

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.”

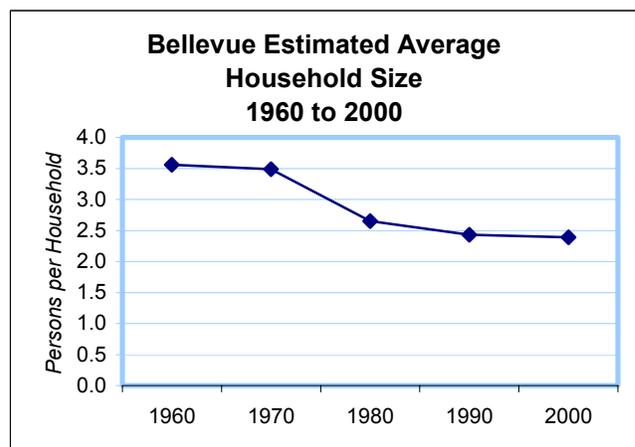
Households

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.

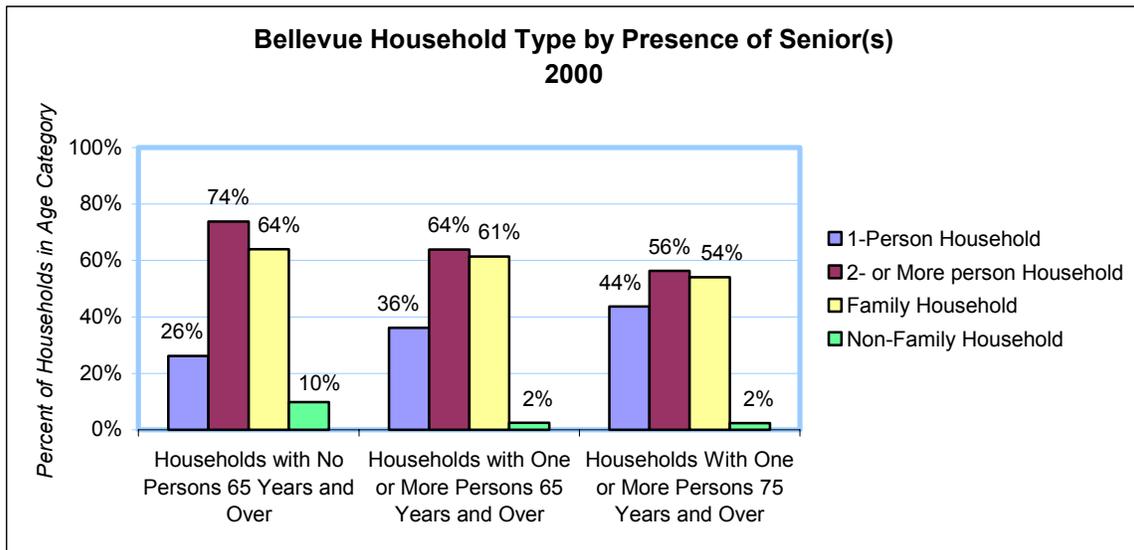
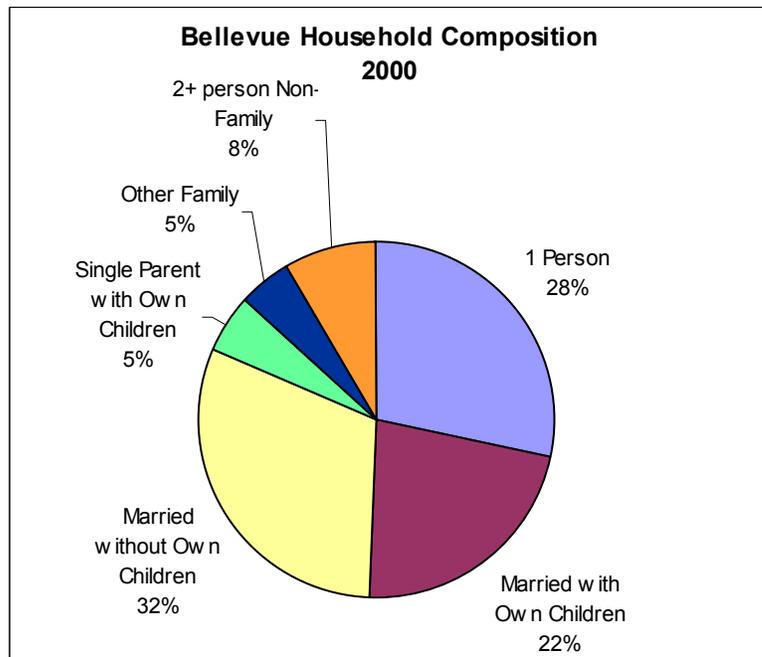
In the year 2000, almost all of Bellevue’s population (99.3 percent or 108,778 persons) lived in households, while the small remaining fraction lived in group quarters such as nursing homes.

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.

