

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 earlier¹. 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.

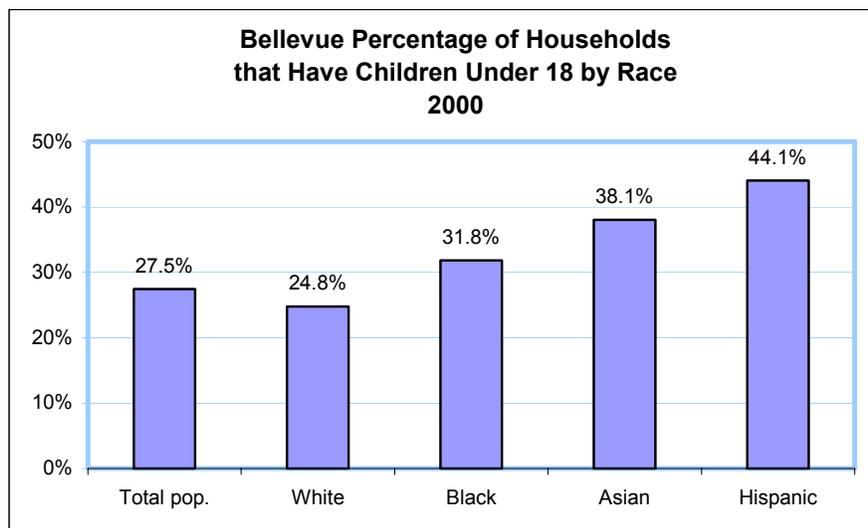
Bellevue's Asian Population 1990 and 2000				
	1990	2000	Change 1990-2000	
			Number	Percent
Total Asian Population	8,660	19,313	10,653	123.0
▪ Asian Indian	605	2,881	2,276	376.2
▪ Chinese	2,620	6,745	4,125	157.4
▪ Filipino	486	1,071	585	120.4
▪ Japanese	2,228	2,838	610	27.4
▪ Korean	1,080	2,141	1,061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

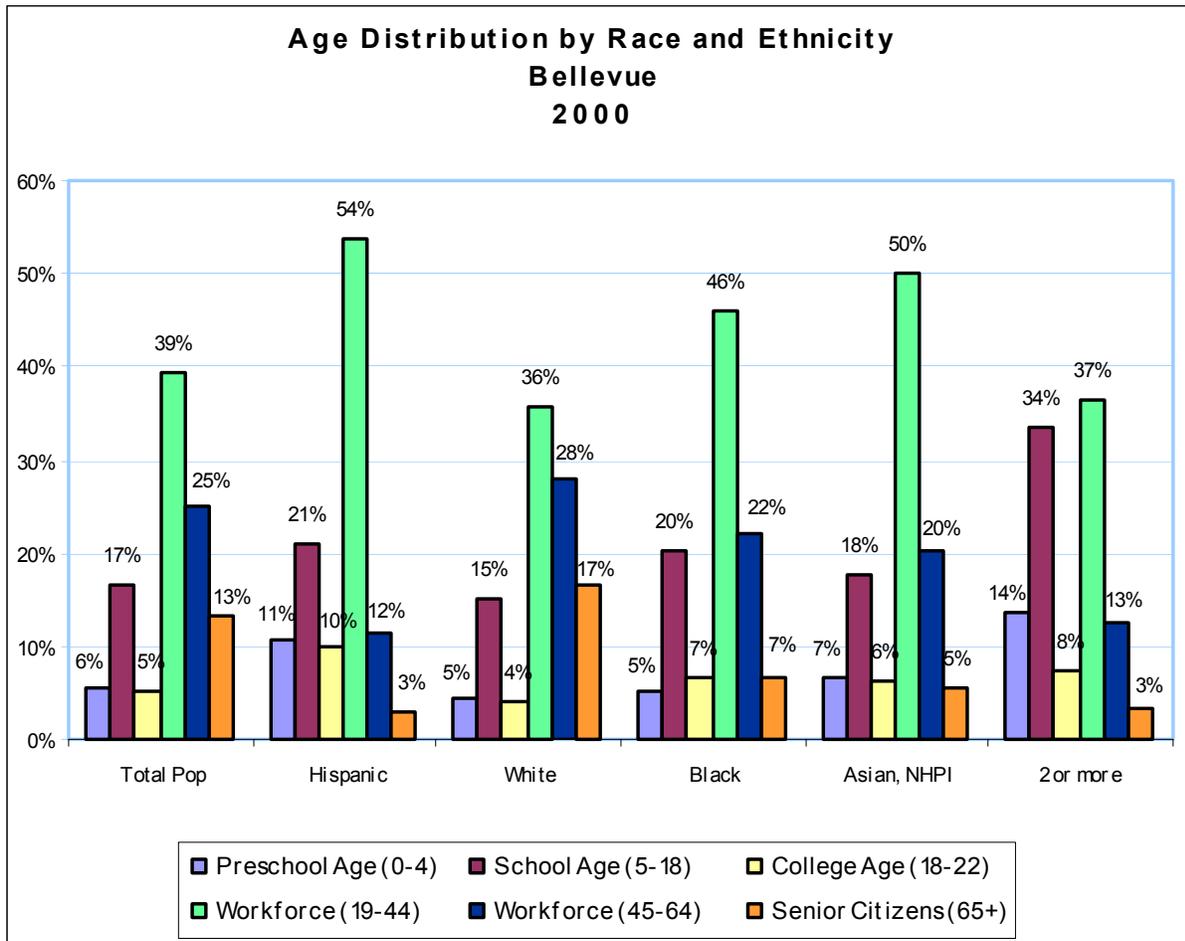
Bellevue's Asian population is now a substantial portion of the overall city population, and Asians account for over two-thirds of Bellevue's non-white population. The characteristics of the Asian population also changed between 1990 and 2000, with very large growth in particular of the City's Chinese,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

