



Seattle Parks and Recreation and Census 2000:

A Demographic Overview of Seattle's Communities

July 12, 2006

Introduction

In *Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000*, item PL6 in the Six Year Action Plan directs Seattle Parks to "Undertake more detailed planning analysis, once 2000 census data is available, in order to assess park, recreation and open space needs throughout the city." While the recently completed 2006 update to the Open Space Gap Report examines demographic data and open space needs, this report uses 2000 census data to provide a more detailed look at Seattle's population and what this implies for Seattle Parks and Recreation.

While Census 2000 data is over six years old, it is still helpful insofar as it provides a framework for understanding the types of populations that should be considered when undertaking parks and recreation planning, project and program activities. Comparative data and newer information, particularly that provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2004 American Community Survey, has been integrated as possible.

Methodology

This report considers 14 key demographic indicators taken from Census 2000 and includes a corresponding set of maps and brief discussion of these maps. The bulk of the examination is done in the form of eight "Key Demographic Indicator Summaries" which draw on the maps and other data to provide demographic overviews of Seattle's various communities.

Key Demographic Indicators

The key demographic indicators chosen to help characterize Seattle's populations include the following:

- Total Population
- Number of Households
- Population Density by Census Tract
- Percent 18 Years and Under
- Percent 65 Years and Older
- Percent of Population with a Disability
- Percent White
- Percent Asian/Pacific Islander
- Percent Black/African American
- Percent Hispanic/Latino
- Percent American Indian/Alaska Native
- Population Who Speak Language Other than English at Home
- Total Foreign Born Population
- Median Household Income

About the Maps

The 14 maps featuring the key demographic indicators listed above include data from Census 2000 within the 121 plus census tracts that primarily make up the City of Seattle. Because census tracts 264 and 265 are only partially within the city's boundaries, information is not included for these two tracts.

As a means of better understanding the relationship between Seattle's various residents and the parks and recreation system, the maps also include parks and recreation facilities including parks, natural areas, community centers and swimming pools. Additionally, the map titled "Children: Percent 18 Years and Under" includes icons representing play areas.

Census Definitions

Selected definitions of key demographic indicators examined in this report are available in Appendix A.

Content of Key Demographic Indicator Summaries

The demographic indicator summaries are divided into three parts.

- The first section presents data on the various demographic trends that have impacted Seattle in recent years.
- The second section provides an overview of Census 2000 data as presented in the maps and highlights various local populations.
- The last section briefly identifies what this demographic data implies for Seattle Parks and Recreation's activities in the future.

Report as a Planning Tool

In order to make this report useful as a planning tool, much of the data utilized in the report is available in the appendices which are listed below.

- Appendix A: Selected Census Definitions of Key Demographic Indicators
 - Provides definitions of some census categories
- Appendix B: Map of Community Reporting Areas for Seattle & Census 2000 Tracts
 - Includes map featuring names of neighborhoods grouped around census tracts
- Appendix C: Census Tract Tables for Key Demographic Indicators
 - Three tables with individual tract-level information for each of the key demographic indicators
- Appendix D: Demographic Resources
 - Lists demographic references used in this report

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Population

- Map: Total Population
- Map: Number of Households
- Map: Population Density by Census Tract

Overview of Trends: Population and Households

Growth in Seattle's Population and Households in the Nineties

In 2000, there were 563,374 people living in Seattle, a 9% increase since 1990. The proportion of households also went up by 9% in the same time period, totaling 258,499 in 2000.

Total Population of Seattle 1980, 1990, 2000

1980	493,846
1990	516,259
2000	563,374

Increase of Young Adults Contributed to Growth in Households in 1990s

While the overall population of the City of Seattle grew only 1.1% between 1960 and 2000, the number of households increased 29% in that time span.

- The main reason for the household growth experienced in the 1990s was the large influx of young adults ages 20-34.
- In 2000, two of every five Seattle households was a one person household.
- According to a Seattle Department of Planning and Development report, "...among the country's 25 largest cities...only Washington, D.C. had more one-person households than Seattle" in 2000.

Major Shift in Ages of Seattle's Population Since 1960

In 1960, the children of the baby boom made up a majority of Seattle's population. In 2000, young adults ages 20 to 34 were the largest cohort.

- By the end of the 1990s, the percentage of 20 to 34 year olds in Seattle superseded even the adult baby boomers, who were ages 36-54 in 2000.

Decrease in Percentage of Families with Children Since 1960

From 1960 to 2000, families with children decreased from over 33% to just 18% of Seattle's population.

Comparison of Age Distribution of People in Seattle 2000 and 2004

Age	2000	2004 Estimate
65 years and over	12.0 %	11.4%
18 years and over	84.4%	83.6%
Under 18 years	15.6%	16.4%
Under 5 years	4.7%	4.8%

Sources:

City of Seattle

- Department of Planning and Development, “Demographic Snapshots: Shift in Housing Needs” at http://www.seattle.gov/DCLU/demographics/snapshots/housing_age_oct2003.pdf

U.S. Census Bureau

- Fact Sheet, Seattle City, Washington, 2000” at <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Population and Households

What the “Total Population” and “Number of Households” Maps Show

- In areas with high concentrations of households, it is probable that there are more one or two person households, fewer children and a larger number of younger adults. This may be the case for tracts in downtown Seattle.
- On the flip side of this is the potential that areas with higher populations and lower household numbers could have more people per house and a higher incidence of children such as communities around Laurelhurst and census tracts in portions of southeast and southwest Seattle.

