

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO ACTION SO ALL CAN THRIVE.

United Way of Payne County unites people and resources to improve lives and strengthen our communities. With a mission to improve lives of individuals in Payne County by uniting resources, the United Way provides funding to local nonprofit partner agencies who work to address critical needs.



FOCUS AREAS

From strengthening local resilience to advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security, we are working towards a future where every person in every community can reach their full potential.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY



Access to Safe Shelter
Access to Care
Prevention
Mental Health
Physical Health
Quality of Life

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



Literacy
Academic Achievement
Information & Referrals
Character Building
Community Engagement

FINANCIAL SECURITY



Rent/Utility Assistance Financial Education Basic Needs Support Workforce Development Life Skills Development

COMMUNITY STATUS REPORT VOL. 3

This is the third year United Way of Payne County has partnered with the Oklahoma State Spears School of Business to create a data based report that provides information on county demographics, education, safety, health, and economics. The community status report aims to help create informed citizens and stakeholders in Payne County.

By identifying critical needs of those living in Payne County, we can begin to understand issues and work towards building stronger communities for all. United Way of Payne County brings a comprehensive approach to these challenges, actively listening and responding to local needs.

The data included in the community status report is based on the most recent year of information publicly available at the time of collection.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Payne County is the eighth largest county in the state of Oklahoma and continues to grow.

- As of the <u>July 2024 Census Estimate</u>, the reported **population was 84,189**. Payne County has seen a **growth of 3.1%** since the 2020 census.
- ▶ Between 2019 and 2023, there were 3,530 veterans residing in Payne County.
- As of 2023, foreign-born persons made up 6.7% of the population in Payne County .

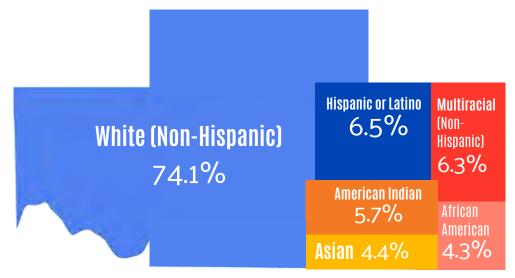


Fig. 1, Source: <u>U.S. Census Bureau</u>

AGE AND GENDER

80% of the population falls outside of the traditional college student age-range demonstrating the age diversity in Payne County.

- ▶ Women make up **48.7%** of the Payne County population.
- Individuals ranging in age from 20-24 make up 18.3%, due to the public state university presence.

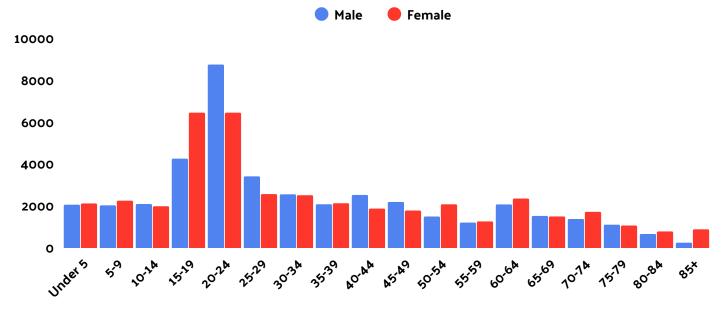


Fig. 2, Source: U.S. Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

According to the <u>FRED Economic Data</u> in 2024, Payne County had an average **unemployment rate of 2.9%.** The civilian labor force in Payne County grew from 40,691 in December 2023 to 41,021 in December 2024.

Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
41,021	39,830	1,191	2.9%

Fig. 3, Source: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/

As of December 2024, Oklahoma's labor force participation rate remained largely unchanged at 62.4% and Payne County followed a similar trend. The <u>Census</u> estimates the Payne County Labor Participation rate to be around 56.9%. The employed population appears to be growing at a rate (1.98%) higher than the overall population growth rate (1.0%) from 2023-2024 according to the <u>Federal Reserve Economic Data</u>.

TOP EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

The top <u>employment sectors</u> in Payne County are Educational Services (9,411), Healthcare and Social Assistance (4,343), Accommodation and Food Services (4,087), Retail Trade (3,723) and Manufacturing (2,318). We see an increase in Healthcare and Social Assistance workers of 6% since 2023.

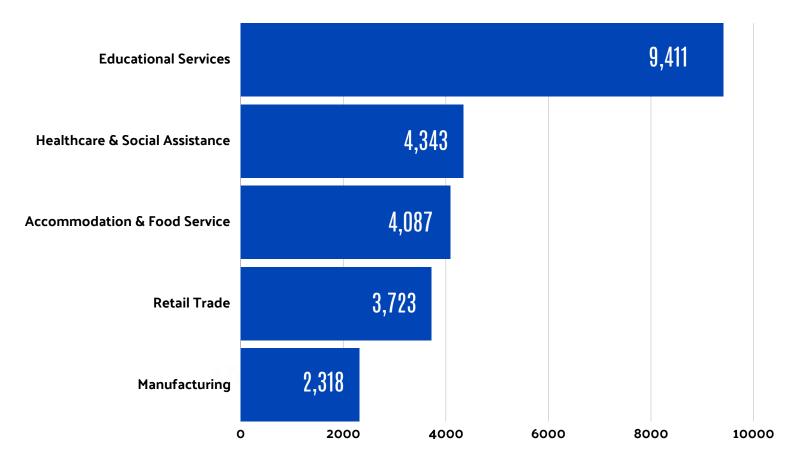


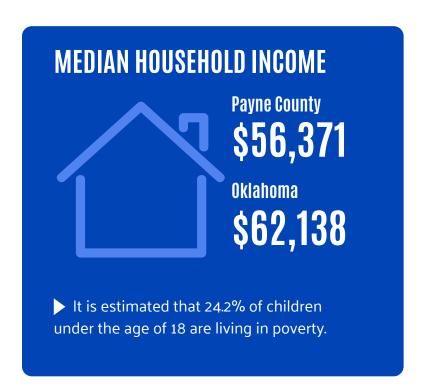
Fig. 4, Source: https://www.greateroklahomacity.com/

POVERTY AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Economic mobility describes how someone's economic well-being changes over time. It can refer to changes in economic outcomes for groups of people or generations over time.

