City of Bellevue United States Census 2000

VOLUME 1

CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS

January 2003

Bellevue Census 2000 Report

Prepared by the Department of Planning & Community Development

City of Bellevue United States Census 2000

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INTRODUCTION

This is the first volume of the Bellevue Census 2000 Report. The report will summarize and analyze findings from Census 2000 relating to the City of Bellevue. This first volume will present information for the city as a whole. Information will be presented for the year 2000 both in the context of changes since the 1990 Census, and also comparing and contrasting demographic trends for Bellevue with the region as a whole, and in some cases other cities in the area. Subsequent volumes, which will be released later in 2003, will focus more on demographic trends that are occurring within the community itself, and will present and analyze information at a more localized census tract and neighborhood level in the city.

Background

Every ten years the United States Census Bureau attempts to count every person in the United States. The Year 2000 census was conducted in April 2000. These data are used for several purposes. Historically, the most pertinent use has been to determine how many representatives each state is given in the United States House of Representatives, and to preserve the principle of one person - one vote. In accordance with U.S. Public Law 94 - 171 the first data released each time a census is conducted pertains directly to Congressional redistricting, and covers such factors as total population and households, race, and population over the age of 18. This information is gathered in the census "short form", which is supposed to be filled out for every person in the United States. This information was released to the public for Bellevue and other places in the U.S. in March 2001.

In addition to this demographic information gathered on the short form, the Census Bureau also attempts to gather more detailed socio-economic information in a longer census form. This "long form" was filled out by 1out of every 6 households in the United States. The socio-economic information gathered in the long form, which covered social, economic, and housing characteristics, was released in Spring 2002 at the citywide level. In September 2002, socio-economic data was released at smaller levels of geography (census tracts and census blocks).

This volume will present information for the city as a whole taken from both the short and long forms. Information will be presented on:

- Population
- Household and age characteristics
- Race and ethnicity
- Nativity, place of birth, and language
- Income, education and employment
- Housing and residential patterns
- Transportation

Use of Information

The information gathered as part of Census 2000 and presented here is very important to the City of Bellevue. The information gives the City, other public agencies, and the public at large a glimpse of who we really are as a community. Census information can be used to help determine the type of programs

and services that can best serve the community as it is, and provide clues to the type of community we are likely to become in the future. Therefore, the Bellevue Census 2000 Report will not only present information, but also will highlight key findings and present analysis on the potential implications of these findings.

Questions on the information presented in this volume, or any other questions on Census 2000 as it pertains to Bellevue, should be directed to the Planning Division, Bellevue Department of Planning & Community Development, at 425-452-7857.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Population and Growth

Bellevue's population was almost 110,000 in the year 2000, which enhanced the City's status as the major urban population center on the Eastside.

Bellevue's population grew 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2000 to 109,569 persons. Bellevue's status as the most populous city in King County's Eastside coupled with the growth of Eastside relative to Seattle enhances Bellevue's role in the Puget Sound region. With the recent annexation of West Lake Sammamish, Bellevue's population rose to an estimated 117,000 in 2002.

Not counting increases due to annexations, Bellevue's population during the 1990s grew at a slower rate than the overall population in King County.

The most rapid growth in King County has been outside traditional population centers. The pattern is seen at many levels within the county. The Eastside and South King County grew faster than Seattle did. King County cities to the east of Bellevue also grew more quickly than Bellevue.

When Bellevue reaches the extent of its Potential Annexation Area, population growth in the city will likely slow substantially.

Annexation has accounted for more than half of the City's population growth since incorporation, and made up about half of Bellevue's population growth between 1990 and 2000. With only a small fraction of Bellevue's potential annexation area left to be annexed, the growth in the number of Bellevue residents is likely to slow substantially in the future.

Household and Age Characteristics

Average household size in Bellevue continued to decline in the 1990s as one-person households increased more quickly than households did overall.

Bellevue's average household size went from 2.41 persons per household in 1990 to 2.37 in 2000. This was a continuation of the trend in the previous few decades of decreasing household sizes both locally and nationally (although the rate of decline in the 1990s was relatively minor compared to that in the 1970s). Reflecting this general trend, in Bellevue the number of one-person households increased faster than the number of households generally between 1990 and 2000.

In the 1990s, the number of children in Bellevue grew at about the same rate as Bellevue's population as a whole, with children continuing to comprise a little over one-fifth of Bellevue residents.

However, the rate of growth across childhood age groups was not even. The numbers of children age 5 to 14 increased at a rate greater than Bellevue's population as a whole while the numbers of older teens and young children did not grow as fast as the rest of the city's population.

Household and Age Characteristics *(continued)*

In the year 2000, the percentage of households with children was lower in Bellevue than in the remainder of the Eastside and King County as a whole, but much higher than in Seattle.

Within King County, those cities that are closer to Seattle generally had a smaller proportion of households with children than did those cities further to the east and south.

In the year 2000, young working-age adults were a smaller part of the population in Bellevue than in the county as a whole.

While about two-thirds of Bellevue residents were of working age (19-64 years of age) in 2000, Bellevue had a lower percentage of workers age 19 to 44 than did the county as a whole and all of the other King County comparison cities studied in this report. Furthermore, in Bellevue and the remainder of the Eastside, the number of residents in their early 20s actually declined slightly.

The proportion of Bellevue's population comprised of seniors increased between 1990 and 2000.

The proportion of the population aged sixty-five and above went from about 10 percent to about 13 percent. Of the geographies studied for this report (including the nation, state, county, and selected comparison cities in King County), Bellevue had the highest increase in the percentage of the population comprised of seniors. By 2000, Bellevue had also eclipsed both the nation and these other geographies in the percentage of the population made up of seniors. Though they make up a small part of the population, those 75 years of age and older were the fastest growing age group in Bellevue, growing at a rate more than four times as fast as the general population in the city.

Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality

Bellevue was much more racially diverse in 2000 than ten years before.

In the 2000 Census, almost 26 percent of Bellevue residents identified themselves as a race other than White (or White in combination with another race or races). The comparability of race data between 1990 and 2000 is limited by changes to race questions on the Census questionnaires and by the fact that outreach to minority residents was more thorough in 2000. However, there is no question about the trend of Bellevue's increasing diversity given the magnitude of the increase (from 14 percent who identified themselves as a race other than White on the 1990 census).

The 2000 Census also revealed that Bellevue was significantly more diverse than the balance of the Eastside and somewhat more diverse than King County and the nation as a whole.

With over a quarter of residents identifying themselves as a non-White race (or White in combination with another race or races), Bellevue is also more racially diverse than its largest neighbors on the Eastside.

In the year 2000, the Asian population made up over two thirds of Bellevue's non-White population. Asians were also the most rapidly growing racial category in Bellevue in the 1990s.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of residents in Bellevue who are Asian/Pacific Islander more than doubled. This group comprised over 17 percent of the city's population in 2000. The largest population within the Asian/Pacific Islander category was Chinese, followed by Asian Indian, Japanese, and Korean. Asian Indians were the group among these four Asian subpopulations that grew the most rapidly in the 1990s.

Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality *(continued)*

Bellevue's Hispanic and Latino population also increased rapidly between 1990 and 2000.

Residents of Bellevue identifying themselves as having Hispanic or Latino ethnicity increased from 2.3 percent of the population in 1990 to 5.3 percent of the city's population in 2000. It should be noted that the Census asks about Hispanic/Latino ethnicity separately from race and that Hispanics and Latinos can identify themselves as any race.

The White and African American populations in Bellevue grew in the 1990s, but at slower rates than the city's overall population.

Whites represented 74.3 percent of Bellevue's population in 2000. African Americans constituted 2 percent of the city's population, which was the about the same percentage as in 1990.

Bellevue's foreign-born population increased substantially between 1990 and 2000: in 1990 about 1 in 8 residents (13.3 percent) were foreign-born; in 2000 about 1 in 4 (24.5 percent) were foreign-born.

While the overall population of Bellevue grew by about 26 percent between 1990 and 2000, the numbers of foreign-born residents grew by over 100 percent. The 2000 Census revealed that over half of Bellevue's foreign-born were recent immigrants. Almost 90 percent who identified themselves as recent immigrants were born in Asia, Europe, or Mexico.

The percentage of Bellevue residents born in another country is much higher than the county average, and higher than all other cities in King County except Tukwila.

Bellevue also had the highest number of recent immigrants to the U.S. of any city in the state outside of Seattle.

The number and percent of Bellevue residents who speak a language at home other than English rose substantially between 1990 and 2000.

While the total population of the city increased by 26 percent, the number of Bellevue residents (5 years of age and older) who speak a language at home other than English increased 149 percent. Of all Bellevue residents 5 years of age and older, 26.9 percent spoke a language at home other than English in 2000.

Of Bellevue residents who speak a language other than English, almost half reported that they speak English less than "very well."

This represents over 12 percent of all Bellevue residents aged 5 and older, or over 12,000 total city residents. Furthermore, Bellevue has over 3,000 households that are "linguistically isolated," meaning that all members in those households over the age of 14 speak English less than very well.

Economic Characteristics

Bellevue adults are highly educated, and increasingly so.

The percentage of Bellevue residents 25 years of age or older with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 46 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000. Bellevue's proportion of adults who had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2000 is greater than the percentages in Seattle, King County as a whole, and the balance of the Eastside.

Economic Characteristics *(continued)*

Bellevue's median household income grew at a lower rate than inflation between 1989 and 1999, though incomes in Bellevue remained high relative to those in the region and the state.

Data on 1999 incomes from the 2000 Census show that Bellevue had one of the highest median household incomes in King County, the region and the state of Washington. However, between 1989 and 1999, both median household income and median family income in Bellevue rose at a rate that was lower than inflation. At the same time, Bellevue's *per capita* income rose at a rate higher than inflation.

The percentages in Bellevue of individuals and families with 1999 incomes below poverty level were lower than in King County and the nation as a whole.

The Census counted 6,162 Bellevue residents, or 5.7 percent of the population, with 1999 incomes falling below poverty. The poverty rate was somewhat lower for families. Poverty rates for some segments of the population, such as families with children headed by a single female, were much higher.

Labor force participation by Bellevue residents declined between 1990 and 2000.

In 2000, Bellevue had a smaller percent of overall population in the labor force than did other nearby jurisdictions. This may partially be due to trends in the percentage of Bellevue residents over age 65, which grew between 1990 and 2000, and–by 2000–was higher than that in many other jurisdictions in the region.

A large and growing proportion of employed Bellevue residents work in management or professional occupations.

The number and percentage of employed Bellevue residents in management or professional occupations rose from about 40 percent in 1990 to about 53 percent in 2000. Bellevue–and eastside cities generally–have a higher percentage of the labor force in management, professional, and related occupations than do other cities in King County.

Housing and Residential Patterns

About 61 percent of households in Bellevue lived in owner-occupied housing in 2000.

This proportion was slightly higher than the 58 percent of households that lived in owner-occupied housing in 1990. The percentage of households in owner-occupied housing in Bellevue continued to be higher than in Seattle but lower than in the balance of the Eastside.

In Bellevue, single-unit attached structures (townhouses), 20- or more unit multifamily structures, and studios were the types of housing with the most rapid increases in the 1990s.

While townhouses and studio units continued to represent relatively small proportions of the overall housing stock, the increase in their numbers was dramatic: 80 percent and 170 percent respectively. This compares to an overall increase of 29 percent for units in all housing types.

Housing and Residential Patterns *(continued)*

During the 1990s, the median value for owner-occupied housing in Bellevue did not increase as quickly as in King County as a whole.

Between 1990 and 2000, the median value of owner-occupied housing went up 54 percent in Bellevue and 75 percent in the county as a whole. Still, housing values in 2000 were much higher in Bellevue than in the county as a whole. In 2000, Bellevue had the highest median value of King County and Central Puget Sound cities with populations over 35,000.

In the 1990s, monthly housing costs in Bellevue and the region went up more quickly than inflation did.

After adjusting for inflation, median monthly owner cost in Bellevue went up 23 percent between 1990 and 2000, while median gross rent went up 6 percent during the same period. In 2000, nearly 40 percent of Bellevue householders who rented and 25 percent of Bellevue householders who owned their home paid 30 percent or more of their monthly household income in housing costs.

Comparison between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census revealed significant changes over time in the origin of those who have moved to the city of Bellevue from outside of King County.

For those who had moved to Bellevue from within five years prior to the two most recent Census surveys, year 2000 responses revealed a greater percentage who came from a foreign country than did year 1990 responses. Also, for those who had moved to Bellevue from a state besides Washington within five years prior to each Census, year 2000 responses revealed a greater percentage who came from the eastern half of the country than did year 1990 responses.

Transportation

The proportion of employed residents in Bellevue who commuted to work alone decreased between 1990 and 2000.

With the decreased percentages of residents commuting alone in a car came increases in the percent of residents carpooling, riding public transit to work, and working at home. The reduction in single-occupancy-vehicle commuting seen in Bellevue, and also in King County and the states of Oregon and Washington, defied national trends.

Median commute times stayed relatively stable in Bellevue between 1990 and 2000.

This is somewhat surprising given the general acknowledgement that traffic congestion has worsened throughout the region. Several factors likely contributed to stabilization of average commute times in Bellevue. These include increased job opportunities on the Eastside for Eastside residents, and an increased number of Bellevue residents carpooling or working at home. A greater percentage of workers may also have made shifts in the location of their jobs or residences to reduce their commute times.

POPULATION AND GROWTH

The primary reason that the United States Census Bureau conducts the decennial Census is to count the nation's residents so that districts for the federal House of Representatives can be apportioned among the states. This has been required by the Constitution since 1790.

Population is also the most basic of demographic measures that communities like Bellevue need in order to plan in an effective way. Population dynamics profoundly affect–and are affected by–every aspect of our human culture and society, including household and family formation, healthcare and longevity, migration, education, land use, environment and natural resources, transportation systems, the economy, and governmental policies. Of course, while local population trends in Bellevue are linked to demographic dynamics at national and international levels, factors within the city and the region also play an important role.

This chapter describes the growth of Bellevue's population as measured by the Census, and compares Bellevue's population growth to that of other cities in the region, as well as to the state and nation as a whole. Policy and planning implications for Bellevue are discussed at the end of this chapter.

Changes in population size have three direct sources: fertility, mortality, and migration. The Census counts the population and includes questions on residents' migration history. The Census also includes questions about age of the population, but does not directly measure fertility and mortality. Because this report is based on information from the Census, it does not cover fertility and mortality except in a contextual way to help explain demographic trends revealed by the Census. Migration trends will be examined in the Housing and Residential Patterns Chapter of the report.

Bellevue's Population and Growth

Bellevue's population was counted at 109,569 in the national Census conducted in April 2000. This places Bellevue as the fifth most populous city in Washington state. This is down from fourth in 1990. (Between 1990 and 2000, Vancouver's population eclipsed Bellevue's, as Vancouver doubled its population, largely through annexations.[1])

Ranking of Top 10 Cities in Washington by Total Population 2000

City	Total Population	Rank
Seattle (King Co.)	563,374	1
Spokane (Spokane Co.)	195,629	2
Tacoma (Pierce Co.)	193,556	3
Vancouver (Clark Co.)	143,560	4
BELLEVUE (King Co.)	**109,569**	**5**
Everett (Snohomish Co.)	91,488	6
Federal Way (King Co.)	83,259	7
Kent (King Co.)	79,524	8
Yakima (Yakima Co.)	71,845	9
Bellingham (Whatcom Co.)	67,171	10

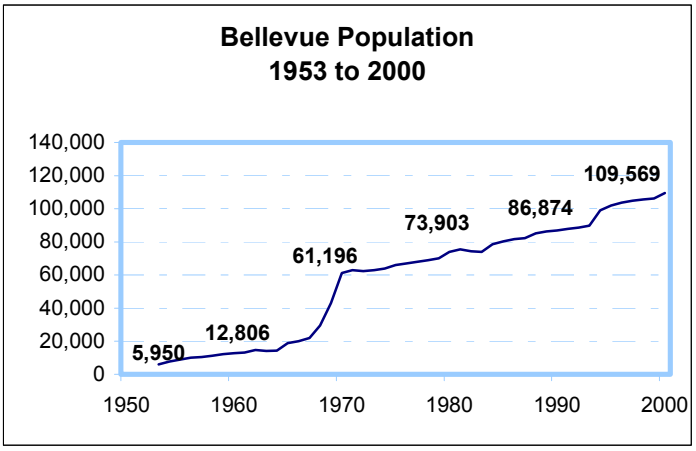
[1]For trends in the ranking of Washington cities by population since the year 2000, see http://www.ofm.wa.gov/2002Pop/RANK2002.pdf.

POPULATION AND GROWTH

Bellevue has the second largest population of cities within King County, which is Washington state's most populous county. King County is also the twelfth most populous county in the United States.

Between 1990 and 2000, Bellevue's population grew by 22,695 persons or 26.1 percent (from 86,874 to 109,569). In raw numbers, Bellevue had the third highest increase in population among cities within the Central Puget Sound region between 1990 and 2000. (Seattle and Kent, respectively, added the largest and second largest number of persons.) A map of Bellevue is shown on page 11.

An important component of Bellevue's population growth in the 1990s was annexation of portions of unincorporated King County. Approximately half of Bellevue's population growth that occurred in the 1990s was from annexations while the other half was from in-migration and births.



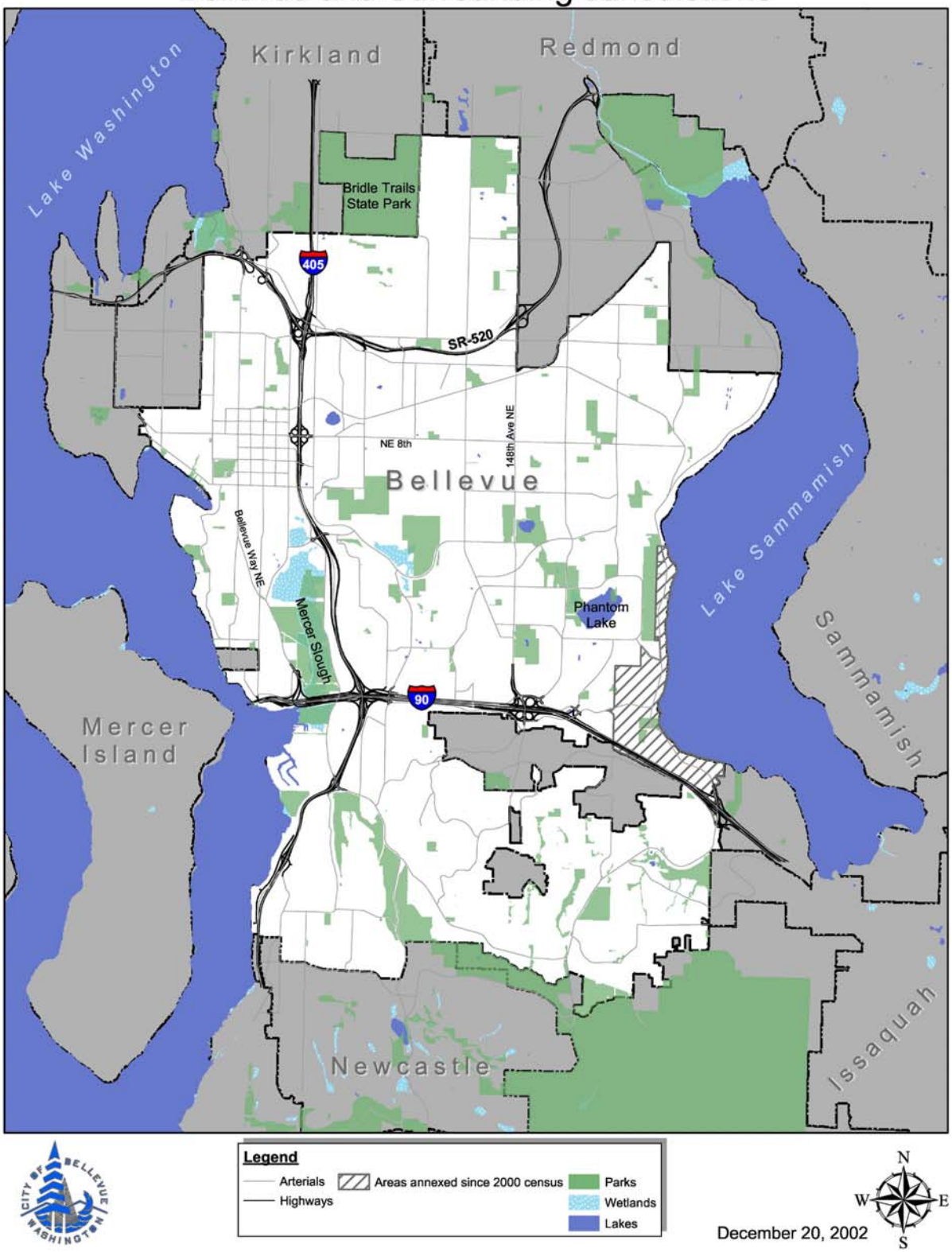
The chart to the right shows trends in Bellevue's population between the City's incorporation in 1953 and the national Census conducted in 2000. The table below shows how fast Bellevue's population has grown in each decade since the City was formed.

Bellevue Rate of Population Growth by Decade 1953 to 2000	
1953 to 1960	115%
1960 to 1970	378%
1970 to 1980	21%
1980 to 1990	18%
1990 to 2000	26%

Annexation has accounted for slightly more than half (52 percent) of Bellevue's overall population growth from the City's incorporation in 1953 until 2000. During this time, the area within the City's boundaries grew from 4.7 square miles to 30.6 square miles. Major annexations were the main driver behind the steep increases in Bellevue's population in the 1960s, when approximately 78 percent of growth during that decade was due to annexations. After the annexations that occurred in the 1990s and early part of the current decade, only a small fraction of the area within the City's ultimate potential annexation area remains to be annexed. Given this, the growth rate of Bellevue's population will very likely slow in the future, as virtually all new growth will be from births and in-migration rather than expanding city boundaries.[2]

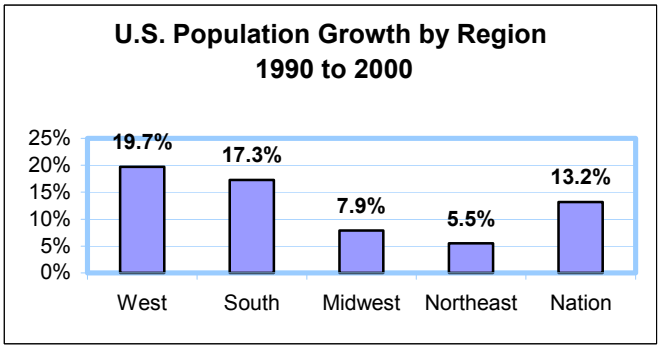
[2] With the annexation of West Lake Sammamish in 2001, the area within Bellevue's city limits reached 31.5 square miles. The full extent of the Potential Annexation area is 32.6 square miles. Bellevue's population in the year 2002 is estimated at 117,000.

Bellevue and Surrounding Jurisdictions

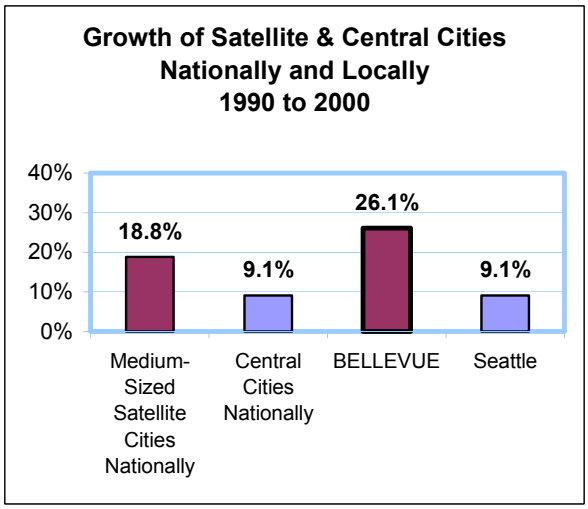


Population and Growth – Regional and National Comparisons

The United States' population as a whole grew by 13.2 percent between 1990 and 2000, from about 249 million to 281 million. Nationally, the West and the South grew the fastest and much more quickly than the Midwest and Northeast.

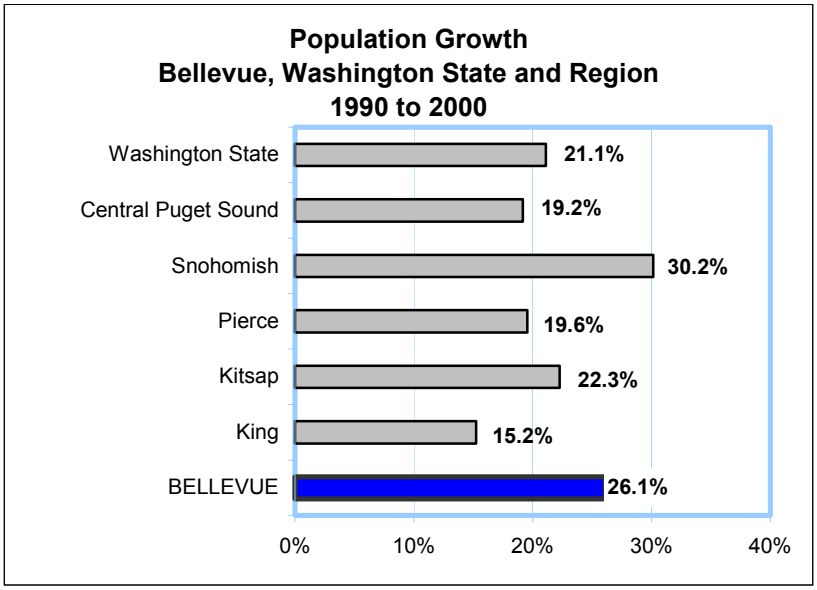


In addition, medium-sized metropolitan areas–those with populations of 2.0 million to 5.0 million, like the Central Puget Sound–grew more quickly than other metropolitan areas[3]. Nationally, medium-sized satellite cities also grew faster in the 1990s than did larger central urban cities.[4]



Consistent with these national trends, Bellevue and other cities surrounding Seattle grew more quickly than did Seattle. Also, outlying cities to the South and East of Bellevue also generally grew more quickly than did Bellevue.

Between 1990 and 2000, the population in the Central Puget Sound region (which is composed of King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties) increased by 527,000 persons–slightly more than half of Washington state's overall growth.



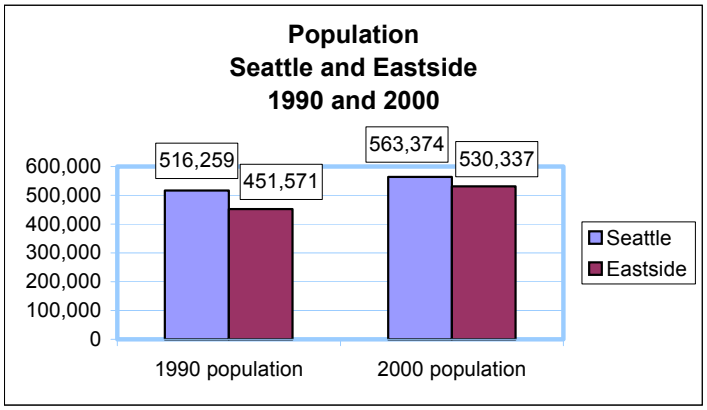
In the 1990s, the population of King County grew by 15.2 percent or 229,729 persons. King County's population grew somewhat more slowly than the population in the Central Puget Sound region as a whole and only about half as quickly as Snohomish County's population, which had the highest growth rate in the four-county region. The population of the Central Puget Sound region increased slightly more slowly than the overall population of Washington state.

[3] Source: the Census Bureau's "Population Change and Distribution Report" for 1990 to 2000

[4] Source: The Brookings Institution Survey Series, "Demographic Change in Medium-Sized Cities: Evidence from the 2000 Census," p. 5, July 2002.

Population and Population Growth Rates King County, Central Puget Sound Region, and Washington State 1990 to 2000				
	1990 Population	2000 Population	Numeric Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
BELLEVUE	**86,874**	**109,569**	**22,695**	**26.1%**
King County	1,507,305	1,737,034	229,729	15.2%
Kitsap County	189,731	231,969	42,238	22.3%
Pierce County	586,203	700,820	114,617	19.6%
Snohomish County	465,628	606,024	140,396	30.2%
Central Puget Sound Region *(combination of four counties above)*	2,748,867	3,275,847	526,980	19.2%
Washington State	4,866,663	5,894,121	1,027,458	21.1%

In the 1990s Bellevue's population grew by 26.1 percent. Not counting population added by annexations (i.e., assuming the same City boundaries for 1990 and 2000), Bellevue's population grew by 13.2 percent. Given that the boundaries of the Washington state and King County were static between 1990 and 2000, we can conclude that Bellevue's "real" rate of population growth was somewhat lower than the rate of population growth in the county as a whole and substantially lower than the rates of growth for the Central Puget Sound region and the state as a whole.[5] In an interesting coincidence, the rate of real population growth in Bellevue is the same as the 13.2 percent rate of growth in the nation as a whole.