Population Density by Census Tract: Highest in Greater Capitol Hill Area

- The most densely populated census tracts in 2000 were within the greater Capitol Hill and First Hill areas, in the Belltown neighborhood and in the University District adjacent to the University of Washington.
- Other neighborhoods in and near downtown also had fairly high densities including Pioneer Square and Uptown/Lower Queen Anne.
- Alongside the very densely populated census tract adjacent to U.W., tracts encompassing other parts of the University District and sections of Ravenna also had fairly high population densities as did the census tract in the Fremont area west of the Fremont Bridge.

City’s Lower Density Areas

- Most census tracts in the south end of the city, including West Seattle and Southeast Seattle, show a lower density pattern. This is particularly true in communities close to the industrial areas on either side of the Duwamish River including parts of Delridge, South Park, South Downtown and Georgetown.
- All of Magnolia had fairly low population densities in 2000.
- Parts of Crown Hill and Broadview also had lower densities as did many communities in Northeast Seattle.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Consideration should be given to the City’s and Parks Departments’ goals involving population, open space and facilities when planning or undertaking new projects and activities.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Children

- **Map: Children: Percent Under 18 Years Old**

Overview of Trends: Children

Relatively Few Children in Seattle in 2000

In 2000, 87,800, or 15.6% of Seattle's residents were children under 18 years of age. To consider the historic implications of these changes, it is interesting to note that in 1960, one-third of Seattle's residents were under 20. In 2000, that proportion dropped to less than one-fifth of the city's population.

- The percentage of families with children under 18 decreased from 33% in 1960 to 18% in 2000.

Of the largest 25 cities in the nation, only San Francisco had fewer children than Seattle in 2000.

Children and Poverty

In 2000, one of seven children under 18 in Seattle lived in poverty in comparison to one in 11 adults over 25 who were poor.

2004 Shows Upward Trend in Children in the City

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey estimated that Seattle's population under 18 increased from 15.6% in 2000, to 16.4% in 2004. This increase could be an indication that the young adults who moved into the city in the 1990s are having children and remaining in Seattle. The increase could also be related to a rise in the number of foreign born residents with large families. More conclusive data will be available after the next census in 2010.

Sources:

City of Seattle

- *Department of Planning and Development Census home page at:*
www.seattle.gov/dpd/demographics
- *Department of Human Services 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan at*
<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/director/ConsolidatedPlan/default.htm#2005ConPlan>

U.S. Census Bureau

- <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/5363000.html> and
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Percent Under 18 Years Old in 2000

Highest Concentrations of Children in Southeast & West Seattle

The census tracts with the highest percentages of children in 2000 were clustered in two large groupings in communities in Southeast Seattle and in the southeast neighborhoods of West Seattle.

Communities with Densest Concentrations of Children in Southeast Seattle

- In 2000, essentially all of Southeast Seattle, specifically all census tracts east of I-5 and south of I-90, contained between 18% and 35% children under 18 years of age.
- The areas of Southeast with the densest concentrations of children included a cluster of neighborhoods starting from the I-90 area in the north and extending through parts of North Rainier, south through Columbia City and Hillman City, including parts of Seward Park, South Beacon, New Holly and sections of the greater Rainier Beach area.

At 29.8%, tract 110, which included S.H.A.'s Holly Park public housing facility, had the second highest percentage of children in the city in 2000.

West Seattle's Southeast Communities' High Concentrations of Children

- Communities in the southeast portion of West Seattle also had high concentrations of children including a group of census tracts starting in the Delridge/Riverview neighborhoods to the north and extending into the High Point, Roxhill/Westwood, Highland Park and South Park areas.

At 35.1%, tract 107, home of S.H.A.'s High Point public housing facility, had the highest percentage of children in the city in 2000.

Central Area Also Home to Large Percentage of Children

- In 2000, children amounted to 23.3% of tract 89 in the Central Area/Squire Park area.
- While the Central Area had the densest concentration of children in the Central/East sector of the city, nearby census tracts also had fairly high proportions of children including parts of Madrona, Judkins Park, Capitol Hill and Miller Park.

Northeast Seattle's Highest Concentration of Children: Laurelhurst/Sand Point Area

- At 25.7%, tract 41, which encompasses portions of the Laurelhurst and Sand Point communities, had the highest percentage of children in the north end.

Mid-Range Concentrations of Children: 18%-22%

Clusters of census tracts with 18%-22% children in 2000, included:

- A contiguous grouping in Northwest Seattle made up of parts of northwest Ballard/Crown Hill, North Beach and the greater Broadview area,
- Northeast Seattle north of Laurelhurst including parts of Viewridge, Wedgwood, Lake City, Cedar Park and Meadowbrook,
- Most of Magnolia,
- Madison Valley, parts of Montlake and the greater Central Area in the Central/East part of the city,
- Census tracts on the ridge of Beacon Hill to the north and south of Jefferson Park in Southeast Seattle,

- West Seattle Junction, parts of Roxhill and communities in Arbor Heights in tracts in the southwest end of West Seattle.

