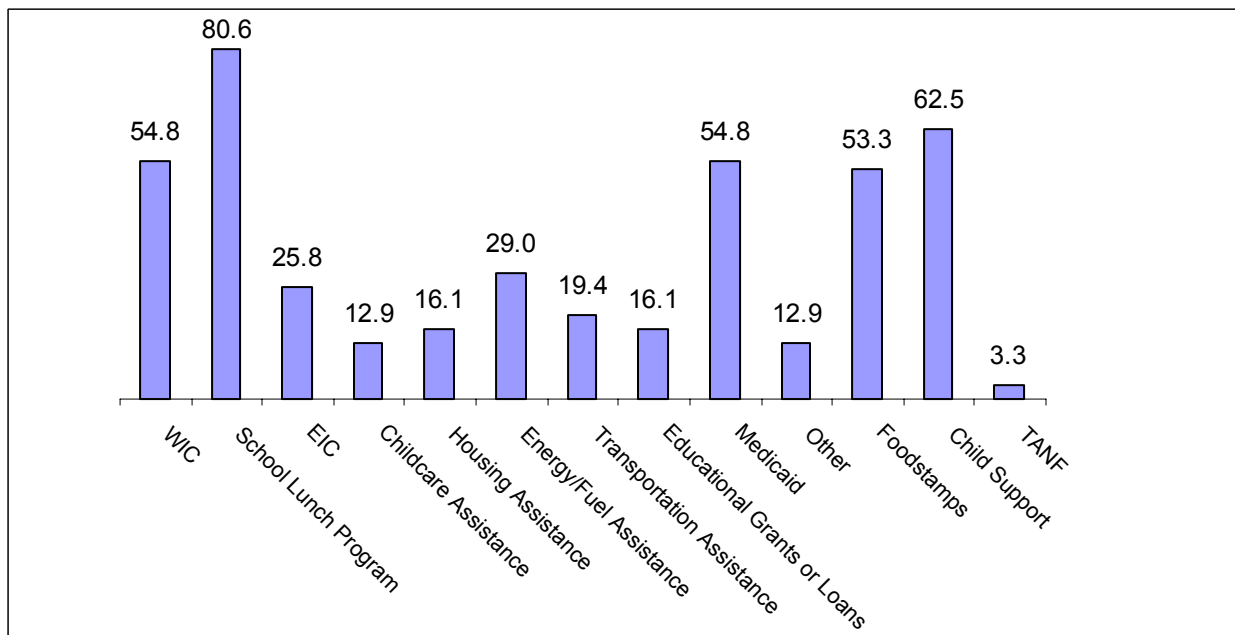


A Profile of Oregon Rural Families

Thirty-one rural Oregon families participated in the Rural Families Speak project. All interviews took place in either the families' home or an extension office. The main method of contact was through a county extension office, homeless shelters, and a health department.

The average Oregon rural family size was 5.2 members with an average total monthly income, not including food stamps, of \$1,575.92 or \$18,911.04 annually. According to the 2000 Federal Poverty Guidelines, the annual income for a family of five at 100% of poverty was \$1,662.50 monthly or \$19,950 annually. The number of children ranged from 1 to 7 with an average of 2.6 children. The average age of the youngest child was 3.3 years old. The chart below highlights the percentage of Oregon rural families that responded yes to receiving various types of assistance.



Thirty-nine percent (38.7%) of the mothers were non-Hispanic White, 54.8% were Hispanic/Latino, 3.2% were Native American and 3.2% were Multi-racial. The average age of the mothers was 30.4 years old. The marital status of the mothers varied with 3.2% being single, 67.7% married, 16.1% living with a partner, 9.7% divorced, and 3.2% separated. Almost thirty-five percent (34.6%) of the partners were Non-Hispanic White and 64.4% were Hispanic/Latino. The average age of partners was 32.7 years old.

The education level of these rural mothers varied with 9.7% having some college or an associates degree, 12.9% with specialized technical, business or vocational training, 25.8% with a high school diploma or GED, 12.9% with some high school, and 38.7% with an 8th grade education or less. The educational level of the partners also varied with 7.7% having some college or an associate's degree, 11.5% with a high school diploma or GED, 26.9% with some high school and 53.8% with an 8th grade education or less.

Of these rural Oregon mothers, 58.1% were currently working at time of the interview. None of these rural mothers were currently students. Of the mothers who were not working,

38.5% reported currently looking for work. Almost ninety-four percent (83.5%) had worked for pay at one point in their lives and started their first paying job at an average of 18.5 years old.

Of the mothers that were working, 94.4% had one job and 5.6% held two jobs. Almost seventeen percent (16.7%) of the mothers worked as laborers and helpers, 16.7% worked in production, 61.1% of the mothers worked in service-oriented jobs, and 5.6% worked in administrative support. The average total number of hours worked per week for jobs held by the mothers interviewed was 32.0 hours.

Of the partners, 96.2% were currently working at time of the interview and held one job. None of the partners were currently students. One partner was a seasonal worker. Similar to the mothers, the employment of the partners varied. Almost thirty-eight percent (37.5%) of the partners worked as laborers/helpers, 33.3% worked in production, 4.2% in construction, 16.7% in service, 4.2% in professional and technical fields, and 4.2% worked in management. The average wage for partners' job was \$8.36 and the average number of hours worked was 44.7 hours per week. The average length that the partner had been at their current job was 36.8 months.

For many rural families, housing can be the largest monthly expense. Of these rural Oregon families, 74.2% of the families rented their place of residence, while 6.5% owned their own home and 19.4% did something other than rent or own.

In terms of childcare care arrangements, 61.3% had some type of childcare arrangement each week. Almost fifty-two percent (51.6%) of families had one arrangement, and 9.7% of families had two childcare arrangements.

When asked about the types of food eaten in this household, according to Food Security Module created by the USDA, 6.5% were considered food insecure with hunger, 64.5% were food insecure without hunger, 19.4% were marginally food secure, and 9.7% were food secure.

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