

Walla Walla County

Community Health Report 2018

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The 2018 Community Health Report is composed of a summary of key health indicators for Walla Walla County. The report takes a holistic view of health, considering social inequities, environment, risk behaviors, and diseases as important factors contributing to overall health. Indicators for this report were supplemented by the Community Health Indicators Project in collaboration with Community Council. Subcommittees for five categories (Education, Economy, Health, Environment, and Safety) chose key indicators for each subject. Categories were chosen based on past projects by Community Council that gathered input on the level of community concern surrounding these topics. Using the indicators, Community Health Conversations convened general community members to discuss the data. Indicators for Walla Walla County are compared to state levels and to targets set by Healthy People 2020, a national health promotion and disease prevention program. This report reveals the many strengths of Walla Walla County, which benefits from easy access to outdoor recreation activities, community and religious organizations, three institutions for higher learning, and local businesses that provide jobs. Environmental quality in the county is high and a popular wine industry attracts tourists and promotes economic growth. Despite the county's many strengths, however, there is room for improvement that will lead to better health outcomes.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PARTNERS

- Community Health Indicators/Conversations Participants
- Collaborators

DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Demographics.....	5
Education.....	6
Access to Care	8
Healthcare Quality	11
Cardiovascular Disease	13
Cancer.....	14
Diabetes	16
Tobacco Use	17
Alcohol Use	19
Substance Abuse.....	13
Sexual Behavior and Pregnancy	22
Weight Status.....	24
Mental Health.....	26
Poverty	28
Income & Homelessness.....	29
Environmental Quality	31
Social Context.....	33
Community Engagement	35
Death & Life Expectancy.....	36
Closing Summary	37
Sources	38

DEMOGRAPHICS

People	County	State
Population:	60,567	7,407,743
Percent Female:	49.0%	50.0%
Median Age:	37.5	37.7
Under 18:	21.4%	22.4%
Over 65:	17.3%	14.8%

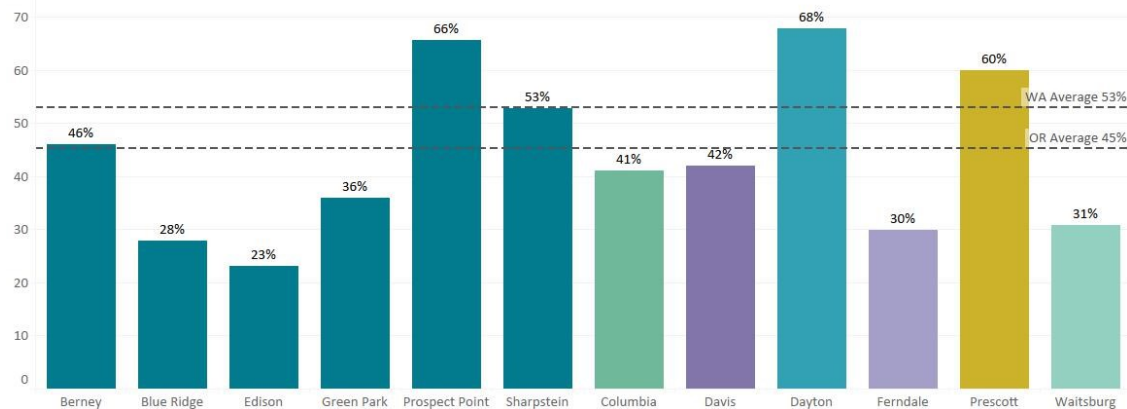
Ethnicity	County	State
White:	72.2%	69.5%
Black:	2.2%	4.1%
AI/AN:	1.3%	1.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander:	1.93%	9.4%
Hispanic/Latino any Race:	21.2%	12.4%

EDUCATION

Education indicators were developed through the Community Health Conversations project, so some data are regional numbers encompassing Milton-Freewater and Columbia County.

Percent of 3rd Graders who Met English Language Arts Standards, 2016-17

Source: WA OSPI, ODE



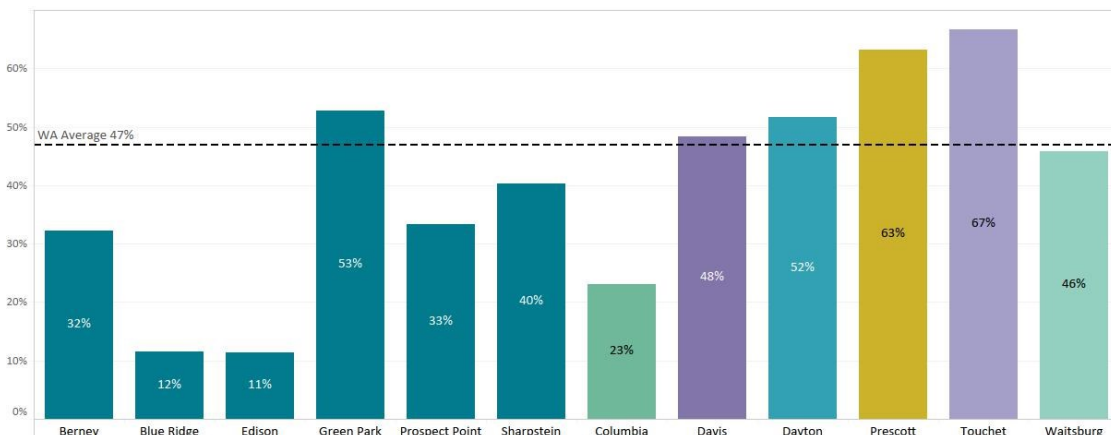
Education is an important determinant of health. People with more education tend to live longer lives and obtain employment more successfully. Higher educational attainment is correlated with lower rates of serious health problems such as diabetes and heart disease.

Education in Walla Walla County is below the state level. Most schools in Walla Walla County fall below the state for 3rd Grade reading and Kindergarten Readiness.

Kindergarten Readiness by School, 2017

Percent of kindergarteners who met standards on all six domains on WAKids assessment

Source: WA OSPI

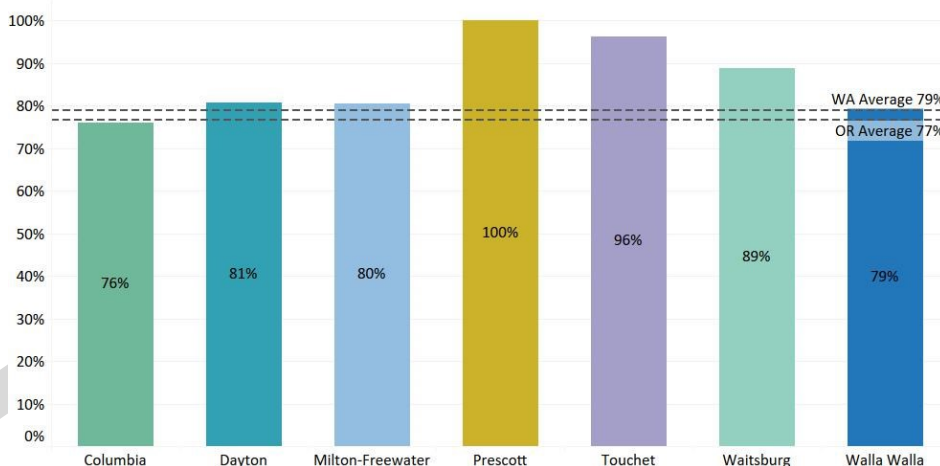


Educational outcomes in Walla Walla County high schools are also below the state level. The high school graduation rate in Walla Walla County has

declined from 85 percent to 80 percent from 2010 to 2015. Twenty-nine percent of Walla Walla County residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, as compared to a statewide 34 percent.

4-Year Graduation Rate by District, 2016-2017

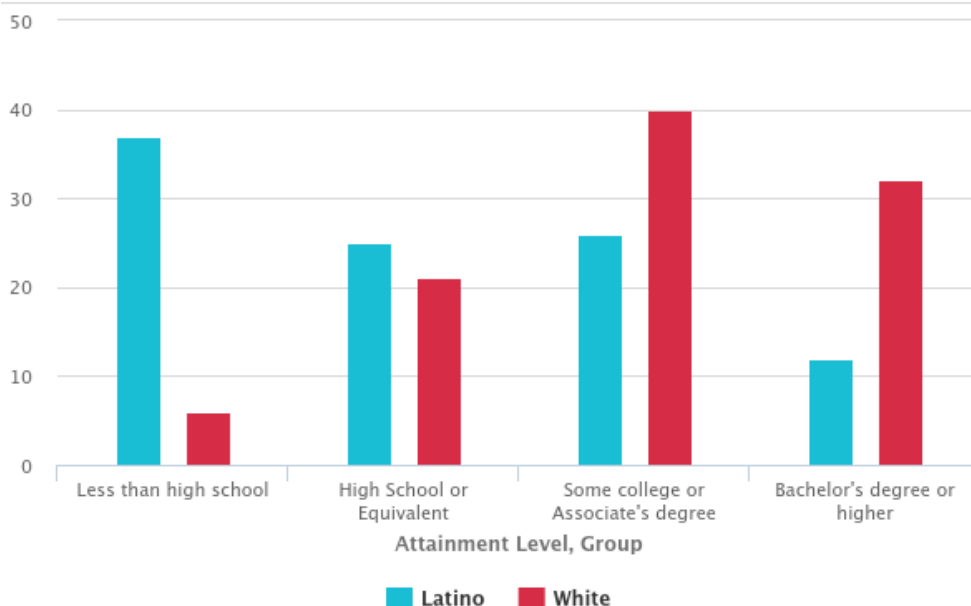
Source: WA OSPI, ODE



Educational attainment differs widely between non-Latino whites and Latinos.

Educational Attainment for non-Latino Whites and Latinos, 2016

Source: ACS, 2012-2016



The data-supported associations between

lower educational attainment and negative health outcomes identify the improvement of education in Walla Walla County as an important priority. Its improvement has the potential to reduce rates of diabetes, smoking, and other serious health problems. More spending on education and higher skill levels is needed to strengthen educators and the system, thereby setting community members on a path that leads to a healthier life.

