

Communities Count 2008

A Report on the Strength of King County's Communities



This summary report was prepared from *Communities Count 2008: Social and Health Indicators Across King County*. Details of the social and health indicators used throughout this report are available in the complete report, which is available at www.communitiescount.org.

Copies are also available from:

- Public Health – Seattle & King County: 206-263-8767
- King County Children and Family Commission: 206-263-8764
- All King County Public Libraries

Acknowledgements

The Urban Institute's Arts and Culture Indicators Project, Washington, DC provided data for some Arts and Culture indicators.

Sustainable Seattle prepared some Natural and Built Environment indicators.

The Communities Count Steering Committee is pleased to include images from Youth in Focus and the REACH Camera Club in this report. Thanks to all of the photographers whose work graces these pages.

Communities Count Funders:

Communities Count acknowledges The Seattle Foundation as both a partner and as fiscal sponsor. The Seattle Foundation has convened a funding collaborative of area foundations and corporate donors* that recognizes the value of Communities Count indicators to inform their work.

Funders include:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*
- Boeing Company*
- City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department
- City of Seattle Human Services Department
- King County Children and Family Commission
- Microsoft Corporation*
- Paul G. Allen Family Foundation*
- Public Health-Seattle & King County
- The Seattle Foundation*
- United Way of King County
- The Urban Institute

Produced by:

- Assessment, Policy Development and Evaluation Unit, Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Zgroup (www.zgrp.com)
- Rotary Offset Press

A Report on the Strength of King County's Communities



Communities Count

Communities Count 2008 is the fourth report to look at the "people and community indicators" for King County. Residents from all parts of the county and from different backgrounds have told us what they value and what worries them.

More than 1,500 King County residents participated through a random telephone survey and a series of focus groups and community forums. From this work, a set of indicators was selected as the most meaningful to residents regarding the overall health of King County. We are pleased to present a summary of the updated Communities Count 2008 report. For detailed information or copies of the full report, please visit www.communitiescount.org.

COMMUNITIES COUNT is a collaborative initiative of public and private organizations. The King County Children and Family Commission provided initial vision and funding. The Communities Count Steering Committee provides overall leadership for the project. Public Health – Seattle & King County prepares the full report.

Communities Count Partners:

- City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department
- City of Seattle Human Services Department
- City of Renton
- King County Children and Family Commission
- Public Health-Seattle & King County
- Sustainable Seattle
- The Seattle Foundation
- United Way of King County



About King County



Photo: Jim S. REACH



The King County population in 2008 is estimated to be 1,884,200, an increase of 9% since the 2000 Census. King County's largest city, Seattle, had a 5% increase in population.

King County's fastest growing age groups are people ages 45 to 64 and over 74 years old. In 2000, the number of people ages 45 to 64 surpassed the number of children under 18 for the first time since 1980.

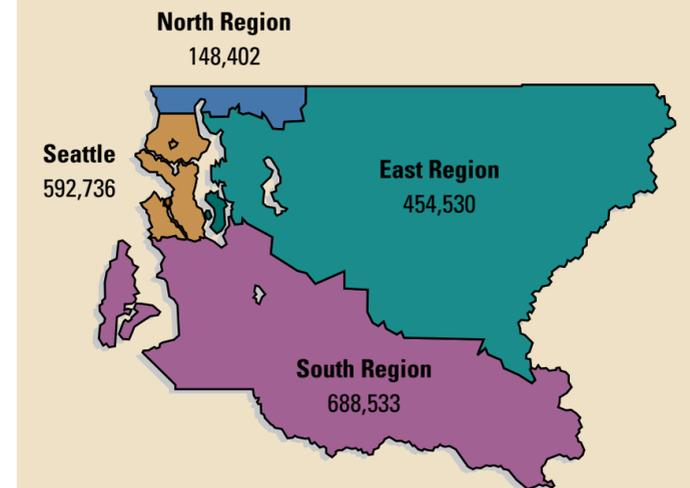
The County is increasing in racial diversity. For the County as a whole, and for Seattle, South and North Regions, the Hispanic/Latino population grew faster than any other racial/ethnic group.

The percent of King County residents who are immigrants increased substantially, from 9% in 1990 to 15% in 2000. This proportion increased in all regions, with the largest increases in East and South Regions.

Over 46 languages are spoken in King County and almost one in five people speak a language other than English. Among the major language groups, the highest percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander speakers are in Seattle (11%) and East Region (8%). Spanish speakers make up 5% of the population in the South Region (2000 Census data).

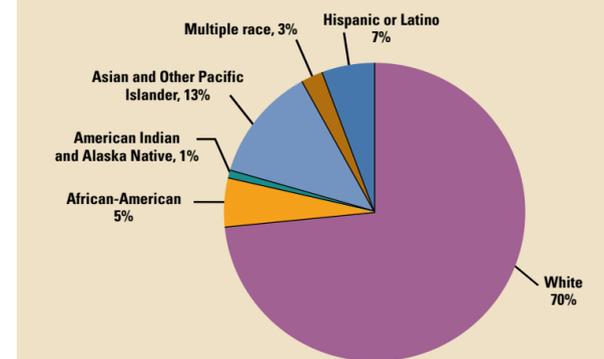


King County Regions



Source: 2008 population estimates, WA State Department of Health

King County Population by Race & Ethnicity 2008



Source: 2008 population estimates, WA State Department of Health

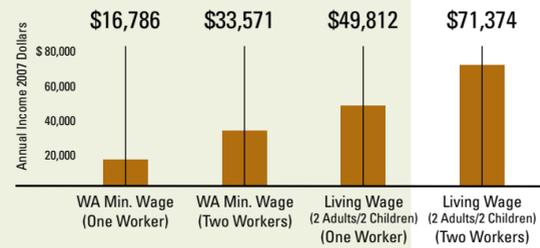


Basic Needs

What is a 'living wage'?

