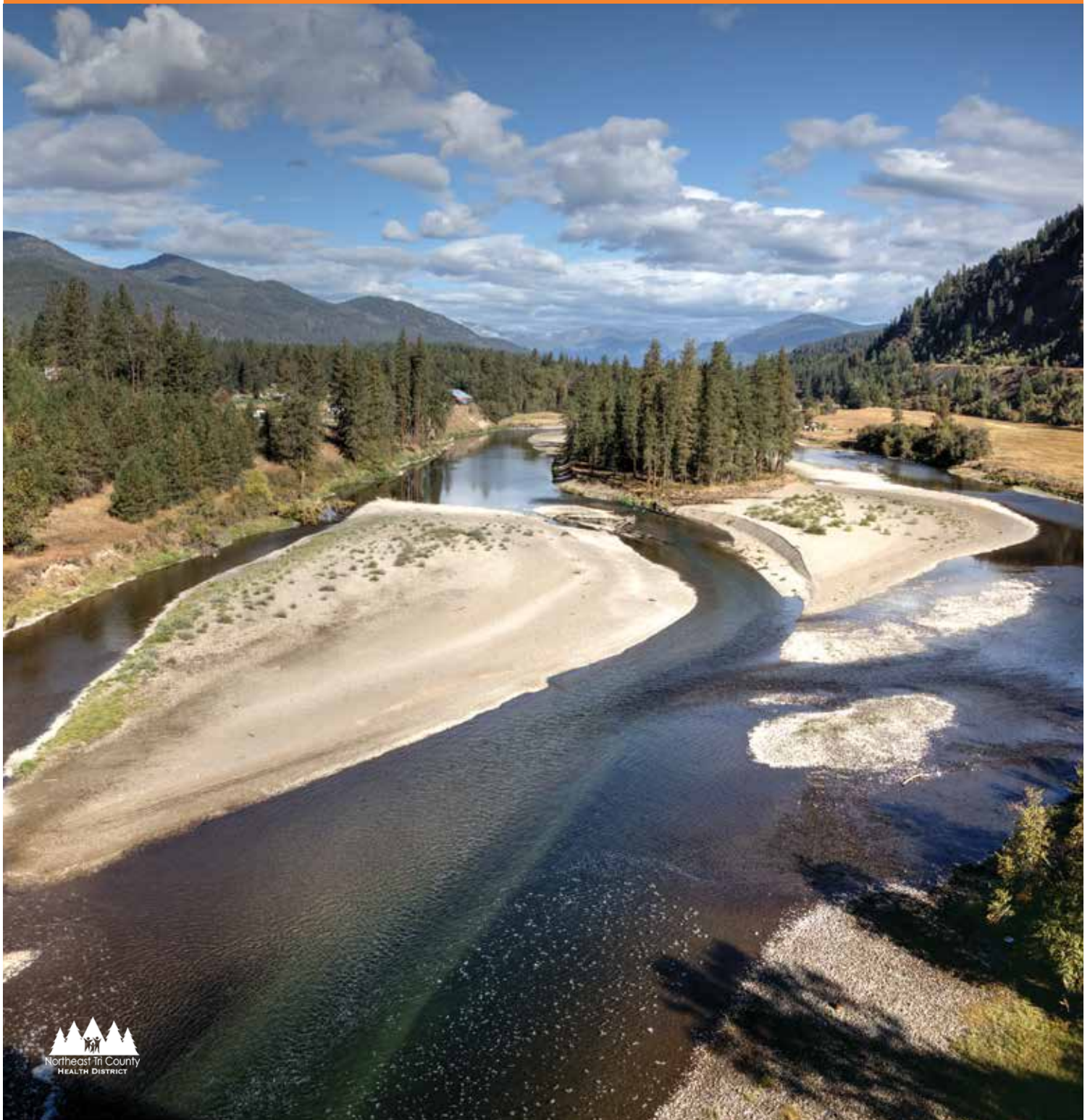


DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Ferry County, WA

2022





Data Center

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October 2022

POPULATION

Ferry County is located in the northeast corner of Washington State bordering Canada to the north. In 2021, Ferry County was the thirty-sixth most populous county in the state with 7,300 individuals. This accounted for less than 1% of the state’s population. Most of the population lives in unincorporated Ferry, with only 15% 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 3.29 individuals per square mile. The Washington State density for all counties was 116.88 individuals per square mile.¹

