

Snohomish County Children's Commission

KIDS COUNT in Snohomish County, 2020

The Snohomish County Children's Commission (SCCC) advises the County Executive, the County Council, and the Human Services Department on issues of health, safety, and social services for infants, young children, and youth in our community. The issues impacting children and families are vast, complex, and interconnected. The Children's Commission recognizes the events of the 2020 have had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of children and families in our community. In addition to the data included in this report, we thought it important to call out these impacts and our recommendations.

RACE-BASED VIOLENCE

Our children of color are significantly and traumatically impacted by racism and race-based violence. George Floyd's murder in 2020 galvanized protests across America and the world. The current political climate and the fear and uncertainty of the pandemic have ignited a rash of racist actions against people of color. No child in Snohomish County should have to live in a world that is hostile to them because of the color of their skin.

Recommendation: Focus support efforts in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities, which are also bearing the impacts of ongoing, systemic racism ("the Second pandemic of 2020")

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated youth mental health needs. In March of 2021, Governor Jay Inslee declared Children and Youth Mental Health Crisis in Proclamation 21-05, citing the incredible mental health challenges that children and youth are facing in Washington State. Feedback from agencies working with children and youth in Snohomish County during this challenging time has been overwhelmingly about the need for increased access to behavioral health services to address ongoing and emergent behavioral health challenges.

Recommendation: Specify significant funding for staffing and materials for behavioral and mental health resources for children, youth, and families.

DISPARATE IMPACTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted children equally, and the behavioral health impacts from the pandemic are also unequal. Not only have BIPOC been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic both physically and economically, they are also living with the daily stress of racism and racial discrimination. While BIPOC youth are facing multiplying stressors during the Covid19, they also face increased challenges in accessing services; Blacks and Latinos have substantially lower access to mental health and substance-use treatment than their white peers.

Recommendation: Continue to address the long-term needs of our Snohomish County families, especially communities of color and other people who have been historically marginalized. These basics include such critical needs as affordable childcare and stable housing, educational opportunities, and family wage jobs.



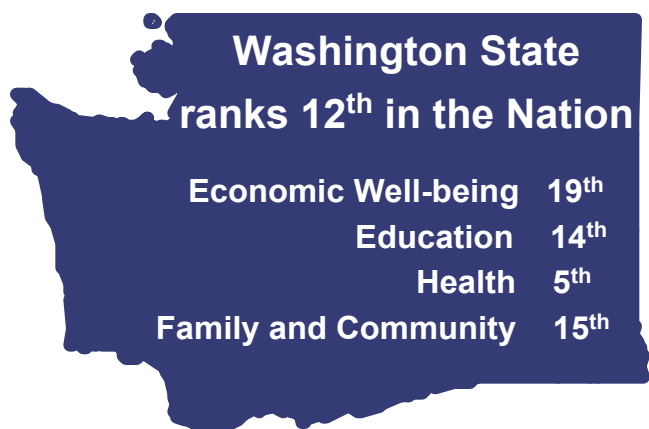
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The SCCC has chosen to utilize the KIDS COUNT framework to identify community strengths and needs, and offer service and policy recommendations for positive and equitable outcomes for all children.

Kids Count Data Book



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 ranked 12th in the Nation for overall child well-being.

COVID-19 Household Pulse Survey

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative effect on child and family well-being. In addition to the Kids Count data, this report includes data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Household Pulse Survey measures social and economic impacts the pandemic has had on American families.

Data from the Household Pulse Survey is available by state and large metropolitan areas. The following is a snapshot of the Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue metro area, which includes Snohomish County. It is important to note that nearly 60% of Washington adults live in this metro area. Data was released on May 5, 2021 and may include households without children.

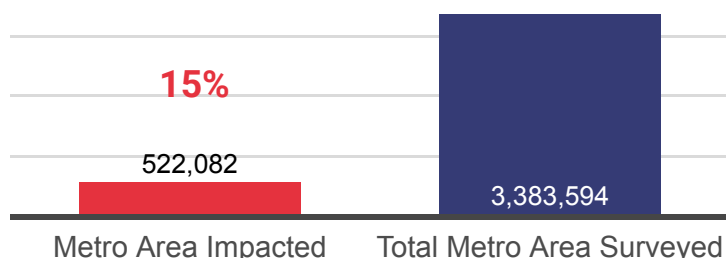


Information about the Household Pulse Survey can be found at <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>

Social and Economic Pandemic Impacts to Children and Families

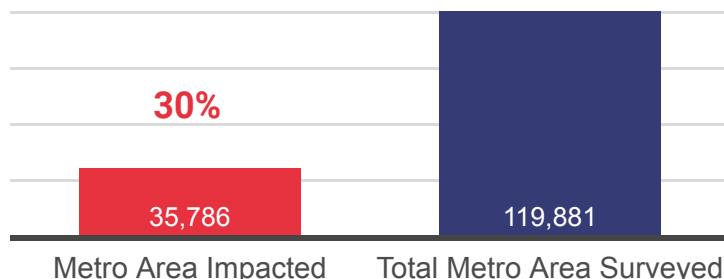
COVID-19 Household Pulse Survey

Expected Loss in Employment Income



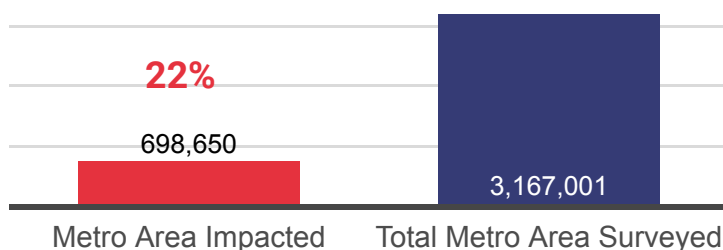
Approximately 15% of adults (522,082) living in the metro area reported that they expect someone in their household to have a loss in employment income in the next 4 weeks. These adults make up 63% of Washingtonians who reported this expectation.

Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure



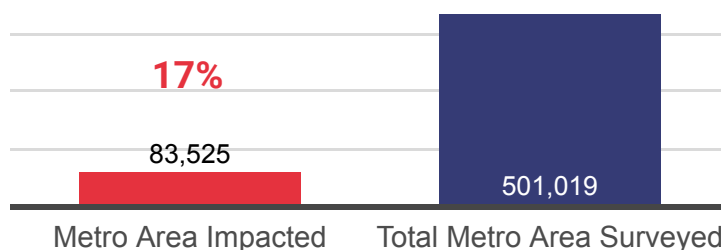
Approximately 30% of adults (35,786) living in the metro area reported that they are living in households not current on rent or mortgage where eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is either very likely or somewhat likely. These adults make up 58% of Washingtonians who reported a likelihood of eviction or foreclosure.

Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses



Approximately 22% of adults (698,650) 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. These adults make up 60% of Washingtonians who reported difficulty paying for usual household expenses.

Food Assistance From School



Approximately 17% of adults (83,525) living in the metro area reported that they live in households with children enrolled in public or private school where students received food assistance from school in the last 7 days. These adults make up 30% of Washingtonians who reported children receiving food assistance from school.

Kids Count Data Book

Social environments influence the health of children and their ability to thrive. Children and families are more likely to overcome barriers when they are connected to quality community services. Children under age 5 make up 6.3% of the Snohomish County population and children age 5-17 make up 16.1% of the population. The following indicators of well-being for children and their families in Snohomish County show our community has strengths and areas for improvement:

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

8.1% Children in poverty

16% 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
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2,219	260	12%
Asian	17,646	1,556	9%
Black or African American	8,626	865	10%
Hispanic or Latinx	30,894	4,614	15%
Multiracial	23,271	2,480	11%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	764	54	7%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	121,905	6,604	5%
Total	205,325	16,433	8%

32.1% Cost-burdened households who are paying more than 30% on housing and utilities

Snohomish County housing units where the mortgage payment is more than 30% of the household income: 29.2%

Snohomish County housing units where the rent payment is more than 30% of the household income: 51.4%

Low income families are more likely to experience housing affordability problems (spending more than 30 percent of pretax income on housing, 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	2020 Fair Market Rent	Income Needed	Hourly Income Needed	Race/Ethnicity	SnoCo Median Income
Efficiency	\$1,627	\$65,080	\$31.29	American Indian or Alaskan Native	\$86,964
1-Bdrm	\$1,741	\$69,640	\$33.48	Asian	\$113,116
2-Bdrm	\$2,099	\$83,960	\$40.37	Black or African American	\$78,140
3-Bdrm	\$2,993	\$119,720	\$57.56	Hispanic or Latinx	\$70,343
4-Bdrm	\$3,524	\$140,960	\$67.77	Multiracial	\$85,191
				Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	\$80,226
				White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	\$104,367

Median family income estimates indicate that Hispanic or Latinx, Black or African American, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families cannot afford a 2-bedroom rental in Snohomish County without paying more than 30% of their monthly income.

Kids Count Data Book

EDUCATION

53.3% 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.

Race/Ethnicity	Population under 5	Total pop. under 3 in nursery or preschool
American Indian or Alaskan Native	561	162
Asian	4,389	1,316
Black or African American	1,593	339
Hispanic or Latinx	8,587	1,670
Multiracial	7,478	1,648
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	204	45
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	29,983	7,996
Total	52,795	13,176

17.3% 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	Final Cohort	Did not graduate with cohort	Percent not graduating on time
American Indian or Alaskan Native	102	42	41.2%
Asian	786	64	8.1%
Black or African American	324	82	25.3%
Hispanic or Latinx	1,660	403	24.3%
Multiracial	658	117	31.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	66	21	17.8%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	4,899	739	15.1%

HEALTH

3.4% Children without health insurance

6% 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	Under 19 without health insurance
American Indian or Alaskan Native	328
Asian	221
Black or African American	767
Hispanic or Latinx	1,098
Multiracial	617
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	40
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	3,669
Total	6,740

36 Number of child and teen deaths

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. Accidents, primarily those involving motor vehicles, are the leading cause of death for children and youth ages 1-14 with accidents, homicides, and suicides accounting for 74% of deaths to teens ages 15-19.

Race/Ethnicity	Count
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0
Asian	3
Black or African American	1
Hispanic or Latinx	6
Multiracial	8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	17
Total	35 + 1*

*1 death did not have a race or ethnicity identified

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

4.3% Number of 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
American Indian or Alaskan Native	6.1%
Asian	4%
Black or African American	4%
Hispanic or Latinx	6.4%
Multiracial	6.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2%
White (Non-Hispanic or Latinx)	2.9%

5.8% Families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

15% 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.

Data is not available by race or ethnicity.

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.

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

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/3825/Childrens-Commission>



we value kids

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