

# 2020 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

*The State of Kitsap County*



This assessment presents data collection, analysis, and findings of the needs of low-income Kitsap County residents and the availability of resources to meet those needs.



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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### **EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY**

### **HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

### **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

This 2020 Comprehensive Community Assessment was completed using information compiled from various datasets, reports, organizations, and individuals. It is meant to highlight and provide insight into the current and emerging issues affecting individuals experiencing life at the lower spectrum of the economic scale in Kitsap County.

Special thanks to:

- Kari Hunter and the Kitsap Health District for their presentation and interpretation of key community data through the most recent Public Health Indicators Report.
- Kitsap Interagency Coordinating Council - Head Start/ECEAP Partnership in their 2020 Update to the 2017 Comprehensive Community Assessment
- WSCAP (Washington State Community Action Partnership) “data hub”.
- Governor Inslee’s Poverty Reduction Task Force statistics and information.
- Kitsap County Human Services, School system and cities across Kitsap County that provide data as resources to the public.
- County and City CSBG and CDBG funding partners including Department of Commerce.
- Community leaders, public at large and KCR Board and committee members who shared community perspectives used throughout this assessment.

For online access to this 2020 Community Needs Assessment, please visit the Kitsap Community Resources website at [www.kcr.org](http://www.kcr.org).

Yours truly,

The KCR Community Assessment Team

*Jeff Alevy – KCR Executive Director*

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## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As a Community Action Agency - or CAA - created in 1965 under President Johnson's war on poverty, Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) is devoted to addressing the root causes of poverty by providing programs that promote hope and opportunity while leading to self-sufficiency for residents who are experiencing low-income lives. Community Action believes ending generational poverty and inequity is the right thing to do.

A comprehensive community assessment such as this one is completed by KCR every three years. It is designed to highlight the gaps in service and/or policy in our county, specifically as they pertain to the community that experience low-income. It also helps to inform and guide our strategic plan.

Addressing issues around poverty is a complex process. Kirsten Jewell, Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Program Coordinator expressed it best when describing homelessness and affordable housing; "...solutions include political will, financial resources, organizational capacity and community support." KCR acknowledges and appreciates the many human service organizations in our county that passionately address the poverty issue every day.

Our hope is that this needs assessment will serve as an educational piece for agencies such as KCR to better understand the challenging issues our community faces and ultimately aid in creating effective solutions.

Thank you for your support.

Yours truly, *Jeff*

Jeff Alevy  
Executive Director  
Kitsap Community Resources





***KCR's Vision...***

*"Be a community in which everyone has an opportunity to thrive."*

***KCR's Mission...***

*"We create hope and opportunity for low-income Kitsap County residents by providing resources that promote self-sufficiency and stability."*

***KCR's Core Values...***

***Integrity*** – We honor commitments in an ethical manner.

***Equity*** – We offer services tailored to the needs of the individual.

***Compassion*** – We genuinely empathize with those we serve.

***Excellence*** – We demonstrate high performance in everything we do.

***Diversity*** – We honor and respect all individuals without bias.

***Collaboration*** – We seek out partnerships and collaboration opportunities in our community.

***Teamwork*** – We support our employees as partners in achieving our mission.

## KCR and Community Action

As part of the Economic Opportunity Act, Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) was established in 1965 to address the social and human challenges faced by those living in poverty in Kitsap County. As a Community Action agency, KCR has developed a number of programs over the years to meet the specific needs of Kitsap County's low-income population.

In 2019, KCR services impacted the lives of more than 15,000 Kitsap County residents. These services were offered through its 13 sites in Bremerton, Poulsbo, Silverdale and Port Orchard. (Note that not all services are available at all sites). The primary services offered by KCR include:

- Housing and Homeless Services
- Energy Assistance and Weatherization
- Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) nutrition program
- AmeriCorps national and community service
- Financial Education, Business Education, and Employment and Training
- Veterans Assistance
- Food Preparation for meal programs

Over the course of KCR's 51 year history, the community assessment process has led KCR to take a lead role in helping to create or support many of the critical safety net programs in our community including establishing several local food banks, forming the first community health center, providing legal services and establishing some of the community's first emergency shelters.

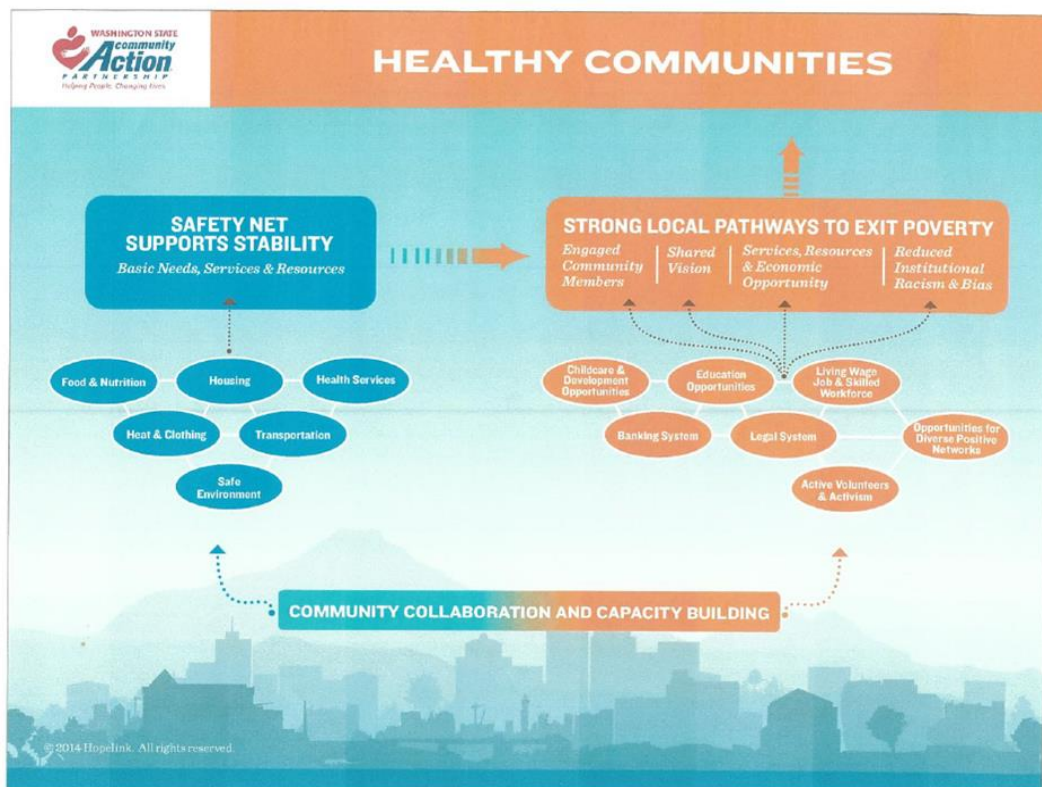
Today, Kitsap County is fortunate to have a strong network of providers who cooperate and coordinate in addressing community challenges. Major non-profit providers include KCR, Kitsap Mental Health Services, Peninsula Community Health Services as well as government funded and private housing providers such as the Bremerton Housing Authority, Housing Kitsap, the Kitsap Public Health District, a network of area food banks, domestic violence and emergency shelter providers. These organizations work in collaborative manner with government organizations including Kitsap County Department of Human Services, the Veterans Administration, Olympic College, local school districts, law enforcement, and municipalities. The amount of services are often not sufficient to meet the needs of the community. The success of service providers going forward will be largely contingent on organizational capacity and access to funding in order to fully execute their strategies.

## Community Action Theory of Change

To demonstrate the goals and objectives of KCR services within the community, we have adopted the Washington State Community Action Partnership Theory of Change, displayed below. As you can see, the heart of community action agency programs and services, including KCR, are designed to help to foster healthy communities. What distinguishes community action agencies from other service providers is that KCR's mission is not simply focused on addressing a single community need; rather, we help support the overall health of the community by promoting both a comprehensive safety net as well as ensuring there are pathways to exit poverty.

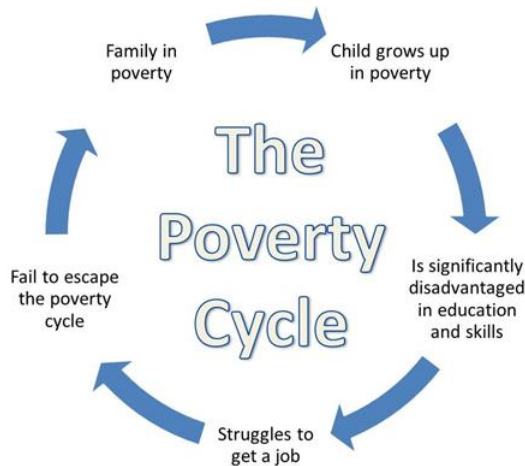
Bringing this about requires two primary types of services. First, KCR services help program participants achieve stability through the provision of basic needs including housing and shelter, food, heat, and a safe home environment. With improved stability, the harmful effects of poverty are mitigated for all family members and the household is now more likely to be in a better position to take steps to move out of poverty.

Second, individuals are provided opportunities to make positive changes in their lives. KCR facilitates the process of clients learning how to navigate "the system" and helping themselves. To that end, KCR provides programs that promote early childhood development and education, access to living wage jobs, budgeting and financial education, and the opportunity to build positive social networks. KCR recognizes it's not alone in this transformation. The key to building healthy communities is through community engagement, collaboration and partnerships.





KCR works hand in hand with community partners to break the “cycle of poverty” among those who experience low incomes.



## Interviews and Focus Groups

KCR conducted interviews with a variety of groups including public citizens and professionals representing the education, business, non-profit, civic club, low income, and board and government sectors.

Questions asked include:

- When you consider the state of our community, in your opinion what are the top three needs you see for our community?
- What do you believe are the top three challenges specifically facing low-income persons in this community?
- Could you think of 1 to 3 actions that service providers such as KCR could take to address each of these challenges?
- Briefly share any other thoughts, suggestions, or ideas you may have on how to best address these challenging needs in our community.

In general, the feedback received showed a strong correlation to the results of the Kitsap County Community Health Priorities Summary 2019.

Major themes that emerged include:

1. Affordable Housing and Homelessness
2. Mental Health Needs
3. Poverty and Living Wages
4. Substance Abuse
5. Access to Transportation



## Snapshot of Kitsap County

Covering 395 square miles, Kitsap County, Washington is the 36th-largest county (out of 39) in Washington by area. According to the most recent data, the population of Kitsap County is estimated at 270,100 a 16.4% increase since 2000, comprising 105,411 total households. Kitsap County is the third most densely populated county in the State of Washington, only behind King and Clark Counties.

Demographics include:

- 81.7% of the population is white followed by
- 7.2% made up of two or more races
- 4.8% are Asian
- 2.5% are African American
- 1.9% are one other race alone
- 1.1% are American Indian or Alaska Native and
- 0.8% are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Based on a 2018 update from the U.S. Census Bureau:

- The median age in Kitsap County is 39.1 and increasingly aging.
- The poverty rate at 12.6% is close to Washington State's rate. The number of people experiencing poverty has increased from 24,190 to 34,032 due to a fast growing population. Also, with several incorporated – and non-incorporated – areas of the county, there exists a vast difference in poverty rates across the county depending on specific location. For example, the City of Bremerton experiences a poverty rate three times the county average.

It is important to note that true poverty rates are understated because the U.S. Census Bureau relies on Federal charts which are not reflective of the real income necessary to support basic needs, including significantly higher healthcare costs. For example, in 2020 the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four is \$25,750.

- It's estimated that 6.5% of the county's population is foreign born and 7% of households speak a language other than English at home. Spanish is the most common spoken language other than English and though it's difficult to count, it is estimated there are 400+- undocumented immigrants living in Kitsap County.
- There is a large military presence in Kitsap County with veterans representing 17.5% of the total population. With Navy shipyards and submarine bases in the county, military personnel have a noticeable effect on the supply, demand and even pricing in the housing rental and sale market.

- According to recent data from Windermere Real Estate’s chief economist, real estate values rose almost 11% in 2017, 3.5% in 2018 and was forecast to rise 7% in 2019. In addition to the military presence, a significant factor fueling growth (and real estate prices) is that more and more of the Seattle based workforce is relocating here due to more affordable housing than in Seattle and are resigned to commute by ferry every day to their jobs across the Sound.
- It’s estimated the home ownership rate in Kitsap County is 66.8% of households. The median rent has now increased to \$1,400 per month and continues to rise. This is fueling a challenging environment resulting in lack of temporary shelters and housing options for those experiencing homelessness and low income. In Bremerton alone, it’s estimated that 243 multi-family housing units need to be built each year for the next three years just to satisfy today’s demand. This doesn’t include the anticipated influx of people expected to be hired in the near future due to the Navy’s recent announcement of a \$5 Billion renovation to the local shipyards coming soon.
- While median household income continues to slowly rise to \$68,336 in 2018, the class of people known as the “working poor” who cannot make enough wages to afford the rising cost of housing continues to increase.

## **COUNTY PROFILE**

### **Geographic Location**

Kitsap County is located in the central Puget Sound region of Washington State. It occupies most of the Kitsap Peninsula, including both Bainbridge and Blake Islands, and is bounded by Puget Sound on the east and north, Hood Canal on the west, and Mason and Pierce Counties on the south. It has a land mass of 395 square miles and approximately 250 miles of saltwater shoreline. Kitsap County ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in geographical size and 7<sup>th</sup> in population size among Washington counties in 2019.

### **Population Size and Change**

The 2019 total population of Kitsap County is estimated to be 270,100, which is about 3.6% of the total Washington State population. The County population has increased 16.4% since 2000 with an average increase of 0.8% per year. From 2018 to 2019, the population grew 1.1%. From 2000 to 2018, growth was due to both natural change (i.e. more births than deaths; just over half (52%) of the increase in population was due to natural change) and to migration into the County. During the same timeframe, the Washington State population has seen a 28.0% increase, with less than half (42%) being due to natural change and the remainder (58%) due to migration into the state.

## Population by Region

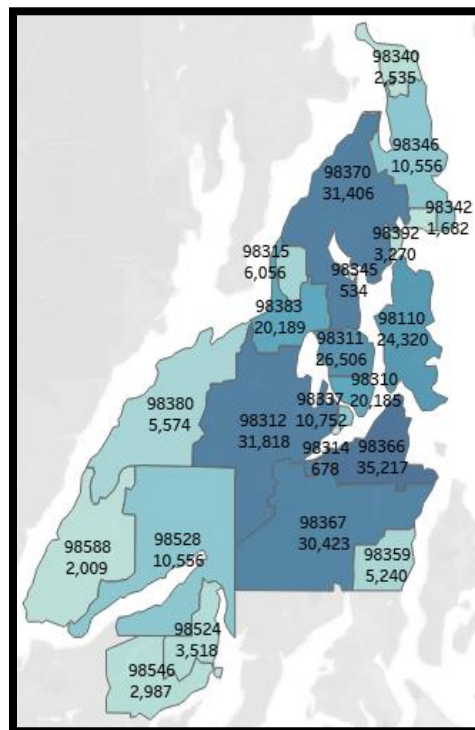
There are four incorporated cities, which together comprise 34% of the total 2019 population. Port Orchard has been the fastest growing city since 2000, followed by Poulsbo.

Unincorporated areas accounted for 47% of Kitsap County's total growth since 2000 but only 42% since 2010.

## Population Change over Time, Kitsap County: 2000, 2010, and 2019

	Census 2000	Census 2010	Estimate 2019	% of Total 2019	Change since 2000	Change since 2010
<b>Total</b>	<b>231,969</b>	<b>251,133</b>	<b>270,100</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Unincorporated</b>	<b>159,896</b>	<b>170,022</b>	<b>177,930</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Incorporated</b>	<b>72,073</b>	<b>81,111</b>	<b>92,170</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Bainbridge Island	20,308	23,025	24,520	9%	21%	6%
Bremerton	37,259	37,729	42,080	16%	13%	12%
Port Orchard	7,693	11,157	14,390	5%	87%	29%
Poulsbo	6,813	9,200	11,180	4%	64%	22%

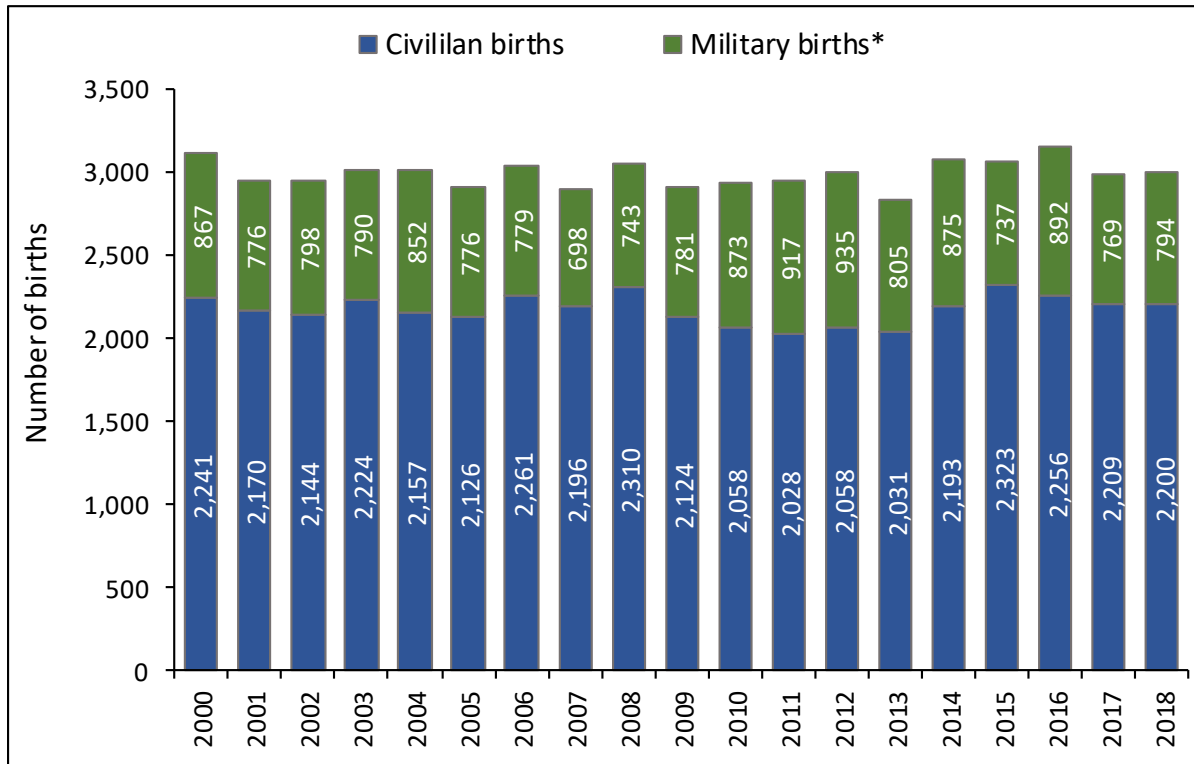
## Population by ZIP Code, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2018



Since 2000, births to Kitsap County resident women have remained relatively stable, with an average of 2,988 per year. Generally, a little more than a quarter of births each year are military

births (i.e., births to women who are military members, married to a military member or delivered in a federal hospital). The average from 2000 to 2018 was 27.2%; in 2018 26.5% (794) of 2,994 births were military births.

### Births to Resident Women by Military Status, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2018



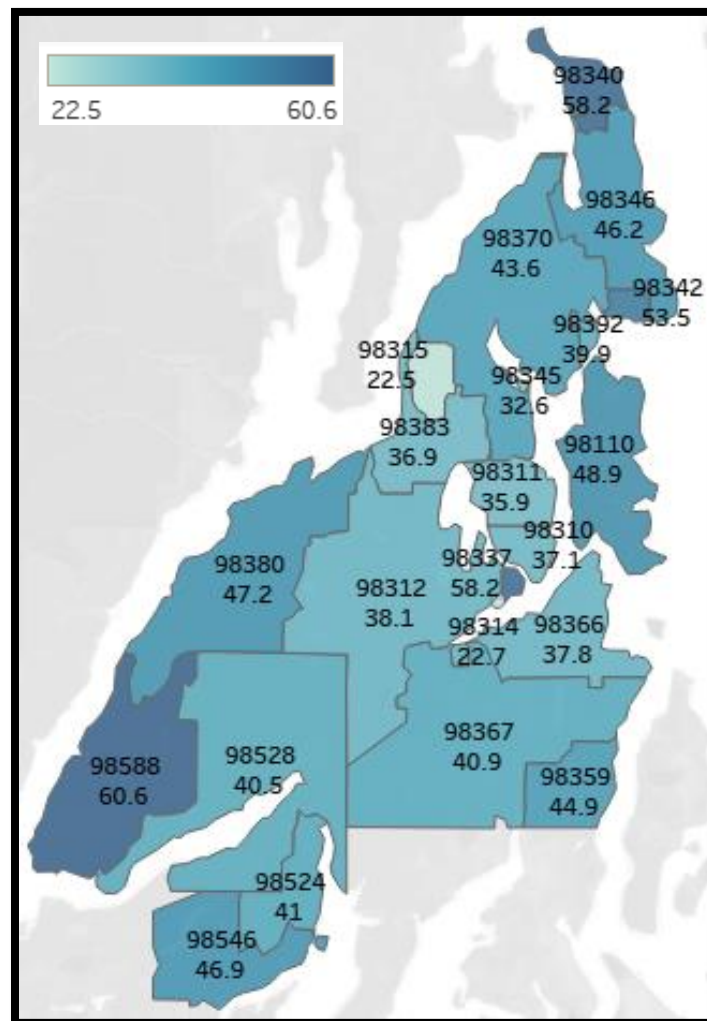
\*Military births = births in a federal hospital, typically by active military members, military spouses and dependents

### Population by Age

Median age is the age at which half of the residents are older and half are younger. Median age gives a quick indication of how old or young a population is relative to other similar populations. While the median age in 1980 was 29 years in Kitsap County, it increased to 39 years in 2018, illustrating the aging of our population. Kitsap's median age was higher than the 2018 Washington State median of 38 years. Looking at regions of the county, Bainbridge Island has the oldest median age in Kitsap at 48.9 years, followed by North Kitsap (43.5 years), South Kitsap (39.4 years), Bremerton (35.5 years) and Central Kitsap (34.4 years).

