

# DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Ferry County, WA

2021





**Data Center**

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## POPULATION

Ferry County is located in the northeast corner of Washington State bordering Canada to the north. In 2019, Ferry County was the thirty-sixth most populous county in the state with 7,830 individuals. This accounted for less than 1% of the state's population. Most of the population lives in unincorporated Ferry, with only 14% living in the county's only incorporated city Republic. Of the 39 counties in Washington State, Ferry County had the second lowest population density with a density of 3.55 individuals per square mile. The Washington State density for all counties was 113.56 individuals per square mile.<sup>1</sup>

In 2019, adults ages 19-34 made up the smallest proportion of Ferry County's population. Ferry County had smaller proportions of children ages 0-19 and higher proportions of seniors ages 65 years or older than Washington State.

### Population by Age Group, 2019

|             | Ferry County | WA State |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 0-19 years  | 21%          | 24.8%    |
| 20-34 years | 13.7%        | 20.6%    |
| 35-64 years | 36.5%        | 38.3%    |
| 65+ years   | 28.8%        | 16.3%    |

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – April 1, 2020 Official Population Estimates

According to 2019 data, Ferry County was comprised of two primary racial groups. Among county residents, 76.4% were white, 15.4% were American Indian/ Alaska Native, 6.1% were of two or more races, 1.4% were Asian, while all other groups made up less than 1% of the population. Hispanics comprised 4.2% of the population, far lower than the statewide population with 13.2% identifying as Hispanic. Hispanics are included in all race categories.

### Population by Race Alone, 2019

|   | Ferry County | WA State |
|---|--------------|----------|
| White                                     | 76.4%        | 78.8%    |
| Black or African American                 | 0.5%         | 4.2%     |
| American Indian and Alaska Native         | 15.4%        | 1.8%     |
| Asian                                     | 1.4%         | 9.3%     |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | 0.2%         | 0.8%     |
| Two or more races                         | 6.1%         | 5.1%     |

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – April 1 Official Population Estimates

### Population 15 Years of Age and Older by Marital Status, 2015-2019

|               | Ferry County | WA State    |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6,544</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Married       | 3,233        | 49.4%       |
| Widowed       | 445          | 6.8%        |
| Divorced      | 838          | 12.8%       |
| Separated     | 92           | 1.4%        |
| Never Married | 1,937        | 29.6%       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1201

### Population by Nativity and Citizenship Status, 2015-2019

|  | Ferry County | WA State |
|--|--------------|----------|
| U.S. citizen, born in the U.S.                         | 7,326        | 96.7%    |
| U.S. citizen, born in Puerto Rico or U.S. island areas | 9            | 0.1%     |
| U.S. citizen, born abroad of American parent(s)        | 129          | 1.7%     |
| U.S. citizen by naturalization                         | 55           | 0.7%     |
| Not a U.S. citizen                                     | 59           | 0.8%     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B05001

## Geographical Mobility in Past Year for Current Residence, 2015-2019

|   | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| Same house 1 year ago                         | 6,295 | 84%     |
| Moved within same county                      | 368   | 4.9%    |
| Moved from different county within same state | 499   | 6.7%    |
| Moved from different state                    | 325   | 4.3%    |
| Moved from abroad                             | 4     | 0.1%    |