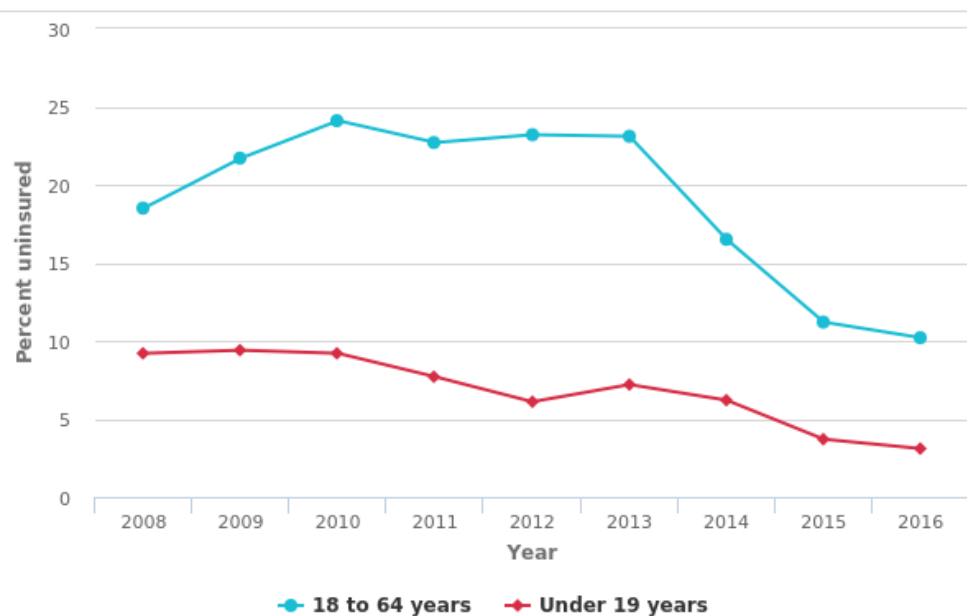
ACCESS TO CARE

Health Insurance

Ninety percent of Walla Walla County, and 97 percent of children and teens in the county, have health insurance. These rates are similar to those of the state of Washington but fall short of the Healthy People 2020 goal of 100 percent. The main source of coverage for people under 65 is private employer-sponsored insurance. Private health insurance can also be purchased on an individual basis. Public programs such as Medicaid provide coverage for many low-income children and adults.

Percent Uninsured by Age Group

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates 2008-2016



Health insurance coverage can be an important indicator of health status. Due to concern over medical bills, the uninsured are more than twice as likely to delay or forgo needed care as the insured. This can lead to the development of serious health problems that could have been prevented. An increase in health care coverage amongst children and adults in Walla Walla County is likely to reduce both health problems and health-related costs significantly.

Provider Availability

Seventy-one percent of adults have had a checkup in the last year, which is similar to Washington State. Seven percent of adults did not see a health care provider due to cost within the last year, which is lower than the state of Washington.

Eighty percent of Walla Walla County has a personal care provider. This rate is higher than the state of Washington but lower than the Healthy People 2020 target. County Health Rankings reports that Walla Walla County has 122 Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 population, which is among the best provider ratios in the state of Washington. Having a primary care provider is extremely important for the health and wellness of adults. Adults with a primary care provider tend to have better management of chronic diseases and lower overall healthcare costs. Although many hesitate to see a primary personal care provider due to the wait and non-urgency, it is important to access primary care services in order to prevent many serious health conditions.

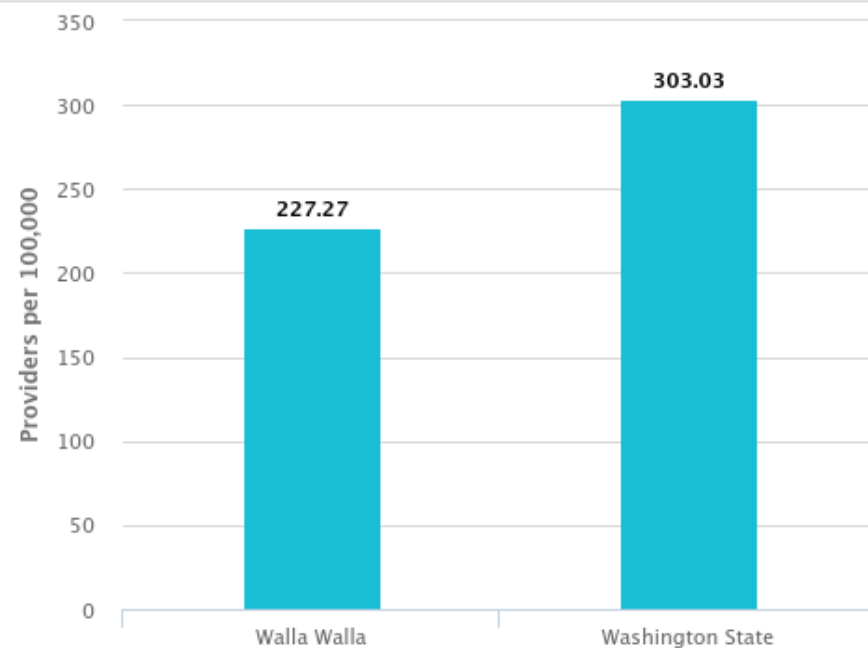
Mental Health:

Mental health counselors play a critical role in helping people who are experiencing mental or emotional problems get their lives back on track. They assess, diagnose and treat people struggling with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, stress, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, schizophrenia, post-traumatic

Mental health providers per 100,000

Source: County Health Rankings 2017

Change Filter: [Walla Walla, Washington State, 2017](#)



stress disorder or other conditions. There are 227 mental health care providers per 100,000 population in Walla Walla County. This is similar to Washington State.

Adults with dental care:

Seventy-one percent of adults received dental care in the past year. This rate is similar to the state of Washington but falls below the Healthy People 2020 standard. Oral health is crucial to our ability to speak, smile, chew, smell, and taste. Problems such as tooth decay and gum disease are common but completely preventable. It is important for all adults and children to visit the dentist regularly in order to avoid these painful and costly conditions.

Adults with first semester prenatal care:

Seventy four percent of pregnant women in Walla Walla County access first trimester prenatal care. This rate is similar to the state of Washington but falls short of the Healthy People 2020 recommendation. First semester visits are very important for a baby's health and the identification of any potential risk factors. Women with first semester prenatal care tend to have better birth outcomes than women who do not.

HEALTHCARE QUALITY

HIV Screening Rate:

In Walla Walla County nearly 64 percent of adults have never been screened for HIV. This is similar to the rate of adults never screened in the state of Washington.

The [CDC](#) estimates that 15 percent of people living with HIV in the United States are unaware that they are infected. It is recommended that all adolescents and adults get tested at least once for HIV infection, and that gay and bisexual men are tested more frequently.

Testing is a very important way to prevent further infection. Those who test positive can begin an effective treatment program that will allow for a long, healthy life. People who do not get tested and therefore let the virus progress will be less likely to have positive outcomes when beginning treatment at a later stage. Knowing your HIV status is very important way to protect yourself and your community.

Child Immunization:

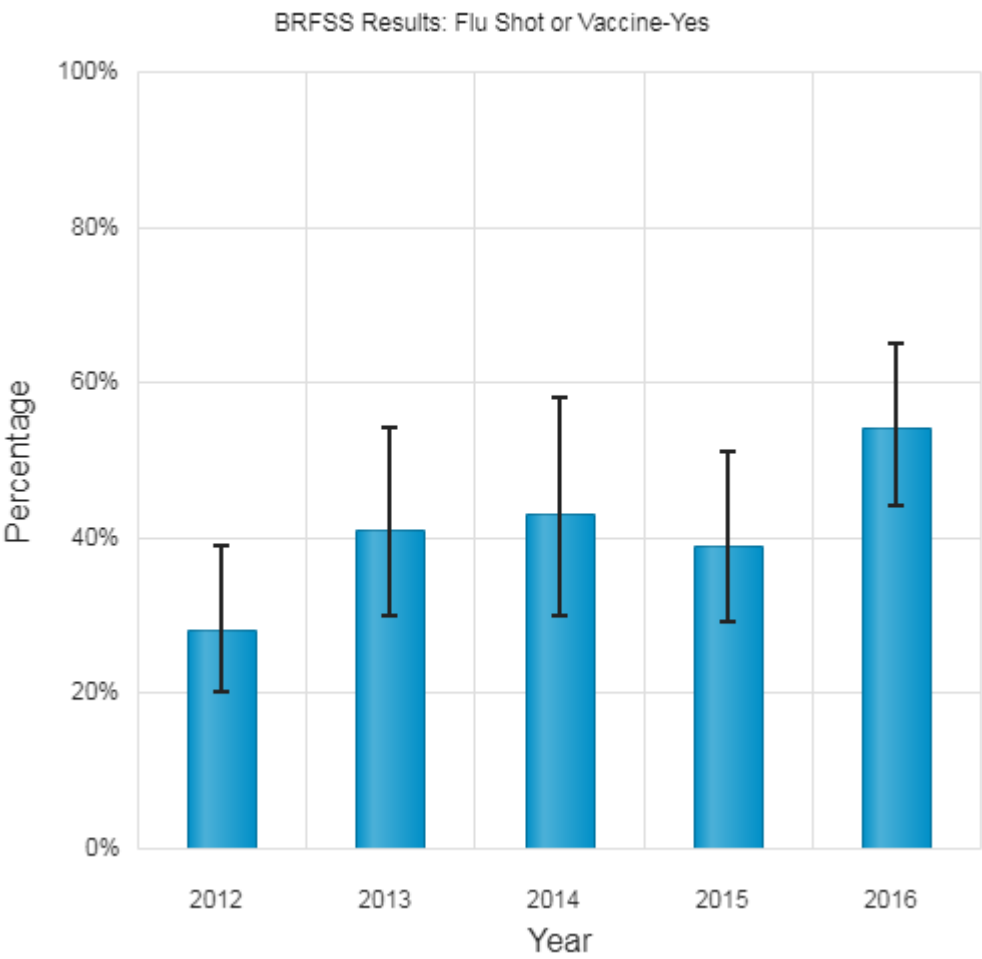
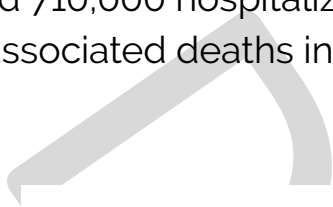
Child immunization rate is defined as the percent of 2-year-old children adequately immunized (4-DPT, 3-Polio, 1-MMR, 3-Hib, 3-HepB, 1-Varicella). In Walla Walla County, child immunization rate is 51 percent. This rate falls slightly below the Washington state rate of 58 percent and far below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80 percent.

