

Community Well-Being

Needs Assessment

April 2019

2019 Custer County Area

(Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Loup,

Sherman, Valley, Wheeler Counties)



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# Executive Summary

Publicly available data were compiled for eight counties in central Nebraska (i.e., Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler) referred to as the “Custer County Area” for the purposes of identifying childhood needs.

## Childhood Data Summary

Table 1 below contains key community needs as indicated by data from each data section in the Custer County Area. More detailed information and data on the specific indicators can be found in the body of the report.

Table 1: Key Community Needs by Data Section

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic Area** | **Indicator** | **Description** |
| 1. **Demographics** | * Total population and family households | * The total population and the number of households with children under 18 show slight declines overall for the eight-county area from 2010 to 2017. |
| * Household income | * The median household income is lower for each of the eight counties in the service compared to the state. |
| 1. **Unemployment and Poverty** | *Unable to determine severity of poverty* | * Due to relatively high margins of error, it is difficult to determine the prevalence of poverty in the eight-county area (see Table 9 below). |
| 1. **Housing** | * Renters vs. owners | * Seven of the eight counties have high rates of renter-occupied housing units and lower rates of owner-occupied housing units, as compared to the state. |
| * Vacant housing units | * Each of the eight counties in the service area had a higher rate of vacant housing units compared to the state. |
| 1. **Education** | * Educational attainment | * The percentage of individuals with a bachelor’s degree or higher is lower in each of the eight counties in the service area, as compared to the state. However, the percentage with a high school degree and with some college (no degree) or an Associate’s degree is higher for each of the eight counties compared to the state. * Six of the school districts in the eight-county service area have higher rates of school mobility, as compared to the state. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic Area** | **Indicator** | **Description** |
| 1. **Access to Healthcare** | * Health providers | * There is an overall shortage of health providers within this region, except for occupational and physical therapists. Only two counties have any behavioral health providers. |
| 1. **Pregnancy and Parenting** | * Inadequate prenatal care | * Approximately one-in-five women who give birth in five of the eight counties received inadequate prenatal care. The state average was 15.5%. |
| * Single parent families | * Single parent families with children experience poverty at considerably higher rates than married couple families with children. From 2012 to 2017, the percentage of children in single parent homes was lower than the state average in most or all counties in the Custer County Area. |
| 1. **Childcare** | * Licensed childcare | * Three counties have no licensed childcare providers and many counties appear to have shortages in the number of providers that accept federal subsidies. |
| 1. **Substance Abuse and Mental Health** | * Alcohol use among 12th graders | * The percentage of 12th graders in the service area who report using alcohol in the past 30 days has increased from 27.7% in 2010 to 34.3% in 2016. However, this rate of alcohol use has been generally comparable to the rest of the state. |
| 1. **Domestic Violence** | * Domestic violence assaults in Custer County | * While the rates of domestic violence assaults have been generally lower throughout the eight-county service area, law enforcement in Custer County reported 16 domestic violence assaults in 2017. However, the rate of domestic violence assaults in Custer County has been consistently lower than the state. |
| 1. **Criminal Justice** | * Juvenile arrests | * Juvenile and total arrests occur at lower rates in the eight-county area compared to the rest of the state. Leading offenses for juvenile arrests in the area are liquor laws, drug abuse violations, larceny, vandalism, and simple assault. |

## Specific Issues by County

Blaine County: There were many issues impacting infants and young children, including more pre-term births than average, more low weight births, one in three infants born into poverty, an absence of licensed childcare facilities, and high geographic mobility for children under the age of 18. Blaine County had a higher than average unemployment rate, more crowded households than average, and a higher percentage of the under 18 population without health insurance than the state.

Custer County: Mothers in this county were more likely to have inadequate prenatal care than the state average, a higher percentage of births to teen mothers, and unmarried mothers were more likely to be in poverty. There was a higher than average rate of child abuse and neglect, a large jump in the percentage of single parent and nonfamily homes between 2012 and 2017, and a higher percentage of the under 18 population without health insurance than the state.

Garfield County: Had declining high school graduation rates.

Greeley County: A higher than average number of infants were born with a low birth weight, and a higher percentage of mothers with inadequate prenatal care.

Loup County: A higher percentage of unmarried mothers were in poverty in this county versus the state, and there were more pre-term births, and more low weight births. There was an absence of licensed childcare providers. The number of students receiving free and reduced lunch was steadily increasing from 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Sherman County: A higher than average percentage of mothers had inadequate prenatal care, there were more pre-term births, and lower than average performance on the student indicators for English language arts, science, and math.

Valley County: One in four infants were born into poverty, with more unmarried mothers in poverty, a higher percentage of mothers with inadequate prenatal care, and more birth defects in this county versus the state. Over half of the Hispanic/Latino families were in poverty (compared to approximately 20% at the state level), and there was a higher than average percentage of youth without health insurance. There was a large percentage of unoccupied housing units.

Wheeler County: A higher than average percentage of mothers had inadequate prenatal care, high geographic mobility for children under the age of 18, an absence of licensed childcare facilities, and a large jump in the number of single parent and nonfamily homes from 2012 to 2017.

## Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Community Well-Being Indicators

The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) has been tracking state and county-level data on numerous indicators of Community Well-Being since 2009. These measures are used to identify counties of high need. Following is a complete listing of the NCFF Community Well-Being measures for the counties within the Custer County Area (Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler) and Nebraska for the years 2012 through 2017. County numbers that are colored redindicate areas where the county statistic is worse than the state average.

There are 10 indicators altogether. For many of the indicators, the county population is too small and incidences too few for comparison. Please note that a “0” represents no data for that indicator while a dash (-) indicates data suppression due to a small number that may be identifiable and therefore is not reported.

Table 2. Number and rate of infant deaths per 1,000 live births [[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Loup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | **120, 4.6** | **139, 5.3** | **136, 5.1** | **154, 5.8** | **166, 6.2** | **144, 5.6** |

Table 3. Number and percent of births to teen mothers [[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 6, 5.0% | 12, 9.2% | 5, 3.6% | 7, 5% | 6, 4.4% | 10, 7.9% |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Greeley | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loup | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Valley | - | 0 | 5 | - | 0 | - |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | **1,688, 6.5%** | **1,564, 6.0%** | **1,411, 5.3%** | **1,397, 5.2%** | **1,227, 4.6%** | **1,167, 4.5%** |

Table 4. Number and rate of juvenile arrests per 1,000 population [[3]](#footnote-3)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 22, 8.4 | 30, 11.6 | 44, 16.8 | 33, 12.5 | 17, 6.4 | 23, 8.6 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Loup | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | 7, 10.1 | 6, 8.7 | 10, 14.9 | 12, 17.2 | 4 | 0 |
| Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 9, 8.8 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | **12,211, 24.9** | **10,538, 21.5** | **10,357, 21.0** | **10,198, 20.5** | **9,463,**  **18.9** | **9,860,**  **19.6** |

\*Note that state-level data are under-reported due to some police departments opting not to submit arrest data to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Table 5. Number and rate of substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect per 1,000 population[[4]](#footnote-4)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 16, 6.1 | 9, 3.5 | 21, 8 | 13, 4.9 | 7, 2.7 | 6, 2.2 |
| Garfield | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Greeley | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Loup | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Valley | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Nebraska | **2,717,**  **5.5** | **2,892,**  **5.9** | **2,575,**  **5.2** | **2,223,**  **4.5** | **2,174,**  **4.3** | **2,163,**  **4.3** |

Table 6. Number and rate in Out of Home Care per 1,000 population[[5]](#footnote-5)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 8, 3.1 | 13, 5.0 | 2 | 13, 4.9 | 18, 6.8 | 8, 3.0 |
| Garfield | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greeley | 2 | 0 | 6, 9.6 | 7, 11.7 | 2 | 1 |
| Loup | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sherman | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Valley | 17, 17.5 | 6, 6.0 | 2 | 3 | 5, 5.0 | 7, 6.8 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5, 28.2 |
| Nebraska | **4,301, 8.8** | **3,892, 7.9** | **3,026, 6.1** | **3,145, 6.3** | **3,812, 7.6** | **4,574, 9.1** |

