



WAHKIAKUM COUNTY

HEALTH ASSESSMENT 2024



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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COVER PHOTO CREDITS (from top left)

Covered bridge – Vern Wright

Sunset – Tammy Peterson

Boat – Denise Doughty

Elk – Wahkiakum county resident (who did not wish to be credited)

Sunset – Jonnie Knowles

Thank you to the community members who have engaged with our Community Health Assessment and Plan!

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BACKGROUND & INTENDED USE

WHY ARE WE WRITING THIS REPORT?

Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services (WCHHS) is working on a [Community Health Improvement Plan](#). This Plan will focus on local health needs to help our community thrive.

Our first step was to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment Survey to identify health factors that are most important to our residents. We combined the top 10 health priorities identified in that survey into the first 7 chapters in this report. More information about the survey findings is available [online](#).

In this Community Health Assessment report, we provide data that can be used to decide what to focus on in our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

In this report, we provide data that can be used to decide what to focus on in our Community Health Improvement Plan.

WHAT DATA ARE INCLUDED?

The data included in this report were selected based on [findings from our Community Health Needs Assessment Survey](#), work that Wahkiakum HHS is already committed to doing, and feedback received at the October 19 [Health & Human Services Advisory Board](#) and [November 7 Board of Health](#) meetings.

More information about the Wahkiakum County Community Health Assessment and Plan is available [online](#).

On November 8, we published a [list of data](#) (we call these “health indicators”) we intended to include in this report. The data included in this report are a little different than that original list. These differences are due to feedback from community agencies, data we have gained access to, or data for which we have limited or no access. Some indicators on the original list that are not included in this Community Health Assessment report may be included in future reports, if we are able to gain access to the data.



Photo credit: Teresa Howell

OUR LANGUAGE REFLECTS THE STRENGTH OF OUR CONCLUSIONS

Data analysts estimate how many people are impacted by health issues, figure out if health issues are getting better or worse over time, and if there are differences between groups of people. Such as – how many people don't have health insurance in our community? Are more people dying of diabetes now, compared to 10 years ago? Or, are Wahkiakum county high school students more anxious than average?

This can be hard to do in small counties like ours. Look at the data on diabetes deaths among Wahkiakum County residents:

Wahkiakum residents who died from diabetes

2021



2022



We would **not make a strong conclusion** that deaths tripled in one year, because the change is based off a difference of just two (2) people!

When determining whether we can make strong conclusions from data, we need to keep in mind:



Counts can **fluctuate due to random chance**



Statistical analysis can estimate if a change over time or difference is due to an **underlying causal factor**, or just a **random “blip”** that we **can't make strong conclusions** about.

In this report, we've done everything we can to report as much data as possible and provide the most solid conclusions that the data can support.

When we use conclusive language in **ALL CAPS**, like:

have
INCREASED
25-30%

are
about 60%
LOWER

this means our numbers are large enough that we are **confident** that our findings reflect a real **time trend** or **difference between groups**.

In statistical speak, we are at least 95% confident of this.

On the other hand, when we use the words **may** or **suggest**, not in all capital letters, like:

may have
increased
25-30%

data
suggest we
are about
60% lower

this means we may be dealing with small numbers, like the diabetes example to the left.

We **need to use caution** when making conclusions that a trend or difference reflects a real time trend or difference between groups, because they are **based on small numbers**.

In statistical speak, we are between 50% and 95% confident that a difference exists.

We also use this language if we were **unable to perform statistical analysis**.

We also use the “+” symbol to identify individual figures that are based on small numbers.



These figures are based on small numbers and are **not reliable enough** to **draw strong conclusions**.

This is typically (though not always) true for figures based on counts of 11 or fewer.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS REPORT

We report data in the way we think will be **most useful** for the reader to **understand our community's health**. This often involves using words, numbers, or concepts that readers may not be familiar with. Answers to commonly-asked questions are provided below. Some of these answers have been adapted from language in another Community Health Assessment* that we found helpful.

PER CAPITA, RATE PER 1,000 or 100,000

What do these phrases mean?

You'll see the phrase "per capita" mentioned many times in this report. We also report many of our figures as rates per 1,000 or 100,000.

We report counts for most of the health issues in this report. These can be a useful starting point, but we need more data analysis to understand what they mean. For example, we found that 69 Wahkiakum county residents died in 2022. If we want to understand if our residents have a higher or lower risk of death than the state average, we can't just compare this number to the number of deaths in the whole state, because the state's population is so much larger than ours.

To take population size into account, we divide the number of deaths in our county by our population, then multiply this by 1,000 or 100,000. After we repeat this for state figures, we can compare the two populations. The figures that we get are called "rates".

We can do the same thing to look at trends over time, to account for the fact that our population has grown over time.

POPULATION AGE

Our county has a lot of retirees. How does this affect our data?

Our "Demographics" section found that our county's population is older than the state average. In addition, both our and the state's populations have gotten older over time.

Many of the health issues in this report vary by age. For example, in general, compared to their younger counterparts, older individuals have higher death rates, lower levels of education, and are more likely to have a primary health care provider.

The section to the left describes how we take population size into account when understanding what our data mean. When possible, we also account for population aging, to determine if age can explain any trends or differences we are seeing.

We were able to do this for some, but not all, of our data. For each indicator, we've identified whether we've accounted for age to help the reader interpret the data.

*Asotin County Community Health Assessment. Asotin County Health District & Heidi Berthoud Consulting. Page 19. Available [online](#). Retrieved July 11, 2024.

CHAPTER 1 COMMUNITY CONTEXT

IN WAHKIAKUM COUNTY:

There are **4,500** residents. Compared to the per capita **state** average:



we *may* be



OLDER

we *may*
be more



RURAL

we *may*
have more



VETERANS

estimates *suggest*
we have more



MARRIED
residents



we *may*
have less



**INTERNET
ACCESS**

estimates *suggest*
we have lower



EDUCATION

we *may*
have less



**RACE/ETHNIC
DIVERSITY**

we *may*
have fewer



residents who speak a
**LANGUAGE OTHER
THAN ENGLISH** at
HOME



32
BABIES
were born in
2022



4 out of **5**
ADULTS
report being in
GOOD,
VERY GOOD, or
EXCELLENT
HEALTH.



LIFE EXPECTANCY
is **79** YEARS.

CANCER
was the
#1 CONTRIBUTOR
to **PREMATURE**
DEATH.



69
DEATHS
occurred in
2022
HEART DISEASE
was the
#1 LEADING CAUSE
of death.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

DEMOGRAPHICS

In **2022**, Wahkiakum county was home to an estimated **4,500** residents.



Our population may have grown **15-20%** over the past **20 years**. We may be growing about **1/3 more slowly than the state** average.

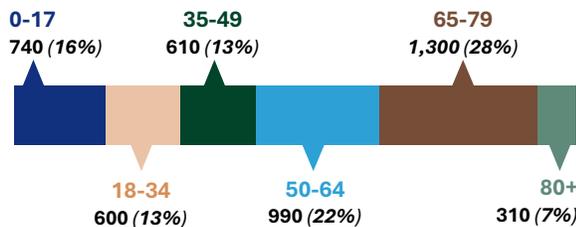
CITY



We may be **more rural than the state average**; a larger estimated proportion of our population lives in unincorporated areas.

Unincorporated areas in our county have seen the **most population growth** over the past 20 years.

AGE



We may have a **smaller** estimated proportion of **children & younger adults** (0-49), and a **larger** proportion of **older adults** (50+) **than the state** average.

Our **65+** population may have **more than doubled** over the past 20 years. In this same period, our **0-17** and **35-49** year old populations may have **decreased**.

Data sources & notes

Total population & age

- Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), December 2022. Available [online](#). Accessed October 3, 2023.
- Current figures are for **2022**; time trends cover 2002-2022.

City/unincorporated population

- Washington State Office of Financial Management Intercensal estimates. Available [online](#). Accessed October 4, 2023.
- Current figures are for **2023**; time trends cover 2003-2023.

City/unincorporated populations will not add up to the county total because they are from different data sources.

Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for the indicators on this page.



Photo credit: Stacy Wynn

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

DEMOGRAPHICS

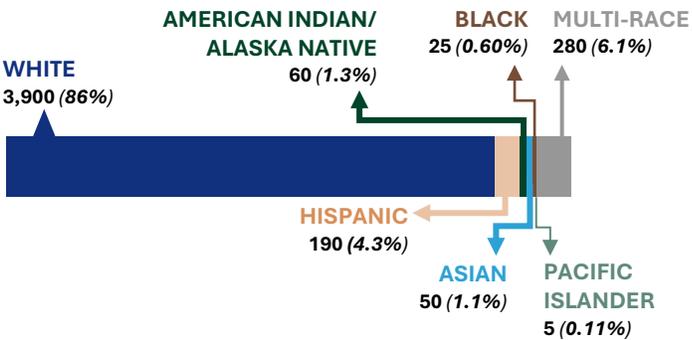
GENDER



Our estimated gender makeup is **similar to the state's**.

Our male and female populations' **growth** over the past 20 years have been **similar to each other**.

RACE/ETHNICITY*



A **larger proportion** of our estimated **population** may be **White than the state** average. Part of this may be because our population is older than average; older age groups are generally less racially & ethnically diverse than younger groups.

White residents may have seen the **least** estimated **growth** of any race/ethnic group over the past 20 years.



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

Data sources & notes

Race/ethnicity & gender

- Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), December 2022. Available [online](#). Accessed October 3, 2023.
- Current figures are for **2022**; time trends cover 2002-2022.

*Race groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity; all residents who identify as Hispanic are included in "Hispanic".

Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for the indicators on this page.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS



In **2020***,
an estimated

22%
of Wahkiakum County
residents aged 25+ had a
bachelor's degree
or higher.

Without being able to take age into
account, this figure
may be about 40% lower**
than the state average and

estimates **suggest** has
increased 30-35%
over the past 10 years*.



In **2020***,
an estimated

17%
of Wahkiakum County
residents aged 18+ were
veterans.

Without being able to take age into
account, estimates **suggest** this figure
is **about double**
(100% higher than)**
the state average and

may have increased about 15%
over the past 10 years*.



In **2020***,
an estimated

86%
of Wahkiakum County
households had a
broadband internet
subscription.

Without being able to take age into
account, estimates **suggest** this figure
is **5-10% lower than the state**
average.



In **2020***,
an estimated

67%
of Wahkiakum County
residents aged 20+ were
married.

After taking age structure into
account, this figure
may be 15-20% higher
than the state
average and

has **stayed roughly the same**
over the past 10 years*.



In **2020***,
an estimated

5.4%+
of Wahkiakum County
residents aged 5+ spoke a
language other
than English
at home.

Without being able to take age into
account, estimates **suggest** this figure
is **about 75% lower****
than the state average and

has **stayed roughly the same**
over the past 10 years*.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau.
American Community Survey, 5-year
estimates. Accessed March 14, 2024.
Available online in [Table DP02](#), [Table
S1201](#), and [Table DP03](#).

*The years indicated on this page are the
midpoint of the 5-year time frame for
each value. This differs from the Census
convention, which uses the most recent
year. For example, our 2020 figures are
based on an average from 2018-2022.
The census labels this figure as 2022. We
use our method because we believe it
more accurately represents the data.

**Part of this may be because our
population is older than average;
compared with younger people, older
people are less likely to have a bachelor's
degree, less likely to speak a language
other than English at home, more likely to
be a veteran.

+ This figure is based on small numbers
and is not reliable enough to draw strong
conclusions

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

BIRTHS & DEATHS

32
total
BIRTHS

among Wahkiakum County residents in **2022**.

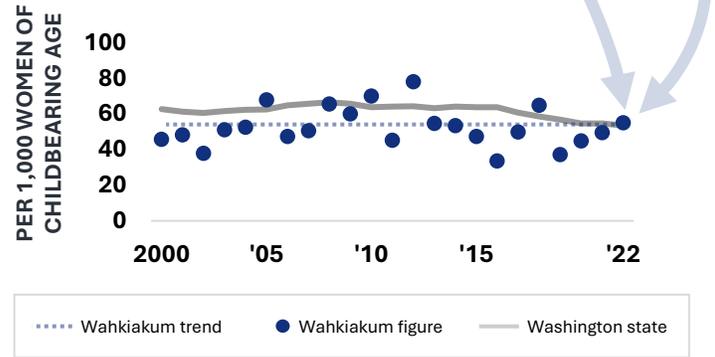
That is about **1 BIRTH** out of **EVERY 18 WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE, or EVERY 140 RESIDENTS.**

These are the **total number of babies** who were **born**. Women of childbearing age are between 15 and 44 years old.

BIRTHS per 1,000 **WOMEN** of **CHILDBEARING AGE** in **WAHAKIACUM COUNTY**

stayed roughly the same from 2000 to 2022,

and we are currently **similar to the state average.**



Data sources for this page: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth & Death Certificates, 2011-2022; Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), September 2023. Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), March 2022.

69
total
DEATHS

among Wahkiakum County residents in **2022**.

