

Economic Clusters and State Benchmarks



OKLAHOMA'S ECONOMIC CLUSTERS

The 2009 Oklahoma KIDS COUNT Factbook again divides Oklahoma's 77 counties into five clusters with similar conditions based on four economic factors:

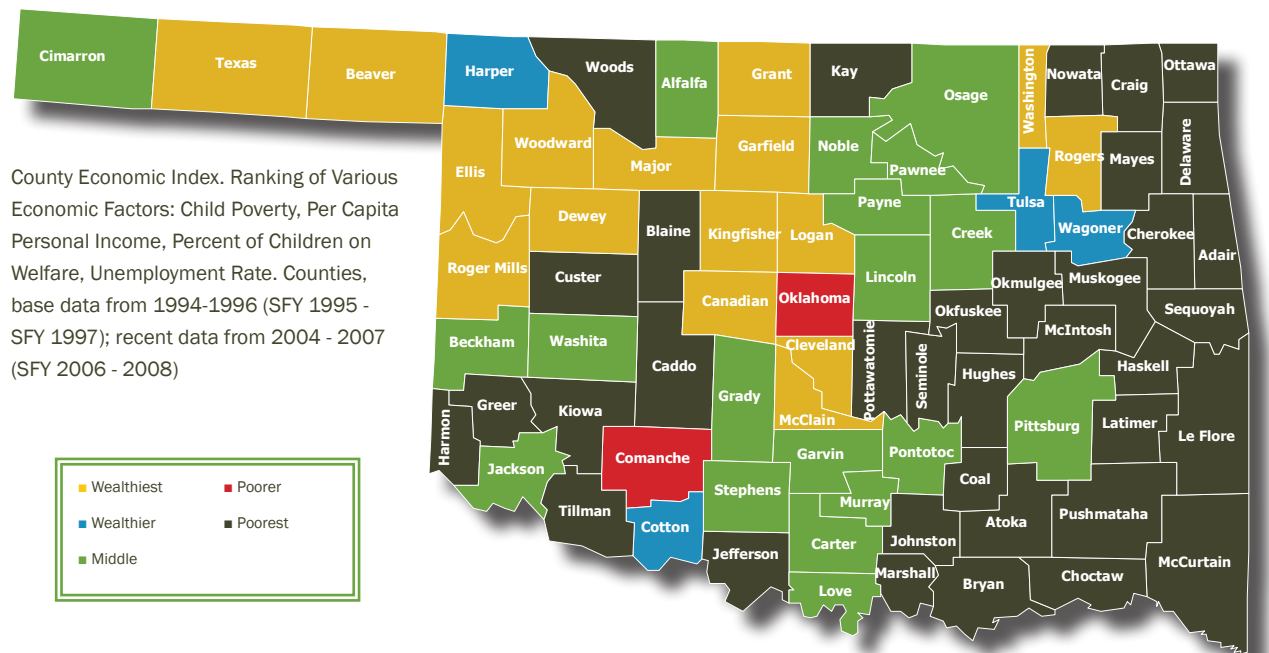
- *Child Poverty Rates (2007 US Census)* – the best measure of the presence of very poor children in a community
- *Per Capita Personal Income (2004 - 2006 Average Annual)* – the most current measure of income levels of people in a community
- *Percent of Children Receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) (FY 2006 - FY 2008 Average Annual)* – the most current measure of children required to survive on inadequate resources
- *Unemployment Rates (2005 - 2007 Average Annual)* – the best measure of people's ability to improve economic conditions through work

Taken together, these factors provide a comprehensive picture of a county's economic status in a manner that can be ranked, grouped into clusters, updated and tracked from year to year. Each county is ranked on each of the four factors. The four individual county rankings are combined into an "Economic Index" in which the lower the number, the wealthier the county. Each county is ranked again according to its "Economic Index" and grouped into one of five economic clusters: wealthiest, wealthier, middle, poorer or poorest. Changes in local economic conditions resulted in placing several Oklahoma counties in a different cluster than in prior years. Each cluster is composed of approximately twenty percent (20%) of the state's population.

These five clusters continue to illustrate the diverse economic environments in which Oklahoma children live. Oklahoma's wealthiest counties remain primarily concentrated in the northwestern part of Oklahoma, with a few adjacent to the state's two largest urban counties (Oklahoma and Tulsa). The poorest counties remain primarily concentrated in the southeastern corner, with substantial numbers found in the southwest and the northeast.

As in the past, this year's profiles of the five clusters repeat clear patterns in Oklahoma's economic landscape. More than twice the number of children live in poverty in Oklahoma's poorest cluster of counties than do in the state's wealthiest cluster. Children in Oklahoma's poorest counties are twice as likely to be on welfare. Incomes are the lowest,

ECONOMIC CLUSTERS



unemployment rates are the highest and economic distress is entrenched in these poorest, mostly rural Oklahoma counties.

The cluster of Oklahoma's wealthiest counties has the best indicators for half of the twelve benchmark areas investigated by Oklahoma KIDS COUNT: infants born under five and one-half pounds, births to young teens, births to older teens, births to all teens, high school dropouts

and juvenile violent crime arrests. This group of wealthy counties also ties for the best rate of child and teen death rates.

With a rate more than twice as high as most other clusters, the second most economically advantaged cluster (wealthier counties) has the worst rate of juvenile violent crime arrests.

	All Counties	Cluster 1 Wealthiest Counties
Total Population (2007)	3,617,316	681,426 (18.8%)
Child Population (2007)	899,507	162,767 (18.1%)
Number of Counties	77 (100.0%)	16 (20.8%)
Percent of Child Population Residing in Metropolitan Counties	65.6%	71.6%
Percent of Child Population Residing in Mid-Size Counties	13.9%	15.9%
Percent of Child Population Residing in Rural Counties	20.5%	12.6%
Number and Percent of Children Living in Poverty (2007)	196,160 (22.2%)	23,114 (14.4%)
Average of County Per Capita Incomes (2004-2006)	\$24,727	\$27,904
Average Monthly Number and Percent of Children Receiving TANF (FY2006 - FY2008)	18,470 (2.1%)	1,964 (1.2%)
Average of County Unemployment Rates (2005-2007)	5.5%	3.7%
Average Annual Percent of Low Birthweight Babies, less than 5 ½ lbs (2005-2007)	8.1%	7.3%
Average Annual Percent of Very Low Birthweight Babies, less than 3 lbs, 5 oz. (2005-2007)	1.4%	1.2%
Average Annual Rate of Births to Young Teen Girls ages 15 through 17 (2005-2007)	29.3 per 1,000 young teen girls	17.7 per 1,000 young teen girls
Average Annual Rate of Births to Older Teens ages 18 through 19 (2005-2007)	96.4 per 1,000 older teen girls	64.9 per 1,000 older teen girls
Average Annual Rate of Births to Teens ages 15 through 19 (2005-2007)	56.3 per 1,000 teen girls	37.1 per 1,000 teen girls
Average Annual Rate of Child Abuse/Neglect Confirmations (FY2006-FY2008)	14.5 per 1,000 children	10.7 per 1,000 children
Average Annual High School Dropout Rate (School years 2005/2006 through 2007/ 2008)	3.3%	2.4%
Average Annual Violent Crime Arrest Rate of Youth ages 10 through 17 (2005-2007)	185.3 per 100,000 youth	83.2 per 100,000 youth
Average Annual Rate of Infant Mortality (2004-2006)	8.0 per 1,000 births	7.7 per 1,000 births
Average Annual Death Rate among Children ages 1 through 14 (2004-2006)	27.9 per 100,000 children	23.8 per 100,000 children
Average Annual Death Rate among Teens ages 15 through 19 (2004-2006)	80.2 per 100,000 teens	61.4 per 100,000 teens
Average Annual Death Rate among Children and Teens ages 1 through 19 (2004-2006)	42.3 per 100,000 youth	34.9 per 100,000 youth

The cluster of Oklahoma's poorest counties has the worst indicators for six of the twelve benchmark areas investigated by Oklahoma KIDS COUNT: births to older teens, births to all teens, child abuse and neglect confirmations, child death rates, teen death rates and death rates for children and teens.