Table 7. High school graduation rate (four-year cohort)[[6]](#footnote-6)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | - | - | 100% | 100% | - | - |
| Custer | 94.7% | 93.8% | 94.4% | 95.5% | 94.8% | 94.8% |
| Garfield | - | - | 95.7% | 100% | 96.8% | 96.0% |
| Greeley | 90.9% | 94.7% | 91.7% | 94.7% | 96.6% | 100% |
| Loup | 90.9% | - | - | 90.9% | - | - |
| Sherman | 87.9% | 89.5% | 96.6% | 100% | 92% | 97.4% |
| Valley | 88.0% | 98.2% | 97.6% | 94.0% | 98.1% | 100% |
| Wheeler | - | - | 100% | - | - | - |
| Nebraska | **87.6%** | **88.5%** | **89.7%** | **88.9%** | **89.3%** | **89.1%** |

Table 8. Percentage of the population age 5 and over speaking a language other than English at home[[7]](#footnote-7)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 1.0% | 2.0% | 2.5% |
| Custer | 2.7% | 2.2% | 2.8% | 3.2% | 3.5% | 3.7% |
| Garfield | 1.2% | 1.4% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 1.2% | 1.7% |
| Greeley | 1.4% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 0.9% | 2.0% | 2.3% |
| Loup | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Sherman | 2.6% | 2.5% | 3.6% | 3.2% | 3.0% | 2.9% |
| Valley | 3.4% | 4.2% | 3.3% | 2.5% | 2.9% | 2.6% |
| Wheeler | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 1.0% |
| Nebraska | **10.4%** | **10.5%** | **10.7%** | **10.8%** | **11.0%** | **11.2%** |

Table 9. Percentage of population below poverty[[8]](#footnote-8)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 19.3% | 17.7% | 16.3% | 19.2% | 16.2% | 9.8% |
| Custer | 9.6% | 11.5% | 11.3% | 10.9% | 10.0% | 11.9% |
| Garfield | 13.8% | 13.0% | 12.0% | 10.2% | 7.3% | 7.2% |
| Greeley | 12.1% | 12.1% | 11.7% | 10.0% | 8.7% | 9.8% |
| Loup | 23.4% | 25.8% | 20.2% | 12.4% | 10.0% | 8.9% |
| Sherman | 10.3% | 13.5% | 11.9% | 13.5% | 13.3% | 10.7% |
| Valley | 14% | 15.2% | 13.3% | 12.9% | 12.8% | 11.5% |
| Wheeler | 15.3% | 16% | 13.1% | 7.2% | 5.1% | 2.6% |
| Nebraska | **12.4%** | **12.8%** | **12.9%** | **12.7%** | **12.4%** | **12.0%** |

Table 10. Percentage of children living in single parent households[[9]](#footnote-9)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 17.5% | 18.0% | 34.2% | 21.7% | 16.0% | 6.6% |
| Custer | 13.2% | 17.0% | 17.5% | 23.4% | 25.6% | 25.4% |
| Garfield | 17.7% | 21.0% | 18.9% | 26.7% | 26.5% | 24.4% |
| Greeley | 22.2% | 21.0% | 18.2% | 18.0% | 21.7% | 16.6% |
| Loup | 2.1% | 6.0% | 11.4% | 18.5% | 20.0% | 9.6% |
| Sherman | 19.6% | 20.0% | 16.0% | 36.3% | 30.1% | 25.1% |
| Valley | 17.2% | 18.0% | 18.2% | 16.7% | 20.3% | 14.2% |
| Wheeler | 17.9% | 16.0% | 5.5% | 18.6% | 25.3% | 21.7% |
| Nebraska | **26.3%** | **27.0%** | **27.7%** | **28.7%** | **28.8%** | **26.3%** |

Table 11a. Percentage of third grade children proficient in reading at grade level (NeSA) [[10]](#footnote-10)

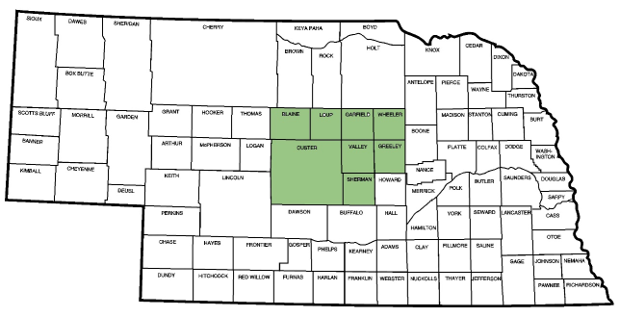
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| Blaine | - | - | 83.3% | - | - |
| Custer | 84.0% | 83.2% | 95.8% | 95.7% | 90.4% |
| Garfield | 93.1% | 90.5% | 91.7% | 92.0% | 89.5% |
| Greeley | 92.3% | 93.5% | 87.5% | 88.0% | 79.0% |
| Loup | - | - | - | - | 100% |
| Sherman | 88.2% | 84.4% | 92.9% | 92.0% | 96.2% |
| Valley | 78.4% | 78.6% | 89.6% | 88.0% | 89.6% |
| Wheeler | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nebraska | **74.0%** | **77.0%** | **82.1%** | **82.0%** | **84.0%** |

Table 11b. Percentage of third grade children proficient in English Language Arts (NSCAS) [[11]](#footnote-11)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 2017 |
| Blaine | 80% |
| Custer | 54% |
| Garfield | 38% |
| Greeley | 61% |
| Loup | 88% |
| Sherman | 40% |
| Valley | 40% |
| Wheeler | 50% |
| Nebraska | **53%** |

# 2019 Custer Area Community Well-Being Needs Assessment Results

The map below shows the counties of Nebraska with area colored in **green** indicating the Custer County Area covered by this report. This area includes an estimated 24,415 Nebraskans [[12]](#footnote-12), or 1.3% of the population of Nebraska. All of the counties except Valley are classified as Frontier – with fewer than seven persons per square mile[[13]](#footnote-13).



Note: All data sources are listed in the footer with links to the data source. Interpretation of much of the data warrants caution due to the small number represented in some of the counties. **Special caution must be employed when interpreting any data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey due to the wide margins of error for data among counties with smaller populations.**

## Section 1. Demographics

The population within the Custer County Area was overall in decline from 2010 to 2017 at a rate of 2.3% (Table 12).

Table 12: Total and under 18 population (2010 and 2017)[[14]](#footnote-14)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total population | | |  | Under 18 population | | |
|  | **2010** | **2017** | **Percent change** |  | **2010** | **2017** | **Percent change** |
| Blaine | 539 | 502 | -6.9% | 97 | 106 | 9.3% |
| Custer | 11,001 | 10,836 | -1.5% | 2657 | 2,521 | -5.1% |
| Garfield | 2,081 | 1,958 | -5.9% | 507 | 386 | -23.9% |
| Greeley | 2,542 | 2,436 | -4.2% | 657 | 584 | -11.1% |
| Loup | 635 | 537 | -15.4% | 143 | 104 | -27.3% |
| Sherman | 3,144 | 3,048 | -3.1% | 685 | 647 | -5.5% |
| Valley | 4,284 | 4,252 | -0.7% | 932 | 920 | -1.3% |
| Wheeler | 751 | 846 | 12.6% | 173 | 154 | -11.0% |
| 8-County Total | **24,977** | **24,415** | **-2.3%** | **5,851** | **5,422** | **-7.3%** |
| Nebraska | 1,799,125 | 1,893,921 | 5.3% | 453331 | 469,819 | 3.6% |

The number of family households with children under the age of 18 within the Custer County Area was also in decline overall from 2010 to 2017 at a rate of 1.9% (Table 12).

