male. One in every two (45.7%) children is living in poverty if their family is headed by a single female.

Poverty rates become extreme when considering overlapping characteristics. Oklahoma poverty rates exceed sixty percent (60.9%) among very young non-White children living in single parent families headed by a female. Comparable rates across Oklahoma counties equal or exceed seventy-five percent in fourteen Oklahoma counties (Caddo, 77.9%; Choctaw, 75.0%; Cotton, 93.1%; Custer, 91.9%; Ellis, 100.0%; Johnston, 85.7%; Latimer, 86.9%; Major, 88.5%; Marshall, 91.7%; Okfuskee, 84.9%; Roger Mills, 83.3%; Stephens, 77.8%; Texas, 78.6%; and Tillman, 82.7%).

The geography and intensity of poverty shifts according to who is poor. Understanding Oklahoma child poverty requires

Poverty



that comparisons be made to impoverishment in the general population and between various subcategories of poor children. The comparisons displayed in the four maps below reveal that the worst pockets of poverty deepen and move around the state as poverty by age, race and family type are specifically displayed.

This edition of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook concludes its measure of individual child well-being by surveying childhood experience at three strikingly different developmental stages—early childhood, school years and young adulthood.

High quality early childhood care and education experiences are vital

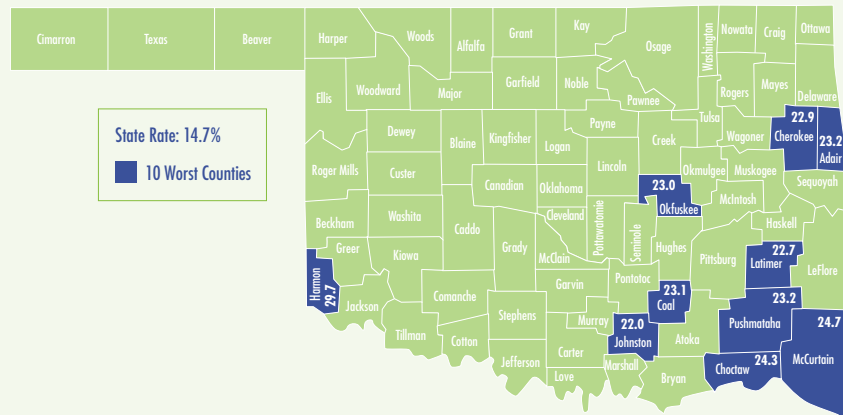
to a child’s future. An earlier edition of this Oklahoma KIDS COUNT series focused on early childhood care and education, reporting on the connections between early experiences and a young child’s brain development (see, Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook 2001). Currently, about half (49.3%) of all three and four year old children in the United

States begin their education early by attending nursery school, preschool or kindergarten. Ranking twenty-eighth (28TH) with 45.5% of three and four year old children attending such programs, Oklahoma falls near the middle of all states. Comparable county rates range from about one-fourth (25.6%) in Cimarron County to two-thirds (67.0%) in Woods County.

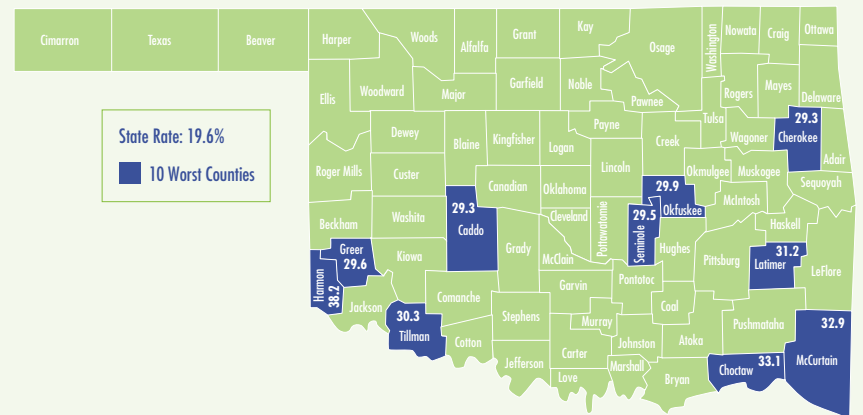
The ten worst counties for poverty among the general population (all ages) fall primarily in Little Dixie, southeast Oklahoma, where poverty is relatively entrenched in rural, remote communities with few educational or employment opportunities. In these ten worst counties, poverty among the general population ranges from twenty-two percent (22.0%) in Johnston County to just under thirty percent (29.7%) in Harmon County.