In 2021, adults ages 20-34 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, 2021

	Ferry County	WA State
0-19 years	22.4%	24.0%
20-34 years	12.5%	20.5%
35-64 years	36.0%	38.0%
65+ years	29.0%	17.3%

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – April 1, 2021 Official Population Estimates

According to 2021 data, Ferry County was comprised of two primary racial groups. Among county residents, 70.7% were white, 17.7% were American Indian/ Alaska Native, 7.1% were of two or more races, while all other groups made up less than 1% of the population. Hispanics comprised 3.3% of the population, far lower than the statewide population with 14.2% identifying as Hispanic. Hispanics are included in all race categories.

Population by Race Alone, 2021

	Ferry County	WA State
White	70.7%	72.8%
Black or African American	0.3%	4.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	17.7%	1.9%
Asian	0.7%	9.9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.9%
Two or more races	7.1%	10.2%

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – April 1, 2021 Official Population Estimates

Population 15 Years of Age and Older by Marital Status, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
Total	6,629	100%
Married	3,290	49.6%
Widowed	433	6.5%
Divorced	835	12.6%
Separated	89	1.3%
Never Married	1,932	29.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1201

Population by Nativity and Citizenship Status, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
U.S. citizen, born in the U.S.	7,437	97.3%
U.S. citizen, born in Puerto Rico or U.S. island areas	0	0.0%
U.S. citizen, born abroad of American parent(s)	95	1.2%
U.S. citizen by naturalization	65	0.9%
Not a U.S. citizen	46	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table B05001

Geographical Mobility in Past Year for Current Residence, 2016-2020

	Count	Percent
Same house 1 year ago	6,464	85.3%
Moved within same county	343	4.5%
Moved from different county within same state	495	6.5%
Moved from different state	262	3.5%
Moved from abroad	11	0.1%

