The phrases “social determinants of health” and “equity lens” can seem like jargon that stands between people who work in the health care fields and those they serve. This report seeks to remove barriers to understanding and open a conversation about what influences the health and wellbeing (social determinants) of Klamath County residents, while working to meet people where they are and help them get to where they would like to be (equity).

As with most work, it is a good idea to know a little history. Archaeologists have found evidence of early Klamath County residents dating back at least 13,000 years, and these first citizens witnessed the eruption of Mount Mazama that would result in the formation of Crater Lake. One Klamath Nation leader and scholar has provided an insight into how to address current issues with an eye to the past.

Thomas Ball, PhD, is a former Klamath Tribes Chairman who did his doctoral work around the generational trauma and post traumatic stress experienced by the Tribes. The effort was not about making excuses, but creating a starting point for healing. A figure of his findings can be found on the next page.
Creation
13,200 years ago Fort Rock sandals
10,000 Caumcam village site (King Salmon bones)
7,000 years ago Tumsumni (Mt. Mazama erupts)
1825 Hudson’s Bay trappers
1826 Peter Sken Ogden
1835 French Canadian trappers
1843 Fremont Expedition fires cannon across marsh
1846 Second Fremont Expedition (Kit Carson massacre of Klamath village)
1840s Applegates & Portland notables plot to take Klamath land
1846 Applegate Trail opens; Small Pox hits Modocs
1846-60 Modocs defend territory, retaliate against wagon trains
1850s Expedition from Portland for Oregon Trail
1852 Ben Wright massacre
1860s Ghost Dance, Earth Lodge Cult, Dream Dance, start of Reservation Period, treaties with California Indian agent
1863 Fort Klamath built
Mid-1860s Massacre of Klamath women and children near Fort Klamath
1864 Klamath Treaty, Tribal leaders intimidated and manipulated; ceremonies banned
1865 Cremation ends
1869 Treaty terms altered by U.S., military road built
1871 Treaty ratified
1873-74 Modoc War, four Modoc leaders hung and beheaded at Fort Klamath, War Modocs banished to Indian Territory
1876 Williamson River Church
1870s-80s Reservation boundaries surveyed
1880s Reservation divided into allotments, start of boarding schools
1890s Agency/day schools start, early timber sales
1908 First elected Tribal official
1910 Banished Modocs return
1912 Flu epidemic
1914 World War II
1918 First per capita distributions
1920s-30s Tuberculosis epidemics
1930-50 Klamath Cattle Program
1937 Vote to remove Superintendent Crawford
1941 World War II
1945 Senate Bill 1313
1947 Senate Bill 122
1940s-50s Relocation programs
1951 Korean War
1953 House Resolution 108 Termination passed by Congress
1954 PL 587 Klamath Termination Act passed by Congress
1961 Termination in effect, Chiloquin “Murder Capital, USA”
1971 Remaining members terminated
1977 Kimball v Callahan, Klamath hunting rights recognized, Edison Chiloquin chooses land instead of money
1986 Restoration of federal Klamath Tribal recognition
1990 Tribes purchase health building
1997 Kla-Mo-Ya Casino opens
2000 Administration buildings open
20?? Tribal lands restored

Figure 1: Intergenerational trauma and unresolved grief, based on the doctoral work of Thomas Ball (Photo by Edward S. Curtis, Library of Congress)
Trauma connects generations

Trauma lives in the human body and is passed from generation to generation through epigenetics, or genetic memory. There are outward signs of generational poverty, but Ball was able to demonstrate that intergenerational trauma is directly connected to current depression, self-medicating behaviors and other poor health outcomes.

Life in Klamath County has not seen a generation removed from trauma, regardless of race or ethnicity.

While the first Hudson Bay trappers came through the area in 1825, Linkville – as Klamath Falls was first known – wasn’t established by George Nurse until 1867. The Klamath Tribes had villages throughout the region. In the forty years between first white contact and formal incorporation of a town, settlers established homesteads. Both peoples worked hard to provide for themselves in this rugged land and had encounters that left them scared of each other (traumatized).

Both communities experienced stress, which was heightened during the Modoc War. World War I – the first mechanized war – and the Spanish Flu epidemic were experienced by the children of those who participated in or witnessed the Modoc War. The following generation would see World War II, the internment of Japanese Americans near where the Modoc War was fought, nuclear bombs devastate Japan, and a riot in Klamath Falls to remove Jehovah’s Witnesses here for a conference.

Tribal termination would foment in the next generation, along with Vietnam and a perceived shift in cultural values toward drug experimentation and free love.

Next would be the loss of the timber economy in the late 1970s, followed by a water crisis in the early 2000s that devastated agricultural concerns.

There have been joyous occasions, too, but the point of the previous paragraphs is that today’s conditions – economic, physical, mental, social – all have a connection to the past.

A thesis, analysis and moving forward

There are some hard truths presented here. The purpose of this work is to clearly define where the county is and what needs attention in order to further growth, health and success.

Throughout this document there is descriptive analysis, showing what has happened — or where we are now. A diagnostic analysis has already been offered as the thesis of this paper — generational trauma has influenced the present as we know it.

The question, “What is likely to happen?” is predictive analysis. In truth, without sound interventions Klamath County’s future is not promising.

That leaves the final type of data analysis: prescriptive — or recommendation of what needs to be done. Stay with this work to see that there are paths to improve the current status.

While the overall topic is Klamath County, each of the smaller towns are examined. Just like people are individuals, all of the towns and cities that create the whole of the county are unique. Wherever possible, information is provided at the town level. It helps clarify where work can be done to help improve the future.

It all starts in childhood

Kaiser Permanente did groundbreaking work in establishing the connection between adverse childhood events (ACEs) and chronic health problems.

Acesconnection.com lists the ten questions that inform an individual’s ACE score. Prior to your 18th birthday:

- Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
- Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
- Did an adult or person at least 5 years older
than you ever... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?

- Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or Your family didn’t look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
- Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn’t have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
- Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
- Was your mother or stepmother: Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or Ever re-

Figure 2: Types of ACES among adults aged 18 years or older, Oregon, 2017 (Source: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRSS))

Figure 3: Number of ACEs among adults aged 18 years old or older, Oregon, 2017 (Source: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS))
peatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
  • Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
  • Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
  • Did a household member go to prison?
A point is scored for each yes answer and the higher the score the more likely a person is to have chronic health issues in adulthood.

In September 2019, the Oregon Health Authority released a report on the state’s ACE scores. The most commonly reported types of adverse childhood experiences are emotional abuse (33.2%), household substance abuse (33.4%), and parental separation or divorce (33.2%).

While there is not specific data concerning ACEs in Klamath County, it is informative to look at the responses given by eighth graders and high school juniors here in the 2019 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey.

Figure 4: High ACE score (4+) among adults aged 18 or older by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2015 to 2017 combined (Source: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)) Note: all other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity

Figure 5: High ACE score (2+) among children by age, Oregon and United States, 2016 and 2017 combined (Source: Oregon Health Authority, National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH))
During the past 12 months, had any emotional or mental health care needs that were not met?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 22.1%
- Klamath County juniors: 31.4%

During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 42.9%
- Klamath County juniors: 40.8%

During the past 12 months did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 26.7%
- Klamath County juniors: 22.4%

In the past 12 months, ate less than you felt you should because there wasn’t enough money to buy food?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 18.6%
- Klamath County juniors: 20.1%

There is at least one teacher or other adult in my school that really cares about me — a little true or not at all true.

- Klamath County eighth graders: 10.2%
- Klamath County juniors: 4.6%

During the past 12 months, had any physical health care needs that were not met?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 19.2%
- Klamath County juniors: 17.8%

Ever had sex with an adult

- Klamath County eighth graders: 4.5%
- Klamath County juniors: 2.8%

Attempted suicide 1 time

- Klamath County eighth graders: 1.1%
- Klamath County juniors: 1.7%

Attempted suicide 2 or 3 times

- Klamath County eighth graders: 4.5%
- Klamath County juniors: 2.8%

Attempted suicide 4 or 5 times

- Klamath County eighth graders: 7.3%
- Klamath County juniors: 1.7%

During the past 30 days, did you ever sleep away from your parents or guardians because you were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned?

- Klamath County eighth graders: 16.2%
- Klamath County juniors: 12%

Would you say that in general your emotional and mental health is poor.

- Klamath County eighth graders: 19.2%
- Klamath County juniors: 17.8%

Figure 6: Responses from students in Klamath County to the 2019 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey (Source: Oregon Health Authority)
Results on the previous page are not the only useful information contained in the survey responses. There are more telling pieces of information about the well-being of local youth.

**Do you receive free or reduced price lunches at school?**
Yes: 88.1% of eighth graders; 49.3% of juniors. Don’t know: 10.1% of eighth graders; 8.6% of juniors.

**During the past 30 days, where did you sleep?**
- In the home of a friend, family member, or other person because I had to leave my home, or my parent or guardian cannot afford housing: 1.8% of eighth graders.
- In a car, park, campground, or other public place: 0.4% of juniors.
- I do not have a usual place to sleep: 0.9% of eighth graders.
- Somewhere else: 0.9% of eighth graders; 1.7% of juniors.

**On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?**
- 4 or less hours: 4.3% of eighth graders; 9.7% of juniors.
- 5 hours: 6.5% of eighth graders; 16.9% of juniors.
- 6 hours: 16.1% of eighth graders; 28% of juniors.
- 7 hours: 28% of eighth graders; 28% of juniors.

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has recommended that children aged 6–12 years should regularly sleep 9–12 hours per 24 hours and teenagers aged 13–18 years should sleep 8–10 hours per 24 hours. Students who get enough sleep may have fewer attention and behavior problems.

**On an average day, how many hours do you use social media?**
- I do not use social media on an average day: 17.4% of eighth graders; 1.4% of juniors.
- Less than 1 hour per day: 12% both eighth graders and juniors.
- 1 hour per day: 9.8% eighth graders; 14.4% juniors.
- 2 hours per day: 18.5% eighth graders; 26.4% juniors.
- 3 hours per day: 9.8% eighth graders; 14.4% juniors.

- 4 hours per day: 10.9% eighth graders; 10.1% juniors.
- 5 or more hours per day: 21.7% eighth graders; 21.3% juniors.

**Have you ever given in to sexual activity when you didn’t want to because of pressure?** Yes: 12.2% juniors.

**Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?** Yes: 3.3% juniors.

**During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend/girlfriend/partner ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?** Yes: 2.2% juniors.

**During your life, has any adult ever intentionally hit or physically hurt you?** Yes: 38% juniors.

With the two previous questions in mind, Klamath County’s child abuse rate must be considered. In the last year where data has been compiled, 2018, there were 2,028 reports of suspected abuse. More than half, 1,195 were referred for investigation, while the other 833 were closed at screening.

Of the 1,050 reports of suspected abuse in the county that were able to be pursued, 484 were unfounded, four had no allegation of abuse or neglect, nine could not be located, 204 were confirmed and 349 were deemed “unable to determine”. Cases that are unable to be determined are equally as likely as unlikely that abuse occurred; forensic investigators could not build a firm case for prosecution.

In most child abuse cases, the child knows the abuser. Statistically, in the State of Oregon, mothers were the main perpetrators in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 (October 2017-September 2018). Family stress is the reason for the abuse.

**Resiliency is the answer**

The original ACE study showed a correlation between ACEs and the chronic diseases people develop as adults, as well as social and emotional problems. This includes heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes and many autoimmune diseases, as well as depression, violence, being a victim of violence, and suicide.
Acesconnection.com offers a resiliency test to record the protective factors in childhood that would build the ability endure adversity without undue chronic illness and trauma. These factors allow the developing brain of a child to move beyond the fight-flight-freeze survival mode to creating the neural pathways necessary to thrive.

The questions are presented with a five-option Likert scale of “definitely true” to “definitely not true”. They include:

1. I believe that my mother loved me when I was little.
2. I believe that my father loved me when I was little.
3. When I was little, other people helped my mother and father take care of me and they seemed to love me.
4. I’ve heard that when I was an infant someone in my family enjoyed playing with me, and I enjoyed it, too.
5. When I was a child, there were relatives in my family who made me feel better if I was sad or worried.
6. When I was a child, neighbors or my friends’ parents seemed to like me.
7. When I was a child, teachers, coaches, youth leaders or ministers were there to help me.
8. Someone in my family cared about how I was doing in school.

Figure 7: Child abuse investigations in Klamath County, 2009-2018 (Source: Oregon Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families Division)
9. My family, neighbors and friends talked often about making our lives better.

10. We had rules in our house and were expected to keep them.

11. When I felt really bad, I could almost always find someone I trusted to talk to.

12. As a youth, people noticed that I was capable and could get things done.

13. I was independent and a go-getter.

14. I believed that life is what you make it.

Duncan Campbell, a businessman and founder of a national mentoring nonprofit, has proven that one consistent adult in a child’s life can provide the stability necessary for resiliency. The son of two functioning alcoholics, Campbell believes that his ability to move beyond a dysfunctional childhood was based on a relationship with the fathers of friends and other caring adults.

Resiliency is the key to improving the community. Nurse and social science scholar Maria Trevizo adapted the work of Don Lyons to explain that trauma-informed living can move historical trauma, lateral oppression and current trauma into a reality of historical resilience, lateral goodness, and healing and planning.

Her diagram of the trauma cycle is at the top of this page. She lists the beliefs of trauma-informed people as being:

- People are intelligent, capable and want to do the right thing.
- Groups can make better decisions than any one person can make alone.
- Everyone’s opinion is of equal value, regardless of their rank or position.
- People are more committed to the ideas and plans that they have participated in creating.
- The solutions are within the people.
- Groups can manage their own conflicts, behaviors and relationships if they are given the right tools and training.
- The process, if well-designed and honestly applied, can be trusted to achieve superior results.
- Historical resilience is within the people.

The living skills necessary for trauma-informed people are:

- Listen actively
  - Listening to understand more than judge
  - “What happened” as opposed to “what’s wrong”
- Paraphrase
  - Repeat what people say to ensure they know they’re being heard and validated
- Synthesize ideas
  - Building off of ideas to generate commonalities and consensus
• Give and receive feedback
  • Stop, Start, Continue
  • Yes, and
  • Not yet

Being trauma-informed requires listening with an open heart, letting people know they’ve been heard, removing “but” from the conversation (the conjunction of choice is “and”), and appreciating that some work is aspirational and done in the spirit of “not yet”.

The Kaiser Family Foundation defines the social determinants of health as: the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age that shape health. Below, a figure defines each of the categories that influence health.