The ten worst counties for poverty among all children (under age 18) move from Little Dixie, spreading across rural southern Oklahoma counties. In these ten worst counties, poverty among children ranges from near thirty percent (29.3%) in Cherokee County and Caddo County to almost forty percent (38.2%) in Harmon County.

State Rate Poverty in General Population



State Rate Child Poverty



	Number	Percent
Number & percent of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten	42,258	45.5%

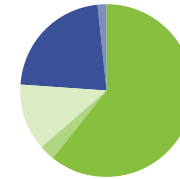
The discovery that a child has a disability makes a profound impact on the child, their family, their school and their community. Such a child can experience a minor

struggle or a major upheaval. The common reality is that a child with a serious disability may not be able to attend school regularly, may regress between school years, is rarely placed in appropriate child care or may be kept isolated from children without disabilities. Great rewards result when good parenting, quality child care, specially designed instruction

Child Disability By Type

Oklahoma: 2000, Total: 35,033

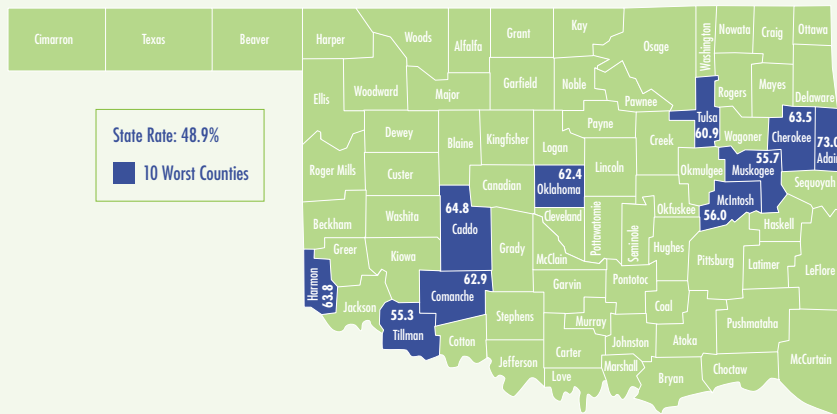
- [20,516] 60.7% Mental
- [974] 2.9% Physical
- [4,233] 12.5% Sensory
- [7,497] 22.2% Multiple
- [558] 1.7% Self-Care



and reasonable accommodations help such a child acquire social skills, appropriate education and a hopeful future. In Oklahoma, more than thirty-five thousand (35,033) children from the age of five through fifteen have a disability. Currently, a small percentage (5.8%) of all five through fifteen year old children in the United States have one or more disabilities.

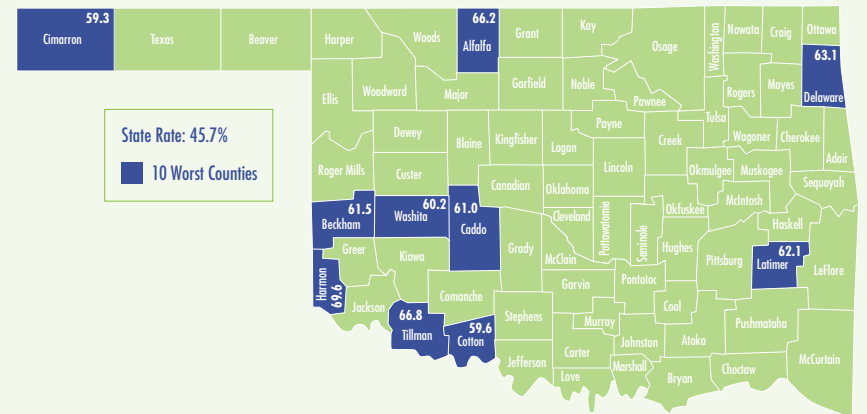
The ten worst counties for poverty among non-White children moves into higher population counties (Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Comanche). In these ten worst counties, poverty among non-White children ranges from near fifty-five percent (55.3%) in Tillman County to seventy-three percent (73.0%) in Adair County.