Oklahoma's poorer counties have the worst rates on two indicators: low birthweight babies and infant mortality.



Cluster 2 Wealthier Counties	Cluster 3 Middle Counties	Cluster 4 Poorer Counties	Cluster 5 Poorest Counties
661,860 (18.3%)	591,521 (16.4%)	815,618 (22.5%)	866,891 (24.0%)
173,760 (19.3%)	137,297 (15.3%)	218,655 (24.3%)	207,208 (23.0%)
4 (5.2%)	19 (24.7%)	2 (2.6%)	36 (46.8%)
98.7%	37.3%	100.0%	15.5%
0.0%	39.4%	0.0%	21.8%
1.3%	23.3%	0.0%	62.6%
35,514 (20.8%)	28,913 (21.5%)	49,336 (23.0%)	59,283 (29.3%)
\$30,965	\$24,515	\$32,347	\$22,312
2,627 (1.5%)	1,869 (1.4%)	7,287 (3.4%)	4,722 (2.3%)
4.4%	5.2%	4.8%	6.6%
8.2%	8.1%	8.9%	7.8%
1.6%	1.3%	1.6%	1.4%
29.5 per 1,000 young teen girls	26.1 per 1,000 young teen girls	36.0 per 1,000 young teen girls	34.3 per 1,000 young teen girls
102.8 per 1,000 older teen girls	83.8 per 1,000 older teen girls	111.9 per 1,000 older teen girls	112.9 per 1,000 older teen girls
57.1 per 1,000 teen girls	50.7 per 1,000 teen girls	66.3 per 1,000 teen girls	65.9 per 1,000 teen girls
9.4 per 1,000 children	16.0 per 1,000 children	16.8 per 1,000 children	18.3 per 1,000 children
4.5%	3.3%	3.0%	3.2%
334.8 per 100,000 youth	101.5 per 100,000 youth	233.9 per 100,000 youth	160.6 per 100,000 youth
7.6 per 1,000 births	7.9 per 1,000 births	8.9 per 1,000 births	7.6 per 1,000 births
22.5 per 100,000 children	32.1 per 100,000 children	26.1 per 100,000 children	34.3 per 100,000 children
93.3 per 100,000 teens	83.9 per 100,000 teens	60.7 per 100,000 teens	99.5 per 100,000 teens
40.3 per 100,000 youth	47.4 per 100,000 youth	34.9 per 100,000 youth	53.0 per 100,000 youth

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS

Low birthweight predicts later difficulties for Oklahoma babies. Most of the infants who die each year are born too small. Of those who live, one in four will experience serious health and/or developmental problems. As they grow, depression, anxiety, hyperactivity and aggression often create unmanageable social difficulties.



Each year over four thousand Oklahoma babies (4,112 average annual, 2005 - 2007) are born too small (weighing less than 5 ½ pounds). The lower the birthweight, the greater the harm. One in five of Oklahoma's low birthweight infants (802 average annual, 2005 - 2007) is born very, very tiny (weighing less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces).

The proportion of Oklahoma babies born too small improved (7.7% of all births, 2005 - 2007) when compared to the three year period just one year earlier (8.1% of all births, 2004 - 2006). During the same time period comparable rates improved in most (45 of 77) Oklahoma counties.

The trend of babies born too small has continued for years. A higher proportion of Oklahoma babies (7.7% of all births) are born too small (weighing less than 5 ½ pounds) today as compared to those born in the mid-1990's (7.1% of all births), with such rates worsening over this longer period of time in three-quarters of Oklahoma's counties (56 of

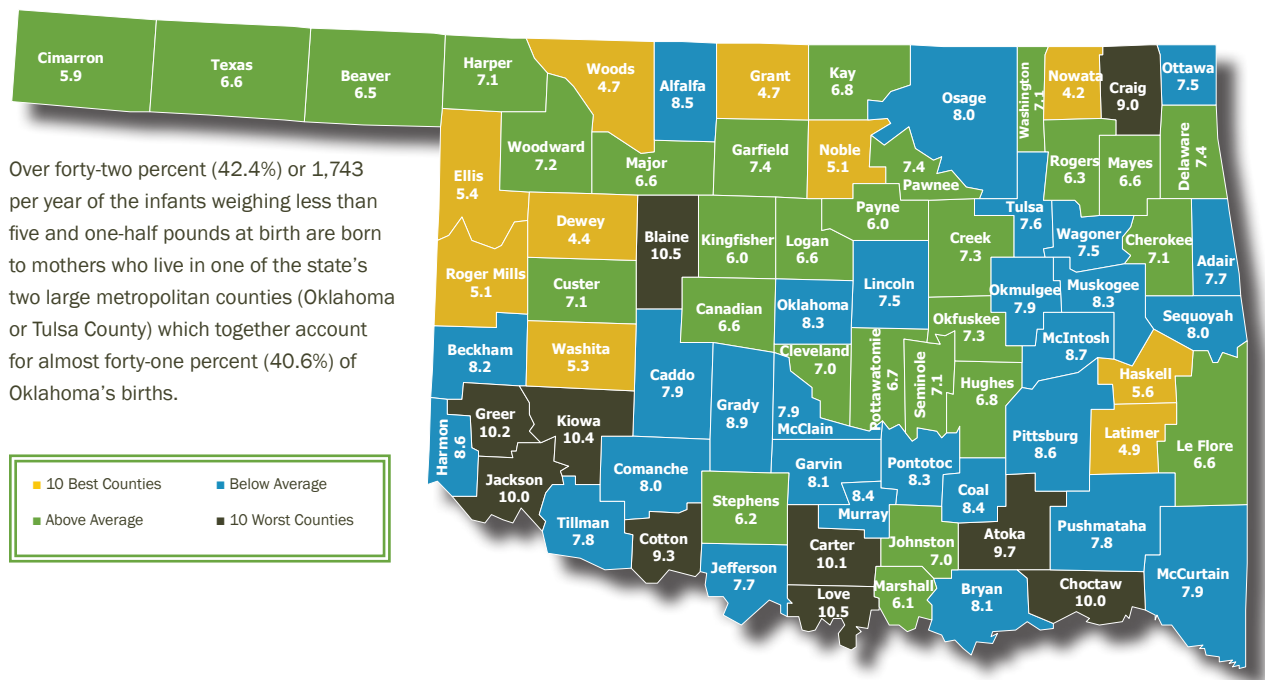
77). Currently, the highest and worst low birthweight rate (10.5% of all births to mothers living in the county) is found in Blaine County; the lowest and best (4.2% of all births to mothers living in the county) is in Nowata County.

The current rate (1.5% of all births, 2005 - 2007) for Oklahoma's smallest infants (weighing less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces) worsens as compared to the mid-1990's (1.2% of all births). Comparable rates worsen in most (55 of 77) Oklahoma counties. Currently, the highest and worst very low birthweight rate (4.8% of all births to mothers living in the county) is found in Greer County; the lowest and best (0.0% of all births to mothers living in the county) is in four Oklahoma counties (Alfalfa, Cimarron, Ellis and Harper).

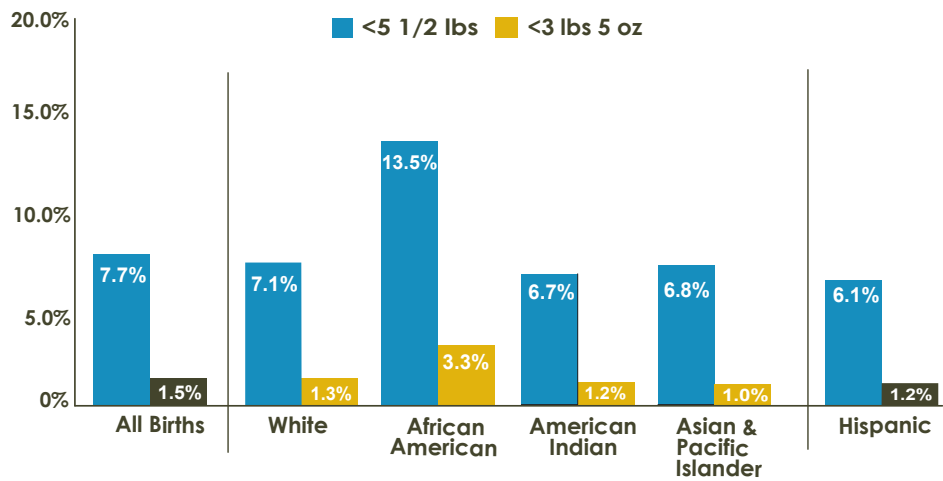
The rate of African American babies born too small (13.5% under 5 ½ pounds; 3.3% under 3 pounds, 5 ounces) virtually doubles the rate for White infants (7.1% under 5 ½

THREE-YEAR PERCENT OF INFANTS BORN WEIGHING LESS THAN 5 ½ POUNDS (2005-2007)

Over forty-two percent (42.4%) or 1,743 per year of the infants weighing less than five and one-half pounds at birth are born to mothers who live in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together account for almost forty-one percent (40.6%) of Oklahoma's births.



