

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY

This maps and narrative in this chapter describe patterns and trends relating to race and ethnicity in Bellevue, as well as nativity (country of birth), immigration, and languages spoken in the community. As highlighted in Volume 1 of the report, Bellevue as a whole has become much more racially and ethnically diverse since 1990. Examining these patterns and trends at the neighborhood level provides further clues on how the community is diversifying and also provides businesses and agencies with more insight into their changing customer base.

Race and Ethnicity

The Census asks respondents on the short form to identify their race and ethnicity (in 2000, respondents for the first time had the option of selecting more than one race category). Respondents were asked about Hispanic or Latino ethnicity separately from race. "Hispanic or Latino" is not a racial category in the census. Hispanics and Latinos can, and did, identify themselves as White, or any of the other racial categories. This section contains several maps outlining Bellevue's racial and ethnic composition in the year 2000:¹

- Percentage of persons who are a racial minority and/or are Hispanic or Latino
- Percentage of persons who are Asian
- Percentage of persons who are Hispanic or Latino

HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS

Race and Ethnicity

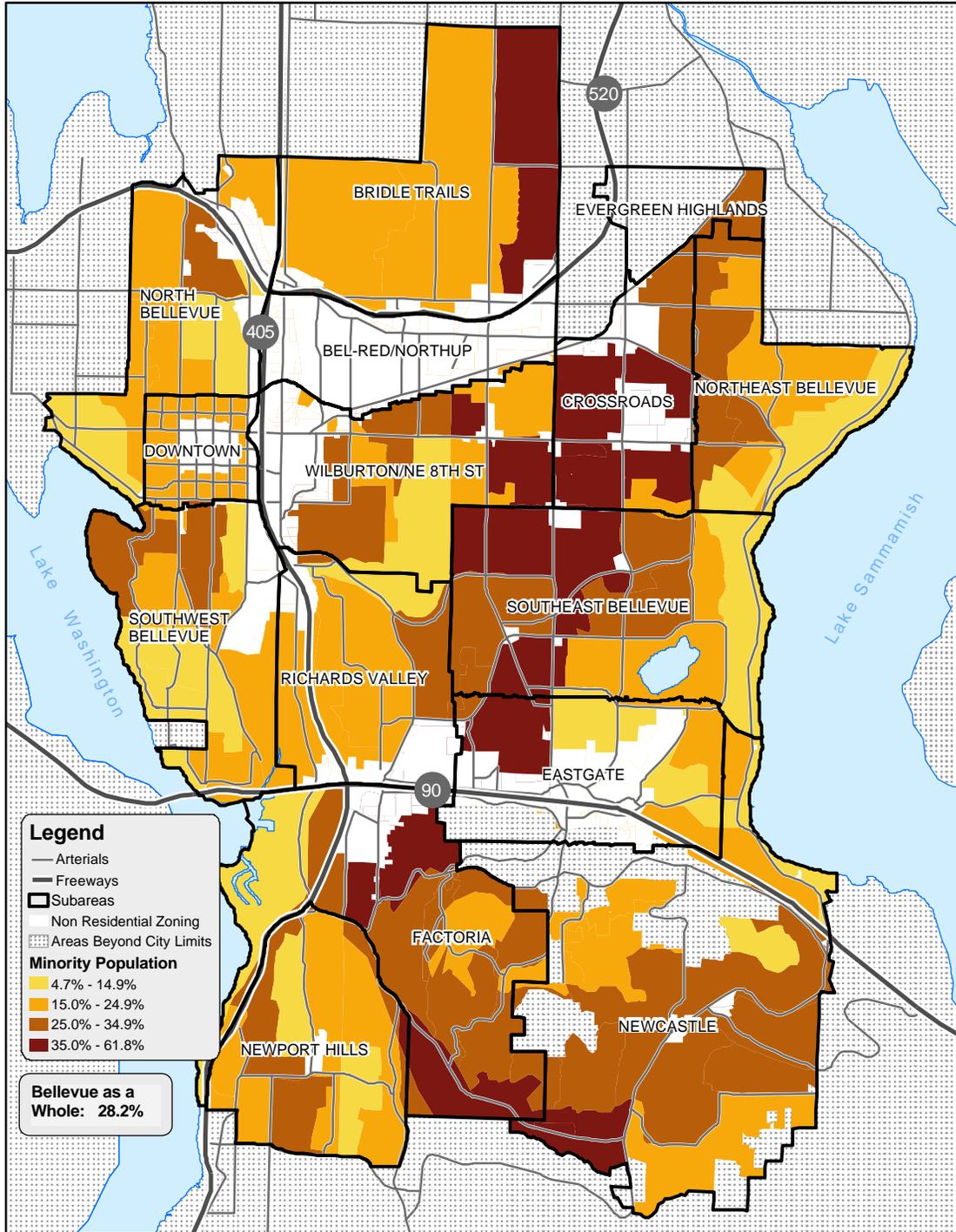
- Almost 26 percent of Bellevue residents identified themselves as a race other than White in 2000, a significant increase from 1990, when about 14 percent of residents did so.
- In 2000 17.4 percent of Bellevue residents identified themselves as Asian alone and 19.0 as Asian in combination with another race. Bellevue's percentage of residents who are Asian was among the highest in Washington State.
- Bellevue's Hispanic and Latino population grew at a rapid rate between 1990 and 2000, with the percentage of residents of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity more than doubling from 2.3 percent of the population to 5.3 percent. For 2000, this was about the same percentage as in King County as a whole.
- Bellevue's younger residents were more diverse than the city's population as a whole.

Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity Bellevue 2000 Census	
Subject	Percent of Population
RACE	
One race	96.8
White	74.3
Black or African American	2.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3
Asian	17.4
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.2
Some other race	2.5
Two or more races	3.2
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE	
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	94.7
White alone	71.8

¹ For more information on racial and ethnic characteristics in Bellevue, see the corresponding chapter in Volume 1 of the City's Census 2000 Report (http://www.cityofbellevue.org/departments/Development/pdf/census_rne.pdf or see summary profiles for Bellevue (Tables DP-1 and DP-2) from 2000 Census <http://censtats.census.gov/data/WA/1605305210.pdf>. The thematic mapping tool in the Census Bureau's Factfinder website factfinder.census.gov/ also provides access to additional maps and tables showing census tract level data related to race and ethnicity.

Percentage of Persons Who Are a Racial Minority and/or Hispanic or Latino*

Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000



*This percentage includes persons who are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asians, Pacific Islander, other minority races, and two or more races (including those who are a combination of White and one or more other races). This percentage also includes residents who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, *regardless of race*.

Racial Minorities and Hispanic/Latino Population

This section discusses the part of the population that is either of a racial minority and/or is Hispanic or Latino. As previously noted, the Census asks about Hispanic/Latino ethnicity separately from race.

