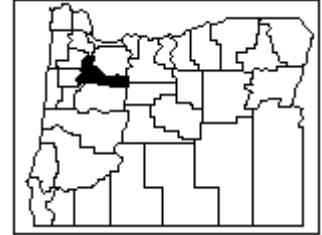


MARION COUNTY

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County improves the lives of children and families primarily through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start and Oregon Head Start programs. Directed by a County Executive Committee, which includes a County Director, parents of program participants and community representatives, the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Marion County serves a total of 258 children annually. Of these, 203 children are classified as migrant children and 55 are classified as seasonal children. In 2005, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County served 116 percent of funded enrollment. As of May 2006, average daily attendance was 100 percent.



The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County currently employs a center-based option, serving children from three locations around the Woodburn and Silverton, Oregon, areas. The short-term program runs 13 weeks from June through August, operating 19 classrooms, 5 days per week from 5 am to 5 pm. The long-term program runs 32 weeks from September through December and then from January through May operating 5 classrooms, 5 days per week from 9 am to 3 pm and from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The service area includes the entirety of Marion County. The recruitment area, however, is determined by three factors: (i) the location of growers as the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County attends to those especially agricultural areas of Marion County, (ii) program center locations and (iii) acceptable transportation times per the Head Start Performance Standards. For illustrative purposes, Appendix C7.1 displays a map containing the service area, as well as grower's locations and program center locations.

COUNTY SNAPSHOT

▶ QUICK FACTS

- Marion County has experienced 6.1 percent growth in its population over the past 5 years, with areas such as Mt Angel, Oregon, experiencing more rapid growth over the same period.
- The median household income in Marion County is 5 percent lower than the state median, with over 4,000 children under the age of 6 living in poverty and 49 percent of public school children eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- As of 2006, there are an estimated 2,104 unserved, eligible Head Start children in Marion County with the percentage of unserved, eligible children at 57.1 percent.
- With unemployment at 6.5 percent, Marion County is seeing growth in the professional and business service industry, growth attributed to outsourcing and the increased use of "leased workers" through staffing agencies.

"There is a lot of fear out there because of what's happening around the nation with the immigration situation."

*-Daniel Quinones
Farmworker Advocate, Marion County*



- Greenhouses and nurseries are changing the face of agriculture in Marion County, with strawberry, blackberry and raspberry acreage continuing to decline annually in light of international competition and greater mechanization.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 6,206 migrant farmworkers (+6.4% between 2002 and 2005) and 13,015 seasonal farmworkers (+6.2% between 2002 and 2005) in Marion County with the total number of migrant and seasonal children under the age of 6 estimated at 521 children and 638 children, respectively.

▶ **CRITICAL ISSUES**

- Immigration

On Thursday, June 29, 2006, the Salem Statesman Journal ran the front-page story, *Pick Your Theory, But Valley Short of Cherry Harvesters*. In this piece the author interviews a number of local growers about the shortage of migrant farmworkers in the Willamette Valley - Oregon's most productive agricultural region - this summer. In the article, growers noted that, on any given day during harvest, growers are able to hire only enough labor to harvest about ¼ of their fruit.¹ And, when asked why the shortage, one grower responded with, "Why did President Bush do this before harvest?" What this grower is referring to is the immigration debate. They cite the government's poor timing in sending troops to the Mexico-U.S. border just before the summer harvest, thereby discouraging workers from migrating to the area.

- Poor Crop Conditions & Changes in Agriculture

Growers in California have reported that labor shortages were felt industry wide.² Extended periods of rain in California and extremely high temperatures in Oregon's Willamette Valley resulted in poor strawberry and raspberry crops. Additionally, a representative from the Oregon Employment Department has noted that migrant families are better connected these days, utilizing cell phones to keep in contact and informed about areas where growers are paying higher piece rates and daily wages. Moreover, many mobile migrant workers are electing to try their hand in construction given the booming housing market in California and Oregon, thereby reducing the supply of migrant farm labor.

COUNTY PROFILE

▶ **GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Spanning some 1,200 square miles, Marion County is located in the northwestern portion of Oregon and in the heart of the Willamette Valley, and is home to Salem, the state capital and Oregon's third largest city. Created 16 years before statehood, the county, originally named

¹ *Pick Your Theory, But Valley is Short of Cherry Harvesters*, June 29, 2006, The Statesman Journal.

² *Growers' Worries Mount as Workforce Shrinks*, June 30, 2006, Capital Press.



Champoick, was established in 1843 and was changed to its current name, Marion, in 1849 by the Territorial Legislature in honor of General Francis Marion.³

Average elevation in Marion County is 154 feet above sea level. Average temperatures range from 39 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to 63 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The area receives approximately 38 inches of rain annually, including rare snowfalls during the winter months, and is recognized for its fertile farmland, rich soil and the diversity of agricultural commodities produced in this area.⁴

Bordered by the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Willamette River to the west, Marion County is Oregon’s most productive agricultural county, with over 200 different types of commodities grown and produced in the area. Like most counties in the Willamette Valley, Marion County continues to grow, with construction ranking as the top industry in the Salem MSA as of 2005.⁵

► **ECONOMIC PROFILE**

In 2003, the median per capita personal income in Marion County was \$24,955 which falls just above the 50th percentile when compared with all other counties across Oregon. This figure ranks below both those for Oregon (\$29,175) and the United States (\$31,487).⁶ Looking at household income, figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that over 50 percent of households in Marion County earn less than \$35,000 per year.⁷ In context, this means that a family of four living in Marion County falls on average \$5,078 short of meeting necessary expenses, including rent, food, childcare, transportation, insurance and taxes.⁸

Figure 7.1 - Employment by Sector

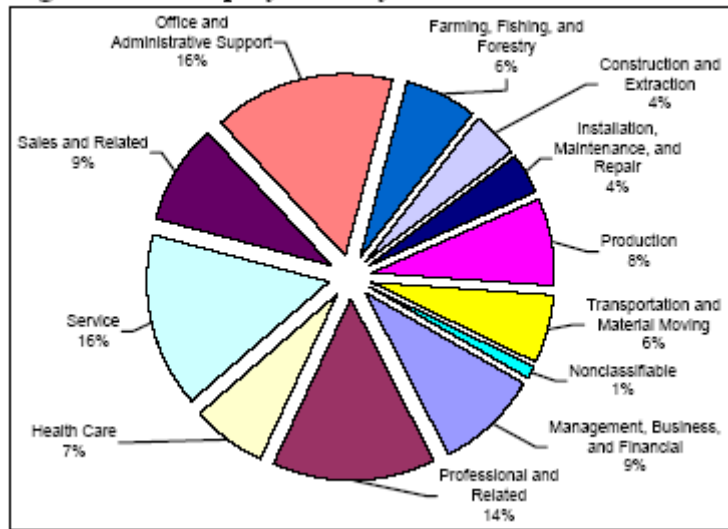


Figure 7.1 – Patrick O’Connor, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 7, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

³ Oregon Blue Book, 2006.

⁴ Oregon Blue Book, 2006.

⁵ Pat O’Connor, *Salem MSA Year in Review, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

⁶ *Oregon Per Capita Personal Income: 1986-2004*, November 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

⁷ *DP-3: Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics, 2000*, United States Census Bureau.

⁸ Economic Policy Institute, 2005



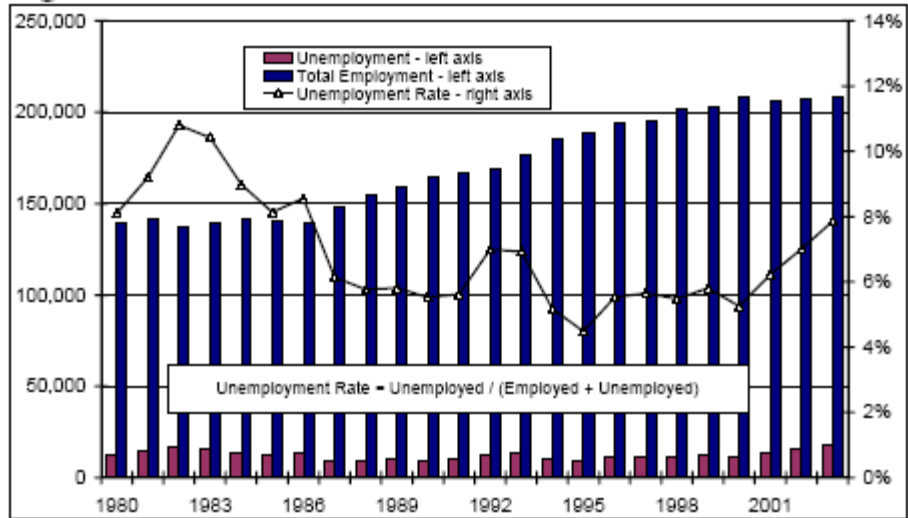
Major industries in Marion County include state government, agriculture, food processing, education and wood products manufacturing.

