



# Reportable Communicable Disease Summary

## Polk County Public Health, 2023

Polk County Public Health  
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<https://www.co.polk.or.us/ph>



## *A Message to Our Readers*

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This report utilizes the following criteria to present the 2023 Reportable Communicable Disease Summary for Polk County:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s definition of incidence:  
Number of cases of disease having their onset during a prescribed period of time.
- In comparison with other counties and regions, data presented on the graphs on pages 4-9 have had their values normalized per 100,000 population. This report utilizes the US Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimated population of 84,730 for Polk County.
- In accordance with the Polk County Public Health Small Numbers Policy, diseases with 6 or less cases are displayed as "<6" to reduce the risk of inadvertent breaches of patient confidentiality.
- Incidence by sex graphs only represent male and female, as this data is obtained from the facility who reported the disease or condition.

Refer to CDC for more information on specific diseases and conditions.

Polk County Public Health offers Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing, Reproductive Health, and Immunization services by appointment for individuals with limited or no medical insurance.

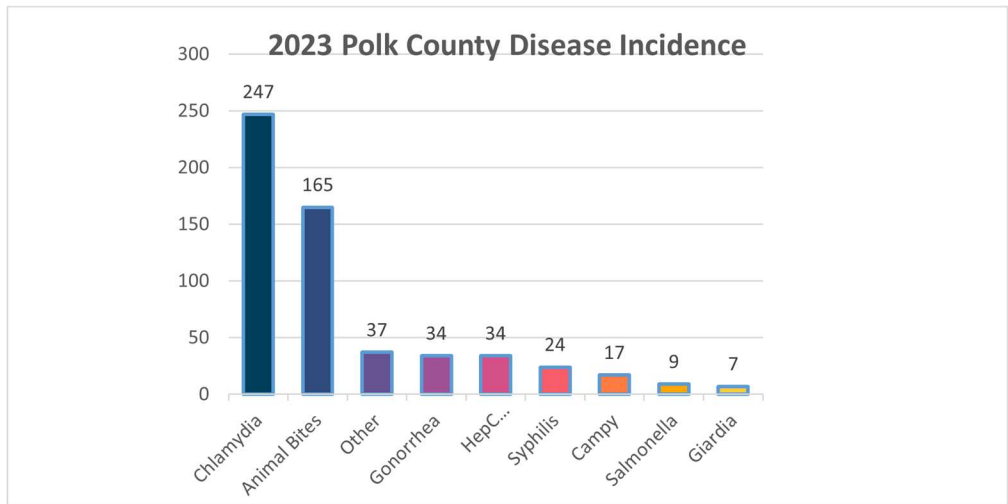
For an appointment or more information, please call:

Polk County Public Health  
182 SW Academy Street Suite 302, Dallas, OR 97338  
Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
503-623-8175



# Reportable Diseases

| Disease/Condition     | # of cases |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Chlamydia             | 247        |
| Animal Bites          | 165        |
| Gonorrhea             | 34         |
| Hepatitis C (Chronic) | 34         |
| Syphilis              | 24         |
| Campylobacteriosis    | 17         |
| Salmonella            | 9          |
| Giardia               | 7          |
| Anaplasmosis          | <6         |
| Babesiosis            | <6         |
| CRA                   | <6         |
| CRE                   | <6         |
| Cryptococcus          | <6         |
| Cryptosporidium       | <6         |
| E. coli (ETEC)        | <6         |
| E. coli (STEC)        | <6         |
| H. flu                | <6         |
| Hepatitis B (Chronic) | <6         |
| Hepatitis D           | <6         |
| HIV                   | <6         |
| Lead poisoning        | <6         |
| Legionella            | <6         |
| Malaria               | <6         |
| Meningococcal Disease | <6         |
| Shigella              | <6         |
| Tuberculosis (TB)*    | <6         |
| Yersinia              | <6         |



*This graph is a visual representation of reportable diseases and conditions with 6 or more cases detected in Polk County for the year 2023.*

*All diseases and conditions with less than 6 cases are included in the "Other" category in this graph.*

Oregon clinicians and laboratories are required by law to report on specific diseases, infections, conditions, and microorganisms.

