
Communities

C O U N T

2000

**Social
and Health
Indicators
Across
King County**



Partners

COMMUNITIES COUNT was born out of a collaborative initiative of the following public and private organizations who have worked steadily over a three year process to create “people and community” indicators for King County.

- ❖ City of Bellevue Department of Parks and Community Services
- ❖ City of Seattle Human Services Department
- ❖ Cross Cultural Health Care Program
- ❖ King County Children and Family Commission
- ❖ King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services
- ❖ King County Department of Community and Human Services, Mental Health
- ❖ Public Health-Seattle & King County
- ❖ Sustainable Seattle
- ❖ United Way of King County

The Steering Committee for the Social and Health Indicators Initiative is comprised of the following persons, all of whom are affiliated with one of the partner organizations listed above: Bette Hyde, Chair, Torben Christiansen, Sandy Ciske, Bookda Gheisar, Lisbeth Gilbert, William Goldsmith, R. Lee Hatcher, Kathryn Horsley, Carol Maurer, Julie Nelson, Alex O'Reilly, James Ott, and David Sieminski.

Funders

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COMMUNITIES COUNT is available on the web at <http://www.communitiescount.org>

Copies of **COMMUNITIES COUNT** (full report and short version) are available from:

Public Health - Seattle & King County 206-296-6817 or

United Way of King County 206-461-4529 or

King County Office of Regional Policy and Planning 206-296-3430

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COMMUNITIES COUNT 2000

Executive Summary

Purpose:

To develop a community report card to assess the health and well being of people and communities in King County based on a set of community-defined indicators that will inform local and regional actions and funding.

What This Report Offers:

- A common set of social and health indicators for use by all city and county governments, public agencies, human service funders, non-profit agencies, community-based organizations, and residents.
- *Communities Count* indicators are complementary to other local efforts:
 - ❖ *King County Growth Management Benchmarks* – *Communities Count* provides more detail on people and communities.
 - ❖ *Sustainable Seattle Indicators of Sustainable Community* – *Communities Count* includes all of King County and provides more detail on health and well being.
- Indicators were identified through a unique iterative process involving technical advisors and led by residents of King County.
- Special efforts were taken in the process to be inclusive of the ethnic and geographic diversity of King County and then in the analysis to report disparities based on region, age, race, income and gender.
- These indicators include routinely gathered information as well as new measures of community well being, such as social support, income distribution, reading to children, and social cohesion in neighborhoods.
- This report will be updated periodically to follow the progress of our health and well being over time.

The 29 indicators give a picture of our overall health and well being. Many indicators have been measured in King County for the first time and therefore offer only baseline information. Other indicators, however, have been measured over several years so we can get a sense for how well we are doing in the year 2000 relative to earlier years.

King County as a whole is making progress with grade school academic achievement, reducing crime, motor vehicle injuries, infant mortality, teen births, and adult alcohol abuse. But our situation is worsening with respect to affordable housing, tobacco use among adults and youth, alcohol use among youth, and the proportion of overweight people.

In general, there are not great differences by geographic regions of the county. There are no differences between North, Seattle, East and South regions for people's experience of social support, discrimination, stress, social cohesion, feelings of safety, participation in life enriching activities, participation in community organizations, alcohol abuse, or physical inactivity. Yet significant differences exist for these same indicators by age, income and education levels, race, and gender.

Basic Needs and Social Determinants of Wellbeing

This category of indicators includes the crucial social, economic and environmental ingredients in our lives—everyone needs food, housing, income, social support, fairness and social acceptance.

- While few (5%) King County residents have concerns about getting enough food for themselves or their family, many have difficulty finding the money for monthly rent or mortgage payments. The housing affordability gap for median income home buyers has increased throughout the 1990s, and only one out of three rentals in King County was considered affordable in 1999.
- Once income data from the 2000 census is available, we can present an up-to-date picture of livable wage income. Based on 1990 census data, as many as one out of five King County residents lived in a household with income below this level.
- Even with recent data, poverty itself doesn't tell the full picture. The distribution of income in King County has been highly skewed toward the few wealthy residents throughout the past decade, as it has been for the United States. New data from the 2000 census will help us know how much income inequity is increasing locally.
- While 1999 survey data show that most King County adults report high levels of social support from family and friends, seniors receive less than younger residents, people earning less than \$50,000 a year receive less than those whose incomes are higher, and people who are African American, Native American, and Asian American-Pacific Islanders receive less social support than whites.
- Almost 30% of King County residents report that they are experiencing discrimination in a variety of settings. One out of three have experienced recent unfair treatment based on their gender, 19% experienced discrimination based on their race, 19% based on their socioeconomic status, and 16% based on their age. More people of color than whites experienced discrimination, more women than men, and more young people than older people.

Positive Development Through Life Stages

This category of indicators focuses on important ingredients of learning and healthy development from early childhood to the senior years.

- Not all people of working age are able to spend time with their children, other family members, or friends, because of the demands of their work schedules. While around 70% of King County employers offer flexibility in work hours, many fewer (especially the very large employers) offer flexibility to all employees. Annual vacations are short—in the first year of employment, less than 15% of employers offer more than two weeks.
- While 70% of respondents in households with young children reported that the children were read or told stories to on a daily basis, the percentage varies by education level of respondents. 83% of college graduates reported daily reading while only 50% of people with a high school education or less read to their young children everyday. South region did not fair as well on this indicator as other regions, and Seattle did better than the other three.
- Three out of four survey respondents who were in a couple reported daily reading to their young children compared to only half who were not in a couple relationship.

- Approximately two thirds of respondents with children who were using childcare arrangements expressed satisfaction. Cost and quality of care were the main reasons for dissatisfaction. Childcare typically costs over 25% of income for low-income families.
- King County public school 4th graders have made progress towards meeting the state standards for math, reading, writing, and listening, since assessment began in 1997. Students in Seattle and school districts in South county have progressed but not done as well as school districts in North and East King County.
- High school-age youth in four King County districts reported having only 20 or fewer of the 40 developmental assets measured in the Search Institute survey. The more assets our youth have the more likely they are to engage in positive behaviors and the less likely they are to participate in risky behaviors, such as alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.
- Adults need a balance between work and leisure and 80% of King County adults reported that they were very or somewhat active in at least three life-enriching activities. This percentage was higher among those with higher levels of education.
- Seniors were significantly less likely to be involved in life enriching activities than people in younger age groups.

Safety and Health

These 15 indicators provide details on environmental conditions and behaviors that contribute to our health as well as four specific health outcomes.

- The majority of King County residents don't worry often about safety in their neighborhoods, but those who do are concerned about children's safety. People who have yearly incomes of \$50,000 or more perceive more safety in their neighborhoods than people who earn less. People who report themselves as white perceive more safety than people who are African American, Native American, Asian American or Pacific Islanders.
- The overall crime rate in King County has decreased significantly from a high of 93 crimes per 1,000 in 1987 to a low of 68 per 1,000 in 1998. Both major violent crime and property crime have been decreasing.
- Family violence as well as the generational cycle it creates are still of great concern. Between 1996 and 1998, 20% of murders, 10% of rapes, 28% of aggravated assaults, and 50% of simple assaults in King County involved domestic relationships. There were an average of 12,296 domestic violence offenses each year during this period.
- Infant mortality and teen births are both declining, but both remain higher in areas of the county where there is more poverty.
- Stress is reported less frequently by residents who earn more than \$50,000, have a college degree, are white, and are in middle age groups.
- Use and abuse of alcohol and tobacco remain problems countywide. Youth and people of color report higher levels of tobacco use. Males, whether youth or adults, are more likely to participate in binge drinking.
- The proportion of adults who are overweight and obese is increasing in King County. The risk of being overweight is higher for middle-age adults than others, and higher for males than females. A lower proportion of people with college degrees are overweight than people with less education.
- Approximately 11% of King County adults under the age of 65 do not have any health insurance coverage. The percentage of uninsured goes up to 28% for those making less than \$15,000 and down to only 3% of households with an income of \$50,000 or more.

Community Strength

These indicators reflect forces in the environment that contribute to community health—cohesion, involvement, service to others, environmental justice, and easy access to services. These measures have been collected for the first time in King County, so the information is baseline and there is no point of comparison.

- A sense of neighborhood social cohesion among King County residents varies by many subgroups within the population. People who are young, male, and non-white report less cohesion than others. People who have incomes of \$50,000 or more, college degrees, and a couple relationship, whether married or not, report more social cohesion than others.
- About 70% of all King County adult residents say they are active in at least one community organization, such as a neighborhood group, political group or civic club, parent-teacher association, religious group or congregation. Young adults age 18-24 years are the least active. Women are more involved than men, and people who have completed college are more involved than those with less education.
- Less than half of King County public school districts report practices that support student participation in community service activities.
- Fewer than one out of three employers report that they have formal policies regarding employee participation in community service.
- There was a total of 2.2 million pounds of toxic chemicals released into the air by major manufacturing facilities in King County in 1997. Approximately 410,000 pounds (nearly 20%) of these chemicals were potentially cancer causing substances. The location of polluting facilities suggests that certain areas of South Region and Seattle are much more heavily impacted by air releases of cancer-causing substances than the rest of the county.

Where Do We Go From Here?

There are many strengths in King County and our residents in general are experiencing good health and well being. The fact that so many King County indicators vary by income, education, race, and age gives us a better understanding of where it is important to focus our attention—livable wages, affordable housing, freedom from discrimination, and fairness within our society as a whole and within our own immediate communities. Families that worry over housing, food costs, childcare, and unfair treatment are less likely to have energy for reading to their children, providing emotional support, communicating clear guidelines and high expectations, and carrying out activities that nurture positive values and behaviors in their children and other family members. Such families also have fewer resources to pursue life enriching activities or to participate in community organizations that are a source of support and community engagement.

Can anything be changed? Our collective actions and policies can build supportive contexts for positive human development for all residents. Evidence points to some promising pathways to eliminate the inequalities: early childhood investment and education, narrowing the income gap and ensuring healthy workplaces. Each level of government, each agency, each employer and business, each organization, each school, each community of faith, each cultural group, and each person have roles to play in addressing the basic needs and social determinants of well-being for all King County residents.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH INDICATORS

Indicators	King County Progress: 😊 Getting Better 😞 Getting Worse ↔ No Change ? Undetermined	King County Trend [^] : ↑ Increase ↓ Decrease ↔ No Change ? Undetermined	Group Comparisons [*] : ★ Significant Differences = No Significant Differences ? Undetermined					
			Region	Race [†]	Income	Education	Age	Gender
Basic Needs: Social Determinants of Well Being:								
Adequate Food	↔	↔	=	★	★	★	★	=
Livable Wage Income	?	?	★	?	?	?	?	?
Income Distribution	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Social Support	?	?	=	★	★	=	★	=
Freedom from Discrimination: Experience	?	?	=	★	★	★	★	★
: Hate Crimes	😊	↓	?	?	?	?	?	?
Affordable Housing	?	?	★	?	★	?	?	?
Positive Development Through Life Stages:								
Family Friendly Employment Benefits	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Parent/Guardian Involvement in Child's Learning	?	?	★	=	=	★	=	=
Quality Affordable Childcare	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Developmental Assets, Risk & Protect Factors	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Academic Achievement: Assessment	😊	↑	?	?	?	?	?	?
: Graduation Rate	😞	↓	?	?	?	?	?	?
Positive Social Values & Behaviors in Youth	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Participation in Life Enriching Activities	?	?	=	=	=	★	★	=
Safety & Health:								
Perceived Neighborhood Safety	?	?	=	★	★	=	=	=
Crime: Total Crime Rate	😊	↓	?	?	?	?	?	?
: Murder Rate	😊	↓	★	★	?	?	★	★
Motor Vehicle Crash: Deaths	😊	↓	★	=	?	?	★	★
: Hospitalizations	😊	↓	★	?	?	?	★	★
Family Violence: CPS Referrals	↔	↔	?	?	?	?	?	?
: Domestic Violence	?	?	★	?	?	?	?	?
Infant Mortality	😊	↓	★	★	=	?	★	?
Teen Births	😊	↓	★	★	★	?	?	?
Stress	?	?	=	★	★	★	★	=
Tobacco and Alcohol: Adult Tobacco Use	😞	↑	★	★	★	★	★	★
: Youth Tobacco Use	😞	↑	?	★	?	?	?	?
: Adult Alcohol Use	😊	↓	★	=	=	=	★	★
: Youth Alcohol Use	😞	?	?	?	?	?	?	★
Physical Activity and Weight: Activity	↔	↔	★	★	★	★	★	=
: Overweight	😞	↑	★	★	★	★	★	★
Restricted Activity Due to Poor Health	↔	↔	=	★	★	★	=	★
Health Insurance Coverage and Access	↔	↔	★	=	★	★	★	★
Community Strength:								
Neighborhood Social Cohesion	?	?	=	★	★	★	★	★
Involvement in Community Organizations	?	?	=	=	=	★	★	★
Institutional Support for Community Service	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Pollution in Neighborhoods	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Ease of Access to Shops & Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[^] Indicates whether there was a statistically significant increase or decrease in the measure for King County over the most recent years for which data are available. A question mark indicates that testing for trends was not possible.

^{*} Differences are reported as significant (★) if any one group is statistically higher or lower than another. The equal sign indicates that there are no statistically significant differences. A question mark indicates that testing for significant differences was not possible.

[†] Includes any significant differences by Hispanic ethnicity that were found.

NA = Data not currently available.

Communities Count 2000

Introduction

This report will provide you with a picture of the quality of community life across King County as we begin a new century. Each individual indicator highlights a social, economic or health issue that is of value or concern to people because it affects their sense of well being. COMMUNITIES COUNT 2000 will be followed by COMMUNITIES COUNT 2002 and so on, in order to track progress or lack of progress on each indicator over time. With this information in hand, the public, local governments, and all of us can assure that policies and funding decisions are informed by the indicators and are explicitly directed toward building and sustaining healthier communities.

Our Purpose

The purpose of developing a set of social and health indicators for King County that reflects the wealth of knowledge and experience of both residents and technical experts is to:

- ❖ Provide a widely accepted index for monitoring the health and well being of King County communities.
- ❖ Inform funding decisions.
- ❖ Engage citizens in following progress.
- ❖ Complement King County's existing economic and environmental indicators.

Our Beliefs

Three principles have guided this project:

1. Prevention and a long-term view of change are emphasized.
2. A data-based approach informs our understanding of what creates and sustains healthy communities and families.
3. Effective efforts involve citizens and experts, different disciplines, different parts of government, private and public sectors.

Our Process

Through an extensive process, residents expressed their opinions on what they value in their families and communities, what they think creates and sustains healthy people and strong neighborhoods, and what social, health and economic problems they are concerned about. Over 1,500 King County residents participated through a random digit dial telephone survey, a series of focus groups, and seven public forums held across the county. Their opinions were recorded and are expressed as "valued conditions."

At the same time, technical advisors were discussing the scientific side of choosing a strong list of social and health indicators. They considered the valued conditions expressed by residents and were concerned with the scientific quality of the information available — issues of validity, reliability, consistency of measurement, whether data are available for the county only or for smaller areas, such as school districts, cities, regions, or for different age groups, ethnic groups, income levels and genders. The indicators selected were the most meaningful to residents and those considered most important to the overall health and wellbeing of people and communities.

What Are the Indicators?

The core list of 29 indicators is listed below. Individual indicators are reported starting on page 5. COMMUNITIES COUNT will be updated with the most recent data available for each indicator approximately every 2 years.

Basic Needs and Social Determinants of Wellbeing

- Adequate food
- Livable-wage income
- Income distribution
- Social support
- Freedom from discrimination
- Affordable housing

Positive Development Through Life Stages

- Family friendly employment benefits
- Parent/guardian involvement in child's learning
- Quality, affordable childcare
- Developmental assets/risk and protective factors in youth
- Academic achievement
- Positive social values and behavior in youth
- Participation in life-enriching activities

Safety and Health

- Perceived neighborhood safety
- Crime
- Motor vehicle injuries and deaths
- Family violence
- Infant mortality
- Teen births
- Stress
- Tobacco and alcohol use
- Physical activity and weight
- Restricted activity due to physical/mental health
- Health insurance coverage and access

Community Strength

- Neighborhood social cohesion
- Involvement in community organizations
- Institutional support for community service
- Pollution in neighborhoods
- Ease of access to shops and services

Where Does the Information Come From?

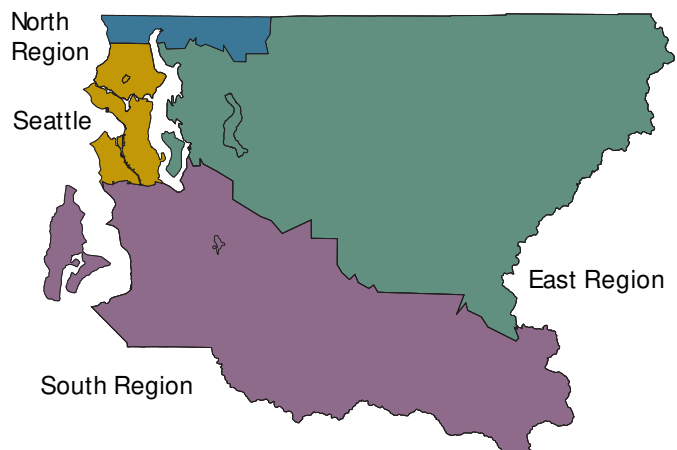
The data used for the 29 indicators come from a wide variety of sources, including:

- Community Health Survey of King County Adult Residents
- Survey of King County Employers Regarding Benefits Policies/Practices
- Survey of King County School Administrators Regarding Community Service
- Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, King County and Washington State
- Profile of Student Life (Developmental Asset Survey)
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveys
- United States Census Bureau
- Birth, Death and Hospitalization Records
- Uniform Crime Reports
- Child Protective Services Records
- EPA Toxic Release Inventory
- King County Office of Regional Policy and Planning
- Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction Records

How Should the Data Be Interpreted?

Whenever possible, indicators are reported for King County as a whole and for 4 regions within the county, as shown in the map. While smaller than the county, a region is still a high level of aggregation. Better yet would be communities within regions. Data collection at the community level, however, is very costly.

The Four Regions of King County

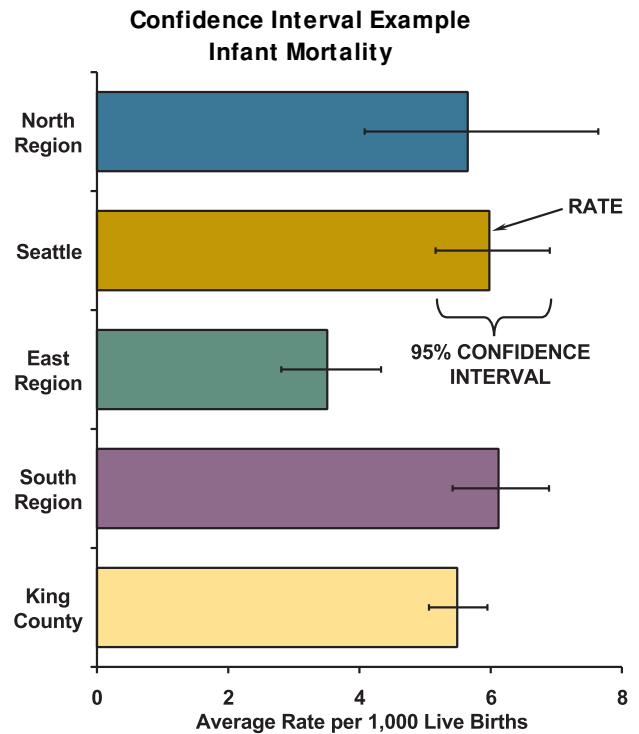


Crude, Age-Specific, and Age-Adjusted Rate: A rate in this report is usually expressed as the number of events per 100,000 population per year. When this applies to the total population (all ages), the rate is called the crude rate. When the rate applies to a specific age group (e.g., age 15-24), it is called the age-specific rate. The crude and age-specific rates present the actual magnitude of an event within a population or age group.

When comparing rates between populations, it is useful to calculate a rate which is not affected by differences in the age composition of the populations. For example, if one population has a higher death rate and more older people, it will not be easy to determine if its rate is truly higher or just reflects the high death rate among older people. The age-adjusted rate is a rate that mathematically removes the effect of the age composition. By convention, we adjust the rate to the age distribution of the 1940 U.S. population.

Confidence Interval: When comparing rates between different groups in King County with bar graphs, the “95% confidence interval” or margin of error is shown for each rate to assess how much the rate is likely to vary due to chance. For each estimated rate, one would expect the rate to fluctuate, but to remain within the confidence interval 95% of the time. The larger the population under consideration, the smaller the confidence interval, and thus the more reliable the rate. When comparing two rates, if the confidence intervals do not overlap, the difference in the rates is considered “statistically significant,” that is, chance or random variation is unlikely to be the reason for the difference.

The following graph is an example which shows the average infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births and 95% confidence interval by region in King County. The infant mortality rate for Seattle appears to be higher than the rate for all of King County. However, since the higher end of the confidence interval for King County is greater than the lower end of the confidence interval for Seattle, their confidence intervals overlap. Therefore the difference between the two rates is not statistically significant. The confidence interval for the East Region, however, does not overlap with the intervals for Seattle. As a result, we can state that the infant mortality rate for Seattle is significantly higher than the rate for the East Region, but does not differ significantly from the other regions.



Statistical Significance: Differences between groups are examined for each indicator including differences by age, income, education, gender, race, marital or relationship status, and poverty level of area. Unless otherwise stated, all differences mentioned in the text are statistically significant. If not mentioned at all, readers should assume that differences were tested but not found to be statistically significant.

The potential to detect differences and relationships (termed the statistical power of the analysis) is dependent in part on the number of events or the sample size. Differences that do not appear to be significant might reach significance with a sufficient number of events or a large enough sample size.

For instance, in a survey, confidence intervals can vary widely depending on sample size. For a sample size of 210, confidence intervals can range up to 50% of the prevalence estimate. (In this case, a rate must be at least two times another rate to detect a statistically significance difference.) However, for a sample size of 1,000, the confidence intervals range up to only 20% of the prevalence (here, a rate can be only 40% higher than another rate to detect a difference). In this report for a few indicators, these are the approximate sample sizes for North and South Regions, respectively. Therefore, readers should treat findings of non-significance based on smaller numbers of events or sample sizes—and those involving wider confidence intervals—with caution.

Rolling Averages: For populations of small size (Native Americans in King County for example), small changes in the number of events will cause the rate to fluctuate substantially from year to year. To help stabilize the rate and observe the time trend of an event, rates are sometimes aggregated into “rolled”

averages, such as in 3 or 5 year intervals, across the total observed period. For example, if there is a highly fluctuating rate caused by low numbers of events for years 1992 through 1996, the rates are instead reported as three-year rolling averages: 1992-1994, 1993-1995, and 1994-1996. For an example of a rolling average, see the chart titled, “Age-Adjusted Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rates” on page 45.

Neighborhood Poverty Level: To examine the relationship between poverty level and health indicators, the census tracts or zip codes in King County are ranked by the percentage of population living below the Federal Poverty Level in 1989. We then divided them into three groups in which more than 20%, 5 to 20%, and less than 5% of the population were living below poverty. These groups are labeled as “high poverty,” “medium poverty,” and “low poverty” neighborhoods respectively.

Race/Ethnicity: Most researchers believe that race/ethnicity is a marker for complex social, economic and political factors that are important influences on community and individual health, and that differences in rates of most diseases and injuries are not due to biologic or genetic factors. Many communities of color in this country have experienced social and economic discrimination and other forms of racism, which can negatively affect the health and wellbeing of these communities. We continue to examine and present data by race/ethnicity because we believe that it is important to understand which racial/ethnic groups are disproportionately affected by significant health issues. We hope this understanding will lead to strategies that address these issues, as well as the social and economic inequities which underlie them.

Basic Needs and Social Determinants of Wellbeing

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Adequate Food	7
Livable-Wage Income	9
Income Distribution	11
Social Support	13
Freedom from Discrimination	15
Affordable Housing	19

Valued Conditions Expressed by King County Residents

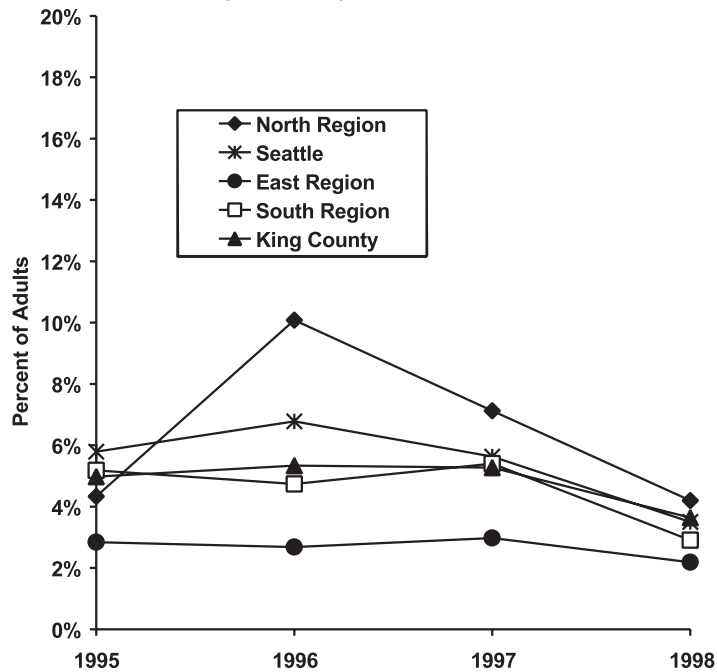
- *Everyone in the county has the basic necessities of living—nutritious food, adequate shelter and clothing.*
- *All people live in a quality residence and do not spend a high percentage of their income to do so. Low income people can find affordable housing in a variety of neighborhoods.*
- *Homelessness is reduced and homeless people are cared for.*
- *The potential of immigrants is recognized and they are supported to improve their English and to find jobs suitable to their skill, expertise, and experience.*
- *There is equitable distribution of incomes; the gap in wealth and income between the rich and poor people is narrowed.*
- *People earn a livable wage and there is less discrepancy between the average worker's income and that of the average chief executive.*
- *Everyone has sufficient informal social support—relationships through neighborhood interaction, work, communities of faith, common interests, etc.*
- *People are treated fairly in employment, housing and education.*
- *All people feel included in the larger community. No members of any group feel isolated (men, women, youth, the elderly, disabled, immigrants, ethnic/racial religious groups, gays and lesbians).*
- *There is respect for differences and no one is discriminated against socially in employment, housing or education due to race/ethnicity, age, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.*

The valued conditions came from citizen opinion expressed as values and concerns in the telephone survey, focus groups, and in the civic and public forums. The valued conditions are expressed as “ideal” conditions—based on the vision of what residents want for themselves, their families and communities.

Adequate Food

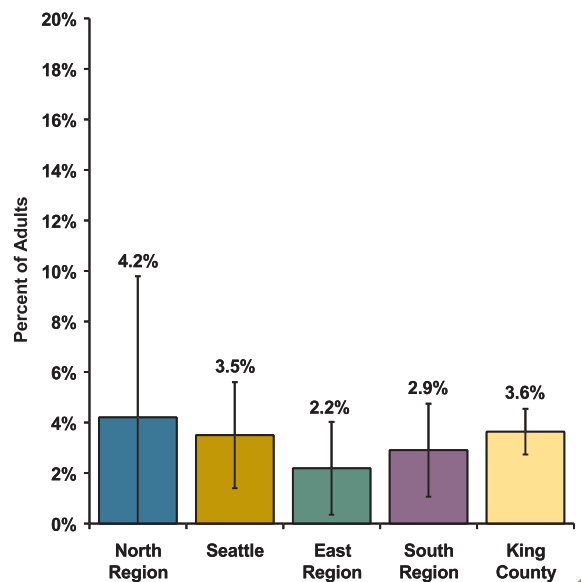
Perhaps the most basic human need is to have enough nutritious and safe food. People with low-wage jobs and those dependent on dwindling government assistance may not have adequate food.

**Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Report Being Concerned about Having Enough Food for Themselves or Their Family in the Past 30 Days
King County, 1995-1998**

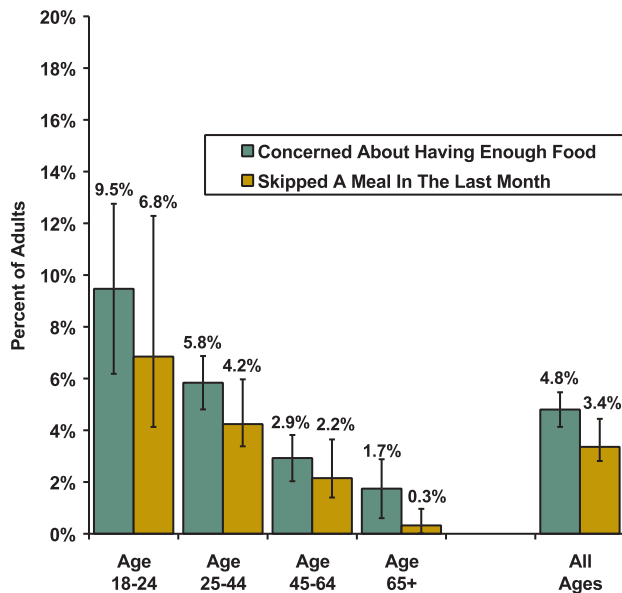


- In 1998, 3.6% of the King County population was concerned about having enough food for themselves or their family. There were no significant differences among the regions.
- Not surprisingly, concerns about having enough food tend to increase with decreasing income level, 18.3% of people making less than \$10,000 per year were concerned about having enough food, and 15.3% of people in this income range said they had skipped a meal sometime in the last month because of lack of money (data not shown).
- College graduates were significantly less likely to be concerned about having enough food than those with less formal education (data not shown).
- A national hunger study released in 1999 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture ranks Washington State as eighth in the nation in its prevalence of hunger, even though the poverty rate is below the national average.

**Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Report Being Concerned About Having Enough Food for Themselves or Their Family in the Past 30 Days
King County, 1998**



Percent of Adults Age 18+ By Age Who Report Being Concerned About Having Enough Food or Who Have Skipped a Meal Because of Money in the Past 30 Days King County, Four-Year Average, 1995-1998



- On average from 1995-1998, African Americans (11.0%) and Asian American-Pacific Islanders (12.6%) had greater food concerns than the white (3.9%) population (data not shown).

- Food concerns decrease with age. People below the age of 45 are more likely to be concerned about having enough food than people in the older age groups.
- These data should not be interpreted to imply that food security is not an important issue for seniors—especially low-income seniors. Focus groups conducted in 1999 with 85 low-income seniors in King County found that elders may be able to manage their food resources better than younger people because of greater life experiences. However, focus group participants also reported having difficulty getting to shops to buy food either because they lack convenient transportation or because they live in an area without any supermarkets.
- It isn't known how many people in King County rely on government or charitable food programs. According to data collected by City of Seattle-funded food banks, 45,100 households (representing 109,600 individuals) utilized their services in 1999. These data do not include faith-based or other private food banks in Seattle, or food banks outside the city. Of these people, 32.9% were children under 19, and 25.4% were seniors age 55 or older (data not shown).
- A 1997 national study of food bank clients by America's Second Harvest found that of those people seeking emergency food relief, 41% received food stamps. Of those receiving food stamps, 79% said that they do not last through the end of the month, and 20% had seen a decrease in their benefits.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data are from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is a random telephone interview survey of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older that has been conducted in King County every year since 1987. The geographic boundaries of the four King County subregions are defined by aggregating zip codes.

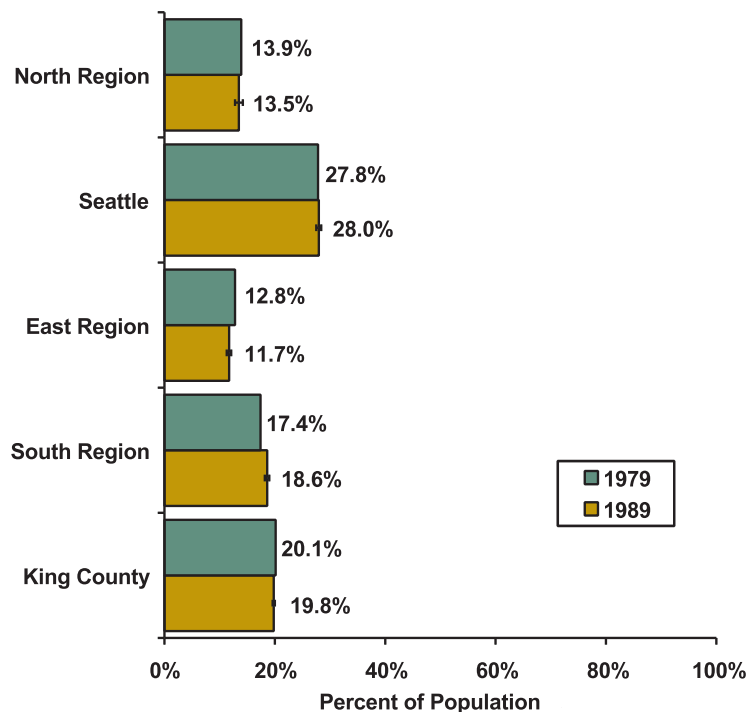
National data are from *Household Food Security in the United States: 1995-1998*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation, September, 1999 and *Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts*, America's Second Harvest. Focus groups on food security issues among seniors were conducted by Pat Manuel, Nutritional Consultant with Public Health-Seattle & King County. Estimates of City of Seattle-funded Food Bank usage are from the City of Seattle Human Services Department, Community Services Division.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented. The sample of people reached in a telephone survey will not include those people who might be most in need of more or better food—that is the homeless and those unable to afford to have telephones.

Livable-Wage Income

Everyone needs enough income to pay for the basic necessities of daily living: shelter, food, clothing, and transportation. Without a livable-wage income, people suffer a lack of dignity and a variety of social and health problems. The livable-wage income indicator is defined as the percent of the population living in households with a total income that is less than twice the poverty level, as defined by the federal government. For a family of four, the livable wage income in 1989 was \$25,300.

**Percent of Population Living Below 200% of Federal Poverty Level
King County, 1979 and 1989**



- In 1989, almost one in five people in King County was living in a household without a livable wage income. For Washington State, that figure was 27.5%, and for the U.S. it was 31.4% (data not shown).
- There was little improvement between 1979 and 1989, except in East Region. South Region had a greater percentage of people who did not earn a livable-wage income in 1989 than it did in 1979.
- Of the four regions, Seattle had the greatest percentage of persons without a livable-wage income (28.0%), followed by South Region (18.6%), North Region (13.5%), and East Region (11.7%).

**Percent of Population Living Below 100% of Federal Poverty Level By Race/Ethnicity
King County, 1979 and 1989**

Place	White		African American		Native American		Asian/Pac. Islander		Hispanic	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
North Region	4.3%	4.0%	18.1%	15.1%	25.1%	15.3%	4.9%	10.1%	10.2%	7.7%
Seattle	9.1%	9.0%	22.7%	25.2%	23.3%	32.9%	15.2%	18.9%	19.1%	22.2%
East Region	4.2%	3.7%	11.0%	11.0%	4.2%	8.6%	13.9%	9.9%	8.0%	6.9%
South Region	5.9%	5.8%	14.1%	17.3%	17.1%	24.2%	9.6%	12.7%	10.0%	11.8%
King County	6.5%	6.1%	21.0%	22.3%	20.7%	25.7%	13.2%	15.2%	13.9%	14.9%

- Poverty by race and ethnicity is only reported at the 100% poverty level. The proportion of African Americans, Native Americans, Asian American-

Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics living in poverty increased from 1979 to 1989. That proportion decreased slightly for whites.

**Percent of Children Age 0-17 and All Persons Living Below 100% of Federal Poverty Level
King County, 1979 and 1989**

Place	All Ages		Children	
	1979	1989	1979	1989
North Region	4.5%	4.7%	NA	5.5%
Seattle	11.2%	12.4%	NA	16.2%
East Region	4.7%	4.2%	NA	5.0%
South Region	6.3%	6.9%	NA	9.9%
King County	7.7%	8.0%	NA	9.8%

- From 1979 to 1989, the percentage of the King County population living in poverty increased from 7.7% to 8.0%. The estimate for 1995 is 8.6% (data not shown).

- The poverty rate for children age 0-17 is growing faster than for the population as a whole. In 1989, 9.8% of King County children lived in poverty. By 1995, that figure had increased to 12.3% (data not shown). In absolute terms, the number of children living in poverty increased from approximately 32,600 to 45,400. Data on children in poverty is not available for 1979.
- King County poverty rates are lower than Washington State and national averages (data not shown).
- Of the four regions in 1989, Seattle had the greatest percent of all persons and children in poverty (12.4% and 16.2%, respectively).

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Income and poverty data are from the 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census and are based on reported income from the previous year. The most recent year of comprehensive data available is 1989, but the 2000 census will provide more up-to-date information on poverty and livable wage incomes. Limited data for 1995 are from the U.S. Census Bureau State and County Income and Poverty Estimates. Age and race breakdowns are not available for persons below 200% of FPL (Federal Poverty Level). The geographic boundaries of King County and the four subregions are defined by aggregating census tracts.

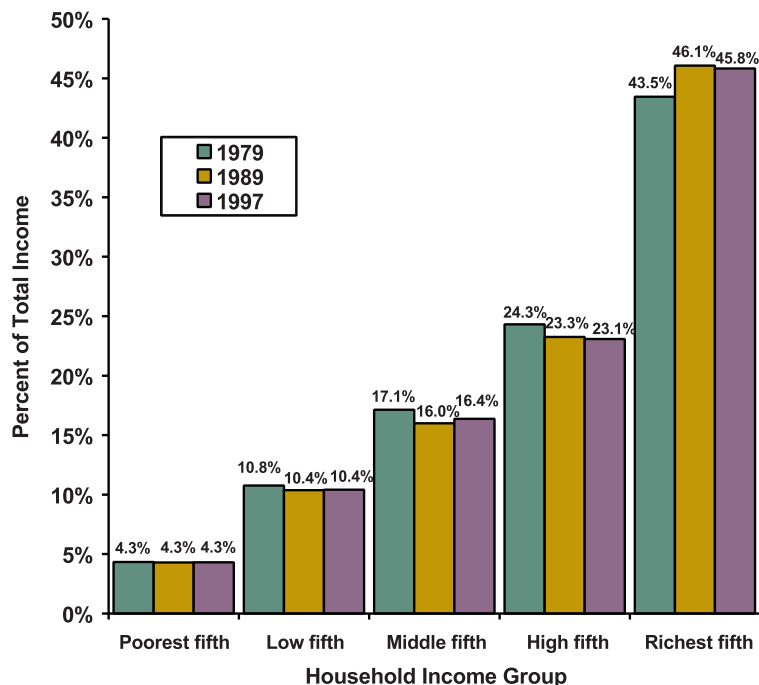
The federal poverty level is a threshold income limit that varies according to family size and composition and is adjusted each year. All persons living in a household with a total annual income below that threshold dollar amount are counted in the 100% poverty statistics. A livable wage is considered to be at least twice the poverty level income. The 200% poverty threshold in 1989 for a family of four was \$25,300, and for a single person over age 65, \$11,900. The same thresholds in 1998 were \$33,300 and \$15,600, respectively. Persons of Hispanic ethnicity may also be counted in any of the race groups.

Income Distribution

Recent research suggests that in addition to the social consequences of economic inequality—such as rising crime rates, social exclusion, and despair—the widening gap between rich and poor also has a detrimental effect on the health of the entire population. One indicator of economic inequality is income distribution, measured by the share of total income received by different fifths, or quintiles, of the total number of households in the population.

Total wealth is an even more important indicator of inequality because it includes the dollar value of all the assets of a household—bank accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, savings, mutual fund shares, houses, cars and appliances, pension rights—and excludes the liabilities and debts. Having wealth brings people security and social status. In turn, poor people may feel hopeless and without the power to change their family, neighborhood, and community circumstances.

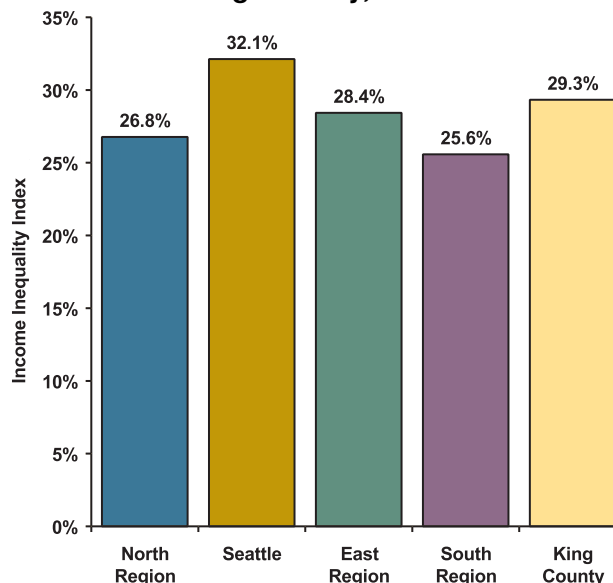
Income Distribution Among Households in King County, 1979, 1989 & 1997



- The income distribution in King County can be measured by the percentage of total income in one year earned by each fifth of the households, arranged by increasing income. Each income group has an equal number of households.
- Preliminary data from 1997 indicates that the richest 20% of King County households received 46% of the total income that year. The poorest 20% earned only 4% of the total income.
- King County households in the highest income group earned at least \$34,800 in 1979, \$63,700 in 1989, and \$101,000 in 1997.
- In the decade between 1979 and 1989, there was a shift of income away from the three middle income groups to the highest income group.
- The percent of income earned by the poorest fifth remained constant from 1979 to 1997.
- While no local wealth data are available, nationally, wealth inequality has always been substantially greater than income inequality. Between 1983 and 1989, the top fifth received more than 75% of the total increase in income and 99% of the increase in wealth.

- If income were evenly distributed across all households in an area, then each group representing 10% of the households would receive 10% of the total income. This is the basic assumption behind the calculation of the Income Inequality Index. This Index is a single number which approximates the share of total income that would have to be transferred from households with an income above the average to households with an income below the average for there to be perfect equity in the distribution of income. A higher index score means more disparity exists.
- The 1989 Income Inequality Index was 29.3% in King County and 30.2% nationally. The region with the highest index was Seattle (32.1%). South Region had the lowest index (25.6%) and, therefore, the smallest degree of inequity.
- Statewide values for the Income Inequality Index range from 27.1 in New Hampshire to 34.1 in Louisiana.

Income Inequality Index King County, 1989



Median Household Income in King County 1979, 1989 & 1997

Place	1979	1989	1997
North Region	\$24,800	\$42,000	\$66,400
Seattle	\$16,300	\$29,400	\$45,800
East Region	\$26,400	\$46,100	\$72,600
South Region	\$21,100	\$36,800	\$58,700
King County	\$20,700	\$36,200	\$57,300

- The median income is the income level that separates the top and bottom half of all households.
- The 1989 median household income was \$31,200 in Washington State and \$28,900 in the U.S.
- The 1989 median household income countywide was \$36,200. The highest and lowest regional median household incomes were in East Region (\$46,100) and Seattle (\$29,400), respectively.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data are from the 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census and are based on reported income from the previous year. The geographic boundaries of King County and the four subregions are defined by aggregating census tracts. The 1997 Household Income Preliminary Estimates are from the Puget Sound Regional Council. National data on wealth inequality is from the *Survey of Consumer Finances*, 1983 and 1989. Statewide and national values for the Income Inequality Index are from Kennedy, Kawachi, and Prothrow-Stith (1996). "Income distribution and mortality: Cross sectional ecological study of the Robin Hood Index in the United States", *British Medical Journal*, 312, 1004-1007.

These data estimate the number of households in various income ranges. "Income" consists of pre-tax wages, interest, rental income, and other personal receipts, including government cash transfers. These figures do not include other types of income such as capital gains, employer-paid health insurance, or in-kind government assistance such as food stamps. Most of this non-money income is earned by the more affluent households. Furthermore, this indicator does not measure accumulated wealth such as property, savings, and other assets. Nor does it consider varying tax rates paid by the different income groups.

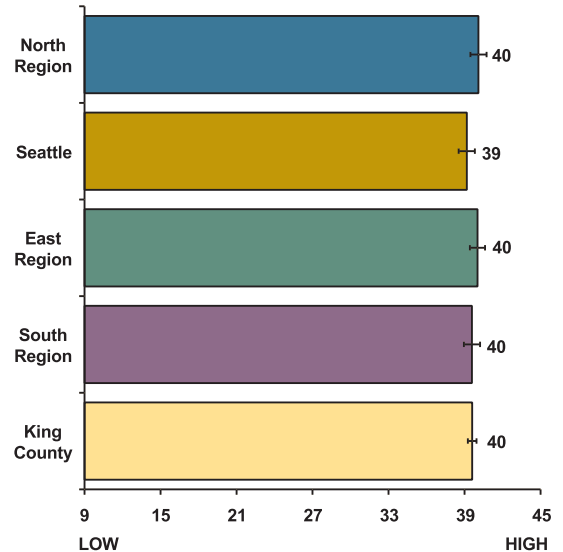
What we refer to here as the Income Inequality Index (also known as the Pietra ratio) is only one of several measures of income distribution in use. One of the limitations of using household income data to measure income distribution is that household income does not take into account the number of people who live in the household and depend on that income.

Social Support

Social support helps give people the emotional and practical resources they need. Receiving affection, companionship, assistance, and information from family and friends makes people feel loved, esteemed, cared for, valued and secure. These factors have a protective effect on health and wellbeing.

- Social support was measured by asking people 9 questions about specific types of social support they believe they can rely on. Answers to the 9 questions were added to create a social support scale with a possible score between 9 (Low) and 45 (High).
- The average (mean) social support score for adults in King County was 40. There were no significant differences in average social support level by region.
- While it appears that there were lower levels of specific types of support in Seattle than other regions of the county, these differences are not statistically significant.

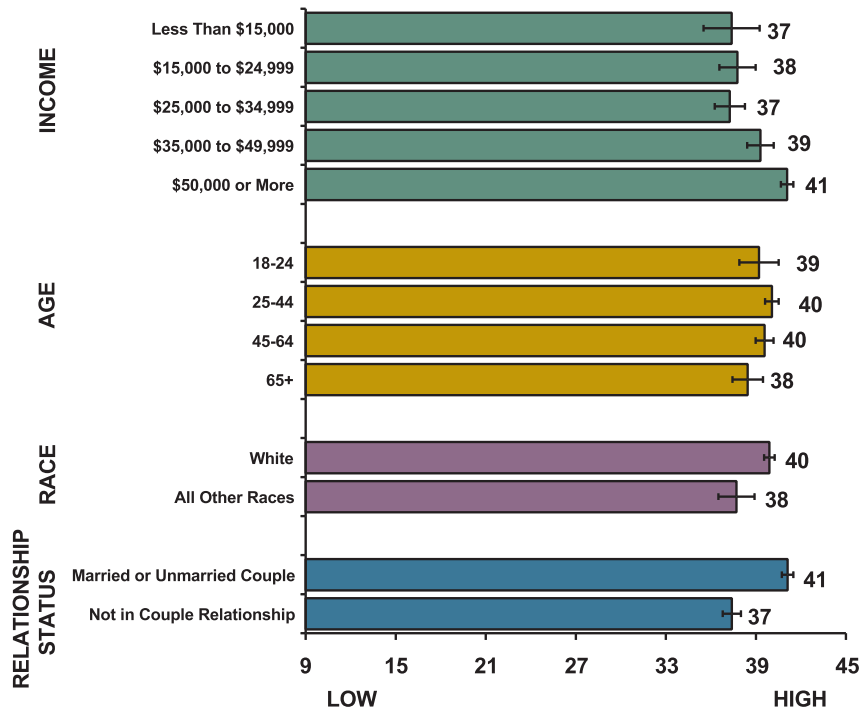
Average Level of Social Support
King County, 1999



Percent of Adults Who Have Specific Supports “All of the Time”
King County, 1999

How often is each of the following kinds of support available to you if you need it?	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...someone to help you if you were confined to bed	55%	45%	51%	52%	50%
...someone to take you to the doctor if you needed it	67%	64%	68%	64%	65%
...someone who shows you love and affection	80%	73%	79%	79%	77%
...someone to confide in or talk about yourself or your problems	72%	68%	68%	71%	69%
...someone who hugs you	74%	64%	71%	70%	69%
...someone to get together with for relaxation	63%	60%	61%	63%	61%
...someone to help with daily chores if you were sick	55%	52%	55%	58%	55%
...someone to turn to for suggestions about how to deal with a personal problem	64%	59%	64%	62%	62%
...someone to love and make you feel wanted	75%	67%	74%	71%	71%

**Average Level of Social Support By Income, Age, Race, and Relationship Status
King County, 1999**



- People with incomes of \$50,000 or more have higher levels of support than people with lower incomes.
- Older residents (age 65 years and older) experience less social support than young people age 25 to 44 years.
- People who are white have more social support than people of other races.
- People who live in a couple (either married or unmarried) have more social support than others who are separated, divorced, widowed or never married.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

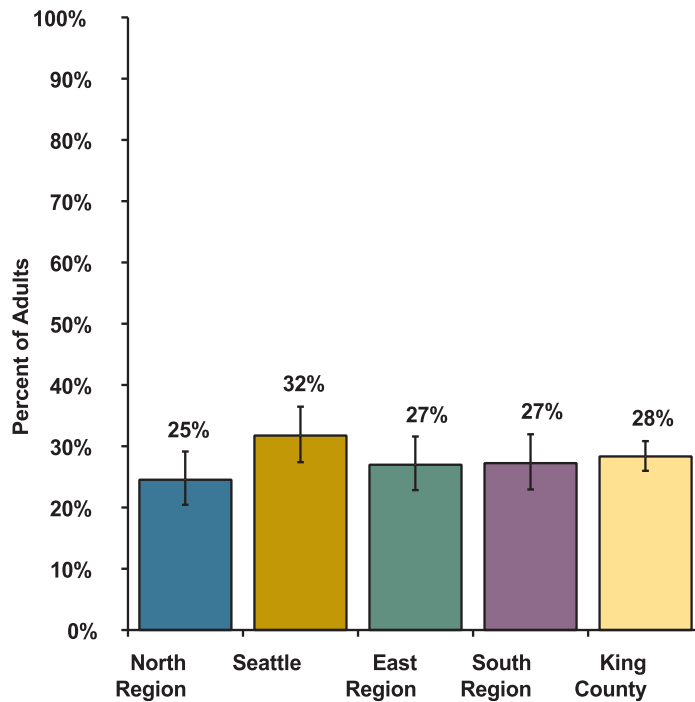
The social support measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999, which used social support questions from the short version of the Medical Outcomes Study Social Support Survey (Cathy Sherbourne and Anita Stewart, 1991). These items measure perceived social support of various types: a) emotional support, love, and empathy, b) instrumental or tangible support, c) information, guidance, or feedback, d) appraisal support, which helps the person evaluate herself, and e) companionship in leisure and recreational activities.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Freedom From Discrimination

Discrimination is unjust and can impact health and cost lives. One indicator of discrimination is people’s reports of recent treatment that is perceived as unfair, based on gender, age, race or color, ethnic background, language, socioeconomic position, social class, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. A second indicator is the number of hate crimes reported by police.

Percent of Adults Who Experienced Any Discrimination in Past Year King County, 1999



- Discrimination was measured by asking King County adults age 18 and older several questions about whether, in the past year, they had “experienced discrimination, been prevented from doing something or been hassled or made to feel inferior by someone else because of race, etc.” in one or more settings.
- 28% of adults reported that they experienced some type of discrimination in the past year. There were no significant differences in this percentage by region of the County.
- More Blacks, Native Americans, Asian American-Pacific Islanders (41% for these groups combined) experienced discrimination in the past year compared to whites (27%) (data not shown).
- More females (32%) experienced discrimination in the past year than males (24%) (data not shown).
- More young people age 18-24 (46%) than older people (31% for ages 25-44, 26% for ages 45-64 and 11% for 65 and above) experienced discrimination.

**Percent of Adults Who Experienced Discrimination
in the Past Year in Specific Settings
King County, 1999**

Have you experienced discrimination, been prevented from doing something or been hassled or made to feel inferior by someone else in any of the following settings:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...at school?	1%	3%	2%	3%	3%
...getting a job?	6%	4%	5%	3%	4%
...at work?	10%	11%	10%	11%	11%
...at home?	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%
...getting medical care?	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%
...getting housing?	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%
...getting a loan?	2%	3%	3%	5%	4%
...applying for social services or public assistance?	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
...on the street or in a public setting?	12%	16%	12%	10%	13%
...from the police or in the courts?	6%	6%	5%	3%	5%
...in your family?	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%
...in any other setting?	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

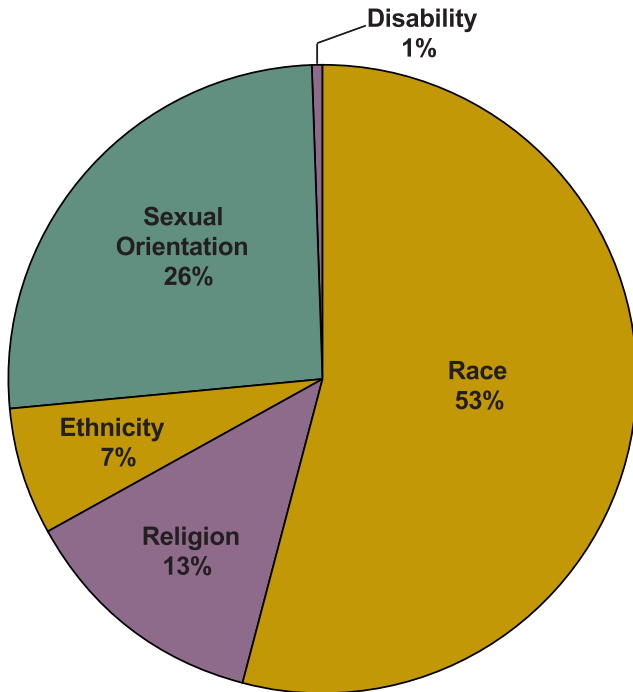
- Public settings (13%) and work settings (11%) were the most common place for these acts of discrimination to occur.
- 5% reported discrimination from the police or in court and also in getting medical care (in another King County survey, 15% reported discrimination in getting health care).

**Of Adults Experiencing Discrimination
in Past Year, Percent Who Specify Type of Discrimination
King County, 1999**

Do you believe that the act of discrimination was based on your:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...gender (being male or female)?	35%	40%	29%	29%	33%
...race or color?	16%	19%	16%	21%	19%
...socioeconomic position or social class?	23%	17%	17%	20%	19%
...age?	18%	12%	17%	18%	16%
...sexual orientation?	6%	11%	8%	1%	7%
...disability?	5%	5%	6%	10%	7%
...ethnic background or country of origin?	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%
...religion?	7%	3%	2%	5%	4%
...language or accent?	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%
...other?	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%

- For each setting asked about in the survey, respondents were asked if they believed that act of discrimination (in setting) was based on their gender, race or color, age, or other factors as seen in the table above.
- By far the most common type of discrimination experienced in the past year was based on gender.
- Of all King County adults experiencing some discrimination in the past year, 33% said they believed that it was because of their gender.
- Discrimination based on race, socioeconomic position, and age were the next most commonly experienced types of discrimination or unfair treatment.

