

Island County and Its People

(Demographic and Economic Factors)

Fast Facts

■ The 2000 Census population of Island County was 71,558, a 18.9% increase since 1990. We gained 11,363 residents between the years of 1990 and 2000 and have gained 44,547 since 1970. In the last ten years, we gained 5,633 residents through net in-migration and 5,145 residents due to natural change (higher births than deaths). We have 10, 232 people over age 65 (14%) and 18,243 under age 18 (25%).

■ About two-thirds (49,635) of Island County's population lived in unincorporated areas concentrated around townships such as Clinton, Freeland, Greenbank and along the shores of Camano Island in the year 2001. The remaining third (22,765) lived in the municipalities of Coupeville, Langley, or Oak Harbor. About 34,450 residents live in areas considered to be rural by the U.S. Census (2000).

■ Island County Health Department often breaks the county into four planning regions—North, Central and South Whidbey and Camano. The population of South Whidbey in 2000 was 14,288, Central Whidbey had 7,247 people, North Whidbey had 36,676 residents and 13,347 people lived on Camano Island.

■ Island County is the fifth densest county in Washington (number of people per square mile) with a density of 355 residents per square mile (average is 91.6 in Washington State and 79.6 in the United States).

■ The median age in the county is 37 (compared to 35.3 in Washington State).

■ Island County, like the rest of the nation, continues to grow in its ethnic diversity. Racial minorities made up 12.8% of the population in 2000, growing from 6.8% in 1980 and 8.5% in 1990. The largest racial minority in 2000 was made up of people who classified themselves as Asian/Pacific Islanders. Our children are increasing multiracial, with only 2% of adults being multiracial and 7% of our children.

■ Hispanic residents made up 4% of the population in 2000, compared to 2.9% in 1980 and 3.3% in 1990.

■ 92.1% of Island County residents over age 25 have completed high school and 36.5% have obtained a college degree at an associate level or above. However, 10.7% of our children under age 18 are not enrolled in school and 21.3% of our population ages 18-24 have not graduated from high school.

92.1% of Island County residents over age 25 have completed high school and 36.5% have obtained a college degree at an associate level or above.

■ The median income in Island County in 1999 was \$45,513 with a per capita income of \$21,472 (\$22,973 for Washington State). The average annual wages of Island County residents in 2001 were \$24,731, compared to Washington State average of wages of \$37,458.

■ In 2000, 6.6 % of Island County residents ages 18-64 were living below 100% of the federal poverty level, including 9.3% of all children and 4.4% of persons ages 65 and over. However, 12.5% of children under age 5 and 14.9% of children age 5

12.5% of children under age 5 and 14.9% of children age 5 are living in poverty.

are living in poverty. Additionally, 23.8% of IC residents were living below 200% of the federal poverty level, with 33.5% of Island County children under age 18 living in households below 200% poverty in 2000.

■ Children living in families with single parents are particularly at risk for living in poverty. 37.1% of a children in a household headed by a single mother and 29.5% of children in a household with a single father are below poverty status. 58.8% of households with children under age 5 and 41.3% of households with children age 5 living within a single-mother headed household are below poverty. Island County has 5283 children living under 200% of the FPL and 44.6% of those children are under age 6.

■ Another measure of economic well-being for families is the annual child care burden (% of a single parent's after-tax income) calculated by the Washington State DSHS. Island County's average cost for fulltime child care in 2000 was \$5,504 which equals 27.8% of the parent's income. For Washington State, the average cost was \$5808 or 19.1% of a single parent's income. This can be attributed to the lower wages in Island County and the number of lower wage employment opportunities in retail, service, and hospitality industries and/or seasonal work.

■ We have 27,784 households in Island County. Over 1/3 (35%) have children under 18 years old living in them and one quarter have an individual over age 65 in the household.

■ There are also 791 households comprised of grandparents are living with their own grandchildren and 36.5% (N=289) are responsible for their grandchildren.

■ The unemployment rate in Island County dropped from 8.6% in 1996 to 5.3% in 2001, but rose again to 6.2% in January of 2003. Retail trade and service industries provide the highest total annual wages in Island County, providing almost 1/3 (32%) of wages to about 45% of persons employed for wages. These two industries are followed by finance/insurance/real estate and construction.

■ In 2001, Island County had 897 births, 571 deaths, 571 marriages, and 275 divorces.

■ Heart failure and malignant neoplasms cause over half of all deaths of people over 45. Accidents and adverse effects resulting from the accidents is the leading cause of death for persons age 1-45. Of all the causes of death due to accidents, the leading cause is motor vehicle accidents.

Island County Issues

The number one issue is that of poverty. Poverty is associated with poor health status (see the General Health Status Module) and less access to healthcare.

Background and Introduction

The most important factor of a community's health is the makeup of the people who live there and how they live their lives. Knowing how many people there are and whether they are young or old, rich or poor is an important first step in community health assessment.

Age is one of the most important characteristics of a population when evaluating health measures. Older populations (those with large proportions of people age 65 and older) tend to have higher death rates, while younger populations tend to have higher birth rates.

The population profile of Island County has previously been portrayed as having two distinctions from that of Washington State and our nation as a whole. One is a number of young males and young families due to the presence of NAS-Whidbey and the other that Island County is often a retirement destination resulting in greater proportions of older residents in many communities compared to state and national rates.

While the number of Americans 65 and older has increased rapidly in the last three decades, Island County had previously been growing at much faster rates. Between 1980 and 1990, Island County had the highest rate of growth (72%) in the older population in the state. This growth rate has fallen off somewhat. Between 1990-2000, the growth rate in the older population was 28.5%. Both the rate of change in the older and younger population and the total percent of the area's population who are older and younger impact a county. Many programs for older and younger persons are community based. The demand for home care, household and personal assistance, meals on wheels, child care, and transportation put a greater burden on county partners to provide.

Demographics

Birth and Death Rates

Birth and death rates for Island County are noted in the following table.

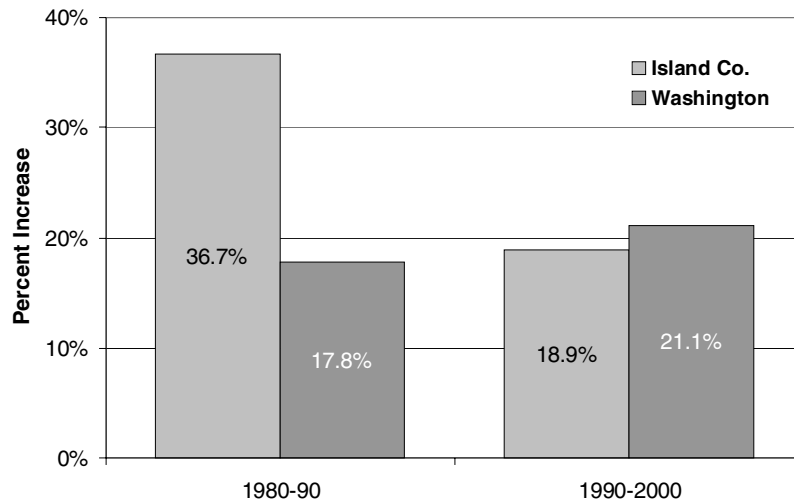
Year	Births	Deaths
1995	939	488
1996	983	444
1997	953	501
1998	948	549
1999	912	504
2000	959	531
2001	897	571
2002	924	423

Population Growth

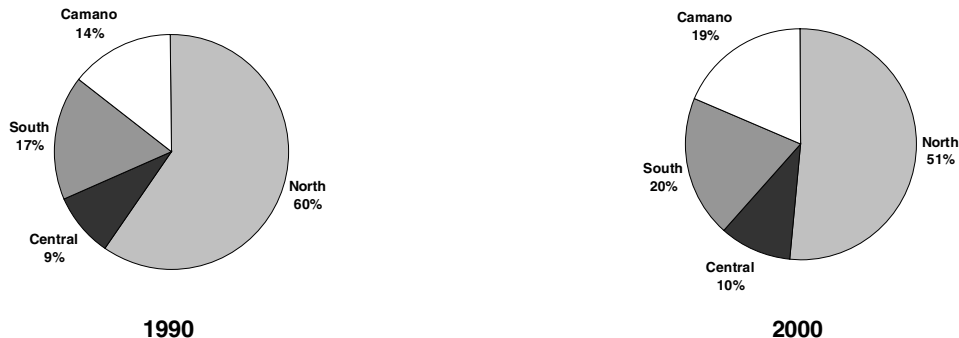
Census 2000 found the population of Island County to be 71,558 persons. This represented an increase of 11,363 since 1990. Population growth can occur because there are more births than deaths (natural increase) or because people move into an area (migration). Usually, both natural increase and migration contribute to population growth.

