



Data Summary Report

Community Data on Children Pregnancy through age 5 in Pierce County

November 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Background

In the fall of 2017, community leaders came together to brainstorm how to alleviate the child welfare crisis in Pierce County. Of the 6,200 children who entered out-of-home care in Washington State in 2017, 1,009 of these children were in Pierce County, making it the county with the highest number of children entering care. Community leaders agreed that a comprehensive system for connecting families to needed services in the community and normalizing support for all parents was a necessary strategy to have lasting impact, and to prevent child welfare involvement. The Help Me Grow national system framework was identified as a useful model for coordinating this system. Locally, First 5 FUNdamentals is the organizing entity convening community partners and families to adapt Help Me Grow to the needs of Pierce County families. The mission of First 5 FUNdamentals is to support community-based initiatives in achieving their collective goals for children and families.

About Help Me Grow (HMG)

HMG is a system model that promotes county-wide collaboration in order to build upon existing early childhood resources to promote protective factors among families and mitigate the impact of adversity. By connecting families to existing community services through a coordinated access point or call center, HMG provides timely access to resources and care coordination to reduce barriers to services. HMG is organized around four main components: the coordinated access point for resource connection, data collection and evaluation to systematically identify service gaps in the region, family and community outreach, and health provider outreach. By working closely with health providers, HMG seeks to be a resource to address the social determinants of health, providing holistic care to families and reducing the burden of finding and accessing community resources. In Washington State, Help Me Grow Washington has added two components seen as critical to supporting families with young children: equity and advocacy.

Focus Zip Codes

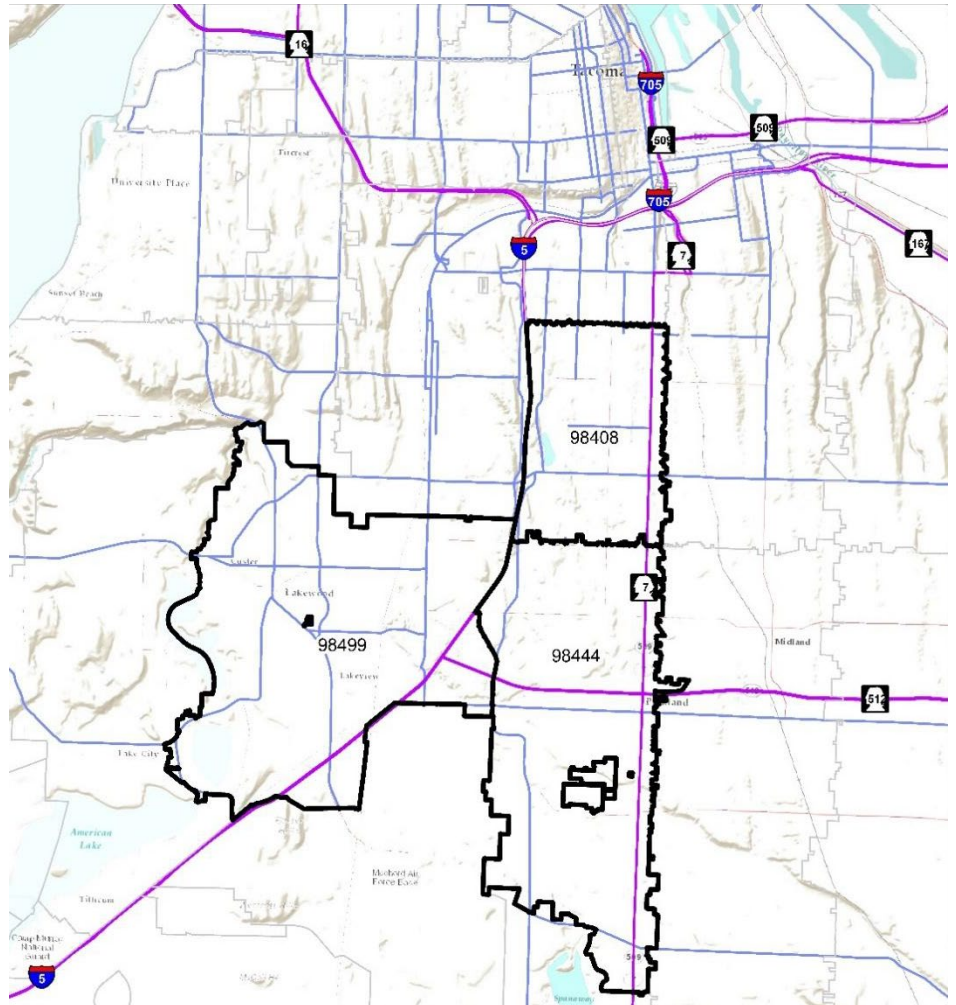
In order to ensure that needed resources are reaching families furthest from opportunity, Help Me Grow Pierce County's five-year pilot that began in 2018 focuses on three zip codes covering three jurisdictions: 98499 (City of Lakewood, Springbrook), 98408 (City of Tacoma, south end), and 98444 (unincorporated Pierce

County including Parkland, Spanaway, and Midland). When compared with Pierce County as a whole, these three zip codes reflect higher poverty rates, lower life expectancy, and higher rates of children entering the child welfare system. While HMG services are available to all families in Pierce County, outreach and community engagement efforts are focused in these three zip codes.

Purpose of this Report

This community assessment is compiled annually to provide a comprehensive look at children from pregnancy to age five in Pierce County. It is intended to guide community efforts in reaching parents of young children and understanding their needs. This report provides measurements for the HMG Pierce County action teams to determine desired long-term population outcomes, as well as implementation strategies that will reach families and meet existing resource needs.

Wherever possible, the data in this report is provided for Pierce County in total, the three zip codes referenced above, and Washington State as a comparison. By coordinating services from pregnancy to age five under a coordinated access point, Help Me Grow provides a systematic way to gather ongoing data on family needs, available resources, and service gaps. Identifying service gaps can inform future advocacy and investment efforts.



