



2024 Annual Report on Community Indicators



Rooted in **Connection**, Growing with **Direction**



Mission

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.



Vision

A vibrant county embracing the diversity of its communities, advancing equitable access to resources and opportunities, and prioritizing the sustainability of its natural environment.



Values

- **Caring:** We serve all with dignity, respect, and understanding.
- **Collaborative:** We connect with each other and our community to make intentional decisions.
- **Equitable:** We are committed to fostering an inclusive community and delivering accessible services to achieve equitable outcomes.
- **Ethical:** We act with integrity and make transparent decisions to build public trust.
- **Fiscally Responsible:** We support current and future generations through prudent financial decisions that respect public investments and advance the long-term interest of the community.
- **Responsive:** We anticipate evolving community needs and embrace innovative approaches to solve problems and promote positive change.
- **Sustainable:** We recognize the significance of our natural environment and are proactive in protecting our resources.



Strategic Priorities

Organizational Excellence

Develop and sustain an environment where employees and the organization are equipped and supported to deliver outstanding service to everyone in Washington County.

Safe Communities and Thriving People

Ensure that everyone in Washington County has access to services that address inequities, foster well-being, and promote safety.

Strong and Sustainable Environment

Enhance and maintain investments in the built and natural environment to encourage responsible growth, accessibility, and resilient communities.

Financial Health and Capacity

Sustain strong financial policies and practices to provide and improve valued public services and make progress towards the county's five-year vision.



For twenty-five consecutive years, Washington County has published its annual performance report. The county uses the information to make decisions and continuously improve quality.

This Annual Report on Community Indicators (ARCI) — previously called the “Performance Measures & Indicators Report” — highlights the county’s performance and improvement efforts during 2024.

The report is organized around the four priorities of the 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan. These four priorities, along with their goals and measures, guide the county’s work toward real results and its long-term vision.

The ARCI includes community indicators, showing how the community is doing and performance outcomes from county departments. Each indicator includes data along with answers to three key questions: “What is it?” “What does the data tell us?” and “Why does it matter?” The report also includes a demographic snapshot, giving context about the county’s growing, aging, and diversifying population.

The county focuses on performance measures to manage operations effectively and make informed decisions. This report highlights just some of the ways the county tracks progress. In addition to the ARCI, the county supports performance measurement through various initiatives:

- Annual progress meetings with departments to review performance measures and quality improvement efforts.
- Quality and process improvement methods like Lean and Kaizen.
- Participation in the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor’s Standard Measures Program.

County staff at all levels of the organization, along with the County Board and county administration, lead efforts in performance measurement and continuous improvement to deliver high-quality services to the community members and customers of Washington County.



Table of Contents

Organizational Excellence

Communication: County website	1
Technical hardware in healthy status	2
Workers' compensation claims.....	3

Safe Communities and Thriving People

Crime rate.....	5
Recidivism rates.....	6
Absence of maltreatment recurrence	7
Food support program cases	8
Accredited evidence-based home visiting program, Washington County Healthy Families	9
Immunization rates.....	10
New library cards.....	11
Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program breastfeeding rates	12
Homeless outreach services.....	13
Criminal charging turnaround time	14
Library circulation.....	15
Community outreach in Attorney's Office	16

Strong and Sustainable Environment

Park visitor satisfaction.....	17
Pavement Condition Index (PCI).....	19
Local planning index for/of bridges	20
Road maintenance cost per mile.....	21
Energy usage intensity.....	22
Household hazardous waste collection	23

Financial Health and Capacity

Outstanding debt per capita.....	25
Property tax payments	26
Price of government.....	27
Levy per capita	28
Financial reporting	29
Capital fund cash flow	30

Appendix

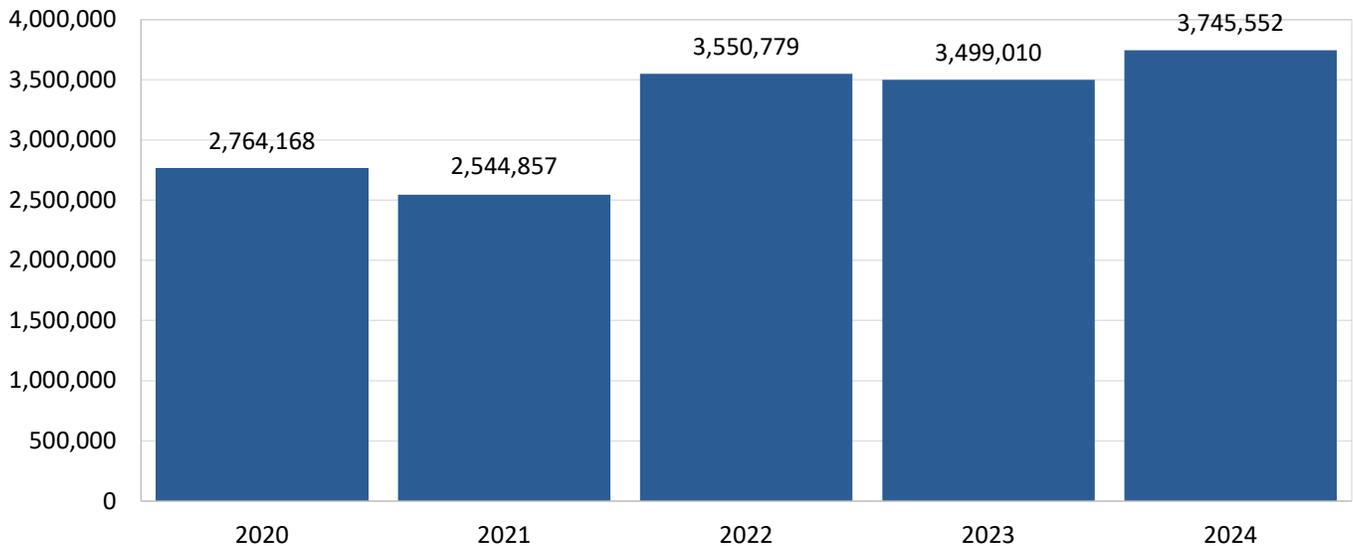
Washington County, Minnesota 2024 At-A-Glance	I
---	---



Organizational Excellence

Communication: County website

Total website visits by year



Source: Washington County Office of Administration

What is it?

Washington County seeks the most effective ways to communicate with the public and to listen to their feedback. The website is one of the key communications tools used to keep the public informed about county news, services, and programs. It is important for maintaining public trust and ensuring government transparency.

Why does it matter?

The website serves as a central hub for information and resources for residents. When residents are well-informed, they can better engage in local government and participate in county programs and services. Advances in technology have improved and transformed how Washington County communicates with residents.

What is the data telling us?

On average in 2024, more than 310,000 visits were made to the county's website each month with residents seeking information about libraries, parks, road construction, voting, and other services provided by the county.

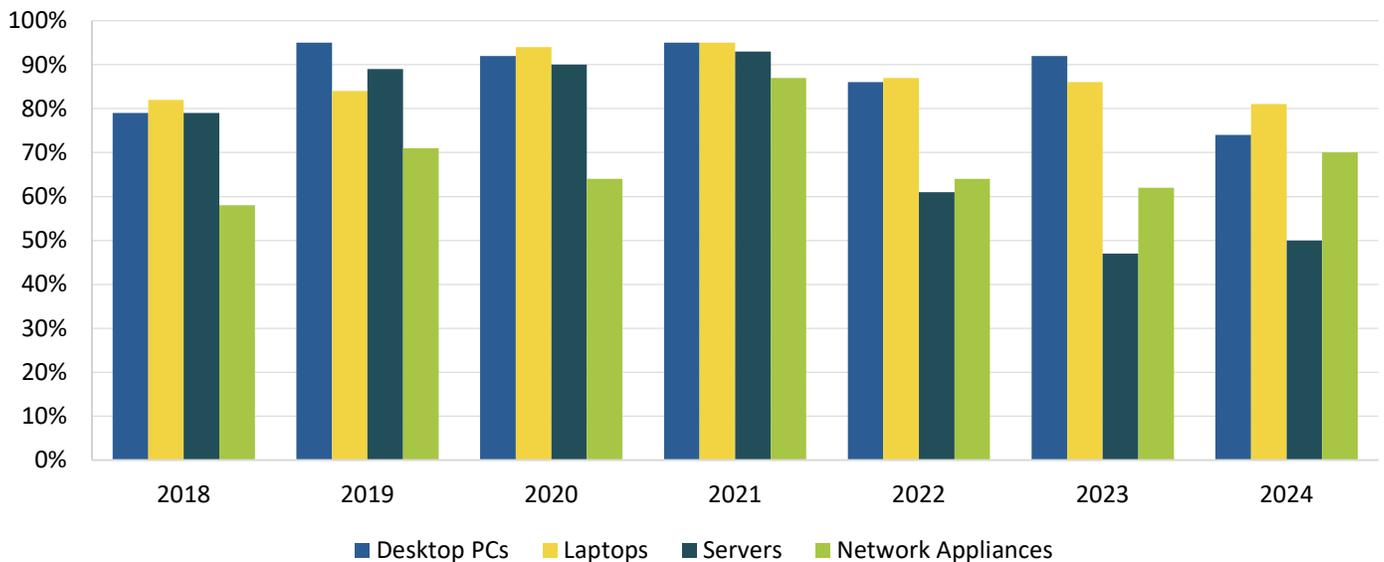
The growth in total views on the county's website over the past five years indicates a significant increase in public interest and engagement with county services and information. By monitoring metrics like total website visits, the county is able to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the information shared. This insight allows the county to tailor its messaging to better reach the community. Residents may sign up for e-newsletters and e-notifications through the website to receive news and updates, event reminders, meeting agendas and minutes, and more. These e-newsletters and e-notifications continue to gain subscribers.

County Board meetings are live streamed on the website, allowing anyone to watch from their devices in real time. Archived meetings are also available for easy access and convenience.



Technical hardware in healthy status

Percentage of hardware in healthy status, includes county-owned hardware managed by Information Technology



Source: RebBeam

What is it?

Washington County proactively manages its computing infrastructure and replaces technology components to maintain a healthy, secure, stable, and reliable computing environment. The county's Information Technology (IT) hardware infrastructure consists of desktop, laptop, and tablet computers; monitors; mobile devices; servers; storage devices; network routers; firewalls; and network switches.

Why does it matter?

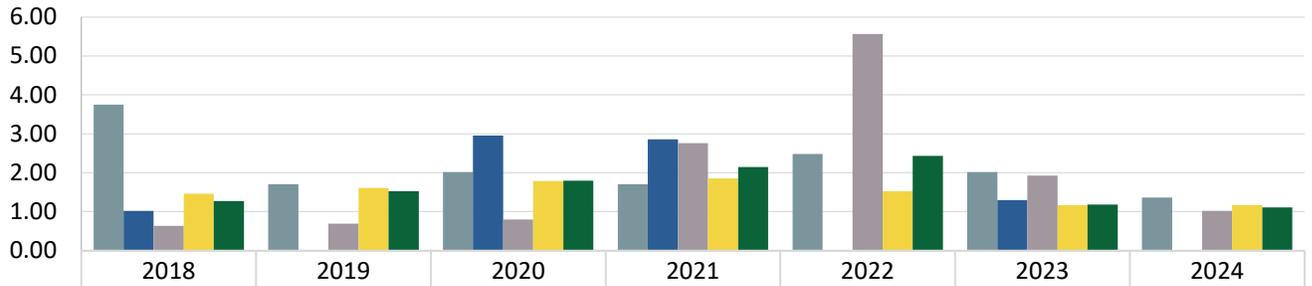
Information Technology follows industry standard lifecycles to ensure optimal performance and cost effectiveness. These lifecycles are based on the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) of the device, which considers the direct costs of purchasing the device and the indirect costs of supporting and operating it over time. Based on research for the average enterprise, the initial purchase cost of a device represents 15% or less of the overall TCO, with most of the cost resulting from the support and operation of the device over its lifecycle. Each year, the county determines whether to extend the use of equipment beyond its recommended lifespan, balancing the lower upfront costs against the increased support costs, which are estimated at 20% higher for each additional year.

What is the data telling us?

The healthy status target for desktop and laptop computers has slightly decreased due to the increase in hardware, the shorter lifecycle for laptop devices, and the decision to include library public computers. IT staff are working closely with departments to prioritize which items are most critical for replacement. The healthy status percentage for servers decreased in 2022 because of staff shortages and the need to keep older applications on older systems operational while staff worked to transition systems to cloud environments or new server hosts. In 2024, health in the server area improved due to the team being fully staffed and the decommissioning or relocation of older systems and applications to new server hosts and cloud environments. The health status of the network appliances also improved notably in 2024 as a result of staff augmentation and enhanced device management.

Workers' compensation claims

Lost workday cases



■ Carver	3.75	1.71	2.02	1.71	2.48	2.02	1.36
■ Hennepin	1.02	—	2.96	2.86	—	1.30	—
■ Olmsted	0.64	0.69	0.80	2.76	5.56	1.93	1.02
■ Ramsey	1.46	1.61	1.79	1.85	1.53	1.17	1.17
■ Washington	1.27	1.53	1.80	2.15	2.43	1.18	1.11

Note: Lost workday cases equal the number of entries on OSHA 300 Log x 200,000 divided by the total number of hours worked by all employees during the year covered.
 Source: Metropolitan County Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) logs

What is it?

