

Trends & Solutions Klamath County 2006

“Building a Better Community”



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“Building a Better Community”

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of the Klamath Basin
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Forward

As we reflect on our past and plan for the future, this publication is dedicated to all who defend American freedoms here and abroad, and we pay a special homage to all fallen heroes for helping to build a strong, prosperous, and caring nation.

This publication, *Trends & Solutions...Building a Better Community*, represents the third community effort in 10 years by the United Way and its community partners to assess the social, economic, and general health and welfare of Klamath County and its citizens. The first comprehensive needs assessment was completed in 1996, and every five years, a follow-up process and report is undertaken. The report serves various purposes such as an invaluable resource for attaining government and private foundation grants. It also provides a compilation of diverse data beneficial to community planners and organizations addressing our community's most pressing social needs.

The 2006 United Way needs assessment began in October 2005. It involved a four-prong approach. A telephone survey of 400 randomly selected citizens was completed along with nearly 200 surveys from community leaders and non-profit organization executives. A series of focus group meetings involving more than 200 people were held to further examine the most serious social issues and to seek solutions to

the problems. The final step in the process involved gathering local, state, and national facts and trend data around a myriad of issues. We wish to thank Oregon Institute of Technology professors Richard Pohl (Project Consultant since 1996), and Kevin Brown (Focus Group Director) for their expertise and leadership. Our special appreciation also to Janet Thede (Needs Assessment Project Co-chairperson); the United Way board of directors for their support; and to Steve Williams (regional state economist) for his technical support.

The "out of pocket" cost of this project was approximately \$10,000. This assessment would not have been possible if not for the collaboration of several funding partners: City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County Commission on Children and Families, Klamath County Mental and Public Health departments, Klamath & Lake County Action Services, Merle West Medical Center, Soco Development, and the United Way of the Klamath Basin. The "in-kind" volunteer contribution to this project is also valued at \$10,000.



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Introduction

Trends & Solutions...Building a Better Community is provided as a public service to community leaders and represents a variety of social, economic and trend information gathered from public opinion, U.S. Census, and many other private and public organizations. Thanks to many organizations the data presented in this report is the most current available. A list of sources is provided so anyone can contact state and national offices for data in the future. This report is also provided in PDF format and available to download at www.unitedwayoftheklamathbasin.org (agencies/needs assessment). We wish to thank Kirk Oakes with Oregon Web Design for developing and supporting United Way's web page.

As you view the findings of the public opinion surveys and focus groups, it is important to note that drug abuse continues as the most serious community problem (over a 15-year study of these issues). Our thanks to the Methamphetamine task force chaired by District Attorney Ed Caleb for their efforts to reduce the catastrophic impact of this problem to our community and its citizens.

After the 1996 needs assessment project, a strategy and community credo was established to address drug abuse. Prevention, intervention, treatment, and a strong law enforcement/judicial response continue to be our best solution to address this issue.

The United Way board of directors evaluated the findings of this report and set its funding priorities for 2006 and beyond. It is United Way's hope that other organizations will find this data beneficial toward developing corporate strategies and strengthening strategic plans. This report addresses many key issues or benchmarks important to the Oregon Progress Board, Children First for Oregon, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

I want to thank my co-chairman Doug Woods and the 24 members of the Needs Assessment Planning Team. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that provided current facts, trend data, and other research studies for inclusion in this report. Your support makes it possible for those interested to find a variety of data all in one place. United Way is especially grateful to the 34 Oregon Institute of Technology students who lead a series of focus group meetings among nearly 200 participants.

I also want to thank our funding partners for making this possible. And a special thanks to Leroy Cabral for guiding us through the needs assessment process, and for serving as the editor of this report. For more information please contact Leroy at United Way (541) 882-5558, or e-mail your questions or comments to uwkb@cvc.net.



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Perception of Needs in Klamath County

The United Way of Klamath County conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and an environmental scan in the Spring of 2006. This study's methodology and results were similar, but not identical to United Way studies conducted in 2001 and 1996. The remainder of this section will describe the methods used to conduct this study and the specific results obtained.

Methods

The needs assessment consisted of two parts. The first part was a telephone survey of the general public. The second was a mail survey of key informants and service providers. Additionally a series of focus group meetings were held around key issues to develop a greater understanding of the problem and facilitate program solutions to address the issues. The remainder of this section will describe the methods used in both surveys.

Telephone Survey. The sample of the phone survey was constructed using the random digit dialing technique. This involved selecting phone numbers randomly from the Klamath County telephone directory, and then replacing the last digit in the number with a number taken from a random number table. This method ensures a more representative sample than can be obtained by simply selecting numbers from a phone book. It does this by allowing unlisted numbers and recently added numbers to be included in the sample. Interviews were conducted only with individuals at private residences. Enough calls and call backs were made to complete 400 interviews, and produce a 40% return rate. This method produces a sample that closely corresponds to the county distribute of ages and ethnicity as can be seen in Table 1. As was the case in the 2001 survey, the survey over-represented women.



*Richard Pohl, Ph.D.
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Results

All 583 respondents rated each of 33 issues in regard to whether they were:

1. Not serious
2. Somewhat serious
3. Very serious
4. No opinion/don't know

Table 1
Demographic Data 400 phone respondents

AGE	General Public	Census 2004**
18-34	23.9%	22.0%
35-64	59.2%	38.9%
65 or older	16.9%	15.2%
SEX	General Public	Census 2004**
Female	67.1%	50.2%
Male	32.9%	49.8%
Marital Status	General Public	Census 2000
Married	51.4%	57.8%
Single	48.6%	42.2%
Ethnicity	General Public	Census 2004**
White	82.2%	91.7%
Black or African-American	1.0%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino*	5.9	8.6%*
Asian-American	1.3%	0.9%
Amer. Ind./Alaska Native	6.7%	4.0%
Other	2.8%	

**Includes Hispanic or Latino of any race. Percentage may exceed 100%.*

***Census 2004 is an estimate by the Center for Population Research, Portland State University*

Table 2

Ten Problems Rated Most Serious by All Respondents

Rank	Public	Key Informants	Service Providers	Overall
1	Drug Abuse	Drug Abuse	Drug Abuse	Drug Abuse
2	Child Abuse	Child Abuse	Child Abuse	Child Abuse
3	Sexual Assault & Abuse	Domestic Violence (Adult & Teen)	Domestic Violence (Adult & Teen)	Alcohol Abuse
4	Alcohol Abuse	Alcohol Abuse	Alcohol Abuse	Domestic Violence
5	Domestic Violence (Adult & Teen)	Crime by Adults	Sexual Assault & or Abuse	Sexual Assault & or Abuse
6	Crime by Adults	Sexual Assault & or Abuse	Crime by Adults	Crime by Adults
7	Avail./Affordable Medical Care	Crime by Teens	Finding/Affording Day Care Serv.	Avail./Affordable Medical Care
8	Obesity/Eating Disorders	Avail./Affordable Medical Care	Mental Illness/Emotional Problems	Obesity/Eating Disorders
9	Crime by Teens	Avail./Affordable Dental Care	Obesity/Eating Disorders	Crime by Teens
10	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Teenage Pregnancy	Crime by Teens	Avail./Affordable Dental Care

Ten Most Serious Problems

Table 2 presents the 10 problems that were rated most serious by all respondents. Table 2 also presents data on how these problems were ranked by the general public (400 surveys), key informants (105 surveys), and service providers (78 surveys).

Drug abuse was ranked as the most serious problem by all three groups and by respondents as a group. This issue has been rated the top most serious issue in all three surveys (1996, 2001 and 2006). Child abuse, a problem that is closely associated with drug and alcohol abuse, has also consistently ranked in the top three most serious issues by all respondents during the past three studies.

Table 3 presents the percent of all respondents ranking each of the 33 issues very serious. Ratings ranged from a high of 82.9% for drug abuse, an increase in 4.5% from the 2001 survey to a low of 18.4% for ethnic or racial discrimination.

Table 3

All 33 Issues Ranked by all 583 Respondents

in Order of the Percent Ranking Very Serious

Rank	Problem	% Very Serious
1	Drug Abuse	82.9
2	Child Abuse	73.9
3	Alcohol Abuse	66.6
4	Domestic Violence	66.1
5	Sexual Assault & or Abuse	64.4
6	Crime by Adults	57.2
7	Available & Affordable Medical Care	55.9
8	Obesity & eating Disorders	52.3
9	Crime by Teens	52.3
10	Available & Affordable Dental Care	50.8
11	Mental Illness or Emotional problems	50.0
12	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	47.6
13	Hunger	47.5
14	Teenage Pregnancy	47.1
15	Elder Abuse	44.7
16	Unemployment or Under Employment	42.1
17	Finding or Affording Day care Services	40.2
18	Help for People with Disabilities	39.3
19	Teen & Adult Suicide	39.2
20	Safe & Affordable Housing	39.1
21	Emergency Relief for Personal & Community Disasters	38.8
22	Homelessness	37.8
23	Finding Relief if You Take Care of Someone	36.2
24	Safe and Affordable Legal Counsel	35.6
25	Gambling Addiction	35.6
26	Illiteracy (not being able to read)	35.5
27	Cost of Living	34.5
28	Lack of Job Training Programs	31.5
29	Community Access for the Disabled	30.7
30	Difficulty with English	29.2
31	Access to Affordable transportation	27.0
32	Air, water, noise pollution	25.3
33	Ethnic or racial discrimination	18.4

Seriousness of General Types of Issues

On the survey, the 33 issues were combined into six categories of related issues. Table 4 presents percentages of all 583 respondents ranking the six categories of issues as very serious. Issues related to crime were rated as the most serious type of problem, followed closely by social or psychological issues, and health care issues. Poverty, education, employment, and issues related to our area were rated as less serious concerns.

Table 4

Percent Rating Each Type of Issue Very Serious

Category of Issue	% Rating Very Serious
Issues Related to Crime	54.8%
Social or Psychological Issues	53.8%
Health Care Issues	51.7%
Issues Related to Poverty	39.1%
Issues Related to Education or Employment	31.3%
Issues Related to Our Area	30.5%

Trends in Seriousness of Issues from 1996 to 2006

Since 1996, the United Way survey has asked very similar questions about problems of Klamath County making comparisons possible. Drug abuse and child abuse continued to lead both 2001 and 2006 surveys. Domestic violence is ranked 4 on the 2006 survey and was presented as domestic abuse (8th ranked problem) in 1996, and as Adult abuse (7th ranked problem) in 2001 respectively. Concern with crime appears to have increased in the last 5 years, as does concern with medical care. Note that Obesity & Eating Disorders was added in the 2006 survey and appeared as the 8th ranked most serious problem.

Table 5

Comparison of Most Serious Issues by all Respondents 1996, 2001 & 2006 Studies

Rank	1996	2001	2006
1	Drug Abuse	Drug Abuse	Drug Abuse
2	Teenage Pregnancy	Child Abuse	Child Abuse
3	Child Abuse	Alcohol Abuse	Alcohol Abuse
4	Alcohol Abuse	Teenage Pregnancy	Domestic Violence
5	Crime by Teens	Available & Affordable Dental Care	Sexual Assault & or Abuse
6	Minor Acts of Vandalism by Teens	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Crime by Adults
7	Crime by Adults	Adult Abuse	Available & Affordable Medical Care
8	Domestic Abuse	Crime by Adults	Obesity & Eating Disorders
9	School Drop Out	School Drop Out	Crime by Teens
10	Available & Affordable Medical Care	Available & Affordable Medical Care	Available & Affordable Dental Care

Table 6 presents the issues that improved from 2001 to 2006. Note that teenage pregnancy displayed the greatest improvement from 2001 to 2006.

Table 6

Issues with greatest decrease in percent ranking very serious

1.	Teenage Pregnancy	16.7%
2.	Affordable Legal Counsel	6.0%
3.	Finding or Affording Day care Services	5.4%
4.	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	2.9%
5.	Ethnic or racial discrimination	2.6%
6.	Alcohol Abuse	1.8%
7.	Available & Affordable Dental Care	0.6%
8.	Air, water, noise pollution	0.5%
9.	Unemployment or Under Employment	0.4%

Table 7 presents issues that got worse from 2001 to 2006. Emergency Relief for Personal & Emergency Disasters displayed that largest increase in problem severity from 2001 to 2006.

Table 7

Issues with greatest increase in percent ranking very serious

1.	Emergency Relief for Personal & Emergency Disasters	14.5%
2.	Hunger	13.4%
3.	Help for People with Disabilities	12.5%
4.	Safe & Affordable Housing	10.6%
5.	Available & Affordable Medical Care	10.0%
6.	Cost of Living	9.0%
7.	Crime by Adults	8.9%
8.	Community Access for the Disabled	8.0%
9.	Access to Affordable transportation	7.6%
10.	Crime by Teens	7.6%

Table 8 presents the largest age differences between percentages of 18-64 year and 65 & older respondents (all 583 respondents) ranking problems very serious. For all ten problems in Table 8, older respondents rated the problem as more serious than did younger ones.

Table 8

Age differences in percent ranking issues very serious between respondents age 18-65 and respondents age 65 and older

Question	Difference
1. Homelessness	-26.6%
2. Sexually transmitted diseases	-24.2%
3. Obesity & eating disorders	-24.0%
4. Gambling addiction	-20.8%
5. Difficulty with English	-20.1%
6. Unemployment or under employment	-18.5%
7. Emergency relief for personal or community disasters	-16.9%
8. Hunger	-16.1%
9. Drug abuse	-15.7%
10. Lack of job training programs	-14.0%

Table 9 presents differences in percent ranking very serious between 18-64 year olds and 65 & older respondents. Only three problems (medical care, disabled access and cost of living) were ranked more serious by 18-64 respondents than they were by older ones. In addition, older respondents had an average very serious rating of 54.8% for all 33 problems. This was almost 10 percentage points higher than the 45.2% average rating of younger respondents.

