

# Kitsap Health Equity Collaborative

*January 20, 2026*



## **Participant Compensation**

Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) is offering Visa gift cards to compensate Collaborative participants who are not already being paid for their time. Please note that the general Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rule is that any gift is taxable, including gift cards. KPHD does not provide tax advice. Please consult with your tax professional regarding reporting requirements for the receipt of gift cards.

# Welcome

1. Welcome and reminders
2. Workgroup Updates
3. Washington State public health updates  
Dr. Herbie Duber, Interim Health Officer, Kitsap Public Health
4. 2026 Legislative Session presentation  
Adrienne Hampton: Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Kitsap Public Health
5. Healthcare Access in Kitsap County  
Leah Neff Warner: Epidemiologist, Kitsap Public Health
6. Group share-out and closure



# Health Equity Collaborative

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in Kitsap County, Washington. The town is built on a peninsula or near a large body of water. In the foreground, there is a large marina filled with many white sailboats and yachts. The town itself is densely packed with various buildings, including residential houses and larger commercial or institutional structures. In the background, a range of mountains with patches of snow is visible under a blue sky with some clouds.

## OUR VISION

Everyone in Kitsap County can achieve their optimal health and safety, and no one is disadvantaged in achieving these outcomes because of systemic inequities or systems of oppression, including racism.

## OUR MISSION

The Kitsap Health Equity Collaborative convenes to identify and implement shared solutions and collective actions, promote pro-equity policies, and amplify the voices of communities most affected by systemic inequities, including racism.

# Collaborative Agreements

## **Respect:**

We will use respectful and inclusive language to honor different lived experiences and perspectives, recognize individual biases and systems/structures of oppression, assume good intent, and distinguish that intent doesn't negate impact, and keep sensitive information shared at meetings confidential.

## **Inclusion and Open-mindedness:**

We will honor the contributions of all members and seek and value every person's input by ensuring everyone has a chance to comment and by being open to different and opposing perspectives and opinions.

## **Consensus:**

We understand consensus is desired as the decision-making process and that differing opinions are part of the process, and while majority vote will determine next steps, the opinions of those in the minority will be honored by members with respect, inclusion, and open-mindedness.

# KPHD Updates



- Reflections
- Health Officer recruitment update
- KPHD vaccine clinics
- Washington State Telebuprenorphine Line



# Workgroup share-out



**Accessible Medical  
Care**



**Accessible Mental  
Health Services**



**Affordable  
Housing**

# Washington State response to federal public health changes

*Dr. Herbie Duber*



# Pediatric Vaccine Schedule

- Acting Director of the CDC, Jim O’Neill, updated the pediatric immunization schedule on 1/5
- Dramatic change in the recommendations, reducing the number of diseases covered by routine childhood vaccinations

- Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B

- Recommendations were

- **No change in insurance**

- **No change in school v**

- **No change in the efficacy**  
are necessary



nmended

026

state level

the vaccine schedule

For immediate release: January 5, 2026

(26-003)

Contact: [DOH Communications](#)

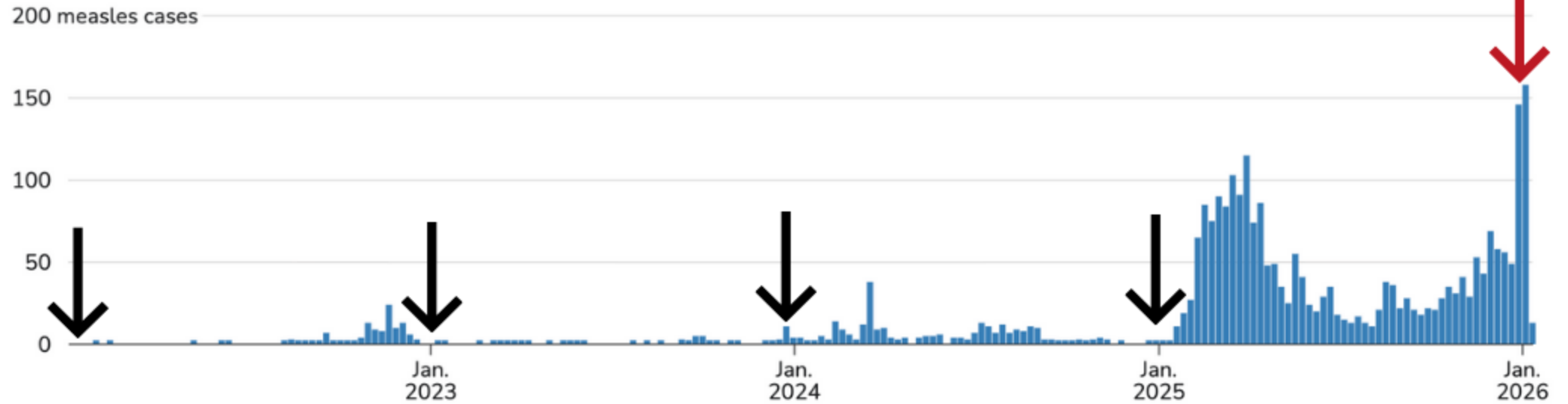
**The West Coast Health Alliance continues to recommend vaccination in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule**

