King County’s Changing Demographics

Investigating our Increasing Diversity

Chandler Felt, Demographer
King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Regional Law, Safety & Justice Committee, February 23, 2017
King County Population Growth, 2000 - 2016

- King County now more than 2 million people
- Gained about 360,000 persons
- Gain is more than the population of Tacoma
- Half of this growth: foreign-born pop.
- Population grew 15%, while job numbers remained flat … until 2013
- South King County: gain of 70,000 in ten years
- Data we’re reporting are from 2010 Census and American Community Survey
Population diversity: compare King County to the U.S.

**People of Color**
- King County: 28.7%
- USA: 22.1%

**Foreign Born**
- King County: 20.3%
- USA: 12.9%

**People (5+ years old) who speak a language other than English at home**
- King County: 25.4%
- USA: 20.5%
Appearance of Equity
At a glance, King County outperforms the U.S. on socio-economic indicators

- **Good Health**
  - **Obese Adults**
    - King County: 22.0%
    - USA: 28.1%
  - **Adults Currently Smoking**
    - King County: 14.3%
    - USA: 19.6%

- **Highly Educated**
  - People 25+ years old with Bachelor’s degree or higher education
    - King County: 45.0%
    - USA: 26.5%

- **Lower Unemployment**
  - Unemployment rate (Dec. 2013)
    - King County: 4.7%
    - USA: 6.7%

- **High Life Expectancy**
  - Life expectancy at birth
    - King County: 81.4 years
    - USA: 78.7 years
    - World: 69.9 years

- **Strong Household Income**
  - Median household income
    - King County: $71,175
    - USA: $53,046
A Closer Look
Income by Race & Place

BY RACE
- AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK: $38.7k
- ASIAN: $73.9k
- HISPANIC/LATINO: $49.4k
- NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE: $42.0k
- PACIFIC ISLANDER/NATIVE HAWAIIAN: $60.6k
- WHITE: $74.7k
- MULTIPLE RACE: $60.0k

BY PLACE
- AVERAGE OF 20 ZIP CODES WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $118.5k
- AVERAGE OF 20 ZIP CODES WITH THE LOWEST ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $45.5k

KC AVERAGE: $71,175
Difference: $73k
A Closer Look
Graduation Rates by Race & Place

**BY RACE**
- **ABOVE KING COUNTY (KC) AVERAGE**
  - KC AVERAGE: 79.4%
  - AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK: 64.9%
  - ASIAN: 84.3%
  - HISPANIC/LATINO: 63.0%
  - NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE: 55.0%
  - PACIFIC ISLANDER/NATIVE HAWAIIAN: 65.4%
  - WHITE: 84.8%
  - MULTIPLE RACE: 78.7%

**BY PLACE**
- **KC AVERAGE**: 79.4%
- KING COUNTY: 90.8%
- AVERAGE OF 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE **HIGHEST** ON-TIME GRADUATION RATES
- DIFFERENCE OF 16.2%
- AVERAGE OF 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE **LOWEST** ON-TIME GRADUATION RATES
- 74.6%
- DIFFERENCE OF 29.8%
20 years of King County growth: increase is mostly persons of color
Where is our growth coming from?

- Only half of population growth is from natural increase – our own children
- Before 1990, migration – e.g. California
- In recent years, **immigration** –
  - All parts of Asia
  - Latin America
  - Eastern Europe
  - Africa
  - Some from these regions, via US states
More than half of our recent growth is immigration.

### King County Population Trend by Place of Birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Native-born</th>
<th>Foreign-born</th>
<th>Total pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1,366,700</td>
<td>140,600</td>
<td>1,507,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,468,700</td>
<td>268,300</td>
<td>1,737,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,544,500</td>
<td>395,100</td>
<td>1,939,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Immigrants Dominate Population Growth

- **1990**: 1,366,700 Native-born, 140,600 Foreign-born, Total 1,507,300
- **2000**: 1,468,700 Native-born, 268,300 Foreign-born, Total 1,737,000
- **2011**: 1,544,500 Native-born, 395,100 Foreign-born, Total 1,939,600

*Diagram shows the dominant population growth is due to immigrants.*
Increasing numbers speak other languages

