

Population Metrics

Department of Social and Health Services

We transform lives



Population Metrics

Access DSHS Metrics online: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/performance-metrics>

Highlights

- **Between 2000 and 2022 high school graduation rates, school dropout rates, and educational attainment of adults (through 2021) have consistently improved.**
- **Between 2000 and 2020-2022, two metrics indicative of serious behavioral health problems have worsened: suicide rates and domestic violence rates. In the last three years (2018-2020) suicide rates have seen a small decline.**
- **Poverty rates among children and persons of all ages increased between 2000 and 2013, and especially quickly during the Great Recession. Poverty rates have been slowly improving in the last few years; as of 2021, they were slightly lower than in 2000 for all measures.**

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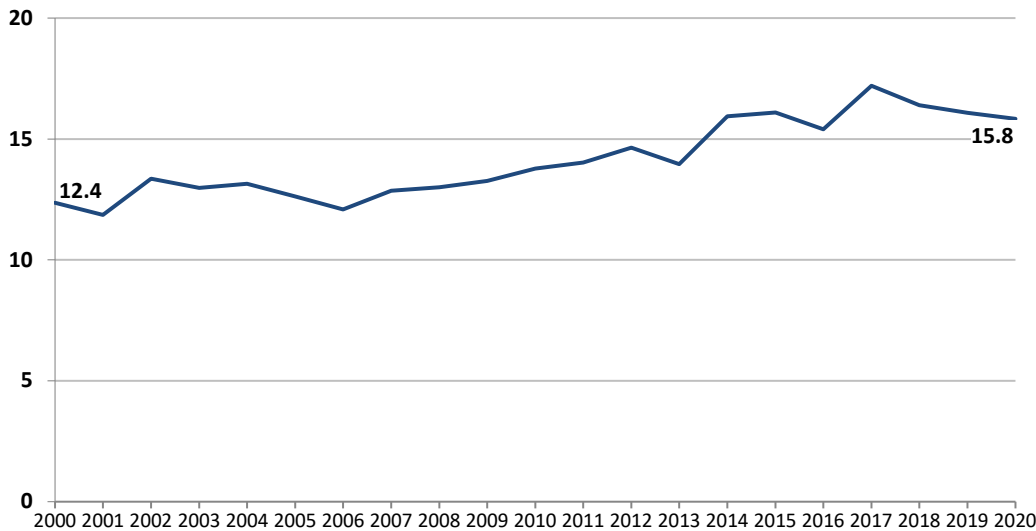


POPULATION MEASURE

Suicide rate for all Washington residents

Suicide rate has increased by 28% since 2000

Age-adjusted deaths due to suicide, per 100,000 Washington residents
Statewide



DATA SOURCE: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2000-2020; supplied by Aaron Starks, 360.902.0812, Research and Data Analysis Division. Interpretation: Department of Health. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/dataandstatisticalreports/healthdatavisualization/mortalitydashboards>.

MEASURE DEFINITION: The age-adjusted suicide rate for all Washington State residents. Rate per 100,000 state residents. Standard Population: 2000 Standard Population.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/H.4.xlsx>



SUMMARY

- Although the age-adjusted suicide rate has seen fluctuations over the reporting period, the overall trend is an increase. Since 2000 the rate has increased by 28 percent.

- The most promising way to prevent suicide and suicidal behavior is through the early recognition and treatment of depression and other psychiatric illnesses. Interventions work best when done as part of a comprehensive approach to prevention, including upstream factors for suicide (economic insecurity, health care disparities, exposure to racism).

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services included a comprehensive list of suicide risk and protective factors in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Protective factors for suicide include:

- *Effective clinical care for mental, physical, and substance use disorders*
- *Easy access to a variety of clinical interventions, including mental health services, and support for help-seeking*
- *Family and community support*
- *Support from ongoing medical and mental health care relationships*

- The 2021 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Implement the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention notes the need to (1) activate a broad-based public health response to suicide; (2) address upstream factors for suicide, (3) increase safety of lethal means, (4) improve clinical training and care for suicide risk, (5) improve crisis care and care transition, (6) increase quality and use of suicide-related data.