- Poverty is measured in the United States by comparing a person's or family's income to a set poverty threshold or minimum income needed to cover basic needs. People whose income falls under their threshold are considered poor."
- --- IRP-Univ. Wisconsin
- The U.S. Census Bureau determines poverty status using an official poverty measure (OPM) that compares pre-tax cash income against a threshold three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963 and adjusted for family size. The OPM uses calculations of these three elements income, threshold and family to estimate what percentage of the population is poor.
- --- CPS ASEC)

- Most often, economic mobility looks at how someone's income changes over their lifetime. When someone's income improves over his or her life, that person is considered upwardly mobile. By contrast, when someone's income stays flat or decreases over his or her life, that person is considered downwardly mobile. Economic mobility is often more useful when scaled to summarize the overall opportunity in a neighborhood, city or state.
- Signs of a community with increased economic mobility are demonstrated through a combination of metrics including educational attainment, reduced poverty levels, lower unemployment and higher quality jobs, affordable housing and childcare, etc.



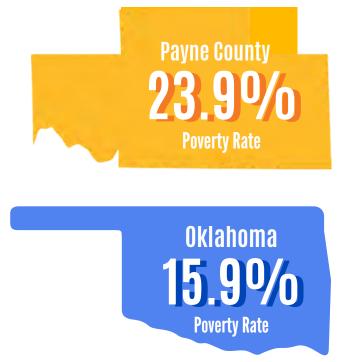


Fig. 5, Source: U.S. Census Data Bureau

COST OF LIVING

"The living wage shown is the hourly rate an individual in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family, working full-time, or 2,080 hours per year", according to the Living Wage Calculator.

- The minimum wage in Oklahoma is \$7.25 / hour.
- The required annual income after taxes for each category is noted above each column.



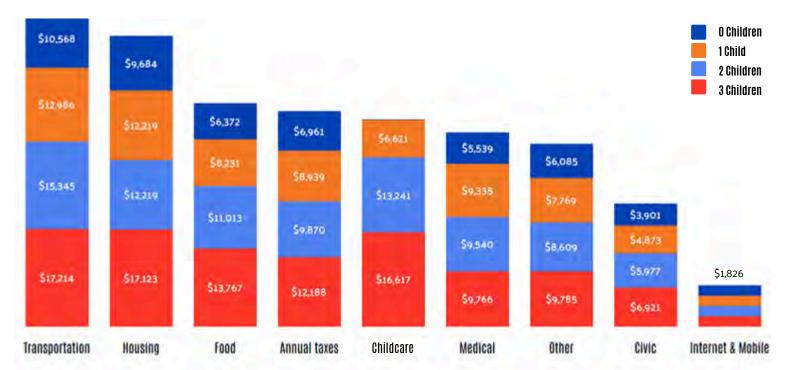


Fig. 6, Source: Living Wage Calculator

Note: Civic is defined as entertainment including fees and admissions; audio and visual equipment and services; pets; toys, hobbies, and playground equipment; entertainment; other supplies, equip,, and services; reading and education.

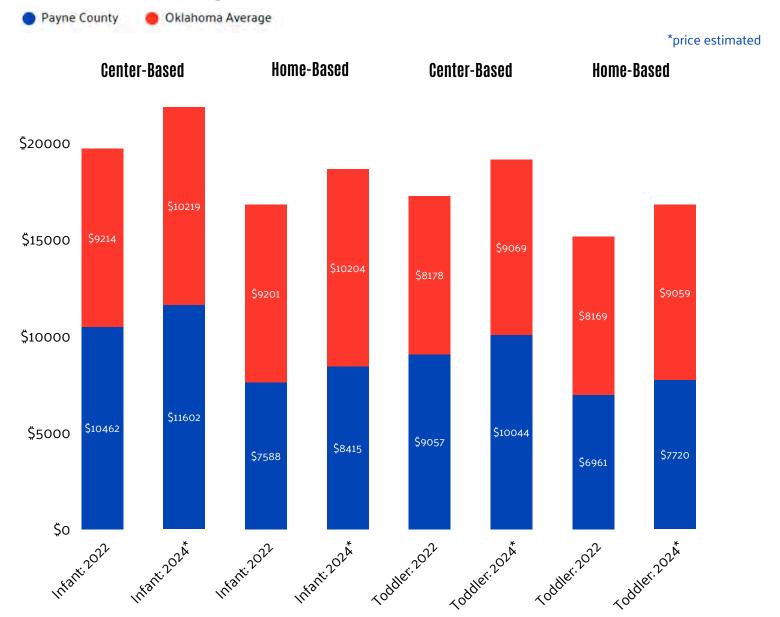
COST OF CHILDCARE

The <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</u> defines affordable childcare as the cost equaling 7% or less of annual household income, however, this benchmark was based on older data and the present-day amount is <u>heavily debated and may be higher</u>.

The <u>MIT Living Wage Calculator</u> estimates childcare costs for one child at \$9,931 in Payne County. Based on the current median household income for families of \$56,371 in Payne County, the **expense of childcare for just one child is approximately 18% of household income**, compared to 15.5% state-wide.

Utilizing data from the <u>Department of Labor Women's Bureau</u>, Figure 7 highlights how childcare prices have changed over the past two years in Payne County.

Childcare Price Changes



While Oklahoma has the second-lowest cost of living in the United States, behind only West Virginia, according to MERIC's 2022 Cost of Living Index, wages in Oklahoma are also often lower in the state. When comparing the 10 most concentrated job occupations in the Northwest Oklahoma Nonmetropolitan Area (of which Payne County is a part of), many have annual salary averages below the required annual income before taxes. Of the 13 occupations listed, 10 do not meet any of the living wage requirements to support a household with even one child.

MOST CONCENTRATED OCCUPATIONS IN PAYNE COUNTY

Key: red = below the living wage requirements

Occupation Groups	Total Employed	Hourly Average	Annual Salary Average
Office and Administrative Support	11,730	\$18.64	\$48,900
Food Preparation and Serving Related	9,850	\$12.17	\$38,770
Educational Instruction and Library	8,730	\$27.33	\$25,310
Sales and Related	8,500	\$17.67	\$56,850
Production	7,820	\$22.36	\$36,760
Transportation and Material Moving	7,660	\$18.99	\$46,510
Construction and Extraction	6,970	\$24.86	\$39,500
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	5,630	\$24.39	\$50,730
Management	5,030	\$48.61	\$101,120
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	4,510	\$39.05	\$81,220
Business and Financial Operations	3,690	\$33.63	\$69,950
Cashiers	3,010	\$11.84	\$24,620
Building and Ground Cleaning and Maintenance	2,790	\$13.93	\$28,970

Fig. 8, Source: oklahoma.gov/oesc/labor-market

HOUSING

Access to affordable housing is key to reducing barriers to workforce participation and increasing economic mobility. According to the <u>National Low Income Housing Coalition</u>, a person working at \$7.25/hour per week would need to work 88 hours per week to afford a modest one-bedroom rental in Oklahoma. 39.7% of households spend 30% or more of income on housing according to 2023 <u>FRED Economic Data</u>.

