



**Snohomish County**

**Human Services**

February 02, 2024

The Honorable Jared Mead,  
Chair  
Snohomish County Council  
Snohomish County  
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**Dave Somers**  
*County Executive*

**RE: Snohomish County Children's Commission Report**

Dear Chair Mead:

Attached please find the Snohomish County Children's Commission Snohomish County KIDS COUNT report for 2022. As always, our hope is that the report provides information that will help the County pursue opportunities and make decisions that support the healthy development of children, youth, and families in our community.

Consistent with our work in 2022, the Snohomish County Children's Commission is striving to better understand the inequities that exist in our community systems and identify solutions for equitable access to quality resources and services that promote thriving for all children, youth, and families in our community.

The 2022 report includes a deeper dive into the three areas of focus identified by the Commission:

- Prenatal and maternal health
- Access to healthcare services, including mental and behavioral health
- Early childhood education, childcare, and after-school programs.

Given the Children's Commission's commitment to equity, our 2022 report highlights available community-level data that has been disaggregated by characteristics like race and age. While all information shared here is important for us to understand and take action, it is particularly alarming when broken down by population groups as it highlights the disproportionate barriers to accessing services which exist in our community.

The Snohomish County Children's Commission wants to express our gratitude for your ongoing commitment to guiding policy and programming in these areas.

Additionally, Shakima Tozay, the Commission's Vice-Chair, and I are available to meet with you to review the report as your schedule permits. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 360-632-0347 if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Lark Kesterke, Chair  
Snohomish County Children's Commission

cc: Mary Jane Brell Vujovic, Director of Human Services  
Lacey Harper, Executive Director, Executive Office  
The Honorable Dave Somers, Executive Director, Snohomish County  
The Honorable Megan Dunn, Councilmember, Snohomish County  
The Honorable Sam Low, Councilmember, Snohomish County  
The Honorable Nate Nehring, Councilmember, Snohomish County  
The Honorable Strom Peterson, Councilmember, Snohomish County