



PIERCE COUNTY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
NETWORK
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PCECN



Data Summary Report

Community Data on Children Pregnancy through age 5 in Pierce County

November 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Background

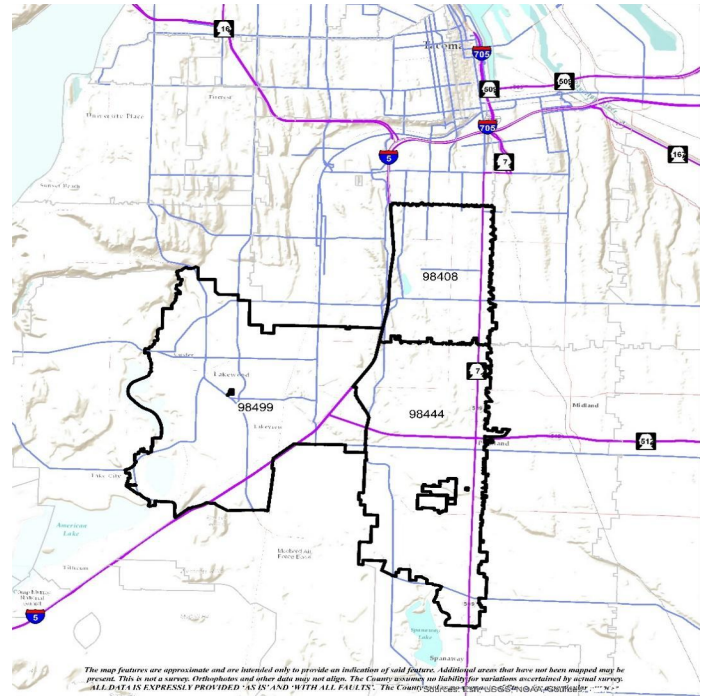
In the fall of 2017, community leaders came together to brainstorm how to alleviate the child welfare crisis in Pierce County. Of the 6,200 children who entered out-of-home care in Washington State in 2017, 1,009 of these children were in Pierce County, making it the county with the highest number of 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 were necessary strategies to prevent child welfare involvement. The Help Me Grow model was identified as one useful tool for organizing a system of support for families with young children. Locally, First 5 FUNdamentals has provided project management and facilitation convening community partners and families to improve this system of support in collaboration with each other. The mission of First 5 FUNdamentals is to uphold 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 Pierce County, the work of these components is now included in and supported by the collaborative efforts of the Pierce County Early Childhood Network (PCECN). PCECN facilitates seven action teams: Resource Navigation and Access, Data, Policy and Advocacy, Equity, Health Provider Voice, Family Voice, and Child Care Voice.

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.



Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Transition to the Pierce County Early Childhood Network (PCECN)

In January 2022, community leaders decided HMG and Project Child Success, an early learning coalition, should merge as much of the work overlapped. The new group was called Pierce County Early Childhood Network (PCECN). The Policy and Advocacy, Equity, and Child Care Voice action teams were developed to:

- Educate and push for policies that help kids and families.
- Make systems more inclusive for families with young kids.
- Improve access to high-quality, equitable, culturally inclusive childcare.

PCECN retained HMG's goals and focus zip codes while adding new partners focused on supporting families.

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.

DATA

Pierce County is the second most populous county in Washington State, and is home to over 70,600 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

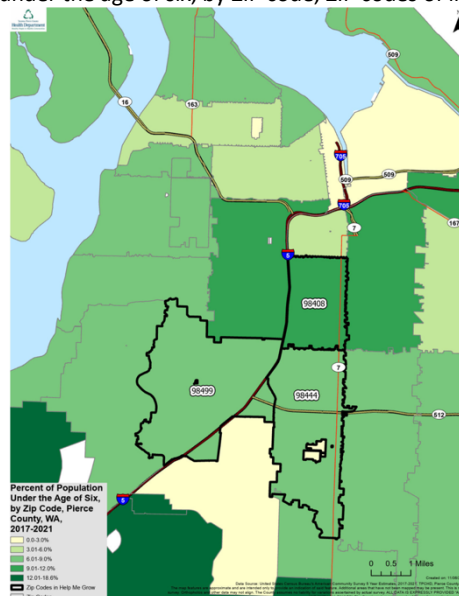
Age and Family Composition

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Total population	22,016	35,083	33,589	910,225	7,617,364
Number of children under age 5 (percent of total population)	1,771 (8.0%)	2,566 (7.3%)	1,829 (5.4%)	58,733 (6.5%)	449,543 (5.9%)
Civilian Veterans: individuals 18 and older	12.7%	12.5%	16.7%	12.3%	8.7%
% of Children < 6 living with a single parent (per total population < 6)	28.9%	40.0%	42.1%	21.5%	19.8%
Grandparents responsible for own grandchildren <18 years old	225 (33.8%)	225 (35.3%)	140 (16.9%)	5,140 (27.6%)	42,024 (29.5%)
Immigrants (Percent of total population born outside the United States)	12.3%	22.1%	16.6%	10.2%	14.7%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2017-2021.