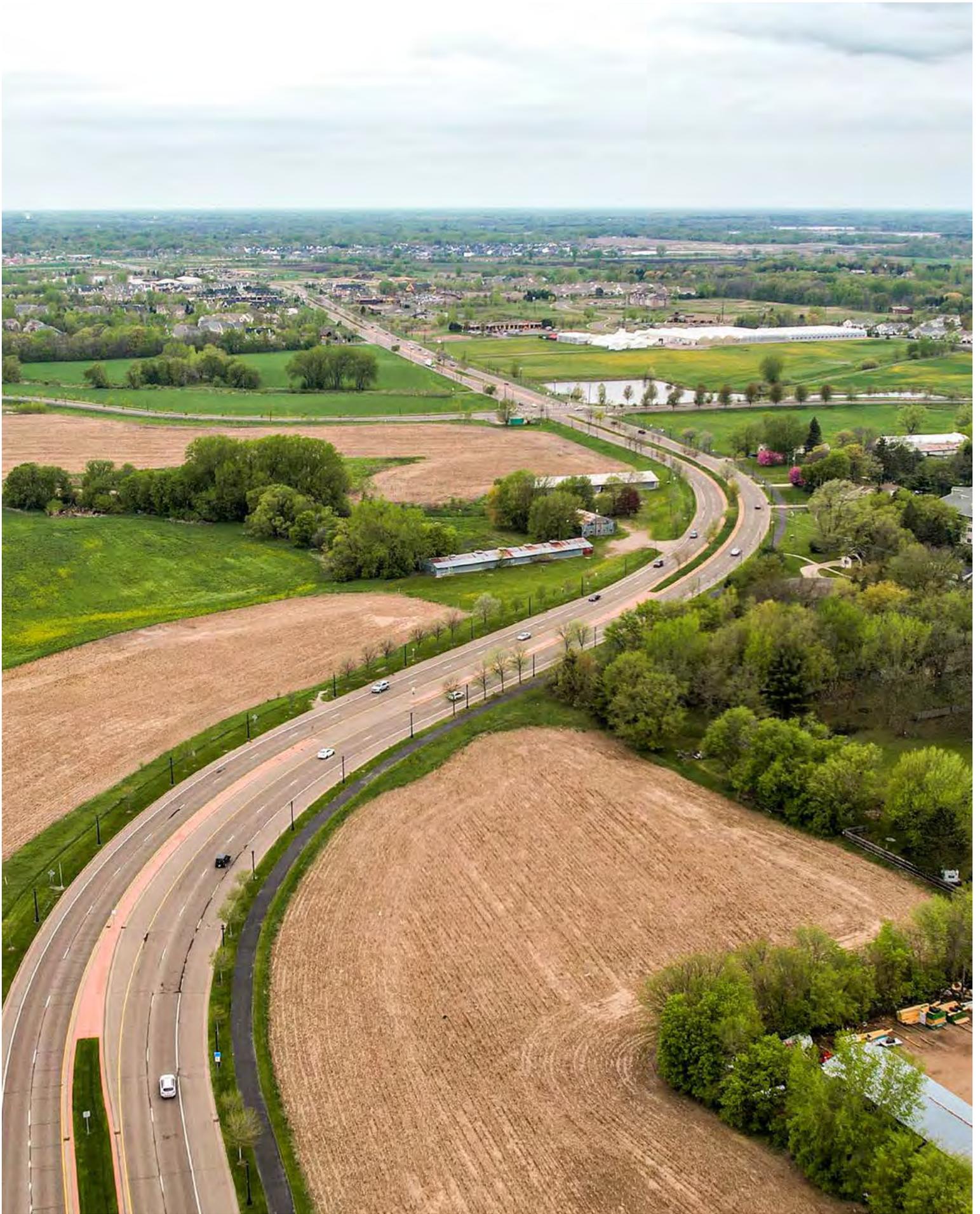
Washington County compares its work-related injury rates, as outlined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), with other Minnesota counties every year. For OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping purposes, the term “lost workday case” is used to designate cases involving days away from work and/or days of restricted work activity beyond the date of injury or onset of illness.

Why does it matter?

The number and severity of work-related injuries and illnesses indicates the effectiveness of Washington County’s departmental and countywide loss control, case management, and return-to-work programs.

What is the data telling us?

In 2024, Washington County’s injury rates were lower than or similar to other Minnesota counties. COVID-related claims ended in 2022, which had a substantial impact on both the number of injury claims and lost workday cases for counties. This measure reinforces the importance of Washington County’s departmental and countywide loss control, case management, and return-to-work programs and the impact these programs have on work-related injuries and illnesses.

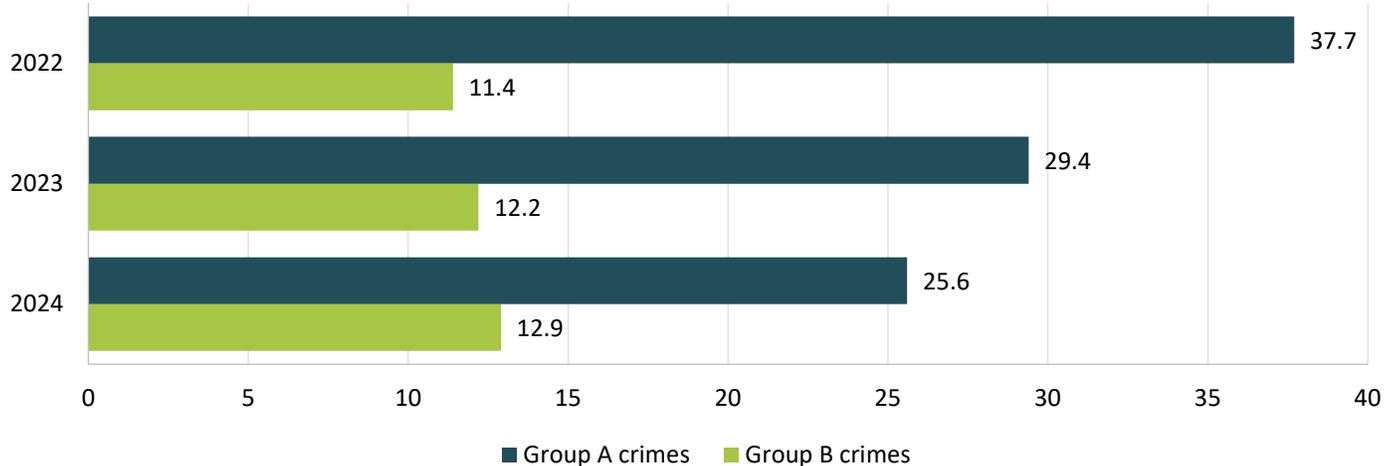




Safe Communities and Thriving People

Crime rate

Group A and Group B crimes per 1,000 residents



Note: Group A offenses cover a wide range of criminal activities, including but not limited to assault, fraud, and homicide. Group B crimes are mid-level offenses or misdemeanor offenses, including but not limited to trespassing, disorderly conduct, and vandalism. Non-reportable traffic offenses such as DWI are not included in Group B crimes.

Source: Washington County Sheriff's Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation

What is it?

Crime has a direct effect on people's quality of life. Washington County Sheriff's Office staff monitor and track the number of crime incidents committed within its patrol jurisdictions, in part to ensure that effective and appropriate resources are being deployed to protect the safety and well-being of all Washington County residents. This data includes crime rates for all of Washington County, including patrol jurisdictions of both the Sheriff's Office and municipal police departments.

Why does it matter?

Beginning in October 2020, the Washington County Sheriff's Office along with its partnering local law enforcement agencies, transitioned to the FBI's new data collection system known as the National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. This method of data collection provides more detailed information on reported crimes such as time, place, and method. Analysis of these details can aid law enforcement agencies in spotting trends, deploying preventative resources, concentrating personnel in areas where incidents may be occurring in heavier numbers, as well as linking crime patterns.

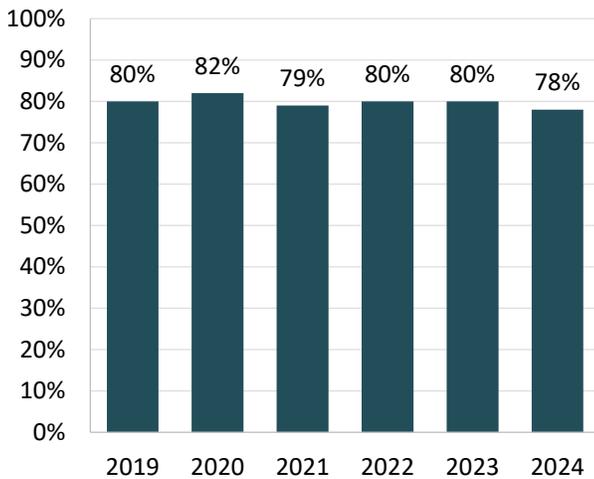
What is the data telling us?

In 2024, Washington County's residents enjoyed a lower crime rate than the national average, with rates comparable to neighboring Dakota County. While it is important to note crime rates fluctuate from year to year, overall crime rates are trending downward nationwide, according to FBI data.

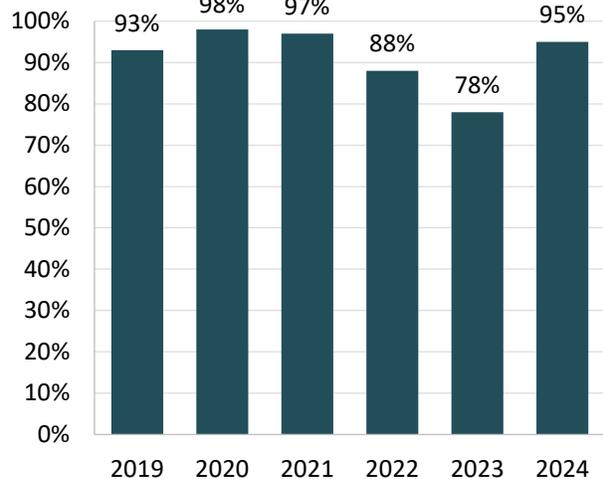


Recidivism rates (adult and juvenile)

Percentage of adult felony offenders not convicted of a new felony offense within three years of probation discharge



Percentage of juvenile felony offenders not convicted of a new felony offense within three years of probation discharge



Source: Washington County Community Corrections

What is it?

Recidivism measures how often an offender is convicted of a new criminal offense. Washington County probation officers and case management specialists work with offenders to reduce their risk of committing future crimes. The county tracks adult and juvenile felony-level probationers for three years after their probation discharge date. Offenders not convicted of another felony-level offense within that three-year time frame make up the reported recidivism measure. The recidivism measures for 2024 are for probationers discharged in 2020.

Why does it matter?

Probationers who commit new criminal offenses adversely impact public safety in the county. By measuring the rate of recidivism, the county can assess the effectiveness of its supervision programs and services. The county can also gauge how well it is promoting its priority for safe communities and thriving people.

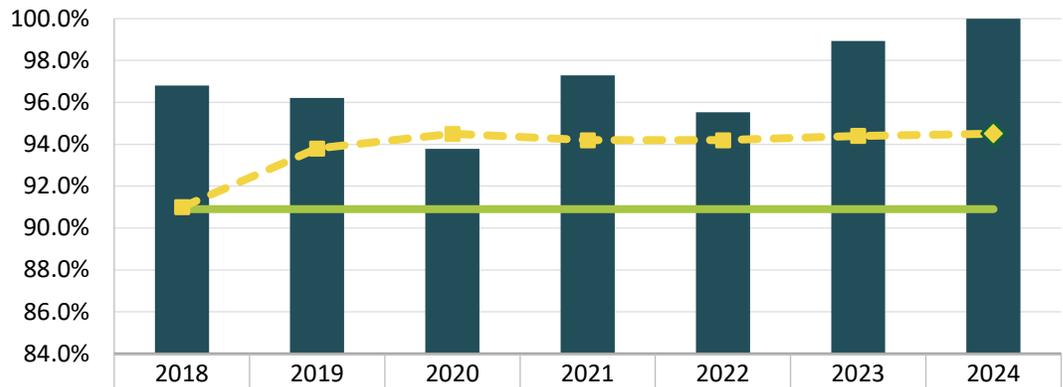
What is the data telling us?

The adult rate of 78% of probationers who did not commit another felony within three years of discharge was slightly lower than the 85% rate for the overall Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and the 86% rate for Minnesota.

Of the 20 juveniles discharged in 2020 from felony-level probation supervision, 19 (or 95%) were not convicted of a new felony offense within three years. Due to the small number of juvenile probationers discharged in a given year, a small change in the number of recidivists can result in a large percentage fluctuation. Juvenile recidivism rates only pertain to Washington County sentenced criminal convictions.

Absence of maltreatment recurrence

Absence of maltreatment recurrence



■ Washington County absence of maltreatment recurrence	96.8%	96.2%	93.8%	97.3%	95.5%	98.9%	100.0%
— Federal performance standard	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%
- - - State performance standard	91.0%	93.8%	94.5%	94.2%	94.2%	94.4%	94.5%

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Data Dashboard

What is it?

All states have child abuse and neglect reporting laws that mandate certain professionals and institutions refer suspected maltreatment to a child protective services agency. In Minnesota, maltreatment is defined as physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and mental injury. A key indicator of a successful children's services program is the absence of repeated maltreatment. The Minnesota Department of Human Services, in alignment with the federal government, measures the absence of maltreatment recurrence with the percentage of children who did not have a subsequent substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial substantiated maltreatment report. This includes all child protection reports that are screened in or completed investigations where a maltreatment determination was made.

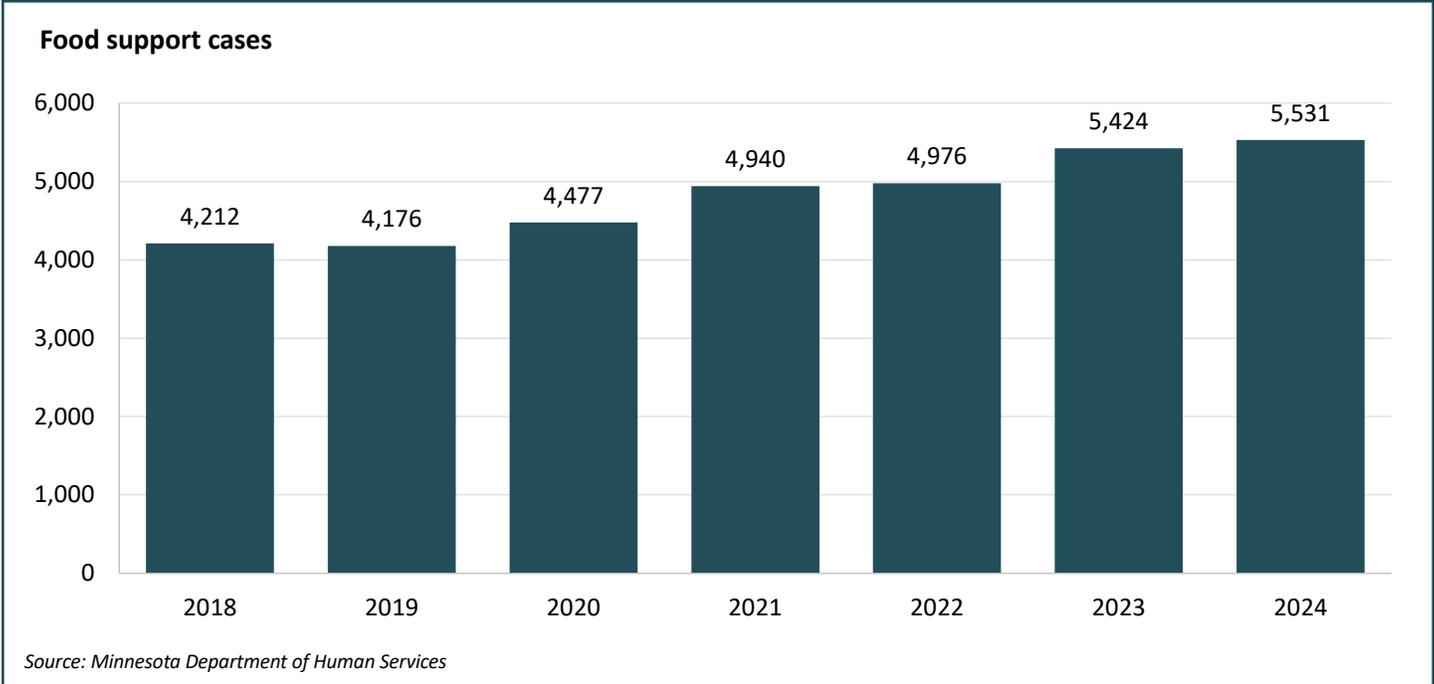
Why does it matter?