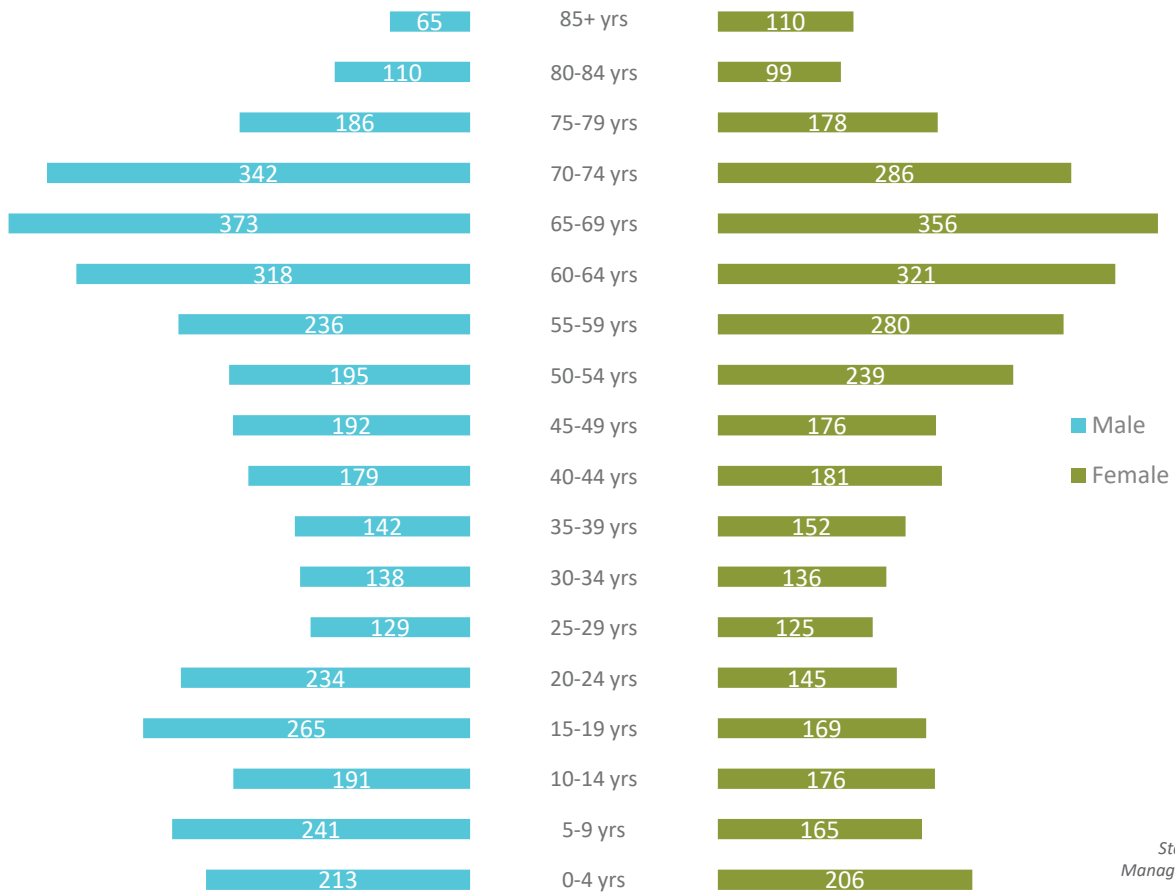
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table B07001

Language Spoken at Home by Ability 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
Total Population 5 years and over	7,338	100%
English only	6,917	94.3%
Language other than English	421	5.7%
Speak English less than "very well"	199	2.7%
Spanish	204	2.8%
Other Indo-European languages	93	1.3%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	51	0.7%
Other languages	73	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP02

Distribution of Population by Age and Sex, Ferry County, 2021



Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – April 1, 2021 Population Estimates

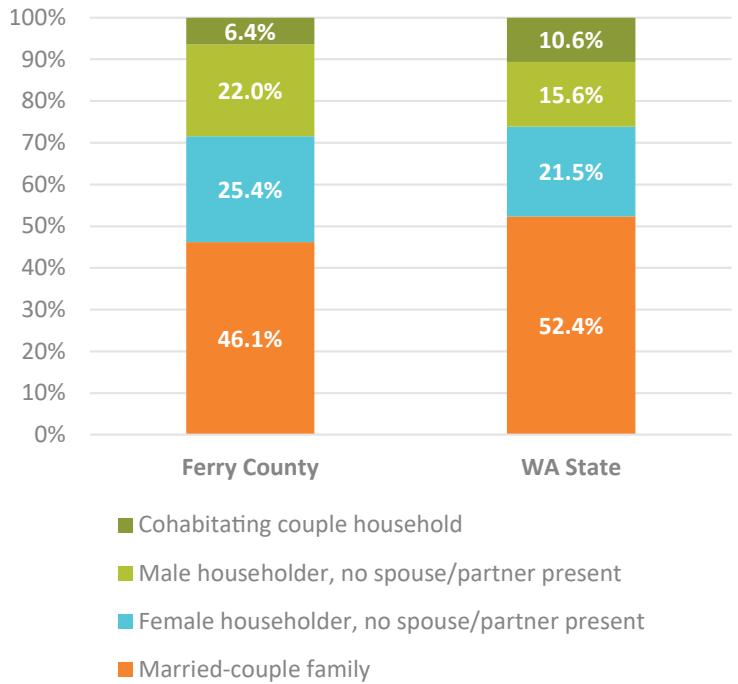
FAMILY STRUCTURE

Households by Type, Ferry County, 2016-2020

Total Households	3,175	85.3%
Married-couple family	1,464	46.1%
Cohabiting couple household	204	6.4%
Male householder, no spouse/partner present	700	22.0%
Householder living alone	516	16.3%
65 years and over	288	9.1%
Female householder, no spouse/partner present	807	25.4%
Householder living alone	523	16.5%
65 years and over	311	9.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP02

