

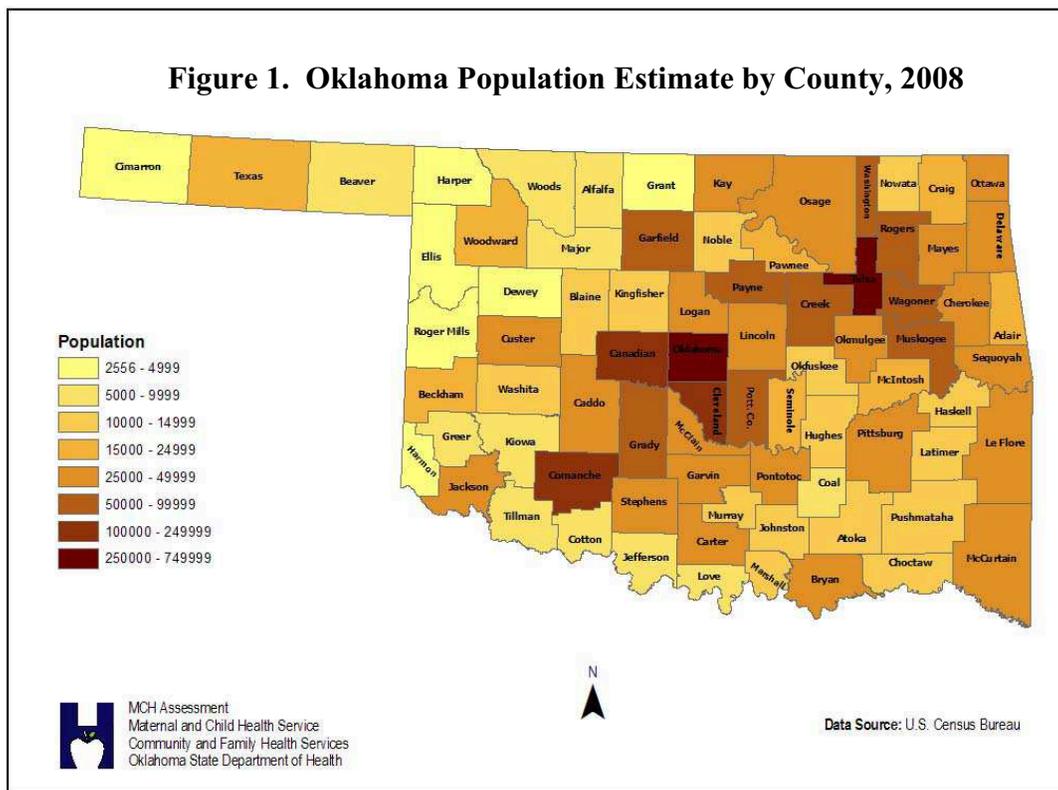
### III. Strengths and Needs of the Maternal and Child Health Population Groups and Desired Outcomes

To provide a background from which to better understand the health status of Oklahoma's MCH population, general population characteristics are provided.

#### Oklahoma Demographics

- **Population**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma's population was estimated to be 3,642,361 in 2008, yielding a population density of 50.3 persons per square mile. Oklahoma is predominately a rural state; however, nearly two-thirds (61.3%) of the people live in the three metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of Oklahoma City, Lawton, and Tulsa (Figure 1). These three MSAs capture 15 of the state's 77 counties.



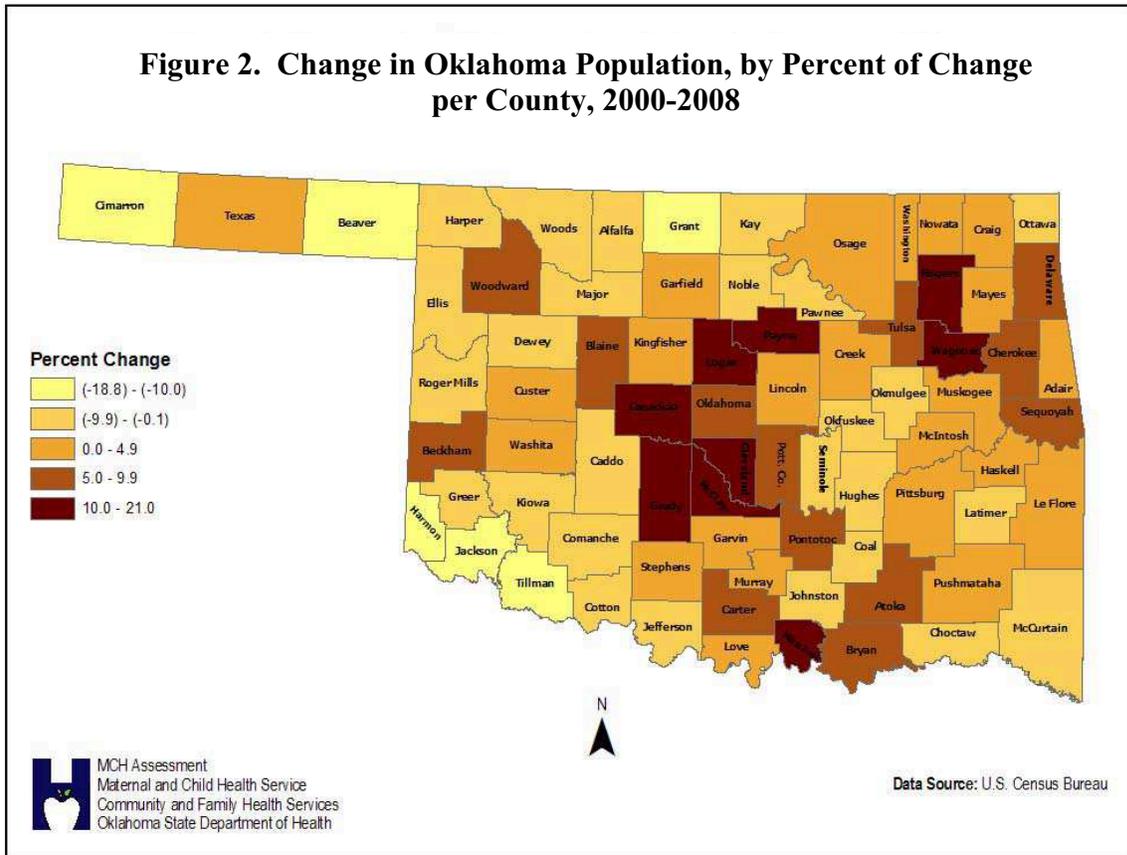
Although the population grew by nearly 200,000 from 2000-2008, the 5.6% growth rate was 30% less than that of the nation as a whole (Table 1). Of the adjoining states, only Kansas (4.2%) grew at a slower rate than Oklahoma. While Oklahoma City and Tulsa MSAs captured the vast majority of the state's growth, Canadian County, a mostly suburban area, experienced the highest growth rate at 21%. Thirty-two counties experienced a loss in population since 2000.