State Rate Poverty Among Non-White Children



The ten worst counties for child poverty in female-headed families scatter to all corners of Oklahoma. In these ten worst counties, poverty among children living in single parent families headed by females ranges from about sixty percent (59.3%) in Cimarron County to about seventy percent (69.6%) in Harmon County.

State Rate Poverty Children Living in Single Parent Families Headed by Females



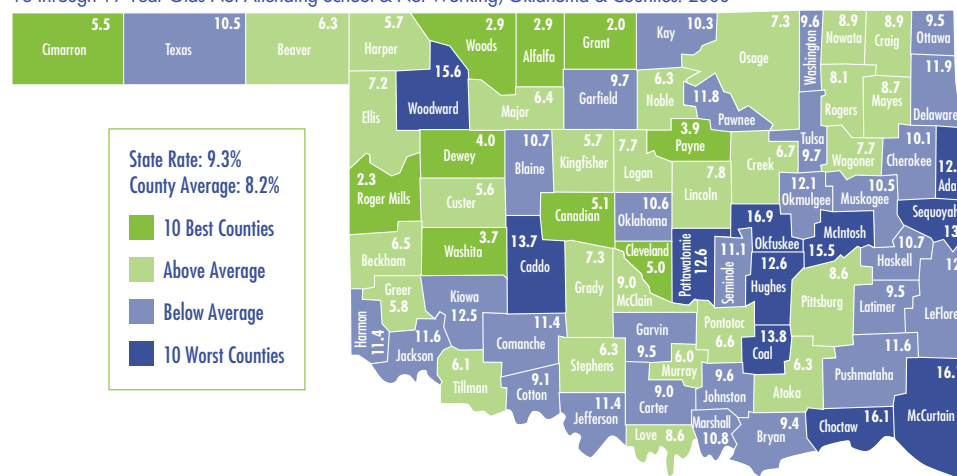
Ranking thirty-eighth (38TH) with 6.4% of five through fifteen year old children having at least one disability, Oklahoma is in the lower half of all states. Child disability rates are lowest (2.9%) in Cimarron County and highest (10.7%) in Pittsburg County. Almost a quarter (22.2%) of Oklahoma's children who have a disability have more than one. Mental disability is the most common (60.7%) childhood disability in Oklahoma.

	Number	Percent
Five to fifteen year old Oklahoma children with a disability	35,033	6.4%

Getting a good start as a young adult is vital to lifelong success. The vulnerable young people who are neither in school nor in the work force are typically marginalized teenagers undergoing a difficult transition into adulthood. Education is critical to finding and keeping a good job. Those who spend their young adult years unemployed and out of school have a hard time finding and keeping a job later in life. Almost one in ten (9.3%) Oklahoma youth from the ages of sixteen through nineteen are not engaged in either work or school, resulting in nearly twenty thousand

Idle Teens

16 through 19 Year Olds Not Attending School & Not Working, Oklahoma & Counties: 2000



Just over one-third (7,184, or 36.4%) of the youth age sixteen through nineteen who neither work nor are in school reside in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together are populated by just under one-third (71,881, or 33.0%) of all Oklahoma youth age sixteen through nineteen.

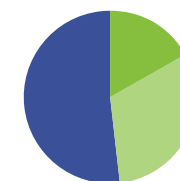
19,758 or **9.3%** of sixteen through nineteen Oklahoma teens are not attending school or working

(19,758) idle youth. About the same proportion (8.9%) of teens are idle in the United States. Oklahoma ranks thirty-third (33RD) in the share of teens who are not engaged in either work or school. Among Oklahoma counties the proportion of idle teens ranges from the lowest and best rate of two percent (2.0%) in Grant County to the highest and worst rate of almost

seventeen percent (16.9%) in Okfuskee County. Most (51.8%) of Oklahoma's idle teens are both high school dropouts and outside of the labor force.

