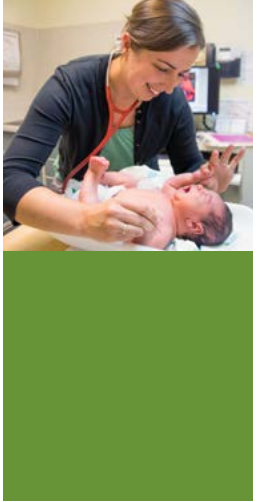


# Bellevue Human Services NEEDS UPDATE 2019-2020



[BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov)

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# Acknowledgements

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# Overview



# Overview

The City of Bellevue publishes the Human Services Needs Update at the beginning of each two-year human services funding cycle. Since 1989, this report has offered a summary of trends within Bellevue, East King County, the Puget Sound region, Washington State and the nation. Through this report, we hope to provide a broad vision and context for understanding human service needs and to inspire actions that will ameliorate barriers to achieving a high-quality of life for all Bellevue residents.

This report leverages multiple sources to better understand Bellevue's human service needs. In addition to drawing from existing evaluations, newsletters, reports, and publicly available data, the human services division also directly collects information via a variety of sources: a phone and online survey with Bellevue residents, online surveys from service providers and consumers, key informant interviews, and community conversations. For more information about our data gathering process, please see the Methodology section in the full report.

The full report is divided into the following areas:

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential
- Specific Populations:
  - Older Adults
  - People with Disabilities
  - Refugees and Immigrants
  - School-Aged Children and Youth
  - Veterans
- Special Focus Area: Homelessness

While this strict delineation is ideal for organizing information in a way that is easily accessible, it belies the complexity and interconnection between each of these areas. In response, the following overview provides overarching themes across the entire report, including direction to specific chapters for additional information.

## Bellevue continues to diversify and grow, but it is rapidly becoming unaffordable for many segments of the population.

The high cost of living continues to be a major concern for Bellevue residents, and lack of affordable housing was the top community problem for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive survey (a period spanning more than 20 years). The housing affordability crisis is progressively creeping up the socioeconomic ladder, a change likely to have ripple effects if not addressed. When teachers and

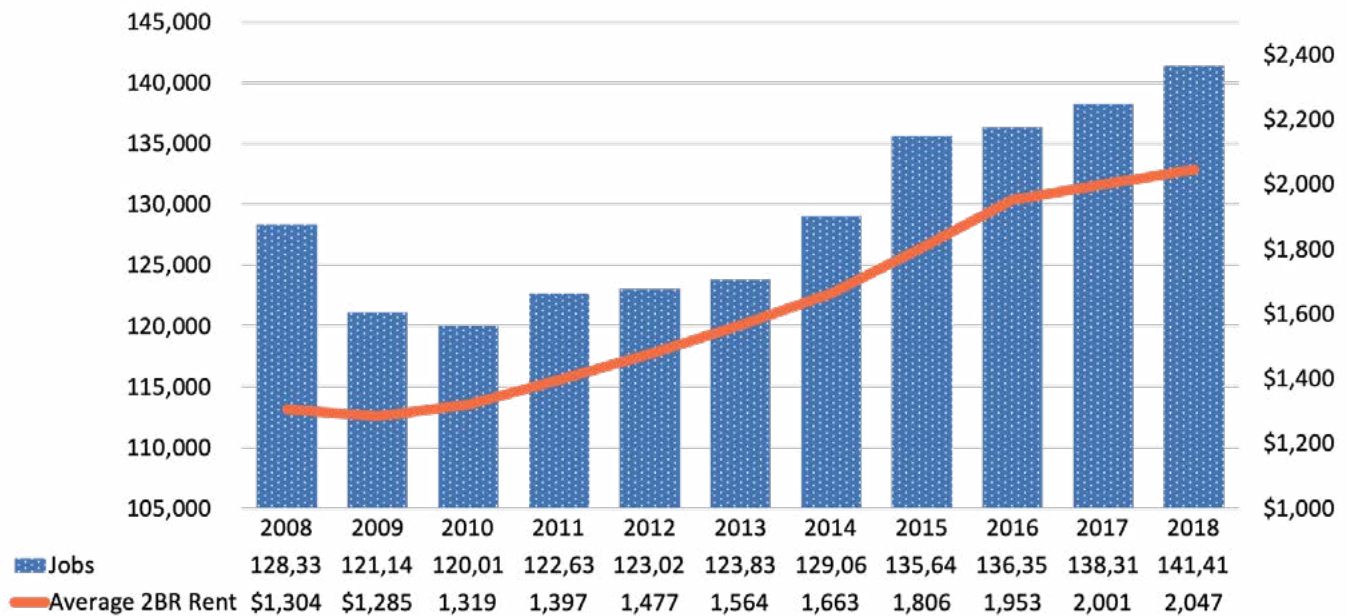
service employees can't live in Bellevue, social systems start to strain or crumble. Furthermore, the rising cost of living and doing business in Bellevue is a significant challenge for the human service sector, impacting everything from staff recruitment and retention to service delivery.

- Lack of affordable housing is a consistent issue across all segments of the population, but some groups are particularly vulnerable to the housing crisis. For example, approximately 40% of Bellevue's low-income households are severely cost burdened, meaning they pay more than half of their incomes toward housing costs. For people with disabilities, it is especially critical to find housing in familiar neighborhood settings, near support systems and convenient amenities, in order to maintain their independence to whatever extent they are able. Unfortunately, the need for such housing is growing faster than housing stock is produced. Similarly, the rising cost of living and lack of affordable housing strongly impacts many older adults living on fixed incomes. More older adults will likely delay their retirement and work beyond the traditional retirement age of 65, primarily because they can't afford to retire (Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead; Specific Populations: People with Disabilities; Specific Populations: Older Adults).
- Bellevue residents have a high level of education; however, there are not many vacancies for positions that pay a living wage in some of the growing sectors like hospitality. The decrease in middle-income job opportunities makes it harder for people at lower incomes to access better jobs. There are more low-wage job opportunities, but along with these come financial instability, dependence on public supports that are dwindling due to budget cuts, and less of a chance to obtain additional training to increase skills to find a better job (Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential).
- Many families still struggle to provide for their children because the cost of living is outpacing earnings. Many children and youth continue to show signs of significant stress: problems in school, substance use disorder, anxiety, suicide ideation and depression. Lack of resources and support put children and youth at risk for poor outcomes (Specific Populations: School-Aged Children and Youth).
- As Figure 1 shows, although Bellevue has seen a steady growth in the number of jobs since 2010, there has been a corresponding increase in average rent of almost \$700 for a 2-bedroom apartment. Furthermore, more jobs do not necessarily translate to reduced financial hardship. A living wage for a single parent with 1 child in Bellevue requires an annual salary of approximately \$57,000, roughly 45% of this salary would be needed to afford the average rent on a 2-bedroom apartment, a substantial cost burden (Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead; Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential).

"We are losing staff that want to work in Bellevue and believe in making this a better community because they cannot afford to live here. It makes it difficult for the participants that have to rebuild trust. Plus we lose talented staff."

~Community Conversation

**Figure 1. Growth of Jobs and Rents in Bellevue**



Source: King County Housing Authority

## Intersectionality of needs exacerbates already taxed systems.

For many people, human service needs are experienced in clusters. The intersectionality of inaccessible/expensive healthcare, lack of employment resources for people with disabilities, cost of childcare, application/eligibility process for federal benefit programs, and dearth of affordable housing create a complexity that our current network of resources is not able to meet with existing programs. There are many band-aid and survival programs, but the lack of foundational resources can bottleneck systems, leading many individuals and families to cycle in and out of crises.

- Survivors of domestic violence are faced with barriers to housing and legal services. The high cost of housing in Bellevue creates a serious challenge for survivors who want to remain in the community to maintain their jobs and support systems. More shelter beds as well as more affordable permanent housing options with services are needed. Pro-bono or affordable legal representation for child custody, protection orders, immigration, and financial issues is another huge challenge. Without these services, it becomes much harder for survivors to maintain their safety, return to employment, and become self-sufficient (Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse).
- Veterans often have complex needs, and there is widespread agreement that there must be a “no wrong door” to meet them, especially for those veterans who are not eligible for VA services. Mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and services for Military Sexual Trauma are particularly critical to have available in the community as veterans sometimes seek non-VA help with these issues (Specific Populations: Veterans).
- Another example of interconnectedness of needs can be found among immigrants and refugees. For example, many residents accessing English Language Learning courses also need access to higher paying jobs that view their credentials appropriately, housing and transportation that allows them to live, and access to culturally appropriate health care (Specific Populations: Refugees and Immigrants).

- Preventing households from losing their housing is an important strategy for ending homelessness. To be truly preventative, homelessness assistance must extend beyond just the specific episode of homelessness: an effective system should help people to resolve their crises, access on-going sources of support in the community, and provide basic safety net assistance such as emergency shelter and temporary rental assistance. (Special Focus Area: Homelessness)
- Upwards of 40% of youth who are homeless experience sexual assault prior to becoming homeless. It is important that conversations about homelessness and trafficking include the issue of sexual assault (Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse).
- Barriers to employment (lack of affordable and quality childcare, limited English speaking skills, the absence of coordinated transportation, and lack of training and education opportunities to secure higher wage jobs) must be addressed to help people improve their economic conditions and the quality of their lives (Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential).
- Criminal offenders regularly have a demonstrated need for one or more services (substance abuse treatment, housing, transportation), but may be ineligible due to income restrictions or other barriers. Additionally, many individuals with complex social and health issues regularly interact with the King County Jail system, in part due to an inability to effectively engage with fragmented health and human services systems (Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible).

## Despite shared challenges across the community, people experience needs and ability to access services differently.

Many residents are not aware of how to access human services when the need arises, and several are unaware of what resources exist. Some of the factors that contribute to this include not having easy access to a computer, limited language skills, not needing to access services in the past, and fear about accessing services.

- The need for information provided in languages other than English continues to grow as the Puget Sound Region and East King County becomes more diverse. Human service providers, local government, and businesses need to work together to meet this community need by providing resources in a variety of languages (Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities and Specific Populations: Refugees and Immigrants).
- The need for more culturally and linguistically responsive human services grows each year. In addition, there is a need for more diverse staff who are not only bilingual but also culturally competent. There is also a specific need for more culturally responsive programs and activities for school-aged children and youth and their families who may be coping with adjusting to a new country and culture or to gender-based or physical differences (Specific Populations: Refugees and Immigrants; Specific Populations: School-Aged Children and Youth).



- Many refugees and immigrants are refusing services and disengaging from other public or private systems. The most commonly cited reason for doing so was the perception that accessing resources is not safe for them or their family due to their citizenship status. These fears about immigration status are also fueling the stress felt by both children and youth and their families (Specific Populations: Refugees and Immigrants; Specific Populations: School-Aged Children and Youth).

## Across systems, critical service gaps remain.

Despite the individual and collective efforts of our region’s human service providers, there remain substantial challenges to ensure all members of Bellevue’s diverse and growing community have the resources they need to thrive.

- All families need support, regardless of socio-economic status. However, some Bellevue families may continue to need additional social support to raise their children, care for aging and or disabled loved ones, or a combination of the three if they have limited resources. Family, friends and neighbors will be even more important to help because funding is often limited for many formal services, such as family support programs and chore services. Furthermore, this is a wise economic investment given the enormous cost-savings to the Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care systems in addition to the positive impact on the disabled and older adult’s quality of life (Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities; Specific Populations: People with Disabilities; Specific Populations: Older Adults).
- Low-cost or free civil legal services are a growing need for many residents. A major gap for services exists for direct representation, especially for survivors of domestic violence, immigration issues, and bankruptcy (Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities).
- Like many places across the country, King County is seeing sharp increases in the use and abuse of heroin and prescription opiates. Demand for heroin and prescription opiate addiction treatment has outpaced supply (Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible).
- Lack of accessible dental care remains a problem for the Bellevue community: service providers, consumers, and residents all identify it as a major health issue, often exacerbated because the Affordable Care Act does not mandate provision of dental insurance (Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible). Beyond just dental, other critical areas like hearing and vision services (which are not covered by Medicare), will continue to

The synagogue sees two paths: (1) the extreme, traumatic public displays of mental health incapacities on the street corners and in public spaces that we all see and (2) a growing upper middle-class anxiety and depression amongst congregants that clergy are not accustomed to talking about in their day-to-day interactions with congregation members.

While we refer congregants who do not have independent financial resources to [services], the increasing mental health anxiety and depression of the middle class are beyond the scope of these/ most organizations.

~Key Informant Interview, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

be more in demand from older adults and put increased pressure on community-based agencies to provide (Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible; Specific Populations: Older Adults).

- Funding for services to people with all types of disabilities continues to lag behind the growth of this population. The result is that there are wait lists for programs, such as subsidized housing and family support programs. This trend is predicted to continue over the next several years due to higher life expectancy of the aging population with developmental disabilities and the increase of referrals of children with disabilities (Specific Populations: People with Disabilities).
- Coordinated transportation for older adults in the community is a rising issue. Many older adults are giving up owning their own vehicles but still need reliable, affordable transportation to get to medical appointments, employment, grocery stores, and to stay engaged in the community (Specific Populations: Older Adults).

# Bellevue: A Community Profile



# Bellevue Community Profile

This chapter provides a general overview of changing demographics in Bellevue. For specific information about these topics as they relate to Human Services, see the following chapters:

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be a Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential
- Specific Population Chapter:
  - Older Adults
  - Refugees and Immigrants
  - People with Disabilities
  - School-Aged Children and Youth
  - Veterans
- Special Focus Area: Homelessness

## Population

### Existing Snapshot

On April 1, 2019, Bellevue's population was estimated to be 145,300, making Bellevue the fifth largest city in Washington state; just behind the cities of Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma and Vancouver, Washington.<sup>1</sup>

Bellevue's population comprises just under two percent of the state's total population and just under seven percent of King County's population. The City covers an area of approximately 33.5 square miles resulting in a population density of 4,335 people per square mile.

Lake Hills is the city's largest neighborhood area in terms of population followed by Downtown and Crossroads. BelRed, Factoria, Wilburton and Woodridge are the city's smallest neighborhood areas in terms of population.

**Top Ten Largest Washington City Populations, 2019**

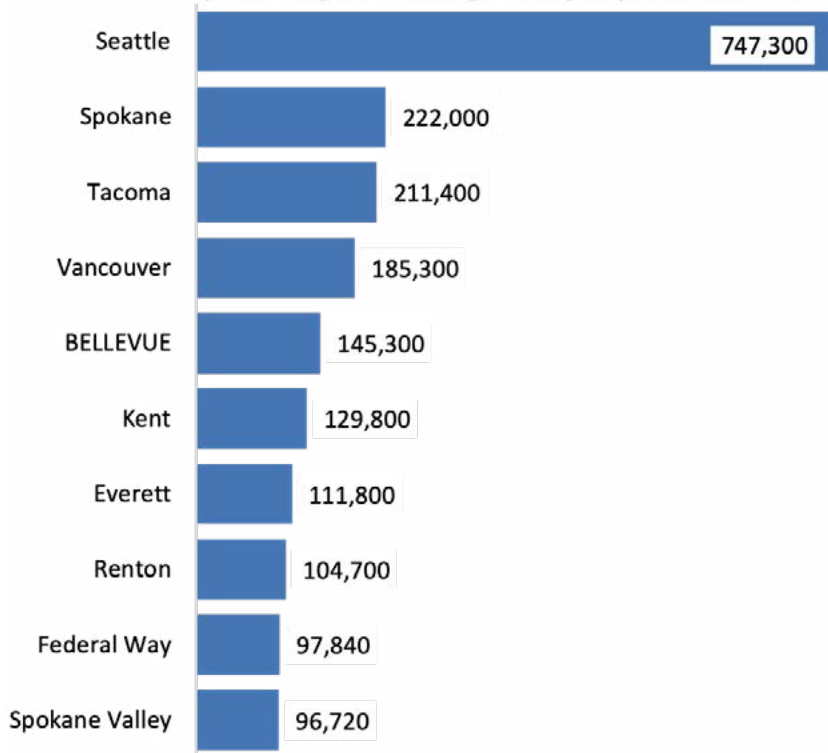


Figure 1 | Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Population Estimates Division.

## Trends and Projections

Since Bellevue incorporated in 1953, the city's population has grown at an average annual rate of 5.0 percent per year. However, much of that growth was due to annexation, especially annexation that occurred during the 1950s and 1960s when Bellevue quintupled in size annexing nearly 19 square miles. The city's population ballooned by a factor of ten, climbing from 5,950 in 1953 to 61,196 in 1970.<sup>2</sup>

**Bellevue Population 1953 to 2019 with Shares of Growth from Annexation and Natural Increase/Immigration, and Forecast Population to 2035**

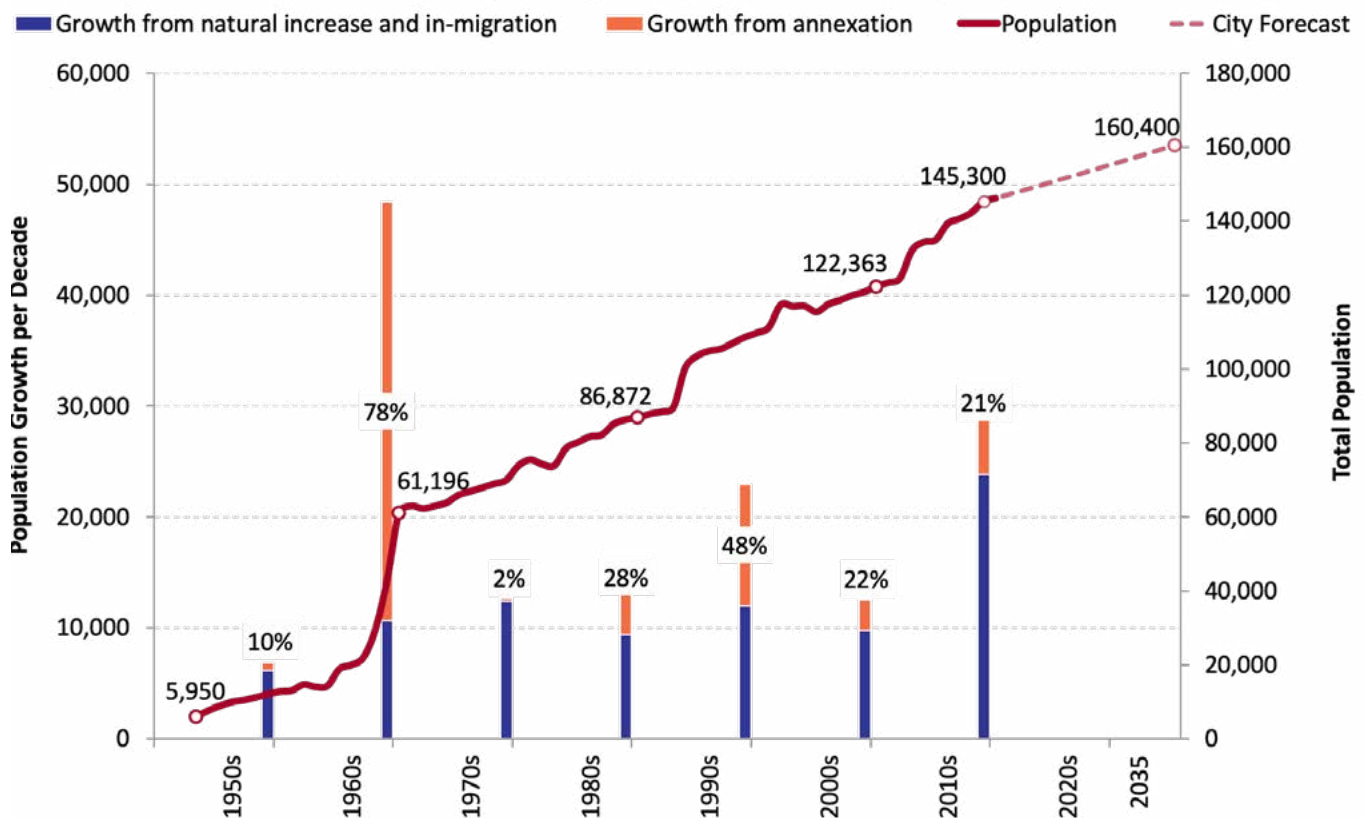


Figure 2 | Sources: Population estimates prior to 2000 are from the City of Bellevue with decade points from the U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates from 2000 on are from Washington State's Office of Financial Management. Official population estimates are for April 1st of the specified year. Forecast is from the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan adopted in July 2015.

Since 1970, annexations have represented 26 percent of Bellevue’s population growth, and population has grown on average 1.8 percent per year.

Between 2010 and 2019, Bellevue’s population, not including population in annexation areas, grew by 14.1 percent, slower than King County overall at 15.3 percent, yet faster than Washington State at 12.2 percent. Since 2010, populations in Seattle and eastside cities including Issaquah, Redmond, Newcastle, Kirkland, Sammamish and Renton all grew faster than Bellevue’s population, while populations in Mercer Island, Woodinville, the Points communities and other small eastside towns grew slower.

Currently, Bellevue’s rate of population growth is projected to slow to less than one percent per year with population projected to reach 160,400 by 2035. As the region updates its vision for 2050 and cities update their Comprehensive Plans for 2043, Bellevue’s projected rate of population growth could change.

## Neighborhood Patterns

Downtown and BelRed are projected to be the city’s fastest growing neighborhood areas over the next 20 years.<sup>3</sup>

## Characteristics

### Place of Birth

For decades, most of Bellevue’s residents have come to Bellevue from other states or from abroad. In 1970, about 49 percent of Bellevue’s residents had been born in another state, five percent had been born outside of the United States (include those born abroad to an American parent) and five percent had been born in a foreign country (includes anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization). Since 1970, the share of Bellevue’s residents who were born in a foreign country has increased steadily climbing from five percent in 1970 to 39 percent in 2017.<sup>4</sup>

**Place of Birth, 1970 to 2017**

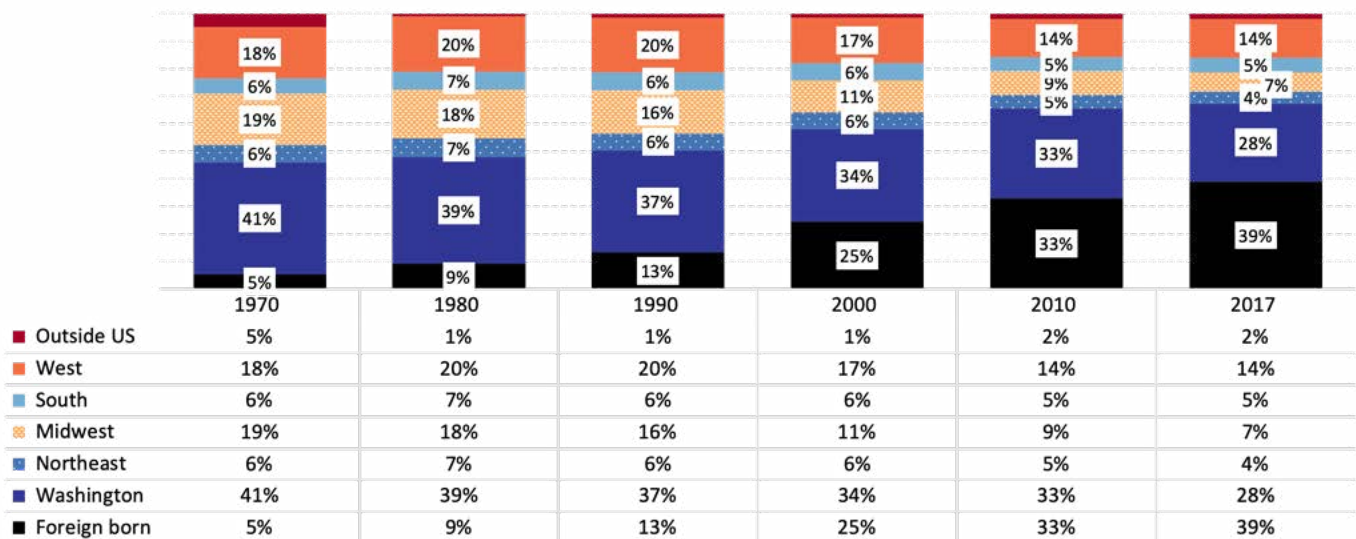


Figure 3 | Sources: IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org and U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP02.

Beginning in the 1990s, Bellevue’s industries began shifting toward technology which spurred a larger population of immigrants that have begun to comprise a larger share of Bellevue’s population growth. Between 1990 and 2000, immigrants comprised about 67 percent of Bellevue’s population growth. Between 2000 and 2010, immigrants comprised about 107 percent of Bellevue’s growth, while the native born population shrank in size.<sup>5</sup> This phenomenon occurred in metropolitan areas across the country. Governing magazine found that 37 growing metro areas would have lost population had it not been for new residents from abroad.<sup>6</sup> Since 2010, immigrants have contributed to about 73 percent of Bellevue’s population growth. With greater shares of people moving to Bellevue from overseas, this has influenced Bellevue’s changing culture diversity.

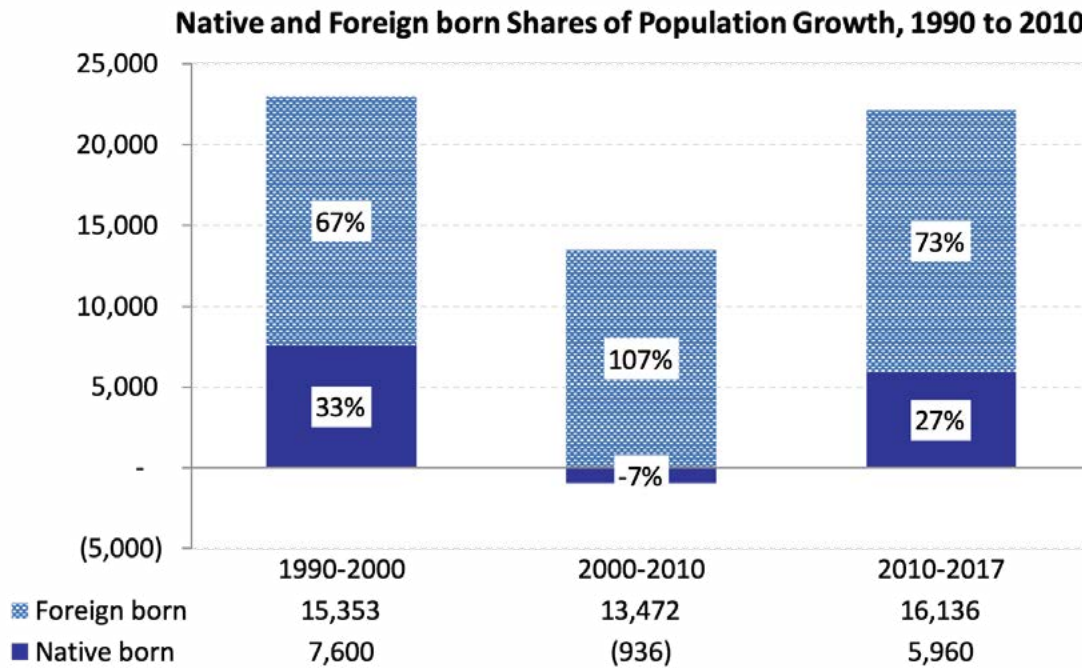


Figure 4 | Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census and 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys.

## Cultural Diversity

“Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength. We embrace the future while respecting our past.”

~ Bellevue City Council Vision

### Existing Snapshot

When looking at race/ethnicity in this report, Hispanic/Latino populations are grouped separately from racial categories where possible. Any individual who reported being Hispanic/Latino, regardless of their race, is categorized as Hispanic/Latino, and White refers to all White residents who are not Hispanic/Latino.

With over 39 percent of its population having been born in over 90 different foreign countries, Bellevue is culturally diverse. About 50 percent of its population are people of color and about 43 percent of its population over age five speak a language other than English at home.

Asians comprise about 34 percent of Bellevue’s population, making them the second largest population in Bellevue. The percentage of Asians in Bellevue is the twelfth highest percentage for cities across the nation with 100,000 in population or more and the highest percentage in the nation of large cities outside of California and Hawaii.

### Bellevue's Race and Ethnicity Distribution, 2017

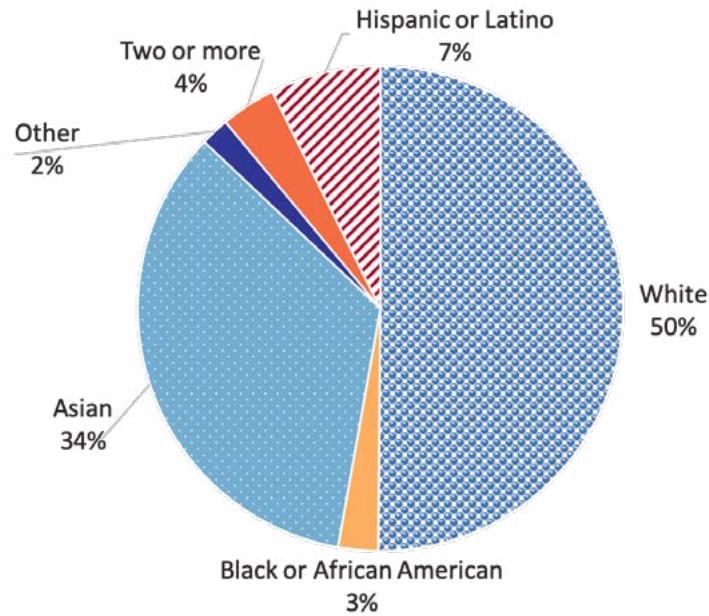


Figure 5 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey<sup>7</sup>.

Hispanics/Latinos are Bellevue’s third largest population group comprising about seven percent of Bellevue’s population. People of two or more races comprise four percent of Bellevue’s population followed by Blacks or African Americans who comprise about three percent.

## Neighborhood Patterns

Crossroads, Factoria and Bridle Trails are the city’s neighborhoods areas with the highest percent people of color. West Lake Sammamish, Northeast Bellevue, Newport and West Bellevue are the neighborhood areas with the smallest proportions of people of color.

Crossroads, Somerset, Bridle Trails and Downtown have the highest percentages of Asian residents. Factoria and Wilburton have the highest percentages of Black or African American residents. Eastgate, Factoria, Northwest and Wilburton have the highest percentages of multi-racial residents, and Lake Hills, Factoria and Crossroads have the highest percentages of Hispanic/Latino residents.<sup>8</sup>

## Comparisons

Nationally, Whites are the largest population group with Hispanic/Latinos as the second largest population, followed by Blacks or African Americans and then Asians. In King County, Seattle and Bellevue, Asians comprise the second largest population group followed by Hispanics/Latinos. In King County and Seattle, Blacks or African Americans are the fourth largest non-White population group. However, in Bellevue, people of two or more races are more populous than Blacks or African Americans. Bellevue also has larger percentages of Asians and Hispanics/Latinos than Seattle, and it has smaller percentages of people of two or more races and of Blacks or African Americans.<sup>9</sup>



## Race/Ethnicity Comparisons, United States, Washington, King County, Bellevue and Seattle, 2017

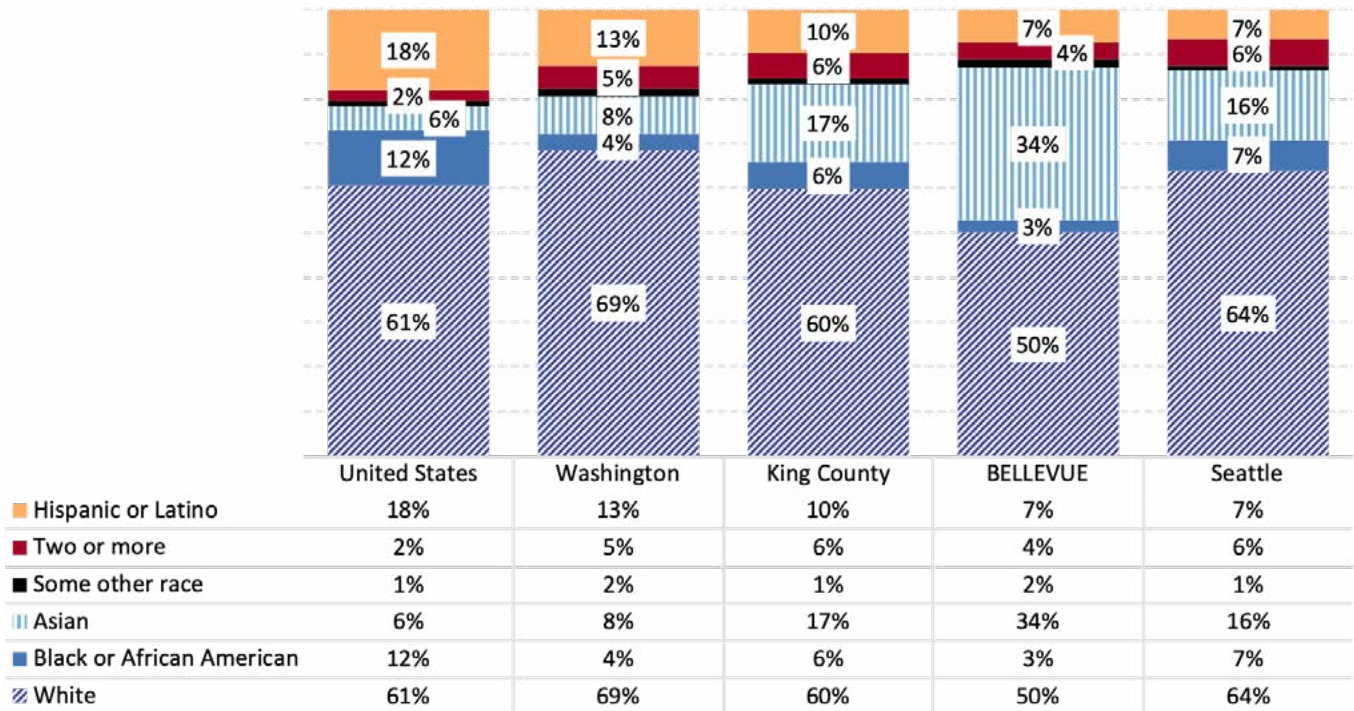


Figure 6 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey

## Characteristics

### Race and Ethnicity by Age

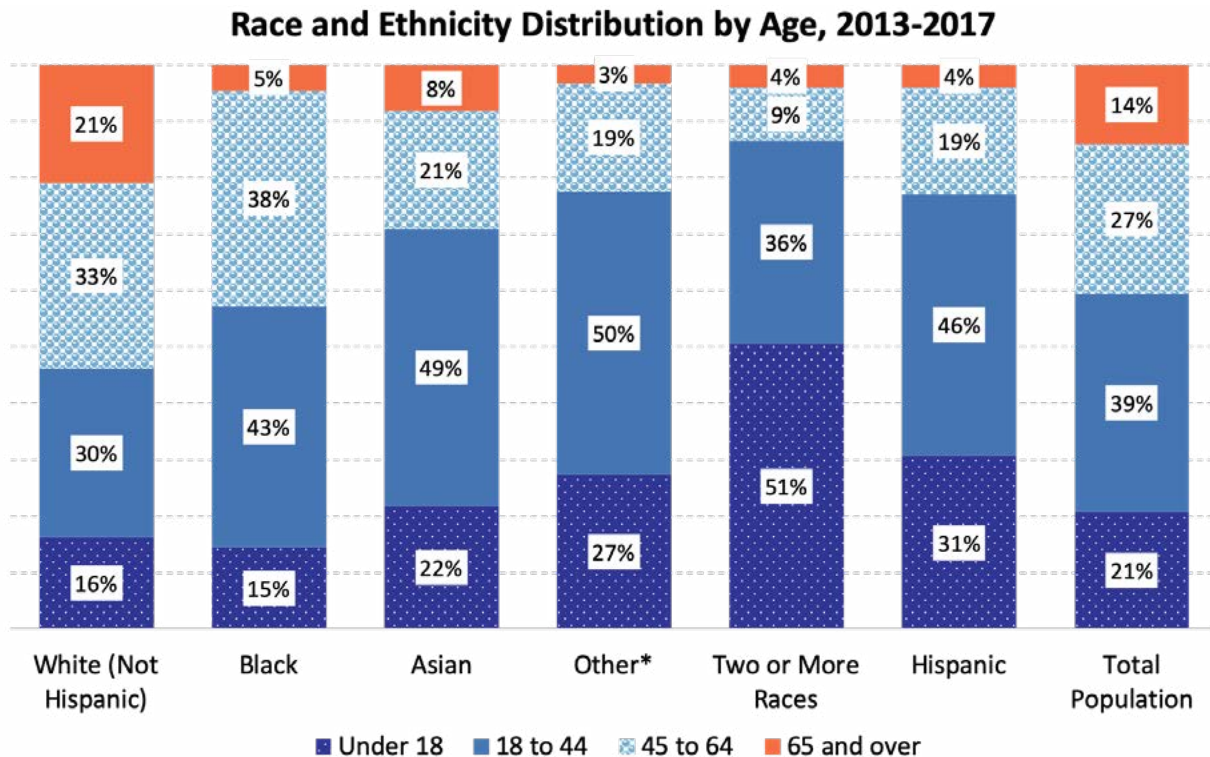


Figure 7 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey

People of all ages exist within each racial/ethnic group in Bellevue. However, age distributions vary. About 21 percent of Bellevue’s White residents are older adults versus 4% of Bellevue’s Hispanic/Latino residents. About 51 percent of Bellevue’s multi-racial residents are under the age of 18 compared to 16 percent of Bellevue’s White residents.<sup>10</sup> We see the largest racial diversity in the 18 to 44 age group.

## Language Spoken at Home

In 2017, about 43 percent of Bellevue’s population five years and older spoke a language other than English at home, and nearly 15 percent reported they spoke English “less than very well.” During the 2018-2019 school year, 98 different first languages were spoken by students enrolled in Bellevue School District.<sup>11</sup>

Starting with 2016 datasets, the U.S. Census Bureau stopped reporting on languages at the same level of detail for geographies smaller than counties resulting in Bellevue being able to report on only 12 language groups. For the top languages spoken by residents who speak a language other than English at home, see the Refugees and Immigrant chapter.

## Neighborhood Patterns

Crossroads, Bridle Trails, Downtown, Lake Hills and Factoria are the neighborhoods areas with the largest percentage of people 5 and over who speak a language other than English at home. Those areas also have the highest percentages of people who speak English, “less than very well.”<sup>12</sup>

As Bellevue’s foreign born population has increased, so has the percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home. Over the past three decades, the percentage has climbed from 14 percent in 1990 to 43 percent in 2017.<sup>13</sup>

**Trends in the Percentage of People who Speak a Language Other than English, 1990 to 2017**

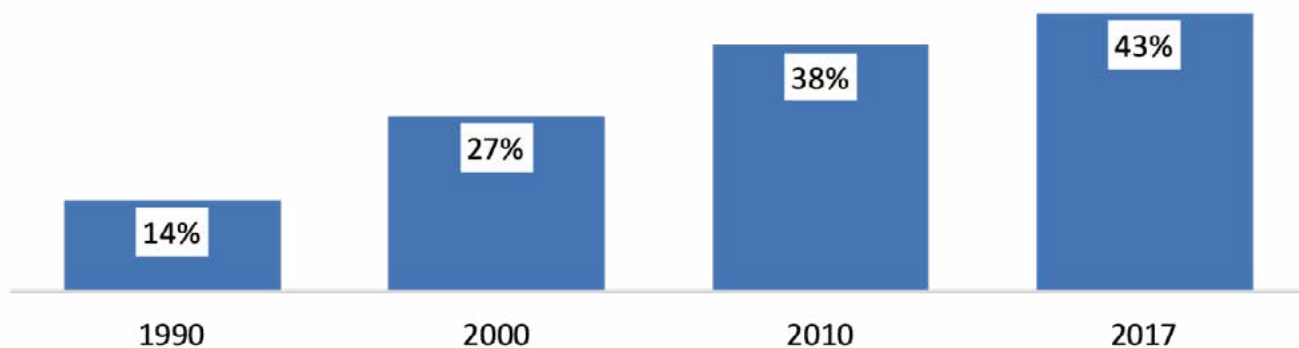


Figure 8 | Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census and 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys

## Trends and Projections

The percentage of the population of people of color in Bellevue has tripled over the past three decades climbing from 15 percent in 1990 to about 50 percent in 2017. This trend mirrors national trends where the proportion of people of color has increased from 24 percent to 39 percent during the same period. It also brings Bellevue more in line with the western region of the United States, which has had higher proportions of people of color over the decades. In 2015, a plurality of race and ethnicities existed in Bellevue with the percentage of people of color rising to 50 percent.<sup>14</sup>

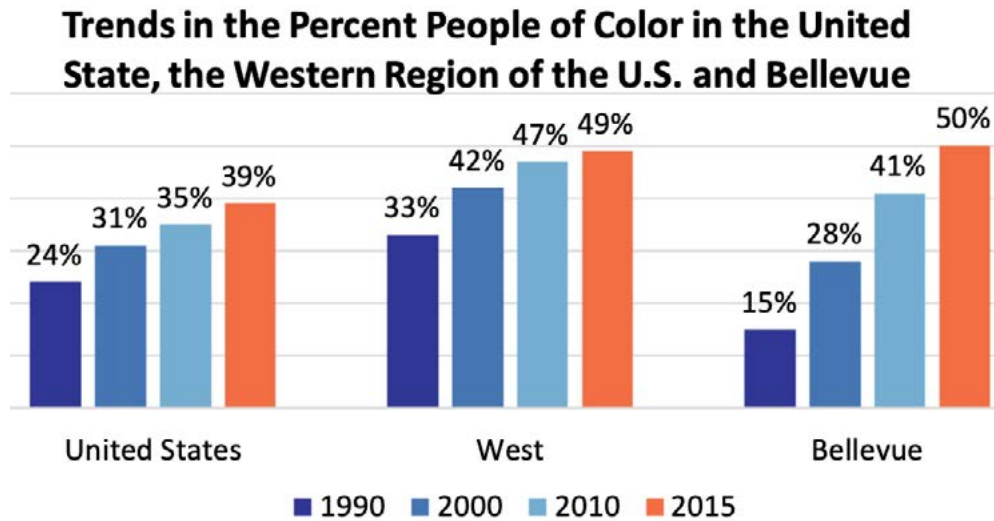


Figure 9 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey.

Bellevue's Asian population has been the fastest growing non-White population group since 1990, growing from just under ten percent of the population to about 34 percent in 2017.<sup>15</sup>

Within Bellevue's Asian population, Chinese and Asian Indian residents have increased in number the most, with the number of Chinese residents growing from just over 2,600 in 1990 to over 19,400 in 2017. Asian Indians have witnessed similar rates of growth, especially since 2000. Bellevue's Japanese and Korean populations have not grown as much over time. Bellevue's Korean population grew between 1990 and 2010, but it has since decreased slightly in size. Bellevue's Japanese population has remained relatively steady since 1990 staying between two to three thousand.<sup>16</sup>

### Population Trends of Bellevue's Largest Asian Populations: 1990 to 2017

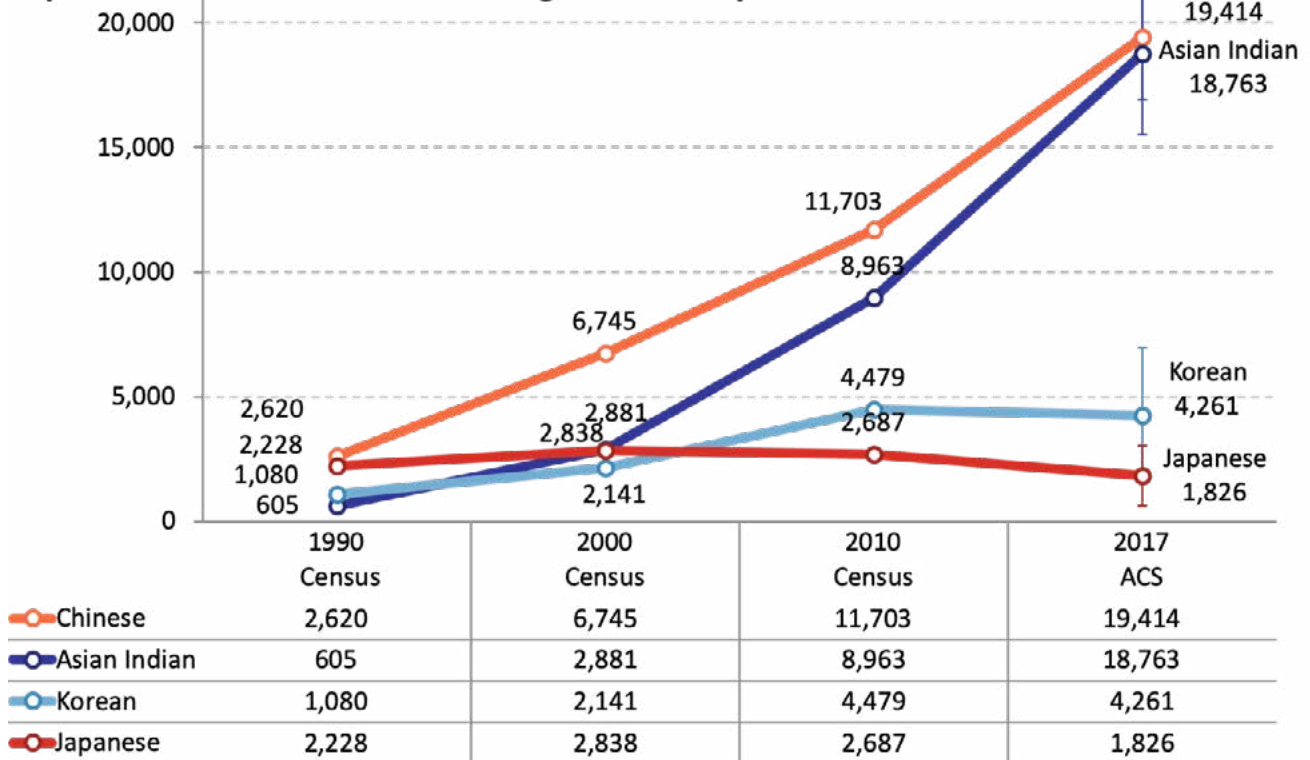


Figure 10 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2107 American Community Survey

The proportion of Hispanics/Latinos living in Bellevue has gradually increased over the decades. Hispanics/Latinos comprised about three percent of Bellevue’s population in 1990 and by 2017, they comprised about seven percent. The proportions of people in Bellevue who are of two or more races or who are Black or African American have remained relatively steady over the decades hovering between three to four and two to three percent respectively.<sup>17</sup>

### Trends in the Percentage of Black or African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos and People of Two or More Races in Bellevue: 1990 to 2017

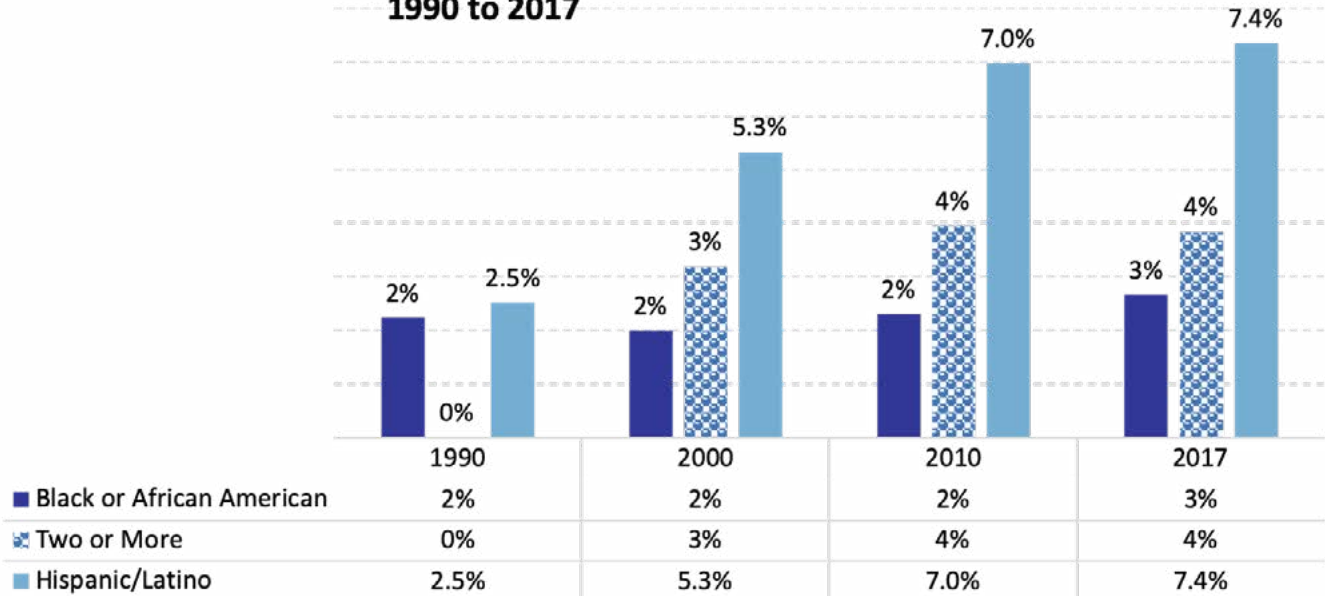


Figure 11 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2017 American Community Survey.