A living wage is the minimum income that a family needs to provide the basic necessities of life. A living wage for a family of 4 with only one working adult is about \$50,000 annually. A single person needs to earn at least \$26,000 a year to afford a basic standard of living. A family of 4 where both adults work would need \$71,374 a year to cover basic expenses, plus child care.

Minimum wage is not a living wage



Source: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations & U.S. Department of Labor

Almost half of all jobs available in King County do not pay a living wage income

- 24% of jobs don't pay a living wage for a single person.
- 76% of jobs don't pay a living wage for a single parent with a toddler and school-age child.
- 64% of jobs don't pay a living wage for a 4 person family with one wage earner.

One of the main reasons for the substantial rise in living wage income required in the Northwest in the past five years is the rise in health care costs.

Food, housing and enough money to pay for life's daily necessities top the list of what King County residents say is important for everyone. Almost seven percent of adults surveyed in 2007 said that they had run out of food some time in the past year.

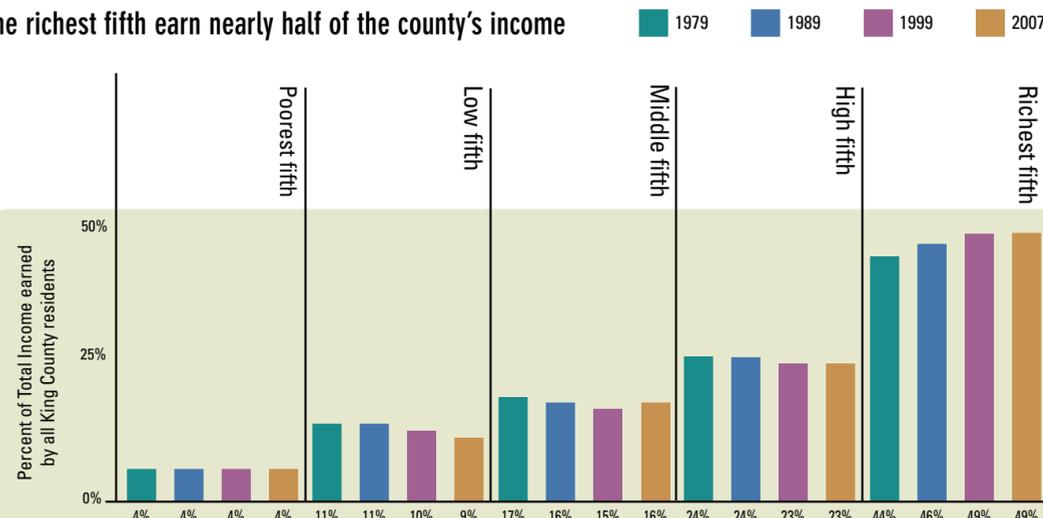
The gap between rich and poor continues to grow

One way to illustrate the growing gap between the richest and poorest in King County is to measure income distribution across the population. The poorest twenty percent of households (those earning less than \$29,400 a year), together earn less than four percent of the total income in the county in 2007. But the richest households (with annual incomes above \$124,800) earn 49% of the total county income.

Wide income inequality has a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of the entire population. In addition, studies conducted throughout the United States show that as the gap between rich and poor increases, crime goes up, participation in voting declines, and death rates increase for people at all income levels.



The richest fifth earn nearly half of the county's income



Source: U.S. Census

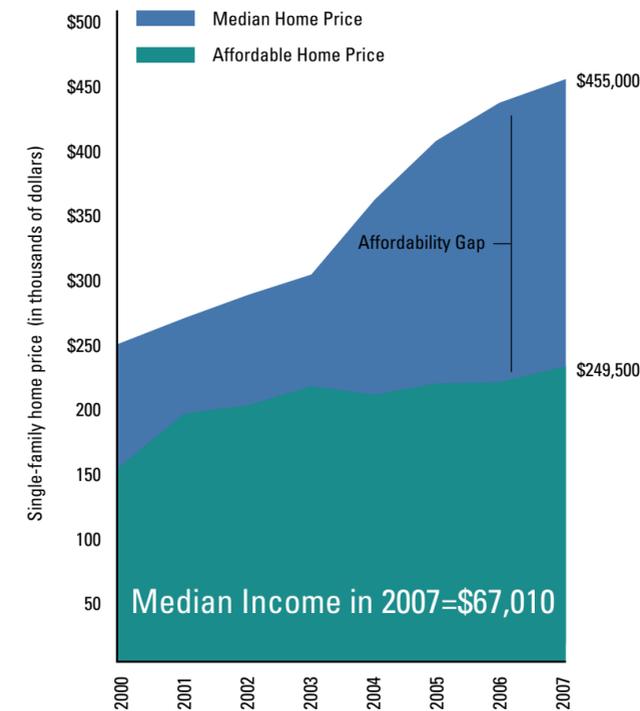
Basic Needs



Home ownership takes a larger share of income

The American dream of owning your own home is out of reach for many King County residents because of an increasing gap between what families can reasonably afford, and actual home sale prices in the local market. This is called the housing affordability gap. The median price of a single-family home in King County has increased \$131,000 in three years to \$455,000 (in 2007). A median income family could only afford to pay \$249,500 with a 10% down payment.