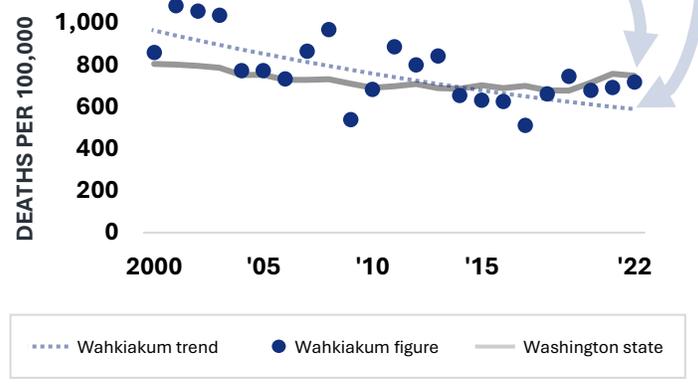
That is about **1 DEATH** out of **EVERY 65 RESIDENTS.**

These are the **total number of people** who **died**.

PER CAPITA DEATHS, which account for population size & age structure, and changes in these over time, in **WAHAKIACUM COUNTY**

have **DECREASED** about **35%** since 2000

and we are currently **similar to the state average.**



The **LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH** among Wahkiakum County residents in **2022** were:

- #1 – Heart disease** (22 deaths)
- #2 – Cancer** (14 deaths)
- #3 – COVID-19** (4 deaths)
- Chronic liver disease** (4 deaths)
- #5 – Stroke** (3 deaths)
- Diabetes** (3 deaths)

LIFE EXPECTANCY

in **2022** among **WAHAKIACUM COUNTY** residents was

79 YEARS & **1** MONTH

This is the average **number of years** that **babies** born in a given time are **expected to live**.

In 2016-2022, this *may have been about*:



3 years LONGER among **FEMALE** residents



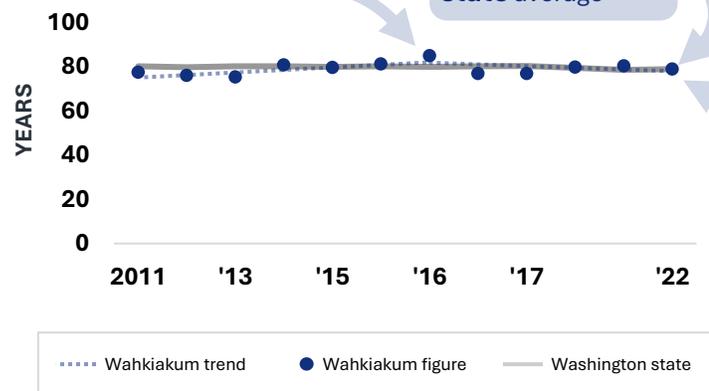
2½ years SHORTER among **MALE** residents

LIFE EXPECTANCY in WAHAKIACUM COUNTY

data *suggest* has **increased 5-6 years** between 2011 & 2017,

may have decreased 3-4 years since then,

and is currently **similar to the state average**



In **2016-2022** among Wahkiakum county residents, 3

CAUSES OF DEATH

account for half of

YEARS OF LIFE LOST

BEFORE reaching **LIFE EXPECTANCY**:

From 2016-2022, life expectancy in Wahkiakum county was 80 years. This figure includes **deaths among individuals younger than 80** that occurred from 2016-2022. After identifying these deaths, we break them down by cause of death, subtract their age at death from 80, and **add those figures up for each individual cause**.



Data sources: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth & Death Certificates, 2011-2022; Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), September 2023. Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), March 2022.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

OVERALL HEALTH STATUS

In **2022**, an estimated

3,100

Wahkiakum County
ADULTS reported having

GOOD,
VERY GOOD, or
EXCELLENT HEALTH.

That is
about
4
out of
EVERY 5
ADULTS.

After accounting for age, the data
suggest the proportion of our adults with
good, very good, or excellent health is
5-10% higher than the state average.

These include adults who were asked “**Would you say your health in general is:**” and responded “excellent”, “very good”, or “good”. Other health response options included “fair” and “poor”.

Of note - an estimated **680** Wahkiakum county adults report having **fair or poor health**.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#).
Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

CHAPTER 2

MENTAL HEALTH

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT FIGURES

In our most recent year(s), we had:

- 
530 adults **LIVE ALONE**
2020 estimate
- 
510 adults report **FREQUENT MENTAL DISTRESS**
2019 estimate
- 
80 high school students feel **HOPEFUL**
2023 estimate
- 
52 **SHERIFF'S OFFICE** responses to **911 CALLS** involving **MENTAL HEALTH** issues
2023 count
- 
40 high school students report **ANXIETY**-related feelings
2023 estimate
- 
30 high school students report **DEPRESSIVE** feelings
2023 estimate
- 
1 average number of Wahkiakum county residents who die by **SUICIDE** each year
2002-2022 figures
- 
1½ average number of **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES** reported by adults
2020 estimate

PROMISING FINDINGS



An estimated **THREE-QUARTERS** of our **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** feel **HOPEFUL**



Estimates **suggest** that **depressive** feelings among our **high school students** are **10-20% lower** than the **state** average.

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



Data **suggest** our per capita **suicide** rate is **60-70% higher** than the **state** average.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE responses to **911 CALLS** involving a **MENTAL HEALTH** issue have **TRIPLED** or **QUADRUPLED** since **2000**.

MENTAL HEALTH WHOLE POPULATION

In 2023, the
**WAHKIAKUM
COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

was sent out on

52

CALLS TO 911

that involved a

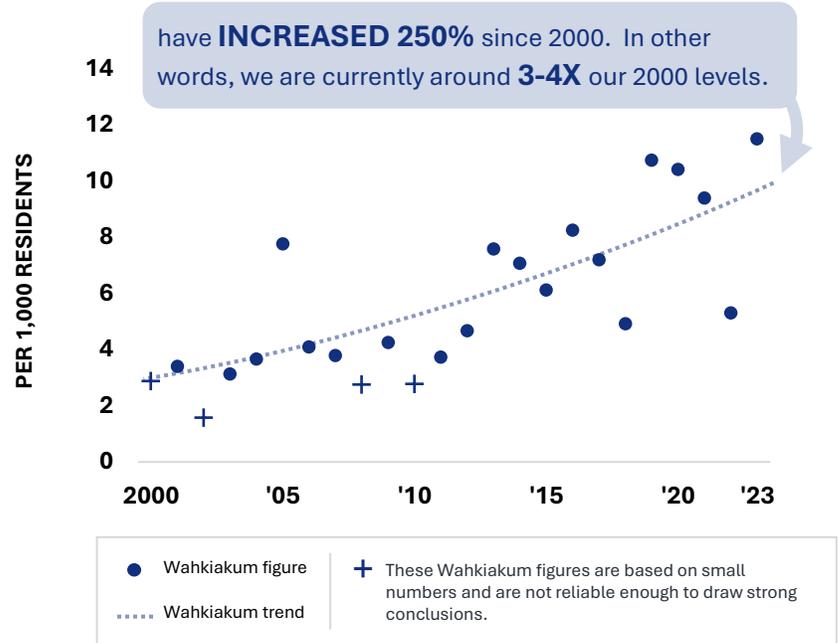
MENTAL HEALTH

issue.

These are **calls to 911** that resulted in the **Wahkiakum County Sheriff's** office being **sent out**, and **mental health was indicated as a contributing factor** to the call.

Data source: Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office and Public Information and Records, 2024.

We are unable to account for age in this analysis. However, analysis of crude **PER CAPITA CALLS TO 911** where the Wahkiakum county **SHERIFF'S OFFICE** was sent out and involved a **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE** in **WAHKIAKUM** county:



This is particularly noteworthy because, over about the same time period, our per capita



CALLS TO 911
may have decreased
5-10%



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
sent out for 911 calls have
DECREASED 25-30%

“Mental health” is just one of many issues that can be indicated when the Sheriff’s Office responds to a 911 calls. Among mental-health-related Sheriff’s Office responses, the **most commonly-indicated co-occurring issue** is a **welfare check**.



1 out of every **6** mental-health-related Sheriff’s Office responses indicate a **welfare check**.

On average, there was about

1 SUICIDE death
EACH YEAR

among Wahkiakum County residents from **2002-2022**.

Data **suggest** our **per capita rate** is **60-70% higher** than the state average.

These are the deaths where there is **evidence** that the injury that caused the death was **self-inflicted**.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2000-2022; Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), September 2023.

MENTAL HEALTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In **2023**,
an estimated

80

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported
feeling

HOPEFUL.

That is almost
3 out of
EVERY 4
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

The proportion of our students who
feel hopeful is
similar to the state average.

Students answered 4 questions about
hope on the survey. Their responses
were combined into a “hope scale”,
which gives us information about how
hopeful they feel.

Here, “hope” means that students are
thinking about the future,
are **motivated**, and
expect to be able to reach their
life goals.

We include students who are
moderately or highly hopeful according
to the scale.

In **2023**,
an estimated

40

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported

ANXIETY-
related feelings in the
PAST 2 WEEKS.

That is almost
1 out of
EVERY 3
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

The proportion of our students
reporting anxiety-related feelings
in the past 2 weeks is
similar to the state average.

Students answered 2 questions about
anxiety on the survey. Their responses
were combined into an “anxiety
scale”, which gives us information
about how anxious they feel.

Here, “anxiety-related feelings” means
that **students** felt enough anxiety-
related feelings in the past 2 weeks to
warrant further evaluation for a
potential anxiety disorder.

In **2023**,
an estimated

30

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported
experiencing

DEPRESSIVE
FEELINGS in the
PAST YEAR.

That is almost
1 out of
EVERY 4
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

Estimates **suggest** the proportion
of our students who experienced
depressive feelings
in the past year is
10-20% lower than the state
average.

Students were asked, “During the past
12 months, did you ever feel so
sad or hopeless
almost every day for
two weeks or more in a row
that you
stopped doing
some usual activities?”.

Students who answered “yes” to this
question are included here.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be available [online](#).

ADULTS

in Wahkiakum county report having experienced an estimated

AVERAGE

of

1½ ADVERSE CHILDHOOD

EXPERIENCES (ACEs) in their youth*.

An estimated

1,200 of our adults (1 out of every 3) experienced

0 ACEs,

and

990 (1 out of every 3 or 4) experienced

3 or more ACEs.

After accounting for our age structure, estimates

suggest that our adults have experienced

10-15% more ACEs than the state average.

This figure includes 8 experiences: living with someone with a **mental illness**, who abused **drugs** or **alcohol**, or had been in **jail or prison**; parental separation or **divorce**; or **emotional, physical, or sexual abuse**.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

*This figure calculated from the average of survey responses from 2019-2021.

In **2019***, an estimated

510

Wahkiakum County adults reported having

FREQUENT MENTAL DISTRESS.

That is about

1 out of

EVERY 7

ADULTS.

After accounting for age, the estimated proportion of our adults reporting frequent mental distress is **similar to the state** average.

These include adults who said that their **mental health** was **not good** for **14 or more days** in the **past month**.

*Based on an average from 2016-22.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

MENTAL HEALTH ADULTS

In 2020*, an estimated

530

Wahkiakum county
**ADULTS AGED 18+
LIVE ALONE**

That is
about
1 out of
EVERY
7
adults age 18+

Older adults *may* be more likely to live alone
than their younger counterparts.

An estimated

280

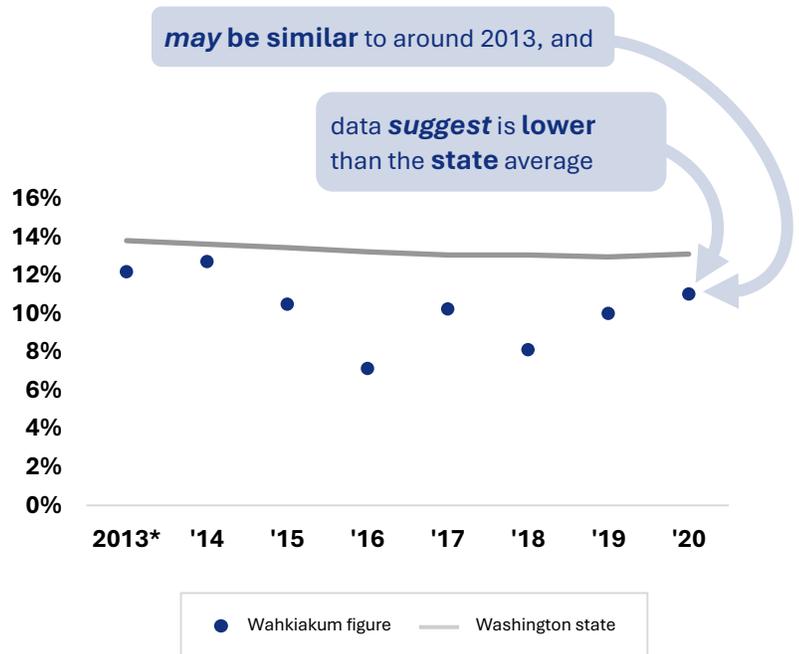
of those are
AGED 65+.

That is
about
1 out of
EVERY
5
adults age 65+

These are individuals who **live alone.**

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that, after accounting for age and population size, the estimated

PERCENT of the population that
LIVES ALONE in **WAHAKIAKUM** county:



Data source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, 2015-2022. Table B09021. Available [online](#). Accessed on June 11, 2024.