Persons Per Household

According to the <u>U.S. Census in 2023</u>, the average household size in Payne County was two people.

2.25 Persons per Household



PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

When affordable housing becomes an increasing problem in an area, renters are often faced with choosing between paying rent, buying food, healthcare, or other necessities. Stillwater Habitat for Humanity works to provide Payne County residents with access to housing that is affordable and reliable, while teaching skills like wealth building and managing a budget.

STILLWATER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity uses volunteer labor and donated land to build homes and offer individuals affordable mortgages while building generational wealth.

An average Habitat mortgage payment, including escrow, for a 1,180 square feet home is \$600 compared to a \$1,500 market rent in the area.

Homebuyers contribute 200-300 sweat equity hours, helping build their own homes along with other Habitat homes.







Cost of Housing

The wage needed for a three-bedroom in Payne County is \$26.44 per hour or \$55,000 annually. On average, the cost to rent a three-bedroom in Payne County is \$1,375 per month.

Fig. 9, Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Number of Households

	Oklahoma	Payne County
Total	1,522,711	31,843
Renter	518,633	15,456
Percent Renters	34%	49%

Hourly Housing Wage Needed to Afford

	Oklahoma	Payne County
Zero Bedroom	\$14.92	\$14.31
One Bedroom	\$15.90	\$15.44
Two Bedroom	\$19.91	\$18.77
Three Bedroom	\$26.37	\$26.44
Four Bedroom	\$29.98	\$29.25

Fair Market Rent

	Oklahoma	Payne County
Zero Bedroom	\$776	\$744
One Bedroom	\$827	\$803
Two Bedroom	\$1035	\$976
Three Bedroom	\$1,371	\$1,375
Four Bedroom	\$1,559	\$1,521

Annual Income Needed to Afford

	Oklahoma	Payne County
Zero Bedroom	\$31,033	\$29,760
One Bedroom	\$33,066	\$32,120
Two Bedroom	\$41,407	\$39,040
Three Bedroom	\$54,856	\$55,000
Four Bedroom	\$62,361	\$60,840

HOME OWNERSHIP

- In February 2025, Zillow estimated the typical home value in Payne County at \$216,284 compared to \$204,861 for Oklahoma.
- ▶ Home values have increased 4.2% over the past year and 48.7% from 2018.
- The median household income from 2018 (\$48,031) to 2023 (\$56,371) only increased 17.4%.

RENTING

- Data from the <u>National Low Income Housing</u> Coalition shows that 49% of households in Payne County are renters compared to the state rate of 34%.
- The housing wage required to afford a twobedroom apartment in Payne County is \$18.77, higher than the hourly rate for 5 of the 13 most concentrated occupations highlighted earlier.



According to the 2024 OKC Point in Time: Snapshot of Homelessness Report, Payne County was ranked among the top five most expensive housing counties in Oklahoma along with Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Woodward and Enid.

HOMELESSNESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's <u>Annual Homeless Assessment Report</u> defines Point-in-Time (PIT) homelessness as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport or camping ground.
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).

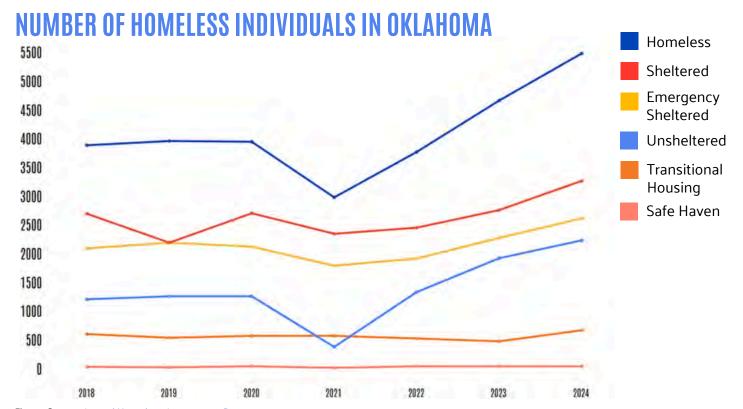


Fig. 10, Source: <u>Annual Homeless Assessment Report</u>

Homeless refers to the total number of individuals experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

Transitional Housing Programs (TH) provide people experiencing homelessness a place to stay combined with supportive services for up to 24 months (about two years).

Safe Havens (SH) are projects that provide private or semi-private temporary shelter and services to people experiencing severe mental illness and are limited to serving no more than 25 people in a facility.

Sheltered Homelessness refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

Emergency Shelter (ES) is a facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Unsheltered Homelessness refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).

5,467

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

410/o OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

ARE UNSHELTERED



819

INCREASE IN INDIVIDUALS SINCE 2023

180/o OF OKLAHOMA'S HOMELESS POPULATION GREW FROM 2023-2024



Fig. 11, Source: Annual Homeless Assessment Report

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

MISSION OF HOPE

As homelessness and poverty rates increase, the need for supporting individuals and families is more apparent than ever. Mission of Hope is a United Way partner agency that specializes in programs to assist homeless individuals and families by providing supportive housing, food, case management, transportation, laundry facilities and life skills training.

- Housing programs include an emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and prevention services.
- In 2024, the emergency shelter served 218 unduplicated clients with 16% moving into permanent housing, while the transitional housing program served 37 clients with 64% moving into permanent housing.





YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The <u>McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</u> defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, domestic violence or other hardship. The definition of homeless children and youth has changed from including 'awaiting foster care placement', however, that category is no longer included, leading to changes in homelessness estimates year over year.

PAYNE COUNTY

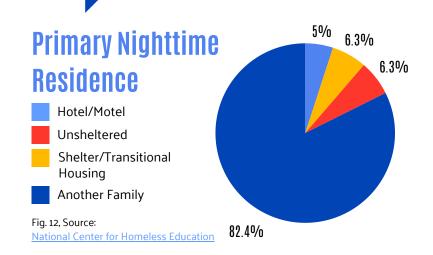
Stillwater Public Schools identified the number of homeless students during the school year.

- 2023-2024 91 homeless students
- > 2022-2023 130 homeless students
- 2021-2022 208 homeless students

OKLAHOMA

- According to the National Center for Homeless Education, 23,538 children and youth in the state were homeless and enrolled in public school during the 2022-2023 school year.
- Figure 11 outlines the primary nighttime residence for those students as of 2022.

School districts are working hard to identify youth homelessness in the school system, but it is an ongoing effort and challenge. Stillwater Public Schools believes the numbers they identify underestimate the true number of students experiencing homelessness.



PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

PAYNE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

Payne County Youth Services provides free quality services for the positive development and recovery of children, youth, and families.