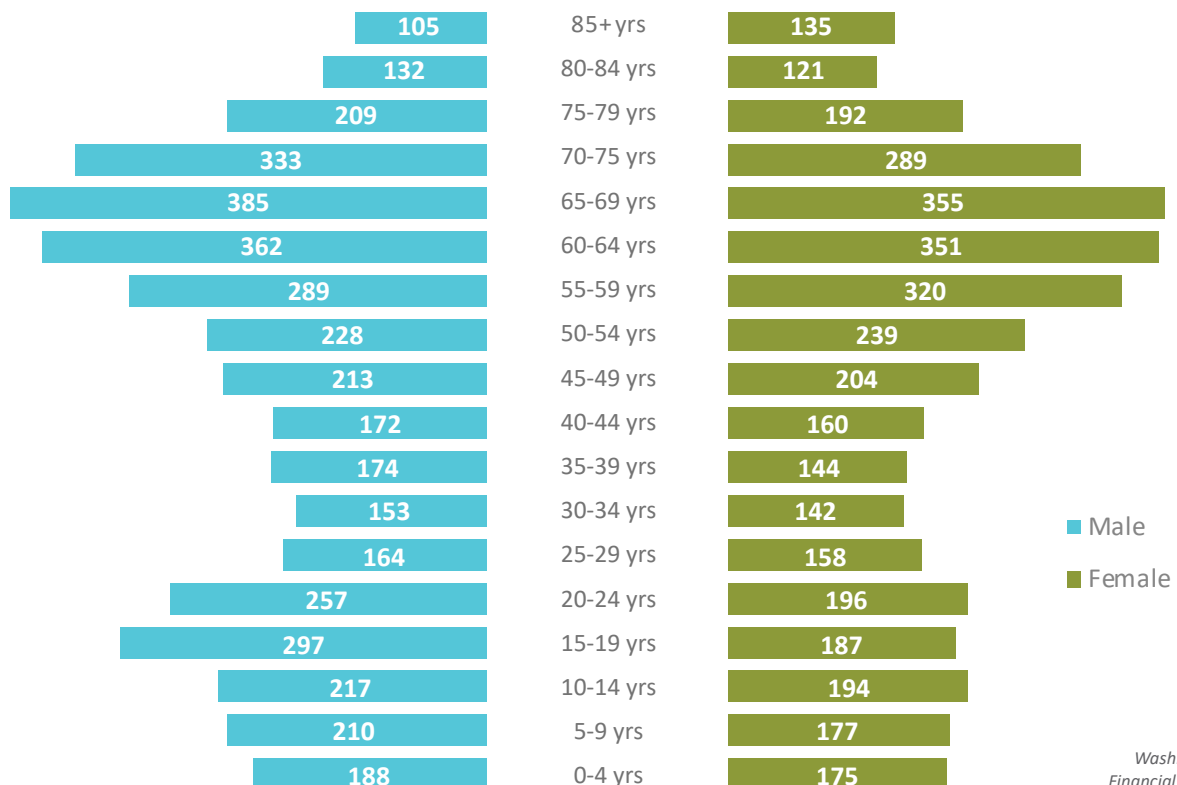
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B07001

## Language Spoken at Home by Ability 2011-2015

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>7,299</b> |
| Spoke only English                    | 7,057        |
| Spoke English less than "very well"   | 47           |
| Spanish or Spanish Creole             | 86           |
| Other Native North American Languages | 40           |
| Other Pacific Island Languages        | 30           |
| Japanese                              | 21           |
| German                                | 19           |
| Scandinavian                          | 13           |
| Navajo                                | 10           |
| Other and unspecified languages       | 8            |
| Italian                               | 6            |
| French (incl. Patois, Cajun)          | 3            |
| Russian                               | 3            |
| Tagalog                               | 2            |
| African languages                     | 1            |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B16001

## Distribution of Population by Age and Sex, Ferry County, 2019



Washington State Office of  
Financial Management – April  
1 Population Estimates.