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.



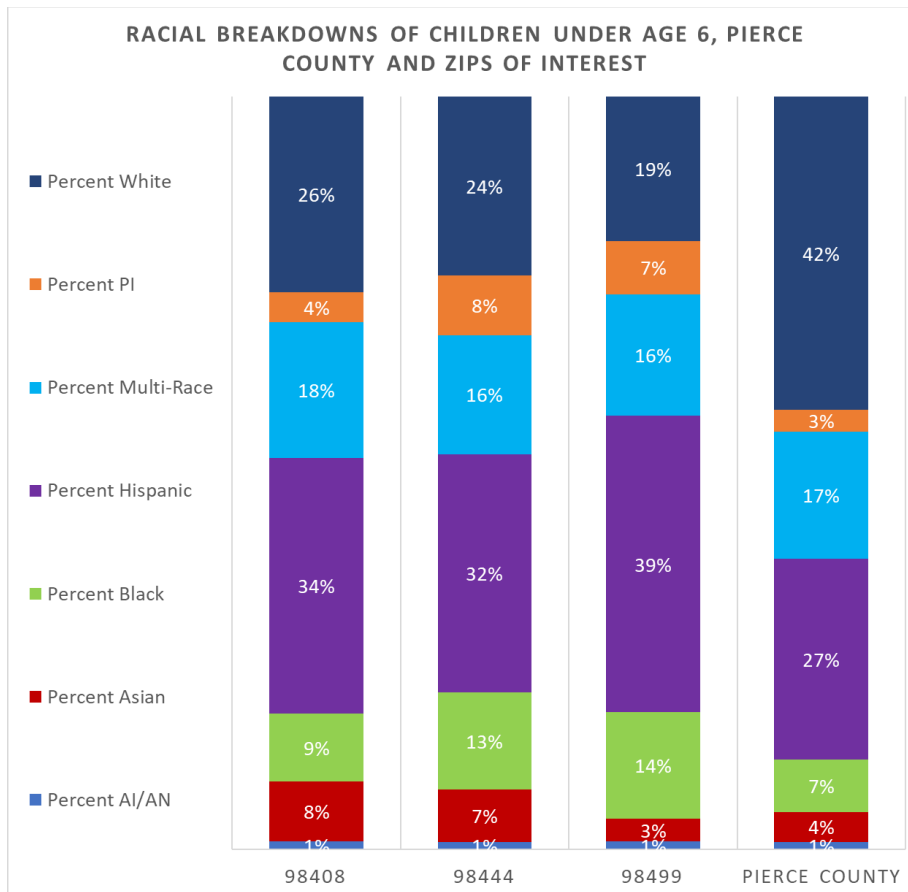
Map provided by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department with data from the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5 – year estimates, 2017-2021.

Percent of Children Age 0-5 By Race

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%
Asian	8.2%	6.8%	3.2%	4.4%	8.8%
Black	9.1%	13.0%	14.3%	6.6%	4.4%
Hispanic/Latino	34.0%	31.5%	38.8%	26.7%	29.6%
Multi-Race	18.4%	16.3%	16.2%	16.6%	12.6%
Pacific Islander (PI)	3.8%	7.5%	7.3%	3.1%	1.2%
White	25.5%	24.2%	19.2%	41.6%	42.1%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Population Interim Estimates, 2022. Note: Hispanic/Latino as a race
 Note: Please read the note at the end of this report regarding the population interim estimates.

Where Children Live by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Population Interim Estimates, 2022. Note: Hispanic/Latino as a race
 Note: Please read the note at the end of this report regarding the population interim estimates.

Economic Stability

Income and Employment

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Median Household Income (in the last 12 months)	\$64,297	\$55,690	\$55,053	\$82,574	\$82,400
Median Family Household Income (in the last 12 months) of households with children under age 18	\$61,480*	\$47,635*	\$50,288*	\$91,666	\$96,519
Married-couple Family median income with children under 18	\$87,125	\$71,059	\$72,354^	\$113,917	\$121,986
Single Female Headed Household median income with children under 18	\$42,818&	\$31,523&	\$37,667&	\$40,824	\$37,280
Single Male Headed Household median income with children under 18	\$42,500+	\$40,520+	Not available	\$65,986	\$58,475
Unemployment Rate, Civilian Labor Force (population 16 and older)	6.8%	5.7%	5.7%	5.0%	5.1%
% of families with all parents working (with children 0-5)	61.0%	65.4%	66.2%	62.6%	61.7%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2017-2021.

