

# Snohomish County Children's Commission

## KIDS COUNT in Snohomish County: 2022 Report

**By listening to and amplifying the voices of children, youth, and families, the Snohomish County Children's Commission (SCCC) identifies opportunities for policy and advocacy that create safer, healthier, and more equitable communities.**

The Children's Commission is guided by its commitment to advocate on behalf of children, youth, and families furthest from opportunity, including people who identify as members of historically excluded communities and people who have experienced ongoing and generational inequities based on race, ethnicity or country of national origin, gender or gender identity, disability or healthcare needs, sexual orientation, class or socioeconomic status, immigration status, religious or spiritual beliefs, involvement in the child welfare system, housing status, marital status or family structure, educational background, or other barriers to equitable opportunity.

The significant racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic disparities in the quality and access to services for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) families compromises their efforts to navigate the complex systems that support the healthy development of their children.

This challenge has been recognized in the [Washington State 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty](#), and moving forward we will need to collectively and intentionally address the structural and institutional racism embedded in our community systems that have disproportionate long-term impacts in the BIPOC community.



Thriving communities depend on thriving families. As a community, we must prioritize equitable and culturally appropriate resources and supports that foster safety, access to healthcare, the full continuum of education, and economic prosperity, to ensure children, especially BIPOC children, thrive.

The SCCC has taken this need and identified it as one of our key areas to focus and improve on. In doing so, the SCCC has spent the last year educating current and prospective future commissioners in the areas of equity, community collaborations, Collective Impact Strategies, Liberatory Design Mindset, and Tribal Sovereignty. The training efforts and time spent better understanding these concepts have improved the foundational knowledge of the commission team and bring us closer to thriving toward our North Star.

The SCCC 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 require change to move closer to eliminating the institutional support gaps for all families, youth, and young adults throughout Snohomish County.

This year, the Snohomish County Children's Commission will continue to focus on the following priority areas using an equity framework that informs our decision-making:

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

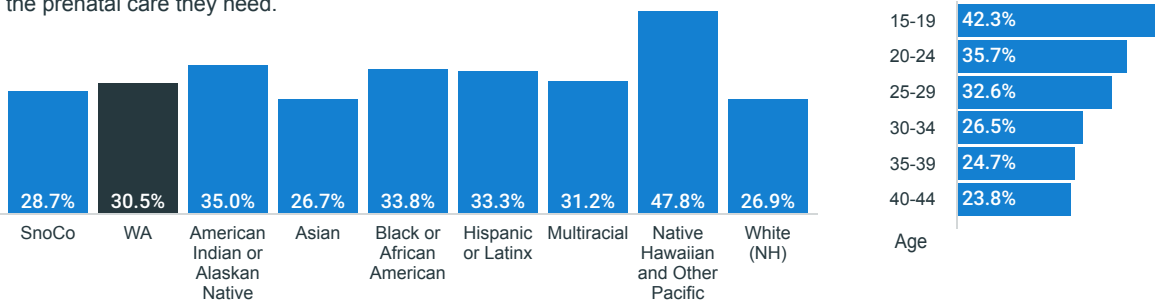


Given the Children's Commission's commitment to equity, the following report highlights available community-level data that has been disaggregated by characteristics like race and age.

# Areas of Focus: Prenatal and Maternal Health

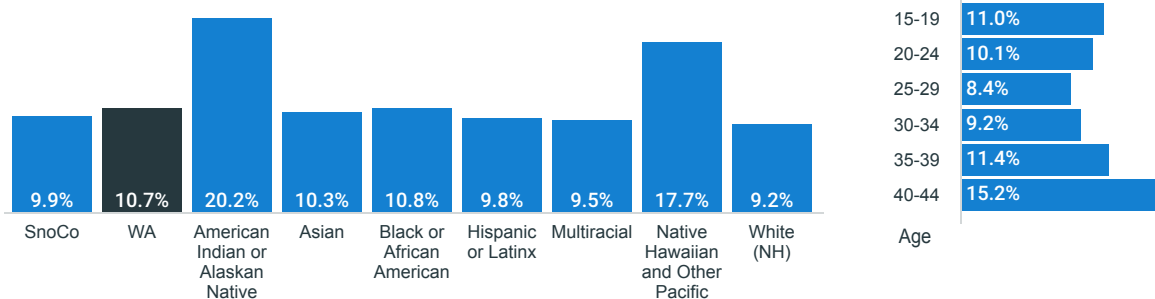
## 28.7% Inadequate prenatal care received in 2021

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.