- PCYS operates the only emergency youth shelter in Payne County and provides shelter for approximately 100 young individuals each year.
- In 2024, 105 children and youth from age 7-17 were provided with shelter, educational opportunities, activities, enrichment, life skills or safety.



FOOD INSECURITY

According to the <u>U.S. Department of</u>
Agriculture's Economic Research Service

"Food security for a household means all members, at all times, have access to enough food needed to live an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."

According to Feeding America, many people who do not meet the definition of food insecurity still seek out resources from the charitable food sector. Some of the causes cited by Feeding America that lead to food insecurity include poverty and unemployment, lack of affordable housing, chronic health conditions, and racism and discrimination. When individuals experience food insecurity it can affect physical and mental health, well-being, and participation in school and work.

While the majority of food-insecure individuals in Payne County are eligible for SNAP benefits, 46% of these individuals are not eligible due to being above the SNAP 130% of the federal poverty line.

SNAP BENEFITS RECEPTION

15.1º/o

OF HOUSEHOLDS IN OKLAHOMA

10.90/0

OF HOUSEHOLDS IN PAYNE COUNTY

Fig. 13, Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The chart below outlines 2022 food insecurity statistics in Payne County. Two data points to note are the average meal costs (higher in Payne County compared to the state) and the differences in SNAP benefit eligibility.

FOOD INSECURITY STATISTICS

CATEGORY	Oklahoma	Payne County	
Food Insecure Population	672,170	13,980	
Food Insecurity Rate	16.7%	17%	
Average Meal Cost*	\$3.77	\$4.01	
Estimated SNAP eligibility among food insecure people	35%	54%	
Annual budget shortfall**	\$476,191,000	\$10,531,000	

Fig. 14, Source: Feeding America

*The average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on food, as estimated in the Current Population Survey, divided by 21 (assuming three meals a day, seven days a week). This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

**The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount is based on responses in the Current Population Survey and the USDA assumption that individuals in food-insecure households experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

Food insecurity is more than hunger. It pertains to someone lacking access to nutritious food in order to live a healthy and active life. Both Stillwater Mobile Meals and 4 Kids and Community not only work to provide food to those in need, but nutritious meals. 46% of individuals who face food insecurity, do not qualify for SNAP benefits, however, Stillwater Mobile Meals and 4 Kids and Community do not require any clients to qualify for SNAP benefits to receive food.

STILLWATER MOBILE MEALS

Stillwater Mobile Meals provides hot, nutritious meals to the convalescing, elderly or homebound persons in Stillwater. They provide nourishing meals and friendly concern to help people maintain their independence and continue to live in their own homes as long as possible.

- Each meal is \$5.00 and includes a balanced combination of protein, fruit, and vegetables. Plus, when the dish calls for it, clients receive a specialty bread. If a client cannot afford the full cost of meals, arrangements are made to fit their budget.
- In 2024, 25,692 meals were provided.





4 KIDS AND COMMUNITY

4 Kids and Community supports the Perkins-Tryon schools and community through providing school supplies, nutritional needs, personal hygiene supplies, educational programs and volunteer opportunities.

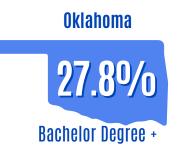
- Every month, a free community supper is held for anyone to attend.
- ▶ In 2024, 4 Kids and Community provided 400 meals at Thanksgiving.

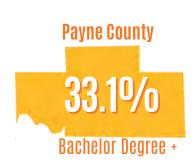




EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey, 33.1% of individuals in Payne County have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the state average of 27.8%.





EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT COMPARISONS

Education Attainment	Payne County	Oklahoma	United States
% of the adult population with less than a 9th grade education	997 (2.2%)	103,777 (3.9%)	10,711,801 (4.6%)
% of 18-24 y/o with no high school diploma	621 (2.7%)	60,764 (15.1%)	3,470,569 (11.4%)
% of 18-24 y/o with a high school diploma	5,722 (24.8%)	160,366 (39.7%)	11,143,541 (36.6%)
% of 18-24 y/o with a bachelor's degree	2,941 (12.8%)	36,088 (8.9%)	4,093,428 (13.4%)
% of adults over 25 with no high school diploma	2,022 (4.5%)	173,340 (6.5%)	12,986,652 (5.6%)
% of adults over 25 with a high school diploma	11,643 (25.9%)	820,564 (30.6%)	60,105,924 (25.9%)
% of adults over 25 with bachelor's degree	11,430 (25.5%)	498,843 (18.6%)	50,567,878 (21.8%)
% of adults over 25 with a graduate or professional degree	8,083 (18%)	271,967 (10.1%)	50,567,878 (21.8%)

Fig. 15, Source: U.S. Census Bureau

1 in 5 Oklahoma adults struggle with basic reading and writing skills

Even with high levels of education attainment among adults in Payne County, there are still literacy gaps that create issues for adults in Oklahoma. Approximately 1 in 5 Oklahoma adults struggle with reading and writing.











PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

STILLWATER LITERACY COUNCIL

The Stillwater Literacy Council provides confidential, free, oneon-one tutoring to adults for basic literacy and English as a second language. They have helped people improve their literacy skills since 1979.

- Tutoring includes areas such as reading, writing, spelling and conversation, as well as life skills, family, health, and workplace literacy issues.
- In 2024, over 100 students received tutoring services.



K-12 EDUCATION

Based on data from the <u>Public School Review</u> for the 2024-2025 school year, there are 26 public schools in Payne County supporting 10,629 students and two private schools supporting 233 students. Of all K-12 students in Payne County, 98% attend a public school compared to the state average of 95%.

In 2010, the Annie E. Casey Foundation <u>published a report</u> highlighting the importance of third-grade reading proficiency. This report highlights numerous educational development risks for students who do not achieve third-grade reading proficiency including poor reading levels in high school, more behavioral and social problems, and lower high school graduation rates. Long-term effects include lower median annual income and overall impact on professional and economic advancement.

For the 2022-2023 school year, **third-grade reading proficiency in Payne County was 39% compared to 29% at the state level**. While a national-level data point was not identified for third-grade reading proficiency, according to The Nation's Report Card, Oklahoma's 2024 average for fourth-grade scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress was 233 compared to the national average of 237.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, third-grade reading proficiency was unavailable for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

Figure 16 shows third-grade reading proficiency percentages over time for Payne County and the state.