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

- In 2000, residents who identified themselves as being a racial minority² and/or Hispanic or Latino made up 28.2 percent of the city's population while those who are "White alone, not Hispanic or Latino" represented 71.8 percent of the population.
- While changes in the way questions were asked on race and ethnicity between the 1990 and 2000 censuses make comparisons inexact, it is apparent that Bellevue was much more diverse racially and ethnically in 2000 than it was in 1990.³ In 1990, approximately 85.3 percent of Bellevue's total population was "White, not Hispanic or Latino." Bellevue's growth in racial diversity between 1990 and 2000 was largely driven by a substantial increase in the city's Asian population, as discussed in the following section.
- The 2000 Census indicates that Bellevue's preschool and school-age residents were more racially diverse than the city's older residents as was also the case nationally. Correspondingly, racial minority and Hispanic/Latino households were also more likely to contain children.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

The adjacent map shows percentages for racial minorities and Hispanics and Latinos combined. It is important to note that data mapped omit other ethnic groups, such as Eastern Europeans, who identified themselves as White alone. (See Place of Birth and Language section for overall percentages of residents who speak languages other than English as well as percentages who are foreign born.⁴)

- As indicated on the adjacent map, most subareas in the city had at least some neighborhoods where minority and Hispanic/Latino populations comprised at least 25 percent of overall neighborhood population. Several block groups south of I-90 and in the middle part of the city north of I-90 had populations that were at least 35 percent minority (including Hispanics and Latinos). South of I-90, these areas include neighborhoods near the Factoria mall and also neighborhoods near Forest Drive and S.E. 63rd Street. North of I-90, these areas include most of Crossroads, the eastern part of Bridle Trails, and portions of the Southeast Bellevue subarea away from Lake Sammamish along with nearby neighborhoods in the Eastgate and Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street subareas. Areas that had 50 percent or more of their populations consisting of minority residents included the neighborhood directly south of

² The 28.2 percent figure calculated for minorities and Hispanics/Latinos citywide includes a small percentage of residents who identified themselves as White in addition to another race or races.

³ One of the most significant changes in the Census questionnaire was that in 2000 were given the choice of identifying themselves as two or more races, whereas in 1990 they were not. The "White alone, not Hispanic or Latino" percentage from 2000 reflects those who identified themselves as only white and not white combined with another race. This percentage is not exactly comparable to the "White, not Hispanic or Latino" percentage from the 1990 Census, because the 1990 figure likely included a small percentage of persons who are another race in addition to White. The Census Bureau has a helpful resource entitled "Questions and Answers for Census 2000 Data on Race," which includes discussion of the comparability of race data from Census 2000 with data from previous censuses: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/raceqandas.html>.

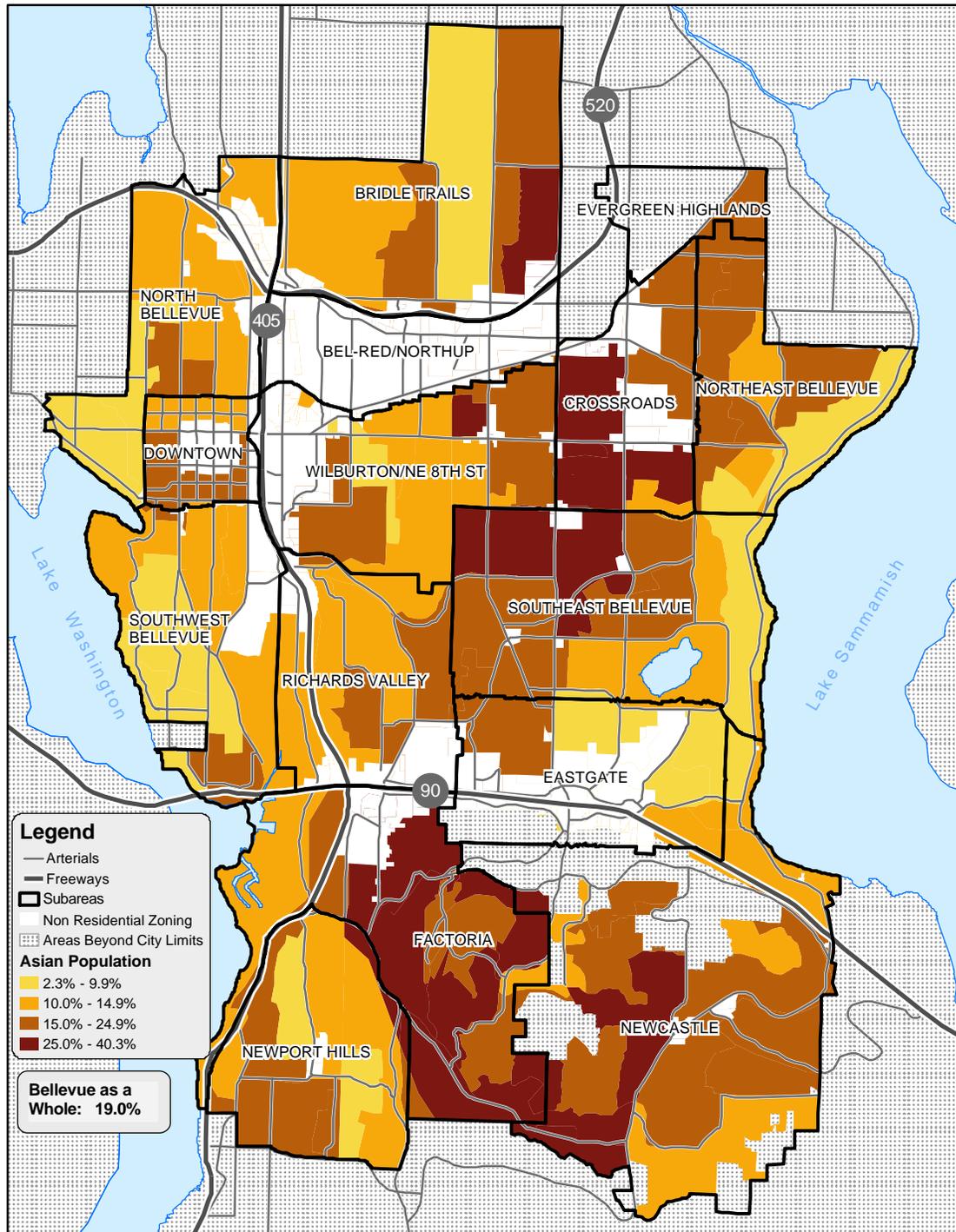
⁴ The 2000 Census also included a separate question about "ancestry or ethnic origin." See factfinder.census.gov/.

Factoria Mall, a small portion north of N.E. 8th in the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street subarea, and in the Eastern part of Bridle Trails south of N.E. 40th Street.

- Much of Bellevue's racial and ethnic diversity in 2000 was influenced by immigration from outside of the United States. Areas in Bellevue with high percentages of racial and ethnic minorities correlate with concentrations of foreign-born residents (see section relating to Place of Birth and Languages).
- As noted above, in Bellevue as a whole between 1990 and 2000 the Asian population more than doubled; the Hispanic/Latino population did so as well during this same time period. The next two maps show concentrations of Asian residents and of Hispanic/Latino residents, respectively. Because so much of Bellevue's racial and ethnic minority population is made up of these two groups, the patterns on the map of overall racial/ethnic diversity correlate strongly with patterns on the maps of Asian and Hispanic/Latino populations.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

Percentage of Persons Who Are Asian* Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000



*This map shows the percentage of persons who are Asian alone or Asian in combination with one or more other races.

