# State of the Family in Washington

The United States Family Belonging Index is 46 percent, with a corresponding Family Rejection Index of 54 percent, based on 2008-2012 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The action of parents determines the Family Belonging or Rejection Index within a nation, region, state, or racial or ethnic group—whether they marry and belong to each other, or whether they reject one another through divorce or other means. Rejection leaves children without married parents committed to one another and to their children.

The Index of Family Belonging is determined by the fraction of children aged 15 to 17 in a given area who live with both their biological parents, who have been married since before or around the time of their birth.
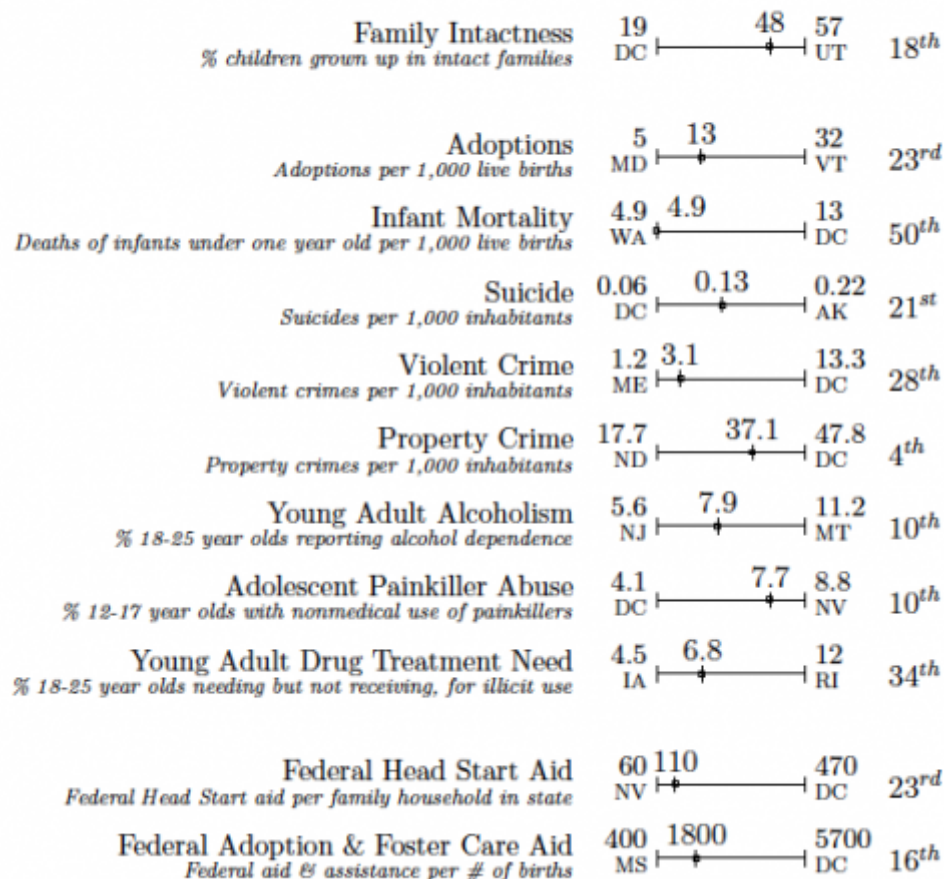
1. Index of Belonging

Washington has a Family Belonging Index of 47.5 percent. In other words, 47.5 percent of Washington teenagers aged 15 to 17 have lived with their always-married parents since their birth, whereas 52.5 percent of these adolescents were raised in a non-intact family. Washington ranks 20th on the state ranking of the Index of Belonging and Rejection.[1]

Index of Family Belonging by State
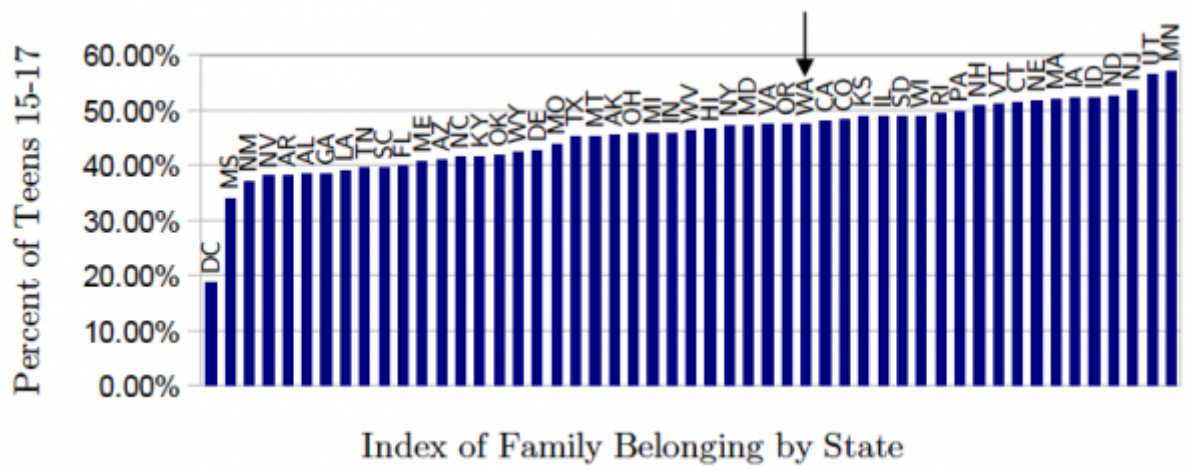
2. Outcomes by Index of Belonging

Significant outcomes: Location between states at the extremes followed by state ranking, for Washington

Outcome			Rank
Family Intactness *% children grown up in intact families*	19 DC	48 — 57 UT	18th
Adoptions *Adoptions per 1,000 live births*	5 MD	13 — 32 VT	23rd
Infant Mortality *Deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births*	4.9 WA	4.9 — 13 DC	50th
Suicide *Suicides per 1,000 inhabitants*	0.06 DC	0.13 — 0.22 AK	21st
Violent Crime *Violent crimes per 1,000 inhabitants*	1.2 ME	3.1 — 13.3 DC	28th
Property Crime *Property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants*	17.7 ND	37.1 — 47.8 DC	4th
Young Adult Alcoholism *% 18-25 year olds reporting alcohol dependence*	5.6 NJ	7.9 — 11.2 MT	10th
Adolescent Painkiller Abuse *% 12-17 year olds with nonmedical use of painkillers*	4.1 DC	7.7 — 8.8 NV	10th
Young Adult Drug Treatment Need *% 18-25 year olds needing but not receiving, for illicit use*	4.5 IA	6.8 — 12 RI	34th
Federal Head Start Aid *Federal Head Start aid per family household in state*	60 110 NV	— 470 DC	23rd
Federal Adoption & Foster Care Aid *Federal aid & assistance per # of births*	400 1800 MS	— 5700 DC	16th

2.1 Youth Outcomes

Youth Outcomes	Washington	Weakest State	Strongest State
Graduation rates (high school)	71.9	51.3 (NV)	89.6 (WI)
NAEP reading scores (eighth grade)	267	251 (MS)*	274 (MA)
Child poverty (percent in)	16%	31% (MS)	11% (NH)
Births to unmarried teenagers (percent of)	6.6%	14.1% (MS)	5.3% (UT)

