

CONTINUUM OF CARE  
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
OF KITTITAS COUNTY  
2014

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# Executive Summary

In all three local community surveys responses from the community and clients all indicated as most critical to the well-being of the community and its families affordable housing, increased employment opportunities, increased access to reasonable licensed child care, increased training and education, and relief on the cost of health care and insurance.

These four categories paint a picture of the state of low-income individuals and families in Kittitas County and points to those four categories as the ones most likely to prohibit an individual or family from becoming and remaining stable and from moving forward in their lives to greater self-sufficiency and less reliance on public and private support. These four areas: affordable, safe housing; sufficient living wage opportunities to provide for a household; access to education and training that improves the ability to earn and provide; and access to affordable health care are the building blocks of a productive life. Employment opportunities are not improved without education which cannot be pursued without stable and safe housing and is difficult to maintain if access to health care for the individual, family provider or child is not available or not affordable.

#### Housing:

Vacancy rates in Kittitas County have remained consistently low over the years driving up rents and reducing affordability. There are only 581 rental units available and 1000 households needing units. Permanent supportive housing have wait lists up to two years. This lack of affordable housing forces low-income individuals and families into couch surfing or parceling their children out to several households in order to secure a roof over their heads. The changes in homeless definitions can exclude these very families from homeless and housing funds resulting in overcrowded, unhealthy housing for raising kids and creating another barrier to stability. These add to barriers already in place from lifestyle and health choices, physical disabilities, and mental health stresses.

With affordable rentals not available, the probability of a family being able to purchase a home is even bleaker. The average cost to buy a house is \$192,000 which is out of reach for the 38% of the population living at the poverty level with incomes that are well below state average and with unemployment at 9% above the state average.

#### Employment:

Unemployment is an issue nationwide with 3 million people in the U.S. still out of work for five or more years following layoffs or loss of jobs. Kittitas County continues to lack sufficient full time, living wage jobs. The average income is \$16,000 less per household than the average for the State, which includes other rural counties. The majority of jobs available to low-income households are minimum wage and less than full time. Respondents to the surveys reported strong need for more employment options, living wages jobs, and more support for small business startups.

The largest employers in Kittitas County are government, education and health care all of which generally require higher levels of education than simply high school. Respondents were aware of this and said they needed more training, more education, more access to entrepreneurial help in order to compete in the local market at a living wage.

Two thirds of low-income households reported paying between 40-50% of their income for housing, and 30% for child care leaving little money for food, clothing, health, and education. Families report skipping meals to pay for rent and health care.

Child care is combined with employment because it is necessary in most low-income households for the adults to work multiple jobs. To work requires reliable child care that does not cause the provider to miss work or worry about the safety of their children. Child care for low-income families can use as much as 30% of the total household income. Combined with the 50% committed to housing leaves little room for health care, nutrition, clothing or school needs for the family.

Child care cost remains competitive and openings are limited particularly in Upper County and not affordable at a part time wage. 30% of those surveyed said child care was not affordable and most are not able to send their child to the child care provider of their choice. Household composition in Kittitas County indicates three times as many households have children under 5 than the state average, and twice as many children under 18 increasing the burden on child care and after school care.

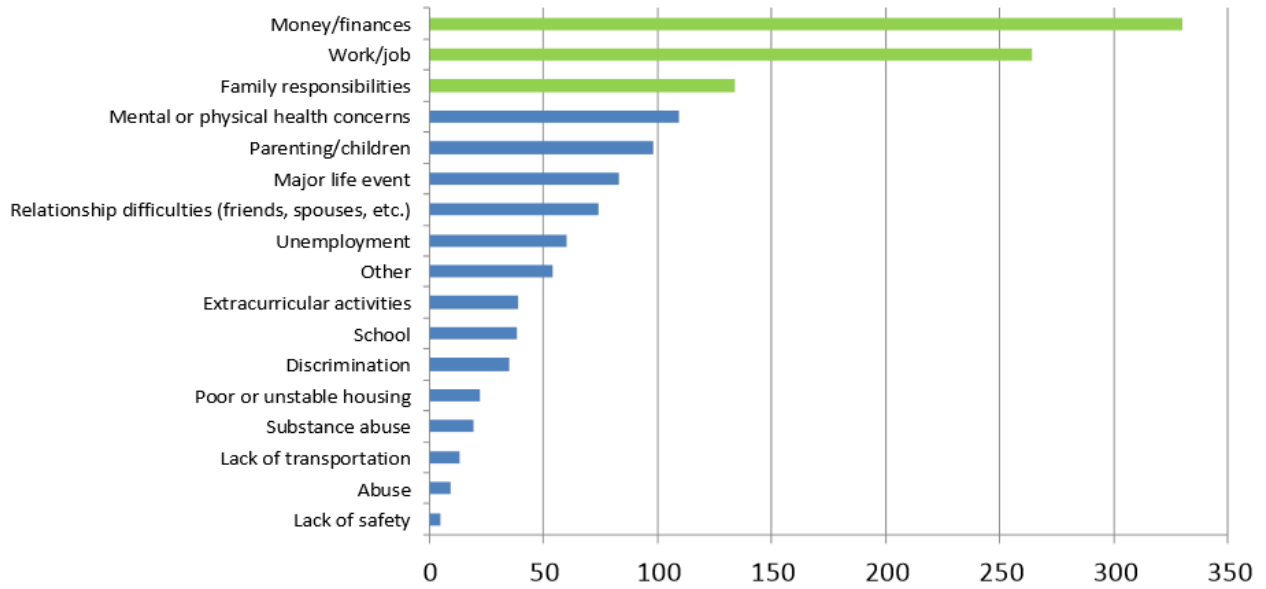
#### Education:

Education options are limited to high school for many low-income families unless they are able to qualify for scholarships or student loans to enter Central Washington University, Yakima Valley Community College or Perry Technical Institute. YVCC does offer limited classes at a lower cost but to attend require the added cost of travel and child care.

#### Health & Insurance:

Health indicators show the top three stressors to be these three: money, job, family responsibility, and mental and physical health.

## What are the three things that cause you the most amount of stress?



	Category	Health Indicator	Kittitas County	Washington State
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors For Kittitas County</b>	Poverty	Percent of population living below 200% of the poverty level.	38.1%	28.7%
		Percent of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders who report that they or their family cut meal size or skipped meals some or almost every month in the past year because there was not enough money for food.	12.3%	13.9%
		Percent of the employed labor force below poverty level.	16.2%	6.0%
		Percent of K-12 students receiving free and reduced lunch.	40.8%	45.6%
		Percent of total population using Basic Food Program services	15%	19%
	Housing	Percent of occupied rental units where monthly housing costs are more than 30% of household income.	63.8%	49.8%
		Rate of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people per 1,00 people	2.1	3.1
	Education	Percent of 9 <sup>th</sup> graders who graduate high school in 4 years.	74.7%	76.6%
		Percent of population over age 25 with some college education.	61.7%	65.9%
	Employment	Unemployment rate of ages 16 and older.	8.8%	8.6%
	Safety & Social Support	Violent crime rates per 1,000 people.	1.5	3.0
		Rate of children accepted for Child Protective Service action per 1,000 children ages 0-17.	46.5%	33.7%
		Percent of adults reporting that they do not receive the social and emotional support they need.	14%	17%
	Income	Median annual household income.	\$41,232	\$57,244
	Illiteracy	Percent of adults lacking basic prose literacy skills.	10%	10%
	Health Insurance	Percent of employed labor force (18+) with health insurance coverage.	81.7%	85.4%

	Commuting	Percent of population who travels outside the county for work.	15.3%	15.4%
	Crime	Total crime rate per 1,000 people.	42.7	39.1
		Rate of DUI arrests per 1,000 people.	4.9	5.1
		Rate of domestic violence offenses per 1,000 people.	7.2	7.1
		Annual average of Superior Court Filings for sex crimes per 1,000 people.	0.45	0.34
	Abuse	Number of vulnerable adult abuse cases per 1,000 adults 20 and older.	3.3	2.7
	Housing Costs	Average Rent	\$709	\$952
		Average median home price.	\$192,265	\$224,325



**Commentary:**  
**What Does It Mean To Be Poor In America?**

## Commentary

### What does it mean to be Poor in America?

This question can be answered by statistics that provide a demographic profile of who is poor, or it can be answered through a description of the impact poverty has on a person's life — how they solve the fundamental issues of finding work, shelter, food, child care, health care and transportation. It can also be answered by comparing the circumstances of the poor and the not poor, to see the similarities and differences in their lives. Finally, it can be answered through the perceptions and views of our community, as being poor is also an issue of perception as well as circumstance. There is not a single official answer to this question. When defining poverty statistically, there are two official federal government versions: the poverty threshold and the poverty guideline.

#### Census Poverty Threshold

The poverty threshold is prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau. These figures are used in the statistical analysis and annual estimate of how many people are in poverty. These Census poverty figures calculate poverty based on income. The official Census poverty threshold calculations are divided into aged (65 years and over) and non-aged household units. Most current data on income to poverty ratios comes from the American Community Survey one-year estimates for all geographic areas of 65,000 or more population, and for all geographic areas of 20,000 or more population from the 2006 to 2008 3-year estimates. These data tables will be updated annually for all geographic areas in the U.S. after the 2010 census.

#### Health and Human Services Poverty Guideline

The poverty guideline is the other official version of poverty that is commonly available. These figures are calculated each year by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), and published annually in the Federal Register. The guideline is a simplification of the Census poverty thresholds. The HHS poverty guidelines are regularly used to determine financial eligibility for government programs. HHS poverty guidelines differentiate by size of household.

#### Area Median Family Income

Finally, although not specifically called a poverty guideline, eligibility for government funded housing programs is based on area median family income figures, also calculated by the U.S. Census. Households are classified as low income if household income for the family size is at or below 80% of median income, and very low income if household income for the family size is at or below 50% of median income.

The poverty guidelines are the official version of poverty that is commonly available. These figures are calculated each year by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), and published annually in the Federal Register. The guideline is a simplification of the Census poverty thresholds. The Health & Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines are regularly used to determine financial eligibility for government programs. HHS poverty guidelines differentiate by size of household. Finally, although not specifically called a poverty guideline, eligibility for government funded housing programs is based on area median family income figures, also calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The current federal poverty measure poverty is critical and has spurred much research and discussion in past years. Current poverty thresholds were established in the 1960s and while it is adjusted for inflation, it does not account for health related costs, transportation, child care, differentials cost of living in different areas and more. Research suggests that to meet their basic needs, families actually need an income roughly twice the official poverty level, which can include benefits like the Earned Income Tax Credit or supplemental Assistance Program. Consequently, poverty data does not account for the increasing number of individuals and families who are seeking assistance who have never had to do so before including those individuals who are classified as unemployed, are working part-time and want full-time jobs, or those who have given up hope of finding employment.

Public programs play an important role in lessening poverty for families in need. This has become even more critical with poverty increasing to record high in many communities across the nation. Census figures indicate that had it not been for many programs like unemployment insurance, food stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), SNAP, Medicaid, and more; millions more families would have fallen into poverty.



# Kittitas County Demographics

## Kittitas County Demographics



**Table 1 - Population Change 1990, 2000, Current**

Location	Year		Change 1990-2000	Year 2010	Change 2000-2010
	1990	2000			
<b>Total Kittitas County</b>	26,725	33,362	24.83%	40,915	22.64%
Cle Elum	1,778	1,755	-1.29%	1,872	6.67%
Ellensburg	12,360	15,414	24.71%	18,174	17.91%
Kittitas	843	1,105	31.08%	1,381	24.98%
Roslyn	869	1,017	17.03%	893	-12.19%
South Cle Elum	457	457	0.00%	532	16.41%
<b>Washington State</b>	4,866,663	5,894,143	21.11%	6,724,540	14.09%
<b>United States</b>	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.15%	307,006,550	9.09%

Through 2020, the age of Kittitas County’s population is projected to remain relatively unchanged. However, between 2020 and 2030 the 45-64 year old population will decline significantly by 3%, while the 65 and older population will climb significantly by 4%.

Kittitas County is projected to grow by 19% between 2020 and 2040, more than Washington’s estimated 16% growth.

**Table 2 - Projected Population Change, Kittitas County 2010-2040**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Migration</b>
2010-15	1,677	2,114	1,509	1,072
2015-20	2,663	2,331	1,686	2,018
2020-25	2,694	2,539	1,868	2,023
2025-30	2,618	2,669	2,109	2,058
2030-35	2,465	2,790	2,358	2,033
2035-40	2,404	2,941	2,569	2,032

Like the rest of the US population, Kittitas County’s population is beginning to see growing numbers in its older population, as people born during the Baby Boom near retirement age. As this generation nears retirement, there will be a growing need for more housing for seniors and assisted or supportive living units, as well as smaller housing units. By law, this population is eligible to live in legally “age-restricted” communities.

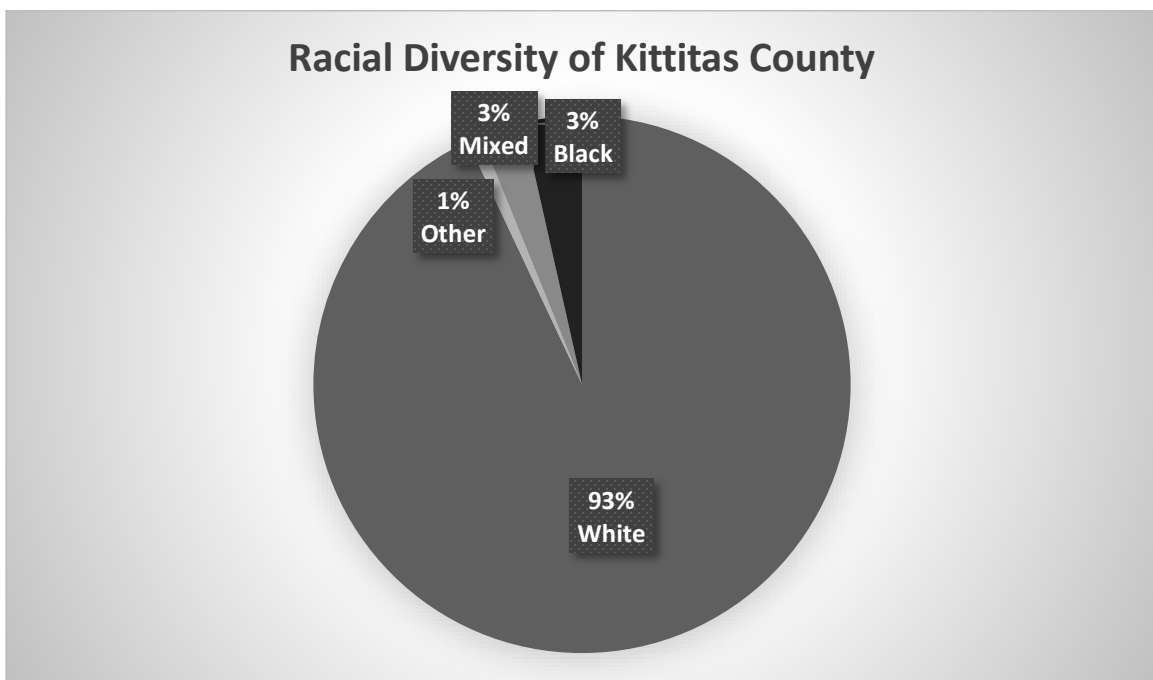
**Table 3 - Projected Age of Population, Kittitas County 2010-2040**

