

State Standard Measures Program

In 2010, the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation. In February 2011, the Minnesota Council released a set of performance measures for counties that will aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties in providing services, and measuring residents' opinions of those services.

This document provides summary information on 11 of those performance measures. For additional information, including narratives and analysis on many of these measures, refer to the annual Washington County Performance Measurement Report on the county website: www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures

PUBLIC SAFETY

Part I and Part II Crimes per 1,000 residents

	2018	2019	2020
Part I Crimes	3.7	3.1	4.7
Part II Crimes	11.8	8.8	18.9

Crimes committed by offenders are classified as either Part I or Part II crimes. Part I crimes include homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft (shoplifting, pick-pockets), motor-vehicle theft, and arson. Part II crimes include other assaults, forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing), prostitution, sex offenses, drug abuse violations, gambling, offenses against family and children, driving under the influence, violating liquor laws, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and all other offenses (any offense that does not fit in any category except for driving offenses).

Note: 2019 population estimate was used to calculate 2019 and 2020 crimes per 1,000 residents, as the 2020 population was not available at the time of publication.

On October 1, 2020, the Washington County Sheriff's Office joined law enforcement agencies across the nation in switching from the Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Summary Reporting System (UCR-SRS) to National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Due to the differences in these two reporting standards, it may appear as though Washington County, along with the rest of the nation, is experiencing higher crime levels, when in reality, NIBRS allows for clearer and a more precise reporting mechanism.

The UCR-SRS collected aggregated monthly crime statistics of 10 offense categories, employing what was known as the Hierarchy Rule (when more than one offense occurred within a crime incident, only the most serious offense was the one reported). For example, using the UCR-SRS reporting system, if a homicide occurred during the course of an armed robbery while stealing a motor vehicle, only the homicide would have been reported as it was the most egregious offense in the hierarchy. When reporting the same crime using NIBRS, the agency would count murder, robbery, and motor-vehicle theft. Source: Washington County Sheriff's Office

Percent of adult offenders with new felony conviction within 3 years of discharge

	2018	2019	2020
Percent of adult offenders with a felony conviction within 3 years of discharge	15%	20%	18%

Washington County recidivism rates for 2020 involve probation sentenced offenders with a felony level case discharged in 2016. The 2020 recidivism rate for Washington County probationers was similar to the overall Twin Cities metro-region rate of 19% and to the 17% rate for the state of Minnesota. Source: Washington County Community Corrections

PUBLIC WORKS**Average pavement condition rating**

	2018	2019	2020
Pavement Condition Index (PCI)	73	70	68

Note: The PCI rating monitors the surface quality of the pavement. Washington County's goal is to maintain the overall pavement condition of its roadway system at an average PCI of 72 or greater, with a minimum PCI of 40. In 2020, 12 miles of county roads were under 40 PCI rating. Source: Washington County Public Works and Minnesota Department of Transportation

Average bridge sufficiency rating

	2018	2019	2020
Number of bridges below a rating of 60	0	0	0

Thirty-eight bridges are inspected by Washington County, including culverts, railroad bridges, bridges that carry trails over county roadways, and five owned by townships. The Bridge Replacement and Improvement Management Tool is used to manage the inventory of county-owned bridges and make decisions on maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement. The tool uses a scale of 0 to 100; a rating of 60 or less are eligible for 80% funding with Federal Bridge funds and up to 100% with State Bridge Funds. Source: Washington County Public Works

PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES**Percentage of children in which there is a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months following an intervention**

	2018	2019	2020
Child Maltreatment	3.2%	3.8%	6.2%

Child maltreatment includes physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, mental injury, or maltreatment of a child in a facility. Minnesota's Department of Human Services (DHS) measures repeat maltreatment as the percentage of children in which there is a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months following an intervention. The federal performance standard is 9.1%. *Note: Data for 2020 is for a portion of the year; data for 2019 will be finalized after a full 12 months have elapsed after the occurrence of maltreatment.* Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

PROPERTY RECORDS, VALUATION, ASSESSMENT**Turn-around time for recording, indexing, and returning real estate documents**

