

# Snohomish County Children's Commission

## KIDS COUNT in Snohomish County: 2023 Report

### Our North Star and Guiding Focus

By listening to and amplifying the voices of children, youth, and families, the Snohomish County Children's Commission identifies opportunities for policy and advocacy that create safer, healthier, and more equitable communities. The Children's Commission is guided by its commitment to centering equity in our work and approaches.

Thriving communities depend on thriving families. As a community, we must prioritize equitable systems and culturally appropriate resources and support that foster safety, access to healthcare, the full continuum of education, and economic prosperity, to ensure all children and youth are on course for lifelong health and well-being.

### Our Work

In 2023, the Snohomish County Children's Commission developed a roadmap for ensuring progress is made towards our North Star commitment and the guiding focus of centering equity in our work.

Here are some of our highlights:

- Actively worked to increase Commission membership, targeting outreach and recruitment in alignment with our commitment to equity and our North Star
- Developed an annual work plan to measure progress towards goals and outcomes, building in practices of equity to remain responsive to our community's needs and opportunities
- Established an Equity Committee

### Our Priority Areas

Given the data shared in this report and in using an equity framework that informs our decision-making, Snohomish County Children's Commission continues to focus on the following areas:

- Prenatal and maternal health, including postpartum care
- Access to healthcare service, including behavioral health
- Early childhood education, childcare, and after school programs



### Join Us

The Snohomish County Children's Commission continually invites you, as a member of our community, to collaborate with us as we strive in improving our understanding of the services, providers, organizations, and systems that are creating positive outcomes for children and youth, building upon family and community strengths. [bit.ly/Childrens-Commission](https://bit.ly/Childrens-Commission)

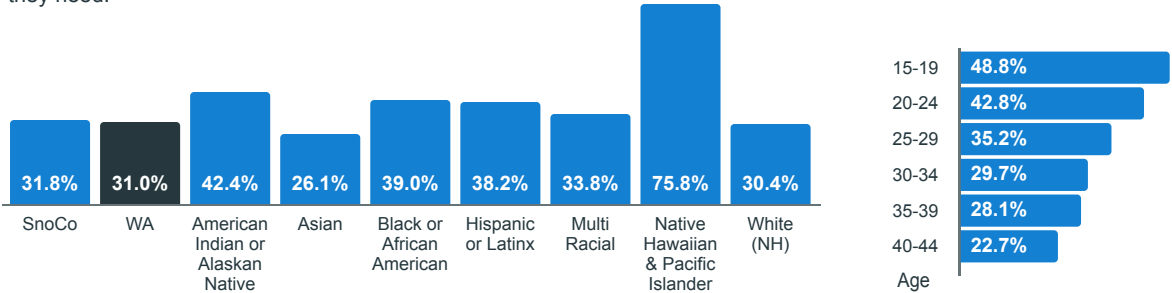


# Areas of Focus:

## Prenatal and Maternal Health

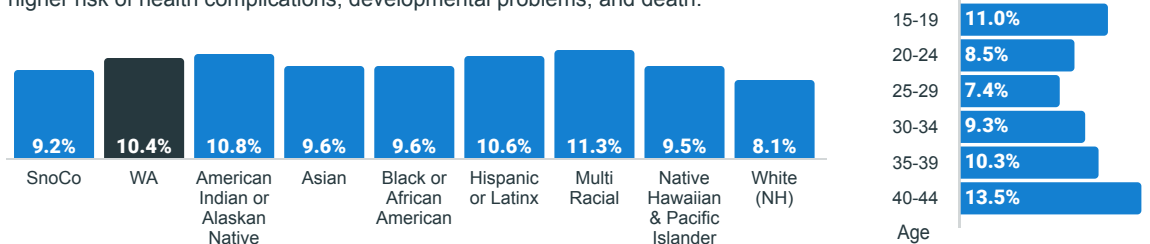
### 31.8% Inadequate prenatal care received in 2022

Adequate prenatal care is based on the number of prenatal visits and when prenatal care began. Prenatal care is most effective when it starts early and continues throughout pregnancy. It can help prevent and address health problems in both mothers and babies. Interventions to increase access to health care can help more women get the prenatal care they need.