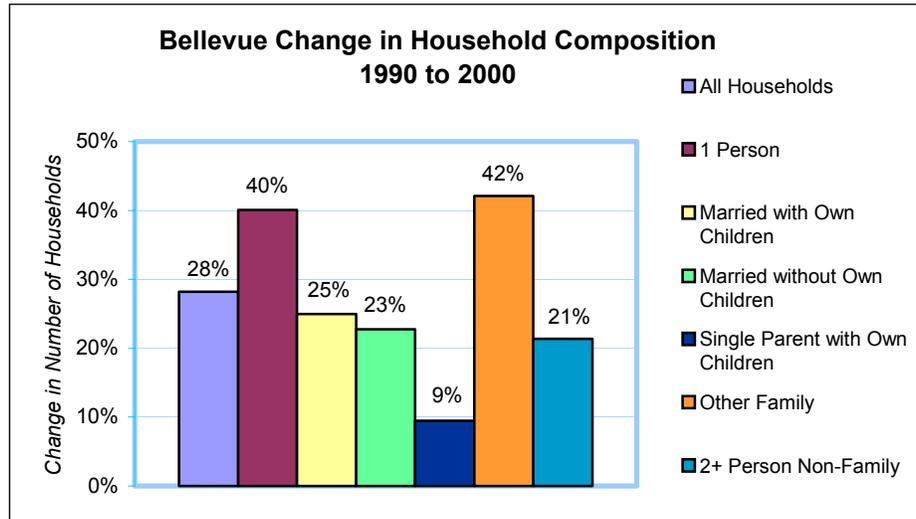


Also, as the chart above shows, seniors were more likely than non-seniors to live in single-person households: 36 percent of households with one or more persons 65 years of age and older and 44 percent with one or more persons 75 years of age and older was a single-person household. By contrast, only 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.

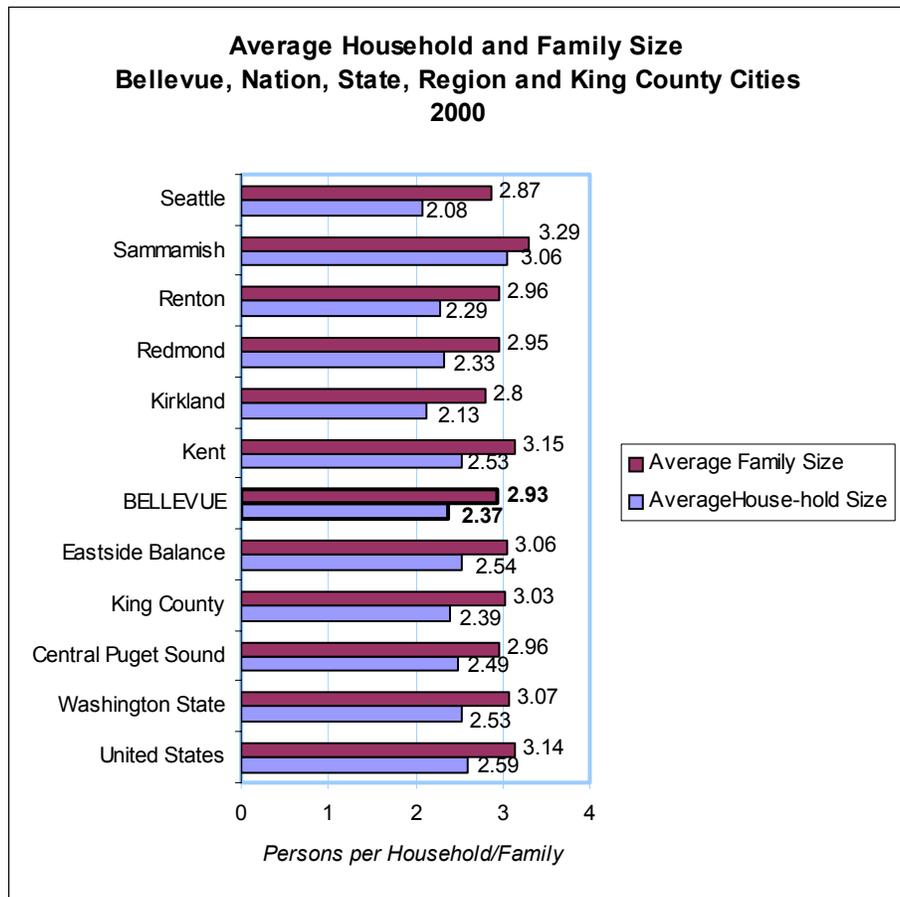
Non-family households with two or more unrelated persons made up 8 percent of Bellevue’s households. Non-family households went up by 21 percent, which is less than the rate of increase for households in Bellevue overall.

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 Household 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 Households	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 Household 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.