Table 9

Differences in percent ranking issues very serious between respondents age 18-65 and respondents age 65 and older

Question	18-64	65 & Up	Difference
1. Air, water, noise pollution	25.1%	33.3%	-8.2%
2. Access to Affordable transportation	23.1%	35.7%	-12.6%
3. Community Access for the Disabled	36.2%	34.6%	1.6%
4. Emergency Relief for Personal & Community Disasters	41.6%	58.5%	-16.9%
5. Sexually Transmitted Diseases	49.0%	73.2%	-24.2%
6. Available & Affordable Dental Care	51.3%	51.7%	-0.4%
7. Available & Affordable Medical Care	56.4%	49.2%	7.2%
8. Obesity & eating Disorders	50.0%	74.0%	-24.0%
9. Cost of Living	35.1%	34.8%	0.3%
10. Homelessness	37.7%	64.3%	-26.6%
11. Finding or Affording Day Care Services	36.8%	46.9%	-10.1%
12. Safe & Affordable Housing	38.4%	43.5%	-5.1%
13. Safe and Affordable Legal Counsel	37.3%	43.8%	-6.5%
14. Hunger	47.7%	63.8%	-16.1%
15. Alcohol Abuse	63.9%	73.4%	-9.5%
16. Child Abuse	69.9%	75.8%	-5.9%
17. Drug Abuse	76.8%	92.5%	-15.7%
18. Gambling Addiction	38.8%	59.6%	-20.8%
19. Domestic Violence	64.9%	66.2%	-1.3%
20. Sexual Assault & or Abuse	65.6%	70.5%	-4.9%
21. Elder Abuse	50.2%	54.0%	-3.8%
22. Teen & Adult Suicide	42.5%	50.0%	-7.5%
23. Finding Relief if You Take Care of Someone	37.5%	41.2%	-3.7%
24. Mental Illness or Emotional problems	49.7%	63.3%	-13.6%
25. Teenage Pregnancy	51.7%	51.8%	-0.1%
26. Help for People with Disabilities	45.2%	50.0%	-4.8%
27. Crime by Teens	52.2%	55.4%	-3.2%
28. Crime by Adults	56.5%	64.7%	-8.2%
29. Difficulty with English	28.3%	48.4%	-20.1%
30. Ethnic or racial discrimination	19.3%	30.4%	-11.1%
31. Lack of Job Training Programs	32.3%	46.3%	-14.0%
32. Unemployment or Under Employment	42.5%	61.0%	-18.5%
33. Illiteracy (not being able to read)	37.7%	45.8%	-8.1%

Table 10 presents percentages of people at various income levels that ranked each of the 33 problems as very serious. There were three problems that specific income subgroups rated as very serious more than 15% above the average for that problem. These included:

1. Cost of living. 65.1% of respondents earning from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 34.5% very serious.
2. Finding or affording day care services. 63.5% of respondents earning from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 40.2% very serious.
3. Difficulty with English. 46.0% of respondents

earning from \$10,000 to \$14,999 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 29.2% very serious.

Table 10 also shows, there were three problems that specific income subgroups rated as very serious more than 15% below the average for that problem. These included:

1. Child abuse. 45.5% of respondents earning less than \$9,999 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 73.9% very serious.
2. Sexual assault & or abuse. 38.7% of respondents earning from 50,000 to \$74,999 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 64.4% very serious.

Table 10

Differences in percent ranking issues very serious based on family income

	Less than \$9,999	\$10,000- \$14,999	\$15,000- \$24,999	\$25,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$74,999	\$75,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 or more
Number of Respondents	33	64	80	124	91	78	73
Air, water, noise pollution	12.1%	25.4%	21.1%	29.0%	22.6%	25.4%	18.2%
Access to Affordable transportation	15.2%	23.8%	22.5%	26.2%	12.9%	8.5%	11.4%
Community Access for the Disabled	24.2%	31.7%	31.0%	32.7%	22.6%	20.3%	9.1%
Emergency Relief for Personal & Community Disasters	27.3%	28.6%	23.9%	28.0%	33.9%	27.1%	22.7%
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	27.3%	42.9%	33.8%	44.9%	35.5%	32.2%	34.1%
Available & Affordable Dental Care	48.5%	61.9%	45.1%	63.6%	41.9%	39.0%	34.1%
Available & Affordable Medical Care	42.4%	61.9%	60.6%	56.1%	40.3%	45.8%	40.9%
Obesity & Eating Disorders	27.3%	42.9%	35.2%	36.4%	38.7%	35.6%	54.5%
Cost of Living	21.2%	65.1%	38.0%	41.1%	21.0%	18.6%	13.6%
Homelessness	27.3%	39.7%	40.8%	41.1%	29.0%	22.0%	25.0%
Finding or Affording Day care Services	15.2%	63.5%	35.2%	22.4%	22.6%	27.1%	27.3%
Safe & Affordable Housing	24.2%	47.6%	36.6%	43.9%	24.2%	32.2%	22.7%
Safe and Affordable Legal Counsel	36.4%	30.2%	31.0%	31.8%	12.9%	15.3%	18.2%
Hunger	24.2%	49.2%	43.7%	49.5%	37.1%	42.4%	27.3%
Alcohol Abuse	42.4%	68.3%	47.9%	71.0%	43.5%	55.9%	56.8%
Child Abuse	45.5%	71.4%	64.8%	75.7%	67.7%	79.7%	77.3%
Drug Abuse	63.6%	77.8%	70.4%	86.0%	75.8%	81.4%	90.9%
Gambling Addiction	27.3%	34.9%	33.8%	37.4%	21.0%	18.6%	11.4%
Domestic Violence	54.5%	61.9%	56.3%	68.2%	59.7%	64.4%	70.5%
Sexual Assault & or Abuse	60.6%	61.9%	56.3%	67.3%	38.7%	55.9%	59.1%
Elder Abuse	24.2%	39.7%	36.6%	43.9%	30.6%	28.8%	25.0%
Teen & Adult Suicide	27.3%	39.7%	29.6%	41.1%	27.4%	25.4%	25.0%
Finding Relief if You Take Care of Someone	15.2%	31.7%	21.1%	32.7%	25.8%	33.9%	25.0%
Mental Illness or Emotional problems	51.5%	46.0%	54.9%	51.4%	37.1%	40.7%	36.4%
Teenage Pregnancy	36.4%	39.7%	49.3%	52.3%	35.5%	40.7%	52.3%
Help for People with Disabilities	36.4%	38.1%	19.7%	42.1%	27.4%	37.3%	22.7%
Crime by Teens	30.3%	50.8%	53.5%	63.6%	37.1%	32.2%	47.7%
Crime by Adults	48.5%	52.4%	52.1%	70.1%	46.8%	62.7%	54.5%
Difficulty with English	15.2%	46.0%	29.6%	26.2%	21.0%	30.5%	22.7%
Ethnic or racial discrimination	12.1%	23.8%	23.9%	22.4%	11.3%	8.5%	6.8%
Lack of Job Training Programs	12.1%	30.2%	31.0%	35.5%	25.8%	30.5%	38.6%
Unemployment or Under Employment	30.3%	47.6%	47.9%	45.8%	22.6%	37.3%	25.0%
Illiteracy (not being able to read)	30.3%	30.2%	29.6%	41.1%	25.8%	30.5%	29.5%

3. Cost of living. 13.6% of respondents earning \$100,000 or more per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 34.5% very serious.
4. Lack of Job Training Programs. 12.1% of respondents earning less than \$9,999 per year rated this problem very serious. The average for this problem was 31.5% very serious.

Table 11 presents percentages of respondents rating each of the 37 problems as “not addressed” or “slightly addressed.” Note that only the service providers and key informants completed this part of the survey.

Table 11

Respondent rating problems not addressed or slightly addressed

Elder care programs	32.3%
Obesity & eating disorder services	72.1%
Air, water, noise pollution	34.9%
Domestic abuse programs	29.9%
Adult literacy education	41.8%
Alcohol abuse prevention & treatment	21.6%
Child abuse prevention & treatment	37.9%
Child care/day care services	34.9%
Continuing education programs	15.0%
Coordinated information & referral systems	45.3%
Crime prevention & treatment	46.8%
Dental care programs	60.3%
Drug abuse prevention & treatment	39.4%
Employment training programs	34.1%
English language services	44.3%
Family planning programs	47.2%
Food stamps or food boxes	16.3%
Gambling addiction treatment	61.5%
Health education programs	35.9%
Health & medical care programs	36.4%
Help with paying utility bills	52.1%
Home health care services	37.1%
Housing assistance programs	47.7%
In-home services	53.7%
Legal services for the poor	68.3%
Mental health services	41.5%
Nursing homes/assisted living	22.2%
Parenting programs	55.5%
Personal and family counseling	38.5%
Prenatal care programs	37.4%
Programs for the disabled	34.3%
Public transportation services	17.6%
Race relations programs	65.1%
Sexual abuse intervention programs	54.6%
Shelter for the local homeless	50.3%
Site nutrition services or home delivered meals	34.6%
Youth development/recreation services	43.8%

Table 12 list the 10 problems that were rated as the best addressed. Continuing education was rated as the best addressed issue.

Table 12

Best Addressed Issues

Service
1. Continuing education programs
2. Food stamps or food boxes
3. Public transportation services
4. Alcohol abuse prevention & treatment
5. Nursing homes/assisted living
6. Domestic abuse programs
7. Elder care programs
8. Employment training programs
9. Programs for the disabled
10. Site nutrition services or home delivered meals

Table 13 lists the 10 problems that were most in need of improvement. Note that obesity & eating disorder were most in need of improvement.

Table 13

Services Most Needing Improvement

Service
1. Obesity & eating disorder services
2. Legal services for the poor
3. Race relations programs
4. Gambling addiction treatment
5. Dental care programs
6. Parenting programs
7. Sexual abuse intervention programs
8. In-home services
9. Help with paying utility bills
10. Shelter for the local homeless

Table 14 contains the percents of all respondents rating the quality of life in Klamath County. Overall, quality of life was rated C+, a decline from the B- rating received in 2001. Key Informants were the most optimistic giving Klamath County a B; Service providers rated Klamath County B- and the general public a C.

Table 14

Respondents rating quality of life in Klamath County

Quality of Life	F	D	C	B	A	Grade
Service Providers	1.4%	9.6%	28.8%	42.5%	17.8%	B-
Key Informants	0.9%	1.8%	22.9%	41.3%	33.0%	B
General Public	5.0%	21.9%	32.8%	25.6%	14.7%	C
All Respondents	3.8%	16.6%	30.5%	30.7%	18.5%	C+

Table 15 contains the percents of all respondents rating the quality of services provided in Klamath County. Overall, quality of services was rated D+, a decline from the C rating received in 2001. Key Informants were the most optimistic giving services a C+; Service providers rated Klamath County C- and the general public a D+.

Table 15

Respondent rating quality of services in Klamath County

Quality of Services	F	D	C	B	A	Grade
Service Providers	9.9%	28.2%	32.4%	28.2%	1.4%	C-
Key Informants	4.9%	18.4%	35.0%	38.8%	2.9%	C+
General Public	21.1%	33.0%	33.6%	9.4%	2.8%	D
All Respondents	16.1%	29.3%	33.7%	18.3%	2.6%	D+

Table 16 presents data on volunteerism by the general public, key informants, and service providers. Lower percentages of general public volunteered 50 hours or more per year, 17.1% compared to 21% in 2001. Service providers were also slightly lower 58% in 2001 and 50.7% in 2006. Key informants, in contrast, volunteered at a higher rate, 67.3% in 2006 compared to 57.0% in 2001.

Table 16

Percentage of Respondents Volunteering at least 50 hours per year

	General Public	Key Informants	Service Providers
>50hrs	49	66	38
% Volunteering	17.1%	67.3%	50.7%

Table 17 presents the average numbers of hours volunteered by the general public, key informants, and service providers. Compared to 2001, hours volunteered by the general public declined from 60 to 45.2, and key informants volunteered less from 144 hours in 2001 to 116.7 hours in 2006. Service providers, however, increased from 118 to 124.7 hours in 2006.

Table 17

Average volunteer hours per year

	General Public	Key Informants	Service Providers
Avg. Hrs.	45.2	124.7	116.7

Table 18 presents the average number of hours volunteered by 18-34, 34-64, and 65 and older age groups.

Table 18

Average volunteer hours by age group

Age	Avg. Vol. Hrs.
18-34	15.4
35-64	68.0
65 & up	55.4

Focus Groups Provide Solutions

Needs Assessment Focus Group Executive Summary

These results represent 22 focus groups of 5-7 social services professionals and were accomplished in mid March of 2006 at the Student Union Building of the Oregon Institute of Technology. Each group was led in a focused discussion by student co-facilitators from OIT using the following questions:

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the issue/problem changed.
2. What can we do better to lessen (reduce) the problem, improve conditions?
3. What can we do to improve the condition that create the problem (as in the environment)?

Approximately 175 community leaders, service providers and students participated in the following focus groups: Child Care, Drug Abuse, Mental and Public Health issues, Physical Abuse (children, adults, seniors), Housing, and special focus groups were conducted among high school youth and representatives of the Hispanic community.

The comments and discussion from the focus groups was gathered by recorders for each group and compiled into a data set for each topic. Then, categories were derived by a preliminary sorting procedure after which the data was coded using semantic differential sorting. The interrater reliability for the semantic differential sort was .89 indicating that the categories reported for each topic area are both valid and reliable.

Results

Child Care Focus Group

The focus groups responses for the topic area of childcare cluster on the following areas according to the question.

1. Since the last assessment in 2001, how has the child care issue changed?
 - a. More demand for childcare with no increase in funding



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Focus Group Director*

- b. Not enough childcare providers
 - c. Less foster parents
2. What can we (community) do better to improve conditions?
 - a. Child care providers partner with other organizations
 - b. Increase parent education and involvement
 - c. Improve childcare availability and diversity

Drugs Focus Group

The focus groups responses for the topic area of drugs cluster on the following areas according to the question.

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the drug problem changed?
 - a. Less funds are available for treatment and enforcement
 - b. Meth is predominate drug
 - c. Drug court has reduced the problem
 - d. The sources and flow of the drugs has changed
2. What can we do to better lessen (reduce) the problem?
 - a. Provide alternatives to children and young adults
 - b. More education, treatment options and prevention
 - c. Increased testing and referrals
 - d. Improve treatment programs
3. What can we do to improve the condition that creates the problem (as in environment)?
 - a. Drug and alcohol-free events
 - b. Promote drug testing
 - c. Anti-drug use campaign

Mental & Public Health Focus Group

The focus groups responses for the topic area of mental and public health cluster on the following areas according to the question.

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the public/mental health problem changed?
 - a. Child abuse still a problem
 - b. Funding for drugs and services decreased
 - c. Hard to find residential placement for mental health patients
 - d. Meth use and hepatitis increased
2. What can we do better to lessen (reduce) the problem?
 - a. Reduce self-medication
 - b. Restore funds for public/mental health programs
3. What can we do to improve the condition that creates the problem (as in environment)?
 - a. More professionals in the basin
 - b. Long term focus on situated solutions

Physical Abuse

The focus groups responses for the topic area of physical abuse cluster on the following areas according to the question.

Child Abuse Focus Group

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the child abuse problem changed?
 - a. Mental health problems are more severe
 - b. Increase in reported incidences
 - c. SART (Sexual Abuse Response Team) has formed
2. What can we do better to lessen (reduce) the problem, improve conditions?
 - a. More community education about problem and services
 - b. More community support for families and new parents
 - c. Coordination among programs

Domestic Violence Focus Group

1. Since the last assessment in 2001, how has the domestic violence issue changed?
 - a. Increase in Meth related violence
 - b. Younger age of victims
 - c. An increase in the mental health issues associated with violence

- d. More awareness of problem
2. What can we (community) do to lessen or improve the conditions?
 - a. Locally based funding
 - b. Education about the problem
 - c. Family based education and programming
 - d. Need education and mentors for victims

Elderly Abuse Focus Group

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the issue of elderly abuse changed?
 - a. Creation of elderly task force
 - b. Fraud an increasing concern
 - c. Elders assuming parental responsibilities
2. What can the community do better to lessen the problem or improve conditions?
 - a. Facilities aimed at elders needs
 - b. Reinforce value to society of Elders

Housing Focus Group

The focus groups responses for the topic area of housing cluster on the following areas according to the question.