JULY 2022

POPULATION METRICS | Stability

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POPULATION MEASURE

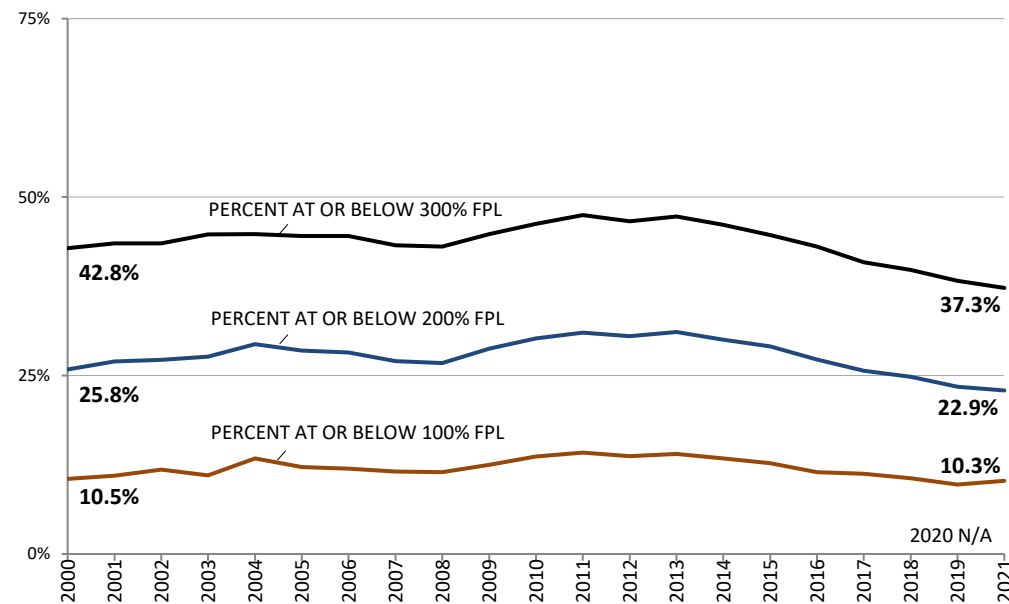


Percent of people at or below 100% | 200% | 300% of Federal Poverty Level

Washington's poverty rates have been improving since 2013 and are lower than in 2000

Washington residents living at or below Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Statewide



SUMMARY

- This chart shows the percentage of Washington residents with incomes at or below 100%, 200% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) between 2000 and 2021.
- Low-income families and individuals are at an increased risk of negative social and health outcomes.
- The trend lines have been fairly stable, with fluctuations reflecting changes in economic conditions.
- The Great Recession of 2007-2009 pushed the trends in the negative direction; the negative trend reached its peak in 2011-2013 and began improving as the economy has seen improvements.
- The share of people below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level is now the lowest since 2000 (10.3%).
- A report, *Economic Well-being in the Great Recession*, compares indicators of economic well-being in Washington to eight similar states; it is available at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/rda/reports/research-11-156.pdf>
- Attention! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, single-year 2020 ACS had a large undercount creating a substantial bias. The Census Bureau and other data experts say that the 2020 ACS data are not directly comparable with 2019 and earlier ACS. For this reason, "N/A" is shown for year 2020 (see Data Notes).

DATA SOURCE: ACS 1-Year Estimates - Public Use Microdata Sample, 2021, accessed via US Census Bureau's Explore Data at <https://data.census.gov/mdat> on 08-18-2023; supplied by Irina Sharkova, 360.902.0743, Research and Data Analysis Division.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Persons with income at or below 100%, 200%, and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level as a percentage of all Washington residents for whom poverty status is determined.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/P.4.xlsx>

AUGUST 2023

POPULATION METRICS | Stability

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POPULATION MEASURE

Percent of Washington's children at or below 100% | 200% | 300% of Federal Poverty Level