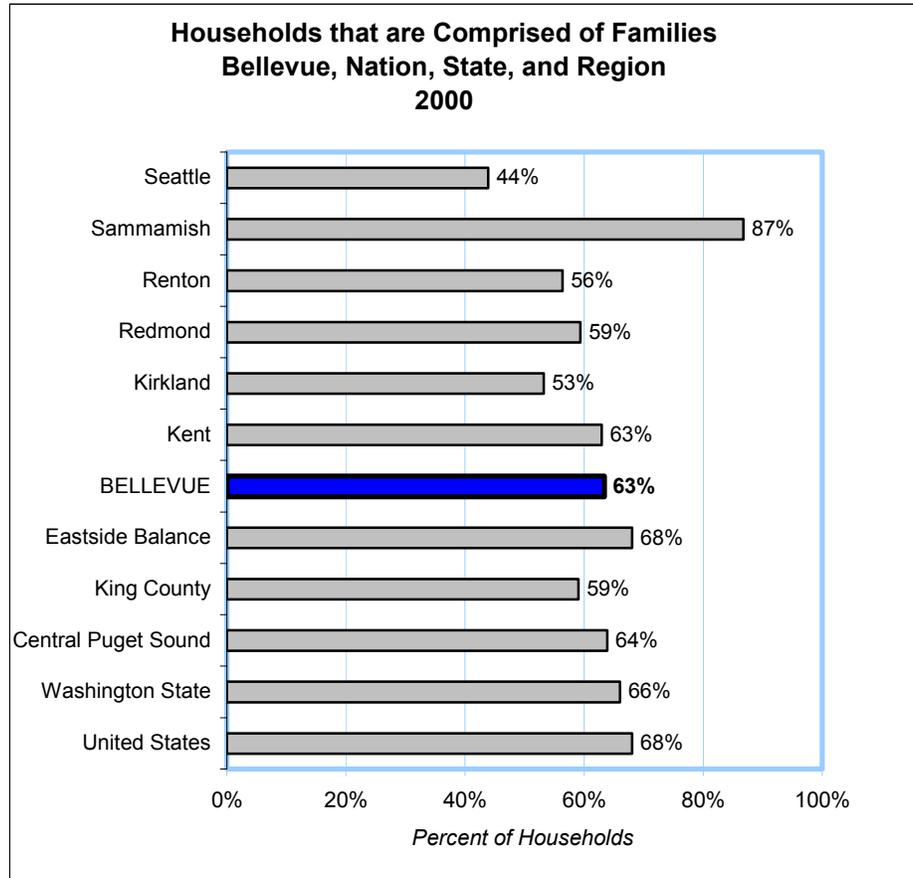


Trends seen in Bellevue of a declining average household size and a faster rate of growth for single-person households compared to most other household types also occurred nationally, and in King County as a whole. This was also the case for most—but not all—of the other geographies studied for this 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.

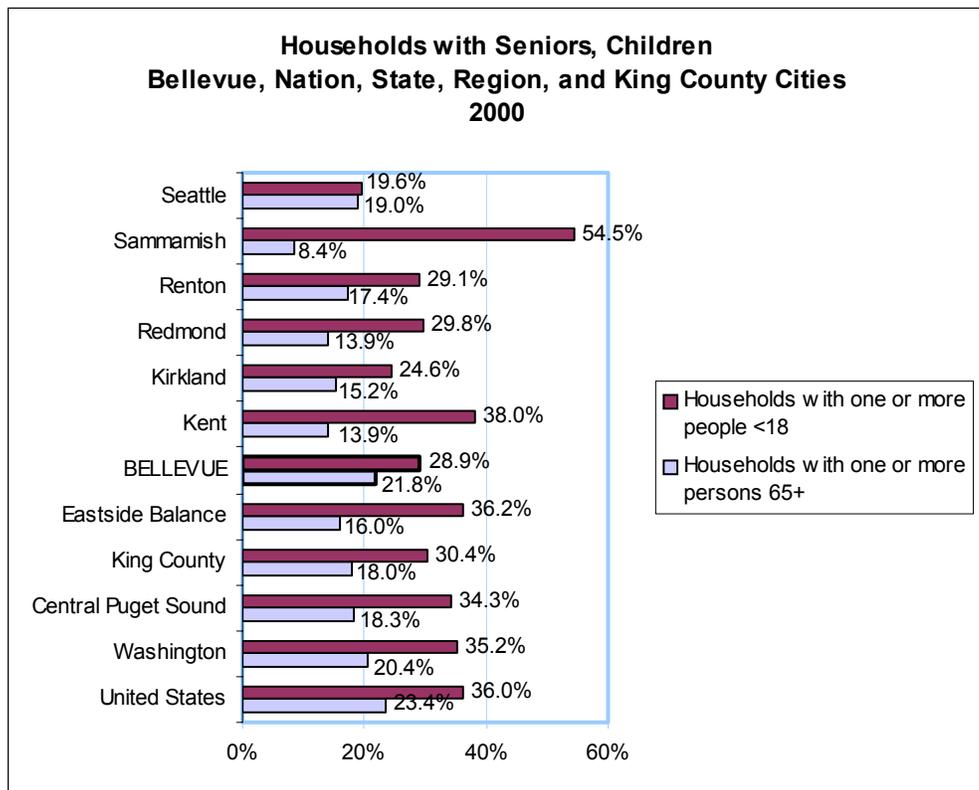
In Bellevue the percentage of households made up of married-couple households with their own children was slightly higher than in King County. The county’s percentage reflects the influence of Seattle, but Bellevue’s percentage was lower than in the balance of the Eastside as whole.

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>.

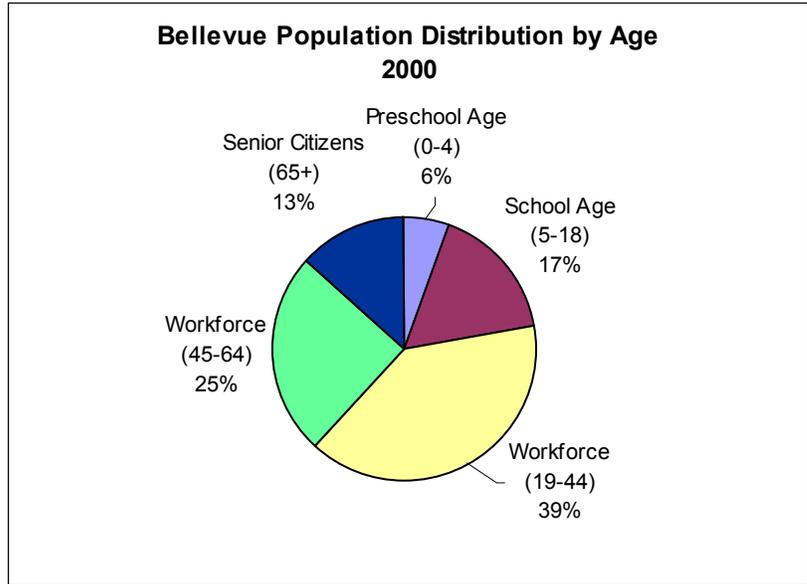
³ *A Demographic Perspective on Our Nation's Future* by Peter Morrison, RAND, 2001. <http://www.rand.org/publications/DB/DB320/>.

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.