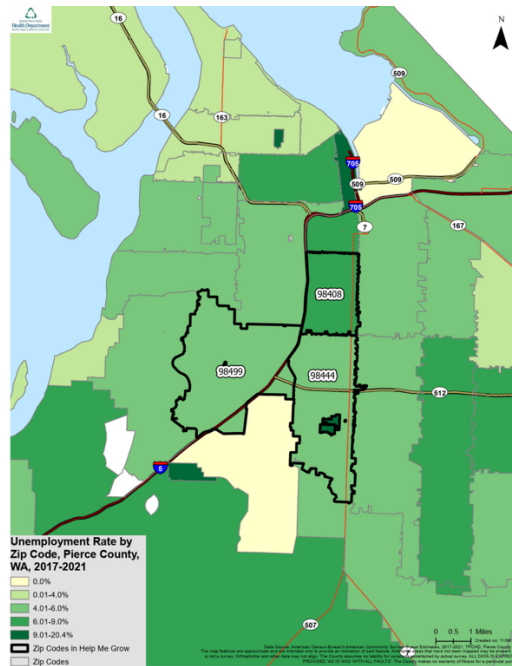
*Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error ($\pm\$11,645$ for 98408, $\pm\$8,341$ for 98444 and $\pm\$11,844$ for 98499).

^Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error ($\pm 17,244$ for 98499).

&Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error ($\pm\$21,941$ for 98408, $\pm\$5,381$ for 98444 and $\pm 8,135$ for 98499).

+Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error ($\pm\$21,096$ for 98408, $\pm\$8,363$ for 98444).

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, 2017-2021.

Highest Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
8th grade or less	4.6%	5.5%	4.5%	2.6%	3.5%
9th grade - 12th grade (no diploma)	7.0%	9.1%	10.0%	5.3%	4.6%
GED or alternative credential	6.0%	6.8%	6.9%	4.4%	3.9%
High School Diploma	24.5%	28.9%	22.0%	22.1%	17.9%
Some College, no degree	23.4%	23.2%	26%	25.4%	22.7%
Associate's Degree	13.1%	9.5%	10.5%	11.8%	10.2%
Bachelor's Degree	15.7%	12.7%	14.4%	18.5%	23.1%
Master's Degree	4.9%	3.1%	3.6%	7.2%	10.3%
Professional school degree/PhD/Professor	0.6%	1.2%	2.2%	2.7%	3.9%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2017-2021.

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 2023 FPL income numbers are:

- \$14,580 for individuals
- \$19,720 for a family of 2
- \$24,860 for a family of 3
- \$30,000 for a family of 4

Individuals Living at or Near Poverty

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Individuals living below 50% of FPL	7.4%	8.0%	7.4%	4.6%	4.7%
Individuals living below 100% of FPL	12.0%	14.9%	17.9%	8.8%	10.0%
Individuals living below 150% of FPL	21.0%	26.5%	27.2%	14.7%	16.4%
Individuals living below 200% of FPL	30.3%	39.5%	39.6%	22.0%	23.6%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

Families with Children Ages 0-4 Living in Poverty

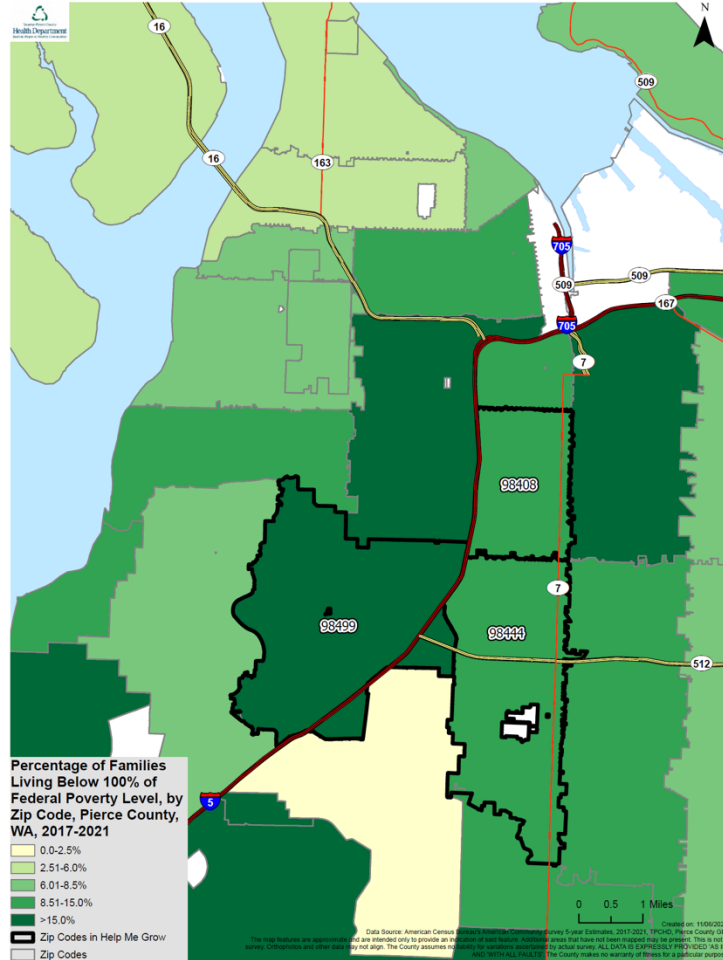
	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
% of Families with Children in household ages 0-4 who are under FPL	0.0%*	7.5%*	16.1%*	7.8%	9.0%

Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

*Data may not be reliable due to the large margin of error ($\pm 6.5\%$ for 98408, $\pm 5.8\%$ for 98444 and $\pm 8.9\%$ for 98499).