Asian Population

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

- Asians made up the city's largest non-White group of residents in 2000. Residents who are Asian or Asian in combination with any other race made up 19.0 percent of the Bellevue's population. The majority of this group—and 17.4 percent of Bellevue's overall population—identified themselves as Asian alone (that is, they did not identify themselves as another race in addition to Asian). Of those residents in Bellevue who were Asian alone, 70.6 percent were born in the United States.
- Bellevue had the highest percentage of Asian residents of any city in the state of Washington with the exception of Newcastle. In the year 2000 approximately 10.8 percent of King County's population as a whole was Asian alone.
- In 1990, the Census counted 8,642 Bellevue residents who are Asian. In 2000, the Census counted 19,056 residents who are Asian alone and another 1,785 residents who are Asian in combination with another race. As previously noted, the comparability of race data between 1990 and 2000 is limited given that respondents were not able to select two or more races as a category until the 2000 Census.⁵ However, the data still suggest that the Asian population in Bellevue more than doubled between 1990 and 2000. Within the Asian population, growth was particularly strong between 1990 and 2000 among residents with Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Filipino backgrounds.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

- As indicated on the map, large portions of Bellevue had at least 15 percent of their populations that are Asian.⁶ There are a number of areas in Bellevue in which 25 percent or more of the population identified themselves as Asian. These include large portions of the Factoria, Crossroads, and Southeast Bellevue subareas along with parts of the Newcastle, Bridle Trails and Wilburton/N.E. 8th subareas.
- In some areas of the city, particularly in neighborhoods south of I-90, there were higher percentages of Asian residents than there were foreign-born residents, suggesting that in these neighborhoods Asian residents were more likely to be at least second or third generation. Census data on place of birth for the Asian population (which is readily available only at a tract level and only for the Asian alone population) confirm that tracts south of I-90 generally had lower percentages of Asians born abroad than did most tracts north of I-90. In the majority of tracts south of I-90 (with Factoria being one exception) less than two-thirds of the Asian population was foreign-born, while in most tracts north of I-90, two-thirds or more of Asians was foreign-born. In general, areas with high percentages of foreign-born Asians also tended to have generally high percentages of recent immigrants (see section on Foreign Born population).

⁵ In addition, the “Asian and Pacific Islander” category used in the 1990 Census was split into two categories in the 2000 Census: “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.” Less than half of a percent of Bellevue’s year 2000 residents are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

⁶ Data from the 2000 Census in the “By Neighborhood” description, as in the adjacent map, refer to the percentage of residents who are Asian alone or Asian in combination with another race or races.

- South of I-90, several, though not all, of the block groups with relatively high Asian population percentages had levels of income and educational attainment higher than figures for the city as a whole (see Economics chapter). This was not true for areas with high percentages of Asian populations in the Crossroads or Southeast Bellevue areas. These observations suggest that the Asian population is diverse in terms of education and income levels; this is likely largely dependent on length of time in the country, citizenship, and other factors.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

Hispanic/Latino Population

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

- The percentage of persons in Bellevue who are Hispanic/Latino more than doubled between 1990 and 2000, going from 2.3 percent of the population in 1990 to 5.3 percent in 2000. The 2000 Census counted 5,827 Bellevue residents who are Hispanic or Latino (up from 2,039 in 1990). Most of these residents are of Mexican decent.
- In 2000 Bellevue had the same percentage of residents who are Hispanic or Latino as Seattle had and nearly the same percentage as King County as a whole had (5.3 percent of Seattle's residents and 5.5 percent of King County's residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino).
- As stated previously, the Census asked respondents about Hispanic/Latino ethnicity separately from race. Most Hispanics and Latinos in Bellevue identified themselves as either "White" or "Other" with regard to race.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

- While overall, approximately 5.3 percent of Bellevue residents in 2000 identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, there were several areas of the city where the percentage was higher. This is particularly true in portions of the Crossroads, Southeast Bellevue, Southwest Bellevue, and Wilburton/N.E. 8th subareas. The highest Hispanic/Latino percentage for a neighborhood was found in the part of Crossroads just to the north and to the east of the Crossroads Shopping Center in which 21.8 percent of residents identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. Conversely, Hispanic/Latino proportions of the population were very low in most neighborhoods south of I-90 and along Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. The neighborhood just south of the Factoria Mall—with a Hispanic/Latino proportion of 21.2 percent of residents—is a significant exception to the general pattern south of I-90.
- While the Hispanic/Latino population grew substantially in Bellevue between 1990 and 2000, the population is still fairly concentrated in certain parts of the community and is not as widespread as is the Asian population. There are many parts of Bellevue with very few Hispanics and Latinos.
- Like its Hispanic/Latino population, Bellevue's foreign-born population grew significantly between 1990 and 2000. Much of the growth of Bellevue's Hispanic/Latino population was due to immigration from Mexico; thus, as would be expected, there was commonly a correlation between census block groups with high percentages of Hispanic/Latino residents and block groups with high percentages of foreign-born residents (see section on Place of Birth).
- Within Bellevue as a whole, residents of Hispanic or Latino origin had lower incomes in 2000 than did residents overall. Areas within Bellevue that had higher percentages of Hispanics and Latinos tended to also be areas where most household incomes were lower than the citywide median (see Economics section). However, there are many factors that are related to income patterns (household size, age, length of time in the United States, etc.) other than race or ethnicity.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

Place of Birth and Language

One of the most striking findings for Bellevue in the 2000 Census is the level to which the foreign-born population had grown between 1990 and 2000. The Census Bureau asked respondents on the long form about place of birth. If respondents were born outside of the United States, they were asked about the country in which they were born. The Census Bureau also asked respondents about the language that they speak at home (in an attempt to identify their “primary” language). Those who identified that they speak a language at home other than English were asked to identify what language they speak and their level of English-speaking ability.

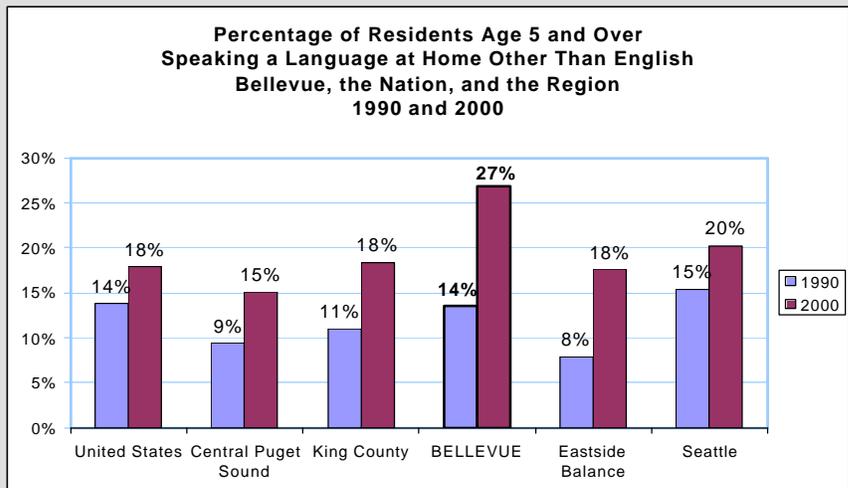
This section of the report contains several maps showing distributions within the community of Bellevue’s foreign-born population and of Bellevue residents who speak a language at home other than English:

- Percentage of persons who are foreign born
- Pair of maps:
 - ◆ Percentage of persons who are foreign born and immigrated to the United States prior to 1990
 - ◆ Percentage of persons who are foreign born and immigrated to the United States between 1990 and 2000
- Change in percentage of persons who are foreign born (1990-2000)
- Percentage of persons who speak a language at home other than English
- Percentage of households that are linguistically isolated
- Change in percentage of persons who speak a language at home other than English (1990-2000)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS

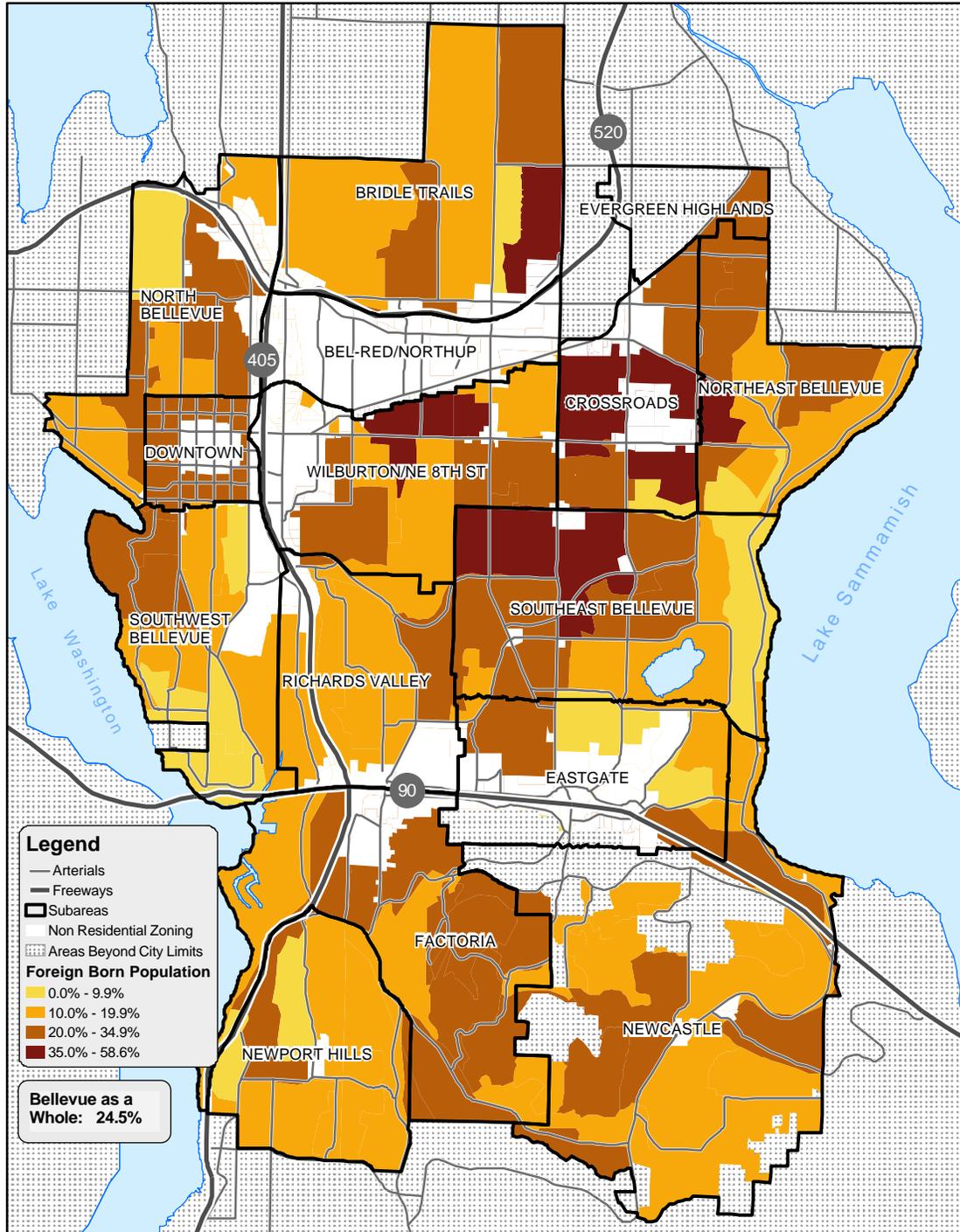
Place of Birth and Language

- In 2000, almost 25 percent of Bellevue residents had been born outside of the United States, a significant increase from 1990, when 13 percent of residents were foreign born.
- In 2000, the percentage of Bellevue residents born outside of the United States was much higher than the figure for King County as a whole, and higher than the proportion in any city in King County other than Tukwila.



- The number and percentage of Bellevue residents (age five and older) who speak a language at home other than English also increased dramatically, from 13.6 percent in 1990 to 26.9 percent in 2000. This was much higher than the figure for King County as a whole (18.4 percent in 2000).
- In 2000, more than 12 percent of Bellevue residents (age five and older) stated that they spoke English “less than very well.” Within the subset of those speaking a language at home other than English, this represents those residents who were the most challenged in speaking English.

Percentage of Persons Who Are Foreign Born Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000



Foreign-Born Population

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

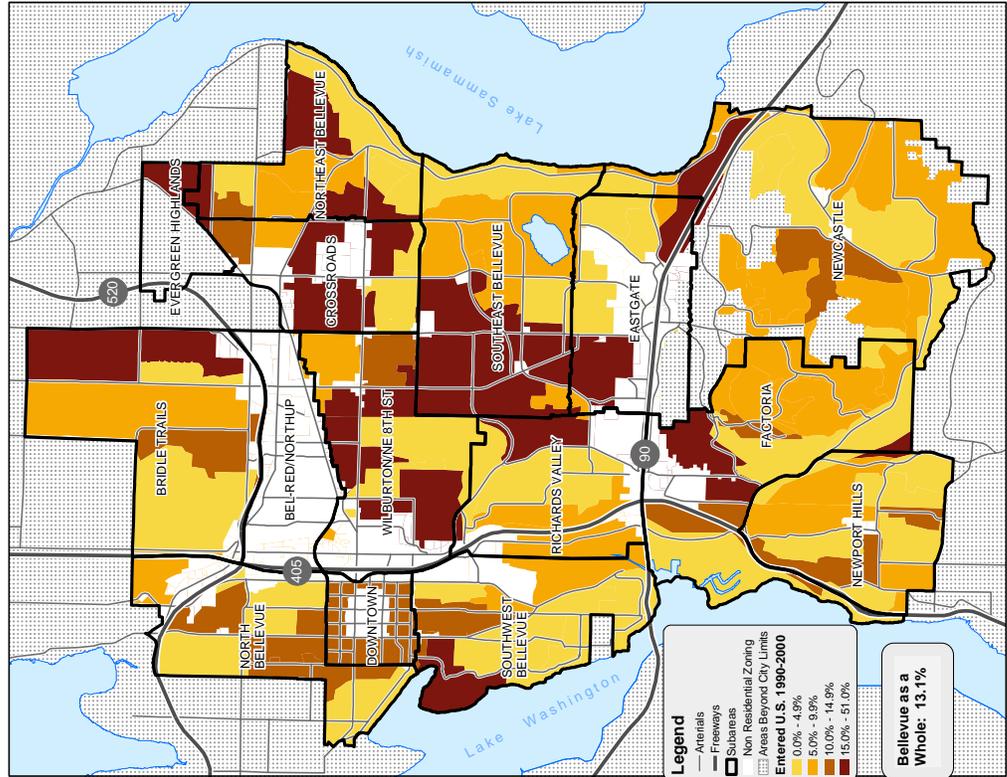
- Bellevue's foreign-born population in 2000 was 26,782 persons, or 24.5 percent of the total population. Those in Bellevue who are foreign born have immigrated from all over the world, but the majority of Bellevue's foreign-born population (57 percent in 2000) was born in Asian countries.
- The 24.5 percent of Bellevue's population born outside of the United States was much higher than the county figure of 15.4 percent. The proportion in the balance of the Eastside was 13.7 percent.
- Most of Bellevue's foreign-born population in 2000 was made up of recent immigrants to the United States, with over half having entered the country between 1990 and 2000.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