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

DATA

Pierce County is the second most populous county in Washington State, and is home to over 72,000 children under the age of six. Supporting young children and their caregivers during this developmental stage is critical to a healthy society, when the development of a child’s brain in the first few years of life provides a foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health (Harvard Center on the Developing Child, 2018).

Demographics

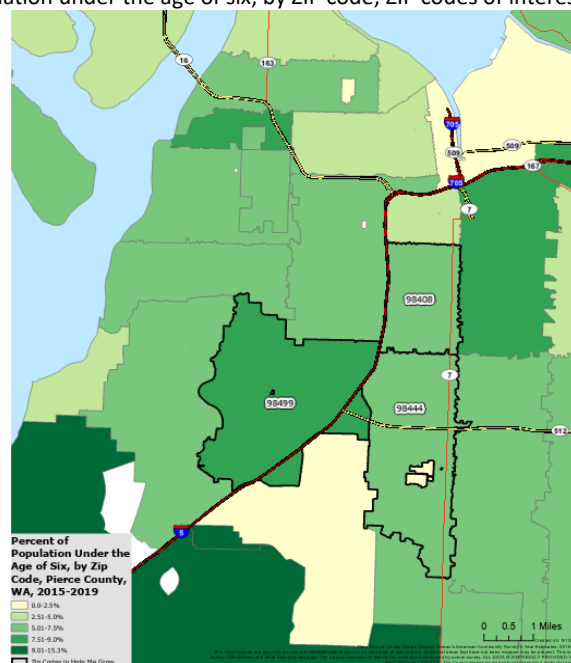
Age and Family Composition

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Total population	21,101	34,456	31,522	877,013	7,404,107
Number of children under age 5 (percent of total population)	1,526 (7.2%)	2,393 (6.9%)	2,412 (7.7%)	58,570 (6.7%)	454,364 (6.1%)
Civilian Veterans: individuals 18 and older	13.2%	12.9%	17.5%	13.2%	9.3%
% of Children < 6 living with a single parent (per total population < 6)	44.5%	45.2%	44.9%	27.4%	24.9%
Grandparents responsible for own grandchildren <18 years old	116 (30.2%)	262 (35.2%)	200 (33.1%)	5,875 (32.9%)	42,653 (31.3%)
Immigrants (Percent of total population born outside the United States)	13.0%	20.7%	17.9%	9.8%	14.3%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2015-2019.

Where Children Ages 0-5 Live

Percentage of population under the age of six, by ZIP code; ZIP codes of interest are outlined in black.



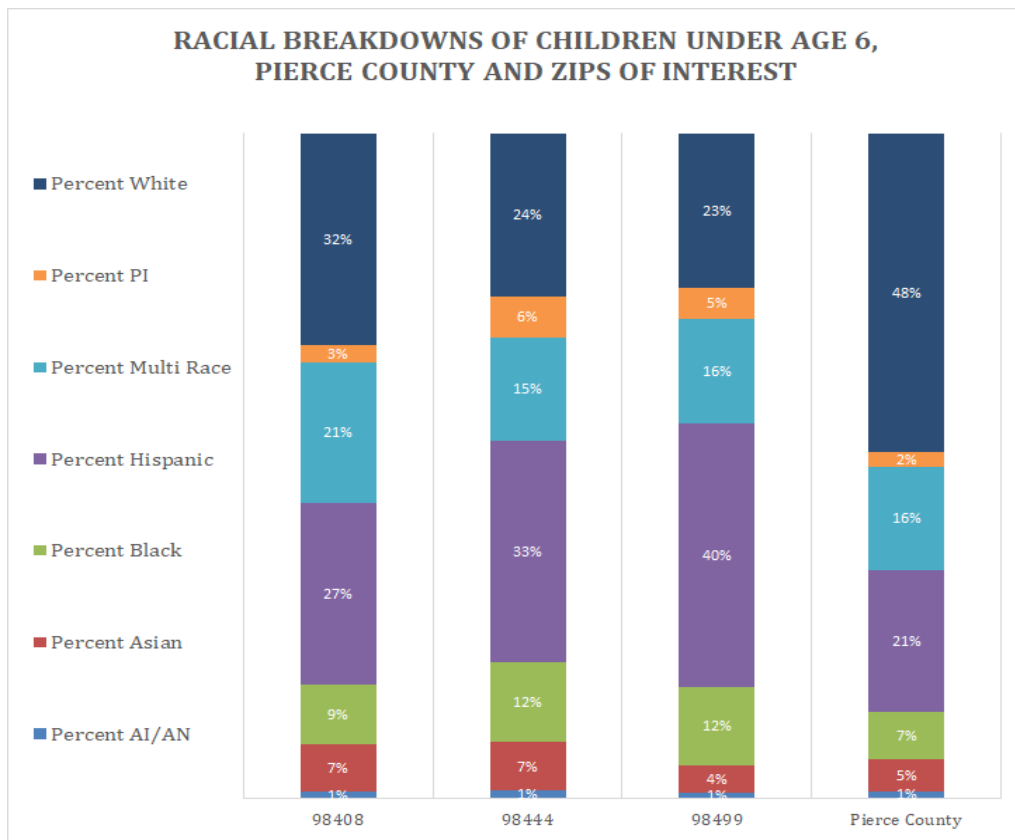
Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5 – year estimates, 2015-2019.