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, 2017-2021.

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	33.6%	49.7%	51.4%	29.0%	29.2%
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Food Stamps	18.0%	22.3%	20.8%	11.7%	11.2%
Medicaid (public health insurance coverage)	41.3%	47.5%	51.8%	35.2%	35.3%
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	5.5%	7.4%	6.9%	3.6%	3.2%

WIC Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Women, Infants, and Children program, Data represents Oct 2021 – Sep 2022.
SNAP, Medicaid, TANF Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

Housing and Homelessness

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Homeless families/individuals*	544 (individuals reporting Tacoma as last residence)	117 (individuals reporting Parkland as last residence)	116 (individuals reporting Lakewood as last residence)	1,730 (households) 2,148 (individuals)	15,270+^ (households) 20,399+^ (individuals)
Housing cost burden: % of families paying more than 30% of income on housing	41.4%	44.0%	44.0%	33.7%	31.6%

Source for homeless families/individuals: Pierce County, Point in Time Count, January 2023.

*The Point in Time Count changed methodologies in 2021 to only count sheltered individuals (as compared to previous years which counted sheltered and unsheltered) due to COVID. The methodology included sheltered and unsheltered in 2022 and 2023. Data involving 2021 should not be used for trend analysis.

^The total for homeless households and individuals in WA state is an underestimate as King County opted out of the unsheltered portion of the PIT count for 2023. Therefore, data from previous years should not be compared to this estimate.

Source for housing cost burden: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

Homelessness by Race (Pierce County, 2023)

	Count	Rate per 100,000 population
American Indian / Alaska Native	110	1106.5
Asian	41	62.3
Black or African American	418	642.8
Hispanic / Latino	198	196.4
Multi-Race	41	67.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	73	501.7
White	1016	174.0

Count Data Source: Pierce County, Point in Time Count, January 2023.

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

Pregnancy and Birth

Births by Location in Pierce County, 2022

Hospital	Birthing Center	Home	Born on Arrival	Other	Total
10,457	242	250	11	3	10,963

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2022.

Hospital Births by Location, 2022

Tacoma General Hospital	Good Samaritan Hospital	St. Joseph Medical Center	St. Clare Hospital, Lakewood	Madigan Army Medical Center
2,965	2,298	4,332	3	1,363

Source: Washington State Department of Health Birth Files, 2022.

Birth Outcomes

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Number of births (2022)	244	529	490	10,963	83,313
% receiving adequate prenatal care*	52.2%	57.7%	52.9%	63.3%	69.0%
Preterm births (born before 37 weeks)	26 (10.7%)	86 (16.4%)	66 (13.7%)	1,161 (10.7%)	8,623 (10.4%)
Children born to women under 18 years old	0.4%	1.1%	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%
% of Infants breastfed from birth for any length of time	93.0%	92.4%	88.6%	92.5%	90.7%
% of Infants breastfed at least 6 months (per all infants 6-12 months)	23.3%	17.4%	19.9%	25.4%	25.8%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2022.

Breast Feeding Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Birth Files, 2022 and Washington State Department of Health, Women, Infants, and Children program, 2022.

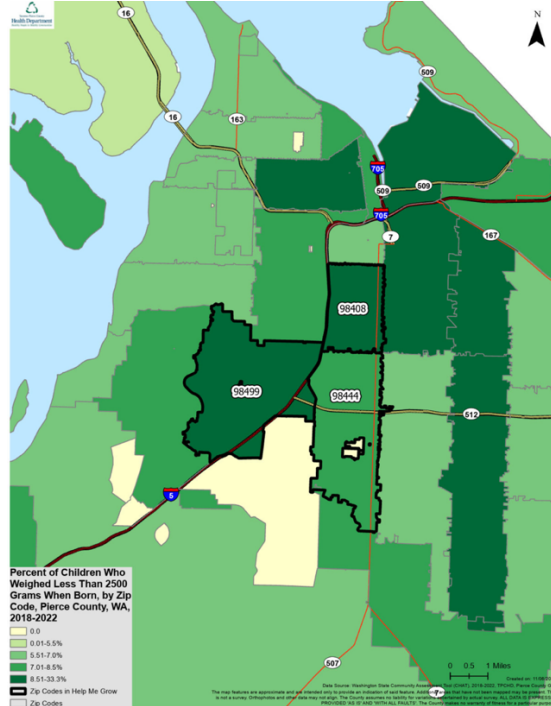
*Adequate prenatal care is defined using the Kotelchuck Index definition as having attended at least 80% of expected prenatal appointments. It is likely that the 2022 values have been significantly impacted by the novel coronavirus (as some appointments were cancelled/put on hold), and fear of coming to the doctor. As a result, interpretation and trends should be viewed with caution.