<b>Age</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>
Birth to 19	25%	24%	24%	24%	25%	25%	25%
20 to 44	38%	39%	38%	37%	36%	36%	36%
45 to 64	24%	23%	22%	20%	19%	19%	19%
65 and older	13%	14%	16%	18%	20%	19%	19%
Total population	40,915	42,592	45,255	47,949	50,567	53,032	55,436

## Racial Diversity

### Racial Diversity of Kittitas County

White	93.25%
Black	0.58%
Mixed Race	2.63%
Other Race	3.54%



## Veteran Rate

### Veteran Rates

	Veteran Percentage	Number of Veterans
Kittitas County	10.4%	3,429
Washington State	9.6%	601,507

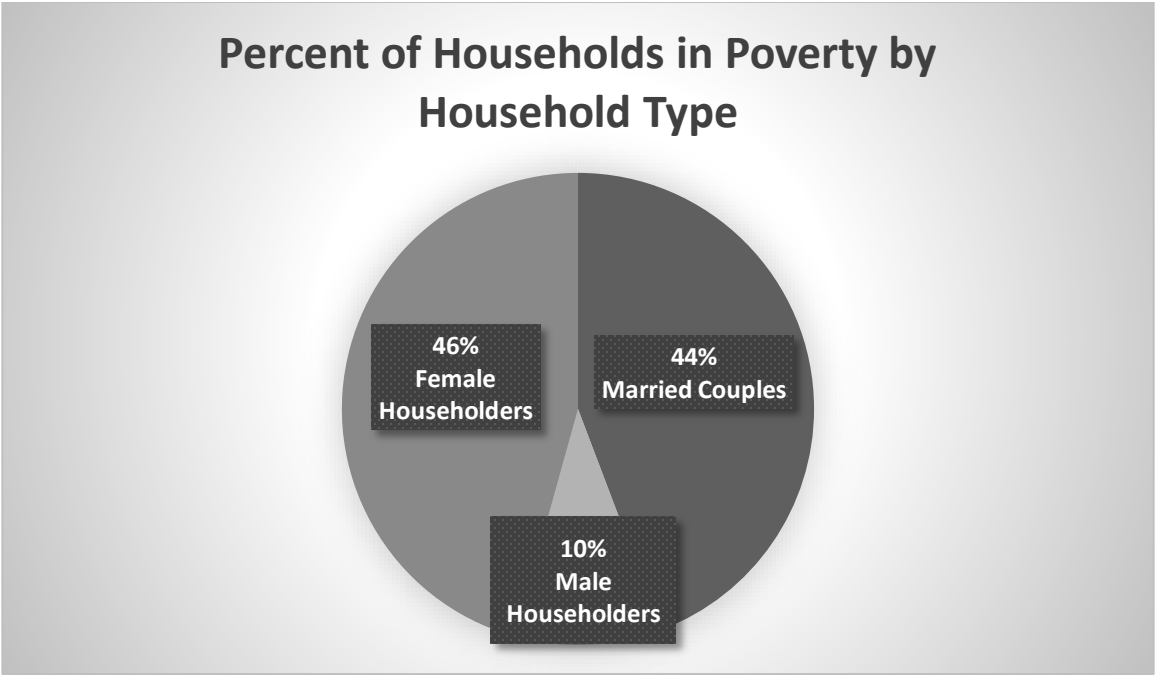
The percentage of veterans in Kittitas County is very similar to the state as a whole, with less than a 1% difference.

**Poverty Rate in Kittitas County:** 38% of the population are or below at 200% poverty.

WA Population: 13.9% of the population (931,605 people)

2000 Poverty Rate in Kittitas County: 14%

2000 Poverty Rate in WA: 9.6%





Based on the Federal Health and Human Services definitions for poverty based on family size and income, below are the segmentations:

<b>Persons in Family</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States and D.C.</b>
<b>1</b>	\$10,890
<b>2</b>	14,710
<b>3</b>	18,530
<b>4</b>	22,350
<b>5</b>	26,170
<b>6</b>	29,990
<b>7</b>	33,810
<b>8</b>	37,630
<b>For each additional person, add:</b>	3,820

### Education

In Kittitas 91% of residents obtained a high school diploma or higher level of education as compared to 89.9% for the State.

**Table 5 - Educational Attainment**

<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>Kittitas County</b>	<b>WA State</b>
Less than 9th grade	3.1%	4.1%
9-12 Grade - no Diploma	5.9%	6.0%
High School Diploma or Equivalency	27.5%	23.8%
Some College	24.2%	25.2%
Associate Degree	7.1%	9.5%
Bachelor's Degree	20.5%	20.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	11.7%	11.3%

# Survey Results & Data

**Focus Areas:**

Housing

Employment & Child Care

Education

Health & Insurance



# Housing

There is a great need for affordable housing in Kittitas County. There are only 518 units of low-income affordable housing units in Kittitas County with a total of 1,001 households below the poverty level seeking housing. They compete with college students and market rate renters for available units. Low-income households who are not able to secure the limited number of affordable housing units are then forced to seek housing in market rate units. The ability to afford these market rate units will require the household to spend more and more of their income on housing leaving less for other essential needs, or forcing them to work multiple jobs. For example, a minimum wage worker with 2 children living in the Kittitas County would have to work about 69 hours per week in order to afford a normal, two bedroom home which rents for about \$650 per month at market rate. A wage earner who is raising a family of five would have to work 123 hours per week at minimum wage in order to afford an appropriate four bedroom home.

Kittitas County has a high rate of families living in poverty, and there are limited public housing options with waiting lists of over two years. This means that many low income families end up living in substandard housing badly in need of repairs. Over 36% of the housing stock in Kittitas County was built before 1970, with 16% built before 1939 (2007-2011 US census data). Many of the older homes are inhabited by the elderly and/or low-income families who cannot afford repairs needed to make them safe and more energy efficient. In Kittitas County 77% of households making less than \$20,000 and 56% of households making less than \$35,000 spend 40-50% of their income on monthly rent when the maximum recommended portion of income to be spent on rent is 30%.

When asked in the Continuum of Care survey ‘Does Kittitas County have enough safe and affordable housing?’ these were the results:

Yes, there is enough safe and affordable housing	18.58%
Housing is safe, but not affordable	49.56%
Housing is affordable, but not safe	4.42%
No, it is neither safe nor affordable	10.62%
I don't know	16.81%

There are many reasons individuals and families find themselves in crisis and without a stable, safe place to live. When these situations occur, the resources for homeless families are limited and many have specific requirements for the type of situation they can help with.

**The top 5 primary reasons for homelessness among families are as follows:**

- Eviction
- Domestic Violence
- Under Employment/Low Income
- Loss of Job
- No Affordable Housing

**Emergency Shelters and Subsidized Housing Rental Stock Status:**

**HopeSource Emergency Shelter:** Eight units are available to homeless families and individuals while they transition to stable housing, HopeSource operates three shelter units in Ellensburg and an additional five in Cle Elum. Weekly case management is a requirement and preference is given to families. The Polaris Project in Cle Elum has 4 emergency units and 10 units of affordable housing for families and individuals transitioning from homelessness.

**ASPEN Domestic Violence Shelter:** ASPEN, or Abuse Support Prevention Education Now, provides Kittitas County's only shelter for those fleeing from domestic violence. They have a small number of units that are often full.

**Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health Shelter:** Comprehensive Mental Health has a set number of beds for those in Kittitas County who are in need of in-patient care and treatment.

**Housing Authority of Kittitas County:** Several properties in the county are owned by the HAKC, including 50 elderly/disabled housing units and 60 family housing units. The rent charged is 30% of the household's income.

**Crestview Terrace Housing:** Privately owned and operated. Rent Assistance/Move In: available for clients that are homeless but have a lease signed for a new home and income to support living in that home.

**Senior and Disabled Housing Status:**

In addition to the senior and disabled housing options offered by the Housing Authority, there are two rental apartment complexes in the city of Ellensburg that offer rent assistance depending on age and income. One is Briarwood Commons, which caters to residents age 55 and up as well as residents 40 and up who are disabled. Hearthstone Cottage offers senior housing for retired clients in the form of retired living, assisted living, and special care including memory care for dementia.

### **Home Ownership for Low Income Families Status:**

**Habitat for Humanity:** Nonprofit. Home ownership. Since 1993 Habitat has built 12 homes in the county, 9 of which are in Ellensburg. Two more houses will be built in 2013, and there are plans to build an additional three homes a year starting in 2014. Habitat has a future goal of building one house per year for every 10,000 residents from 2014 and beyond (4-5 houses per year). To be eligible for a Habitat house you need to be a resident whose income falls between 30% and 60% of the median income.

Kittitas Yakima Valley Land Trust. KYVLT strives to acquire land for first time home buyers whose income is below the area's median income. The resident will pay approximately 15%-30% less in property taxes than in a market rate home. If the original homeowner wishes to move/sell their home, it needs to be to an income qualified buyer (which the KYVLT can assist with) to help maintain affordable housing in the community.

## Housing Definitions

**Temporary Shelter.** A term used to describe tents, cardboard shakes, and other jury-rigged shelters.

**Emergency Shelter.** This may be of many types:

- A clean warm place to get out of the rain or weather. There are no mats and sometimes no blankets. Toilets provided, but no food. No storage facilities.
- A mat on the floor with blankets. Warm, clean, dry, with toilet facilities. Snacks may be provided. Meals and/or storage facilities are seldom provided.
- Bed, storage and meals.

Emergency shelters may be staffed, volunteer-run, self-managed, or mixed-model. Different types of shelter are appropriate for different people.

**Domestic Violence Shelter.** This is a place established to provide temporary food and shelter, counseling, and related services to victims of violent situations, such as rape, and domestic violence.

**Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers.** The Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher program is funded by the federal government through the HUD. With a Section 8 voucher, you can live anywhere in the service area of the provider. If you move, you can take the voucher with you and, after the first year, you can use it anywhere in the country.

**Permanent Supportive Housing.** Permanent Support Housing offers a place to live for individuals and families with special needs- including physical and mental disabilities. Supportive housing provides on-site services - such as healthcare, job training, and counseling - to help people live independently in their own apartments. Supportive housing is the favored model for housing individuals who are homeless.

**Low-Income Housing.** Low-income housing is housing that anyone who has 20 or less of the median income can pay for at no more than 30 of their monthly income. It is the type of permanent housing that most people move into out of homelessness.

**Affordable Housing.** Affordable Housing is housing that costs no more than 30 of an individual's income. Housing costs include utilities.

**Public or Subsidized Housing.** This is housing where a government or private agency pays a portion of the rent to bring the monthly cost to a level within the income of those intended to occupy the housing. Like regular market-rate housing, virtually all of the affordable housing that is developed today is privately built and owned - either by non-profit organizations or private businesses and corporations. These organizations use a combination of public subsidies and private loans to construct new homes and apartments that are affordable to very low-, low- and moderate-income families. In part because modern affordable housing contains a significant amount of public financing that comes with investor and lender oversight including affordability covenants that require its use as affordable housing for a long period of time, up to 40 years, developments are professionally managed to ensure that the new housing retains its value and remains attractive and affordable.

**Market Rate Housing.** This is full-price, unsubsidized housing.

**Community Land Trust.** The Community Land Trust (CLT) model of affordable housing was created over thirty years ago by the Institute for Community Economics in response to the rising costs of housing, limited space for new construction, growing number of abandoned buildings and an aging housing stock in eastern U.S. cities. The CLT model was born out of a search for a creative and innovative way to address the housing problem at the time. Since that time, unfortunately, the same housing problems that plagued the eastern cities have spread across the country. In response, the CLT movement has spread as well, and there are now approximately 200 communities across the U.S. that currently operate or are forming CLTs. A community land trust is a non-profit organization which acquires and holds land for the benefit of the community. It provides secure affordable access to land and housing for community residents. In particular, CLTs attempt to meet the needs of residents least served by the prevailing market. CLTs avoid speculation and absentee ownership of land and housing, promote ecologically sound land-use practices, and preserve the long-term affordability of housing in perpetuity. CLTs are designed to balance the interests of individuals and the interests of the community at large. Individuals want security, equity and a lasting legacy for the heirs. The community at large benefits from the stability brought about by owner occupied homes.



## Housing Profiles

**Housing Stock:** The current housing stock appears to be generating much slower than in previous years. Kittitas County housing stock is also similar to the state as a whole with a slightly greater concentration of homes predating 1970 and new construction beyond 2000. 2011 estimates placed Kittitas County as having 18.6% of its housing stock created since 2000 as compared with the state's 16.7%. Since 2007 there has been a sharp decline in new residence construction in both the County and the State – this appears to have plateaued in recent years.

Single family homes are the predominant housing type with 66.7% being 1-unit detached. Of housing units that are owner-occupied, Kittitas County has a rate of 56.5%; significantly lower than the state's 63.4%.

**Housing Affordability:** Homeowners in Kittitas County fair slightly better than those in the state in both affordability and housing costs. However, a minimum wage worker must work 69 hours a week to afford a 2 bedroom home or else earn \$15.92 an hour. A wage earner in a family of five, which is our largest growing population, would need to work 123 hours a week at minimum wage or earn \$28.21 an hour to afford a 4 bedroom home. Homeownership in Kittitas County has continued to be slightly more affordable than in the state as a whole.

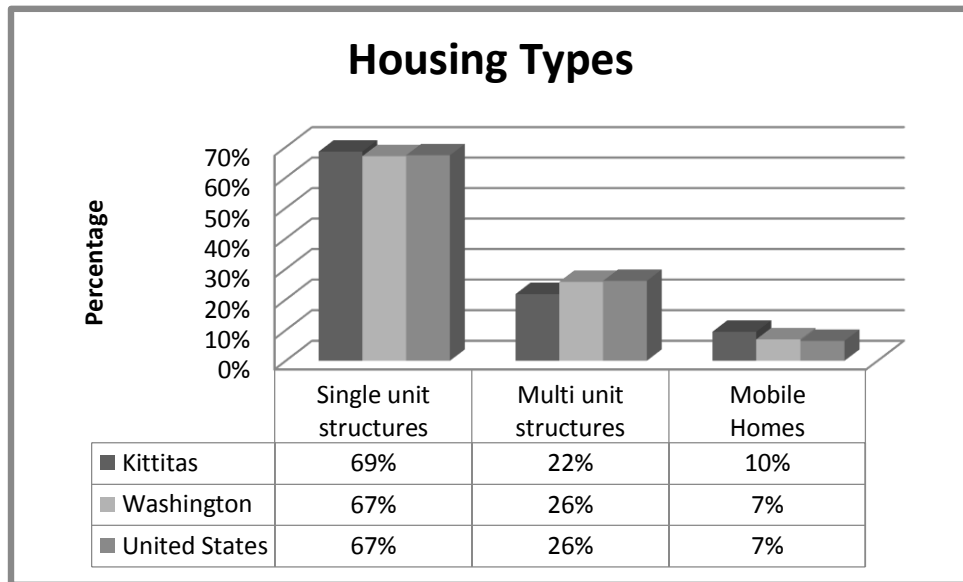
**Rental Housing:** In Kittitas County, 69% of renters spent 30% or more of household income on housing. The vacancy rate in Kittitas County in the Spring of 2012 was 5.9% - nearly 75% higher than the state. The vacancy rate appears to be highly unstable in Kittitas County. Smaller units have an even lower vacancy rate at 2% making locating affordable housing one of the main barriers to attaining it.