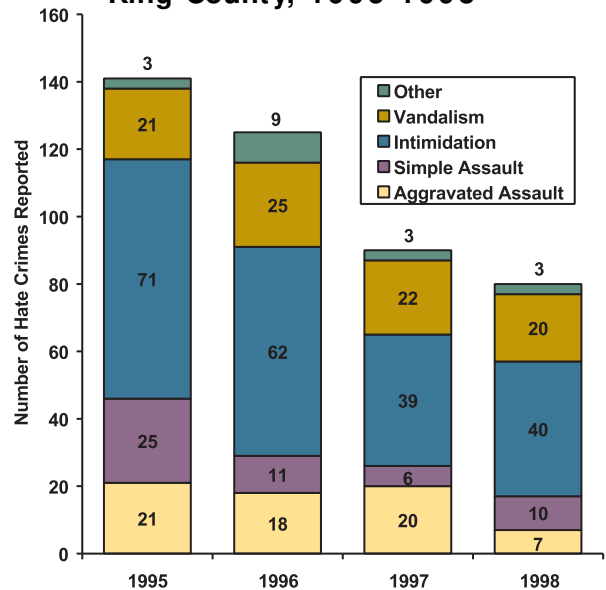
**Hate Crimes By Bias Motivation
King County
Four Year Average, 1995-1998**



- Assault, intimidation and vandalism account for over 90% of all hate crime offenses. The remainder include rape, robbery, burglary, theft and arson. There were no murders associated with hate crimes in King County, although there were four in Washington State during this period.
- Aggravated assault is distinguished from simple assault by the use of a weapon or means likely to produce death or serious injury.

- In 1998 in King County there were 78 reported hate crimes involving 80 victims. This was a decrease from 84 crimes in 1997. The number and rate of hate crimes has decreased each year since reporting began in 1995.
- Over half of all hate crimes in King County are racially motivated. Sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity/national origin are the other major bias motivations. The greatest number of incidents involve an anti-Black or anti-male homosexual motivation. There were no hate crimes motivated by gender bias reported from 1995-1998.
- Though some rapes and domestic violence crimes may be motivated by gender bias, these offenses are not counted as hate crimes against women unless there is evidence that the offender was targeting the victim based on hatred for her gender.

**Hate Crimes By Type of Offense
King County, 1995-1998**



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

The discrimination measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999, which used questions on unfair treatment adapted from questions in the CARDIA Study IV (Nancy Krieger).

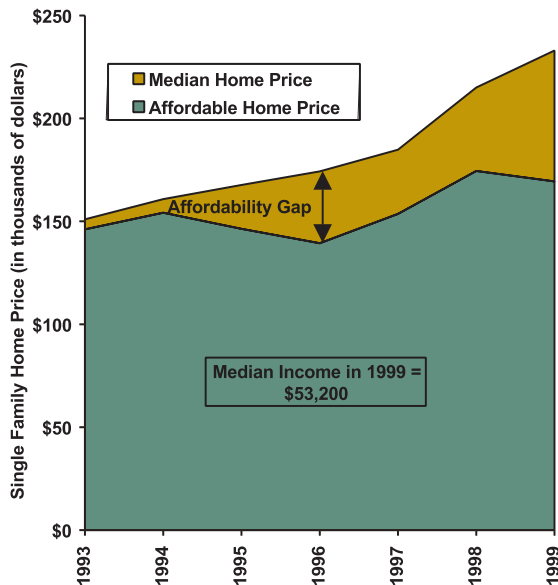
A limitation of self reported experiences of discrimination is that people's interpretations of "discrimination" and "unfair" may not be the same. The limitations of a telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English are not included, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Hate crime data has been collected by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs for the Washington State Uniform Crime Reports since 1995. The Washington Hate Crime Malicious Harassment Act defines hate crimes as criminal offenses that are motivated by the offender's bias against the victim's race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender. A crime is determined to be a hate crime if the law enforcement investigation reveals that the offender's actions were motivated, in whole or in part, by bias. There is one bias motivation per incident and one offense per victim.

Affordable Housing

Lack of adequate and affordable housing is a significant problem, especially for low income families. Families that have to pay a high percentage of their income for shelter will have little left over for other basic necessities, such as clothing and utilities. The ability of low and moderate income families to find affordable housing can be measured by the housing affordability gap, existing affordable housing stock, and the percent of income spent on housing costs.

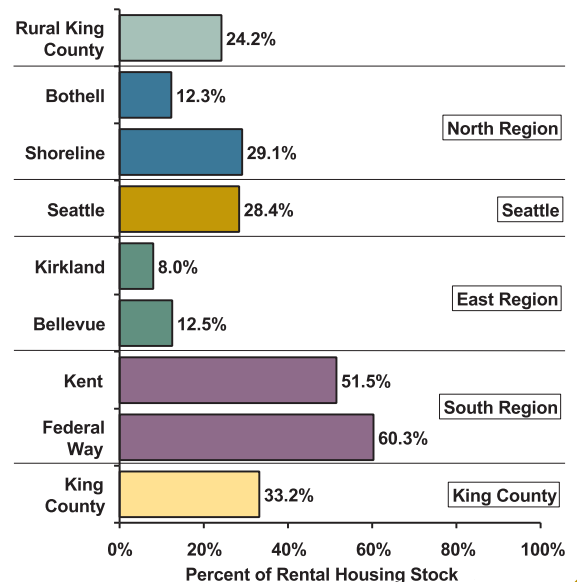
Housing Affordability Gap For Median Income Home Buyers King County, 1993-1999



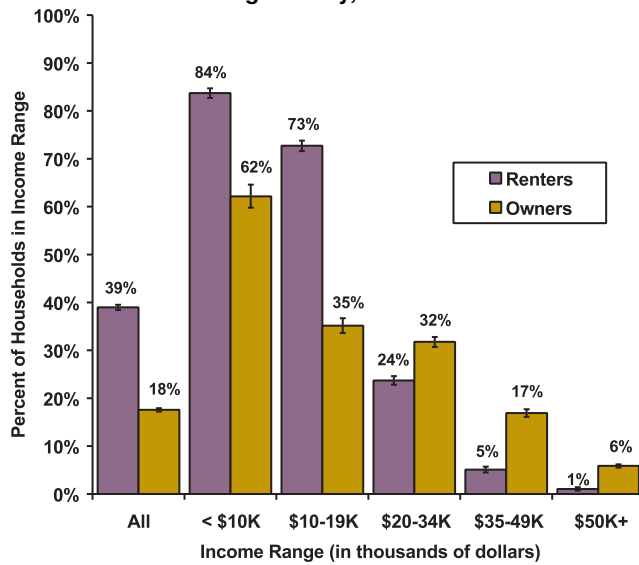
- The housing affordability gap is the difference between actual home sale prices and rents, and the price that families can reasonably afford.
- Purchasing a home in King County is difficult even for median income families. The gap between what these families can afford and the median market home price increased from 1995 through 1999. The median price for a single family home in 1999 was \$234,000, but a family in the middle income range could only afford to pay \$169,400.

- For low income families (earning 50% of median income or less), many apartment rentals may be beyond their reach. In 1999, the average monthly rent on a 2 bedroom/1 bath apartment in King County exceeded the affordable payment of a low-income family by about \$67. In recent years, this value has ranged from \$43 in 1985 to \$141 in 1992 (data not shown).
- The availability of low-cost rental housing varies among cities and regions in King County. Cities in South Region have a greater proportion of affordable housing for low income renters than the other regions. East Region has the lowest proportion of affordable housing (data shown only for the two largest cities in each region).

Percent of Rental Housing Stock That is Affordable to Low-Income Households Major King County Cities, 1998-1999



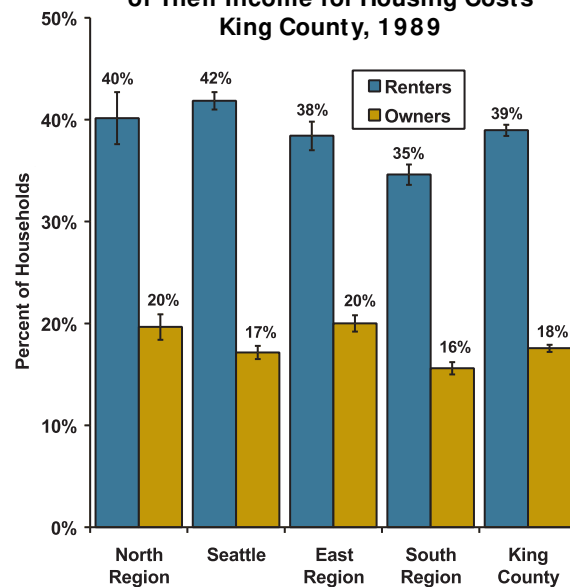
Percent of Households By Income Range That Paid 30% or More of Their Income for Housing Costs King County, 1989



- Fewer renters and owners pay a high percentage of their income on housing in South Region than in any other region.
- Seattle has the greatest percentage of households paying 30% or more of their income on rent.
- North and East Regions have the greatest percentage of households paying 30% or more of their income on owner housing costs.

- The Housing Affordability gap assumes that renters are paying 30% or less of their income on rent, and the average home buyer will pay 25% or less of their income on mortgage. (These are considered the standards for “affordable”). However, competition for affordable housing may force families to pay an even greater percentage of their income on housing.
- In general, the lower a household’s income is, the more likely they are to pay 30% or more of their income on housing costs. This is true for renters as well as homeowners. Low income households that pay a high percentage of their income on housing are at greater risk for becoming homeless.

Percent of Households That Paid 30% or More of Their Income for Housing Costs King County, 1989



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on the housing affordability gap and affordable housing stock are from the King County Office of Regional Policy & Planning report, “An Annual Bulletin Tracking Housing Costs in King County, October 1999”. For the calculation of the affordability gap, it is assumed that a “reasonable” monthly payment is no more than 25% of income for home buyers and 30% of income for renters. The affordable home price is based on conventional lending assumptions: 10% down payment and 30-year term at prevailing market interest rates. Family size is assumed to be 2.5 persons. Income estimates by family size were provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and are for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Metropolitan Statistical Area (King, Snohomish, and Island counties). Median income is the income earned by the middle household if all households are arranged in order according to income. Low income is defined as one half of median income.

1989 income range and housing cost data are from 1990 U.S. Census. For renters, housing costs include monthly rent, utilities and fuels. For owners, housing costs include mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance, utilities, and fuels. They also include monthly condominium and mobile home costs. The geographic boundaries of King County and the four sub-county regions are defined by aggregating census tracts.

Positive Development through Life Stages

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Academic Achievement	33
Positive Social Values and Behavior in Youth	35
Participation in Life-Enriching Activities	37

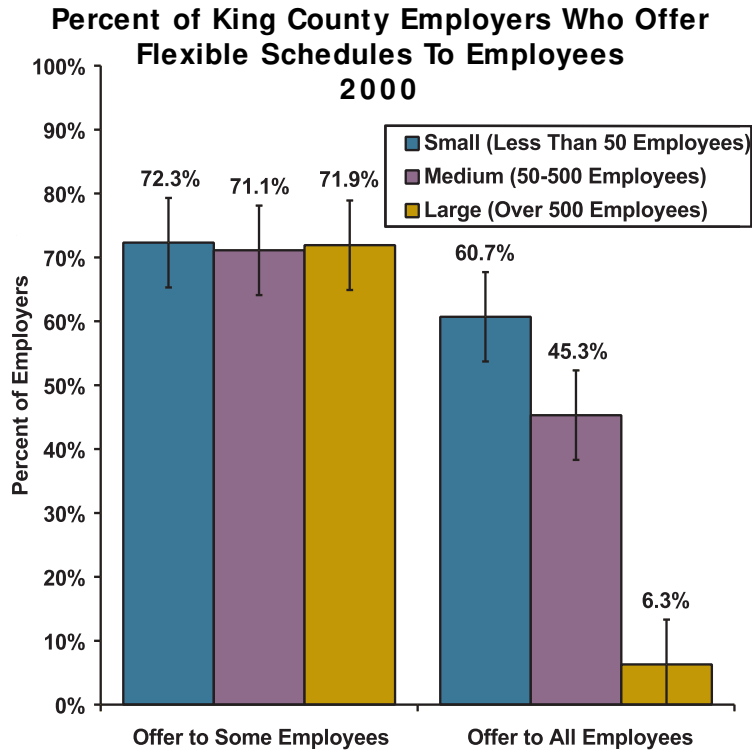
Valued Conditions Expressed by King County Residents

- *Parents have adequate time to provide love, nurturing and stimulation to children. They are explicit in teaching values and provide role models for resolving conflict.*
- *Business and corporations are “family and community friendly.” For example, no forced overtime, flexible work schedules, family and medical leave, paternity and maternity leave.*
- *People create a balanced daily lifestyle with adequate time for interaction with families, friends, for leisure activities, and for volunteer activities in the community.*
- *Children are ready to learn and prepared for the social environment of schools (through early childhood education, childcare and preschool experiences.)*
- *Quality daycare is available for all who need it.*
- *Every young person is connected to family, school, and a community group and has a sense of belonging.*
- *Adults interact comfortably with youth and communicate that they care and are supportive. Parents, teachers and other adults express clear guidelines and high expectations of the youth they interact with.*
- *Middle and high school graduates are socially competent and resilient young people. (Teachers develop relationships with students and show that they care.)*
- *Young people belong to youth organizations and school clubs where adult and peer friendships and support are strong. Gang membership has no appeal.*
- *Children and youth do well academically.*
- *People and communities are supportive of public schools.*
- *Elders frequently interact with family, friends and neighbors and are active in community projects and interest groups and participate in intergenerational activities.*
- *Elders have the daily care they need as they progress in age.*
- *People continue to learn at all ages.*
- *People actively participate in community based arts and cultural events: attend museums, performances, participate in arts organizations, study music, art, and literature, and make music and art, individually and together. Children are engaged in music and art.*
- *Communities support the involvement of youth in activities that benefit others and the community at large. Children learn basic morals of human life and are involved in serving others. Parents and teachers reinforce basic values of respect, responsibility, caring for others, stewardship of environment, tolerance, sharing).*
- *People make more decisions based on the welfare of other people and the environment.*
- *People have sources of spiritual growth and renewal.*

The valued conditions came from citizen opinion expressed as values and concerns in the telephone survey, focus groups, and in the civic and public forums. The valued conditions are expressed as “ideal” conditions—based on the vision of what residents want for themselves, their families and communities.

Family-Friendly Employment Benefits

Managing the multiple responsibilities of raising children, remaining connected to loved ones, and being successful in the workplace is one of the most difficult challenges facing adults today. Many more families have two parents working outside the home than 25 years ago. Job demands result in people working longer hours, potentially leaving less time to tend to family needs and spend with children and other family members.



- King County employers in 3 different size categories based on the number of employees were randomly selected and surveyed by telephone about various types of benefits and leave offered to employees of their organizations.
- Over 70% of employers of all sizes offer flexible schedules to at least some of their employees. Many fewer, however, offer flexibility to all employees.
- Small and medium size employers are more likely than large employers to offer various scheduling options to everyone in their organizations.
- Large employers commonly offer job sharing, telecommuting, and a compressed workweek. They are not, however, significantly more or less likely than medium size and small employers to offer these options to all of their employees.

Percent of King County Employers Who Offer Various Schedule Options to Employees 2000

Schedule Options	Small (N = 173)		Medium (N = 128)		Large (N = 32)	
	Offer To Some	Offer To All	Offer To Some	Offer To All	Offer To Some	Offer To All
Job share	14.5%	11.6%	18.8%	10.1%	45.9%	9.4%
Tele-commute	20.2%	12.1%	31.3%	3.1%	59.4%	0.0%
Flexible scheduling	72.3%	60.7%	71.1%	45.3%	71.9%	6.3%
Compressed schedule	32.4%	24.9%	25.8%	10.9%	59.4%	9.4%

- The differences described in text above are statistically significant at a 90% confidence level.

Percent of King County Employers Who Offer Family, Medical and Personal Leave Benefits, 2000

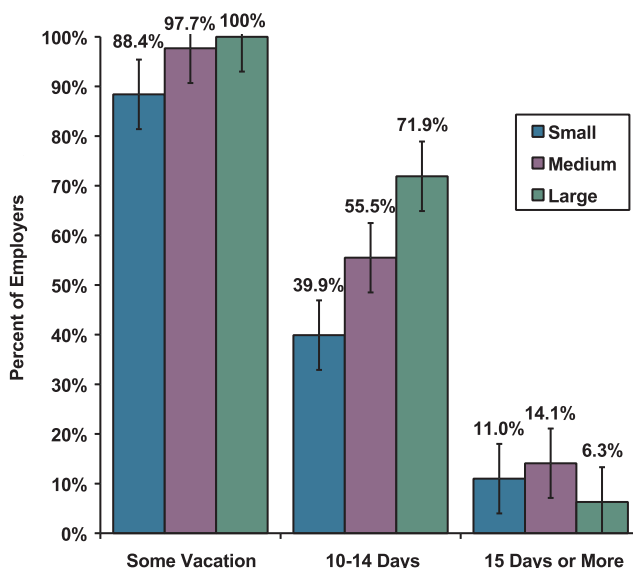
	Small		Medium		Large	
	Offered	Paid At Least 1 Day	Offered	Paid At Least 1 Day	Offered	Paid At Least 1 Day
FMLA*	39.9%	NA	93.8%	NA	100.0%	NA
Maternity	46.8%	18.5%	77.3%	49.2%	93.8%	18.8%
Paternity	32.4%	17.9%	57.8%	33.6%	87.5%	21.9%
New Parent	34.1%	21.4%	50.8%	30.5%	68.8%	28.1%
Sick Adult	46.8%	32.4%	52.3%	39.1%	65.6%	28.1%
Sick Child	43.9%	28.9%	53.9%	41.4%	81.3%	43.8%
Flexible Personal Leave	50.3%	NA	57.8%	NA	34.4%	NA
Appt./ Child	54.9%	34.1%	57.0%	45.3%	68.8%	43.8%
Appt./ Self	61.8%	42.2%	62.5%	49.2%	71.9%	43.8%
School Visit	34.1%	21.4%	39.8%	21.9%	28.1%	12.5%
Death in Family	76.3%	54.9%	90.6%	75.0%	100.0%	90.6%

* See notes below.

- Most King County employers offer some days of paid vacation, varying by number of employees (between 88% and 100%).
- Fewer offer 10 to 14 days of paid vacation during the first year of work (between 40% and 72%).
- Few employers offer 15 days or more of vacation during the first year (only 6% to 14%).

- A majority of employers offer at least one paid day of leave per year in the case of a death in the family (between 55% and 91%).
- Almost half offer at least one paid day for an employee appointment (between 42% and 49%), and over one third offer time for a child appointment (between 34% and 45%).
- Between 29% and 44% of employers offer at least one paid day for a sick child, and between 28% and 39% for a sick adult.
- Between 19% and 49% of employers offer at least one paid day of maternity leave, between 18% and 34% for paternity leave, and less than one third offer leave as a new parent (between 21% and 31%).
- At least one paid day of leave for a school visit is offered by only 13% to 22% of employers.

Percent of King County Employers Who Offer Paid Vacation Days in the First Year of Work, 2000



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data from employers are from a 2000 telephone survey of King County employers in organizations of different sizes, carried out by David Sieminski, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, and United Way of King County.

Flexible personal leave: The most common definition (also called Personal Time Off or PTO) is that an employer provides a set number of days off in a given year and the employee uses those days for a variety of purposes including personal business, school visits, appointments of various kinds etc.

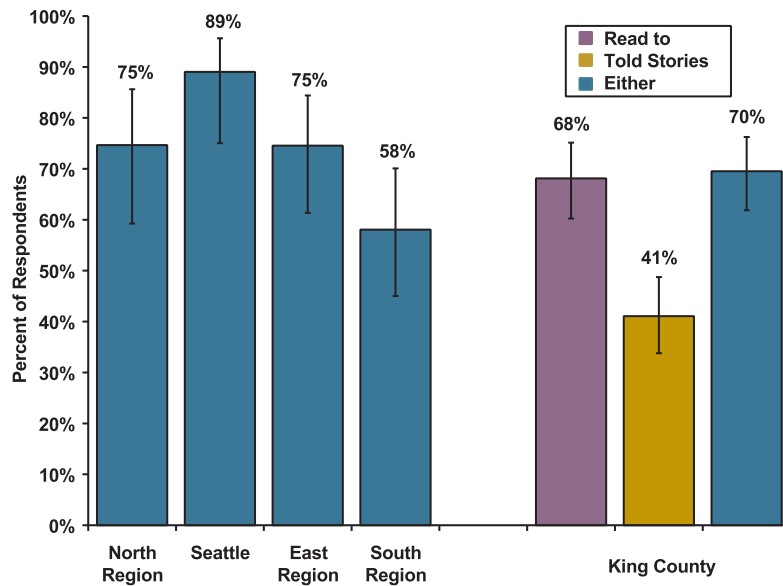
FMLA stands for the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The FMLA requires employers with 50 or more employees at a single site to provide unpaid leave up to 12 weeks in any 12 month period for a variety of personal reasons without loss of position, seniority or benefit eligibility. Reasons include maternity, paternity, new parent, and adoption, personal extended health problems, and sick child and elder care

Maternity, Paternity and New Parent Leave: Maternity leave, beyond normal sick leave or disability coverage, is for the purpose of dealing with prenatal, birth or postpartum needs. Paternity leave is provided to a father to give care and support to the mother following birth or for an extended period beyond birth to reconcile their responsibilities relative to the child. New parent leave applies to parents who adopt or take in a foster child.

Parent/ Guardian Involvement in Child's Learning

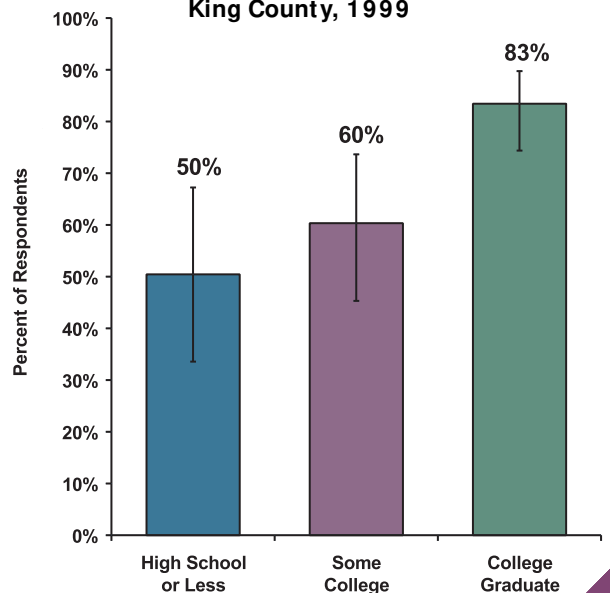
Reading to young children promotes language development and, later on, reading comprehension and overall success in school. Reading stories and/or telling stories in any language assists young children to be prepared for school.

**Percent of Respondents with Children Age 2-5 Years
Who Were Read to or Told Stories Every Day By a Family Member
King County, 1999**



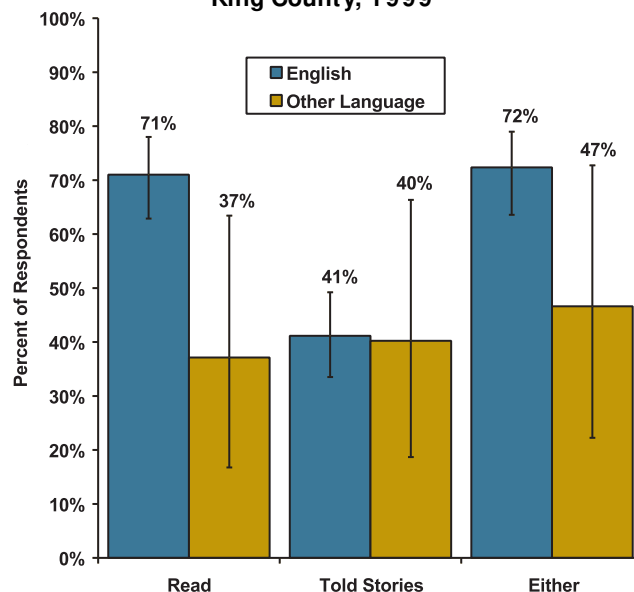
- In King County, 68% of respondents with children age 2 to 5, reported that family members read aloud to the child every day in the last week (see chart above). The national percentage for children age 3 to 5 (a different age range) was 57% in 1996.
- Seventy percent (70%) with children age 2-5 years said their children were either read to or told stories everyday.
- Respondents with children age 2-5 years in Seattle were more likely to read to their children every day (89%) than those in the South region (54%) and in King County as a whole.
- Children in households in which respondents have graduated from college are more likely to have been read to everyday than those in homes in which respondents have less education.

**Percent of Respondents with Children Ages
2-5 Years Who Were Read to Every Day,
By Respondent's Education
King County, 1999**

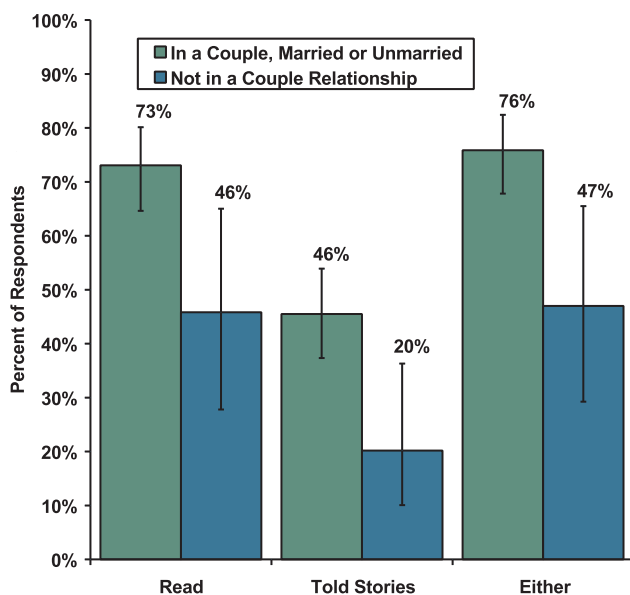


- Respondents in households in which English is the first language may be more likely to read to their children every day than those in homes where another language is the primary language. This difference, however, was only marginally significant at the 90% confidence level and future surveys will need to look at this issue more closely. These surveys should also consider reasons as to why this difference might exist to determine what factors (e.g., availability of reading materials in other languages, literacy levels, etc.) are important.
- Language, however, was clearly not a factor in whether children were told stories every day or not.