Washington County has the responsibility and authority to ensure that children are protected from harm or danger and that children in need of protection receive the appropriate services. Protecting the safety of minor children is an important responsibility and is taken seriously by the county.

What is the data telling us?

In 2024, there were 107 cases with determined maltreatment, a 14% increase from the 94 cases reported in 2023. Although the number of initial cases was higher in 2024, there were no instances of maltreatment recurrence within 12 months following intervention. The data shows Washington County's outcome for absence of maltreatment recurrence is at 100%, with an average of 96.9% since 2018. Statewide performance is at 94.5%, with an average of 93.8% since 2018. This also remains above the federal performance standard of 90.9% or higher.

Food support program cases



What is it?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal program that provides a food support benefit to low-income eligible individuals and families. Eligibility for SNAP is determined by federally established income guidelines. Benefits are distributed through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

Why does it matter?

To promote health and safety, Washington County administers SNAP as a safety-net program for residents in need of food. SNAP helps individuals and families get access to the food they need for nutritious and well-balanced meals.

What is the data telling us?

From 2018 until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington County experienced a slight decrease in the average number of food support cases. However, over the past four years, those numbers have steadily increased.

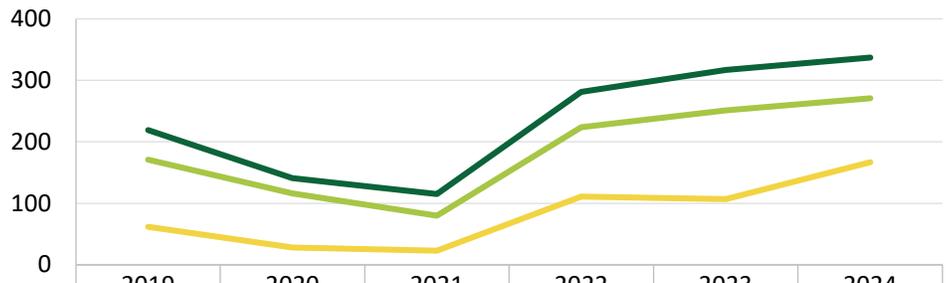
Economic challenges have persisted, leading to a continued rise in SNAP cases. In 2024, the county averaged 5,531 open food support cases per month, representing a 32% increase compared to 2019.

In September 2022, the gross income limit for SNAP eligibility increased from 165% to 200% of the federal poverty line for most households. Increasing the gross income limit for SNAP eligibility did not change the monthly SNAP benefit amount but rather more Minnesotans became eligible to receive SNAP assistance. While households with an income between 165% and 200% of the federal poverty line are now eligible for SNAP assistance, their benefit amount is lower compared to those households with less income.

According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), in 2024, the average monthly SNAP benefit per case in Washington County was \$317.10 and the average monthly benefit per person was \$160.14. The total net expenditure for 2024 was \$21 million, representing a 9% decrease from 2023. While the number of food support cases continued to increase, the average benefit amount decreased for SNAP recipients between 2023 and 2024.

Accredited evidence-based home visiting program, Washington County Healthy Families

Accredited evidence-based home visiting program, Washington County Healthy Families 2019-2024



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of family health referrals	219	141	115	281	317	337
Number of evidence-based home visiting referrals	171	116	80	224	251	271
Number of families who accepted evidence-based home visiting services	62	28	23	111	107	167

Source: Washington County Public Health and Environment

What is it?

The Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment provides evidence-based Family Health Home Visiting services in the Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting (MECSH) model. Prior to implementing the MECSH model in February of 2022, the Department had provided services using the Healthy Families America (HFA) model since 2008. Through the MECSH model, county public health nurses provide sustained nurse home visits to support families who are parenting despite significant stressors. Nurses connect families to local resources and support improved health and mental health outcomes. Occasionally, families are not eligible to enroll in MECSH, but Washington County still offers and provides home visiting services using an evidence-informed approach.

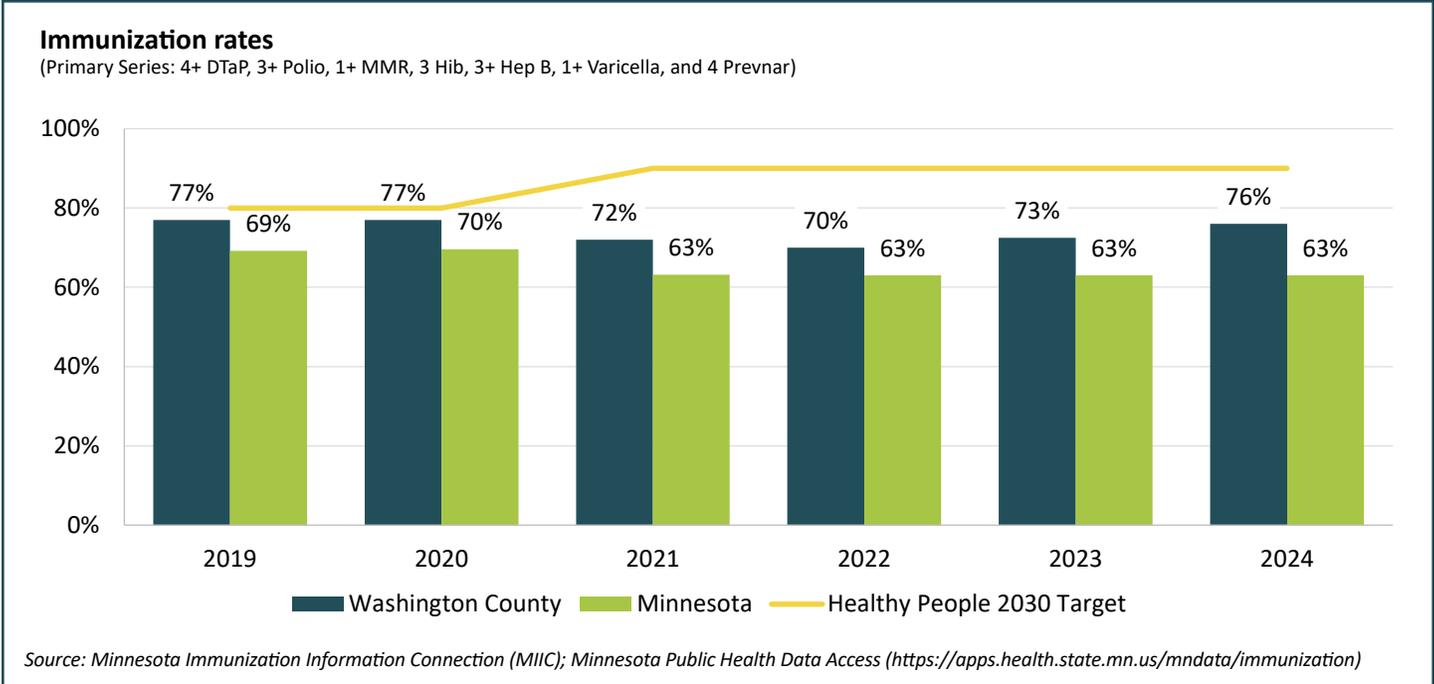
Why does it matter?

In the interest of safe communities and thriving people, research since the late 1980s demonstrates that intensive and sustained nurse home visits yield significant benefits for families with risk factors for adverse childhood outcomes. These include increased childhood immunizations rates, improved home environment and parent-child interaction, healthier child development, enhanced family functioning, reduced rates of unplanned pregnancies, less reliance on public assistance, and decreases in the rates of child abuse, neglect, and criminal behavior. The MECSH model has demonstrated positive outcomes, including improved perinatal health, increased parenting confidence, better self-reported health, and improved experiences of parenting, especially among mothers with prenatal mental health concerns. Parents in the program also show increased knowledge of sleep safety, stronger parent-child bonding and attachment. Children benefit through improved health, cognitive development, and increased breastfeeding duration.

What is the data telling us?

In 2024, Public Health and Environment received 337 family health referrals, about 20 more than in 2023. Of these, 271 were for the MECSH model, and 167 of those families accepted home visiting services, an increase of 50 more families than in 2023. This data shows the success of renewed recruitment efforts and improved engagement with families in diverse communities. The MECSH model allows the Public Health and Environment department to continue to leverage federal grant dollars, as well as state and local resources, while increasing caseload capacity so that more families may participate. Through the height of the pandemic, more emphasis was put into engaging and retaining families participating in home visiting rather than on recruitment of new families. Recruitment efforts resumed with innovative approaches including a social media campaign to increase self-referrals.

Immunization rates



What is it?

Washington County Public Health and Environment monitors the percentage of children living in the county who receive recommended vaccines. Nineteen doses of “primary series” vaccine are recommended for children by 2 years of age and are included in this rate measure. Hepatitis A, Rotavirus, and Influenza vaccines are also recommended for this age group but not included in the primary series rate.

Why does it matter?

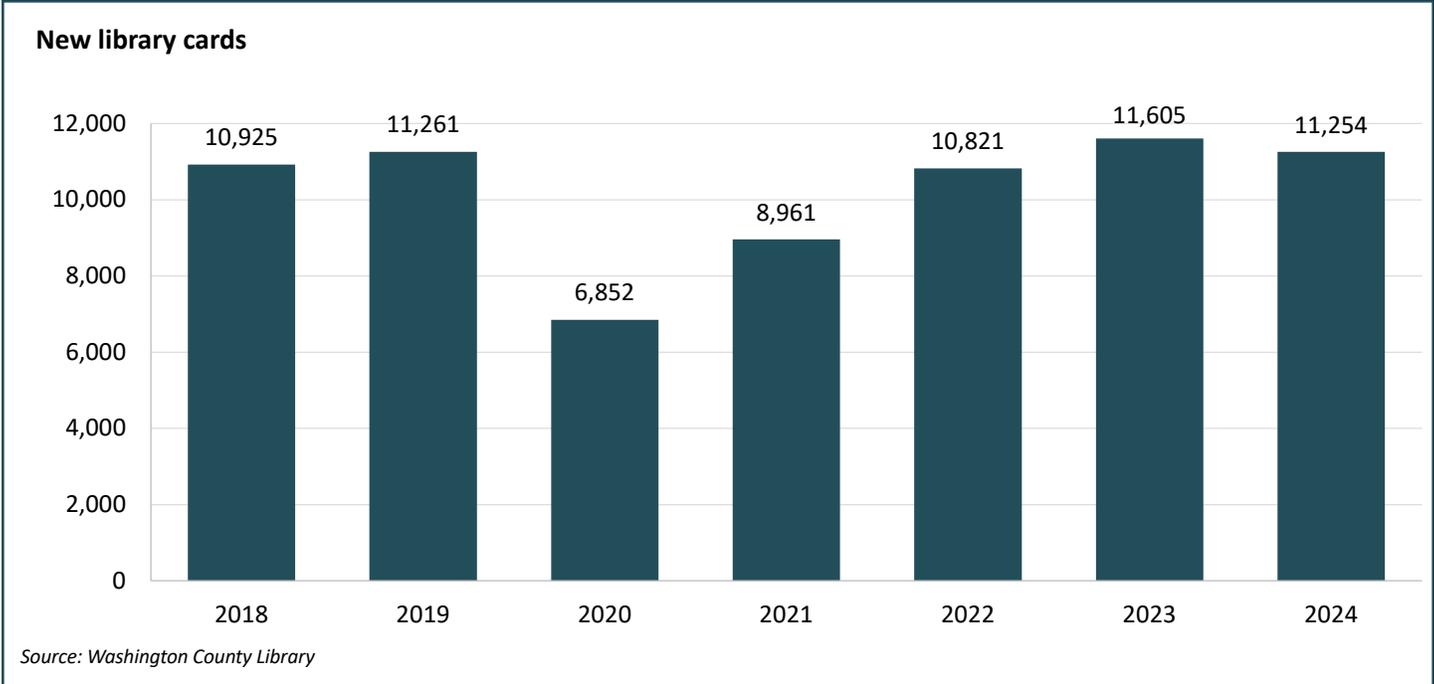
In the interest of safe communities and thriving people, people of all ages should receive recommended vaccines. Since vaccine-preventable diseases are often more serious in young children, it is particularly important to vaccinate in the first few years of life. Vaccinating children protects them from serious diseases and protects the health of the community. When children receive the full childhood immunization series, those who are too young to be vaccinated and those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons are also protected. Vaccination can also help stop or slow the spread of disease outbreaks, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic when no vaccine was initially available.

What is the data telling us?

The vaccine coverage rate in Washington County for 2-year-olds was 76% in 2024, higher than the state average of 63%. This was an increase from the previous year. Possible explanations for not fully vaccinating include the notion that the diseases are relics of the past, a general sense that a disease “won’t happen to me or my family,” vaccination access issues, and increasing rates of conscientious objectors to vaccines. Nationally, the number of individuals seeking vaccinations has declined since the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this, the Department of Public Health and Environment holds four public immunization clinics each month, targeting those who are uninsured or have access issues. In 2024, the county continued to promote funding opportunities to local school districts to reduce possible financial and access barriers to childhood vaccines with the goal of increasing immunization rates.

Primary vaccine series: 4-year+ Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis, pediatric formulation (DTaP); 3-year+ Polio; 1-year+ Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR); Complete Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); 3-year+ Hepatitis B (HepB); 1-year+ Varicella (VAR); and Complete Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV, also known as Prevnar)

New library cards



What is it?

A Washington County Library card allows community members to check out materials from the library’s collection and access the more than 60 databases and online tools for free. With a library card, community members can explore scientific research, learn through online tutoring, complete practice tests for common college entrance exams, check out both physical and digital books, movies, audiobooks, magazines, and more. While many library services are available without a library card, having a library card greatly increases resident access to information.

Why does it matter?

