

# Income and Poverty

## Per Capita Income

The per capita income of Mason County is consistently lower when compared to Washington State overall. Per capita income is an economic indicator of an area's well-being. Per capita income describes how income changes relative to a population's size. (D1)

### Per Capita Income, Mason County & Washington State 1989-2003

Area	\$ 1989	\$ 1999	\$ 2000	\$ 2003
Mason County	\$14,080	\$21,776	\$22,794	\$24,689
Washington	\$18,558	\$30,037	\$31,779	\$33,254

Notes:

- This measure of income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area.
- Personal income is the income that is received by persons from all sources. It includes wages, salaries, self-employment income, rental income, dividend income, interest income, and government provided sources of income.

## Median Household Income

The median household income of Mason County is consistently lower when compared to Washington State overall. Between 1999-2005, the median household income in Mason County increased by 11%. Median household income is an economic indicator that gives you a feel for the way in which income is distributed across a population. Median income is the point at which half of all households have a lower income and half a higher income. (D2)

### Median Household Income, Mason County & Washington State 1989-2005

Area	\$ 1989	\$ 1999	\$ 2000	\$ 2003	\$ 2005
Mason County	\$26,304	\$39,586	\$41,273	\$42,240	\$44,045
Washington	\$31,183	\$45,776	\$48,397	\$49,938	\$51,794

Notes:

- Data is in current dollars.
- 1989 and 1999 = Income data is derived from the US Census.
- 2000, 2003 and 2005 = Income figures are estimates. 2005 is a projection.

## Sources of Household Income

Household income can come from a single source or a combination of several of sources. Census 2000 captured sources of annual household income for the calendar year 1999. (D5-8)

### Sources of Household (HH) Income, Mason County & Washington State 1999

Income	# HH Mason	% of HH Mason	% of HH WA
Wages and Salaries	12,890	68%	79%
Interest, Dividends, Rentals	6,685	35%	40%
Social Security	6,426	34%	23%
Retirement	5,134	27%	17%
Self-Employment	2,277	12%	13%
Public Assistance	927	5%	4%
SSI - Supplemental Security	781	4%	4%

Data will not add to 100%. There can be more than 1 source of income in a household.

Income does not equal money gained from employment. Income can come from many sources, such as retirement, unemployment, or wages.

A household can be a person living alone, or multiple people living together. A household can be a family, but households can also be unrelated people living together.

A "family" is a type of household in which everyone is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

The median 'family' income in Mason County was \$44,246 in 1999. (D4)

The average Mason County household size was 2.5 in 2000. (D3)

The total number of households in Mason County was 18,876 in 2000. (D5)

In 1999, the median household income of the Hispanic population in Mason County was \$27,850. (D4)

In 1999, the median household income of the American Indian & Alaskan Native population in Mason County was \$31,458. (D4)

In 1999, households with public assistance income received \$3,523 on average from this source. (D5)

In 1999, households reporting SSI income received \$6,789 on average from this source. (D5)

In 1999, households reporting Social Security income received \$12,400 on average from this source. (D5)

\$ = Dollars  
# = Number or count  
% = Percent

# Income and Poverty continued...

## Range in Household Income

About 30% of Mason County households had an annual income of less than \$25,000, about 34% of county households had an income of \$25,000 to just under \$50,000 and 36% had an income of \$50,000 or more. (D7-10)

### Income Range for Households, Mason County & Washington State 1999

Annual Income	# HH Mason	% of HH Mason	% of HH WA
Under \$10,000	1,785	9%	8%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	2,417	13%	11%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	2,751	15%	12%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	2,578	14%	12%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	2,573	14%	11%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4,091	22%	21%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,524	8%	12%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	587	3%	6%
\$125,000+	570	3%	7%

## Unemployment

In 2004, the Mason County labor force consisted of 23,682 workers of which 1,754 were unemployed. (D12)

### Unemployment Rate, Mason County & Washington State 1990-2004

Area	% (Rate) 1990	% (Rate) 1999	% (Rate) 2000	% (Rate) 2003	% (Rate) 2004
Mason County	5.7%	5.9%	6.4%	8.6%	7.4%
Washington	5.1%	4.8%	5.0%	7.4%	6.2%

Note:

- Unemployment rate is not seasonally adjusted.