Percent of Children Age 0-5 By Race

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)	0.9%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%
Asian	7.3%	7.3%	4.0%	4.8%	8.2%
Black	8.8%	12.1%	11.8%	7.2%	4.4%
Hispanic/Latino	27.4%	33.3%	39.6%	21.2%	25.1%
Multi-Race	21.1%	15.5%	15.8%	15.5%	10.4%
Pacific Islander (PI)	2.6%	6.3%	4.7%	2.3%	1.0%
White	31.8%	24.5%	23.2%	47.9%	49.6%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2020. Note: Hispanic/Latino as a race

Where Children Live by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Washington State Community Health Assessment Tool, 2020 population estimates

Economic Stability

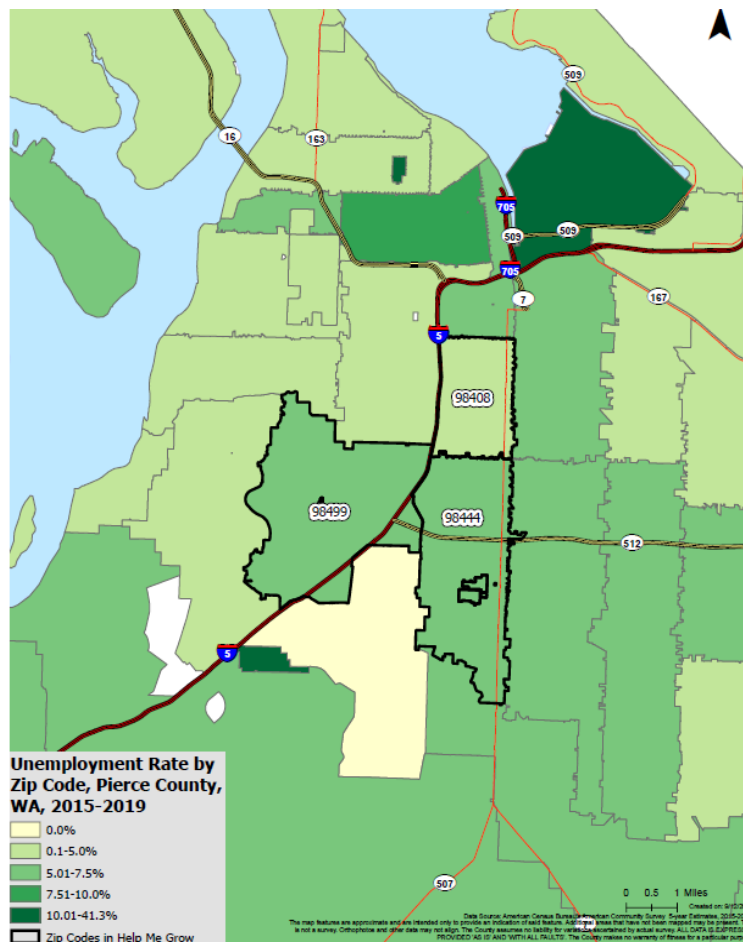
Income and Employment

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Median Household Income (in the last 12 months)	\$59,207	\$48,998	\$42,665	\$72,113	\$73,775
Median Family Household Income (in the last 12 months) of households with children under age 18	\$60,568*	\$44,570*	\$36,922*	\$79,178	\$85,863
Married couple family median income	\$87,422	\$56,531	\$57,545	\$97,870	\$107,749
Single Female Headed Household median income	\$15,205	\$29,716	\$20,452	\$34,151	\$32,497
Single Male Headed Household median income	\$45,481	\$40,662	\$25,469	\$53,421	\$51,851
Unemployment Rate, Civilian Labor Force (population 16 and older)	4.6%	7.0%	7.3%	5.3%	5.0%
% of families with all parents working (with children 0-5)	61.7%	63.6%	62.0%	58.4%	60.6%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2015-2019.

*Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error (±\$14,683 (98408), ±\$5,556 for 98444 and ±5,041 for 98499).

Unemployment Rate



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

Highest Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
8th grade or less	5.6%	5.4%	5.6%	2.8%	3.6%
9th grade - 12th grade (no diploma)	10.1%	10.0%	9.3%	5.7%	5.0%
GED or alternative credential	5.9%	5.3%	5.9%	4.5%	3.9%
High School Diploma	21.8%	29.7%	25.5%	22.8%	18.1%
Some College, no degree	26.0%	24.1%	24.4%	25.6%	23.3%
Associate's Degree	10.4%	9.7%	10.4%	11.5%	10.0%
Bachelor's Degree	14.8%	12.8%	12.8%	17.9%	22.4%
Master's Degree	4.5%	2.4%	4.4%	6.8%	9.8%
Professional school degree/PhD/Professor	0.9%	0.5%	1.8%	2.5%	3.8%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2015-2019.

Poverty

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is a measure of income issued every year by the Department of Health and Human Services. FPLs are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits, such as Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage.

The 2021 FPL income numbers are:

- \$12,880 for individuals
- \$17,420 for a family of 2
- \$21,960 for a family of 3
- \$26,500 for a family of 4

Individuals Living at or Near Poverty

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Individuals living below 50% of FPL	11.3%	7.8%	9.2%	5.2%	5.0%
Individuals living below 100% of FPL	17.6%	18.4%	21.3%	10.4%	10.8%
Individuals living below 150% of FPL	24.6%	28.6%	31.9%	16.6%	17.8%
Individuals living below 200% of FPL	37.2%	42.3%	45.1%	25.1%	25.6%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