	Population Estimates				U.S. Census	Percent Change	Percent Change
	July 2008	July 2007	July 2006	July 2005	April 2000	2000-2008	Rank
Oklahoma	3,642,361	3,608,123	3,568,132	3,530,087	3,450,654	5.56	-
ADAIR	21,811	21,852	21,828	21,631	21,038	3.67	24
ALFALFA	5,637	5,623	5,625	5,660	6,105	-7.67	69
ATOKA	14,655	14,479	14,320	14,297	13,879	5.59	18
BEAVER	5,248	5,333	5,304	5,402	5,857	-10.40	72
BECKHAM	21,136	20,793	19,311	18,625	19,799	6.75	15
BLAINE	12,659	12,596	12,465	12,736	11,976	5.70	17
BRYAN	40,109	39,298	38,780	37,647	36,534	9.79	10
CADDO	29,024	29,112	29,579	29,668	30,150	-3.73	57
CANADIAN	106,079	103,331	99,956	97,069	87,697	20.96	1
CARTER	47,979	47,484	47,046	46,642	45,621	5.17	21
CHEROKEE	45,733	45,088	44,982	44,415	42,521	7.55	12
CHOCTAW	14,890	14,991	15,089	15,089	15,342	-2.95	56
CIMARRON	2,556	2,630	2,660	2,689	3,148	-18.81	77
CLEVELAND	239,760	235,241	231,848	225,552	208,016	15.26	5
COAL	5,721	5,698	5,606	5,686	6,031	-5.14	61
COMANCHE	111,772	113,931	112,256	111,860	114,996	-2.80	55
COTTON	6,191	6,277	6,343	6,431	6,614	-6.40	65
CRAIG	15,132	15,149	15,012	15,001	14,950	1.22	38
CREEK	69,822	68,940	68,206	68,092	67,367	3.64	26
CUSTER	26,412	26,020	25,805	25,517	26,142	1.03	39
DELAWARE	40,425	40,329	39,692	38,968	37,077	9.03	11
DEWEY	4,389	4,330	4,357	4,402	4,743	-7.46	67
ELLIS	3,971	3,893	3,803	3,872	4,075	-2.55	53
GARFIELD	58,167	57,504	57,199	56,961	57,813	0.61	42
GARVIN	27,247	27,102	26,960	26,874	27,210	0.14	45
GRADY	51,066	50,446	50,037	48,967	45,516	12.19	9
GRANT	4,450	4,485	4,520	4,663	5,144	-13.49	75
GREER	5,713	5,694	5,750	5,802	6,061	-5.74	64
HARMON	2,843	2,831	2,901	2,937	3,283	-13.40	74
HARPER	3,290	3,240	3,286	3,263	3,562	-7.64	68
HASKELL	12,152	12,041	12,027	11,958	11,792	3.05	28
HUGHES	13,625	13,576	13,635	13,722	14,154	-3.74	58
JACKSON	25,236	25,686	26,194	26,443	28,439	-11.26	73
JEFFERSON	6,219	6,246	6,318	6,376	6,818	-8.79	71
JOHNSTON	10,286	10,402	10,367	10,215	10,513	-2.16	51
KAY	45,632	45,711	45,616	46,042	48,080	-5.09	60

	Population Estimates				U.S. Census	Percent Change	Percent Change
	July 2008	July 2007	July 2006	July 2005	April 2000	2000-2008	Rank
Oklahoma	3,642,361	3,608,123	3,568,132	3,530,087	3,450,654	5.56	-
KINGFISHER	14,300	14,304	14,093	14,067	13,926	2.69	30
KIOWA	9,399	9,428	9,590	9,777	10,227	-8.10	70
LATIMER	10,561	10,427	10,466	10,472	10,692	-1.23	48
LE FLORE	49,802	49,510	49,120	48,806	48,109	3.52	27
LINCOLN	32,153	32,211	32,240	32,006	32,080	0.23	44
LOGAN	38,102	37,123	35,763	35,406	33,924	12.32	8
LOVE	9,155	9,096	9,068	9,034	8,831	3.67	25
MCCLAIN	32,365	31,779	30,771	29,892	27,740	16.67	4
MCCURTAIN	33,532	33,409	33,446	33,460	34,402	-2.53	52
MCINTOSH	19,698	19,650	19,450	19,396	19,456	1.24	37
MAJOR	7,112	7,167	7,173	7,177	7,545	-5.74	63
MARSHALL	14,919	14,766	14,528	14,336	13,184	13.16	7
MAYES	39,912	39,588	39,269	39,024	38,369	4.02	23
MURRAY	12,784	12,661	12,720	12,580	12,623	1.28	36
MUSKOGEE	71,278	71,012	70,611	70,211	69,451	2.63	32
NOBLE	11,169	11,100	11,074	11,119	11,411	-2.12	50
NOWATA	10,729	10,688	10,623	10,627	10,569	1.51	35
OKFUSKEE	11,172	11,197	11,212	11,274	11,814	-5.43	62
OKLAHOMA	706,617	699,027	692,677	685,595	660,448	6.99	14
OKMULGEE	39,219	39,344	39,119	39,332	39,685	-1.17	47
OSAGE	45,489	45,433	45,047	44,940	44,437	2.37	33
OTTAWA	31,849	32,325	32,797	32,480	33,194	-4.05	59
PAWNEE	16,307	16,421	16,427	16,473	16,612	-1.84	49
PAYNE	78,280	77,724	77,281	75,042	68,190	14.80	6
PITTSBURG	45,115	44,636	44,328	43,940	43,953	2.64	31
PONTOTOC	36,999	36,512	35,762	35,461	35,143	5.28	20
POTTAWATOMIE	69,616	69,226	68,163	67,723	65,521	6.25	16
PUSHMATAHA	11,710	11,640	11,495	11,474	11,667	0.37	43
ROGER MILLS	3,404	3,296	3,255	3,260	3,436	-0.93	46
ROGERS	84,300	82,931	81,212	79,614	70,641	19.34	3
SEMINOLE	24,200	24,103	24,135	24,127	24,894	-2.79	54
SEQUOYAH	41,034	40,926	40,686	40,242	38,972	5.29	19
STEPHENS	43,498	43,255	42,764	42,560	43,182	0.73	41
TEXAS	20,283	19,890	19,850	19,829	20,107	0.88	40
TILLMAN	7,899	8,117	8,249	8,347	9,287	-14.95	76
TULSA	591,982	584,141	576,166	569,407	563,299	5.09	22
WAGONER	68,960	67,135	65,008	63,141	57,491	19.95	2
WASHINGTON	50,452	49,770	48,899	48,598	48,996	2.97	29
WASHITA	11,709	11,651	11,450	11,257	11,508	1.75	34
WOODS	8,422	8,448	8,383	8,543	9,089	-7.34	66
WOODWARD	19,838	19,674	19,079	18,864	18,486	7.31	13