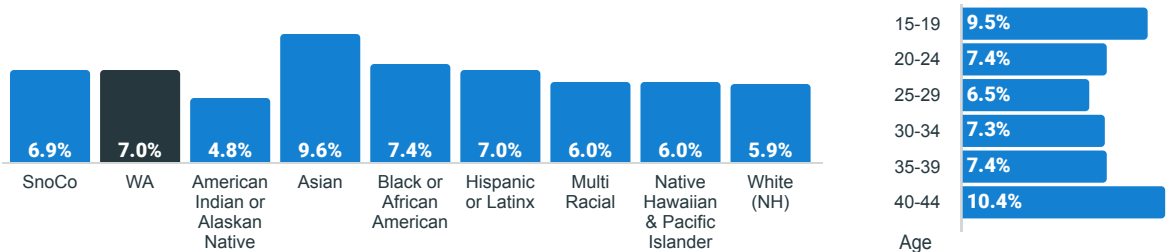
### 9.2% Preterm births in 2022

Preterm infants are born with a gestational age of less than 37 completed weeks. Babies born prematurely have a higher risk of health complications, developmental problems, and death.



### 6.9% Low birth-weight babies in 2022

Babies born with a low birth-weight (less than 5.5lbs) have a high probability of experiencing developmental issues, short- and long-term disabilities, and are at greater risk of dying within the first year of life. Smoking, poor nutrition, poverty, stress, infections and violence can increase the risk of a baby being born with a low birth weight.



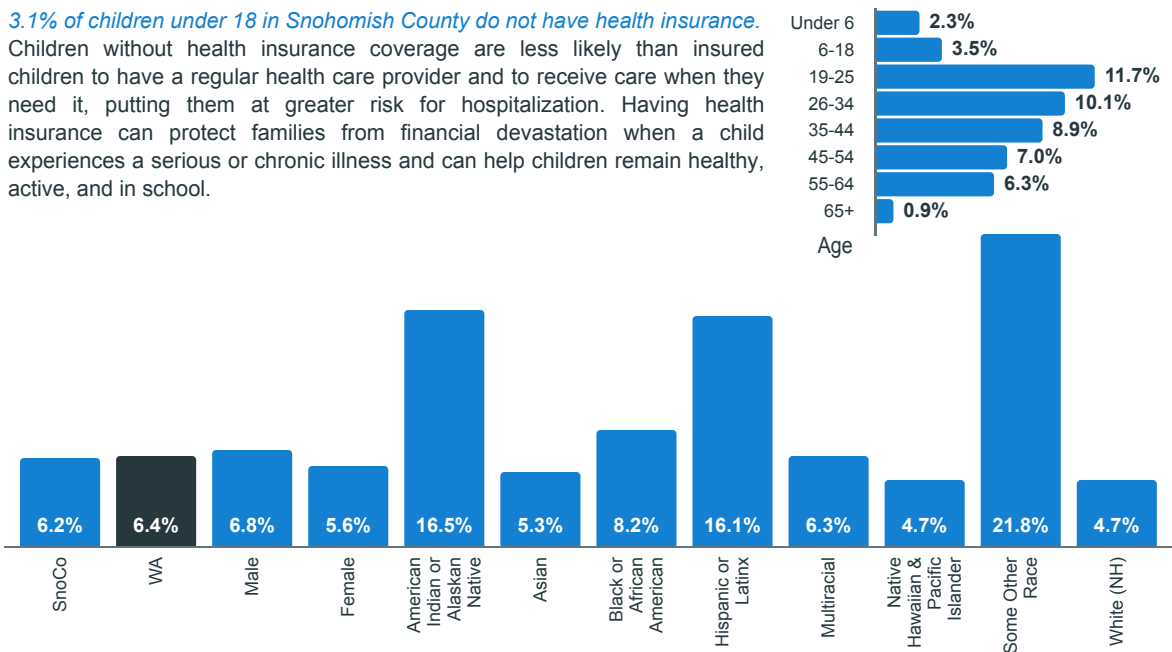
# Areas of Focus:

## Access to Healthcare Services, Including Behavioral Health

### 6.2% Snohomish County residents without health insurance in 2022

3.1% of children under 18 in Snohomish County do not have health insurance.

Children without health insurance coverage are less likely than insured children to have a regular health care provider and to receive care when they need it, putting them at greater risk for hospitalization. Having health insurance can protect families from financial devastation when a child experiences a serious or chronic illness and can help children remain healthy, active, and in school.