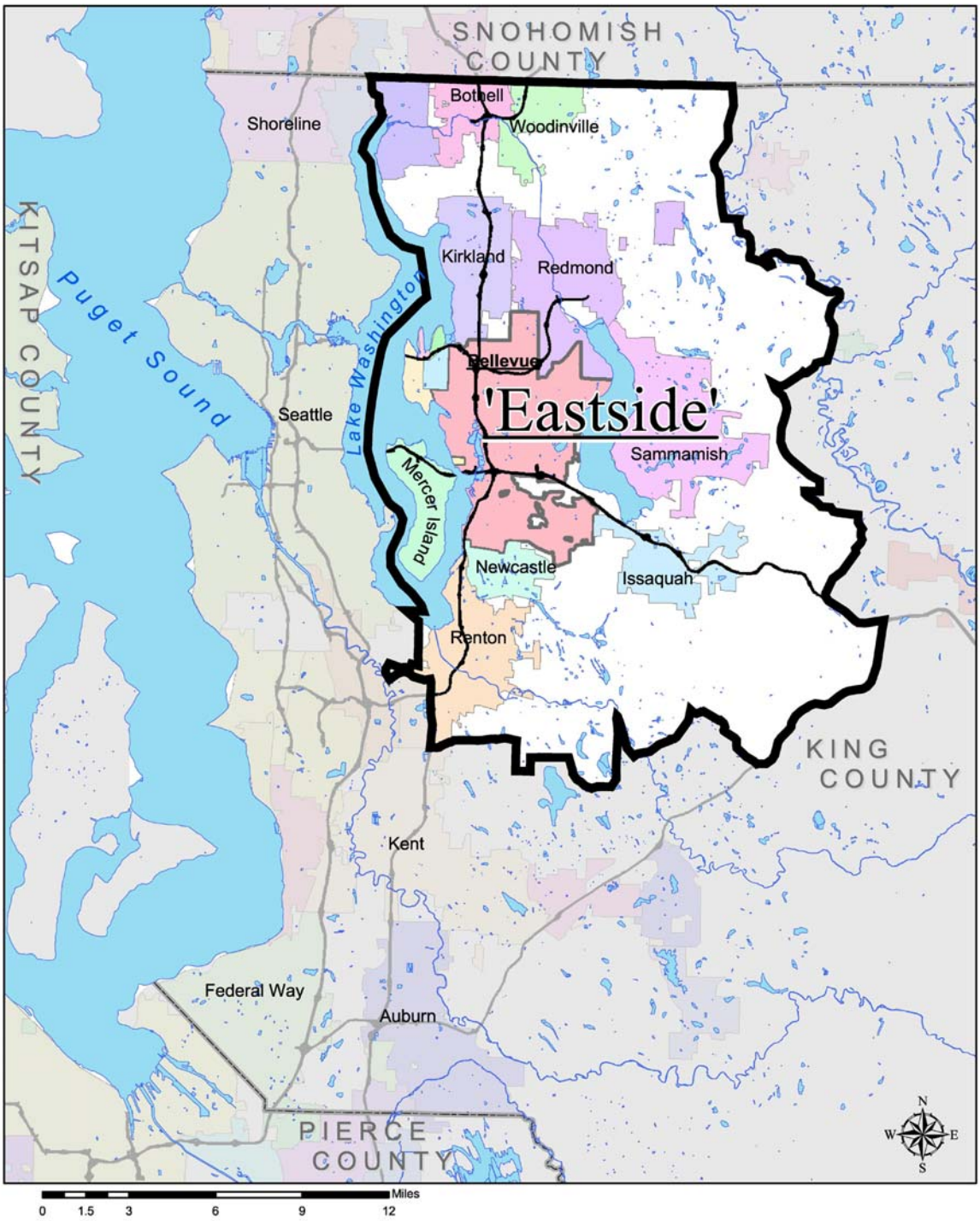
Within the Puget Sound region, the numbers of residents in traditional population centers have been growing less quickly than the number of residents in other places. As part of this pattern, the proportions of King County's population contributed by the Eastside and by the South King County have grown since 1970, while the percentage contributed by Seattle has fallen. In 1990 the Eastside[6] had a population that was 87.5 percent that of Seattle's. (A map showing the boundaries of the "Eastside," as defined in this report, can be found

[5] "Real" population growth is total population growth minus the new population brought into cities by annexations.

[6] Unless otherwise specified in the report text, "the Eastside" in this report is defined in terms of Census subdivisions for King County. Specifically, the "Eastside" in these reports consists of the East Seattle Subdivision in combination with the Issaquah Plateau Subdivision. The city with the largest populations in the East Seattle Subdivision is Bellevue, followed by Renton (which is partly in this subdivision), Redmond, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Kenmore, and Bothell (the last two of which are partly in this subdivision). The cities with the largest populations in the Issaquah Subdivision are Sammamish and Issaquah (both of which of which are located partly in this subdivision and partly in the East Seattle Subdivision). See map on page 14 for details.

on this page.) In 2000, the Eastside's population was 94.1 percent as large as Seattle's. In the 1990s, the population of the Eastside grew almost twice as fast as Seattle: the Eastside's growth rate was 17.4 percent compared to Seattle's growth rate of 9.1 percent. Also, in the 1990s, the Eastside added more residents in numerical terms than did Seattle.

King County's "Eastside" as defined in this Report



Population and Population Growth Rates King County, Seattle and the Eastside 1990 to 2000				
	1990 Population	2000 Population	Numeric Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
King County	1,507,319	1,737,034	229,715	15.2%
Seattle	516,259	563,374	47,115	9.1%
Eastside	451,571	530,337	78,766	17.4%

Analysis of trends over the last three decades reveals that rates of population growth peaked in the 1980s and declined somewhat within both King County and the Central Puget Sound region as a whole in the 1990s. In contrast, the overall growth rate in Washington state dipped in the 1980s then accelerated again in the 1990s.

In Bellevue, the population growth rate slowed in the 1980s compared to the growth rate of 1970s, but then increased in the 1990s, exceeding the growth rate of the 1970s and 1980s. The increased growth rate in the 1990s is largely attributable to annexation.

Population Growth in Selected Cities Bellevue and Comparison Cities in King County 1990 to 2000			
	Population 2000	Population Change (%) 1990-2000	Real Population Change (%) 1990-2000
King County	1,737,034	15.2%	15.2%
BELLEVUE	**109,569**	**26.1%**	**13.2%**
Kent	79,524	109.5%	41.4%
Kirkland	45,054	12.5%	12.5%
Redmond	45,256	26.4%	25.7%
Renton	50,052	20.1%	18.6%
Sammamish	34,104	N/A	N/A
Seattle	563,374	9.1%	9.1%

King County cities analyzed for this report varied widely in their rates of population increase between 1990 and 2000. In many cities in addition to Bellevue, annexations contributed to population growth during the 1990s. This helps account for the variation in growth rates within King County cities. For example, none of the 9.1 percent population increase in Seattle during the 1990s was due to annexation, but close to two-thirds of the 109.5 percent population increase in Kent during that decade came from annexation. With slightly less than half of Bellevue's 26.1 percent population increase coming from annexations, Bellevue's rate of growth from annexation during the 1990s was moderate in comparison to many other King County cities.

King County Cities with Highest Real Growth Rates (Excluding Annexations) 1990 to 2000			
	Population 2000	Population Change (%) 1990-2000	Real Population Change (%) 1990-2000
Algona	2,460	45.2%	45.2%
Black Diamond	3,970	179.2%	74.1%
Bothell	30,150	144.2%	50.7%
Carnation	1,893	52.3%	48.7%
Duvall	4,616	66.6%	64.0%
Enumclaw	11,116	53.8%	53.8%
Issaquah	11,212	44.0%	42.7%
Kent	79,524	109.5%	41.4%
North Bend	4,746	84.1%	84.1%

When population growth from all sources–*including annexations*–is analyzed, one finds that Bellevue grew much faster than Seattle and Kirkland and somewhat faster than Renton, but slightly slower than Redmond and much slower than Kent. *When*

annexations are excluded and "real" growth among cities is compared, Bellevue is seen to have grown slower than all of the other comparison cities analyzed except Seattle and Kirkland.[7]

Between 1990 and 2000, the share of the Eastside's population contributed by Bellevue went from 19.2 percent to 20.7 percent. (Without the persons added to Bellevue's population by annexation, Bellevue's population would have grown more slowly than the Eastside population as a whole, but still more quickly than Seattle.)

Downtown Bellevue was one the most rapidly growing census tracts in all of King County.[8] However, when whole cities and towns are considered as opposed to smaller census tracts, the most dramatic rates of growth in King County–other than those due to annexations–were commonly seen in the outer eastern and southern fringes of King County, in cities such as Duvall, Enumclaw, and North Bend. Bothell, and Kent also had high rates of "real" population growth in addition to annexations that also contributed a substantial portion of their growth.

KEY FINDINGS

Population and Growth

- Bellevue's population of 109,569 placed it as the fifth most populous city in Washington state and the second most populous city in King County after Seattle.
- Bellevue's population grew by 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2000.
- Annexation contributed about half of Bellevue's population growth between 1990 and 2000. This is about the same overall percentage contributed by annexation since the City's incorporation in 1953.
- Bellevue's population will likely increase more slowly in the future because only a small fraction of the City's ultimate potential annexation area remains to be annexed.
- Within the Puget Sound region the number of residents in traditional population centers such as Seattle have been growing more slowly than other places. As part of this trend, the east side of King County grew more quickly than Seattle did in the 1990s. Bellevue's population increased more quickly than Seattle's did, but less rapidly than the population in cities and towns on the eastern and southern fringes of King County.

[7] The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has compiled a table showing population change from annexation as a percentage of total population growth between 1990 and 2000 for all cities in the four-county Central Puget Sound Region. This is available on their website: http://www.psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/trends/d6trend.pdf. The PSRC website also contains a wealth of other regional data from the 2000 Census. Another useful website is that of the Washington State Office of Financial Management: http://www.ofm.wa.gov.

[8] See Appendix B: "Change in Population" in August 2001 report by the Puget Sound Regional Council entitled *2000 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data*, http://psrc.org/datapubs/census2000/pl94-171/pl_report.pdf. The second of Bellevue's series of 2000 Census reports will provide detailed comparisons of data for tracts within the city.

Potential Implications of Population Characteristics for Bellevue

As a city of over 100,000 residents, Bellevue's importance in the region will likely be enhanced as an economic, employment, cultural, and retail center serving an increasing number of residents in the Eastside. For this to occur, Bellevue will need to view itself in an increasingly regional way and ensure its ability to serve and appeal to those in other nearby cities. New opportunities for enhanced economic development throughout the region will also be associated with the increased numbers of consumers.

Bellevue is maturing. While Bellevue's population will continue to grow in numbers, the rate of population growth in the city will likely slow given that only a small fraction of the area within the City's ultimate potential annexation area remains to be annexed. Though the rate of population growth will slow, population density in Bellevue will likely increase in areas where this is allowed by zoning and other development regulations.

Continued increases in the city's population and population density will continue to bring both challenges and opportunities–both of which will require proactive and responsive planning. These include:

- Greater demands on local and regional utility and transportation infrastructure. These demands are likely to cause more congestion on roadways both regionally and locally, and increased pressure on scarce resources such as water supply.

- Greater demand for many City services, such as utilities, transportation, parks, human services, police, and fire, although the rate at which some services must ramp up to accommodate new residents will decrease.

- Continued pressures on open space and habitat from development and redevelopment. Bellevue's critical areas policies, which the City is currently updating, will be essential in limiting these impacts.

- A variety of opportunities to tap efficiencies and quality of life improvements that can be associated with increased population density–such as economically viable shops and schools within walking distances.

HOUSEHOLD AND AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Numbers from the decennial Census provide insights into many trends related to household and age characteristics that are critical for planners and policy makers to factor into decisions. A few of the most important trends with respect to these characteristics are the decline in household size, the aging of the baby boom generation, and the increase in the number and percentage of residents in older age groups, which has already been occurring in Bellevue.

This chapter first covers household characteristics such as average household size and household types and then examines the age distribution of the population. The basic information on household type and size and as well as age distribution was derived from the responses of all persons participating in the Census while the data on school enrollment were derived from the sample of households completing the "long form."

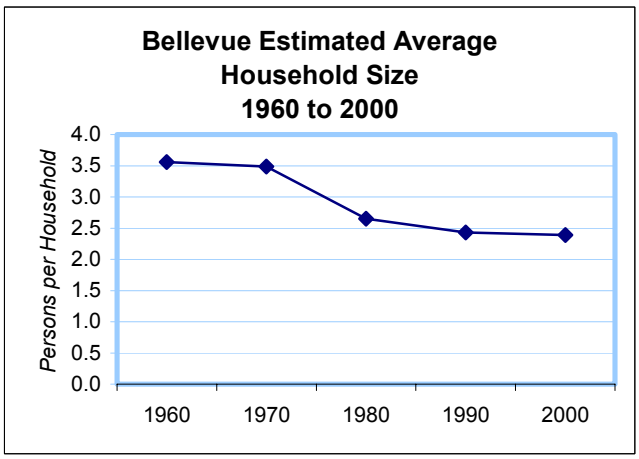
Households

The Census Bureau defines a "household" as "all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence." Census data tell us what households are like in their composition and size. These data reveal trends in the formation and nature of families reflecting fundamental factors in lifestyles, the nature of communities, and the housing needs of residents. Household characteristics and trends for Bellevue are discussed directly below. A discussion then follows of household characteristics in Bellevue compared to those in the region, state and nation.

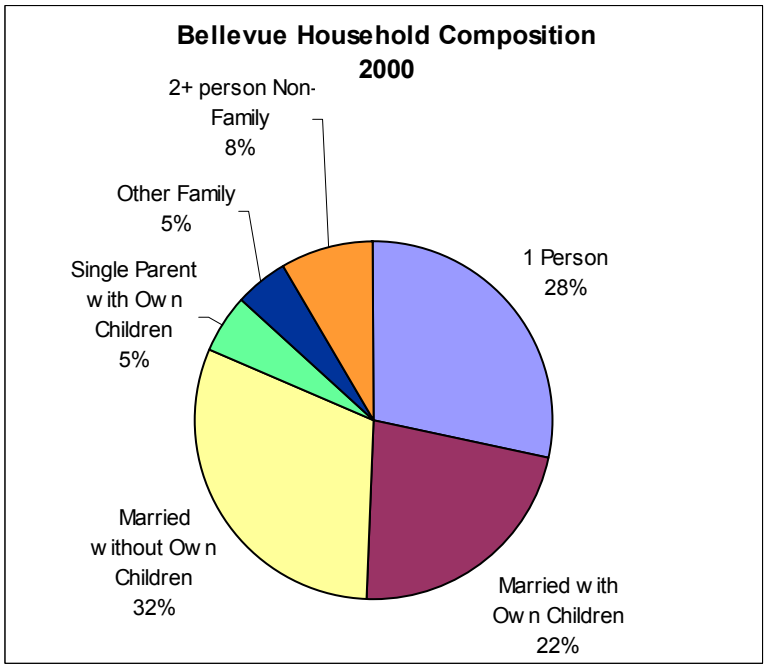
In the year 2000, almost all of Bellevue's population (99.3 percent or 108,778 persons) lived in households, while the small remaining fraction lived in group quarters such as nursing homes.

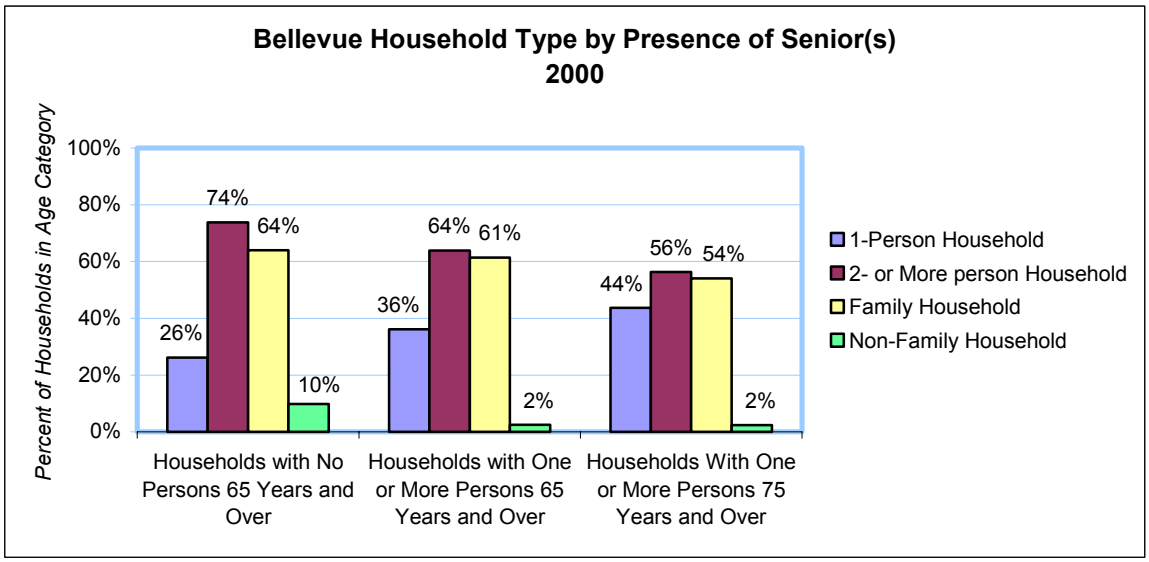
Household Size and Characteristics in Bellevue

In the year 2000, there were a total of 45,836 households in the city with an average of 2.37 persons per household. This compares to a total of 35,756 households in 1990 with an average household size of 2.41. The decline in household size between 1990 and 2000 is a continuation of a trend in the decades following Bellevue's incorporation, though the rate of decline in the 1990s was slow compared to the sharper drop of the 1970s.



One-person households made up 28 percent of all Bellevue households in 2000. The majority (55 percent) of one-person households were female. This is largely related to the fact that women live longer on average than men.

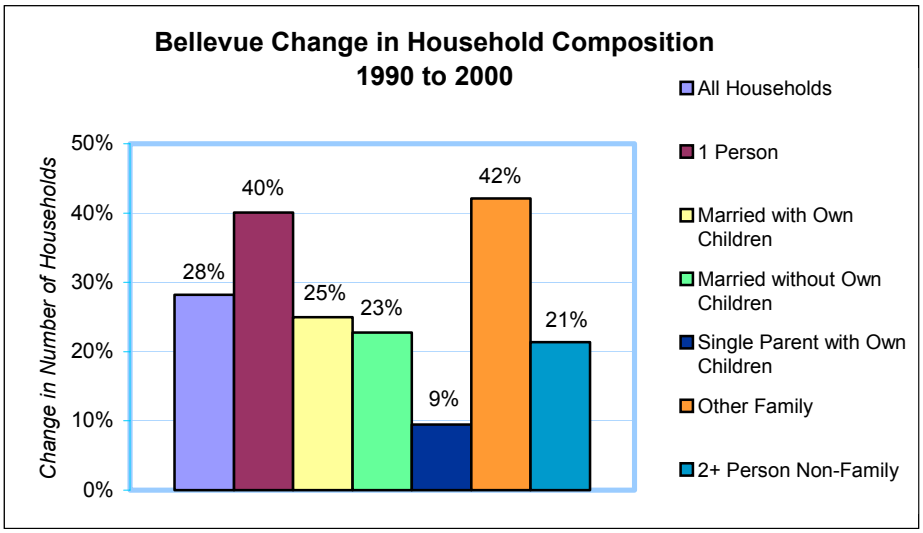




Also, as the chart above shows, seniors were more likely than non-seniors to live in single-person households: 36 percent of households with one or more persons 65 years of age and older and 44 percent with one or more persons 75 years of age and older was a single-person household. By contrast, only 26 percent of households with no seniors were single-person households. (The chart above describes household types by the presence of one or more seniors. Another way to look at the relationship of housing type to senior age is to consider the living arrangements of individual seniors in Bellevue. In doing so, one finds that about 25 percent of individual seniors in Bellevue live alone, 68 percent live in family households, 3 percent live in non-family households, and 4 percent live in group quarters.)

One- and two- person households together made up 65 percent of all Bellevue households. Three- and four-person households made up 28 percent of Bellevue households. The remainder–just 7 percent–were households with 5 or more persons.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of single-person households increased at a rate of 40 percent, which is markedly faster than the 28 percent rate of increase for the overall number of households.



Sixty-three percent of Bellevue households were family households. By the census definition, a family household includes a householder and one or more persons related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. The number of family households went up by 24 percent, which is somewhat lower than the rate for Bellevue households overall.

Slightly more than half of all households in Bellevue (53 percent) included a householder and spouse. Married-couple households *without* their own children (32 percent of all Bellevue households) outnumbered married couples households *with* their own children (22 percent of all Bellevue households). Census data for "own child" refers to a child under 18 who is a son or daughter by birth, marriage (a stepchild), or adoption.

Between 1990 and 2000, married couple households with and without their own children both increased just somewhat more slowly (at rates of 25 percent and 23 percent, respectively) than did the number of households overall.

In 2000, 5 percent of Bellevue households were single-parent households. Within these households, single mothers were about three and one-half times as common as single fathers. During the 1990s, the number of single-parent households went up only 9 percent, which is much less slowly than for households overall.

"Other family" households (those with related family members but not a married couple and not parent(s) with their own children) grew even faster (42 percent) between 1990 and 2000 than did single-person households. However, "other family" households continued to make up only about 1 in 20 Bellevue households.

Non-family households with two or more unrelated persons made up 8 percent of Bellevue's households. Non-family households went up by 21 percent, which is less than the rate of increase for households in Bellevue overall.

Household Size and Characteristics – Regional and National Comparisons

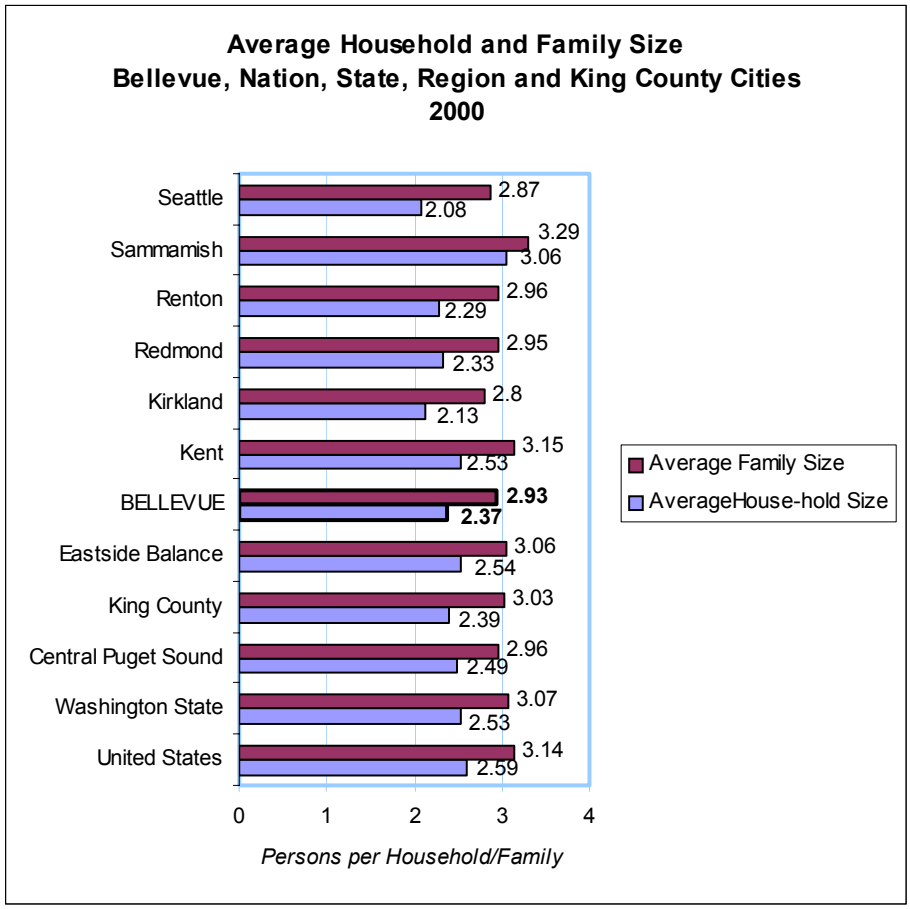
Household Types and Size
Bellevue, Region and Nation
2000

	1 Person	Married with No Own Child(ren)	Married with Own Child(ren)	Single Parent with Own Child(ren)	Other Family	2+ person Non-Family	Average House-hold Size	Average Family Size
United States	26%	28%	24%	9%	7%	6%	2.59	3.14
Washington State	26%	28%	24%	9%	5%	8%	2.53	3.07
Central Puget Sound	27%	27%	24%	8%	5%	9%	2.49	2.96
King County	31%	25%	21%	7%	5%	10%	2.39	3.03
Eastside Balance	24%	29%	28%	7%	5%	8%	2.54	3.06
BELLEVUE	**28%**	**31%**	**22%**	**5%**	**5%**	**8%**	**2.37**	**2.93**
Kent	29%	22%	23%	12%	6%	9%	2.53	3.15
Kirkland	36%	25%	17%	6%	5%	11%	2.13	2.8
Redmond	30%	27%	22%	6%	4%	10%	2.33	2.95
Renton	34%	23%	17%	9%	6%	10%	2.29	2.96
Sammamish	9%	31%	49%	5%	2%	4%	3.06	3.29
Seattle	41%	20%	13%	5%	6%	15%	2.08	2.87

Change In Household Composition and Size
Bellevue, Nation, County, Eastside Balance, and Seattle
1990 to 2000

	All House-holds	1 Person	Married with No Own Child(ren)	Married with Own Children	Single Parent with Own Child(ren)	Other Family	2+ person Non-Family	Average House-hold Size
United States	*15%*	21%	1%	13%	25%	78%	33%	-1.4%
Washington State	21%	25%	19%	10%	25.1%	55%	36%	0.0%
King County	*15%*	21%	8%	9%	9%	31%	27%	-0.3%
Eastside Balance	*20%*	40%	7%	15%	15%	35%	25%	-3.5%
BELLEVUE	**28%**	**40%**	**25%**	**23%**	**9%**	**42%**	**21%**	**-1.7%**
Kent	*92%*	77%	111%	89%	116%	95%	52%	8.9%
Kirkland	*20%*	43%	-2%	18%	3%	18%	16%	-6.5%
Redmond	*35%*	63%	9%	40%	8%	28%	41%	-7.1%
Renton	*19%*	25%	5%	12%	24%	48%	26%	0.8%
Seattle	*9%*	12%	2%	-2%	-6%	15%	34%	-0.7%

Bellevue's average household size of 2.37 and average family size of 2.93 were smaller than in the nation, State, Puget Sound Region and King County. Household size and family size were also smaller in Bellevue than in the balance of the Eastside,[1] yet were about the same as in Redmond and a bit larger than in Kirkland. South King County cities, including Kent and Renton, generally had larger household sizes than did Bellevue. Sammamish and other cities farther out from Seattle had larger household and family sizes than Bellevue and other comparison cities in King County. Seattle, in contrast, had smaller household and family sizes than Bellevue and all of the other King County cities examined for this report.

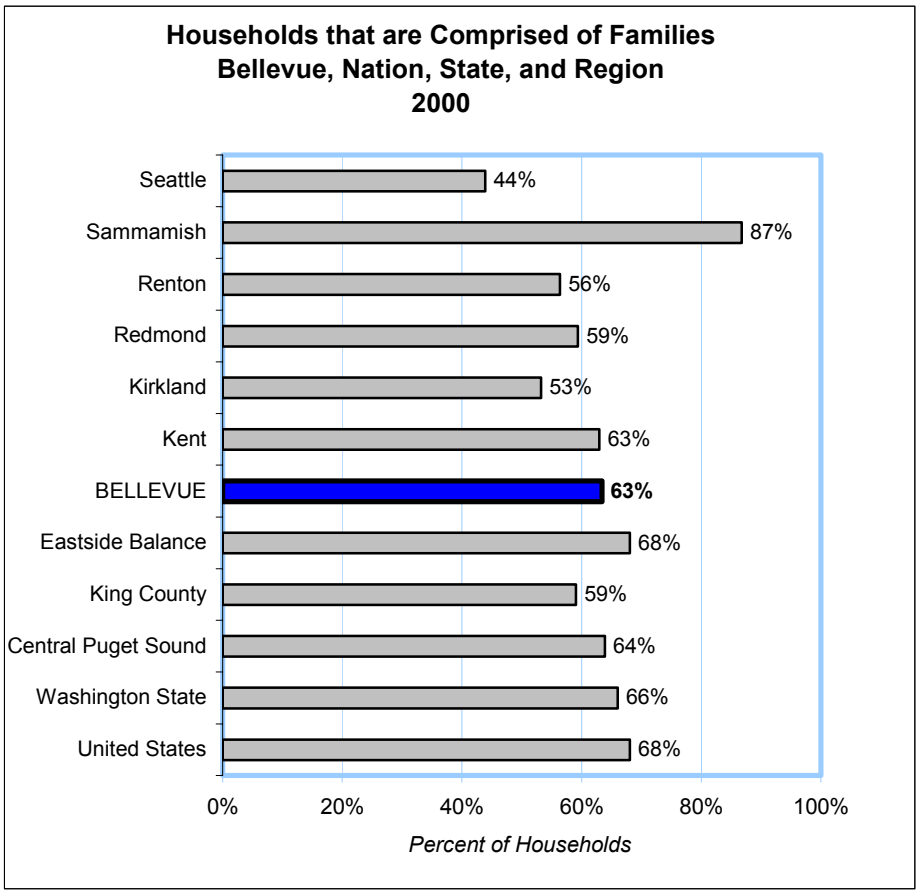


Trends seen in Bellevue of a declining average household size and a faster rate of growth for single-person households compared to most other household types also occurred nationally, and in King County as a whole. This was also the case for most–but not all–of the other geographies studied for this report. (For example, household size in the state as a whole remained constant and in Kent it *increased* almost 9 percent.)

The percentage of single-person households in Bellevue was a bit higher than in the nation, state, and Central Puget Sound region. While not nearly as high as it was in Seattle, the Bellevue percentage was somewhat greater than in the balance of the Eastside. However, on the Eastside, some cities such as Kirkland and Redmond had higher proportions of one-person households than Bellevue did.

[1] "Eastside Balance" refers to the "Eastside" minus Bellevue. (See Eastside map in "Population and Growth" chapter.)

The percentage of households comprised of families was higher in Bellevue than in King County. King County's relatively lower percentage was largely due to the influence of Seattle, which had a far smaller percentage of family households than the county as a whole. Bellevue's proportion of family households was smaller than the proportion of family households in the balance of the Eastside. Other neighboring inner-ring Eastside cities–Redmond and Kirkland–had smaller percentages of family households than did Bellevue. In contrast, Sammamish, which is further to the east, had a demographic makeup that is much more heavily dominated by family households.



Interestingly, Bellevue is one of the few geographies studied in which the number of 2+ person non-family households grew more slowly than the number of households as a whole.

Bellevue had a substantially larger portion of its households composed of married couples without children than did the county, region, state and nation and most of the King County comparison cities.

In Bellevue the percentage of households made up of married-couple households with their own children was slightly higher than in King County. The county's percentage reflects the influence of Seattle, but Bellevue's percentage was lower than in the balance of the Eastside as whole.

