

GOAL I: STRONG, NURTURING FAMILIES

A. GENERAL COUNTY STRENGTHS AND ASSETS IN GOAL AREA

The *Community Survey 2000* began with the question about how things are going for children and families in general in their community these days, followed by a sequence of questions asking them to rate selected services available to children and families in their community. Overall, the respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* felt that the services were better than how things are going for children and families.

B. LOCAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE DATA OR PLANNING ANALYSIS

Local Labor Force

The skills of the local labor force often do not match the skill needed in some of the higher paying jobs, e.g., high-tech manufacturing. As a result employers recruit outside the area, and local residents in need of jobs are not able to fill the positions, despite the benefit of job growth.

Employment Sector Growth

The sectors that are expanding, and are expected to continue expanding, are lower-paying jobs, i.e., not family wage jobs. So despite the continued job growth, some families are finding it difficult to succeed financially.

Rural Issues

The size and terrain of county makes it difficult to access services. In addition, some remote areas of the county enhance the sense of social isolation.

Core Area 1: Family Self Sufficiency and Effective Social Supports ☺

A. INDICATORS

Core Area 1 Indicators	Data Source	Oregon Benchmark	Chart	County Impact
Data from State Agencies				
• Unemployment Rate	OCCF (OED)	#18	Fig. 16	☺
• Oregon Health Plan Participation	LCPC (AFS)	–	Fig. 17	☺
• Average Monthly Food Stamp Recipients	OCCF (AFS)	–	Fig. 18	☺
• Families with Children on TANF	OCCF (AFS)	–	Fig. 19	☺
• Free and Reduced Lunch Program Participation	LCPC (ODE)	–	Fig. 20	☺
Local Data				
• Meals Served in Community Kitchens	LCPC (FfLC)	–	Fig. 21	☹

☺ = good, positive trend

☺ = neutral, unclear trend – too variable, not enough data points, or too subjective

☹ = bad, negative trend

Unemployment

The unemployment rate has been declining since 1996. The rate of decline is similar to that of the state as a whole. Despite the good news for the labor force, employers have had difficulties filling position with qualified candidates and often end up recruiting from outside the area.

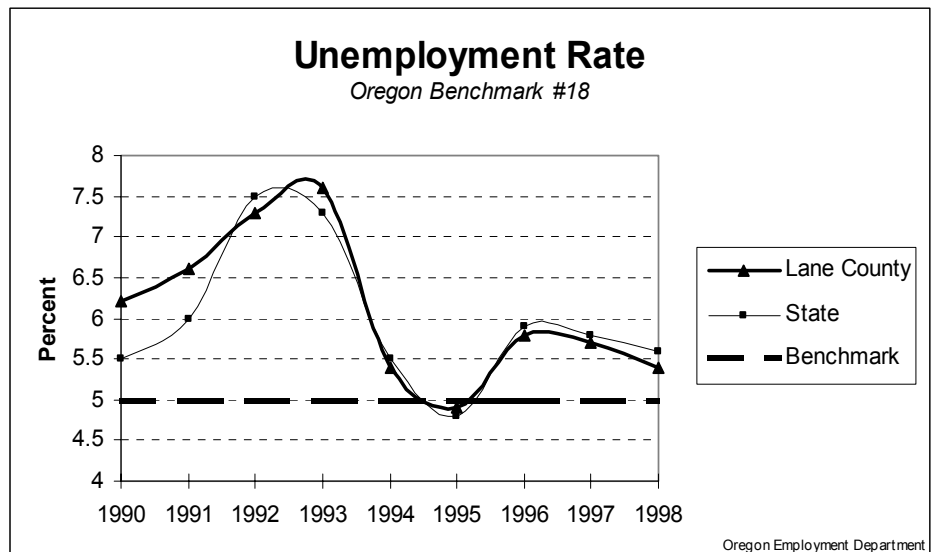


Figure 16

Health Care

After a peak in 1995, Oregon Health Plan (OHP) participation has generally decreased. This trend is difficult to interpret because several factors may be impacting the trend that do not infer a diminished need for service: (a) eligibility criteria – both in terms of income and covered care – changed each year, and (b) people who are unable to pay the minimal premiums consequently become ineligible for coverage.