Note: Figures are age-adjusted to the US 2000 population using the [Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age for the United States](#).

*The years indicated on this page are the midpoint of the 5-year time frame for each value. This differs from the Census convention, which uses the most recent year. For example, our 2020 figures are based on an average from 2018-2022. The census labels this figure as 2022. We use our method because we believe it more accurately represents the data.

CHAPTER 3

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT FIGURES

In our most recent year(s), we had:

-  **\$413K** **MEDIAN HOME PRICE**
2022 estimate
-  **\$1.1K** **MEDIAN monthly RENT**
2020 estimate
-  **590** households spending **30% OR MORE** of their **INCOME** on **HOUSING**
2020 estimate
-  **38** **K-12 STUDENTS** experiencing **UNSTABLE HOUSING**
2023-2024 school year
-  **67%** income of a **MEDIAN-INCOME HOUSEHOLD** relative to what is needed to **AFFORD** a **MEDIAN-PRICED HOME**
2023 estimate

-
-  **2,300** current **HOUSING UNITS**
2023 estimate
 -  **80** of those have **SOLD** recently
2022 estimate
 -  **40** **NEW BUILDING PERMITS** were issued
2022 estimate

PROMISING FINDINGS



POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



Before 2022, a median-income household could afford a median-priced home.

This is **NO LONGER TRUE**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MEDIAN HOME PRICE

The MEDIAN HOME PRICE

was
\$413,000

in Wahkiakum County in **2022**.

Half of homes cost more than this amount, and half of homes cost less.

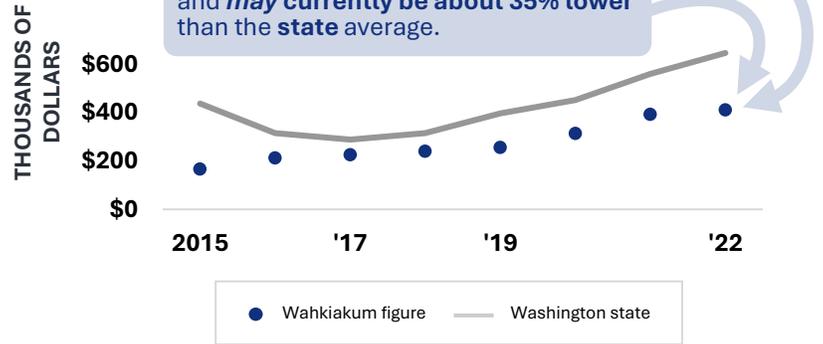
Data source: University of Washington's Center for Real Estate Research, [Median Home Price report](#).

Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for this indicator.

After adjusting for inflation, the
MEDIAN HOME PRICE in **WAHKIAKUM** county:

data **suggest** has **increased 100%** since 2015. In other words, we are currently around **2X (double)** our **2015 levels**.

and **may currently be about 35% lower** than the **state average**.



In **2023**, a MEDIAN-INCOME HOUSEHOLD

in Wahkiakum county was earning only

67%

of what is needed to afford a

MEDIAN-PRICED HOME

in the county.

This measure assumes a **typical down payment** and **30-year mortgage**. It includes all households in Wahkiakum county, regardless of the county in which the occupants work.

Data on median income can be found on pages 32-33.

Data source: University of Washington's Center for Real Estate Research, [Housing Affordability Index](#). We have calculated affordability by averaging the quarters for each year.

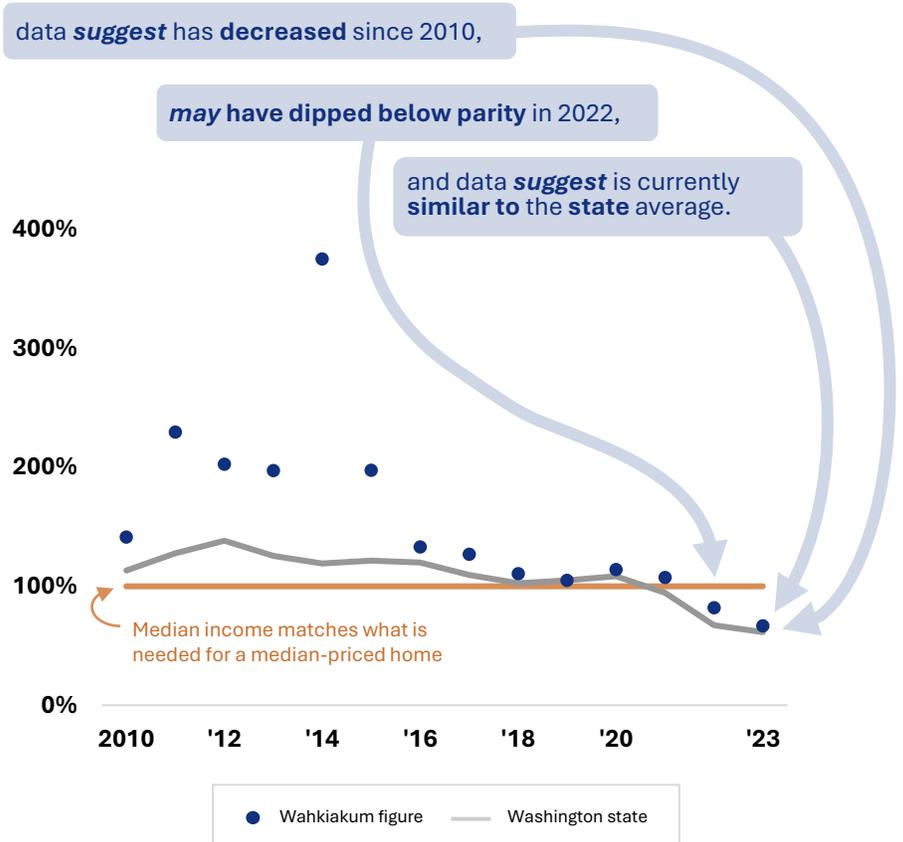
Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for this indicator.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY in **WAHKIAKUM** county:

data **suggest** has **decreased** since 2010,

may have dipped below parity in 2022,

and data **suggest** is currently **similar to the state average**.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COST BURDEN

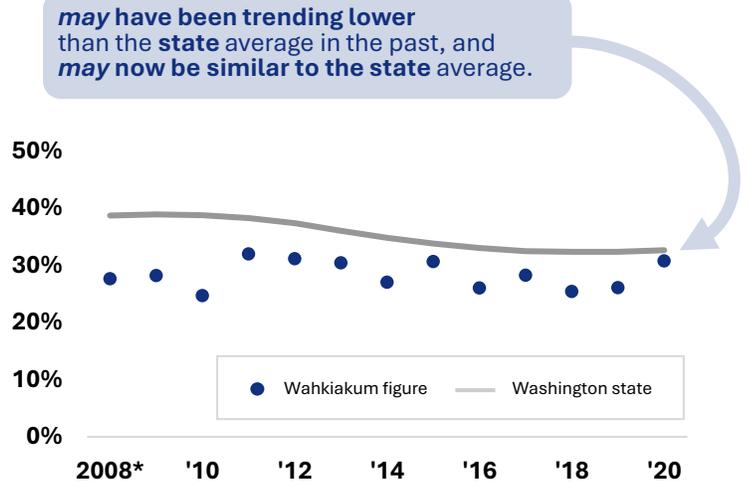
In 2020* in Wahkiakum county, an estimated

590 HOUSEHOLDS were spending **30% OR MORE** of their **INCOME** on **HOUSING**.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 3** households

These are households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing. The [American Community Survey's 2021 Subject Definitions](#) indicates that Housing costs for owner-occupied homes includes common **utilities, fuels, condo/mobile home fees, taxes, insurance, mortgages, and home loans**. For renter-occupied homes, this includes **rent, utilities and fuels**.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to account for age, identify trends, or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that the percent of households spending 30% or more of their income on housing in **WAHKIAKUM** county:

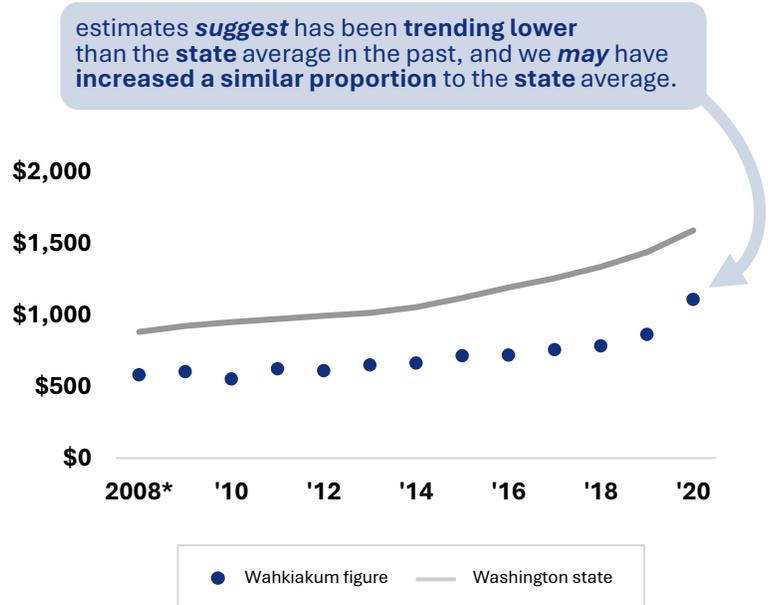


In 2020* the **MEDIAN** renter in Wahkiakum county paid an estimated

\$1,100 per month on **RENT**.

The “median” means that half of renters pay more than this, and half pay less. The [American Community Survey's 2021 Subject Definitions](#) indicates that gross monthly rent includes **rent, utilities and fuels**.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to account for age, identify trends, or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that the median rent in **WAHKIAKUM** county:



*The years indicated on this page are the midpoint of the 5-year time frame for each value. This differs from the Census convention, which uses the most recent year. For example, our 2020 figures are based on an average from 2018-2022. The census labels this figure as 2022. We use our method because we believe it more accurately represents the data.

Data source for page: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, 2010-2022. Table DP04. Available [online](#). Accessed on June 7, 2024.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

K-12 STUDENTS IN UNSTABLE HOUSING

In **SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024**,
38 ←
K-12 STUDENTS
 in the Wahkiakum County School District were identified as being in **UNSTABLE HOUSING**.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 11** students

This means that they **do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) uses the term **“homeless,”** but we prefer **“unstable housing”** because the definition is broader than what folks typically think of as homeless. OSPI provides more information on their [McKinney-Vento Act webpage](#).

Data source: [Washington State Report Card](#), Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Accessed 5/30/24.

The **PERCENT** of K-12 students in unstable housing in **WAHIAKUM** county:

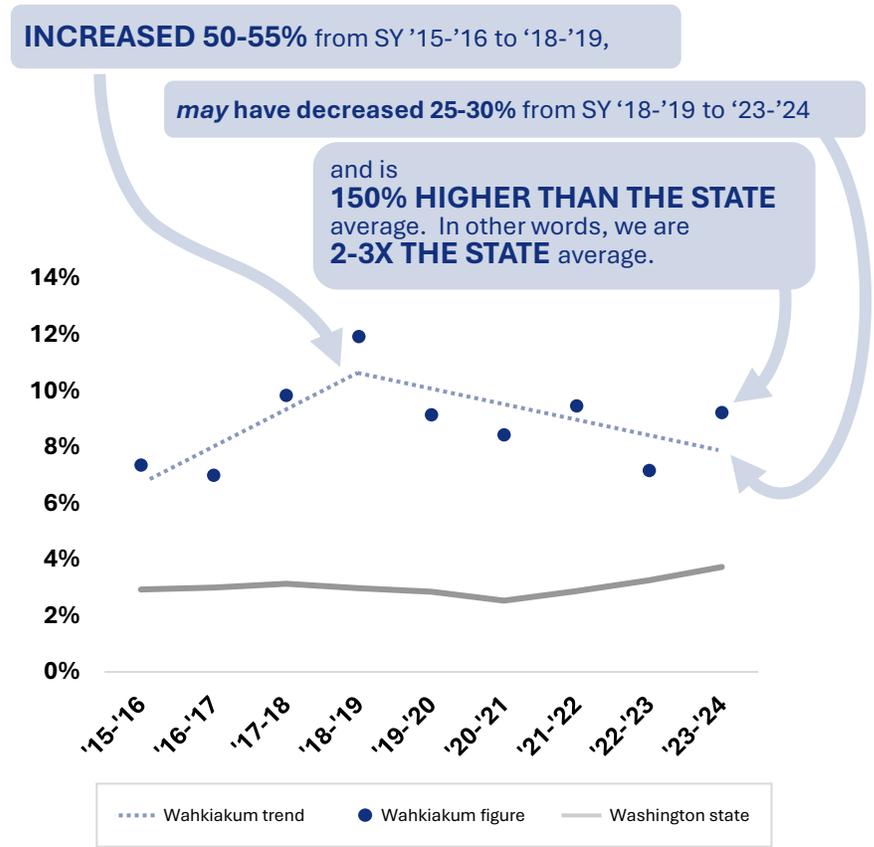


Photo credit: Teresa Howell

AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOUSING UNITS

In **2023**, there were an estimated

2,300 HOUSING UNITS

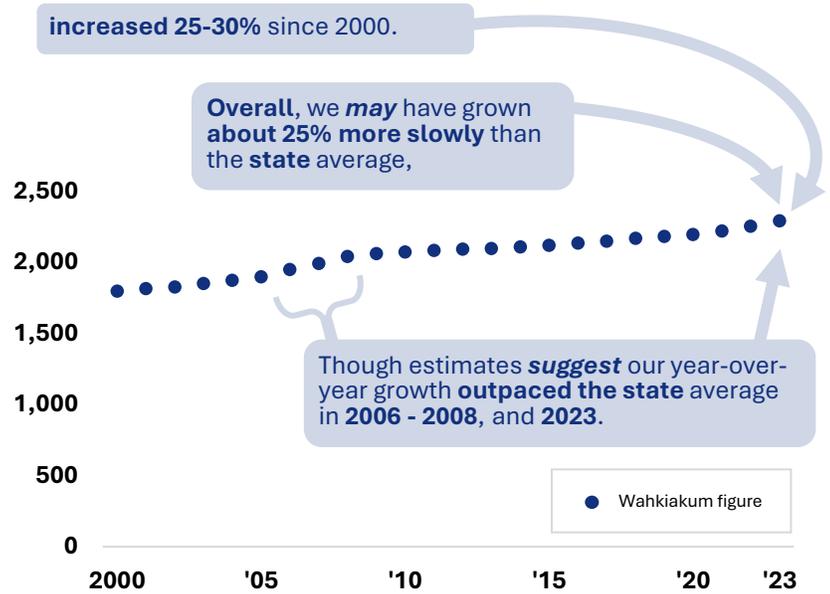
in Wahkiakum County.