Percent of Respondents with Children Age 2-5 Years Who Were Read to or Told Stories Every Day By Respondent/Parent's First Language King County, 1999



Percent of Respondents with Children Age 2-5 Years Who Were Read to or Told Stories Every Day By Relationship Status of Respondent/Parent King County, 1999



- Households with children age 2-5 years with respondents who are living as couples, whether married or not, were more likely to read or tell stories to their children every day than households with parents who are divorced, widowed, separated, or never married.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

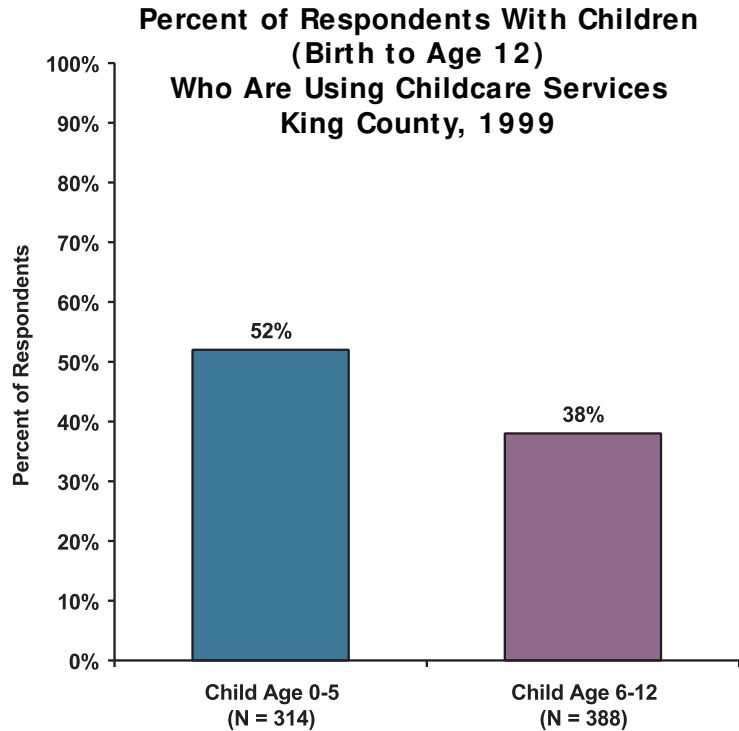
Local data are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999. National data are from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics, National Household Education Survey.

The survey questions were as follows: 1) Thinking about your child ages 2-5 years, how many times have you or someone in your family read to your child in the past week? And 2) Still thinking about your child ages 2-5 years, how many times have you or someone in your family told a story to your child the past week? Response options for both questions were: Not at all, once or twice, 3 or more times, or every day.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Quality, Affordable Childcare

During the first five years of life, the crucial brain development that will affect later learning takes place. Increasing numbers of preschool age children are spending time in the care of a child-care provider other than with their parents. It is, therefore, important that this childcare provide language, stimulation and support.



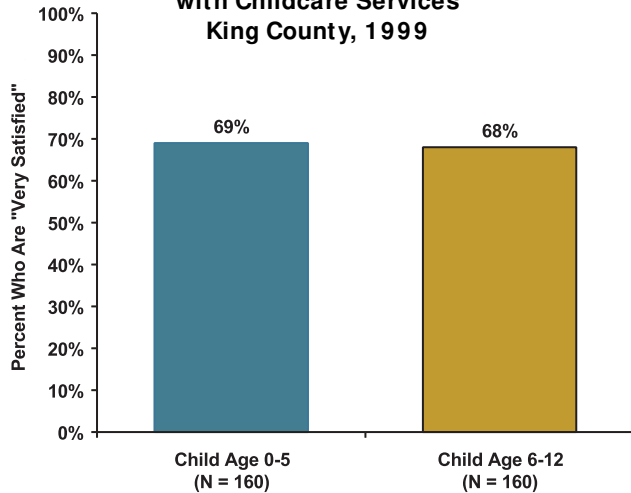
- In a 1999 countywide survey, 52% of households with a child under the age of 6 reported that they were using some type of childcare. From the table, note that out of all households using childcare for a child under age 6, over half were using a licensed or certified type of care facility.
- Among the households with school-age children between age 6 and 12, 38% reported using childcare services of various types. Approximately one out of three of these households were using some kind of organized childcare facility or program. Most of the others who said they were using childcare reported use of informal after school activities, such as music, dance, art instruction and sports programs.

**Percent of Parents/Guardians Using Childcare
By Type of Childcare Service
King County, 1999**

Child Birth to Age 5	Number	Percent
Licensed child care center	54	36%
Licensed child care family home	20	10%
Non-relative provider in home (as in "nanny" or "baby-sitter")	30	17%
Relative	21	16%
Certified preschool	13	7%
Child care in a friend's or neighbor's house (non-licensed)	8	6%
Headstart/ECEAP program	4	4%
Church/mosque/temple program	2	1%
Program for children with developmental delays or disabilities	0	0%
Other	8	4%
Total:	160	100%

Child Age 6-12	Number	Percent
Before and/or after school care in a licensed child care center	29	19%
Parks and Recreation program	17	10%
Before and/or after school care in a licensed family home	4	1%
Boy's and Girl's Club program	9	6%
Other	100	64%
Total:	160	100%

Percent of Parents/Guardians Using Childcare Who are "Very Satisfied" with Childcare Services King County, 1999



- Of the 566 households contacted for the survey with children birth to age 12 that were not using childcare, 64 (11%) reported that they had wanted to use childcare services but had not been able to obtain care.
- Cost was the most common reason reported for not using childcare. Of these 64 households, 41% of parents/guardians explained that they could not afford care, 13% that they could not find the quality of care they needed, and 12% that they could not find the hours of care they needed (caution should be taken in interpreting these percentages, since the actual number of households reporting is small).

- A majority of parents are satisfied with the childcare their child is receiving. Over two-thirds of parents/guardians using childcare services reported that they were "very satisfied" with the care.
- Among the very few parents who said they were less than satisfied with their childcare, the majority complained about the quality of care or the cost of care (not shown).

Parents/Guardians Not Using Childcare Who Wanted but Could Not Get Childcare Services and Why King County, 1999

	Number	Percent
Not using childcare.	566	
Not using childcare and unable to get it.	64	11%
Reasons for being unable to get:		
Affordability/cost.	24	41%
Quality of care.	7	13%
Location of care.	3	3%
Hours/ flexibility.	7	12%
Special needs (disability).	2	3%
Other.	21	29%
Total	64	100%

- Regarding the cost of childcare, rates vary according to the age of the child and the type of provider. According to the Child Care Resources 1998 database of all licensed facilities in King County, the highest cost is for infant care centers (averaging \$ 750 a month). The lowest cost is for school-age care in family childcare homes (averaging \$303 a month).
- Rates also vary slightly depending on the area of the county. East King County has the highest rates while those in South King County tend to be the lowest.
- In a 1996 study (Brandon and Plotnick) of childcare issues, it was reported that childcare typically costs over 25% of income for low-income families in Washington State. With King County childcare costs higher than the statewide average, one might expect that low-income families in King County have to pay an even higher proportion of their income for childcare. Fortunately, childcare subsidies are available from the State, the City of Seattle Comprehensive Childcare Program, and the King County Child Care Program.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

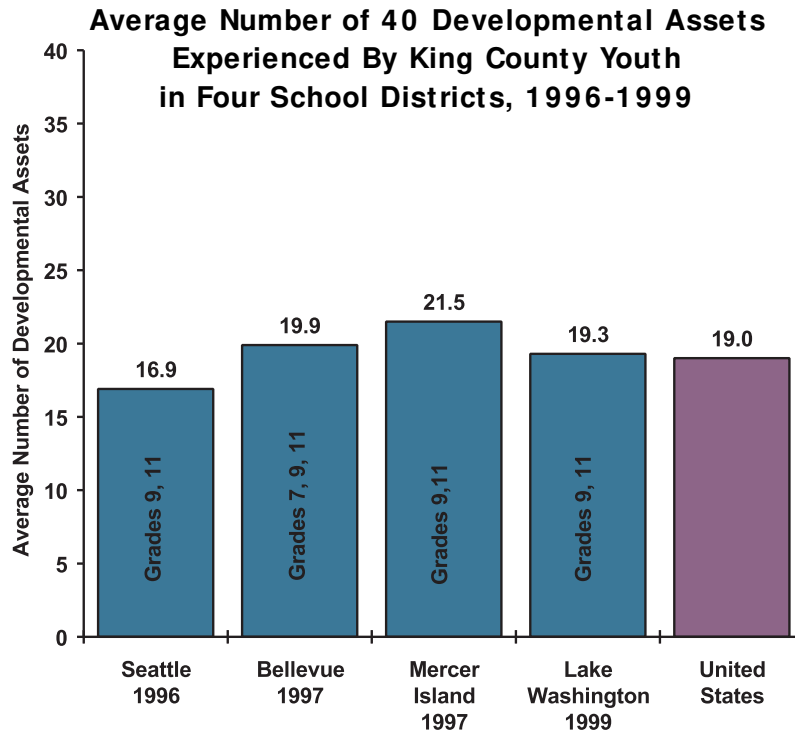
Use of and satisfaction with childcare services are measured in the 1999 King County Community Health Survey, a random digit dial telephone survey. Of the total number of households participating, the number of households that had children ages birth to 12 present was 702. Of these, 320 reported that they used some type of childcare.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Affordability information is from Richard Brandon and Robert Plotnick, "Welfare, Work and Child Care in Washington State," April 1996, from 1997 Washington Kids Count, and from "Child Care in King County: 1999," Child Care Resources.

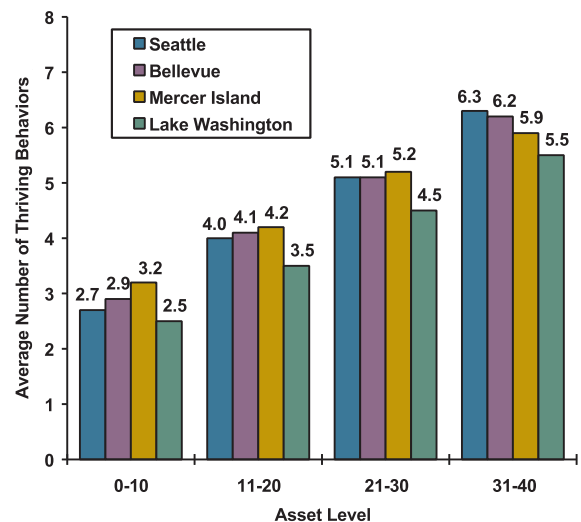
Developmental Assets/Risk & Protective Factors In Youth

Developmental assets are building blocks that children and adolescents need to grow up competent, caring, and healthy. When present, these assets not only nurture valued behaviors, but also protect young people from risk-taking behaviors.



- External assets are positive developmental experiences that support and empower youth, establish boundaries and expectations, and encourage constructive use of time. They are provided by many persons from different parts of a child's community. See the table on the next page for student responses to the 20 external assets.
- Internal assets involve the internal strengths, commitments, and values young people need to guide their choices, priorities, and decisions. They are grouped into the categories of commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity. See the table on the next page for student responses to the 20 internal assets.
- The more assets the better; as the number of assets increases, so does a child's well-being and vitality. Developmental assets are likely to be powerful in shaping the kinds of adults that young people become.

Average Number of Thriving Behaviors*, By Number of Assets Experienced As Reported By King County Youth in Four School Districts 1996-1999



* Same as Positive Behaviors listed on page 36.

**Percent of King County Youth Who Reported They Experience Developmental Assets
Four School Districts, 1996-1999**

EXTERNAL ASSETS		Seattle	Bellevue	Mercer Island	Lake Washington
SUPPORT	1. Family support: Family life provides high levels of love and support.	58%	67%	71%	67%
	2. Positive family communication: Young person and his or her parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek parent(s') advice and counsel.	22%	27%	30%	28%
	3. Other adult relationships: Young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.	36%	43%	52%	46%
	4. Caring neighborhood: Young person experiences caring neighbors.	28%	32%	34%	37%
	5. Caring school climate: School provides a caring, encouraging environment.	17%	25%	30%	28%
	6. Parent involvement in schooling: Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.	23%	30%	33%	31%
EMPOWERMENT	7. Community values youth: Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.	14%	16%	21%	17%
	8. Youth as resources: Young people are given useful roles in the community.	25%	30%	38%	30%
	9. Service to others: Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.	42%	50%	55%	45%
	10. Safety: Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.	42%	51%	65%	57%
BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS	11. Family boundaries: Family has clear rules and consequences; and monitors the young person's whereabouts.	38%	44%	44%	45%
	12. School boundaries: School provides clear rules and consequences.	33%	38%	38%	48%
	13. Neighborhood boundaries: Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.	33%	38%	43%	46%
	14. Adult role models: Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.	22%	29%	37%	29%
	15. Positive peer influence: Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.	52%	65%	71%	65%
	16. High expectations: Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.	35%	39%	46%	43%
CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME	17. Creative activities: Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.	21%	25%	29%	20%
	18. Youth programs: Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in community organizations.	52%	65%	76%	63%
	19. Religious community: Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.	45%	51%	51%	47%
	20. Time at home: Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do," two or fewer nights per week.	60%	62%	65%	51%
INTERNAL ASSETS		Seattle	Bellevue	Mercer Island	Lake Washington
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING	21. Achievement motivation: Young person is motivated to do well in school.	64%	77%	84%	71%
	22. School engagement: Young person is actively engaged in learning.	55%	70%	76%	63%
	23. Homework: Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.	63%	80%	89%	77%
	24. Bonding to school: Young person cares about his or her school.	53%	62%	67%	52%
	25. Reading for pleasure: Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.	30%	28%	31%	23%
POSITIVE VALUES	26. Caring: Young person places high value on helping other people.	44%	45%	49%	42%
	27. Equality and social justice: Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.	50%	48%	50%	46%
	28. Integrity: Young person acts on convictions and stands up for his or her beliefs.	66%	70%	74%	70%
	29. Honesty: Young person tells the truth even when it is not easy.	59%	64%	70%	63%
	30. Responsibility: Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.	59%	60%	63%	57%
	31. Restraint: Young person believes that it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.	33%	45%	48%	45%
SOCIAL COMPETENCIES	32. Planning and decision-making: Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.	31%	36%	32%	32%
	33. Interpersonal competence: Young person has empathy, sensitivity, friendship skills.	41%	51%	49%	48%
	34. Cultural competence: Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.	48%	53%	56%	50%
	35. Resistance skills: Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	37%	46%	46%	41%
	36. Peaceful conflict resolution: Young person seeks to resolve conflict non-violently.	43%	54%	59%	52%
POSITIVE IDENTITY	37. Personal power: Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."	41%	46%	56%	48%
	38. Self-esteem: Young person reports having a high self-esteem.	52%	50%	55%	50%
	39. Sense of purpose: Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."	55%	58%	63%	61%
	40. Positive view of personal future: Young person is optimistic about his or her personal future.	67%	72%	77%	73%

From Profiles of Youth: Seattle, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Lake Washington School Districts.

Protective factors are the same as assets. Both terms describe elements of a social environment that should be in place if a young person is to develop in a positive direction. Decades of research have shown that a number of protective factors are associated with decreased likelihood of health risk behaviors, including alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, violence and delinquent behaviors.

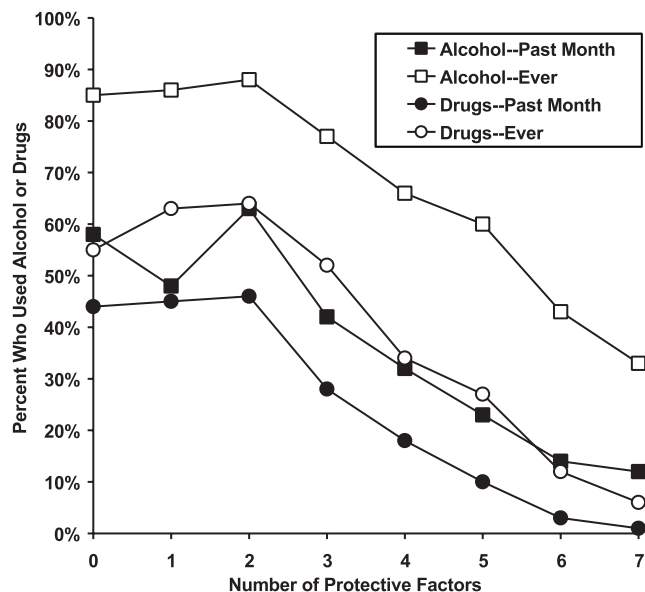
**Percent of Students
Who Reported They Experience Specific Protective Factors
Select King County Public Schools, 1998**

	Protective Factors	6th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade
Community	Rewards for conventional involvement*	62%	47%	38%
	Opportunities for community involvement	72%	75%	72%
School	Opportunities for positive involvement	78%	66%	64%
	Rewards for conventional involvement	66%	46%	37%
Peer-Individual	Belief in the moral order*	84%	67%	65%
	Social skills	81%	66%	63%
	Religiosity*	45%	48%	44%

* “Rewards for conventional involvement”—young people are recognized and rewarded for their contributions; “Belief in the moral order”—young people generally prescribe to a belief in what is “right” or “wrong”; Religiosity”—frequency with which youth attend religious services.

- The table above shows the proportion of King County youth who reported having community, school, and peer-individual protective factors in their lives. Fewer 10th graders reported having certain protective factors than 6th graders, especially “rewards for conventional involvement” from community and school.
- The more protective factors King County youth have in their lives, the less likely they are to use alcohol and drugs. The same relationship is found state-wide, though not shown here.

**The Relationship Between the Number of
Protective Factors and Alcohol/Drug Use
Reported by Students
Select King County Public Schools, 1998**

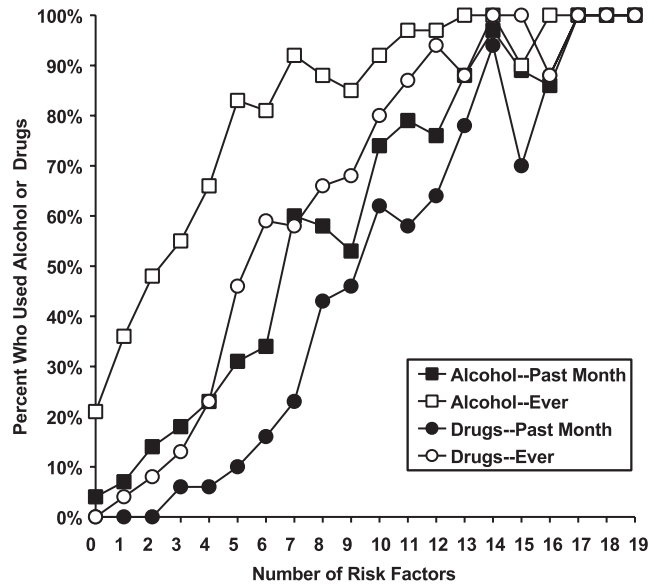


**Percent of Students Who Reported They Experience Specific Risk Factors
Select King County Public Schools, 1998**

	Risk Factors	6th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade
Community	Low neighborhood attachment	19%	23%	29%
	Community disorganization	7%	7%	5%
	Personal transition and mobility	19%	16%	17%
	Community transition and mobility	31%	30%	28%
	Laws and norms favorable to drug use	12%	27%	41%
School	Perceived availability of drugs, gangs, handguns	13%	39%	64%
	Academic failure	15%	18%	23%
	Little commitment to school	17%	33%	41%
Peer-Individual	Rebelliousness	14%	23%	22%
	Early initiation of problem behavior	25%	39%	58%
	Impulsiveness	12%	14%	13%
	Antisocial behavior	5%	9%	14%
	Attitudes favorable towards antisocial behavior	5%	11%	9%
	Attitudes favorable towards alcohol/other drug use	5%	16%	24%
	Perceived risk of alcohol and other drug use	18%	25%	30%
	Interaction with antisocial peers	8%	18%	21%
	Friends use of drugs	20%	48%	68%
	Sensation seeking	27%	40%	46%
	Rewards for anti-social involvement	25%	47%	50%

**The Relationship Between the Number of Risk Factors and Alcohol/Drug Use Reported by Students
Select King County Public Schools, 1998**

- “Risk factors” are the opposite of protective factors. They are conditions or events in life that may push youth towards risky decisions and behaviors and then harmful health outcomes, such as violent behaviors and alcohol abuse.
- The table above shows the percent of King County students who have specific risk factors in their lives. More 10th grade students than 6th grade students report some of these risk factors but not all.
- The more risk factors King County youth have in their lives, the more likely they are to use alcohol and drugs. The same relationship is found state-wide (data not shown).



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Developmental asset data are from Profiles of Youth: Seattle, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Lake Washington School Districts.

In 1998, the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior was carried out with a representative sample for Washington State. Many King County schools that were not drawn into the state sample carried out the same survey, resulting in a local King County sample that may or may not be representative of the actual student population. Local results are from 6th, 8th and 10th graders in 68 schools in 11 of King County’s 19 school districts, including: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Lake Washington, Renton, Riverview, Seattle (one middle school), Shoreline, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma, and Vashon Island. Approximately 3,400 6th grade, 2,900 8th grade and 2,300 10th grade students participated.

Academic Achievement

State standards are provided in reading, writing, communication, mathematics, social science, and the arts. These standards are called Essential Academic Learning Requirements. In order to graduate from high school in the future, students must meet these essential learning requirements.

If a student does not graduate from high school, the career outlook for that person is bleak. High school dropouts earn significantly less on average than those students who finish high school and go on to at least some college.

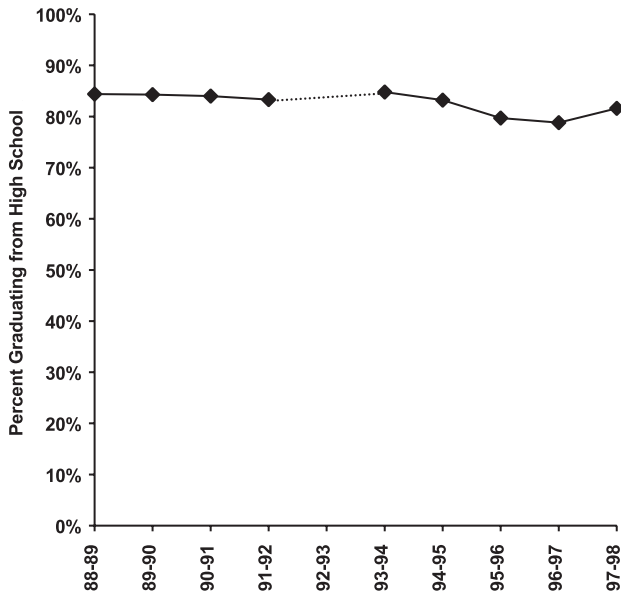
**Percent of 4th Grade Public School Students Who Met State Standards
By School District, King County, 1997-1999**

School District	Math			Reading			Writing			Listening		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Auburn	24%	34%	35%	51%	58%	61%	35%	31%	35%	62%	75%	70%
Bellevue	36%	44%	58%	65%	68%	73%	59%	52%	51%	74%	78%	80%
Enumclaw	22%	35%	37%	60%	63%	66%	47%	38%	24%	66%	74%	77%
Federal Way	22%	31%	35%	53%	55%	60%	53%	42%	29%	64%	72%	70%
Highline	20%	25%	29%	42%	46%	52%	43%	33%	24%	58%	62%	64%
Issaquah	38%	51%	63%	68%	76%	78%	69%	63%	52%	79%	83%	88%
Kent	NA	27%	38%	NA	53%	58%	NA	36%	33%	NA	71%	67%
Lake Washington	36%	47%	55%	65%	75%	77%	61%	50%	56%	74%	82%	86%
Mercer Island	58%	66%	78%	76%	87%	93%	72%	55%	67%	84%	89%	94%
Northshore	35%	50%	58%	67%	76%	76%	60%	49%	48%	74%	83%	83%
Renton	18%	35%	40%	48%	58%	62%	50%	41%	39%	62%	73%	74%
Riverview	33%	42%	39%	63%	70%	69%	40%	58%	46%	75%	78%	81%
Seattle	*	35%	36%	*	52%	56%	*	40%	39%	*	68%	66%
Shoreline	34%	53%	61%	58%	73%	79%	59%	45%	46%	68%	81%	85%
Skykomish	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Snoqualmie Valley	22%	46%	47%	59%	75%	72%	46%	43%	42%	75%	85%	81%
Tahoma	27%	44%	45%	58%	69%	69%	56%	48%	47%	70%	82%	78%
Tukwila	8%	22%	29%	30%	47%	57%	33%	28%	29%	41%	64%	63%
Vashon Island	37%	46%	50%	65%	70%	75%	45%	43%	33%	76%	76%	83%
Washington State Total	21%	31%	37%	48%	56%	59%	43%	37%	33%	62%	71%	71%

* Scores are not reported where there are fewer than 5 students.
NA = Not Available.

- Most King County school districts had higher percentages of 4th graders meeting the state standards in math, reading, writing, and listening in 1999 than they did in 1997.
- Fewer students in South County schools and Seattle schools meet the state standards than in districts in other areas of the county.
- Most King County school districts had higher percentages of students meeting the standards than the percentage for Washington state as a whole.

**High School Graduation Rates in King County
Two Year Rolling Averages, 1988-1998**



**High School Graduation Rates
By School District, King County, 1997-1998**

School District	October 1997 Grade 12 Enrollment	June 1998 Graduation Percent
Auburn	811	85.6%
Belleue	1,280	76.6%
Enumclaw	294	93.2%
Federal Way	1,345	80.1%
Highline	1,349	64.1%
Issaquah	719	89.2%
Kent	1,561	85.0%
Lake Washington	2,037	78.5%
Mercer Island	303	93.7%
Northshore	1,440	89.3%
Renton	652	92.5%
Riverview	145	96.6%
Seattle	3,354	81.5%
Shoreline	818	77.6%
Skykomish	10	70.0%
Snoqualmie Valley	298	87.9%
Tahoma	322	86.0%
Tukwila	160	69.4%
Vashon Island	119	79.8%
King County	17,017	81.6%

- Public high school graduation rates were stable at around 84% from 1988-1994. In 1996, however, King County's graduation rate dropped to 79.7% and in 1997 to 78.8%. By 1998, it had increased to 81.6%.
- In 1998, high school graduation rates among King County school districts ranged from a low of 64% to a high of 96%.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on the percent of students who met state standards is from the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

See Web site at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/>. Graduation rates are from Dropout Rates and Graduation Statistics by County and School District, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

See Web site at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/infoserv>.

The graduation rate is the percent of students who graduate out of the number of 12th grade students enrolled in the fall of that academic year. It does not account for students who move or transfer to another district.

Positive Social Values and Behavior in Youth

Values guide people’s thinking and behavior. During adolescence youth gain a sense of their identity. Consequently, exploring and adopting values is a crucial part of their development.

**Percent of Public High School Students Who Reported Positive Values
Four King County School Districts, 1996-1999**

Values	Seattle	Bellevue	Mercer Island	Lake Washington
Caring: Young person places high value on helping other people.	44%	45%	49%	42%
Equality and social justice: Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.	50%	48%	50%	46%
Integrity: Young person acts on convictions and stands up for his or her beliefs.	66%	70%	74%	70%
Honesty: Young person tells the truth even when it is not easy.	59%	64%	70%	63%
Responsibility: Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.	59%	60%	63%	57%
Restraint: Young person believes that it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.	33%	45%	48%	45%

- About two-thirds or more of King County public high school students from these four districts reported positive values of integrity, honesty, and responsibility (57%-74%).
- Between one-third and one-half reported the positive values of caring, equality and social justice, and restraint (33%-50%).

**Percent of Public High School Students
Who Reported Positive Behaviors
Four King County School Districts, 1996-1999**

Category	Definition of Behaviors	Seattle	Bellevue	Mercer Island	Lake Washington
Succeeds in School:	Gets mostly As on report card.	25%	32%	40%	30%
Helps Others:	Helps friends or neighbors one or more hours per week.	74%	81%	85%	79%
Values Diversity:	Places high importance on getting to know people of other racial/ethnic groups.	62%	60%	55%	59%
Maintains Good Health:	Pays attention to healthy nutrition and exercise.	48%	58%	62%	53%
Exhibits Leadership:	Has been a leader of a group or organization in the last twelve months.	63%	73%	80%	72%
Resists Danger:	Avoids doing things that are dangerous.	27%	24%	22%	21%
Delays Gratification:	Saves money for something special rather than spending it all right away.	43%	52%	52%	45%
Overcomes Adversity:	Does not give up when things get difficult.	66%	72%	78%	71%

- At least two-thirds of King County public high school students (grades 9 and 11) reported helping others, taking leadership, and overcoming adversity.
- Between 25% and 50% of the students reported doing very well in school, maintaining good health, resisting danger, and delaying gratification.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data are from the “developmental asset survey” and reported in *A Profile of Your Youth, Seattle, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Lake Washington Public Schools, 1996-1999*.