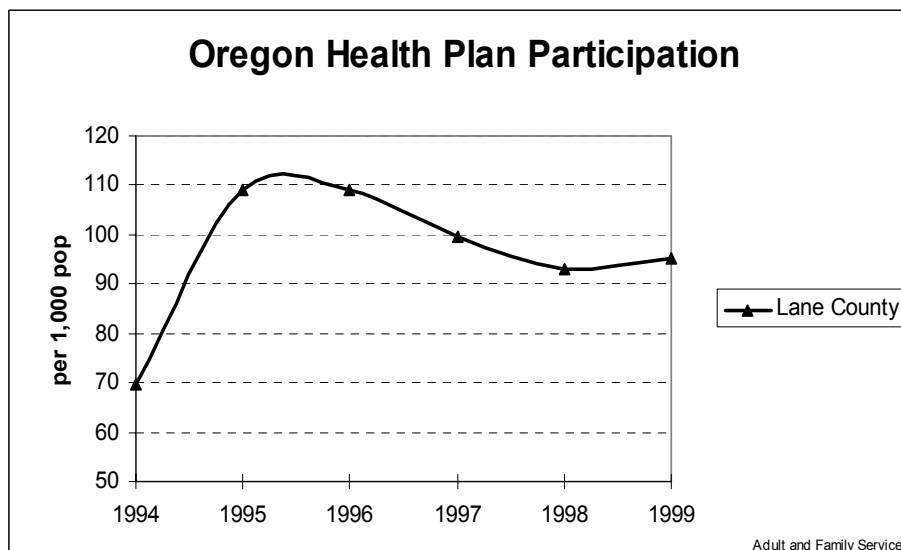


Figure 17

Respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* identified a lack of health insurance and the cost of health care as the two primary reasons that they were unable to access needed services.

In the 2000 *United Way Household Survey*, respondents stated that their third greatest problem in the last twelve months was that of not having enough money for doctors and medications. They also stated that their fifth greatest problem was that of not being able to afford health insurance.

Federally Funded Assistance Programs

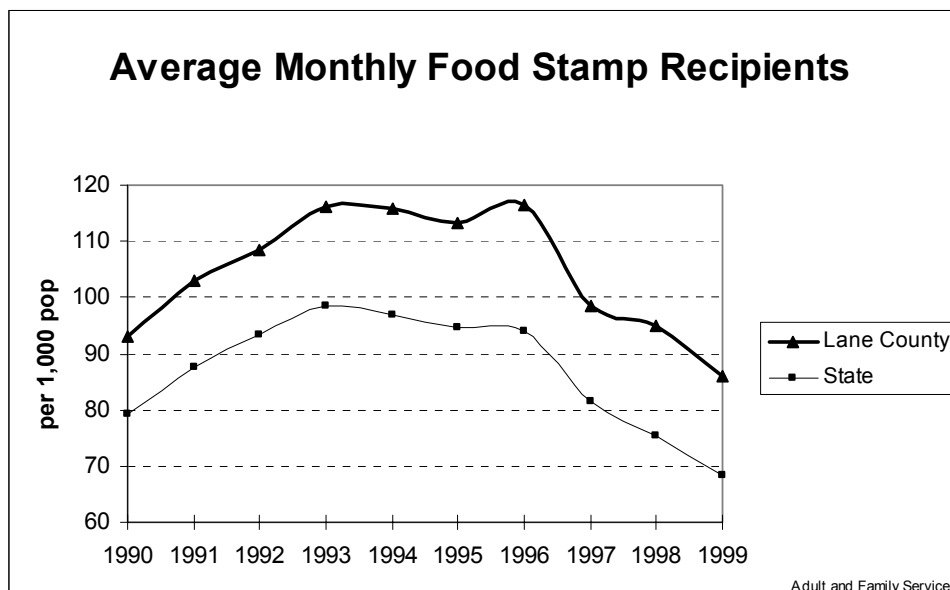
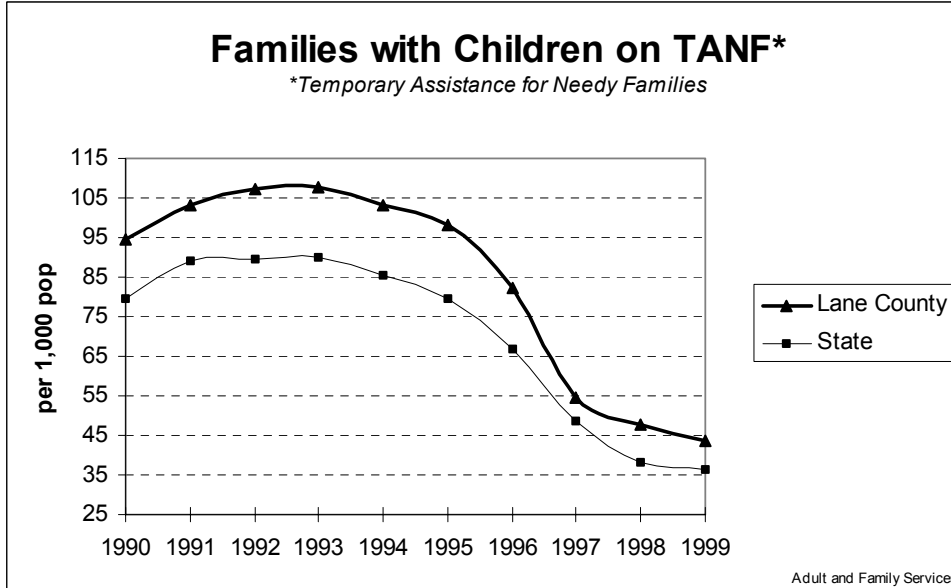


