

Eugene, OR  
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## LANE COUNTY

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**County's children documented:** A recent statewide report released by a nonprofit pro-child organization indicates that Lane County children stay in school at rates higher than the state average but have a much greater risk of dying in childhood.

Children First for Oregon, which compiled the statistics in collaboration with several state agencies, says Lane County's school districts achieve a school retention rate 22 percent better than the statewide average, with eighth-grade reading proficiency 9 percent better and eighth-grade math proficiency 12 percent better than students statewide.

However, while Lane County's incidence of abuse and neglect has

improved significantly, the rate at which children die by the age of 14 years has skyrocketed to a level 34 percent worse than the average in Oregon as a whole, the group says.

Suicide attempts among children ages 10 years to 17 years also far exceed the state average, by 29 percent, Children First indicated.

Child health in the Lane County region scored well in the group's study. Just over three-fourths of children in a six-county region including Lane County had received all their childhood immunizations, and only 7 percent of children in Lane County and three adjacent counties lacked health insurance.

For more information about Children First of Oregon and its "Status of Oregon's Children: 1999 County Data Book," contact the organization's local chapter at 343-5879.

### TODAY

**Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Main Floor, Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave., Eugene. 682-4203.

**Roads Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m. dinner, 5:45 p.m. meeting, Public Works Offices, 3040 N. Delta Highway, Eugene. 682-6911.

### THURSDAY

**Transportation Planning Committee** — 1:30 p.m., Large Conference Room, Suite 400, Fourth Floor, 99 E. Broadway, Eugene. 682-4044.