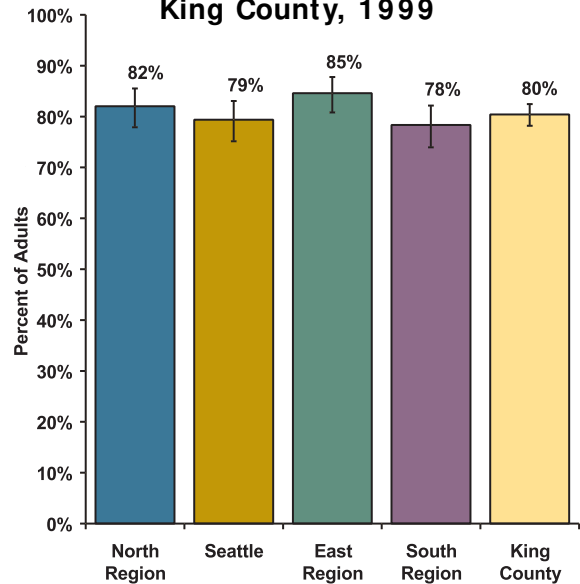
Positive values are measured as the “Positive Value” internal assets in the Search Institute list of 40 developmental assets.

Participation in Life-Enriching Activities

We need a balance between work and leisure. Taking time to study and participate in the cultural, spiritual, athletic and community service pursuits we enjoy helps to relieve the pressures of day-to-day life and develops our full potential as human beings.

- Participation in Life-Enriching Activities was measured in a survey of King County adults. Respondents reported how actively they had participated in 7 different types of activities during the past 30 days. The number of these activities was added up for each respondent.
- In King County 80% of adults were “very active” or “somewhat active” in at least three different activities.
- There was no significant difference in participation levels by region of the County.
- The three most popular types of activity were focused around: 1) literature, drama, language, 2) learning about a new issue of interest, and 3) art, crafts, gardening, carpentry (see details in table below).

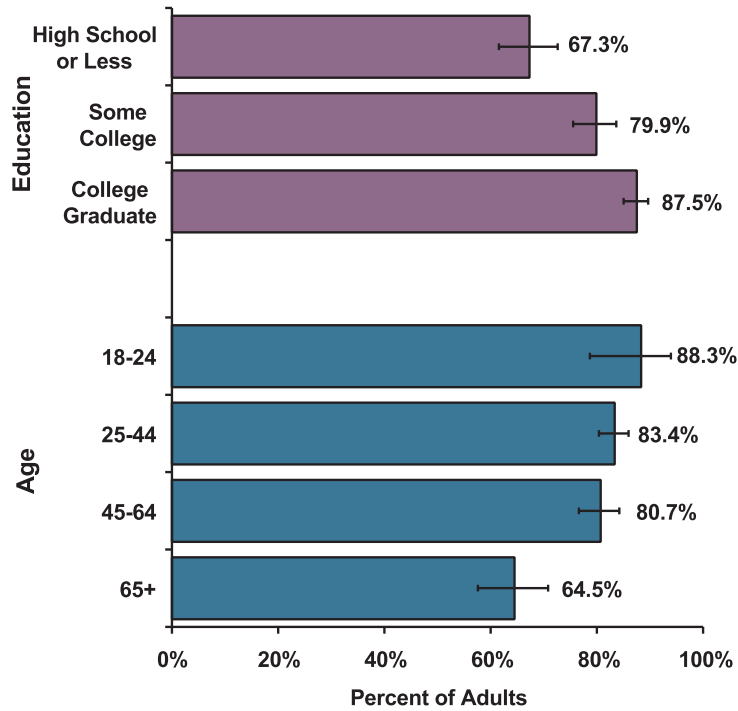
Percent of Adults Who Are “Very or Somewhat” Active In Three or More Life-Enriching Activities King County, 1999



Percent of Adults Who Are “Very or Somewhat” Active in Specific Life-Enriching Activities King County, 1999

In the past 30 days, how actively have you participated in:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...some type of music or dance (singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, attending concerts or dance events)?	50%	45%	51%	40%	45%
...things like writing, reading books, participating in a book club, studying another language, attending plays or participating in a theater group?	77%	78%	78%	73%	76%
...a type of art or craft as a hobby, not simply as a daily routine (such as painting, ceramics, photography, sculpting, sewing, cooking, gardening, carpentry, woodworking, auto repair, other mechanics)?	57%	59%	57%	60%	59%
...individual or team sports or outdoor recreation activities (such as hiking, boating, playing tennis, soccer, golf, etc., but not including watching these on television)?	51%	52%	56%	44%	50%
...spiritual or religious activities (such as meditating, attending church, temple or mosque)?	53%	45%	54%	50%	49%
...community service or helping others (volunteering, coaching, mentoring, political organizing)?	51%	49%	50%	49%	50%
...learning about an issue you are interested in by taking a class, doing research or studying information available in the library, on the internet or from other sources?	70%	72%	76%	71%	72%

**Percent of Adults Who Are "Very or Somewhat" Active
In Three or More Life-Enriching Activities, By Education and Age
King County, 1999**



- People who have higher levels of education participate more actively in life enriching activities than those with less education.
- Older residents aged 65 years and older are less active than younger people.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

The life-enriching activity measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Safety and Health

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Valued Conditions Expressed by King County Residents

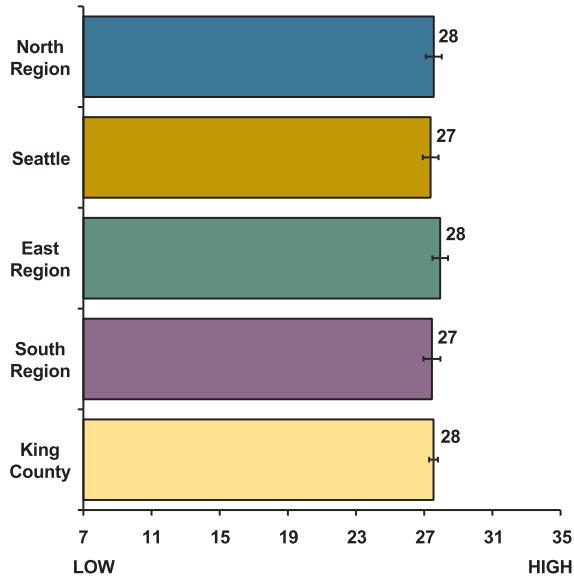
- *People are comfortable to walk freely on the streets and in parks of their neighborhoods at any time of day or night. There is respect for other people's property. The police have a known, regular, and friendly presence in neighborhoods and other areas and are quick to respond to calls. People trust that fire and police and emergency personnel will offer excellent protection.*
- *There are no violent acts, gunshots, drug trade or prostitution on the streets or in neighborhoods and schools.*
- *Family members and friends resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner (domestic violence and child abuse are prevented by the presence of positive adult role models, supportive friends, neighbors and relatives).*
- *Babies and children are healthy and have adequate nutrition, immunization and well-child check-ups.*
- *People maintain healthy personal lifestyles with regard to nutrition, exercise, and drugs and alcohol.*
- *Youth do not use substances or engage in early or unsafe sexual behavior.*
- *Everyone receives quality medical and dental treatment in a timely manner (everyone is covered by health care insurance for physical, mental, dental, vision, and alternative care services; people receive treatment from providers who are sensitive to cultural differences; the elderly and disabled are provided health care in their neighborhoods and homes; people receive immediate and quality treatment for drug and alcohol abuse).*

The valued conditions came from citizen opinion expressed as values and concerns in the telephone survey, focus groups, and in the civic and public forums. The valued conditions are expressed as "ideal" conditions—based on the vision of what residents want for themselves, their families and communities.

Perceived Neighborhood Safety

Feeling safe and secure at home, work, and play is basic to people's sense of wellbeing.

**Average Level of Perceived Neighborhood Safety
King County, 1999**

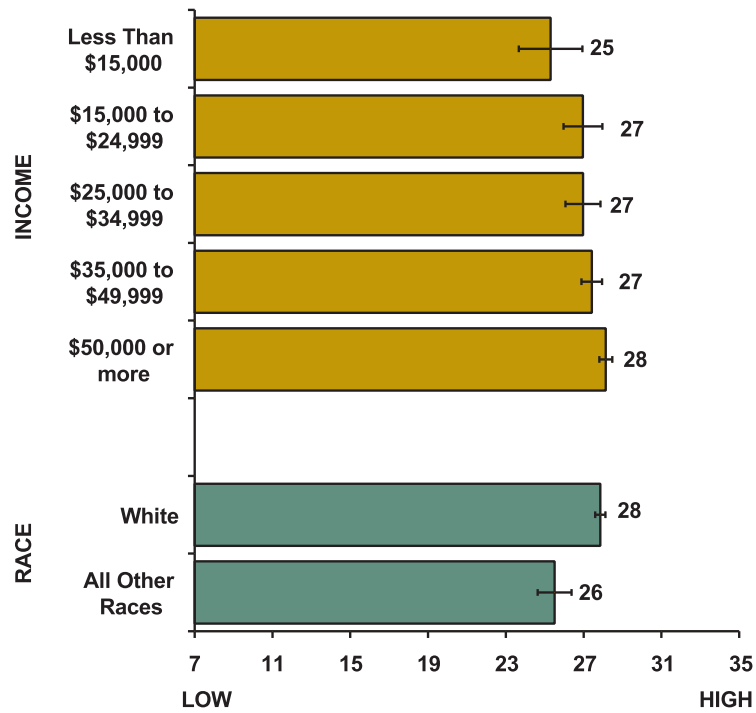


- King County adults were asked 7 questions about how often they worry about specific safety threats. Answers to these questions were added into a perceived safety scale with a possible score between 7 (Low) and 35 (High). A score of 7 means frequent worry and a score of 35 means no worry.
- The average (mean) score for adults in King County was 28. There were no significant differences in average perceived neighborhood safety level by region.
- The higher percentages in the table below indicate where more people are concerned about specific safety threats. For example, only 1% of King County adults worry about being hurt by someone they know, whereas about 20% worry about children's safety in the neighborhood and at school.

**Percent of Adults Who Worry About Safety All of the Time or Often
King County, 1999**

I'm going to read a list of things people sometimes worry about in their neighborhood. For each one, please tell me whether you worried about it over the last 12 months:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...your physical safety in your neighborhood?	4%	5%	3%	5%	5%
...children's safety in your neighborhood?	18%	18%	15%	19%	18%
...your physical safety in your home?	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%
...children's safety at school?	21%	21%	16%	20%	22%
...being robbed or having your home broken into?	9%	10%	6%	12%	10%
...being hit, pushed or slapped by someone you know?	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
...being physically attacked by someone you don't know?	2%	5%	2%	4%	4%

**Average Level of Safety Felt, By Income and Race
King County, 1999**



- People with incomes of \$50,000 and higher feel safer in their neighborhoods than those with lower incomes.
- People who are white feel safer than people of other races.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

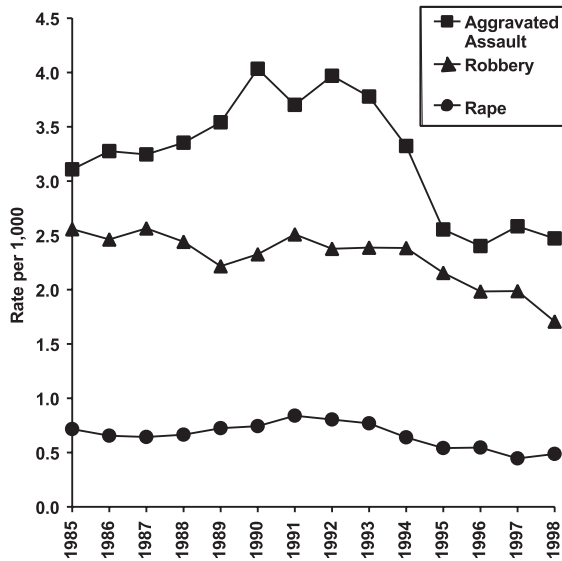
The safe neighborhood measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999, which adapted questions on stressors and worries from the Eastside Village Healthy Worker Community Health Survey (Amy Schultz et al., University of Michigan).

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Crime

Crime takes a toll on the health of our communities through loss of life, fear for physical safety, property damage, disintegration of community cohesion, diversion of public resources from social services, and incarceration. The FBI Crime Rate is a basic indicator of the level of serious crime. It includes eight major violent and property offenses, chosen both for their severity and frequency of occurrence.

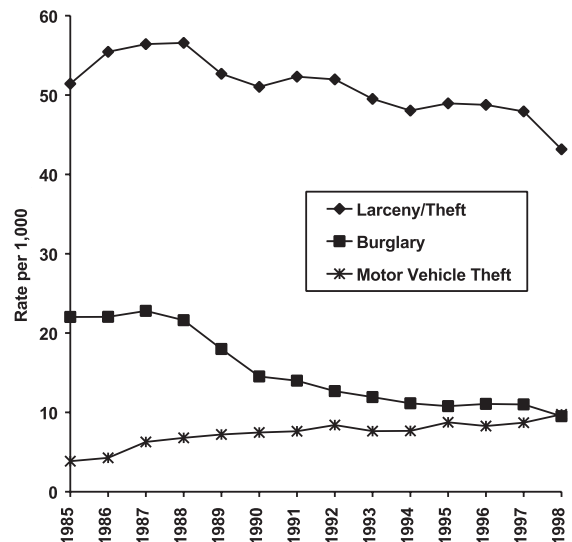
**Rate of Major Violent Crime
King County, 1985-1998**



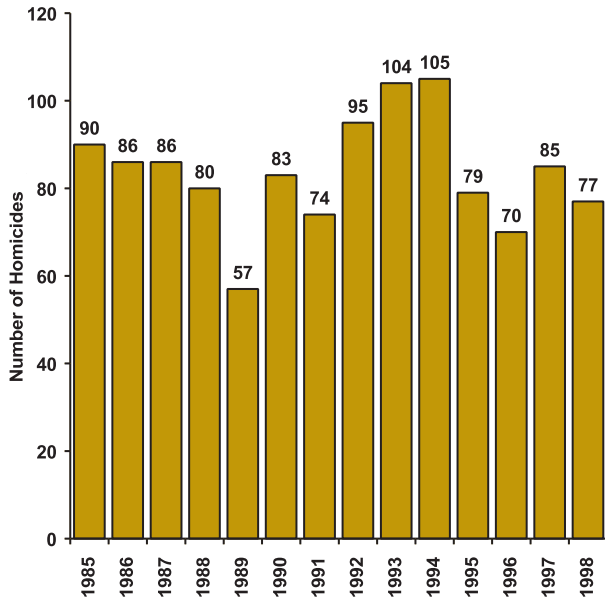
- The overall crime rate in King County has decreased significantly from a high of 92.7 per 1,000 in 1987 to a low of 67.6 per 1,000 in 1998 (in contrast to 57.2 per 1,000 in Washington State as a whole). The crime rate includes the four major violent crimes (shown at left) and the four major property crimes (shown below).
- The rate of major violent crimes in King County decreased between 1985 and 1998. Major violent crimes include murder and non-negligent homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault (homicide shown on next page).
- Aggravated assault is consistently the predominant serious violent crime, although it has shown a dramatic decline in the last decade. An assault is aggravated if it involves the use of a weapon or means likely to produce death or serious injury.

- Major property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (not shown). Despite a steady increase in motor vehicle thefts over the time period shown, total property crime rates have been decreasing since 1988.

**Rate of Major Property Crime
King County, 1985-1998**



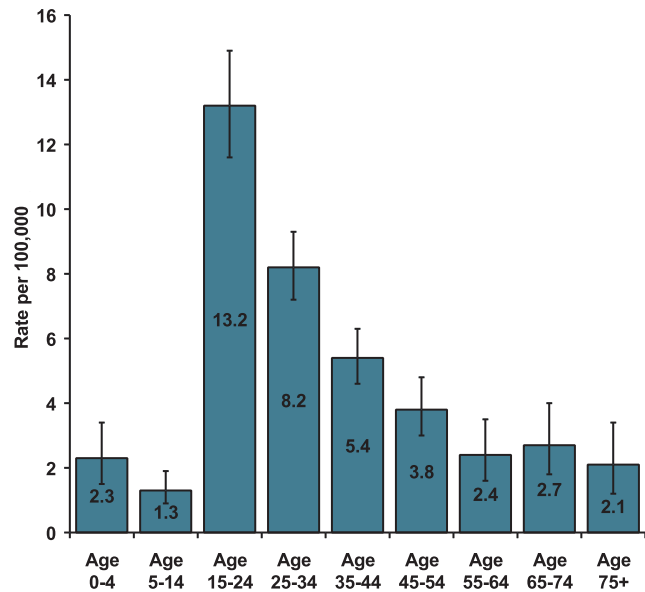
Number of Homicides in King County 1985-1998



- In 1998 there were 77 murders in King County and 220 in Washington State.
- Overall, the murder rate in King County has declined significantly since 1985 (rates not shown).

- Homicide rates vary by age. In a ten-year period from 1989 to 1999, the highest rate of homicide was among 15 to 24 year olds.
- Between 1994 and 1998, Seattle had the highest homicide rate (7.9 per 100,000), followed by South Region (5.6), North Region (2.6), and East Region (2.0). The difference between North and East Regions was not statistically significant (data not shown).
- During that period, homicide victims were 9 times more likely to be African American than white, and 2.5 times more likely to be male than female (data not shown).

Homicide Rate By Age King County Ten Year Average, 1989-1998



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

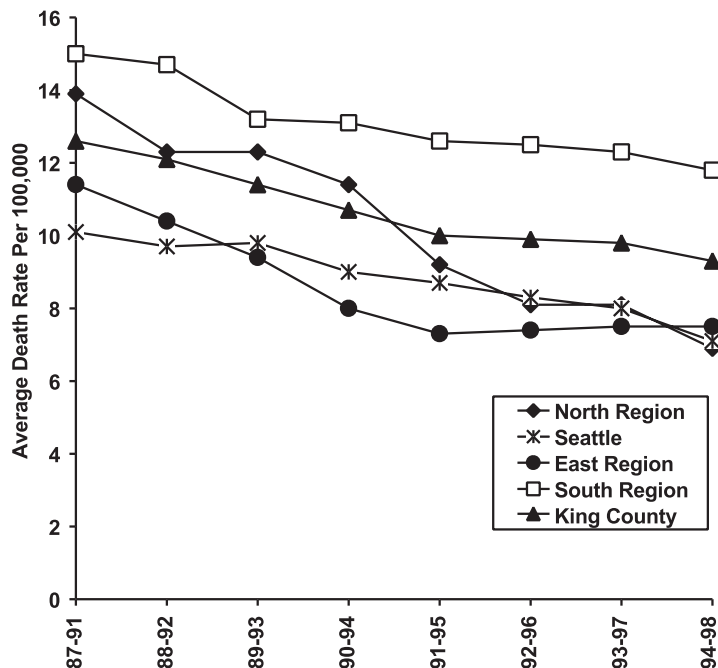
The Washington State Uniform Crime Reports are produced annually by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Data are submitted monthly by individual law enforcement agencies in each county, and are consistent with FBI national crime reporting methods.

The crime rate is calculated as the sum of the eight major violent and property crimes divided by the King County population, and does not distinguish between offenses of varying severity. All major crimes that occurred in King County and were reported to law enforcement authorities are counted. The perpetrators and victims may or may not be residents of King County.

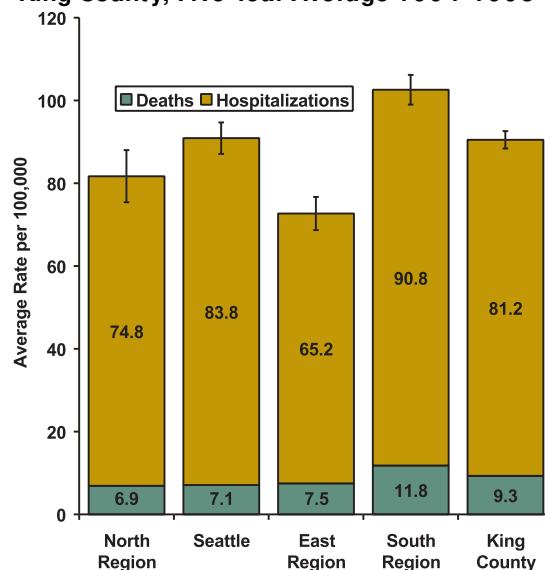
Motor Vehicle Injuries And Deaths

Many injuries from motor vehicle crashes are preventable. Through education, mandating the use of seat belts, tougher laws against drunk driving, and engineering, we have seen a decline in the rate of death from motor vehicle crashes in recent years. The level of motor vehicle crash-related injuries is measured by deaths and hospital admissions.

**Age-Adjusted Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rates
King County, Five Year Rolling Averages, 1987-1998**

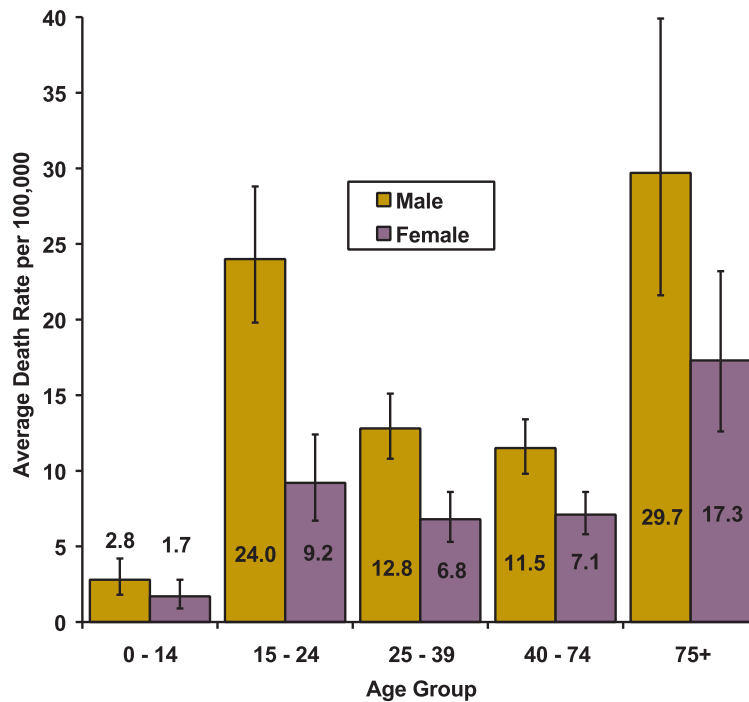


**Age-Adjusted Motor Vehicle Crash Hospitalization and Death Rates
King County, Five Year Average 1994-1998**



- In 1998, there were 137 deaths and 1,381 hospitalizations of King County residents because of motor vehicle crashes.
- Both death and hospitalization rates have declined over the last decade. This is true for all four regions of King County.
- South Region residents have the highest rates of both death and hospitalization from motor vehicle crashes.

Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rate, By Age & Gender King County, Five Year Average, 1994-1998



- Rates of motor vehicle-related injuries and deaths among King County residents vary significantly by both age and gender.
- From 1994 to 1998, the groups with the highest death rates were young males age 15-24 and males age 75 and older.
- Death rates among women are consistently lower than among men in all age groups (although the difference is not statistically significant in the youngest and oldest age groups).
- Hospitalization rates for motor vehicle-related injuries follow the same age and gender patterns.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

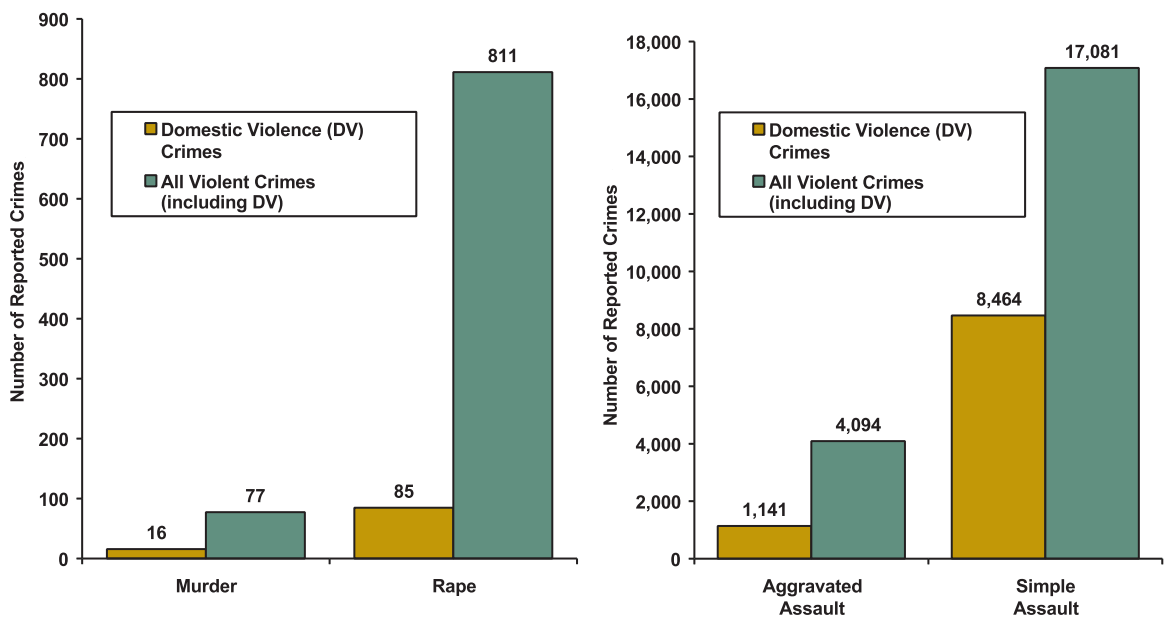
Death certificate and hospital discharge data are from the Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. Hospitalization data can only be coded to zip codes, while death data are coded to census tracts. As a result, the geographic boundary definitions for King County and the four regions are slightly different for the hospitalization analysis than they are for deaths.

These two indicators are not necessarily a reflection of overall traffic safety in King County. Death and hospitalization data are coded by residence of the victim, rather than the place where the accident occurred. Residents of other counties who are injured in an accident in King County are not counted here. In addition, hospitalization discharge data do not capture minor injuries treated at the scene or in the ER without admission to the hospital.

Family Violence

Violent abuse from intimate partners and other family members is a disturbing threat to the health and well-being of households and communities. Early identification of victims of child abuse and domestic violence may prevent the level of violence from escalating and thereby disrupt the generational cycle of abuse. Data on the actual amount of family violence is not available, but the number of reported crimes involving domestic relationships and the number of suspected child abuse cases accepted by Child Protective Services for investigation are available.

**Number of Domestic Violence Crimes and All Violent Crimes By Offense
King County, Three Year Average, 1996-1998**



- From 1996 to 1998 in King County, there were an average of 12,296 domestic violence offenses per year including 16 murders, 85 rapes, 1,141 aggravated and 8,464 simple assaults, and 2,590 violations of protection/no contact orders per year. Data on violation of protection/no contact orders is incomplete for 1996, so this average is an undercount.
- During the same time period, 20.3% of murders, 10.4% of rapes, 27.9% of aggravated assaults, and 49.6% of simple assaults in King County involved a domestic relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Percentages are not shown on the charts but can be seen by comparing the bar heights.
- In 1998, there were 15 domestic violence homicides. Of those victims, 2 were under the age of five and 3 were 65 years or older. Ten of the 13 adult victims were female.
- In a 1998 survey of King County adults, 17% of respondents said they had experienced either an assault or injury perpetrated by an intimate partner at some time in their lives (data not shown). The prevalence varied by region, with the highest percentage in South Region (20%) and the lowest in East Region (12%).