Lowest Concentrations of Children: 0-17%

Census tracts with the fewest children in the 2000 census were located in the following areas:

- Downtown neighborhoods, in the higher density areas of Capitol Hill, communities in Eastlake, Montlake and Queen Anne.
- Census tracts in the north end on either side of I-5 extending from Haller Lake in the north to Lake Union in the south.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- The appropriate distribution of facilities for areas with large concentrations of children should be considered, including distribution of play areas, water spray and other child-focused facilities, according to Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan guidelines.
- Attention should be paid to child-focused park and recreation programming in areas with large numbers of children.
- Because many areas with the highest percentages of children were clustered in fairly large contiguous groupings, this may present opportunities for targeted sports and recreation programming.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: 65 Years and Older

- Map: Percent 65 Years and Older

Overview of Trends: Population 65 Years and Older

The 2000 Census counted 67,807 or 12.0% of Seattle's population as 65 years and older. This percentage was just short of the 12.4% of those 65 and over counted nationwide in 2000.

Slowing of Growth of those 65 Years and Older in 2000

Like the national data, the 2000 census numbers on the aged in Seattle indicated a slowing in the growth of those 65 years and over. At the national level, the 65 to 74 age group led this decline because of the drop in the birth rate in the late 1920s and early 1930s. This led to a relatively small number of people turning 65 in the decade of the 1990s. The age 85-plus population, however, grew significantly from 1990 to 2000 nationally and in Seattle. Further growth in this age group is expected through 2010.

Changes in Population 65 Years and Over in Seattle 1990, 2000 & 2004

1990 Census	78,400	15.19%
2000 Census	67,807	12.0%
2004 Estimate	63,360	11.4%

The Baby Boomers are Coming, 2011 and Beyond

The decline in those 65 and over is expected to reverse as baby boomers (born 1946-1964) reach age 65 starting in 2011.

Sources:

City of Seattle

- *Human Services Department 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan*, <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/director/ConsolidatedPlan/default.htm#2005ConPlan>

U.S. Census Bureau,

- *American Fact Finder, Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, Census 2000 and 2004 American Community Survey* at <http://factfinder.census.gov>
- *Census 2000 Brief, The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000, October 2001* at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-10.pdf>

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Population 65 Years and Older

Highest Concentrations of those 65 Years and Older in Seattle

In 2000, the highest concentrations of individuals 65 years and older were recorded in:

- Census tracts surrounding Bitter Lake in the north end.
- A single tract in the Madison Park area.
- Two tracts in First Hill.
- Tracts encompassing parts of Pioneer Square, the International District, Yesler Terrace area and the Judkins Park area.

Retirees on the Coasts

Some of the highest concentrations of residents 65 years and above seemed to coincide with areas with higher incomes, particularly along Seattle's shorelines including:

- Tracts along Puget Sound north of Golden Gardens in Ballard through areas of North Beach and Broadview.
- A grouping of tracts along Lake Washington north of Matthews Beach.
- The southwest portion of Magnolia adjacent to Puget Sound.
- Part of the Madison Park community adjacent to Lake Washington.
- The Fauntleroy/Arbor Heights area of West Seattle along the shoreline of the Sound.

Impacts of Retirement Communities

Census tracts with higher proportions of senior citizens also appeared in areas with private and public retirement communities and facilities including:

- Tracts encompassing communities in Bitter Lake, Northgate, First Hill, the International District and parts of Yesler Terrace and Judkins Park.

The Younger Tracts

In 2000, census tracts with the lowest proportion of adults aged 65 and above were:

- In the higher density areas of the north end specifically around Green Lake and near the University District.
- Near the Seattle Pacific University campus in north Queen Anne.
- In parts of Capitol Hill.
- In areas of Delridge and High Point in West Seattle.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Seattle Parks should consider the proximity of parks and recreation facilities and areas with high concentrations of populations age 65 and over in terms of facility needs and programming opportunities.
- Seattle Parks should continue to consider all measures necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in conjunction with programming, planning and capital facility projects.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Population with a Disability

- **Map: Percent Population Age 5 and Above With a Disability**

Overview of Trends: Population with Disability

In 2000, 90,999 or 17.2% of Seattle’s population identified themselves as having a disability. The U.S. rate for those living with disabilities in 2000 was 19.3%.

U.S. Census Bureau Definitions for Disability

According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

“Individuals were classified as having a disability if any of the following three conditions was true:

1. They were five years old and over and reported a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability;
2. They were 16 years old and over and reported difficulty going outside the home because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more; or
3. They were 16 to 64 years old and reported difficulty working at a job or business because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more.”

A report developed by the City of Seattle’s Human Services Department found that “Rates of disability increase with age”.

Disability Rates by Age in Seattle, Census 2000

5-15 years	16-20 years	21-64 years	65+ years
5.14%	10.78%	15.34%	42.02%

Despite the rate being higher among those 65 and older, the total number of people with a disability in King County is highest among those 21-64 years.

Sources:

City of Seattle

- *Department of Human Services, “The Aging and Disability of Populations in King County”, 2003, <http://www.cityofseattle.net/humanservices/ads/News&Events/2003/ForumINationalTrends.pdf>*

U.S. Census Bureau

- http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_101608.htm

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Population with Disabilities

Like the City's Human Services Department report, the map showing "Percent Population Age 5 and Above with a Disability" seems to suggest a connection between disability and aging.

Connection Between Those with a Disability and Age

Examples of census tracts with higher proportions of those with a disability that also have higher percentages of those 65 years and older include:

- Tract 4.01 around Bitter Lake and tracts near Northgate in the north end,
- Tracts encompassing parts of First Hill, Pioneer Square, the International District and parts of the Yesler Terrace and Judkins Park communities.

Proximity of Health Services and Facilities and the Disabled

There may also be correlations between those with disabilities and proximity to government offices and various health services and facilities. This could be part of the explanation for the higher proportion of those with disabilities in areas of downtown and First Hill.