The growth rate for the county was 18.9%, lower than the Washington State rate of 21.1%, and much lower than the growth rate between 1980 and 1990, when Island County’s population grew by 36.7%. County growth between 1990 and 2000 was fairly equally divided between natural growth (the surplus of births over deaths during the period) (46.2%) and migration into the County (53.8%). This was somewhat different than the growth pattern of the state as a whole, where 37.2% of population growth occurred due to natural increase, and 62.8% was due to in-migration.

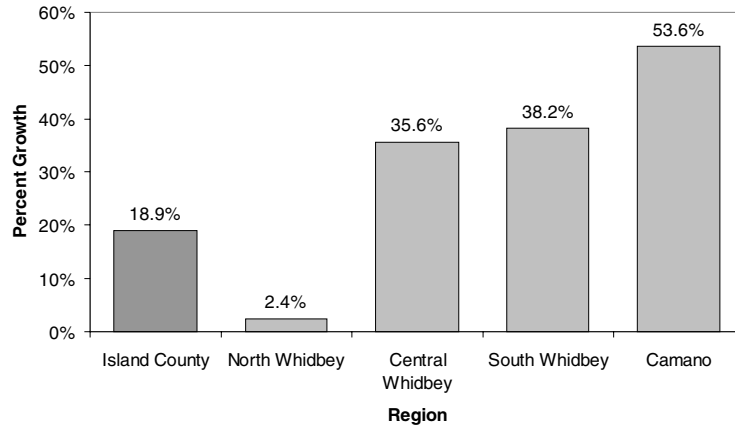
**Population Growth by Decade
Island Co. & Washington 1980-2000**



Approximately half (51%) of the County’s population was concentrated in the North Whidbey Island area. The rest of Whidbey Island accounted for an additional 30% of the population, while 19% lived on Camano Island. This distribution reflects greater growth rates in the populations of the Camano, South and Central Whidbey areas than in North Whidbey, which had contained 60% of the County’s population in 1990.



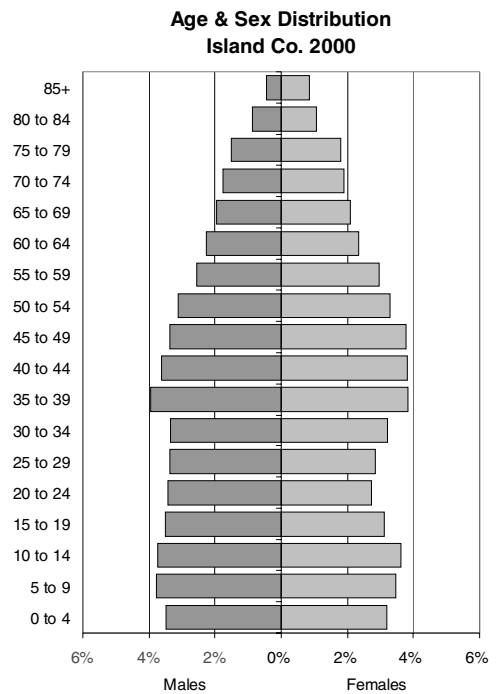
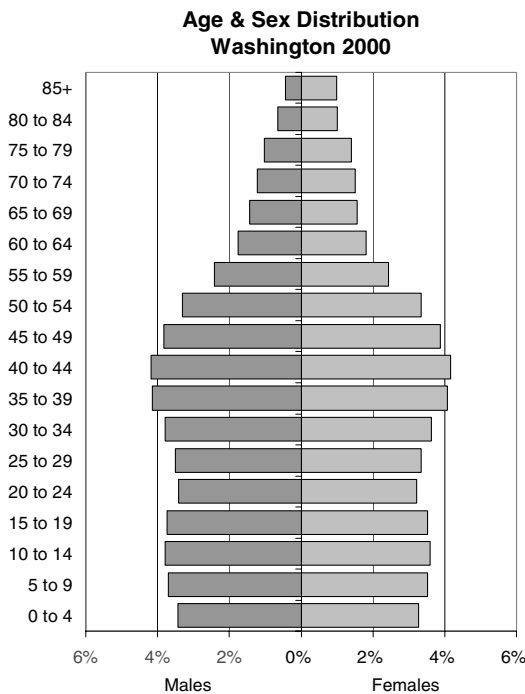
Population Growth, Island County 1990-2000



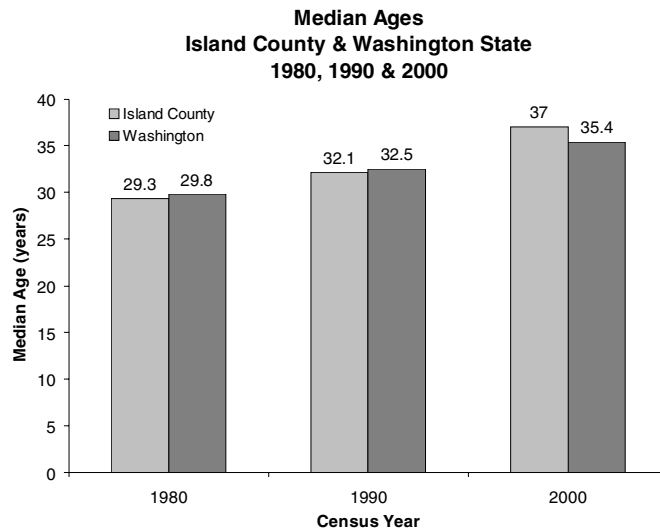
Growth in the North Whidbey area was negligible between 1990 and 2000 (2.4%), while the populations of Central and South Whidbey both increased by over one-third during the same period. Camano Island experienced the largest growth of any region, with a population increase of 53.6%.

Gender and Age Distribution

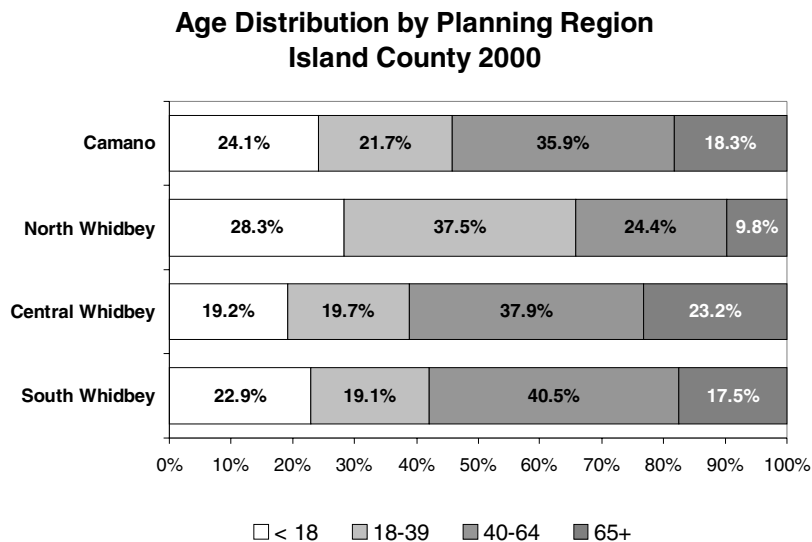
Island County is comprised of 50.1% males and 49.9% females. The age distribution in 2000 of Island County was similar to that of the State. In both, about one-quarter of the population was under the age of 18, (25.5% for the county and 25.7% for the state). However, a larger proportion of the County's population is above the age of 65 than is normal for the State as a whole (14.3% vs. 11.2% for Washington). The County has a disproportionate number of males between the ages of 20 and 29 (6.8% of the total population) compared to females 5.6%, probably due to the presence of a Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island.



The aging of the population in general is shown by the increasing median ages for both Island County and Washington State. Since 1980, the median age for Island County residents has increased from 29.3 years to 37.0. During the same period the state median age increased from 29.8 to 35.4 years. While the median age for the county was slightly lower than that of the state during 1980 and 1990, in 2000 for the first time the Island had a higher median age. This may reflect in-migration by retirees to the county. The proportion of the population over the age of 65 increased from 13.8% in 1990 to 14.3% in 2000 (compared to 11.2% for Washington State).



The age structures of the Planning Regions differed greatly from one another. North Whidbey had the youngest population, with the greatest proportion of people under the age of 18. In all, approximately two-thirds of North Whidbey’s population (65.8%) was under the age of 40. In contrast, in the Region with the next greatest proportion of people under 40 (Camano), only 45.8% of the population was in this age group. Central Whidbey had the oldest population, with 61.1% over the age of 39, and nearly one-quarter (23.2%) over the age of 65. The age structures of Camano Island and South Whidbey were similar, and fell between these two extremes.