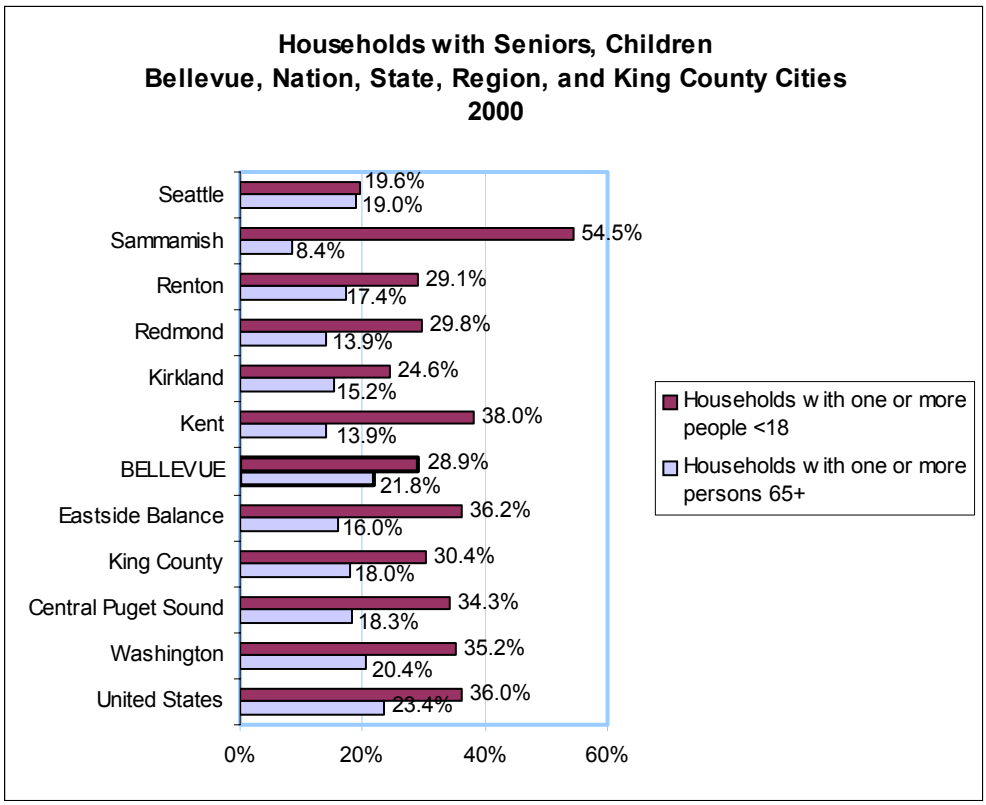
Single-parent households comprised a slightly to somewhat smaller percentage of households in Bellevue than in the county, region, state and nation and all of the other cities studied except Sammamish and Seattle.

The percentage of children in Bellevue living with one or more of their own parents was higher than that in King County and the broader geographies studied. Bellevue's percentage of children living with own parent(s) was also higher than the percentage in Seattle, Kent, and Renton. However the percentage was lower in Bellevue than it was in the balance of the Eastside.

Children Living With Own Parent(s)
Bellevue, Nation, State, and Region
2000

	Percent of Children Living in Household with Own Parent or Parents	Percent of Children Living in a Single-Parent Household
United States	89.2%	23.3%
Washington	91.5%	22.1%
Central Puget Sound	92.0%	21.5%
King County	92.0%	20.9%
Eastside Balance	95.0%	16.0%
BELLEVUE	**94.4%**	**16.0%**
Kent	91.8%	28.0%
Kirkland	94.3%	22.4%
Redmond	94.9%	17.9%
Renton	90.5%	29.1%
Sammamish	97.9%	7.9%
Seattle	88.5%	24.9%

The percentage of households in which a child is present was substantially lower in Bellevue than in the state and nation and slightly lower than in King County as a whole. In King County, those cities that were closer to Seattle (such as Bellevue and Kirkland) generally had a smaller proportion of households with children than did those cities further to the east and south (such as Sammamish and Kent).



A further extension of this pattern is seen in the fact that Sammamish and all of the other cities in which close to half or more households had children (e.g., Carnation, Duvall, Maple Valley) are fringe cities located furthest away from King County's dense population centers. Many of these cities have also been among the cities in King County with the fastest growing populations. The relative affordability of single-family homes in Kent and in many of the cities on the fringes of King County likely plays a major role in influencing these patterns.

While Bellevue had a somewhat lower proportion of households with seniors than did the nation as a whole, the percentage of households with seniors was higher in Bellevue than in the remainder of the Eastside and in the state, region, county, and all of the comparison cities chosen for this report. (More detailed data on the age characteristics of Bellevue's population are provided in the following section.) The gap between the percentage of households that include children and the percentage that include seniors was lower in Bellevue than all other geographies examined, with the exception of Seattle, which had almost equal percentages of households in these two categories.

In general, Bellevue trends in household size reflect larger-scale trends at the national level. There are several factors that are influencing this trend.[2] These include the increasing ages at which couples have gotten married and had children, a dramatic drop in the fertility rate in the United States between 1950 and 1970, increased life spans with more older persons living alone, as well as more separated and divorced persons living alone.[3]

KEY FINDINGS

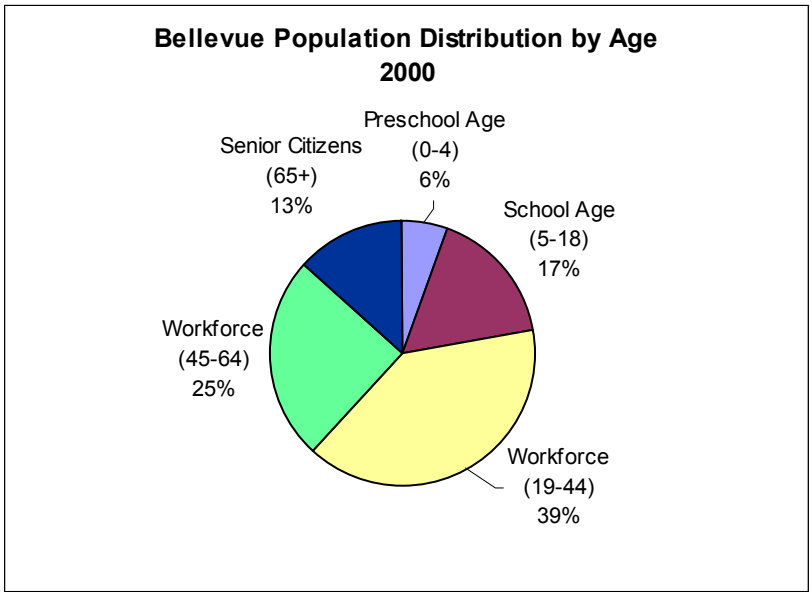
Households

- In the year 2000 Bellevue contained 45,836 households.
- In the 1990s, average household size continued its trend downward nationally, in King County, and in Bellevue. Bellevue's average household size decreased from 2.41 in 1990 to 2.37 in 2000. This was lower than in the nation, state, Puget Sound region, and King County, but higher than in Seattle.
- The most common categories of households in Bellevue in 2000 were married couples without children at home (which made up 32 percent of households) and one-person households (which made up 28 percent of households). The number of single-person households increased significantly more quickly than the number of households overall between 1990 and 2000.
- The percentage of households in which a child is present was slightly lower in Bellevue (28.9 percent) than in King County as a whole (30.4 percent). Within the county, Seattle and cities close to Seattle–including Bellevue–generally had a smaller proportion of households with children than did cities further to the east and south.

[2] Bureau of the Census, *Projections of the Number of Households and Families in the United States: 1995 to 2010*, p. 10, Table 5 "Average Size of Household & Family 1940-2010." http://www.census.gov/prod/1/pop/p25-1129.pdf .
[3] *A Demographic Perspective on Our Nation's Future* by Peter Morrison, RAND, 2001. http://www.rand.org/publications/DB/DB320/.

Age

Age is a basic demographic characteristic that describes a great deal about a community. Data from the Census summarized in this part of the report reveal the age distribution of residents in Bellevue and the extent to which Bellevue's age structure is being shaped by national trends associated with the aging of the "Baby Boom" and their "Echo Boom" children. The "Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality" chapter of this report also provides age profiles by racial and ethnic group, which differ markedly and each contribute to overall age-related trends.

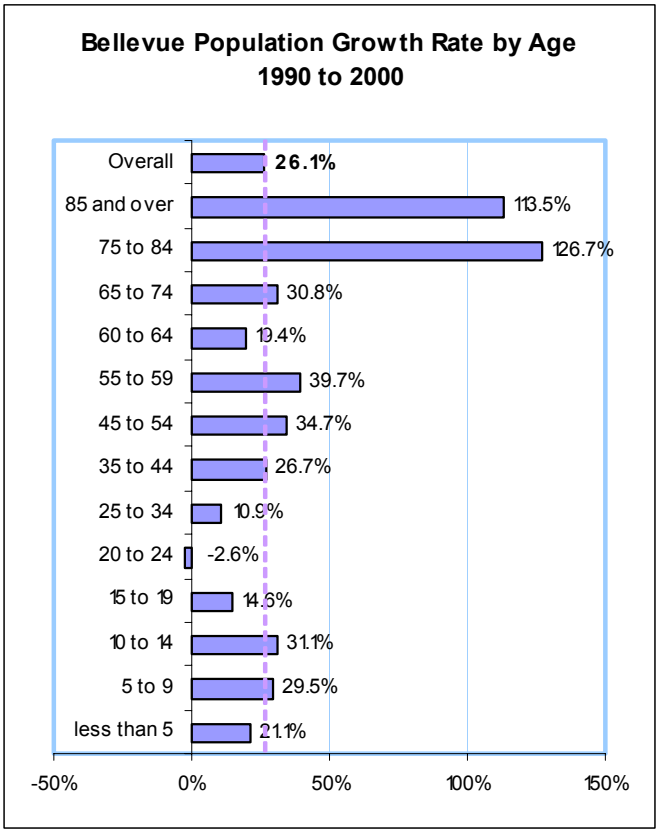


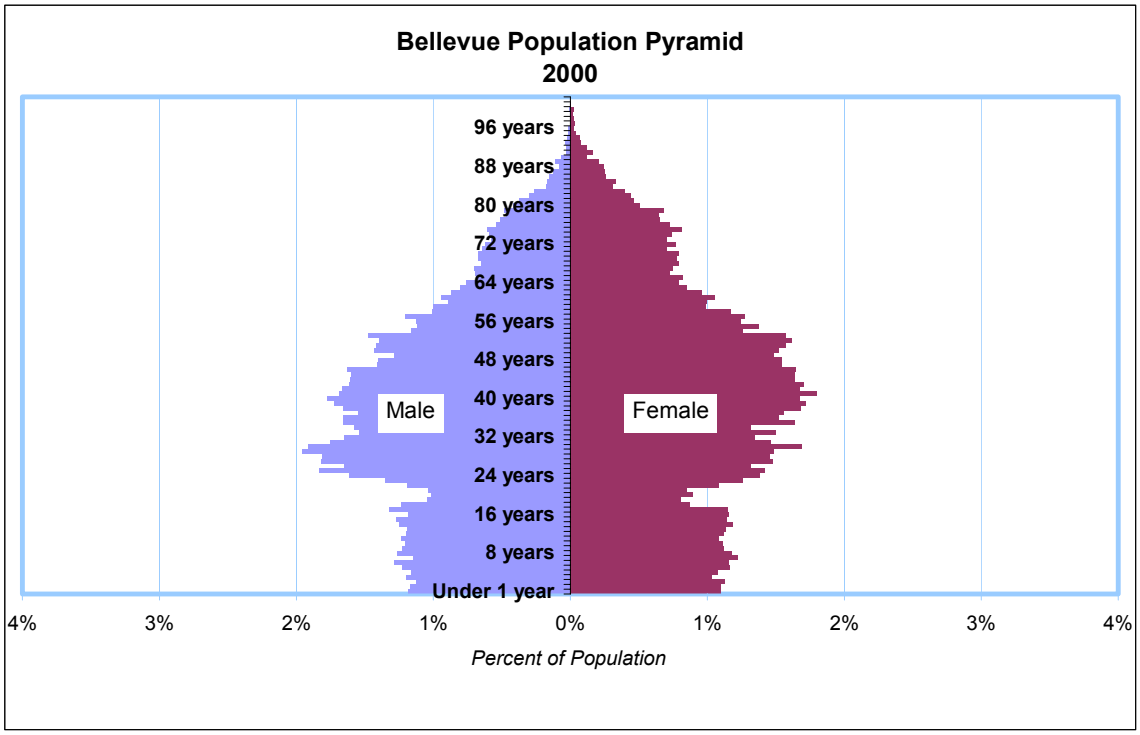
Age Distribution and Median Age in Bellevue

Both the pie chart to the right and the pyramid chart on the next page show the age distribution of Bellevue's residents in 2000.

The pie chart shows the percentage of residents by specific age groups. For a finer level of insight, the pyramid chart shows the percentage of the population contributed by individual years of age and by gender.

About 4 in 10 residents (39 percent) were age 19 to 44 years old and another quarter (25 percent) were 45 to 64. These two cohorts of the "working age" population made up the majority of Bellevue residents. "Preschool-age" children (infants and children up to 4 years of age) made up about 6 percent of the population, and "school-age" individuals (5 to 18 years of age) contributed about 17 percent of t he population. About 13 percent of the population were senior citizens 65 years of age and older.





The pyramid chart reveals the relatively small proportion of young adults in their late teens and early 20s. This likely indicates that a substantial proportion of young adults leave Bellevue to attend college in other locations. Only about 5 percent of Bellevue residents were age 18 to 22.

Women were more numerous than men in the age categories at the top of the pyramid, reflecting their greater average longevity.

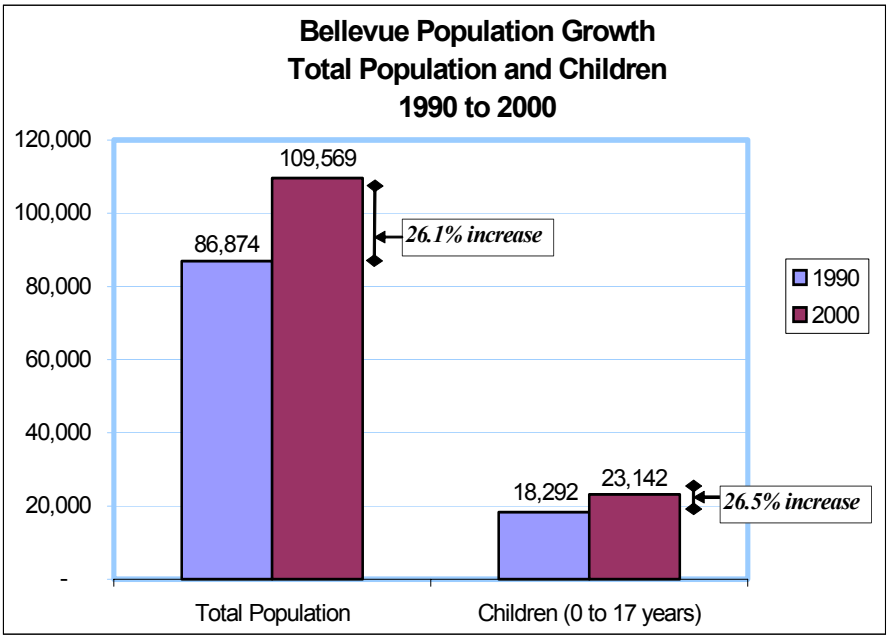
Though they constituted a small percentage of the population, seniors 75 years of age and over represented the fastest growing segment of Bellevue's residential population. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of residents ages 75 to 84 grew 127 percent and the number 85 years of age and over grew about 114 percent. These rates are more than quadruple the 26.1 percent rate of growth for Bellevue's population as a whole. The number of residents in the 65 to 74 age group also increased (by 31 percent), but this was only somewhat higher than the growth rate for Bellevue's population as a whole. Taking seniors 65 years of age and older as a whole, one finds that their numbers increased from 10 percent of Bellevue's population in 1990 to 13.4 percent in 2000.

After those ages 75 and over, the groups growing the most quickly in the 1990s were those ages 45 to 54 and those ages 55 to 59 (with growth rates of 40 percent and 35 percent respectively).

By contrast, the number of young adults in their early twenties actually fell in the 1990s by 2.6 percent. Also, the number of residents ages 25 to 34 grew just 11 percent, which was substantially slower than the overall population growth rate.

Among children and teens, the number of children under 5 and the number of youth age 15 to 19 also grew at a slower rate than did the population overall. However, the 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 age groups increased somewhat more quickly than the general population. Overall, there was about a 25 percent increase in the number of Bellevue residents falling into the three age categories in the bar chart most closely corresponding with kindergarten through twelfth grade.

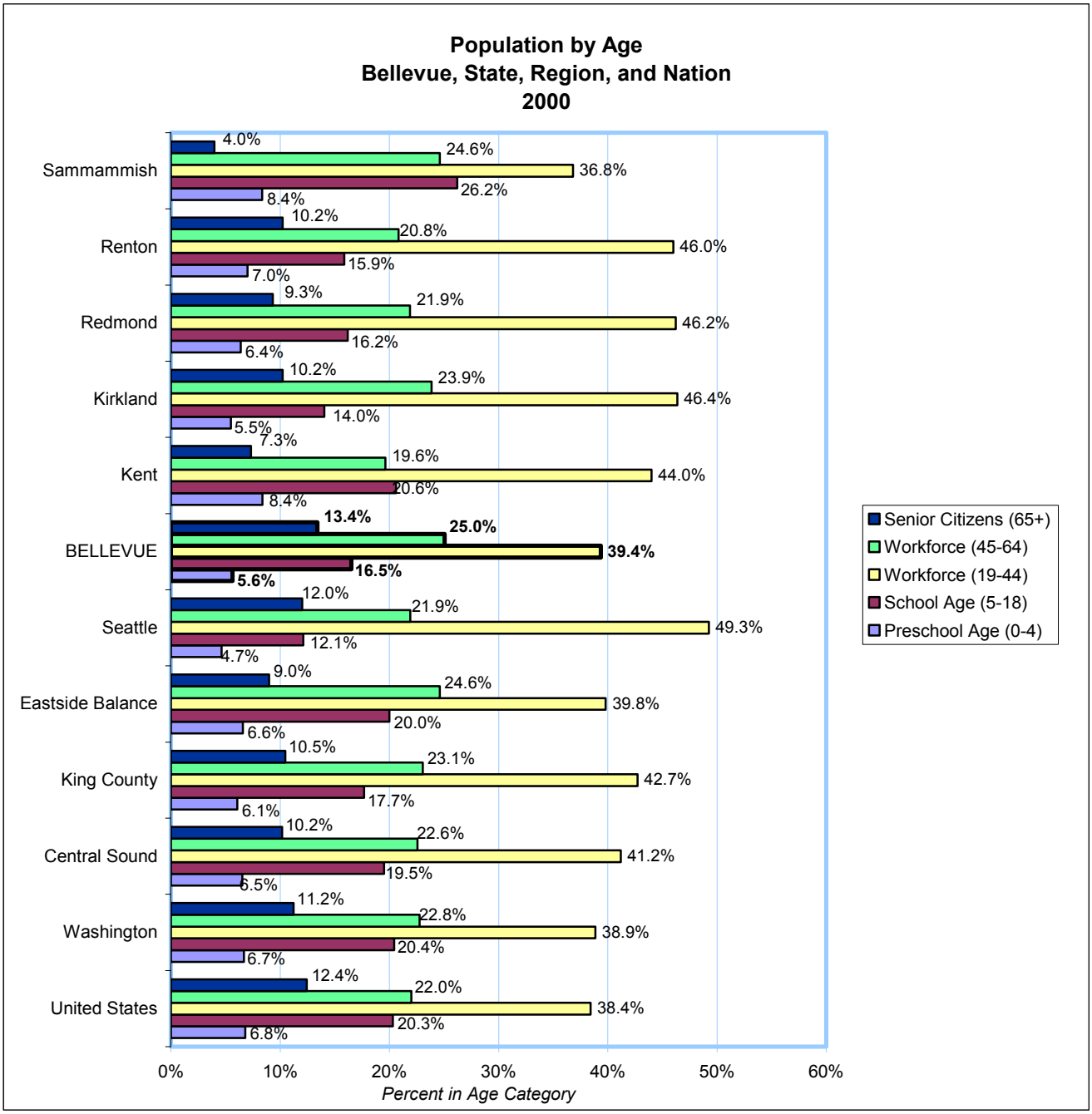
Breaking out census age categories slightly differently to identify the total population of *children under 18 years of age* in Bellevue, reveals that children made up about 21 percent of the city's overall population in 2000. Overall, the growth rate for children in Bellevue kept pace with total population growth (see chart to to right), while the number of children in Bellevue increased by almost 5,000.



On balance, the increasing proportion of Bellevue's population in older age groups pushed the median age of the city's population from 35.4 in 1990 to 38.2 in 2000. (Median age refers to the age compared to which half of the population are younger and half are older.)

Age Distribution and Median Age – Regional and National Comparisons

As the bar chart on the next page shows, the distribution of Bellevue's population differed markedly from that of the comparison cities studied in King County in some important ways: Bellevue had a lower percentage made up of 19- to 44-year-olds than did the county as a whole and each of the other individual King County cities studied in this report, except for Sammamish. (In fact, those ages 19 to 44 made up almost 10 percentage points less of the population in Bellevue than in Seattle.) Bellevue also had a larger percentage of older working age adults (ages 45 to 64) than did all the other geographies studied (though the difference between Bellevue and the balance of the Eastside was small). Bellevue also had a greater proportion of residents who were 65 years of age and older than did King County and each of the comparison cities in the county.

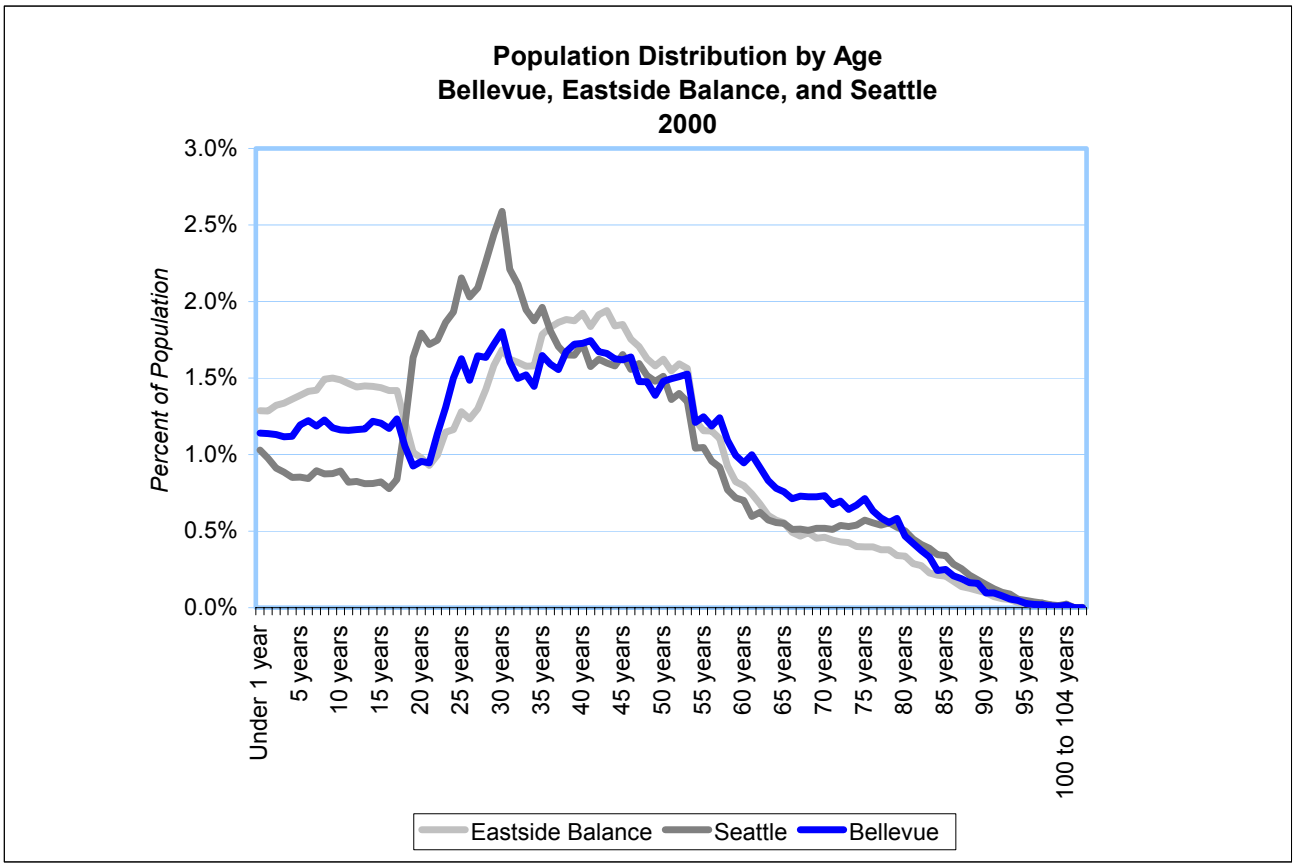


Consistent with these patterns, median age in Bellevue (38.2) is also higher than it is in the county as a whole (35.7), the balance of the Eastside (36.3), Seattle (35.4), and in each of the comparison cities.

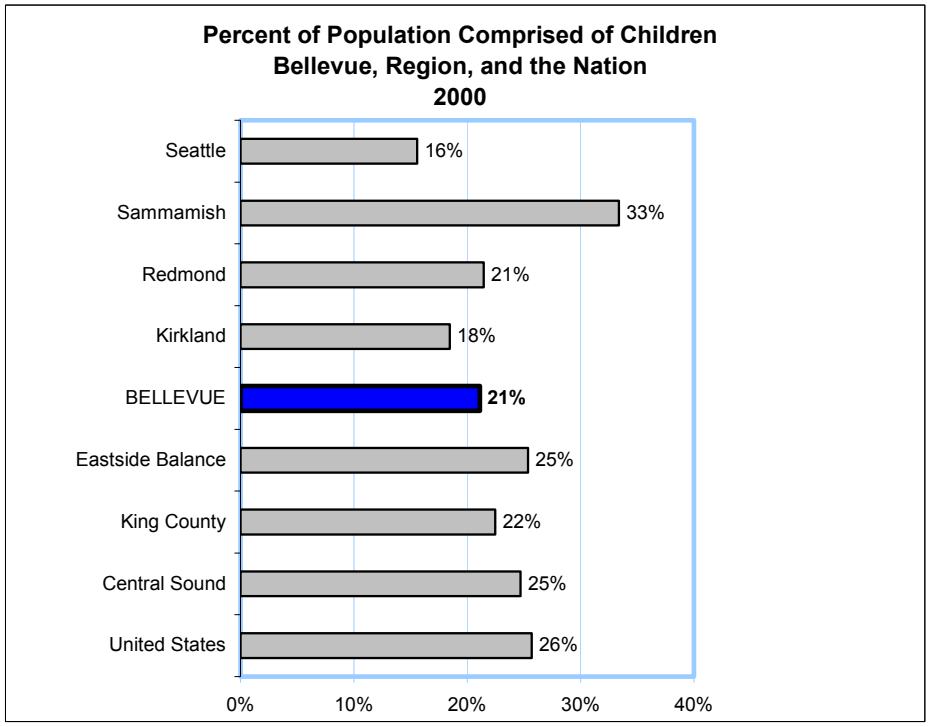
The line chart on the next page provides another look at the age distribution of Bellevue's population in comparison with that of the remainder of the Eastside and with Seattle. In Bellevue and the balance of the Eastside, younger working age adults made up a smaller percentage of the population than in Seattle.[4]

[4] "Eastside Balance" refers to the "Eastside" minus Bellevue. (See regional map in "Population and Growth" chapter).

However, Bellevue's population had a higher percentage of persons in their mid-fifties to late seventies than was found in the balance of the Eastside and Seattle.

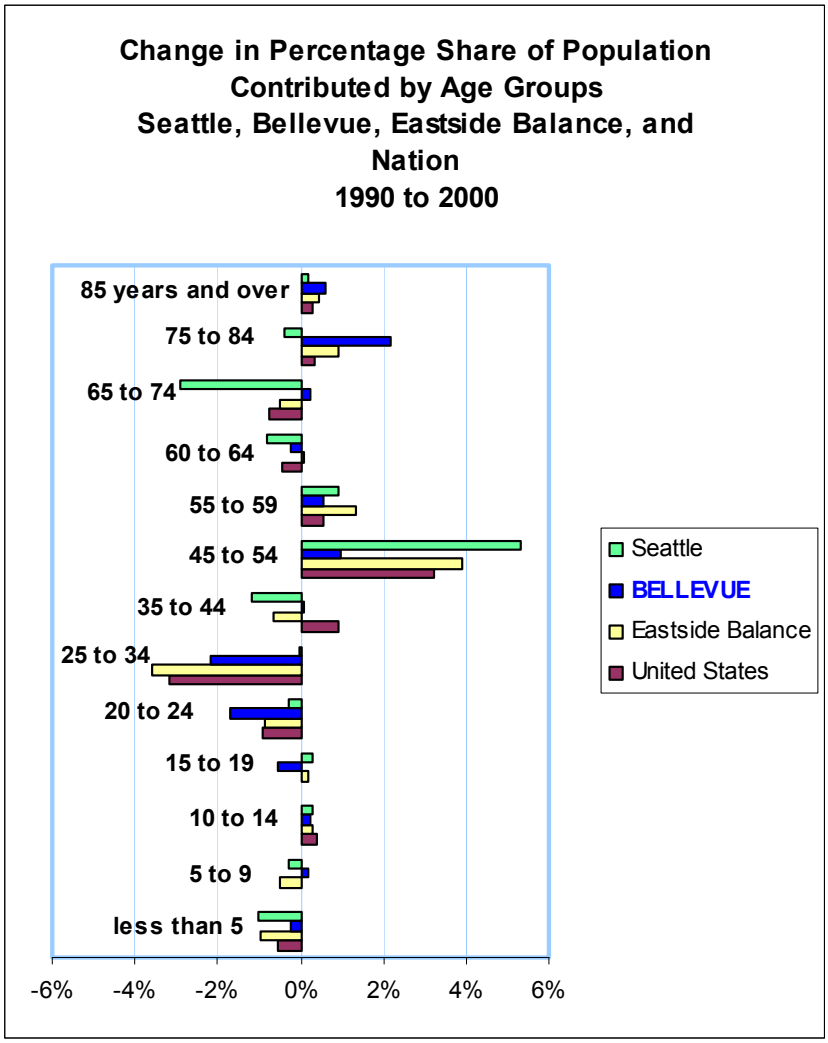


Children (up to 18 years of age) made up a smaller percentage of the population in Bellevue than in the rest of the Eastside, but a greater percentage than in Seattle, as is also shown in the chart to the right.



The chart below shows how the percentage of the population contributed by different age groups *changed* from 1990 to 2000. For example, between 1990 and 2000, the share of Bellevue's population that was 20 to 24 years of age went down by almost 1.8 percentage points (from 7.6 percent of the city's population at the time of the 1990 Census to 5.8 percent of the city's population at the time of the 2000 Census). The change in percent for each age category is shown in the chart both for Bellevue and for the remainder of the Eastside of King County, as well as for Seattle and the nation.

This chart helps one see how–and to what extent–Bellevue's demographics are being shaped by national trends associated with aging of the "baby boomers" and their "echo boomer" children.



The national post-World-War-II baby boom cohort includes persons born between the years of 1946 and 1964. (In 2000 the youngest of the baby boom generation were reaching their 36th birthdays and the oldest were reaching their 54th birthdays.) Then came the baby bust generation whose lowest births occurred in the early 1970s, followed by the children of the baby boomers, the so-called "echo boomers," whose births peaked in 1990. [5,6]

The aging of the baby boomers is reflected in the chart above with national increases in the percentages of the population made up of 35- to 44-year-olds and, especially, the 45- to 54-year-olds. The smaller wave created by the echo boom is reflected in positive growth for the 10 to 14 age group.