3. Mapping Washington

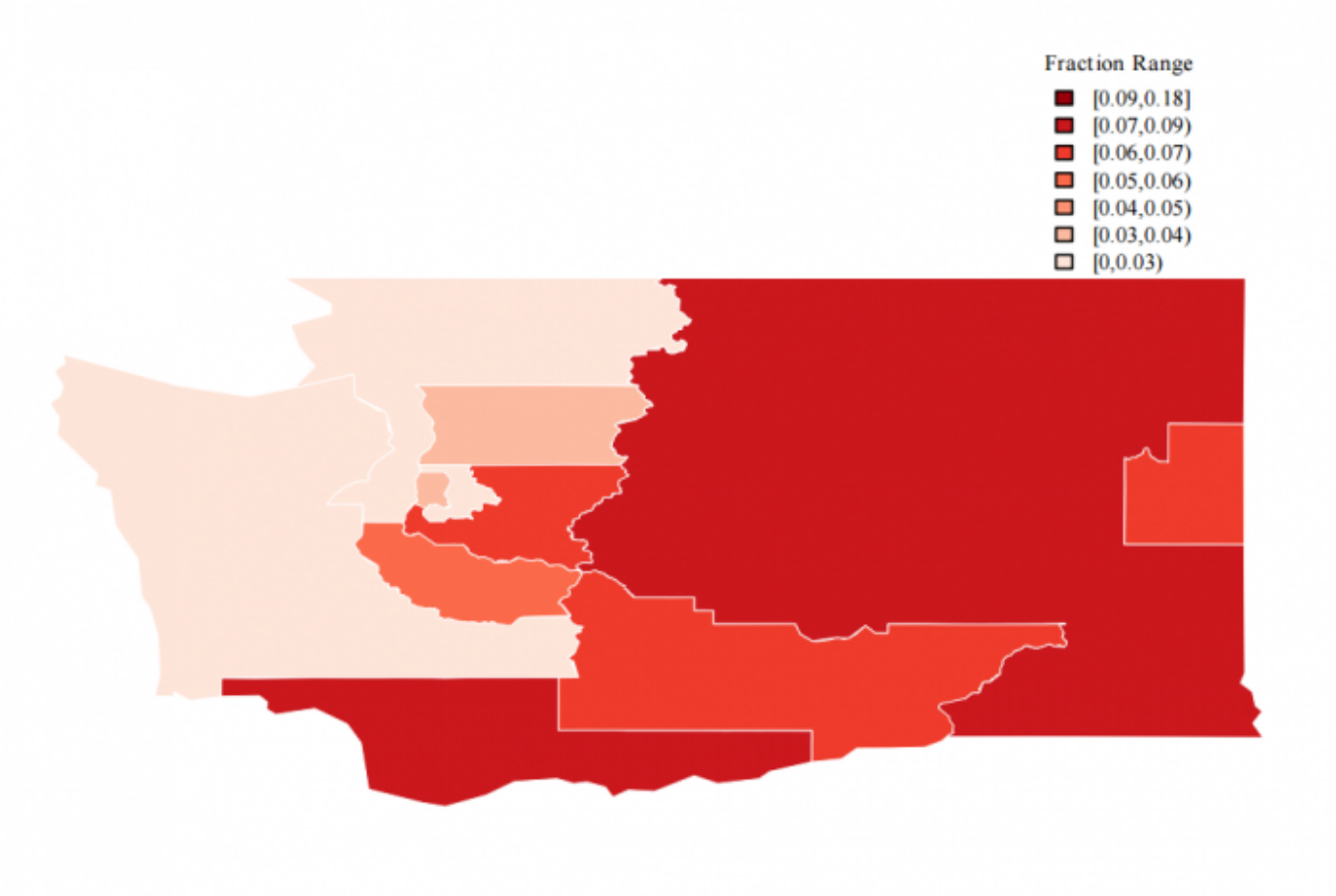*See Effects of Family Structure on Policy Outcomes*

3.1 Family Intactness

Fraction of Families Intact

Fraction Range
- [0.56,0.71]
- [0.5,0.56)
- [0.47,0.5)
- [0.44,0.47)
- [0.4,0.44)
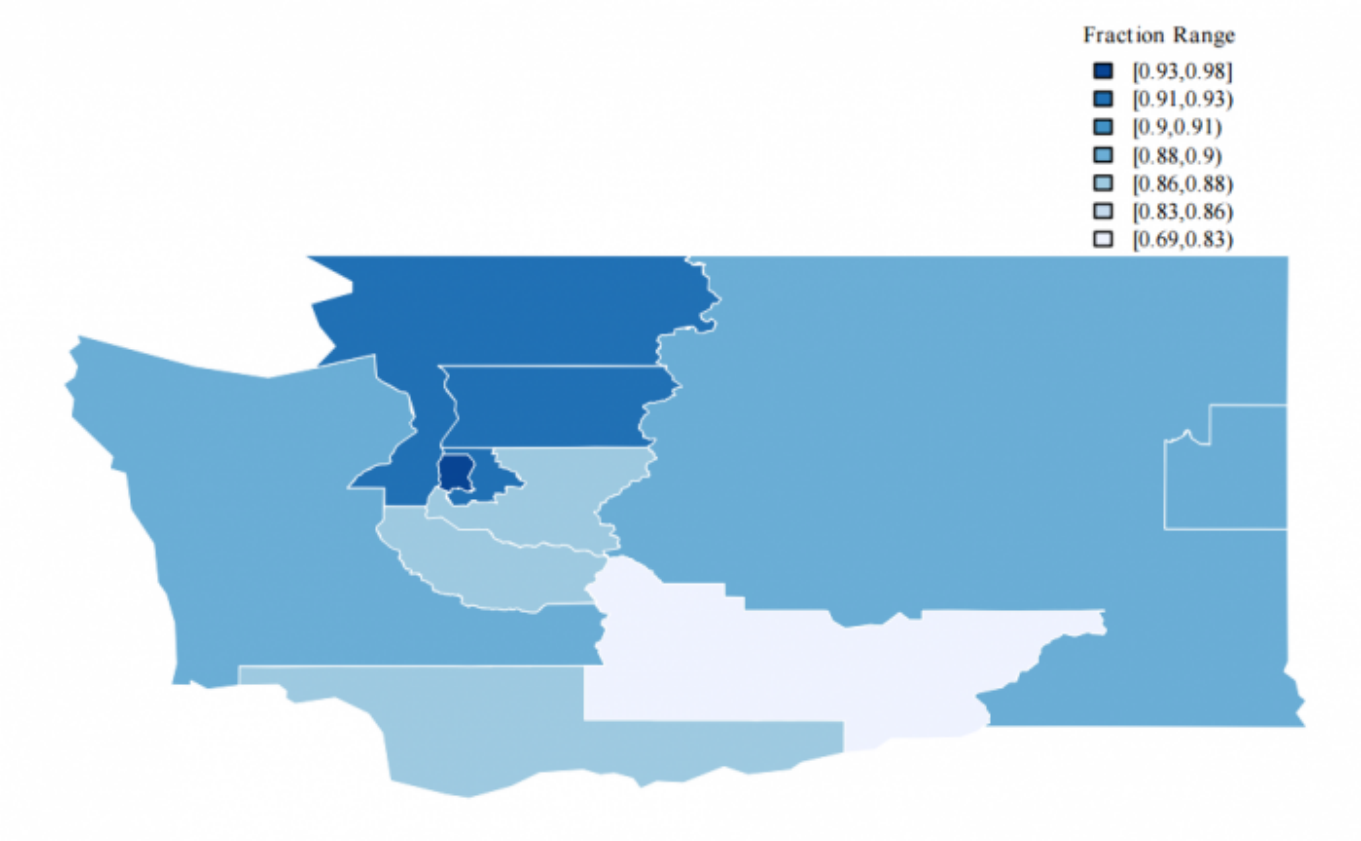- [0.36,0.4)
- [0.15,0.36)

3.2 Teenage Out-of-Wedlock Births

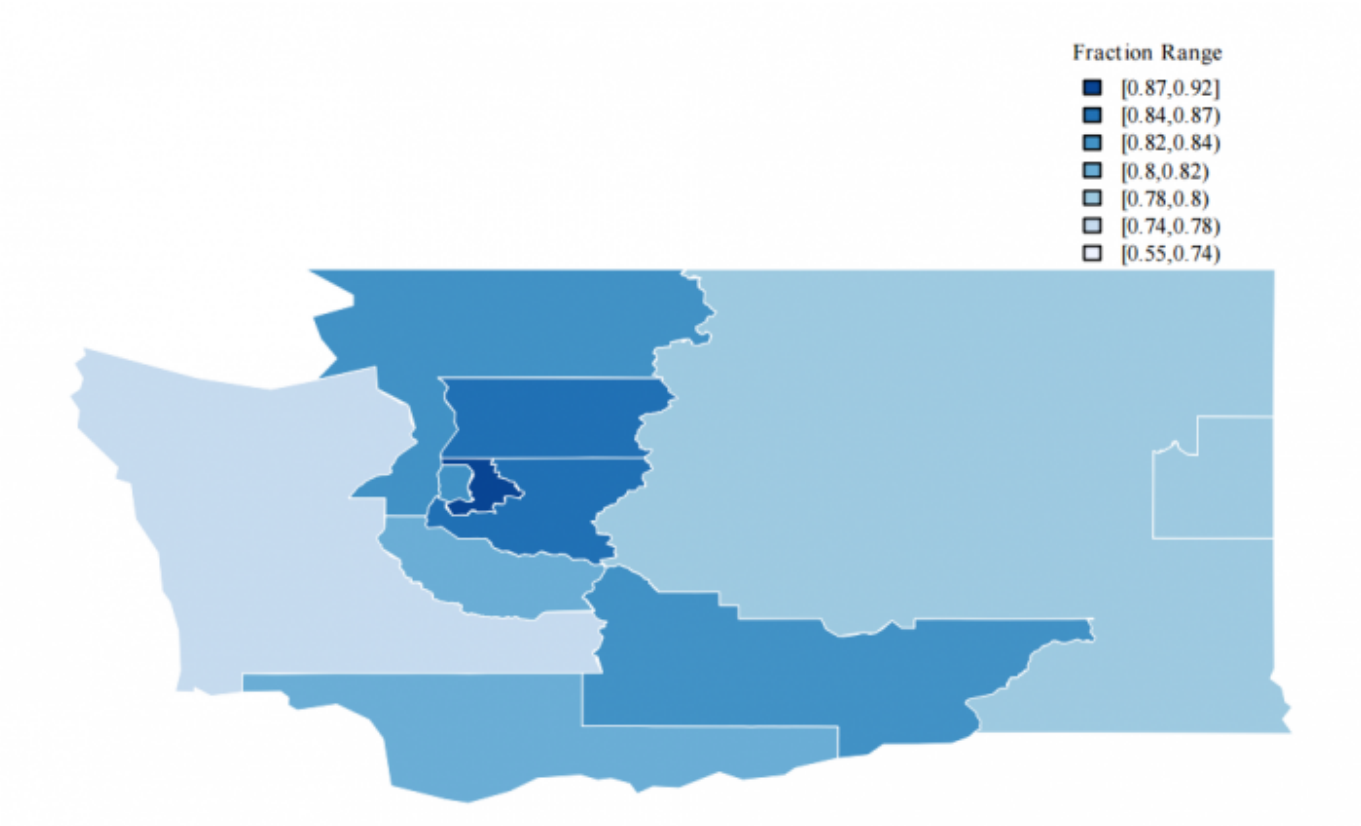**Fraction of teenage out-of-wedlock births** out of all births

