



2019 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Services Division

DRAFT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The City of Federal Way has a long history of and commitment to addressing the needs of residents. The approach the City has taken is one of planning, contracting, and providing technical assistance to social service providers. The City continues to serve in this capacity rather than as a direct service provider.

The City has largely used the same funding model since its first use in 1996. The model was built on four (4) strategies that had minor updates and changes over the years resulting in the four (4) strategies currently used by the City in its grantmaking programs.

The current strategies are:

1. Support basic needs through emergency funding;
2. Promote individual and community safety throughout Federal Way;
3. Comprehensive human services framework and address the service needs of special needs groups to fully participate in the community; and
4. Provide a supportive environment and services for low-income families with children.

Federal Way is the 9th largest city in Washington. With recent growth and regional changes, the City is evaluating its funding priorities and funding process. The social service needs exceed the available services and the resources the City will be able to provide. The City wants to ensure that its limited resources are used most effectively and efficiently to address the needs of residents.

The goal of this Community Needs Assessment was to assist the City in setting policy for funding including evaluating and updating, if needed, the funding model. Changes are recommended based on quantitative and qualitative data. The Community Needs Assessment will inform the City's Human Services General Fund grant process including grant applications and their evaluation.

While the Community Needs Assessment is following the adoption of the 2020-2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan ("Con Plan"), much of the analysis for the Con Plan is connected to and included in the Community Needs Assessment. The Community Needs Assessment includes a broader look at the community than the analysis included in the Con Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Needs Assessment is to assist in making funding recommendations for the Human Services General Fund by serving as a resource for potential applicants for funding as well as providing a guiding document for both the City Council and Human Services Commission.

Key Findings

While there are many needs within the community, all of which are important to address, two in particular continue to be of greater concern to the City and community and are supported by data. The two priorities regularly identified are:

1. Homelessness; and
2. Youth services. This includes a wide array of needs with particular attention on violence prevention and general youth development among others.

With limited staff resources, the recommendations included in the Executive Summary are those for immediate action. This does not lessen the importance of addressing the many needs across the community or narrowing the gaps in services, especially in light of anticipated changes. For instance, it is anticipated that the number of older adults will nearly double by 2030 and result in a unique set of service needs. These needs are already apparent as older adults in the community today struggle to find support services such as case management to assist them in aging in place. Additionally, it is noted that having additional behavioral health services available in the community for all populations, but especially for youth, would be helpful and likely increase follow through as the barrier of transportation would be reduced or removed. These needs are important to address.

There are opportunities to devote staff time to benefit the community in any service area. However, as there are limited staff resources, the recommendation is that staff continue to take a generalist approach in building partnerships across all community services as time permits while prioritizing addressing homelessness, housing, and youth violence. This recommendation does mean that staff will take opportunities to partner such as with King County in connection to the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy when they present themselves, time permits, or priorities change.

Homelessness and Housing

The regional and local housing markets have seen recent growth making housing increasingly unaffordable. Increases in housing costs have outpaced local gains in wages. Over half of renters and the result is that many residents are spending needing to spend too much of their income on housing causing instability and, in some cases, homelessness.

Services to address homelessness do not have the capacity to meet the need. South King County lacks infrastructure such as year-round shelters for single adults. This, coupled with the lack of affordable housing particularly for households at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI), represents one of the biggest gaps. Most people experiencing homelessness will be at or below 30% of the AMI. Many of the gaps are related to shelter or housing from extended day center hours and year-round shelter to affordable, permanent housing.

Youth Violence Prevention and Youth Services

Services for youth and young adults with particular focus on violence prevention are also needed. Recent events in the City over the past several years and the critical opportunity to provide prevention and intervention services to youth that will have long-term impact further highlight the need for youth services.

That being said, to address resident needs relating to homelessness and housing as well as the needs of youth, there are many related services designed to address critical needs from food insecurity to employment and financial programs. These services provide necessary infrastructure to assist Federal Way residents at every stage of life through a variety of situations. These services may not be directly related to homelessness or youth, but often help local youth and community members experiencing homelessness while meeting needs throughout the community.

Equity and Social Justice

Additionally, the community profile continues to change, calling for action to better ensure services are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for people of color and that services are culturally appropriate. The needs assessment highlights several groups for whom disproportionality exists including, but not limited to, people experiencing homelessness, residents with lower incomes and experiencing poverty, and youth engaged in the criminal justice system.

Draft Recommendations

- Increase the Human Services General Fund budget to meet increasing need.
- Retain the general structure of the funding strategies, but combine two and three and update the language as follows:
 - Strategy 1:** Address basic needs including housing, health, and hunger.
 - a. Housing may include services that support those currently experiencing homelessness, as well as providing resources to prevent homelessness and promote housing stability.
 - b. Health services may entail medical/physical, dental, and/or behavioral health (mental health, substance abuse).
 - c. Addressing hunger could take the form of food banks, congregate and home-delivered meals, backpack programs, and other nutritional supports.
 - Strategy 2:** Promote individual and community safety through prevention, intervention, and crisis services.
 - a. This includes, but is not limited to, services to address youth violence/violence prevention, domestic violence services, safety in the home environment, and crisis hotlines.
 - Strategy 3:** Promote services that foster stability and self-sufficiency for families and individuals.
 - a. These include job training and skills building; educational services; community engagement and activity programs; and other supportive services that help to build a resilient and thriving community.
- Retain the 39% minimum for strategy 1.
- Integrate a policy on access, inclusion, and equity to ensure services are addressing the diverse needs of Federal Way residents in culturally appropriate ways.
- Partner with the King County Juvenile Probation Department.
- Continue to work to stabilize existing and secure needed services for people experiencing homelessness.
- As time permits or with additional staffing, proactively partner with additional service areas such as behavioral health and senior services.
- Regularly update data as available and as needed in light of changes in the community.
- Develop a more in-depth Human Services strategic plan on a five-year cycle coinciding with the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

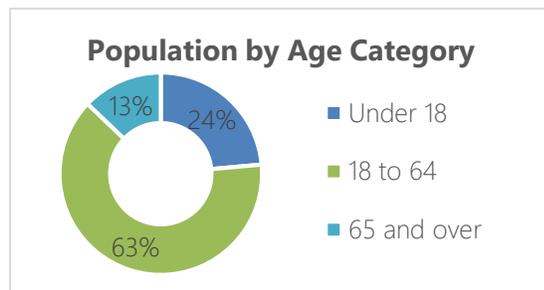
The U.S. American Community Survey (ACS), the Census, data is utilized throughout the Community Needs Assessment. The document will primarily rely on 2013-17 for consistency, unless noted. The ACS data tables are noted throughout in footnotes. Additional data sources are noted when used.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

The City has grown from 89,691 resident in 2012 to 94,905 residents in 2017, representing a 6% increase.¹ The 2017 one year estimate is 96,350. The community has become increasing diverse in terms of race/ethnicity, languages spoken, and income, among others.

Age



In the City, 22,362 residents were under the age of 18. 60,323 residents were between the ages of 18 and 64 and 12,220 were age 65 and over.² Additional analysis by age will be included in the Community Needs Assessment in various sections, in particular related to employment and aging.

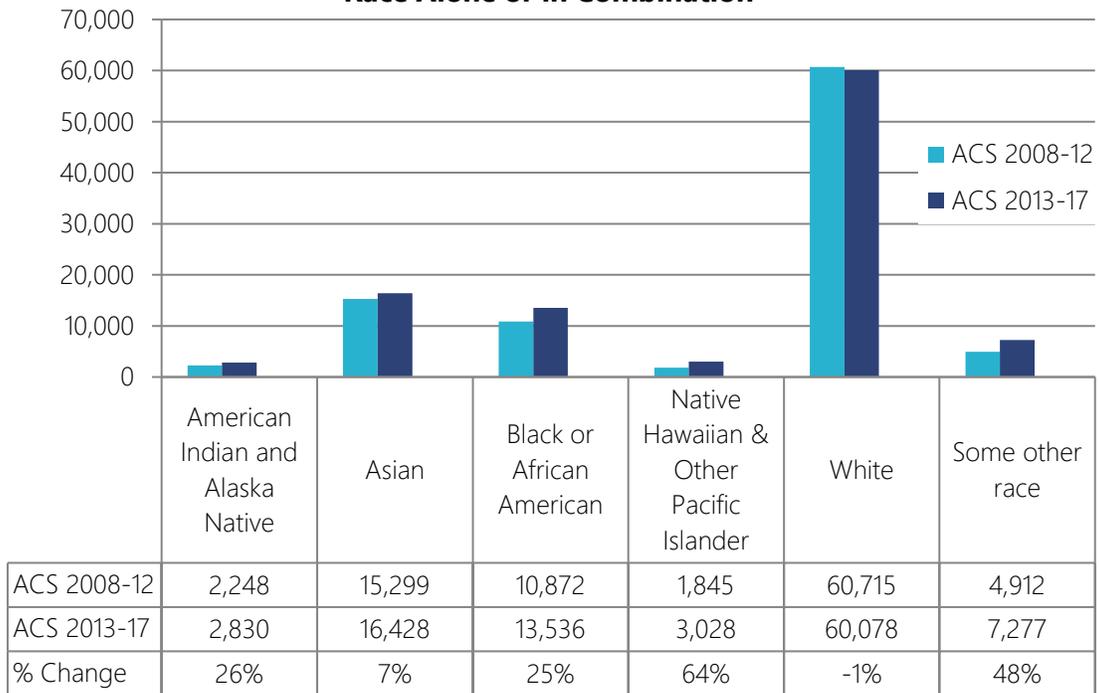
Race and Ethnicity

While the population increased by 6% between 2012 and 2017, various races grew at greater rates and the White population decreased. In addition, the Hispanic population increased by 2,781 or 19% over the same period, from 14,400 to 17,181.

¹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table PEANNRES*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

² US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0101*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

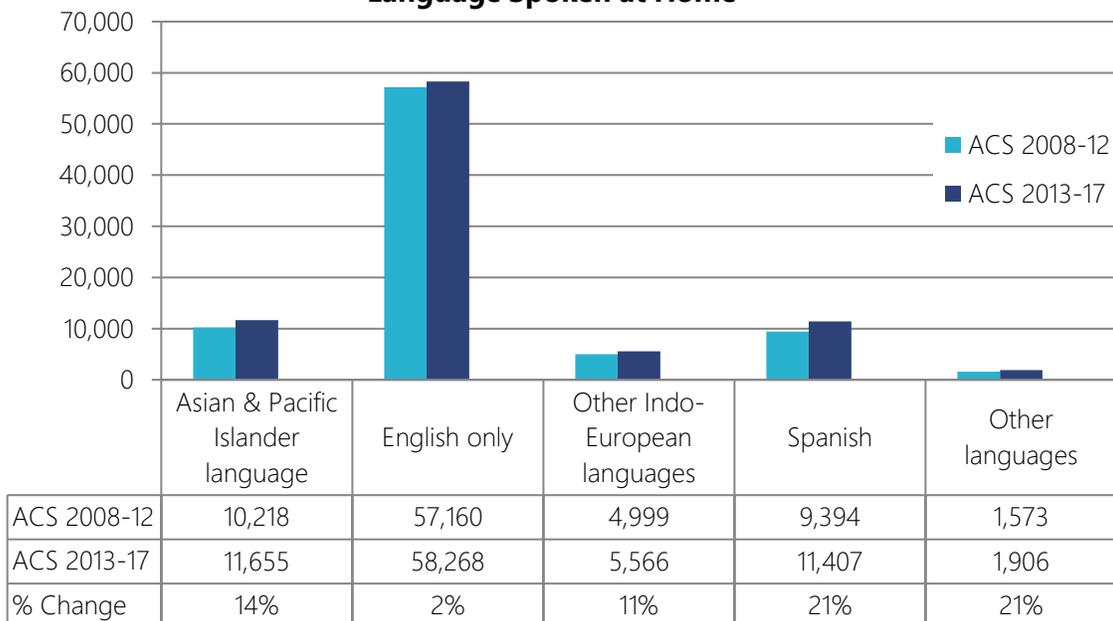
Race Alone or in Combination



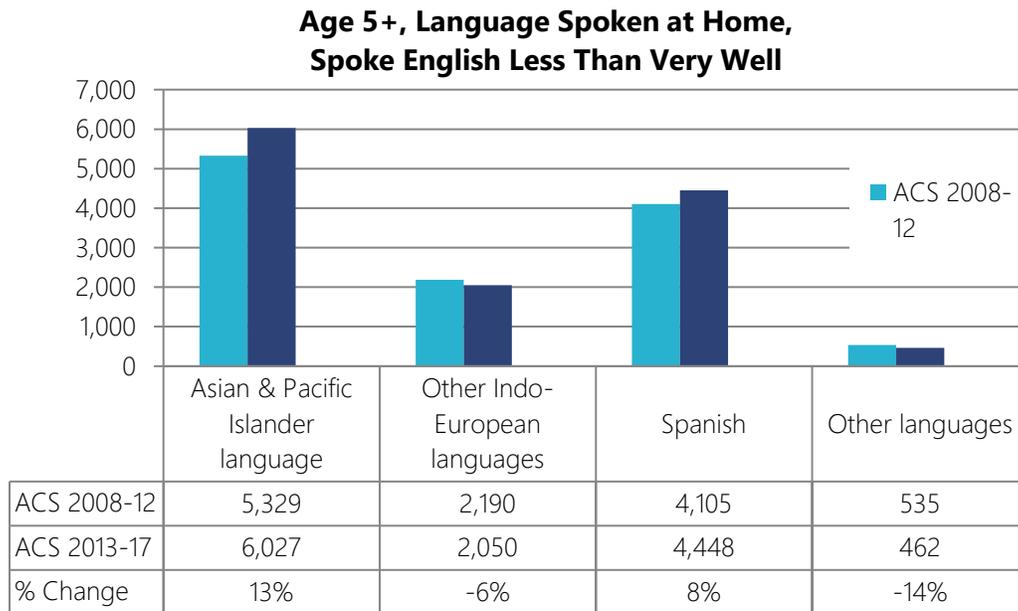
Language Spoken at Home

Among the population age 5 and over, there was an increase of over 5,000 (7%) during this time period, from 83,000 to nearly 89,000. Those who spoke only English at home increased by over 1,000 (2%) from about 57,000 to 58,000, while those who spoke a language other than English at home increased by over 4,000 (17%) from about 26,000 to nearly 31,000.

Language Spoken at Home



Of the nearly 30,000 people over age 5 who speak a language other than English at home, about 43% spoke English less than very well. Proportions within the above language groupings varied. Among those who were over age 5, spoke a language other than English at home, and who spoke English less than very well, the greatest increase was among those who spoke Asian or Pacific Island languages, from around 5,300 to 6,000—an increase of 13%.



There was an increase of citizens age 18 and over during this time period, from over 57,000 to nearly 62,000—a change of about 8% or more than 4,600. In ACS 2013-17, over 5,000 or 9% of these citizens spoke English less than very well. This was an increase of over 400 (9%) from ACS 2008-12.^{3, 4}

Foreign-Born

According to ACS 2013-17, of the nearly 95,000 Federal Way residents, nearly 24,000 or about 25% were foreign-born.⁵ About 43% or of these, or over 10,000, were Asian and about 28%, or under 7,000, were Hispanic.

³ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S1601*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

⁴ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Table S1601*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

⁵ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0501*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Veteran Status

With ACS 2013-17, there were 72,359 people age 18 and over. Of these, 6,070 were veterans, down from 6,462 (-6%) in ACS 2008-12. During that time, the adult civilian population increased by over 9%. Over 90% of veterans throughout this time were over age 35.⁶

Discussion: Community Profile

Federal Way has seen an increasing number of foreign-born persons and those who speak English less than very well. In addition, about a quarter of those below poverty level speak a language other than English at home. These Federal Way residents may encounter barriers when accessing human services programs. This is true particularly if services are not culturally and/or linguistically familiar for potential program clients who are recent immigrants or do not speak English well.

Fostering culturally and linguistically appropriate services at human services organizations removes such barriers by making a client feel safe with help-seeking. This builds trust among an otherwise skeptical population if they come to trust that an organization respects and takes into account the client's cultural context. This can help service providers avoid miscommunications with clients that could, for example, affect health care decisions. Growing a culturally responsive and linguistically skilled organization helps to diversify and strengthen organizational resilience. Such an organization is more open to adapting services to the changing face of need, and will likely be more nimble in adjusting services to whatever external forces it may encounter.⁷

⁶ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2101*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

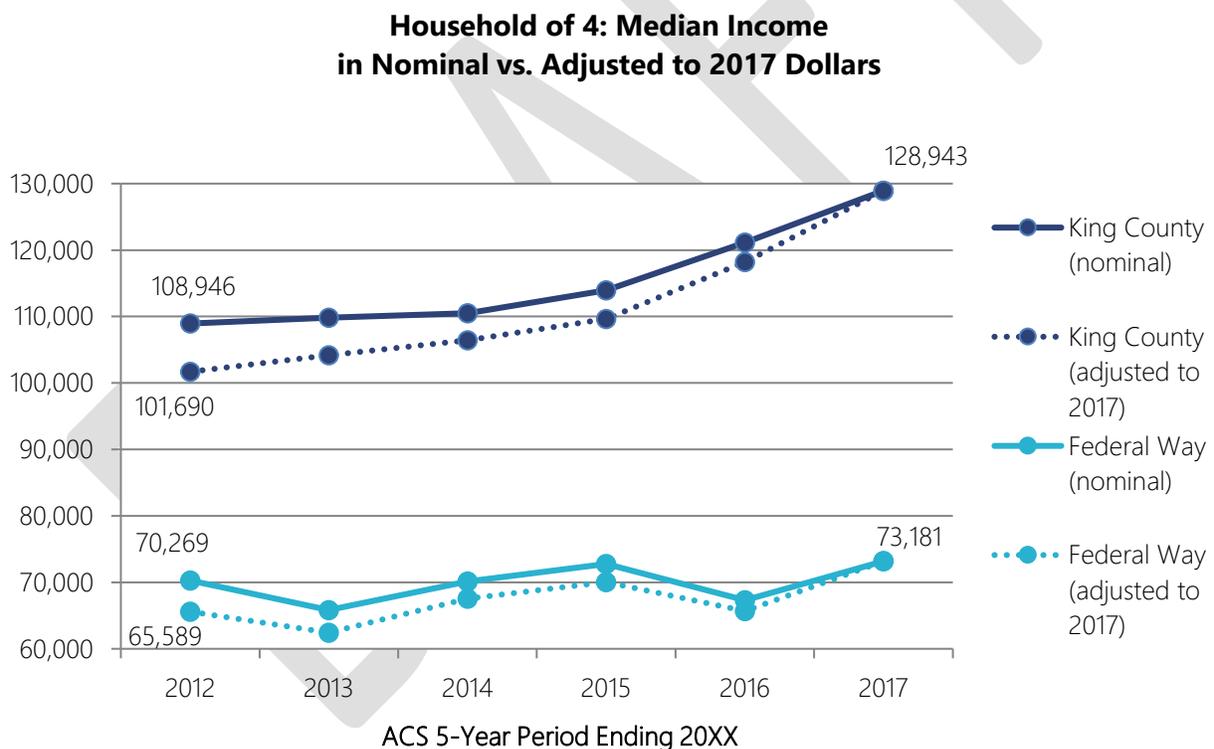
⁷ US SAMHSA (2014). *A Treatment Improvement Protocol – Improving Cultural Competence*. Retrieved from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK248428/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK248428.pdf.