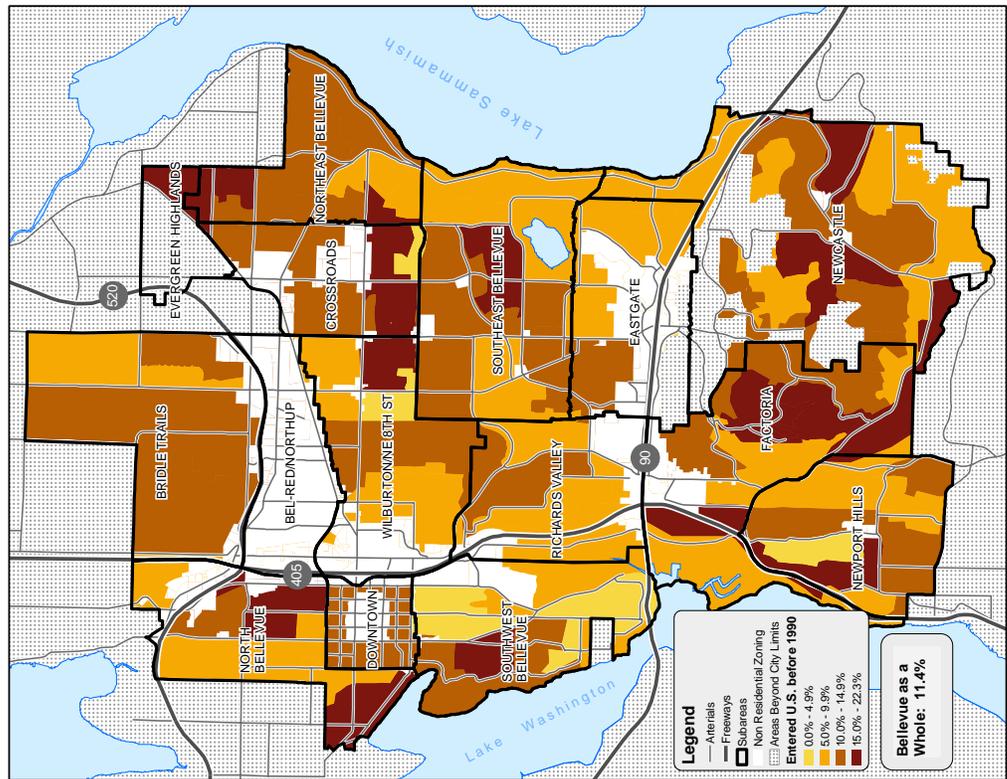
- While the citywide proportion for foreign-born residents was 24.5 percent, there are a number of areas in Bellevue where the percentage well exceeded that, and even exceeded 40 percent. The area with the highest percentage of residents who were foreign-born is the northern portion of the Wilburton/N.E 8th Street subarea, at 58.6 percent. Other neighborhoods that had particularly high foreign-born proportions of their populations include the Crossroads subarea, portions of the Southeast Bellevue subarea, and the eastern edge of the Bridle Trials subarea. Portions of subareas south of I-90 also had relatively high percentages of foreign-born residents, correlating with the large Asian shares of neighborhood populations in this part of the city.
- There are many areas throughout all of Bellevue (and in portions of all of the city's subareas) that had foreign-born residents making up 20 percent or more of overall populations. This largely reflects the widespread distribution of the Asian population throughout the Bellevue community.
- Both north and south of I-90 there were some neighborhoods with relatively high foreign-born proportions of the population as well as high incomes and high levels of educational attainment (see Economics chapter). These include the south part of Downtown, the neighborhood in Southwest Bellevue around Meydenbauer Bay, parts of the Somerset neighborhood in the Factoria subarea, and the Evergreen Highlands subarea neighborhood. This suggests that at least portions of the foreign-born population in Bellevue had high education and income levels. Conversely, foreign-born percentages were also higher than the foreign-born percentage for the city in areas such as Crossroads and parts of Southeast Bellevue, which tended to have lower median household incomes than did the city as a whole. More information should be available on trends regarding the income and economic characteristics of Bellevue's foreign-born population by the end of 2003.

**Percentage of Persons Who Immigrated to U.S. by Year Entered U.S.
Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000**

Foreign-Born & Entered U.S. 1990-2000



Foreign-Born and Entered U.S. Prior to 1990



Foreign-Born Population: Immigration Patterns

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

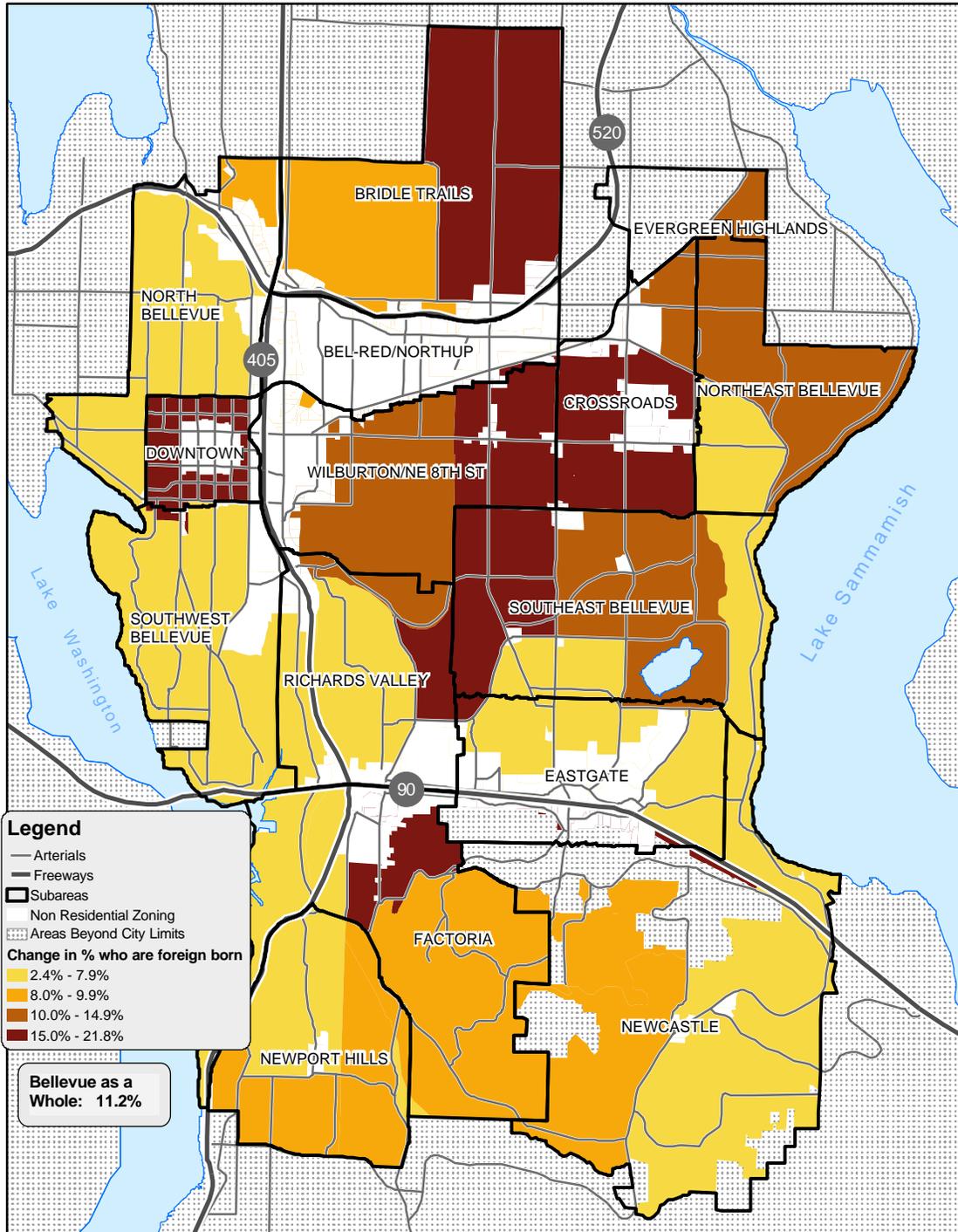
- As noted previously, the percentage of Bellevue's overall year 2000 population that was foreign born was high relative to the percentages in almost all nearby communities. Another noteworthy finding was the percentage of the foreign-born population that entered the United States between 1990 and 2000. Over one-half of all Bellevue foreign-born residents, or 14,308 persons, entered the country during the 1990s. Foreign-born persons who immigrated between 1990 and 2000 represented 13.1 percent of the city's overall population in 2000; this compares to 11.4 percent of Bellevue's population which was composed of foreign-born persons who immigrated prior to 1990.
- The percentage of the Bellevue population born outside of and who immigrated to the United States in the 1990s was much higher than the countywide figure of 8.6 percent and the proportion in the balance of the Eastside of 7.5 percent. Neighboring Redmond also had a high percentage of new immigrants (13.2 percent of its population in 2000).