Table 13: Number of family households with children under 18 (2010 and 2017)[[15]](#footnote-15)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2010 | 2017 | Percent change |
| Blaine | 52 | 47 | -9.6% |
| Custer | 1,319 | 1,274 | -3.4% |
| Garfield | 254 | 198 | -22.0% |
| Greeley | 280 | 264 | -5.7% |
| Loup | 62 | 51 | -17.7% |
| Sherman | 314 | 317 | 1.0% |
| Valley | 452 | 544 | 20.4% |
| Wheeler | 81 | 66 | -18.5% |
| 8-County Total | **2,814** | **2,761** | **-1.9%** |
| Nebraska | 217,081 | 219,928 | 1.3% |

Compared to the rest of Nebraska, the counties in the Custer County Area have much less racial and ethnic diversity (Table 14).

Table 14: Population by race/ethnicity (2017)[[16]](#footnote-16)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | White | Hispanic/ Latino | Black/  African-American | Asian | American Indian/  Alaskan Native | Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander | Two or More Races | Other |
| Blaine | 98.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.6% | 0.0% | 1.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Custer | 95.0% | 2.9% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| Garfield | 96.6% | 2.1% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.5% |
| Greeley | 96.2% | 2.0% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% | 0.1% |
| Loup | 99.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Sherman | 97.1% | 2.0% | 0.0% | 0.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.0% |
| Valley | 95.7% | 2.8% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.2% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.0% |
| Wheeler | 98.9% | 0.7% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.2% | 0.0% |
| Nebraska | 79.8% | 10.5% | 4.6% | 2.2% | 0.7% | 0.1% | 2.0% | 0.1% |
| US | 61.5% | 17.6% | 12.3% | 5.3% | 0.7% | 0.2% | 2.3% | 0.2% |

Note: those identifying as Hispanic/Latino are not counted in any racial category.

Compared to the state as a whole, the population ages five and older in the Custer County Area are far less likely to speak another language than English at home (Table 15).

Table 15: Percentage of population ages 5 and over speaking a language other than English at home (2017)[[17]](#footnote-17)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 2.5% |
| Custer | 3.7% |
| Garfield | 1.7% |
| Greeley | 2.3% |
| Loup | 0.2% |
| Sherman | 2.9% |
| Valley | 2.6% |
| Wheeler | 1.0% |
| Nebraska | 11.3% |
| US | 21.3% |

Geographic mobility (having moved within the same county, moved from a different county within the same state, moved from a different state, or moved from abroad) occurs within the Custer County area with varying frequency. Blaine and Wheeler Counties were shown to have relatively high rates of geographic mobility in the 2017 U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (Table 16). Again, it is important to use caution when interpreting these results due to high margins of error within the data source.

Table 16: Geographic Mobility (2017)[[18]](#footnote-18)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total population | Under 18 |
| Blaine | 17.3% | 26.0% |
| Custer | 12.6% | 15.5% |
| Garfield | 7.3% | 7.5% |
| Greeley | 13.0% | 15.3% |
| Loup | 8.7% | 7.7% |
| Sherman | 3.9% | 3.0% |
| Valley | 13.2% | 17.1% |
| Wheeler | 9.4% | 23.7% |
| Nebraska | 16.2% | 15.1% |
| US | 14.6% | 14.3% |

The median household income for all Custer County Area counties was over $10,000 lower than both the state and the nation (Table 17). The greatest disparity was between residents in Greeley County and the state overall (a difference of $24,973) (Table 17).

Table 17: Median Household Income (2017)[[19]](#footnote-19)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County | Income | |
| Blaine | $ 57,969 |
| Custer | $ 60,290 |
| Garfield | $ 55,333 |
| Greeley | $ 47,218 |
| Loup | $ 58,625 |
| Sherman | $ 48,704 |
| Valley | $ 50,270 |
| Wheeler | $ 49,706 |
| Nebraska | $ 72,191 |
| US | $ 70,805 |

The percentage of children and youth with a disability varied across the counties in this service area. Greeley County had the greatest prevalence (8%), followed by Blaine County (7.4%), which is more than double that of the other counties. Greeley and Blaine were also the only counties to have a larger disabled population than the state and national averages (Table 18).

Table 18: Percentage of the under 18 population with a disability (2017)[[20]](#footnote-20)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 7.4% |
| Custer | 3.7% |
| Garfield | 3.6% |
| Greeley | 1.8% |
| Loup | 8.0% |
| Sherman | 2.8% |
| Valley | 3.5% |
| Wheeler | 1.8% |
| Nebraska | 5.6% |
| US | 6.2% |

## Section 2. Poverty and Unemployment

Poverty rates in 2010 and 2017 are shown below in Table 19. These rates appear to have a high degree of fluctuation, likely due to the margin of error in the data source. See also Table 9 above in the “Community Well-Being Indicators Section.” Perhaps, the only statement that can be made with certainty regarding poverty is that children under the age of 18 experience poverty at higher rates than the total population.

Table 19: Poverty statistics overall and for children (2010*[[21]](#footnote-21)* and 2017*[[22]](#footnote-22)*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2010* | | *2017* | |
|  | **Total pop. at or below poverty** | **Under 18 pop. at or below poverty** | **Total pop. at or below poverty** | **Under 18 pop. at or below poverty** |
| Blaine | 10.7% | 22.7% | 9.8% | 15.1% |
| Custer | 7.2% | 10.2% | 11.9% | 15.9% |
| Garfield | 9.2% | 22.6% | 7.2% | 5.3% |
| Greeley | 8.8% | 17.0% | 9.8% | 14.3% |
| Loup | 15.3% | 44.1% | 8.9% | 9.6% |
| Sherman | 12.5% | 22.5% | 10.7% | 18.1% |
| Valley | 11.5% | 21.0% | 11.5% | 10.6% |
| Wheeler | 8.1% | 15.0% | 2.6% | 3.2% |
| Nebraska | 7.9% | 15.5% | 12.0% | 15.6% |
| US | 10.1% | 19.2% | 14.6% | 20.3% |

Across the Custer County Area counties, more married than unmarried women gave birth in the 2013-2017 years (Table 20). The percentage of these women who were in poverty at the time of birth was much higher for the unmarried women than the married women (Table 20).

Table 20: Births in the past year to married and unmarried women and the percent at or below poverty (2017)[[23]](#footnote-23)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Number* | | | *Percent at or Below Poverty* | | |
|  | **Married women who gave birth** | **Unmarried women who gave birth** | **Total women who gave birth** | **Married women who gave birth** | **Unmarried women who gave birth** | **Total women who gave birth** |
| Blaine | 6 | 0 | 6 | 33.3% | 0.0% | 33.3% |
| Custer | 181 | 27 | 208 | 2.8% | 100.0% | 15.4% |
| Garfield | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Greeley | 46 | 12 | 58 | 4.3% | 41.7% | 12.1% |
| Loup | 12 | 3 | 15 | 8.3% | 66.7% | 20.0% |
| Sherman | 46 | 18 | 64 | 4.3% | 33.3% | 12.5% |
| Valley | 80 | 18 | 98 | 12.5% | 83.3% | 25.5% |
| Wheeler | 13 | 0 | 13 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Nebraska | 19,898 | 7,861 | 27759 | 10.2% | 53.2% | 22.4% |
| US | 2,606,622 | 1,375,335 | 3981957 | 12.9% | 48.1% | 25.1% |

Table 21: Poverty by white and Hispanic/Latino (2017)

Over half of Hispanic/Latinos in Valley County lived in poverty, compared to 6% of whites. The poverty rate was higher for Hispanic/Latinos in both Custer and Sherman Counties as well, but both were below the state and national averages. None of the Hispanic/Latino families in Garfield or Greeley Counties were in poverty (Table 21).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | White, not Hispanic/Latino[[24]](#footnote-24) | Hispanic/Latino[[25]](#footnote-25) |
| Blaine | 6.6% | - |
| Custer | 7.8% | 11.6% |
| Garfield | 2.7% | 0.0% |
| Greeley | 8.0% | 0.0% |
| Loup | 4.8% | - |
| Sherman | 7.6% | 11.1% |
| Valley | 5.7% | 55.3% |
| Wheeler | 0.4% | - |
| Nebraska | 5.6% | 20.4% |
| US | 6.7% | 19.7% |

The percentage of households with children receiving public assistance in the service area was generally lower than the state average, and overall lower than the national average (Table 22).