**Homeownership:** In 2012, Kittitas County home sales were up 18.3% as compared to 3.4% for the state. The median home price is \$198,200, a 9.5% increase 2011. Home prices for 3 bedroom units have decreased as smaller and larger homes have shown an increase in median price.

**Special populations:** Rental housing vacancy rates are extremely unstable and generally low making it difficult for persons with limited income, poor credit history, large families, disabilities requiring accommodation, no citizen documentation and or unverified income sources to compete for limited standard rental housing meeting the needs of prospective renters.

These characteristics are more frequent among minorities, large families and disabled persons. Disadvantaged populations often do not have the necessary English language skills, financial literacy, and/or credit management skills to obtain and maintain affordable housing.

In 2011, Kittitas County as a total of 21,972 housing units, 24.2% of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, there were significantly more Mobile Homes in Kittitas County than in the state.



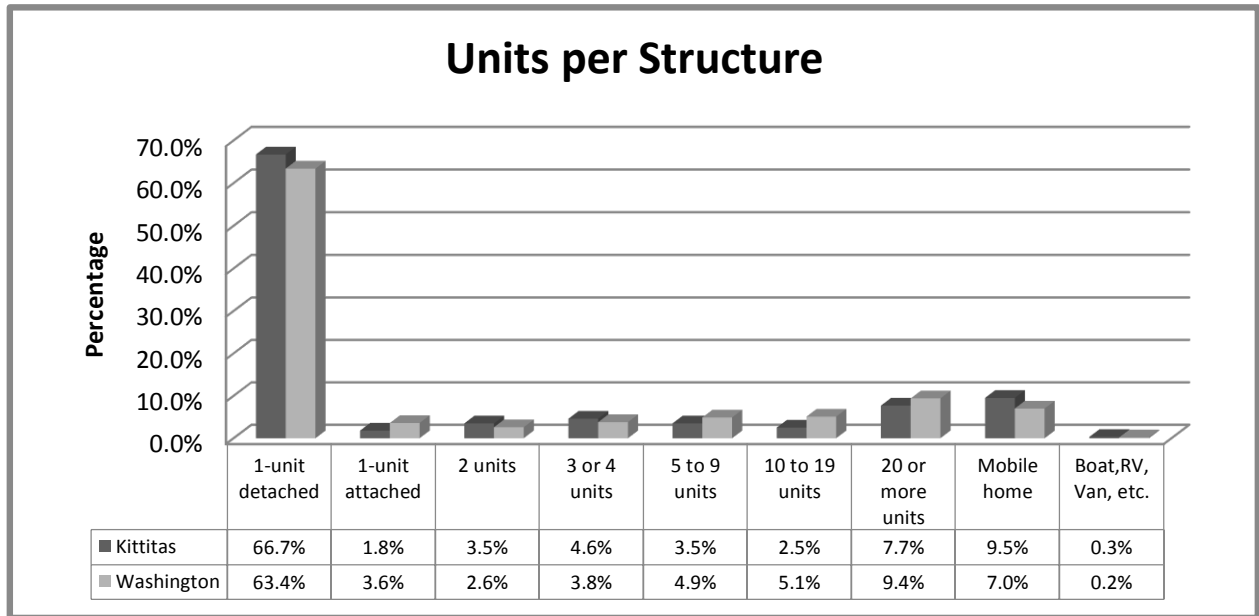
**Figure 2 - Housing Types**

During and after 2004, the housing market in Kittitas County went through a period of considerable activity in single-family production. All other forms of housing were unused, excepting four two-unit multi family structures built in 2010.

**Table 12 - Building Permits, Kittitas County 2004-2012**

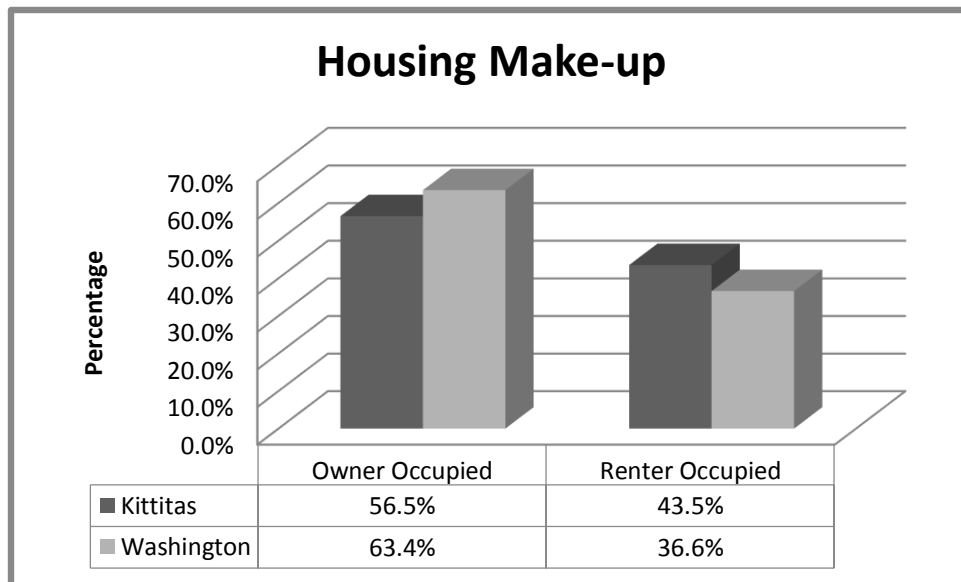
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Units	29	34	9	15	9	12	12	4	0
Units in Single-Family Structures	29	34	9	15	9	12	8	4	0
Units in All Multi-Family Structures	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Units in 2-unit Multi-Family Structures	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Units in 3- and 4-unit Multi-Family Structures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Units in 5+ unit Multi-Family Structures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The following Figure shows the unit breakout for all structure types. Kittitas County has slightly more single unit structures than the state percentages and a higher rate of residents who live in mobile homes.



**Figure 3 - Units per Structure**

In 2011, Kittitas County had less owner occupied units than the state average with 56.5% owner occupied and 43.5% or ~7,250 rental units.



**Figure 4 - Housing Make-up**

Kittitas County was similar to the state with an equal percentage of residents not having telephone service. The county does have a higher rate of vehicular access than the state.

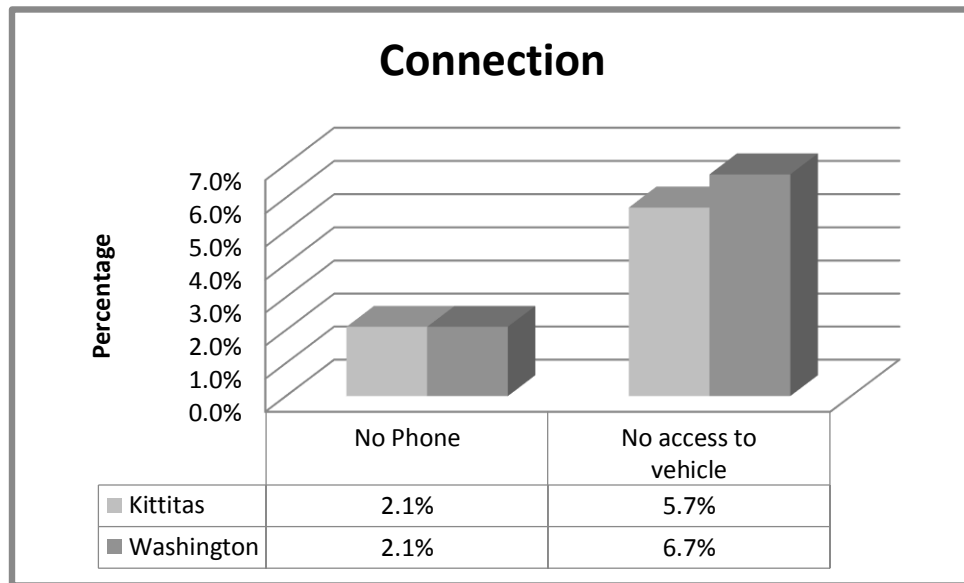


Figure 5 - Connection

A major factor in determining housing condition is the age of the housing stock. The 2000 Decennial Census found the Kittitas County housing stock to be similar to the state (though more houses exist that are older than 70 years). Approximately 48% of housing units in the County area were built before 1970, compared with 42% in the state as a whole. Nearly one-fifth (19%) of housing was built before 1939.

Table 13 - Age of Housing, 2000

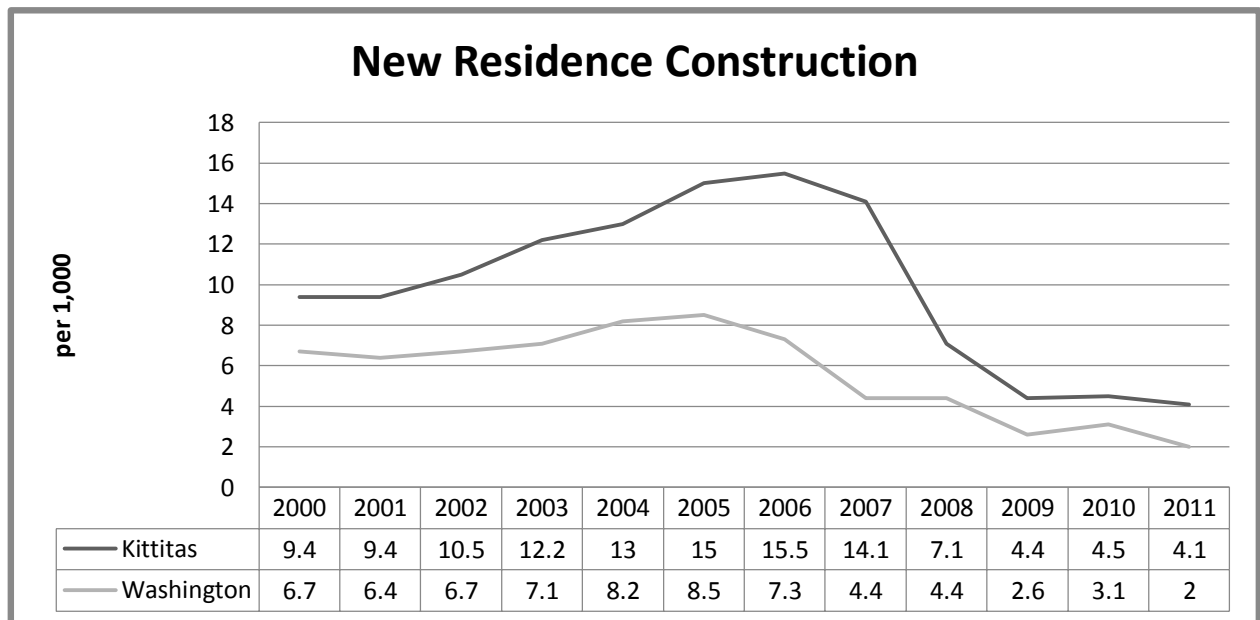
Location	Years Built							
	1999 to March 2000	1995 to 1998	1990 to 1994	1980 to 1989	1970 to 1979	1960 to 1969	1940 to 1959	1939 or earlier
Kittitas County	3%	12%	9%	11%	18%	13%	16%	19%
Washington	2%	9%	10%	16%	20%	12%	17%	13%
United States	2%	7%	7%	16%	19%	14%	20%	15%

In 2011, almost 19% of housing within Kittitas County will have been built after 2000, compared with the states near 17%, suggesting a recovery from the aging houses that were predominant in the 2000 Census.

**Table 14 - Age of Housing, 2009-2011**

Location	Total Housing Units	Built 2000 or Later	%	Built 1980-1999	%	Built 1960-1979	%	Built 1940-1959	%	Built 1939 or Earlier	%
Kittitas County	21,972	4,086	18.6%	6,628	30.2%	5,711	26.0%	2,121	9.6%	3,426	15.6%
Washington	2,890,127	483,249	16.7%	908,624	31.5%	791,899	27.4%	385,923	13.3%	320,432	11.1%

Since 2005 there has been a decline in new residence construction with a sharp decline in 2006, 2008, and 2010 in both the state and the county.



**Figure 6 - New Residence Construction**

## Housing Affordability

In Kittitas County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom home is \$828. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,760 monthly or \$33,120 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$15.92.

In Kittitas County, during the time this report was pulled, a minimum wage worker earned an hourly wage of \$9.19. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom home, a minimum wage earner must work 69 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 1.7 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.

In Kittitas County, the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$6.66 an hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom home at this wage, a renter must work 96 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 2.4 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$710 in Kittitas County. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$213 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom is \$612.

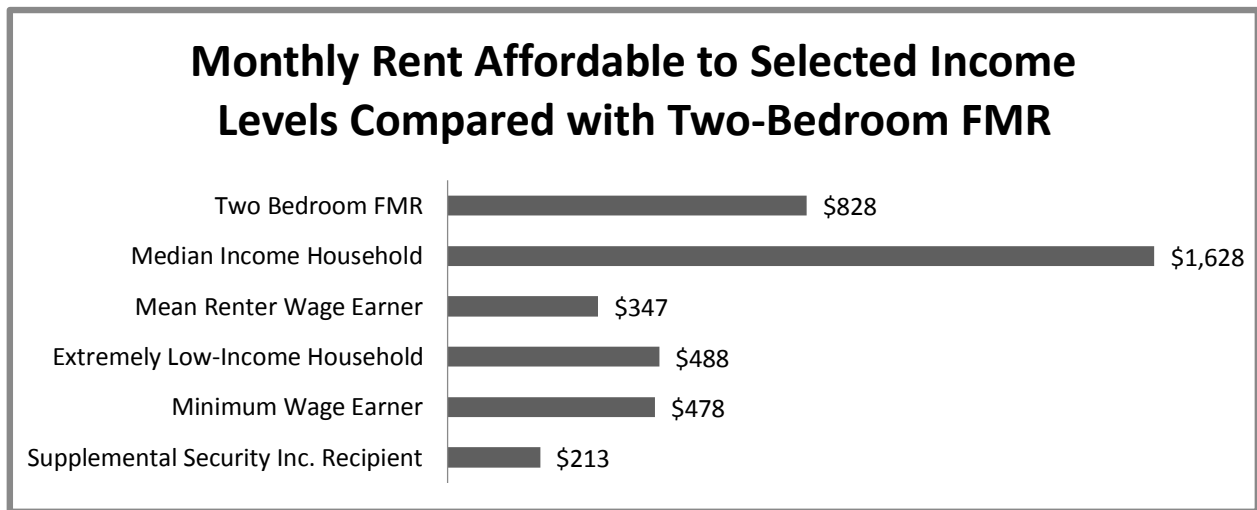


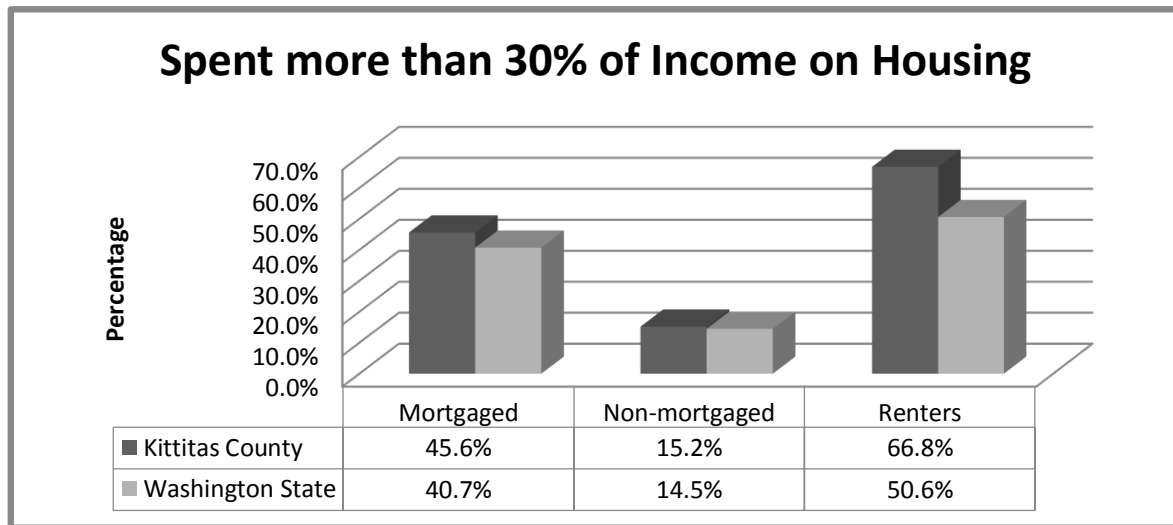
Figure 7 - Affordability Gap

Population trends indicate that larger families are on the increase, yet the following data indicate that a four bedroom is over twice as much as a one bedroom home requiring either multiple wage earners at minimum wage or a wage of almost \$29 dollars an hour to be able to afford housing. The following table shows the data for all bedroom configurations:

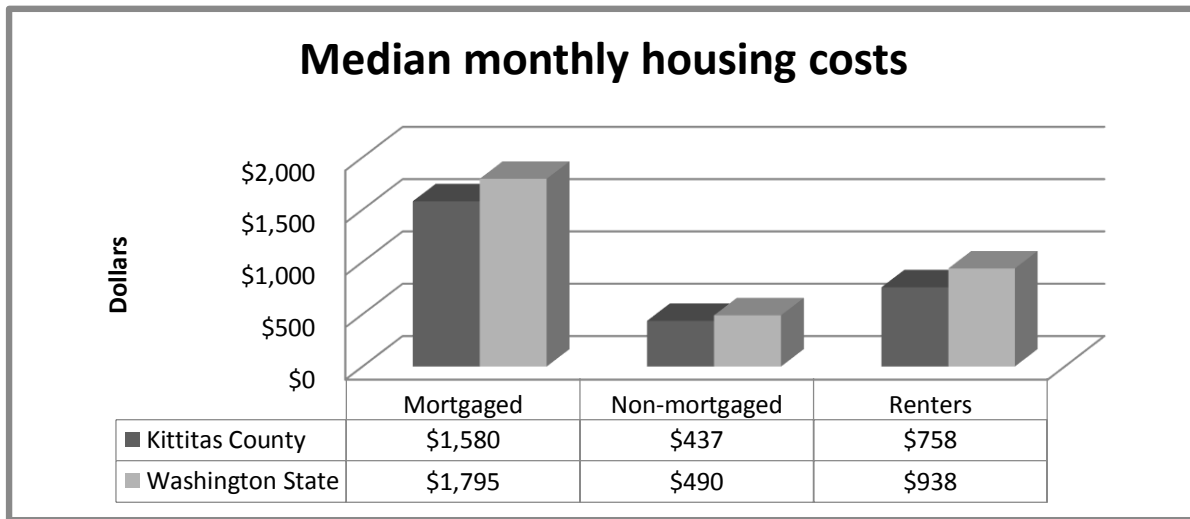
**Table 15 - Renter Housing Costs and Income, Kittitas County 2013**

Housing/Income Factor	Number of Bedrooms				
	Zero	One	Two	Three	Four
Fair Market Rent (FMR)	\$554	\$612	\$828	\$1,220	\$1,467
Income Needed to Afford	\$10.65	\$11.77	\$15.92	\$23.46	\$28.21
Hourly Wage needed to afford (working 40hrs/week)	\$10.65	\$11.77	\$15.92	\$23.46	\$28.21
Hours per week at minimum wage	46	51	69	102	123

In Kittitas County, 66.8% of renters spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing, which was significantly higher than the state.



Despite the fact that significantly more renters spend more than 30% of their income towards housing costs, those costs are significantly lower than those for the state as a whole. Conversely, homeowners in Kittitas County fair significantly better than those in the state in costs.



**Figure 9 - Median Monthly Housing Costs**

The Affordable Housing Index (HAI) measures the ability of a middle-income family to carry the mortgage payments on a median price home. When the index is 100 there is a balance between the family’s ability to pay and the cost. Higher indexes indicate housing is more affordable.

In the first quarter of 2013, HAI was 170.1 in Kittitas County. By contrast, statewide the HAI was 177.2, suggesting that the Kittitas County are is currently less affordable than the state as a whole. However, the lower-income population in the Kittitas County is still finding it difficult to afford housing. For example, the HAI for first-time homeowners was much lower, at 84.5.

The following figure shows the relationship between income ranges and the affordable housing costs in the county.

**Table 16 - Low-Income Ranged and Affordable Housing Costs, Kittitas County 2013**

Definition	Percent of AMI	Income Limit	Maximum Monthly Housing Costs
Extremely low income	to 30% of AMI	\$19,530	\$488
Very low income	to 50% of AMI	\$32,050	\$814
Moderate income	to 80% of AMI	\$52,080	\$1,302

Notes: Estimated AMI (Area Median Income) for Kittitas County was \$65,100 in 2013.



The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC Program), which is based on Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, was enacted by Congress in 1986 to provide the private market with an incentive to invest in affordable rental housing. Federal housing tax credits are awarded to developers of qualified projects. Developers then sell these credits to investors to raise capital (or equity) for their projects, which reduced the debt that the developer would otherwise have to borrow. Because the debt is lower, a tax credit property can in turn offer lower, more affordable rents.

Provided the property maintains compliance with the program requirements, investors receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against their Federal tax liability each year over a period of 10 years. The amount of the annual credit is based on the amount invested in the affordable housing. In Kittitas County, there is an estimated 518 units of housing. In Yakima County, there is an estimated 1,460 units of housing.

**Table 17 - Low Income Housing Tax Credit units in Kittitas County**

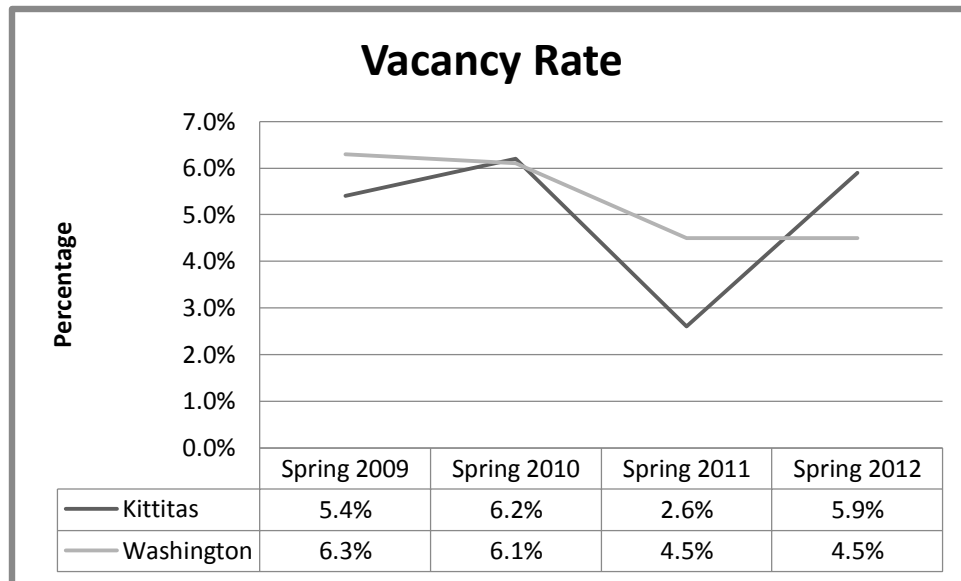
City	Number of units
<b>Kittitas County</b>	<b>518</b>
Ellensburg	453
Cle Elum	45
<b>Yakima County</b>	<b>1460</b>
Yakima	678
Sunnyside	309
Wapato	177
Grandview	134
Toppenish	68
Granger	25
Mabton	25
Selah	24

## Market Rental

In Kittitas County, between 2000 and 2011, 36 new apartment units were constructed bringing the county to a total 2,522 apartment units.

Per the Washington Center for Real Estate Research, Kittitas County has the smallest Average apartment sizes in the state at 695 Square Feet.

Apartment markets nationwide registered record vacancies in the quarter of 2004. For the next two years national apartment rental markets improved consistently, but increased multifamily construction thereafter resulted in a modest increase in rental vacancies. As of the first quarter of 2012, the statewide vacancy rate was recorded at 4.5 percent reflecting a strong decrease from Spring 2009 which registered at 6.3%. The rates for Kittitas County inconsistent with the state, generally remaining under – but recently this rate has reversed and is now significantly higher than the states vacancy rate.



**Figure 10 - Vacancy Rate Trend**

In Kittitas County, the smaller units show a much lower vacancy rate (2.0%) than the state average. The following table shows the various vacancy rates based on apartment unit size:

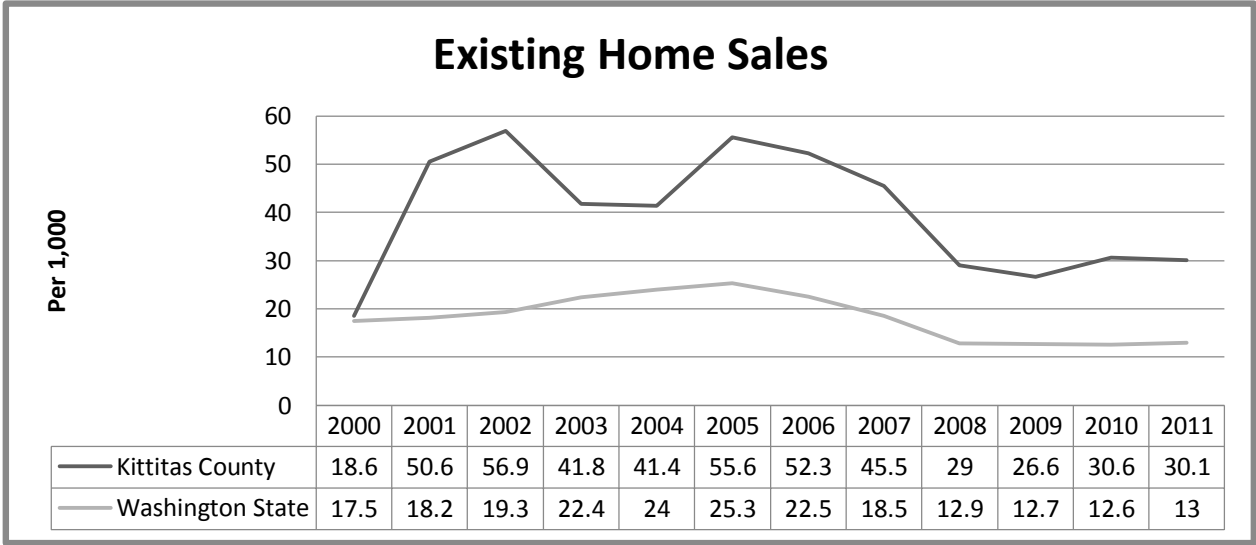
**Table 18 - Vacancy Rate by unit size**

Unit Type	Average Size (Sq. Feet)		Average Rent		Vacancy Rate	
	Kittitas	State	Kittitas	State	Kittitas	State
One Bedroom	502	678	\$552	\$867	2.0%	4.0%
Two Bedroom	686	867	\$753	\$879	4.1%	4.8%

**Homeownership**

In Kittitas County, in the third quarter of 2012, home sales were up 18.3% as compared to the state which was up only 3.4%. During the same time period the median home price was \$198,200 – a 9.5% increase from the year previous. This is better than the state that showed a 7.9% increase in the median home price during the same time period.

Home sales have shown a significant decrease since its peak in 2005 – from 55.6 per 1,000 residents to 30.1 per 1,000.



**Figure 11 – Existing Home Sales**

As of the third quarter of 2012, the current homes that were listed fell into the following categories:

**Table 19 – Home Prices in Categories**

At or below \$80,000	At or below \$160,000	At or below \$250,000	At or below \$500,000
2.0%	17.3%	46.9%	80.4%
3.8%	21.7%	48.3%	83.6%

Median home prices in Kittitas County have risen 11.3% from \$192,000 in the Fourth Quarter of 2011 to \$213,700 in 2012. Home prices for 3 bedroom units have increased at a lower rate as smaller and larger homes have increased much more quickly as shown in the following table:

**Table 20 - Percentage Change in Home Prices**

	<b>2 bedroom</b>	<b>3 bedroom</b>	<b>4 or more bedroom</b>
Kittitas County	12.0%	6.6%	31.1%
Washington State	8.1%	8.0%	7.0%

## Special Needs Housing

The Needs Assessment identifies gaps between the housing needs of specific Kittitas County populations and the existing special needs and affordable housing inventory available for each of those populations. The goal is to understand the housing circumstances of local populations and target limited housing resources to groups that face the greatest housing shortage. While a person may belong to a special needs group, that person may not need affordable housing. As a result the assessment inflates housing needs for all groups except people experiencing homelessness.

This assessment also reflects a certain amount of inevitable duplication for both population and unit counts. For example, a frail elderly person will also appear in the count of elderly persons. Similarly, a unit designated as frail elderly will also appear in the count of units designated as serving an elderly population. In addition, a person can fall into multiple special needs housing groups, and a person with a special need can live in housing without services designed for their need group. As a result, summing all of these populations will generate an inflated number due to these duplications.

## Housing for the Elderly

For the purposes of this Assessment, an elderly household is defined as a person 65 years of age or older living alone, or a group of more than one person who shares a common dwelling, and as at least one person in residence 65 years of age or older.

Because of the large number of low- and moderate-income seniors with fixed incomes, there are various public subsidy programs designated specifically for the construction of new apartments for the elderly. With a growing population of people age 65 and older, there is an increasing need for the development of new senior housing.

The demographics of the elderly population have changed significantly in the United States as a whole, as well as in Kittitas County. Nationally, since the beginning of the century the number of persons 65 years and older has increased 5% faster than the general populace. The percentage of Kittitas County populations that were elderly in 2010 is provided below.