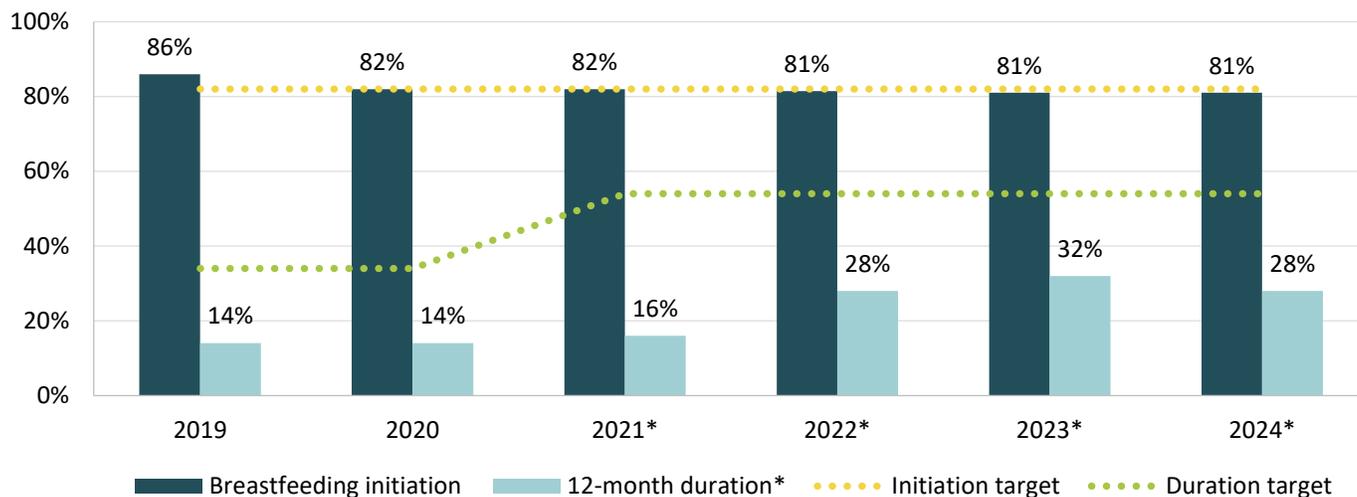
The library tracks county library card sign ups to measure engagement with the community and to see where library usage is growing. This information helps guide planning for programs, services, and library locations. As the population of Washington County continues to grow, increasing the number of cardholders and bringing new residents to the library is a key metric of success.

What is the data telling us?

Washington County Library averages around 11,000 new library cardholders each year. After a significant decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, new library cardholders steadily increased through 2023. There was a slight decline in 2024. In 2024, construction occurred at Central Park in Woodbury, which affected resident access and use of Washington County’s busiest library, R.H. Stafford Library. This may have been a factor in the decline.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) breastfeeding rates

WIC clients breastfeeding initiation and 12-month duration



*Note: 12-month data includes updated HP 2030 definition of mother's fully and/or mostly breastfeeding

Source: Washington County Public Health & Environment

What is it?

Washington County's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program helps families eat well and stay healthy. Breastfeeding education, promotion, and support are central to the WIC mission to improve maternal and child health. The WIC program monitors the number of WIC clients who start breastfeeding from birth and those that continue for 12 months. The initiation target of 82% is based on a Healthy People 2020 goal, which is still used by the Minnesota Department of Health and followed by Washington County's WIC program. The duration target of 54% aligns with the Healthy People 2030 (HP2030) goal for infants breastfed for 12 months.

Why does it matter?

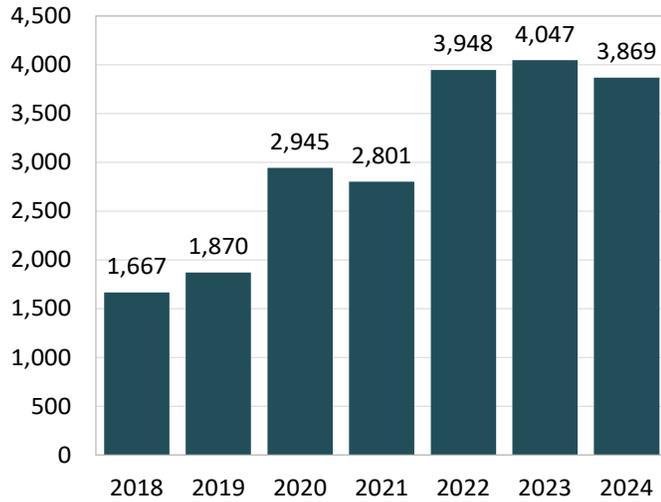
In the interest of safe communities and thriving people, breastfeeding from birth is associated with numerous health benefits for both infants and mothers. Research demonstrates that breastfeeding facilitates maternal recovery from childbirth and contributes to improved infant immunity and reduced risk of long-term diseases. The HP2030 initiative emphasizes the importance of sustaining breastfeeding for at least 12 months, with the goal of reaching 54.1% of infants nationally who receive some amount of breastmilk throughout their first year. Achieving this goal not only enhances individual health outcomes but also contributes to broader public health objectives, including reducing healthcare costs, and promoting maternal and child well-being.

What is the data telling us?

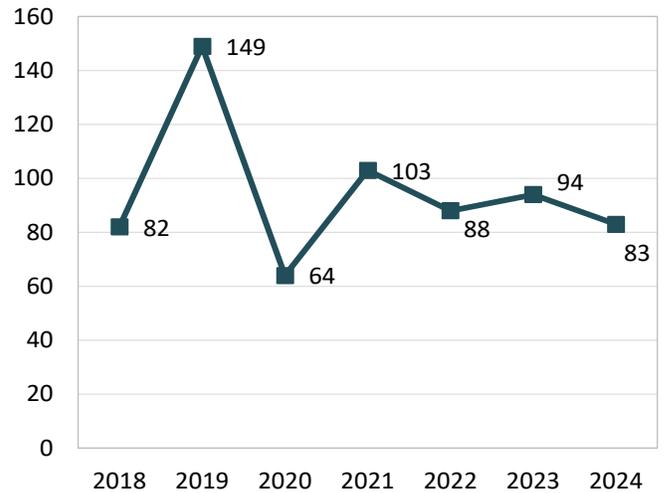
In 2024, Washington County's efforts to promote breastfeeding initiation continued to show promise, with the breastfeeding initiation rate remaining steady at 81%. While slightly below the HP2030 goal of 82%, this reflects the county's ongoing commitment to supporting families in their breastfeeding journey from the very beginning. We recognize the slight decrease in babies receiving breastmilk at 12 months. Some factors that may influence this include mothers returning to work, and lack of support for ongoing breastfeeding efforts. These factors influencing duration rates, such as maternal employment, knowledge gaps, and access to medical support, continue to be areas of focus for the WIC program. The program has implemented strategies to address these challenges, such as promoting breastfeeding education for WIC clients, providing prenatal and postpartum support, and ensuring all WIC staff are trained as Certified Lactation Consultants/Specialists. Furthermore, collaboration with hospitals, clinics, and local and state breastfeeding coalitions underscores the county's advocacy for sustainable support of working breastfeeding mothers and fostering community acceptance of breastfeeding as the norm.

Homeless outreach services

Outreach contacts



People experiencing homelessness at the Point-in-Time (PIT) count



**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count did not take place. 2020-2022 HOST data updated to include street outreach numbers
Sources: Washington County Community Services and Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System*

What is it?

The Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) is the county's point of access for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Access to HOST services includes a phone line for housing-related assistance and outreach in the community. HOST partners with county Navigators at service centers to assist those seeking services during walk-in hours. The team is staffed by social workers trained to help navigate program eligibility and resource availability. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual calculation of people experiencing homelessness on a specific night in January each year and is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These are households that were either without shelter, residing in an emergency shelter, or doubled up with family or friends due to no housing option of their own. Volunteers and county staff count and survey as many people as possible, depending on the weather and availability, who are experiencing homelessness on the designated night.

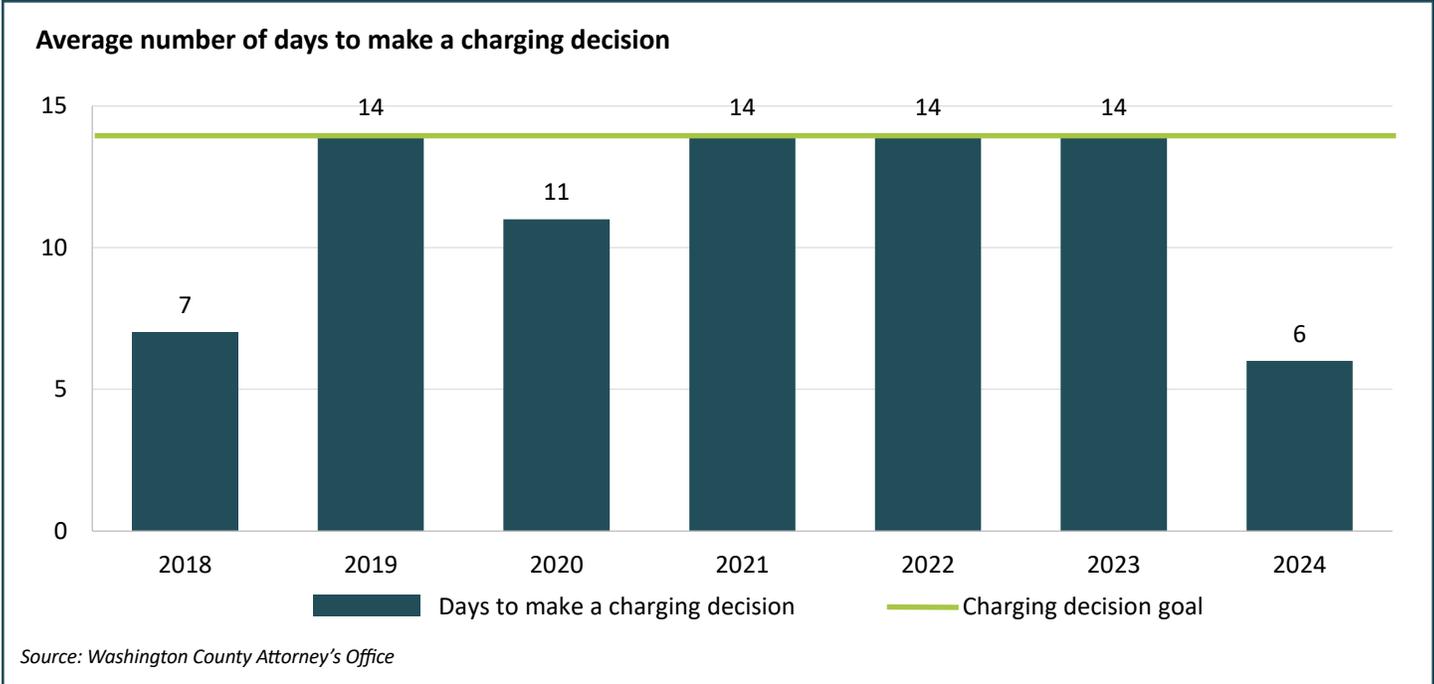
Why does it matter?

Homelessness is more than just not having a place to live. It can lead to difficulty maintaining employment, managing family obligations, and caring for personal health and safety. The data presented reflects the need that exists within the county around this issue. Although homelessness is not typically as visible in suburban counties as urban areas, the data identifies that there are individuals and families experiencing housing instability within Washington County. The PIT count attempts to illustrate how many residents are experiencing homelessness on a given night in the county.

What is the data telling us?

The number of combined phone, walk-in, and street outreach contacts served by the outreach team is the best indicator of the need for housing and homelessness services. In 2024, the HOST had 3,869 total contacts, representing a 4.4% decrease in contacts from 2023. This decline may be due to increased prevention assistance available in the community. Additionally, Washington County partnered with Greater Twin Cities United Way 211, as another entry point for housing information, referrals, and prevention assistance. Although the county is not mandated to provide homeless services, these are core services, and the data indicates there is a high need for these services based on use.

Criminal charging turnaround time



What is it?

This specific measure tracks how long it takes the Washington County Attorney's Office to decide whether a criminal complaint should be filed once it receives a criminal investigation from a law enforcement agency.

The current goal requires that a charging decision be made within 14 days of receiving a case when a defendant is not in custody. If a case involves a victim who is endangered, the decision should be made immediately. All domestic abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, and homicide cases are priority cases, and a decision is to be made as quickly as possible but no later than 14 days after receiving the case.

Why does it matter?

Turnaround time for criminal charging is an important measure for Washington County because the decision to initiate a criminal prosecution impacts public safety and the lives of victims, witnesses, and suspects within the county.

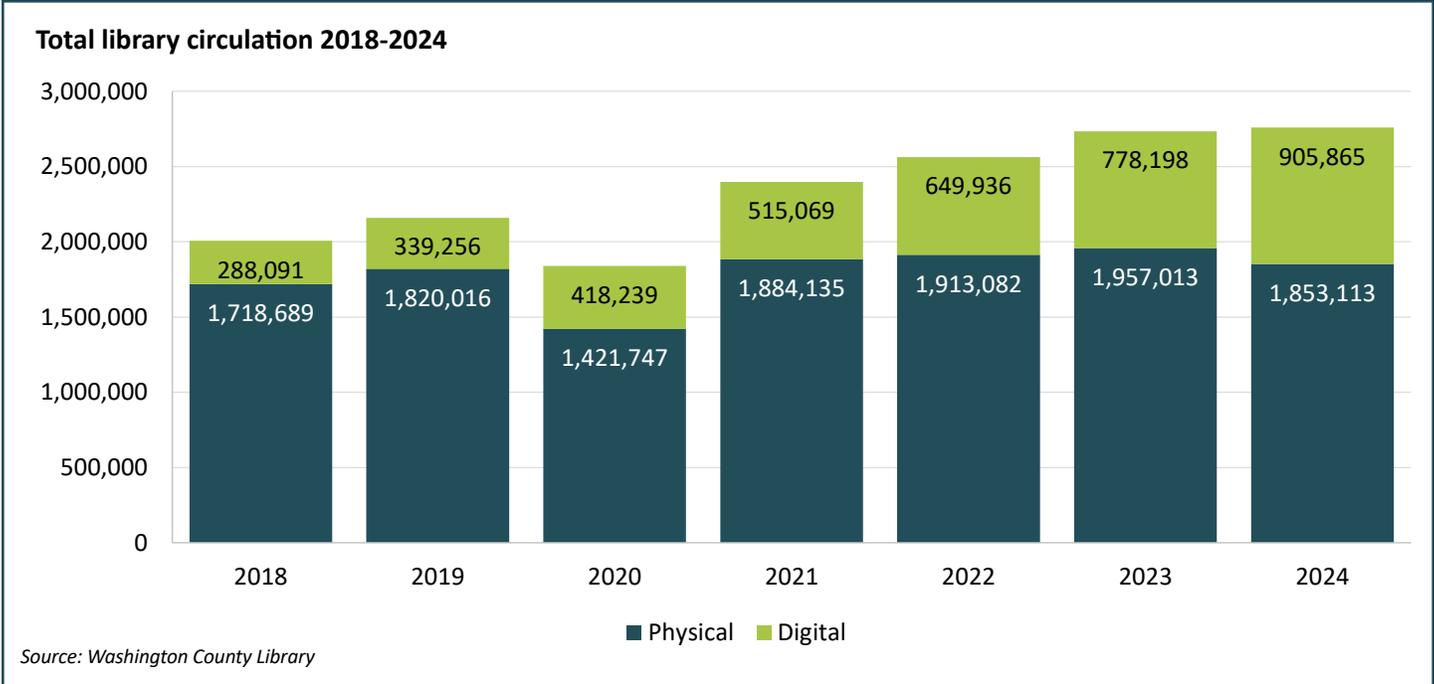
What is the data telling us?