1. Since the last needs assessment in 2001, how has the housing issue changed?
 - a. Very little housing in lower price ranges
 - b. Little or no emergency housing
 - c. Little services aimed at homeless families
 - d. Funding has been cut
 - e. Increase in rental requirements and cost
2. What can we do better to lessen (reduce) the problem?
 - a. Renter and landlord education programs
 - b. Build more housing
 - c. Create program to address young adult housing needs
3. What can we do to improve the condition that creates the problem (as in environment)?
 - a. Rent to own program
 - b. Education will result in decent, clean, and affordable housing
 - c. Solutions on the federal and state government level
 - d. Increase wages
 - e. Obtain grant income

Hispanic Needs Focus Group

On April 5, 2006 at 5500 Norgold Lane, Klamath Falls, Oregon-Country Village Apartments 7:00 p.m 11 members of the Hispanic community participated in a focus group. The following is the list of needs that were articulated.

1. English classes-classes to accommodate our working schedule, inadequate transportation to get to classes.
2. Drivers Education-assistance with the book and comprehending the language used, actual hands on driving, would like an instructor for adults-similar to what students receive.
3. Dental Care-clinics or dentist want most money up front.
4. Eye Examinations-would like some financial assistance for glasses or ongoing exams.
5. Legal Services-unable to get good free legal advice, immigration questions answered, workman compensation issues, employees unable to retrieve wages for hours worked.
6. Job Training for adults with limited job skills-some training similar to Job Corp.
7. Affordable after school and or summer school activities, areas for children of farm workers that work late harvesting fields where they can get assistance with crafts, arts, science, make it more appealing to children of different cultures.
8. Food-access to food boxes-treated as if not deserving of help, location is out of the way, a variety of cultural foods.
9. Child Care-lack of reasonable and affordable child care, more cultural awareness of Hispanic culture.

High School Youth Focus Group

Three focus groups were done with high school students from Bonanza, Chiloquin,, and Lost River High Schools. OIT students facilitated focus groups of 6 students in each of the schools. The questions were:

1. What issues do you think need to be addressed in the community?
2. Which of these issues do you think is most important?

The comments and discussion from the focus groups was gathered by recorders for each group and compiled into a data set for each topic. Then, categories were derived by a preliminary sorting procedure after which the data was coded using semantic differential sorting. The interrater reliability for the semantic differential sort was .91 indicating that the categories reported for each topic area are both valid and reliable. The answers as a whole fell into the following clusters;

1. What issues do you think need to be addressed in the community?
 - a. Programs, activities and places for youth
 - b. Racism
 - c. Gangs
 - d. Meth
2. Which of these issues do you think is most important?
 - a. Police harassment (Lost River)
 - b. Improvement of facilities (Chiloquin)
 - c. Meth (Bonanza)

Oregon Institute of Technology Student Researchers & Focus Group Leaders

Paul Ainsworth	Brandon Larsen
Skyler Arabak	Andre Lawrence
Angela Archer	Ashley Mart
Evan Bradley	Sean McClain
Todd Broocker	Amanda McLin
Holly Byerley	Tracey McGovern
Serena Caldwell	Justin Millar
Jennifer Christensen	Kimberlee Miller
Todd Christiaens	Manfred Mueller
Amy Cline	William O'Fallon
Cora Coleman	Andrew Paulson
Kendra Corkill	Hans Pedersen
Aaron Croxford	Triffany Phillips
Jeffrey Devish	Cody Rekow
Matthew Halttunen	Belinda Staden
Andrew Kawahara	Katherine Thompson
Stacey Kjemperud	Ariel Vu

Major Trends in Klamath County (2000-2006)

- Klamath County's population growing slowly but steady, estimated at 65,055 (July 1, 2005)
- Klamath County's senior population (age 65 and over) grew the fastest since 2000 and represents 19.7% of the total population. The state of Oregon's 65 and over population is about 12.8 percent.
- Hispanic population in Klamath County grew by 13% from 2000 to 2004.
- Klamath County youth ages 15 to 19 increased by 8% from 2000 to 2004; youth ages 5 to 14 decreased by 6.5 percent.
- Klamath County's low student drop out rate of 3.6% in 2003-04 improved from its 2002-03 rate of 4.2 percent. Oregon's drop out rate worsened from 4.2% in 2002-03 to 4.6% in 2003-04.
- 52% or 5,414 of the 10,404 public school students in Klamath County were eligible for free and reduced price lunches in 2004-2005.
- Higher education student enrollment at KCC grew by 242% from 2000 to 2006. OIT student enrollment has grown by 17.9% from 2000 to 2005, with a big expansion planned for 2007.
- Klamath County's median family income of \$46,300 represents a 22.8% gain from 2000 to 2005; Klamath County ranks 21% lower than Oregon's median family income of \$58,600.
- Klamath County's poverty rate of 15.3% for people of all ages (2003 Census estimate) is the 2nd highest rate in Oregon. The state average was 12.0 percent. In 2002, Klamath County's poverty rate was better (14.7%), suggesting the gap between rich and poor is widening.
- Child abuse victims in Oregon increased by 6.0% from 2004 to 2005. Klamath County has improved—from having the 3rd highest rate in 2004, 2nd highest rate in 2003, to the 6th highest rate in Oregon in 2005.
- Infant and toddler care continues to be a major need in Klamath County. The number of family child care homes has declined by 29% from 2000 to 2005. Cost & liability are big factors.
- Crime offenses in Klamath County grew by 7.8% from 2004 to 2005; the largest increase was D.U.I.I. offenses with a 31.6% gain. Drug offenses decreased 21.1% during this same period. Methamphetamine continues to represent about 75% of all drug offenses.
- The number of adults seeking emergency shelter at the Klamath Crisis Center from domestic violence grew by 84% from 2004 to 2005.
- The number of alcohol related deaths in Klamath County grew from 14 persons in 2000 to 18 people in 2004.
- Klamath County had the sixth highest rate of teen pregnancy in Oregon in 2004 at 11.8 per 1,000 teens ages 10 to 17; this represents an improvement from the 15.6 rate in 2000.
- The 2005-2006 Teen Assessment Project survey revealed a 14.4% increase in the number of boys in Klamath County public schools grades 10th through 12th who report regular use of alcohol. Girls of the same grade levels revealed a 19.9% increase in regular alcohol use. This increase represents the change between the 2002 and 2005 studies.
- Klamath County's unemployment rate for April 2006 is 7.3 percent. This is down considerably from 9.8% in 2003, and 7.6% in 2005 respectively. Future employment growth is highly anticipated.
- Oregon Air National Guard (Kingsley Field) to expand its training mission; could increase its workforce by 20 percent up to 1,000 personnel.
- Average cost of residential home in Klamath County have reached \$187,225 (March 2006), increasing by 86.2% or \$86,670 from January 2001.
- A United States labor shortage of 10 million workers by 2010 is likely due to the significant number of "baby boomers" retiring.

Demographic & Social Trends

POPULATION ISSUES

- Klamath County Population Growth
- Population Continues to Grow Older
- Hispanic Population Increasing

EDUCATION ISSUES

- High School Age Population Increasing
- Old Schools Need Physical Improvements
- Oregon Student Drop Out Rate Increasing, Klamath County Rate Decreasing
- Student Ethnic Diversity Growing
- Free/Reduced Price Student Lunches
- Triad, Hosanna Christian Schools
- KLEOS Children's Community
- Klamath Adult Learning Center
- Higher Ed: OIT and KCC growing

KLAMATH COUNTY SOCIAL TRENDS

- Gap Between Rich and Poor Widens
- Hunger in Klamath County
- OHS Self Sufficiency Programs
- Child Abuse: State-wide Problem Growing But Improving Locally
- More Children Entering Foster Care
- Infant/Toddler Care Needed the Most
- Headstart Program Reaching Capacity
- Basin Migrant Care

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Klamath County Crime Increasing
- Alcohol Offenses Increasing As Drug Offenses Starting to Decline
- Domestic Violence Victims Seek Shelter
- Runaways & Juvenile Arrests
- IYS and National runaway statistics

PHYSICAL, MENTAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Child Births in Klamath County
- Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- Klamath County WIC Program
- Pregnant Women Risk Behavior
- Unmet Medical Needs
- Dental Needs
- Childhood Immunizations
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Gambling Addiction
- Mental Health Services
- Senior & Disabled Services
- Merle West Medical Center
- Alcohol & Drug Use by Teens

Population Issues

Klamath County Population Growth

The U.S. Census (done every 10 years) serves as the foundation for all population estimates. Periodic updates are based on historical averages with consideration given to mortality, birth rates and migration patterns. The certified population estimates provided by the Center for Population Research and Census, Portland State University, reports Klamath County's population as of July 1, 2005 to be 65,098, representing a 2.0% increase from the 63,775 counted in the 2000 Census. The population of Oregon grew by 6.1% to 3,631,440 during this same period surpassing the national growth rate of about 1% per year.

Census Population Estimates by Sex and Age, 2004

	Klamath County	% of Total Pop.	Oregon State	% of Total Pop.
Total Pop.	65,098		3,594,586	
Sex				
Male	32,695	50.2%	1,786,769	49.7%
Female	32,403	49.8%	1,807,817	50.3%
Age				
Under 5 years	3,893	6.0%	226,069	6.3%
5 to 9 years	4,271	6.6%	231,554	6.4%
10 to 14 years	4,823	7.4%	246,642	6.9%
15 to 19 years	4,955	7.6%	245,838	6.8%
20 to 24 years	4,512	6.9%	252,712	7.0%
25 to 29 years	3,587	5.5%	249,329	6.9%
30 to 34 years	3,809	5.9%	256,668	7.1%
35 to 39 years	3,714	5.7%	244,934	6.8%
40 to 44 years	4,518	6.9%	265,719	7.4%
45 to 49 years	4,615	7.1%	272,098	7.6%
50 to 54 years	4,990	7.7%	264,463	7.4%
55 to 59 years	4,195	6.4%	218,712	6.1%
60 to 64 years	3,289	5.1%	160,027	4.5%
65 to 69 years	2,892	4.4%	125,989	3.5%
70 to 74 years	2,369	3.6%	101,009	2.8%
75 to 79 years	1,988	3.1%	90,382	2.5%
80 to 84 years	1,448	2.2%	72,543	2.0%
85 years and over	1,230	1.9%	69,898	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Klamath County Population Trends 1980 – 2020

Oregon	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
	2,639,915	2,675,800	2,856,000	3,182,690	3,436,750	3,631,440	3,843,900	4,095,708	4,359,258
Klamath County	59,000	57,500	57,800	61,190	63,900	65,055	66,968	68,851	70,595

SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000

Since 1991, Klamath County has experienced a positive growth in population and median family income. Prior to 1991, population totals fluctuated up and down depending largely on the success of manufacturing and wood products jobs.

The city of Malin's population grew by 25% and Klamath Falls grew by 4.8% from 2000 to 2005. According to the 2000 Census the population of Oregon will reach 3,843,900 and Klamath County will grow to 66,968 by 2010.

Klamath County's population should continue to grow as the local economy continues to favor business expansion and diversity. Additionally a growing number of retirees largely from neighboring states will add to the senior population totals. The increasing number of residential building permits do not necessarily equate to a booming population as many of the homes might not be occupied by full-time residents, and could be considered vacation or investment properties.

The U.S. Census in 2010 shall provide a more accurate population assessment.

Six Oregon counties (all among the smallest) experienced negative population trends declining one or two percent from 2000 to 2005. They are Baker, Coos, Grant, Lincoln, Sherman and Wallowa. The highest growth areas during this period were Deschutes County (24.4% gain) and Washington County (9.9% increase).

The Population Continues to Grow Older

The July 1, 2004 Census population estimate reflects the age and ethnic diversity of Klamath County. The 2000 official census reported the number of people living in Klamath



County 65 years of age and older at 9,520 or 14.9% of total residents. In 2004, this number grew to 12,819 or 19.7% of total residents. The age 65 and over population of Oregon was 12.8 percent.

The "Baby Boomers," born during post World War II years (1946 – 1964), represent the fastest growing age group of Americans and number about 78 million. Their age ranges from 46 to 60. With U.S. life expectancy hitting an all-time high of 77.6 years, according to the Center for Disease Control, the aging trend will continue. The U.S. Census estimates about 35 million Americans are age 65 and older today (2006), and this population group is expected to more than double by 2030. About 59% of seniors are women. The U.S. Department of Labor statistics indicate that today's seniors are generally better off than those in previous decades. The poverty rate today among seniors is about 10%, lower than the national average of 12.5 percent. Many seniors are working past age 55, some into their early 70's, but the Bureau of Labor Statistics are projecting the aging population and retirement of this work force will bring about a labor shortage of more than 10 million workers by 2010.

Klamath County's youth population from birth to age 19 dropped from 18,410 (28.9%) of the population in 2000 to 17,942 (27.6%) in 2004 according to the Census Bureau. The only group that increased its percentage of the total population during this period was age 15 to 19.

Population Growth Trends 2000-2005

	July 1, 2005	April 1, 2000	Change from 2000 Census	Percent Change From 2000 Census
Oregon	3,631,440	3,421,399	210,041	6.1%
Klamath County	65,055	63,775	1,280	2.0%
Bonanza	425	415	10	2.4%
Chiloquin	720	716	4	0.6%
Klamath Falls	20,400	19,460	940	4.8%
Malin	800	640	160	25.0%
Merrill	915	897	18	2.0%
Unincorporated	41,795	41,647	148	0.4%

SOURCE: 2000 Census; Center for Population Research and Census, Portland State University

Klamath County Youth Population 1990 – 2004

Year	1990	1995	2000	2004	2000 Percent of population	2004 Percent of population
Ages 0-4 Population	4,098	4,617	4,092	3,893	6.4%	6.3%
Ages 5-9 Population	4,350	4,514	4,810	4,271	7.2%	6.4%
Ages 10-14 Population	4,360	4,493	4,922	4,823	7.7%	7.4%
Ages 15-19 Population	4,281	4,437	4,586	4,955	7.2%	7.6%

Sources: U.S. Census 1990, 2000 and Population Estimates for Oregon: July 1, 2004 from the PSU Center for Population Research

Hispanic Population Is Increasing

The total U.S. population as of July 1, 2004 was 293.7 million. The Census Bureau estimated 41.3 million of this total were Hispanic, and about half of the nation's total population growth of 2.9 million in the 12 months that ended July 1, 2004 to be Hispanic.

From 2000 to 2004 the estimated Hispanic population of Klamath County grew by 13% from 4,961 to 5,610, representing 8.6% of the total population. Hispanics were the only race to see an increase during this period. Hispanics in Oregon represent 9.5% of the population.

Population growth is largely influenced by the birth rate exceeding the number of deaths, as well as the migration of people into an area from other states and internationally.

Census Population Estimates by Race and Ethnicity, 2004

	Klamath County	% of Total Pop.	Oregon State	% of Total Pop.
Total Population	65,098		3,594,586	
One Race	63,500	97.5%	3,511,361	97.7%
White	59,668	91.7%	3,266,596	90.9%
Black	502	0.8%	64,117	1.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,636	4.1%	49,138	1.4%
Asian	590	0.9%	121,880	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	104	0.2%	9,630	0.3%
Two or More Races	1,598	2.5%	83,225	2.3%
Not Hispanic	59,488	91.4%	3,251,308	90.5%
Hispanic	5,610	8.6%	343,278	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Education

High School Age Youth Population Increasing

The population of Klamath County youth ages 15 to 19 increased by 369 or 8% from 2000 to 2004, according to the latest U.S. Census population estimates for July 1, 2004. This age group represents 7.6% of Klamath County's total population. The number of youth ages 5 to 14 have decreased by 638 youth (6.5%) from 9,732 in 2000 to 9,094 in 2004.