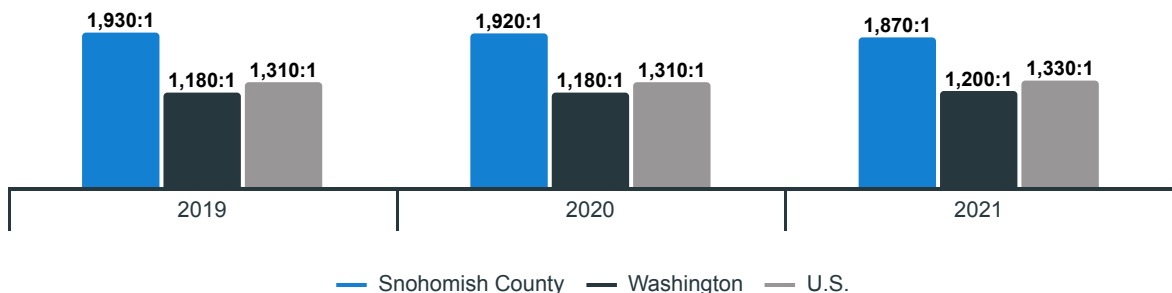


U.S. Census Bureau Table S1703, 2018-2022, ACS 5-Year Estimates

### 1,870:1 One primary care physician per 1,870 people in Snohomish County in 2021

Snohomish County has fewer physicians per resident than Washington State and the U.S.

Access to health care requires not only financial coverage, but also access to providers. Sufficient availability of primary care physicians is essential for preventive and primary care and, when needed, referrals to appropriate specialty care.



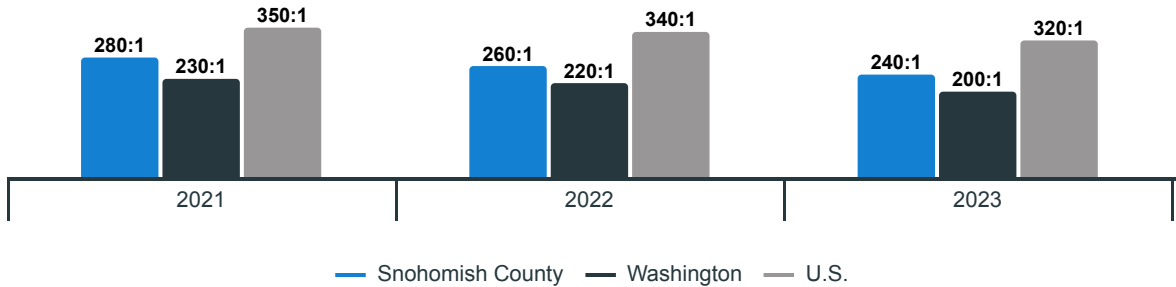
# Areas of Focus:

## Access to Healthcare Services, Including Behavioral Health

### 240:1 One mental health provider per 240 people in Snohomish County in 2023

*Snohomish County has fewer mental health providers per resident compared to the Washington State average.*

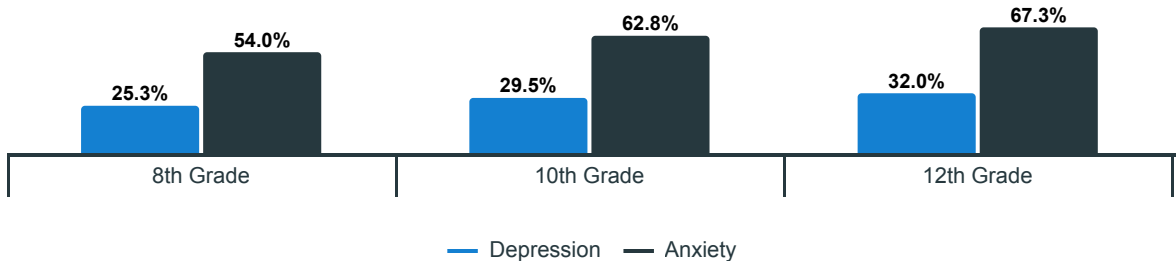
Mental health providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, therapists, substance use disorder professionals, and advanced registered nurse practitioners.



