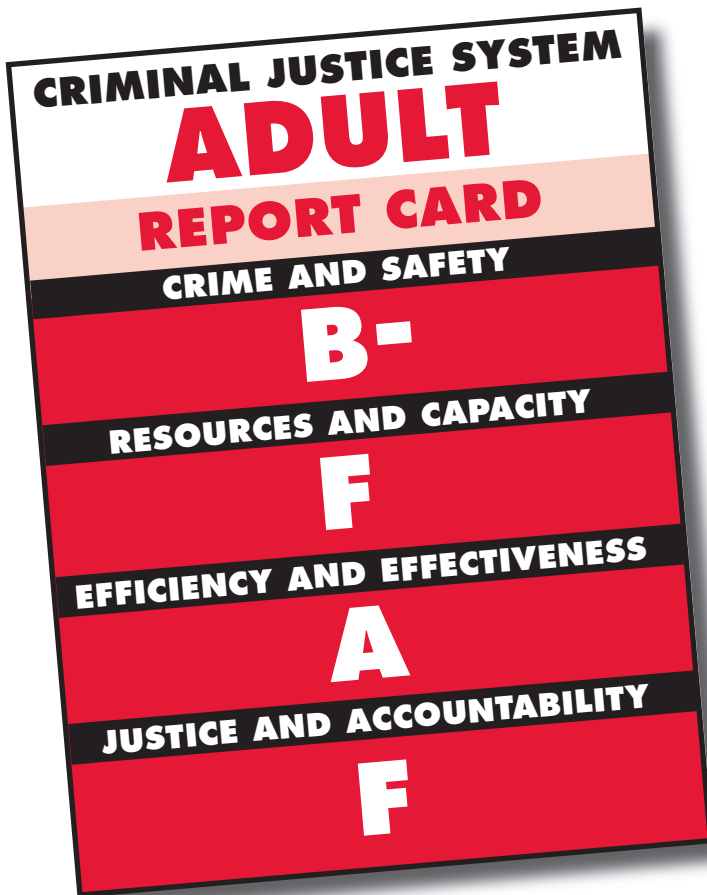




Criminal Justice System in Lane County, Oregon  
SEPTEMBER 2006



## CRIME AND SAFETY

**GRADE B-** **TREND: GETTING BETTER**

- Serious and violent crime have decreased
- Addressing adult felony violent crime continues to be a high priority
- Lane County ranks among the very worst in the U.S. for serious property crime
- High rate of adult drug abuse drives higher rates of property crimes

## RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

**GRADE F** **TREND: GETTING WORSE**

- The system's capacity to address crime has decreased while population has increased
- 96 fewer jail beds are funded
- 1,000-1,500 misdemeanor crimes annually are not being prosecuted
- Caseloads for parole and probation officers continue to climb (100 cases per officer versus a state rate of 75)
- The system is not able to address adequately many types of crime

## EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

**GRADE A** **TREND: GETTING BETTER**

- Lane County's arrest and conviction rates are very high despite fewer law enforcement officers, District Attorneys, and jail beds.
- Law enforcement's rate of arrests to reports of crime are higher than other areas of the U.S.
- The cases being brought to trial are successfully prosecuted in a timely fashion.

## JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**GRADE F** **TREND: STABLE**

- Offenders are often not held accountable; 4,000 adult inmates are released annually from jail due to overcrowding
- Sentence lengths continue to be below U.S. averages
- The system's ability to hold people is fading due to jail bed reductions
- Treatment options are fewer and mental health capabilities have been dismantled.
- Re-offense rates remain above state averages
- The percent of people failing to appear for court is very high

# ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS

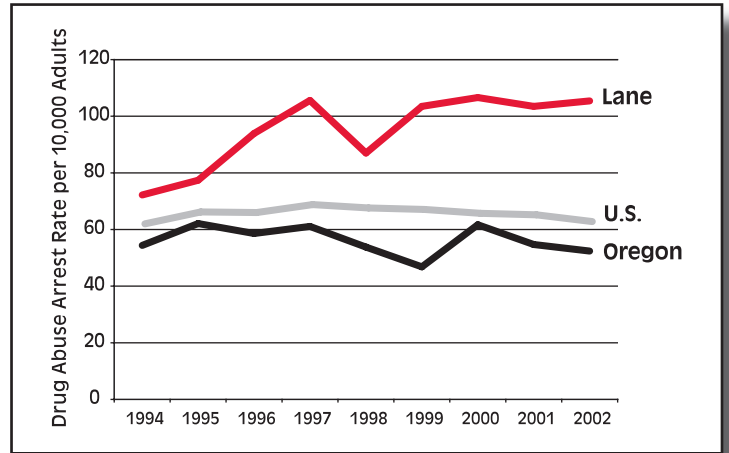
## CRIME AND SAFETY

**GRADE: B-**

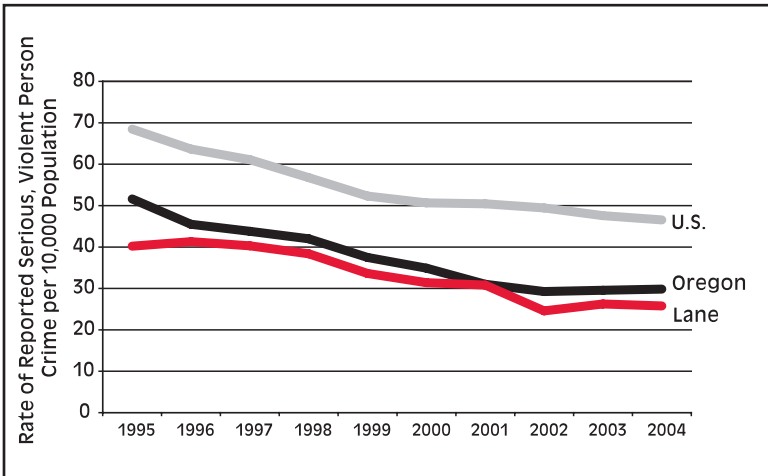
**TREND: Getting Better**

The system is improving in the area of crime and safety with the exception of property crime and pervasive drug abuse. The county's adult drug abuse arrest rate continues to rise and has exceeded both state and U.S. rates since 1994, stabilizing at almost twice the state and U.S. rate.

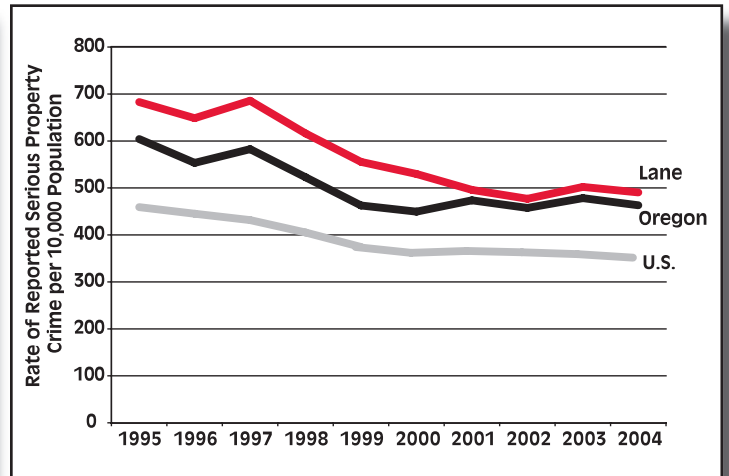
**Drug Abuse Arrest Rate per 10,000 Adults**