However, the ZIP Codes with the oldest median ages are found in North Kitsap in 98340 (58 years) and 98342 (53½ years), while the ZIP Codes with the youngest median ages are found in Bremerton in 98314 (23 years) and 98315 (22½ years). 98588 (Tahuya) has the oldest median age in North Mason County (61) and an older median age than any ZIP Code in Kitsap County. The table shows the median age by ZIP Code throughout Kitsap County and N. Mason County.

### Median Age by ZIP Code, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2014-18



The age distribution in Kitsap County has changed dramatically over the past 3 ½ decades, with a growing aging population. The county population growth has been predominantly among the older age groups. The number of residents 50 years or older increased 83% from 2000 to 2018 and now account for 42% of the population, whereas those under age 50 decreased 9%. In particular, the 55-74-year-old group has more than doubled (125% increase) since 2000, and now represents more than a quarter (27%) of the population.

Since 2000, the 20-29 year-old age group has also increased, although to a lesser degree. Men of the 20-29 age group have increased 39%, while women have only increased 2%.

### Estimated Child Population by Age Group and School District Region, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2014-18

	Bainbridge Island School District (98110)	Bremerton School District	Central Kitsap School District	North Kitsap School District	South Kitsap School District	North Mason School District
Total population (all ages)	24,060	47,599	72,872	49,440	68,447	15,280
Child population (17 and under)*	5,757	7,677	16,105	9,821	14,955	2,748
# under 3 years	637	1,533	2,927	1,205	2,471	439
# at 3 and 4 years	547	1,166	2,080	889	1,700	223
# at 5 years	303	662	1,033	545	728	210
# at 6 to 8 years	1,137	1,125	2,567	1,588	2,655	505
# at 9 to 11 years	1,128	1,326	2,623	1,747	2,321	364
# at 12 to 14 years	945	715	2,342	1,893	2,598	628
# at 15 to 17 years	1,060	1,150	2,533	1,954	2,482	379
Percentage of child population						
% under 3 years	11%	20%	18%	12%	17%	16%
% at 3 and 4 years	10%	15%	13%	9%	11%	8%
% at 5 years	5%	9%	6%	6%	5%	8%
% at 6 to 8 years	20%	15%	16%	16%	18%	18%
% at 9 to 11 years	20%	17%	16%	18%	16%	13%
% at 12 to 14 years	16%	9%	15%	19%	17%	23%
% at 15 to 17 years	18%	15%	16%	20%	17%	14%

\* Excludes those in group quarters; only children living in households are included.

Looking at the population by ZIP Code, people residing in 98315 (Bangor) have the highest percentage of children under age 18 (27% of the population), followed by 98110 (Bainbridge Island, 24%) and 98392 (Suquamish, 23%). The table shows the estimated child population by age group in each ZIP Code in Kitsap County (5-year estimate for 2014-18). More than half of the children under age 18 living in 98380 (Seabeck, 62%) and 98315 (Bangor, 51%) are ages 0 to 5, while more than 40% of the children in 98310 (East Bremerton, 45%), 98312 (West Bremerton, 41%) and 98337 (Bremerton, 47%) are ages 0 to 5.

### Estimated Child Population by Age Group and ZIP Code Region, Kitsap County, Bremerton and Central Kitsap: 2014-18

	East Bremerton 98310	West Bremerton 98312	Bremerton 98314	Bremerton 98337
Bremerton				
Total population (all ages)	20,934	31,380	2,353	7,039
Child population (17 and under)*	3,633	6,203	32	1,011
# under 3 years	732	1,187	n<10	248
# at 3 and 4 years	593	935	n<10	173
# at 5 years	302	429	n<10	50
# at 6 to 8 years	572	864	n<10	96
# at 9 to 11 years	728	943	n<10	122
# at 12 to 14 years	312	907	n<10	93
# at 15 to 17 years	394	938	n<10	229
Percentage of child population				
% under 3 years	20%	19%	--	25%
% at 3 and 4 years	16%	15%	--	17%
% at 5 years	8%	7%	--	5%
% at 6 to 8 years	16%	14%	--	9%
% at 9 to 11 years	20%	15%	--	12%
% at 12 to 14 years	9%	15%	--	9%
% at 15 to 17 years	11%	15%	--	23%

	Silverdale 98311	Silverdale 98315	Silverdale 98383	Seabeck 98380
Central Kitsap				
Total population (all ages)	27,856	6,336	21,301	4,288
Child population (17 and under)*	6,057	1,708	4,391	760
# under 3 years	1,126	387	577	217
# at 3 and 4 years	545	364	510	124
# at 5 years	426	118	210	129
# at 6 to 8 years	1,134	291	662	90
# at 9 to 11 years	1,014	292	841	30
# at 12 to 14 years	871	115	734	50
# at 15 to 17 years	941	141	857	120
Percentage of child population				
% under 3 years	19%	23%	13%	29%
% at 3 and 4 years	9%	21%	12%	16%
% at 5 years	7%	7%	5%	17%
% at 6 to 8 years	19%	17%	15%	12%
% at 9 to 11 years	17%	17%	19%	4%
% at 12 to 14 years	14%	7%	17%	7%
% at 15 to 17 years	16%	8%	20%	16%

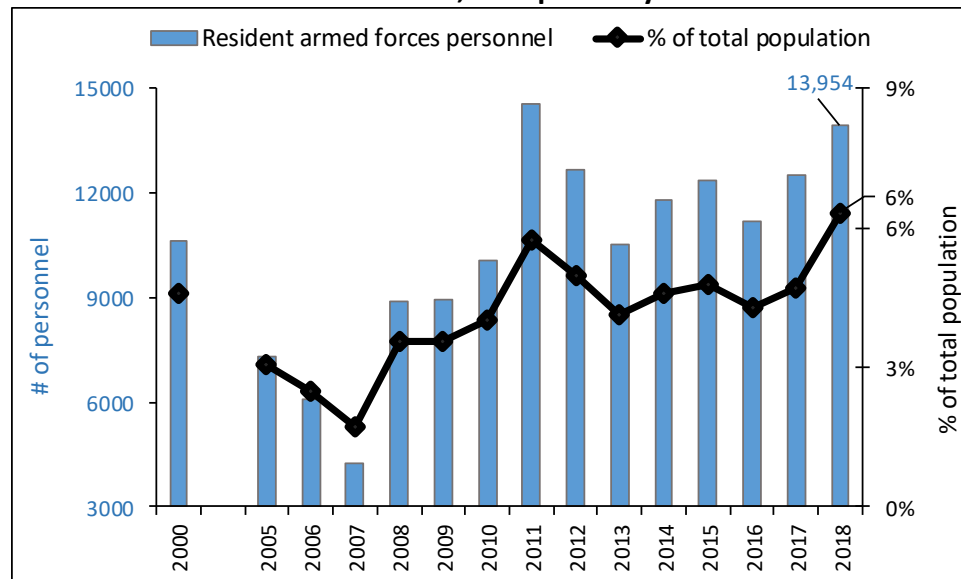


## Military Population

Kitsap County is home to Naval Base Kitsap, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bangor Naval Submarine Base, and Bangor Trident Base and therefore has a large military population which accounts for thousands of families in the area. The population of resident armed forces personnel (i.e. active duty military personnel, excluding dependents) in Kitsap County increased 48% from 2008 to 2018. An estimated 13,954 military personnel resided in Kitsap County during 2018, or about 6% of the total population.

In addition, the Navy is the largest employer in the county. In 2018, the Department of Defense employed approximately 33,800 military members, civilian employees and defense contract workers collectively at Naval Base Kitsap (including Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Naval Undersea Warfare Center-Keyport Division, the U.S. Navy Manchester Fuel Depot and Naval Hospital Bremerton). The military population fluctuates dramatically as Navy ships depart and arrive in Bremerton. Despite the fluctuations, the military population accounts for thousands of families in the area, and as previously mentioned, a substantial proportion of births are to military women.

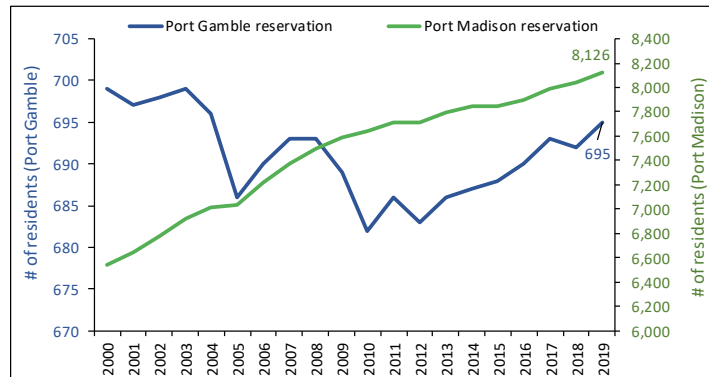
**Resident Armed Forces Personnel, Kitsap County: 2000 and 2005 to 2018**



## Tribal Population

There are two American Indian Reservations in Kitsap County; the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is associated with the Port Gamble Reservation and the Suquamish Tribe is associated with the Port Madison Reservation. The 2019 estimated resident population on the Port Gamble Reservation is 695 and on the Port Madison Reservation is 8,126. Since 2010, this represents 2% growth for Port Gamble and 6% growth for Port Madison. These estimates may include non-tribal members living on the reservation and are not limited by race. Similarly, these estimates do not capture tribal members living outside the reservations.

### Residents Living on American Indian Tribal Reservations, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2019



As of September 2012, there were 1,234 enrolled tribal members in the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, over half of which reside on the reservation. Many others live adjacent to the reservation. As of January 2019, the Port Gamble S’Klallam tribe has grown to 1,313 members.

### Race/Ethnicity

Kitsap County has a proportionally larger non-Hispanic White population (76%) than Washington State (68%). The county’s non-Hispanic White proportion has declined since 2000 when it comprised 83% of the total population. Hispanics are the now largest minority group (7%) in Kitsap County, having doubled in size since 2000.

### Race/Ethnicity, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2018

Racial/Ethnic Group	Kitsap County	Washington State
White (non-Hispanic)	76%	68%
Black (non-Hispanic)	3%	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	2%	1%
Asian (non-Hispanic)	5%	9%
Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	1%	1%
Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	6%	4%
Hispanic *	7%	13%

\* Includes mixed racial/ethnic Hispanics, including White-Hispanic, Black-Hispanic, and any others who identify as Hispanic.

The distribution of minority groups differs throughout the county. In the Bremerton and Central Kitsap regions, more than 1 in every 4 persons are of a minority race or ethnicity. In 2018, Hispanics represented the largest minority population groups in all school district regions except for Central Kitsap, where the largest minority group was those of Asian race.

The Hispanic category includes all people identifying as Hispanic, including those identifying as mixed racial/ethnic, such as White-Hispanic.

### Estimated Populations by School District & Race/Ethnicity, Kitsap County and N. Mason 2018

	Bainbridge Island		Bremerton		Central Kitsap	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	24,320		48,033		72,137	
White*	21,042	86.5%	32,670	68.0%	51,217	71.0%
Black*	120	0.5%	2,956	6.2%	2,670	3.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native*	110	0.5%	713	1.5%	626	0.9%
Asian*	915	3.8%	2,714	5.7%	6,335	8.8%
Pacific Islander*	54	0.2%	613	1.3%	850	1.2%
Two or more races*	990	4.1%	3,421	7.1%	4,666	6.5%
Hispanic**	1,089	4.5%	4,945	10.3%	5,773	8.0%
	North Kitsap		South Kitsap		North Mason	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	49,680		72,590		15,830	
White*	40,164	80.8%	58,062	80.0%	13,318	84.1%
Black*	432	0.9%	1,344	1.9%	103	0.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native*	1,552	3.1%	702	1.0%	171	1.1%
Asian*	1,666	3.4%	2,906	4.0%	274	1.7%
Pacific Islander*	159	0.3%	895	1.2%	61	0.4%
Two or more races*	2,402	4.8%	3,965	5.5%	684	4.3%
Hispanic**	3,305	6.7%	4,714	6.5%	1,221	7.7%

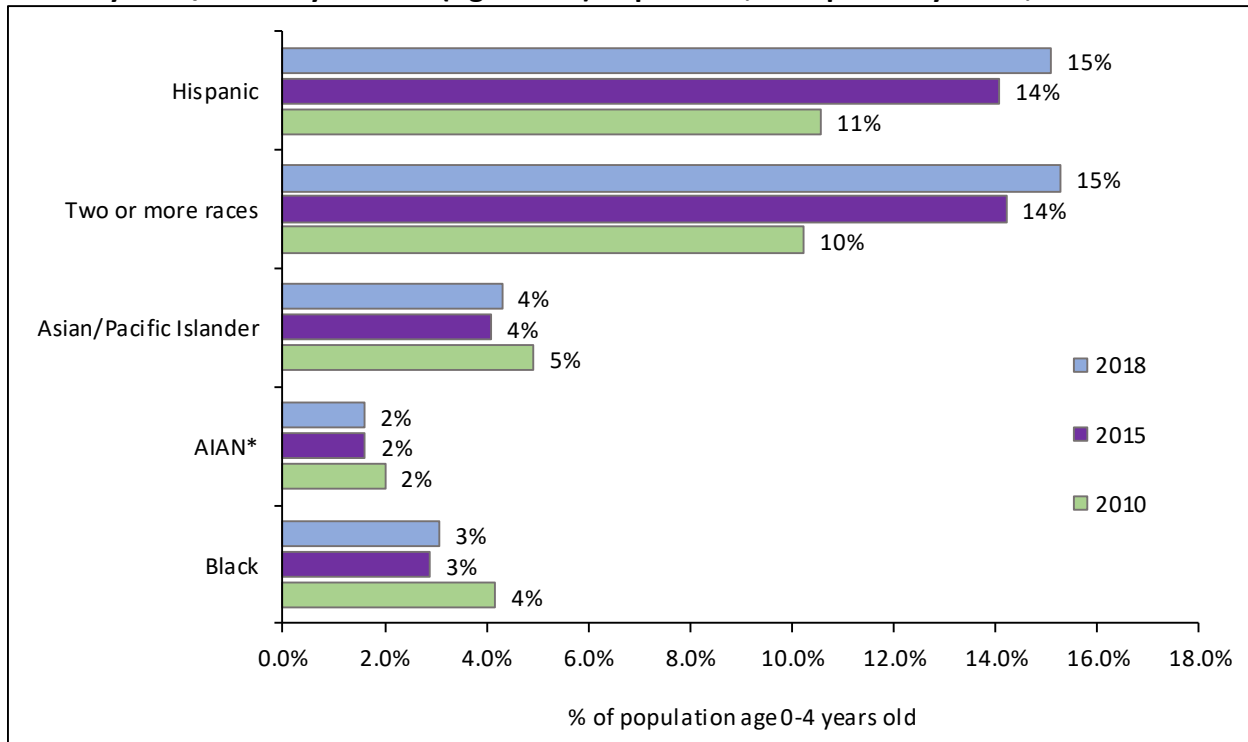
\* Includes non-Hispanic only.

\*\* Includes mixed racial/ethnic Hispanics, including White-Hispanic, Black-Hispanic, and any others who identify as Hispanic.

### Racial and Ethnic Composition

The child population age 0 to 4 years has become more racially diverse in recent years, with the proportion of non-Hispanic White children decreasing from 68% in 2010 to an estimated 61% in 2018. During the same timeframe, the Hispanic child population has grown substantially (40% change – more than any other single minority race), climbing from only 11% and to 15%. This proportion is greater than among the adult population (ages 20+ years), which was only 6% Hispanic in 2018. Similarly, the overall proportion of Hispanics (all ages) is only 7% – only half that of the proportion in the child population. The growth of the Hispanic child population is likely related to the changes seen in the demographics of women of childbearing age: Hispanic women aged 15-44 years increased 13% between 2010 and 2018, whereas non-Hispanic White women in this age group declined by 15%. The Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, and American Indian/Alaska Native child populations have all declined; with Blacks decreasing the most (28% decrease). The number of children age 0 to 4 years identified as having 2 or more races has grown by 47%, such that this group represents the largest minority – just slightly more than Hispanic children.

### Minority Race/Ethnicity of Child (Age 0 to 4) Population, Kitsap County: 2010, 2015 and 2018



\*AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native

### Speakers of Languages Other Than English

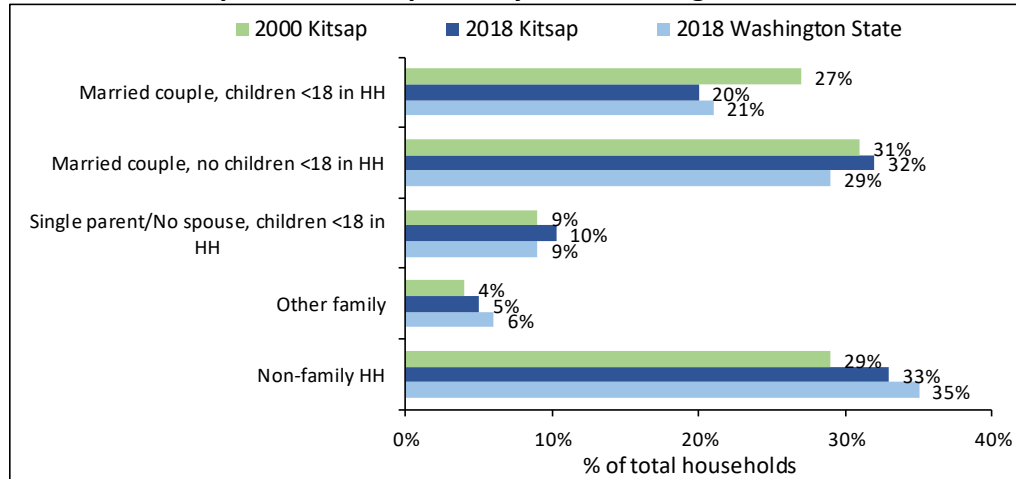
In 2018, English was spoken at home by 92.3% of the Kitsap population age 5 and older. After English, Asian and Pacific Island languages were spoken at home by a larger percentage (3.5%) than Spanish or any other broad group of languages. However, Spanish remains the second *single* most commonly spoken language (3.1%) among residents 5 years and over. Among those whose primary language spoken at home is not English, 31% spoke English less than "very well" from 2014 to 2018.

From 2014-18, Central Kitsap was the region with the highest percentage of residents who speak a language other than English at home (9.1%). After Central Kitsap, Bremerton had the next highest (7.9%), followed by South Kitsap (6.4%), North Kitsap (5.5%) and Bainbridge Island (4.9%). Of residents who speak another language, the percentage who speak English less than "very well" is considerably higher in Bremerton (42%) than in other areas of the county (South Kitsap 31%, North Kitsap 28%, Central Kitsap 24%) and considerably lower on Bainbridge Island (14%). In North Mason, about 10% of residents speak a language other than English at home and 61% report speaking English less than "very well."

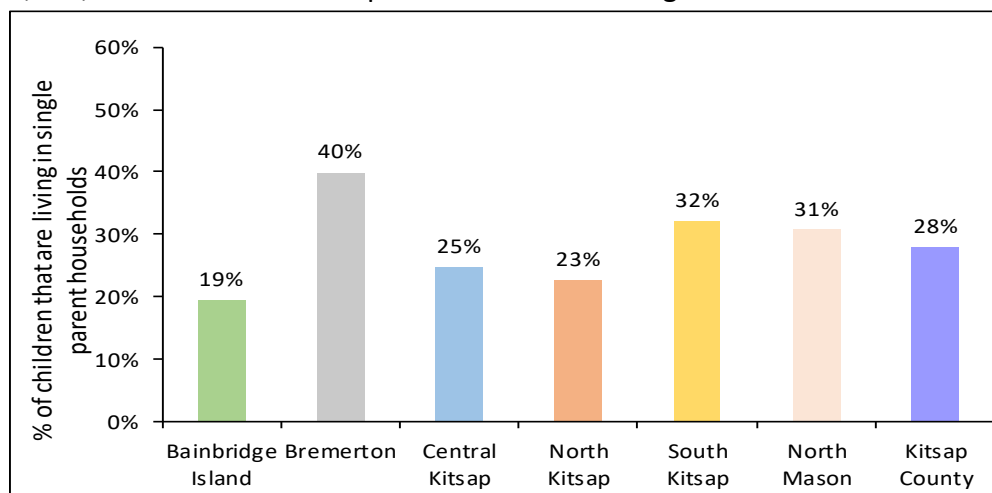
## Family Structure

From 2000 to 2017, the estimated proportion of all Kitsap County households that were married couples with children decreased from 27% to 19% while non-family households (a person living alone or with an unrelated group of individuals) increased from 29% to 32%. However, in 2018, the percentage of married couple families with children increased slightly to 20% in Kitsap, and nonfamily households continued to increase to 33%.