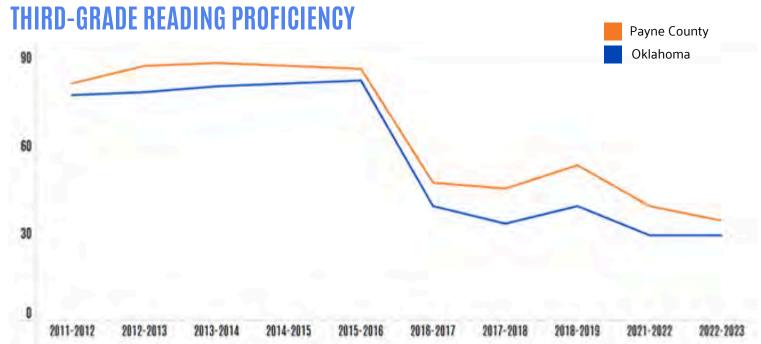


Fig. 16, Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center/Annie E. Casey Foundation

*Data was sourced from the Oklahoma State Department of Education and provided by the Oklahoma Policy Institute. Third grade reading proficiency is defined as 'the percentage of third grade students scoring at or above the proficient level on the Oklahoma 3rd grade reading state test. The test was called the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test prior to 2016-2017 school year, and beginning in the 2016-2017 school year it changed to the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP)'.

The Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) is a criterion-referenced test (CRT) designed to indicate whether students have achieved the competencies defined by the Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS). Each student's performance is compared to a preset standard of expected achievement by subject at each grade level. The level of academic rigor that students must meet is established by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education approved more rigorous standards for the 2016-2017 school year. Direct comparison with prior year data is not valid.

The <u>Public School Review</u> is a free source of detailed public school profiles in the United States. Based on their analysis, Oklahoma was the lowest-ranked state for reading and language arts proficiency. The chart below compares Payne County school districts to state and national levels.

"The state with lowest reading/language arts proficiency is <u>Oklahoma</u>, with a 27% average reading/language arts proficiency." – <u>Public School Review</u>

PROFICIENCY	SCHOOL DISTRICT					
SUBJETS	<u>Cushing</u>	Perkins-Tryon	<u>Stillwater</u>	<u>Yale</u>	Oklahoma	National
Elementary Average Reading Proficiency	28%	29%	41%	27%	27%	47%
Elementary Average Math Proficiency	34%	26%	43%	25%	25%	39%

Fig. 17, Source: Public School Review

Taking a closer look at reading levels across elementary schools in Payne County, Figure 17 highlights reading/language arts and math proficiency by school.

School	Reading/Language Arts Proficiency	Math Proficiency	School	Reading/Language Arts Proficiency	Math Proficiency
Cushing Upper ES	24%	44%	Ripley ES	25-29%	20-24%
Glencoe ES	20-24%	20-24%	Sangre Ridge ES	45%	61%
Highland Park ES	18%	34%	Skyline ES	36%	36%
Oak Grove Public	40-44%	30-34%	Westwood ES	55%	62%
Perkins-Tryon Intermediate ES	32%	42%	Will Rogers ES	27%	28%
Richmond ES	60-64%	75-79%	Yale ES	30-34%	35-39%
State Proficiency	27%	25%	State Proficiency	27%	25%

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sends one free book to children ages 0-5 every month, no matter their families income.

- In 2024, 20,485 books were distributed and 1,877 children received books in Payne County.
- An Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness grant was secured to help Oklahoma families access the services they need to support their children during their most critical period of development.



POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

According to the State Department of Education, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to include an indicator of school quality or student success. Oklahoma chose postsecondary opportunities as one of two indicators to meet this requirement.

Postsecondary opportunities allow high school students to explore career paths and build confidence in their post-graduation plans.

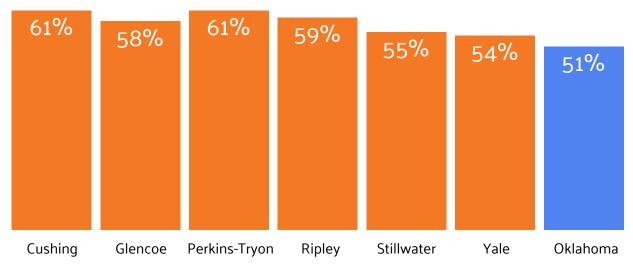
An excerpt from the <u>Report Card Indicator</u>: <u>Postsecondary Opportunities</u> explains why this indicator is important:

"Life beyond high school requires different skills and talents than in the past. By 2025, three of four Oklahoma jobs will require education or training beyond high school. Post-secondary opportunities enable students to participate in coursework and experiences that enhance their likelihood for success after high school."

The figure below highlights postsecondary opportunities by town. This indicator measures the percentage of students who earn credit in a postsecondary opportunity such as work-based internships, industry certification programs, college prep coursework, and dual/concurrent enrollment.

For example, 61% of students in Cushing High School earned postsecondary credit compared to 58% of students at Glencoe High School. Most school districts in Payne County have more students earning postsecondary credit compared to other Oklahoma districts.

POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES IN PAYNE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS



Payne County High Schools

HEALTH & ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

As highlighted throughout this report, many factors influence economic mobility and well-being for both individuals and families. Access to healthcare is no different. Understanding health outcomes for Payne County is important to ensure that community needs are identified and supported.

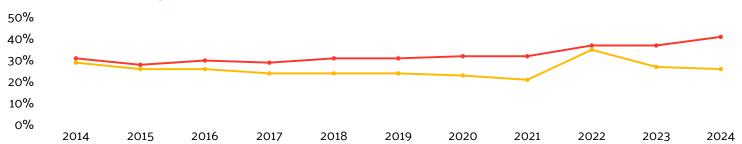
In 2024, 41% of adults in Payne County were classified as obese, which was sightly higher than state levels but 7% higher than the national average. The number of adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity decreased from 27% in 2023 to 26% in 2024.

One of the major healthcare accessibility challenges in Payne County is that **18% of the population under 65 are uninsured** – compared to the 10% national rate. Regarding patient care, there is one primary care physician for every 2,160 people in Payne County compared to ratios of 1:1,690 at the state level and 1:1,330 at the national level based on data from County Health Rankings.

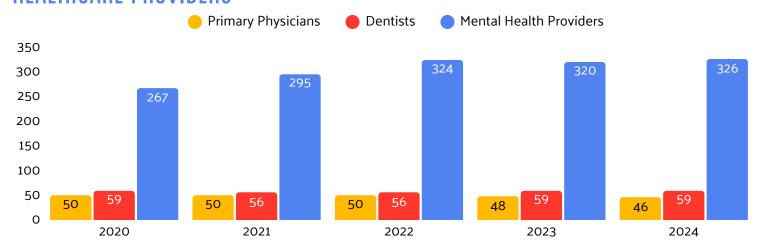
BMI AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



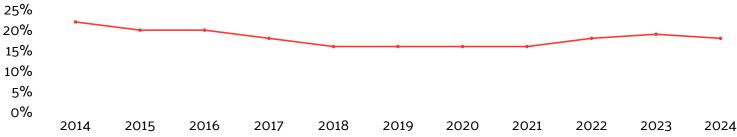




HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER AGE 65 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION

The Early Childhood Coalition works to foster communities' efforts in promoting healthy growth and development of young children by providing resources for families and programs such as HealthySteps and the Better Brain Campaign.