Disabled City Residents and Public Housing Facilities

Higher levels of individuals with disabilities may also be explained in census tracts that included large public housing communities in 2000, such as tract 107 and the Seattle Housing Authority's High Point facility and tract 110 encompassing Holly Park, now called New Holly.

Implications for Seattle Parks

- Seattle Parks should continue to consider ADA in all planning, capital and program activities. Consideration of ADA issues is particularly important in places with higher concentrations of health-related offices and facilities such as hospitals and public and private housing facilities for seniors and disabled populations.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Race and Ethnicity

- Maps: Race and Ethnicity

Overview of Trends: Race and Ethnicity

In 2000, Seattle Continued to have a Large White Population

While Seattle had a large majority of white individuals in 2000, in the decade between 1990 and 2000, the city's white population dropped from 75% to 70%. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the white population decreased further in 2004 to 67.1%.

Seattle is Becoming More Ethnically and Racially Diverse

In 1990, people of color accounted for 25% of Seattle's population. In 2000, this proportion increased to 27%, and in 2004, it is estimated to have grown to 33%.

- A chief reason for Seattle's growing diversity is a 40% increase in Seattle's foreign born population between 1990 and 2000.
- The populations which grew the most between 1990 and 2000 were the Hispanic population, which rose by 62%, and the Asian/Pacific Islander population which increased by 26.1%.
- According to a Seattle Human Services Department report, Seattle also has an "uncommonly high number of individuals of multiracial ancestry."

Trends in Race and Ethnicity in Seattle 1980-2004

Race and Hispanic Origin	1980 Total	1980 %	1990 Total	1990 %	2000 Total	2000 %	2004 ACS Estimate Total	2004 ACS Estimate %
White	392,275	79.4%	388,858	75.3%	394,889	70.1%	373,896	67.1%
Black/African American	46,565	9.4%	51,948	10.1%	47,541	8.4%	54,272	9.7%
American Indian, or Alaskan Native	6,821	1.4%	7,326	1.4%	5,659	1.0%	5,118	.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	38,936	7.9%	60,819	11.8%	76,714	13.6%	97,857	17.6%
Other Race	N/A	N/A	7,308	1.4%	13,423	2.4%	13,361	2.4%
Two or More Races	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25,148	4.5%	12,542	2.3%
Hispanic origin (of any race)	12,744	2.6%	18,349	3.6%	29,719	5.3%	35,129	6.3%
Total Population	493,846	100%	516,259	100%	563,374	100%	557,046	100%

*Total population for 1980 includes Hispanics who are double counted.

Sources:

Brookings Institution

- *Seattle in Focus: A Profile from Census 2000* November 2003, <http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/livingcities/Seattle.htm>

City of Seattle

- Human Services Department, 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan, <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/director/ConsolidatedPlan/default.htm#2005ConPlan>

U.S. Census Bureau

- American Factfinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>
 - *DP-1 General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990, Seattle city, Washington*
 - *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights*
 - *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, 2004 American Community Survey, Data Profile Highlights*

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Race and Ethnicity

The White Population and the North End

Although Seattle was becoming increasingly diverse in 2000, the “Percent White” map clearly shows that the vast majority of the north end was white, as was Magnolia, most of Queen Anne, Montlake, North Capitol Hill, Madison Park and the western half of West Seattle. Southeast Seattle and communities in the Delridge, Roxhill, Westwood, Highland Park and South Park areas of West Seattle had the lowest percentage of white people in 2000.

Diversity in South Seattle

While home to the smallest proportion of white individuals in the city in 2000, census tracts in Southeast Seattle and certain communities in the southeast portion of West Seattle had the highest concentrations of all communities of color.

The Asian/Pacific Islander Population and the Beacon Hill Area

In 2000, the highest percentages of the Asian/Pacific Islander population lived in census tracts in the greater Beacon Hill area, west of Rainier Avenue. However, there were fairly high proportions of the Asian/Pacific Islander population in almost all neighborhoods in Southeast Seattle.

- Parts of High Point and areas south of Delridge in West Seattle also included a fairly high percentage of those counted as Asian or Pacific Islander, between 23% and 39%, as did tract 53.02 in the University District.

The Black/African American Population, the Central Area and South Seattle

The highest concentrations of Seattle’s black population in 2000 lived in the Central Area, underlining the historic ties between Seattle’s black communities and that neighborhood.

- In Southeast Seattle, a high proportion of the black population also lived in areas east of Rainier Avenue including the greater North Rainier, Columbia City and Rainier Beach neighborhoods and to a lesser extent in neighborhoods throughout Southeast.
- Census tracts in the High Point, Roxhill and Westwood neighborhoods in West Seattle also showed high proportions of the Black/African American population.

The Hispanic/Latino Population and the South End

In 2000, census tract 112 in the South Park area of West Seattle had the highest percentage of those who identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, 37%.

- Higher proportions of the Hispanic/Latino communities also lived in the east and particularly southeastern portion of West Seattle, including communities in the High Point, Roxhill and Westwood areas.
- In 2000, large percentages of the Hispanic/Latino community were also clustered in census tracts extending from the southern portions of the Central Area, through neighborhoods across the I-90 Lid, along the ridge of Beacon Hill and around Jefferson Park.

American Indian/Alaska Native – 1% of Seattle’s Total Population in 2000

After holding at 1.4% of Seattle’s total population in 1980 and 1990, the city’s American Indian/Alaska Native population dropped to 1% in 2000.

