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# Grays Harbor County, Washington

43 languages

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**Grays Harbor County** is a county in the U.S. state of Washington. As of the 2020 census, the population was 75,636.<sup>[1]</sup> Its county seat is Montesano, and its largest city is Aberdeen.<sup>[2]</sup> Grays Harbor County is included in the Aberdeen Micropolitan Statistical Area.

## History

The county is presently named after a large estuarine bay near its southwestern corner. On May 7, 1792, Boston fur trader Robert Gray crossed the bar into a bay which he called Bullfinch Harbor, but which later cartographers would label Chehalis Bay, and then Grays Harbor.<sup>[3]</sup>

The area that now comprises Grays Harbor County was part of Oregon Territory in the first part of the nineteenth century. On December 19, 1845, the Provisional Government of Oregon created two counties (Vancouver and Clark) in its northern portion (which is now the state of Washington). In 1849, the name of Vancouver County was changed to Lewis County, and on April 14, 1854, a portion of Lewis County was partitioned off to become Chehalis County.<sup>[4]</sup> This county's boundaries have not changed since its creation, but on June 9, 1915,<sup>[5]</sup> its name was changed to Grays Harbor County to eliminate confusion with the town of Chehalis in Lewis County.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Geography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 2,224 square miles (5,760 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 1,902 square miles (4,930 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 322 square miles (830 km<sup>2</sup>) (14%) is water.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Geographic features

- Aberdeen Lake
- Chehalis River
- Duck Lake
- Failor Lake
- Grays Harbor
- Humtulsips River
- Hoquiam River
- Lake Quinault
- Olympic Mountains
- Olympic Peninsula
- Pacific Ocean
- Quinault Rain Forest
- Satsop River
- Wishkah River
- Wynoochee Lake
- Wynoochee River

### State parks

- Griffiths-Priddy State Park
- Lake Sylvia State Park
- Ocean City State Park
- Pacific Beach State Park
- Twin Harbors State Park
- Westhaven State Park (now part of Westport Light State Park)
- Westport Light State Park

### Major highways

- State Route 8
- U.S. Route 12
- U.S. Route 101
- State Route 105
- State Route 107
- State Route 109

### Adjacent counties

- Jefferson County – north
- Mason County – northeast
- Thurston County – east/southeast
- Lewis County – south/southeast
- Pacific County – south

### National protected areas

- Chehalis Indian Reservation
- Colonel Bob Wilderness
- Copalis National Wildlife Refuge
- Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge
- Olympic National Forest (part)
- Olympic National Park (part)
- Quinault Indian Reservation

## Demographics

### 2000 census

As of the census<sup>[13]</sup> of 2000, there were 67,194 people, 26,808 households, and 17,907 families living in the county. The population density was 35 people per square mile (14 people/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 32,489 housing units at an average density of 17 units per square mile (6.6 units/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the county was 88.30% White, 0.34% Black or African American, 4.66% Native American, 1.22% Asian, 0.11% Pacific Islander, 2.27% from other races, and 3.10% from two or more races. 4.85% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 16.3% were of German, 11.9% United States or American, 9.9% English, 9.2% Irish, and 6.1% Norwegian ancestry. 94.1% spoke English and 3.9% Spanish as their first language.

There were 26,808 households, out of which 30.50% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 50.70% were married couples living together, 11.10% had a female householder with no husband present, and 33.20% were non-families. 26.70% of all households were made up of individuals, and 11.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.48 and the average family size was 2.98.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 25.70% under the age of 18, 7.90% from 18 to 24, 26.00% from 25 to 44, 25.00% from 45 to 64, and 15.40% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females there were 98.80 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 96.20 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$34,160, and the median income for a family was \$39,709. Males had a median income of \$35,947 versus \$24,262 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$16,799. 16.10% of the population and 11.90% of families were below the poverty line, including 21.60% of those under the age of 18 and 40% of those 65 and older.