3.3 High School Graduates

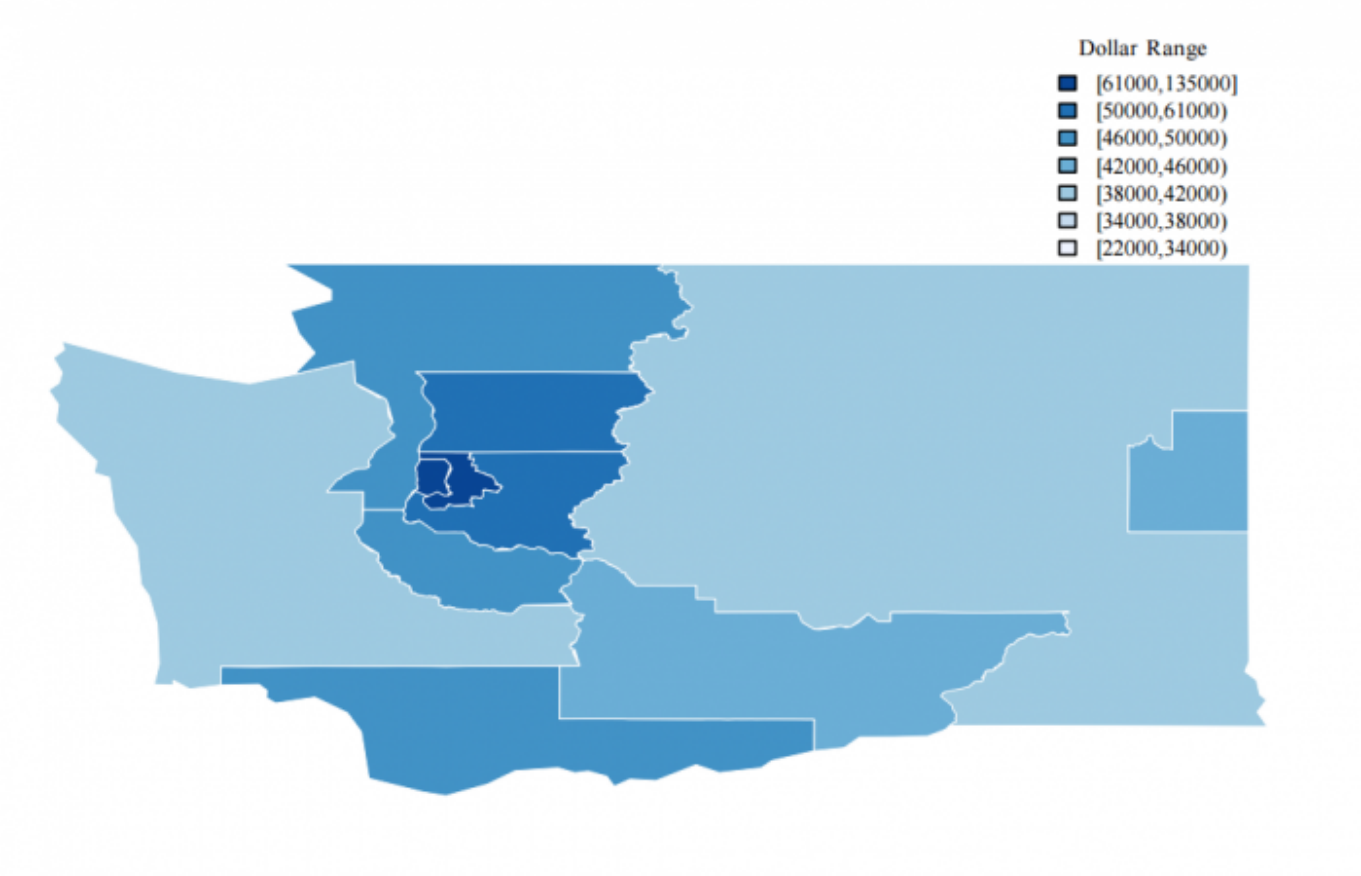**Fraction of 19- to 20-year-olds who are high school graduates**