Vaccinating is crucial because just a few cases of vaccine preventable diseases can rapidly become hundreds of thousands. Immunizations are an extremely important way to protect yourself and other from the contraction of serious diseases.

Adult Flu Vaccination:

The Adult Flu Vaccination rate in Walla Walla County is 54 percent. This rate is higher than the state of Washington, and has increased in recent years These rates fall far below the Healthy People 2020 guideline of 80 percent.

Every flu season is different, and [CDC](#) estimates that flu has resulted in between 140,000 and 710,000 hospitalizations each year and there are 12,000 to 56,000 influenza-associated deaths in the United States.



CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

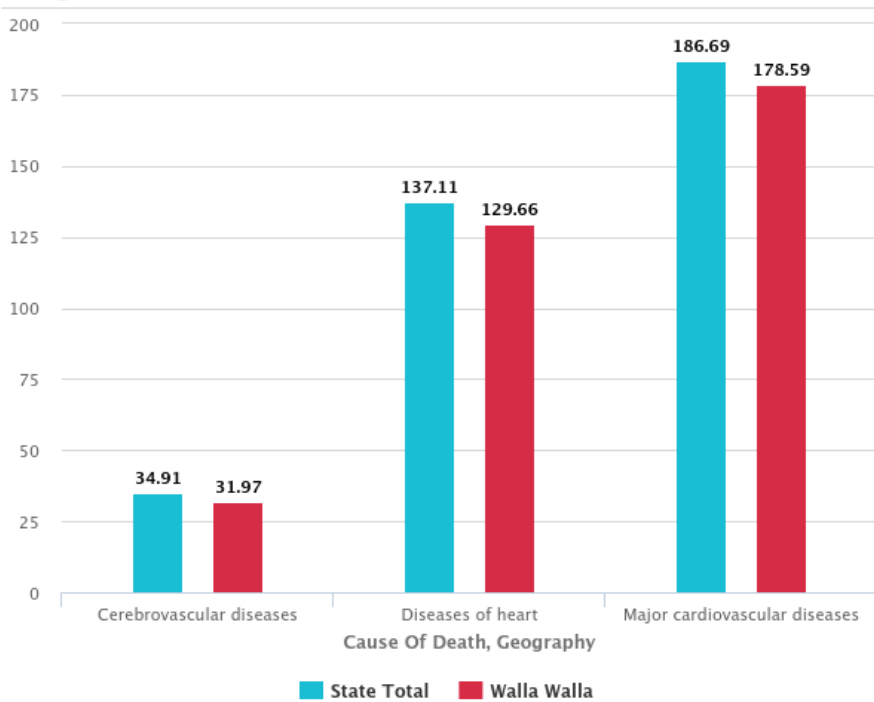
[Cardiovascular disease](#) is the leading cause of death in the United States. High blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, and smoking are the three most significant risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Other risk factors include diabetes, obesity, poor diet, and excessive alcohol use.

Major cardiovascular diseases (combined) are leading causes of death in the community. There were 499 major cardiovascular disease deaths in Walla Walla County between 2014 and 2016. Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) accounted for 19 percent of these deaths and heart disease accounted for 72 percent, and is the second leading cause of death overall. The death rate due to cardiovascular disease is higher in Walla Walla County than overall in the state of Washington.

Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Rate

Source: Cardiovascular Rate

Change Filter: 2014-2016



Eating a healthy diet, exercising, limiting alcohol use, not smoking, and maintaining a healthy weight are all important ways to reduce

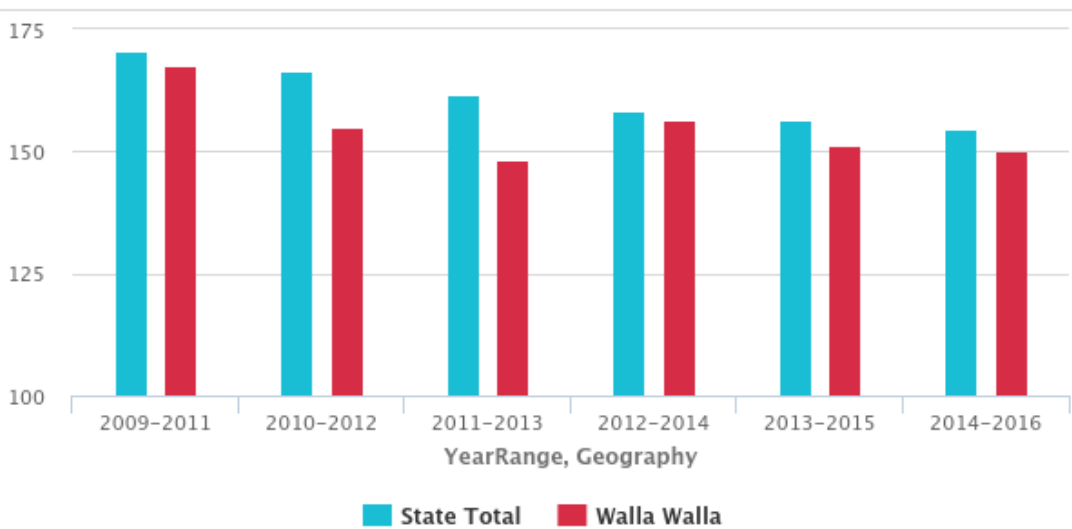
CANCER

Cancer Mortality:

Malignant neoplasms (cancerous tumors), are the leading cause of death in Walla Walla County. The cancer mortality rate is 150 deaths per 100,000 people. This rate is slightly under that of the state of Washington and meets the Healthy People 2020 standard.

Cancer Mortality Rate

Source: CHAT



Cervical Cancer Screening:

The cervical cancer screening rate in Walla Walla County is 84 percent. This rate falls below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90 percent. It is [recommended](#) that every woman between the ages of 21 and 29 have a Pap test every three years and women between the ages of 30 and 65 have a combination of pap test and HPV testing every 5 years. Pap smears test for irregularities on the cervix that can be treated to prevent cervical cancer. They detect cervical cancer early on, in time for effective treatment to be given.

Colorectal Cancer Screening:

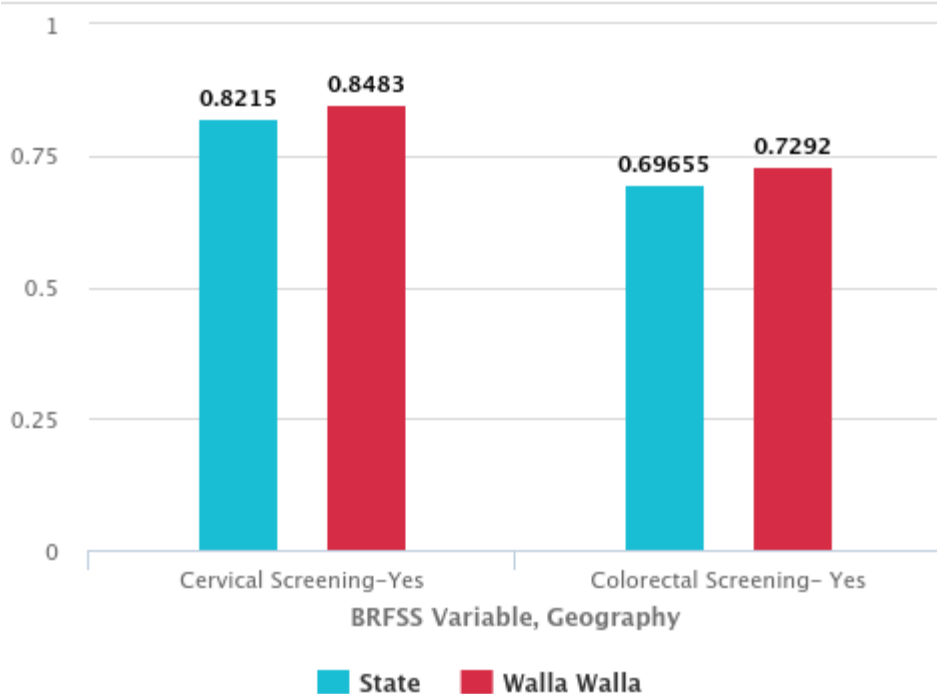
The colorectal cancer screening rate in Walla Walla County is 62 per-cent. This rate falls below that of the state and the goal set by Healthy People 2020.

Adults between 50 and 75 should be [screened](#) for colorectal cancer, and the decision to screen after 75 should be made on a individual ba-sis. Screening searches for polyps in the colon or rectum that can then be removed before they become cancerous. Screening can also detect colorectal cancer at an early stage, while it is still very treatable. Screening is important because colorectal cancer can start with no symptoms.

Cancer Screening

Source: BRFSS Cancer

Change Filter: [Cervical Screening-Yes, Colorectal Screening- Yes, ...](#)



DIABETES

Eleven percent of adults in Walla Walla County have diabetes. This rate is slightly higher than the state of Washington. Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in Walla Walla County.

[Diabetes](#) is a very serious health problem in Walla Walla County and across the United States. It affects 30.3 million people in the USA, or approximately 9.4 percent of the US population. People with diabetes are at higher risk of serious health complications including blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, and loss of toes, feet, or legs. People with diabetes are twice as likely to have heart disease or a stroke as people without diabetes—and at an earlier age.

There are three types of diabetes. Type I Diabetes is an autoimmune disease that is not preventable and can come on at any time in a person's life. Type II diabetes is much more common, usually comes on later in life, and is typically preventable. Being overweight and having a family history of diabetes are two major risk factors for Type II Diabetes. Staying active, eating healthy, and maintaining a healthy weight are three important ways to prevent its onset. Gestational diabetes develops in pregnant women who have never had diabetes and usually goes away after the baby is born. Gestational diabetes increases both the mother and child's risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

TOBACCO USE

[Cigarette smoking](#) is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and accounts for nearly one in five deaths nationwide each year. Smokers are at a high risk for coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other serious health conditions. At 15 percent, the adult cigarette smoking rate in Walla Walla County is the same as that of Washington state.