The [US Census Bureau](#) indicates that a housing unit is **house**, an **apartment**, a **mobile home** or **trailer**, or a single or group of **room(s) intended as separate living quarters**.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Annual Estimates of Housing Units for Counties in Washington, 2000-2023. Available [online](#). Accessed 6/9/24.

Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for this indicator.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or include Washington State data in this graph. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that the number of housing units in **WAHKIAKUM** county:



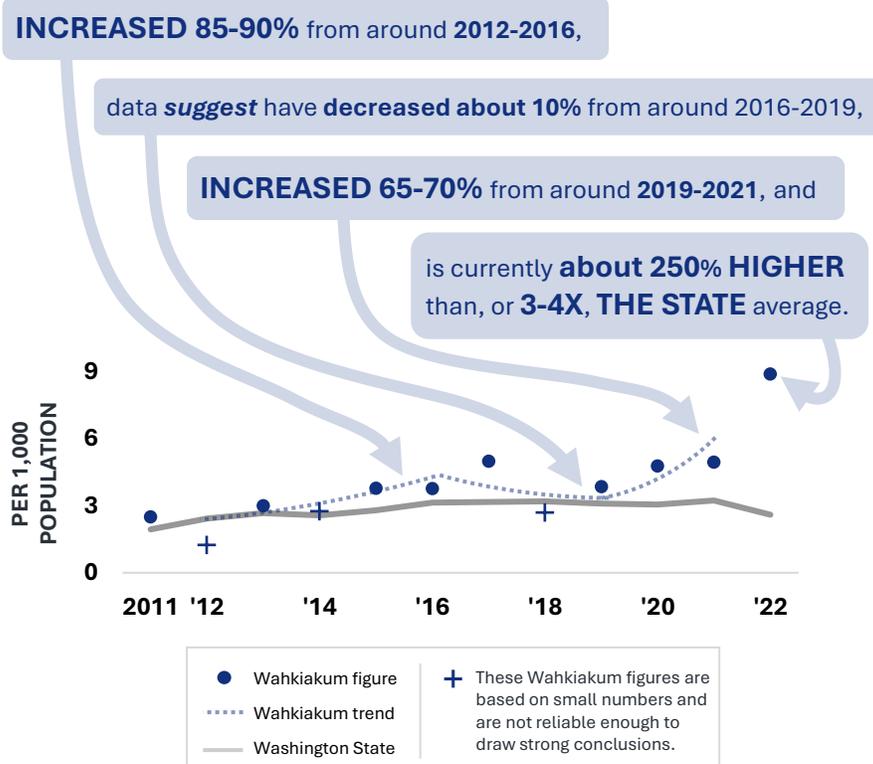
40 NEW BUILDING PERMITS

were issued in Wahkiakum County in **2022**.

These are **new building permits** for **single and multi-family dwellings**. Each unit in a multi-family dwelling (for example, **each apartment in a building**) has a separate permit.

Data source: US Census Bureau via Washington State Department of Social and Health Services [Community Risk Profiles](#) report.

PER CAPITA NEW BUILDING PERMITS in **WAHKIAKUM** county:



AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOME SALES

80
EXISTING HOMES were
SOLD in Wahkiakum County in **2022**.

These are sales of homes that were **previously owned**.

Data source: University of Washington's Center for Real Estate Research via Washington State Department of Social and Health Services [Community Risk Profiles report](#).

Statistical information is not available for us to assess the reliability of the figures for this indicator.

PER CAPITA EXISTING HOMES SOLD in **WAHIAKUM** county:

INCREASED 85-90% from 2011-2014,

have DECREASED about 45% since then, and

and *may currently be 15-20% higher* than the state average.

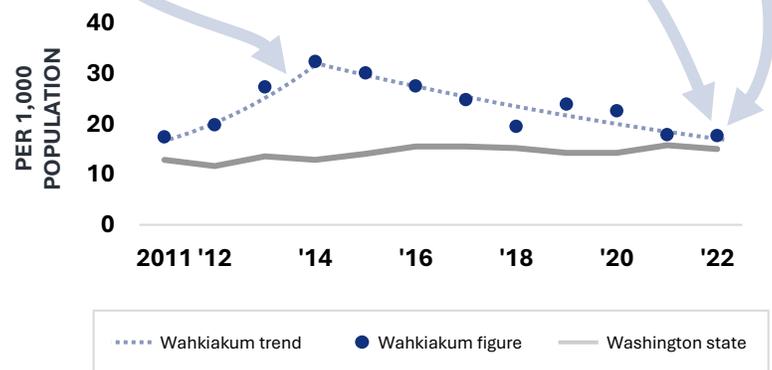


Photo credit: Teresa Howell

CHAPTER 4

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT COUNTS

In our most recent year(s), we had:



2,700

ADULTS with a
PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER
2020 estimate



190

residents with
NO HEALTH INSURANCE
2020 estimate



80

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS with a
MEDICAL CHECKUP in the
PAST YEAR
2023 estimate



Photo credit: Stacy Wynn

PROMISING FINDINGS



Estimates
suggest that the
proportion of
residents with
**no health
insurance**
has
decreased
since
2013.



An estimated
**THREE-
QUARTERS**
of our
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
have had a
MEDICAL CHECKUP
in the **PAST YEAR.**

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



The estimated proportion
of our **adults** with a
primary care provider
may be 10-15% lower
than the
state average.

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE HEALTH INSURANCE

In 2020*, an estimated

190

Wahkiakum county residents had

NO HEALTH INSURANCE

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 23
people

These are individuals who **are uninsured**.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, 2010-2022. Table S2701. Available [online](#). Accessed on June 10 & Sept. 18, 2024.

Note: Figures are age-adjusted to the US 2000 population using the [Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age for the United States](#).

*The years indicated on this page are the midpoint of the 5-year time frame for each value. This differs from the Census convention, which uses the most recent year. For example, our 2020 figures are based on an average from 2018-2022. The census labels this figure as 2022. We use our method because we believe it more accurately represents the data.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that, after accounting for age and population size, the estimated percent of the population with **NO HEALTH INSURANCE** in **WAHAKIAKUM** county:

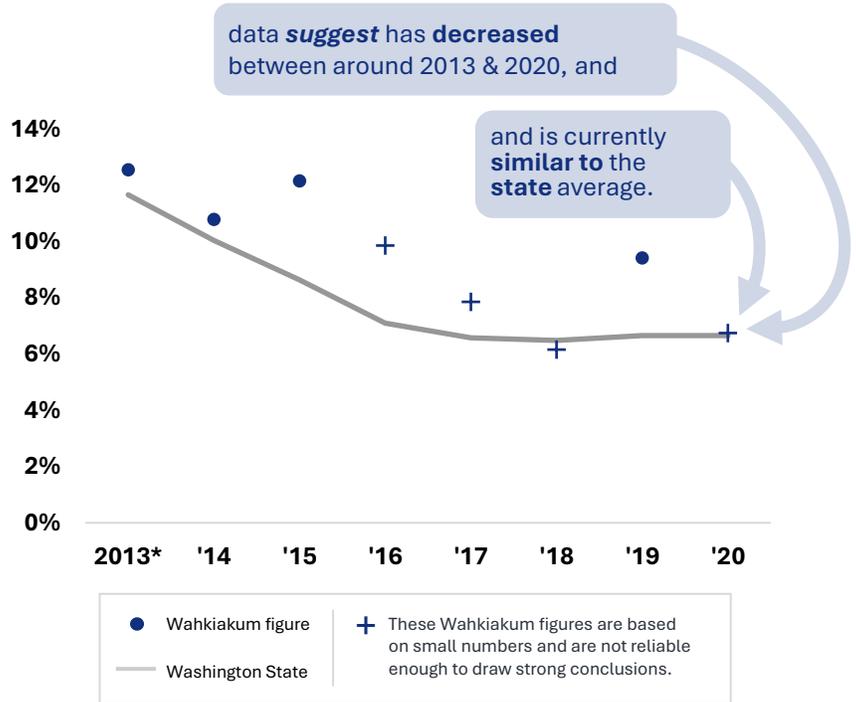


Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE PREVENTIVE CARE

In **2020***, an estimated

2,700

Wahkiakum County
ADULTS reported they
**HAVE A
PRIMARY CARE
PROVIDER.**

That is
about
3
out of
**EVERY 4
ADULTS.**

After accounting for age, the proportion
of our adults with a primary care provider
may be 10-15% lower than the **state** average.

These include adults who said that they have
one person or a **group of doctors** that they think of as their
personal health care provider.

Of note - an estimated **910** Wahkiakum county adults report not
having a primary care provider.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for
Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#).
Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

*Calculated from the average over 2018-2022.

In **2023**, an estimated

80

Wahkiakum County
**HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**
reported having had a
MEDICAL CHECKUP
in the **PAST YEAR.**

That is about
3 out of
**EVERY 4
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.**

The estimated proportion of our students with a medical
checkup in the past year is **similar to the state** average.

Students were asked, “When was the last time you saw a doctor or
health care provider for a **check-up** or physical exam when you
were **not sick or injured**?”

Students who answered “During the past 12 months” are included
here.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for
Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum
County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be
available [online](#).



Photo credit: Boston Shaw

CHAPTER 5

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT FIGURES

In our most recent year(s), we had:



28 ADULTS received STATE-FUNDED ALCOHOL or DRUG SERVICES
2022 count



20 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS had VAPED in the PAST MONTH
2023 estimate



20 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS drank ALCOHOL in the PAST MONTH
2023 estimate



15 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS used MARIJUANA in the PAST MONTH
2023 estimate



3 Average number of EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES responses to suspected OPIOID OVERDOSES EACH YEAR
Jan 2021-2024 to date estimate



1 average number of Wahkiakum county residents who die from a DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH each year.
2002-2022 figures

PROMISING FINDINGS



Our per capita rate of EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES responses to SUSPECTED OPIOID OVERDOSES is **60-70% LOWER** than the STATE average



Our per capita rate of drug overdose deaths may be **30-35% lower** than the state average

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



VAPING estimates among our HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS are **DOUBLE THE STATE** average.



Estimated alcohol and marijuana use among our high school students is **trending higher** than the state average.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

RECENT USE AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In **2023**,
an estimated

20

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported having

VAPED in the
PAST MONTH.

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 6
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

We are

DOUBLE
(2X, or 100% higher than)
THE STATE average.

Students were asked, “During the **past 30 days**, on how many days did you use an **electronic cigarette**, also called **e-cigs**, or **vape pens**?”

Students who answered that they used this substance on at least 1 day are included here.

In **2023**,
an estimated

20

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported having
drank

ALCOHOL in the
PAST MONTH.

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 6
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

We

may be 50-60% higher
than the state average.

Students were asked, “During the **past 30 days**, on how many days did you drink a **glass, can, or bottle** of alcohol?”

Students who answered that they used this substance on at least 1 day are included here.

In **2023**,
an estimated

15

Wahkiakum
County
high school
students
reported having
used

MARIJUANA in the
PAST MONTH.

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 7
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

Estimates **suggest** we are

15-20% higher than the state
average.

Students were asked, “During the **past 30 days**, on how many days did you use **marijuana** or **hashish**?”

Students who answered that they used this substance on at least 1 day are included here.



Photo credit: Teresa Howell

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be available [online](#).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, ASSESSMENT, & DETOX

28

Wahkiakum county
ADULTS received
STATE-FUNDED ALCOHOL or DRUG SERVICES
in 2022.