In looking at each of the social determinants of health, information exists for Klamath County as a whole, but first it is appropriate to look at each of the cities and towns that create the larger whole.

While there are areas, such as Rocky Point, that are communities unto themselves, only communities with zip codes were found to have data available and separate from other cities. Incorporated towns and cities have information available both within the incorporated city limits and the zip code area. Klamath County zip codes include:

• Beatty
• Bly
• Bonanza (incorporated)
• Chemult
• Chiloquin (incorporated)
• Crescent
• Dairy
• Fort Klamath
• Gilchrist
• Keno
• Klamath Falls (incorporated)
• Malin (incorporated)
• Merrill (incorporated)
• Midland
• Sprague River

What follows are brief overviews of the places listed above and Klamath County as a whole. These are followed by analysis and recommendations.

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Figure 9: Social determinants of health, Kaiser Family Foundation (Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity, May 2018)
High poverty hotspots

Oregon’s Department of Human Services (DHS) has designated four “high poverty hotspots” in Klamath County: Altamont, Klamath Falls East, Klamath Falls West, and Chiloquin. These areas are tracked more closely by DHS and more information is available about them than other parts of the county.

Point-in-time snapshots are available for the county as a whole, such as the total Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) support for Klamath County in December 2019 was in excess of $2.1 million. This includes individuals covered through the Self-sufficiency Program, Aging and People with Disabilities, and the Area Agency on Aging.

Unfortunately, most of the data presented here is not that timely. Hotspot information is taken from the DHS County Quick Facts publication of January 2018, which reports 2017 numbers.

DHS defines a high poverty hotspot as a census tract or contiguous group of tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more for two consecutive measurements. Poverty rates were measured in the Census Bureau’s 2011-2015 and 2010-2014 American Community Surveys (ACS). Tracts must also have fewer than 20 percent of residents living in group quarters and fewer than 20 percent of adult residents who are higher education students. Klamath County has four high poverty hot spots.

Figure 10: Klamath Falls has three high poverty hotspots: Klamath Falls West, Klamath Falls East and Altamont. (DHS County Quick Facts, January 2018)
For comparison, dataUSA.io lists the incorporated towns (within the city limits) in Klamath County and the county itself having poverty rates of:

- Klamath County 19%
- Bonanza 1.98%
- Chiloquin 34%
- Klamath Falls 23%
- Malin 17.8%
- Merrill 28%

The hotspot index is a consolidated ranking of each of the 114 hotspots. The smaller the number, the more stressed the area. Ranking factors are poverty rate, percent of single-mother households, adults without a high school diploma, DHS/OHA program use, and rate of geographic mobility.

Three of Klamath County’s four hotspots rank in the top 25 stressed areas: Klamath Falls East (3), Altamont (22), Klamath Falls West (23), and Chiloquin (111).

Altamont hotspot

Altamont has an estimated population of 2,412 (ACS) and a poverty rate of 36%. Residents of this area had an average body mass index of 28.8 in 2012.

Someone with a BMI of 26 to 27 is about 20 percent overweight, which is generally believed to carry moderate health risks. A BMI of 30 and higher is considered obese. The higher the BMI, the greater the risk of developing additional health problems. A healthy weight is considered to be a BMI of 24 or less.

Figure 11: The Chiloquin high poverty hotspot includes Sprague River and Beatty. (DHS County Quick Facts, January 2018)
Educationally, 11% of residents did not receive a high school diploma and 15% hold a bachelor’s degree. Race and ethnicity were 15% Latino, 73% white and non-Latino, and 12% non-white and non-Latino.

Of the individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the high poverty hotspot, 10% had a history of domestic violence, 26% had mental health concerns, 25% had drug and alcohol issues, 26% were involved in the child welfare system, 1% had a developmental disability, and 2% had used vocational rehabilitation. Adult clients reported 29% having a work history in 2010 and 37% had a work history in 2015.

Those 982 Altamont-area residents reported having 3.7 residences on average since 2011. The negative effects on low income children associated with frequent moves and school changes are well documented in peer-reviewed literature.

Average annual earnings for these individuals in 2010 was $13,174 (reported in 2014 dollar value) and $10,086 in 2015. There are no schools in the area defined in the Altamont high poverty hotspot; students attend schools outside of the defined area, primarily Shasta Elementary.

Klamath Falls East hotspot
Klamath Falls East has an estimated population of 6,583 (ACS) and a poverty rate of 33%. Residents had an average body mass index of 28.1 in 2012.

Educationally, 19% did not receive a high school diploma and 13% hold a bachelor’s degree. Race and ethnicity were 19% Latino, 64% white and non-Latino, and 17% non-white and non-Latino.

Of the individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the high poverty hotspot, 13% had a history of domestic violence, 27% had mental health concerns, 22% had drug and alcohol issues, 27% were involved in the child welfare system, 2% had a developmental disability, and 5% had used vocational rehabilitation. Adult clients reported 25% having a work history in 2010 and 36% had a work history in 2015.

Those 2,990 Klamath Falls East-area residents reported having 3.6 residences on average since 2011. Average annual earnings for these individuals in 2010 was $11,886 (reported in 2014 dollar value) and $9,297 in 2015.

Schools within this high poverty hotspot are Link River High School (Klamath Learning Center), which is the alternative school for Klamath Falls City Schools, Mills Elementary and Ponderosa Junior High School.

Klamath Falls West hotspot
Klamath Falls West has an estimated population of 6,020 (ACS) and a poverty rate of 28%. Residents had an average body mass index of 28.1 in 2012. Educationally, 14% did not receive a high school diploma and 16% hold a bachelor’s degree.

Race and ethnicity were 8% Latino, 81% white and non-Latino, and 10% non-white and non-Latino.

Of the individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the high poverty hotspot, 13% had a history of domestic violence, 27% had mental health concerns, 22% had drug and alcohol issues, 27% were involved in the child welfare system, 2% had a developmental disability, and 5% had used vocational rehabilitation. Adult clients reported 25% having a work history in 2010 and 36% had a work history in 2015.

Those 2,550 Klamath Falls West-area residents reported having 3.6 residences on average since 2011. Average annual earnings for these individuals in 2010 was $11,376 (reported in 2014 dollar value) and $9,320 in 2015.

The schools located in the Klamath Falls West high poverty hotspot are EagleRidge High, Klamath Union High, and Conger Elementary. The map shows Fairview Elementary, but it is now a YMCA building.

Chiloquin hotspot
The DHS report indicated there were 4,550 residents in the Chiloquin high poverty hotspot in the 2015 ACS estimate. Of those residents, 1,298 or 29% were using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Average body mass index for adults in 2012 for the hotspot was 28.2. Of all the residents in the hotspot area, 12% did not complete high school and 17% have a bachelor’s degree.
Beatty, 97621

Beatty was part of The Klamath Tribes Reservation, prior to federal termination of the Tribes. Steve Brown tells of growing up in the area at a time when the Indian Rodeo Grounds were active and fishing was a boy’s favorite hobby, either on the Sycan Marsh or Sprague River.

Neighborhood and physical environment
It is at least 40 miles from Beatty to Klamath Falls for grocery shopping. Medical clinics are available in Chiloquin (39 miles) or Bonanza (21 miles), but the most primary care options are available in Klamath Falls. The Bonanza Clinic is only open in the afternoon.

The Beatty area is rural and its walkability score is not readily available. Given the rugged terrain the score would presumably be low.

Zip-codes.com reports the land area as being 129.47 square miles, with another 0.223 square miles in water area.

Economic stability
In the 2010 census, the average income per household was $28,802, with 1.93 people in each of the zip code’s 166 households. In the 2011-15 ACS the household income dropped to $25,830.

Also in the 2011-15 ACS 12.78% of residents were listed as employed and the other 87.22% not in the labor force.

Total Social Security beneficiaries 2010: 140

Retired Workers: 90
Disabled Workers: 20
Widow(er)s and Parents: 10
Spouses: 10
Children: 10
65+: 85

Monthly Benefits - All: $137,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $91,000

Of the individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the high poverty hotspot, 7% had a history of domestic violence, 18% had mental health concerns, 18% had drug and alcohol issues, 19% were involved in the child welfare system, 1% had a developmental disability, and 3% had used vocational rehabilitation. Adult clients reported 18% having a work history in 2010 and the same was true in 2015.

Those 1,298 Chiloquin-area residents reported having 2.5 residences on average since 2011. Average annual earnings for these individuals in 2010 was $12,547 (reported in 2014 dollar value) and $8,897 in 2015.

Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $9,000

Education
For school children, it is only 13 miles to Bly’s Gearhart School from the main part of Beatty. However, the school had only seven students in the 2018-19 school year. Travel to Bonanza Schools requires a bus ride over Bly Mountain’s more than 5,000-foot pass, which can be treacherous in the winter.

Food
Beatty is part of the Chiloquin high poverty hotspot, which indicates it has a high level of SNAP users.

Statistics specific to Beatty are not available. However, the free and reduced lunch rate at Gearhart School is greater than 95%, as is Bonanza Schools’ rate.

Community and social context
The Weiser Community Center is a gathering place for the area. There The Klamath Tribes host annual health screenings, the October Beatty Walk, and senior lunches. Participants do not need Tribal membership for participation.

It is also the site for quarterly prevention activities, such as basket making and story telling.

Zip-codes.com provides the following snapshot of the community:

Population 2010 Census: 320
White Population: 267
Black Population: 5
Hispanic Population: 20
Asian Population: 2
American Indian Population: 55
Hawaiian Population: 1
Other Population: 4

Male Population: 172

Race and ethnicity were 2% Latino, 76% white and non-Latino, and 22% non-white and non-Latino.
On July 25, 1929, the Klamath News reported Bly as a prominent town of about 300 people. “A fine new depot and a new well providing the purest of cold drinking water, is transforming Bly into a community of considerable importance.” The town was platted in 1928.

Several sawmills were located in or near Bly with the first being built by Crane in or around 1931. The last owner was Weyerhaeuser Company who purchased the mill in 1970. The doors were shut in 1984. (http://oregoncities.us/bly/index.htm )

**Neighborhood and physical environment**

It is at least 53 miles from Bly to Klamath Falls for grocery shopping. Lakeview is closer at 47 miles, but prices are usually better in Klamath Falls. Medical clinics are available in Chiloquin (52 miles) or Bonanza (34 miles), but the most primary care options are available in Klamath Falls.

The Bly area is rural and its walkability score is not readily available. Given the rugged terrain the score would presumably be low.

Zip-codes.com reports that the land area is 164.294 square miles, with another 0.362 square miles in water area.

**Economic stability**

In the 2010 Census, the average income per household was $42,663, with 2.11 people on average in each of the zip code’s 273 households. In the 2011-15 ACS the household income dropped to $32,920.

Also in the 2011-15 ACS, 2.69% of residents were listed as unemployed, 64.78% not in the labor force, and 32.53% employed.

Total Social Security beneficiaries 2010: 200

Retired Workers: 135

Disabled Workers: 30

must travel to a clinic for routine services. As stated above, there is a lengthy drive involved in reaching service.

The 2011-15 ACS indicated 10.53% of residents had no health insurance, 61.24% had public health insurance, and 28.23% had private health insurance.

**Widow(er)s and Parents:** 15

**Spouses:** 10

**Children:** 10

**65+:** 140

**Monthly Benefits - All:** $208,000

**Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers:** $149,000

**Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers):** $17,000

**Education**

Students can attend Gearhart Elementary School in Bly, or the Bonanza Schools from kindergarten through high school. Again, travel to Bonanza Schools requires a bus trip over Bly Mountain.

**Food**

SNAP data is not available, specific to this zip code. However, as stated above the free and reduced lunch rates at Gearhart and Bonanza schools are higher than 95%.

**Community and social context**

Bly does not have a formal community center. An effort has been underway for several years to restore the gymnasium to serve as a community focal point.

There is an active community action team (CAT) and volunteer emergency response service.

Zip-codes.com provided the following information:

**Population 2010 Census:** 558

**White Population:** 505

**Black Population:** 7

**Hispanic Population:** 29

**Asian Population:** 3

**American Indian Population:** 39

**Other Population:** 18

**Male Population:** 285

**Female Population:** 273

**Persons Per Household:** 2.11

**Median Age:** 53.50 years

**Male Median Age:** 53.10 years

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Female Median Age: 54.30 years

Healthcare

As stated above, there are no healthcare options in Bly. The Bonanza Clinic is only open in the afternoons. Any health care access requires a lengthy drive.

Bonanza, 97623

The incorporated town of Bonanza is described in its promotional packet as being “located in the rich agricultural Lost River Valley 25 miles east of Klamath Falls on State Highway 70. Lost River flows through the easterly portion of Bonanza and serves as one of the sources of water for irrigation of agricultural lands in and surrounding the town. The elevation of the town is approximately 4,200 feet above sea level.

“The Town of Bonanza was developed at an old Modoc Indian site, situated along the Lost River where the Langell, Poe and Yonna Valleys converge. The area’s Indian name of ‘Nushaltkaga’ refers to the many springs, which characterize the area.”

Incorporated town overview

According to dataUSA.io, in 2017 incorporated Bonanza had a population of 640 people with a median age of 38.7 and a median household income of $39,375. Between 2016 and 2017 the population grew from 509 to 640, a 25.7% increase and its median household income grew from $39,125 to $39,375.

The population is 74.8% white, 18.1% Hispanic or Latino, and 5.47% American Indian or Alaska Native — 91.9% are U.S. citizens.

The homeownership rate is 73.5%. Most people commute by driving and the average commute time is 19 minutes. The average car ownership is three cars per household.

Within the city limits, the poverty rate is 1.98%, or 12 people. Between 2016 and 2017, the percent of uninsured citizens declined from 18.9% to 10.9%.

Neighborhood and physical environment

Zip-codes.com reports that the Bonanza land area is comprised of 370.179 square miles, and another 3.985 square miles in water area.

Within the city limits, there is Big Springs Park which has playground equipment, tennis courts, a basketball court, picnic facilities, a stage and direct access to Lost River.

There is not a walkability score available for Bonanza. However, the area is more walkable within the city limits than the contiguous agricultural land surrounding the town.

Primary grocery stores are also located in Klamath Falls, although small businesses within the Bonanza city limits provide limited access to food staples.

Economic stability

In the 2010 Census, the average income for the area’s 913 households was $42,448. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that number dropped to $41,800. These households were inhabited by 2.53 people on average.

