



## Key Findings

**This document summarizes the key findings of Snohomish County Courts 2001, a survey of Snohomish County residents' opinions about community strengths and concerns. Further information about these questions, and other issue-specific questions asked by the assessment, can be found in the full detailed report.**

### **Key Community Assets**

As identified by inventories of community businesses, non-profit organizations, associations, and labor. The number in parentheses is the number of respondents who answered the question affirmatively. These areas of community involvement were from a set list. Respondents also had the option to write in other activities.

#### **Top Areas of Community Involvement — Current**

- Promoting volunteerism (102)
- Promoting good health (95)
- Fostering community networks (85)
- Preparing people for jobs (63)
- Connect neighbors who need help w/ people who help (56)
- Increasing availability of recreation opportunities (51)

#### **Top Areas of Community Involvement — Future Planned or Desired**

- Promoting volunteerism (75)
- Promoting good health (64)
- Fostering community networks (58)
- Building neighborhood trust (44)
- Connect neighbors needing help w/ people who help (43)

### **Community Opinions and Perspectives**

From General Population Telephone Survey and Key Community Leaders Mail Survey. The number in parentheses is the percentage of respondents who identified this category. These answers were gathered through open-ended questions, and then grouped into these broad categories.

#### **Best things about your community (General Population)**

- Friendliness/people get along (38%)
- Accessibility/location/neighborhood (33%)
- Environment – air, water, clean, quiet (29%)
- The area – beauty, geography, mountains, trees (27%)
- Quality/pace of life (21%)
- Safe place to live (13%)
- Recreation/access to parks, family activities (8%)

### **Best things about your community (Community Leaders)**

- Accessibility/location/neighborhood (32%)
- Friendliness/people get along (30%)
- Quality of life/pace/relaxed (29%)
- Geography/beauty/mountains/trees (29%)
- Environment: air, water, quiet, clean (18%)
- Recreation/access to parks (12%)
- Schools/quality (11%)

### **Concerns about your community (General Population)**

- Traffic (20%)
- Development/planning issues (12%)
- Crime/safety (11%)
- Population/growth (9%)
- Social/health issues (7%)
- Schools/education (6%)
- No concerns (8%)
- Don't know (8%)

### **Concerns about your community (Community Leaders)**

- Traffic (24%)
- Social/health concerns (24%)
- Cost of living going up (8%)
- Development/planning (6%)
- Employment/lack of jobs (6%)
- Public transportation (5%)

### **Household concerns in past 12 months (General Population)**

- Enough money to pay bills, keep up, taxes (28%)
- Health problems (mental/physical) (14%)
- Employment/finding a job (12%)
- Housing – getting, keeping, fixing (10%)

### **How to resolve your number one concern (Community Leaders)**

- Better transportation planning (27%)
- Social and health services (24%)
- Child/youth/teen programs (14%)
- Better growth management/planning (11%)
- Bring in more jobs/better jobs (9%)
- Other (19%)

**If you were to choose to focusing effort and support for one population, to improve the quality of life for the community, which population would you choose? (closed set of answers) (Community Leaders)**

- Children, 10-17 years old (32%)
- Low income (23%)
- Children, under 10 years old (14%)
- Elderly (5%)
- A racial/ethnic group, nonspecific (4%)
- People with disabilities (3%)

**How would you rate Snohomish County, overall, as a place to live? (General Population)**

- Excellent (21%)
- Good (63%)
- Fair (14%)
- Poor (2%)

**How would you rate Snohomish County, overall, as a place to live? (Community Leaders)**

- Excellent (36%)
- Good (53%)
- Fair (9%)
- Poor (3%)