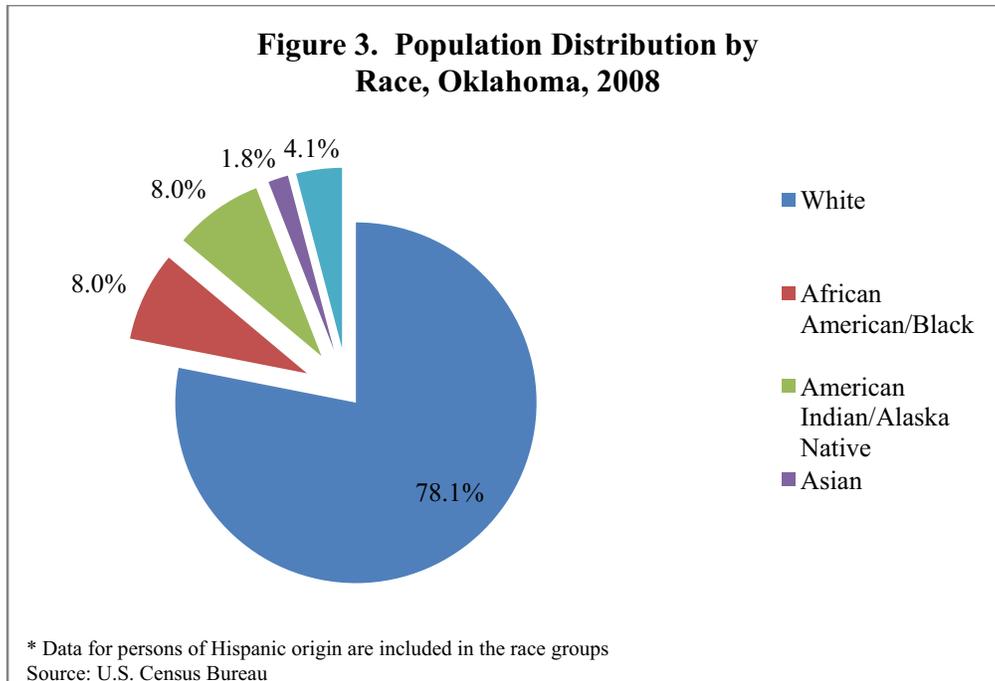
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Other counties in the central region of the state had net growth, but the numerical population change for those counties was not large (Figure 2). Eighteen counties have populations below 10,000, and seven of those are below 5,000 in total population. Only five counties outside of the three metro areas have populations exceeding 50,000.

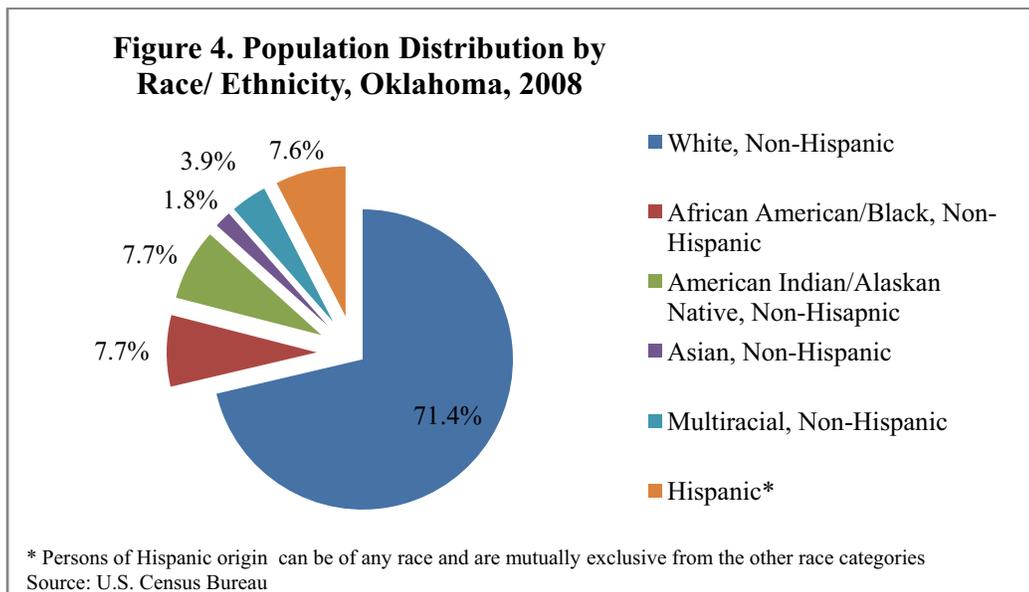


- **Race and Ethnicity**

Unlike previous decennial census estimates where individuals had to select a primary race, the 2000 Census gave individuals the option to select more than one race. Slightly more than three-fourths (78.1%) of the population was identified as white only for the 2008 annual census population estimate (Figure 3). Using the one race only classification, the two largest minority groups in the state are American Indian/Alaska Native and African American/Black, both at 8.0%. Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise 1.8% of the population while those with two or more races selected comprise 4.1% of the population.

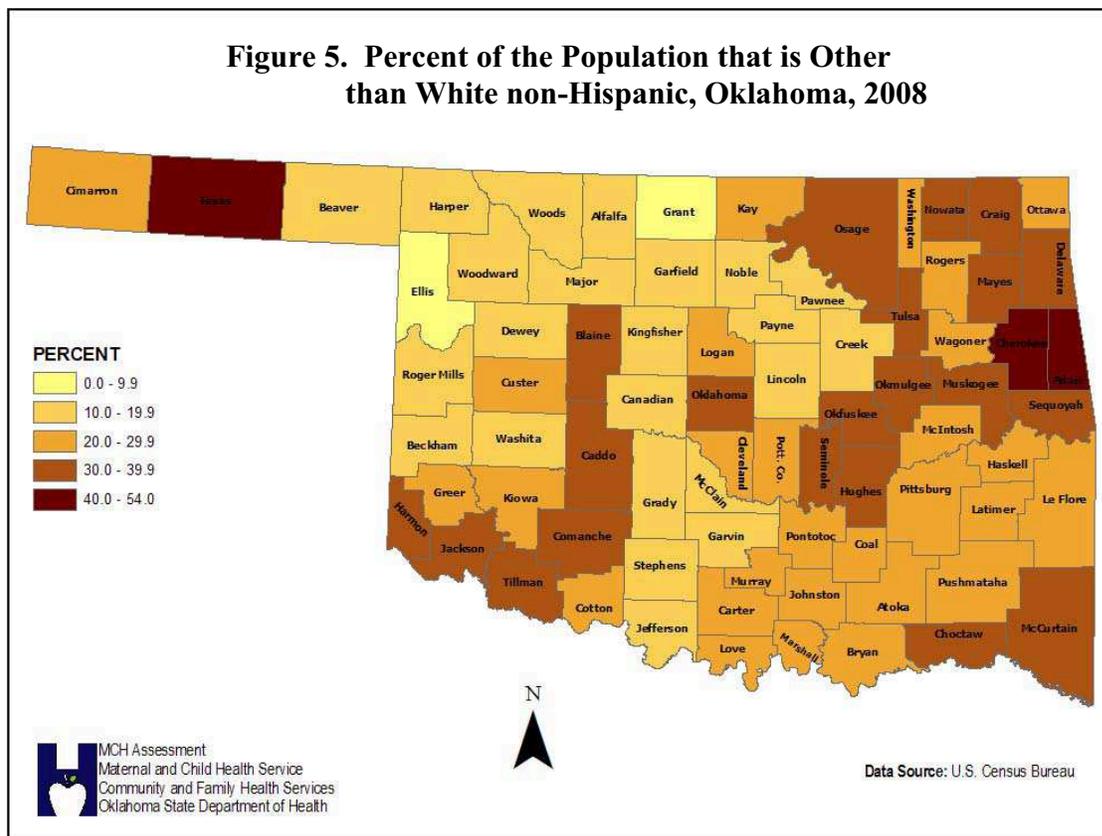


The vast majority of persons of Hispanic origin are of the white race classification; however, due to the differences among racial and ethnic groups in culture, access to health care, and other important health indicators, persons of Hispanic origin are often presented as a separate and mutually exclusive racial/ethnic group. Using this classification, non-Hispanic whites make up less than three-fourths of the population at 71.4%, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native and African American/Black at 7.7% each (Figure 4). The growth of the Hispanic population in Oklahoma over the past ten years has been significant as Hispanics (of any race) were the third largest minority population in the state at 7.6% and, at their current growth rate, will be the second largest minority population in a matter of years.