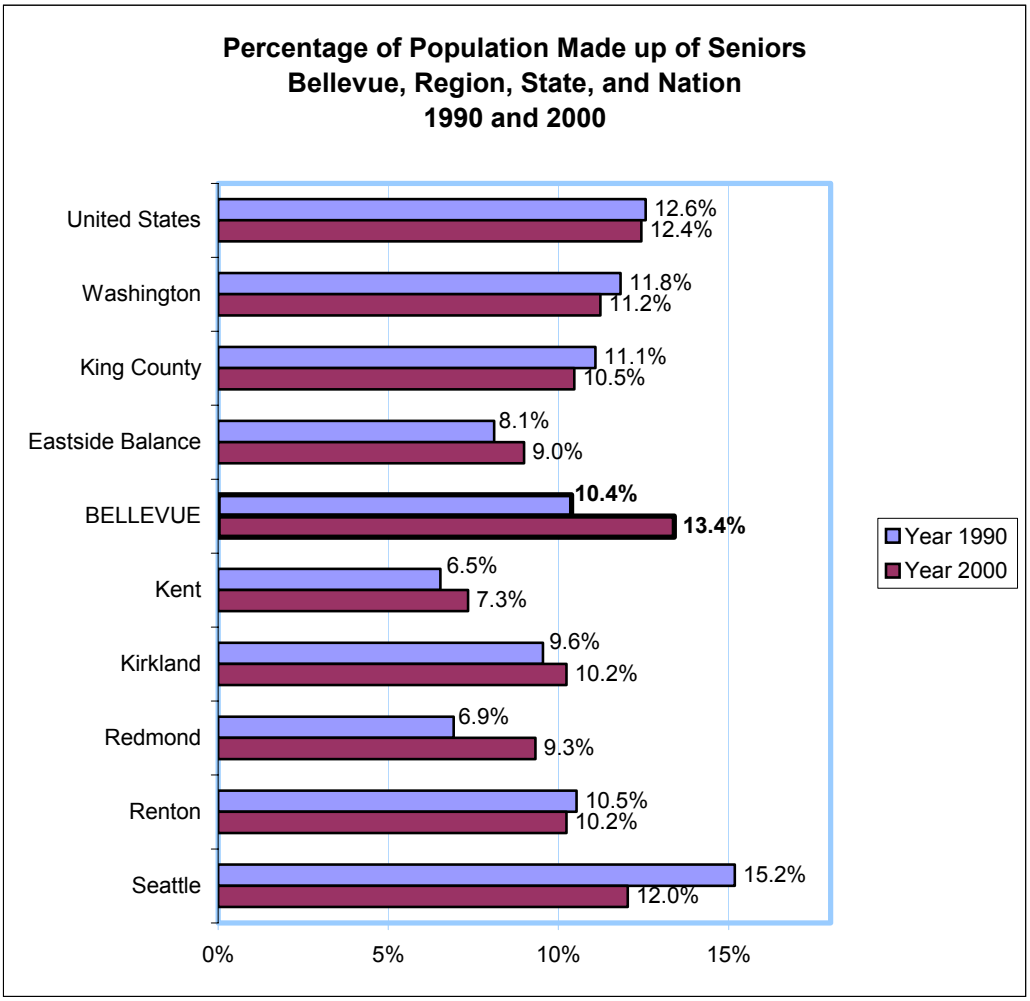
Interestingly, the movement of the aging of the baby boomers through the age structure of the population was not felt as dramatically in Bellevue as it was nationally and in Seattle. However, in both 1990 and 2000, persons in the 45 to 54 age group actually made up a higher percentage of the population in Bellevue than in Seattle and the Nation.

[5] United States Department of Education, *Growing Pains: The Challenge of Overcrowded Schools Is Here to Stay* -- (August 21, 2000) . http://www.ed.gov/pubs/bbecho00/figure1.html.
[6] The Census Bureau's population projections by age and state can be found at http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/stproj.html.

The national baby boom "bust" is manifested in substantial declines in the proportion of the population contributed by 25- to 34-year-olds in Bellevue and the remainder of the Eastside (though not in Seattle). The effect of the national echo boom is also seen locally in Bellevue, the Eastside King County Balance, and Seattle, with increases in the proportion of the population contributed by 10- to 14-year-olds. However, while the proportion of the population made up of 15- to 19-year-olds went up nationally and in most other local geographies, the same did not happen in Bellevue.

Another even more striking difference between Bellevue and the nation is in the 65-plus age groups shown. In Bellevue, the percentage of the population ages 75 to 84 years went up substantially more than it did in the rest of the Eastside, Seattle (where it actually went down), and the nation as a whole. Notably, the percentage of the population made up of 65- to 74-year-olds also went up in Bellevue, but went down in the rest of the Eastside, in Seattle and in the nation as a whole.

The 1990 and 2000 percentages of the population contributed by all seniors combined (those 65 years of age and above) is shown in the adjacent chart for all of the regular comparison geographies studied in the report. Of all of these, Bellevue experienced the largest increase. By 2000, Bellevue also had eclipsed both the nation and all of these other comparison geographies in the proportion of the population made up of seniors.



KEY FINDINGS

Age

- In the year 2000, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of Bellevue residents were "working age" (age 20-64). In 2000, younger working age persons (19-44) made up a smaller proportion of Bellevue's residents than they did in Seattle.
- In Bellevue the growth rate in the number of children kept pace with overall population growth and the percentage of the Bellevue population that was under 18 years of age held steady at 21 percent.
- Children made up a higher percentage of the population in Bellevue than in Seattle, but a lower percentage than in the remainder of King County's Eastside.
- Seniors ages 65 and older made up about 13.4 percent of residents in Bellevue in 2000, up from 10.4 percent in 1990.
- By 2000, Bellevue had a higher percentage of the population made up of seniors than did the nation, state, county, and all comparison cities examined for this report.
- Though they constituted a small percentage of Bellevue's overall population, older seniors (75 years of age and above) more than doubled in number and were the fastest growing age group in the city in the 1990s.
- As the nation's baby boom continues to age in the next four decades, Bellevue will likely continue to see continuing increases in the percentage of the population that is made up of seniors.

School Enrollment

Public and Private School Enrollment of Bellevue Residents

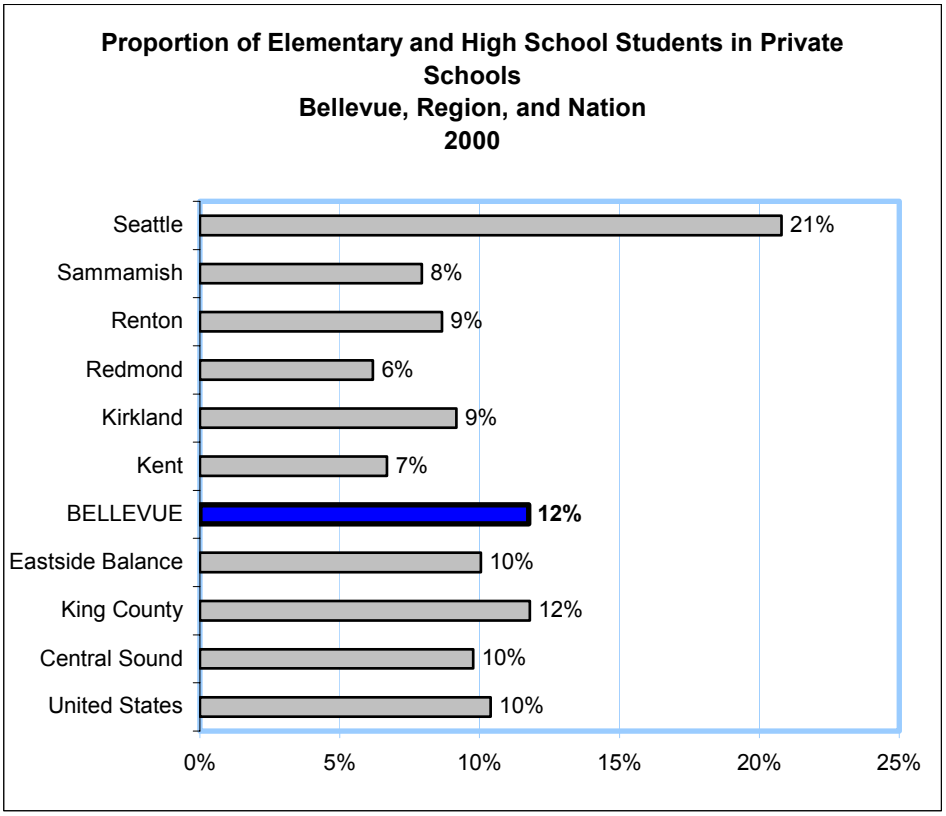
In the year 2000 a total of about 26,000 Bellevue residents were enrolled in school. The table below shows the number of residents enrolled at each level of schooling. Trends between 1990 and 2000 are not shown because the 1990 Census questionnaire did not measure school enrollment in the same manner as the 2000 Census questionnaire did.

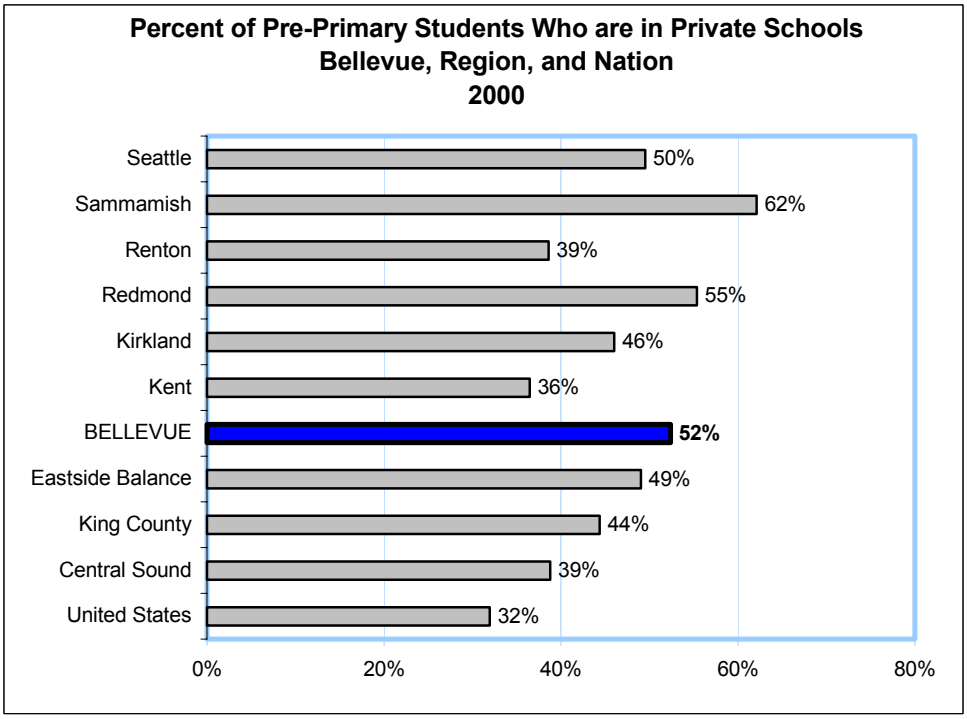
School Enrollment of Bellevue Residents 2000	
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	*25,798*
Nursery school, preschool	2,243
Kindergarten	1,069
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	10,605
High school (grades 9-12)	5,151
College or graduate school	6,730

In Bellevue about 12 percent of students in elementary and high school grades were in private school, while the large majority attended public school. However, statistics at the pre-primary level (for those three years of age and older in nursery school and kindergarten) indicate a slight majority of those enrolled were in private schools (52 percent).

Public and Private School Enrollment – Regional and National Comparisons

Interestingly, the proportion of Bellevue first- through twelfth-graders enrolled in private schools was slightly higher than the proportion in the United States overall, but substantially lower than the proportion in Seattle. At the pre-primary level, Bellevue's proportion of students in private school was slightly higher than Seattle's and King County's as a whole, both of which had substantially higher percentages of their students in private school than did the nation as a whole.





KEY FINDINGS

School Enrollment

- In 2000, over one-quarter of Bellevue's population was enrolled in some level of school, from pre-school to graduate school.
- As highlighted in the section on age, the number of school age children residing in Bellevue grew in the 1990s by about 25 percent.
- Continued increases in the overall number of children in the city will impact school enrollment, with the greatest effect over the next 10 years in high schools and colleges as the baby boom echo moves through these levels of schooling.
- In 2000, the proportion of Bellevue elementary and high school students enrolled in private schools was higher than the proportion in the United States, but lower than the proportion in Seattle.

Potential Implications of Household and Age Characteristics for Bellevue

More housing units will be needed as the number of households grows. As household size in Bellevue continues to decrease, as it is expected to do at a gradual rate until at least 2030,[7] dwelling units will need to be added at a rate faster than residents are added to the city's population. Trends in household size will continue to be an important factor for planners to take into account when updating housing targets as required by the Growth Management Act.

Changing demographics are likely to generate demand for a greater variety of housing types and sizes. While the average size of new single family houses has been on the increase in the last few decades,[8] demand may increase for condominiums and smaller homes with plentiful amenities, especially those geared toward seniors and singles. Bellevue's growing housing stock in downtown will help satisfy new housing preferences. At the same time, families with children–including those families with adults employed in Bellevue–may seek more affordable housing outside Bellevue.

The aging of the baby boomers has tremendous implications for Bellevue and other communities. When the baby boomers reach their senior years beginning in the year 2014, their preferences, needs, and political clout will lead to changes in many facets of society. Planning to accommodate the needs of this large cohort–and to fund services to meet these needs–should be in full swing well in advance of this date. Bellevue's experience with a quickly growing senior population in the 1990s should give the city a running start in this regard, although changes may be needed now to existing services, transportation systems, housing, and community resources in order to meet current seniors' needs.

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[7] Forecasts for population, household size and employment in Puget Sound Regional Council, *Population and Employment Working Forecasts Central Puget Sound Region*, July 2001

[8] "Home Values Should Grow During Next 10 Years," by Chris Gay, *The Wall Street Journal*. http://homes.wsj.com/buysell/salestrends/20000404-gay.html

- Increased demand for services will occur especially–but certainly not only–in health care, emergency medical services, and nursing homes. However, the marketplace, as well as recreation providers, will find added demand from seniors who are increasingly–but not uniformly–long-lived, active, and financially well off.

- Transportation and community development planners will need to design neighborhoods and transportation systems that will be friendlier to seniors. This includes enhanced transit and special transportation services, as well as streets and sidewalks that are safer for elder pedestrians and drivers.

- While demand for senior housing will increase, many seniors will continue living in homes they occupied in their younger years. Community planners need to pursue ways to enhance existing neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for older residents. Service providers also need to determine how they can provide more services to seniors in their own homes and communities.

- There will also likely be increased demand for respite care, senior daycare, and more generous workplace leave policies for adult children who care for aging parents, often in addition to being employed and caring for their own children.

- Because generations including and after the baby boomers have had fewer and more mobile children than did previous generations, care previously provided by relatives will need to be provided increasingly by local communities and service providers.

- As the population ages and fewer workers pay into the systems that support Social Security and Medicare entitlements, state and national budgets will be put under greater strain. These fiscal challenges are likely to trickle down to local governments.

While births in the post baby boom era dipped dramatically, demographers predict that births in the post baby boom echo era will remain fairly steady. [9] Census population projections out to 2025, which incorporate forecasts of both migration and natural increase, anticipate a growing number of children in all school age groups in Washington state as a whole. [10]

A relatively small percentage of Bellevue's population is made up of younger working age adults. This, coupled with Bellevue's status as an Eastside employment center and Bellevue's high home prices, is a factor that contributes to the pattern in which Bellevue employers draw a large portion of their workers from other areas surrounding Bellevue. Bellevue's smaller percentage of youth relative to many surrounding cities will not help reverse this trend.

The slight dip in the number of older teens residing in Bellevue in the last decade is likely to be followed by an increase first in high-school age youth in the early part of this decade and then in

[9] United States Department of Education, *Growing Pains: The Challenge of Overcrowded Schools Is Here to Stay* -- (August 21, 2000) . http://www.ed.gov/pubs/bbecho00/figure1.html.
[10] The Census Bureau's population projections by age and state can be found at http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/stproj.html.

college-age young adults toward the end of the decade. Bellevue's echo-boomers will need to be well prepared in order to compete successfully for limited slots at higher education institutions. Local community colleges will also need to be prepared to accommodate increased numbers of vocational students as well as students seeking to transfer to four-year institutions.

Increases in the overall number of children in Bellevue have implications not just for schools but also social services. Demographic changes in family structure coupled with increases in the number of families, and increased likelihood of women to be employed, will continue to place increased demands on other family support programs including child care and after school care. Also, while Bellevue has had a relatively low percentage of single-parent households, almost one in six children live in a single-parent family, with some others living in situations without either parent. Single parents, will continue to need assistance from the community in meeting their children's needs.

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY

The 2000 Census contains a great deal of information that outlines the increasing level of diversity in our community. Among the demographic trends outlined in this section of the report will be race, ethnicity, nativity (country of birth), immigration, and languages spoken at home. Race information is based on the "short form" that was gathered for each person; the other data profiled in this section is based on the "long form".

Race and Ethnicity

With regard to race data, it is important to note at the beginning that changes in the way questions were asked on the Census questionnaires between 1990 and 2000 make it difficult to compare some Census 2000 data with data from 1990 and earlier[1]. The changes in 2000 include:

- For the first time, respondents could select two or more races as a category.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander category was split ("Asian" or "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander").

In addition, it is very important to note that respondents were asked about Hispanic or Latino ethnicity separate from race. Therefore, for purposes of the census, "Hispanic" is not a racial category–Hispanics can, and do, identify themselves as white, African-American, "other", or any of the other race categories.

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics for Bellevue

The following table presents data for racial and ethnic characteristics in Bellevue for 1990 and 2000. As noted above, precise comparisons are difficult due to changes made between the 1990 and 2000 census. However, the table still provides useful information on overall trends, which will be described more below.

In the following table, Hispanic and Latino ethnicity is separated from race, in that, as mentioned, those identifying themselves as Hispanic can identify themselves as any race. Within Bellevue, most Hispanics identified themselves as either white or "some other race".

For more detailed information on racial characteristics in Bellevue, see http://censtats.census.gov/data/WA/1605305210.pdf.

[1] The Census Bureau has a helpful resource on this issue: http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/raceqandas.html.

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics
Bellevue
2000

Characteristic	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
RACE						
Total Population	86,874	100	109,569	100	22,695	26.1
One Race	86,874	100	106,078	96.8	19,204	22.1
White	75,150	86.5	81,441	74.3	6,291	8.4
Black or African American	1,939	2.2	2,183	2.0	244	12.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,660	9.9	19,313	17.6	10,653	123.0
American Indian/Alaskan	383	0.4	356	0.3	-23	-7.1
Some other race	760	0.8	2,785	2.5	2,025	166.4
Two or More races*	N/A	N/A	3,491	3.2	N/A	N/A
ETHNICITY						
Total Population	86,874	100	109,569	100	22,695	26.1
Hispanic or Latino**	2,039	2.3	5,827	5.3	3,788	185.8

**This option was new as of the 2000 Census.*
***Any race.*

As noted above, Bellevue's Asian and Hispanic populations are the fastest growing racial and ethnic groups in the city. The population for both of these groups more than doubled between 1990 and 2000. The high rate of growth for the "some other race" category was likely fueled by the high number of Hispanics, many of whom selected this racial category. The White and African American populations grew, but at a slower rate than overall city population growth.

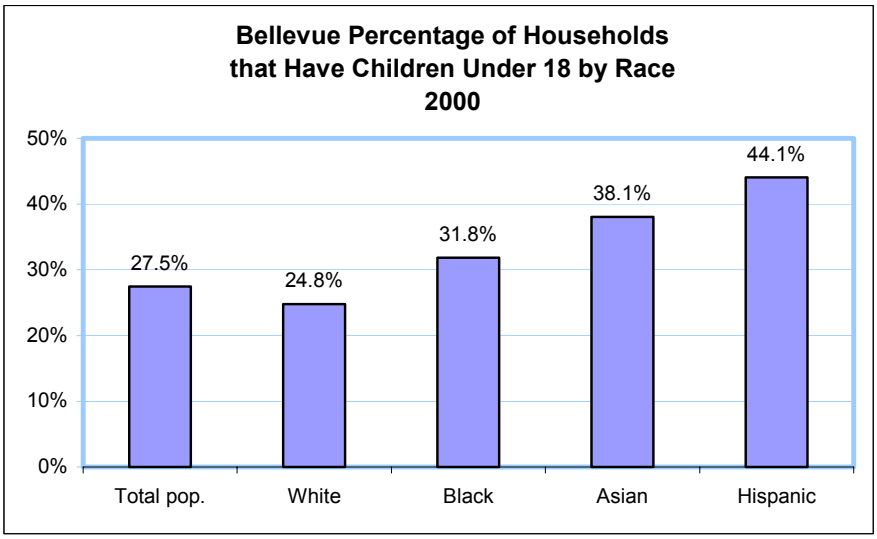
The majority of Bellevue's non-white population consists of Asians. More specific information on changes to the city's Asian population between 1990 and 2000 is provided in the following table.

Bellevue's Asian Population 1990 and 2000				
	1990	2000	Change 1990-2000	
			Number	Percent
Total Asian Population	8,660	19,313	10,653	123.0
▪ Asian Indian	605	2,881	2,276	376.2
▪ Chinese	2,620	6,745	4,125	157.4
▪ Filipino	486	1,071	585	120.4
▪ Japanese	2,228	2,838	610	27.4
▪ Korean	1,080	2,141	1,061	98.2
▪ Vietnamese	563	1,497	934	165.9
▪ Other*	1,078	2,140	1,062	98.5

**"Other" includes Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, and Pacific Islanders.*

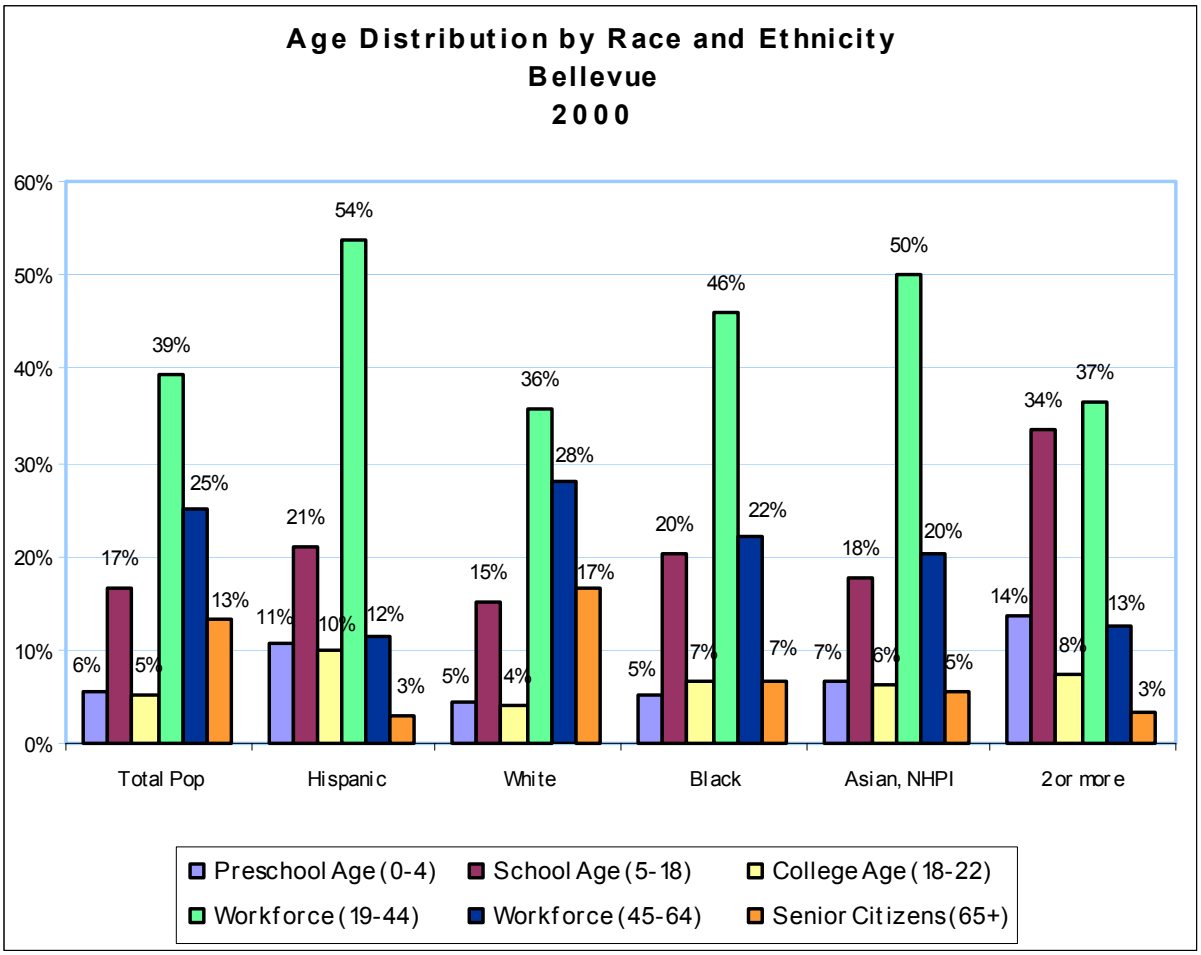
Bellevue's Asian population is now a substantial portion of the overall city population, and Asians account for over two-thirds of Bellevue's non-white population. The characteristics of the Asian population also changed between 1990 and 2000, with very large growth in particular of the City's Chinese, Vietnamese and Asian Indian populations.

While Hispanic and Asian populations have grown substantially since 1990, Hispanic and Asian households are also more likely than other households in the city to have children under Age 18, as shown in the adjacent chart. If these children stay or move back to the community when they are adults, this is an indicator that ethnic and racial diversity will continue to grow in the future.



Additional information about the age composition of Bellevue's population for different racial and ethnic groups is shown in the chart on the following page.

As indicated in the chart below, age composition is different for different racial and ethnic groups in Bellevue. Hispanic, African-American, and Asian residents are more likely to be in their 20's through mid-40's than the population as a whole. Whites are more likely to be in their mid-40's to mid-60's and senior citizens (over age 65) than the population as a whole. Those who chose 2 or more races are most likely to be pre-school or school age (age 18 or below).



Race/Ethnicity – Regional and National Comparisons

This section of the report will present information on racial and ethnic composition for Bellevue and other jurisdictions. Information summarizing how Bellevue compares to the nation as a whole and other places in the region is shown on the following table.

Race and Ethnicity
Bellevue, the Nation, and the Region
2000

Subject	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance	Redmond	Kirkland	Seattle	Renton	Kent
% of population that is White	75.1	75.7	**74.3**	80.6	79.3	85.3	70.1	68.1	70.8
% of population that is African American or Black	12.3	5.4	**2.0**	2.4	1.5	1.6	8.4	8.5	8.2
% of population that is Asian or Pacific Islander	3.7	11.3	**17.6**	9.2	13.2	8.0	13.6	13.9	10.2
% of population that is 2 or more races	2.4	4.1	**3.3**	3.2	3.1	2.9	4.5	4.6	5.4
% of population that is Hispanic or Latino	12.5	5.5	**5.3**	4.3	5.6	4.1	5.3	7.6	8.1

As shown, Bellevue is more racially diverse than the Eastside and county as a whole, and other large cities on the Eastside. Bellevue also has a higher percentage of Asians than any other city in both King County and the state (Newcastle has the highest percentage of Asians). In addition, the number and percent of Asians and Hispanics are growing within all parts of King County. African American populations appear to be growing most significantly in South King County.

With regard to national comparisons, jurisdictions within the Central Puget Sound region (including Bellevue) have a somewhat different racial and economic profile than does the United States as a whole. While the percentage of white residents in the United States (75.1 percent) is virtually the same as King County and Bellevue, nationally a higher percentage of residents are African American and Hispanic (12.3 and 12.5 percent, respectively) than in this region. Conversely, this region has a higher percentage of Asians (3.7 percent nationally) and people of 2 or more races (2.4 percent nationally). Washington State ranked seventh in the country in terms of the percent of multi-racial residents. Within the United States as a whole, medium-size cities (those typically with between 100,000 and 200,000 residents) saw much of their growth in the 1990s fueled by new Asian and Hispanic residents, as occurred in Bellevue. This is particularly true for medium size cities in the western U.S.[2]

[2] For more information on this trend, see "Demographic Change in Medium Sized Cities: Evidence from the 2000 Census" by the Brookings Institution (http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/es/urban/publications/veyformanmedcities.pdf.)

KEY FINDINGS

Race and Ethnicity

- Racial and ethnic diversity is growing in Bellevue. There has been a particularly large growth rate for Hispanic and Asian populations since 1990. In 2000, Asians represented over 17 percent of all Bellevue residents. This trend is also discussed in the language section below.
- Bellevue's younger residents (pre-school and school age populations) are more likely to be racially and ethnically diverse than the city's population as a whole. This indicates that racial and ethnic diversity is likely to increase in the future.
- Asian populations are growing rapidly not just in Bellevue, but throughout the entire Puget Sound region. Asians make up the largest percentage of non-White residents in the region.

Place of Birth

In addition to information on race and ethnicity, the census also provides information on how many residents were born outside of the United States, are (or are not) United States citizens, and recent immigration patterns. This information is summarized below.

Place of Birth Information for Bellevue

As the following charts and tables show, there have been major shifts in Bellevue's demographic profile with regard to the city's foreign-born population since 1990.

As indicated on the adjacent table, Bellevue's foreign-born population has increased substantially since 1990. The number of foreign-born residents and residents who immigrated to the United States in the previous 10 years has more than doubled during this past decade. The table below indicates the rate of growth of the foreign-born population with total city growth.

