

2024 Snohomish County Children's Commission Annual Report

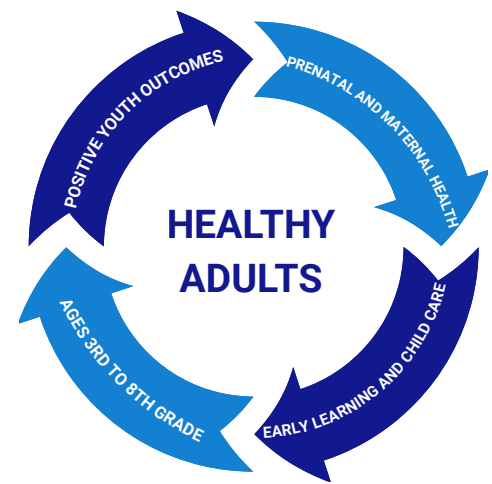
The mission of Human Services is to help all persons meet their basic needs and develop their potential by providing timely, effective human services and building community.



2024 KIDS COUNT

BUILDING THRIVING FUTURES

SNOHOMISH COUNTY CHILDREN'S COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT



FOCUS AREAS



**PRENATAL AND
MATERNAL HEALTH**



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**



**POSITIVE YOUTH
OUTCOMES**



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

- Maternal mortality rates were highest among those identifying as people of color, eligible for Medicaid insurance, and/or experiencing lack of access to prenatal-postpartum health care, behavioral health, and other services according to the report issued in [2023 by the Washington State Maternal Mortality Review Panel](#).
- The report states that 80% of these deaths were preventable and cited behavioral health conditions as the leading underlying cause of pregnancy-related deaths (32%) with other common causes including hemorrhage (12%) and infection (9%). These deaths would have been preventable with access to timely and appropriate services.
- Healthy babies begin with healthy, supported parents.
- Although prenatal care is widely available in the United States, barriers to access of quality prenatal care remain, especially for younger people, people of color, people with low incomes, linguistic minorities, and other marginalized groups.
- Existing prenatal services tend to focus primarily on the medical aspects of pregnancy and postpartum to the detriment of other non-medical services including behavioral health, basic needs, and parenting education.

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 and build strong, healthy bonds with their children with the goal of family reunification.
- **Evergreen Recovery Centers – Pregnant and Parenting Women's Residential Treatment:** Provides families with young children a research-based program that blends treatment for substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions with prenatal and perinatal care for the mother and intensive parenting and child services to support healthy child development and strong families.
- **Home visiting programs** (Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership): Provides pregnant people and families with children age birth to three years comprehensive and integrated information and support related to child development, parenting, early intervention services, health services, social support, and connections to community resources.



Focus Area: Prenatal and Maternal Health (continued)

Recommendations

- Advocate for the provision of prenatal-postpartum care that offers a broader, holistic system of supports throughout pregnancy and through the first year of postpartum to improve birth outcomes and ensure optimal health for parents and infants:
 - Increase access to mental health and substance use disorder prevention, screening, and treatment for parenting and parenting people including whole-family treatment programs;
 - Expand equitable and high-quality prenatal and maternal health care;
 - Meet basic needs of pregnant and parenting people by prioritizing access to housing, nutrition, income, transportation, child care, care navigation, and culturally relevant support services;
 - Expand prenatal to 3 years home visiting programs; and
 - Expand early identification and services for families involved in child welfare services with priority on prevention and family reunification.

Next Year's Focus

- Identify additional integrated medical, mental health, and social support services to address the physical and emotional well-being of both the parent and the baby.
- Research various cost analyses of providing integrated and comprehensive prenatal-postpartum care.