Median income will not buy a median-priced home



Source: Washington Center for Real Estate Research
Median price means half the houses costs more than that amount and half costs less.

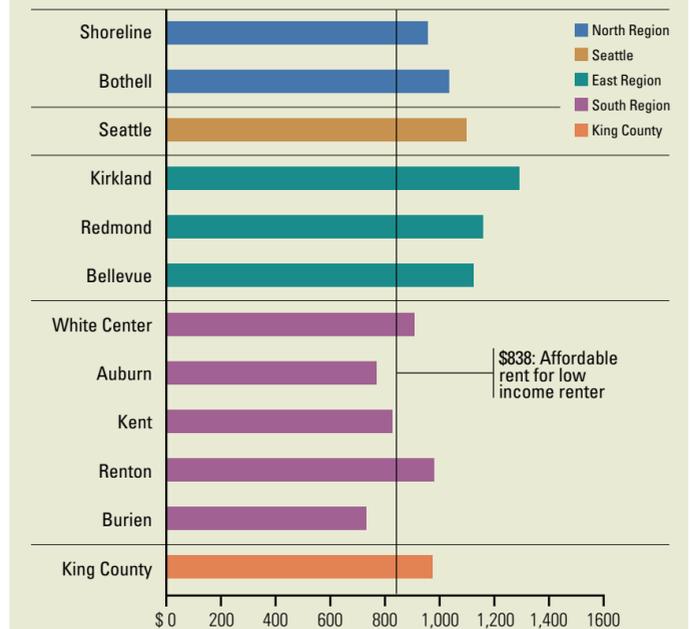
Running out of food

Seven percent of adults in King County said that they sometimes or often ran out of food, and did not have money to buy more. Just over 8% of King County adults reported they couldn't always afford to eat balanced meals. King County food banks served 215,941 people in 2007, almost 80,000 of them children.

Not enough affordable rental housing is available for our low-income neighbors

Many low-income individuals and families have a hard time finding apartments or houses that they can afford to rent. A family earning less than \$33,500 a year cannot afford the average King County rent of \$957 for a 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, unless they spend more than the recommended portion of their income on housing. Cities in South King County have a greater proportion of rentals that are affordable to low income households than cities in other regions.

Affordable rental housing for low income people



Average Monthly Rent for 2 Bedroom/1 Bath

Source: April 2008 Dupre + Scott Apartment Vacancy Report



Making Trade-Offs

Affordable Housing, Transportation and Quality of Life in King County

“I am worried about young families being able to afford housing in King County. I think about my house—I bought my house for \$135,000 and it’s now worth \$315,000. How is a young family making \$15 an hour going to afford that?”

“If I’m going to live in a house, I want to buy a house. I don’t want to keep renting. So we got pre-approved for a loan, we started looking at what we could afford in the different areas. And most of them were like way, way out. We’re talking way out.”

A Balancing Act for Middle Income Families

As housing costs have risen in King County, more people are moving farther away from the city in search of affordable housing and spending more time and money commuting. What are the trade-offs they are making to balance housing, transportation and quality of life? Are they finding strategies that work, or are more middle-income households struggling harder to make ends meet and losing out on their goals of home ownership, a more secure future, and good quality of life?

To answer these questions, Communities Count interviewed 40 people in middle income households across King County. We spoke with renters and owners, young couples, people living alone, families with children, single parents and seniors. The interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

“Everyone else I know has had to move out . . . it is sad.”

Carol is a young, single parent with a school-age daughter. They live, work and go to school in the Central District of Seattle. Carol loves her neighborhood.

“I like that it is in the city, I just like the sense of community being a person of color, you can look around and there are people just like you. And I like that my daughter is in a school that is predominately people of color so she can relate very well.”

Carol works full time as a youth advocate for a Seattle-based organization. Her annual income is in the lower-middle income range. She struggles to make ends meet most months. About 36% of Carol’s income goes for housing alone and she fears she will need to move out of the city to find more affordable housing.

“It is getting harder to stay because it is so expensive. I don’t know how much longer I will last. We have been in the same house for five years now and I like the neighborhood, the street we live on, everything, but we are having to move soon because the rent is getting to be too much. I am really glad I have been able to stay this long because everyone else I know has had to move out...it is sad. Being out of this area is going to be a bummer, it really is. We will be giving up a lot. I will not be close to my job and my daughter will not be close to her school anymore.”



Affordable Housing in King County: How Affordable Is It?

