

2008  
County  
Coordinated  
Comprehensive  
Community  
Plans



Executive Summary

Key Findings  
& Recommendations

May 1, 2008

*This is an Executive Summary of the  
2008 County Coordinated Comprehensive Community Plans.*

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***Introduction***

The 1999 legislature understood the need for local communities to identify their community issues and to determine the best way to support and serve children and families. Communities provide invaluable information and advice to state agency partners about the issues they are facing. When communities partner with state agencies to address local issues there are improved efficiencies, increased effectiveness and the potential to break down barriers, fill gaps and address needs.

The executive summary informs the State Commission on Children and Families and the Children's Collaborative about policy, practice and budget opportunities that would support locals in addressing issues facing their children, youth and families. Included are policy and technical recommendations developed by Partners for Children and Families technical and analytical teams who reviewed county data as well as statewide key findings and trend data.

There is a need for statewide leadership on complex issues facing children, youth and families and the comprehensive plans have given the opportunity for the State Commission on Children and Families and the Children Collaborative to become those statewide leaders on issues identified in all of Oregon's communities.

***Policy Recommendations***

The Partners for Children and Families Analytical Review Team recommends that the State Commission on Children and Families and the Children's Collaborative prioritize five issues over the next 6 years. The Team recommends that these issues be prominently identified in the state plan and be a part of each State Commission agenda.

» ***Eliminating poverty***

Fewer family wage jobs, increasing health care costs, suburban and rural transportation needs, youth employment and workforce development, a lack of affordable housing, homelessness and hunger are issues Oregonians face every day.

» ***Eliminating child abuse & neglect***

Child abuse and neglect rates have been steadily increasing since 2002 with almost every county identifying the issue within their communities. To have safer communities in



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Oregon, we need to address child maltreatment and domestic violence.

» ***Access to comprehensive health care***

A lack of health care access, rising costs of health insurance, and a lack of comprehensive care including physical, dental, optical and behavioral are threatening Oregon's health.

» ***Eliminating substance addiction in families***

Identified by every county, substance addiction in families and among youth is an issue facing all communities in Oregon. In particular underage alcohol use and family alcohol addiction was the most frequently identified issue. Statewide leadership in changing community norms that encourage alcohol and drug use is needed.

» ***Preparing children & youth for the future***

Prenatal care, healthy growth & development; early learning for our children and youth; education for parents; quality, accessible, available, and affordable child care; a need for comprehensive education from prekindergarten through postsecondary; the underutilization of school facilities for positive youth and community activities; a need for positive learning environments outside of school hours; and juvenile crime and gang activity were all identified.



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***Technical Recommendations***

The technical and analytical review team developed several technical recommendations, or suggestions for improving the comprehensive planning process and participation. The review teams would like the State Commission on Children and Families to review the recommendations and assign promising ones to the Partners for children and families for completion.

- » Develop proactive technical support teams to develop the capacity and capability of counties to meet the unique needs of the county or communities and the diversity which exists within.
- » Coordinate the planning timelines for the various plans counties are required to submit. Where possible the Partners for Children & Families should work to streamline planning.
- » Develop a clear list of participants that need to be involved in the planning process in the future in each county.
- » Develop strategies to better engage the business, faith, medical, etc. in the strategic development of the plans.
- » Develop training and technical support focused on intermediate outcomes.
- » Work to find common ground and make recommendations on acceptable evidence based programs and practices.



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***Trends and Analysis***

In the development of the policy recommendations the technical and analytical review teams looked at the data and information derived from the 36 community plans.

Looking at trends, themes, patterns and emerging areas of concern, the reviewers bundled the recommendations into five policy areas of poverty, child abuse and neglect, comprehensive health care, substance abuse in families, and preparing children and youth for the future through community schools.

***Poverty***

The table below displays the number of counties that identified an issue area in their comprehensive community plan.

<i>Homelessness</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>General Poverty</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Family/Living Wage Jobs</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Affordable Housing</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Youth Employment</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Hunger</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>6</i>

Trends that emerged:

- » A lack of family/living wage jobs was identified in almost every county in eastern Oregon, along the Columbia river and by the majority of counties along the coast.
- » Youth employment/workforce development was identified as a crime prevention and skill building strategy in counties outside of urban centers or population centers.
- » Affordable housing needs were identified along the Columbia River counties and in southwest Oregon.
- » Transportation was identified in eastern Oregon and in counties outside urban counties.



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***Child Abuse and Neglect***

The table below displays the number of counties that identified an issue area in their comprehensive community plan.

<b><i>Child Maltreatment</i></b>	<b>34</b>
<b><i>Domestic Violence</i></b>	<b>19</b>

Trends that emerged:

- » Child maltreatment was identified in almost every county.
- » Domestic violence was identified in north east Oregon, along the north coast, and in south west Oregon.

***Comprehensive Health Care***

The table below displays the number of counties that identified an issue area in their comprehensive community plan.

<b><i>Mental Health Care</i></b>	<b>28</b>
<b><i>Health Care, Physical &amp; Dental</i></b>	<b>23</b>
<b><i>Health Insurance</i></b>	<b>18</b>
<b><i>Teen Pregnancy</i></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><i>Prenatal Care</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>Immunizations</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>Health &amp; Fitness</i></b>	<b>8</b>
<b><i>Youth Suicide</i></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Infant Mortality</i></b>	<b>3</b>

Trends that emerged:

- » Almost every county identified comprehensive health care including dental, optical, physical and behavioral.
- » Rural counties struggling with health care access identified few or no providers of care.
- » Behavioral health care access identified few providers and a lack of insurance coverage as a barrier to service.



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- » Teen pregnancy was identified predominately in rural counties.
- » Prenatal care was identified in Willamette valley counties.

***Substance Abuse in Families***

The table below displays the number of counties that identified an issue area in their comprehensive community plan.

<i>Youth Substance Use</i>	<b>36</b>
<i>Adult Substance Abuse</i>	<b>23</b>
<i>Substance Use During Pregnancy</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Community Norms</i>	<b>25</b>

Trends that emerged:

- » Youth substance use was identified in every county in Oregon.
- » A majority of counties that identified negative community norms related to alcohol use are in eastern Oregon or along the Oregon coast.

***Preparing Children and Youth for the Future through Community Schools***

The table below displays the number of counties that identified an issue area in their comprehensive community plan.

<i>Child Care</i>	<b>32</b>
<i>Juvenile Crime</i>	<b>29</b>
<i>Positive Youth Development</i>	<b>26</b>
<i>Parenting</i>	<b>20</b>
<i>Readiness to Learn</i>	<b>17</b>
<i>School Drop Out</i>	<b>14</b>
<i>Reading</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Gang Activity</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>Mentoring</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>School Violence</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Math</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Special Needs Education</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Post Secondary Education</i>	<b>1</b>



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Trends that emerged:

- » There was a need identified for a comprehensive education system from full time prekindergarten through post secondary, incorporating youth options for community college, universities, trade schools, and technical schools emphasizing the integration of work and life skills into academics.
- » Almost every county in Oregon identified a need for accessible, affordable, quality child care.
- » Almost every county in eastern Oregon identified a need for positive youth development activities.
- » Counties emphasized the need to increase and enhance utilization of the existing school infrastructure as a community hub for child and youth development activities.
- » An emergence of gang activity in eastern Oregon was noted as an emerging issue area.