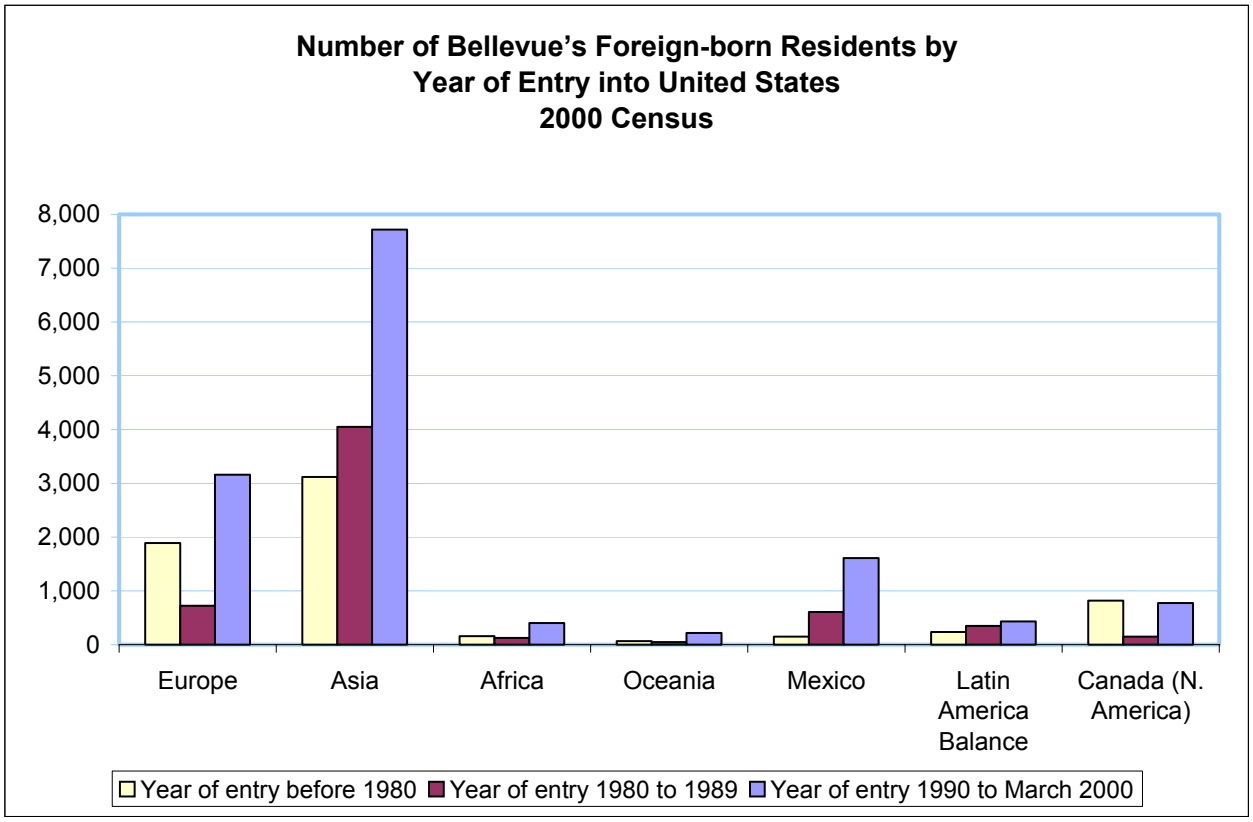
Nativity and Immigration in Bellevue 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990	2000
% of total population foreign born	13.3	24.5
% of total population not a United States citizen	8.1	14.4
% of total population entering the United States in the previous 10 years	6.4	13.4

Growth in Total and Foreign-Born Population in Bellevue 1990 and 2000

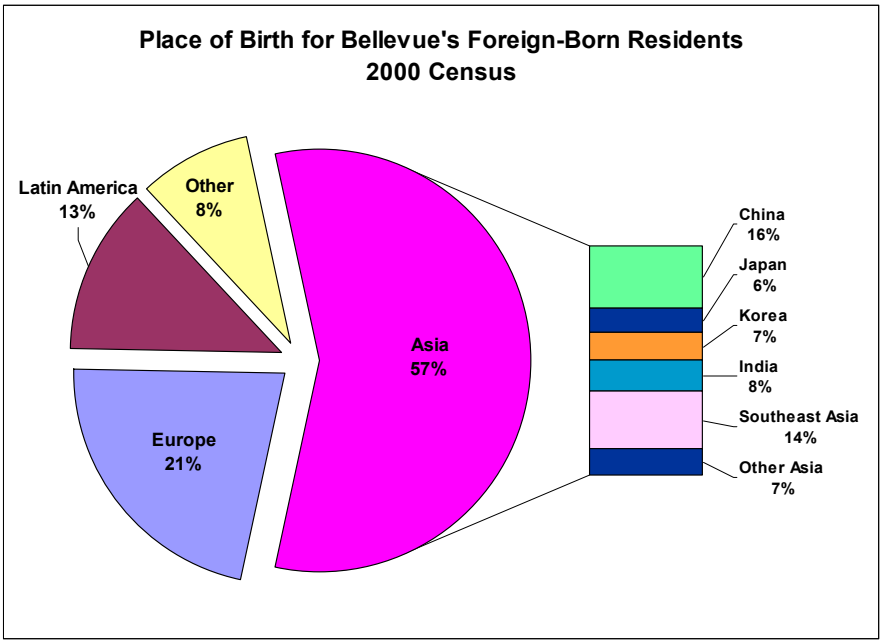
Characteristic	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total Population	86,874	109,569	22,695	26%
Foreign-born population	11,548	26,782	15,234	132%
Foreign-born population entering U.S. in previous 10 years	5,596	14,308	8,712	156%

While the population of Bellevue grew by 26 percent between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of foreign-born and recent immigrants grew by over 100 percent. As shown on the chart below, over half (53.4 percent) of all of the foreign-born residents in Bellevue are fairly recent immigrants, having entered the United States between 1990 and 2000.



As shown on the adjacent chart, approximately 21 percent of Bellevue foreign-born residents were born in Europe, 57 percent in Asia (this correlates with Bellevue's high percentage of Asians, as reported earlier), and 13 percent in Latin America.

As indicated in the chart above, most Bellevue residents who are foreign-born and entered the United States in the last 10 years were born in Asia, Europe, and Mexico.



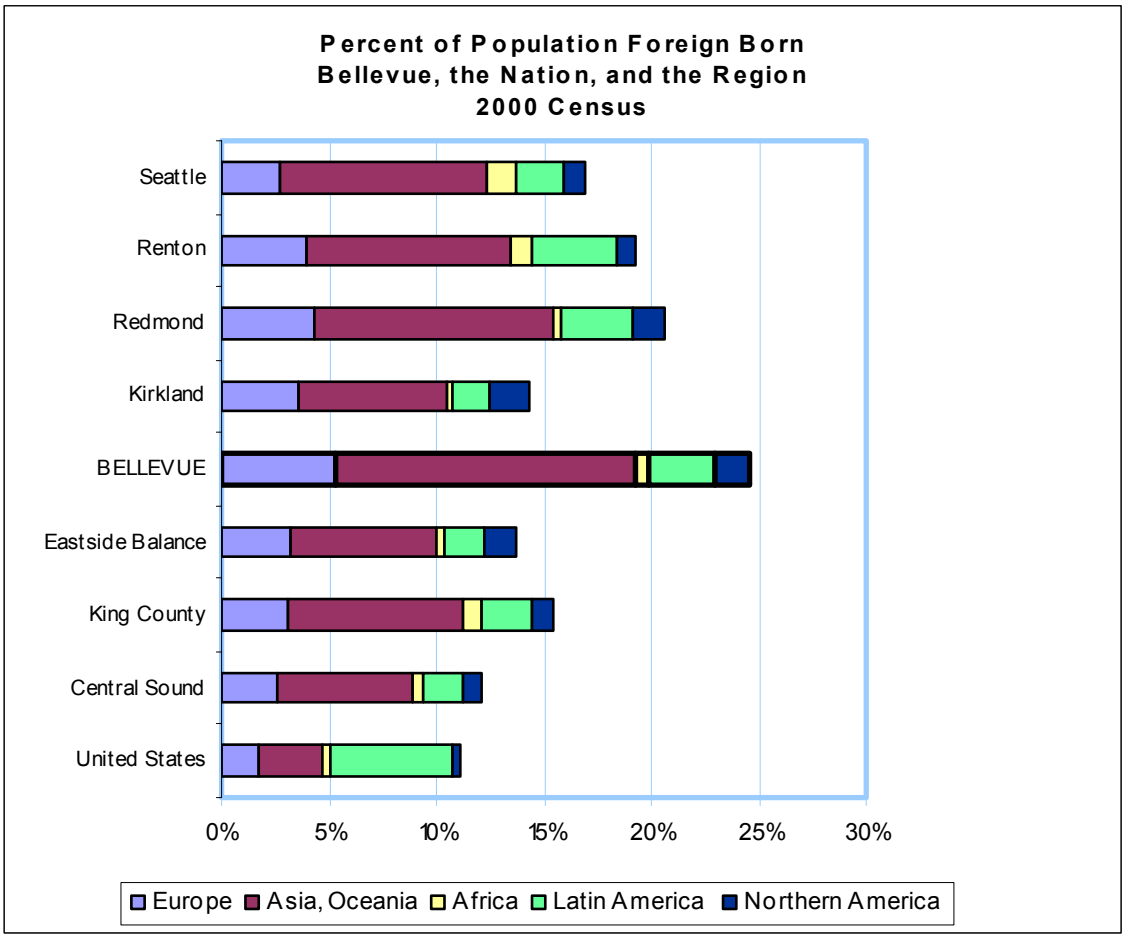
Place of Birth – Regional and National Comparisons

The following table and chart provide comparisons between Bellevue and other areas with regard to nativity and immigration trends.

Place of Birth
Bellevue and the Region
2000

Subject	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance	Redmond	Kirkland	Seattle	Renton	Kent
% of population born outside of the United States	15.4	24.5	13.7	20.6	14.4	16.9	19.2	16.9
% of population that entered the US between 1990-2000	7.6	13.1	6.4	13.2	6.5	7.8	10.1	10.4
% of population that is not a US citizen	8.6	14.4	7.5	14.3	8.3	9.0	8.4	10.6

The percentage of Bellevue residents born in another country is much higher than the County average, and higher than most other cities in King County; the only city with a higher percentage of foreign-born residents is Tukwila. In terms of total numbers, Bellevue also had the highest number of



recent immigrants of any city in the state outside of Seattle.

Most foreign-born residents in Bellevue were born in Asia. This is also true for King County and the region as a whole, as well as most cities in the region. This contrasts with the United States as a whole, in which Latin Americans represent the largest percentage of foreign-born residents.

KEY FINDINGS

Place of Birth

- Bellevue has one of the highest percentages of foreign-born residents in King County. The percentage of foreign-born in Bellevue has increased from 13.3 percent of all residents in 1990 to 24.5 percent of all residents in 2000.
- While Bellevue's population as a whole grew 26 percent between 1990 and 2000, Bellevue's foreign-born population grew by 132 percent during the same time period.
- Most foreign-born residents in Bellevue are recent immigrants to the United States, having entered the country since 1990.

Language

Another important indicator of diversity in the community is the number and percentage of residents who speak a language at home other than English. The census also provides data on this characteristic, which is summarized in the following tables.

Non-English Speaking Population – Bellevue

The following tables present information on the growth in Bellevue's non-English speaking population since 1990.

Non-English Speakers in Bellevue 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990	2000
% of population* speaking a language at home other than English	13.6	26.9
% of population* that speaks English less than "very well"	6.0	12.3

Bellevue Growth in Total Population and Population Speaking a Language at Home Other Than English 1990 and 2000

Characteristic	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total Population	86,874	109,569	22,695	26%
Population* speaking a language at home other than English	11,102	27,682	16,580	149%

**Population 5 years and over.*

Consistent with the findings on foreign-born residents, the percent and number of Bellevue residents that speak a language other than English at home has risen substantially since 1990. While total population of the city has increased by 26 percent, the number of Bellevue residents that speak a language at home other

Growth in Total Number of Households and Linguistic Isolation in Bellevue 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total households	35,786	45,787	10,001	28%
Linguistically isolated households	1,046	3,126	2,080	199%

than English has increased 149%. Of those residents who speak a language other than English, approximately 45 percent reported that they speak English less than "very well". This represents over 12 percent of all Bellevue residents aged 5 and over, or over 12,000 total city residents.

"Linguistic Isolation" means a household in which no member over the age of 14 speaks English very well. These households are likely to have the most difficulty with basic day-to-day communications, in that no adult member of the household speaks English very well. As with other language categories, the percent growth of linguistically isolated households in Bellevue far exceeded the overall growth rate of households generally.

Composition of Bellevue's Non-English Speakers 2000

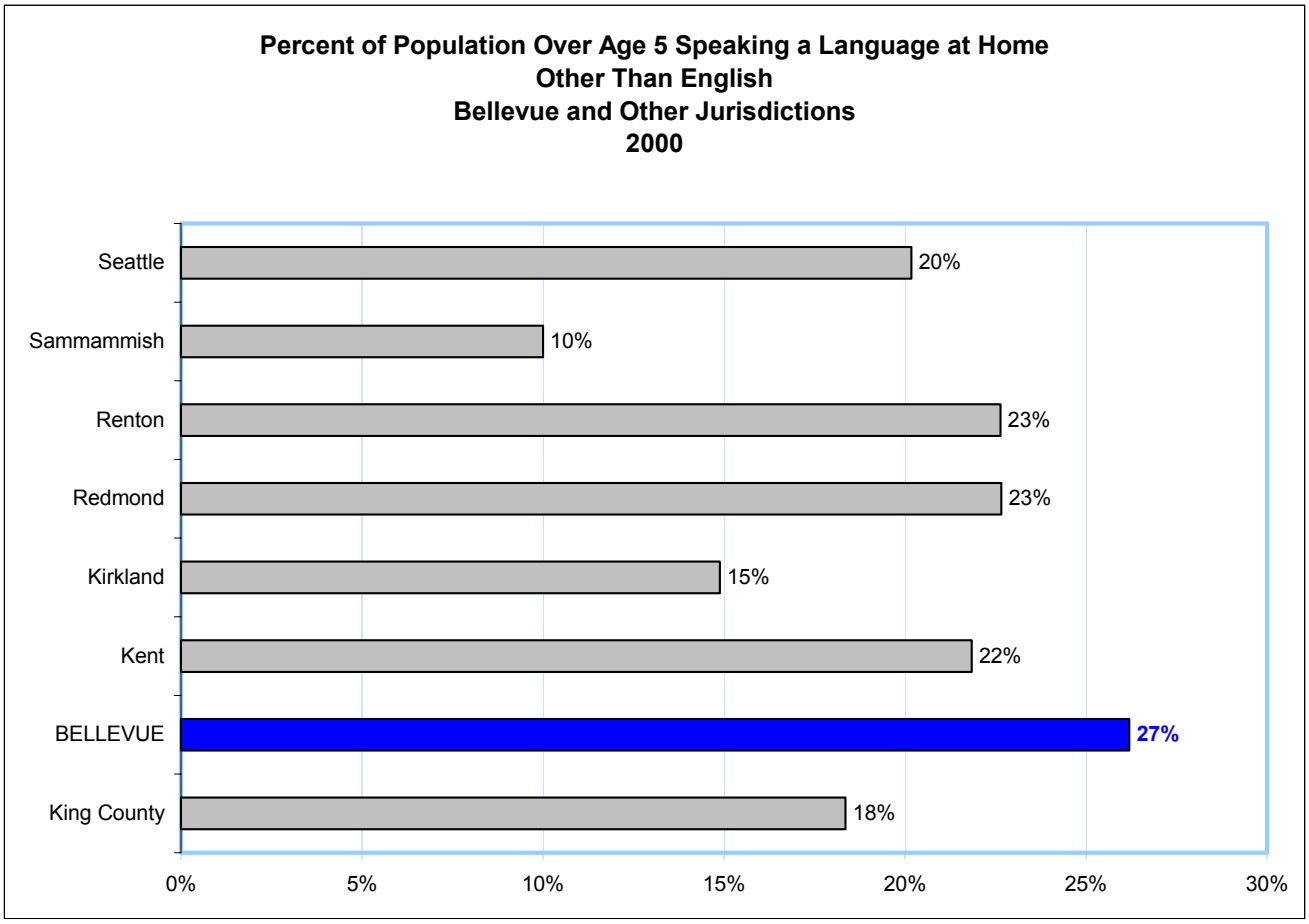
Language Spoken	Number of Speakers	% of all Non-English Speakers
All Non-English Speakers	**27,682**	**100.0**
Asian and Pacific Island	13,664	49.4
▪ Chinese	5,541	20.0
▪ Japanese	2,101	7.6
▪ Korean	2,027	7.3
▪ Vietnamese	1,168	4.2
Indo-European	7,969	28.8
▪ Russian	2,043	7.4
▪ Indic*	1,198	4.3
▪ French or Creole	761	2.7
▪ Slavic	754	2.7
Spanish	4,860	17.6

** Includes Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, Romany*

Of Bellevue residents who speak a language at home other than English, almost half speak an Asian language, while nearly 29 percent speak an Indo-European[3] language. This is a much higher percentage of European-language speakers than in most other cities in the county, and partly reflects the Eastern European populations that have been settling in the city in recent years.

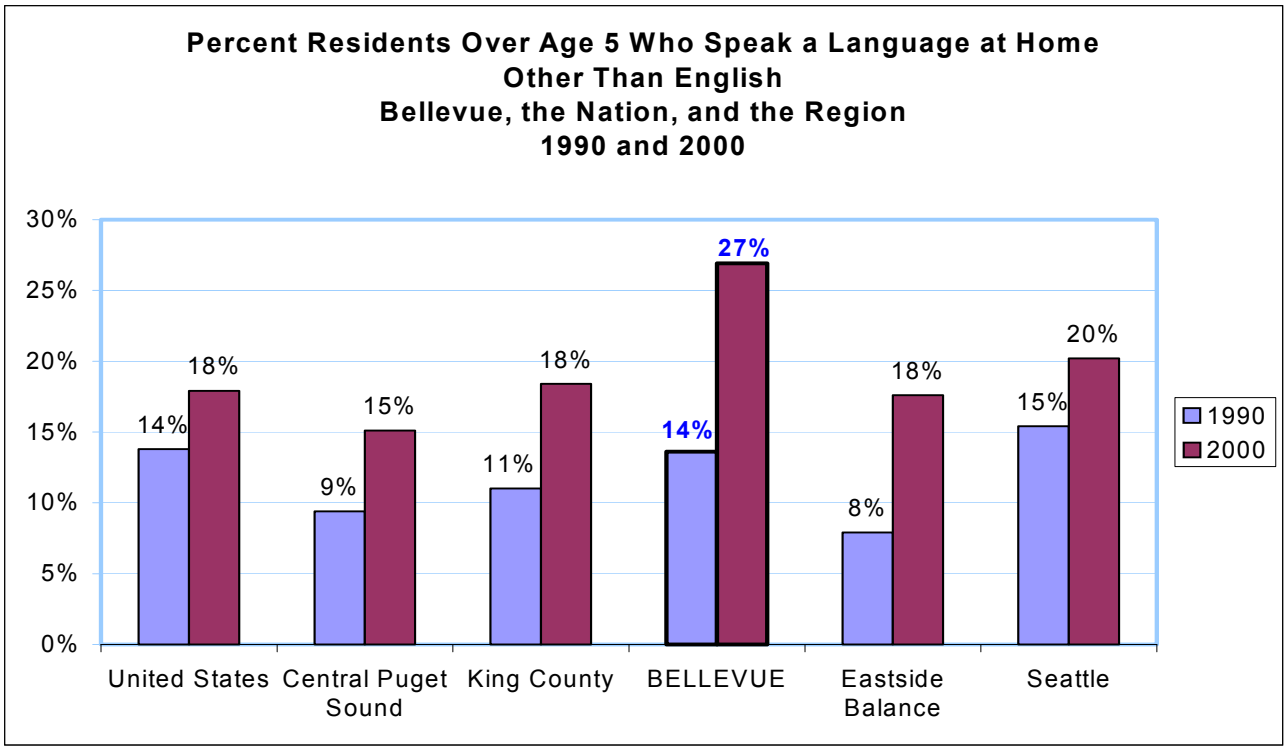
Non-English Speaking Population – Regional and National Comparisons

This section will compare data and trends on the percentage of non-English speaking population in Bellevue with other areas.



[3] Indo-European languages include Western and Eastern European languages, and also include Indic languages. It does not include Spanish.

A much higher percentage of Bellevue residents speak a language at home other than English than do residents of the county and region as a whole. In addition, the percentage of residents speaking a non-English language at home is higher than any other city in King County. Other jurisdictions with high percentages (20 percent or over) of non-English speakers include Redmond, Kent, Renton, and Seattle.



Overall, the number and percentage of the non-English speaking population has grown substantially throughout the region and King County. The countywide total rose from 11 percent in 1990 to 18.4 percent in 2000. Bellevue and East King County had higher percentage growth in non-English speaking population than did the county as a whole or Seattle.

KEY FINDINGS

Language

- The number and percent of Bellevue residents who speak a language at home other than English rose substantially between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 26.9 percent of Bellevue residents over the age of 5 spoke a language at home other than English.
- Of Bellevue residents who speak a language other than English, almost half reported that they speak English less than "very well."
- The number and percent of Bellevue's residents who speak a language at home other than English rose at a much more rapid rate than occurred in the United States, King County as a whole, or other jurisdictions in the region.

Potential Implications of Racial, Ethnic, and Nationality for Bellevue

The Census data on race, ethnicity, nativity and language all reflect Bellevue's continuing growth in diversity. The findings in this section for race, nativity and language all corroborate each other, and portray a community that is rapidly changing in its racial and ethnic make-up. While this is not an entirely new trend for Bellevue (diversity also increased between the 1980 and 1990 Census), the level to which the city grew in racial and ethnic diversity in the 1990s is significant. This growing diversity will require more cultural understanding and sensitivity by Bellevue public officials and residents.

The high numbers of non-English speakers and the number of residents who report that they do not speak English very well have implications for the way the city, other public agencies (such as school districts), businesses, and other insitututions provide services and make information accessible to the public in other languages. This presents a significant challenge for the city in coming years.

The increasing level of diversity in the community will likely influence the way that Bellevue positions itself in the global economy. For example, it is likely that an increasing percentage of the city's labor force is, and will be, made of up foreign-born residents. These foreign-born residents likely have a variety of skill and education levels. In addition, many firms and parts of the labor force who specialize in information-based businesses (referred to as the "creative class") look for diversity in making decisions about location.

Nationally, medium-size cities with a large percentage of foreign-born residents tended to grow faster than cities with more native-born residents. Cities with a high proportion of residents with bachelor's degrees also tended to grow faster. Bellevue has both of these traits (see section on Economic Characteristics), which points to the potential for continued high rates of population growth in the coming decade.[4] As discussed in the Population chapter, future growth is more likely to occur based on in-migration and births, as opposed to expanding city boundaries, as occurred in past decades.

[4]As noted, see "Demographic Change in Medium Sized Cities: Evidence from the 2000 Census" by the Brookings Institution.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

In addition to being a population center for East King County, Bellevue is also a major regional employment center. According to estimates for the year 2000 from the State Employment Security Division, there are approximately 120,000 people[1] who work in Bellevue.

The 2000 Census provides much information that helps profile Bellevue's economic characteristics, including educational attainment levels, professions, labor force composition, and income. It is important to point out that the information profiled here pertains to Bellevue residents, not those who work in Bellevue (although many Bellevue residents also work in the city, as will be discussed more below). However, the information profiled in this section does provide much insight into factors explaining Bellevue's economic strength.

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment of Bellevue Residents

The table below summarizes educational attainment levels for Bellevue residents 25 years and older in 1990 and 2000.

Bellevue Level of Educational Attainment 1990 and 2000

Level of Attainment*	1990	2000
Not a high school graduate	5.8%	5.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15.5%	12.7%
Some college, no degree	25.2%	20.6%
Associate degree	7.8%	6.9%
Bachelor's degree	31.4%	34.7%
Graduate or professional degree	14.2%	19.4%

** For adults 25 years and older*

Bellevue adults are increasingly highly educated. In 1990 almost half (45.6%) of Bellevue residents 25 years and older had at least a bachelor's degree. By 2000 the percentage of college degreed residents over age 25 increased to over half (54.1%). The percentages of Bellevue residents with college degrees and graduate level degrees increased between 1990 and 2000, while the percentage of residents with a high school degree or less decreased from 21.3% to 18.4%--less than one-fifth of the adult population.

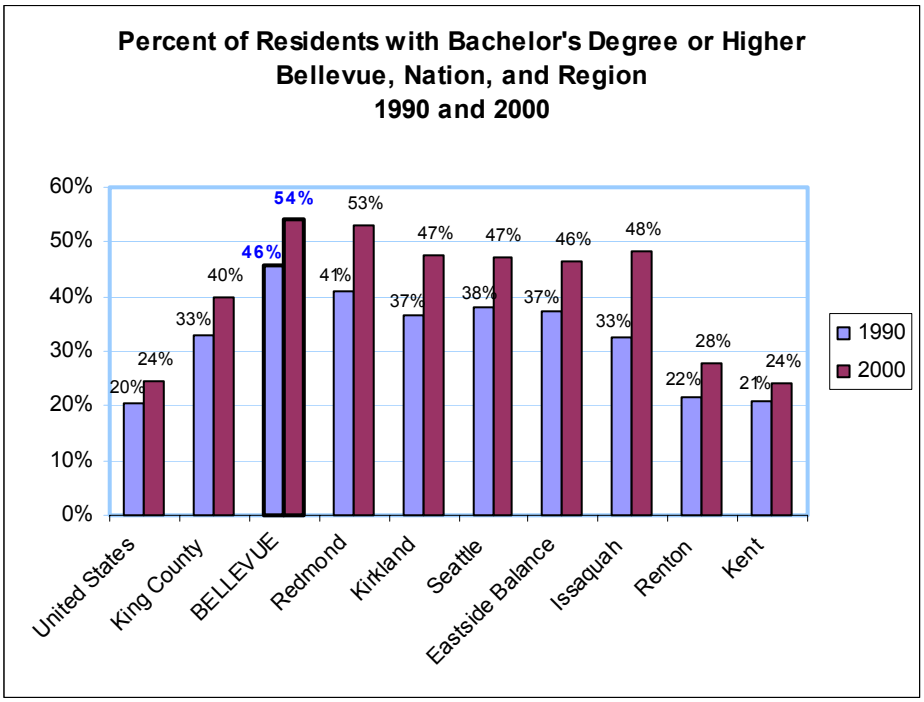
[1] This number refers to "covered" employees, meaning employees that are covered by state unemployment insurance. This number does not include corporate officers or sole proprietors, for example, meaning that Bellevue's total number of employees is higher (perhaps by 10 percent or more). For more information on covered employment in the region, see http://www.psrc.org/datapubs/data/employment_est.htm.

Educational Attainment of Residents 25 Years or Older – Bellevue and Other Jurisdictions

The charts below show how educational attainment levels in Bellevue residents in 2000 compared with residents from King County as a whole and some other jurisdictions within the County, and how levels have changed since 1990.

Level of Educational Attainment
Bellevue and the Region
2000

	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance	Redmond	Kirkland	Seattle	Renton	Kent
Not a high school graduate	9.7%	5.7%	5.9%	5.5%	4.6%	10.5%	13.4%	13.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	19.2%	12.7%	16.5%	11.5%	15.8%	15.3%	25.2%	26.4%
Some college, no degree	23.6%	20.6%	23.5%	22.4%	24.8%	20.6%	25.9%	27.3%
Associate degree	7.5%	6.9%	7.8%	7.7%	7.3%	6.4%	7.7%	9.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	40.0%	54.1%	46.3%	52.9%	47.4%	47.2%	27.8%	24.0%



As shown in the table above and the chart to the left, Bellevue and Eastside residents generally are more highly educated than are residents of King County as a whole. Approximately 40 percent of adults over the age of 25 countywide had a college degree or higher, as compared to 54 percent of adults in Bellevue. In addition, Bellevue has twice the percentage of adult residents with a graduate or professional degree (19 percent) than the United States as a whole (9 percent).

King County residents generally have more formal education than do U.S. residents as a whole. According to the 2000 Census, one quarter of US residents over 25 years of age reported having at least a bachelor's degree; this compares to an estimated 40 percent in King County. In addition, between 1990 and 2000,

communities throughout King County have experienced a large increase in the proportion of residents who have earned at least a bachelor's degree.

KEY FINDINGS

Educational Attainment

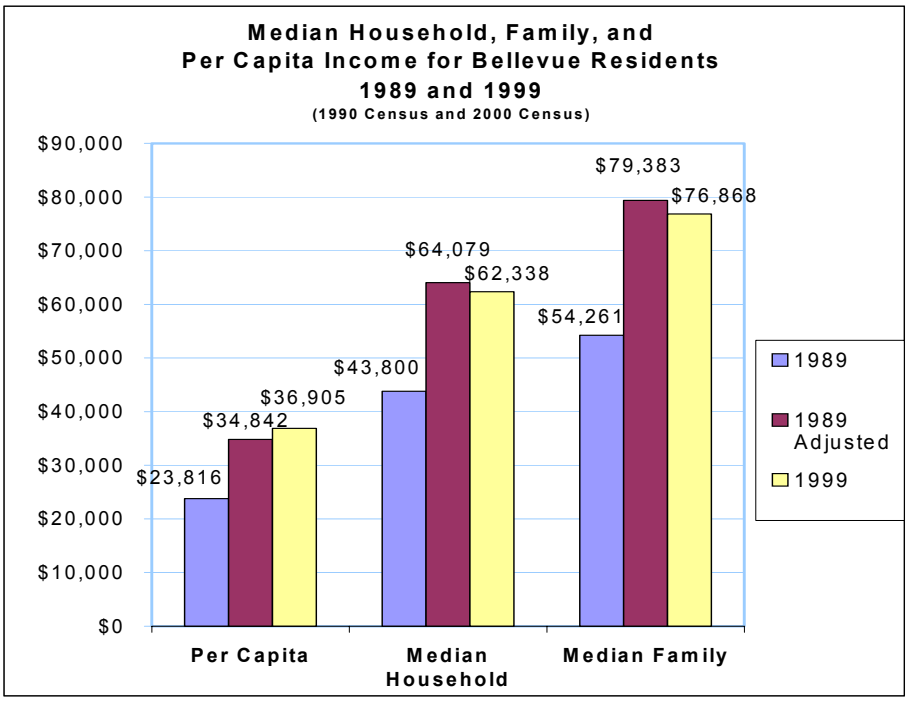
- Bellevue adults are highly educated, and increasingly so. The percentage of Bellevue residents 25 years of age or older with at least a bachelor's degree went from 46 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000.
- Educational attainment levels for adult residents of King County are higher than they are in the United States (40 percent of King County adults have at least a bachelor's degree, as opposed to 25 percent of adults nationwide). Educational attainment levels in Bellevue and for Eastside jurisdictions in general are higher than they are countywide.

Income

One of the most fundamental indicators of what is occurring in any community, including Bellevue, is income. The Census provides information on income for individuals, households, and families. It should be noted that even though the census was conducted in April, 2000, income is measured for the year previous (1999). The same is true of data collected in the 1990 census (which was based on income in 1989). Therefore, the data reported here from the 2000 Census is now several years old, and may not reflect existing conditions. However, it is the most current information available, and still allows for analysis of trends for both the city and within the region.