Focus Area: Early Childhood Education and Child Care

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

What We Learned

- The first years of life are critical to establishing a healthy foundation as [90% of brain development happens before age 5](#).
- Children growing up in environments with nurturing and responsive care and opportunities to play, communicate, and explore are more likely to enter kindergarten meeting developmental benchmarks and have better life outcomes.
- Children meeting kindergarten outcomes are nearly two times more likely to meeting third grade developmental benchmarks.
- Children who cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to experience poor health, have discipline problems, become teen parents, and drop out of high school.
- A diverse, knowledgeable, skilled, and appropriately compensated workforce is essential to quality early learning programs.
- [Washington ranks 3rd in the nation](#) for least affordable child care for an infant in a family child care program. Snohomish County continues to experience a shortage of early learning services, especially child care for children birth to five years. Lack of sufficient funding to train and retain an ample workforce, facilities, and tuition subsidies for families are the primary causes of this shortage. Additionally, [cuts to the Washington State budget](#) have significantly reduced access to early learning services.

Community Solutions That Work

- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start Preschool.
- Licensed Family and Center Child Care.
- **Holding Hope Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation ([IECMHC](#)).
- **Everett Community College and Child Care Aware NW WA:** Early childhood education certification tuition and support for child care workforce.
- **Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center:** Early childhood education career pathways for youth.
- Snohomish County ordinance to amend zoning laws and expedite permitting processes for child care centers in unincorporated areas of the County.



Focus Area: Early Childhood Education and Child Care (continued)

Recommendations

- Invest in children NOW - prioritize prenatal to grade 3 services;
- Invest in early learning workforce development initiatives including funding and supports for early childhood education certifications;
- Fully fund child care subsidies to 7 percent of family income; and
- Fully fund early learning programs including ECEAP, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC), B-3 home visiting, and early prevention of child welfare involvement.

Next Year's Focus

- Explore strategies for expanding, diversifying, and retaining early learning services, supports, and workforce.
- Explore school district P-3 initiatives.



Focus Area: Positive Youth Outcomes

Positive youth development provides the 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 and Washington State in recent years ([82% in 2023](#)).
- Increased rates are a result of intentional strategies to support students and their families address challenges to high school completion including early identification of at-risk students, specialized programs, and individualized support.
- There are clear disparities in high school completion data for some students living in our region: residing in foster care (53.3%), experiencing homelessness (60.9%), identifying as low-income (75.3%), multilingual learners (69.8%), and students with a disability (65.3%) ([OSPI Report Card](#)).
- Public technical high schools provide high school education with applied learning experiences. These programs offer training in a range of professional fields and provide students the opportunity to early high school equivalency credits, dual college credits, and industry certifications. High school completion rates for students attending these skill centers tend to be more equitable across all student populations.

Community Solutions That Work

- **Cocoon House:** provides a continuum of programs designed to prevent and end youth homelessness.
- **Everett Public School Student Reengagement:** this program 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, serving students in Snohomish and South Island County, providing high school education with applied learning experiences and opportunity to complete dual college credits, and industry certifications.

Recommendations

- Provide financial and other support for initiatives focused on increased high school completion;
- Advocate for additional financial and other support to sustain and expand the efforts of Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center and other school district tech-ed programs; and
- Advocate for education and other supports for students involved in the child welfare system.

Next Year's Focus

- High school completion rates, successful strategies and needs for all Snohomish County high school programs.
- Programs and services to support high school completion for youth grades 4-8 leading to high school completion.
- Resources and supports for families with youth grades 4-8.
- Successful strategies and needs for students and their families involved in the child welfare system.