## All Residents in Poverty

In 2003, about 6,120 Mason County residents were estimated to be living in poverty. About 4,761 residents lived in poverty in 1989. The number of residents living in poverty increased by 29% over the 1989-2003 time period. (D13)

### Residents Living in Poverty, Mason County & Washington State 1989-2003

All Ages	% of Total 1989	% of Total 1999	% of Total 2000	% of Total 2003
Mason County	13%	12%	12%	12%
Washington	11%	10%	10%	11%

- In 1989, about 19% of Shelton residents of all ages, lived in poverty. (D17)

In 2001, a Mason County household consisting of a single parent with two children needed an income of at least \$27,642 to be self-sufficient. (D11)

A Mason County household consisting of a 2 parents with two children needed an income of at least \$34,436 to be self-sufficient in 2001. (D11)

In 1999, the proportion of residents of all ages living in poverty by school district boundary was: Mary M. Knight = 16%, Hood Canal = 14%, Shelton = 14%, Pioneer = 13%, North Mason = 9%, Grapeview = 7%, and Southside = 6%. (D15)

School district boundary data represents everyone who resides within the area and is not connected to school attendance/age.

About 23% of the American Indian and Alaskan Native population in Mason County lived in poverty in 1999. (D14)

About 34% of the Hispanic population in Mason County lived in poverty in 1999. (D14)

In the 2004 fiscal year, 28% or about 14,242 Mason County residents used some service provided by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Services include child protection, public assistance, nursing home care, Medicaid insurance, drug treatment, vocational rehabilitation, foster care, and much more. (D16)

In 1989, about 28% of residents of all ages living on the Skokomish Reservation and 31% on Squaxin Island Reservation & Off-Reservation Trust Land lived in poverty. (D18-19)

# Income and Poverty continued...

## Children in Poverty

In 2003, about 2,092 Mason County children age 0-17 lived in poverty. (D13)

### Children 0-17 Living in Poverty, Mason County & Washington State 1989-2003

Age 0-17	% of Total 1989	% of Total 1999	% of Total 2000	% of Total 2003
Mason County	21%	17%	18%	19%
Washington	17%	13%	13%	15%

## Use of Economic Assistance by the Very Low Income

The Economic Services Administration of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) administers programs for the very low income that provide temporary and emergency support in the form of financial, social and other services. (D20-21)

### Use of DSHS Economic Assistance, Mason County 2003/2004 Fiscal Year

Assistance	# 0-17	# 18-64	# 65+	# All Ages	Use Rate - All Ages
Basic Food Program	3,136	3,765	225	7,126	14%
TANF/Family Assistance	1,937	1,001	1	2,939	6%
General Assistance	0	448	3	451	1%
Diversion Cash Assistance	131	89	0	220	0%

Note:

- Use Rate = Proportion of county residents accessing that specific form of assistance during the specified state fiscal year.

## Free and Reduced Price Meal Program

The free and reduced-price meal program, known as the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, is geared toward children most in need of assistance. The proportion of school children who participate in the program is an indicator of household economic distress. (D22)

### Student Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Participation, Mason County October 2005

School District	% Free	% Reduced	% Free/Reduced	# Free/Reduced
Grapeview	24%	10%	34%	63
Hood Canal	44%	7%	51%	162
Mary M. Knight	38%	11%	49%	89
North Mason	23%	9%	32%	737
Pioneer	41%	15%	56%	408
Shelton	42%	9%	52%	2,244
Southside	28%	7%	35%	90
<b>Mason County</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>3,793</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>384,038</b>

The 2003/2004 Washington State Use Rate – All Ages for DSHS Economic Assistance Programs were: Basic Food Program = 11%, TANF = 4%, General Assistance = 1%. (D20-21)

**Basic Food Program (Food Stamps):** Food assistance for households with an income below 130% of the federal poverty level and resources below federal limits.

**TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)/State Family Assistance:** Cash grants for eligible financially needy parents and pregnant women. Includes cash grants to non-TANF eligible state residents. Formerly called AFDC.

**General Assistance:** Cash grants to clients who are poor, do not have dependent children and are unable to work because of the effects of a physical or mental disorder.

**Diversion Cash Assistance:** One-time grants to low income families with temporary emergent needs who are not likely to need TANF assistance if those needs are met. Assistance may be used to cover need for shelter, transportation, child care, food, medical care, and employment-related expenses.

Children in households whose income is 130% of federal poverty guideline are eligible to receive free meals at school. Reduced price meals are provided for children whose household income is between 130%-185% of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2005, a Mason County family of 2 would eligible for free school meals with an annual income of \$16,679 or less and for reduced price meals if they made between \$16,680-\$23,736. (D23)

(D1)

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