For a full list, visit [OHA's: Oregon Disease Investigative Guidelines](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGGUIDELINES/Pages/index.aspx).  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGGUIDELINES/Pages/index.aspx>

*This table shows all reportable diseases and conditions that occurred in Polk County for the year of 2023.*

*For confidentiality purposes, diseases and conditions with 6 cases or less are labeled with "<6".*

\*Some facilities may be required to report the community rate of tuberculosis as part of their annual Oregon Tuberculosis (TB) risk assessment. Due to the small number of tuberculosis cases reported in Polk County, the incidence rate for 2023 is reported as 0.



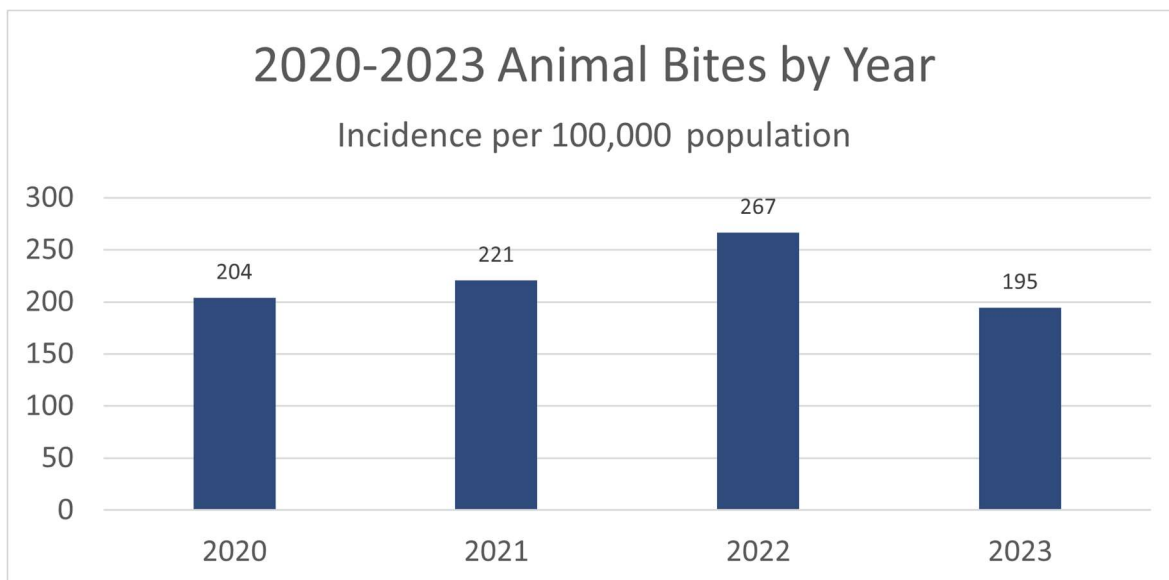
Polk County Public Health assesses the risk of rabies from reported animal bites that have occurred in the county. Animal bite reporting is required by law.

In Oregon, bats are the only reservoir species for rabies and other animals are rarely infected. Typically, animals acquire rabies by eating or coming in contact with a rabid bat. Very few bats in Oregon have rabies and rabies in other wildlife is even rarer.

Rabies does not penetrate intact skin or clothing. Exposure to rabies is determined by contact with an infected animal's saliva through a person's mucous membranes or broken skin.

### Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Watch wildlife from a distance, **don't approach or attempt to handle wild animals.**
- Do not feed wild animals.
- Keep garbage in secure containers and away from wildlife.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Seal openings in attics, basements, porches, sheds, barns and screen chimneys that might provide access to bats and other wildlife.