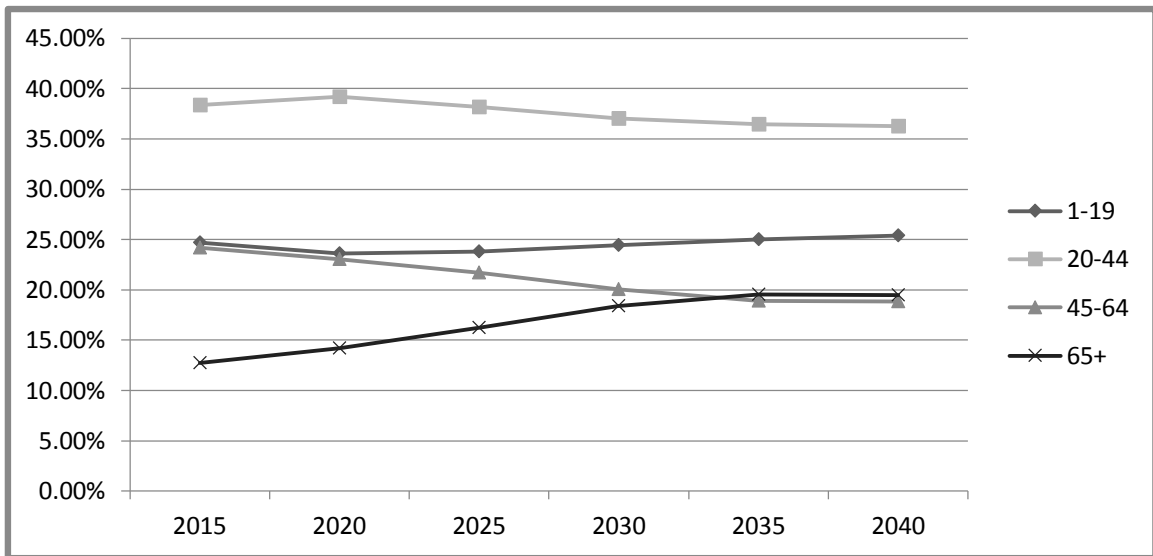
**Table 21 – Kittitas County Elderly Populations 2010**

Location	Total Population	Total Elderly Population 65+	% of Elderly in General Population
<b>Total Kittitas County</b>	<b>40,915</b>	<b>5,212</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
Cle Elum CCD	6,339	1,107	17.5%
Ellensburg CCD	20,724	1,929	9.3%
Kittitas CCD	4,255	601	14.1%
Manastash Ridge CCD	5,238	978	18.7%
Northeast Kittitas CCD	4,359	597	13.7%
Washington State	6,724,540	827,677	12.3%
United States	308,745,538	40,267,984	13.0%

The post-war "Baby Boomers" are just now becoming today's seniors. Since today's Boomers are considered to be the core community of middle-class consumers, taxpayers, and key workers, their aging into the normal retirement years may initiate significant sociological as well as financial transitions in the communities. Most "Baby Boomers" will have lower incomes in retirement than they had while in the workforce, less comprehensive (if any) medical insurance, and will have increasing health conditions typical of elderly persons.

The first group of aging boomers has entered the early mid-60's in 2010. In 2012 Kittitas County as a whole had an estimated 9,527 individuals aged 45 to 64 – nearly one-quarter of the entire population.

The following figure shows a steady increase in population over 65 in relation to other age groups from 2015 to 2041, where independent and assisted-living residential units, medical or nursing care-based units, and in-home services will all be in increasing demand. Today's local facilities and resources are insufficient to address this significant increase in need. This data suggests the vast majority of elderly still remain in their own homes or in independent retirement apartments.



**Figure 12 - Forecast of Population as Percentage of Total Population, Kittitas County 2015-2040**



## Employment & Child Care



The state of the economy remains a critical issue facing our nation and our county. The recession of the past decade left more and more families facing economic hardship, escalating unemployment rates, increasing housing foreclosure, and record Food Stamp Program participation. Most working people have not seen even minimal gains in wages and benefits.

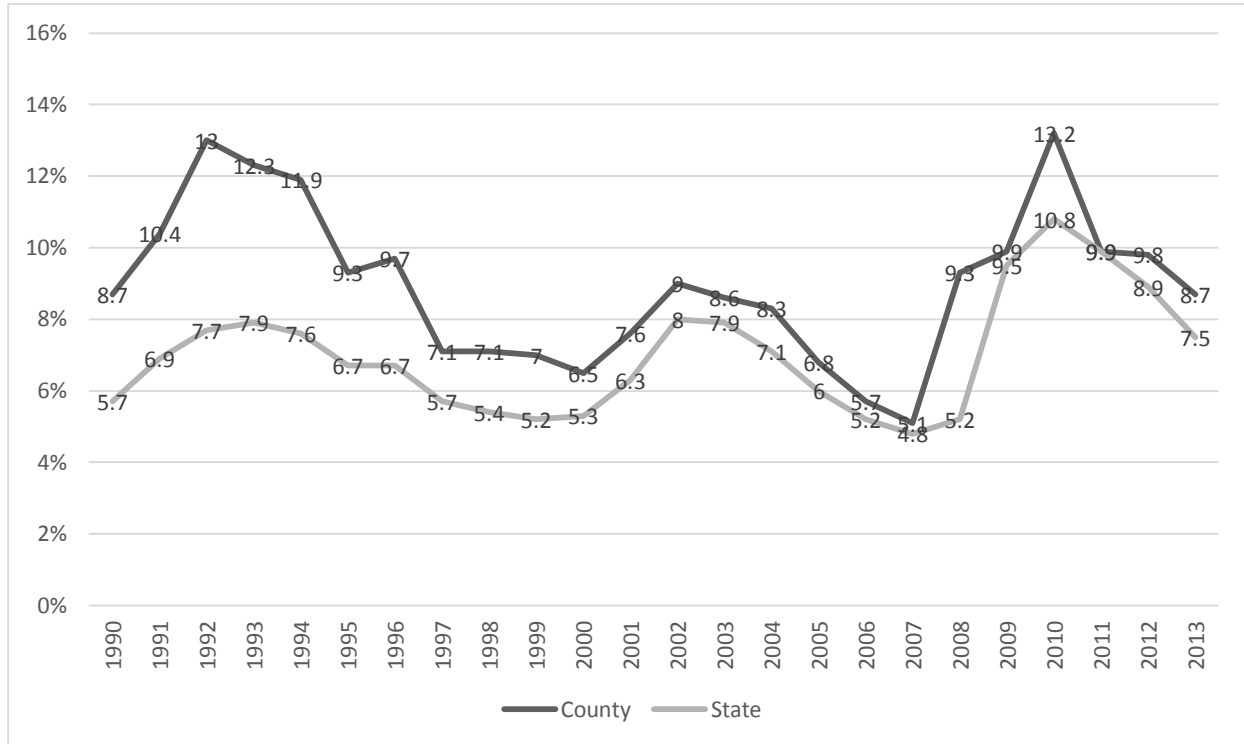
Employment is perhaps the critical factor to alleviating poverty and moving families into permanent stability. Factors that impact employment for families includes; education and/or job skill, availability of good jobs, and diminishing funding for programs which help individuals and families escape crisis. The trends which have contributed to challenges facing families include changes in family structure such as more women in the workplace and increased grandparents as caregivers, growing diversity in families, increased need for early child care, need for parenting education, need for health care and lack of education. Single parents often carry the added burden of being a sole support for the family. Single mothers, especially teen mothers, are less likely to have substantial education to secure stable employment with self-sufficient wage and benefits.

A great deal of research has been conducted which connects family background with opportunity or lack thereof. For many years the American dream was built on the promise of economic opportunity. Economic growth was thought to be an indicator that the next generation would be economically better off; however, the economy represents one factor.

Increasing family income is not always enough to move families out of poverty and into a financially stable place. While increasing income is critical, it is also important for families to have access to the tools needed to build savings, acquire financial assets and acquire other assets such as literacy, skills desired by employers, reliable transportation, and a positive credit history.

# Employment

While the unemployment rate is reported to be hovering at 7.5% in most of the State it has not improved significantly in Kittitas County. The reports on unemployment levels do not count long term unemployed individuals who no longer receive benefits but who still are not employed or are underemployed.



**Figure 1 - Unemployment Rate 1990-2013**

**Table 6 - Biennial Unemployment Rate 1991-2013**

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
<b>Kittitas County</b>	10.4	12.3	9.3	7.1	7.0	7.6	8.6	6.8	5.1	9.9	9.9	8.7
<b>Washington</b>	6.9	7.9	6.7	5.7	5.2	6.3	7.9	6.0	4.8	9.5	9.9	7.5

Between 2000 and 2010, Kittitas County’s median household income rose 17.6%, compared to 19.2% in the U.S. and 23.9% in the state. However, during the 2010 and 2011 median household income increased in Kittitas County at a higher rate than in the state.

**Table 7 - Income 2008 and 2009 Comparison**

Income Measure	Kittitas County			Washington		
	2010	2011	Change	2010	2011	Change
Median household income	\$40,376	\$41,823	3.58%	\$55,584	\$56,811	2.21%
Per capita income	\$32,010	\$33,031	3.19%	\$42,024	\$43,878	4.41%
Median family income	n/a	\$61,470	n/a	n/a	\$68,628	n/a

In Kittitas County, 13% of families have an income that is below the federal poverty level – almost 50% more than that of the state in 2011. Almost all of single women with children under 5 years old are living in poverty in Kittitas County. One out of four children of all families are living in poverty in Kittitas County – about 65% more than that of the state.

**Table 8 - Percentage of people who's Income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level**

Population Type	Kittitas County	Washington
<b>All families</b>	13.0%	8.9%
with children < 18 years	23.8%	14.4%
with children < 5 years	45.3%	15.8%
<b>Married couple families</b>	6.4%	4.5%
with children < 18 years	12.2%	6.9%
with children < 5 years	19.4%	6.3%
<b>Families with female householder, no husband present</b>	58.8%	27.9%
with children < 18 years	68.0%	35.8%
with children < 5 years	96.6%	46.8%
<b>All people</b>	24.4%	13.3%

School systems, medical facilities, and local government are among the top employers in the county. In addition, the area depends on agriculture and the service industry for much of its employment.

**Table 9 - Major Employers, Kittitas County 2010**

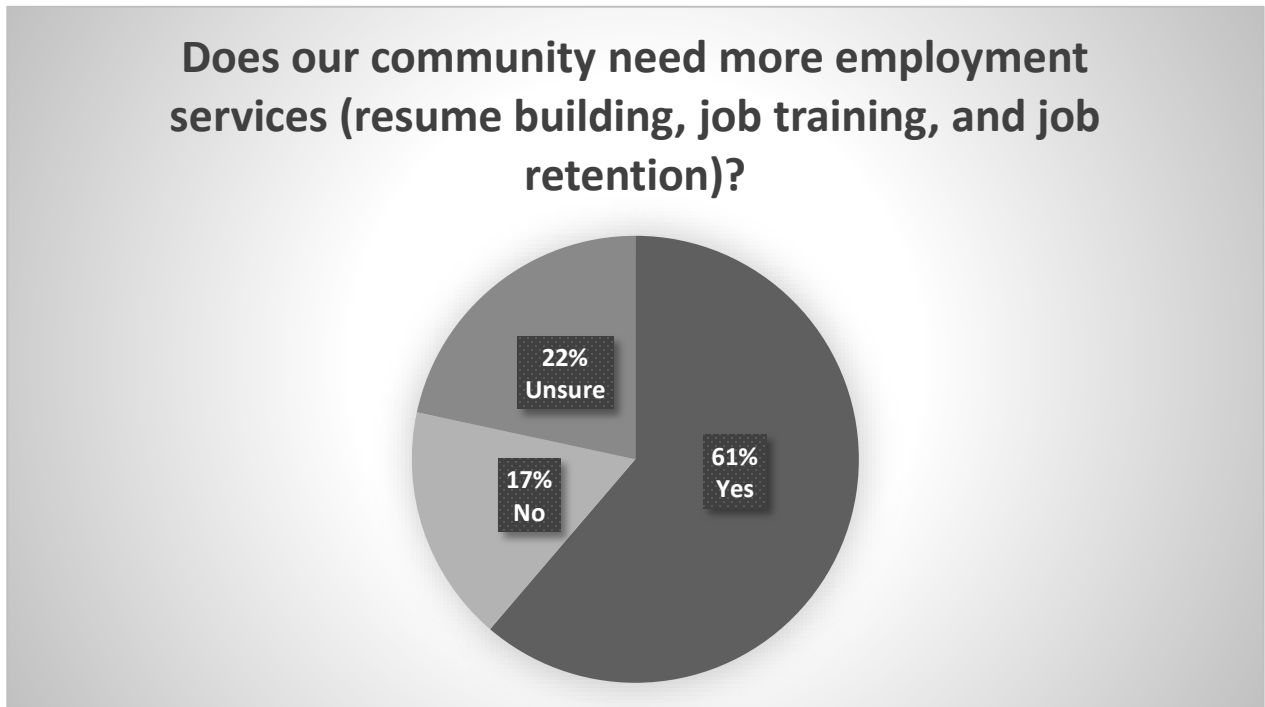
<b>Largest Government Employers</b>		<b>Largest Private Employers</b>	
Central Washington University	1438	Anderson Hay & Grain, Ellensburg	240
Kittitas Valley Community Hospital	470	Elmview, Ellensburg	200
Ellensburg School District	380	Fred Meyer, Ellensburg	198
Kittitas County	363	Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum	152
City of Ellensburg	150	Auvil Fruit, Vantage	150
Cle Elum/Roslyn School District	125	Safeway (Ellensburg/Cle Elum)	130
WA Department of Transportation	104	Twin City Foods, Ellensburg	125
Kittitas School District	80	Super 1 Foods, Ellensburg	100
U. S. Postal Service/Kittitas County	61	Kittitas Valley Health and Rehab	100
WA Department of Natural Resources	56	Shoemaker Manufacturing, Cle Elum	85
U.S Forest Service	50	Royal Vista Care Center	67

Respondents indicated a high need for not only jobs but resources to help them prepare for and seek out jobs and an option to secure jobs. Many available jobs do not pay a living wage in small business startups, and respondents expressed a strong desire for help from their community in getting started in their own small businesses.

It was not just adults who were concerned about their own ability to find employment to support themselves and their families; the respondents expressed a high level of concern for the youth of the community and their lack of job skills.

**Does our community need more employment services (resume building, job training, and job retention)?**

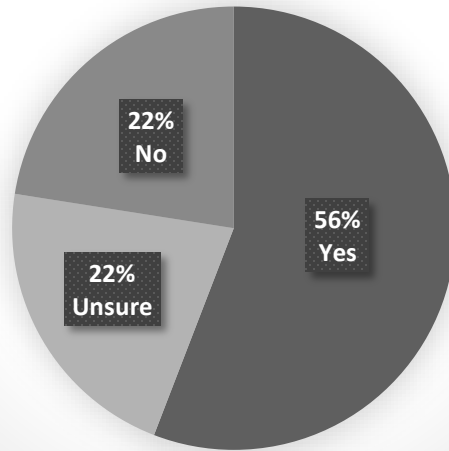
Yes	61.26%
No	17.12%
I don't know	21.62%



**Do we need programs in our community that help people start their own businesses?**

Yes	55.86%
No	21.62%
I don't know	22.52%

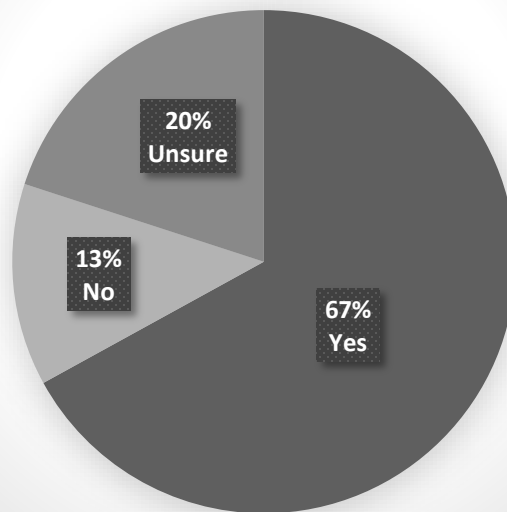
**Do we need programs in our community that help people start their own businesses?**



**Is there a need for programs focusing on creating job skills for youth?**

Yes	66.67%
No	12.61%
I don't know	20.72%

**Is there a need for programs focusing on creating job skills for youth?**



# Child Care



There is significant trend in the labor force of the high proportion of mothers who are the sole or primary financial supporters of their children. Half of all preschoolers spend at least part of each day in the care of adults other than their parents. Many respondents indicated that finding affordable quality child care is a problem. Good care with persons other than relatives is not only difficult to find but too expensive to be useful to the working parents. This lack of childcare is a serious obstacle to obtaining and holding a job for low-income mothers or to obtaining the training or education they need to enter the workforce.

