

*Snohomish County
Children's Commission*



2024
ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTATION

Presented By: Monica Wilson, SCCC Chair and
Charlotte Zissel SCCC Past Chair



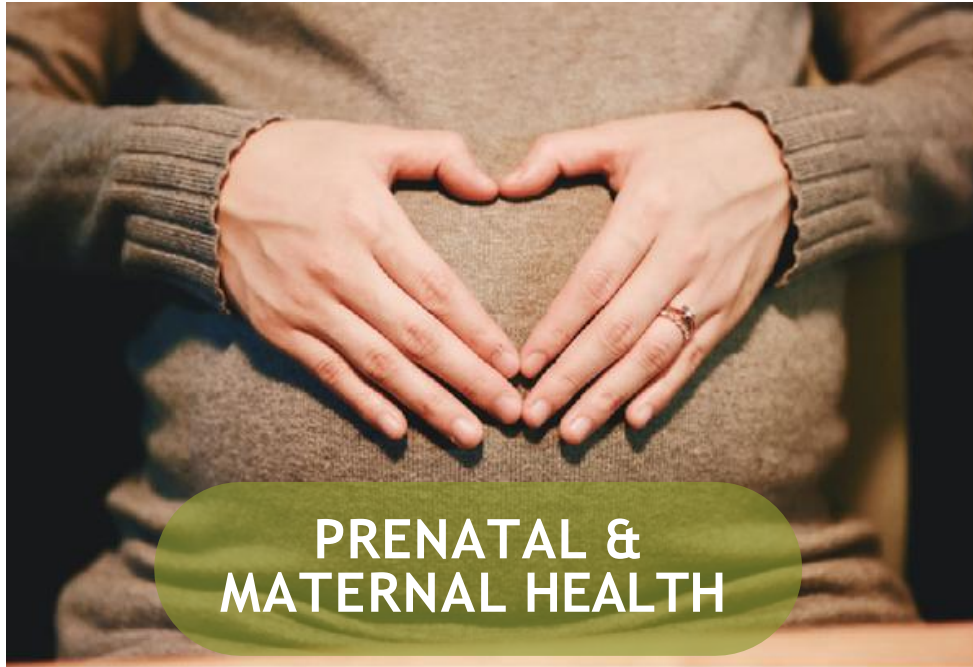
HISTORY OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

- July 1985 Snohomish County Children's Commission was enacted via ordinance.
- 1987 Children's Commission submitted its first annual report to County Council.
- 2010 Office of Children's Affairs was eliminated and the scope of the Children's Commission was narrowed to focus on policy recommendations.
- 2018 The Children's Commission resumed submitting annual reports with a focus on well-being data and policy recommendations.

DATA SOURCES USED FOR THIS REPORT

-ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK
-U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
-OSPI REPORT CARD GRADUATION 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR, FOUR YEAR COHORT
-2023 WASHINGTON STATE HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY
-[DATACENTER.AECF.ORG](https://datacenter.aecf.org)
-CHILDRENS ALLIANCE

2024 FOCUS AREAS



FOCUS AREA: PRENATAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH

Prenatal and maternal health refers to the health (medical and behavioral health) of pregnant people during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. Ensuring and promoting health and well-being of pregnant women during and after pregnancy is critical to fostering positive health outcomes for both the child and the parent.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- 80% of these deaths were preventable and behavioral health conditions were cited as the leading underlying cause of pregnancy-related deaths
- Existing prenatal services in our area often lack non-medical services such as behavioral health, basic needs, and parenting education.
- Healthy babies begin with healthy parents.

Data: 2023 by the Washington State Maternal Mortality Review Panel.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Homeward House:

Provides families involved in the child welfare system a central source for a network of specialized wraparound services they need to resolve challenges & build strong, healthy bonds with their children, with the goal of family reunification. (Recently due to inadequate funding)

Evergreen Recovery Centers - Pregnant & Parenting Women's Residential Treatment:

Provides families with young children a research-based program that blends treatment for substance abuse disorders & mental health conditions, with prenatal & perinatal care for the mother, & intensive parenting & child services to support healthy child development & strong families.

Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership:

Provides pregnant people & families, with children age birth to three years, comprehensive & integrated information & support related to child development, parenting, early intervention services, health services, social support, & connections to community resources.

RECOMMENDATION

EXPAND AND REPLICATE MODELS IDENTIFIED BY HIGHLIGHTED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Homeward House:

Expand early identification & services for families involved in child welfare services with priority on prevention & family reunification.

Evergreen Recovery Centers:

Increase access to mental health & substance use disorder prevention, screening, & treatment for parenting & parenting people, including whole-family treatment programs.

Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership:

Expand prenatal to 3 years home visiting programs.

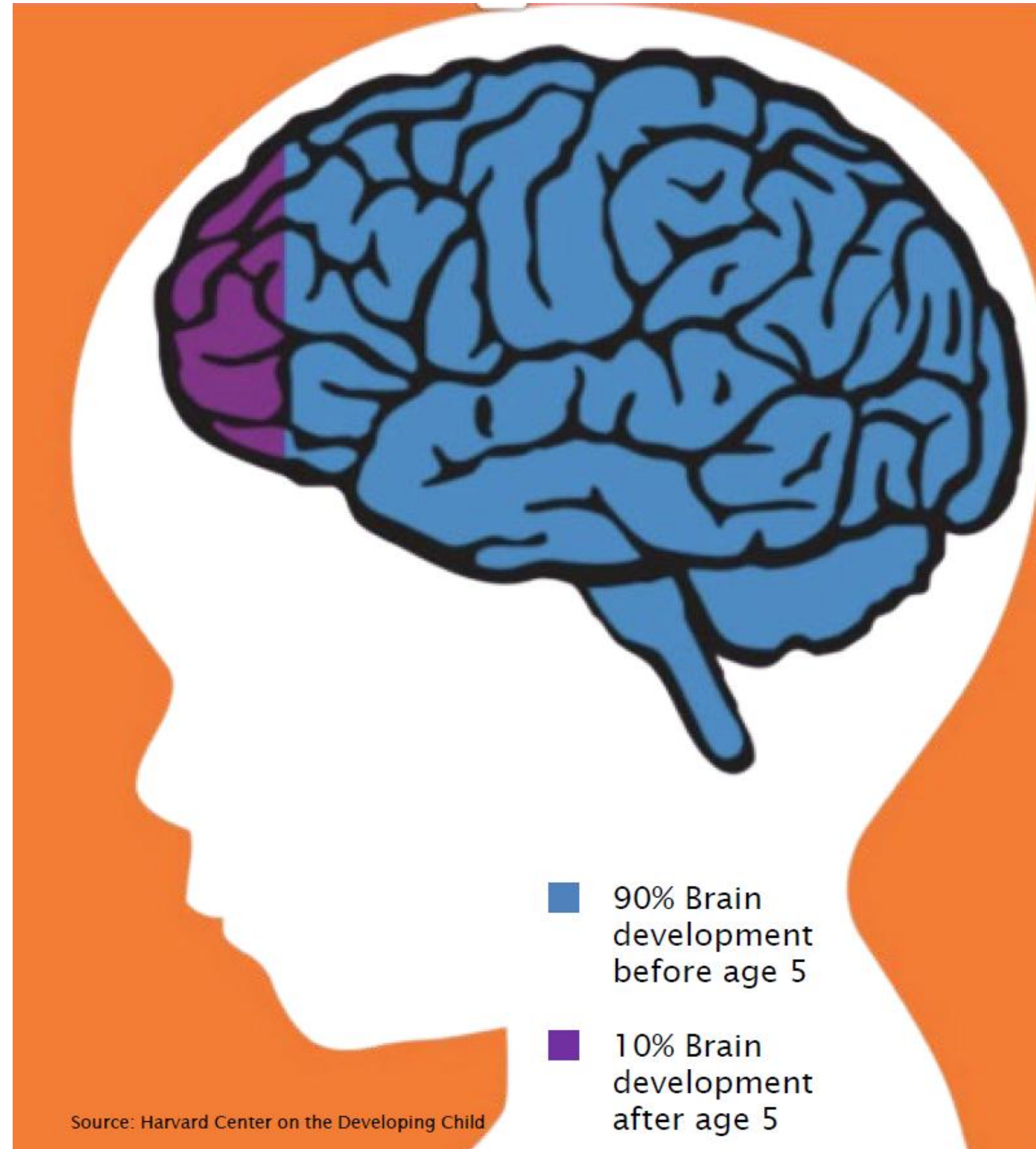
FOCUS AREA: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Early Childhood Education encompasses all areas of a child's learning & development prenatal through grade 3. Early learning services include quality child care, preschool, home visiting services, play-and-learn groups, early intervention services, & parent support & education.