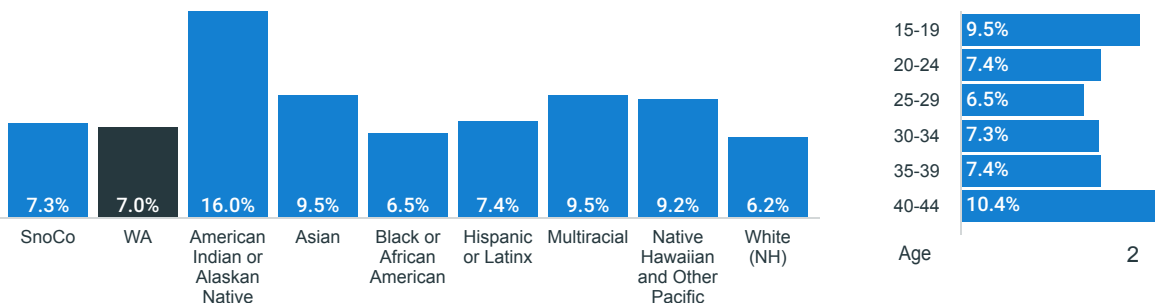
## 9.9% Preterm births in 2021

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.



## 7.3% Low birth-weight babies in 2021

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

### 3.2% (6,170) Children 18 and under without health insurance in Snohomish County

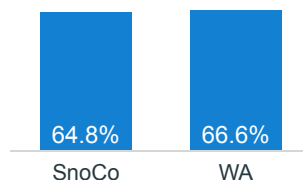
5.3% of children in the United States do not have health insurance.

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.

Race/Ethnicity	18 and Under w/o Health Insurance in 2021 (1-Yr Estimate)	18 and Under w/o Health Insurance in 2019 (1-Yr Estimate)	2-Yr Change
American Indian or Alaskan Native	557	328	+4.7%
Asian	647	221	+7.7%
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Multiracial	542	617	+0.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	unavailable	40	unavailable
Some Other Race	857	571	+6.3%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	1,633	3,669	-23.3%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>6,066* not including NH/PI</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

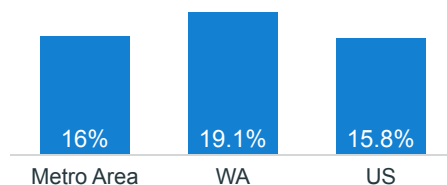
### 64.8% Routine checkups for 8th-12th grade students

Reported by 8th-12th grade students (2021 Healthy Youth Survey).



### 16% Children's telehealth

Approximately 16% of adults (134,704) in the Snohomish County metro area reported living in households where children had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last four weeks (surveyed July 27 - August 8, 2022).



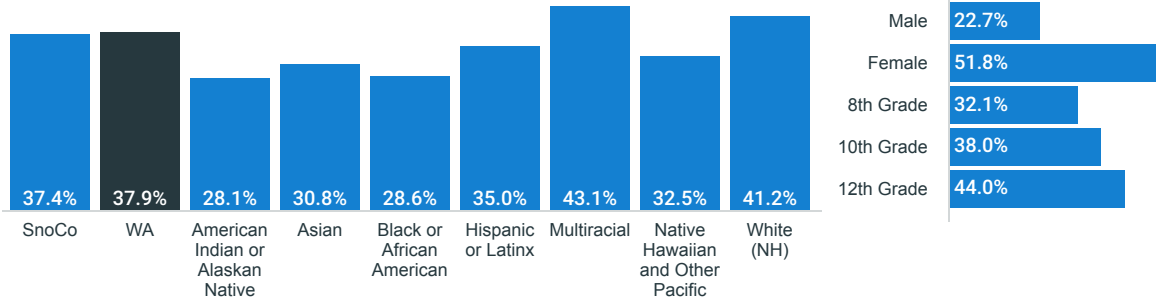
# Areas of Focus:

## Access to Healthcare Services, Including Behavioral Health

The current state of mental health for adults, children, and youth continues to trend downward since the Pandemic.