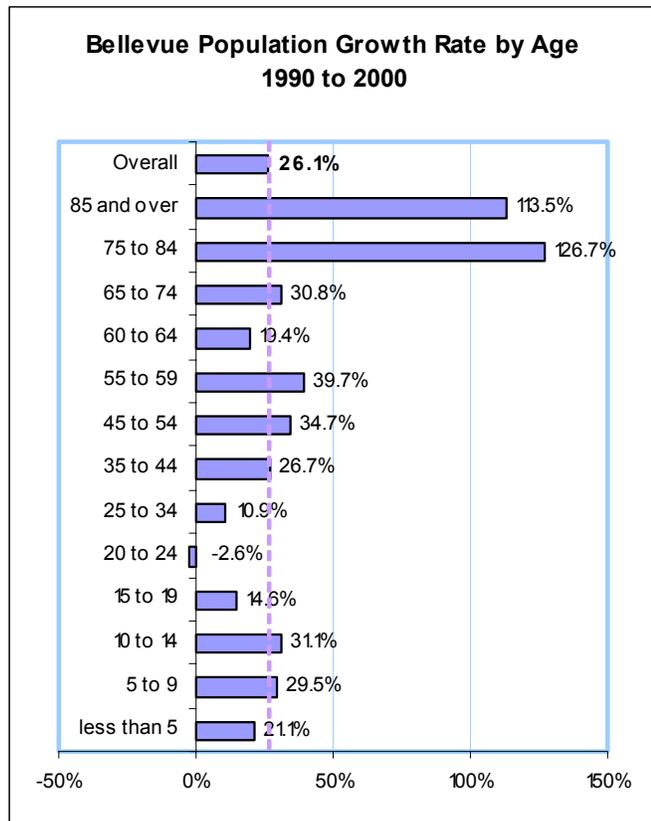
Age Distribution and Median Age in Bellevue

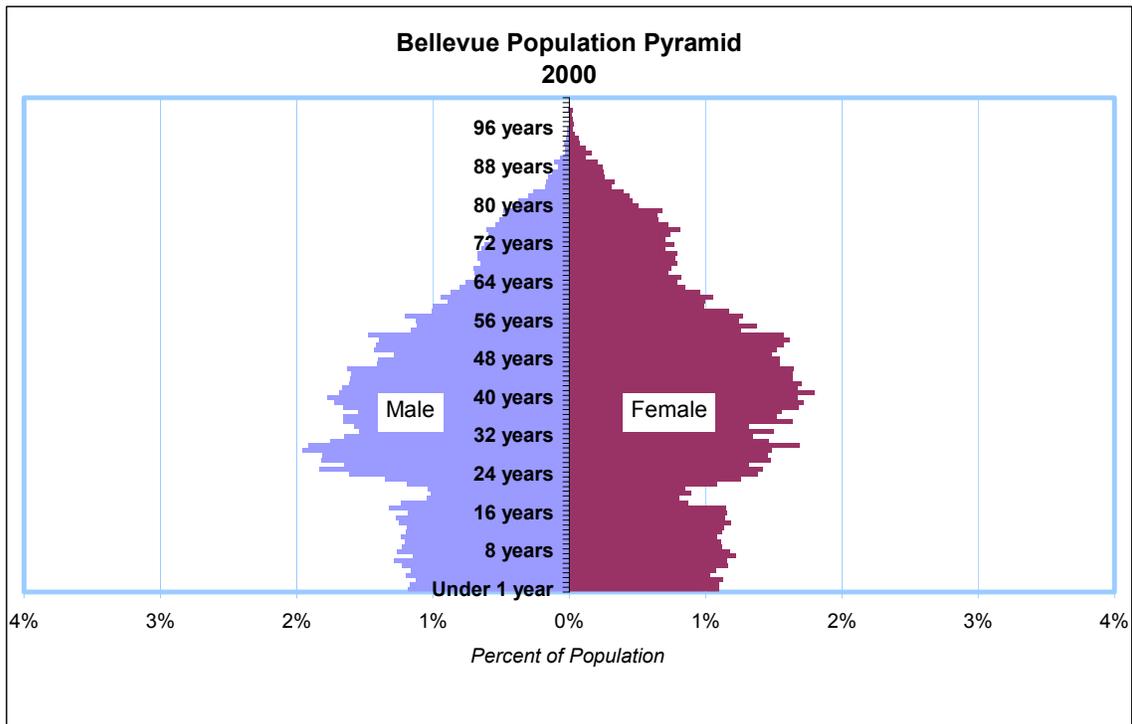
Both the pie chart to the right and the pyramid chart on the next page show the age distribution of Bellevue’s residents in 2000.



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 the 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.

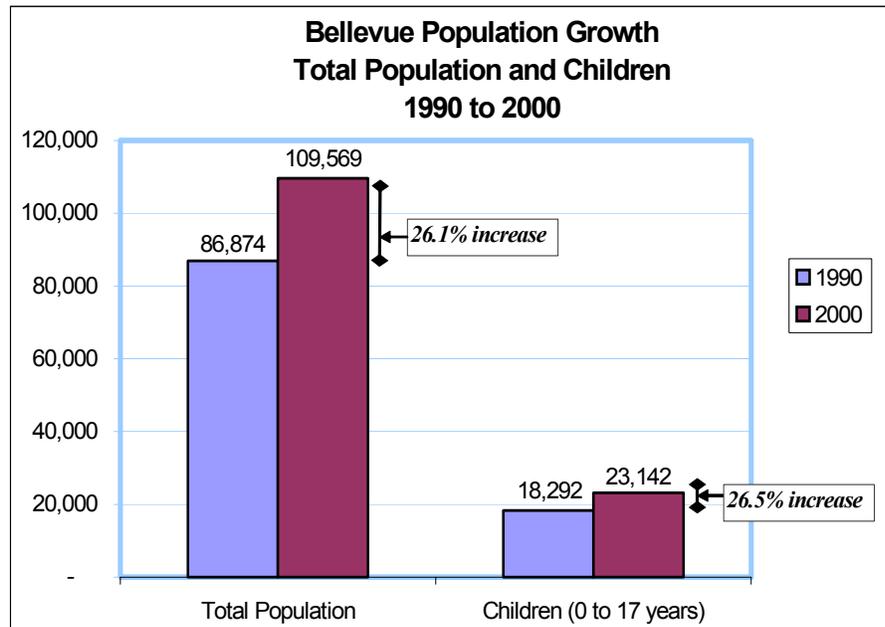
After those ages 75 and over, the groups growing the most quickly in the 1990s were those ages 45 to 54 and those ages 55 to 59 (with growth rates of 40 percent and 35 percent respectively).