Assessing trends among other minority populations is more difficult due to the multi-race coding implemented in 2000. For example, when comparing race alone or in combination, 11.2% of the population selected American Indian/Alaska Native in the 2008 population estimates, making American Indian/Alaska Native the largest minority group in Oklahoma (data not shown). This percentage is much more consistent with the two previous national decennial census reports, than the 7.7%, because the majority of individuals reporting two or more races selected American Indian/Alaska Native in addition to another race.

Like many other states in the union the percent of the population that is non-white (including Hispanics) is increasing. The presence of culturally diverse populations impacts many public health issues such as access to health care, the quality of care received, eligibility for public programs, and the need for culturally appropriate products and services. Only two Oklahoma counties, Ellis and Grant, have less than 10% of their population comprised of non-whites. Fifty-one counties in Oklahoma have between 10% and 29.9% of their population comprised of non-whites. The remaining 24 counties have more than 30% of their population comprised of non-whites with three of those counties, Texas, Cherokee, and Adair with non-white populations of 45.7%, 46.1%, and 53.6%, respectively (Figure 5).



- **Age**

There were a total of 1,275,951 children ages 0-24 in 2008 representing 35% of the state's population (Table 2). The number of females of reproductive age (ages 15-44) was 722,027 representing 19.8% of the overall population and 39.2% of the state's female population. Payne

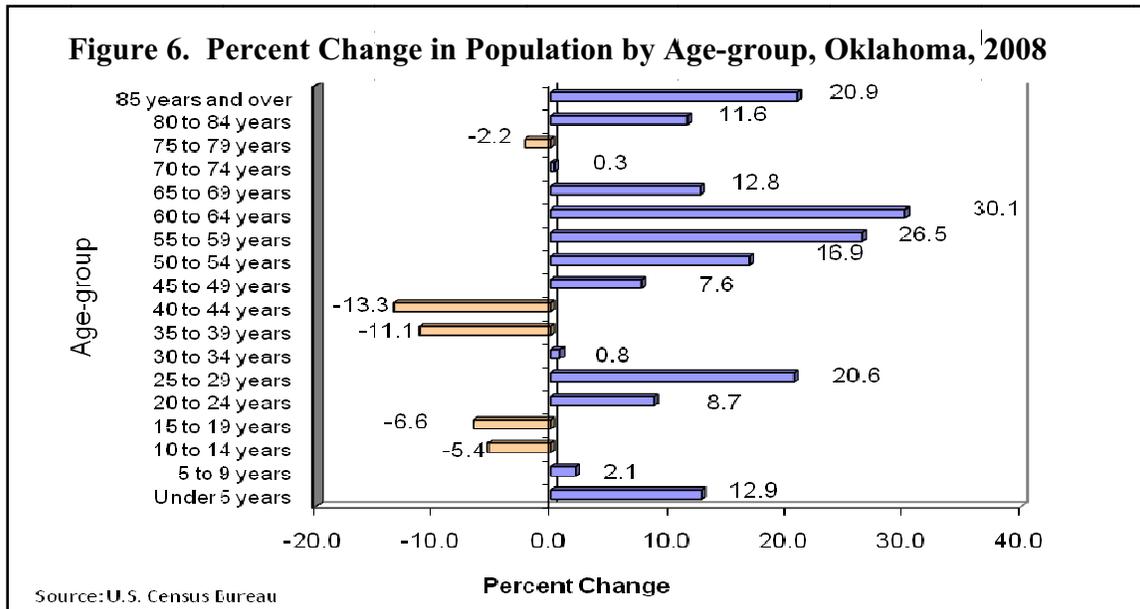
County, which has the largest proportion of children, also has the largest proportion of females of reproductive age at 43.1% and 24.3%, respectively. Conversely, Alfalfa County has the smallest proportion of children and smallest proportion of females of childbearing age at 24.5% and 13.1%, respectively. While neither county lies within any of the three MSA's in Oklahoma, Payne County has a population of nearly 80,000 and houses a major university in Stillwater. Children ages 0-24 make up at least one-third of the population in thirty-eight counties in Oklahoma.

	Total Population	Children 5 and Under	Children Ages 5-13	Children Ages 14-17	Children Ages 18-24	Females Age 15-44
Oklahoma	3,642,361	266,547	438,926	200,562	369,916	722,027
ADAIR	21,811	1,867	2,983	1,497	1,980	4,415
ALFALFA	5,637	243	426	218	494	739
ATOKA	14,655	852	1,583	771	1,314	2,535
BEAVER	5,248	355	584	355	420	890
BECKHAM	21,136	1,691	2,480	1,094	2,080	3,822
BLAINE	12,659	784	1,146	626	1,449	1,745
BRYAN	40,109	2,831	4,756	2,196	4,553	8,219
CADDO	29,024	2,003	3,560	2,003	2,807	5,457
CANADIAN	106,079	7,602	12,992	6,144	10,486	21,743
CARTER	47,979	3,434	5,897	2,738	3,722	9,079
CHEROKEE	45,733	3,159	5,466	2,530	6,842	10,076
CHOCTAW	14,890	1,093	1,770	818	1,288	2,784
CIMARRON	2,556	132	272	146	239	406
CLEVELAND	239,760	14,741	26,554	12,259	35,202	54,697
COAL	5,721	352	692	364	500	1,059
COMANCHE	111,772	9,279	15,112	6,878	14,732	21,559
COTTON	6,191	370	756	408	494	1,162
CRAIG	15,132	918	1,628	773	1,246	2,652
CREEK	69,822	4,488	8,209	4,162	5,965	13,243
CUSTER	26,412	1,995	2,820	1,241	4,502	5,733
DELAWARE	40,425	2,351	4,470	2,241	3,152	7,329
DEWEY	4,389	294	438	214	370	682
ELLIS	3,971	273	390	179	266	558
GARFIELD	58,167	4,661	6,959	3,115	4,626	10,691
GARVIN	27,247	1,860	3,201	1,423	2,091	5,042
GRADY	51,066	3,461	6,270	2,855	4,997	10,621
GRANT	4,450	210	417	277	392	731
GREER	5,713	324	513	241	639	838
HARMON	2,843	194	294	183	255	474
HARPER	3,290	241	321	157	278	505
HASKELL	12,152	845	1,506	711	1,006	2,288
HUGHES	13,625	864	1,460	731	1,189	2,206
JACKSON	25,236	2,078	3,578	1,646	2,509	4,891