Table 22: Percentage of households with children receiving public assistance\* (2017)[[26]](#footnote-26)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All children | In married couple families | In female householder, no husband present families | In male householder, no wife present families |
| Blaine | 15.1% | 16.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Custer | 13.3% | 6.2% | 29.9% | 33.7% |
| Garfield | 8.3% | 7.4% | 7.8% | 20.0% |
| Greeley | 5.8% | 1.8% | 20.8% | 3.4% |
| Loup | 3.8% | 0.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% |
| Sherman | 10.5% | 8.2% | 18.4% | 8.7% |
| Valley | 20.7% | 16.2% | 26.2% | 61.8% |
| Wheeler | 18.2% | 23.3% | 0.0% | - |
| Nebraska | 19.8% | 11.1% | 46.9% | 25.6% |
| US | 27.2% | 16.3% | 53.4% | 33.5% |

\*Public assistance programs include Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Cash Public Assistance, or Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits

The number of children eligible for Medicaid and SNAP declined in most counties between 2012 and 2016 (Table 23).

Table 23: Participation in social programs (2012 and 2016)[[27]](#footnote-27)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2012* | | | | *2016* | | | |
|  | **Average monthly number of families on Aid to Dependent Children (ADC)** | **Children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)** | **Supple-mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participa-tion among children** | **Children eligible for free and reduced school meals** | **Average monthly number of families on Aid to Dependent Children (ADC)** | **Children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** | **Supple-mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participa-tion among children** | **Children eligible for free and reduced school meals** |
| Blaine | \* | 52 | 12 | 50% | 1 | 54 | 11 | 37% |
| Custer | 27 | 838 | 356 | 44% | 20 | 806 | 310 | 39% |
| Garfield | \* | 158 | 39 | 34% | 2 | 149 | 35 | 36% |
| Greeley | \* | 203 | 53 | 55% | 3 | 191 | 48 | 40% |
| Loup | \* | 38 | 8 | 45% | 1 | 37 | 3 | 44% |
| Sherman | \* | 229 | 87 | 46% | 3 | 169 | 66 | 48% |
| Valley | \* | 295 | 123 | 38% | 7 | 325 | 136 | 45% |
| Wheeler | \* | 48 | 9 | 40% | 0 | 42 | 7 | 45% |
| Nebraska | 7,783 | 158,487 | 89,075 | 40% | 5,710 | 161,530 | 88,525 | 42% |

*\*Data unavailable*

Table 24: Unemployment rate (January 2019)[[28]](#footnote-28)

Five of the eight counties in the Custer Service Area had a higher unemployment rate than the state (3.1%) in January of 2019 (Table 24)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 4.7% |
| Custer | 2.3% |
| Garfield | 2.4% |
| Greeley | 3.5% |
| Loup | 3.6% |
| Sherman | 3.4% |
| Valley | 3.3% |
| Wheeler | 2.6% |
| Nebraska | 3.1% |
| US[[29]](#footnote-29) | 4.0% |

Table 25: Unemployment among 16-24 old individuals in the civilian labor force (2017) [[30]](#footnote-30)

Unemployment among those ages 16 to 24 varies by county. The rate for the state as a whole is 9.2% (Table 25).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **County** | **Percent** |
| **Blaine** | 8.8% |
| **Custer** | 6.4% |
| **Garfield** | 1.2% |
| **Greeley** | 0.0% |
| **Loup** | 0.0% |
| **Sherman** | 5.7% |
| **Valley** | 2.4% |
| **Wheeler** | 0.0% |
| **Nebraska** | 9.2% |

Table 26: Percentage of 16-19 year individuals old neither in school nor working (2017) [[31]](#footnote-31)

Young people ages 16 to 19 who are neither in school nor working are sometimes referred to as “Opportunity Youth.” Across the state as a whole, 4.8% of all young people in this age group are neither in school nor working (Table 26).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **County** | **Percent** |
| **Blaine** | 0.0% |
| **Custer** | 1.8% |
| **Garfield** | 6.6% |
| **Greeley** | 5.0% |
| **Loup** | 0.0% |
| **Sherman** | 7.1% |
| **Valley** | 1.6% |
| **Wheeler** | 0.0% |
| **Nebraska** | 4.8% |

## Section 3. Housing

The median housing value in the Custer County Area ranges from a low of $69,400 in Greeley County to more than double that in Loup County ($159,100), which is higher than the state average. The percentage of occupied units varies across the counties, although all were lower than the state average. More than four out of five housing units were vacant in Valley County (16.1% occupied), while the opposite was true in Custer County (85.2% occupied). At least three out of every five occupied units were renter occupied. Owner occupation was lowest (fewer than one in five units) in Loup, Sherman, and Greeley Counties (Table 27).

Table 27: Housing characteristics (2017)[[32]](#footnote-32)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | *Occupied Units* | | |
|  | **Median housing value** | **% vacant units** | **% occupied units** | **% renter occupied** | | **% owner occupied** |
| Blaine | $ 85,900 | 31.8% | 68.2% | 60.8% | | 39.2% |
| Custer | $ 92,800 | 14.8% | 85.2% | 71.9% | | 28.1% |
| Garfield | $ 96,100 | 26.0% | 74.0% | 78.6% | | 21.4% |
| Greeley | $ 69,400 | 77.5% | 22.5% | 80.5% | | 19.5% |
| Loup | $ 159,100 | 58.3% | 41.7% | 81.6% | | 18.4% |
| Sherman | $ 85,400 | 70.8% | 29.2% | 81.6% | | 18.4% |
| Valley | $ 92,700 | 83.9% | 16.1% | 71.6% | | 28.4% |
| Wheeler | $ 104,300 | 67.7% | 32.3% | 70.1% | | 29.9% |
| Nebraska | $ 142,400 | 9.2% | 90.8% | 66.0% | | 34.0% |

Fair Market Rent (FMR) is a term used in real estate that indicates the amount of money a given property would command, if it were open for leasing at the moment. Across the service area, the average fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment was about $653 (it was $658 in Blaine County) (Table 28). The National Low-Income Housing Coalition calculates the income needed to afford a fair-market rent two-bedroom apartment, based on paying no more than 30% of wages on housing and utilities. An individual would have to work 56 hours a week at minimum wage to afford such rent in the Custer County Area (Table 28).

Table 28: Fair market rent (FMR) housing costs (2018)[[33]](#footnote-33)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Two-bedroom FMR home cost per month | Income needed to afford two-bedroom FMR home | Work hours per week at minimum wage to afford 2-bedroom FMR home |
| Blaine | $658 | $26,320 | 56 |
| Custer | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Garfield | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Greeley | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Loup | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Sherman | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Valley | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Wheeler | $653 | $26,120 | 56 |
| Nebraska | $815 | $32,580 | 70 |

Table 29: Crowded households (more than one occupant per room) (2017)[[34]](#footnote-34)

The percentage of “crowded households” (i.e., households with more than one occupant per room) was generally lower across the eight-county area as compared to the state, with the exception of Blaine County (Table 29).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 2.6% |
| Custer | 1.7% |
| Garfield | 0.7% |
| Greeley | 1.3% |
| Loup | 0.0% |
| Sherman | 1.0% |
| Valley | 0.8% |
| Wheeler | 1.9% |
| Nebraska | 2.1% |
| US | 3.3% |

## Section 4. Education

All of the counties in the Custer County Area had higher educational attainment than the state and national averages in terms of obtaining a high school degree or higher and having some college education or an Associate’s degree. However, the percentage of the 25 and older population with a Bachelor’s degree or higher was lower for all counties, compared to the state and nation (Table 30).