Low Birthweight Babies Three-year
Percent by Weight
by Race and Ethnicity
Oklahoma (2005-2007)



pounds; 1.3% under 3 pounds, 5 ounces). By race, the best low birthweight rate is recorded for American Indian infants (6.7% under 5 ½ pounds) and the best very low birthweight rate is for Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.0% under 3 pounds, 5 ounces). Low birthweight rates for Hispanic mothers, who may be of any race, are relatively good (6.1% under 5 ½ pounds; 1.2% under 3 pounds, 5 ounces).

While early prenatal care is known to improve these rates, four in ten (40.1%, 2005-2007) of Oklahoma’s babies are born to mothers who failed to receive the recommended level of prenatal care.

Ranking near the middle of all the states, Oklahoma’s rate of low birthweight infants remains average relative to other parts of the country. Oklahoma is ranked 21st among the fifty states during the most recent year (2005) compared.



BIRTHS TO TEENS

Young mothers and their children face bleak futures. Each young mother is more likely to be poor, to be a victim of physical violence, to have been the victim of non-consensual sex before reaching her teen years, to have another child before reaching adulthood, to drop out of school, to have unsteady employment, to be on public assistance at some point in her life, to be less skilled, and to experience marital instability compared to peers who delay childbearing until age twenty or later. Each infant born to a teenager is more likely than other babies to be born too small, to die before his or her first birthday, and to face a future of living in poverty with an unstable family.



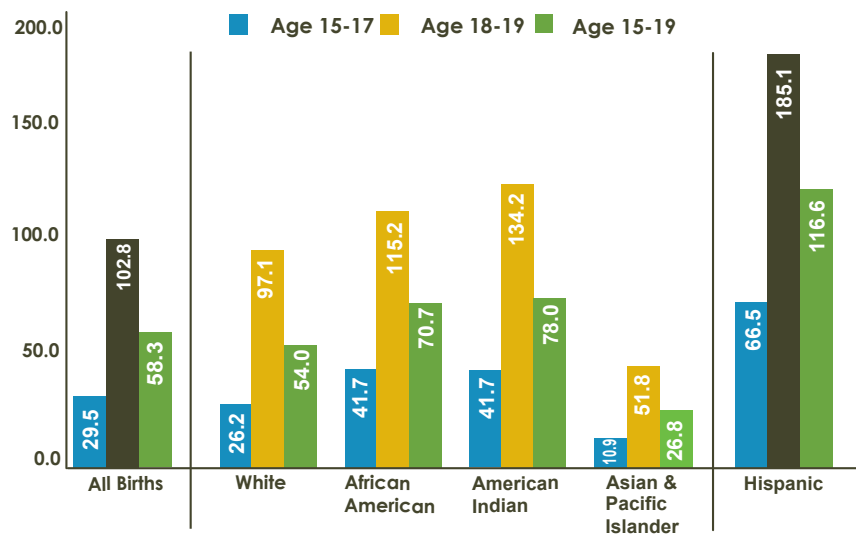
More than seven thousand (7,244 average annual, 2005 - 2007) babies are born annually to Oklahoma teen mothers under the age of 20. Each year almost five thousand (4,945 average annual, 2005 - 2007) of those babies are born to teen mothers ages 18 and 19. The rest of the babies, almost twenty-three hundred (2,299 average annual, 2005 - 2007), are born to Oklahoma school-age girls (age 17 and under). Over a hundred (101 average annual, 2005 - 2007) of those school age girls are age fourteen or younger. For the latest year confirmed (2007), three of Oklahoma's new mothers were only twelve years of age.

Unfortunately, during the most recent three years for which data is available (2005 - 2007), the rate of births to Oklahoma teens continued to worsen (29.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15 through 17; 102.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 18 and 19) when compared to the three-year period one year earlier (29.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15 through 17; 96.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 18 and 19;

2003 - 2005). During this recent year birth rates for both age groups also worsen in most Oklahoma counties (44 of 77 for girls ages 15 through 17; 64 of 77 for older teens ages 18 and 19).

In spite of worsening during the recent years, the extremely high birth rates experienced by young Oklahoma teens during the mid-1990's have fallen substantially (from 38.1 to 29.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15 through 17). Improvements are not evident for older teens. The extremely high birth rates for older Oklahoma teens during the mid-1990's are virtually the same as the current rates (103.1 per 1,000 teens ages 18 and 19 in the mid-1990's compared to 102.8 births per 1,000 teens ages 18 and 19 currently). Decreased birth rates are also evident at the county level where rates for both ages improve in most Oklahoma counties (56 of 77 for girls ages 15 through 17; 39 of 77 for older teens ages 18 and 19). Currently, the highest and worst rate for girls ages 15 through 17 (66.3 births per 1,000) is found in Harmon County; the lowest

Births to Teens
Age 15 - 17, 18 and 19; 15 - 19
Rate per 1,000 Teens in Age Group
Oklahoma, By Race (2005 - 2007)



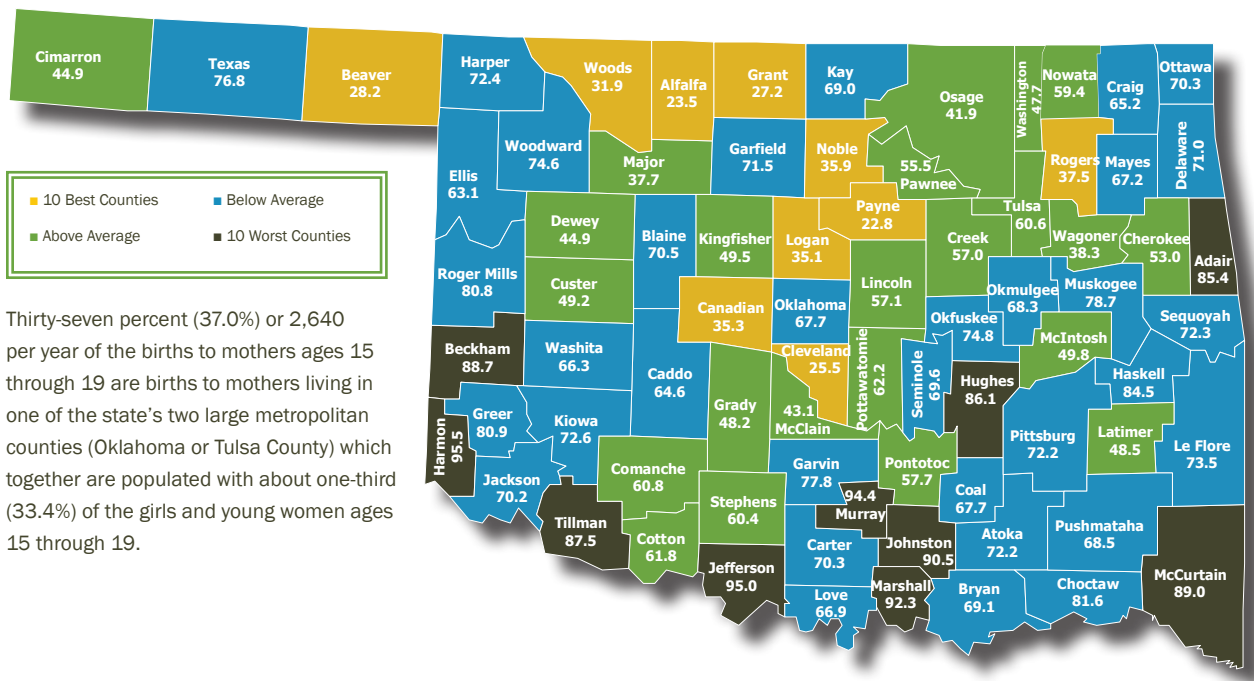
and best (5.7 births per 1,000) is in Grant County. The highest and worst rate for older teens ages 18 and 19 (193.5 births per 1,000) is found in Marshall County; the lowest and best (22.8 births per 1,000) is in Payne County.