Families with Children Younger than 18 Years of Age by Household Type, 2016-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP02

EDUCATION

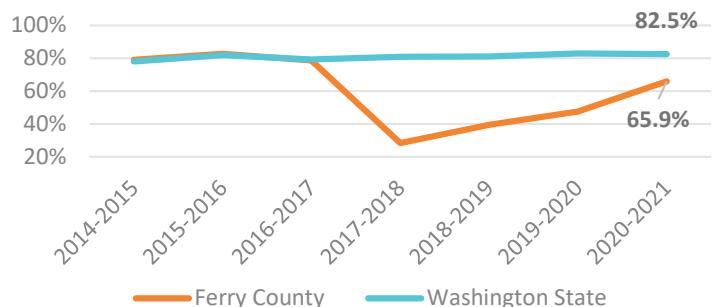
Educational Attainment among Adults 25 Years of Age or Older, 2016-2020

	Ferry County		WA State	
Population 25 years of age or older	6,002	100%	100%	
Less than ninth grade	151	2.5%	3.5%	
Ninth-12th grade, no diploma	454	7.6%	4.8%	
High school graduate/ GED	2,106	35.1%	21.8%	
Some college, no degree	1,540	25.7%	23.1%	
Associate's degree	478	8.0%	10.1%	
Bachelor's degree	805	13.4%	22.8%	
Graduate or professional degree	468	7.8%	13.9%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1501

Among students who began ninth grade, 65.9% graduated from high school on time during the 2020/2021 school year. Another 13.8% continued high school beyond the traditional graduation date. Statewide, 82.5% 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, but has been increasing steadily.

On-Time High School Graduation Rate



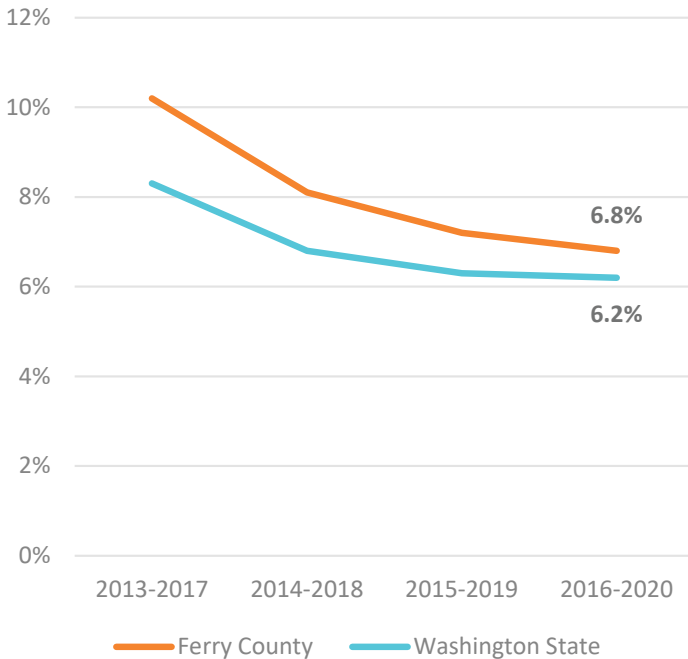
Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – Data and Reports, 2021

HEALTH INSURANCE AND DISABILITY

For the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate period, approximately 6.8% of Ferry County's population was uninsured. Those who were 19 to 64 years of age, male, and some other race alone 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 2016-2020 ACS estimate period, 28.3% 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, 57.0% 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, 2016-2020. Table S2701