Table 30: Educational attainment of the 25 and older population (2017)[[35]](#footnote-35)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | High school degree or higher | Some college (no degree) or Associate’s degree | Bachelor's degree or higher |
| Blaine | 98.9% | 37.4% | 24.1% |
| Custer | 92.6% | 38.6% | 21.7% |
| Garfield | 96.1% | 42.2% | 19.5% |
| Greeley | 93.1% | 39.5% | 17.3% |
| Loup | 98.3% | 35.4% | 23.0% |
| Sherman | 92.7% | 36.3% | 18.3% |
| Valley | 92.8% | 33.7% | 20.4% |
| Wheeler | 94.7% | 34.7% | 19.1% |
| Nebraska | 90.9% | 30.1% | 30.6% |
| US | 87.3% | 29.1% | 30.9% |

The student characteristics for the school districts across the Custer County Area are shown in Table 31. Enrollment varied from a low of 69 in the Loup County Public School District, to a high of 861 in the Broken Bow Public School District. Of the 16 school districts, nine had a higher percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch than the state. Only one district had a high enough number of English Language Learners (ELL) students to report it: Broken Bow Public Schools in Custer County. Seven of the thirteen reporting districts had a greater proportion of highly mobile students than the state (<11%). All of the districts were able to report the percentage of special needs students, and seven had a higher percentage than the state average.

Table 31: Student Characteristics (2017-2018)[[36]](#footnote-36)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Enrollment | % Receiving free/ reduced lunch | % of ELL students | % School mobility | % of Students in special education |
| Blaine | Sandhills Public Schools | 90 | 50% | \* | \* | 14% |
| Custer | Anselmo-Merna Public Schools | 273 | 35% | \* | 5% | 13% |
| Ansley Public Schools | 190 | 53% | \* | 8% | 17% |
| Arnold Public Schools | 169 | 25% | \* | \* | 19% |
| Broken Bow Public Schools | 861 | 43% | 3% | 15% | 17% |
| Callaway Public Schools | 222 | 27% | \* | 13% | 16% |
| Sargent Public Schools | 193 | 53% | \* | 14% | 13% |
| Garfield | Burwell Public Schools | 332 | 40% | \* | 6% | 13% |
| Greeley | Central Valley Public Schools | 293 | 52% | \* | 17% | 12% |
| Riverside Public Schoolsa | 238 | 55% | \* | 10% | 16% |
| Loup | Loup County Public Schools | 69 | 52% | \* | \* | 27% |
| Sherman | Litchfield Public Schools | 116 | 59% | \* | 13% | 14% |
| Loup City Public Schools | 364 | 43% | \* | 12% | 15% |
| Valley | Arcadia Public Schools | 132 | 52% | \* | 10% | 11% |
| Ord Public Schools | 593 | 44% | \* | 7% | 12% |
| Wheeler | Wheeler Central Schools | 112 | 52% | \* | 15% | 20% |
| Nebraska |  | 323,391 | 46% | 7% | 11% | 15% |

a *Covers parts of Greeley, Boone, and Nance counties*

*\*Too few cases to be reported*

Table 32 shows the trend of the number of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) by district going back to the 2014-15 academic year. While the state had a slow, steady, increase over the available years of data, this was not the case for 15 of the 16 school districts. Loup County Public Schools was the only district with an increase every year. While the other districts were variable from year to year, the majority of districts had a higher percentage of students receiving FRL in the 2017-18 academic year than in 2014-15 (Table 32).

Table 32: Percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch (2014-2015 to 2017-2018)[[37]](#footnote-37)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
| Blaine | Sandhills Public Schools | 44% | 39% | 45% | 50% |
| Custer | Anselmo-Merna Public Schools | 32% | 36% | 34% | 35% |
| Ansley Public Schools | 39% | 43% | 55% | 53% |
| Arnold Public Schools | 30% | 26% | 33% | 25% |
| Broken Bow Public Schools | 42% | 38% | 43% | 43% |
| Callaway Public Schools | 38% | 32% | 30% | 27% |
| Sargent Public Schools | 44% | 50% | 54% | 53% |
| Garfield | Burwell Public Schools | 37% | 33% | 43% | 40% |
| Greeley | Central Valley Public Schools | 53% | 46% | 53% | 52% |
| Riverside Public Schoolsa | 46% | 56% | 52% | 55% |
| Loup | Loup County Public Schools | 40% | 44% | 47% | 52% |
| Sherman | Litchfield Public Schools | 58% | 50% | 64% | 59% |
| Loup City Public Schools | 41% | 43% | 44% | 43% |
| Valley | Arcadia Public Schools | 48% | 48% | 51% | 52% |
| Ord Public Schools | 39% | 42% | 40% | 44% |
| Wheeler | Wheeler Central Schools | 58% | 43% | 51% | 52% |
| Nebraska |  | 44% | 44% | 45% | 46% |
| US[[38]](#footnote-38) |  | 52% | 52% |  |  |

a *Covers parts of Greeley, Boone, and Nance counties*

School attendance varied little across the service area, and were almost uniformly greater than the state and was higher for most of the districts in the area (Table 33).

Table 33: School attendance rates (2014-2015 to 2017-2018)[[39]](#footnote-39)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
| Blaine | Sandhills Public Schools | 95% | 95% | 94% | 94% |
| Custer | Anselmo-Merna Public Schools | 95% | 94% | 95% | 94% |
| Ansley Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 95% | 95% |
| Arnold Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 96% | 95% |
| Broken Bow Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 95% | 95% |
| Callaway Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 95% | 95% |
| Sargent Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 96% | 96% |
| Garfield | Burwell Public Schools | 96% | 96% | 97% | 95% |
| Greeley | Central Valley Public Schools | 96% | 95% | 95% | 95% |
| Riverside Public Schoolsa | 96% | 97% | 97% | 96% |
| Loup | Loup County Public Schools | 96% | 97% | 95% | 96% |
| Sherman | Litchfield Public Schools | 97% | 96% | 96% | 96% |
| Loup City Public Schools | 96% | 96% | 96% | 95% |
| Valley | Arcadia Public Schools | 95% | 96% | 95% | 96% |
| Ord Public Schools | 96% | 96% | 96% | 96% |
| Wheeler | Wheeler Central Schools | 98% | 98% | 96% | 96% |
| Nebraska |  | 95% | 95% | 95% | 94% |

a *Covers parts of Greeley, Boone, and Nance counties*

The public schools in the Custer County Area had higher graduation rates than the state average across the four available academic years. Three of the 16 districts did not have enough students graduating to report the rate for more than one of the four academic years available. Of the remaining 13 districts, five were consistent across the available years (all at 100%): Sandhills Public Schools (Blaine County), Ansley and Sargent Public Schools (Custer County), Litchfield Public Schools (Sherman County), and Arcadia Public Schools (Valley County). Two districts had declining graduation rates – Burwell Public Schools in Garfield County, and Riverside Public Schools (in Greeley, Boone, and Nance Counties). The remaining five districts varied from year to year (Table 34).