WHAT WE LEARNED

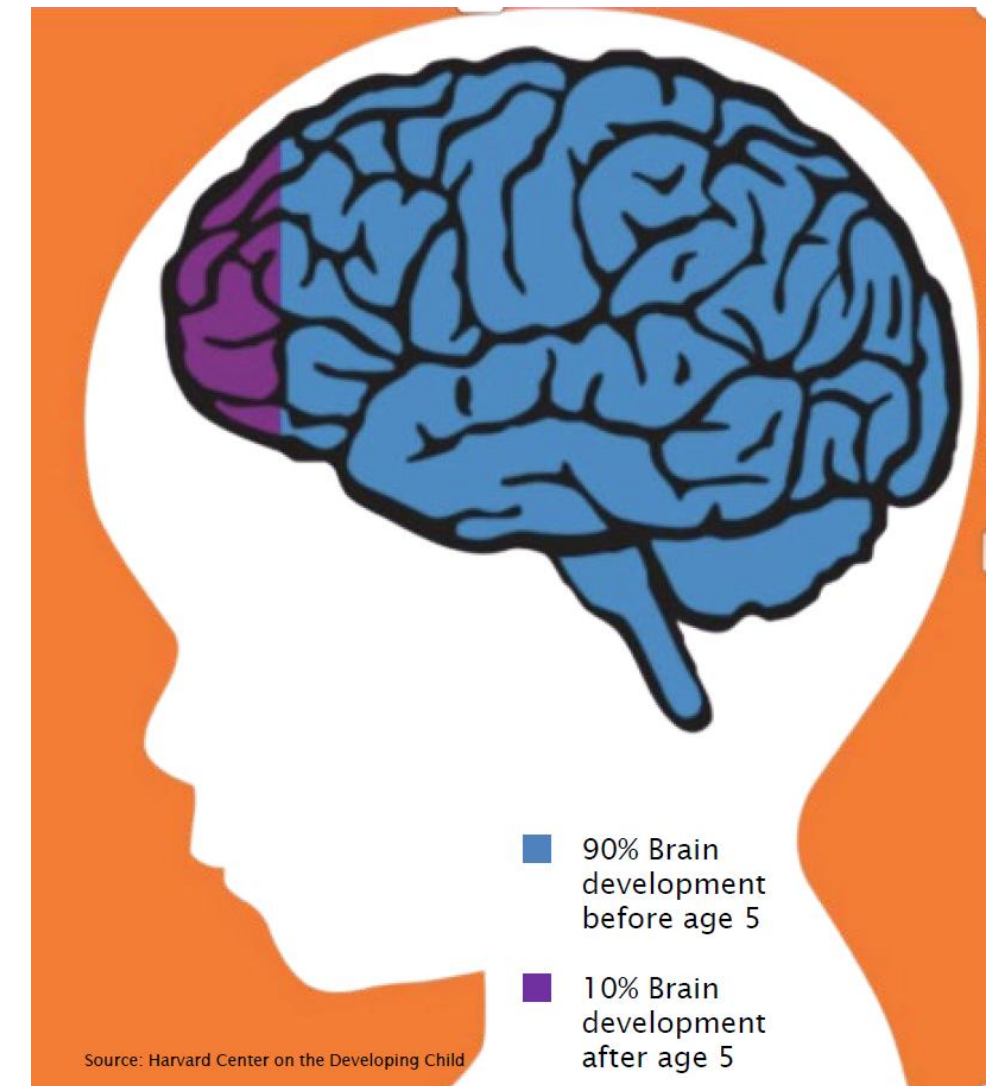
90% of brain development happens before age 5.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- 90% of brain development happens before age 5.
- Opportunities to play, communicate, and explore improve Kindergarteners readiness.
 - Kindergarten readiness is a predictor of achieving 3rd grade benchmarks.
 - One of the largest predictors of on-time high graduation and positive adult outcomes.
- Washington ranks 3rd in the nation for least affordable child care.