In 2024, the Washington County Attorney's Office exceeded its goal of 14 days or less to make a charging decision with a yearly average of six days. Averages can fluctuate with an increase in cases submitted and can also be affected by outside factors, such as a need to request additional information to make a charging determination. The office continues to generate decisions in a timely manner, thanks to greater efficiency and teamwork with community partners.

This year's data shows that the average turnaround time has dropped to the lowest average in seven years, due in part to the office's focus on continuous improvement.

New tracking views within the office's case management program allow staff to see a chart of open cases, when they were received, and the current charging status. Additionally, staff can now receive supplemental reports and electronic media directly through an evidence database program which has decreased wait time when additional information is needed prior to the charging decision.

Library circulation



What is it?

Washington County Library offers many materials to check out through both a physical collection and digital library. The library’s physical materials include books, magazines, book club kits, hotspots, DVDs, and more. Digital checkouts are part of a collection shared across Twin Cities metro libraries and includes e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines. Community members can access the library’s collection by visiting any branch location, browsing the library’s online catalog, or through various online applications. Library circulation is the measure of how many items from the collection are checked out by library cardholders and checked back into the library upon return.

Why does it matter?

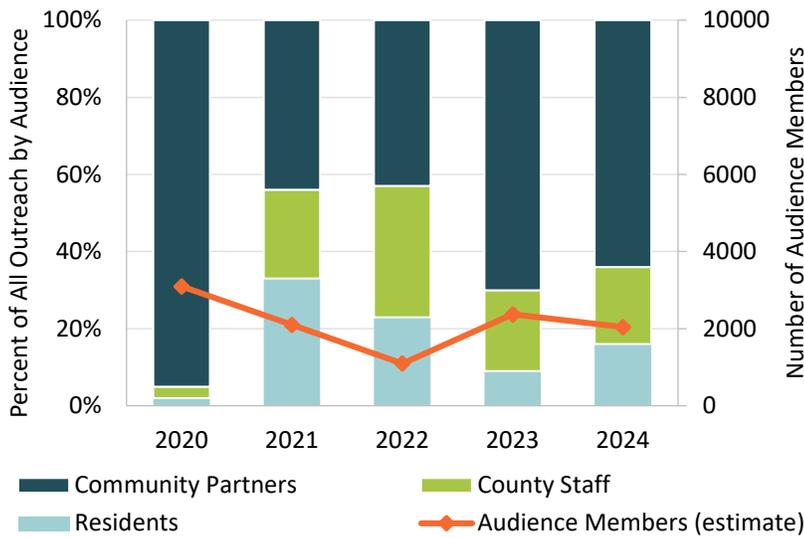
The library’s collection provides community members with free access to resources, helping them thrive in any of their pursuits. By tracking both physical and digital checkouts, the library can see the relative popularity of different types of materials and adjust the library’s overall collection budget to meet community needs and interests. Digital materials are an important way for the library to increase residents’ access to resources. This collection is always available and can be accessed from outside the walls of the library. The materials are often adaptable in ways that physical materials are not. For example, the font and text size of e-books can be adjusted to support readers with dyslexia or visual impairments.

What is the data telling us?

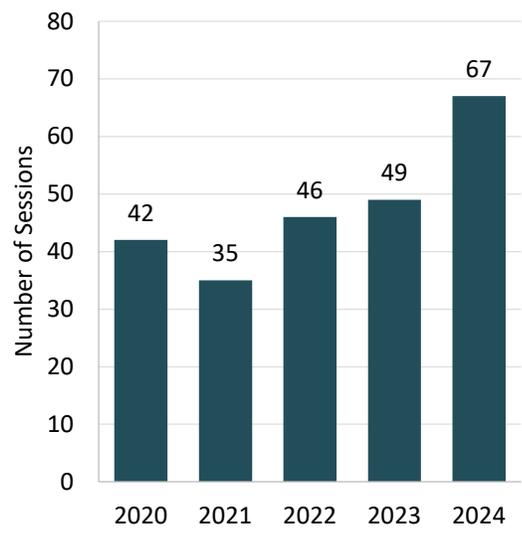
In 2024, the library circulated 2,758,978 total items. This included more than 1.8 million physical items and over 900,000 digital items. While checkouts of physical items decreased slightly from 2023, digital checkouts have continued to increase. In 2019, digital checkouts represented 15% of total circulation. In 2024, digital checkouts increased to nearly 33% of overall circulation. Physical materials remain an important resource for a large number of community members and will continue to be a significant part of the library’s collection.

Community outreach in Attorney's Office

Community outreach through training and education



Teaching/training sessions



Source: Washington County Attorney's Office

What is it?

The goal of the County Attorney's outreach is to keep Washington County residents, staff, and community partners such as law enforcement agencies, attorneys, educators, and professional state organizations informed on current issues and concerns affecting the county and the rest of Minnesota. All of Washington County benefits from community partners and residents staying educated on the latest laws, regulations, and trends.

Why does it matter?

In 2024, trainings were presented on topics including fraud, addiction and recovery, legislative updates, civil commitments, crime prevention, self-care, law enforcement training, child protection, mental health, and many others. The office's commitment to providing quality training not only helps staff do a better job in providing legal services to the county but also informs the community and adds to the overall awareness and safety of the residents of Washington County.

What is the data telling us?

For 2024, the Washington County Attorney's Office reached over 2,040 audience members through 67 teaching/training sessions. More teaching sessions were conducted in 2024; however, there was a slight decrease in overall attendance compared to 2023. The office has provided in-person and virtual trainings, allowing it to cover many traditional training topics and introduce new ones. Staff continue to work to increase outreach numbers to match or surpass them by adapting the delivery and frequency of trainings offered and by finding new and creative ways to get the word out to all residents, staff, and community partners. The office makes announcements about upcoming trainings through advertisements, such as electronic flyers and links provided on the county website.



Strong and Sustainable Environment

Park visitor satisfaction

Park visitor satisfaction



Source: Washington County Park Visitor Survey

What is it?

Washington County conducts annual customer surveys of county regional park users to assist in determining if parks programs and services are accessible, timely, and of high quality. In 2024, 37 park users completed a Park Visitor Survey. The number of responses shows a significant drop from previous years and factors that may have impacted the response rates include the closure of the Lake Elmo Park Reserve contact station during remodel, the lack of snow leading to poor winter park attendance, and the increase in other public feedback sessions for the many capital projects going on in parks. Marketing strategies for this survey have been revamped in response to low turnout, and responses for the 2025 survey are already growing. The survey asked visitors to provide feedback on the quality of programs, services, and facilities.

Why does it matter?

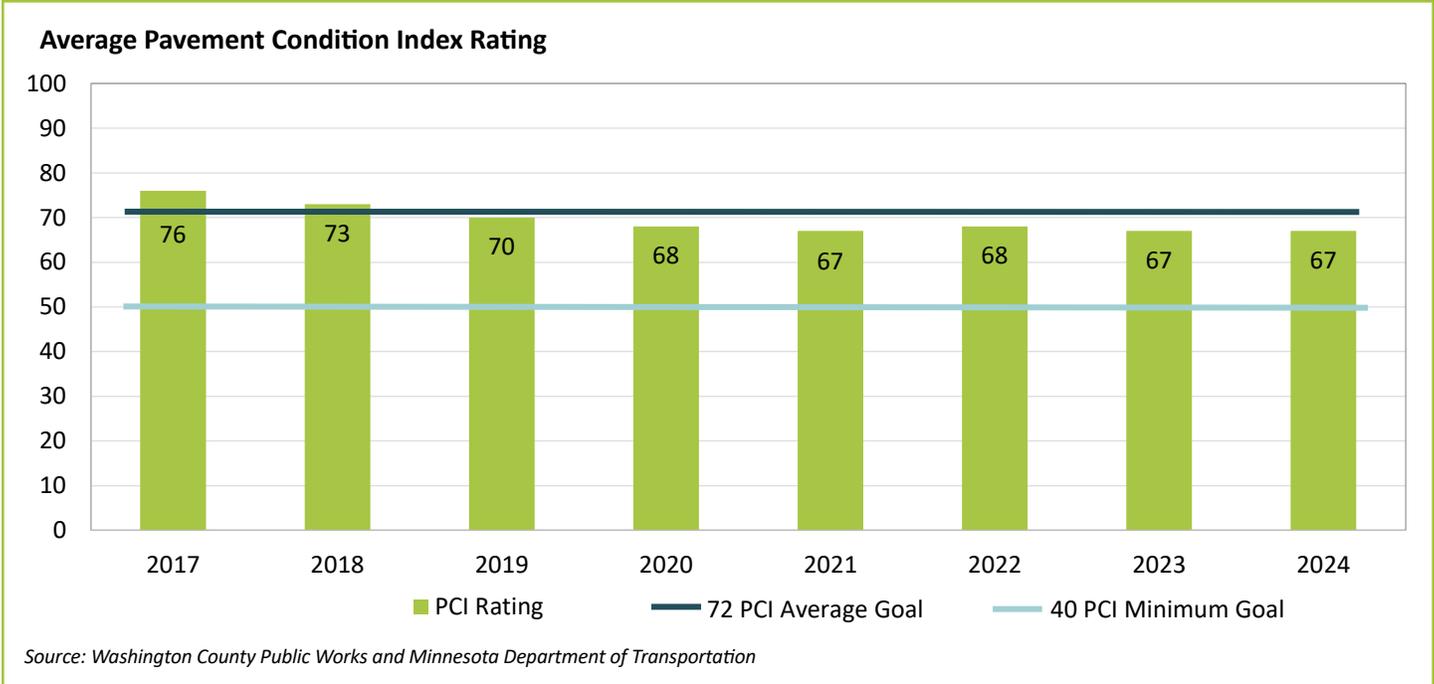
Washington County uses the feedback gathered from the Park Visitor Survey to assess and improve its programs, services, and facilities.

What is the data telling us?

The survey responses show that visitor satisfaction, as it relates to individual experiences at specific parks, is overwhelmingly positive. Over 97% of all respondents indicated they were either very satisfied or satisfied with their experience in the park they visited that day. High satisfaction correlates to a visitor’s perception of high value in Washington County Parks. Because parks, trails, and open spaces are often indicators of a high quality of life in a community, high user satisfaction within the park units suggest visitors consider the Washington County Parks to be contributing to the county’s high quality of life. The 2024 visitor satisfaction rating continues the trend seen from 2010, when surveys like this were first implemented by Washington County, that shows visitor satisfaction remained consistent over the last 15 years. Hiking/walking was by far the most noted activity for the park visit from respondents, with camping, biking, using picnic areas, and playgrounds rounding out the top five activities.



Pavement Condition Index (PCI)



What is it?

Maintaining pavement in a good condition is recognized as important from a standpoint of both user satisfaction and long-term performance.

The Washington County Pavement Management System monitors the condition of every segment of the county highway system. A rating is developed for each segment based on the surface quality of the pavement. This rating is referred to as the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and uses a scale of 0-100. PCI is a numerical rating of the pavement condition based on the type and severity of distresses observed on the pavement surface. The PCI value of the pavement condition is represented by a numerical index between 0 and 100, where 0 is the worst possible condition and 100 is the best possible condition.

Tracking the PCI and identifying roads that fall below the minimum threshold is done to determine the effectiveness of the pavement preservation program and the adequacy of funding resources.

Why does it matter?

Analyzing the data provided by these sources allows the county to take a comprehensive look at the system, identify roadway segments in need of maintenance/repair, and determine the best strategies to maintain and improve the condition of the roadways. The goal is to maintain the overall system at a PCI of 72 or greater, with a minimum PCI of 40. Using an average goal (72) and a minimum goal (40) helps to ensure that, overall, the county roads are in good condition.

The Public Works Pavement Preservation Team meets continually throughout the year to prioritize projects to match available funding and review new pavement preservation techniques to improve PCI.

What is the data telling us?

In 2024, the overall system had a PCI of 67, which is slightly below the average PCI goal of 72. Approximately 16 centerline miles of roadway had a PCI of 40 or below — about 6% of the county’s roadway system.

Local planning index for/of bridges



What is it?

The Local Planning Index (LPI) considers the probability and consequence of a bridge failure. LPI uses a risk-based concept, measuring the likelihood of bridge failure (based on its condition) against the consequence of failure (service interruptions). By using risk assessment, the LPI helps to avoid service disruptions, improve safety, plan maintenance/repairs/replacements, and spend budgets more wisely. The LPI uses a scale of 0 to 100.

Bridges are inspected on a routine basis and an index is developed based on the condition of the bridge. The county uses a web-based system to document the condition of bridges on county roads or under county bridge inspection responsibility and reports the results to the Federal Highway Administration.

Why does it matter?

Maintaining bridges that are functionally and structurally adequate is important to residents. An LPI threshold of 60 determines funding eligibility. Bridges with a planning index of less than 60 are eligible for up to 80% funding with Federal Bridge funds. Bridges with a planning index of less than 60 are eligible for State Bridge funds up to 50% for bridges on the State Aid System (blue pentagon route marker) and up to 100% for bridges not on the State Aid System (square black-on-white route marker). Funds may be used for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

An LPI rating less than 60 does not imply that the bridge is unsafe; however, bridges with low LPIs typically require significant maintenance and repair to remain in service and eventual rehabilitation or replacement to address deficiencies.

What is the data telling us?

