

# Safety Net and Basic Needs

## Food Bank Use

An average of 4,062 'new' households and 27,133 'returning' households are served through a food bank in Mason County each year (based on state fiscal year 2000/01-2004/05 data). (D1-5)

### Food Bank Use by Households (HH), Mason County 2000/01-2004/05

Type	# in 2000/01	# in 2001/02	# in 2002/03	# in 2003/04	# in 2004/05
New HH	4,658	4,386	3,859	3,789	3,618
Returning HH	31,002	28,101	26,618	26,036	23,906

Notes:

- HH = Households
- New = seen for the first time during that fiscal year which represents an unduplicated count.
- Returning = seen previously during that fiscal year which represents a duplicated count.
- The fiscal year for Washington State runs from July – June.
- Represents those served through the Emergency Food Assistance Program as provided by the Community Action Council serving Mason County.

An average of 5,391 children age 0-18 age are served through a food bank in Mason County each year. An average of 7,488 adults age 19+ are served each year by a Mason County food bank through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (based on state fiscal year 2000/01-2004/05 data). (D1-5)

### Food Bank Use by Individuals, Mason County 2004/05

Age Group	# in 2004/05	% of Total 2004/05
0 to 2	670	6%
3 to 18	4,054	34%
19 to 54	5,816	49%
55+	1,403	12%
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>11,943</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

- Based on new client figures which represent an unduplicated count.
- Represents those served through the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

## Food Stamp Use

An average of 3,889 Mason County residents received assistance from the Basic Food (Food Stamps) program during the 2000-2003 time period. The Mason County rate of food stamp use was consistently higher when compared to the state. (D6-7)

### Food Stamp Recipients, Mason County & Washington State 2000-2003

Area	Rate 2000	Rate 2001	Rate 2002	Rate 2003
Mason County	75.3	74.0	77.9	85.3
Washington	54.2	55.0	61.9	69.8

Notes:

- Rate per 1,000.
- For recipients of all ages.

Based on 2000/01-2004/05 fiscal year data from the state Emergency Food Assistance Program:

- An average of 765 children age 0-2 are served each year by a food bank in Mason County. (D1-5)
- An average of 4,626 children/youth age 3-18 are served each year by a food bank in Mason County. (D1-5)
- An average of 6,224 adults age 19-54 are served each year by a food bank in Mason County. (D1-5)
- An average of 1,264 adults age 55+ are served each year by a food bank in Mason County. (D1-5)

Basic Food Program (Food Stamps): Food assistance for households with an income below 130% of the federal poverty level and resources below federal limits. (D7)

9% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mason County public school students said that during the past year they or their family had to cut meal sizes or skip meals 'every month' because there was not enough money for food. Another 8% of students said that they had to cut or skip meals because of lack of money some months, but not every month during the past year. (D8)

# = Number or count  
% = Percent

## WIC Use

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides preventive health services to low-income children under 5 years of age, new mothers and pregnant women who have a medical or nutrition need. Mason County participation in the WIC program was consistently higher when compared to the state overall. (D9-13)

### Infants Served by the WIC Program, Mason County & Washington State 2002-2005

Area	% (Rate) 2002	% (Rate) 2003	% (Rate) 2004	% (Rate) 2005
Mason County	64%	68%	64%	62%
Washington	48%	48%	49%	50%

On average 1,841 infants and young children are served each year by a Mason County WIC program. On average 763 Mason County women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum are served each year by the program (based on 2002-2005 data). (D9-13)

### Women and Children served by the WIC Program, Mason County 2002-2005

Group	# in 2002	# in 2003	# in 2004	# in 2005
Infants and Young Children	1,837	1,838	1,861	1,831
Pregnant, Breastfeeding, & Postpartum Women	756	776	777	743
<b>Total Served</b>	2,593	2,614	2,638	2,574

Note:

- Postpartum = time period following birth of the baby.

## Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Use

An average of 3,712 Mason County public school students participate in the free and reduced-price meal program, known as the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, each year (based on 2002-2005 data). Mason County student participation in the free and reduced price meal program is higher when compared to the state overall. (D14-17)

### Student Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Participation, Mason County & Washington State October 2001-2005

Area	% FR 2002	% FR 2003	% FR 2004	% FR 2005
Mason County	44%	47%	43%	45%
Washington	36%	37%	38%	38%

Notes:

- FR = free and reduced price.
- Children in households whose income is 130%-185% of federal poverty guidelines are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals at school.

