

# EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROFILES

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## Columbia County

2024

Oregon Child Care  
Research Partnership  
June 2025

*A closer look at policy-relevant information related to Oregon's children, families, and the early care and education system.*



**Oregon State**  
University



# Columbia County, Oregon



## CHILDREN



**7,006**

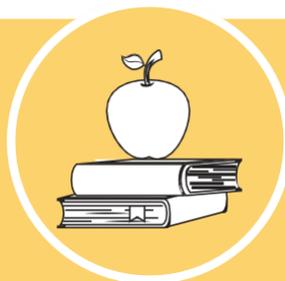
Children under age 13 living in the county <sup>1</sup>

- 1,432 children 0-2 years old <sup>1</sup>
- 955 children 3-4 years old <sup>1</sup>
- 4,619 children 5-12 years old <sup>1</sup>

Around **26%** of children under age 5 are children of color <sup>2</sup>



**60%** of children under age six have both parents employed or a single parent employed <sup>3</sup>



## CHILD CARE & EDUCATION

**1,010**

Slots in centers and family child care homes for children <sup>4</sup>



- 767 slots in Child Care Centers <sup>4</sup>
- 243 slots in Family Child Care Homes <sup>4</sup>

**37%** of 3-4 year olds are enrolled in preschool <sup>5</sup>



**14%** of children under age 13 have access to visible child care <sup>4</sup>



## AFFORDABILITY

**\$13,020**

Median annual price of toddler care in a child care center <sup>7</sup>

**\$10,567**

Median annual price of public university tuition in Oregon <sup>6</sup>

*The price of child care can exceed tuition at Oregon's public universities*

**43%** of a minimum wage worker's annual earnings would be needed to pay the price of center care for a toddler <sup>7</sup>



Annual median teacher wages range

**\$33,176-\$72,800**

***This research effort is supported in part by the  
Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care***

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**References**

- [1] Oregon Population Research Center, Portland State University. (2025). *2024 Oregon Population Estimates*.
- [2] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Tables B01001, B01001H & I, 2019-2023 five-year estimate*.
- [3] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Table B23008, 2019-2023 five-year estimate*.
- [4] Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. *Estimated Supply of Child Care in Oregon as of December 2024. Number of child care slots in licensed and exempt centers (excluding recorded programs), certified family homes, registered family homes, and exempt family homes*.
- [5] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Table B14003, 2019-2023 five-year average*.
- [6] Average annual tuition for an Oregon University System undergraduate student during 2024-2025 academic year from Oregon universities' websites.
- [7] Pratt, M. & Sektnan, M. (2025). *2024 Oregon Child Care Market Price Study*. Oregon Child Care ResearchPartnership, Oregon State University.
- [8] 2023 wage for center teachers and head teachers collected by the Child Care Licensing Division, Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care. Analyzed by Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University. *Range is the median annual wage for the lowest paid teacher and median annual wage for the highest paid teacher at centers*.



**For more information:**

Dr. Megan Pratt  
oregonccrp@oregonstate.edu  
(541) 737-5373