Between 2002 and 2004, non-farm employment grew by 2.2 percent, nearly 41 percent slower than the state of Oregon.⁹

However, economists have speculated that,

over the long-term, Marion County never actually experienced job losses as did the state of Oregon during the most recent recession, suggesting more stability over the long term.

Figure 7.2 - Annual Job Growth Rates



The above considerations aside, Marion County has experienced several periods of rising unemployment since the 1980s, each of which correspond to state and national recessions.¹⁰ In 2003, the number of people estimated as unemployed peaked at 17,742, attributed to the fact that growth in the labor force outpaced total employment during this time. As of February 2006, the unemployment rate in Marion County was 6.5 percent, nearly 7 percent higher than the state unemployment rate of 6.1 percent and 27 percent higher than the national unemployment rate of 5.1 percent.

Occupations and industries currently reporting steady job growth tend to include the professional and business service industry. This growth is, in part, attributed to the outsourcing of human resource functions, including hiring and payroll, with intermediary staffing agencies also reporting steady job growth through “leased workers.” Likewise, retail and sales also continue to grow, with economists noting that such growth is correlated with the county’s growing population and changing demographics.¹¹

In 2005, 18 percent of Marion County businesses ranked employee turnover as a significant problem, citing the nature of the work environment as a primary cause.¹² While not included in these figures, agricultural employees are no exception. In addition to the seasonality of agricultural work, migrant farmworkers in Marion County are among the worst paid in the state

Figure 7.2 – Patrick O’Connor, *Regional Profile: Industry Employment in Region 7, 2005*, Oregon Employment Department.

⁹ Pat O’Connor, *Salem Managed to Weather the Recession Better Than the State*. Oregon Employment Department.

¹⁰ Pat O’Connor, *Regional Profile Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in Region 3*, Oregon Employment Department.

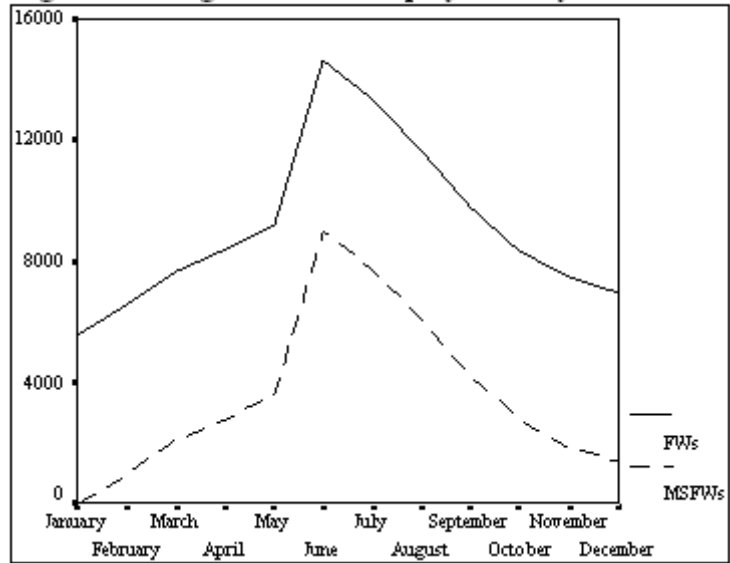
¹¹ Pat O’Connor, *Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties Have Many Growing Occupations*, April 3, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

¹² *Training and Retaining Oregon’s Workforce: Employer’s Perspective*, March 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



of Oregon earning, on average, \$7.87 per hour.¹³ This situation is further exacerbated by the county's dependence on agriculture. Currently, nearly 30 percent of the state's gross farm sales are produced in Marion County.¹⁴ On average, agricultural operations in Marion County employ some 9,116 farmworkers per month.¹⁵ Monthly agricultural employment estimates are shown in Figure 7.3 for both the general population of farmworkers (FWs), as well as for migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs).¹⁶

Figure 7.3 - Agricultural Employment by Month



The labor peak corresponds with the [berry] harvests during the summer months, beginning with strawberries. Interviews with local strawberry producers revealed that strawberries were approximately 7-10 days late this year, noting that it takes 1,135 “heat degree days” - defined as the total number of hours during which the temperature falls above specific benchmarks - for strawberries to mature in the Willamette Valley, an area that includes Marion County. Following strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries are harvested, lasting into September and October when growers will transition into harvesting wine grapes and preparing for Christmas trees.

Table 7.1 displays total harvested acreage, production and sales for crops typically utilizing the labor of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in 2004 and 2005. Of interest is that the total number of harvested acres of strawberries declined by nearly 7 percent over the one-year period. Such a decline is not accidental, as strawberry acreage has declined annually over the past 10 years, with a representative from the Oregon Employment Department noting that no end in acreage reduction is in sight. At this point, what is certain is that Oregon strawberries will never completely be phased out. The reason for this is that growers are often “blackmailed,” in the words of one state of Oregon employee, by berry processors to produce at least a few acres of strawberries to

“The shortage of skilled workers will put continued pressure to mechanize every aspect [of the production process].”

*-Karen Ross
California Association of Winegrape Growers*

“We are trying to mechanize raspberries, blueberries and blackberries as much as possible.”

*-Local berry processor
Marion County*

¹³ 2002 Wages: Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery and Greenhouse, 2002, Oregon Employment Department.

¹⁴ Region 3 Overview, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

Jo McIntyre, Marion County Ag Sales Still Tops in Oregon, May 22, 2003, Capital Press.

¹⁵ 2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates, 2006, Oregon Employment Department.

¹⁶ 2005 Oregon Agricultural Employment Estimates, 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



make up for the fact that California strawberries do not have the quality taste and juice that Oregon strawberries have. What is unclear at this time is the point at which harvested acres of Oregon strawberries will stabilize.

Likewise, the same is true for blackberries and raspberries, with an average decline of 2.7 percent between 2004 and 2005. However, unlike strawberries, growers are harvesting blackberries and raspberries with greater efficiency, increasing the use of berry cultivars that are able to be harvested by machine. They are doing so as international competition has increased, most notably with China, Chile and countries in Eastern Europe.

Increasingly, local berry processors have expressed concern that local berry growers are not honoring their contracts, electing to sell their product to the highest bidder, rather than making good on their agreements. The result is that berry processors default on their agreements with local food stores and have to buy berries overseas. The effects of this situation are far reaching. On average, berry processors paid \$2.25 per pound this year. They estimate that their costs - labor, transportation, etc - add an additional \$0.75 to each pound, and effectively price their product out of the market. In some cases, they have elected to pursue legal action to force local growers to honor their contracts; however, increasingly, they are buying berries overseas which, this year, sold for \$0.93 per pound. In fact, given the globalization of agriculture, large berry and food processors in Marion County are closing down. Agri-Frozen and Smuckers have already closed plants in the area affecting some 1,400 workers. Likewise, in an interview with a local berry processor in July of 2006, it was noted that they continue to explore options for relocating to Mexico; this, in spite of the fact that they expect to see local growers planting more strawberries in 2007.

Table 7.1 - Selected Crop Outputs¹⁷

Marion County	2004			2005		
	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)	Acres	Production	Sales (in \$000s)
Strawberries	1,345	15,064	\$6,327	1,255	14,558	\$6,842
Blackberries	3,250	22,386	\$14,360	3,290	23,311	\$15,655
Raspberries	345	1,161	\$1,123	360	1,257	\$1,215
Blueberries	870	7,064	\$6,004	915	7,910	\$6,882
Wine Grapes	665	1,530	\$2,272	665	1,463	\$2,260
Nursery & Greenhouse	---	---	\$163,500	---	---	\$171,300
Christmas Trees	1,000	1,500	\$26,400	1,070	1,605	\$25,841

Agriculture in Marion County is steadily moving towards the nursery and greenhouse industries. As one of the top counties for nursery and greenhouse sales in the state, Marion County has shown consistent growth in this area over the past three years, with sales increasing by nearly 5 percent between 2004 and 2005, growth that has had the effect of keeping seasonal farmworkers

¹⁷ Oregon Agricultural Information Network, 2006.

Unit of production varies by commodity.



in the area given more stable employment for up to 10-11 months.¹⁸ Likewise, wine production in Marion County remains steady with harvested acres holding steady between 2004 and 2005.

To migrant farmworkers, declining strawberry acreage and increasing mechanization of crops means less work in the area, with 33 percent of growers surveyed indicating that they expect to employ about the same number of workers as they did the year before.¹⁹ Further, one grower indicated that their operation would employ approximately 30 fewer workers as they had the year prior. A representative from the Oregon Employment Department noted that, once growers commit to using machines to harvest berries, migrant farmworkers are increasingly less likely to travel to the area in search of employment. This is an especially salient point in light of the fact that more and more migrant families are able to stay connected with the use of cellular phones, electing to skip certain areas along the migrant route if crops are poor or wages low.