In the future, the cultural diversity of Bellevue’s population will likely increase as Bellevue’s largely non-Hispanic White older adult population is replaced by Bellevue’s more racially and ethnically diverse younger population. This trend could happen more rapidly if Bellevue’s older adult residents move away from Bellevue as they age.

## Age Diversity

### Existing Snapshot

In 2017, Bellevue’s young workforce residents, ages 18 to 44, comprised the city’s largest age cohort at 39 percent. They were followed by Bellevue’s older workforce residents (45 to 64) at 27 percent, children under the age of 18 at 20 percent and older adults, 65 years and older, at 14 percent.<sup>18</sup>

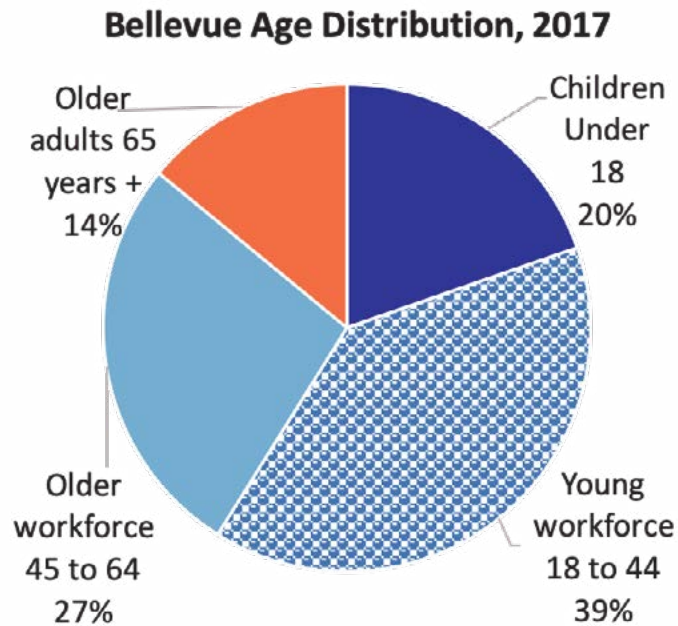


Figure 12 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey.

Bellevue’s median age in 2017 was 37.4, slightly lower than that of the U.S. and Washington State, though slightly higher than King County’s at 37.1 and much higher than the City of Seattle’s at 35.6. Bellevue currently has roughly the same age distribution as King County with slightly higher percentages of residents 45 to 65 and 65 years and older. Its age distribution however, differs markedly from that of Seattle’s.

## Age Distribution Comparisons, 2017

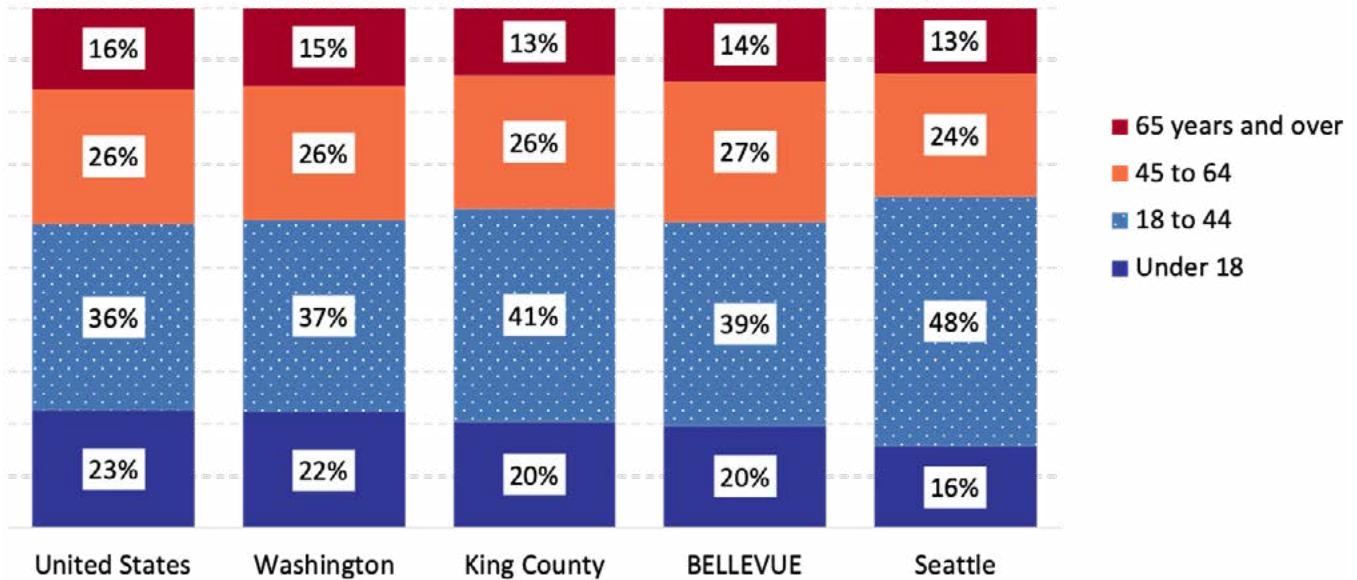


Figure 13 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey.

## Neighborhood Patterns

Northeast Bellevue, West Lake Sammamish and Somerset have upwards of 16 percent of their populations who are older adults, 65 years and over. In contrast, Factoria, Eastgate and Northwest Bellevue have upwards of 16 percent of their populations who are children under 18.<sup>19</sup>

## Characteristics

### Age by Gender

While the median age for Bellevue's population as a whole was 37.4, the median age for males was lower at 36.4 than the median age for females at 39.7. This can be understood by looking at Bellevue's age population pyramid, which shows the distribution of the population in five year age increments by gender. The proportion of males in Bellevue at 52 percent was slightly higher than the proportion of females at 48 percent, yet, the split for different age segments of the population varied even more.

Males outnumbered females in all the younger age segments except for one (15 to 19) and in the 35 to 39 year age segment there were about 63 percent more males than females. From 60 years on up, females outnumbered males in all age segments. Males comprised about 53 percent of Bellevue's children age population under the age of 18 and about 55 percent of Bellevue's population 18 to 44, while women comprised 55 percent of the Bellevue's older adult population 65 years and older.

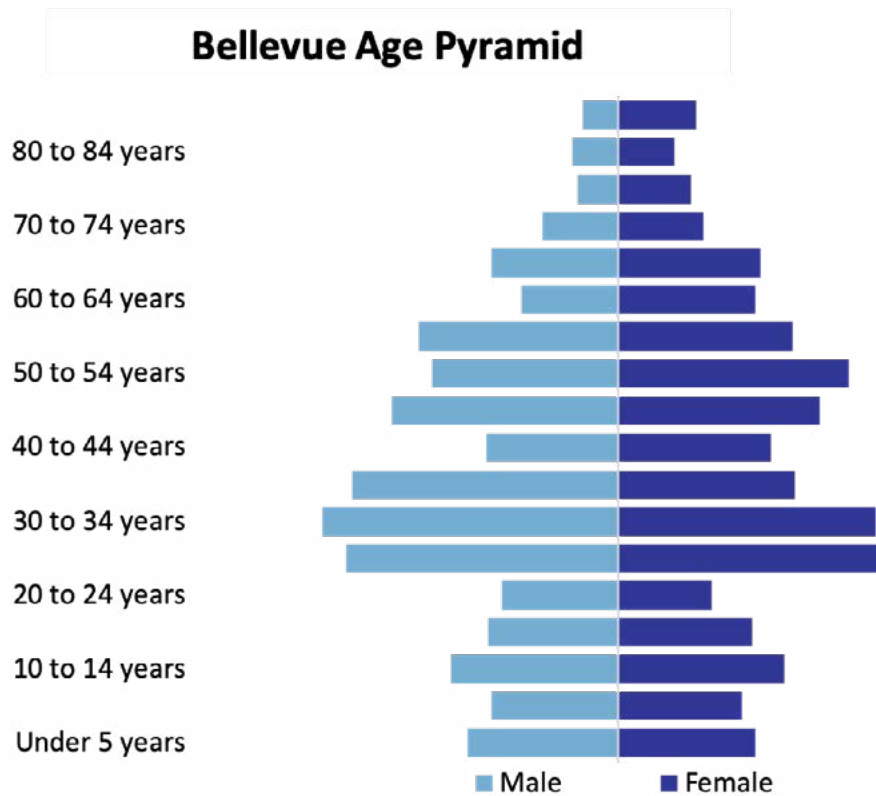


Figure 14 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey.

### Age by Race/Ethnicity

Age also differed by race and ethnicity. Bellevue’s White population had a median age of about 47.3 in 2013-2017. In contrast, Bellevue’s multi-racial population had a median age of about 17.8. Median ages of other racial and ethnic population groups in Bellevue ranged from about 31.2 to 34.9.<sup>20</sup>

### Median Age by Race/Ethnicity Comparisons, 2013-2017

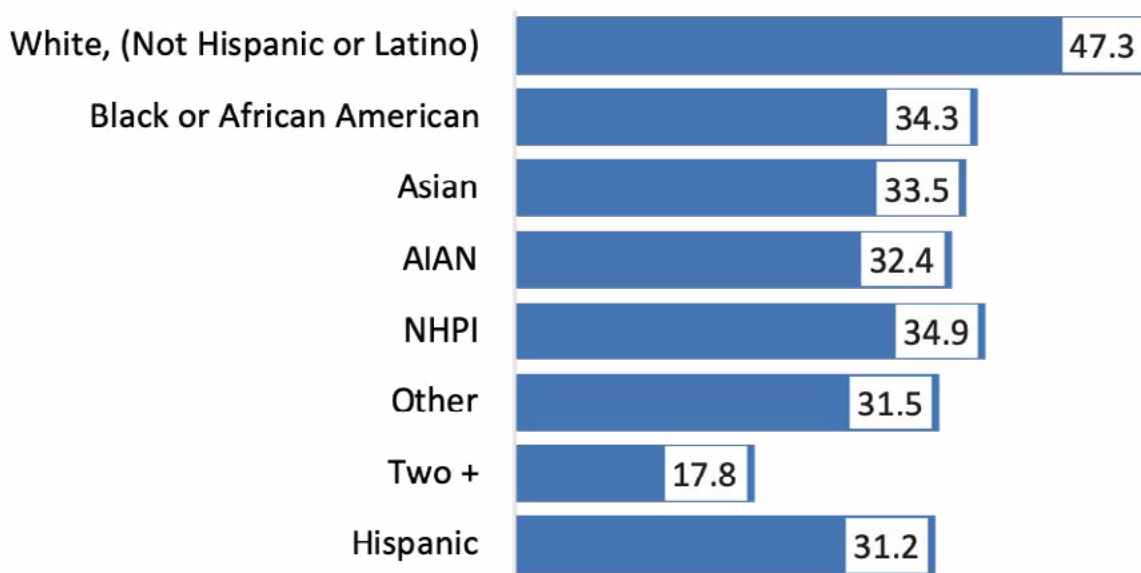


Figure 15 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey

Age distributions likewise, varied with race and ethnicity. Bellevue's children under 18 and its young workforce age population, 18 to 44, both had a plurality of races/ethnicities. Bellevue's children had the highest percentage of people of two or more races at 11 percent, whereas Bellevue's young workforce had the highest percentage of Asians at 40 percent. Bellevue's residents 45 to 64 years of age were less racially/ethnically diverse with White residents comprising 58 percent of their population, and Bellevue's older adults, 65 years and over, were the least racially/ethnically diverse with 74 percent of their population being White.<sup>21</sup>

**Age Distribution by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-2017**

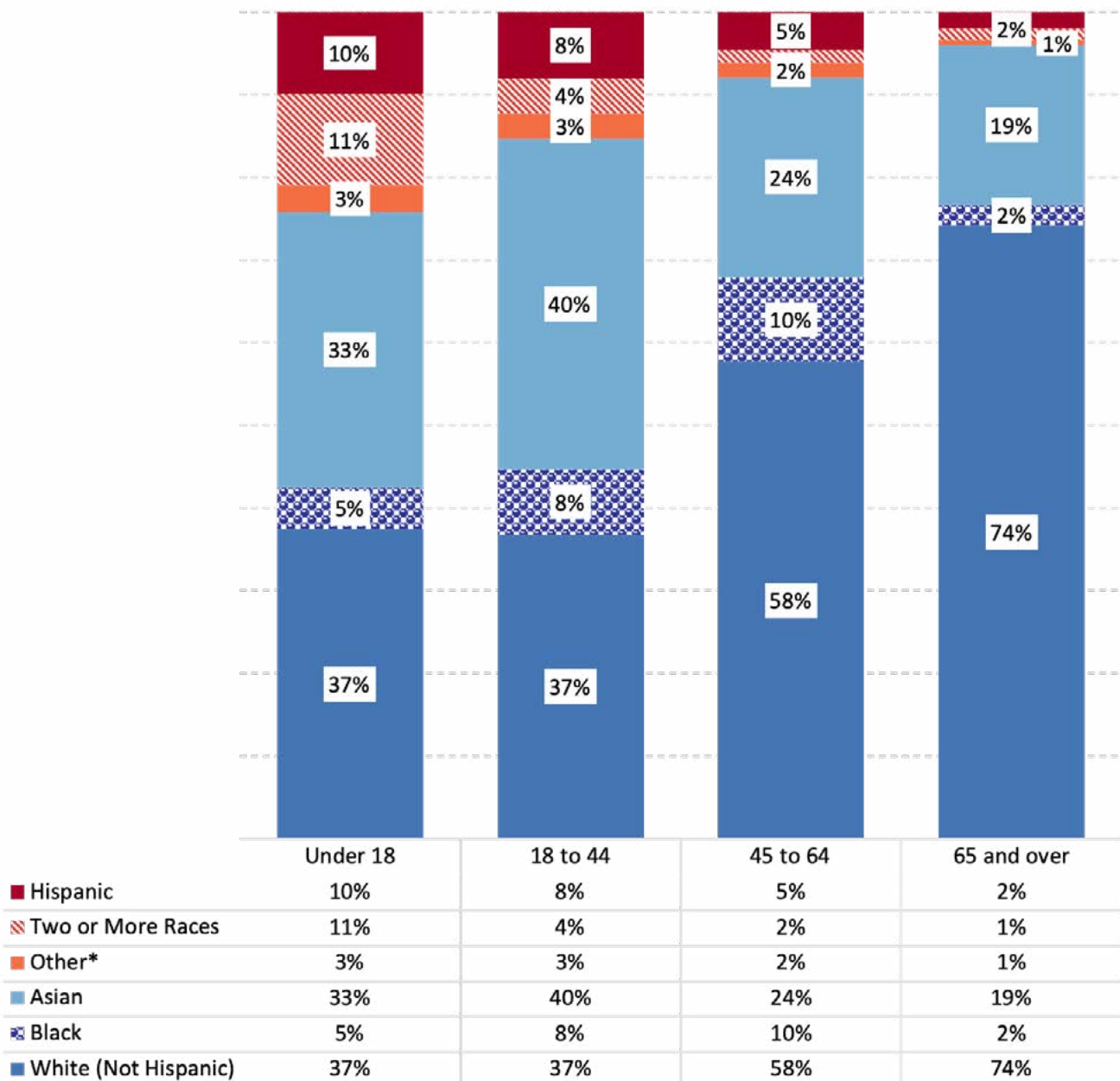


Figure 16 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey



## Trends and Projections

While the number of people within each age cohort has increased over the decades, certain cohorts have grown faster than others resulting in shifts in their proportions over time. In 1970, the City of Bellevue was young in terms of the life cycle of the city. Most neighborhoods were filled with new homes occupied by first-time home buyers and nearly 57 percent of its households were comprised of married couple families with children. With over 41 percent of its population to be under the age of 18, another 39 percent between the ages of 18 and 44, 17 percent between the ages of 45 and 64 and only three percent being 65 years or older.

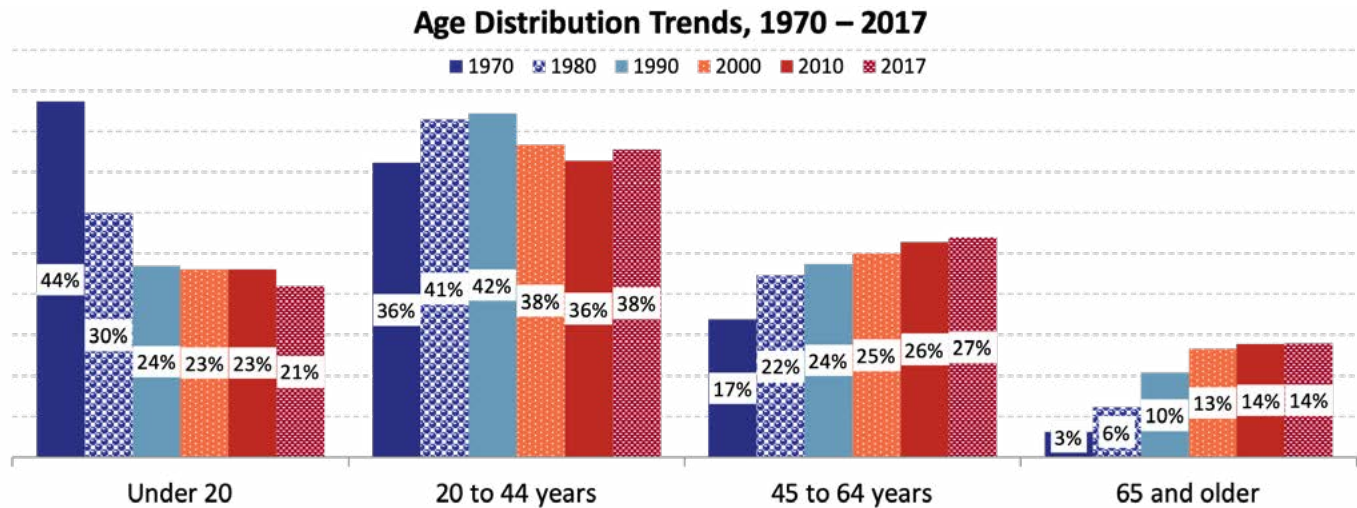


Figure 17 | Source: IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey.

As the city matured so did its residents, creating greater array in the age distribution of the population. By 1980, young adults had become the largest age cohort and remain so today, yet their proportion declined from 1990 to 2010 as the older workforce (45 to 64) and older adults (65 plus) increased in size. In 2015, the young adult cohort witnessed its first increase since 1990 and in 2017, they comprise 38 percent of the population as they did in 2000. Growth in the proportion of older adults has slowed despite increases in the older adult population statewide.<sup>22</sup>

As baby boomers (born between 1944 and 1964) continue to age, the proportion of older adults within Bellevue is expected to increase, further evening out and diversifying the age distribution within the city. Nationwide, older adults are projected to comprise over 20 percent of U.S. residents by 2030 and if projections hold true, by 2035 the population 65 and older would outnumber people younger than 18 for the first time in U.S. history.<sup>23</sup>

## Trends and Projections of Annual Increases in the Older Adult Population (65 years and over) for Washington State, 1971 - 2040

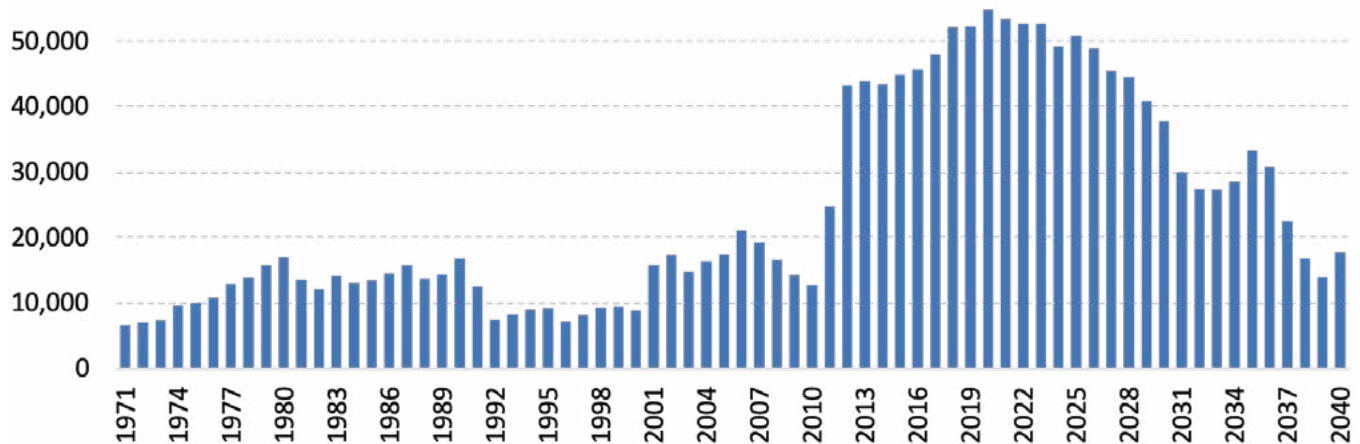


Figure 18 | Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division, State Population Forecast 2010-2040, November 2018.<sup>24</sup>

Whether Bellevue will witness the same rate of increase in its older adult population as the state and nation is difficult to predict. As jobs in Bellevue’s Information Technology cluster grow, Bellevue will likely continue to attract the young, educated and relatively well paid workforce. This new young population could be added on top of Bellevue’s existing population, or it could displace some of Bellevue’s older residents who may look to find more affordable housing options outside of the city.

## Prosperity

### Labor Force Participation and Employment Rates

About 65 percent of Bellevue’s population 16 years and over were in the labor force (people who are employed and those unemployed looking for work) in 2017, and all but 3.5 percent were employed. About 89 percent of males 20 to 64 years old were in the labor force compared to 66 percent of females. About 36 percent of females with children under six years were in the labor force compared to 71 percent of females with children over six years of age.<sup>25</sup>

About 46 percent of people with incomes below the poverty level were in the labor force, yet 26.5 percent of them were unemployed. About 48 percent of people with any disability were in the labor force, yet about 6.3 percent of them were unemployed.

From 1990 to 2017, labor force participation in Bellevue has dropped from 73 percent to 65 percent. This lower rate could be due in part to the larger share of Bellevue’s population who are older adults who have lower rates of labor force participation.

### Jobs

With an estimated 150,148 total jobs, Bellevue had the second highest employment base of Central Puget Sound cities in 2018 after Seattle and followed by Tacoma, Redmond, and Everett. Bellevue employment comprised seven percent of all jobs in the region.<sup>26</sup>

## Top Ten Largest Central Puget Sound Cities in Terms of Employment, 2018

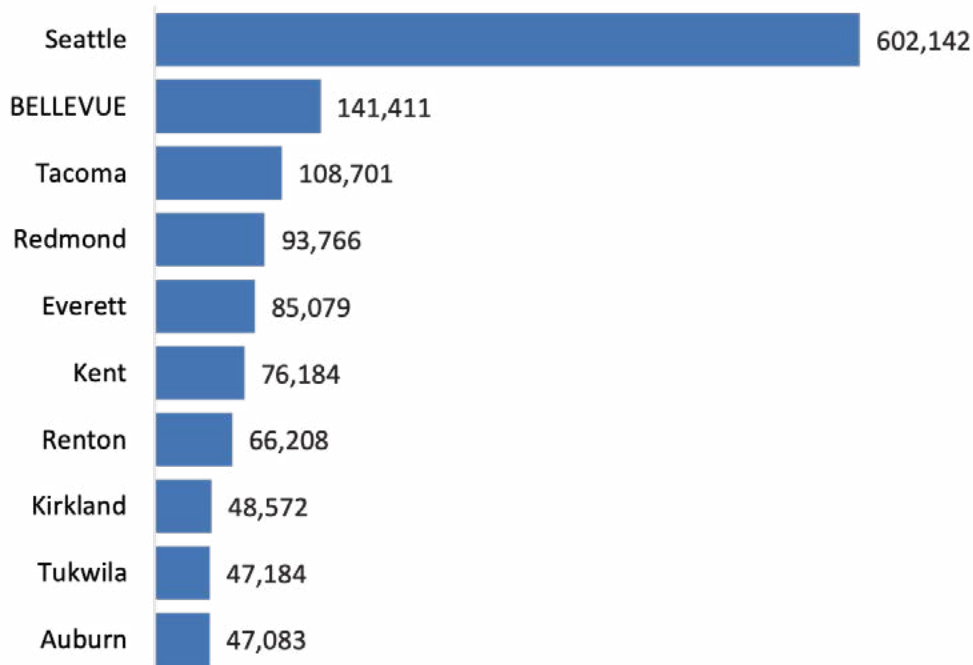


Figure 19 | Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2018 Covered Employment Estimates by Jurisdiction

Despite fluctuations in economic cycles, the number of jobs in Bellevue has grown at an average annual rate of 0.92 percent since 2000. Currently, Bellevue's rate of job growth is projected to increase to 1.48 percent per year with jobs projected to reach a total of 192,800 by 2035. As the region updates its vision for 2050 and cities update their Comprehensive Plans for 2043, Bellevue's projected rate of job growth could change.

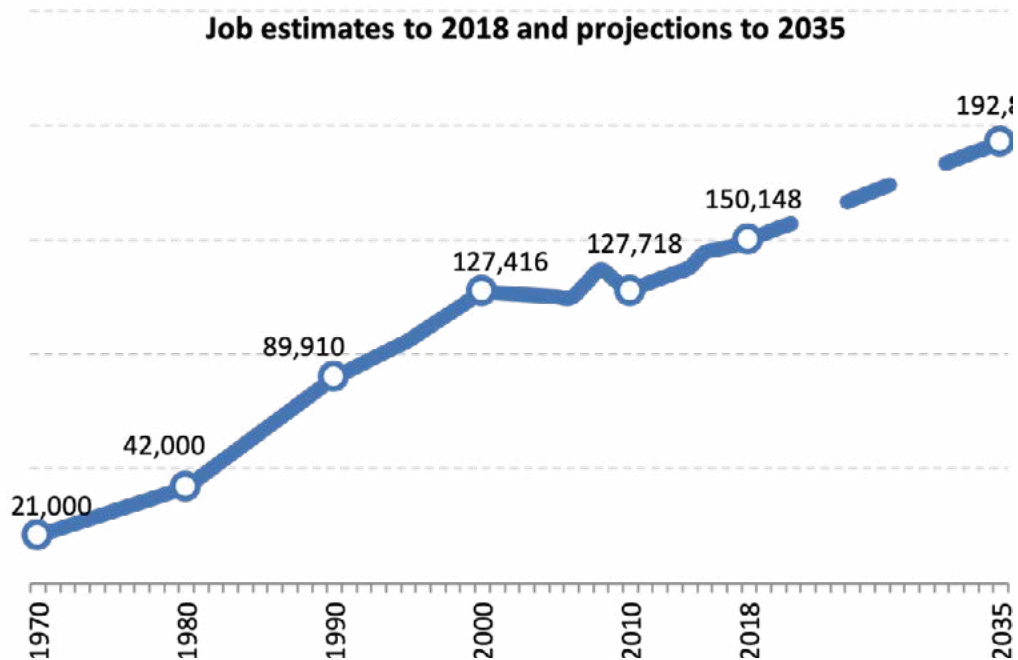


Figure 20 | Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2018 All Job Estimates, Bellevue & Major Employment Centers

## Industry Shifts

Beginning in the 1990s, the Service sector began to experience larger gains in employment as technology companies began comprising a larger share of industry. In 2018, service sector jobs comprised about 61 percent of jobs in Bellevue, up from 53 percent in 2000 and 46 percent in 1995.<sup>27</sup>

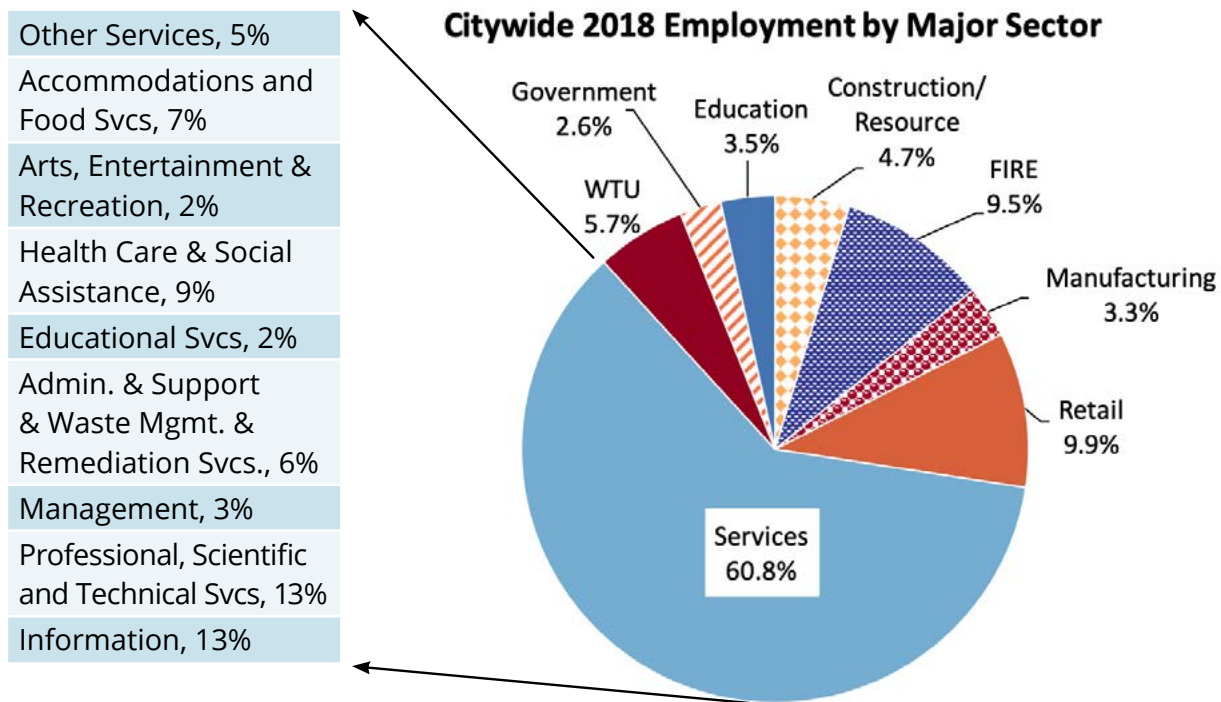


Figure 21 | Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, 2018 All Job Estimates, Bellevue & Major Employment Centers

In 2018, Redmond, Bellevue, Seattle, Kirkland and Tacoma all had over 50 percent of their jobs in the Services sector, which included jobs in the Information, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance and other services sectors.

## Occupation Shifts

With a shift in industry came shifts in occupation. In 2017, about 64 percent of Bellevue residents who work were in management, business, science and arts occupations up from 53 percent in 2000 and 40 percent in 1990. In contrast, the percentage of residents in sales and office occupations declined from 38 percent in 1990 to about 17 percent in 2017.<sup>28</sup>

Not all the shift in occupation can be attributed to the shift in industry. As shown in the chart above comparing occupations of workers who work and live in Bellevue, workers who live in Bellevue have a higher proportion of people in management, science, business and arts occupations, which has been noted has the highest median earnings. With job growth outpacing housing growth, competition for housing in Bellevue has led to increased housing values and those with higher earnings have been able to out compete those with lower earnings resulting in a disproportionate share of people in management, science, business and arts occupations living in Bellevue.

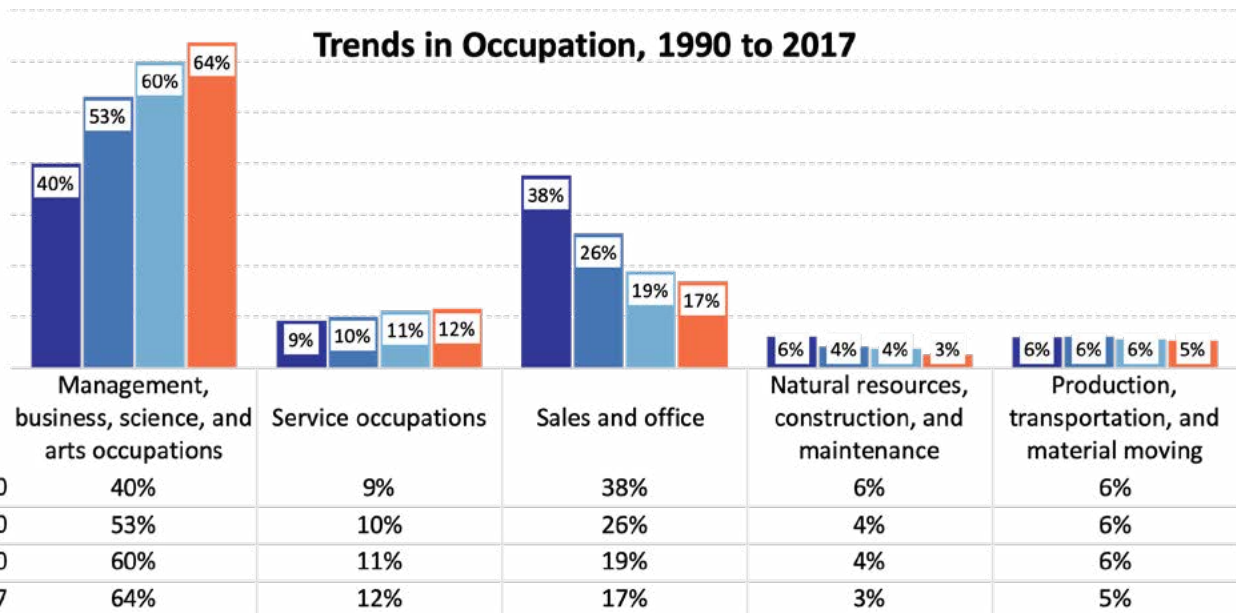


Figure 22 | Source: U.S. Census, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 and 2017 American Community Survey

## Neighborhood Patterns

Factoria, Lake Hills, Crossroads and Eastgate all had between 50 and 60 percent of their workers employed in management, business, science and arts occupations and 15 to 25 percent employed in Services occupations. Whereas, Downtown, Somerset, Bridle Trails, and Cougar Mountain/Lakemont all have about 70 percent or more of their populations employed in management, science, business and arts occupations but less than 10 percent employed in service occupations.<sup>29</sup>

While shifts in occupation distribution reflect shifts in industrial distribution, Bellevue residents had a higher proportion of workers in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2013-2017 at 63 percent, than workers who worked in Bellevue at 54 percent. Commensurately, Bellevue residents who worked had lower proportions of people in sales and office, service, and natural resource and construction occupations than workers who worked in Bellevue.<sup>30</sup>

### Comparison of Occupations of Workers who Work and Live in Bellevue, 2013-2017

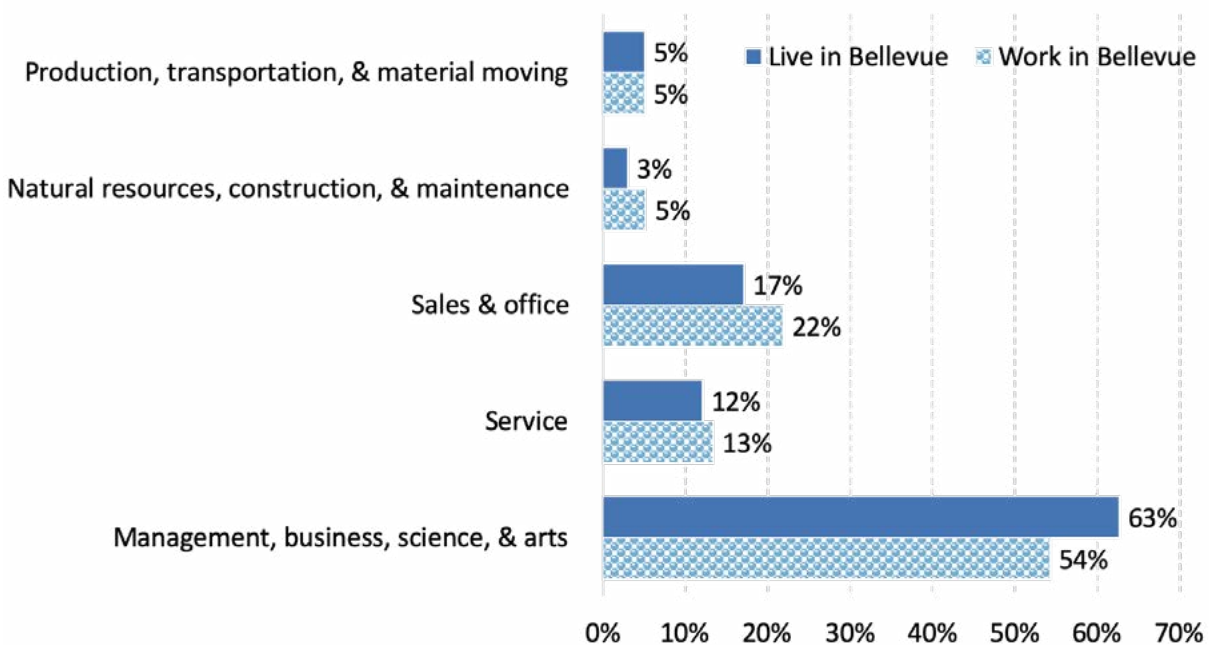


Figure 23 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables S0802 and S0804

The reason for disparities between resident and worker occupations is likely due to differences in occupational earnings.

## Earnings

Median earnings of Bellevue residents who work were higher than those in the county, state and nation for all occupations except for natural resource, construction and maintenance occupations. Yet, earnings varied significantly by occupation in 2017. Full-time workers in management, business, science and arts occupations had median earnings of \$121,085 compared to median earnings of \$39,991 for full-time workers in service occupations.<sup>31</sup>

**Comparisons of Median Earnings by Occupation, 2017**

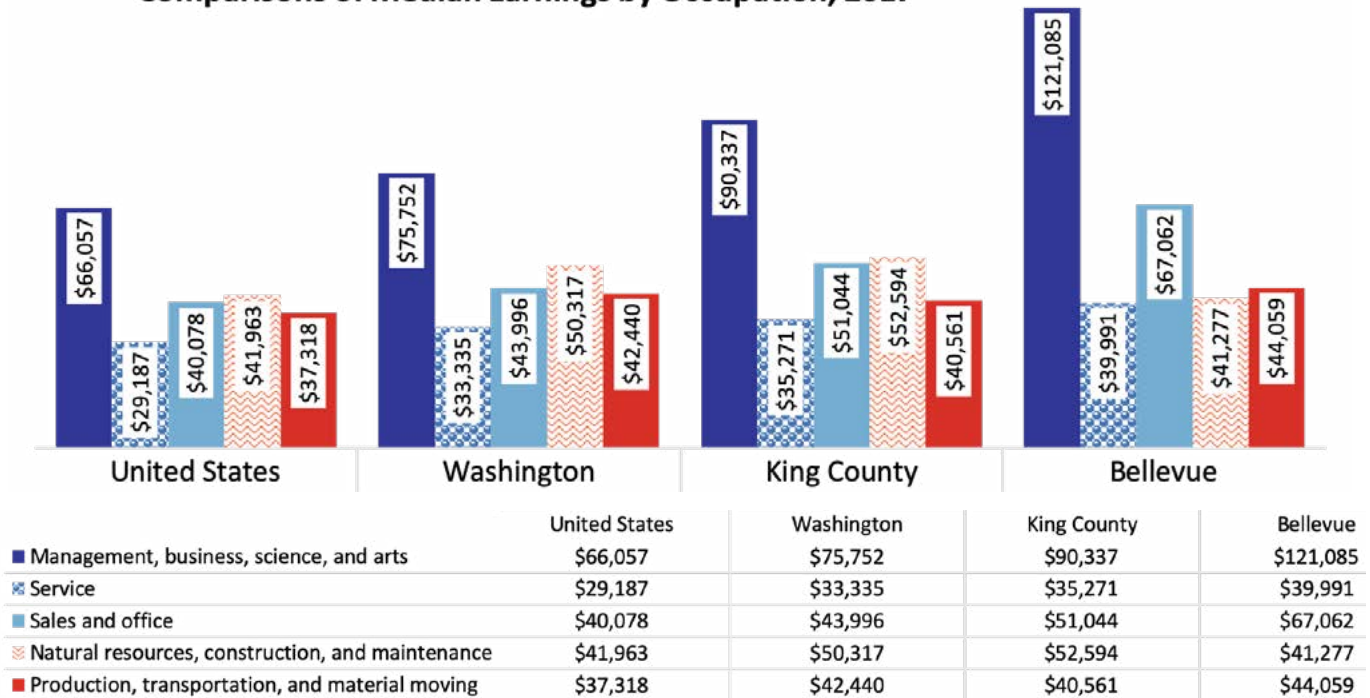
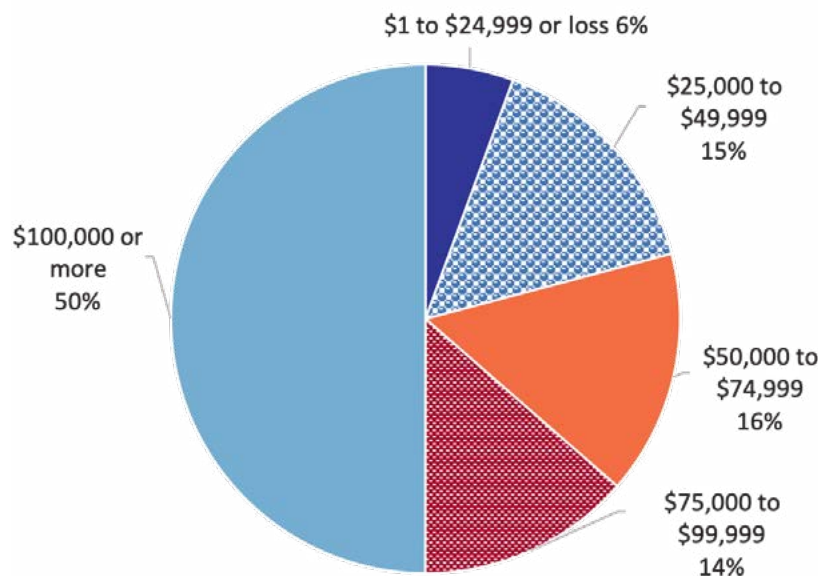


Figure 24 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2412

In 2017, about two thirds of Bellevue’s residents who worked had relatively high earnings at or above \$75K. Another 16 percent had moderate earnings between \$50K and \$75K, and the remaining 21 percent of residents working full time had relatively low earnings of less than \$50K.<sup>32</sup>

Figure 25 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2001

**Earnings Distribution of Full Time Workers, 2017**



Median earnings varied by educational attainment with residents who did not graduate from high school having median earnings of about \$26K and those with a graduate or professional degree having median earnings of over \$111K.<sup>33</sup>

### Median Earnings by Educational Attainment, 2017

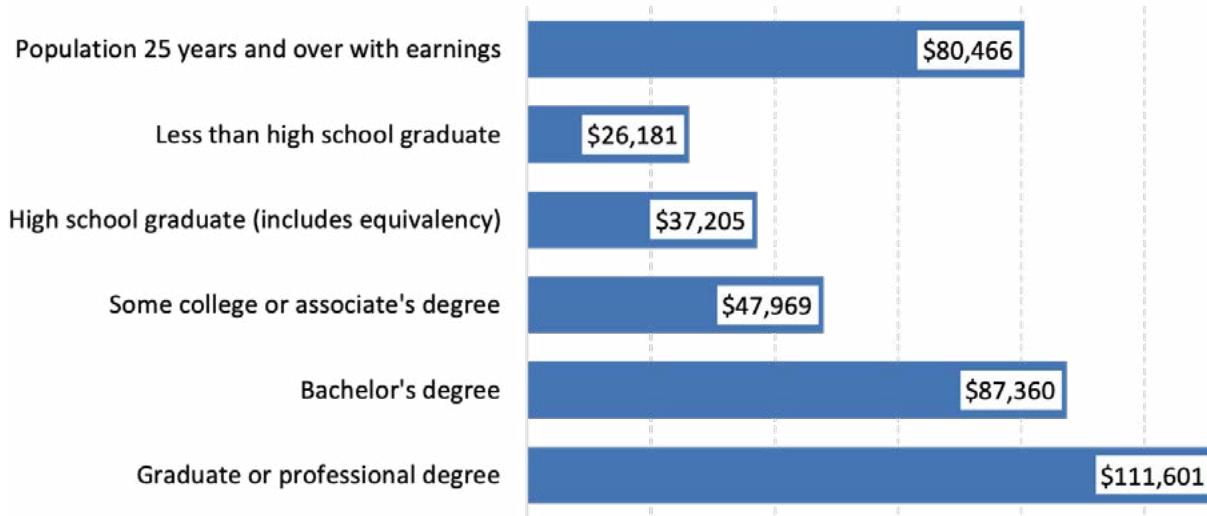


Figure 25 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2001

## Educational Attainment

Bellevue’s population has become more highly educated over time with the percentage of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher climbing from 46 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000 to 59 percent in 2010 and finally to 68 percent in 2017. The largest increase occurred in the segment of the population with a graduate or professional degree, which jumped from about 19 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2017.<sup>34</sup>

### Bellevue Educational Attainment Distribution Trends, 1970 to 2017

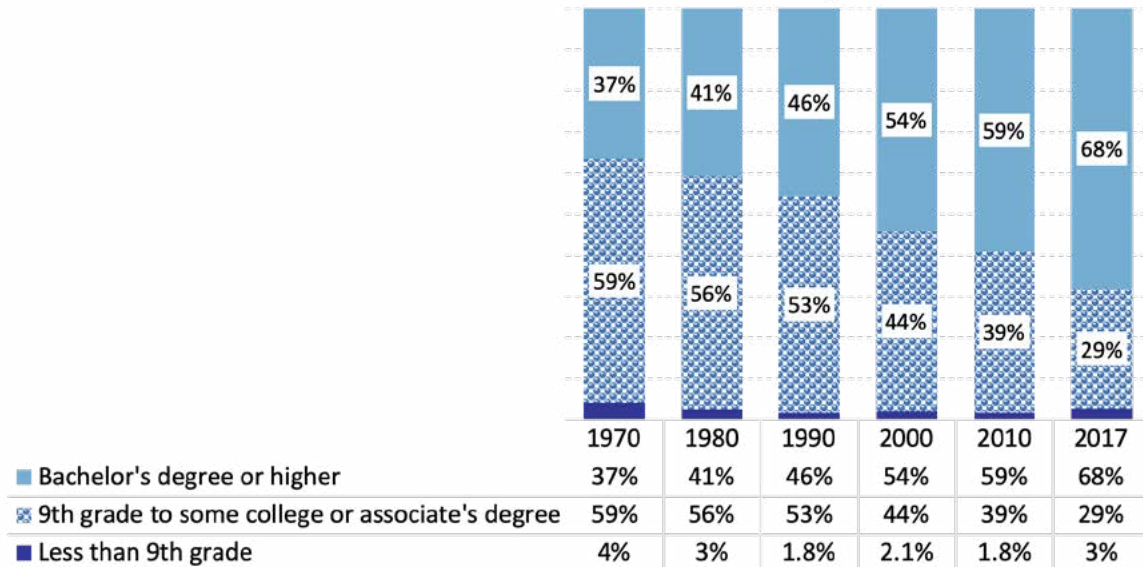


Figure 26 | Source: Minnesota Population Center. National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 11.0 [Database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota 2016. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V11.0>. <http://www.nhgis.org>; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys.