### Household Composition, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 and 2018



In Kitsap County, it is estimated that 31% of all 105,411 households had one or more children under the age of 18 in 2018. The number of single parent households is not directly available, but it is estimated that 10% of all households were families with their own children (<18 years) in which the householder (male or female) does not have a married spouse present. However, this may include households where an unmarried partner was present; an estimated 8% of all households in 2018 (regardless of whether children were present) had unmarried partners. The number of Kitsap grandparents living with their grandchildren under the age of 18 in 2018 was 4,324, 27% of which are responsible for their own grandchildren.

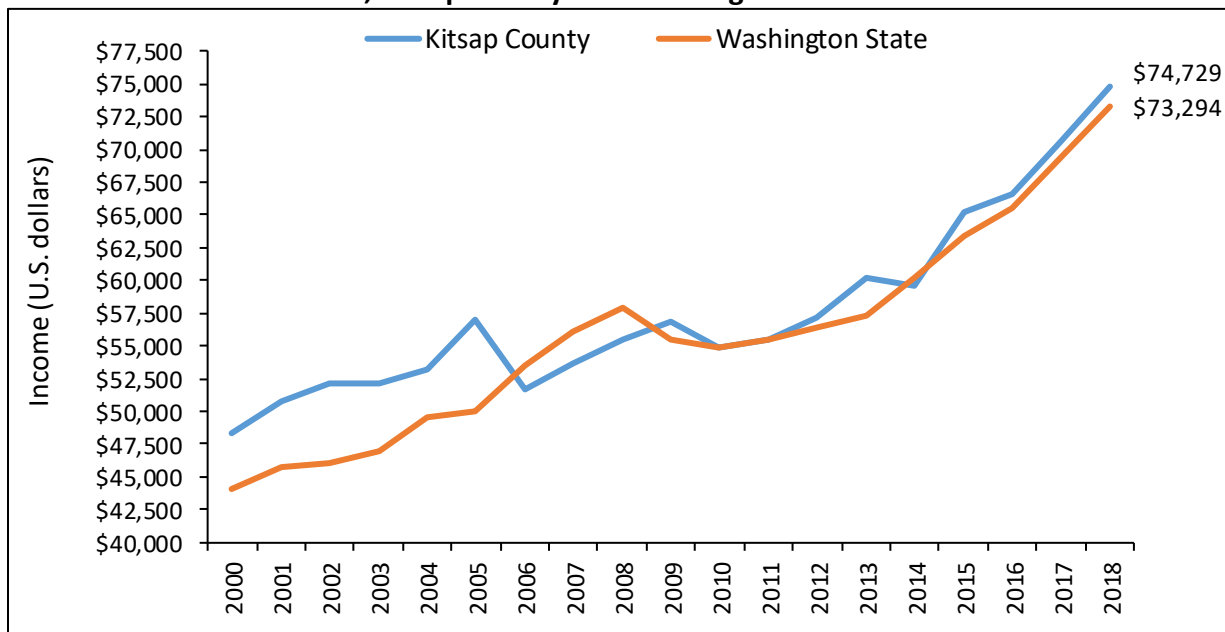


\*An unmarried partner of the parent/guardian may or may not be present.

### Median Household Income

The median household income is the income at which half of resident households have higher incomes and half have lower incomes. The estimated median household income for Kitsap County has been slowly increasing, reaching \$70,531 in 2017, slightly higher than projected. Median household income is projected to have been \$74,729 in 2018. Since 2010, the county median household income has been very similar to that of Washington State.

**Median Household Income, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 to 2018\***



\* The 2017 income is a preliminary estimate and 2018 is a projection. Estimates for the inter- and post-Census years are based on the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) personal income data and the estimates of household characteristics, at the county level. For 2006-2011: The estimates are anchored upon ACS estimates wherever available. In addition to the state personal income data published by BEA, the payroll data compiled by the state Employment Security Department are used in the preliminary estimates.

**Median Income by Household Type and ZIP Code, Kitsap County: 2014-18\***

Household Type	Bainbridge Island 98110	Bremerton				
		East 98310	West 98312	98337		
Family HH with own children <18	\$ 148,206	\$ 53,053	\$ 65,647	\$ 53,442		
Married couple	\$ 175,481	\$ 72,321	\$ 81,767	\$ 63,000		
Male householder, no wife present	\$ 142,974	\$ 39,934	\$ 26,179	\$ 54,258		
Female householder, no husband present	\$ 70,391	\$ 40,859	\$ 24,299	\$ 27,132		
Family HH with no own children <18	\$ 127,995	\$ 72,948	\$ 74,297	\$ 59,655		
Non-family HH	\$ 48,235	\$ 38,439	\$ 44,659	\$ 30,761		
Household Type	Central Kitsap					
	Silverdale 98311	Silverdale 98315	Silverdale 98383	Seabeck 98380		
Family HH with own children <18	\$ 81,812	\$ 57,925	\$ 102,260	\$ 91,935		
Married couple	\$ 92,965	\$ 59,646	\$ 115,125	\$ 91,935		
Male householder, no wife present	\$ 53,077	--	\$ 78,500	--		
Female householder, no husband present	\$ 24,813	--	\$ 37,926	--		
Family HH with no own children <18	\$ 86,111	\$ 53,116	\$ 89,211	\$ 92,035		
Non-family HH	\$ 39,856	\$ 34,688	\$ 53,025	\$ 40,833		
Household Type	North Kitsap					
	Hansville 98340	Indianola 98342	Keyport 98345	Kingston 98346	Poulsbo 98370	Suquamish 98392
Family HH with own children <18	\$ 95,469	\$ 104,375	--	\$ 86,316	\$ 89,375	\$ 70,000
Married couple	\$ 107,017	\$ 118,438	--	\$ 90,967	\$ 108,138	\$ 89,167
Male householder, no wife present	--	--	--	\$ 78,684	\$ 49,766	\$ 67,083
Female householder, no husband present	--	--	--	\$ 42,096	\$ 26,641	\$ 35,250
Family HH with no own children <18	\$ 83,945	\$ 82,266	\$ 86,719	\$ 93,153	\$ 89,375	\$ 77,625
Non-family HH	\$ 30,323	\$ 42,045	\$ 49,063	\$ 35,571	\$ 42,579	\$ 46,300
Household Type	South Kitsap					
	Olalla 98359	Port Orchard 98366	Port Orchard 98367			
Family HH with own children <18	\$ 77,679	\$ 64,147	\$ 88,520			
Married couple	\$ 88,846	\$ 89,173	\$ 96,094			
Male householder, no wife present	\$ 38,362	\$ 41,140	\$ 69,148			
Female householder, no husband present	--	\$ 15,755	\$ 30,392			
Family HH with no own children <18	\$ 93,056	\$ 78,142	\$ 92,758			
Non-family HH	\$ 42,298	\$ 39,476	\$ 49,440			

\* An -- indicates that there were too few individuals surveyed in that category to compute an estimate.



**Median Income by Household Type, Kitsap County: 2018**

<b>Household Type</b>	<b>Median Income</b>
Family HH with own children <18	\$ 89,209
Married couple	\$ 108,006
Male householder, no wife present	\$ 67,289
Female householder, no husband present	\$ 33,012
Family HH with no own children <18	\$ 90,638
Non-family HH	\$ 46,246

The median income differs substantially by which area of the county people reside in. The highest estimated median household income for 2014-18 was for Bainbridge Island (\$115,230). Other regions had much lower median incomes: North Kitsap (\$79,177), Central Kitsap (\$74,365), South Kitsap (\$70,366), North Mason (\$57,878) and Bremerton (\$52,946). The ZIP Codes with the lowest median incomes for a family with children under the age of 18 are 98528 (Belfair, \$36,297), 98337 (Bremerton, \$53,442), and 98310 (East Bremerton, \$53,053).

## Poverty

In 2020, the federal poverty level is defined as a household income of \$12,490 for one person and \$25,750 for a family of four. County-wide during 2018, an estimated 9% of residents were living in poverty, a slight increase from 2017 (8%), but lower than previous years. However, rates of poverty in children remain higher than the population average with 12% of all children under age 18 living in poverty in 2018.

### KITSAP COUNTY POVERTY SNAPSHOT

Residents Living in Poverty (All Ages)	2018	23,646	9%
Children Under Age 5 (0 to 4 years) Living in Poverty	2014-18	2,131	14%
Children Under Age 6 (0 to 5 years) Living in Poverty	2014-18	2,339	13%
Public School Students Enrolled in Free & Reduced Lunch	2018-19	12105	33%
Number of Medicaid-Paid Births	2018	863	39%
Pregnant Women Starting Prenatal Care in 1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester	2018	2247	80%
Medicaid-paid births (low-income)	2018	596	71%
Non-Medicaid paid births	2018	1,646	83%
Pregnant Women Smoking	2018	175	6%
Number of Childcare Centers	2018	45	n/a
Number of Family Childcare Homes	2018	67	n/a
Kitsap County Early Head Start/Head Start Programs Cumulative Enrollment	2018-19	1,046	n/a
Median Household Income	2018	\$74,729	n/a

*Data from the Washington State Office of Financial Management and the American Community Survey*

For comparison, from 2014 to 2018, approximately 10% of Kitsap residents were living in poverty. For all age groups, Kitsap County has proportionally fewer people living in poverty than Washington State.

In Kitsap County and Washington State, young children and women tend to have disproportionately higher rates of poverty. Females account for 56% of all county residents living in poverty. This trend of more females than males living in poverty is also seen statewide, with females accounting for 54% of all those Washington State living in poverty from 2014 to 2018.

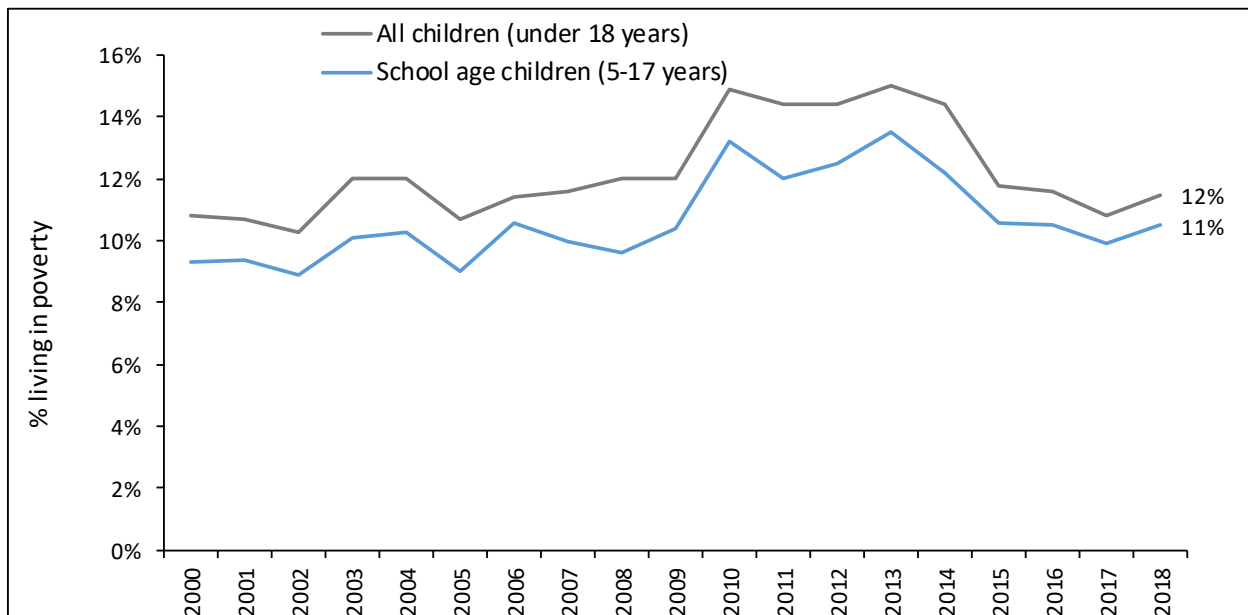
**Income below Poverty Level in Past 12 Months, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2014-18**

	% of population	# of people
<b>All Ages</b>		
Kitsap County	10%	24,772
Washington State	11%	821,621
<b>Children younger than age 5</b>		
Kitsap County	14%	2,131
Washington State	16%	69,304
<b>School-aged children (age 5-17)</b>		
Kitsap County	11%	4,151
Washington State	14%	165,889
<b>Adults (age 18+)</b>		
Kitsap County	9%	18,490
Washington State	11%	586,428
<b>Females</b>		
Kitsap County	11%	13,911
Washington State	12%	443,643

**% of total in poverty who are female**

Kitsap County	56%
Washington State	54%

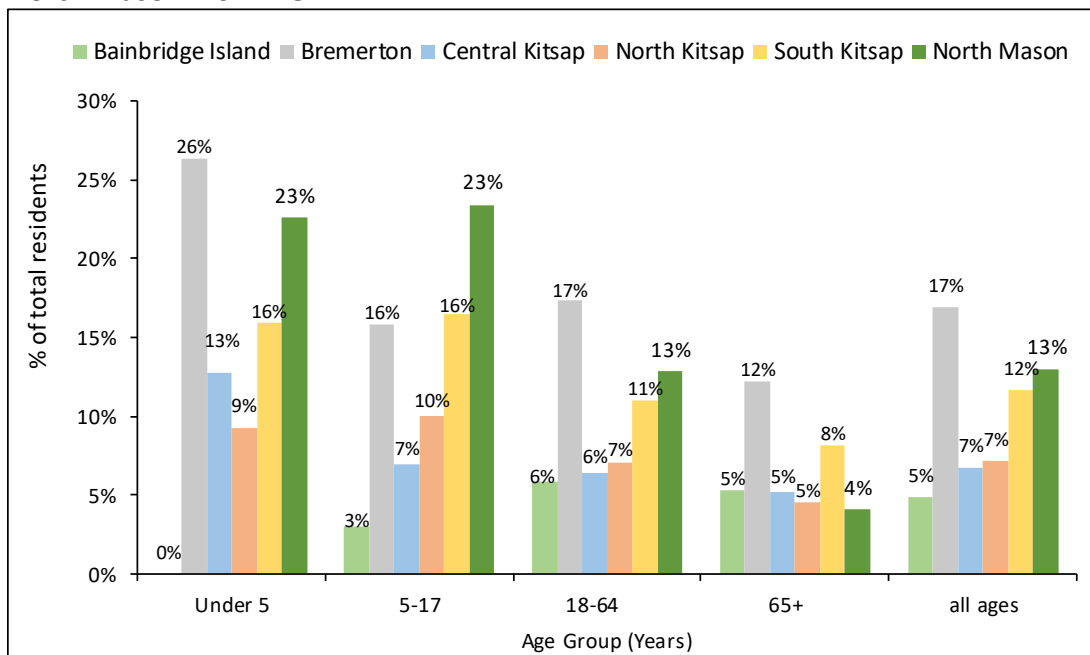
Poverty varies across the county. From 2014 to 2018, Bremerton had the highest percentage (17%) of residents living in poverty across all age groups (Figure 18). In Bremerton, more than 1 in 4 children younger than age 5 (26%) and about 1 in 6 school-age children (16%) are living in poverty. Even among adults, there are still more than 1 in 6 18- to 64-year-olds (17%) living in poverty in Bremerton.

**Children Living in Poverty, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2018**

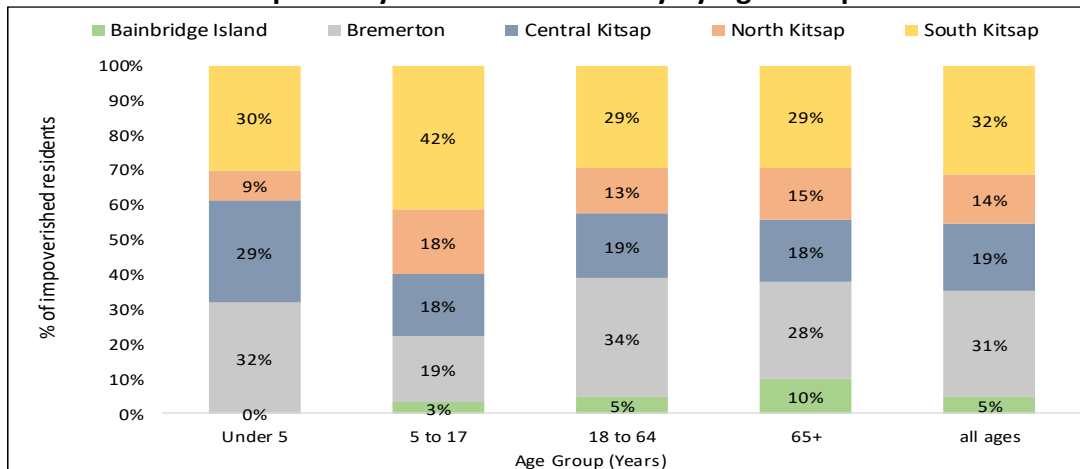
By limiting the analysis to only people living in poverty, and then reviewing the distribution by region, it gives a clearer picture that almost a third of county residents under 5 in poverty live in Bremerton (32%), another 3 out of 10 live in each South Kitsap (30%) and Central Kitsap (29%) and less than 1 in 10 live in North Kitsap. Bainbridge Island has an estimated less than 10 total residents under 5 years living in poverty.

While Bremerton has a higher percentage of its residents living in poverty, more people living in poverty live in South Kitsap (7,819) due to its larger population than live in poverty in Bremerton (7,558).

### Percentage of Total Residents Living in Poverty by Age Group and Region, Kitsap County and North Mason: 2014-18



### Distribution of Kitsap County Residents in Poverty by Age Group: 2014-18



The Economic Policy Institute's (EPI) **Family Budget Calculator** measures the income a family needs in order to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living. Compared with the federal poverty line and the Supplemental Poverty Measure, EPI's family budgets provide a more accurate and complete measure of economic security in America. The Family Budget Map offers a view of cost of living for a two-parent, two-child family across the United States at the county level.

Based on the Economic Policy Institute [Family Budget Calculator](#) published in March 2018 (data in 2017 dollars) the cost of living for a two-parent, two-child family in **Kitsap County, WA** is:

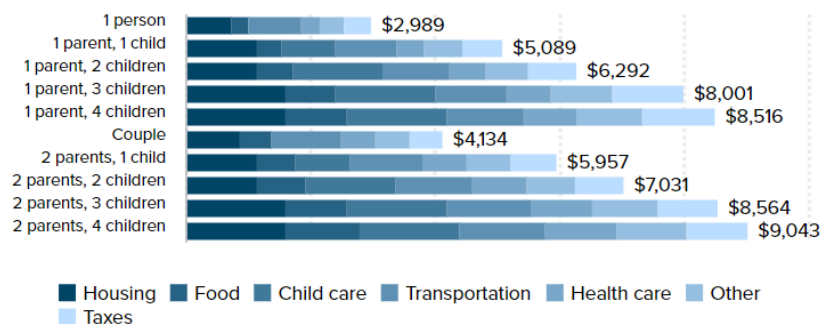
**\$84,368** per year or **\$7,031** per month

- **Housing:** \$1,137/month
- **Food:** \$792/month
- **Child care:** \$1,440/month
- **Transportation:** \$1,250/month
- **Health care:** \$856/month
- **Other necessities:** \$778/month
- **Taxes:** \$778/month

*Among the 39 counties in Washington, Kitsap County has the 4th highest cost of living. But median family income here is the 3rd highest, so when cost of living is calculated relative to median income, the county ranks 36th.*

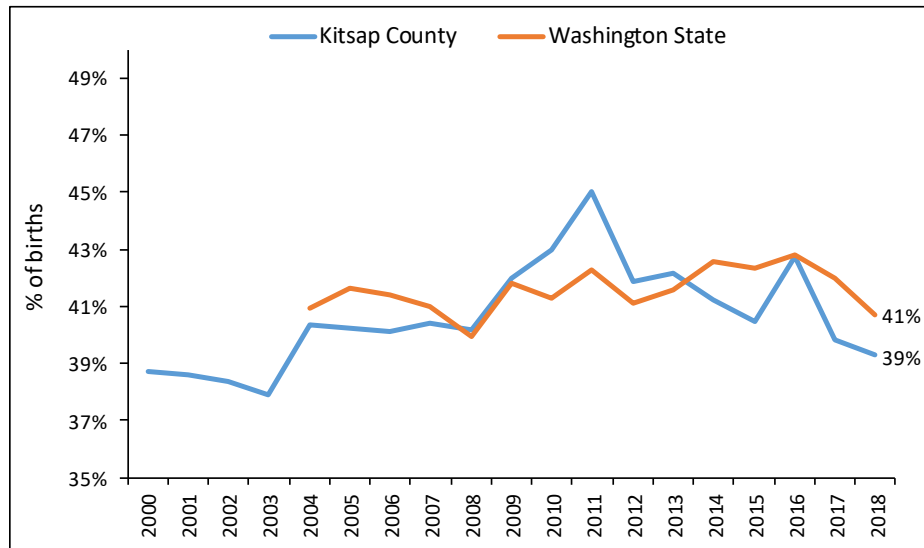
### Budgets for different family types

Here's how monthly budgets in Kitsap County vary by family size and composition.