Also in the 2011-15 ACS, 5.92% of the population was unemployed, 53.58% was not in the labor force, and 40.5% were employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 665
Retired Workers: 435
Disabled Workers: 100
Widow(ers) and Parents: 55
Spouses: 45
Children: 30
65+: 455
Monthly Benefits - All: $683,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $459,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $57,000

Education

Bonanza Schools offer kindergarten through high school classes on the same campus. In the 2018-19 school year there were 229 students in the elementary school and 178 in the junior and senior high school.

In that same year, at the elementary school 50% of stu-
dents were making state grade-level expectations in English language arts and 44% were doing the same in mathematics.

Bonanza Elementary promotes a welcoming environment for students and families by providing bilingual interpreters for communication at meetings and parent/teacher conferences. Focused efforts are made toward providing student leaders with leadership curriculum that gives them strategies and tools to reach out to other students to ensure everyone feels welcome and accepted in the school community.

At the high school, 74% of students had completed a quarter of required high school credits at the close of their freshman year to be on track for timely graduation. Of the first-time freshmen in the 2014-15 school year, 87% graduated on time, which exceeds the state average of 79%. The overall five-year completion rate was 89%, which exceeds the 85% statewide average.

The junior/senior high school offers elective courses built around staff strengths and student interest. A partnership with Klamath Community College and Oregon Tech provides college level courses in Intro to Animal Science, Fundamentals of Speech, Writing 121, Environmental Science, Physical Geography, College Algebra, and Chemistry.

Districtwide courses are offered for Health Occupation courses, providing direct instruction from a classroom teacher. Various online courses are offered throughout the school year. Work study programs and advanced core classes are offered within the building to provide students with a broad academic experience.

Broad access is given to Career and Technical Education (CTE). The rural community school values the resources provided to students in the CTE classrooms with a focus on agriculture and business. Courses provided for the school year in these areas include: Ag Mechanics I-IV, Agriculture I-IV, Intro to Business, Marketing I/II, Computer Education, Digital Photography, as well as, FFA and FBLA club membership opportunities.

Food
There is not specific SNAP data available for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rate at Bonanza Schools is greater than 95%

Community and social context
Bonanza has community center space, built as an annex to the library. It hosts an annual chili cookoff, hobby and craft fair, carnival and Christmas activities. There is also a weekly senior lunch served.

As an incorporated town, Bonanza has an active mayor and city council. There is also a volunteer emergency response service.

Zip-codes.com provided this information about the Bonanza zip code area:

**Population 2010 Census:** 2,310
- **White Population:** 2,123
- **Black Population:** 20
- **Hispanic Population:** 280
- **Asian Population:** 14
- **American Indian Population:** 87
- **Hawaiian Population:** 9
- **Other Population:** 136

- **Male Population:** 1,184
- **Female Population:** 1,126
- **Median Age:** 46.30 years
- **Male Median Age:** 46.10 years
- **Female Median Age:** 46.40 years

Healthcare
There is a medical clinic in Bonanza, staffed by a family nurse practitioner. It is open in the afternoons, and the same provider staffs a clinic in Merrill (23 miles away) in the morning. Specialists and other primary care clinics are located in Klamath Falls, which is 25 miles away from the city limits.

The 2011-15 ACS indicated 13.6% of residents did not have health insurance, 39.92% had public health insurance, and 46.48% had private health insurance.
Chemult, 97331

SmallTownOregon.com states: “Chemult is the name of a Klamath chief who was one of the 26 who signed the treaty of October 14, 1864. At an elevation of 4,758 feet Chemult sits in the north end of the Klamath County on Highway 97. In 1924 the location was called Knott while Southern Pacific built the Cascade Line. When the line was opened to traffic in 1926 the location became Chemult. A post office by that name was opened the same year (from Wikipedia).”

Chemult is a stop on the Amtrak line and its children attend Gilchrist Schools. It is 72 miles away from Klamath Falls, 36 miles from La Pine and 65 miles from Bend. Groceries and medical services are available in La Pine.

Neighborhood and environment
The community is a gateway to a variety of outdoor recreation activities. While the business district has paved parking areas and road shoulders, it would not be safe for routine walking. Some of the vehicles traveling Highway 97 do not slow down significantly while passing through.

Zip-codes.com reports the land area to be 48.547 square miles.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census, the average income per household was $29,032. There were 135 households in the zip code area, with 2.06 occupants on average.

The 2011-15 ACS provided an average income update of $38,230, and estimated 11.43% unemployed residents, 18.93% not in the labor force, and 69.64% employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 85
Retired Workers: 55
Disabled Workers: 15
Widow(er)s and Parents: 5
Spouses: 5
Children: 5
65+: 50
Monthly Benefits - All: $67,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $47,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $4,000

Education
Students from Chemult travel to Gilchrist for school. From Chemult’s business district it is just over 19 miles to Gilchrist.

Food
Specific SNAP benefits data is not available for Chemult. The free and reduced lunch rate at Gilchrist Schools is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
Chemult has an active CAT group and is building a park next to the fire hall. However, the community’s website looks like it was last updated in 2017.

The annual Mountain Days were put on hiatus a couple of years ago, as the priority was to build the park.

Sled dog races were once a mainstay of winter activity, but lack of snow has curtailed the competition.

Zip-codes.com provided this information:

2010 Population: 278
  White Population: 253
  Black Population: 1
  Hispanic Population: 15
  Asian Population: 4
  American Indian Population: 19
  Other Population: 10

Male Population: 160
Female Population: 118
Median Age: 50.70 years
  Male Median Age: 51.10 years
  Female Median Age: 50.30 years

Healthcare
The closest medical clinics are in La Pine, 36 miles away, and Bend, 65 miles.

The 2011-15 ACS indicated 24.25% of residents had no health insurance, 55.2% had public health insurance, and 20.55% had private health insurance.
Chiloquin, 97624

The City of Chiloquin sits at the confluence of the Sprague and Williamson Rivers. It is the capital of The Klamath Tribes sovereign nation, and is named for a respected Klamath chief.

Chiloquin.com provides some history: “The city was incorporated on March 9th, 1926, the only city to be incorporated on an Indian reservation. ...At that time there were 2,000 inhabitants, 3 big lumber mills, box factories, restaurants, barber shops, grocery stores, doctors, dentists, a lawyer, drug store, pool hall, movie theatre, dress shop, shoe store, roller rink, taxi service, dance and pool halls, and in 1927, a bank. Unlike today, residents rarely had to make the trip to Klamath Falls.”

Incorporated town overview

Datausa.io provides this information about the incorporated town: In 2017, Chiloquin had a population of 724 people with a median age of 34.6 and a median household income of $30,817. Between 2016 and 2017 the population declined from 844 to 724, a -14.2% decrease and its median household income grew from $29,539 to $30,817, a 4.33% increase.

The population is 41.7% white alone, 34.4% American Indian or Alaska Native and 18.2% Hispanic or Latino. Of the residents, 94.8% are U.S. citizens.

The homeownership rate is 62.3%. Most people commute by driving and the average commute time is 18.3 minutes. The average car ownership is one car per household.

Within the city limits, the poverty rate is 34%. About 93% of residents have health insurance.

Neighborhood and physical environment

Chiloquin is 30 miles from Klamath Falls, where there are more affordable grocery options and more healthcare providers than at the Klamath Tribal Health Center and Chiloquin Open Door.

The walkability index for the incorporated city would be better than that for the surrounding rural landscape.

The description of the DHS Chiloquin-area poverty hotspot was provided earlier. Zip-codes.com states that the area includes 454.872 square miles of land and another 17.396 square miles of water.

Economic stability

In the 2010 Census, the average income per household was $45,239. The 2011-15 ACS updated that figure to $37,560.

Again in 2010 there were 1,539 households in the zip code and an average of 2.27 people per household.

The 2011-15 ACS reported unemployment at 4.38%, with 63.35% not in the labor force and 32.27% employed.

Total 2010 Social Security Beneficiaries: 1,220
Retired Workers: 820
Disabled Workers: 210
Widow(ers) and Parents: 55
Spouses: 60
Children: 75
65+: 815
Monthly Benefits - All: $1,258,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $907,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $56,000

Education

In the 2018-19 school year there were 183 students at the elementary school. Of these students, 29% were meeting state grade-level expectations in English language arts and 27% were doing the same in mathematics.

Sage Community School is also located in the Chiloquin zip code area. It offers curriculum for students from kindergarten through eighth grade, and had 53 students last year. In the 2018-19 school year, 56% of its students were meeting the state grade-level expectations for English language arts and 31% were for mathematics.

The high school offers college dual credit options in math and writing. Career and Technical Education courses are offered in woods, metals, and manufacturing.

Of the freshmen completing their first year of high school in 2018-19, 75% had earned a quarter of the credits necessary to graduate. This demonstrates the students are on-track to graduate on time. Of the first-time freshman from 2014-15, 78% graduated on time and the five-year completion rate was 100%.
Food
SNAP is a vital resource throughout the Chiloquin area. Elementary school teachers have talked about students coming to their homes, hungry and looking to be fed. The free and reduced lunch rate at the elementary and high schools is greater than 95%.

There is a food pantry in the community and the produce connection through the Food Bank provides year round fruit and vegetables. The produce is available to anyone and finds long lines of cars waiting for it each week.

Active conversations are happening to establish food pantries at the schools to help children obtain food they can prepare for themselves.

Community and social context
Chiloquin.com describes the city today: “Now, within the city you will find two small food markets, two eating establishments, a medical center, hardware store, book store, library, Post Office, beauty shop, art gallery and a large non-profit Community Center. Schools within the city limits are an elementary and high school. There are several different denominations of churches and it is also the home of the Klamath Tribes Administration, and the Klamath Tribal Health Center. A volunteer fire department and a volunteer ambulance service are based in the city. For everything else, residents make the 30 mile trip to Klamath Falls.”

The community has two parks, a rodeo grounds and direct access to state highway 97. Chiloquin City Council entered into a contract with the Klamath County Sheriff’s Office to provide 40 more hours of patrol per month, as there have been concerns about criminal activity.

Crescent, 97733
SmallTownOregon.com states: “Crescent was originally named Odell for Odell Lake but alas that was a duplicate name in Hood River County. In 1907 the townspeople, having their fill of the identity crisis, changed the name to Crescent after Crescent Lake. The town originally was intended to be the junction of the north-south and east-west railroads. Now the Burlington Northern passes to the east and the Southern Pacific to the southwest leaving Crescent with the Klamath Northern line through town. Oh, well, railroads do not help a small town much these days anyway. Trucks are the big deal and Highway 97 has plenty.”

The zip code is also used for Crescent Lake, which is located along Highway 58.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Crescent is 90 miles from Klamath Falls, 18 miles from La Pine, and 47 miles from Bend. Groceries and medical services are available in La Pine. It is a mile from Gilchrist, where students attend school.
The area is comprised of 350.491 square miles of land and 13.72 square miles of water. Its walkability is hampered by being bisected by Highway 97, and the rough forested landscape.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census, the average income per household was $31,818. The 2011-15 ACS dropped it to $29,750. There were 376 households in 2010, with an average occupancy of 2.05.

Also in the 2011-15 ACS, unemployment was estimated at 2.3%, with 51.66% of residents not in the labor force and 46.04% employed.

**Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010:** 225
- Retired Workers: 160
- Disabled Workers: 30
- Widow(er)s and Parents: 10
- Spouses: 15
- Children: 10
- 65+: 150

**Monthly Benefits - All:** $242,000
- Retired Workers: $178,000
- Widow(ers): $15,000

Education
Students attend Gilchrist Schools.

Food
There is no specific SNAP information for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rate at Gilchrist Schools is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
The Crescent Community Club (CCC) has been an active participant in the Crescent/Gilchrist Community since 1956. The Crescent Community Club is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, and looks for membership to partially fund its support. The CCC is used for family gatherings, community fundraisers, and as a social center for the Community.

CCC funds the food backpack program at Gilchrist Schools.

There are active CAT teams for both Crescent/Gilchrist and Crescent Lake. Also, there is a northklamathcounty.org website, providing information about the communities. Crescent also has an active volunteer fire department.

Zip-codes.com provides the following demographics:

**2010 Census Population:** 770
- White Population: 735
- Black Population: 7
- Hispanic Population: 16
- Asian Population: 6
- American Indian Population: 31
- Hawaiian Population: 1
- Other Population: 10

**Male Population:** 406
**Female Population:** 364
**Median Age:** 55.40 years
- Male Median Age: 55.60 years
- Female Median Age: 55.30 years

Healthcare
The northklamathcounty.org website provides information about St. Charles Hospital in Bend (47 miles away), La Pine Community Health Center (18 miles away) and the Gilchrist school-based health center for students.

Insurance coverage reported in the 2011-15 ACS was 23.17% with no coverage, 35.32% with public health insurance and 41.51% with private health insurance.
Dairy, 97625

En.wikipedia.org states: According to Oregon Geographic Names, Dairy was named by William Roberts, a pioneer settler, who chose the name after having lived in another community by that name in the eastern United States. Roberts was the first postmaster of the Dairy post office, established in 1876.

Dairy lies in a valley formerly called Alkali Valley but later renamed Yonna Valley, its Klamath name.

Dairy had a station on the Oregon, California and Eastern Railway, which by 1927 reached from Klamath Falls to Bly. A 1941 timetable lists Hildebrand as the seventh stop east of Klamath Falls between Moyina and Hildebrand. After 1990, the rail line passing near Dairy became part of a rail trail, the OC&E Woods Line State Trail, managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Dairy is bisected by Highway 140; it is 6.6 miles from Bonanza and 18.5 miles to Klamath Falls. Students attend Bonanza Schools.

The juniper-filled hills and agricultural fields around Dairy do not allow for easy walkability.

Zip-codes.com notes that the area includes 54.374 square miles of land.

Economic stability
The average income per household in the 2010 Census was $59,375. There was not an update in the 2011-15 ACS. Households in the zip code number 82 with an average of 2.43 occupants.

Unemployment was estimated to be 12.73% in the 2011-15 ACS, with 61.82% not in the labor force and 25.24% employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 55
- Retired Workers: 40
- Disabled Workers: 5
- Widow(er)s and Parents: 5
- Spouses: 5

Children: 0
65+: 40
Monthly Benefits - All: $54,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $43,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $3,000

Education
Students attend Bonanza Schools.

Food
There is not specific SNAP information for this zip code. The Bonanza Schools free and reduced lunch rate is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
There is a café and a feed store in Dairy. Local people gather at both to share coffee and conversation. In previous years, there was a Christmas tree lighting at the former mechanic’s shop. That did not happen in 2019.