INCOME

Median Household Income

According to American Community Survey data (ACS, 2013-17), the median household income for a four-person household in Federal Way was \$73,181. This was a nominal 4% increase over the figure of \$70,269 from ACS 2008-12. These figures contrast with King County overall, with \$128,943 and \$108,946, respectively (an 18% increase).^{8, 9}

The median household income for a family of four in King County—in both nominal and adjusted (to 2017) dollars, has far exceeded the corresponding figure for Federal Way. In adjusted dollars, the King County figure has grown by 26%. In contrast, the Federal Way figure has grown by just 10%.¹⁰



A family of four making \$73,000 in South King County may find it challenging to make ends meet. According to the University of Washington Self-Sufficiency Standard, in 2017, a South King County family of four (two adults with two preschool-aged children) would need an annual

⁸ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table B19019*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

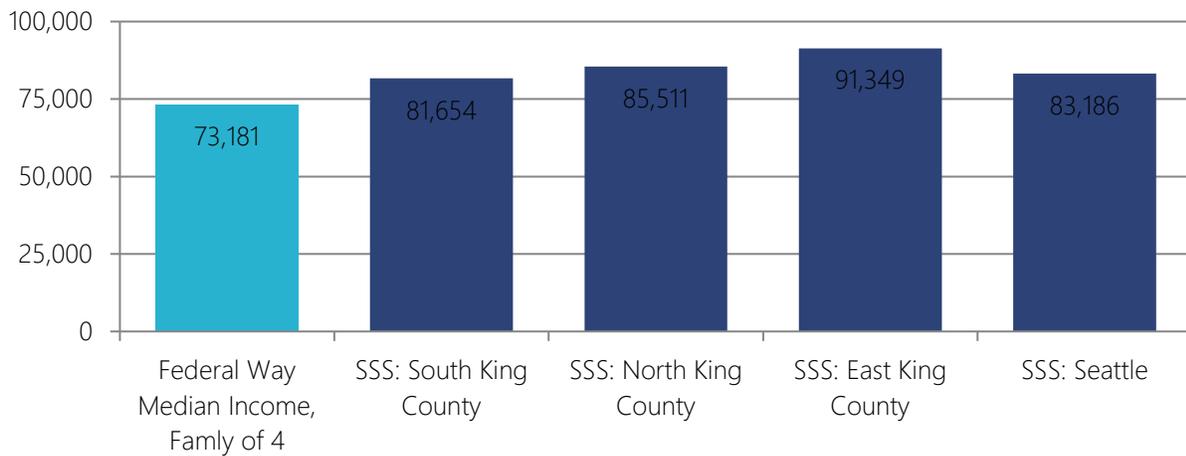
⁹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Table B19019*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁰ US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019). *CPI Inflation Calculator*. Retrieved from <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.

income of nearly \$82,000 to be self-sufficient. This self-sufficiency wage means that the family can cover all costs without assistance. These costs include housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.¹¹

A South King family making \$73,000 annually would be even harder-pressed in other parts of the county, as evidenced by the self-sufficiency standards for North and East King County and Seattle. A Federal Way household earning the median in 2017 may find living in East King County unaffordable by tens of thousands of dollars.

**2017 Federal Way Median Income vs. Regional Self-Sufficiency Standards (SSS)
(Family of 2 Adults, 2 Pre-Schoolers)**



Poverty and Race/Ethnicity

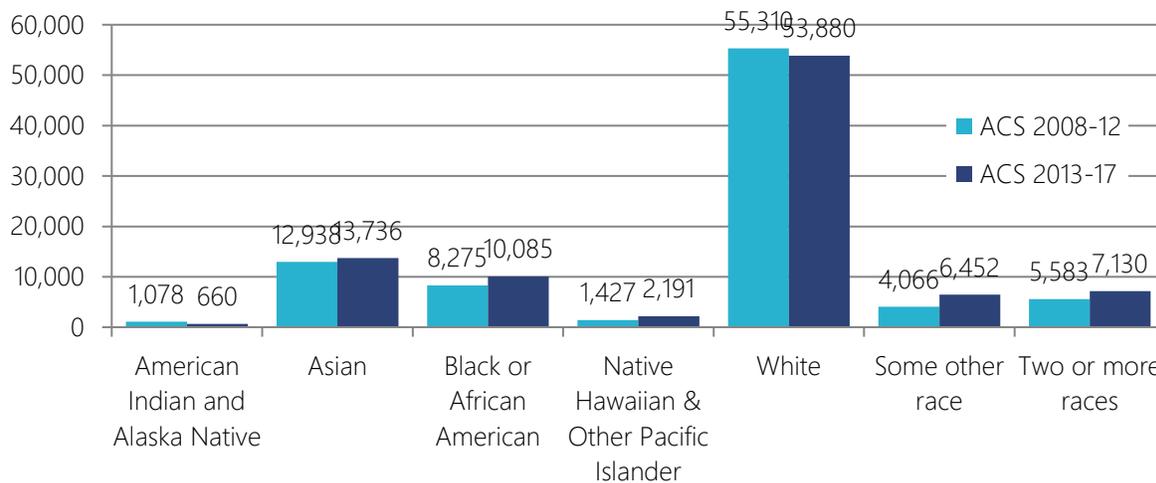
In ACS 2013-17, there were over 94,000 people for whom poverty status was determined, an increase of about 5,000 (6%) over ACS 2008-12. ACS Table S1701 breaks this figure down by race alone.^{12, 13}

¹¹ Pearce, D. (2018). *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/washington>.

¹² US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S1701*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹³ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Table S1701*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Race Alone, Persons for whom Poverty Status is Determined

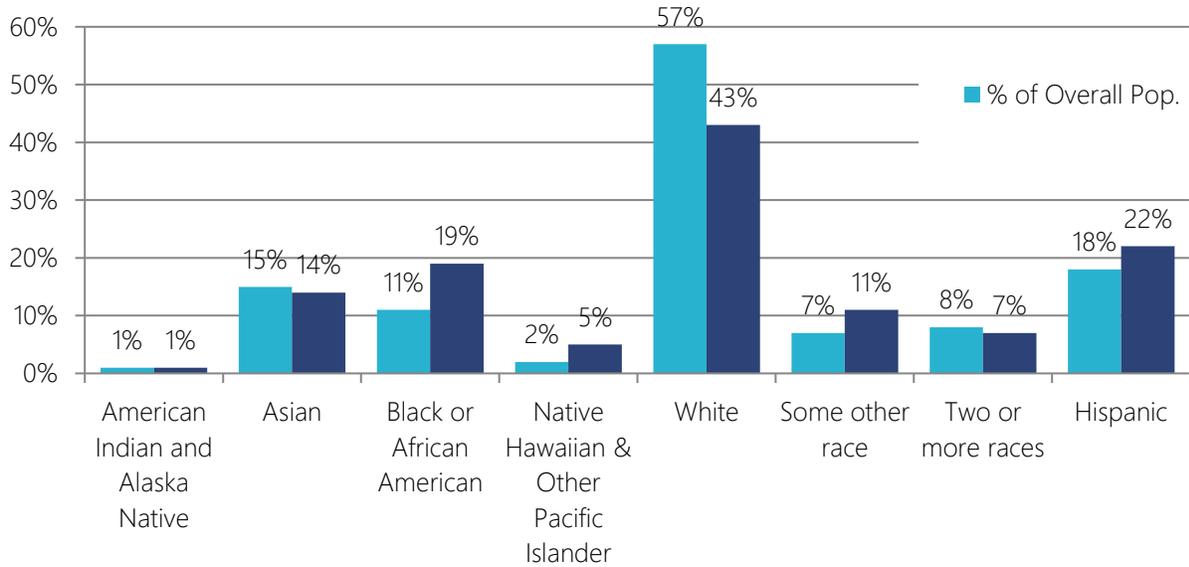


About 17,000 people identified as Hispanic. This is an increase of nearly 3,000 (21%) over the same time period.

Of the 94,000 people for whom poverty status is determined, about 12% or just under 12,000 had incomes at or below poverty level (ACS 2013-17). This is a decrease from the figure of over 13,000 (15%) with ACS 2008-12. Just over 30,000 (32%) had incomes at or below 200% of the poverty level, which is an increase of about 1,000 (4%) over the same period.

Those who identify as Black or African American were overrepresented in the population at or below poverty level. While those who identify as Black or African American were 11% of the overall population for whom poverty status is determined, they were 19% of the poverty level population. This overrepresentation was seen among various people of various races as well as ethnicity.

Race/Hispanic: % of Overall Population vs. % of Poverty Level Population

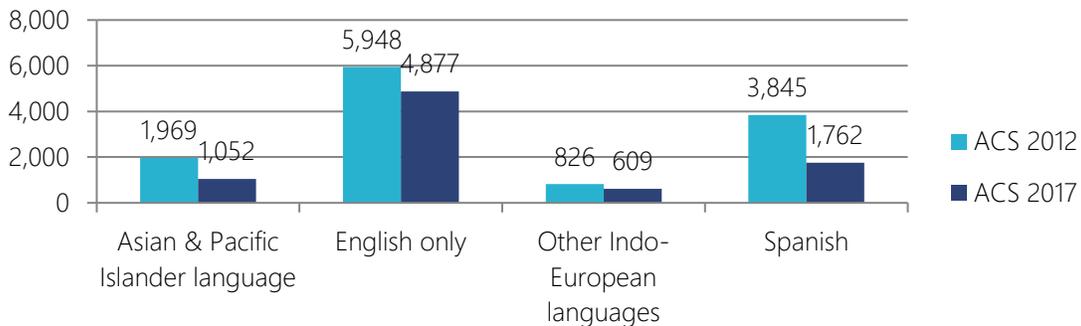


Poverty and Language Spoken at Home

Among the population age 5 and over, there were over 90,000 people for whom poverty status was determined according to ACS 2013-17. About 15%, or 13,000, had incomes below poverty level in 2012. This decreased by about 4,000 (30%) to just under 9,000 in 2017.¹⁴

The number below poverty level who spoke only English at home decreased to 5,000 from about 6,000, a change of -18%, while those below poverty level who spoke a language other than English at home decreased by nearly 40% from almost 7,000 to under 4,000.

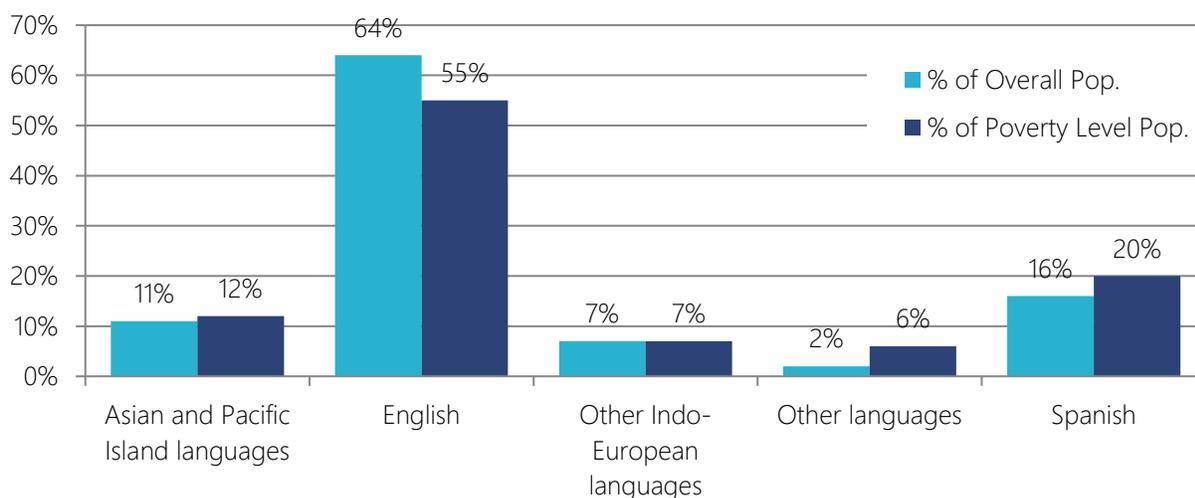
Below Poverty Level, Language Spoken at Home



¹⁴ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table C16009*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

In addition, those who speak a language other than English were overrepresented in the population at or below poverty level. Those who speak a language other than English were 36% of the overall population, but they were 45% of the poverty level population.

Language Spoken at Home: % of Overall Population vs. % of Poverty Level Population



Food Insecurity and Public Assistance

Other indicators of economic distress include food insecurity and reliance on public assistance income.

According to Behavioral Health Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data held by Public Health Seattle-King County, in the 12 months preceding the survey date, anywhere from 13% to 21% of adult respondents bought food that did not last and they did not have money to get more.¹⁵ While this data was reviewed by Public Health as recently as June 2019, the data is from 2013. However, it is a unique measure of food insecurity that adds to the indicators of food insecurity available in the more current ACS data.

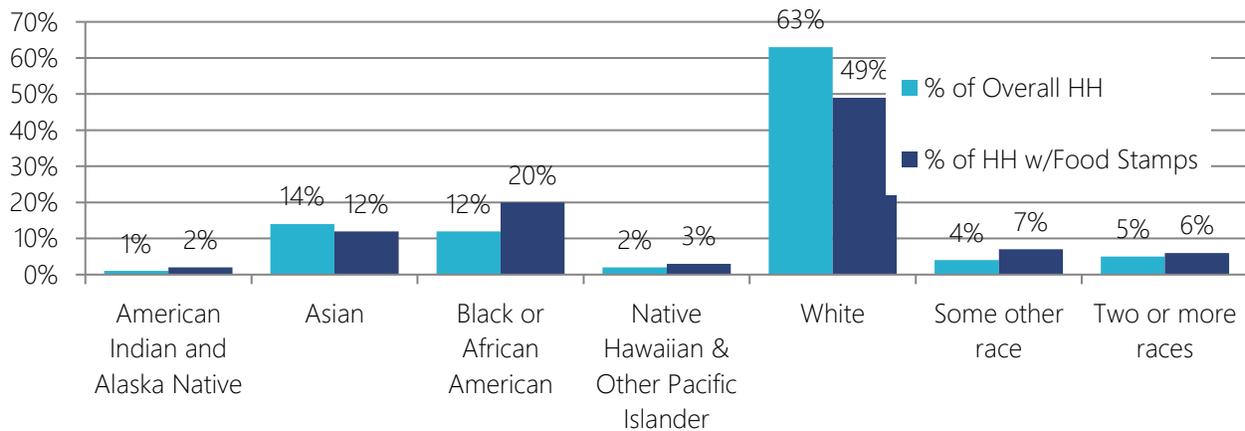
7,000 of the 34,755 households in Federal Way, 21%, received cash or food assistance (ACS 2013-17). This is an increase of 1,600 or 29% with ACS 2008-12, when 17% or less than 6,000

¹⁵ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>

such households received assistance. Over the same period, the total number of households only grew by 3%, from short of 34,000 to just under 35,000.^{16, 17, 18}

Just under 7,000 households received food stamps (ACS 2013-17). Among people of color, a greater proportion of households received food stamps in contrast with households whose head of household was white. Further, households where the head of household was a person of color were overrepresented among the food stamp population.

**Race: % of Overall Households vs.
% of Households Receiving Food Stamps**



Data available through the State of Washington show that 61% of students in Federal Way Public Schools were eligible for the free-and reduced-price lunch program (2018-19 school year), up from 59% in 2016. This is in contrast with neighboring Auburn and Kent schools at 52% and 48%, respectively; the south county region at 51%; the north and east county region at 12%; Seattle at 31%; and King County overall at 32%. Among urban districts in King County, only Highline and Tukwila had higher percentages of eligible students.¹⁹

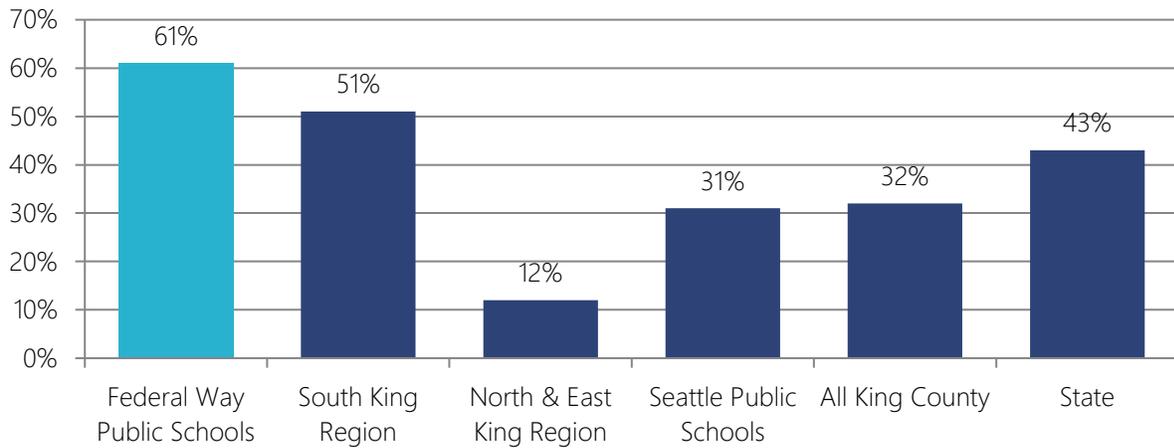
¹⁶ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Tables B2205A-G*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁷ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Tables B19058*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁸ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2018-12, Tables B19058*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁹ State of Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (2019). *Area Eligibility Data*. Retrieved from <https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/child-nutrition/child-nutrition-program-reports>.

% Enrolled Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch, 2018-19



Discussion: Income

Federal Way's median household income has not kept up with inflation or with the median of the county. In adjusted dollars, the King County figure has grown by 26%. In contrast, the Federal Way figure has grown by just 10%.

People of color and those with limited English proficiency are overrepresented in the poverty level population and among those receiving food stamp benefits. Such signs of economic vulnerability are evident with the proportion of our area's public school students who are eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program, which is nearly double that of the entire county.

Economic development, employment training, and income supports may help to address these issues. The City of Federal Way's economic development strategy was designed to bring new businesses and job opportunities to the city. Job training programs such as those provided through Highline College and other organizations are particularly crucial for training for in-demand skills and developing small businesses and microenterprise. The community must continue to develop employment opportunities across all age groups and attract and retain businesses. Support for basic needs such as food and housing, along with income support, can provide stability for individuals and families as they pursue skills and job development.