The rate of teen births among African Americans (41.7 per 1,000 young teens ages 15 through 17; 115.2 per 1,000 older teens ages 18 and 19) and American Indians (41.7 per 1,000 young teens ages 15 through 17; 134.2 per 1,000 older teens ages 18 and 19) is substantially higher than for White teens (26.2 per 1,000 young teens ages 15 through 17; 97.1 per 1,000 older teens ages 18 and 19). The young teen birth rate (66.5 per 1,000) for Hispanic youth, who may be of any race, far exceeds twice the rate for White youth (26.2 per 1,000).

Oklahoma's teen childbearing rate was substantially above other states in 1980, but by the late 1990's, the gap had narrowed. Even so, with births to teens ages 15 through 19 ranked at forty-four, Oklahoma remains among the worst ten states in the nation during the most recent year (2005) in which states were compared.



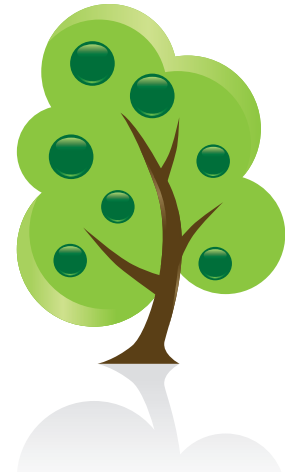
THREE-YEAR RATE OF BIRTHS PER 1,000 FEMALE TEENS AGES 15-19 (2005-2007)



Thirty-seven percent (37.0%) or 2,640 per year of the births to mothers ages 15 through 19 are births to mothers living in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together are populated with about one-third (33.4%) of the girls and young women ages 15 through 19.

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

The cycle of child abuse and neglect threatens Oklahoma's future generations. Most are victims of neglect. Physical abuse is common, with the smallest proportion of victims being sexually abused. Half of all young victims suffer delay in their development or serious physical or emotional impairments. Attachment disorders are common. School performance suffers. Poor children, low birthweight infants, infants born prematurely, and children with disabilities, chronic illness or developmental delays are at high risk for abuse from their caregivers. When victims of child abuse and neglect reach adulthood, they are more likely to become ill and die prematurely. The cycle continues. Today's victims often become tomorrow's abusers.



The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) investigates or assesses an increasing number of incidents, now more than sixty-two thousand (62,331 average annual, Fiscal Year 2006 - Fiscal Year 2008) each year, which contain allegations of serious or immediate threats to a child's safety. On average, OKDHS substantiates that nearly thirteen thousand (12,911) of those incidents are abuse and/or neglect.

The perpetrators of this substantiated abuse and neglect are the child's own caregivers — parents, grandparents, other relatives, child care providers, live-in friends of their parent, and others. Neglect constitutes most (83.0%) of the Fiscal Year 2006 - Fiscal Year 2008 confirmations. One in eight (12.3%) is physically abused and one in twenty (4.6%) is sexually abused by their caregiver.

Recent (Fiscal Year 2006 - Fiscal Year 2008) rates of confirmed child abuse and/or neglect in Oklahoma improve when compared to the three-year period just one year earlier (Fiscal Year 2005 - Fiscal Year 2007). Oklahoma abuse and neglect rates move from 15.8 to 14.5 confirmations per 1,000 children in the state. Comparable rates also improved in a large majority of Oklahoma's counties (61 of 77).

Current child abuse and neglect rates (14.5 confirmations per 1,000 children) are slightly higher than those recorded in the mid-1990's (14.3 confirmations per 1,000 children, Fiscal Year 1995 - Fiscal Year 1997). Rates worsen in just under half (38 of 77) of Oklahoma's counties from those of the mid-1990's. Currently, the highest and worst proportion of children confirmed to be victims of child abuse and/or neglect (33.0 per 1,000) is found in Johnston County; the lowest and best (5.0 per 1,000) is in Ellis County.

Child abuse deaths recorded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) reached an all time high of 51 during State Fiscal Year 2004 and fell to 32 during the most recent year for which data is available (SFY 2006). Newer OKDHS information detailing deaths resulting from child abuse is not yet available.

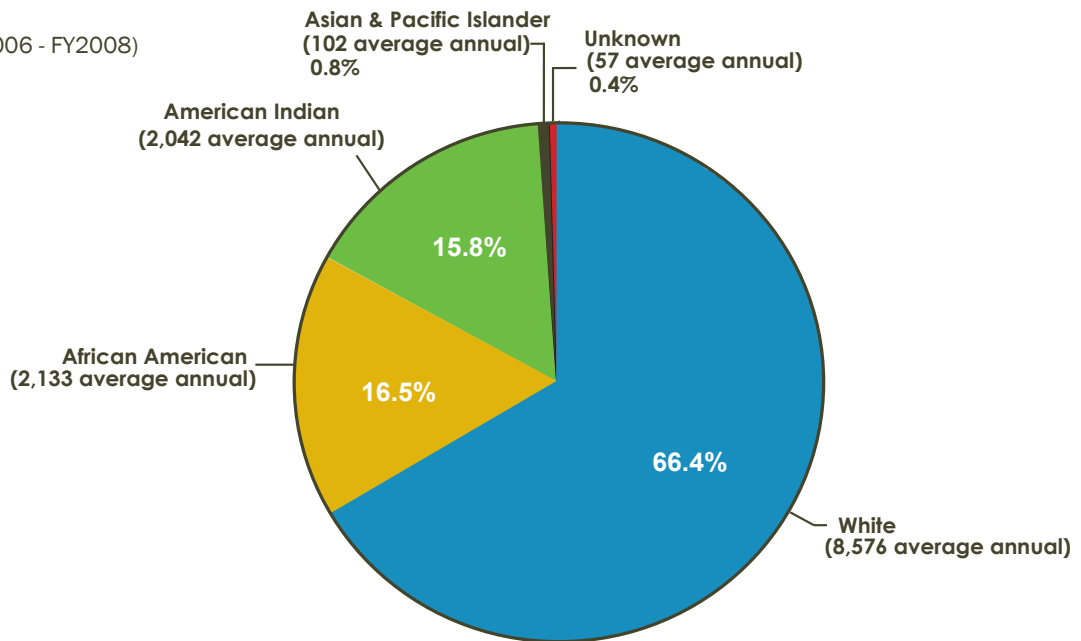
Two-thirds (66.7%) of the State Fiscal Year 2006 - State Fiscal Year 2008 confirmations of abuse and/or neglect in Oklahoma involve children who are White. However, while non-White children comprise only one-fourth (24.7%, 2007) of the child population, they account for one-third (33.3%, excluding those whose race is not known) of the confirmed child abuse and/or neglect incidents (SFY 2006 - SFY 2008).