University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

### 25-32% At least 1 in every 4 students in Snohomish County reported experiencing depressive feelings that interrupted their usual activities in 2023

*More than half of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Snohomish County who participated in the 2023 Healthy Youth Survey, reported having recently felt nervous, anxious, or on edge.*



Healthy Youth Survey, 2023: [www.askhys.net/SurveyResults](http://www.askhys.net/SurveyResults)

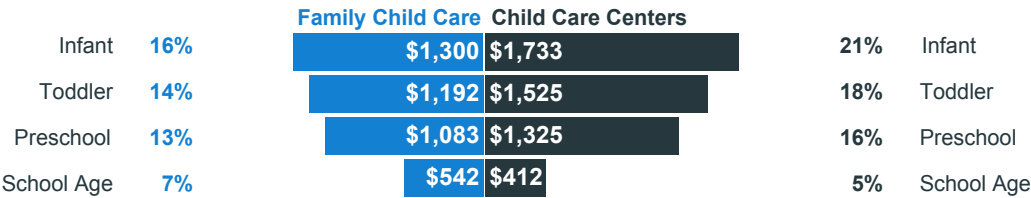


# Areas of Focus: Early Childhood Education, Child Care, and After School Programs

## Monthly cost of child care in Snohomish County in 2023

The two types of child care providers most prevalent in Snohomish County are Family Child Care (59%) and Child Care Centers (28%). The remaining 13% of providers only serve school age children. Washington ranks 3rd in the nation for least affordable child care for an infant in a family child care program. Median cost and percent of income for family child care and centers:

Median Cost of Child Care



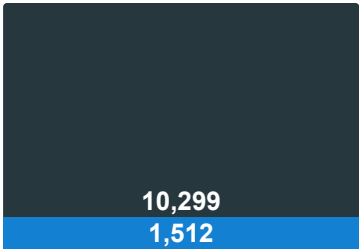
% of Median Income

Child Care Aware of Washington, 2023: [childcareawarewa.org/data-advocacy/child-care-data-statistics/](http://childcareawarewa.org/data-advocacy/child-care-data-statistics/)

## 46,120 Total estimated child care slots needed for Snohomish County

Washington’s population grew by more than 400,000 in 5 years, while the capacity of child care providers grew by just 3,000 children. For Snohomish County families ≤60% State Median Income, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families estimates that only 14.6% of Infant and Toddler Child Care needs have been met and an estimated 37.4% of child care needs for PreK have been met. Overall, only 25.3% of child care needs have been met for infants to preschool-aged children; an estimated total of 19,364 child care slots are still needed in Snohomish County plus an additional 26,756 slots are needed for school-aged children (5-12 years).

85% Unmet Need



Infant & Toddler Child Care

63% Unmet Need



PreK Child Care

● Slots ● Need

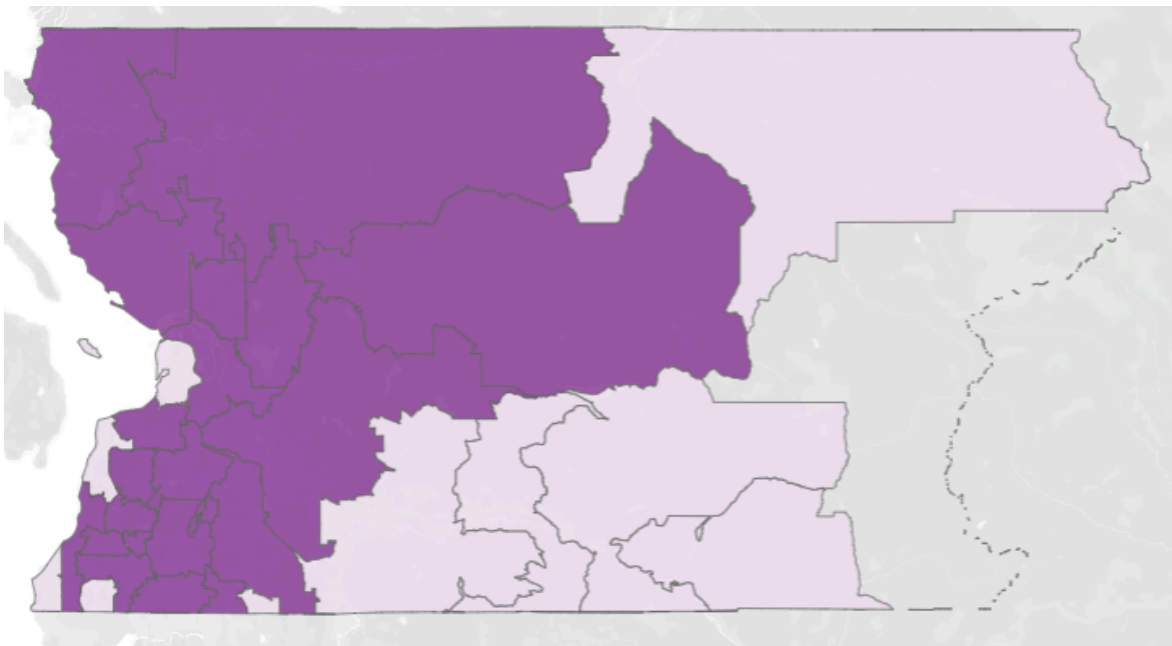
Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families (April 2024). Child Care and Early Learning Need and Supply Data: [www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-needsupply-data](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-needsupply-data)