Washington County inspects 43 bridges, including those owned by other jurisdictions that the county is mandated by state statute to inspect. Of these 43 bridges, 25 are culverts (with a minimum 10-foot span), three are railroad bridges that pass over county or township roadways, three are Department of Natural Resources-owned bridges that carry trails over county roadways, three are privately owned golf club bridges that either cross over or run under a county roadway, and five are owned by townships. There are an additional four bridges that are county-owned and maintained but inspected by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as they cross MnDOT trunk highways. All bridges under the county's jurisdiction are in good condition with no posted load restrictions.

The county currently has one bridge with an LPI of less than 60. This bridge is located on County State Aid Highway 5 just south of Trunk Highway 95 in Stillwater and is currently being reconstructed.

Road maintenance cost per mile

Road maintenance cost per mile – all county roads



Source: Washington County Public Works, Inflation Rates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

What is it?

The maintenance cost per mile measurement tracks the average cost to maintain a mile of roadway in the county. Several factors influence the cost, including:

- Fuel prices: The county has improved the predictability of fuel prices by joining the statewide fuel consortium for 80% of its annual fuel purchases.
- Salt pricing: Advances in snow and ice control technology allow operators to more effectively use time and materials to keep roads clear.
- Staff costs: The Public Works Department manages staff costs by sharing resources across divisions, cross-training employees, and prioritizing work to maximize staff resources.
- Weather: Snowy and/or cold winters can significantly influence the overall cost of operations.

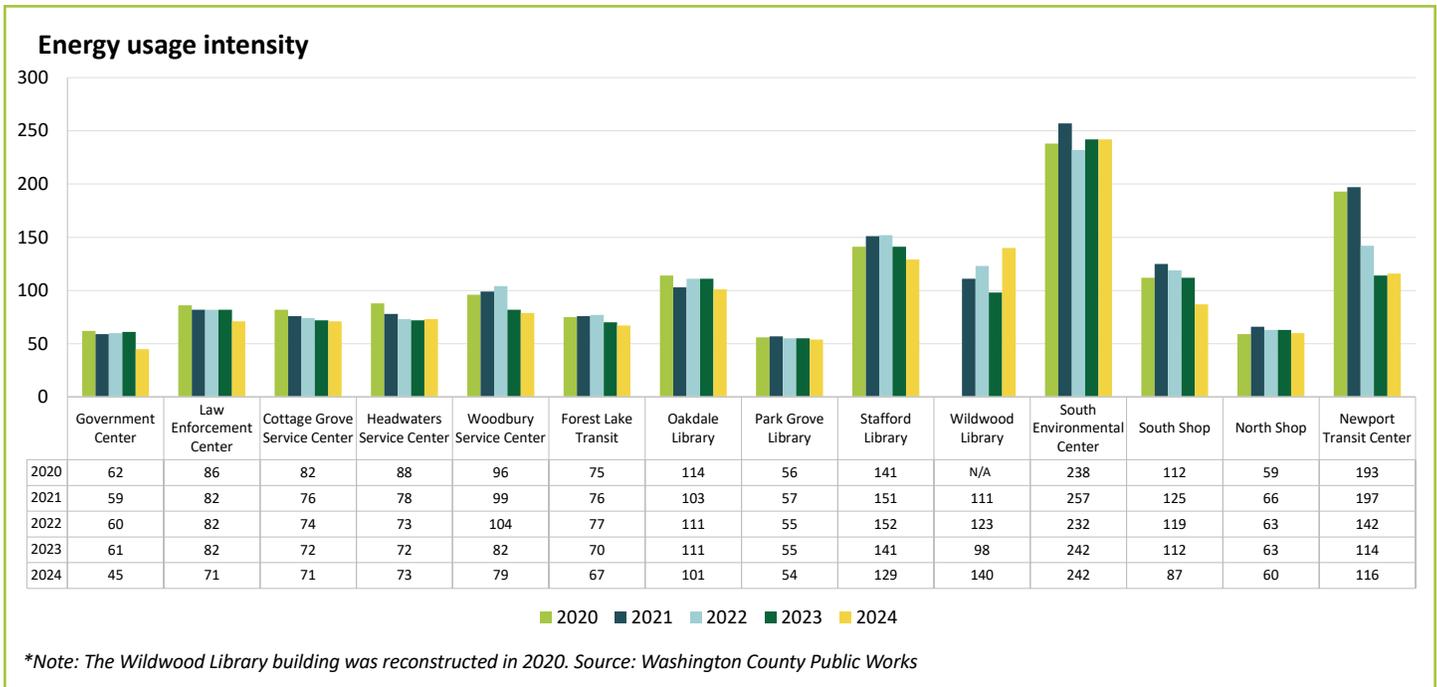
Why does it matter?

Washington County strives to provide and maintain a safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation system that meets public needs in an environmentally responsible manner, now and into the future. To ensure accountability and the responsible use of public resources, the county reports on road maintenance costs per mile.

What is the data telling us?

Comparing inflation-adjusted costs from 2016 over eight years, the county shows it is effectively managing costs while delivering quality road maintenance services. The 2024 cost per mile, adjusted for inflation, is similar to costs in previous years. Cost in 2023 were higher than in other years due to expenses for spring weather clean-up.

Energy usage intensity



What is it?

Tracking the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) for each building provides valuable insights into long-term energy efficiency trends. Energy Star, the international standard for energy efficiency, defines EUI as an expression of a building’s annual energy use as a function of its size, measured in square feet. A lower EUI indicates a more energy efficient building. Because EUI is based solely on energy units, not cost, it remains a consistent metric year over year, unaffected by fluctuations in energy prices.

Why does it matter?

Energy efficiency is crucial for creating a sustainable Washington County. With the rising costs of electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil, benchmarks establish an annual energy use reference for comparing buildings of similar size, functional use, and operating schedules. Energy benchmarking can also be used to track savings generated from energy conservation initiatives.

What is the data telling us?

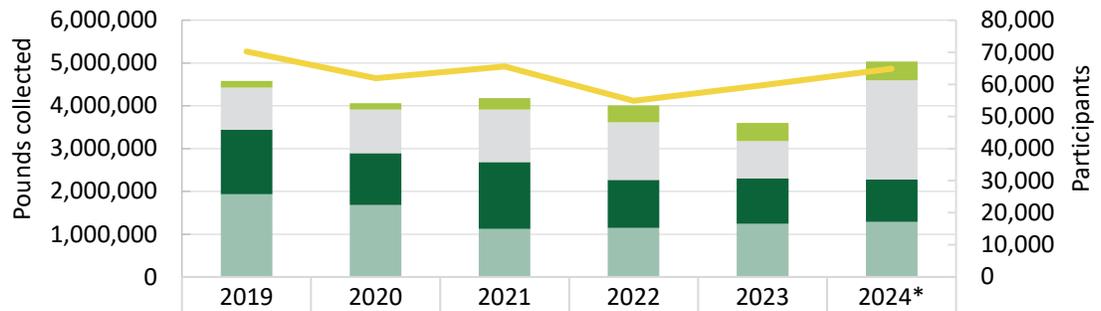
In 2024, the county transitioned EUI tracking for all buildings from an external contractor to in-house management by the Building Services Division of the Public Works Department. This shift allowed for improved control over energy data processing and enabled more timely and accurate reporting.

Significant milestones in energy performance were achieved in 2024 with the average EUI across all county buildings decreasing by 3%. The Government Center Campus led the way in efficiency gains following the completion of major replacement projects in both the Government Center and Law Enforcement Center buildings. Specifically, the Government Center achieved a 26% reduction in EUI, dropping from 61 in 2023 to 45 in 2024. The Law Enforcement Center saw a 13% reduction, from 82 to 71. Another notable improvement occurred at the Public Works South Shop, which experienced a 22% drop in EUI from 112 in 2023 to 87 in 2024.

The only building to show a significant increase in EUI was the Wildwood Library. This anomaly was promptly identified by Building Services staff, who conducted a thorough investigation. The findings led to an extensive reprogramming of the building’s control systems to correct energy inefficiencies within the mechanical systems. Wildwood Library’s EUI is expected to return to 2023 levels in the 2025 reporting cycle. Headwaters Service Center and the Newport Transit Center showed small increases in EUI that were not significant.

Household hazardous waste collection

Household hazardous waste, recycling, electronics, and organics collected



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Organics (lbs)	154,950	146,279	273,128	389,406	419,173	438,055
Recycling (lbs)	987,941	1,022,520	1,225,412	1,347,048	874,528	2,323,400
Electronics Waste (lbs)	1,509,028	1,208,919	1,560,261	1,128,407	1,058,943	988,300
Household Hazardous Waste (lbs)	1,930,637	1,683,416	1,123,098	1,142,370	1,245,621	1,285,100
Participants (#)	70,296	61,895	65,610	54,869	59,707	64,871

*Note: In December of 2024, the North Environmental Center opened. The numbers reflected are for both the North and South Environmental Centers.

Source: Washington County Public Health & Environment

What is it?

The Washington County North Environmental Center in Forest Lake opened in December of 2024. Both the North Environmental Center and the South Environmental Center (located in Woodbury) provide residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, recyclables, and organics. The Environmental Centers are open to residents of Washington, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Scott counties. Upon arrival at a center, a resident's zip code is recorded to track participation by location. Each visit is counted as one participant, regardless of how many times an individual visits. HHW includes common materials such as aerosols, cleaners, paints, lithium batteries, fuels, and solvents.

Why does it matter?

In support of a strong and sustainable environment, the Environmental Centers help protect public health and the environment. When HHW or other materials are improperly disposed of they can contaminate the soil or water supply, waste valuable resources, and pose a serious health threat to people and the environment. Most of the collected materials are reused or sent for recycling, with a small percentage being incinerated. This keeps toxic materials out of the trash, preventing soil or water contamination, and protecting citizens from harmful exposure. The Environmental Centers improve safety and reduce risks at the recycling and energy center by keeping hazardous materials out of the solid waste stream, making it safer for processing.

What is the data telling us?

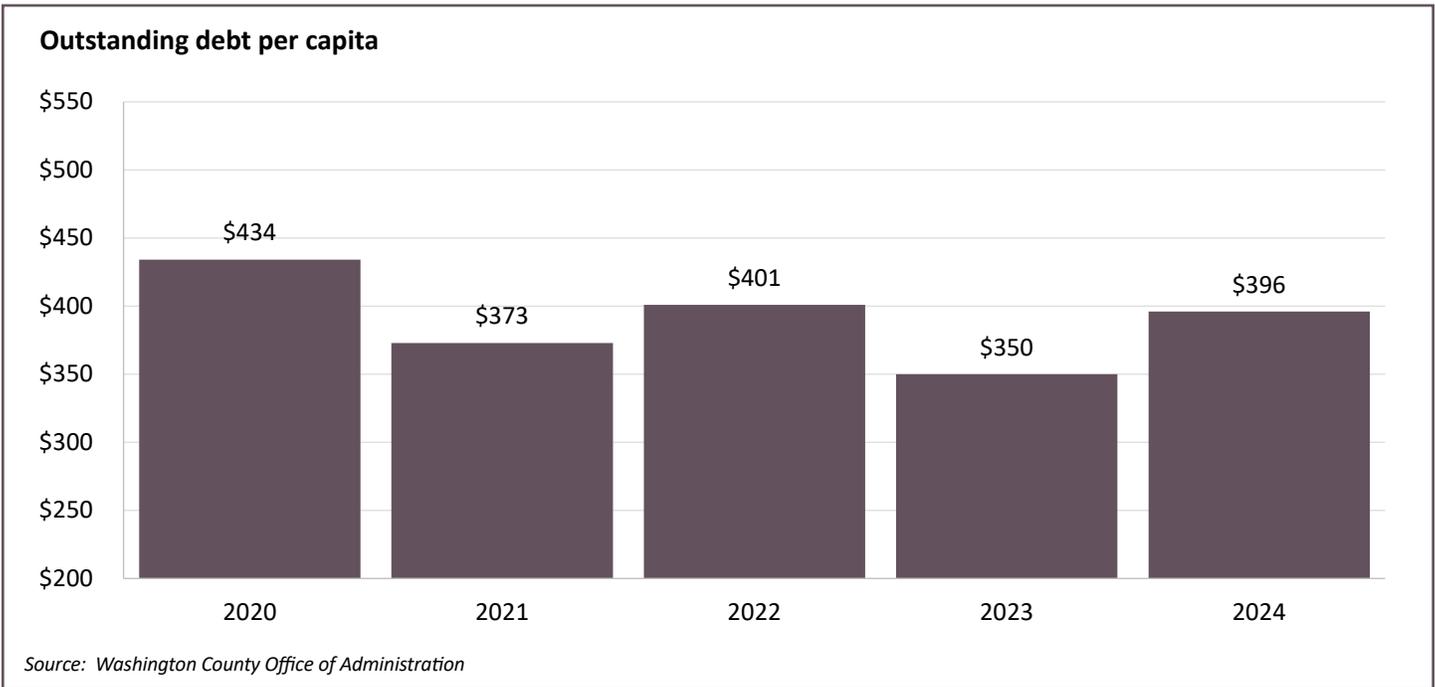
In 2024, the Environmental Centers served 64,871 participants, an 8.7% increase from 2023, continuing an increase in participants over the previous year. The increase in participants may be attributed, in part, to expanded promotion of the centers through other countywide environmental programming. The amount of HHW continues to increase year by year, with an increase of 3.2% from 2023 or 39,479 pounds. The decrease in electronic waste may be due to newer, lighter electronic devices or the opening of Ramsey County's own environmental center, which offers electronic recycling for residents. The amount of recycling collected increased significantly by 165.7% or approximately 1.4 million pounds compared to 2023. The exact reason for this increase is unclear. In 2024, the amount of organics dropped off at the centers increased by 4.5% or 18,882 pounds.





Financial Health and Capacity

Outstanding debt per capita



What is it?

Washington County borrows money by selling bonds to fund large projects like road improvements, park upgrades, and building new county facilities. This is similar to an individual taking out a mortgage to buy a house or pay for major repairs and then paying it back over time. As the county grows, there's a greater need to construct and maintain our facilities, roads, trails, and parks. The county's approach to borrowing money helps keep property taxes stable, so they don't change drastically from year to year.

Why does it matter?