Income Information for Bellevue

The adjacent chart summarizes changes in Bellevue's median income categories (household, family, and per capita[2]) since the 1990 Census. It should be noted that inflation over time changes the value of income in real terms. In order to do a true comparison of what has occurred with income between 1989 (as measured in the 1990 Census) and 1999 (as measured in the 2000 Census), it is necessary to adjust 1989 income by the inflation rate during that decade. Therefore, in the chart,



[2]"Per capita" income is the mean income computed for every man, woman and child in Bellevue, and is derived by dividing the total income generated in the community by the total population.

comparisons are made between 1989 and 1999 income, with income adjusted for inflation. This provides a more accurate analysis of trends regarding real income growth between the 1990 and 2000 Census.
As shown in the chart, although median household income in Bellevue rose substantially between 1989 and 1999, it actually rose at below the rate of inflation during that time period. Family income also rose at a rate slightly lower than the inflation rate between the 1990 and 2000 Census. Per capita income rose at a rate higher than inflation. This is likely due to the fact that per capita income measures *average* income (as opposed to *median*) and is therefore more likely to reflect residents with very high incomes. As will be discussed more in the next section, there was a higher percentage of Bellevue residents with high household incomes (over $150,000) than in the county as a whole.

The adjacent table summarizes income distribution patterns for Bellevue households and families. As shown, income distribution for households as a whole and for families is slightly different; families are less likely to have low incomes, and more likely to have higher incomes, than households generally. This can be explained in part by the fact that many households in Bellevue consist of one person, whereas family households are more likely to have two members in the labor force. For example, approximately 15 percent of all households in Bellevue had incomes below $25,000 in 1999, while only 8.7 percent of families did. Conversely, 26.5 percent of households had incomes above $100,000; this is a fairly high percentage, but not as high as for families, 34.3 percent of which had incomes above $100,000.

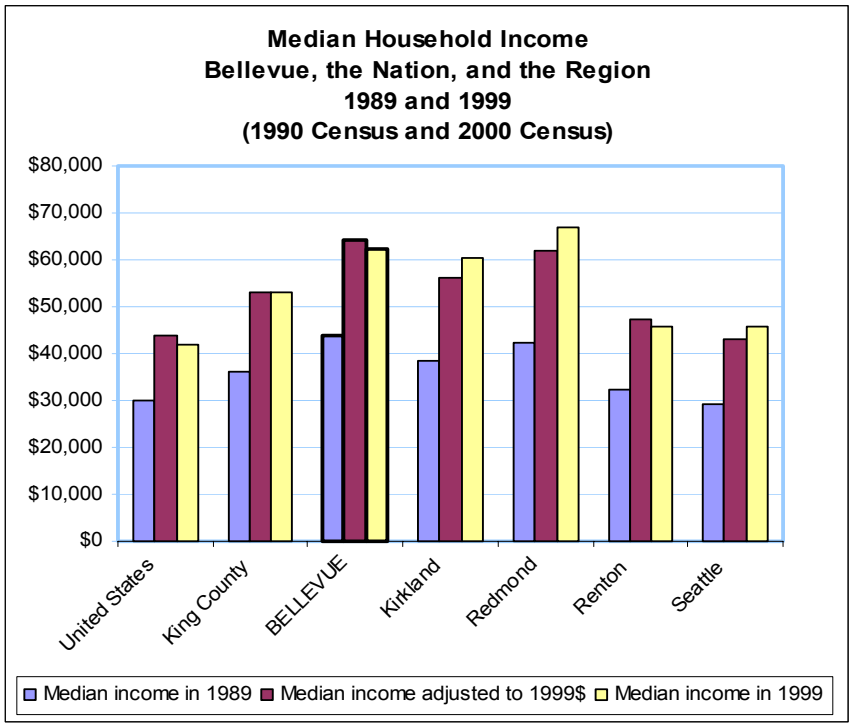
Income Distribution for Bellevue Households and Families 1999 (2000 Census)

Income Category	Households		Families	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total:	45,787	100	29,138	100
0-$10,000	1,954	4.3	758	2.6
$10,000-$14,999	1,557	3.4	529	1.8
$15,000-$24,999	3,290	7.2	1,256	4.3
$25,000-$34,999	3,942	8.6	1,844	6.3
$35,000-$49,999	6,957	15.2	3,548	12.2
$50,000-$74,999	9,333	20.4	6,127	21.0
$75,000-$99,999	6,648	14.5	5,064	17.4
$100,000-$149,999	6,714	14.7	5,490	18.8
$150,000-$199,999	2,479	5.4	2,104	7.2
Over $200,000	2,913	6.4	2,418	8.3

Income Patterns – Regional and National Comparisons

The 2000 Census shows that there is wide variation within the state and the region on income patterns. Generally speaking, jurisdictions within the Central Puget Sound region have higher median incomes than do counties in other parts of the state. Even within King County there are wide variations relating to income, as shown in the following tables and charts.

As shown in the adjoining chart, median household income not only grew at fairly stagnant rates in Bellevue between 1989 and 1999, it also did so for the county as a whole, the State of Washington, and the United States. In fact within the U.S. as a whole, median household income, when adjusted for inflation, actually fell to a small extent between 1989 and 1999.



Median Household Income
Bellevue and Other King County Jurisdictions
1989 and 1989
(1990 Census and 2000 Census)

	1989 Median Household Income	1989 Median Household Income Adjusted for Inflation	1999 Median Household Income	Percent Growth Between 1989 Adjusted and 1999
King County	$36,179	$52,930	$53,157	0.4
BELLEVUE	**$43,800**	**$64,079**	**$62,338**	**-2.7**
Redmond	$42,299	$61,883	$66,735	7.8
Kirkland	$38,437	$56,233	$60,332	7.3
Issaquah	$35,422	$51,822	$57,892	11.7
North Bend	$29,020	$42,456	$61,543	44.9
Seattle	$29,353	$42,943	$45,736	6.5
Renton	$32,393	$47,391	$45,820	-3.3

As indicated in the above table, there is wide variation within the region on changes to median household income since the 1990 census. In Bellevue, as with other jurisdictions in King County such as Renton, income growth, when adjusted for inflation, was stagnant, and in fact declined in real terms. In other jurisdictions, such as Redmond and Kirkland, it grew, and in a few jurisdictions (such as North Bend and other communities that tended to be on the urban fringe) median grew by more than one-third.

While median household income declined in real terms between 1989 and 1999, Bellevue still has one of the highest median incomes in the County, the region, and the state. Cities with higher median incomes than Bellevue in King County were smaller Eastside cities such as Sammamish and Medina.

Income Distribution for Households
Bellevue and Other Jurisdictions
1999
(2000 Census)

Income Category	Percent of Households in Income Category						
	King County	BELLEVUE	Seattle	Redmond	Kirkland	Sammamish	Renton
0-$14,999	10.6	7.7	14.5	5.9	7.1	2.3	12.7
$15,000-$34,999	20.2	15.8	23.5	14.7	15.7	5.9	23.9
$35,000-$49,999	15.6	15.2	15.9	13.8	16.3	6.8	17.3
$50,000-$74,999	21.2	20.4	18.9	22.4	23.1	15.2	23.2
$75,000-$99,999	13.6	14.5	11.4	16.6	15.6	18.4	11.4
$100,000-$149,999	11.5	14.7	9.4	16.3	13.3	25.8	7.8
$150,000 and over	7.2	11.8	6.4	10.3	8.9	25.5	3.7

There is wide variation of income categories for cities within King County. Bellevue had a lower percentage of households earning less than $35,000 than did the County as a whole and Seattle, but a higher percentage than other Eastside cities, such as Sammamish.

KEY FINDINGS

Income

- Median household and family incomes in Bellevue, while higher than the county and regional averages, did not increase in real terms (after adjustments for inflation) between 1989 and 1999.
- There is increasing disparity in household incomes in Bellevue. In 1999, approximately 15 percent of households had incomes below $25,000, while approximately 12 percent of households had incomes above $150,000.
- Median household incomes are higher in King County as a whole than they are in the United States or Washington State as a whole. Within King County, there is wide variation among jurisdictions, with cities on the Eastside tending to have higher median household incomes than cities elsewhere in the county.

Poverty Level

The census measures the number and percentage of families and individuals whose incomes are below federal poverty standards (based on their income in 1999). Poverty is measured for purposes of the census by using several thresholds that vary by family or household size. A family's or individual income was then compared to the appropriate thresholds to establish poverty level. For example, in the 2000 Census a family of four with an income of under $17,500 was considered below poverty level. These income thresholds are consistent throughout the country.

It should be noted again that the census data just being released measured poverty status in 1999 and that poverty rates in Bellevue *may* have increased since 1999 due to recent changes in the national economy, particularly the recent recession. Recent supplemental census data collected for 2001 (and just released in summer, 2002) shows that nationally, the poverty rate increased between 2000 and 2001 by one-half of a percentage point. The Central Puget Sound region has been hit hard by the recent recession, and it should be noted that income distribution and poverty levels in Bellevue might be somewhat different now than they were in 1999 and 2000.

Poverty Statistics for Bellevue

The following tables summarize the census findings for individuals and families in Bellevue.

Poverty Status of Bellevue Families and Individuals 1989 and 1999 (1990 Census and 2000 Census)

Subject	1989	1999	Change 1989-1999	
			Total	Percent
Individuals with Incomes Below Poverty Level	4,807	6,162	1,355	28.2
Families with Incomes Below Poverty Level	811	1,120	309	38.1

As shown on the previous table, the number of individuals in poverty grew at about the same percentage between the 1990 and 2000 census as total population (28 percent to 26 percent, respectively). The number of families in poverty increased at a rate faster than overall growth in families during this same time period (38 percent to 28 percent, respectively).

Families and Individuals below Poverty Level in Bellevue 1999 (2000 Census)		
Subject	**Number Below Poverty Level**	**Percent Below Poverty Level**
Families (total)	1,120	3.8
▪ Families with related children under Age 18	707	5.3
▪ Families with related children under Age 5	242	4.7
▪ Families with female householder, no husband present	417	13.1
- With related children under Age 18	367	20.1
- With related children under Age 5	114	31.8
Individuals (total)	6,162	5.7
▪ 65 years and over	902	6.3

The overall percentage of Bellevue individuals and families with incomes below poverty status is fairly low. However, poverty rates are much higher for certain segments of the population, such as families headed by a single female with children (and in particular, young children).

Poverty Status for Native and Foreign-Born Residents in Bellevue 1999 (2000 Census)				
Population Group	**Total**	**Number Not in Poverty**	**Number in Poverty**	**% in Poverty**
Total Population[3]	108,648	102,486	6,162	5.7
▪ Native Population	81,900	78,298	3,602	4.4
▪ Foreign-Born Population	26,748	24,188	2,560	9.6

Foreign-born residents of Bellevue are more likely to have incomes below poverty level, but the vast majority of foreign-born residents (over 90 percent) are not poor. Approximately 75 percent of foreign-born residents who had incomes below the poverty level were not U.S. citizens.

[3] This represents the total population for whom poverty status was determined, which is slightly different from total population (which in 2000 was 109,569). The group above does not include persons institutionalized, in college dormitories, etc.

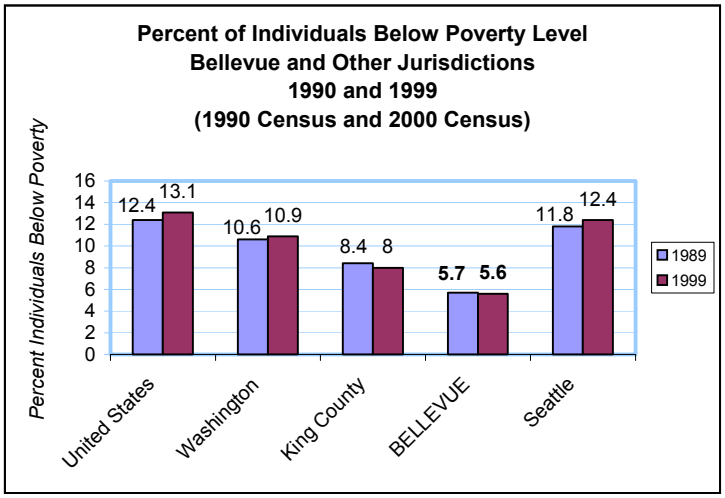
Poverty Status – Regional and National Comparisons

The tables and charts in this section present information comparing poverty rates for Bellevue families and individuals with other communities in the Puget Sound region. There are also comparisons of changes in poverty rates between the 1990 and 2000 Census for the United States, Washington State, and other parts of the region.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level
Bellevue and the Region
1989 and 1999 (1990 Census and 2000 Census)

Jurisdiction	Year	Percent of Individuals and Families Below Poverty			
		Total Individuals	Individuals--Related Children Under 18	Individuals 65 Years and Older	Total Families
Central Puget Sound Region	1999	8.6	10.5	7.3	5.8
	1989	8.5	11.1	7.7	6.0
King County	1999	8.4	9.9	7.4	5.3
	1989	8.0	9.8	7.3	5.0
BELLEVUE	**1999**	**5.7**	**5.9**	**6.3**	**3.8**
	1989	**5.6**	**7.5**	**4.5**	**3.4**
Eastside Balance	1999	4.9	5.8	4.7	3.4
	1989	3.9	4.3	5.0	2.5
Redmond	1999	5.3	6.3	6.5	3.3
	1989	3.6	4.1	5.1	1.9
Kirkland	1999	5.3	6.3	5.0	3.9
	1989	5.7	7.4	5.7	3.6
Seattle	1999	11.8	14.5	10.2	6.9
	1989	12,4	16.2	9.0	7.4
Renton	1999	9.7	13.5	8.4	7.0
	1989	7.0	9.8	7.5	5.6
Kent	1999	11.6	16.7	9.3	8.7
	1989	8.8	14.3	7.5	6.6

As indicated in the above table, there was relatively little change in poverty status for most jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region between the 1990 and 2000 Census. Within King County, cities on the Eastside, including Bellevue, had lower poverty rates than Seattle or cities in South King County[4]. King County and many cities within King County, including Bellevue, had lower rates of poverty than the United States or Washington State as a



[4] For more information and analysis of poverty rates within the Central Puget Sound region, see http://www.psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/trends/e12trend.pdf.

whole[5]. The rates for families and individuals below poverty level were higher in areas of the state outside of the region.

KEY FINDINGS

Poverty

- Poverty rates for families and individuals stayed fairly constant between 1989 and 1999 in Bellevue. While poverty rates were relatively low for the population generally, they were higher for some segments of the population, such as single-parent households.
- Poverty rates generally did not increase substantially throughout King County between 1989 and 1999. There is a wide variation of poverty rates for jurisdictions within King County, although poverty rates are generally lower in King County than in other parts of the state.

[5] For more information and analysis of poverty rates within all of Washington State, see http://www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/sf3/20020507.pdf.

Labor Force

The Census provides information on employment status and occupations of residents. It is important to note that this information is for those who live in Bellevue, not those who work in Bellevue (although some Bellevue residents also work in the community).

Labor Force Information for Bellevue

The following tables outline numbers and trends regarding Bellevue's labor force composition.

Labor Force Composition for Bellevue Residents 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population over age 16	70,757	100	88,716	100	17,959	25.4
Population over age 16 in the labor force	51,478	72.8	59,896	67.5	8,418	16.4
Females over age 16	36,579	100	45,157	100	8,578	23.5
Females over age 16 in the labor force	23,450	64.1	26,526	58.7	3,076	13.1
Total Employed civilian population*	49,880	100	57,415	100	7,535	15.1
Population* employed in management or professional occupations	19,858	39.8	30,489	53.1	10,631	53.5
Population* employed in service occupations	4,628	9.3	5,827	10.1	1,199	25.9
Population* employed in sales and office occupations	18,814	37.7	15,137	26.4	-3,677	-19.5
Population* employed in construction occupations	3,081	6.2	2,358	4.1	-723	-23.5
Population* employed in production/transportation occupation	3,023	6.1	3,572	6.2	549	18.2

*Over age 16

As indicated in the table above, the percentages of Bellevue residents and females over age 16 in the labor force have declined since 1990. One reason for this is likely due to the fact that a higher percentage of Bellevue residents were over age 65 in 2000 than in 1990 (see Households chapter), and thus likely no longer in the work force.

One significant finding is that the number and percentage of Bellevue residents who are in management or professional occupations has risen dramatically since 1990 (an increase of 53 percent). Over half of all Bellevue residents in the labor force (53.1 percent) have management or professional jobs.

Place of Work for Bellevue Residents 1990 and 2000						
Subject	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total workers over age 16	49,036	100	56,474	100	7,438	15.2
Workers over age 16 who worked in King County	46,534	94.9	53,970	95.6	7,436	15.9
▪ Workers over age 16 who worked in Bellevue	20,090	40.9	21,634	38.3	1,544	7.7
▪ Workers over age 16 who worked elsewhere in King County	26,444	53.9	32,336	57.3	5,892	22.3
Workers over age 16 who worked outside of King County	2,502	5.1	2,504	4.4	2	0.0

The number of Bellevue residents who also work in Bellevue increased between 1990 and 2000, but declined as a percentage (from 41 percent to 38 percent). Part of this decline may be explained by the annexation of areas located further away from Bellevue's job centers during the 1990s.

Labor Force – Bellevue and the Region

The table below summarizes comparisons between Bellevue and other jurisdictions in the region regarding labor force.

Labor Force Residents of Bellevue and the Region 2000								
Subject	King County	BELLEVUE	Seattle	Redmond	Kirkland	Eastside Balance	Renton	Kent
% of population age 16 and over in the labor force	70.1	67.5	70.1	74.0	75.2	72.3	72.1	71.8
% of females over age 16 in the labor force	63.6	58.7	65.5	64.9	68.6	63.9	65.5	65.3
% of employed civilians in management or professional jobs	43.4	53.1	48.4	56.7	49.2	48.1	34.3	30.5

Bellevue has a smaller percent of overall population and females (over age 16) in the labor force than other large jurisdictions in King County. This may partially be due to overall demographic trends relating to the percentage of Bellevue residents over age 65, which is higher than in many other jurisdictions in the region.

In terms of work force composition, Bellevue (and eastside cities generally) have a higher percentage of the labor force in management, professional, and related occupations than do other cities in King County.

KEY FINDINGS

Labor Force

- The percentage of Bellevue residents older than age 16 in the work force declined between 1990 and 2000, and is lower than many other jurisdictions in the region.
- A large and increasing percentage of Bellevue's labor force is employed in management and professional occupations.

Potential Implications of Economic Characteristics for Bellevue

Bellevue has a very highly educated population. In addition, a high percentage of Bellevue residents in the workforce have managerial or professional occupations. These are important indicators of the desirability of Bellevue as a place to live, since these populations also tends to be very mobile, with much flexibility and choice regarding residential location.

The median household income figures show that median household incomes generally did not keeppace with inflation between 1989 and 1999. There are several factors influencing this trend. One factor is that average household sizes are smaller in Bellevue than they were in 1990, and in particular there was a significant increase in 1-person households between 1990 and 2000 (see Household and Age Characteristics chapter for more discussion). There was also a much higher percentage of the population who were senior citizens (age 65 or older) in 2000 than in 1990. Therefore, while Bellevue still has high household and family incomes relative to the county and region as a whole, the changing demographic profile of the community is impacting income patterns.

As will be discussed more in the Housing chapter, while median household incomes rose at a rate slightly below inflation, housing prices and costs in Bellevue rose at a rate higher than inflation between 1990 and 2000. This has implications for the total purchasing power of some Bellevue households, particularly those who have recently moved into their housing units (and are therefore likely to pay more of their incomes for housing).

While the percentage of families in poverty rose only slightly since 1990, this resulted in more than 1,300 additional city residents in poverty in 2000 than in 1990. More analysis is needed on whether pockets of poverty are growing within the community, and if there are long-term trends associated with this factor. An increase in the number of Bellevue individuals with incomes below poverty level has, and will have, an impact on provision of human services.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS

The 2000 Census provided a great deal of information on the physical characteristics of Bellevue's housing stock, housing costs and value, and the changing residential patterns of Bellevue's residents. Specific topics to be addressed in this chapter of the report include the increasing number and changing composition of renter households in Bellevue, the range of housing types and structural characteristics of Bellevue's housing stock, and the mobility and occupancy periods of the city's residents. Lastly, the issue of housing affordability will be discussed.

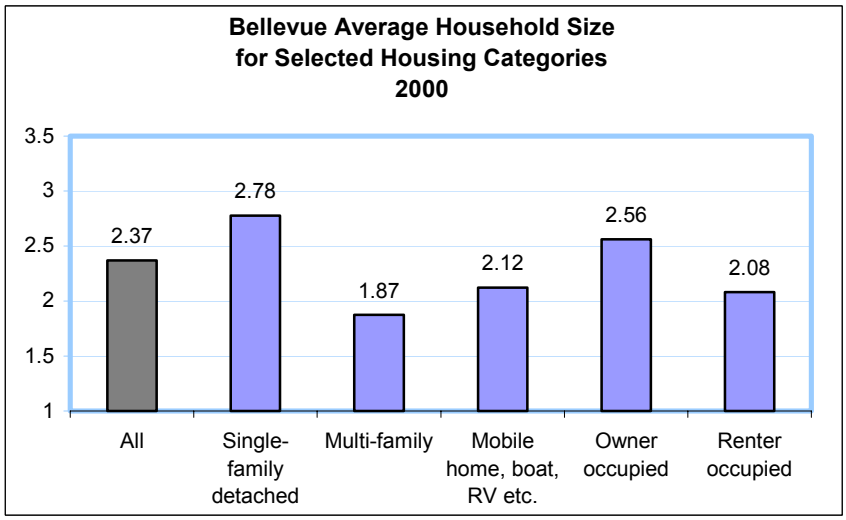
Residential Patterns

Data on residential patterns provides insight into where people live, how long they have lived there, and what type of arrangements they are living under. This part of the report will specifically deal with household characteristics relating to tenure, regional and national residential mobility, and vacancy.

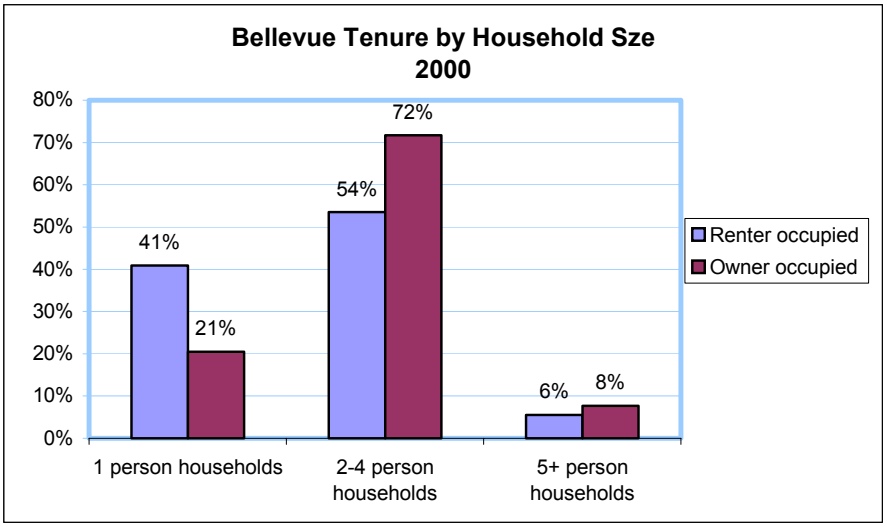
Tenure for Bellevue

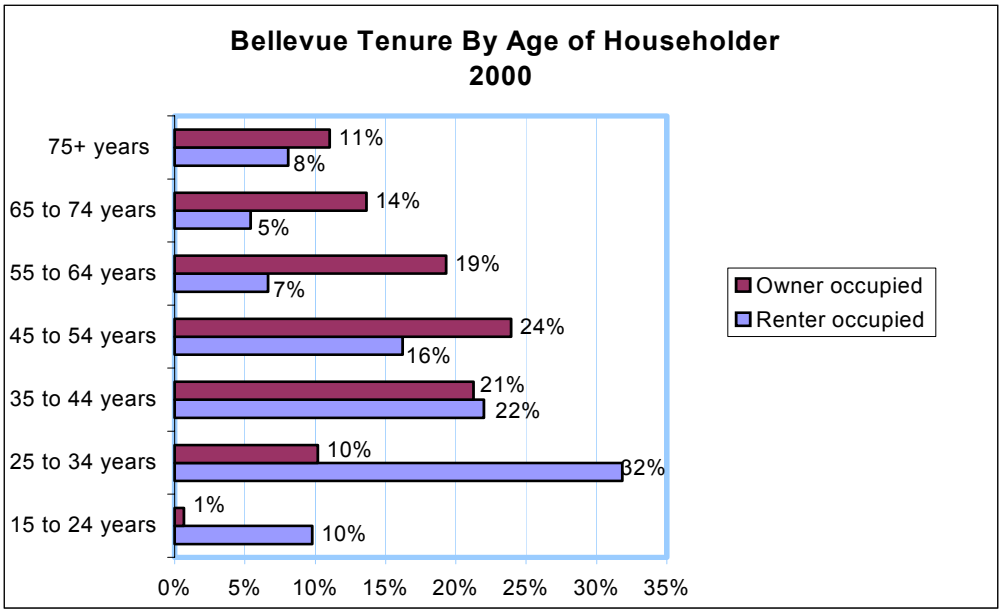
Housing tenure measures whether residents of a household own their own house or condominium, or rent their dwelling unit. This factor has a significant impact on many other demographic characteristics.

In 2000, 28,189 out of 45,836 (61 percent) of all occupied housing units (households) were owner occupied. In comparison, 66 percent of Bellevue residents lived in owner-occupied housing units. This difference can be explained by the fact that average household sizes vary based on the type of housing. Since owner-occupied units are much more likely to be single-family detached, owner-occupied households have a larger average household size. However, average household sizes for renters and owners came closer together during the 1990s. The average household size for renter occupied households rose by 0.02 persons, while that of owner occupied households dropped by 0.11.



As noted in the two adjacent charts, the demographics of renter occupied households in Bellevue are very different from those of owner occupied households. Residents of renter occupied households tend to be both younger and more likely to live in a one-person household. It is interesting to note, however, that 21 percent of all owner-occupied housing units in Bellevue consist of 1-person households.





The following table shows the composition of Bellevue owner and renter occupied households in more detail.

Bellevue Units in Structure by Tenure
2000

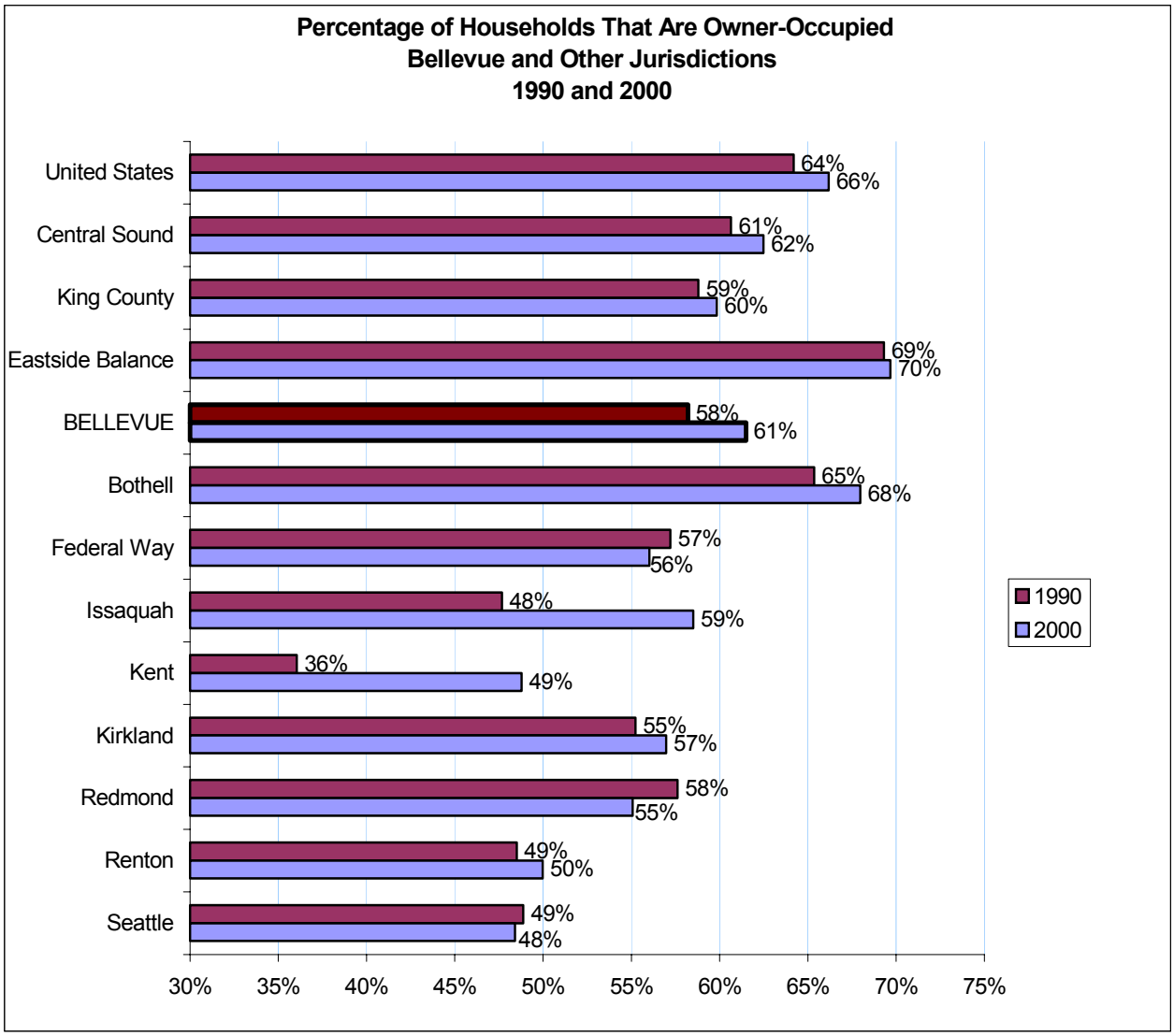
Units in Structure	Citywide Total		Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	48,303	100	28,012	100	17,673	100
1-unit, detached	25,846	53.5	22,603	80.7	2,666	15.1
1-unit-attached	2,657	5.5	2,104	7.5	472	2.7
2 units	476	1.0	180	0.6	272	1.5
3 or 4 units	2,273	4.7	563	2.0	1,581	8.9
5 to 9 units	4,541	9.4	2,496*	8.9*	3,378	19.1
10 to 19 units	3,506	7.3	NA	NA	2,700	15.3
20 or more units	8,938	18.5	NA	NA	6,606	35.3

**Represents total in structures with 5 or more units.*

In 2000 the majority of Bellevue's renter occupied households (70 percent) lived in apartment buildings of five or more units, while 15 percent lived in detached single family houses. In comparison, 81 percent of Bellevue's owner occupied households lived in single-family detached houses. Only 10.6 percent of Bellevue's single-family detached houses were rented, a decrease from 1990 when 11.3 percent of houses were rented.