Percent of Uninsured, 2016-2020

BY AGE

	Ferry County	WA State
Under 19 years	4.7%	2.8%
19-64 years	10.2%	8.9%
65+ years	1.3%	0.7%
Total	6.8%	6.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2701

BY SEX

	Ferry County	WA State
Male	8.0%	7.1%
Female	5.6%	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2701

BY RACE

	Ferry County	WA State
White alone	5.3%	5.1%
Black or African American	0.0%	7.6%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	14.0%	13.6%
Asian	32.4%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	37.5%	10.6%
Some other race	46.2%	22.6%
Two or more races	5.7%	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2701

Percent of Population with a Disability by Age, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
Under 5 years	1.3%	0.7%
5-17 years	7.4%	5.6%
18-34 years	24.3%	7.2%
35-64 years	29.7%	12.4%
65-74 years	34.0%	24.6%
75 years+	57.0%	50.2%
Total	28.3%	12.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1810

INCOME AND POVERTY

Estimates of median household income were based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 2016-2020 and the Washington State Office of Financial Management from 2021.

The projected median household income in Ferry County for 2021 was \$47,982, compared to \$81,998 statewide. The projected 2021 median household income increased from the previous year. For 2016 to 2020, approximately 25.1% of individuals in the county lived below 125% federal poverty level (FPL), and 42.3% lived below 200% FPL. The proportion of Ferry County residents living in poverty (below 200% FPL) was significantly higher than the statewide proportion (24.1%).

Median Household Income Estimates

	Ferry County	WA State
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	\$45,546	\$69,288
2018	\$42,212	\$72,297
2019	\$47,463	\$78,674
2020 Preliminary estimate	\$47,722	\$80,319
2021 Projection	\$47,982	\$81,998

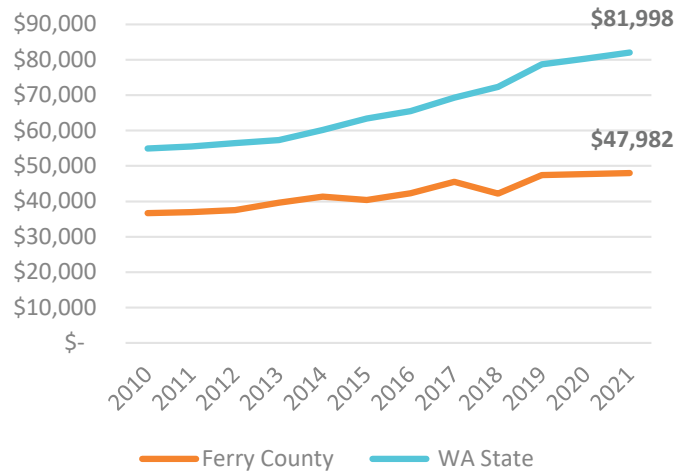
Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – Median Household Estimates by County, April 2021

Families with Children Living at or Below 100% FPL, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
All Families	10.8%	6.5%
Married-Couple Families	7.0%	3.3%
Single Mothers	20.6%	21.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1702

Median Household Income Over Time



Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – Median Household Estimates by County, April 2021

Individuals Living at or Below 100% FPL by Age Group, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
<18	16.0%	12.6%
18-64 Years	20.1%	10.0%
65+ Years	11.5%	7.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1701

Population Living at or Below Various FPL, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
50% FPL	7.4%	4.7%
125% FPL	25.1%	13.4%
150% FPL	31.5%	16.7%
185% FPL	39.8%	21.8%
200% FPL	42.3%	24.1%
300% FPL	58.7%	39.3%

Disclaimer: Percentages do not add up to 100% because categories may overlap. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1701

Individuals Within Race and Hispanic Ethnicity Categories Living at or Below 100% FPL, 2016-2020

	Ferry County	WA State
White	16.1%	8.9%
Black or African American	0.0%	17.5%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	21.3%	22.0%
Asian	35.3%	9.2%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	50.0%	12.6%
Some other race	46.2%	18.6%
Two or more races	16.3%	12.7%
Hispanic ethnicity	17.5%	16.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S1701