In 2017, about 36 percent of Bellevue’s adult population 25 years and over had a bachelor’s degree, another 17 percent had an associate degree or attended some college, nine percent had graduated from high school, and about six percent had less than a high school education.<sup>35</sup>

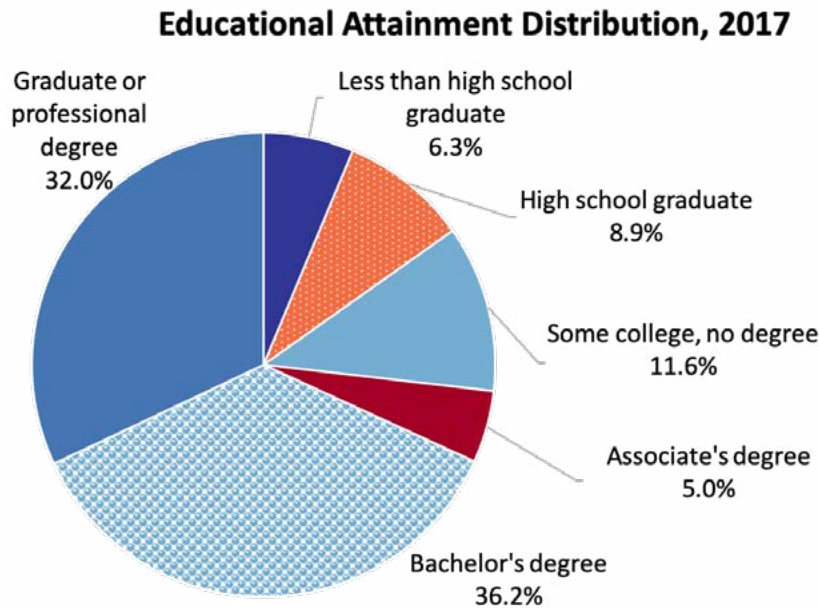


Figure 27 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey

### Neighborhood Patterns

Downtown, Northwest Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Somerset and West Bellevue had upwards of 70 percent of their residents 25 years and older with bachelor’s degrees or higher. In contrast, Lake Hills, Factoria and Eastgate had under 60 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher.<sup>36</sup>

### Household Income

Bellevue continues to have a disproportionate share of households with high incomes. In 2017, 27 percent of Bellevue’s households had incomes of \$200K or more compared to 16 percent of all households in King County, and nine percent in Washington state. Bellevue had a similar proportion of households with incomes between \$75K and \$200K at 41 percent compared to that of the county at 42 percent, but a lower proportion of households with incomes under \$75K at 32 percent compared to 42 percent in the county.<sup>37</sup>

In 2017, a fifth of Bellevue’s households had incomes less than \$50K. Another 23 percent had incomes between \$50K and \$100K and the remaining 57 percent of households had incomes of \$100K or more.



## Comparisons of Household Income Distribution, 2017

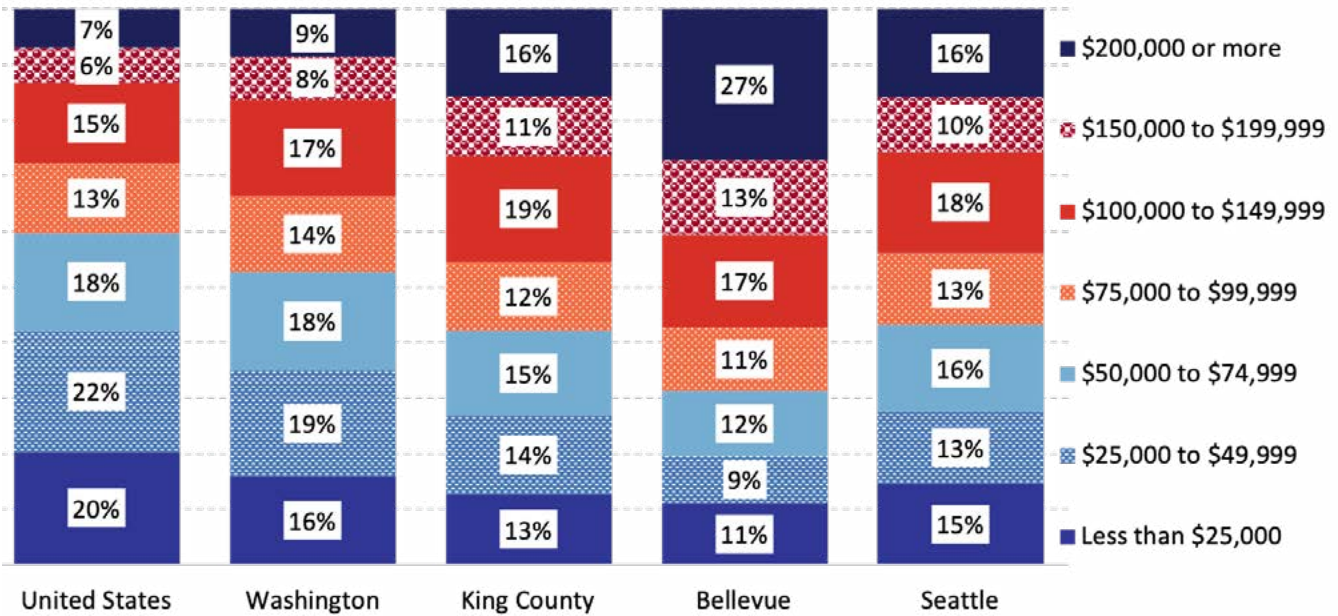


Figure 28 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP03

### Neighborhood Patterns

Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, Somerset, Northwest Bellevue and West Bellevue all had weighted median household incomes upwards of \$130K. While Lake Hills, Crossroads and Factoria had weighted median household incomes below \$85K.<sup>38</sup>

### Poverty

The percentage of individuals in Bellevue who have incomes below the poverty level has remained relatively constant over the decades. Both the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses estimated the poverty rate for Bellevue to be about six percent. In 2010, it was estimated at nine percent. However, in 2017 the estimate was back down to about 6.5 percent.<sup>39</sup>

In 2017, about 5.5 percent of children, 7.8 percent of older adults 65 years and over, and 19.9 percent of female single-parent families were in poverty.<sup>40</sup>

### Neighborhood Patterns

Crossroads and Lake Hills had upwards of 13 percent of people in poverty. Lake Hills, Downtown and Crossroads had upwards of 14 percent of children in poverty.<sup>41</sup>

## Households

### Household Growth

As of April 1, 2019, an estimated 59,566 households lived in Bellevue. By 2035, 70,300 households are projected to be living within the city of Bellevue.<sup>42</sup>

### Household Types

From 2010 to 2017, most household types grew in number. However, married couple households both with and without children increased by about 30 percent, while single person households grew by only four percent. The result was that in 2017, married couples without children comprised the largest share of Bellevue households at 32 percent, followed by married couples

with children at 26 percent and then by single person households at 25 percent. Two plus person non-family households comprised about eight percent of Bellevue’s households followed by other family households at five percent and lastly by single parent female families at three percent and single parent male families at about one percent. The one household type that declined in number since 2010 was single parent female families, which decreased by 25 percent.<sup>43</sup>

Bellevue had higher proportions of married couples without and with children than the nation, state, county or the City of Seattle. Its household type proportions came closest to those of Kirkland. Both cities also had a lower share of 2+ person non-family households than the state, county or the city of Seattle.<sup>44</sup>

**Household Type Distribution Comparisons, 2017**

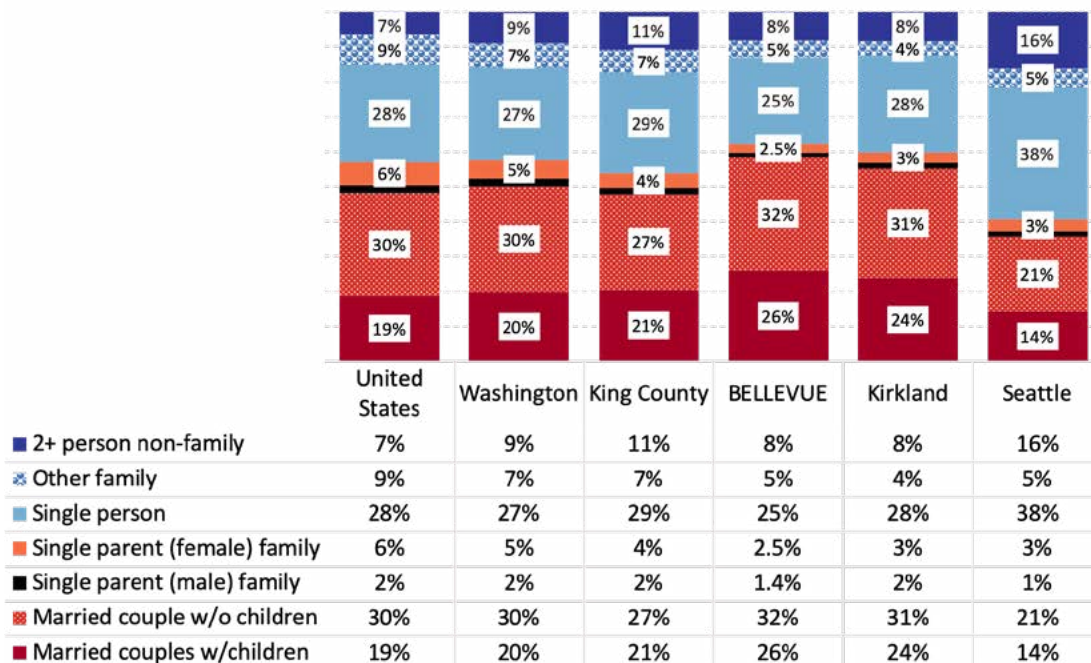


Figure 29 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey

## Household Size

From 1970 to 2000 Bellevue’s average household size decreased from 3.4 to 2.37. It then climbed back up to 2.41 in 2010, and in 2017 it was estimated to be 2.40. This reversal in average household size was unforeseen, yet it can be explained by growth in Bellevue’s foreign born population, who on average have a larger household size than Bellevue’s native born population.<sup>45</sup>

Bellevue’s average household size is smaller than King County’s, the state’s or nation’s, but it is like the city of Kirkland’s and much larger than the city of Seattle’s.<sup>46</sup>

### Average Household Size Trends, 1970-2017 and Comparisons, 2017

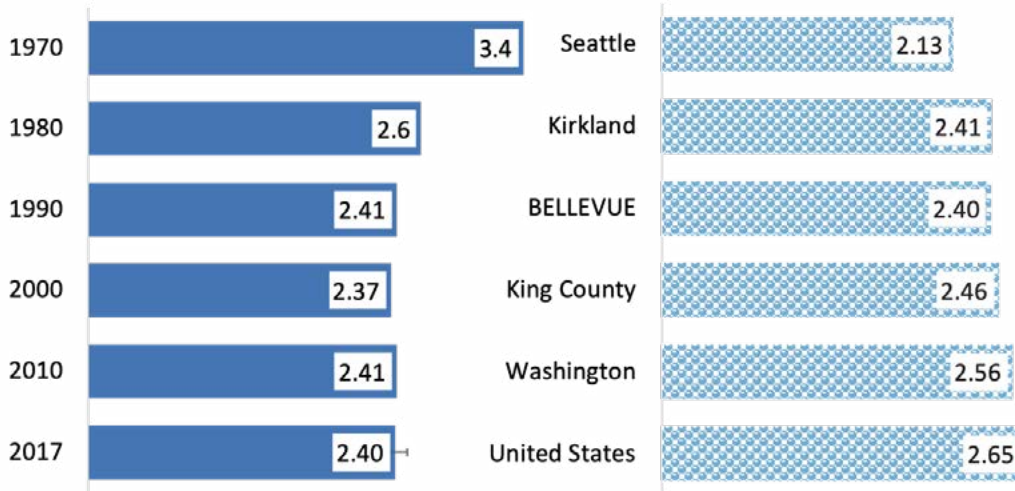


Figure 30 | Source: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey

## Tenure

About 55 percent of Bellevue’s households owned their own home in 2017 and 45 percent rented. Owner households were larger on average than renter households containing 2.55 people per household compared to 2.22 people for renter households.<sup>47</sup>

In 2017, about 59 percent of Bellevue’s households had moved into their units since 2010 with 37 percent having moved in since 2015. Another 23 percent had moved in during the 2000s, nine percent in the 1990s, five percent in the 1980s and four percent before 1980.<sup>48</sup>

Recently, much of Bellevue’s new housing construction has been in rental units. The percentage of households renting in Bellevue has therefore increased. However, as the market changes, a greater demand for ownership housing may develop, and more ownership units may be constructed. Rental units however, will still be in high demand, especially as Bellevue’s college age population increases with the development of the Global Innovation Exchange and expansion of Bellevue College.

## Neighborhood Patterns

Somerset, Northeast Bellevue, and Cougar Mountain Lakemont had upwards of 80 percent of their housing units owner occupied. In contrast, Downtown and Crossroads had the opposite: less than 30 percent of housing is owner occupied.<sup>49</sup>

## Housing Value, Cost and Affordability

In 2017, about 52 percent of owner households reported the value of their housing unit fell between \$500K and \$1M. Another 31 percent reported the value of their housing unit was one million dollars or more. About six percent reported the value of their unit was less than \$300K, and about 11 percent reported the value of their unit was between \$300K and \$500K.<sup>50</sup>

In 2017, households with a mortgage were paying a median of \$2,864 on housing a month and about 23 percent of these households were paying 30 percent or more of their incomes on housing. In comparison, homeowners without a mortgage had a median monthly housing cost of \$920 and 17 percent were paying 30 percent or more of their incomes on housing. Median gross rent in Bellevue in 2017 was about \$1,837 and 34 percent of renters were paying 30 percent or more of their incomes on housing.<sup>51</sup>

As job growth continues in Bellevue, demand for housing will increase pushing prices higher. Strategies for increasing the supply of housing for all economic levels will help Bellevue meet demand and maintain affordability for all segments of the population.

## Implications

### Growth

It is likely Bellevue will continue to experience job and population growth at a steady pace.

- Increased job growth will result in greater demands for housing, which could lead to cost escalations and housing unaffordability if job growth is not balanced by housing growth. If housing costs increase, workers in occupations with lower earnings will be less likely able to afford housing within the city requiring them to travel longer distances to get to work.
- Job growth could lead to greater traffic congestion if more workers are traveling to Bellevue from outside of the city.
- A variety of opportunities are made available to tap efficiencies gained by increased job and population concentrations including more frequent bus service and access to a greater variety of goods and services.
- An increased imbalance of jobs and housing will diminish access to jobs and services for lower income households further degrading racial and social equity.
- Denser development may need more recreation and open space for a diversity of ages.

### Diversity

It is likely Bellevue will continue to diversify both in terms of age and race and ethnicity.

- A greater proportion of older adults will require additional caregiver services, transportation services, and health and medical emergency services.
- Additionally, public spaces will need to be better equipped to accommodate people with hearing and ambulatory difficulties, which increase with age.
- A greater proportion of people from places abroad where English is not spoken as the primary language, will require continued translations of city information into other languages.
- A greater diversity of cultures would benefit from cross cultural forums and events to enhance cultural knowledge, awareness and competency.

### Prosperity and Households

It is likely Bellevue will continue to attract businesses in the tech sector that pay high wages, and it is also likely there will be greater demand for employees who work in lower paying jobs such as food service, retail and maintenance jobs.

- The gap between rich and poor in the community could increase.
- Displacement of lower income households could occur especially for those who pay market rents.
- Continuing to implement the Affordable Housing Strategy and looking for additional opportunities to increase the supply and variety of housing types would help ensure household types from all income levels could live in Bellevue and benefit from the high quality of opportunities the city provides.

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## Endnotes

- 1 State of Washington Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2019 population of cities, towns, and counties used for the allocation of selected state revenues. <https://www.ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/april-1-official-population-estimates>
- 2 Population estimates prior to 2000 are from the City of Bellevue with decade points from the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial censuses. Estimates from 2000 on are from State of Washington Office of Financial Management. Official population estimates are for April 1st of the specified year. Forecast is from the Land Use element of the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan adopted in July 2015, page 37. <https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/2019-07/Land%20Use%20August%202019%200519.pdf>
- 3 Land Use element of the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan adopted in July 2015, pages 38 and 39. <https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/2019-07/Land%20Use%20August%202019%200519.pdf>
- 4 IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP02.
- 5 U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census and 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys, Table DP02.
- 6 "Immigrant Population Growing Faster Than Natives in Many Metro Areas," Governing Magazine, March 26, 2013 by Mike Maciag, <https://www.governing.com/blogs/by-the-numbers/international-migration-immigrant-population-growth-data-for-metro-areas.html>.
- 7 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Tables DP05 and DP02.
- 8 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and DP05.
- 9 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP05.
- 10 Ibid, Tables B01001A-I.
- 11 2018-2019 Demographics at a Glance, Bellevue School District.
- 12 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and C16001.
- 13 U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census and 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys, Table DP02.
- 14 U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census and 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP05.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, and 2107 American Community Survey, Table C01015.
- 17 U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, and 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP05.
- 18 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP05.
- 19 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and DP05.

- 20 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B01002B-I.
- 21 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B01001A-F.
- 22 IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP05.
- 23 Vespa, Jonathan, David M. Armstrong, and Lauren Medina, "Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060," Current Population Reports, P25-1144, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2018.
- 24 Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division, State Population Forecast 2010-2040, November 2018.
- 25 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2301.
- 26 Puget Sound Regional Council, 2018 Covered Employment Estimates by Jurisdiction and 2018 PSRC All Job Estimates, Bellevue & Major Employment Centers.
- 27 Puget Sound Regional Council, 1995 Covered Employment Estimates by Jurisdiction, 2000 and 2018 PSRC All Job Estimates, Bellevue & Major Employment Centers.
- 28 U.S. Census, 1990 Census, 2000 Census, 2010 and 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP03.
- 29 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and DP03.
- 30 U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables S0802 and S0804.
- 31 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2412.
- 32 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table S2001.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Minnesota Population Center. National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 11.0 [Database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota 2016. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V11.0>. <http://www.nhgis.org>; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys, Table DP02.
- 35 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP02.
- 36 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and DP02.
- 37 U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, Table DP03.
- 38 Calculated based on housing unit data from the King County Assessor parcel table and estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Tables B25024, B25032, B25033, and DP03.
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# Special Focus Area: Homelessness





# Homelessness

**337** unsheltered individuals were counted in East King County during the Point in Time Count



**295** homeless students in Bellevue School District in 2018-19 school year



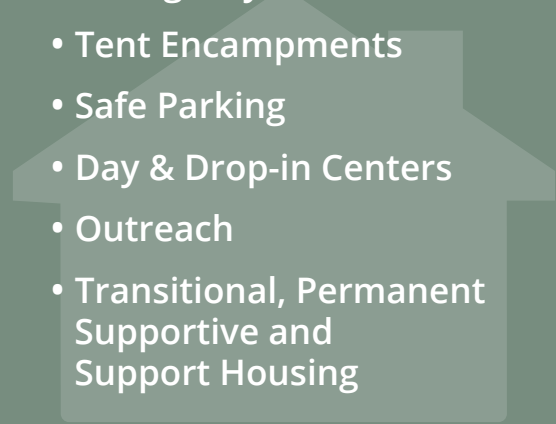
Increased needs at EKC low-barrier Shelters in 2018:

- Served **603** unduplicated men (Congregation for the Homeless)
- Served **413** unduplicated women (Sophia Way)
- Served **348** unduplicated individuals at family shelter (Catholic Community Services)
- Served **193** unduplicated young adults (Friends of Youth)



Homelessness Response:

- Emergency & Winter Shelters
- Tent Encampments
- Safe Parking
- Day & Drop-in Centers
- Outreach
- Transitional, Permanent Supportive and Support Housing



# Homelessness System, Services and Needs in King County, Bellevue and East King County

This Special Focus Area of the 2019-2020 Human Services Needs Update provides information about:

- Homelessness in our Community
  - Count Us in Data
  - Students Experiencing Homelessness in Bellevue School District
- Root causes of Homelessness
- Regional Coordination for Homelessness Response
  - All Home
  - All Home Homeless Data
  - East King County
- Bellevue's Approach to Addressing Homelessness
- Preventing Homelessness
- Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in East King County
  - Emergency Shelter
  - Tent Encampments
  - Safe Parking
  - Day and Drop-in Centers
  - Outreach
  - Longer-term Housing Programs

## Key Findings

- In the King County Point in Time Count of people experiencing homelessness, there was a decrease in the number of people counted in both King County and in East King County. However, there continues to be an increase in the students experiencing homelessness in the Bellevue School District and an increase in people using the local shelters.
- Many factors lead to someone becoming homeless, including lack of affordable housing, mental health, substance use disorder, economic disparities, racial disparities, criminal justice system, and lack of services for youth exiting the foster care system. Focus on resources to address the root causes of homelessness is needed to truly address homelessness.
- Bellevue's approach to homelessness is through providing direct investments into services to prevent homelessness, services and facilities for people experiencing homelessness, and providing compassionate enforcement in working with people experiencing homelessness. Bellevue is working together with other Eastside jurisdictions and community agencies to provide an array of prevention services (eviction prevention, case management, and employment programs) and homelessness services (shelter, day centers, transitional, and affordable permanent housing).

## Overview

King County and the City of Seattle declared homelessness a state of emergency in 2015. Since then, the number of people experiencing homelessness has continued to rise.<sup>1</sup> In January 2019, the One-Night Count required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development found 11,199 people experiencing homelessness in King County.<sup>2</sup> Committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and one time, King County is serving more people than in past years. However, as more people become homeless, waits for housing get longer. Over the past several years, the number of unsheltered people has steadily and visibly increased in East King County, a sub-region in which many would not expect to find homeless individuals on the streets, in vehicles, and in shelters. In 2018, the need continued to increase in East King County: the men's winter shelter in Bellevue served a total of 630 unduplicated men, the shelter for women served 413 women, and the winter shelter for families served 348 individuals.<sup>3</sup> The 2019 Bellevue Human Services Needs assessment survey included an in-depth follow-up on homelessness in Bellevue. One hundred and ninety-seven respondents agreed to participate; 95 residents completed the homelessness follow-up questions. Eight percent indicated they had been homeless or at risk of being homeless. Housing issues such as rent increases, eviction and relationships ending were the top three events that led to being homeless or at risk of being homeless.<sup>4</sup>

## Homelessness in Our Community

### Count Us In (One Night Count) Data

- Since 1980, Seattle and King County has held a point in time count in January of people experiencing homelessness to provide a snapshot of the problem and track trends over time. In 2017, a new data collection method was implemented to include several elements that would improve the quality of the data, such as counting all census tracts instead of already known locations, and including a sample-based qualitative survey including shelter and service locations. While the methodology used in Count Us In is one approach, no methodology allows for 100% accurate count of all people experiencing homelessness at a given time. There are many challenges in a homeless count, including a large geographic region and a very diverse county, as well as the fact that individuals and families experiencing homelessness generally do not want to be located and make an effort to avoid detection. Regardless of the effort, the precise number of those experiencing homelessness continues to be underestimated.
- The count conducted in January 2019 found a total of 11,199 individuals. As shown in Figure 1, 47% (5,228) were sleeping unsheltered on the street, in cars or RVs, in tents or in abandoned buildings and 53% (5,971) were sheltered in emergency shelters and transitional housing. There was an 8% decrease in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King county compared to 2018.<sup>5</sup> Although there was a decrease in the count, there is a high potential for an undercount of the number of people experiencing homelessness.

# Figure 1: Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness, By Region

Unsheltered						
	2017		2018		2019	
REGION	%	n	%	n	%	n
East County	6%	319	6%	393	6%	337
North County	1%	58	4%	251	2%	85
Northeast County	2%	84	2%	137	2%	99
Seattle	70%	3,841	71%	4,488	68%	3,558
Southwest County	20%	1,113	15%	974	21%	1,084
Southeast County	1%	70	1%	77	1%	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,485</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,228</b>

Source: 2019 Seattle/King County Count Us In Report

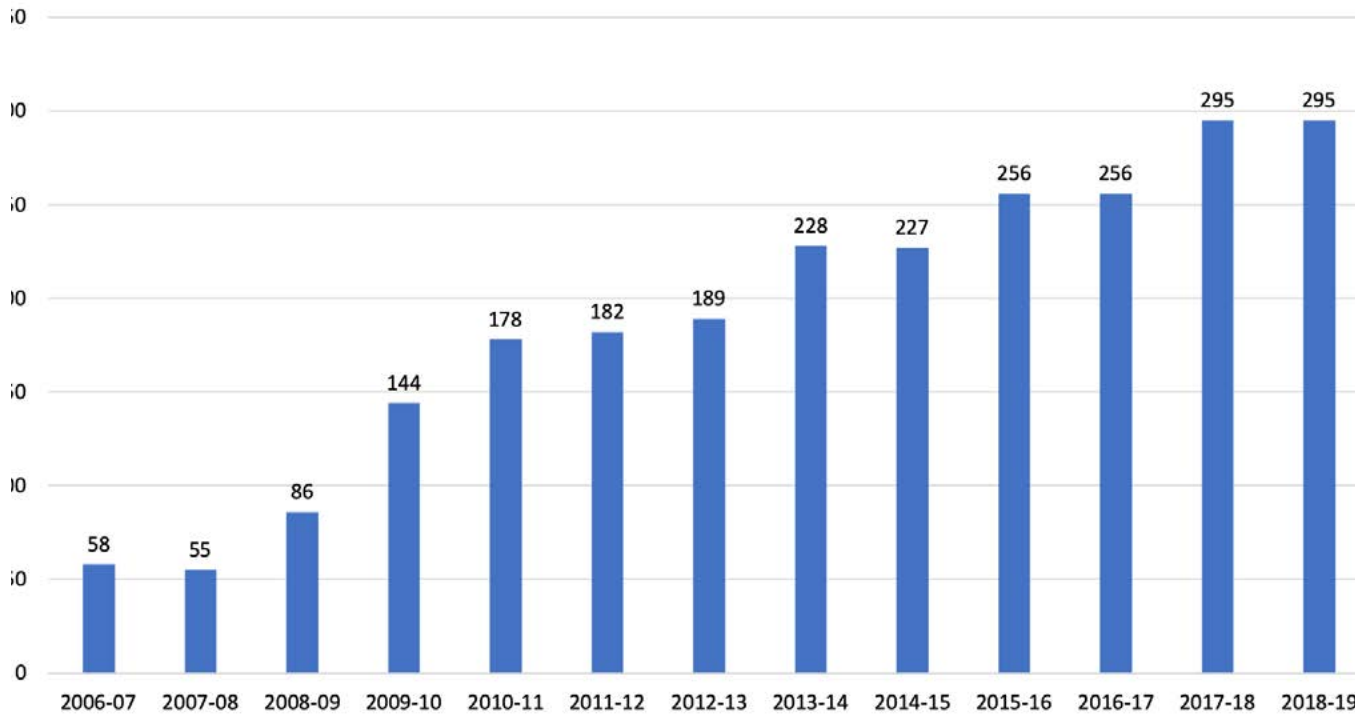
- In 2019, Count Us In found 337 unsheltered individuals in urban East King County (including portions of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond). There was a 16.6% decrease in the number of unsheltered individuals from 2018 to 2019, but a 5.6% increase from 2017 to 2019.<sup>6</sup>

## Students Experiencing Homelessness in Bellevue School District

- The McKinney-Vento Act is federal legislation, in effect since 1987, that ensures the rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that homeless children and youth are enrolled in and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”<sup>7</sup>
- In the 2018-19 school year, the Bellevue School District (BSD) reported that 295 students were experiencing homelessness and eligible for the McKinney-Vento services. Forty-five youth were living in an emergency/transitional shelter, 209 youth were doubled up (due to economic or similar reasons), 24 youth were unsheltered at some point, and 7 used a hotel/motel as a primary form of residence. For the 2019-20 school year as of February 4, 2020, BSD is reporting that 338 students were experiencing homelessness.<sup>8</sup> One hundred sixty-eight youth were doubled up (due to economic or similar reasons), 35 were living in an emergency/transitional shelter, 6 youth were unsheltered at some point, and 3 used a hotel/motel as a primary form of residence, and 24 are living on their own (unaccompanied).

- As shown in Figure 2, the number of homeless students continues to grow in the BSD. Between the 2006-2007 and 2018-2019 school years, the number of BSD students receiving McKinney-Vento services increased by more than 400%.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 2: BSD Students Receiving McKinney-Vento Services by School Year, 2006-07 to 2018-19**



## Root Causes of Homelessness

- Homelessness is a systemic problem that touches every major American city, including every city in the Puget Sound region. While there are many root causes, such as a health issue, the loss of a job, or the need to escape a domestic violence situation, that can quickly catapult people into homelessness. These root causes are inherently interconnected, and for unsheltered individuals, the factors listed below, in many instances, are compounded by each other.
  - Mental health and substance use disorder
  - Economic disparities and poverty
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Racial disparities
  - The criminal justice system
  - A decentralized response to a regional crisis
  - Lack of wraparound services for youth within and exiting the foster system<sup>10</sup>
- In the 2019 Point In Time Count Survey, respondents were asked to identify the primary event or condition that led to their current experience of homelessness. Approximately 24% reported loss of job, with the other top responses being alcohol or drug use (16%), eviction (15%), and divorce or separation (9%). Other self-reported causes of homelessness included

inability to afford rent increase (8%), an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave (7%), incarceration (6%), and family/domestic violence (6%). These results are self-assessments and not from a clinical source. While these self-identified causes may have contributed to an individual or household's immediate experience of homelessness, they do not reflect the structural and institutional factors that contribute to such housing crises and the lack of an adequate safety net.<sup>11</sup>

## Regional Coordination for Homelessness Response

### All Home

- All Home, which is part of King County government, brings together local governments, religious institutions, non-profits, philanthropic organizations, shelter and housing providers, the private sector and engaged citizens in a coordinated effort that both responds to the immediate crisis of homeless individuals and addresses the root causes of the problem in the region. Its vision is that homelessness is rare in King County, racial disparities are eliminated, and if one becomes homeless, it is brief and only a one-time occurrence. All Home's role is to lead the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care in realizing this vision by:
  - Developing a common agenda and plan of action
  - Building the capacity of funders and providers to implement
  - Measuring results, monitoring performance, and holding funders/providers accountable
  - Communicating transparently and continuously<sup>12</sup>
- Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) is the access point for which people who are experiencing homelessness are assessed for and connected to homeless housing resources. The purpose of CEA is to ensure that all households experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing resource connections to resolve their housing crisis. The system aims to work with households to understand their strengths and needs, provide a tailored assessment process, and progressively engage households to connect to the housing and homeless assistance that will best support them. CEA incorporates the principles of a system-wide housing first approach and prioritizes those with highest service needs through a Dynamic Prioritization model. Dynamic Prioritization is a revised coordinated entry approach which uses population-specific prioritization criteria (i.e., assessment result, unsheltered status, length of time homeless) to identify the most vulnerable households and utilizes a case conferencing model to connect prioritized households to housing based on the anticipated number of available housing resources over the next 60 days.<sup>13</sup>

### All Home Homelessness Data

- Over the years, the number of households experiencing homelessness has increased with a slight decline in 2019. All Home data looked at households experiencing homelessness who accessed services from a program participating in the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) or in the CEA queue based on data from January 31 of each year, they reported 9,371 people in 2016, 11,379 in 2017, 14,760 in 2018, and 13,006 in 2019.
- All Home posts performance measures annually for the programs in King County that participate in HMIS. The data points below are for July 31, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
  - Thirty-nine percent of households exited to or maintained permanent housing.

- The average length of stay was 94 days for households enrolled in shelters, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing.
- Thirteen percent of households returned to homelessness.
- Utilization rate is 93% for 9,921 units.

## East King County Regional Effort

- Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) has met monthly for over 10 years to network, share ideas, and hold trainings. EHAC works to ensure the Eastside voice is united and East King County representation is present in regional efforts addressing homelessness. Members of EHAC include agencies providing services to people experiencing homelessness, faith community members, advocates, funders (Eastside cities and King County), A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), All Home, Public Health Seattle and King County, and community members.
- East King County cities work collaboratively to fund homelessness services across regional boundaries to maximize resources and services. For example, Congregations for the Homeless men’s shelter is located in Bellevue, Friends of Youth’s young adult shelter is located in Redmond and both Sophia Way and Catholic Community Services shelter location rotates to various congregations located throughout Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland, but all eastside jurisdictions contribute funds to these programs.

We’ve seen a steady increase of the number of homeless. At any given time, I’d guess there are approximately 50-75 homeless people in the library.

~Participant, Bellevue Library Staff  
Community Conservation

## Bellevue’s approach to addressing homelessness

As Bellevue has grown in population and transitioned into a more urban environment, homelessness, a nationwide issue, has become more visible here. Working together with other Eastside jurisdictions and agencies, the community provides a wide network of services to support individuals experiencing homelessness. The City of Bellevue has undertaken a comprehensive approach towards homelessness and is guided by a commitment to compassion and pragmatism, with the focus on preventing individuals from becoming homeless, transitioning individuals out of homelessness while maintaining a commitment to enforce current codes. This approach requires a high level of coordination between services, facilities, policies, and enforcement.

In partnership with local community providers and by providing Human Services Funding to an array of services, the system of responses to homelessness in Bellevue falls broadly into these categories:

- **Services to prevent homelessness** – basic needs provision, emergency financial assistance, counseling and treatment programs, medical care, employment opportunities, affordable housing
- **Services for individuals experiencing homelessness** – mental health resources, employment programs, housing assistance, substance use disorder treatment and counseling, and case management, etc.
- **Facilities for individuals experiencing homelessness** – day centers, shelters, and other facilities where homeless individuals can not only sleep, but keep belongings, meet with case managers, and focus on addressing underlying issues that may have contributed to their situation

- **Compassionate enforcement** – response to behaviors and activities that don’t comply with existing city rules and regulation using a team-based approach, which includes an outreach worker to provide community resources. This approach includes police and code enforcement response to unauthorized encampments on private or city-owned property, as well as any criminal activity.<sup>14</sup>

The City of Bellevue invested over \$500,000 in additional dollars to the City’s Human Services Fund to provide year-round emergency shelter for men starting in September 2019, through Congregations for the Homeless (CFH). The early start date was made possible by the generosity of the Bellevue business community coming together with design, engineering and financial contributions to modify the existing winter shelter at Lincoln Center for year-round overnight use, and an agreement with Cloudvue, a local developer, to allow CFH to use their property as a temporary “bridge” shelter while the current winter shelter is brought up to fire code for year-round operations.

Regarding expanding CFH winter shelter to year-round operations:

“This is a major step in the provision of emergency services for men experiencing homelessness on the Eastside. It is another example of how the city, our human services providers, our residents and the business community are stepping up to meet the challenge of homelessness.”

~Bellevue Mayor, John Chelminiak

In December 2019, CFH moved the shelter back to Lincoln Center and the facility will be the temporary three-year location until a permanent shelter is constructed. CFH and King County have identified a site owned by King County on Eastgate Way for a new men’s shelter. CFH and King County continue negotiations on the final purchase agreement with a goal to have Bellevue work with CFH and King County to site a new men’s

shelter on property owned by King County on Eastgate Way. CFH and King County have stated that the goal is to have it sited, built and operational by September 2022.<sup>15</sup> Bellevue will work closely with CFH through the design and permitting process.

In Fall 2019, Bellevue added a Homelessness Outreach Coordinator position as part of Bellevue’s strategic effort to help the city advance a proactive and comprehensive response to the challenging issue of homelessness. In addition to providing direct assistance to those experiencing homelessness, this staff person coordinates efforts across city departments, external partners and regional service providers. This staff person also responds to related community issues, and develops performance metrics for Bellevue’s work to reduce homelessness.<sup>16</sup>

## Preventing Homelessness

Preventing households from losing their housing is an important strategy for ending homelessness. To be truly preventative, homelessness assistance must extend beyond just the specific episode of homelessness: an effective system should help people to resolve their crises, access on-going sources of support in the community, and provide basic safety net assistance such as emergency shelter and temporary rental assistance.<sup>17</sup> Some best practices to prevent homelessness include:<sup>18, 19, 20</sup>

- Jobs that pay a livable wage, and job training and education that helps workers move up the wage and job ladder



- Economic development to create a wider range of opportunities for living wage jobs, including those that do not require advanced college degrees
- Preservation and creation of more affordable housing that accounts for family income as rents and other basic needs increase
- Affordable, quality childcare so that parents can work knowing that their children are well taken care of
- Access to assistance that already exists such as tax credits and rebates for low-income people that frees up more of their limited income for housing
- Access to transportation to maintain employment and needed services
- Elimination of racial disparities by promoting equity and social justice in funding and program design
- Healthcare that provides for both mental and physical health services
- Access to emergency assistance for times of crisis, such as financial help to prevent eviction, legal aid for those who have had past criminal histories

## Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in East King County

### Emergency Shelter

“Emergency Shelter,” according to a federal definition, means “any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.” There is an extensive network of emergency shelter facilities but demand far exceeds availability.<sup>21</sup>

#### Men:

- Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) operates a low-barrier, year-round emergency overnight shelter. In 2018, they provided 15,829 bed nights for 603 individuals, with 234 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>22</sup>
- CFH operates a year-round emergency shelter program with 35 beds per night. The shelter rotates each month between different congregations, primarily in Bellevue. In 2018, they provided 6,383 bed nights for 113 individuals, with 45 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>23</sup>

#### Women:

- The Sophia Way operates a low-barrier, year-round emergency overnight shelter. The shelter rotates between different congregations. In 2018, they provided 8,219 bed nights for 413 individuals, with 65 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>24</sup>
- The Sophia Way operates a six-month intensive shelter program with 21 beds per night. In 2018, they provided 7,464 bed nights for 96 individuals, with 14 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>25</sup>

#### Families with Children:

- Catholic Community Services operates a low-barrier, year around emergency overnight shelter. The shelter rotates between different congregations. In 2018, they provided 7,203 bed nights for 348 individuals, with 16 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>26</sup>
- Hopelink operates 19 units of apartment style family shelter in Redmond and Kenmore. In FY 2018, they provided 20,425 bed nights for 149 individuals, with 16 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>27</sup>

## Domestic Violence:

LifeWire operates a confidential shelter for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence. The shelter is located in apartments scattered around East King County. In 2018, they provided 13,523 bed nights for 127 individuals, with 28 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>28</sup>

## Youth and Young Adults:

- Friends of Youth operates a licensed staffed residential home for up to 12 youth, ages 11 to 17 in Kirkland. It's a short-term emergency placement for homeless youth and for state involved youth through the Children's Administration. In 2018, they provided 1,851 bed nights, with 78 of those bed nights for Bellevue residents.<sup>29</sup>
- Friends of Youth operates a low-barrier overnight shelter for 20 young adults age 18-24 in Redmond open seven nights a week. In 2018, they provided 6,818 bed nights for 193 individuals, with 13 self-identifying from Bellevue.<sup>30</sup>

## Future:

In mid-2020, Catholic Community Services and Sophia Way will be opening the first 24-hour homeless housing site and day center for families and women in Kirkland on the property formerly owned by the Salt House Church. The facility will be able to provide 48 beds for women and 50 beds for families. They will provide case management, housing navigation, mental health counseling, meals, and a computer lab.

In early 2019, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) announced they had selected a site for a permanent shelter and day center in Bellevue, a piece of surplus King County property along Eastgate Way. This facility would provide 100 beds for men, as well as case management and supportive services. CFH and King County continue to negotiate final terms of the sale of the property, and CFH continues to work with Bellevue on the review and permitting process. CFH has identified the goal to have the facility up and running mid to late 2022.

## Tent Encampments:

Tent City 4 in East King County consists of homeless adults who form temporary encampments to live together as a self-managed community. Tent City 4 sets up on land owned by faith communities for several months before moving to another location. Since first arriving on the Eastside in Spring 2004, the camp has maintained a consistent presence, locating in Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Woodinville, and unincorporated King County. In November 2012, Camp Unity Eastside was established as a new nonprofit temporary encampment organization.

## Safe Parking:

Safe parking programs provide a safe place for people living in vehicles to sleep at night. None of these programs can accommodate RVs, trailers or campers. The programs have differing requirements, amenities, and lengths of stay.

- Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland operates for single women and families with children. They serve an average of 40 people a night.
- Overlake Christian Church in Redmond serves single men and men as part of a couple. They have 15 spots for vehicles.
- St Jude's Parish serves adult men and women in Redmond with 6 spots for vehicles.

- Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah serves single women and families with children with 6 spots for vehicles.
- Newport Presbyterian in Bellevue serves people by referral only through Lake Washington United Methodist Church's Safe Parking and REACH Center of Hope.<sup>31</sup>

## Day and Drop-In Centers

Day and Drop-In Centers for people experiencing homelessness are critical resources to keep people safe. They provide food, respite, showers, laundry, and connections with case managers and employment support.

### Men:

Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) operates a day center for men experiencing homelessness. It is open at the Lincoln Center in Bellevue seven days a week. In 2018, they provided 9,451 drop-in visits for 526 individuals, with 249 self-identified from Bellevue.<sup>32</sup>

### Women:

The Sophia Way operates a day center for women experiencing homelessness. It is open seven days a week and located in Bellevue. In 2018, they provided 11,266 drop-in visits for 492 individuals, with 88 self-identified from Bellevue.<sup>33</sup>

### Families with Children:

Catholic Community Services operates New Bethlehem Day Center seven days a week. In 2018, they provided 19,704 drop-in visits for 705 individuals, with 54 self-identified from Bellevue.<sup>34</sup>

### Youth and Young Adults:

Friends of Youth operates a drop-in center for youth and young adults (age 18-24) at the Together Center in Redmond six days a week. In 2018, they provided 5,321 drop-in visits with 346 individuals, with 26 self-identified from Bellevue.<sup>35</sup>

## Outreach

Outreach programs are vital for reaching out to people who are experiencing homelessness. Outreach workers go where people are to develop relationships and trust that has often been lost due to traumatic experiences and systems that failed to meet their needs. All outreach programs on the Eastside are serving all populations, with the exception of Friends of Youth, which serves only youth and young adults. Many of the programs have flexible financial assistance to provide resources to address the barriers that are keeping them from becoming stably housed. These may include but are not limited to first month's rent, paying off prior landlord debt, and car repair to allow them to return to work. Outreach Case Managers, who respond to concerns regarding homelessness in these communities, serve as an important point of connection between cities, agencies, and the surrounding area.

### Congregations for the Homeless:

Outreach services are currently provided in Bellevue, Issaquah, and Kirkland. They work with individuals sleeping outside, in a vehicle, and in emergency shelter.

### The Sophia Way:

One outreach worker focuses on vehicle residency with an office located at the Safe Parking Program at Lake Washington United Methodist Church. Another worker focuses on homeless individuals sleeping outside or in their emergency shelter.

### **Friends of Youth:**

Friends of Youth's Outreach Team provides street outreach to homeless youth age 16-24 in East and North King County. The Team has a van equipped with basic needs items (food, clothing, and hygiene and first aid supplies) and can be used to transport youth to shelters, health clinics, and job interviews.

### **City of Redmond:**

The Homeless Outreach Specialist works with people who are experiencing homelessness to connect them with resources. In addition, the Outreach Specialist operates the weekly Community Resource Center at the Redmond Public Library.

### **Bellevue's Homelessness Outreach Coordinator:**

Through Bellevue's City Manager's Office, the Homelessness Outreach Coordinator provides direct assistance to those experiencing homelessness, responds to community concerns, and works with internal and external partners to reduce homelessness in Bellevue.

## **Longer-term Housing Programs**

In Bellevue and East King County, there are several non-profit organizations that are funded by King County, local cities and other sources to provide longer-term housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. These models include transitional housing, permanent housing with supports, and permanent supportive housing. Providers of longer-term housing include Imagine Housing, Low-Income Housing Institute, LifeWire, YWCA, Hopelink, Attain Housing, The Sophia Way, and Congregations for the Homeless.

Affordable housing that can be quickly available is needed to help people move out of homelessness.