- Peer nations such as Germany, with better health care, lower health care costs, less income inequality, less social inequality than the United States.

s with better access to  
costs of childcare, less  
social programs that

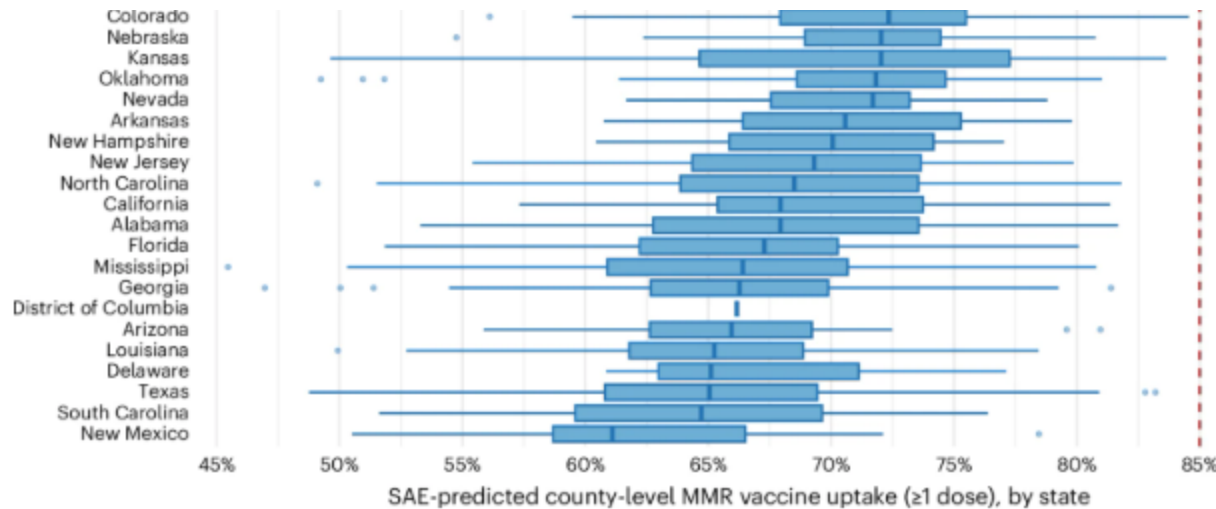
- Vaccines

- Safety



## KEY POINTS

- The claim "vaccines do not cause autism" is a simplification of a complex issue. Infant vaccines cause autism.
- Studies supporting a link have been published.
- HHS has launched a comprehensive review of potential causal links.