Tenure – Regional and National Comparisons

As shown on the chart on the following page, 61 percent of all Bellevue households owned their own home in 2000. This was on par with the regional average of 62 percent, but higher than many other cities in the region. Despite considerable multifamily construction in the 1990s, homeownership rates continued to rise nationally and regionally, as well as in Bellevue, as indicated on the chart. There are two main components to this trend. One of them is the fact that many more multifamily units were built as owner occupied condominiums (just over half of all multifamily units added in Bellevue in the 1990s were owner occupied). Secondly, most of Bellevue's annexations in the 1990s involved existing and developing single family areas south of I-90, which were overwhelmingly owner occupied.



Nearly all jurisdictions saw an increase in the proportion of their population who owned their own home. The number of Bellevue residents that owned their own home increased by 30 percent between 1990 and 2000 (as compared with overall population growth of 26 percent), while the number of residents that rented increased by only 19 percent. As noted above, the type of housing stock annexed into the city during the 1990s impacted this. The rest of the Eastside saw the population in renter and owner occupied households increase at almost exactly the same rate of 15 percent. One notable exception to increasing homeownership rates is Seattle, in which 88 percent of its new multifamily units were renter occupied, and the percent increase in renter occupied units outpaced that of owner occupied units. In Bellevue, 15 percent of rental units were single-family detached houses, compared to 20 percent for the rest of the Eastside, 18 percent for Seattle, and 24 percent for the nation as a whole.

Migration and Mobility for Bellevue

Migration and mobility measures how long a resident has lived in their dwelling unit, and from where people moved. The following table summarizes information for Bellevue residents (older than the age of 5) in 2000 regarding migration and mobility patterns.

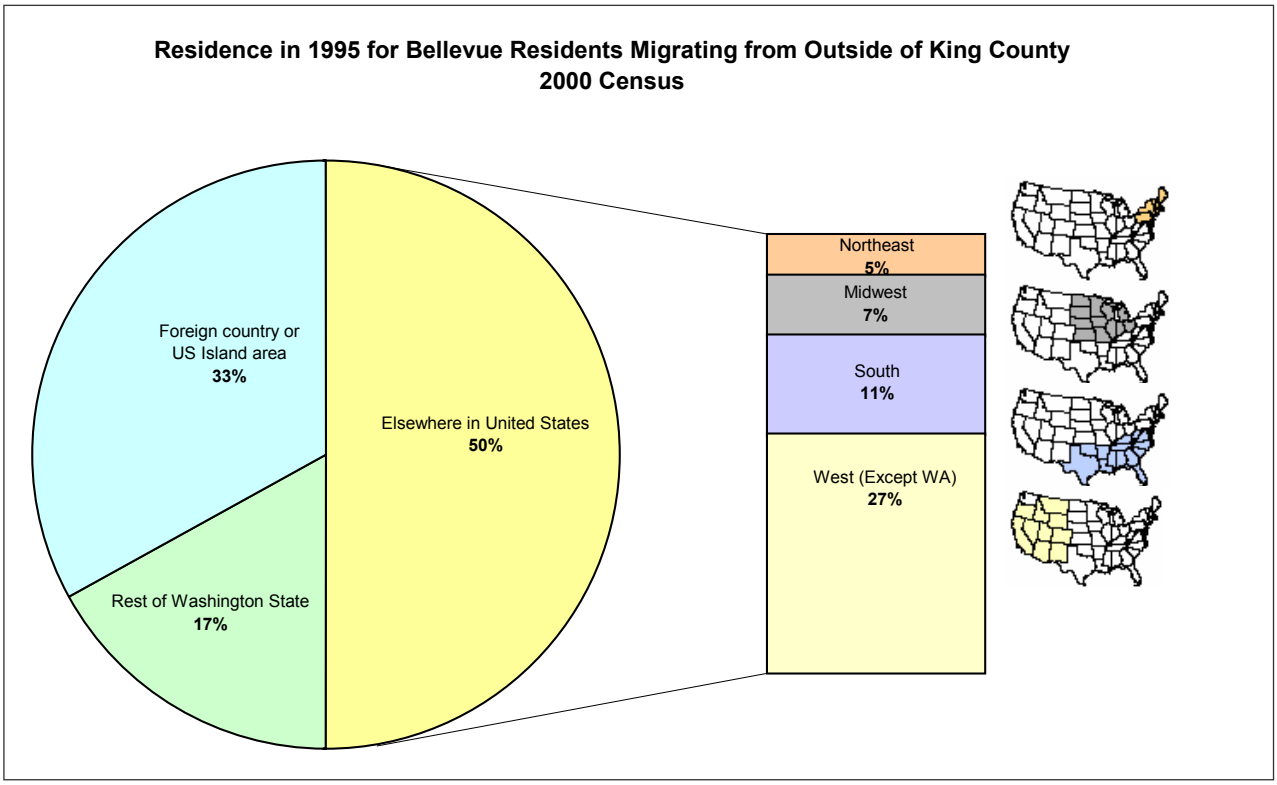
Residence in 1995 and 2000 for Bellevue Residents
2000 Census

Population Group	Total	Percent
Total population older than age 5	103,087	100
Same house in 1995	48,371	46.9
Different house in 1995:	54,717	53.1
-In United States in 1995:	46,062	44.7
-Same city:	12,721	12.6
-Not same city:	33,341	32.1
-Same County:	15,716	15.0
-Different County:	17,625	17.1
-Same State:	4,474	4.3
-Different State:	13,151	12.8
-Elsewhere* in 1995:	8,639	8.4

**Elsewhere refers Puerto Rico, Guam, or a foreign country.*

As noted, over half (53 percent) of the Bellevue population had moved in the five years preceding the 2000 Census. This is actually a smaller percentage than those moving within five years of the 1990 Census, likely due to different characteristics in the short-term housing market between the late 1980s and the late 1990s. A good portion of those moving into Bellevue between 1995 and 2000 were moving into new houses. Approximately 10 percent, or 4,875 of Bellevue's 48,303 housing units, were built during that period.

In addition, 25 percent of the 2000 population residing in the city of Bellevue, or 26,300 people, did not live in King County in 1995. The following figure illustrates from where these in-migrants arrived.



The past decade has brought significant changes in the origin of those who moved to the city of Bellevue from outside of King County. Those who moved to Bellevue between 1985 and 1990 were much less likely to have come from a foreign country than those who moved to Bellevue between 1995 and 2000. Of those who moved to Bellevue from out of state, more came from the eastern half of the country in the five years preceding the 2000 census (46 percent) than in the late 1980s (36 percent). This is most likely the result of a decreasing number of in-migrants from California.

Migration and Mobility – Regional and National Comparisons

The adjacent table summarizes migration and mobility patterns for Bellevue residents as compared with the nation and region as a whole, as well as selected other jurisdictions.

Migration and Mobility of Residents
Bellevue, the Nation, and the Region
1990 Census and 2000 Census

	Same House in 1985-1990 1990 Census	Same House in 1995-2000 2000 Census	Change in Percent
United States	53%	54%	1%
Central Puget Sound	44%	47%	3%
King County	45%	48%	3%
Eastside Balance	45%	50%	5%
BELLEVUE	**44%**	**47%**	**3%**
Bothell	43%	52%	9%
Kent	32%	37%	5%
Kirkland	41%	41%	0%
Redmond	37%	40%	3%
Renton	43%	42%	-2%
Sammamish	*N/A (City not yet incorporated in 1990.)*	48%	N/A
Seattle	44%	44%	0%

In 2000, as indicated in the table, 54 percent of the population nationwide were living in the same house as they did five years prior. Of the 46 percent that changed residences in the period 1995-2000, only 26 percent remained in the same city and just over half (55 percent) remained in the same county. Locally, 47 percent of Bellevue residents have remained in the same residence as 1995. There was more housing turnover in Bellevue than the United States as a whole, and a similar amount as in the region and county. However, there was less housing turnover in Bellevue than in some neighboring cities such as Kirkland and Redmond.

Nearly across the board, residential mobility, while still high, decreased in the last decade. Bellevue, Redmond, King County, and the Puget Sound region as a whole all had 3 percent increases in the population living in the same house as five years preceding the censuses. The cities of Seattle and Kirkland had about the same rate of residential mobility in the late 1980s and 1990s

Bellevue's rate of 8.4 percent of the total population having lived outside of the United States in 1995 was twice the 4 percent rate for the rest of the Eastside. King County and the region as a whole also had around 4 percent of their current residents living in another country in 1995. Redmond was one of the only other cities with this many recent foreign immigrants, with 9 percent of their population in this category. See the Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality chapter of the report for more information on immigration trends.

Occupancy

In 2000, 2,560 units, or 5.3 percent of all units were vacant in Bellevue. This is slightly higher than the regional residential vacancy rate of 4.8 percent (which is itself much lower than the national residential vacancy rate of 9.0 percent), but higher than most other comparison cities. Issaquah and Redmond are two exceptions, which had vacancy rates at 6.8 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. About twice as many vacant units were for rent than were for sale, largely due to higher turnover in the rental market.

KEY FINDINGS

Tenure and Mobility

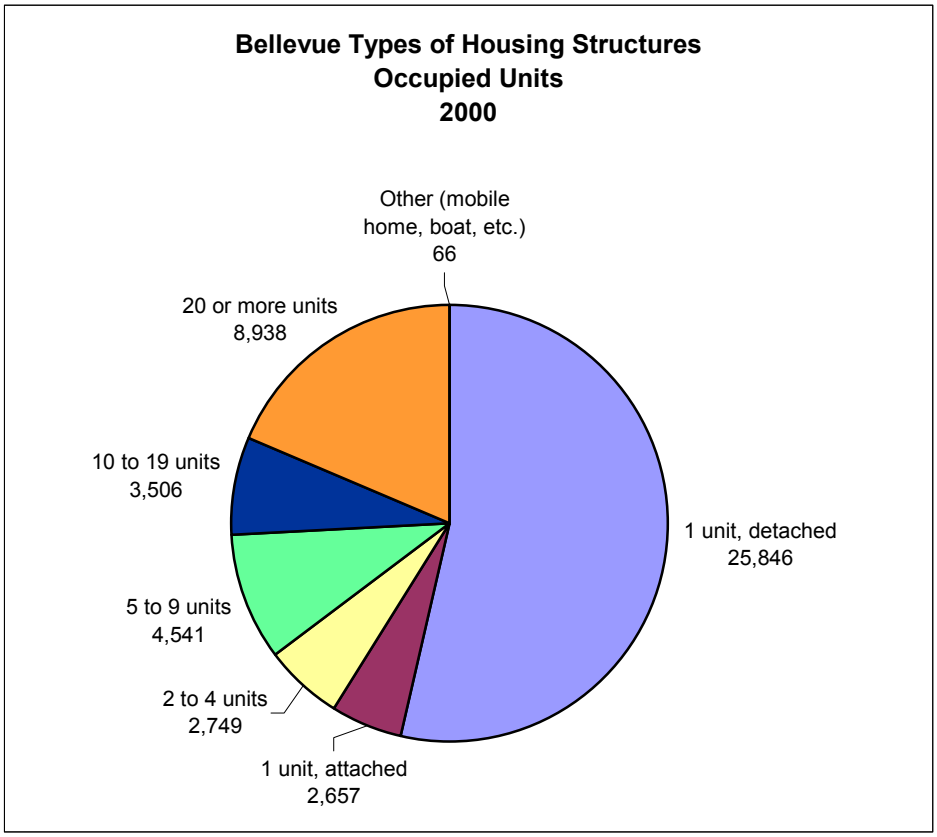
- Approximately 61 percent of Bellevue households in 2000 were owner-occupied. This represents an increase since 1990, and equals the percentage of King County households that are owner-occupied.
- Less than half of Bellevue residents in 2000 lived in the same residence as they did in 1995. Of those who moved to Bellevue between 1995 and 2000, over 25,000 moved from outside of King County, and over 8,500 moved from outside of the continental United States.

Structural Characteristics

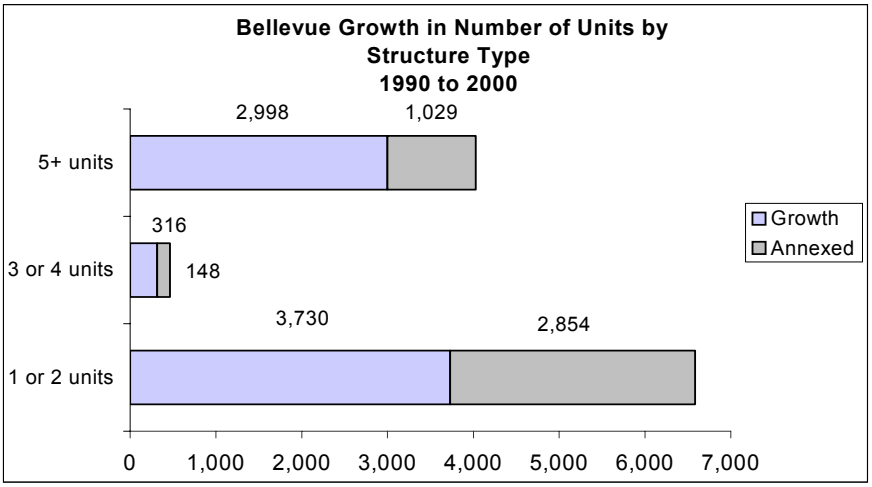
Bellevue's housing stock represents a diverse mix of types and ages. The city has many new houses, as well as some as old as the turn of the century. The city also includes a mix of housing types from single-family detached houses to 100-plus unit condominium towers downtown. This section will address the housing stock in Bellevue as compared to other cities and the region and how these characteristics have changed since 1990.

Type of Structures in Bellevue

Having a range of housing types is important in any community, but is particularly important in Bellevue given the changing characteristics of households (see Households chapter). As shown in the adjacent graphics, Bellevue is continuing its trend of increasing the number of housing options for its residents.



As indicated in the chart below, the types of housing that experienced the greatest amount of growth in real terms were 1 and 2 unit structures (single-family detached units, townhouses, and duplex housing).



However, a large percent of this housing, particularly single-family detached housing, was added through annexations that occurred between 1990 and 2000.

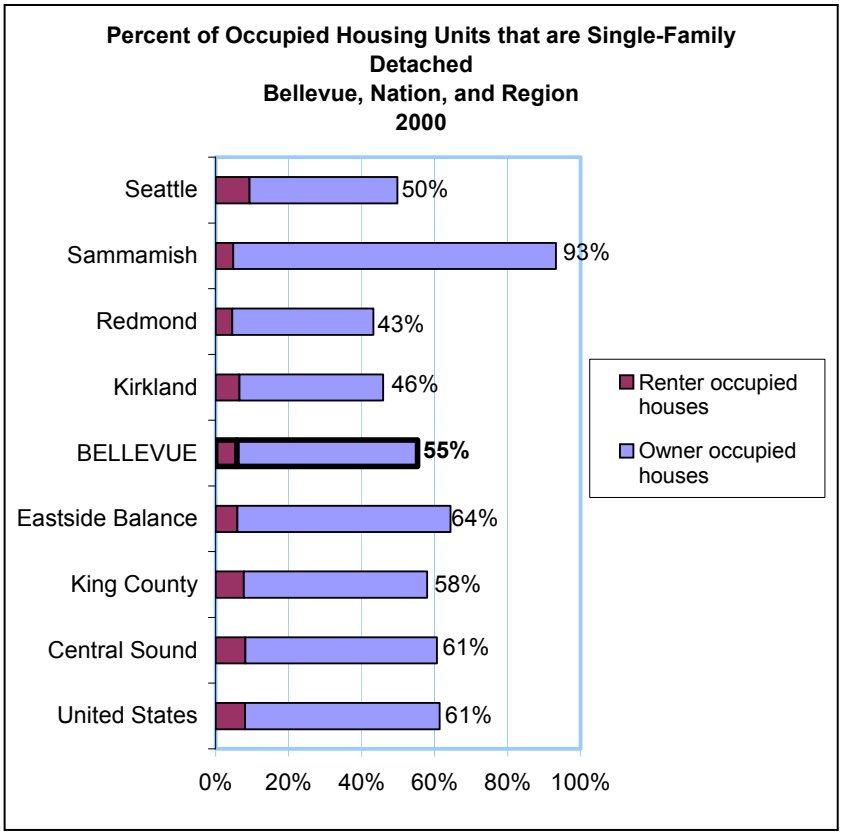
In terms of the greatest rate of growth in the last decade, the types of housing that grew fastest were single-unit attached (townhouses), and 20-or-more-unit multifamily structures. The number of

townhouses in Bellevue jumped by 73 percent, from 1,473 in 1990 to 2,657 in 2000. The number of units in large multifamily structures increased by 70 percent during the same period, from 5,245 in 1990 to 8,938 in 2000.

Type and Age of Structures – Regional and National Comparisons

The diversifying of Bellevue's housing stock was also true of the region between 1990 and 2000. Region-wide, the most significant increases in housing types have been townhouses and other single-family attached structures, which grew at a rate three times that of all housing units. Large (20+ unit) multifamily structures also grew twice as fast as total housing unit growth.

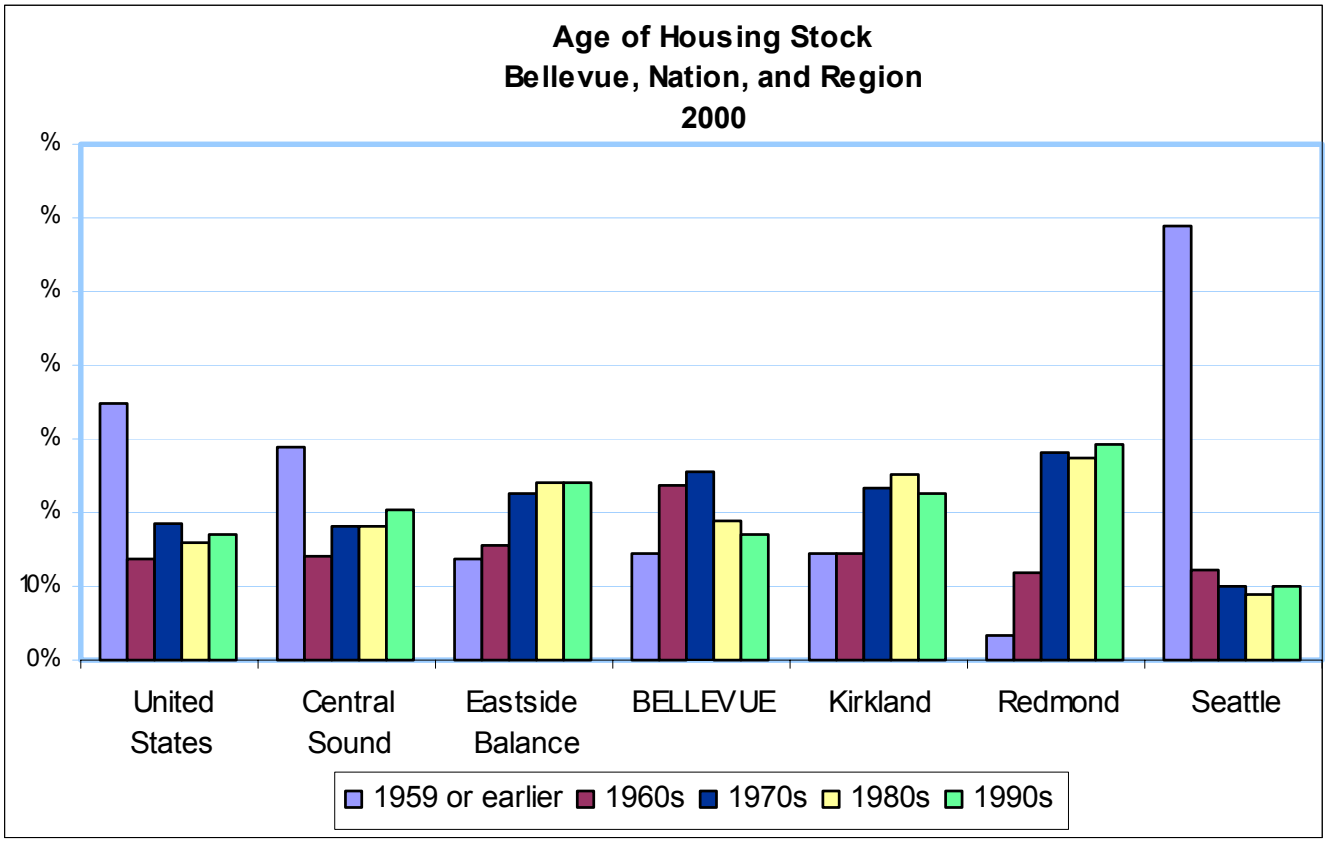
As shown on the adjacent chart, the majority (55 percent) of Bellevue's occupied housing units were in the form of single-family detached houses. This is less than the percent single-family for the nation and region, which both stood at 61 percent, as well as King County (58 percent) and the balance of the Eastside (64 percent). However, all of Bellevue's neighbors[1] with the exception of the newer bedroom communities of Sammamish and Newcastle (both with over 80% SF) have less than half of their units as single-family houses.



The proportion of housing units that are single-family detached houses has decreased since 1990 in almost all Puget Sound cities not affected by major annexations, while rising nationwide. Bellevue's stock of detached houses grew 26 percent between 1990 and 2000, which was a slower rate of growth than housing as a whole (which grew at 29 percent). As mentioned previously, a large percentage of the gain in single-family detached housing came from annexations, not new development.

[1] Kirkland had 44 percent; Redmond 41percent, Issaquah 45 percent, and Seattle 49 percent.

The following chart shows how the age of the housing stock in Bellevue compares to other jurisdictions.



As indicated, approximately 17 percent of Bellevue's total housing stock was constructed between 1990 and 2000. This is a lower percentage than the region as a whole and most other comparison cities other than Seattle. In the balance of the Eastside as a whole over 20 percent of total housing stock was constructed in the 1990s.

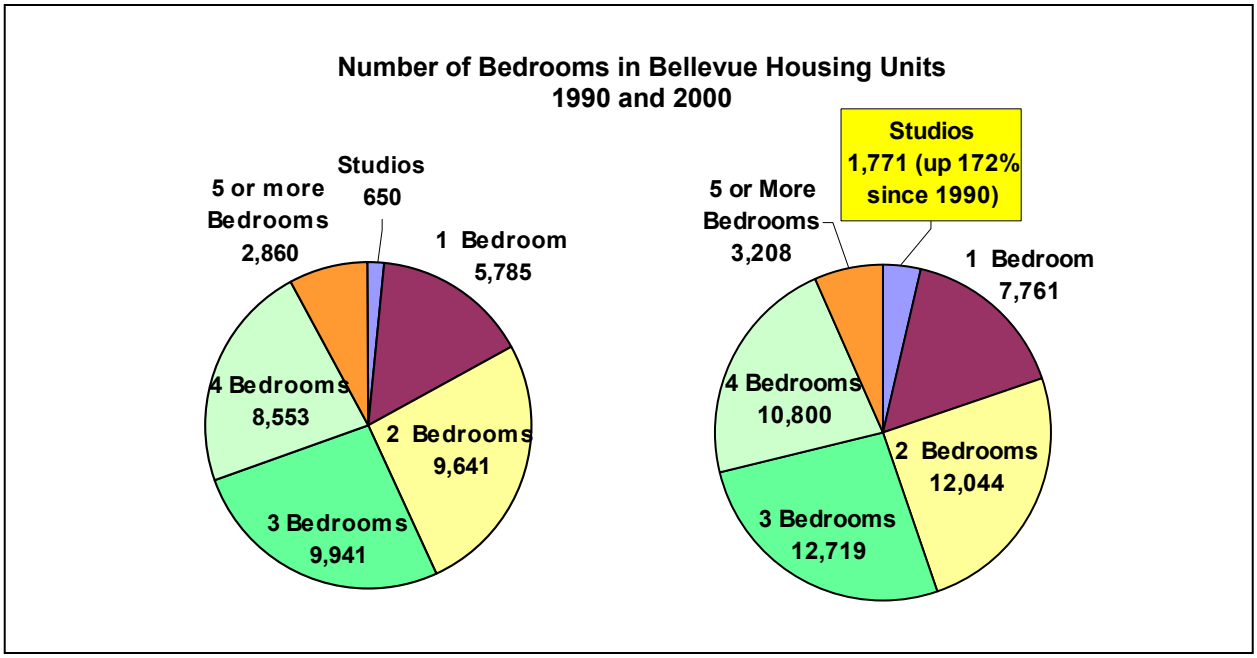
Housing Stock Characteristics in Bellevue

In Bellevue the average number of rooms per housing unit is decreasing, a result of the types of housing being built. For example more townhouses, condominiums, and apartments, all of which have fewer rooms per unit, were constructed in the 1990s. The median number of rooms in all Bellevue housing units was 5.7 in 2000, which was a decrease from 6.4 rooms in 1990.

During the last decade, there has been a shift towards smaller rental units, and more studios and one-bedroom units, as shown in the next chart.

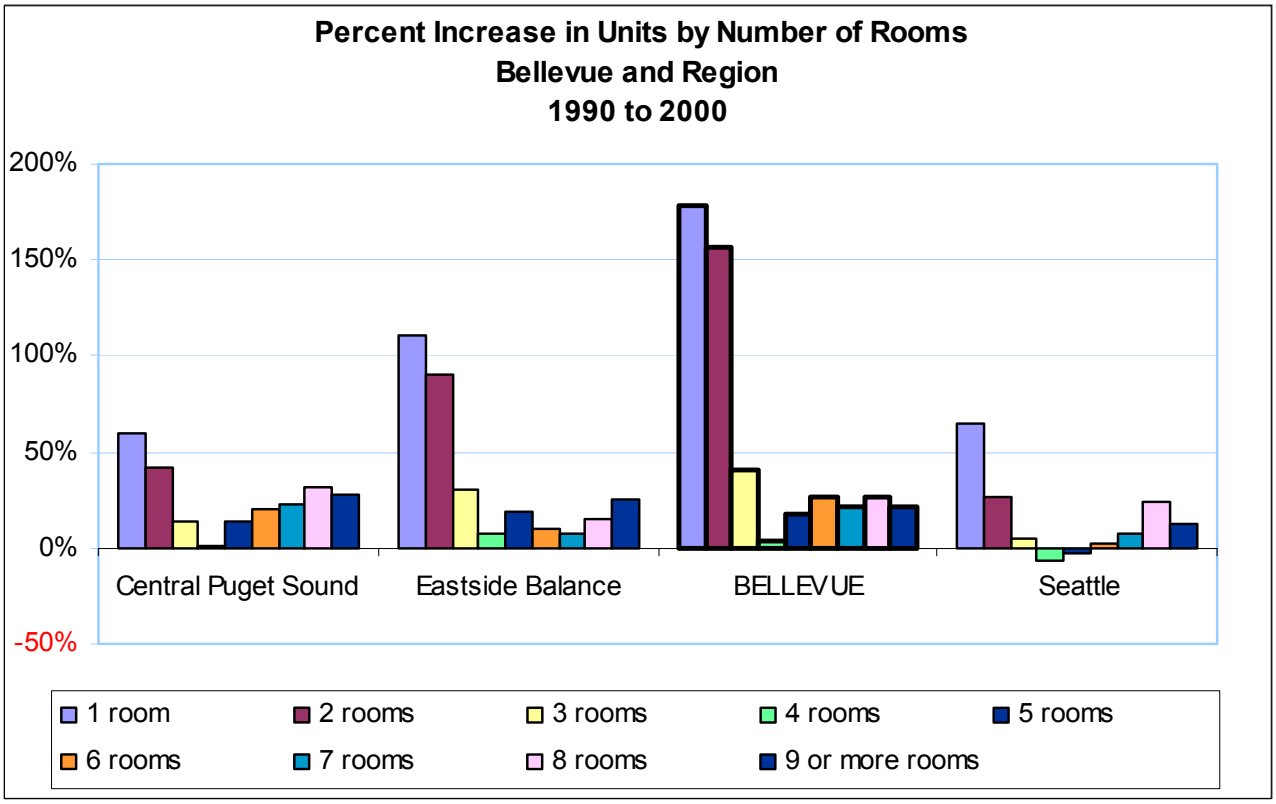
In 1990 only 4 percent of all renter occupied units were studios (no bedroom units), and 64 percent were two or more bedroom units. By 2000, 9 percent of all rental units were studios, and 57 percent had two or more bedrooms. Of the 2,742 rental units that were added to Bellevue's housing stock between 1990 and 2000, a total of 978, or 36 percent, were studios. While there was an increase in housing units in all

bedroom categories, the types of housing with the smallest percentage increase between 1990 and 2000 were 4 and 5 bedroom units. This trend correlates with smaller household sizes, as discussed in the Households chapter.



Housing Stock Characteristics – Regional and National Comparisons

The following chart shows the growth in housing by number of rooms for Bellevue, the region as a whole, the balance of the Eastside, and Seattle.



As discussed in the previous section, while there has been growth in types of housing across the board in terms of size and number of rooms, the greatest percentage increase has been in smaller units. This is true not only in Bellevue but also throughout the Eastside and the region.

KEY FINDINGS

Structural Characteristics

- In Bellevue, single-unit attached (townhouses) dwellings, 20-or-more unit multifamily structures, and studios were the types of housing with the most rapid rates of increase in the 1990s. Related to this trend, the median number of rooms for Bellevue dwelling units decreased from 6.4 rooms in 1990 to 5.7 rooms in 2000.
- Approximately 17 percent of Bellevue's total housing stock was constructed in the 1990s. While this represents significant growth in the city's housing supply, this is a lower percentage than the region as a whole and adjacent jurisdictions.

Housing Values and Costs

Housing affordability is consistently listed as one of the most important issues facing the region today. As with many areas throughout the country, the economic boom of the late 1990s led to a robust housing market. This market has continued to be strong even as many other sectors of the economy have slipped into recession since 2000. Bellevue, with its abundant views, waters, parks, and job base, has long been a desirable and thus relatively expensive place to live. Census data from 2000 shows that this has not changed, although Bellevue's housing prices are rising somewhat more slowly than some other cities in the region, notably Seattle.

Housing Values[2] and Costs[3] for Bellevue

The City of Bellevue contains some fairly expensive homes. Median housing prices rose 54 percent between 1990 and 2000, from $192,800 to $299,400. When adjusted by inflation to reflect Year 2000 dollars, median housing values rose by 9 percentage points above the inflation rate between 1990 and 2000. As discussed in the Economic chapter, this contrasts with trends for median incomes, which rose at less than the rate of inflation between 1989 and 1999.

In terms of costs to the owner for owner-occupied housing, the median monthly payment for owner occupied units with a mortgage in 2000 was $1,744. Concurrent with an increase in housing values, there was also a significant increase in owner costs since 1990, even when adjusting for inflation. The adjusted median monthly owner costs in 1990 was $1,420, a 23 percent increase in real dollars.