*This graph shows the incidence of animal bites starting in 2020, as the incidence prior to this year does not reflect the most current reporting criteria.*



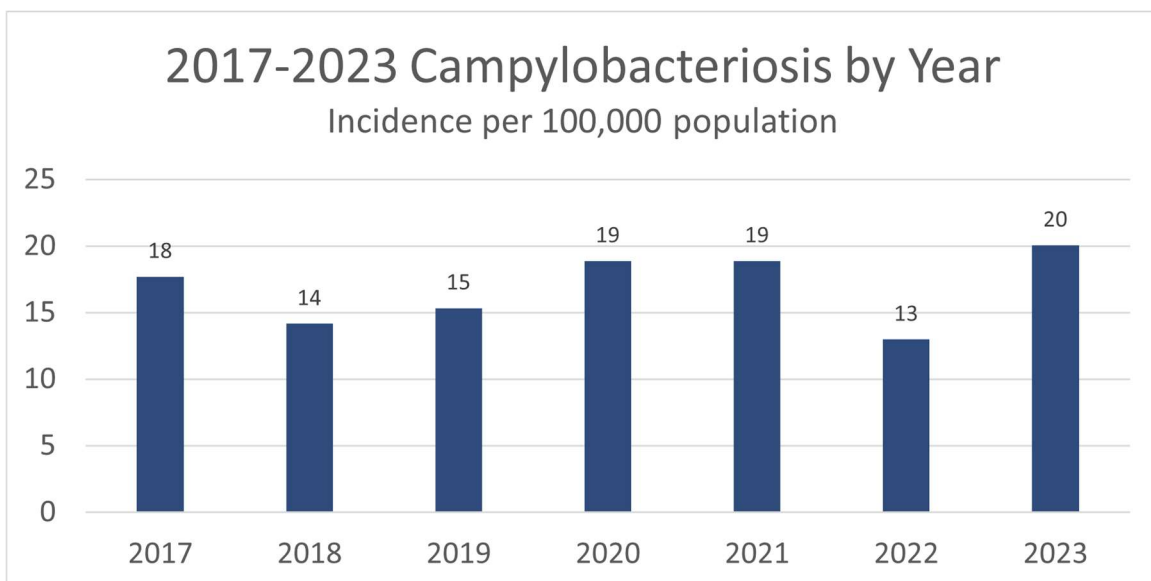
# Campylobacteriosis

Campylobacteriosis is the most common bacterial enteric (intestinal) infection reported in Oregon. Campylobacteriosis is caused by the *Campylobacter* bacteria. Common symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Common recognized sources and routes of transmission include:

- Unpasteurized (raw) milk
- Handling or eating undercooked or raw meat, particularly poultry
- Contaminated and inadequately treated drinking water
- Contact with animals (especially puppies and kittens with diarrhea)

## Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Wash your hands after handling any animals, raw meat and poultry, and ALWAYS before food preparation
- Avoid drinking untreated surface water
- Avoid consuming raw (unpasteurized milk)
- Avoid eating raw or undercooked poultry and meat
- Avoid cross-contamination of utensils or food that will be served without further cooking
- Wash hands after using the restroom or after coming into contact with stool





Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the *Chlamydia trachomatis* bacteria. Chlamydia can be spread through sexual contact (vaginal, anal, and oral sex) or perinatally (from a pregnant person to their baby during birth).