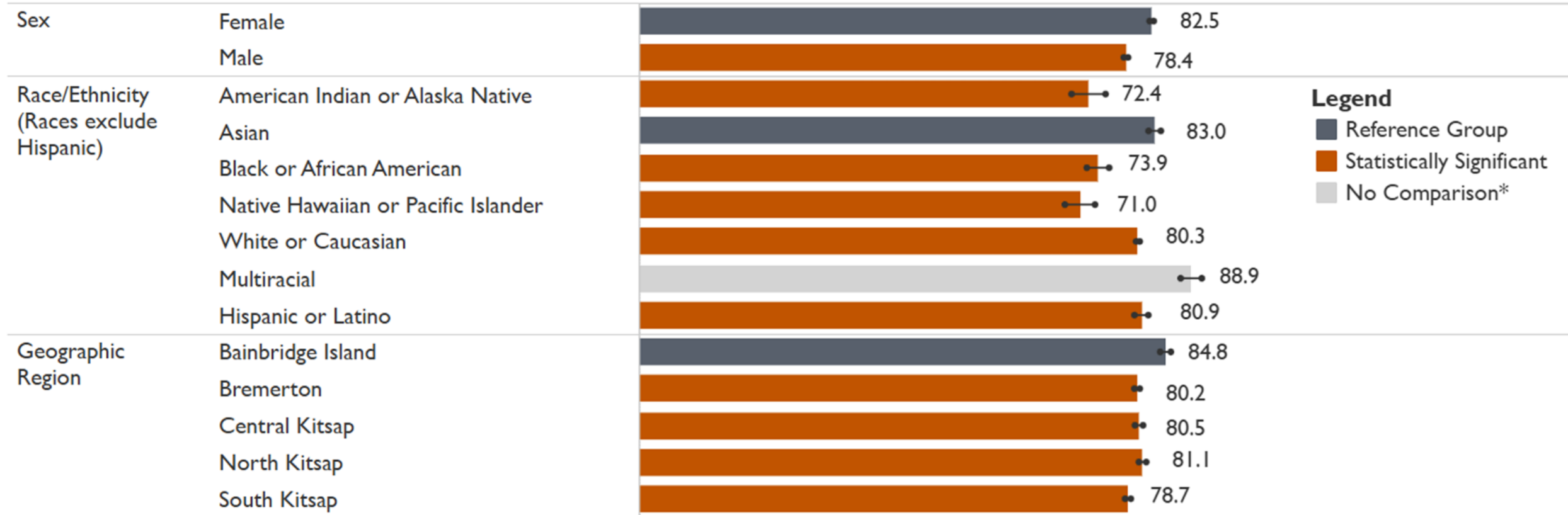


possibility that

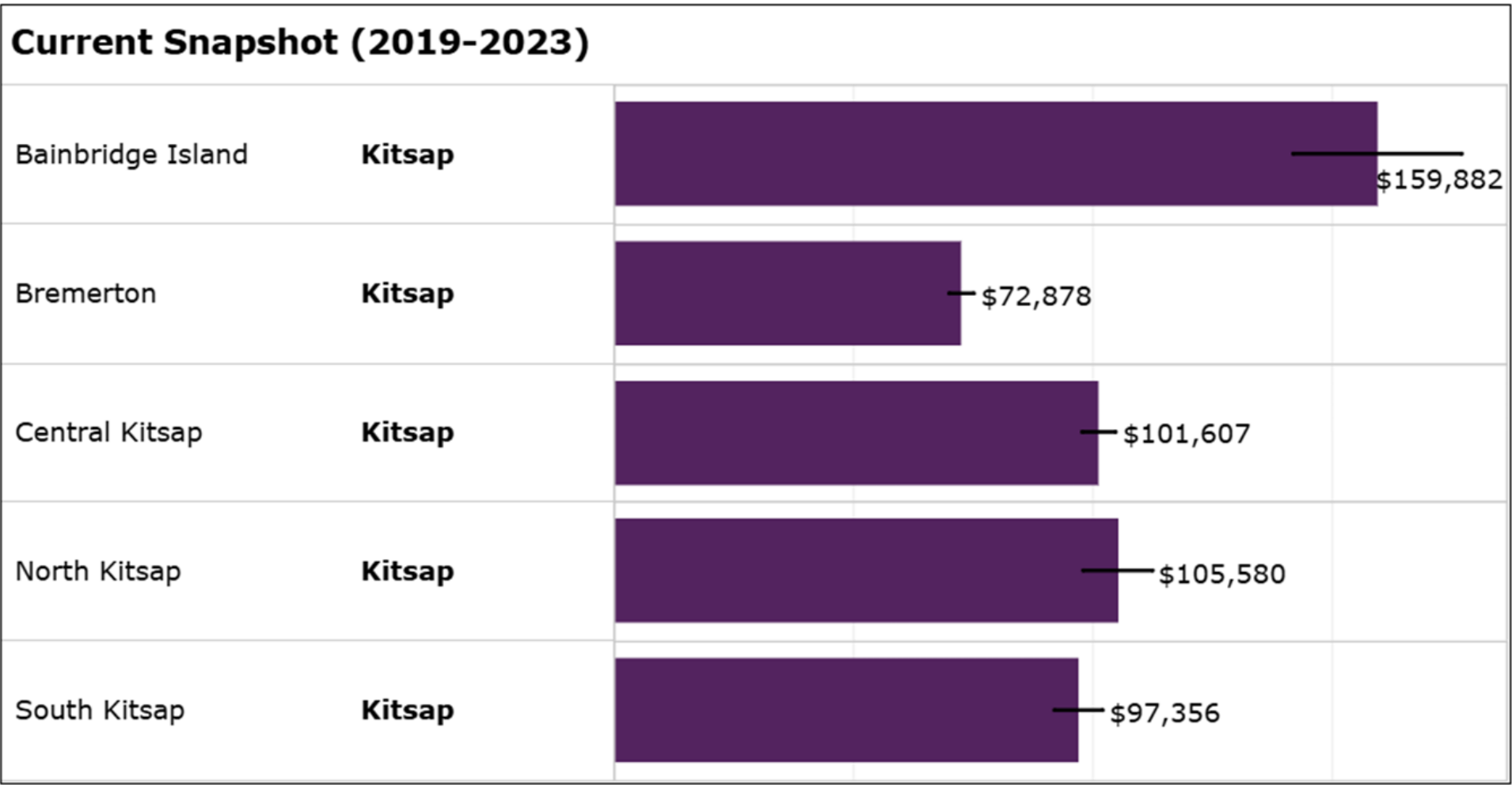
mechanisms

# Health Equity in Kitsap

## LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IN YEARS, KITSAP SUBGROUPS (2018 - 2022)



# Median Annual Household Income





- Social risks are associated with “problematic” health care utilization patterns, increased costs and poor health outcomes
- Patients with social needs are more likely to use ED services
  - Unhoused patients 7x more likely in a study from VT
  - 1 in 10 ED visits in WA among patients who are unhoused
  - Social risk associated with higher odds of ED visit/HFU
- Social risks are associated with increased healthcare costs
  - Boston HCHP vs Medicaid patients (2.5x more spending)
- Health outcomes
  - Homelessness associated with premature mortality (20yrs in Santa Clara)

# US spends more on health care than peer countries

Health expenditures per person, including government and private programs and out-of-pocket



**Herbie Duber**  
@hcduber

When a 12yo boy asks me about the cost of sedation (because he's worried about his mom having to pay) prior to reducing his ankle fracture it's hard not to think the system is broken...

9:49 AM · May 5, 2021

 View post engagements

 162

 3.7K

 26K

 137



South Korea	\$3,914
-------------	---------

# Moving forward in an era of divisiveness

- Concerning claims about vaccination, immunity, food safety, determinants of health, etc.
- Lack of “trust” in public health
- Funding and personnel cuts
- Threats against public health (both direct and indirect)

How do we move forward?

# Lead with our strengths

*Humanity*  
*Reliability*  