Zip-codes.com provides this information:

2010 Census Population: 199
Persons Per Household: 2.43
- White Population: 180
- Black Population: 1
- Hispanic Population: 18
- Asian Population: 4
- American Indian Population: 9
- Other Population: 10

Male Population: 102
Female Population: 97
Median Age: 46.90 years
Male Median Age: 46.70 years
Female Median Age: 48.50 years

Healthcare
Residents must travel to Bonanza (6.6 miles) in the afternoon to see the nurse practitioner, or go to Klamath Falls (18.5 miles). The community is served by the Bonanza volunteer fire and ambulance service.

The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 4.82% of residents had no health insurance, 41.23% had public health insurance, and 53.95% had private health insurance.
Fort Klamath, 97626

En.wikipedia.org provides the following information: Fort Klamath was a military outpost near the western end of the Oregon Trail, between Crater Lake National Park and Upper Klamath Lake. The Fort Klamath Site, about a mile southeast of the present community of Fort Klamath is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Fort Klamath was established in 1863, and was an Army post during conflicts with the Klamath, Modoc, and Northern Paiute tribes. The fort consisted of more than 50 buildings, including a sawmill. Four Modoc men, led by Kintpuash, were executed there in 1873 and their graves remain at the fort.

A post office was opened in 1879. By the mid-1880s, the settlers in the area no longer needed protection, and in 1889 the decision was made to close the fort. After a harsh final winter with more than 20 feet of snow, the troops of Company I of the 14th Infantry Regiment left the fort on June 23, 1890, and moved to Vancouver Barracks.

Oregonencyclopedia.org has informative articles about the fort, the Modoc War, Kintpuash and other related topics.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Fort Klamath is 37 miles away from Klamath Falls and 13 miles from Chiloquin. It is comprised of 65.165 square miles of land and another 0.103 square miles of water area. There are agriculture fields and forest stands throughout the vicinity. Walkability is challenging given the rugged terrain.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census there were 51 houses in the zip code, with an average occupancy of 1.73 people. The average income per household was not available at that time, but the 2011-15 ACS listed it at $69,220.

The ACS listed employment as 36.59% and 63.41% were not in the labor force. There was no estimated unemployment.

Total 2010 Social Security Beneficiaries: 40
Retired Workers: 25

Disabled Workers: 10
Widow(er)s and Parents: 5
Spouses: 0
Children: 0
65+: 30
Monthly Benefits - All: $41,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $27,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $4,000

Education
Students attend the Chiloquin Schools.

Food
There is no specific SNAP data available for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rate at Chiloquin Schools is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
The Fort Klamath Museum is an eight-acre complex that routinely hosts events, including historical re-enactments and stargazing nights. The museum grounds are also the starting place of the annual Modoc Ancestral Run that takes participants from the site down into the Lava Beds National Monument in California.

Zip-codes.com provides the following information:
2010 Population: 88
  White Population: 80
  Hispanic Population: 9
  Asian Population: 1
  American Indian Population: 7
  Other Population: 4
Male Population: 50
Female Population: 38
Median Age: 54.00 years
Male Median Age: 53.50 years
Female Median Age: 56.30 years

Healthcare
The closest medical clinic is in Chiloquin, 13 miles away, with other options, including pharmacy service, 37 miles away in Klamath Falls. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 40.35% of residents had public health insurance, while 59.65% had private health insurance.
Gilchrist, 97737

SmallTownOregon.com states: “Should you wonder why Gilchrist and Crescent are so close together when it looks as if one town would serve the area I will tell you. Gilchrist is a ‘company’ town, built by the Gilchrist Timber Company in 1938. In the haydays of timbering if you wanted a town you just built it. Never mind that Crescent was only two miles away. The goal was to give the workers their paychecks on Friday and have it all back in rent, groceries, and beer by Monday morning.”

According to Oregonencyclopedia.org, “Where the Gilchrist Company had once employed up to 300 workers, the mill operated in 2010 with about 15 employees. A hoped-for destination resort in the former Gilchrist timberlands was halted due to the 2007-2010 recession, but it still remains one solution to the greatly diminished Gilchrist economy.”

Neighborhood and physical environment
Gilchrist is 91 miles from Klamath Falls, 17 miles from La Pine, and 47 miles from Bend. Grocery and medical services are available in La Pine.

It is comprised of 25.929 square miles of land and 0.064 square miles of water area.

Economic stability
The 2010 Census listed the average income per household as $38,831. Estimates from the 2011-15 ACS update that number to $44,130.

In 2010 there were 239 households in the zip code with an average of 2.08 occupants.

Unemployment was 7.43% according to the 2011-15 ACS, with 41.25% not in the labor force, and 51.32% employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 210
Retired Workers: 150
Disabled Workers: 30
Widow(ers) and Parents: 15
Spouses: 5
Children: 10
65+: 155
Monthly Benefits - All: $222,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $171,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $16,000

Education
Gilchrist Schools operate on a single campus. In the 2018-19 school year, there were 128 elementary students and 84 students at the junior and senior high school.

In that same year, 34% of elementary students were meeting state grade-level expectations in English language arts and 17% were in mathematics.

At the high school 80% of freshmen earned a quarter of the necessary credits for high school completion, indicating on-time graduation. The five-year completion rate was 100% and 82% of students who were first-time freshmen in 2014-15 graduated on-time.

Gilchrist School offers dual-enrollment courses through Klamath Community College. Courses include Writing 121, Politics 201, College Survival and Success, English 104, and Math 111 & 112.

Students can enroll in a variety of courses where they can earn certification, which can lead to occupational opportunities or advancement. Courses include Introduction to Business, Marketing, Business Law, Construction, Metal Fabrication, Small Engines, and Manufacturing & Production Technology.

Food
There is not specific zip code information on SNAP distribution. The free and reduced lunch rate at Gilchrist Schools is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
As stated above, Gilchrist was once a company town, only a mile from Crescent. It is served by the same community center, community action team and volunteer fire department.

Zip-codes.com provided these demographics:

2010 Population: 496
   White Population: 489
   Black Population: 3
   Hispanic Population: 11
   Asian Population: 2
   American Indian Population: 13
   Other Population: 1
Male Population: 264
Female Population: 232
Median Age: 54.90 years
Male Median Age: 52.80 years
Female Median Age: 56.70 years

Healthcare
The northklamathcounty.org website provides information about St. Charles Hospital in Bend (47 miles away), La Pine Community Health Center (18 miles away) and the Gilchrist school-based health center for students.

Estimates for the 2011-15 ACS report 6.78% of residents having no health insurance, 53.8% having public health insurance and 39.43% having private health insurance.

Keno, 97627

TravelOregon.com states: “Keno is a great little town. It’s got that off-the-beaten track, locals-only, undiscovered territory kind of charm.”

The community sits along Highway 66 and below the historically important Topsy Grade, which provided access to the Klamath area from the west. Wikipedia states that the Post Office was founded in 1887 and the community is alleged to be named after the first Post Master’s bird dog. Other names used for the community were Plevna and Whittles Ferry.

Neighborhood and physical environment
The community is 12 miles from Klamath Falls, where groceries and medical services can be obtained. There is not a walkability score for the community, but the surrounding acreage is comprised of agricultural fields and timber stands.

Land area in this zip code is 27.873 square miles, with another 0.478 square miles in water area.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census, average household income was $47,125. The 2011-15 ACS updated that to $30,980. Zip code households in 2010 were 342, with an average of 2.28 occupants.

Also in the 2011-15 ACS, unemployment was estimated at 1.8%, with 72.41% not in the labor force, and 25.79% employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 490
Retired Workers: 330
Disabled Workers: 75
Widow(er)s and Parents: 30
Spouses: 30
Children: 25
65+: 330

Monthly Benefits - All: $521,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $371,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $38,000

Education
Students attend Keno Elementary and Henley junior and high schools. In the 2018-19 school year, 55% of students at Keno Elementary met state grade-level expectations for English language arts and 50% did for mathematics.

On that year’s Oregon Department of Education fact sheet for the school, administrators stated: “During 2019-2020, Keno Elementary teachers K-6th will focus on math major clusters with an emphasis on collaborative math thinking and learning, writing with an emphasis on language use and editing, and increasing parent involvement activities.”

Food
There is not specific SNAP statistics for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rate at Keno Elementary School is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
Keno has an active Lions Club and volunteer fire department. The community hosts an annual Christmas bazaar and Easter egg hunt.

Zip-codes.com provides these demographics:

2010 Census Population: 780
White Population: 749
Hispanic Population: 36
Asian Population: 17
American Indian Population: 44
Other Population: 12

Male Population: 394
Female Population: 386
Median Age: 51.80 years
Male Median Age: 51.70 years
Klamath Falls, 97601, 97603

Klamathfalls.city states: “By 1843 the westward migration on the Oregon Trail was picking up steam and it would be only a few more years or so before a settlement in the Klamath Basin would begin. The Town of Linkville was formed at the mouth of the Link River by George Nurse in 1867. In 1893 the name was changed to the town of Klamath Falls and would eventually be incorporated as the City of Klamath Falls by the state legislature in 1905. Also in 1905 the federal government announced it would fund construction of the Klamath Reclamation Project that became operational by 1906.

“Klamath Falls was known for its forests and rangeland but the region was far too remote from major markets to make money. In 1909 the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in Klamath Falls and the money came rolling in. In the 1920s Klamath Falls was the fastest growing City in Oregon until the Great Depression of 1929 brought the lumber boom to an end.”

It continues: “Steeped in history, the area offers an outstanding array of natural and cultural wonders. Just sixty miles south of Crater Lake, and seventy miles north of Mt. Shasta, south central Oregon is unsurpassed for beauty and diversity of activities. Klamath Falls offers a variety of outdoor recreation such as cross country skiing, golfing, fishing, hunting and canoeing. It is known for its splendid bird watching and is the home of the highest concentrations of bald eagles in the Pacific Northwest.

“It also offers a plethora of arts and culture with numerous antique shops and museums along with plays and musicals. Visitors can ride the downtown Trolley or follow the Old Town Historic Walking Tour.

Residents must commute 12 miles to Klamath Falls for access to healthcare. The 2011-15 ACS estimated 8.43% of residents had no health insurance, 44.38% had public health insurance and 47.19% had private health insurance.

Female Median Age: 52.00 years

Healthcare

Figure 12: Klamath Falls map illustrating zip codes. The 97601 code is used west of Washburn Way, while 97603 is used east of Washburn Way. With 555 square miles in its service area, the 97601 zip code serves 9,206 households. Meanwhile 97603 serves 310 square miles and 11,960 households. (zipmap.net)
“Klamath Falls has experienced a new boom in the past few years with several large housing developments being built and many new businesses locating in the area.”

The city is the county seat and demographics are available from two of its three zip codes — 97601 and 97603. The 97602 zip code is used only for mailboxes found in a postal facility. The City of Klamath Falls reports an urban population of approximately 42,000. However, the Census Bureau reported a 2017 population of 21,359 within the city limits.

**Incorporated city overview**

Datausa.io reports in 2017, incorporated Klamath Falls had a population of 21,100 people with a median age of 34.9 and a median household income of $38,847. Between 2016 and 2017 the population declined from 21,322 to 21,113, a -0.98% decrease and its median household income grew from $36,977 to $38,847, a 5.06% increase.

The population is 76.2% white alone, 13.2% Hispanic or Latino, and 4.92% two or more races. About 98% are U.S. citizens.

Oregon Institute of Technology (792 degrees awarded in 2017), Klamath Community College (318 degrees) and College of Cosmetology (26 graduates) are the primary post-high school education offerings locally. However online opportunities exist with many higher education institutions.

The homeownership rate is 43.9%. Most people in Klamath Falls commute by driving, and the average commute time is 12.8 minutes. The average car ownership is two cars per household.

Within the city limits, the poverty rate is 23%. About 92% of residents have health insurance.

**Neighborhood and physical environment in 97601**

The zip code includes areas as different as downtown Klamath Falls, older residential areas, the Running Y and Campus Square. Its land area is 555.288 square miles, with another 37.964 square miles in water area.

Some areas have ease of access to parks and sidewalks for walking, while other areas are agricultural fields and wooded acreage.

**Economic stability in 97601**

In the 2010 Census there were 9,206 households in the zip code with an average income of $38,798. The occupants per household averaged 2.37.

The 2011-15 ACS updated the income average to $35,740. It also estimated unemployment at 8.36%, with 41.21% not in the labor force and 50.43% employed.

**Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010:** 4,480
- **Retired Workers:** 2,755
- **Disabled Workers:** 820
- **Widow(er)s and Parents:** 355
- **Spouses:** 195
- **Children:** 355
- **65+:** 2,885

**Monthly Benefits - All:** $4,702,000
- **Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers:** $3,188,000
- **Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers):** $393,000

**Education in 97601**

The elementary schools serving the 97601 zip code are within the City Schools district. Conger and Mills serve high poverty hotspots, while Pelican and Roosevelt do not.

In the 2018-19 school year, Conger had 399 students. For English language arts, 37% were meeting the state grade-level expectation and 30% were for mathematics.

In the same period, there were 352 Mills students. In mathematics, 24% were meeting state grade-level expectations and 27% were doing the same in English. The school’s population of English learners is 22%.

Last school year, Pelican had 251 students. In English, 34% were meeting state expectations and 30% were in mathematics. Roosevelt had 389 students and performance there found 50% meeting English state standards and 56% meeting mathematics standards.

Roosevelt, which draws from an area once the most affluent in Klamath Falls, is less homogenous than in previous generations. However, it retains its strong academic performance. Although, the state benchmark is to have 80% of students performing at grade-level. No schools
anywhere in the county are meeting that goal. However, some are exceeding the statewide average.

There are seven languages spoken at Conger and Mills. Five at Roosevelt and four at Pelican. The students with disabilities population numbers Conger 20%, Mills 13%, Pelican 15% and Roosevelt 12%.

All four elementary schools feed Ponderosa Junior High, which had 613 students in grades sixth through eighth last year. In English, 47% met grade-level expectations, as did 34% in mathematics. Six languages are spoken on the campus and students with disabilities are 15% of the population.

EagleRidge is a charter high school that had 158 students last year. That year 79% of freshmen earned a quarter of the credits required to graduate, reflecting being on-track for graduation. Of the students who were first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 84% graduated on time and the five-year completion rate was 96%. Students with disabilities were 24% of the population.

Students can earn dual college credit for Intro to Business, Computer Applications, Accounting 1&2, Career Explorations, Marketing and Digital Media.

The Klamath Learning Center had 125 students last year. Of students who were first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 15% graduated on time and the five-year completion rate was 54%. Three languages are spoken on the campus and students with disabilities number 19% of the population.