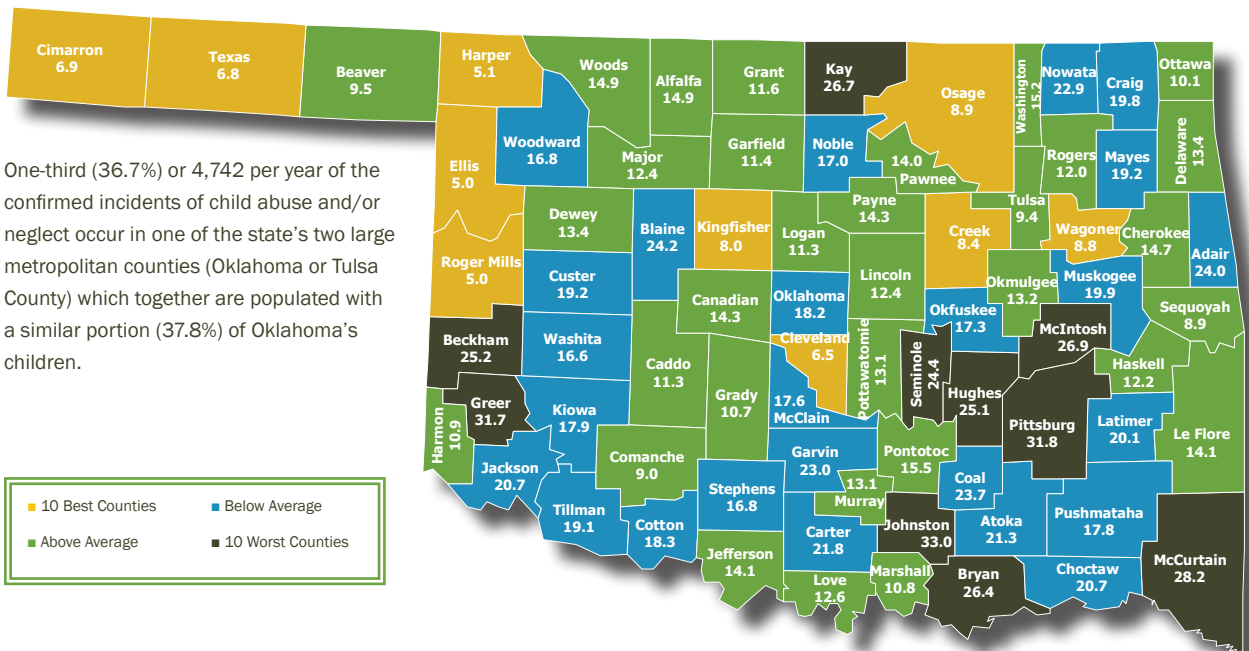
Child Abuse and Neglect Confirmations

by Race of Child

Oklahoma (FY2006 - FY2008)



THREE-YEAR RATE OF CONFIRMATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PER 1,000 CHILDREN (SFY 2006 - SFY 2008)



HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Lack of education threatens current and future generations of Oklahoma children and youth. Completing high school alone is inadequate preparation in today's economy. Youth not completing high school face a lifetime of problems, often including poverty, little employment opportunity, poor earning ability, and criminal involvement. Unemployment rates for adult workers are twice as high for dropouts than for graduates. The majority of Oklahoma inmates are high school dropouts. Children of high school dropouts are at a higher risk of quitting school themselves.



On average, one of every four (24.0%) students in Oklahoma starting high school as a freshman disappears from the roster prior to graduation. Some transfer out of state, switch to private schools, start home schooling, become incarcerated or even die, and others change districts. Dropouts comprise the large majority of Oklahoma students lost over a four-year period. The four-year high school dropout rate for Oklahoma is estimated to be 14.2% for the class of 2007. Even while the single-year student dropout rate reported here has declined over the past several years, the four-year high-school dropout rate has remained relatively constant.

Over sixty-five hundred (6,635 average annual, school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) young

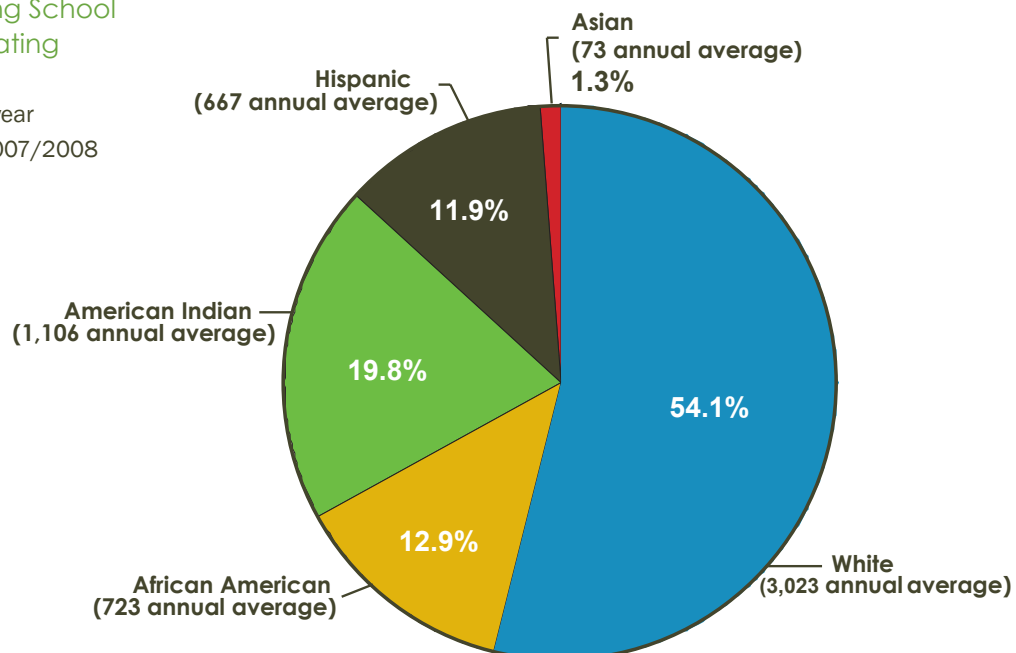
Oklahomans quit school without graduating each year. Just under six thousand (5,725) of those are under age 19 and quit during high school in a single year.

Oklahoma's single year high school dropout rate averages 3.3% during the most recent three-year period (school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008). Currently, the highest and worst rate of children leaving high school each year without graduating (8.4%) is found in Adair County; the lowest and best (0.2%) is in Cimarron County.

Recent (School Year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) high school dropout rates in Oklahoma are virtually the same as high school dropout rates for the three-year period just one year earlier (school year 2004/2005 through school year 2006/2007). State high

Students Quitting School Without Graduating

All ages by race
Oklahoma, School year
2005/2006 and 2007/2008



school dropout rates for both periods are recorded as 3.3%, with comparable rates during the same period changing little in almost every county. Only one county changed more than one percent (Adair County, worsening 1.4%). All of the other counties improved (40 of the remaining 76) or worsened (36 of the remaining 76) less than 1% from the prior three-year period.

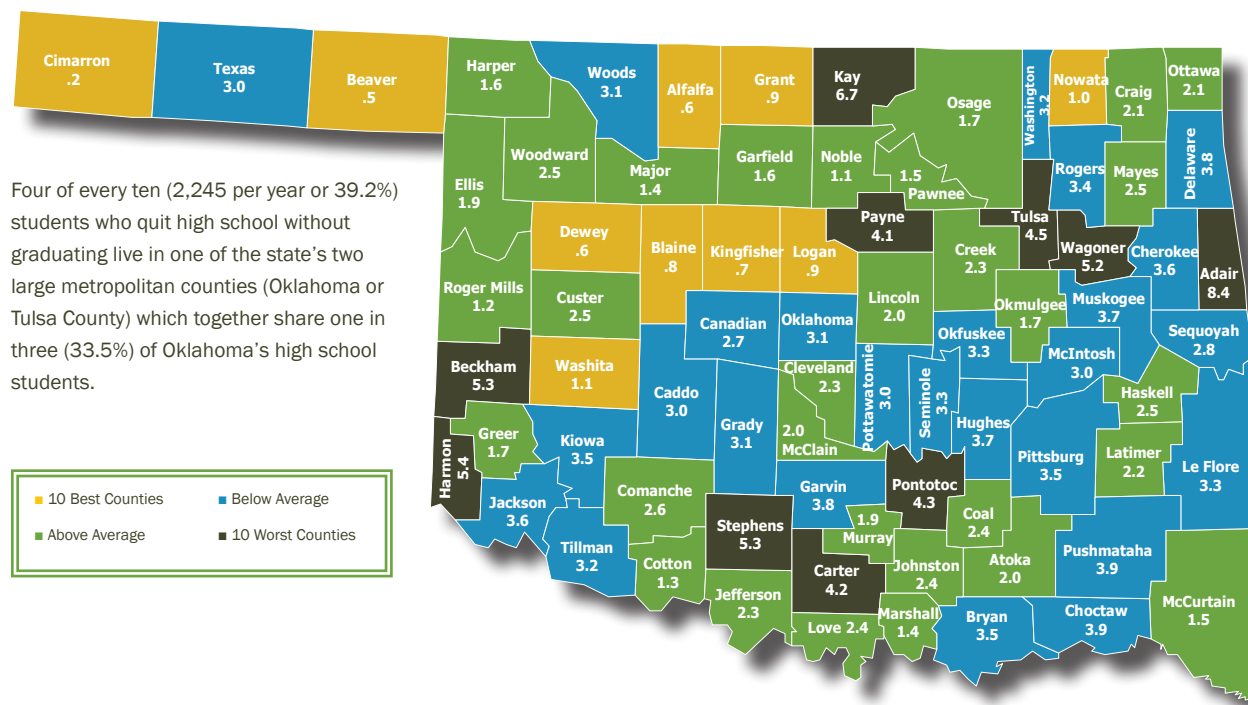
The proportion of high school dropouts who are girls (46.4%, average annual school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) and the proportion who are boys (53.6%, average annual school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) changes little from year to year. Seventeen remains the most common age an Oklahoma dropout leaves high school. The largest proportion (28.0%, average annual school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) of students leave school during the eleventh grade.