*Transparency*  
*Capability*



<https://kresge.org/news-views/rebuilding-trust-is-an-urgent-necessity-for-the-future-success-of-public-health/>



# 2026 Legislative Session

*Adrienne Hampton*

# About the WA State Legislative Session

- Every year, state legislators gather to discuss issues affecting WA, hear public testimony, and vote on budgets and bills that may become new state law
- Short session (60 days): Legislative session started on January 12, 2026 and will wrap up on March 12, 2026

## **Overarching themes for 2026:**

- Continued state budget challenges
- Preserving access to affordable healthcare and coverage
- Mitigating the impacts of federal policy change to protecting communities across the state

## **KPHD coordinates and aligns legislative priorities with the:**

- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
- Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA).

# KPHD 2026 Legislative Priorities

Our three priority topic areas include:

- Preservation of **public health funding**
- Department of Health **recommendations for preventive services**
- Strengthening access to **physical and mental healthcare services**

QR Code:  
Priorities listed  
on KPHDs  
website



## Preservation of Public Health Funding

### *WA State Operating Budget*

**Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) investments keep our community informed to make healthy choices, safe from threats and disease.** Statewide, FPHS faces reductions in FY26 and FY27. These reductions will have a negative impact on Kitsap Public Health's budget and FPHS-supported services. We also support vapor tax formula changes as an FPHS revenue source.

