

NEED, EQUITY, DEMOGRAPHICS PLANNING CONTEXT

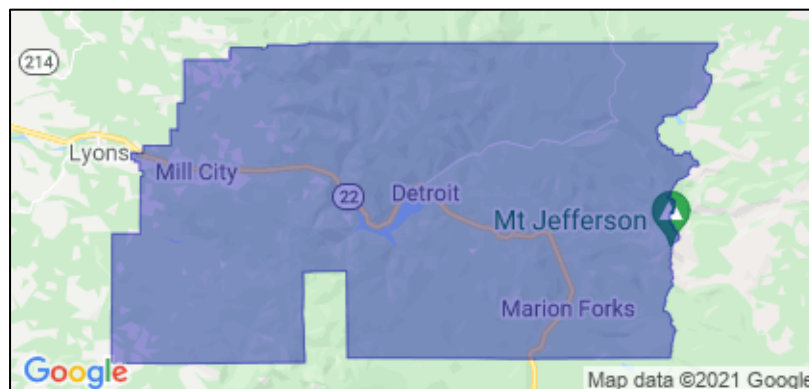
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Governments

Key Findings / Takeaways

- According to US Census Bureau data for the population within the Santiam Canyon School District boundary (2015-2019), Santiam Canyon pre-wildfire was older (median age of 51 years), less racially diverse (80% white, 94% non-Hispanic), and had slightly lower household income (\$53,575 median household income) as compared to Marion County and Linn County as a whole.
 - The Census data follows geographic boundaries that do not easily align with the areas of the Santiam Canyon that were impacted by wildfire. The most current demographic and equity conditions for the wildfire-impacted area were derived by using the boundary and data for the local school district, Santiam Canyon School District 129-J.
 - NOTE: The economic analysis of Santiam Canyon that is being conducted by Marion County's consultant team, ECONorthwest, will likely contain more current and detailed sociodemographic data. Their report is anticipated to be available in late fall 2021.
- The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services **Wildfire Housing Recovery Survey**, published in January 2021 - <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/01-07-2021-OR-Housing-RSF-SurveyResults.pdf> - highlights specific recovery needs for Santiam Canyon, including a need for:
 - workforce development,
 - infrastructure investment as the basis for economic and housing recovery,
 - better communication and coordination among government programs, and
 - organizational capacity to carry out needed planning and long-term visioning for recovery.
- The survey also stressed that there is a risk of losing population and local workforce, as well as a lack of material resources in the canyon.

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Santiam Canyon School District Boundary



2019 Demographics of people who lived in the Santiam Canyon School District 129J

Population	4,194
Area (square miles)	808.7
Density	5.2 people per square mile
Race & Ethnicity	
White	90.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.3%
Asian American	0.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.6%
Two or More Races	1.2%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	8.0%
Age	
Residents younger than 5	6.7%
Residents younger than 18	22.8%
Residents 65 or older	19.8%
Education	
Residents with high school diploma (older than 25)	78.7%
Residents with college degree (older than 25)	18.7%
Income	
Income per capita	\$21,835
Income per household	\$47,227

Sources / datasets:

- Santiam Canyon School District, including portions of Marion and Linn counties: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/97000US4108100-santiam-canyon-school-district-129j-or>
- Marion County demographics (for comparison): <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US41047-marion-county-or/>
- Linn County demographics (for comparison): <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US41043-linn-county-or/>
- Oregon demographics (for comparison): <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/04000US41-oregon/>
- United States (for comparison): <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/01000US-united-states/>

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- The Health Departments for Marion and Linn Counties appear to be the agencies most actively pursuing equity, with “health equity” as a top priority for both counties. Health equity is generally defined as a condition in which one’s background and social conditions have no bearing on an individual or social group’s health outcomes. More specifically, “Health equity is defined as the absence of disparities or avoidable differences among socioeconomic and demographic groups or geographic areas in health status and health outcomes such as disease, disability, or mortality.” (**Health Equity Report 2019-2020**, US Department of Health and Human Services, <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/health-equity/HRSA-health-equity-report.pdf>).
 - The **Community Health Improvement Plans** for **Marion County** (https://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/chip/Documents/Marion-Polk_CHIP_2021-2025_Final-Compressed.pdf) and **Linn County** (https://www.linncountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_health/page/1681/2018-2022_linn_county_chip.pdf) seek to address many aspects of health equity that are related to wildfire recovery and that could be explored and built into rebuilding projects and processes: emphasis on expanding access to safe walking and bicycling routes, convenient access to healthy and affordable food (especially difficult in rural areas), and the need to secure more stable and affordable housing.
 - In early 2021 Marion County refined its health plan and now includes additional commitments to partnering with organizations serving communities of color.

Existing Plans, Policies, Projects, or Funding

Pre-Disaster

- Under the **National Disaster Recovery Framework** (NDRF) (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery>), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the coordinating agency for the Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF). The mission of the Housing RSF is to:
 - Support efforts to address pre-and post-disaster housing issues.
 - Facilitate the delivery of federal resources to implement housing solutions that effectively support the needs of the whole community and contribute to its sustainability and resilience.
 - Support activities to assist local, state, and tribal governments in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed housing.
 - Support efforts to develop new accessible, permanent housing options.

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- **Linn County Community Health Improvement Plan 2018-2022**
https://www.linncountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_health/page/1681/2018-2022_linn_county_chip.pdf - Places top priority on health equity with goals that should be integrated with visioning and planning for rebuilding: housing, food access, transportation, and how to build community connection.
- **Marion County Health Equity Report** - January 2013 report on the Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities in Marion County - https://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/communityassessments/Documents/health_equityreportmakingthedifferencefinal1.pdf. Data including information on people living in poverty, different genders and sexual orientations, people with disabilities, different race and ethnicities, among others. One of many findings: food deserts, lack of sidewalks, and lack of rural parks are all contributing to Marion County's high obesity and overweight issue.