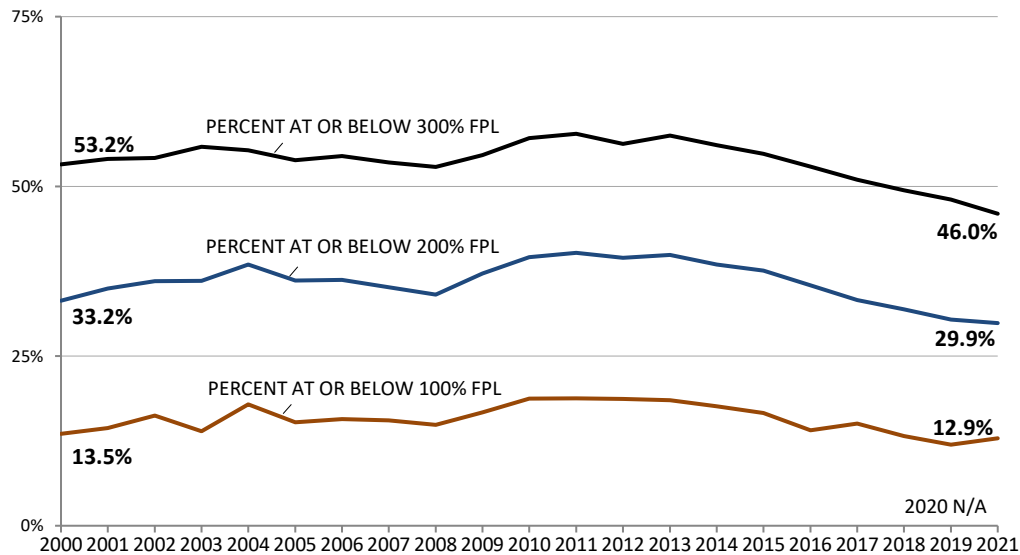
Washington's child poverty rates are now slightly lower than in 2000

Washington children living at or below Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Statewide



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Jay Inslee, Governor



SUMMARY

- This chart shows the percentage of Washington's children under 18 years old living at or below 100%, 200% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) between 2000 and 2021.
- Compared to all Washington residents, children are more likely to live below poverty level. Low-income children are at an increased risk of negative social and health outcomes.
- The trends have seen some fluctuations. The sharp upward trend which started in 2008 leveled off by 2013. The child poverty rates have been improving since then.
- In 2021, 13 percent of children were at or below 100% FPL and 30 percent at or below 200% FPL.
- A report comparing indicators of economic well-being in Washington during the Great Recession to eight similar states is available at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/rda/reports/research-11-156.pdf> Out of all nine states, Washington experienced the biggest increase in child poverty between 2008 and 2009.
- Attention! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, single-year 2020 ACS had a large undercount creating a substantial bias. The Census Bureau and other data experts say that the 2020 ACS data are not directly comparable with 2019 and earlier ACS. For this reason, "N/A" is shown for year 2020 (see Data Notes).

DATA SOURCE: ACS 1-Year Estimates - Public Use Microdata Sample, 2021, accessed via US Census Bureau's Explore Data at <https://data.census.gov/mdat> on 08-18-2023; supplied by Irina Sharkova, 360.902.0743, Research and Data Analysis Division.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Children 0 to 17 years old with family income at or below 100%, 200%, and 300% of poverty level as a percentage of all Washington children for whom poverty status is determined.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/P.5.xlsx>

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POPULATION METRICS | Safety

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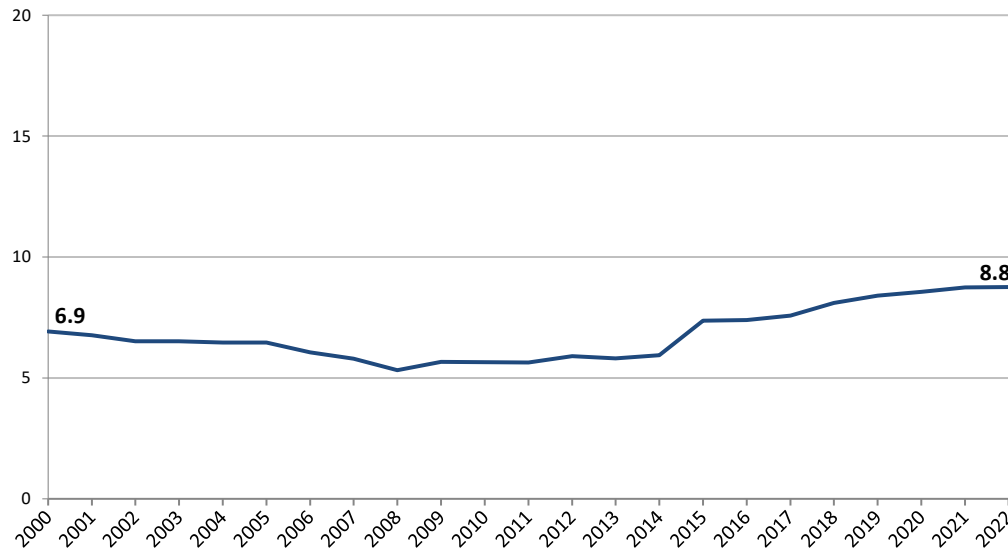
POPULATION MEASURE



Domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement

Domestic violence incident rates increased by 27% since 2000

Domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement per 1000 population
Statewide



DATA SOURCE: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, UCR Division. Population Estimates: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division. April 1 Official Population Estimates; supplied by Aaron Starks, 360.902.0812, Research and Data Analysis Division.

