More possible solutions can be found at Limited English estimates; and U.S Census Bureau, 2015 Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Households: when one or more people occupy the same residence

**Limited English** is disadvantage because it is a barrier in accessing health and social services.

Parent-child reading programs can improve language skills and health literacy by encouraging minority parents to read health materials to their children. This has been shown to positively impact parents who speak English as a second language and parents without a high school diploma.

**Less than a High School Diploma**: is disadvantage because it limits the income an individual receives and their knowledge to make healthy choices.

Dropout prevention programs can positively impact students by providing additional support, such as mentoring, counseling, vocational training, health care, child care, and transportation assistance. This has been shown to increase attendance and graduation rates.

More possible solutions can be found at Countyhealthrankings.org under Roadmaps to Health, What Works for Health.

### Definitions:

**Health Factors**: what influences the health of a county

**Health Outcomes**: how healthy a county is

**Household**: when two or more related individuals occupy the same residence

**Family Household**: when two or more related individuals occupy the same residence

**Home-owner**: an individual who owns a home, with or without a mortgage

**Limited English**: when an individual identifies as speaking English less than "very well"

**Median Income**: is the middle income of a designated area, where half of the residents earn more and half earn less

### Background Information:

According to Healthy People 2020, health disparities are health differences between individuals or groups that are unfair because they are caused by social or economic disadvantages. These disadvantages include a lack of education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2017).

The County Health Rankings Model demonstrates the amount of influence different types of health factors have over health outcomes, which include the length and quality of one’s life.

### Who is at risk?

All people are at risk of experiencing health disparities, however, those who face social and economic disadvantages are most at risk.

These include, but are not limited to:
- Individuals and families below the poverty level
- Those with high housing costs
- Limited English speakers
- Individuals without a high school diploma, or equivalent education

In Marion County, there are a total of 323,259 residents which consist of 113,996 households. Of those households, 69% are identified as family households.

Over half of the county’s population is between the ages of 18 and 64, while those under 18 make up 26%.

### References:


Data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5 year estimates; and U.S Census Bureau, 2015 Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children.

### Contact Info:

Marion County Health Department
3180 Center St NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-588-5357
www.co.marion.or.us/HLT
The Poverty Level:
The U.S. Census Bureau determines the poverty level each year based on household size. The average household size in Marion County is 2.75 persons. The table below shows the federal poverty level determined by household size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$12,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$15,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$18,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$24,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$32,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$41,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty in Marion County:
In Marion County, approximately 20% of the population is below the poverty level. By age group, those under the age of 18 experience the most poverty and decreases with age. Compared with the population as a whole, family households experience poverty slightly less often.

Total population 25 years and older: 206,106
Those with less than a high school diploma: 32,977 (16%)
High school graduate or GED: 55,649 (27%)
Some college, Associate’s degree: 72,137 (35%)
Bachelor’s degree or higher: 45,343 (22%)

Limited English Speakers in Marion County:
Of the 113,996 households in Marion County, as many as 20% of them, or 25,949 households, speak limited English at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Spoken at Home Other than English</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Percent of Households who Speak Limited English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>19,477</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Indo-European languages</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander languages</td>
<td>2,569</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Languages Spoken in Marion County:

Educational Attainment in Marion County:
In Marion County, there are a total of 206,106 adults who are 25 years of age or older. Of those individuals, 16% are identified as having less than a high school diploma.

The median income of individuals with less than a high school diploma is $19,533 compared to those with some college experience, or an Associate’s degree, at $30,762.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 25 years and older</th>
<th>206,106</th>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
<td>45,343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High Housing Costs in Marion County:
Housing Cost Burden is a term that describes when a household’s housing costs (i.e. rent/mortgage, utilities) exceed 30% of their income. For example, if a single adult household makes $3,000 per month their housing costs should not exceed $900 per month. If they do, it is considered housing cost burden.

In Marion County, renters experience more housing cost burden than homeowners. This is especially true among 15 to 24 year olds and those who are 65 years or older.