Idle Teens By Status

Not Attending School & Not Working
Age 16 through 19, Oklahoma: 2000, Total: 19,758



[2,731]	16.8%	High School Graduate, Not in School, Unemployed
[5,108]	31.4%	High School Graduate, Not in School, Not in Labor Force
[8,435]	51.8%	School Dropout, Not in Labor Force

Children In Their Families



Families nurture the **future**, providing Oklahoma children their primary relationships, often biological, always social, emotional and economic. Families are expected to meet their children's needs for food, shelter and intimacy. Families are where children are motivated, learn respect and develop resiliency. Children carry their family traditions and cultures into Oklahoma's future. Oklahoma families are facing new realities. A narrow definition of **family** – a breadwinning father, a caretaking mother and two or more children – no longer fits Oklahoma families. Longer life spans, effective birth control, participation of women in the work force, skyrocketing divorce rates, social problems and economic realities have converged to reshape family life in Oklahoma. Today, a majority **52.4%** of Oklahoma families have no children living in their home. Today's Oklahoma families with children come in all shapes and sizes. They might be headed by married couples, single mothers and fathers, grandparents or other relatives. As these Oklahoma families suffer or prosper, Oklahoma children will suffer or prosper.

This section of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook examines Census 2000 income comparisons to display the well-being of children in Oklahoma families. The following review of family experience focuses on household composition, displaying numbers and rates of children living in families without two parents or being raised by their grandparents.

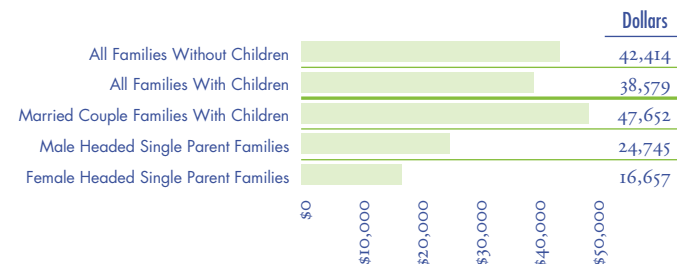
Children do best when they live in families that earn enough to meet their needs. With half of Oklahoma's families with children living above the median and half living below

Income	
Median income of Oklahoma families with children	\$38,579

it, median annual income measures the economic security of children by looking at the family wage earner's ability to earn a decent living. Oklahoma's median annual income of \$38,579 for families with children is almost ten thousand dollars below the median income for the United States (\$48,196), placing Oklahoma near the bottom (45TH) of the national rankings. Only families with children in Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Mississippi and West Virginia live on less income than such families earn in

Median Family Income

By Family type, Oklahoma: 2000

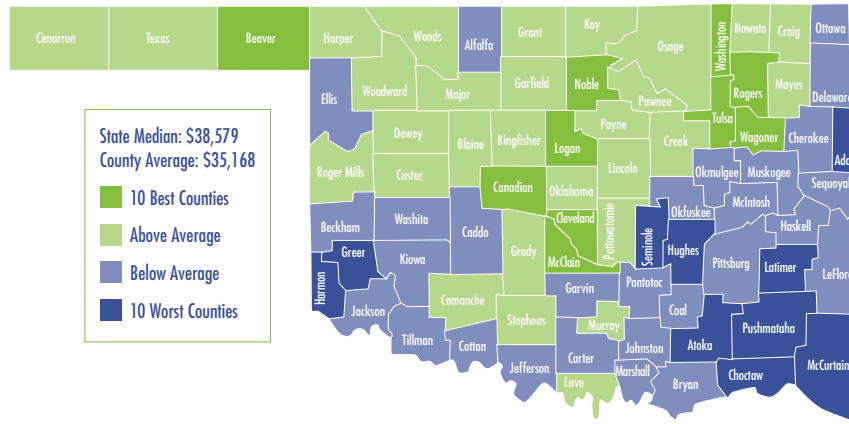


Oklahoma. Varying dramatically by county, median incomes for families with children are the lowest and worst in Harmon County (\$24,688) with an amount which is less than half that found in the highest and best in Rogers County (\$50,983). Family income is lower for Oklahoma families with children (\$38,579) than it is for

those without (\$42,414). Children living with a single parent do not fare well economically. Median family income for a male-headed single parent family with children is almost half (\$24,745) that for a married couple family with children (\$47,652). If the single parent family with children is headed by a female, the