Low Birth Weight

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Percent born under a normal weight (<2500 grams)	7.9%	11.0%	9.5%	7.0%	7.0%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2022.

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, 2018-2022.

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	18.8%	5.9%	9.1%	9.9%	7.2%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	14.9%	7.3%	7.5%	7.0%	8.8%
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	16.7%	11.3%	12.6%	11.0%	10.0%
Hispanic / Latino	6.7%	6.9%	6.3%	6.3%	6.8%
Multi-racial, Non-Hispanic	12.8%	9.3%	10.0%	8.0%	7.4%
Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	12.8%	7.2%	7.7%	7.1%	7.7%
White, Non-Hispanic	6.4%	6.9%	8.5%	6.4%	6.2%

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool 5-year averages, 2018-2022.

Infant Mortality Count, 2021

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Infant mortality count	1	1	1	58	360

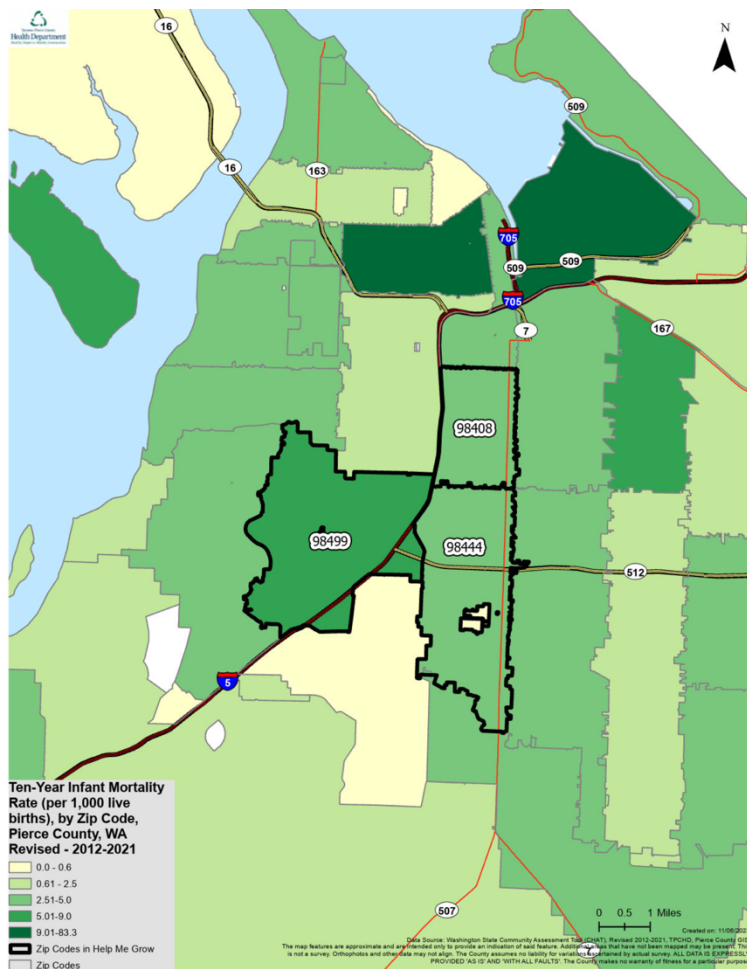
Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, Revised 2021.

Infant Mortality Rates

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Ten-year rate (2012-2021) per 1,000 births	4.3	3.3	5.2	5.2	4.5

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, Revised 2012-2021.

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), Revised 2012-2021.

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	0.0	0.0	8.4	8.1
Asian	4.5	7.0	3.4	4.6	3.2
Black	4.1	2.9	6.4	10.3	8.4
Hispanic	0.0	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.3
Multi-Race	3.3	2.0	0.0	7.0	5.7
Pacific Islander	11.6	4.2	3.1	8.5	6.6
White	5.1	2.2	6.2	4.1	4.0

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2012-2021.