**Number of Children Age 0-17
in Accepted Referrals to Child Protective Services
King County 1993-1999**

	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-17	Total Age 0-17	Percent of Children Age 0-17
1993	5,968	5,311	1,784	13,063	3.4%
1994	6,000	5,326	1,943	13,269	3.4%
1995	5,753	4,654	1,704	12,111	3.1%
1996	5,472	4,790	1,853	12,115	3.0%
1997	5,665	5,390	2,042	13,097	3.2%
1998	4,961	5,248	2,050	12,259	3.0%
1999	4,965	5,413	2,128	12,506	3.0%

**Number of Children Age 0-17
in Accepted Referrals to Child Protective Services,
King County Four Year Average, 1996-1999**

Place	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-17	Total Age 0-17	Children Age 0-17 in Region
North Region	343	370	144	857	43,022
Seattle	1,425	1,347	551	3,323	95,983
East Region	420	440	196	1,056	96,534
South Region	2,365	2,264	822	5,451	170,453
Unknown	713	790	305	1,808	
King County	5,266	5,210	2,018	12,494	405,380

- Although domestic violence includes crimes against children, the term “child abuse” has a broader definition. Child abuse is the physical, psychological or sexual mistreatment, or physical neglect of children by their parents or guardians. Neglect is the most common form of child abuse. Like domestic violence, child abuse rates are difficult to estimate, because much abuse goes unreported.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) receives reports of suspected abuse involving children in King County. An “Accepted Referral” does not mean abuse has been substantiated, but that the case was screened according to legal guidelines and found to warrant further investigation. It is not known what proportion of accepted referrals in King County result in findings of actual abuse or neglect.
- Countywide, there has been very little change from 1993 to 1999 in the percentage of children age 0-17 accepted by Child Protective Services for investigation of abuse.
- From 1996-1999, an average of 12,494 referrals of children age 0-17 in King County were accepted by CPS each year. This represents 3.1% of all children in King County, 2.0% in North Region, 3.5% in Seattle, 1.1% in East Region, and 3.2% in South Region. Regional sub-totals are incomplete, however, because a large number of cases are missing address information.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on domestic violence are from the annual Washington State Uniform Crime Reports. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs has collected domestic violence statistics from participating local law enforcement agencies since 1995. The first complete year of data for King County is 1996. Domestic violence includes crimes committed by past or current intimates, immediate or extended family members, or other members of the household regardless of familial relationship. Aggravated assault is distinguished from simple assault by the use of a weapon or means likely to produce death or serious injury.

Domestic violence figures include only the violent crimes that are reported to law enforcement authorities and are judged by them to involve a domestic relationship. These figures do not include other types of domestic abuse such as psychological abuse. Furthermore, not all law enforcement agencies in King County contribute data. Many physical acts of violence against family members are never reported. Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey show that adult females in the U.S. are three times as likely to be victims of family violence as adult males. According to this survey, female victims of non-deadly intimate violence were silent in 43% of cases, neither reporting the incident to police nor seeking help from a victims services agency.

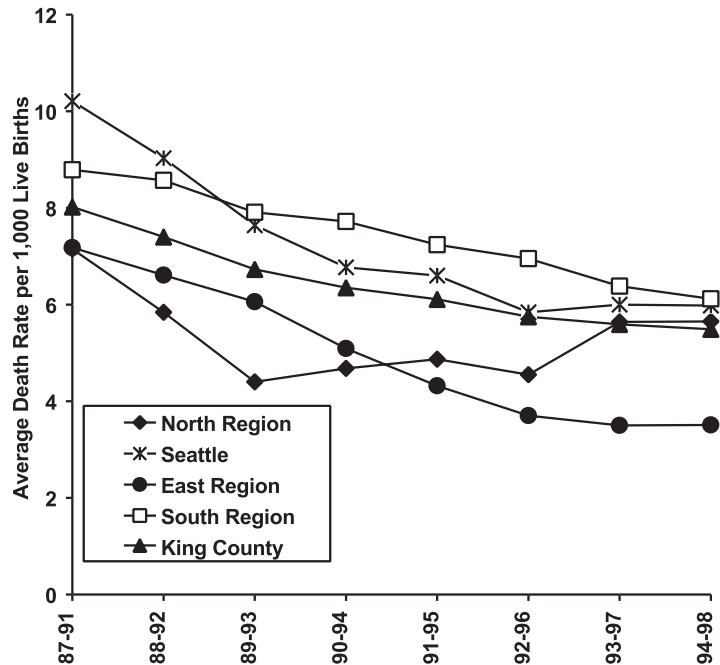
The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Children and Family Services Information Systems provides data on the number of children accepted by Child Protective Services (CPS) for investigation or services. The total number of referrals does not include those for which age is not known or where the age is 18 or above. The referrals reported here include some duplication; some children are reported and accepted for investigation more than once in a year, so there are more referrals than victims. More than one child in a family or household may be counted as part of the same referral. Approximately 14.5% of all King County referrals between the years 1996 and 1999 could not be assigned to a specific region within the county.

Survey data on assault or injury perpetrated by an intimate partner are based on data from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS which is a random telephone interview survey of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older that has been conducted in King County every year since 1987. Information concerning intimate partner assault or injury was first collected in the BRFSS in 1998.

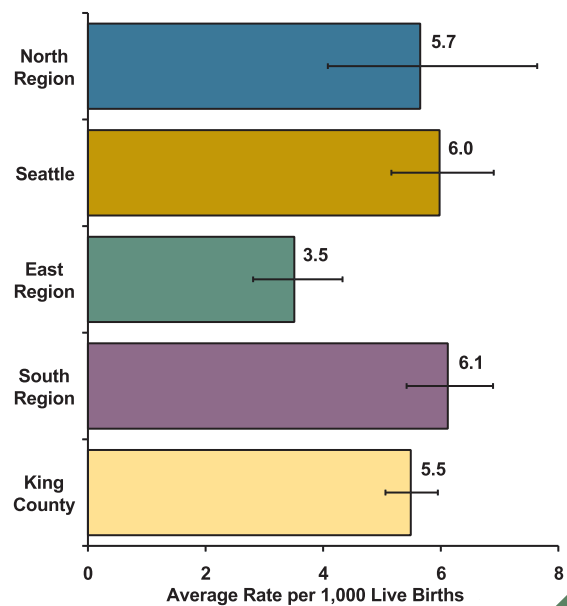
Infant Mortality

Infant death reflects the health of pregnant women and infants, as well as the availability of intensive medical care for infants. The infant death rate is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year.

**Infant Death Rates in King County
Five Year Rolling Averages, 1987-1998**

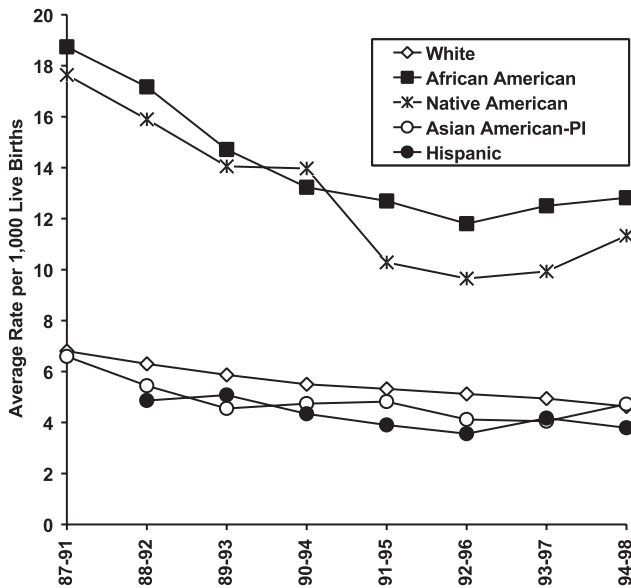


**Infant Death Rates in King County
Five Year Average, 1994-1998**



- In 1998, there were 111 deaths of infants under one year of age in King County.
- Infant death rates have declined steadily since the early 1980s in King County, in Washington state, and nationally as well.
- Three of the four King County regions have also shown declining rates since 1987 - Seattle, East Region, and South Region.
- In North Region, there was an increasing trend between the years 1992 and 1997 which has since leveled off.
- The most recent regional infant death rates are very close to each other, except in East Region which is significantly lower than Seattle and South Region.

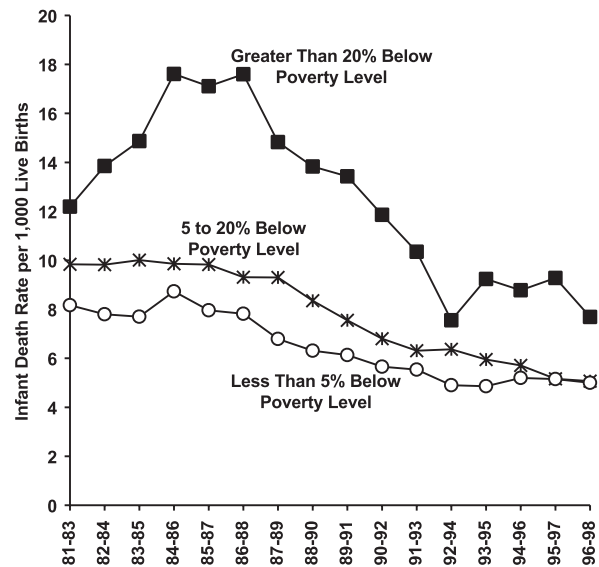
**Infant Death Rate By Race/Ethnicity
King County, Five Year Rolling Averages
1987-1998**



- Disparities in infant death rates by level of neighborhood poverty have been decreasing since about 1986. In that year, infant death rates in high poverty areas of King County began to decline dramatically.
- Infant mortality rates in areas with less than 5% and 5-20% of the population living below the poverty level have been declining since 1981.
- The average infant death rate between 1996 and 1998 was higher among children born to women less than 20 years old than to women older than 20 (data not shown).

- Trends in infant death rates for the smaller race and ethnic populations are difficult to evaluate because the actual number of deaths is also small. For example, the apparent decline in rates among Native Americans between 1987 and 1998 is not statistically significant because there are generally 5 or fewer infant deaths per year in this group. This is also true for Hispanics.
- However, since 1987 there has been a significant decrease in the rates for whites and African Americans. The declining trend among African Americans has levelled off in recent years. The rate among Asian American-Pacific Islanders has not changed significantly since 1987.
- Infant death rates among African Americans and Native Americans remain higher than the rates for other groups.

**Infant Death Rate By Poverty Level
King County, Three Year Rolling Averages
1981-1998**



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Linked Birth and Death Certificate data are from the Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. The geographic boundaries of King County and the four subregions are defined by aggregating census tracts.

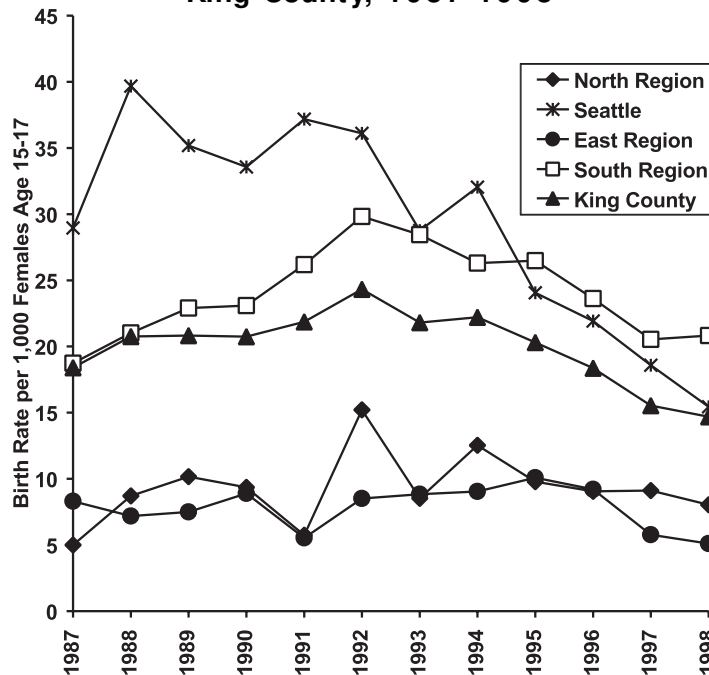
The infant mortality rate is the number of live-born infants who die before their first birthday in a given year, for every 1,000 infants born live in that year.

Poverty level groupings are based on annual household income reported in the 1990 U.S. Census, and these groupings represent the proportion of residents living below the federal poverty limit at that time. For a family of four in 1989, the poverty threshold was \$12,674; for a single person over age 65, it was \$5,947.

Teen Births

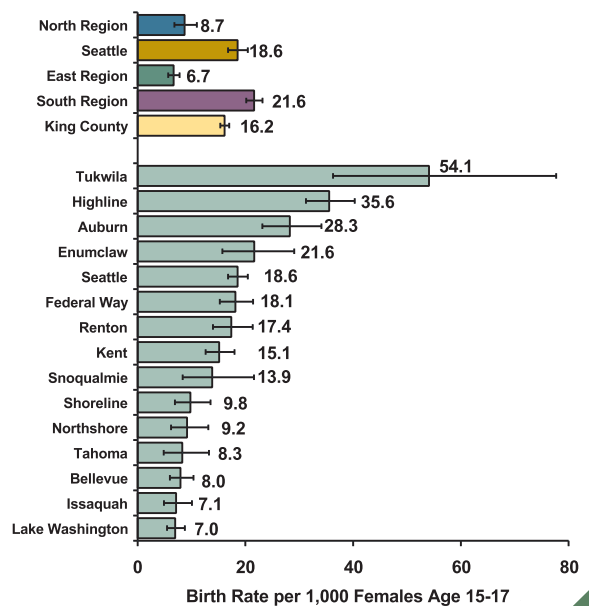
Infants born to mothers under age 18 have increased risk of death and low birthweight. Both the mother and the child tend to have fewer educational, economic, and social opportunities. The younger the mother, the more likely such problems will occur. Teen birth rates are calculated as the number of births to girls age 15-17 relative to the total number of girls in that age group.

**Birth Rates Among Females Age 15-17
King County, 1987-1998**



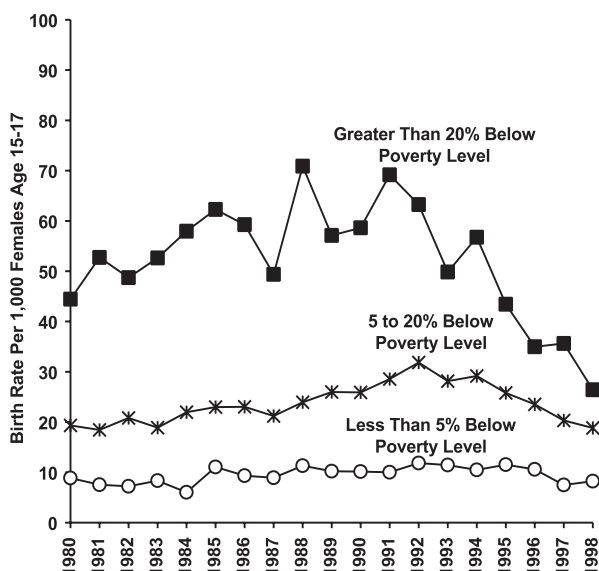
- Birth rates to King County girls age 15-17 declined from a high of 24.3 per 1,000 in 1992 to 14.7 per 1,000 in 1998.
- The decline has been especially sharp in Seattle.
- In 1998, the highest teen birth rate was in South Region (20.8 per 1,000) and the lowest in East Region (5.1 per 1,000).
- The average teen birth rates from 1996-1998 were higher in the Tukwila (54.1 per 1,000), Highline (35.6), and Auburn (28.3) School Districts than the average for King County.
- Vashon, Mercer Island, Riverview and Skykomish School Districts are not shown because of the small number of teen births.

**Birth Rates Among Females
Age 15-17, By School District
King County Three Year Average, 1996-1998**

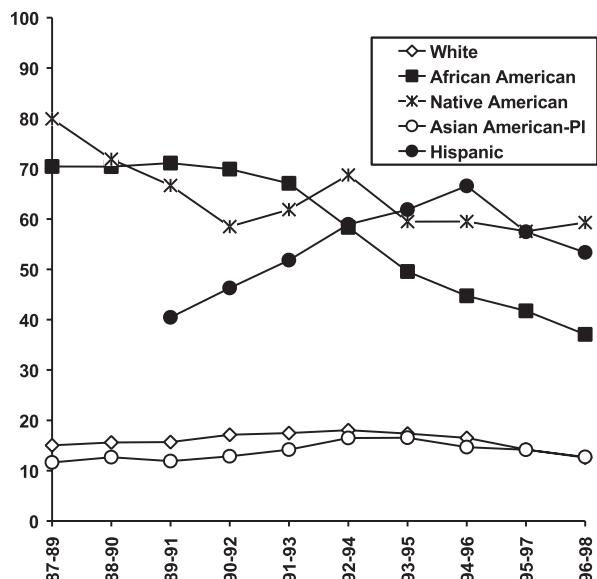


- Birth rates among teenage girls in high-poverty neighborhoods are significantly greater than in neighborhoods with lower poverty. Since 1980, the birth rates to teens living in areas where more than 20% of the residents live in poverty have ranged from 3 to 10 times higher than teens living in areas where less than 5% of residents live in poverty.
- Although this disparity has decreased in recent years, the 1998 rate in high poverty areas was still nearly 3 times higher than the rate for girls living in the low poverty areas.
- Teen birth rates for all three levels have been decreasing since 1992.

**Birth Rates Among Females Age 15-17
By Poverty Level, King County, 1980-1998**



**Birth Rates Among Females Age 15-17
By Race/Ethnicity, King County,
Three Year Rolling Averages, 1987-1998**



- Teenage birth rates have been declining since the early 1990s among African Americans, Native Americans, Asian American-Pacific Islanders, and whites (although the decline in Native Americans is not statistically significant).
- The rate has increased significantly among Hispanics since 1989 (see data note below).
- Average teen birth rates from 1996-1998 were highest among Native Americans (59.3 per 1,000), followed by Hispanics (53.3), African Americans (37.1), Asian American-Pacific Islanders (12.7), and whites (12.6). However, the differences between the rates for Native Americans and Hispanics, and between Asian American-Pacific Islanders and whites were not statistically significant.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on the number of live births in King County is collected through birth certificate records by the Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. For this indicator, only maternal age is considered. Data on the age of the father is under-reported on birth certificate records.

Poverty level groupings are based on annual household income reported in the 1990 U.S. Census, and these groupings represent the proportion of residents living below the Federal poverty limit at that time. For a family of four in 1989, the poverty threshold was \$12,674; for a single person over age 65, it was \$5,947.

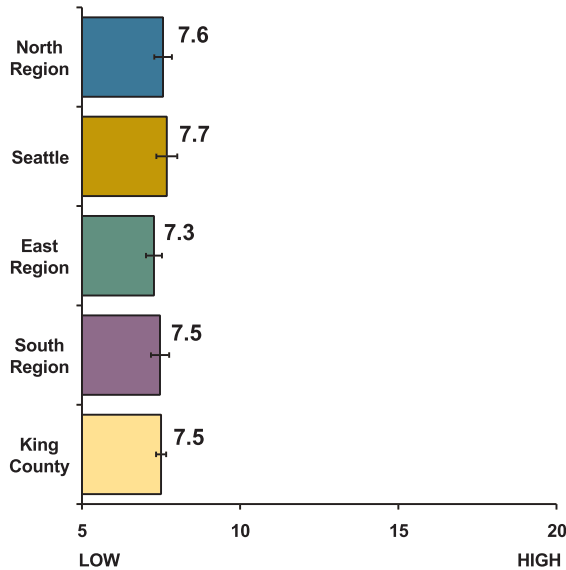
Information on Hispanic ethnicity of the mother was not collected reliably on birth certificates before 1989. Because collection of this data is relatively recent, the number of Hispanic births may be artificially growing as more people adjust to reporting this information on the birth certificate. It is possible that the number of Hispanic adolescents in the County is underestimated; this would also produce an erroneously high rate.

The geographic boundaries of King County, the four regions, school districts, and the high, medium and low poverty areas are defined by aggregating census tracts. The school district boundary definitions used in this report are currently under review.

Stress

Social psychological and economic circumstances can cause stress. Continuing anxiety, insecurity, low self-esteem, social isolation and lack of control over work and home life have powerful effects on health by “turning on” biological stress responses too often and for too long.

**Average Level of Stress
King County, 1999**



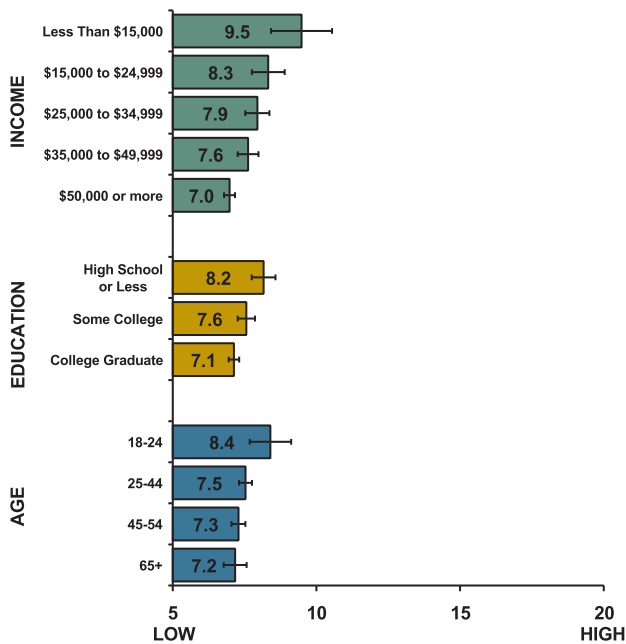
- Stress was measured by asking King County adults 4 questions about how often they have experienced certain symptoms of stress in the past 30 days. Answers to these 4 questions were added to create a perceived stress scale with a possible score between 5 (Low) and 20 (High).
- The average (mean) stress score for adults in King County was 7.5 as seen above. There were no significant differences in average stress level by region.
- The four questions used to make up the stress scale are in the table below. Between 7% and 25% of King County adults reported having feelings that are interpreted as stressful “very often” or “often” in the past 30 days.

**Percent of Adults Who Report
Confidence in Handling Stress "Very or Fairly" Often
King County, 1999**

In the past 30 days, how often have you felt:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	10%	10%	8%	13%	10%
...confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?*	85%	84%	88%	90%	87%
...that things were going your way?*	76%	74%	76%	76%	75%
...difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%

* answers were reversed for the scale.

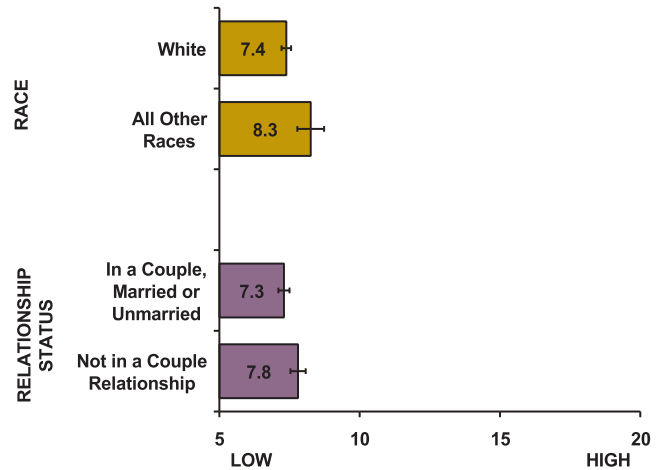
**Average Level of Stress,
By Income, Education, and Age, King County, 1999**



- People who have incomes above \$50,000 experience lower levels of stress than people with lower incomes.
- College graduates experience less stress than people with less education.
- Older residents (aged 65 years and older) experience less stress than young adults ages 18-24 years.

- People who are white experience less stress than people of other races.
- People who have a couple relationship (either married or unmarried) experience less stress than others who are separated, divorced, widowed or never married.
- The differences presented in the text above are statistically significant at the 95% confidence interval.

Average Level of Stress, By Race and Relationship Status, King County, 1999



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

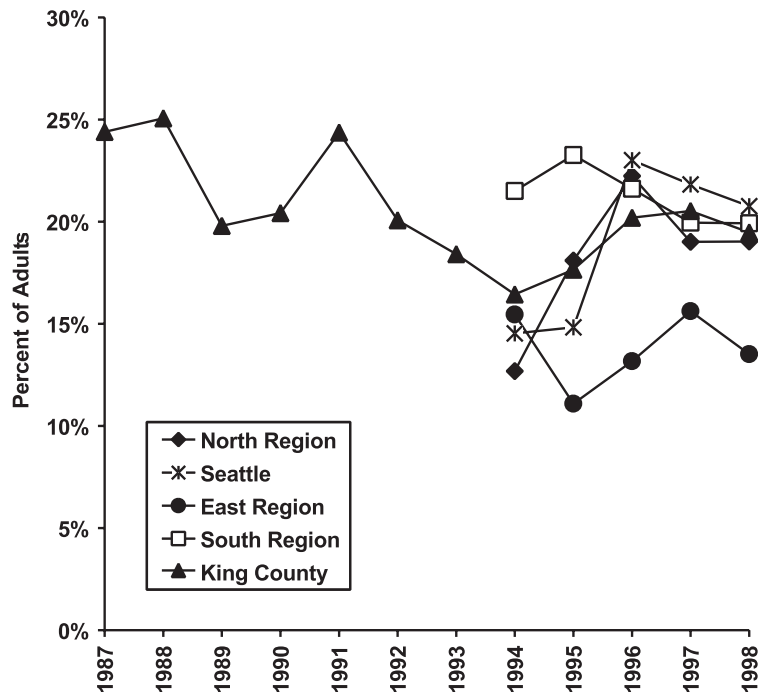
The stress measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999, which used the shortened (telephone) version of the Perceived Stress Scale (Sheldon Cohen).

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Tobacco & Alcohol Use

Cigarette smoking is a major risk factor for a variety of serious illnesses such as heart disease and lung cancer. Alcohol misuse increases the risk of motor vehicle crashes, chronic liver disease, and problems in personal relationships.

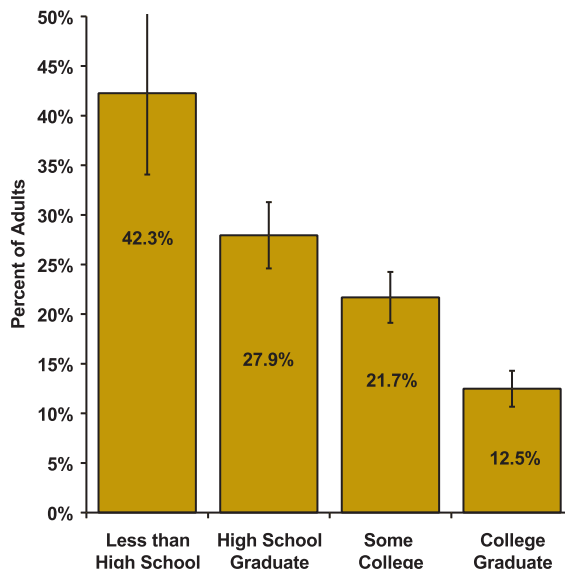
**Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Are Current Smokers
King County, 1987-1998**



- Smoking declined among adults in King County from 1987 to a low point in 1994, but has increased since then countywide and in Seattle.
- The average adult smoking rate between 1996 and 1998 was 20.1% in King County, but it was only 14.1% in East Region. Smoking rates in the other regions were not significantly different from each other.

