



# What is a CHA?

## A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)

gathers information about a defined community to understand important health needs, uncover public health gaps, and highlight existing strengths and community assets.

“In our community, I have observed remarkable generosity in terms of time, talent, and resources dedicated to helping others. Numerous local organizations and committees work tirelessly on fundraising and outreach initiatives to support those in need. This demonstrates a profound generosity of spirit within our community.”

*Celine Servatius, MPH,  
Island County Resident*



## Social Drivers of Well-Being

### Key Health Needs Identified

The community survey, focus groups, and interviews revealed 4 key health concerns:



**Mental Health Care  
Service Availability  
Health Care**



**Housing Access and  
Affordability**



**Health Care Access and  
Availability**



**Senior Health  
and Supports**

### What You Said About Living in Island County

We asked you to share what you think are the greatest assets, strengths, and values in Island County. Interview data showed these as the top three assets and strengths.



**Philanthropy  
or Charity**



**Sense of  
Community**



**Natural  
Environment**



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# What is a CHIP?

## A COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

is a strategic roadmap to improve health outcomes and quality of life for all residents over the next 3–5 years. It addresses key issues identified in the CHA and other priority issues.

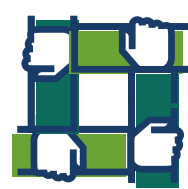
## Benefits of a CHIP



**Community-driven**  
Based on local input and data



**Equity-focused**  
Addresses gaps in health access and care

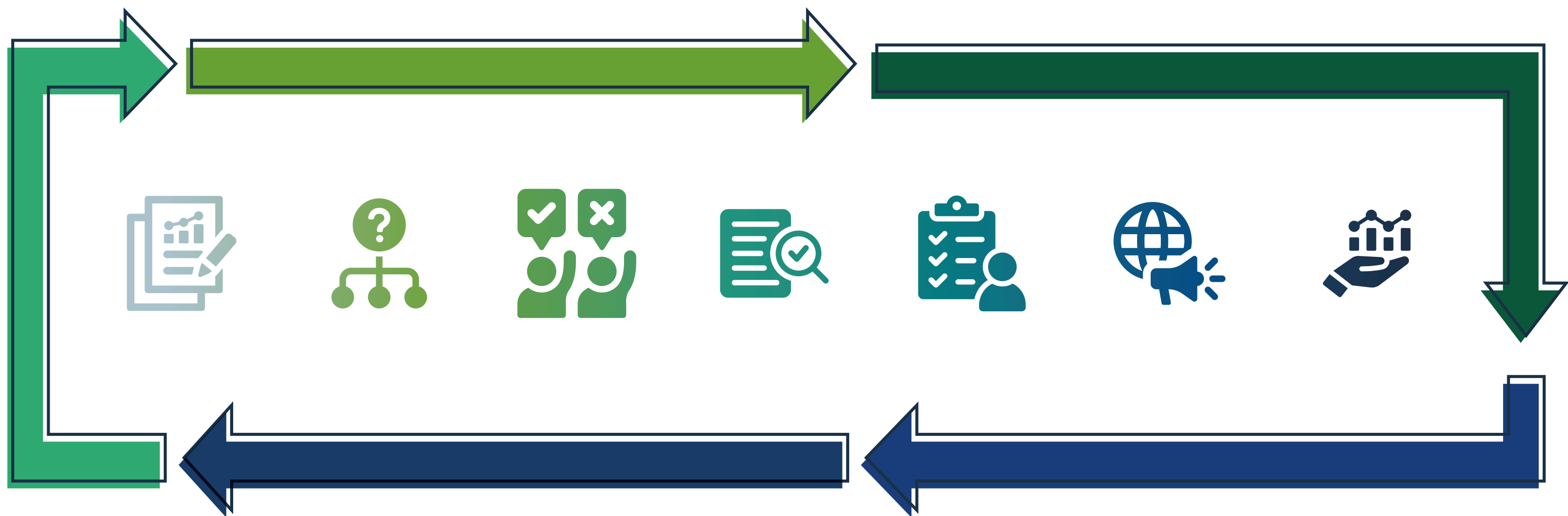


**Collaborative**  
Aims to grow relationships across all sectors



**Action-oriented**  
Builds upon your Community Health Assessment

## CHIP LIFECYCLE



- 1. Assess Community Health Needs**  
conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- 2. PRIORITIZE**  
our CHIP focus areas
- 3. ENGAGE**  
community agencies, organizations, and groups who align with our priorities
- 4. SHARE**  
what we learned and what we plan to do through community engagement