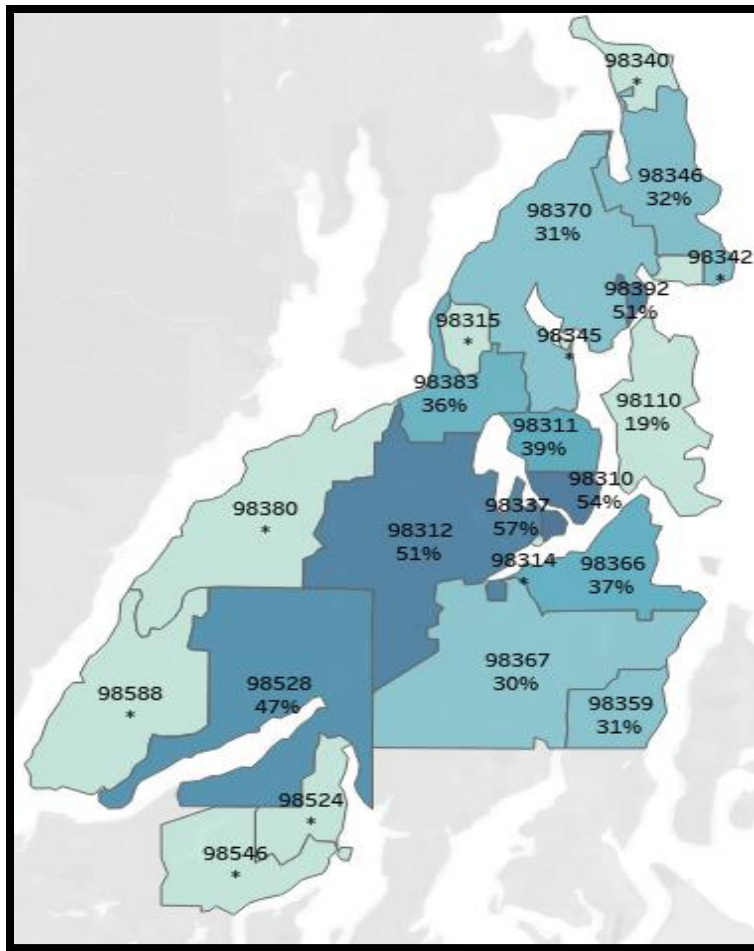


Another important measure of poverty in a community is the proportion of pregnant women who qualify for and receive Medicaid funding to cover their maternity care. Medicaid pays for maternity care for those who have an income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. In 2018, 863 (39%) of civilian births in Kitsap County were paid for by Medicaid.

### Medicaid-Paid Civilian Births, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2018



### Medicaid-Paid Civilian Births by ZIP Code, Kitsap County, North Mason County: 2018

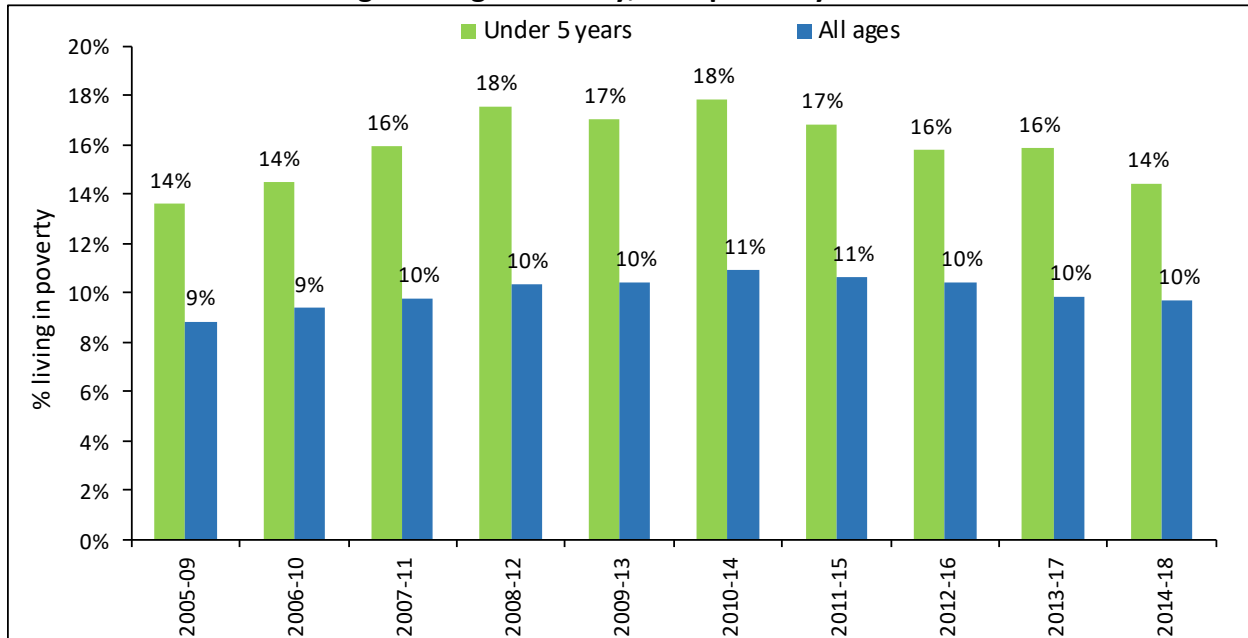


\*Percentage is unreliable due to small numbers.

### Children Living in Poverty

The 0- to 4-year-old population was estimated to be 14,739 from 2014 to 2018, with approximately 14% living in poverty. The poverty rate for these young children is consistently higher than the rate for all ages combined.

#### Children Under 5 and All Ages Living in Poverty, Kitsap County: 2005-09 to 2014-18



From 2014 to 2018, an estimated 16.5% of families with children under 5 only (i.e., without any other older kids) were living in poverty. Families with young children have higher poverty rates than families with older children (families with children under 18 years, 11.3%) and all families combined (6.6%).

### Geographic Location

About one-third (32%) of the county's children under age 5 living in poverty resided in the Bremerton region from 2014 to 2018. The remainder were residing in South Kitsap (30%), Central Kitsap (29%) and North Kitsap (9%), with essentially 0% (less than 10 kids) on Bainbridge Island.

A review of the level of poverty children are living in shows that 23% of children ages 0 to 5 years old in the Bremerton area are living below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, a much larger proportion than any other district in the county.



### Percentage of Children Under 6 Years Living at Various Levels of Poverty by Region, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2014-18

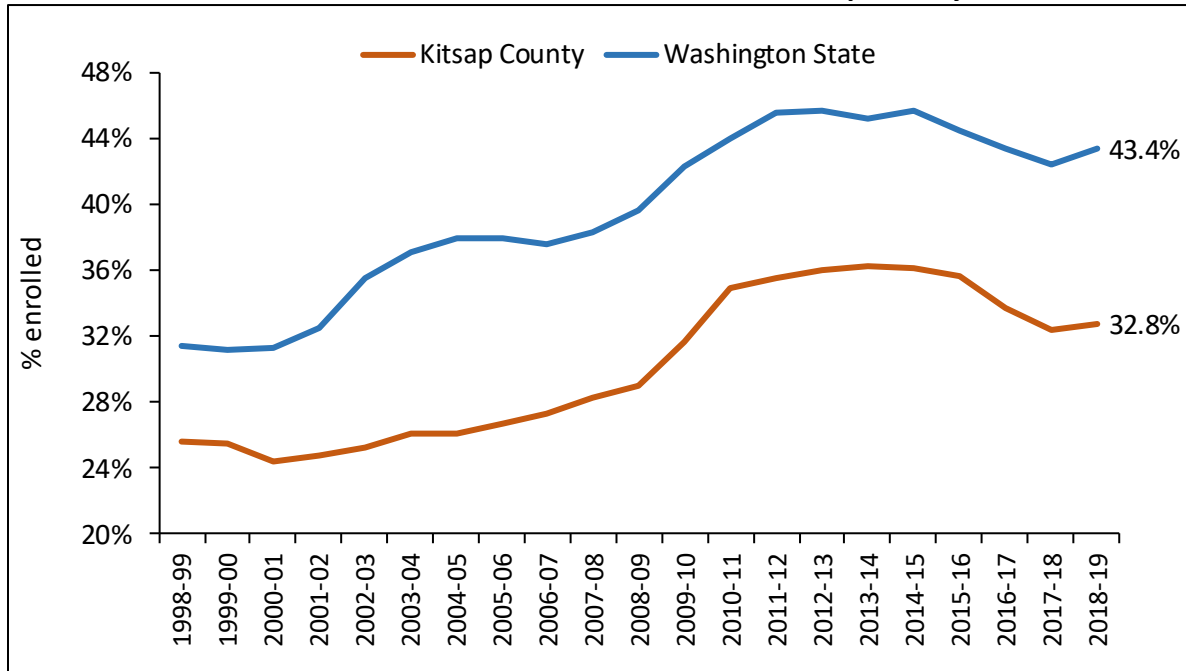
	Bainbridge Island	Bremerton	Central Kitsap	North Kitsap	South Kitsap	North Mason
Population under age 6	1,477	3,213	5,934	2,559	4,773	857
< 50% of poverty	0%	10%	6%	6%	9%	0%
50% to 99% of poverty	0%	13%	5%	2%	7%	17%
100% to 124% of poverty	0%	7%	3%	5%	5%	9%
125% to 149% of poverty	2%	7%	6%	5%	2%	18%
150% to 184% of poverty	0%	9%	3%	10%	8%	11%
185% to 199% of poverty	1%	3%	5%	2%	3%	0%
≥ 200% of poverty	97%	51%	73%	70%	68%	46%

From 2014-18, the ZIP Codes with the highest percentages of children ages 0 to 5 living below 100% of poverty are 98340 (Hansville, 43%), 98342 (Indianola, 32%), and 98359 (Olalla, 28%). These tables show the levels of poverty for children under age 6 for each ZIP Code in Kitsap County and North Mason County.

### Free and Reduced Lunch

The National School Lunch Program provides assistance with nutrition to children whose families are impoverished. There are two levels of eligibility within the program, free meals with an eligibility level of 130% of the federal poverty guidelines and reduced meals with an eligibility level of 185% of the federal poverty guidelines.

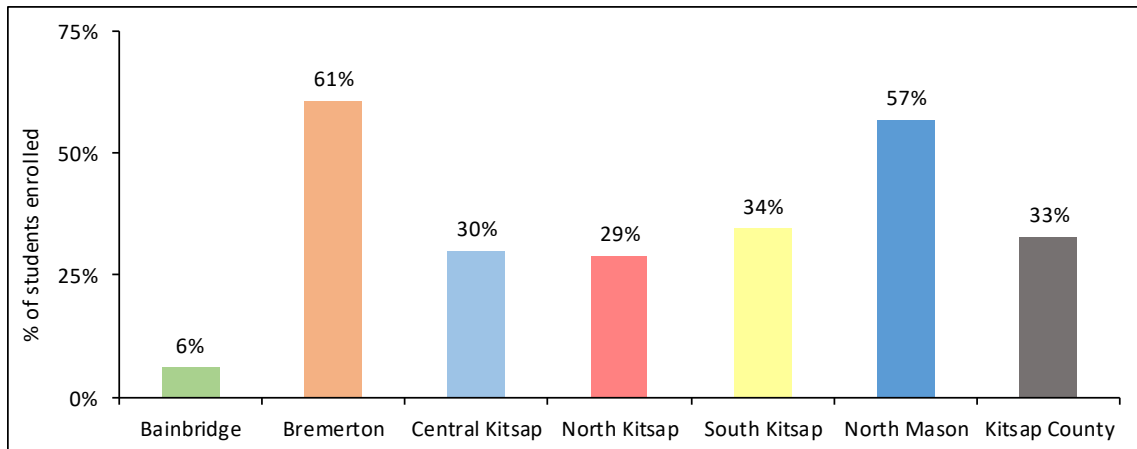
The proportion of Kitsap County public school students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Program has statistically increased overall between 2000-01 and 2018-19; however, in the last few years (since 2013-14) there has been a statistically significant decrease. Kitsap County has consistently had a statistically significantly lower proportion of students enrolled in the FRL Program than Washington State. As of October 2018, a total of 12,105 Kitsap students were receiving free or reduced lunch.

**Public School Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Lunch, Kitsap County 2000-01 to 2018-19**

\* Eligibility for the program is  $\leq 185\%$  of poverty

\*\* Data are as reported in October of each school year

Consistent with where the largest proportion of children and families living in poverty reside and prior year trends, the Bremerton District also had the highest proportion (61%) of students enrolled in the FRL Program in October 2018. South Kitsap was the only other school district to have a proportion of enrolled students higher than the county-wide proportion (34% and 33%, respectively). Bainbridge Island continues to have the lowest proportion (6%).

**Public School Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Lunch October 2018**

## Public Assistance

The 5-year estimates for 2014 to 2018 show there were an estimated 9,328 children ages 0 to 17 years (17%) in Kitsap County living in households receiving public assistance (including social security income, cash public assistance or food stamps in the past 12 months).

Of these, 58% were living in single (unmarried) parent households. These county-wide estimates are very similar to the previous estimates, as are the regional estimates. Bremerton continues to have the highest rates, increasingly followed by South Kitsap. The tables compare the percentage of children under 18 receiving public assistance to the percentage of households receiving public assistance, but it is important to note that the data for children includes SSI recipients, whereas the household data does not include SSI.

In Kitsap County, from 2014 to 2018, there were approximately 12,107 households (12%) receiving cash public assistance or food stamps.

### Public Assistance Recipients by ZIP Code, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2014-18

		# (%) of households receiving public assistance*	# (%) of children under 18 receiving public assistance**
Bainbridge Island	98110	359 (4%)	156 (3%)
	98310	1,808 (20%)	1,303 (36%)
Bremerton	98312	2,231 (17%)	1,743 (28%)
	98337	684 (21%)	342 (34%)
Central Kitsap	98311	1,016 (10%)	879 (15%)
	98315	^	85 (5%)
	98383	511 (6%)	413 (9%)
	98380	169 (9%)	^
North Kitsap	98340	^	82 (18%)
	98342	46 (8%)	61 (28%)
	98346	542 (14%)	295 (15%)
	98370	952 (8%)	560 (9%)
	98392	162 (12%)	176 (25%)
South Kitsap	98359	^	240 (22%)
	98366	2,103 (17%)	1,686 (22%)
	98367	1,206 (11%)	1,168 (19%)
North Mason	98528	662 (18%)	895 (46%)
	98546	^	278 (53%)

^ Categories with a highly unreliable estimate have been suppressed.

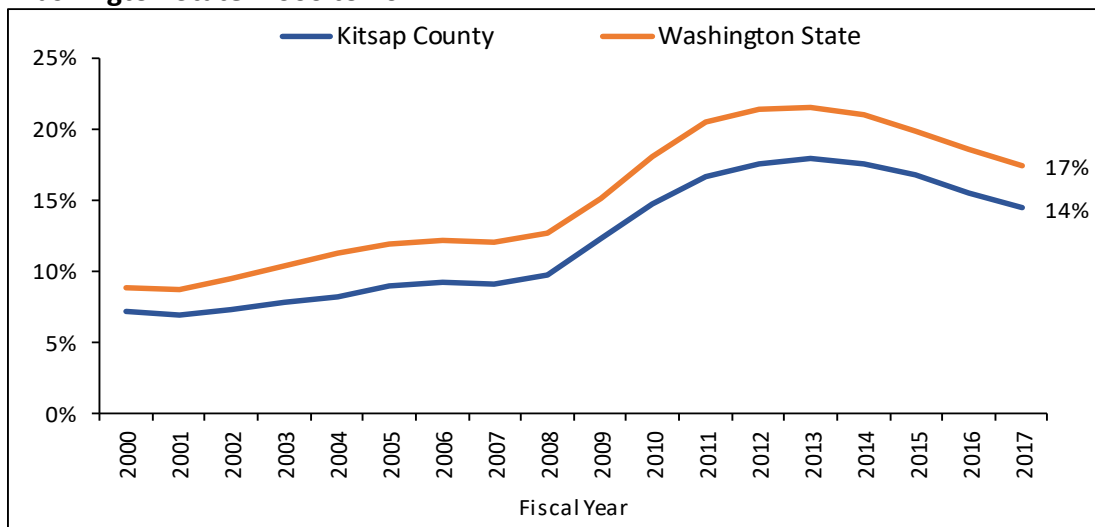
\*Public assistance includes cash public assistance income or food stamps

\*\*Public assistance includes SSI, cash public assistance income or food stamps

## Food Stamps

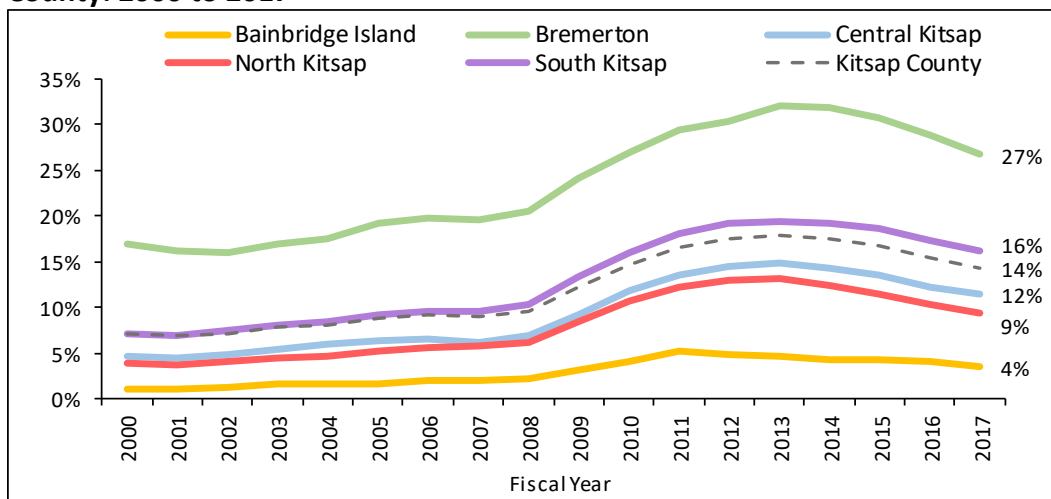
In both Kitsap County and Washington State the rate of persons receiving food stamps through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) climbed dramatically between 2008 and 2011, but slowed pace between 2011 and 2013, then declined from 2013 to 2017. The past 5 years have seen a decline overall, with Kitsap County rates decreasing by 19% from 18% in 2013 to 14% in 2017. Statewide, rates were also declining over the past 5 years, decreasing by 19% as well to 17% in 2017.

### Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Recipients, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 to 2017



Bremerton has consistently had the highest rate of participation in SNAP, with more than 1 in 4 residents received food stamps in 2017. All regions in the county have lower SNAP rates compared to 5 years ago, but all are still higher than they were 10 years ago.

### Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Recipients by Geographic Region, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2017



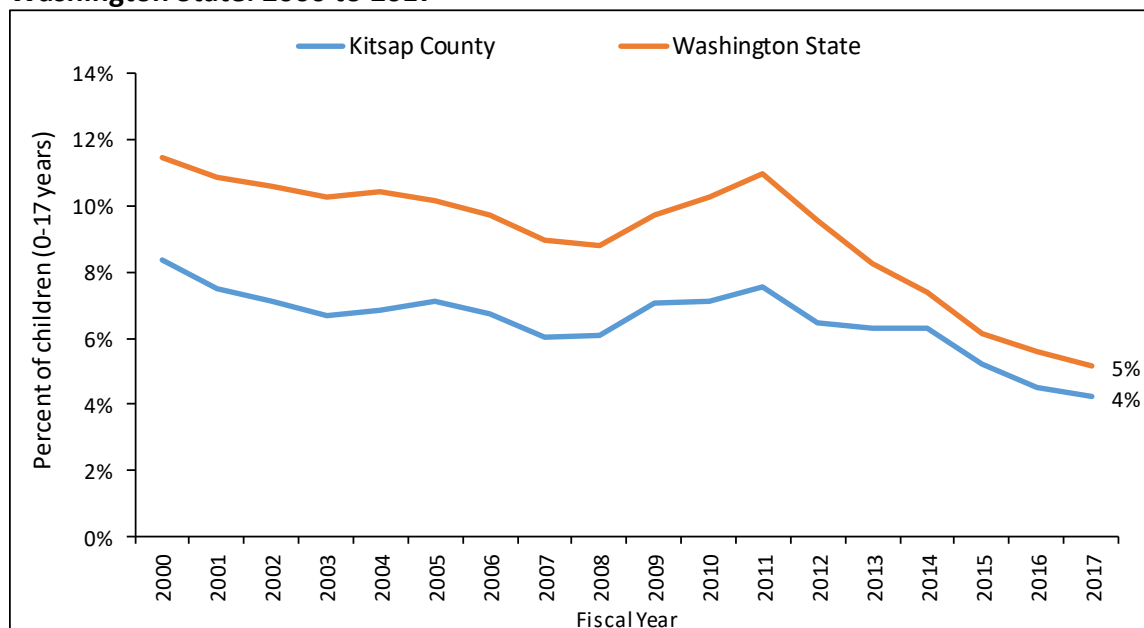
## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The federally-funded Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to low-income families and aids parents in achieving economic security and self-sufficiency.