Median Income

Families With Children, Oklahoma & Counties: 2000



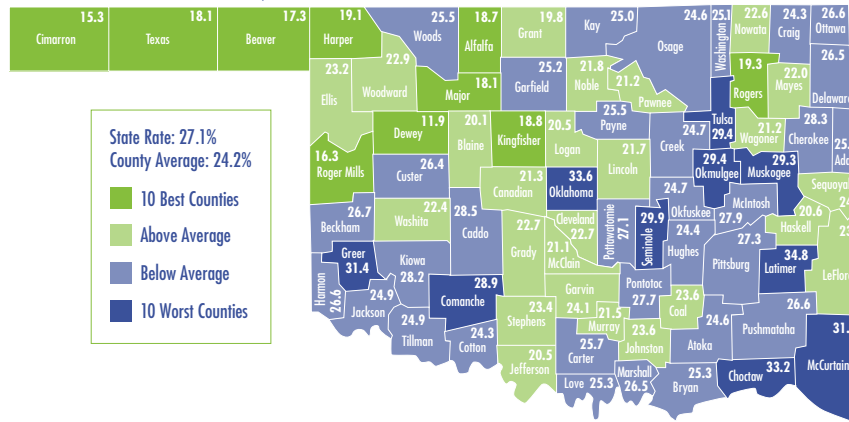
median family income plummets to only \$16,657 each year.

It is generally accepted and research confirms that children do best when they live in supportive two-parent families. Half of Oklahoma's children will spend some part of their childhood living with a single parent. Matching the rate for the United States as a whole (27.1%), more than one in four (119,914, or 27.1%) Oklahoma families with children are headed by a single parent, placing Oklahoma near the middle (30th) of all states in its share of families in which children live with only one parent. Across Oklahoma counties the proportion of families with children who live with only one parent ranges from the lowest and best rate of just under twelve percent (11.9%) in Dewey County to a rate more than three times higher in Latimer County (34.8%). While the large majority (72.9%) of Oklahoma families with children live with two parents, more than three-quarters (75.8%) of Oklahoma's single parent households with children are headed by females.

With median incomes of \$38,067 in Oklahoma County and \$44,689 in Tulsa County, incomes for families with children are better than average in the state's two large metropolitan counties which together are populated by one-third (158,302, or 35.8%) of all Oklahoma families with children.

Single Parent Families With Children

Percent of All Families With Children, Oklahoma & Counties: 2000

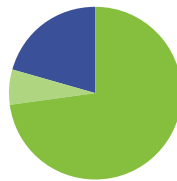


More than forty percent (50,012, or 41.7%) of Oklahoma's single parent families reside in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Tulsa or Oklahoma County) which together are populated by one-third (158,302, or 35.8%) of all Oklahoma families with children

Families With Children

By Family Type, Oklahoma: 2000, Number: 442,050

[322,136]	72.9%	Married Couple Headed
[28,991]	6.6%	Single Male Headed
[90,923]	20.6%	Single Female Headed



For the first time Census 2000 formally counted the number of grandparents with primary responsibility for raising their own grandchildren. Oklahomans take care of their own. Almost sixty percent (58.5%) of

Oklahoma grandparents who live with their own grandchild assume the primary responsibility for raising that grandchild, placing Oklahoma second only to Wyoming (58.6%). An Oklahoma grandparent is raising their own grandchild in almost forty thousand (39,279) Oklahoma households. The increasing number

	Number	Percent
Oklahoma families with children headed by a single parent	119,911	27.1%

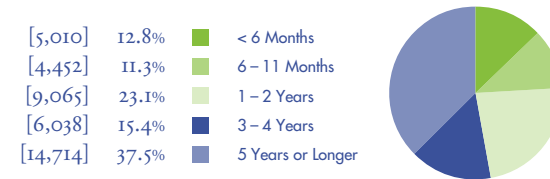
of grandparents having to raise their own grandchildren may be fueled by teen pregnancy, out-of-wedlock birth, substance abuse, death, disability, mental illness, imprisonment or poverty among the birthparents. Few are temporary arrangements. Most (52.9%) of these households find the grandparent having assumed primary responsibility for their grandchild for three years or longer. Compared to only 1.5% nationally, more than two percent (2.1%) of all Oklahomans age thirty (30) and over living in a household

is a grandparent raising their own grandchild. Comparable county rates range from under one percent (0.7%) in Ellis County to almost four percent (3.7%) in Adair County.