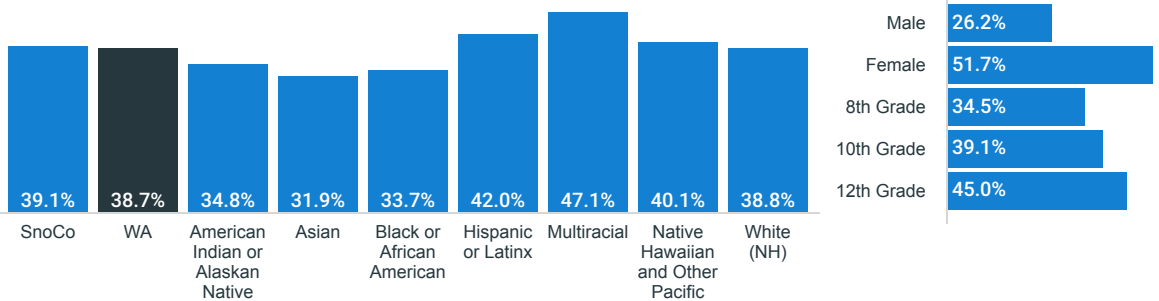
### 37.4% 8th-12th grade students with symptoms of anxiety

Reported by 8th-12th grade students (2021 Healthy Youth Survey).



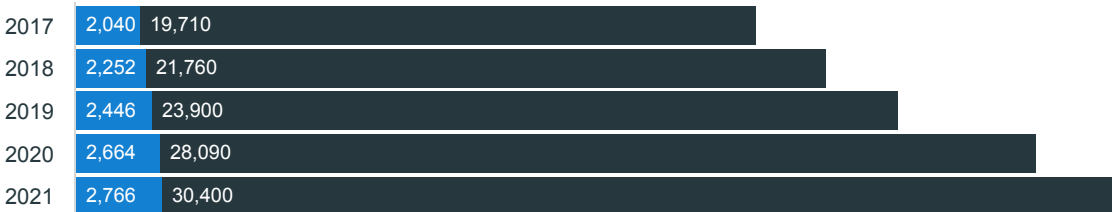
### 39.1% 8th-12th grade students with symptoms of depression

Reported by 8th-12th grade students (2021 Healthy Youth Survey).