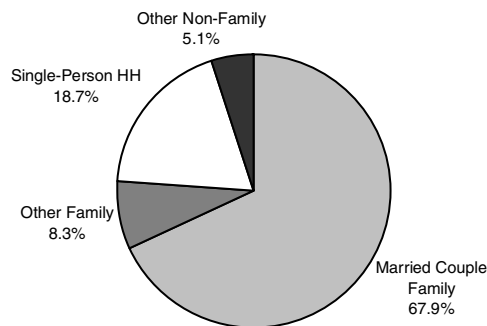
Households

The number of households in the county increased more rapidly than the number of people, increasing by 27.5% between 1990 and 2000. The greater increase in households than people led to a decrease in the average household size in the county, from 2.61 persons per household in 1990 to 2.52 in 2000. Average household size in Island County was similar to the statewide average of 2.53 people per household.

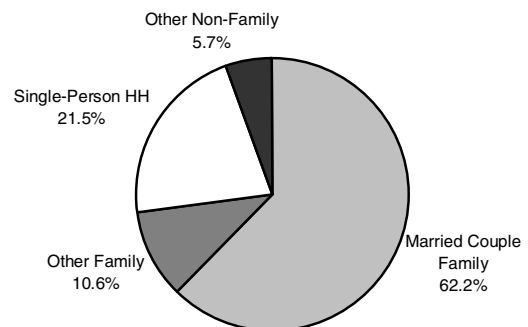
Most households in Island County (72.9%) were comprised of families (i.e., related individuals living together) while the other 27.1% are comprised of non-family households. This is lower than in 1990, when 76.2% of households were made up of families, but higher than the Washington State average of 66.0%.

Since 1990, the proportion of households made up of married couples declined from 67.9% to 62.2%. However, this does not reflect an actual decrease in the number of married couple households in the county, which actually increased from 14,803 in 1990 to 17,285 in 2000. Instead, the decline in the proportion of households made up of married couples is the result of greater rates of growth in other kinds of households. While married couple households increased by 16.8% between the 1990 and 2000 Census, the proportion of other family households increased by 63.8%, single-person households increased by 46.6%, and other non-family households grew by 42.3%.

Household Types, Island County 1990



Household Types, Island County 2000

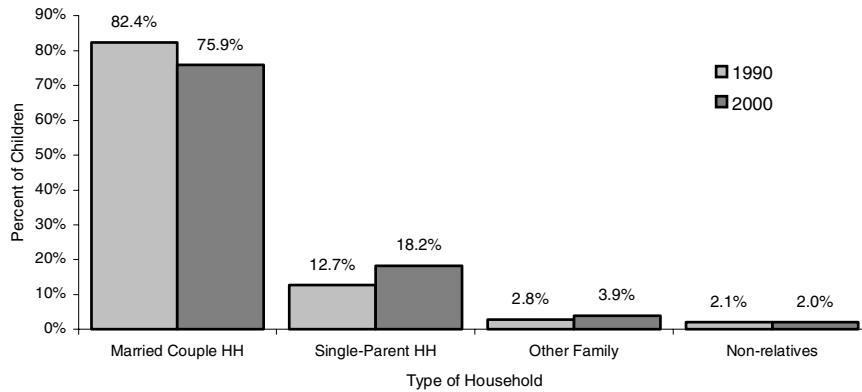


Over one-third of Island County households (35.2%) contained a child under the age of 18. The vast majority of children in Island County lived in family households (98.0%) in 2000, which was nearly identical to the 1990 finding. The proportion of children living with family in Island County was slightly higher than the statewide average of 97.2%.

However, there were changes in the type of family households in which children lived between 1990 and 2000. The proportion of children in married-couple households fell from 82.4% to 75.9%. Most of the decline in children living within a married-couple household was balanced by an increase in the proportion of children in single-parent households, from 12.7% to 18.2%. The proportion of children living in a household headed by a single male increased by 83.6%

between 1990 and 2000, from 2.7% of children to 4.3%. In contrast, the number of children living in single-parent households that were headed by women increased by 64.7%, although they still comprise the majority of children living in single-parent households (76.4%). In total, 7.8% of households are headed by a female. The number of children living with other, non-parental, family increased from 2.8% in 1990 to 3.9% in 2000, many of these are grandchildren living with their grandparent(s). Island County has 791 grandparents living in households with children less than age 18. Of those, 36.5% (N=289) are responsible for the care of their grandchild(ren).

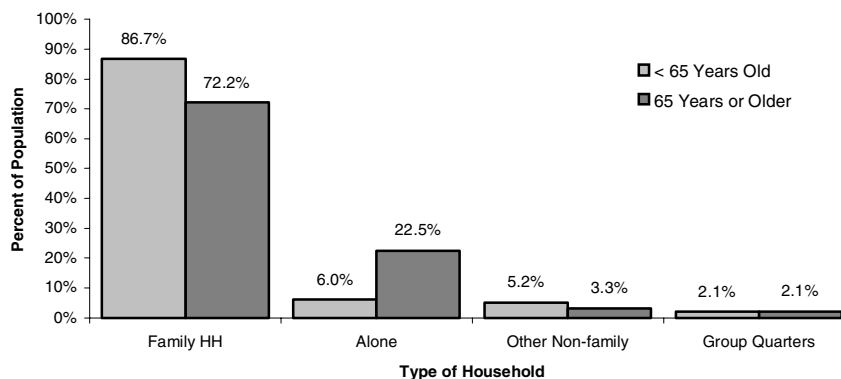
**Living Arrangements of Children
Island County 1990 & 2000**



Island County residents age 65 and older were less likely than younger people to live in a family situation (72.2% vs. 86.7% among those younger than 65). However, one quarter of all households have an individual older than 65. Persons age 65 and older were also less likely to live with non-family members (3.3% vs. 5.2%).

Older Island residents were much more likely to live alone, with nearly one-quarter of people age 65 and older (22.5%) living by themselves, compared to only 6.0% of people under 65. There was no difference in the proportion of people between those younger and older than 65 who were living in group quarters (2.1%). However, only 3.9% of people under the age of 65 who were living in group quarters were considered 'institutionalized', compared to 79.1% of those 65 and older who were living in group quarters.

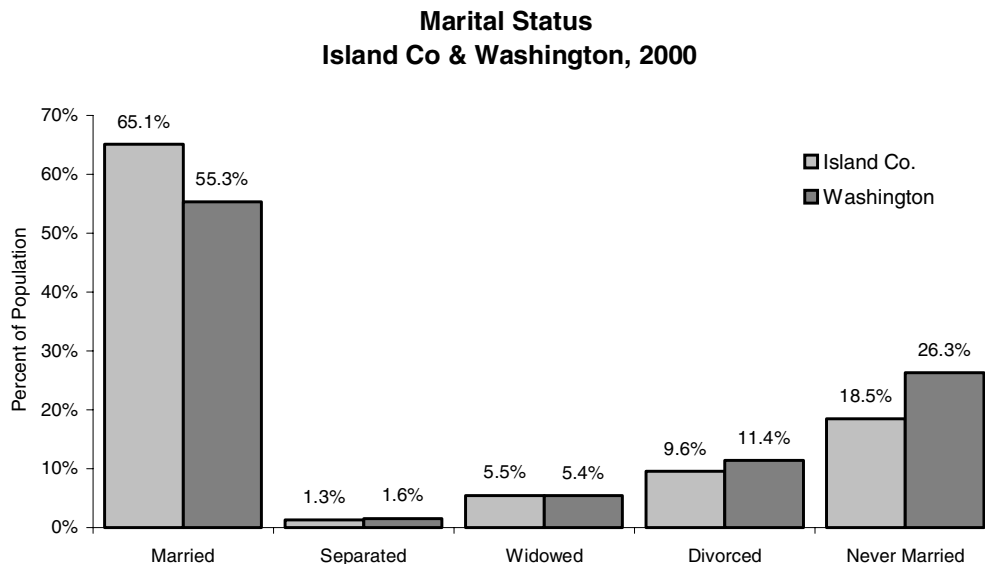
**Living Arrangements of Persons 65 and Older
Island County 2000**



Only 2.1% of Island County's population (1,479 persons) lived in group quarters in the year 2000. This was considerably less than in 1990, when 5.4% of the population (3,225 people) lived in group quarters. This change mostly reflects fewer residents living in military quarters, which comprised the largest group of people living in group quarters (81.2% in 2000). In 1990, 2,873 county residents lived in military quarters, compared to 1,201 in 2000, a decrease of 58.2%. This decline of 1,672 people living in military quarters was greater than the decline in the military population of the county, which fell by 873 between 1990 and 2000. This suggests a greater use of off-base housing by military personnel in the county. The institutionalized population of the county (e.g., in correctional institutions or nursing homes) fell by 13.4%, from 253 individuals in 1990 to 219 in 2000.