Tobacco use is a significant issue among teenagers in Walla Walla County. According to the 2016 Healthy Youth Survey, 12 percent of 10th graders and 17 percent of 12th graders in the county smoke cigarettes. These rates have increased since 2014 and are higher than the state. E-

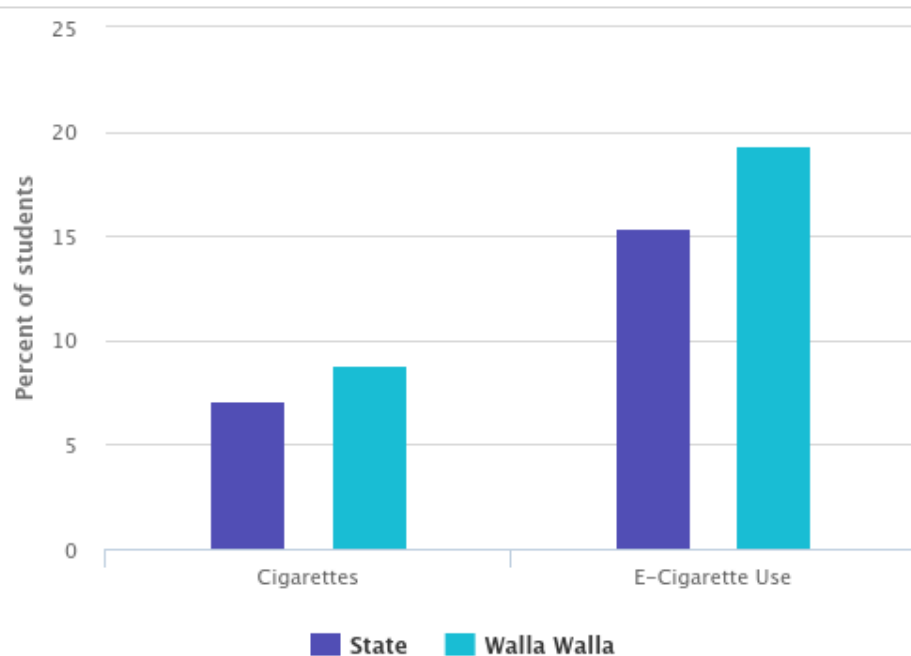
Cigarette use has decreased slightly to 17% amongst 10th graders and 16% amongst 12th graders, but remains slightly higher than the state. While E-Cigarettes are less harmful than regular cigarettes, the liquid nicotine

they contain is still addictive and can harm adolescent brain development which continues into the early to mid-20s. E-cigarette use is closely related to use of other tobacco products, and youth who use multiple tobacco products are at a higher risk for developing nicotine dependence and might be more likely to

Youth tobacco use, 2014-2016

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2014-2016

Change Filter: [State](#), [Walla Walla](#), 2014-2016, 10th



continue using tobacco into adulthood. [Smoking of any kind](#) is particularly dangerous for this age group as there is a strong relationship between youth smoking and depression, anxiety, and stress. Lowering the acceptance and tolerance of tobacco among peer groups in the community is an effective way to decrease smoking among youth.

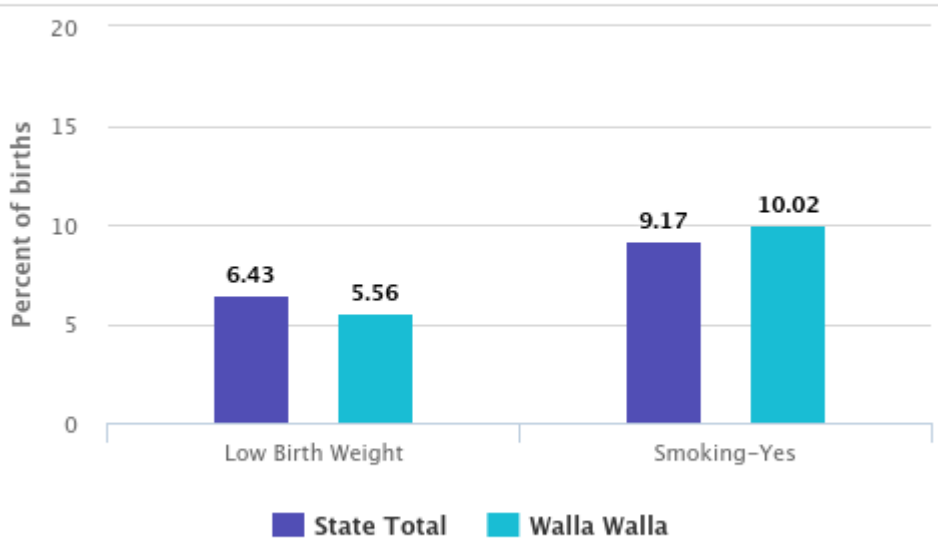
From 2014-2016, ten percent of mothers in Walla Walla County reported smoking during their pregnancy. One in every five babies born to mothers who smoke during pregnancy has low birth weight. [Maternal smoking](#) is very dangerous as it can lead to premature delivery, low birth weight, stillbirth, and SIDS, Increased education and awareness of the health risks of maternal smoking are needed to reduce this rate.

Encouraging smokers to quit is important as it can prevent the onset of many medical problems. The CDC estimates that 2 to 5 years after a person quits smoking their risk of stroke drops to the same level as a non-smoker's. Ten years after quitting, their risk of lung cancer may be reduced by half. Deaths due to cigarette smoking are completely preventable and lowering the rate of them will make for a much cleaner and healthier community.

Smoking during pregnancy and low birth weights

Source: WA State Birth Certificate Data 2014-2016

Change Filter: [Low Birth Weight, Smoking-Yes, 2014-2016, State ...](#)



Powered by LiveStories

ALCOHOL USE

[Binge drinking](#) is defined as the consumption of four drinks for women and five drinks for men within 2 hours on at least one occasion in the past 30 days. Walla Walla County has a binge drinking rate of 18 percent, which is slightly higher than the state of

Washington. Binge drinking presents many problems to the community, as national data reveals its frequent association with injuries, sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, violence, and chronic diseases.

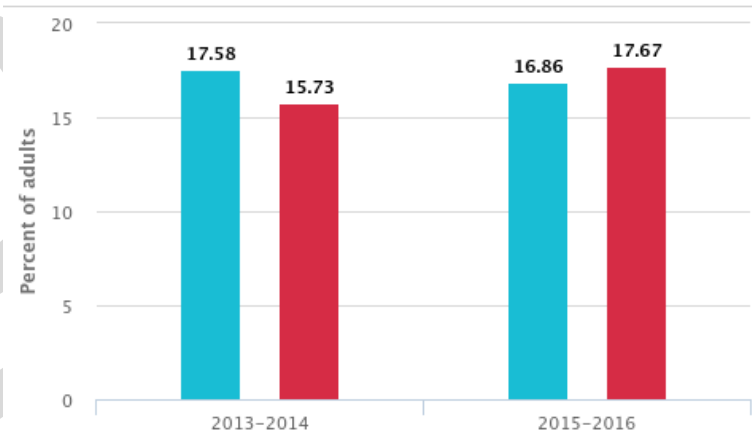
The 2016 Healthy Youth Survey results reveal that 28 percent of 10th graders and 35 percent of 12th graders reported having consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Fifteen percent of 10th graders and 21 percent of 12th graders reported binge drinking over the past 30 days. [Alcohol use among teenagers](#) is a particular concern as it places them at risk for emotional and social problems, lesser

academic performance, and changes in brain development. Youth who begin drinking at an early age are more likely to develop alcohol dependence later in life than those who begin drinking at age 21 or later.

Adult Binge Drinking

Source: BRFSS 2012-2015

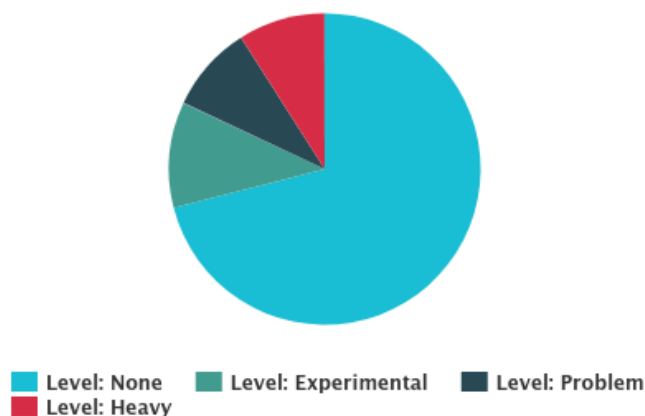
Change Filter: 2015-2016, 2013-2014, State, Walla Walla



Drinking level in 10th graders - Walla Walla County

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2016

Change Filter: Walla Walla, Level: Experimental, Level: Heavy, Le...



ALCOHOL

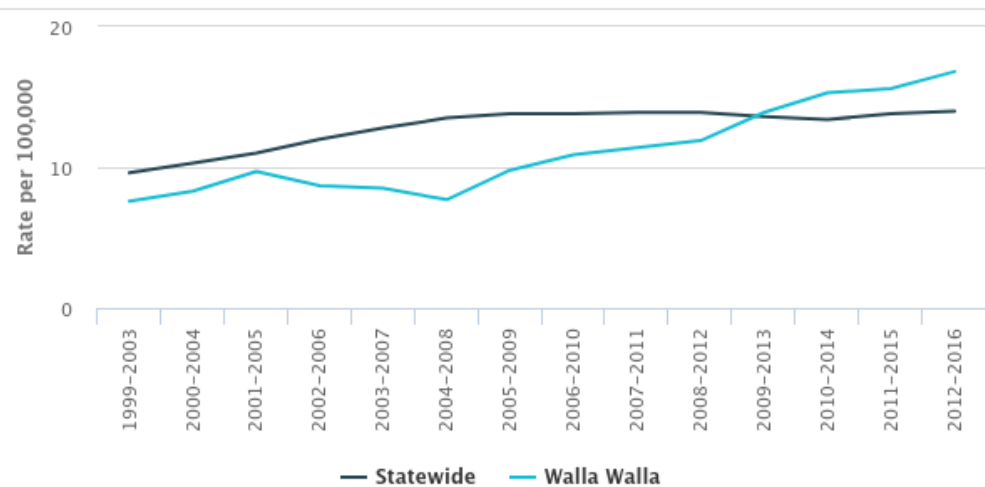
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Opioid Use:

Drug overdose is a significant problem in the United States. Deaths from Opioid use have increased rapidly since 1999, and hospitalization and mortality data reflect the same trend in Walla Walla County.