# Areas of Focus: Early Childhood Education, Child Care, and After School Programs

## 82.6% Snohomish County households living in an extreme child care desert

*Extreme child care desert: areas with both extremely limited supply of subsidized care relative to potential need, and extremely high levels of unmet need amongst children living in the neighborhood relative to other neighborhoods statewide.*

*The Department of Children, Youth, and Families has identified the following zip codes within Snohomish County as an extreme child care access desert for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from both low-income households as well as non-low-income households.*



# Kids Count Data Book

## Washington State Ranks 16th in the Nation for Overall Child Well-Being

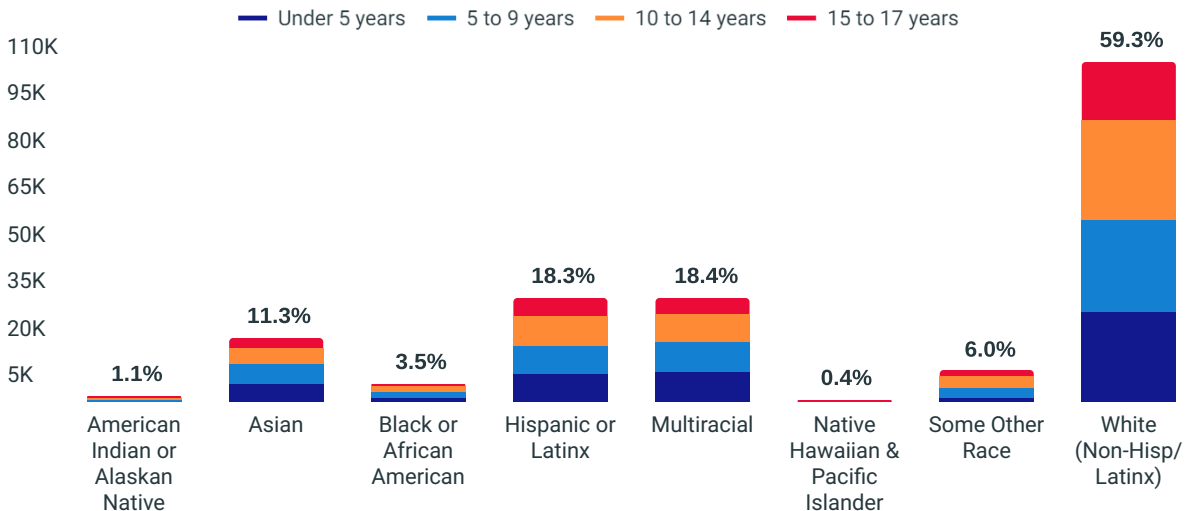
The Snohomish County Children's Commission has chosen to utilize the KIDS COUNT framework to identify community strengths and needs, and offer services and policy recommendations for positive and equitable outcomes for all children.



Since 1990, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual KIDS COUNT Data Book ranks states on a 10-measure index of child well-being using over 100 indicators of national, state, and local child and family well-being data from sources including the Healthy Youth Survey, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), American Community Survey, and the Department of Health.

Four domains are measured through these child-level indicators: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community. Washington State ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the Nation for overall child well-being in 2023, compared to 15<sup>th</sup> in 2022.