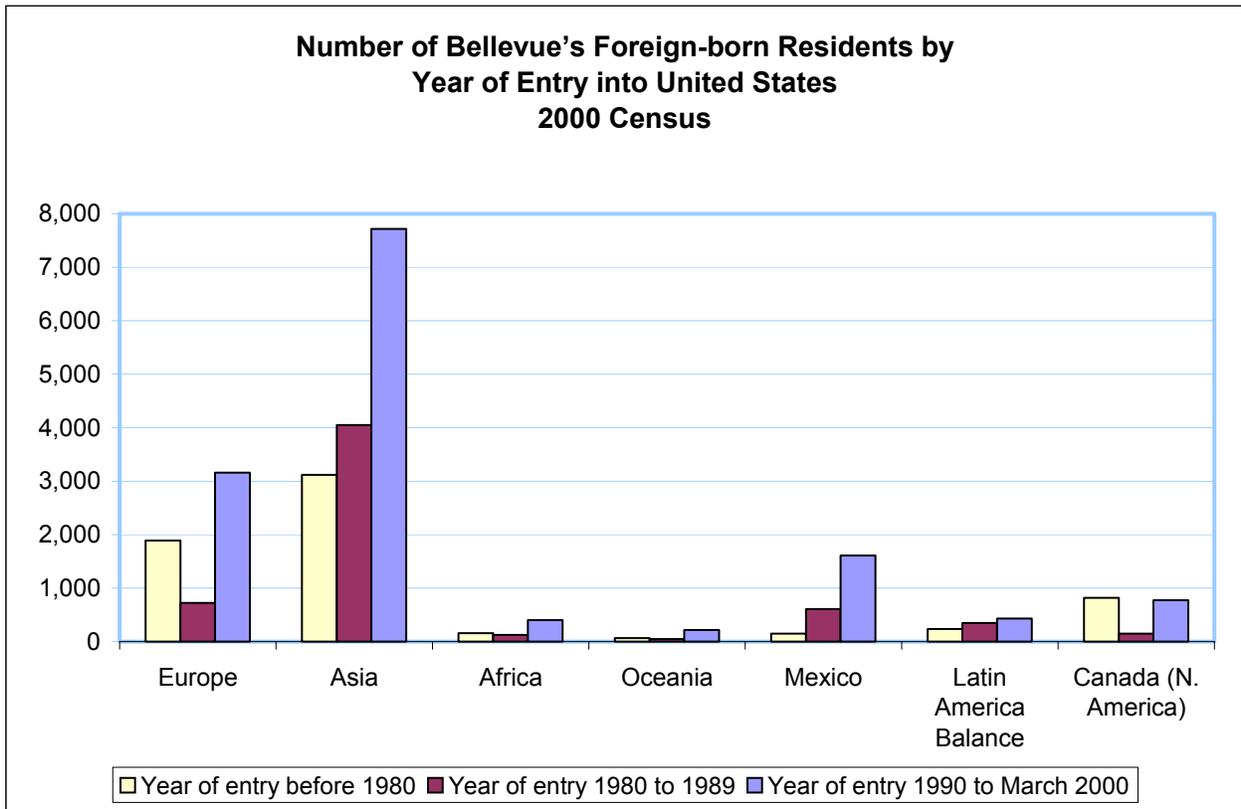
As the following charts and tables show, there have been major shifts in Bellevue’s demographic profile with regard to the city’s foreign-born population since 1990.