- Between 1996 and 1998, 20.1% of King County adults were smokers.
- Smoking rates in King County vary by level of educational attainment. 42.3% of persons without a high school diploma smoke, versus 12.5% of persons with a college degree.
- Adults in the highest income brackets (making at least \$35,000 per year) are less likely to smoke than those in the lowest income ranges (making less than \$25,000 per year - data not shown).
- In general, adult smoking rates decrease with age. The highest average smoking rate from 1996-1998 was among 18-24 year olds (29.4%) and the lowest was among age 65 and older (10.9% - data not shown).
- There are also significant differences in adult smoking rates by race. Between 1996 and 1998, smoking rates were higher for African Americans (34.9%) and Native Americans (43.3%) than for whites (19.4%) and Asian American-Pacific Islanders (15.4% - data not shown).
- For the same time period, there was no significant difference between smoking rates among men and women.

Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Are Current Smokers, By Education King County, Three Year Average 1996-1998



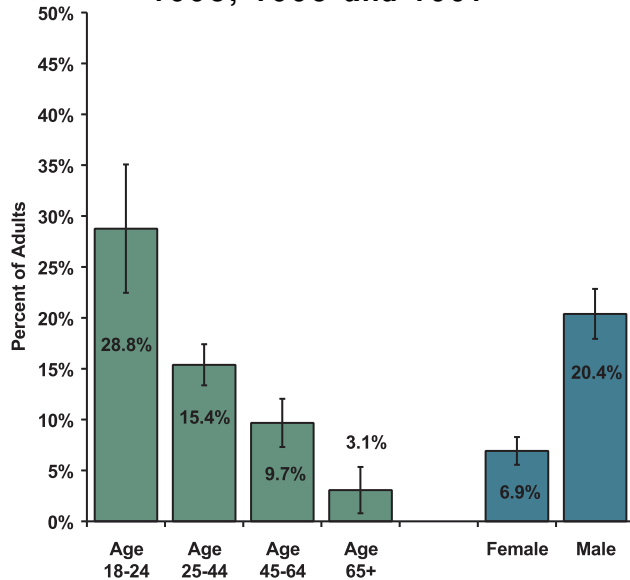
Percent of Public School 12th Grade Students Who Smoked Cigarettes in the Past 30 Days 1991-1999

	1991	1992	1993	1995	1998	1999
Seattle School District	21%	-	24%	33%	-	-
Snoqualmie Valley School District	27%	-	28%	22%	33%	-
King County*	-	-	-	22%	-	34%
Washington State	-	22%	-	24%	29%	35%
United States	28%	28%	30%	34%	35%	35%

* The schools participating in the King County survey are not the same schools each survey year (1995, 1999). A dash (-) indicates that no survey was conducted that year.

- Approximately 80% of tobacco use occurs for the first time among youth aged less than 18 years (data not shown).
- Recent cigarette smoking among 12th grade students has increased locally, statewide, and nationally through the 1990s.
- The most recent local surveys indicate that 33% of Seattle (1995) and Snoqualmie Valley (1998) public school 12th grade students smoked cigarettes in the previous 30 days. These two school districts have participated regularly enough to have trend information, while other King County districts have not.

Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Report Binge Drinking, By Age and Gender King County, Three Year Average 1993, 1995 and 1997



- Although the rate of binge drinking among King County adults has declined over the last decade, the average rate from 1993-1997 was 13.5%. The only significant regional differences were between East Region (9.4%) and Seattle (15.8% - data not shown).
- As with smoking, rates of adult binge drinking decrease with age. There is also a dramatic difference between genders. Between 1993 and 1997, the average binge drinking rate for men was 3 times the rate for women in King County.
- There were no significant differences in King County adult binge drinking rates by race/ethnicity, income or education from 1993-1997.
- There is a high association between binge drinking and drunk driving. 12.2% of adults who report binge drinking also report driving drunk, versus 0.4% of adults who do not report binge drinking.

Percent of Public School 10th Grade Students Who Report Binge Drinking in the Past 2 Weeks 1992-1999

	1992	1993	1995	1998	1999
Seattle School District	-	24%	22%	-	-
Snoqualmie Valley School District	-	22%	21%	23%	-
King County* **	-	-	22%	24%	23%
Washington State**	18%	-	22%	28%	28%
United States	-	23%	24%	24%	26%

* The schools participating in the King County survey are not the same schools each survey year (1995, 1998, 1999).

** The 1999 figures for King County and Washington State are based on 30 days, not a 2 week period.

A dash (-) indicates that no survey was conducted that year.

- Binge drinking among 10th grade students has been increasing statewide and nationally since the early 1990s.
- Binge drinking has been increasing among students in other grades as well (data not shown).
- Binge drinking is more prevalent in male students than in females students (data not shown).

**Percent of Public School 12th Grade Students
Who Drank Alcohol in the Past 30 Days
1991-1999**

	1991	1992	1993	1995	1998	1999
Seattle School District	55%	-	51%	46%	-	-
Snoqualmie Valley School District	-	-	56%	35%	54%	-
King County*	-	-	-	40%	-	51%
Washington State	-	52%	-	45%	52%	49%
United States	54%	51%	51%	51%	52%	51%

* The schools participating in the King County survey are not the same schools each survey year (1995, 1999). A dash (-) indicates that no survey was conducted that year.

- Recent alcohol use among 12th grade students (in the past 30 days) has been around 50% locally, statewide, and nationally throughout the past decade.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

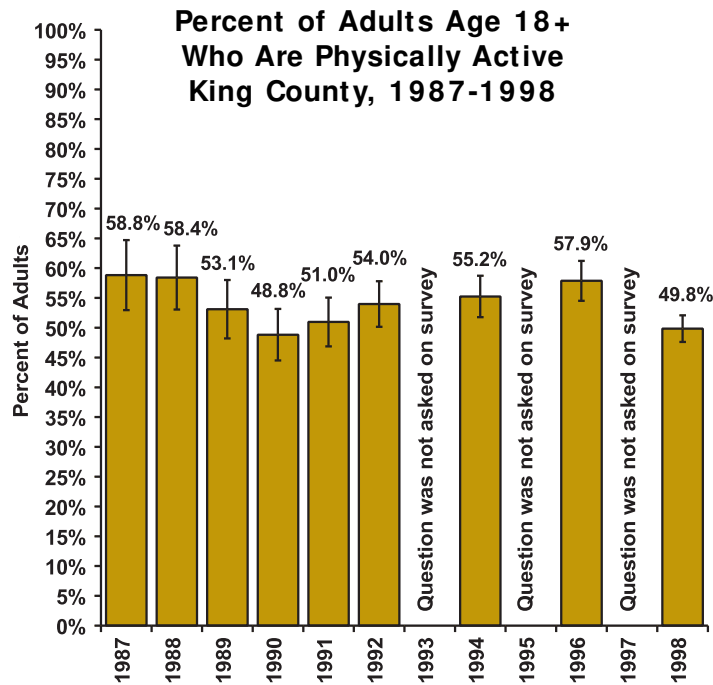
Data on adult smoking and binge drinking are based on data from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is a random telephone interview survey of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older that has been conducted in King County every year since 1987. The question on binge drinking is asked every other year. "Binge drinking" is defined as having five or more drinks on one occasion in the past 30 days. The geographic boundaries of the four King County subregions are defined by aggregating zip codes.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Local and state data on youth use of tobacco and alcohol are from the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors, the Washington Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and the Seattle Teen Health Risk Survey. National data are from Monitoring the Future Study, University of Michigan.

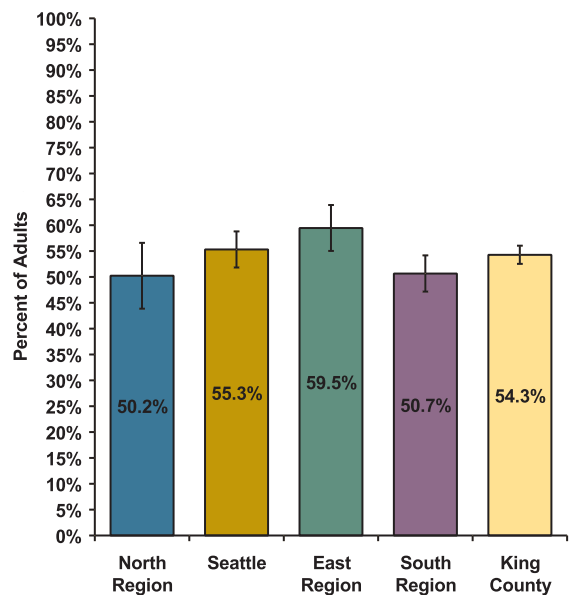
Physical Activity & Weight

Controlling weight through proper nutrition and regular physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Lack of exercise and being overweight are risk factors for serious illnesses such as coronary heart disease, hypertension and diabetes, and contribute to premature death.



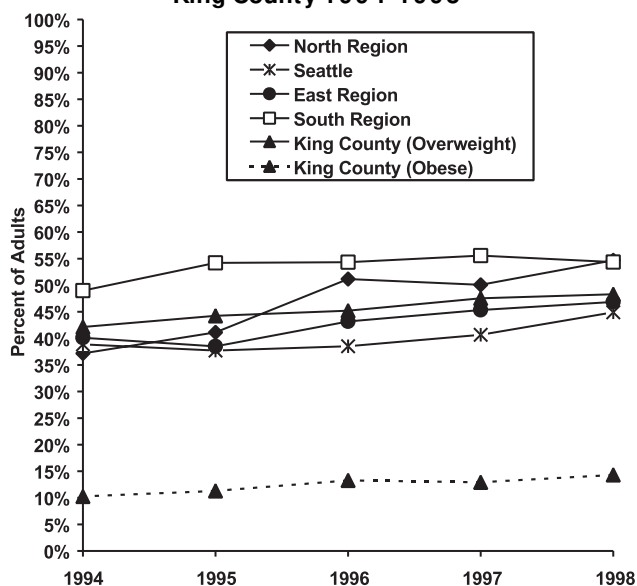
- A person is considered to be physically active if they reported having at least 20 minutes of leisure time physical activity 3 times per week.
- The percentage of adults in King County who are physically active increased from 1990 to 1996, but the trend has leveled off since then. The 1998 rate was actually lower than in the previous survey year.
- Physical activity rates are similar among the regions, although the rate is statistically higher in East Region than in South Region.
- People of non-Hispanic ethnicity (54.7%) are more likely to be physically active than Hispanics (42.4%). There are no differences by race (data not shown).
- College graduates and 18-24 year olds are more physically active than other adult groups (data not shown).
- Persons who make at least \$50,000 per year are more physically active than those who make less than \$25,000 per year (data not shown).

Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Are Physically Active King County Three Year Average, 1994, 1996 & 1998

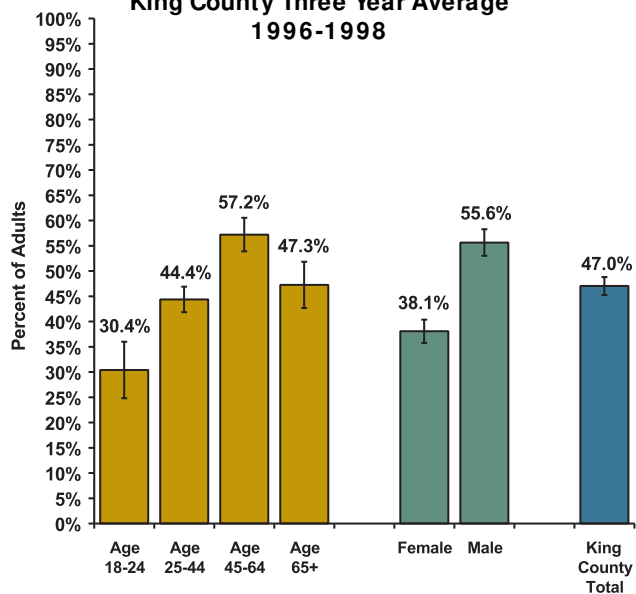


- Overweight is defined as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) that is greater than or equal to 25, and obese is a BMI of 30 or more. The BMI is the ratio of weight to height.
- The proportion of adults who are overweight has been increasing in King County since 1987 (partial data shown), and in North Region since 1994 (the first year of data available for the regions).
- Even though they represent a much smaller section of the population overall, the percent of King County adults who are obese has also increased dramatically since 1987 (partial data shown).
- From 1996-1998, South Region had the highest average percentage of overweight population (54.8%) and Seattle had the lowest (41.4%). The overall King County average was 47.0%.

Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Are Overweight and Percent Who Are Obese King County 1994-1998



Percent of Adults Age 18+ Who Are Overweight, By Age and Gender King County Three Year Average 1996-1998



- The likelihood of being overweight in King County varies with age and gender. Rates of being overweight increase with age until age 65. Men are statistically more likely to be overweight than women.
- A higher percentage of African Americans (62.2%) and Native Americans (77.4%), and a lower percentage of Asian American-Pacific Islanders (27.9%) are overweight than whites (47.4% - data not shown).
- Persons with a college degree have the lowest overweight prevalence (42.2%) of any other group (data not shown).
- Although there are some differences in overweight prevalence by income level, they do not follow a consistent pattern (data not shown).

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on adult physical activity and weight are based on data from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is a random telephone interview survey of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older that has been conducted in King County every year since 1987. The question on physical activity is asked only every other year. The geographic boundaries of the four King County subregions are defined by aggregating zip codes.

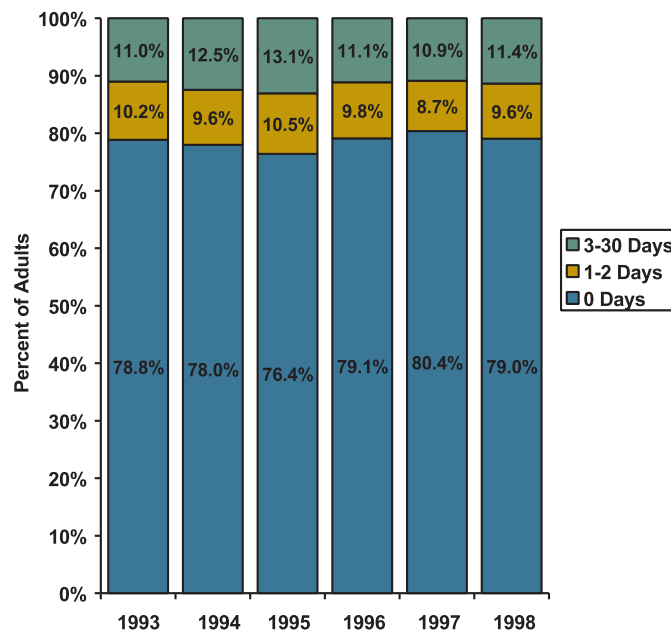
For a hypothetical person who is 5'10" tall and weighs 165 lbs, the Body Mass Index would be calculated as: $BMI = 704.5 \times 165 \text{ lbs} / (70 \text{ inches})^2 = 23.7$ (where 704.5 is a conversion constant).

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Restricted Activity Due to Physical/Mental Health

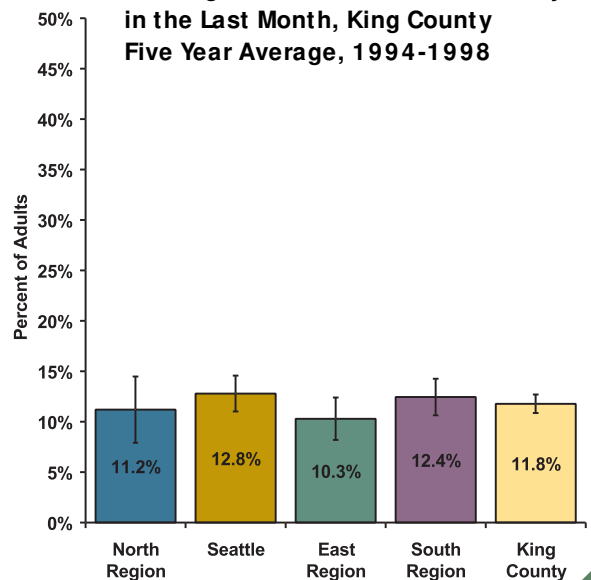
For individuals, leading a healthy life means having a full range of functional capacity, being able to have satisfying relationships, to work and to play. From a society perspective, healthy life means vital, creative, and productive people who are able to contribute to their families and communities.

Percent of Adults Age 18+ for Whom Poor Physical or Mental Health Restricted Regular Activities in the Last Month, By Number of Days King County, 1993-1998

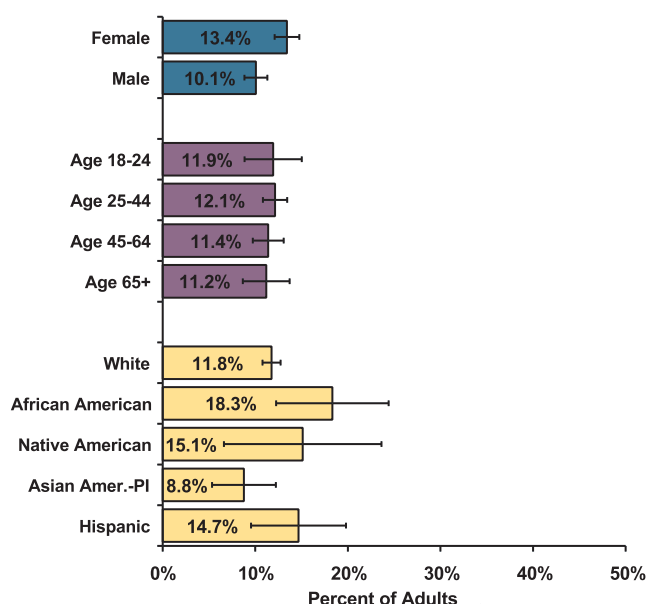
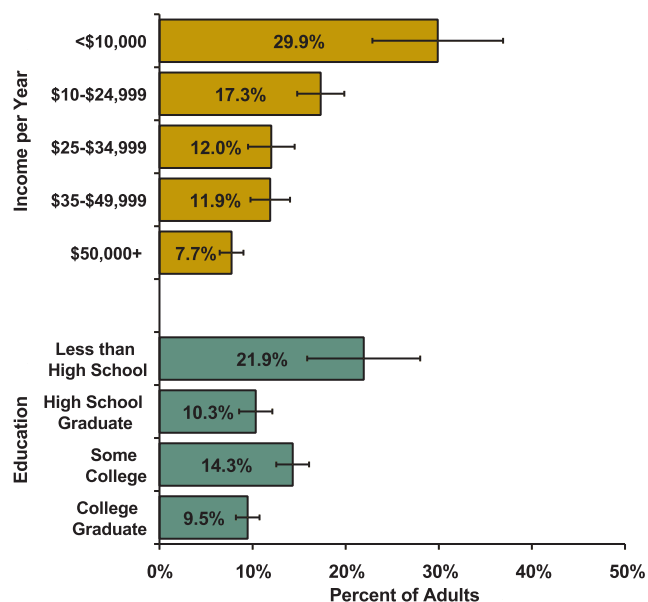


- A survey of King County adults asked the question: During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?
- In 1998, 5.0% of respondents said they experienced anywhere from 11 to 30 days of restricted activity in the last month due to poor health. 11.4% had at least 3 restricted activity days. This percentage has not changed significantly since 1993.
- There was very little regional variation in the average proportion of people with restricted activity days due to poor health.
- At the same time, 8.5% of King County adults rated their general health as only poor or fair. This percentage was highest in South Region (9.6%) and lowest in East Region (6.0% - data not shown).

Percent of Adults Age 18+ for Whom Poor Physical or Mental Health Restricted Regular Activities 3 or More Days in the Last Month, King County Five Year Average, 1994-1998



**Percent of Adults Age 18+ for Whom Poor Physical or Mental Health Restricted Regular Activities 3 or More Days in the Last Month, By Income, Level of Education, Gender, Age, & Race/Ethnicity
King County, Five Year Average, 1994-1998**



- There is an inverse relationship between income and restricted activity days. Only 7.7% of people with an income of at least \$50,000 per year have 3 or more restricted activity days per month. In contrast, 29.9% of people who earn less than \$10,000 report 3 or more restricted activity days.
- The relationship between restricted activity days and level of education does not follow a consistent pattern.
- A greater percentage of women (13.4%) than men (10.1%) experienced at least 3 days of restricted activity due to poor health.
- There were no significant differences in restricted activity days by age. However, 18-24 year olds reported an average of 4.8 days of poor mental health in the last month, while persons age 65 and older only had 1.7 days (data not shown).
- By race, the highest percentage of restricted activity days was among African Americans (18.3%), and the lowest percentage was among Asian American-Pacific Islanders (8.8%).

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

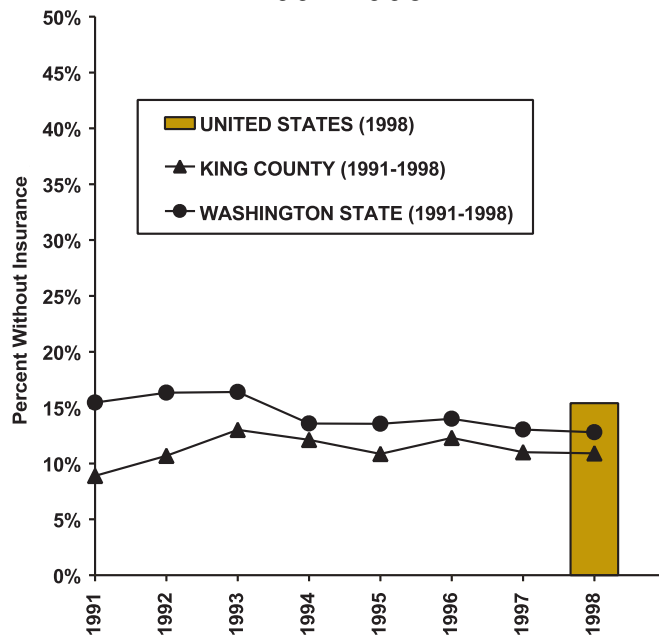
Data are from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is a random telephone interview survey of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older that has been conducted in King County every year since 1987. Regional data are only available since 1994. The geographic boundaries of the four King County subregions are defined by aggregating zip codes.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Health Insurance Coverage and Access

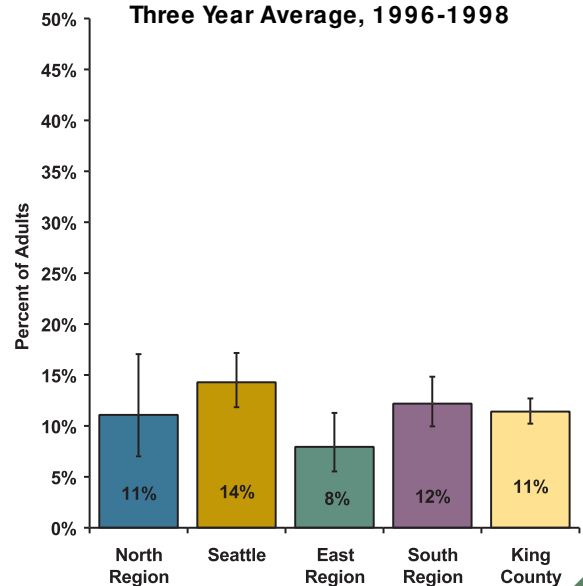
Most individuals and families today are unable to pay for the high cost of health care without an insurance policy that partially or fully covers the cost. Researchers have documented a relationship between lack of health insurance and increased risk of death and hospitalization from causes that may be preventable.

**Percent of Adults Age 18-64 Without Health Insurance
King County, Washington State, and United States
1991-1998**



- In 1998, the percent of adults under the age of 65 who did not have any health insurance coverage was higher for the United States overall (15%) than for both Washington State (13%) and King County (11%). Uninsured rates in Washington State declined from 1991 to 1998. There was no significant change in King County.
- Within King County, the highest uninsured rate was in Seattle (14%) and the lowest was in East Region (8%).
- From 1996-1998, 23% of King County adults age 18 to 24 lacked medical insurance, more than double the rate overall. 8% of children under 18 were not covered by insurance. This represents over 30,000 children in King County (data not shown).
- Medicare or other medical coverage is almost universal for those age 65 and older.

**Percent of Adults Age 18-64 Without Health Insurance, King County
Three Year Average, 1996-1998**

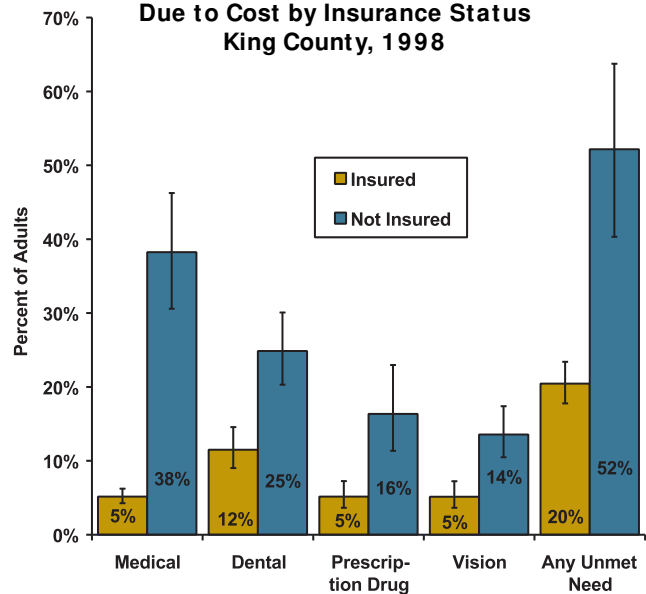


- From 1996 to 1998, 33% of King County adults under age 65 with incomes in the \$15,000 to \$24,999 range were uninsured. This figure has more than doubled since 1991, and is even higher than the uninsured rate for the lowest income group. 28% of those who make less than \$15,000 per year were uninsured. Only 3% of those with an income of \$50,000 or more lacked health insurance (data not shown).
- King County adults under age 65 with less education are also less likely to have medical insurance. 37.1% of those without a high school diploma lacked insurance, compared to only 6.0% of college graduates (data not shown).

- Adult males under age 65 (13.5%) were more likely to be uninsured than females (9.3% - data not shown).
- Many King County adults - including those over 65 - do not have coverage for other health services even if they are insured for physician services. Survey data from 1996 & 1998 indicated that on average 41% of adults lacked vision care insurance, 34% lacked dental care, 28% lacked mental health care, and 18% lacked prescription drug coverage (data not shown).

- King County adults who are uninsured are more likely to be unable to see a health care provider because the cost is prohibitive than those with insurance. Over 50% of uninsured adults report an unmet medical, dental, prescription drug, or vision care need within the past year.
- An unmet dental need is reported by one in four who did not have dental insurance, over twice that seen in those with dental coverage.
- On average, almost half of those respondents with an unmet need also say it has limited their activities for one or more days.

Percent of Adults Age 18+ With an Unmet Health Need in the Last 12 Months Due to Cost by Insurance Status King County, 1998



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on medical insurance coverage (e.g. for the services of a physician) and unmet medical needs are from the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Data on insurance coverage specifically for dental, mental health, vision, and prescription drug services are from the King County Access to Care Survey. Both are random telephone interview surveys of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older. Data on medical insurance coverage by age are from the Washington State Population Survey, 1998 (an all-ages telephone survey). The geographic boundaries of the King County subregions are defined by aggregating zip codes.

There are significant gaps in the mental health coverage data that may affect the validity of the results. About one third of respondents did not know if they had mental health coverage.