## 22.3% of the Snohomish County Population is Under 18



U.S. Census Bureau Tables S0101/B01001B-I, 2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates

# Kids Count Data Book

## Economic Well-Being in Snohomish County

### 8.3% Snohomish County children under 18 in poverty

**16% (29,891) of Snohomish County children <18 live in a household that has received public assistance in the past 12 months.** Growing up in poverty can negatively affect healthy child development by increasing the likelihood that a child will be exposed to factors that can impair brain development and lead to poor cognitive, health, and academic outcomes. The risks to overall health and academic outcomes increases among those children who experience persistent and deep poverty.

Race/Ethnicity	SnoCo Percent Under 18	SnoCo Percent Under 18 Below FPL
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.1%	11.7%
Asian	11.3%	7.5%
Black or African American	3.5%	16.4%
Hispanic or Latinx	18.3%	15.0%
Multiracial	18.4%	12.2%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0.4%	32.6%
Some Other Race	6.0%	18.0%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	59.3%	6.4%

U.S. Census Bureau Tables B09010/B17020A-1 2018-2022, ACS 5-Year Estimates, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates

### 33% Cost-burdened households in the County who are paying more than 30% on housing/utilities

**Snohomish County housing units where the mortgage payment is more than 30% of the household income: 25%**

**Snohomish County housing units where the rent payment is more than 30% of the household income: 50%**

There are 101,501 cost-burdened households in Snohomish County. Low income families are more likely to experience housing affordability problems (spending more than 30 percent of pretax income on housing and utilities, whether they rent or own). Paying too much for housing limits the resources families have for other necessities like food, healthcare, transportation, and child care.

SnoCo	2023 Fair Market Rent	Income Needed	Hourly Income Needed	Race/Ethnicity	SnoCo Median Income
Efficiency	\$2,042	\$81,680	\$42.54	American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$108,403
1-Bdrm	\$2,100	\$84,000	\$43.75	Asian	\$147,779
2-Bdrm	\$2,455	\$98,200	\$51.15	Black or African American	\$90,456
3-Bdrm	\$3,297	\$131,880	\$68.69	Hispanic or Latinx	\$91,346
4-Bdrm	\$3,847	\$153,880	\$80.15	Multiracial	\$114,685
				Native Hawaiian & Pacific Isla.	\$111,500
				Some Other Race	\$77,704
				White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	\$123,047

**Median family income estimates indicate that residents of Some Other Race do not even earn enough to live in an efficiency without being cost-burdened. Black, African American, Hispanic, & Latinx households can only afford an efficiency or 1-Bdrm rental in Snohomish County, including the metro-area.**

U.S. Census Bureau Tables S2503/B19113B-1, 2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates; U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

# Kids Count Data Book

## Economic Well-Being in Snohomish County

● April 26 – May 8, 2023 ● June 25 – July 22, 2024



**25.2%**

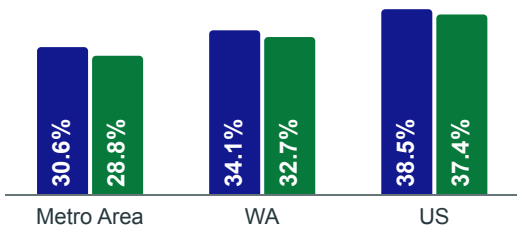
### Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure



Approximately 25.2% of adults (43,495) living in the metro area reported that they are living in households not current on rent or mortgage where eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is either very likely or somewhat likely.

### Difficulty Paying Usual Expenses

**28.8%**



Approximately 28.8% of adults (780,747) living in the metro area reported that they live in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses in the last 7 days.

### Unable to Pay Energy Bill

**18.5%**



Approximately 18.5% of adults (484,711) living in the metro area reported that they were unable to pay an energy bill in full in the last 12 months.

### Price Increases for Goods and Services

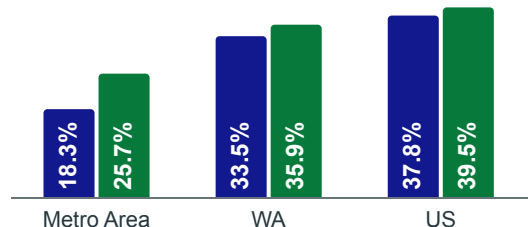
**75.1%**



Approximately 75.1% of adults (2,035,180) in the metro area who think prices have increased in the area where they live and shop in the last two months.