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.

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

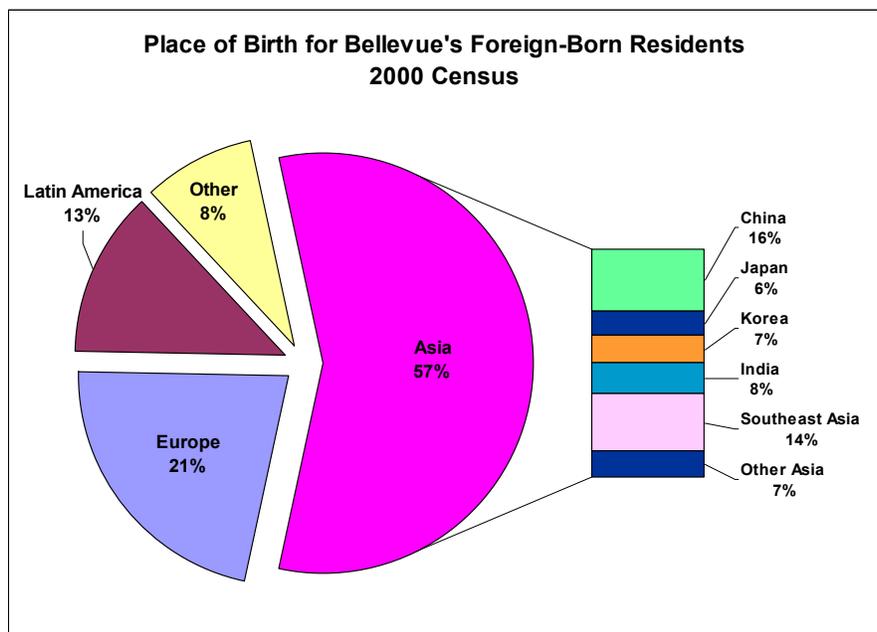
Characteristic	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total Population	86,874	109,569	22,695	26%
Foreign-born population	11,548	26,782	15,234	132%
Foreign-born population entering U.S. in previous 10 years	5,596	14,308	8,712	156%

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.