The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Community Strength

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Valued Conditions Expressed by King County Residents

- *Everyone feels included; no one is isolated. Neighbors know each other's names and get together often. A lot of talk between neighbors.*
- *People show respect for and interest in others who are of different ages, educational, social and ethnic backgrounds.*
- *Neighbors depend on each other: borrowing and lending, watching out for each other's children, homes, gardens, and pets. There is trust.*
- *People organize within the community/neighborhood: block watches, neighborhood directories and associations.*
- *People invest in the community: keeping it clean, organizing mentoring and other youth development activities, supporting public parks, libraries, community centers.*
- *People are informed and engaged in their community: volunteering, staying aware and well-informed of community issues, planning and attending community events.*
- *People are active participants in community events and the political process. They believe that what they do can make a difference in community life.*
- *Organizations and individuals provide financial support for the arts: music and arts programs in schools, public art in communities.*
- *People enjoy artwork and music: buy recordings and artwork of local musicians and artists and purchase books from locally-owned bookstores.*
- *People honor and show interest in the cultural/religious heritage of others.*
- *People share their common heritage and interests: language, religious observance or cultural practice. They have opportunities to gather with people who are like them.*
- *People of different generations frequently interact and do things together.*
- *Immigrants receive assistance to improve their knowledge of English. Immigrants are empowered in other ways—training, involvement in community organizations, etc.*
- *The impact of development and environmental degradation is not disproportionately felt by poor communities (the siting of and regulations for airports, freeways, landfills, toxic waste dumps, etc., is carried out so that health and economic impacts are not disproportionately felt by poor communities).*
- *Communities retain natural surroundings.*
- *There are many public places, well-maintained, for recreational use.*
- *People walk, bicycle or bus in order to obtain most of their daily needs.*
- *People trust in the police and courts to give fair treatment. Justice is delivered regardless of race/ethnicity, income, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation.*
- *There is diversity in neighborhoods: elderly and single people living among families, single family dwellings among multi-family dwellings; shops among residences, low cost housing among higher cost housing.*

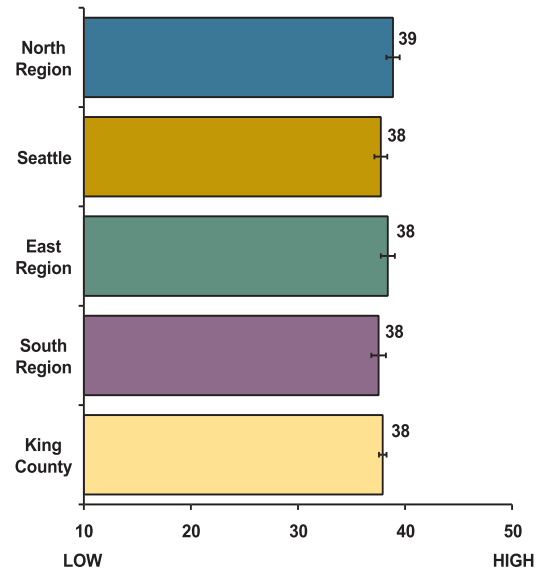
The valued conditions came from citizen opinion expressed as values and concerns in the telephone survey, focus groups, and in the civic and public forums. The valued conditions are expressed as "ideal" conditions—based on the vision of what residents want for themselves, their families and communities.

Neighborhood Social Cohesion

Social cohesion refers to mutual trust among neighbors combined with willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good. There is evidence that rates of violence are lower in neighborhoods with higher social cohesion.

- Social cohesion was measured by asking King County adults in a survey 5 questions about levels of trust in their neighborhood and 5 questions about the likelihood that their neighbors could be counted on to intervene in various problem situations. Answers to these 10 questions were added to create a social cohesion scale with a possible score between 10 (Low) and 50 (High).
- The average (mean) social cohesion score for adults in King County was 38. There were no significant differences in average social cohesion level by region.

**Average Level of Neighborhood Social Cohesion
King County, 1999**

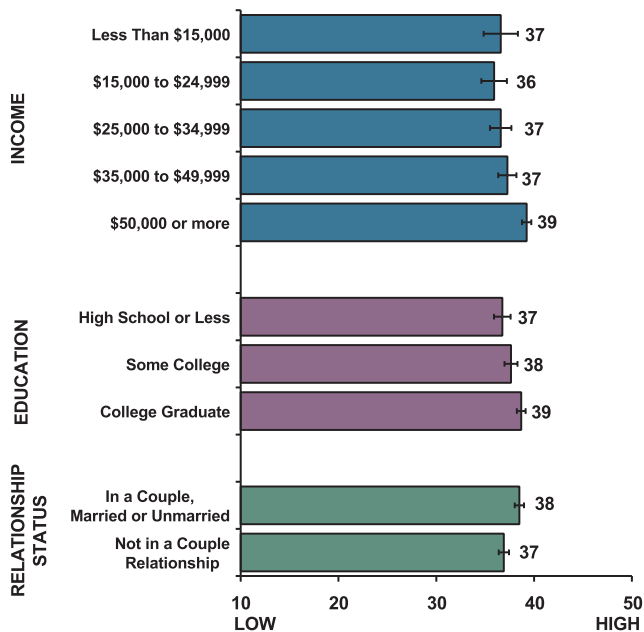


**Percent of Adults Who See High Social Cohesion (Trust and Control)
In Their Neighborhoods, King County, 1999**

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Percent Answering Strongly Agree or Agree				
	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...This is a close-knit neighborhood.	53%	54%	55%	55%	55%
...People in this neighborhood can be trusted.	85%	78%	77%	81%	79%
...People around here are willing to help their neighbors.	84%	83%	82%	79%	81%
...People in this neighborhood do not share the same values (reversed for scale).	18%	24%	16%	20%	20%
...People in this neighborhood generally don't get along with each other (reversed for scale).	5%	5%	6%	8%	6%

Would you say it is very likely, likely, unlikely, or very unlikely that your neighbors could be counted on to intervene or do something if:	Percent Answering Very Likely or Likely				
	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...children were skipping school and hanging out in the neighborhood?	65%	55%	65%	63%	61%
...children were spray-painting graffiti on something in the neighborhood?	89%	83%	89%	84%	85%
...children were showing disrespect to an adult?	66%	55%	62%	60%	59%
...a fight broke out in front of their house?	86%	79%	83%	83%	81%
...the fire station closest to their home was threatened with budget cuts?	65%	67%	65%	60%	64%

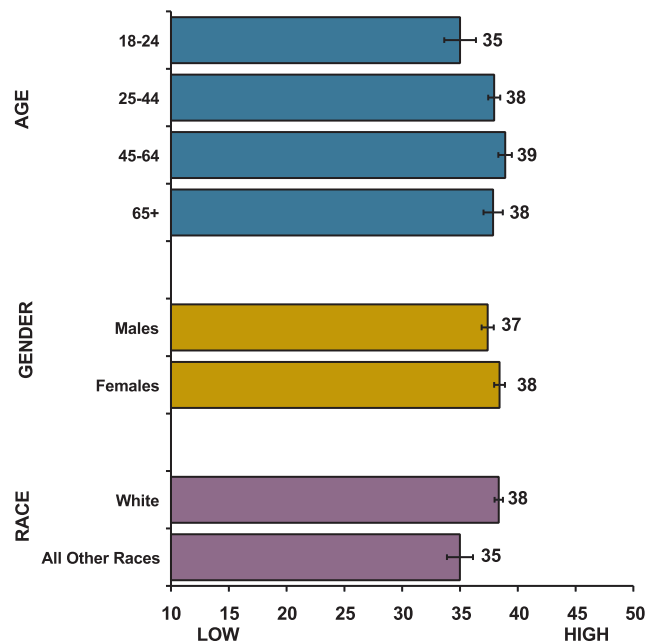
Average Level of Neighborhood Social Cohesion By Income, Education, and Relationship Status King County, 1999



- People with incomes of \$50,000 or higher report higher levels of social cohesion in their neighborhoods.
- People who have completed college report higher levels of cohesion than others with less education.
- People who have a couple relationship (either married or unmarried) see higher social cohesion than those who are separated, divorced, widowed or never married.

- People who are in the youngest age group (18-24 years), see less social cohesion in their neighborhoods than older residents.
- People who are white see more neighborhood social cohesion than people of other races. It is important to note that this measure is based on neighborhood level perceptions of cohesion and not cohesion within cultural or ethnic groups.

Average Level of Neighborhood Social Cohesion By Age, Gender, and Race King County, 1999



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

The neighborhood social cohesion measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999, which used questions on trust and informal social control from the study, "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy" (Robert J. Sampson, Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton).

All of the differences presented in text are statistically significant at 95% confidence interval.

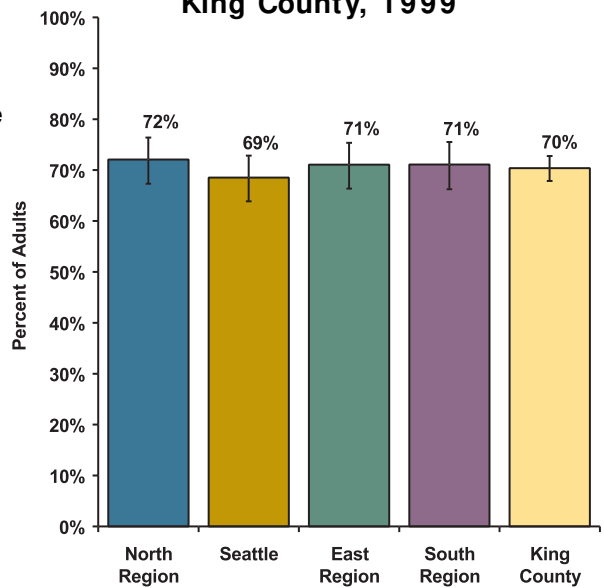
The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Involvement In Community Organizations

Communities are strong when many people are engaged in activities that benefit more than themselves as individuals. Working together for the common good of neighborhoods, faith communities, schools or a political cause creates civic responsibility and a sense of reciprocity.

- Involvement in Community Organizations was measured by asking King County adults how actively they had participated in 4 different types of activities in the past 12 months. The number of these activities was added for each respondent.
- In King County 70% of adults were “very active” or “somewhat active” in at least one activity.
- There was no significant difference in involvement levels by region of the County.
- Looking below at the 4 types of organizations, approximately 25% of King County adults were very active or somewhat active in a neighborhood organization and in a parent-teacher organization. Approximately 40% were very active or somewhat active in a religious or spiritual group and in a political, civic, arts, or youth development organization (see table below).

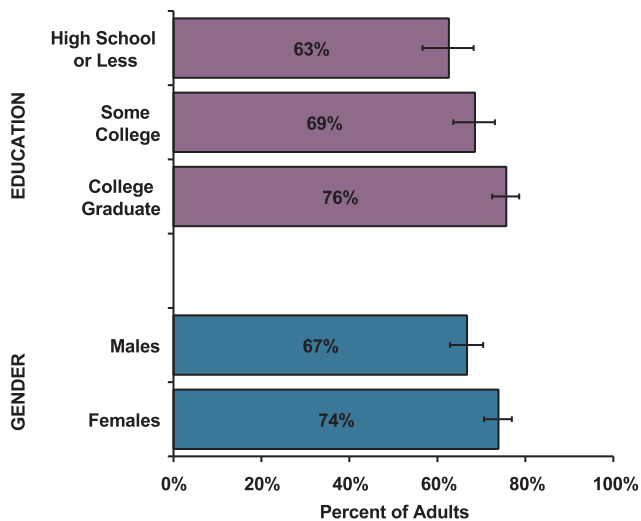
**Percent of Adults
Who are “Very or Somewhat” Active
in One or More Community
Organizations
King County, 1999**



**Percent of Adults Who Are “Very or Somewhat” Active
In Specific Community Organizations
King County, 1999**

In the past 12 months, how active have you been in:	North Region	Seattle	East Region	South Region	King County
...a neighborhood organization or block club (any type of group that exists for people right in your neighborhood)?	22%	23%	24%	21%	23%
...an organization in the larger community, such as a political group, a civic club such as Rotary or Kiwanis, a youth group such as the Scouts or youth sports, an arts group or others?	42%	41%	41%	36%	39%
...a parent-teacher organization?	23%	21%	24%	27%	24%
...a religious group or congregation?	47%	37%	46%	45%	43%

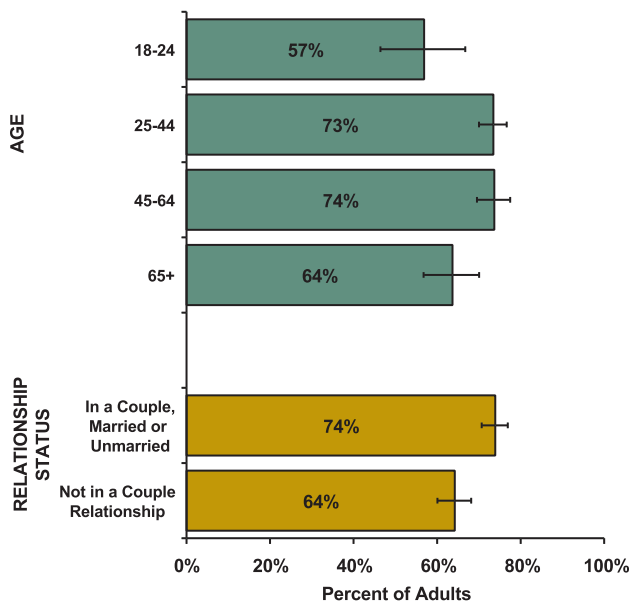
Percent Adults Who Are “Very or Somewhat” Active in One or More Community Organizations By Education and Gender King County, 1999



- People who have completed college are more involved in community organizations than those with less education.
- Women are more involved than men.

- Young adults age 18-24 years are less active than middle age residents.
- People who are part of a couple (either married or not) are more actively involved in community organizations than people who are separated, divorced, widowed, or never married.

Percent Adults Who Are “Very or Somewhat” Active in One or More Community Organizations By Age and Relationship Status King County, 1999



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

The involvement in community organizations measures are from the King County Community Health Survey, 1999.

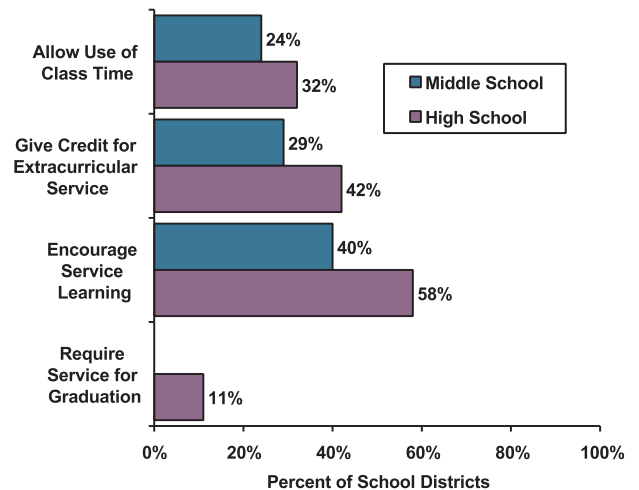
The limitations of an English-only telephone survey include the following: a) people who do not have a telephone are missed, b) people who do not speak English do not participate, c) people who have less education and lower incomes tend to be underrepresented.

Institutional Support for Community Service

Service to others and to the greater community is something most people value but not everyone participates in. The ethic of service—giving our time and talents for the sake of the common good—is developed within families, and is often reinforced in faith communities, youth organizations and schools. The demands of school and work, however, make it hard to find time for volunteer activities. If schools and employers are able to support service to the community, it is possible that more people, young and old, will participate.

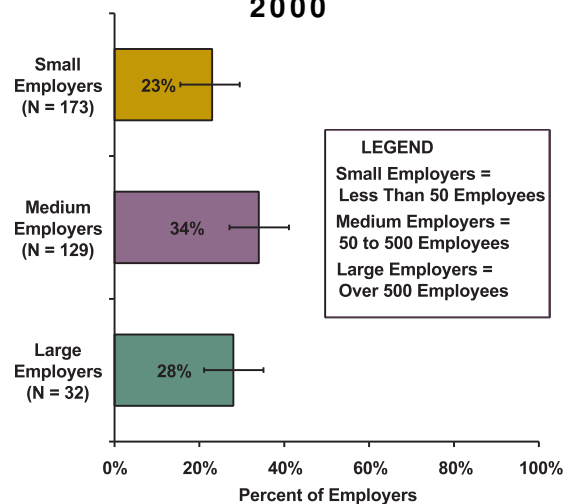
- In a survey of school administrators, less than half of King County public school districts reported that they have practices that support students in community service activities. About one third allow high school students to use class time for service activities. About 40% offer credit when high school students do extracurricular service activities. And only 11% (2 of the 19 districts) require community service for graduation.
- Almost 60% of the districts reported that they encourage their high school teachers to offer service learning opportunities as part of the curriculum.
- The practices of each school district are summarized on the following page.
- Private high schools were also surveyed and less than half (22 out of 53) responded. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of those responding allow students to use class time for service activities, 47% offer credit for service activities, 63% encourage service learning opportunities, and 55% require service for graduation.

Percent of King County's 19 School Districts That Encourage Service to the Community 2000

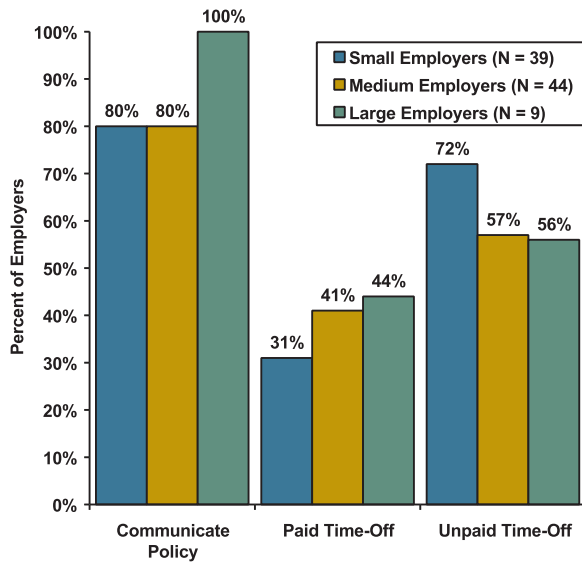


- In a survey of King County employers, fewer than 1 out of 3 employers reported that they have a formal policy regarding employee participation in community service.

Percent of King County's Employers With A Formal Community Service Policy 2000



Percent of King County Employers With Community Service Policy Who Communicate Policy to Employees and Allow Time Off, 2000



- Most companies with a formal policy communicate their policy to employees; but fewer allow time off, varying by the size of the organization. Only a third to a half allow paid time off and between half and three fourths allow employers to take unpaid time off for community service work.
- Auburn, Renton, and Highline school districts offer more support for their students to participate in community service activities, relative to other districts (Highline's practices vary by school). A few districts appear to have no practices that would encourage service activities.
- Seattle is the only district that requires community service as a requirement for high school graduation.

Policies/Practices of King County's 19 School Districts Regarding Service to the Community, 2000

School District	Allow Use of Class Time		Give Credit for Extracurricular Service		Encourage Service Learning		Require Service for Graduation
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School	High School
	Auburn	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Bellevue	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Enumclaw	-	yes	-	yes	no	yes	no
Federal Way	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Highline*	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes*	yes*	no
Issaquah	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Kent	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Lake Washington	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Mercer Island	no	no	no	no	-	yes	no
Northshore	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Renton	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Riverview	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Seattle	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes
Shoreline*	no	no	-	yes*	-	no	no*
Skykomish	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no
Snoqualmie Valley	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no
Tahoma	-	no	-	no	-	yes	no
Tukwila	no	no	no	no	-	yes	no
Vashon Island	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no
Total Positive Response	4	6	5	8	6	11	2
Total Responses	17	19	17	19	15	19	19
Percent Positive	24%	32%	29%	42%	40%	58%	11%

* These school districts had some schools give "yes" responses while others gave "no" responses.

Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

School data are from a 2000 mail survey sent to administrators in 19 public school districts and 53 private high schools, carried out by Carol Markham, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington.

Because support for community service may vary widely by schools within a district, there may be some inaccuracy in the reports provided by district level administrators.

Data from employers are from a 2000 telephone survey of King County employers in organizations of different sizes, carried out by David Sieminski, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, and United Way of King County.

Pollution in Neighborhoods

Everyone deserves a clean and healthy environment free from toxic pollutants. In recent years there has been a growing awareness that some communities bear a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution. Without direct measurement, it is difficult to determine the exact levels of pollution. However, the total pounds of toxic substances released into the air by major manufacturing facilities provides an estimate of the pollution burden in different communities.

Air Releases of All Reportable Toxic Chemicals King County, 1997

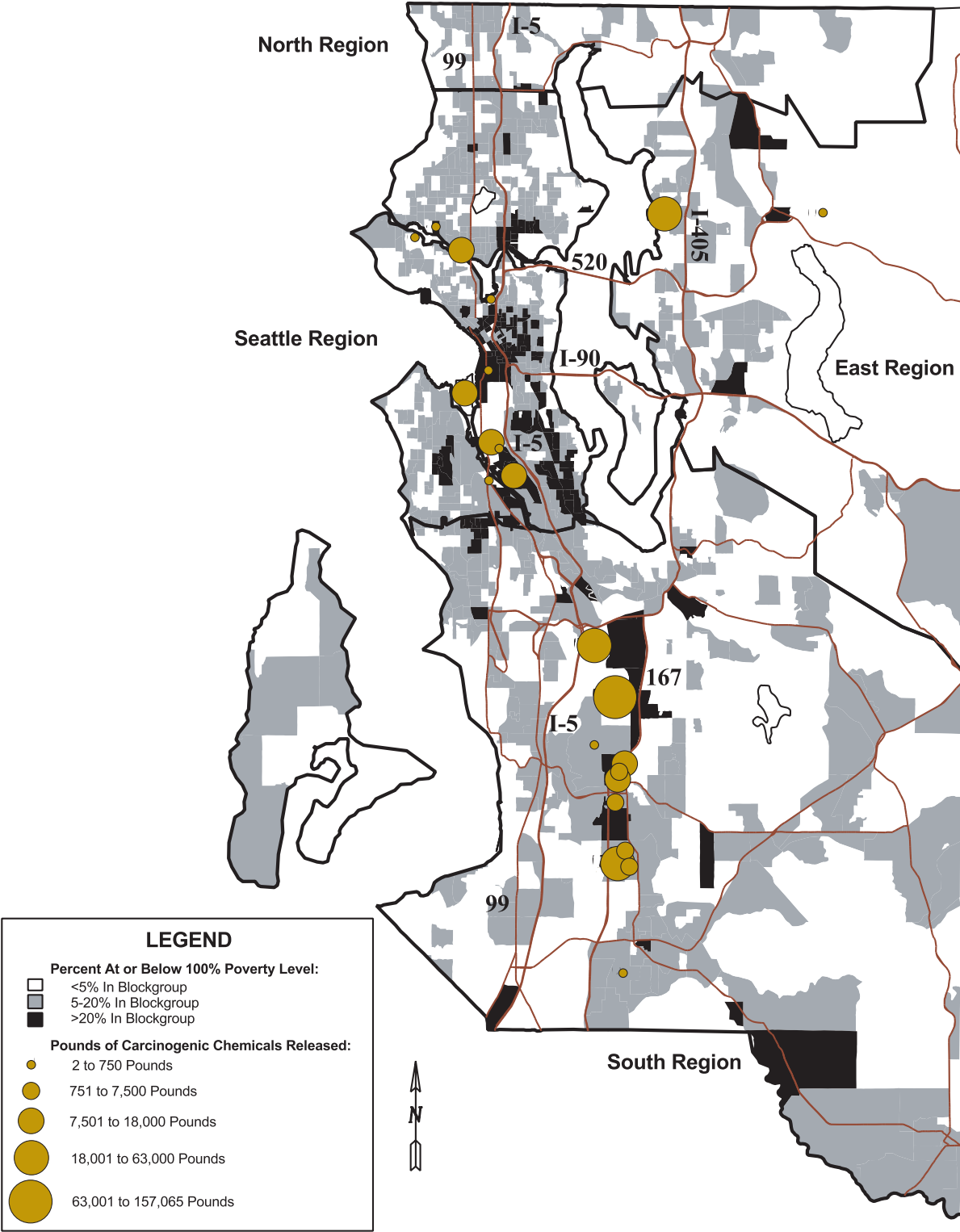
	Total Pounds Released	Percent of Total Pounds Released	Number of Facilities	Percent of Facilities	Total Population	Percent of Population
North Region	40,000	2%	2	3%	165,605	10%
Seattle	280,000	13%	28	43%	500,644	30%
East Region	350,000	16%	6	9%	368,655	22%
South Region	1,500,000	68%	29	45%	613,621	37%
King County	2,200,000	100%	65	100%	1,648,526	100%

Air Releases of Carcinogenic Chemicals King County, 1997

	Total Pounds Released	Percent of Total Pounds Released	Number of Facilities	Percent of Facilities	Total Population	Percent of Population
North Region	0	0%	0	0%	165,605	10%
Seattle	50,000	12%	10	43%	500,644	30%
East Region	54,000	13%	2	9%	368,655	22%
South Region	300,000	73%	11	48%	613,621	37%
King County	410,000	100%	23	100%	1,648,526	100%

- The tables above show the total amount of substances of any toxicity, and the total amount of carcinogenic substances, that major manufacturing facilities in King County released to the air in 1997. The totals are broken down by the region where the facilities that release them are located.
- For comparison, the tables also show the relative size of the population in each region. However, no attempt has been made to link facility location with population density, so there is no way to estimate the level of exposure of people living in the different regions. These data are meant to be descriptive only. A more thorough geospatial analysis would be required to determine who is at greatest risk from exposure to toxic air pollution.
- There were a total of 2.2 million pounds of toxic chemicals released into the air by major manufacturing facilities in King County in 1997 alone. Of those, 410,000 pounds were of potentially carcinogenic substances.
- The majority of these facilities are located in either Seattle or South Region.
- 68% of all pounds of toxics released in King County were from facilities in South Region.
- The map on the following page shows the locations of just those facilities that released cancer-causing substances in 1997, as well as the poverty level of all census block-groups in King County. The map suggests that certain areas of South Region and Seattle are much more heavily impacted by air releases of carcinogenic substances than the rest of the county.

Air Releases of Carcinogenic Chemicals, By Poverty Level of Census Blockgroup King County, 1997



Data Source, Definition, and Limitations

Data on air releases of toxic chemicals are from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 1997 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). Manufacturing facilities that meet certain criteria must report chemical releases to the environment under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. The Toxic Release Inventory is a public database containing this information. "Air releases" include both routine and accidental emissions. Carcinogenicity of specific chemicals is determined by EPA. Poverty data are from the 1990 U.S. Census. Although these data are older than the TRI data, it is the most recent year of poverty data by census tract available. The four subregions of King County are defined by aggregating census tracts.

TRI data is limited for several reasons: 1) it relies on self reporting of estimated releases (not direct measurement) by the polluter, 2) only those substances which are on the TRI list of over 600 toxic chemicals must be reported, and 3) it doesn't include toxic releases from smaller businesses (such as dry cleaners and gas stations) or mobile pollution sources, such as motor vehicle traffic.

We have only shown toxic releases to the air because they represent the majority of environmental releases in King County, and are the most likely route of exposure for the surrounding communities. However, because the chemicals released are not uniformly distributed within the census blockgroup or region in which they were released, not everyone living in proximity to the facility is exposed to the same degree. Furthermore, in calculating the total pounds released, we have made no distinction between chemicals of varying toxicity. Some types of releases are more dangerous than others.

Release estimates are only considered reliable to two significant digits, so all figures have been rounded. For this reason, region subtotals may not add up to the King County total.

Ease of Access To Shops and Services

Easy, quick trips to grocery and drug stores and access to services at health clinics, libraries, senior centers, etc., make people's daily life less stressful. Being able to reach shops and services on foot, bike, or short bus ride may free up time for more important or satisfying activities and help to reduce automobile congestion on freeways and more local highways and streets.

No data have been found to measure this indicator.