### Food Assistance for Children

**25.7%**



Approximately 25.7% of adults (206,700) in the metro area reported living in households where children currently receive food assistance.

# Kids Count Data Book

## Education in Snohomish County

### 56% Snohomish County children aged 3-4 not in school

Lifelong developmental potential is at stake in a child's early years. High quality preschool programs can lead to higher levels of academic achievement, career advancement, and earnings over a lifetime.

Whenever possible, the closest available data is provided by race/ethnicity. The table below shows how many children in Snohomish County are under the age of 5 and how many age 3 and over are in nursery or preschool by their race/ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Population Under 5	Total 3 Years and Over in Nursery or Preschool
American Indian or Alaskan Native	437	116
Asian	6,456	1,706
Black or African American	1,929	403
Hispanic or Latinx	9,450	1,661
Multiracial	10,226	2,259
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	110	0
Some Other Race	1,932	315
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	29,323	6,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,863</b>	<b>12,851</b>

U.S. Census Bureau Tables B01001B-1 & B14007B-1, 2018-2022, ACS 5-Year Estimates

### 16.8% Snohomish County high school students not graduating on time

Graduating from high school on time leads to long-term career opportunities young people, including students who are more likely to pursue post-secondary education and training, make healthier decisions, and engage in less risky behaviors. They are also more employable and have higher incomes than students who fail to graduate.

School Year 2022-2023 Snohomish County High School Students by Race/Ethnicity	% Not Graduating On Time
American Indian or Alaskan Native	36.0%
Asian	8.8%
Black or African American	16.5%
Hispanic or Latinx	22.9%
Multiracial	15.9%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	31.0%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	15.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.8%</b>

OSPI Report Card Graduation 2022-23 School Year, Four Year Cohort

# Kids Count Data Book

## Education in Snohomish County

### Additional High School populations not graduating on time

School Year 2022-2023 Snohomish County High School Students	% Not Graduating On Time
All Students	16.8%
Students with Disabilities	31.6%
Students with Section 504	17.6%
Low-Income Students	25.5%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	39.7%
Students in Foster Care	33.3%
English Language Learner Students	30.4%

### High School 4-Year Final Cohort population trends for School Year 2022-2023

Overall, Snohomish County high schools continue to see a decrease in the number of students with Section 504 and students with disabilities. The 2022-2023 school year also saw an increase in the number of students experiencing homelessness, learning English, and of low-income, but trending lower compared to the increases during the 2021-2022 school year:

Students experiencing homelessness **increased 12%** from the previous 2021-2022 school year.

English Language Learner students **increased 9%** from the previous 2021-2022 school year.

Low-income students **increased 1%** from the previous 2021-2022 school year.

Students with Section 504 **decreased 9%** from the previous 2021-2022 school year.

Students with disabilities **decreased 2%** from the previous 2021-2022 school year.



# Kids Count Data Book

## Health in Snohomish County

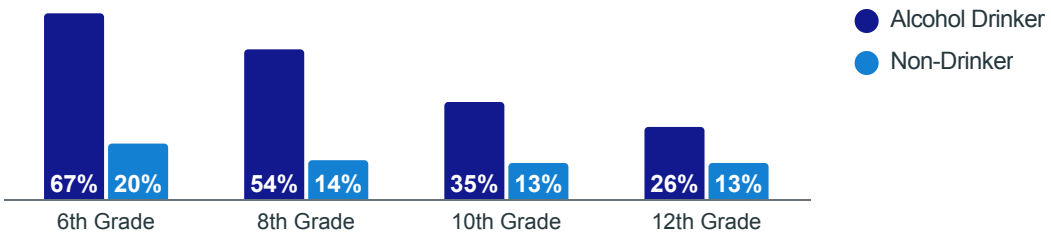
### 9% 10th Graders in Snohomish County who used alcohol in the past 30 days

*12% of Snohomish County 10th Graders reported riding with a driver who had been drinking.*

Alcohol and substance use can negatively impact a teenager's physical and mental health, academic performance, and engagement with family, friends, school, and community. Teens who use alcohol and drugs are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, drive under the influence, use multiple substances, and commit crimes.