### King County Languages Other Than English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speak other language</td>
<td>299,600</td>
<td>497,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English proficiency</td>
<td>137,700</td>
<td>201,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
King County residents speak 170 different languages

Major Languages Spoken in King County

- Spanish: 102,000
- Ukrainian: 10,000
- Russian: 17,700
- Vietnamese: 30,200
- Chinese: 51,000
- Korean: 21,100
- Japanese: 11,300
- Tagalog: 22,900
- Hindi, Punjabi: 18,400
- Somali, Amharic: 23,400
- Ger, French: 20,400
- Other: 73,500

Total: 401,900
Spanish speakers in King County by census tract

- Highest category: 22% - 37% speaking Spanish

Spanish speakers are widely distributed
Chinese languages in King County

- Highest categories: 10% - 31% speaking Chinese.
  Evenly split between Cantonese, Mandarin

Also widely distributed, Seattle and Eastside
African languages in King County

- Highest category: 10% - 23% speaking languages including Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali.

Clustered in Seattle and SW King County
Three broad subareas of King County:

- Seattle-Shoreline
- Eastside
- South King County
Population growth: more than 400,000 in 20 years
Growth shifting from South King County to Seattle
All 3 subareas are becoming more diverse
2015 population by race, in thousands

Population in thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seattle-Shorln</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>King County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NH White</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>1,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+ Race</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hisp/Latino</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>2,046</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South King County Shares of King County Population, 2010

South County Share of King Co.

South King County Shares of Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pct of King Co.</th>
<th>Total Pop</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Persons-of-Color</th>
<th>Latinos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A majority of South King County kids are kids of color
Median income varies substantially by subarea; increasing disparity by subarea

Medan Household Income by Subarea, 2006-8; 2011-15

- **East KC**: up 17.4%
- **South KC**: up 6.7%
- **King Co. median**: up 12% to $75,300
King County Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity

Income in thousands of 2012 dollars

- BLACK / AFR-AMER: $40,500
- NATIVE AMER.: $48,800
- HISP / LATINO: $71,200
- 2+ race
- Pacif Islander
- Asian
- Non-Hisp white
- ALL HOUSEHOLDS: $71,200
Updated Income Distribution: where’s the middle class now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Median household income:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 50%</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>195,600</td>
<td>1999, ('99$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 80%</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>125,300</td>
<td>'99, ('07$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 120%</td>
<td>140,500</td>
<td>139,100</td>
<td>2010-12, ('12$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120 - 180%</td>
<td>145,700</td>
<td>148,250</td>
<td>$53,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 180%</td>
<td>147,900</td>
<td>188,350</td>
<td>$66,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total H'holds</td>
<td>711,300</td>
<td>796,600</td>
<td><strong>$69,346</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty rates – and trends – vary by race

- NH White
- Black
- Asian
- Latino

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1989</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2005-9</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| NH White
| 0.0% | 4.0% | 8.0%   | 12.0%|
| Black
| 4.0% | 8.0% | 12.0%  | 16.0%|
| Asian
| 8.0% | 12.0%| 16.0%  | 20.0%|
| Latino
| 12.0%| 16.0%| 20.0%  | 24.0%|
Poverty rates have jumped up with the recession.
Numbers of persons below poverty: now primarily in the suburbs
Poverty by Subarea,
King County 2011-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subarea</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Below Pov.</th>
<th>% below Pov.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>525,200</td>
<td>30,900</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>738,900</td>
<td>99,100</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeaShore</td>
<td>752,600</td>
<td>96,200</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County</td>
<td>2,016,700</td>
<td>226,200</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POVERTY RATES, 2011-15:
- King Co: 11.2%
- South KC: ~ 13%
- Latinos, countywide: ~ 22%
- Latinos, South KC: ~ 25%
Unincorporated King County: dwindling share of population

Change in Jurisdictions, 1980 – 2016

(Population in thousands)
What future trends can we expect?

- Continuing population growth in Puget Sound.
- Continuing increase in diversity of cultures.
- Perhaps increasing disparity between communities.
- Growth in Seattle and the suburban cities - less growth on the fringe.
- Continuing shift from unincorporated into cities
What future trends can we expect?

