The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State 2014

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The Federal Poverty Level has not increased with Median Family Income

**Family of 4, 1963-2013**

- **Median Family Income Current Dollars**
- **Federal Poverty Level**

The Federal Poverty Level does not vary by family composition

The Federal Poverty Level is $23,850 for all 3 of these families

The Federal Poverty Level does not vary by place

Is the cost of living the same in all of these counties?
Income adequacy should measure the market basket of needs.

- Housing
- Food
- Health Care
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Taxes & Tax Credits
The Standard calculates the minimum amount families need to meet basic needs

The Standard is calculated for 152 family types and varies by the number and ages of children.

The Standard varies within state at a county level

One Adult and One Preschooler

Self-Sufficiency Standard 2014
Full-Time Hourly

- $13.23 - $14.93
- $15.11 - $16.29
- $16.64 - $18.33
- $18.61 - $20.60
- $20.90 - $26.68

Seattle and Spokane compared to other US Cities

One Adult, One Preschooler, and One School-age Child

**Wage calculated assuming family uses public transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco, CA**</td>
<td>$36.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>$30.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle, WA**</td>
<td>$28.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, OR**</td>
<td>$28.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, PA**</td>
<td>$26.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL** (South)</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>$25.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, CO**</td>
<td>$25.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>$24.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>$24.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>$23.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane, WA</td>
<td>$22.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>$21.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA**</td>
<td>$20.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOURLY SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE

Median earnings are not keeping up with the cost of living at a basic needs level

**Statewide Average**: Two Adults, One Preschooler, & One School-age Child

- **Median Earnings**:
  - 2001: $27,355
  - 2014: $33,149
  - **21% increase**

- **Self-Sufficiency Standard**:
  - 2001: $37,194
  - 2014: $54,695
  - **46% increase**

The Standard is still increasing faster than earnings as we recover from the Great Recession

**Statewide Average: Two Adults, One Preschooler, & One School-age Child**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
<th>Self-Sufficiency Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$31,885</td>
<td>$49,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$33,149</td>
<td>$54,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*4% increase*

*10% increase*

The Standard is increasing at different rates across Washington State

Two Adults, One Preschooler, and One School-age Child

Child care, health care, and food costs are driving the increase in the Standard

**Statewide Average:** Two Adults, One Preschooler, & One School-age Child

The Standard reveals how inflation is not keeping up with real costs at the basic needs level.

The Standard is higher than other benchmarks but within HUD’s low income level

**Thurston County**: One Adult, One Preschooler, and One School-age Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Income</th>
<th>Self-Sufficiency Wage</th>
<th>Welfare: TANF, SNAP &amp; WIC</th>
<th>Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>Full-Time Minimum Wage (w/Taxes &amp; Tax Credits)</th>
<th>HUD Income Limits: Median Family Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$52,208</td>
<td>$12,195</td>
<td>$19,790</td>
<td>$25,374</td>
<td>$66,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$53,450 = Low Income Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$33,400 = Very Low Income Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only 2 of the State’s top occupations have median wages above the Standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Median Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeping and Auditing Clerks</td>
<td>$18.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Representatives</td>
<td>$17.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Clerks</td>
<td>$14.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and Freight and Material Movers</td>
<td>$13.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiters and Waitresses</td>
<td>$9.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developers, Applications</td>
<td>$54.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>$37.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation and Serving Workers</td>
<td>$9.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashiers</td>
<td>$11.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>$11.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage: 1 Adult, 1 Preschooler, & 1 School-age Child
King County (East)

Work supports can close the gap between wages and what it takes to meet basic needs.

Total Wage Needed to Meet Basic Needs

**Without Work Supports:** $4,148 per month

- Taxes, $591
- Miscellaneous, $323
- Health Care, $410
- Transportation, $266
- Food, $560
- Child Care, $1,224
- Housing, $773
- Tax Credits, $(267)

**With Work Supports:** $1,643 per month

- Taxes, $154
- Miscellaneous, $323
- Transportation, $266
- Food, $350
- Housing, $485
- Child Care, $65

Spokane County, WA 2014
One Adult, One Preschooler, One School-age Child

No Work Supports: Self-Sufficiency Standard

Work Supports: Child Care, SNAP/WIC, Apple Health, Housing
Western urban Washington is twice as expensive but higher proportions of rural eastern households lack adequate income.
Families with children, particularly young children, face large burden of insufficient income.

Washington, 2013 preliminary

- % Below Federal Poverty Level
- % Below the Self-Sufficiency Standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Below Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>Below Self-Sufficiency Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households with No Children</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with one or more child under 6</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Women’s Welfare preliminary analysis of the 2013 U.S. Census American Community Survey
The Standard changes our understanding of who lacks adequate income.

Profile of Families with Inadequate Income: Washington 2013, preliminary

Source: Center for Women’s Welfare preliminary analysis of the 2013 U.S. Census American Community Survey
The Standard changes the picture of income inadequacy

Source: Center for Women’s Welfare analysis of the 2005 and 2007 U.S. Census American Community Survey
The Standard shows a larger impact of the Great Recession on households than the FPL.

Percentage of Households with Inadequate Income

- Federal Poverty Level
- Self-Sufficiency Standard

Source: Center for Women's Welfare analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census, 2007 American Community Center, and preliminary analysis of the 2013 American Community Survey
# The Impact of Reducing Workers’ Incomes to Federal Minimum Wage on Poverty and Income Adequacy Levels: Washington State 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Below Self-Sufficiency Standard</th>
<th>Above Self-Sufficiency Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Below Standard and Below Poverty</td>
<td>Below Standard and Above Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total households (1,737,632)</td>
<td>133,897</td>
<td>189,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum wage workers’ wages reduced to federal minimum wage</td>
<td>153,758</td>
<td>183,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference: Minimum wage workers only</td>
<td>-19,861</td>
<td>5,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum wage and spillover workers’ wages reduced to federal minimum wage</td>
<td>197,865</td>
<td>238,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference: Minimum wage and spillover workers</td>
<td>-63,968</td>
<td>-49,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

69% of customers had wages at 100% or above their specific Standard at exit

Self-Sufficiency at Exit

- Achieved SSS or better
- More than half way to SSS
- Less than half way to SSS
Self-Sufficiency Standard
www.selfsufficiencystandard.org

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