~Participant, Sophia Way  
Consumer Conversation

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## Endnotes

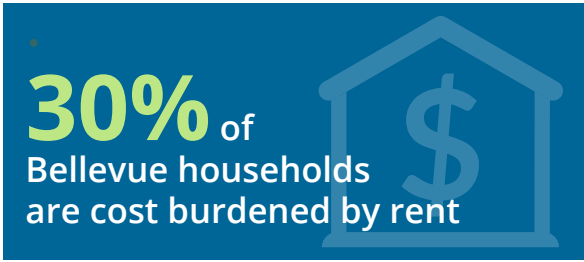
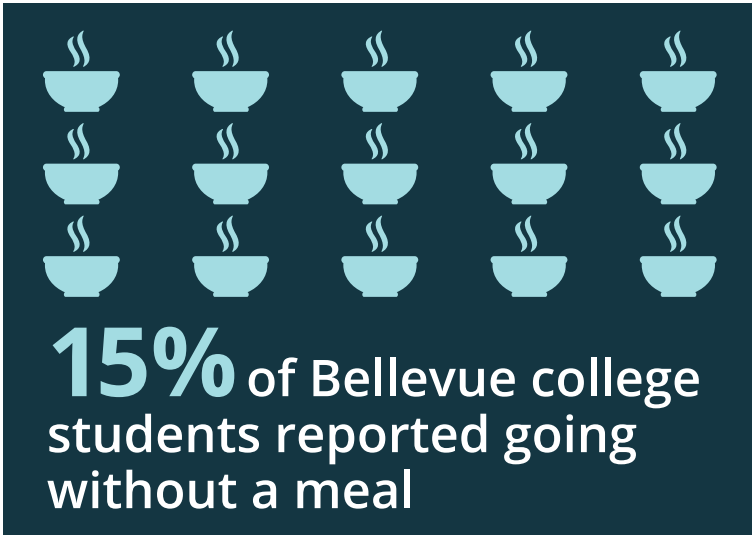
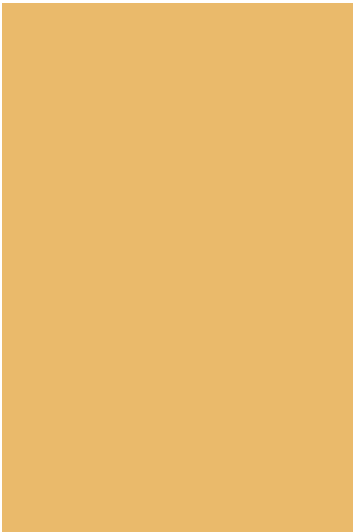
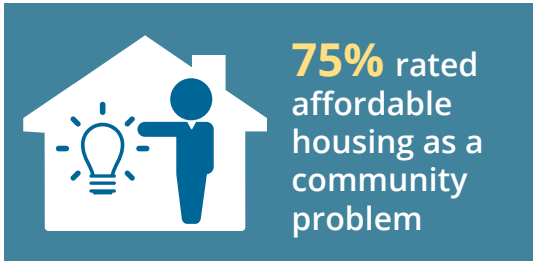
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# Goal Areas



# Food to Eat and Roof Overhead





# Goal #1:

## Food to Eat and Roof Overhead

This chapter includes data about:

- Food security and hunger
- Emergency financial assistance
- Affordable housing
- Housing choice (Section 8) availability

This chapter discusses these topics as they pertain to the broader community. For more information about how this goal area relates to specific populations (Older Adults, Refugees and Immigrants, People with Disabilities, School-Aged Children and Youth, and Veterans) within our community, please see their respective chapters

### Key Findings

- The high cost of living is repeatedly identified by Bellevue residents and community conversations as a top issue. This is true across many socioeconomic segments of the population.
- The lack of affordable housing continues to be reported by residents as the top community problem, and this is a substantial problem for moderate-income and low-income households, many of whom are cost burdened. Little relief is found in the rental market as rental rates are also continuing to increase.
- The community rated hunger as a major or moderate problem, which has remained statistically flat since 2011 showing a consistent need. Non-profit providers also report that providing food assistance allows households with limited income to use those funds for housing and other basic needs.

### Food Security and Hunger

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, as well as the limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in a socially acceptable way.<sup>1</sup> Food insecurity can have a devastating effect on a person's health and wellbeing; it can result in lower diet quality and less variety, both of which can contribute to being overweight, and unpredictable availability of food can lead to overeating.<sup>2</sup>

#### Community Voice

In the 2019 community and phone survey, 23% of respondents rated hunger as a major or moderate problem in Bellevue. This figure has remained statistically flat since at least 2011<sup>3</sup>, showing a consistent need for food security resources.

#### Prevalence

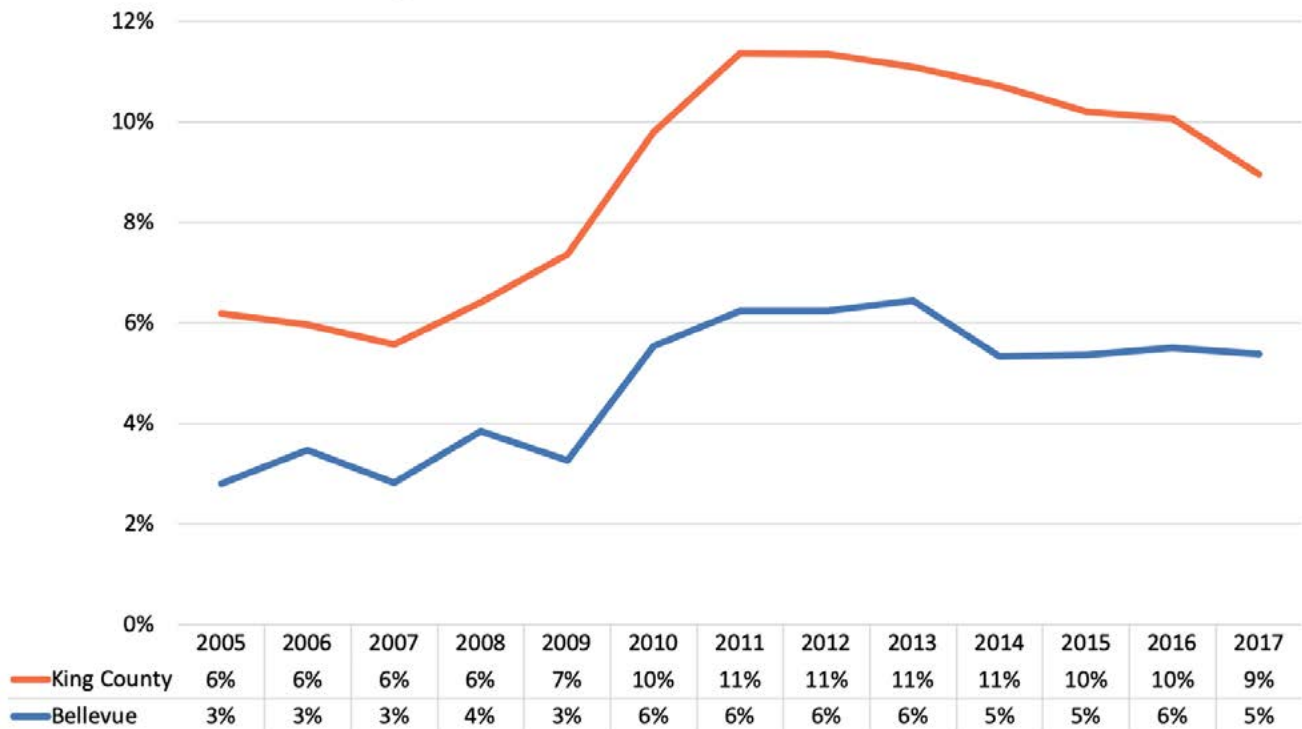
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about one in ten people (10.8%) in Washington State is considered food insecure.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2017, 7% of Bellevue residents reported running out of food and money for a period of time in the past year.<sup>5</sup>

- In 2018, approximately 15% of Bellevue College students reported going without a meal occasionally, fairly often, or frequently in the past 6 months.<sup>6</sup>
- For information about children and food security and hunger, please see the section School-Aged Children & Youth.

## Service Trends

- Basic Food includes the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as “food stamps,” and the state-funded Food Assistance Program (FAP) for legal immigrants. FAP is for individuals who are legal immigrants and meet all the eligibility requirements for SNAP except citizenship or alien status.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 1. Percent of Households on Basic Food**



Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services<sup>8</sup>

- The number of Washington residents receiving food stamps has decreased by 13% since 2014. That year, 1.5 million people received food assistance, compared to 1.3 million in 2017.<sup>9</sup> Over that same time period, the number of Bellevue residents participating in Basic Food decreased from 10,072 to 8,310, a reduction of approximately 17 percent.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2018, King County food banks had a total of 250,203 clients and over 2.2 million visits, serving more than 1 in 9 King County residents.<sup>11</sup>
- Hopelink’s food assistance programs provide emergency and supplemental food to help end food insecurity for thousands in our community. In 2018, Hopelink provided a total of 2,230,884 meals, with 13,998 clients receiving food assistance. In total, the average number of food bank visits for all clients is about 11 per year.<sup>12</sup>
- By mid-2019, Renewal Food Bank provided nearly 20,000 bags of groceries to approximately 3,500 Bellevue residents.<sup>13</sup>

# Emergency Financial Assistance

Emergency Financial Assistance programs help keep families from falling through the cracks into perpetual homelessness. Assistance can include things like utility supports, which keep the home habitable, or eviction prevention assistance, which protects a family's rental history, keeps them from incurring the costs of eviction and, most importantly, ensures the stability of knowing they have a place to live.

## Community Voice

- Forty-six percent of providers report clients need emergency financial assistance but cannot find financial assistance resources in the community.<sup>14</sup>
- Staff from the Bellevue School District's Family Connection Center stated that families often have a difficult time navigating the system to access emergency financial assistance. Many programs require the household to have a 3-Day Notice to Vacate to access the funds, but often families want to avoid a getting a 3-Day Notice because they have a good rental history.<sup>15</sup>

## Service Trends

- In 2018, the City's Utility Discount Program provided utility discounts and rebates for 994 low-income seniors and disabled residents who receive water, sewer and drainage services from the City of Bellevue. In 2018, the Utility Tax Rebate Program provided refunds of utility taxes to 1,037 low-income residents.<sup>16</sup> This represents about a 10% decrease in the numbers served in these programs in 2016.
- In 2018, Hopelink helped 1,881 clients through emergency financial assistance and \$499,265 was distributed to mitigate crisis and prevent eviction.<sup>17</sup>
- Using funds from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) HELP Program, funded by Puget Sound Energy, Hopelink helped 10,637 clients and distributed \$3,367,432 in heating assistance in 2018. The average energy assistance provided per household was \$710.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2017 and 2018, Solid Ground's King County Housing Stability Project served 66 Bellevue households in need of move-in or eviction prevention assistance.<sup>19</sup>

# Affordable Housing

Housing is defined as affordable if its occupants pay no more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities or for mortgage, taxes, and insurance. According to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), households paying more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened. Households paying more than 50% of their income for housing are considered severely cost burdened and may have trouble affording basic necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

"I live in a little rambler, but many of the other homes in my neighborhood have been torn down and large houses have been built. The property taxes keep increasing and are becoming unaffordable."

~ Participant, Eastside Neighbors Network Community Conversation

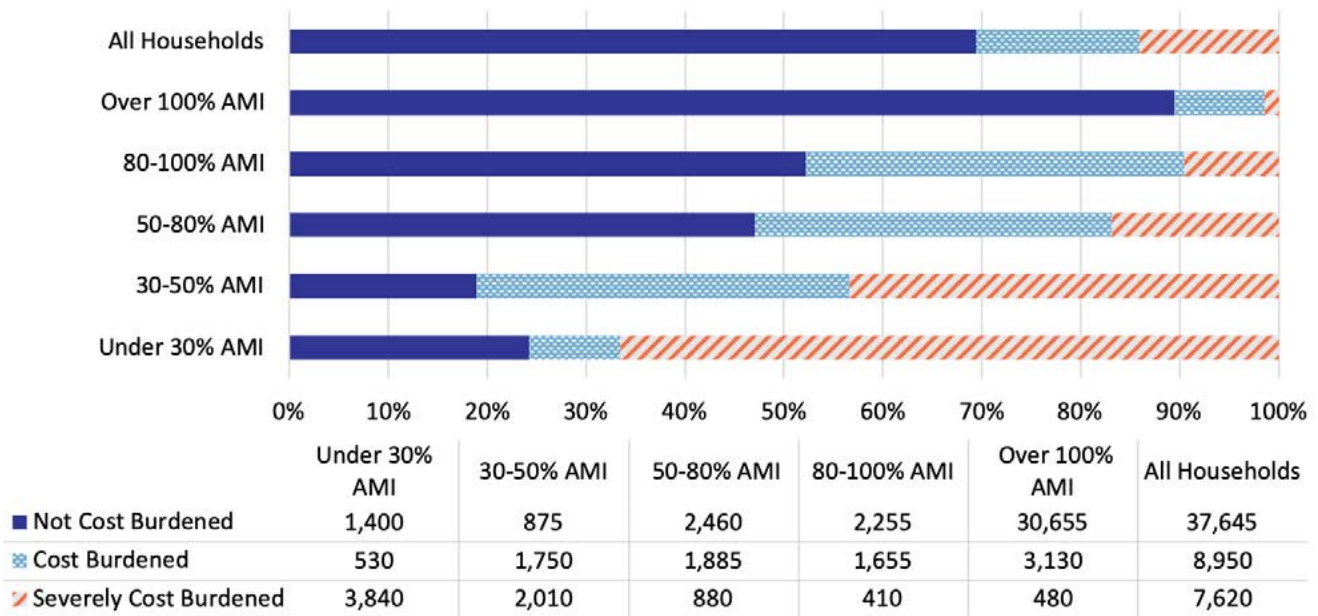
## Community Voice

- This was the eleventh consecutive phone/online survey in which lack of affordable housing (as a community problem) received the greatest percentage of major and combined major/moderate ratings, at 75%. The percentage of respondents rating homelessness as a major or moderate problem changed from 35% in 2017 to 42% in 2019, a statistically significant increase.<sup>20</sup>
- Concerns about the cost of living in Bellevue was the most prominent theme across all Community Conversations, with many feeling that people cannot reasonably afford to live here anymore.
- Regarding Bellevue residents' ratings of major or moderate problems in their households, 15% of respondents reported not having enough money to pay for housing, 7% reported living in housing with unaffordable major repairs, and 5% struggled to pay utility bills.<sup>21</sup>

## Prevalence

- As Figure 2 shows, between 2011 and 2015 (the most recent data available) almost one-third (30%) of Bellevue households were cost burdened, meaning they spent more than 30% of their income on housing. This included 14% of households that spend more than 50% of their income on housing (severely cost burdened). For households whose income is below half of the area median income, 42% are severely cost burdened. Renters are more likely to suffer some sort of cost burden than owners.<sup>22</sup>

**Figure 2. Bellevue Residents' Cost Burden by Income**



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy<sup>23</sup>

- In June 2019, the median Bellevue rent was \$2,835, an increase over 2018 of almost 4%.<sup>24</sup>
- In East King County, 2018 home prices fell 3.1 percent from a year before, the first time prices declined on a year-over-year basis since 2012.<sup>25</sup> However, the median sale price for homes in Bellevue in February 2019 was \$860,000, an increase of 38% compared to the same month in 2015.<sup>26</sup>

- Job growth continues to outpace housing growth in Bellevue. Between 2000 and 2018, the number of jobs increased by 22,700, while housing units increased by only 9,800. With about 1.4 jobs being generated per household, Bellevue would have needed 16,800 new units to house those new workers, resulting in a deficit of nearly 7,000 housing units. When job growth outpaces housing growth demand for housing exceeds supply resulting in higher housing values and less affordability.<sup>27</sup>

“One thing I want to mention is that housing is too costly here. Everyone has to work extra to afford to live in this area.”

~Consumer Survey

## Service Trends

- In 2017, Bellevue helped create or preserve about 285 low income units and 103 homeless beds. All of these units received Bellevue direct assistance through the ARCH Housing Trust Fund, including Imagine Housing Esterra Park Block 6B in Redmond, Congregations For the Homeless Men’s Home, Catholic Community Services Women and Family Shelter in Kirkland, and King County Housing Authority Trailhead in Issaquah. This compares to 2016 when 105 low income units and 61 moderate income units were created. As shown in Figure 3 Bellevue has helped create or preserve a total of 3,025 units between 1996 and 2018.<sup>28</sup> No projects were recommended for funding in 2018.

**Figure 3. Affordable Housing Units Created in Bellevue, 1996-2018**

Target Population	Direct Assistance	Regulatory Incentives	Market	Total
Low-income (50% of median)	866 units	—	8 units	874 units
Moderate-income (80% median)	512 units	371 units	1,239 units	2,122 units
Total Units	1,378 units	371 units	1,247 units	1,996 units

Source: A Regional Coalition for Housing<sup>29</sup>

- In 2017, each Bellevue housing fund dollar leveraged approximately \$60 in other funds. Bellevue’s investment in 2017 affordable projects was \$1,570,000 which leveraged approximately \$22.3 million in other local, state, and federal funding in addition to \$37.6 in Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity.<sup>30</sup> No projects were recommended for funding in the 2018 Trust Fund Round.

## Housing Choice (Section 8)

Section 8 vouchers help people with low incomes rent homes on the private market. With a voucher, people pay at least 28%, but not more than 40% (in the first year), of their household income for rent and utilities. King County Housing Authority (KCHA) pays the difference between their portion of the rent and the amount their landlord requests. Tenant-based vouchers are portable and a program participant can take the voucher to any rental property to try and use it, assuming the rent of the unit is affordable. Project-based Housing Choice Vouchers are used in KCHA units and nonprofit-owned housing sites.

“Even with a full-time job making \$15 an hour, I cannot find anything I can afford to rent. Affordable housing wait lists are 3 to 5 years.”

~Participant, Sophia Way  
Community Conversation

### Prevalence

- KCHA's Section 8 program is not accepting applications, and they last held a lottery for vouchers in May 2017.<sup>31</sup>
- KCHA administers approximately 340 units of subsidized housing in Bellevue.<sup>32</sup>

### Service Trends

- As of June 2019, KCHA had approximately 827 households utilizing tenant-based vouchers to pay a portion of their rent. 43% of these households have at least one elderly member. Of the remaining households, 26% have a member with a disability and the remainder are families, the majority of them with children. In total, these households include 448 children. The annual rental subsidy associated with these vouchers is over \$11.2 million and supports very low-income households – the average income of tenant-based households in Bellevue was \$16,397 in 2018.<sup>33</sup>
- KCHA has 101 project-based vouchers at eight different non-profit-owned housing sites.<sup>34</sup>

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# Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities



King County  
**211** calls for basic needs in Bellevue  
**1,298** in **2016**  
**1,462** in **2018**



Mini City Hall  
**48,349**  
resources and information referrals

Family connection centers are located in **8** elementary, **2** middle, and **3** high schools in Bellevue



**71%** of low-income households experience at least one civil legal problem.



**20%** Bellevue residents reported having a lot of stress, anxiety or depression that interferes with daily life.



# Goal #2

## Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities

This chapter includes data about:

- Finding Help: Information and Referral
- Legal services
- Support for individuals, families, and adults raising children

This chapter discusses these topics as they pertain to the broader community. For more information about how this goal area relates to specific populations (Older Adults, Refugees and Immigrants, People with Disabilities, School-Aged Children and Youth, and Veterans) within our community, please see their respective chapters.

### Key Findings

- All families need support, regardless of socio-economic status. However, some Bellevue families may need additional social support to raise their children, care for aging and or disabled loved ones, or a combination of the three if they have limited resources. Family, friends and neighbors are becoming even more important because funding is often limited for many formal services, such as family support programs.
- The need for information provided in languages other than English continues to grow as the Puget Sound Region and East King County becomes more diverse. Human service providers, local government and businesses need to work together to meet this community need by providing resources in a variety of languages.
- Many residents are not aware of how to access human services when the need arises, due lack of knowledge of resources in the community. Some of the factors that contribute to this include not having easy access to a computer, limited English language skills, and not needing to access services in the past. The Crisis Clinic's King County 2-1-1 is one way to fill this critical information gap.
- Low-cost or free civil legal services are a growing need for many residents. A major gap for services exists for direct representation, especially for survivors of domestic violence, immigration issues, and bankruptcy.

# Finding Help: Information and Referral

Residents in our community often don't know where to turn for help when an issue arises. Information and referral services provide the bridge to connect people with the resources to assist them in alleviating their crisis and remove the barriers to access.

## Community Voice

- Phone/online survey respondents who found help were asked to identify which organizations or persons provided assistance. Help was most often attributed to mental health counselor (50%), family member, friend or neighbor (41%), health care provider (31%), school/educational institution (19%), and social service agency (18%).<sup>1</sup>
- Some Bellevue employees, including those working in the Bellevue Fire CARES, noted that sometimes they encounter residents in the community that are isolated and not only need health care or help with their repair needs, but they also are isolated without family or friends who can offer support.<sup>2</sup>
- Lack of transportation was one of the most frequently mentioned gaps for all populations and in all service areas during community conversations. It leads to lack of access to needed services and isolation. "Inadequate public transportation" has increased as a major/moderate community problem in the phone and online survey since 2003. In 2019, 40% of respondents identified inadequate public transportation as a community problem. Twenty-one percent of the respondents rated it as household problem, which was the second-highest rated problem.<sup>3</sup>
- In virtually all Community Conversations, participants frequently mentioned difficulties finding human services resources. Participants included human service clients, consumers, providers and English Language Learners.
- In the 2019 phone/online survey, 7% of respondents said that people in Bellevue do not have enough access to human services, slightly higher than 2017. Of those who sought help (48%), two-thirds (66%) found the help they needed.<sup>4</sup>
- Staff from the Wrap-Around Services Program<sup>5</sup> reported that many parents they work with lack access to and knowledge of technology to enroll their children in recreation and other community programs. This suggests that information should be made available in multiple formats.<sup>6</sup>
- Staff at Bellevue Mini City Hall report seeing an increase in request for affordable housing, shelter, affordable mental health, immigration issues, and services for older adults. They report that the number of resources in our community is not able to meet the need for some community needs, such as affordable housing.<sup>7</sup>

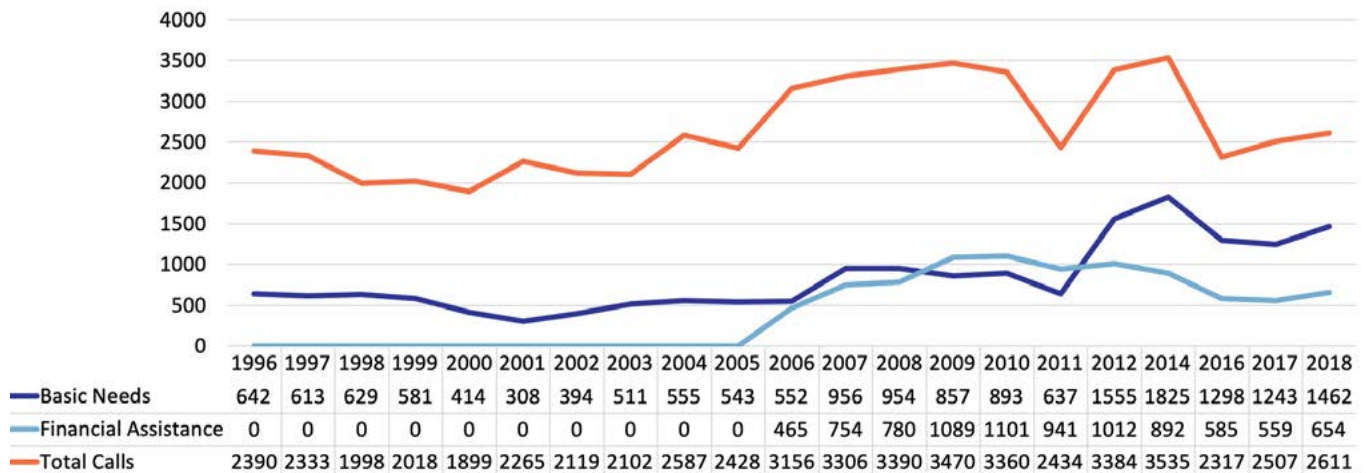
There are lots of great human services resource in the community, but many people are not aware of them and do not know how to access them. This is especially true for those with limited computer skills, which is often a challenge for older adults.

~Participant, Eastside  
Neighborhood Network

## Prevalence

- In 2018, staff at the City of Bellevue’s Mini City Hall (MCH) at Crossroads Shopping Center received 48,349 requests from customers asking for resource and information referrals, with over 57% related to human service needs. During the first six months of 2019, they have received 24,335 requests, with nearly 60% related to human service needs. In the past 20 months, affordable housing, senior resources, homelessness, access to health care, immigration and citizenship assistance have been the most frequent human service requests.<sup>8</sup>
- Crisis Connection 211 is a one-stop approach for information about health and human services, that streamlines access to social service agencies and resources in King County. The top unmet needs are rental assistance (844), emergency shelter/motel vouchers with (803), and move-in assistance (520).<sup>9</sup>
- As shown in the chart below, the number of calls from Bellevue residents increased by 4% in 2018 and the number of requests for both financial assistance and basic needs increased by 17%. Calls for financial assistance represents 25% of the calls and 56% of the calls were for basic needs, which is similar to previous years.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 1: Number of Bellevue Resident Calls to Crisis Connections 211**



Source: Crisis Connections<sup>11</sup>

## Service Trends

- In the first half of 2019, Crisis Connections 2-1-1 received 32,173 calls in King County, leading to 30,845 referrals. The number of calls for assistance countywide decreased slightly with 135,990 in 2017 compared to 116,506 in 2018. Resources are also available through the Crisis Connections website, which could be a factor in the slight decrease in calls. Inadequate funding continues to impact staffing and they were not able to answer all of the incoming calls. Of the calls answered and logged, there were 72,109 in 2017 compared to 73,225 in 2018. Crisis Clinic now has a call back option, which eliminates the hold time waiting for assistance.<sup>12</sup>
- Crisis Connections has been an access point for homeless resources through Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) until mid 2019 when CEA moved to a new system. In 2018, 2-1-1 received 2,286 calls and 73 were self-identified from Bellevue residents. For permanent housing, they received 10,475 calls. Of those calls, 356 were self-identified from Bellevue.<sup>13</sup>
- Bellevue Mini City Hall provides an array of services on-site, including cultural navigators, computer coaches through King County Library System, and health resources through State

Health Insurance Benefit Advisor (SHIBA), International Community Health Services (ICHS), and Public Health. They also provide in-person multilingual services for eight languages.<sup>14</sup>

## Legal Services

Many low-income people are not able to access legal services due to inability to pay for legal services, including civil legal aid, free legal assistance and advocating for laws and policies that promote fairness.

### Community Voice

- In the 2019 phone/online survey, 8% of households reported that lack of affordable legal services was rated as a major or moderate household problem, remaining flat since 2015. Twenty-seven percent of respondents rated it as a major or moderate community problem in 2019, significantly lower than 2017.<sup>15</sup>
- LifeWire reports that legal support and representation is key for a survivor of domestic violence as they leave their abuser.<sup>16</sup>
- Bellevue School District Family Connections Center staff and King County Library staff from the downtown Bellevue Library both identified the need for low cost legal assistance and referrals for issues including immigration issues, landlord-tenant conflicts, and domestic violence.<sup>17,18</sup>
- In the 2019 consumer survey, about 21% of respondents rated not being able to pay for legal help as a major or moderate household problem.<sup>19</sup>

### Prevalence

- In 2016, 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem, including problems with domestic violence, veterans' benefits, disability access, housing conditions, and health care.<sup>20</sup>
- Eighty-six percent of the civil legal problems faced by low-income Americans in 2016 alone received either no legal assistance or inadequate legal assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- Low-income Americans seek professional help for only 20% of their civil legal programs. The top reasons for not seeking professional legal help are deciding to deal with a problem on their own, not knowing where to look for help/what resources exist, and not being sure whether their problem is a legal issue.<sup>22</sup>
- The average number of civil legal problems per low-income household has tripled over the past decade.<sup>23</sup>
- The highest prevalence of problems for low-income households in Washington are in the areas of health care, consumer/finance, and employment. This is a change from the 2003 finding where top occurring problems included housing, family relations, and employment.<sup>24</sup>

### Service Trends

- ELAP provides individualized legal consultations, legal representation with a priority for survivors of domestic violence and legal presentations for no cost. In 2018, ELAP provided a total of 790 one-on-one sessions; 238 were to Bellevue residents. Two hundred and three Bellevue residents attended a legal presentation, including topics on creating a will and immigration rights. ELAP reported an increased need for clients from the bankruptcy and general law clinics requesting extended legal services beyond the 30- to 45-minute consultation. In response, they created a pilot program call Act 2, which engages senior or retired attorneys to provide additional support after the clinic.<sup>25</sup>

- King County Bar Association reports an increase in evictions cases, debt and bankruptcy matters, family law matters, and benefits issues. In 2018, they provided 291 Bellevue households with 161 hours of legal services through the Housing Justice Project and their Neighborhood Legal Clinics.<sup>26</sup>

## Support for Individuals, Families, and Adults Raising Children

Social support helps to give people the emotional and practical resources they need to feel cared for, valued, and secure. The term ‘social support’ refers to the physical and emotional comfort and practical resources we receive from family, friends, and others. Studies show that social support is an important factor in predicting health and wellbeing no matter what age.

### Community Voice

- In the 2019 Bellevue phone/online survey, having a lot of stress, anxiety or depression that interferes with their daily life was rated as a major or moderate problem by 20% of respondents, a 4% increase from 2017. Among consumers, 15% of respondents reported having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression which interferes with daily life as a major or moderate problem during the past year for them or someone in their household.<sup>27</sup>
- Among Bellevue households with children age 6 months to 10 years old, 75% of parents and caregivers reported having someone to turn to for day-to-day emotional support with parenting and raising children. This is the same as King County and East King County (75%), but lower than North King County (82%) and Seattle (85%) and higher than South King County (69%). Across King County, parents with household incomes below \$50,000 were less likely to report having emotional support than parents in households with income above that threshold.<sup>28</sup>
- Twenty-three percent of the 2019 phone/online survey respondents identified lack of parenting skills as a major or moderate community problem, about the same as 2017.<sup>29</sup>

### Prevalence

- Single parents may need more support. Whether mothers or fathers, they often have special needs because they may be the sole providers of their children’s needs. About 16% of children in Bellevue live in single-parent households.<sup>30</sup> Most single-parent households are headed by a woman. About 25% of female-headed single parent households live in poverty, the highest rate of all family types in Bellevue.<sup>31</sup>
- Work and family support needs in the U.S. are increasing as more families work longer hours, and have more responsibilities for caring for their children, as well as for frail, older family members; these caregivers are commonly called the “sandwich generation.” Forty-seven percent of Americans, ages 40 to 59, are in the sandwich generation.<sup>32</sup>
- Mothers in low-income families are more likely than high-income counterparts to be breadwinners. In 69.4% of low-income families the mother is the primary income earner, compared to 29.6% in the top income households. One significant driver of these differences is the marital status of mothers. Ninety percent of the mothers in the low-income earners are unmarried compared to 10.2% in the top income earners. Marriage is not the sole factor; rather women consistently earn less than their male counterparts at all income levels and are more likely to work in the lowest-paying jobs.<sup>33</sup>

- In Bellevue, about 85% of children live in a two-parent households.<sup>34</sup> In two-parent families, about 79% of fathers and 46% of mothers work outside of the home.<sup>35</sup>
- For more information about older adults and/or people with disabilities and Supportive Relationships, please see the section(s) Older Adults and/or People with Disabilities.

## Service Trends

- Family Connections Centers (FCC) facilitate improved access to human services between home, school, and community. Staff refer families to local agencies for clothing and food, as well as counseling, housing, employment, emergency financial assistance and health care. FCC are located in 8 elementary, 2 middle and 3 high schools in the Bellevue School District.<sup>36</sup> In 2018, staff worked with 5,342 individuals and provided 8,878 information and referrals and provided advocacy on behalf of a client 11,672 times.<sup>37</sup>
- Hopelink’s Family Development program works with families for up to two years to help mitigate barriers to housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency. In 2018, they provided 1125 hours of case management to 90 Bellevue Families.<sup>38</sup>
- Home visiting programs have been shown to increase parent-child bonding and result in children gaining the social-emotional and other skills that improve school readiness. Between July 2017 and June 2018, home visiting services were provided to 2,550 households in Washington State. More than half of these households were in extreme poverty.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2018, Eastside Baby Corner provided 13,072 bundles of items to Bellevue residents. Midway through 2019, they had distributed 6,573 bundles. These include things, such as formula, car seats, and diapers.<sup>40</sup>
- Kinderling’s ParentChild+ program offers home visiting for families with a child between 16 to 30 months old focusing on school readiness, parenting skills to enhance their child’s development, and access to early learning services. In 2018-19 school year, they served 44 families and have a target to serve 51 families in 2019-20 school year.<sup>41</sup>

“Family Connection Centers are the best. It is a privilege to have a program that provides support to parents, provides resources, and helps build community.”

~ Stevenson Elementary Parenting Group

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# A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse



Bellevue Police  
Department Violence  
Victim Advocate  
averaged a caseload of **24**.

**Life Wire**  
reported turning away  
**19** households for every  
**1** they serve in  
emergency  
housing



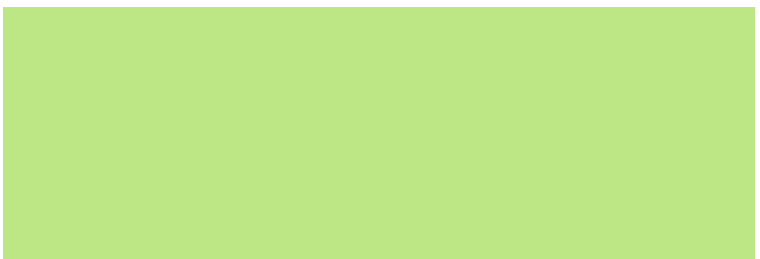
**2019 Count Us In**  
**337** counted in EKC  
**7%**  
currently DV



**1134** reports  
indicating **Domestic  
Violence** in  
Bellevue



**229** cases of  
human trafficking  
were reported in  
2018 in Washington



# Goal #3

## A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse

This chapter includes data about:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Human Trafficking

This chapter discusses these topics as they pertain to the broader community. For more information about how this goal area relates to specific populations (Older Adults, Refugees and Immigrants, People with Disabilities, School-Aged Children and Youth, and Veterans) within our community, please see their respective chapters.

### Key Findings

- Survivors of Domestic Violence (DV) are faced with barriers to housing and legal services. The high cost of housing in Bellevue creates a serious challenge for survivors who want to remain in the community to maintain their jobs and support systems. More shelter beds as well as more affordable permanent housing options with services are needed. Pro-bono or affordable legal representation for child custody, protection orders, immigration, and financial issues is another huge challenge. Without these services, it becomes much harder for survivors to maintain their safety, return to employment, and become self-sufficient.
- Child abuse occurs in approximately 70% of families experiencing domestic violence. Holistic programs including prevention and earlier interventions are needed to break the cycle of abuse for future generations. Also, for children and youth who have witnessed abuse, programs that include support groups and individual counseling need to be available to address the resulting trauma.
- Sexual assault continues to be a public safety issue. It is critical to support community education about sexual assault, rape, child sexual abuse, and consent workshops for youth.
- There is a strong connection between early, untreated child sexual abuse and homelessness and trafficking. Upwards of 40% of youth who are homeless experience sexual assault prior to becoming homeless. It is important that conversations about homelessness and trafficking include the issue of sexual assault.
- Poverty can be a correlating factor in child abuse and neglect. Parents and caregivers experiencing economic hardship have challenges in providing the basics for their children. With the challenges that many families are experiencing in day to day life, it is even more important to offer basic needs assistance to families with children, provide outlets for stress, and supportive services.

# Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV), specifically intimate partner violence (IPV), profoundly affects the lives of survivors as well as the entire community. DV incidents involve family or household members; traditionally the term has referred to altercations between spouses and former spouses, but legally it includes roommates with or without a romantic relationship, and parents or children. Individuals may be of the same gender.

## Community voice

Over the past 20 years, phone/online survey results indicate that Bellevue residents feel DV is not a significant community or household problem. The number of respondents rating it as a moderate or major community problem experiencing DV was at its highest in 1995 at 33%; in 2019, 18% rated it as such.

## Prevalence

- Calls for DV shelter remained similar with 1,651 calls in 2017 and 1,665 calls in 2018. The top unmet needs for Bellevue callers experiencing DV were for emergency shelter, permanent housing and rent assistance.<sup>1</sup>
- As Figure 1 indicates, the number of reports of domestic violence to the Bellevue Police Department has remained relatively steady since the large drop in 2013. From 2014 to 2018, the average amount of reports indicating domestic violence per year was 1,119. Note: The data collected reflects reports where domestic violence was indicated - which includes all case types, not just assaults.<sup>2</sup>

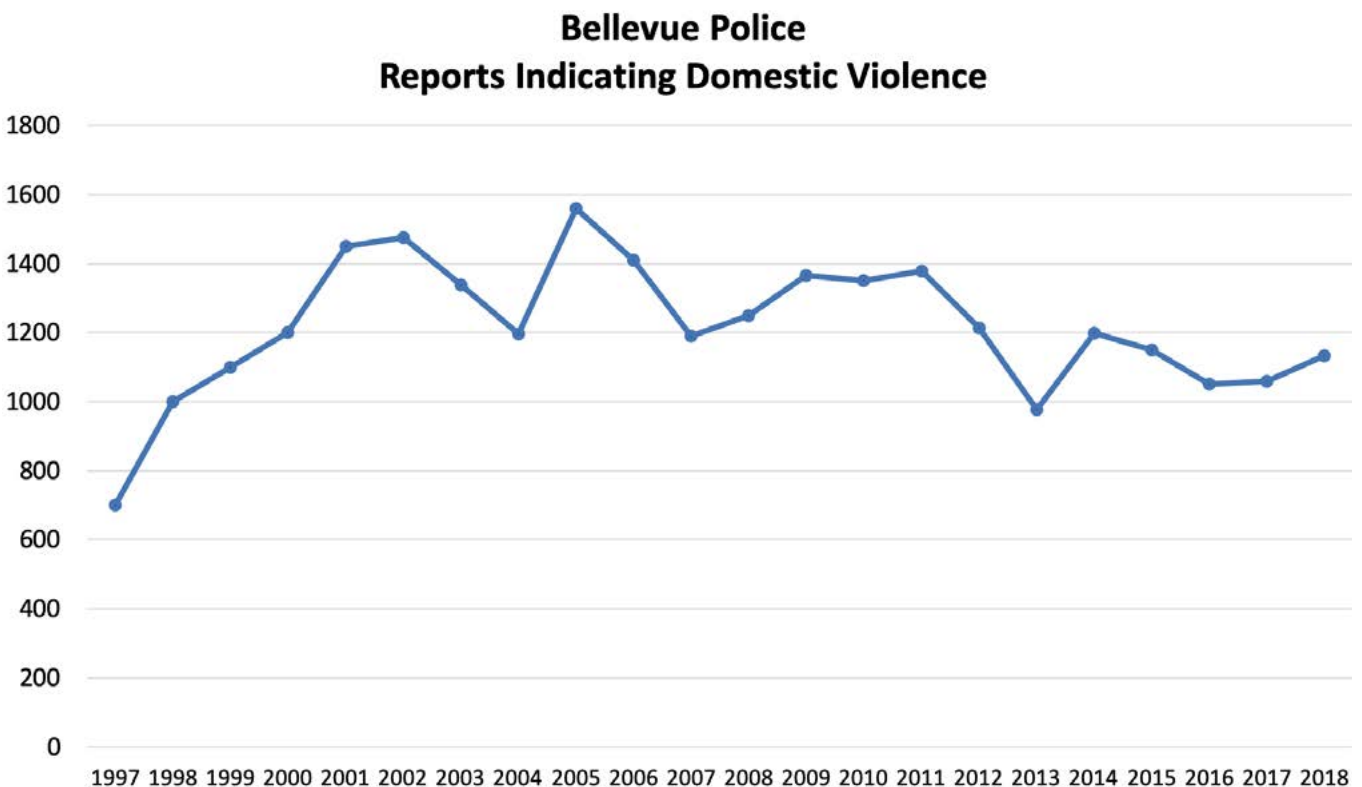


Figure 1 Source: Bellevue Police Department

- According to the Center for Disease Control, IPV is a significant public health problem. The National Intimate Partner Violence Survey (NIPVS) indicates that about 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. Over 43 million women and 38 million men in the U.S. have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.<sup>3</sup>
- Between 2016 and 2018, the number of reported DV offenses statewide increased 8.9%. DV offenses made up 49% of all crimes in Washington against persons in 2018.<sup>4</sup> The Bellevue Police Department recorded 1,134 domestic violence offenses.<sup>5</sup>
- On the day of DV count in 2018, 1,938 DV survivors were in emergency shelter and transitional housing in Washington. Eight hundred and six individuals received non-residential assistance and services (counseling, legal, advocacy, and children’s support groups). Five hundred twenty six individuals had unmet requested services and 441 (84%) of the requests were related to housing.<sup>6</sup>
- Housing is a major concern for DV survivors and their families. In 2019, the Count Us In report (formerly One Night Count) found 11,199 people experiencing homelessness in King County; 337 were counted in East King County. Seven percent (7%) of survey respondents reported that they were currently experiencing domestic violence.<sup>7</sup>
- LifeWire reports that their service levels reflect their capacity, rather than demand; because of this, the number of clients served has not increased significantly over time. However, LifeWire has to turnaway 19 households for every 1 they serve in emergency housing.
- Many of the families LifeWire is serving are in their rental assistance and housing stability programs, thereby reducing the turn away rate to 4 to 1. In 2017, 274 families (746 individuals) were served in their housing programs.<sup>8</sup>
- For more information about older adults and domestic violence, please see the section Older Adults.
- For more information about refugee and immigrants and domestic violence, please see the section Refugee and Immigrants.

“We are seeing an increase of domestic violence with students in the Work Force Ed Program. About 30% of our students have some connection to domestic violence.”

~Participant, Bellevue College Staff  
Community Conversation

## Service trends

- The Bellevue Police Department (BPD) works closely with and relies heavily on LifeWire’s services. In all cases of domestic violence where the police are involved, an advocate works with the person identified as the victim, explaining the complicated justice system, providing them with information on No Contact and Protection Orders, and planning for safety. The advocate accompanies the victim to court, works closely with the city attorney’s office, and is in weekly contact with the prosecutor’s office. In 2017, the BPD Domestic Violence Victim Advocate worked with 299 cases with an average caseload of 25 cases per month. The average case load in 2018 was 24 per month with a total of 289 cases. The biggest challenges are lack of shelter, affordable housing, access to free/reduced fee legal services, and financial resources.<sup>9</sup>

- LifeWire provides a 24-hour Helpline, which provides safety planning and short-term advocacy, as well as a gateway to all LifeWire services. In 2017, the Helpline received 9,671 calls. Of those calls, 1094 survivors participated in LifeWire’s advocacy services.<sup>10</sup>
- Included in the full range of services needed for survivors is mental health counseling. Providers report that many survivors are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suicidal ideation as a result of their abuse. LifeWire added a second mental health therapist in 2017, but there is still typically a 1 to 2 month wait to access services. 161 survivors utilized LifeWire’s mental health services in 2018.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2018, 3,835 East King County residents received services supported by the County’s MIDD behavioral health sales tax fund. MIDD initiatives provided DV Mental Health Services within domestic violence agencies and served 104 individuals.<sup>12</sup>
- Legal assistance remains a primary need for survivors of domestic violence. LifeWire has two full-time legal advocates and partners with Eastside Legal Assistance Program to facilitate pro bono legal services. The agency still has to keep a waiting list and it typically takes about 3 months to meet with a legal advocate, except in cases of serious emergency. In 2018, 260 survivors accessed legal advocacy services for issues ranging from DV protection orders to marriage dissolution and parenting plans.<sup>13</sup>

## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent. Most victims and perpetrators know each other. Long-term symptoms include anxiety, fear or post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>14</sup> Sexual assault occurs in all communities and among all socio-economic groups.

### Prevalence

- Every 92 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. On average, there are 321,500 reported victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States.<sup>15</sup>
- In Washington, there were 2,852 rapes reported, resulting in 544 arrests. Eighty-three percent (1090) of rape victims were under 17 years old.<sup>16</sup>
- The majority of sexual assault victims are under age 30. With child sexual abuse, 66% of victims are between ages 12 and 17, and about 34% are under age 12.<sup>17</sup>
- Twenty-one percent of transgender, genderqueer, and/or nonconforming (TGQN) college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18% of non-TGQN females and 4% of non-TGQN males.<sup>18</sup>
- Individuals who have been sexually assaulted or raped have a likelihood of suffering negative health consequences, including depression, suicide, and alcohol abuse. Ninety-four percent of women who are raped experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the two weeks following the rape.<sup>19</sup> 33% of women who are raped contemplate suicide.<sup>20</sup> They are also 13 times more likely than other women to abuse alcohol.<sup>21</sup>
- Bellevue Police Department’s annual count for reported rapes have generally remained between 20 and 25 for the last 10 years. Reported rapes dropped from 25 in 2015 to 15 in 2016, and then rose again in 2017 to 24. In 2018, there were 25 rapes reported. On average (over the past 10 years), Bellevue Police Department has 19 rapes reported per year.<sup>22</sup>

## Service trends

- Harborview Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress Services (HSATS), provides a full range of services, including crisis response, advocacy, counseling for child and youth victims of sexual assault and assistance for parents/caretakers. In 2018, they provided 795 hours of counseling, with 218 of the hours working with 50 Bellevue residents. They have locations located in both Bellevue and Redmond.<sup>23</sup>
- Sexual assault can lead to significant mental health problems, and downstream consequences, such as substance abuse or involvement in the juvenile justice or criminal justice system, which are more costly to address. In East King County, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) added counselors to increase on-site access for survivors. Using “best practice” interventions for children and adults, this coordinated effort is seen as a much-needed systems-change approach.<sup>24</sup>
- King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) provides services to children, youth, and adult victims of sexual violence and their families. These advocacy services, include legal advocacy, helping the victims navigate the criminal justice system, connections to needed services, and building the skills to support their loved ones who have been victimized. In November and December of 2017, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center reported a 54% increase in the number of calls to their 24-hour resource line and a 35% increase in new advocacy clients. The numbers have remained steady since November 2017 through 2018. In 2018, they provided 20,625 hours of advocacy in King County and 852 hours to Bellevue residents.<sup>25</sup>

## Child Abuse & Neglect

Child abuse is the physical, psychological, sexual mistreatment of children, or neglect of children. Neglect is the most common form of child abuse, but rates are hard to establish because neglect is often unreported.