EMPLOYMENT

Of the estimated 2,302 individuals in the civilian labor force in Ferry County in 2021, there were 2,096 individuals employed. The average unemployment rate in Ferry in 2019 was 8.9%, compared to 5.2% in Washington State.²

Occupation of the Civilian-Employed Population 16 Years of Age or Older, 2016-2020

	Ferry County		WA State
Total	2,571	100%	100%
Management, business, science and arts occupations	999	38.9%	42.7%
Natural resources, construction and maintenance occupations	267	10.4%	9.4%
Service occupations	663	25.8%	16.5%
Sales and office occupations	340	13.2%	19.5%
Production, transportation and material moving occupations	302	11.7%	11.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2401

Compared to Washington State, Ferry County had a lower proportion of workers in sales and office occupations, production, transportation and material moving 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, 2016-2020

	Ferry County		WA State
Total	2,571	100%	100%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	642	25.0%	21.6%
Public administration	527	20.5%	5.0%
Retail trade	287	11.2%	11.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	272	10.6%	2.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	209	8.1%	9.0%
Construction	160	6.2%	7.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	102	4.0%	5.5%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	153	6.0%	13.6%
Other services except public administration	97	3.8%	4.5%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	76	3.0%	5.3%
Manufacturing	19	0.7%	9.5%
Information	5	0.2%	2.2%
Wholesale trade	22	0.9%	2.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2403

HOUSING

For the 2016 to 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate period, there were an estimated 4,541 housing units in Ferry County. Of those, 30.1% were vacant. The majority of occupied housing were owner-occupied (75.6%) while the remaining housing units (24.4%) were renter-occupied. The homeowner vacancy rate was 1.8%, while the rental vacancy rate was 3.8% 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, 3.9% of occupied housing lacked complete plumbing facilities and 3.8% lacked complete kitchen facilities. This is compared to only 0.4% of occupied housing in Washington State lacking complete plumbing facilities and 1.1% of occupied housing lacking complete kitchen facilities.³

In 2022 Quarter 1, the median price of homes in Ferry County was \$231,500 compared to \$563,600 in Washington State. Estimates of median home prices vary greatly in smaller areas. The median price of home sales in Ferry County varied between \$166,000 to \$239,800 between 2020

and 2022. In 2022, housing affordability decreased in Ferry County and 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.⁴



Year Housing Units were Built, 2016-2020

	Ferry County		WA State
Total Housing Units	4,541	100%	100%
Built 2014 or later	74	1.6%	4.8%
Built 2010 to 2013	191	4.2%	3.6%
Built 2000 to 2009	708	15.6%	15.0%
Built 1990 to 1999	831	18.3%	16.7%
Built 1980 to 1989	729	16.1%	12.9%
Built 1970 to 1979	962	21.2%	15.5%
Built 1960 to 1969	268	5.9%	9.3%
Built 1950 to 1959	293	6.5%	7.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	151	3.3%	4.7%
Built 1939 or earlier	334	7.4%	10.0%