Kids Count Data Book

Washington State Ranks 14th in the Nation for Overall Child Well-Being

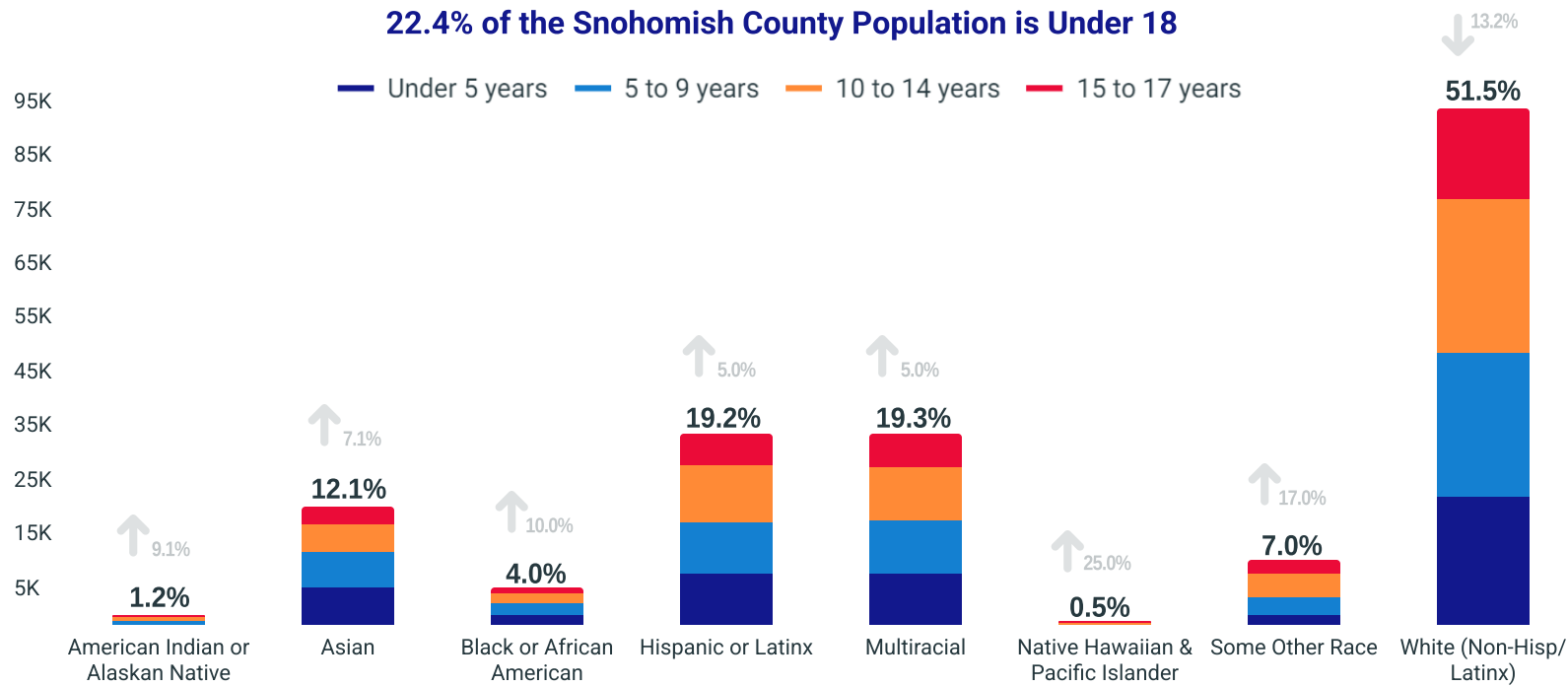
The Snohomish County Children's Commission has chosen to utilize the KIDS COUNT framework to identify community strengths and needs, and offer services and policy recommendations for positive and equitable outcomes for all children.



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 Housing and Urban Development.

Four domains are measured through these child-level indicators: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community. Washington State ranks 14th in the Nation for overall child well-being in 2024, compared to 16th in 2023.

22.4% of the Snohomish County Population is Under 18



U.S. Census Bureau Tables S0101/B01001B-I, 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

↕↑ Arrow callouts show significant relative change (percent change), compared to the previous year.

Relative change provides a more meaningful comparison than absolute change, which simply measures the difference between two percentages. For example, if a value changed from 2% to 4%, it is a more meaningful measure of growth to say that it doubled (a 100% relative change) than noting an increase of only 2 percentage points (the absolute change).

Percentage Relative Change = $\frac{\text{New Value} - \text{Original Value}}{\text{Original Value}} \times 100$

Kids Count Data Book

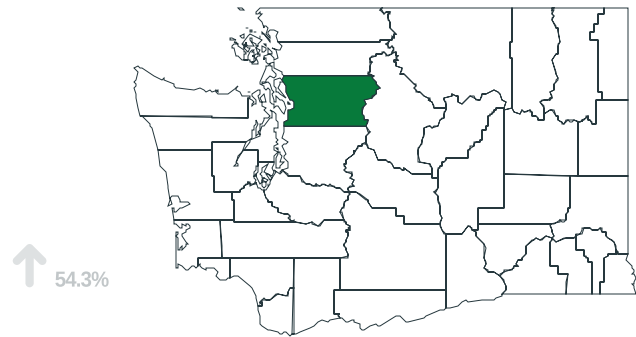
Economic Well-Being in Snohomish County

10.3% Snohomish County children under 18 in poverty 24.1%

17% (30,952) 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.