<b>Table 2. (Cont'd) Population of Children and Females of Childbearing Age, Oklahoma, 2008</b>						
	Total Population	Children 5 and Under	Children Ages 5-13	Children Ages 14-17	Children Ages 18-24	Females Age 15-44
Oklahoma	3,642,361	266,547	438,926	200,562	369,916	722,027
JEFFERSON	6,219	416	678	356	486	1,074
JOHNSTON	10,286	766	1,162	590	1,062	1,922
KAY	45,632	3,391	5,538	2,692	4,044	8,045
KINGFISHER	14,300	1,003	1,646	825	1,254	2,646
KIOWA	9,399	548	989	509	810	1,481
LATIMER	10,561	579	1,223	637	1,316	2,236
LE FLORE	49,802	3,675	6,084	2,817	4,361	9,391
LINCOLN	32,153	2,032	3,705	2,034	2,699	6,050
LOGAN	38,102	2,444	4,311	2,166	4,952	8,157
LOVE	9,155	612	1,021	537	752	1,607
MCCLAIN	32,365	2,273	3,957	1,715	3,087	6,367
MCCURTAIN	33,532	2,382	4,231	2,060	2,845	6,531
MCINTOSH	19,698	1,113	2,095	981	1,590	3,513
MAJOR	7,112	443	713	373	581	1,210
MARSHALL	14,919	1,083	1,719	796	1,178	2,694
MAYES	39,912	2,770	4,773	2,345	3,242	7,574
MURRAY	12,784	832	1,454	647	1,011	2,412
MUSKOGEE	71,278	5,050	8,445	3,841	6,257	13,689
NOBLE	11,169	705	1,268	627	910	1,944
NOWATA	10,729	633	1,239	633	911	1,968
OKFUSKEE	11,172	696	1,176	571	975	1,897
OKLAHOMA	706,617	59,672	89,634	36,943	65,655	142,188
OKMULGEE	39,219	2,696	4,654	2,268	3,903	7,467
OSAGE	45,489	2,371	4,988	2,677	4,155	8,477
OTTAWA	31,849	2,150	3,642	1,895	3,024	5,947
PAWNEE	16,307	1,016	1,804	1,003	1,386	2,967
PAYNE	78,280	4,537	7,198	3,083	18,913	19,035
PITTSBURG	45,115	2,815	4,706	2,376	3,926	7,762
PONTOTOC	36,999	2,641	4,237	1,961	4,580	7,628
POTTAWATOMIE	69,616	4,673	8,247	3,920	7,666	14,788
PUSHMATAHA	11,710	746	1,279	653	1,034	2,181
ROGER MILLS	3,404	262	369	159	294	521
ROGERS	84,300	5,193	10,528	5,126	7,668	17,556
SEMINOLE	24,200	1,754	2,899	1,343	2,253	4,557
SEQUOYAH	41,034	2,773	5,156	2,428	3,385	7,970
STEPHENS	43,498	2,898	5,021	2,287	3,677	7,758
TEXAS	20,283	1,923	2,914	1,171	2,248	3,975
TILLMAN	7,899	530	877	548	629	1,309
TULSA	591,982	48,035	75,303	32,723	53,773	117,583
WAGONER	68,960	4,589	8,872	4,189	6,394	14,546
WASHINGTON	50,452	3,180	5,403	2,841	4,475	9,266
WASHITA	11,709	868	1,284	630	1,057	2,139
WOODS	8,422	451	718	379	1,526	1,608
WOODWARD	19,838	1,483	2,263	1,013	1,887	3,520

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

While persons 0-44 years of age make up more than three-fifths (61.3%) of the state’s population, those 45 years and older saw the greatest percent increase from 2000 to 2008, with the greatest increase observed among 60-64 year olds at 30.1%, 55-59 year olds at 26.5%, and 85 years and older at 20.9% (Figure 6). There was also substantial growth for the under five age-group at 12.9% and the 25-29 year age-group at 20.6%.



- **Economy**

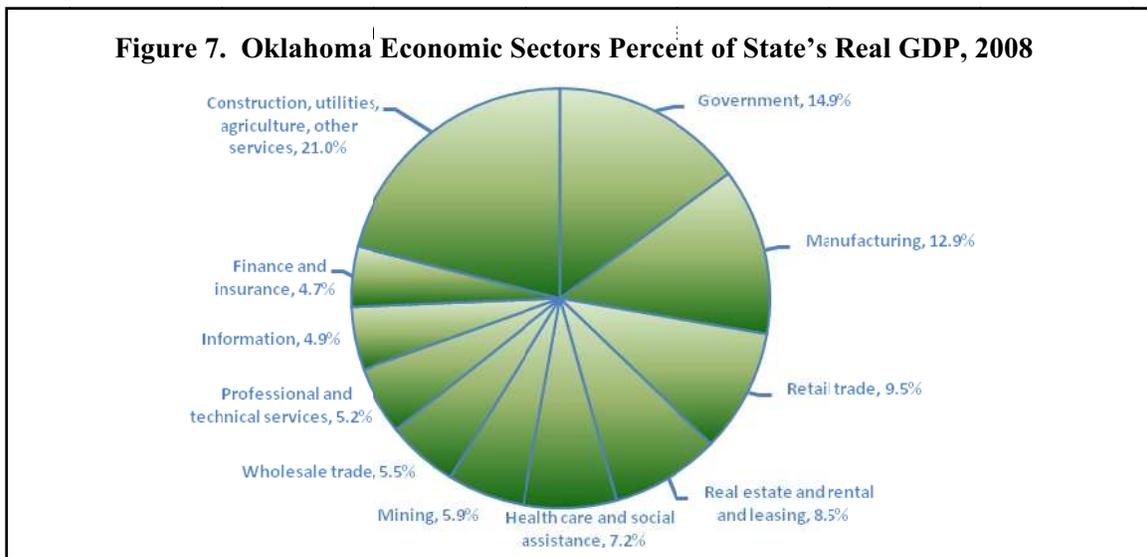
Oklahoma supports a diverse and growing economy, with a Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of over \$106 billion in inflation adjusted dollars in 2008, an increase of 2.7% from 2007 (Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008). Nearly 15% of the State’s economy is claimed by the government sector, followed by manufacturing (12.9%), retail trade (9.5%), real estate (8.5%), health care (7.2%), and mining (5.9%), according to the Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008 (Figure 7). The agriculture, mining, and manufacturing sectors have remained the backbone of Oklahoma’s economy, consistently making up 20-21% of the State GDP during 1998-2008. Meanwhile, the construction and retail sectors have waned relative to other economic sectors, declining from 4.1% and 9.4% in 1998 to 2.9% and 8.6% in 2008, respectively. In addition, the sector employing federal, state, and local government workers has seen a reduction from 16.9% in 1998 to 15.1% in 2008. Contrast this with the booming retail trade, health care, and professional, scientific, and information technology sectors, which have increased their slice of Oklahoma’s economic pie by 23%, 11%, and 41%, respectively, over the past eleven years (Figures 8a and 8b). Gaming (lotteries and casinos) has become a major contributor to the state's economy; Oklahoma is now the second largest state for gaming revenue from American Indian gaming facilities behind California. Oklahoma was one of two states nationwide that made the largest contribution to American Indian gaming growth, and is considered a large revenue-generating state that continues to grow (Gaming News, 2009).

