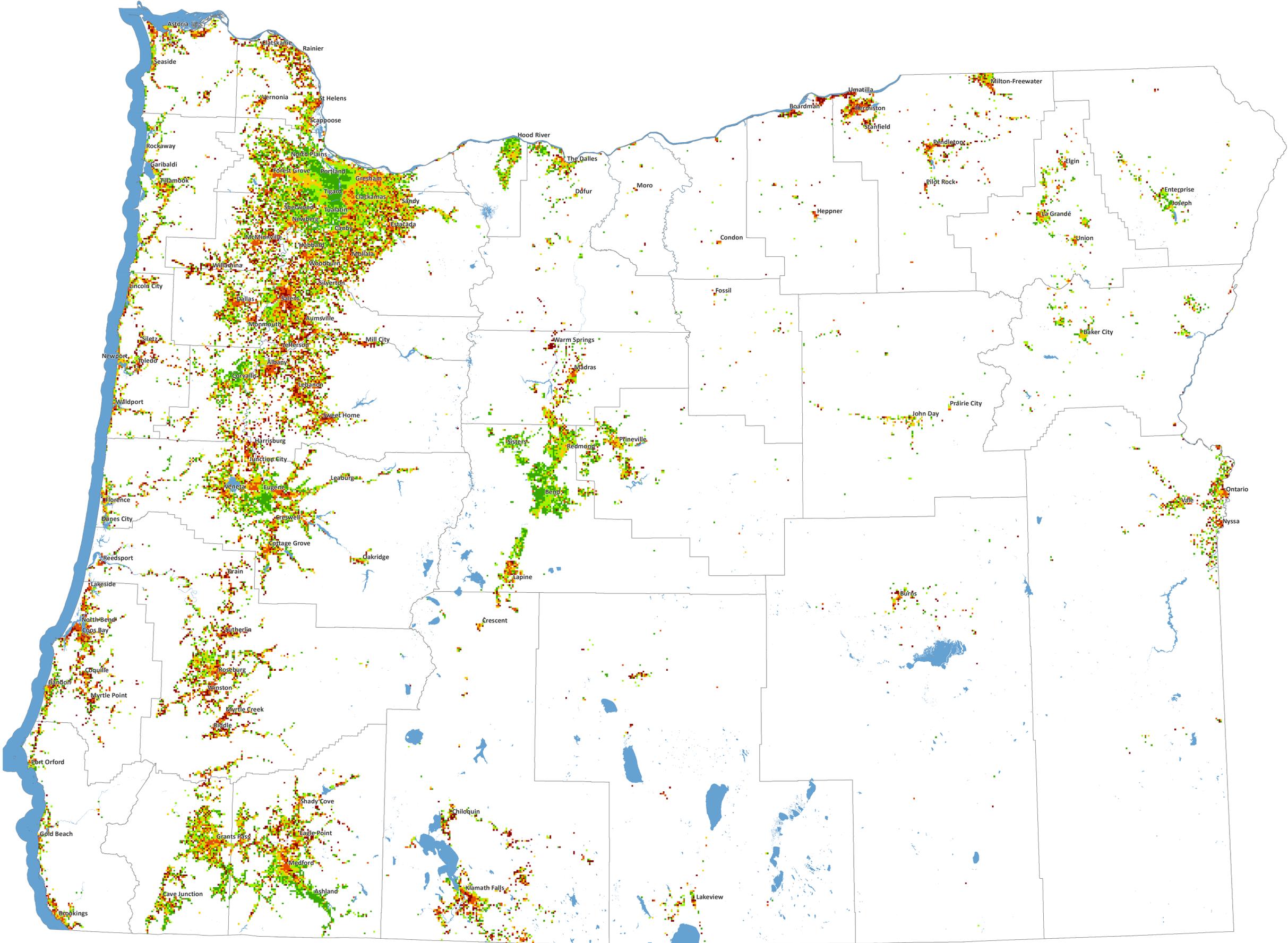


Body Mass Index in Oregon: Findings from DMV Records

Oregon Tracking Program
healthoregon.org/epht



Average Body Mass Index (kg/m²)

- Lowest 20% ■ 20.5 - 25.2
- 25.3 - 26.2
- 26.3 - 27.1
- 27.2 - 28.1
- Highest 20% ■ 28.2 - 41.0

Classification into five equal-sized groups based on all areas in the state with 5 or more adult residents ages 18 - 84 years

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a number calculated from weight and height that provides a reliable indicator of body fat for most people. BMI is used to screen for overweight and obesity, high body fat conditions that can lead to health problems.

This map is based on data from driver licenses and identification cards issued between 2005 and 2012 by the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation to adults ages 18 - 84 years. Each colored square represents a 0.25 square mile area (0.5 mile x 0.5 mile). Areas with fewer than 5 people are not shown, BMI values for adult residents ages 18 - 84 years in each area were averaged and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census standard population. Areas are classified into five equal size groups.

The data were processed to remove duplicate records and non-Oregon residents. Records with extremely high and low values for height, weight and BMI were removed because these were likely erroneous. About 99.4% of the DMV addresses were mapped to a specific latitude and longitude.

BMI estimates from the DMV data underestimate the magnitude of average BMI and the prevalence of obesity. This effect is more pronounced among women, who are more likely than men to under-report weight on their driver licenses. Since the bias is consistent over time, DMV records remain a good source of data to examine trends and patterns. A recent validation study of DMV data for use in obesity tracking, conducted by the Oregon Public Health Division, found that the data are highly representative of Oregon's adult population and that BMI estimates are lower than but consistent with estimates from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). For more information about using DMV records for tracking weight status, visit healthoregon.org/epht.

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