## Department of Health's Recommendations for Preventive Services

### *Senate Bill 5967 & House Bill 2242*

**Preventive services and protections lower the risk of negative health outcomes.** Our community has the right to access robust information and be protected from the spread of disease and other health risk factors. Vaccine laws in WA define and limit how we make recommendations for preventive services. Currently, those laws require us to follow guidance from federal agencies and advisory groups such as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This legislation would codify Washington's recommendations for preventive services into state law so that current access to vaccines and other important preventive services continue.

## Strengthening Access to Physical and Mental Health Care Services

**All people in Kitsap County deserve access to affordable, high quality healthcare services.**

To ensure coverage and access to affordable quality care, our state will need to advance efforts to reduce the impacts of federal health policy changes. Significant support for healthcare providers, patient navigator programs, local coordination, data systems, and workforce initiatives will be needed.

# Healthcare Access in Kitsap County

*Leah Neff Warner*



# Healthcare Access in Kitsap

---

**All people in Kitsap County deserve access to affordable, high quality healthcare services.**

However, many residents face challenges getting the coverage and care they need.

## **Healthcare access remains a top concern** for residents and community leaders

# Healthcare Access in Kitsap

**All people in Kitsap County deserve access to affordable, high quality healthcare services.**

However, many residents face challenges getting the coverage and care they need.

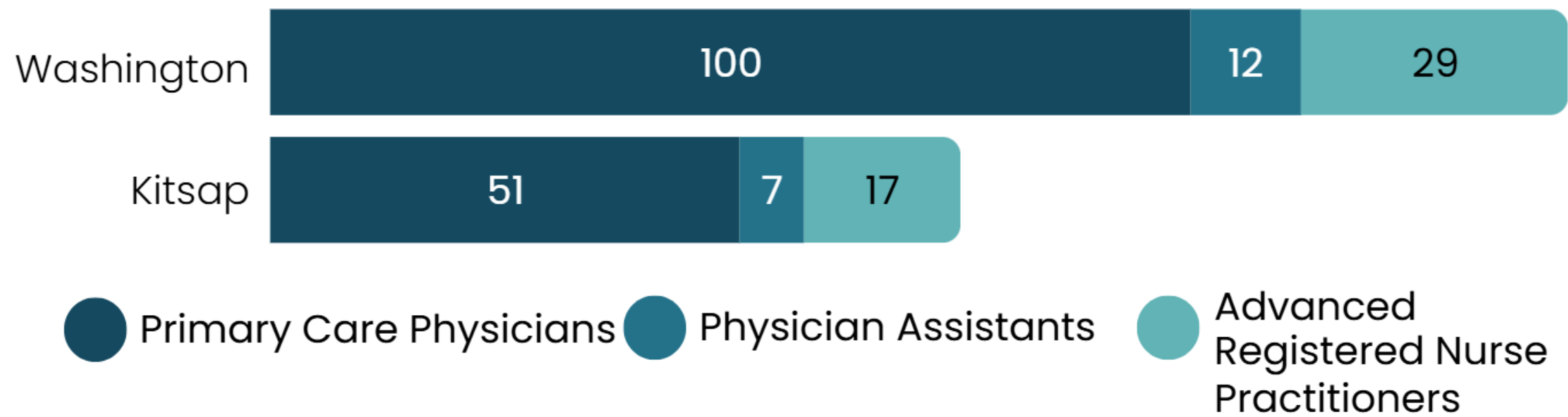
## **Healthcare access remains a top concern** for residents and community leaders

- The Kitsap Public Health Board declared high costs and insufficient access to healthcare services public health crises in 2023.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 70 Kitsap community organizational leaders agreed to make healthcare access a top community health priority based on data from a 2023 Community Health Assessment.<sup>2</sup>
- The HEC prioritized accessible medical care and accessible mental health services

# Healthcare provider shortages

Kitsap County is underserved relative to the state and nearby counties in the number of providers working in primary care, with about **half as many providers per 100,000 residents compared to Washington overall** (Figure 1). Kitsap also has fewer providers working in obstetrical and maternal care (51% lower than Washington), mental health (10% lower), and specialist care (56% lower).

