



Snohomish County

Human Services

October 30, 2024

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The Honorable Jared Mead,
Chair
Snohomish County Council
Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

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 2023. 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 2023, 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 2023 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 2023 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, I am 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