Figure 18

The 10-year data on food stamp recipients and families with children on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) indicate an overall downward trend. These trends are also difficult to interpret. On the one hand, the

economy has been improving; on the other hand, the federal welfare reforms have changed the period of coverage as well as the eligibility criteria – making it more difficult



to participate. And despite the growing economy, the incidence of poverty has been increasing (see Figure 15). More analysis is needed to determine whether the downward trend in federal assistance is due to people losing needed supports, or because the level of need has diminished.

Figure 19

The Free and Reduced Lunch Program Participation rate in schools also has gone down since 1995. This program is directly affected by participation in the food stamp program, as well as TANF, because households already participating in these programs are automatically eligible for the school lunch program. Now, if a family is no longer participating in the TANF or food stamp program, they need to provide monthly income information to the local schools. The other criteria for participation relate to the federal poverty level. For all these reasons, it is difficult to say whether the downward trend is a good thing (less need) or a bad thing (need not being met). We look to a local data source for potential clues – Meals Served in Community Kitchens (see Figure 21).

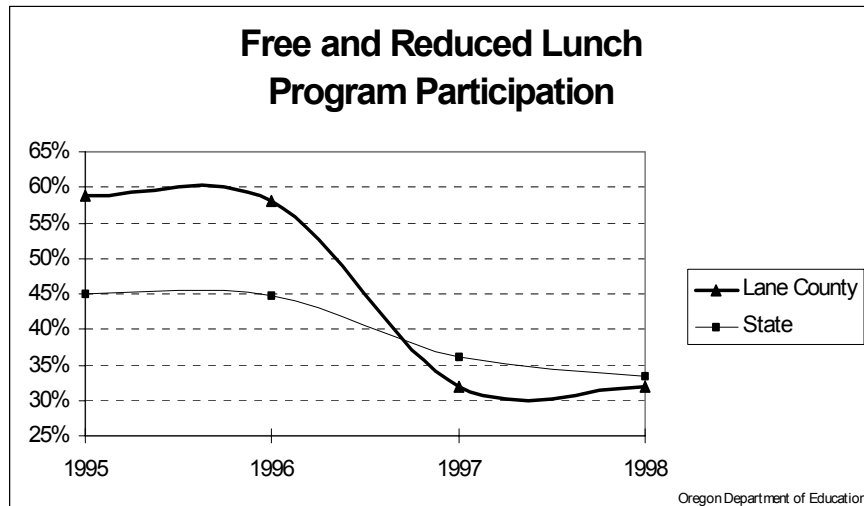
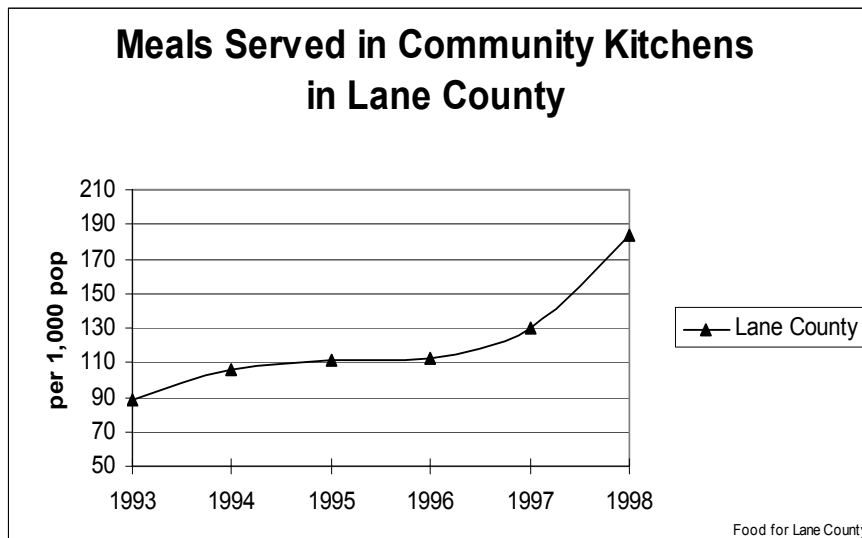


Figure 20

Local Food Program

Food for Lane County tracks meals served in community kitchens. There has been a steady increase in the number of meals served per capita since 1993. The rate of increase rose dramatically between 1997 and 1998. Some of this rise could be due to



increases in funding for the meal program. More information needs to be gathered to explore this possibility. The 1999 USDA study of hunger and food insecurity (*Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Hunger by State, 1996-1998*) identified Oregon as having the highest incidence of hunger in the nation.