Figure 1. 2023 primary care providers per 100,000 residents:<sup>3</sup>



3. Washington State Office of Financial Management, Health Care Research Center, retrieved from <https://ofm.wa.gov/data-research/health-care/workforce>, accessed Nov. 13, 2025.

# Challenges accessing care

## Prenatal Care

- In 2024, only 55% (1,374) of Kitsap residents who gave birth received adequate prenatal care, compared with 69% of Washington residents.<sup>4</sup>
- Access was worse for residents with lower income. Only 48% (290) of Medicaid recipients received adequate care.<sup>4</sup>

## Mental Health Care

- Among Kitsap residents with Medicaid in 2023–2024, about 58% of those who needed mental health care received those services, and
- 41% who needed substance use disorder treatment received those services.<sup>7</sup>

## Primary Care

- In 2024, about 1 in 4 adults with Medicaid did not have a preventive or primary care visit, and
- About 1 in 2 children with Medicaid did not have a Child or Adolescent Well-Care visit.<sup>7</sup>

## High costs of care

- In 2024, 9.7% of Kitsap adults said they needed to see a doctor in the last year but could not afford to. This was similar to the 10.5% of adults statewide.<sup>8</sup>



# Healthcare access concerns for our community because of federal policy HR.1

## Loss of Medicaid Coverage

- Statewide, at least 26% of current adult Medicaid recipients are expected to lose coverage due to eligibility criteria changes.<sup>9</sup>
- Assuming a similar impact in Kitsap, approximately 8,400 Kitsap adults are expected to lose coverage.<sup>10</sup>



## Increase in Uninsured Population

- Statewide, the uninsured rate is expected to double due to rising costs of insurance premiums and the loss of Medicaid coverage.<sup>9</sup>
- Assuming a similar impact in Kitsap, the uninsured rate for working-aged adults could increase from 5.8% to nearly 12%.<sup>11</sup>



## Worsening Health Due to Delayed or Skipped Care

- Delayed or skipped care compromises access to routine and preventive services, leading to missed diagnoses, higher intensity of services, and increased financial burden (for example, ED visits).
- Access to preventative healthcare services prevents disease and early death.