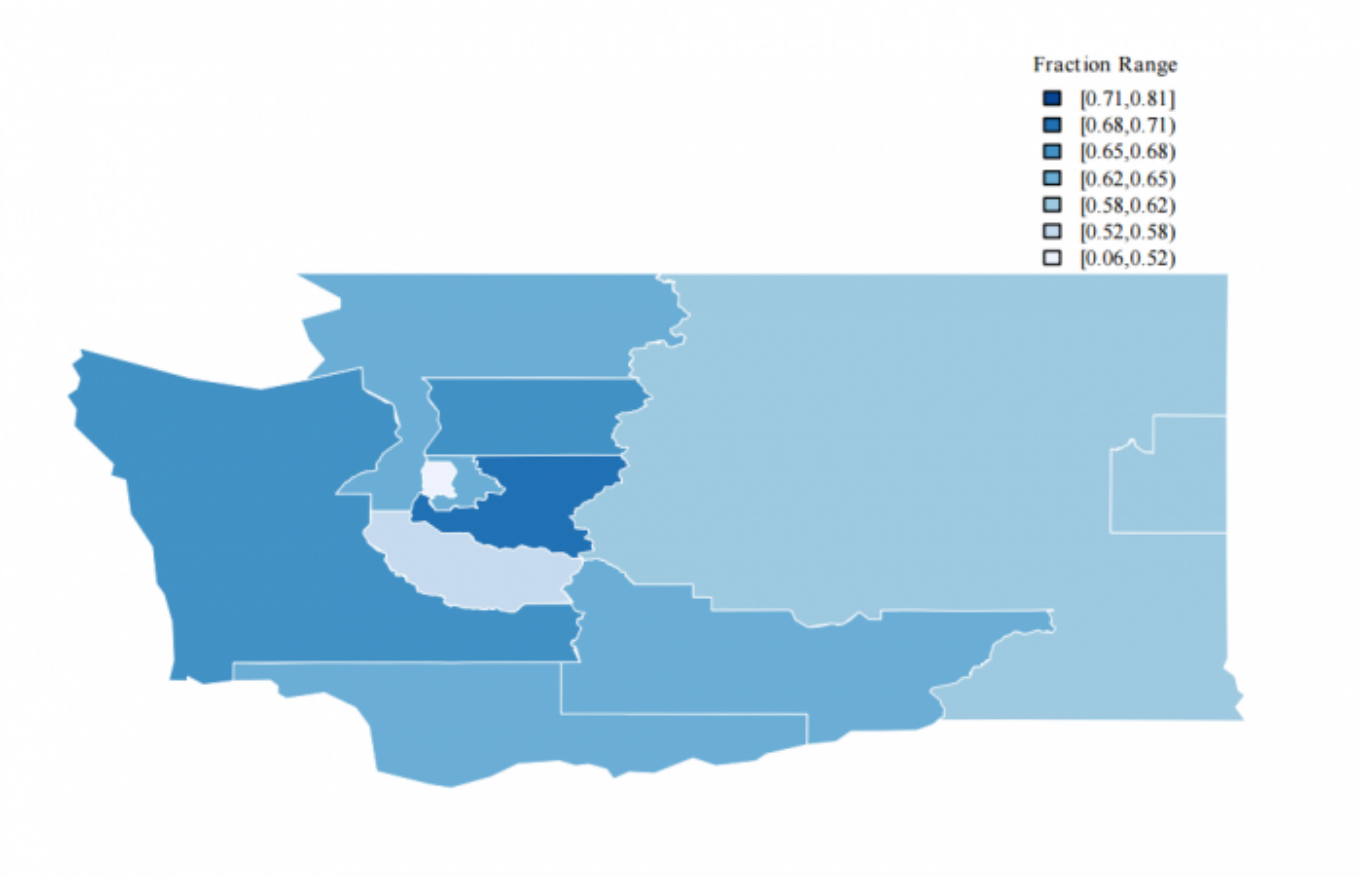## 3.4 Employment

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old men working

3.5 Earnings

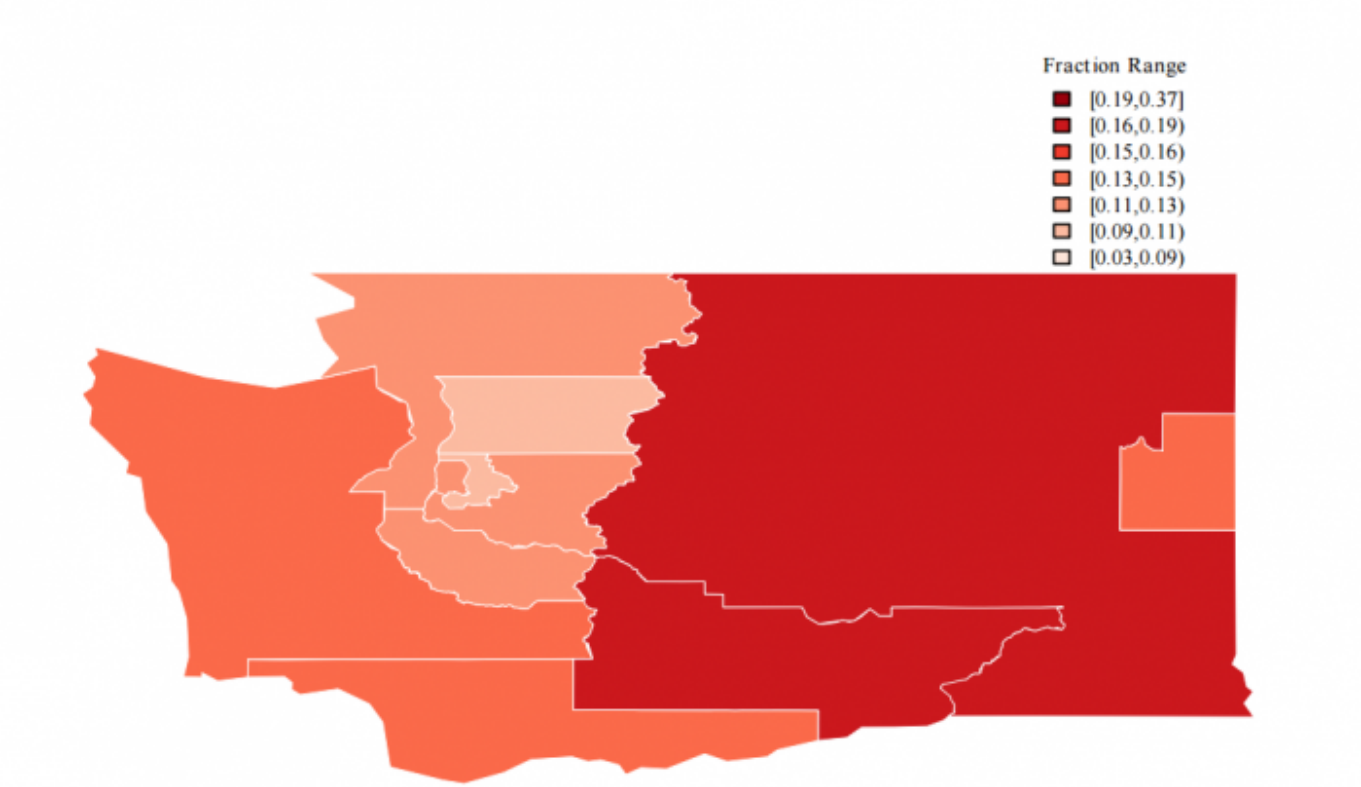### Average earnings per 25- to 54-year-old male

3.6 Homeowners

Fraction of households owning a home

3.7 Poverty

See Effects of Family Structure on Poverty

Fraction of the overall population below poverty

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old females below the poverty line
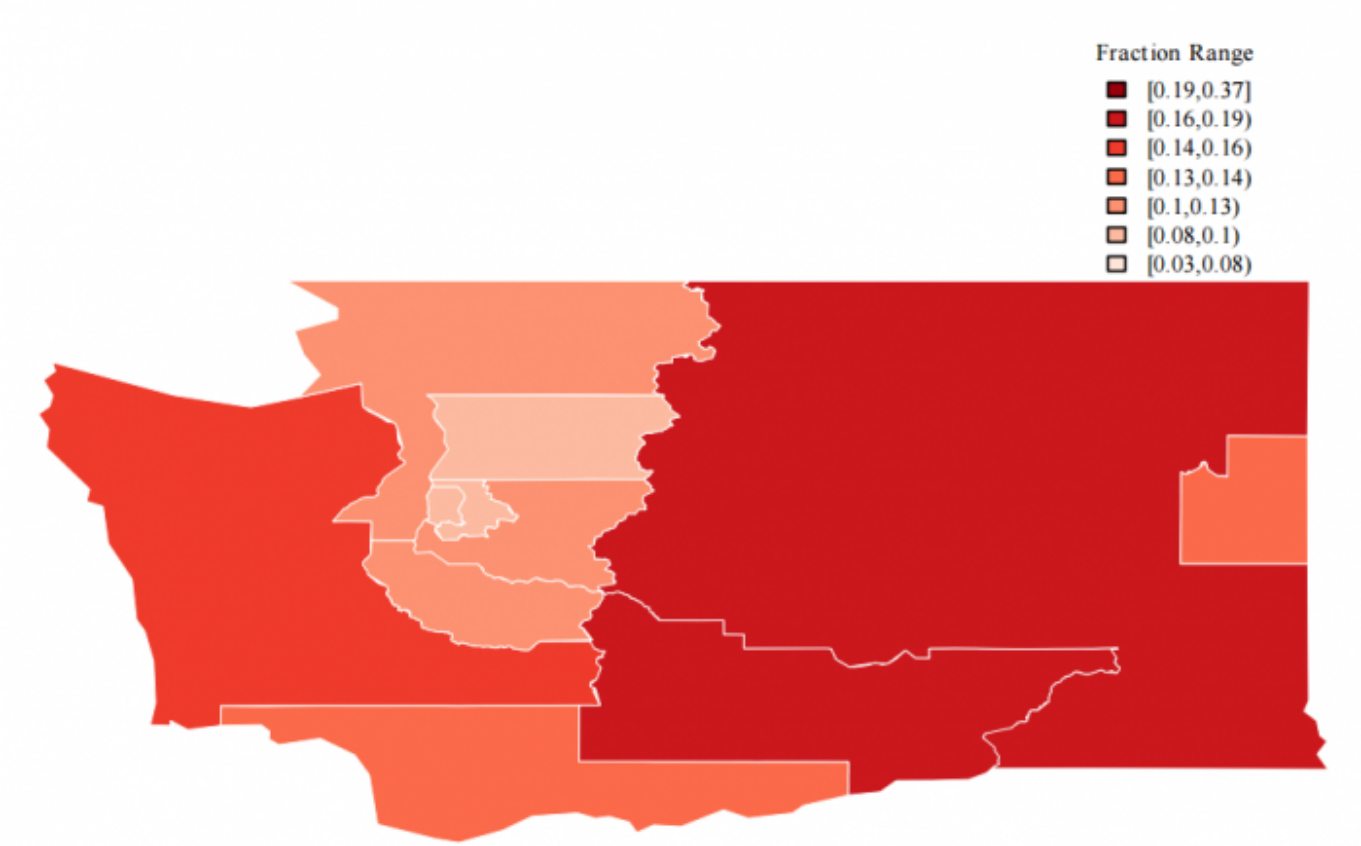
Fraction of minors below the poverty line
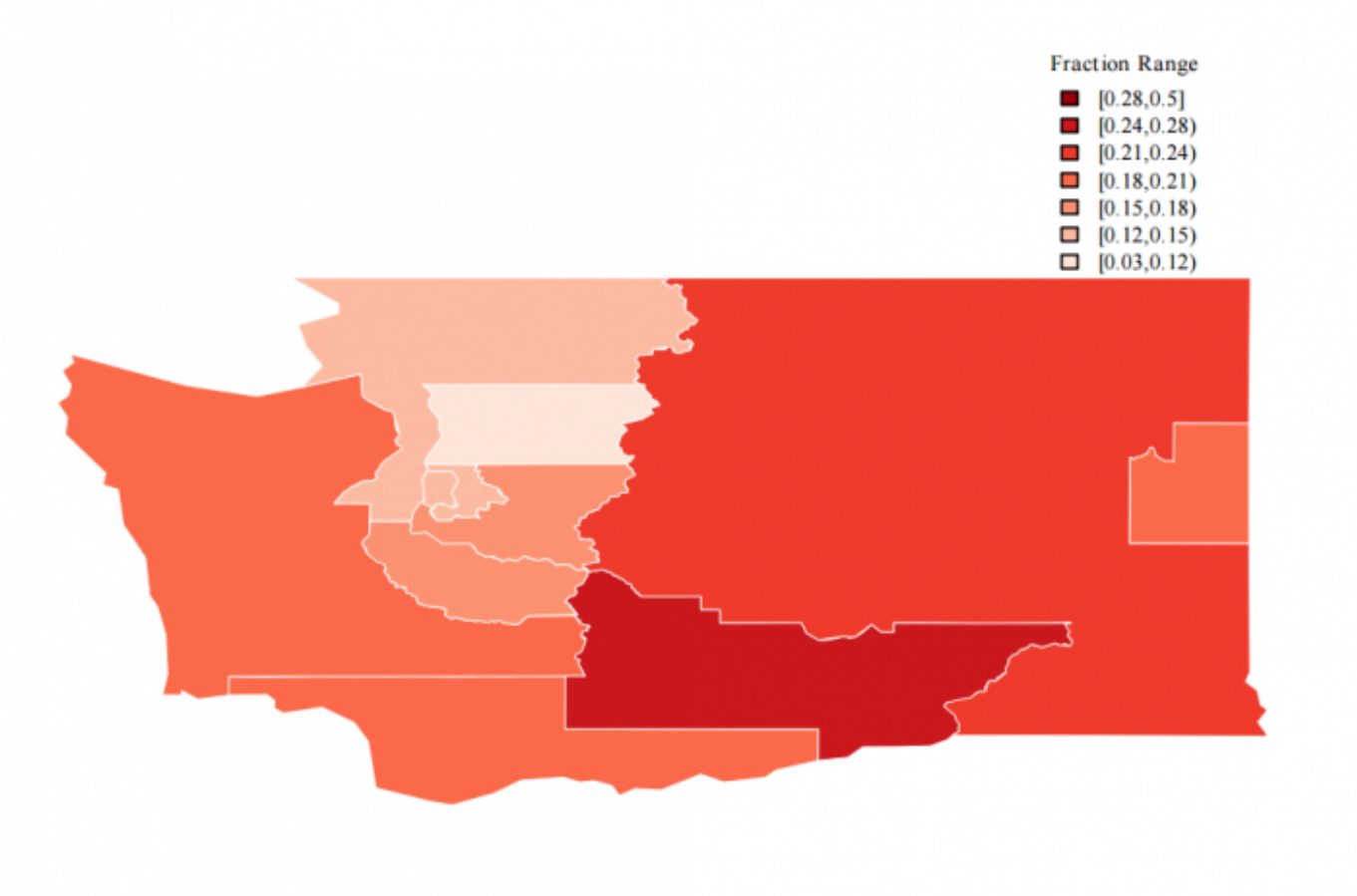
3.8 Government Dependence