Figure 21

United Way Household Survey

The survey identified the problems experienced in respondent households. Nine of the top ten problems were money-related. The top ten (out of 26) problems identified were:

1. Having a lot of anxiety, stress, and depression
2. Finding it difficult to budget
3. Not having enough money for doctor or medication
4. Not able to afford recreation activities
5. Not being able to get medical insurance
6. Not being able to afford legal help
7. Not having enough money for clothes
8. Not being able to pay utility bills
9. Not having enough money for housing
10. Not having enough money for food

Agency Survey 2000

The survey identified some characteristics of 114 service providers in Lane County:

- **Cost of Service** – Sixty-three percent provide free services to clients, 15% charged fees, 22% provided some services free and some for a fee, and 23% charge fees on a sliding scale.
- **Client Characteristics**
 - Seventy-four percent of the agencies interviewed had had non-English speakers seek help or services in the previous year. 82% have informational materials available in languages other than English. 12% said that ‘all’ materials are available in other languages, 22% said ‘most,’ and 48% ‘some.’

- Clients with physical disabilities can get into 96% of the agencies' offices, but several indicated that it could only be done with difficulty. Just 2 respondents said their agencies were inaccessible to physically disabled clients. 97% of the agencies said they can 'serve clients who have developmental, cognitive or emotional disabilities.'
- Fifty-nine percent of the agencies studied are designed to serve clients of all ages, and 41% target clients of certain ages. Of the latter, 70% 'serve families with children ages 0-8,' 72% 'serve families with children 9-18,' and another 64% 'serve youth age 9-18 apart from their parents.'
- Some agencies are designed with certain missions or target population of clients in mind. The agencies' missions, or the primary focus of their services are as follows:
 - 61% to 'serve families,'
 - 4% to 'serve clients of certain race or ethnic groups,'
 - 25% to 'serve clients with special needs,'
 - 16% to 'serve members of one sex only (4% males, and 12% females).
- **Specific Services**
 - Forty-seven percent of the agencies provide parent education and support and youth services.
 - Thirty-two percent provide 'community recreation, culture, or art programs for children and families'
 - Thirty-one percent provide 'help for children and youth who have learning disabilities, are delayed learners, or who need school enrichment'
 - Twenty-nine percent provide 'child development or childcare, such as therapeutic settings for the children of disabled adults'
 - Twenty-seven percent provide 'mental health care, counseling, or crisis intervention for children, youth, and families'
 - Twenty-six percent provide 'transportation services including vans and bus tokens'
 - Twenty-four percent provide domestic violence, child abuse, or child neglect services'
- **Out of Scope** – Four services were most frequently reported to be outside the mission and scope of the agencies:
 - Fifty-three percent offer no service or referral for 'child out-of-home placement, such as foster care or help for runaways'
 - Fifty-two percent offer no service or referral for 'temporary or permanent housing'
 - Forty-seven percent offer no service or referral for 'helping people find jobs'
 - Forty-five percent offer no service or referral for 'adult education, job skills, or job training'
- **Adult and Family Services (AFS)** – Fifty-six percent of agencies have a set procedure for assisting clients who need help from AFS, such as the name of the staff member who will assist them, or having an AFS staff member come to the agency on a regular basis.

The **Agency Survey 2000** identified the following barriers to receiving service:

- The respondents were asked what barriers might prevent children, youth, and families from getting the services they need in their agency. Respondents reported the following five barriers as the largest:
 - 'Lack of information' – clients not knowing what services are available or where to look (29% 'often,' 44% 'sometimes'),
 - 'Lack of transportation or lack of telephone' (25% 'often,' 47% 'sometimes')
 - 'People thinking they don't need the help when they actually do need it' (22% 'often,' 49% 'sometimes'),
 - 'Shame, embarrassment or pride' (18% 'often,' 47% 'sometimes'), and
 - 'People not having enough time, or they think it will be too much of a hassle, (17% 'often,' 50% 'sometimes')
- Respondents see the 5 greatest service barriers as client-based, e.g., transportation, lack of information, lack of time, or shame – and the 5 smallest barriers as agency-based, e.g., staff behavior, inconvenient hours or location, red tape.