### Prevalence

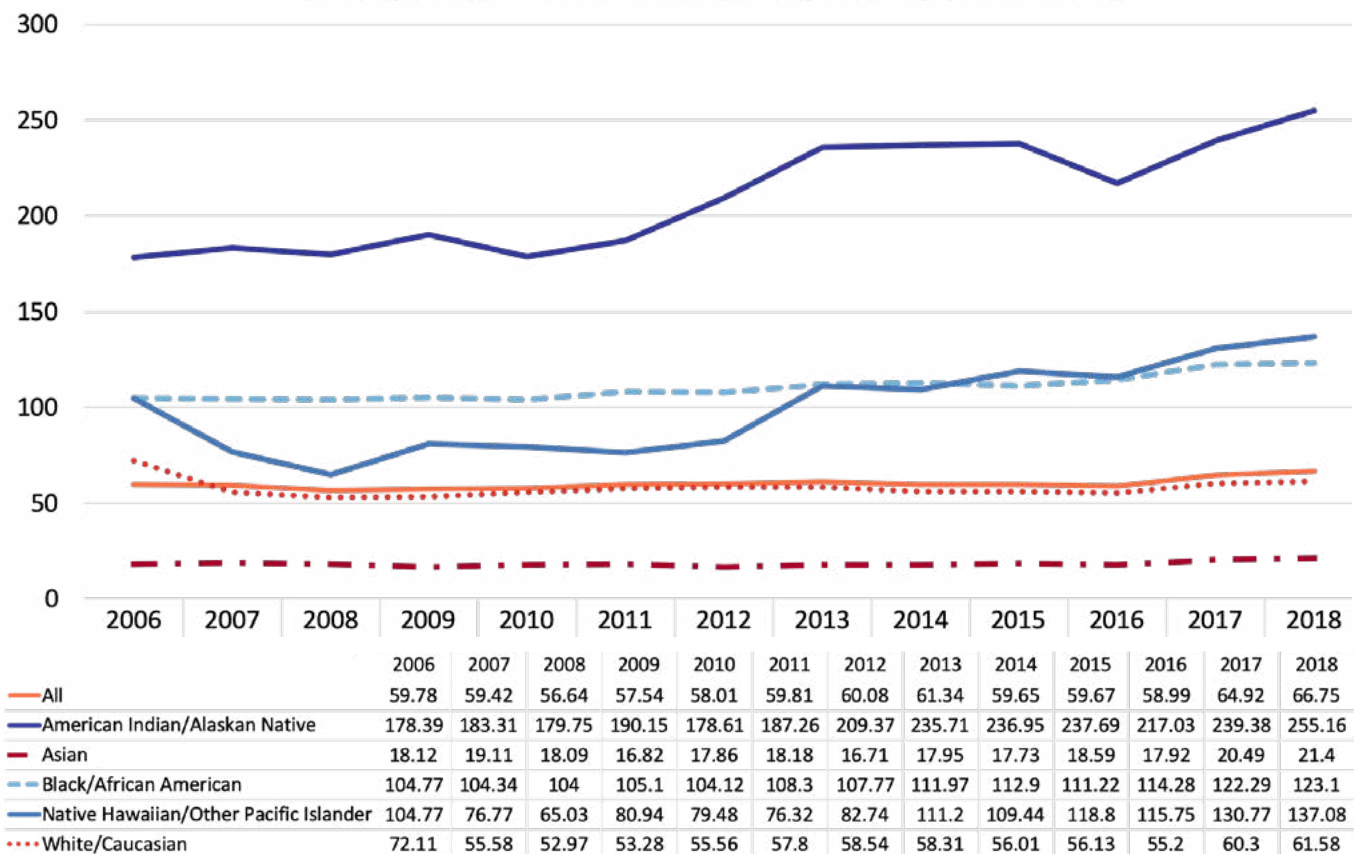
- Studies show that 3 to 4 million children ages 3 to 17 are at risk of exposure to DV each year. Research indicates that children who witness DV show similar emotional and developmental difficulties as children who are direct victims of abuse, including anxiety, low self-esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems. These disturbances can impede healthy development, cause school difficulties and physical health problems, which can continue to be a problem into adulthood.<sup>26</sup>
- Undergoing abuse or neglect in childhood can have lifelong effects. In King County, Child Protective Services (CPS), a state agency, responds to reports of suspected abuse involving children. In 2016, a total of 8,238 households in King County were investigated. This has declined from a high of 9,756 in 2007.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2015, about 30 out of every 1,000 households in King County were investigated or assessed by CPS. Households of the following racial and ethnic groups were most likely to be investigated or assessed in 2015, American Indian/Alaska Native (145 per 1,000 households), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (80 per 1,000) and Black/African American (77 per 1,000). Looking across all demographics, Asian and white households were the least likely to be investigated or assessed.<sup>28</sup> Research shows that racial disparities exist at almost every stage in the systems of child welfare, education, and mental health systems, and that racial bias could account for the difference in outcomes between non-White and White youth.<sup>29</sup>

- Adults abused as children who receive no treatment experience psychological distress many years after the abuse. These traumatic childhood experiences, which are examples of Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs, become significant risk factors for serious dysfunction later in life (substance abuse, depression, suicide, parenting problems). Without intervention or help for the child, normal psychological development can be negatively affected.<sup>30</sup> Eighteen percent of children in Washington have two or more ACEs.<sup>31</sup>

## Service trends

Children living in LifeWire’s shelter or transitional housing programs participate in weekly children’s groups which create a safe space for children and youth who have experienced trauma. They work with an advocate to develop emotional intelligence, healthy ways to express themselves, positive communication skills, and healthy relationship skills. In 2018, 38 children and youth participated in support groups. In addition, LifeWire Children’s and Youth advocates provide DV advocacy services for children and youth who have witnessed DV and teens who have experienced dating violence. One hundred and ninety-eight children and youth received one-on-one advocacy in 2018.<sup>32</sup>

**Child Protective Services Investigation and Assessments by Race/Ethnicity  
(Rate per 1,000 Households), King County (2006-2018)**



Source: Washington State Child Welfare.



# Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is defined as the inducement of a person to perform a commercial sex act, labor, or services, through force, fraud, or coercion. Human trafficking can also occur if a person under 18 years old of age has been induced or enticed, regardless of force, fraud, or coercion, to perform a commercial sex act.<sup>33</sup>

## Prevalence

- Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims are coerced to prostitute or to work without pay and often subjected to physical and psychological dangers, such as severe beatings, rape, drug addiction and other forms of violence.<sup>34</sup> In Washington, 229 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2018, and 1,184 have been reported in the state since 2007.<sup>35</sup>
- The International Labour Organization estimates that there are nearly 21 million victims of human trafficking globally; 68% are trapped in forced labor, 26% are children, and 55% are women and children.<sup>36</sup>

“Human trafficking continues to plague our nation. We have found the best method for us to intervene is by an alert resident notifying the local police of suspicious behavior,”  
Bellevue Assistant Police Chief

~Carl Kleinknecht,  
Assistant Police Chief

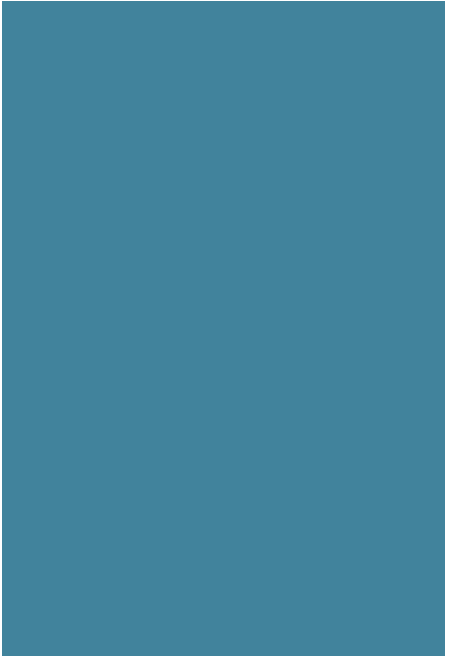
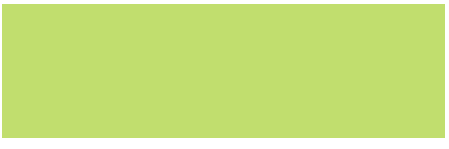
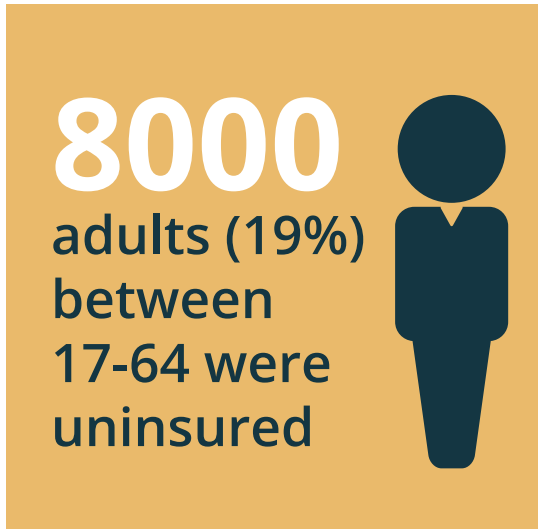
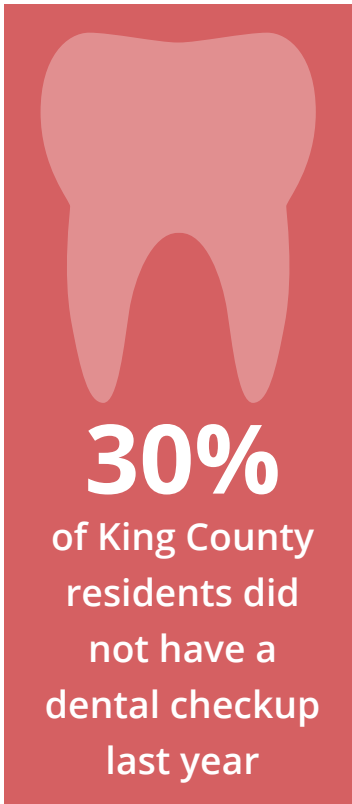
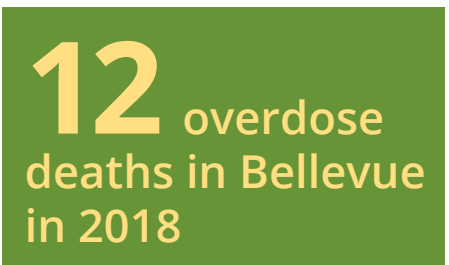
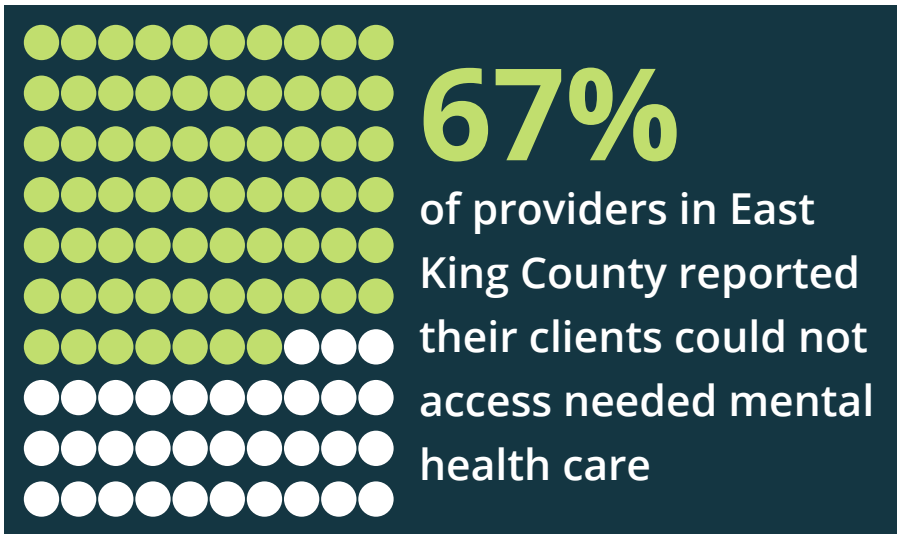
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# Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible



# Goal #4

## Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

This chapter includes data about:

- Health indicators, medical coverage and access to care
- Dental care
- Substance abuse
- Mental health

This chapter discusses these topics as they pertain to the broader community. For more information about how this goal area relates to specific populations (Older Adults, Refugees and Immigrants, People with Disabilities, School-Aged Children and Youth, and Veterans) within our community, please see their respective chapters.

### Key Findings

- Under the health care plans made available after the Affordable Care Act, many vulnerable people now have coverage who were uninsured before ACA. However, coverage does not automatically translate into positive health outcomes, as many cannot access medical, vision, dental, or mental health services.
- Like many places across the country, King County is seeing sharp increases in the use and abuse of heroin and prescription opiates. Demand for heroin and prescription opiate addiction treatment has outpaced supply.
- Lack of accessible dental care remains a problem for the Bellevue community: service providers, consumers, and residents all identify it as a major health issue, often exacerbated because the Affordable Care Act does not mandate provision of dental insurance.

### Health Indicators, Medical Coverage and Access to Care

Public Health Seattle King County and the Washington State Department of Health track a number of health indicators to identify a community's general health. A city health profile is a public health report that provides information on health indicators and their determinants. The purpose of the report is to inform policy-makers, government agencies, and the public about population health at the local level. Some of these indicators include life expectancy, access to health care, and late or no prenatal care. Overall, the City of Bellevue's ratings on the majority of these types of indicators show a greater level of overall health and well-being for its residents compared to King County and Washington State.<sup>1</sup>

Until the passage of the ACA, there were primarily two public programs that provided health insurance coverage services to eligible individuals in Washington State: Medicaid (federal and state) and Basic Health (state). When people are uninsured, they typically use the emergency department (ED) of a local hospital for healthcare, which is extremely expensive. Many patients

cannot pay these bills, so they apply for what is called “charity care” from the hospital, which may pay for a portion of their bills (from 20% to 100%).

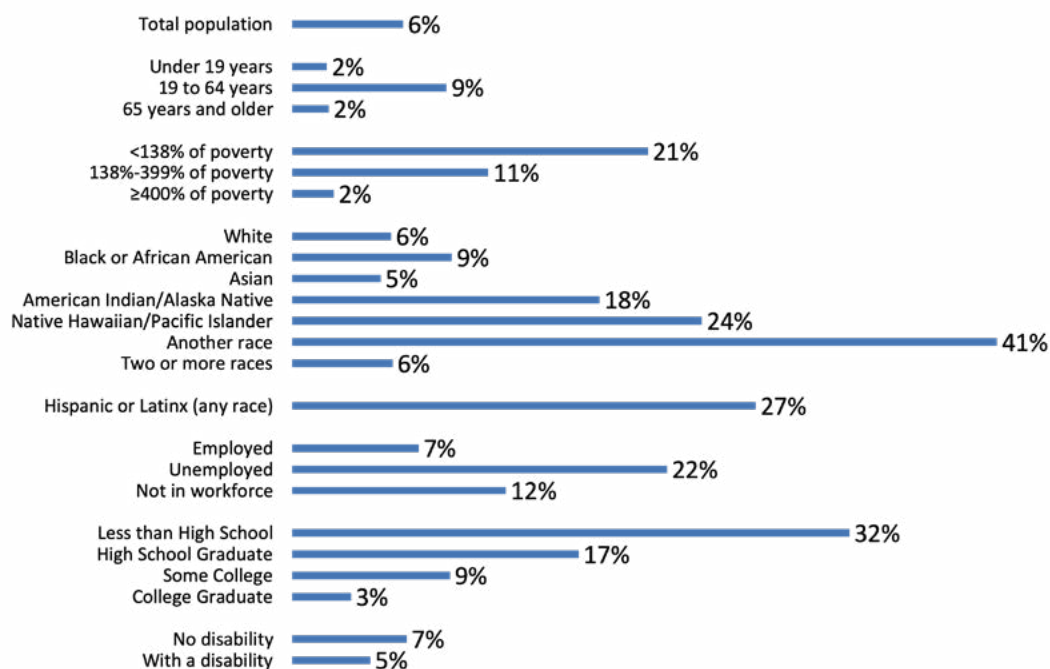
## Community Voice

- Affordability of medical care and medical insurance was a significant community and household concern for phone/online survey respondents. Forty-five percent of survey respondents rated lack of affordable medical insurance as a major/moderate community problem. Forty-four percent of survey respondents rated lack of affordable medical care as a major/moderate community problem.
- In the phone/online survey, not being able to pay for medical insurance was a problem for 12% of households. Not being able to get medical insurance was a problem for 11% of households, a statistically significant increase from 7% in 2017.
  - The ability to pay for doctor bills was a problem for 12% of households.
  - Medical/billing issues was the second highest issue for which residents sought help (23%); 34% reported they were not able to find it.
- In the provider survey, International Community Health Services (ICHS) reported an increase in the number of uninsured patients from 2017 to 2018, from 467 to 544. With the end of the individual mandate of the ACA and continuing challenges to the ACA itself, they anticipate this number will continue to grow in the future.
- Thirty-eight percent of provider survey respondents report that their clients need health care but cannot access it.

## Prevalence

- In 2017, approximately 6% of Bellevue residents were uninsured, compared with 7% across King County. Approximately 8,000 adults between the ages of 19 and 64 were uninsured (an uninsured rate of approximately 9%) while only 2% of children (under age 19) and older adults (over age 65) were uninsured.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1. Uninsured Bellevue Residents (2017)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau<sup>3</sup>

- Across Bellevue, between 7% (West Bellevue) and 16% (Central Bellevue) of adults report they could not take care of their medical needs due to cost (Northeast Bellevue and South Bellevue were both 10%). Each of these percentages is statistically consistent with the overall King County value of 13%.<sup>4</sup>

## Service Trends

- As of June 2019, more than 1.8 million Washingtonians are enrolled in Medicaid programs, including nearly 550,000 in Medicaid expansion. About 230,000 King County residents are enrolled in Medicaid programs, including 130,000 in Medicaid expansion.<sup>5</sup>
- There was an increase in hospitals reporting charity care data for the first time since 2013. Washington hospitals reported \$772 million in charity care charges in FY 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- HealthPoint serves low-income adults, children and youth, many of whom are homeless or in transitional housing. By June 2019, HealthPoint had already provided medical care to 555 Bellevue residents in that year. In 2017 and 2018, the organization served, on average, approximately 900 Bellevue residents for the entire year.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2018, Eastgate Public Health Center served 1,216 clients in Parent Child Health, which includes First Steps Maternity Support Services and Infant Case Management, and Children with Special Health Care Needs. Eastgate WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, served 1,826 pregnant and post-pregnant individuals and children 0-5 years.<sup>8</sup>
- SeaMar Community Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental and behavioral health services. In the Bellevue clinic, the focus is medical and behavioral health. Client's income are typically at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. In 2015-2016, SeaMar served about 4,000 Bellevue residents.<sup>9</sup>

## Dental Care

Those who have the least access to preventative services and dental treatments have greater rates of oral disease. Similar to broader health access issues, oral health access is strongly tied to educational level, race and ethnicity, and income.<sup>10</sup> Dental decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, impacting the ability to eat, talk, smile, pay attention and learn in school, which can have costly long-term adverse effects.<sup>11</sup> The Affordable Care Act does not require dental care for adults, though plans can be found for children in the Washington Health Plan Finder.

Two barriers to people accessing needed health and human services are lack of affordable health care and that counseling and mental health services are not readily available for low income individuals.

~Key Informant Interview,  
St. Louise Catholic Church

## Community Voice

- Thirty-six percent of phone/online survey respondents rated lack of affordable dental care as a major/moderate community problem.
- Fifty-six percent of provider survey respondents report that their clients need dental services but cannot access them.
- Six percent of Bellevue residents in the phone/online survey report seeking help with dental issues, bills, and insurance coverage.
- In the consumer survey, 32% of respondents rated not being able to pay for dentist bills as a major or moderate problem.

## Prevalence

In 2015 (the most recent year for which data are available), between 22% (Central Bellevue) and 32% (West Bellevue) of adults reported they did not receive a dental checkup in the last year (Northeast Bellevue was 31%). Only 10% of South Bellevue residents have not had a checkup in the last year, the only Bellevue region that statistically differs from King County's overall average of 30%.<sup>12</sup>

## Service Trends

- The Eastgate Public Health Center runs a dental clinic; in 2018 they provided dental care to 210 individuals experiencing homelessness.<sup>13</sup>
- HealthPoint serves low-income adults, children and youth, many of who are homeless or in transitional housing. By June 2019, HealthPoint had already provided dental care to 313 Bellevue residents in that year. In 2017 and 2018, the organization provided dental services to, on average, approximately 480 Bellevue residents for the entire year.<sup>14</sup>
- International Community Health Services (ICHS) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides health services, including dental, to underserved populations in King County. By June 2019, ICHS had already provided dental care to 236 Bellevue residents in that year. In 2017 and 2018, the organization provided dental services to, on average, approximately 485 Bellevue residents for the entire year.<sup>15</sup>

There are limited dental options, even with insurance. Adults are not able to get the preventative dental care they need, and it often turns into a large issue that costs way more.

~Key Informant Interview,  
Family Connections Center

## Substance Abuse

In most individuals, dependency begins slowly and grows until their life becomes progressively unmanageable. Left untreated, the negative outcomes associated with substance abuse are numerous, ranging from more frequent arrests to long-term health challenges. However, substance abusers who recognize that they need treatment and can take the steps to receive it are much more likely to engage in behaviors that are positive in the long term.



## Community Voice

Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents rated drug abuse as a major/moderate community problem. Twenty percent rated alcoholism as a major/moderate community problem.

## Prevalence

- Drug and alcohol use caused the deaths of 415 King County residents in 2018—up from 379 in 2017. In 2017-18, 49% of drug and alcohol caused deaths in King County occurred in Seattle. The estimated rates of drug and alcohol-caused deaths were higher in SeaTac/Tukwila (32.8 per 100,000), Seattle (26.9 per 100,000), and Auburn (26.7 per 100,000). The Bellevue rate was 10.5 per 100,000.<sup>16</sup>
- Most overdoses involve multiple types of drugs. Deaths involving both an opioid and a stimulant, such as cocaine or methamphetamine, increased from 45 in 2009 to 130 in 2018 in King County. Overall, methamphetamine-involved deaths increased sharply over the last decade, from 21 in 2009 to 163 in 2018.<sup>17</sup>
- In King County, overdoses disproportionately affect men, twice as often as women. Despite constituting less than 1% of the King County population, 16% of overdoses were among persons experiencing homelessness. The estimated rate of drug and alcohol-caused deaths was 22% higher among Blacks and 400% higher among American Indian/Alaskan Native than among Whites.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2018, there were 12 overdose deaths in Bellevue. As of September 2019, there were 9 overdose deaths in Bellevue.<sup>19</sup>
- Across Bellevue, between 16% (Northeast Bellevue) and 21% (West Bellevue) of adults reported binge drinking in the past 30 days (Central and South Bellevue were both 17% and 18%, respectively). Each of these percentages is statistically consistent with the overall King County value of 20%.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2017 (the most recent year for which data is available), approximately 8% of Bellevue adults reported smoking cigarettes every day or most days. This number was statistically consistent with King County's overall average of 11%.<sup>21</sup>

## Service Trends

- Demand for heroin and prescription opiate addiction treatment in King County has outpaced supply; treatment admissions for heroin were up 101% between 2010 and 2014, leaving more than 150 people on treatment waitlists each day.<sup>22</sup>
- According to the WA Recovery Help-Line website, there are 15 locations that provide medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Bellevue. These include non-profit agencies such as THS as well as some private medical groups. There are 6 sites in Bellevue that provide Rapid Access (within 24-72 hours) for buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone.<sup>23</sup>
- Between April and December of 2016 (the most recent data available), 9,583 adults and 672 youth in King County received some sort of substance use disorder treatment service.<sup>24</sup>
- Therapeutic Health Services (THS) provides intensive outpatient drug and alcohol treatment. By June 2019, THS had already provided substance abuse treatment to 196 Bellevue residents for that year. In 2017 and 2018, the organization provided substance abuse

services to, on average, approximately 202 Bellevue residents for the entire year.<sup>25</sup>

- The number of adults receiving state funded alcohol or drug treatment is lower in Bellevue (3.36 per 1,000 adults) compared to the rest of the State (12.95 per 1,000 adults).<sup>26</sup>

## Mental Health

Individuals with mental health issues experience disruption in their ability to think, feel, and relate to others, and this often results in changes in daily functioning. Fortunately, treatment for mental illness, often a combination of psychosocial support and medication, can be effective. In the United States, the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) reports that between 70 and 90 percent of individuals experience a significant reduction in symptoms and improved quality of life after engaging in mental health treatment services.<sup>27</sup>

## Community Voice

- In the phone/online survey, not being able to pay for mental health counseling was a problem for 8% of households. Not having access to mental health counseling was a problem for 5% of households.
- Sixty-seven percent of provider survey respondents report that their clients need mental health care but cannot access it.
- In the phone/online survey, mental health counseling was the top issue for which residents sought help (47%); 17% reported not being able to find it.

## Prevalence

- About 20% of adults in the U.S. experience mental illness every year. Similarly, approximately 20% of youth age 13 to 18 experiences a mental illness each year.<sup>28</sup>
- Across King County, people in households making less than \$15,000 per year were over four times more likely to have frequent distress than those in households making \$75,000 per year or more (26% and 6%, respectively).<sup>29</sup>
- Across Bellevue, between 5% (West Bellevue) and 9% (South Bellevue) of adults report frequent mental distress over a given month (Central and Northeast were 7% and 8%, respectively). Each of these percentages is statistically consistent with the overall King County value of 10%.<sup>30</sup>
- The hospitalization rate from suicide attempts for people in East King County was 33.9 per 100,000, which includes 838 admissions. This was lower than the King County average of 36.8.<sup>31</sup>
- Between 2011 and 2015, there were 70 suicides in Bellevue. Across Bellevue, the suicide rate ranged from 6.6 per 100,000 (South Bellevue) to 12.5 per 100,000 (Central), with rates of 9.6 per 100,000 and 11.4 per 100,000 in West and Northeast Bellevue, respectively. Each of these percentages is statistically consistent with the overall King County value of 12.2 per 100,000.<sup>32</sup>

- Many individuals with complex social and health issues regularly interact with the King County Jail system, in part due to an inability to effectively engage with fragmented health and human services systems. For example, nearly all people with 4 or more annual bookings in King County jail were found to have a mental health indicator.<sup>33</sup>

## Service Trends

- Crisis Clinic provides a 24-Hour Crisis Line. In 2017, the 24-Hour Crisis Line responded to more than 7,500 calls from Bellevue residents.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2016, 7,024 people received crisis stabilization services. Since 2014, these services have increased noticeably for adults (17%) and older adults (23%) due to expansion of the mobile crisis team and crisis diversion interim teams.<sup>35</sup>
- Between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, a total of 6,620 East King County residents (or 16% of individuals served countywide) received at least one MIDD-funded service. MIDD strategies serving the most Eastside residents were: Youth Suicide Prevention Trainings (4,577 served), Older Adults in Primary Care (702 served), Mental Health Treatment (268 served), Children's Crisis Outreach (240 served), Collaborative School-Based Care (119 served), and Domestic Violence Mental Health Services (103 served).<sup>36</sup>
- The King County behavioral health organization provided mental health services to nearly 56,000 people in 2016, a 13% increase over 2014. Of more than 47,000 clients served through outpatient care, 27% were children; 60% were adults; and 13% were older adults. About 9% were homeless and 21% presented with co-occurring disorders, which is someone experiencing mental illness and substance use disorder simultaneously.<sup>37</sup>

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## Endnotes

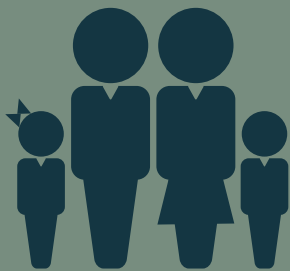
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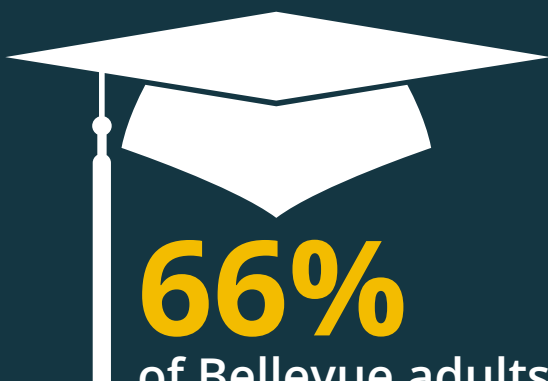
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# Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential



Bellevue  
**household of four**  
(two adults/two children)  
must make  
**\$86,951/year**  
(\$51.18/hr)  
**to have  
a living  
wage**

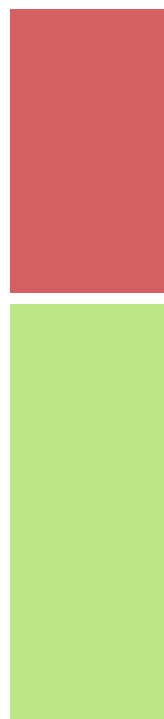
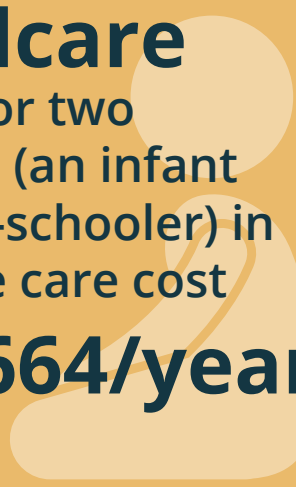


  
**66%**  
of Bellevue adults  
hold **Bachelor's  
degree or higher**



**Job growth  
continues to  
outpace  
population  
growth in  
Bellevue**

**Childcare**  
in EKC for two  
children (an infant  
and pre-schooler) in  
full-time care cost  
**\$32,664/year**



# Goal #5

## Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential

This chapter includes data about:

- Education/Training
- Employment
- Living Wage
- Childcare
- Transportation

This chapter discusses these topics as they pertain to the broader community. For more information about how this goal area relates to specific populations within our community (Older Adults, Refugees and Immigrants, People with Disabilities, School-Aged Children and Youth, and Veterans), please see their respective chapters.

### Key Findings

- The decrease in middle-income job opportunities makes it harder for people at lower incomes to access better jobs. There are more low-wage job opportunities, but along with these come financial instability, dependence on public supports that are dwindling due to budget cuts, and less of a chance to obtain additional training to increase skills to find a better job. A living wage for a family living in Bellevue is higher than in other parts of King County.
- Bellevue residents have a high level of education, however, there are not many vacancies in some of the growing sectors like hospitality that pay a living wage. It will be critical to attract business and industry that pay living wages.
- Barriers to employment such as lack of affordable and quality childcare, limited English speaking skills, the absence of coordinated transportation and lack of training and education opportunities to secure higher wage jobs are key issues to be addressed to help people improve their economic conditions and the quality of their lives.

# Education/Training

To obtain living-wage jobs in Bellevue, workers must possess significant education or job skills. Limited opportunities for advanced education for living-wage jobs present barriers to people becoming self-sufficient. Job training opportunities must align with the current market for jobs paying more than the minimum wage.

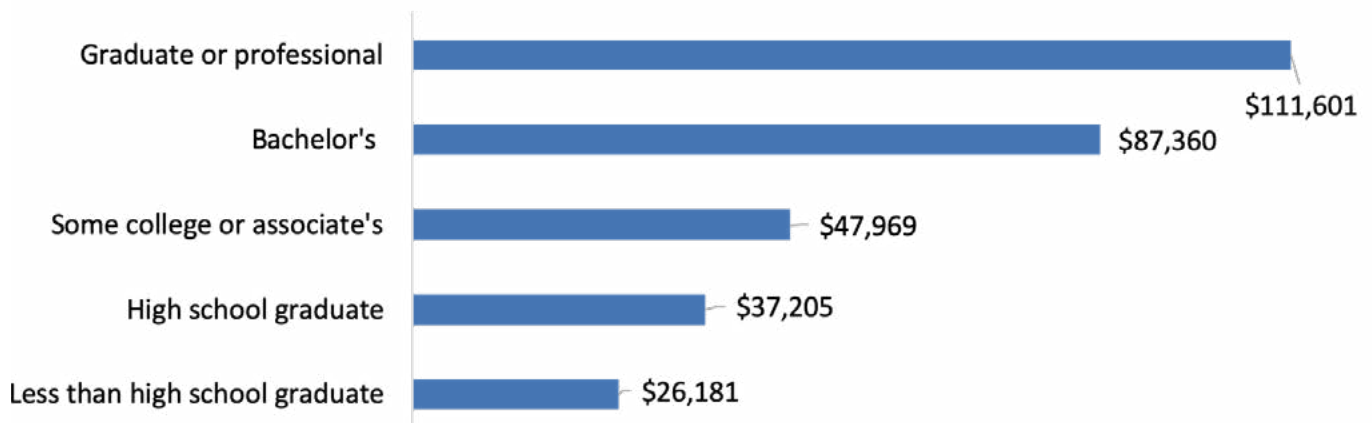
## Community Voice

- Hopelink’s workforce development program provides employment support and adult basic education to low-income individuals in East King County (EKC). Hopelink staff reported in the providers’ survey that even with the low unemployment rate, there are individuals who can’t get a job due to multiple barriers to employment such as low English language skill, unreliable transportation and lack of a high school diploma or GED.<sup>1</sup>
- A theme that emerged from a number of the community conversations indicated that upward mobility out of poverty is increasingly difficult. There are many short term and survival programs, but the lack of living wage jobs, social and relational support, and specialized employment programs means individuals and families cycle in and out of crises.<sup>2</sup>

## Prevalence

- King County is one of the most highly educated communities in the country: 50% of county residents hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher.<sup>3</sup> In Bellevue, the percentage of adults age 25 and older in 2017 who had earned a Bachelor’s degree or above was 66%, an increase from 37% in 1970. Only 2% of Bellevue adults (over 25) have less than a high school diploma, the lowest percentage in the state.<sup>4</sup>
- Higher levels of education typically result in higher pay benefits and lower unemployment.<sup>5</sup> Workers with a postsecondary education have benefitted from advantageous employment opportunities in the post-recession recovery, while those with a high school diploma or less have been largely shut out. Of the 11.6 million jobs added to the economy in the U.S since January 2010, 99% have gone to workers with at least some college education.<sup>6</sup> As Figure 1 shows, Bellevue residents with more education have higher median earnings.

**Figure 1. Bellevue Median Earnings by Educational Attainment Level, 2017**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau <sup>7</sup>



## Service Trends

- Hopelink's English for Work and GED preparation programs served 105 Bellevue residents in 2018. These programs' goals are to help people, many new to this country, learn English and be prepared to increase their incomes with additional education.
- Bellevue College's Preparing for Work program served 154 Bellevue residents with workshops and trainings to help them prepare resumes, job search and English skills.

## Employment

Though unemployment rates are low both nationally and in the Seattle-Bellevue area, there are still people who are underemployed: they do not have enough income to make ends meet.

## Community Voice

- Ratings of *unemployment* as a community problem had continued to significantly increase every year since 2003, peaking in 2011 at 55%. In 2019, *unemployment* was considered a major/moderate problem by 11% of respondents, a significant decrease compared to 2017 when it was 20%, moving from the first tier to the third tier of community problems.<sup>8</sup>
- The majority of phone/online survey respondents (71%) were employed either full or part-time. Eleven percent of those survey responders who are working have a second job; nearly half of those could not afford to live in Bellevue without another job.<sup>9</sup>
- In the phone/online survey, over half of the respondents said it would not be difficult to meet expenses if their paycheck was delayed; however, residents with incomes under \$75,000 were significantly more likely to answer that it would be difficult to meet their household expenses, and 44% of those with incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 stated it would be very difficult.<sup>10</sup>
- Staff at Bellevue College report that students who are single mothers face challenges in the job search largely due to lack of childcare.<sup>11</sup>
- Participants in several community conversations brought up the need for more access to computers for job search and applying for jobs, as well as for more universal, free or low-cost access to the internet. Even though some agencies and the libraries offer some access to the internet, access is time limited and can be problematic.<sup>12</sup>
- HERO House, a clubhouse model for people with chronic mental illness, provides a supported employment program for its members. Supported employment is a key component for people to rebuild their lives. Staff report that most of their clients' experience homelessness due to their inability to work as a result of their mental illness.<sup>13</sup>

"We've seen a higher number of clients that are working poor and seeking increased employment or returning to the workforce to make ends meet."

~Provider's Survey

## Prevalence

- The unemployment rate in Washington State in June 2019 was 4.6%, similar to June 2017 (4.0%) and much lower than in 2011 during the recession when it peaked at 8.3%. The rate is currently similar to what it was pre-recession. (2007, 4.64%).<sup>14</sup> Throughout the recession and recovery, the unemployment rate in King County was lower than the state in the 3 to low 4 percent range; in June 2019 it was 2.9%.<sup>15</sup> The unemployment rate in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett Metropolitan Division was 8.3% in 2011; in June 2019 it was 2.9%.<sup>16</sup>
- In June 2019 in the King County Work Force Development Area, of the ten jobs that had the largest number of postings, six required advanced training including computer-related such as software developers, registered nurses and marketing managers.<sup>17</sup>
- The service sector remains Bellevue's largest job sector. Job growth in the service sector represented 72% of all job growth between 2011 and 2018, making Bellevue a regional hub for service sector employment especially in information technology. Job growth in the construction/resource sector picked up between 2011 and 2018 representing 13% of job growth. Retail followed, comprising 9% of job growth during that same time.<sup>18</sup>

## Service Trends

- Hopelink's Employment Program served 66 Bellevue residents in 2018 with advanced job search and goal setting to obtain the training for a living wage job.<sup>19</sup>
- The YWCA's Employment Program provided training to 52 Bellevue residents in 2018 to obtain living wage jobs.<sup>20</sup>
- Jewish Family Service provided 27 Bellevue residents job coaching, resume building, job hunting and job retention support in 2018.<sup>21</sup>

## Living Wage

Although Washington has the second highest minimum wage in the nation and unemployment is low, Bellevue residents need to have substantial wages in order to be self-sufficient. A "living wage" is often defined as the minimum income needed to purchase basic necessities without help from public assistance. Living wage calculations often include the cost of housing, food, transportation, health care, taxes, childcare and household, clothing and personal items.

## Community Voice

- In the 2019 phone/online survey, 7 of the 11 top-tier community problems had some connection to jobs that do not pay enough and issues of affordability. The same theme was seen in household problems: lack of jobs that pay enough to cover necessities like food and shelter remain a major household concern.<sup>22</sup>
- Fifty percent of 2019 phone/online survey respondents rated *people having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics of food, shelter and clothing* as a major/moderate problem in their community. This is similar to the rating in 2017 and higher than the rating in 2013. This problem area ranks third amongst all the community problem areas.<sup>23</sup>
- At the household level, 10% of respondents in 2019 ranked *not being able to find work that supports yourself or your family* as a major/moderate problem, about the same as 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017.<sup>24</sup>

- Staff from the King County Bar Association report that they are serving more working poor people needing help with eviction often because they have fallen behind on their rents due to big rent increases with their wage increases not keeping up.<sup>25</sup>

## Prevalence

- Washington State’s minimum wage in 2019 is \$12.00 an hour, one of the highest in the country. Though an adult making the minimum wage working full time and supporting two children earns about \$24,000, it is barely over the federal poverty level (FPL), \$21,330 for a family of three and less than what is needed to support a family in this economy.
- Wage inequality has been increasing; in 1990, the median wage in Washington was 82% of the average but by 2017 it was only 69%. Wages in the state have generally moved upward but much more so at the upper end. The bottom 20% of jobs took home 7% of total wages in 2017 compared to the top 20% which captured 11% of total wages. There are also stark wage differences between industries: low wage jobs (\$12.00/hr or less) included “fast food” restaurants and childcare services. Four of the five top high wage jobs were tech related, many of which paid \$54.00/hr or more.<sup>26</sup>
- The Self-Sufficiency Calculator measures the amount of money families would have to earn in order to live without public supports or assistance (another form of living wage).<sup>27</sup> The lowest calculated living wage for a single adult is \$15.93, which is \$3.93 more than the current minimum wage and a living wage for a single adult with two children is \$39.23, which is \$27.23 more than the current minimum wage. The numbers in Figure 2 from the Self-Sufficiency Standard have been calculated for Bellevue residents, but costs would be similar for all EKC.

**Figure 2. Bellevue Living and Minimum Wage Comparison**

Family Type	Bellevue Living Wage	Gap Between Living and Minimum Wage
Single Adult	\$15.93/hr. \$33,647/yr.	\$3.93
Single adult with a school-aged child (6-8 years)	\$27.16/hr. \$57,371/yr.	\$15.16
Single adult with a school-aged child and a toddler (12-24 months)	\$39.23/hr. \$82,850/yr.	\$27.23
Two working adults with a school-aged child and a toddler	\$20.59/hr./adult \$86,951/yr.	\$19.18
Two adults (one working) with a school-aged child and a toddler	\$51.18/hr. \$86,951/yr.	\$39.18

Source: *The Self Sufficiency Calculator for Washington State/Work Force Development Council Seattle-King County*<sup>28</sup>

## Service Trends

- WorkFirst is Washington State’s temporary cash assistance program and it provides training and education to help low-income families stabilize their lives. Participants must be working or actively seeking a job and assistance is limited to 60 months in a person’s lifetime. In June 2019, there were 25,214 WorkFirst cases in the state, a 3% decrease compared to two years ago.
- For EKC, 467 low-income parents enrolled in WorkFirst, similar to 2 years ago. The median wage earned by EKC WorkFirst clients is \$17.81/hour, substantially higher than the statewide median wage for all WorkFirst clients of \$14.36.<sup>29</sup> However, this median wage is still below the living wage calculated by the Self Sufficiency Calculator.

“Poor credit or lack of stable income prevents our clients from being able to obtain stable housing. Lack of stable housing prevents them from obtaining a job.”

~Provider’s Survey

## Childcare

Affordable, quality childcare is also important so that families can work and provide for their families. Research shows that the quality of early education has a direct impact on future success: when children impacted by early education disparities enter kindergarten, they can fall up to two years behind their peers.<sup>30</sup>

## Community Voice

- In 2015, 40% of those asked about childcare in the phone/online survey rated it as a major/moderate problem in the community. In 2017 and 2019, 44% and 51% rated affordable childcare as a top community problem, respectively.<sup>31</sup>
- Similarly, from 2015 to 2019, between 21% and 25% of those asked about childcare in the phone/online survey rated it as a major/moderate household problem.<sup>32</sup> In 2015, 2017 and 2019, affordable childcare was a top-ranked household problem.

## Prevalence

- As of December 2017, there were more than 5,500 licensed family childcare homes and centers statewide with 178,700 slots. Statewide, there were about 36 more licensed providers in December 2018 compared to December 2017. The overall capacity of childcare statewide has increased 8%, but there was a 18% decrease in licensed family childcare homes over the past five years.<sup>33</sup>
- As of June 2019, there were 515 child care centers and child care homes in EKC. This represents approximately 24,464 slots with the majority in child care centers.<sup>34</sup>
- For many families, their first choice for childcare is extended family (referred to as family, friend & neighbor care, FFN), especially for infants and toddlers. In King County, roughly 60,000 are in FFN care; children under 5 account for more than half (32,000) of those in FFN care. Overall, an estimated 75% of the 127,205 young children in King County are not involved in formal childcare or any early learning programs; such as licensed child care, Head Start, and ECEAP.<sup>35</sup>

- About 24% of providers in King County offer what is called “non-standard” hours such as childcare after 6:30 pm, overnight, and/or during weekends. In EKC, only 16 providers offer this service; this has stayed about the same over the past several years even as more parents working night shifts and weekends usually have a very difficult time finding licensed childcare.<sup>36</sup>
- Washington ranks among the top five highest in the country in the cost of childcare, especially for infants.<sup>37</sup> Childcare for an East King County (EKC) family with an infant and preschooler in full-time care costs, on average, \$32,664/year; EKC childcare costs are the highest in the county. In EKC, the average annual cost of infant care is \$17,772, 20% of the Seattle-Bellevue 2019 area median household income.<sup>38</sup>

**Figure 3. Average Monthly Cost of Care 2019**

	East King County
Infant (under 12 months)	\$ 1,481.52
Toddler (12 mos - 2 1/2 yrs)	\$ 1,372.62
Preschool (2 1/2 - 5 yrs)	\$ 1,241.49
School Age (full day K and up)	\$ 679.47

Source: *Child Care Resources*

- Many childcare centers and homes accept only a few families using Working Connection Child Care (WCCC) subsidies because the reimbursement rates are lower than market rate. Despite a legislature-approved increase in the 2019-2020 biennial budget, the reimbursement is still not enough to cover the cost of quality care.<sup>39</sup> As of June 2019, 62% of EKC childcare centers, family childcare homes and after-school programs accept WCCC subsidies, a substantial increase compared to 2 years ago.<sup>40</sup>
- Currently, any provider who wants to receive WCCC vouchers must participate in State of Washington Department of Early Learning Early Achievers quality rating and improvement program. In Washington State almost 4,000 providers have joined since July 2012. In King County, there are 1,229 child care centers, family child care, and Head Start and State Pre-School sites enrolled in Early Achievers.<sup>41</sup>
- In the Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma Metropolitan Service Area, the median wage of a teacher in a childcare center is \$24.43/hour while a kindergarten teacher makes a median wage of \$34.94/hour.<sup>42</sup> The lack of competitive wages makes it difficult to recruit and retain educated childcare workers. In 2017, the turnover rate for child care teachers in King County was 43%, far greater than the turnover rate found among elementary school teachers.<sup>43</sup>

## Service Trends

- Child Care Resources (CCR) assists Bellevue families in accessing quality childcare. In 2018, they helped 4,207 clients in need of childcare to search for matching providers in Bellevue and 12,738 statewide. They report that changes in subsidy eligibility means that fewer families can receive state funding and, as a result, request other locally funded scholarship programs. As of July 15, 2019, there were 8 Bellevue families on the waiting list for CCR’s scholarship program.<sup>44</sup>

- Funding for Head Start and the State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) in King County is insufficient to meet the need for quality early learning for children from families with incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. In 2016, all 151 Head Start preschool slots in Bellevue School District (BSD) were eliminated.<sup>45</sup>
- Two hundred and seventy-five children received tuition assistance to attend preschool in the 2018-19 school year with support provided through the district, Bellevue Schools Foundation, City of Bellevue, CCR and state funding supports. One-hundred and thirty elementary school age children received tuition assistance to attend the district's before/after, breaks and summer Early and Extended Learning programs. The district will serve up to 2400 students in these programs in the 2019-20 school year. There are an estimated 269 three- and four-year-olds that are eligible for ECEAP. BSD has 171 ECEAP slots for the 2019-20 school year.<sup>46</sup>
- CCR case managers helps families experiencing homelessness secure stable, quality childcare so they can find housing, look for work, and go to domestic violence related meetings, court or medical appointments. In 2018, the program averaged 20 family intakes per month which was fewer than in previous years due to changes in federal funding.<sup>47</sup>
- Bellevue College (BC) provides a Head Start program with 27 slots which are blended with the other child care slots to provide the same rich environment for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, for a total enrollment of more than 200 children annually in the Early Learning Center. Fifty percent of the children are from BC student and staff families and fifty percent are children from the families of Costco employees. Some of the challenges staff see for the families they serve is lack of transportation, lack of affordable housing, language barriers and issues with domestic violence.<sup>48</sup>
- The State's childcare subsidy program Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) serves low-income families earning up to 200% FPL who are working or participating in a DSHS-approved training activity. Families may still have a substantial co-pay: a family of three earning \$38,000 a year would pay \$425.50 per month for two children in childcare, about 13.5% of their annual income.<sup>49</sup> As of August 2019, there were no wait lists for WCCC.