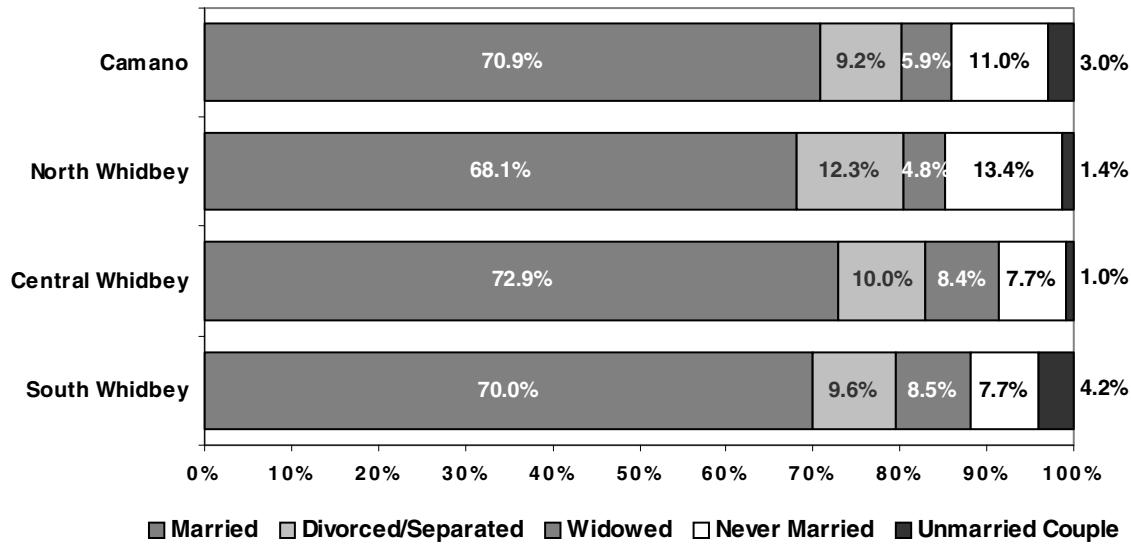
Marital Status

Island County had a higher proportion of married people than is average for Washington State (65.1% vs. 55.3%). It also had lower proportions of divorced and never married persons. The proportion of people separated or widowed was similar to the statewide average. The 2000 BRFSS findings generally agreed with those of the Census. Island County was found to have a higher proportion of married people than Washington State (69.9% vs. 60.5%) and fewer people who had never been married (11.3% vs. 17.4%).



There was some variation by planning region, with North Whidbey showing higher proportions of people who were divorced or separated (12.3% vs. a county average of 10.9%), and individuals who had never been married (13.4% vs. an average of 11.3%). South and Central Whidbey had higher than average proportions of people who were widowed. In addition, South Whidbey had the largest proportion of people who were members of an unmarried couple (4.2% vs. an average of 2.0%).

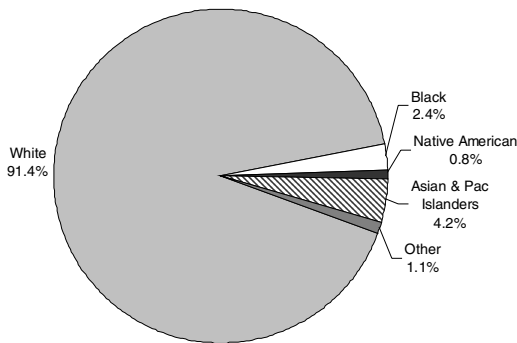
**Marital Status by Planning Region
Island County BRFSS 2000**



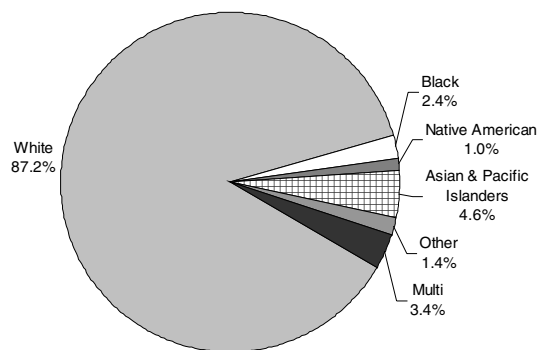
Race and Ethnicity

The majority of Island County’s residents in 2000 were white (87.2%). This was lower than in 1990, when 91.4% of the population identified itself as white. The second-largest racial group was Asians and Pacific Islanders, who comprised 4.6% of the population in 2000, up slightly from 1990 (4.2%). The proportions of blacks remained consistent between 1990 and 2000 at 2.4%. Native Americans and people of ‘other’ race groups increased slightly over the decade, but each only comprised about one percent of the total population. A further 3.4% of people indicated that they were members of two or more races.

**Island County Population by Race 1990
1990 U.S. Census**



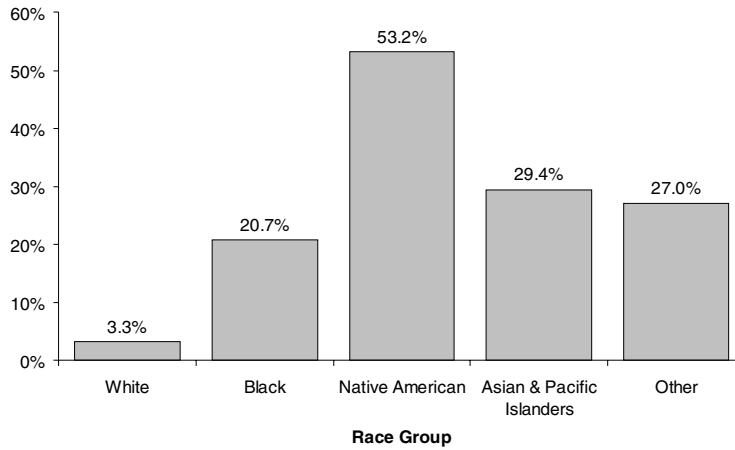
**Island Co. Population by Race 2000
Census 2000**



Comparisons of the racial composition of the population between 1990 and 2000 must be interpreted with some caution. Due to changes in the way that racial data was collected in *Census 2000*, racial data from that year are not directly comparable with those from 1990. This was due to a change that allowed people to indicate that they belonged to more than one race group in 2000. People of who indicated that they were of more than a single race comprised 3.4% of the population. Using the previous scheme, these people would have been placed in one of the other groups. Thus, the proportions for single-race groups in the 2000 are somewhat lower than they would have been using the 1990 groupings.

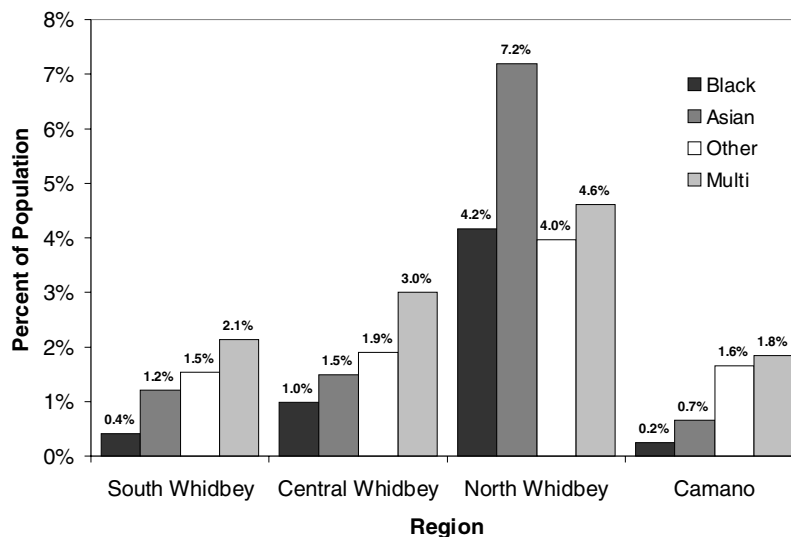
An additional source of confusion is due to the proportion of people of who indicated more than one race group not being consistent across races. For example, 3.3% of all the people who said they were white also indicated membership in another racial group. Among those who indicated that they were Native American, 53.2% indicated membership in another race.