When respondents reported having a problem finding reliable child care, they indicated it really meant finding quality care at a price they were able to pay. On average child care comprised more than 30% of their weekly family income. Compounded with the affordable housing dilemma that eats up 40-50% of the weekly income there is just not enough margin left for families to adequately pay attention to school needs, nutrition needs and medical needs. Childcare has become a real issue in moving families toward employment and self-sufficiency.

Quality early child care is a critical element for improving the quality of life for children, youth, and families. Early child care programs are known to improve children's cognitive development and their behavior as well as parenting skills. Preschool education has been found to be just as critical. Furthermore, high quality early childhood experiences provide a valuable link to reducing future generations of poverty. Most low-income families work and many are one parent families surviving on one income. The cost and availability of childcare is equally as critical. For many families two full-time salaries are needed to support children adequately, which can only be achieved through child care or other work supports. It is also notable to mention that budget cuts have deferred many of these services available to low-income families with young children. Compared to their more affluent peers, children growing up in poverty have less access to high-quality early learning opportunities. Due to limited resources, poor and low-income families must often make child care choices for their children based on affordability and/or convenience rather than quality, which places their children at greater risk for not entering school ready to succeed.

In the surveys while just over half of respondents reported they could access childcare, half reported that it was either not affordable, not accessible or the programs were full. Only 38% reported being able to place their child in a child care of their choice.

Given those data points, as might be expected, respondents indicated a desire for 6 hour Pre-K options for their children.

**Do you have access to education for your pre-K child (age 0-5)?**

Yes	58.82%
No, it's not affordable	17.65%
No, transportation is an issue	11.76%
No, the program is full	23.53%
Child is homeschooled	5.88%
Child is under age three and I want to wait until pre-school to begin formal education	2.94%
Other	5.88%

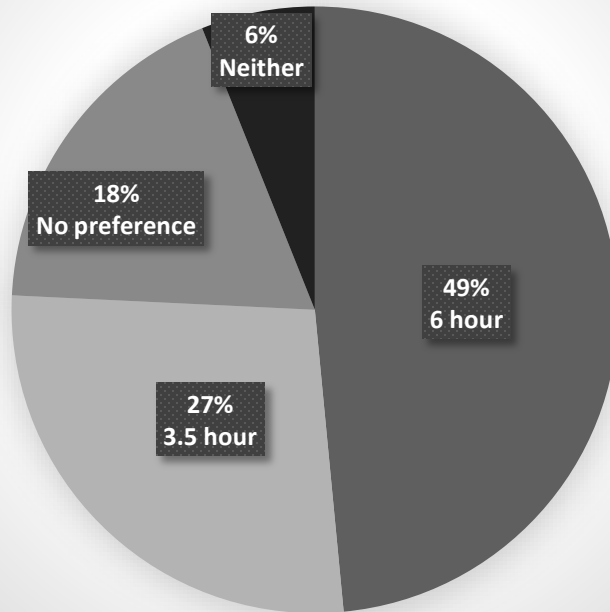
**Are you able to send your child to the child care provider of your choice?**

Yes	38.24%
No, it's not affordable	29.41%
No, transportation is an issue	8.82%
No, the program is full	17.65%
No, the program is closed when I need child care (evenings, weekend, etc.)	5.88%
I do not need child care	17.65%
Other	2.94%

**If given the choice, would you prefer to enroll your child in a full-day (6 hour) or part-day (3.5 hour) preschool program?**

6 hour	48.48%
3.5 hour	27.27%
No preference	18.18%
I would not enroll my child in a pre-school program.	6.06%

**If given the choice, would you prefer to enroll your child in a full-day (6 hour) or part-day (3.5 hour) preschool program?**



### **Childcare and Parenting Support Resources**

Bright Beginnings for Kittitas County is a nonprofit organization for pregnant women and women with children aged 0-6 years old, focused on early learning and school readiness. Programs are offered for low income families or for families with a disabled/special needs child.

Kittitas County Community Network provides a Love and Logic Parenting Class. Twice a year a 7 session program is offered adjacent to the library to parents to strengthen their practical parenting skills.

Currently the county is lacking free parenting classes. Many individuals have expressed interest in wanting to expand their knowledge and competence in their family life but lack a way to do so, especially when they are low income.



# Education

Children from poor and low income backgrounds fare worse than their more economically secure counterparts on educational outcomes. Low income students are less likely to meet standards on every WASL subject and less likely to graduate from high school and attend college than higher income students. Educational achievement is one of the best predictors of future economic and social well-being. When children do not have the opportunity to excel academically, they are more likely to experience negative social and economic outcomes as adults. Low-income students are less likely to graduate from high school on-time. For the 2005-2006 academic year, 58% of low-income students graduated from high school on time compared to 70% of all students.

Young adults who have completed higher levels of education are more likely than those who have not to achieve economic success. Although many jobs have minimum educational requirements, completing more years of education protects against unemployment. Higher levels of educational attainment lead to higher wages and income. Adults with higher levels of education also report being in better health and having higher levels of socio-emotional well-being. They are also less likely to divorce.

Higher levels of parent educational attainment are strongly associated with positive outcomes for children in many areas including school and educational achievement, health and health-related behaviors including smoking and binge drinking, and pro-social activities such as volunteering. Children of more educated parents are also likely to have access to greater material, human, and social resources.

The graduation rate for Kittitas County in 2013 was 78.75%. The rates per city in Kittitas County varied slightly, with the high graduation rate of 84% from the city of Kittitas and the low graduation rate of 75% from the city of Ellensburg.

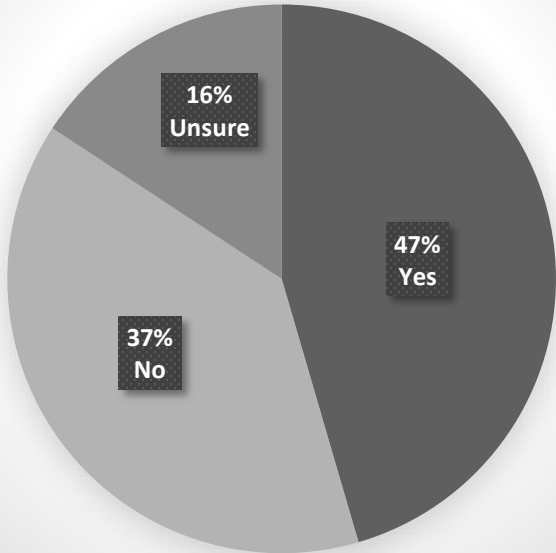
**2013 Graduation Rates**

Cle Elum/ Roslyn	Ellensburg	Kittitas	Easton
83%	73%	84%	75%

**Are there enough education opportunities in our community for adults?**

Yes	46.85%
No	36.94%
I don't know	16.22%

**Are there enough education opportunities in our community for adults?**





## Health Care & Insurance

Just over two-thirds of parents in low-income households report that their children are in very good health compared to over 90 percent of parents with higher incomes who reported their children were in very good health. Compared to more affluent children, children from low-income backgrounds are more likely to experience major illnesses, such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity. In addition, low-income families are more likely to report that their child has a moderate or severe health condition.

Access to healthcare is important because families without health care may delay getting much needed care and also neglect to get preventative care both of which can lead to serious health and medical problems. This is even more critical for young children.

Children from low income backgrounds are the least likely to have health insurance and experience more negative outcomes for the majority of childhood diseases and conditions than children from economically secure families.

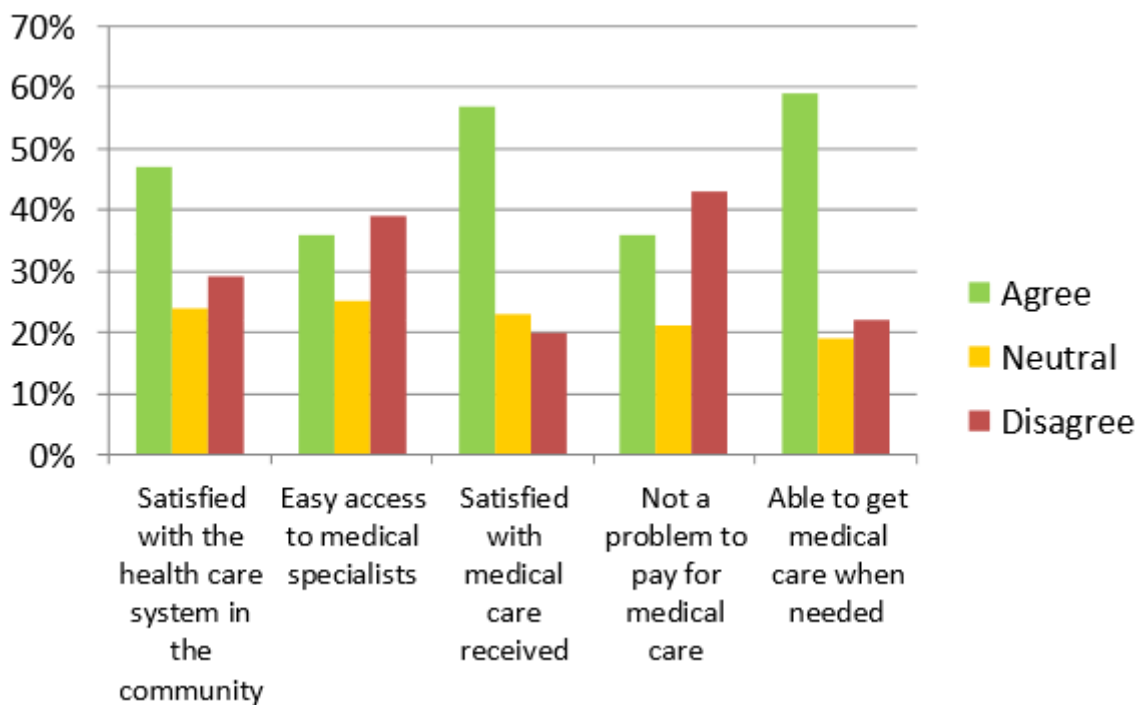
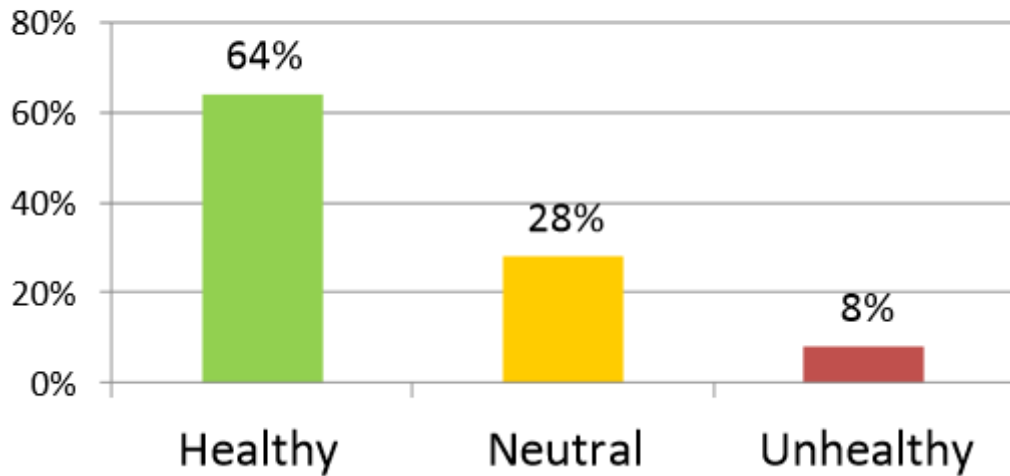
Low income families are often lacking in health insurance, access to pre-natal care, parenting classes and quality child care facilities that promote optimal child development. Early care and education for children is critical to moving families and communities out of poverty; laying a solid foundation from which children can grow and learn. The cost and availability of early child care is critical. Need for access to early child care is critical to improving quality of life for children, youth and families. It also provides a foundation for the child's cognitive development and behavior as well as parenting skills.

