

Communities Count History

1993

- Established King County Children and Family Commission's Healthy Communities Project in response to three budget provisos from the King County Council. Purpose was to create a process among members of the public, Commission members, elected officials and County employees to develop a vision of a healthy community for King County's children and families and identify concrete ways of evaluating our progress toward that vision.
- Produced The King County Social and Health Indicator Report, Phase One (King County, excluding Seattle).
- Analyzed content of preliminary evaluation of four early childhood and 18 family support initiatives, feedback from parents, clients of community based services, youth services staff, family support advocates, school district personnel, WIC service participants, and ESL class participants.

1994

- Produced the King County Social and Health Indicator Report, Phase Two (King County including Seattle).
- With support of 24 community co-sponsors, held series of 11 community meetings, attended by 255 persons; 143 people provided written responses. The purpose was to initiate community discussion and prioritization of 16 preliminary benchmarks.
- Produced Envisioning a Healthy Community Benchmark Report. Sponsored forum/training with the Oregon Benchmark Project for County agencies and departments. Electronic voting on 16 preliminary benchmarks.

1995

- Published Healthy Children Youth and Families in King County: Data Summary and Guide to Community Planning.

1996

- Presented information from HCYF report and disseminated it widely throughout County.
- Held conference, Benchmarking: A Foundation for Action, June 14, 1996.
- Produced A Primer for Creating New Measurements of Progress.
- Put data to 16 preliminary benchmarks.

1997

- Planned for methods to obtain citizen input from a representative sample.
- Conducted telephone survey of 1200 King County residents (values survey).

1998

- Produced Values and Indicators Survey: Preliminary Results of Telephone Survey of King County Residents.
- Held focus groups with 12 ethnic communities in King County to solicit input.
- Convened group of 22 experts to advise on strong indicators.
- Held two civic forms and five public meetings to obtain input on draft summaries of valued conditions and indicators

2000

- Released the first Communities Count Report, June 21, 2000.

2001

- Produced the Snoqualmie Valley Communities Count Report.

2002

- Released Communities Count 2002.

2003

- Produced the White Center Communities Count Report.
- The Communities Count Steering Committee sought community guidance to ensure continued relevance and importance of indicators. Key stakeholders met to plan means to stimulate dialogue and community action.
- Community leadership recommended a special focus on early childhood development, school readiness, and housing and homelessness in the 2005 report. Identified new indicators on arts and culture and on the environment.
- Communities Count Steering Committee initiated in-depth qualitative research as a method for data collection to include perspectives and experiences of groups underrepresented in the telephone survey.

2005

- Released the third report, Communities Count 2005, and introduced two new domains—Natural and Built Environment and Arts and Culture. The report also included a special focus on “Affordable Housing and Homelessness” and “Early Childhood Development.”

2007

- Joined new King County indicator partnership B-Sustainable.
- Hired community action coordinator.
- Launched new Communities Count website.