Proportion of Persons Indicating Membership in More Than One Race, Census 2000



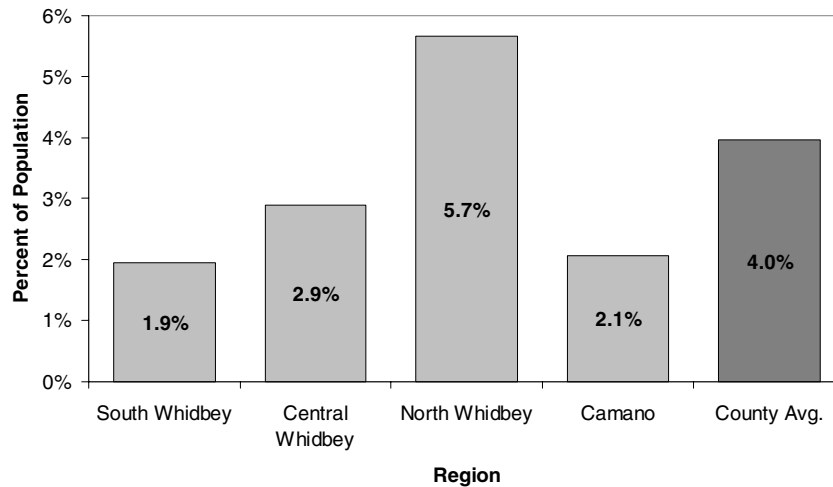
North Whidbey showed the greatest racial diversity among the planning regions, with nearly one-fifth of its population being non-white. The majority of the non-white population was Asians, in contrast to the other regions, where the largest numbers of non-whites were of mixed race origin. Central Whidbey had the second-largest non-white population, but it was only 7.4% of the Region’s population. Among the South Whidbey population 5.3% was non-white, and on Camano Island 4.4% of the population was non-white.

Non-White Population by Planning Region, 2000



Census 2000 found that people of Hispanic* origin comprised 4% of the population of Island County. This was an increase over 1990, when 3.3% of the county residents were Hispanic. Island County had a lower proportion of Hispanics in its population than Washington State as a whole (7.5%). Residents of North Whidbey were most likely to say that they were Hispanic (5.7%), while people on Camano Island were least likely to report Hispanic ethnicity (2.1%).

Hispanic Population by Planning Region, 2000



Economics and Employment

Over two thirds (63%) of Island County residents over 16 years of age are in the civilian labor force and 11.2% are in the Armed Forces. This compares to 66.5% and 1.1% in Washington State respectively. More than half (51.6%) of households with children have all parents in the household in the labor force. More than half (54.3%) of females over the age of 16 are in the labor force. Island County has a lower percentage of workers working for private wages, (67.2% in Island County compared to 76.1% in Washington State), we have higher percentages working for the government (20.3% compared to 16.5% in Washington State) and higher percentages whom are self-employed (12% in Island County and 7.2% in Washington State). Retail trade and service industries provide the highest total annual wages in Island County, providing almost 1/3 (32%) of wages to about 45% of persons employed for wages. These two industries are followed by finance/insurance/real estate; construction; and manufacturing.

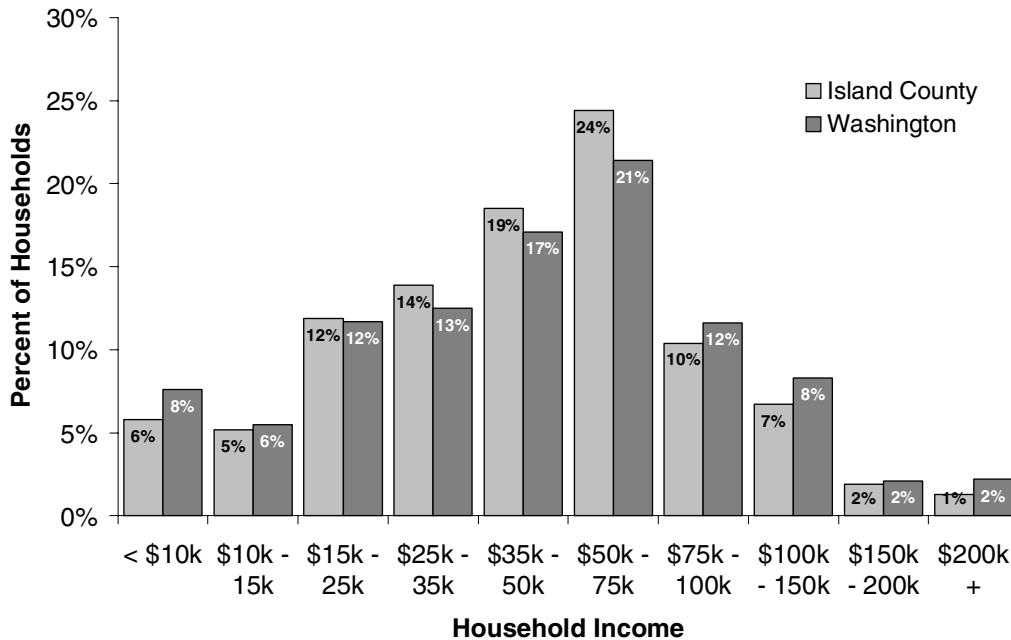
Residents of Island County classify their type of work as follows:

	Washington State	Island County
Management/Professional	35.6	33.8
Service Industries	14.9	17.6
Sales/Office	25.9	23.1
Construction, extraction, maintenance	9.4	11.7
Production, transportation	12.7	12.9

* The Census Bureau identifies Hispanic ethnicity as distinct from race, so it is reported separately from race here. People who indicate that they are Hispanic can identify themselves as belonging to any race. Most choose 'White' or 'Other'.

The 2000 census found that the median household income in Island County (\$45,513) was slightly lower than the statewide average of \$45,776. Despite the similar median incomes, the distribution of household incomes in Island County differed from that of the state. Island County had fewer households in the lowest category (< \$10,000), and also fewer in the highest categories (\$75,000 and above). Instead, household incomes in Island County most often fell between \$25,000 and \$75,000 (56.8% compared to a statewide average of 51%).

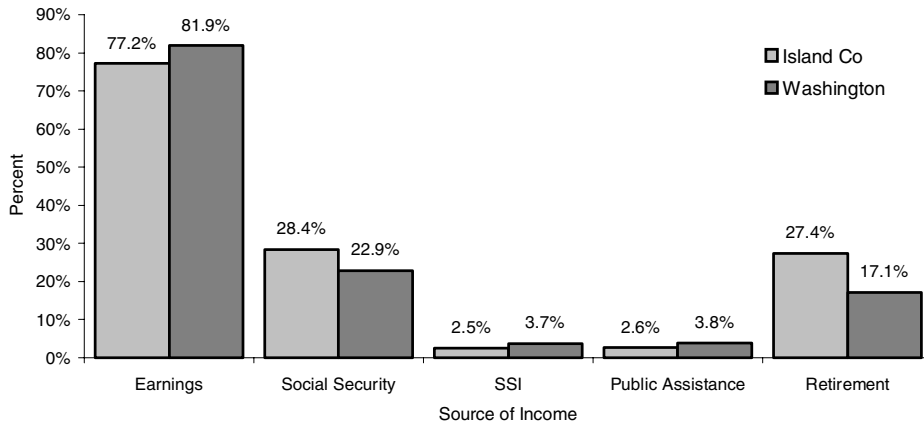
**Household Incomes
Island County & Washington State
Census 2000**



Other indices suggest that Island County is less well-off financially than the rest of the state. Per Capita income in the County (\$21,472) was lower than in the state as a whole (\$22,973). The average annual wages for Island County residents in 2000 were \$23,973 (compared to \$37,056 for Washington State). The Washington State Office of Financial Management estimated a greater discrepancy in median household incomes than the Census Bureau, \$45,438 in Island county compared to a Statewide estimate was \$50,182. The 2000 BRFSS survey found that households in Island County generally had somewhat lower incomes than the statewide average, with only 60% reporting incomes greater than \$35,000 per year compared to a Statewide average of 62.3%.

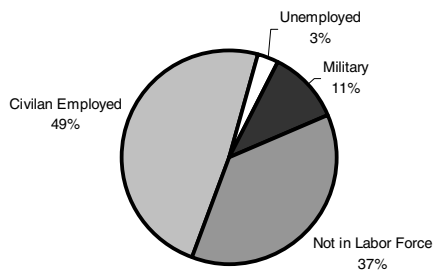
Island County differed somewhat from Washington in regards to income sources. While the majority of residents had income from earnings (77.2%), it was a lower proportion than the statewide average of 81.9%. Island County residents were more likely to have Social Security or retirement incomes than was average for the state, while fewer received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or public assistance. Mean earnings income was lower in the county than the state (Island Co. = \$49,065, WA = \$57,172), but mean Social Security income was higher (Island Co.= \$12,278, WA = \$11,914) as was mean retirement income (\$22,932 vs. \$18,241 statewide).