- 5. REPORT**  
our plan and highlight work in progress with a summary and annual community data snapshot
- 6. REVIEW**  
and adjust as we assess data and our progress
- 7. PLAN**  
our next Community Health Assessment (CHA)



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## Housing Septic & Modernization Support

## Health Care Access & Links to Care

## Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

## Mental Health Links to Care






























# PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

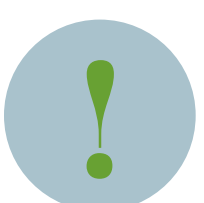
*The following matrix was co-developed through internal leadership meetings, community partner workshops, Board of Health input, and Community Health Advisory Board collaboration*

### *How did we choose these priorities?*

We looked at two things:

## 1. What the community said matters most | 2. Where Island County Public Health can make the biggest impact

	What is the organizational capacity to support this need directly?	Is there existing infrastructure in place to support this need?	Are there established relationships or partners to support or address this need?	Is there ongoing investment (\$ or otherwise) in place or available to support this need?	Was this previously a CHIP focus area (if applicable)?	Was this a priority from previous CHA? (if applicable)
 <b>Housing Access and Affordability</b> (Housing Septic & Modernization Support)	Public Health: Septic infrastructure support  Human Services: Housing assistance and affordable housing 					
 <b>Health Care Access and Availability</b> (Health Care Access & Links to Care)	Public Health, Human Services: Care coordination and linkages 					
 <b>Senior Health and Supports</b> (Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place)	Public Health: Partner collaboration and resource sharing for senior health 					
 <b>Mental Health Care Service Availability</b> (Mental Health Links to Care)	Public Health  Human Services 					



We chose these priorities by listening to what the community needs and looking at where we can help the most. Some issues—like childcare and mental health services—are important but better handled by partner organizations. We'll support their work while focusing our resources on areas where we can make the biggest direct impact.



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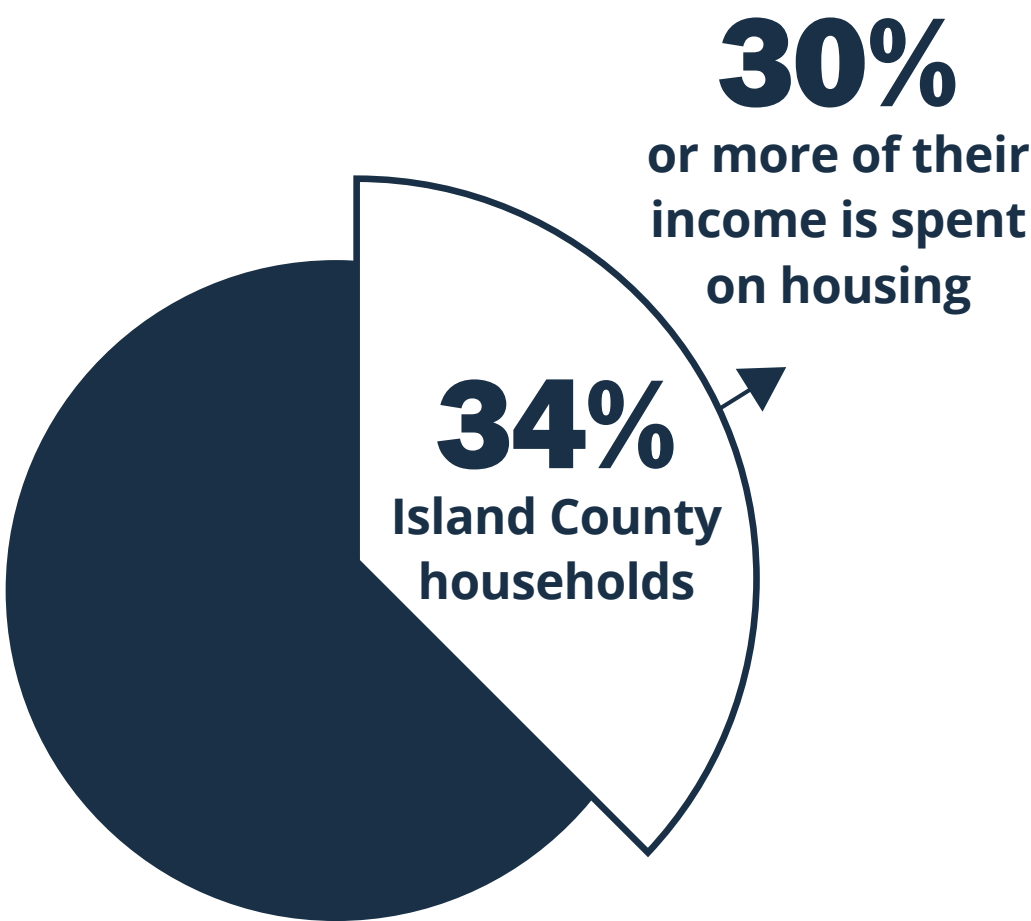
# Our Key PRIORITIES