### 2010 census

As of the 2010 census, there were 72,797 people, 28,579 households, and 18,493 families living in the county.<sup>[14]</sup> The population density was 38.3 inhabitants per square mile (14.8/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 35,166 housing units at an average density of 18.5 units per square mile (7.1 units/km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>[15]</sup> The racial makeup of the county was 84.9% white, 4.6% American Indian, 1.4% Asian, 1.1% black or African American, 0.3% Pacific islander, 3.9% from other races, and 3.9% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 8.6% of the population.<sup>[14]</sup> In terms of ancestry, 21.0% were German, 13.5% were Irish, 11.7% were English, 6.8% were Norwegian, and 4.2% were American.<sup>[16]</sup>

Of the 28,579 households, 28.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 46.8% were married couples living together, 11.9% had a female householder with no husband present, 35.3% were non-families, and 27.6% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.45 and the average family size was 2.94. The median age was 41.9 years.<sup>[14]</sup>

The median income for a household in the county was \$41,899 and the median income for a family was \$49,745. Males had a median income of \$42,998 versus \$34,183 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$21,656. About 11.7% of families and 16.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 23.1% of those under age 18 and 7.9% of those age 65 or over.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Politics

Grays Harbor used to be one of the most consistently Democratic counties in the nation, due to its unionized logging industry. Until 2016, the last Republican presidential candidate to carry the county was Herbert Hoover in 1928;<sup>[18]</sup> the last Republican gubernatorial candidate to win the county until 2016 was Daniel J. Evans in 1964.<sup>[19]</sup> However, Donald Trump carried the county in the 2016 presidential election and went on to win a majority of its votes four years later.

In the United States House of Representatives Grays Harbor is part of Washington's 6th congressional district, which has a Cook Partisan Voting Index of D+5 and is represented by Derek Kilmer. In the Washington State Legislature it lies in the 19th and 24th districts. In the Washington State Senate it is

**Grays Harbor County**

County



Grays Harbor County Courthouse



Location within the U.S. state of Washington



Washington's location within the U.S.  
Coordinates: 47°09′N 123°50′W﻿ / ﻿47.15°N 123.83°W﻿ / 47.15; -123.83

<b>Country</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States
<b>State</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Washington
<b>Founded</b>	April 14, 1854
<b>Named for</b>	Grays Harbor
<b>Seat</b>	Montesano
<b>Largest city</b>	Aberdeen
<b>Area</b>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	2,224 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (5,760 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Land	1,902 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (4,930 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Water	322 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (830 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> ) 14%
<b>Population</b> (2020)	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	75,636
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Estimate (2022)	77,038 <span><span><span></span></span></span>
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Density	38.3/sq mi (14.8/km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Time zone</b>	UTC-8 (Pacific)
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Summer (DST)	UTC-7 (PDT)
<b>Congressional district</b>	6th
<b>Website</b>	<span>www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us</span> <sup>?</sup>



Lake Quinault

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1860	285	—
1870	401	40.7%
1880	921	129.7%
1890	9,249	904.2%
1900	15,124	63.5%
1910	35,590	135.3%
1920	44,745	25.7%
1930	59,982	34.1%
1940	53,166	−11.4%
1950	53,644	0.9%
1960	54,465	1.5%
1970	59,553	9.3%
1980	66,314	11.4%
1990	64,175	−3.2%
2000	67,194	4.7%
2010	72,797	8.3%
2020	75,636	3.9%
<b>2022 (est.)</b>	77,038 <sup>[8]</sup>	1.9%
U.S. Decennial Census <sup>[1]</sup>		
1790–1960 <sup>[10]</sup> 1900–1990 <sup>[11]</sup>		
1990–2000 <sup>[2]</sup> 2010–2020 <sup>[1]</sup>		

## Economy [ edit ]

Principal economic activities in Grays Harbor County include wood and paper production, food processing (especially seafood), and manufacturing.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>[b]</sup>

## Communities [ edit ]

### Cities [ edit ]

- Aberdeen
- Cosmopolis
- Elma
- Hoquiam
- McCleary
- Montesano (county seat)
- Oakville
- Ocean Shores
- Westport

### Census-designated places [ edit ]

- Aberdeen Gardens
- Amanda Park
- Brady
- Central Park
- Chehalis Village (former)
- Cohasset Beach
- Copalis Beach
- Grayland
- Hogans Corner
- Humtulsips
- Junction City
- Malone
- Markham
- Moclips
- Neilton
- Ocean City
- Oyehut
- Pacific Beach
- Porter
- Queets (part)
- Qui-nai-elt Village
- Santiago
- Satsop
- Taholah