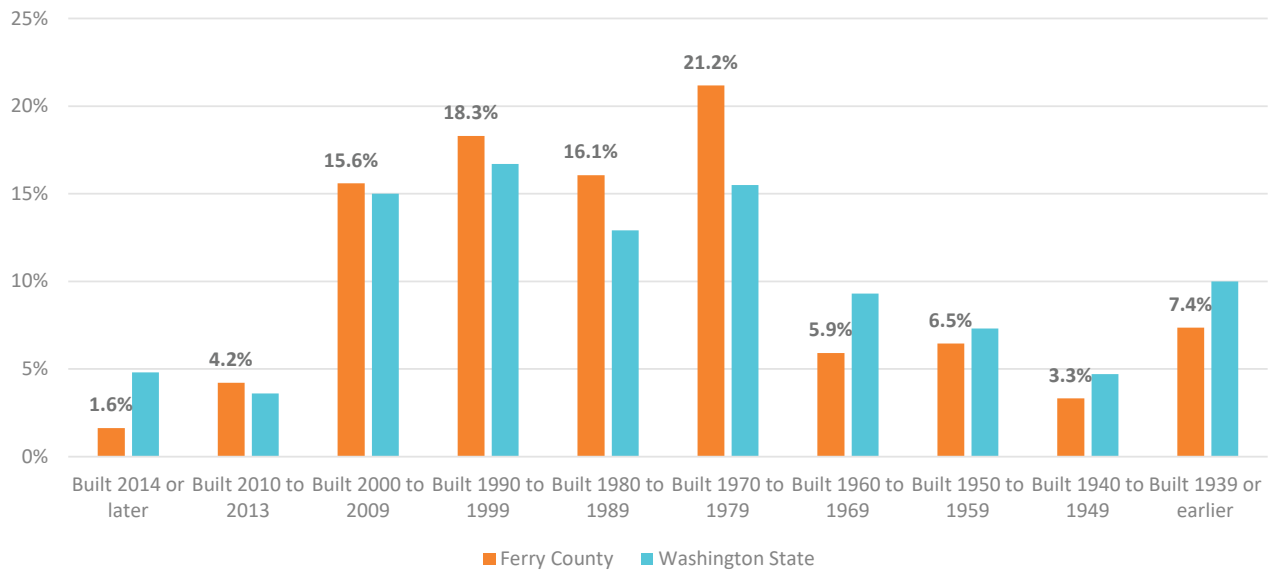
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP04

House Heating Fuel in Occupied Housing, 2016-2020

	Ferry County		WA State
Total occupied housing units	3,175	100%	100%
Utility gas	36	1.1%	34.2%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	191	6.0%	3.1%
Electricity	1,077	33.9%	56.2%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	23	0.7%	1.7%
Coal or coke	0	0.0%	0.0%
Wood	1,788	56.3%	3.9%
Solar energy	0	0.0%	0.1%
Other fuel	32	1.0%	0.5%
No fuel used	28	0.9%	0.5%

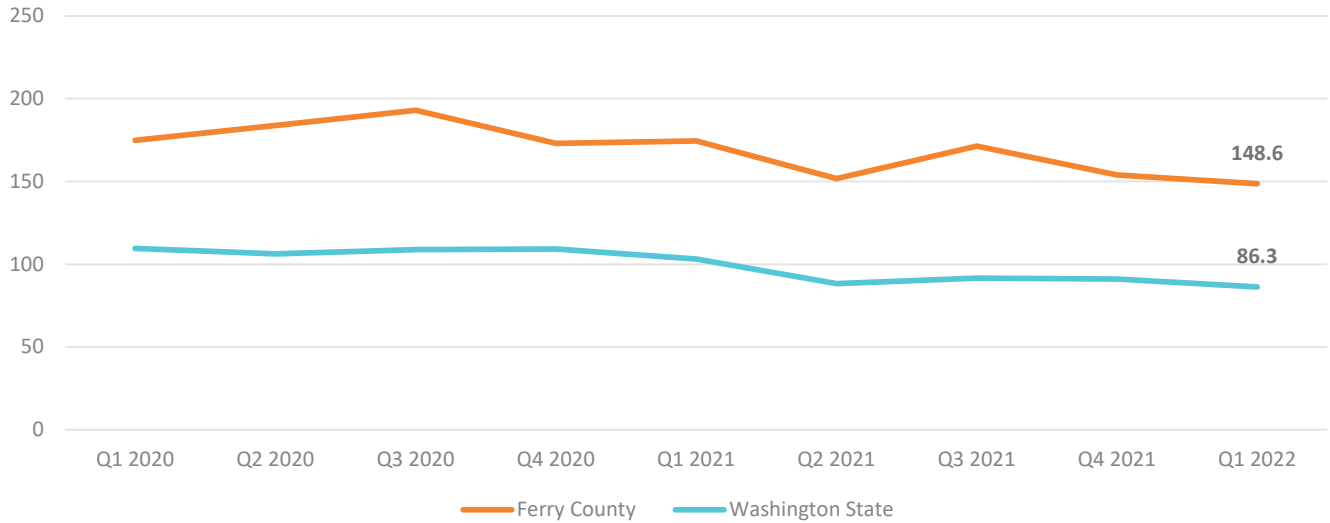
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table S2403

