

Children of Color in Washington State

- 13% of children in Washington are Hispanic, but Hispanic representation in the population grows as you go down in age. For example, 17% of 0- to 4-year-olds is Hispanic. In counties such as Adams, Franklin, Yakima and Grant, more than half of the births are of Hispanic origin.
- Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates, 2004
- Three-quarters of the state's African American children and two-thirds of Asian/Pacific Islander children live in King and Pierce counties.
- Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates, 2004
- National research has shown that African American children end up in the child welfare system at far higher rates than Caucasian children—despite no greater incidence of maltreatment in African American families compared to Caucasian families. This trend holds true for Washington State, where African American children represent 9.4% of the children in out-of-home care even though they represent only 4% of the child population. Native American children represent 10.2% of the children in out-of-home care although they represent only 2% of the children in the state.
- Northwest Family Institute, University of Washington, 2005
- In King County, African American and Native American children are over-represented at nearly every decision point in the child welfare system. Although these two groups of children represent only 8% of the child population in King County, they account for one-third of all children removed from their homes and one-half of children in foster care for more than four years.
- King County Coalition on Racial Disproportionality, 2005
- The benefits of immigration exceed the costs, as the average immigrant pays nearly \$1,800 more in taxes than he or she “costs” in public benefits such as education and healthcare. Economic benefits of immigration run as high as \$10 billion per year.
- The National Immigrant Forum, 2005
- Since 1993, the number of Washington students for which English is not the first language has doubled, reaching more than 7% of students statewide.
- League of Education Voters, based on data from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2005
- One out of three children in Washington are children of color. Broken out by racial and ethnic groups, 6.4% of the state's 1.5 million children are Asian/Pacific Islander, 6.5% are multi-racial, 4.3% are African American, 14.5% are Hispanic and 1.8% are American Indian.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2006
- Despite some progress closing the achievement gap in recent years, children of color continue to lag behind their white classmates on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) tests. In 2006, children of color trailed in every category of the 4th grade reading, writing and math WASLs. On the reading test alone, 16.9% of African American students, 16.8% percent of Native American students and 14.7% of Hispanic students exceeded the standards, compared to 32.8% of white students.

- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2006

- In 2005, 21% of children in Washington State lived in immigrant families; 52% of children of immigrant parents lived in low-income working families' (income below 200% of the poverty threshold); 23% of children in the state living in an immigrant family have difficulty speaking English; And 39% of children in immigrant families had at least one parent from Latin America.

- Kids Count Data Book, 2007

- In 2007, about 16.4 million children, or more than one in five children in the United States, had at least one immigrant parent. The number of children of immigrants doubled from 8 million in 1990, and their share of all children age 0 to 17 increased from 13 to 23 percent during this period.

- Urban Institute, 2009

- Young children are more likely to have immigrant parents: Nationwide, 24 percent of children age 0 to 5 have immigrant parents versus 21 percent of children age 6 to 17.

- Urban Institute, 2009

- In Washington state, the percentage of children with at least one immigrant parents doubled between 1990 and 2005/06. In 2005/06, the number of children of immigrants was 329,242, representing 22 percent of children in the state.

- Urban Institute, 2009