AGING AND DISABILITY

Aging Population

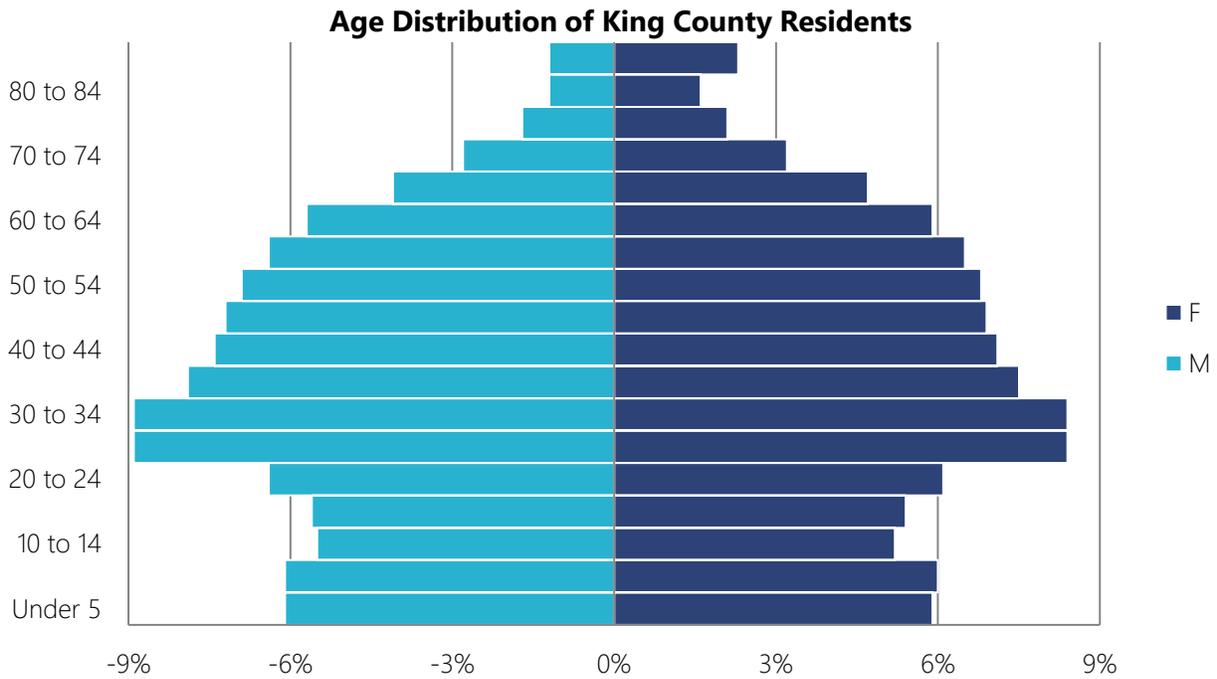
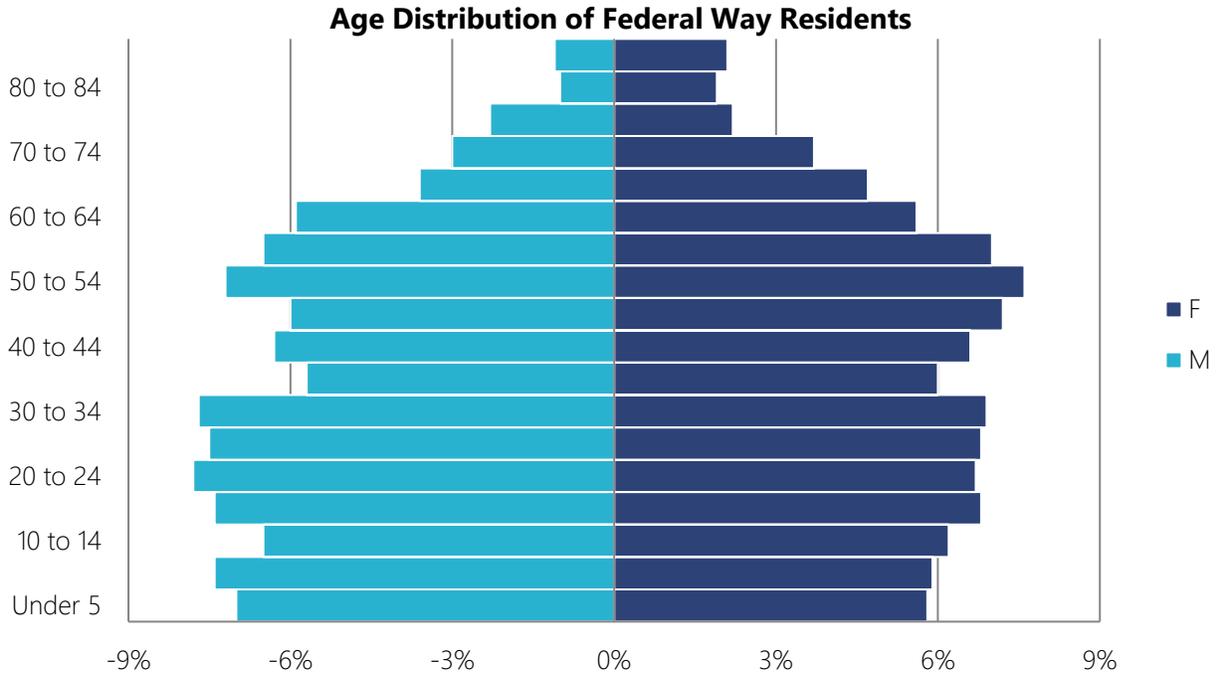
According to Aging and Disability Services of Seattle-King County (ADS), about 11% of King County was age 65 and over in 2010. By 2030 this population is projected to be over 18%.²⁰ As of ACS 2013-17, about 12% of countywide population is age 65 and over. About 13% of the Federal Way population is over the age of 65.²¹

While ADS made those projections based on those age 65 and over, the federal Older Americans Act defines older adults as those age 60 or over. According to ACS 2013-17, nearly 18,000 or about 19% of the Federal Way population was age 60 and over. The median age of city residents was 36.1. Similarly, 18% of the countywide population was age 60 and over, and the median age was 37.2.

The age pyramids below illustrate the contrasts between the Federal Way population and that of the entire county. In contrast to Federal Way, greater percentages of the overall King County population are in the early career years of ages 25 to 39. In contrast, a greater percentage of the Federal Way population is under age 24. About 25% of residents countywide are age 25-39, compared with about 20% of Federal Way residents. About 29% of residents countywide are under age 24, in contrast with about 34% of Federal Way residents. In most of the age groups listed above, the differences are around 1-2%. Federal Way generally has a slightly younger population.

²⁰ City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services (2013). *Washington State 65+ Population by County, 2000-2030*. Retrieved from <https://www.agingkingcounty.org/data-reports/age-related-population-data>.

²¹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0101*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

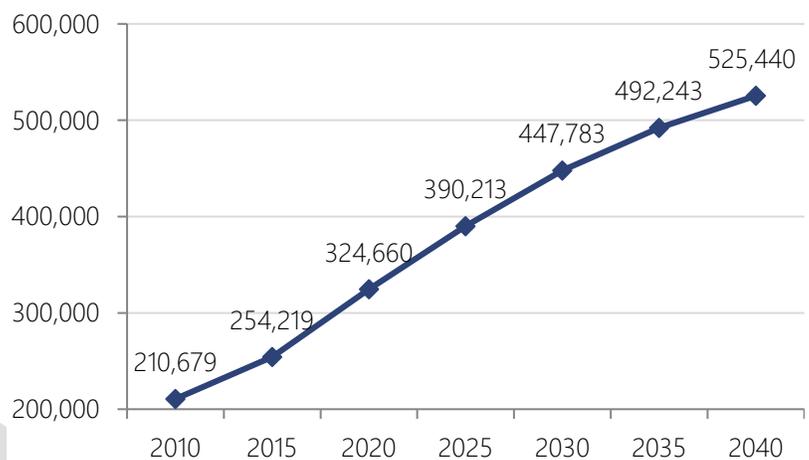


Of the 72,000 adults in Federal Way, about 12,000 are age 65 and over. Of these, 3,000, or 25%, live alone. This compares with 29% countywide and 27% state- and nationwide.²²

²² US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table B09021*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

The State of Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) projects significant increases in the older adult population in King County.²³ With Census 2010, the countywide population over age 64 was just under 211,000, or 10.91% of the county. (For reference, Federal Way's population over age 64 was just over 9,200, or 10.34% of the city at the time.²⁴) By 2040, King County's over-64 population will number over 525,000 and make up nearly 20% of the population. This is a 149% increase across 30 years.

Population Forecast: King County, Age 65+



While OFM does not provide figures at the city level, if Federal Way's older adult population experienced growth at the countywide rate, it would number 23,000 by 2040. That is an increase of 92% over the 12,000 estimated in ACS 2013-17. As housing in the urban core of Seattle becomes increasingly unaffordable, people may attempt to find housing further south as they age. Populations on fixed incomes may find South King County—including Federal Way—as a compromise between the affordability they need and the proximity to the urban core that they know.

Aging and Income

Of around 12,000 Federal Way residents over age 65, 1,100 (9%) had household incomes at or below poverty level. These households represent nearly 10% of the city's poverty level population overall, according to ACS 2013-17. About 6% of older adult households received some kind of public cash assistance; about 8% received SSI and 13% received food stamp benefits.²⁵ The Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan indicates that the zip codes with the highest numbers of older adult households living at or below poverty level are in parts Shoreline, Downtown and Southeast Seattle, and Federal Way (98003).²⁶

²³ State of Washington Office of Financial Management (2017). *Projections of the Population Age 65 and Over for Growth Management*. Retrieved from <https://go.usa.gov/xp5QK>.

²⁴ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0103*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

²⁵ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0103*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

²⁶ King County (2018). *Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/levy/reports.aspx>.

As the cost of living—including the cost of rent and food—increases, income sources upon which most older adults rely may not keep up. For example, the Federal Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors projected that 2020's personal consumption expenditure inflation would be +2%.²⁷ However, the cost of living adjustment for Social Security and SSI in 2020 will be 1.6%, even though the adjustment is tied to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.²⁸

While about 18% of Federal Way older adults were in the labor force, 53% received retirement income. Around 88% had Social Security income. Income sources such as Social Security and pensions are fixed income. Thus, large portions of Federal Way's older adult population rely on fixed income or limited sources such as SSI and public assistance, making them vulnerable over time.

Aging and Housing

For now, this segment tends to stay in place, relative to the rest of the city's residents. Over 91% of the Federal Way population over age 64 were living in the same place as they were in the preceding year. Around 5% were living in a different place in King County. The rest—less than 5%—came from outside King County. In contrast, 81% of the general Federal Way population was living in the same place as they were in the preceding year.²⁹

Not surprisingly, more of the older adult population—72%—resided in owner-occupied units, in contrast with 57% of the general Federal Way population. About 29% of older adults were in renter-occupied units, versus 43% of the general population. Median gross rent for older adults was \$959, less than the general population's median at \$1,156. However, older adults spent more of their household income on rental costs. About 68% of older adults spent 30% or more of their household income on rental costs in contrast with 52% of the general population.³⁰

In contrast, about 32% of older adults spent 30% or more of their household income on housing costs, which compares to 28% of the general population.³¹

²⁷ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (2019). *March 20, 2019: FOMC Projections*. Retrieved from <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomcprojtabl20190320.htm>.

²⁸ US Social Security Administration (2019). *Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Information for 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.ssa.gov/cola>.

²⁹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0103*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

³⁰ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0103*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

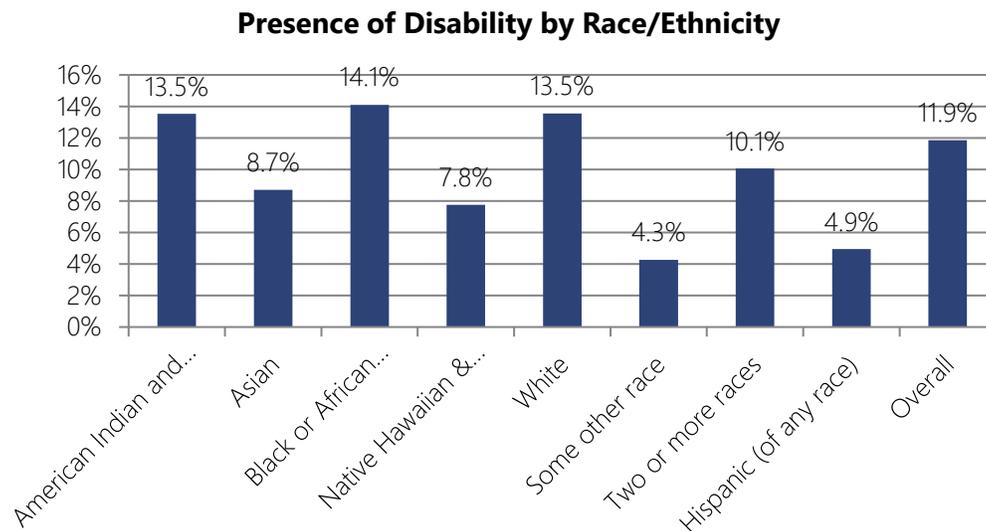
³¹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0103*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Aging Services

According to the 2018 Demographic Profile of clients served by Seattle-King County Aging and Disability Services, over 46,000 clients countywide participated in programs such as Adult Day Services, Family Caregiver Support, Congregate Meals, Senior Transportation, and Senior Services. Of these 46,000, nearly 17,000 (36%) were from South King County. This is greater than the nearly 16,000 (34%) from Seattle; 6,000 (13%) from East King; or 3,000 (6%) from North King.³²

Disability

According to ACS 2013-17,³³ of the 94,250 people in the civilian non-institutionalized population, 12% or 11,183 had a disability. Proportions of people with disabilities varied by race and Hispanic ethnicity.

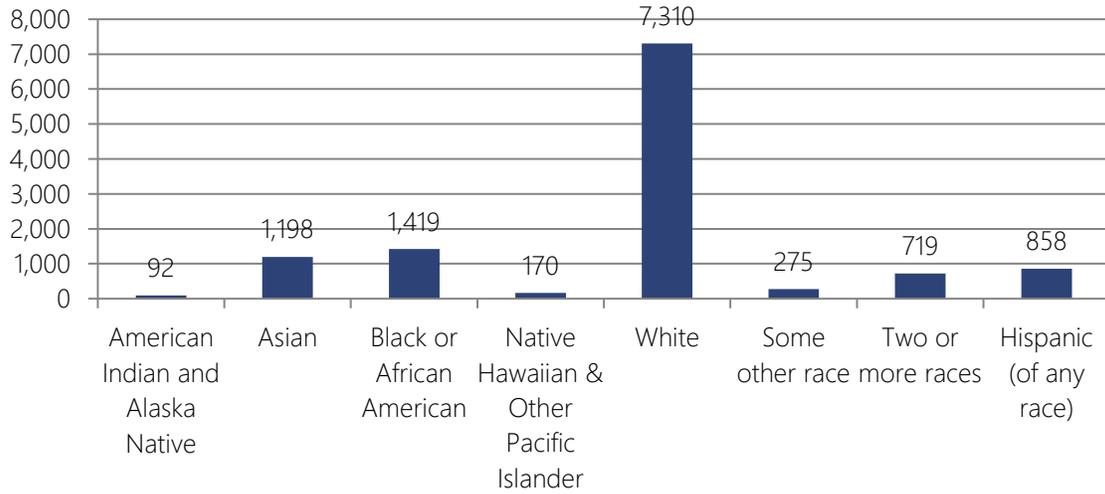


The greatest number of those with a disability were White, followed by Black, Asian, two or more races, some other race, Pacific Islander, and Native American.

³² City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services (2013). *2018 Demographic Profile*. Retrieved from <https://www.agingkingcounty.org/data-reports/client-profile/>

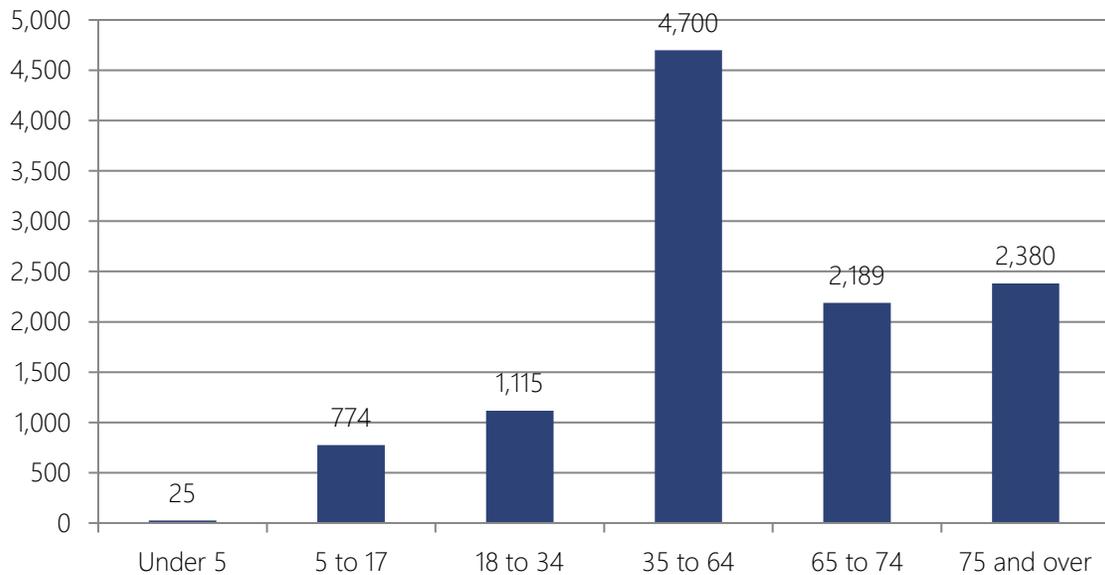
³³ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S1810*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Presence of Disability by Race or Hispanic Ethnicity



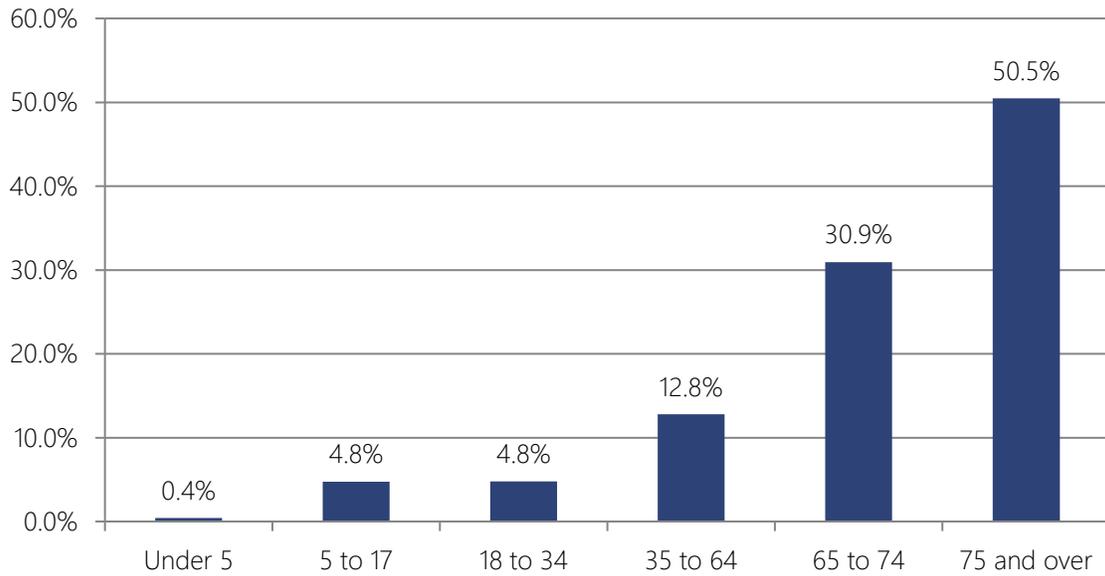
Well over 4,000 people age 65 and over had a disability. Those under age 65 with a disability numbered less than 7,000.

Presence of Disability by Age



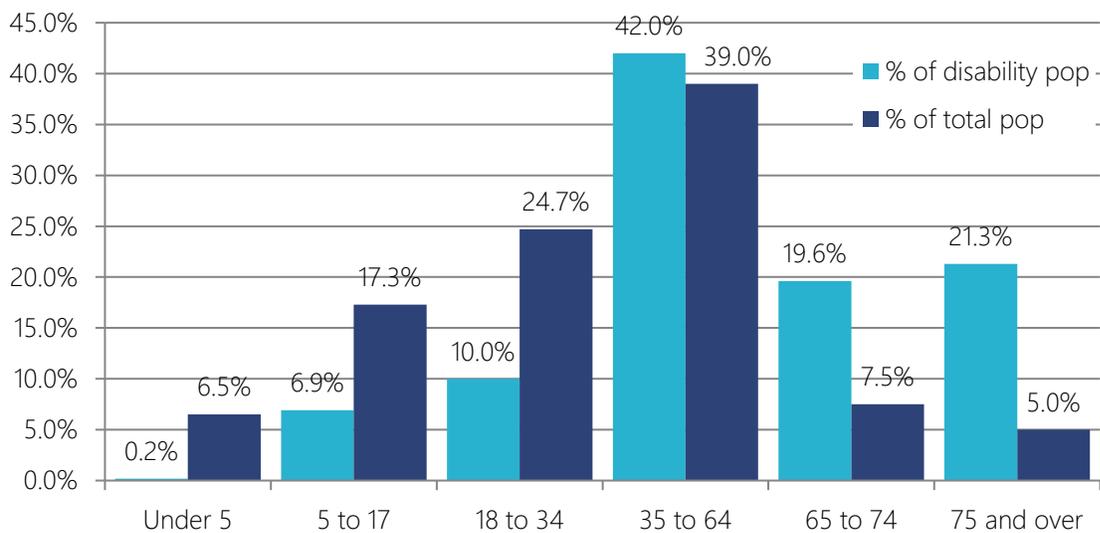
The age group with the greatest proportion with a disability was age 75 and over; around half of these individuals have a disability.

% of Age Group with a Disability



Older adults were over represented in the disabled population. For example, while those age 75 and over were 5% of the overall population, they were 21% of the disabled population.

