

Snapshot of Spokane County 2017

This snapshot of Spokane County in 2017 is the most recent year for which we have complete data from the most sources.

499,800 people were living in Spokane County in 2017.

CHALLENGES FOR US IN SPOKANE COUNTY

- 36,152 people spent more than 30% of their income on rent. 17,202 people spent more than 50% of their income on rent.
- The difference between the average amount needed to pay rent and the average income (otherwise known as the housing wage gap) was $-\$708$. A negative gap infers that rental rates are less affordable for the rental population.
- Those relying on public transit to get to work made an average of $\$11,184$ less than those who drove.
- 54% of household income on average was spent on housing and transportation costs combined.
- Over half the adult population had no college degree: 6.2% of the population had no GED or high school diploma; 23.1% had a high school diploma but no further education; and 25.7% had some college but had not earned a degree.
- 27,311 did not have health insurance.
- 209,016 (over 40% of the population) suffered from one or more chronic health conditions (2016 statistic).
- 19,638 families were led by a single parent.
- 581 people reported sexual assaults to police.
- 6,793 domestic violence offenses were reported to police.
- 6,564 cases of child abuse were assigned to Child Protective Services. (This only includes cases requiring further investigation, and not all reported cases.)
- 40.1% of 3 and 4 year olds had the opportunity to attend preschool.
- Only 36.6% of kindergarteners demonstrated “typical” kindergartener characteristics in every assessment area during the 2017–2018 school year.
- The total number of suicides (not including attempts that didn’t result in death) in Spokane County was 111.

WHAT DID POVERTY IN SPOKANE LOOK LIKE?

- 69,436 people were living below the Federal Poverty Level
- 18,634 of those living below the FPL were 17 years of age or younger
- 5,298 of those living in below the FPL were 65 years old or older
- 116,666 people, or 23% of the county's population was enrolled in the SNAP federal program (formerly known as food stamps). The majority of those receiving SNAP aid are families with children, most of which are headed by single parents. The next largest group is non-elderly adults without children.
- 8,079 children ages 17 and under received TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) benefits (down 32% since 2005).
- 34,208 public K–12 students (43.8% of Spokane students) were enrolled in the free and reduced cost lunch programs.
- 122 families were homeless with children during Spokane's one day Point-in-Time count at shelters across the area.
- Spokane's 24-hour federally mandated Point-in-Time count noted an 11% increase in homelessness, including increasing numbers of homeless veterans, chronically homeless, and unaccompanied youth.
- Spokane County school systems took a count of all homeless youth throughout the 2017–18 school year (known as the McKinney-Vento Act): 2,404 youth spent their nights regularly doubled up with family friends or relatives with no consistent housing, 351 spent nights in a shelter, 139 in a motel, and 174 with no shelter at all.

SOURCE

EWU Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis. "Spokane Community Indicators." Spokane Trends, 2017, Web. <http://spokanetrends.org/aboutUs.cfm>. Accessed 12 Apr. 2019.