Snohomish County		
Race/Ethnicity	Under 18	Under 18 Below FPL
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.2%	10.3%
Asian	12.1%	4.5%
Black or African American	4.0%	15.1%
Hispanic or Latinx	19.2%	15.2%
Multiracial	19.3%	11.4%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0.5%	50.3%
Some Other Race	7.0%	16.5%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	51.5%	7.3%



U.S. Census Bureau Tables B09010/B17020A-1 2019-2023, ACS 5-Year Estimates;
Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; FPL = Federal Poverty Limit

33.4% Cost-burdened households in the County who are paying more than 30% on housing/utilities 1.2%

Snohomish County housing units where the mortgage payment is more than 30% of the household income: 25.3%

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

There are **104,266** 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.

Snohomish County	
Race/Ethnicity	Median Income
American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$94,795
Asian	\$156,550
Black or African American	\$93,819
Hispanic or Latinx	\$93,486
Multiracial	\$121,323
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Isla.	\$91,994
Some Other Race	\$73,923
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	\$130,367

Snohomish County & Metro-Area, 2024			
	Fair Market Rent	Annual Income Needed	Hourly Income Needed
Efficiency	\$2,211	\$88,440	\$46.06
1-Bdrm	\$2,269	\$90,760	\$47.27
2-Bdrm	\$2,645	\$105,800	\$55.10
3-Bdrm	\$3,510	\$140,400	\$73.13
4-Bdrm	\$4,080	\$163,200	\$85.00

Estimates indicate that residents who identify as Some Other Race do not earn enough to live in an efficiency without being cost-burdened. And American Indian, Alaskan Native, Black, African American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and 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, 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year
Estimates; U.S. Department of Housing and 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.

28.8%

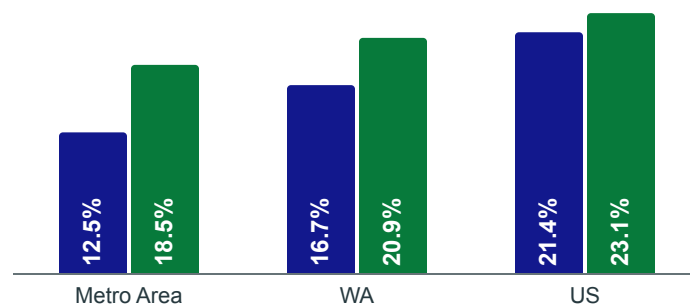
Difficulty Paying Usual Expenses



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.

18.5%

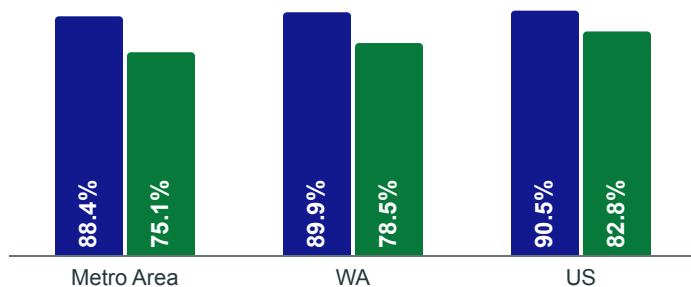
Unable to Pay Energy Bill



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.