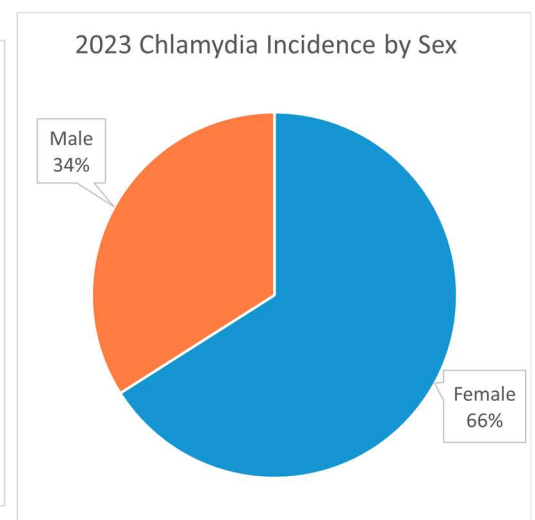
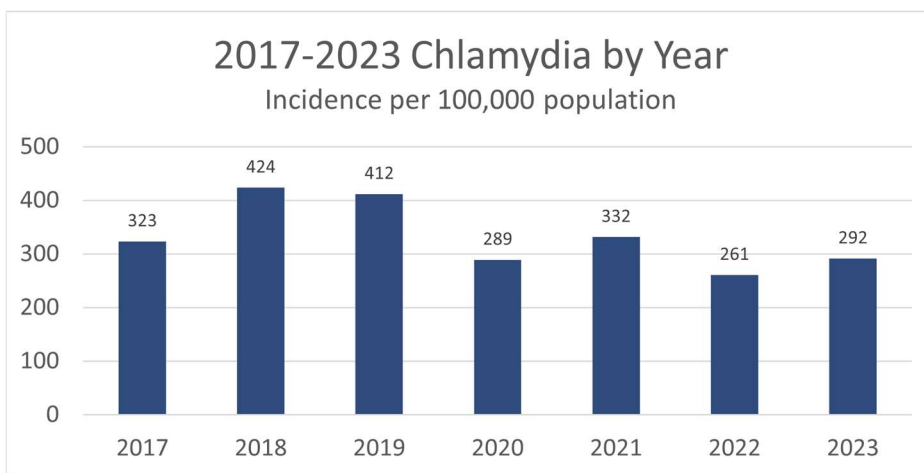
Chlamydia often has no symptoms, but the following symptoms may occur:

- Abnormal vaginal or penile discharge
- Burning with urination
- Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding

If left untreated, chlamydia can cause serious harm to the reproductive system.

### Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Routine STI testing, especially if one is sexually active and has multiple partners,
- A long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and does not have chlamydia; and
- Using condoms correctly with every sexual encounter





Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacteria. Chlamydia can be spread through sexual contact (vaginal, anal, and oral sex) or perinatally (from a pregnant person to their baby during birth).

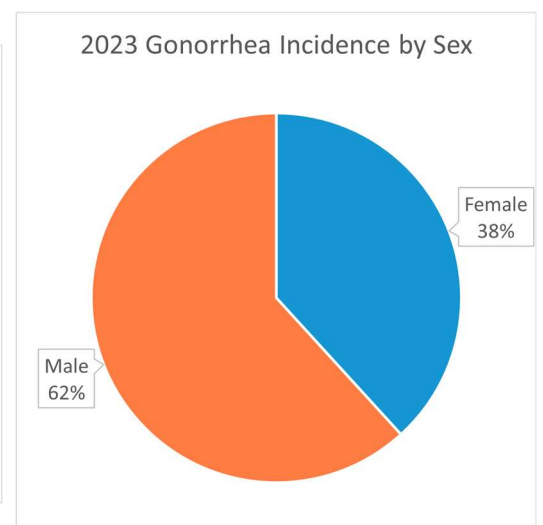
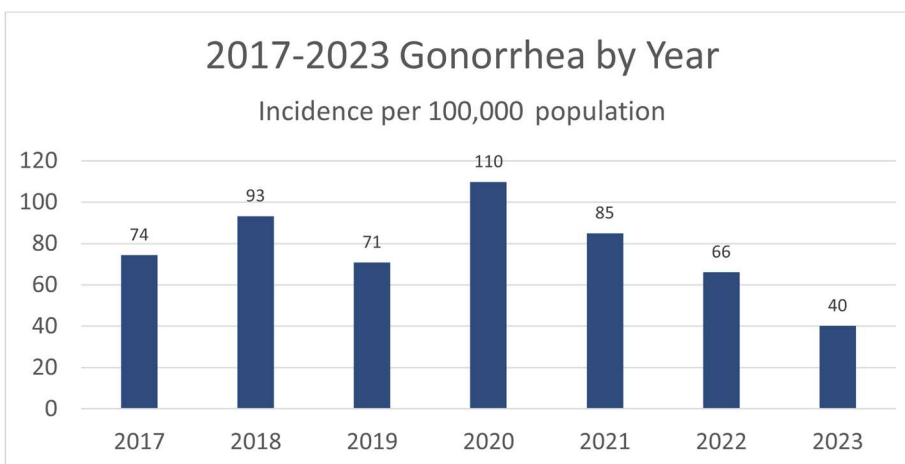
Gonorrhea often has no symptoms, but the following symptoms may occur:

- Pain or burning with urination
- Abnormal or increased vaginal or penile discharge
- Painful or swollen testicles
- Vaginal bleeding between menstrual cycles
- Rectal soreness, discharge, itching, bleeding, and painful bowel movements

If left untreated, gonorrhea can cause serious harm to the reproductive system.

### Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Routine STI testing, especially if one is sexually active and has multiple partners,
- A long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and does not have gonorrhea; and
- Using condoms correctly with every sexual encounter





# Hepatitis C (Chronic)

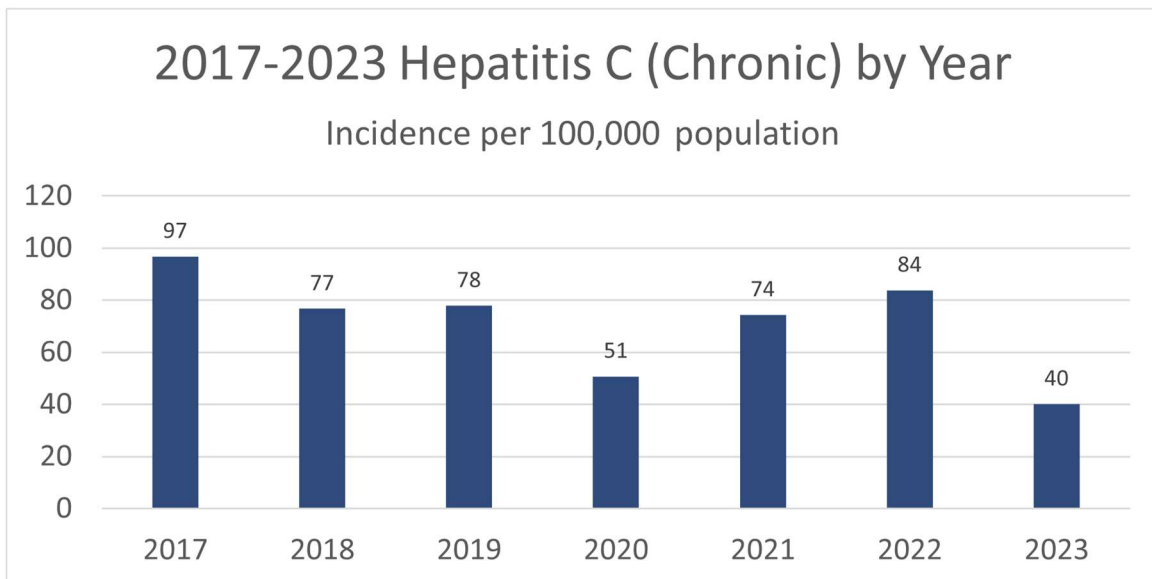
Hepatitis C is an inflammation of the liver caused by the Hepatitis C virus. Chronic illness occurs in 75-85% of infections. Hepatitis C is transmitted through contact with the blood of an infected person. This exposure could occur by:

- Sharing drug-injection equipment
- Birth (from an infected pregnant person to their baby)
- Healthcare exposures
- Sex with an infected person
- Unregulated tattoos or body piercings
- Sharing personal items that may have come in contact with a person's blood (razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers, etc.)
- Blood transfusions and organ transplants

Individuals with Hepatitis C often have very mild or no symptoms. If left untreated, Hepatitis C can cause liver disease, liver failure, liver cancer, and death.

### Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Avoid high risk exposures as noted above





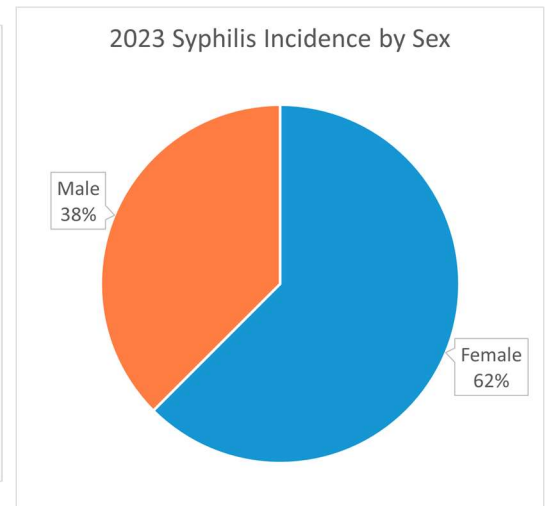
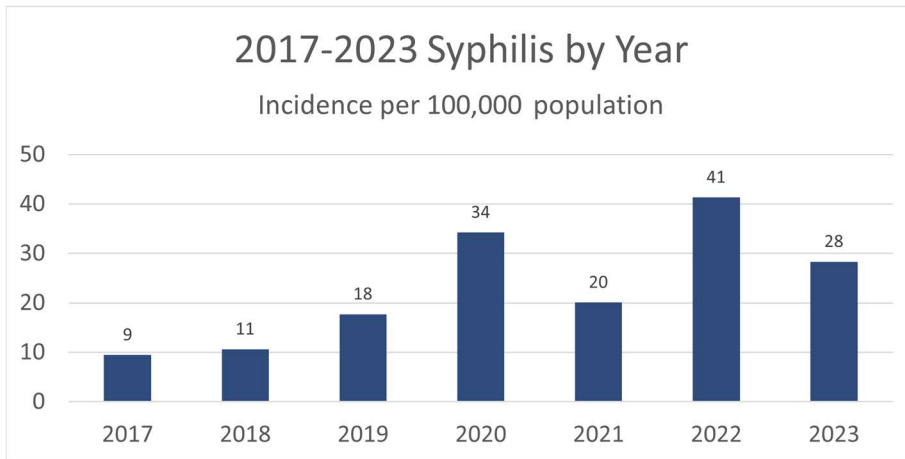


Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the *Treponema pallidum* bacteria. Syphilis can be spread through sexual contact (vaginal, anal, and oral sex), and can be transmitted from an infected pregnant person to their unborn child during pregnancy.

Syphilis is known as “the great imitator” because many of the signs and symptoms mimic those of other diseases. If untreated, syphilis progresses through stages that are often separated by periods without any symptoms.

### Recommended Prevention Measures:

- Routine STI testing, especially if one is sexually active and has multiple partners,
- A long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and does not have syphilis; and
- Using condoms correctly with every sexual encounter





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## References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, August 12). *Incidence - health, United States*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/sources-definitions/incidence.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, April 12). *STD Facts - Chlamydia*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, August 22). *STD facts - gonorrhea*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, February 10). *STD facts - syphilis*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis.htm>

*Oregon Disease Investigative Guidelines*. Oregon Health Authority: Oregon Disease Investigative Guidelines: Investigative Guidelines: State of Oregon. (2024). <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGGUIDELINES/Pages/index.aspx>

United States Census Bureau (2024). *DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates*. United States Census Bureau. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2020.DP05?q=polk+county+oregon+population>