This is the number of adults aged 18+ who received state-funded substance abuse **treatment, assessment, and/or detox**. These figures do not include individuals in the corrections system.

These data include adults living in Wahkiakum county regardless of the county in which they receive services.

Data source: WA Department of Social & Health Services, [Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Prevention reports](#), February 2024.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 130 ADULTS**.

Without accounting for population age structure, the **PER CAPITA** participation in **STATE-FUNDED ALCOHOL OR DRUG SERVICES** among **WAHKIAKUM** county adults:

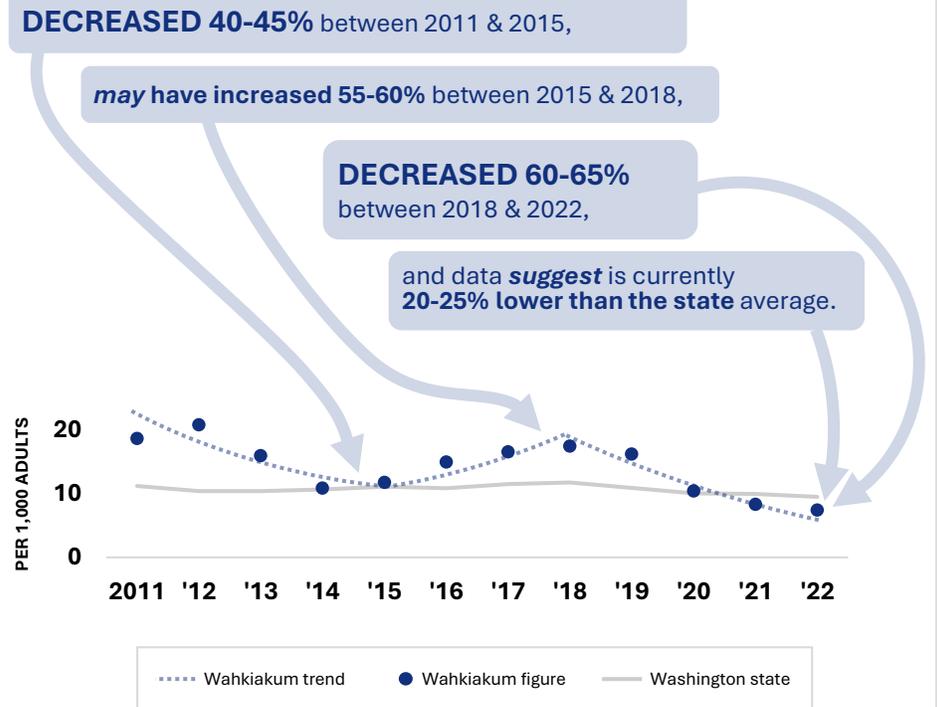


Photo credit: Jean Burnham

SUBSTANCE ABUSE OVERDOSES

On average, from

January 2021 – April 2024,

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

responded to

3 SUSPECTED OPIOID OVERDOSES

EACH YEAR⁺ in Wahkiakum County.

Our **PER CAPITA RATE** is

65-70% LOWER THAN THE STATE average.

These are emergency medical services responses where an **opioid was indicated** by the provider in the primary or secondary impression, or cause of injury, **in the medical chart**, or where **naloxone was administered** to the patient and the patient's response was improved. This figure includes EMS responses to a Wahkiakum county address, regardless of the county in which the patient lives. We are not able to account for our county's age structure in this analysis.

Data source: County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Opioid Overdose Monthly Surveillance Reports, January 2021 – April 2024. Washington State Department of Health. Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), March 2022.

+ This figure is based on small numbers and is not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.

On average, there was

1 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH

EVERY OTHER YEAR⁺

among Wahkiakum County residents from **2002-2022**.

After accounting for age, our

per capita rate may be

30-35% lower than the state average.

These are the deaths where the **underlying cause of death** was a **drug overdose**.

These do not include overdoses from alcohol or tobacco if they do not also include a drug overdose. These include all categories of drugs, including those that are prescribed/used legally, and those that are illicit (illegal). Drug overdoses can be intentional (suicides or homicides) or unintentional.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2000-2022; Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), September 2023. Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), March 2022.

+ This figure is based on small numbers and is not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.



Photo credit: Justin Roberts

KEY FINDINGS

MEDIAN INCOME

In 2020:



\$59,200

HOUSEHOLD



\$68,400

FAMILY

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2020, we had an estimated:



80

ADULTS AGED 20-64

who were unemployed

PROMISING FINDINGS

After accounting for inflation,

Median income may have increased 20-25% since 2008

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE

Our adults aged 20-64 may have about a 15% lower participation in the labor force than the state average.

Estimates suggest our median income is about 35% lower than the state average

INCOME

In Wahkiakum County in **2020***, the estimated

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

was
\$59,200

Half of households have a **higher** income than this, and **half** have a **lower** income.

In Wahkiakum County in **2020***, the estimated

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

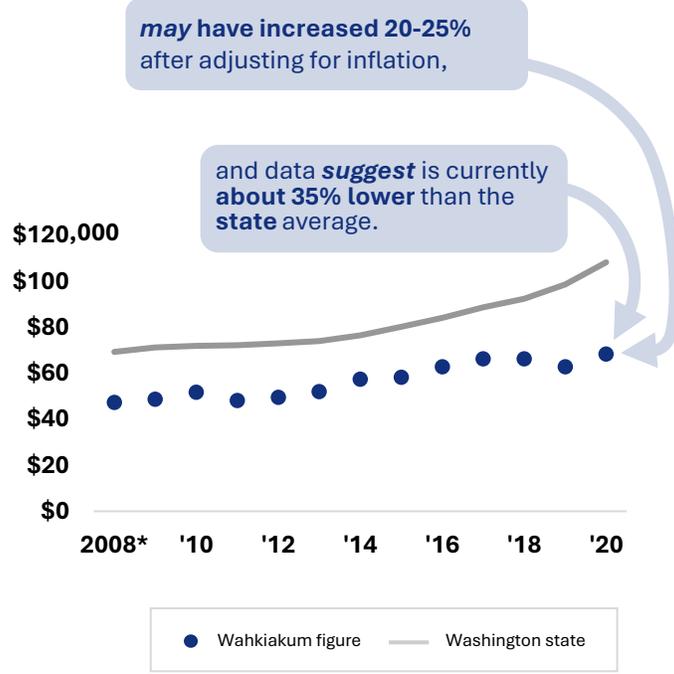
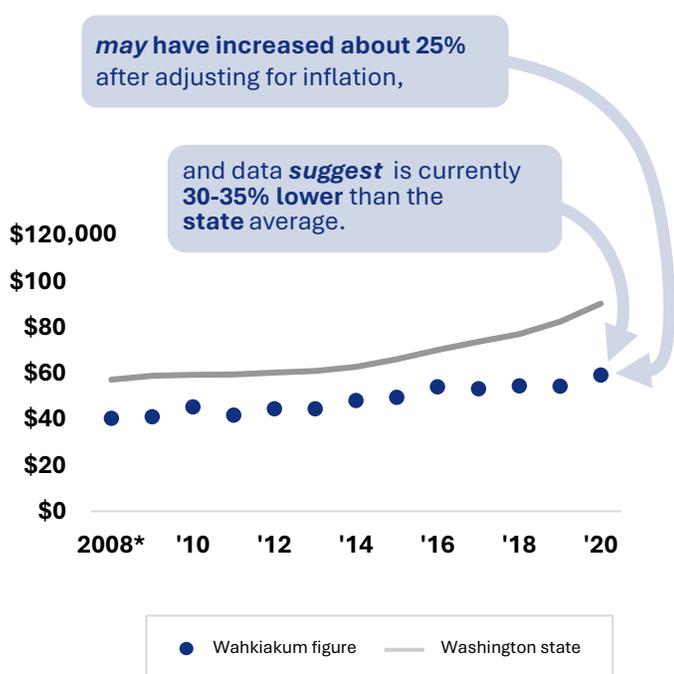
was
\$68,400

Half of families have a **higher** income than this, and **half** have a **lower** income.

[The US Census Bureau indicates](#) that a family is a group of 2 or more people who are **related by birth, marriage, or adoption**, and live together.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that, without accounting for population age structure, the **MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME** in **WAHKIAKUM** county

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that, without accounting for population age structure, the estimated **MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME** in **WAHKIAKUM** county



Note: Estimates are inflation-adjusted to 2 years later than the specified year. For example, 2020 estimates are inflation-adjusted to 2022. Inflation adjustments calculated using the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator](#). Accessed 6/10/24.

Note: These include all households in Wahkiakum county, regardless of whether they work in Wahkiakum county.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, 2010-2022. Table B19013. Available [online](#). Accessed on June 10, 2024.

*The years indicated on this page are the midpoint of the 5-year time frame for each value. This differs from the Census convention, which uses the most recent year. For example, our 2020 figures are based on an average from 2018-2022. The census labels this figure as 2022. We use our method because we believe it more accurately represents the data.

GOOD JOBS & A HEALTHY ECONOMY

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

In 2020*, an estimated

80

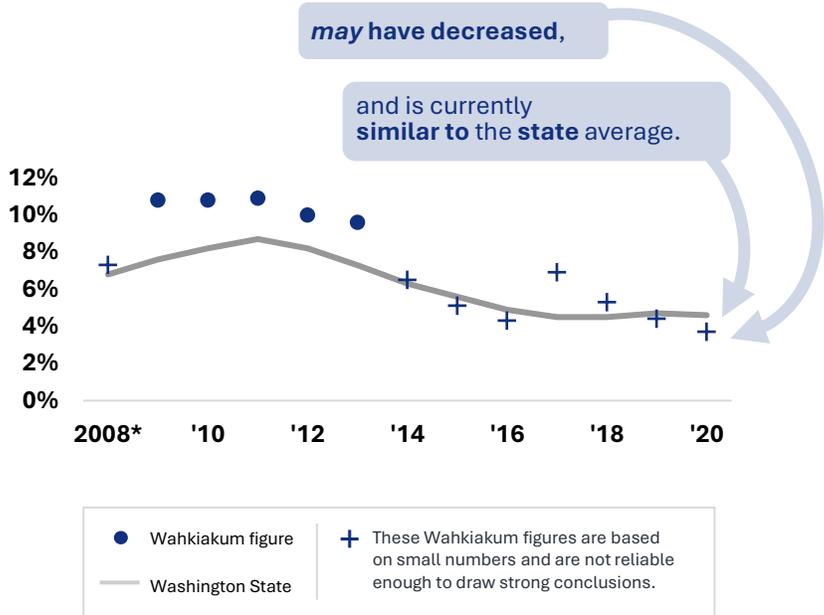
Wahkiakum county
**ADULTS
AGED 20-64**
were

UNEMPLOYED

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 27
adults age
20-64

The Census [defines](#) this as civilians **not working** in the past week, **actively looking for a job**, and **available to accept a job** if offered one.

We are unable to perform statistical analysis to identify trends or compare our county Washington state. However, a non-scientific visual assessment finds that, without accounting for population age structure, **UNEMPLOYMENT** in **WAHIAKUM** county



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

among Wahkiakum County **ADULTS** aged 20-64, estimated for 2020*:

**NOT IN
LABOR FORCE**
760 people, or
1 out of **EVERY 3**

EMPLOYED
1,300 people, or
ALMOST 2 out of **EVERY 3**

UNEMPLOYED
80+ people, or
1 out of **EVERY 27**



After taking age into account, data **suggest** our adults aged 20-64 have **about a 15% lower participation in the labor force** than the **state average**.

The Census [defines](#) **EMPLOYED** as civilians either **working in the past week**, or having a job but being **temporarily off work** in the past week due to illness, vacation, etc.

Data source for this page: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, 2010-2022. Table S2301. Available [online](#). Accessed on September 12, 2024.

*The years indicated on this page are the midpoint of the 5-year time frame for each value. This differs from the Census convention, which uses the most recent year. For example, our 2020 figures are based on an average from 2018-2022. The census labels this figure as 2022. We use our method because we believe it more accurately represents the data.

+ This figure is based on small numbers and are not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT FIGURES

In our most recent year(s), we had:

 **3,000** ADULTS who were **PHYSICALLY ACTIVE** in the **PAST MONTH**
2021 estimate

 **2,700** ADULTS who were **OVERWEIGHT** or **OBESE**
2022 estimate

 **560** ADULTS have **DIABETES**
2021 estimate

 **90** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS report **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** on 5+ days in the past week
2023 estimate

 **80** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS report **3+ HOURS** of non-school-related **SCREEN TIME** on an average school day
2023 estimate

 **35** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS were **OVERWEIGHT** or **OBESE**
2023 estimate

 **2** **DIABETES DEATHS** each year on average
2018-2022 figures

 **90%** ADULTS on **MEDICAID** with **DIABETES** had had their **BLOOD SUGAR CHECKED** in the past year
2020-2022 figure

PROMISING FINDINGS


Our per capita **DIABETES DEATHS** are about **TWO-THIRDS LOWER** than they were **15-20 YEARS AGO.**


Our **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** are **MORE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE** than the **STATE** average.

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE


Non-school-related **screen time** among our **high school students** *may be higher* than the **state** average.