- Those counted as American Indian or Alaska Native had the highest statistical significance in census tracts in the Cascade neighborhood, downtown, Pioneer Square, SODO and Georgetown areas where they accounted for 3% of the total tract populations.

Most Diverse Communities Outside of the South End

While communities in the south end appeared to have the most diverse populations in the city in 2000, some areas outside the south end had consistently higher percentages of nonwhite populations.

- Census tracts clustered in the far north end of the city had larger proportions of people of color than any other tracts in Northwest or Northeast Seattle. This includes tracts in and around Bitter Lake, Haller Lake, parts of Licton Springs, Northgate, Lake City, Meadowbrook and Cedar Park.
- The census tract encompassing much of the Cascade neighborhood in South Lake Union had higher proportions of the Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino populations than other central city neighborhood tracts in 2000.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Seattle Parks should seek to be as inclusive as possible in planning and developing projects and programs.
- When undertaking projects or activities, basic population research should be done and outreach should target all local communities.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Population Who Speak Language Other than English at Home

- **Map: Population Who Speak Language Other than English**

Overview of Trends: Language Other than English Spoken in the Home

Use of Languages Other than English at Home on the Rise in Seattle

Between 1990 and 2000, the proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home in Seattle rose from 15.4% to 20.2%.

- A likely contributor to this trend was the 40% rise in the foreign born population that occurred in the 1990s.

Language Spoken at Home, Seattle, Census 2000

	Number	Percent
English Only	429,105	79.8%
Language other than English	108,433	20.2%
-- <i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	-- 49,754	-- 9.3%
Asian and Pacific Island Languages*	56,248	10.5%
-- <i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	-- 31,500	-- 5.9%
Spanish	22,321	4.2%
-- <i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	-- 9,748	-- 1.8%
Other Indo-European**	21,430	4.0%
-- <i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	-- 4,969	-- 0.9%
Total Population Age 5+	537,538	100.00

*"Asian Language" includes languages indigenous to Asia and Pacific islands areas that are not also Indo-European languages. Chinese, Japanese, Telugu, and Hawaiian are all classified here.

**"Other Indo-European" excludes English and Spanish. "Indo-European" is not synonymous with "European." French, German, Hindi, and Persian are all classified as Indo-European. Hungarian, on the other hand, is lumped into "Other Language."

Foreign Language Speakers Continued to Rise in 2004

In 2004, the Census Bureau estimated that the percentage of individuals who spoke a language other than English at home had grown to 23% of Seattle's total population.

Sources:

CensusScope

- http://www.censusscope.org/us/m7600/print_chart_language.html

State of Washington

- *Office of Financial Management,*
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/profiles/place/160536000.pdf>

U.S. Census Bureau

- *American Factfinder,* <http://factfinder.census.gov>
 - *DP-1 General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990, Seattle city, Washington*

- *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights*
- *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, 2004 American Community Survey, Data Profile Highlights*
- *Census 2000: Washington Demographic Profile Sample Data – Statements, http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/dp_statement_WA.html*

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Language Other than English Spoken in the Home

Highest Concentration of those Who Spoke Foreign Languages at Home in Southeast

In 2000, Southeast Seattle was home to census tracts with the highest percentage of those who spoke a language other than English at home. These areas included:

- Tract 100, which encompasses Jefferson Park and is also the home of the Seattle Housing Authority’s (S.H.A) Rainier Vista public housing development.
- Tracts extending through portions of Columbia City and Hillman City.
- Tract 110, in which S.H.A’s former Holly Park facility was located, and parts of the Rainier Beach area.

Other Tracts with Significant Foreign Language Speakers

In 2000, there were three other notable areas with significant foreign language speakers including:

- The northernmost parts of Seattle around Bitter Lake, Northgate and Lake City.
- Tract 85, home of S.H.A’s Yesler Terrace facility, which had 270 individuals who identified themselves as speaking a language other than English at home.
- West Seattle around S.H.A’s High Point facility, particularly in the Delridge and Westwood areas.

Overall, the highest concentrations of those who spoke a language other than English at home in 2000 seemed to be grouped around Seattle Housing Authority (S.H.A) public housing facilities.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- When undertaking new projects and activities, efforts should be made by Seattle Parks staff to become familiar with potential language barriers and local populations.
- Outreach and other public involvement strategies should target local communities and utilize translators for materials and meetings as appropriate.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Foreign Born Population

- **Map: Total Foreign Born Population**

Overview of Trends: Foreign Born Population

Immigration on the Rise in Seattle in the 1990s

Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of foreign born residents living in Seattle increased by 40%. By the year 2000, the census counted 95,000 Seattle residents or almost 17% of the city's population as foreign born. Also noted in Census 2000:

- Around half of Seattle's foreign born population entered the U.S. during the 1990s.
- Asia was the birthplace of more than half the city's foreign born.

Foreign Born Populations with Highest Rates of Growth in the 1990s

In the 1990s, Seattle experienced high rates of growth among people born in Africa (320%), the Americas (74%) and Oceania (63%). (Oceania includes the islands that make up Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia and Australasia including Samoa, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and others.)

Top Countries of Birth for Seattle's Foreign-Born Population, 2000

Country	Number
Philippines	12,361
Vietnam	11,305
China	11,239
Mexico	7,902
Korea	4,432
Japan	3,250
Ethiopia	2,777
Germany	2,567
United Kingdom	2,565
Cambodia	1,968
Laos	1,885
India	1,416
Thailand	1,411
Russia	1,199
Total of above countries	65,977
Total from all countries	94,952

Percentage of Seattle's Foreign Born Residents Continued to Increase in 2004

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the percentage of foreign born residents in Seattle increased from 17% in 2000 to 21% in 2004.