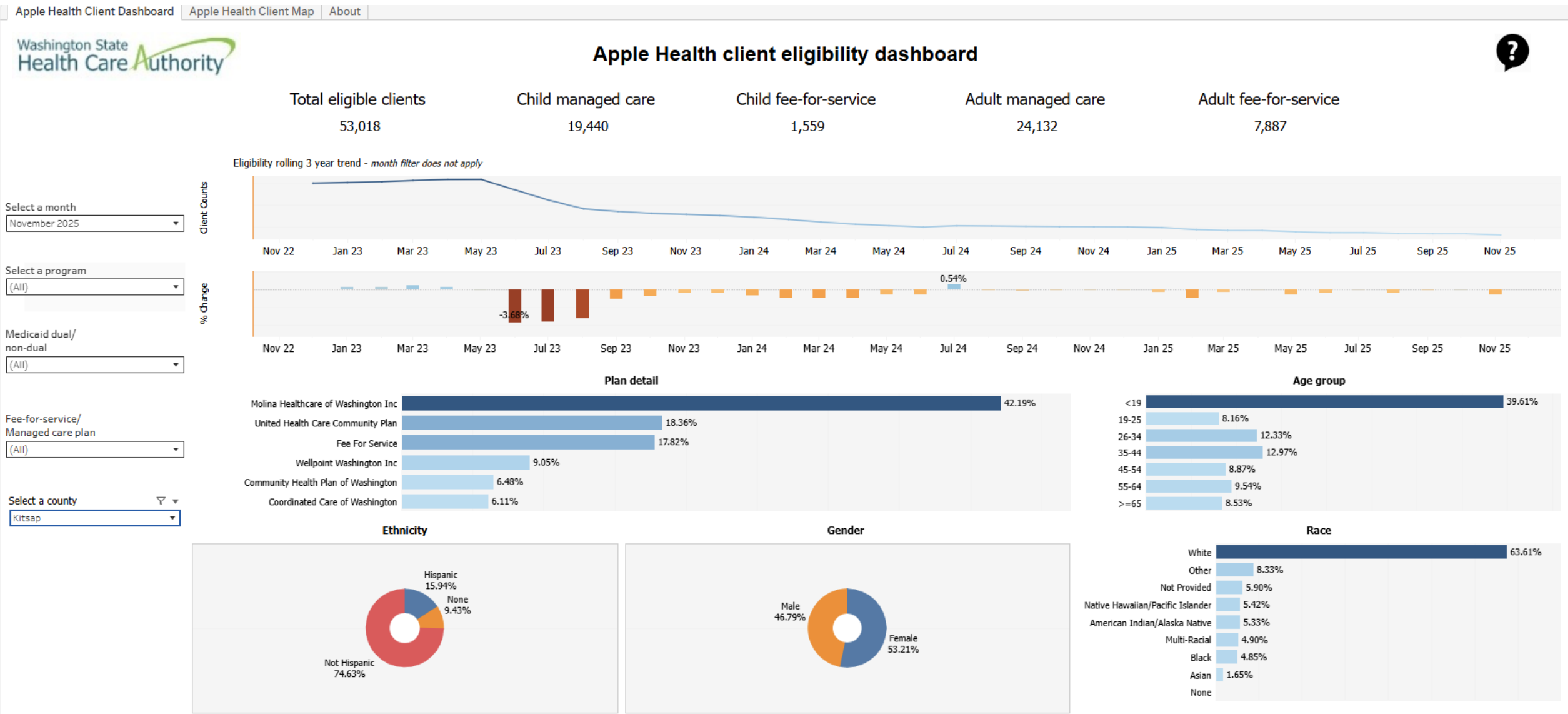
# Medicaid in Kitsap

---

- In October 2025, more than 32,000 adults and 21,000 children were covered by Medicaid in Kitsap.<sup>10</sup>
- Each year, about 750 (27%) births to Kitsap residents are covered by Medicaid (2020–2024).<sup>4</sup>

# Medicaid in Kitsap

<https://hca-tableau.watech.wa.gov/t/51/views/ClientDashboard-Externalversion/AppleHealthClientDashboard>



# Funding & Operational Constraints on Local Healthcare System – A cascade of anticipated impacts:

- Healthcare Coverage: Increase in uncompensated care due to loss of Medicaid coverage
- Health system: For those who cannot pay for cost of services, the health system will need cover the cost of care. This puts more strain on health systems.
- Impacts to seeking services – trust, safety, comfort

## Looking forward

---

While collective community efforts in Kitsap County prioritizing healthcare access and workforce are making encouraging progress, significant changes to federal and state policies are needed to ensure coverage and access to affordable, quality care.