Age Group: % of All with a Disability



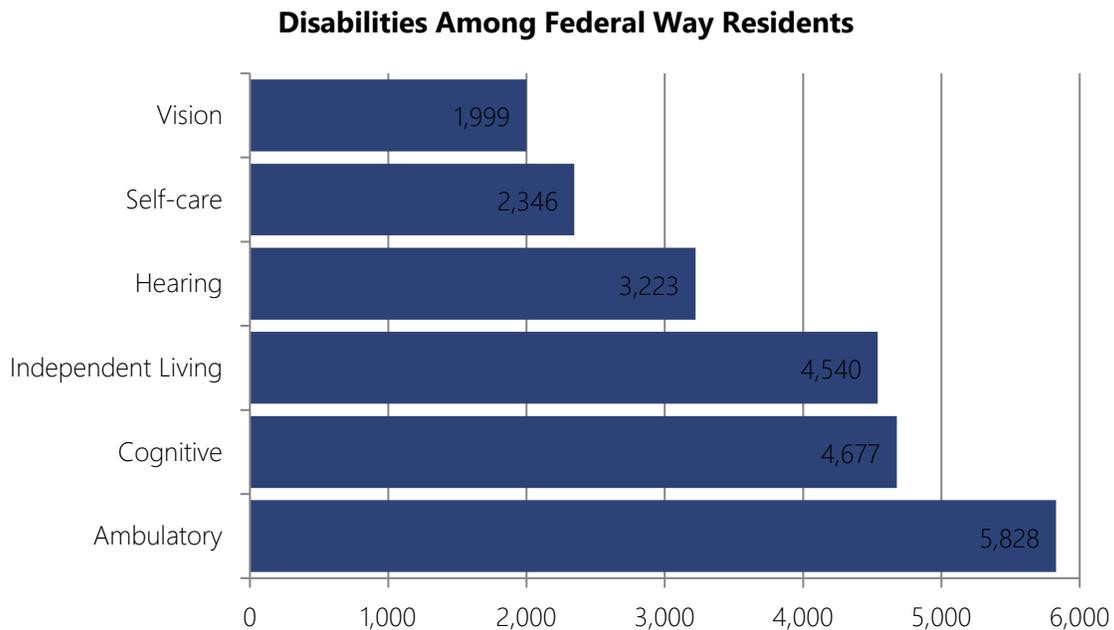
Of the 11,000 Federal Way residents with a disability, ACS 2013-17 shows that the greatest proportion (52%) had an ambulatory difficulty, defined by the US Census Bureau as having

“serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.”³⁴ Of the nearly 6,000 in this category, 95% were age 35 and over. About half were over age 64.

The ambulatory category is followed by these other categories for which the ACS collects data:

- Cognitive difficulties (42%), defined as having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem;
- Independent living difficulties (41%), defined having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem;
- Hearing difficulties (29%);
- Self-care difficulties (21%), defined as having difficulty dressing or bathing; and
- Vision difficulties (18%).

The estimated numbers of Federal Way residents in these categories are shown below. The sum of all figures will be greater than 11,000 as some ACS respondents may have indicated multiple difficulties.



³⁴ US Census Bureau (2017). *How Disability Data Are Collected from the American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/topics/health/disability/guidance/data-collection-ac.html>.

Discussion: Aging

Though the proportion of older adults in Federal Way is not as great as that of the entire county, needs particular to seniors and older adults will remain. There are 12,000 older adults in the City, with the potential to double that amount by 2040. The scope of needs related to affordable housing and support services that face this segment will grow as the population grows.

For older adults in Federal Way that rent, they could experience housing insecurity. Many older adults are on fixed and/or limited incomes and two thirds of older adults pay more than 30% of their household income on rental costs. They risk having to move out as South King County rents continue to rise or as developers upgrade existing affordable units and/or convert them into condominium complexes. This segment of the population will need access to safe, stable, affordable housing in Federal Way.

Those who age in place must deal with more than the financial risks that come with fixed or limited income. With 3,000 older adults living alone, there is an ongoing need for support services that assist them with activities of daily living, food security, and transportation to medical appointments, to name a few.

Support services for older adults must also address their mental health needs. This is particularly true for older adults living alone. Companionship, caregiver support, and senior activities will be crucial for this population.

Discussion: Disability

People of all ages in our city have disabilities. The over-75 age group saw the greatest proportion of those with disabilities. The community should ensure that Federal Way residents with disabilities are afforded the same opportunities for engagement, enrichment, and employment as every other resident. By 2040, the Federal Way older adult population could possibly double if it follows the projections for King County's aging population. A growing older adult population that presents with increasing disability over time underscores the need for the aforementioned support services.

CRIME

Between 2014 and 2018, the majority of crimes committed in the City were property related and have decreased since 2014. Rates of crime overall have decreased between 2014 and 2018. While crime rates fluctuate year to year, the total number of crimes in 2018 was the lowest in that five year period.³⁵

Child Abuse and Neglect

According to Partners for Our Children, in early 2017 there were about 8,800 Washington state children in out-of-home care, a rate of 5.5 per 1,000 children. About 50% were in foster homes; 44% with relatives; and 6% in other settings such as group homes. More than half of children who were placed the year before were under age 5. As of early 2017, African American and Native American children were more likely to receive out-of-home placement than white children—2.2 times and 2.9 times more likely, respectively.³⁶

Figures from the 2016 Healthy Youth Survey show that 23% of school age youth in South King County have been physically hurt by an adult to the point of injury. This is compared to the countywide figure of 20%.³⁷

In 2018, 1,518 youth age 0-17 in the Federal Way school district boundary were identified as abuse/neglect victims by Child Protective Services (CPS). This is a rate of 42.39 per 1,000 youth age 0-17, compared with the ten-year high of 44.01 per 1,000 in 2011 when 1,464 youth were identified as victims. This is about a 4% increase in the number of reported victims between 2011 and 2018. The overall population age 0-17 within the district boundary increased by nearly 8% during that time, from over 33,000 to nearly 36,000. Referrals to CPS came from mandated reporters, including medical providers, school personnel, and counselors.³⁸

Domestic Violence

Data is available on state and local levels that can help to form a picture of the scope of the domestic violence problem in our area. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts an annual, state-by-state, 24-hour survey of service providers to gauge needs.³⁹ On 9/13/18, domestic violence (domestic violence) organizations in Washington served over 1,900 victims. Over 1,100 were in emergency shelters and transitional housing, while over

³⁵ City of Federal Way, 2019.

³⁶ Partners for Our Children (n.d.). *Child Welfare Data at a Glance*. Retrieved from <https://partnersforourchildren.org/data/quickfacts>.

³⁷ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>

³⁸ Starks, A et al. (2019). *Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Locale 72*. Retrieved from <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/4/53/locale>.

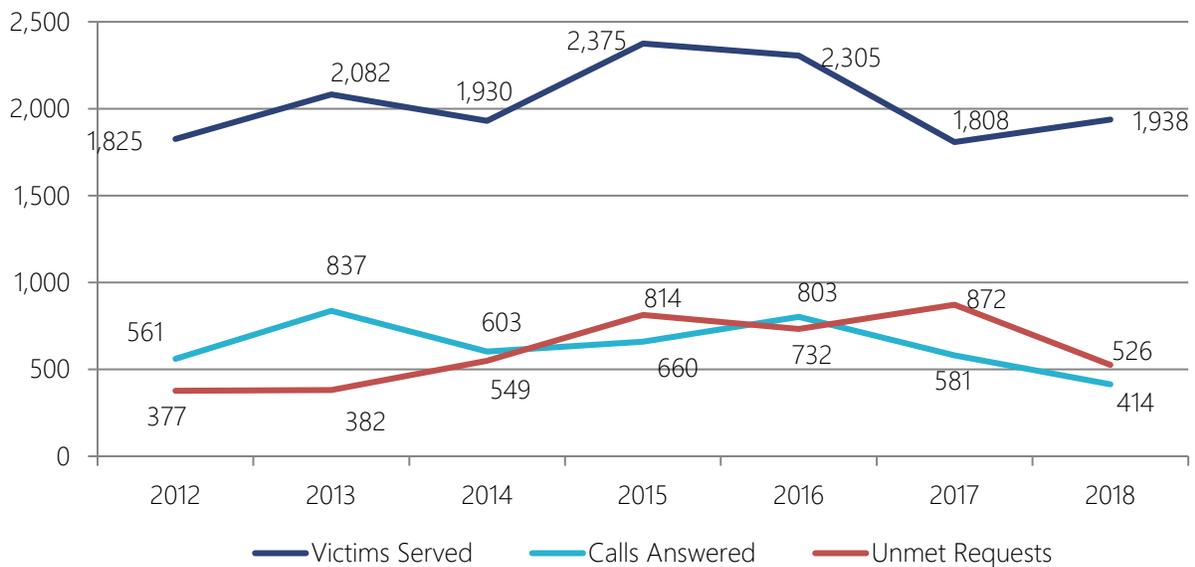
³⁹ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2019). *Domestic Violence Counts Annual Census*. Retrieved from <https://nnedv.org/about-us/dv-counts-census>.

800 received counseling, legal help, and support group services. The victims included adults and children. Also on that day, domestic violence hotlines responded to over 400 calls (an average of about 17 calls per hour).

The survey found that over 500 victims requested assistance but could not obtain it because of organizations' limited resources. Well over 400 of these requests were for housing. The rest included requests for legal help, transportation, childcare and other needs.

NNEDV quotes a domestic violence organization staffer, saying, "Survivors consistently convey to us that they are scared and forced to stay in a highly dangerous living situation due to the lack of safe, affordable housing."

NNEDV: Washington Survey Data, 2012-18



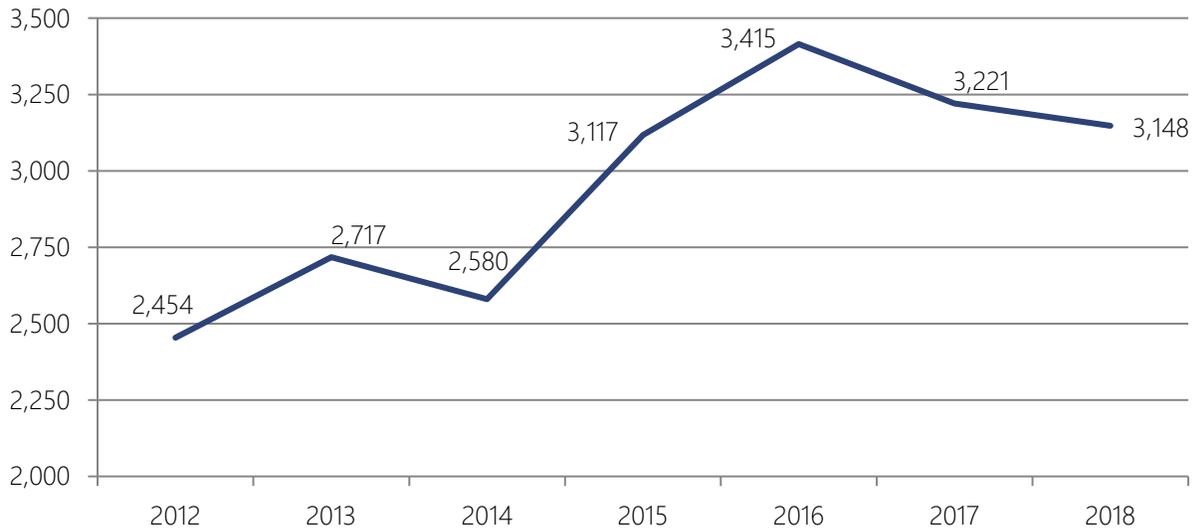
Closer to our area, the state's Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention (2019) has data regarding domestic violence in the Federal Way school district boundaries. In 2017 there were 1,090 domestic violence offenses within the Federal Way school district boundary. This is a rate of 7.78 per 1,000 population, which is lower than the ten-year high of 8.89 per 1,000 population in 2015 but greater than the ten-year low of 3.59 per 1,000 in 2011. The 1,090 offenses in 2017 were slightly less than the 1,188 offenses in 2015, and much greater than the 470 in 2011.⁴⁰

Specifically in Federal Way in 2018, the Federal Way Police Department received 3,148 calls to 911 resulting from domestic violence. This was a 28% increase over the number of those calls in

⁴⁰ Starks, A et al. (2019). *Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Locale 72*. Retrieved from <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/4/53/locale>.

2012. Even so, it was lower than 2016's value of 3,415, which was the highest in the past 10 years.⁴¹

Federal Way Police: 911 Calls for domestic violence, 2012-18



For a variety of reasons, not all 911 calls result in case reports. Even so, the number of case reports can be used as an indicator of the domestic violence problem in our community. In October 2019, the Federal Way Police Department reported that in 2018, they had 591 domestic violence case reports. Over half (51%) were for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th degree assault or sex offense. In 89 of the 591 crimes included in these case reports—and in 69 of the assault and sex offense cases—children were present. Finally, 131 (22%) of the 591 case reports were for harassment (threats of violence and property damage).⁴²

Domestic violence plays a key role in creating homelessness. The 2019 King County Community Health Needs Assessment reports that 40% of 11,643 respondents in the 2017 Point-In-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness reported a history of domestic violence. The proportion was higher (58%) for those who identified as LGBTQ.⁴³ In 2018, 36% of 12,112 respondents reported a history of domestic violence, with 55% of LGBTQ respondents reporting

⁴¹ Roy, M. (2019). *2004-2018 FWPD domestic violence Calls and Case Reports*.

⁴² Hwang, A. (2019). *Public Safety Report: City of Federal Way, City Council, Parks, Recreation, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee*. 10/8/19.

⁴³ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *King County Community Health Needs Assessment*. Retrieved from <https://go.usa.gov/xpBew>.

such history.⁴⁴ For 2019, the Point-In-Time count changed the questioning around this issue, such that newer data can no longer be compared to data from years past.

Youth Arrests and Detention

Overall youth arrest rates have decreased in the City between 2013 and 2018.

King County reports a decrease in youth detention overall for all of King County since 2013 and a 40% decrease in youth detained on juvenile matters.⁴⁵ Further, referrals to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office have decreased as have charges filed in court.

Racial Disproportionality

Racial disproportionality exists from youth referrals, filings, and detention. King County has made reducing the disparities a priority. Overall rates are down since 2013, the rates of referrals, filings, and detention for youth of color have decreased at a lower rate than White youth. One exception is for Native American youth, where referrals and filings have decreased more than the decrease for White youth. The smallest decrease is for referrals and filings for Black youth.⁴⁶ Black youth are overrepresented at every stage in the criminal justice system.

Further, an MIT study shows that youth who are incarcerated have lower graduation rates and increases adult incarceration rates by 23%.⁴⁷ Adult incarceration rates are generally higher for Black and Hispanic youth who grew up in the census tracts of the Pacific Highway – Interstate 5 corridor (Kitt's Corner to North Federal Way) than in most of the rest of the city. For example, among all those who grew up in the census tract around Steel Lake, about 2.4% were incarcerated on April 1, 2010 (the date of the 2010 Census). Among Black people, that figure is 19%. Among Black males, that figure is 32%. In contrast, the corresponding figures for White people were <1% and 2.1%, respectively. Among Hispanic males, the corresponding figures were 2.6% and 9.3%, respectively. These census tracts also show generally lower incomes than other parts of the city.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Applied Survey Research (2018). *Count Us In – Seattle/King County Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness 2018*. Retrieved from <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINALDRAFT-COUNTUSIN2018REPORT-5.25.18.pdf>.

⁴⁵ King County, *Summary of Headline Metrics*. Retrieved from: <https://go.usa.gov/xppjN>.

⁴⁶ King County, *Zero Youth Detention: Headline Metrics*. Retrieved from: <https://go.usa.gov/xppjR>.

⁴⁷ Aizer, A., and J. J. Doyle. "Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital, and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130, no. 2 (February 2, 2015): 759–803. Version: Author's final manuscript

⁴⁸ Chetty, R. et al. (2019). *The Opportunity Atlas*. Retrieved from <https://www.opportunityatlas.org>.

Discussion: Child Abuse and Neglect

Research has long established that the incidence of child abuse and neglect are generally underreported. There are many reasons for this,⁴⁹ including child victims not understanding what is abusive/neglectful behavior on the part of adults; perpetrators feeling shame for their actions, or fearful of the repercussions of their abuse/neglect being discovered; or lack of understanding of abuse/neglect laws among perpetrators and those around them even as abuse/neglect is observed. Further, mandated reporters—such as educators, police officers, social workers who account for most abuse/neglect reports—do not always report abuse/neglect which they may have observed or noticed. Again, this is for a variety of individual reasons. The net effect is that child abuse and neglect are generally underreported nationwide.

Thus, even with data showing a certain number or rate of abuse/neglect victims in the area, it is safe to say that underreporting happens in Federal Way as well. It is important to provide continual education and support for mandated reports so that they maintain an understanding of the nature of abuse/neglect as well as their responsibilities to report.

Discussion: Domestic Violence

According to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, nationally over 700,000 incidents of are reported to police every year, while nearly 600,000 go unreported. Reasons for not reporting domestic violence include fear of reprisal, protecting the perpetrator, privacy, lacking trust in police, and believing the incident itself was minor. Women were more likely to fear reprisal than men, and men were more likely to cite privacy as a reason for not reporting. Most incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners.⁵⁰ Reporting is just one aspect of the issue. After domestic violence becomes known and the victim attempts to leave, they bear an increased risk to their safety that could result in death.⁵¹

According to the NNEDV, victims may return to or stay with perpetrators for many reasons. Controlling behavior makes it difficult to see the unhealthy, damaging, and unsafe situation in which the victim finds themselves. Victims lack access to social supports, including friends and family, due to isolation fostered by perpetrators. Economic considerations, lack of shelter, culture, and immigration status can all factor into why victims are effectually trapped in a relationship with a perpetrator.⁵²

⁴⁹ Petersen AC, Joseph J, Feit M, editors. (2014) *New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US). 2, Describing the Problem. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK195982>.

⁵⁰ Reaves, B. (2017). *Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015*. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/prdv0615.pdf>.

⁵¹ Saunders, D. et al. (2000). *Intimate Partner Homicide. Case Studies in Family Violence*, Ammerman and Hersen Eds. Kluwer/Plenum.

⁵² NNEDV (2017). *Frequently Asked Questions about Domestic Violence*. Retrieved from <https://nnedv.org/content/frequently-asked-questions-about-domestic-violence>.

A supportive community increases its network of resources that help victims recognize domestic violence and that provide safe avenues to escape such relationships with perpetrators. This entails community education and outreach, including with segments of the population that could be more vulnerable to isolation (e.g., limited English speaking, recent immigrants). Generally, all communities need an increase in safe and stable housing options for victims and their families fleeing a perpetrator

Discussion: Youth Arrests and Detention

The call for increased services should consider the needs of youth of color. The data and studies above highlight racial disproportionality and while the Opportunity Atlas data relies on the 2010 Census, data that is nearly ten years old, it highlights a potential area of focus for services for youth after more analysis. Many social services in the City are already located in the Pacific Highway/I-5 corridor as access is easier and services are often made available for low- to moderate-income households, which are more concentrated in this area as well.

Additionally, as King County Juvenile Probation works to reduce juvenile detention and provide connection to additional services with particular focus on racial equity, the City could partner with King County Juvenile Probation in increasing partnerships with youth service providers both in violence prevention and support services such as behavioral health services.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

Early Childhood Education

According to the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the 2018-19 school year, 43% of Federal Way public school students entering kindergarten were ready in terms of six domains of development and learning: math, literacy, cognitive, language, physical, and social-emotional. Readiness in these domains tends to predict a greater chance of academic success for the student. Federal Way's figure compares with the statewide rate of 46% for the same period. For reference, Auburn's rate was 33%; Highline's was 42%; Kent's was 44%; and Seattle's was 62%.⁵³

According to Best Starts for Kids survey data from 2017, respondents in South King County compare with their counterparts in the rest of the county overall on several issues, though some regional differences are apparent.⁵⁴

- 71% of South King County respondents displayed an understanding of early childhood development. This includes responsiveness to and interaction with children during play. The South King County figure compares to the 75% seen in King County overall. Seattle respondents were higher at 82%.
- About 92% of South King County children (infants through 5th grade) in childcare were in settings in which activities were interesting to them. This is comparable to the countywide average of 91%.
- About 69% of South King County children in the same age range indicated that a family member read, sang, or told stories to them in the preceding week. This is comparable to the 73% figure countywide. Seattle respondents were higher at 83%.
- 81% of South King County children were in childcare settings that had a diversity of cultural and economic backgrounds. The King County overall rate was 74% and Seattle was lower at 68%.