Community Survey 2000

The following are gaps and barriers identified in the survey:

- Seventeen percent of respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* have used the public bus system. Forty-nine percent of the bus users felt that that the service met their need 'completely,' 50% 'partly,' and 1% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers indicated were 'lack of interest or need' (47%) and 'non-existent in community/ bad location' (21%).
- Twenty percent of the respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* indicated that they or their families have needed emergency housing, food, clothing, or energy, and 16% were able to find those services. Of those who used the services, 47% felt their need was met 'completely,' 48% 'partly,' and 5% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers identified were the 'red tape' (42%), and 'other agency barrier' (25%).
- Forty-seven percent of respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* expressed a family need for adult education, job skills, job training, and 37% felt they were able to find services – a "gap" of 10%. Of those that used the services, 52% felt that they met their family's need 'completely,' 44% 'partly,' and 4% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers to the service meeting their need were 'non-existent in community' (26%), 'child/elder care' (19%), and 'other agency issues' such as hours, location, red tape, wait list, staff not nice (17%).

C. COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND ASSETS IN CORE AREA 1

- Urban and rural food banks
- Community gardens
- Partnership with county extension and AFS
- Shelter care programs
- Women's safe houses
- Prenatal care for the uninsured
- Health care for uninsured children
- Counseling for low income youth

- Public transit access for persons with disabilities
- School-based assistance programs
- Teen parent services
- Strong economy that increases capacity for families to care for their financial needs
- Highly educated workforce
- Community recreation programs

D. GAPS AND BARRIERS IN SERVICE SUPPORTS IN CORE AREA 1

The following summarizes the gaps and barriers identified through the *Early Childhood Plan* and *Comprehensive Strategy* processes currently underway, the *Agency Survey 2000* and *Community Survey 2000*:

Children 0-8

- There is not an adequate safety net for children who are neglected – not identified as being abused

Children 9-12

- In this age group, there are few social supports other than the juvenile court system
- New money from CCF is slated to serve *only* ages 0-8

Youth 13-18

- In this age group, there are few social supports other than the juvenile court system
- New money from CCF is slated to serve *only* ages 0-8

Families

- Inability for some families to benefit from economic growth
- Lack of workers with skills that meet existing workforce needs
- Family-wage jobs
- Affordable housing
- Rural transportation
- Loss of timber revenues
- Inability to pay
- Waiting lists
- New programs that are not linked with existing , e.g., Boys & Girls Clubs

Specific Cultural/Ethnic Groups

- More poverty among Hispanic segment of population
- Equitable, accessible, culturally-sensitive services in Spanish

E. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR CORE AREA 1

- The unemployment rate has gone down overall
- ODE staff mentioned that the change in requirements for school lunch program participation may be too intimidating and personal for some families to handle.
- Welfare reform has led to a substantial reduction in the number of Lane County families receiving TANF and Food Stamp support. This may not reflect a substantial improvement in conditions for these families and their children. The increased use of community kitchens may indicate an increased need not being met.
- The skill sets of the local work force often don't match the skills needed by firms that are currently expanding and in need of workers, e.g., high-tech manufacturing.
- More family-wage jobs are needed to increase the capacity for families to care for their financial needs.
- The *United Way Household Survey* indicates that anxiety, depression, and stress, as well as financial problems, are the biggest challenges facing families in Lane County.