A 2010 overhaul of Washington State's TANF program, WorkFirst, changed the case management process to ensure that the needs of the whole family were being considered in order to ensure children had necessary tools to "overcome the increased risks they face."<sup>24</sup> According to a June 2014 report by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, one-quarter of K-12 students on TANF during 2011-12 experienced housing instability, which was associated with higher rates of school change and, for older youth, lower rates of grade progression and on-time graduation.<sup>25</sup> Similarly, the report stated that TANF students with behavioral health conditions (particularly substance abuse issues) were more likely to experience a school change during an academic year and less likely to progress to the next grade or to graduate high school on time.

The rate of Kitsap County children participating in TANF has declined by 33% over the past 5 years to only 4 out of every 100 children in 2017. The county 5-year average was 5% and although this has remained below the state, the gap between state and county has narrowed in the past few years. Washington State experienced a 38% reduction in percentage of children participating in TANF from 2013 to 2017, while Kitsap County only experienced a 33% reduction.

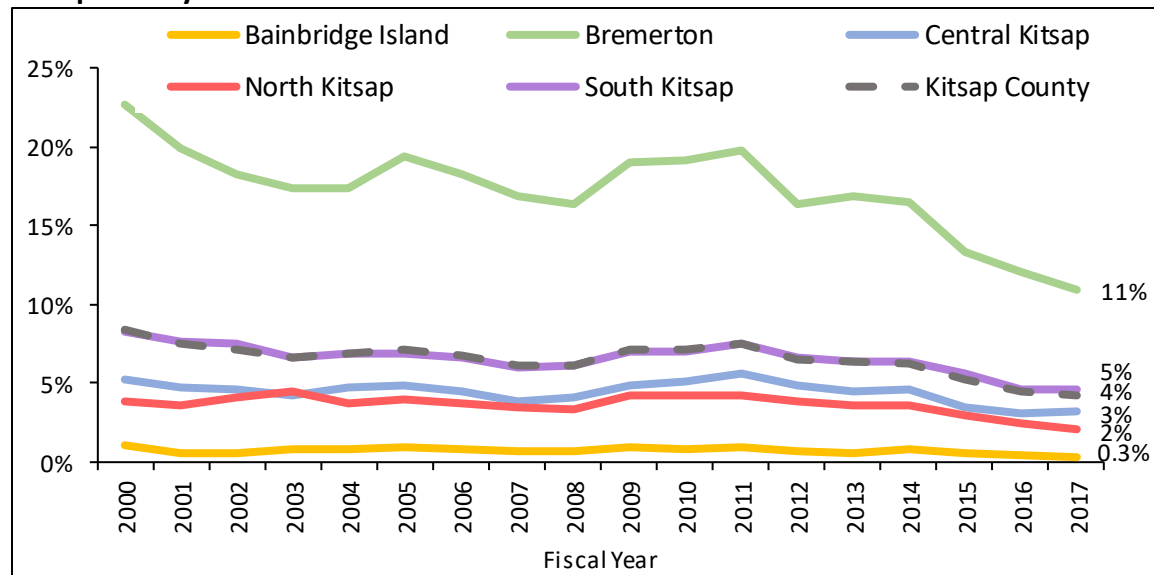
### Rate of Children Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 to 2017



Policy changes and program cuts may have made it harder for families to receive TANF assistance, which may at least partially have accounted for the decrease in children receiving TANF in recent years. In July of 2019, there were policy changes strengthening TANF, which may again lead to artificial changes (increases this time) in the percent of children receiving TANF benefits.

Within the county, Bremerton has consistently retained a substantially higher rate of children receiving TANF than any other sub-county region. Bremerton's rate in 2017 was 11%, which was a 35% decline from 5 years ago, but in comparison, it is still about 2 ½ times greater than the next highest rate of 5% in South Kitsap. All regions other than Bremerton have had 5-year averages of less than 5%.

#### Rate of Children Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families by Geographic Region, Kitsap County: 2000 to 2017



On average in 2016, 28 families were typically served by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe TANF program and a total of 29 children received TANF benefits. It was estimated that the TANF participation rate was about 50 to 60 families per 1,000 residents, in contrast to the 2016 Kitsap County rate of 45 per 1,000 (4.5 per 100).

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

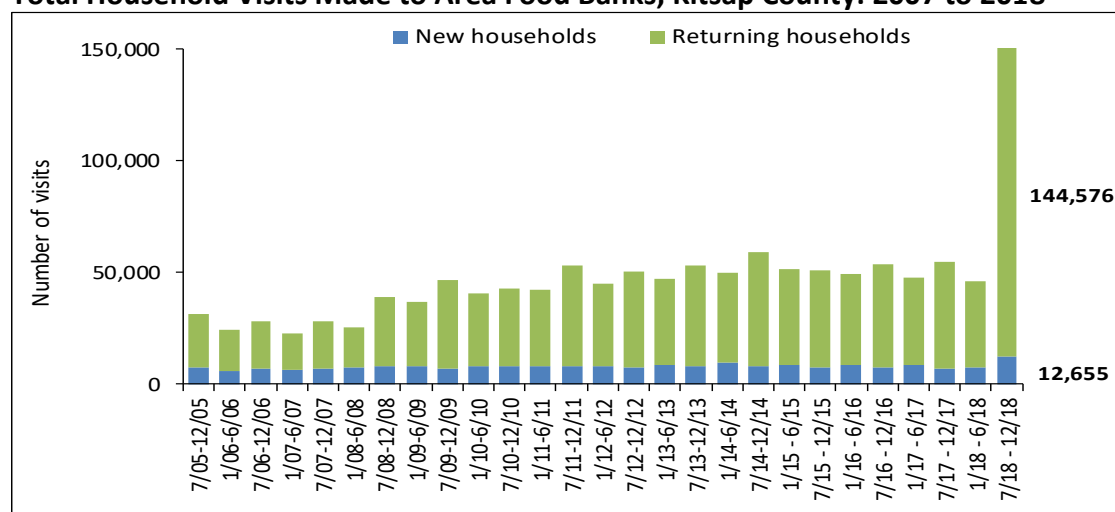
Feeding America estimated that the average meal cost is about \$3.22 in Kitsap in 2017 and that there were 30,000 people (12% of residents) who were living with food insecurity. Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecurity is higher among children, about 17% of children in Kitsap County or about 9,400 kids. Of those children who live in food insecure households, about 49% are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs because their households have incomes higher than 185% of poverty.

### Food Banks

There are eight Kitsap County area food banks, including Bainbridge Island Helpline House, Bremerton Foodline, Central Kitsap Food Bank, Salvation Army Food Bank, South Kitsap Helpline, North Kitsap Fishline, ShareNet Food Bank, and St. Vincent de Paul. North Mason Food Bank in Belfair serves North Mason families. In addition, several local churches offer hot meals and food pantries.

The total number of households served increased in the second half of 2018 with the opening of North Kitsap Fishline's new building, which is drawing many more low-income families. From June to December 2018, there were 12,655 visits by new households and 144,576 visits from returning households. This was a 73% increase in new households and an almost triple number of returning households compared to the first half of 2018. Prior to the second half of 2018, the number of visits by new households per year had remained fairly stable while the return visits increased over time and had stabilized since about 2015.

**Total Household Visits Made to Area Food Banks, Kitsap County: 2007 to 2018**





### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federally-funded program to provide supplemental foods, nutritional education, and health care referrals for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women as well as infants and children up to 5 years of age. It is intended to support women and children who are found to be at nutritional risk. Education is provided through workshops, educational boards, and one-on-one counseling. WIC checks issued to families can be exchanged for nutritious foods at many local grocery stores.

For 2018, the percentage of infants served by WIC was 36%, the lowest percentage since 2004.

### Women, Infants, and Children Served by WIC, Kitsap County: 2004 to 2018

Year	Infants and children under age 5	Pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women	Total served	% of infants born in Kitsap County served by WIC
2004	6,755	2,961	9,716	48%
2005	6,626	2,861	9,487	47%
2006	6,507	2,835	9,342	48%
2007	6,337	2,760	9,097	48%
2008	6,780	2,970	9,750	50%
2009	7,595	3,187	10,782	51%
2010	7,681	3,084	10,765	48%
2011	7,667	3,131	10,798	47%
2012	7,012	2,910	9,922	46%
2013	6,704	2,759	9,463	44%
2014	6,684	2,819	9,503	44%
2015	6,214	2,587	8,801	41%
2016	6,198	2,584	8,782	38%
2017	5,798	2,403	8,201	41%
2018	5,612	2,204	7,816	36%

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

A key factor in an individual's ability to exit poverty is their capacity to weather a financial crisis and ultimately build personal wealth. They associate money with safety, security, and choices for themselves and their families. For many low-income individuals and families, the key to exiting poverty is the ability to access well-paying jobs and ultimately closing the opportunity gap. And while the overall unemployment rate in Kitsap County is below the State average, many workers are still underemployed and/or working in jobs that barely meet basic needs, much less contribute to long-term financial stability.

The economy of Kitsap County, WA employs more than 122,000 people. The largest industries in Kitsap County, WA are Health Care & Social Assistance (15,790 people), Manufacturing (14,162 people) and Retail Trade (14,039 people).

### Employers

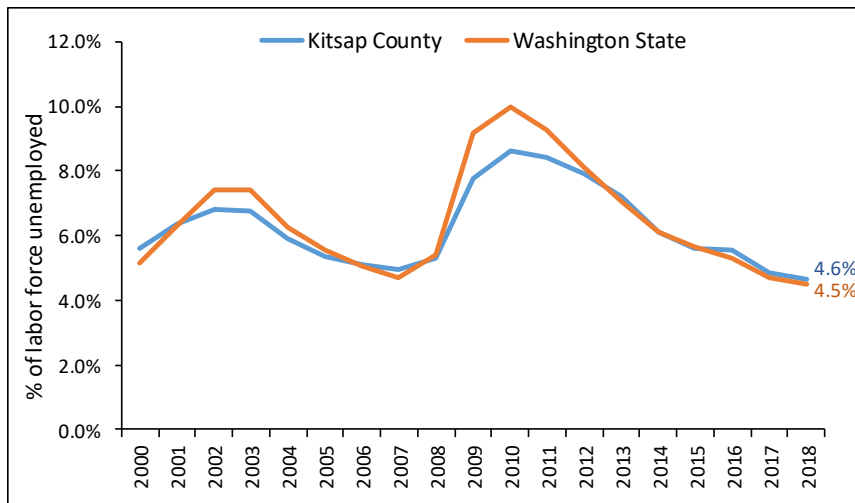
The ten largest employers in Kitsap County in 2018 were the Naval Base Kitsap, Harrison Medical Center, State government, Central Kitsap School District, North Kitsap School District, South Kitsap School District, Kitsap County government, Port Madison Enterprises, Bremerton School District and Haselwood Auto Group. This year, 75% of the top ten employers are public sector. The largest private sector employers are Harrison, Port Madison Enterprises and the Haselwood Auto Group. All school districts increased the number of their employees, with Bremerton and North Kitsap passing 4 or more employers. Harrison Medical Center grew by 500 employees, becoming the second largest employer in Kitsap. Kitsap Transit went from 382 employees to 432 employees, likely due to the fast ferries. Kitsap Mental Health added 70 staff members.

For the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal members, major employers include the Tribal government and associated agencies and businesses, individual treaty fishing enterprises and area businesses. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe employs 298 staff members. In the 2016-17 survey conducted by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe of households and individuals affiliated with the Tribe, the most commonly reported occupations were construction, building trades, maintenance and fishing/clamming. Individuals in the Tribe reported being in their primary occupations for an average of 10.2 years.

## Unemployment

Since 2000, the unemployment rate in Kitsap County has tended to be very similar to Washington State's unemployment rate, with only a few years in which Kitsap's rate was higher than the state's. In 2018, the estimated county rate (4.6%) was marginally above the state rate (4.5%) for the third year in a row. Both the Kitsap and state rates have been declining from their peaks in 2010.

### Unemployment Rate, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 to 2018\*

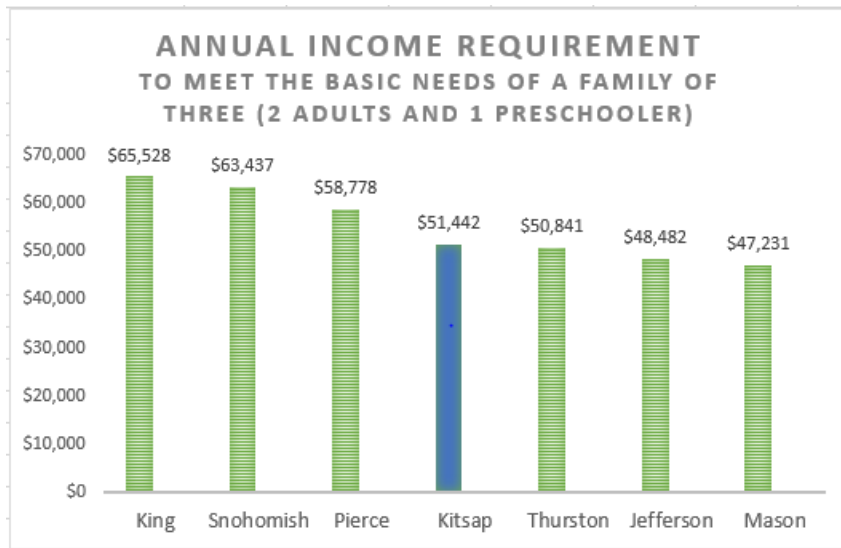


\*2018 annual rates are preliminary estimates.

The highest paying industries are Utilities (\$99,375), Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services (\$77,476), and Public Administration (\$70,930).

Median household income in Kitsap County, WA is \$76,945. Males in Kitsap County, WA have an average income that is 1.35 times higher than the average income of females, which is \$58,794. The income inequality in Kitsap County, WA (measured using the Gini index) is 0.469, which is lower than the national average.

## Cost of Living / Living Wage



The cost to support the basic needs of a 3-person family (2 adults and 1 preschooler) in Kitsap County is estimated to be roughly \$51,442. This accounts for housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, taxes, and other miscellaneous costs.

This equates to both adults earning an average of \$12.18 per hour, full time. For 11% of the workforce in Kitsap County, the average wage does not meet the annual income requirement. If only one adult in the household is working (requiring a full-time wage of \$24.36) 52% of the workforce would not have an average wage to support their family's minimum needs.

In 2018, the civilian labor force averaged 122,885, higher than the 2017 level of 120,148. On an annual average basis, there has been yearly increases in the labor force since 2014, another indicator of a healthy job market.

In 2018, the county unemployment rate was 4.6 percent compared to 4.9 percent in 2017. The over-the-year decrease in the rate can be attributed to job gains and lower unemployment. The unemployment rate will continue to remain low as confidence in the labor market conditions grow and new opportunities appear.

The military and its federal employees continue to be a steady source of economic fuel for the economy with over 15,000 active military and nearly 18,000 civilians based in Kitsap County; it is a city on to itself. In addition, over 500 prime and sub-contractors add to the benefits seen by this federal presence.

The 2017 average annual wage for Kitsap County was \$50,205, below the state's average annual wage of approximately \$62,077.

The Kitsap County median hourly wage in 2017 was \$20.90, less than the state's median at \$24.89 and the state less King County at \$22.00 (unadjusted for inflation).

A vast, skilled labor pool is generated by the Navy, government contractors and commuters. Naval base Kitsap employs over 40,000 military and civilian personnel, in addition to defense contractor operations. This sector creates a substantial available talent.

### Kitsap County 10-Year Economic Forecast

	2019.4	2020.4	2021.4	2022.4	2023.4	2024.4	2025.4	2026.4	2027.4
<b>Annual growth (% change)</b>									
Employment	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0
Personal income (\$)	4.7	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.8
Housing permits	3.5	4.0	2.8	6.6	4.7	4.4	2.8	3.8	2.8
Population	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Taxable retail sales (bils. \$)	4.9	2.6	4.7	3.6	4.8	3.8	4.7	4.2	4.6

## EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY

- Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment has declined slightly in recent years, dropping from a combined enrollment of 1,066 enrollees in 2016, to 1,046 enrollees in 2019.
- Overall, public school enrollment across Kitsap County is up 1.7% from 5 years ago.
- There a perceived lack of urgency about getting a college education and a general question among lower income persons as to whether college is worth it.

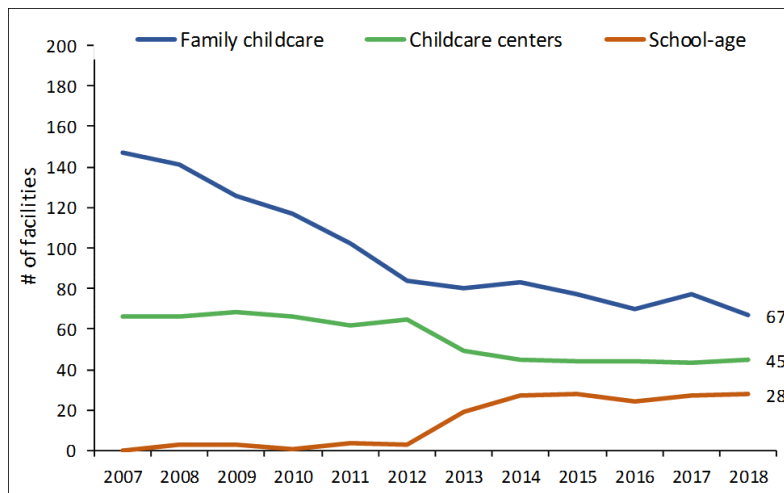
### Overview of Education and Opportunity

Ensuring access to education is critical to exiting poverty. In discussion with local education leaders, the importance of preschool was especially emphasized as was the need for more programs like Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP that focus not only on the children but the parents as well. Building a solid educational foundation early is vital. Third grade is the point when predictions about children's lives can be made. Several community leaders share a concern that the importance of getting a college education isn't emphasized enough in lower income households and as a result, the opportunity gap is widening. There seems to be this question among some young people as to whether college is even worth it. We believe both of these stem from misinformation or lack of information. The challenge put forth from several community leaders to local service providers is the need to send the same message to students, how can we help you get that degree?

### Childcare Programs

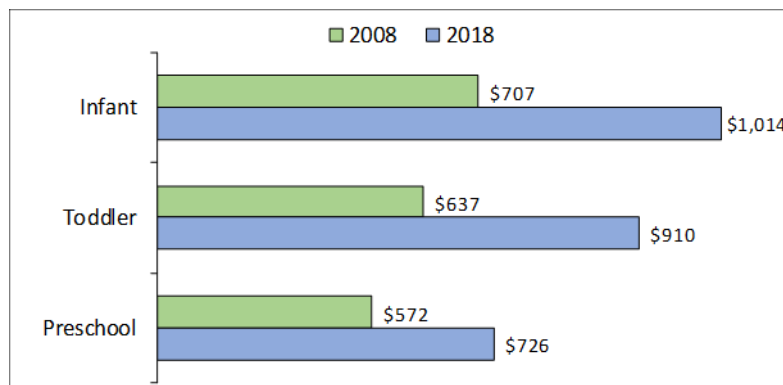
The number of family childcare providers has been declining over the past decade, while the number of childcare centers has remained relatively stable, except for a slight drop in 2013. Overall, there were 140 childcare facilities identified in Kitsap County during 2018, which is down from 213 in 2007. From 2017 to 2018, the number of family childcare providers decreased from 77 to 67.

## Childcare Facilities by Type, Kitsap County: 2007 to 2018



## Childcare Cost

Low-income families can access subsidized childcare through the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program administered by DSHS. WCCC helps low-income families (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) pay for child care while adults work, look for work, or attend training. In Kitsap County in FY 2018, 62% of the children that childcare was being requested for required acceptance of subsidies, slightly lower than the 64% in Washington overall.