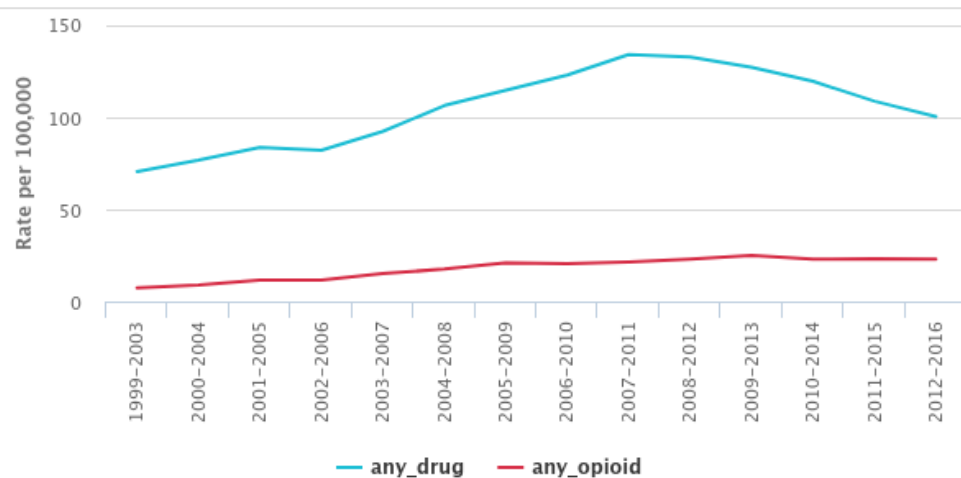
Overdose death rate (Any drug)

Source: WA State Death Certificates 1999-2016



Drug overdose hospitalization, Walla Walla County

Source: WA State Hospital Discharge Data 1999-2016



The opioid epidemic is fast-moving and complex. Partnering with healthcare providers and health systems, encouraging consumers to make safe choices about opioids, and raising overall awareness of the opioid crisis will help better coordinate efforts to prevent opioid overdoses and deaths

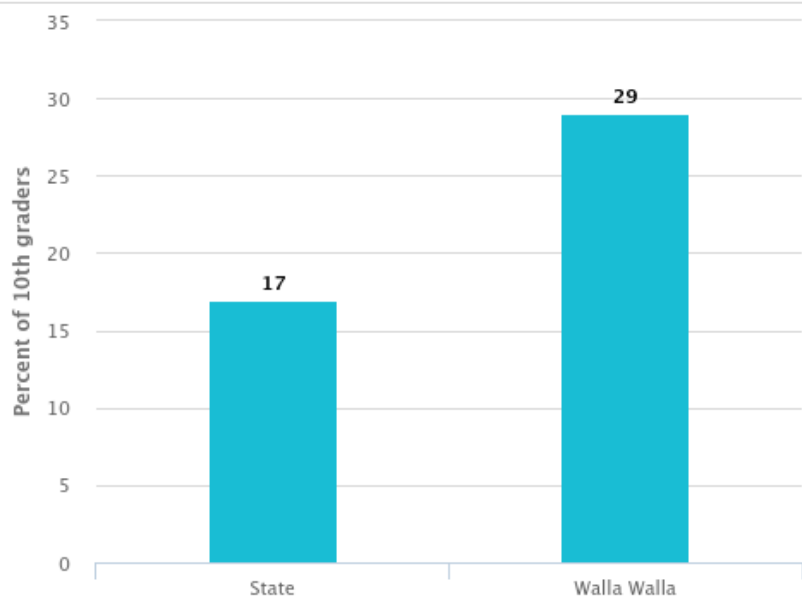
Marijuana:

Twenty-nine percent of 10th graders and 28percent of 12th graders reported having used marijuana in the past 30 days. This rate is higher than the state of Washington at 17%. Because the brain is still developing well into a person's twenties, marijuana use is dangerous for adolescents. Its effects include memory and learning impairment, interference with ovulation and pre-natal development, impaired immune response, and possible adverse effects on heart function. The use of marijuana may lead teenagers to use other, more risky drugs.

Youth current marijuana use

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2014-2016

Change Filter: [Current marijuana use](#), [State](#), [Walla Walla](#), [From: 2...](#)



SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND PREGNANCY

Teen Pregnancy:

At 23 per 1,000 births (2015-2016), the rate of teenage pregnancy in Walla Walla County is similar to that of the state and is well within the target set by Healthy People 2020.

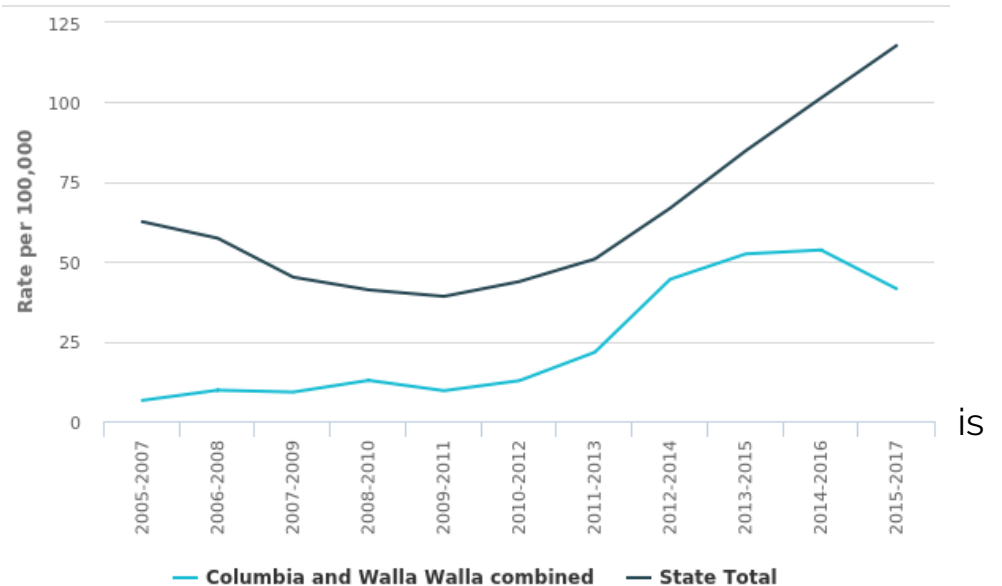
Young women who become pregnant as teenagers are at a higher risk of negative health outcomes later in life. They are less likely to complete high school and typically have fewer educational achievements than their peers. The children of teenage mothers are at higher risk for health problems and are more likely to face poverty and other adverse conditions later in life. Research shows that teenage pregnancy rates are effectively reduced when teenagers have an appropriate perception of the risks involved with sexual activity and communicate with parents or other adults about sex, condoms, and contraception.

Gonorrhea:

The gonorrhea rate has decreased in recent years and is currently 42 cases per 100,000 people. Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection that can infect both men and women. It spread through vaginal, oral, and anal sex and can be passed from mother to child during childbirth. Gonorrhea can be cured with treatment but can cause serious damage including Pelvic Inflammatory Disorder if left untreated.

Gonorrhea rate over time

Source: WA State STD Services Section 2005-2017



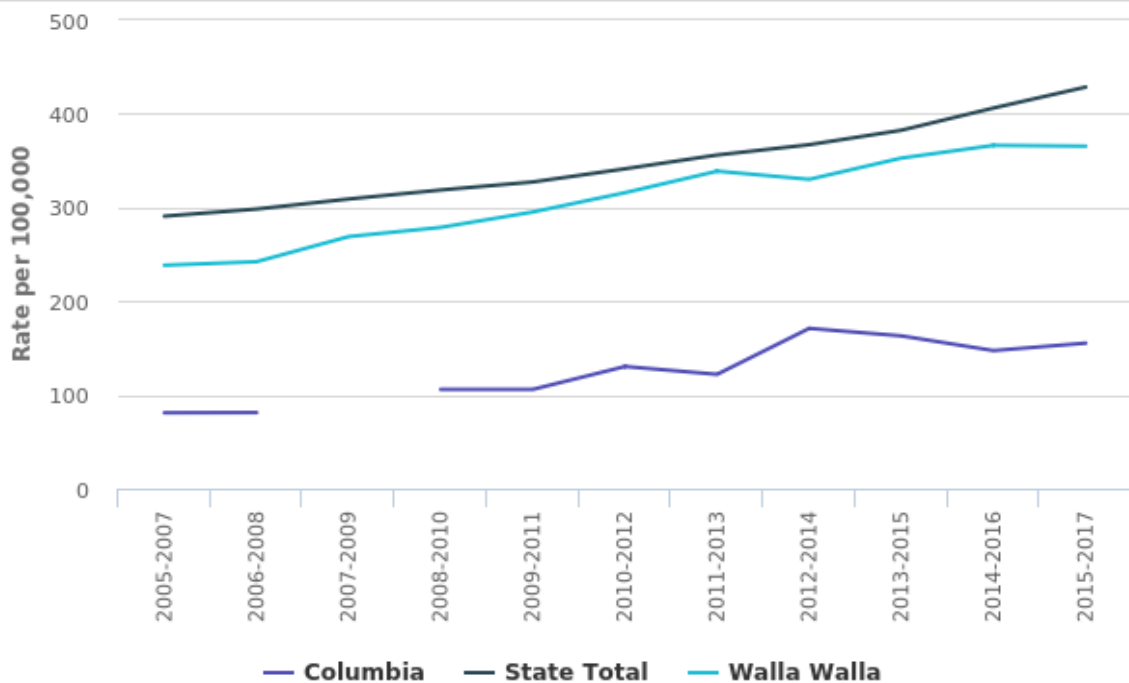
Chlamydia:

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection that can infect men and women through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex. The Chlamydia rate in Walla Walla County has increased over time. Like Gonorrhea, it can be passed from mother to child during birth. Young people who are sexually active are at a higher risk for Chlamydia and should be tested each year. The infection is easily cured with treatment but can damage a female's reproductive system, making it difficult for her to get pregnant later in life if left untreated.