Enrollment figures for Klamath County School District (KCSD) grades kindergarten through 12th has declined from 6,918 students in 2001 to 6,482 in May 2006. The Klamath County School District supports 19 schools. According to the 2004-05 school year District Report Card, 41.8% of its 338 teachers had a Master's Degree or higher, and 14 years was the average length of experience.

The Klamath Falls City School District supports eight schools. Enrollment has remained constant at 3,740 in June 2001 and 3,701 in May 2006. Klamath Falls City Schools Report Card for 2004-05 reported of its 229 teachers, 47.1% held a Master's Degree or higher and 13.6 years was the average tenure of experience.

Student Ethnic Diversity is Growing

During the 2003-04 school year, the total student enrollment in Klamath County public schools ranked 13th out of 36 counties in Oregon. Twenty-three percent or 2,441 students in Klamath County schools were minorities and 8,089 were white. In the 2001 school year, the average minority student population was 20% for County Schools and 22.1% for Klamath Falls City Schools.

Old Schools Need Physical Improvements

Both public school districts in Klamath County continue to offer a solid educational program for its students. One of the greatest needs is in the improvement of their facilities. Antiquated systems that need upgrading, and overcrowded schools that cannot support significant future growth are key concerns. Bond measure(s) dedicated to improving the physical facilities and/or building a new high school in the Klamath Falls School District are being considered at this time (June 2006). Improvements and expansion of our public schools through local bond measures are being considered because the state of Oregon does not provide "capital funds" to provide this.



Klamath Union High School, a big part of school building bond issues. Mary Smothers photo.

Oregon Student Drop Out Rate Rising

Klamath County Rate Decreasing

Of the 171,732 students enrolled during 2003-04 in Oregon public schools, 7,864 students or 4.6% dropped out of school, a slight increase over the 4.2% reported in 2002-03. Only 3.6%, or 118 of the 3,266 students in Klamath County public schools during 2003 dropped out of school according to the Oregon Department of Education. In 2002, Klamath County's student drop out rate was 4.2 percent. The department cited numerous factors for why students leave school. Of the 7,864 students who dropped out 1,087 (13.8%) did so because they believed they were too far behind in credits to catch up. Additionally 919 (11.7%) cited lack of parental support, and 749 (9.5%) indicated they worked more than 15 hours a week as the reason for dropping out of school. Work and obligation to support family was the greatest factor for dropping out among Hispanic students.

The majority of students who dropped out of school in 2003 were males (56%), and the largest number of students were white (65.5%). Thirty-four percent dropped out in the 9th and 10th grades. Hispanic students had the highest percentage drop out rate of all ethnic groups.

Free Lunch Eligible Students Growing

The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches has grown since 1999. In spite of an increase in the family per capita income since 1999, the gap between the rich and the poor appears to be widening leaving more families, especially children, hunger insecure. Fifty-two percent (5,414 of the 10,404 public school students) in Klamath County were eligible for free and reduced price lunches in 2004.

Private and Alternative Schools

Triad School is a private, faith based school located at 4849 So. 6th Street. Its focus is to challenge students

Oregon School Drop Out Rates by Ethnicity *Grades 9-12 (1999-2003)*

Ethnicity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
White	5.5%	4.5%	4.0%	3.6%	3.8%
Black	11.4%	11.0%	9.5%	9.0%	8.2%
Hispanic	13.3%	11.3%	10.4%	9.1%	9.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.3%	4.4%	3.6%	3.8%	3.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9.9%	8.9%	6.9%	6.3%	5.8%
State of Oregon	6.3%	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	4.6%

Factors Influencing Decisions to Drop Out of School *(2003-2004)*

Demographic Characteristics	Number of Dropouts	Doesn't speak English well or at all	Substance Abuse	Peer press. to not achieve	Pregnant or student parent	Homeless	Lack of parental supp. for education	Dysf. home life	Attended 3 or more high schools	Frequent discipline referrals	Too far behind in credits to catch up	Working more than 15 hrs/wk	Obligations to support family
Statewide Total	7,864	189	430	148	402	150	919	642	222	485	1,087	749	175
Female	3,468	70	126	52	332	68	424	320	104	127	427	305	79
Male	4,400	119	304	96	70	82	495	322	118	358	660	444	96
White	5,150	8	337	104	215	113	632	500	146	349	821	388	47
Black	379	0	16	2	27	4	19	20	11	14	23	20	9
Hispanic	1,689	178	50	25	118	21	191	71	42	84	175	289	109
Asian/ Pacific Islander	253	1	5	5	10	4	17	8	6	6	17	19	0
Am. Indian/ Alaskan Nat.	224	0	17	11	19	5	45	38	8	22	31	21	6
No Response	169	2	5	1	13	3	15	5	9	10	20	12	4
Grade 9	1,124	71	32	12	28	14	145	79	5	50	45	86	39
Grade 10	1,543	47	75	39	74	18	183	79	5	50	45	96	38
Grade 11	1,998	37	116	40	98	38	243	179	73	121	478	148	32
Grade 12	2,491	30	172	49	155	70	265	197	97	172	478	344	49
Grade 13	640	3	33	7	35	7	66	36	9	32	74	65	11
Unclassified	68	1	2	1	12	3	17	0	0	3	22	10	6

Factors were not reported for all dropouts. Also, more than one factor could be reported for any one dropout.

Source: Oregon Dept. of Education, Early Leaver Data Collection, Revised 4-21-06.

Largest Percentage of Schools Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunches (1999 - 2004)

School	Total Students		Students Eligible for Free Lunch		Students Eligible for Reduced Price Lunch		Percent (total eligibles)	
	1999	2004	1999	2004	1999	2004	1999	2004
Mills Elementary	439	441	356	378	37	39	89.5	94.6
Malin Elementary	179	143	118	106	29	21	82.1	88.8
Stearns Elementary	-	282	-	197	-	42	-	84.5
Altamont Elementary	314	261	185	182	47	33	73.9	82.4
Fairview Elementary	-	256	-	165	-	25	-	74.2
Chiloquin Elementary	349	279	223	172	50	29	78.2	72.0

**Least eligible: Henley High School with 17.5% in 1999 and 27.8% in 2004.*

Source: Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (October 2004)

in a college-preparatory setting. Current enrollment for grades P-12 is 240 students, down from 280 students in the 2000 term. According to David Wehr, Triad's school principal, the teachers and staff are encouraged to develop nurturing relationships with the students that extend beyond the classroom, and to keep lines of communication and support open after students graduate. Wehr indicates the Oregon Cup, (an organization that ranks schools in academics, activities, and athletics) has consistently ranked Triad School in the top five in the overall 1A school division.

KLEOS Children's Community is located in Chiloquin adjacent to the Williamson River and provides housing and alternative school education to children in Klamath County from kindergarten through grade 12. KLEOS is recognized as an extension of Klamath County Schools and currently (2006) works with 10 youth under 18 years of age who are either privately placed or are part of the state foster children's program. KLEOS has three houses with five bedrooms each and a total capacity to house 32 children.

Hosanna Christian School is located at 5000 Hosanna Way. Its current (2006) enrollment is 303 students with 19 teachers. The facility is relatively new being built in 2002, and plans to continue a second phase of building expansion that will bring the total enrollment potential up to approximately 750 students. Prior to the new facility being built, student enrollment was 240 students in the fall of 2000.

Klamath Adult Learning Center

The Klamath Adult learning Center provided educational opportunities for 1,497 learners from July 2004 through June 2005 in a variety of general

education and English language proficiency courses. This was a slight increase from the 1,472 learners in 1999-2000.

Klamath Adult Learning Center Student Enrollment *(July 2004 – June 2005)*

Course	Enrolled	Male	Female
Skills Review	17	11	6
ESL	184	86	98
Klamath Institute	771	472	299
GED	525	276	249
TOTALS	1,497	845	652

Classes available to adult and teen students include: Skills Review (designed to assist non readers or provide remediation for adults needing to improve proficiency in one or more content areas); ESL (English as a Second Language); Klamath Institute (high school credit completion); and GED (General Education Development).

Approximately one-half of KALC's total student population is classified as functionally illiterate (reading at or below 8.9 grade level). An adult who is functionally illiterate is statistically unable to advance in the job market and struggles with life functions such as interpreting labels or understanding public transportation schedules.

Illiteracy is closely linked to some of the community's most severe social problems: crime, unemployment, welfare, and poverty. National studies have shown that 50% of those on welfare, 50% of those in prison, and 85% of the juvenile appearing before the courts have minimal literacy skills.

KALC awarded 142 GEDs and 33 Klamath Basin Diplomas in 2004-2005.

More Klamath Citizens Are Attending College

Klamath Community College

Klamath Community College (KCC) in 2006 celebrated its 10th anniversary of providing quality education to Klamath Basin citizens. Accredited in 2004, KCC is authorized by the Oregon State Board of Education to provide approved academic programs (degrees and certificates). The college also provides Adult Basic Education, GED, contract education courses for local businesses and industry (e.g. wildland fire, crane operator), a variety of personal development courses, and traditional college credit and transfer courses. Financial aid services are available and two-year degrees are offered with an emphasis in marketing, management, accounting, computer information systems, criminal justice, corrections, early childhood education, and natural resource management.



Klamath Community College. KCC photo.

Since 1996, KCC has grown significantly in the number of students served and the number of faculty it employs, as well as the building size and structure. The college currently (2006) has 18 full-time faculty positions and hires approximately 75 part-time faculty to support credit classes in addition to another 100 who make up the instructional support for the Community Education Department. In 2001, there were 10 full-time administrative faculty positions and a 40 ad hoc faculty to support credit classes.

Approximately 65% of the credit-seeking students are

female and many are single-parent households. The average age of the KCC student is 30. More than 5,300 (unduplicated) students are served each year, up from an estimated 1,550 students in 2000. About 80% of current students are employed full or part-time. Many of KCC's students would not be initially eligible for a university education.

Klamath Community College and the Oregon Institute of Technology enjoy a positive relationship as many KCC students transfer their credits and attend OIT in their junior year of a 4-year program. Tuition at KCC averages \$2,160 per year for a full-time student. The State of Oregon provides nearly one half of all General Fund resources while property taxes and tuition comprise the majority of the balance of the college's yearly operating costs.

Oregon Institute of Technology

Student enrollment at the Oregon Institute of Technology has grown by 17.9% from 2,842 students in the fall of 2000 to 3,351 in 2005. Most of the student population comes from Klamath and Lake counties, and have a five-year growing trend from 1,105 to 1,223 students.



Oregon Institute of Technology campus. OIT photo.

To accommodate the growing need for well-trained allied health professionals, the university broke ground on the new Oregon Center for Health Professions facility in June 2006 and is expected to complete the first wing in the Fall of 2007, and the second wing in the Fall of 2008. This 80,000 square-foot building will allow current health occupations enrollments to double and meet the statewide and regional needs for qualified employees at clinics, hospitals, and medical centers.

It's estimated the new facility will increase the campus enrollment by a total of 750 students annually.

In June 2006, OIT graduated its first class of master's degree students in Manufacturing Engineering Technology. OIT graduates boast a placement rate of 97 percent, with an average starting salary of \$44,870.

The degree programs featuring the top median salaries were Manufacturing Engineering Technology (\$68,000), Medical Imaging Technology: Nuclear Medicine Option (\$62,107), Laser Optical Engineering Technology (\$62,000) and Medical Sonography (\$60,000).

Klamath County Social Trends

Gap Between Rich and Poor Widens

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development report the median family income in Klamath County for 2005 is \$46,300, which is 21% lower than the state of Oregon median of \$58,600. The highest median family income in Oregon is \$67,900 throughout the Portland area. Klamath County ranks 21st out of the 36 counties. However, Klamath County's median family income did increase by 22.8% from 2000 to 2005. Per capita personal income in Klamath County for 2003 was \$23,216, representing a 17.4% gain from 1998. The per capita personal income for Oregon in 2003 was \$28,734 and grew by 12.5% from 1998 to 2003.

Klamath County per capita Personal Income & Median Family Income (1990-2005)

Personal Income	Klamath	Increase	Oregon	Increase
1900	\$14,021	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	\$16,266	16.0%	\$20,046	N/A
1998	\$19,777	21.6%	\$25,542	27.4%
2003	\$23,216	17.4%	\$28,734	12.5%

Median Family Income	Klamath	Increase	Oregon	Increase
1900	\$27,691	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	\$31,800	14.8%	N/A	N/A
2000	\$37,700	18.6%	\$46,000	N/A
2005	\$46,300	22.8%	\$58,600	27.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

The *Children First for Oregon County Data Book 2005* reports the following 2004 data for Klamath County: the average income of the top 1% of households is 17.3 times greater than the average income of the middle-income households; 7.6 people per 1,000 population filed for personal bankruptcy, a 48% increase since

2000; 2,500 households with children receive assistance through the WIC nutrition program in a typical month; 3,727 children (22.5%) of all youth live in poverty (12% worse than in 2003).

Oregon Counties Median Family Income (2005)

County	Median Family Income	Rank
Portland Area	\$67,900	1st
Benton	\$67,400	2nd
Deschutes	\$57,800	3rd
Marion/Polk	\$55,500	4th
Lane	\$54,300	5th
Klamath	\$46,300	21st
Baker	\$43,300	27th
Lake	\$42,800	28th
Curry	\$42,300	29th
Malheur	\$42,200	30th
Wheeler	\$40,050	31st

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

According to the U.S. Census Bureau poverty estimates for 2003 for people of all ages, Klamath County's poverty rate of 15.3% was ranked the second highest in Oregon. The state average was 12.0 percent. Klamath County's rate was 14.7% in 2002 and 2001; 16.9% in 1998, and 17.4% in 1995 respectively. While family income has risen significantly from 2000 to 2005, there is a concern that Klamath County's generally lower than state average wages might not have kept pace with the overall higher cost of living (heating, housing, food, transportation, health care, child care, etc.) and the poverty rate could be even higher.

Oregon Counties Leading in Poverty for People of All Ages (2003)

County	People in Poverty	Poverty Rate
State of Oregon	423,918	12.0%
Malheur	5,133	18.3%
Klamath	9,749	15.3%
Josephine	12,062	15.2%
Lake	1,100	15.0%
Coos	9,388	15.0%
Jefferson	2,845	14.4%
Baker	2,845	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Hunger in Klamath County

The Klamath and Lake Counties Food Bank has reported a steady increase in the number of food boxes distributed in Klamath County each year from 7,449 boxes in 1997; 8,983 boxes in 1998; 9,500 boxes in 2000; and 13,100 boxes in 2005. The organization cites serving more food boxes in recent years but to fewer and smaller size families. With a sharp increase in the cost of living (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.), it's anticipated the need for more food boxes will continue. Approximately 2,875 families were served in 2000 with a "formulated average" of 3.3 persons per family. In 2005, the Food Bank reported serving 2,600 families or 8,580 people. There are 3,392 households that have accessed the Food Bank from 2004 to 2006, and have received an average of five food boxes per year during this period. For 2006-2007, instead of using the standard formula of 3.3 persons per family, the Food Bank will maintain a detailed computerized accounting of people served that will record many factors such as occupation, household size, age, current financial situation, food stamp recipient, children in the household. Families can receive up to 12 boxes of

food per year, each lasting 3 to 5 days. Contact the Food Bank at 882-1223 for a list of food pantries that disburse food boxes throughout Klamath and Lake Counties.