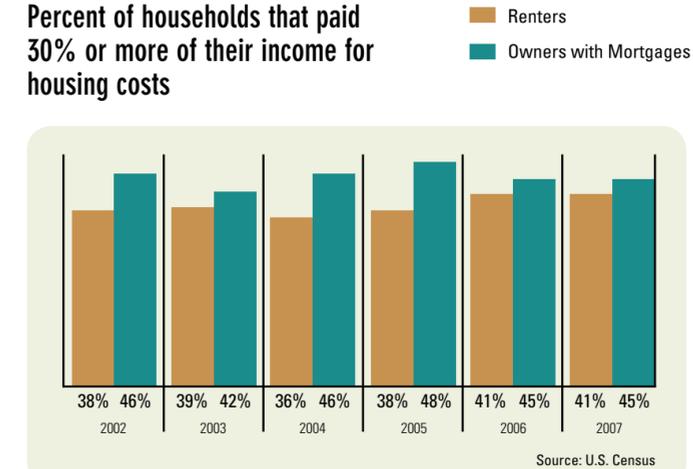
Middle income households represent teachers, firefighters, police officers, retail clerks, community organizers, non-profit employees, health care and construction workers, and a host of other workers essential to the economic vitality of the region. Yet, these workers often cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work and for some, the “American dream” of home ownership is fading.

- Between 2000 and 2007, median home prices in King County increased 7% per year, but median incomes rose just 4% per year.
- Home prices dropped in 2008, but most single-family homes are still unaffordable for middle income households.
- A family earning \$45,000 a year can afford to spend no more than \$1,100 a month on rent. Average rents for a 2 bedroom apartment in East King County are over \$1,200 and almost \$1,200 in Seattle.
- In 2007, 41% of owners with mortgages and 45% of renters in King County paid over 30% of their income on housing.

Making Trade-Offs



Percent of households that paid 30% or more of their income for housing costs



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recommends that a person or family spend no more than 30% of their income on housing. People with low or middle incomes who spend more than they can afford on housing have little left over for other necessities. They often skip on other basic needs such as health care, pay some bills and not others, work a second job, or take on more debt. Most have little or no savings and risk losing their home if a serious financial emergency should hit them. Young couples think about moving out of the county altogether in order to afford to buy their first home.



Thanh and her husband came to the United States from Vietnam in 1991. They lived for 11 years in subsidized housing in Seattle. Thanh works seven days a week at two jobs while her husband cares for their four children during the day. He works at night delivering newspapers. Their income is in the lower-middle income range, but with frugal spending and the assistance of siblings to raise the down payment, they were able to purchase their first home a few years ago. They would have liked to stay close to their old neighborhood as it was near Thanh’s work, their kids were established in schools, and they were friends with many of their neighbors.

“I lived there for so long. But the housing market was so expensive in Seattle. We finally decided to move farther out to find a house that we can afford. This is the reason I live here, but really, we don’t want to live in this area.”

Thanh complains that it is far from her work and she feels isolated from old friends. She would like to take the bus to work, but bus routes in her new neighborhood are limited and it is a 20 minute walk to the nearest bus stop. However, Thanh feels the trade offs her family made to purchase their first home have been worth it.

“When I came to the U.S. I always wanted to have my own home. I can park my car, plant trees, my kids can play freely. I don’t have to ask permission from anybody. It is my dream. I am very happy. I hope very much that I can keep it forever, maintain it, save it like an inheritance for my kids later on.”



Making Trade-Offs

Public transportation doesn't work for working parents

Yvette, a mother of a pre-school age child, lives in Federal Way and works in Seattle. She sums up her challenge in making public transportation fit with her work schedule and her child care center's hours:

"It would be great if I could catch the bus...but I couldn't figure out how to get it done with daycare. The earliest I can drop my son off is 7:20, then I'd have to get to the Park and Ride, park, and get on the bus and make it to work by 8:00; it was just not going to happen."

Commuting 4 hours a day

Emelita, her husband and their infant daughter recently moved out of Renton. Her husband needs their car for his job and she takes the bus. *"I go to school everyday; my class starts at 9:30. I leave my house at 7:40 in the morning with my daughter...it is about a 20 minute walk to the bus stop. I take the first bus to downtown Renton and wait for another bus that will take me to school. It takes about two hours each way."*

Transportation and Commuting: How Is It Working?

People travel longer distances to work and spend more time commuting than ever before. Driving to work costs in time, money and stress.

- Average commute time in King County is just over 25 minutes.
- For every dollar saved on lower-cost housing farther away from work, about 77¢ of that dollar is spent on transportation.
- Many people say they like the idea of taking a bus, but additional time required and lack of service connections make it an undesirable trade-off.
- In 2007, 67% of King County residents drove alone to work.
- 11% used public transportation, 11% carpooled and 5% walked or biked to work.



Making Trade-Offs



Putting It All Together

Middle income wage earners are working hard to hold it all together— to get to and from their jobs, to stretch their incomes to meet expenses, and to take care of their families. They are making trade-offs in time, where they can afford to live, and how they will pay for basic necessities. The people we interviewed shared many common views about what worked for them and what helped to improve their quality of life:

- Enough time for leisure, family, friends, hobbies, self-improvement and other activities.
- A place to live that provides safety, parks, good schools, libraries, natural beauty, sense of well-being and other resources.
- Opportunities to get involved in their community and help others.
- Flexible work schedules & ability to work from home.
- A transportation infrastructure that helps, rather than hinders, their ability to commute to work and travel around the area.