75.1%

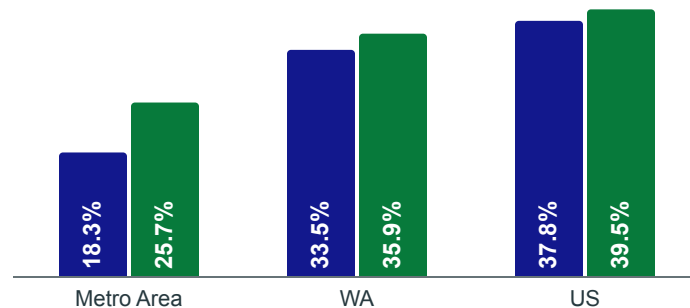
Price Increases for Goods and Services



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.

25.7%

Food Assistance for Children



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

58% Snohomish County children aged 3-4 not in school  4.0%

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	3 Years and Over in Nursery or Preschool
American Indian or Alaskan Native	502	133
Asian	7,583	1,836
Black or African American	2,218	359
Hispanic or Latinx	9,917	1,724
Multiracial	10,055	2,049
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	269	0
Some Other Race	2,293	378
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	24,115	6,176
Total	56,952	12,655

U.S. Census Bureau Tables B01001B-I & B14007B-I, 2019-2023, ACS 5-Year Estimates

17.7% Snohomish County high school students not graduating on time  5.4%

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 2023-2024 Snohomish County High School Students by Race/Ethnicity	% Not Graduating On Time
American Indian or Alaskan Native	30.6%
Asian	7.3%
Black or African American	17.8%
Hispanic or Latinx	25.9%
Multiracial	16.9%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	20.2%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	15.9%
All Students	17.7%

OSPI Report Card Graduation 2023-24 School Year, Four Year Cohort

Kids Count Data Book

Education in Snohomish County

Additional High School populations not graduating on time

School Year 2023-2024 Snohomish County High School Students	% Not Graduating On Time
All Students	17.7%
Students with Disabilities	34.5%
Students with Section 504	15.0%
Low-Income Students	26.3%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	39.0%
Students in Foster Care	47.2%
English Language Learner Students	34.4%

High School 4-Year Final Cohort population trends for School Year 2023-2024

Overall, Snohomish County high schools saw a decrease in the number of students experiencing homelessness compared to the prior school year, but continue to see the number of students in low-income households rise. Students with Section 504 plans grew by 26%, while students with disabilities decreased by 1%.

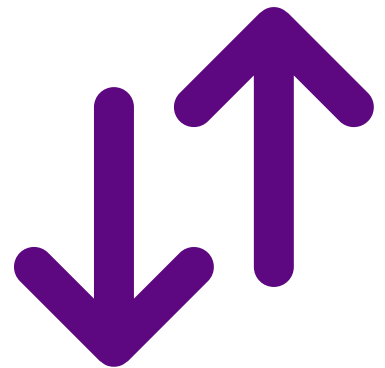
Students experiencing homelessness **decreased 3%** from the previous 2022-2023 school year.

Students with disabilities **decreased 1%** from the previous 2022-2023 school year.

Students with Section 504* **increased 26%** from the previous 2022-2023 school year.

English Language Learner students **increased 1%** from the previous 2022-2023 school year.

Low-income students **increased 5%** from the previous 2022-2023 school year.



OSPI Report Card Graduation 2023-24 School Year, Four Year Cohort (9th to 12th Grade)

*Under Section 504, schools must provide students with disabilities the accommodations, aids, and services they need to access and benefit from education equally with their peers.

Section 504 defines disability as a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

For more information about Section 504 and Students with Disabilities, please visit: <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights/information-families-civil-rights-washington-schools/section-504-students-disabilities>