The Food Bank also provides food to 25 on-site meal providers in the Klamath and Lake Counties. This food is used to provide meals to youth at child care facilities, senior programs, shelter for the homeless and/or abused, teen programs, and other non-profit service organizations.

Of those receiving food boxes 50% are seniors or disabled persons, and 71% of all households served have at least one child under age 18 living in the house (households may fit more than one category). The average income for senior & disabled persons receiving food boxes is \$400 to \$600 per month. The Klamath & Lake Counties Food Bank distributed approximately 850,000 pounds of food in 2005 valued at \$1.4 million. Fifty percent of the food is accessed from the Oregon Food Bank and the remaining 50% is donated locally.

OHS Self Sufficiency Programs

The number of people utilizing Oregon Human Services Children, Adult and Families Self Sufficiency Programs in Klamath County the past two years (2004-2005) appears to be fairly stable. Prior to that time (2000 through 2003) the number of people supported by these programs generally increased annually. The number of JOBS participants has declined regularly since 2000 as more people over the years have found work. Also declining consistently is the number of employment related day care cases. The JOBS for Oregon's Futures program prepares families in securing employment and becoming self sufficient. As more people work and their

OHS Children, Adult & Families Self-Sufficiency Programs Klamath County (2000-2005)

Date	Food Stamp Persons	Food Stamp Households	Emergency Assistance Cases	Employment Related Day Care Cases	Employment Related Day Care Children	Total JOBS Participants	TANF Basic Cases	TANF UN (2 parent) Cases
April 2000	6,694	3,219	14	240	527	309	265	8
April 2001	7,688	3,690	27	259	526	308	200	4
April 2002	9,615	4,347	15	255	547	235	251	14
April 2003	10,179	4,716	9	231	505	186	254	8
April 2004	9,393	3,874	9	216	455	189	263	5
April 2005	9,281	3,849	7	194	429	199	239	11
Statewide								
2005	431,704	219,624	524	9,721	20,352	12,178	18,120	1,191

wages increase the amount the state pays is lessened, perhaps to a point, where some former clients simply choose not to seek financial aid from the state for child day care. The employment related day care benefit is paid directly to child care providers. The average wage in Oregon for full-time job placements through this program rose from \$7.57 in 2000 to \$8.82 in 2006. The number of persons receiving food stamps dropped off sharply from 2003 to 2004 due to state reporting changes (earlier numbers included Seniors and People with Disability statistics which now are kept separate).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), more commonly known as welfare, provides financial assistance to mostly single parent families with low incomes. The grant for a family of three persons has remained constant from \$503 per month in 2001 to \$514 in 2006. In Klamath County, the number of Non-Needy Caretaker Relative cases (counted under TANF) has become a consistent program. These are relatives caring for kids that are not their own, such as grandparents caring for a grandchild. In 2002, there were 108 cases; 118 cases in 2003; 127 in 2004; and 124 cases in 2005.

Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment

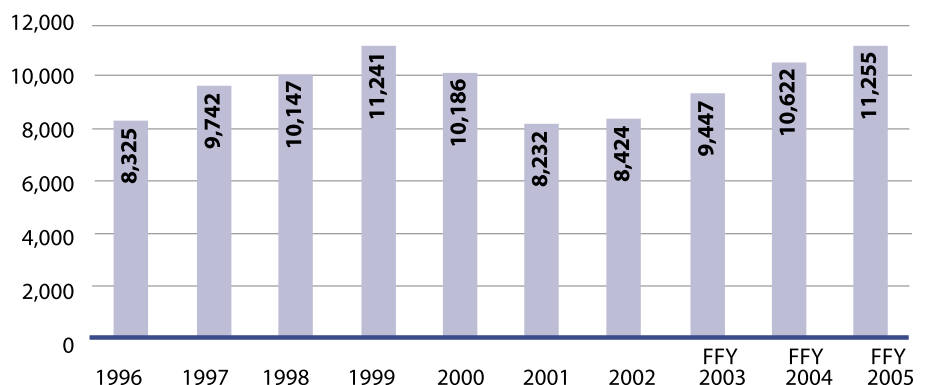
Problem growing state-wide, Improving locally

According to the DHS child protective services, the number of “unduplicated” child abuse victims in Oregon increased by 6.0% from 10,622 in 2004 to 11,255 victims in 2005. The total number of reports suspecting child abuse and neglect also increased by 18.5% from 46,524 in 2004 to 55,114 in 2005. Child abuse and neglect reports are investigated and are either screened out for not meeting the state’s criteria, or are unfounded, unable to determine, or are classified as founded (meaning there was reasonable cause to believe that abuse/neglect occurred at the family level involving one or more children). In Oregon, 14.1% or 7,753 referrals of child abuse/neglect in 2005 were founded for abuse, representing a 6.1% increase from 2004. There were 857 reported cases of child abuse/neglect in Klamath County in 2005, a slight increase from the prior year, but considerably less than the 1,128 average cases in 2001 through 2003. The number of “founded” cases in Klamath County declined by 9.8% from 245 in 2004 to 221 in 2005. This decline

is reflected in the overall county ranking of child abuse. Klamath County has improved from having the third highest rate of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children in 2004, and the second highest rate in 2003, to having the sixth highest rate in 2005.

The major problems facing families of abused and neglected children are drug/alcohol abuse (47.7%), parental involvement with law enforcement (29.6%), domestic violence (physical abuse of spouse/fighting 24.5%) and unemployment (22.3%). During 2005, drug abuse in Klamath County was the majority reason in 49.6% of the cases where children were removed from abusive families and entered the foster care system. This percentage has improved from a high of 65.6% in 2002; 53.6% in 2003; and 57.2%

Child abuse/neglect victims



Source: DHS (Children, Adults & Families)

in 2004. This data suggests that as drug offenses decrease so does the number of child abuse victims.

Mothers and fathers represent 74.8% of alleged perpetrators of child abuse/neglect in Oregon in 2005, representing a 5% increase since 2000. Non-family members made up 5.1% or 509 of the 9,902 perpetrators in 2005.

Of the 11,255 child abuse victims, 5,851 or 52% are female and 48% are male. As children get older the number of victims decline. In 2005, 49.5% of victims were younger than 6 years old.

More Children Are Entering Foster Care Than Leaving

For three consecutive years more children in Oregon have entered foster care than left. In 2005, 5,037 children left foster care and 6,178 entered. On the average daily basis in 2005 in Oregon, 7,947 children are in family foster care. In Klamath County the number of children experiencing at least one day in foster care has also increased from 398 children in 2003 and 465 children in 2004, to 479 children in 2005. However, this number does represent a decline from 494 children in 2002.

Total victims of abuse/neglect by age and gender (2005)

Age	Boys	Girls	Total
<1	828	819	1,647
1	448	425	873
2	467	373	840
3	360	384	744
4	408	339	747
5	363	360	723
6	366	340	706
7	308	344	652
8	298	315	613
9	243	294	537
10	257	273	530
11	216	232	448
12	223	246	469
13	205	256	461
14	147	292	439
15	126	267	393
16	95	188	283
17	46	104	150
Total	5,404	5,851	11,255

Source: DHS (Children, Adults & Families)

Klamath County Total Reports of Child Abuse/Neglect by Screening Decision & Disposition (2001-2005)

Year	Screened In Founded	Screened Unable to Determine	Total Unfounded	Out	Reports
2001	195	322	75	588	1,180
2002	213	251	87	530	1,081
2003	219	209	168	529	1,125
2004	245	205	153	228	831
2005	221	180	153	303	857

Source: DHS (Children, Adults & Families)

Child Abuse Victim Rate per 1000 Children by County (2003-2005)

County	Population	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Grant	1,772	58	52	43	30.7	27.4	24.3
Harney	1,824	37	74	44	19.7	37.9	24.1
Baker	3,566	119	81	82	30.4	20.8	23.0
Malheur	8,386	80	129	190	9.1	14.8	22.7
Wallowa	1,511	17	13	34	10.1	7.7	22.5
Klamath	16,144	382	410	355	23.0	24.8	22.0
Benton	16,360	51	74	107	3.0	4.3	6.6
Josephine	17,153	254	174	224	14.2	9.7	13.1
State Total	865,580	9,447	10,622	11,255	10.8	12.0	13.0

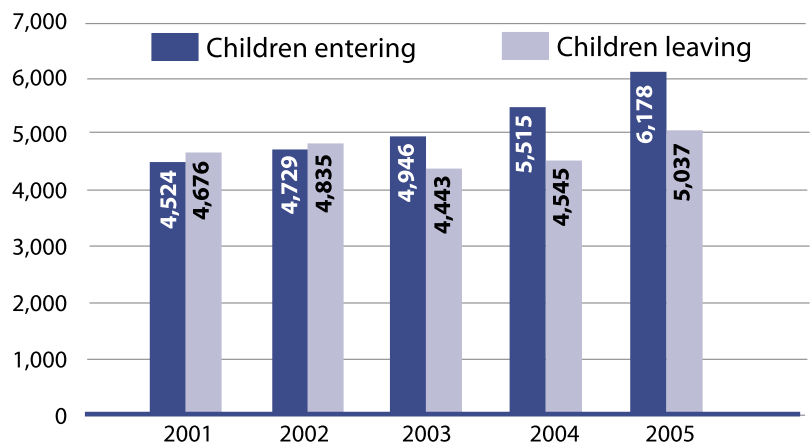
Quality Infant/Toddler Child Care Needed Most

The number of kids needing infant and toddler care (ages 0-2) has grown by 26% from 317 children in July 2004 to 398 kids in July 2005 according to the Klamath and Lake Child Care Resource and Referral (KLCCR) organization. This number is expected to continue to grow. The number of families contacting the organization for child care referrals for children of all ages grew by 19% from 508 families to 607 families during this same period. The cost and liability for providing this care are key factors driving the shortage of providers. The infant/toddler (six weeks to 2 ½ years) care ratio is a maximum of four youth to one adult. The cost of materials alone are rising regularly such as formula, wipes, cribs, cleaning chemicals, latex gloves, jar foods, etc. According to the Klamath KID Center the current (June 2006) average cost of child care in Klamath County ranges from \$475 to \$650 per month per child. The KID Center is serving (June 2006) at its capacity of 74 children (infants to age 10), and 26 of these children are infants and toddlers. The YMCA also provides quality child care programs to about 730 youth annually.

The KLCCR organization reports as of December 31, 2005, there were 33 child care centers (providing 1,408 child care slots) and 153 family child care homes (providing 719 slots). This is a total of 186 sites (centers and homes) providing 2,127 child care slots in Klamath and Lake Counties for children ages 6 weeks and older. Of this total, 406 slots were for infants and toddlers. The number of family child care homes has declined by 29% from a high of 214 providers in 2000.

Children entering/leaving foster care

Federal Fiscal Year 2005



Source: DHS (Children, Adults & Families)

Head Start Program Growing

The Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) reached its capacity in 2006. KFHS currently operates six sites in Klamath County (three sites in Klamath Falls, one in Merrill, one in Chiloquin, and one in Bonanza). The agency also operates a site in Lake County and has a combined capacity to serve 318 children at one time. To help reduce its operating costs and provide room for expansion, the organization plans to consolidate its Klamath Falls sites into one facility in the near future.

A total of 389 children received services during the 2005-2006 school year, a 35% increase over the 2000-2001 school year.

In 2000, the KFHS had four sites with a capacity to serve 235 youth at one time. Enrollment in 2000-2001 was 289 youth. To maintain full enrollment each child that leaves the program must be replaced within a 30-day period. KFHS has provided services to 28 children who were in foster care in 2005-2006, a slight increase from the 25 youth in 2001.

Comparison of Child Care Requests

Children's Ages, Household Demographics (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2005)

Fiscal Year	0-2	3-5	6 & Up	Total	Odd Hour	Rural Area	Single Parent	Income Less than \$15,000	DHS Subsidy	Total Families
2000-2001	454	262	305	1,021	252	106	210	315	222	653
2001-2002	458	285	293	1,036	242	101	234	327	227	635
2002-2003	432	271	256	959	102	57	230	307	227	589
2003-2004	317	266	226	809	97	71	209	259	147	508
2004-2005	398	288	189	875	155	69	229	284	138	607

Source: Klamath/Lake County Child Resource and Referral

The income level for the families served is as follows:

Annual Family Income	Number of Families
\$0 - \$2,999	6
\$2,000 - \$5,999	67
\$6,000 - \$8,999	52
\$9,000 - \$11,999	35
\$12,000 - \$14,999	42
Over \$15,000	124

Total 389 families

Child Care Demand and Supply Estimates

(enrollment as of December 31, 2005)

Number of Child Care Sites

Child Care Centers	33	18%
Family Child Care Providers	153	82%
Total Child Care Sites	186	

Number of Child Care Slots

Child Care Centers	1,408	66%
Family Child Care Providers	719	34%
Total Child Care Sites	2,127	

Number of Infant/Toddler Slots

Child Care Centers	152	37%
Family Child Care Providers	254	63%
Total Child Care Sites	406	

Number of Child Care Slots per 100 Children

Klamath County Slots	18	72%
Oregon State Slots	20	80%
Oregon Benchmark Slots	25	100%

Average Cost of Full-Time Child Care

Statewide Monthly Cost for Center Care

Infants (under age 1)	\$540
Toddlers (ages 1-2)	\$525
Preschool (ages 3-4)	\$410
School age (ages 5 & older)	\$325

Statewide Monthly Cost for Family Child Care

Infants (under age 1)	\$390
Toddlers (ages 1-2)	\$375
Preschool (ages 3-4)	\$350
School age (ages 5 & older)	\$330

Source: Klamath/Lake County Child Resource and Referral

Oregon Child Development Coalition Migrant Head Start

Founded in 1971, the Oregon Child Development Coalition is a statewide non-profit organization that provides early childhood education and related services to children and families. Since 1991, Klamath County OCDC operates two federally funded Migrant Head Start Centers, one located in Malin and the other in Klamath Falls.

The program currently (2006) serves 128 children in both long term and short term programs. In 2000, OCDC served 114 children. OCDC serves children from six weeks to five years of age. A full range of educational, social service, nutritional and health services are provided to families. Children receive developmental and health screenings. A bilingual Spanish – English teaching model is used in all preschool classrooms.

Eligibility for the program requires that a family be at or below the federal poverty guidelines. Additionally, 51% of the family income must be derived from agriculture. Priority is given to children with an identified disability, and to families who have made a recent migratory move for employment purposes.