See Effects of Family Structure on Government Dependency and *Effects of Welfare on Families*

Fraction of households receiving food stamps

Fraction Range

- [0.15,0.43]
- [0.12,0.15)
- [0.1,0.12)
- [0.09,0.1)
- [0.07,0.09)
- [0.05,0.07)
- [0.01,0.05)
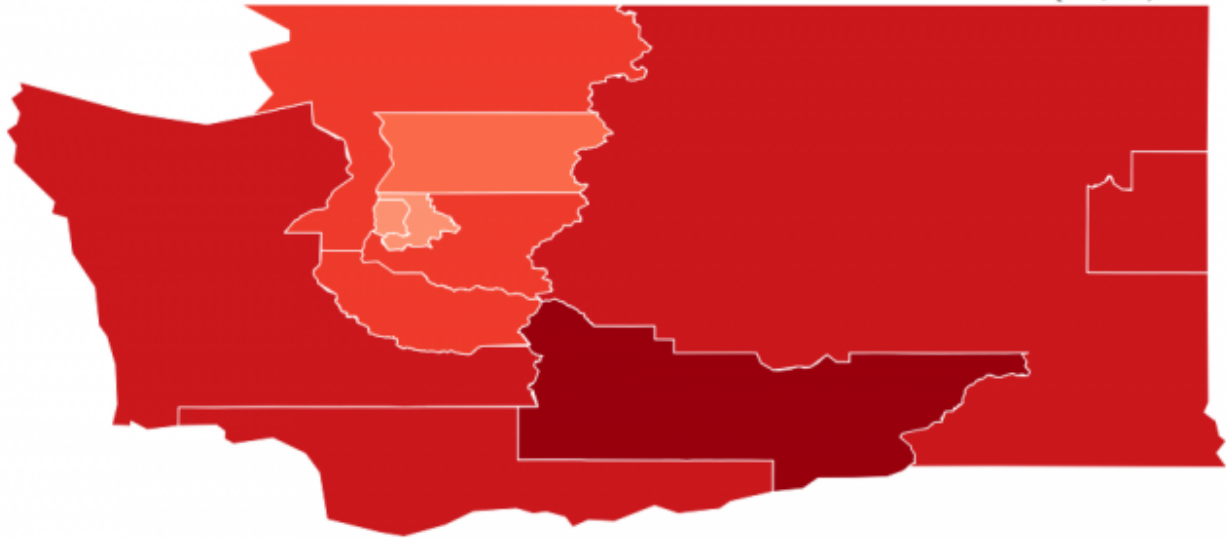
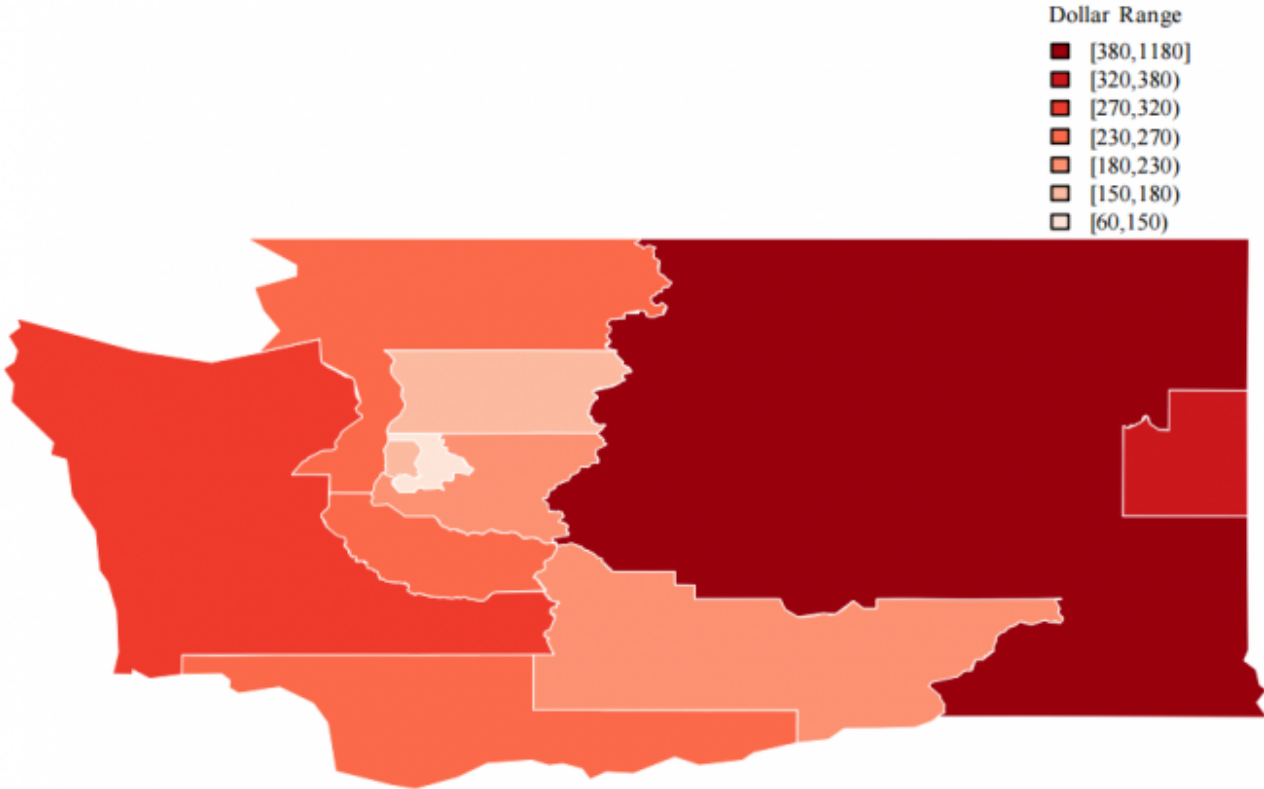## Average TANF and State Welfare Transfers per 25- to 54-year-old females

