

Cowlitz County Maternal & Child Health



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This report contains select maternal & child health indicators for Cowlitz County, including characteristics of women of childbearing age, pregnancy & birth, and children. Data are provided for Cowlitz County and Washington State, as well as demographic groups when possible, including school district, race/ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status (SES), and gender.

Color coding has been used to aid in interpreting these indicators:

- **Black font** indicates that Cowlitz County is similar to the state average (i.e., there is no statistical difference between the two) or that the demographic group is similar to the Cowlitz County average.
- **Red font** identifies areas of concern, either because that Cowlitz County is faring more poorly than the state average, is getting worse over time, or the demographic group is doing more poorly than the Cowlitz County average.

Example: **26%** of Cowlitz County women smoke during pregnancy, which is higher than the state average.

- **Green font** identifies community strengths, either because Cowlitz County is faring better than the state average, is improving over time, or the demographic group is faring better than the Cowlitz County average.

Example: **8%** of births to Cowlitz County women with a 4-year degree are outside of marriage, which is better than the county average.

For indicators for which a statistical difference is neither better nor worse:

- **Orange** indicates that a rate is higher or increasing.
- **Blue** is used for lower or decreasing rates.

Washington State figures are not color-coded.



Key findings

Demographics

Cowlitz County is home to:

18,000 women of childbearing age

5,800 children age 0-4

18,000 children age 5-17

1,177 babies were born
to Cowlitz County residents in 2013.

Fertility in Cowlitz County has been declining since 2007.

Community strengths

Cowlitz County's

teen pregnancy rate has decreased by two-thirds since 2006

and is **on par with the state average.**

In Cowlitz County, **low birth weight** has
remained stable over the past 10 years

and is **on par with the state average.**

In Cowlitz County, **single parent families** are
on par with the state average.

Opportunities for improvement

In Cowlitz County, **births to unmarried women are almost 50% higher** than the state average, and have **increased 17% since 2004.**

Cowlitz County **women who never attended college are 7 times more likely to have a baby outside of marriage** than women with a 4-year degree.

While they have been declining in Washington State, Cowlitz County's **premature birth** and **infant mortality rates haven't changed** in the past 10 years.

In Cowlitz County, **vaccine exemption rates have increased 60% since 2004**, while Washington State exemptions have been declining since 2009.

10% fewer Cowlitz County 3rd graders meet math and reading standards than the state average.

Low-income students are 27% less likely to meet math and reading standards than their higher-income counterparts in Cowlitz County.

Areas of community interest

Poverty

Women of childbearing age

In Cowlitz County, **1 in 5 women of childbearing age** live in poverty. This equals 3,900 women.

Women in **Longview** and those **age 18-24** are most likely to live in poverty. Almost one in three of these women live in poverty.

Women in **Castle Rock** and **those age 35-44** have the lowest rates of poverty.

Children age 0-4

In Cowlitz County, **1 in 5 children age 0-4** live in poverty. This equals 5,800 children.

Free/reduced price meal participation

61% of Cowlitz County elementary school students receive free or reduced price meals. This is **20% higher** than the state average.

Participation has **increased 38%** since 2005 in Cowlitz County. Washington State has also increased.

Two-thirds of students in Longview and Kelso participate, while **Castle Rock Kalama Toutle Lake, and Woodland** have the lowest rates.

Smoking during pregnancy

In Cowlitz County, **1 in 4** women smoke during pregnancy, which is **2 ½ times the state average**.

Smoking during pregnancy has been declining since 2008 in Washington State, while **Cowlitz County's rate hasn't changed in the past 10 years**

One in three Longview women smoke during pregnancy. Rates are lowest in **Kalama and Woodland**

Hispanic and **Asian** women have the lowest rates of any racial/ethnic group.

Cowlitz County **women who never attended college are 8 times more likely** to smoke during pregnancy than women with a 4-year degree.

Women younger than 25 are 50% more likely to smoke during pregnancy than older women.

Prenatal care

77% of Cowlitz County women receive prenatal care in their first trimester. This is similar to the state average.

First trimester prenatal care reception has been increasing in Washington State since 2007, while **Cowlitz County's rate hasn't changed in the past 10 years**

Just **two-thirds of Hispanic women** receive prenatal care in their first trimester.

Women who never attended college are 20% less likely to receive prenatal care in their first trimester than women with a 4-year degree.