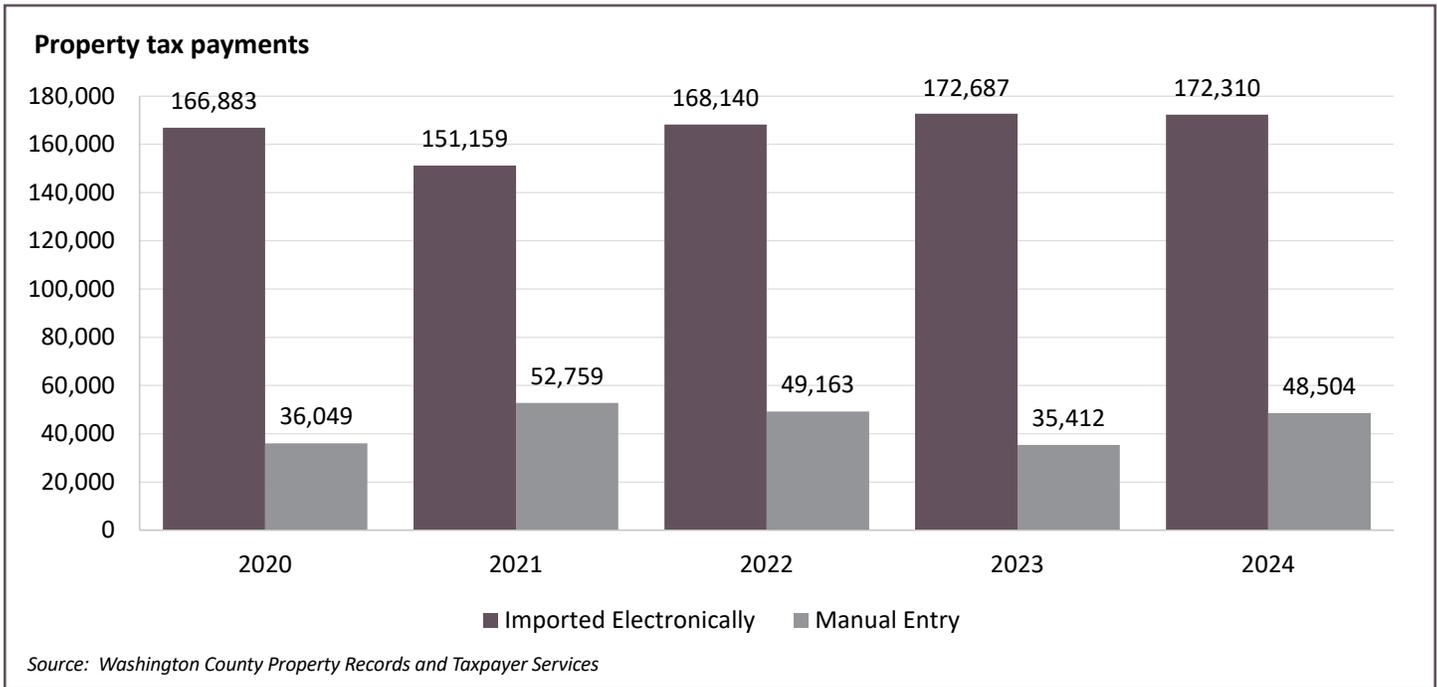
Tracking the county's debt levels helps residents understand how the county finances its major projects. The county has set a debt limit that is lower than what state law allows to ensure the responsible use of taxpayer money. By using debt, the county makes sure that the people who benefit from long-term projects help cover some of the costs.

What is the data telling us?

Due to a bond issuance in calendar year 2024 to pay for capital projects, the county's outstanding debt increased from \$98 million in 2023 to \$112.7 million in 2024. This means each person's share of the debt grew by \$46. Even with the increase in 2024, overall, the debt has been decreasing, with a reduction of over \$1 million from 2020 to 2024, which is about \$38 per person. The reduction in debt per capita is the result of decisions made by the county board over the past five years to transition to pay-as-you-go for a portion of its capital needs and the implementation of a local sales tax for transportation projects. The board's goal is not to eliminate debt as a capital funding source, but rather to reduce the reliance on debt and reduce the amount of interest paid on county debt.



Property tax payments



What is it?

Property Services and Taxpayer Services annually processes more than 220,000 property tax payments, totaling more than \$670 million in 2024.

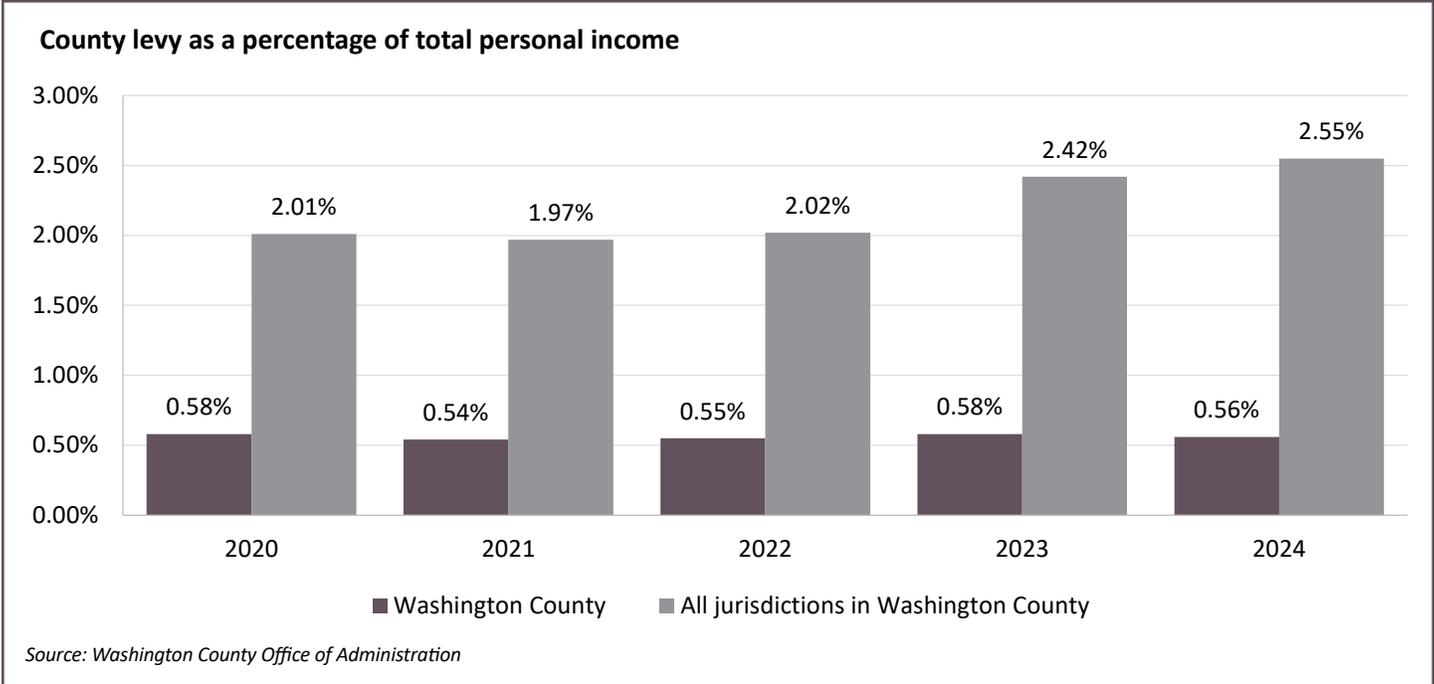
Why does it matter?

Property taxes are a major source of revenue for the county as well as the cities, townships, school districts, and special taxing districts within the county. Processing property tax payment transactions efficiently and accurately is essential. Implementing ways to process transactions electronically decreases processing time and reduces potential errors made during manual entry.

What is the data telling us?

Washington County receives property tax payments in various ways and has implemented systems that make it possible for many payments to be processed electronically. The number of payments able to be processed this way continues to increase, reducing the amount of manual entry needed. Lenders and companies submit payment files that are processed electronically. Of the 220,814 total tax payments collected in 2024, over half (112,407 or 50.9%) were from lenders and companies, down 2.8% from 2023 and up 3.3% from 2017. Online credit card and e-check transactions made through the county's website and online bill payments made by taxpayers through their financial institutions generate payment files that are processed electronically. Credit card and e-check payments have increased 58.8% since 2017 and now make up 9.6% of all transactions. Online bill payments have increased gradually, making up 1.5% of transactions in 2024. Overall, about 78% (172,310) of all property tax payments made in 2024 were processed electronically compared to 83% (172,687) in 2023 and 68% (138,453) in 2017.

Price of government



What is it?

The “price of government” measures how much it costs to provide government services compared to the total personal income of taxpayers in a jurisdiction. Minnesota has been calculating a state price of government for many years. The statewide price of government has been just less than 15% of personal income. Washington County can calculate its price of government using a similar method.

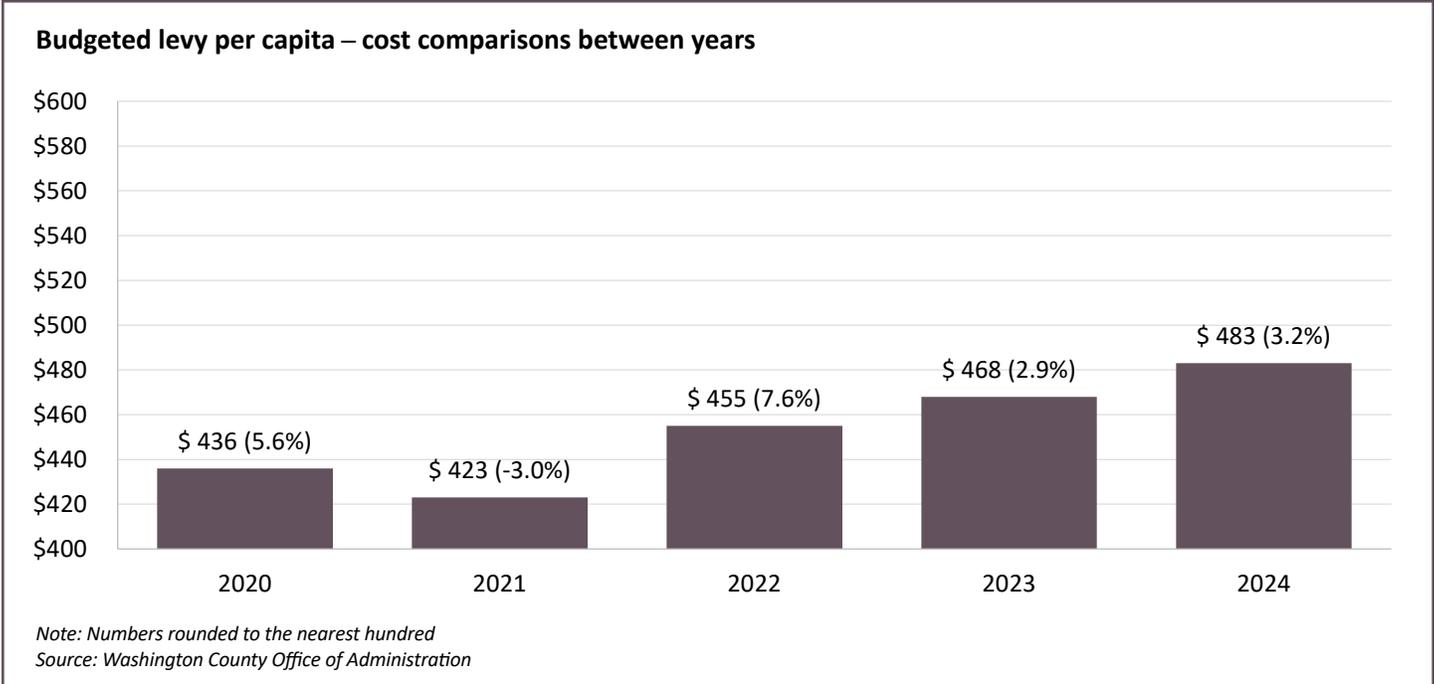
Why does it matter?

Taxpayers are often interested in knowing what portion of their income goes to pay for governmental services and how these costs change over time. This measure also allows the county to compare its costs with other peer agencies.

What is the data telling us?

The data shows that the price of government in Washington County has remained relatively constant over the last five years. In 2024, the total personal income in Washington County was over \$23.4 billion, and the county’s levy of \$131.5 million was 0.56% of that income. The price of government for all jurisdictions in Washington County, including schools, cities, townships, and special taxing jurisdictions, has increased each year since 2021.

Levy per capita



What is it?

The Washington County levy is the amount of property taxes collected to fund county services. These taxes are essential for the county’s annual budget to provide high-quality services to residents. In 2024, the levy was \$131.5 million, not including the Land and Water Legacy Program and Regional Rail Authority levies, making up 36.4% of the county’s revenue. This was a 3.95% increase from 2023, and the levy per person went up by \$15, to \$483 in 2024 from \$468 in 2023.

Why does it matter?

The County Board starts each budget cycle by setting principles to guide decisions, focusing on essential county functions that improve outcomes and making strategic investments. They also consider the tax impact on residents and businesses. Tracking taxes or costs per person helps ensure that county tax dollars are spent wisely, with only small changes in the tax burden each year. This supports the county’s goal of being a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

What is the data telling us?

Washington County has one of the lowest levies per person among all Minnesota counties, ranking third lowest among the seven metro area counties. Residents rated the overall quality of life in the county higher than the national average in a 2025 survey. The county’s tax base has grown significantly in recent years due to the increased value of existing property and new construction of homes and businesses. This growth, along with the county’s levy decisions, has allowed the county tax rate to remain stable.

Financial reporting

Awards and audit opinions for county financial reports

Award year/audit opinions	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award	Award (22)	Award (23)	Award (24)	Award (25)	Award (26)	Award (27)
Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting	Award (35)	Award (36)	Award (37)	Award (38)	Award (39)	Pending
Government Finance Officers Association Popular Annual Financial Reporting	Award (2)	Award (3)	Award (4)	Award (5)	Award (6)	Pending
Auditor Opinion on Compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified
Auditor Opinion on Compliance for Major Federal Award Programs	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified

Note: "Unqualified" means that the auditor has tested the information presented and has found full compliance with the prescribed standards. The auditor then can issue an opinion without noting any exceptions or qualifications.
Source: Washington County Accounting and Finance and Washington County Office of Administration

What is it?

Washington County participates annually in the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program and Outstanding Achievements in Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award Programs. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) produced for these programs must adhere to the highest standards in governmental financial reporting. In addition, the county participates in GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program. The program encourages and assists local governments to prepare budget documents that are of the highest quality and understandable to the general public. Each year, the county submits its budget document to GFOA for review by professional staff from GFOA and outside reviewers with experience in public sector budgeting.

Why does it matter?