Child Care Affordability

The 2016-17 Best Starts for Kids Health Survey covered a range of topics related to children in communities across King County. This includes child care, which is a critical need among low-income populations, but also a barrier due to cost.

The survey results are available through Communities Count and show that 57% of respondents in the Federal Way school district indicated that they had children in childcare or out-of-school care that they considered to be affordable. The overall King County value was 72%. Auburn, Highline, and Kent districts' values were 77%, 87%, and 73% respectively. Among the 12 districts

⁵³ Washington State Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (2019). *Washington State Report Card*. Retrieved from <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

⁵⁴ King County (2019). *Best Starts for Kids Indicators*. Retrieved from <https://go.usa.gov/xpBux>.

for which this survey data is available, only two districts had lower values than Federal Way. Those were on the Eastside, where the per capita income is higher than in Federal Way.⁵⁵

Discussion: Early Childhood Education and Childcare

Federal Way families will thrive to the degree that early childhood education and high-quality childcare are accessible and affordable. Research has shown that a significant and critical period in a child's growth is the time before age 3. The brain is developing and laying a foundation for learning and behavior whose effects will be felt into adulthood.⁵⁶ Children in early childhood education programs and high-quality childcare have a better chance of achieving higher education and seeing better employment outcomes. Affordable childcare provides parents the opportunity to continue their participation in the workforce, contributing to the economy of their community.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Communities Count (2018). *Child Care Affordability*. Retrieved from <https://www.communitiescount.org/child-care>.

⁵⁶ Hart, B. et al. (2003). The Early Catastrophe. *American Educator*. Retrieved from <http://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/TheEarlyCatastrophe.pdf>.

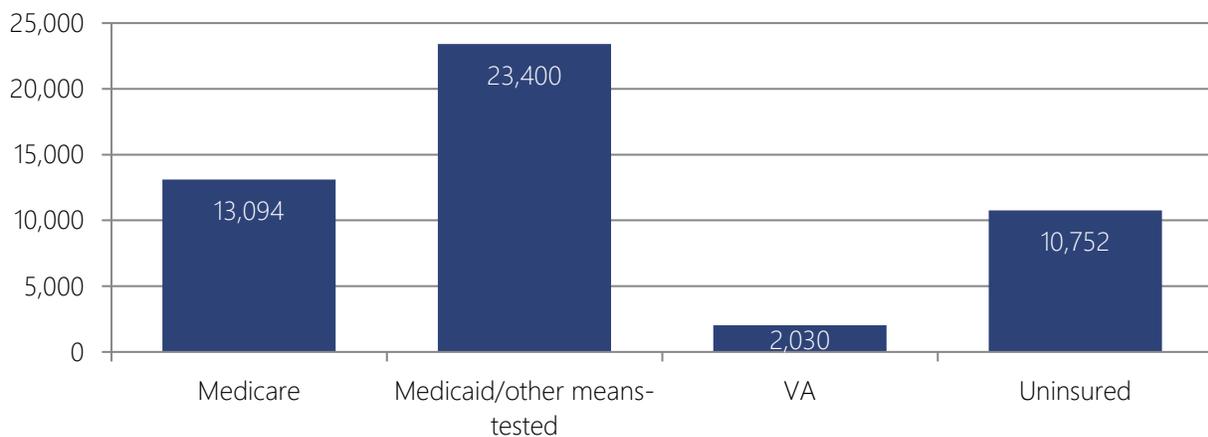
⁵⁷ Bartik, T. (2011). Early childhood programs as an economic development tool: Investing early to prepare the future workforce. In O. Little, S. Eddy, & K. Bogenschneider (Eds.), *Preparing Wisconsin's youth for success in the workforce* (Briefing Report No. 31, pp. 27-40). Retrieved from https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hdfs/fii/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/s_wifis31c03.pdf

HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

Health Insurance

Indicators of economic vulnerability include lacking health insurance or reliance on public coverage such as Medicaid. In ACS 2013-17, of the 94,250 in the civilian non-institutionalized population, about 25% or over 23,000 were covered by Medicaid or other means-tested public insurance. This is an increase of about 28% from just under 18,000 with ACS 2012-16 (the earliest year for which this same dataset is available) among a civilian non-institutionalized population of 93,313.^{58, 59}

Federal Way Residents: With Public Health Insurance or Uninsured



Data is also provided through various government sources by zip code. There are two zip codes which overlap the most with Federal Way city limits—98023 and 98003. Herein, we refer to these zip codes as “the Federal Way area.” HealthierHere, the Accountable Community of Health organization for King County, provides data on the average monthly number of Medicaid-covered people in King County zip codes. In 2012, the Federal Way area had a monthly average of 21,907 Medicaid-covered people. In 2013, before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect in 2014, that figure was just over 22,000 (a 1% increase). In 2014, it was nearly 28,000 (a 26% increase). By 2017, this figure increased to about 34,000. However, the percent increase has

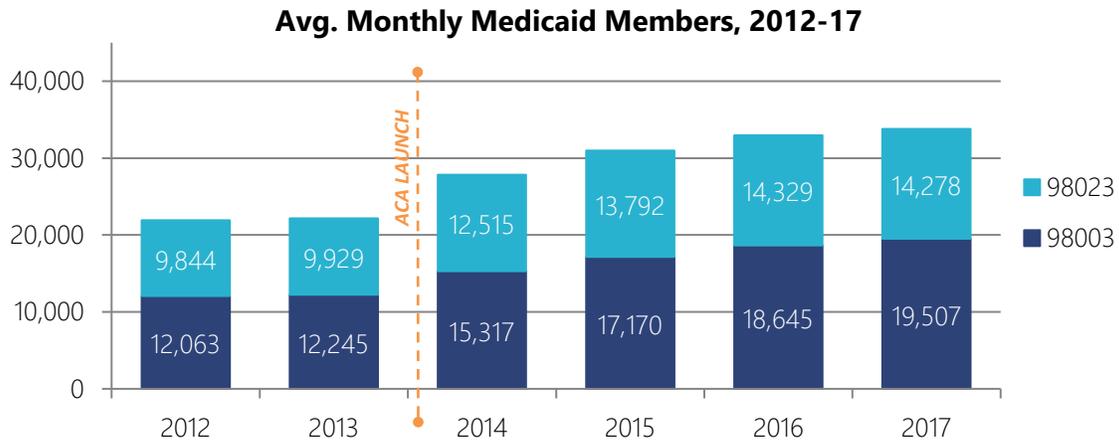
% Change in Avg. Medicaid Enrollment



⁵⁸ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2704*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

⁵⁹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2012-16, Table S1501*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

dropped during these years, from the 26% of 2014, to 11% in 2015, to 6% in 2016, and to 2% in 2017.⁶⁰



Public Health – Seattle & King County uses data on Medicaid-covered people by zip code. In 2018 there were 40,000 people covered by Medicaid who lived in this area. This is about 8% of the Medicaid population countywide. For reference, this area holds about 4% of the county’s population. Of the 40,000, about 1,600 or 4% did not use Medicaid in 2018. This compares with the countywide figure of 5%.⁶¹

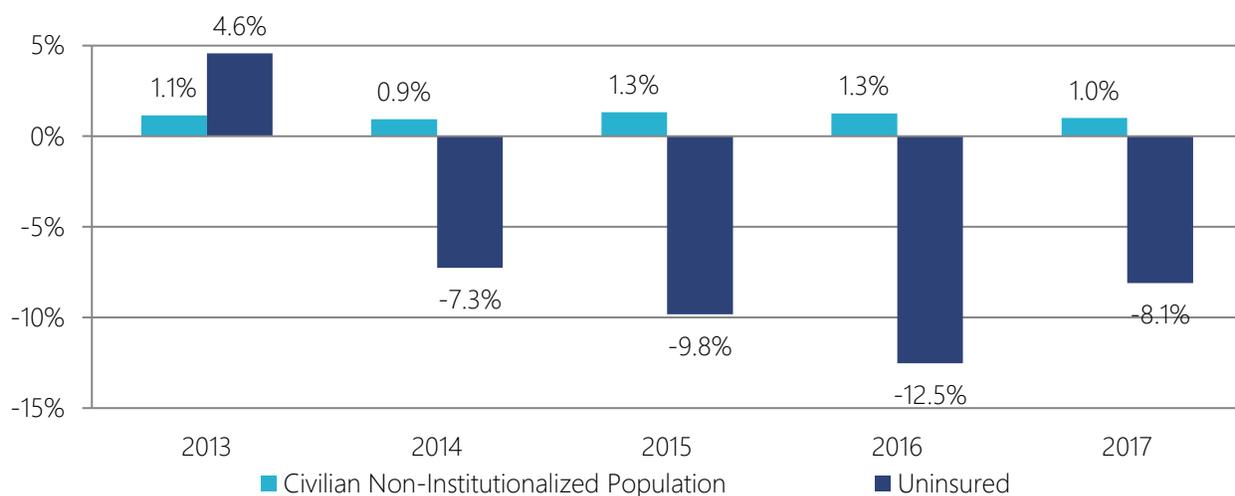
Those uninsured in Federal Way numbered about 11,000 or 11% of the population, a decrease of 31% since ACS 2009-13—just before the Affordable Care Act launched in 2014—when the figure was nearly 16,000. During that period, the overall population increased by 6%, from 89,000 to 94,000. Thus, as the general population increased, the uninsured population decreased. Year over year, the greatest drop in uninsured came in 2016 (-13%).⁶²

⁶⁰ HealthierHere (2019). *King County Medicaid members by year and ZIP code of residence*. Retrieved from <https://tableau.kingcounty.gov/t/Public/views/Whoware/Geographictrends>.

⁶¹ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). Medicaid members by zip code for 2018.

⁶² US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, Table DP03 (2009-13, 2012-16, 2013-17)*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Year Over Year % Change: Overall Federal Way Population vs. Uninsured Population



With ACS 2013-17, people of color were overrepresented among the uninsured population. Black and African Americans made up 11% of Federal Way’s overall (“civilian non-institutionalized”) population of 94,250, but were 20% of the uninsured population of 10,752. Those who identified as Hispanic were 18% of the overall population but 45% of the uninsured population. In contrast, White, non-Hispanic people were 57% of the population but 19% of the uninsured population.⁶³

Even so, the decreases in uninsured in Federal Way match trends seen nationally, as noted by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Uninsured rates began dropping in 2014 and continued through 2017 nationwide. The declines were particularly pronounced in states like Washington that participated in Medicaid expansion, and it is to Medicaid that the drop in uninsured rates is attributed.⁶⁴

Accessing Care

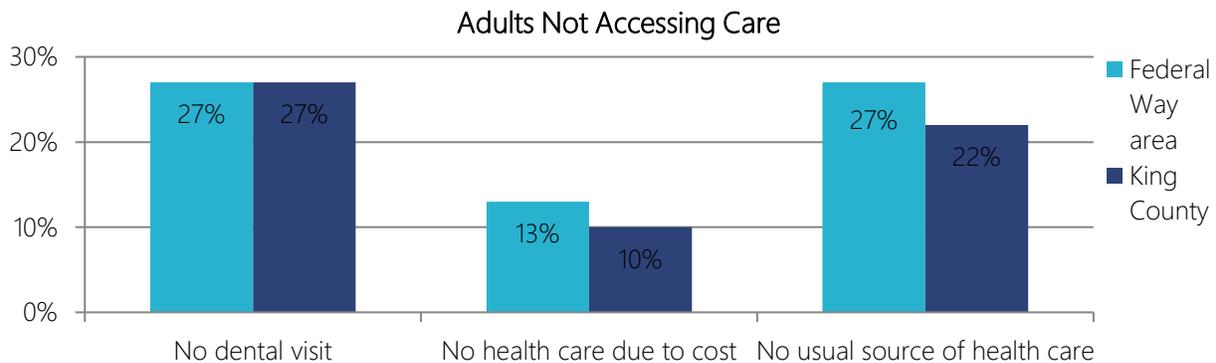
According to the Seattle Center Foundation, which has coordinated the Seattle/King County Clinic for several years, 3,661 patients were served at the event from September 20-23, 2018 with over \$3 million in medical, dental, and vision care. Their post-event report identified the top areas of patient origin as Seattle, Everett, Lynnwood, Federal Way, and Renton. Note: 48% of all

⁶³ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2701*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

⁶⁴ Antonisse, L. et al. (2019). *The Effects of Medicaid Expansion under the ACA: Updated Findings from a Literature Review*. Retrieved from <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Issue-brief-The-Effects-of-Medicaid-Expansion-under-the-ACA-Findings-from-a-Literature-Review>.

patients were uninsured, while 43% had some kind of coverage, including Medicaid and Medicare.⁶⁵

The US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides estimates on adults accessing care in our area, by zip code. In contrast to the county at large, a greater proportion of Federal Way area adults had trouble accessing health care due to cost, and more Federal Way area adults had no usual source of care. The percentage that did not have dental visits was comparable.⁶⁶



Though they accept patients with private insurance and Medicare, community health centers in our area target those who are covered by Medicaid or are under- or uninsured. Of the 99,000 people in the two zip codes that overlap with Federal Way, over 20% or about 20,000 were patients at a community health center. This figure is in contrast with the 12% of the countywide population that were patients at such clinics. Furthermore, the Federal Way area accounts for 7% of all community health center patients countywide, even though it only has 4% of the county's population.⁶⁷

Of the 20,000 community health center patients in these zip codes in 2018, about 11,000 went to HealthPoint Community Health Center and under 6,000 went to Sea Mar Community Health Center. Most of the remaining 3,000 went to Public Health – Seattle and King County, Neighborcare Health, International Community Health Services, and Community Health Care. The latter three organizations do not have sites physically located in the Federal Way city limits.

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⁶⁵ Seattle Center Foundation (2019). *Seattle/King County Clinic 2018 Final Report*. Retrieved from <https://seattlecenter.org/skccclinic>.

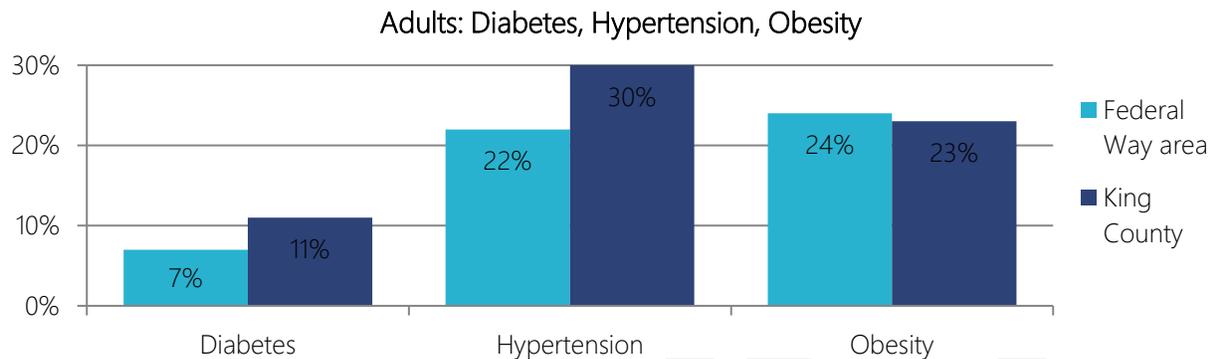
⁶⁶ US Health Resources and Services Administration (2019). *UDS Mapper*. Retrieved from <https://www.udsmapper.org>.

⁶⁷ US Health Resources and Services Administration (2019). *UDS Mapper*. Retrieved from <https://www.udsmapper.org>.

⁶⁸ US Health Resources and Services Administration (2019). *UDS Mapper*. Retrieved from <https://www.udsmapper.org>.

Diabetes, Hypertension, and Obesity

HRSA provides estimates on the segments of our adult population who have been diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, or obesity. The Federal Way area's figures for diabetes and hypertension were comparable to overall countywide values.⁶⁹



Related to these indicators, 2017 BRFSS data posted by Communities Count shows that 24% of adults countywide met CDC recommendations for aerobic and strength-building exercise. The South King County region's value was lower at 20%.⁷⁰

Leading Causes of Death

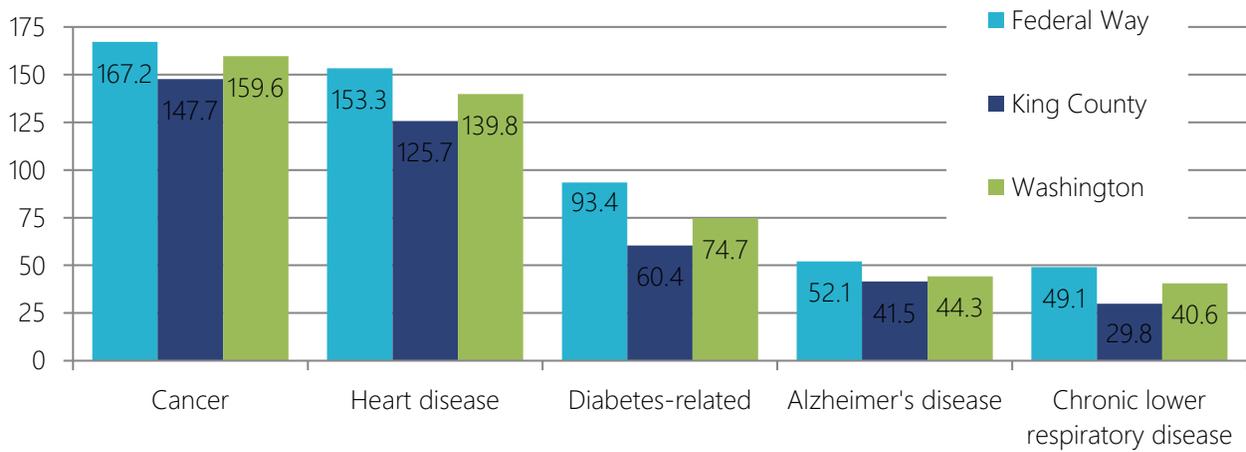
Below are the leading causes of death in Federal Way according to Public Health – Seattle and King County's 2019 City Health Profile for our community. The data is based on the state's death certificate data (1990-2017) and Community Health Assessment Tool data (2018). Federal Way death rates shown below are per 100,000 population. Countywide and statewide numbers are included for comparison.⁷¹

⁶⁹ US Health Resources and Services Administration (2019). *UDS Mapper*. Retrieved from <https://www.udsmapper.org>.

⁷⁰ Communities Count (2019). *Adult Physical Activity*. Retrieved from <https://www.communitiescount.org/adult-physical-activity>.

⁷¹ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *2019 City Health Profiles*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/city-health-profiles.aspx>.

Leading Causes of Death in Federal Way per 100,000 population

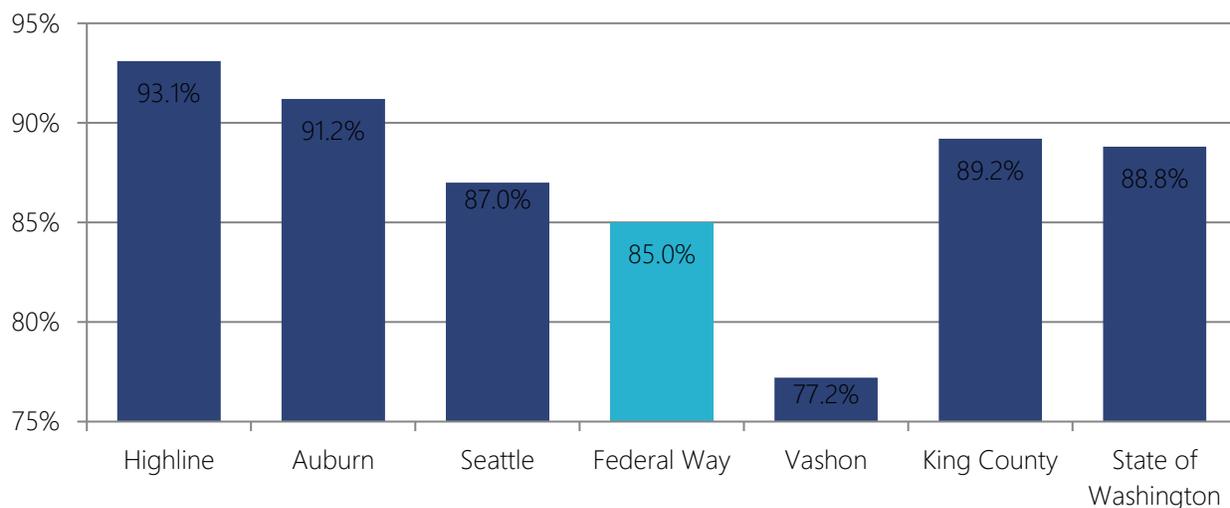


Vaccination Status

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention remind us that promoting immunization is necessary to continue to minimize the spread of diseases like that once plagued populations prior to the advent of vaccination. Significant vaccination happens in the school age years, and the State of Washington provides data on vaccination status for each school district.⁷² For Federal Way, 85% of the K-12 population had complete vaccination (2018-19). Countywide, the vaccination completion was at 89%, comparable to the statewide figure of nearly 89%. These figures are illustrated below, with nearby districts shown for comparison.