Families with Children Ages 0-4 Living in Poverty

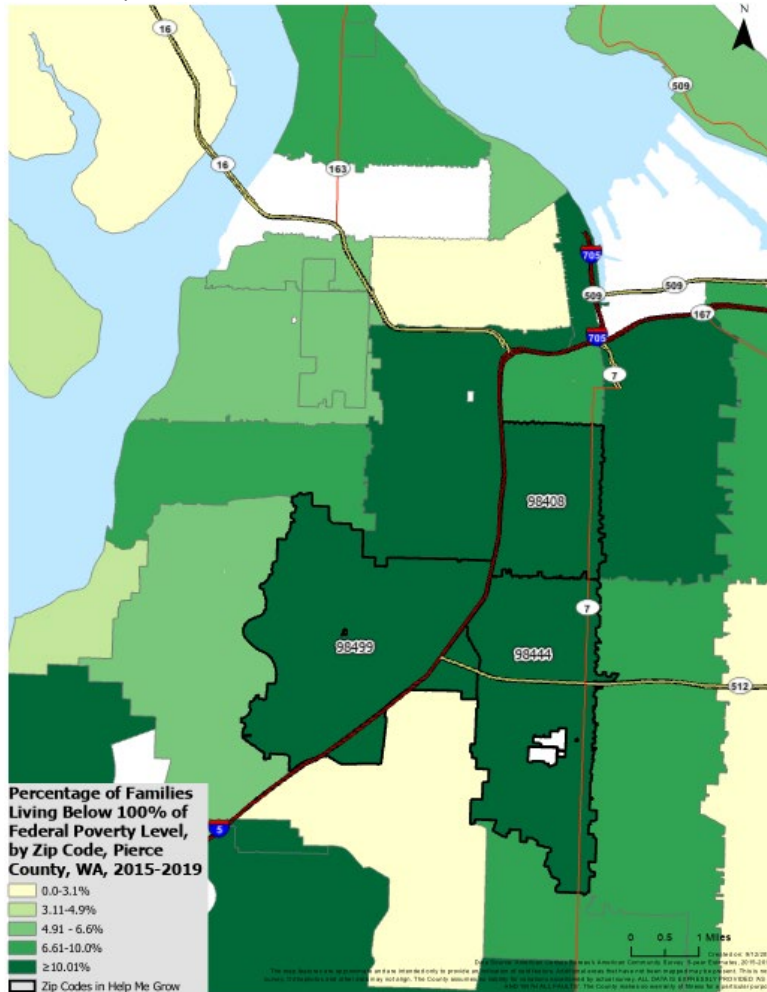
	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
% of Families with Children in household ages 0-4 who are under FPL	17.1%*	5.1%*	22.6%*	10.2%	10.4%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

*Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error (±18.2% for 98408, ±4.8% for 98408 and ±7.9% for 98408).

Families Below 100% of Federal Poverty Level

Percentage of families by census tract who are below the FPL; ZIP codes of interest are outlined in black



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5 year-estimates, 2015-2019.

Public Assistance Programs: % of Families Receiving Support

Type of Assistance	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Food and Nutrition Service: % of Infants Born and Served by WIC	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Food Stamps	20.6%	23.5%	24.9%	12.7%	11.9%
Medicaid (public health insurance coverage)	46.0%	47.4%	50.9%	35.9%	35.3%
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Cash Public Assistance	4.9%	6.8%	4.8%	3.2%	3.0%

*Due to the novel coronavirus, this information has not been made available at the time of this report.

SNAP, Medicaid, TANF Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

Housing and Homelessness

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Homeless families/individuals*	405 (individuals reporting Tacoma as last residence)	96 (individuals reporting Parkland as last residence)	74 (individuals reporting Lakewood as last residence)	745 (households) 1,005 (individuals)	8,283 individuals
Housing cost burden: % of families paying more than 30% of income on housing	39.4%	44.6%	47.3%	34.0%	31.7%

Source for homeless families/individuals: Pierce County, Point in Time Count, January 2021.

*The Point in Time Count changed methodologies in 2021 to only count sheltered individuals (as compared to previous years which counted sheltered and unsheltered). As a result, 2021 data should not be compared with earlier years.

Source for housing cost burden: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

Homelessness by Race (Pierce County, 2021)

	Count	Rate per 100,000 population
American Indian / Alaska Native	44	444.1
Asian	12	17.8
Black or African American	211	320.9
Hispanic / Latino	149	145.1
Multi-Race	181	295.5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	56	365.7
White	501	86.5

Source: Pierce County, Point in Time Count, January 2021.

*The Point in Time Count changed methodologies in 2021 to only count sheltered individuals (as compared to previous years which counted sheltered and unsheltered). As a result, 2021 data should not be compared with earlier years.

Pregnancy and Birth

Births by Location in Pierce County, 2020

Hospital	Birthing Center	Home	Born on Arrival	Other	Total
11,124	286	231	5	4	11,650

Source: Washington State Department of Health birth files, 2020.

Hospital Births by Location, 2020

Tacoma General Hospital	Good Samaritan Hospital	St. Joseph Medical Center	St. Clare Hospital, Lakewood	Madigan Army Medical Center
2,891	2,325	4,242	2	1,671

Source: Washington State Department of Health birth files, 2020.

Birth Outcomes

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Number of births (2020)	283	518	453	11,650	84,259
% receiving adequate prenatal care*	57.3%	51.1%	52.9%	59.2%	67.4%
Preterm births (born before 37 weeks)	33 (11.7%)	55 (10.6%)	53 (11.7%)	1,388 (11.9%)	8,850 (10.5%)
Children born to women under 18 years old	0.4%	0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%
% of Infants breastfed from birth for any length of time***	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*
% of Infants breastfed at least 6 months (per all infants 6-12 months)***	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*

Source: Washington State Department of Health birth files, 2020.

*Adequate prenatal care is defined using the Kotelchuck Index definition as having attended at least 80% of expected prenatal appointments. It is likely that the 2020 values have been significantly impacted by the novel coronavirus (as some appointments were cancelled/put on hold), and fear of coming to the doctor. As a result, interpretation and trends should be viewed with caution.

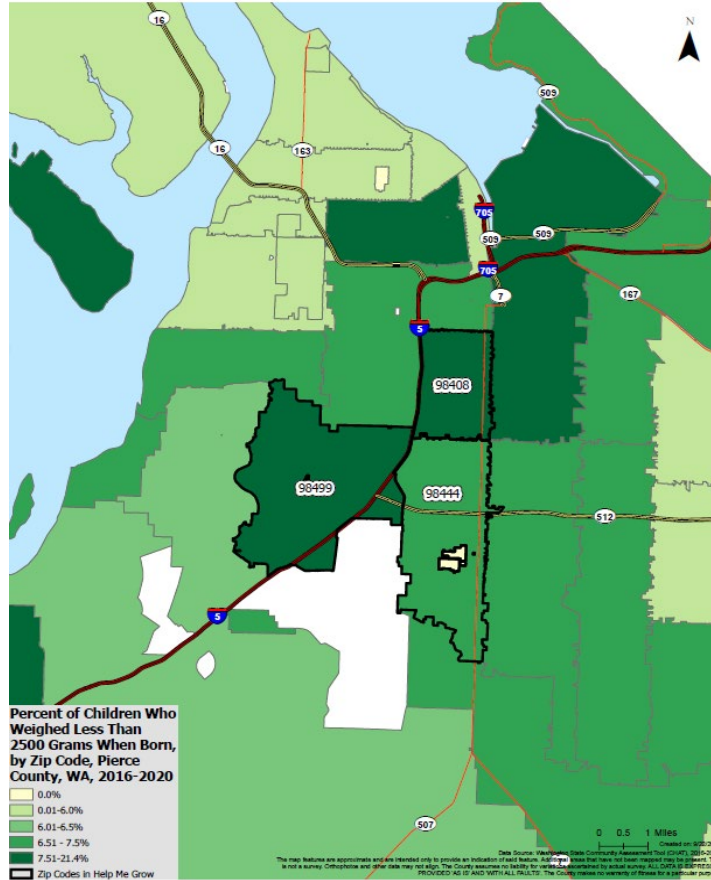
***Due to the novel coronavirus, this information has not been made available at the time of this report.