MEASURE DEFINITION: The annual number of domestic violence-related offenses, per 1,000 persons. Domestic violence includes any violence of one family member against another family member. Family can include spouses, former spouses, parents who have children in common regardless of marital status, adults who live in the same household, as well as parents and their children.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/S.1.xlsx>

SUMMARY

- Reported Offenses of Domestic Violence have increased since 2000 by 27 percent, from 6.9 offenses to 8.8 offenses per 1000 population in 2022. The trend improved from 2000 to 2008, to 5.3 offenses per 1000 population. The improvements began to reverse starting in 2009, with faster increases in the domestic violence rates beginning in 2014.
- The *Manual for Law Enforcement Agencies: Stalking and Sexual Assault in the Context of Domestic Violence (2009)* lists a number of approaches to address domestic violence.
 - "Proactive and aggressive police response can deter further violence and ultimately save lives. Increasingly, law enforcement agencies are promoting early intervention in domestic violence and stalking cases to protect victims before more injuries occur. Officers are being trained to thoroughly investigate sexual assault cases, while being sensitive to the vulnerabilities of victims. Timely and responsive law enforcement intervention can increase victim safety, enhance investigations, and facilitate successful prosecution."
 - "Community Collaboration is essential. Connecting domestic violence victims to community resources is vital to their continued safety and safety planning. It can also lead to their healing process and being able to move forward. Law enforcement should work collaboratively with the local domestic violence center and sexual assault program. Law enforcement needs to know how to make referrals to each of these programs, have resource materials to give to victims, and what services are provided. In addition, protocols need to be in place with the community based programs and Children's Protective Services if children are involved in any way."

SEPTEMBER 2023

POPULATION METRICS | Education

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POPULATION MEASURE

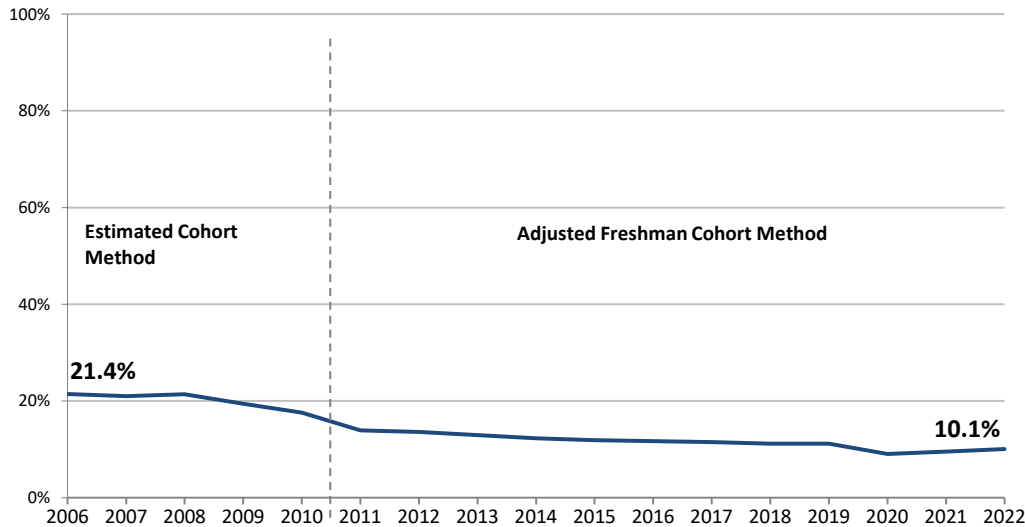


Percent of Washington high school students who drop out

Dropout rate has decreased by 28% since 2011

Washington State High School Cumulative Dropout Rate

Cumulative percent for cohort (grades 9 through 12), statewide



DATA SOURCE: Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; supplied by Aaron Starks, 360.902.0812, Research and Data Analysis Division. Interpretation: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, <https://www.k12.wa.us/data-reporting>.