Age of Housing Stock



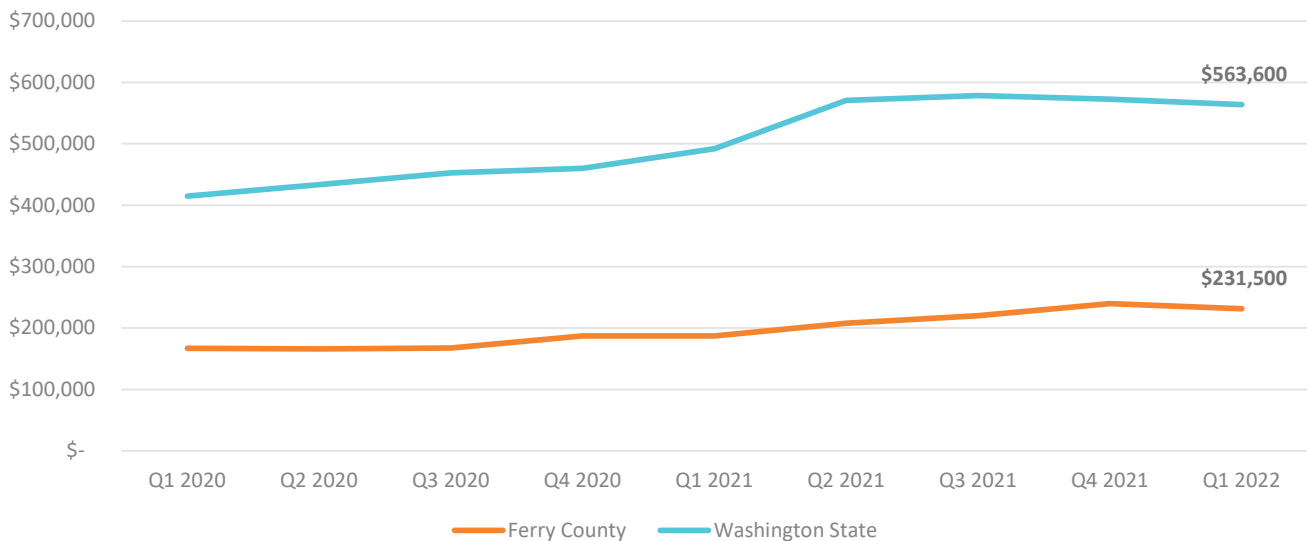
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP04

Housing Affordability Index



Source: Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2022 Q1

Median Home Prices



Source: Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2022 Q1

Endnotes

1. Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management – Estimates of April 1, 2021 Population Density and Land Area by County
2. Source: Washington State Employment Security Department: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, accessed August 10, 2022.
3. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016-2020. Table DP04
4. Source: Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington. 2022 Q1



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Photo Credits

*Cover: Kettle River (Ferry County, Wash.) | [iStock.com/Murphy_Shewchuk](https://www.iStock.com/Murphy_Shewchuk)
The Kettle River is a 281-kilometre-long tributary of the Columbia River.*

Page 2: Orin Blomberg

Page 8: Encanto Family on Stoop | Kaizer Rangwala

Page 9: Ransom Quixote Village | Community Frameworks

*Back Cover: Kettle River from Railway Trestle (Ferry County, Wash.) | [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kettle_River)
Looking up the Kettle River during July in low water from the old KVR Railway Bridge about 5 km upstream from the town of Rock Creek.*