Table 34: Four-year high school graduation rates (2014-2015 to 2017-2018)[[40]](#footnote-40)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
| Blaine | Sandhills Public Schools | 100% | \* | \* | 100% |
| Custer | Anselmo-Merna Public Schools | 93% | 100% | 94% | 100% |
| Ansley Public Schools | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Arnold Public Schools | \* | 100% | \* | \* |
| Broken Bow Public Schools | 94% | 90% | 93% | 93% |
| Callaway Public Schools | 100% | 100% | 93% | 100% |
| Sargent Public Schools | \* | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Garfield | Burwell Public Schools | 100% | 97% | 96% | 92% |
| Greeley | Central Valley Public Schools | 95% | 97% | 100% | 93% |
| Riverside Public Schoolsa | 100% | 100% | 100% | 89% |
| Loup | Loup County Public Schools | 91% | \* | \* | \* |
| Sherman | Litchfield Public Schools | 100% | \* | 100% | \* |
| Loup City Public Schools | \* | 95% | 96% | 91% |
| Valley | Arcadia Public Schools | \* | 100% | 100% | \* |
| Ord Public Schools | 94% | 97% | 100% | 96% |
| Wheeler | Wheeler Central Schools | \* | \* | \* | 100% |
| Nebraska |  | 90% | 89% | 89% | 89% |
| US |  | 83% | 84% |  |  |

a *Covers parts of Greeley, Boone, and Nance counties*

*\*Too few cases to be reported*

The student performance indicators are based on the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System. Each percentage represents the number of students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards in each subject. This metric is variable, as schools’ transition to using Nebraska College and Career Ready standards for all three indicators: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

Seven of the 16 districts were as good or higher than the state across the three indicators: Ansley and Arnold Public Schools in Custer County. Garfield County’s Burwell Public Schools, Riverside Public Schools (in Greeley, Boone, and Nance Counties), Loup County’s district, and both districts in Valley County (Arcadia and Ord Public Schools. Five districts were consistently lower: Custer County’s Callaway and Sargent Public Schools, Central Valley Public Schools (Greeley County), and Sherman County’s districts (Litchfield and Loup City Public Schools). The other four districts varied (Table 35).

Table 35: Student Performance Indicators (2017-18)[[41]](#footnote-41)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science |
| Blaine | Sandhills Public Schools | 65% | 50% | 81% |
| Custer | Anselmo-Merna Public Schools | 55% | 62% | 64% |
| Ansley Public Schools | 60% | 54% | 87% |
| Arnold Public Schools | 70% | 64% | 73% |
| Broken Bow Public Schools | 50% | 44% | 73% |
| Callaway Public Schools | 38% | 32% | 63% |
| Sargent Public Schools | 35% | 43% | 59% |
| Garfield | Burwell Public Schools | 51% | 61% | 69% |
| Greeley | Central Valley Public Schools | 45% | 45% | 57% |
| Riverside Public Schoolsa | 72% | 69% | 83% |
| Loup | Loup County Public Schools | 74% | 59% | \* |
| Sherman | Litchfield Public Schools | 40% | 41% | 50% |
| Loup City Public Schools | 42% | 42% | 54% |
| Valley | Arcadia Public Schools | 54% | 58% | 71% |
| Ord Public Schools | 56% | 51% | 81% |
| Wheeler | Wheeler Central Schools | 49% | 49% | 80% |
| Nebraska |  | 51% | 51% | 68% |

a *Covers parts of Greeley, Boone, and Nance counties*

*\*Too few cases to be reported*

## Section 5. Access to Healthcare

The population under the age of 18 were more likely to have health insurance in five of the eight counties, compared to the state or nation (Table 36).

Table 36: Percentage of the under 18 population without health insurance (2017)[[42]](#footnote-42)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 10.9% |
| Custer | 8.0% |
| Garfield | 3.2% |
| Greeley | 3.5% |
| Loup | 4.8% |
| Sherman | 4.0% |
| Valley | 8.2% |
| Wheeler | 1.8% |
| Nebraska | 5.3% |
| US | 5.7% |

Table 37 shows the state designated health professional shortage areas for each county in eight-county area. Family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, psychiatry, and pharmacy were all lacking in each county. General surgery was lacking in all counties except Valley County, and dentists were in short supply in all but Garfield and Valley Counties. Occupational and physical therapists were more available in the area. Only Loup and Wheeler counties were shortage areas for both types of therapist, with a physical therapist shortage in Blaine County.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 37: State designated health professional shortage areas (2016)[[43]](#footnote-43) | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Family Medicine** | **Internal Medicine** | **Pediatrics** | **OB/GYN** | **Psychiatry** | **General Surgery** | **Dentistry** | **Pharmacy** | **Occupational Therapy** | **Physical Therapy** |
| Blaine | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Custer | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Garfield | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Greeley | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Loup | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sherman | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Valley | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| Wheeler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

Behavioral health providers were generally lacking in the Custer County Area counties. The only counties with providers were Custer and Valley Counties. Custer County had four licensed independent mental health practitioners (LIMHPs) and five licensed mental health practitioners (LMPHs), while Valley County had one psychiatrist and four LIMPHs. No advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) or physician’s assistants (PAs) practiced psychiatry, no psychologists, and no licensed alcohol and drug counselors worked in the service area (Table 38).

Table 38: Behavioral health providers, including satellite locations (2016)[[44]](#footnote-44)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Psy-chiatrists | APRNs Practicing Psychiatry | PAs Practicing Psychiatry | Psy-chologists | LIMHPs | LMPHs | LADCs | Total |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Valley | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | 164 | 113 | 15 | 355 | 1,034 | 783 | 105 | 2,569 |

## Section 6. Pregnancy and Parenting

The Kotelchuk index was used to determine the percent of women receiving inadequate prenatal care. Using the initiation of prenatal care and the number of prenatal visits received, the Kotelchuk Index classifies care as adequate, intermediate, or inadequate. Nearly one in four pregnant women in Sherman and Greeley Counties experienced inadequate care, and one in five experienced the same in Custer, Valley, and Wheeler Counties. These were all at a higher rate than the state average. There were no reported incidences of inadequate care in Blaine and Loup Counties (Table 40).

Table 39: Percent of pregnant women receiving inadequate prenatal care (based on Kotelchuk index) (2016)[[45]](#footnote-45)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Percent |
| Blaine | 0.0% |
| Custer | 20.9% |
| Garfield | 6.7% |
| Greeley | 23.1% |
| Loup | 0.0% |
| Sherman | 24.1% |
| Valley | 20.5% |
| Wheeler | 20.0% |
| Nebraska | 15.6% |

The number of infants and children (ages 1-19) who died in the ten-year periods of 1999-2008 and 2003-2012 are shown in Table 40.

Table 40: Infant and child mortality (1999-2008 and 2003-2012)[[46]](#footnote-46)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *1999-2008* | | *2003-2012* | |
|  | **Infant deaths** | **Deaths to children ages 1-19** | **Infant deaths** | **Deaths to children ages 1-19** |
| Blaine | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Custer | 11 | 10 | 13 | 10 |
| Garfield | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Greeley | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Loup | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Sherman | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Valley | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Wheeler | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nebraska | 1,624 | 1,670 | 1,482 | 1,452 |

Between 2012 and 2016, the greatest percentage of low weight births occurred in Loup County, followed by Greeley, Blaine, and Sherman Counties. Pre-term births were higher than the state average in Sherman, Blaine, Loup, and Greeley Counties during that time period. The percentage of children born with birth defects was highest in Valley County, and that the only county to show a greater occurrence than the state average (Table 41).

Table 41: Birth complication statistics (2012-2016)[[47]](#footnote-47)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Incidence of low birth weight | Incidence of pre-term birth | Percent of children born with birth defects |
| Blaine | 10.3% | 13.8% | 0.0% |
| Custer | 0.6% | 7.7% | 6.0% |
| Garfield | 4.9% | 4.9% | 7.4% |
| Greeley | 10.6% | 9.9% | 6.3% |
| Loup | 13.3% | 10.0% | 3.3% |
| Sherman | 8.6% | 14.6% | 7.2% |
| Valley | 4.9% | 5.7% | 8.1% |
| Wheeler | 5.0% | 5.0% | 5.0% |
| Nebraska | 6.8% | 9.4% | 7.9% |

The number and rate of births to unmarried women is shown in Table 38. (Note: the rates should be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers of cases involved.) The rate of births to unmarried women was highest in Loup and Sherman Counties. The rates in the other counties were lower than the state average.