Cost of Monthly Childcare at a Center by Age Group, Kitsap County, 2008 and 2018

## Pre-K Readiness

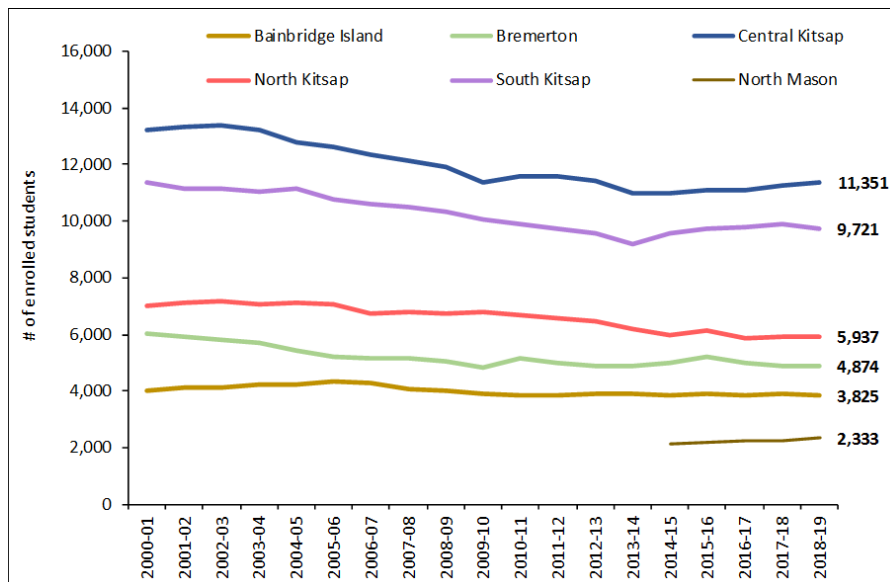
County-wide, the total cumulative enrollment has been increasing in Early Head Start and slightly decreasing in Head Start since the 2009-10 school year. During the 2018-19 school year, there were a total of 1,046 people enrolled within Kitsap County programs. This included 1,007 children and 39 pregnant women. This year overall, more enrollees were in Early Head Start (51%) than Head Start programs (49%).

**Cumulative Enrollment in Kitsap County Head Start and Early Head Start Programs: 2009-10 to 2018-19**

	Early Head Start									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Kitsap Community Resources</b>	112	119	105	102	98	108	107	102	118	108
<b>Olympic Educational Service District</b>	158	229	229	221	225	237	289	353	354	339
<b>Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe</b>	34	35	37	33	34	32	42	42	43	42
<b>Suquamish Tribe</b>	41	40	48	45	44	42	44	42	40	46
<b>Kitsap County Total</b>	345	423	419	401	401	419	482	539	555	535
	Head Start									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Kitsap Community Resources</b>	336	346	305	314	268	303	318	311	277	269
<b>Olympic Educational Service District</b>	262	303	272	292	262	239	235	204	182	174
<b>Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe</b>	34	37	37	37	28	29	35	33	33	30
<b>Suquamish Tribe</b>	37	38	40	37	36	39	36	36	37	38
<b>Kitsap County Total</b>	669	724	654	680	594	610	624	584	529	511

**Public School Enrollment**

There are five school districts in Kitsap County (Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap, and South Kitsap). There have been decreases in enrollment in all school districts in Kitsap County over the past 10 years, except for Bremerton School District, which has seen a 0.4% increase in the past 10 years. All school districts, except for Central and South Kitsap, have seen enrollment decreases in the past 5 years. Central Kitsap experienced a 3.5% increase from 5 years ago, while South Kitsap experienced a 1.7% increase. Cumulatively, public school enrollment across Kitsap County is up 1.0% from 5 years ago.

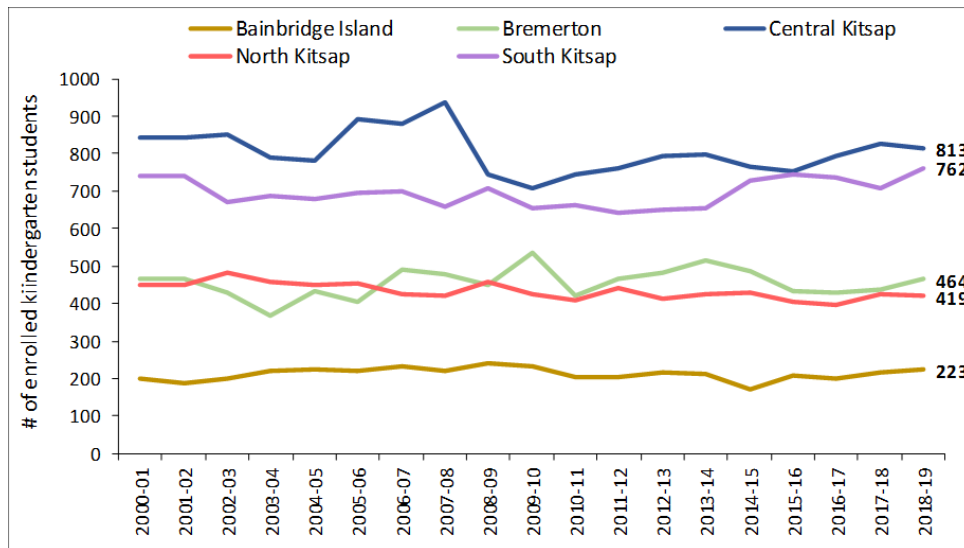


Public School Enrollment,  
Kitsap County School  
Districts, 2000-01 to 2018-19



There were 2,681 students enrolled in Kitsap County kindergarten classes during the 2018-19 school year, which is essentially unchanged (4% increase) from the total enrollment 5 years ago (2013-14). The only district with substantial enrollment growth as compared to 5 years ago is South Kitsap (16% increase); all other districts had less than 10% growth or decline in enrollment during this timeframe except for Bremerton, which had a 10% decline in enrollment. Compared to 10 years ago (2008-09), Central Kitsap has had the largest growth (9%), followed by South Kitsap (8%) and Bremerton (3%). Both North Kitsap and Bainbridge have had declines in enrollment (8% and 7% respectively) compared to 10 years ago. Kindergarten enrollment in North Mason School District was 178 kindergarteners in 2018-19.

#### Kindergarten Enrollment, Kitsap County School Districts, 2000-01 to 2018-19

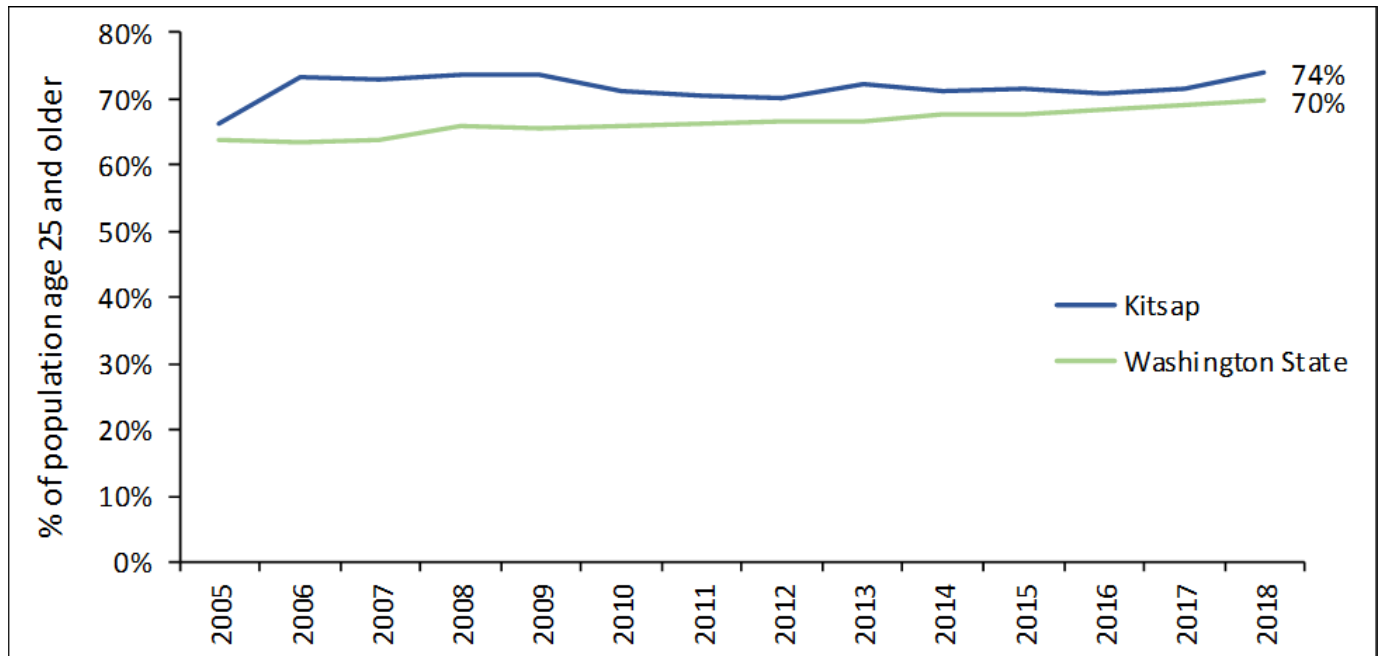


#### Adult Educational Attainment

This year, the American Community Survey and U.S. census are changing the way in which their data are available. Adult educational attainment of the more than high school level will be available for age 25 and older, which is a change from the age 25 to 64 previously shown in this report. All previous years' data has been updated to consistently show age 25 and older. The estimated proportion of Kitsap County adults age 25 and older who have more than a high school education has had no statistically significant trend from 2005 to 2018 (Figure 88).<sup>5</sup> In

2018 almost 3 in 4 Kitsap adults (74%) had achieved an education level greater than high school, which is statistically significantly higher than the state's rate (70%). In the 2016 KICC parent survey, in which all respondents were 20 to 69 years, just under two-thirds (61%) had more than a high school education; only 12% had a 4-year college degree or graduate-level degree.

**Proportion of Adults (Age 25 and older) with More than a High School Education, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 and 2005-2018**



In Kitsap County from 2014 to 2018, 98314 (Bremerton shipyard) had the highest percentage of adults age 25 and older who had more than a high school education followed by 98342 (Indianola, 84%), 98340 (Hansville, 81%) and 98315 (Silverdale/Bangor, 80%).

In 2016-17, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe administered a survey of all households and individuals affiliated with the Tribe. In the survey, about 87% of respondents reported having a high school degree and about 50% have at least some college or a professional degree. About 2% reported being currently enrolled full or part time in a high school or GED program and 8.7% reported being currently enrolled full or part time in a college degree program.

## HEALTH & WELL BEING

- According to 2018 estimates, 11,775 (4.6%) of 254,318 people in Kitsap County were uninsured, which included 3.2% of children (age 0-18 years) and 6.5% of adults (age 19 to 64).
- The rate of alcohol or drug-related deaths has statistically significantly increased since 2000 in Kitsap County.
- In Kitsap County, an estimated 29% of adults have experienced 3 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as children.
- The Medicaid waiver may potentially fund supportive housing and employment services, which are designed to reduce an individual's overall utilization of Medicaid funded services.

### Overview of Health and Well Being

#### Access to Care

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law in 2010. As of 2014, the new law increased the mandatory minimum income eligibility level for Medicaid to 133% of the federal poverty level. There is also a standard 5% income disregard for most individuals, thereby allowing eligibility to individuals with income at 138% of the poverty level and below. The ACA also made it mandatory for all U.S. citizens to have health insurance, however there is no longer a financial penalty for not having health insurance. In addition, not all residents are eligible for insurance, including undocumented immigrants.

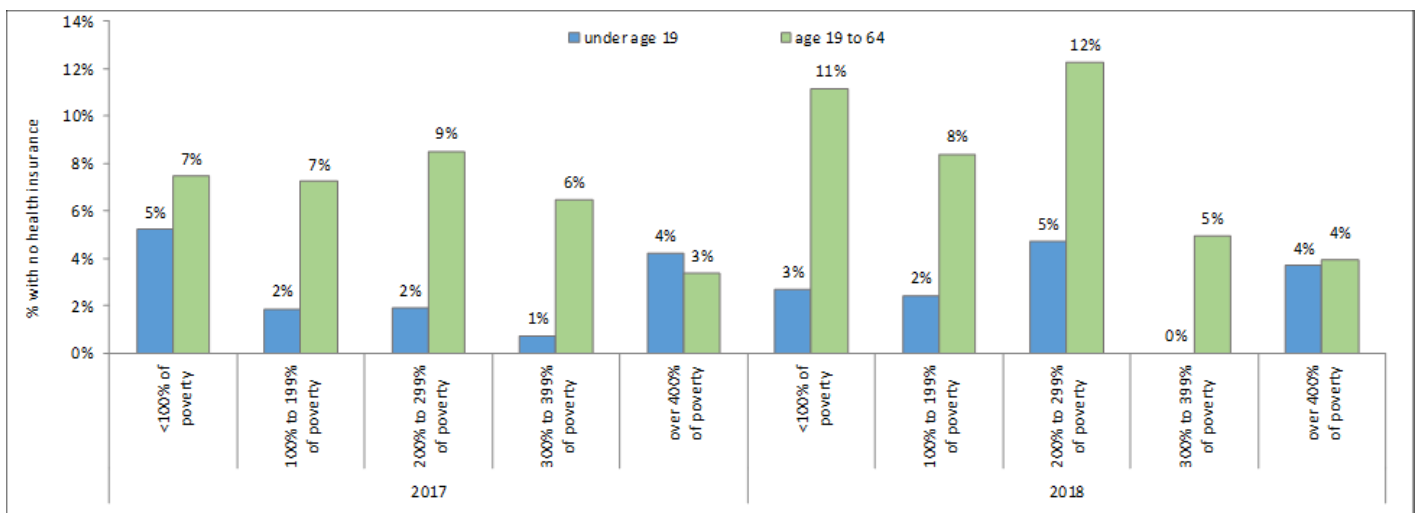
A key provision was that the ACA created a new marketplace for each state to offer health benefits to individuals, families and small businesses. The Washington Health Benefit Exchange (created in 2011) is responsible for the creation of Washington *Healthplanfinder*, a website on which Washingtonians can find, compare and enroll in qualified health insurance plans. An in-person assistance network was also developed to make support broadly available for those who need additional assistance enrolling via *Healthplanfinder*. The Kitsap Public Health District has a "Navigator" program, which assists Kitsap County residents in the enrollment process. A similar program is run by the Peninsula Community Health Services. County-wide, these two programs assisted 912 persons with enrolling in FY 2017 and 930 in FY 2018.

## Rates of Insured

According to 2018 estimates, approximately 11,775 (4.6%) of 254,318 Kitsap County residents were uninsured, which is higher than 2017 (3.8%), but still lower than 2016 (6.2%) and the Washington State 2018 estimate of 6.4% uninsured. For Kitsap County, this included approximately 2.7% of children age 0 to 5, 3.7% of children age 6 to 18 and 6.5% of adults age 19 to 64. Compared to the previous year (2017), this is a decrease for children age 0 to 5 and an increase for children age 6 to 18 and adults. Figure 62 shows the percentage of residents ages 18 to 64 who have no health insurance by ZIP Code from 2014 to 2018. The ZIP Code with the highest uninsured rate among those 18 to 64 years old is 98359 (Olalla, 15%), followed by 98337 (Bremerton, 12%), 98392 (Suquamish, 12%) and 98310 (East Bremerton, 11%). For North Mason County, the percentage of residents age 18 to 64 without health insurance ranges from 14% in Belfair (98528) to 7% in 98524 (Allyn).



**People without Health Insurance by Age and Poverty Level\*, Kitsap County, 2017 to 2018**



## **Tobacco and Nicotine Exposure**

The harmful effects of tobacco use are well-documented in the medical literature. Nicotine use by children and teens makes it more likely that they will have a lifelong battle with addiction. Among Kitsap County 8<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed in 2012, 6% reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days. This increased to 20% among 12<sup>th</sup> graders. These percentages have decreased since then and in 2018 4% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 9% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking cigarettes.

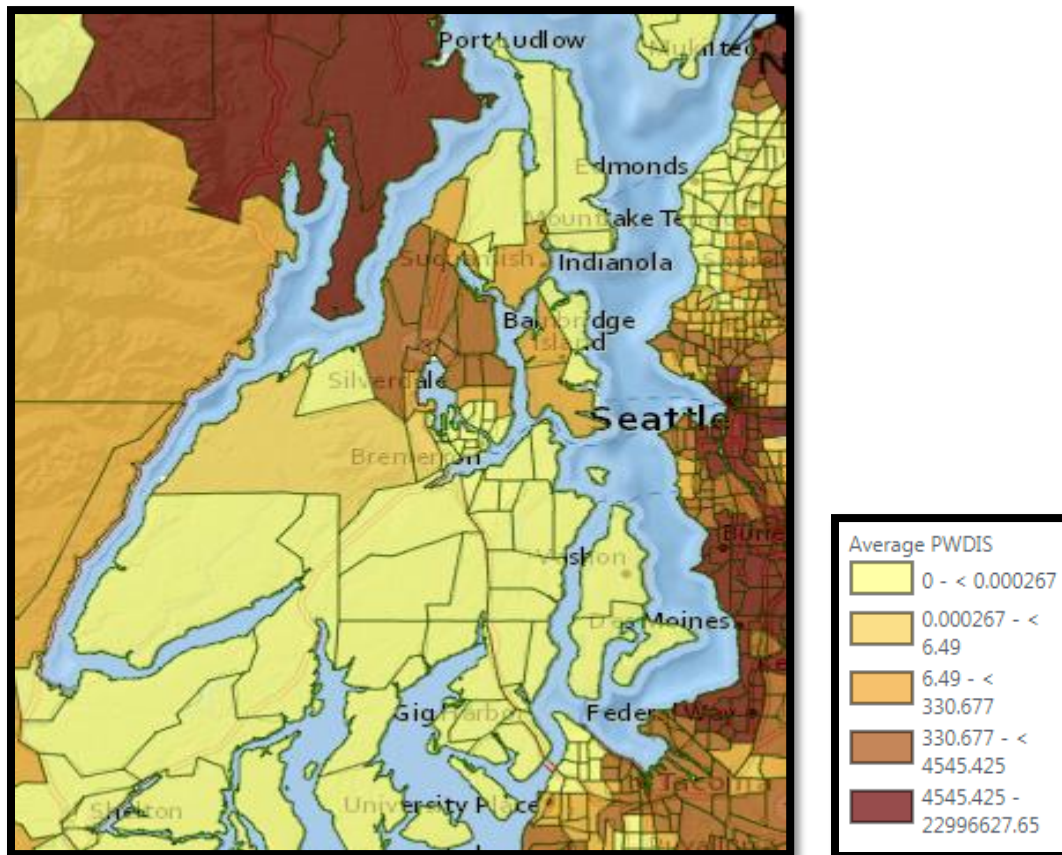
Despite this positive trend, however, the e-cigarette trend gives cause for concern and highlights the need to monitor youth use and educate about the harm from nicotine and tobacco in any form. Vaping and e-cigarette use have gained popularity in recent years. These devices use a heated liquid nicotine solution to produce a vapor. Their high-tech design, easy availability, small size and many flavor options may make them more appealing to children and teenagers. Many devices resemble other innocuous items you might expect a teenager to use, such as USB drives, and can therefore be easily charged and used in schools and homes without detection.

While many of the harmful effects of e-cigarettes are unclear, lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use were first recognized in the spring of 2019. As of December 10, 2019, 2,409 cases had been hospitalized and 52 people had died. Cases are occurring in all 50 states in the U.S. and are continuing to be diagnosed. There have been 21 cases of vaping associated lung injury in Washington residents since April 2019, 2 of those cases in Kitsap County. A specific cause has not been found, but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified vitamin E acetate, a common additive especially in THC-containing e-cigarette products, as a chemical of concern among people with vaping associated lung injury. The CDC is recommending that all people refrain from the use of all e-cigarette products. As of January 2020, it will be against the law to sell e-cigarette and tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 in Washington State. Because this is a state law rather a federal law, sales will still be allowed to those between the ages of 18 and 21 on federal property, such as Naval Base Kitsap, after January. In addition, Governor Inslee and the State Board of Health passed an emergency rule banning the sale of flavored vapor products on October 10, 2019, and the sale of vapor products containing vitamin E acetate on November 18, 2019. Both bans will be in effect for only 120 days, unless extended. The rule also requires the reporting of lung injury associated with the use of e-cigarettes.

## Water Quality

Discharge from wastewater facilities can directly contaminate surface water and groundwater and is associated with adverse health outcomes such as the prevalence of hypertension. These contaminants can put nearby communities at risk, especially when the contaminated sites are used as irrigation or drinking water supplies. Figure below displays the toxicity-weighted concentration of wastewater discharge in stream reach segments within 500 meters of a block centroid, divided by the distance in meters, displayed as the population-weighted average of blocks in each block group (PWDIS). On the map, darker colors indicate higher levels of wastewater discharge toxicity in streams.

### Wastewater Discharge Toxicity, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2015



## Overweight and Obesity

The proportion of Kitsap County adults estimated to be at a healthy weight (BMI = 18.5-24.9) was 40% in 2011, 38% in 2016, 41% in 2017 and 30% in 2018. The child population tends to be better than adults, yet still only 72% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported being at a healthy weight (BMI below 85<sup>th</sup> percentile) in 2014 and 71% in 2016. This percentage further decreased to 69% in 2018 and is now statistically significantly lower than the 2012 rate (74%).