Low Birth Weight

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Percent born under a normal weight (<2500 grams)	10.2%	6.3%	7.5%	6.7%	6.7%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2020.

Percentage of Children Born Who Weigh Less Than 2500 Grams, by ZIP Code



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the Community Health Assessment Tool. 5-year estimates, 2016-2020

Low Birth Weight by Race and Ethnicity

Percent born under a normal weight (<2500 grams)	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
American Indian / Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	9.1%	2.6%	0%	8.3%	8.0%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	13.9%	8.3%	6.2%	8.0%	8.1%
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	14.8%	12.0%	12.1%	12.1%	9.9%
Hispanic / Latino	8.1%	6.4%	7.2%	7.2%	6.6%
Multi-racial, Non-Hispanic	13.6%	7.1%	8.9%	8.5%	7.4%
Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	11.1%	11.8%	9.5%	7.2%	7.1%
White, Non-Hispanic	5.4%	5.4%	7.0%	5.5%	5.8%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool 5-year averages, 2016-2020.

Infant Mortality Count, 2020

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Infant mortality count	2	3	3	49	394

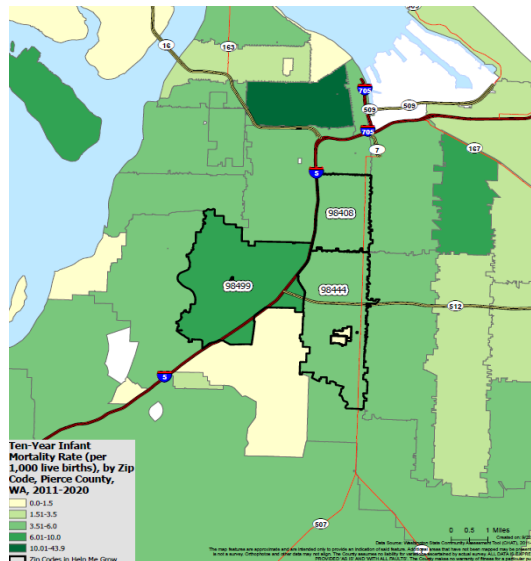
Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2020.

Infant Mortality Rates

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Ten-year rate (2011-2020) per 1,000 births	4.9	5.2	7.3	5.1	4.5

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2011-2020.

Ten-Year Infant Mortality Rates by ZIP Code



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), 2011-2020.

Infant Mortality Rate by Race and Ethnicity

Number of Infant Deaths from Age 0-1 per 1,000 live births	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0	11.9	0.0	9.3	8.4
Asian	4.6	6.6	3.3	4.4	3.0
Black	4.1	3.1	7.6	10.8	8.7
Hispanic	0.0	4.8	6.3	4.9	4.3
Multi-Race	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	6.1
Pacific Islander	12.1	6.6	3.1	8.6	6.5
White	5.8	3.6	7.6	4.1	4.0

2020 data was not available at the time of this report. Information reflects 2010-2019.

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2010-2019.

Child Health Indicators

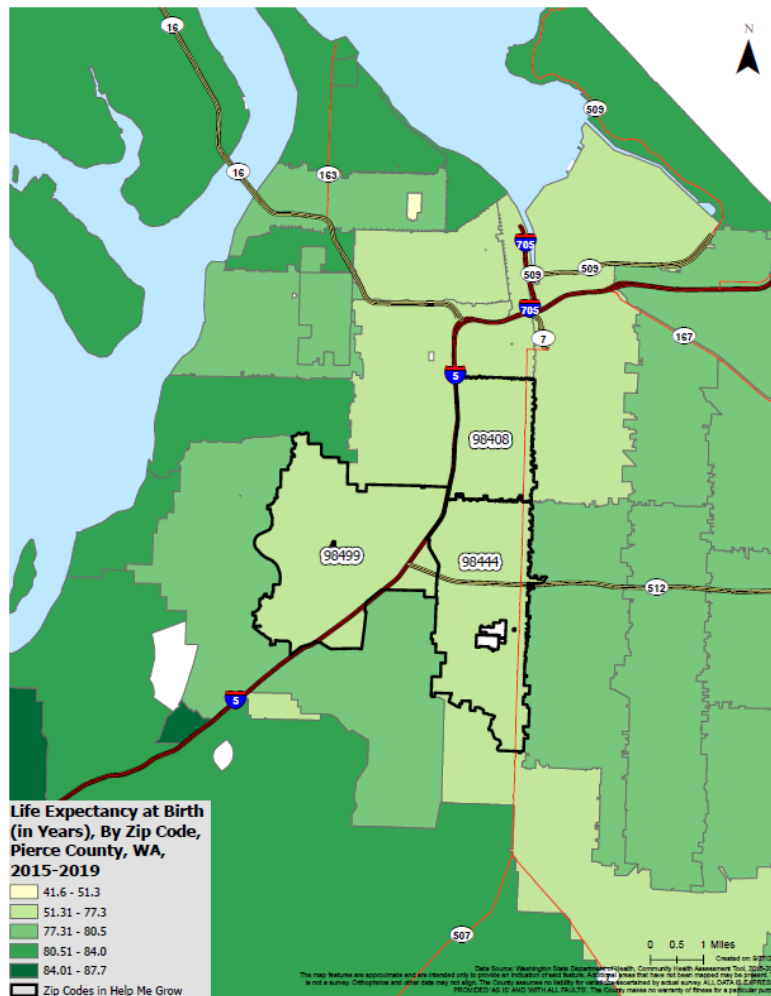
Life Expectancy at Birth

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S.*
Life expectancy at birth	78.9	74.2	75.5	79.4	80.6	78.8

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2019.