Core Area 2: Healthy Family Climate and Supportive Parenting ☺

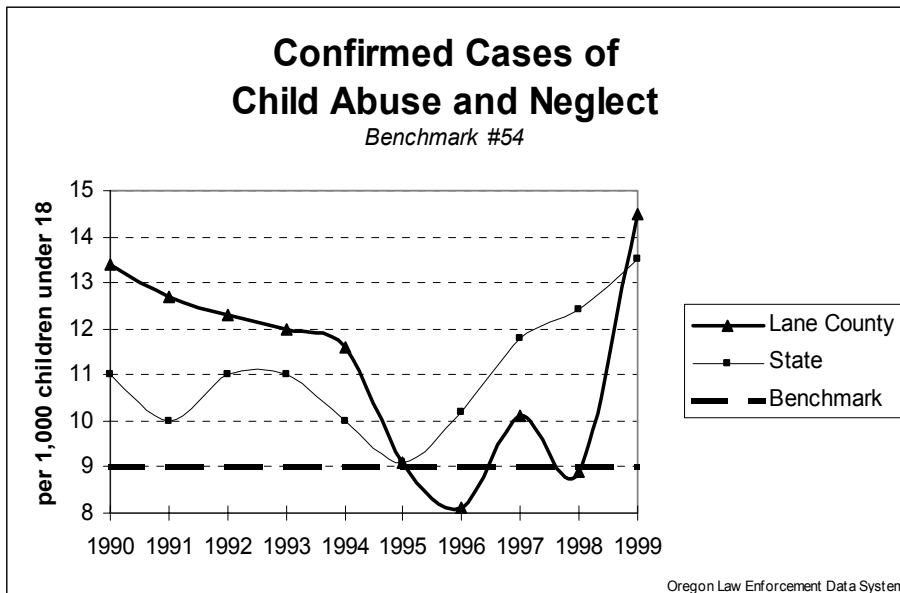
A. INDICATORS

Core Area 2 Indicators	Data Source	Oregon Benchmark	Chart	County Impact
Data from State Agencies				
• Child Abuse and Neglect	OCCF (LEDS)	#54	Fig. 22	☹
• Crimes Against Family	LEDS	–	Fig. 23	☹
• Domestic Disturbance	OCCF (LEDS)	–	Fig. 24	☺
• Divorce	OCCF	–	Fig. 25	☺
• Non-Marital Births	OCCF	–	Fig. 26	☹
Local Data				
• Family Management Problems	LCDYS	–	Fig. 27	☺

☺ = good, positive trend

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☹ = bad, negative trend



The rate of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Lane County had a steady downward trend from 1990 through 1996. In 1996 and 1998, the county’s rate dipped below the statewide benchmark goal, but soared upward in 1999.

Some factors affecting the reported cases of

Figure 22 child abuse and neglect include the *Safety Net* program that serves as an additional catchment for families in crisis, and the growing domestic violence focus – domestic violence crimes must be reported if they occur in front of a child. Other factors that may affect the ability to confirm cases include higher staffing levels at SCF last year, and the relatively new “threat to harm” criteria for taking action.

The State's Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) tracks *crimes against family*. These crimes include child abandonment and neglect, non-support of children, and custodial interference. While the rate of arrests has increased slowly since 1994 at both the state and

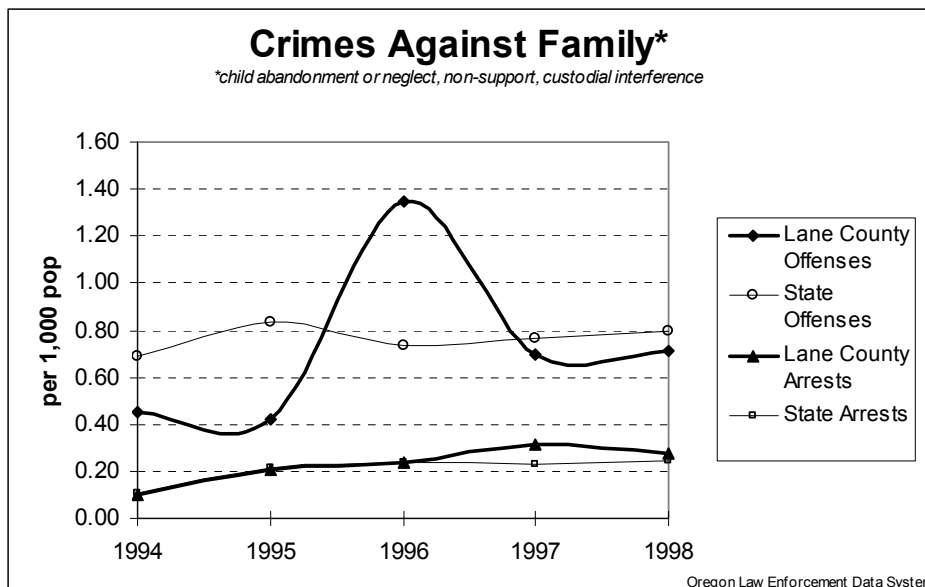


Figure 23

county level, the rate of offenses has fluctuated dramatically at the county level. In Lane County, the level of arrests seems unaffected by the level of offenses. Potential reasons for the fluctuation in offenses, such as changes in local policies or reporting, need to be explored to understand this fluctuation.