The rate among Kitsap County Head Start enrollees is much more variable due to small numbers. Among enrollees during the 2018-19 school year, more than one-third (36%) of children were overweight or obese. This percentage is variable from year to year, but averages about 32% over the past 5 years (27% in 2017-18, 34% in 2016-17 and 31% in 2015-16 and 30% in 2014-15). All agencies' percentages increased this year compared to last year except for the Suquamish Tribe.

### Overweight and Obese Head Start Enrollees by Agency, Kitsap County: 2018-19

	Head Start			
	At a healthy weight	Overweight or obese	Total students with weight reported at enrollment	% overweight or obese
<b>Kitsap Community Resources</b>	159	105	269	39%
<b>Olympic Educational Service District</b>	107	53	169	31%
<b>Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe</b>	20	10	30	33%
<b>Suquamish Tribe</b>	26	12	38	32%
<b>Kitsap County Total</b>	312	180	506	36%

Note: Table does not include underweight which comprised 2% of KCR, 5% of OESD, 0% of Port Gamble and 0% of Suquamish. Not reported for Early Head Start.

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

In Kitsap County, an estimated 29% of adults (2011) experienced 3 or more ACEs, about the same as Washington State (28%). This question was asked again in 2019, so new data will be available in 2020. Data from two of the Kitsap Public Health District programs serving low-income pregnant women and first-time mothers illustrate that ACEs are quite pervasive among this population, especially when compared to the general population. In 2013-14, more than half (58%) of the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) clients had 3 or more ACEs (mean 4.2) and 51% of the Maternity Support Services (MSS) clients had 3 or more ACEs (mean 3.1). In 2017, MSS clients were only offered ACEs screening between January 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, while NFP clients received screenings throughout the year. In 2017, more than half (58%) of MSS clients and almost 3 out of every 4 NFP clients (73%) reported having 3 or more ACEs.

This data is no longer being collected for MSS clients, but for NFP clients in 2019 who were screened (35 mothers), 71% reported having 3 or more ACEs and more than half (54%) had 5 or more ACEs.

Kitsap Strong, formed in 2015, is a community initiative whose mission it is to "improve the overall health and well-being of Kitsap and its residents, through the prevention of ACEs and the building of resilience." Kitsap Strong is using a collective impact approach to engage and educate community agencies and leaders about ACEs and resiliency, and to encourage innovative approaches and partnerships to address ACEs in our community. It is the hope of Kitsap Strong to engage agencies across the entire lifespan, from prenatal care and early childcare providers all the way through hospice care, and to foster new and stronger working relationships between agencies.

During 2015, Kitsap Strong funded a Collaborative Learning Academy (CLA), through which it provided grants to local agencies for a minimum of two key participants from each agency to attend trainings and cohort meetings to learn the science and research of ACEs and begin considering how they could apply the concepts of awareness, prevention, and resiliency to their work. A total of 26 agencies became members of the first cohort. In 2018, two new Collective Learning Academy cohorts were created. With OESD as the lead, a cohort of schools and school district personnel began in May and continues to meet once a month throughout the school year regarding trauma's impact in the education environment and how to implement trauma-sensitive school practices within classrooms. In addition, a new cohort of 11 organizations started in the fall. Participants of the CLA are trained in ACE Interface's "NEAR" (Neurosciences, Epigenetics, ACEs, and Resilience) Science curriculum as well as collective impact, community resiliency, and capacity building. The intent is to foster a learning environment where agencies are encouraged to consider how their services/approach may either mitigate or exacerbate the effects of ACEs in the lives of their clients. Kitsap Strong held 30 NEAR trainings for approximately 1,168 people during 2015, 79 trainings for 2,542 people in 2016, 106 trainings for 1,415 people in 2017, 61 trainings for 1,734 people in 2018, and another 58 trainings for 1,594 people in 2019.

### **Prenatal Care in the First Trimester**

Early prenatal care is an important component of a healthy pregnancy. Regular check-ups allow for early detection, treatment, and management of medical and obstetric conditions, such as pregnancy-induced hypertension and diabetes. Prenatal visits also provide an opportunity for healthcare providers to educate women about proper nutrition, safe sexual practices, the dangers of smoking, and the use of alcohol and drugs, and other factors that might affect pregnancy outcomes. Infant mortality rates have been shown to be higher for women who begin prenatal care after the first trimester.

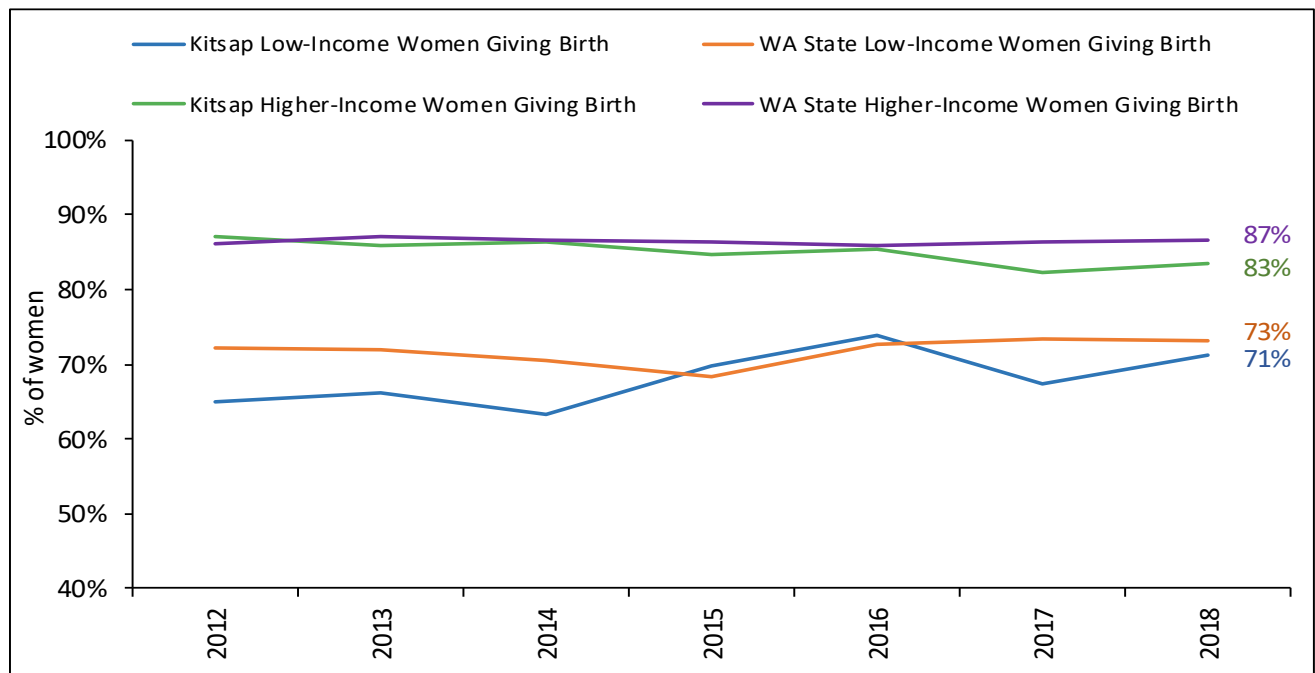


In previous updates, data on prenatal care has been reviewed for civilian residents only, however in this update, data on prenatal care is presented for all Kitsap mothers, including both “military” (those delivering in a federal facility) and civilian. Overall, about 8 out of every 10 (80%) women began prenatal care in the first trimester during 2018, which was not statistically significantly lower than the state’s rate (81%), and about the same as Kitsap’s rate over the last few years (2017 78%, 2016 82%, 2015 80%). However, the rates of prenatal care initiation differ substantially between women who are low income (as assessed by having a Medicaid-paid delivery) and women of higher income status (defined as having a delivery paid by some means other than Medicaid). As shown, the Kitsap rates of first trimester initiation have historically been lower than the statewide rates for both low-income and higher-income women. Despite these lower rates of care initiation, there have been improvements among the Kitsap County low-income women, with Kitsap’s rate for low-income women being slightly higher than the state average in 2015 and 2016. In 2018, Kitsap’s rate for low-income women is not statistically significantly different from the state’s rate. Only 71% of low-income women in Kitsap (not quite 3 in 4) initiated care during the first trimester in 2018. While higher income women in Kitsap County have historically had no statistically significant change in their rate over time, in 2017 and 2018 there is now a statistically significant decreasing trend among higher income women from 2012 to 2018, reaching a low of 82% in 2017, the lowest percentage since 2009. The rate for higher-income women improved slightly in 2018 to 83%.

Self-reported information on starting prenatal care can be biased by memory recall and knowledge of when the second trimester started, however it is very valuable in assessing intent.

Among female HS/EHS parents surveyed in 2011 and 2013, there was a slight increase in the percentage (76% to 81%) who reported having a baby in the past five years and starting prenatal care in the first trimester. In the 2016 parent survey, there were 90 women who had babies within the last 5 years, and of those, 88% reported starting prenatal care in the first trimester.

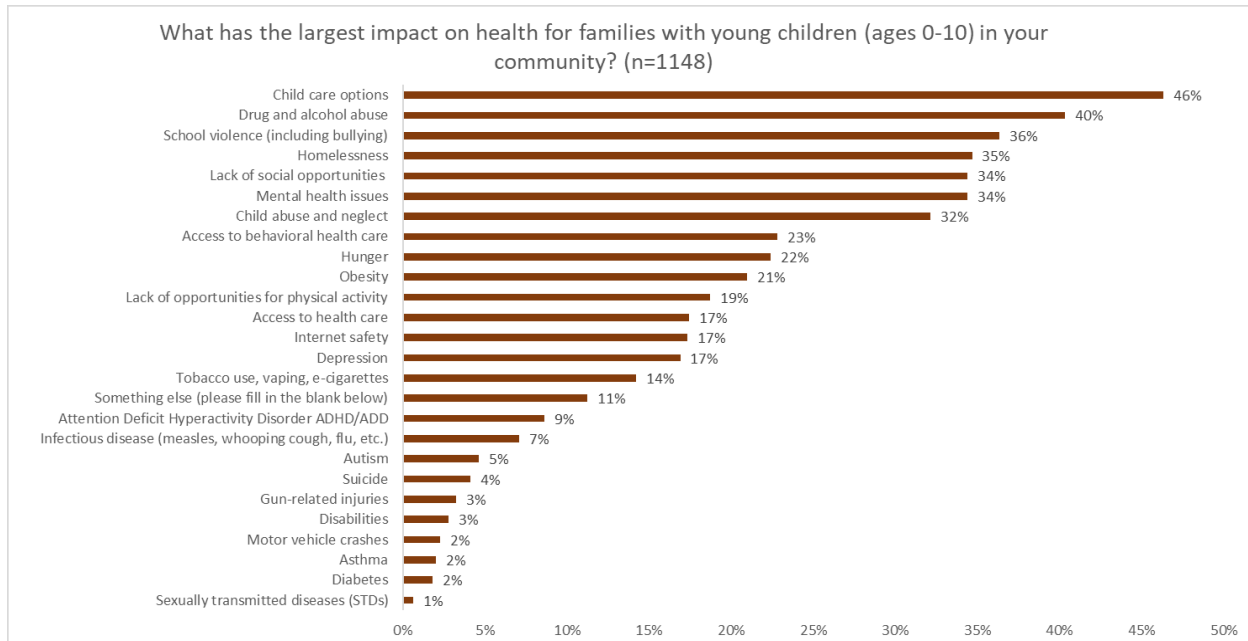
**Women Who Began Prenatal Care in the First Trimester by Medicaid (Income Proxy) Status, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2012 to 2018**



**KITSAP COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES SURVEY SUMMARY 2019**

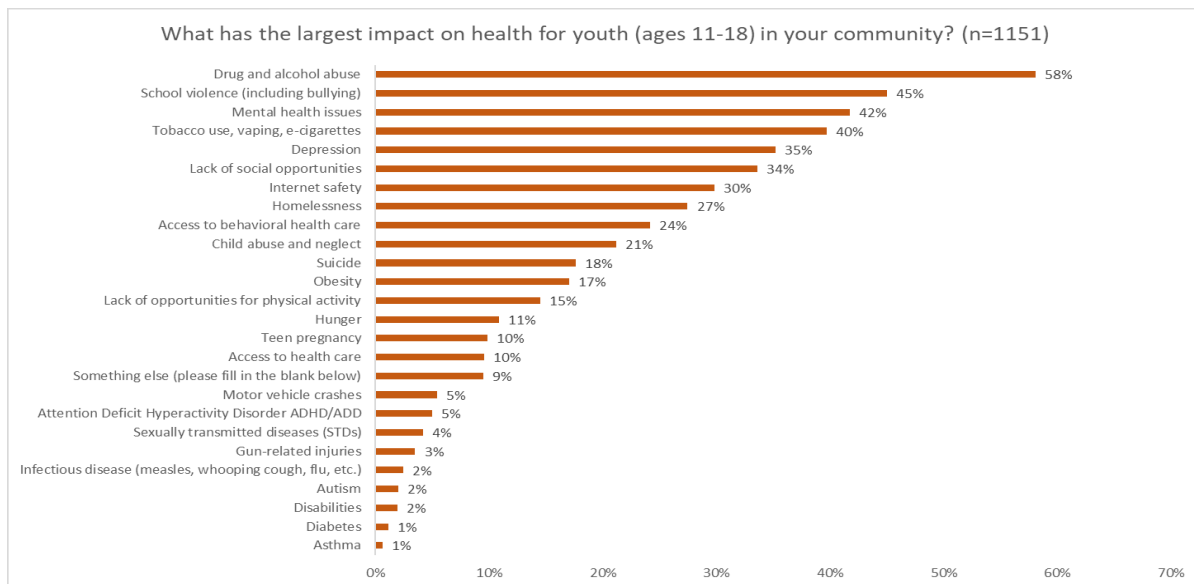
**Factors with the largest impact on health for families with young children, ages 0 to 10.**

Respondents were asked to pick the top 3 factors that impact health for families with young children. Child care options was selected as the most frequent response (46%). Drug and alcohol abuse (40%), school violence (36%), homelessness (35%), a lack of social opportunities (34%), and mental health issues (34%) were identified as the next most important things impacting families with young children.



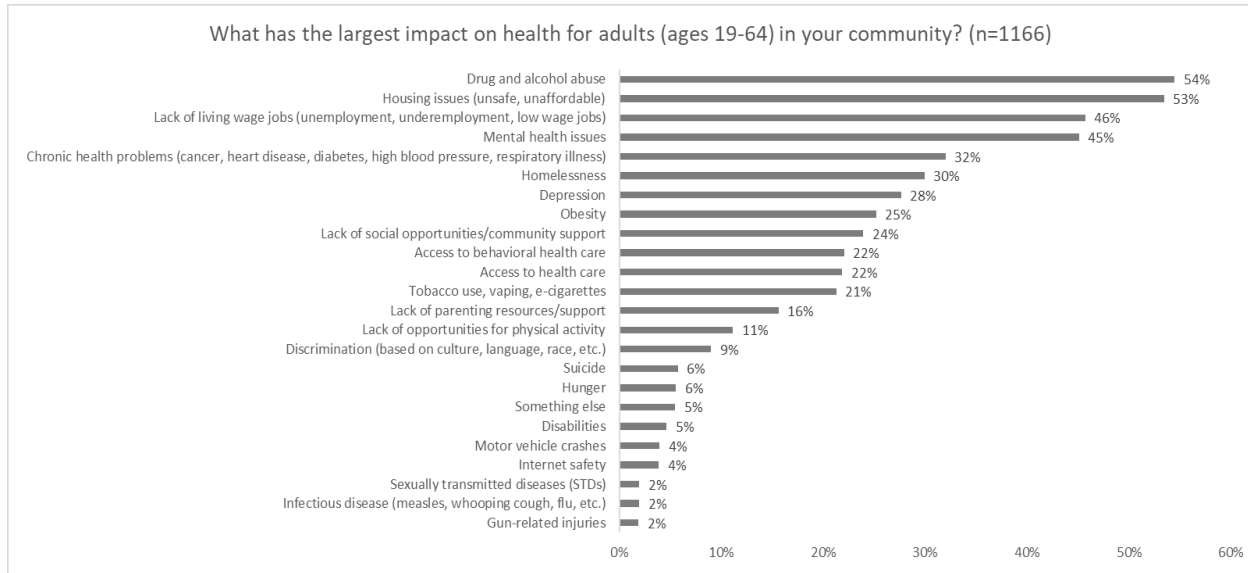
### Factors with the largest impact on health for youth between the ages of 11 and 18.

Respondents were asked to pick the top 3 factors that impact youth in the community. Drug and alcohol abuse was selected as the most frequent response (58%). School violence (45%), mental health issues (42%), tobacco use including vaping and e-cigarettes (40%), and depression lack of social opportunities (35%) were identified as the next most important factors impacting youth between the ages of 11 and 18.



### Factors with the largest impact on health for adults between the ages of 19 and 64.

Respondents were asked to pick the top 3 factors that impact adults in the community. Drug and alcohol abuse was selected as the most frequent response (54%). Housing issues (53%), lack of living wage jobs (46%), mental health issues (45%), and chronic health problems (32%) were identified as the next most important factors impacting adults between the ages of 19 and 64.



## Mental Health

As indicated by the social service provider survey and anecdotal reports, there is a shortage of mental health services for young children. The Peninsulas Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Group is a local, active group consisting of providers and those with an interest in the field. The group meets monthly and is a resource for the community.

Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMHS) provides an extensive array of mental and behavioral health care targeted to child and family health. A short list of the many services includes mental health assessments, evidence-based therapy for trauma and parent-child interaction, home-based individual or family therapy, education, skill building, and advocacy work tailored to family needs, and intensive support specializing in foster care issues. It is a non-profit center providing both inpatient and outpatient services. The vast majority of clients served are at or below the federal poverty level.

Per their 2018 annual report, KMHS served a total of 6,526 clients (about 150 less than 2017), of which 1,425 were children age 0 to 17. In 2016, a PCHS Dental Clinic opened on KMHS campus, which is believed to be the first example in the nation of co-locating dental and

behavioral health services. In addition, they partnered with Kitsap Community Resources to establish the Housing and Recovery through Peer Services, or “HARPS program, which assists adults exiting psychiatric or chemical dependency treatment with housing and community support needs. The Western State Peer Bridgers Program was also created, with two Peer Specialists available to assist clients with pre and post discharge supports for successful community reintegration, including securing housing. In 2018, KMHS opened the county’s first Crisis Triage Center in August and a substance use residential facility called Pacific Hope and Recovery Center. In addition, they co-located a KMHS Designated Crisis Responder at the Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office to support officers in the field and purchased 1.6 acres of land, which will be used for construction of a 74 unit supported housing complex by fall 2021. In January 2020, payment for Medicaid reimbursed mental health and substance use services will be contracted through 5 Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and KMHS is working to ensure a smooth transition to the managed care model with multiple changes to the agency’s infrastructure and services delivery models.

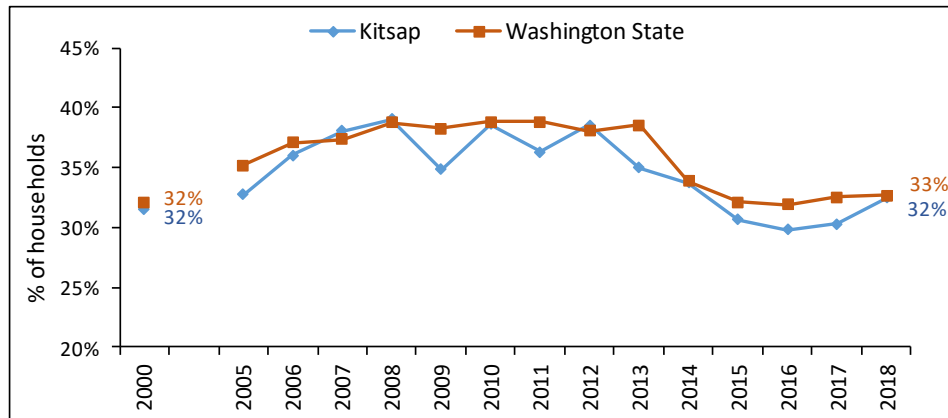
## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Households experiencing homelessness is rising. The Housing Solutions Center reported serving 1,076 households who were Literally Homeless in 2019, up from 1,002 households in 2016.
- For every 100 low-income households qualifying for affordable housing, there are only 12 units available.
- The average unit rent in 2019 was \$1,400, an increase 9% since the beginning of 2018, and 48% since 2015.
- During the 2019 annual Kitsap County Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count, there were 173 homeless individuals identified as living without shelter, which represents a 16% increase over 2018.
- A total of 1,018 students were reported as homeless during the 2017-18 school year, which represented a 10% decrease from 2015-16.