During the most recent three-year period (school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) more than half (2,970 per year or 53.1%) of all children failing to finish high school are economically disadvantaged and one in six (959 per year or 17.1%) has a disability.

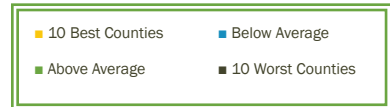
During the most recent three-year period (school year 2005/2006 through school year 2007/2008) more than half (3,023 per year or 54.0%) of all children failing to finish high school are White. While African American children comprise under twelve percent (11.6%, 2007) of the child population, they account for a slightly higher proportion (12.9%) of the high school dropouts. American Indian children make up eleven percent (11.1%, 2007) of Oklahoma's child population and almost twenty percent (19.8%) of Oklahoma's high school dropouts.

During the most recent year for which comparison data is available (2006), Oklahoma ranks in the bottom half (36th) of states in the percent of teens who are high school dropouts (14.0% of those ages 16 through 19).

THREE-YEAR RATE OF YOUTH UNDER AGE 19 DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL (SCHOOL YEAR 2005/2006 THROUGH SCHOOL YEAR 2007/2008)



Four of every ten (2,245 per year or 39.2%) students who quit high school without graduating live in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together share one in three (33.5%) of Oklahoma's high school students.



JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS

Youth engaging in murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault place themselves and their communities at risk. Children at higher risk for involvement in violence and crime include boys born to teen mothers, children from families whose parents never completed high school and young people doing poorly in school. Victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely than others to be arrested later on for delinquent behavior, crimes of violence or prostitution. A young poor child is more likely than a non-poor one to be a current victim and a later perpetrator of violent crime.



Each year more than twenty-one thousand (21,463 in 2007) criminal arrests involve juveniles. Oklahoma children and youth account for one of every seven arrests (13.2% of arrests for any crime).

Over seven hundred (724 average annual, 2005 - 2007) Oklahoma youths from the ages of 10 through 17 are arrested each year for committing a violent crime. On



average, fourteen are arrested for murder, one for manslaughter, 46 for forcible rape, 154 for robbery and 509 for aggravated assault. Four of every five (81.4%, 2005 - 2007) youth arrested for violent crimes in Oklahoma are male.

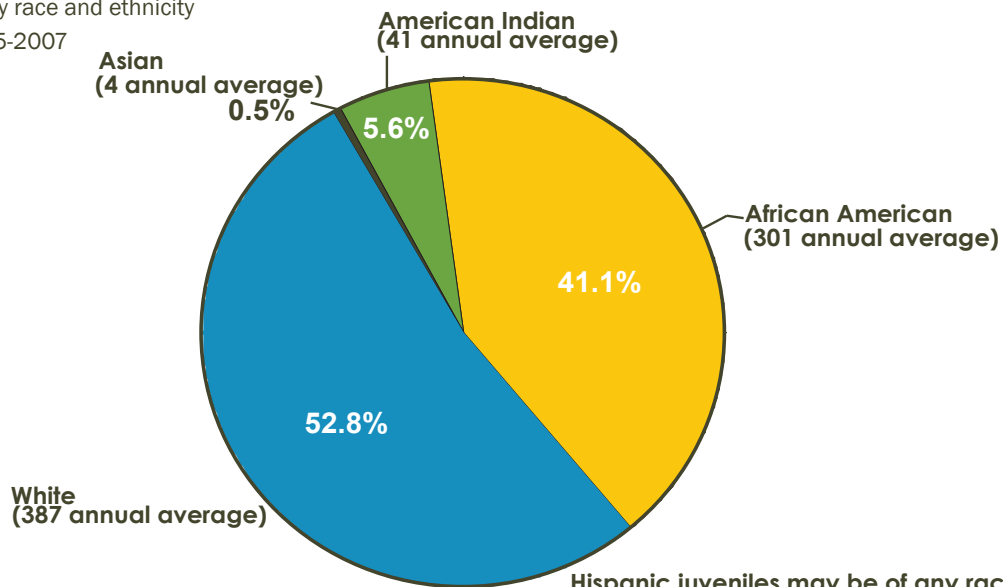
The recent (2005 - 2007) proportion of Oklahoma youths from the ages of 10 through 17 arrested for violent crimes decreases when compared to the three-year period just one year earlier (2004 - 2006). Oklahoma violent crime arrest rates for this age group move from 191.3 to 185.3 per 100,000 youth, with comparable rates staying the same or improving in most Oklahoma counties (44 of 77).

The proportion of Oklahoma youths arrested for violent crimes continues to improve from the record highs recorded during the 1990's. The most recent juvenile violent crime arrest rate (185.3 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10 - 17, 2005 - 2007) is substantially improved over that of the comparison three-year period (363.3 arrests per 100,000 youth age 10-17, 1994 - 1996). Comparable rates improve or remain the same in a substantial majority of Oklahoma counties (58 of 77). Currently, the highest and worst rate of youths from the ages of 10 through 17 (483.8 arrests per 100,000 youth) arrested for violent crimes is found in Kay County. The lowest and best rate (0.0 arrests per 100,000 youth) is in eleven Oklahoma counties (Alfalfa, Coal, Cotton, Ellis, Harmon, Harper, Kingfisher, Latimer, Love, Roger Mills and Woods).

While non-White children comprise only one-fourth (24.7%, 2007) of the child population, they account for a substantially higher proportion (47.1%) of the violent crime arrests of children under age 18 (2005 - 2007).