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.

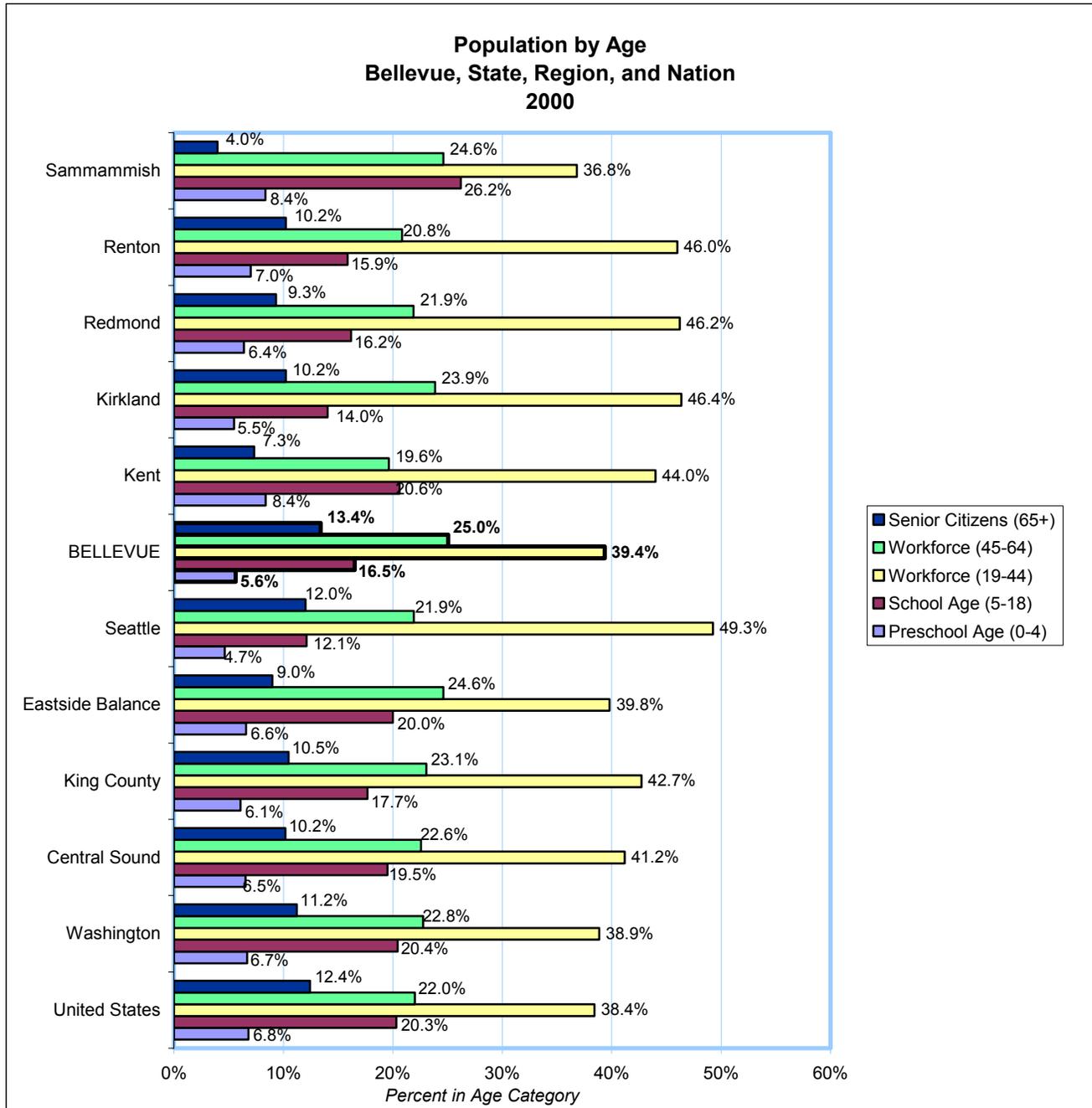
Breaking out census age categories slightly differently to identify the total population of *children under 18 years of age* in Bellevue, reveals that children made up about 21 percent of the city's overall population in 2000. Overall, the growth rate for children in Bellevue kept pace with total population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