It is important to increase knowledge around Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and other common STDs in Walla Walla County. While abstinence is the only way to ensure avoiding these infections, proper use of latex condoms can also prevent them. Yearly testing among young, sexually active people is very important in the recognition and treatment of Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and other sexually transmitted infections.

Chlamydia rate over time

Source: WA State STD Services Section 2005-2017



WEIGHT STATUS

Physical Activity:

Fifty-six percent of adults in Walla Walla County report regular physical activity, which is similar to the state of Washington. 82 percent of adults report leisure-time physical activity, which is similar to the state rate and exceeds the Healthy People 2020 goal.

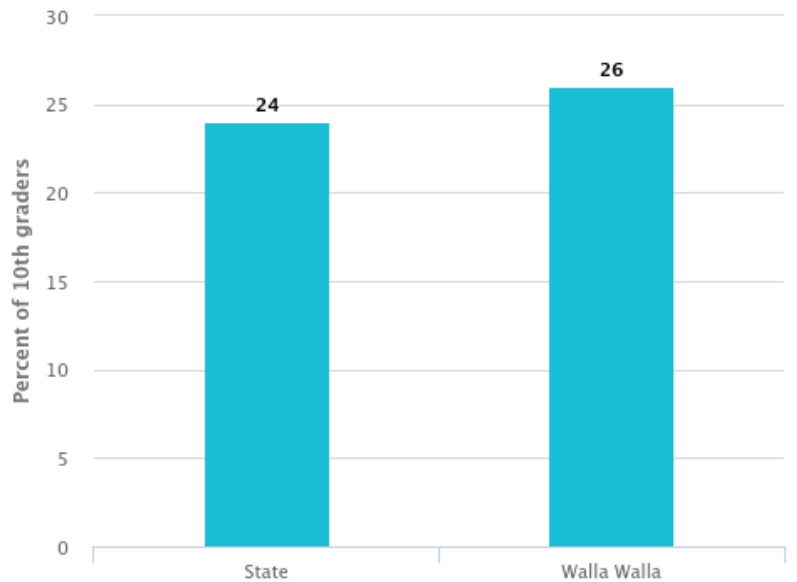
Only 25.2 percent of eighth graders in Walla Walla County report 60 minutes or more of physical activity per day, which is similar to the state of Washington. This rate declines to 17.5 percent of 12th graders which is worse than the state of Washington.

Physical activity is important because it can greatly reduce obesity, which in turn lowers risk for many serious and often fatal health problems. The Center of Disease Control recommends 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking, aqua aerobics, or gardening), or 75 minutes a week of more vigorous activity (such as jogging/running, singles tennis, aerobic dancing, or swimming laps). Two or more days a week of muscle strengthening activities are also recommended.

Youth meeting physical activity recommendations

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2014-2016

Filter: State, Walla Walla, From: 2016



Adults meeting physical activity recommendations

Source: BRFSS 2013-2015

Filter: WA State, Walla Walla



Overweight/ Obesity:

Thirty-seven percent of adults in Walla Walla County are obese. The obesity rate is higher than the state and has increased slightly over the past five years. Amongst students in the county, 12 percent of 8th graders, 15 percent of 10th graders, and 14 percent of 12th graders are obese.

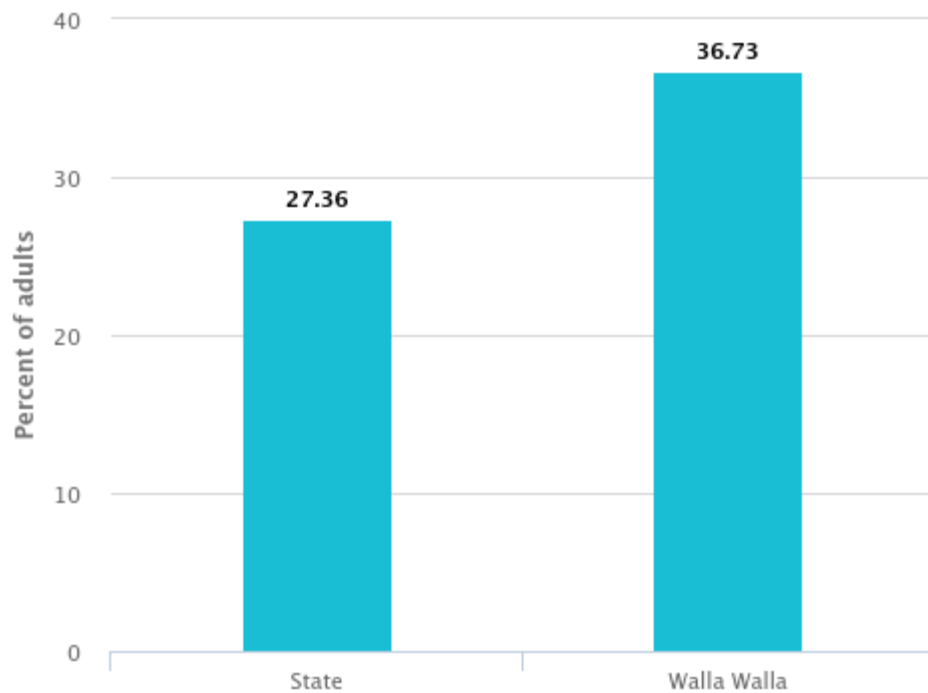
A BMI (weight to height ratio) of 25 to 25.9 is considered overweight, while a BMI of 30 and above is considered obese. Obesity results from an energy imbalance involving

eating too many calories and not getting enough physical activity. Obesity-related conditions include heart disease, stroke, and Type II Diabetes. These are some of the leading causes of preventable death both in Walla Walla County and nationwide. Exercise and healthy eating habits are two of the most important ways to decrease obesity rates and improve many areas of a person's health.

Adult obesity

Source: BRFSS 2014-2016

Filter: State, Walla Walla, 2014-2016



MENTAL HEALTH

Adults with Poor Mental Health:

Mental health disorders are treatable medical conditions that inhibit the way a person feels, thinks, or functions in society. While mental illnesses can affect anyone, risk factors include a family history of mental illness, stressful life conditions, a traumatic experience, use of illegal drugs, and childhood abuse or neglect. Examples of mental health disorders include depression, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Eight percent of adults in Walla Walla County have poor mental health.

Poor mental health is a significant problem in Walla Walla County. Treatment can be difficult due to the shame and stigma that prevent people from seeking mental health care, leaving many cases of poor mental health untreated in the community.

Suicide Rate:

Risk factors for suicide include a family history of suicide, child maltreatment, alcohol and substance abuse, mental disorders, and feelings of isolation and loss.

Suicide rate

Source: WA State Death Certificates 1999-2016



Suicide is the 7th leading cause of death in Walla Walla County. At 14 per 100,000 deaths, the suicide rate in Walla Walla County is the same as in the state of Washington

and does not meet the goal set by Healthy People 2020. Suicidal thoughts are also a serious concern amongst youth as 23 percent of 10th graders and 17 percent of 12th graders reported seriously considering suicide in the past year. Factors that

protect against suicide include effective clinical care for mental, physical, and substance abuse disorders, as well as social support..

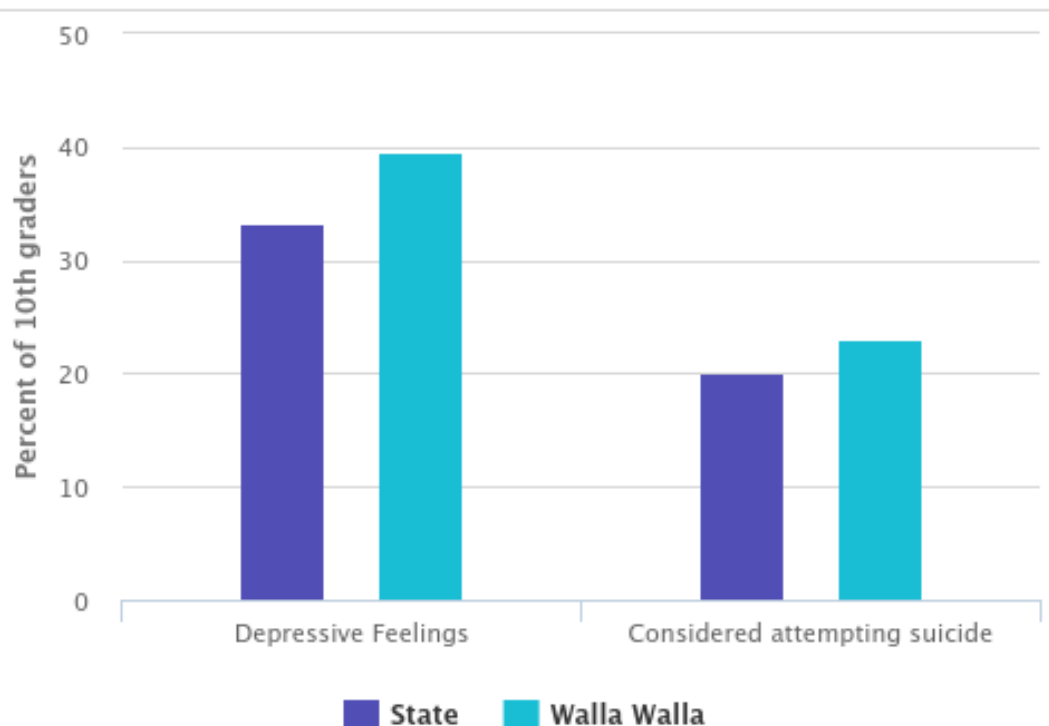
Youth Depression:

Forty-one percent of 10th graders and 38 percent of 12th graders in Walla Walla County report feeling sad and hopeless, a value several percent higher than the rest of the state. Depression in adolescence is associated with the use of drugs and alcohol, school dropout, and engagement in promiscuous sexual behavior. Healthy People 2020 set a goal of reducing the number of adolescents who have a major depressive episode and of increasing depression screening by primary care providers.

