



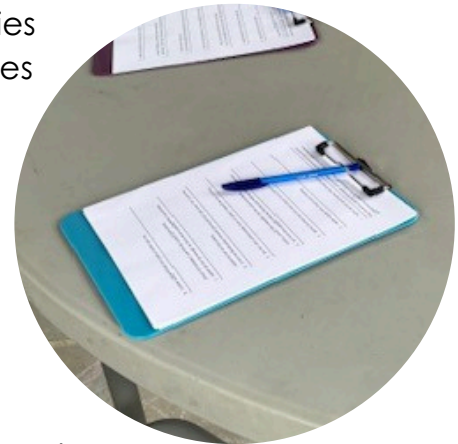
Community Asset Mapping Report for Waldport

in partnership with the
Waldport Public Library



Pollywog's Community Asset Mapping Project

The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties is proud to support the families in our region with services and information about early childhood learning and development. We believe that by working together as a collective of agencies and service providers, we can increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, and ensure service coordination that is equitable, and culturally and linguistically competent.



A crucial component of our coordinated work is data about the families in our region and the social determinants of health, i.e. the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work, and age, that affect their lives. Quantitative community data from reliable sources is useful for understanding the context of social determinants of health, like the population of a town or the median household income of a city. But to understand how social determinants of health factor into the daily lives of families in our region we must ask community members, and we must listen to their responses.

With this directive in mind, Pollywog and the EL Hub are conducting a regional Asset Mapping Project in 15 rural Linn/Benton/Lincoln communities. Asset Mapping is an innovative tool for community-based participatory research, and with this project we seek to engage and center the voices and experiences of families raising young children in rural communities.

Rural communities, in particular, face deep disparities in the resources that families need to raise happy and healthy children, and this inequity isn't always related to geography. With each Asset Mapping session, we ask direct questions about families' experiences in accessing resources and services in their community and beyond. Their answers show where families encounter gaps in needed support and will translate into data that will inform program funding plans across our region.

The selected communities were chosen because they are similar in size (under 20,000 residents) and have two of these existing assets - a grocery store that sells fresh meats and produce, a library, and a health care clinic.

The 15 towns are: Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Mill City/Lyons, Scio, and Sweet Home (Linn County); Alsea, Monroe, and Philomath (Benton County); Lincoln City, Newport, Siletz, Toledo, and Waldport (Lincoln County).

What is Asset Mapping?

Asset Mapping, or the process of creating a map of community assets, is a hands-on experience that centers the participants' experiences and opinions. Over-sized aerial maps of a community are the canvas for community members to share their perspectives on their community and its resources. We hope to learn more about the community that we can't learn from just looking at a map ourselves.



Asset mapping is unique and valuable because it is strength-focused. We want to know about the places in a community that are valuable to families. To collect this information, we provide stickers with icons of various types of assets and participants are asked to place the stickers on the map to note the physical location. We also ask participants to write the name of the asset and any comments they have, positive or negative or neutral. If an asset doesn't exist in their town, we ask for stickers to be placed on the edge of the map, indicating that families must go outside their town for that asset.



After placing their stickers on the map, each participant is given a one-page survey that asks about other aspects of their community, like internet access, banking availability, and laundry facilities. We also ask what makes their community unique, what concerns they have, and what they love about their community. The survey questions are open and have space for answers in their own words.