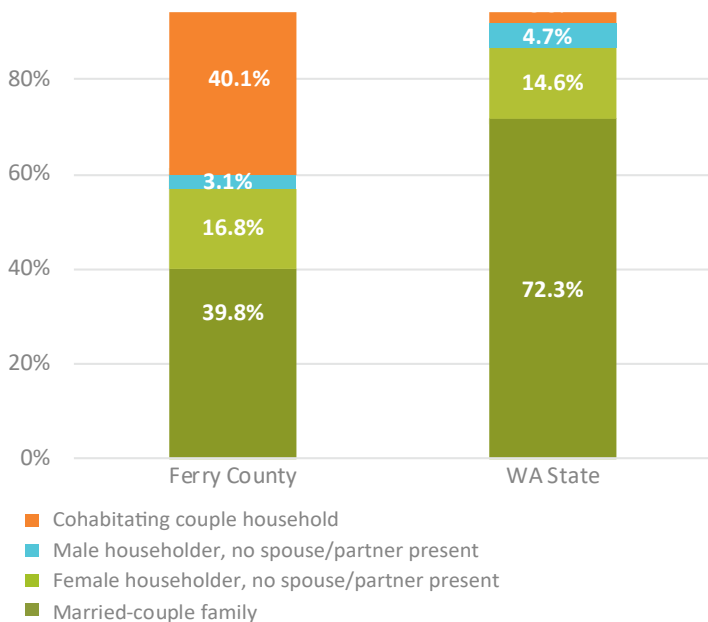
## FAMILY STRUCTURE

### Households by Type, Ferry County, 2015-2019

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total Households</b>                              | <b>3,060</b> | <b>100%</b>  |
| <b>Married-couple family</b>                         | <b>1,428</b> | <b>50.2%</b> |
| With own children of the householder under 18 years  | 261          | 20.1%        |
| <b>Cohabiting couple household</b>                   | <b>264</b>   | <b>7.6%</b>  |
| With own children of the householder under 18 years  | 138          | 2.4%         |
| <b>Male householder, no spouse/partner present</b>   | <b>639</b>   | <b>18.1%</b> |
| With own children of the householder under 18 years  | 20           | 1.3%         |
| Householder living alone                             | 487          | 12.4%        |
| 65 years and over                                    | 209          | 3.4%         |
| <b>Female householder, no spouse/partner present</b> | <b>729</b>   | <b>24.1%</b> |
| With own children of the householder under 18 years  | 110          | 4%           |
| Householder living alone                             | 418          | 14.2%        |
| 65 years and over                                    | 192          | 6.8%         |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table DP02

### Families with Children Younger than 18 Years of Age by Household Type, 2015-2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table DP02

## EDUCATION

### Educational Attainment among Adults 25 Years of Age or Older, 2015-2019

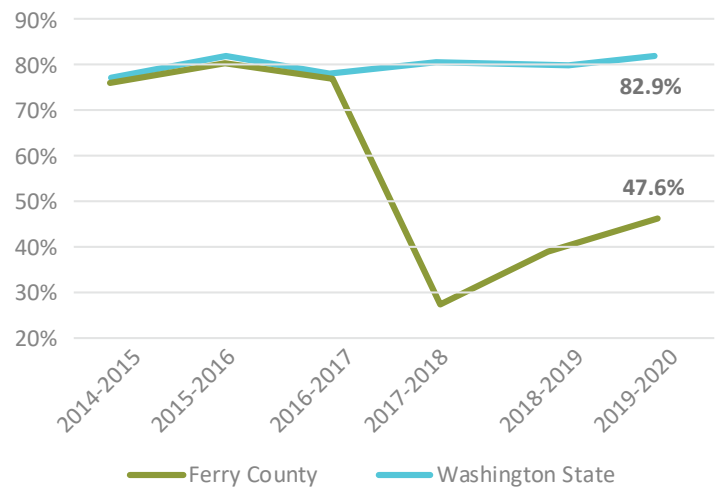
|                                     | Ferry County | WA State |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Population 25 years of age or older | 5,767        | 100%     |
| Less than ninth grade               | 160          | 2.8%     |
| Ninth-12th grade, no diploma        | 591          | 10.2%    |
| High school graduate/ GED           | 2,015        | 34.9%    |
| Some college, no degree             | 1,475        | 25.6%    |
| Associate's degree                  | 444          | 7.7%     |
| Bachelor's degree                   | 743          | 12.9%    |
| Graduate or professional degree     | 339          | 5.9%     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1501

### High School Completion in Ferry County

Among students who began ninth grade, 47.6% graduated from high school on time during the 2019/2020 school year. Another 23.3% continued high school beyond the traditional graduation date. Statewide, 82.9% of students graduated on time. From the 2014/2015 school year to the 2016/2017 school year, Ferry County and Washington State had similar high school graduation rates, until Ferry county experienced a significant decrease in graduation rate for the 2017/2018 school year to 28.4%.