- Continuing population growth in Puget Sound.
- Continuing increase in diversity of cultures...
- Perhaps Probably increasing disparity between communities.
- Growth in Seattle and the suburban cities - less growth on the fringe.
- Housing price increase: slowing soon?
- Continuing shift from unincorporated into cities – or not
Data Sources

• US Census and American Community Survey
  – www.census.gov click on “American FactFinder” at page bottom

• Washington state Office of Fin. Mgmt (OFM)
  – www.ofm.wa.gov click on “population…”

• WA state Employment Security Dept (ESD)
  – www.esd.wa.gov look for “data and reports”

• Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
  – www.psrc.org various data including forecasts

**FORECASTS:**

www.psrc.org click on www.psrc.org/data/forecasts/
Thank you!

- Questions…?
  - Chandler Felt, Demographer
  - King County Office of Performance Strategy and Budget
  - Seattle, WA 98104
  - (206) 263 – 9693
  - Chandler.felt@kingcounty.gov
Leftovers

• Not included in presentation
Population growth shifts from unincorporated areas to cities

Source: WA OFM
Refugee population in King County

Numbers steady until recently
South King has majority

Refugees in King County, 2000-09

- South King Co.
- East and other
- Seattle+North
The Near-Term Future: the end of our decade growth cycles?

• For decades, King County population has grown about 1% per year, with 10-yr boom/bust cycle.

• Since 2012, growth at 2% per year.
• In three years, + 120,000 people, + 120,000 jobs
• Will rapid growth continue? Indefinitely?
• Expert observers have differing views!
20 years of South King County growth: entirely persons of color

Population in thousands

- **1990**: 460 (Non-Hisp. White) + 70 (Persons of Color) = 530
- **2000**: 463 (Non-Hisp. White) + 178 (Persons of Color) = 641
- **2010**: 417 (Non-Hisp. White) + 298 (Persons of Color) = 715

Legend:
- Blue: Non-Hisp. White
- Green: Persons of Color
Spanish speakers in South King County

- Highest category: 18% - 37% speaking Spanish
King County age distribution in 2000

King County Age Distribution, 2000

- 85+
- 80-84
- 75-79
- 70-74
- 65-69
- 60-64
- 55-59
- 50-54
- 45-49
- 40-44
- 35-39
- 30-34
- 25-29
- 20-24
- 15-19
- 10-14
- 5-9
- 0-4
King County age distribution in 2020
20-year change: boomers, young adults, pre-schoolers
The region’s population is becoming increasingly diverse: 1990
The region’s population is becoming increasingly diverse: 2000
The region’s population is becoming increasingly diverse: 2010
Census data show diversity – and need – in Renton

- 33% of Renton residents speak other language.
- Among county’s most diverse cities, with 51% persons-of-color, and 25% foreign-born.
- Median income 15% below countywide median.
- 11% of residents are below poverty level, ‘05-09.
- 53% of Renton residents & 49% of youth received DSHS assistance in 2009-10.
- 80+ languages spoken in Renton schools, and 57%+ eligible for free/reduced price meals.
And similar Census stats in SeaTac

- 40% of SeaTac residents speak other language.
- Among county’s most diverse cities, with 61% persons-of-color, and 31% foreign-born.
- Median income 29% below countywide median.
- 13% of residents are below poverty level, ‘06-10.
- 70+ languages spoken in Highline schools, and 69%+ eligible for free/reduced price meals.
- Unemployment rate remains about 10%.
Diversity in Tukwila

- 43% of Tukwila residents speak other language.
- County’s most diverse city with 62% persons-of-color, and 34% foreign-born.
- Median income 34% below countywide median.
- 24% of residents are below poverty level, ‘05-09.
- 47% of Tukwila residents & 87% of youth received DSHS assistance in 2007-8.
- 60+ languages spoken in Tukwila schools, and 70%+ eligible for free/reduced price meals.

Note: these stats are from 2011.
Hispanic/Latino Population Growth in King County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Ages</th>
<th>Pct of Total Pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>44,337</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>95,242</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>172,378</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Latino Kids is Growing Faster

**King County Hispanic / Latino Pop Under Age 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>14,465</td>
<td>31,200</td>
<td>59,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pct of All Children</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Region has High Educational Levels

Percent of Adult Population with a Bachelor's Degree

- U.S.: 27.9%
- King County: 46.9%
- Seattle: 56.0%
- South KC: 0%
But South King County has not fully shared in that educational attainment.