Public Safety

Crime, Alcohol Offenses Are Increasing in Klamath County

The total number of reported crime offenses throughout the state of Oregon decreased by 0.6% from 452,211 offenses in 2003 to 449,281 in 2004. But crime offenses in Klamath County during this same period increased by 2.4% from 5,993 offenses in 2003 to 6,135 in 2004 (according to the annual report of the Uniform Crime Reporting division of the Oregon Criminal Justice Information System).

Klamath County Crime Offenses

2000 through 2005

2000	5,828
2001	5,919
2002	5,858
2003	5,993
2004	6,135
2005	6,612

Preliminary data (from individual annual reports from the City of Klamath Falls Police Department, Klamath County Sheriffs Department, and the Oregon State Police) indicate the total offenses in Klamath County from 2004 to 2005 increased by 7.8% to a total of 6,612 offenses. This gain was in large part due to a 138% increase in the number of D.U.I.I. offenses reported by the Oregon State Police. The Uniform Crime Report details offenses and arrests in three primary areas: crime against person, crime against property, and behavioral crimes. Additionally the report also tracks traffic crime, fish and game violations and marine violations. The 2005 annual report is expected to be available in December 2006 or as late as February 2007. No state-wide data for 2005 is currently available.

Drug Offenses Decreasing in Klamath County

The number of drug offenses in Klamath County have declined by 12.1% from 537 offenses in 2004 to 479 offenses in 2005. This followed a huge increase of 28.2% from 2003 to 2004. The state of Oregon's drug offenses increased by only 7.5% from 24,425 offenses in

2003 to 26,330 in 2004. Of the 26,330 drug offenses 9,599 or 36.5% were marijuana offenses and 41.0% were for synthetic narcotic and other dangerous drugs (methamphetamine).

The Klamath County District Attorney's Office methamphetamine task force (in 2004 – 2006) is justly credited for leading local efforts to educate community leaders and organizations about the severity of Klamath County's meth problem and to seek comprehensive collaborative solutions toward curtailing the manufacturing, sale and use of this lethal drug. There should be no doubt that increased pressure by judicial and law enforcement officials as well as an increased focus on supporting prevention, intervention and drug treatment programs has had a significant impact in lowering the number of drug offenses committed in Klamath County in 2005. The Uniform Crime report sites for Klamath County there were 123 marijuana offenses (22.9%) of all drug offenses in 2004, and 115 marijuana offenses representing 24.0% of all drug offenses in 2005. Methamphetamine continues to be the majority drug offense in Klamath County, representing 73% to 76% of all drug offenses. Of the 537 drug offenses in Klamath County in 2004, 25 were committed by youth under the age of 18.

Klamath County Drug Offenses

2000 through 2005

2000	430
2001	454
2002	444
2003	419
2004	537
2005	479

Alcohol continues to be a significant problem in Klamath County. D.U.I.I. offenses in Klamath County reduced significantly (by 26.5%) from 2002 to 2004, but rose sharply again in 2005. State-wide D.U.I.I. offenses decreased by .08% from 25,349 in 2000 to 25,552 in 2004. Klamath Falls state police officials indicated their department was short by one trooper for most of 2004, and having that position filled in 2005 contributed significantly toward doubling the number

of D.U.I.I. arrests in 2005. Five of the 491 D.U.I.I. offenses in Klamath County in 2004 were committed by youth under the age of 18.

D.U.I.I. Offenses Klamath County

1999 through 2005

1999	609
2000	667
2001	614
2002	621
2003	478
2004	491
2005	646*

*preliminary estimate

Preliminary results for Klamath County indicate there were 646 D.U.I.I. offenses in 2005 for a single year gain of 31.6 percent from 2004 to 2005. The City of Klamath Falls Police department and the Klamath County Sheriffs Office reported a combined total of 213 DUII offenses in 2005, while the Oregon State Police department sited 433 D.U.I.I. offenses in 2005, and 181 offenses in 2004 respectively.

In comparing crime offenses among Oregon's 36 counties for 2004, Klamath County held the 21st highest rate per 10,000 population for D.U.I.I. offenses; 25th highest rate of property crimes offenses; 5th highest rate of crimes against persons; and 33 highest rate of behavioral crimes. Crimes against persons includes willful murder, negligent homicide, forcible rape and other sex offenses, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated and simple assault.

The following graph reflects total crimes committed in 2000 through 2004 for counties with populations similar to Klamath County. Klamath County reported the fewest number of crimes every year among this group.

County	Population	No. of total Crimes by Year				
		2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Josephine	78,600	8,524	8488	8384	8717	8623
Umatilla	72,250	7860	7889	8303	8347	9416
Polk	64,950	9574	7410	8968	8586	8127
Klamath	64,800	6135	5993	5858	5919	5828
Coos	62,700	7796	8820	8289	8027	6440

Domestic Violence Victims Seeking Shelter Increasing

The Klamath County Crisis Center has seen an 83% increase in the number of adults seeking shelter from

domestic violence from 108 adults in 2004 to 198 adults in 2005. The agency also reported a significant increase in the number of children attending the Harbor house shelter with their mothers.

Since its opening in January 2001, the Harbor House has experienced a 128% increase in the number of nights people sought shelter (from 2,965 nights in 2001 to 6,769 in 2005). The agency provides a 24-hour 7-days a week "hot-line" for people in crisis who need help. An average of 20,000 calls per year have been answered from 2001-2005.

Runaways & Juvenile Arrests

Three juveniles violated curfew and 198 youth ran away from home in Klamath County in 2005, representing a 100% increase in violations from 2000 to 2005. Of the 198 runaways, 84 or 42.4% were male and 116 or 58.6% were female. The number of juvenile arrests excluding curfew and runaways for 2005 was not available (due possibly by February 2007).

Klamath County Curfew and Runaway Violations

(1999 to 2005)

1999	118
2000	100
2001	98
2002	91
2003	122
2004	113
2005	201

Juvenile Arrests Less Curfew and Runaways

(1999 to 2004)

1999	585
2000	566
2001	448
2002	444
2003	530
2004	364

National Runaway Statistics

Contact the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) at 1-800 runaway for more information and help. The agency handled 102,000 calls for help in 2005. The NRS reported that 65% percent of runaway callers said they had previously ran away. Runaway callers consisted of 77% female; 70% spent between 1-7 days on the street; 48% survived while on the street with help of friends and relatives; and 35% sited family problems as the cause for running away. It's suggested that the

Klamath Crisis Center Phone Lines & Shelter Statistics (2001-2005)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Phone Calls	18,125	20,135	19,061	20,789	19,010
Domestic Violence	6,844	7,860	7,528	7,528	7,437
Sexual Assault	2,497	1,915	934	1,667	2,515
Suicide & Depression	1,526	1,540	1,878	1,900	1,633
Other Issues	7,258	9,000	8,721	9,694	7,425
Unduplicated Number of People Served <small>(entire agency)</small>	1,062	1,665	1,575	1,780	2,631
Total Shelter Nights	2,965	4,441	4,884	6,111	6,769
Unduplicated Number of Shelter Adults	101	123	117	108	198
Unduplicated Number of Shelter Children	118	99	86	99	157

actual number of runaways are six times the number who are reported.

Integral Youth Services (Exodus House)

Exodus House opened in 1993, and from 2000 to 2005, it served an average of 159 runaway and homeless teens per year ages 10 to 17; they receive shelter and intervention services. In 2005, the agency served 146

runaway youth. Of these, 67 or 46% returned home, and 57% were female. The agency's mission is to try and seek family reunification, or long-term placement of youth such as group homes.

**For 24-Hour Crisis Support
CALL 884-0390**

Physical, Mental & Community Health

Child Births in Klamath County

Klamath County's birth rate has been declining over the past decade, but the percentage of babies born with a low birth weight in Klamath County has grown, until 2004. Klamath County recorded a low birth rate of 6.0 per 1,000 births (equal to the state rate) in 2004. Low birth weights are strongly correlated with smoking during pregnancy.

Low Birth Rate per 1,000 births (2000-2004)

Klamath Co.	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
LBW Count	53	51	55	61	44
LBW Rate	7.0	6.2	7.3	7.3	6.0
State of Oregon					
LBW Rate	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.0

Source: Klamath County Public Health department

The percentage of Klamath County women who smoke during pregnancy has been in decline from 1999 to 2003. In 2004, there was an increase in the number of women reporting tobacco use, alcohol use, and illicit drug use during pregnancy.

Klamath County's births to females under the age of 19

do not reflect a consistent pattern from 2000 to 2004, but the number of births has dropped significantly from 131 births in 2000 to 94 in 2004.

Preventable Deaths and Injuries

Over the past decade, the rate of alcohol related deaths in Klamath County has nearly doubled. In 2000, there were 14 alcohol related deaths; 12 in 2001; 15 in 2002; 16 in 2003; and 18 in 2004.

Tobacco linked deaths have increased from 649 in 2000, 681 in 2001, 725 in 2002, 665 in 2003, to a high of 705 deaths in 2004. Deaths reported as suicides have declined slightly over the same period according to the Klamath County Public Health department.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Potentially fatal diseases such as measles, tetanus, diphtheria and polio are virtually non-existent in Oregon due to successful vaccination practices. Within Klamath County in recent years there have been two notable outbreaks of another childhood disease (Pertussis or whooping cough) primarily due to the

vaccine losing its value over time. A new adult vaccine to protect against Pertussis was developed to provide added protection. In 2005, Klamath County experienced an outbreak of meningococcal disease and the public health department provided preventive treatment to nearly 300 people identified as potential contacts.

Pregnant Women Taking Greater Risks

The number of pregnant women engaging in risk-taking behavior such as using alcohol, drugs, and tobacco has risen sharply from 2002 to 2004.

Pregnant Women Risk Taking Behavior (1999-2004)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Alcohol Use	2.8%	2.2%	1.6%	0.9%	2.3%	6.1%
Tobacco Use	21.0%	22.2%	21.2%	17.7%	18.9%	24.9%
Illicit Drug Use	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	2.9%	5.0%

Source: Klamath County Public Health department

Teen Pregnancy Rate Declining

The Klamath County Health department reported the rate of teen pregnancies (ages 10 to 17) in Klamath County per 1,000 youth declined significantly from 15.6 in 2000 to 11.8 in 2004. The average rate for the state of Oregon was 9.5 per 1,000 teens. Klamath County had the 6th highest rate of teen pregnancy among Oregon's 36 counties in 2004.

Teen Pregnancy Rates 10-17 (2000-2004)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Teen Birth Count	131	119	74	121	94

Source: Klamath County Public Health department

Unmet Medical Needs

According to the Klamath County Public Health department reductions in the Oregon Health Plan have coincided with an increase in the numbers of Klamath County residents unable to find affordable health care insurance since 2000. Using the indicator of publicly funded childbirths, the number of Medicaid funded births in Klamath County has increased from under 50% in the late 1990's to almost 55% by 2004.

Klamath County WIC Program

The Klamath County Women, Infants and Children program provides nutrition education and supplemental foods to low income women, infants and children up to the age of 5, who have a medical or nutritional risk. All eligible clients receive nutrition counseling and education along with monthly vouchers approximately \$50 to \$100 in value for health foods (milk, eggs, cheese, juice, cereal, infant formula, etc.). Financial qualifications is 185% of the federal poverty level (\$3,084 gross monthly income for a family of four). WIC provides services monthly in Chiloquin, Merrill, Bonanza and Malin. Enrollment in the WIC program has grown from an average monthly case load of 2,239 in 2004; 2,387 in 2005; to 2,506 in 2006.

Childhood Immunizations

The Klamath County Health Department has tracked its rates of current immunizations among children at 24 months of age and reports notable success in vaccinating 61.5% of 2-year-olds in 2001; 62.0% in 2002; 49% in 2003; 65% in 2004; and 72.1% in 2005.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Sixty-four individuals were diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 2005 making it the most rapidly increasing bloodborne disease in Klamath County. Public health officials indicate the number of cases could double annually. The common denominator for most cases of Hepatitis C in Klamath County is intravenous drug use, past or present.

Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI)

Chlamydia is the leading sexually transmitted disease in Klamath County, averaging about 100 cases per year, and is most prevalent among young sexually active women. Klamath County's rate is among the top one-third in Oregon.

Dental Needs

According to Ronald C. Short, DMD, retired local dentist and member of the Oregon Board of Dentistry, the ratio of dentists to Klamath County's population is about one dentist for every 2,300 people (unchanged since 2001). A significant number of dental school closures over the past 10-15 years has helped create the

shortage of dentists. A new dental school in Oregon is planned.

Gambling Addiction

Oregon health studies suggest that 36,000 adult Oregonians are current problem gamblers, with an additional 23,000 classified as pathological gamblers.

Mental Health Status

The Klamath County Mental Health department has several locations and offers a variety of mental health treatment and support services. The majority of funding for these services comes from the Oregon Health Plan which was reduced by 13% in 2005/2006 from the prior funding year. Services to Klamath County residents increased from 1,093 clients in 2004 to 1,163 in 2005, but are still significantly lower than the 1,289 served in 2003 (before the OHP budget cuts).

The mental health department provides crisis respite services for individuals who need temporary, supervised care and non-hospital hold services for those who need assessment to determine if psychiatric hospitalization or stabilization in a secure area is needed. These services are provided at Phoenix Place residential treatment center at 705 Washburn Way. The number of these clients served has dropped from 89 respite and 52 hold clients in 2004 to 61 respite and 40 hold clients in 2005. The Access Center is the point of entry to all services for adults with mental illness. It provides assessment, brief therapy, and crisis management services for persons experiencing symptoms of mental illness such as depression and anxiety. It is also located at 705 Washburn Way.

Klamath County Mental Health contracts with many organizations that serve people with drug, alcohol, gambling and other addictions. KCMH also provides an array of services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. The administration, primary care physician consultation, and medication management services are provided at the KCMH Center located at 3314 Vandenberg Road.

Senior and Disabled Services

The Department of Human Services Seniors and People Disabilities Services division (SPDS) in Klamath County serves a total of about 3,569 clients (as of Feb.

2006), a 32% increase from the 2,700 people helped in 2001. Of these 3,569 people served, about 2,015 are non-service related and seek benefits only such as food stamps, Oregon Health Plan, and payment of Medicare Supplement. SPDS indicates there is a growing number of people seeking adult foster care, assisted living, and nursing facility care.

Spokes Unlimited is a private non-profit agency serving people with disabilities, their family and friends, as well as individuals seeking respite and other disability related services in Klamath County. The agency has experienced a tremendous growth in the number of people it has served from 1009 people in 2001 to 6,738 in 2005.