I don't feel like I have a choice

Clarissa and her husband found a townhouse they could afford in the Kent/Covington area. Both drive a significant distance to work. They have considered taking the bus, but the nearest stop is almost two miles from their house, and the bus does not go to their job sites. When adding up how much she and her husband spend monthly on gasoline, Clarissa came to the realization that they are spending a lot. She would like to look for employment where she has *"...the ability to choose whether or not I want to drive, or take the bus, or walk. I don't feel like I have a huge choice right now."* Meanwhile, she thinks improving public transportation is an important priority for the county, *"I think the buses, and I think this new light rail that they're building will definitely be helpful in the community. Everybody can't have a car. Everybody can't afford a car. I mean, you can buy a car, but you still have to keep it up."*





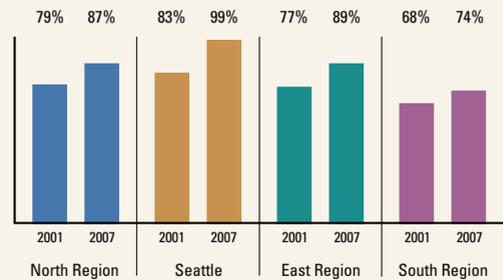
Children



More Parents Read to Young Children

Reading or telling stories in any language helps to prepare young children for school. These activities promote language development, and later on, reading comprehension and overall success in school.

Parents prepare children for learning by reading and storytelling



Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey

Not enough public funding for early care and education

Public funding of early care and education, particularly Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, is already reducing some of the gaps in preschool attendance, but is totally inadequate to reach all of the children who are eligible and who might benefit. In King County, only 27% of eligible children will receive these valuable early services. Over 9,100 three and four year olds who are eligible will not be served by these programs in the 2007-2008 school year.

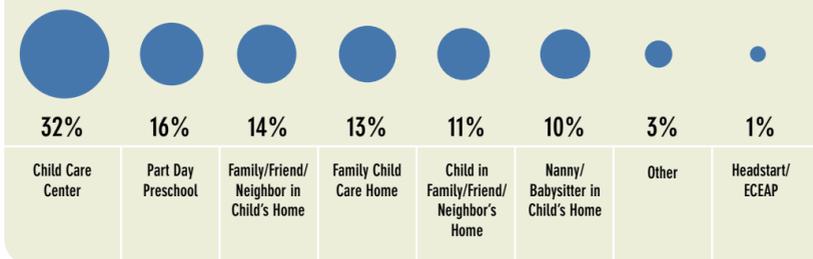
Childhood is a key period of every person's development, and we want all children to have

- Healthy, happy lives
- Quality child care
- Academic achievement



Parents' most common concerns about child care were quality, location, schedules and cost. Infant care is the most expensive; consuming up to 23% of median income. Costs range from an average of \$1,034 per month in South Region to \$1,291 per month in East Region. Preschool center costs range from \$746 per month in the South Region to \$916 per month in the East Region. One in five families receive a subsidy for child care. The maximum subsidized rate for preschool care in King County in 2006 was \$621 per month.

Percent of young children in various types of child care



More children living in poverty

Over 56,000 children under the age of 18 in King County were living in poverty in 2007. This number has jumped by over 18,000 children since 1999. At the same time, an increasing percentage of King County residents of all ages lived in poverty, from 8% in 1999 to 14% in 2007.

Children growing up in poverty are at greater risk of health problems, and are not as likely as their peers to achieve academic success.

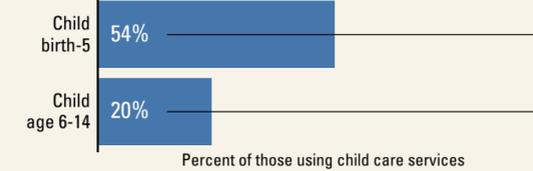
Percent and number of children 0-17 living below federal poverty level

Percent in 1989	Number in 1989	Percent in 1999	Number in 1999	Percent in 2007	Number in 2007
10%	32,595	10%	37,954	14%	56,230

Sources: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census and 2007 American Community Survey



Half of our youngest children are in regularly scheduled child care



Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey

Families rely on quality, affordable child care

Parents choose child care programs to provide their children with enriching experiences. They also depend on child care when adults are at work and cannot provide that care themselves.

According to a county-wide survey:

- Over half of King County children ages 5 and younger attend some type of regularly scheduled child care.
- Almost half of these young children were in child care for at least 25 hours a week.
- Among school-age children, 20% were in organized before- and after-school activities or various types of child care.

Protecting our children

Child abuse is the physical, psychological or sexual mistreatment, or physical neglect of children by their parents or guardians. The most common form of child abuse is neglect. Suspected cases of child abuse are referred to Washington Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS staff screen these reports, and investigate cases involving roughly 3 percent of children (ages birth to 17) in King County each year. Many more cases go unreported.

