

## Multnomah County Preschool Population Demographics

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2018

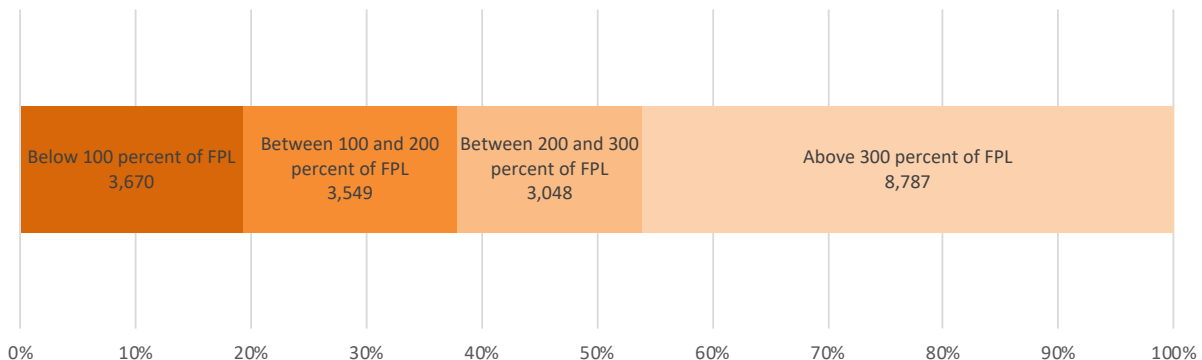
### Demographics

Based on the most recent American Community Survey estimates, about 19,000 three- and four-year-old children live in Multnomah County.

- About 3,670, or 19 percent, are living in households with incomes below the federal poverty level. For a family of four in 2018, this would mean families are living with annual incomes under \$25,100.
- About 3,550, or 19 percent, are living between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four in 2018, this would mean families are living with annual incomes under \$50,200.
- About 3,050, or 16 percent, are living between 200 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four in 2018, this would mean families are living with annual incomes under \$75,300.
- The remaining 46 percent of 3 and 4 year olds are above 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Multnomah County's median household income in 2016 is estimated at \$62,629 (standard error of \$1,731).

**Figure 1. Estimate of Multnomah County population age 3 and 4, by federal poverty level, 2012-16**

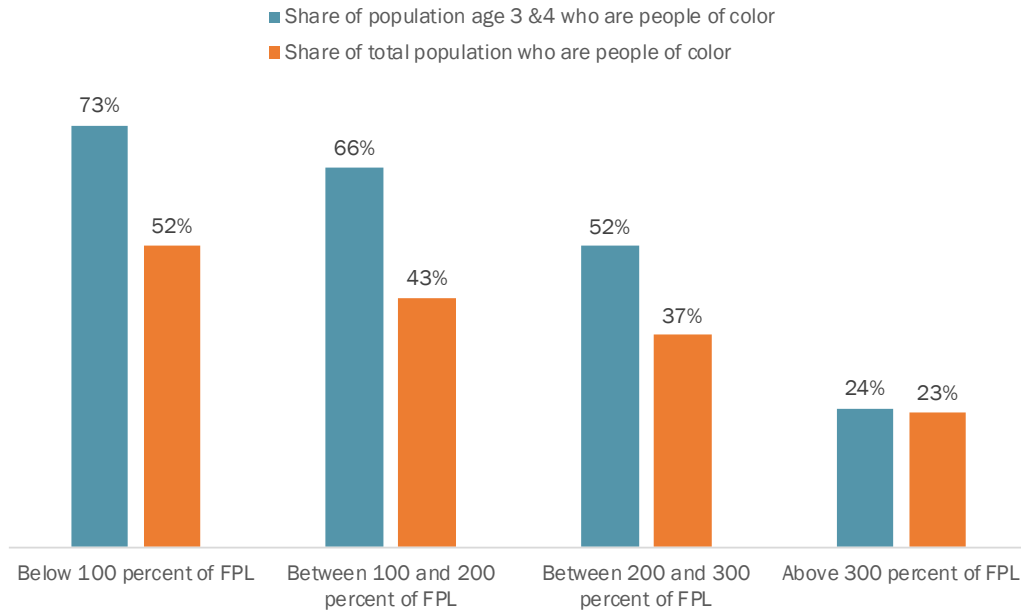


Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

The Portland State University Population Research Center forecasts a 2.29 percent growth between 2017 and 2025 for the age group from birth through age 4 in Multnomah County. This may represent a growth in the preschool age population of roughly 430 children. Through 2035,

