

**Possible solutions:**

Improvement of social and economic factors can be influenced by policies and programs.

**Poverty:** is disadvantage because individuals and families cannot afford to make healthy decisions or pay for higher education.

Child care subsidy programs can assist working parents, or parents attending school, by covering the costs of certified in-home or center-based child care. This has been shown to increase employment and income of low-income families.

**Housing Cost Burden** is disadvantage because individuals and families are forced to choose between keeping a roof over their head and putting food on the table.

Zoning regulations for land use policy can be supported to increase development of low-income housing. This has been shown to increase physical activity and reduce personal vehicle miles, crime, and stress.

**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](http://Countyhealthrankings.org) under **Roadmaps to Health, What Works for Health.**

**References:**

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2017.* [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020. *Phase I report: Recommendations for the framework and format of Healthy People 2020.*

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.

**Definitions:**

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

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

**Household:** when one or more people 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

**Contact Info:**

Marion County Health Department  
3180 Center St NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-588-5357

[www.co.marion.or.us/HLT](http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT)



# Addressing Health Disparities

**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).

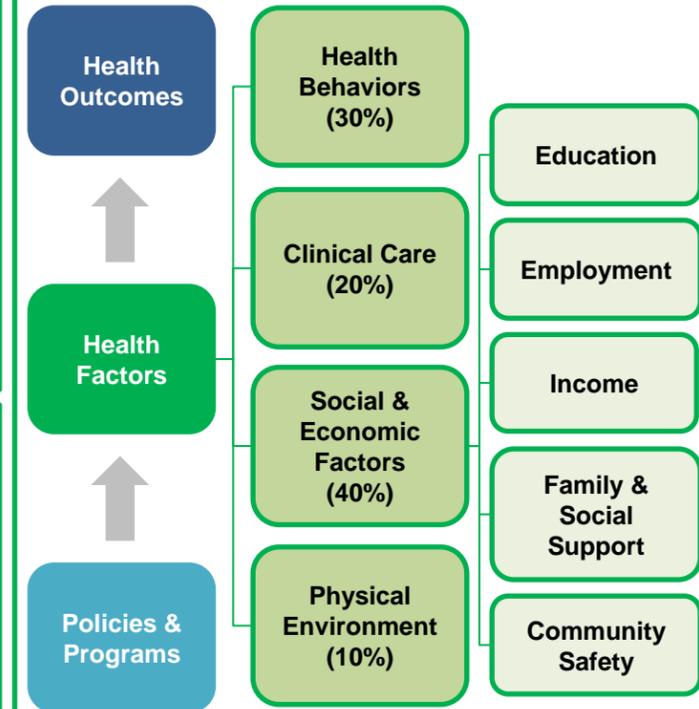
The *County Health Rankings Model* demonstrates the amount of influence different types of health factors have over health outcomes, which include the length and quality of one's life.

**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

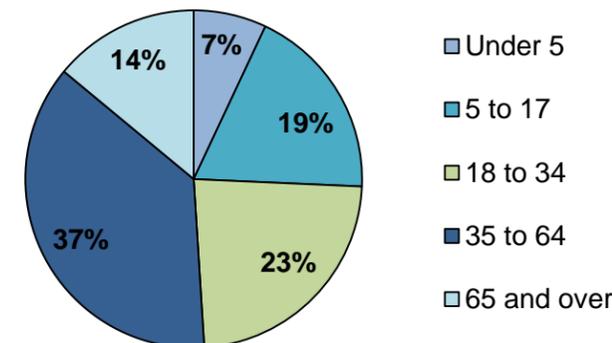
**County Health Rankings Model:**



Adapted from *County Health Rankings* model 2017

**Snapshot of Marion County:**

Percent of Total Population by Age Group



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%.

<b>Total Population</b>	<b>323,259</b>	
Number of Households	113,996	
Number of Family Households	78,914	69%