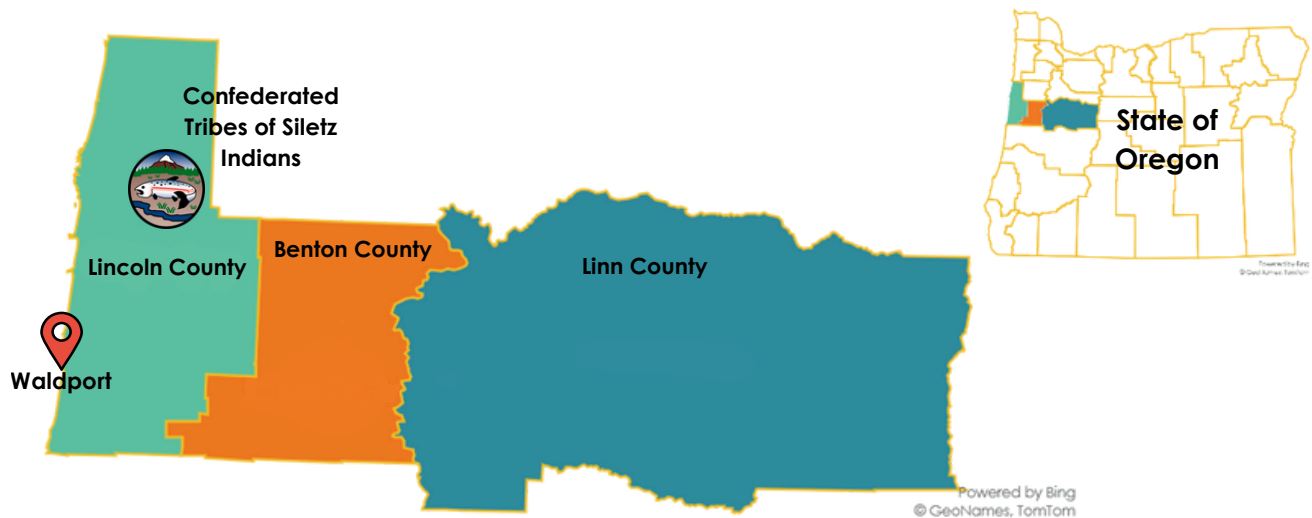
Pollywog's Asset Mapping Project is funded through Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Equity Grant Program, which seeks to eliminate health inequities by 2030. Our work is funded by the Acute and Communicable Disease section, where we hope our gathered data can contribute to greater access to health care in rural communities. To that end, we have been tasked with collecting information about these additional community assets: Annual Exam Providers, Emergency Health Care, Sexual Health & Testing, and Vaccine Providers.

Waldport, Oregon

The community of Waldport, home to 1,950 residents, gained its name from early German settlers. In German, 'wald' means forest or trees and 'port' to describe its location near the ocean. Today, Waldport's motto is "Where the forest meets the trees."

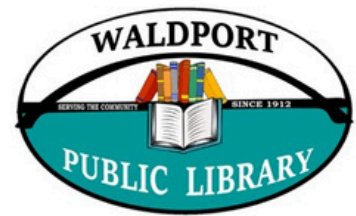
Prior to settlers arrival in the late 1800's, the area was inhabited by Indigenous people called the Wusi or Wusitslum, also known as the Alsi or Alsea. Their population dwindled over time due to illness and forced relocation to the Coast Reservation.

Logging and fishing industries dominated Waldport's early years, including spruce trees that were used to build airplanes in World War I. Waldport is now known for its recreation and fishing opportunities, as well as wildlife and bird watching.



Community Partner in Waldport

Waldport's Public Library was our partner for Asset Mapping in Waldport. Residents attending the library's Youth & Teen Science Fair were invited to participate.



The Waldport Public Library has been in operation since 1919 and in addition to print and audio media, offers many events and learning opportunities to the Waldport community. We are grateful to the Waldport Public Library and the Waldport community for participating in our Asset Mapping project.

Community Strengths

What do you love about Waldport? What makes Waldport unique?



Community Concerns

What concerns do you have about Waldport?



Community Strengths and Concerns

For families living in Waldport, their close-knit community and caring neighbors are top of the list of Waldport's strengths. Asset Mapping participants described how much they love living in a small town and emphasized how much people care about their community. The attention given to creating a Place of Belonging in Waldport was described by nearly all participants in Waldport.



In addition to the sense of community in Waldport, many participants expressed the importance of civic structures like the Waldport Public Library, the Waldport Community Center, the community garden, and local schools. These places, as well as the community events held at them, bring Waldport families together and build community and the sense of belonging.

Finally, Waldport families conveyed how much they enjoy living on the coast with so many recreation opportunities available to them. All participants in Waldport stated the importance of Waldport's natural beauty.