- HealthySteps is a program based in a pediatrician's office that works with doctors to help families identify and manage parenting challenges like feeding, behavior, sleep, development and adapting to life with a young child.
- The Early Childhood Coalition partners with Infant Crisis Services to bring the BabyMobile to Stillwater twice a month to provide essential supplies to children under the age of 3.





STILLWATER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Stillwater Community Health Center is an alternative health care operation that meets the needs of the growing number of medically under-served people in Payne County. With a staff and volunteer team of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and pharmacists, they provide medical evaluations, prescription of treatments and pharmacy services to clients who meet eligibility requirements.

In 2024, the Stillwater Community Health Center accepted 46 new patients, held 126 clinics, and filled 4,520 prescriptions valued at \$1,315,184

STILLWATER YMCA

The Stillwater YMCA is committed to improving the lives of members through programs that promote healthy spirits, minds and bodies. These programs nurture youth, encourage healthy living, and foster social responsibility.

- In 2024, The Stillwater YMCA had 901 youth sports participants, gave 591 swim lessons and provided \$149,515 in financial assistance.
- ▶ By using a sliding fee scale, The YMCA's financial assistance program ensures anyone can participate in Y programs, despite the inability to pay the full program or membership fees.



PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS REPORTING BINGE OR HEAVY DRINKING

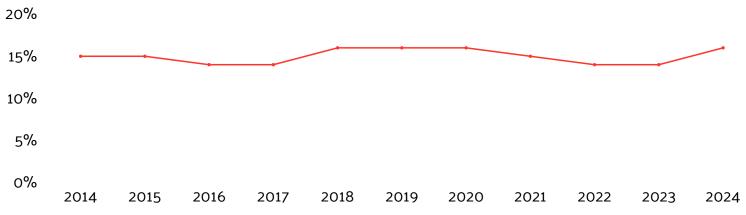


Fig. 20, Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Figure 21 outlines health factors and outcome data from <u>County Health Rankings and Roadmaps</u> for Payne County in 2024.

Key: red = performing worse than state average

Quality of Life Factors	Payne County	Oklahoma	U.S.
Poor or Fair Health	19%	19%	14%
# of Poor Physical Health Days	4.2 days	3.8 days	3.2 days
# of Poor Mental Health Days	5.7 days	5.5 days	4.8 days
Low Birthweight	7%	8%	8%
Health Factors	Payne County	Oklahoma	U.S.
Adult Smoking	19%	18%	15%
Adult Obesity	41%	40%	34%
Food Environment Index	6.8	5.6	7.7
Physical Inactivity	26%	27%	23%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	75%	71%	84%
Excessive Drinking	16%	14%	18%
Alcohol - Impaired Driving Deaths	25%	27%	26%
Sexually Transmitted Infections	598	520	496
Teen Births	12	27	17
Clinical Care	Payne County	Oklahoma	U.S.
Uninsured	18%	17%	10%
Primary Care Physicians	2,160:1	1,690:1	1,330:1
Dentist	1,690:1	1,560:1	1,360:1
Mental Health Providers	310:1	230:1	320:1
Preventable Hospital Stays	2,585	3,069	2,681
Mammography Screening	39%	40%	43%
Flu Vaccinations	49%	42%	46%

Fig. 21, Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

From 2020 to 2023, there were <u>58 deaths due to unintentional drug overdose</u> in Payne County. Of those 45 reported deaths, the majority were aged 45-52, while 83% had a history of substance use and 24% had a history of mental illness. In 2023 there were 8 deaths from drug overdose, all within the 35-44 age group.

Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 in Payne County

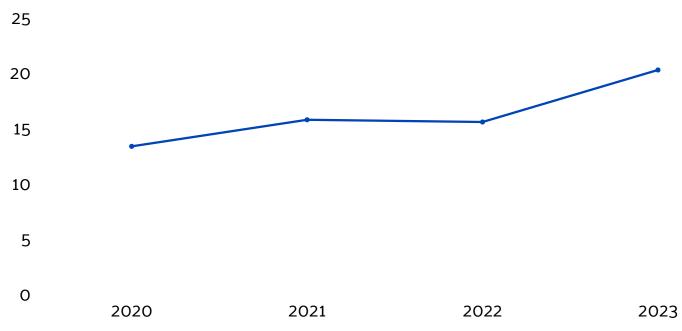


Fig. 22, Source: The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Based on the data below, this graph shows that approximately **25%** of motor vehicle crash deaths in Payne County are alcohol-related.

Percentage of Driving Deaths with Alcohol Involvement

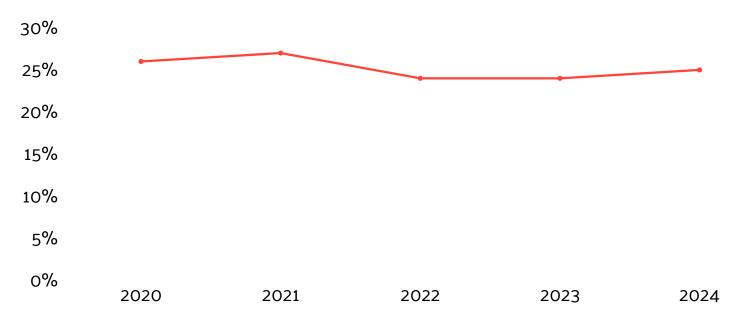


Fig. 23, Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

MENTAL HEALTH

Access to mental health care and resources is another critical factor that impacts overall well-being and economic mobility. According to <u>U.S. News</u>, 18.4% of adults in Payne County experience frequent mental distress.

POOR MENTAL HEALTH

Based on the Payne County profile on County Health Rankings, adults in Payne County reported **5.7 poor mental health days** over a 30-day period compared to 5.5 days at the state level and 4.8 days at the national level.

57 POOR MENTAL HEALTH Days Per Month

LACK OF CARE

When it comes to mental health care, there is only **one** mental health provider per 310 people in Payne County compared to a ratio of 1:230 at the state level.

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

310:1

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

230:1

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION



THRIVEWELL COUNSELING CENTER

ThriveWell Counseling Center provides individualized counseling care for clients on a sliding scale fee.