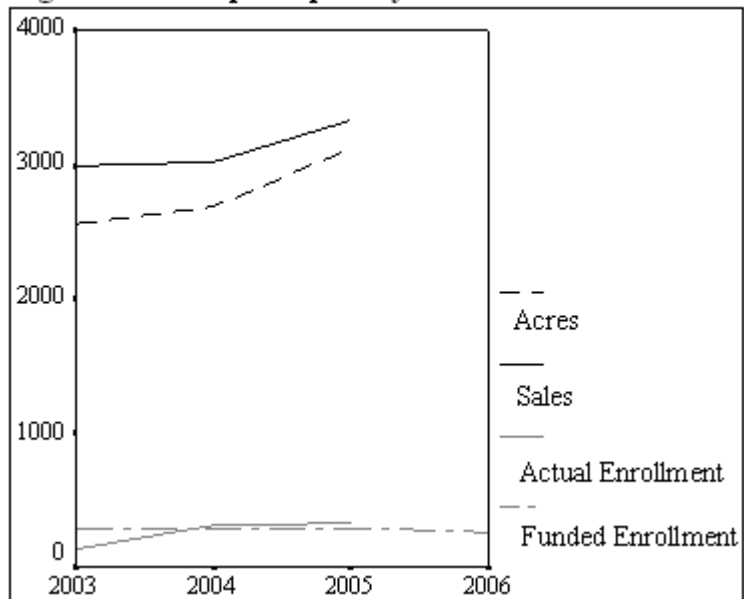
In 2002, Alice C. Larson estimated the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Marion County.²⁰ These estimates, as well as 2005 estimates computed by the Oregon Child Development Coalition, are shown in Table 7.2. Between 2002 and 2005, the number of migrant farmworkers increased by 6 percent, as did the number of seasonal farmworkers. While these figures do not demonstrate a decline in the number of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, it is worth pointing out that such figures do not suggest explosive growth within this population either.

Table 7.2 - Estimates of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

	2002	2005
Marion County		
MFWs	5,835	6,206
SFWs	12,256	13,015
Total	18,091	19,221

The above findings are also of importance in program planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition. Figure 7.4 provides information on harvested acres, total sales, and enrollment counts for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County.²¹ It is important to note that unlike in other counties, Figure 7.4 does, in fact, confirm that growers in Marion County have not yet moved towards substantially farming less acreage. Accordingly, if we understand enrollment in the Oregon Child Development

Figure 7.4 - Crop Outputs by OCDC Enrollment



¹⁸ Michael Rose, *Washington County Overtakes Marion in Nursery Stock Sales*, September 14, 2005, The Oregonian.

¹⁹ *Agricultural Employer Survey, 2006*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

²⁰ Alice C. Larson, *Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study: Oregon, 2002*, Larson Assistance Services.

²¹ Note, the scale in Figure 7.4 has been adjusted. Harvested acres are in 0s and total sales are in \$00,000s. Additionally, crop outputs reflect the set of all crops in the Marion County area, not just those typically employing migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



Coalition’s Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as a function of harvested acres, it is not surprising that actual enrollment in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program increased between 2003 and 2005.

Accordingly, adequate enrollment planning for the Oregon Child Development Coalition must attend to the issue of when harvested acreage will begin to stabilize or decline to the point that migrant families no longer travel to the area. As discussed, there are other considerations that may affect families’ decisions to migrate (e.g., immigration); however, the trend in other counties is increasingly towards stabilizing acreage to increase sales and, consequently, profits. In this process, growers are increasingly looking to mechanize certain crops, thereby displacing migrant farmworkers.

► **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The 2000 Census reported the population of Marion County to be 284,834 persons. From this, the Population Research Center at Portland State University estimated the population of Marion County to be 302,135 as of July 1, 2005, demonstrating 6 percent growth in the population over the five-year period. Table 7.3 displays these estimates for each of the major cities and towns in Marion County.

Table 7.3 - Population²²

	Year		Percent Change
	2000	2005	
Marion County	284,834	302,135	6.1
Gervais	2,009	2,240	11.5
Keizer	32,203	34,735	7.9
Mt. Angel	3,121	3,630	16.3
Salem	136,924	147,215	7.5
Silverton	7,414	8,235	11.1
Woodburn	20,100	22,065	9.8

Note the positive growth in each of the locations listed. The figures in Table 7.3 lend support for the earlier assertion that Marion County’s growing population - and, by implication, growing labor force - has actually outpaced the demand for employees. In fact, economists rank Marion County as one of the most rapidly growing counties in Oregon. Marion’s County’s population growth

can be attributed to the rate of regional and statewide in-migration which is nearly 9 percent higher than the rate for the state of Oregon (4.5 per 1,000).²³

Marion County’s population tends toward the younger age brackets with a larger proportion of the population under the age of 30 relative to the state of Oregon.²⁴ The median age is 33.7 years old, nearly 5 years younger than the median age for the state of Oregon. Table 7.4 displays the age distribution for Marion County. As of July 1, 2004, 27 percent of Marion County’s population was under the age of 18. In general, 51 percent of the population in Region 3 - an area

²²2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

²³ Pat O’Connor, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 3 (Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties)*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.

²⁴ Pat O’Connor, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 3 (Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties)*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



that includes Marion County - is younger than 34 years of age. One explanation for this is the growing Hispanic population, which tends to be much younger than the general population.

Table 7.4 - Population by Age²⁵

	Age						
	0-4	5-9	10-17	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Marion County	22,929	22,817	36,084	52,214	85,792	42,559	35,696

Oregon Housing and Community Services reports that the number of individuals living in poverty in Marion County increased by 30 percent between 1990 and 2000, with the Oregon Department of Education reporting the poverty rate to be 23.0 percent as of January 2006.²⁷ Further, these two sources also estimate nearly 6,000 children under the age of 6 to be living in poverty each year, including over 2,000 children between the ages of 3 and 4. These figures are important to note for the reason that poverty is often associated with health problems and access to health care, the need for food stamps and temporary assistance to needy families (TANF), and housing and shelter counts.²⁸

Table 7.5 - Free & Reduced Lunch Count²⁶

Marion County	Academic Year	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
Cascade School District	980	968
Gervais School District	866	907
Jefferson School District	419	396
Mt Angel School District	391	447
North Marion School District	902	1,038
North Santiam School District	1,167	1,273
Salem/Keizer School District	16,898	17,080
Silver Falls School District	1,270	1,105
St Paul School District	103	102
Woodburn School District	4,049	3,997
Marion County Total	27,045 (48.5%)	27,313 (48.9%)

During the 2004-2005 school year, 49 percent (n=27,313) of students in Marion County were eligible for free or reduced lunch. As displayed in Table 7.5, relative to the previous academic year, this represents a less than 1 percent increase in the number of students receiving free or reduced lunch over the one-year period. This increase was felt especially in the Salem/Keizer School District. Such findings are not surprising given that the number of individuals living in poverty in Marion County has also increased in recent years.

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED 3-4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN²⁹**

²⁵ 2004 Oregon Population Report, March 2005, Population Research Center, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University.

²⁶ Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch, 2003-2004 & 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education

²⁷ Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.

²⁸ County Comparisons: Incidence and Distribution of Poverty, 2004, Oregon Health and Community Services.

²⁹ Note, estimates in this section are presented to highlight the need for Head Start services in the general low-income population. In a later section, additional estimates will be provided which estimate the number of unserved, eligible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.



The Oregon Department of Education estimated there to be 9,141 children between the ages of 3 and 4 in Marion County in 2006.³⁰ To estimate the total number of Head Start eligible 3 and 4 year old children, the Oregon Department of Education multiplied the total number of children by the poverty rate for Marion County, 23.0 percent. Thus, ***the total number of eligible Head Start children in Marion County is 2,104 children***, as displayed in Table 7.6

Table 7.6 - Estimated Number of Eligible Children

Marion County	
Total Children	9,141
Percent in Poverty	23.0
<i>Eligible</i>	<i>2,104</i>

From this, the number of Head Start children currently being served in Marion County by Head Start programs is subtracted. Head Start programs such as Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties (650 total slots in two counties), Kids and Company of Linn County (Kidco) Head Start (394 total slots in three counties), Salem-Keizer Pre-kindergarten Head Start (120 total slots), and Siletz Tribal Head Start (112 total slots in three counties) serve a total of 903 children in Marion County between 3 and 4 years of age.³¹ Thus, considering the number of eligible Head Start children currently being served, ***the total number of unserved, eligible Head Start children is 1,201 children*** as shown in Table 7.7. Thus, 43 percent of eligible Head Start children are currently being served in Marion County.