## Housing Septic & Modernization Support

**This includes:** Supporting septic repairs and home improvements that keep housing safe, healthy, and accessible.

What we know about housing:

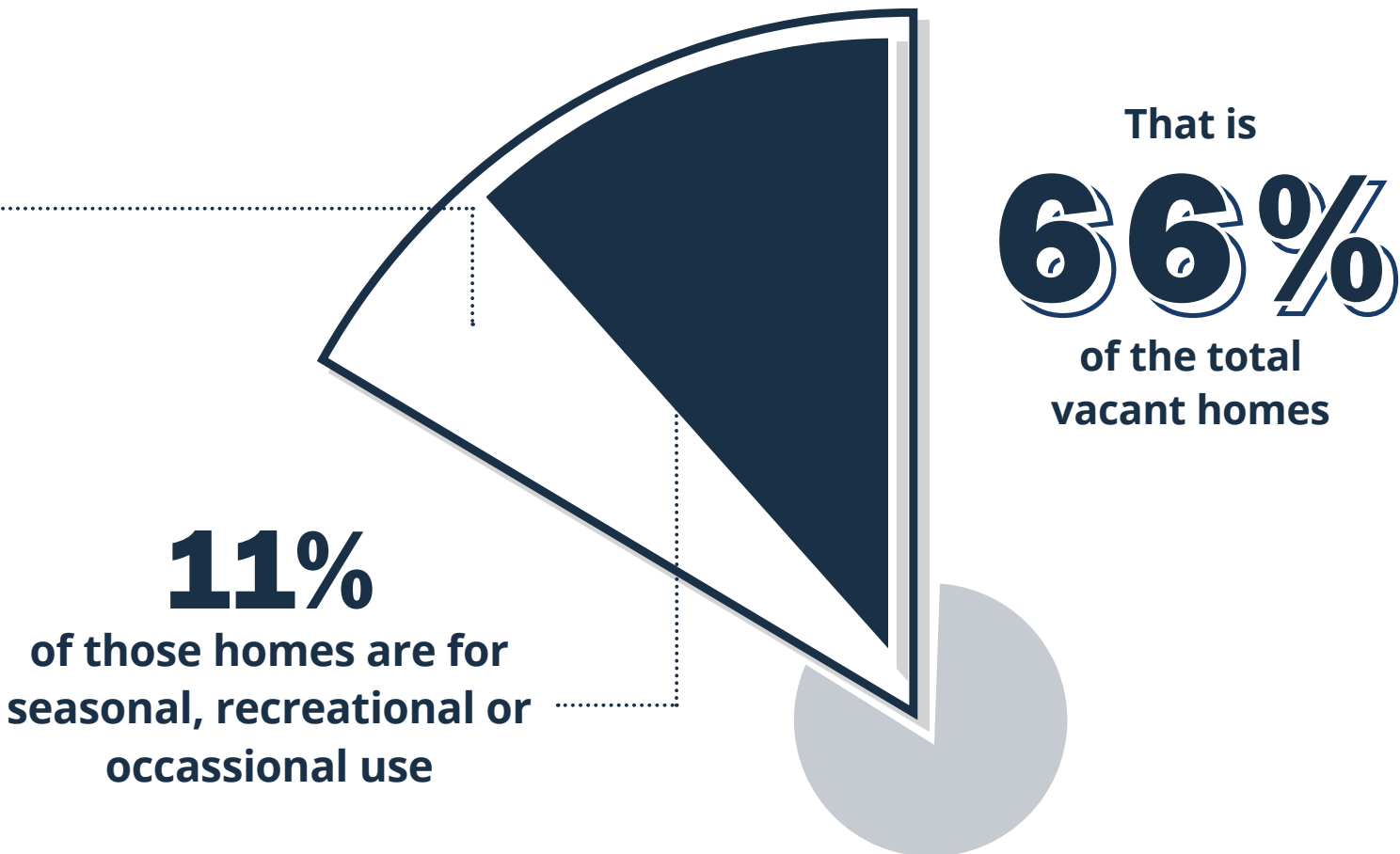
**\$621,000**  
2024 MEDIAN HOME PRICE



**131**  
**UNHOUSED** individuals in Island County.

**319**  
Water Availability **VERIFICATIONS** (WAVs) for wells issued in 2024

**16%**  
of all homes in Island County are vacant