Overweight/obesity among our **high school students** *may be 25-30% higher* than the **state** average.

DIABETES

In **2021***, an estimated

560

Wahkiakum County **ADULTS** reported that they **HAVE DIABETES**.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 6 or 7 ADULTS**.

After accounting for age, the proportion of our adults with diabetes is **similar to the state** average.

These include adults who said that they have been **told by a doctor** that they have **diabetes**.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

*Calculated from the average over 2020-2022.

In **2021***,

90%+

of Wahkiakum county

ADULTS on **MEDICAID** with **DIABETES** had had their **BLOOD SUGAR CHECKED** in the **PAST YEAR**.

These are the percent of adults aged 18-75 with type 1 or 2 **diabetes** and receive **Medicaid** benefits that have received an **A1c test** in the **past year**.

Data source: Washington State Healthcare Authority, [Healthier Washington Measure Explorer & Trend Dashboard](#).

*Calculated from the average over 2020-2022.

We are not able to account for age in this analysis.

+ This figure is based on small numbers and is not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.

In **2018-2022**, there was an average of

2

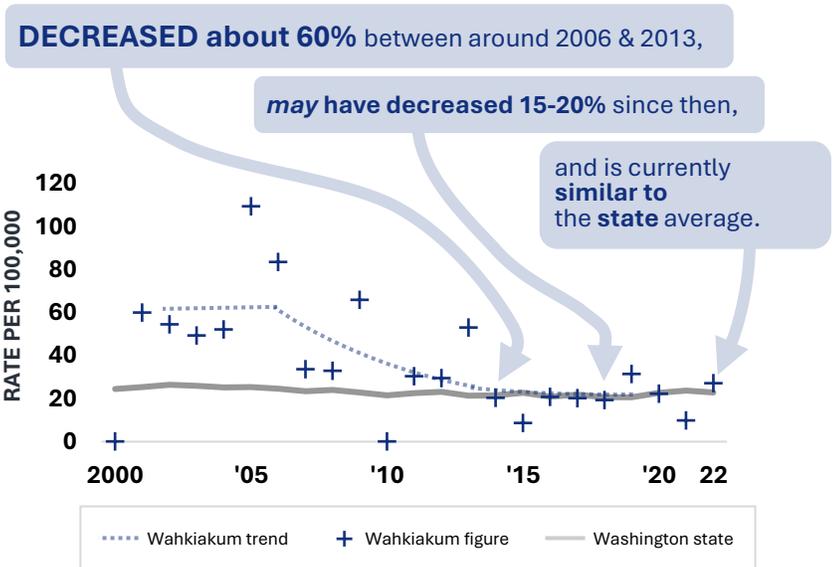
DIABETES DEATHS

EACH YEAR among Wahkiakum County residents.

That is about **1 DEATH** out of **EVERY 2,000 RESIDENTS**.

These are the **total number of deaths** whose **primary underlying cause of death** was **diabetes**.

After accounting for population size and age structure, and changes in these over time, **PER CAPITA** diabetes deaths in **WAHAKIUM** county:



+ This figure is based on small numbers and is not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.

CHRONIC DISEASE & HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

OVERWEIGHT & OBESITY

In **2022**, an estimated

2,700

Wahkiakum County
ADULTS were

OVERWEIGHT or
OBESE.

That is
about
3 out of
EVERY 4
ADULTS.

After accounting for age, the estimated proportion of our adults who are overweight or obese is **similar to the state** average.

These include adults who reported a **height** and **weight** that indicated a [body mass index](#) of 25 or higher.

In **2023**, about

35

Wahkiakum County
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS were
OVERWEIGHT
or **OBESE.**

That is about
1 out of
EVERY 3
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS.

Estimates **suggest** the proportion of our students who are overweight or obese is **25-30% higher than the state** average.

Students were asked their **height** and **weight** on the **survey**. Those whose height and weight resulted in a [body mass index](#) in the overweight or obese range are included here.



Photo credit: Andrew Emlen

Data sources

- High school students: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be available [online](#).
- Adults: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

CHRONIC DISEASE & HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SCREEN TIME

In **2021***, an estimated

3,000

Wahkiakum County
ADULTS reported being
**PHYSICALLY
ACTIVE** in the
PAST MONTH.

That is
about
4 out of
**EVERY 5
ADULTS.**

After accounting for age, the proportion of our adults who were physically active in the past month is **similar to the state** average.

These include adults who said that they participated in **any physical activities or exercises, outside of their regular job**, in the **past month**.

Of note - an estimated **750** Wahkiakum county adults report **no physical activity** outside of their regular job in the past month.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

*Calculated from the average over 2020-2022.

Data sources

- High school students: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be available [online](#).
- Adults: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

In **2023**,
about

90

Wahkiakum
County
**HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS**
reported
getting
an hour of
**PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY
5+ DAYS** in the
PAST WEEK.

That is almost
4 out of
**EVERY 5
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.**

The proportion of our students who got an hour of physical activity in the past week is **40-50% HIGHER THAN THE STATE** average.

Students were asked,
“In the **past 7 days**, on
how many days were you
physically active for a total of at
least **60 minutes per day**? (Add
up all the time you spent in any kind of
physical activity that increases your
heart rate or makes you breathe hard
some of the time?)

Students who answered 5, 6, or 7
days are included here.

In **2023**,
about

80

Wahkiakum
County
**HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS**
reported that
they consume
3+ HOURS
of non-school-related
SCREEN TIME
on an
**AVERAGE SCHOOL
DAY.**

That is almost
3 out of
**EVERY 4
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS.**

The proportion of our students consuming 3+ hours of non-school related screen time on an average school day **may be 10-15% higher than the state** average.

Students were asked, “On an
average school day, how many
hours do you spend in front of a
TV, computer, smart phone, or other
electronic device watching
shows or videos, playing **games**,
accessing the **internet**, or using
social media (also called “screen
time”)? (Do not count time spent
doing schoolwork.)

Students who answered 3, 4, or 5 or
more hours per day are included
here.

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT COUNTS

In our most recent year(s), we had:

-  **177** **CALLS** to the domestic violence **CRISIS LINE**
2023 count
-  **41** **ACCEPTED REFERRALS** for **CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**
2022 count
-  **25** **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** have had an **ADULT PHYSICALLY HURT** them **ON PURPOSE**
2023 estimate
-  **14** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES**
2022 count
-  **2-3** adult **VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS**
2018-2022 yearly average

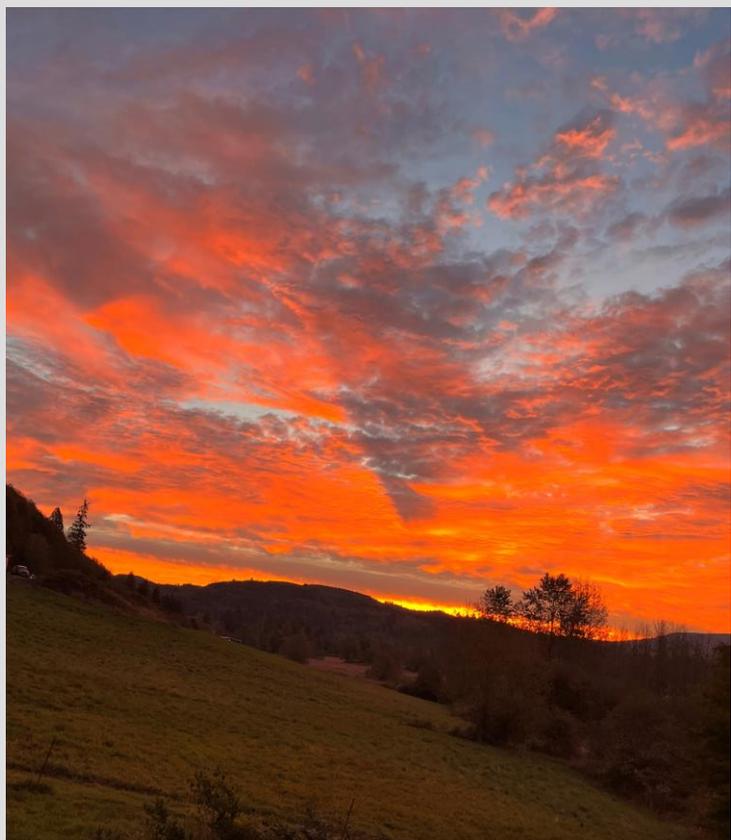


Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

PROMISING FINDINGS

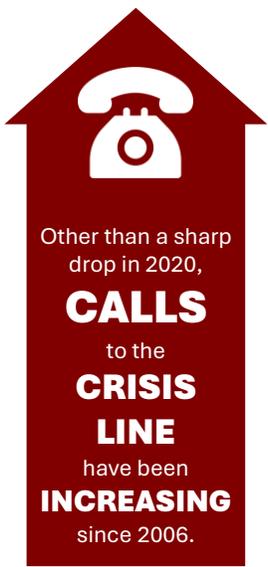


Our **CHILD ABUSE** figures show a **DECREASING** trend since 2017

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



Our **CHILD ABUSE** figures are trending **HIGHER** than the **STATE** average



Other than a sharp drop in 2020, **CALLS** to the **CRISIS LINE** have been **INCREASING** since 2006.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSES & ARRESTS

14

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES

occurred in Wahkiakum County in **2022**.

That is about **1** offense for **EVERY 320 PEOPLE**.

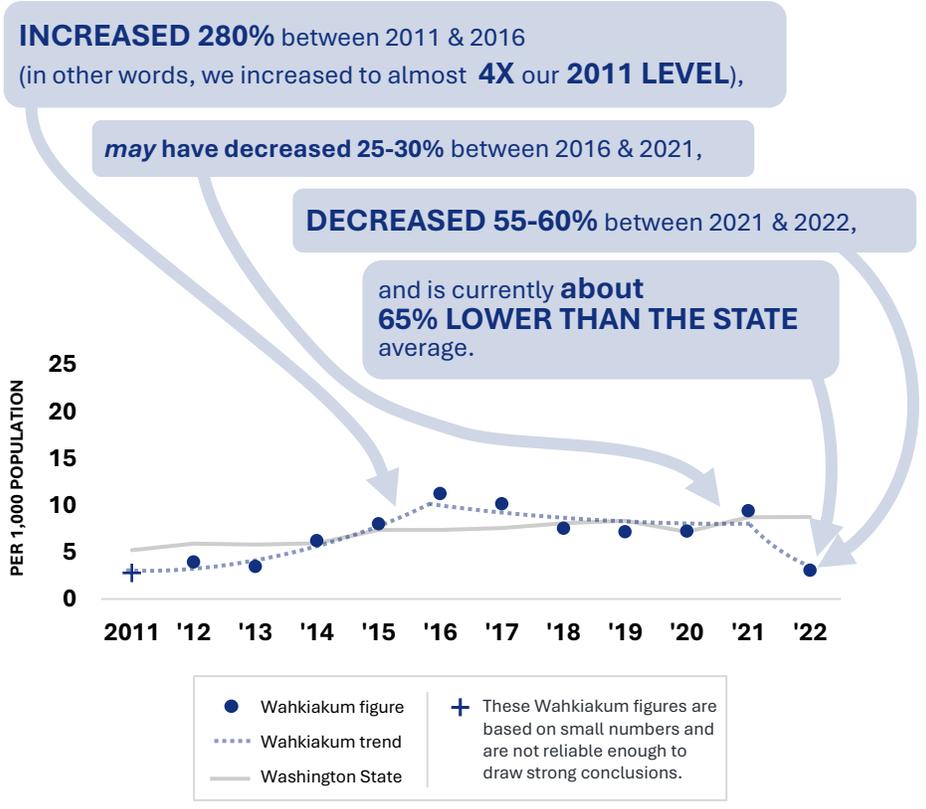
Domestic violence includes **any incident of violence of one family member against another**. When more than one victim is involved, an offense is filed for each victim. Many offenses occur without arresting the perpetrator.

This figure includes all offenses occurring in Wahkiakum county, regardless of the county in which the offender lives.

Data source: WA Department of Social & Health Services, [Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Prevention reports](#), February 2024.

Without accounting for population age structure, PER CAPITA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES

In **WAHKIAKUM** county:



There were an average of

2-3

ADULT VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS

each year in Wahkiakum County from **2018-2022**.

That is about **1** arrest each year for **EVERY 1,200 ADULTS**.

Without accounting for population age structure, the data **suggest** we are about **45% lower than the state** average.

These include arrests of adults aged 18+ for all crimes involving **criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault**. Simple assault is not included.

This figure includes all offenses occurring in Wahkiakum county, regardless of the county in which the arrestee lives.

Data source: WA Department of Social & Health Services, [Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Prevention reports](#), February 2024.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CHILD ABUSE

41 ← That is about **1 REFERRAL** for **EVERY 18 CHILDREN.**

ACCEPTED REFERRALS for Wahkiakum county children who were victims of **CHILD ABUSE** and neglect in **2022**.