In 2005, 57% of Mason County WIC families had at least one working household member. (D13)

76% of WIC families lived in poverty in 2005. (D13)

In October 2005, 56% of Pioneer School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 52% of Shelton School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 51% of Hood Canal School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 49% of Mary M. Knight School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 34% of Grapeview School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 35% of Southside School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

In October 2005, 32% of North Mason School District students applied for and were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price meal program. (D17)

## TANF Use

An average of 1,177 Mason County children received assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program (based on 2000-2003 data). (D6-7)

### TANF Child Recipients, Mason County & Washington State 2000-2003

Area	Rate 2000	Rate 2001	Rate 2002	Rate 2003
Mason County	114.4	100.9	93.7	100.5
Washington	69.8	64.9	63.8	63.9

Notes:

- Rate per 1,000.
- For recipients of age 0-17.

## Emergency Housing/Homeless Prevention Use

An average of 1,006 individuals are provided either emergency shelter or homeless prevention services each year in Mason County (based on data for the 2002/03-2004/05 fiscal year). Many individuals are turned away every year from shelter or prevention services assistance, which indicates that the need is greater than can be accommodated. (D18)

### Individuals Provided Emergency Shelter or Homeless Prevention Services, Mason County 2002/03-2004/05

Provided	# in 2002/03	# in 2003/04	# in 2004/05
Emergency Shelter	227	441	610
Homeless Prevention	459	688	593

Notes:

- Homeless Prevention = can include financial assistance to prevent eviction or secure permanent housing through payment of deposits, however the primary type of assistance provided in Mason County was case management.
- Represents those served through the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP) serving Mason County.
- For recipients of all ages.

### Individuals Turned Away from Emergency Shelter or Homeless Prevention Services, Mason County 2002/03-2004/05

Turnaways	# in 2002/03	# in 2003/04	# in 2004/05
Emergency Shelter	831	491	1,207
Homeless Prevention	1,010	990	1,276

Notes:

- Turnaways = occurs when shelter is not able to accommodate a request for shelter or services cannot be provided as requested. There are several reasons for turnaways. Most often, people are turned away because shelters are full or funds to provide financial assistance have been depleted.
- Represents those served through the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP) serving Mason County.
- For recipients of all ages.

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. (D7)

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 shelter facilities also impacts whether people are turned away for help.

Of the individuals provided emergency shelter during the 2004/05 fiscal year in Mason County: (D18)

- 28% were under age 6
- 18% were age 6-11
- 15% were age 12-17
- 11% were age 18-21
- 18% were age 22-44
- 7% were age 45-54
- 3% were age 55+

Of the individuals provided homeless prevention services during the 2004/05 fiscal year in Mason County: (D18)

- 25% were under age 6
- 16% were age 6-11
- 14% were age 12-17
- 11% were age 18-21
- 19% were age 22-44
- 10% were age 45-54
- 5% were age 55+

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

## Basic Housing Features

In 2000, 3% of all Mason County housing units lacked the basic feature of a complete kitchen and 3% lacked complete plumbing. In comparison, 1% of all Washington State housing units lacked a complete kitchen and 1% complete plumbing. (D19-20)

### Housing Units Lacking Basic Features, Mason County 2000

Lacking	# OC in 2000	# All in 2000	% OC 2000	% All 2000
Complete Plumbing	125	790	1%	3%
Complete Kitchen	120	782	1%	3%
<b>All Housing Units</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>25,515</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes:

- OC = includes units occupied by renters and owners.
- All = includes occupied and unoccupied-vacant housing units.

## Lacking Telephone or Vehicle

About 5% of all 'renter' occupied housing units in Mason County lacked telephone service in 2000. In comparison, 3% of Washington State 'renter' occupied housing units lacked telephone service. Only 1% of 'all' occupied housing units in Washington State lacked phone service in 2000. (D19-21)

### Occupied Housing Units Lacking Telephone Service or Vehicle, Mason County 2000

Lacking	# Renter in 2000	# OC in 2000	% Renter 2000	% OC 2000
Telephone Service	180	381	5%	2%
No Vehicle	426	834	11%	4%
<b>All OC Housing Units</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note:

- OC = includes units occupied by renters and owners.