*Source for national data: The World Bank, Life Expectancy at Birth, 2019.

Life Expectancy at Birth by ZIP Code



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from Washington State Community Health Assessment Tool, 5-Year Averages from 2015-2019.

Health Care

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S.
% of children <18 without health insurance (civilian)	1.5%	2.7%	3.4%	2.6%	2.8%	5.1%
% of children <18 with special health care needs	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	20.0%	19.0%
% of children <18 with any disability	8.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.1%	4.0%	4.2%
All immunizations received by kindergarten**	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*	Not available for 2020*

Source for health insurance: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

*Source: 2019 National Survey of Children's Health

**Note: Immunizations include 5 doses diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis, 2 doses measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and 2 doses of varicella vaccine. Due to the novel coronavirus, this information has not been made available at the time of this report.

Well Child Visits and Developmental Screening

Developmental disabilities are the most common disorders among children. Studies indicate that about 1 in 6 children experience developmental disabilities (Boyle et al., 2011). The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages routine developmental-behavioral surveillance during health supervision visits. Early identification of children with developmental delay is critical for diagnosing problems and providing early therapeutic interventions. Prevention and intervention depend on the use of reliable screening tools and actions to ensure that the results are used to direct families to needed resources (Bright Futures Handbook, 2021).

A medical home is a consistent location from which children receive routine medical care. The American Academy of Pediatrics specifies seven qualities essential to medical home care: accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective care. Ideally, medical home care is delivered within the context of a trusting and collaborative relationship between the child's family and a competent health professional who is familiar with the child and family and the child's health history (National Survey of Children's Health, 2019-2020).

	WA	U.S.
% of children ages 0 to 5 with a preventive medical visit in the past year (2019 only)	95.5%	89%
% of children receiving developmental screening, ages 9-35 months	46.9%	36.9%
% of children ages 0 to 5 (without special health care needs) who receive care within a medical home	58.4%	50.6%
% of children ages 0 to 5 whose health care provider asked about the child's learning, development, or behavior in the past year (2018 only)	38.8%	31.4%

Note: This data is currently only available by state, from the National Survey of Children's Health, 2019-2020.

Early Intervention Services

Any child demonstrating a delay of 25% or greater in any area of development, is eligible to receive ESIT services. Children who have a diagnosed condition likely to result in developmental delay may also be eligible. Once eligible, children have an array of services such as Physical, Occupational, and Speech therapies, as well as specialized instruction, family resource coordination and infant mental health.

In March 2020 through the end of the year, ESIT services were provided via virtual visits only. Families were provided the necessary IT equipment and internet access as needed. However, over the period of the year, we saw an 18% decrease in children accessing services compared to the prior year.

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2020	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County
# of children referred to ESIT services for evaluation	37	69	77	1427
# of children identified as eligible for needing services	Not available	Not available	Not available	999
# of children receiving ESIT services	46	79	84	2052

Source: Pierce County Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, reported September 2021.

Early Intervention by Race and Ethnicity (Pierce County, 2020)

Ethnicity	Birth to One		One to Two		Two to Three		Total	
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	3%	4	<1%	9	>1%	19	1%
Asian	4	2%	18	3%	50	4%	72	4%
Black or African American	14	7%	54	9%	101	8%	169	9%
Hispanic or Latino	47	25%	107	23%	290	23%	444	22%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6	3%	10	3%	23	2%	39	2%
White	89	47%	252	49%	608	48%	949	48%
Two or More races	24	13%	69	13%	185	15%	278	14%
TOTAL	190	10%*	514	26%*	1,266	64%*	1,970	100%

Source: Pierce County Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, September 2021.

*% of children receiving services in each age bracket

Child Care and Preschool

Child Care Capacity

	Pierce County	WA
# of licensed center-based childcare providers	171	1,687
# of Family Child Care providers	234	3,116
School age only providers (Licensed & Exempt)	87	567
Total providers	489	5,370
Total capacity (slots for children in all types of facilities, including both filled and vacant)	20,705	185,728
Total capacity by subsidy acceptance	12,481	126,109
Number of licensed centers that accept the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Subsidy (all types of care)*	331 (83% of total)	3,831 (80% of total)

Source: Child Care Aware of Washington, 2020 Data Report: Trends, Child Care Supply, Cost of Care, & Demand for Referrals, 2021.

*Reported by Child Care Aware of Washington, October 2021.

Note: Total capacity does not reflect the allowable number of children in care. For instance, a facility may be licensed for 6 slots under 2, but state law requires that if there is one person on staff, they can't accept more than 2 under 2.

The number of child care providers in Pierce County has steadily declined over the past eight years, with a 26% reduction in total providers since 2013.

Year	Number of Licensed Child Care Centers	Number of Licensed Family Child Care Homes	Total
2021	171	224	395
2020	171	236	407
2019	177	254	431
2018	181	268	449
2017	182	276	458
2016	186	288	474
2015	184	328	512
2014	191	346	537
2013	183	368	551

Source: Child Care Aware of Washington, 2013 – 2021 Data Reports: Trends, Childcare Supply, Cost of Care, & Demand for Referrals.