	Number	Percent
Number of grandparents raising their own grandchild as percent of householders age 30 and over	39,279	2.1%

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

By Length of Time, Oklahoma: 2000, Number: 39,279



Children In Their Neighborhoods



Children are impacted by their **surroundings** ... the families, neighborhoods and communities in which they live. Large numbers of Oklahoma children are growing up in **neighborhoods** where high poverty is the norm, where it is common for families to be headed by only the mother, where teens regularly drop out of school and where men do not work. Ambitions, possibilities and limitations are often established for young people through their life experiences in such neighborhoods. Children look up to and follow the people they know, neighbors providing **role models** for their future. Regardless of the specific circumstances of each individual or family, all who live in a typical disadvantaged neighborhood are disadvantaged. All neighbors have limited access to services and transportation. All neighbors deal with high prices and little opportunity.

The four maps spread across the bottom on these two pages display areas in which large portions of county children live in distressed neighborhoods. Each map looks at a different troublesome factor – child poverty, female-headed households with children, high school dropouts and non-working men – to measure the proportion of county children

who live in neighborhoods where the rate for that factor is one and one-half times higher than it is for the state. Taken together, these four factors provide a comprehensive picture for each county of the neighborhoods in which children live.

The individual county's rank on each of the four factors is combined

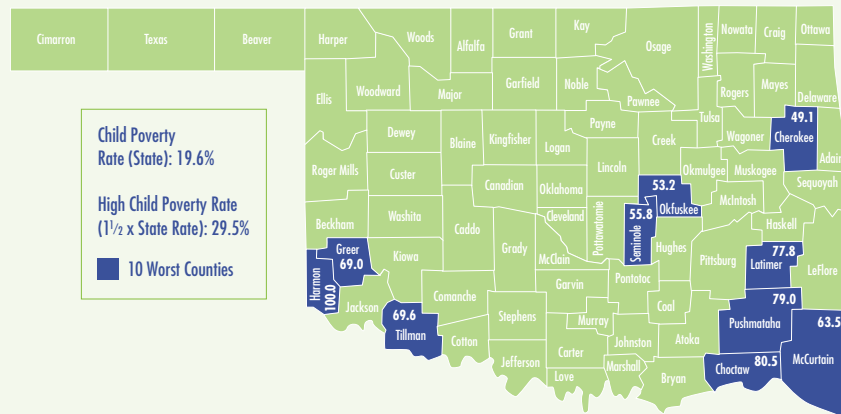


into a *Disadvantaged Neighborhood Index* in which the higher the number, the more disadvantaged the neighborhoods in which larger proportions of their children live. Fifteen Oklahoma counties (Beaver, Cimarron, Cotton, Dewey, Ellis, Grant, Harper, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Love, Murray, Noble, Nowata, Roger Mills, and Washita) have a

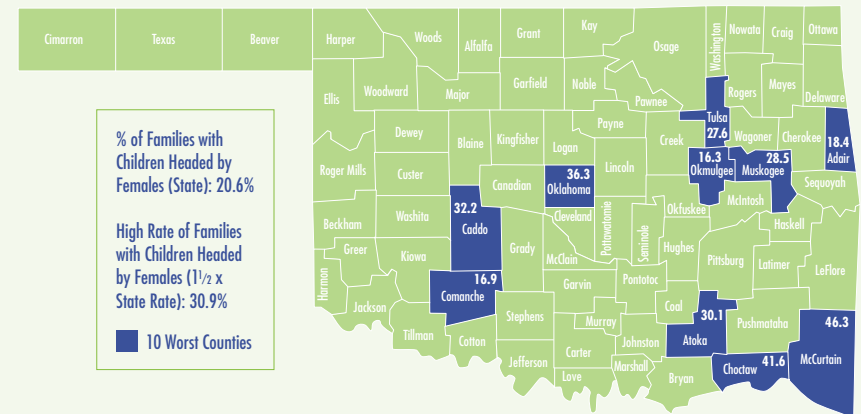
Across the state, more than one of every five children (21.1%) lives in a neighborhood in which the rate of poverty among the neighborhood children is very high (above 29.5%), one and a half times higher than the state rate (19.6%). In the ten worst areas of the state, half or more of the county's children (49.1% in Cherokee County to 100.0% in Harmon County) live in high poverty areas.