they forecast an increase of 8.19 percent, or an estimated 1,532 additional preschool age children.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 2. Share of Multnomah county children age 3 or 4 and total population who are people of color\*, by poverty level, 2012-16**



Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

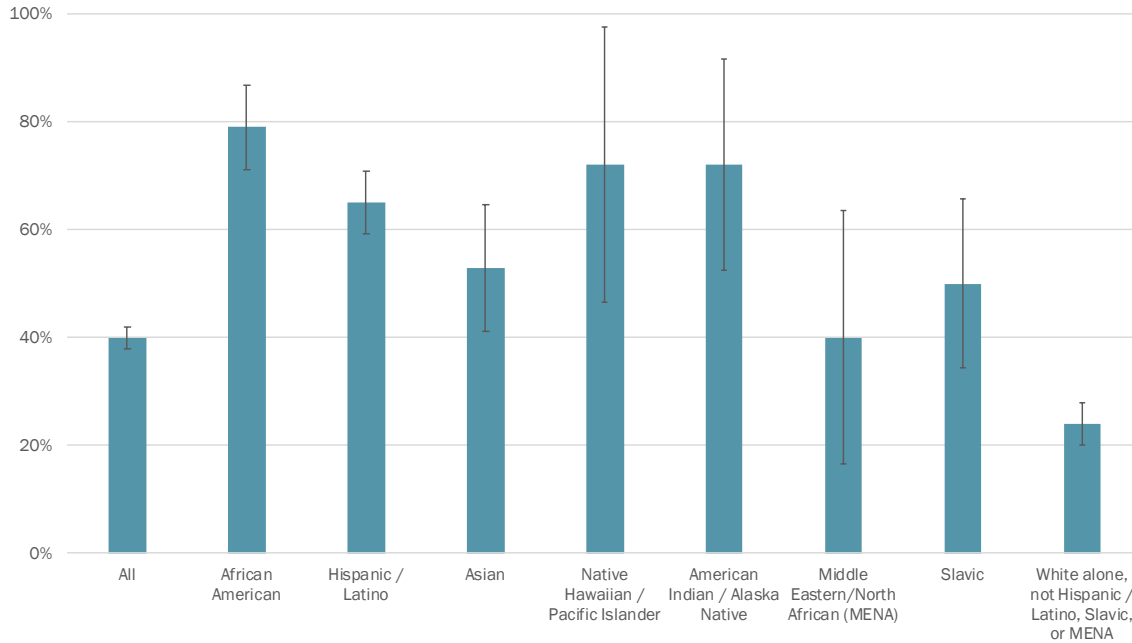
\*People of color, as defined here, includes all non-white races, as well as individuals with Slavic ancestry and of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Multnomah County’s preschool age children are much more diverse than the general population. Three- and four-year-old children living in households with incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty level are much more likely to be people of color.

More than half of Multnomah County’s children age 6 or younger of Hispanic/Latino, African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Native or Alaska Native, Asian, or Slavic race, ethnicity, or ancestry are living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. African American children are most likely to fall below this threshold. To increase our confidence in these estimates, these shares are estimates for children through age 6. Lines on the chart below show the range of shares over which we are 95 percent confident in the estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Population Research Center, Portland State University, March 31, 2017.