The state and federal government, public universities, aircraft, and retail sectors are all major employers in Oklahoma. The top six employers in Oklahoma in 2008 were the State of

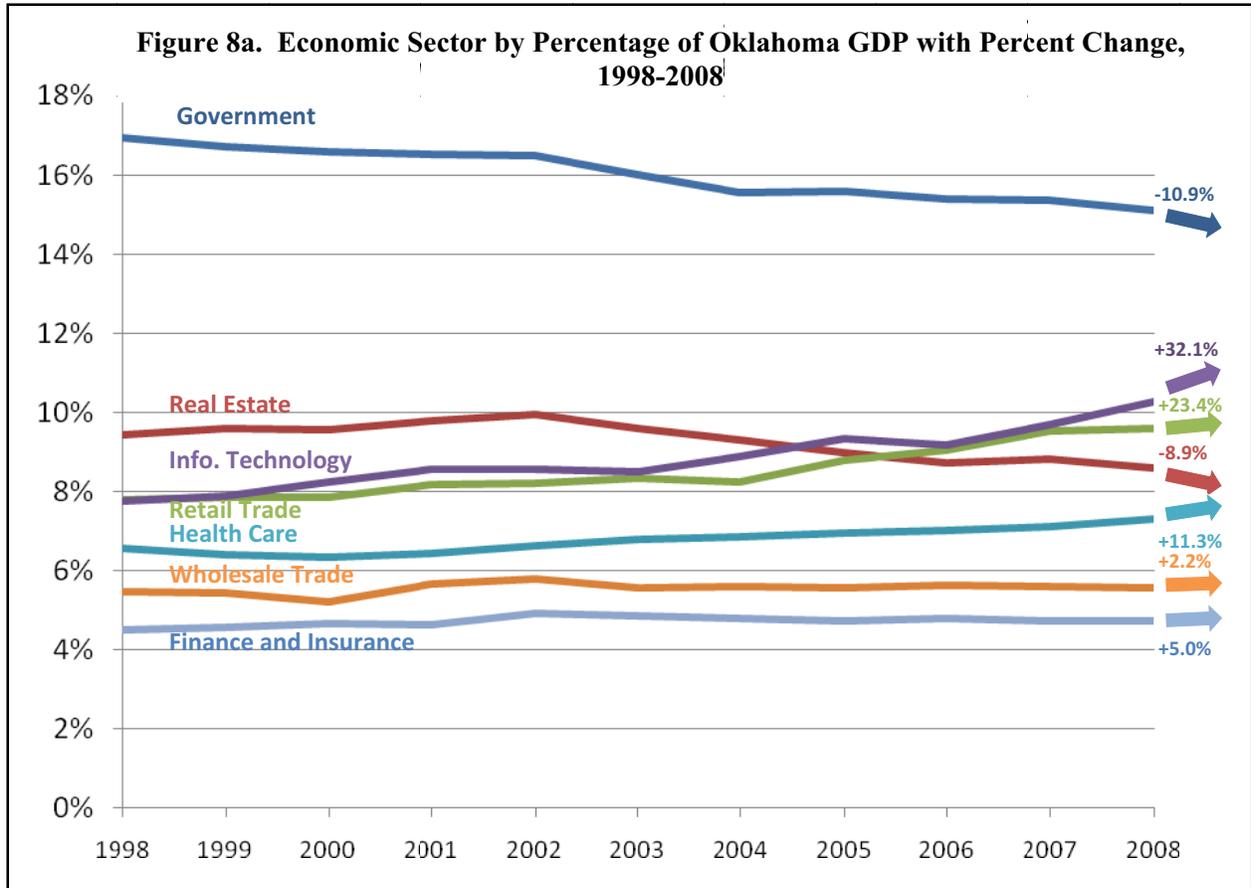
Oklahoma (36,000-37,000); Wal-Mart and Sam's Club (29,000-33,000); Tinker Air Force Base, the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center at Fort Sill (47,400-48,400); the U.S. Postal Service (16,500); University of Oklahoma in Norman and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater (24,000-25,000); and American Airlines and American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Center in Tulsa (7,000-7,500).

Nearly all of the Fortune 500 companies form an integral part of Oklahoma's economy. Exxon Mobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Halliburton Energy Services have maintained a steady presence in the State, collectively employing nearly 6,000 Oklahoma residents, a testament to Oklahoma's vast oil and natural gas deposits. IBM employs some 1,200-1,400 Oklahomans in its Tulsa offices, while Sprint-Nextel employs nearly 1,000 people in Oklahoma City.

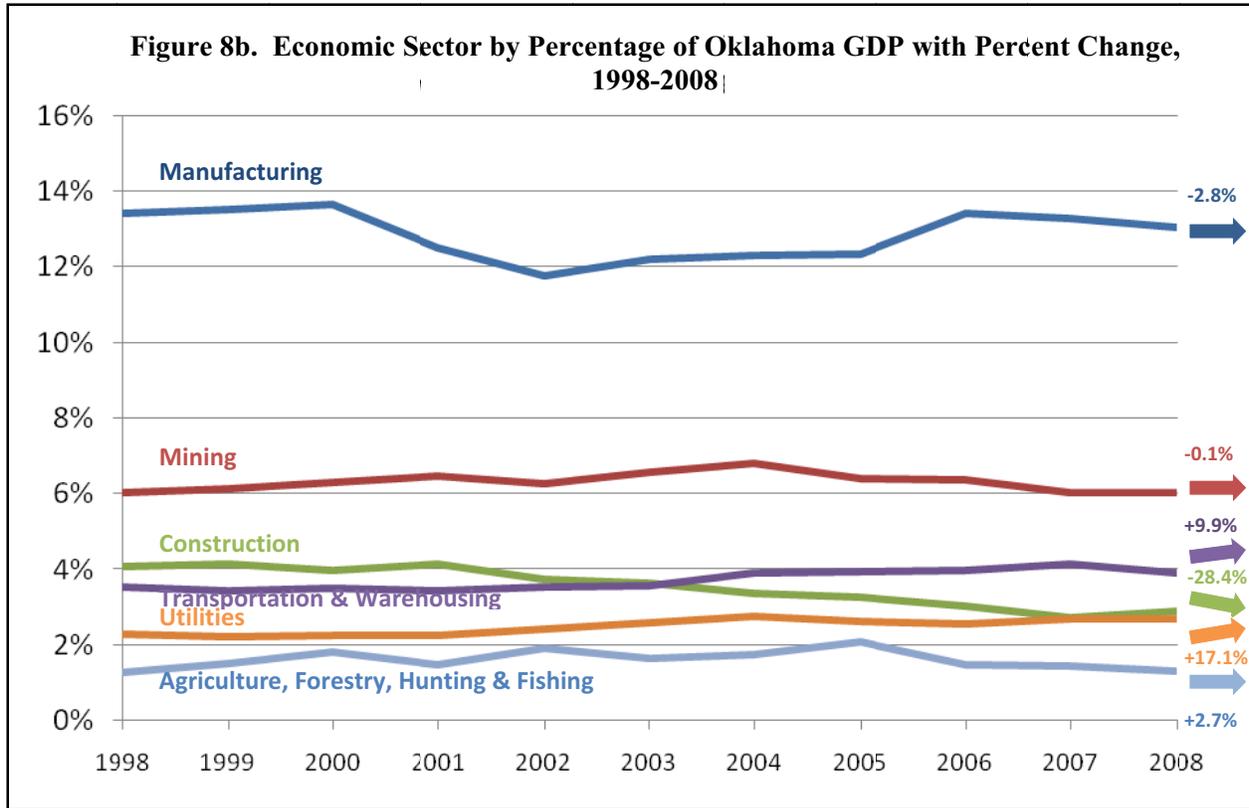
In addition to the aforementioned businesses, Oklahoma's green economy has seen a surge in the past ten years. Oklahoma boasts ideal real estate for wind-powered energy in the open expanses of the western counties. As of December 2009, there were 557 turbines generating nearly 700 megawatts of wind power in Oklahoma, and 132 turbines currently under construction. The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative expects Oklahoma to be the second-largest generator of wind power in the nation by 2030.