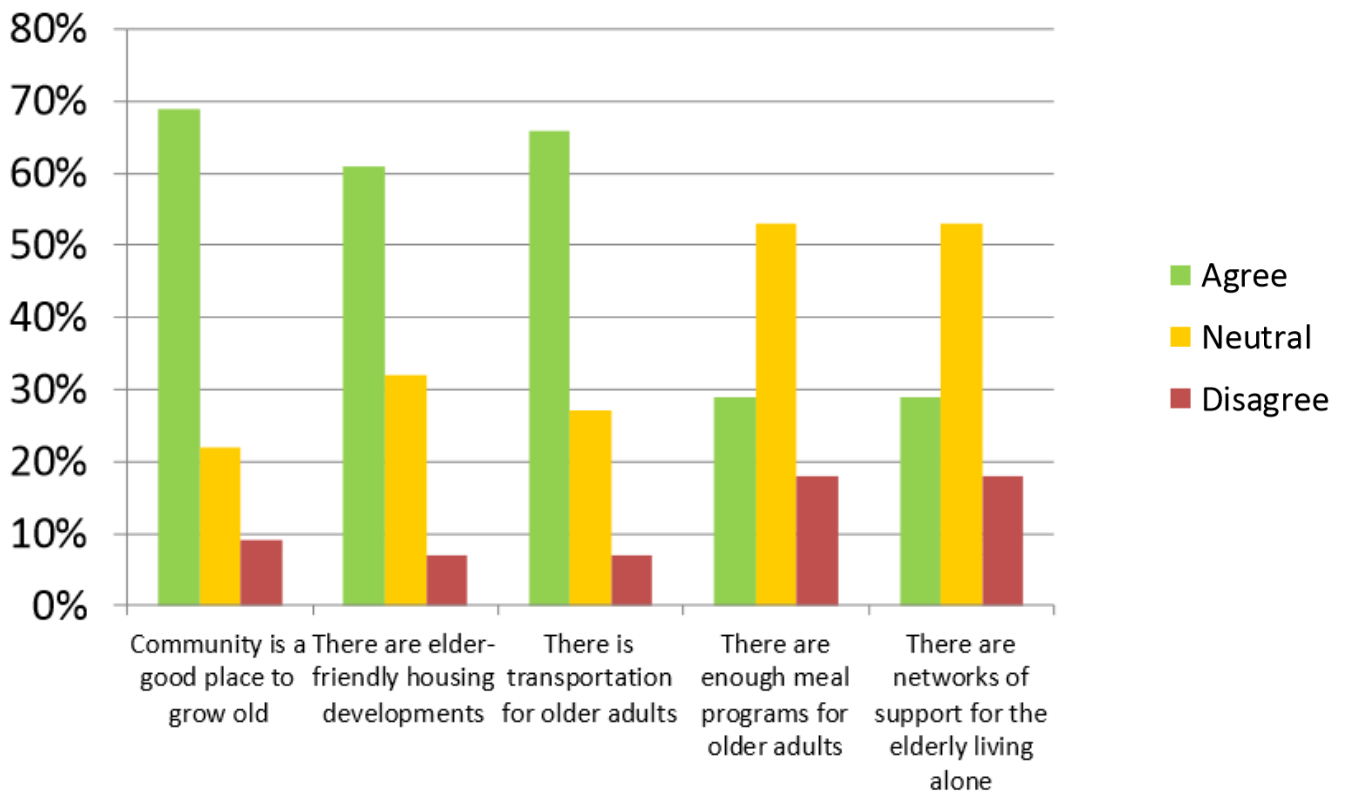
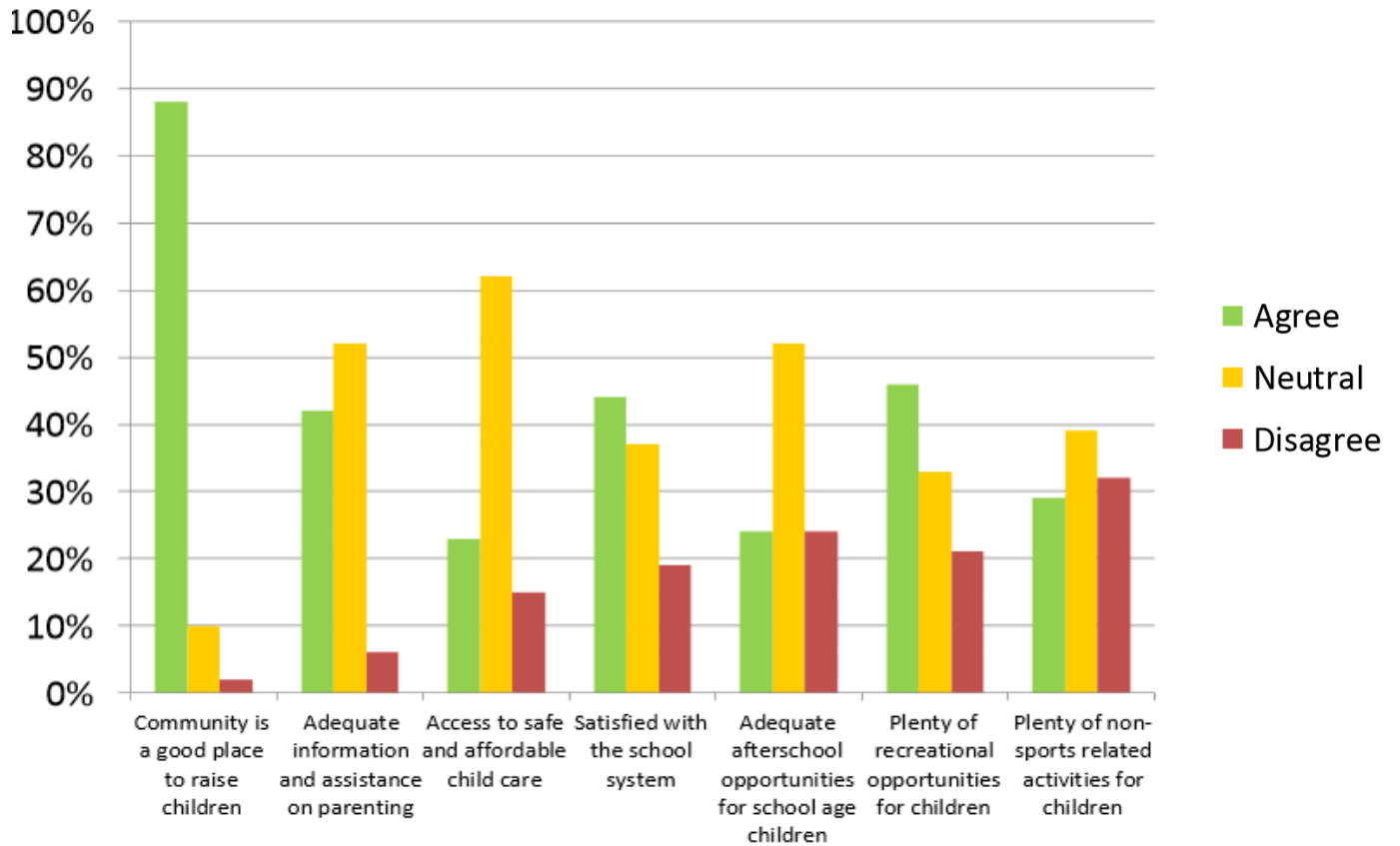
Families and individuals without insurance may delay getting needed care and forgo preventive care altogether, which can lead to medical problems that are more serious and expensive to treat. Insurance allows the often-high cost of health services to be spread out over many years and facilitates risk-sharing across the population. Financial ruin can be the result if an uninsured family must cope with a major illness or injury. In addition, charity care provided by hospitals to those without insurance drives up the cost of private insurance and the tax burden.



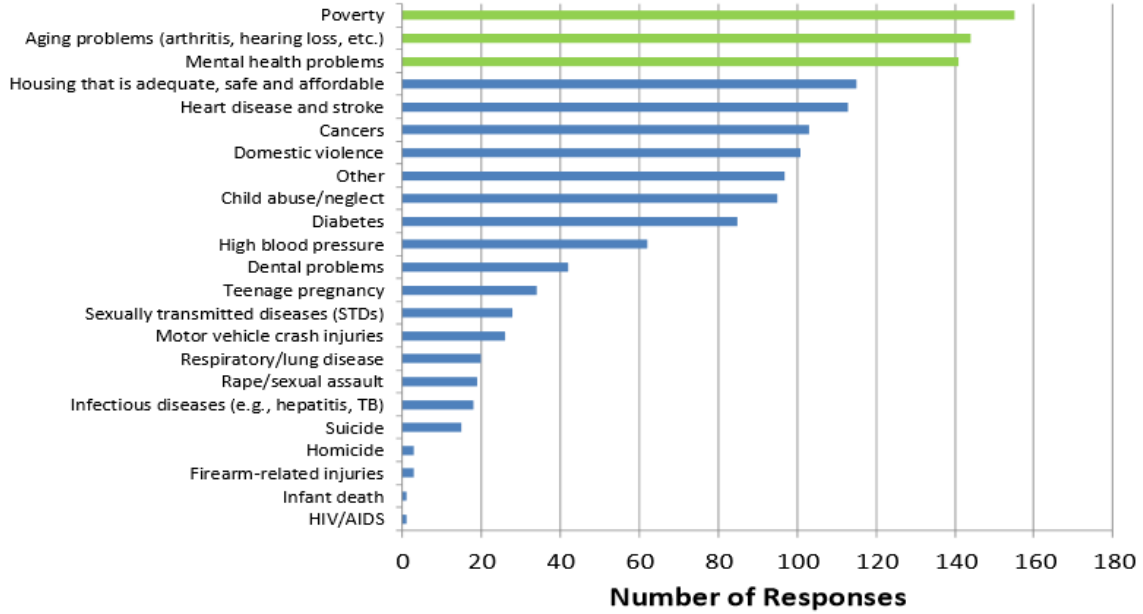
# Health Care

## How healthy would you rate your community?





### What do you think are the three biggest “health problems” in our community?



Category	Health Indicator	Kittitas County	Washington State	
Illness (Morbidity)	General Health	Hospitalization rate per 10,000 people <sup>5</sup>	828	948
		Percent of adults reporting fair or poor health <sup>12</sup>	12%	13%
	Mental Health	Percent of adults who report poor mental health for at least 2 weeks during the past month <sup>13</sup>	9%	10%
		Percent of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders who felt sad or hopeless for 2 weeks or more over the past 12 months <sup>13</sup>	31%	30%
	Birth Outcomes	Percent of babies born with low birth weight <sup>8,14</sup>	4.6%	6.4%
	Chronic Disease	Percent of adults with diabetes <sup>13</sup>	6%	7%
		Rate of hospitalizations due to asthma per 10,000 people <sup>5,15</sup>	4.9	7.3
		Cancer rate per 10,000 people <sup>9,16</sup>	41	53.4
	Communicable Disease	Number of people living with HIV/AIDS per 10,000 people <sup>11,17</sup>	3.4	16.5
		Pertussis (whooping cough) rate per 10,000 people <sup>18,19</sup>	2.6	0.7
Chlamydia rate per 10,000 people <sup>10</sup>		28	31	
Oral Health	Percent of kindergarteners and 3rd grade students with a history of cavities <sup>20</sup>	42.6%	48.6%	
Injury	Rate of hospitalizations due to unintentional injuries per 10,000 youth ages 0-17 <sup>6</sup>	23.6	18.5	
Deaths (Mortality)	Premature Death	Years of potential life lost per 10,000 people <sup>21</sup>	558	547
	Infant Mortality	Rate of live births resulting in death in the first year per 1,000 births <sup>22,15</sup>	4.0	4.8

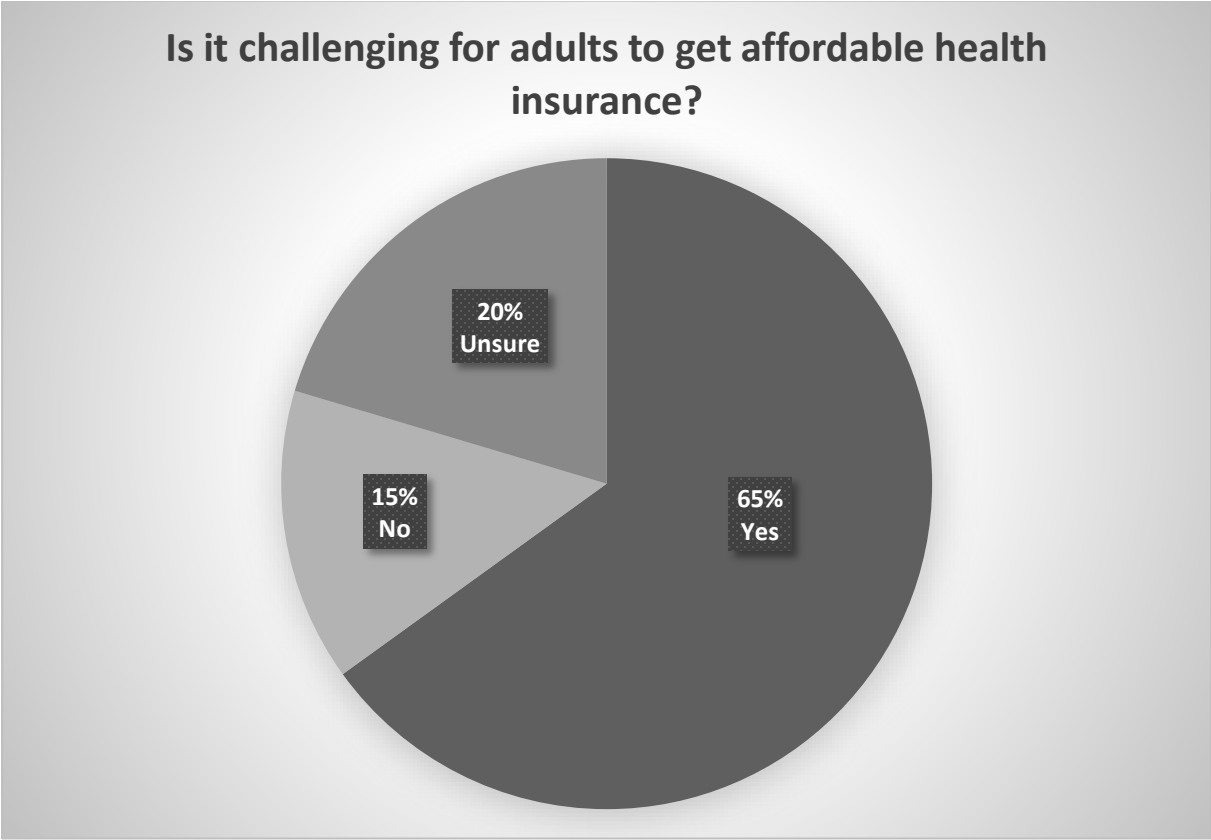
\*Target met

# Insurance

Respondents indicated it was a significant challenge to obtain affordable health care insurance for adults but that is was slightly less challenging to obtain health care insurance for their children.

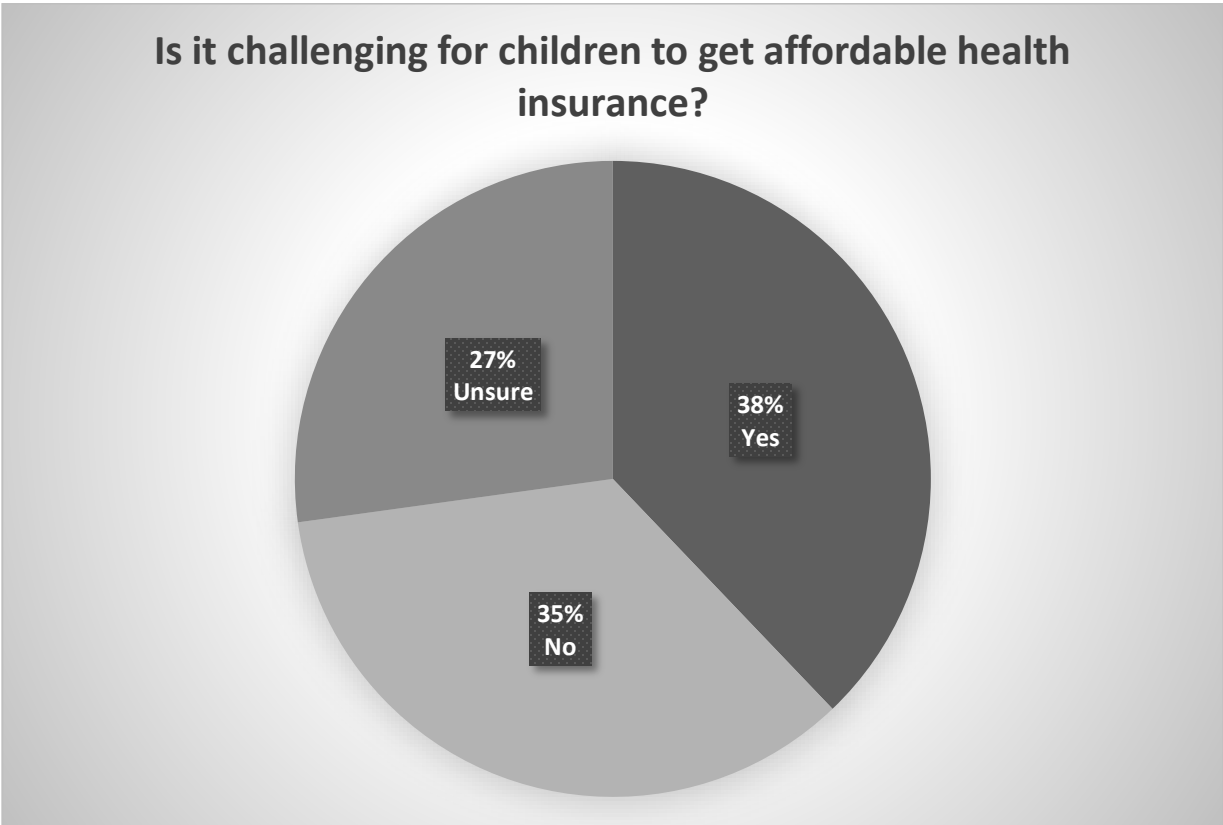
**Is it challenging for adults to get affordable health insurance?**