*Statewide, more students who drink alcohol report seriously considering suicide compared to those who don't drink.*

### Statewide Relationship between Considering Suicide & Alcohol Use in the Past 30 Days



### 17% 8th, 10th, & 12th Graders in the County report 4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences

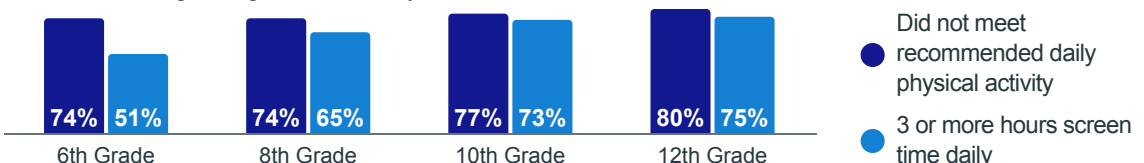
*Statewide, more students who felt sad or hopeless for at least two weeks in the past year reported higher WAH-ACEs scores. An increase in contemplating suicide was also associated with higher WAH-ACEs scores.*

The original ACEs study identified a relationship between serious, negative events in childhood and physical and mental health in adulthood. When children experience multiple negative events, their bodies can be flooded with stress hormones, increasing their risk for later health problems like heart disease, diabetes, or depression. Research also shows that positive experiences (e.g., supportive relationships with adults) act as a buffer providing support for children to withstand or recover from adverse experiences. The Washington Healthy Youth ACEs Score assesses 11 adverse experiences that youth may report, but the score is not comprehensive of all adverse experiences that youth may be exposed to, such as racism, poverty, and discrimination.

### Most 6th, 8th, 10th, & 12th Graders in the County did not meet recommended daily physical activity

*Statewide, more 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students who reported meeting physical activity recommendations were less likely to report depressive feelings than those who did not.*

Physical activity reduces rates of some health conditions and improves quality of life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily, and muscle strengthening exercises 3 days a week.





# Kids Count Data Book

## Family and Community in Snohomish County

### 4.4% Snohomish County children under 18 living in high poverty areas

*High poverty = incomes less than 50% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL)*

Concentrated poverty puts whole neighborhoods, and the people living in them, at risk. High-poverty neighborhoods are much more likely than others to have worse health outcomes, high rates of crime and violence, physical and mental health issues, unemployment, and higher levels of financial insecurity.

Snohomish County All Ages in High Poverty by Race/Ethnicity	2022	2021	2020
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3.5%	3.6%	4.7%
Asian	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%
Black or African American	<b>4.9%</b>	3.9%	3.9%
Hispanic or Latinx	6.3%	6.2%	5.6%
Multiracial	5.3%	5.5%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	<b>8.4%</b>	5.6%	0.7%
Some Other Race	6.7%	7.1%	5.8%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	3.4%	3.0%	2.9%

U.S. Census Bureau Table S1703, 2018-2022, ACS 5-Year Estimates

### 6.2% (13,131) Snohomish County families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

*18.3% of Snohomish County families with a householder without a high school diploma are living below the FPL.*

Children who grow up with parents that do not have a high school diploma are at a greater risk of being born in the low birth weight category, have health problems, enter school not ready to learn, and have poor educational outcomes. Higher parental education rates tend to equate to greater economic stability and security, which enhances child development.

U.S. Census Bureau Table S1702, 2018-2022 ACS 5 Year-Estimates

*The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2023). 2023 KIDS COUNT Data Book. Baltimore, MD: Patrick T. McCarthy. Retrieved from [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).*

*U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Employment Security Department, Healthy Youth Survey, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Child Care Aware of Washington, Employment Security Department, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Washington State Health Department Community Health Assessment Tool*

# Snohomish County Children's Commission

*The Snohomish County Children's Commission thanks the Human Services Planning and Evaluation Division for their collaboration in collecting County-level data and preparing this brief. Please contact Kelsey Bang-Olsen, Human Services Program Planner with questions about the data: [Kelsey.Bang-Olsen@snoco.org](mailto:Kelsey.Bang-Olsen@snoco.org).*

For more information about the Snohomish County Children's Commission, please visit:

[Snohomishcountywa.gov/3825/Childrens-Commission](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/3825/Childrens-Commission)



**we value kids**

Snohomish County Children's Commission



**Snohomish County**