

BASIC NEEDS

Mason County Data Series

FOOD STAMP USAGE

The Food Stamp program provides support to households with an income of 130% of the federal poverty level. An average of 4,026 households per year qualified for food stamp assistance over the 1998-2002 time period. The county rate of food stamp usage has consistently been higher than the state rate. Since welfare reform was instituted in 1997, the rate of usage has gone down within the county. (DS140-141)

Residents Receiving Food Stamp Assistance, Mason County and Washington State 1998-2002

	# 1998	# 2000	# 2002		RATE 1998	RATE 2000	RATE 2002
Mason County	4,837	3,722	3,877		101.5	75.7	78.8
WA State	*	*	*		72.1	54.2	63.5

* Number not listed in data source. Rate per 1,000

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) helps provide emergency food to area residents. Not all county food distribution efforts are part of this program, therefore these data underrepresented the volume of visits for food. To be counted in the table below a household must have gone to a food bank participating in the EFAP program and qualified as a "full service" client which means they received food that represented at least 3 of the 5 main food groups. These are the only clients that food banks are required to track. (DS140-142)

During the 2001 state fiscal year (SFY), about 4,386 people visited a food bank serving Mason County. An additional 28,101 visits were made by these people for additional food assistance in 2001 SFY. Each year over the 1999-2001 state fiscal years, more than 30,000 visits were made to Mason County food banks. (DS143-145)

Client Visits for Full Service Food Assistance, Mason County Food Banks 1999-2001 State Fiscal Years

	# SFY 1999	# SFY 2000	# SFY 2001
New Client Visits	3,713	4,658	4,386
Return Visits	28,223	31,002	28,101
Total Visits	31,936	35,660	32,487

New Client is defined as a first time client during that fiscal year. The total of all new clients gives you the number of clients who used the food bank that year.

Returning Visits is defined as each subsequent time a client comes in. After the first visit the client is counted as a return. When new clients and return visits are added together you have the total client visits to the food bank.

SFY - Data for visits to county food banks are listed by state fiscal year, which runs from July to June.

Food stamp eligibility is affected by federal and state funding. The state has picked up the cost of some legal immigrants who are not eligible for the federal program. (DS141)

A recent report on homeless families in Washington State showed that these families accessed food in the following ways: 78% through the Food Stamp program, 33% used the WIC program, and 48% a food bank or shelter meal program. (DS142)

Over the 2001 state fiscal year, nearly 936,383 pounds of food were distributed through the Mason County Emergency Food Assistance Program. (DS145)

In state fiscal year 2001, nearly \$3 million dollars was spent for food assistance through the Food Stamp program. About 45% of this money was directed to benefit children. (DS146)

% = Percent
= Number or count

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL PROGRAM

The free and reduced-price meal program, nationally known as the School Lunch and Breakfast Program, is a child nutrition program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is geared toward children most in need of assistance. The number of school children eligible for the program is an indicator of the economic status of households. High percentages of children eligible for the program may be used to identify geographical regions where families are experiencing economic distress.

Each year an average of 3200 Mason County public school children apply for the free and reduced price meal program (based on data from 1998-2002). Between the 1998 and 2002 school year the number of Mason County students enrolling in the program increased from 38% to 44%. The proportion of county students participating in the program is consistently higher than the state. (DS147-151)

Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Applications, Mason County and Washington State 1998/99–2002/03 School Year

	# 1998	# 2002	# PER YEAR 1998-2002	% 1998	% 2002	% CHANGE 1998-2002
Mason County	3,161	3,653	3,221	38%	44%	↑ 16%
WA State	312,088	350,100	321,642	31%	36%	↑ 12%

% based on number of students enrolled in county public school districts

HOMELESSNESS

An average of 203 individuals per year were housed in a homeless shelter and 340 per year were provided homeless prevention assistance in Mason County over the 2001-2002 time period. A large number of individuals are turned away from both shelter and prevention services assistance. (DS153)

Individuals Received or Being Turned Away from Homeless Assistance and Prevention Services, Mason County 2001-2002

	# 2001	# 2002	# PER YEAR 2001-2002
Provided Shelter	253	152	203
Turned Away from Shelter	282	571	427
Provided Prevention Service	383	297	340
Turned Away from Prevention Service	50	413	232

TELEPHONE ACCESS

Housing Units Lacking Telephone Access, Mason County 1990-2000

	# 1990	# 2000	% CHANGE 1990-2000
No telephone service	989	381	↓ 61%

(DS154-155)

The Free and Reduced Price Meal Program is offered to eligible school age children. The program can provide breakfast and lunch within the school setting. It is important to note that not all people who qualify for the program apply for the program and that individuals who apply are not required to provide verification of income with the application.

The eligibility criteria for the program is based on federal poverty guidelines. A child is eligible for free meals if their household's income is 130% of the poverty guidelines and for reduced price meals if the household income is 185% of federal poverty guidelines. (DS152)

Data relating to homeless assistance and prevention services are affected by many things. Individuals can be served only to the point that state funding is available to do so. Space availability within the shelter also affects whether people are turned away for help.

Although not everyone turned away from homeless programs was eligible for the assistance, the volume of turnaways gives you some insight into local need.

Project funded by the Family Policy Council. Questions about the data can be directed to Kim Klint 360.427.9670 x543.

BASIC NEEDS

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<<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/RDA/research/4/47/default.htm>>

DS141: "ESA Introduction Program Information". Department of Social and Health Services, State of Washington. Retrieved April 2003. <<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/indetail/4esadir.html>>

DS142: "Homeless Families in Washington State". Department of Social and Health Services, State of Washington. December 2001. File name: 11.98.pdf
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/reports/11Miscellaneous/11_98.htm>

DS143: "EFAP Food Bank Demographics (July 1999-June 2000)". Office of Community Development, State of Washington. July 2002.

DS144: "EFAP Food Bank Demographics (July 2000-June 2001)". Office of Community Development, State of Washington. February 2002.

DS145: "EFAP Food Bank Demographics (July 2001-June 2002)". Office of Community Development, State of Washington. October 2002.

DS146: "DSHS Service Expenditures: SFY 2001". Department of Social and Health Services, State of Washington. Retrieved March 2003. File name: mason.xls <<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/clientdata.htm>>

DS147: "Public School Districts Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Status 1998". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. File name: 1998FRAPPLCO.xls <www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>

DS148: "Public School Districts Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Status 1999". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. File name: oct99f&rapplco.xls <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>>

DS149: "Public School Districts Free and Reduced-Price Applications 2000". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. File name: oct00f&rapplco.xls <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>>

DS150: "Public School Districts Free and Reduced-Price Applications 2001". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. File name: oct01frapplco.xls <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>>

DS151: "Public School Districts Free and Reduced-Price Applications 2002". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. File name: oct02frapplco.xls <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>>

DS152: "Child Nutrition Programs Washington State 2002". Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2002. File name: ChildNutProgramsFull2002.pdf <<http://www.k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/>>

DS153: "Emergency Shelter Assistance Program Report". Office of Community Development, State of Washington. Derived from the Custom Data Table Creation Utility Database.
<<http://housing-information.net/report/index.php>>

DS154: "Census 2000 Summary File 3". U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce. Tenure by Telephone Service Availability by Age of Householder H43. Retrieved March 2003.
<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>

DS155: "D-5 Housing Characteristics: 1990". Office of Financial Management, State of Washington. Retrieved March 2003. <<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/cenpro90/county/index.htm>>