Yes	65.05%
No	14.56%
I don't know	20.39%



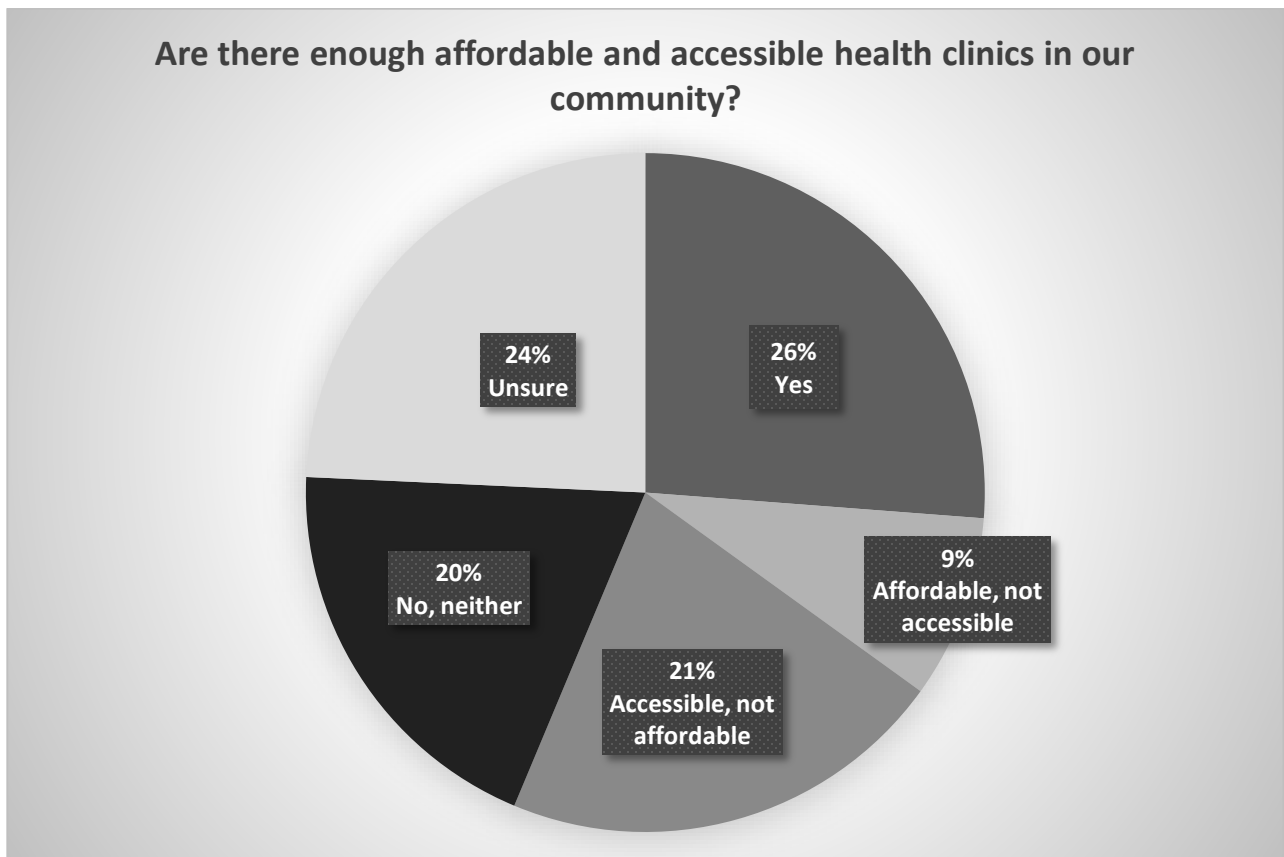
**Is it challenging for children to get affordable health insurance?**

Yes	37.86%
No	34.95%
I don't know	27.18%



**Are there enough affordable and accessible health clinics in our community?**

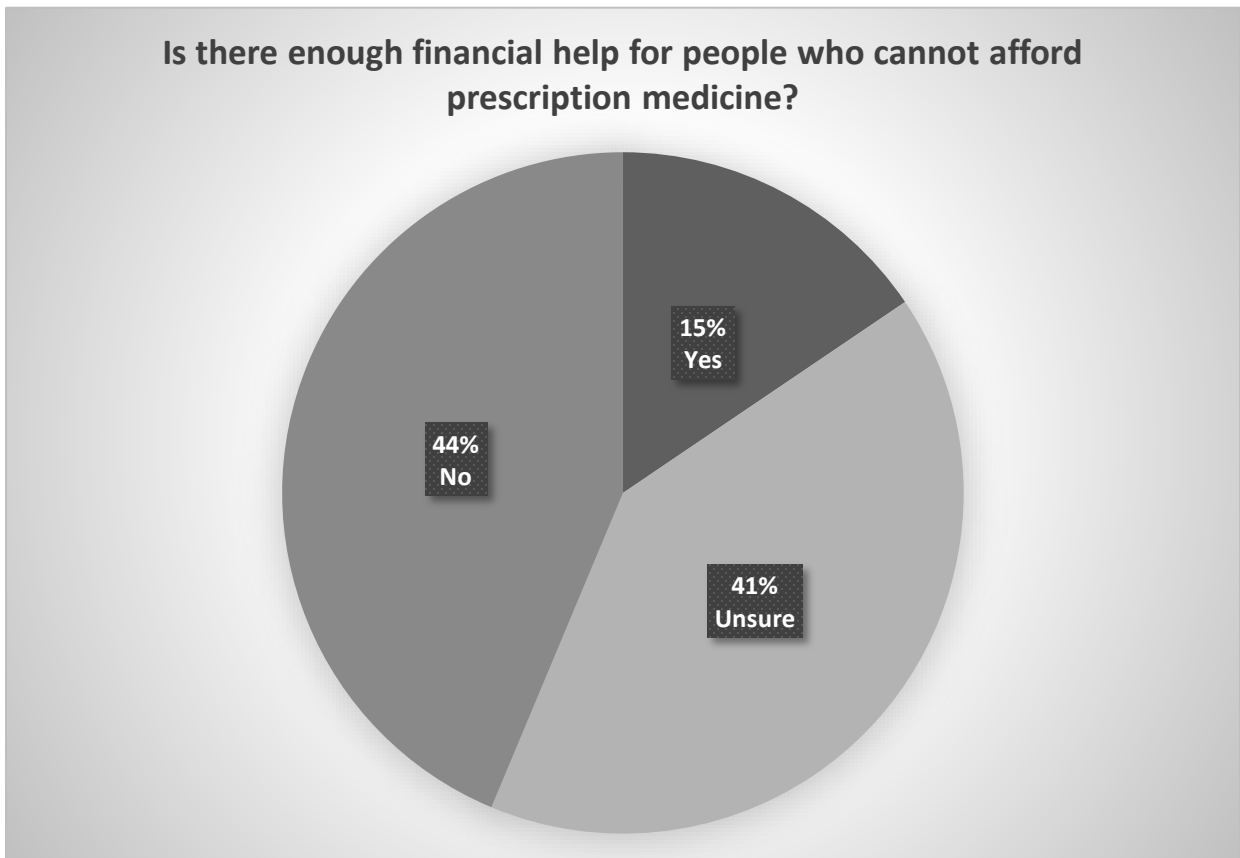
Yes, they are both affordable and accessible	26.21%
They are affordable but not accessible	8.74%
They are accessible but not affordable	21.36%
No, they are neither accessible nor affordable	19.42%
I don't know	24.27%





**Is there enough financial help for people who cannot afford prescription medicine?**

Yes	15.53%
No	40.78%
I don't know	43.69%





## Support Services

## **Transportation**

**HopeSource Transit** operates a door to door transportation service with priorities to seniors for doctor appointments, social services, and employment opportunities. Rides are free of charge but reservations are required. Schedule a ride 48 hours in advance and up to two weeks ahead of time. Central Transit, Monday-Friday 7am-9:30pm, Saturday: 8am-8pm, Sunday: 9:30am-8pm. Rides are free of charge but suggest a donation of \$1. There are 26 stops including Safeway, Central Washington University, KVCH, McDonalds, and Crestview, with a stop every 20-25 minutes. Each bus is wheelchair accessible.

**The Ellensburg-Yakima Commuter** is operated by Yakima Transit, a for-profit vendor and operates between Yakima and Ellensburg, Monday-Friday. The tickets costs \$5 each way or \$150 for a monthly pass. **The Airporter** offers rides on a scheduled basis. **Rodeo City Taxi** and **KittiTaxi** are the local taxi services, serving the county out of Ellensburg and Kittitas.

## **Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services (ADDS)**

Alcohol and drug evaluations, alcohol and drug information school, Substance Abusers Program, individual counseling, adolescent evaluation and treatment, deferred prosecution services, intensive inpatient referral, and drug testing services. Other Services Provided: DUI Victims Panel, Kittitas County Drug Court, Cle Elum Summer Youth Prevention Program, and private and business drug testing. A sliding-fee scale is available to qualifying clients entering treatment.

## **Aging and Long Term Care (ALTC)**

ALTC advocates for older adults with disabilities. ALTC contracts with community service providers to provide in-home care to elders and adults with disabilities, senior nutrition, legal services, caregiver support services, respite care, senior transportation, foot care and many other services.

## **Abuse Support and Prevention Education Now (ASPEN)**

For victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, ASPEN provides shelter/housing if needed in a crisis, legal advocacy, and general advocacy. Services are free and confidential.

## **Bright Beginnings (Head Start)**

A non-profit organization that provides services to families and children ranging in age from birth to 5 years. All services are free if you are in accordance with the guidelines, including but not limited to: Income qualification, age qualification and disability requirements (if applicable).

### **Care Net Pregnancy Center**

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Kittitas County is a nonprofit corporation. The counseling provided is not intended as a substitute for professional counseling. Offers: Pregnancy tests; accurate information on all options; Compassionate counseling; Maternity clothes; Clothes and accessories for baby; Medical and community referrals; Abortion recovery, support and Abstinence Education; Adoption information and referrals. Services are free.

### **Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health**

Outpatient mental health and referral services for adults, children and families. Services: Crisis response, prescriber services, evaluation and outpatient therapy including individual, family and group, referral to residential services, rehabilitative services, continuing education and consultation, Employee Assistance Program. Cost of services: varies depending on the service provided. Services may be paid for by insurance, Medicaid, third party payers or self-pay. CWCMH Crisis Staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat Counties.

### **Central Washington Disability Resources**

CWDR is committed to assisting those with disabilities with knowledge, support, and education. To provide the ability and assistance necessary to help individuals obtain independent living status, and further support to help them maintain that in their life.

### **CLEAR-Northwest Justice Project**

CLEAR is Northwest Justice Project's toll-free telephone service for eligible low-income people to obtain free legal assistance with civil legal problems. Clients in need of interpreter services in order to access legal services through NJP are entitled to those services.

### **Community Health of Central Washington**

Numerous health care services provided with a sliding fee based on income.

### **Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS)**

A helping hand, a lifeline made available for one out of every four Washington residents. As a single agency, DSHS is able to provide services from several programs to meet the multiple needs of the majority of clients.

### **FISH Food Bank**

Located in Ellensburg, FISH provides both food boxes and hot meals every week to anyone who is in need.

## **Hospice Friends**

Offers a wide variety of free services and provides peace, comfort, and care to the frail elderly or anyone with a life-threatening illness in Kittitas County. They work in coordination with Kittitas Valley Home Health and Hospice, a department of Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, to provide quality care in the home, nursing home, or hospital in a professional, empathetic, and confidential manner.

## **Housing Authority of Kittitas County**

Numerous housing projects in the county. The rent is based on income and family size. Availability is based on unit size.

## **Methodist Church Clothing Bank**

One of Ellensburg's two clothing banks, open two days a week and open to anyone who is in need.

## **Open Door Health Clinic**

A non-profit organization providing basic health care and referrals for low-income and un-insured people through the professional operation of a community health clinic.

## **People for People**

People For People's Employment and Training Division serves two major customer groups: employers and those qualifying people wanting to obtain or upgrade job-related skills and employment. These programs serve economically disadvantaged adults, dislocated workers within Yakima and Kittitas counties, as well as serving employers who have job openings.

## **Planned Parenthood**

Planned Parenthood's goal is to ensure that sexuality is understood as an essential. Lifelong sexuality education allows for responsible decision-making and disease prevention. Planned Parenthood provides medically accurate sexuality education to adults and youth. In addition to trained staff, resource materials are available to check out from our health centers including videos, books, topical packets and birth control kits. These resources are ideal for community, school and parenting education programs.

## **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**

RSVP provides service opportunities for people 55 years of age and over. It is for those who want to make a difference in their communities while maintaining the flexibility to decide who and how frequently they serve. RSVP volunteers are able to put their unique talents to work for community and faith-based organizations that are significant to them. In addition, they receive the following benefits: pre-service orientation, on-the-job training from the agency or organization where they are placed, and supplemental insurance while on duty.

## **Safe Kids**

A year around program that educates and provides car seats for children in low income families and other donations.

### **Veterans Administration**

"Our goal is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits and customer satisfaction. We have reformed our department internally and are striving for high quality, prompt and seamless service to veterans. Our department's employees continue to offer their dedication and commitment to help veterans get the services they have earned. Our nation's veterans deserve no less."

### **Volunteer Chore Services**

Volunteer Chore Services provides basic in-home assistance to low-income elders and adults with disabilities to enable them to continue to living safely, independently and with dignity in their own homes. Currently volunteers are needed to help build wheel chair ramps; provide transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping and other such errands.

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

WIC's mission is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. Food, nutrition counseling, and access to health services are provided to low-income women, infants, and children under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, popularly known as WIC.

### **WorkSource**

WorkSource employment offices offer valuable employment and training services to help you with your job hunt. Internet access available to thousands of job listings statewide, job matching and direct referrals to jobs, computers, copiers, phones, and faxes to conduct your job search, training resources and help with changing careers, and referrals to other community resources. Services also include dealing with a loss of a job, getting skills and education, workshops.

### **Youth Services of Kittitas County**

Youth Services is an after-school drop in program that provides all ages gym night Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 pm, all ages swing class last Saturday of each month 3:30 - 4:30 pm, special programs/events, and Big Brother/Big Sister mentor program. Also has summer pograms.



# Appendices

**Information Sources for the  
Continuum of Care Community Needs Assessment 2014**

The combined surveys were distributed to over 600 individuals in the community.

Kittitas County Health Department Community Survey 2012

Community Connect Day Survey 2013

Homeless and Affordable Housing Network of Kittitas County 2013

Continuum of Care Community Needs Assessment 2014



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