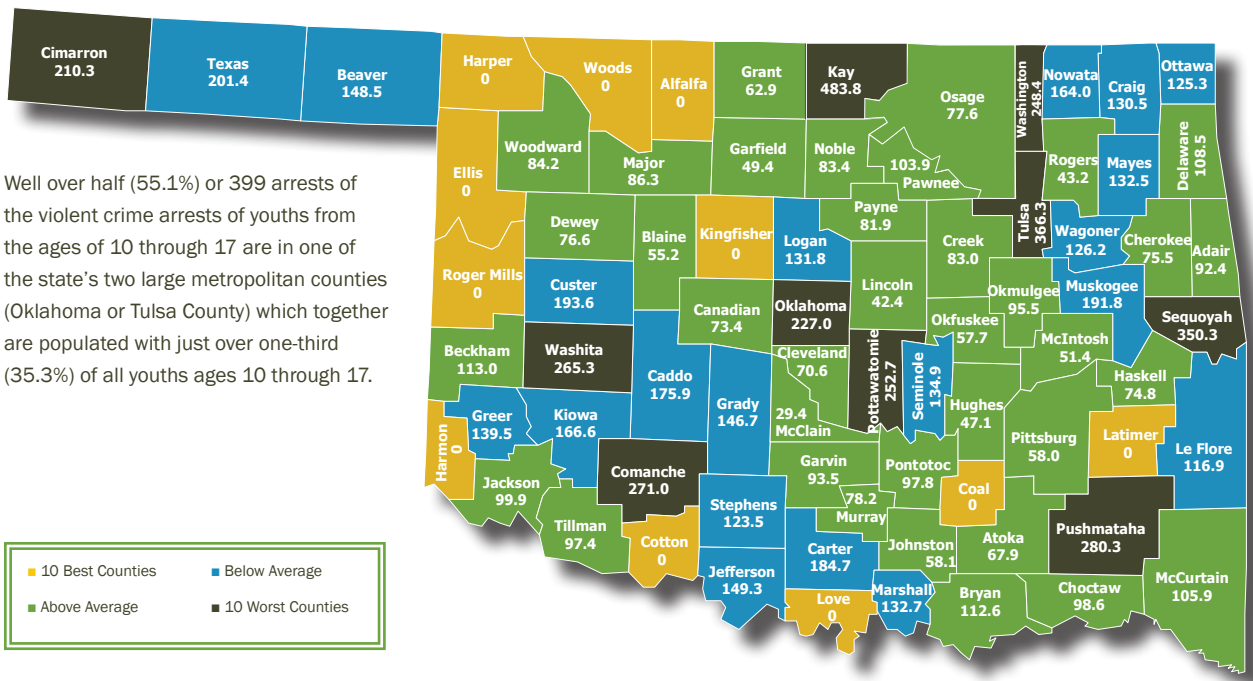
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests

Under age 18, by race and ethnicity
Oklahoma, 2005-2007



Hispanic juveniles may be of any race and with an average of 55 arrests annually comprise 7.5% of all 2005-2007 Oklahoma juvenile arrests for violent crimes

THREE-YEAR RATE OF VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS PER 100,000 YOUTH AGES 10 - 17 (2005-2007)



Eleven counties, rather than ten, are displayed as "best counties" since eleven Oklahoma counties reported no juvenile violent crime arrests during the three year period investigated.

INFANT MORTALITY

Disease, poverty, abuse, neglect, injuries or infections can cause infant death. Higher rates occur in distressed communities. Reflecting the effectiveness of educational, economic, social and health care measures, the infant mortality rate is an indicator of a community's overall quality of life.



Each year over four hundred babies born in Oklahoma (419 average annual, 2004 - 2006) do not live to see their first birthday. Causes vary widely. Babies die from birth complications, birth defects, health problems, living conditions, injuries, inadequate care, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and more.

The current (2004 - 2006) rate, 8.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, worsens when compared to the three-year period just one year earlier (7.9 deaths per 1,000 live births; 2003 - 2005). Similarly, comparable rates worsen in more than half (41 of 77) of Oklahoma's counties.

Over time, however, infant death rates decline. Today, proportionately fewer Oklahoma babies (8.0 per 1,000 live births, 2004 - 2006) die in their first year of life than did in the mid - 1990's (8.4 per 1,000 live births, 1994-1996), with rates improving or staying the same in most of Oklahoma's counties (45 of 77). Currently, the highest

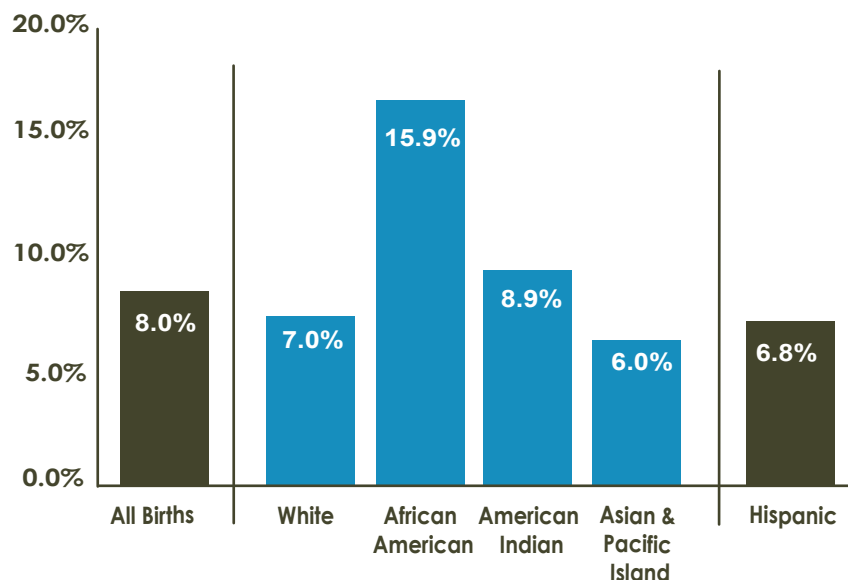
and worst infant death rate (28.3 per 1,000 live births) is found in Coal County; the lowest and best (0.0 per 1,000 live births) is found in five Oklahoma counties (Alfalfa, Ellis, Grant, Harper and Woods).

Infant death rates improve over time for all races. However, the most recent death rate for African American infants (15.9 per 1,000 African American births, 2004-2006) remains twice as high as the comparable rates for both White infants and Hispanic infants who may be of any race (7.0 per 1,000 White births; 6.8 per 1,000 Hispanic births). The lowest infant death rate is found among Asian and Pacific Islander infants (6.0 per 1,000 Asian and Pacific Islander births).

Oklahoma's rate of infant death is poor relative to other parts of the country. Oklahoma's rank among the fifty states is 40th during the most recent year (2005) in which states were compared.

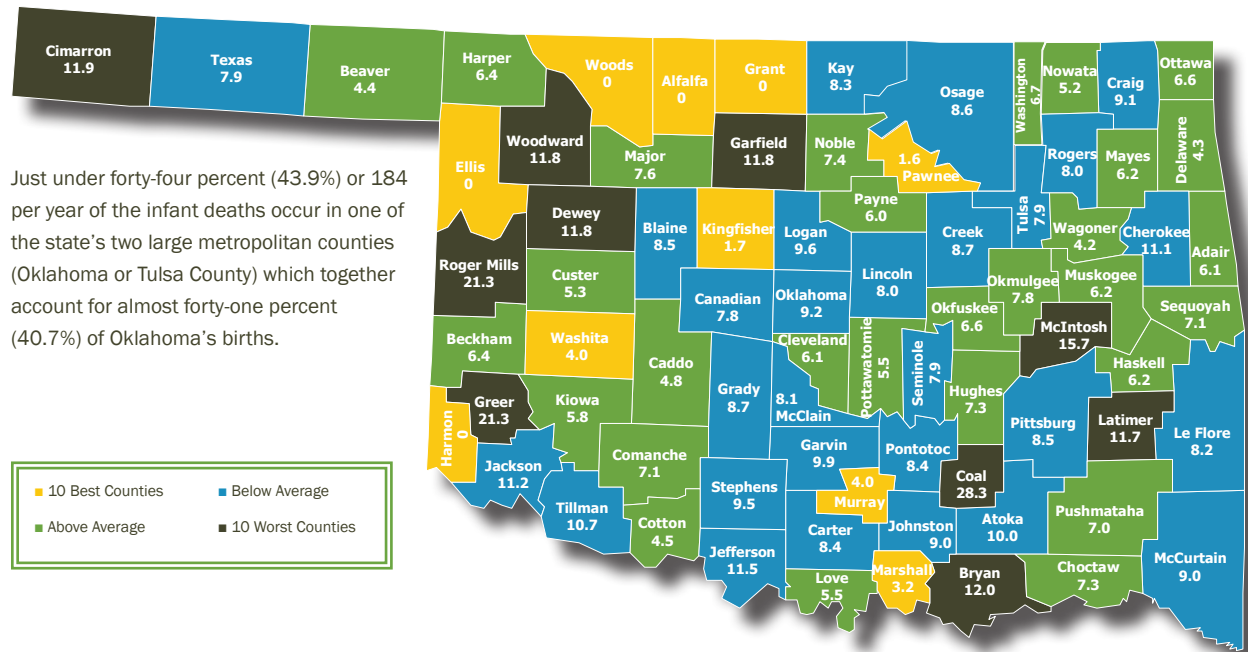
Infant death

Rate per 1000 births, by race and ethnicity
Oklahoma, 2004-2006





THREE-YEAR RATE OF DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (2004-2006)



Just under forty percent (43.9%) or 184 per year of the infant deaths occur in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together account for almost forty-one percent (40.7%) of Oklahoma's births.