Source: Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008



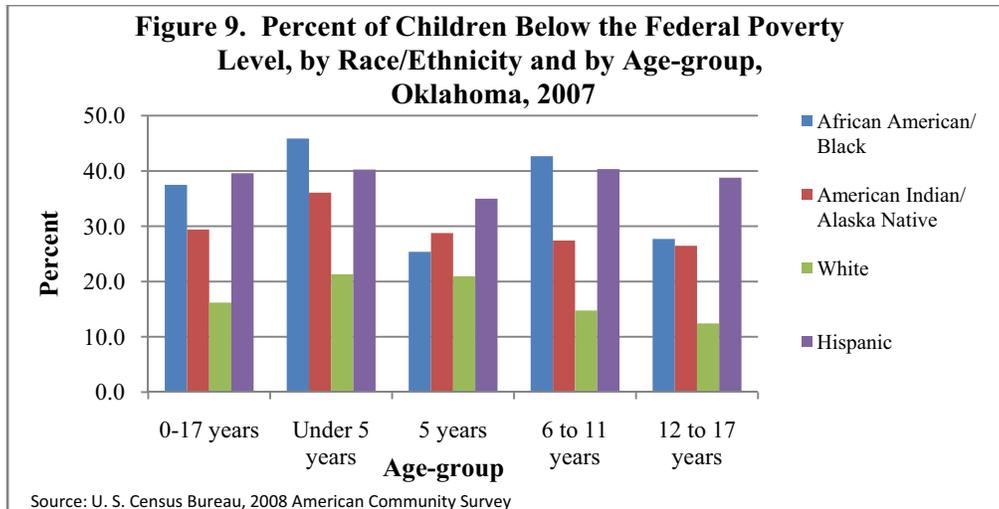
Source: Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008



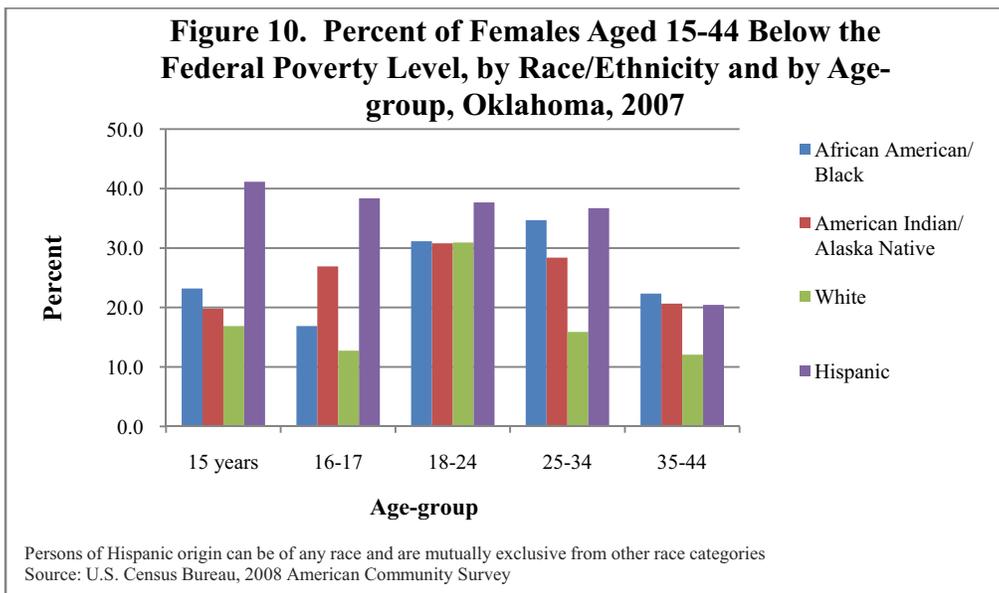
Source: Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008

The recent financial crisis in the banking and housing industries has had a devastating toll on the nation. Oklahoma, however, experienced the effects of the current recession later than many other states with issues of state revenue failures beginning late state fiscal year (SFY) 2009 and carrying forward through present SFY 2010. Oklahoma also has a relatively low unemployment rate, 6.6% as of April 2010, giving it a ranking of 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation, according to the Department of Labor and Statistics. However, Oklahoma is still a poor state economically. The two-year average annual household income for the state was \$41,578 from 2006-2007. This figure is 16.7% lower than the national average of \$49,901 with only four other states reporting lower household incomes.

Data from the 2008 American Community Survey show that the percent of persons below poverty was 21% higher in Oklahoma compared to the national average, at 15.8% and 13.0%, respectively. Poverty was not uniformly distributed among age groups or racial and ethnic groups. On average a higher proportion of Hispanic and African American/Black children were below the poverty level, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native then whites (Figure 9). Except for Hispanics ages 6-11 years, children under 5 years of age for all racial groups had the highest proportion below the poverty level. Almost one-half (45%) of African American/Black children under the age of five were living in poverty in Oklahoma. This rate was 2.6 times that of the white, non-Hispanic children in the same age group. Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native children fared only slightly better than African American/Black in this age group (Oklahoma State Department of Commerce, 2008).



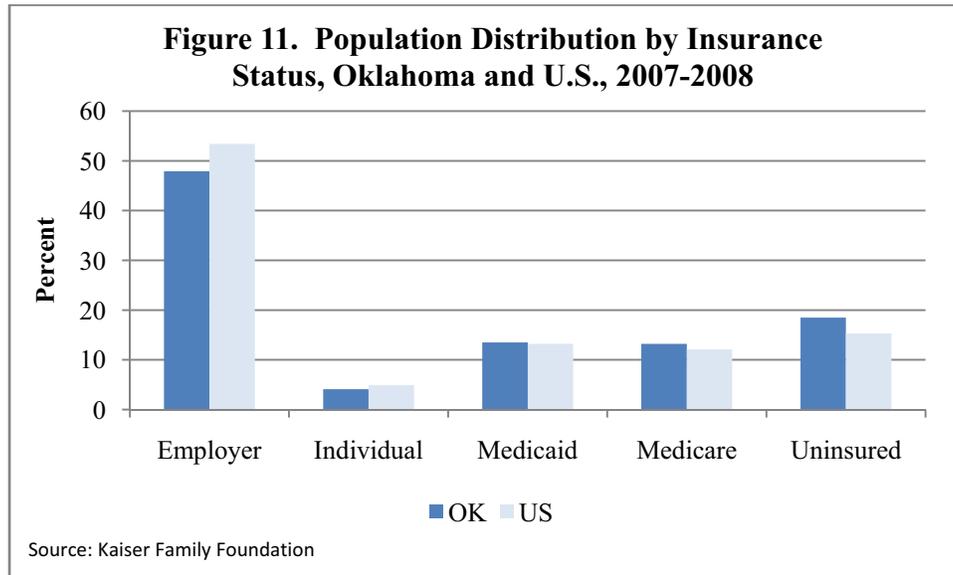
Among females of childbearing age (15-44), poverty was again not uniformly distributed by race/ethnicity or by age (Figure 10). Females most likely to live in poverty were those in the 18-24 year old age group. Two potential contributors to this age group's higher rate could be the establishment of new households apart from their families of origin as well as a greater likelihood of attending school which tends to decrease the possibility of full-time employment.