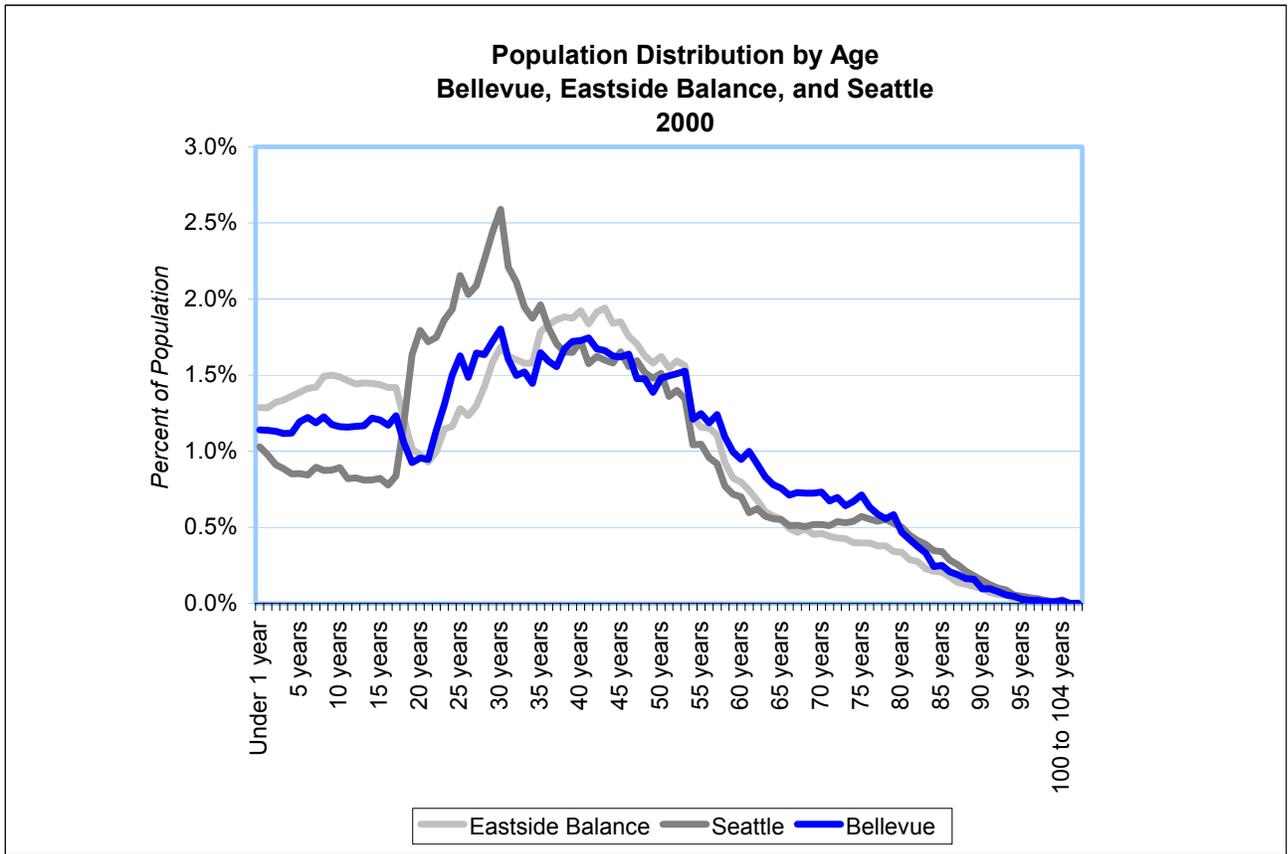


Consistent with these patterns, median age in Bellevue (38.2) is also higher than it is in the county as a whole (35.7), the balance of the Eastside (36.3), Seattle (35.4), and in each of the comparison cities.

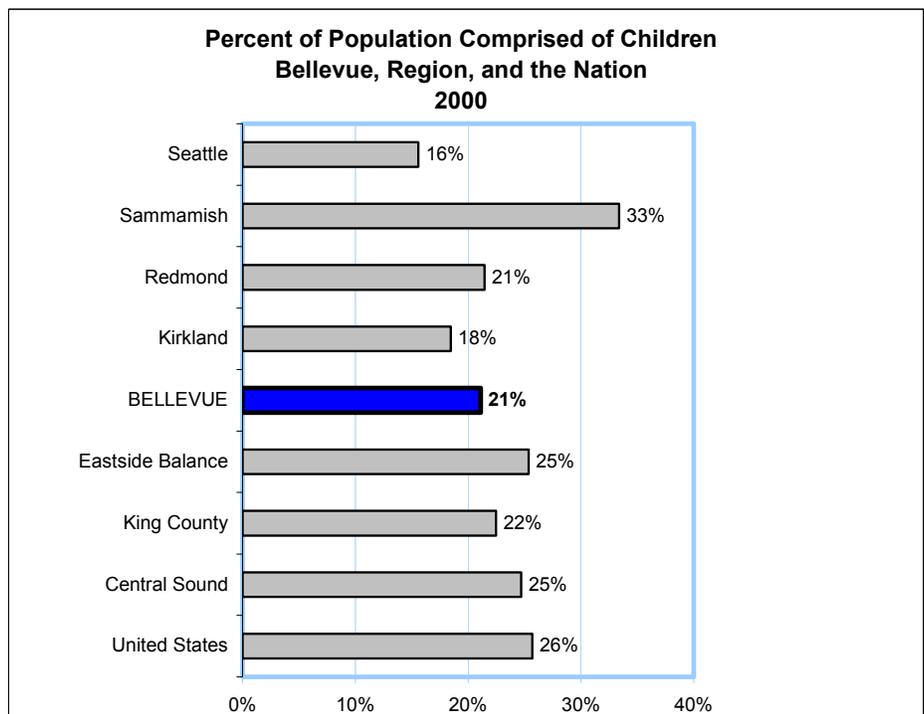
The line chart on the next page provides another look at the age distribution of Bellevue’s population in comparison with that of the remainder of the Eastside and with Seattle. In Bellevue and the balance of the Eastside, younger working age adults made up a smaller percentage of the population than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