Table 7.7 - Estimated Number of Unserved, Eligible Children

Marion County	
Eligible	2,104
Served	903
<i>Unserved, Eligible</i>	<i>1,201</i>

In the sections that follow, the Oregon Child Development Coalition will further refine the estimate in Table 7.7 to provide estimates for the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Marion County.

RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION

► **POPULATION & ANCESTRY**

Table 7.8 displays the racial and ethnic composition of the population in Marion County. Note, the Hispanic population accounts for nearly one-fifth of Marion County’s population.³² Marion County is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the state of Oregon, with the two largest minority groups being Hispanics and Asians. This is evidenced by data in Table 7.8 which show that Salem and Woodburn each boast significant minority populations.

“The Hispanic population makes up more...of Marion County’s population, compared with...the state’s.”

*-Pat O’Connor
Regional Economist,
Oregon Employment Department*

³⁰ *Estimated Number of Eligible 3 and 4 Year Olds Served and Unserved by Head Start and Oregon Pre-kindergarten*, 2006, Oregon Department of Education.

³¹ Total slot counts for individual Head Start programs include Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

³² Pat O’Connor, *Regional Profile: Population in Region 3 (Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties)*, Fall 2005, Oregon Employment Department.



Table 7.8 - Population by Race, 2000-2005³³

Marion County	One Race						Two or More Races	Hispanic
	White	Black	Native Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Some Other Race	---	---
2000	232,469 (81.6%)	2,539 (0.9%)	4,111 (1.4%)	4,997 (1.8%)	1,022 (0.4%)	30,148 (10.6%)	9,548 (3.4%)	48,714 (17.1%)
Gervais	810	7	31	6	1	1,063	91	1,310
Mt. Angel	2,361	14	29	6	3	557	151	869
Salem	113,746	1,750	2,064	3,304	643	10,820	4,597	19,973
Silverton	6,620	16	82	32	3	486	175	857
Woodburn	11,682	90	236	107	15	7,167	803	10,064
2005	232,469 (81.6%)	2,539 (0.9%)	4,111 (1.4%)	4,997 (1.8%)	1,022 (0.4%)	30,148 (10.6%)	9,548 (3.4%)	48,714 (17.1%)

Of the population in Marion County, 87 percent were born in the United States, with 81 percent of the population as monolingual English speakers.³⁴ Of those born outside of the United States (n=35,969), 9.4 percent are currently not U.S. citizens, with 6.7 percent having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000, and 69 percent of those born outside of the United States coming from Latin America. Accordingly, aside from English and relative to other languages, 14.8 percent of the population identified as primary Spanish speakers (n=38,841).³⁵ Of these, more than one-half self-identified as able to speak English less than “very well.”

► **PROFILE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS³⁶**

In 2004, 290 children were enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program on the basis of public assistance or income eligibility. Further, the number of over-income children enrolled in 2005 remained at 11 families relative to the previous year. Table 7.9 displays the age distribution for children enrolled in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Overall, all 301 program participants were of Hispanic or Latino origin, which includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South and Central American or other Spanish culture or origin. The majority of these were primary Spanish speakers, with an additional 15 program participants as primary indigenous language speakers. Indigenous languages are typically spoken by those program participants from the Oaxaca region of Mexico and include the dialects of Mixteco and Trique.

Table 7.9 - Enrolled of Children by Age

Age	Number of Children
<1	42
1	44
2	42
3	48
4	77
5	48
Total	301

³³ *Fact Sheet, 2000-2005, American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau.*
Note, 2005 data from the U.S. Census Bureau is not available for all counties in Oregon.

³⁴ *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000, United States Census Bureau.*

³⁵ *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics, 2000, United States Census Bureau.*

³⁶ Data is taken from the *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.*



Increasingly, the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County has served indigenous families and continues to develop partnerships to support this population.

► **DATA ANALYSIS: ELIGIBLE, UNSERVED MIGRANT CHILDREN³⁷**

The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a method for estimating the number of children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Marion County using Alice C. Larson's 2002 estimates of

Table 7.10 - Estimated Migrant and seasonal Children

Marion County		
Age	Number Migrant Children	Number Seasonal Children
<1	231	113
1	58	105
2	58	105
3	58	105
4	58	105
5	58	105
Total³⁸	521	638

migrant and seasonal farmworkers and family members as a base and agricultural information from the Oregon Agricultural Information Network through Oregon State University. The estimates in Table 7.10 suggest that there were 521 migrant children and 638 seasonal children in Marion County in 2005.

To estimate the number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children, the number of children currently being served in Marion

Table 7.11 - Unserved, Eligible MHS Children in Marion County

Marion County		
	Number of Migrant Children	Number of Seasonal Children
Eligible	~521	~638
Served	203	55
Unserved, Eligible	~318	~583

County by the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program is subtracted from the estimates in Table 7.10. The Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County serves 258 Head Start eligible children through the Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program, 203 of which are migrant children and 55 of which are seasonal children. Thus, the total number of unserved, eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children in Marion County is 901 and is broken down in Table 7.11. Overall, roughly **23 percent of eligible Migrant Seasonal Head Start children are currently being served in Marion County.**

Results of the above analysis indicate that the Oregon Child Development Coalition could serve more migrant and seasonal children in Marion County assuming that the agency had both the means and the capacity.

³⁷ See Appendix C1.3

³⁸ Totals vary due to rounding.



STRENGTHS & NEEDS

In the section that follows, each program and related service area is discussed. External data from secondary sources and community organizations are used at the beginning of each subsection to construct a framework for specific strengths and needs. Internal data is then used at the close of each section to demonstrate that program management, staff and parents of program participants actively participated in the construction and development of this document.

► EDUCATION

Adult Education

The median level of education in Marion County is some college, no degree, with 20 percent of the total population having earned a bachelor's degree or higher.³⁹ Relative to other counties in Oregon with a similar median level of education, Marion County shows a smaller percentage of residents with a college degree. Data from the Oregon Department of Education show total public school enrollment in Marion County to be approximately 55,708 students annually, 39 percent of which are non-white.⁴⁰ Across all high schools in Marion County, the total number of high school dropouts is 968 students with a 17.1 percent high school dropout rate over the past four years.⁴¹ The Oregon Department of Education also reports that 11 students dropped out of high school during the 2003-2004 school year specifically because they did not speak English well enough, while another 52 students dropped out citing a lack of adequate parental support in pursuing their high school degree.

Data on the educational attainment of parents of program participants from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information Report show that 86 percent of parents served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County have less than a high school degree. And, in fact, of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County, none are enrolled in either job training or school, suggesting that seasonal agricultural work and low wages require that both parents work to make ends meet.⁴²

The following is a breakdown of agencies providing education services to children and families in Marion County. In the area of adult education:

- Chemeketa Community College provides staff and parent trainings. The college's Economic and Training Development Center also provides GED and ESL courses to 60 students annually, as well as conversational and command Spanish to nearly 300 students annually.
- The Silverton and Woodburn Fire Departments and the Woodburn Police Department provide presentations and workshops, as well as field trip opportunities.
- The Oregon Employment Department's WorkSource Oregon office provides a range of trainings and services for job seekers and employers.

³⁹ *DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics*, 2000, United States Census Bureau.

⁴⁰ Oregon Department of Education, 2004-2005.

⁴¹ Oregon Department of Education, 2003.

⁴² *Program Information Report*, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



- Somos Hispanics Unidos is a new non-profit organization focusing on literacy, ESL, domestic violence, citizenship and volunteerism.

Early Childhood Education

In the area of early childhood education, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has an interagency agreement with Head Start programs in the area, including Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties, currently funded to serve 650 children. The director of Community Action Head Start expressed an interest in sharing space with the Oregon Child Development Coalition in the Woodburn area, as they have currently lost their lease and are in need of space to accommodate their modular buildings. In addition, aside from space and capacity issues, other agencies in the community have cited the need for integrated early childhood education trainings to facilitate the training of new staff.⁴³ It was also noted during an interview with the director of children’s programs at the Woodburn Public Library that local health professionals could also benefit from such trainings, as local doctor’s offices have expressed an interest in obtaining such tools and participating in trainings.

Other programs that serve the migrant population include Migrant Education. Seasonal and age-specific enrollment counts are displayed in Table 7.12 for the following areas:

Table 7.12 - Migrant Education Enrollment⁴⁴

Marion County	2004-2005		
	Salem Keizer School District	Willamette ESD	Woodburn School District
Regular Enrollment	3,583	3,736	1,505
Summer Enrollment	178	1,154	222
Total Enrollment	3,761	4,890	1,727
<1 year old		12	
1		52	
2		99	
3		235	
4		246	
5		53	
Total Enrollment		685	

Salem-Keizer, Willamette ESD and Woodburn. On the basis of these figures, it is worth pointing out that summer programs for migrant families are inadequate in the sense that, in

Woodburn for example, only about 15 percent of migrant children continue to be served by Migrant Education in the summer. Accordingly, it is not surprising that representatives from the Woodburn Public Library also cited the need for additional summer programs for children of migrant farmworkers as a need.