"The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

– Amanda Gorman,  
The Hill We Climb



# Sources

1. Kitsap Public Health Board, Resolution 2023-04 Declaring High Costs and Insufficient Access of Healthcare Services in Kitsap County are Public Health Crises, July 2023, retrieved from <https://kitsappublichealth.org/healthcare>
2. Kitsap Community Health Priorities, retrieved from <https://www.kitsappublichealth.org/kchp>
3. Washington State Office of Financial Management, Health Care Research Center, retrieved from <https://ofm.wa.gov/data-research/health-care/workforce>, accessed Nov. 13, 2025.
4. Washington Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Certificate data, accessed Nov. 26, 2025. Defined as starting prenatal care in the first trimester and receiving at least 80% of recommended visits, based on the Adequate Prenatal Care Utilization Index (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8092364/>).
5. Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Interagency Coordinating Council 2024 Update to the 2023 Comprehensive Community Assessment, retrieved from [https://0ce87ad7-0ab7-4ccb-9ec0-b245feebd35d.usrfiles.com/ugd/0ce87a\\_0e75f21979cf408ebaadc2991ea5852b.pdf](https://0ce87ad7-0ab7-4ccb-9ec0-b245feebd35d.usrfiles.com/ugd/0ce87a_0e75f21979cf408ebaadc2991ea5852b.pdf), accessed Dec. 12, 2025
6. Kitsap Public Health Board, 2024 Letter to the Department of Defense, retrieved from [https://0ce87ad7-0ab7-4ccb-9ec0-b245feebd35d.usrfiles.com/ugd/0ce87a\\_99682954a0524e069bb98fcd2fe16fb7.pdf](https://0ce87ad7-0ab7-4ccb-9ec0-b245feebd35d.usrfiles.com/ugd/0ce87a_99682954a0524e069bb98fcd2fe16fb7.pdf)
7. Washington Health Care Authority, Healthier Washington Measure Explorer & Trend Dashboard, retrieved from <https://hca-tableau.watech.wa.gov/t/51/views/HealthierWashingtonDashboard/Measures>, accessed Dec. 4, 2025
8. Washington Department of Health, BRFSS 2024. Accessed Dec. 4, 2025.
9. Washington Department of Health Office of Community Health, HR1 Listening Session, Sept. 10, 2025
10. Washington Health Care Authority, Apple Health Client Eligibility Dashboard, retrieved from <https://hca-tableau.watech.wa.gov/t/51/views/ClientDashboard-Externalversion/AppleHealthClientDashboard?%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y>, accessed Dec. 1, 2025
11. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/>, accessed Dec. 1, 2025
12. Healthy People 2030, [Increase the proportion of adults who get recommended evidence-based preventive health care — AHS-08](https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/), retrieved from <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/>, accessed Dec. 8, 2025
13. Washington State Office of Financial Management, H.R. 1 impacts on Washington state people and budget, retrieved from <https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/resources/h-r-1-impacts-on-washington-state-people-and-budget/#section-health-care-medicaid-enrollee-impacts>, accessed Dec. 1, 2025.



# Share out

*Does anyone have updates for the group?*

*Black Infant*  
**THRIVE** presents

## Community Echoes

**Jan. 26, 2026 | 8:30–11:30 a.m.**

OESD 114 Early Learning

105 National Ave N, Bremerton

Join our community listening session to discuss the 2025 survey report on Black perinatal healthcare experiences.

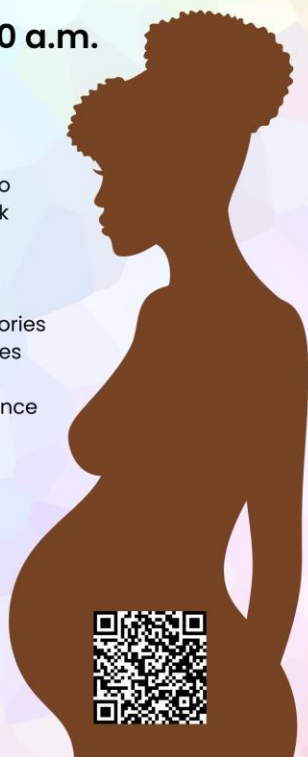
**Let's come together to:**

- Lift community voices and share stories
- Raise awareness to health disparities
- Connect and collaborate
- Celebrate Black wisdom and resilience

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Questions?**

Email [BIT@KitsapPublicHealth.org](mailto:BIT@KitsapPublicHealth.org)  
or visit [KitsapPublicHealth.org/bit](https://KitsapPublicHealth.org/bit)



*Black Infant*  
**THRIVE** Presents:

## JUST THE ESSENTIALS

**January 31, 2026**

11:30 am–1:30 pm

Kingdom Assignment Ministries  
1300 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

**Come join us to:**

- Gather free family necessities
- Learn essential budgeting skills
- Connect with other local families
- Feel empowered!

**Questions?**

Email [BIT@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:BIT@kitsappublichealth.org)  
or visit [KitsapPublicHealth.org/bit](https://KitsapPublicHealth.org/bit)



Two upcoming  
events in our  
Black Infant  
Thrive program

Email  
[bit@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:bit@kitsappublichealth.org)  
with any questions

### **Participant Compensation**

Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) is offering Visa gift cards to compensate Collaborative participants who are not already being paid for their time. Please note that the general Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rule is that any gift is taxable, including gift cards. KPHD does not provide tax advice. Please consult with your tax professional regarding reporting requirements for the receipt of gift cards.

# THANK YOU!

---

[equity@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:equity@kitsappublichealth.org)



[kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)