## Occupied Housing Units

About 1 in 5 occupied housing units in Mason County were rented in 2000. In comparison, 1 in 3 Washington State occupied housing units were rented in 2000. (D21-22)

### Housing Units by Renters and Owners, Mason County 2000

Type	# in 2000	% of Total 2000
Owner	14,947	79%
Renter	3,965	21%
<b>All OC Housing Units</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note:

- OC = includes units occupied by renters and owners.

Of all Mason County vacant or unoccupied housing units identified in 2000, 79% were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. (D21)

1,270 Mason County households were served through the Washington Telephone Assistance Program during the 2004/2005 state fiscal year. This program helps low-income residents afford a telephone or, if homeless, access a community voice mailbox. (D27)

In Washington State, about 16% of all 'renter' occupied housing units report having no vehicle in 2000. (D22)

In 2000, about 47% of all Mason County renters said they had recently moved into the unit, between 1999 and early 2000. 32% of renters said they had moved in within the last few years, between 1995 and 1998. (D19)

The median household income of Mason County 'owner' occupied housing units was \$42,964 in 2000. (D23)

The median household income of Mason County 'renter' occupied housing units was \$26,095 in 2000. (D23)

Of all Washington State occupied housing units, 35% were rented and 65% were owned in 2000. (D22)

8% of Mason County renters had an annual household income of less than \$5,000 in 2000. 10% of renters had an annual income between \$5,000-\$9,999 (compared to 5% for Washington State renters with a household income of less than \$5,000). (D23,25)

## Cost of Rental Housing

Affordable rental housing is defined as housing which costs no more than 30% of a household's monthly income for rent and utilities (gross rent). Living in unaffordable housing puts these households at higher risk for lacking the funds for basic necessities, losing the home, or experiencing serious financial stress. About 2 in 5 Mason County renters paid more than 30% of household income for rent in 2000. (D24)

### Proportion of Household Income Used for Gross Rent, Mason County 2000

Amount	# in 2000	% of Total 2000
Less than 10%	240	7%
10% to 19%	1,110	32%
20% to 29%	734	21%
30% to 39%	380	11%
40% to 49%	271	8%
50%+	719	21%

Notes:

- Excludes renters for whose income is unknown or not computed.
- Gross rent = rent payment + utilities (heat, water, sewer).

### Gross Rent paid for Housing Units, Mason County 2000

Amount	# in 2000	% of Total 2000
Less than \$200	209	6%
\$200 to \$499	1,004	28%
\$500 to \$999	2,182	62%
\$1,000+	144	4%

Notes:

- Excludes renters whose costs are unknown or not computed.
- Gross rent = rent payment + utilities (heat, water, sewer).

## Owner Housing

About 1 in 3 Mason County mortgage holders paid more than 30% of household income for homeownership-related costs in 2000. (D19)

### Proportion of Household Income Used for Homeownership, Mason County 2000

Amount	# in 2000	% of Total 2000
Less than 10%	276	4%
10% to 19%	2,237	35%
20% to 29%	1,876	29%
30% to 39%	929	14%
40% to 49%	418	6%
50%+	747	12%

Notes:

- Excludes owners whose costs are unknown or not computed.
- Excludes owners who have no current mortgage payment.
- Homeownerships costs include payments for mortgage, real estate taxes, mobile home site rent, insurance, and utilities.

In 2000, the proportion of household income used for payment of gross 'rent' among Washington State renters was: (D25)

- Less than 10% = 5%
- 10% to 19% = 26%
- 20% to 29% = 27%
- 30% to 39% = 15%
- 40% to 49% = 8%
- 50%+ = 19%

In 2000, the proportion of household income used for payment of homeownership costs among Washington State mortgage holders was: (D20)

- Less than 10% = 5%
- 10% to 19% = 31%
- 20% to 29% = 32%
- 30% to 39% = 15%
- 40% to 49% = 6%
- 50%+ = 10%

In 2000, the median monthly gross rent amount paid by Mason County renters was \$579. (D24)

In 2000, the median monthly homeownership related amount paid by Mason County mortgage holders was \$967. (D19)

As of October 2005, the fair market rent for a 1 bedroom home in Mason County was \$540 and \$647 for a 2 bedroom. (D25)

61% of rental housing units in Mason County in 2000 were 1 or 2 bedroom homes. (D19)

As of October 2005, the fair market rent for a 3 bedroom home was \$884 and \$1,047 for a 4 bedroom home. (D19)

34% of rental housing units in Mason County in 2000 were 3 or 4 bedroom homes. (D19)

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