Sources:

City of Seattle

- *Human Services Department, 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan,*

<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/director/ConsolidatedPlan/default.htm#2005ConPlan>

- *Department of Planning and Development, Population and Demographics Homepage: Seattle's Official Census Site, <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/demographics>*

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Foreign Born Population

The area with the highest numbers of foreign born residents in 2000 were in Southeast Seattle, neighborhoods in the southeast portions of West Seattle and communities in the northernmost parts of the city.

Highest Concentrations of Foreign Born Residents in Southeast Seattle

In 2000, Southeast Seattle was home to the densest populations of foreign born individuals in the city. In Southeast, the tracts with the highest concentration of those born outside of the U.S. were grouped in a large cluster around Beacon Hill. This included:

- The communities around I-90 in the Judkins Park neighborhood.
- Areas around Jefferson Park and extending south along the ridge of Beacon Hill.
- Parts of Columbia City, Hillman City, the New Holly area.
- Large portions of Rainier Beach.

Large Numbers of Foreign Born in Southeast Sections of West Seattle

The southeast portion of West Seattle also had a large foreign born population in 2000. The largest number of West Seattle's foreign born residents lived in census tracts clustered together in the following communities:

- The Delridge/Riverview neighborhoods.
- The High Point area.
- Parts of Roxhill/Westwood, Highland Park and South Park.

The Far North End and Foreign Born Populations

Census 2000 also recorded fairly large populations of foreign born residents clustered around neighborhoods in the far north end of Seattle. These areas included:

- The Haller Lake and Northgate neighborhoods.
- Communities around Lake City.
- Sections of Crown Hill.

The University District also had a relatively high number of foreign born residents.

Implications for Seattle Parks

- Public involvement strategies should target local communities and utilize translators for materials and meetings as appropriate.
- In areas with significant foreign born populations, Seattle Parks should take advantage of opportunities for programs and activities that draw on local residents' various cultural backgrounds.

Key Demographic Indicator Summary: Median Household Income

- **Map: Median Household Income in Dollars**

Overview of Trends: Median Household Income

Median Household Income Up 6.5% between 1989 and 1999

Between 1989 and 1999, overall median household income in Seattle rose from \$29,353 to \$45,736. Median household income for families in 1999 was \$62,195.

While overall median household income went up, a Human Services Department report found that in 2000:

“About 48% of Seattle households and 42% of the population were considered low or moderate income based on household size and income.”*
*(*Moderate income is considered to be 80% of median income and low income is considered to be 50% of median, both adjusted by household size as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)*

Median Household Income Generally Lower for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in 2000

Additionally, while the overall median household income in Seattle grew by 16% in the 1990s, median household incomes for racial and ethnic minorities were approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 less than for white households.

Population Under the Poverty Line

The 2000 census also found that 11.8% of the total population and 6.9% of families were below the poverty line in Seattle. Other data indicated that:

- 13.8% of those below the poverty line were under 18 years of age
- 10.2% of those below the poverty line were 65 and older

Table 1. Extract of Federal Poverty Thresholds, 1999

	# of Children	# of Children	# of Children	# of Children
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	None	One	Two	Eight or More
One person	\$8,667			
Two people	\$11,156**	\$11,483**		
Three people	\$13,032	\$13,410	\$13,423	
Four people	\$17,184	\$17,465	\$16,895	
Nine or more	\$36,897	\$37,076	\$36,583	\$32,208

*Children refers to all persons under age 18

**Income thresholds shown for two-person households refer to those with the head of household under age 65; thresholds are lower for households headed by people 65 or older

Sources:

City of Seattle

- *Human Services Department, 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan, <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/director/ConsolidatedPlan/default.htm#2005ConPlan>*
- *Department of Planning and Development*
 - *Population and Demographics Homepage: Seattle's Official Census Site, <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/demographics>*
 - *Demographic Snapshots: "Poverty Declined in 1990s", at: <http://www.seattle.gov/DCLU/demographics/snapshots/>*
 - *Monitoring Our Progress: Seattle's Comprehensive Plan, 2003 at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/DCLU/Planning/comprehensive/reports.htm#monitoring>*

King County

- *Public Improvement Project, 2004 Application Form, King County Community Development Block Grant Program Unincorporated King County and Small Cities Fund (CSC) at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/CSD/Housing/CSC05pubimp.doc>*

U.S. Census Bureau

- *American Factfinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>*
 - *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights*
 - *Fact Sheet, Seattle city, Washington, 2004 American Community Survey, Data Profile Highlights*

Census 2000 Trends in Seattle Communities: Median Household Income

The following discussion highlights areas of the city that were at and above Seattle's median household income in 2000.

- In 2000, Seattle's median household income was \$45,736.

Areas with Less than 50% of Seattle Median Household Income

(Median Household Income of Census Tract \$0-\$22,868)

- In 2000, the areas with the lowest median household incomes in the city were located near downtown and in the University District.

Areas with 50%-100% of Seattle Median Household Income

(Median Household Income of Census Tract \$22,869-45,736)

Fairly large sections of the city had tracts with median household incomes at 50% to 100% of median income including:

- A cluster of tracts north of 85th Street in the north end, parts of Ballard, Fremont and around the University District.
- Census tracts in the central city neighborhoods around downtown and including parts of Uptown Queen Anne and the Central Area.
- In Southeast Seattle in North Beacon Hill and parts of Columbia City and the Rainier Beach neighborhoods and west of I-5 in the Duwamish and Georgetown neighborhoods.

