Summary

The poverty rate for Golden Valley County increased from 10.9% in 2010 to 20.7% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county’s unemployment rate decreased from 5.1% to 4.7%. Median income in 2014 was lower in Golden Valley County ($42,083) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 60.3% in 2013 to 66.1% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county decreased by 38.5% (13 in 2012 to 8 in 2015).

- The poverty rate in Golden Valley County is 20.7%. This is higher than the statewide rate of 15.2%. The rate in Golden Valley County has increased since 2010. The statewide rate has risen slightly over the same time period.
- The poverty rates for youth (under 18) and working age adults (18 to 64) were higher in Golden Valley County than Montana; however, the poverty rate elderly adults (65 and older) was lower in Golden Valley County than Montana.
- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was higher in Golden Valley County than Montana (42.9% versus 19.6%). The poverty rate for working adults (18 to 64) was higher in Golden Valley County than Montana (15.4% versus 14.5%) And, the poverty rate for the elderly (65 and older) was lower in Golden Valley County than Montana (5.2% versus 8.6%).
The unemployment rate in Golden Valley County has remained at or slightly under 5% from 2011 to 2014. The statewide rate declined from 7% to 4.7% over this same period.

The SNAP Program had 54,535 cases active in June of 2015 providing benefits to 116,843 Montanans. The average monthly benefit per case was $254 (or $118 per person). This represents 11.8% of the Montana population. These numbers are down from 2012 when there were 58,918 cases representing 126,547 recipients or 12.8% of the population. Also in 2012, the average benefit was $276 per case or $128 per person. Each program statistic has declined since 2012.

In 2015, 9.1% of the population in Golden Valley County was receiving SNAP benefits. In 2012, 7.4% of the population received benefits.

The TANF program had 2,936 active cases in Montana in June of 2015 benefiting 7,007 individuals (0.71% of the population). The average benefit per case was $374 per month. These numbers are down from 2012 when there were 3,282 cases benefiting 8,162 individuals (0.82% of the population). The average benefit in 2012 was $426 per month.

County level data for the TANF is not available for Golden Valley County.
- The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county increased from 60.3% in 2013 to 66.1% in 2016, while the state decreased from 45.2% in 2013 to 42.6% in 2016.

Utilization of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- The LIHEAP case load decreased by 38.5% (13 in 2012 to 8 in 2015) for the county and increased by over 9.5% (10,765 in 2012 to 11,795 in 2015) for the state from December 2012 to December 2015. The LIHEAP payments per case increased 16.6% ($695 in 2012 to $811 in 2015) in the county and decreased 10.8% ($580 in 2012 to $518 in 2015) for the state from December 2012 to December 2015.

Medicaid Utilization Estimates

- The county’s aged (elderly) and child clients accounted for a higher percentage of Medicaid’s Physical Health funding utilization in 2014 than 2010. Medicaid Physical Health expenditures in the county increased by nearly 3 fold (about $200,000 in 2010 to about $600,000 in 2014), while increasing over 17.5% ($624.4 million in 2010 to $733.7 million in 2014) in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid Physical Health</th>
<th>Golden Valley</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
From 2011 to 2014, the population of Golden Valley County decreased by 8.9%.
During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) was somewhat lower in Golden Valley County than the state of Montana in 2011; but, were somewhat higher than the state of Montana from 2012 to 2014.

In 2014, the county’s Under 18 population was a lower proportion than for Montana. The county’s 65 & older population was a higher proportion than for Montana.
The dependency ratio is the number of young (0 to 17) and elderly (65 and older), who are said to be dependent, divided by the working age (18 to 64) population.

The county’s dependency ratio was higher than the state’s dependency ratio from 2011 to 2014.

The county’s dependency ratio was stable (around 73%), while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

In 2014, 10% of county residents aged 25 and older did not obtain a high school diploma, while the state average was 8%.

Data Note: Educational Attainment is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month (2010 to 2014) estimate.

Twenty Five percent of households in Montana earned less than $25,000 a year. Over the same time period, 47% of Montana households earned $50,000 or more.

The percentage of households in Golden Valley County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was nearly 30%, which is about 4% higher than the statewide rate.

Data Note: Income is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month (2010 to 2014) estimate.
The median income and the per-capita income amounts were lower for the county than the state.

Data Note: Income is measured by the American Community Survey 60 month estimate based on 2010 to 2014 data.

In Montana from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 21% to 19% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest increased from 21% to 23%.

In Golden Valley County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 29% to 26% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest increased from 18% to 19%. Golden Valley County’s personal income represents 0.1% of the statewide total.

From 2010 to 2014, the share of transfer payments for retirement and disability, medical benefits, and veteran’s benefits increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the state.

The share of transfer payments for retirement and disability, medical benefits, and income maintenance benefits increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the county.
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 41.4% ($1,307 in 2000 to $1,848 in 2013) in the county and 35.1% ($1,556 in 2000 to $2,103 in 2013) in the state. The percentage of EITC filers (EITC filers/Total IRS filers) decreased by 1.1% in the county and increased by 18.3% in the state.

The data sources for this report can be found at www.montana.edu/extensionecon/poverty.html.