CHILD & TEEN DEATHS

Disturbing trends continue. The leading causes of death for children and teens are changing from natural causes, such as illness and birth defects, to preventable causes, including injury and violence. Children increasingly imitate the violence they observe. Poor children are three times more likely to die during their childhood than non-poor children.



Almost four hundred children and youth die each year (388 average annual ages 1 through 19, 2004 - 2006). Half are children (47.9% or 186 ages 1 through 14); half are teenagers (52.1% or 203 teens ages 15 through 19).

While current (2004 - 2006) child death rates worsen slightly when compared to the three-year period (2003 - 2005) one year earlier (worsening from 27.6 to 27.9 per 100,000 children ages 1 through 14), current teen death rates improved substantially (from 85.4 to 80.2 per 100,000 teens ages 15 through 19). Like the state, comparable child death rates worsen in most (40 of 77) Oklahoma counties, while comparable teen death rates improve or stay the same in most (43 of 77) Oklahoma counties.

Currently (2004 - 2006), youth in every age group die at rates lower than they did in the mid - 1990's (improving

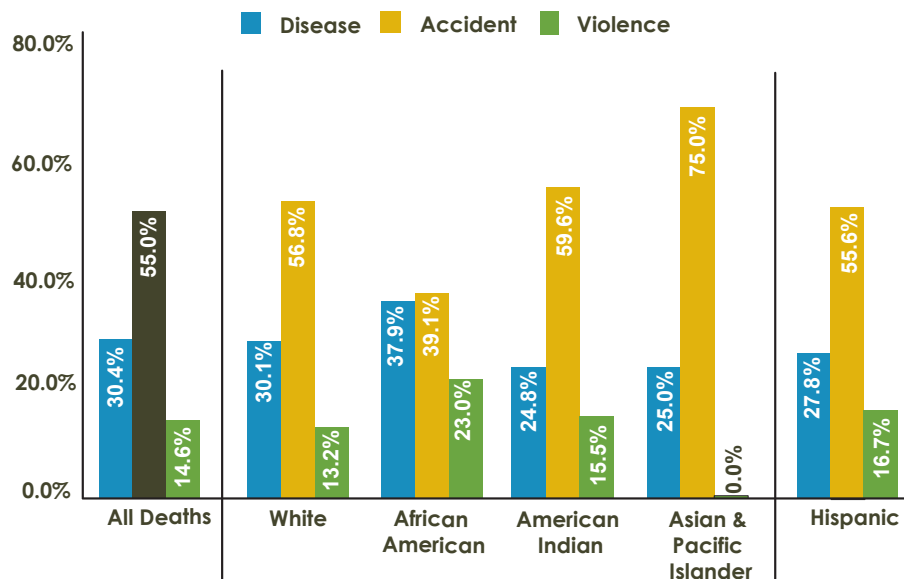
from 33.1 to 27.9 per 100,000 children ages 1 through 14; from 100.1 to 80.2 per 100,000 teens ages 15 through 19; from 51.0 to 42.3 per 100,000 youth ages 1 through 19). Over this time period, child and teen death rates improve or stay the same in most (45 of 77, children ages 1 through 14; 39 of 77, teens ages 15 through 19; 45 of 77, youth ages 1 through 19) Oklahoma counties. Currently, the highest and worst rate of child and teen death (221.3 per 100,000 children and teens ages 1 through 19 in the county) is found in Harmon County; the lowest and best (0.0 per 100,000) is found in Woods County.

Half (55.0%) of all current (2004 - 2006) child and teen deaths are accidental, with fewer deaths from diseases (30.3%) or violence (14.7%).

Twenty-nine (29) young Oklahomans (under the age of 20) commit suicide each year (average annual, 2004 - 2006).

Deaths Among Children & Teens

Percent, ages 1-19 by cause, by race and ethnicity
Oklahoma, 2004-2006



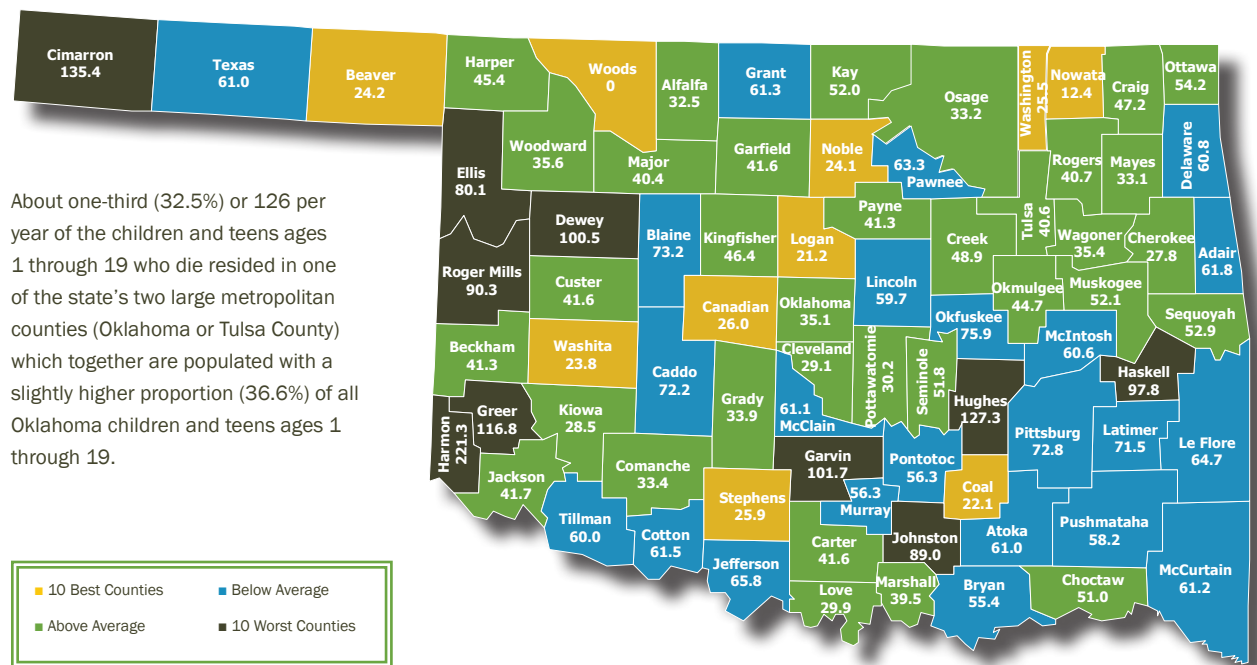
While most are older White male adolescents, young Oklahoma suicide victims are from all races, all ages and both genders.

Almost one in four (23.0%, 2004 - 2006) of the African American children and teens who do not live to adulthood die violently. In Oklahoma, a young African American is significantly more likely to die of violence than his or her White peer (13.2%). Accidental death rates top fifty percent for White (55.0%), American Indian (59.6%) and Asian/Pacific Islander (75.0%) children and teens. Regardless of their race, half (55.6%) of the Hispanic children and teens who do not live to adulthood, die as a result of accidents.

In spite of the improvement in death rates since the mid-90s and perhaps reflecting recent worsening rates in some death categories, Oklahoma's rankings relative to other states for the most recent year compared (2005) remain near the bottom (45th for both child and teen death rates).



THREE-YEAR RATE OF DEATHS PER 100,000 CHILDREN AGES 1 - 19 (2004 - 2006)



About one-third (32.5%) or 126 per year of the children and teens ages 1 through 19 who die resided in one of the state's two large metropolitan counties (Oklahoma or Tulsa County) which together are populated with a slightly higher proportion (36.6%) of all Oklahoma children and teens ages 1 through 19.