**689**  
**PERMITS ISSUED** through the Liquid Waste Onsite Septic Team in 2024

**123**  
**LIQUID WASTE LICENSES** were issued to vendors to support Island County residents

Sources: Island County Public Health Data, 2025 | WA Center for Real Estate Research, 2024 | WA Department of Commerce, Point in Time Count, 2023 | US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2023

## Health Care Access & Links to Care

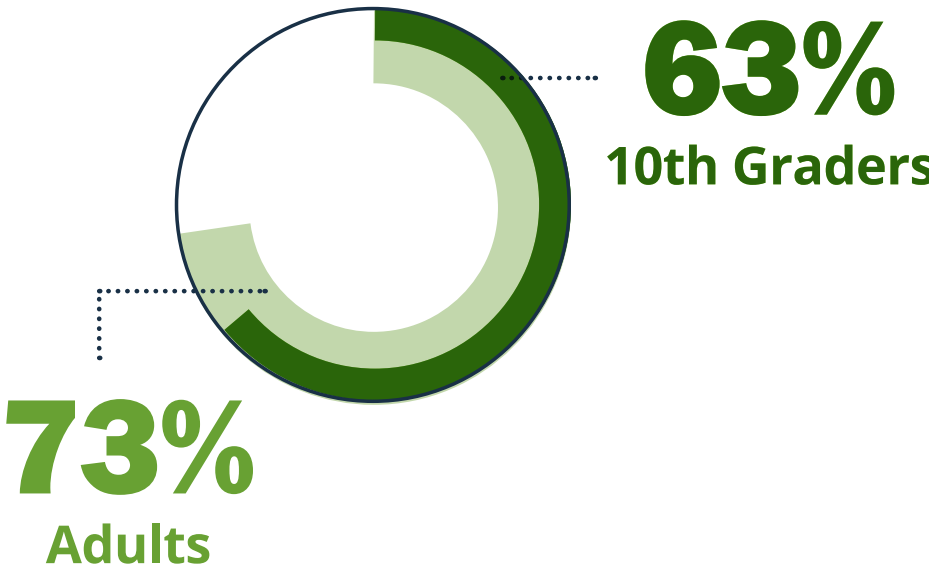
**This includes:** Connecting people to health care providers and services when they need them, where they need them.

What we know about health care:

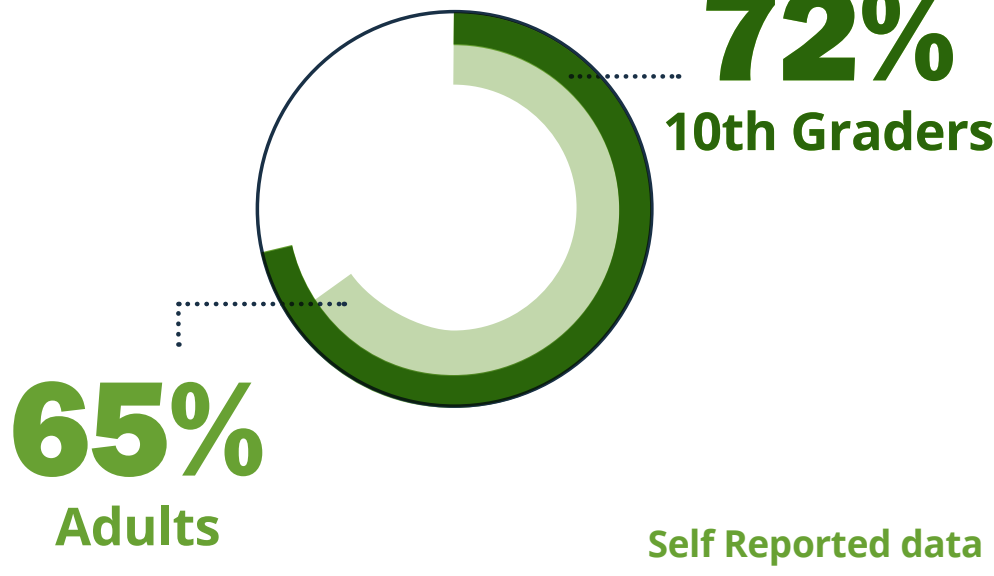
### HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS

	Island County
Adults with a personal doctor or health care provider	81%
Percentage of population eligible for Medicaid coverage	17%
Percentage of adults who did not see a health care provider because of cost	8%
Adults (19-64 years) without health insurance	8%
Children and youth ( $\leq 19$ years) without health insurance	2%
Older adults (65+ years) without health insurance	0%

### ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UPS



### ANNUAL DENTAL CHECK-UPS



### HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RATIOS

	Island County
Primary Care Providers	1:2280
Dentists	1:1230

**17%**  
Island County are Medicaid eligible

**7.5%**  
do not have any insurance

Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2012-2022 | County Health Rankings, 2022 | Healthy Youth Survey, 2023 | US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2018-2022



“No sé si es igual en toda la isla, pero si yo necesito una cita en la clínica me la van a dar en dos o tres meses. Entonces esos walk in clinics que pusieron, pues sí nos han servido mucho. Especialmente si de repente necesito llevar a un niño, nos pueden atender más pronto.”

Grupo de enfoque, Coupeville

“I don’t know if it’s the same all over the island, but if I need an appointment at the clinic, they’ll give it to me in two or three months. So those walk-in clinics they set up have really helped us a lot. Especially if I suddenly need to take a child, they can see us sooner.”