### 2,766 Snohomish County mental health providers in 2021

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



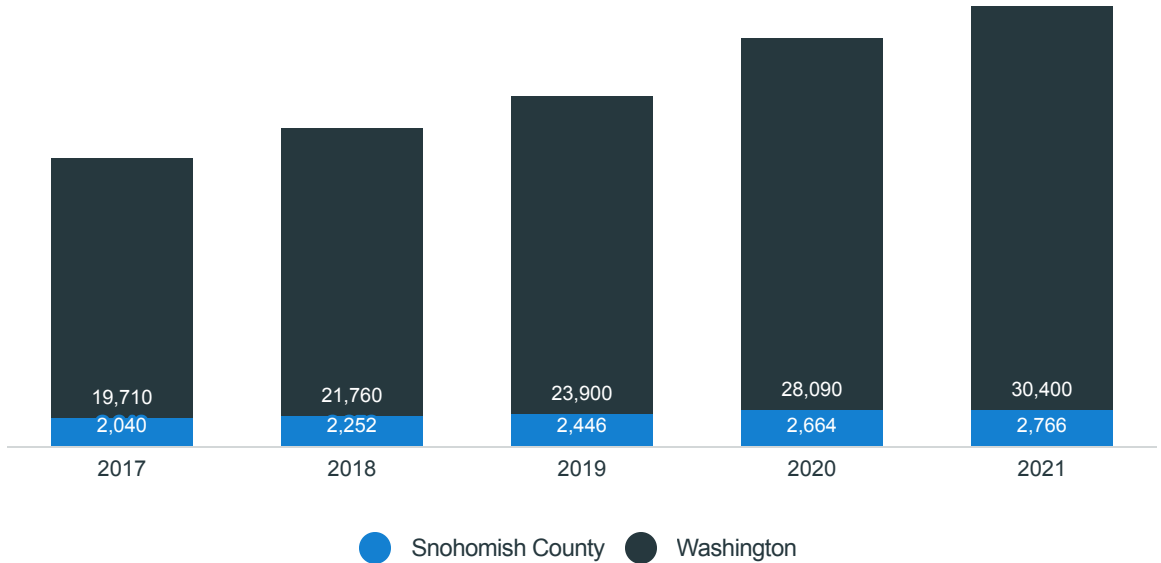


# Areas of Focus:

## Access to Healthcare Services, Including Behavioral Health

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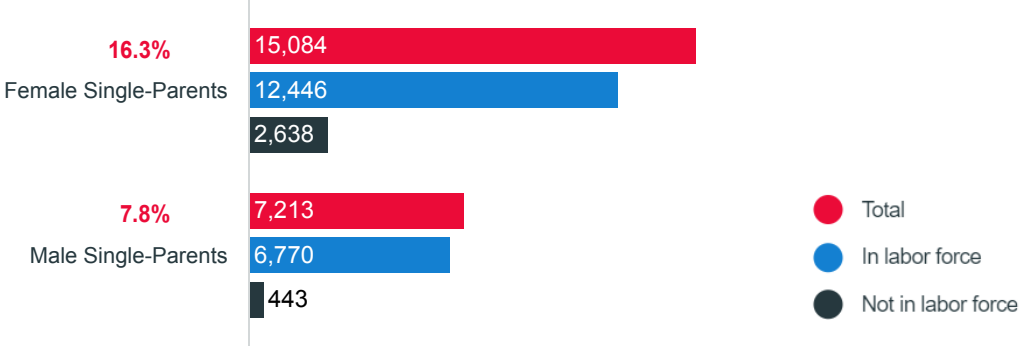
*Mental health providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, therapists, substance use disorder professionals, and advanced registered nurse practitioners.*



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

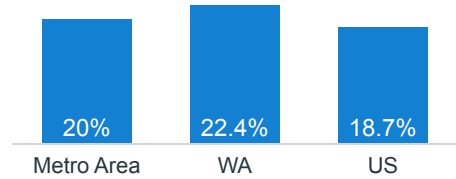
## 24.1% Single-parent households with own children under 18 in Snohomish County

Single parents may struggle to cover their family's basic needs, including food, utilities, housing, child care, clothing, and transportation. Navigating these struggles alone — and with limited resources — can send stress levels soaring. High parental stress, in turn, can spark even more challenges and adverse outcomes among the children involved.



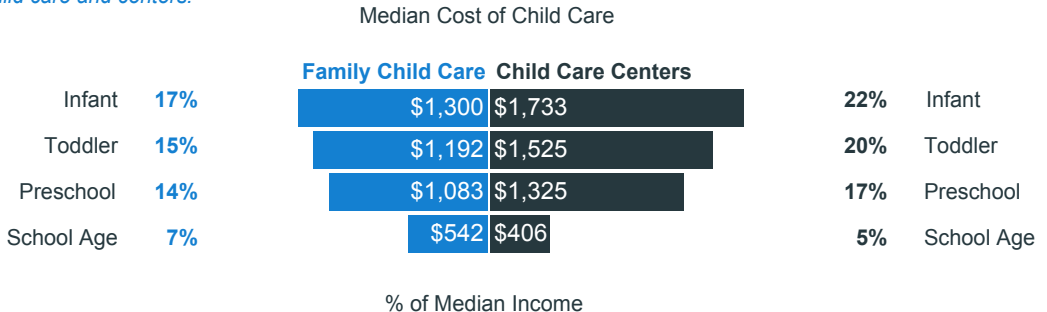
## 20% Child care disruptions for children under 5

Approximately 20% of adults (69,792) living in the Snohomish County metro area reported that they live in households where children under 5 were unable to attend day care or another child care arranged in the last 4 weeks (surveyed July 27 - August 8, 2022).



## Monthly cost of child care in Snohomish County in 2022

The two types of child care providers most prevalent in Snohomish County are Family Child Care (57%) and Child Care Centers (29%). The remaining 14% of providers only serve school age children. Median cost and percent of income for family child care and centers:

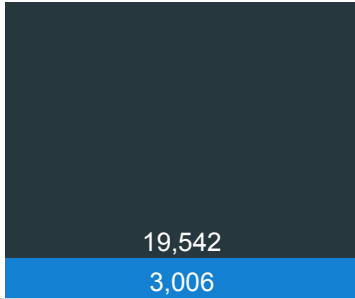


# Areas of Focus: Early Childhood Education, Child Care, and After School Programs

## 34,898 Total estimated child care slots needed for Snohomish County

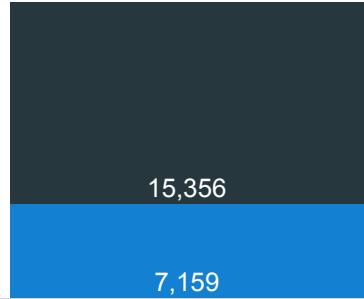
For Snohomish County, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families estimates that only 15% of Infant and Toddler Child Care needs have been met and an estimated 47% of child care needs for PreK have been met. Overall, only 29% of child care needs have been met; an estimated total of 34,898 child care slots are still needed in Snohomish County.