Kids Count Data Book

Health in Snohomish County

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

↑ 29.0%

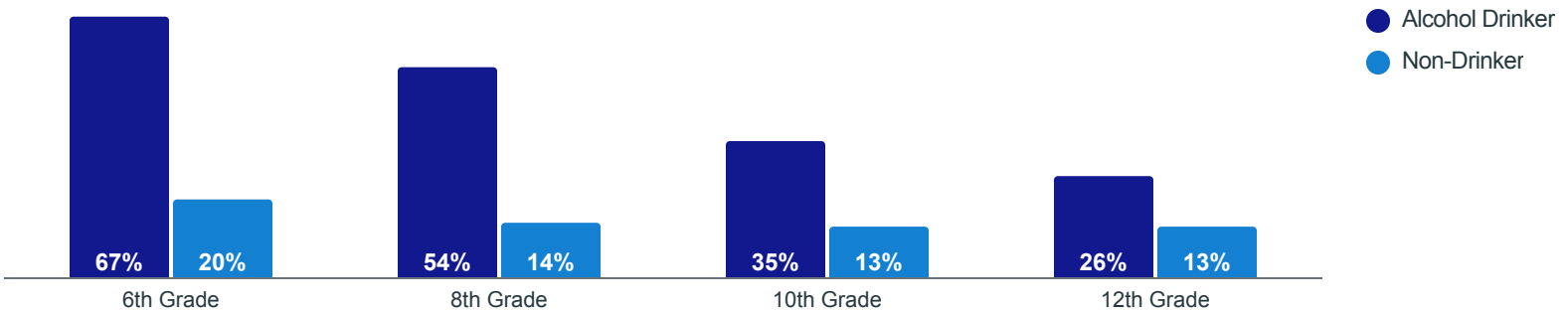
12% of Snohomish County 10th Graders reported riding with a driver who had been drinking.

↑ 20.0%

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 and Alcohol Use in the Past 30 Days



17% 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders in the County report 4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

↑ 21.0%

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.

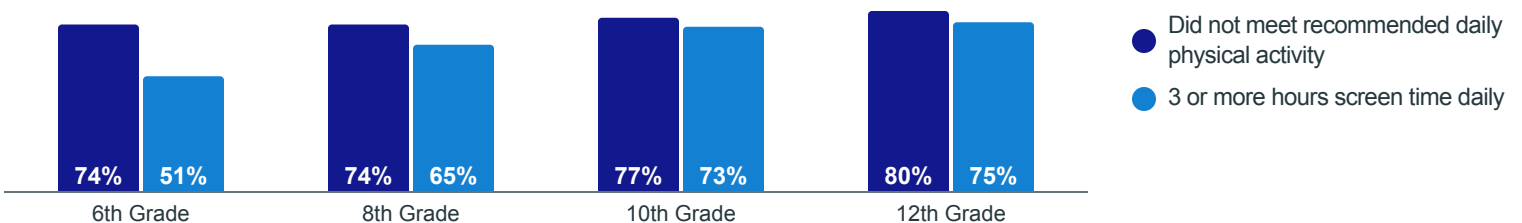
The original ACEs study identified a relationship between serious, negative events in childhood and physical and mental health in adulthood. When children experience multiple negative events, their bodies can be flooded with stress hormones, increasing their risk for later health problems like heart 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, and 12th Graders in the County did not meet recommended daily physical activity

↑ 18.0%

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.



Data on this page comes from the 2023 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, which is conducted every two years. The 2025 Healthy Youth Survey is underway, with results expected Winter 2026. Therefore, with no new data to report, the data on this page reflects last year's Data Book.

Kids Count Data Book

Family and Community in Snohomish County

4.7% Snohomish County children under 18 living in high poverty areas  7.0%

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	2023	2022	2021	2020
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5.4%	3.5%	3.6%	4.7%
Asian	3.6%	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%
Black or African American	5.0%	4.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Hispanic or Latinx	6.5%	6.3%	6.2%	5.6%
Multiracial	4.7%	5.3%	5.5%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	12.8%	8.4%	5.6%	0.7%
Some Other Race	7.1%	6.7%	7.1%	5.8%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	3.6%	3.4%	3.0%	2.9%

U.S. Census Bureau Table S1703, 2019-2023, ACS 5-Year Estimates

6.0% (12,894) Snohomish Co. families where the household head lacks a high school diploma  3.2%

18.4% 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, 2019-2023 ACS 5 Year-Estimates

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 Book: Kelsey.Bang-Olsen@snoco.org.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2024). 2024 KIDS COUNT Data Book. Baltimore, MD: Patrick T. McCarthy. Retrieved from www.aecf.org.

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

Snohomishcountywa.gov/3825/Childrens-Commission