"The feeling of belonging... we have a community."
– Waldport Asset Mapping Participant

Waldport families also voiced concerns about their community, especially economic hardships related to living in a small town. Participants stated the cost of living in Waldport is high, including housing expenses like rent/mortgage. They said there are few jobs available locally that pay a sustainable wage for the area, and few resources or services to support people in need.



Compounding concerns about the cost of living and lack of employment is the lack of public transportation and a lack of local child care. For families who must seek work outside of Waldport, transportation and child care are necessities to earning enough to support themselves. A community lacking these and other resources might struggle to keep members from moving to larger towns or cities.



Opportunities for Learning in Waldport

Waldport is part of the Lincoln County School District. Children in Waldport can attend Crestview Heights, offering kindergarten to 6th grade, and Waldport Middle/High School, offering 7th to 12th grades. Students in 7th and 8th grades can also attend the Compass Online School. Most Asset Mapping participants in Waldport mark the school locations with their 'Place of Learning' stickers.



Other locations in Waldport that participants marked with their 'Place of Learning' stickers include Robinson Park, the Waldport Community Center, and the Waldport Public Library. Robinson Park, at the Port of Alsea, is a popular spot for fishing and crabbing. Families enjoy the small beach and picnic area. The Waldport Community Center hosts all kinds of community events for free for community members. The Waldport Public Library has been a place of learning for the Waldport community since 1919. The library calendar is full of activities for community members of all ages and interests.

A concern noted by a few Asset Mapping participants was that teens lacked a place to gather after school.

Child Care & Preschool

As with all small communities in the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties, participants in Waldport are concerned with the lack of child care and preschool in their community.

Waldport families have access to free preschool through Oregon's Preschool Promise Program at the Wee Irish Preschool at Crestview Heights Elementary School. This preschool has space for 18 children, ages 3 to 5 years. Families can contact the EL Hub for registration and capacity information.



FindChildCareOregon.org, where families anywhere in Oregon can search for child care information, lists just one more child care provider in Waldport. The combined capacity for these two providers is 28, ages 2 months to 12 years, which doesn't meet the number of children in that age range in Waldport.

Health and Wellness in Waldport

The Waldport community has access medical care and services at Samaritan's Waldport Clinic. This clinic provides comprehensive primary care as well as walk-in and urgent care appointments. More than 70% of Waldport Asset Mapping participants noted the Samaritan clinic as their community location for health care.



A concern expressed by Waldport families is the availability of emergency care services in their community. Although the Samaritan clinic provides urgent care services, the nearest emergency room is in Newport, more than 15 miles to the north.

When seeking dental care services, 75% of the Waldport Asset Mapping participants find dental care outside of their community. There is one dental office in Waldport that was marked by 25% of participants with their 'Dental Care' sticker.



Other Health Care Needs

The percentages shown below demonstrate the services that residents seek outside of Waldport. *(Note: Not all participants used every sticker category; these results are based on mapped assets.)*



Behavioral Health: 50%



Vaccine Provider: 60%



Annual Exam Provider: 40%



Emergency Health Care: 86%



Sexual Health and Testing: 100%

Survey Questions

Do you have reliable internet service that supports video? If your home doesn't have cell coverage, do you have a landline?

All participants said they have reliable internet access in their home.

Do you use a bank/credit union, a check cashing service, or both?

All participants use a bank or credit union and do not use a check cashing service. Most access their bank online or outside the community.

If you use government services (Social Security, DHS, DMV, etc.) how and where do you access them?

All participants report accessing government services outside of their community or online.

Where do you do laundry, at your home or elsewhere? Is the laundry facility accessible? Is the laundry facility affordable?

All participants stated they do laundry at home. There isn't a laundry facility in the community.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

No additional information was shared on the surveys.