Just **7 in 10 women aged 15-17** receive prenatal care in their first trimester.

Detailed data tables

Red = area of concern Green = community strength

Children

	Children aged 0-4 2009-2013	Children aged 5-17 2009-2013	Children aged 0-4 in poverty 2013	Free & reduced price meal participation SYs 04/05 - 13/14	Single parent families 2009-2013	Kindergarten vaccine exemptions SYs 04-05 - 13-14	3 rd graders meeting math standards SYs 09/10 – 12/13	3 rd graders meeting reading standards SYs 09/10 – 12/13	
Most recent Cowlitz rate or percent	6% (of whole county)	17% (of whole county)	21%	61%	34%	4%	58%	67%	
Most recent Cowlitz number	5,800	18,000	1,100	4,771	3,300	58	668	768	
Cowlitz trend over time	-	-	-	↑	-	↑	-	-	
Washington State trend over time	-	-	-	↑	-	↑ 05-09 ↓ 09-14	-	-	
Cowlitz figure vs. Washington State	-	-	↔	↑	↔	↔	↓	↓	
School districts	Castle Rock	560	1,800	-	54%	25%	5%	34%	53%
	Kalama	490	1,300	-	42%	27%	4%	55%	65%
	Kelso	2,000	4,700	-	62%	40%	3%	64%	69%
	Longview	2,800	7,500	-	64%	43%	3%	52%	63%
	Toutle Lake	690 (total 0-17)		-	40%	-	-	64%	73%
	Woodland	680	2,300	-	53%	32%	7%	64%	78%
Race/ethnicity	White	4,700	14,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hispanic	1,100	2,600	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Asian	320 (total 0-17)		-	-	-	-	-	-
	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Native American	250 (total 0-17)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Gender	Female	3,300	8,900	-	-	-	-	56%	70%
	Male	3,300	9,000	-	-	-	-	57%	63%
SES	Low income	-	-	-	-	-	-	48%	58%
	Not low income	-	-	-	-	-	-	67%	77%

Pregnancy & birth

	Number of births 2009-2013	General fertility rate 2004-2013	Maternal smoking 2004-2013	First trimester prenatal care 2004-2013	Teen pregnancy 2004-2013	Low birth weight 2004-2013	Premature births 2004-2013	Births to un-married women 2004-2013	Infant mortality 02-04 to 11-13	
Most recent Cowlitz rate or percent	-	63 per 1,000	26%	77%	13 per 1,000	7%	9%	47%	3.7 per 1,000	
Most recent Cowlitz number	1,177	1,177	302	872	26	81	103	552	13	
Cowlitz trend over time	-	↔ 04-07 ↓ 07-13	↔	↔	↔ 04-06 ↓ 06-13	↔	↔	↑	↔	
Washington State trend over time	-	↑ 04-07 ↔ 07-13	↔ 04-08 ↓ 08-13	↔ 04-07 ↑ 07-13	↔ 04-08 ↓ 08-13	↔	↔ 04-06 ↓ 06-13	↑ 04-08 ↓ 08-13	↓	
Cowlitz figure vs. Washington State	-	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	
School districts	Castle Rock	84	55	25%	84%	-	8%	10%	41%	-
	Kalama	64	61	20%	79%	-	8%	8%	32%	-
	Kelso	342	62	29%	81%	-	7%	10%	49%	-
	Longview	562	68	30%	80%	-	7%	10%	49%	-
	Toutle Lake	31	54	18%	82%	-	5%	11%	38%	-
	Woodland	159	72	13%	76%	-	5%	10%	34%	-
Race/ethnicity	White	961	62	28%	83%	-	7%	9%	43%	-
	Hispanic	159	92	12%	67%	-	8%	11%	59%	-
	Asian	22	64	9%	84%	-	9%	16%	21%	-
	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	<5	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Black	<5	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Native American	17	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gender	Female	598	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Male	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES	HS or less	584	-	36%	75%	-	7%	11%	60%	-
	Some college	471	-	21%	84%	-	7%	9%	38%	-
	4 year degree or more	135	-	4%	91%	-	5%	7%	8%	-
Maternal age	15-17	30	14	28%	70%	-	7%	11%	95%	-
	18-19	96	75	35%	75%	-	6%	11%	84%	-
	20-24	393	127	33%	78%	-	7%	9%	59%	-
	25-34	587	100	23%	82%	-	7%	10%	32%	-
	35-44	102	16	15%	82%	-	6%	10%	23%	-