- The West Seattle Junction area and parts of High Point, Roxhill, Westwood and South Park in West Seattle.

Areas with 100%-150% of Seattle Median Household Income

(Median Household Income of Census Tract \$45,737-\$68,604)

In 2000, census tracts with median household incomes at median plus 150% were located in the following areas:

- In north end neighborhoods along Puget Sound and Lake Washington, much of northeast Seattle excluding the Lake City area, parts of Ballard and communities surrounding Green Lake.
- Tracts encompassing most of Magnolia and Queen Anne.
- Parts of north Capitol Hill in the central part of the city.
- In Southeast, in neighborhoods adjacent to Lake Washington Boulevard and in Beacon Hill south of Jefferson Park.
- In much of West Seattle excepting parts of the West Seattle Junction, High Point, Roxhill/Westwood and South Park neighborhoods.

Areas with 150% of Seattle Median Household Income and More

(Median Household Income of Census Tract \$68,605-\$101,319)

Census tracts with the highest median household incomes in 2000 were primarily located along the shorelines of Puget Sound and Lake Washington. This includes:

- Areas in the north end including a tract in the very northwest corner of the city south of the Highlands, the area north of Matthews Beach adjacent to Lake Washington and the tract encompassing Laurelhurst.
- In a tract in the southwestern portion of Magnolia adjacent to the Sound and at the top of Queen Anne Hill.
- In the Central/East sector of the city in tracts in Montlake and tracts in Madison Park and south of Madison Park along Lake Washington.

Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Seattle Parks should consider the potential lack of mobility of those with lower incomes and corresponding lack of opportunity for recreation outside of the city when developing programs and recreational opportunities in lower income areas.
- Consideration should be given to impacts on community center advisory board fundraising and community center programming capabilities in areas with communities with lower median household incomes.

Highlights of Key Demographic Indicator Summaries

Overview of Trends

After considering the data presented in the eight Key Demographic Indicator Summaries, the following conclusions can be made in regards to demographic trends facing Seattle in 2000 and beyond.

Population Trends in Seattle and Census 2000

- Along with Seattle's overall population growth between 1990 and 2000, came the continued growth of smaller households.
- Since 1960, there has been a significant shift in the distribution of age groups in the city so that by 2000, young adults, rather than children, represented the largest percentage of the population.
- While there was a slowdown in those over age 65 in the 1990s, this trend will reverse as the baby boomers start retiring in 2011.
- Although a large majority of the city's population was white in 2000, Seattle is more racially and ethnically diverse due largely to the increase in the immigration of foreign born individuals in the 1990s.
- Along with the rise in the number of foreign born individuals in 2000, was an increase in the number of those who spoke a language other than English at home.
- While overall median income rose in 2000, just under half of Seattle households could be considered low income or moderate income.

Demographic Trends in Seattle's Communities in 2000

Below are highlights of population trends recorded in Census 2000 for different regions of the city. These statements are not meant to be detailed descriptions of all residents of these areas, but rather are characterizations of various populations based on census tract level data for 2000.

Trends in the North End

- In 2000, Seattle's north end had very large percentages of white individuals, though communities in the far north neighborhoods extending from Bitter Lake east to the greater Lake City area were more diverse.
- While there were higher concentrations of children in the south end of the city in 2000, some North Seattle neighborhoods had fairly high proportions of children. This included a cluster of census tracts extending from north Ballard to Broadview and the city limits and a fairly large grouping of census tracts in northeast Seattle near Lake Washington - especially in the Laurelhurst and Sand Point communities.
- In 2000, individuals over 65 living in the north end were evident in higher income areas on the Sound and lake shorelines and near retirement communities in the Bitter Lake and Northgate areas. Disabled residents of the north end also seemed to be clustered near these retirement facilities.
- The student population of the University District stood out in 2000 in terms of the higher density, lower income and more diverse populations of census tracts near the University of Washington.

Trends in Central/West: The Downtown, Queen Anne and Magnolia Neighborhoods

- The highest population densities in the Central/West area of the city in 2000 were found in the Belltown, Lower Queen Anne, Pioneer Square and International District neighborhoods. Some of the census tracts with the lowest population densities in the city were in communities in the central part of Magnolia.
- Except for the western half of Magnolia and the area at the top of Queen Anne Hill, most of the Central/West region of the city had few children.
- In 2000, census tracts with relatively high concentrations of those over 65 in Central/West lived in the International District, parts of First Hill, in higher income neighborhoods of Magnolia adjacent to the Sound and, to a lesser extent, in Queen Anne and downtown.
- Those with disabilities were clustered in fairly high percentages in and near downtown with the highest concentrations recorded in Pioneer Square the International District and the Cascade neighborhood.
- In 2000, neighborhoods in the Central/West sector of the city had relatively few residents who were foreign born or spoke languages other than English at home. Census tracts in the area with higher percentages of foreign born individuals and those who spoke languages other than English at home were noticeable in Lower Queen Anne, the eastern part of the Cascade neighborhood and in the International District.
- In 2000, the highest median household incomes in the Central/West region of the city were found outside of downtown, specifically in Magnolia and the upper and northern areas of Queen Anne Hill.

Trends in Central/East: Communities in Capitol Hill, First Hill, the Central Area, Yesler Terrace, Judkins Park and along Lake Washington North of I-90.