- Their Licensed Professional Counselors treat depression, anxiety, relationship issues, marital conflict and communication, self-esteem, loss/grief, and life changes.
- ▶ By offering a sliding scale fee, they allow individuals who are unable to afford the full price of therapy to receive crucial counseling services.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

A mentoring program that matches adult volunteers (Bigs) with children (Littles) for one-to-one mentoring relationships.

- The program aims to help children realize their potential and build their futures by fostering positive relationships and providing support.
- Mentorships can positively impact a child's mental health by improving self-esteem and decision making.



CRIME AND SAFETY

Figure 26 outlines crimes reported year-over-year by the police departments that have jurisdiction in Payne County. This data comes from the <u>Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation</u> and accuracy is dependent on those agencies' reported information. There is a chance that some data may be missing if it was not submitted by the reporting agency, so caution should be used when trying to identify trends over time.

INDEX CRIMES COMPARISON - PAYNE COUNTY

Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Murder	2	0	0	0	2	0
Rape	2	6	3	1	4	5
Robbery	0	2	1	1	0	1
Aggravated Assault	22	25	21	24	21	15
Burglary	65	70	63	63	48	47
Larceny	70	112	99	128	93	84
Motor Vehicle Theft	41	18	41	26	10	5
Arson	5	7	5	2	1	1
Simple Assault	79	70	82	86	111	104
Intimidation	38	27	16	46	39	48
TOTAL	324	337	331	377	329	310

Fig. 24, Source: Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

PAYNE COUNTY DRUG COURT

Payne County Drug Court provides outpatient substance abuse treatment, counseling and therapy for pathways to rehabilitation, structured environments for individuals to overcome substance use challenges and achieve lasting recovery.

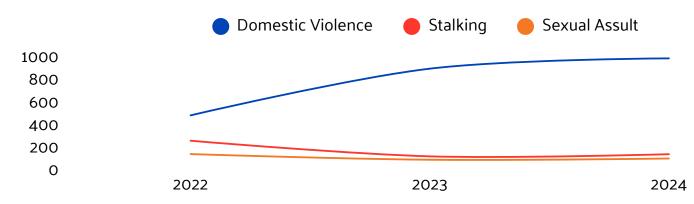


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to the World Population Review, 49.1% of women and 40.7% of men in Oklahoma have been or are currently victims of domestic violence. Currently ranked first, Oklahoma has consistently been one of the highest states in the nation for domestic violence and is third in the nation for women killed by men based on the most recent state rankings list.

In 2023, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations received 471 reports of domestic abuse incidents comprising 556 victims in Payne County according to the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board's 2024 Annual Report. In addition, Wings of Hope received 1,226 calls to their crisis line, housed 200 women and children in their shelter, and assisted with 367 protective orders.

REPORTED ABUSE TYPE IN OKLAHOMA



10UT OF 4 WOMEN IN OK EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

WINGS OF HOPE

Wings of Hope provides comprehensive and confidential services to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse or neglect.

- In 2024, safe shelter was provided to 59 women and 95 children
- In 2024, 1,226 crisis line calls were made to Wings of Hope

VICTIMS SERVED IN 2024

Men	Women	Children	
160	901	222	

VICTIMS SERVED BY YEAR

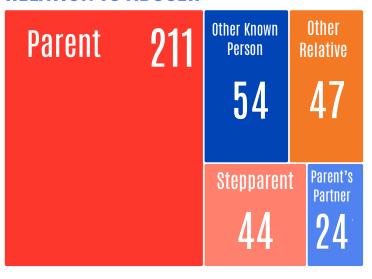
2022	2023	2024
873	1156	1283



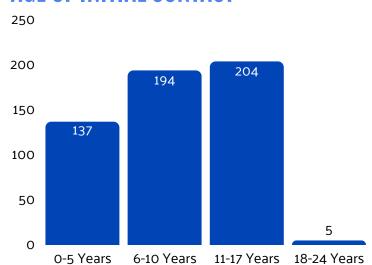
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In 2024, The <u>Saville Center for Child Advocacy</u> assisted 535 children in Payne County, an increase of 33% from 2023. That number reflects the amount of cases and investigations that took place. Of the children included in those investigations, 249 were male and 286 were female with the 11-17 age category having the largest number of cases. For the 535 cases, there were 211 alleged offenders with the relationship to the child highlighted below.

RELATION TO ABUSER



AGE OF INITIAL CONTACT



REPORTED ABUSE TYPE

Reported Abuse Type	Reported Cases
Sexual Abuse	364
Neglect	194
Physical Abuse	149
Witness to Violence	67
Drug Endangerment	19
Other	10

Fig. 25, Source: Saville Center for Child Advocacy

CHILDREN RECEIVING SERVICES

Services Recieved	Number of Children
Onsite Forensic Interviewing	326
Medical Exam/ Treatment	179
Referral to Counseling Therapy	81
Counseling Therapy	5

Fig. 26, Source: Saville Center for Child Advocacy

Moving from 2023 to 2024, we see a 33% increase in cases, more than four times the previous increase seen since 2020.

FIVE-YEAR SAVILLE CENTER CASE TREND BREAKDOWN

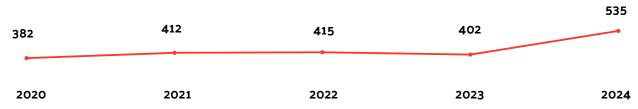


Fig. 27, Source: Saville Center for Child Advocacy

PARTNER AGENCIES IN ACTION

THE SAVILLE CENTER

The Saville Center provides services for children with allegations of abuse including forensic interviews, medical examinations, counseling and victim advocacy.

- ➤ This safe, child-friendly facility provides interviews, medical evaluations, mental health services and referals.
- The Saville Center also coordinates the Payne County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. This group of professionals and community members meets monthly to coordinate awareness efforts, provide training, and engage our community on child abuse issues.





CASA FOR KIDS

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect face a frightening, profound unknown. Courtrooms. Foster care. New schools. No child should face these alone. Trained and supported CASA volunteers advocate in court on behalf of these children.

CASA for Kids provides trained community volunteers who advocate for the best interest of children who come into the court system, primarily as a result of abuse or neglect. The CASA volunteer advocates for their assigned child until the case is closed and the child is in a safe, permanent home.

PAYNE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

Through partnerships with volunteers and businesses, Payne County Youth Services provides the Safe Place program. This program provides a network of locations where young people in crisis or at-risk can get help quickly.

- Children and youth can go to a Safe Place location, ride on an OSU BOB Bus, or call PCYS for immediate help.
- Safe Place locations allow youth in crisis to have immediate access to safety, support, and shelter when they need it most.
- Some Safe Place locations in Payne County include the Stillwater Library, Fire Station, Homeland, OnCue and more.



WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

This report demonstrates that there are a number of pervasive social and economic barriers facing Payne County residents which can negatively impact upward mobility for individuals and families.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Poverty levels in Payne County are higher at 23.9% compared to 15.9% at the state level. This is an
 increase in the Payne County poverty level since last year. Of the 13 most concentrated occupations in the
 county, 10 do not meet any of the living wage requirements to support a household with even one child.
- Affordable housing continues to be a challenge for Payne County residents with 39.7% of individuals spending 30% or more of their household income on housing such as rent or mortgage, a slight increase from last year.
- While county-level data is difficult to identify, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that point-in-time homelessness in Oklahoma increased by 17.6% between 2023 and 2024.
- Several districts in Payne County are considered to be childcare deserts. Infant and toddler care is more expensive in Payne County compared to average state rates.
- Reading proficiency trends have worsened over time with Oklahoma falling far below the national reading and math proficiency levels. While some school districts perform above the state average in reading and math, others perform lower and all are lower compared to the national levels.
- Healthcare accessibility continues to be a significant challenge for Payne County residents with 18% of individuals under the age of 65 not having health insurance along with low hospital bed availability and a 2,160 to 1 physician-to-patient ratio.
- Individuals in Payne County experience 5.7 poor mental health days per month, which can impact well-being and workforce participation.
- Rising trends in both domestic violence and child abuse and neglect pose significant risks to the well-being of individuals and create barriers to economic advancement for families. The Saville Center saw a 33% increase in the number of children receiving services from last year.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER

Nonprofits in Payne County depend on volunteers to further their mission, assist clients and run their organizations. The time you give to individuals and nonprofits can make a huge impact in our community. Whether you have one hour or one day, there are a variety of ways for you to volunteer. Visit United Way of Payne County's <u>volunteer portal</u> to find potential volunteer opportunities.

DONATE

Your financial support makes a difference in the community. Gifts to UWPC or other nonprofits help ensure greater program stability and resources that are key to making positive changes to improve the lives of those in Payne County. <u>Donate to United Way of Payne County today.</u>

ADVOCATE

Speaking up and taking action on issues you care about can shape policy and legislation that impacts the systems we live by every day. Do the research, vote, and speak to your legislators and representatives to advocate for yourself and others.

GET THE HELP YOU NEED

Taking care of you and your family are a great place to start in helping others. There are resources throughout Payne County that can get you connected to the help you need, such as rental assistance, food pantries, affordable housing, health resources, child care, after-school programs, caregiver support, financial programs, literacy and job programs. Contacting 2-1-1 is a great place to start.

UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCIES







































Payne County
Drug Court







ABOUT UNITED WAY OF PAYNE COUNTY

MISSION

Improve lives of individuals in Payne County by uniting resources.

VISION

Payne County is a community where individuals thrive because neighbors care.

This report is to be used as the starting point for annual reports in the future identifying trends and changes in the well-being of the communities in Payne County. Additional goals of the Board of Directors for UWPC is to use this report to:

- Understand the pervasive issues that impact the health, education and financial stability of Payne County citizens.
- Track change over time and determine if the work of agencies is having impact.
- Inform our community investment (allocations to agencies and programs) decisions.
- Evaluate our "portfolio" of partner agencies ensuring we are meeting our community's greatest needs.
- Build a board that reflects the makeup of our community.

On-going assessment of how UWPC allocates donors' contributions to best address the needs in Payne County is of utmost importance and the cornerstone to our long-standing commitment to accountability. This community status report is part of fulfilling that commitment.

COMMUNITY STATUS REPORT RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION TEAM

The <u>United Way of Payne County</u> partnered with the <u>Spears Assist</u> powered by <u>Interworks</u> to produce this Community Status Report. Thank you to those who worked tirelessly to support this effort.

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UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCIES

4 Kids and Community

Supports the Perkins-Tryon schools and community needs for school and personal hygiene supplies, nutrition, educational programs and volunteer opportunities.

American Red Cross - Northern Oklahoma Chapter

Teaches families how to prevent and prepare for disasters and supports those recovering. Collects lifesaving blood. Serves military members, veterans and their families. Provides health and safety courses to individuals and companies.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Facilitates one-to-one mentoring friendships between children and caring volunteers through community-based and school-based programs.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

A book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age 5, no matter their family's income.

CASA for Kids

Provides trained community volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children who come into the court system, primarily as a result of abuse or neglect.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

Provides informal educational program activities and events in a troop/group setting to enhance the growth and development of girls aged 5-17.

Early Childhood Coalition

Fosters the communities' efforts in promoting healthy growth and development in young children. ECC brings area agencies, schools, non-profits, businesses and individuals together to make Stillwater a family-friendly community.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma

Assists low-income and elderly persons with civil legal issues.

Life Center Adult Day Services

Provides a daytime social recreation program and medical monitoring to enhance the lives of seniors dealing with loss of independence and provides support to caregivers through respite and educational programs.

Mission of Hope

Provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, prevention and outreach programs. Services include food, case management, life skills training, laundry facilities and transportation for the homeless.

MPower

Provides employment, residential and adult day services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Payne County Drug Court

Provides outpatient substance abuse treatment counseling and therapy as an alternative to incarceration.

Payne County Youth Services Inc.

Provides transitional living, emergency youth shelter, counseling, treatment, advocacy, and in-person and telehealth appointments at no charge to children, youth, adults and families.

UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCIES, CONT.

Stillwater CARES

Connects people and resources to prevent and alleviate poverty by providing Charity Tracker online assistance network and other assistance to helping organizations.

Stillwater Community Health Center

Provides healthcare and medications to low-income, uninsured residents of Payne County through volunteer physicians, nurses and pharmacists.

Stillwater Group Homes

Provides residential services (group homes, assisted living, supported living and respite care) for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

ThriveWell Counseling Center

Provides outpatient, professional counseling services to individuals, couples and families, beginning at age 15, on a sliding fee scale.

Stillwater Literacy Council

Provides free tutoring to adults in basic literacy and English as a second language.

Stillwater Mobile Meals

Delivers nutritious lunches to the elderly, homebound or recovering individuals Monday through Friday.

Stillwater YMCA

Provides opportunities in youth sports, summer camp, teen leadership, youth and adult swim lessons, individual and group exercise and volunteer activities.

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity

Provides low-income residents with affordable housing. They do this through partnerships with the community, volunteers who assist in building the homes and assistance with zero-interest rate mortgages.

The Saville Center for Child Advocacy

Provides services for children with allegations of abuse including forensic interviews, medical examinations, counseling and victim advocacy. Coordinates Payne County's Child Abuse Response Team and Child Abuse Prevention Task Force.

Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services

Provides free and confidential counseling, shelter, court advocacy and education services to families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.