**Figure 3. Share of children birth through age 6 with poverty status below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, with 95 percent confidence interval, Multnomah County, 2012-16**

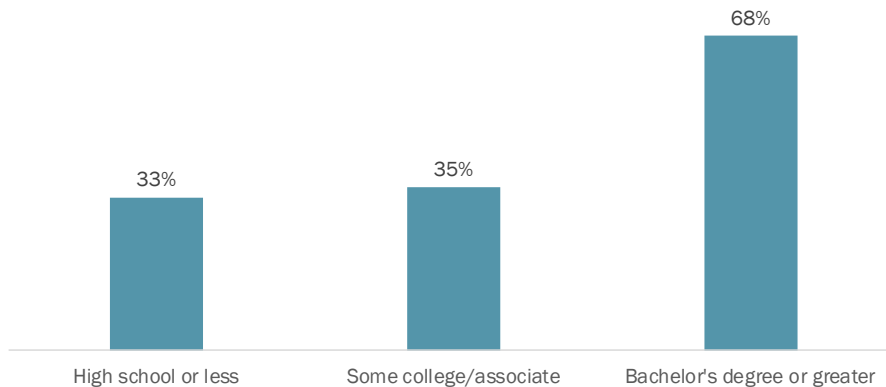


Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

Note: Chart includes children who are 6 years of age or younger rather than age 3 and 4 to increase the reliability of population estimates.

Much of the preschool gap in Multnomah County is among children in households with lower levels of education among parents. Based on self-reporting in the annual American Community Survey, only 33 percent of children in households where parents have a high school degree, high school degree equivalent, or less were reported as being enrolled in school. Children in households where at least one parent holds a bachelor’s degree were much more likely to be reported as being enrolled in school, at 68 percent.

**Figure 4. Estimated share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in public or private school, by parent’s highest level of education, Multnomah County, 2012-16**