Number of King County children reported to be abused

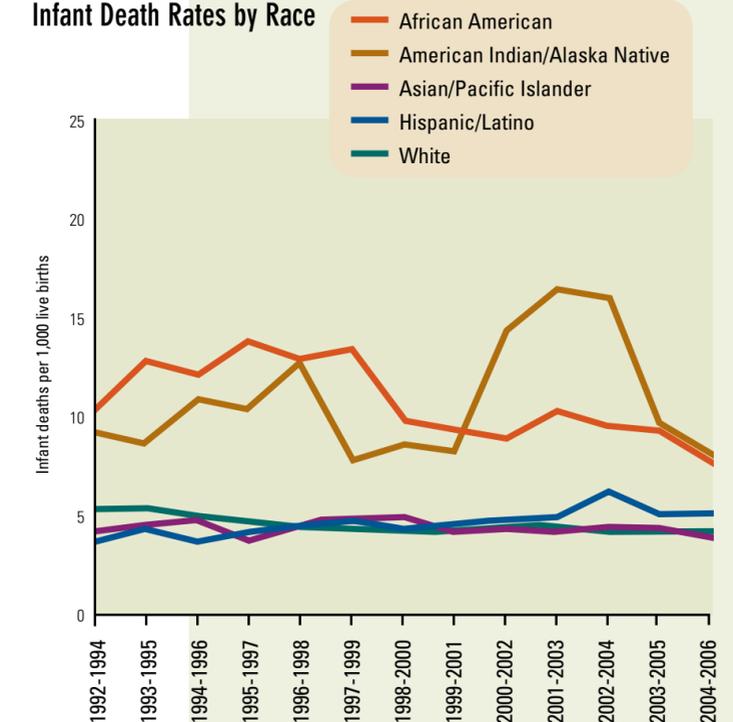
Year	Ages 0-5	Total Ages 0-17	Percent of all children Ages 0-17
2002	4,059	10,627	2.7%
2007	4,330	11,495	2.9%

Source: The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Case and Management Information System

Infant mortality rates are down in King County, but not for all communities equally

In King County and throughout the nation, infant mortality rates have been declining steadily since the 1980s. In 2006, 100 infants under one year of age died in King County. Infant death rates remain significantly higher for African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives than for other racial and ethnic groups.

Infant Death Rates by Race



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics



Teens

Graduation rates for Classes of 2002, 2004, 2006

School District	2002	2004	2006
Auburn	76%	72%	83%
Bellevue	76%	89%	89%
Enumclaw	92%	78%	81%
Federal Way	65%	78%	72%
Highline	57%	74%	65%
Issaquah	89%	88%	90%
Kent	82%	69%	67%
Lake Washington	86%	87%	88%
Mercer Island	93%	95%	84%
Northshore	90%	77%	88%
Renton	51%	75%	75%
Riverview	86%	90%	87%
Seattle	53%	63%	45%
Shoreline	80%	81%	79%
Skykomish	57%	39%	61%
Snoqualmie Valley	62%	79%	88%
Tahoma	66%	74%	82%
Tukwila	62%	50%	42%
Vashon Island	73%	82%	94%

Source: Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction



All teens need support from their families and communities, to:

- Excel academically
- Avoid risky behaviors
- Grow into emotionally healthy adults

Graduation rates for Classes of 2002, 2004, and 2006

King County School Districts report “On Time” graduation rates, based on tracking entering students from 9th grade through completion of high school. Local graduation rates ranged from 42% to 94% in 2006. Graduation rates improved in 12 out of 19 districts. Six of the 19 school districts had graduation rates less than 75%.

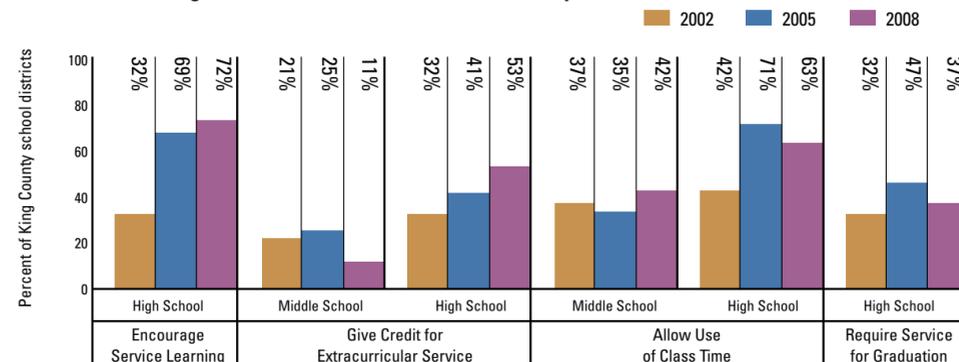


Photo: Youth In Focus

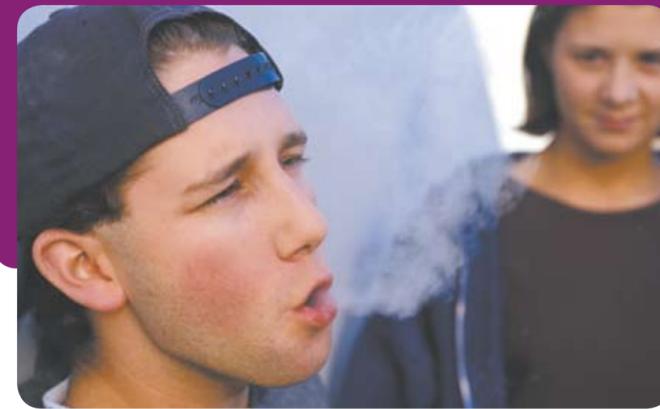
Encouraging Youth Community Service

Service to others and to the community is an important shared value in our society. Policies that encourage students to participate in community service and learning reinforce this important aspect of young people’s development. There is increasing support for student involvement in community service and learning among King County school districts.