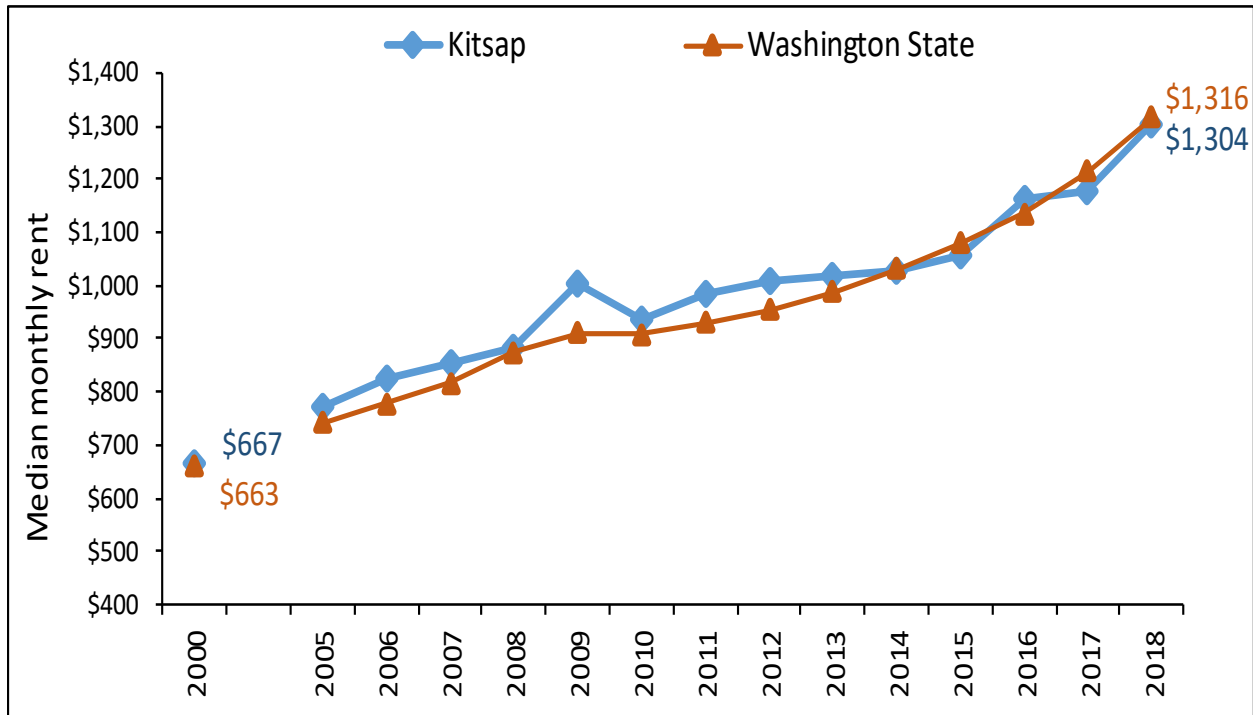
### Housing Affordability

According to The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), families who pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. Under this definition, it is estimated that 32% of Kitsap County residents (including both renters and owners) and 33% of Washington State residents had difficulty affording other necessities during 2018, just slightly higher than in 2016 and 2017. Within Kitsap County, 2018 estimates show that 25% of home owners and 50% of renters were paying 30% or more of their monthly income on housing. While the percentage of owners paying 30% or more of their income on housing has decreased slightly as compared to 2000 (26%), the percentage of renters has increased since 2000 (42%), equaling the 2014 high point of 50%.

### Households Paying 30% or More of Income for Housing Costs, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 and 2005 to 2018

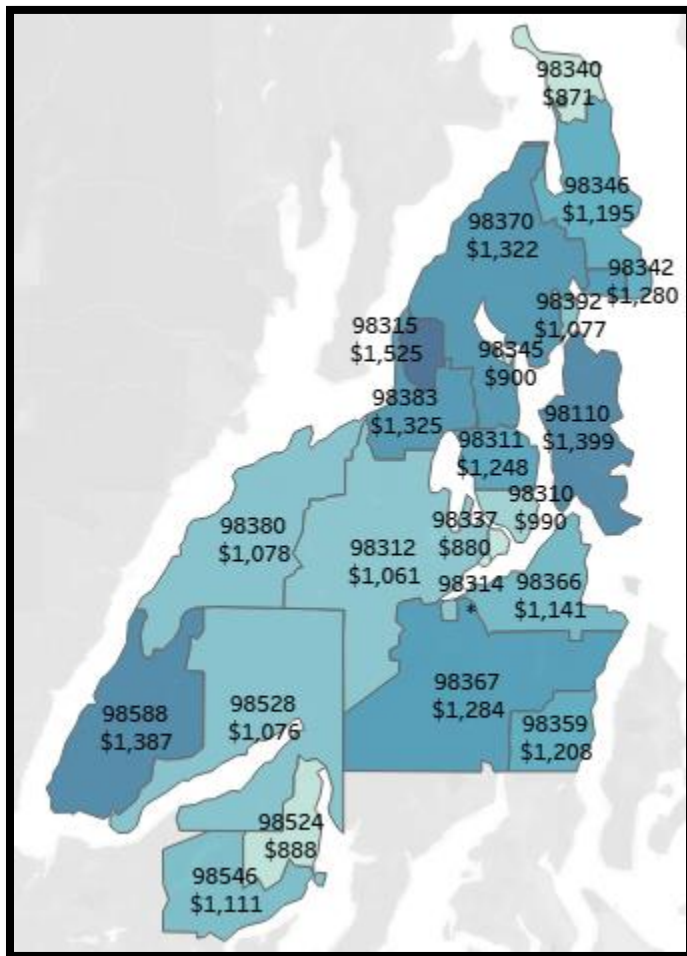


During 2018, an estimated 30% of 105,411 occupied housing units in Kitsap County were rented. The median gross rent has about doubled (96% increase) from 2000 to 2018. In 2018, the county-wide median gross rent was \$1,305 per month, just below the state median of \$1,316 per month. In Kitsap County, in order to afford the median monthly rent and not spend more than 30% of income on housing, a household would need to earn \$4,347 per month, which is equivalent to \$52,160 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a wage of \$25.08 per hour. This hourly rate was well above the 2018 statewide minimum wage of \$11.50, but well below the median household income of \$74,729 in Kitsap County in 2018. The estimated yearly income needed to afford the median monthly rent (\$52,160) is below the median earnings for full-time, year-round male workers (\$66,115) in Kitsap, but above the median earnings for full-time, year-round female workers (\$43,510). Rental costs are a hardship for many in finding stable housing.

**Median Gross Rent, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 and 2005 to 2018**

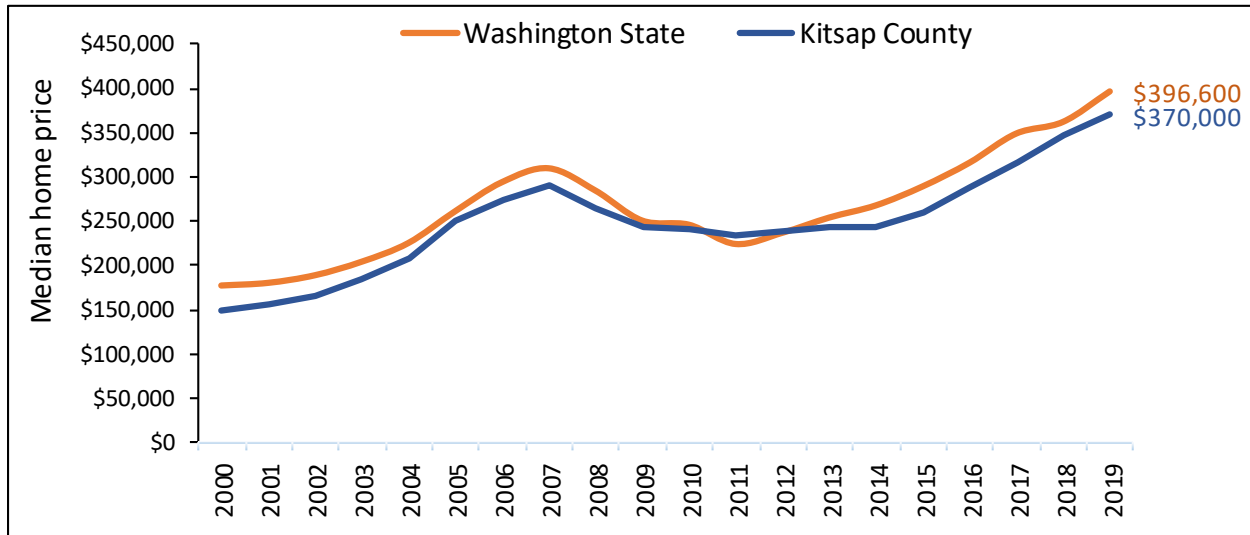
From 2014 to 2018, median rent varied across the county, from a high of \$1,399 on Bainbridge Island to a low of \$969 in Bremerton. Central Kitsap's median rent (\$1,346), North Kitsap's (\$1,247) and South Kitsap's (\$1,176) all fall in between. By ZIP Code, median gross rent varies from highs of \$1,525 in ZIP Code 98315 (Silverdale/Bangor) and \$1,399 on Bainbridge Island (98110) to lows of \$871 in ZIP Code 98340 (Hansville), \$880 in 98337 (Bremerton) and \$990 in ZIP Code 98310 (East Bremerton). Median rent in North Mason County ranges from \$888 in 98524 (Allyn) to \$1,387 in 98588 (Tahuya).



**Median Gross Rent by ZIP Code, Kitsap County and North Mason County: 2014-2018**

Beyond merely being able to rent a home, home ownership is a challenging financial obstacle for many. The 2016 parent survey shows that only 19% of respondents own their home. The dramatic rise in real estate costs during in the mid-2000s made home ownership even more difficult to attain. Median home prices in both Kitsap County and Washington State hit a peak in 2007, then toppled as the recession began. The median home price reached the lowest levels in nearly a decade during the first quarter of 2012. By the second quarter of 2016, the median prices for both Kitsap County and Washington State had surpassed the 2007 peak. Preliminary data for 2019 show continued growth, with the Kitsap median of \$370,000 still below the state median of \$396,600. This represents a 27% increase from 2007 to 2019 for Kitsap, and a 7% increase from the previous year (2018). There was a 28% increase for the state from 2007 to 2019, and a 10% increase from the previous year.

### Median Home Prices, Kitsap County and Washington State: 2000 to 2019



### Public Housing

Section 8 Housing is a federally funded program to offer rental assistance to very low-income, elderly, and disabled families. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funds to local public housing authorities who administer the program by providing Housing Choice Vouchers to eligible families and individuals. The Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA) is a public corporation with the purpose of providing affordable housing opportunities in the City of Bremerton for people with limited financial means. BHA's primary sources of funding include contracts with the HUD and rent from properties owned in Bremerton. They own and operate housing communities that include Public Housing units and affordable housing. Some properties are owned exclusively by BHA while others are operated in partnership with other agencies. During 2019, BHA had 206 public housing units. However, because of the number of people wanting housing in Kitsap, the wait-time to receive a placement can be lengthy.

BHA also administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, which is their most desirable program since a voucher issued can be used anywhere in the U.S. BHA conducts physical inspections of the units to ensure they meet federal quality standards before issuing vouchers. In 2019, BHA had 1,368 Housing Choice Vouchers in use, however, because of the desirability of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, the BHA waitlist for vouchers is always full. In 2015, there were 86 individuals on the waitlist, a reduction from 385 in December 2013. More recently when the waitlist was opened, in March 2015, BHA took in excess of 3,176 applications and placed 300 people on the waitlist through a lottery system. A year later, in

March of 2016, BHA again opened the waitlist and took another 3,807 applications. Again 300 applicants were placed on the waitlist, bringing the total to 409 applicants on the waitlist. The waitlist was again opened in October 2018, and the total number of people on the waitlist at that time was 378, with the average wait time being approximately 18 months.

Housing Kitsap is a housing authority serving all of Kitsap County except the City of Bremerton, with a total population served of approximately 220,000. Currently located in Silverdale, their primary funding sources include HUD, Washington State Housing, Department of Commerce, and the USDA Rural Development Office. Their mission is to manage, preserve, and build safe affordable housing serving individuals and families throughout the county. Clientele include low- and moderate-income residents. Housing Kitsap manages low rent public housing, with apartments and single-family homes (1-4 bedrooms) as well as senior/family apartments (1-3 bedrooms) throughout the county. In total, there are 136 affordable housing units with Housing Kitsap as of 2019. Most of these properties have a wait list, though a few are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Applicants are placed on waiting lists according to the number of persons in their household and occupancy standards. The one-bedroom wait list closed in September 2019 and there is no time frame for when it will reopen. Wait times for housing can be long; the average wait time in 2019 was 18 months. As of January 2015, the longest wait list was for 2-bedroom public housing units, which had over 370 persons and an expected wait time of 3-4 years. Housing Kitsap also administers the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program and operates several programs designed to expand affordable housing opportunities. In 2017, 25 new homeowners completed their homes. The Section 8 Housing Choice Vendor Program is administered in partnership by the BHA, and currently has 301 housing choice vouchers. The last wait list opening was in February 2017.

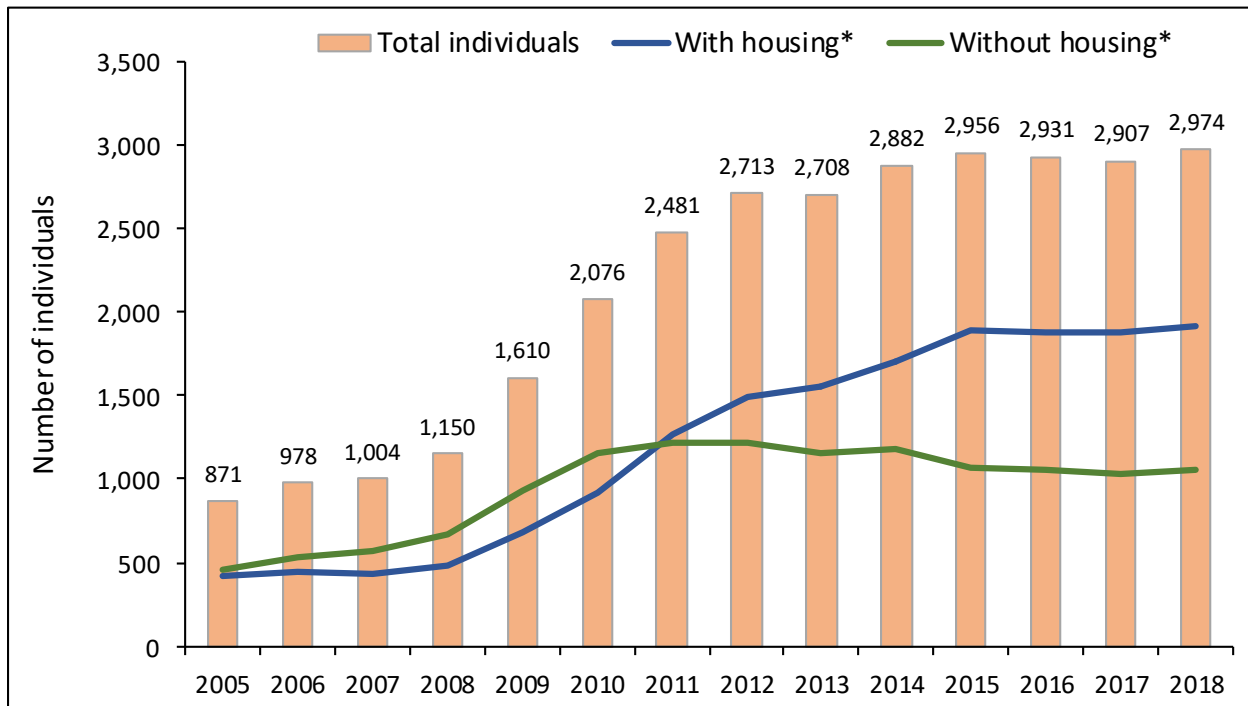
## **Homelessness**

It is difficult to know exactly how many persons or families are homeless but reported housing status on applications for Basic Food (formerly the food stamps program) can be used to estimate these numbers. Clients are enrolled on a monthly basis, with benefits typically lasting about a year (or until they are no longer income eligible). Clients who are no longer eligible are removed at the end of a month. Since enrollment in the Basic Food program fluctuates month to month, evaluating the average monthly enrollment for a year gives an estimate of how many clients were using benefits throughout the year. According to these estimates, the number of homeless individuals more than doubled from 2005 to 2018. The sharp uptick began in about June 2008, though the last few years have remained relatively stable. Most of the growth has been among those reporting having a temporary place to stay, whereas the number of Basic

Food clients reporting being without any housing has been relatively stable since 2010. A very similar trend is seen when looking by households rather than individuals.

During the 2019 annual Kitsap County Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count, there were 478 individuals counted. This was a 13% decrease from 2006 (547 total individuals). The 2019 count included 84 (18%) children under the age of 18. From 2010-17, the average proportion of children has been 25%. The PIT counts are considered underestimates of the true number of homeless individuals. The counts include persons who are sheltered (emergency or transitional), unsheltered, and temporarily living with family or friends. In 2019, the total unsheltered was 173 (36%). A few of the other subpopulations that accounted for significant portions of the total 2019 count were permanently physically disabled adults (53%), mentally disabled adults (48%), victims of domestic violence (12%), those with chronic substance use (28%) and those with chronic health conditions that are permanently disabling (30%). In 2019, 37% of those counted in the Point-In-Time Count said that eviction or loss of housing was one reason for their homelessness

#### **.Average Monthly Number of Homeless Clients Who Apply for Food Stamps by Housing Status, Kitsap County: 2005 to 2018**



\* Homeless without Housing includes clients who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and indicate that they do not have a place to stay at the time of report. Homeless with Housing includes clients commonly referred to as “couch surfing”. In other words, they do not have a fixed regular nighttime residence, but indicate they have a place to stay at the time of report. It also includes clients who reside in a publicly- or privately-operated temporary shelter or domestic violence shelter. (Definitions per DSHS).

### **Residential Shelters**

Kitsap County is supported by a strong emergency shelter system which includes the YWCA Domestic Violence shelter, as well as St. Vincent de Paul and Georgia's House, both serving women and children. Catholic Community Services operates a men's shelter that includes a room for a father with children and Kitsap Rescue Mission runs a low-barrier shelter serving singles and families. The Salvation Army also recently opened a low-barrier shelter serving individuals during the winter months. In addition to these locations, KCR operates a safe park to provide families and couples with a vehicle to park safely with access to hygiene facilities.

### **Housing Solutions Center**

The Housing Solutions Center (HSC) provides coordinated intake and referral services for anyone who is homeless or facing the risk of homelessness. The HSC has sites across Kitsap County including Bremerton, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Bainbridge and The Coffee Oasis locations. In 2019, the HSC met with 2293 households, of whom 1,076 were literally living on the streets, their vehicles, tents, abandoned buildings, etc. In addition, of the households served 77 indicated they had a veteran head of household. Substance Use Disorder and Mental Illness are often characteristics of individuals who are without housing in our community. In 2019, 49% (532) of the Literally Homeless households served indicated they suffered from mental illness and 32% (347) indicated they were fleeing domestic violence.

### **Homeless and Other Vulnerable Persons**

Project Connect is an annual event every January that provides services, information and resources to homeless and other vulnerable persons. It is a "one-stop shop" for information on shelter/housing, WIC, and other resources, as well as services such as vision screening, mental health services, haircuts, immunizations, etc. Items such as coats and sleeping bags are also distributed. A variety of local service agencies partake in the annual event. It is sponsored by the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition, which provides planning, coordination, advocacy, and education in order to end homelessness. During 2016, an estimated 500 local, low-income and homeless residents attended the event held in Bremerton. In 2017, about 450 residents attended. In 2018, Project Connect expanded to include 3 different sites, Port Orchard, Bremerton and Kingston, in order to better reach more Kitsap residents.

### **Weatherization and Minor Home Repair Services**

High energy costs contribute to the high housing cost burden experienced by low income households. KCR Weatherization services provides income eligible individuals with weatherization measures which help households conserve energy usage. On average, households receiving weatherization services experience a reduction in energy usage of 30%, which translates directly to a sustained reduction in their energy costs.

All weatherization measures are installed by local contractors and the types of conservation measures they install include insulation of doors, walls and ceilings, ductless heat pumps, furnace repairs, and blower door testing to assess heat leakage and improve combustion safety. In certain situations, they will also perform minor home repairs which increase accessibility such as repairing stairs and wheelchair ramps, as well as improvements that increase the effectiveness of the weatherization measures such as wiring, roof repairs, and plumbing. In 2019, KCR weatherized 130 units county wide.

### **Utility Assistance**

Rising energy costs pose an extra housing burden on low-income households. There are a variety of community programs in place to help individuals cover these expenses. Energy assistance is provided to those in need in the form of grants from Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Cascade Natural Gas (CNG) and the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The primary energy programs of LIHEAP, CNG and PSE are managed by Kitsap Community Resources and are offered on an October – September cycle. There are also limited discretionary assistance programs offered by select food banks that provide assistance with water, sewer and garbage shut off notices. In 2019, KCR assisted 2493 Households with energy assistance in the amount of \$1,072,485

### **Veterans Assistance Program**

The Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program is administered by KCR on behalf of Kitsap County and provides financial assistance to income eligible veterans in order to bridge the impact of a financial emergency. Funds may be used for Housing, Motel Vouchers, Utilities, Food, Car repairs, Medical Expenses, and other items. In 2019 KCR was able to assist 256 Veterans with \$282,391 in emergency funds