MEASURE DEFINITION: A cumulative or cohort dropout rate is based on the percentage of students who began grade 9 in a given year but dropped out of school over a four-year period and did not receive a regular diploma.

DATA NOTES: See notes on Data Page for this measure.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/E.1.xlsx>

SUMMARY

- The dropout rate declined from 14 percent in 2011 to 10 percent in 2022.
- The substantial drop in cumulative dropouts from 2010 to 2011 is due to a change in computation methods rather than an actual decrease. Beginning with the 9th-grade cohort in the 2010/2011 school year, OSPI has started using the actual cohort of students for their calculations. This process greatly simplified the formulas used to calculate number of students who graduate and dropouts. Our charts have been updated to show the demarcation between these methods. Data previously offered in the estimated method for 2011 and 2012 has been replaced with data using the new adjusted freshman cohort method.
- The accuracy of the data continues to improve as more scrutiny and care are given to the rates and the coding of students' enrollment status. Stringent business rules, and checks and balances, are applied to the data received from districts to ensure greater data accuracy. Moreover, OSPI uses the unique state student identification number to locate students who moved from one district to another and who would have previously been considered dropouts. State law (RCW 28A.175.010) requires school districts to account for the educational progress of each of its students in grades 9–12. Districts provide information on students monthly to OSPI through the Core Student Record System (CSRS), which includes data on the number of students who dropped out, and the reasons why students dropped out.

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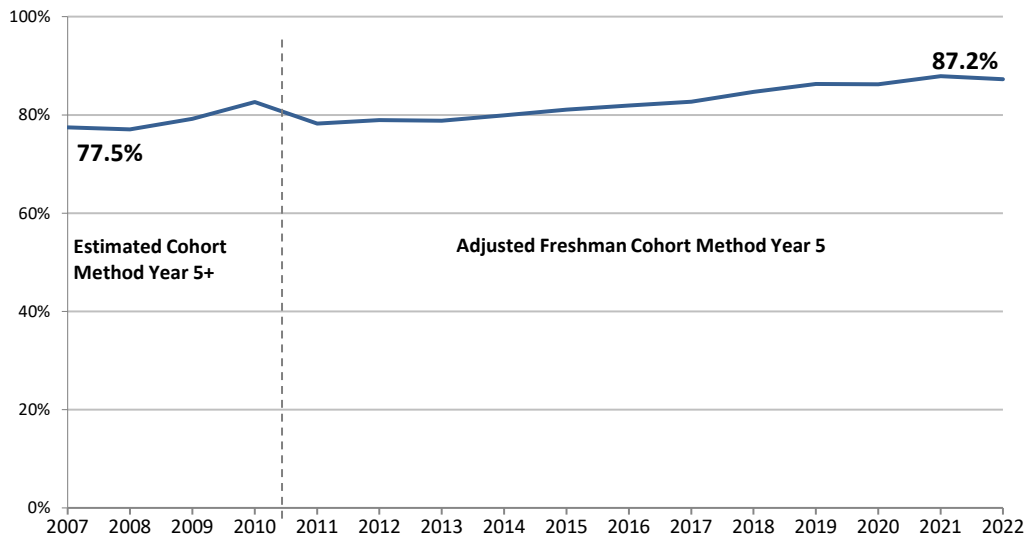
POPULATION MEASURE

Percent of those freshman students who graduate within five years

Graduation rates have increased by 12% since 2011

Washington State High School Graduation Rate

Extended graduation rate (includes both on-time and late graduates), statewide



DATA SOURCE: Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; supplied by Aaron Starks, 360.902.0812, Research and Data Analysis Division. Interpretation: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, <https://www.k12.wa.us/data-reporting>.

MEASURE DEFINITION: The percent of students who graduate including those students who take more than four years to complete their degree.

DATA NOTES: See notes on Data Page for this measure.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/E.2.xlsx>



SUMMARY

- The drop in extended graduations from 2010 to 2011 is due to a change in computation methods rather than an actual decrease. Beginning with the 9th grade cohort in the 2010/2011 school year, OSPI has started using the actual cohort of students for their calculations. The cohort was adjusted for students moving in or out of Washington, tracking actual student locations. This process greatly simplified the formulas used to calculate graduates and dropouts. Our charts have been updated to show the demarcation between these methods. Data previously offered in the estimated method for graduates from 2011 and 2012 has been replaced with data using the new adjusted freshman cohort method. The new method does not add graduates after year 5 to the extended graduation rate.