Coupeville Focus Group



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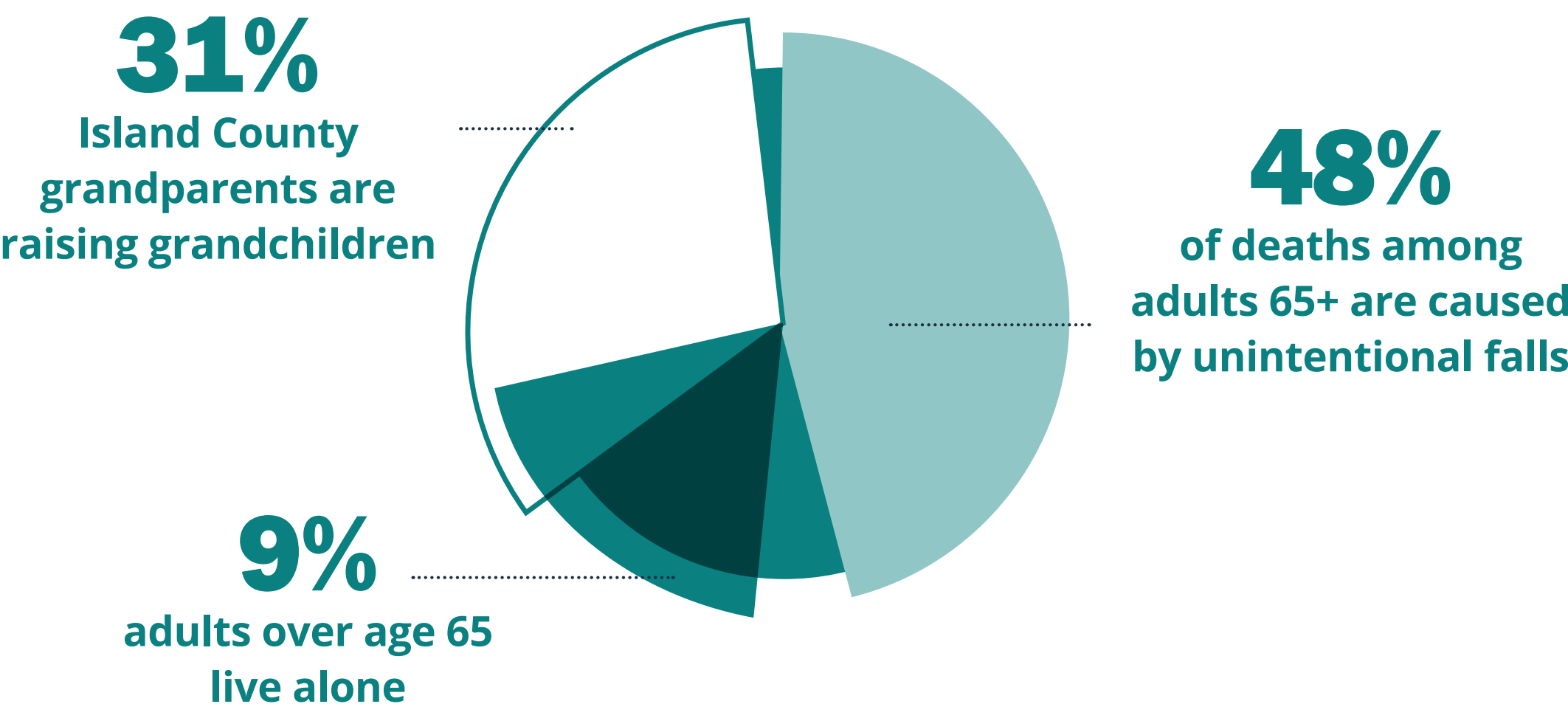
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Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

**This includes:**  
Supporting older adults to stay healthy, connected, and independent in their homes and communities for as long as possible.  
  
What we know about senior wellness & aging-in-place:



“I think for the older population having access to support like caregivers [is a need]. We hear about it a lot because it's hard to find people to come help in your home. For some it's just too expensive. But for others it's just literally hard to find somebody who's available to help with either caregiving, or mowing your lawn, or helping with home repairs.”  
  
*Karen Conway, Program Director, Camano Center*

Sources: US Census Data Form DP02 (American Community Survey 5-year estimates) | Washington Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2024

Mental Health Links to Care

**This includes:**  
Helping residents find and access mental health support when they need it, including crisis services and ongoing care.

What we know about mental health care:

“Mental health support, just like everywhere, [there] is a lack of available resources or knowing how to navigate those resources. If kids are not old enough [it's] getting the adults to go advocate for those resources. It's very tricky.”  
  
*Doug Standish, Teen Director, Community Resource Center of Stanwood-Camano*

Sources: Community Health Assessment Tool, 2021 | County Health Rankings, 2022  
| WA Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 5-year estimates, 2021  
| WA Health Care Authority, 2022

MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RATIOS STATUS

	Island County
Primary Care Providers	1:320

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DATA

	Island County
Rate of non-fatal self-inflicted injuries, per 100,000 population (age-adjusted)	32
Rate of hospitalizations due to mental illness, per 1,000 population (age-adjusted)	0.6