Women of childbearing age

	Women aged 15-44 2009-2013	Women aged 15-44 in poverty 2009-2013
Most recent Cowlitz rate or percent	17% (of whole county)	22%
Most recent Cowlitz number	18,000	3,900
Cowlitz trend over time	-	-
Washington State trend over time	-	-
Cowlitz figure vs. Washington State	-	↔
School districts		
Castle Rock	1,900	11%
Kalama	1,100	-
Kelso	5,200	24%
Longview	8,000	30%
Toutle Lake	480	-
Woodland	1,800	15%
Race/ethnicity		
White	15,000	-
Hispanic	1,700	-
Asian	370	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-
Black	-	-
Native American	200	-
SES		
HS or less	-	-
Some college	-	-
4 year degree or more	-	-
Age		
15-17	2,100	23%
18-19	1,100	31%
20-24	3,000	(18-24)
25-34	5,600	27%
35-44	6,300	16%

Technical notes & citations

- Countywide and statewide figures are typically based on single-year estimates, while demographic group-specific data (sub-county geography, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and gender) are based on multiple-year averages.
- Time trend analyses were performed using JoinPoint software: Joinpoint Regression Program, Version 4.1.1.4 - February 2015; Statistical Methodology and Applications Branch, Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute.
- To avoid implying precision for counts based on statistical estimates, census data are rounded to two significant figures.
- “-” indicates that data were not available for that table cell or that numbers were too small to produce a reliable figure.



Indicator definitions and data sources

Indicator	Definition	Source
Women aged 15-44	The estimated number of women aged 15-44.	U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 1-year & 5-year estimates, Tables B01001 & B01001B,C,D,E,H,I; generated by Shannon Hoskins; using American FactFinder; http://factfinder2.census.gov ; (18 April 2015).
Children aged 0-4 & 5-17	The estimated number of children aged 0-4 & 5-17, respectively.	
Number of births	Total number of births to Cowlitz County residents.	
General fertility rate	The total number of births to women of all ages per 1000 women aged 15-44.	
Maternal smoking	The number of babies born to women who smoked cigarettes during pregnancy divided by the total number of births.	
First trimester prenatal care	The number of babies born to women who received prenatal care during their first trimester divided by the total number of births.	Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Births 2004-2013. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.
Teen pregnancy	The number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years.	Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT) [Computer software for public health assessment, 2015, Washington State Department of Health. Olympia, WA.
Low birth weight	The number of babies born weighing less than 2500 grams (about 5 ½ pounds) divided by the total number of births.	
Premature births	The number of babies born at less than 37 weeks' gestation divided by the total number of births.	
Births to unmarried women	The number of babies born to unmarried women divided by the total number of births.	
Infant mortality	The number of babies who die within 1 year of birth divided by the total number of live births.	
Women aged 15-44 in poverty	The number of women aged 15-44 living in poverty divided by the total number of women aged 15-44.	U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 1-year & 5-year estimates, Table B17001; generated by Shannon Hoskins; using American FactFinder; http://factfinder2.census.gov ; (18 April 2015).
Children aged 0-4 in poverty	The number of children aged 0-4 living in poverty divided by the total number of children aged 0-4.	United States Federal Register document number 2013-01422 Note: In 2013, the poverty level was less than \$11,490 for a person living alone or \$23,550 for a family of four.
Free & reduced price meal participation	The number of elementary school children who are enrolled in the Free/Reduced Price Meal program divided by the total enrollment.	Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Child Nutrition. Free and reduced-priced meal participation. Retrieved April & May 2015 from http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/DataDownload.aspx .
Single parent families	The number of family households with children aged 0-17 headed by a male or female with no spouse present divided by the total number of family households with children aged 0-17.	U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 1-year & 5-year estimates, Table DP02: Selected Social Characteristics; generated by Shannon Hoskins; using American FactFinder; http://factfinder2.census.gov ; (25 March 2015).
Vaccine exemptions	The number of kindergarten students who are exempt from school vaccine requirements divided by the total number of kindergarteners.	Washington State Department of Health, Immunization Program. Kindergarten Immunization Coverage by School District for School Years 04-05 to 13-14.
3rd graders meeting testing standards	The percent of 3 rd grade students who meet math & reading standards, respectively, on the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) exam.	Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, MSP-HSPE Scores by School, school years 09-10 to 12-13.