### On-Time High School Graduation



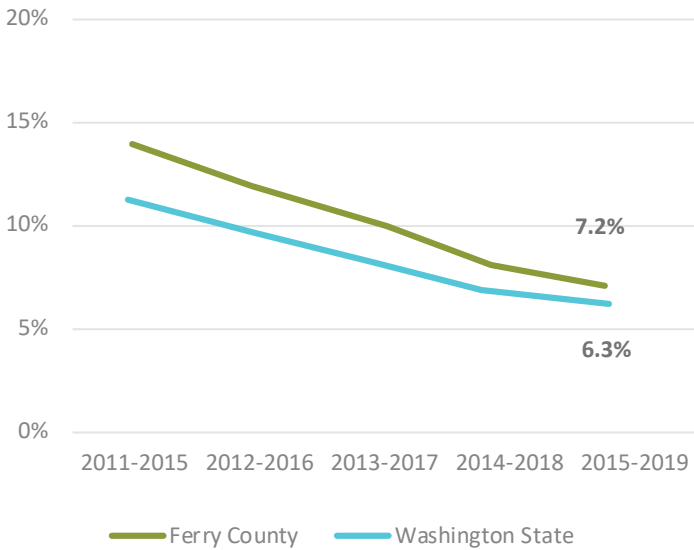
Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – Data and Reports, 2020

# HEALTH INSURANCE AND DISABILITY

For the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate period, approximately 7.2% of Ferry County's population was uninsured. The uninsured rate significantly decreased since 2011-2015, from 14.1% to 7.2%. Those who were 19 to 64 years of age, male, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander had the highest proportion of being uninsured in their respective demographic categories. The uninsured rate in Ferry County was higher than Washington State.

In Ferry County for the 2015-2019 ACS estimate period, 26.3% of the population had a disability. Disability includes those with hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulties. Among those with a disability, 60.4% were 75 years of age or older. Overall, Ferry County had higher disability rates than the state.

## Uninsured Rate Over Time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2701

## Percent of Uninsured, 2015-2019

### BY AGE

|                | Ferry County | WA State |
|----------------|--------------|----------|
| Under 19 years | 4.4%         | 2.8%     |
| 19-64 years    | 11.1%        | 9%       |
| 65+ years      | 0.8%         | 0.6%     |
| Total          | 7.2%         | 6.3%     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2701

### BY SEX

|        | Ferry County | WA State |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| Female | 6.7%         | 5.4%     |
| Male   | 7.7%         | 7.2%     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2701

### BY RACE

|  | Ferry County | WA State |
|--|--------------|----------|
| White alone                              | 5.9%         | 5.3%     |
| Black or African American                | Unavailable  | 7.4%     |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native           | 13.1%        | 14.3%    |
| Asian                                    | 7.7%         | 4.9%     |
| Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander | 7.5%         | 10.5%    |
| Some other race                          | 10.7%        | 23.7%    |
| Two or more races                        | 7.6%         | 5%       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2701

## Percent of Population with a Disability by Age, 2015-2019

|               | Ferry County | WA State |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Under 5 years | 1.6%         | 0.7%     |
| 5-17 years    | 9.7%         | 5.3%     |
| 18-34 years   | 14.8%        | 6.7%     |
| 35-64 years   | 30.1%        | 12.7%    |
| 65-74 years   | 28.4%        | 25.3%    |
| 75 years+     | 60.4%        | 50.3%    |
| Total         | 26.3%        | 12.7%    |

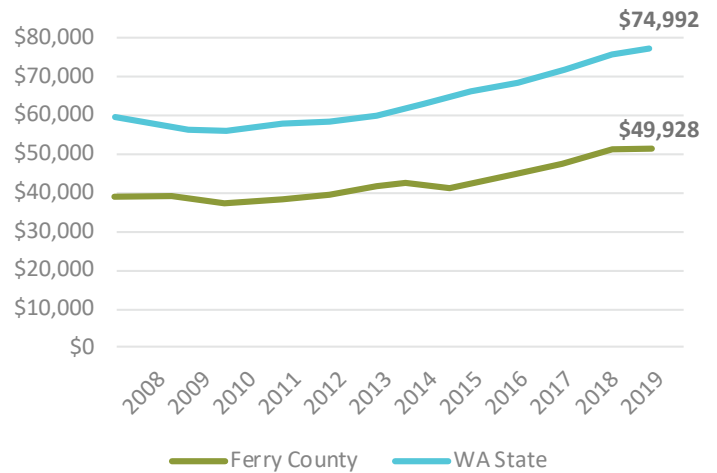
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2701

# INCOME AND POVERTY

Estimates of median household income were based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 2005-2019 and census data from 2010. These model-based estimates may differ from other median household income data developed from the Washington State Office of Financial Management’s State Population Survey, Bureau of the Census estimates, or other sources.