⁷² State of Washington Department of Health (2019). *School Vaccination Status Grouped by District*. Retrieved from <https://go.usa.gov/xpKad>.

Vaccination Completion by District (2018-19)



Substance Use

Buprenorphine is a pharmaceutical prescribed to address opioid addiction. Statewide, the number of daily doses of buprenorphine increased from about 494,000 in 2005 to 9.7 million in 2017. This is a 1,864% increase during that time period.⁷³

The number of medical providers with a buprenorphine waiver nationwide is nearly 103,000, or about 1 per 3,188 people. In Washington, that figure is 3,882, or about 1 per 1,932 people.⁷⁴

There were 163 methamphetamine overdoses countywide in 2018. This is a 641% increase over the 22 such overdoses that occurred in 2011. Statewide, the number of methamphetamine-related overdose deaths increased from 83 in 2008 to 364 in 2016, a 386% increase over that period.⁷⁵

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, dealers mix the synthetic opioid fentanyl into illicit drugs such as meth, Ecstasy, heroin, and cocaine because it is cheap, easily produced, and generates a potent high. Users may be unaware that their drug of choice has been mixed with fentanyl and may not expect its potency, thus underestimating the hit and leading to overdoses and deaths.⁷⁶ Public Health – Seattle and King County has sounded an alarm over the increase

⁷³ Banta-Green, C. (2019). *2018 Drug Trends Report, King County, Washington*. Retrieved from <https://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2018drugtrends.pdf>.

⁷⁴ US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2019). *Number of DATA-Waived Practitioners*. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/practitioner-program-data/certified-practitioners>.

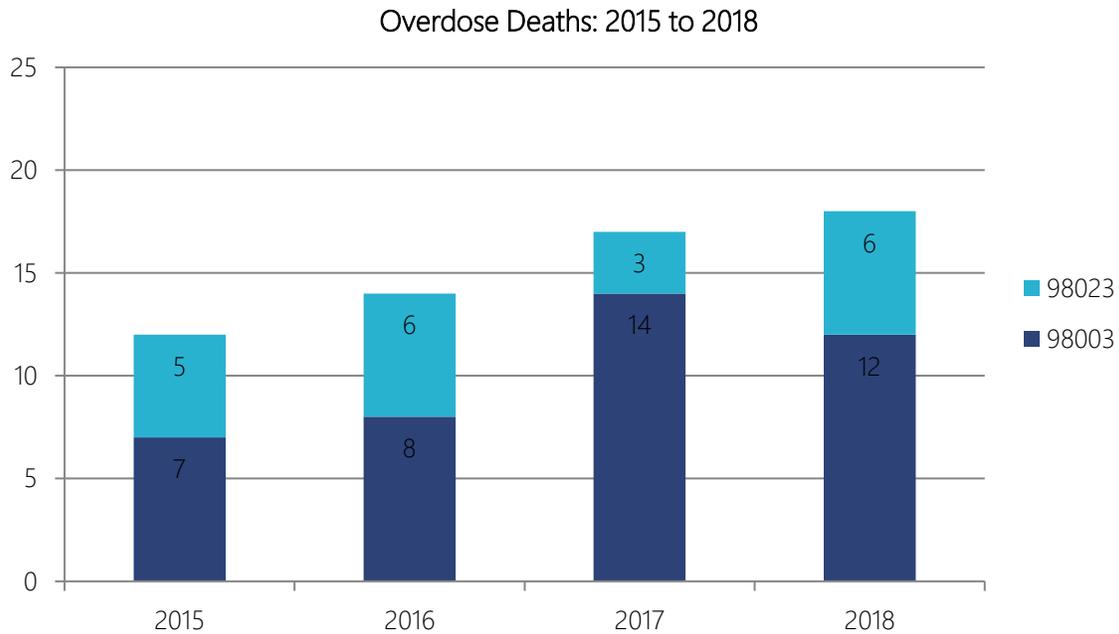
⁷⁵ Banta-Green, C. (2019). *2018 Drug Trends Report, King County, Washington*. Retrieved from <https://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2018drugtrends.pdf>.

⁷⁶ National Institute on Drug Abuse (2019). *Fentanyl*. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>.

in overdose deaths related to fentanyl-laced drugs during late summer and early autumn of 2019.⁷⁷

According to King County Medical Examiner data as of the end of July 2019, there have been 14 drug overdose deaths in zip codes 98003 and 98023 (the two zip codes which make up most of Federal Way).⁷⁸ In at least four of these deaths, fentanyl was detected. Should the general pace of overdose deaths in these zip codes continue for the rest of 2019, we could see the figure rise to 24, a 100% increase over 2015.

The chart below illustrates the growing number of overdose deaths in these two zip codes which encompass most of the city, with 98003 consisting mostly of eastern Federal Way and 98023 consisting mostly of western Federal Way.



Substance Use: Youth

According to Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) data posted by Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC), about 23% of youth (middle and high school age) in South King County used alcohol, marijuana, painkillers, or other illegal drugs in the past 30 days. This is in contrast to Seattle

⁷⁷ Apa, J. (2019). Overdose Update: *Recent Increase in Overdose Deaths Linked to Fentanyl-Laced Pills and Powders*. *Public Health Insider*. Retrieved from <https://publichealthinsider.com/2019/09/26/overdose-update-recent-increase-in-overdose-deaths-linked-to-fentanyl-laced-pills-and-powders>.

⁷⁸ King County Medical Examiner's Office (2019). *Overdose deaths*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/examiner/overdose.aspx>.

youth at 295. The data is not available through PHSKC at the district level, and instead is only posted at a sub-regional level.⁷⁹

About 10% of youth in South King County engaged in binge drinking in the past 14 days. This compares with the 12% Seattle figure and 10% across King County. About 13% of youth in South King County used e-cigarettes and vape pens in the past 30 days. This compares with the nearly 14% Seattle figure and nearly 14% across King County.

According to the state's Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention (2019), in 2017, the arrest rate of those age 10-17 within the Federal Way school district boundary was 0.22 per 1,000 adolescents. This is down from the ten-year high of 4.81 per 1,000 adolescents in 2008. These arrests range from DUI, drunkenness, and possession. Also in 2017, the arrest rate for drug violations in this age cohort was 0.96 per 1,000 adolescents in the district boundary. This is up from the ten-year low of 0.54 per 1,000 in 2015, but down from the ten-year high of 4.49 per 1,000 in 2010. These arrests range from manufacturing, dealing, or possessing drugs.⁸⁰

Also in 2017, the publicly-funded alcohol or drug treatment admission rate for those age 10-17 within the district boundary was 2.73 per 1,000 adolescents. This is down from the ten-year high of 8.95 per 1,000 in 2011. These would be DSHS-funded services for assessment, treatment, and detox.

Substance Use: Adults

According to Behavioral Health Risk Factor Surveillance System data (BRFSS, 2011-15), 15-20% of surveyed Federal Way adults engaged in binge drinking, defined as several drinks on one occasion—five for men, four for women. This compares with the countywide figure of 20%. The rate of alcohol-induced deaths in western Federal Way was 12.5 per 100,000. In central/eastern Federal Way, that figure was 8.4 per 100,000. The countywide figure was 9.6 per 100,000. The rate of drug-induced deaths in western Federal Way was 13.3 per 100,000. In central/eastern Federal Way, that figure was 14.7 per 100,000. The countywide figure is 13 per 100,000. These deaths include injection drug use deaths.⁸¹

⁷⁹ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>

⁸⁰ Starks, A et al. (2019). *Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention in Locale 72*. Retrieved from <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/4/53/locale>.

⁸¹ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>

The University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute tracks drug use across King County. Their 2018 report indicates that across King County, there were 415 drug overdose deaths. There were 277 opioid overdose deaths, and most involved at least one other drug.⁸²

Mental Health

In South King County, the rate of inpatient hospitalizations resulting from suicide attempts was 38.5 per 100,000 residents, according to Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System data (CHARS, 2015) posted by PHSKC. For South King County, this amounted to nearly 1,400 admissions. The Seattle sub-region's figures were 44.7 per 100,000 and 1,400 admissions; the east sub-region was 33.9 per 100,000 and 838 admissions; and the north sub-region was 48.7 with 398 admissions.⁸³

The CDC identifies suicide as among the top 10 leading causes of death nationwide. In 2017, there were twice as many suicides as there were homicides. Suicide was the fourth leading cause of death for people age 35-54, and the second leading cause of death for those ages 10-34. In Washington, these patterns are similar, with suicide being the third leading cause of death for people ages 35-44.⁸⁴

The suicide rate in Federal Way ranged from 11.9 per 100,000 in western Federal Way to 12.5 per 100,000 in central/eastern Federal Way, according to state data posted by PHSKC (2015). This amounts to 22 and 38 deaths, respectively. Those rates compare with the countywide rate of 12.2 per 100,000.⁸⁵

Mental Health: Youth

According to 2016 and 2018 Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) data posted by Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC), 33% of youth respondents in South King County felt so sad and/or hopeless in the year preceding the survey that they stopped doing their usual activities. This is taken to be an indicator of depression prevalence. The figure of 33% is higher than the overall countywide figure of 30%; both the Seattle and east sub-region at 27%; and the north sub-region at 29%.

About 68% of South King county youth respondents indicated they have an adult in their lives to whom they could talk about serious problems. This is lower than the countywide figure of 74%; the Seattle figure of 77%; the north sub-region at 80%; and the east sub-region at 82%.

⁸² Banta-Green, C. (2019). *2018 Drug Trends Report, King County, Washington*. Retrieved from <https://adai.uw.edu/pubs/pdf/2018drugtrends.pdf>.

⁸³ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>.

⁸⁴ US CDC (2019). *Leading Causes of Death Reports*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>.

⁸⁵ Public Health – Seattle & King County (2019). *Community health indicators: A gateway to King County data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators.aspx>

About 81% of South King County youth said they feel safe at school. This was lower than the Seattle figure of 86%; the north sub-region at 88%; and the east sub-region at 90%. The countywide average was 85%.

Mental Health: Adults

BRFSS (2015) indicates that Federal Way adults had 2.3 to 3.6 physically or mentally unhealthy days in the month preceding the survey's administration. This compares with the countywide figure of 2.2 days. For Federal Way adults age 65 and older, the figure ranges from 2.7 to 3.0 days.

About 15-17% of Federal Way adults indicated they had 14 or more days with poor mental health in the past 30 days. This is in comparison with the 10% figure countywide. About 6% of Federal Way adults showed signs of serious psychological distress in their survey responses, reflecting feelings of nervousness, hopelessness, worthlessness, and depression in the past 30 days. This compares to the countywide figure of 4%. Between 18-24% of Federal Way adults said they sometimes, rarely, or never get the social support they believe they need.

Discussion: Health and Behavioral Health

The Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion has precipitated an unprecedented drop in the percentage of the local population that is uninsured. Still, several thousand Federal Way area residents are uninsured and/or are not accessing health care. Health promotion through community outreach and education is crucial to encourage the public to seek the care options that are available to them. In addition, behavioral health integration with primary care in King County could aid with increasing observations of behavioral health risk factors and surveillance.⁸⁶

Mental illness costs hundreds of billions of dollars in the cost of care and lost productivity, due to the sheer prevalence of mental illness nationwide. About 1 in 4 US adults may have a mental illness diagnosis, according to the CDC.⁸⁷ While there are resources available to address mental illness, they are insufficient to meet the need nationwide. In Health Professions Shortage Areas designated by the US Health Resources and Services Administration, about 27% of the need for mental health services has been met. In Washington, that figure is about 12%.⁸⁸ Cost, limited

⁸⁶ Accountable Community of Health for King County (2019). Our Work. Retrieved from <https://www.healthierhere.org/our-work>.

⁸⁷ Reeves, W. et al. (2011). Mental Illness Surveillance Among Adults in the United States. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6003.pdf>.

⁸⁸ Kaiser Family Foundation (2019). Mental Health Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/mental-health-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas>.

options, social stigma, and lack of access to timely care are all barriers to getting mental health treatment.⁸⁹

With this in mind the community should monitor the development of new and additional community behavioral health facilities as signed into state law in July 2018 (SSHB 1394). Legislators’ intention was to create more local options for people to receive complex behavioral health treatment near home, as opposed to traveling to the locations of the burdened state hospital system.⁹⁰

There are steps that individuals and local communities can take to address mental illness and suicide risk. While the CDC notes that suicide is not always preceded by a mental health diagnosis, their suggestions for discerning warning signs and for prevention all revolve around fostering healthy environments rooted in mental health, resilience, and community support. The table below is adapted from CDC materials.⁹¹

WARNING SIGNS	PREVENTING SUICIDE
Feeling like a burden, isolated	Financial support
Increased anxiety, feeling trapped, in pain	Access to health care
Substance use, access to lethality	Reduce stigma around help-seeking
Anger, rage, mood swings	Create sense of belonging
Hopelessness, sleep issues	Teach coping/problem-solving skills
Suicidal ideations, plans	Support those at risk

Substance use is often related to issues of social determinants of health. This can include poverty, the infrastructure of the neighborhood in which one lives, racism, and many other factors. A community wishing to take action on addiction and its effects must deal with such issues in order to make an impact. As noted by Public Health – Seattle and King County, “A comprehensive prevention approach must address the underlying social, economic, and psychological stressors driving substance use disorders and addiction.” They identify these issues as “economic hardship and poverty; housing instability and homelessness; behavioral health disorders including depression and anxiety; discrimination and racism; and adverse child experiences and trauma.”⁹²

⁸⁹ National Council for Behavioral Health & Cohen Veterans Network (2018). America’s Mental Health 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.cohenveteransnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Research-Summary-10-10-2018.pdf>.

⁹⁰ State of Washington 66th Legislature (2019). Second Substitute House Bill 1394. Retrieved from <http://lawfilesexet.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1394-S2.SL.pdf>.

⁹¹ US CDC (2018). Suicide Rising Across the US. *Vital Signs*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/vs-0618-suicide-H.pdf>.

⁹² Apa, J. (2019). Overdose Update: Recent Increase in Overdose Deaths Linked to Fentanyl-Laced Pills and Powders. *Public Health Insider*. Retrieved from <https://publichealthinsider.com/2019/09/26/overdose-update-recent-increase-in-overdose-deaths-linked-to-fentanyl-laced-pills-and-powders>.

HOMELESSNESS

All Home King County, King County's Continuum of Care (CoC), conducts Count Us In⁹³, the annual Point in Time count, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Count Us In offers a snapshot of the number of people experiencing homelessness. The count is held to be an undercount of the number of people experiencing homelessness because many people experiencing homelessness do not want to be found and make efforts to not be located. Additionally, the count does not calculate the number of persons who experience homelessness over the year. It is generally thought that the total number of persons experiencing homelessness over the course of the year is two to three times the point-in-time count. The count provides a snapshot of homelessness.

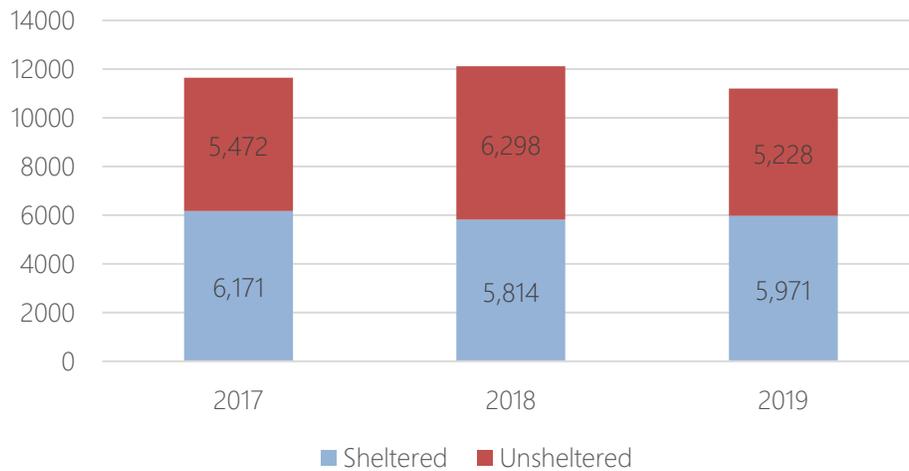
For the purpose of the Point-in-Time count, homelessness is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as individuals and families who:

- Are living in a supervised publicly- or privately-operated shelter (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens) designated to provide temporary living arrangements; or
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a vehicle, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Count Us In 2019 occurred on January 25, 2019 and found 11,199 persons experiencing homeless on that day. This included 5,971 persons who were sheltered and 5,228 persons who were unsheltered, meaning on the streets, in vehicles, or in other places not meant for habitation. 11,199 is an 8% decrease overall and a 17% decrease to people who were unsheltered across King County. While the data is imperfect and we know undercounts the number of persons experiencing homelessness, it is a snapshot of what occurred on January 25, 2019.

⁹³ King County (2019). *Count Us In*. Retrieved from <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/KING-9.5-v2.pdf>.

Homeless Individuals, King County



The count found:

- 1,451 individuals in families with children; 97% of the families were sheltered the night of the count.
- 1,089 unaccompanied youth and young adults (18-24) including 82 youth under the age of 18
- Note: for both families and individuals, the count does not include people who are doubled up or staying with friends or families. Most shelter or housing services serve people who are “literally homeless” as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which does not include doubled up.
- Approximately 64% of individuals surveyed reported living with one or more health condition including physical disabilities, chronic substance use disorders, and severe mental health conditions.
 - Behavioral health conditions were the most frequently reported conditions.
- The majority, 84%, of survey respondents reported they were King County residents at the time they lost their housing.

Homelessness in the City of Federal Way

A new methodology for the count was first implemented in 2017 and beginning in 2017, the availability of city-specific data changed. All Home has been able to provide some data for unsheltered individuals by jurisdiction. In 2019, Count Us In found 124 individuals who were unsheltered in Federal Way. This included 32 people on the street, 2 people in tents, one person in a building not meant for habitation, and 89 people in vehicles. In 2018, the number of unsheltered persons was 176 and in 2017 it was 106.

Chronic homelessness is defined as:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or staying in emergency shelters for a year or longer, or having experienced four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years,
- And also, living with a disabling condition such as a chronic health problem, physical disability, or psychiatric condition.

Chronically homeless individuals, sheltered vs unsheltered

An estimated 2,213 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness. Typically, chronically homeless individuals are less likely to stay in shelters. However, in 2019, 41% of chronically homeless persons were unsheltered, compared to 59% of the total homeless population. This was an increase from 29% in 2018.