90% of brain development happens before age 5.



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start
Preschool.

Licensed Family Home and Center Child Care.

Holding Hope Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: Infant and Early
Childhood Mental Health.

Everett Community College and Child Care Aware NW WA & Sno-Isle Tech Skills
Center: Support for child care workforce.

Snohomish County ordinance to amend zoning laws and expedite permitting
processes for child care in unincorporated areas of the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invest in prenatal to grade 3 services and early learning workforce development to expand workforce.
- Fully fund child care subsidies and early learning programs.



FOCUS AREA: POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES

Development of foundational skills, abilities, and connections to successfully transition to adult roles and responsibilities.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- High school completion rates continue to increase in Snohomish County, 2023: 82%.
 - Attributed to early identification of and support for youth not meeting key K-12 benchmarks.
 - Data indicated significant disparities for youth involved in foster care, experiencing homelessness, identified as having a disability, and as having a home language other than English.
 - Data from Sno-Isle TECH Skill Center indicated higher rates of high school completion for these student populations
- Service gap for youth in grades 4-8.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Cocoon House:

Shelter and services for youth 12-24 experiencing homelessness.

Everett Public School Student Reengagement:

Provides additional resources and supports for youth to continue and complete high school.

Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center:

A tuition-free public technical high school, offering hands-on learning, dual college credits, and industry certifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Invest in:

- Initiatives focused on increased high school completion, school district tech-ed programs.
- Resources and services for youth involved in the child welfare system.



2026-2027 FOCUS



PRENATAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH:

- Identify additional integrated medical, mental health, and social support services.
- Examine various cost analyses of providing integrated and comprehensive prenatal-postpartum care.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE:

- Explore strategies for expanding, diversifying, and retaining early learning workforce.
- Explore school district preschool to grade 3 initiatives that support achieving 3rd grade benchmarks (language, literacy, and math).



POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES:

- Identify successful strategies needed to improve health-well being for children and youth involved in the child welfare system.
- Explore additional programs and strategies that support high school completion.
- Identify and grow services that are specifically targeted to promote positive youth outcomes in grades 4-8.



Data Highlights from 2024 Annie E. Casey Foundation and County Level Data compiled by Human Services Planning and Evaluation Division

- Washington State Ranks 14th in the Nation for Overall Child Well-Being
- 10.3% Snohomish County children under 18 in poverty- 24.1% increase from 2023
- 58% Snohomish County children aged 3-4 not in school- 4% increase from 2023
- 17.7% Snohomish County high school students not graduating on time- 5.4% increase from 2023
- 9% 10th Graders in Snohomish County used alcohol the past 30 days- 29% increase from 2023
- 17% 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders in the County report 4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences- 21% increase from 2023

THANK YOU!