**Rate of Reported Serious, Violent Crime per 10,000 Population**

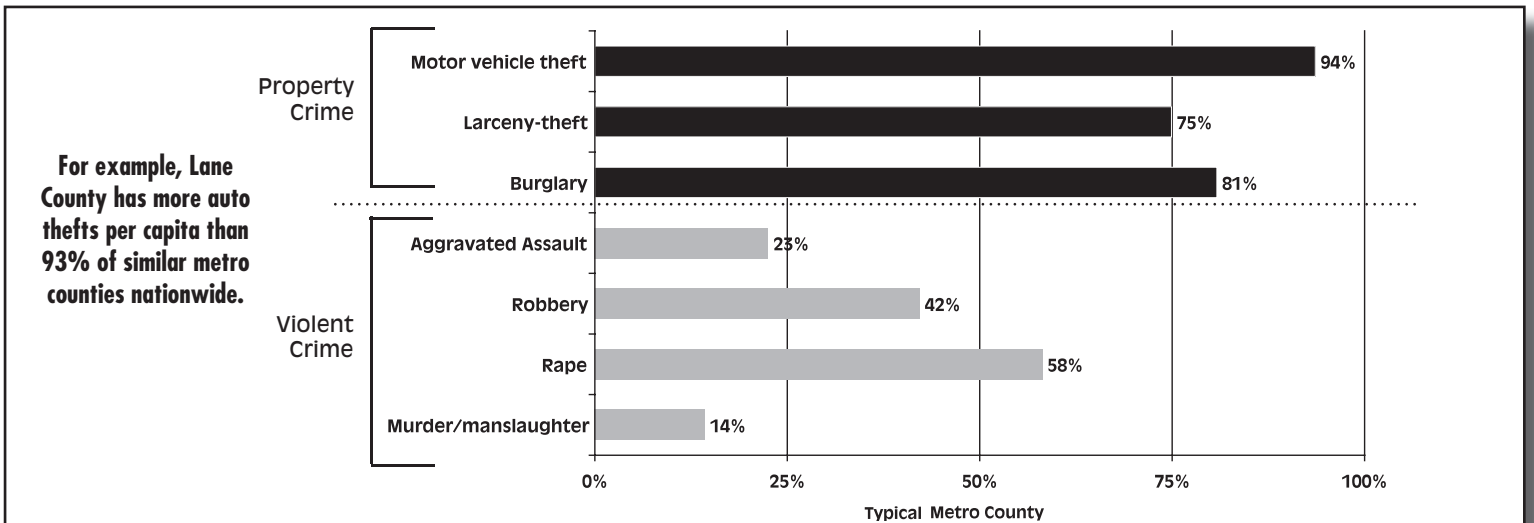


**Rate of Reported Serious Property Crime per 10,000 Population**



**Serious Reported Crime in 2004 per 100,000 Population**

Lane County's Rank Among U.S. Counties of 100,000 to 1 Million Population

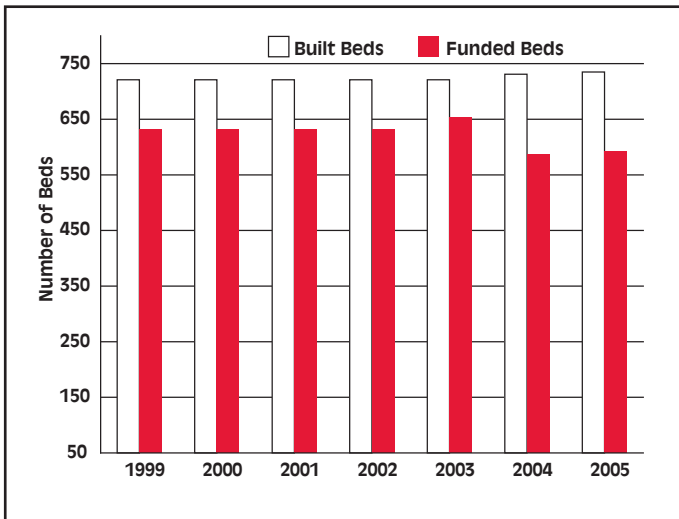


## RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

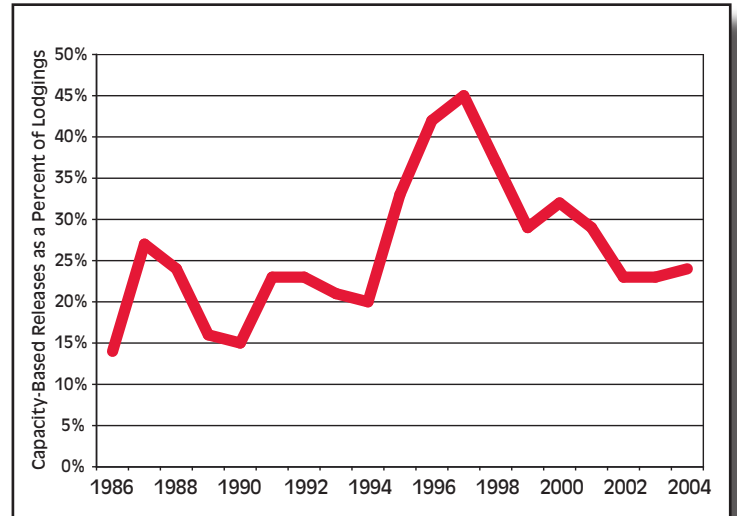
**GRADE: F**      **TREND: Getting Worse**

The criminal justice system in Lane County has too few law enforcement officers and funded jail beds. The District Attorney is prosecuting fewer crimes due to the loss of prosecutors. The number of probation officers is failing to keep pace with the number of offenders on supervision.