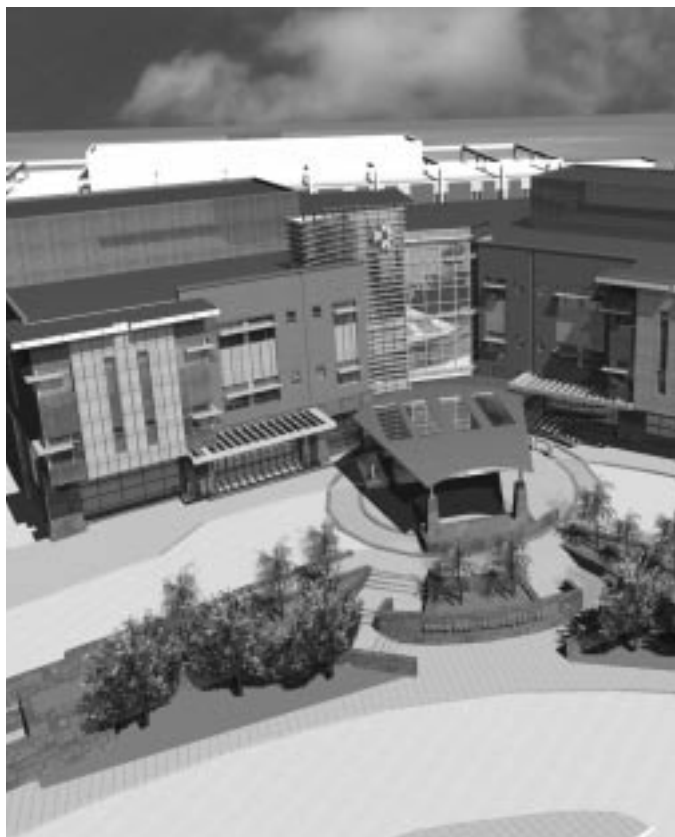
Merle West Medical Center

Merle West Medical Center is a community owned, nationally accredited acute-care hospital that provides a full range of outpatient and inpatient services (except neonatal and open heart procedures).

The medical center serves the medical needs of approximately 120,000 people throughout Klamath and Lake Counties in Oregon and Modoc and Siskiyou counties in California.

In 2005, the medical center had a monthly payroll of almost \$4 million and a staff of more than 1,000 full-time equivalent employees and 260 volunteers in its auxiliary. In addition to the 135 registered nurses, 51 certified nurses' aides, the medical center employs 12 physicians whose specialized practices include urologic surgery, neurosurgery, neurology, endocrinology, rheumatology, internal medicine, oncology and obstetrics/gynecology.

Statistics for fiscal 2005 indicate the medical center recorded 6,500 inpatient discharges with an average daily census of 64.5 patients and an average length of stay of 3.6 days. Additionally, 17,700 patients visited the Emergency Department, and there were 219,000 outpatient visits in this same period. Almost \$120 million in net patient revenue was recorded in 2005 with nearly \$13 million in uncompensated care (up from \$9 million the previous year). The Cancer Treatment Center (part of the MWMC family) provides about 7,500 combined and radiation treatments annually. The recent expansion to the facility allows staff to see 400



MWMC Expansion. Architect's rendering.

new patients annually. Since opening in 1998, a total of 851 babies have entered the world at the MWMC family-centered birth wing. Other recent additions to the medical center include a second CT scanner and an open MR scanner for the outpatient imaging center, and an outpatient dialysis center (open six days a week).

In the spring 2007, the medical center is expected to complete a new 100,000 square foot facility that will provide 50 new private rooms, 17 new semi-private rooms, a 35-bed dedicated “short-stay” area for same-day surgery, outpatient infusion and observation patients. This \$40 million project will be complimented by an additional \$3 million expansion to the Emergency Department.

The Cascades East Family Practice Residency Center is a unique partnership between MWMC and Oregon Health Sciences University. Eighteen physicians are involved in this three-year residency-training program each year. The Merle West Medical Center received a five-star ranking in 2004 from a leading health care publisher recognizing the center consistently adds exceptional care and value to the community.

Alcohol and Drug Use by Teens

Prevention and intervention plays an integral, vital role in curbing the abuse of alcohol and drugs. Alcohol use among teens is rising nationally, state-wide and locally. A teen assessment project study conducted by Frank Mondeaux, MSW, Ph.D. provides a detailed examination of drug use by youth in Klamath County. The study is generally conducted every two years.

The 2005-06 study was sponsored by the Klamath Tribes, KADA, both Klamath school districts, the Klamath County A/D planning committee and the District Attorney’s office. A total of 1,457 boys and 1,392 girls in grades 7th through 12th completed a survey in the 2005-06 school year. The 2,849 respondents represented about 75% of the total student enrollment.

Teen Assessment Project Survey (2005)

Proportion of 7th - 12th Grade Boys in Klamath County who reported regular use of selected substances (1,457 participants)

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Alcohol	6	10	29	40	53	58
Inhalants	4	3	3	4	6	7
Marijuana	2	4	13	18	29	28
Amphetamines	0	1	2	3	3	6

Proportion of 7th - 12th Grade Girls in Klamath County who reported regular use of selected substances (1,392 participants)

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Alcohol	7	14	26	48	56	56
Inhalants	2	3	3	5	3	2
Marijuana	1	10	13	21	21	18
Amphetamines	0	1	1	3	3	3

Source: Klamath Falls City Schools and County Schools students (7th-12th grade), 2005, Frank Mondeaux, MSW, Ph.D.

The number of 10th through 12th grade boys reporting regular use of alcohol increased by 14.4% from 2002 to 2005. The number of users, however, in 2005 was almost identical to the number in 2000 for these age groups. The number of girls in 10th through 12th grades reporting regular use of alcohol increased by 19.8% from 2002 to 2005, and was up slightly since 2000. There appeared to be no significant change in the number of users of inhalants, marijuana and amphetamines during the 2000 to 2005 survey period.

Economic Outlook Improving

Economic and Public Sector Trends

- Economic Outlook Improving
- Farm Workers Economic Impact
- Oregon Human Development
- 2001 Water Crisis Revisited
- Economic Development & Diversification is Working
- OIT Small Business Department
- Work Connection
- Kingsley Field Mission Expansion
- City & County Government Budgets
- City & County Schools Budgets
- Building Boom in Klamath County
- Single Home Construction Values Increasing
- Commercial Property Values Increasing
- Average Cost of Homes 2001 – 2006
- Renters and Homeless Issues
- Klamath County Housing Authority
- Homeless Population
- Klamath Falls Gospel Mission
- Volunteerism & Philanthropy
- United Way 2006 Community Campaign

According to Steve Williams, Oregon Employment Department regional economist, business is very good in Klamath County. After three years of employment loss beginning in 2001, Klamath County racked up employment gains in 2004 and 2005. 2005 recorded 23,850 non-farm jobs, up 4.5% from 2004, which made Klamath County the fourth-fastest growing area in the state. The county added 1,350 jobs in the past two years, after losing 790 from 2001 to 2003. Klamath County's unemployment rate was 7.6% or 2,311 persons in 2005, down considerably from 9.8% or 2,938 persons in 2003. In April 2006, there were 24,240 total non farm jobs in Klamath County.

Oregon had the highest or second highest unemployment rate in the nation for 43 consecutive months from April 2001 to October 2004. Since this time Oregon has still ranked in the top 10 states for unemployment. The state hit a high of 8.5% in June and July of 2003 and has been steadily declining to around 5.5% in the first two months of 2006. Klamath County's unemployment rate hit 7.3% in April 2006.

Klamath County Historical Annual Unemployment Rates

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1980	10.3%	1993	10.4%
1981	12.6%	1994	8.7%
1982	14.0%	1995	7.5%
1983	11.9%	1996	8.3%
1984	11.8%	1997	9.4%
1985	11.7%	1998	9.7%
1986	12.1%	1999	8.5%
1987	8.3%	2000	7.4%
1988	8.5%	2001	8.6%
1989	7.8%	2002	9.0%
1990	8.9%	2003	9.8%
1991	9.6%	2004	9.5%
1992	10.1%	2005	7.6%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

There were several industries that recorded strong employment gains from 2003-2005. Leading the way was professional and business services, which includes law offices, call center (NEW Corporation), and others. This industry saw a 17.2% gain in 2004, followed by a

Klamath County Labor Force and Industry Employment (2001-2005)

Labor Force Status (Household Data)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian labor force	29,820	29,767	29,990	29,980	30,297
Unemployed	2,568	2,679	2,938	2,861	2,311
Unemployment rate	8.6%	9.0%	9.8%	9.5%	7.6%
Employed	27,252	27,088	27,052	27,119	27,986
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Establishment Data)					
Total nonfarm payroll employment	23,160	22,720	22,500	22,820	23,850
Total private	17,380	16,830	16,690	17,130	18,120
Natural resources and mining	210	200	210	220	200
Construction	1,220	950	1,000	1,060	1,200
Manufacturing	2,460	2,410	2,380	2,500	2,540
Durable goods	2,000	1,970	1,940	2,090	2,150
Wood product manufacturing	1,440	1,380	1,360	1,430	1,460
Nondurable goods	470	450	440	420	390
Trade, transportation, and utilities	4,400	4,230	4,280	4,280	4,530
Wholesale trade	670	720	700	730	830
Retail trade	3,010	2,830	2,870	2,850	3,000
Food and beverage stores	720	640	650	620	580
General merchandise stores	740	680	690	690	800
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	730	690	710	700	700
Information	310	290	280	270	280
Financial activities	1,130	1,180	1,150	990	1,010
Professional and business services	1,850	1,710	1,630	1,910	2,150
Educational and health services	2,550	2,600	2,580	2,730	2,940
Leisure and hospitality	2,510	2,520	2,460	2,470	2,580
Other services	740	740	740	700	690
Government	5,780	5,890	5,800	5,700	5,740
Federal government	950	930	970	950	920
State government	1,640	1,700	1,610	1,570	1,590
Local government	3,190	3,260	3,220	3,180	3,230

Source: Oregon Employment Department

12.6% gain in 2005. The Wal-Mart Supercenter added a significant number of new jobs to the Klamath Basin in 2005.

Employment growth over the next decade in South Central Oregon is projected to grow by 3,380 jobs or 13.8% from 2004 to 2014. The strongest growth is expected to be outside of manufacturing. Education and health services is the industry expected to grow most quickly. The expansion of Merle West Medical Center and the training mission of the Oregon Air National Guard at Kingsley Field will add a significant number of jobs in coming years. Conversely federal jobs in other areas have declined over the years.

The development of the Oregon Center for Health Professions at Oregon Institute of Technology will greatly increase the number of state employee jobs. Construction jobs will continue to increase as the demand for residential and commercial building permits rise. As Klamath County's population

continues to attract retirees from other states and cities within Oregon, the number of leisure and hospitality jobs will also increase.

Agriculture

Farm Workers Economic Impact

According to the Oregon Employment Department there was an average of 84 farm worker employers in Klamath County in 2005. Each employer hired an average of 12 workers for a year-round average total of 1,044 workers. On average these workers each earned \$24,971 in 2005. In agriculture, employers do not have to pay into the unemployment insurance tax system if they have quarterly payroll of less than \$20,000 or employ less than 10 persons in each of the 20 separate weeks during a calendar year. Thus not all agriculture employers are counted, especially small operators. Total agriculture wages reported for 2005 was \$26,074,330.

Klamath County Agricultural Employment 2005

Agricultural production, support, supplies, manufacturing & warehousing

Year/ Quarter	Number of Units	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Annual Wage
2005/1	83	894	902	943	914	\$5,301,976	
2005/2	84	1,090	1,139	1,153	1,127	\$6,842,627	
2005/3	85	1,069	1,029	1,029	1,053	\$6,712,737	
2005/4	84	1,226	1,032	966	1,086	\$7,216,990	
Annual	84				1,044	\$26,074,330	\$24,971

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Oregon Human Development

Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services for farm workers, Hispanics, and disadvantaged individuals throughout Oregon since 1979. In Klamath Falls, services offered through OHDC includes the WIA 167 Farm worker Jobs Training Program, which assists farm workers in obtaining permanent and higher paying employment opportunities; homeless and emergency services; and case management support for emergency housing, information and referral services, and weatherization services.

From April 2005 to April 2006, OHDC served 26 households with jobs training; 42 households with emergency housing and utility assistance; 55 households with weatherization; 64 households with other emergency services; and responded to 562 calls for information and referral to appropriate service providers. In a March 2006 survey of farm workers, OHDC found health care and dental care needs to be of great concern.

2001 Water Crisis Revisited

Water remains the source of life in Klamath Country and impacts all its inhabitants. The 2001 water crisis, (shutting off of irrigation water from the Upper Klamath Lake used primarily by farmers), still in 2006, has not been adequately resolved. Farmers/ranchers, native American treaty rights, Endangered Species Act, fishing industry, economic development, forest land management are all factors that frame the issue of water supply, demand, legal rights and environmental protections.

Discussion among the major stakeholders continue toward seeking a lasting solution. Emotions still run high. And every year, anxious people hope for an

abundant snow pack and mild summer. Still agriculture and ranching remains a prosperous and vital component of the Klamath Basin's economic stability and future growth. According to the Oregon State University Extension Service, Klamath County's hays and forage sales in 2004 lead the state in reaching \$38 million, a 30% gain from the prior year. Klamath County ranked fifth in the state in grains with \$13 million in sales, a 27% gain. Cattle sales tallied nearly \$70 million for a 6% increase from 2003 to 2004.

Oregon Institute of Technology Helps Small Businesses

Under the direction of Jamie Albert, the Small Business Development Center at the Oregon Institute of Technology was instrumental in attracting \$14 million for clients seeking financial assistance from 2000 through 2005. The Center provides free, confidential business advice on management, operations and expansion strategies to existing businesses. It also helps clients interested in starting a new business.

During 2000 to 2005, the Center provided 5,640 counseling hours to 1,142 clients that helped to create 376 jobs. The Center also provided 5,438 hours of training at 75 events and seminars held during this period that was attended by 1,014 people.

Economic Development & Diversification is Working

Since the reduction of many wood products manufacturing jobs throughout Oregon in the 1990's, local economic development professionals and community leaders have attempted to create new jobs by diversifying their local workforce. The Klamath County Economic Development Association has succeeded along with TEAM Klamath, Oregon

Institute of Technology, Chamber of Commerce and others to attract a variety of new businesses.

KCEDA commissioned a study (May 2006) that was conducted by the Center for Economic Development at CSU, Chico, to measure the direct and secondary economic impact of a recent creation of 1,724 jobs in Klamath County. The report examined 15 businesses created between 2002 and 2006 and estimated their annual revenues to be \$274 million (\$83 million of this was payroll for the 1,724 jobs). These 1,724 employees through consuming goods and services and other household expenses helped to create an additional 1,375 jobs (that generated an estimated \$98 million in annual revenue of which \$45 million was payroll). These additional jobs were largely the result of existing employers needing to hire more employees to meet increased consumer demands. The report estimates the total combined direct and indirect annual economic impact of these 15 businesses to be the creation of 3,099 full and part-time jobs that generate \$371 million annually (of which \$128 million is payroll).

Diversification Strategy Adds 1,724 Jobs (2002-1006)

Industry	Direct Jobs
Greenhouse & nursery production	18
Veneer & plywood manufacturing	27
Wood window & door manufacturing	11
Miscellaneous electrical equipment manufacturing	75
Other household & institutional furniture	70
Building material & garden supply stores	101
Gasoline stations	36
General merchandise stores	450
Telecommunications	820
Hotels & motels	3
Other accommodations	30
Food service & drinking places	69
Automotive repair & maintenance	14
TOTAL	1,724

The Work & Career Connection

The Work & Career Connection provides job seekers access to current job listings and training opportunities. It works in partnership with the Oregon Employment Department, the Klamath Community College, and many other state offices. The Work & Career Connection also provides about 700 employers immediate access to a large potential workforce. The agency estimated between July 2004 to June 2005, it provided service to 5,000 job seekers and posted 2000 available jobs.