Overview of Community Assets in Waldport

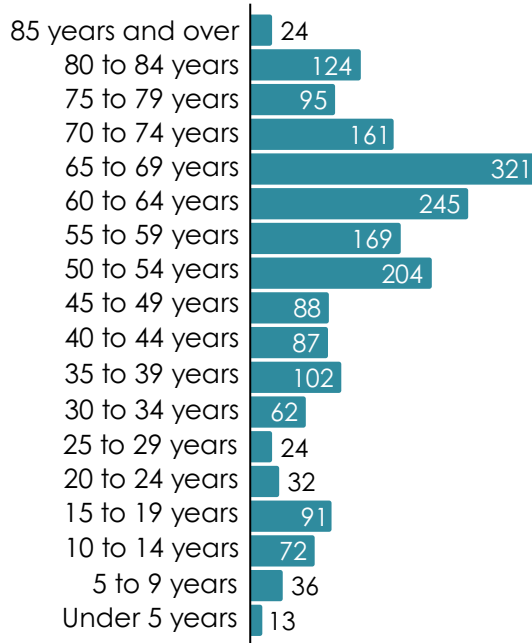


Waldport is a caring, close-knit coastal community with a strong sense of belonging, but facing significant challenges including limited childcare, scarce local resources and jobs, high living costs, and reliance on nearby towns for essential services.

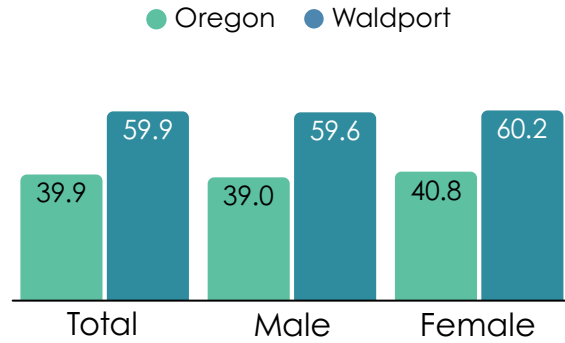
Community Data

All data are from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, except for data about Lincoln County School District, which is from the Oregon Department of Education.

Total Population: 1,950



Median Age

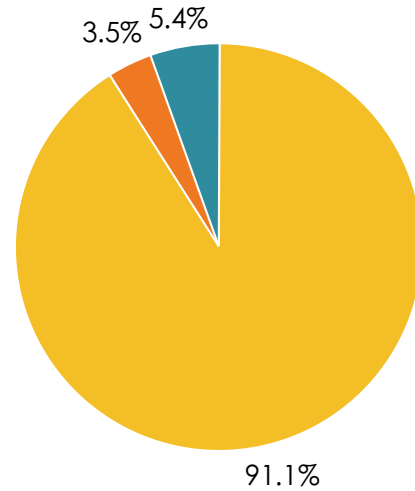


Proportion of Population by Sex

Sex	Proportion
Male	48.7%
Female	51.3%

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone	89.4%
Black or African American alone	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.4%
Asian alone	1.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1%
Some other race	0.9%
Two or more races	7.4%
Hispanic or Latino origin, of any race	6.1%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	87.6%

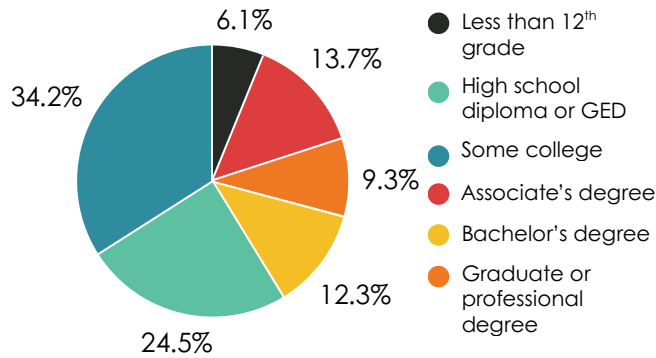
Travel to Work



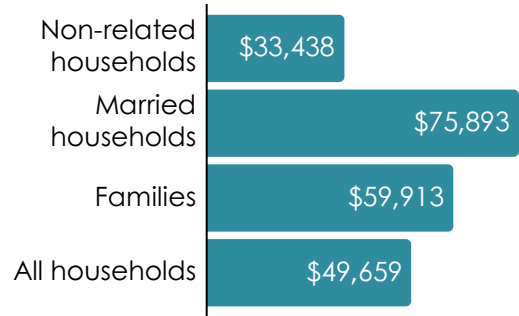
- Worked in county of residence
- Worked outside of county of residence
- Worked outside state of residence