Partnerships in the area of early childhood education include:

- Community Action Head Start of Marion and Polk Counties (Region X Head Start) and the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County have developed an

⁴³ The following article also speaks to the need for continued joint trainings: Sarah Evans, *Early Education Confronts Great Divide*, April 17, 2006, Statesman Journal.

⁴⁴ *Oregon’s Migrant Education Regional Programs, 2004-2005*, Oregon Department of Education.



interagency agreement, which focuses on jointly implementing strategies in such areas as recruitment, transitions, health, disabilities, and training and technical assistance.

- Willamette Education Service District provides a range of education and support services to children, families and local providers.
- The Woodburn Public Library provides story times in English and Spanish to approximately 30 children each session. They also provide outreach to Head Start classrooms, having served 7 classes and 120 children over the past year.
- The Silver Falls Public Library provides visiting librarians who read to the preschool classrooms once a week.
- Transition collaboration with local area schools include transition field trips to Eugene Field, North Marion Primary and St. Mary's Elementary.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest educational needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Of greatest importance was the need for additional summer programs for children of migrant farmworkers. Respondents noted that migrant families tend to come from a background that does not include an emphasis on utilizing services provided by public libraries. Thus, service providers emphasized the need for Head Start programs to continue - and, in some cases, improve - relationships with local public libraries to integrate on-site story times, field trips, and parent education opportunities.

Additionally, it was noted that Marion County ranks as one of the highest in the state for the number of unserved, eligible Head Start children. Currently, the Oregon Child Development Coalition participates in joint trainings with other Head Start programs in the area. However, beyond trainings, it was noted that other programs in the community may also help to bridge this gap by bringing valuable resources to the table to serve a greater number of children, including the AWARDS program and the Oregon Library Association, as well as book vendors. One interviewee noted that, "Woodburn is heaven for children's programs." Thus, there is a need to identify new, collaborative strategies to serve a greater number of [migrant] children by locating and leveraging these resources.

In an interview with the Education Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County, it was revealed that there exists opportunities for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County to expand partnerships with local Head Starts and elementary schools, especially those within the Woodburn School District. Additionally, as relates to the above discussion, it was noted that opportunities exist for the agency to strengthen ties to public libraries. Strengthening such ties would both address the issue of broadening transition activities, but also potentially identifying and leveraging additional resources to serve children and families.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents view the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program as providing a quality education program for their children. In fact, parents casually refer to the program as "the little school," evidence of the program's educational focus. When asked if and how parents would recommend the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program to friends and acquaintances, parents highlighted noticeable improvements in the development of their children in the areas of reading, writing and speech.



Also of interest is that parents shared that the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program does not discriminate against them. Insisting that the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program “helps” them and their children, one cautious conclusion at this point would be to infer that there are at least some services that parents are having a difficult time gaining access to. Specific instances of such services will be discussed below.

► MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

Access to care is limited by the fact that many Marion County residents are low-income. In fact, the Health Resources and Safety Administration has identified Marion County as a mental health professional shortage area due in large part to the number of low-income families in the area.⁴⁵ Related to this, service providers - mental health and otherwise - emphasized the increasing use of methamphetamines among Marion County residents over the past few years which currently ranks as the second most used illicit drug in Marion County behind marijuana.⁴⁶ Accordingly, the Oregon Department of Corrections reports 1,182 persons incarcerated for drugs as of January of 2006, the third highest figure among all counties in the state of Oregon.

Mental health disorders affect approximately 1 in 10 children in Oregon, with 30 percent of these children experiencing co-occurring disorders requiring dual diagnoses. The Office of Mental Health Services with the Oregon Department of Human Services estimates there to be approximately 5,556 children with some sort of mental health issue in Marion County under the age of 18, of which 556 are estimated to suffer from co-occurring disorders.⁴⁷ Overall, approximately 6,300 adults and 3,350 children receive some form of community based mental health care in Marion County each year.⁴⁸

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Program Information Report show that 14 children in Marion County were provided mental health services in 2005, with 13 of these children also receiving referrals for additional services. On average, mental health professionals spent 6 hours per month on-site. Likewise, **12 children were determined to have a disability, roughly 3 percent of enrolled seasonal children and 1 percent of enrolled migrant children in 2005.** Of these 12 children, each was determined eligible to receive special education and related services. Primary disabilities included speech or language impairments, mental retardation, and non-categorical developmental delays.⁴⁹

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing services - both in the areas of mental health and disabilities - to children in Marion County.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County shares an interagency agreement with Willamette ESD.

⁴⁵ *Oregon Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA): Mental Health Designations as of 2/28/06*, 2006, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professionals.

⁴⁶ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

⁴⁷ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

⁴⁸ *Oregon Data Book*, 2003, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

⁴⁹ *Program Information Report*, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



- Additionally, the Mid-Oregon Regional EI/ECSE program has worked with the Oregon Child Development Coalition, providing services to children with disabilities at the North Howell, Woodburn, Silverton and Cipriano Ferrel sites.
- The Marion County Health Department contracts a mental health consultant, providing mental health assessments for those children with the Oregon Health Plan. The mental health consultant also assists with a social skills group at the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Silverton location.
- Northwest Human Services operates the West Salem Mental Health Clinic and also has a program for the deaf and hard of hearing. They note that approximately 21 percent of their clients are served in a language other than English.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition has developed a relationship with Juntos Podemos, an agency in Salem which works with children with disabilities.
- The Children's Guild is able to accommodate referrals from the contracted mental health consultant in the event that the child does not have the Oregon Health Plan.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest mental health and disabilities needs of children and families in the Marion County area. At a general level, a recent news article highlight the need for greater support to families with children with disabilities from local school boards to strengthen local Special Education Advisory Committees, an important component in the success of the Oregon Child Development Coalition in transitioning children with disabilities into the public schools.⁵⁰ Additionally, in light of the short duration of the migrant program, the Oregon Child Development Coalition and Willamette ESD have met to explore ways to increase efficiency in the evaluation process. Further meetings are planned to focus on recruitment for the following year.

An interview with the Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that turnover within some community agencies have presented difficulties for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in ensuring the continuity of services. That said, necessary partnerships are in place and continue to be developed, especially in the area of recruitment and the evaluation process.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents credit the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Migrant Seasonal Head Start program and its partners with helping to improve children's speech and language. Parents also noted that, at times, insurance does not cover specialist costs associated with referrals and follow-up. Likewise, parents cited the lack of affordable mental health services for adults in the community.

► HEALTH & NUTRITION

In August of 2005, the Oregon Office of Rural Health released a report identifying healthcare shortages and under service in northwest Marion County, including the areas surrounding Woodburn, Oregon.⁵¹ This report confirms others released by the Oregon Department of Human Services, identifying both medical and dental shortages in this area, as well as migrant and

⁵⁰ Tracey Loew, *Board Members No-Show at Event*, May 26, 2006, Statesman Journal.

⁵¹ *Oregon Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/MUP)*, 2005, Oregon Office of Rural Health.



seasonal farmworkers as a medically underserved population.⁵² In 2004, there were just shy of 2 doctors for every 1,000 residents in Marion County.⁵³ Approximately 18.4 percent of the population is without any form of health insurance, with some institutions such as the Oregon Health and Sciences University reporting that, of the 25,722 visits from Marion County residents in 2004, 48 percent were only partially or not reimbursable.⁵⁴

In the preceding section, children's mental health was discussed and it was noted that children's mental health is often tied to a number of risk factors including poverty status, low birth weight, abuse and neglect, and family history.⁵⁵ Over the past several years, the number of live births with low-birth rate has increased. In 2004, the rate of low birth was 54.3 (n=252), whereas in 2001, the rate of low birth had been as low as 50.1 (n=228).⁵⁶ A similar trend is noted for live births with the frequency of *very* low birth weight increasing between 2001 and 2004.⁵⁷

The increasing rate of low-birth may in part be due to limited resources focusing on prenatal care. In 2004, 9.8 percent of live births in Marion County were also identified as lacking adequate prenatal care, a rate that is significantly different from the rate for the state of Oregon of 5.8.⁵⁸ Since 2001, this figure represents a 27 percent increase in the number of live births with inadequate prenatal care. It is also noted that the percent of live births with inadequate prenatal care among Hispanics (8.7 percent statewide) is generally higher than that of non-Hispanics.⁵⁹ Thus, the increase in the percent of live births with inadequate prenatal care, while to be interpreted cautiously, may reflect actual disparities in care.

"We need assistance in reaching out to [the migrant and seasonal farmworker] population."