Klamath Union’s enrollment was 584 last year. Seven languages are spoken on the campus and students with disabilities are 11% of the population. Of freshmen, 78% had completed a quarter of the credits necessary to graduate. For first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 90% graduated on track and the five-year completion rate was 96%.

Food in 97601
The zip code contains all of the Klamath Falls West, and part of the Klamath Falls East high poverty hotspots. However, there is a vast area in the zip code. Free and reduced lunch rates should provide insight into food insecurity in specific neighborhoods:

- Klamath Falls City Schools 79%
- EagleRidge High School 58%
- Conger Elementary School greater than 95%
- Klamath Learning Center 58%
- Klamath Union High School 55%
- Mills Elementary School greater than 95%
- Pelican Elementary School greater than 95%
- Ponderosa Middle School greater than 95%
- Roosevelt Elementary School 47%

Community and social context in 97601
As stated above, the neighborhoods in this zip code are divergent. A unifying element might be Klamath Union athletics, Oregon Tech athletics, theatrič interest at the Ross Ragland Theater or Linkville Playhouse, church or a service club.

It is important to note that social service agencies are primarily found in this zip code for the entire county. Another point to recognize is there is current contention about where the new DHS facility will be built. The state completed a proposal process that would find a facility built across from the library and near the courthouse. Opponents continue to lobby for the facility to be placed on the “social service campus” where the mission is situated.

Some of the most highly paid professionals in the county live in this zip code, along with some of the poorest souls.

Zip-codes.com provided these statistics for the 97601 area:

2010 Census Population: 22,459
   White Population: 20,152
   Black Population: 376
   Hispanic Population: 2,284
   Asian Population: 470
   American Indian Population: 1,426
   Hawaiian Population: 98
   Other Population: 1,034

   Male Population: 11,236
   Female Population: 11,223
   Median Age: 37.30 years
   Male Median Age: 35.80 years
   Female Median Age: 38.80 years

Healthcare in 97601
The majority of healthcare clinics are found in this zip code, along with Sky Lakes Medical Center. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 12.39% of residents had no health
insurance, 39.7% had public health insurance and 47.92% had private health insurance.

Neighborhood and social environment in 97603
The 97603 zip code begins at Washburn Way and runs east and south to encompass 310.844 square miles of land and 5.142 square miles of water.

Part of the area is suburban, but most of it is rural. Walkability is high in some places and non-existent in others. In the most far-flung areas of the zip code, it might be about 20 miles to reach groceries and medical services in Klamath Falls proper.

Economic stability in 97603
In the 2010 Census, the average income for the 11,960 households in the zip code was $46,125. There were 2.45 average occupants per household.

The 2011-15 ACS adjusted the average income to $45,470. That ACS also estimated that 6.57% of residents were unemployed, 42.24% were not in the labor force and 51.19% were employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 6,575
Retired Workers: 4,375
Disabled Workers: 885
Widow(er)s and Parents: 560
Spouses: 315
Children: 440
65+: 4,695
Monthly Benefits - All: $6,859,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $4,918,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $633,000

Education in 97603
The Klamath County School District serves the 97603 zip code. Suburban schools include Ferguson, Peterson, Shasta and Stearns elementaries, Brixner Junior High and Mazama High. Henley Elementary, Junior High and High schools are more rural in flavor. Falcon Heights, an alternative school, and resources for homeschooling families are housed at the Henley complex.

Another alternative school is operated by Klamath Basin Behavioral Health. Private schools operating within Klamath Falls are Hosanna Christian, Klamath Falls Adventist School, New Horizon Christian School and Triad.

Ferguson Elementary had an enrollment of 522 last year. There are five languages spoken on the campus, and students with disabilities are 18% of the population. In meeting state grade-level expectations, 58% did in English and 56% in mathematics.

Peterson had an enrollment of 656. Three languages are spoken on the campus, and students with disabilities are 14% of the population. In relation to state standards, 45% met expectation in English and mathematics.

Shasta’s enrollment was 538. Five languages are spoken there and 14% of students have disabilities. In meeting state standards, 51% did in English and 38% did in mathematics.

At Stearns, enrollment was 352. Three languages are spoken and 19% of students have disabilities. In meeting state expectations, 39% did in English and 30% did in mathematics.

Brixner Junior High had an enrollment of 387, of which 20% were students with disabilities. In state grade-level expectations, 52% met them in English and 28% in math.

At Mazama High School, enrollment was 655. Four languages were spoken and 18% of students had disabilities. The freshman class had 83% completing a quarter of the credits required for graduation. Of the 2014-15 first-time freshmen, 90% graduated on-time. The five-year completion rate was 94%.

Advanced coursework is available in English, writing, speech, math, chemistry, biology, history, psychology, political science, economics, business, foreign languages, health sciences, career education and engineering.

Career and technical education are also available in business applications, computer applications, accounting, marketing, leadership, foods, automotive, manufacturing, welding and health occupations.

Falcon Heights had 121 students, of whom 21% had a disability. The five-year completion rate was 54% and 22% graduated on-time.

Henley Elementary’s enrollment was 553. Five languages were spoken on the campus, and 16% of students had a disability. State grade-level expectations were met by 51% in English and 43% in mathematics.
At Henley Middle School enrollment was 349 and seventh and eighth grades were served. Performance in state grade-level expectations found 58% meeting them in English and 43% in mathematics.

Henley High School had an enrollment of 648 and nine languages were spoken on campus. The freshman class had 87% completing a quarter of the credits necessary to graduate to be on-track. Of the first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 99% graduated on-time and the five-year completion rate was 100%.

Advanced coursework is available in world languages, math dual-credit courses, English and communications dual-credit courses, engineering, science, social sciences, health, business, agriculture, multimedia, and wildland fire science.

Career and technical courses are offered across disciplines. There is a state-of-the-art welding and agricultural shop, extensive agricultural lab and school greenhouse space dedicated to organic farming, business classes, engineering design, aeronautical engineering, principles of engineering, engineering development & design, publications and health occupations.

Food in 97603
The DHS high poverty hotspots of Altamont and part of East Klamath Falls fall in this zip code. However, given the size of the area, looking at free and reduced lunch rates provide a more accurate picture of communities:

- Ferguson Elementary greater than 95%
- Peterson Elementary greater than 95%
- Shasta Elementary greater than 95%
- Stearns Elementary greater than 95%
- Brixner Junior High 63%
- Mazama High School 48%
- Henley Elementary greater than 95%
- Henley Middle 46%
- Henley High 39%
- Falcon Heights greater than 95%

Community and social context in 97603
The community is primarily rural with part of suburban Klamath Falls attached. Events at the fairgrounds bring agriculturalists together. Both Henley and Mazama have strong booster organizations.

People in the suburbs appreciate being in the urban growth zone, but have historically rejected being annexed into the City of Klamath Falls. The population in the south suburbs of Klamath Falls is enough to sway a county election, and many candidates go door-to-door canvassing for support.

Zip-codes.com information for the 97603 area includes:

2010 Census Population: 29,525
- White Population: 26,793
- Black Population: 354
- Hispanic Population: 2,912
- Asian Population: 425
- American Indian Population: 1,705
- Hawaiian Population: 81
- Other Population: 1,376

Male Population: 14,353
Female Population: 15,172
Median Age: 40.70 years
- Male Median Age: 39.50 years
- Female Median Age: 41.90 years

Healthcare in 97603
As stated above, some of the most distant residents of 97603 might need to travel 20 miles to receive medical care. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 9.27% of the residents have no health insurance, 35.5% have public health insurance, and 55.23% have private health insurance.
CityofMalin.org states: “Welcome to Malin, Oregon, a community of 800 people in south central Oregon located just one mile from the California border. A town that is proud of its Czechoslovakian heritage. A town that has one of the nicest parks in the entire state, and where more than 100 trees are decorated with lights at Christmas time. A place where people lead busy lives which are mostly related to agriculture, and yet find time to always help their neighbors when crises come. A community that is close to the Lava Beds National Monument to the south and Crater Lake National Park to the north. If you are looking for a place to relax, please give us a try. We know you will enjoy your stay here.”

Incorporated town overview
DataUSA.io provides this snapshot of the city: In 2017, Malin had a population of 889 people with a median age of 33.1 and a median household income of $37,885. Between 2016 and 2017 the population grew from 828 to 889, a 7.37% increase and its median household income grew from $33,594 to $37,885, a 12.8% increase.

The population is 64.7% Hispanic or Latino, 33.3% white alone, and 1.12% Asian alone — 74% are U.S. citizens.

The homeownership rate is 77%. Most people in Malin commute by driving and the average commute time is 17.3 minutes. The average car ownership is two cars per household.

The poverty rate within the incorporated area is 17.8% and 79.8% of residents have health insurance.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Malin is 31 miles away from Klamath Falls. It is comprised of 42.842 square miles of land and 0.031 square miles of water area. Walkability within the city limits is good, but a bit more limited in the agricultural lands that surround the town proper.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census there were 513 houses in the zip code, with an average income of $40,536. Average occupancy was 2.83 people.

The 2011-15 ACS adjusted the average income to $41,750 and estimated that 5.5% of the population was unemployed, 33.86% were not in the labor force and 60.63% were employed.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 265
Retired Workers: 185
Disabled Workers: 35
Widow(ers) and Parents: 20
Spouses: 15
Children: 10
65+: 200
Monthly Benefits - All: $256,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $176,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $23,000

Education
Malin Elementary School had an enrollment of 132 in 2018-19. Of those students, 42% are learning English as a second language and 13% have disabilities. For state grade-level expectations, 58% met them in English and 51% did in mathematics.

Junior high and high school students attend Lost River High School, along with students from Merrill. The school stands equidistance from each town. However, it has a Merrill address.

In the 2018-19 school year, Lost River had an enrollment of 223 in seventh through twelfth grade. Of those students, 48% are learning English as a second language and 13% have disabilities. The freshmen class had greater than 95% complete a quarter of the credits necessary for on-track graduation. Of first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 96% graduated on-time. The five-year completion rate was 100%.

Food
There is not specific SNAP data for this zip code. Malin Elementary School’s free and reduced lunch rate is greater than 95%. The same is true for Lost River High School.

Community and social context
Malin has many celebrations throughout the year, from a cultural event featuring Czech dancing and food to a Fourth of July festival to a Christmas tree lighting. It
boasts its own historical society, a museum, a theater that is used for community gatherings, as is a community hall.

The town has a tri-city collaboration with Merrill and Tulelake, which finds each town promoting the events and activities of the others.

It has an active mayor and city council, a police force, and a volunteer fire department. It has both a grocery and hardware store, although grocery prices are better in Klamath Falls.

Zip-codes.com provides this information about the greater Malin-area:

**2010 Census Population:** 1,466
- **White Population:** 1,176
- **Black Population:** 2
- **Hispanic Population:** 590
- **Asian Population:** 3
- **American Indian Population:** 33
- **Hawaiian Population:** 5
- **Other Population:** 281

**Male Population:** 772
**Female Population:** 694
**Median Age:** 36.90 years
**Male Median Age:** 35.20 years
**Female Median Age:** 39.70 years

**Healthcare**
The closest medical clinic is in Merrill, which is 10 miles away and only open mornings. More healthcare offerings are available in Klamath Falls, 31 miles away. Estimates in the 2011-15 ACS included 22.14% of residents without health insurance, 33.33% with public health insurance, and 44.53% with private health insurance.

**Merrill, 97633**

CityofMerrill.org states: The City of Merrill was incorporated in 1903 and still epitomizes the same small town charm of that era. A community of 845 people in south central Oregon located just 5.4 miles from the California border. Farming and agriculture related businesses are the primary economy sustaining industries of the area. The city is a proud supporter of agriculture. The main street of Merrill is lined with quaint specialty shops where customers are still greeted on a first name basis and most transactions are still sealed with a handshake. This friendly, tight knit community is considered a modern day Mayberry, a place that is safe for your children to grow up and where neighbor still watches out for neighbor. People may say that progress and traffic move way too slow in Merrill, but just view it as an opportunity to take in the small town atmosphere and to revert back to when life was less demanding and less hurried. Please come and enjoy the small town atmosphere for yourself. Home of the October annual Klamath Basin Potato Festival since 1937.

**Incorporated town overview**

DataUSA.io provides this overview of the incorporated city: In 2017, Merrill had a population of 715 people with a median age of 41.8 and a median household income of $40,685. Between 2016 and 2017 the population declined from 818 to 715, a -12.6% decrease and its median household income grew from $40,060 to $40,685, a 1.56% increase.

The population is 51.2% white, 48.4% Hispanic or Latino, and 0.42% American Indian & Alaska Native — 81.8% of residents are U.S. citizens.

The homeownership rate is 68.2%. Most people commute by driving, and the average commute time is 13.6 minutes. The average car ownership is two cars per household.

Within the city limits, the poverty rate is 28% and 82.1% have health insurance.

**Neighborhood and physical environment**
Merrill is 21 miles away from Klamath Falls and is comprised of 29.673 square miles of land area and another 0.299 square miles of water area. Walkability within the city limits is very good, but becomes difficult in the agricultural lands that surround the town.

**Economic stability**
In the 2010 Census there were 504 households in the zip code with an average income of $42,611. The average
occupants per household was 2.69. The 2011-15 ACS updated the average income to $39,750.

Also, that ACS estimated unemployment at 4.51%, with 36.21% not in the labor force and 59.27% employed.

**Total 2010 Social Security Beneficiaries:** 300
- **Retired Workers:** 225
- **Disabled Workers:** 35
- **Widow(er)s and Parents:** 15
- **Spouses:** 15
- **Children:** 10
- **65+:** 215

**Monthly Benefits - All:** $292,000
**Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers:** $226,000
**Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers):** $16,000

Education
Merrill Elementary had an enrollment of 141 last year. Of those students, 42% were learning English as a second language and 13% had disabilities. Students meeting state grade-level expectations in English were 46% and 32% were doing the same in mathematics.

Students attend Lost River for junior high and high school, along with students from Malin.

In the 2018-19 school year, Lost River had an enrollment of 223 in seventh through twelfth grade. Of those students, 48% are learning English as a second language and 13% have disabilities. The freshmen class had greater than 95% complete a quarter of the credits necessary for on-track graduation. Of first-time freshmen in 2014-15, 96% graduated on-time. The five-year completion rate was 100%.

Food
There are not specific SNAP statistics available for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rate for Merrill Elementary and Lost River is greater than 95%.

Community and social context
As stated in the introduction to Merrill, the town has hosted the annual Potato Festival since 1937. It also hosts other events at the civic center, which was the former high school. In February, the Lions Club sponsors a fundraising crab feed, and there is a summer blue grass festival that is drawing more attention each year.