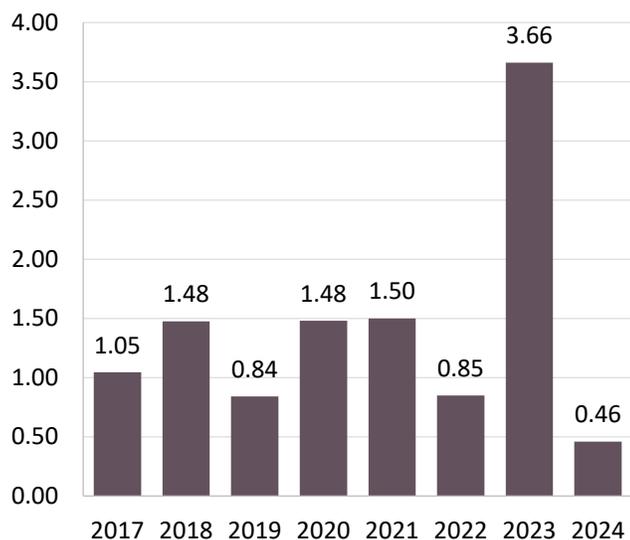
Washington County participates annually in reporting programs to maintain the quality of its financial reporting practices and ensure transparency and accountability to its residents. External independent audits serve to assure the public that reports of county finances are accurate, complete, and represent the financial activity fairly. Additionally, the financial reporting programs at the county provide an external evaluation, ensuring that the county’s financial position is comprehensive and reliable.

What is the data telling us?

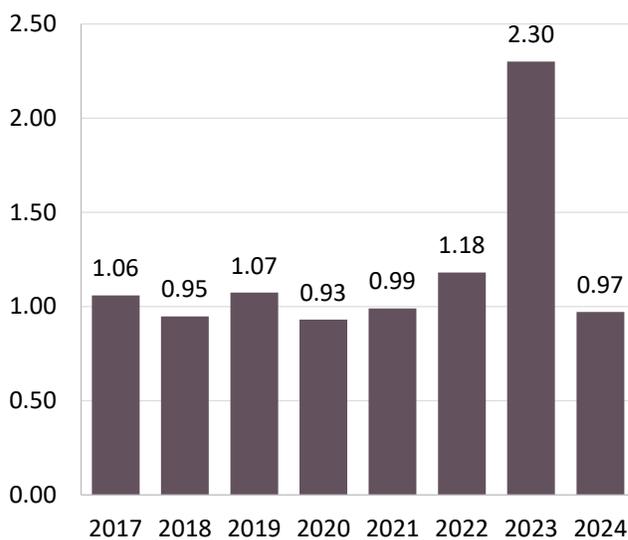
Washington County received its 39th consecutive award for the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, demonstrating its excellent financial management and professional skill. Timely financial reports are important for decision-making and monitoring budget performance. Most internal financial reports are delivered to county management monthly through the county’s financial software program. The GFOA’s Popular Annual Financial Reporting Awards Program recognizes governments that have published and distributed an annual report specifically designed to be accessible to and easily understood by the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance. Governments that demonstrate a high level of understandability and present relevant content are presented with this notable achievement. Washington County received the sixth consecutive award for the 2023 Popular Annual Financial Report. The county also earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 27th consecutive year in 2024.

Capital fund cash flow

Annual cash flow ratio – capital park fund



Annual cash flow ratio – capital road and bridge fund



Source: Washington County Public Works

What is it?

Washington County maintains public trust through the efficient management of revenue for capital construction project expenditures. The county partners with federal, state, local, and private agencies to plan capital road and bridge and parks projects. They create cooperative agreements to share project costs, invoice agencies promptly, and manage expenses as work progresses. Factors that could affect the percentage include disbursement schedules on grants, payment terms negotiated in cooperative agreements, and unanticipated construction changes. In addition, capital fund cash flow takes daily administration, accountability, and teamwork to generate revenue and monitor expenses for capital improvement projects.

Why does it matter?

Long-term financial management and capital fund stability are needed to ensure capital road and bridge and capital parks improvements can be programmed and fully completed as projected. Capital fund cash flow evaluates annual revenue and expenses for the capital road and bridge fund and the capital parks fund. Annual revenue is divided by annual expense to determine the annual cash flow ratio. This ratio is used to monitor financial management from year to year. A ratio greater than 1.0 is an indicator that revenue exceeded expenses, while a ratio less than 1.0 is an indicator that expense exceeded revenue. The goal is to maintain an annual cash flow ratio between 0.95 and 1.05, indicating that revenue and expenses are well-matched.

What is the data telling us?

Capital Road & Bridge Fund: In 2023, the Capital Road & Bridge Fund had an annual cash flow ratio of 2.30. This ratio was higher than the targeted range of 0.95 to 1.05 due to the state transfer of Trunk Highway No. 96 turnback funds. In 2024, the Capital Road & Bridge Fund had an annual cash flow ratio of 0.97. This ratio is within the targeted range of 0.95 to 1.05.

Capital Parks Fund: In 2023, the Capital Parks Fund had an annual cash flow ratio of 3.66. The reason the ratio was higher than the targeted range is because the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Maintenance and Sentence to Service Facility projects were transferred to county operations. In 2024, the Capital Parks Fund had an annual cash flow ratio of 0.46 due to pending Met Council and Federal Grant reimbursements.

Through responsible leadership and partnerships, Washington County Public Works will continue to monitor the capital fund cash flow. Public Works strives to provide long-term financial stability of the capital fund, sustaining capital road and bridge and capital parks improvements now and in the future.

At-A-Glance

Population

Population (2020)	267,568* (+12% since 2010)
Population (2025 estimate)	287,907†
Population rank in Minnesota	5 of 87 counties*
Population age 18 years and over	76.3%**
Population age 65 years and over	17.3%***
Percent with bachelor's degree or higher	51.3%***
Median age	40.8**
Housing units	111,824**
Households	109,093**
Average household size	2.61****

Projected Growth 2020 to 2050:

Number of new residents forecast	67,704 (+25%)***
Number of new households forecast	34,840 (+35%)***
Projected population in 2050	335,272***
Projected households in 2050	134,347***
Projected employment in 2050 (jobs available in Washington County)	116,173***

Source: *U.S. Decennial Census

†Minnesota State Demographic Center Projections, May 2024

**2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (margin of error not included)

***Metropolitan Council Imagine 2050 Forecasts, August 2024

****Metropolitan Council Annual Estimates (2023)

Labor Force & Business

Employment Statistics (a):

Annual labor force	143,847
Residents employed	140,080
Residents unemployed	3,767
Unemployment rate	2.6% (Minnesota 2.9%)

Occupations (b):

Management, business, science, and arts	53.1%
Sales and office	18.3%
Service	13.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving	9.7%
Natural Resources, construction, and maintenance	5.4%

2024 Top 10 Taxable Market Values (c):

Xcel Energy	\$454,977,900
Tamarack Village Shopping Center LP	\$107,169,600
10285 Grand Forest Owner LLC	\$100,927,500
Ramco-Gershenson Properties LP	\$93,613,500
Ireit Woodbury City Place LLC	\$78,587,500
3M Company	\$76,349,600
NP BGO Cottage Grove Logistics Park LLC	\$56,598,100
Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust	\$49,842,400
Woodbury Village Shopping Center LP	\$48,520,500
Dayton Hudson Corp	\$47,408,900

Source: (a) Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), November 2024

(b) 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (margin of error not included)

(c) Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services, payable in 2024

Economic

Median household income	\$110,729*
Per capita personal income (2023)	\$84,018**
Percent of people below the poverty level	4.8%*
Percent of families below the poverty level	3.2%*
Median Residential Taxable Market Value Assessment	\$417,000***
New houses (single family dwelling/townhouse/condo) started	1,284***
Mean commute travel time for work	24.0 minutes*

Source: *2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (margin of error not included)

**U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, November 2024

***Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services, payable in 2024

Human Services

No health insurance coverage†	2.1%*
Rate of homelessness per 100,000 residents (2023)	40.0**
Minnesota healthcare programs (2020)	\$260 million***
Cash and food support (2020)	\$30 million***

Source: *2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (margin of error not included)

**Wilder Foundation Minnesota Homeless Study 2023

***Department of Human Services Minnesota County Human Services Cost Report, 2020

†Includes civilian non-institutionalized population

County Budget & Percentages

Total 2025 Budget: \$361,627,600

Revenue Sources: – all amounts rounded –

Property taxes	39%
Intergovernmental revenue	26%
Other taxes	12%
Fees for services	7%
Other financing sources	6%
Miscellaneous investment income, rents, fines	4%
County program aid	4%
Licenses and permits	2%

Expenditures: – all amounts rounded –

Health & Community Services	25%
Streets & Highways	22%
Public Safety	21%
General Government	20%
Debt Service	5%
Culture & Recreation	5%
Other Capital Outlay	2%

County Budget Comparison:	2024	2025
Operating	\$292.2 million	\$278.6 million
Capital	\$63.8 million	\$64.9 million
Debt	\$15.3 million	\$18.1 million
Total	\$371.3 million	\$361.6 million

County General Obligation Bond Rating:*

Moody's Aaa Standard & Poor's AAA

County Tax Rate with Library (d):	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 estimate
	27.44%	27.45%	23.63%	21.99%	23.72%

Source: *Washington County Office of Administration

(d) Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services, payable in 2024

Land Use

	Total Acres:	%:
Agricultural and underdeveloped	140,399	51.9%
Residential	57,973	21.4%
Institutional; park and recreational	33,973	12.5%
Open water bodies	25,465	9.4%
Industrial	5,139	1.9%
Commercial	3,895	1.4%
Major roadways	2,757	1.0%
Airport and Railway	705	0.3%
Mixed Use	455	0.2%
Total	270,761	100%

Source: Metropolitan Council Land Use Inventory 2020

Geography

Total area	423 sq. miles*
Land area (without water)	385 sq. miles**
Maximum county width	13.8 miles
Maximum county length	40.4 miles
County total area rank in Minnesota	83 of 87 counties*
Number of major water bodies [†]	585*

Washington County Parks	5,023.3 acres*
Lake Elmo Park Reserve	2,178.9 acres*
Big Marine Park Reserve	1104.3 acres*
St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	685.6 acres*
Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	530.5 acres*
Pine Point Regional Park	335.4 acres*
Grey Cloud Island Regional Park	135.1 acres*
Square Lake Park	24.9 acres*
Point Douglas Park	8.6 acres*

Washington County Trails	22.6 miles*
Hardwood Creek Regional Trail	10.1 miles*
Point Douglas Regional Trail	2.5 miles*
Central Greenway Regional Trail	10 miles*

Source: *Washington County Public Works

**U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File, 2020

[†]Department of Natural Resources Public Waters Inventory (PWI)

[†]Note: Lakes and type 3, 4, 5 wetlands. Wetlands are defined as over 10 acres in unincorporated areas or 2 1/2 acres in incorporated areas. Lakes are defined as "all natural enclosed depressions, 10 acres or more in area, which have substantial banks capable of containing water, and which are discernible on aerial photographs," from "Inventory of Minnesota Lakes," Minnesota Conservation Department, Bulletin No. 25, 1968.

Washington County Commissioners - 2024

District 1 – Fran Miron, Vice Chair

District 2 – Stan Karwoski, Chair

District 3 – Gary Kriesel

District 4 – Karla Bigham

District 5 – Michelle Clasen

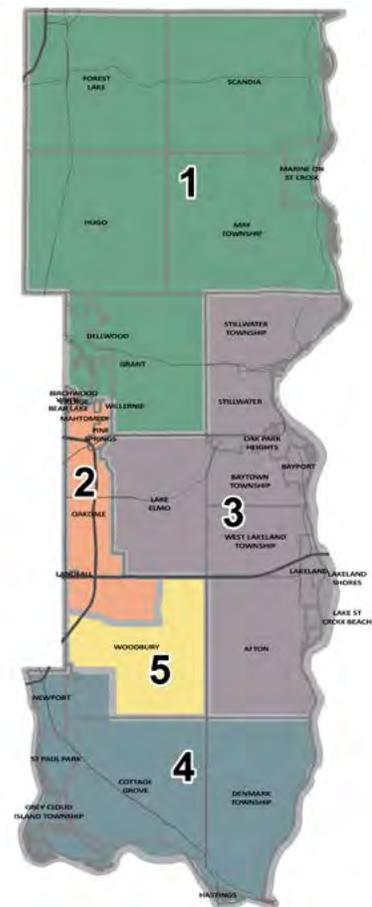
At-A-Glance is prepared by the Washington County Office of Administration. 2/25

Washington County Facilities

Type of Facility (number of facilities):	Contact #:
Government Center - Stillwater (County Seat) (1)	651-430-6000
County Service Center - Cottage Grove (1)	651-430-4075
County Service Center - Forest Lake/Headwaters (1)	651-275-7200
County Service Center - Woodbury (1)	651-275-8600
County Branch Libraries (includes Law Library) (8)	651-275-8500
License Centers (3)	651-275-8600
County Parks (7)	651-430-8368
Historic Courthouse (1)	651-275-7075
Law Enforcement Center (1)	651-439-9381
Household Hazardous Waste (2)	651-430-7475
Transit Centers (2)	651-430-4300
Yard Waste (1)	651-430-7475
Recycling & Energy Center (1)	651-768-6670
Transportation Offices (2)	651-430-4300

Local Units of Governments

Number of Cities	27*
*Includes portions of Hastings and White Bear Lake located in Washington County	
Number of Townships	6



Washington

County
 MINNESOTA

Acknowledgments

This report was made possible through the contributions, commitment, and efforts of the following people:

Eric Abraham	Information Technology
Jennifer Baltaian	County Attorney's Office
Robyn DeMars	Community Services
Phil Dreyer	Information Technology
Andrew Ellickson	Sheriff's Office
Tiffany Hoffman	Public Health and Environment
Jeff Hudson	Human Resources
Emily Jorgensen	Administration
Vickie Kittilson	Information Technology
Amy Larsen	Sheriff's Office
Ching Lo	Administration
Destiny Mancheski	Accounting and Finance
Christina Mastro	Public Works
Kelli Matzek	Administration
Dan Pepper	Community Corrections
Xai Thao	Administration
Kim Ukura	Library
Jared Voto	Property Records and Taxpayer Services
Ashley Burress Winter	Property Records and Taxpayer Services

Additional thanks to all staff who assisted the above individuals with preparing data and narratives for this report.

For more information or questions regarding the 2024 Annual Report on Community Indicators, please contact:

Emily Jorgensen | Planning Manager
Washington County Office of Administration
14949 62nd Street North | P.O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
651-430-6001 | WashingtonCountyMN.gov



14949 62nd Street North | P.O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
651-430-6001 | WashingtonCountyMN.gov