Worked from home: 14.2%
Mean travel time to work: 23.3 minutes

Educational Attainment

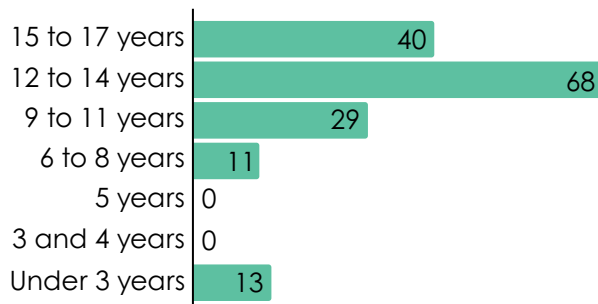


Median Household Income



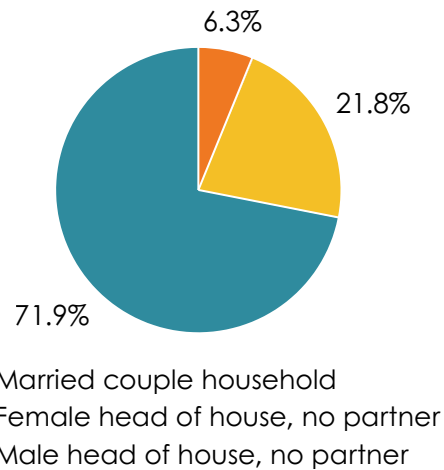
Total Households: 1,058
 Average Home Price: \$464,964
 (Zillow Home Values Index of March 31, 2024)

Child Population

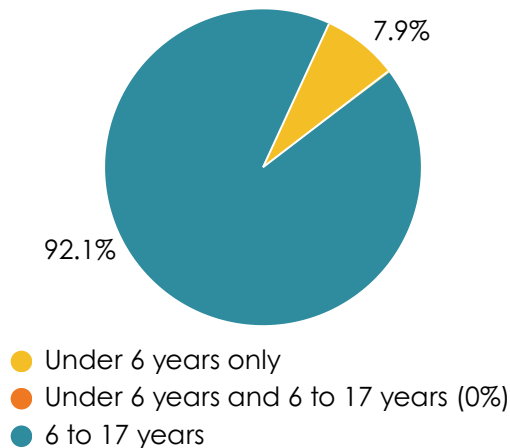


Total households with own children: 76

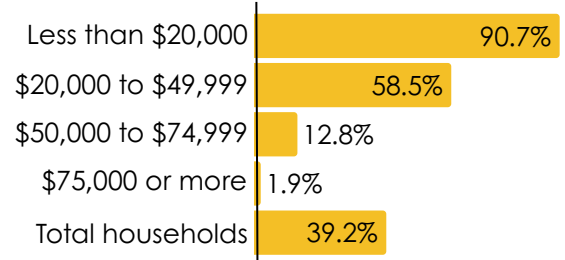
Children in Households, by Family Type



Households with Own Children by Age



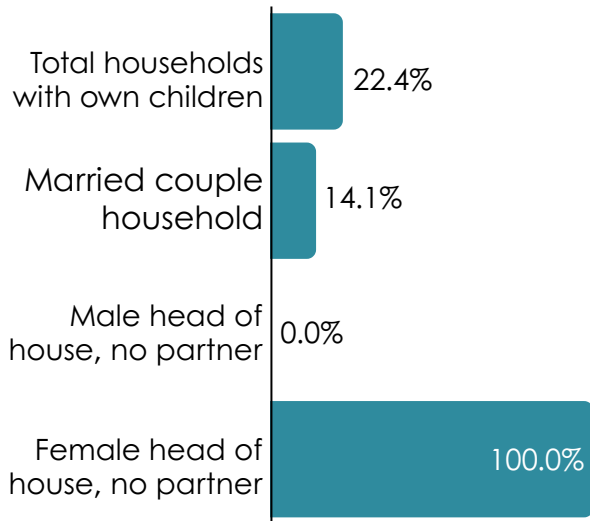
Cost-Burdened Housing by Household Income



Note: Cost-burdened housing is defined as paying more than 30% of household income for housing (rent or mortgage plus utilities).