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DATA

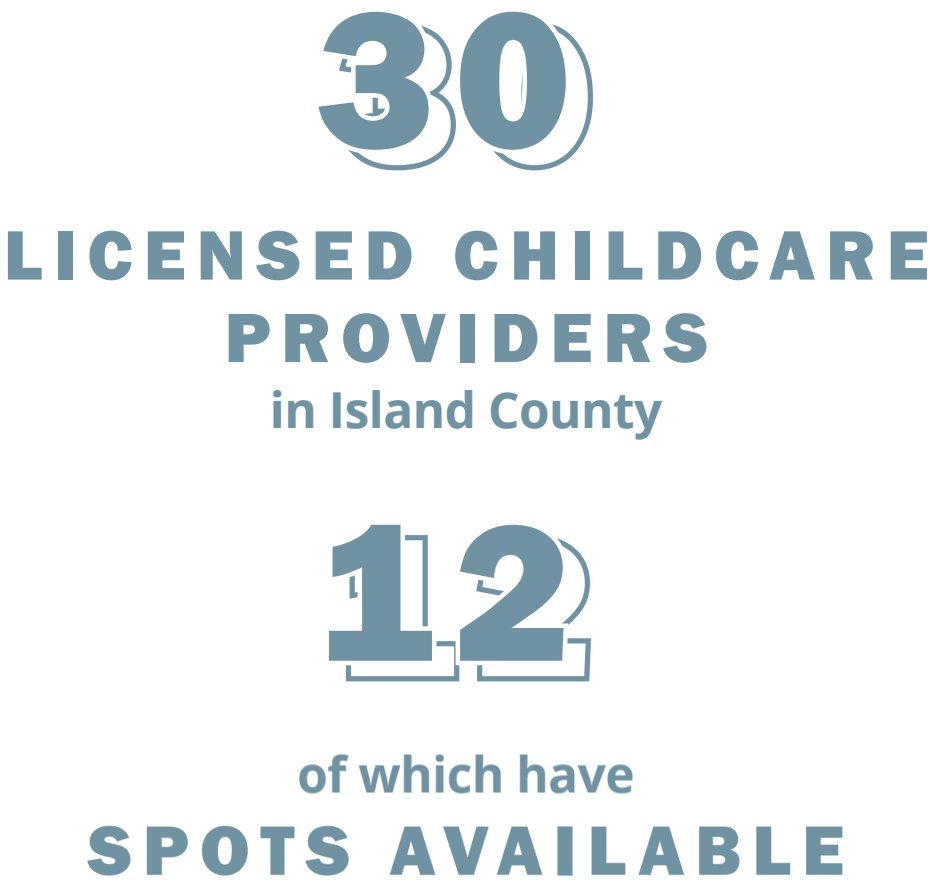
	Island County
Percentage of adults ever diagnosed with depression	25%
Percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries aged 18+ who were treated with antidepressant medication, had a diagnosis of major depression, and who remained on an antidepressant medication treatment (acute treatment)	70%