The town has a tri-city collaboration with Malin and Tulelake, which finds each town promoting the events and activities of the others.

It has an active mayor and city council, a police force, and a volunteer fire department. There is a grocery store, hardware store, and a quilt store among the businesses in town.

Zip-codes.com records the following data points for the larger Merrill area:

**2010 Census Population:** 1,361
- **White Population:** 1,110
- **Black Population:** 4
- **Hispanic Population:** 445
- **American Indian Population:** 48
- **Hawaiian Population:** 5
- **Other Population:** 250

- **Male Population:** 699
- **Female Population:** 662
- **Median Age:** 39.00 years
- **Male Median Age:** 39.80 years
- **Female Median Age:** 37.60 years

Healthcare
There is a medical clinic, staffed by a nurse practitioner, open in the mornings. Additional healthcare options are available in Klamath Falls, 21 miles away. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 16.55% of residents had no health insurance, 40.85% had public health insurance, and 42.61% had private health insurance.
Midland, 97634

En.wikipedia.org states: Midland is an unincorporated community in Klamath County, Oregon, United States, about eight miles south of Klamath Falls on U.S. Route 97. The site was platted in 1908 and named Midland, with a post office established in 1909. At the time it was said the name was chosen because the town was halfway between Portland and San Francisco on the proposed Cascade Line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. It is not halfway, however, and it is now thought that the name refers to the town’s site on land partly surrounded by marshes.

When the Cascade Line reached Midland, the community served as a depot and shipping point for cattle and other livestock, and it once had two general stores, a hotel with a saloon, a livery stable, a warehouse for grain and a telephone office. Little remains in Midland today, but Klamath County’s visitor center is located there.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Midland is eight miles from Klamath Falls, along Highway 97. It is comprised of 0.575 square miles of land area. Walkability is challenging, given the location off of an interstate highway and the surrounding agricultural fields.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census, there were 86 households with an average of 2.47 occupants in the zip code area. The average income per household was $37,614, which was updated to $53,640 in the 2011-15 ACS.

Also, the ACS estimated employment at 43.67% and those not in the labor force at 56.33%. There was no estimated unemployment.

Children: 10
65+: 70
Monthly Benefits - All: $117,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $80,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(er)s: $7,000

Education
Students from Midland attend the Henley schools.

Food
There are no SNAP statistics available specific to this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rates for the Henley Schools are: Henley Elementary greater than 95%; Henley Middle 46%; and Henley High 39%.

Community and social context
Old Midland Road runs between Highway 97 and Highway 39, through agricultural fields. There is a Midland Grange Hall, rest area and Post Office. No known social activities are specific to Midland, but it is in close proximity to Klamath Falls.

Zip-codes.com provides this information about the Midland area:

2010 Census Population: 212
   White Population: 198
   Hispanic Population: 15
   Asian Population: 1
   American Indian Population: 12
   Other Population: 6

   Male Population: 110
   Female Population: 102
   Median Age: 44.00 years
   Male Median Age: 44.70 years
   Female Median Age: 43.30 years

Healthcare
Medical and other healthcare options are available in Klamath Falls, eight miles away. The 2011-15 ACS estimates that 13.47% of residents have no health insurance, 31.66% have public health insurance, and 54.88% have private health insurance.
Sprague River, 97639

En.wikipedia.org states: Sprague River is an unincorporated community in Klamath County, Oregon, United States. It is about 45 miles northeast of Klamath Falls near the Sprague River, northwest of Oregon Route 140.

The Sprague River was named for Captain Franklin B. Sprague, who participated in the Snake and Paiute Indian wars, and was in command of Fort Klamath in 1866. His name was applied to the river by 1864, and perhaps earlier. The Klamath name for the stream was Plai or Plaikni Koke. Koke was the generic word for "river" and plai meant the river came from upper or higher country. Sprague River post office, named after the stream, was established September 14, 1923, with Benjamin E. Wolford as the first postmaster. There was an earlier post office named Sprague River farther east and upstream of the current community, at the site of the current town of Bly.

Sprague River had a station on the Oregon, California and Eastern Railway, which by 1927 reached from Klamath Falls to Bly. A 1941 timetable lists Sprague River as the 12th stop east of Klamath Falls between East Switch Back and Beatty. After 1990, the rail line near Sprague River became part of a rail trail, the OC&E Woods Line State Trail, managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

At one time there was a sawmill in Sprague River, which shut down in 1943. There was also a box factory.

Neighborhood and physical environment
The community is 38 miles away from Klamath Falls, and roughly 24 miles from Bonanza and Chiloquin. It is comprised of 82.013 square miles of land area and another 0.438 square miles of water area. Walkability is low, given the rugged, rural terrain.

Economic stability
In the 2010 Census, there were 266 households in the zip code with an average occupancy of 2.14. The average income per household was $29,012; it was not updated in the 2011-15 ACS.

The ACS did estimate 65.43% of residents were not in the labor force and another 34.57% were employed. There was no unemployment projected.

Total Social Security Beneficiaries 2010: 210
Retired Workers: 135
Disabled Workers: 45
Widow(er)s and Parents: 15
Spouses: 5
Children: 10
65+: 130
Monthly Benefits - All: $210,000
Monthly Benefits - Retired Workers: $139,000
Monthly Benefits - Widow(ers): $16,000

Education
Students can enroll in either Bonanza or Chiloquin schools.

Food
There is not specific SNAP data for this zip code. The free and reduced lunch rates at Bonanza and Chiloquin Schools are greater than 95%.

Community and social context
Sprague River has drawn attention from the Klamath County Board of Commissioners in recent years, as residents requested support for improving the community. A monthly meeting is held with representatives from different county government departments, including the Sheriff.

The town has two stores, a diner, and a church where residents meet.

Zip-codes.com provides the following information:

2010 Census Population: 570
White Population: 538
Black Population: 5
Hispanic Population: 15
Asian Population: 10
American Indian Population: 45
Hawaiian Population: 1
Other Population: 2
Male Population: 309
Female Population: 261
Median Age: 54.30 years
Male Median Age: 54.80 years  
Female Median Age: 53.60 years

Healthcare
There are medical clinics in Chiloquin and Bonanza, which are both 24 miles away. The Chiloquin clinic is open all-day, while the Bonanza clinic is only open afternoons. The closest pharmacy is in Klamath Falls, 38 miles away, along with other healthcare options. The 2011-15 ACS estimated that 4.5% of the residents did not have health insurance, 54.1% public health insurance, and 41.31% private health insurance.

Klamath County
The Oregon Secretary of State webpage provides this history of Klamath County:

Klamath County was established on Oct. 17, 1882. It was created from the western part of Lake County and named after a tribe of Indians that white travelers called the Klamath, also spelled Clammite.

Klamath County is in south central Oregon. The county is bounded on the south by California, on the east by Lake County, on the north by Deschutes County, and on the west by Jackson and Douglas Counties. The county, Oregon’s fourth largest, has 6,135 square miles.

Neighborhood and physical environment
While the entire state claims Crater Lake, the lake and part of the national park are in Klamath County. The county is also home to other national protected areas, including Bear Valley National Wildlife Refuge, part of Deschutes National Forest, part of Fremont National Forest, Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, part of Lower Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge and part of Winema National Forest.

The entirety of the adjacent counties are:
- Douglas (northwest)
- Lane (northwest)
- Deschutes (north)
- Lake (east)
- Siskiyou, California (south)
- Modoc, California (south)
- Jackson (west)

Of the more than 6,000 square miles of Klamath County, 194 square miles is water.

Economic stability
The economy employs 26,000 people. The largest industries are Health Care & Social Assistance (3,555 people), Retail Trade (3,196 people), and Manufacturing (2,790 people). Industries with the highest pay are Public Administration ($51,250), Real Estate & Rental & Leasing ($41,406), and Utilities ($41,250).

Median household income is $42,531. Men have an average income that is 1.29 times higher than the average income of women, which is $48,053. The income inequality (measured using the Gini index) is 0.469, which is lower than the national average.

The tract with the highest Median Household Income (total) was Census Tract 9710 with a value of $75,764, followed by Census Tract 9720 and Census Tract 9711, with respective values of $57,449 and $56,841. All three surround Klamath Falls.

About 19% of the population live below the poverty line; a number that is higher than the national average of 13%. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who classifies as impoverished. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold than that family and every individual in it is considered to be living in poverty.

The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line is white (72%), followed by Hispanic (15%) and Native American (6%).

The most common job groups, by number of people are Office & Administrative Support Occupations (3,924 people), Sales & Related Occupations (2,451 people), and Management Occupations (2,169 people).
Figure 13: Map of Klamath County (Source: Google Maps)
Compared to other counties nationwide, Klamath County has an unusually high number of residents working in Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations (4.35 times higher than expected), Fire Fighting & Prevention, & Other Protective Service Workers Including Supervisors (1.55 times), and Personal Care & Service Occupations (1.51 times).

The highest paid jobs by median earnings, are Architecture & Engineering Occupations ($70,641), Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners & Other Technical Occupations ($65,089), and Law Enforcement Workers Including Supervisors ($61,400).

The most common employment sectors for are Health Care & Social Assistance (3,555 people), Retail Trade (3,196 people), and Manufacturing (2,790 people).

**Education**

Klamath County is home to the main campus of Oregon Institute of Technology, which is currently advocating for Senate Bill 1539. The bill would officially designate the school Oregon’s Polytechnic University.

It will help to showcase its mission of extending university-level STEM+M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, & Medicine) bachelor's and advanced degrees to students, and extend Oregon Tech’s reputation in higher education in Oregon and throughout the region.

Klamath Community College is also sited in Klamath County. A community college service district was established by the voters of Klamath County in 1996. After several years of contracting with Rogue Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, and Portland Community College to hold classes in rented facilities, a permanent campus was opened in 2000.

The college provides associate’s degrees, community education and workforce development offerings.

There are private school offerings for all, and portions of, the kindergarten through high school experience. However, the most reflective of the community as a whole are the public schools.

Klamath County is served by the Klamath County School District and Klamath Falls City Schools district. Dashboards for the performance of each district are found on the following pages, along with charts noting the individual public school’s performance in having students meet the grade-level state expectations in English and mathematics.

**Food**

DHS reported that 10,234 households, comprised of 17,535 people received $2,145,109 in SNAP benefits for December 2019. That correlates to 26% of the Census Bureau’s projected 2017 Klamath County population.
Figure 14: Klamath Falls City Schools performance in school year 2018-19 (Source: Oregon Department of Education)

Figure 15: Klamath County School District performance in school year 2018-19 (Source: Oregon Department of Education)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
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<td>Klamath County School District: Elementary</td>
<td>44.70%</td>
<td>46.70%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bonanza Jr./Sr. High</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 16: The English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement indicator displays the percentage of students who are meeting the ELA achievement standard. (Oregon Department of Education)
## Mathematics

State long term goal: 80%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>35.00%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt Elementary</td>
<td>61.30%</td>
<td>58.00%</td>
<td>56.20%</td>
<td>56.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 17: The Mathematics Achievement indicator displays the percentage of students who are meeting the mathematics achievement standard. (Oregon Department of Education)
(66,935) receiving SNAP benefits. That number was down two-tenths of a percent from December 2018.

In 2018, the most recent fact sheet available, Klamath County Public Health’s Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provided $1.5 million in nutritional support to pregnant women and children. Of those served by WIC, 73% were working families.

Themes heard in Summer 2019 listening sessions regarding maternal and child health, included challenges families face in providing food for their children. Concerns were expressed about the isolation of some families and perceived judgment when using food pantries. Some mothers said neighboring families will share food, including that obtained at pantries, to help others.

Community and social context
In 2017, Klamath County had a population of 66,000 people with a median age of 42.6 and a median household income of $42,531.

The population is 78.7% white, 12.3% Hispanic or Latino, and 3.84% two or more races — 96.9% are U.S. citizens.

As the county seat and population center of the county, Klamath Falls is the location of the local hospital system and major employers. While it is potentially easier to have needs met in Klamath Falls, the entrenched poverty ensures that many residents struggle to have the most basic life requirements met — including food, housing and transportation.

The homeownership rate is 65%. Most people commute by driving and the average commute time is 15.2 minutes. The average car ownership is two cars per household.

As of 2017, 5.61% of residents (3,710 people) were born outside of the United States, which is lower than the national average of 13.7%. In 2016, the percentage of foreign-born citizens in Klamath County was 5.11%, meaning that the rate has been increasing.

The Oregon Department of Human Services County Fact Book (January 2018) records 8% people over the age of five speak a language other than English at home. About 88% of Klamath County residents held at least a high school diploma, and 24% of families were living with their own children under the age of 18. About 45% of grandparents were living with and responsible for their own grandchildren.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Land area Square miles</th>
<th>Water area Square miles</th>
<th>Distance to Klamath Falls Miles</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Beatty</td>
<td>129.47</td>
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<td>Bly</td>
<td>164.294</td>
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<td>Chemult</td>
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</table>

Figure 18: Land and water area with distances for Klamath County towns to the county seat in Klamath Falls. (Zip-codes.com)
Poverty was reported as affecting 18.6% of the population as a whole and 23.9% of those under age 18. Of those living in poverty, 68% were earning an income outside of the home.

The Fact Book reports the 2012-14 violent crime rate to be 220 per 100,000 people. The correlates to about 145 violent crimes annually.

Looking at the high poverty hotspots identified by DHS, the poverty rate is Altamont 36%, Klamath Falls East 33%, Klamath Falls West 28% and Chiloquin 22%. Countywide the DHS history for SNAP clients finds 11% experiencing domestic violence, 24% having had a mental health issue, 20% alcohol and drug issues, 24% involvement with child welfare, 2% with developmental disability and 4% utilizing vocational rehabilitation.

Also, these individuals made more in 2010 than 2015 — $13.35 to $12.04 per hour, adjusted to 2014 dollars.

Healthcare

Health insurance coverage reaches 89.5% of the population, with 32.6% on employee plans, 23.3% on Medicaid, 14.5% on Medicare, 15.4% on non-group plans, and 3.68% on military or VA plans.

Per capita personal health care spending in the county was $8,044 in 2014. This is a 7.73% increase from the previous year ($7,467).

Primary care physicians see 1,158 patients per year on average, which represents a 2.69% decrease from the previous year (1,190 patients). Other primary care providers see an average of 1,414 patients per year. This represents a 10.1% decrease from the previous year (1,572 patients). Dentists see 1,303 patients per year, and mental health providers see 255 patients per year.