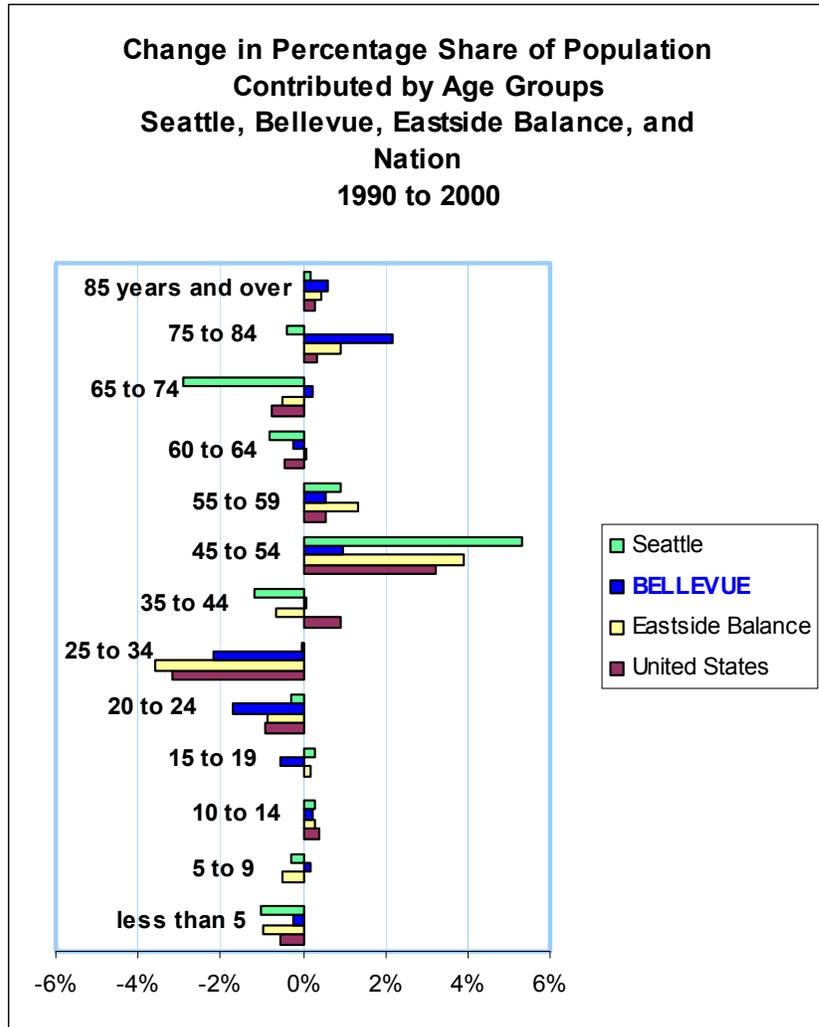
The chart below shows how the percentage of the population contributed by different age groups *changed* from 1990 to 2000. For example, between 1990 and 2000, the share of Bellevue’s population that was 20 to 24 years of age went down by almost 1.8 percentage points (from 7.6 percent of the city’s population 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.



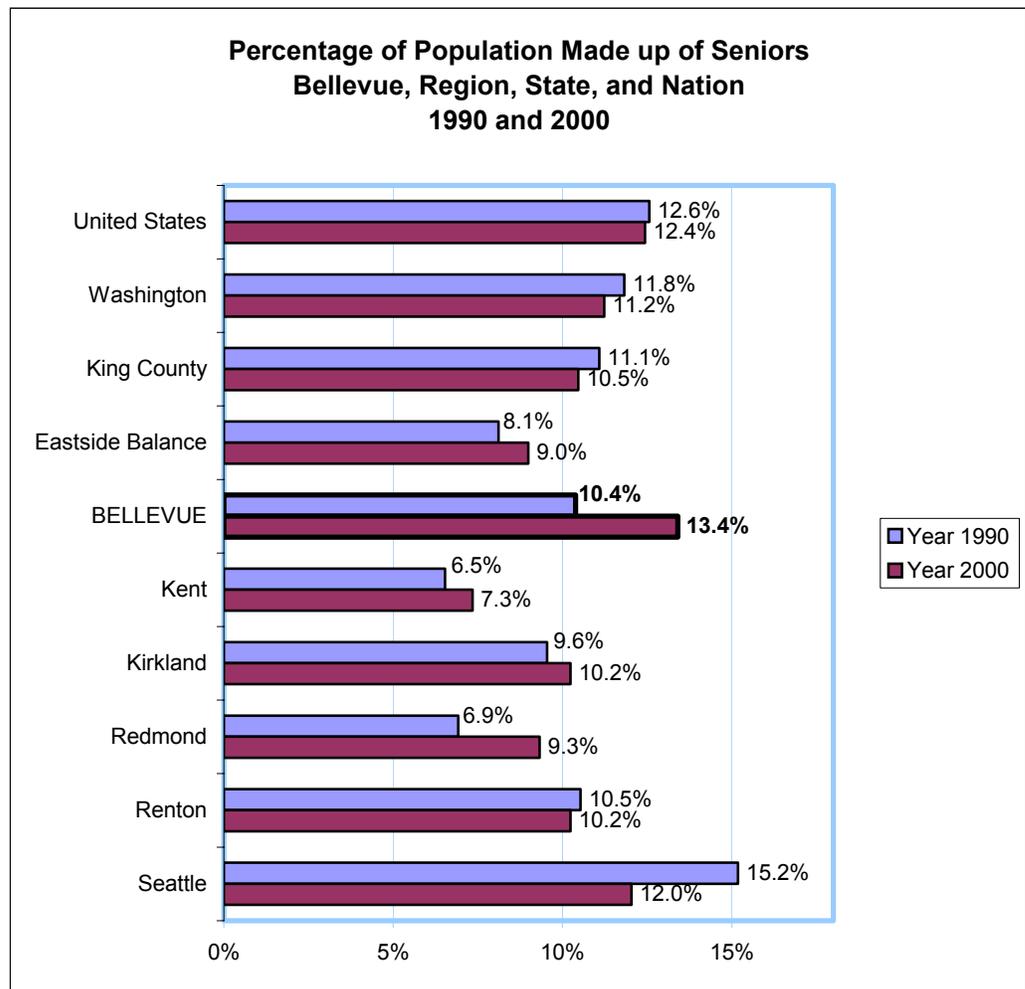
⁵ United States Department of Education, *Growing Pains: The Challenge of Overcrowded Schools Is Here to Stay* -- (August 21, 2000) . <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/bbecho00/figure1.html>.