Child Health Indicators

Life Expectancy at Birth

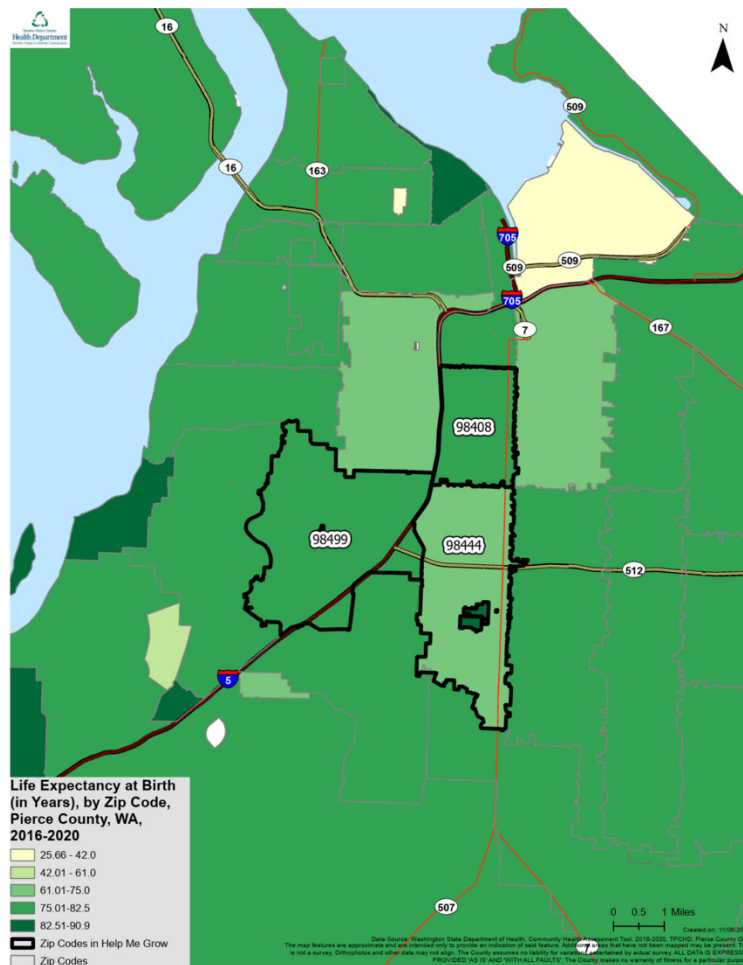
	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S.*
Life expectancy at birth	75.4	75.0	76.6	78.6	79.9	76.3

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

Note: Life Expectancy at Birth was unable to be updated due to the delayed release of the 2020 Census data. To learn more, read the note at the end of this report regarding the population interim estimates.

*Source for national data: The World Bank, Life Expectancy at Birth, 2021.

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 2016-2020.

Health Care

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S.
% of children <18 without health insurance (civilian)	5.0%	2.6%	1.2%	3.1%	2.9%	5.3%
% of children <18 with special health care needs*	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	20.4%	19.5%
% of children <18 with any disability	11.9%	4.1%	7.4%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4%
All immunizations received by kindergarten**	85.6% (Tacoma Public Schools)	89.7% (Franklin-Pierce School District)	93.1% (Clover Park School District)	87.5%	87.6%	Not available for the 2022-2023 school year*

Source for health insurance: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021.

*Source: 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health

**Note: Immunizations include 5 doses diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis, 3 doses Hepatitis B, 2 doses measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), 4 doses polio, and 2 doses of varicella vaccine. National data was not available for the 2022-2023 school year at the time of this report.

Source: Washington State Department of Health, School Immunization Data Dashboard, 2022-2023.

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	37.9%	34.4%
% of children ages 0 to 5 (without special health care needs) who receive care within a medical home	53.6%	48.8%
% of children ages 0 to 5 whose health care provider asked about the child's learning, development, or behavior in the past year	36.3%	29.8%

Note: This data is currently only available by state, from the National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021.

Early Intervention Services

Any child demonstrating a delay of 25% or greater in any area of development or who have a diagnosed condition likely to result in developmental delay is eligible to receive ESIT services. Once eligible, the family and ESIT team will identify what services might be appropriate. Services may include, but not limited to specialized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, infant mental health, vision services, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing services. ESIT services can be provided in the family’s home, community or virtually with the people who are important to the child’s life.

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2021	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County
# of children referred to ESIT services for evaluation	44	102	93	2041
# of children identified as eligible for needing services	Not available	Not available	Not available	1498
# of children receiving ESIT services	59	102	99	2613

Source: Pierce County Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, reported October 2023.

Early Intervention by Race and Ethnicity (Pierce County, 2021)

Ethnicity	Birth to One		One to Two		Two to Three		Total	
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	2%	9	1%	13	>1%	26	1%
Asian	5	2%	32	5%	61	4%	98	4%
Black or African American	15	6%	66	9%	155	10%	236	10%
Hispanic or Latino	59	23%	150	22%	357	24%	566	23%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	2%	8	1%	33	2%	46	2%
White	110	43%	321	46%	665	44%	1,096	45%
Two or More races	55	22%	111	16%	215	14%	381	16%
TOTAL	253	10%*	697	28%*	1,499	61%*	2,449	100%

Source: Pierce County Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, October 2023.

*% of children receiving services in each age bracket

Child Care and Preschool

Child Care Capacity

	Pierce County	WA (2021)
# of licensed center-based childcare providers	168	1,686
# of Family Child Care providers	231	3,230
School age only providers (Licensed & Exempt)	114	539
Total providers	513	5,455
Total capacity (slots for children in all types of facilities, including both filled and vacant)	21,588	187,769
Total capacity by subsidy acceptance	13,649	123,579
Number of licensed centers that accept the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Subsidy (all types of care)*	328 (64% of total)	3,778 (69% of total)

Source: Child Care Aware of Washington, 2022 Data Report: Trends, Child Care Supply, Cost of Care, & Demand for Referrals, 2021. Reported by BrightSpark, September 2023.