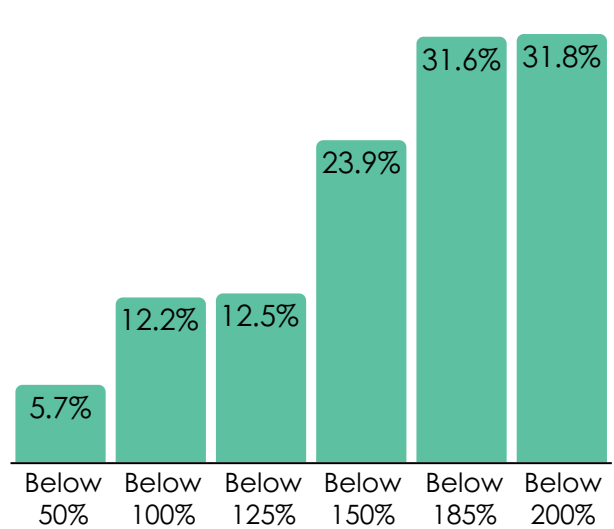
Median Monthly Housing Cost: \$990

Households with Own Children Receiving SNAP/Food Assistance



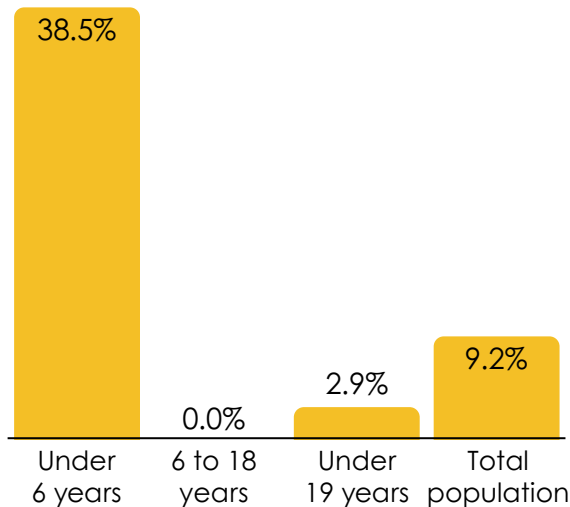
Both parents in the labor force: 75.0%

People Living in Poverty, by Percentage of Poverty Level

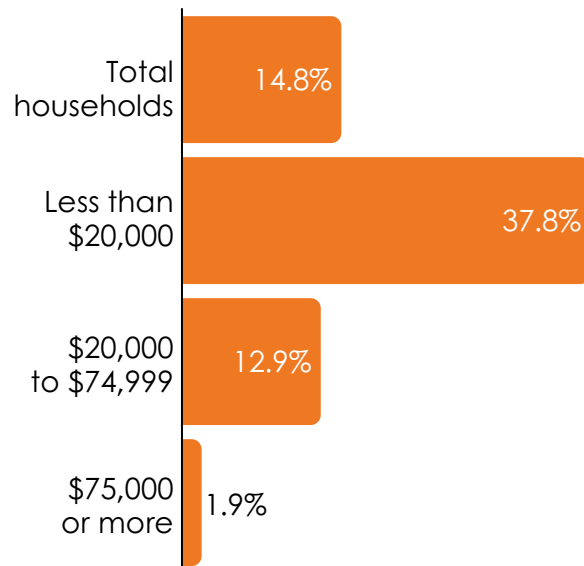


6.8% of children under 18 years old are living below poverty level

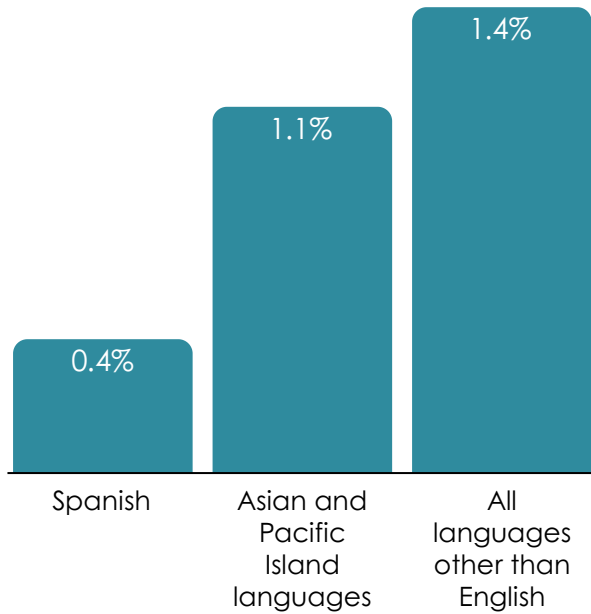
Children Without Health Insurance by Age Group



Households Without an Internet Subscription by Income



Primary Language Spoken at Home



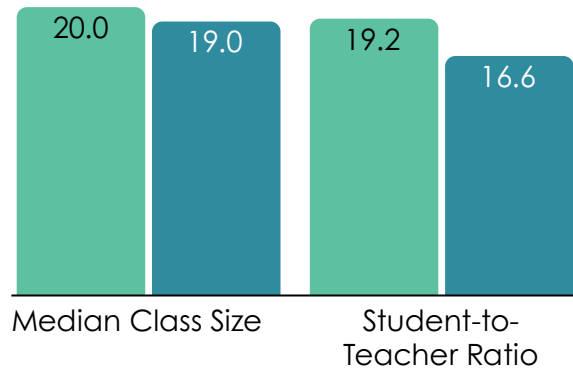
Lincoln County School District At-A-Glance, 2022-2023

Student Enrollment	5,058
Ever English Learners	14.0%
Students with Disabilities	16.0%
Mobile Students	16.0%
Free/Reduce Price Lunch	>95%
Experienced Teachers	66.0%
Languages Spoken	30
Regular Attendees	55.0%
Grade 3 English Language Arts	32.0%
Grade 8 Mathematics	13.0%
On-Track to Graduate	84.0%
On-Time Graduation	86.0%
Five-Year Completion	80.0%

Lincoln County School District Special Education At-A-Glance, 2022-2023

Student Enrollment	5,058
Students in Special Education	709
% of Students in Special Education	14.02%
Regular Class	65.3%
Separate Class	22.0%
Separate Settings	1.13%
Graduation Rate (Oregon target: 81%)	90.24%
Dropout Rate (Oregon target: 12.17%)	<5%

Median Class Size & Student-to-Teacher Ratio, Lincoln County School District, 2022-23



- All Subjects and Grade Levels
- Kindergarten



Prepared parents. Healthy families.

Pollywog was developed in 2017 to align health care, parenting education, and early childhood services for children and their families in Oregon's Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

As a program of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties, families trust Pollywog to connect them with the resources and services they need, including community-based organizations, medical services, and early childhood education and care. We also work closely with the Parenting Success Network, our local parenting education collaborative.



[/PollywogFamily](#)



[/thePollywogFamily](#)



[@PollywogFamily](#)

Pollywog is located at
Linn-Benton Comm. College
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Luckiamute Building, LM-132
Albany, OR 97321

541-917-4884

pollywog@linnbenton.edu



This project is made possible with support from Early Learning Hub staff. In addition, the following Hub staff contributed to this report:

Connie Adams -- Design and Text

Jinguang Lin -- Data Analysis and Data Visuals

Carmen Santacruz -- Spanish Translation

Asset Mapping Project Updates

Follow the progress of our project as we hold asset mapping sessions throughout the Linn/Benton/Lincoln region. We invite you to join an asset mapping session in your town to share your opinions and experiences as a participant. You can find upcoming session locations and dates, reports from past sessions, and pictures of maps and sessions on the Pollywog website and the EL Hub website.