The projected median household income in Ferry County for 2019 was \$49,928, compared to \$74,992 statewide. The projected 2019 median household income increased from the previous year. For 2015 to 2019, approximately 24.3% of individuals in the county lived below 125% federal poverty level (FPL), and 41.6% lived below 200% FPL. The proportion of Ferry County residents living in poverty (below 200% FPL) was significantly higher than the statewide proportion (25.6%).

## Median Household Income Over Time



Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – Median Household Estimates by County, February 2019

## Median Household Income Estimates

|                           | Ferry County | WA State |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 2008                      | \$38,093     | \$57,858 |
| 2009                      | \$38,284     | \$55,458 |
| 2010                      | \$36,712     | \$54,888 |
| 2011                      | \$36,921     | \$55,500 |
| 2012                      | \$37,548     | \$56,444 |
| 2013                      | \$39,596     | \$57,284 |
| 2014                      | \$41,343     | \$60,153 |
| 2015                      | \$40,340     | \$63,439 |
| 2016                      | \$42,330     | \$65,500 |
| 2017                      | \$45,564     | \$68,550 |
| 2018 Preliminary estimate | \$49,008     | \$73,294 |
| 2019 Projection           | \$49,928     | \$74,992 |

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – Median Household Estimates by County, February 2019.

## Individuals Living at or Below 100% FPL by Age Group, 2015-2019

| Poverty Level | Ferry County | WA State |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
| <18           | 16.4%        | 13.6%    |
| 18-64 Years   | 20.1%        | 10.6%    |
| 65+ Years     | 11.4%        | 7.5%     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1701

## Population Living at or below Various FPL, 2015-2019

| Poverty Level | Ferry County | WA State |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
| 50% FPL       | 7.7%         | 5%       |
| 125% FPL      | 24.3%        | 14.2%    |
| 150% FPL      | 32%          | 17.8%    |
| 185% FPL      | 38.7%        | 23.2%    |
| 200% FPL      | 41.6%        | 25.6%    |
| 300% FPL      | 58.1%        | 40.9%    |

Disclaimer: Percentages do not add up to 100% because categories may overlap. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1701

## Families with Children Living at or Below 100% FPL, 2015-2019

|                         | Ferry County | WA State |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| All families            | 12.7%        | 6.9%     |
| Married-couple families | 7.3%         | 3.4%     |
| Single mothers          | 29.9%        | 22.9%    |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1702

## Individuals Within Race and Hispanic Ethnicity Categories Living at or Below 100% FPL, 2015-2019

|  | Ferry County | WA State |
|--|--------------|----------|
| White                                      | 17.9%        | 9.5%     |
| Black or African American                  | Unavailable  | 20.4%    |
| American Indian and Alaskan Native         | 21.9%        | 22.3%    |
| Asian                                      | 11.5%        | 9.3%     |
| Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander | 40%          | 15.3%    |
| Some other race                            | 10.7%        | 20.2%    |
| Two or more races                          | 11.5%        | 13%      |
| Hispanic ethnicity                         | 17.7%        | 18.4%    |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S1701



## EMPLOYMENT

Of the estimated 2,499 individuals in the civilian labor force in Ferry County in 2019, there were 2,216 individuals employed. The average unemployment rate in Ferry in 2019 was 11.3%, compared to 4.3% in Washington State.<sup>2</sup>

### Occupation of the Civilian-Employed Population 16 Years of Age or Older, 2015-2019

|   | Ferry County | WA State    |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2,599</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Management, business, science and arts occupations          | 891          | 34.3%       |
| Natural resources, construction and maintenance occupations | 379          | 14.6%       |
| Service occupations   | 577          | 22.2%       |
| Sales and office occupations                                | 357          | 13.7%       |
| Production, transportation and material moving occupations  | 395          | 15.2%       |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2401

Compared to Washington State, Ferry County had a lower proportion of workers in sales and office occupations as well as management, business, science and arts occupations, but a higher proportion of workers in all other categories.