**Income Sources in 1999
Island Co. & Washington**

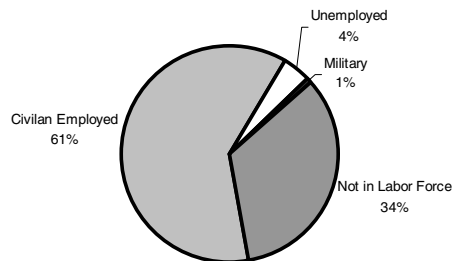


Island County had a lower proportion of its population in the labor force than was average for Washington State (63.1% vs. 66.5%). This was particularly true among females, with 54.3% of Island County women 16 and older being in the labor force compared to a statewide average of 59.9%. However, Island County also had a lower proportion of people who were unemployed (3.0% vs. 4.1% statewide). Island County had a much larger proportion of people in the armed forces than was average for the state (11.2% vs. 1.1%), and a higher proportion of people with veteran status (24.9% vs. 15.5% statewide).

**Employment Status, Population 16 and Over
Island Co. 2000**

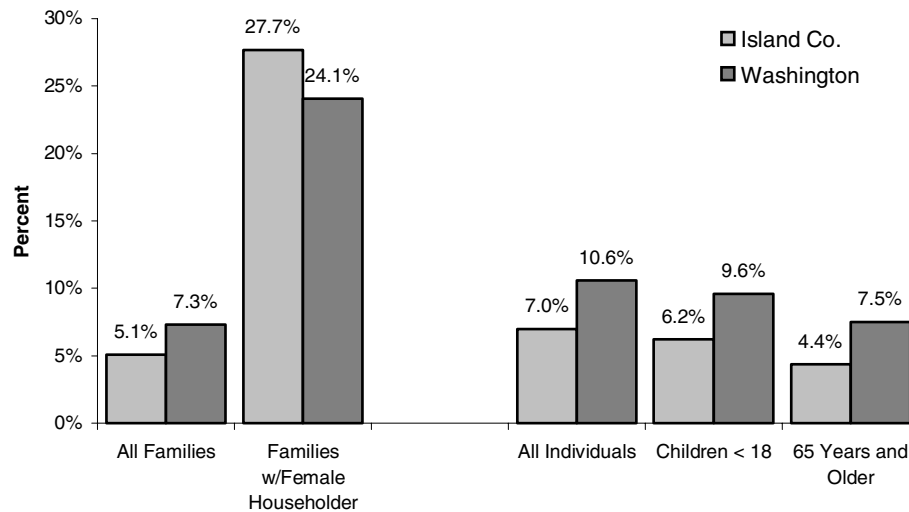


**Employment Status, Population 16 and Over
Washington 2000**



While Island County generally showed weaker economic indicators than the state, a lower proportion of county residents (7.0%) were found to live below the Federal poverty limit than the 10.6% average for Washington as a whole. Only 6.2% of Island County children under 18 were found to live in poverty, lower than the statewide average of 9.6%. However, 33.5% of children under the age of 18 are below 200% of federal poverty level (WA Kids Count, U.S. Census data). Among Island County residents age 65 years and older, 4.4% were in poverty compared to 7.5% statewide. The only indicator of poverty where Island County exceeded the state average was in the proportion of families headed by a single female. In Island County, 27.7% of these families were in poverty, compared to 24.1% statewide.

**Poverty Status in 1999
Island County & Washington**



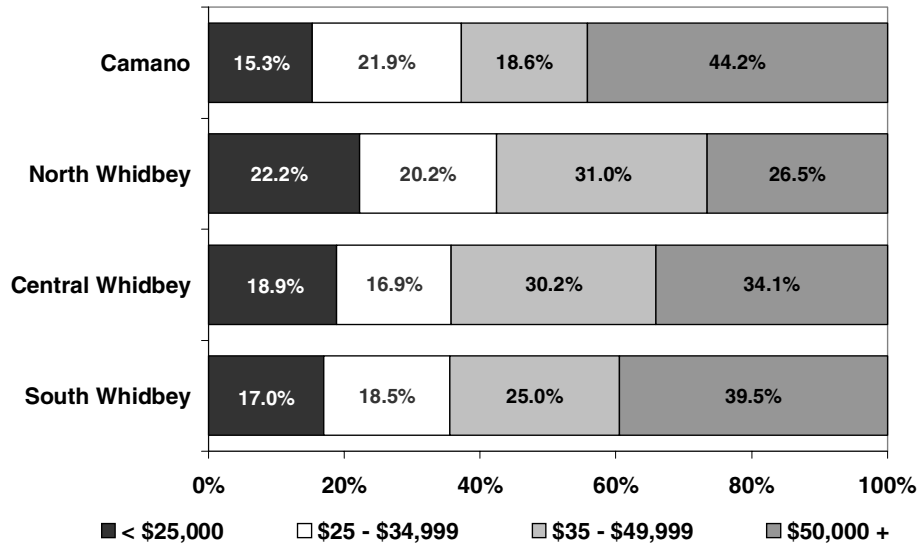
Households with children age 5 and under often have incomes less than 100% FPL. This is shown by data that 11.8% of families with children under 5 are in poverty, and 58.1% of female-headed households with related children less than five are in poverty. It can also be stated that 12.5% of children under that age of five live in poverty and 14.9% of five year olds live in poverty. This compares to a range of 6-9.2% for children ages 6-17.

One of the primary “costs of living” borne almost solely by the parents of children under the age of five is the cost of providing child care. By finding high quality, affordable child care, many parents are able to be employed and provide for their family. The Island County BRFSS asked several questions on child care and they are reported in the Maternal and Child Care section. The “Washington Kids Count” report, part of a national child health indicator report and reported on annually in Washington State by the Anne E. Casey Foundation and the University of Washington, examines county resident ability to afford childcare. The Washington State Department of Social and Human Services develops an indicator of child care burden which is the average price of child care in a region as a percentage of a single parent’s after tax income. Island County has consistently had a higher child care burden than the State. In 2000, Island County childcare burden was the highest in the state at 27.8% (at a cost of \$5404) versus a state average of 19.1% (at a cost of \$5808).

Another measure of economic stability for families with children is the percentage who are eligible for free and reduced-price school lunches. In all of Island County’s school districts there are about 2307 children eligible for free and reduced-price school lunches. While the range per district is from 11.9% to 19.7%, this equals approximately 15.2% of our school age children.

The 2000 BRFSS showed that Camano Island had the largest proportion of households with incomes of \$50,000 and above (44.2%) and the fewest with incomes less than \$25,000 (15.3%). In contrast, North Whidbey had the greatest proportion of households having an annual income of less than \$25,000 (22.3%). Only 26.5% of North Whidbey households had incomes above \$50,000.

Household Incomes by Planning Region 2000 BRFSS



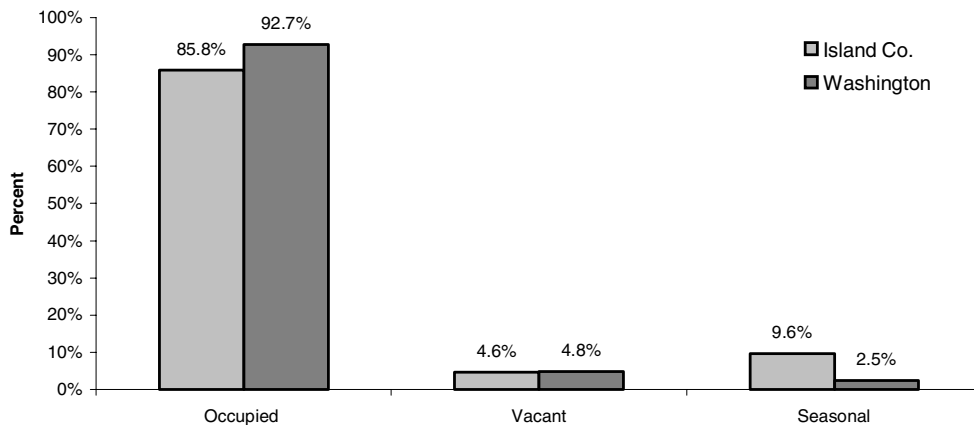
Percent Working Outside the County

Another aspect of Island County living, for many, is working outside of Island County. While similar data is not available from the 2000 Census, in 1990 24% of county residents worked outside the county. This compares to a state rate of 24%. Regionally, most Camano Island residents worked outside of Island County (79%), followed by South Whidbey (40%), Central Whidbey (15%), and lastly North Whidbey (13%).