Table 42: Number and rate of births to unmarried mothers (2016)[[48]](#footnote-48)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number | Rate |
| Blaine | 0 | 0.0 |
| Custer | 34 | 251.9 |
| Garfield | 2 | 133.3 |
| Greeley | 3 | 115.4 |
| Loup | 2 | 500.0 |
| Sherman | 12 | 387.1 |
| Valley | 11 | 275.0 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0.0 |
| Nebraska | 8,589 | 323.0 |

The percentage of children in single parent households changed significantly from 2012 to 2017 at the county level (Table 43). Use caution when interpreting these data due to the wide margin of error in the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey .

Table 43: Percentage of children in single parent households (2017) [[49]](#footnote-49)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 17.5% | 18% | 34.2% | 21.7% | 16% | 6.6% |
| Custer | 13.2% | 17% | 17.5% | 23.4% | 25.6% | 25.4% |
| Garfield | 17.7% | 21% | 18.9% | 26.7% | 26.5% | 24.4% |
| Greeley | 22.2% | 21% | 18.2% | 18% | 21.7% | 16.6% |
| Loup | 2.1% | 6% | 11.4% | 18.5% | 20% | 9.6% |
| Sherman | 19.6% | 20% | 16% | 36.3% | 30.1% | 25.1% |
| Valley | 17.2% | 18% | 18.2% | 16.7% | 20.3% | 14.2% |
| Wheeler | 17.9% | 16% | 5.5% | 18.6% | 25.3% | 21.7% |
| Nebraska | **26.3%** | **27.0%** | **27.7%** | **28.7%** | **28.8%** | **26.3%** |

Estimates for the number of children in single parent and non-family households are displayed below in Table 44. Again, use caution when interpreting these data.

Table 44: Number of children in single parent and non-family households (2017) [[50]](#footnote-50)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Children in male house-holder, no wife present, families | Children in female house-holder, no husband present, families | Children in non-family house-holds | *Total number of children single parent and non-family house-holds* |
| Blaine | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| Custer | 193 | 509 | 35 | 737 |
| Garfield | 25 | 64 | 0 | 89 |
| Greeley | 29 | 96 | 7 | 132 |
| Loup | 6 | 8 | 0 | 14 |
| Sherman | 46 | 114 | 10 | 170 |
| Valley | 68 | 84 | 2 | 154 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 34 | 0 | 34 |
| Nebraska | 33,812 | 98,022 | 3,383 | 135,217 |

## Section 7. Childcare

Table 45 shows the number of licensed childcare providers in the Custer County Area. Blaine, Loup, and Wheeler Counties have no licensed providers, and the percentage of providers that accept childcare subsidies ranges from 39 to 83%, depending on the county.

Table 45: Number of licensed childcare providers (2019)[[51]](#footnote-51)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Childcare Centers | Family Childcare Homes | Total Providers | Percent Accepting Subsidies |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Custer | 4 | 13 | 23 | 39.1% |
| Garfield | 0 | 3 | 5 | 60.0% |
| Greeley | 0 | 6 | 6 | 83.3% |
| Loup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Sherman | 0 | 4 | 4 | 50.0% |
| Valley | 1 | 10 | 11 | 45.5% |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |

## Section 8. Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Student Survey (NRPFSS) is a survey of students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. The data shown here are for the Loup Basin Public Health Department which includes all of the counties of the Custer County Area, as well as Howard County.

Alcohol use by high school students in the Custer County Area during the previous 30 days was generally comparable to the state average. Use was variable from year to year among the 8th and 10th graders in the Loup Basin, and increased every surveyed year for the high school seniors. This is the opposite of the state, which was in decline prior to 2016 (Table 46).

Table 46: Past 30-day alcohol use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (2010 to 2016)[[52]](#footnote-52)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| Loup Basin | 8th | 5.9% | 9.3% | 4.7% | 7.5% |
| 10th | 18.9% | 16.5% | 20.4% | 14.0% |
| 12th | 27.7% | 29.5% | 30.6% | 34.3% |
| Nebraska | 8th | 7.9% | 6.3% | 4.4% | 7.3% |
| 10th | 21.0% | 18.4% | 15.9% | 20.0% |
| 12th | 34.7% | 31.4% | 29.6% | 34.4% |

While the past 30-day cigarette use declined for each grade at the state level, it was more variable for the students in the Loup Basin district. In the most recent data available, use was lower in the Loup Basin district among the 8th and 12th graders, but much higher in the 10th grade students, compared to the state (Table 47).

Table 47: Past 30-day cigarette use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (2010 to 2016)[[53]](#footnote-53)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| Loup Basin | 8th | 2.4% | 1.9% | 2.1% | 1.6% |
| 10th | 8.8% | 7.3% | 8.7% | 11.8% |
| 12th | 20.2% | 12.4% | 17.1% | 10.8% |
| Nebraska | 8th | 4.8% | 3.3% | 2.9% | 2.3% |
| 10th | 11.7% | 9.3% | 7.6% | 6.7% |
| 12th | 20.9% | 18.8% | 15.8% | 11.9% |

Marijuana use in the past 30 days was variable for students in the Loup Basin and across the state. Marijuana use the past 30 days in 2016 was a fraction of what it was in 2010 for Loup Basin 8th graders, but was triple the use over the same period among 10th graders. While gradually increasing among high school seniors at the state level, seniors in the Loup Basin reported use at about half the rate as the state average (even less in 2016) (Table 48).

Table 48: Past 30-day marijuana use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (2010 to 2016)[[54]](#footnote-54)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| Loup Basin | 8th | 1.5% | 0.0% | 0.5% | 0.3% |
| 10th | 2.1% | 3.2% | 4.1% | 6.4% |
| 12th | 6.4% | 3.9% | 6.3% | 5.8% |
| Nebraska | 8th | 2.4% | 2.3% | 2.3% | 2.8% |
| 10th | 8.0% | 8.6% | 7.6% | 8.8% |
| 12th | 11.8% | 11.7% | 12.7% | 15.7% |

Past 30-day prescription drug use was generally increasing among the 8th and 10th grade students in the Loup Basin, while decreasing among these populations at the state level. Use was generally decreasing for both the Loup Basin seniors and those across the state, although at a much steeper rate for those in the Loup Basin (Table 49).

Table 49: Past 30-day prescription drug use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (2010 to 2016)[[55]](#footnote-55)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
| Loup Basin | 8th | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.6% |
| 10th | 1.0% | 1.2% | 1.8% | 1.4% |
| 12th | 3.0% | 1.1% | 1.4% | 0.8% |
| Nebraska | 8th | 1.1% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 0.5% |
| 10th | 2.8% | 2.4% | 2.2% | 2.6% |
| 12th | 4.2% | 3.8% | 3.3% | 3.4% |

## Section 9. Domestic Violence

Offenses against families and children include arrests and citations for non-support, neglect, abuse, abandonment, and non-payment of alimony. The number of arrests for this crime were limited to Custer County in 2017 (Table 50).

Table 50: Number of arrests for offenses against families and children under 18 population (2012 to 2017)[[56]](#footnote-56)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Blaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Loup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The term domestic applies to the family or household members and includes a broad array of familial and dating relationships. Simple assault includes all assaults that do not involve the use of a firearm, knife, cutting instrument, or other dangerous weapon and in which the victim did not sustain serious or aggravated injuries.

The count of arrests (and rate per 1,000 people) for simple domestic violence assaults for all counties in the Custer County Area are shown in Table 51. The rates were lower for the Custer County Area counties than for the state overall. However, these should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of cases and population size.