Almost one of every six Oklahoma children (17.5%) lives where the proportion of single parent families headed by females is excessive (above 30.9%), one and a half times higher than the state rate (20.6%). Ranked last among Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties, almost one of every two children (46.3%) in McCurtain County lives in a neighborhood populated by a high rate of single parent households headed by females.

Children Living in Neighborhoods With High Child Poverty Rates



Children Living in Neighborhoods With High Rates of Single Parent Families With Children Headed by Females





Disadvantaged Neighborhood Index of “0,” demonstrating that none of their children live in neighborhoods where large proportions of the children suffer high rates of poverty, where more families than usual are headed by a single mother with no husband present, where disproportionately high rates of children drop out of high school, or where a larger than usual

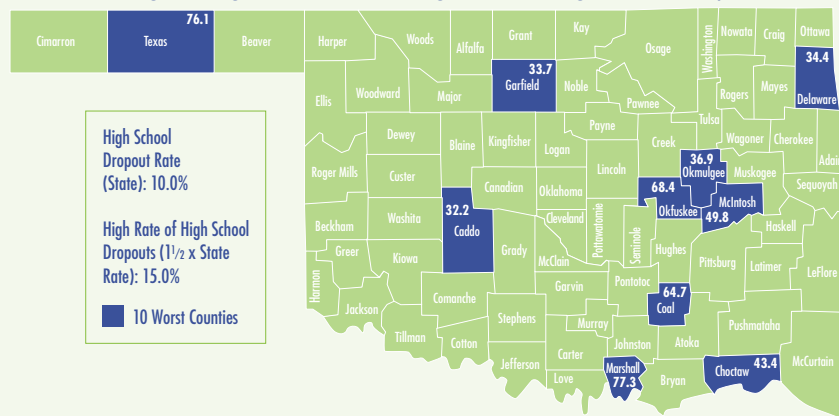


proportion of the men are not in the labor force at all. In the ten worst counties, generating a *Disadvantaged Neighborhood Index* of 222 to 296, a large proportion of children live in very disadvantaged neighborhoods. Among these ten counties are those where as high as eighty percent (80.5%, Choctaw County) of the children live in a high poverty neighborhood, up to half

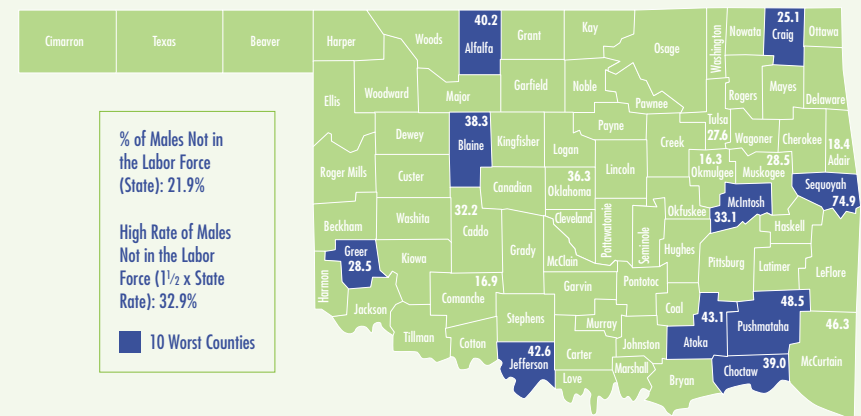
Nearly one of every four children (22.4%) lives in an Oklahoma neighborhood where the high school drop out rate is extreme (above 15.0%), one and one-half times higher than average (10.0%). In the ten worst areas of the state, a third or more of the county’s children (32.2% in Caddo County to 77.3% in Marshall County) live where a large proportion of high school students drop out of school.