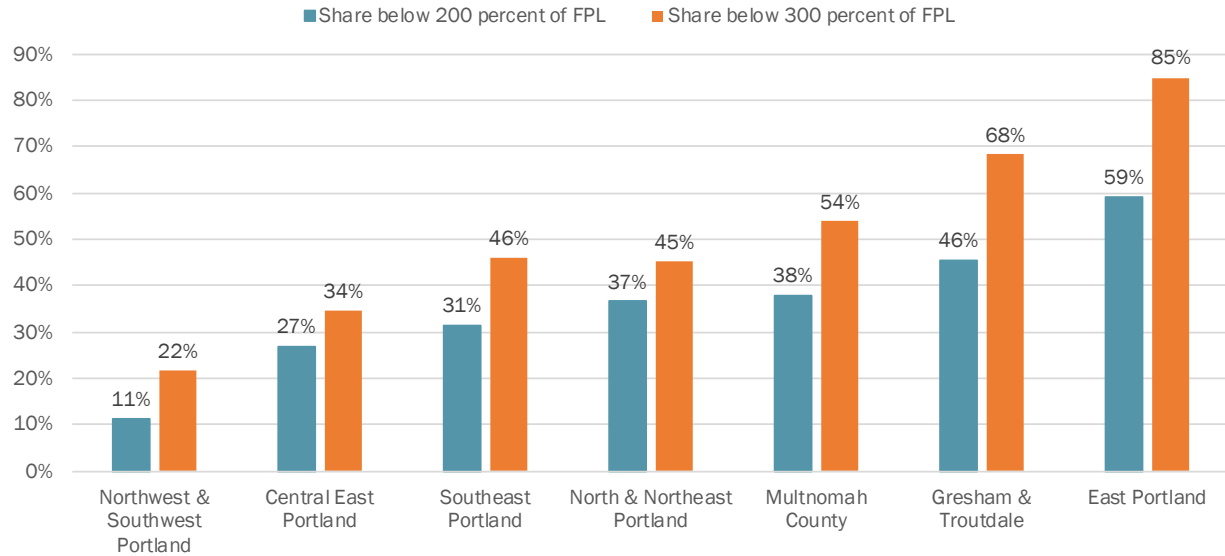


Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

## Geographic Distribution

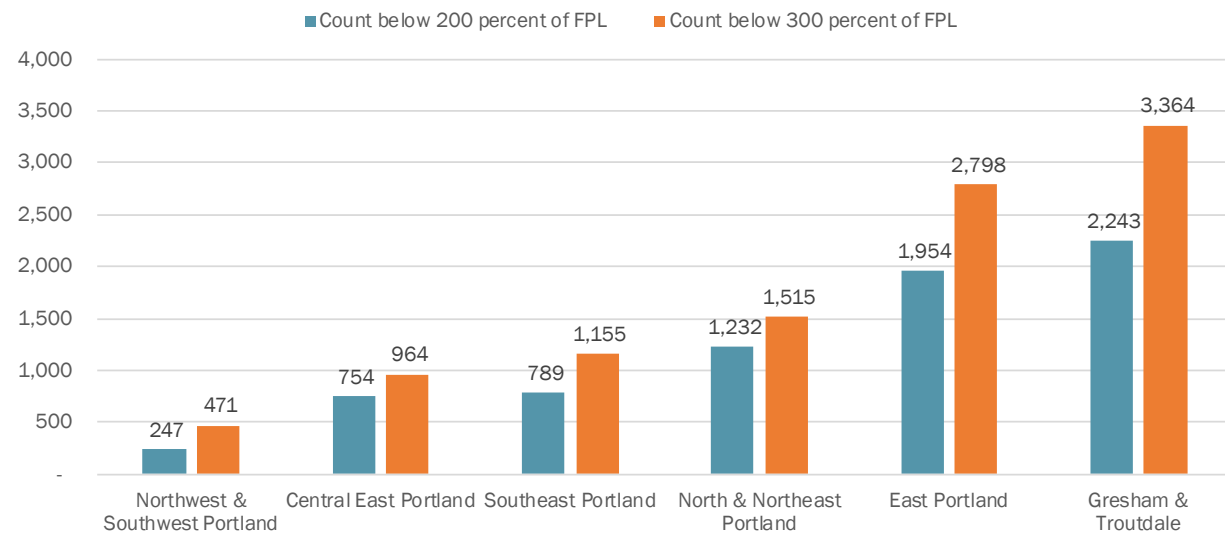
Higher poverty rates among 3- and 4-year-olds in Multnomah County are concentrated in Gresham/Troutdale (46 percent below 200 percent FPL) and East Portland (59 percent below 200 percent FPL). Only Northwest and Southwest Portland report less than a quarter of children age 3 and 4 living under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

**Figure 5. Estimated share of children age 3 and 4 living under 200 percent and 300 percent of the federal poverty level, Multnomah County, 2012-16**