Table 51: Simple domestic violence assault arrests (2012-2017)[[57]](#footnote-57)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2012* | | *2013* | | *2014* | | *2015* | | *2016* | | *2017* | |
|  | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** |
| Blaine | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - | 0 | 0.0 |
| Custer | 14 | 12.8 | 18 | 16.6 | 16 | 14.8 | 22 | 20.4 | 17 | 15.8 | 12 | 11.1 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Loup | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Sherman | 5 | - | 3 | - | 5 | - | 1 | - | 5 | - | 4 | - |
| Valley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | - | 7 | 16.6 | 6 | 14.1 |
| Wheeler | 1 | - | 1 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Nebraska | 5,085 | 27.8 | 7,028 | 38.2 | 5,047 | 27.2 | 8,804 | 47.1 | 7,649 | 40.7 | 3,842 | 20.3 |

Note that numerous police departments across the state do not submit domestic violence data to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

An aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or a means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Table 52 shows the count and rate of arrests for the Custer County Area counties. Again, the rates should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of cases and population size.

Table 52: Aggravated domestic violence assault arrests (2012-2017)[[58]](#footnote-58)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2012* | | *2013* | | *2014* | | *2015* | | *2016* | | *2017* | |
|  | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** |
| Blaine | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Custer | 3 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | - | 6 | 0.6 | 7 | 0.7 | 4 | - |
| Garfield | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Loup | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Sherman | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Valley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 4 | - | 0 | 0.0 |
| Nebraska | 393 | 0.2 | 503 | 0.3 | 684 | 0.4 | 1,119 | 0.6 | 1,178 | 0.6 | 585 | 0.4 |

Note that numerous police departments across the state do not submit domestic violence data to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

## Section 10. Criminal Justice

The total number of arrests (and rates) for each county from 2012 to 2017 is shown in Table 53. The number of arrests across the state were lower in 2017 than in 2012, but there was not a clear pattern across the Custer County Area counties. Custer County had the greatest number of arrests overall. Arrests in Valley County greatly increased in 2014 and continued to climb through 2017. However, this occurrence in Valley County is due to all law enforcement agencies in the county submitting data to the Nebraska Crime Commission (submission of data is voluntary, but most agencies submit data).

Table 53: Total number of arrests (2012 to 2017)[[59]](#footnote-59)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2012* | | *2013* | | *2014* | | *2015* | | *2016* | | *2017* | |
|  | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** |
| Blaine | 3 | - | 4 | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 4 | - |
| Custer | 322 | 295.3 | 338 | 310.9 | 313 | 289.3 | 269 | 249.0 | 345 | 319.9 | 298 | 275.0 |
| Garfield | 1 | - | 8 | 41.1 | 9 | 46.6 | 4 | - | 6 | 30.5 | 3 | - |
| Greeley | 3 | - | 12 | 47.9 | 4 | - | 11 | 44.4 | 2 | - | 10 | 41.1 |
| Loup | 2 | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | 2 | - | 3 | - | 4 | - |
| Sherman | 33 | 105.3 | 24 | 76.7 | 36 | 115.4 | 32 | 103.0 | 22 | 71.2 | 21 | 68.9 |
| Valley | 7 | 16.2 | 1 | - | 24 | 56.2 | 70 | 164.6 | 88 | 207.6 | 103 | 242.2 |
| Wheeler | 6 | 82.8 | 9 | 103.6 | 3 | - | 3 | - | 4 | - | 1 | - |
| Nebraska | 78,849 | 431.1 | 72,888 | 395.6 | 73,238 | 394.7 | 70,708 | 378.3 | 71,526 | 380.2 | 71,113 | 375.5 |

The number and rate of juvenile arrests across the eight counties and for the state overall for the years 2012-2017 is shown in Table 54. Juvenile arrests were down, statewide, in 2017 compared to 2012, but there was a slight uptick from 2016. Among the eight counties in the service area, Custer County had the highest number of juvenile arrests, followed by Sherman County.

Table 54: Juvenile arrests (2012 to 2017)[[60]](#footnote-60)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2012* | | *2013* | | *2014* | | *2015* | | *2016* | | *2017* | |
|  | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** | **count** | **rate** |
| Blaine | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Custer | 22 | 8.4 | 30 | 11.6 | 44 | 16.8 | 33 | 12.5 | 17 | 6.4 | 23 | 8.6 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Greeley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | - |
| Loup | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | - | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Sherman | 7 | 10.1 | 6 | 8.7 | 10 | 14.9 | 12 | 17.2 | 4 | - | 0 | 0.0 |
| Valley | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 23.5 | 5 | - | 9 | 8.8 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Nebraska | 12,211 | 24.9 | 10,538 | 21.5 | 10,357 | 21.0 | 10,196 | 20.5 | 9,467 | 18.9 | 9,860 | 19.6 |

The number of juvenile arrests by type from 2012 to 2017 across all eight counties in the service area is displayed below in Table 55. The most common type of juvenile arrest is for liquor laws violations.

Table 55: Types of Offenses for Juvenile Arrests across the Custer County Area (2012 to 2017)[[61]](#footnote-61)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of Offense | Number of Arrests (2012-2017) |
| Liquor Laws | 66 |
| Drug Abuse Violations | 33 |
| Larceny | 26 |
| Vandalism | 20 |
| Simple Assault | 13 |
| Burglary | 9 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 5 |
| Stolen Property | 3 |
| Offense Against Family and Children | 3 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 3 |
| Forcible Rape | 1 |
| Aggravated Assault | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 1 |
| Weapons | 1 |
| All Other Offenses (except traffic) | 47 |

# Appendix

### 2018 Poverty Thresholds

The table below displays the 2018 U.S. Census household income thresholds for poverty. If a family's before tax income is less than the threshold, then that family and every individual in it is in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

**Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family Unit**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Weighted Average Thresholds** | **Related children under 18 years** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Size of family unit** |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| **None** | **One** | | **Two** | | **Three** | | **Four** | | **Five** | | **Six** | | **Seven** | | **Eight or more** | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| One person (unrelated individual) | $12,793 |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Under 65 years | $13,064 | $13,064 |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 65 years and over | $12,043 | $12,043 |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Two people | $16,265 |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Householder under 65 years | $16,896 | $16,815 | $17,308 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Householder 65 years and over | $15,190 | $15,178 | $17,242 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  |  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Three people | $19,992 | $19,642 | $20,212 | | $20,231 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Four people | $25,707 | $25,900 | $26,324 | | $25,465 | | $25,554 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Five people | $30,440 | $31,234 | $31,689 | | $30,718 | | $29,967 | | $29,509 | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Six people | $34,439 | $35,925 | $36,068 | | $35,324 | | $34,612 | | $33,553 | | $32,925 | |  | |  | |  | |
| Seven people | $39,105 | $41,336 | $41,594 | | $40,705 | | $40,085 | | $38,929 | | $37,581 | | $36,102 | |  | |  | |
| Eight people | $43,727 | $46,231 | $46,640 | | $45,800 | | $45,064 | | $44,021 | | $42,696 | | $41,317 | | $40,967 | |  | |
| Nine people or more | $51,919 | $55,613 | $55,883 | | $55,140 | | $54,516 | | $53,491 | | $52,082 | | $50,807 | | $50,491 | | $48,546 | |

### Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

**Free Meal.** Children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits because they, or any household member, receive benefits under SNAP, FDPIR, TANF or Foster Child.  Children from households with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals.

Children who are homeless, runaway, or migrant; foster child; enrolled in a Federally-funded Head Start Program or a comparable State funded Head Start Program or pre-kindergarten programs or in an Even Start Program are categorically eligible for free school meals.

**Reduced Price Meal** means a lunch or breakfast available for a child that meets USDA nutrition and food safety standards.  A child eligible for a reduced-price meal is based on family size and income.  Children from households with incomes greater than 130 percent but no greater than 185 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for reduced price meals.

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