

CHILD CARE, SAFETY AND CRIME

Mason County Data Series

YOUTH POPULATION

The fastest growing age group among Mason County children were those between 15-17 years old (increased by 49% between 1990 and 2002). (DS107)

Population of Children Age 0-17, Mason County 1990-2002

AGE GROUP	# 1990	# 2000	# 2002	% CHANGE 1990-2002
0-4	2,518	2,663	2,641	↑ 5%
5-9	2,887	3,181	3,038	↑ 5%
10-14	2,782	3,540	3,552	↑ 28%
15-17	1,490	2,235	2,224	↑ 49%
Total	9,677	11,619	11,455	↑ 18%

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY

In 2000, the state identified 11 licensed child care centers and 54 licensed homes serving Mason County. Between 1996-2000, the number of licensed child care slots available in the county increased for licensed centers and decreased for licensed homes. The state experienced a similar trend over the 1996-2000 time period. (DS108-110)

Number of Slots Available in Licensed Child Care Facilities, Mason County 1996-2000

	# 1996	# 1998	# 2000
Licensed centers	241	151	349
Licensed homes	481	461	436
Total Slots	722	612	785

Child care provided in unlicensed or by family not included.

FOSTER CARE

About 73 Mason County children were in foster care each year over the 1996-2000 time period. The county rate has been consistently higher than the state rate for children in foster care. (DS112)

Children Age 0-17 in Foster Care, Mason County and Washington State 1996-2000

	# 1996	# 1998	# 2000	RATE 1996	RATE 1998	RATE 2000
Mason County	61	81	75	5.0	6.5	6.5
WA State	*	*	*	4.2	4.2	4.2

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

In 2000, about 3 in 10 children received state funded child care subsidy to help pay for the care. (DS108)

In 2000, the average monthly cost for child care in Mason County was estimated at \$411. (DS108)

In 1998, the average monthly cost for child care in Mason County was \$354. (DS109)

The University of Washington Kids Count project estimated that about 23% of a single parent's income is spent on child care. (DS111)

Licensed child care is one component of the total child care system. When parents pay others to provide child care or receive state assistance to pay for child care they often use a licensed child care center or home. A licensed child care facility is overseen and regulated by various government rules and regulations. A portion of children are cared for by family and friends in settings that do not require a license.

In fiscal year 2001, the state Department of Social and Health Services spent about \$1 million for county children in foster care. (DS113)

% = Percent
= Number or count

CHILD ABUSE REPORTS

Reports of child abuse and neglect are called “referrals” in the state’s system for tracking suspected abuse. Between 1996-1999, an average of 886 referrals were accepted by Child Protective Services in Mason County. The county rate has been consistently higher than the state rate for accepted child abuse referrals. (DS112)

Accepted Referrals for Child Abuse and Neglect (Children Age 0-17), Mason County and Washington State 1996-1999

	# 1996	# 1998	# 1999		RATE 1996	RATE 1998	RATE 1999
Mason County	882	933	868		72.8	75.1	68.9
WA State	*	*	*		39.0	37.8	37.5

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

ARRESTS AMONG YOUTH 17 OR YOUNGER

The Mason County juvenile arrest rate (for all crimes) was slightly lower than the state over the 1996-2000 time period. However, the violent crime arrest rate for Mason County youth was consistently higher than the state rate. In 2000, Mason County had the 2nd highest juvenile violent crime arrest rate in the state. (DS112, 114)

Juvenile Arrests for All Crimes, Mason County and Washington State 1996-2000

	# 1996	# 1998	# 2000		RATE 1996	RATE 1998	RATE 2000
Mason County	405	454	385		71.2	76.6	66.7
WA State	52,592	53,827	47,763		81.4	80.1	68.9

* Rate per 1,000

Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes, Mason County and Washington State 1996-2000

	# 1996	# 1998	# 2000		RATE 1996	RATE 1998	RATE 2000
Mason County	24	23	29		4.2	3.9	5.0
WA State	*	*	1,924		2.8	3.3	3.2

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

Violent crime includes crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Juvenile Arrests for Drug and Alcohol Crimes, Mason County and Washington State 1996-2000

	# 1996	# 1998	# 2000		RATE 1996	RATE 1998	RATE 2000
Mason County	48	48	77		8.4	8.1	13.3
WA State	*	*	9,289		12.5	13.5	13.4

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

Reports of child abuse are screened by Child Protective Services (CPS) according to a series of criteria and are put into two categories - “accepted referrals” and “unaccepted referrals”. Accepted referrals are those which met the legal definition of abuse.

Between 1997-2001, 5 infants under 1 year old were assaulted severely enough to result in hospitalization. (DS115)

146 juvenile arrests for property crimes were reported for Mason County in 2000. The juvenile arrest rate for property crime in 2000 was 25.3 for the county compared to 29.7 (per 1,000) for the state. (DS114)

Between 1996-2000, an average of 106 Mason County youth (17 or younger) were admitted to an alcohol or drug treatment center. The 2000 county rate for youth alcohol or drug treatment was 14.7 compared to 12.3 (per 1,000) for the state. Data is based on youth whose treatment was paid for with state funds, which means a portion of youth treated by private payment methods are not included. (DS112)

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

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DS107: "Intercensal and Postcensal Population Estimates of County Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2002". Office of Financial Management, State of Washington. November 2002. File name: est90-02.xls
<<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/index.htm>>

DS108: "Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 2000". Department of Health and Social Services, State of Washington. January 2002. File name: 7.102LicensedChildCare00.pdf
<<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/research/default.htm>>

DS109: "Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 1998". Department of Health and Social Services, State of Washington. January 2000. File name: licensed_child_care_wa_1998.pdf
<<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/research/default.htm>>

DS110: "Licensed Child Care in Washington State: 1996". Department of Health and Social Services, State of Washington. April 1998. File name: licensed_child_care_wa_1996.pdf
<<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/research/default.htm>>

DS111: "Ranking Tables from County and City Profiles of Child and Family Well-Being". University of Washington, Human Services Policy Center. February 2003. File name: child_care_subsidies_tables.pdf
<http://www.hspc.org/press_releases/2003/child_care_subsidies2003.html>

DS112: "Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention: Mason County". Research and Data Analysis, Department of Social and Health Services. 2003. File name: mason.xls
<www1.dshs.wa.gov/RDA/research/4/47/default.htm>

DS113: "DSHS Service Expenditures: SFY2001 – Mason County". Department of Social and Health Service, State of Washington. 2003. File name: mason.xls <<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/RDA/clientdata.htm>>

DS114: "2001 Juvenile Justice Report". Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. 2002. File name: Website.section3-01.pdf <<http://www.wa.gov/juvenilejustice/annualrpt.html>>

DS115: "Non-fatal Injury Hospitalizations, Mason County". Washington State Department of Health, Office of Hospital and Patient Data, CHARS. February 2003. File name: mason.pdf
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Injury/Tables_update.htm>