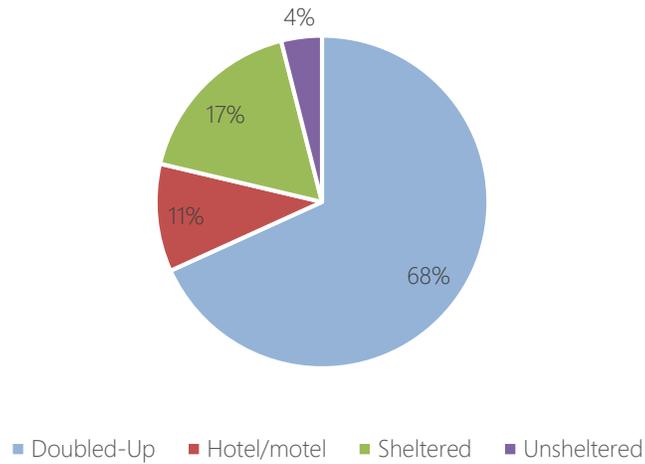
McKinney-Vento

McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law ensuring continued enrollment and stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento enrollment includes a broader definition of homelessness than most services and Count Us In as it includes persons who are doubled up, meaning staying with friends or families.

- In the 2017-2018 school year, 582 students were McKinney-Vento qualified.⁹⁴ There has been an annual increase since 2014-2015, the earliest data available on the OSPI website. In the 2014-2015 school year, 236 students were McKinney-Vento qualified.
- Federal Way Public Schools' overall rate of McKinney-Vento qualified students in 2017-2018 (2.2%) is similar to regional school districts (Auburn and Kent) and lower than other local districts (Highline, Renton, Seattle, and Tacoma). 3.4% of students in the State experience homelessness.

⁹⁴ Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Homeless Education Student Data. Retrieved from: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education/homeless-education-student-data>.

Homeless Students by Living Situation, 2017-2018



- The majority (68%) of McKinney-Vento qualified students report being doubled up, staying with friends or family.
- 26 students (4.3%) are unaccompanied youth or young adults.

McKinney-Vento definitions include doubled-up status, meaning staying with family or friends. This definition is not included for sources such as Count Us In and some services require that households be literally homeless to access the services, thus precluding households that are doubled up.

Demographics

Among people experiencing homelessness, disproportionately impacts people of color and people identifying as LGBTQ+. For example, racial disproportionality was observed in the 2019 count as in past counts with disparities among persons identifying as Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. A higher percentage of persons experiencing homelessness identified as each of these races than the general population with persons identifying as Black or African American representing the greatest disparity with 32% of persons in Count Us In compared to 6% of the general population in King County.

The Point-in-Time Count found 23% of respondents identified as LGBTQ+ compared with the 4.8% of the 2015 Gallup U.S. Daily survey, which found 4.8% of the general population in the region identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. The disparity is more pronounced for unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 where 34% identified as LGBTQ+.

Additionally, disproportionality is seen in the McKinney-Vento data where students of color are disproportionately experiencing homeless across all races and ethnicity. Similar to the findings

of Count Us In, the largest disparity is among students identifying as Black or African American where 41.4% of students experiencing homelessness identified as Black or African American compared with 15.1% of the general student population.⁹⁵

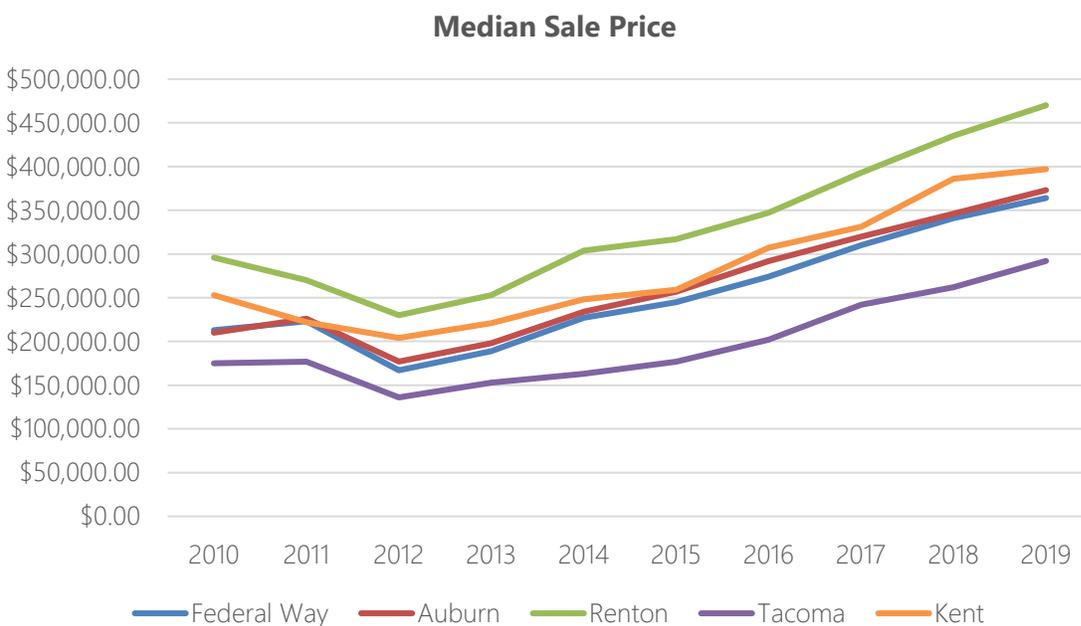
DRAFT

⁹⁵ Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Washington State Report Card, Federal Way School District. Retrieved from: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100086>.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Housing costs have risen significantly across King County and the broader region. It is estimated that 156,000 more affordable homes were needed in December 2018 and 244,000 by 2040 to ensure all low-income families in King County have homes costing less than 30% of their income, the goal for all housing.⁹⁶ Across King County, home prices rose by 53% and rental homes by 47%.

Despite rising housing costs, housing in Federal Way is comparable to or more affordable than other regional King County cities, though less affordable than our counterparts to the south. Median sale price of owner-occupied homes: \$364,000 (January 2019), a 60% increase of the median sale price of \$227,000 in January 2014 and a 33% increase over the median sale price of \$274,000 in January 2016.⁹⁷



ACS 2013-17 has the median rent for Federal Way as \$1,156⁹⁸. This figure is based on the portion of rent households. This would be after subsidies are removed, if any. The bulk of households report paying rent from \$500 to \$1,999 per month. Additional data sources have different methods of calculating median rent, typically based on listing prices and before any subsidy. As one example, Zillow lists median rent in Federal Way in January 2019 was \$2,081

⁹⁶ Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, Final Report and Recommendations for King County, WA. Retrieved from: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/initiatives/affordablehousing.aspx>

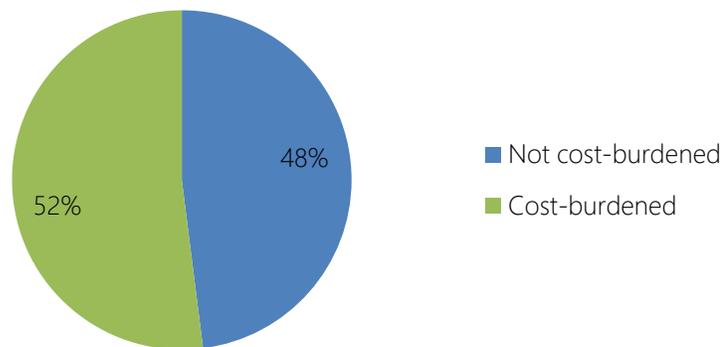
⁹⁷ Zillow, Housing Data. Retrieved from: <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/>.

⁹⁸ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2503*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>

compared to \$1,877 in January 2016⁹⁹. To afford rent in south king county in 2017, two adults and two preschool aged children would need an annual household income of nearly \$82,000, according to the University of Washington. However, the median household income in Federal Way was just over \$62,000.

Increased costs have impacted households at all income levels that are renting or buying. About 38% of households in Federal Way pay more than 30% of their income towards housing costs (ACS 13-17). Of households that rent, more than half are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of income on housing costs.

Renter-Occupied Housing Units and Cost Burden



While all households are impacted, low-income households have experienced the greatest impact.

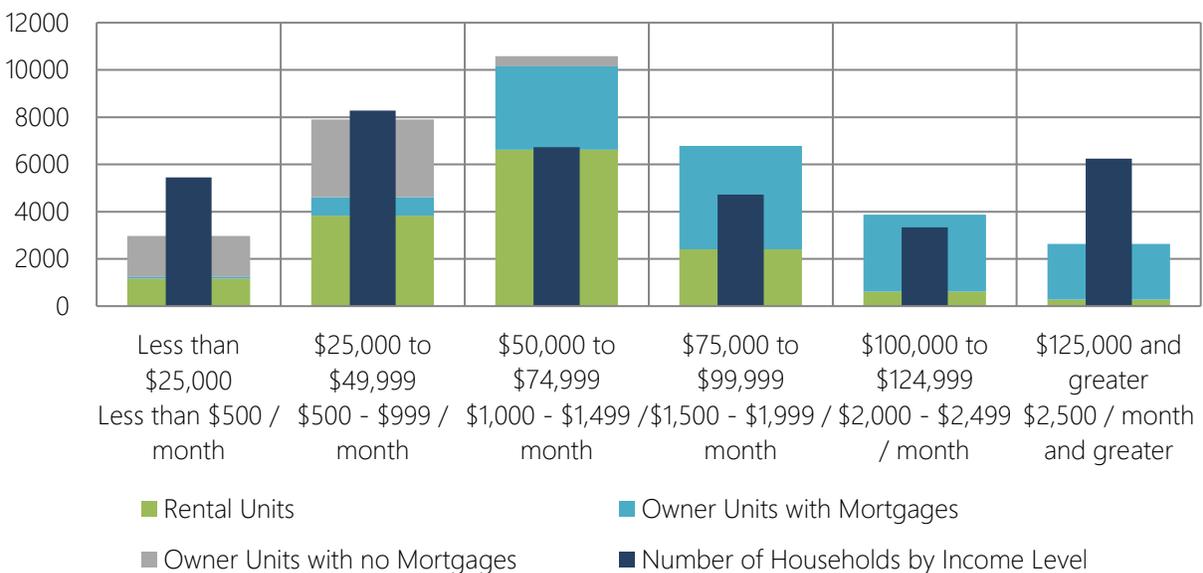
The American Community Survey (ACS, 2013-17) estimated that the national vacancy rate is 1.7 for homeowner units and 6.1 for rental vacancies. In Federal Way, those figures are 2.0 and 3.8, respectively. Of 36,435 housing units, 57% are single family, 39% multifamily, and 4% mobile homes. The low vacancy rate has to do with the countywide population growth outpacing the development of new homes.¹⁰⁰ Since 2010, King County added an average of 13,000 households annually, but only added 10,100 new housing units annually. Further, King County's population growth has been disproportionate with higher income households resulting in projects designed to serve the upper end of the market.

⁹⁹ Zillow, Housing Data. Retrieved from: <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/>

¹⁰⁰ Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, Final Report and Recommendations for King County, WA. Retrieved from: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/initiatives/affordablehousing.aspx>

The Growth Management Act sets targets for the number of units affordable at different Area Median incomes (AMI) for the City. The City is meeting the current targets for 50% and 80% of the AMI. The City is not meeting targets for households at or below 30% of the AMI. Per adopted growth targets, 12% of the housing supply should be affordable to households at or below 30% of the area median income. As of April 30, 2019, only about 2% of units were affordable for this population. The shortage of units affordable to households at or below 30% of the AMI is not unique to Federal Way, but still presents a gap for residents who instead, must pay more of their income toward housing. The table below shows the two gaps in Federal Way as the units affordable to higher income households and households with incomes at or below 30% of the AMI.

Housing Units Affordable to Different Income Levels in Federal Way



Discussion

While housing costs are lower in Federal Way than many areas in the region, studies show the cost of commuting can offset lower housing costs. The Center for Neighborhood Technology calculates that Federal Way households spend an average of 44% of income on housing and commuting.

Homeownership is often the largest asset households have, especially when considering low- to moderate-income households. With median sales prices continuing to rise, lower income households will continue to be at a disadvantage in overall wealth accumulation as they are less likely to be able to afford a home in Federal Way. Recent studies have shown that homeownership may not always be the best way to accumulate wealth if a household can invest

any savings they experience due to rent costs being lower than homeownership. The caveat is that low- to moderate-income households often cannot afford to invest any housing costs savings in the stock market via retirement options as they need to use the savings for regular living expenses. As a result, low- to moderate-income households are at a further disadvantage financially. This makes a case for looking at homeownership programs and programs that assist low- to moderate-income homeowners in maintaining their homes.

Rising housing costs and low vacancy rates make finding affordable housing an ongoing challenge, highlighting the need to preserve affordable housing, maintain the quality of public- and privately-owned affordable housing, and look at developing new affordable housing, particularly units affordable to extremely low-income households.

Further, people of color are disproportionately impacted by housing costs and are over represented in the households that are severely cost burdened with 56% of households countywide being severely costs burdened compared to 35% of white households. Large families also face more challenges in finding affordable housing.

The City is intentionally collaborating around housing issues across the County, subregionally in South King County, and within the City. For instance, the City is participating in the Housing Interjurisdictional Team as part of the Affordable Housing Committee to focus on affordable housing in King County.

The City has joined the South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP), a collaborative of nine (9) cities and King County. SKHHP allows South King County jurisdictions to work together and share resources to address affordable housing and homelessness in order to increase options for South King County residents and preserve existing affordable housing.

Additionally, in 2019, the City passed a sales tax allowing the City to collect a portion of the existing tax to address affordable housing without increasing the tax that residents must pay. This was an option through SHB 1406, which the Washington State legislature passed in the spring of 2019. The funds will allow the City to assist in the preservation of existing affordable housing, among other potential uses. The funds may also be pooled as part of SKHHP in order to further leverage the funds and create bigger impact for City residents.

TRANSPORTATION

Commuting

According to ACS 2013-17,¹⁰¹ 78% of the 46,000 Federal Way workers age 16 and older leave the community to work elsewhere. Only about 22% of workers from Federal Way actually worked in the city, versus the countywide figure of 41% who work in their geographic place of residence. For Federal Way, this amounts to about 10,000 workers employed within Federal Way, while 36,000 workers commute outside of the city for work.

About 51% or under 24,000 workers leave home in Federal Way for the workplace during the peak commute time (6-9 AM). Over 76% of all 46,000 workers live in a household with at least two vehicles. About 73% of workers drove to work alone, and under 12% carpooled. Even fewer took public transportation (8%). A greater proportion (5%) worked at home than the proportion that either walked or biked to work (less than 2% total). These are in contrast to countywide figures, wherein 63% drove to work alone; 13% took public transportation; and the proportion that worked at home was similar to those who walked or biked to work (7%). Countywide, 10% carpooled.

About 53% of Federal Way's workers have a commute of at least 30 minutes and the average commute is 33.6 minutes. This is in contrast to the countywide figure of 47% with an average commute of 29.1 minutes.

Difficult commutes can become hurdles to maintaining successful employment. This can be compounded by the barriers inherent with being an immigrant or refugee in our sub-region, including the 25% (nearly 24,000) of the Federal Way population that is foreign-born.¹⁰² The South King County Mobility Coalition's 2019 needs assessment notes that foreign-born residents in King County are less likely to have their own vehicle than American-born residents. Not surprisingly, foreign-born residents countywide are more likely to carpool than American-born residents (21% vs. 12%).¹⁰³

Even so, this does not increase transit ridership among immigrants, as both groups use public transportation at the comparable rates (11-12%). Further, a 2014 study showed that while Seattle transit stops scored high for connectivity (direct routing, bike facilities, crosswalk accessibility), South King County stops scored among the worst countywide. For example, a stop near Downtown Seattle's University Street Station scored among the highest at 4.03, whereas a

¹⁰¹ US Census Bureau (2018). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0801*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁰² US Census Bureau (2018). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S0501*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁰³ Bailey, T. et al. (2019). *Transportation Barriers and Needs for Immigrants and Refugees: An Exploratory Needs Assessment*.

stop near Angle Lake Station scored among the lowest at 3.01. The Federal Way Transit Center, at 3.10, landed comparably with the lowest scored stops.¹⁰⁴

About 8% of Federal Way workers took public transportation, less than the countywide figure of 13% (ACS 13-17). Given the volume of Federal Way commuters, it is not surprising that the mean commute time of 34 minutes is up from 31 minutes noted in ACS 2011-15.¹⁰⁵ As people look to Federal Way as a place to do business, they will want to see that transportation needs of employees will be addressed. These needs will be addressed in part through the advent of light rail in Federal Way, which will connect our city to Seattle, the tech hubs of East King County, and eventually Tacoma.

The northern portion of Federal Way includes a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) that contains two census block groups and adjacent parcels that experience economic need that is relatively higher than most of the rest of the city. To the north of this area, Sound Transit plans to build a light rail station. Within blocks to the south of the NRSA is the rapidly developing City Center area of Federal Way.

Discussion: Transportation

Much of the future of transportation development in Federal Way revolves around the downtown area. The City's most recent Comprehensive Plan highlights the redevelopment of Federal Way's downtown area by creating a City Center, which is designed to serve as the social and economic focus of the City. This emphasis is intended to create economic diversification and encourage public/private partnerships. Within the creation of the City Center is a four-phase plan referred to as Town Center I, II, III, and IV. This will involve a 17-acre redevelopment of former big box stores and parking lots into a hub around which social and economic growth will flourish.

An essential component of this redevelopment is the Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center (PAEC), also known as Town Center I. The PAEC is the catalyst project that helps create a defined urban place around which redevelopment at urban density levels can occur. The Federal Way PAEC was conceived to fulfill two primary objectives within the City and do so in a way that creates jobs for low- and moderate-income persons in Federal Way.

Next to the PAEC is Town Square II, where the City opened the roughly 220,000 square-foot Town Square Park, a family-oriented public recreational space that can also serve as a festival and entertainment venue. To the immediate east of the PAEC is Town Square III, an 8-acre area

¹⁰⁴ Fehr & Peers (2014). *Non-Motorized Connectivity Study*. Retrieved from <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/programs-projects/nmcs/pdf/nmcs-report-091214.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵ US Census Bureau (2016). *American Community Survey, 2011-15, Table S0801*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

that will be developed into mid- or high-rise commercial and residential. To the southeast of the PAEC is Town Square IV, which the City expects will become transit-oriented development.

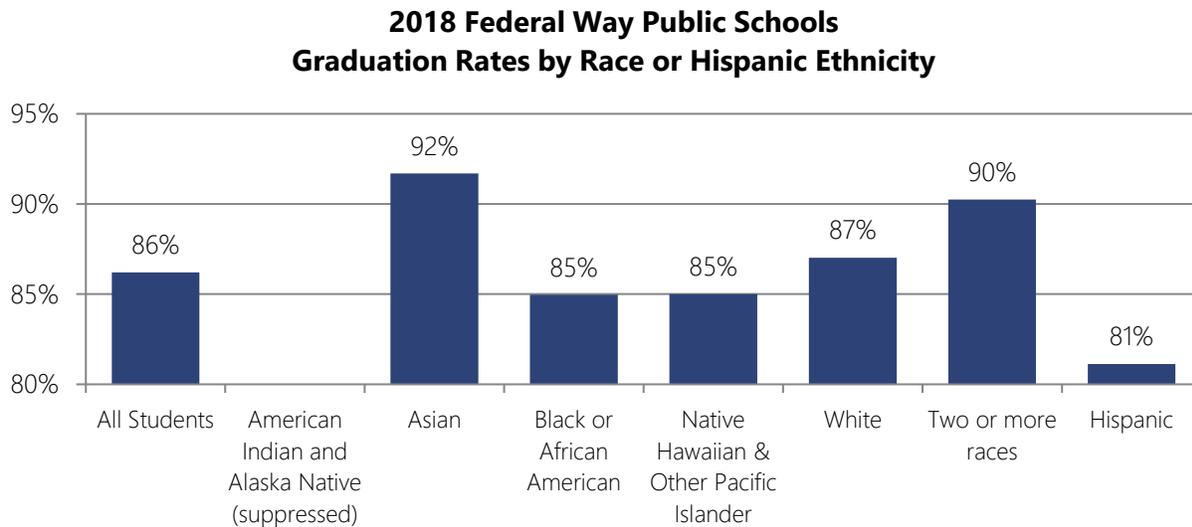
Within this area is the future site of a light rail station that, come 2025, will link the City Center and all of Federal Way with the rest of urban King County. To the north is the future hub of the City's partnership with the University of Washington at Tacoma, Highline College, and the Federal Way Public Schools, which will bring higher education to our city in the coming school year. South and west from this central core is a thriving and growing commercial retail district, drawing businesses and, with them, jobs.