“Aquí no hay consejeros que hablan español.” Grupo de enfoque, Oak Harbor

“Here there are no counselors who speak Spanish.” Oak Harbor Focus Group

Childcare Access

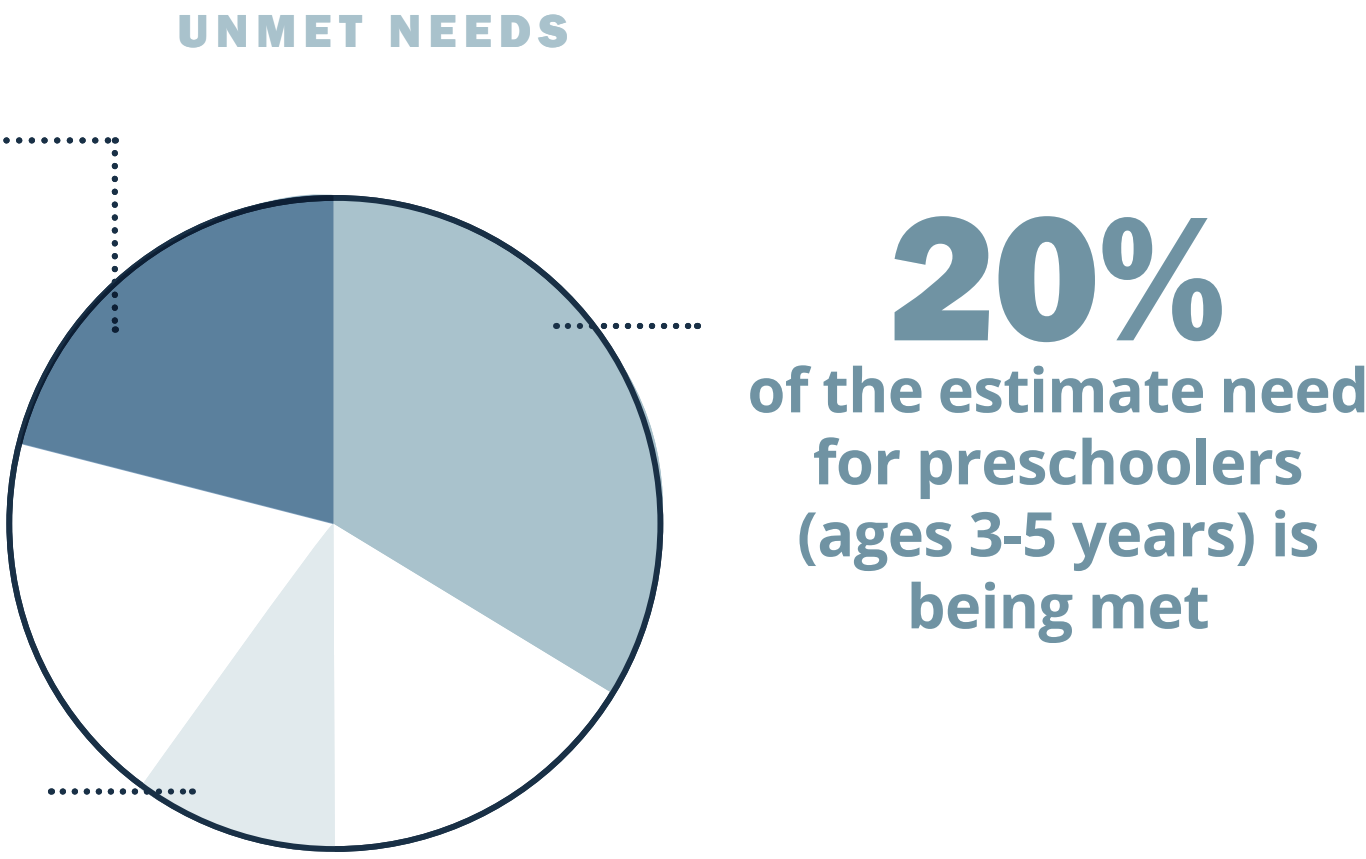
We know this is a huge priority for the community, so we want to mention it here. Community partners are leading initiatives to support childcare capacity in Island County. Public Health and Human Services are working with community partners whenever possible.



Sources: Childcare Aware of WA, 2023 | Dept. Of Children, Youth & Families, 2024

12% of the estimated need for toddlers (ages 12-29 months) is being met


4% of the estimated need for infant (ages 0-11 months) care is being met



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# What We're ALREADY DOING

Below are programs and initiatives that we are either planning to do, or already doing, to address our key priorities. Reach out to learn more about this work!




### Housing Septic & Modernization Support

- Human Services-led housing development and housing assistance program
- Improving septic and water permitting, and groundwater monitoring for housing development




### Health Care Access & Links to Care

- Thrive Island County Resource Guide
- Island County Wellness Wagon (Outreach Van)
- Partners: WhidbeyHealth expansion of primary care services with Rural Health Clinics



### Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

- Falls Prevention Coalition and Community Classes on balance and falls prevention
- Partners: The Center (run by the City of Oak Harbor), WhidbeyHealth, Island Senior Resources (ISR) & Camano Center Services and Programs



### Mental Health Links to Care

- Improving access to care through integrated navigation systems and shared referral systems
- Human Services Behavioral Health Outreach & Counseling


# What Comes NEXT?



## This is Your Community Data!

Look for the CHIP report and an annual community data snapshot to be published later this year.

Check out our website and social media for further updates on Community Health Planning for Island County!



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We’ve identified four key health priorities for Island County, and we need your help deciding where to focus our efforts. Your perspective as a community expert will help shape how we address Island County’s most pressing health needs.

Review the four health priorities and use your colored dots to tell us:

- Purple:** What matters most?
- Yellow:** What would make the biggest difference for our community?

- Orange:** What needs attention now?
- Brown:** What is our community ready to tackle?



### Housing Septic & Modernization Support

This includes: Supporting water systems, septic development, and home improvements that keep housing *safe, healthy, and accessible*.



### Health Care Access & Links to Care

This includes: *Connecting people to health care providers and services* when and where they need them.



### Senior Wellness & Aging-in-Place

This includes: Supporting older adults to stay healthy, connected, and independent *in their homes and communities for as long as possible*.



### Mental Health Links to Care

This includes: Helping residents find and access mental health support when they need it, *including crisis services and ongoing care*.



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