Domestic disturbances are selected crimes that occur in the context of a domestic incident, such as homicide, rape, assault, burglary, vandalism, threat, disorderly

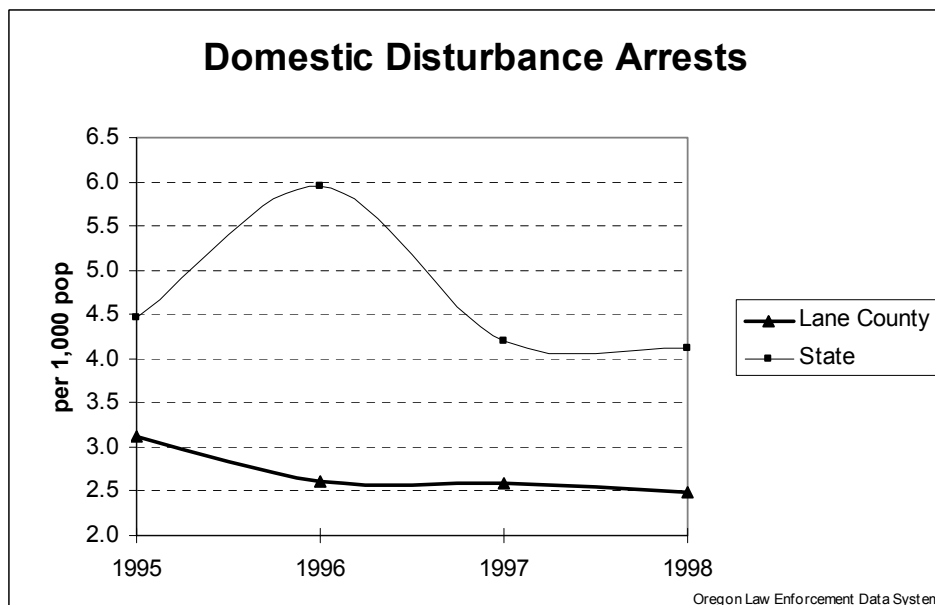


Figure 24

conduct, and trespass. The Lane County rate has been declining slightly since 1995. The county's rate continues to be lower than the state as a whole. The State rate has been more sporadic but appears to be declining overall as well.



Divorce rates in Lane County have been variable compared to the overall decline in the State's rate since 1990.

Figure 25

The rate of non-marital births in Lane County has exceeded the rate for the State as a whole since 1992. The trend has been variable yet increasing overall.

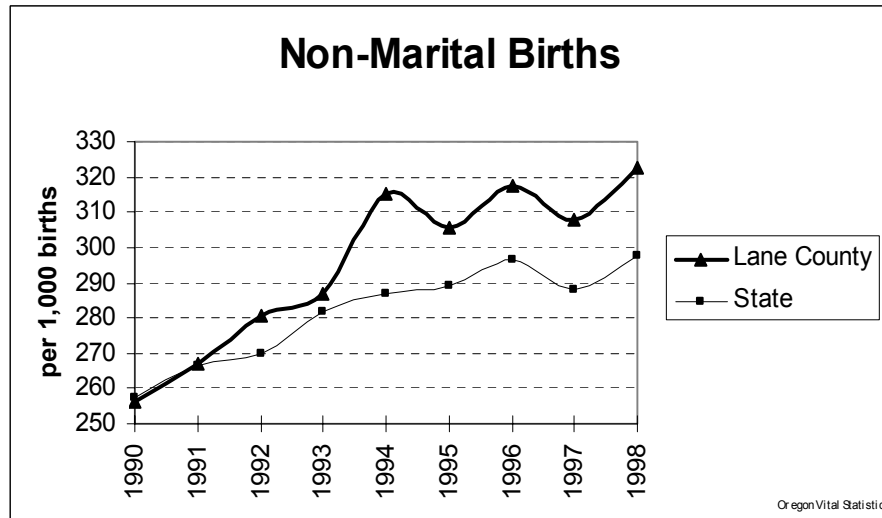
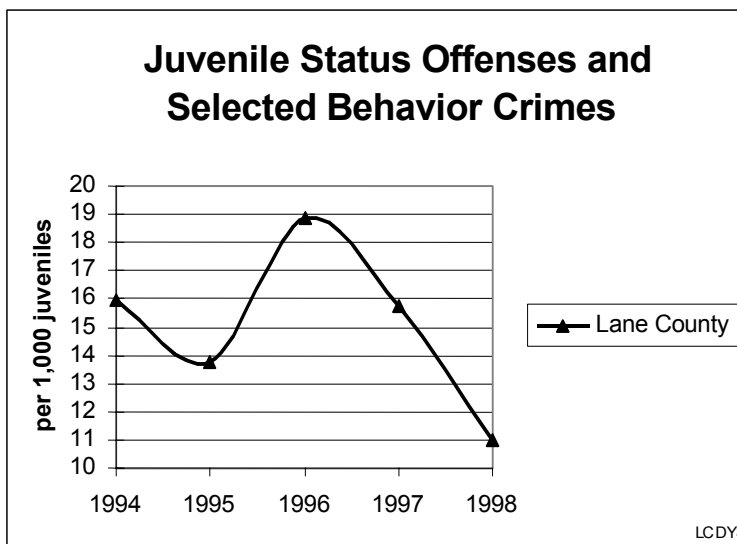


Figure 26



Juvenile status offense charges (beyond control, behavior endangering, family problems, curfew, runaway) and selected behavior crimes (disorderly conduct, prostitution) referred to the Lane County Department of Youth Services are an indicator of family management problems. The rate for this indicator has declined since 1996. More years of data are needed to determine if this is a continuing trend.