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 28% reduction in total providers since 2013. However, 2023 is the first year the total number of child care centers and family child care homes has increased in the last 10-years.

Year	Number of Licensed Child Care Centers	Number of Licensed Family Child Care Homes	Total
2023	168	231	399
2022	169	227	396
2021	171	234	405
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, Revised 2013 – 2022 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	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
Infant	\$1,430	\$1,800	\$1,588	\$1,518	\$1,592
Toddler	\$836	\$1,296	\$1,351	\$1,322	\$1,365
Preschool	\$598	\$1,018	\$1,209	\$1,131	\$1,213

Rates by zip code have a wide margin of error due to small sample sizes.

Source: Reported by BrightSpark, September 2023.

*Washington State source: Child Care Aware of Washington County Profiles, July 2023

Family Child Care Rates: Monthly Average (Median)

Age Group	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA*
Year	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
Infant	\$1,275	\$1,180	\$1,625	\$1,079	\$1,192
Toddler	\$1,136	\$1,056	\$1,517	\$1,010	\$1,083
Preschool	\$1,019	\$943	\$1,408	\$949	\$975

Rates by zip code have a wide margin of error due to small sample sizes.

Source: Reported by BrightSpark, September 2023.

*Washington State source: Child Care Aware of Washington County Profiles, July 2023.

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	19.7%	30.4%	26.3%	16.0%	15.7%
Single mother	40.1%	68.5%	50.6%	44.6%	51.2%
Single father	40.4%	53.3%	N/A	27.6%	32.7%
With two children in center-based care (one toddler, one preschool)					
Married couple family	19.8%	39.1%	42.5%	25.8%	25.4%
Single mother	40.2%	88.1%	81.6%	72.1%	83.0%
Single father	40.5%	68.5%	N/A	44.6%	52.9%

Source: Calculated by dividing average 2023 child center 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, 2017-2021.

Early Head Start (2022-2023)

Early Head Start is a comprehensive program that serves income-eligible children birth to three years of age, pregnant participants 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	9	22	80	203

Source: Reported by Puget Sound Educational Service District, September 2023. Reflects any child enrolled during the 2022-2023 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 May 2021 there were 51,643 children eligible for ECEAP or Head Start in the 2021-2022 school year, and 35,699 total slots funded (DCYF, 2022).

Child Care Centers with Head Start and ECEAP

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County
Number of centers that provide ECEAP slots	2	0	0	13
Number of centers that provide Head Start slots	0	0	1	10

Source: Reported by BrightSpark, September 2023.

Head Start and ECEAP Availability in Pierce County

	Available Slots	Estimated # of Eligible Children	% of Eligible Served
Pierce County – total of all school districts	2,490	6,249	40%

Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families, ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study, 2021-2022.

Education

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Number of children enrolled in kindergarten (full or half time)	116	326	304	10,154	77,384
% of children ready for kindergarten*	44.6%	35.1%	28.0%	47.0%	48.4%
% meeting 3 rd Grade ELA standards (English Language Arts/Literacy: reading, writing, speaking and listening)**	35.0%	38.8%	29.5%	50.3%	47.7%

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2022-2023.

*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.

**This data is based on the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) ELA standards.

Substance Abuse

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Alcohol related deaths (age-adjusted rate: deaths per 100,000 population)	37.7	34.9	30.3	20.0	19.8
Drug related deaths (age-adjusted rate: deaths per 100,000 population)	69.0	35.1	69.1	38.7	31.4

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Tool, 2021.

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Population Interim Estimates, 2021.

Note: Please read the note at the end of this report regarding the population interim estimates.

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	11.6%	12.2%
% of children <18 who have experienced 1 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	79.8%
Percent of individuals who reported poor mental health in the last 30 days***	19.5%	23.6%	16.9%	16.2%	14.3%

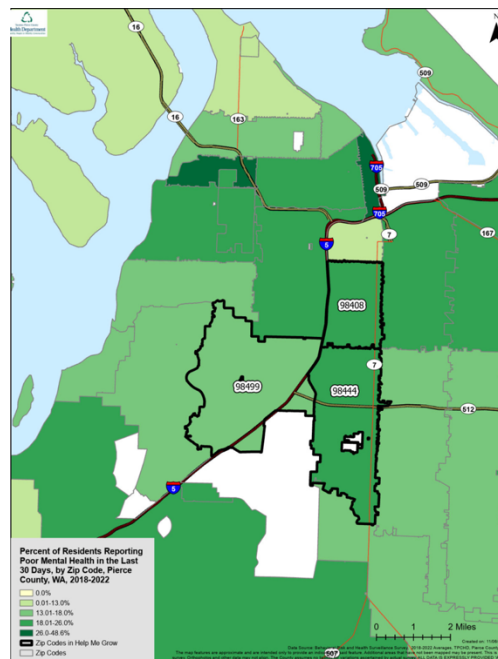
*Postpartum depression symptoms were defined by the frequency of feeling down, depressed, or sad; feeling hopeless; and feeling slowed down.