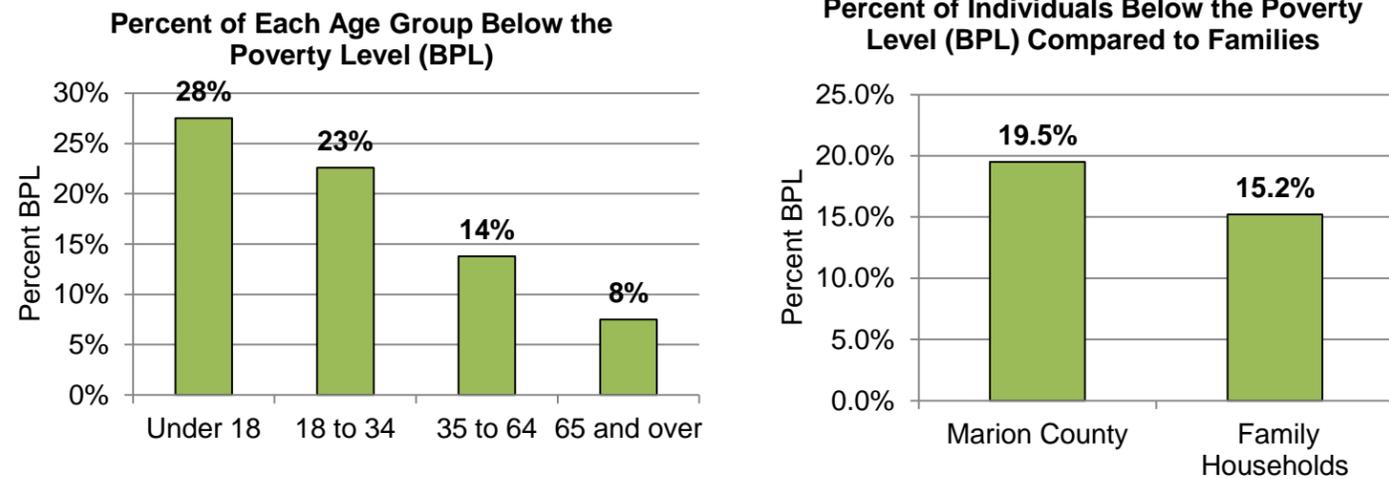
### The Poverty Level:

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.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	6	8
Poverty Level	\$12,082	\$15,391	\$18,871	\$24,257	\$32,542	\$41,029

### Poverty in Marion County:

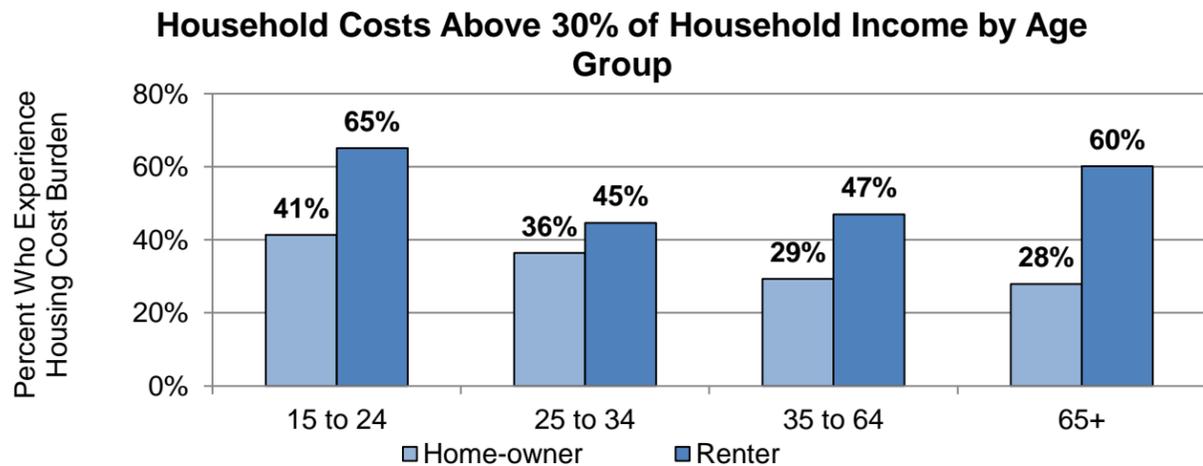
In Marion County, approximately 20% of the population is below the poverty level. By age group, those under the age of 18 experience the most poverty and decreases with age. Compared with the population as a whole, family households experience poverty slightly less often.



### 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 home-owners. This is especially true among 15 to 24 year olds and those who are 65 years or older.



### 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.

Language Spoken at Home Other than English	Number of Households	Percent of Households who Speak Limited English
Spanish	19,477	21%
Other Indo-European languages	3,500	17%
Asian or Pacific Islander languages	2,569	20%

### Languages Spoken in Marion County:

#### Top 5:

- |                  |              |          |            |           |
|------------------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. English (70%) | French       | Armenian | Cambodian  | Navajo    |
| 2. Spanish (20%) | Italian      | Persian  | Hmong      | Hungarian |
| 3. Russian (1%)  | Portuguese   | Gujarati | Thai       | Arabic    |
| 4. German (<1%)  | Scandinavian | Hindi    | Laotian    | Hebrew    |
| 5. Chinese (<1%) | Greek        | Japanese | Vietnamese | African   |
|                  | Polish       | Korean   | Tagalog    | And more! |

### 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.

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%