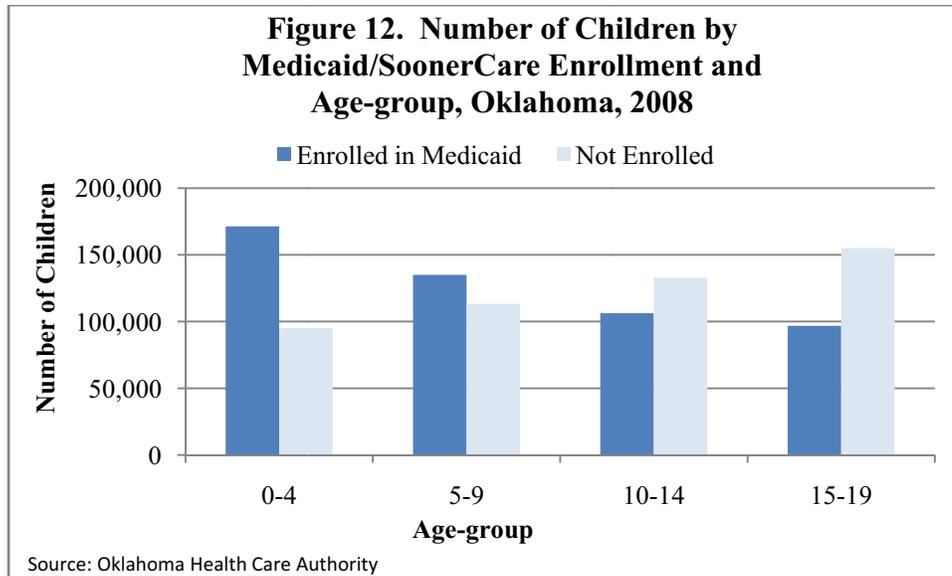
- **Insurance coverage**

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly one in five Oklahomans (18.5%) were uninsured in the 2006-2007 period; this compares to 15.3% for the national rate for 2007 (Figure 11). Of children 18 years and under, 13.3% were uninsured compared to 11.3% nationally. Employer sponsored insurance covers an estimated 47.9% of Oklahomans compared to 53.4% for the national average. Medicaid and Medicare cover 13.5% and 13.2% of Oklahomans,

respectively, both slightly higher than the national average. Only 4.1% of Oklahomans are covered through individual plans (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2007).

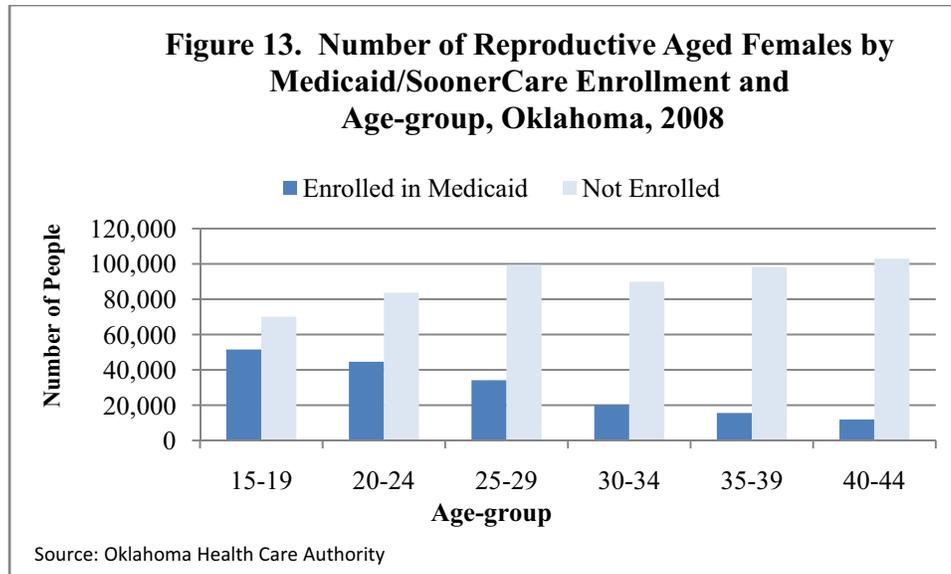


The OHCA is the state agency responsible for overseeing the Medicaid program in Oklahoma. The Medicaid Program in Oklahoma is known as SoonerCare and will subsequently be referred to as such throughout the remainder of the Title V Needs Assessment. SoonerCare shows that 509,354 children and adolescents ages 0-19 were enrolled to receive SoonerCare services in 2008 (Figure 12). This represents 50.6% of the estimated 1,005,750 individuals aged 0-19 in the state; however, it does not include those individuals who are potentially eligible but have not been certified to receive assistance. Sixty-four percent of children aged 0-4 were enrolled in SoonerCare. Children up to age 18 qualify for SoonerCare with family incomes up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Individuals aged 18-20 qualify with incomes up to 100% of the FPL. Oklahoma has utilized the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to expand SoonerCare eligibility up to 185% for all children up to age 18.



Among females of childbearing age, 177,920 were enrolled in SoonerCare in 2008 (Figure 13). This represented 24.6% of the estimated 722,027 women ages 15-44. Similar to the SoonerCare enrollment numbers for children, the proportion of enrollment for women 15-44 declined with each increase in age-group. SoonerCare eligibility required a non-pregnant woman to be roughly at 37% of the FPL in order to qualify for SoonerCare eligibility. Pregnant females qualified up to 185% of the FPL. However; prior to 2008, women who were non-citizens were ineligible, irrespective of income. As a result, this group of mothers represented a major portion of the uncompensated prenatal care provided in Oklahoma. In 2008, 42.4% of females age 15-19 were enrolled in SoonerCare. During the same time period, SoonerCare enrollment of women age 40-44 was 10.3%

In April 2008, Oklahoma implemented “Soon-To-Be-Sooners” to provide limited benefits for pregnancy-related care for females who are non-citizens. Unfortunately, dental care was not a covered service for this program. Although benefits for the mother end at delivery, this program provides prenatal care and related services for mothers who may not otherwise receive care due to their undocumented status.



## A. Pregnant Women, Mothers and Infants

### 1. Women/Mothers

#### Access to Care

According to 2007 OK PRAMS data, 47.1% of females had non-SoonerCare health insurance prior to their most recent pregnancy resulting in a live birth. This has declined since 2000, when 56.2% of females indicated non-SoonerCare health insurance before pregnancy. American Indian/Alaska Native females were the least likely to have insurance prior to pregnancy (26.5%), compared to 42.7% of African American/Black females and 50.8% of white females. In 2000, 34.5% of American Indian/Alaska Native females, 50.8% of African American/Black females and 59.5% of white females had non-SoonerCare coverage.

Data from the 2008 BRFSS indicate that over one-fourth (26.7%) of females aged 18-44 needed a doctor during the previous year, but the cost was too high. Of those females who reported that they needed a doctor, but the cost was too high, 75.2% reported they were in excellent, very good, or good health compared to 92.2% of those females for whom cost was not a barrier. In addition, over one-fourth (26.7%) of females aged 18-44 did not have any health care coverage. Of those females who reported to have some form of health care coverage, 91.2% stated they were in excellent, very good, or good health compared to 82.2% of those with no health care coverage.

African American/Black females were more likely to report SoonerCare coverage prior to pregnancy than other females (22.3% vs. 8.9% white and 10.7% American Indian/Alaska Native). The number of females reporting SoonerCare coverage prior to pregnancy has not changed significantly since 2000.

One important aspect for females of childbearing age is planning for pregnancy, and using preventative measures to delay an unwanted or mistimed pregnancy until the female and her partner are ready. Contraceptives and other methods of birth control play an important role in delaying unplanned pregnancies for many females.