Housing

Island County contained 32,378 housing units in 2000. Of these, 85.8% (27,784) were occupied at the time of the Census. This was considerably lower than the statewide average of 92.7% occupancy. However, this difference is mostly due to the large number of seasonal, recreational

Housing Occupancy Island Co. & Washington 2000



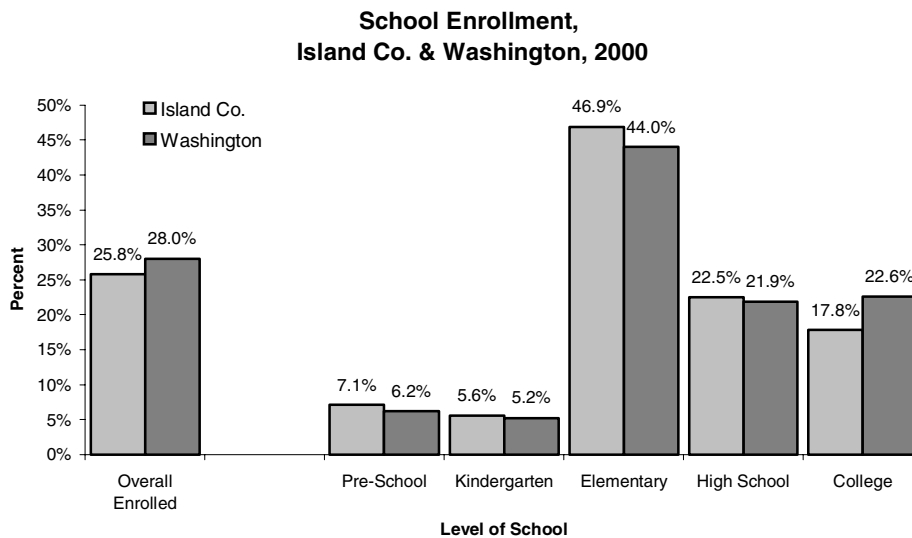
or occasional use only units in Island County. These comprised 9.6% of the county’s housing units, compared to only 2.5% statewide. The proportion of vacant housing units in the county that were not for seasonal use was 4.6%, very similar to the statewide average of 4.8%. The vacancy rate among non-rental housing units was 2.2%, somewhat higher than the statewide average of 1.8%. However, the vacancy rate among rental units was lower in Island County than in the state as a whole, 5.1% vs. 5.9%.

Among occupied housing units in Island County, 70.1% were owner-occupied. This was higher than the statewide average of 64.6%. The average household size of owner-occupied units in Island County was 2.5, smaller than the statewide average of 2.65. The median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in Island County was \$174,800, higher than the statewide median of \$168,300. Only 69.4% of owner-occupied units had a mortgage in Island County, compared with 75.4% statewide. The median mortgage payment was \$1,235 per month.

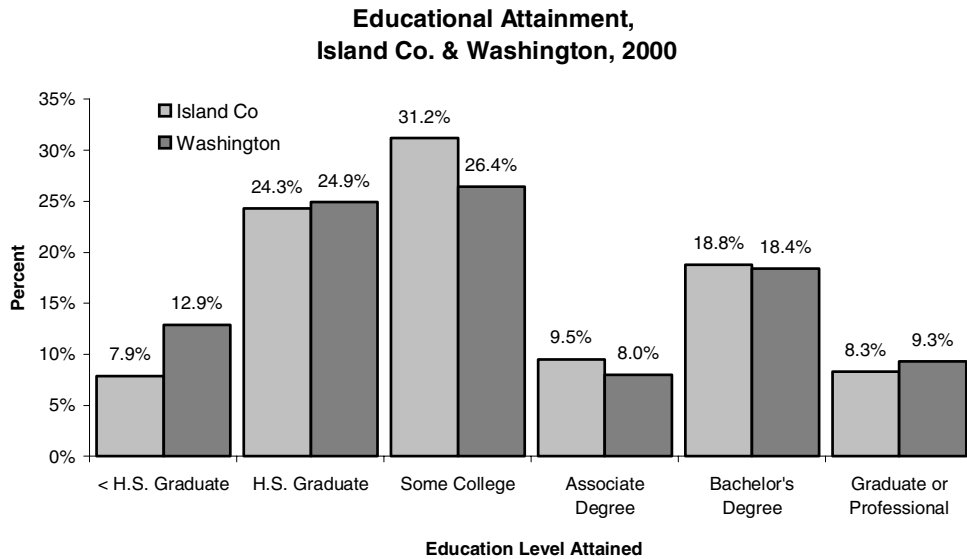
Renters occupied the remaining 29.9% of Island County housing units. Renter-occupied units in Island County tended to have more occupants than was average for the state, 2.57 vs. 2.32. The median rent paid in Island County was \$684 per month, similar to the statewide median of \$663 per month.

Education

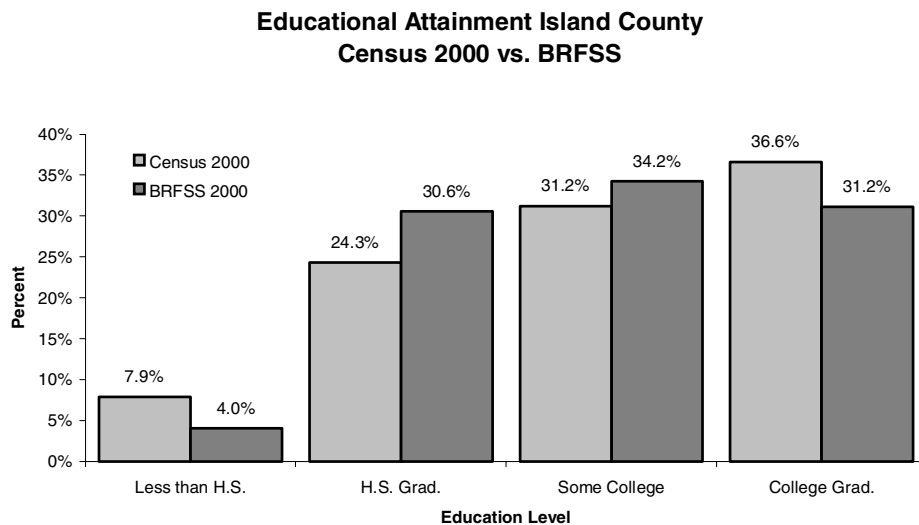
Approximately one-quarter (25.8%) of Island County residents age 3 and over were enrolled in some form of school in 2000. This was lower than the statewide average of 28.0%. Among those enrolled, a smaller proportion of Island County residents were going to college or university than was average in the state (17.8% of Island County school enrollees, compared to 22.6% of people attending school in all of Washington State).



The pattern of educational attainment among Island County residents age 25 and over was similar to that of Washington State as a whole. However, Island County had a lower proportion of people who did not have a high school diploma or equivalent (7.9% vs. 12.9% statewide), and a lower proportion of people with graduate or professional degrees (8.3% vs. 9.3% statewide). Island County residents were more likely to have some college (31.2% vs. 26.4%) or an associate degree (9.5% vs. 8.0%).

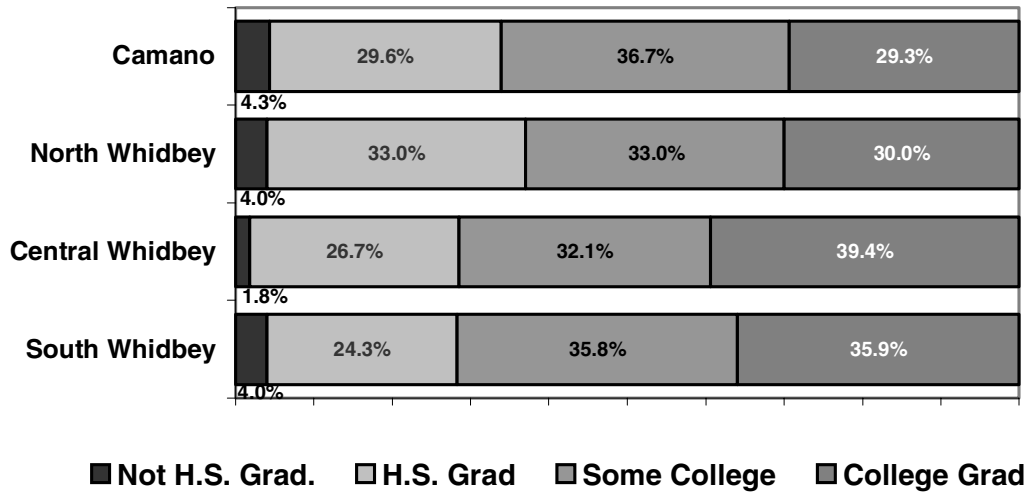


The 2000 BRFSS revealed a similar pattern of educational attainment to the Census. The BRFSS sample included a smaller proportion of people without a high school diploma or equivalent, but this is to be expected. Educational attainment is correlated with income, and people at the lower income levels are less likely to have phones than others, and hence are less likely to be included in a survey conducted by telephone. The BRFSS also confirmed that Island County had a somewhat higher proportion of high school graduates than was average for the state (64.8% vs. 60.9%), and a similar proportion of college graduates (31.5% vs. 32.4%).