## Transportation

Reliable public transportation is another key component in people being able to access and retain employment.

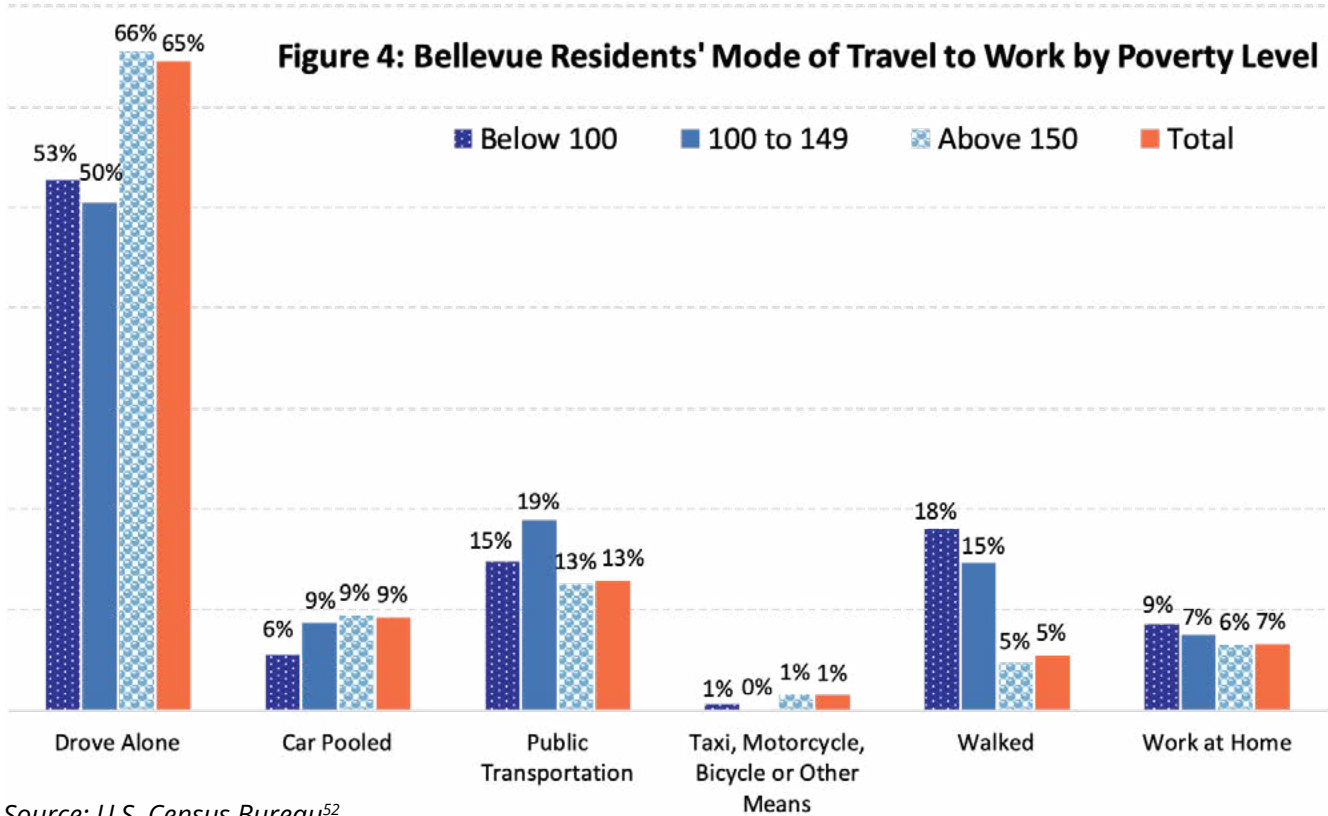
### Community Voice

- More than one-third (40%) of 2019 phone/online survey respondents rated *inadequate public transportation* as a moderate or major community problem, similar to responses in the last 6 phone surveys.<sup>50</sup> Over that same time period, respondents have also rated it as either the highest or second highest-rated household problem.<sup>51</sup>
- In the 2019 provider survey, 62% of respondents reported that their clients needed, but could not find, help with transportation. This was one of the highest rated barriers identified.

"In the area that I live with my family there is no public transportation."

~Consumer Survey

- Both consumers and providers of human services identified lack of bus tickets and services cuts as major gaps. The discount bus tickets that non-profit agencies purchase from King County Metro are the only way many low-income or no-income residents can get to appointments or to work.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau<sup>52</sup>

## Prevalence

- The percentage of Bellevue residents commuting to work by means other than driving alone has slightly increased from 26% in 2000 to 28% in 2013-2017. An increasing percentage of residents took public transportation to get to work. In 2013-2017, about 13% of residents used public transportation to get to work, up from only 7% in 2000.<sup>53</sup>
- As Figure 4 shows, workers in households with incomes below FPL or between 100 and 149% of FPL had the highest proportions of people using public transportation with about 15 and 19% respectively.<sup>54</sup> However, public transportation is not inexpensive, especially if the trip includes transfers and/or a family with multiple members.

## Service Trends

- King County Metro manages the largest commuter van program in the nation. In January 2019 there were 165 vans with the average ridership at 5 participants commuting into Bellevue. With 2 trips per day, this averages 249 working days or 410,850 annual vanpool trips. Recently there has been an increase in vanpool trips to 181 vans which could make the calculation as high as 450,850 trips annually.<sup>55</sup>
- Hopelink has an Education and Outreach Program that provides Getting Around Puget Sound and Public Transit Orientations to help people learn how to use public and volunteer transportation. In 2018 the Hopelink Travel Programs provided a total of 63 events to over 1,764 participants to in Bellevue, including at Bellevue College.<sup>56</sup>

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# Specific Populations



# Older Adults

**28%** of survey respondents rated lack of services for elderly individuals as a major or moderate community problem

**7%** of Bellevue residents **over 64** had income below the Federal Poverty Level



**1/3** of senior renters spend more than **50%** of their income on housing



**9%** of Bellevue residents 65 and older do not have a vehicle due to health or financial reasons



**1 in 10** Americans aged 60+ have reported some form of elder abuse

**14%** of residents are 65 or older



# Older Adults

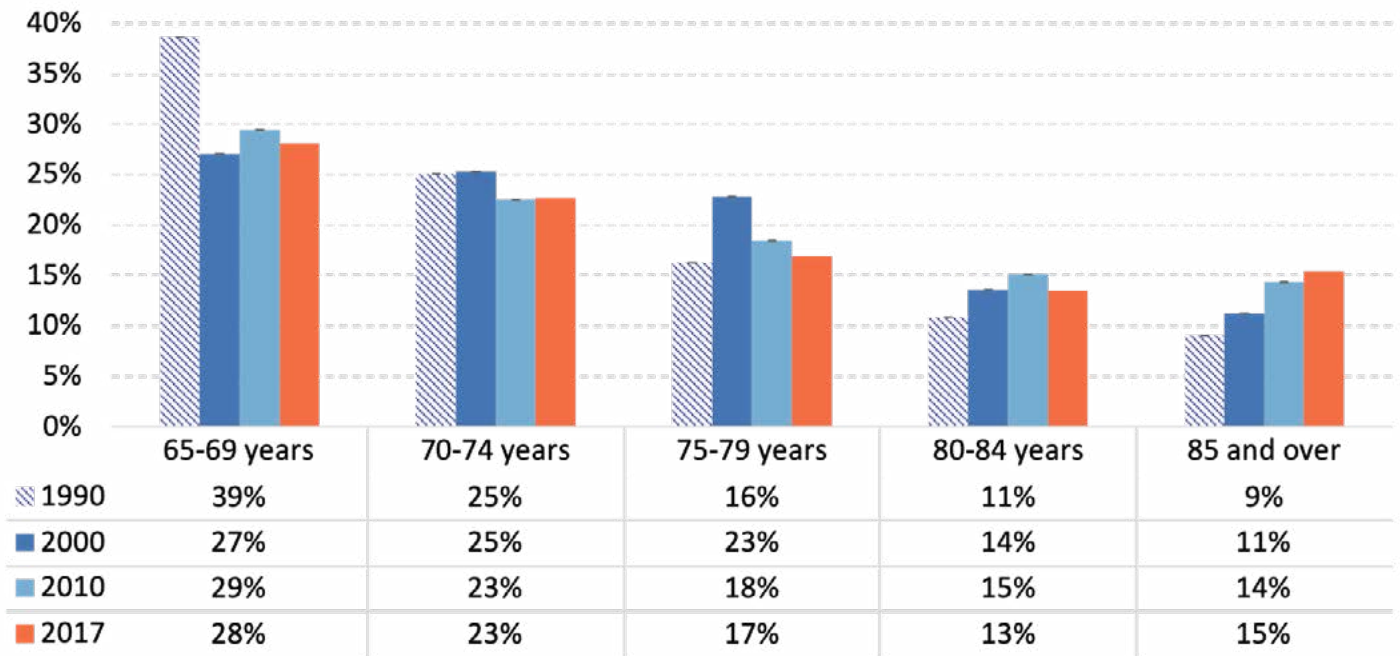
## Key Findings

- The rising cost of living strongly impacts many older adults living on fixed incomes. More older adults will likely delay their retirement and work beyond the traditional retirement age of 65, primarily because they can't afford to retire.
- Housing options for older adults are needed to address the huge shortfall of affordable housing for many older adults on a fixed income.
- Providing support for family caregivers is critical. This is a wise economic investment given the enormous cost-savings to the Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care systems in addition to the positive impact on the disabled and older adult's quality of life.
- Millions of older adults are affected by adult abuse, including physical, neglect, and financial.
- The demand for services for older adults from other countries, including both those newly settled here and long-time residents, continues to increase. These services include English classes, culturally sensitive healthcare, and activities that will engage them in the community.
- Coordinated transportation for older adults in the community is a rising issue. Many older adults are giving up their own vehicles, and still need reliable, affordable transportation to get to medical appointments, employment, grocery stores, and to stay engaged in the community.

## Brief Description

The aging of a large segment of the population profoundly impacts and shapes the type of services and supports that will be needed in our communities, not only in Bellevue, but throughout the county, state, and nation. In Washington State, by 2040, the population of 65 and older is forecast to reach 1,867,400 representing 21% of the state's total population.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, approximately 15% of Washington State's population was 65 years or older.<sup>2</sup> In Bellevue, 14% of residents are 65 years of age or older. Within the group of older adults as shown in Figure 1, the largest percentage are 65-74 years of age (53%) followed by the 75-84 years of age group (31%), then 85 years and over (16%). In Bellevue neighborhoods, Somerset, Newport Hills and Northwest Bellevue had the highest percentages of older adults (18%, 17% and 17%).<sup>3</sup> Older adults have diverse abilities, backgrounds, incomes, and needs. Members of the Bellevue Network on Aging identified a number of issues that they believe should be addressed for older adults in Bellevue. The top needs they reported are improving transportation options for those who can no longer drive or are temporarily disabled, affordable housing, support for people with memory loss and their caregivers, affordable long-term care options to allow people to stay in their homes, safeguards for older adults related to elder abuse including scams and financial abuse, and the ability for older adults to "age in place" with dignity and grace.

**Figure 1: Shifts in the distribution of people over 65**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to older adults. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be a Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential
- Additional Topics for Considerations:
  - Disability Issues
  - Transportation
  - Increased Racial and Ethnic Diversity

## Goal1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead

- Bellevue Fire CARES reports that they see more older adults who need help maintaining their homes.
- Food bank visits for seniors continue to increase and have surpassed the visits for youth. In King County in 2016, adults age 55 and older accounted for almost 1 in 3 food bank visits, up from 1 in 5 in 2010. The jump in use of food banks among King County seniors was paralleled by an increase in participation in Washington’s Basic Food program (formerly known as food stamps), which grew from 17,931 King County residents age 65+ in 2010 (9% of the 65+ population) to 28,426 (12%) in 2016.<sup>4</sup>

- Roughly 1 in 4 people (26%) that utilized Hopelink’s Bellevue Center Food Bank in Fiscal Year 2019 were ages 55 and over. <sup>5</sup>
- 63% of senior households served by the Feeding America network are forced to choose between food and medical care. Households that include an adult of the age 50 or older are at an increased risk of having someone with a chronic health condition, including diabetes (41%) and high blood pressure (70%), that can often be mitigated by healthy food options. <sup>6</sup>
- In 2018, Sound Generations served 6,762 home delivered meals to home-bound seniors in Bellevue and a total of 428,456 across King County. During deliveries, they also provide referral to other services, including transportation, caregiving, legal assistance and the Sound Generations Pathway’s Information and Assistance Program. <sup>7</sup>
- In Bellevue, there are only 400 affordable (below market) rental units specifically for low-income older adults. <sup>8</sup> Almost one-third (31%) of senior renters in Bellevue spend more than 50% of their income on housing. <sup>9</sup>
- Eastside Emergency Shelter providers report an increase in older adults needing homeless services, including shelters, safe parking for those living in their cars, and connection to resources. Crisis Connections of King County found that almost 25% of the calls they received in 2018 were from older adults in search of human services assistance. <sup>10</sup>
- ARCH offers tools to educate seniors, caregivers, and their families about housing choices in East King County when considering aging in place or transitioning to a new home. <sup>11</sup>
- Universal Design (UD) is the design and composition of an environment to be useable by all people without the need for adaptation or specialized design. <sup>12</sup> This philosophy is beginning to impact the way new housing units are designed and built to enable older adults the maximum mobility in their homes, as well as people with disabilities and families with young children. Housing using universal design elements, such as grab bars and low kitchen counters, can assist older adults in staying in their homes longer, without having to move if they develop mobility challenges. The Northwest Universal Design Coalition advocates for these elements to be included in public planning such as streetscapes, sidewalks, transit and walking trails. <sup>13</sup>
- 7% of residents reported living in a home that needed major home repairs. <sup>14</sup> The City of Bellevue Major Home Repair Program serves between 35-40 low- and moderate-income households annually and the Minor Home Repair Program, provided by Sound Generations, provides about 35 households with smaller repairs annually. In both programs, over 80% of clients are age 65 or older. Bellevue Fire Department also can install grab bars and help older adults assess their homes for potential hazards that would cause them to trip and fall.

People cannot afford to live in Bellevue. Property taxes are so high and people are being forced to move from homes they own, because they can’t afford the property taxes.

~ Participant, Eastside Neighborhood Network Community Conversation

## Goal 2: Supportive Relationships

- Twenty-eight percent of the phone and online survey rated lack of services for elderly persons as a major or moderate community problem.<sup>15</sup>
- Forty-seven percent of the respondents in the Bellevue Aging Adult Recreation Plan Survey reported that their financial situation made it challenging to participate in social and/or recreation activities.<sup>16</sup>
- People are living longer; over the last decade, the average life expectancy in King County climbed about 4 years to an average of 77.8 years of age.<sup>17</sup> As a result of longer life expectancy, people are more likely to need some type of long term care services and supports (LTSS) during their lifetimes and for many it will be a challenge to stretch retirement income and savings to pay these costs.
- The 2000 Census was the first to ask about grandparents responsible for raising grandchildren. The main reasons for grandparents taking on this role are life issues impacting their adult children, such as substance abuse, incarceration, abuse, and teen pregnancy. During 2010-2012, the number of individuals who are the primary caregiver for their grandchildren was 46,521 individuals in Washington State, 9,317 individuals are in King County, and 138 individuals are in Bellevue.<sup>18</sup> If this trend continues, there may be increased need for resources, including financial, legal and social support for these older adults.
- Caregiving can take a toll on the emotional, physical and economic health of the caregiver. The total lost wages, social security benefits, and private pension losses due to caregiving could range from \$283,716 (for men) to \$324,044 (for women), an average of \$303,880. When this average is multiplied by the 9.7 million people over age 50 caring for their parents, the amount lost is nearly \$3 trillion.<sup>19</sup> The value of unpaid caregiving exceeded the value of paid home care and total Medicaid spending in the same year.<sup>20</sup>
- Momentia is a grassroots movement empowering persons with memory loss and their loved ones to remain connected and active in the community. Work has begun to create an Eastside Momentia focused in East King County.<sup>21</sup>
- Bellevue Fire CARES is a team of advocates that respond to the needs of some of Bellevue's most vulnerable citizens, as identified by fire crews and police officers during a 911 response. Advocates perform home visits to assess the clients' needs and provide case management to connect the client to community resources that will address their needs. In 2018, CARES received 529 referrals and 204 enrolled in the program. 58% of the referrals were females at an average age of 64.9 years old and 41.2% were males at an average age of 62.8 years old. Of those that successfully completed the program, 25% were referred to King County's fall prevention program. The top two reasons for referral are for mental health and falls.



## Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- According to the best available estimates, between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection. 84% of elder abuse is committed by the elderly victim's relative, most often the victim's adult child.<sup>22</sup> It is estimated that only 7% of elder abuse cases are reported to authorities.<sup>23</sup>
- Elders who experienced physical abuse, even modest abuse, had a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who had not been abused.<sup>24</sup>
- The Bellevue Police Department reports an overall increasing numbers of elder abuse reports, including assault, neglect and financial. In 2018, there were 75 referrals for Bellevue residents to Adult Protective Services assigned for investigation. Police believe the number overall is vastly under-reported because, like many types of abuse, the victims will not press charges against family member perpetrators. This is especially true for older adults.<sup>25</sup>
- An estimated 5 million cases of elder fraud occur in the US annually, resulting in \$27.4 billion in losses. The average loss per case reported to Adult Protective Services is \$2,415. It is estimated that only 1 in 23.5 incidents of elder fraud are reported to authorities. In Washington, there were 6,095 reported incidents for the estimated 143,240 incidents that occurred.<sup>26</sup>
- Research indicates that people with dementia are at greater risk of elder abuse than those without. People with dementia are particularly vulnerable to abuse because of impairments in memory, communication abilities, and judgment. Prevalence estimates are influenced, and possibly underestimated, by the fact that many people with dementia are unable, frightened, or embarrassed to report abuse. A 2010 study found that 47% of participants with dementia had been mistreated by their caregivers. Of them, 88.5% experienced psychological abuse, 19.7% experienced physical abuse, and 29.5% experienced neglect.<sup>27</sup>
- Aging and Disability Services (ADS) provides a key link between federal and state funding for services for older residents and family caregivers in the Seattle-King County area and the community-based organizations that deliver the services. ADS partners with community-based organizations to provide adult day services, caregiver support, case management, elder abuse prevention, health maintenance, health promotion, information and assistance, legal support, nutrition, senior center, and transportation services. The majority of these services are accessed by contacting Community Living Connections.<sup>28</sup>

“Scammers target our senior population, preying on their vulnerability on the internet. These scams come in all forms; email, phone calls, text messages, or fraudulent links. Never give anyone money or personal information without verifying who is asking. The best thing to do is hang up the phone, delete the email, and don't click the link. Chances are someone is trying to steal from you,”

~ Bellevue Police Chief Steve Mylett

## Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- Ten percent of the phone and online survey respondents rated not being able to find home health care or day care of an elderly person as a major or moderate household problem.<sup>29</sup>
- Finding medical coverage can be challenging for older adults who are not eligible for Medicare, (must be 65 years old or older) and/or not eligible for Medicaid (must be low-income).
- Someone turning age 65 today has almost a 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services and supports in their remaining years. The duration and level of long-term care will vary from person to person and often change over time. Women need care longer (3.7 years) than men (2.2 years).<sup>30</sup>
- Washington has 3,568 senior living providers, which include 1,873 assisted living communities. According to information collected by Medicare, the average cost of assisted living facilities in Washington is \$51,000 yearly, with costs typically ranging between \$1,000 and \$9,000 per month. The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metro area has the highest assisted living expenses in the state of Washington, with yearly costs of about \$60,000 and ranging from \$2,000 per month up to \$8,756 per month.<sup>31</sup>
- Certain groups of older adults are more at risk for mental illness than others. These include widows or widowers, older men, white males 85 years and older, those who experience strokes, dementia, or other chronic conditions, and people living alone.<sup>32</sup> In Bellevue, 2013-2017 ACS data revealed increased numbers of older adults in some of these risk categories; for example, 42% of adults aged 65+ live in single-person households, compared to 20% of adults between 35-64 years of age.<sup>33</sup> A recent study found that due to the population size and high substance abuse rate of baby boomers, the number of adults 50 and older with substance abuse disorder is expected to double from 2.8 million to 5.7 million in 2020. Recommendations include increasing resources for prevention and treatment.<sup>34</sup>
- The number of older adults with mental illnesses is expected to double in the next 30 years. Mental illnesses have a significant impact on the health and functioning of older people. One outcome of severe depression is suicide. Even though older adults only represent about 13% of the population in the U.S., they account for 18% of all suicide deaths.<sup>35</sup> In King County over a five-year period 20% of suicides were committed by people over age 60 who made up 15% of the population during that period.<sup>36</sup>
- Medicare is a health insurance program for people aged 65 and older, and some people under age 65 with certain disabilities. Low Medicare reimbursement rates continue to limit the number of older adults some doctors will serve. Dental care is not covered under Medicare, so some low-and moderate-income older adults postpone routine care until problems occur. Eye care and hearing aids are often unaffordable for people on Medicare because only limited services are covered.
- Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports assist low-income seniors and adults with disabilities with services they typically cannot access with Medicare or private health insurance. This includes home care, nursing care, assisted living, meals, nursing homes and other services. One in seven Medicare beneficiaries in Washington are enrolled in Medicaid.<sup>37</sup>
- In Bellevue, the number of beds in state-licensed assisted living facilities has remained about the same over the past two years despite growing need. In 2019, there are 127

licensed adult family homes in Bellevue and 2 nursing facilities. Over 75% of adult family homes accept Medicaid, which helps to pay the cost for low-income older adults.<sup>38</sup> These facilities are an option for frail elderly and disabled adults to remain in the community, when living at home alone or with relatives is not possible due to mobility issues or cognitive difficulties such as dementia.

## Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

- The aging of the population has enormous implications for the workforce. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Americans 55 and over make up slightly less than a quarter of the labor force but filled almost half (49%) of the 7.9 million jobs gained in 2018, the biggest share of any age group. In December 2018, 39.2% of people 55 and older were employed in the U.S., and 40% were working in management or professional roles.<sup>39</sup>
- In King County, 21% of people 65 or older are low-income.<sup>40</sup> Older adults cannot meet their basic living expenses if they live at the federal poverty level or the level of the average Social Security benefit. This is true for older adults, whether they rent or own a home. As shown in the Elder Economic Security Standard Index for King County (Figure 2), a person aged 65 or older renting a one bedroom apartment would need an income of about \$27,120 annually<sup>41</sup>; however, an average Social Security annual benefit is \$17,532.<sup>42</sup> Without other savings or assets, this person could not make ends meet without other supports such as rent subsidies or assistance in covering supplemental health care costs.

**Figure 2: Expenses - Monthly and Yearly Totals**

Elder Index for King County						
Expenses	Single Elder			Elder Couple		
	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ Mortgage	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ Mortgage
Housing (inc. utilities, taxes, & Insurance)	\$715.00	\$1,031.00	\$1,942.00	\$715.00	\$1,031.00	\$1,942.00
Food	\$256.00	\$256.00	\$256.00	\$470.00	\$470.00	\$470.00
Transportation	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$309.00	\$309.00	\$309.00
Healthcare (Good)	\$449.00	\$449.00	\$449.00	\$898.00	\$898.00	\$898.00
Miscellaneous	\$324.00	\$345.00	\$324.00	\$478.00	\$478.00	\$478.00
Index Per Month	\$1,944.00	\$2,260.00	\$3,171.00	\$2,870.00	\$3,186.00	\$4,097.00
<b>Index Per Year</b>	<b>\$23,325.00</b>	<b>\$27,120.00</b>	<b>\$38,052.00</b>	<b>\$34,440.00</b>	<b>38,232.00</b>	<b>\$49,164.00</b>

Source: National Council of Aging

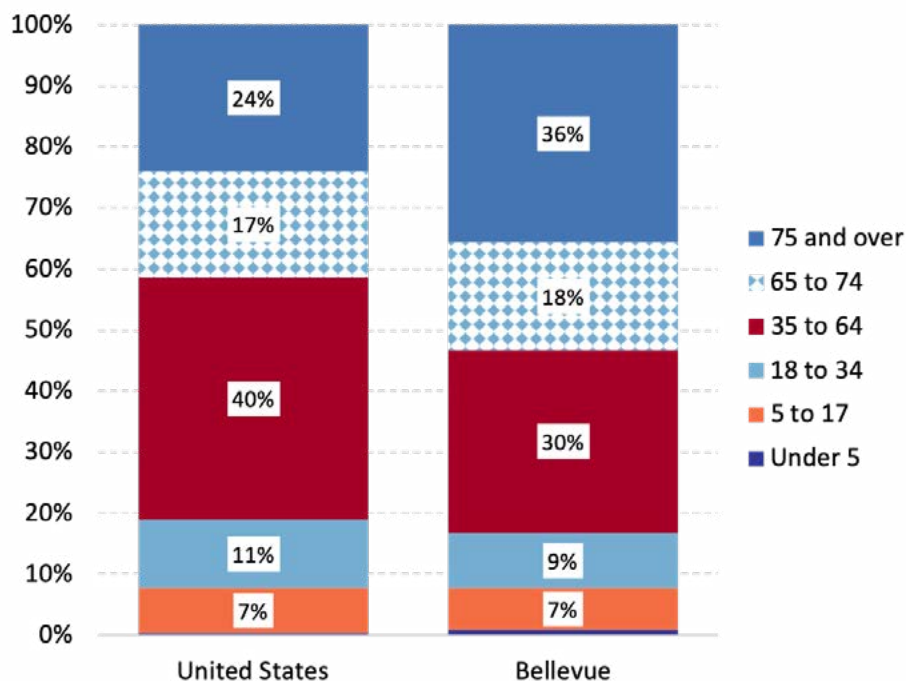
- According to AARP, in the U. S. about 50% of older adults rely on Social Security for about half of their income, and about a quarter depend on it for at least 90% of their income. In Washington State, about 19% of older adults rely on Social Security for 90% of their income.<sup>43</sup> Many retirees depend on slight cost of living (COLA) adjustments annually to help them pay their bills. In 2019, 65 million recipients received a 2.8% a COLA, slightly higher than the 2.0% in 2018.<sup>44</sup>
- In King County, 49% of men and 38% of women age 55 and older were employed (full and part time). In Bellevue, 48% of men and 34% of women age 55 or older were employed in.<sup>45</sup>
- About 7% of older adults in Bellevue age 65 and over had incomes below the Federal Poverty Level. Although this percentage is lower than the U.S. (9%) and King County (9%),<sup>46</sup> it still impacts a very vulnerable population and shows the need for human services for these older adults. Further, there are significant disparities in poverty rates among ethnic groups in Bellevue; according to data from the 2009-2013 ACS, 12% of African American older adults 60 + live in poverty, 9% of Asians, 21% of Hispanics and only 5% of Non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>47</sup>

## Additional Items for Consideration

### Disability Issues

- Although the average life span is increasing, many older adults' quality of life is affected by disability or activity limitations. Of adults in King County age 60 and older, 38% have a disability. Data shows that disabilities increase with poverty. In King County, for example, 51% of people age 60 and older who live in poverty have physical disabilities.<sup>48</sup> In Bellevue, estimates from the 2010-2014 ACS also demonstrate the likelihood that having a disability increases with age, as shown in Figure 3.<sup>49</sup> The impact of an increased number of older adults with disabilities, including mental illness, is already being noted by human service providers, and will likely increase as does that population.

**Figure 3: Age Distribution of People with a Disability (2013-2017)**



Source: American Community Survey 5-year 2013-2017, Table S1810

- According to the National Center for Health Statistics nearly 50 million (17%) Americans have some degree of hearing loss. Estimates are that 18% of American adults 45-64 years old, 30% of adults 65-74 years old, and 47% of adults 75 years old or older have some kind of hearing loss. This issue will become even more prevalent with the oncoming age wave. A technology to assist people who are hard of hearing is called “Looping”. Looping is a loop that circles the walls within a room and is connected to the sound system which in turn is amplified in a person’s hearing aid by flipping the t-switch. This technology greatly improves the ability of a person with hearing loss to hear in large spaces such as auditoriums or meeting rooms.<sup>50</sup> In 2016, the City of Bellevue began the process of adding looping technology to a number of its public meeting spaces including the City Council Chamber and Conference Room.
- Another type of disability that increases with age is vision loss. Though a smaller percentage of Bellevue residents 65 and older (5%) experience this type of disability compared to ambulatory (20%) it still impacts an individual’s ability to work, care for themselves, and get to the places they need to go such as appointments or social events. Creating signage, websites and walking spaces that take into account people with low or no vision is an important age-friendly accommodation.<sup>51</sup>

## Transportation

- In the Bellevue Aging Adult Recreation Plan Survey, 56% of respondents reported that transportation is a challenge for participating in social and/or recreation activities.<sup>52</sup>
- In King County, 26% of residents 65 and older report using public transportation to get to and from their neighborhoods, slightly higher than residents compared to the same group nationally.<sup>53</sup>
- Lack of personal transportation is one of the main reasons why older adults miss medical appointments and are less likely to participate in social, family, and/or religious activities which can result in physical fragility and social isolation.<sup>54</sup>
- A recurring theme throughout the community engagement activities with older adults is lack of transportation options. Increasingly older adults rely on public transportation or volunteer driver programs to get to needed appointments, going to the grocery store, or participate in social events to decrease isolation. Also mentioned was that lack of sidewalks makes it difficult for those who want to take fixed route buses to get to the bus stops, and there are no benches at the bus stops to sit on while they wait.
- Households headed by an older adult in Bellevue are less likely to have a vehicle than are households headed by people 35 to 64 years old. About 9% of all households headed by someone age 65 or older did not have a vehicle and 36% of renter households headed by someone age 65 or older did not have a vehicle. Compared to households headed by middle aged people, where only about 3% of all households headed by someone age 35 to 64 and 7% of renting households in the same age bracket did not have access

Public transportation, Access and volunteer transportation programs do not meet the need of many older adults in our community. They need the option to socialize and stay connected. Without transportation, they are often isolated and lose their independence.

~ Participant, Eastside Neighborhood Network Community Conversation

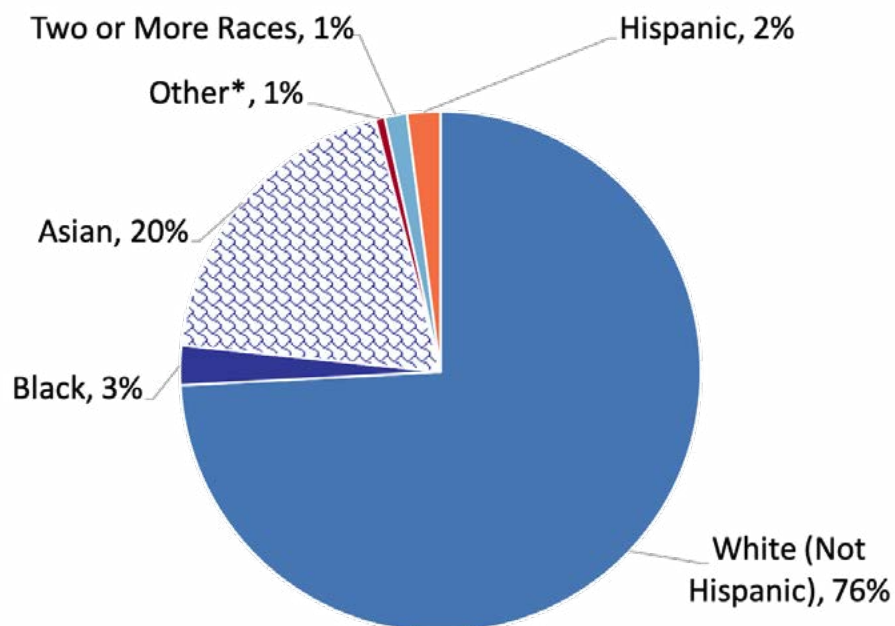
to a vehicle.<sup>55</sup> Making the decision to stop driving either for health or financial reasons can have an impact on the number of older adults who need other forms of transportation in order to meet their basic needs such as doctor visits, shopping, and for recreation.

- Sound Generations provided one-way rides to 1,169 older adults living in Bellevue and 19,435 older adults in King County through their volunteer transportation program. Rides can be provided for both medical and non-medical related rides.<sup>56</sup>
- In King County, Americans with Disability Act (ADA) paratransit services are provided by Metro’s Access Transportation. King County Metro’s Access program fills some of the need for door-to-door service for eligible people with disabilities but continues to have gaps for many customers. For the first half of 2019 (January through June), Access provided 37,381 trips to 1,462 unique riders in Bellevue with 691 riders being 65 years of age or older.<sup>57</sup>

## Increased Racial and Ethnic Diversity

- Indian Association of Western Washington reported that older adults in the East Indian communities in Bellevue often experience isolation and depression as they adjust to this new culture and need more opportunities to be active and socialize in the community.
- People of color will make up an increasing proportion of the older adult population as Americans reach retirement age. This trend is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. As indicated in Figure 4, data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey reveals that age distribution in Bellevue is different for different racial and ethnic groups. Among the 65 year and older population of Bellevue, the largest racial groups are White (76%), Asian (20%) and Black (3%).<sup>58</sup>
- About 26% of Bellevue residents age 65 and over speak a language other than English at home. The effects of a diverse older adult population in Bellevue continue to have an impact on service needs and delivery and will increase in coming years.<sup>59</sup>

**Figure 4: Race/ethnicity of people 65 years old and older in Bellevue, 2013-2017**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

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# People with Disabilities



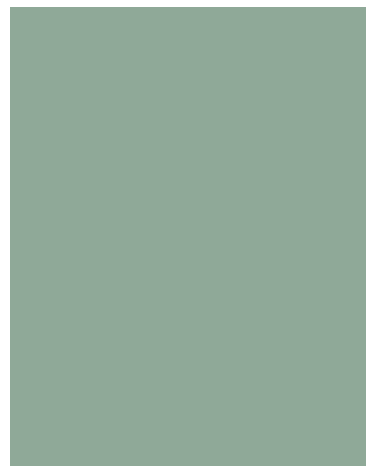
**75%** of people with developmental disabilities in King County are not served through the state DDA



Bellevue has **22,958** disabilities reported

**38%** of individuals with disability are low-income in King County

**70%** of people with disabilities reported that they have been victims of **abuse**



**1 in 6** children aged 3-17 years have one or more disabilities



1 bedroom unit  
**\$1557**  
Individual on SSI can afford **\$231** rent

# People with Disabilities

## Key Findings

- Funding for services for people with all types of disabilities continues to lag behind the growth of this population. The result is that there are wait lists for many programs, including family support programs and subsidized supportive housing program. This trend is predicted to continue over the next several years due to higher life expectancy of the aging population with developmental disabilities and the increase of referrals of children with disabilities.
- Lack of affordable housing is a problem for people with disabilities as the need is growing faster than housing stock is produced. It is especially critical for people with disabilities to find housing in familiar neighborhood settings, near support systems and convenient amenities, in order to maintain their independence to whatever extent they are able.
- Early intervention services for children birth to three with disabilities save costs later; for children whose needs are identified when they are older, critical time is lost.

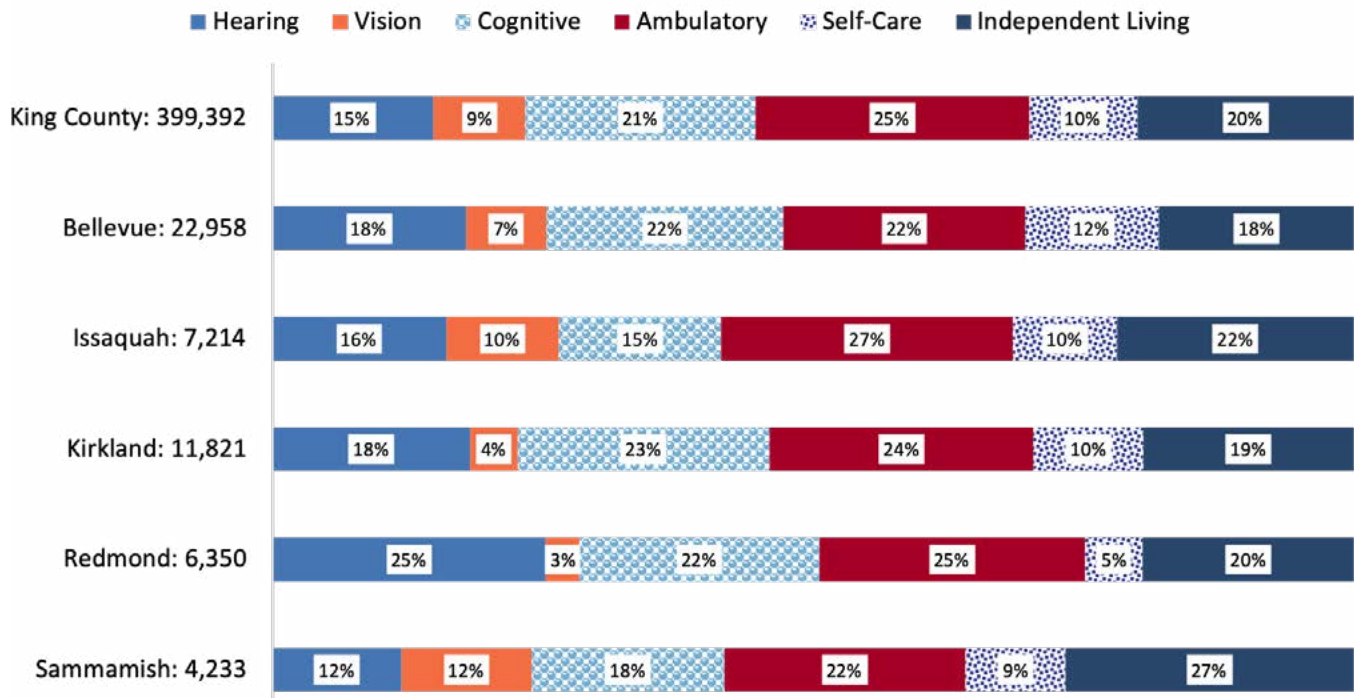
## Brief Description

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), adopted in 1990, provides protection from discrimination for people with disabilities. The ADA defines disability as “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.” The City of Bellevue has consistently and diligently worked to make all its programs, services and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. For over 30 years the city has provided adaptive recreation programs, as well as other accommodations, and access to general recreation programs. It’s important to note that under Title II of the ADA, social services must be accessible for people with disabilities. Title III of the ADA covers public accommodations, which generally includes all places open to the public, such as offices for counseling services, legal services, translation services, doctors’ offices and shelters.<sup>1</sup>

25% of adults in King County have a disability, compared to 21% in East King County.<sup>2</sup> When compared with the general population, individuals with disabilities are more likely to be low-income or unemployed. In King County, 38% of individuals with disabilities are low-income compared to 24% of the general population. Ten percent of people with disabilities in King County are unemployed compared to 5% of the general population.<sup>3</sup>

With medical advances helping more people survive longer with disabilities than in the past, there is a greater need for a network of supports. In Bellevue, older adults have the largest share of people with one or more disabilities with almost one third of older adults having one or more disabilities compared to nearly 5% of people ages 18 to 64 and 3% of children.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1: Number of Disabilities by Type, 2017**



*U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey<sup>5</sup>*

As shown in Figure 1, Bellevue has 22,958 disabilities reported with a slightly higher rate of hearing, cognitive, and self-care reported than King County. Respondents can select more than one disability. Based on the Census definition, ‘Self-Care’ is defined as someone having difficulty bathing or dressing because of a disability and ‘Independent Living’ is defined as someone having difficulty doing errands alone, such as a doctor’s appointment or shopping because of a disability. This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to People with Disabilities. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential
- Additional Topics for Consideration
  - Transportation

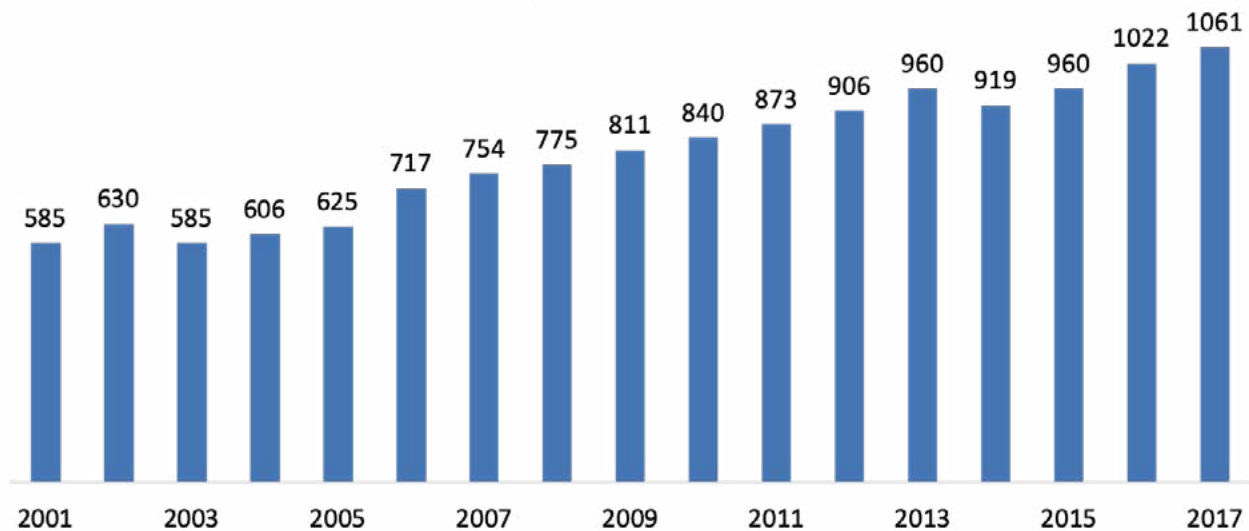
## Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead

- People with disabilities who are not able to work are often on a fixed income, which makes it almost impossible for them to be able to afford housing unless it is subsidized or a low-income unit.<sup>6</sup>
- There is a lack of nutrition education and support for the population of people with disabilities.<sup>7</sup>
- Parents who have adult children with disabilities living in their homes are facing significant and increased challenges finding affordable housing and supportive services for their adult son or daughter.<sup>8</sup>
- Finding affordable housing in the community is challenging for many people, especially those with disabilities who seek an independent living arrangement. In January 2018, there were roughly 8.07 million individuals receiving federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because they are elderly, blind or disabled and have few economic resources.<sup>9</sup> With the maximum federal monthly payment of \$771/month for an eligible individual in 2019, an SSI recipient could only afford \$231/month rent (30% of income). There is not one county in the U.S. where even a modest efficiency apartment is affordable for someone receiving SSI.<sup>10</sup> The Fair Market rent for a one bedroom apartment in the Seattle-Bellevue Metropolitan area is \$1,557/month, more than the entire SSI check.<sup>11</sup> For individuals who rely solely on their SSI check for income, or even those working in supported employment, market rate housing is not an option.
- In King County, the number of persons with developmental disabilities living in residential habilitation centers (RHCs) and nursing homes, facilities that provide intensive nursing care and skill development for those who are severely disabled, has decreased dramatically. In 2017, there were about 943 individuals in one of these 4 facilities in the State, compared to 4,145 at their peak in 1967. The average annual cost per client living in RHCs is \$230,120 compared to \$24,322 per client annually to receive personal care services in the family's home or community residential facilities.<sup>12</sup>

## Goal 2: Supportive Relationships

- In the 2019 phone/online survey, 22% of respondents indicated that lack of services for people with disabilities was a major or moderate problem in the community. 9% of respondents stated that not finding programs for someone with a disability was a major/moderate household problem and 9% stated that not being able to find affordable care for a person with a disability was a major/moderate problem, down from 10% and 14% in 2017 and 2018, respectively.
- A key informant interview with Bellevue Special Needs PTA stated that there is a need for the community of Bellevue to become inclusive to populations that have been marginalized, including people with disabilities, so they are included and invited.<sup>13</sup>
- About 115,000 people in Washington live with a developmental disability. However, almost three-fourths will not receive services through the state Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) to help them keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Statewide, this leaves more than 85,000 people at increased risk of unemployment, homelessness and incarceration. It also puts their families at increased risk for financial or housing instability. Similarly, in King County, 74% of people with developmental disabilities are not served through the state DDA.<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 2: Number of Bellevue Residents Receiving DSHS Developmental Disabilities Services**



Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services<sup>15</sup>

- As shown in Figure 2, as of 2017, there were 1061 people with developmental disabilities in Bellevue enrolled through the Department of Social and Health Services.
- Enrollment has also increased over the last few years for services offered by the King County Division of Developmental Disabilities (KCDDD). In the last five fiscal years, total annual enrollment has grown from 2,543 to 3,419 children served, representing a growth rate of 34%. Despite this growth in numbers of children served with Early Intervention (EI) services in King County, the percent of infants and toddlers who receive EI services has remained fairly flat.<sup>16</sup>
- The City of Bellevue Department of Parks and Community Services provides adaptive recreation opportunities for those with disabilities as well as inclusion support to participate in general recreation. Most adaptive programs occur at the Highland Community Center and several programs are also offered at various other locations, including the Northwest Arts Center, Tennis Center, Aquatic Center and the Bellevue Youth Theater. Bellevue offers forty adaptive recreation programs. In 2019, the Highland Community Center had 250 active participants. The other recreation programs have another 86 active adaptive participants, with 45 at Bellevue Youth Theater, 25 at Northwest Arts Center, and 10 for adaptive tennis and 6 for wheelchair tennis at the Tennis Center.<sup>17</sup>
- Bellevue’s Parks and Community Services Choices Plan for People with Disabilities outlines the process for providing recreation services for people with disabilities. There has been an increase of kids with disabilities participating in general recreation programs, primarily in summer day camps.<sup>18</sup>
- Bellevue Parks and Community Services has a Recreation Inclusion Coordinator and Inclusion Recreation Staff to assist with accommodations or modifications to reinforce successful experiences in general recreation programs. A small number of people specifically request inclusion services, but the recreation division served kids with disabilities in the majority of camps offered. Highland Center staff report that children attending summer camps at Highland Center have higher needs than in previous years. As a result, a lower

child to staff ratio is needed. Other adaptive recreation programs in Bellevue are offered by Special Olympics of Washington, Bridge of Promise and Outdoorsforall.<sup>19</sup>

## Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- Sexual assault is a huge concern for people with developmental disabilities. Bullying is also a growing issue for adults with developmental disabilities.<sup>20</sup>
- Seventy percent of people with disabilities reported that they had been victims of abuse. Of the various types of abuse, victims with disabilities reported verbal-emotional abuse (87.2%), physical abuse (50.6%), sexual abuse (41.6%), neglect (37.3%), and financial abuse (31.5%).<sup>21</sup>
- Children with disabilities were two to three times more likely to be bullied than their nondisabled peers.<sup>22</sup>
- Bullying Prevention & Social Skills curriculum is taught across all schools in the Bellevue School District. Younger students learn about empathy, making friends, problem solving and responding to bullying. Integrated lessons for older students include the impact of gossiping, taunting and bullying, as well as the dangers of cyber-bullying.<sup>23</sup>

## Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- People with disabilities often experience a sense of social isolation and loneliness, which can also lead to depression and other mental health issues. Inaccessible environments and misunderstanding from non-disabled individuals often contribute to isolation. Research links loneliness to a number of health concerns, including a greater risk of premature death, dementia, heart disease, and a decreased immunity.<sup>24</sup>
- In the United States, about 1 in 6 children aged 3 to 17 years have one or more developmental or neurological disabilities, such as autism, a learning disorder, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder<sup>1</sup>. In addition, many children have delays in language or other areas that can affect how well they do in school. However, many children with developmental disabilities are not identified until they are in school, by which time significant delays might have occurred and opportunities for treatment might have been missed.<sup>25</sup>
- Kinderling reports that 13% of children have a developmental disability.<sup>26</sup> This is significantly higher than the 3% reported in American Community Survey,<sup>27</sup> which could be due to people underreporting disabilities in children.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2017, Kinderling provided services to 4,455 children, including early intervention for 2,485 infants and toddlers with special needs. Of the early intervention graduates, 46% will not need special education and 75% narrowed the development gap.<sup>29</sup>
- Kinderling's Early Care and Education Consultation program focuses on early identification of developmental disabilities/delays and behavioral challenges by providing consultation and

"The medical field does not understand how to work with people with disabilities. Training is needed. Often when patients go in with a health concern, medical providers will treat it as a behavioral issue."