## Industry of the Civilian-Employed Population 16 Years of Age or Older, 2015-2019

|  | Ferry County |             | WA State    |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2,599</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance                                | 581          | 22.4%       | 21.5%       |
| Public administration  | 423          | 16.3%       | 5%          |
| Retail trade   | 373          | 14.4%       | 11.6%       |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining                                     | 308          | 11.9%       | 2.6%        |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services                   | 213          | 8.2%        | 9.2%        |
| Construction   | 183          | 7%          | 6.8%        |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities  | 140          | 5.4%        | 5.4%        |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 126          | 4.8%        | 13.2%       |
| Other services except public administration  | 83           | 3.2%        | 4.6%        |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing                              | 62           | 2.4%        | 5.3%        |
| Manufacturing  | 60           | 2.3%        | 9.9%        |
| Information  | 30           | 1.2%        | 2.2%        |
| Wholesale trade  | 17           | 0.7%        | 2.8%        |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2403

## HOUSING

For the 2015 to 2019 ACS estimate period, there were an estimated 4,526 housing units in Ferry County. Of those, 32.4% were vacant. The majority of occupied housing were owner-occupied (72%) while the remaining housing units (28%) were renter-occupied. The homeowner vacancy rate was 2.4%, while the rental vacancy rate was 5.9% during this period.

The proportion of occupied housing lacking complete plumbing facilities and complete kitchen facilities was higher in Ferry County compared to Washington State. In Ferry County, 3.6% of occupied housing lacked complete plumbing facilities and 3.1% lacked complete kitchen facilities. This is compared to only 0.4% of occupied housing in Washington State lacking complete plumbing facilities and 1% of occupied housing lacking complete kitchen facilities.<sup>3</sup>

In 2020 Quarter 4, the median price of homes in Ferry County was \$187,000 compared to \$460,300 in Washington State. Estimates of median home prices vary greatly in smaller areas. The median price of home sales in Ferry County varied between \$152,700 to \$187,000 between 2018 and 2020.

In 2020, housing affordability slightly decreased in Ferry County and slightly increased in Washington State. Housing affordability was estimated based on the National Association of Realtors' Housing Affordability Index, defined as the ability of a middle-income family to carry the mortgage payments on a median price home. Housing was consistently more affordable in Ferry County than Washington State.<sup>4</sup>



## Year Housing Units were Built, 2015-2019

|                            | Ferry County |             | WA State    |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Housing Units</b> | <b>4,526</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Built 2014 or later        | 71           | 1.6%        | 3.5%        |
| Built 2010 to 2013         | 138          | 3%          | 3.5%        |
| Built 2000 to 2009         | 608          | 13.4%       | 15.4%       |
| Built 1990 to 1999         | 798          | 17.6%       | 16.9%       |
| Built 1980 to 1989         | 839          | 18.5%       | 13.1%       |
| Built 1970 to 1979         | 877          | 19.4%       | 15.8%       |
| Built 1960 to 1969         | 264          | 5.8%        | 9.3%        |
| Built 1950 to 1959         | 327          | 7.2%        | 7.5%        |
| Built 1940 to 1949         | 214          | 4.7%        | 4.8%        |
| Built 1939 or earlier      | 390          | 8.6%        | 10.2%       |