	2018	2019	2020
Recording compliance	100%	100%	100%
Timely recording, paper documents	2.76 days	3.90 days	3.81 days
Timely recording, electronic documents	<1 day	1.89 days	1.62 days

To aid and improve commerce in Minnesota, state law compels specific processing requirements and compliance standards for recording of real estate documents, no later than 10 business days for documents submitted in paper form and no later than 5 days electronically after receipt by the county. Source: Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services

ELECTIONS

Accuracy of post-election audit

	2018	2019	2020
Percent of ballots counted correctly based on audit	100%	*	100%

To ensure ballot tabulation equipment is accurately counting votes, Minnesota Statute mandates that a Post-Election Review be conducted after each statewide general election. A county with Washington County’s population selects four precincts by lot at the County Canvassing Board meeting to manually recount the statewide races. Election judges from the chosen municipalities sort the ballots by candidate in each office. The results of each sort are documented and reported to the Office of the Secretary of State. If a difference from Election Day is noted and cannot be explained, it must meet the threshold of less than a 0.5% difference or less than 2 votes in a precinct with fewer than 400 registered voters. Washington County had no unexplained errors. This review demonstrated that the ballot tabulators accurately counted the votes cast on November 3, 2020. Source: Washington County Property Records and Taxpayer Services

**Note: State and county elections are not conducted in odd-numbered years.*

PARKS, LIBRARIES

Number of annual library visits per 1,000 residents

	2018	2019	2020
Number of annual library visits per 1,000 residents	3,520	3,398	1,456

Note: 2019 population estimate was used to calculate 2019 and 2020 population in-person library visits per 1,000 residents, as the 2020 population was not available at the time of publication. Numbers in 2018, 2019, and 2020 do not include Bayport and Stillwater. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries were closed to the public from March 18 to June 28. From June 29 to December 31, libraries were open limited hours and at limited capacity. Source: Washington County Library

BUDGET, FINANCIAL

Bond rating

	2018	2019	2020
Standard and Poor’s Rating Service	AAA	AAA	AAA
Moody’s Investors Services	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa

Note: Washington County holds the highest rating obtainable from both Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services and Moody’s Investor’s Services. Source: Washington County Accounting and Finance

Washington County Performance Measurement Program

Since the mid-1990s, Washington County departments have tracked, reported, and monitored performance measures to support decision-making, and to drive continued improvement in the services provided.

The information that each department gathers is shared with representatives from other departments and the Office of Administration each year, providing an opportunity to review the gathered data, and analyze its meaning. That spurs continuing discussions on how to use the collected data to implement improvements that lead to more efficiency and more effective practices to serve residents of the county.

Washington County’s multi-departmental Performance Measurement and Improvement Team (PerMIT) continues to further institutionalize the use of performance measurement, Lean, and quality improvement throughout the organization with a five-year Quality Improvement Plan.

With this plan, the departments commit themselves to seeking continued improvement in the work that they do, and commit themselves to a quality improvement culture in the county.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycling percentage

	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of recycled waste	48.9%	46.7%	50.8%

Note: The recycling percentage is the total tons of county recyclable materials as a percentage of waste generated and is dependent upon data reported by waste haulers. Washington County continues to make progress towards the state’s 2030 goal of 75% recycling rate for metro counties. Source: Washington County Public Health & Environment SCORE Report

Amount of hazardous household waste and electronics collected

	2018	2019	2020
Household hazardous waste	1,718,994 lbs.	1,930,637 lbs.	1,683,416 lbs.
Electronics waste	1,829,577 lbs.	1,509,028 lbs.	1,208,919 lbs.

Note: The decrease for electronic waste is likely due to products being manufactured at a lighter weight than in the past. Source: Washington County Public Health & Environment

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Performance Measurement and Indicators Report

The annual Performance Measures and Indicators Report reflects Washington County’s continued commitment to high-quality service that meets and exceeds the needs and expectations of Washington County residents. The 2020 Performance Measures and Indicators Report is the county’s 22nd annual report and is expected to be published late summer 2021.

www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures

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