DRAFT

WORKFORCE

High School Graduation Rate

In the Federal Way Public Schools, the four-year graduation rate as of 2018 was 86%. The 2018 graduation rates were lower for students in low income households (84%), as well as for English language learners (72%). As shown below, graduation rates for people of color differed to varying degrees from the overall rate.



For reference, the statewide four-year graduation rate for all students during this period was 81%.

Educational Attainment

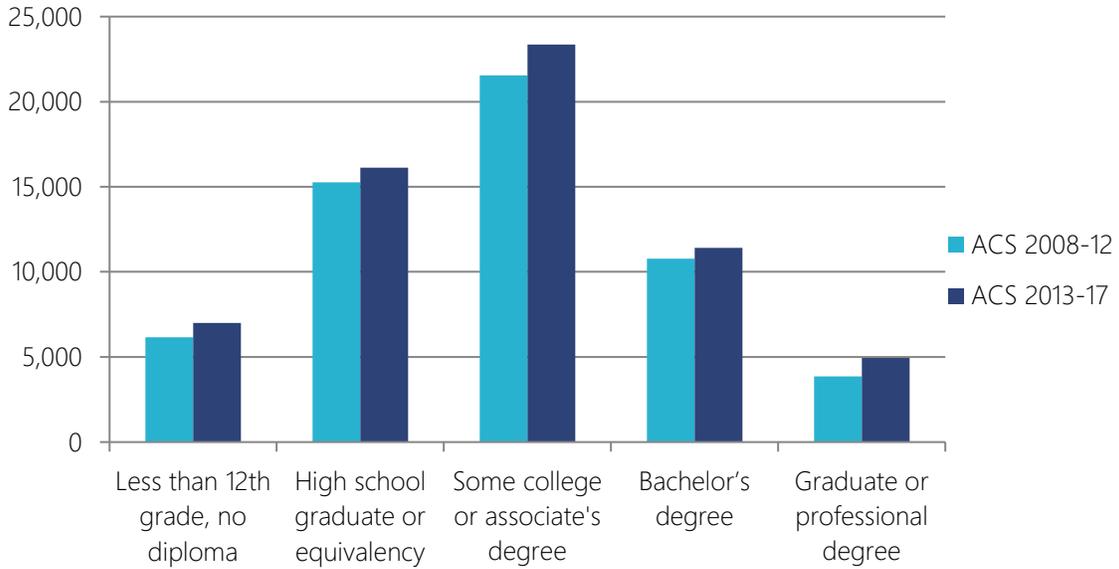
In ACS 2013-17, there were nearly 63,000 people age 25 and over, an increase of about 5,000 (9%) over ACS 2008-12. Of these, about 89% were high school graduates or higher, and about 26% had bachelor's degrees or higher. The percentage of this population with graduate or professional degrees grew by 28% during this period.^{106, 107}

Educational Attainment	ACS 2008-12	ACS 2013-17	# □	% □
Less than 12 th grade, no diploma	6,165	6,993	828	13%
High school graduate or equivalency	15,268	16,122	854	6%
Some college or associate's degree	21,548	23,360	1,812	8%
Bachelor's degree	10,774	11,413	639	6%
Graduate or professional degree	3,860	4,936	1,076	28%

¹⁰⁶ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S1501*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

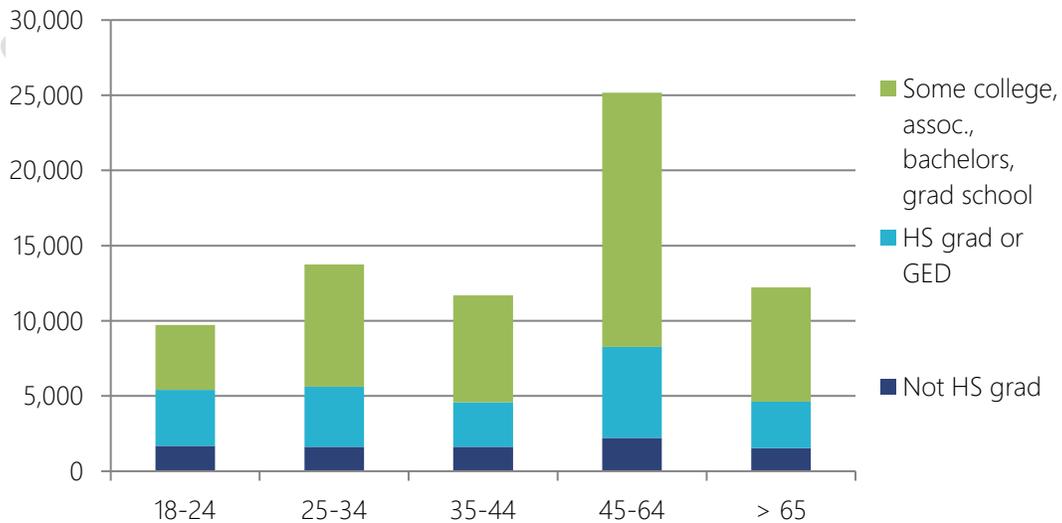
¹⁰⁷ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Table S1501*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Age 25+, Educational Attainment



Educational attainment figures for the nearly 73,000 Federal Way adults show a large number of people in middle age or entering older adulthood (ages 35-64). About 69% of the nearly 37,000 in this age range had at least a high school diploma or equivalency, while about 27% had bachelor's degrees or higher.

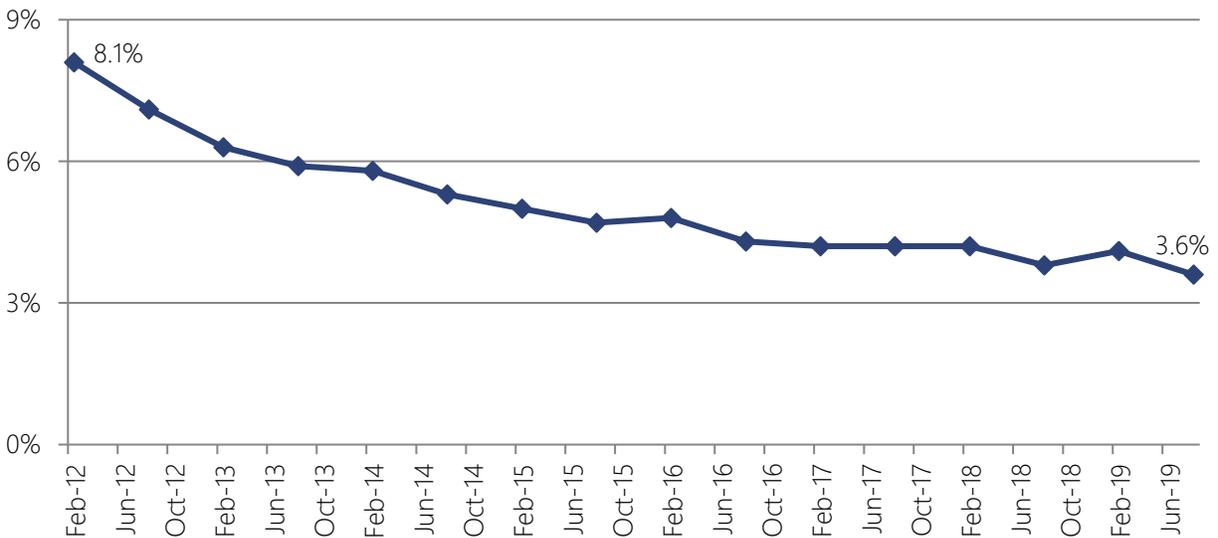
Adult Age Groups by Educational Attainment



Unemployment

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metro area was 3.6% in August 2019. This is in contrast with the statewide figure of 4.6%, and it compares with the national rate of 3.8%. The metro area's August 2019 figure of 3.6% was down from August 2018 and August 2014, when the unemployment rate was 3.8% and 5.3% respectively.¹⁰⁸

**Unemployment Rate:
Metro Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, 2012-19**



The metro area's rate does not show the nuance at the city level. The most recent data available by city (ACS 2013-17) showed a Federal Way unemployment rate of 6.3% among the population over age 15 (down from 9.7% with ACS 08-12), in contrast with the metro area's rate of 5.5% (down from 8.2% with ACS 2008-12).^{109, 110, 111, 112} In short, Federal Way's unemployment rate has been higher than the rate of the metro area overall.

¹⁰⁸ US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019). *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/web/metro/laurgma.htm>.

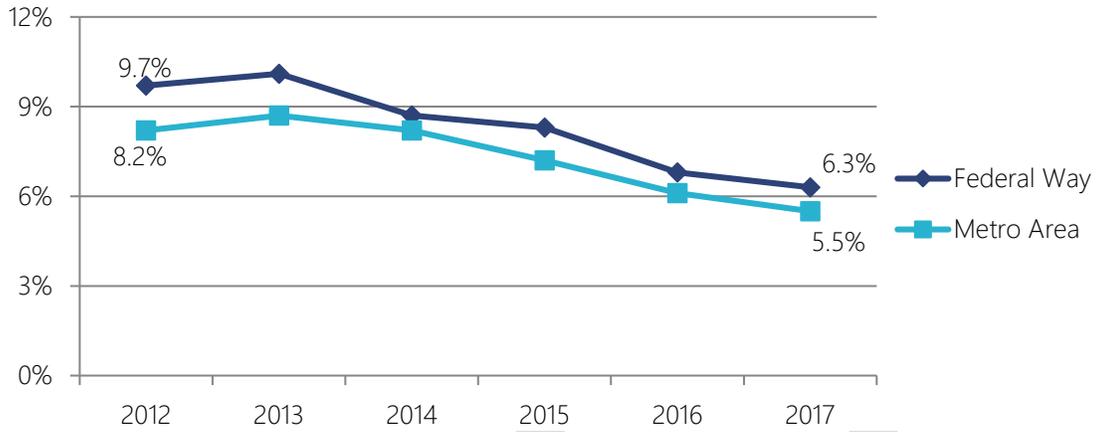
¹⁰⁹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Tables DP03*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹¹⁰ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹¹¹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Tables DP03*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

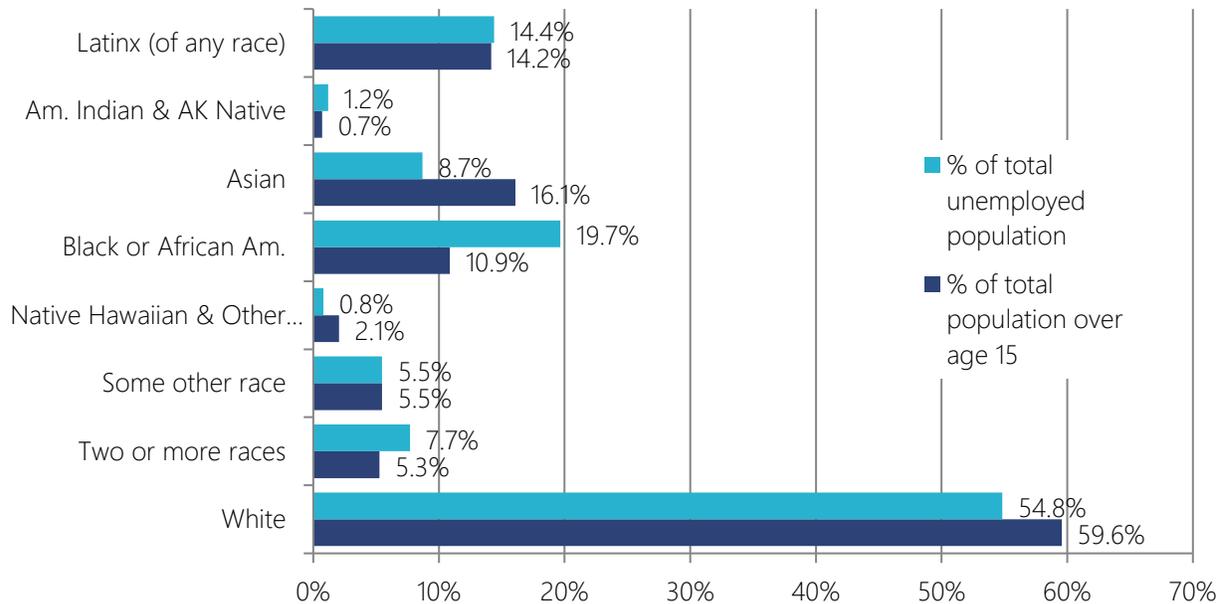
¹¹² US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Unemployment Rate: Federal Way vs. Metro Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue



There are disparities among people of color when contrasted with the overall population relative to unemployment. While Black people were 10.9% of the population over age 15 overall, they were 19.7% of the unemployed population.¹¹³

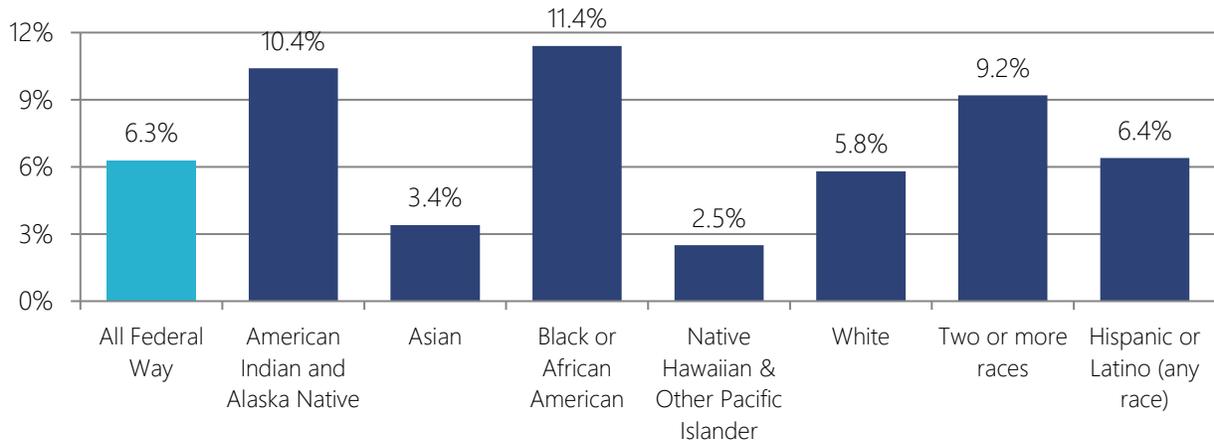
Disparity Among Unemployed Population



¹¹³ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Among some people of color groups, the unemployment rate was higher than the general unemployment rate. For example, unemployment among Black or African American people over age 15 in Federal Way was 11.4% (ACS 2013-17), in contrast with the citywide rate of 6.3%.¹¹⁴

Unemployment Rates Across Race/Ethnicity

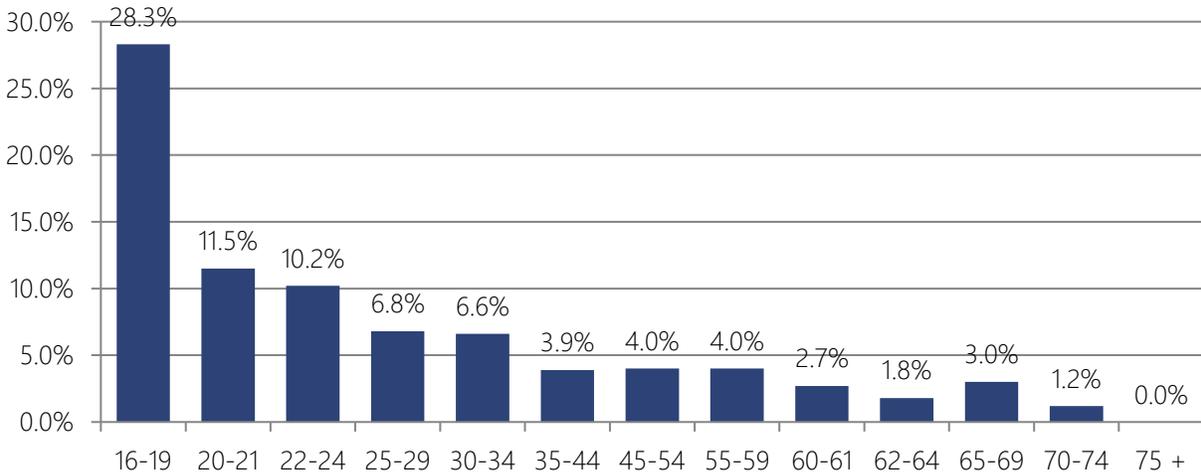


Among those age 16 and over and in the labor force, over 3,000 were unemployed. The age group with the highest unemployment rate was age 16-19 at 28%, largely dropping down to 4% by middle age.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁴ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

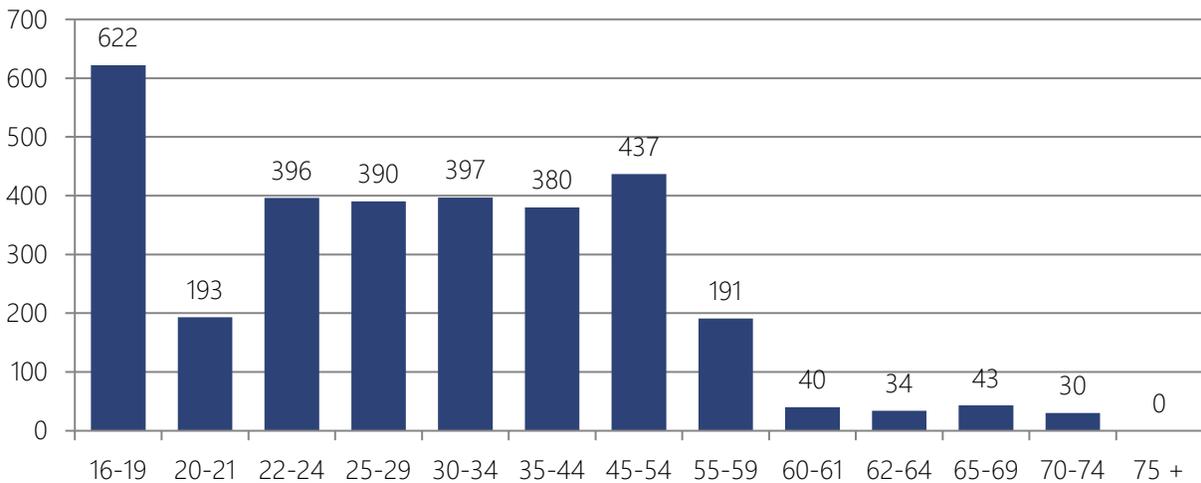
¹¹⁵ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Unemployment Rates by Age



The largest percentage unemployed and the largest number unemployed are youth and young adults age 16-19. ¹¹⁶

Numbers of Unemployed by Age



Discussion: Educational Attainment and Skills

As noted above, Federal Way’s labor force also has a lower rate of adult population with bachelor’s degrees relative to the county at large. Specifically among those ages 18 to 24, 8% of

¹¹⁶ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

Federal Way residents have a bachelor's degree, while the countywide figure is 21%.^{117, 118, 119} This potentially puts our community at a competitive disadvantage with businesses who may be seeking a more skilled workforce. With higher unemployment rates among a relatively larger population under age 25 entering labor participation, and with lower overall educational attainment, Federal Way needs to build up the skills of its workforce.

Federal Way needs to improve the skills and education levels of its workers overall, but particularly the younger segment who are the future of the workforce. Federal Way has a relatively younger population. Unfortunately, unemployment is higher among younger people in Federal Way than countywide.

To address educational and labor force disadvantages for Federal Way residents, the community can pursue arrangements such as the partnership between the City and the University of Washington at Tacoma, Highline College, and the Federal Way Public Schools. The partnership—a result of the university initiative included in the City's adopted economic development strategy—establishes a higher education initiative to bring educational opportunities to Federal Way. Three primary educational pathways will initially be offered: Healthcare, Computer Science/Information Technology, and Teacher Education.

¹¹⁷ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Tables DP03*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹¹⁸ US Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey, 2013-17, Table S2301*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹¹⁹ US Census Bureau (2017). *American Community Survey, 2008-12, Tables DP03*. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov>.