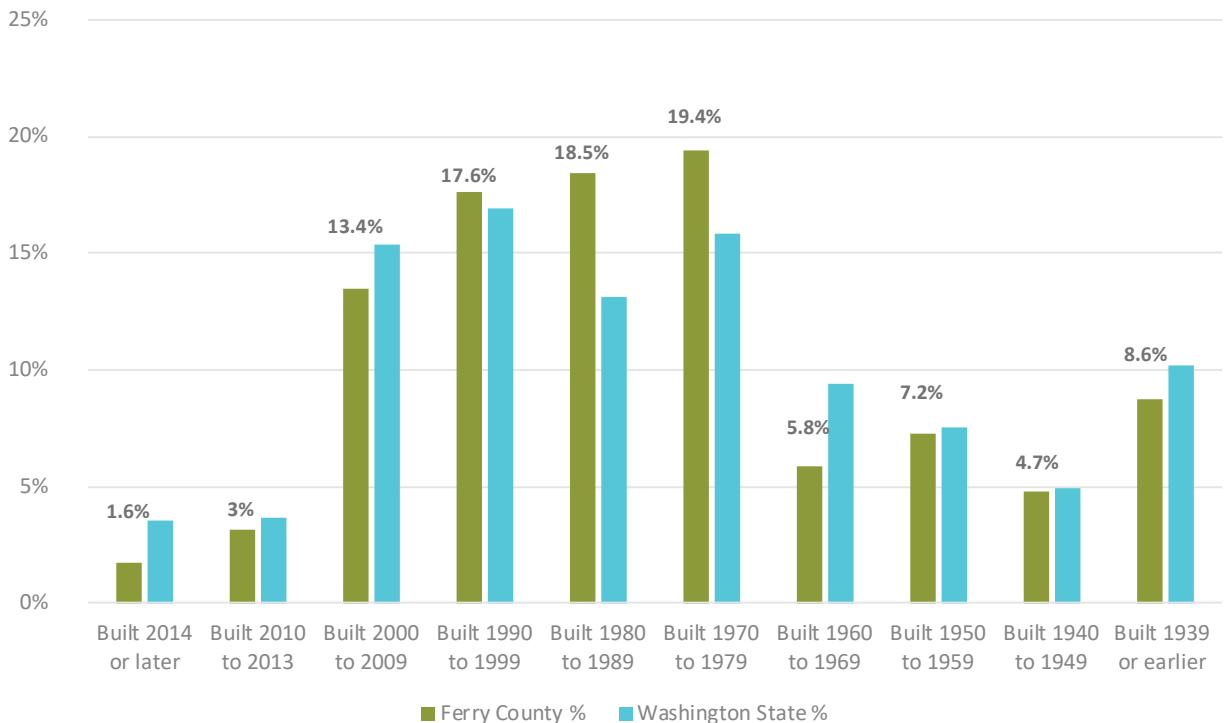
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table DP04

## House Heating Fuel in Occupied Housing, 2015-2019

|                            | Ferry County |             | WA State    |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Housing Units</b> | <b>3,060</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |
| Wood                       | 1,697        | 55.5%       | 3.9%        |
| Electricity                | 1,031        | 33.7%       | 55.8%       |
| Bottled, tank, or LP gas   | 200          | 6.5%        | 3.1%        |
| Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.   | 38           | 1.2%        | 1.7%        |
| Other fuel                 | 30           | 1%          | 0.6%        |
| Utility gas                | 51           | 1.7%        | 34.5%       |
| Solar energy               | 0            | 0%          | 0.1%        |
| No fuel used               | 13           | 0.4%        | 0.4%        |
| Coal or coke               | 0            | 0%          | 0%          |

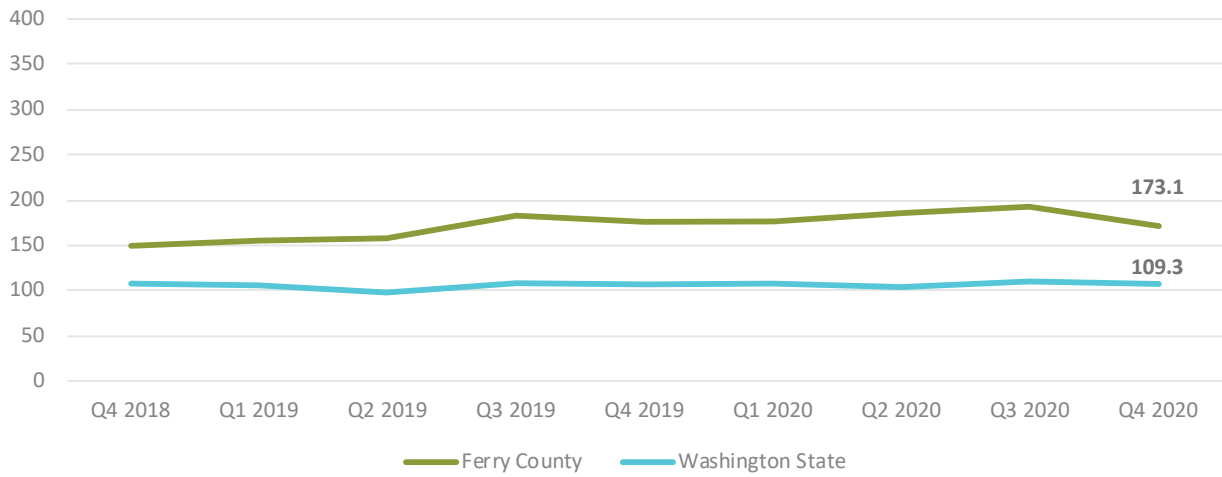
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table S2403