Depressive feelings and suicidal thoughts among youth

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2012-2016

Filter: State, Walla Walla, From: 2012, 10th



POVERTY

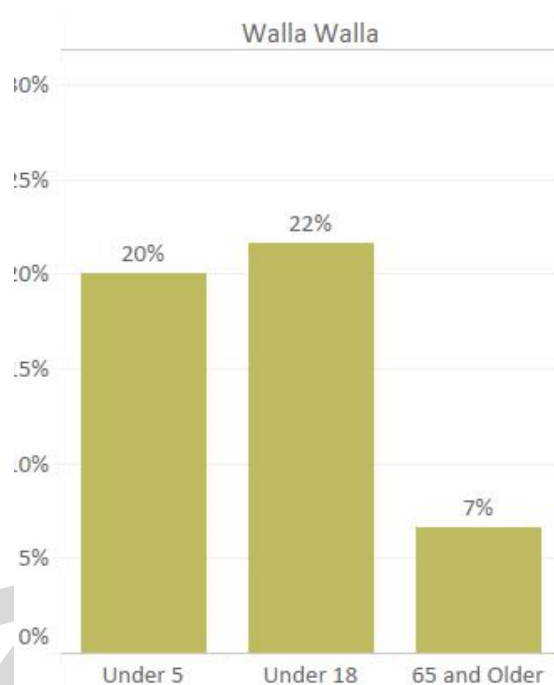
There is a strong and consistent link between poverty and poor health outcomes both globally and within Walla Walla County. Due to cultural and social barriers, the cost of treatment, lesser education opportunities, poor living conditions, and many other factors, those living in poverty often have significantly lower health outcomes. These include, for example, higher rates of motor vehicle accidents, drug-induced death, coronary heart disease, binge drinking, and adolescent pregnancy.

Walla Walla County has a high poverty rate. Fourteen percent live below the federal poverty line, as compared with 11 percent of the state of Washington. 19 percent in Walla Walla County and around 14 percent in the state as a whole. This rate has decreased in recent years, but remains high compared to the state.

Twenty percent of families in Walla Walla County use SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which is similar to the state of Washington. In Walla Walla County, 56 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced lunch, while 54 percent of the state of Washington is eligible.

In order to reduce health disparities in the community it is important to increase awareness of the disparities as problems that can be solved. There is a need for interventions and greater allocation of resources in order to close gaps in health outcomes between the rich and the poor.

Population in Poverty by Age Category
With Income Below the Federal Poverty Level
Source: ACS



INCOME & HOMELESSNESS

Income:

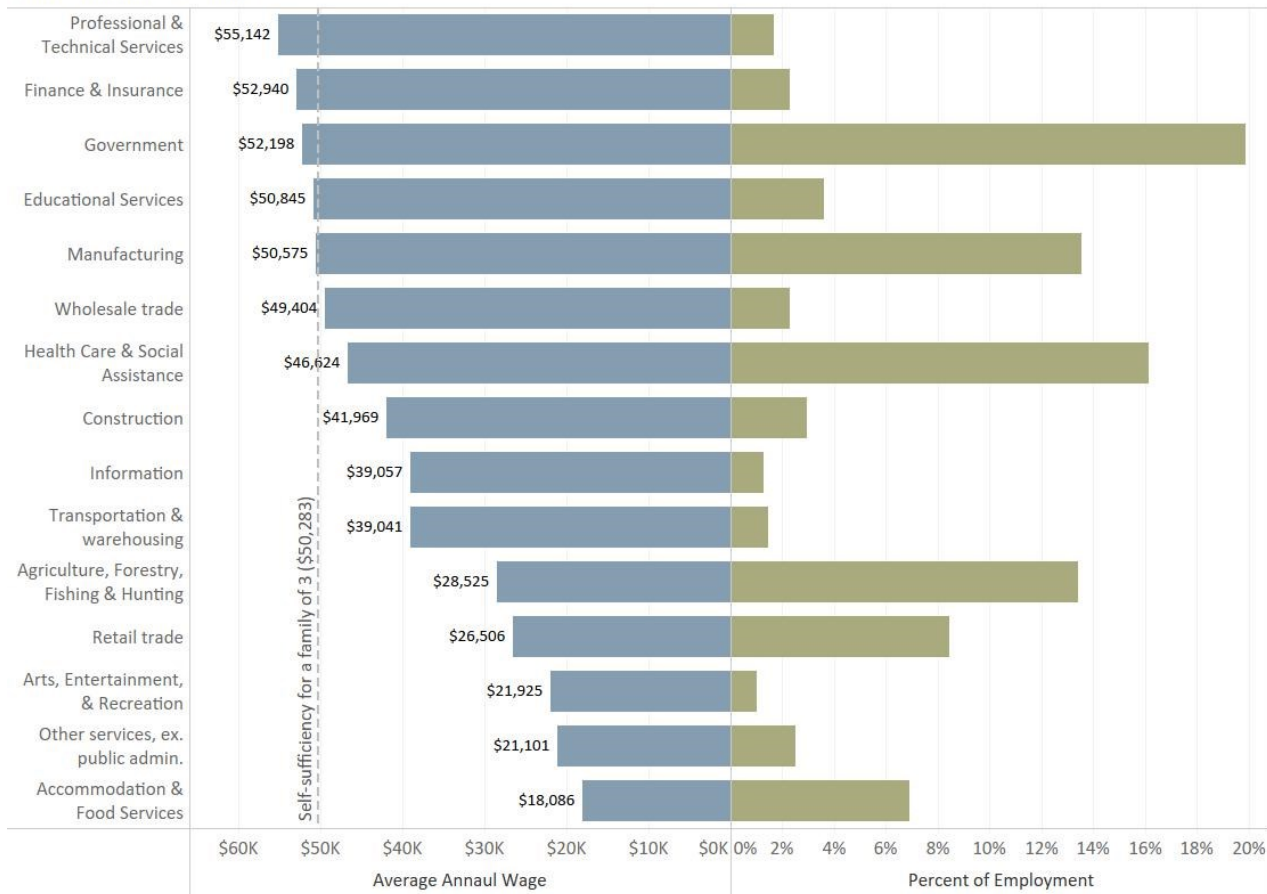
The median household income in Walla Walla County is \$48,705 per year as compared with the state median of \$62,848 per year.

In Walla Walla County, 38 percent of renters pay 30 percent or more of their income on housing. This rate is lower than the state of Washington (45%).

There is a need for jobs in Walla Walla County that pay a living wage. More jobs with higher pay will help alleviate poverty in Walla Walla County, thus leading to improvements in health.

Average Annual Wage and Percent of Employment by Industry for Walla Walla County, 2016

Source: Employment Security



Homelessness:

Poor health can cause homelessness when people have insufficient income to afford housing. Homelessness, both living on the street, and in shelters can cause or exacerbate health problems. When people have stable housing, they have more time to manage their health and are better able to follow medical advice. Estimates from 2018 approximate that there are 181 homeless individuals in Walla Walla County at a given time.

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Physical Environment:

Under one percent of Walla Walla County uses public transit to commute to work, as compared to six percent of the state. Eleven percent of the county walks or bikes to work, while 4.5 percent of Washington residents do so.

In a 2013 survey, Seventy five percent of Walla Walla County reports feeling that it is easy and pleasant to bicycle in their neighborhood. Most community members report that they do not bicycle or ride the bus regularly, and 15 percent say they do not walk regularly. Rates of access to recreational and fitness facilities in Walla Walla County are substantially lower than those of the state.

There is a need for improved neighborhood safety and transportation in the community. Better access to recreation facilities and safe places to walk and exercise has the potential to facilitate healthier lifestyle choices for residents of Walla Walla County.

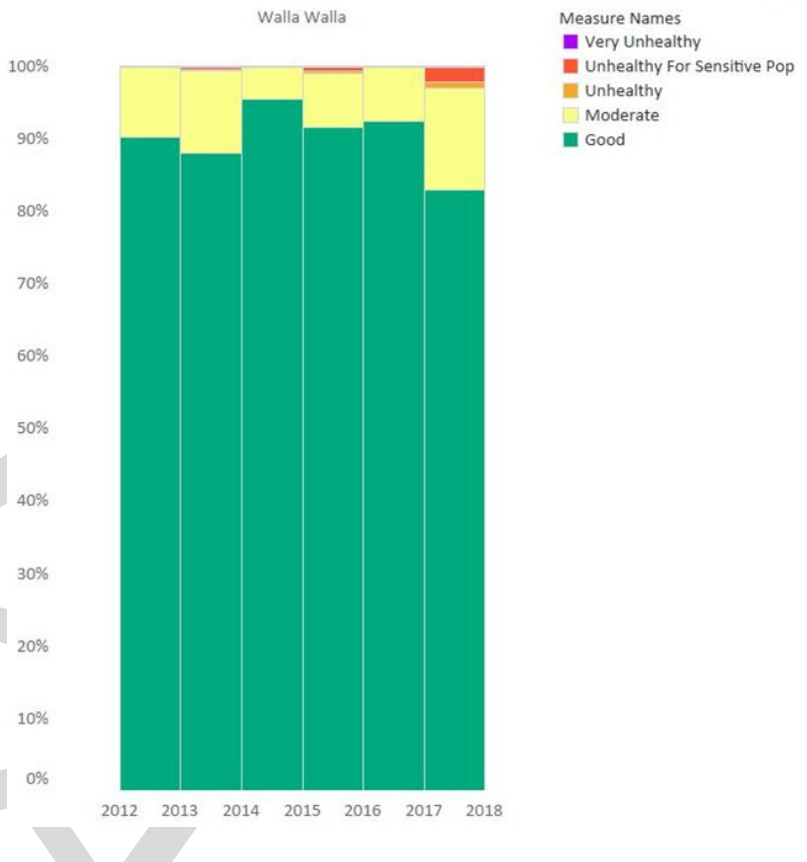
Environmental Quality:

Walla Walla County has good environmental quality. Walla Walla River quality has increased overall over time. Walla Walla County meets AQI standards 97percent of the days.

Air Quality

Percent of year by Air Quality Index (AQI). Air Quality Index measures: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead.