Health risks & healthy behaviors

Health risks included diabetes which is experienced by 11% of the population, adult obesity 31%, HIV 33 cases, adult smoking 18%, alcohol impaired driving deaths 38%, motor vehicle crash deaths 11, violent crimes (145 in 2018), homicides four.

The county has experienced a significant increase in sexually transmitted infections in the last decade. A regional public health grant provided the means to promote testing and the use of condoms and dental dams.

A new community health improvement plan was created in 2019, with priority issues identified as suicide prevention, physical well-being, oral health, infant mortality, housing and food insecurity.

HealthyKlamath.org states: “Rates of death by suicide have increased across the United States since 1999. Additionally, suicide death rates are typically higher in rural areas than in urban areas. According to the Oregon Public Health Assessment Tool, in Klamath County, the sui-
The suicide rate has consistently been higher than the Oregon and United States rates. After a downward trend in the suicide death rate in Klamath County, decreasing from 34 per 100,000 in 2014 to 22 per 100,000 in 2016, the suicide death rate increased to 47 per 100,000 in 2017. This is more than double the Oregon rate at 19 per 100,000 deaths and the United States rate at 14 per 100,000.

Actual suicide numbers are provided below, along with the number of suicide attempts by minors and unintentional injury deaths. Data for attempts by minors was only available from 1993 through 2005.

The website continues: “Suicide is the 5th leading cause of death in Klamath County.

“As a type of preventable injury death, suicide is a public health issue. While some groups are at a higher risk, suicide can affect anyone, regardless of age, race and ethnicity, and income. It also affects the health of others, to include family members and friends, and the community. Recognized as a local, state, and national health priority, suicide prevention extends across the entire lifespan. Everyone has a responsibility in preventing suicide.”

The improvement plan goal is to “prevent deaths from suicide.” Three strategies have been adopted:

- Prevention: Implement suicide prevention programming in the school districts, in accordance with Oregon Senate Bill 52, and in the community.
- Intervention: Identify individuals that are at potential risk of suicide and refer to the appropriate agency.
- Postvention: In accordance with Oregon Senate Bill 561, enact a comprehensive, community-wide suicide postvention plan to prevent suicide contagion.

On the topic of physical well-being, the site says: “Physical health is critical for overall well-being. Well-being is defined as the state of being happy, healthy, or prosperous. It emphasizes a person’s physical, mental, and social resources and enhances protective factors that foster health. Additionally, a healthy diet, physical activity, avoiding tobacco, and maintaining a healthy body weight all significantly contribute to preventing obesity and chronic disease. Obesity and chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems in Klamath County and throughout the country.”

The first goal is to improve physical health and well-being in Klamath Falls, with the objective of increasing physical health and well-being in Klamath County by 5%, as measured by the Well-Being Index by June 30, 2021.

A second objective is to reduce the obesity rate in Klamath Falls by 3%, as measured by the Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System by June 30, 2022. The goal is to reduce obesity in Klamath Falls.

![Figure 20: Klamath County suicide attempts by minors, suicides and unintended injury deaths 1993-2018 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)](image)
Strategies include:

- Increase coordination and implementation of physical activity opportunities in schools and parks. This includes the 21stCentury After School Sports Program, increased student activity through walking school bus program, and increased number of physical activity opportunities in parks (park and play, additional play structures).

- Increase connectivity of trails and protected walk/bike lanes to increase community opportunities for active transportation and recreation. This includes partnering with Klamath Trails Alliance to increase connectivity and miles of trails, and seeking funding to prioritize Urban Trails Master Plan and Safe Routes to School Master Plan projects.

- Increase participation in well-being activities and prevention programs. This includes the Living-well coalition, Wellness Center program participation, tobacco cessation program participation and policies passed/project implemented.

40.1%
Klamath County adults
Reported one or more poor mental health days in the last 30 days, 2014-17

28.4%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Obese

25.6%
Klamath County adults
Said poor physical or mental health limits daily activities, 2014-17

21.2%
Klamath County adults
Reported being physically inactive, 2014-17

17.4%
Klamath County adults
Reported fair or poor health, 2014-17

13.8%
Klamath County adults
Reported binge drinking at least one day in the last 30 days, 2014-17 (binge drinking is considered more than 5 drinks by a man and more than 4 drinks by a woman)

17%
Klamath County adults
Drank 7 or more sodas a week, 2014-17

10.8%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Have diabetes

51 deaths
Klamath County adults
Average annual alcohol-related deaths, 2014-17

8 deaths
Klamath County adults
People over 65 in average annual fall-related deaths, 2014-17

17.4%
Klamath County adults
Reported fair or poor health, 2014-17

21.2%
Klamath County adults
Reported being physically inactive, 2014-17

25.6%
Klamath County adults
Said poor physical or mental health limits daily activities, 2014-17

40.1%
Klamath County adults
Reported one or more poor mental health days in the last 30 days, 2014-17

28.4%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Obese

22%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Smoke tobacco

17%
Klamath County adults
Drank 7 or more sodas a week, 2014-17

10.8%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Have diabetes

51 deaths
Klamath County adults
Average annual alcohol-related deaths, 2014-17

8 deaths
Klamath County adults
People over 65 in average annual fall-related deaths, 2014-17

17.4%
Klamath County adults
Reported fair or poor health, 2014-17

21.2%
Klamath County adults
Reported being physically inactive, 2014-17

25.6%
Klamath County adults
Said poor physical or mental health limits daily activities, 2014-17

40.1%
Klamath County adults
Reported one or more poor mental health days in the last 30 days, 2014-17

28.4%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Obese

22%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Smoke tobacco

17%
Klamath County adults
Drank 7 or more sodas a week, 2014-17

10.8%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Have diabetes

51 deaths
Klamath County adults
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25.6%
Klamath County adults
Said poor physical or mental health limits daily activities, 2014-17

40.1%
Klamath County adults
Reported one or more poor mental health days in the last 30 days, 2014-17

28.4%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Obese

22%
Klamath County adults, 2014-17
Smoke tobacco

17%
Klamath County adults
Drank 7 or more sodas a week, 2014-17

Figure 21: Klamath County health indicators 2014-17 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)
Oral health integration is founded on the ideals that young children receive oral health preventive services as a part of routine childcare, pregnant women have dental needs addressed prior to delivery, and that oral disease is treated as a part of comprehensive care plans,” reads the Healthy Klamath website.

It continues: “In Oregon, 28% of adults avoid smiling due to the condition of their teeth; 20% of adults feel embarrassment due to the condition of their mouth and teeth; and 23% of adults feel anxiety due to the condition of their mouth and teeth. At present, there is very little coordination between dental, behavioral, and physical healthcare providers, not only throughout Oregon, but especially in Klamath County. “

The first oral health goal is awareness. Its first objective is to increase the percentage of adults visiting the dentist each year by 10% no later than June 30, 2022. Strategies are:

- Increase awareness of the oral health coalition and partner services and resources.
- Develop dental services referral protocol.

Objective 2 is to increase annual oral health evaluation for adults with diabetes by 15% no later than June 30, 2022. Strategies are:

- Increase awareness of the relationship between oral health and physical health.
- Use case management to schedule and follow-up with clients for an annual oral health screening.

Access is the second goal. Its first objective is to increase the percentage of pregnant mothers seen by a dentist during pregnancy by 10% no later than June 30, 2022. The strategy is to provide education to obstetricians, dentists, and dental hygienists about safety and the importance of oral health visits during pregnancy.

Objective 2 is to train 20 front line health workers on oral health intake, visual screening, and referral. Strategy 1 is to implement a "train-the-trainer" program with nursing and dental hygiene students to train front line health workers on oral health intake, visual screening, and referral. Strategy 2 is to incorporate dental screening and referrals into emergency department visits.

Advocacy is the third goal. The strategy is to support two oral health policy initiatives per year. Strategy 1 is to recruit a health equity intern to research policies and the impact on oral health. Strategy 2 is to join the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN).

“Infant mortality, which refers to the death of an infant during the first year of life, is a good indicator of the health of mothers and children. In 2017, the CDC reported the five leading causes of infant death were birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, maternal pregnancy complications, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and injuries (e.g., suffocation),” according to the Healthy Klamath website.

Objective 1 is to reduce low birth weight in Klamath County by 10% no later than June 30, 2022. Strategies include:

- Increase access to and enrollment in prenatal care.

Figure 22: Reasons Oregonians gave for not visiting the dentist more frequently, among those without a visit in the last 12 months (American Dental Association, 2015)
• Reduce tobacco and substance use among pregnant mothers.
• Provide comprehensive sexual health education to prevent teen pregnancy.

Objective 2 is to reduce post neonatal (between 28 days and 1 year) infant mortality by 20% on later than June 30, 2022. Strategies are:

• Establish a work group to identify cause of and contributors to infant death in Klamath County.
• Implement a community-wide safe sleep program and messaging campaign.
• Address social and economic factors affecting maternal and child health.

“Housing plays a critical role in laying a foundation for success for all health improvement efforts,” states HealthyKlamath.org. “Safe and affordable housing in Klamath Falls has become increasingly scarce, as wages and rental vacancy have failed to keep up with rising costs of the rental housing market. Given all we know about the importance of housing to health, the current housing environment in Klamath County has the potential to widen and exacerbate health disparities and inequities that impact people with fewer support and financial resources. As approximately 23.1% of residents in Klamath County live in poverty, with insufficient income to pay market-rate rents, the availability of quality, affordable housing is a health concern.”

The goal is to establish adequate supply of ownership

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total infant deaths</th>
<th>Total neonatal deaths</th>
<th>Under 1 day</th>
<th>1-6 days</th>
<th>7-27 days</th>
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Figure 23: Klamath County infant deaths 1993-2018 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Live births</th>
<th>Inadequate care</th>
<th>Less than 18 yrs</th>
<th>35 or older</th>
<th>4+ live births</th>
<th>Minority</th>
<th>Less than 12 years of education</th>
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<td>8.80%</td>
<td>14.50%</td>
<td>16.00%</td>
<td>48.50%</td>
<td>19.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>7.80%</td>
<td>28.30%</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
<td>11.20%</td>
<td>12.90%</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
<td>48.20%</td>
<td>19.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>9.20%</td>
<td>30.80%</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
<td>11.50%</td>
<td>15.60%</td>
<td>14.80%</td>
<td>48.00%</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 24: Klamath County births and maternal risk factors, 1993-2017 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Eclampsia</th>
<th>Premature rupture of the membrane</th>
<th>Antepartum / intrapartum transfer</th>
<th>Multiples</th>
<th>Transferred prior to delivery</th>
<th>Immediate assisted ventilation</th>
<th>Assisted ventilation 6+ hours</th>
<th>Admission to NICU</th>
<th>Antibiotics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>59</td>
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Figure 25: Klamath County maternal and child health issues at birth, 2016-17 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total births</th>
<th>Tobacco use</th>
<th>Alcohol use</th>
<th>Illicit drug use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>184</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>158</td>
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<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures unavailable

Figure 26: Klamath County births and maternal substance use, 1993-2017 (Source: Oregon Health Authority)
and rental housing that is healthy, affordable, safe and equitable for all income levels.

The first objective is to form a housing task force with members who have expertise focused on infrastructure and programs needs by June 2020. Strategies include:

- Convene stakeholders to initiate a collaborative process for healthy, affordable, safe, and equitable housing.
- Identify best practice definitions for adequate housing.
- Identify and advocate for policy implementation and changes directed towards housing expansion and code compliance.

Implement a variety of housing education programs geared to housing assistance and renter education by June 6, 2023, is the second objective. The strategies include:

- Incorporate a Community Health Worker at Outpatient Care Management solely focused on housing assistance and education.
- Implement a “Ready to Rent” program through Klamath Housing Authority.
- Implement a community-wide community clean and safe housing campaign.

Establish baseline infrastructure and capital needs for housing in Klamath County by 2021 is the third objective. Strategies are:

- Convene partnerships with economic development community partnerships to create development incentive package.
• Partner with Klamath Housing Authority to solicit grant funding opportunities.

HealthyKlamath.org states: “Food insecurity is defined as ‘the state of being without reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.’ Food insecurity and poor nutrition have serious consequences for the health and well being of our community, including a greater risk for chronic disease, which can be costly to health systems and individuals. Vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and individuals who live in rural areas have less access to healthy foods and are particularly at risk for food insecurity, poor nutrition, and chronic illnesses over the course of their life. “

The objective is to reduce food insecurity among Klamath County residents by 10%, as measured by the Food Environment Index, by June 30, 2022. Improve access to fresh and healthy food, and increase knowledge on how to produce, sell, and prepare local food is the overarching goal. Strategies include:

• Increase access to local produce and other healthy foods within the urban food desert.
• Improve local food economy by connecting and advocating for local producers to sell locally.
• Educate consumers on nutritional quality, producing, and preparing health foods.

367
Homeless students in Klamath County in 2017-18

23.7%
Of Klamath County’s children, under age 18, were food insecure in 2016

4,670
Klamath County households paying 30% of more of income on rent
Analysis and recommendations

The paragraphs that follow are meant in the spirit of being trauma informed and possibility expectant. Not yet has Klamath County met its potential, but the day is coming.

Economic stability

Financial success is a cornerstone of personal fulfillment and wellness. Having an economy built on healthcare and social services does not bode well for the overall health of the community.

There is not a major manufacturing plant in the Klamath area, and agriculture is a gamble — depending upon water conditions. New opportunities must be recruited to provide living wage jobs that do more than increase the number of working poor individuals.

On the next two pages, the top five industries for each state are listed. This might provide insight into what could improve the Klamath economy.

While not in the top five industries, several states have scientific research and development as a strong economic element. During Martha Anne Dow’s tenure as President of Oregon Institute of Technology, she recruited ESI into the community. Larry Rapp, a member of the President’s Advisory Council, graduated from the university and was a vice president at ESI.

During the most recent recession, employment at the firm was reduced. However, it should serve as an example of how the university can continue to boost the local economy. A starting place would be with the university’s Board of Trustees, followed by a report of major employers of Oregon Tech alumni.

Looking into the wisdom of retired alumni would be beneficial, too. TVT Die Casting in Portland was founded by Tom Van Thiel 35 years ago. The firm was named 2010 Most Improved Supplier by General Dynamics Canada and has a specialty in direct shipping to production lines. There are lessons to be gleaned from Van Thiel, who is also an Oregon Tech alumnus.

Boeing has long been an employer of Oregon Tech engineers and it seems like there might be some opportunity to capitalize on Klamath Falls’ long runway — that was once touted as being capable of landing the space shuttle — and testing of Boeing projects.