Klamath Mall Demolition, Photo by Gary Thain



Lake Ewauna Fountain, Photo by Mary Smothers



Baldwin Museum, Photo by Mary Smothers

Oregon Air National Guard Kingsley Field Mission Expanding

Kingsley Field has trained the best air-to-air combat pilots in the world, starting in 1983 with the F-4, switching to the F-16 in 1989, and then changing to the current F-15 platform in 1998. The base increased its flying hour program by 20% from 4000 hours in 2005 to 4800 hours in 2006. To stay in step with the needs of the Air Force and the Air National Guard, Kingsley is expected to increase the number of students it trains. Additional students will translate into more aircraft in 2008, moving Kingsley from 15 Primary Assigned Aircraft (PAA) to 24 PAA.



Currently (2006) there are more than 800 military, government civilian and contractor employees at Kingsley Field, representing a 23% gain from 2000. In 2008, with additional aircraft the base has the potential to expand to a total of 1,000 employees. The current (2006) economic impact from Kingsley Field to the Klamath Basin is estimated at \$50 million, representing a 24% gain over the \$38.5 million impact sited in 2000. Whatever uncertainty there might have been through the 1990s about the status of Kingsley Field, it's gone. The future of Kingsley Field looks brighter than ever as Kingsley continues to solidify itself as a world-class training center well into the 21st Century.

City of Klamath Falls

The City's current focus is addressing the substantial growth that is occurring in the community: Processing development applications through planning and engineering and expanding infrastructure to accommodate this growth. Currently (May 2006) there are upwards of 8,000 new residential lots at some stage of development proposed for the greater urban area.

The City of Klamath Falls budget for fiscal year 2005-06 is \$45,182,625, representing a 3.0% gain from the FY 2001-02 budget of \$43,862,825. The current operating budget excludes the Cogeneration budget of \$260,025,225. The City's work force is 159 employees.

Over the past three years, the City's Cogeneration Plant has distributed a total of just under \$3 million to the City. These dollars have been used for tax relief, infrastructure improvements, economic development and community grants.

Klamath County Government

The Klamath County Government general operating budget for fiscal year 2005-06 is \$176,694,096, representing a 11.5% gain from the fiscal year 2001-02 budget of \$158,512,375. Klamath County reports 618 full and part-time employees in FY 2005-06.

Klamath County Schools

The Klamath County Schools general operating fund budget for fiscal year 2005-06 is \$49,813,056, representing a 4.5% gain from the fiscal year 2001-02 budget of \$ 47,672,664.

Klamath Falls City Schools

The Klamath Falls City Schools district general fund budget for fiscal year 2005-06 is \$29,787,342, representing a decrease of 7.2% from the fiscal year 2001-02 budget of \$32,082,681.

Oregon Institute of Technology

OIT provides \$70 million in economic returns to the Klamath Basin each year. These come in the form of salaries and student expenditures. The technical education of its student body (as a potential source for employees) has also contributed greatly toward the attraction and retention of new businesses into our community. As OIT's campus population grows in 2007-2008, so will the economic impact to the Basin.

Klamath County Residential Sold Market Analysis (2001-2006)

Year		Number of Listings	Dollar Volume	Avg. Price	Avg. Days on Market
2001	All Sold Listings	830	\$83,461,128	\$100,555	151
2002	All Sold Listings	976	\$102,820,585	\$105,349	165
	Klamath Falls City	341	\$33,102,503	\$97,075	167
	Klamath Falls Suburbs	461	\$52,111,472	\$113,040	145
	Chiloquin	52	\$6,081,550	\$116,953	258
2003	All Sold Listings	1,110	\$125,142,461	\$112,741	146
	Klamath Falls City	385	\$39,778,905	\$103,322	124
	Klamath Falls Suburbs	498	\$58,565,264	\$117,601	131
	Chiloquin	76	\$9,830,801	\$129,353	243
2004	All Sold Listings	1,221	\$158,685,355	\$129,963	131
	Klamath Falls City	438	\$50,407,211	\$115,085	123
	Klamath Falls Suburbs	515	\$71,800,848	\$139,419	114
	Chiloquin	95	\$13,676,100	\$143,959	223
2005	All Sold Listings	1,338	\$211,452,683	\$158,036	107
	Klamath Falls City	503	\$69,974,667	\$138,916	95
	Klamath Falls Suburbs	579	\$97,734,703	\$168,799	100
	Chiloquin	88	\$15,534,108	\$176,524	172
2006 to Mar. 31	All Sold Listings	212	\$39,691,713	\$187,225	127

Building Boom in Klamath County Construction Values Increasing Steadily

Construction values for single family dwellings in Klamath County increased by 56.7% from 2004 to 2005, and realized a huge 339% gain since 2001. There were 562 building permits in 2005; 341 in 2004; and 153 in 2001. The total dollar valuations resulting from the permits issued in 2005 was \$116,307,308; \$74,232,114 in 2004; and \$26,498,651 in 2001. At the end of April 2006, there were 132 permits issued with a valuation of \$29,344,670, about \$1.7 million ahead of the value set at the same time in 2005.

Klamath County Single Family Dwelling Permits & Valuation (2001 – 2005)

Year	Number of Permits	Valuation
2001	153	\$26,498,651
2002	206	\$42,659,238
2003	239	\$50,982,269
2004	341	\$74,232,114
2005	562	\$116,307,670

Source: Klamath County Building Department

In addition to the significant building of new homes in Klamath County, there has also been a notable increase in the number of permits issued to improve existing homes and make modifications. Permits included checking plans, building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing. In 2005, there were 8,725 permits issued representing a 18.9% increase from the 7,360 permits issued in 2004.

Average Home Cost Grew 57% Since 2001

The average cost of a home in 2001 in Klamath County was \$100,555, and in 2005 it rose by 57% to \$158,036 according to the Klamath County Housing Association. Also during this period, there was a 61% increase in the number of homes sold, and the total dollar value of all the homes sold increased by 153% from \$83,461,128 in 2001 to \$211,452,683 in 2005. During the first quarter of 2006, the average cost of the 212 homes sold was \$187,225. The average days on the market before homes were sold has fluctuated from 151 days in 2001 to 107 days in 2005. As of April 2006, 127 days is the average days on the market before it's sold.

Rising interest rates appear to have slowed the market somewhat but the value of home ownership in Klamath County still remains attractive. As community planners and investors explore future growth in the area, affordable housing projects for Klamath County's lower income families should also be considered.

Commercial Property Development Also Growing

The Klamath County building department has reason to believe the number of new commercial development properties as well as improvements/expansions of existing properties will continue a steady increase. In

2005, there were 88 permits issued for commercial properties with a valuation of \$12,360,001, representing a 60.8% increase from 2004 to 2005. The 2006 building year is off to a record start with 49 permits issued as of April 30th and a valuation of \$9,125,226.

**Commercial Properties
(New & with modifications) 2002-2006**

Year	# of Permits Issued	Valuation
2002	17	\$ 7,468,267
2003	8	\$428,690
2004	47	\$7,684,860
2005	88	\$12,360,001
2006	49	\$9,125,226*

*As of April 30, 2006.

Source: Klamath County Building Department

Renters Have Increasing Burden

Until the 2010 U.S. Census report is taken it is difficult to determine the actual number of households today in Klamath County, especially those that are owner occupied. There is a growing trend in Klamath County and throughout the nation to purchase second homes and investment homes that are not owner occupied. The unprecedented rise in house prices in Klamath County from 2000 to 2005 has far outpaced the increase in household income of many families. This has resulted in rising rents and has caused an increased burden on many, especially lower income families, to pay their rent and meet other increasing monthly living expenses.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, factoring a median family income in Klamath County of \$46,300, the maximum amount of money that should be spent on rent for a three bedroom house is \$1,158 (based on 30% of income). The NLIHC calculate the fair market rent in Klamath County to be \$768 in 2005 (according to Housing and Urban Development estimates). An informal survey of Klamath County property managers in 2006, revealed monthly rent for a three bedroom home range from \$850 to \$1,250 depending on location, size, and its age (not including resort area homes). There appears to be a much higher vacancy rate for lower priced homes than for more costly homes. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 32% of all households in Klamath County were renter occupied.

Klamath Housing Authority

The Klamath Housing Authority provides rental assistance to low income individuals and families through renting its 57 public housing units, 24 farm worker units,

16 senior & disables units (Lake County) and provides an additional 734 vouchers annually to families who seek low income housing (Section 8 housing Choice Voucher program). According to KHA, a family can be assisted with the combined costs for housing and utilities up to certain limits, e.g. a three bedroom unit with all utilities for a family with little or no income can not exceed \$745 per month. KHA estimates there are over 1,000 families on the waiting list for this program; the average waiting time is 12 to 18 months.

Homeless Population

According to Soco Development staff, the number of homeless people in Klamath County is 222 households or about 555 people as of March 15, 2006. Homeless people are defined as living in unfit conditions such as a car, tent, cardboard box, or garage. Of these 555 people, its estimated 313 are children.

Klamath Falls Gospel Mission

The Klamath Falls Gospel Mission was started in 1958. It is one of about 350 members of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM) in America. The AGRM reports in 2004 it provided 30 million meals and over 12 million nights of lodging.

Locally and nationally, the rescue missions serve about 74% men and 26% women. Nationally, 78% of homeless come to the mission daily for sustenance, and 20% are considered chronic homeless. A common growing trend for missions is the number of “intact” families coming to a shelter for meals and living elsewhere. Locally 65% and nationally 73% of homeless people identify where they receive help as their home. Missions also help prepare men and women to live independently, improve job-seeking skills, and provides clothing. The Klamath Falls Gospel Mission serves about 48,000 meals annually.

Among the distinct differences between homeless people served nationally and locally include:

Characteristic	Klamath Falls Mission	National Missions (Average)
White (non Hispanic)	77%	45%
Male Veteran	50%	22%
Women with Children	17%	61%
Intact Families	33%	19%
Age 46 and Over	49%	31%

Volunteerism & Philanthropy

Non-profit organizations (public and private) depend on volunteers for technical expertise, governance, and hands-on support to serve people in need and carry out the mission of the organization. Volunteers also greatly benefit an organization's ability to keep its annual general operating expenses down. In business.... time is money. Volunteers on average donate 50 hours per year in various capacities. This in-kind gift is valued at \$18.04 per hour nationally and \$15.71 in Oregon for 2005. It's estimated 46% of all American adults volunteer. Since 1987, the number of 501 (C) (3) non-profit organizations has nearly tripled from 422,000 to 1.1 million in 2006, and this growth trend is still rising. Therefore the need for more volunteers is also rising. The total "in-kind" value of volunteerism nationally exceeds \$1 trillion annually.

The Oregon Community Foundation (through researching the Oregon Attorney General's Charitable Activities division) indicates there are about 10,000 non-profit organizations operating in Oregon in 2006. OCF reports in its 2006 Giving in Oregon report, that charitable giving to these organizations increased by 16.7% from 2002 to 2003 reaching \$1,131,395,561. Also in 2003, Oregon ranked 22nd in the nation for the highest average contribution, and Oregon tax payers donated 2.45% of their income to charity, compared to national average of 2.32% of income.

OCF reports there are 1,108 foundations in Oregon with combined assets more than \$3.3 billion as of April 2006. As "Baby Boomers" (77 million people born between 1946 to 1964) retire many economists are forecasting a shortage of workers to fill American jobs at home. The Bridgespan Group, a Boston non-profit organization specializing in strategic planning, conducted a national survey of non-profits (not including hospitals or colleges) and determined 640,000 new senior managers (professional staff) would be needed by 2016 to fill all the vacancies.

Recruiting volunteers in the future will have new challenges. The "greatest generation," the most elderly

of our citizens grew up knowing the importance of volunteering. To them it was a way of life. A Harvard University School of Public Health study suggest only one-third of "Baby Boomers" say they intend to volunteer after retirement. Attracting volunteers to serve on governing board of directors is also more challenging due to increased board oversight responsibilities as a result of recent legislation (Sarbanes-Oxley). According to a 2004 Princeton University study, 62% of Americans surveyed believe charities spend their contributions wisely; 76% believe charities do a good job of running their programs and services; and 82% believe charities do a good job of helping people. Today's non-profits must be perceived as not just accountable and effective but also transparent and approachable.

The United Way of the Klamath Basin is one of four non-profit organizations in Oregon that provide a centralized clearinghouse for non-profit organizations seeking volunteers and people who wish to volunteer. Since 1993, the United Way Volunteer Center has held an annual "Klamath Country Volunteer of the Year" event to recognize local volunteers for their commitment and service to our community and its citizens. The 2006 Klamath Country Volunteer of the Year is Coralee Fries. Nearly 40 volunteers were honored in 2006. The Oregon Governor's Office will conduct its first annual Governor's Volunteer Awards program and celebration on October 6, 2006 to recognize and celebrate volunteerism. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities or other issues, please contact United Way of the Klamath Basin at (541) 882-5558; e-mail uwkb@cvc.net; or visit the office at 136 N. Third Street Klamath Falls, OR 97601. Copies of this report are available for downloading on United Way's web site: www.unitedwayoftheklamathbasin.org.

United Way 2006 Community Campaign

The 61st annual United Way of the Klamath Basin Community Campaign will kick off on September 12th. Retired Kingsley Field Commander, Colonel



John Adkisson



Coralee Fries

John Adkisson will chair the fund drive in an effort to raise \$852,000 that will help support 23 local participating agencies. These United Way agencies provide help and hope to approximately 20,000 people each year.

Your local United Way and these agencies are audited annually to assure accountability. Since 1945, your local United Way and its family of agencies have strived to build the very best community for all of



2006 Volunteer of the Year Finalists

us. Please help. Annual tax-deductible contributions, donor designated funds, memorial gifts, stock, and other appreciated assets are always welcome. Also, please consider your local United Way as one of the recipients in your estate planning.

United Way Participating Agencies

American Red Cross
884-4125

Bly Pre-School
353-2568

Boy Scouts
882-4611

Camp Fire
273-4546

CASA
885-6017

Consortium Center
885-8131

Food Bank
882-1223

Foster Grandparents Program
883-4809

Friends of the Children
891-8742

Girl Scouts
884-0989

Gospel Mission
882-4895

Habitat for Humanity
883-2481

The Hope Center
883-4357

Integral Youth Services
882-2053

Junior Achievement
884-1190

Klamath Crisis Center
884-0390

Klamath Hospice
882-2902

Klamath KID Center
883-8141

Lutheran Community Services
883-3471

REACH, Inc.
882-8803

The Salvation Army
884-7778

Senior Citizen's Council
883-7171

SPOKES, Unlimited
883-7547

YMCA
884-4149



SOURCES: *Trends & Solutions Klamath County 2006*

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Department of Human Services
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Department of Human Services
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Internal Revenue Services
(Freedom of Information Library)
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Klamath Community College
Klamath County Association of Realtors
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Klamath KID Center
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*Building a
Better Community
for Generations
to Come*





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