Child Care Center Rates: Monthly Average (Median)

Age Group	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA*
Year	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020
Infant	\$1,430 (n<5)	\$1,270 (n<5)	\$1,300 (n=5)	\$1,231 (n=65)	\$1,300
Toddler	\$836 (n<5)	\$975 (n=5)	\$1,092 (n=10)	\$1,031 (n=104)	\$1,100
Preschool	\$598 (n<5)	\$900 (n=7)	\$983 (n=10)	\$910 (n=121)	\$975

Note: These numbers are mid-year reports. Final numbers for 2020 will come out with Child Care Aware of Washington's annual report. Rates by zip code have a wide margin of error due to small sample sizes.

Source: Child Care Aware of Washington, October 2021. Median average as self-reported by providers. Lower numbers from previous years are largely expected with such low sample numbers.

*Washington State source: Child Care Aware of America, The U.S. and the High Cost of Child Care: 2020 Report, 2020.

Family Child Care Rates: Monthly Average (Median)

Age Group	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA*
Year	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020
Infant	\$1,083 (n=11)	\$1,150 (n=5)	\$1,513 (n<5)	\$975 (n=147)	\$1,188
Toddler	\$860 (n=12)	\$1,012 (n=5)	\$1,384 (n<5)	\$867 (n=166)	\$1,075
Preschool	\$796 (n=12)	\$880 (n=5)	\$1,254 (n<5)	\$813 (n=168)	\$953

Note: These numbers are mid-year reports. Final numbers for 2020 will come out with Child Care Aware of Washington's annual report. Rates by zip code have a wide margin of error due to small sample sizes.

Source: Child Care Aware of Washington, October 2021. Median average as self-reported by providers.

*Washington state source: Child Care Aware of America, The U.S. and the High Cost of Child Care: 2020 Report, 2020.

Child Care Affordability

% of Median Income Spent on Child Care (without assistance)	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
With one infant in center-based care					
Married couple family	28.3%	34.2%	42.3%	18.7%	18.2%
Single mother	112.9%	51.3%	76.3%	43.3%	48.0%
Single father	37.7%	37.5%	61.3%	27.7%	30.1%
With two children in center-based care (one toddler, one preschool)					
Married couple family	28.4%	50.5%	67.4%	29.4%	29.0%
Single mother	113.2%	75.7%	121.7%	68.2%	76.6%
Single father	37.8%	55.3%	97.7%	43.6%	48.0%

Source: Calculated by dividing average 2021 rates (above) by median income in the past 12 months for households with children under 18 years old, single mothers, and single fathers from the United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019.

Early Head Start (2020-2021)

Early Head Start is a comprehensive program that serves income-eligible children birth to three years of age, pregnant women and their families through home-based or quality licensed childcare settings.

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County
Number of children served by home-based Early Head Start	16	22	44	188

Source: Reported by Puget Sound Educational Service District, October 2021. Reflects any child enrolled during the 2020-2021 program year.

Head Start and ECEAP

ECEAP is the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program funded by Washington State for children 3 and 4, providing free preschool for families who qualify based on income. Head Start is funded by the federal government for children ages 3 and 4. Both Head Start and ECEAP provide comprehensive school readiness including family-centered programs that combine education, social services, family support, family engagement, and health and nutrition services. Statewide, the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) estimated that as of December 2020 there were 33,528 children eligible for ECEAP or Head Start in the 2020-2021 school year, and 21,955 total slots funded (DCYF, 2021).

Child Care Centers with Head Start and ECEAP

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County
Number of centers that provide ECEAP slots	0	2	2	47
Number of centers that provide Head Start slots	2	3	1	40

Source: Reported by Child Care Aware of Washington, November 2021.

Head Start and ECEAP Availability in Pierce County

	Available Slots	Estimated # of Eligible Children	% of Eligible Served
Pierce County – total of all school districts	2,486	5,483	45%

Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families, ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study, 2020-2021.

Education

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Number of children enrolled in kindergarten (full or half time)	172	291	354	8,935	70,891
% of children ready for kindergarten*	59.4%	38.7%	33.5%	53.2%	51.5%
% meeting 3 rd Grade ELA standards (English Language Arts/Literacy: reading, writing, speaking and listening)**	44.8%	42.6%	29.5%	59.5%	55.4%

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2020-2021.

*Note: Percent of students who demonstrate characteristics of entering Kindergarten in all 6 domains: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math. Zip code percentages were calculated by averaging the scores from each elementary school in that zip code. Due to the novel coronavirus, this data was delayed. The most recent data available is from 2019-2020.

**Due to the novel coronavirus, this data was not collected this year. The most recent data available is from 2018-2019.

Substance Abuse

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Alcohol related deaths (age-adjusted rate: deaths per 100,000 population)	8.9	36.6	29.6	16.3	14.1
Drug related deaths (age-adjusted rate: deaths per 100,000 population)	26.5	43.1	25.2	17.8	18.1

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2019.

Mental Health and Trauma

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
% of births where mothers reported symptoms of Postpartum depression*	Not available	Not available	Not available	13.8%	12.9%
% of children <18 who have experienced 1 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	38.3%
Percent of individuals who reported poor mental health in the last 30 days***	16.1%	14.4%	11.1%	14.3%	12.0%

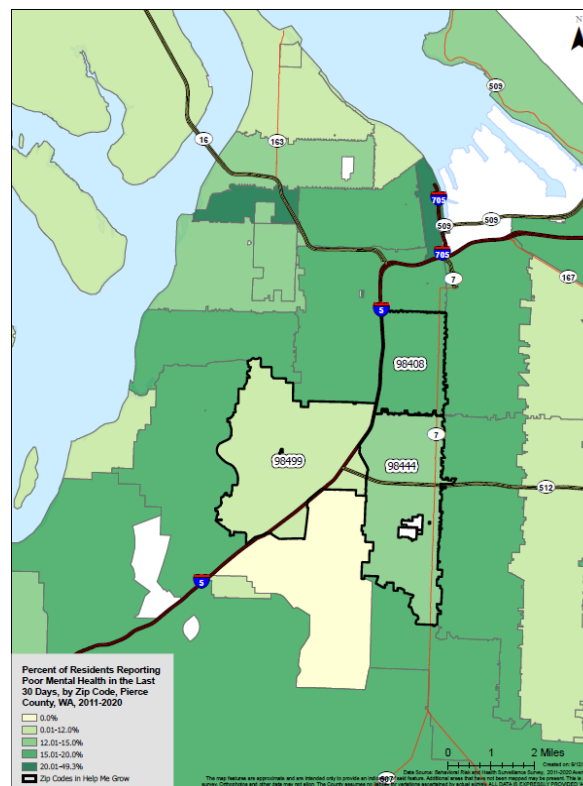
*Postpartum depression symptoms were defined by the frequency of feeling down, depressed, or sad; feeling hopeless; and feeling slowed down.