Dollar Range

- [140,450]
- [90,140)
- [70,90)
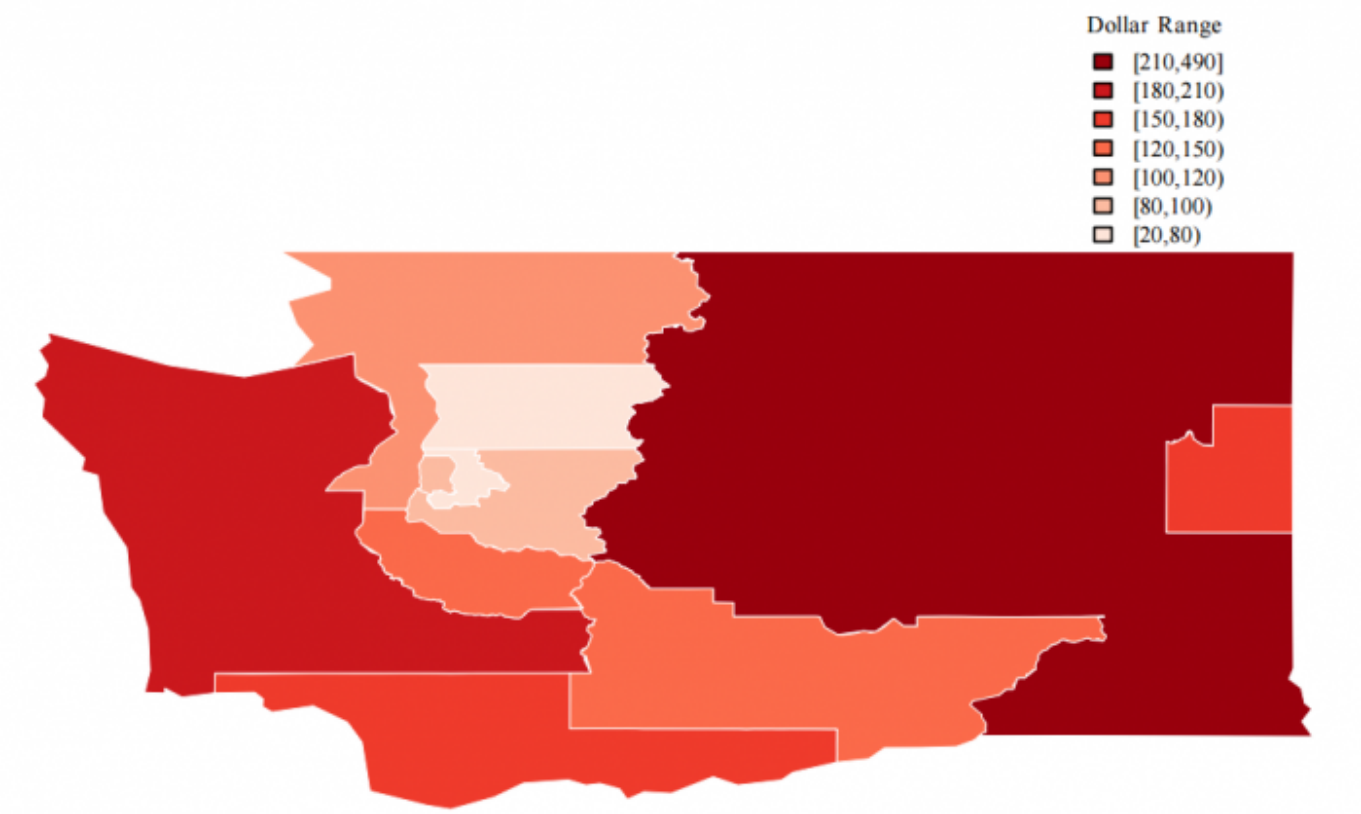- [60,70)
- [50,60)
- [30,50)
- [10,30)
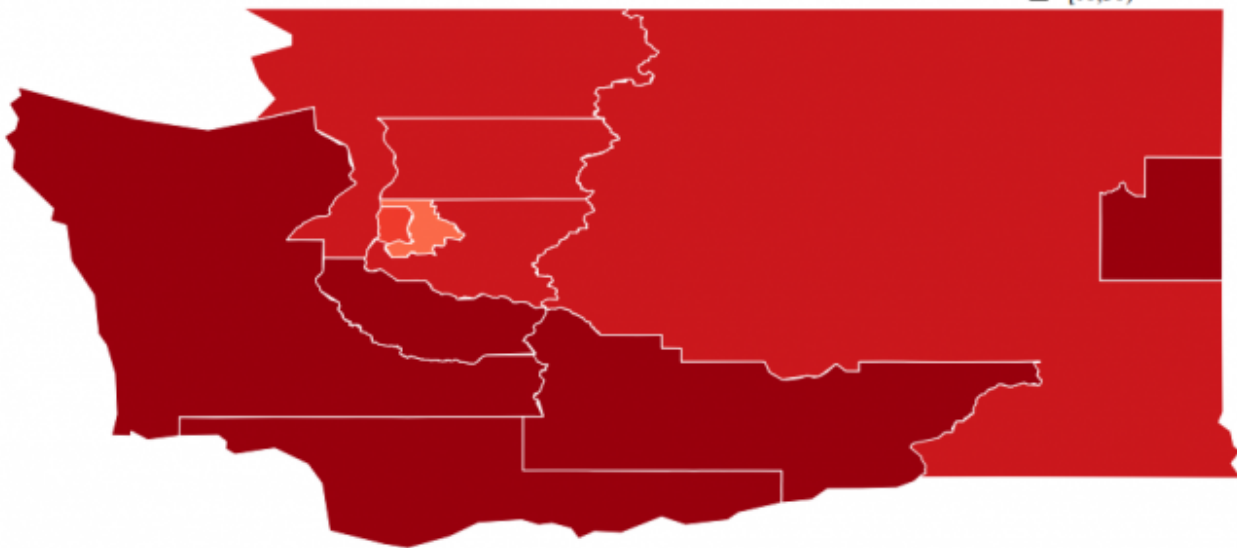
Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-olds
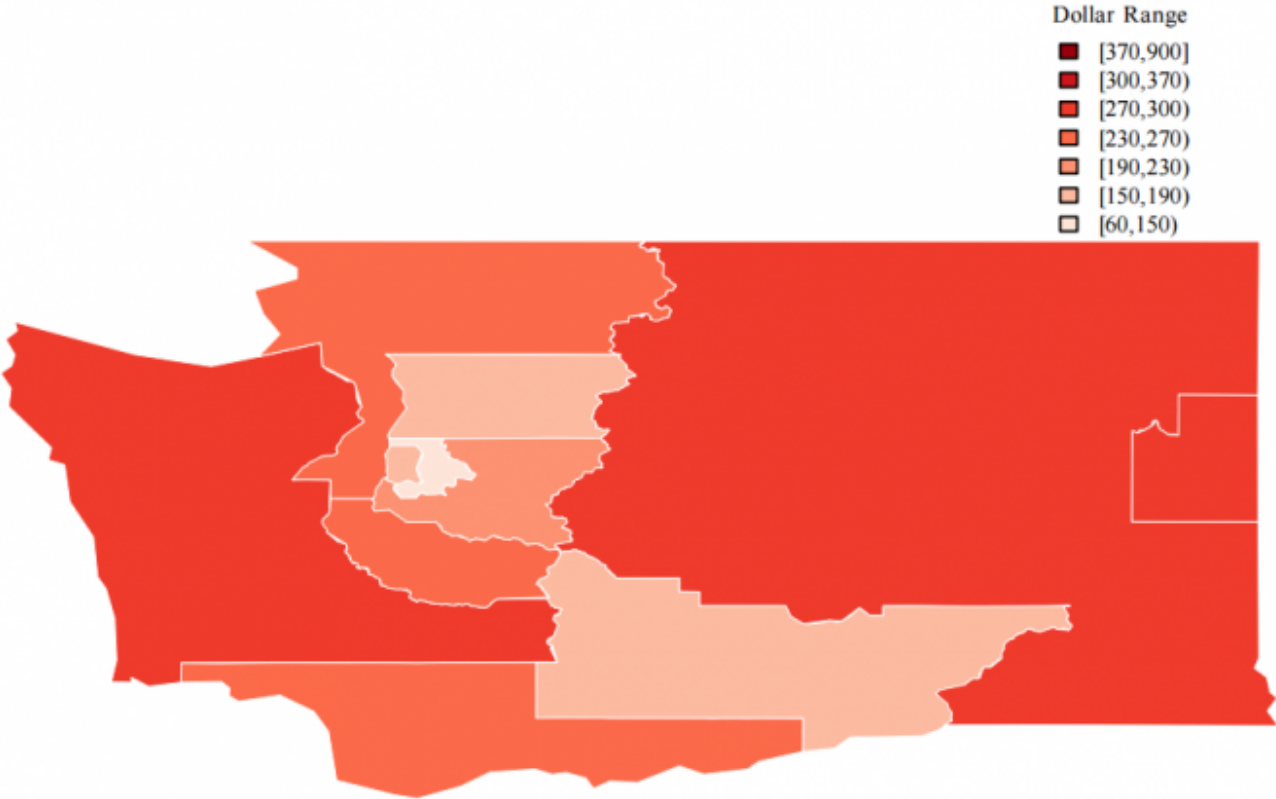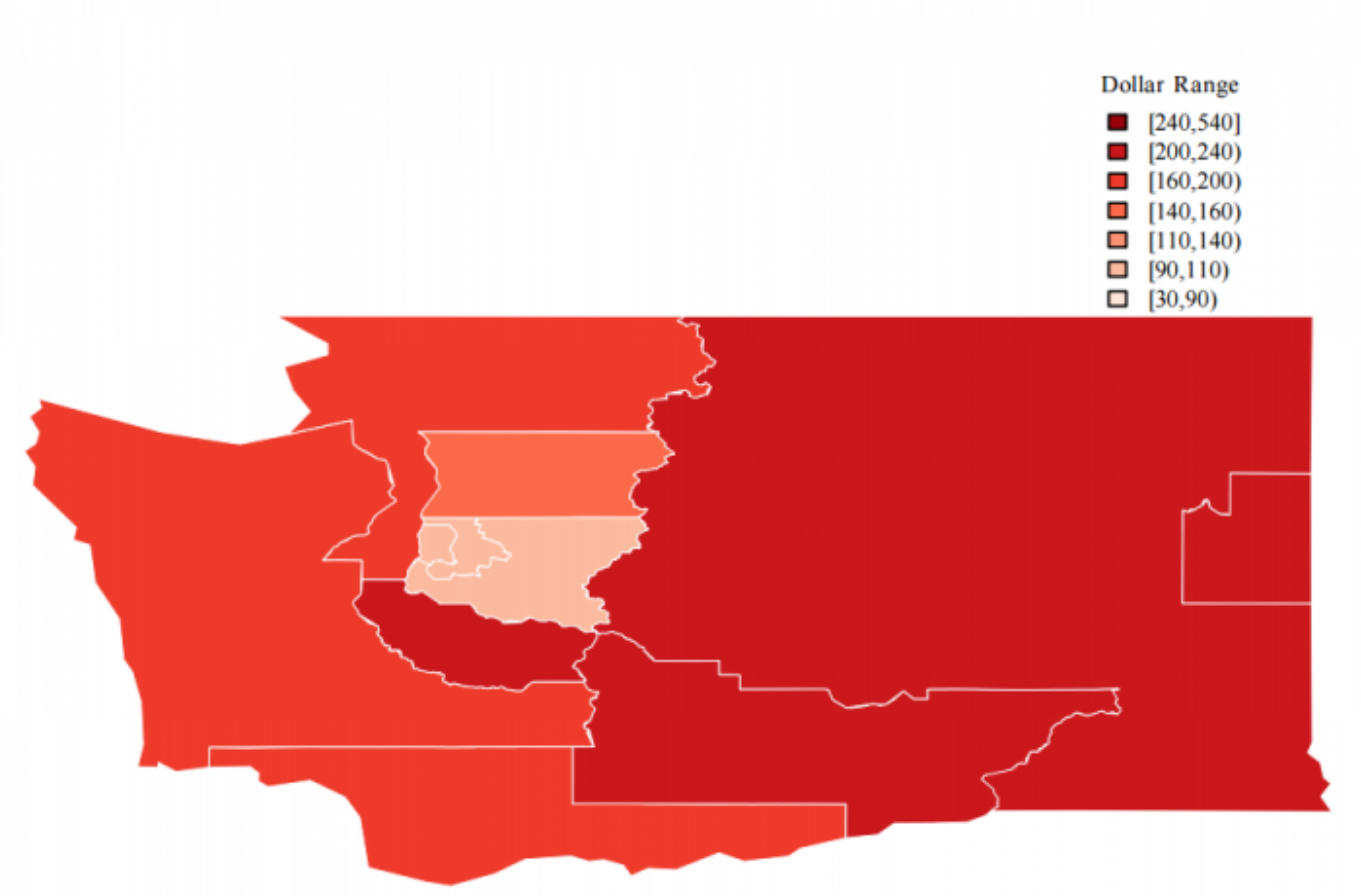
Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-old male

**Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old male**

Dollar Range

- [210,490]
- [180,210)
- [150,180)
- [120,150)
- [100,120)
- [80,100)
- [20,80)

Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old female

Dollar Range

- [240,540]
- [200,240)
- [160,200)
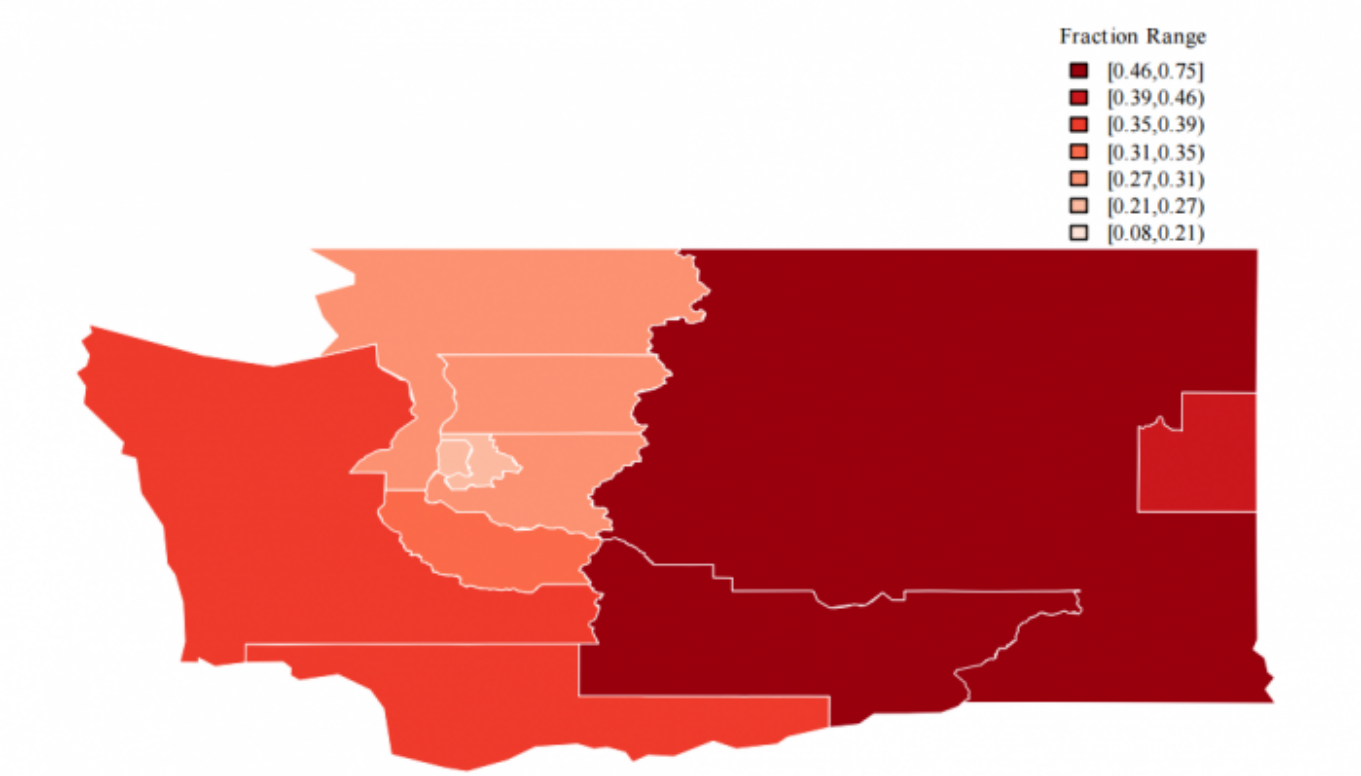- [140,160)
- [110,140)
- [90,110)
- [30,90)