### 85% Unmet Need



Infant & Toddler Child Care

### 53% Unmet Need



PreK Child Care

● Slots ● Need

## 80% Snohomish County households living in a child care desert

The Snohomish County Office of Recovery and Resilience estimates 80% of Snohomish County households live in a child care desert. According to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families there are only 143 licensed child care centers spread across 2,086 square miles of Snohomish County.

## 2,708 Child care workers in the metro area

There are an estimated 2,708 child care workers in the Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue metro area, which includes Snohomish County. The average wage per hour is \$17.66 or \$36,730 annually.

# Kids Count Data Book

## Economic Well-Being in Snohomish County

### 7.9%\* Snohomish County children in poverty

**16%** (29,729) 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	Total Population Under 18	<18 Below FPL	Percent	1-Yr Change
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2,200	231	11%	no change
Asian	20,004	1,483	7%	-1%
Black or African American	6,279	378	6%	-6%
Hispanic or Latinx	33,777	5,006	15%	<b>+1%</b>
Multiracial	31,872	4,225	13%	<b>+1%</b>
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	501	129	26%	<b>+13%</b>
Some Other Race	11,538	1,805	16%	no change
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	102,687	6,548	6%	no change
<b>Total 5-Year ACS Estimates</b>	<b>208,858</b>	<b>19,805</b>	<b>9.5%*</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>

*Note a 1.6% difference when comparing overall SAIPE and ACS poverty estimates.*

### 32% 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: 49%*

There are 98,272 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	2022 Fair Market Rent	Income Needed	Hourly Income Needed	Race/Ethnicity	SnoCo Median Income
Efficiency	\$1,674	\$66,960	\$34.88	American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$96,563
1-Bdrm	\$1,739	\$69,560	\$36.23	Asian	\$131,143
2-Bdrm	\$2,044	\$81,760	\$42.58	Black or African American	\$79,356
3-Bdrm	\$2,796	\$111,840	\$58.25	Hispanic or Latinx	\$85,571
4-Bdrm	\$3,285	\$131,400	\$68.44	Multiracial	\$102,783
				Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific	\$103,850
				Some Other Race	\$69,805
				White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	\$113,232

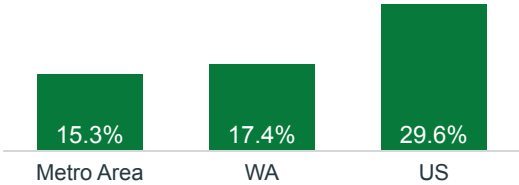
*Median family income estimates indicate that residents of Some Other Race make just enough to afford a 1-Bdrm rental; Hispanic or Latinx households make just enough to afford a 2-Bdrm rental, but Black or African American families pay more than 30% of their monthly household income to live in a 2-Bdrm rental in Snohomish County.*

# Kids Count Data Book

## Economic Well-Being in Snohomish County

15.3%

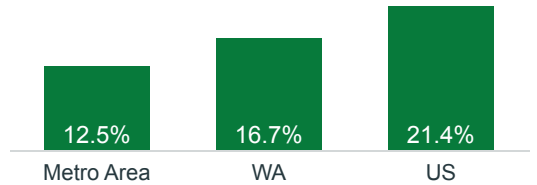
### Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure



Approximately 15.3% of adults (12,789) 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.

12.5%

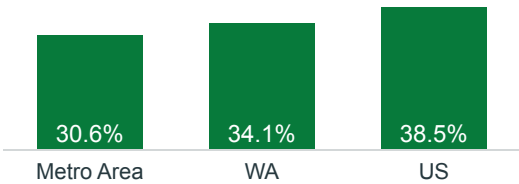
### Unable to Pay Energy Bill



Approximately 12.5% of adults (322,544) living in the metro area reported that they were unable to pay an energy bill in full in the last 12 months.

30.6%

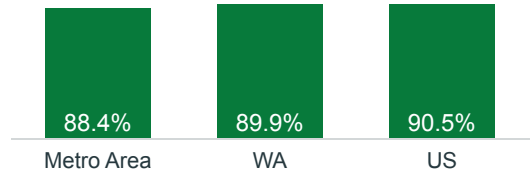
### Difficulty Paying Usual Expenses



Approximately 30.6% of adults (873,782) 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.