Schools encourage student service to the community



Source: 2008 Survey of School District Policies/Practices that Support Student Service to Community



Teens

Risk and Protection among King County’s youth

Protective factors are the elements of a social environment that help young people develop in positive directions, while risk factors are conditions in life that may push youth towards unsafe behaviors and harmful outcomes, such as violent acts and alcohol abuse. Examples of protective factors include having the opportunity to participate in activities such as arts groups, clubs, or sports; having positive relations with peers; receiving positive recognition from parents and teachers; and having an understanding of right and wrong. Research shows that such experiences can protect youth from the negative influence of risk factors such as alcohol, tobacco, or other drug abuse, violence, dropping out of school, and delinquent behaviors. In surveys of 8th graders in Washington and King County, certain risk and protective factors stand out:



Youth report having some protective factors in their daily lives.

- Almost seven in ten said that they had opportunities for community involvement.
- Three out of five students had opportunities for positive involvement at school.

However, many youth do not connect with their schools and neighborhoods.

- Almost two out of five students reported that they felt little commitment to their schools.
- About one in three students reported low connectedness to their neighborhoods.
- Just under half reported experiencing academic failure.

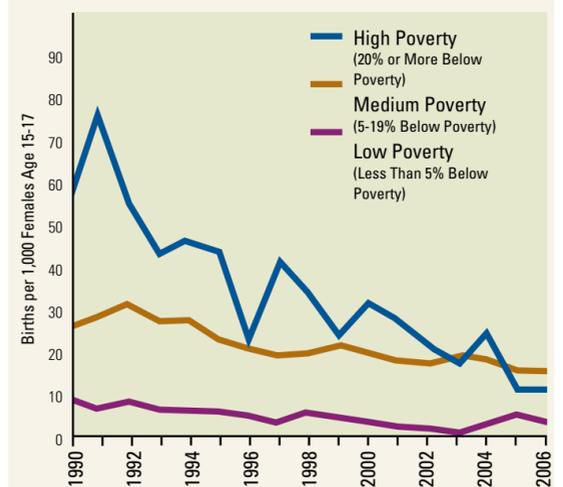
Teen births decreasing – but higher in poorer neighborhoods

Infants born to mothers under 18 are at greater risk of death and more likely to be low birth weight. Young mothers and their children tend to have fewer educational, economic and social opportunities.

- Teen birth rates are decreasing across all of King County, especially in Seattle.
- This is true for teens from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, except Latinas, among whom the birth rate has been increasing since the late 1990’s.
- Birth rates among teenage girls in the poorest neighborhoods in King County have dropped steeply, but are still higher than those for girls who live in wealthier areas.

Teen births by neighborhood poverty level

Birth Rates Among Females Ages 15-17 By Neighborhood Poverty Level in King County, 1990-2006



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, and 2000 U.S. Census



Adults

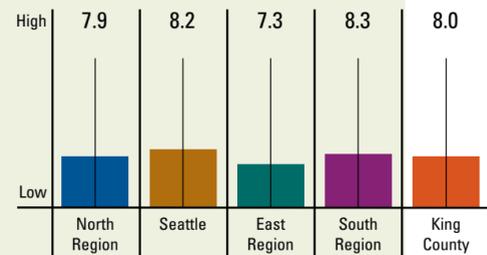
Stress

Experiences such as lack of control over work and home life, anxiety, insecurity, low self-esteem, or social isolation can, over time, have powerful effects on health.

- Adults in Seattle and South Regions reported more stress than in East Region.
- Stress decreased in East Region since 2001.

Regional Stress Index

Average Level of Stress in King County

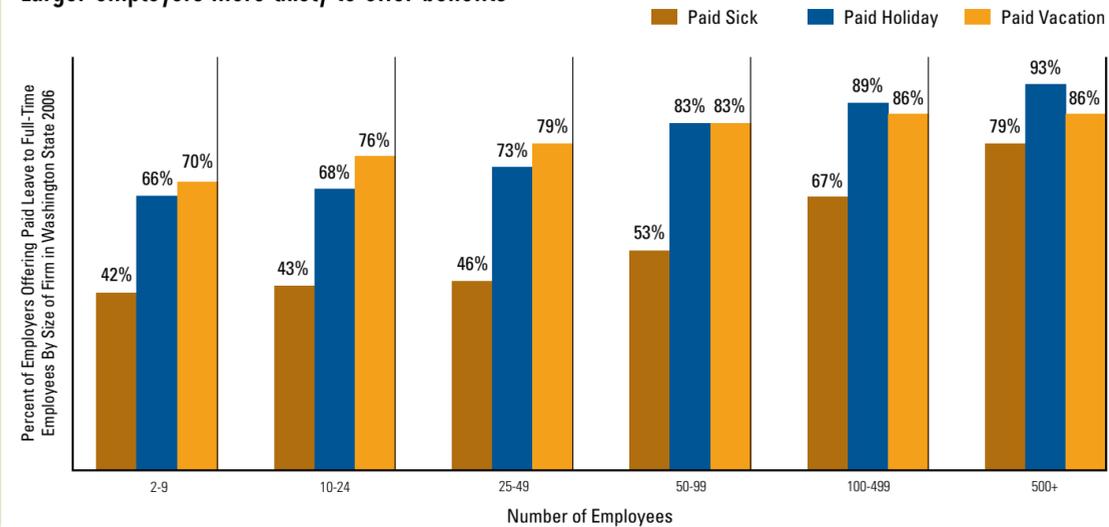


2007 King County Community Health Survey

Family-friendly benefits

Benefits available for workers and their families, such as paid or unpaid family, medical and personal leave, child care benefits, telecommuting options, and retirement plans, affect how people plan for their own and their families' needs. A state-wide survey shows that larger employers are more likely to offer paid leave to their full-time employees than smaller firms. Part-time employees are much less likely to have access to paid vacation, sick leave, or retirement benefits.