Another interesting point about state economies is that Hawaii has national security and international affairs comprising 3% of its economy. With the number of retired law enforcement officers in the Klamath area, there might be opportunity to develop a security think tank.

Oregon Institute of Technology has developed relationships with numerous international schools throughout its 73 years. One was in Jerusalem, the capital of a nation that has successfully made agriculture profitable in a desert climate. There might be the ability for Klamath to learn from the nation’s experts through building of further relations.

In Denver, Colorado, a former shopping mall was razed and the surrounding community engaged to determine what was needed for the health and success of the residents. A community center was created to provide preschool, mental health and dentistry services, while also acting as a hub for the entire community through recreation and a 40,000 square foot urban farm. The Dahlia Campus also boasts a greenhouse and aquaculture facility that sells product to local restaurants. The profits help fund the center and the surrounding community takes pride in helping the city beyond its immediate neighborhood.

When Oregon Institute of Technology first moved to its current campus, geothermal ponds were used to grow giant shrimp. Tilapia have been grown in the hothouses owned by the Liskey family, and there are buildings in the downtown Klamath Falls district that have access to geothermal resources to develop both aquaponic and aquaculture opportunities.

Tourism is an avenue that many believe will help build the local job market. Each of the smaller Klamath County towns has special events and festivals to draw people in grow the economy of each. The Klamath Tribes have the finances and curated materials to build a museum. While Discover Klamath does a great deal to promote the county to outside visitors, some low hanging fruit may also exist.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Industry 1</th>
<th>Industry 2</th>
<th>Industry 3</th>
<th>Industry 4</th>
<th>Industry 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Motor vehicle &amp; equipment manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Executive offices &amp; legislative bodies</td>
</tr>
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<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>General merchandise stores</td>
</tr>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Computer systems design</td>
</tr>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Banking &amp; related activities</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Supermarkets &amp; other grocery</td>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Traveler accommodation</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
<td>Motor vehicle &amp; equipment manufacturing</td>
</tr>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Justice &amp; safety</td>
</tr>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
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<td>Supermarkets &amp; other grocery</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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</table>

Figure 29: Top five industries in each state (Source: DataUSA.io, based on data provided by the Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMA) 2018)
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Top Industry 1</th>
<th>Top Industry 2</th>
<th>Top Industry 3</th>
<th>Top Industry 4</th>
<th>Top Industry 5</th>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Construction</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Amusement &amp; recreation</td>
<td>Traveler accommodation</td>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Computer systems design</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Support activities for mining</td>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Banking &amp; related activities</td>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
</tr>
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<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Construction</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Computer systems design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Restaurants &amp; food services</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; secondary schools</td>
<td>Restaurant &amp; food services</td>
<td>General medical &amp; surgical hospitals</td>
<td>Colleges &amp; universities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 29 continued: Top five industries in each state (Source: DataUSA.io, based on data provided by the Census Bureau)
In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Oregon Institute of Technology’s Japanese sister schools would send cohorts of students to have weeklong English emersion lessons. These were coupled with fieldtrips to see a dairy, visit Crater Lake and see an American home. Elderhostel participants would potentially like to hike the geothermal fault and see how steam is turned into electricity on the Oregon Tech campus.

Meanwhile, inner city youth might be interested in seeing what crops look like as they grow and standing in a forest larger than a neighborhood park.

People interested in history would pay a premium to learn about the past, present and future of The Klamath Tribes. To hear the creation story of Crater Lake from an indigenous perspective would be an honor for many people to witness.

The Tribes Behavioral Services Director Monica YellowOwl has addressed the statewide Oregon Department of Justice staff with her presentation about historical trauma, and her documentaries made for the annual Restoration of the Spirit event are available on vimeo.com. The Tribal community has many lessons to teach, but these efforts should not be expected free of charge. YellowOwl’s Klamath Experience Social Exclusion Simulation has been utilized only once, for lack of funding. It is a training resource for local professionals and visitors alike.

Neighborhood and physical environment
Klamath County is a geographically large expanse. There are community action teams in Beatty, Bly, Chemult, Chiloquin, Crescent/Gilchrist, Crescent Lake and Sprague River. An opportunity exists for Healthy Klamath coalition members to attend these meetings to learn first hand what each community perceives as issues of concern and importance. A Klamath County Commissioner is assigned to each area and might appreciate the added interest by others in the county, too.

Building relationships in each of the smaller communities will create more ownership in working toward a healthier county.

Conversations about safety are occurring throughout the county. The Sheriff’s Office hosts meetings in Chiloquin and Sprague River and expanded engagement would be helpful on the topic of fire and emergency services.

The volunteers participating in fire and emergency services in the outlying communities are aging. Ongoing recruitment is always vital, but there does not appear to be a current resource identifying strengths and needs. Learning more about the activities associated with these efforts will prevent a potential future gap in service.

Transportation has improved between the smaller communities and Klamath Falls with the addition of more service by The Klamath Tribes’ Quail Trail Bus. Now in addition to runs from Chiloquin, the bus also has Thursday pick ups in Sprague River, Beatty and Bonanza. The bus ride is free of charge to anyone wanting a ride. While the only stop is Sherm’s Thunderbird in Klamath Falls, a free BTS token is offered for travel to another location. This is helpful to those who are able to get to the pick up locations, but it must be remembered that there are still community members isolated without transportation to get to the bus stops.

While there is not a quick answer to the housing issue, there is the opportunity to promote inter-generational living arrangements that might benefit both parties. A community elder might own a residence that is not fully occupied. The elder might need some help with upkeep and a member of another generation might be able to offset part of the cost of rent for this service.

Education
While graduation rates are improving, schools throughout the county are struggling to reach the 80% rate of students meeting the grade-level expectations for math and English. Reading at grade level by third grade influences math performance, as more story problems become part of the lesson.

Klamath County was one of the first in Oregon to have all of its public schools served by volunteers in the SMART reading program. Perhaps reinvigorating the volunteer base could help students have more success.
While both school districts have dual credit programs with Oregon Institute of Technology and Klamath Community College, an attainable goal for the county would be to ensure most of the students graduating with a diploma could meet the math and language requirements of both institutions.

Further partnership between the school districts and Klamath Community College will help build opportunities in vocational training. Relationships with various trades, such as plumbing and electric power would provide a means to meet the needs of industry, too.

Food
The Produce Connection provides fruits and vegetables to anyone wanting them six months a year. Year-round access is available in Chiloquin a few locations in Klamath Falls.

During the holiday season, Klamath Lake Counties Food Bank provides 75 holiday meal boxes, while the Salvation Army provides another 600.

There are eight food pantry locations in Klamath Falls, with varying days available. Service in Crescent is offered every Tuesday, and every Wednesday in Sprague River. Bly’s pantry is open the third Wednesday of each month, Bonanza’s is the third Tuesday, Malin and Merrill are the second Wednesday, and Chiloquin is the fourth Wednesday.

Refuge City Church in Klamath Falls has its own pantry that is not associated with the Food Bank. It has increased its offerings to clients through Oregon’s roadkill salvage process. Use of harvested meat would potentially help other pantries, while offering lessons on how to safely reclaim roadkill would help offset some of the continuing food insecurity.

Community and social context
Work done by the Klamath Regional Health Equity Coalition has provided insight into how to address different population needs throughout the county:

- Provide information in both Spanish and English
- Use plain language
- Meet people without judgment
- Develop materials tailored for income considerations
- Everyone wants to feel included and respected

Additionally, Ruby K. Payne’s “A Framework for Understanding Poverty” has been used in a variety of settings — from schools to service providers — to improve relationships and help people work together. This gets to the basic concepts of community and social context. Those with poverty, middle class and wealth backgrounds operate under different rule structures.

The next page provides the hidden class rules she uses to illustrate the differences between those living in poverty, the middle class and the wealthy.

These concepts factor into the findings of the maternal and child health research done by Public Health in July 2019. The themes from focus groups included:

- The education level and understanding required to complete the qualitative survey.
- Having to choose between eating and paying bills.
- Being treated like trash when seeking services.
- Being unable to pay for healthcare.
- Being exposed to toxins in agricultural work.
- Oral health care is a luxury, not a necessity.
- Rampant racism that is more overt in recent years.
- Youth having to worry about food insecurity and care of other family members.
- Process not acknowledging domestic violence as a potential element of maternal-child health.
- Going into the Tribal community and not acknowledging murdered and missing Indigenous women as a maternal health issue and ongoing child health concern.
### Hidden Class Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generational Poverty</th>
<th>Middle Class</th>
<th>Wealth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The driving forces for decision-making are survival, relationships, and entertainment.</td>
<td>The driving forces for decision-making are work and achievement.</td>
<td>The driving forces for decision-making are social, financial, and political connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People are possessions. It is worse to steal someone's girlfriend than a thing. A relationship is valued over achievement. That's why you must defend your child no matter what he or she has done. Too much education is feared because the individual might leave.</td>
<td>Things are possessions. If material security is threatened, often the relationship is broken.</td>
<td>Legacies, one-of-a-kind objects, and pedigrees are possessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The &quot;world&quot; is defined in local terms.</td>
<td>The &quot;world&quot; is defined in national terms.</td>
<td>The &quot;world&quot; is defined in international terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical fighting is how conflict is resolved. If you only know casual register, you don't have the words to negotiate a resolution. Respect is accorded to those who can physically defend themselves.</td>
<td>Fighting is done verbally. Physical fighting is viewed with distaste.</td>
<td>Fighting is done through social inclusion/exclusion and through lawyers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food is valued for its quantity.</td>
<td>Food is valued for its quality.</td>
<td>Food is valued for its presentation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Rules

- You laugh when you are disciplined; it is a way to save face.
- The noise level is higher, non-verbal information is more important than verbal. Emotions are openly displayed, and the value of personality to the group is your ability to entertain.
- Destiny and fate govern. The notion of having choices is foreign. Discipline is about penance and forgiveness, not change.
- Tools are often not available. Therefore, the concepts of repair and fixing may not be present.
- Formal register is always used in an interview and is often an expected part of social interaction.
- Work is a daily part of life.
- Discipline is about changing behavior. To stay in the middle class, one must be self-governing and self-supporting.
- A reprimand is taken seriously (at least the pretense is there), without smiling and with some deference to authority.
- Choice is a key concept in the lifestyle. The future is very important. Formal education is seen as crucial for future success.
- The artistic and aesthetic are key to the lifestyle and included clothing, art, interior design, seasonal decorating, food, music, social activities, etc.
- For reasons of security and safety, virtually all contacts dependent on connection and introductions.
- Education is for the purpose of social, financial and political connections, as well as to enhance the artistic and aesthetic.

*One of the key differences between the well-to-do and the wealthy is that the wealthy almost always are patrons to the arts and often have an individual artist(s) to whom they are patrons as well.*

**Figure 30:** Hidden class rules (Ruby K. Payne, 2003)
When there is more social integration, support systems and community engagement, there should be an improvement in the suicide numbers and in overall well-being.

Also, the growing risk factor in local pregnancies is women being unmarried. This presents the opportunity for churches, or other organizations, to create support groups and possible mentoring programs to help mothers feel like they have a greater resource. This can lead to an improvement in outcomes for the mothers, children and volunteers.

**Health care system**

Concurrent with this report, a health care service analysis is being performed. What is known is that not every resident of Klamath County has the same access to health care. Coming from the analysis will be two initiatives to improve health equity and access throughout the county.

**Conclusion**

Life in Klamath County is both beautiful and complicated. Struggle has been part of the landscape since time immemorial. Cold, hard statistics do not paint the entire reality of the community. Most people have the drive and commitment to do better than those who came before them.

What is often lost in day-to-day living is the humanity behind the numbers. The current residents of Klamath County began their existence as cells in the form of their mother, while still inside the grandmother’s womb. The potential for genetic mishap is great, but the spark of human initiative is greater.

It will take every willing person working together to correct the real struggles now being experienced here. For inspiration, we need look no further than to the Indigenous people. There is no logical reason that they survived unrelenting trauma, other than they had a story to tell and a lesson to share. Monica YellowOwl says we have been prayed into these seats by the ancestors. May we all prove worthy.
Endnotes

The data in this report spans numerous time periods. Dr. Ball’s work was published in 1997, while the Klamath County Community Health Improvement Plan was published in October 2019.

Information taken from zip-codes.com reflects the 2010 Census and 2011-15 American Communities Survey data sets. Data from the Oregon Department of Human Services is mostly 2017 figures, published in 2018. The exception is the flash SNAP report from December 2019.

While the Oregon ACEs information was published in September 2019, it was collected between 2015 and 2017.

The original ACE Study was conducted at Kaiser Permanente from 1995 to 1997. Oregon Department of Education data was compiled from the 2015-16 to 2018-19 school years.

Meanwhile the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey was conducted in April 2019.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) vital records data was compiled from data sets ranging from 1993 to 2018. Klamath County health indicators 2014-17 were taken from OHA’s State Health Improvement Plan data set.

DataUSA.io information is dated from 2017.

Page 1: The Klamath Tribes Culture & Heritage Director Perry Chocktoot told a gathering of Tribal youth a creation story and of the archeology that places their people in this region more than 13,000 years ago.

Thomas J. Ball presented his dissertation, Prevalence Rates of Full and Partial PTSD and Lifetime Trauma in a Sample of Adult Members of an American Indian Tribe, to the Department of Special Education and Community Resources and the Graduate School of the University of Oregon in December 1998.

Page 2: A genogram of this information can be found at The Klamath Tribes Wellness Center in Chiloquin.


More about the CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACE Study can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acetustudy/about.html.


Maria Trevizo and Seprieno Locario trained 10 Klamath County professionals to facilitate Gatherings of Native Americans in June 2019.


Page 36: Economic stability information was drawn from DataUSA.io.

Page 43: Healthcare information was drawn from DataUSA.io.

Page 52: Conversations with Martha Anne Dow and Larry Rapp in April 2007.

TVT Die Casting’s website is http://www.tvtdiecast.com/.

In a December 2016 conversation, Jay Markley, an enrolled member of The Klamath Tribes, said that The Tribes should reach out to Israel — sovereign nation to sovereign nation — to build agriculture best practices for the entire county.

The Dahlia Campus website is https://mhcd.org/dahlia-campus-farms-and-gardens/.

Pictures of the large shrimp can be found in the Oregon Tech archives.


Page 56: Information about Refuge City Church food pantry obtained in conversation with Doug Lane, Jr. December 24, 2019.

The Klamath Regional Health Equity Coalition was a previous project of Klamath County Public Health, funded by Oregon Health Authority.