88.4%

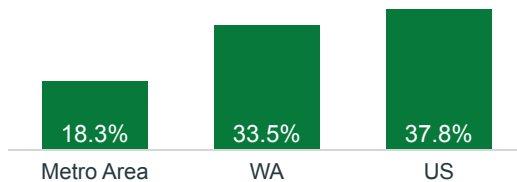
### Price Increases for Goods and Services



Approximately 88.4% of adults (118,941) in the metro area who think prices have increased in the area where they live and shop in the last two months.

18.3%

### Food Assistance for Children



Approximately 18.3% of adults (161,672) in the metro area reported living in households where children currently receive food assistance.

# Kids Count Data Book

## Education in Snohomish County

### 55% 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	532	171
Asian	5,628	1,429
Black or African American	1,723	410
Hispanic or Latinx	9,154	1,846
Multiracial	9,785	2,285
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	34	26
Some Other Race	1,982	430
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	27,455	6,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,293</b>	<b>13,559</b>

### 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.

Race/Ethnicity	School Year 21-22 Final Cohort	Did Not Graduate with Cohort	% Not Graduating On Time	1-Yr Change % Not Graduating On Time
American Indian or Alaskan Native	100	38	38.0%	-0.4%
Asian	902	53	5.9%	-2.0%
Black or African American	351	42	12.0%	-8.0%
Hispanic or Latinx	1,842	417	22.6%	-1.8%
Multiracial	666	96	14.4%	-5.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	88	25	28.4%	+5.2%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	4,619	766	16.6%	-0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,568</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>

# Kids Count Data Book

## Education in Snohomish County

### Additional High School populations not graduating on time

Snohomish County High School Students	School Year 2021-2022 Final Cohort	Did Not Graduate with Cohort	% Not Graduating On Time	1-Yr Change % Not Graduating On Time
All Students	8,568	1,437	16.8%	-1.4%
Students with Disabilities	1,125	389	34.6%	-2.4%
Students with Section 504	825	148	17.9%	-1.5%
Low-Income Students	3,873	976	25.2%	-3.0%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	814	338	41.5%	-2.8%
Students in Foster Care	47	20	42.6%	-14.8%
English Language Learner Students	864	260	30.1%	-2.3%

### High School Final Cohort population trends

*Students experiencing homelessness **increased 43%** from the previous school year.*

*English Language Learner students **increased 21%** from the previous school year.*

*Low-income students **increased 7%** from the previous school year.*

*Students with Section 504 **decreased 3%** from the previous school year.*

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

# Kids Count Data Book

## Health in Snohomish County

### 3.2% (6,170) Children 18 and under without health insurance in Snohomish County

5.3% of children in the United States 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.

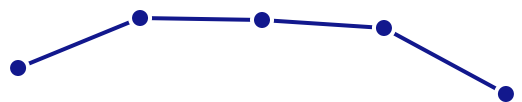
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<b>Total*</b>	<b>6,066* not including NH/PI</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

### 10.2 Child and teen death rate (ages 1-17) per 100,000 in Snohomish County in 2020

Preliminary data indicates death rates for 2021 to reach 2017 and 2018 death rate levels. Majority of deaths in 2021 were children and teens who identified as White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx) or as Hispanic or Latinx.

Child and teen deaths (under 18, excluding infants) reflects a broad array of factors: physical and mental health, access to health care, community factors such as violence and environmental toxins, use of safety practices, and the level of adult supervision. Nationally, accidents, primarily those involving motor vehicles, are the leading cause of death for children and youth.

Ages 1-17 Death Rate per 100,000	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>





# Kids Count Data Book

## Family and Community in Snohomish County

### 4.4% Number of Snohomish County children living in high poverty areas

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

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.

Race/Ethnicity	All Ages in High Poverty 2021	All Ages in High Poverty 2020
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3.6%	4.7%
Asian	4.1%	4.5%
Black or African American	3.9%	3.9%
Hispanic or Latinx	6.2%	5.6%
Multiracial	5.5%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	5.6%	0.7%
Some Other Race	7.1%	5.8%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	3.0%	2.9%

### 6.0% (12,609) Snohomish County families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

*16.9% of Snohomish County families with a householder without a high school diploma are living below the Federal Poverty Line.*

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.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2022). 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book. Baltimore, MD: Patrick T. McCarthy. Retrieved from [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

Census Bureau, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Healthy Youth Survey, 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)

In Snohomish County



**we value kids**

Snohomish County Children's Commission



**Snohomish County**