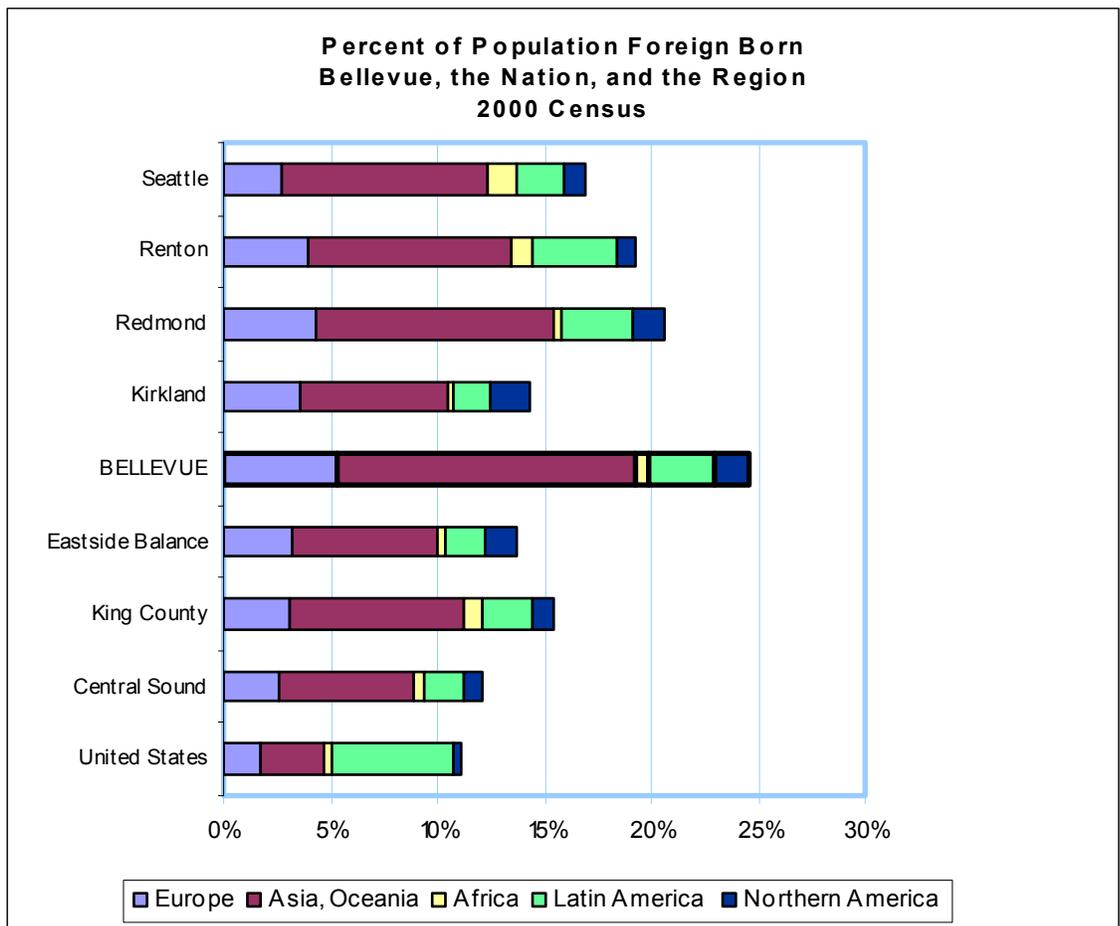


Place of Birth – Regional and National Comparisons

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.

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

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.

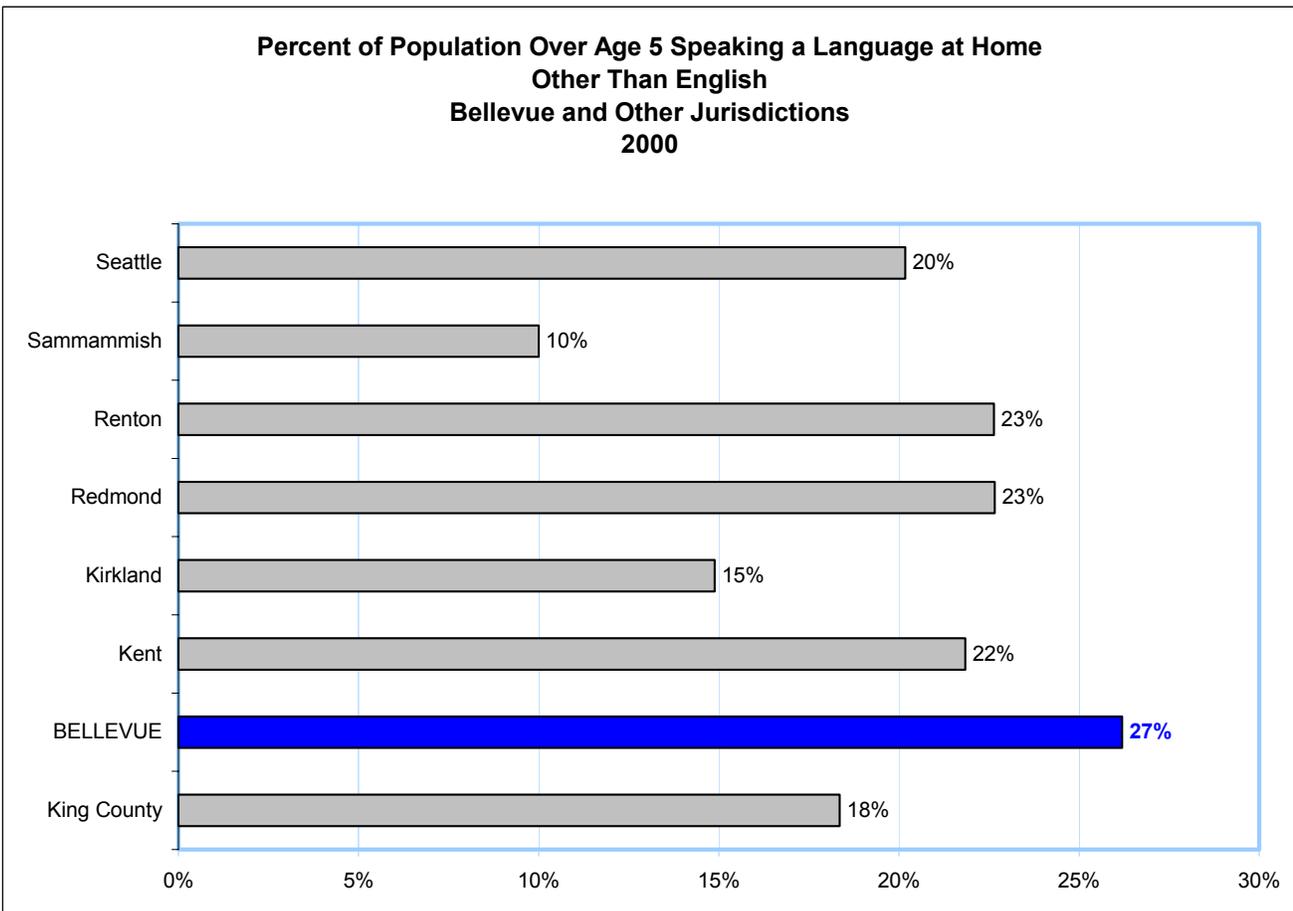
“Linguistic Isolation” means a household in which no member over the age of 14 speaks English very well. These households are likely to have the most difficulty with basic day-to-day communications, in that no adult member of the household speaks English very well. As with other language categories, 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
<i>* Includes Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, Romany</i>		