*-Local medical/dental service provider
Marion County*

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing health and dental services to children and families in Marion County.

- The Oregon State WIC program serves 17,005 children under the age 5 and 6895 pregnant women annually, with 64 percent of those served in Marion County at or below the poverty level.⁶⁰
- The Marion County Health Department provides core public health services, including family planning, disease prevention, investigation, immunization, environmental health, home visiting, and maternal child health.

⁵² *Oregon Health Professional Shortage Areas, Dental Designations as of 2/28/2006*, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professionals.

⁵³ *Active and Practicing Physicians in Oregon by Geographic Region and per 100,000 Population, 2005*, Oregon Public Health Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁴ *2004 Percentage Without Health Insurance by Region, 2004*, Oregon Office of Rural Health. *OHSU and Marion County Statistics, 2004*, Oregon Health and Sciences University.

⁵⁵ Note, individual risk factors are discussed in Health and Family Services sections of this assessment.

⁵⁶ *Live Births with Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁷ *Live Births with Very Low Birthweight by County, Oregon Residents, 2001-2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁸ *Prenatal Care by Mother's County of Residents, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁵⁹ *Prenatal Care by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, Oregon Residents, 2004*, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶⁰ *2005 WIC Facts, 2005*, Oregon WIC Program, Oregon Department of Human Services.



- The Oregon Health and Sciences University provides patient care and education in Marion County, receiving over 25,000 visits annually, 48 percent of which were only partially or not reimbursable.
- Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic operates Salud Medical Center in Woodburn, providing medical and dental services to children and families. In 2005, the clinic served nearly 2,500 patients under the age of 6. The client base served by Salud Medical Center is predominantly Hispanic and composed of primary Spanish speakers. Additionally, migrant and seasonal farmworkers recorded over 13,000 visits last year.
- Northwest Human Services operates three medical and dental clinics throughout the Salem area. In 2005, they served nearly 2,000 children under the age of 6. Nearly one-third of their client base is Hispanic or Latino.
- Woodburn Pediatrics has recently begun attending HSAC meetings.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County is working on an interagency agreement with the McClaine Street Clinic to handle medical referrals.
- The Community Outreach Clinic provides services to uninsured individuals.
- The Silverton and Salem Hospitals provide education and outreach, as well as emergency services to the general community.
- Dr. Wayne Feller volunteers to do dental screenings. Additionally, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County has a contract with Dr. Sean Cooper for dental treatment.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest medical and dental needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Providers overwhelmingly emphasized difficulties around recruiting qualified doctors and pediatric dentists who are bilingual and bicultural. Additionally, providers noted the lack of access to specialists whom for any number of reasons - limited translation/interpretation services, inability to take Medicare and Medicaid patients, etc - are difficult to refer to. Lastly, providers emphasized the need to continue to educate low-income and farmworking families about services and are looking for collaborative approaches to do so.

In response to the final point in the above paragraph, one medical provider noted that work still needs to be done around changing families' mindsets. This provider cited evidence that many families, even after living in the Marion County area for 30+ years, are still not of the mindset that they are here to stay. Thus, according to another medical provider, clinics experience high "no-show" rates because families are not invested in locating a medical home. Further, that families do not have a medical home has resulted in limited preventive care, with some one clinic reporting seeing more children with bottle mouth this year.

Data from the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Program Information report show that 224 children entered the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program in Marion County in 2005 with health insurance, up by 107 percent from 2004.⁶¹ The majority of those with some form of insurance were covered by Medicaid (n=215), while a few others were covered by private insurance. For those without health insurance, the Oregon Child Development Coalition has worked with families to reduce the number of children without health insurance by 3 percent following

⁶¹ *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005, Oregon Child Development Coalition.*



enrollment. Additionally, most children (n=326) receive services through a migrant community health center with common health conditions including asthma, anemia, obesity, vision and hearing difficulties.

In 2005, following dental screenings, 40 children were identified as needing continued dental treatment and care. An interview with the Health Manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed concerns around limited pediatric dental care in the area. In some cases dental providers want to accommodate referrals, but do not have a pediatric dentist on staff.

A focus group with parents of program participants revealed that parents are frustrated by the fact that they cannot get medical and dental appointments when needed. Long waits translate into medical and dental risks and, consequently, costs associated with such risks. In one case, a parent recalled a \$2,000 bill to have a tooth pulled, something that could potentially have been prevented could an appointment have been made. Parents also cited high costs associated with getting medication for children with asthma, noting that in some cases insurance plans do not cover this.

▶ FAMILY SERVICES

In 2004, the Oregon Department of Human Services released figures estimating the number of child abuse victims in Marion County to be 1,306, nearly a 10 percent increase from the previous year.⁶² These figures amount to approximately 16 child abuse victims per 1,000 children. Additionally, shelter counts in Region 3 - an area which includes Marion County - show that 174 children under the age of 6 spent one or more nights in a shelter in 2005, with the total number of actual *child nights* equal to 5,547.⁶³ These regional figures are the second highest in Oregon, with over 15 percent of those receiving shelter services for 30 days or more.

“Poverty does not respect race or ethnicity.”

*-Executive Director
Local service provider
Marion County*

During the 2004-2005 school year, 2,741 students in Marion County school districts were homeless, with 12 percent of eighth graders in Marion County reporting that they or their family members skip meals because they cannot afford food.⁶⁴ Each month in Marion County, approximately 54,000 individuals receive food stamps, with 2,300 receiving TANF cash assistance. Figure 7.5 displays the above figures over time. According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, between 2005 and 2006, the number of TANF cases has decreased by nearly 7 percent, while the number of food stamp cases has increased by nearly 1 percent over the same period.

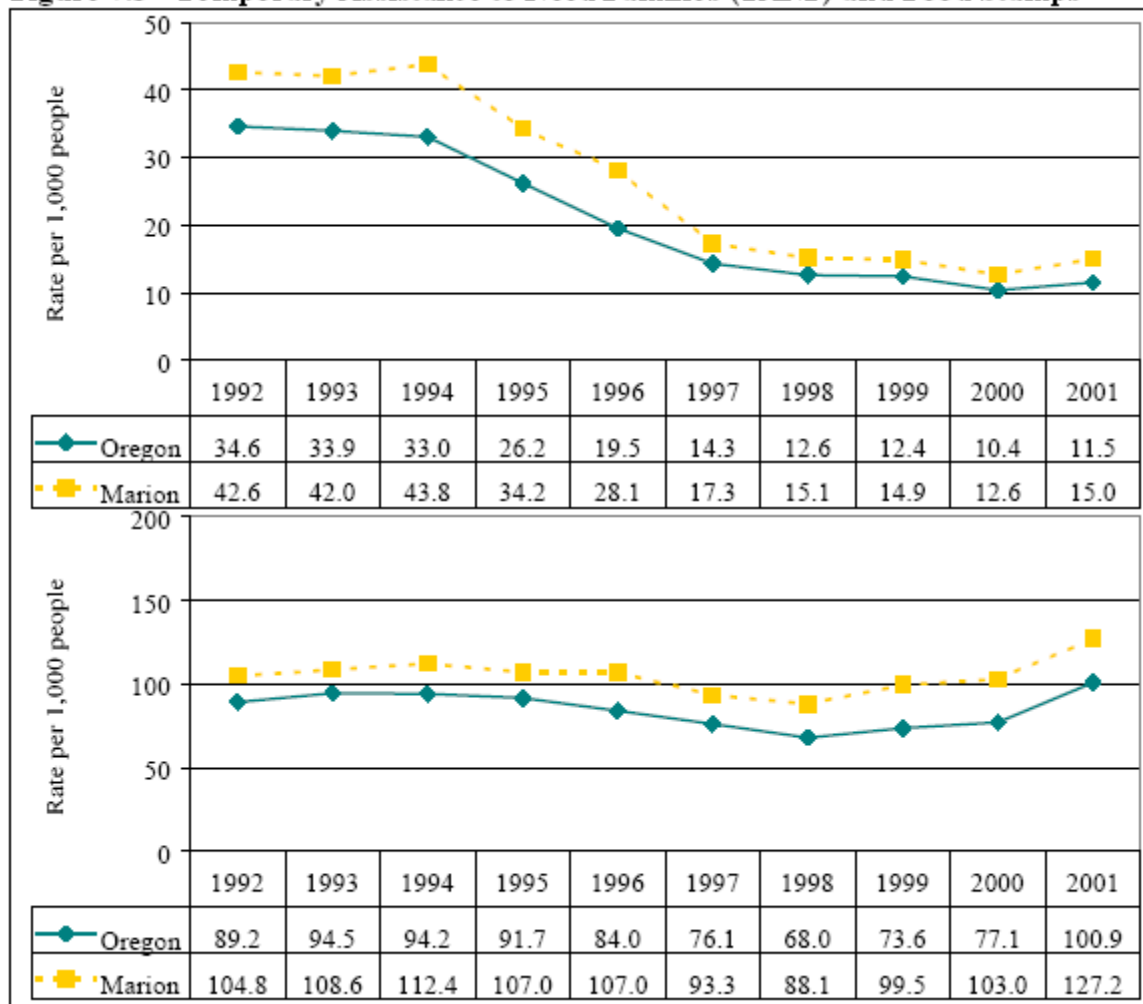
⁶² *The State of Children in Oregon’s Child Protective System*, 2004, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶³ *Summary of Services Provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Programs Funded by DHS*, 2005, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶⁴ *District Homeless Student County*, 2004-2005, Oregon Department of Education.
Status of Oregon’s Children: County Data Book, 2005, Children First for Oregon.