Figure 27

Community Survey 2000

The following are gaps and barriers identified by the survey:

- Thirty-four percent of the respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* have had a family need for mental health, counseling, and crisis intervention and 25% indicated that they found these services in the community. Of those that used the services, 52% felt that it met their need 'completely,' 46% 'partly,' and 2% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers identified were 'lack of health insurance' (37%), and 'too costly' (19%).
- Nineteen percent of the respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* indicated a need for help solving community alcohol and drug problems and 9% felt they found services in the community. Of those that found services, 51% felt their needs were met 'completely,' 46% 'partly,' and 3% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers were identified as 'didn't get help after trying' (26%), and 'lack of info/knowledge' (17%).
- Twenty-two percent of the respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* indicated a need for parenting education or support, and 16% found community services that addressed this need. Of those that used services, 59% felt the services met their needs 'completely,' 37% 'partly,' and 2% 'not at all.' The biggest barriers to services were identified as 'non-existent in community' (44%), 'lack of info/knowledge' (18%), and 'not enough time' (17%).
- Eighty percent of respondents in the *Community Survey 2000* use public library services. Fifty percent of those who use the library felt that the service met their needs 'completely,' 44% 'partly' and 4% 'not at all.' For those whose need was not met completely, the biggest barriers identified included 'bad location/non-existent/lack of transportation,' 'not enough time,' and 'too costly.'

B. COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND ASSETS IN CORE AREA 2

- Child advocacy center
- Community-based promotion of awareness and prevention of child abuse
- Universal risk screening
- Information and short-term support services for lower risk families
- Long-term family support services and home visitations for higher risk families
- Services to high-risk teen and adult parents to reduce or prevent child abuse and neglect
- High school-based child development centers
- Service to recovering parents
- Family support and skill building
- Family resource centers
- Teen parent services
- Mentoring programs
- Community safety net program
- Therapeutic parenting support
- Assessment and therapy
- Parenting resource directory
- Mediation program

- Local research and expertise in parenting and mental health
- Mental health services for families with children with disabilities
- Women's parenting programs
- Support services for postpartum depression
- Career counseling and support for women
- Alcohol and Drug Residential Care for pregnant women and women with children
- Family literacy activities
- Programs that enhance child-parent interactions
- Services to recovering parents
- Services to Latino children and parents
- Intensive case management to red-flagged families

C. GAPS AND BARRIERS IN SERVICE SUPPORTS IN CORE AREA 2

Children 0-8

- No child welfare system above age 5
- Adequate safe/nurturing foster care
- Universal risk screening for subsequent births
- Affordable postpartum/newborn follow up
- Affordable pediatric care
- Breastfeeding support
- Home visitation for subsequent births

Children 9-12

- No new CCF money going to this age group
- No child welfare system for this age group

Youth 13-18

- No new CCF money going to this age group
- No child welfare system for this age group

Families

- Need timely and effective treatment of parents at risk of termination of parental rights
- Family-friendly ATOD treatment programs
- Mental health services for postpartum depression
- Workplace support for parents
- Family resource centers throughout county
- Inability to pay
- Community norm that parents shouldn't need parenting education
- Community norm that people should help themselves
- Changing requirements of OHP
- Waiting lists for services

Specific Cultural/Ethnic Groups

- Mental health services in Spanish
- Programmatic cultural insensitivity
- Limits of translation for services, materials

Gender-Specific Needs

- Need to fund treatment for pregnant and parenting teen girls and their children
- Mental health services for women

Rural

- Location of services
- Support for family involvement in schools
- Affordable prenatal classes
- Family resource centers

D. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR CORE AREA 2

- Offenses for 'crimes against family' increased at a higher rate than arrests for those crimes.
- The stress on families has increased – child abuse and neglect has been on the rise since 1996, the divorce rate has increased since 1996, non-marital births have steadily risen since 1990.
- Some families are finding it difficult to access services, either because of the location, cost, or lack of information.

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