One of every fifteen Oklahoma children (6.7%) lives where the proportion of non-working males is noticeably high (above 32.9%), one and a half times higher than the state rate (21.9%). Ranked last among Oklahoma’s seventy-seven counties, three of every four children (74.9%) in Sequoyah County live in neighborhoods populated by high rates of men who are not in the work force.

Children Living in Neighborhoods With High Rates of High School Dropouts



Children Living in Neighborhoods With High Rates of Males Not in the Labor Force

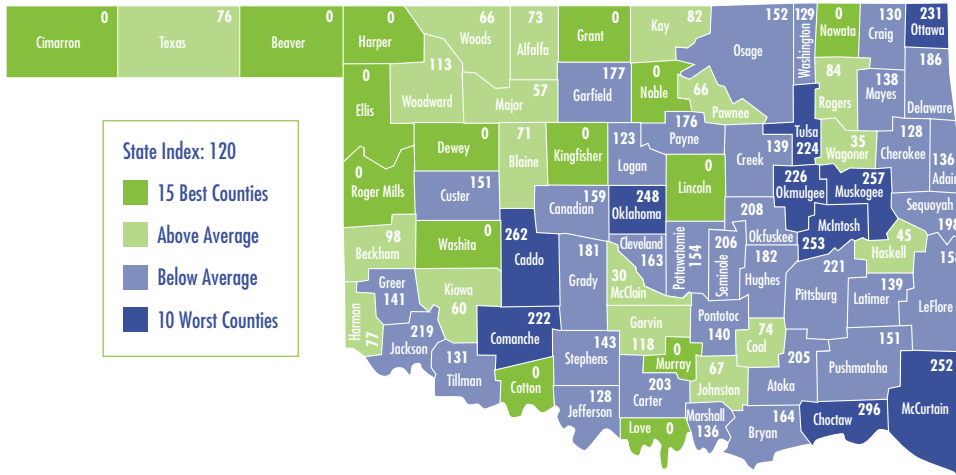


Disadvantaged Neighborhood Index

Oklahoma & Counties: 2000

- % of Children in Neighborhoods with High Child Poverty Rates (above 29.5%)
- % of Children in Neighborhoods with High Rates of Single Parent Families Headed by Females (above 30.9%)
- % of Children in Neighborhoods with High Rates of High School Dropouts (above 15.0%)
- % of Children in Neighborhoods with High Rates of Males Not in the Labor Force (32.9%)

(46.3%, McCurtain County) of the children live where it is more common than usual for neighborhood families to be headed by a single mother, up to half (49.8%, McCurtain County) of the children live with neighbors who are more likely than normal to be high school dropouts, and up to thirty-nine percent (39.0%, Choctaw County) of the children live where high rates of men don't work. More limitations than possibilities may be established for young people through their experiences living in those neighborhoods.



With indexes of 224 for Tulsa County and 248 for Oklahoma County, the state's two large metropolitan counties fall within the worst ten counties.

Conclusion



This 2003 CENSUS EDITION of the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook uses the latest decennial census data (Census 2000) to provide the most comprehensive state and county information available about individual children, children in their families and children in their neighborhoods. While the Census Bureau continues its efforts to improve the data becoming available between each decade's census, much of the data collected and displayed on these pages will not be comprehensively updated with this level of detail for many years to come.

beyond. This baseline, future Census Bureau data releases and the Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook's continual tracking of benchmarks which measure the well-being of Oklahoma children over time and across counties will blend together the knowledge and information necessary for Oklahoma policy makers and advocates to enable each individual child to enjoy the benefits of a solid beginning, a successful childhood and an optimistic future.

The rich and complex picture of Oklahoma's children presented in these pages establishes a new baseline for the twenty-first century, and



County Profiles

I'm a FlowerGIRL
I Like to plant
Flowers The
Flowers make
Me
Happy
My
MOM
And
Me
ARE
happy