3.9 Healthcare

See Effects of Family Structure on Healthcare Coverage
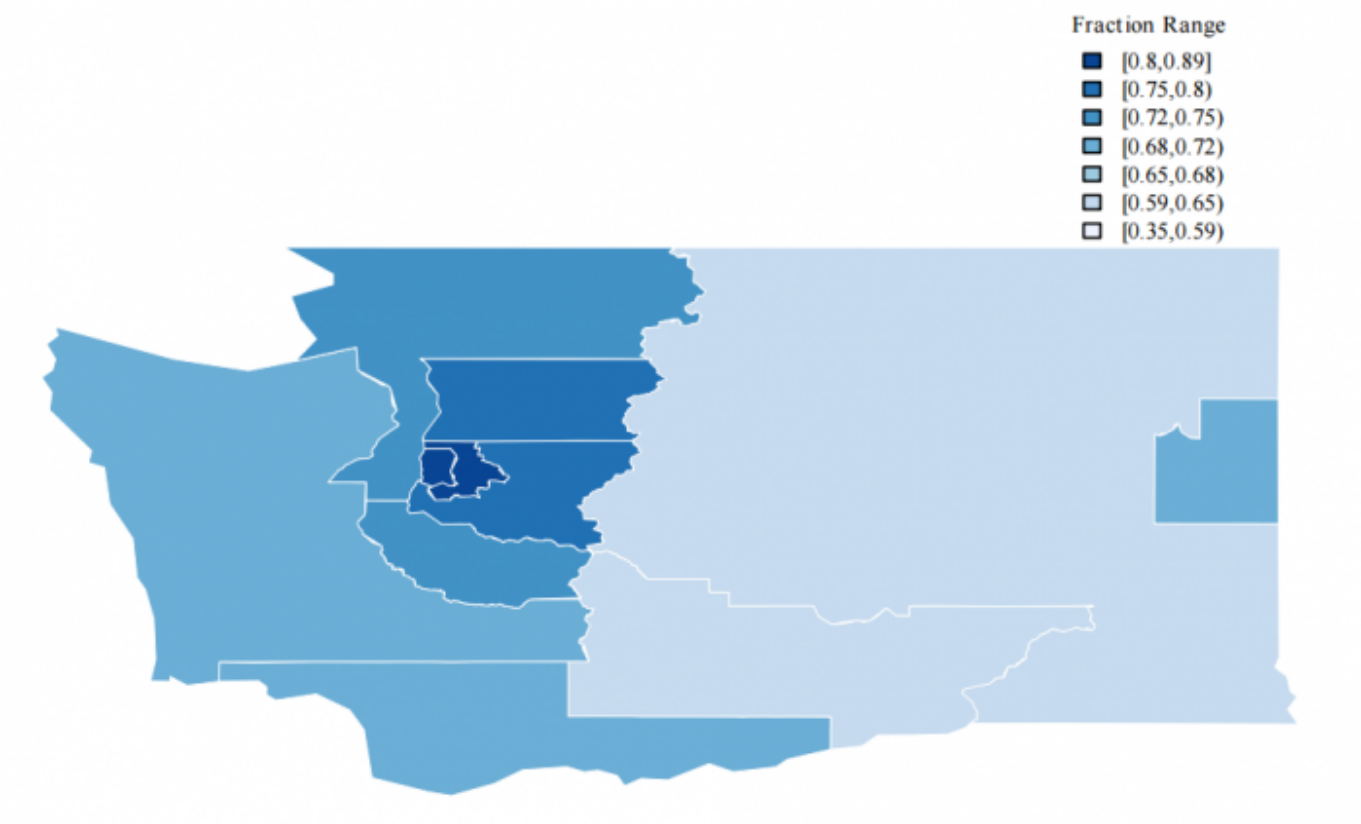
Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds receiving public healthcare
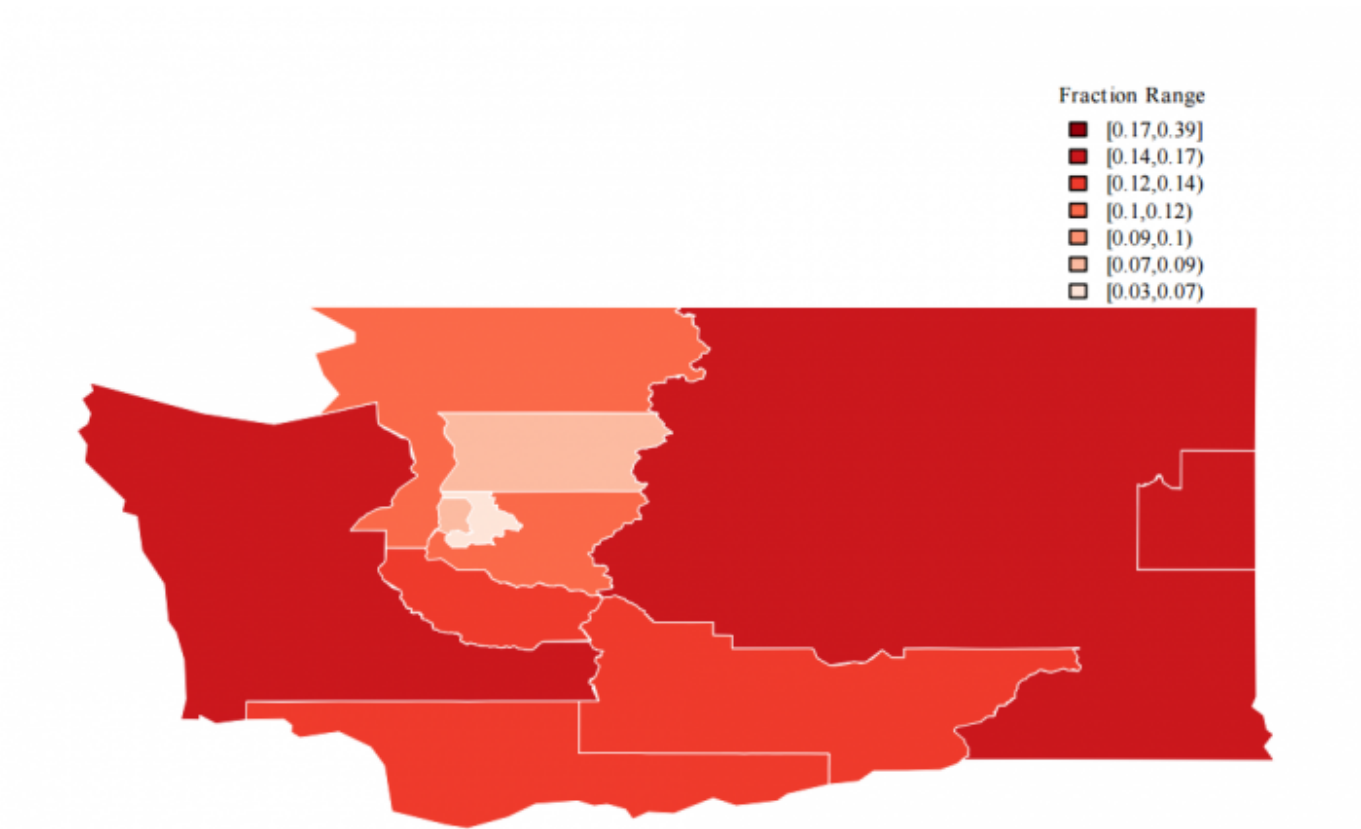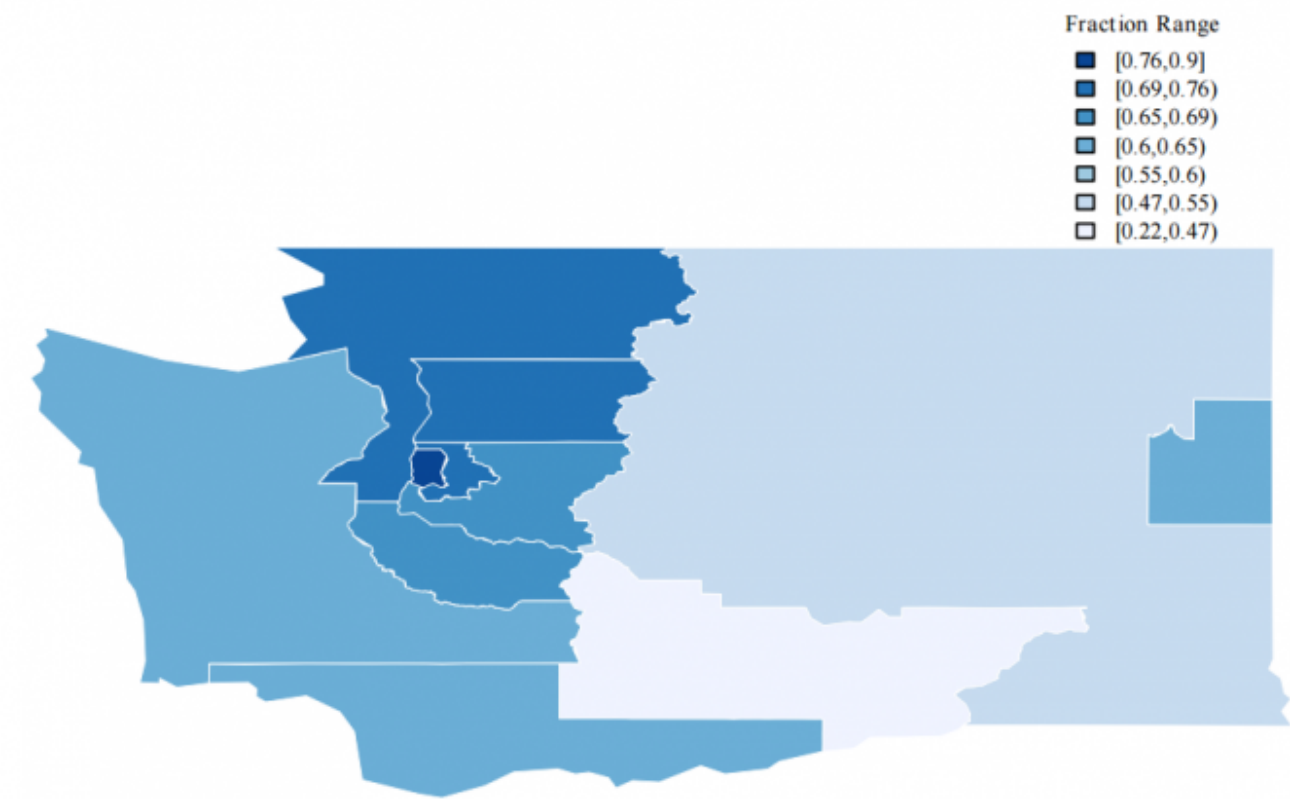

Fraction of minors receiving public healthcare

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds covered by private healthcare

Fraction of minors covered by private healthcare

1)

This entry draws heavily from original research found in Index of Family Belonging and Rejection: State by State (2011), Family Intactness: Influence on Major State Social Policy Outcomes, and Family Intactness and Public Policy Outcomes by State.

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