### Other unincorporated communities [ edit ]

- Artic
- Alder Grove
- Bay City
- Carlisle
- Copalis Crossing
- Deckerville
- Garden City
- Gray Gables
- Grays Harbor City
- Heather
- Melbourne
- New London
- Newton
- Nisson
- Ocosta
- Quinault
- Saginaw
- Seabrook
- South Elma
- South Montesano

## Notable people [ edit ]

- Robert Arthur, actor
- Elton Bennett, artist
- Adam Bighill, CFL player
- Gail Brown, actress
- Trisha Brown, choreographer
- Mark Bruener, NFL player
- Daniel Bryan, professional wrestler
- Robert Eugene Bush, Medal of Honor recipient
- Kurt Cobain, musician
- Colin Cowherd, ESPN Radio host (*The Herd with Colin Cowherd*)
- Dale Crower, musician
- Reuben H. Fleet, aviation pioneer
- Clarence Chesterfield Howerton, circus performer
- Jerry Lambert, actor
- Robert Motherwell, artist
- Peter Norton, software developer (Norton Utilities)
- Krist Novoselic, musician
- Buzz Osborne, musician
- Douglas Osheroff, Nobel-winning physicist
- Blanche Pennick, Washington State legislator
- Patrick Simmons, musician
- Kurdt Vanderhoof, musician

## See also [ edit ]

- Port of Grays Harbor
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Grays Harbor County, Washington

## Further reading [ edit ]

- Grays Harbor Development Club (1912). *Grays Harbor Country Washington*. Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co. p. 32. From the book "thirty years ago ... Destructive Development began ... greed for wealth ... denuded acres ... logged-off land ... found to be fertile ... capable of the highest state of cultivation ... fishing profit ... splendid landlocked body of water ... fir ... perfect lumber ... lumber and shingle mills ... Clams, crabs and shrimp ... abundant ... an agreeable climate ... dairy industry ... unbounded ... few soils are superior to those here ... unlimited opportunity ... berry orchards ... poultry leading place ..."
- Weinstein, Robert A. (1978). *Grays Harbor, 1885-1913*. Viking. p. 190.

## References [ edit ]

- ↑  <sup>a</sup>  <sup>b</sup> "State & County QuickFacts" : United States Census Bureau. Retrieved August 16, 2023.
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- ↑ "Grays Harbor County – Thumbnail History". Historylink.org. Retrieved February 14, 2015.
- ↑ "Statutes of the Territory of Washington, 1854, p. 472 *An Act to Create the County of Chehalis*" (PDF). Archived (PDF) from the original on October 9, 2022.
- ↑ "Statutes of Washington, 1915, Explanatory" (PDF). Archived (PDF) from the original on October 9, 2022.
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- ↑ "U.S. Census website". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved May 14, 2011.
- ↑  <sup>a</sup>  <sup>b</sup>  <sup>c</sup> "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
- ↑ "Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density: 2010 – County". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
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- ↑ "Selected Economic Characteristics – 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
- ↑ "Presidential election of 1928 – Map by counties".
- ↑ "David Leip's Election Atlas". uselectionatlas.org. Retrieved March 17, 2018.
- ↑ "Archived copy" (PDF). Archived from the original (PDF) on October 24, 2018. Retrieved May 19, 2020.
- ↑ Leip, David. "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections". uselectionatlas.org. Retrieved March 17, 2018.
- ↑ The leading "other" candidate, Progressive Theodore Roosevelt, received 1,847 votes, while Socialist candidate Eugene Debs received 1,683 votes, Prohibition candidate Eugene Chafin received 226 votes, and Socialist Labor candidate Arthur Reimer received 48 votes.
- ↑ https://www.graysharbor.com/visitors/about\_grays\_harbor/index.php

## External links [ edit ]

- Official website
- Harborpedia
- Maritime Heritage Network , an online directory of maritime history resources in the Pacific Northwest, including the Grays Harbor cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam.

<b>Places adjacent to Grays Harbor County, Washington</b>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
<b>V<span> </span>•<span> </span>T<span> </span>•<span> </span>E</b> <p><b>Municipalities and communities of Grays Harbor County, Washington, United States</b></p>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
<b>V<span> </span>•<span> </span>T<span> </span>•<span> </span>E</b> <p><b>State of Washington</b></p>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>
<b>Authority control databases</b> <span></span>	<span>[</span> show <span>]</span>

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