- To deter schools from discharging or “pushing out” low-performing students in order to achieve better test results, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the use of graduation rates in the assessments of school performance. OSPI tracks and reports on 4-year, 5-year, 6-year, and 7-year graduation rates for high schools, school districts, and the state.

- Students are now often offered the option of staying in school past the senior year to complete graduation requirements, allowing continued access to school support systems. Rather than a GED, these students get a valid high school diploma.

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POPULATION MEASURE

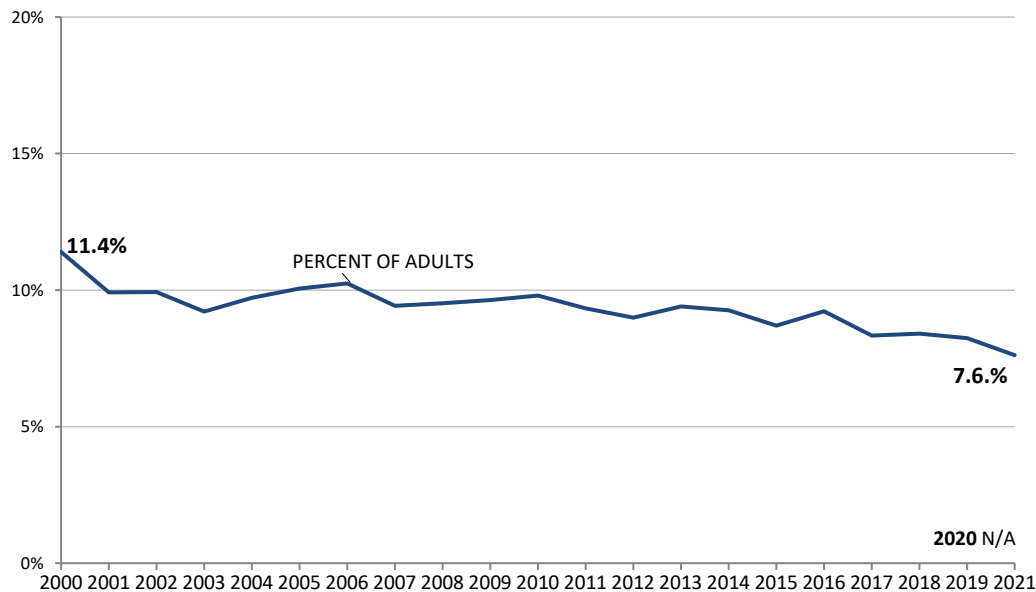


Percent of Washington adults 20 to 64 without high school degree or diploma

Washington adults without high school degree declined 33% since 2000

Adults with less than a high school education

Statewide



DATA SOURCE: ACS 1-Year Estimates - Public Use Microdata Sample, 2021, accessed via US Census Bureau's Explore Data at <https://data.census.gov/mdat> on 08-18-2023; supplied by Irina Sharkova, 360.902.0743, Research and Data Analysis Division.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Percentage of Washington adults ages 20 to 64 years who have not obtained a high school degree or diploma, or its equivalent.

For data tables and notes, click [HERE](#):

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/E.3.xlsx>

SUMMARY

- This chart shows the percentage of Washington adults age 20 to 64 years without high school degree or diploma between 2000 and 2021.
- Adults who have not completed a high school education earn less than half of the income earned by those with high school or higher education.
- The trend has had some fluctuation but in recent years has been going in the right direction; the percentage dropped 33% between 2000 and 2021.
- Younger adults are more likely to have completed a high school education; as time goes by, older adults without a high school education "age out" of the cohort. Washington may be doing a better job educating its children. The state may be attracting, on balance, a more educated workforce.
- Efforts to ensure that all students graduate from high school and a state economic development policy aimed at attracting an educated workforce are likely to strengthen the positive trend.
- Attention! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, single-year 2020 ACS had a large undercount creating a substantial bias. The Census Bureau and other data experts say that the 2020 ACS data are not directly comparable with 2019 and earlier ACS. For this reason, "N/A" is shown for year 2020 (see Data Notes).

AUGUST 2023