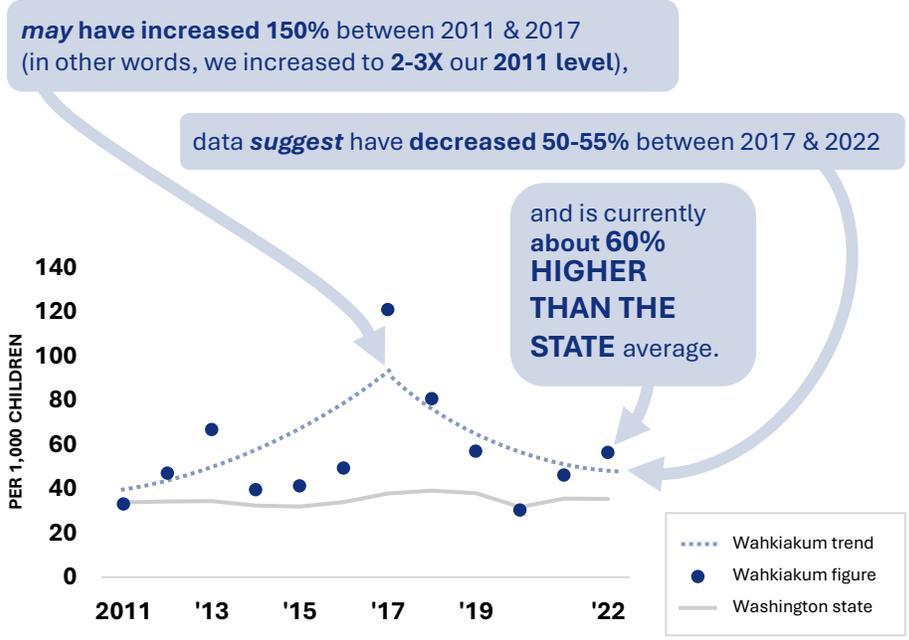
This figure includes the number of children identified as victims in **reports to Child Protective Services that were accepted for further investigation.** Children are counted more than once if they are in an accepted referral more than once during the year.

This figure includes children living in Wahkaikum county, regardless of the county in which the abuse occurred.

We are unable to account for children's age in this analysis.

Data source: WA Department of Social & Health Services, [Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Prevention reports](#), February 2024.

ACCEPTED REFERRALS for CHILD ABUSE PER 1,000 children in WAHAKIUM county:



In **2023**, about **25** ← That is about **1 out of EVERY 4 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

Wahkiakum County **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** reported that they have had an **ADULT PHYSICALLY HURT THEM ON PURPOSE.**

The proportion of our students reporting an adult physically hurting them on purpose **may be 20-25% higher than the state average.**

Students were asked, "Has an adult ever physically hurt you on purpose (like pushed, slapped, hit, kicked, or punched you), **leaving a mark, bruise, or injury?**"



Photo credit: Teresa Howell

High school student data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Healthy Youth Survey](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024. Additional data may be available [online](#).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CALLS TO THE CRISIS LINE

In **2023**,
The Charlotte House, the domestic violence shelter in Cathlamet, received

177
CALLS
related to
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE to their
CRISIS LINE.

That is about
1 CALL
EVERY
OTHER
DAY

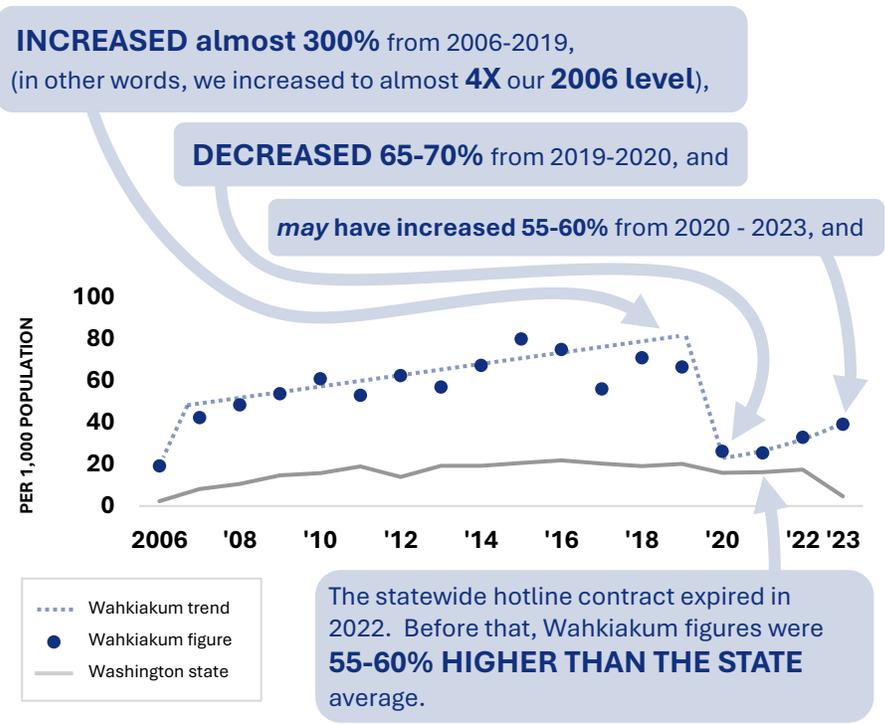
These are from individuals who are in **crisis** (for example, they've recently left an abusive relationship and need support, their abuser has found them etc.) or are looking for **information** or a **referral** (for example, needing information on another shelter, information on available resources, etc.).

Over the past 5 years, the crisis line has gotten an average of **8-9 calls each year** related to **sexual assault** as well.

The Charlotte House serves residents of Wahkiakum county who are experiencing domestic violence and need support services. However, because they are a part of a network of shelters in Washington and Oregon, they **receive calls from individuals outside of the county** as well. We do not have data on where the individual is calling from, or if the same person has called this and/or another domestic violence shelter more than once.

[The Charlotte House website](#) provides additional information on the services they provide related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

We are unable to account for age in this analysis. However, analysis of **PER CAPITA** crisis line calls related to domestic violence in **WAHAKIUKUM** county:



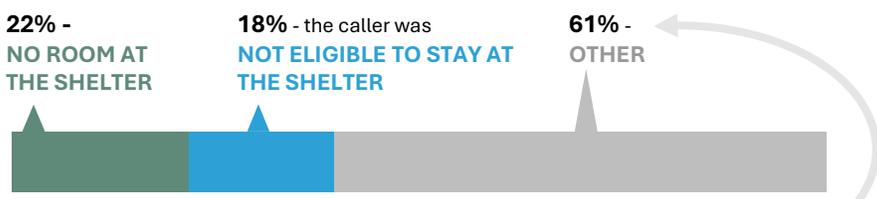
REASON for calls to The Charlotte House (2021-2023):



131 of those
CALLS
were from individuals
SEEKING SHELTER
who were
NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN IT.

This system does not track individuals seeking shelter who are able to obtain it.

REASON for not being able to obtain shelter (2021-2023):



Crisis line advocates share the most common reason in this "other" category is that callers **live too far away** from the shelter to be able to travel to it. Individuals looking for shelter often receive phone numbers for multiple shelters, some of which may be located geographically too far to access. They may not know the location of the shelter until they speak to an advocate. Transportation is a barrier for many individuals.

Data source for this page: [InfoNet](#), Washington State Department of Commerce, 2024.

KEY FINDINGS

MOST RECENT COUNTS

In our most recent year(s), we had:

31 **CANCER DIAGNOSES**
2020 count

14 **CANCER DEATHS**
2022 count

We have an estimated:

10-25 people living with **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**
2022 figures

25-35 people living with **TYPE 1 DIABETES**
2021/2022 figures



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

PROMISING FINDINGS

Our **CANCER** DIAGNOSES & DEATHS




figures show a **DECREASING** trend over the past 20+ years

POTENTIAL AREAS TO INVESTIGATE



LUNG
cancer is the **#1** leading site of cancer **DEATHS**



BREAST
cancer is the **#1** leading site of cancer **DIAGNOSES**

CANCER

31
total cancer
DIAGNOSES

among Wahkiakum County residents in **2020**.

These are the **total number of new cancer diagnoses**.

That is about
1 DIAGNOSIS
out of **EVERY**
140 RESIDENTS.

14
total cancer
DEATHS

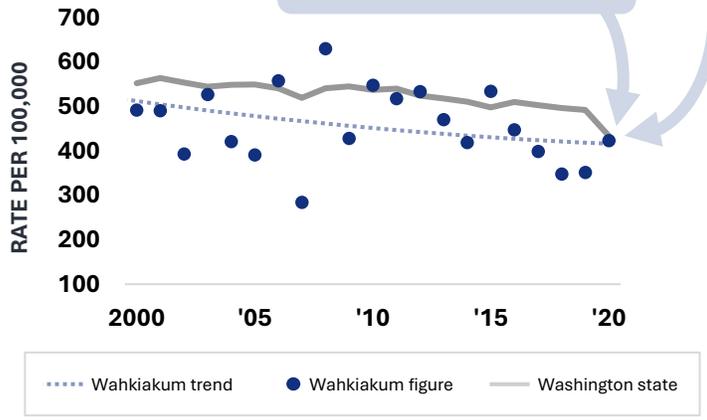
among Wahkiakum County residents in **2022**.

These are the **total number of people who died from cancer**.

That is about
1 DEATH
out of **EVERY**
320 RESIDENTS.

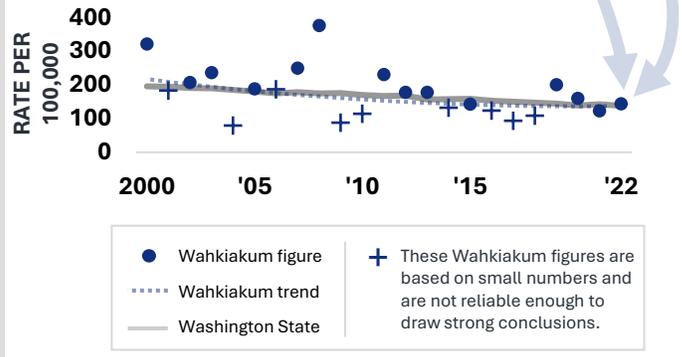
PER CAPITA DIAGNOSES, which account for population size & age structure, and changes in these over time, in **WAHKIAKUM COUNTY**

data *suggest* have decreased 10-15% from 2000-2020, and are currently **similar to the state average**.



PER CAPITA DEATHS, which account for population size & age structure, and changes in these over time, in **WAHKIAKUM COUNTY**

DECREASED about 40% from around 2001-2021, and are currently **similar to the state average**.



On average, the **LEADING SITES OF CANCER DIAGNOSES** among Wahkiakum County residents in **2016-2020** were:

- #1 – Breast** (5-6 each year)
- #2 - Melanoma** (3-4 each year)
- #3 – Colon/Rectum** (about 3 each year)
- #4 – Prostate** (2-3 each year)
- #5 – Lung/Bronchus** (2-3 each year)

On average, the **LEADING SITES OF CANCER DEATHS** among Wahkiakum County residents in **2016-2022** were:

- #1 – Lung/Bronchus** (2-3 each year)
- #2 (tied) – Colon/Rectum⁺** (1-2 each year)
- Pancreas⁺** (1-2 each year)

Note: To protect confidentiality, we do not report cancer deaths with an average of fewer than 1 each year.

+ These figures are based on small numbers and are not reliable enough to draw strong conclusions.

Data sources: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth & Death Certificates, 2011-2022; Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Cancer Registry, 2011-2020; Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), September 2023. ; Washington State Population Interim Estimates (PIE), March 2022.

BOARD OF HEALTH TOPIC OF INTEREST

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

Autoimmune diseases are when a person's **immune system mistakenly attacks their body's own tissues**.

Well-known autoimmune diseases include **type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis**.

Studies have found that these diseases may be **caused by a person's genes and their environment**. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has a [website](#) that we've found helpful with additional information about autoimmune diseases.

Unfortunately, **Wahkiakum county data are not readily available** about the impact of autoimmune diseases in our community. We may be able to do a more in-depth assessment in a future report. State- and national- level data sources are provided below for the specific autoimmune diseases listed above. When possible, nation-level prevalence estimates have been applied to Wahkiakum county population data to produce rough estimates of how many people are living with these conditions in our community.

TYPE 1 DIABETES

Neither the Healthy Youth Survey nor the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System include questions about type 1 diabetes.

The American Diabetes Association provides [nation- and state-level data](#) about diabetes. It indicates that about 0.35% of youth aged 0-19 have type 1 diabetes.

The Washington State Department of Health published its [A Snapshot – Diabetes in Washington](#). It indicates that type 1 diabetes accounts for 5% of adult diabetes cases.

Applying these figures to the estimated 739 youth aged 0-17 living in our community, and the estimated 560 adults with diabetes in Wahkiakum County, there are an

ESTIMATED 25-35 PEOPLE

living with type 1 diabetes in Wahkiakum county.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Neither the Healthy Youth Survey nor the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System include questions about multiple sclerosis.

In addition, we were not able to find any data from the Washington State Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America provides [nation-level data](#) about multiple sclerosis. It indicates that, on average, 0.35%, or about 1 in every 300 people, will develop multiple sclerosis in their life. Applying this figure to the estimated 4,525 Wahkiakum county residents in 2022, there are an

ESTIMATED 10-25 PEOPLE

who have or will develop multiple sclerosis in Wahkiakum county.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Neither the Healthy Youth Survey nor the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System include questions about rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, we were not able to find any data from the Washington State Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Arthritis Foundation provides [limited nation-level data](#) about rheumatoid arthritis.