Post-Disaster

- **Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan 2021-2025**
<https://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/chip/Documents/Marion-Polk CHIP 2021-2025 Final-Compressed.pdf> - Over 100 community members and partners worked for a year to update the health plan and its priorities. Priorities related to planning activities and projects include a desire to expand transportation options between rural and urban areas, a focus on equitable access to services, and a strong focus on increasing housing supply and addressing homelessness, including survivors of the wildfires who remain without permanent housing.
- The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services (OHCS) conducted a survey to understand better needs of communities impacted by the wildfires. The OHCS **Wildfire Housing Recovery Community Survey** results, published in January 2021 (<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/01-07-2021-OR-Housing-RSF-SurveyResults.pdf>), highlight the need for near-term recovery actions that prioritize equitable access to resources, temporary and transitional housing, and mental health services. Long-term recovery concerns also include equity and inclusion, the need for a full range of housing, financing for recovery activities, and for "comprehensive *local* planning."

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OHCS Wildfire Housing Recovery Community Survey - *priorities of Linn/Marion County survey respondents.*



Opportunities for Recovery

- Actively seek to partner with the Health Departments of Linn and Marion Counties on community planning and rebuilding work. Explore opportunities for coordination and collaboration that seek to rebuild healthy and resilient communities in Santiam Canyon. Discuss how to maximize funding and policy efforts to meet mutual goals - such as improvements to the transportation system that facilitate greater access to safe walking and bicycling facilities, affordable housing development, and clean drinking water.
- Apply an equity and inclusion lens in all recovery activities. Ensure the needs and concerns of all demographic segments of the impacted communities are included in the development, planning, and implementation of recovery strategies will be key to the overall success of these efforts.
- Establish a platform designed to guarantee the inclusion of recovery priorities that address pre-disaster housing issues faced by individuals and families experiencing homelessness, those of migrant and seasonal workers and their households, those with access/functional needs, as well as seniors and low-income individuals and families in need of more affordable housing options should be considered.

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- The **Housing Impact Assessment Oregon Wildfires and Straight-Line Winds** report, dated April 30, 2021 - [https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/05-03-2021-DR-4562-OR-Assessment \(FINAL 2021-04-30\).pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/05-03-2021-DR-4562-OR-Assessment%20(FINAL%202021-04-30).pdf) - is a resource for understanding better the demographics, need, and equity considerations for the wildfire-impacted areas across the state. Development of the assessment included research and analysis of demographics, housing market data, and relevant economic conditions; a review of the State of Oregon housing, emergency response and recovery plans; and substantial stakeholder engagement. Additionally, stakeholder focus group meetings and telephone interviews with state, county, and local stakeholders involved in recovery efforts were conducted throughout the Assessment development process.
- Key demographic information can be used to apply an equity lens, by identifying specific underserved and/or underrepresented communities to engage in defining needs and recovery strategies (summarized from the **Housing Impact Assessment Oregon Wildfires and Straight-Line Winds** report dated April 30, 2021, [https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/05-03-2021-DR-4562-OR-Assessment \(FINAL 2021-04-30\).pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Documents/committees/ODHTF/05-03-2021-DR-4562-OR-Assessment%20(FINAL%202021-04-30).pdf)):
 - American Indian/Alaska Native: A significant number of American Indian/Alaska Native population resided in the declared counties. The percentage of the demographic group is higher than the state average, with four Oregon Tribes located in or near the declared counties.
 - Seniors (60+): In the wildfire-impacted counties, seniors represent a substantial amount of the population. Seniors represent a broad demographic group, but in general, this group may have specific challenges or barriers with respect to disaster recovery due to their fixed and/or limited income, disabilities, and functional and access needs, as well as sometimes limited knowledge and use of technology.
 - Individuals with Access and Functional Needs: Individuals with disabilities and functional and access needs also face additional challenges and barriers to disaster recovery. All impacted counties, except Clackamas County, have a greater proportion of working-age people (18-64 years) with a disability or other access/functional need, than the statewide average. For seniors, as noted above, the disability rate is even higher.
 - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers: Over 55,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers support the farming industry in the eight disaster impacted counties.
 - Homeless Individuals and Families: Pre-COVID-19 and the wildfires (2019 Point-in-Time Count data), Oregon had one of the highest homelessness rates in the country.

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Recommendations

- HUD's Housing Recovery and Support Function Team, after examining impact data and market information from the Oregon wildfires, identified six key areas for consideration by state and local agencies as they initiate their long-term recovery planning:
 1. Apply an equity and inclusion lens in all recovery activities.
 2. Increase permanent, affordable, and accessible housing options.
 3. Apply a holistic approach to recovery.
 4. Rebuild/Build resilient infrastructure.
 5. Assist communities in visioning and recovery planning.
 6. Expand homeownership and financial literacy opportunities.
- Consider and coordinate efforts to accommodate new housing development and housing affordability (refer also to the CAPP summary on Housing).
- Local governments should consider how the processes for community visioning, updating plans, and building projects can better incorporate the needs of people who have been traditionally underserved or underrepresented, such as: those who have disabilities, lower income families with children, Native Americans / people with Indigenous heritage who lived in the area or have a historic or cultural connection to the Canyon, and young people transitioning from high school into the work force.

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Wildfire Impact Dashboard (produced by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management using ESRI forecasts for 2020, US Census Bureau 2014-2018 American Community Survey data, and Business counts from Infogroup; provided February 2021.)