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

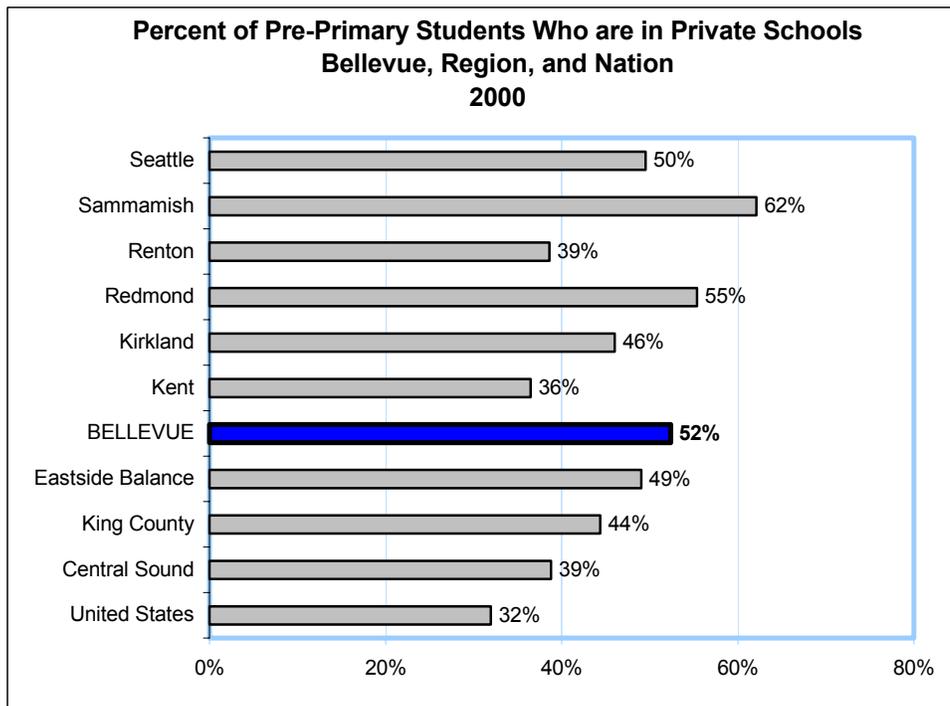
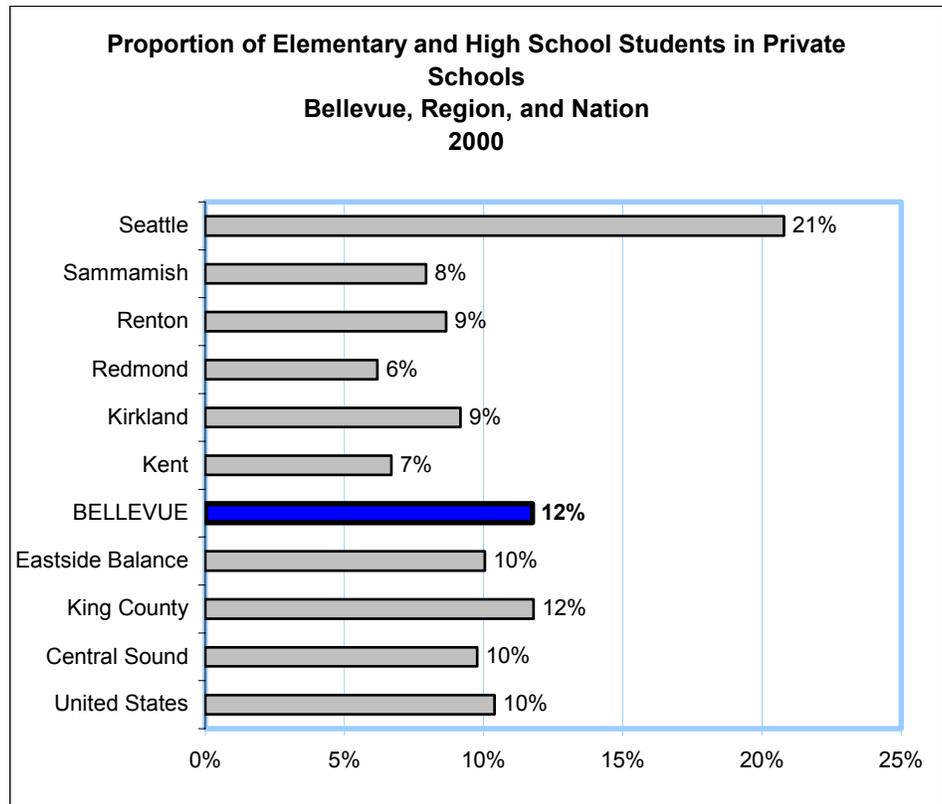
In the year 2000 a total of about 26,000 Bellevue residents were enrolled in school. The table below shows the number of residents enrolled at each level of schooling. Trends between 1990 and 2000 are not shown because the 1990 Census questionnaire did not measure school enrollment in the same manner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

School Enrollment of Bellevue Residents 2000	
<i>Population 3 years and over enrolled in school</i>	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.

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.