Source: EPA



Water Quality Index: Walla Walla River and Tucannon River

Measures: fecal coliform bacteria, oxygen, pH, suspended solids, temperature, total persulf nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity. Adjusted for flow.

Source: WA Dept. of Ecology

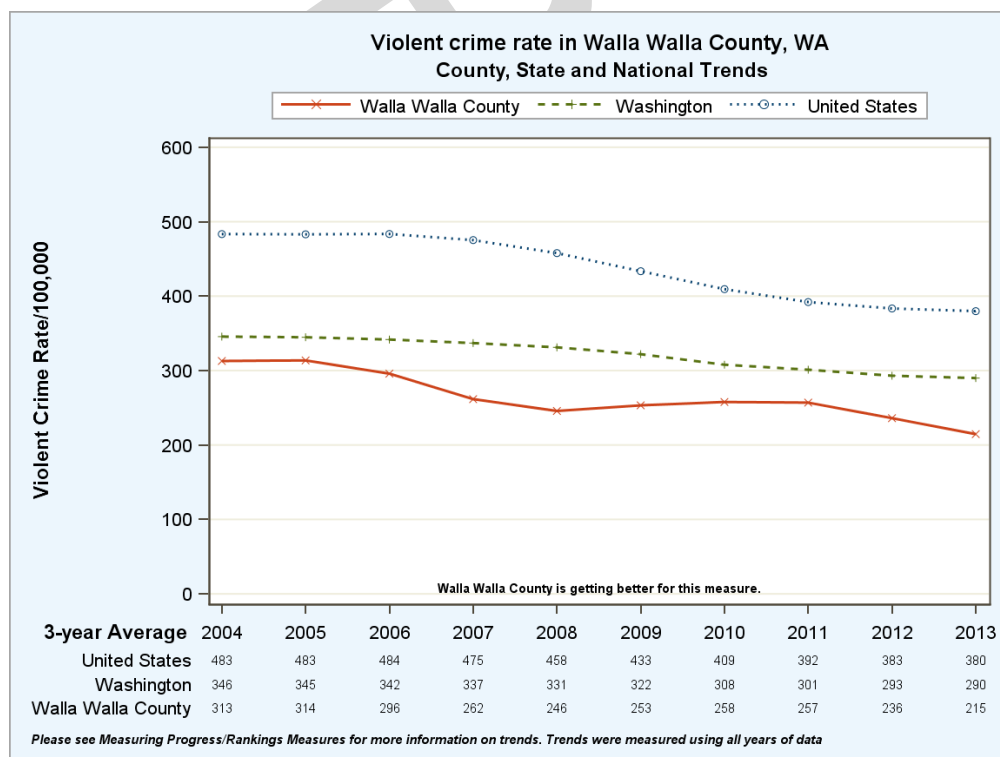


INJURY & VIOLENCE

Violence:

The violent crime rate in Walla Walla County is 215 per 100,000. This is lower than the state of Washington and is improving over time. Fifty-one percent of crimes against people in Walla Walla County involve domestic violence.

While the violent crime rate is lower than the average for the state of Washington, violence in Walla Walla County is a serious problem. Gang activity and domestic violence are substantial concerns.



Violence is known to worsen health disparities. Rates of violence tend to be highest in populations that are already disadvantaged and marginalized. Its presence in a neighborhood is linked to increases in poor mental health and chronic disease, and violent neighborhoods discourage physical activity, which leads to many health problems. For these reasons, improving the safety of the neighborhoods in Walla Walla County should be seen as a serious priority.

Bullying:

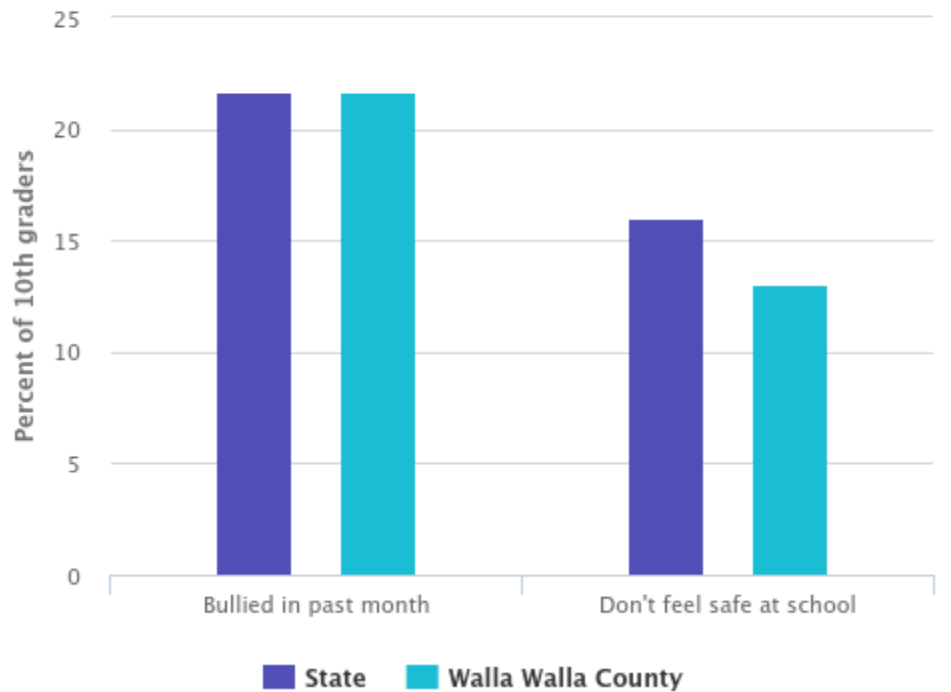
Bullying is a type of youth violence that threatens young people's well-being. Twenty-three percent of 10th graders and 13 percent of 12th graders report being bullied in the past month. Fourteen percent of 10th graders and 13 percent of 12th graders don't feel safe at school. While these numbers are similar to or slightly lower than the state, bullying impacts a significant number of youth in Walla Walla County schools.

Bullying can result in physical injuries, social and emotional problems, and academic problems. The harmful effects of bullying are frequently felt by friends and families and can hurt the overall health and safety of schools, neighborhoods, and society.

Bullying in school

Source: Healthy Youth Survey 2014-2016

Change Filter: [State](#), [Walla Walla County](#), From: [2014](#), [Grade 10](#)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A linguistically isolated household is one in which no adult speaks English at a proficient level. According to 2016 American Community Survey estimates, five percent of the population of Walla Walla County faces linguistic isolation. This rate is slightly higher than that of the state of Washington. Linguistic isolation can create barriers to employment and other forms of community engagement.

Community engagement is important to community health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines community engagement as "the process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being." It is important for the voices of all community members to be heard in order to solve problems and ensure the health and wellbeing of all. Additional resources and social support are needed to integrate the significant number marginalized community members in Walla Walla County.

DEATH & LIFE EXPECTANCY

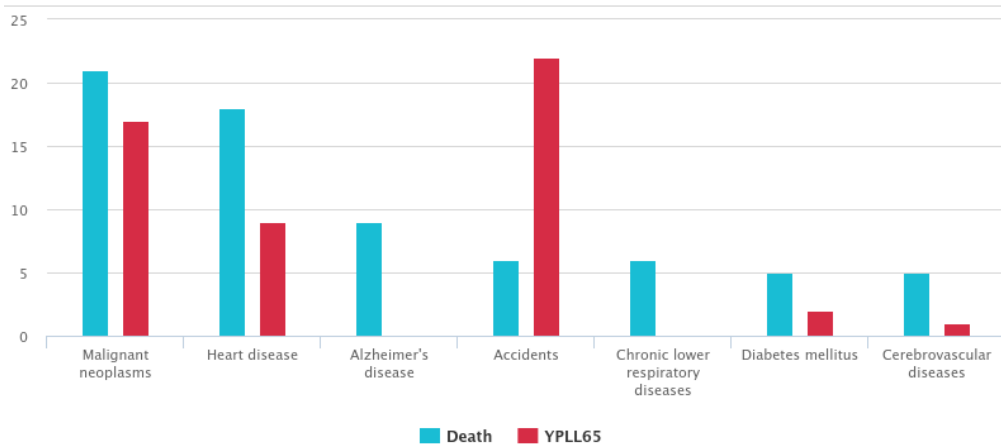
Causes of Death:

The top causes of death in Walla Walla County are major cardiovascular diseases, malignant neoplasms, and accidents. YPLL 65 is defined as the years of potential life lost relative to age 65 per 100,000 population.

Leading Causes of Death - Walla Walla County

Source: WA State Death Certificate Data 2016

Change Filter: 2016, Accidents, Alzheimer's disease, Cerebrovascular diseases, Chronic lower respiratory diseases,...

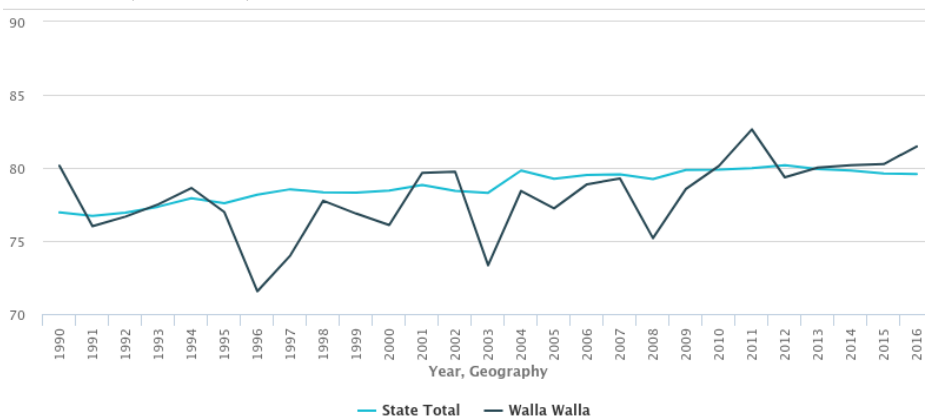


The life expectancy at birth in Walla Walla County is just over 80 years. This is similar to the average for the state of Washington and has increased over time.

Life Expectancy

Source: WA State Center for Health Statistics 1990-2016

Filter: State Total, WW and CoCo, Walla Walla



CLOSING SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Further Research Required
- Role in CHIP process/Community

SOURCES

DRAFT