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

- The maps on the adjacent page show the percentages of neighborhood residents who were foreign-born and who immigrated to the United States before 1990 and between 1990 and 2000, respectively.
- There are some fairly striking differences between Bellevue neighborhoods with regard to patterns of immigration. Foreign-born *residents who immigrated before 1990* tended to be clustered in neighborhoods south of I-90, and in the North Bellevue and Northeast Bellevue subareas. There are also portions of the Crossroads, Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street, and Southeast Bellevue subareas with these populations. *More recent immigrants* (those who immigrated between 1990 and 2000) tended to be clustered in other portions of the Crossroads subarea, and in the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street and Southeast Bellevue subareas. There are disparate patterns within all of these subareas.
- There are many parts of Bellevue that had a very low percentage (less than 5 percent) of their populations made up of *recent* immigrants. This was particularly true of most neighborhoods south of I-90 and most neighborhoods adjacent to Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. It is interesting to note that neighborhoods south of I-90 had relatively low percentages of recent immigrants while having fairly high percentages of foreign-born populations overall.
- Not surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between immigration patterns and household income (see Economics chapter). Areas with higher-than-average household incomes had very low percentages of their foreign-born populations who were recent immigrants. Areas with very high percentages of foreign-born populations that were recent immigrants tended to also be areas with lower-than-average household incomes. As noted earlier, there are many other factors that influence economic trends, but it would be expected that recent immigrants to the United States would tend to have lower earnings, not just in Bellevue but nationally as well.

Change in Percentage* of Persons Who Are Foreign Born

Bellevue by Census Tract: 1990-2000



*Data shown in this map refer to the *change in the percentage* of persons who are foreign born. Change values are expressed as a percentage point increase or decrease in that proportion.

Change in Foreign-Born Population

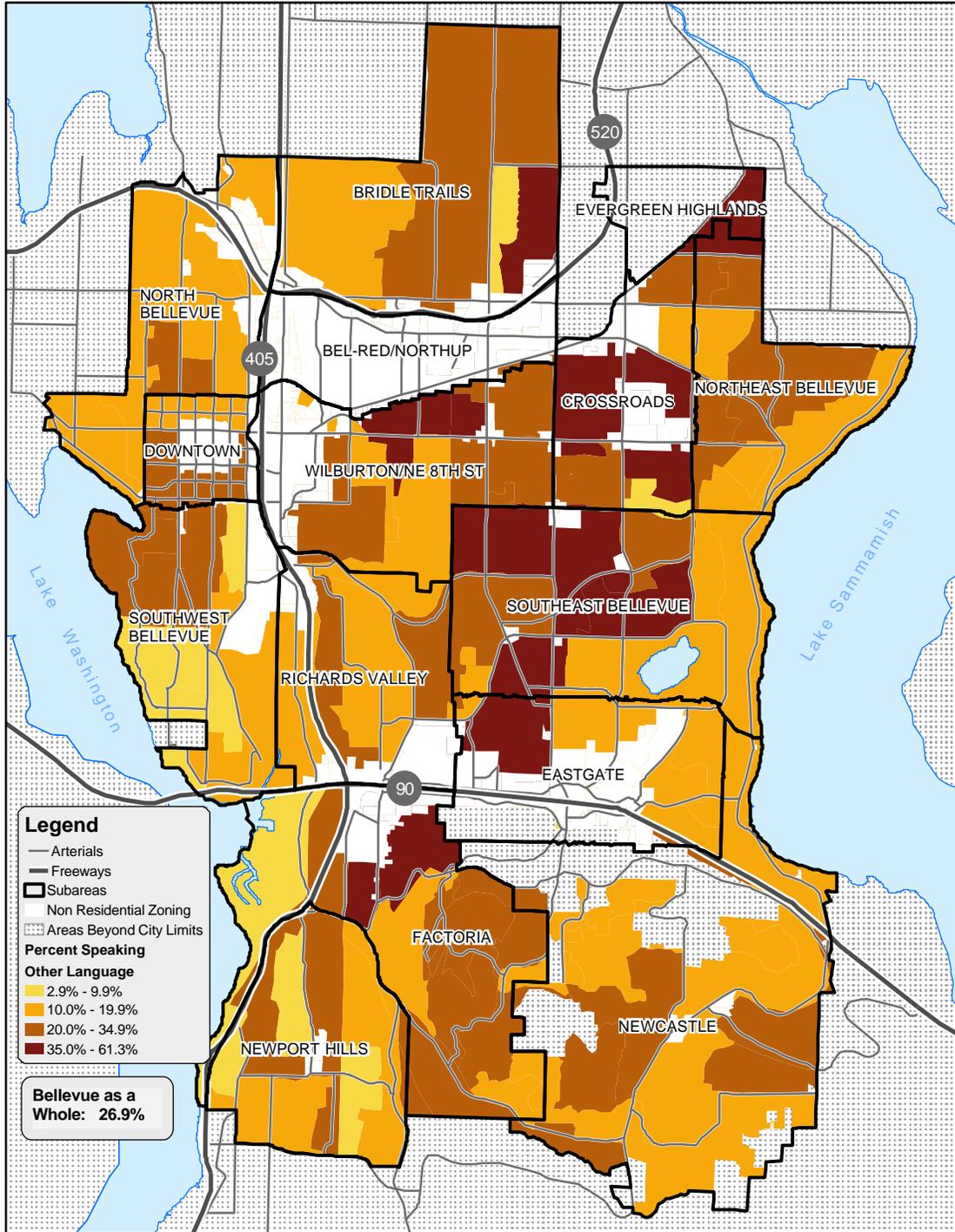
Bellevue as a Whole – Change from 1990 to 2000

- Bellevue's foreign-born population grew substantially between 1990 and 2000, from 11,548 persons (or 13.3 percent of the total population) to 26,782 persons (or 24.5 percent of the total population). This growth rate translates into a change of 11.2 percentage points in the citywide proportion of the population that is foreign born.
- While Bellevue's population grew overall by 26 percent (about half of which was through annexation) between 1990 and 2000, Bellevue's population of foreign-born residents grew by 132 percent during the same time period.
- Foreign-born populations grew substantially between 1990 and 2000 in the United States, the region, and King County as a whole; yet the foreign-born population grew more quickly in Bellevue than it did in both the United States and King County.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – Change from 1990 to 2000

- The adjacent map shows how the foreign-born population increased or decreased in each tract as a *share* of the entire population in those respective tracts. The "change in percentage" data are derived by subtracting the 1990 percentage for a given tract from the 2000 percentage for the same tract. Crossroads contains the tract that had the largest increase in the proportion of the population that is foreign born (this is tract 232, which includes the part of the Crossroads subarea south of Northup Way). In 1990, 1,672 residents (19.5 percent of tract 232's population) were foreign born; by 2000, 3,907 residents (or 41.3 percent of the population in that tract) were foreign born. This yielded a 21.8 percentage point increase in that tract's foreign-born percentage.
- Areas in addition to Crossroads where the foreign-born percentage of the population increased substantially more rapidly than in the rest of the city include the Downtown subarea, the part of the Bridle Trails subarea east of 134th Avenue N.E., North Factoria, and parts of the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street and Southeast Bellevue subareas. This is particularly interesting in regards to the Downtown subarea, given that the tract corresponding with Downtown also had one of the highest rates of overall population growth among census tracts in the city (see Population chapter). The foreign-born population in Downtown grew by more than 500 percent from 107 persons in 1990 to 655 in 2000. This growth took Downtown's percentage of residents who are foreign born from 9.8 percent in 1990 to 25.0 percent in 2000.
- Every tract and every subarea of the city had an increase in the percentage of residents who are foreign born. This means that the foreign-born population grew faster than the overall population, even in areas shown in the smallest growth category (with percentage point increases of between 2.4 to 7.9 in the percentage of residents who are foreign born).