~ Key Informant Interview, Kim Indukar, Community Services Supervisor at Bellevue's Highland Community Services Center

training to child care programs. 75% of parents of children age 6 months to 5 years reported using some form of regularly scheduled child care. In 2018, Kindering provided services for 132 Bellevue residents with 986 hours of assistance.<sup>30</sup>

- In 2018, 7.2% (1459) of students enrolled at Bellevue School District were receiving Special Education services.<sup>31</sup> However, Census data reports that only 3.7% of children ages 5 to 17 in Bellevue have a disability.<sup>32</sup> It appears disabilities are under-reported in Census data.
- People with disabilities can receive medical insurance through three different programs based on eligibility. **Medicaid** provides free or low-cost medical benefits to people with disabilities. **Medicare** provides medical health insurance to people under 65 with certain disabilities and any age with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant). **Affordable Care Act Marketplace** offers options to people who have a disability, who don't qualify for disability benefits, and need health coverage.<sup>33</sup>

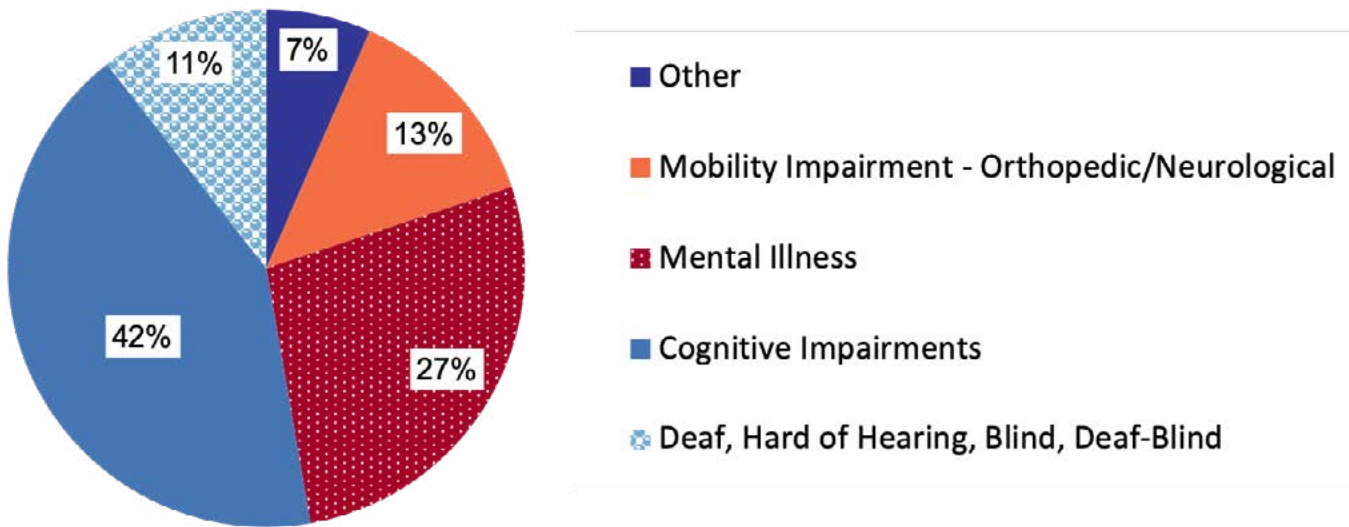
## Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

- Accessibility and inclusive hiring practices can be an issue to seeking and obtaining employment. However, more people who have traditionally been considered unemployable are now working.<sup>34</sup>
- AtWork! staff report that they are seeing more clients who are transitioning from high school and need employment services.
- The State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a service for people with disabilities to obtain and keep employment. DVR serves 4.4% of individuals with disabilities in the workforce and 33.7% of those who are unemployed.<sup>35</sup>
- Factors that contribute to disproportionate poverty in the disability community include lower labor force participation, differences in workers' occupations, and differences in educational attainment levels compared to people without disabilities. Most working age individuals with disabilities (56.6%) are not in the labor force. An estimated 36.8% of working age individuals with disabilities are employed, compared to 76.4% of people without disabilities. Workers with disabilities are more likely to be employed part-time and in service occupations, compared to workers without disabilities. In addition to disability-related barriers, the most common barriers to seeking employment include lack of education and training, lack of transportation, and needed for job accommodations that are not provided.<sup>36</sup>
- Median annual earnings for people with disabilities are \$22,445, the equivalent of about \$10.75/hour for fulltime employment. They earn 62% of the median earnings (\$36,217) of Washingtonians without disabilities. Women with disabilities earn 63% of their male counterparts with disabilities, with an annual earnings gap of \$10,573.<sup>37</sup>
- AtWork! provides supported employment and works with businesses to identify job opportunities that take advantage of an individual with disabilities' unique talents while meeting a critical business need. They report a new partnership with Salesforce as a new supportive employment site.<sup>38</sup> In 2018, AtWork! provided Bellevue residents with 536 one-on-one employment sessions to support them in gaining and maintaining employment. They were in contact with employers regarding Bellevue residents 2,216 times.<sup>39</sup>



- Through King County Developmental Disability Division and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, AtWork! offers School to Work Transition services to students in local school districts, including Bellevue. Working with high school staff, AtWork! provides community work experience, job trials, resume development, job search, job placement and on-the-job coaching while in school and after graduation. In 2018, AtWork! placed 86% of eligible King County School-to-Work students in rewarding jobs.<sup>40</sup>

**Figure 3: Types of Disabilities of DVR Customers Successfully Employed**



Source: State of Washington Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

- In a competitive environment, job developers need to be more creative to find work for their clients. Figure 3 shows the percentage of clients statewide within each disability category who were successfully employed in 2015 through DVR. These percentages remain relatively unchanged from two years ago.<sup>41</sup>

## Additional Topics for Consideration

### Transportation Gap

- People with disabilities must have access to transportation to lead full, independent lives. Even where accessible public transportation exists, adults with disabilities consider transportation inadequate. In the U.S., 24 million individuals with disabilities use public transit to maintain their independence and participate fully in society. For many, it is their only transit option. Inadequate transportation inhibits community involvement and ability to work. Those living in rural areas often face the greatest challenge of all due to total lack of public transportation and long distances between destinations.<sup>42</sup>
- The demand for transportation for special needs populations, defined as older adults, people with disabilities, youth and people with low-incomes, is growing steadily. The King County Mobility Coalition (KCMC) is a collaborative group of diverse partners who have a stake in mobility management for special needs populations. The Coalition works with transit authorities, service providers, end-users, and various stakeholders to identify and

address transportation equity in King County. Through its 2015-2020 action plan and beyond, the KCMC has launched a number of initiatives through specialized committees – like Access to Healthcare and Access to Work and School – to evaluate and fill gaps in transportation barriers. A project from the committee is the Inclusive Planning grant, which seeks to improve transportation for all King County community members using an inclusive planning lens and a focus on older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Various grants have allowed the KCMC to pursue and test solutions that further the Coalition’s goal to connect more people to transportation.<sup>43</sup>

“Many areas of Bellevue don’t have sidewalks, which make it incredibly challenging for people in wheelchairs and people that are blind. Bus stops are located on roads without sidewalks, which isn’t safe especially for someone with a disability.”

~ Participant, Community Conversation, Eastside Neighborhood Network

- King County Metro’s Access program fills some of the need for door-to-door service for eligible people with disabilities but continues to have gaps for many customers. For the first half of 2019 (January through June), Access provided 37,381 trips to 1,462 unique riders in Bellevue compared to 476,521 trips for all of King County for 8,744 unique riders.<sup>44</sup> Transit Advisory Commission advises Metro and King County on issues related to transit service in the county, including matters of concern to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Some of the topics addressed include safety, better transit access for specific populations such as people who are blind, and customer service issues.<sup>45</sup>

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# Refugees and Immigrants





**19.7%**  
of DV homicide victims  
in Washington  
were  
foreign  
born



Nearly  
**55,000**  
of Bellevue  
residents  
speak a  
language  
other than  
English at  
home

Racial & ethnic  
discrimination noted as  
a community concern


 **17%**  
in  
**2015**

 **25%**  
in  
**2019**



**10%** of Bellevue  
households have  
limited English  
proficiency



  
Nearly **40%** of  
Bellevue's population  
is foreign-born

# Refugees and Immigrants

## Key Findings

- The need for more culturally and linguistically responsive human services grows each year. Throughout the community, there is a need for information to be available in languages other than English. In addition, there is a need for more diverse staff who are not only bilingual but also culturally competent.
- Many refugees and immigrants are refusing services and disengaging from other public or private systems. The most commonly cited reason for doing so was the perception that accessing resources is not safe for them or their family due to their citizenship status.

## Population Overview

The City of Bellevue's population continues to grow and diversify. Nearly 40% of Bellevue's population is foreign-born, up from only 13% in 1990. This is higher than Seattle (22%), King County (28%), Washington state (13%), and the U.S. as a whole (13%).<sup>1</sup> The term "foreign-born" includes immigrants (documented and undocumented) and refugees. Immigrants are people who petitioned to enter the U.S. to become lawful permanent residents. By comparison, refugees are those who are forced to leave the country of their nationality due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, and asylees are foreign nationals currently residing in the U.S. awaiting refugee designation.

This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to refugees and immigrants. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

In addition to these goals, the following topics have been identified as important to this population:

- Language Barriers
- Fear and Discrimination

## Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead

- In 2018, 42% of the 3,858 Bellevue residents served in Hopelink's food programs were immigrants or refugees. In addition, 1,088 individuals or 28% of the Bellevue residents who accessed food services reported Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Hopelink continues to have Spanish (32%) and Russian (34%) as the main languages spoken among Bellevue LEP clients accessing Food services. Farsi (5%), Chinese (6%) and Vietnamese (4%) are the next most common languages spoken among clients that report limited English proficiency.<sup>2</sup>
- This percentage of immigrants and refugees, and limited English proficiency has not significantly changed in the last 5 years and Hopelink continues to support culturally appropriate services. Bellevue continues to have a greater percentage of Immigrant/

Refugee and LEP clients than the overall Hopelink food program (42% vs. 33% immigrants or refugees; 28% vs. 21% LEP).<sup>3</sup>

- More than half of the roughly 3,500 Bellevue residents that Renewal Food Bank served in 2019 identify as immigrants or refugees.<sup>4</sup>
- Ninety percent of Immigrants/Refugees served by all Hopelink programs at the Bellevue Service Center reported being stably housed, 6% report being homeless or at-risk, 4% is unknown. In comparison, 79% of Non-Immigrant/Refugees served at the Bellevue Center reported being stably housed, 15% reported being homeless or at risk, 6% unknown.<sup>5</sup>
- 94% of Immigrants/Refugees whom accessed food bank at the Bellevue Service Center reported being stably housed, 4% reported begin homeless or at-risk, 2% is unknown. In comparison, 78% of Non-Immigrant/Refugees whom accessed food bank at the Bellevue Service Center report being stable housed, 16% report being homeless or at-risk, 6% unknown.<sup>6</sup>

## Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities

- Eighty-five percent of parents in English-speaking household report having someone they could turn to for emotional support. Households who is primary language was not English reported a lower rate of having someone they could turn to for emotional support with 51% for Chinese speaking households, 47% for Russian speaking household, 55% for Somali speaking households, and 35% for Spanish speaking households.<sup>7</sup>
- With the increasing and complex needs of Bellevue residents, Mini City Hall (MCH) staff report a trend in spending more time with each customer as more agencies and organizations lack capacity to respond especially to those with limited English and cultural barrier issues. Currently, volunteer interpreters and city staff offer in-person assistance in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Farsi, Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. City staff also have access to the dual-receiver language line, which provides an over-the-phone interpreter in more than 100 languages at Mini City Hall and throughout the city at community centers.<sup>8</sup>
- Many families from diverse cultures prefer their children be cared for by families, friends, or neighbors rather than in centers. Child Care Resources (CCR) supports a network of Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups, drop-in play groups specifically designed to provide culturally appropriate support to caregivers and parents. In the 2017/2018 fiscal year, Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups reached more than 6,000 King County children and their informal caregivers; over half of the participants spoke a language other than English at home.<sup>9</sup> There are 4 such groups in Bellevue: 2 are facilitated in English, 1 is bilingual Spanish-English, and 1 is bilingual Mandarin-English.<sup>10</sup>
- Providers share that there is a need for more diverse staff who are not only bilingual but also culturally competent. However, there are recruitment challenges, in part because some positions are legally mandated to have a specific education level and the education obtained by many immigrants from their country of origin is not recognized in the U.S.<sup>11</sup>

## Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- King County Sexual Assault Resource Coalition (KCSARC) reports increased demand from Spanish speaking refugees and immigrants over the past few years.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2011 (the most recent date for which data are available), 19.7% of domestic violence homicide victims in Washington State were born outside the U.S.; nearly one-third of these

victims were from Latin American and the Caribbean, and another quarter were from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.<sup>13</sup>

- In 2018, 38 Bellevue residents completed Refugee Women’s Alliance 8-week domestic violence support group.<sup>14</sup>
- Consejo Counseling Services’ Domestic Violence Advocacy Program provides counseling, outreach, and advocacy services to Latinx survivors of domestic violence; most of their clients are immigrants from Latin America who speak Spanish.<sup>15</sup> Since 2017, Consejo has provided 54 Bellevue residents with domestic violence services.<sup>16</sup>

## Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- Not being able to pay for dental bills (33%), doctoral bills (25%), or not being able afford or access medical insurance (24%) were substantial issues among consumer survey respondents, the vast majority of which were immigrants or refugees.<sup>17</sup>
- Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) reports an increasing need for mental health services among Chinese and Latinx school-aged youth. In response, the agency has hired more counselors to address this increasing need.<sup>18</sup>
- HealthPoint is a community-based, community-supported, and community-governed network of nonprofit health centers. HealthPoint has provided health services to nearly 60% of King County’s refugee population. In 2017, 31% of all HealthPoint patients (not just refugees), required an interpreter.<sup>19</sup>
- For more information about the intersection between health care and the immigrant and refugee population, please see the section within this chapter titled, “Language Barriers.”

“Immigrants that are documented and younger than 65 are having challenges finding employment. They have degrees and high-paying jobs in another country but are willing to take any job. They are told they are over qualified, and they often feel like they need to take qualifications off their résumé to get hired.”

~Staff, Bellevue Mini City Hall

## Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential

- Although the lack of living-wage jobs was a consistent theme across community conversations, immigrant populations have a unique experience: “Immigrants that are documented and younger than 65 are having challenges finding employment. They have degrees and high-paying jobs in another country but are willing to take any job. They are told they are over qualified, and they often feel like they need to take qualifications off their résumé to get hired.”<sup>20</sup>
- Staff at Bellevue College (BC) report that a major challenge for immigrant students is finding work with limited English so they can continue to pay for their college costs.<sup>21</sup>
- BC’s Preparing for Work program helps meet the refugee/immigrant community’s need for job and English skills training. Three classes are offered: Preparing for Work, On the Job Communication and Working in English. BC served 1,319 immigrant and refugee students in



the 2016/2017 fiscal year and approximately 1,800 in 2018/2019. They turn away about 60-100 people per quarter and refer them to either Hopelink or Jubilee REACH.<sup>22</sup>

- In the first half of 2019, Jewish Family Services provided 58 Bellevue residents with employment services such as resume creation, job coaching, and skills training.<sup>23</sup>
- For more information about the intersection between employment and the immigrant and refugee population, please see the section within this chapter titled, “Language Barriers.”

## Additional Items for Consideration

### Language Barriers

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) refers to anyone above the age of 5 who reported speaking English less than “very well” in the U.S. Census classification system. Those with LEP can find it difficult to navigate the systems due to lack of information available in their native language and inability to directly communicate with providers.

### Top Languages Spoken at Home Other than English in Bellevue and Ability to Speak English, 2017

Language	Languages spoken by Bellevue residents		Bellevue Residents who report speaking English less than “very well”	
	Estimate	Percent of Pop 5 and Over	Estimate	Percent speaking specific language
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	17,010	12%	8,217	6%
Other Indo-European languages	13,235	10%	2,656	2%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	9,356	7%	2,358	2%
Spanish	8,626	6%	3,189	2%
Korean	2,830	2%	1,458	1%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	2,645	2%	975	1%
Vietnamese	1,308	1%	604	0%
Other and unspecified languages	1,069	1%	150	0%
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	841	1%	95	0%
German or other West Germanic languages	682	0%	0	0%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	578	0%	155	0%
Arabic	421	0%	68	0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey<sup>24</sup>

- In the phone/online survey, 21% of respondents said that people not speaking or understanding English well enough to function in society was a moderate or major problem.<sup>25</sup>
- Participants from the Asian & Pacific Islander Police Advisory Group report challenges finding and accessing services due to language barriers: “Information often isn’t available in languages other than English, and interpretation is usually not available.”<sup>26</sup> This theme was echoed by participants in the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN).<sup>27</sup>
- Limited English proficient individuals are at greater risk for experiencing medically adverse events (e.g., surgical infections, line infections) and medical errors due to language barriers.<sup>28</sup> ICHS reports an increase in patients who are limited English proficient, from 1804 patients (38%) in 2016 to 2391 patients (41%) in 2018.<sup>29</sup>
- Language barriers and the lack of translated transit information available as written materials, signage, and announcements are significant obstacles among immigrant and refugee communities.<sup>30</sup>
- Public Health Seattle-King County (PHSCK) clinics provided language interpretation for 29,521 visits in 2016. This is down from 39,019 visits in 2014. At the Eastgate Public Health Clinic, where many Bellevue residents go for services, 7,624 interpreted visits were provided in 2016. The largest percentage of interpreted visits were in Spanish (94%).<sup>31</sup>
- Approximately 10% of Bellevue households and 6% of King County households had LEP in 2017. About 30% of these Bellevue households speak Spanish and 24% speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.<sup>32</sup>
- Regardless of language proficiency, nearly 55,000 Bellevue households speak a language other than English at home; 55% speak an Asian and Pacific Island language, 29% an Indo-European language, and 14% Spanish.<sup>33</sup> In the Consumer Survey, approximately 90% of respondents spoke a language other than English at home. The most commonly spoken languages were Mandarin and Vietnamese.<sup>34</sup>
- Hopelink’s English for Work (EFW) program teaches English language learners how to search for jobs and speak about their skills and experience. In 2018, nearly 300 clients were served. Of those who completed the course, 74 percent had significant gains in their English language skills, and 17 percent improved their employment status. Of all employed students who completed the course, their average wage when exiting the course was \$15.30 per hour.<sup>35</sup>
- Jubilee REACH, a family center in the Lake Hills neighborhood, offers free ESL classes at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. In 2019, more than 200 students from 23 countries attended ESL classes. The organization also offers Talk Time classes, which provide opportunities to practice conversational English on a wide range of topics.<sup>36</sup>

“Where can someone call to get information in their primary language? Written communication needs to be offered in several languages for community posting and mailings; doctor’s offices need to provide interpreters for assessment and appointments, and we need more ESL classes in the community.

~Participant, Eastside Neighbors Network Community Conversation

## Fear and Discrimination

A substantial amount of fear among immigrants and refugees stems from the federal government's proposed administrative redefinition of "public charge." An individual seeking admission or permanent residency in the U.S. is deemed inadmissible if they are likely to become a "public charge," meaning they will become primarily dependent on the government for support. Use of these programs, though legal, could be used against immigrants in their attempts to gain permanent residency status.

- More than half of provider survey respondents reported increased fear related to immigration status was a substantial barrier to clients accessing services.
- Across all community conversations, a major theme was that many refugees and immigrants are refusing services and disengaging from other public or private systems.<sup>37</sup> The most commonly cited reason for doing so was the perception that accessing resources is not safe for them or their family due to their citizenship status. MCH saw many people immigrants (especially those who are undocumented) withdraw their families from housing, medical care and nutrition programs; staff say clients are being "forced to choose between having their basic human services needs met or keeping their immigration status."<sup>38</sup>
- Staff at ICHS also report challenges "Across all sites, we have found that immigrants and refugees have become increasingly reluctant to access services to which they are entitled because of the hostility toward immigrants expressed by the current presidential administration and its increasingly aggressive actions toward immigrants. This has created great reluctance among immigrants to enroll in needed federal programs, endangering their health and economic well-being."<sup>39</sup>
- Staff from MCH share that increased ICE activities in the area have further fueled fear and, coupled with increasing reports of verbal abuse and intimidation, have led many immigrants to "choose not to engage and live in isolation."<sup>40</sup>
- Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) also reports increasing need of legal support regarding immigration. They are receiving calls from clients who are fearful of what will happen with DACA and what options they might have for citizenship. In 2018, they held trainings for service providers on helping parents complete a Safety Plan for their children. They also held community forums on general immigration issues and on the Public Charge issue.
- Although racial and ethnic discrimination did not rise to the level of a top-tier community or household problem in this year's survey, both remain a concern. Twenty-five percent of respondents rated it as a moderate or major community problem, and 9% of households said it was a moderate or major problem.

"Immigrants (documented and undocumented) are skeptical about apply[ing] for any services – they are concerned about ICE getting their information and/or affecting future citizenship. Many are choosing not to enroll. Fear is for both public and private agencies; they think that if they get services they or their kids will have to pay back, and there are rumors certain nonprofits are turning their information into ICE."

~Key Informant Interview,  
Bellevue School District

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# School Aged Children and Youth



**319** homeless students  
2018-2019

**48** homeless students  
2006-2007



**98** first languages  
spoken in the Bellevue  
school district



**65%** of BSD  
students are  
students of color

**18%**  
8th graders



**21%**  
10th graders



**20%**  
12th graders



reported  
contemplating  
suicide

# School-Aged Children and Youth

## Key Findings

- Many children and youth continue to show signs of significant stress: problems in school, substance use disorder, anxiety, suicide ideation and depression, as evidenced by comments from school staff, parents and mental health professionals.
- Access to supports for school-aged children and youth to ensure their health and wellbeing is critical so that they are prepared for success in whatever they do in life. Many families still struggle to provide the basics for their children because the cost of living is outpacing earnings. Lack of resources can put children and youth at risk for poor outcomes.
- With the growing diversity in Bellevue, there is a need for more culturally responsive programs and activities for school-aged children and youth and their families who may be coping with adjusting to a new country and culture or to gender-based or physical/learning differences. Fears about immigration status can deter people from accessing services and also fueling the stress felt by both children and youth and their families.

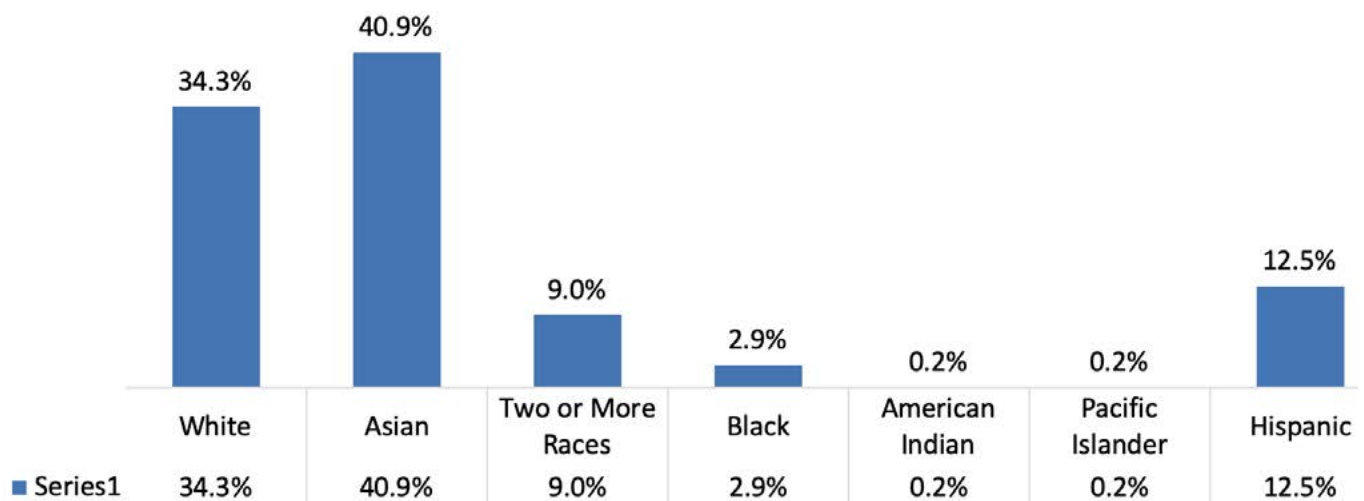
## Population Overview

Responding to the needs of school-aged children and youth is critical for their healthy growth and development. This is especially important for those with limited access to resources they need to succeed in school and in life. Important too is ensuring that their families are also receiving support, such as help in finding livable wage jobs and affordable housing.

Youth under age 18 comprised about 20% of Bellevue's population in 2017. Bellevue had a smaller proportion of youth than the nation (23%) and state (22%), a similar proportion to the county (20%), but a larger proportion than Seattle (16%). About 60% of youth under age 18 in Bellevue identify as people of color, compared to 24% of people 65 and over.<sup>1</sup>

As Figure 1 shows, the Bellevue School District (BSD) is highly diverse, with a majority of students identifying as people of color.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 1. BSD Enrollment by Race & Ethnicity, 2018-2019**



Source: Eastside Pathways<sup>3</sup>

This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to School-Aged Children and Youth. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

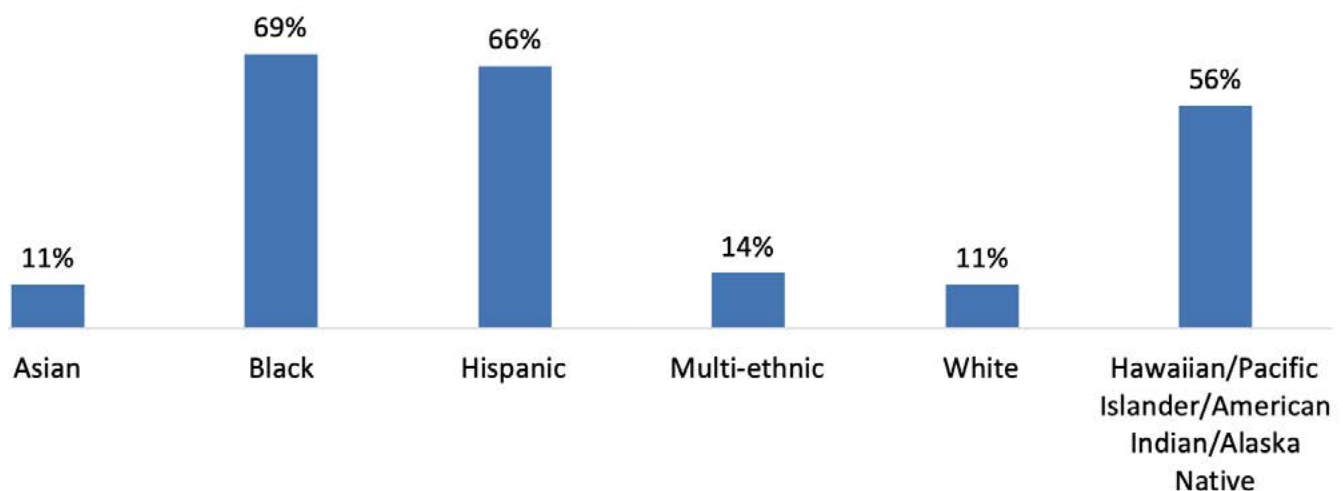
Additional topics for consideration:

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex or Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Youth
- Children in the Child Welfare System

## Goal 1: Food to Eat and a Roof Overhead

- Bellevue’s child poverty rate was 5.5% in 2017 compared to 12% countywide. For children under 5 years of age, the poverty rate slightly decreases to 3.9% in Bellevue and to 9.6% across the county.<sup>4</sup>
- Certain areas within Bellevue have historically had much higher rates of children in poverty than others. For instance, Lake Hills, Crossroads, Northeast Bellevue and Downtown have the highest percentages of children living in poverty reaching about 26% in some census tracts.<sup>5</sup>
- There are 8 schools in the BSD where at least 30% of their students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (FRL), and 12 additional schools reported that at least 20% of students qualified.<sup>6</sup>
- As Figure 2 shows, students of color are disproportionately represented in the FRL program. For example, while Black students compose only 3% of BSD, 69% of Black students are enrolled in the FRL program.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 2. BSD Free/Reduced Lunch Enrollment by Race & Ethnicity**



Source: BSD 2018-2019 School Year<sup>8</sup>



- BSD reports a large increase in students eligible to receive services funded by the federal McKinney-Vento Act because they are experiencing homelessness. Forty-eight qualified in the 2006-2007 school year, 257 qualified in 2016-2017, and 295 qualified and in 2018-2019.<sup>9</sup>
- In the 2019 annual Count Us In, All Home's point-in-time count in King County, 1,089 unaccompanied youth and young adults were counted. This includes 82 children under the age of 18 (a decrease from 172 in 2018) and 1,007 young adults between 18 and 24. These numbers do not include youth under 25 years old who are in a family or have children. There were 763 family households, with 72 of those households headed by a young parent under 25 years old.<sup>10</sup>
- In all community conversations conducted with adults, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, a common theme was the need for affordable housing. With the high cost of living, household with individuals working full-time are not able to afford to pay for the basics.<sup>11</sup>
- Over half (52.9%) of surveyed youth believe that homeless services do not meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness, and 47.1% did not feel that affordable housing was available in our community.<sup>12</sup>
- Participants in a community conversation with Bellevue College (BC) faculty and staff shared that food insecurity and homelessness for students is an ongoing issue. BC has a food pantry and emergency food bags available; it was reported that students who are homeless do not want to tell others due to concerns about possible discrimination.<sup>13</sup>
- Guests at the Friends of Youth Day Center reported that there is a need for more affordable, permanent housing for someone making \$15/hour on the Eastside, and access to bus tickets and ORCA cards to get to the day center, school, and work.<sup>14</sup>

## Goal 2: Supportive Relationships

- Slightly fewer people (20%) in the 2019 phone/online survey ranked "lack of services for children and youth/teens" as a major/ moderate community problem as compared to 24% in 2017.<sup>15</sup>
- Staff from the BSD report the lack of availability of childcare options including after school activities especially for older youth. Barriers include lack of slots and transportation for children and youth to get to sports and other activities.<sup>16</sup>

## Goal 3: Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- There were 11,992 juvenile arrests statewide in 2017, a decrease from 2013 when there were 13,754 arrests. Countywide, there were 1,929 juvenile arrests in 2017, also a decrease from 2013 when there were 2,695.<sup>17</sup> In Bellevue in 2018, 339 juveniles were arrested compared to 150 in 2016 an increase of over 200%.<sup>18</sup>
- Youth of color are disproportionately represented at every point in the juvenile justice system. In Washington state, the total number of youth in the juvenile justice system has declined over time; however, the percentage of youth of color in detention is increasing. Youth of color ages 10 to 17 represent 38% of the general youth population, 51% of the youth in county detention and 62% of the youth involved in Juvenile Rehabilitation. The greatest disparities exist for Black, Native American and Hispanic/Latino youth.<sup>19</sup> Research show that various explanations have emerged for the racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system ranging from jurisdictional issues, certain police practices and pervasive crime in some urban areas.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2018, 81% of King County 8th graders reported feeling safe at school; in BSD, 88% of 8th graders feel safe in school.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2018, 5% of King County 12th graders reported having been a member of a gang in the past 12 months. Four percent of BSD 12th graders reported as such.<sup>22</sup>
- The City of Bellevue has a low level of gang activity for a municipality of its size and proximity to other major urban areas. Most of the police department calls for services that involve gang members are limited to crimes committed by persons who live outside our city and whose gang is based out of the city they reside in. There is a group who are loosely affiliated and commit low level street crime, primarily street level drug-dealing and assaults related to the activity, as well as property crimes such as Burglary, Malicious Mischief (Graffiti), and Trespass. Over the past 3 years, there have been a relatively small number of gang related incidents reported in the City of Bellevue; 2016: 11, 2017: 2, 2018: 5. As of August 2019, there have been 6 gang related incidents including a homicide that occurred in April. Four gang members are in custody in connection with the incident.<sup>23</sup>

## Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- In 2010 to 2014, the rate of births for women ages 15 through 17 living in Bellevue was estimated to be about 2.1 births per 1,000 women, which was much lower than their King County counterparts (6.3 births per 1,000 women). One of the reasons this age group is tracked is because it is at the highest risk for poor birth outcomes, such as low birth weight and prematurity which puts the infant at risk for infant death, blindness and deafness. Children born to single teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of school and become dependent on welfare, compared to children whose parents are 18 or older.<sup>24</sup>
- Research has shown that when mental health and substance use disorder are treated simultaneously, people are more likely to be successful in long term recovery. Youth Eastside Services (YES) provides this treatment for co-occurring disorders whether or not the young people can afford it. YES staff report an increase in the number of teens they see that need this type of care.<sup>25</sup>
- Staff at International Community Health Services (ICHS) cited mental health challenges for the many school-aged children and youth they serve. In 2017, ICHS started a Community Health Clinic at Highland Middle School in Bellevue; YES provides the mental health and substance use disorder services at the clinic.<sup>26</sup> Asian Counseling and Service Center staff also concur that they are also seeing more youth with mental health issues, such as severe anxiety and suicidal thought. There are more student referrals to the behavioral health programs than they can accept for services.<sup>27</sup>
- In the BSD area, 8.45 out of every 100 deaths for youth are attributed to drug- or alcohol-related causes. This is lower than the statewide (12.36), Seattle (13.39), Snoqualmie Valley (12.55), Issaquah (10.14), and Lake Washington (9.61) rates.<sup>28</sup>

“There is a mental health crisis for children/youth and we simply need more resources to have a higher level of staffing to respond sooner.”

~Provider’s Survey

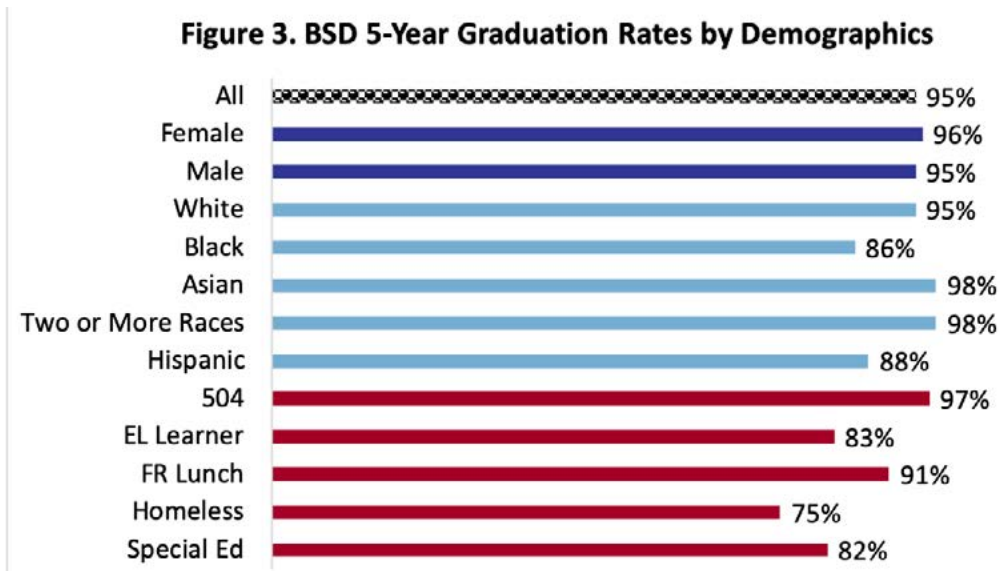
- In the Bellevue Youth Link survey, over 60% disagreed and 11.8% strongly disagreed that affordable health care is accessible in our community.<sup>29</sup>
- The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) also provides information about substance use by youth. In 2018 in King County, 7% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 17% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 26% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported having drunk a glass, can or bottle of alcohol in the past 30 days. In 2018 in BSD, 4% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 17% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 31% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported as such. Nineteen percent of King County 12<sup>th</sup> graders and 14% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking marijuana in the past 30 days. In BSD, 18% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders and 11% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported as such.<sup>30</sup>
- The HYS also showed that 19% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 20% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and 19% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders in King County had contemplated suicide in the last 12 months. In BSD, 18% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 21% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 20% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported as such, all increased compared to 2016 data.<sup>31</sup>
- Twenty seven percent of 6<sup>th</sup> graders in King County reported in the 2018 HYS that they'd been bullied in the past 30 days. By 12<sup>th</sup> grade, this rate had dropped to 13%. In BSD, a similar trend was noted: 26% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 12% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported being bullied.<sup>32</sup>
- The Crisis Connections' Teen Link program provides a youth-answered help line open evenings to respond to calls from youth on a wide variety of topics. In 2018, Teen Link handled 210 calls (chats) from Bellevue youth.
- TeenLink also offers suicide prevention training in junior, middle and high schools, and youth serving organizations. In 2018, Teen Link presented to 738 students and 33 adults from Bellevue.<sup>33</sup>

In 2018, funds from the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency initiative provided School-Based Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). These include youth prevention trainings to 2,328 East King County Youth and the Children's Crisis Outreach Response System, provided in-home crisis support to 271 youth and families on the Eastside.<sup>34</sup>

## Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

- As of October 2018, BSD's enrollment was 20,272.<sup>35</sup> In addition, approximately 1,686 students that attend school in the Issaquah School District had a Bellevue address in 2018-2019.<sup>36</sup>
- Across BSD, 57% of children entered kindergarten with expected skills in all six domains of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills. These rates varied widely for different groups: for example, only 26% of Hispanic/Latino children entered kindergarten proficient in all areas.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2017, BSD's 5-year adjusted graduation rate was 95%, slightly higher than Lake Washington (94%) and substantially higher than Seattle (82%) school districts. Graduation rates substantially differ based on race, ethnicity, and other factors. As shown in Figure 3, the BSD 5-year adjusted graduation rate for White students was 95%, and Asians, 98% compared to 86% for Black students and 88% for Hispanic/Latino students.<sup>38</sup>

- The percentage of Hispanic students (of any race) in BSD has steadily climbed over the years, growing from 5.3% in 1996-1997 to 12.5% in 2018-2019. Over that same period, the percentage of White students has declined, shrinking from 71.4% in 1996 to just over 34% in 2018-2019.
- In addition to growing racial and ethnic diversity, there are now 98 first languages spoken in the district. Thirty-eight percent of students speak a first language other than English. The top two languages are Spanish and Mandarin Chinese with over 1,400 speakers each, followed by Chinese unspecified, Russian, Telugu, Japanese and Cantonese.<sup>39</sup>



Source: BSD<sup>40</sup>

- In 2018-2019 school year, 15% of BSD students were English Language Learners (ELLs).<sup>41</sup>
- Some students who are Bellevue residents attend schools in the Issaquah School District: Sunset and Cougar Ridge Elementary Schools, Issaquah Middle School and Issaquah High School. There are 119 Bellevue students attending Issaquah schools who are English Language Learners.<sup>42</sup>
- Eastside Pathways (EP) is a community-wide partnership of almost 70 public, private, and non-profit organizations. EP's goal is to ensure that every child succeeds from cradle to career; collaboratives work on challenges such as improving school readiness and graduation rates. In 2017, Lake Washington School District joined EP. The City of Bellevue has been a partner from the onset with staff participating in the collaboratives, on the board and providing other support.<sup>43</sup>

## Additional Items for Consideration

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex or Asexual (LGBTQIA+) Youth

- The 2018 Healthy Youth Survey show that 11.3% of King County public high school students identify as LGBTQ and 7% are not sure of their sexual orientation.<sup>44</sup>
- The National Coalition for the Homeless reports that between 20-40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQIA.<sup>45</sup> Among LGBTQIA+ respondents to the 2019 Count Us In survey conducted in January 2019, 7 out of 10 first experienced homelessness in childhood or before the age of 25.<sup>46</sup>
- In a recent King County Community Health report, key informants and LGBTQ+ youth and young adults including some from the YES BGLAD support group, a support group at YES for LGBTQIA youth, were asked to relate their experiences with the healthcare as well as other systems from which they seek resources. Some themes that emerged included lack of feeling heard by doctors and in some cases parents about their specific health care needs; lack of safety in general, at school, out in the community; and lack of support from adults. Youth suggested that some ways to mitigate these issues would include having more queer friendly intake forms that gave many options for sexuality choices, displaying PRIDE flags and signage, and having LGBTQ+ staff.<sup>47</sup>
- Participants in BGLAD, a support group at YES for LGBTQIA youth, weighed in on what they considered key health and human services issues. These include lack of safety for the Trans community, lack of money and access to services like medical treatments, anxiety and depression including suicide ideation and high parental expectations, and lack of affordable housing.<sup>48</sup>
- Staff from Friends of Youth, which works with youth experiencing homelessness, report that they see a disproportionate amount of LGBTQ+ and youth of color represented in the demographics that they serve.<sup>49</sup>

“Lack of a space where queer youth feel comfortable is an important issue on the Eastside.”

~Key informant interview

### Children in the Child Welfare System

- As of January 2019, there were 8,951 children in out of home care in Washington State, slightly more than the same time period in 2017 (8,800). This represents 5.4 of every 1,000 children in the State. During the 2019 time period , approximately 94% of children were in a family settin; 50% were living in foster homes and about 44% were living with relatives, and nearly 6% were in a non-family setting such as a group home. African American children were 2.2 times more likely and Native American children were 2.9 times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care compared to white children.<sup>50</sup>
- As of April 2019, there were 1,604 open out of home care cases in King County, a small increase compared to the same period in 2018 (1,574). In 2019, 41% of these cases were children under 5 years old.<sup>51</sup>

- In 2018-2019, there were 23 children removed from their homes in Bellevue by Child Protective Services because it was determined that the child would not be safe in their homes.<sup>52</sup>
- According to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in 2014, 11-34% of former foster youth report experiencing homelessness and 25% to 50% report experiencing housing stability.<sup>53</sup>
- Allowing foster children to remain in their schools may have a positive impact on their educational success and the likelihood of them finding permanent placement. For young children, moving foster homes is worse, and for older children, changing schools is worse.<sup>54</sup>
- Experts on a panel discussing issues related to the child welfare system stated that increasingly children whose parents are struggling with substance use disorder (SUD) and mental illness are entering the child welfare system, particularly for neglect. Needs include resources such as mental health services for families who are in crisis before the problems escalate and more supports to retain social workers who work with the children and families. There is also a huge need for more foster families; in Bellevue as of May 2019 there were 35 licensed foster homes, far fewer than the need. More supports are needed to retain foster parents.<sup>55</sup>

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# Veterans



**20** veterans  
commit suicide  
each day in U.S.  
according to the VA  
estimates in 2018

Between 10% and  
18% of Veterans  
from Iraq and  
Afganistan  
conflicts have  
Post Traumatic  
Stress Disorder.

Over  
**60%** of KC  
vets are  
**55** or older,  
serving in  
Vietnam Era  
or earlier



From 2019 Count Us In Report  
830 identified as **Veterans**,  
from those  
**56%** unsheltered  
**44%** sheltered

Number of KC veterans in  
Washington **below**  
**100% FPL** decreased  
from **8,299/2015**  
to  
**7,131/2017**  
**14% decrease**

# Veterans

## Key Findings

- As a result of a focused countywide effort over the past several years, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in King County has decreased considerably.
- There needs to be a more seamless system to meet veterans' needs, especially for those veterans who are not eligible for VA services. Mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and services for Military Sexual Trauma are particularly critical to have available in the community as sometimes veterans seek non-VA help with these issues. High rates of veteran suicides continue to be an issue.
- Ongoing partnerships between federal, state, and county programs for veterans and human service agencies are still needed to ensure that veterans are aware of the benefits to which they are entitled and get help in accessing these benefits when they are eligible.

## Population Overview

Veterans are men and women who have served in one of the five branches of the military (Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force) and also includes “citizen soldiers”, those serving in the State National Guard or as part of the Services Reserve Components. Increasingly more attention has been paid to veterans due to the high visibility of recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq although veterans from the Gulf War, Vietnam, and Korea also have a strong presence in the Puget Sound Region.