### Built vs. Funded Beds

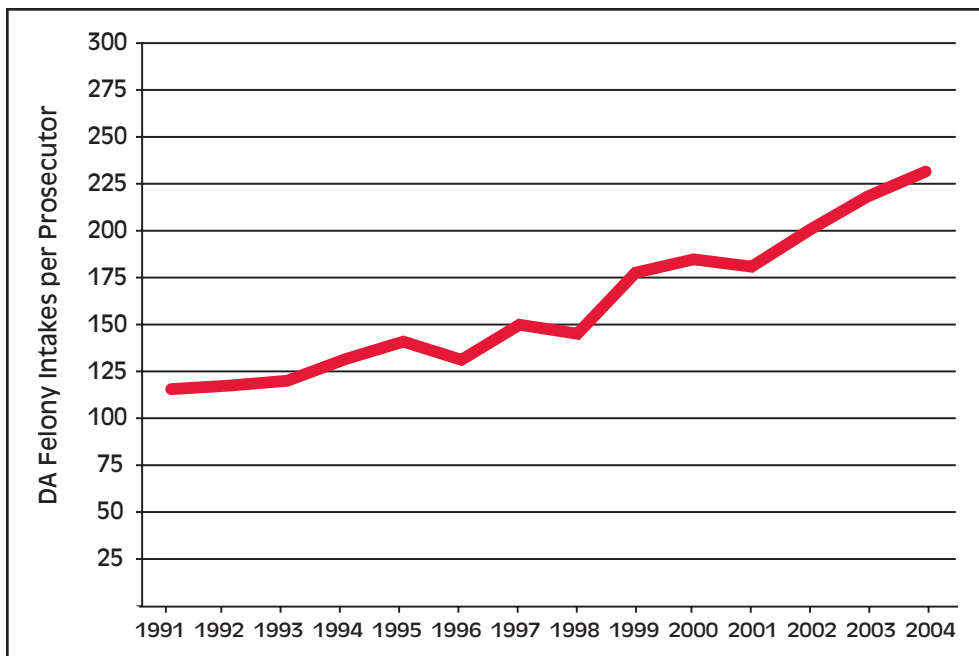


### Releases Triggered By Overcrowding as Percent of Lodgings



"Percent of Lodgings" in the chart above is the number of Jail inmates released as a percent of all inmates housed at that time in the Lane County Jail.

### District Attorney Felony Intakes per Prosecutor



Because of budget reductions, the District Attorney's Office is no longer prosecuting most non-violent misdemeanors. The number of felony intakes is rising, increasing the number of intakes per prosecutor. A 2004 workload study by the American Prosecutor's Research Institute showed the Lane County District Attorney's Office is staffed at 68 percent — 10 attorneys short of what is needed to handle referred cases.

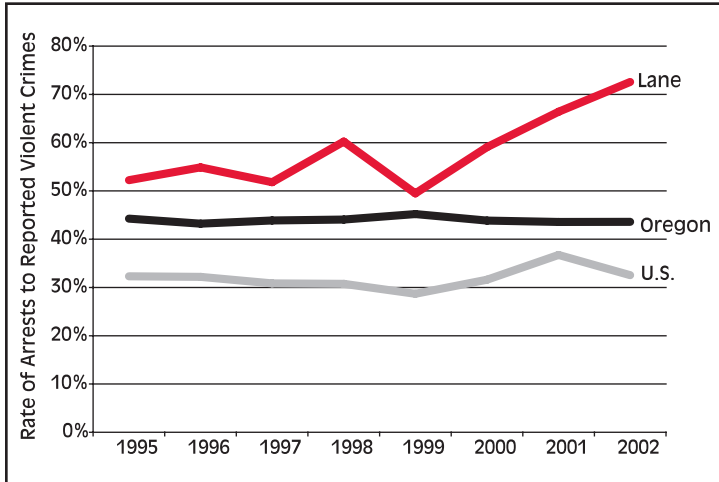
# ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS

## EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

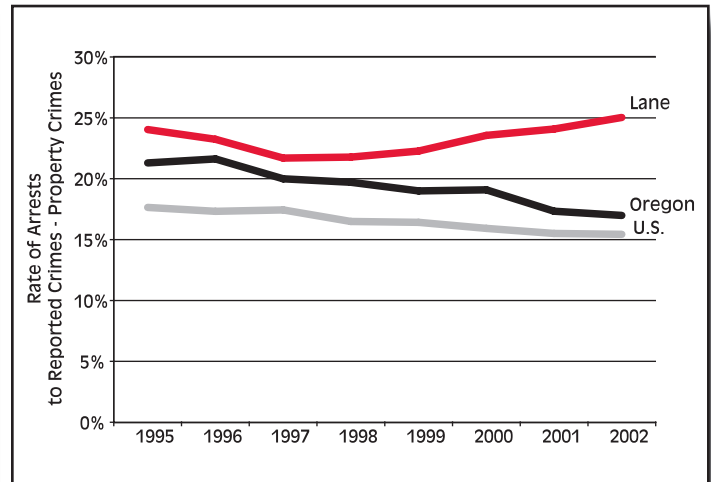
**GRADE: A**      **TREND: Getting Better**

The system is doing a good job with the available resources. Law enforcement's rate of arrests per reported crime is higher than other areas of the U.S. At the same time, the number of law enforcement officers per 1,000 population is lower than the Oregon rate and substantially below the national rate. Lane County no longer has an Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team, SWAT, nor resident deputies in rural communities.

**Rate of Arrests to Reports for VIOLENT Crimes**



**Rate of Arrests to Reports for PROPERTY Crimes**

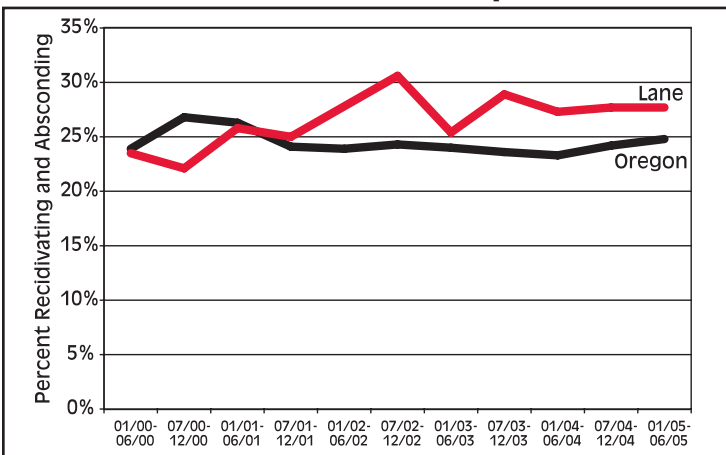


## JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

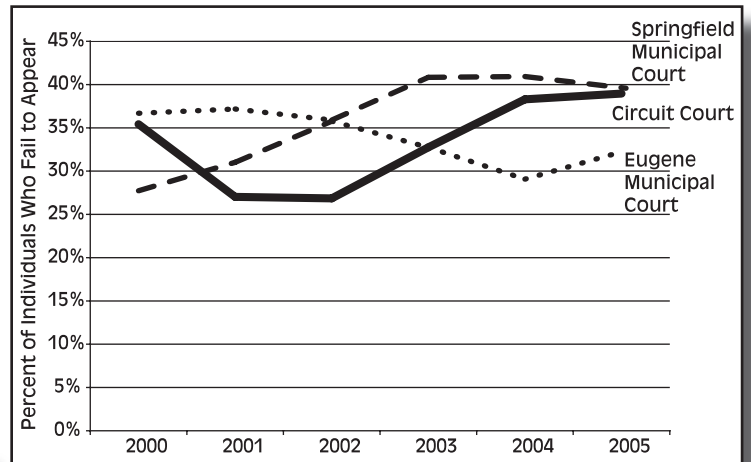
**GRADE: F**      **TREND: Stable**

Limited capacity to incarcerate results in a low average sentence rate for Lane County and Oregon compared to the U.S. For all felony offense types combined, offenders in Lane County spend 1/6<sup>th</sup> to 1/7<sup>th</sup> the U.S. average time in jail. A very high number of offenders fail to appear for court and re-offense rates for offenders on supervision are high.