Education levels varied between regions of Island County, with North Whidbey showing the lowest proportion of residents who had never attended college, while Central Whidbey had the highest proportion of college graduates. South and Central Whidbey had higher proportions of residents who had ever attended college.

**Education Levels by Planning Region
2000 BRFSS**



Island County and Its People

(Demographic and Economic Data)

Local Resources

EMPLOYMENT

Displaced Homemakers Center, Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor (360) 679-5346
DSHS Welfare Work First, 656 SE Bayshore Drive, #1, Oak Harbor (800) 735-7037 or (360) 240-4700
Island Employment Services, 35 NW Birch, Coupeville (360) 678-7026
Job Corps Center (Cascades), Sedro Woolley (360) 854-3400
Job Service Center (WA Employment Security), 301 Valley Mall Way, Mt. Vernon (360) 416-3500
New Leaf, 660 SE Fidalgo Ave. Suite 101, Oak Harbor (877) 625-1989 or (360) 675-1989
Senior Services Job Bank, Langley (360) 678-8886 or 321-1600
Vocational Rehabilitation (DSHS), 656 SE Bayshore Dr., Oak Harbor (800) 745-5960 or (360) 240-4736
WA Employment Security, Information & Benefit Hotline (800) 318-6022
Work Source, 31975 SR20 #3, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 675-5966

FAMILY NEEDS & SOCIAL SERVICES

American Red Cross, 1010 W. Ault Field Rd., Oak Harbor (888) 216-5727 or (360) 257-2096
Child Protective Services (CPS), DSHS, 569 W. Technical Dr., Oak Harbor (800) 743-0117 or (360) 679-7150
Compassionate Friends (grief support), Oak Harbor (360) 675-6424
CORD - Community Online Resource Database (Opportunity Council) at www.oppco.org/cord (360) 679-6577
Dept. of Social & Health Services (DSHS) WA State, 656 S. E. Bayshore Dr., Oak Harbor (800) 735-7037
..... or (360) 240-4700 (Food Stamps, Medical Coupons, Work First, Home & Community Services)
Dispute Resolution Center, Everett (800) 280-4770 or (425) 339-1335
Family Needs & Social Services, Oak Harbor (800) 317-5427 or (360) 679-6577
Family Reconciliation Services (DSHS), Oak Harbor (800) 743-0117
Family Resource Center, South Whidbey Schools, 5380 Maxwellton, Langley (360) 221-6808 x 4602
Helping Hand (family crisis support & referral), 816 Camano Ave., Langley (360) 221-7777
Island County Health Dept. (ICHHD) Admin., Courthouse Annex, Coupeville (360) 679-7350 or 221-8880
NAS Whidbey Fleet and Family Support, (Navy only), 260 W. Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor (360) 257-6779
..... or (360) 257-6289
NAS Whidbey New Parent Support (Navy only), 260 W. Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor (360) 257-6779
..... or 257-6778
Opportunity Council, 1791 NE 1st St., Oak Harbor (800) 317-5427
...or (360) 679-6577 (emergency shelter, financial energy assistance, family development, CORD database)
Readiness to Learn (360) 221-6198, x2242
Social Security Administration, 8625 Evergreen Way #250, Everett, or 301 Valley Mall Way, Mt. Vernon
..... (800) 772-1213
Solutions (credit counseling), Bellingham (800) 634-2227
..... or (360) 647-5926
Teenline, Seattle (800) 562-1240 or (206) 722-4222
United Way of Island County (Success by 6, agency funding), Oak Harbor (360) 675-1778

SENIOR SERVICES

Adult Daycare Service Center (Daybreak), 1253 NW 2nd Ave., Oak Harbor (360) 240-0702
Adult Daycare (Time Together), South Whidbey, Senior Center, 14594 SR 525, Langley (360) 321-1600
..... or 678-3373
Adult Protective Services (DSHS), 656 S. E. Bayshore Dr., Oak Harbor (800) 487-0416
Aging & Adult Services Hotline/Disabilities & Long Term Care, Olympia/Lacey
..... (800) 422-3263 or (360) 725-2300
Alzheimer Society Of Washington, Bellingham (800) 493-3959
CamBey Apartments Senior Housing, 50 N. Main, Coupeville (360) 678-4886
Elder Care Locator (referrals)
(800) 677-1116
Home & Community Services (DSHS): Medicaid, Personal Care, C.O.P.E.S. (800) 326-1247
Home Health Care and Hospice of Whidbey General Hospital (888) 737-6611
..... or (360) 678-7605 or 321-6659

Island County Volunteer Chore & Medical Trans., Langley	(360) 321-6661 or (360) 678-4886
Lifeline Program, Whidbey General Hospital, Coupeville	(360) 331-2344 or 678-7656 x3353
Meals on Wheels, Langley	(360) 678-3373 or 321-1600
Medicare/Social Security, 220 E. College Way, #170, Mt. Vernon	(800) 772-1213
Northwest Justice Project / CLEAR Senior (over 55)	(888) 387-7111
Senior Center of Camano Island, 141 NE Camano Dr	(360) 387-6201
Senior Center of Oak Harbor, 51 SE Jerome St., Oak Harbor	(360) 679-6620
Senior Information & Assistance, Senior Center, Oak Harbor	(360) 675-0311
Senior Information & Assistance, CamBey Apartments, Coupeville	(360) 678-8886
Senior Information & Assistance & Senior Center, South Whidbey	(360) 321-1600 or 678-3373
Senior Nutrition Program for Whidbey, serving congregate meals at 8 locations..	(360) 321-1600 or 678-3373
Senior Services of Island County, 14594 SR 525 Langley	(360) 321-1600
Social Security Administration, 8625 Evergreen Way #250, Everett, or 301 Valley Mall Way, Mt. Vernon	(800) 772-1213
Whidbey Animal Improvement Foundation (WAIF), Coupeville	(360) 675-0130

Helpful Internet Sites

DATA

U.S. Census at www.census.gov. This site will also direct you to American Factfinder—a good source for standard Census data by region.

Washington State Census facts can be found at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html>

Another website that is able to generate some nice (printer-friendly) charts of census data at the county and metro area levels is CensusScope: Your Portal to Census 2000 Data is <http://www.censusscope.org/>

Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-Data/main.htm>

Also much of the background material and state comparisons come from the Health of Washington State, a DOH publication that can be accessed at www.doh.wa.gov/HWS/default.htm

Washington Health Foundation, County Health Profiles at www.whf.org

For information on Local Hospital Districts: http://www.awphd.org/about_whatare.asp

Office of Financial Management, Washington State at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/>

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries at www.wa.gov/lni

For information on WA State unemployment trends and numbers, go to: <http://wa.gov/esd>

Washington State Facts: <http://access.wa.gov/government/awfacts.asp>

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Fact Sheet FS-047-96 at <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/FS/FS-047-96>

For information on Washington State tribes go to: <http://www.goia.wa.gov>

Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor-Market and Economic Analysts Branch, at <http://www/wa.gov/esd/jmea>

Death and Mortality Data: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-Data/main.htm>

Eligibility for any DSHS programs in Washington State at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/TEC/>

Emergency Shelter Program Data - Office of Community Development (formerly CTED)
<http://housing-information.net/report/index.php>

A source of state health data: <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/>

School District Geographical Boundary Data is available online at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/index.htm>

Other school data can be found at Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction at <http://www.k12.wa.us/>

Washington State University's Rural Sociology Department still has "Washington Counts" publications available on 1990 census data which you can order online (for comparison purposes or general interest). They are great - topics include poverty, immigration etc. <http://www.ruralsoc.wsu.edu/outreach/wactsorderform.html>