Because they do not provide data on what proportion of the population has rheumatoid arthritis, we cannot calculate estimates for Wahkiakum county.

LUPUS

Neither the Healthy Youth Survey nor the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System include questions about lupus. In addition, we were not able to find any data from the Washington State Department of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides [limited nation-level data](#) about lupus.

The Lupus Foundation of America also provides some [nation-level data](#).

Because neither source provide data on what proportion of the population has lupus, we cannot calculate estimates for Wahkiakum county.

CHAPTER 10

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY HHS TOPICS OF INTEREST

KEY FINDINGS

VACCINE COVERAGE

In our most recent year(s), we had an estimated:



1,200

adults **aged 65+** with a recent **FLU** vaccine
2022 figure



1,200

adults **aged 65+** who have received a **PNEUMONIA** vaccine
2020-2022 annual average



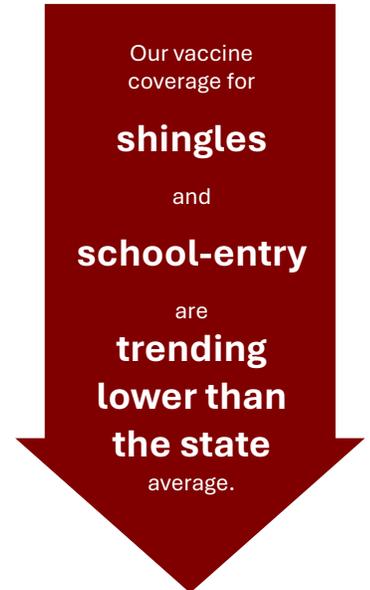
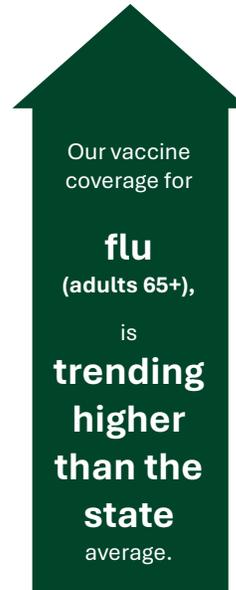
480

adults **aged 50+** who have received a **SHINGLES** vaccine
2018-2019 estimates



25

kindergarteners met the **SCHOOL-ENTRY** vaccine requirements (average over '18-'19, 21-'22 & '22-'23 school years)



HEAT & SMOKE RISK

In our most recent year(s), we had an estimated:



480

adults **aged 18+** with **ASTHMA**
2018-2022 annual average



7

EXTREMELY HOT DAYS
2021-2023 average

FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

In our most recent year(s), we had an estimated:



53

EMS RESPONSES for patients **aged 65+** who had a **FALL**
2023 figure

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY HHS TOPICS OF INTEREST

ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS

In **2022**, an estimated

1,200

Wahkiakum County adults aged **65+** reported getting a

FLU VACCINE in the **PAST YEAR.**

That is about **3** out of **EVERY 4** adults aged 65+.

After accounting for age, estimates **suggest** the proportion of our adults aged 65+ who have gotten flu vaccine in the past year is **5-10% higher than the state average.**

These include adults aged 65+ who said that they received a seasonal flu shot, or **flu vaccine** that was sprayed in their nose, during the **past 12 months.**

Of note - an estimated **370** Wahkiakum county adults aged 65+ report **not receiving a flu shot** in the past year.

In **2021***, an estimated

1,200

Wahkiakum County adults aged **65+** reported having ever gotten a

PNEUMONIA VACCINE.

That is about **3** out of **EVERY 4** adults aged 65+.

After accounting for age, the estimated proportion of our adults aged 65+ who have gotten a pneumonia vaccine is **similar to the state average.**

These include adults aged 65+ who said that they had **ever** received a **pneumonia vaccine.**

Of note - an estimated **350** Wahkiakum county adults aged 65+ report **never having received a pneumonia vaccine.**

*Calculated from the average over 2020-2022.

In **2018-2019***, an estimated

480

Wahkiakum County adults aged **50+** reported having ever gotten a

SHINGLES VACCINE.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 5** adults aged 50+.

After accounting for age, the estimated proportion of our adults aged 50+ who have gotten a shingles vaccine **may be 30-35% lower than the state average.**

These include adults aged 50+ who said that they had **ever** received a **shingles vaccine.**

Of note - an estimated **1,900** Wahkiakum county adults aged 50+ report **never having received a shingles vaccine.**

*Calculated from the average of 2017 & 2020, the two most recent years when the question was asked.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY HHS TOPICS OF INTEREST

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

Each year in '18-'19, 21-'22 & '22-'23 school years, an average of

25

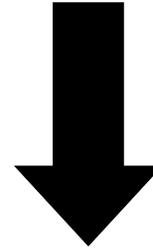
Wahkiakum county
KINDERGARTENERS
had met the
SCHOOL-ENTRY VACCINE REQUIREMENTS.

That is about
3 out of
EVERY 4
kindergarteners

These are the percent of incoming kindergarteners with documented immunity against 11 [vaccine-preventable diseases](#) that has been verified by a medical provider. This includes students with **completed vaccine series** and/or **documented natural immunity**. Students not meeting these requirements may be in the process of catching up on vaccines ("conditional" status), have completed requirements to obtain an exemption ("exempt" status), or not be in any of these categories ("out of compliance" status).

The '19-'20 and '20-'21 school years are not included because of data quality issues.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health [School Immunization Data Dashboard](#). Historical data not included because of data quality issues.



The proportion of our kindergarteners who meet the school-entry vaccine requirements **may be 10-15% lower** than the **state** average

Being out of compliance, which means that they have **NOT SUBMITTED PAPERWORK**

to **IDENTIFY** their **VACCINE STATUS**, is the **#1 REASON**

why Wahkiakum County kindergarteners **DO NOT MEET** the **REQUIREMENTS.**



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY HHS TOPICS OF INTEREST

EXTREME HEAT & WILDFIRE SMOKE

In **2021-2023**, there were an average of

7 EXTREMELY HOT DAYS

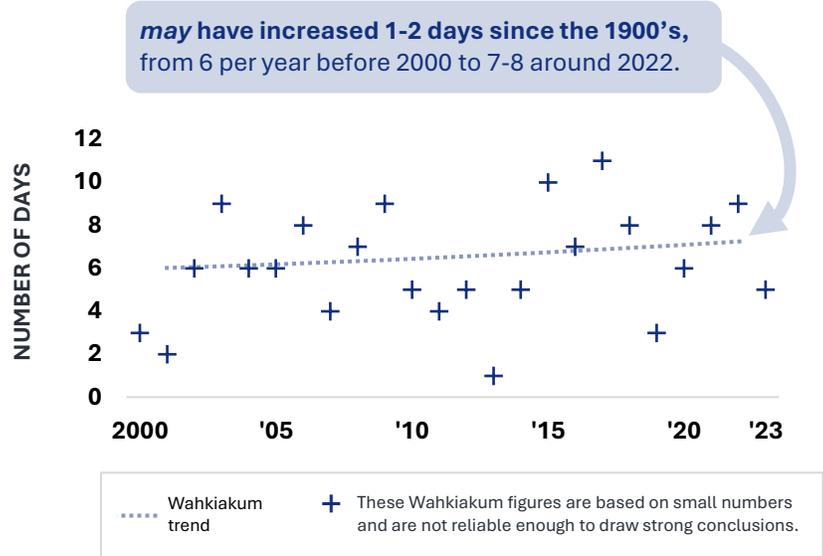
each summer in Wahkiakum County.

These are days with a maximum temperature that is higher than 95% of summer days before 2000*. In Wahkiakum county, this is **hotter than 87 degrees**. On average, there were 6 extremely hot days each summer from 1962-1999.

*The Wahkiakum county sensor has data beginning in 1962.

Data source: Washington Department of Health, [Washington Tracking Network, Extremely Hot Days](#). Data was obtained from the National Center for Environment and Climate. Published: May 2024.

The number of extremely hot days each summer in **WAHKIAKUM** county:



The number of extremely hot days in Wahkiakum county is **similar to the state average**.

In **2020***, an estimated

480

Wahkiakum County **ADULTS** reported having **ASTHMA**.

That is about **1** out of **EVERY 7 or 8** adults.

After accounting for age structure, estimates **suggest** the proportion of our adults with asthma is **similar to the state** average.

These include adults who said that they have been **told by a doctor** that they have **asthma**.

*Calculated from the average over 2018-2022.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services, 2024.

WAHIAKUM COUNTY HHS TOPICS OF INTEREST

FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

In **2023**, in Wahkiakum county, there were

53

EMS RESPONSES

for patients

AGED 65+

who had a

FALL.

That is about
1 RESPONSE
out of
EVERY 30
adults aged 65+.

Without being able to account for age structure, our per capita level is **about 45% LOWER THAN THE STATE** average.

These are **Emergency Medical System responses** for patients aged **65 or older** where a **fall was indicated** in the primary or secondary impression, cause of injury, trauma triage criteria, and/or the dispatch reason.

This figure includes EMS responses to a Wahkiakum county address, regardless of the county in which the patient lives.

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, [Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System](#), 2020-2023. EMS counts provided by WA DOH; analysis by Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services.

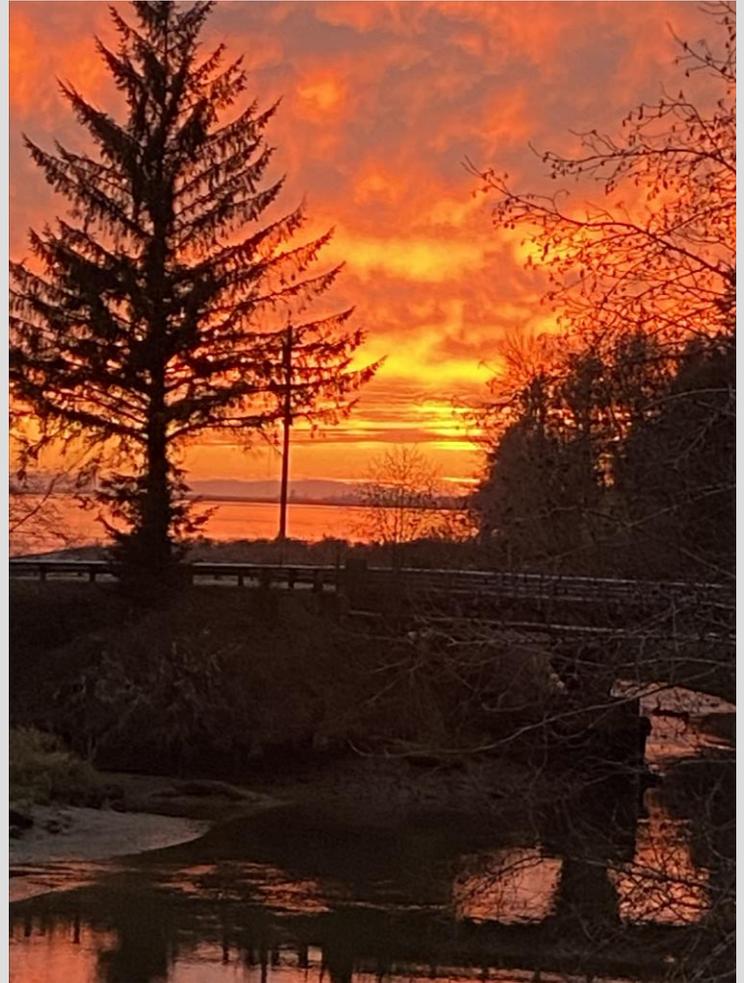


Photo credit: Teresa Howell

CHAPTER 10

COVID DATA

The Washington State Department of Health's [Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard](#) provides the most current data on COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV. It includes data on disease activity, vaccinations, hospital use, and wastewater sampling.

The Washington State Department of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccination Data dashboard](#) provides additional data on COVID-19 vaccine coverage.

TIME TREND ANALYSIS CITATIONS

All time trends that include a blue dotted line were identified using Joinpoint Regression Program software and methods:

- Joinpoint Regression Program, Version 5.0.2 - May 2023; Statistical Methodology and Applications Branch, Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute.
- Kim HJ, Fay MP, Feuer EJ, Midthune DN. "Permutation tests for joinpoint regression with applications to cancer rates" *Statistics in Medicine* 2000; 19:335-351: (correction: 2001;20:655).

WHAT'S NEXT?



Photo taken by a Wahkiakum county resident

The trends in this report point to many opportunities for improving health in our community and will help shape the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Wahkiakum County. The CHIP isn't just a document; it's a collaborative effort involving public health officials, community leaders, and healthcare providers, all coming together to understand and tackle the health needs of our community.

Our plan will set clear goals and actionable steps aimed at improving health outcomes right here at home.

Once we identify our priorities, Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services will partner with local organizations and community groups to enhance the overall well-being of our community. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors and friends. Your voice matters in this journey, and we can't wait to work alongside you to create a healthier Wahkiakum County!