Figure 7.5 - Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) and Food Stamps



The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing family and social services to children and families in Marion County.

- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County has developed an interagency agreement with the local Child Care Resource and Referral provider to facilitate referrals.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services has offices in Marion County providing social and health related services to children, adults and families, as well as to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Marion Polk Food Share provides 34 food pantries, 18 emergency meal programs and 5 supplemental programs. Each month, 62,390 food boxes are distributed, serving some 19,987 individuals.⁶⁵ Currently, Marion Polk Food Share is working on additional programs, including community gardens and *Grow A Row*. The agency is also exploring the possibility of locating a food pantry in Woodburn.

Figure 7.5 – *Marion County Data Book*, 2002, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Oregon Department of Human Services.

⁶⁵ *Regional Food Banks at a Glance*, 2005, Oregon Food Bank.



- Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency provides 10 core services focusing on information and referral and housing assistance, serving over 15,000 clients annually.
- The Oregon Employment Department provides information and referral services, as well as job placement and training in collaboration with other service agencies.
- Silverton Together serves over 300 parents annually through parent education and mentorship programs designed to provide support to families and promote collaboration among local service providers.
- Northwest Human Services operates the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Project (HOAP) and the HOST Youth Family Program, serving nearly 700 homeless clients in 2005.
- Representatives from the Oregon Employment Department and Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) provide assistance with referrals and recruitment.
- La Pantera Radio Station assists in developing and airing public service announcements for recruiting purposes.
- Madera County Community Action Agency and Community Action Partnership of Kern County, California, provide assistance by helping with recruitment and transitions for families from California.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County and the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation have an interagency agreement for use of facilities, assistance with parent trainings, and providing meeting areas, as well as assisting with the recruitment process.
- Silverton Area Community Aid provides emergency energy and food assistance and also assists with recruitment.
- The Salvation Army, Woodburn's Children's Center, St. Luke's and AWARE Food Bank provide emergency food boxes.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services provides assistance in recruitment and parent trainings.
- St. Joseph's Shelter provides services to homeless families and assists with recruitment.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest family services needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Providers were in agreement that the three most important needs facing low-income and farmworking families are affordable housing, transportation and affordable medical care. Specifically, it was noted that high gas prices have contributed to families falling further behind, as they have to spend more of their household budget getting to work and appointments. Thus, at the end of the month, they are left with less and have to rely on emergency food programs and shelters once food stamps run out.

The above considerations also point to the fact that wages are not adequate to keep up with even basic expenses. Thus, as discussed earlier, statistics show more children on free and reduced lunch. One provider pointed out that language barriers often inhibit qualified employees from moving up in their jobs and earning higher wages. Other providers cited the seasonality of agricultural work and the fact that many service providers are simply not open during the summer months; hence, families fall further behind during the summer months.

In 2005, 16 percent of all families served by the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County identified as single parent families. In each case was the parent or guardian employed;



whereas, of the total number of two-parent families, only 7 percent had both partners in the workforce.⁶⁶ In 2005, 2 families received benefits under the TANF program. In addition, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program responded to a range of family needs, the most common being emergency and crisis intervention, parenting education and transportation assistance.

Interviews with the Family Service Manager and Parent Involvement Coordinators for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that staff are working to increase services to families, specifically in the area of ESL and GED courses. To facilitate this, a focus group with Family Services Workers revealed that internal efforts are being made to continue to integrate with other services areas to promote greater efficiency and the sharing of information. Within the community, it was noted that staff are looking to identify and participate in more events so as to build name recognition and new partners.

A focus group with parents of program participants confirmed the above need for additional ESL and GED course offerings, as well as highlighted the need for additional hours of Migrant Seasonal Head Start services and services to older children. Parents noted that they would prefer to send their children to one, central location regardless of the child’s age. They also indicated a willingness to pay for such services should they be made available.

► **CHILDCARE**

The Oregon Childcare Research Partnership lists a total of 713 certified childcare providers in Marion County, with approximately 9,057 childcare slots. These figures translate into 15 childcare slots for every 100 children, 10 slots short of the state benchmark of 25 childcare slots per 100 children.⁶⁷

Depending on family type, the Oregon Childcare Research Partnership found that nearly 51 percent of some families with children under the age of 13 use some form of paid childcare in Marion County, with 35 percent of all children enrolled in some form of paid childcare. In addition, the report found that families use on average nearly 39 hours of paid childcare per week.

Table 7.13 - Childcare Costs by Type of Care

Childcare costs in Region B - an area that includes Marion County - are the second highest in the state, with the median hourly and monthly costs listed in Table

	Family Childcare		Certified Family Childcare		Center Based Childcare	
	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly	Hourly	Monthly
Infant	\$1.85	\$346	\$2.39	\$384	\$2.76	\$440
Toddler	\$1.85	\$318	\$2.02	\$319	\$2.17	\$435
Pre K	\$1.77	\$318	\$1.02	\$319	\$1.97	\$313

7.13. Researchers from Oregon State University found a statistically significant difference in childcare costs between Region B and other regions of the state of Oregon, suggesting a unique childcare market in this area due to its position as a largely agricultural region with several larger

⁶⁶ *Program Information Report, 2004 & 2005*, Oregon Child Development Coalition.

⁶⁷ *Estimated Supply of Childcare in Oregon as of July 1, 2004*, April 26, 2005, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.



cities in close proximity.⁶⁸ Further, this research suggests that the childcare subsidy rate provided by the Oregon Department of Human Services is adequate to purchase only one-fifth of market rate childcare slots in Marion County.

The following is a breakdown of some of the agencies providing childcare and related services to children and families in Marion County.

- Child Care Information Services in Marion County makes approximately 2,000 referrals annually. They also provide trainings to local childcare providers.
- There are 91 certified childcare centers and 463 family childcare homes operating throughout Marion County. In addition, there are an unspecified number of exempt childcare providers.
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County works closely with the Woodburn Children's Center in the referral of children for care.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest childcare needs of children and families in the Marion County area. Considerable emphasis was placed on the need for quality child care in Marion County. One respondent indicated that they were exploring training options to equip parents with information about how to identify quality childcare, as well as providers with information about how to accommodate special needs children. Additionally, it was noted that more child care slots are needed for infants and toddlers.

Also of interest was that Child Care Information Services is continuing to explore ways to recruit qualified providers. The declining center-based child care supply has moved this service to develop better materials to recruit home-based providers, including better quality trainings and other educational opportunities such as helping providers work towards their Child Development Associates (CDA) certificate.

In a focus group with home child care providers, it was noted that there is a need among providers for assistance in implementing educational curriculums in the home. Many providers are aware of the need to increase the quality of care, both as a business strategy and as a matter of personal preference. Accordingly, providers are looking for quality, low or no cost trainings, as well as opportunities for training and technical assistance in the home.

In 2005, 94 children in the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program received childcare in the home of a relative or acquainted adult.⁶⁹ Individual interviews with county management team members for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that childcare is an issue currently affecting all service areas given the recent switch to a 6 hour day for the agency's long-term program. Parents of program participants also cited difficulties in locating childcare for children who were older than 5 years old. Additionally, parents noted the high cost of child care, ranging from \$1.50 per hour to \$25 per week for non-certified providers.

▶ **TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING**

⁶⁸ 2004 Oregon Childcare Market Rate Study, August 2004, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Oregon Childcare Research Partnership.

⁶⁹ Program Information Report, 2004, Oregon Child Development Coalition.



Marion County's size east to west is, in itself, an impediment to families. Those living outside of Woodburn and Salem often must transport themselves to work and appointments in town, assuming they have a car. Recent funding cuts have had the effect of reducing public transportation route coverage in the rural areas surrounding Woodburn and Salem, with one transportation provider acknowledging that their focus is not on serving low-income areas, but rather on serving commuters and retail routes.

In the Salem area, Cherriots, the local transportation provider, is currently hosting a series of focus groups aimed at understanding the need for more routes in the city limits. During an interview with the director, it was noted that they are interested in exploring strategies for increasing routes in northeast and southeast Salem given the number of "standees" during peak route times. Cherriots is also working to increase routes during non-peak times given that many riders often work second and third shifts.

