Summary

The poverty rate for Petroleum County decreased from 16.7% in 2010 to 11.1% in 2013. For the month of December in 2011 and 2014, the county's unemployment rate decreased from 5.7% to 4.0%. Median income in 2014 was lower in Petroleum County ($40,250) than the state of Montana ($46,766). Eligibility for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 82.0% in 2013 to 66.7% in 2016. The LIHEAP case load for the county decreased by 50% (8 in 2012 to 4 in 2015).

- The poverty rate in Petroleum County is 11.1% in 2013. The statewide poverty rate was 15.2%. The Petroleum County rate has declined from 16.7% in 2010. The statewide rate increased from 14.5% in 2010.

- The poverty rates for the youth (under 18) were higher in Petroleum County than in Montana, while poverty rates for working age adults (18 to 64) and age 65 and over were lower.
- The poverty rate for youth, those under 18 years of age, was higher in Petroleum County than the state (22.6% versus 19.7%).
- The poverty rate for those 18 to 64 was lower in Petroleum County than the state (12.9% versus 14.5% and, the poverty rate for the elderly (65 and older) was slightly higher in Petroleum County than the state (8.7% versus 8.6%).
The unemployment rate in Petroleum County was 4% in 2014. This slightly less than the statewide unemployment rate of 4.7%.

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, 4.5% of the population in Petroleum County was receiving SNAP benefits. In 2012, 6.2% 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 Petroleum County.
**Free and Reduced School Lunch Eligibility**

- The percentage of school-aged children eligible for free and reduced school lunch in the county decreased from 82% in 2013 to 66.7% 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 50% (8 in 2012 to 4 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 decreased 46.6% ($983 in 2013 to $526 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 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 over 2 fold (about $100,000 in 2010 to about $300,000 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>Petroleum</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>624.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (x$1 million)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>733.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• From 2011 to 2014, the population of Petroleum County decreased by 18.2%.
• During the same time period, the state of Montana’s population increased by 3.4%.

**Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>Petroleum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>973,739</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>990,785</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>998,554</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,006,370</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Labor Force**

• Labor force participation rates (LFPR) were somewhat higher in Petroleum County than for the state of Montana from 2011 through 2014.

**Age Distribution**

• 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 2013. However, the county rate was lower in 2014.

The county’s dependency ratio decreased from 76% in 2011 to 53% in 2014, while the state’s dependency ratio increased from 60% in 2011 to 62% in 2014.

In 2014, 3% 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 Petroleum County with household income of less than $25,000 per year was 26%, which is very similar to 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 Petroleum County from 2010 to 2014, the percent of income generated by transfer receipts decreased from 22% to 11% of personal income. The percentage of personal income from dividends and interest decreased from 21% to 16%. Both of these decreases are primarily due to an increase in personal income. Petroleum 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 medical benefits increased, while other transfer payments decreased for the county.
From 2000 to 2013, EITC payments per EITC filer increased by 51.6% ($1,578 in 2000 to $2,392 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) increased by 35.1% in the county and 18.3% in the state.

The data sources for this report can be found at [www.montana.edu/extensionecon/poverty.html](http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/poverty.html).