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-European³ 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.

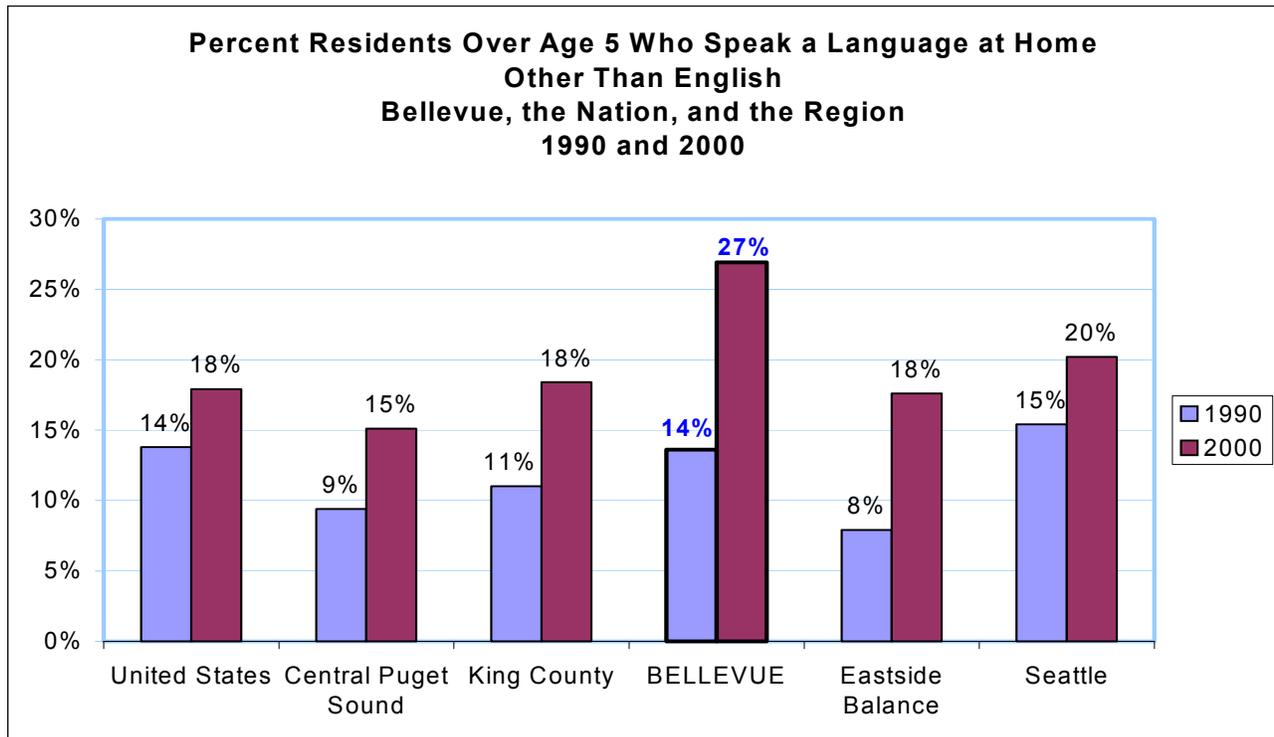
Non-English Speaking Population – Regional and National Comparisons

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 insitutions 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.

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