The following is a breakdown of the agencies providing transportation services in Marion County.

- Cherriots provides transportation services in the Salem metro area. They are currently working to boost ridership on poorly performing routes, as well as increase services in targeted areas.
- Woodburn Public Transit provides 30,000 rides per year, with Dial-a-Ride services for the elderly and disabled, as well as volunteer Dial-a-Ride services for medical appointments.
- Chemeketa Area Regional Transportation (CARTS) is operated by Wheels Community Transportation, offering fixed route and Dial-a-Ride services in Marion County. The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County shares an informal agreement with CARTS, providing parking space at the Oregon Child Development Coalition's Silverton location for busses.
- Salud Medical Center provides car seat training and installation to parents.
- First Student provides maintenance on vehicles.

Representatives from the above agencies were surveyed to determine the greatest transportation needs in Marion County. Of interest is that transportation providers expressed that they have experienced difficulties communicating with their riders. Aside from developing materials in Spanish, they have struggled to return to the level of outreach and education that they once were able to provide prior to the funding cuts. Come next fall, Cherriots is looking for additional support from a ballot measure which would provide more outreach and customer service staff. The measure had failed the year prior due to less than 50 percent voter turn out.

An interview with the Transportation Coordinator for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County revealed that the agency is attempting to accommodate as many transportation requests as possible. High gas prices and the change to a 6-hour day for the long-term program have made this difficult; thus, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County is working with families to continue to explore self transit options for those living close to program centers. In addition, the agency continues to share drivers with local Head Start programs and school districts. It is also noted that the agency continues to educate families on proper child seat installation.



Related to the earlier discussion of childcare, it may be helpful to get a sense of the location of childcare providers relative to where families live in order to demonstrate the challenges that transportation providers face. Appendix C7.2 contains a map of locations of low-income housing complexes, manufactured home parks and farm labor camps in Marion County.

- At least 15 apartment complexes in Marion County cater to low-income and farmworker families, including Nuevo Amanecer, Colonia Libertad and Villa Verdante. Overall, there are over 859 units.
- There are 79 manufactured home parks in Marion County, 9 of which are located in the Woodburn area.
- There are 29 farm labor camps in Marion County operated by multiple growers. Together, these camps are able to accommodate 1,073 individuals.
- The Farmworker Housing Development Corporation works to develop farmworker leadership for stronger and more secure families and communities through affordable housing, social services, education and economic development.
- The Marion County Housing Authority is in the middle of a 5-year plan designed to ensure the supply of affordable housing stock is available for low-income individuals and families whose housing needs are not being met.
- The Salem Housing Authority also works to provide housing and housing assistance to those in need.
- Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley also works to provide affordable housing.

In general, affordable housing is scarce for low-income and farmworking families in Marion County. A recent news article noted that the need for housing tends to peak during the summer months with the influx of migrant workers in the area.⁷⁰ A recent market study found that the need for farmworker housing in and around the Salem area is “profound and presently unmet.” This assessment also noted that farmworking families prefer housing that is in proximity to shops and services on Salem’s Lancaster Drive.

In a focus group with parents of program participants, it was noted that families pay between \$400 and \$750 per month in rent. As a percent of household income, depending on whether work was available full-time, parents estimated that rent accounted for upwards of 50 percent of their household income, not including utilities. Also of interest is that while several families indicated that they would be migrating to areas such as Tacoma, Washington, Redding, California and Madera, California, several parents expressed an interest to stay in Woodburn for the year, highlighting the fact that more families are choosing to put roots down rather than migrate given a poor crop year in California and concerns over immigration.

⁷⁰ *Work is Plentiful but Housing is Scarce for Migrant Workers*, June 14, 2004, KATU News.



DATA ANALYSIS: IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES

► SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis identified the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County in carrying out its mission to improve the lives of children and families.

Figure 7.6 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bilingual, bicultural [parent and staff] trainings are recognized as a resource in the community. * Collaborations with local service providers have helped to conserve resources and build the capacity of local agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Aside from existing partners, additional parties have expressed an interest in partnering with the agency, yet have not found avenues to do so. * The current workload of staff acts as an impediment to identifying and providing additional needed services to families.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Various opportunities exist to enlist the participation and assistance of various service agencies to educate parents about their services. * Childcare providers and supporting agencies are eager to explore partnership opportunities with the agency that would be mutually beneficial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Changes in agriculture, particularly in the mechanization of berry crops, have resulted in a shrinking migrant work force. * The service sector is growing in Marion County. Wages, however, are not. Thus, the gap between those with means and those without continues to grow.

► KEY RECOMMENDATIONS BY SERVICE AREA

The following recommendations are provided to meet the requirements set forth by the Head Start Performance Standards, 45 CFR 1305, thereby providing a tool for the Oregon Child Development Coalition of Marion County to (i) evaluate the program philosophy, and migrant and seasonal objectives, (ii) determine the most needed component services, (iii) specify the recruitment area(s) and related limitations, (iv) determine appropriate locations for centers, and (v) further establish recruitment and selection criteria for children and families. Note, these service area recommendations follow from the above SWOT analysis and are intended to compliment those recommendations provided in the state level assessment.

Observations and Recommendations: OCDC in Marion County

Observation: Interviews with agency staff and community agencies revealed that the agency is working to maintain current partnerships and is aware of the need to grow new partnerships to meet the needs of children and families.



Recommendation: A number of community agencies were well acquainted with the work of the Oregon Child Development Coalition, while others were not. Continue to target the spectrum of service providers through planned events and individual outreach.

Observations and Recommendations: Education

Observation: Additional Migrant Seasonal Head Start services are needed in Marion County, more so for the population of seasonal children.

Recommendation: Continue to explore additional public and private support as a way to increase the number of available slots and children served.

Observation: While, the Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County has developed successful transition activities with local elementary schools, there is a need to expand these activities into additional elementary schools.

Recommendation: Continue to build relationships with local school districts by exploring opportunities which would allow school district personnel to further get to know the work of the agency while also building new and expanding transition opportunities.

Observation: Teachers continue to provide children with quality cultural opportunities and field trips within program guidelines to promote hands on learning in the community.

Recommendation: Utilize existing relationships (e.g., Fire Department) in the community to form new ones to increase the number of opportunities for children to learn while out in the community.

Observations and Recommendations: Mental Health and Disabilities

Observation: A need exists to continue to identify and develop support groups in the community for parents.

Recommendation: Continue to support the Marion County Health Department in the development of support groups, as well as in identifying additional services agencies who may be experiencing a similar need.

Observations and Recommendations: Health and Nutrition

Observation: The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County continues to meet the medical and dental needs of children and families in the community.



Recommendation: Interviews with local service providers revealed that employee turnover within the agency has made the maintenance of partnerships difficult and would recommend increasing the level of communication between directors.

Observation: Service providers acknowledged mutually beneficial partnerships with the agency and are looking to further partnerships in other areas.

Recommendation: Continue to grow partnerships with local service providers by inviting them into agency centers to share information about new and additional services that they may have to offer. Doing so not only increases agency exposure, but also permits services providers to transmit information about their services directly to parents (e.g., at parent meetings).

Observations and Recommendations: Family Services

Observation: The Oregon Child Development Coalition is viewed in the community as leader in providing Head Start services to low-income and farmworking families.

Recommendation: Limited data and information about the migrant population has prompted several services agencies to request that the agency make available its enrollment information to its partners to assist with their program planning.

Observations and Recommendations: Childcare

Observation: There is a need for joint trainings in the community which focus on building cultural competency and involving early childhood education and childcare staff and parents.

Recommendation: Continue to use the expertise of the agency in collaboration with Childcare Information Services to develop new trainings, mentorship opportunities and avenues for advancing the level of education of childcare providers (e.g., CDA).

Observations and Recommendations: Transportation and Housing

Observation: There is a need to connect transportation providers to parents, as parents have expressed a desire to learn more about available bus routes and transportation services in their area.

Recommendation: Continue to create educational opportunities for parents by not only bringing in outreach workers from transportation providers, but also by participating in their planning processes toward expanding routes and other services.



SUMMARY

The Oregon Child Development Coalition in Marion County is viewed as a leader in the community. Thus, it is of vital importance that the agency expand its partnerships to include additional providers that may not be acquainted with the work of the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. Childcare providers and supporting agencies, for example, would benefit from the expertise of the agency. Likewise, the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program would also benefit from a greater pool of quality childcare in the area.

In general, more families are electing to remain in the county each year. Both Woodburn and Salem are destinations for many families and, as such, require the agency to prepare not only to transition children into the public schools, but also to transition entire families into the mainstream by equipping them with information and resources to advocate for themselves.