With regard to rental housing, median rents rose by $306 from $610 to $916 per month between 1990 and 2000. When adjusted for inflation between 1990 and 2000, this reflects a 6 percent increase in real dollars. As shown in the table below, there was a wide variation of rents for Bellevue's housing stock in 2000.

As noted in the table, approximately 5 percent of Bellevue rental units in 2000 rented for less than $500 per month, while over 38 percent rented at over $1,000 per month. Two bedroom units were the most common type of rental unit; the vast majority (86 percent) of these units rented at over $750 per month.

Median Monthly Rental Payment in Bellevue 2000

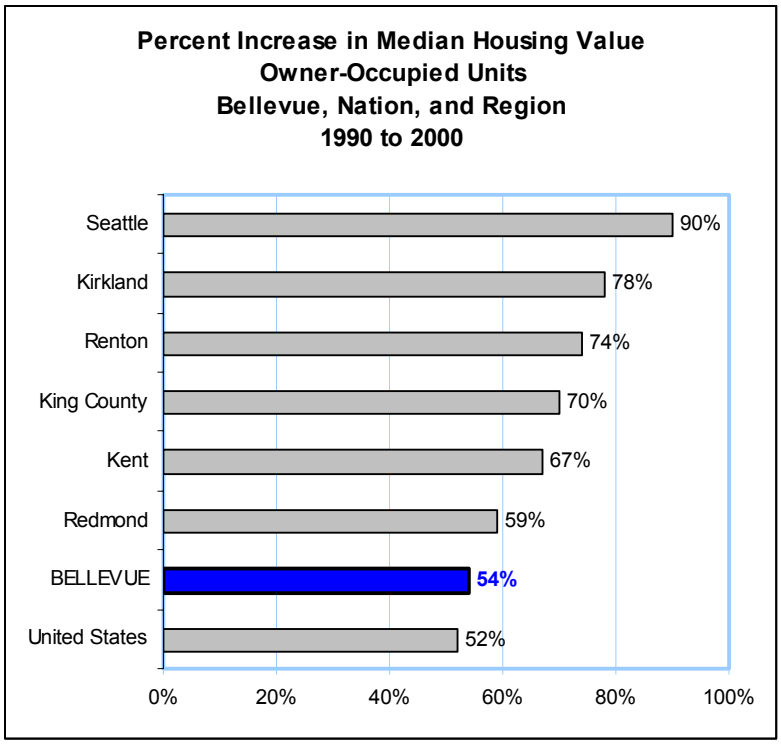
Rent Payment Category	Total	Percent
Total Rental Units	17,247	100.0
Total paying less than $500 per month	970	5.6
Total paying $500 - $749 per month	3,405	19.7
Total paying $750 - $999 per month	6,311	36.6
Total paying more than $1,000 per month	6,561	38.1

[2] The census bureau tabulates housing values for units that are owner-occupied, one-family, attached and detached houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property.

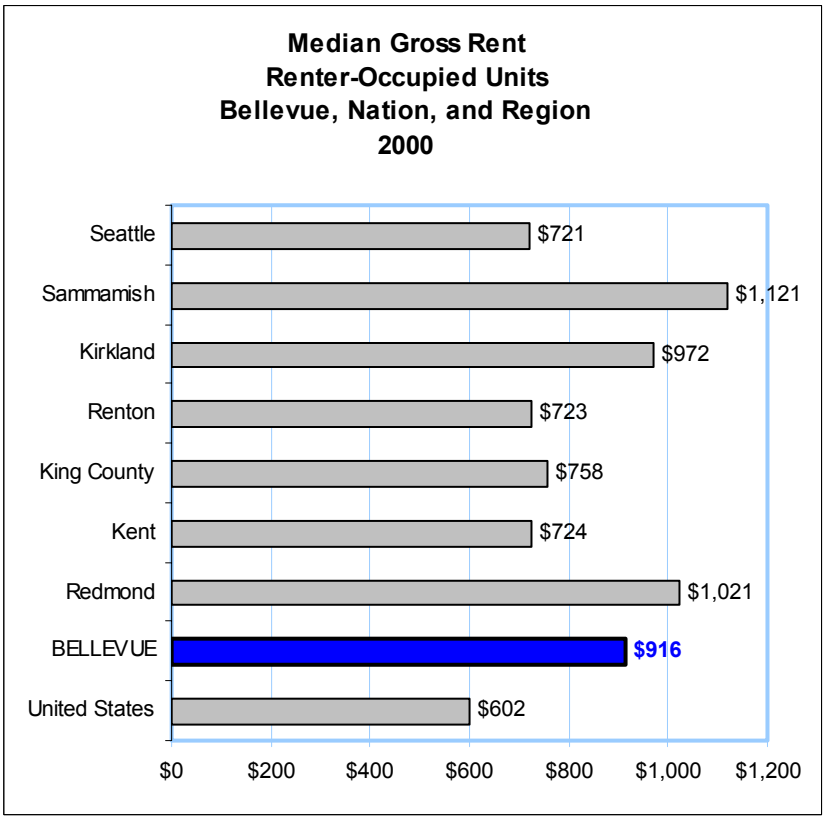
[3] Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second mortgage, home equity loans, and other junior mortgages); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities and fuels. It also includes where appropriate, the monthly condominium fees or mobile home costs.

Housing Values and Costs – Regional and National Comparisons

Bellevue's median housing value was $299,400 in 2000, which was $61,700 more than King County as a whole. King County's median housing value was the highest of any county in the state, and the 43rd highest median value in the nation. In 2000, about 90 percent of all houses in Bellevue were priced above the Puget Sound Region's median of $195,000. The increase in median housing values for Bellevue and other jurisdictions are shown in the next chart (these percentages do not reflect inflation).



As indicated in the adjacent chart, Bellevue's increase in median value was slower during the 1990s than many other cities. This was due in part to already expensive Bellevue housing prices in 1990. The gap in home values has also narrowed considerably between King County as a whole and Bellevue in the last decade. In 1990 Bellevue's median home price was 39 percent higher than that of the county; in 2000, that gap had shrunk to 26 percent. Bellevue's 2000 median housing value of $299,400 places it 11th on the list of highest housing prices of cities and census designated places with over 1,000 housing units in the Central Puget Sound region. It was by far the largest city in the top 20.



While home values generally did not go up as fast in Bellevue as other jurisdictions, monthly owner costs went up slight y faster than the countywide average. When adjusted for inflation, Bellevue's median monthly owner costs rose by $324 or 23 percent. King County owner costs rose by 22 percent. Seattle and Kirkland had among the highest increases in owner costs in real dollars, both jumping by 29 percent. With regard to rents, as mentioned, in 2000 Bellevue's median gross rent

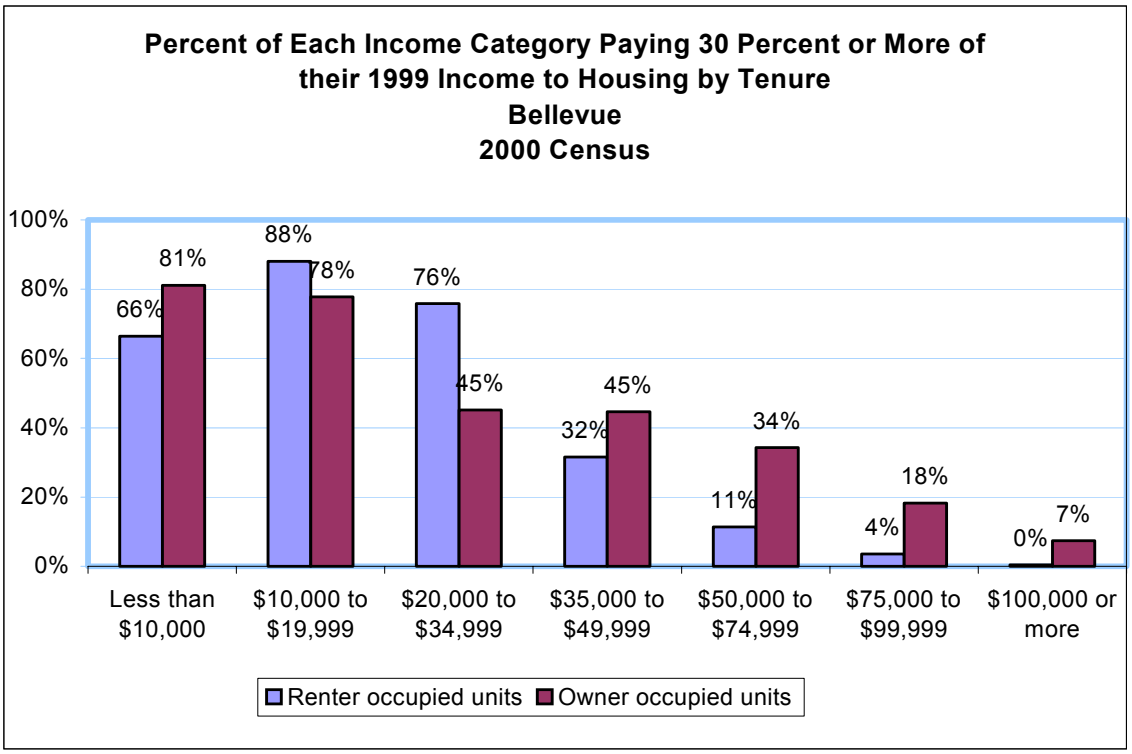
was $916. As illustrated in the previous chart, this was almost $150 more than the countywide median, and almost $200 more than Seattle's median rent. Bellevue's 2000 median rent was lower than the adjoining cities of Kirkland, Remond, and Sammamish.

Housing Affordability – Percent of Income to Housing Costs in Bellevue

Measuring the ratio of one's housing costs (whether rent or mortgage payments) to one's income is often the most effective way to gauge housing affordability, as opposed to just looking at median housing values or rents. Generally speaking, paying 30 percent or less of one's income for housing is commonly considered as an acceptable threshold.

In 2000, a significant number of households in Bellevue paid over 30 percent of their income for housing. Almost 40 percent of all renter occupied households paid over 30 percent of their monthly income to gross rent in 2000, while approximately 25 percent of all homeowners did.

As indicated in the following chart, there was wide variation in housing to income ratios in Bellevue, based on level of household income.



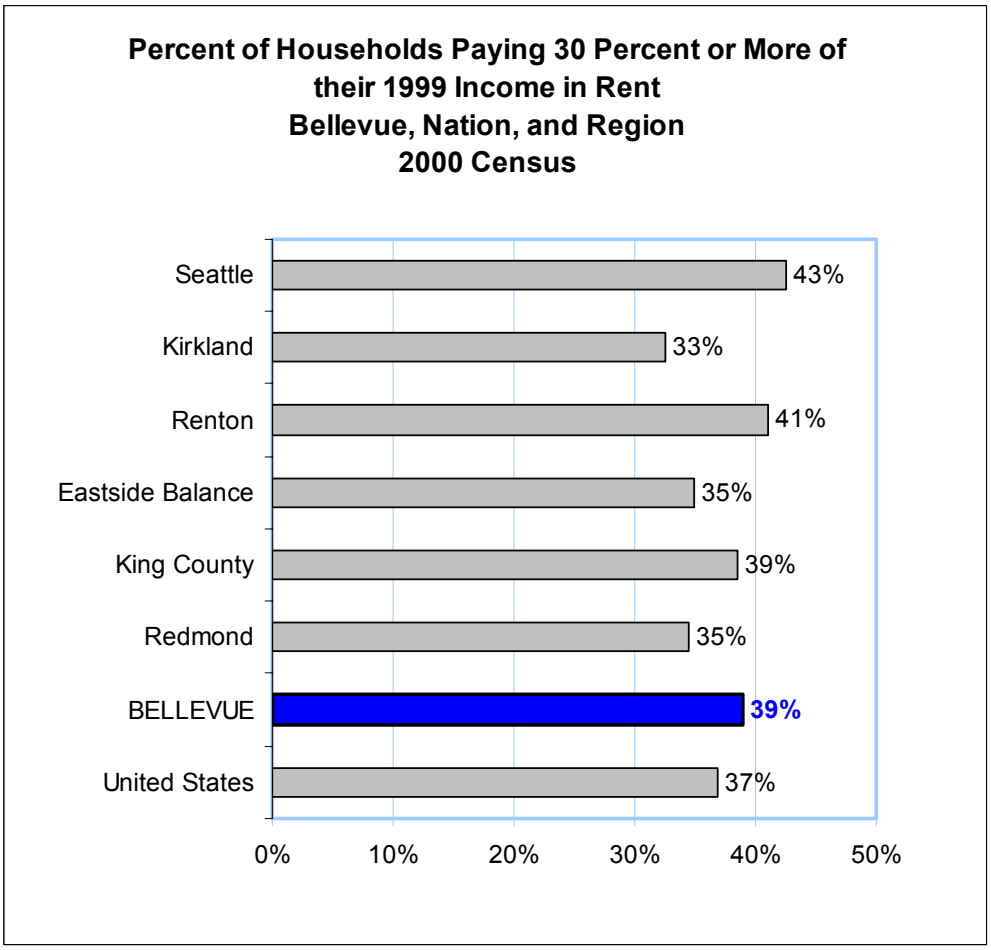
Not surprisingly, there is a very significant correlation between income level and paying too much for housing. For example, a very high percentage of households with incomes below $35,000 per year in 1999 paid 30 percent or more of their income for housing. The percentage of households paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing went down dramatically in higher income categories. Interestingly, as household income increased homeowners were more likely to be paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing than were renters. The most likely age group to be paying over 30 percent of their income to

rent was seniors, especially those over 75 years old. The reverse is true for owner occupied units, with younger age groups being somewhat more likely to be paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing. While a fairly high percentage of Bellevue households paid 30 percent or more of their income for rent in 2000, the percentage actually decreased from 1990 levels.

Housing Affordability – Regional and National Comparisons

As indicated in the adjacent chart, a high percentage of residents countywide paid more than 30 percent of their income in rent, not just in Bellevue. In Seattle and Renton, over 40 percent of households paid over 30 percent of their income for housing. This indicates that housing affordability continues to be an issue not just for Bellevue but for the county and region as a whole.

With regard to homeowners, 25 percent of Bellevue homeowners paid over 30 percent of their income for housing costs in 2000. This was actually a lower percentage than the countywide total of 27 percent.



KEY FINDINGS

Housing Values and Costs

- Housing prices for both owners and renters rose at a higher rate than inflation between 1990 and 2000. However, Bellevue housing values rose at a lower rate than the countywide average during that same time period.
- Approximately 39 percent of Bellevue renters and 25 percent of Bellevue homeowners paid more than 30 percent of their income for housing in 2000. These numbers are generally consistent with percentages countywide.

Potential Implications of Housing Characteristics for Bellevue

People moved into Bellevue in the 1990s both from within the city and the county and from outside of the region and the United States. Strong employment growth in Bellevue, along with other amenities such as schools and parks are likely contributing factors. Projections show continued strong employment growth in the city in the future, which will likely continue this trend.

There appears to be a growing disparity between growth of incomes and housing prices in Bellevue. It is interesting to note that although median rents are higher in Kirkland and Redmond than they are in Bellevue, a higher percentage of Bellevue renters pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent than in the other 2 cities. This speaks to more of a disparity of incomes in Bellevue than in other eastside cities (see chapter on Economic characteristics).

As Bellevue's labor force continues to grow, housing affordability will continue to be an important issue, in that it will become increasingly difficult for people who work in Bellevue (particularly those in retail and other sectors that do not pay as well) to live in the community.

Bellevue's housing stock appears to be changing in order to accommodate the new types of households that are emerging in the city (for example, more 1-person households). With a large proportion of the city's future residential growth expected to occur in the downtown area, the growth in studios and other smaller units is expected to continue.

TRANSPORTATION

One of the most important issues in Bellevue and in the entire Central Puget Sound region is transportation. The Census provides information about Bellevue residents' trends in commuting to work, and also information on vehicle ownership.

Commuting to Work

Commuting information is important in that is reflects how residents of Bellevue get to their jobs, and how long it takes. This information says much about our transportation infrastructure investments and transportation choices, and is an important indicator of how growth management policies are working, in particular policies that encourage housing and jobs in close proximity to each other. Commuting information for Bellevue in 1990 and 2000 is summarized below.

Commuting to Work Data for Bellevue

The table below summarizes commuting trends for Bellevue residents per the 1990 and 2000 Census.

Commuting Patterns for Bellevue Residents 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990	2000
% of workers* driving to work alone (single occupant vehicle)	77.4	74.0
% of workers carpooling or vanpooling	9.2	10.6
% of workers using public transportation	6.6	6.7
% of workers working at home	3.9	5.1
Mean travel time to work in minutes	21.4	21.6

**Workers age 16 and over.*

As indicated in the table, while the percentage of Bellevue residents who commute to work alone in their cars in single-occupant vehicles (SOV) is still fairly high, it decreased between 1990 and 2000. It is important to note that even though this is only a reduction of 3.5 percent since 1990, this in fact represents thousands of fewer trips per day. It is also interesting to note that as compared to 1990 a higher percentage of Bellevue residents are not only carpooling and riding public transit to work, but are also working at home.

One interesting finding is that average commute times have stayed relatively stable in Bellevue since 1990. This is somewhat surprising since it is generally acknowledged that traffic congestion has worsened throughout the region. This trend will be discussed more on the following page.

Commuting to Work – Regional and National Comparisons

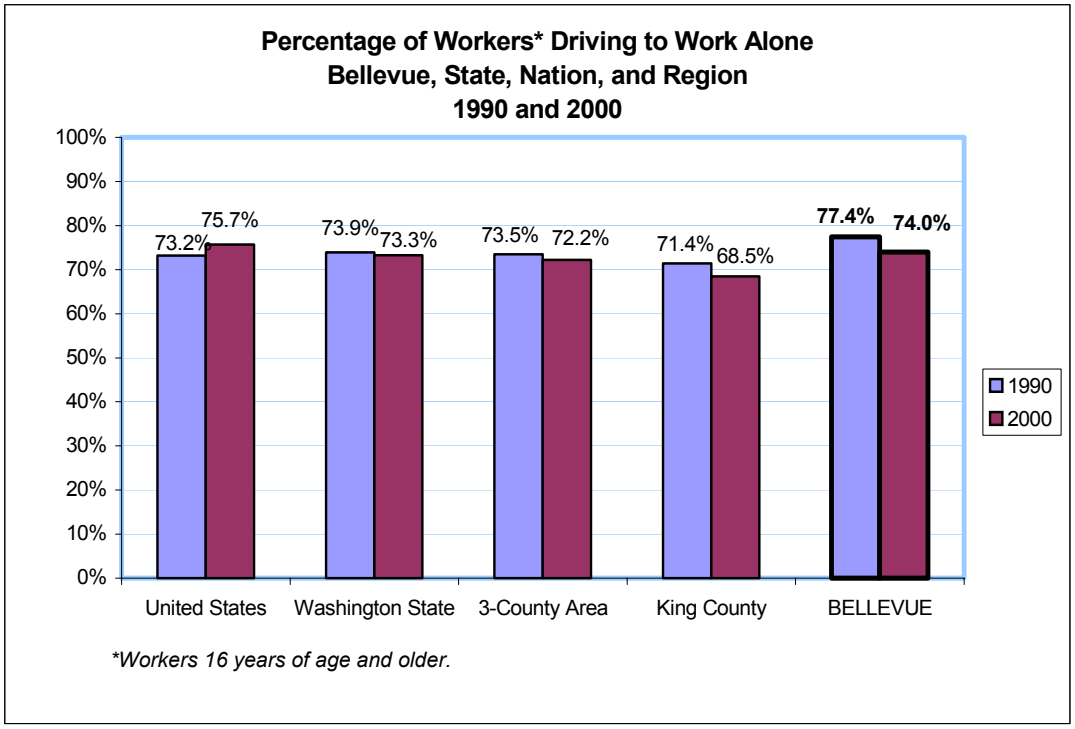
The table and chart below show comparisons on commuting trends between Bellevue and other jurisdictions.

Commuting to Work
Bellevue and the Region
2000

Subject	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance	Redmond	Kirkland	Seattle	Renton	Kent
% of workers* driving to work alone (SOV)	68.7	**74.0**	76.8	76.1	76.0	56.5	72.8	73.5
% of workers carpooling	12.0	**10.6**	11.1	11.3	9.8	11.2	15.2	14.8
% of workers using public transportation	9.6	**6.7**	4.5	4.2	5.5	17.6	6.2	5.7
% of workers working at home	4.4	**5.1**	5.1	4.3	5.3	4.6	2.6	3.2
Mean travel time to work in minutes	26.5	**21.6**	26.1	20.7	21.9	24.8	27.7	28.7

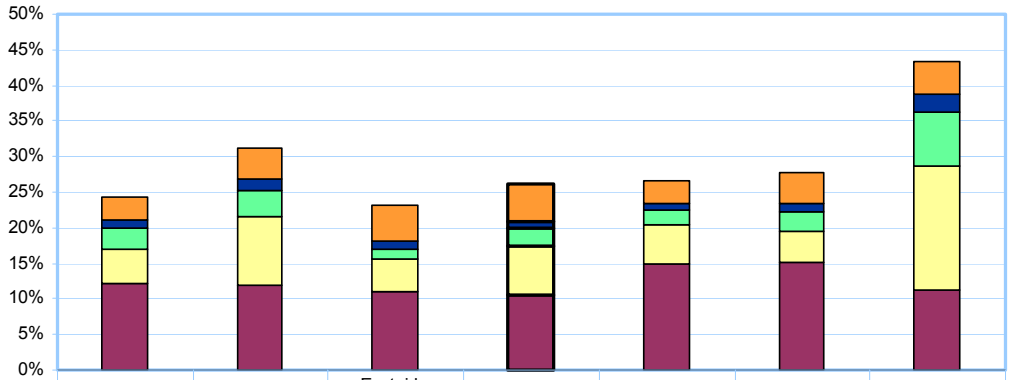
As shown in the table above, median commute times are lower in Bellevue and other Eastside cities than they are generally in King County, and in Seattle. This may reflect the fact that there has been robust job growth on the Eastside since 1990, and there are now more job opportunities on the Eastside for Eastside residents.

As shown in the chart to the right, the number and percentage of American commuters who drive alone to work is increasing. This continues a trend from the 1980s, when the percentage of SOV commuters nationally increased substantially from 64 percent to 73 percent. These same trends are found in most other partsof the country; in fact,



Washington and Oregon are the only two states in the country where SOV percentages went *down* statewide between 1990 and 2000.

Non-Single-Occupant Vehicle Commute Trips
Bellevue, the Nation, and the Region
2000



	United States	King County	Eastside Balance	BELLEVUE	Kent	Redmond	Seattle
Worked at home	3.3%	4.4%	5.1%	5.1%	3.2%	4.3%	4.6%
Other means	1.2%	1.6%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	1.2%	2.7%
Walked	2.9%	3.6%	1.5%	2.6%	1.9%	2.8%	7.4%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	4.7%	9.6%	4.5%	6.7%	5.7%	4.2%	17.6%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	12%	12%	11%	11%	15%	15%	11%

As shown in the chart above, percentages of work trips using public transit is still fairly low in most cities outside of Seattle. This reflects lower rates of transit service in most suburban jurisdictions. It will be interesting to track how increased bus service outside of Seattle, which has been adopted as part of King County Metro's 6-year plan, will affect transit commuting rates in the future. The percentage of commuters who commute via carpools has been rising generally throughout the county, and are higher than 10 percent in many jurisdictions.

With regard to travel trends throughout the region generally, data collected by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) show that while vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region is growing, it is now growing at the same rate as population growth in the region. This contrasts with the 1980s, when VMT in the region grew at three times the rate of population growth. This may be another factor in stabilization of commute times and mode splits.

For more information on travel trends, see the PSRC website at http://www.psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/trends/t2trend.pdf.

KEY FINDINGS

Commuting

- The percentage of employed residents in Bellevue who commuted to work alone decreased from 77.4 percent in1990 to 74 percent in 2000.
- Average commute times stayed relatively stable in Bellevue between 1990 and 2000, increasing only from 21.4 minutes in 1990 to 21.6 minutes in 2000.

Vehicle Ownership

Trends in vehicle ownership reflect and help support other demographic trends, such as household composition and size (see Households chapter). Vehicle ownership information is also a reflection on the degree of transportation choices there are in a community; typically the higher the percentage of households that do not own a car (or only one car), the higher the amount of transportation alternatives to driving.

Vehicle Ownership in Bellevue

The table below summarizes vehicle ownership trends in Bellevue since 1990.

Vehicle Ownership Patterns for Bellevue Residents 1990 and 2000

Subject	1990	2000
% of households owning no vehicle	4.5	5.6
% of households owning one vehicle	31.9	36.1
% of households owning two vehicles	42.1	41.6
% of households owning three or more vehicles	21.5	16.7

While the majority of households in Bellevue still own 2 or more vehicles, a growing percentage of households in 2000 own 1 or no vehicles. The percentage increase in households that do not own any vehicle represents a growth in nearly 1,000 households that now do not own a vehicle. While the percentage of households that do not own a vehicle is fairly small citywide, it is higher for some groups, such as senior citizens; over 13 percent of households that are headed by a senior do not own a vehicle. Overall, in 2000 there were over 2,500 total households in Bellevue that did not own a vehicle.

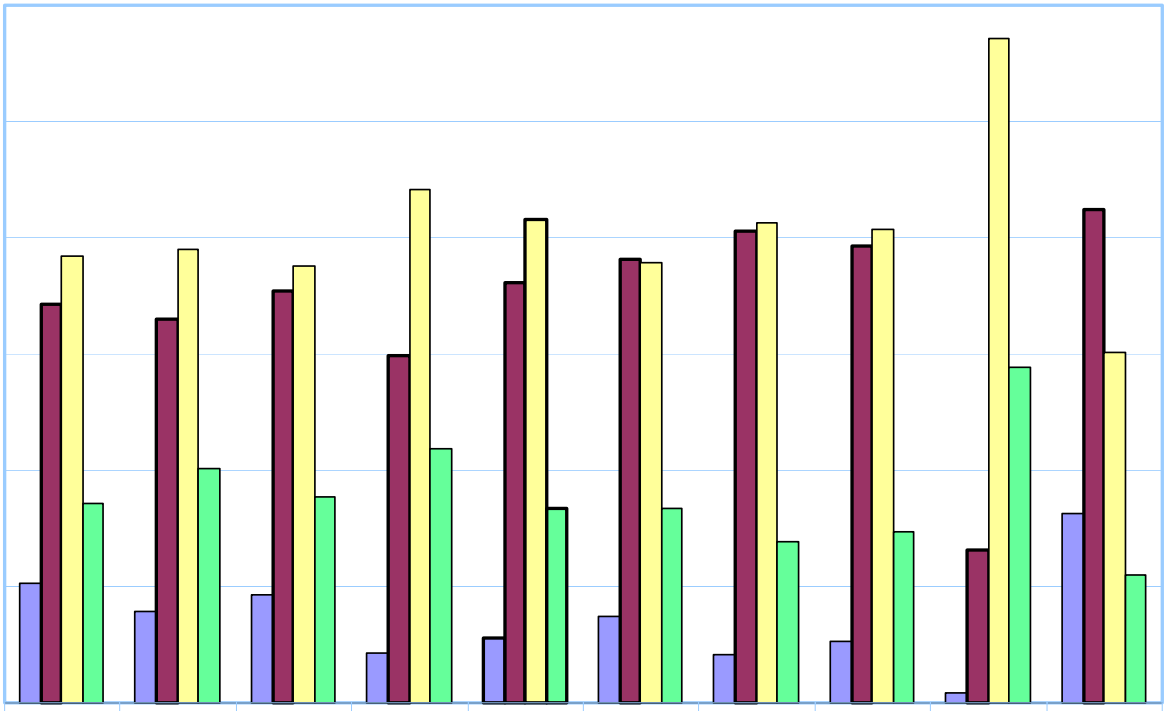
In 2000 there were approximately 19,000 households in Bellevue that owned 1 or no vehicle. This reflects other trends occurring in the community that were discussed in the Households chapter: a larger percentage of households with 1 or 2 residents, and an increasingly older and aging population. It may also reflect an increase in housing opportunities in the downtown area, where services, jobs, and housing are in close proximity to one another.

Vehicle Ownership – Regional and National Comparisons

The chart below summarizes vehicle ownership information for Bellevue and other areas.

As shown in the chart, Bellevue had a higher percentage of households with no vehicle or one vehicle than the balance of the Eastside, but lower percentages than the county and region as a whole. The county and regional numbers are highly influenced by Seattle, which has very high percentages of households with no or one vehicle.

Vehicles Available per Household
Bellevue, the Nation, and the Region
2000



	United States	Central Sound	King County	Eastside Balance	BELLEVUE	Kent	Kirkland	Redmond	Sammamish	Seattle
None	10.3%	7.9%	9.3%	4.3%	5.6%	7.5%	4.2%	5.4%	0.9%	16.3%
1	34%	33%	35%	30%	36%	38%	41%	39%	13%	42%
2	38%	39%	38%	44%	42%	38%	41%	41%	57%	30%
3 or more	17%	20%	18%	22%	17%	17%	14%	15%	29%	11%

It is interesting to note that over 10 percent of all households in the United States own no vehicle. These numbers are likely influenced by dense central cities like New York and Chicago, which have numbers of total households and high percentages of households with no vehicles.

KEY FINDINGS

Vehicle Ownership

- Vehicle ownership patterns have shifted in Bellevue since 1990, with a higher number and percentage of households owning one or no vehicle. This in part reflects the rising number of 1-person households in the City.
- Bellevue households are less likely to own two or more vehicles than households in the balance of the Eastside or the region as a whole, but are more likely to own two or more vehicles than King County households as a whole, and in particular households in Seattle.

Potential Implications of Transportation Characteristics for Bellevue

Commuting information (average commute times and mode splits) apply to Bellevue residents, not to all those who work in Bellevue (although there are a certain percentage of Bellevue residents who also work in the city, as discussed in the Economics chapter). Mode shares for people who work in downtown Bellevue, for example, show an SOV rate of less than 70 percent.

Several factors are likely contributing to stabilization of average commute times in Bellevue. These include more job opportunities on the eastside for eastside residents, and an increased number of Bellevue residents carpooling or working at home. This information on commuting patterns and commute times suggest people making shifts in job and location behavior.

The trends in commuting and travel times in Washington and Oregon, compared to the rest of the country, may be indicative of the fact that most regions in the United States do not have growth management planning mandates. Increasing levels of urban sprawl typically translate into increasing levels of SOV trips and commute times. The trend of lowering percentage of SOV commuters in Washington, King County, and Bellevue is potentially an indicator that growth management policies in this region are being implemented.

More households without a vehicle means that there will be an increasing reliance among thousands of Bellevue residents on transportation alternatives, a trend that will likely continue into the future, particularly as the population continues to age, and there is a higher percentage of seniors (see Households chapter).