- In 2000, neighborhoods in the Central/East sector had the highest population densities in the city, specifically Capitol Hill and First Hill.
- The highest concentrations of children in Central/East, were clustered outside of the higher density parts of Capitol Hill and First Hill, and were most noticeable in and around the Central Area. Parts of Montlake, northeast Capitol Hill, Madrona, Leschi and Mount Baker also had fairly high concentrations of children.
- Higher percentages of disabled populations and those 65 and over were evident in tracts close to health facilities in the First Hill area.
- Except for census tracts in the Yesler Terrace and Judkins Park area, Seattle's Central/East neighborhoods had relatively low numbers of foreign born individuals and those who spoke a language other than English at home.
- In 2000, the northernmost neighborhoods in Central/East had large white populations, with parts of Capitol Hill and First Hill showing more diverse populations. The most diverse communities in Central/East included those in Madison Valley, the Central Area, Yesler Terrace and the Judkins Park area.
- North Capitol Hill and communities adjacent to the lakes (including Eastlake on Lake Union, which is sometimes considered part of the West/Central Sector) had higher incomes than neighborhoods in the Madison Valley, Central Area, First Hill, Yesler Terrace and Judkins Park areas.

In 2000, Southeast Seattle and communities in the southeast portion of West Seattle had amazingly diverse populations with many ethnic and racial backgrounds, large percentages of foreign born individuals and the highest concentrations of children in the city.

Data from Census 2000 suggests that Seattle Housing Authority public housing facilities in Southeast and West Seattle played a role in bringing these diverse racial, ethnic and immigrant populations, children and those with lower incomes to the south end.

Trends in Southeast Seattle

- In 2000, there were high percentages of children in all of Southeast Seattle's census tracts, particularly in neighborhoods east of I-5 including North Rainier, Columbia City, Hillman City and the greater Rainier Beach area.
- In 2000, Southeast was home to some of the highest percentages of Asian, African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino populations in Seattle.
- Southeast also had the highest concentration of foreign born individuals in the city, particularly on Beacon Hill, and fairly high percentages of those who spoke languages other than English at home.
- Communities in the Rainier Beach neighborhood may have been the most diverse in the city in terms of race and ethnicity. In 2000, census tracts in the greater Rainier Beach area encompassed large concentrations of Asian, Black/African and to a lesser extent Hispanic/Latino populations as well as high percentages of foreign born individuals and those who spoke languages other than English at home.
- In Southeast Seattle south of I-90 and east of I-5, it appears that around half of the area's census tracts were above median income and half were below. The tracts below median included those with S.H.A. housing facilities such as Rainier Vista and the old Holly Park facility. Parts of Hillman City and Rainier Beach were also below median.
 - While sometimes not considered part of Southeast, tracts in the South Downtown and Georgetown areas were also under median.

Trends in West Seattle

- According to Census 2000, some of the highest percentages of children in the city were clustered around the Delridge, High Point, Westwood, Highland Park and South Park neighborhoods.
- In West Seattle in 2000, people 65 years and older were most notable in the very northernmost communities of the Admiral neighborhood adjacent to the Sound, in communities in and around the West Seattle Junction and in tracts clustered around Lincoln Park.
- Census tracts with higher percentages of those with disabilities included areas around the High Point public housing facility and in the South Park community.
- A large majority of those living in communities in the northern and western portions of West Seattle were white in 2000. The area south of Puget Park and east of 35th Avenue SW had higher percentages of Asian, African American and

- Hispanic/Latino residents. The tract which includes S.H.A.'s High Point housing facility had the lowest percentage of white individuals in West Seattle.
- In 2000, communities in the southeast section of West Seattle had fairly high concentrations of foreign born individuals and, to a lesser extent, those who spoke languages other than English at home.
 - Census tracts which recorded median household incomes higher than the median in West Seattle were clustered along the Puget Sound shoreline, in West Seattle's northern neighborhoods and also in census tracts in the Delridge and Highland Park communities. Tracts that were lower than median in 2000 included those in and around the West Seattle Junction and in the High Point and Westwood neighborhoods.

Overall Implications for Seattle Parks and Recreation

Census 2000 and other demographic data can provide useful information about local communities to Seattle Parks and Recreation as it undertakes planning, public involvement, project and programming activities. Specific instances of how demographic data can be utilized are listed below.

Planning

- At the start of any planning process, basic research of local populations residing near project and program sites should be considered.
- Consideration should be given to City and Seattle Parks and Recreation goals involving population, open space and facilities when planning or undertaking new projects and activities.
- Seattle Parks' distribution guidelines involving population goals, including those specific to children, should be considered when planning new facilities.

Public Involvement

- When starting new projects and activities, efforts should be made to become familiar with local populations and potential language barriers.
- Outreach and other public involvement strategies should target local communities and utilize translators for materials and meetings as appropriate.

Projects

- Parks and park facilities should continue to be designed with high flexibility and accessibility to accommodate people of different ages, capabilities and backgrounds.

Programming

- In areas with large clusters of certain population groups such as children, Seattle Parks should take advantage of opportunities for targeted sports and recreation programming.
- In communities with significant foreign born populations, Seattle Parks should consider programs and activities that draw on local residents' various cultural backgrounds.

Conclusion

This demographic overview of Seattle is meant to provide a useful tool to Seattle Parks and Recreation staff and others who wish to become familiar with Seattle's various populations. While most of the demographic data is from Census 2000, and therefore more than six years old, it can still be helpful in terms of providing a baseline of information about residents of neighborhoods located across the city.