## Age of Housing Stock, 2015-2019



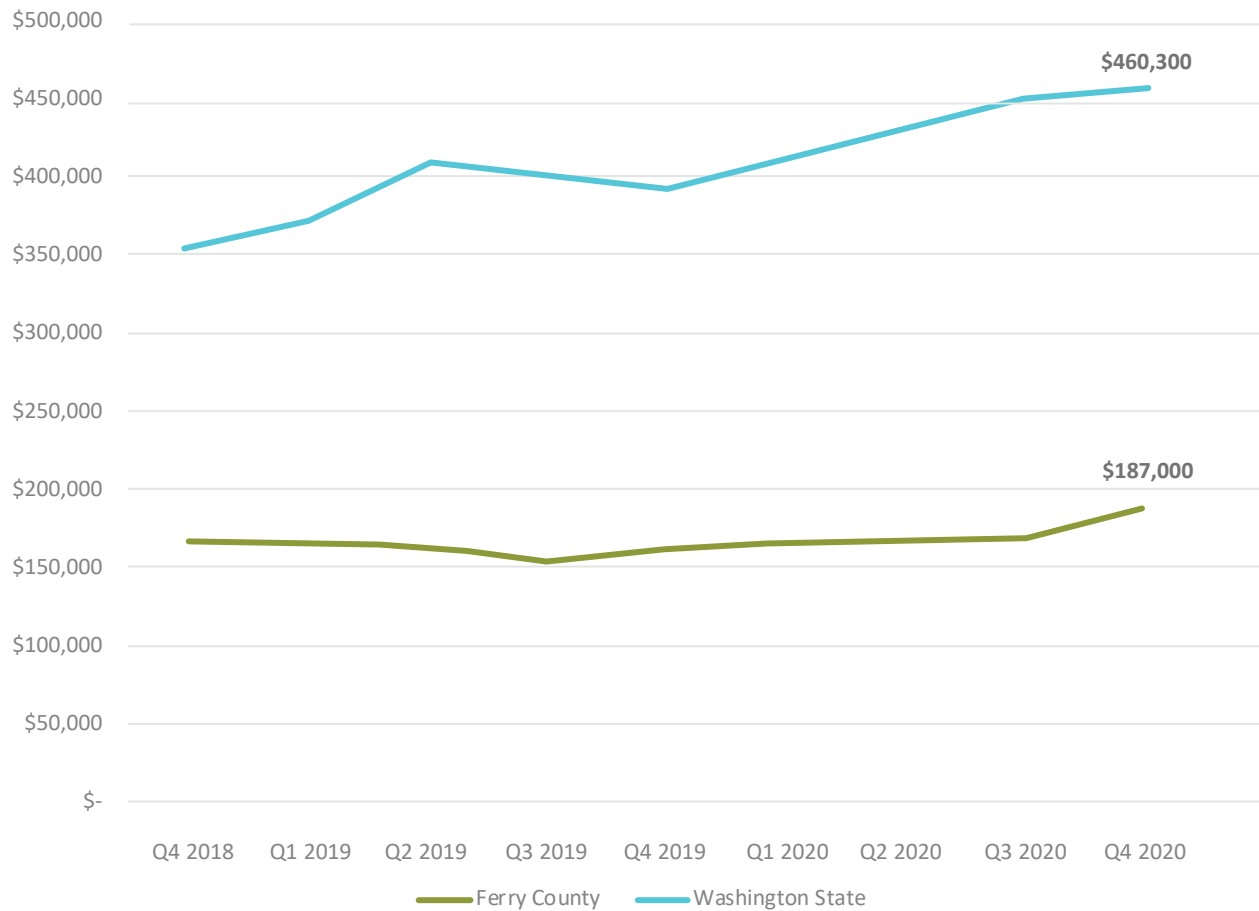
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table DP04

## Housing Affordability Index



Source: Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2020 Q4

## Median Home Prices



Source: Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2020 Q4

Endnotes

- 1 Washington State Office of Financial Management – Estimates of April 1 Population Density and Land Area by County
- 2 Washington State Employment Security Department: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, accessed from the Northeast Washington Trends website, [www.northeastwashingtontrends.ewu.edu](http://www.northeastwashingtontrends.ewu.edu)
- 3 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table DP04
- 4 Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2017 Q2



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