

# Births in COWLITZ COUNTY

2000-2020 Data



## BACKGROUND

Cowlitz County's overall population has grown 19% over the past 20 years. In contrast, the population of women aged 15-44, often referred to as "childbearing age", has decreased 1%, and the number of babies born each year has decreased 4%.

In this report, we generally focus on per capita births to women aged 15-44. In Cowlitz County, per capita

births peak among women 25-29 and are lowest among the youngest and oldest women of childbearing age.

Analysis of Cowlitz County data has found that our married women tend to be older than those who are not married, our Hispanic population tends to be younger than average, and a mother's level of education is related to the age at which she gives birth.

Because of this, our demographic

analysis takes age into account, to determine if differences are due to the demographic characteristic itself or the underlying difference in age.

Births to Cowlitz County teens aged 15-17 has decreased 44% over the past 10 years, and our per capita rate is about double the state average. We will provide more in-depth analysis in an upcoming "Teen Births in Cowlitz County" report, whose format will be similar to this one.

## COWLITZ COUNTY DATA SUMMARY

# 1,236



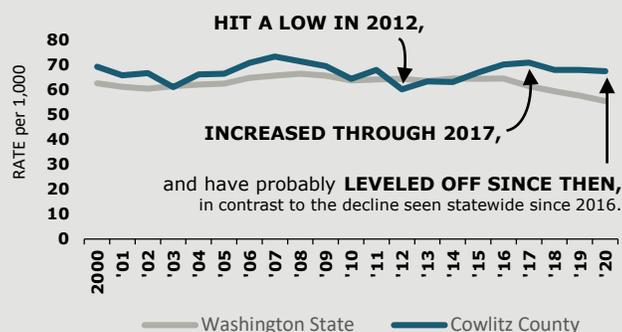
total babies were born in 2020.

That is **1 baby** for every **88 residents.**

Our per capita births among women aged 15-44 are about

**15-20% HIGHER** than the statewide average

Our **PER CAPITA BIRTHS** among women aged 15-44:



## Our per capita births among women aged 15-44 are:



About **50% higher** among **married** women than those who are not married.

This difference is even larger after accounting for the fact that married women are generally older than those who are not married.



About **10% higher** among **Hispanic** women than the county average. It looks like this is because the Hispanic population is younger than average.



About **30% lower** among **Native American** women than the county average. This doesn't change when factoring in age.

About **40% lower** among **Asian** women than the county average. This doesn't change when factoring in age.

Among women aged **18-24**, per capita births appear to be **higher** among those with **less education.**

Among women aged **25-44**, per capita births **don't appear to vary by education level at first glance.** But after accounting for age, they appear to be **higher** among those with **more education.**

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## TECHNICAL NOTES

**Have questions? Email:** [AskCowlitzHealth@cowlitzwa.gov](mailto:AskCowlitzHealth@cowlitzwa.gov)

Birth data were accessed in August 2022 from the Washington State Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT). These data come from birth certificates reported to Washington State's Vital Registration system.

Cowlitz figures include births to women who live in Cowlitz County, regardless of the county or state in which the birth took place.

Unless otherwise noted, population denominators are those provided in CHAT.

### Notes on demographic analysis

- Demographic analysis included data for 2016-2020 combined.
- Denominator data for some demographic analysis came from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates:
  - Marital Status: [Table S1201](#).
  - Level of Education: [Table S1501](#).
- Analysis not available for Pacific Islander women.