Source: Pregnancy Risk Monitoring System (PRAMS), 2019.

**Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Survey of Children's Health, 2019.

***Source: Washington State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2011-2020 averages.

Percent of Pierce County residents reporting poor mental health in the last 30 days, by ZIP code



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2011-2020 averages.

Child Welfare

In 2020, there were 81,363 calls made to the child abuse and neglect hotline in Washington State. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families within local communities is responsible for receiving and investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Reports are received and assessed to determine whether the report meets the legal definition of abuse or neglect, and how dangerous the situation is. Family Assessment Response (FAR) is an alternative response to Child Protective Services (CPS) for an investigation of a screened-in allegation of child abuse or neglect. FAR focuses on child safety along with the integrity and preservation of the family when lower risk allegations of child maltreatment have been screened in for intervention (Department of Children, Youth, and Families, 2020).

Investigations and Children in Care

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Total children entering out-of-home care in 2020	24	49	25	684	4222
Number of children entering care under age 1	<10	16	<10	187	1152
Number of children entering care in first month of life	<10	13	<10	125	740
Number of children in the child welfare system as of 1/01/2021	46	103	61	843	7349
Number of children in care under age 6 as of 1/01/21	25	47	27	434	3606
Number of intakes screened in for investigation	50	144	131	1,934	13,393
Number of intakes screened in for Family Assessment and Response (Risk Only)	89	181	160	2,963	22,260
Total child protection intakes screened in for response	139	325	291	4,897	36,189
Total child protection intakes screened in for children 0-5	71	195	199	2,882	21,897
Total child protection intakes screened in (number of children)	182	475	420	7,137	54,263
Median length of stay in out-of-home care	518	584	555	588	588

Note: Pierce County data reflects children for whom their initial placement took place in Pierce County.
Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2021.

Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care in 2020 by Race and Ethnicity

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S. (2019)
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	<10	<10	<10	94 (2%)	5,596 (2%)
American Indian/Alaska Native - Multiracial	<10	<10	<10	101	493 (12%)	Not measured – included above
Black	<10	<10	<10	69	312 (7%)	53,089 (21%)
Black-Multiracial	<10	11	<10	117	382 (9%)	Included above
Asian or Pacific Islander	<10	<10	<10	24	81 (2%)	1,617 (1%)
Hispanic (of any race)	<10	<10	<10	80	734 (17%)	51,780 (21%)
White	<10	14	<10	263	2,021 (48%)	114,462 (46%)
Other - Multiracial	0	<10	0	21	86 (2%)	2+ races: 18,055 (7%)
Unknown or Unable to determine	0	<10	0	<10	19 (1%)	4,730 (2%)
Total	24	50	28	684	4,222	251,359

Source for local data: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2021.

Source for national estimates: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARs, estimates as of 6/23/2020 (FY 2019).

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Race and Ethnicity (as of 1/01/2021)

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S. (2019)
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	<10	<10	19	220	10,152
American Indian/Alaska Native - Multiracial	14	<10	14	147	860	(not measured)
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	<10	<10	17	133	2,179
Black	<10	20	10	82	581	97,142
Black-Multiracial	<10	22	23	136	707	(not measured)
Hispanic (of any race)	<10	18	<10	84	1207	87,625
Other - Multiracial	0	<10	<10	25	140	2+ races: 32,284
White	13	24	<10	333	3,493	185,825
Unknown or Unable to determine	0	0	0	0	<8	6,148
Total	46	103	61	843	7,349	423,997

Source for local data: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2020.

Source for national estimates: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARs, estimates as of 6/23/2020.

Circumstances Association with Child’s Removal (Pierce County, 2020)

During calendar year 2020, there were 684 removals with an *identified reason for removal*. Age is the child’s age at removal. Note that the “Total by Age” is not equal to the column total, as more than one reason for removal can be identified for each child. Inadequate housing alone is not a valid reason for removal.

Identified Reason for Removal	Birth to 5 Years	6-12 Years	13-17 Years	Total
Neglect	222	124	56	402
Physical Abuse	48	41	31	120
Sexual Abuse	10	23	16	49
Abandonment	11	<10	20	40
Caregiver Alcohol Abuse	23	10	<10	40
Caregiver Drug Abuse	175	39	11	225
Caregiver Death	<10	<10	<10	<10
Caregiver Incarceration	20	17	<10	43
Caregiver Inability to Cope	56	36	20	112
Inadequate Housing	53	13	<10	75
Relinquishment	0	0	0	0
Child Drug Abuse	<10	0	<10	<10
Child Behavior	0	<10	29	33
Child Disability	<10	<10	<10	12
Total by Age:	367	187	130	684

Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. (2021). *infoFamLink Report*.

Conclusion

Understanding the needs of children and families in our community is crucial to determine appropriate interventions to address the most pressing local inequities and improve outcomes for children and families. Help Me Grow Pierce County aims to address the most common struggles for parents of young children to ensure that resource investment will be timely, accessible, and helpful to those who need it most. Reducing inequity begins by building upon the existing strengths and resources in a community. Through better coordination among services, consistent data tracking, and focused efforts to address resource gaps, a local Help Me Grow system aims to strengthen the support system for all parents and improve early childhood outcomes. These efforts have become more crucial in recent history as many families faced increased health and economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How the pandemic will impact the data indicators for children in our community remains to be seen in the coming years.

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