As of September 2019, there are 544,310 veterans in Washington State, about a 6% decrease compared to 2016.<sup>1</sup> The total number of veterans in King County has also been declining for almost a decade; since 2010 there has been over a 10% decrease. There are approximately 106,384 veterans in King County; more than 70,000 vets are over the age of 55 (66%) and 9,147 (9%) are 34 years of age and younger.<sup>2</sup> About 26,000 veterans live in East King County, roughly one-quarter of all veterans in King County.<sup>3</sup> There are 5,346 veterans in Bellevue, a decline of nearly 20% from 2015.<sup>4</sup> The overall decline is based on the large number of veterans over age 65 and less recruitment.<sup>5</sup>

Beyond reductions in number of veterans, there are also demographic differences and changes. By 2043, women are expected to make up 16.3% of all living veterans nationally. Currently, there are more than 9,500 women veterans living in King County and 575 in Bellevue.<sup>6</sup> Younger women have increased their proportion of veterans in their age group now representing close to one fourth of veterans younger than 35.<sup>7</sup> Nationally, male veterans are more likely to be White than their non-veteran counterparts. In contrast, female veterans are more likely to be women of color compared to their non-veteran counterparts. Both male and female veterans are less likely to be Hispanic than their non-veteran counterparts.<sup>8</sup> Figure 1 provides race and ethnicity data for both Bellevue and King County veterans.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 1. Estimated Number of Veterans by Race and Ethnicity**

	King County	Bellevue
American Indian/Alaska Native	878 (1%)	5 (0%)
Asian	5,778 (5%)	346 (6%)
Black	7,897 (7%)	55 (1%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	734 (1%)	75 (1%)
White	86,103 (81%)	4,733 (89%)
Multiple races	3,780 (4%)	83 (2%)
Other	1,214 (1%)	49 (1%)
Hispanic	4,474 (4%)	66 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,384</b>	<b>5,346</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau<sup>10</sup>

In 2005, King County voters passed a Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL), which is collected through a property tax of .05% per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. These funds are split equally between services for veterans, military members and their families, and human services for vulnerable populations. In 2011, the Levy was renewed by 69 percent of voters for another six years, which generated about \$18 million annually. In November 2017, 68 percent of voters approved the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL), adding seniors to one of the groups to be served. The Levy will raise an estimated \$350 million between 2018 and 2023 for seniors, veterans, and vulnerable populations. In 2018, about 9% of clients served were from East King County.<sup>11</sup>

This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to veterans. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods, and Communities
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

In addition to these goals, the following topics have been identified as important to this population: Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Lesbian, Questioning, Intersex or Asexual Members of the Military

## Goal 1: Food to Eat and a Roof Overhead

- An estimated 830 individuals experiencing homelessness (7% of the total count population) in the 2019 Count Us In (formerly One Night Count) report identified as veterans. This represents a downward trend that began in 2018; the number of veterans has fallen by 38% since 2017. Over half of 2019's veterans were unsheltered (56%), while 44% were sheltered. Compared to other Count Us In survey respondents, veterans reported notably higher rates of living with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and similar rates of physical disabilities. Job loss was the most frequently cited cause of homelessness by veterans (27%) followed by eviction (19%) and alcohol or drug use (13%).<sup>12</sup>
- Over half of provider survey respondents ask clients at intake about their veteran status, similar to previous years. The most critical needs for veterans mentioned are mental health services, rental assistance, legal assistance, and housing. Solid Ground, a program providing housing subsidies and counseling, has funding specifically from VSHSL to assist veterans.<sup>13</sup>
- Veterans and service providers attending a meeting of the King County Veterans Consortium in May 2019 commented that one of the top needs for veterans included housing and rental support.<sup>14</sup>

"Affordable housing is a big issue for veterans. There are stipends for vets but they may lose them depending on how they perform at school and they don't get a stipend over the summer if they are not in class so they could lose their housing."

~Participants, Bellevue College  
Community Conversation

## Goal 2: Supportive Relationships

- Strategies funded through the VSHSL have increased awareness of the needs of families and dependents of soldiers and veterans. The Military Family Counseling Program provided no-cost behavioral health counseling to 36 family members of veterans in 2018. Of the 20 people enrolled for at least 6 months, 95% reported reduced negative symptoms.<sup>15</sup>
- Affordable legal services are important for veterans. King County Bar Association hired a social worker specifically to work with veterans, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program reports that veterans have increased needs for medical and housing legal issues.<sup>16</sup>
- In a national survey, 60% of veteran respondents thought the military was doing a poor or fair job in addressing the problems faced by veterans and 50% said that the military lags behind in helping them transition to civilian life.<sup>17</sup>
- The number of veterans calling the Crisis Connections 2-1-1 Community Information Line for assistance continued to decrease in 2018 after a large increase in 2014-2016. The number of requests is higher from veterans living in South King County and Seattle, as shown in Figure 2. The share from East King County decreased to 6% compared to 9% in 2016.<sup>18</sup>
- Another one-stop call center for veterans was funded by the VSHSL and is operated by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2018, 987 vets were connected to veteran-specific services. The hotline can also be accessed by providers needing services for veterans and family members of veterans.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 2. Crisis Connection Calls**

REGION	Total Veterans	% Of Requests by Region 2018
East Total	104	6%
North Total	23	2%
Seattle Total	957	56%
South Total	612	36%
<b>Total 2-1-1 Requests</b>	<b>1696</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Crisis Connections<sup>20</sup>**

- Beginning in 2016, King County staff hosted 72 engagements over 2 years with community members across the county to learn what current programs worked well and where gaps existed. In 2018, the team held community planning meetings to get feedback to refine strategies and programs before 2019 procurements. Veteran participants report that although there are currently more than 180 programs serving vets in King County, there are barriers caused by fragmented service systems and lack of trained Veteran Services officers.<sup>21</sup>

## Goal 3: Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- There has been a trend toward more reports of sexual assault, ranging from unwanted sexual contact and harassment to rape. These are referred to as military sexual trauma or MST. About 6.2% of active duty women indicated experiencing a sexual assault in the year prior to being surveyed, a statistically significant increase over 2016. The estimated prevalence rate for active duty men remained statistically unchanged at 0.7 percent.<sup>22</sup>
- Using these rates, the Department of Defense estimates 20,500 Service members, representing about 13,000 women and 7,500 men, experienced some kind of unwanted sexual contact or rape in 2018, up from approximately 14,900 in 2016.
- When national prevalence rates are applied to King County, as many as 7,900 men and women veterans are potentially affected by MST. The 2019-2023 Implementation Plan for the King County VSHSL includes funds for a program operated by a non-profit to seek out and specialize in serving women and transgender veterans in King County. In 2018, 229 individuals received MST/PTSD counseling.<sup>23</sup>
- Nationwide, 10% of jail and prison inmates report having served in the military. King County statistics suggest that veterans make up about 2% to 3% of the inmate population at any given time. The Incarcerated Vet Reentry Service Program (funded by VSHSL and administered by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, WDVA) helps eligible vets and other military personnel within the King County misdemeanor jail system. In 2018, the program supported 155 vets to navigate ongoing court and probation requirements.<sup>24</sup>
- Seattle Veterans Treatment Court (established in 2011) and King County Regional Veterans Court (established in 2012) provide an opportunity for veterans to choose treatment for

substance use disorder or receive other resources as an alternative to incarceration. The VSHSL provides a Court Clinician who screens veterans for these courts and helps follow them through the process. Public Health Seattle & King County provides Jail Health Services, including a cognitive behavioral class. In 2018, 87 veterans were screened for participation in both courts; 31 veterans opted into the therapeutic court program.<sup>25</sup>

## Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- Over the next twenty years, the number of veterans over age 65 in Washington State will remain stable, but there will likely be a sharp rise (35%) in veterans ages 85 and over. There will likely be increased demands for long-term care, including hospice and Alzheimer's care, supportive housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment. The effects of this rapidly growing population are reflected in the fill levels of Washington Veterans' Homes, which have experienced occupancy rates between 95% and 100% for the last 10 years. These homes report that 95% of their residents do not have medical insurance and are not eligible for other health care, such as Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance. Currently, over 300 veterans live in these homes in Orting, Spokane, Port Orchard and Walla Walla, WA.<sup>26</sup>
- As in past conflicts, many veterans who are returning to their homes and communities are bringing with them physical, emotional and psychological scars. Many of these issues extend beyond the capacity of the services that formally designated veterans' agencies, such as the federal VA, WDVA, or the King County Veterans Program (KCVP), can provide.
- The emotional effects of serving in combat have been evident for veterans throughout history, but beginning with the Vietnam War, there has been more national awareness of the extent of the trauma on the veteran and his/her family. PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) have emerged as two signature injuries of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. PTSD is a severe reaction to trauma that includes hyper-alertness, nightmares and depression. TBIs are head injuries which can result from combustive explosions that may result in concussions that may at first seem mild but can lead to symptoms beginning to appear up to three months after the event. TBIs can also be a contributing cause of PTSD. The VA estimates up to 15% of Vietnam veterans, 11% to 20% of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom veterans and 12% of Gulf War veterans experience PTSD.<sup>27</sup> There are an estimated 19,500 to 28,000 King County veterans who have PTSD from all war eras, and as many as half of them will not seek treatment from the VA or community organizations without assistance to overcoming reluctance or institutional barriers. Untreated PTSD contributes to other issues such as high rates of chemical dependency, other behavioral and mental issues, divorce, homelessness, and criminal justice system involvement.<sup>28</sup>
- Between 2015 and 2016, the veteran suicide rate decreased from 30.5 per 100,000 to 30.1 per 100,000. The 2016 veteran suicide rate was 1.5 times greater than the non-Veteran rate, after controlling for age and gender. Of Veterans who had received VHA care, the suicide

"Mental health services are available for veterans but there is still lots of stigma around mental health and a thought that people need to push through."

~Key Informant Interview

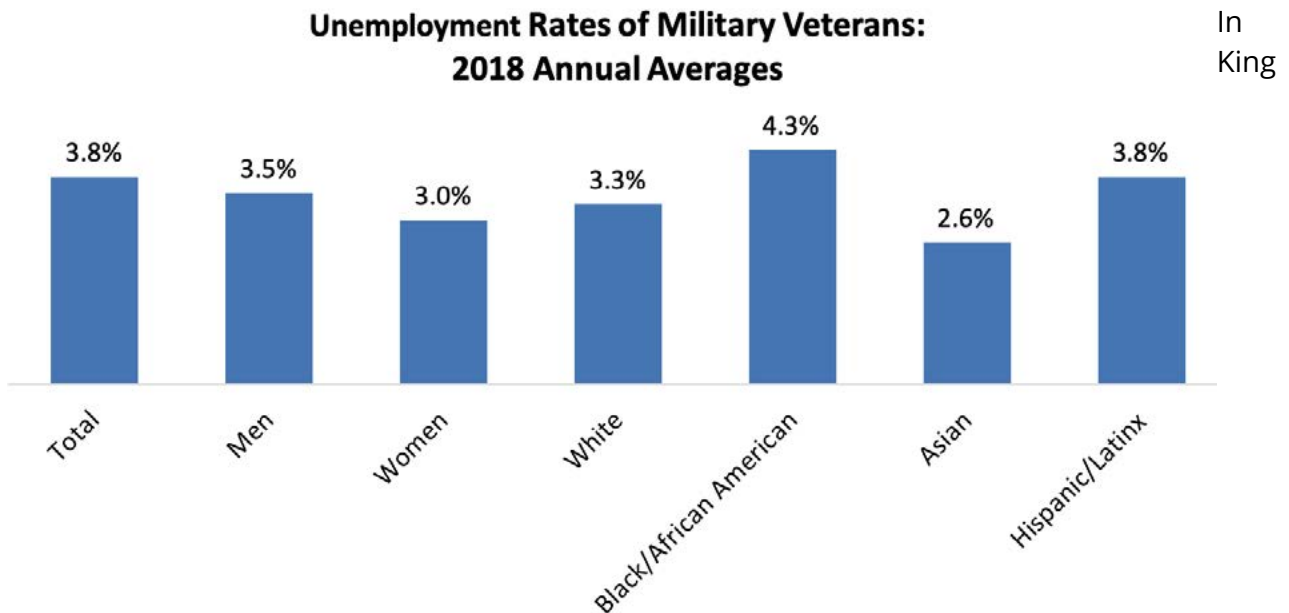
rate was higher, but the rate of increase was lower. The rate of suicide for women veterans was higher than for women who were not veterans. In Washington State in 2016 there were 174 veteran suicides (30.6 per 100,000) which was similar to the national rate.<sup>29</sup> The average number of veterans who die by suicide each day in the U.S. remains at 20.<sup>30</sup>

- Between 11% and 20% of veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom may have PTSD. Between 3% and 25% may develop depression. According to the VA, through 2009 there were one million veterans who returned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those, about 220,000 sought VA services and were diagnosed with mental illness.<sup>31</sup>
- Veterans and service providers attending a meeting of the King County Veterans Consortium in May 2019 commented that one of the top needs for veterans include mental health and substance use disorder services.<sup>32</sup>

## Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach Their Full Potential

- Another key issue is employment, with more help needed for the many veterans who are leaving the military to find living wage jobs.
- In July 2019, the national unemployment rate for all veterans was 3.4%, lower than 2016 and similar to the overall national unemployment rate of 3.6%. Women veterans have higher unemployment rates in general with the rate of 5.0%. In Washington State, 4.3% of veterans were unemployed in July 2019.<sup>33</sup> As Figure 3 shows, national figures reveal that veterans of color sometimes have higher rates of unemployment.<sup>34</sup>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics<sup>35</sup>



County, the local unemployment rate for veterans is 5% (about 2,300 veterans), the same as the non-veteran population of 5%. In Bellevue, the veteran unemployment rate is 5.5% (about 100 veterans), similar to the non-veteran population which is 4.5%.<sup>36</sup>

- Several resources focused on employment training and education for veterans are located throughout King County. WorkSource offices in North King County, Redmond, Renton and

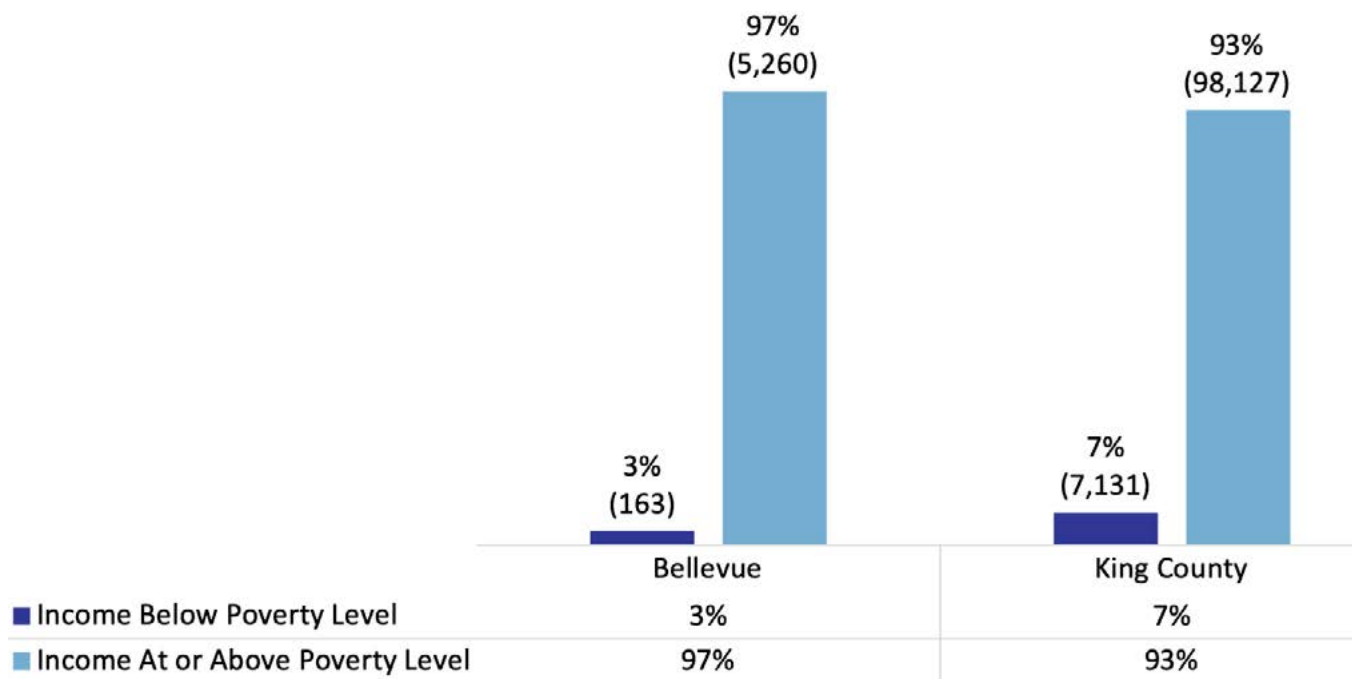


Seattle offer specialized services. Bellevue College has a Veterans Conservation Corps (Vet Corps) member on-site to help them navigate systems needed to adjust from military to college life. Vet Corps members also assist with training and job placement opportunities. Community Employment Services enrolled and served 512 homeless individuals in 2018, many of whom were veterans.<sup>37</sup>

- Overall, veterans have lower rates of poverty than non-veterans but there are differences related to age and race among veteran groups. For example, White male veterans in 2017 had a poverty rate of 5.5% compared to 10.9% for Black/African American male veterans. Poverty rates for veterans between the ages of 17 and 34 are higher than all other age groups of veterans except for men 55 to 64 years old. Veteran poverty in 2017 was highest in Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and West Virginia.<sup>38</sup>
- The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs projects there will be more veteran households in Washington State with annual incomes below \$20,000. They estimate that the number of veterans aged 65 and over with annual incomes of under \$20,000 will rise from 39,000 in 2000 to more than 45,000 in 2015. King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Skagit Counties have the smallest percentage of low-income vets compared to those living in rural areas in Eastern Washington.<sup>39</sup>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau<sup>40</sup>

**Figure 4. Number and Percent of Veterans by Income Status**



- As shown in Figure 4, there are 7,131 (7%) veterans in King County living below the poverty level, compare to 163 (3%) veterans in Bellevue living below the poverty level.<sup>41</sup>

## Additional Issues for Consideration

## Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Lesbian, Questioning, Intersex or Asexual Members of the Military

- In a national survey, 5.8% of service members identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Among men, 1.9% identified as gay and 2.0% identified as bisexual. Among women, 7.0% identified as lesbian and 9.1% identified as bisexual. In this survey, 0.6% identified as transgender, which is identical to that of the US adult population. The survey found that although military members that identify as LGBTQ are a small portion of the population, there are disparities in their experiences and behaviors that indicate they have special health care needs that should be monitored and addressed.<sup>42</sup>
- It is estimated that more than 134,000 veterans are transgender and about 15,000 trans people currently serve in the military. Support for transgender people in the military has improved, but many still face barriers related to confidentiality of their military records and receiving coverage for medical procedures.<sup>43</sup>
- A key informant interviewee and participants in the King County Veterans Consortium mentioned that there is a growing need for specific services for the veteran LGBTQAI+ population now and in the future.<sup>44</sup>

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# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Methodology

### Engaging the Community: Input on Health and Human Services Needs

To obtain a comprehensive picture of human services needs and issues in Bellevue, a blend of quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Staff met or talked with a diverse group of stakeholders who live, provide services and/or work in the City. Data used in the report comes from the phone/online survey; consumer, youth and provider surveys; Community Conversations; key informant interviews; and extensive review of reports and websites. Care was taken to include, whenever possible, those groups or individuals that might be underrepresented in more traditional data gathering methods.

This section outlines the many ways community engagement was accomplished and describes the organization of the report.

Public Meetings with City Council, the Human Services Commission, and Parks Board:

City Council Study Session	April 1, 2019
Human Services Commission public meetings	January 15, 2019 March 19, 2019 June 18, 2019 Oct. 1, 2019 Nov.19, 2019
Parks Board	April 9, 2019

### Bellevue Residents

#### Phone and web-based survey:

Between April 17 and May 5, 2019 Northwest Research Group conducted a survey of 450 Bellevue residents: 131 by phone, (61 landline, 68 cell phone and 2 call-in); 319 online, (214 via mailed letters and 105 via email invitation). This represents a statistically valid sample to project to the entire population at a 95% confidence level (Error Rate:  $\pm$  4.6%). Between June 5 and June 28, 2019, we conducted a follow-up survey focused on homelessness with a format that provided the ability to ask more open-ended questions. Ninety-seven survey respondents completed the follow-up homelessness survey.

This year, the sampling and data collection methodology again used addresses (address-based sampling, ABS) rather than listed phone numbers that included a web-based option and a phone option, similar to 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017. Starting in 2017 and continuing in 2019, the ABS methodology was enhanced with the introduction of email addresses to increase response rates and reduce survey costs. This multi-modal approach compensates for the increase of cell phone-only and primarily cell phone households (previously unaccounted for in strictly address-based sampling). In 2019, the methodology was further enhanced by using a City of Bellevue registered email address which directed all respondents to a City of Bellevue owned domain.

All respondents rated a series of 24 potential community problem areas and 24 household problem areas as 'major,' 'moderate,' 'minor,' or 'no problem.' The average survey time was just under 15 minutes. In both areas, most key measures were retained from previous years. A follow-up survey was conducted to gain information regarding personal experience and community perspective on homelessness in Bellevue. Appendix D contains the list of new questions added in the follow-up survey.

In addition, respondents answered questions about accessibility to and quality of human services, demographics and community support.

**Consumer Survey:** Unlike the phone and online survey, this survey specifically targeted Bellevue residents receiving human services. This survey was distributed between May and June 2019 and completed by 93 participants in English-as-a-Second-Language classes at Bellevue College, Jewish Family Services, Hopelink, and Bellevue Mini City Hall participants. Surveys were available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese; though some people completed the survey in English, 89% of the respondents indicated that the primary language spoken at their homes was not English. This further increased the diversity of the group completing this survey.

Languages Spoken by Consumer Survey Respondents		
Primary Language Spoken at Home	Number of respondents	Percentage
English	10	10.99
Mandarin	27	29.67
Vietnamese	15	16.48
Spanish	10	10.99
Cantonese	3	3.30
Russian	10	10.99
Other*	24	26.37

\* "Other" included the following languages: Arabic, Turkish, Hindi, Ukrainian, Telugu, Amharic, Bengali, Tamil, Portuguese, Tagalog/Filipino, Farsi, and Punjabi.

Additional information:

- Only 91 of the 93 respondents answered this question asking the primary language spoken at home.
- Respondents were able to select more than one language.

Respondents were asked to rate the degree to which 29 household issues were or were not a problem for their household, as well as service accessibility. Due to the nonrandom nature and small sample size, these results are not statistically valid. However, they can be used anecdotally to demonstrate general themes about human services needs within groups underrepresented in the phone/online survey.



**Community Conversations:** Bellevue residents or service providers participated in 20 informal focus groups for the Needs Update, called Community Conversations. Different races and ethnicities were included among the participants, mirroring the large diverse population in Bellevue. See Appendix F for a detailed listing of these groups and dates they were conducted.

## Human Services Providers and Administrators

**Provider Surveys:** Twenty-six health and human services providers that serve Bellevue residents completed an online survey summarizing service trends, utilization rates, gaps, and barriers. The survey was sent to all non-profit agencies that applied for Bellevue Human Services funding in the 2018-19 funding cycle.

**Key Informant Interviews:** Thirteen individuals were interviewed either in person or on the phone between March and September 2019. Key informant interviews provide insights into the needs and issues experienced by a particular population when other information is not available. Interviewees included service providers to or members of groups such as:

- U.S. Military Veterans
- Immigrants and Refugees
- Consumers at the Homeless Day Centers
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities
- Domestic Violence

A complete list of who was interviewed can be found in Appendix G of this report.

**Input from Faith Communities on the Eastside:** Faith communities provide a variety of basic need services that are rarely formally counted as community resources. Eastside Interfaith Gathering convened by the Church Council of Greater Seattle's representative, Karen Studders, identified five Eastside faith communities and conducted the interviews. Interviews gathered information about Bellevue's strengths, greatest health and human services needs in our community, and barriers to services.

## Other Sources of Information

**Reports, Studies and Websites:** Many public and private organizations produce in-depth reports focusing on specific topic areas like housing, unemployment, older adults, youth, or public health. These reports offer a broad national, statewide, or regional perspective useful for trend comparison. Examples of those referenced in this report include:

- Healthy Youth Survey
- King County All Home
- Communities Count Social and Health Indicators across King County
- Washington State Department of Social and Health and Services
- AARP Public Policy Review
- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs 2018 Annual Report

**Data Limitations:** The data in the Needs Update came from reliable sources. However, as in all reports, care must be taken in interpreting the data because of the presence of certain variables over which the researcher has no control. For example, changes in public awareness of certain community-level problems like domestic violence or homelessness can affect the public perception of their prevalence. A highly publicized case of youth violence can lead to increased reports for a short period of time, which then may drop off to previous levels. Typically, observing a trend over a period of several years better indicates the extent of the problem. Whenever possible, trends observed over at least three years are included. Other issues affecting data quality or quantity:

- Inability to obtain unduplicated counts of certain populations (e.g. the homeless, who are difficult to track because of their mobility);
- Under-reporting of certain topics given their personal nature, such as income or crimes like rape and domestic violence;
- Lack of data for a smaller geographic area like Bellevue, so estimates must be projected from a larger area like the county or based on national prevalence;
- Lack of access to underrepresented groups, such as those who are disabled, those who speak languages other than English, or the frail elderly; and
- Changes in data collection and reportage methods.

# Appendix B

## Phone and Online

### Survey Results

#### Ratings for Problem Areas in the Community

		Not / Minor	Moderate	Major
<b>Top Tier Problems</b> <b>(30%+ Major/Moderate)</b>	Lack of affordable housing	25%	25%	50%
	Lack of affordable childcare	49%	31%	20%
	Having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics of food, shelter, and clothing	50%	32%	18%
	Lack of affordable medical care	55%	29%	16%
	Lack of affordable medical insurance	56%	24%	20%
	Homelessness	58%	29%	13%
	Inadequate public transportation	60%	26%	14%
	Drug abuse	62%	27%	11%
	Lack of affordable dental care	64%	26%	10%
	Mental illness or emotional problems	66%	25%	9%
	Crime in the community	68%	25%	7%

*Continued on next page*

		Not / Minor	Moderate	Major
<b>Second Tier Problems</b> (20% up to <30% Major/Moderate)	Lack of services for elderly persons	72%	21%	7%
	Lack of money for basic services	72%	22%	6%
	Lack of affordable legal services	73%	19%	8%
	Racial or ethnic discrimination	75%	20%	5%
	Hunger	77%	18%	5%
	Lack of parenting skills	77%	16%	7%
	People not speaking or understanding English well enough to function in society	78%	16%	5%
	Lack of services for people with disabilities	79%	18%	4%
	Alcoholism	80%	17%	3%
	Lack of services for children and teens	80%	16%	3%
<b>Third Tier Problems</b> (< 20% Major/Moderate)	Domestic violence	82%	15%	3%
	Violence in the community	83%	14%	4%
	Unemployment	89%	9%	2%

Q2 For anything that you feel is a problem, please tell me if it is a minor, moderate or major problem.  
Base=all respondents

# Ratings for Problem Areas in the Community

		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	Change from 2017
Top Tier Problems (30%+ Major/ Moderate)	Lack of affordable housing	69%	58%	61%	51%	68%	78%	75%	-3%
	Lack of affordable childcare	32%	25%	39%	30%	40%	46%	51%	<b>5%*</b>
	Having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics of food, shelter, and clothing	39%	34%	40%	35%	40%	46%	50%	4%
	Lack of affordable medical care	47%	41%	51%	40%	35%	42%	45%	3%
	Lack of affordable medical insurance	52%	48%	55%	41%	35%	46%	44%	-3%
	Homelessness	16%	15%	22%	28%	30%	35%	42%	<b>7%*</b>
	Inadequate public transportation	33%	33%	38%	35%	38%	39%	40%	1%
	Drug abuse	28%	25%	30%	24%	26%	34%	38%	4%
	Lack of affordable dental care	40%	34%	41%	34%	32%	37%	36%	-1%
	Mental illness or emotional problems	19%	19%	27%	19%	27%	30%	34%	4%
	Crime in the community	19%	18%	25%	30%	26%	27%	32%	<b>5%*</b>

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		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	Change from 2017
<b>Second Tier Problems (20% up to &lt;30% Major/ Moderate)</b>	Lack of money for basic services	25%	22%	31%	21%	23%	31%	28%	-3%
	Lack of services for elderly persons	21%	18%	24%	15%	24%	30%	28%	-2%
	Lack of affordable legal services	23%	24%	27%	20%	25%	32%	27%	<b>-5%*</b>
	Racial or ethnic discrimination	16%	13%	17%	16%	17%	25%	25%	0%
	Lack of parenting skills	26%	27%	33%	23%	22%	24%	23%	-1%
	Hunger	16%	18%	22%	21%	20%	23%	23%	0%
	People not speaking or understanding English well enough to function in society	34%	31%	34%	31%	26%	21%	22%	1%
	Lack of services for people with disabilities	19%	17%	24%	15%	21%	26%	21%	<b>-5%*</b>
	Lack of services for children and teens	19%	19%	23%	17%	20%	24%	20%	-4%
	Alcoholism	21%	17%	23%	18%	19%	23%	20%	-3%
<b>Third Tier Problems (&lt; 20% Major/ Moderate)</b>	Domestic violence	21%	17%	22%	17%	19%	19%	18%	-1%
	Violence in the community	19%	18%	13%	16%	10%	15%	17%	2%
	Unemployment	17%	44%	55%	35%	27%	20%	11%	<b>-9%*</b>

Q2 For anything that you feel is a problem, please tell me if it is a minor, moderate or major problem.

Base=all respondents

Crime in the Community and Violence in the Community were one question prior to 2011

\* Statistically significant difference.

# Ratings for Problems Experienced by the household

		Not / Minor	Moderate	Major
<b>Top Tier Problems (10%+ Major/ Moderate)</b>	Not being able to find affordable childcare	75%	18%	7%
	Inadequate public transportation	79%	13%	8%
	Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression which interferes with your daily life	80%	14%	6%
	Not having enough money to pay for housing	85%	10%	5%
	Children or teens with emotional or behavior problems	85%	11%	4%
	Finding it difficult to budget the money that's available	86%	8%	6%
	Not being able to pay for medical insurance	88%	7%	5%
	Not being able to pay for the doctor bills	88%	7%	4%
	Not being able to get medical insurance	89%	5%	6%
	Not being able to find work that supports yourself or family	90%	6%	4%
	Not being able to find home health care or day care for an elderly person	90%	7%	3%
<b>Second Tier Problems (5% up to &lt;10% Major/ Moderate)</b>	Not able to pay for dental bills	91%	6%	4%
	Experiencing racial or ethnic discrimination	91%	8%	1%
	Not being able to find programs for someone with a disability	91%	6%	3%
	Not being able to find affordable care for someone with a disability	91%	3%	6%
	Not being able to afford legal help	92%	5%	3%
	Not being able to pay for mental health counseling	92%	7%	1%
	Living in housing that needs major repairs which you cannot afford	93%	5%	1%
	Not able to pay for prescriptions	93%	5%	3%
	Not being able to pay the utility bills	95%	4%	1%
	Not having access to mental health counseling	95%	3%	2%

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		Not / Minor	Moderate	Major
Third Tier Problems (<5% Major/Moderate)	Not having enough money for food	97%	1%	2%

H1 For each one, please indicate if it is has been a major problem, moderate, minor problem, or not a problem at all for you or anyone in your household over the past several years.

Base=all respondents for most; respondents with children for those relating to childcare; respondents with non-English speakers for those relating to English; respondents with elderly/disabled people in their home for those relating to elderly/disabled



## Ratings for Problem Areas in the Household

		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	Change from 2017
Top Tier Problems (10%+ Major/ Moderate)	Not being able to find affordable childcare	9%	5%	7%	8%	21%	22%	25%	<b>3%*</b>
	Inadequate public transportation	14%	18%	20%	22%	19%	21%	21%	0%
	Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression which interferes with your daily life	16%	16%	20%	15%	17%	16%	20%	<b>4%*</b>
	Not having enough money to pay for housing	10%	11%	12%	12%	13%	13%	15%	2%
	Children or teens with emotional or behavior problems	7%	7%	7%	7%	10%	12%	15%	<b>3%*</b>
	Finding it difficult to budget the money that's available	14%	16%	19%	19%	14%	12%	14%	2%
	Not being able to pay for medical insurance	16%	16%	15%	15%	8%	12%	12%	0%
	Not being able to pay for the doctor bills	13%	14%	12%	14%	10%	11%	12%	1%
	Not being able to get medical insurance	16%	16%	13%	13%	7%	7%	11%	<b>4%*</b>
	Not being able to find work that supports yourself or family	12%	11%	20%	17%	13%	15%	10%	<b>-5%*</b>
	Not being able to find home health care or day care for an elderly person	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%	10%	10%	0%

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		2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	Change from 2017
<b>Second Tier Problems</b> (5% up to <10% Major/Moderate)	Not being able to find affordable care for someone with a disability	9%	6%	4%	7%	8%	14%	9%	-5%*
	Not being able to find programs for someone with a disability	9%	6%	5%	7%	8%	10%	9%	-1%
	Not able to pay for dental bills	13%	14%	13%	14%	12%	10%	9%	-1%
	Experiencing racial or ethnic discrimination	4%	7%	5%	7%	4%	7%	9%	2%
	Not being able to pay for mental health counseling	8%	6%	9%	7%	7%	9%	8%	-1%
	Not being able to afford legal help	10%	10%	11%	10%	8%	8%	8%	0%
	Living in housing that needs major repairs which you cannot afford	7%	9%	11%	10%	6%	9%	7%	-2%
	Not able to pay for prescriptions	13%	14%	9%	10%	6%	7%	7%	0%
	Not being able to pay the utility bills	7%	6%	7%	10%	7%	7%	5%	-2%
	Not having access to mental health counseling	8%	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	5%	-1%
<b>Third Tier Problems</b> (<5% Major/Moderate)	Not having enough money for food	7%	6%	7%	10%	6%	5%	3%	-2%

H1 For each one, please indicate if it is has been a major problem, moderate, minor problem, or not a problem at all for you or anyone in your household over the past several years.

Speak and Read English fluently were one question prior to 2015

+Not enough money for food and Clothing were one question prior to 2015

\* Statistically significant difference.

# Appendix C

## Demographic Profiles

Weighting—Unweighted and Weighted Data Compared to Bellevue Population

	2019 Human Needs Survey (unweighted)	2019 Human Needs Survey (weighted)	Bellevue Population*
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	53%	49%	50%
Female	47%	51%	50%
<b>Age**</b>			
18–34	15%	29%	28%
35–54	40%	38%	38%
55 Plus	44%	33%	33%
<b>Household Size</b>			
Single Adult	25%	23%	26%
Two or More Adults	74%	77%	74%
<b>Children in Household</b>			
None	67%	62%	68%
One or More	33%	38%	32%
<b>Dwelling Type</b>			
Single-Family	53%	51%	50%
Multi-Family	47%	49%	50%
<b>Home Ownership</b>			
Own	71%	67%	57%
Rent	29%	32%	43%
<b>Income</b>			
Less than \$25,000	4%	3%	11%
\$25,000–\$50,000	6%	4%	12%
\$50,000–\$75,000	10%	10%	13%
\$75,000 or Greater	80%	83%	65%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White (not Hispanic)	66%	63%	56%
Asian (with any other race)	25%	27%	37%
African American	1%	2%	4%
Other	9%	9%	6%
% Hispanic	4%	5%	7%
(multiple responses)			

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	2019 Human Needs Survey (unweighted)	2019 Human Needs Survey (weighted)	Bellevue Population*
<b>Years Lived in Bellevue</b>			
0-3	18%	21%	
4-9	23%	26%	
10 or More	59%	53%	n.a.
Mean	17.39	15.45	
<b>Language Spoken at Home</b>			
English only	52%	51%	58%
Other than English	48%	49%	42%

\*Source for population figures: All data are 2013-2017 American Community Survey five-year estimates.

\*\*Note: Age was imputed for respondents who refused their age.

Unless otherwise noted, all reported statistics are based on weighted-base sizes. For reference, the table below provides both weighted and unweighted base sizes for each subgroup of respondents shown in this report.

Weighted versus Unweighted Base Sizes	
All Respondents	By Neighborhood
2011 (n = 409)	Bel-Red (n = 2, n <sub>w</sub> = 2)
2013 (n = 624)	Bridle Trails (n = 34, n <sub>w</sub> = 40)
2015 (n = 423)	Cougar Mountain / Lakemont (n = 29, n <sub>w</sub> = 26)
2017 (n = 484)	Crossroads (n = 27, n <sub>w</sub> = 28)
2019 (n = 450)	Downtown (n = 79, n <sub>w</sub> = 75)
<b>Groups of Respondents</b>	Eastgate (n = 22, n <sub>w</sub> = 20)
<b>Those Who Feel There are Unmet Needs in Bellevue</b>	Factoria (n = 7, n <sub>w</sub> = 4)
2019 (n = 38, n <sub>w</sub> = 36)	Lake Hills (n = 58, n <sub>w</sub> = 69)
<b>Respondents Who Rate the Availability of Help Low (&lt;4)</b>	Newport (n = 22, n <sub>w</sub> = 23)
2019 (n = 20, n <sub>w</sub> = 16)	Northeast Bellevue (n = 41, n <sub>w</sub> = 38)
<b>Households with Children</b>	Northwest Bellevue (n = 23, n <sub>w</sub> = 31)
2019 (n = 150, n <sub>w</sub> = 170)	West Lake Sammamish (n = 24, n <sub>w</sub> = 20)
<b>Speak Language Other than English</b>	Somerset (n = 19, n <sub>w</sub> = 15)
2019 (n = 214, n <sub>w</sub> = 222)	West Bellevue (n = 31, n <sub>w</sub> = 27)
<b>Experienced 1 or More Household Problems</b>	Wilburton (n = 21, n <sub>w</sub> = 16)
2019 (n = 202, n <sub>w</sub> = 215)	Woodridge (n = 11, n <sub>w</sub> = 14)
<b>Someone in Household Looked for Help in Past 2 Years</b>	
2019 (n = 79, n <sub>w</sub> = 93)	
<b>Respondents who Found the Help they Needed</b>	
YES (n = 33, n <sub>w</sub> = 46)	

\* n = number unweighted    \* n<sub>w</sub> = number weighted

## Count of Households with Non-English Speakers – Unweighted data – N’s shown

	Survey Contact Method			
	Landline	Cell Phone	Online	Total
Participant speaks a language other than English	18	26	126	170
Someone else in the household speaks a language other than English	10	17	81	108
Household where anyone speaks a language other than English (note, that this does not equal the sum of the above two rows as it is possible for both the participant and a second person to speak more than one language)	20	32	162	214
No one in the household speaks a language other than English (English only household)	43	36	153	232

## Count of Languages Spoken in Household – Unweighted data – N’s shown

	Survey Contact Method			
	Landline	Cell	Web	Total
English	60	61	247	368
Chinese	2	0	18	20
Mandarin	0	2	9	11
Hindi	0	1	5	6
Spanish	0	0	5	5
Korean	0	1	3	4
Telugu/Telueu	0	0	3	3
Cantonese	0	0	3	3
French	0	0	2	2
Japanese	0	0	2	2
Arabic	0	0	1	1

*Continued on next page*

	Survey Contact Method			
	Landline	Cell	Web	Total
Vietnamese	0	0	1	1
Russian	0	0	2	2
Italian	0	0	1	1
Tamil	0	0	1	1
Afrikaans	0	0	0	0
Aleut	0	0	0	0
Armenian	0	0	0	0
Bulgarian	0	0	0	0
Cambodian	0	0	0	0
Farsi	0	0	0	0
Filipino	0	0	0	0
German	0	0	0	0
Hebrew	0	0	0	0
Indian	0	0	0	0
Kannada	0	0	0	0
Lao	0	0	0	0
Norwegian	0	0	0	0
Polish	0	0	0	0
Portuguese	0	0	0	0
Romanian	0	0	0	0
Samoan	0	0	0	0
Serbo/Croatian (Bosnian)	0	0	0	0
Somali	0	0	0	0
Swedish	0	0	0	0

	Survey Contact Method			
	Landline	Cell	Web	Total
Tai/Taiwanese	0	0	0	0
Turkish	0	0	0	0
Other	1	3	14	18

# Appendix D

## Phone/online changes from 2017 to 2019

Minor modifications were made to the 2019 questionnaire to provide more clarity to respondents. Additionally, the 2019 questionnaire included new questions related to affordability and future research.

### Changed Questions

[2017] Q54 Do you or anyone in your household currently provide care or assistance with daily activities for someone else who lives in your household?

[2019] Q54 Do you or anyone in your household currently provide care or assistance with daily activities for someone else who lives in your household who is disabled or elderly?

### Questions deleted in 2019

[2017] TEL Which of the following best describes how you make or receive calls at home?

### Questions added in 2019 (main survey)

H4 How difficult would it be to meet your current household's basic expenses such as housing, food and medical if your paycheck were delayed for a week?

INCOME3 How often do you get paid?

FUTURE1 Would you be willing to help the City of Bellevue by agreeing to participate in future research?

FUTURE2 May I please get your first name only?

FUTURE3 Please provide an email address where we can contact you for future research.

FUTURE4 Please provide your best contact number

### Questions added in 2019 (Homelessness follow-up / supplemental survey)

Q1 Have you been homeless or at risk of being homeless in King County during any point during the last 10 years?

Q2 [ASK Q2 IF Q1=1] How many months were you homeless?

Q3 [ASK Q3 IF Q1=1] Which of the following events or conditions led to you being homeless?

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## Questions added in 2019 (Homelessness follow-up / supplemental survey)

Q4 [ASK Q4 IF Q1=1] Which of these was the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?

Q5 [ASK Q5 IF Q1=1] Which of the following services did you use that helped you during the time you were homeless?

Q6 [ASK Q6 IF Q1=2] Which of the following events or conditions led to you being at risk for being homeless?

Q7 [ASK Q7 IF Q1=2] Which of these was the primary event or condition that led to your being at risk for being homeless?

Q8 [ASK Q8 IF Q1=2] Which of the following services did you use that helped you during the time you were at risk of being homeless?

Q9 How often, in Bellevue, do you come into contact with someone that you perceive to be homeless?

Q10 Why do you think people become homeless?

Q11 What do you feel is the biggest barrier to eradicating homelessness?

Q12 To your knowledge, what is the city doing to address homelessness?

Q13 What are additional things the city could be doing to address homelessness?

# Appendix E

## Address-Based Sampling

In the past, a random-digit dialing (RDD) telephone survey was used. Strict quotas were used to ensure representation of men and women, different age groups, and residents of multi-family versus single-family dwelling types was roughly proportionate to their actual incidence in the population. While RDD telephone survey research continues to be used widely, it has come under increased scrutiny due to the proliferation of cell phones as well as declining response rates. This has called into question the representativeness of surveys conducted using traditional RDD samples. Estimates today are that as many as 46 percent of all households in King County no longer have a landline telephone and rely strictly on a cell phone or other mobile device to make and receive calls. An additional 17 percent of households have both landline and cell phone numbers but rely primarily on their cell phones.<sup>1</sup>

To address the high incidence of cell phone only households or households whose members primarily use cell phones, a major methodological change to address-based sampling (ABS) was implemented beginning with the 2011 Human Needs Assessment. In 2017, the ABS methodology was enhanced with the introduction of e-mail addresses to increase response rates and reduce survey costs.

The sample frame was composed of a list of all addresses in Bellevue—as defined by census block groups—including those indicating that post office boxes are the only way they get mail. This list was then matched against a comprehensive database to determine if the household had a matching landline or cell phone number. Additionally, e-mail addresses were appended where possible.

- If no matching phone number was found, the household was sent a letter signed by the city manager asking them to complete the survey online or by calling a toll-free number.
- If an e-mail address was found, the household was sent an e-mail inviting them to complete the survey online or by calling a toll-free number. Non-responders were contacted by phone.
- If a matching phone number was found, the household was called and asked to complete the survey by phone.
- In order to obtain a representative sample of multi-family households, the ABS sample was appended with a dwelling-type indicator (single vs. multi-family home) and addresses marked as multi-family were over-sampled during the mailing of the invitations.

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<sup>1</sup> National Health Statistics Reports December 18, 2013, “% Distribution of Household Telephone Status for Adults Aged 18 and Over,” <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr070.pdf>

# Appendix F

## Community Conversations

2019-2020

Goal Area	Issues/Population	Group/Date
	All Ages	Bellevue College Faculty and Staff 4/29/19
		Bellevue Fire CARES Staff Meeting 4/16/19
		Bellevue Police Advisory Group - Asian & PI 4/9/19
		Bellevue Park Rangers 5/30/19
		Bellevue Neighborhood Outreach Staff 6/18/19
		Bellevue Community Center Staff 6/10/19
		Bellevue Downtown Library Staff 6/18/19
Specific Populations	Homelessness	Friends of Youth Day Center Consumers & Staff 4/16/19
		Sophia Way Day Center Consumers & Staff 5/9/19
		Catholic Community Services New Bethlehem Day Center Consumers & Staff 5/21/19
	Older Adults	Eastside Neighbors Network 6/10/19
		Bellevue Network On Aging 4/7/19
	People with Disabilities	Hero House Members & Staff 6/6/19
	Refugees and Immigrants	Bellevue Mini City Hall Staff 5.13.19
		Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network 6/26/19
		Eastside Refugee and Immigrants Coalition 4/22/19
	School-Aged Children and Youth	Bellevue Youthlink Council 5/6/19
		Bellevue School District Family Connection and McKinney Vento Staff 5/28/19
		Stevenson Parenting Group 5/7/19
		Youth Eastside Services - BGLAD Support Group 8/29/10
	Veterans	King County Veterans Consortium Muster 5/16/19

# Appendix G

## Key Informant Interviews 2019-2020

Area of Focus	Contact	Date
Older Adults	Karen Koenig, Old Friend's Club	6/4/2019
People with Disabilities	Kim Indurkar, Bellevue Community Center	4/23/2019
People with Disabilities	Blayne Amson, Bellevue ADA/Title VI Civil Rights Program Administrator	4/10/2019
School Aged Children and Youth	Jeannie Anderson, Bellevue Wrap Around Services; Hortensia Nunez-Rodriguez, BSD Family Connection Center	5/1/2019
School Aged Children and Youth	Cecilia Vasquez-Martinez, Bellevue Wrap Around Services; Julie McIntyre, BSD Family Connection Center	5/1/2019
Veterans	Doug Hoople, King County Veteran Coalition	4/12/2019
People with Disabilities	Leah Molnar, Bellevue Special Needs PTA	7/25/2019
Domestic Violence	Rachel Krinsky, LifeWire	8/14/2019

## Faith Community Interviews

Interview conducted by Karen Studders, Eastside Interfaith Gathering convened by the Church Council of Greater Seattle

Congregation	Contact	Date
St Margaret's Episcopal Church	The Reverend Christina Jillard	7/3/2019
Bellevue First Congregational Church	Reverend Patty Ebner	7/17/2019
Temple De Hirsch Sinai	Rabbi Daniel Weiner	7/23/2019
St Louise Catholic Church	Fr. Gary Zender	7/24/2019
Islamic Center of Eastside, ICOE	Iman Fazal Hassan	7/17/19 & 7/21/19

# Appendix H

## 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$11,880
2	\$16,020
3	\$20,160
4	\$24,300
5	\$28,440
6	\$32,580
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person	

## 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,060
2	\$16,240
3	\$20,420
4	\$24,600
5	\$28,780
6	\$32,960
7	\$37,140
8	\$41,320
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,180 for each additional person	

## 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,290
3	\$25,526
4	\$30,750
5	\$35,980
6	\$41,210
7	\$46,440
8	\$51,670
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,230 for each additional person	

## 2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8	\$43,430
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,420 for each additional person	

Source: Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government



**Bellevue  
Human Services**

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