Percentage of Persons* Who Speak a Language at Home Other Than English Bellevue by Block Group: 2000



*Figures refer to the population five years of age and older.

Languages Other Than English

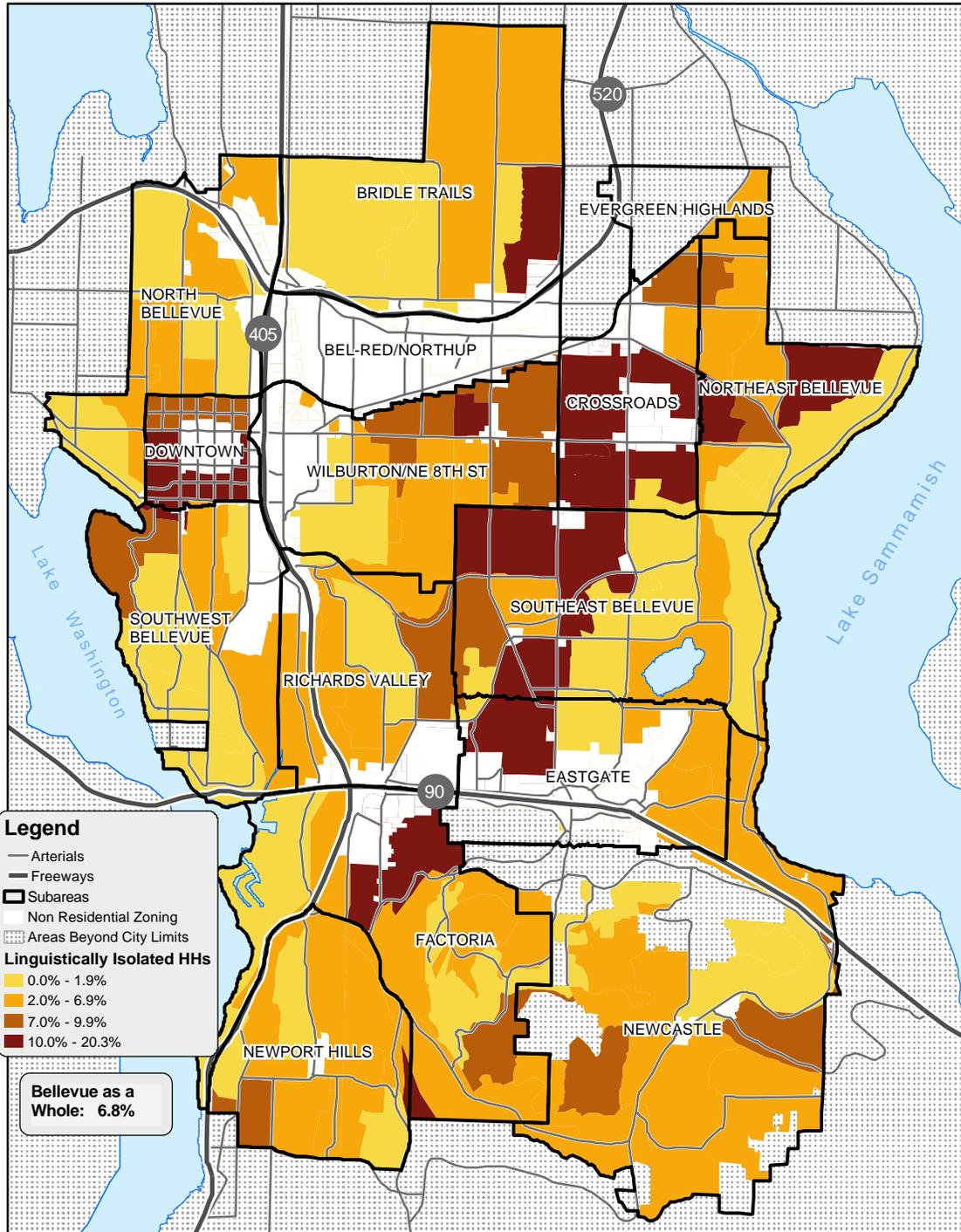
Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

- In the year 2000, 26.9 percent of Bellevue residents five years of age and older spoke a language at home other than English. This was the highest percentage of any jurisdiction in King County. In both the United States and in King County as a whole, about 18 percent of the population age five and older spoke a language at home other than English in 2000.
- Most Bellevue residents who spoke a language at home other than English spoke an Asian language. The predominant languages were Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, and Korean.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

- In 2000, there was a very broad distribution within Bellevue of persons speaking a language at home other than English. In almost every subarea, a majority of census block groups had populations in which at least 10 percent of persons spoke a language at home other than English. Several areas exceeded 35 percent, including large portions of Crossroads and Southeast Bellevue. In portions of the Crossroads neighborhood, the percentage of residents who spoke a language at home other than English exceeded 50 percent.
- The distribution patterns for persons speaking a language at home other than English are similar to, but do not exactly mirror, the distribution of the city's foreign-born population (see previous section of this chapter on the Foreign-Born Population). For example, there were portions of Southeast Bellevue, Eastgate, and Factoria in which the percentage of persons who speak a language at home other than English exceeded the foreign-born population. This was also true in Bellevue as a whole; in 2000, 26,782 city residents had been born outside of the United States, while 27,682 residents (within just the subset of residents five years of age and older) were speaking a language at home other than English. This suggests that there may be different generations of family or household members, some of whom were born in the United States, who still speak another language at home.
- As was the case for the foreign-born population, there are neighborhoods in Bellevue that had higher than average median household incomes where there was also a relatively high (20 percent or more) percentage of persons speaking a language at home other than English. These include portions of Bridle Trails, Factoria, Newcastle, and Northeast Bellevue.