Source: Pregnancy Risk Monitoring System (PRAMS), 2021.

**Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021.

***Source: Washington State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2018-2022 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), 2018-2022.

Child Welfare

In 2022, there were 114,616 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, 2022).

Investigations, FAR, and Children in Care

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA
Total children entering out-of-home care in 2022	23	29	17	464	3,493
Number of children entering care under age 1	<10	12	<10	126	966
Number of children entering care in first month of life	<10	<10	<10	77	613
Number of children in the child welfare system as of 1/01/2023 (count of children in out of home care)	34	83	59	810	6,154
Number of children in care under age 6 as of 1/01/2023	20	45	30	462	3,443
Number of intakes screened in for Investigation	66	157	130	2,014	15,349
Number of intakes screened in as Risk Only Cases	24	64	43	845	5,811
Number of intakes screened in for Family Assessment and Response (FAR)	76	188	157	2,481	19,911
Total child protection intakes screened in for CPS for response	166	409	330	5,340	41,071
Total child protection intakes screened in for children 0-5	104	221	168	2,789	21,641
Total child protection intakes screened in (number of children)	258	599	463	7,664	60,629
Median length of stay in out-of-home care as of 1/01/2023 (Based off of removal location)	805	679.5	646	698	997

Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2023.

Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care in 2022 by Race and Ethnicity

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S. (2021)
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	<10	0	17	145	4,622
American Indian/Alaska Native - Multiracial	<10	<10	<10	87	404	Not measured
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	<10	<10	<10	25	95	1,782
Black	<10	<10	<10	67	268	40,902
Black-Multiracial	<10	<10	<10	54	260	Not measured
Hispanic (of any race)	<10	0	0	53	610	43,293
Other - Multiracial	0	<10	0	10	49	15,833
White	<10	<10	<10	149	1,594	93,973
Unknown or Unable to determine	0	0	0	<10	68	5,583
Total	23	29	17	464	3,493	205,988

Source for local data: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2022.

Source for national estimates: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARs, estimates as of 6/28/2022 (FY 2021).

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Race and Ethnicity (as of 1/01/2022)

	98408	98444	98499	Pierce County	WA	U.S. (2021)
American Indian or Alaska Native	<10	<10	<10	11	185	4,812
American Indian/Alaska Native - Multiracial	<10	<10	13	181	778	Not measured
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	0	<10	0	25	82	1,817
Black	<10	16	<10	86	384	44,545
Black-Multiracial	<10	19	17	152	498	Not measured
Hispanic (of any race)	<10	14	<10	84	982	45,391
Other - Multiracial	<10	<10	<10	26	99	17,092
White	12	22	23	323	2,543	97,579
Unknown or Unable to determine	0	0	0	<10	73	3,162
Total	40	88	66	891	5,624	214,398

Source for local data: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, *infoFamLink Report*, 2022.

Source for national estimates: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARs, estimates as of 6/28/2022 (FY 2021).

Circumstances Association with Child’s Removal (Pierce County, 2022)

During calendar year 2022, there were 464 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	144	73	27	244
Physical Abuse	40	38	25	103
Sexual Abuse	<10	20	17	44
Abandonment	11	<10	<10	25
Caregiver Alcohol Abuse	<10	<10	<10	16
Caregiver Drug Abuse	137	24	<10	167
Caregiver Death	<10	<10	0	<10
Caregiver Incarceration	<10	<10	<10	17
Caregiver Inability to Cope	31	20	10	61
Inadequate Housing	31	10	<10	42
Relinquishment	0	0	0	0
Child Alcohol Abuse	0	0	0	0
Child Drug Abuse	<10	0	0	<10
Child Behavior	0	<10	<10	14
Child Disability	<10	<10	0	<10
Total by Age:	464	128	78	464

Source: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. (2022). *infoFamLink Report*. Out of Home Care Entries and Exits

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. The Pierce County Early Childhood Network, including the prior work of 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 coordinated 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.

Note on Population Interim Estimates:

Population data are used to calculate rates of disease, risk, and protective factors. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) produces [Small Area Data Estimates](#) (SADE) to help meet these data needs. Unfortunately, the release of several 2020 Census products has been delayed. This has interrupted the production of SADE. The latest SADE estimates available are for 2020 and use 2010 US Census data.

Public Health - Seattle and King County (PHSKC) has developed population interim estimates (PIE). These have been vetted by a multi-disciplinary group of subject matter experts and stakeholders from the Department of Health, local health jurisdictions and Tribal Epidemiology Centers. PIE are available for 2000-2022 so that a consistent series of population data is available. You can read about how PIE were created in [this report](#).

Because DOH has applied PIE to historic data, some rates will be different from what we published previously.

DOH recommends using PIE to calculate rates for any new work or to update existing dashboards as a best practice until OFM can resume development of the SADE in 2024.

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