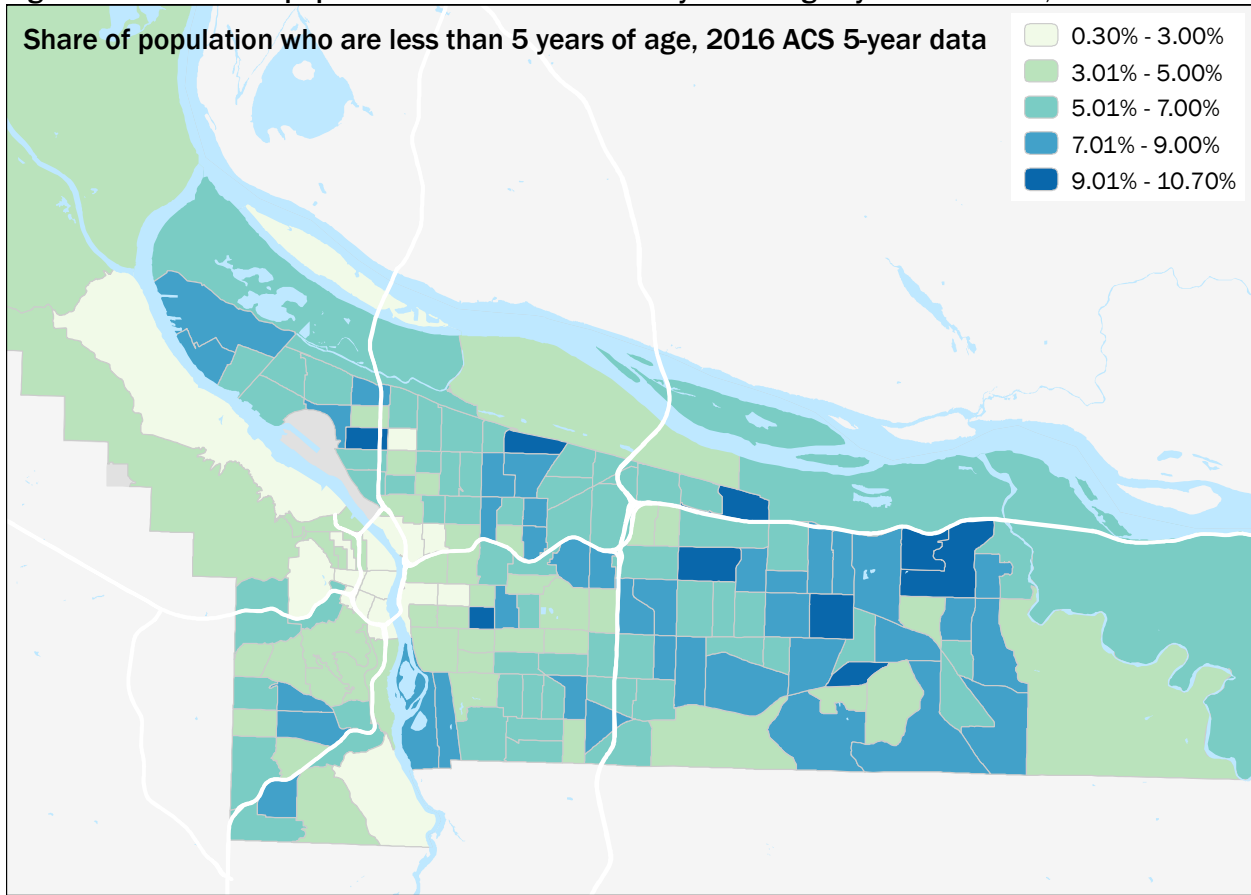
Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

**Figure 6. Estimated count of children age 3 and 4 living under 200 percent and 300 percent of the federal poverty level, Multnomah County, 2012-16**



Source: ECONorthwest analysis of ACS PUMS 2016 five-year data

**Figure 7. Share of the population who are less than 5 years of age by Census tracts, 2012-16**



Source: ECONorthwest analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey data

Note: Map includes children who are less than 5 years of age rather than age 3 and 4 to increase the reliability of population estimates.

## Estimated Current Enrollment

Based on recent state and federal program head counts, an estimated 4,400, or 61 percent, of 3- and 4-year-olds under 200 percent of the federal poverty level in Multnomah County, are not currently served by state or federal public preschool programs. These estimates include both partial and full day programs.

We do not yet have quality estimates of children enrolled in other public or private programs that we might define as preschool (highly trained teachers, established learning objectives, etc.). Based on 2014 estimates, there are roughly 1,800 slots at Head Start sites in Multnomah County, which host federal Head Start and Oregon Head Start (OPK) funded children.

**Figure 8. Current estimated public preschool coverage by income threshold, 2018**

Federal Poverty Level	Estimated 3- and 4-year-olds in Multnomah County	Federal and State (OPK) Head Start (generally 100% FPL)	Preschool Promise (generally 200% FPL)	Estimated share of 3 & 4 year olds served by public preschool programs
Below 200 percent of FPL	7,219	2,648	194	39%
Above 200 percent of FPL	11,835	0	0	0%
Total	19,054	2,648	194	15%

Source: ECONorthwest analysis of 2016 5-year American Community Survey data; May 1, 2018 enrollment reporting by OPK program mapped to early learning hub (from the Children's Institute)