Percentage of Households That Are Linguistically Isolated Bellevue by Block Group: 2000



Linguistic Isolation

Bellevue as a Whole – 2000

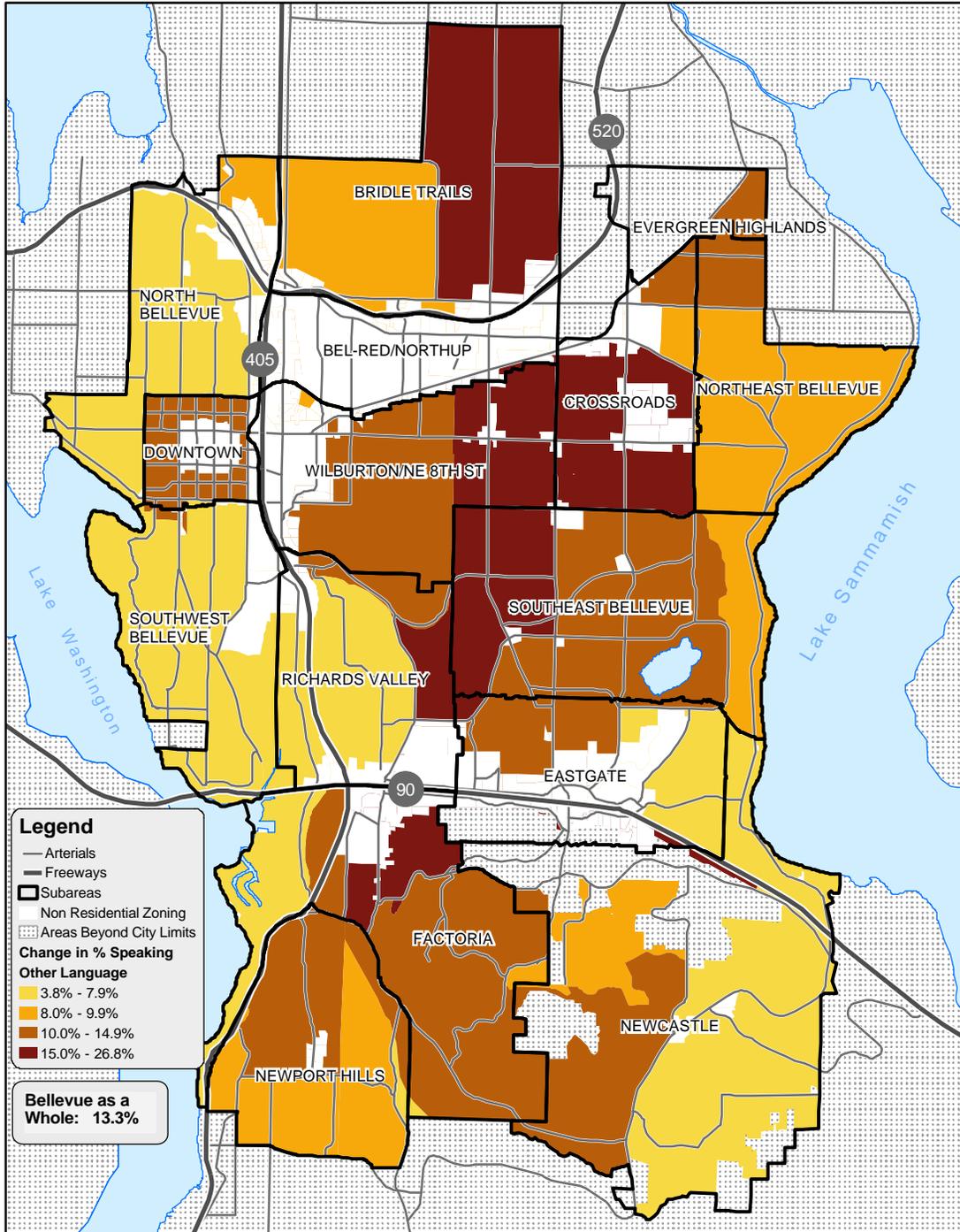
The Census Bureau considers a household to be “linguistically isolated” if no member of that household 14 years of age and older speaks English very well. People in these households are the most likely to have difficulty in engaging in day-to-day communications with English speakers in the community. Linguistic isolation was determined by respondents’ own estimation of their ability to speak English. In the 2000 Census, 12.3 percent of Bellevue residents age 5 and older (or over 12,000 persons) indicated that they speak English less than very well.

- In the year 2000 in Bellevue, linguistically isolated households represented about 6.8 percent of all households (3,126 out of the city’s nearly 46,000 households). It should be emphasized that this characteristic is measured on a *household-basis* (see Households and Age chapter) rather than a population-basis.
- The number of Bellevue households that were linguistically isolated grew at a much faster rate than the number of households overall did. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of households in total grew by 28 percent, whereas the number of linguistically isolated households grew by 199 percent. (The overall population in Bellevue who spoke a language other than English at home also grew at a very fast rate, 149 percent, as is discussed in more detail on the following pages.)

Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000

- There are several areas in Bellevue that had concentrations of linguistically isolated households. Surprisingly, one of these areas is Downtown Bellevue. One factor related to this finding is the fact–noted above–that linguistic isolation is measured for households as opposed to population. (A high percentage of households in Downtown consisted of one person. If that one person in such a household does not speak English well, the household is considered linguistically isolated.) Other areas that had high (10 percent and higher) percentages of households that were linguistically isolated include the Crossroads subarea along with portions of the Southeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, and Factoria subareas.
- Not surprisingly, linguistic isolation tended to be more common among households in neighborhoods where relatively large proportion of the population are recent immigrants (i.e., foreign-born residents who entered the United States between 1990 and 2000). Recent immigrants were the most likely group to speak English less than very well.
- Despite the relatively large percentage of persons overall in Bellevue who spoke a language at home other than English, there were many areas in Bellevue with a very low proportion (less than 2 percent) of households that were linguistically isolated. In some cases, these areas were home to populations in which at least 20 percent of individuals spoke a language at home other than English. This indicates that English-speaking ability varied widely among residents in Bellevue speaking a language at home other than English.

Change in Percentage* of Population Who Speak a Language at Home Other Than English Bellevue by Census Tract: 1990-2000



*Data shown in this map refer to the change in the percentage of the population age five and older speaking a language at home other than English. Change values are expressed as a percentage point increase or decrease in that proportion.

Change in Population Speaking Language Other Than English

Bellevue as a Whole – Change from 1990 to 2000

- Between 1990 and 2000 the growth in Bellevue's population five years of age and older who speak a language at home other than English was even more dramatic than the growth in the city's foreign-born population. The number of residents in Bellevue speaking a language at home other than English increased by nearly 150 percent during the 1990s. The percentage of Bellevue residents in this category rose from 13.6 percent of the city's population age five and older (11,102 persons) to 26.9 percent (27,682 persons) in 2000. This increased the other-than-English speaking proportion of the population by 13.3 percentage points.
- The number of people speaking a language at home other than English rose at a more rapid rate in Bellevue than occurred both nationally and regionally between 1990 and 2000.

Bellevue by Neighborhood – Change from 1990 to 2000

The adjacent map shows how the population speaking a language other than English at home changed as a *share* of the overall population in each census tract within Bellevue.

- As also occurred with the foreign-born population, the population who spoke a language at home other than English grew more quickly than the overall population in *every* subarea of the city.
- The greatest increases in the percentage of the population speaking a language at home other than English generally occurred in tracts with the largest increases in the foreign-born share of the population. This was the case in the Crossroads subarea (where tract 232 had both the highest other-than-English share and the highest foreign-born share) and also in portions of the Bridle Trails, Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street, Southeast Bellevue, and Factoria subareas. In Crossroads in the year 1990, 1,567 residents in tract 232 (19.5 percent of the population in that tract) spoke a language other than English; by 2000, this had increased to 4,143 residents (or 46.3 percent of the population in that tract). This yielded a 26.8 point increase in the percentage of residents in that Crossroads census tract who spoke a language other than English.
- Interestingly, however, the growth rate in Downtown was less for those who spoke another language than it was for the foreign-born population. The same was true in portions of Northeast Bellevue, where the foreign-born population grew at a faster rate than the population who spoke a language at home other than English. This suggests that some areas attracted greater shares, and some lesser shares, of foreign-born populations who speak English at home.
- The other-than-English speaking group did not increase as dramatically as a *share of neighborhood population* in the Downtown subarea and the Newcastle subarea as this group did in the Crossroads subarea and some other parts of the city. However, the Downtown census tract and the tract in the southeast part of Newcastle had the greatest *percentage increases in the number of persons speaking a language other than English* (higher than 400 percent in both cases). This relates largely—though not entirely—to the rapid increase in the overall population in these areas.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.