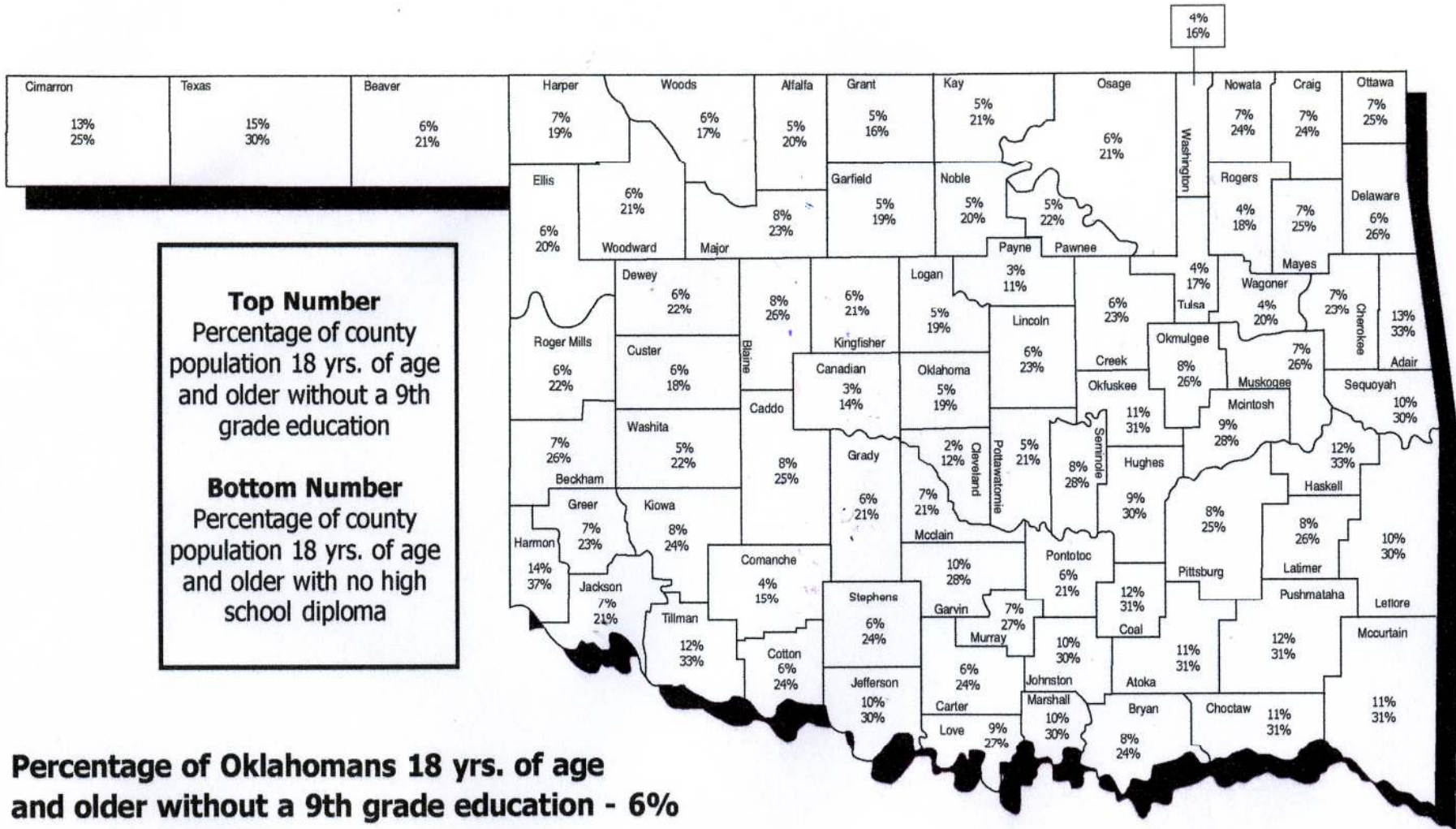


Oklahoma Educational Levels by County



Top Number
Percentage of county population 18 yrs. of age and older without a 9th grade education

Bottom Number
Percentage of county population 18 yrs. of age and older with no high school diploma

Percentage of Oklahomans 18 yrs. of age and older without a 9th grade education - 6%

Percentage of Oklahomans 18 yrs. of age and older without a high school diploma - 20%

Based on statistics from the 2000 Census
U.S. Census Bureau

<http://factfinder.census.gov>



Cost Of Illiteracy And Lack Of Education:

- **Increased crime, drug use, and incarceration**
- **Higher unemployment and training cost for business and industry**
- **Poor progress in school, increased drop out rate**
- **Increase in welfare**
- **Increased out of wedlock pregnancy rates**
- **Increased crime, drug use, and incarceration**
- **Nationally \$17 billion per year as a result of lost income and tax revenue**

Benefits of Literacy Training:

- Opposite of above and
- immediate impact on employment opportunities and general quality of life
- betterment of people's lives—enhanced self-esteem
- ability to read instructions on medications and civic documents,
- ability to learn new things expand knowledge, ability to cope with the majority society, understand issues, represent themselves, take responsibility for self-improvement and family health, and better participate in civic affairs

Since 2005



- **One of 18 Smart Start communities in Oklahoma.**
- **Supports families in literacy training**
- **Public awareness of children's needs**
- **Improved use of existing programs and resources**
- ***Raising A Reader (RAR).***
 - **Nationally recognized early literacy program**
 - **Fosters healthy brain development**
 - **Parent-child bonding**
 - **Early literacy skills**
 - **Engages parents in a daily read-aloud routine with their children**
 - **Rotates quality age-appropriate books into homes each week.**
 - **A child-driven process,**
 - **Motivates families to establish "book cuddling" routines with their little ones, leading to a love of books that lasts a lifetime.**

Early Reading First Program

Building Centers of Educational Excellence

- 📖 Approximately \$485,000 spent on literacy materials for the Pre-K classrooms in Little Dixie's three county area
- 📖 An average of almost \$35,000 per classroom to provide centers of educational excellence
- 📖 "Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life." ~Mortimer J. Adler