**3-Year Re-offense Rate for Felony Offenders on Probation Supervision**



**Percent of Individuals Who Fail to Appear for Court**

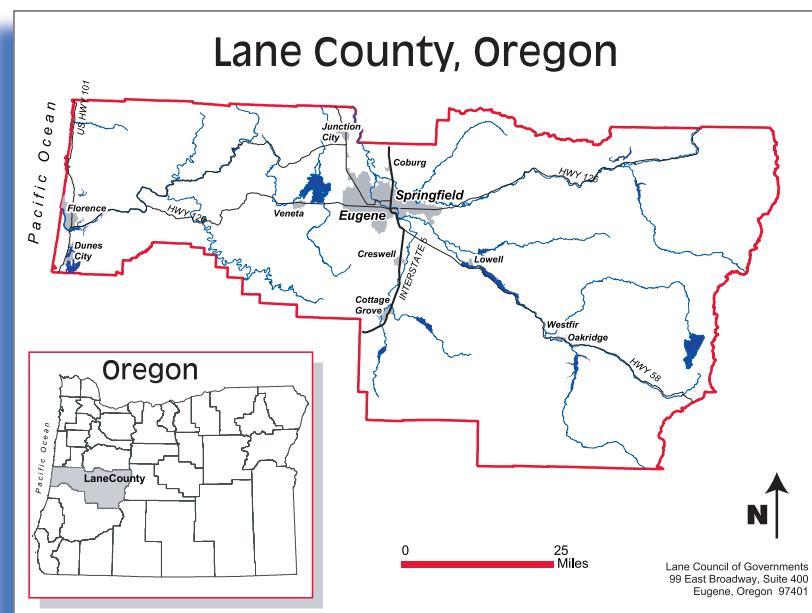


**Average Jail Sentence in Months for All Felonies**

	1998	2000	2002
<b>Lane</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

This Report Card was prepared by the **Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC)** to inform the citizens on the status of their public safety system. Local public safety coordinating councils are charged by the Oregon Legislature with developing county-wide comprehensive plans for the safety and justice system, including use of local and state resources. The PSCC Public Information Task Force, staffed by Lane Council of Governments, prepared this Report Card. The Task Force determined measures and collected longitudinal and baseline data for comparison. The Report Card will be periodically updated so the community can track system progress.

The local **criminal justice system** in Lane County includes: nine law enforcement agencies; four primary public safety answering points (9-1-1 and dispatch centers); the county jail in Eugene; three small city jails; district attorney; public defender; probation and post-prison supervision; State Circuit Court and Eugene and Springfield municipal courts; treatment; juvenile services; juvenile court; shelter; juvenile educational and treatment services; and services to help offenders transition back into the community.



## Grading System for the Report Card

The report card grades were calculated using an unbiased, consistent mathematical formula based solely on the data. Each category and the indicators included in each category were assigned grades. Grades were determined by comparing Lane County's trend and its current rate over the last seven years of available data to the trend and current rate of other geographic areas with comparable data.

- A** Trend and current rate substantially better than comparison geographic areas
- B** Trend and current rate better than comparison geographic areas
- C** Trend and current rate roughly equal to comparison geographic areas
- D** Trend and current rate worse than comparison geographic areas
- F** Trend and current rates substantially worse than comparison geographic areas

A plus (+) is added to the grade if the trend and current rate have improved over the last three years of available data compared to the last seven years. A minus (-) is added to the grade if the trend and current rate have worsened over the last three years of available data compared to the last seven years. Grades of "F" are not eligible for either a plus or a minus. The trend for each category is also noted as Getting Better, Getting Worse, or Stable.

For more information on the Report Card,  
please contact Lane Council of Governments  
at (541) 682-4283 or visit [www.lcog.org](http://www.lcog.org).

**Lane County** has a population of 336,085 people living in a geographic area of 4,618 square miles — roughly the size of the state of Connecticut. The county stretches from the summit of the 10,000 foot Cascade Mountains, through the tree-covered Willamette Valley prairie and wetlands, over the 6,000 foot Coast Range to the Pacific Ocean. Lane is an urban/rural county with more than half the residents (60%) living in Eugene and Springfield, the second largest urban area in the state. Approximately 10% live in small cities and the remaining 30% live in unincorporated areas scattered around the county. A total of 1,433 miles of county roads, 918 miles of city roads, and 484 miles of state maintained roads wind along rivers, lakes, and the two mountain ranges connecting widely separated small cities and the urban core.