Larger employers more likely to offer benefits



Source: 2007 Washington State Employee Benefits Survey



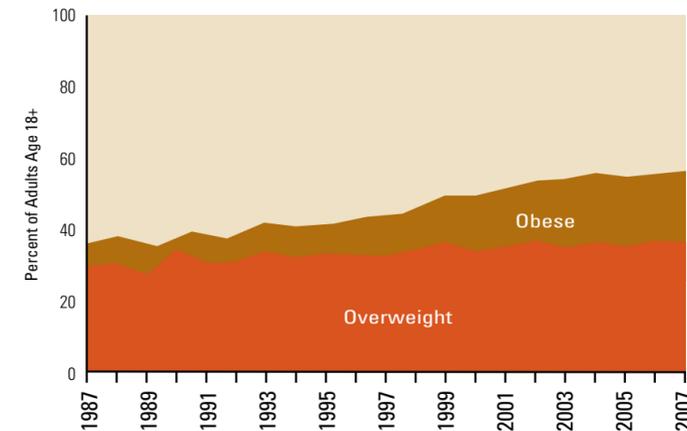
Health

Being physically active and keeping weight down are part of leading healthier lives. Overall, fewer adults are smokers. Smoking among 12th graders has not changed.

Over half of adults are overweight or obese

Over half of King County residents are overweight or obese. About half of adults (55%) report that they exercise moderately about 30 minutes a day, five times a week (the recommended level of physical activity).

Obesity increasing

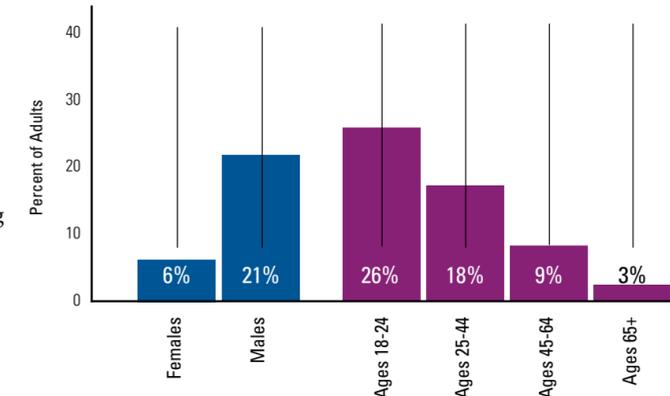


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Young adults binge drink more

The rate of binge drinking (5 or more drinks on one occasion in the last month) among King County adults has not changed over the past decade. Binge drinking is higher among young adults and men.

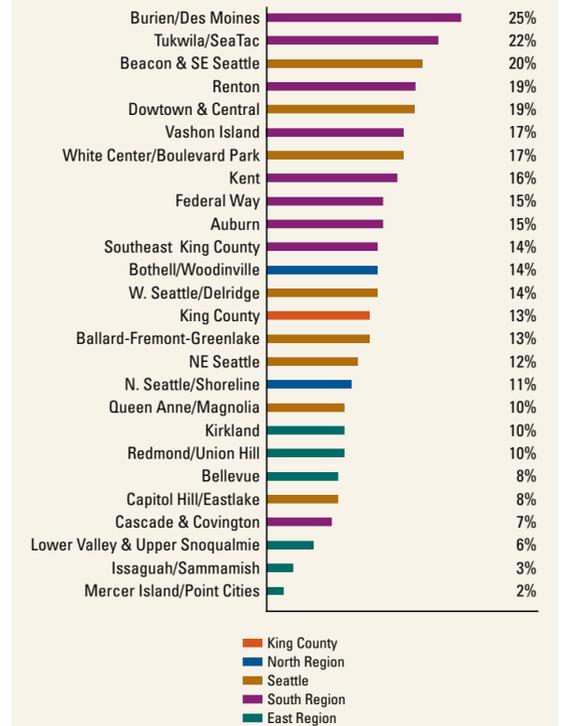
Binge drinking



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Too many lack health insurance

Adults Ages 18-64 Without Health Insurance, Three Year Average 2005-2007



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Smoking has declined

Thirteen percent of adults in King County smoke, compared with 20% nationally and 17% in Washington. This is part of a significant county-wide decline since 1987. Who smokes varies by years of education, race, income, and region.

- 16% of adults in South Region smoke and 9% in East Region.
- 27% of adults with less than a high school education are smokers compared to 7% of college graduates.



Community

Violent crime has decreased significantly

Violent crime is down significantly in King County. From a high of 93 violent crimes per 1,000 people in 1987 it dropped to 48 per 1,000 in 2007. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Many hate crimes are racially motivated

Over half of hate crimes in King County are racially motivated. Sexual orientation (22%), religion (17%), and ethnicity or national origin (6%) were the other motivations among the offenses reported to police. There were 92 total offenses reported in 2007.



Domestic violence continues to be a major problem

In 2007, there were 11,692 domestic violence offenses reported in King County. This includes 18 murders and 71 rapes. There were 2,781 reported violations of no contact or protection orders. Since such crimes are often not reported, the actual number of cases is likely higher.

Most people share a similar vision for their communities:

- Safe and secure neighborhoods
- Opportunities for community involvement
- Freedom from discrimination

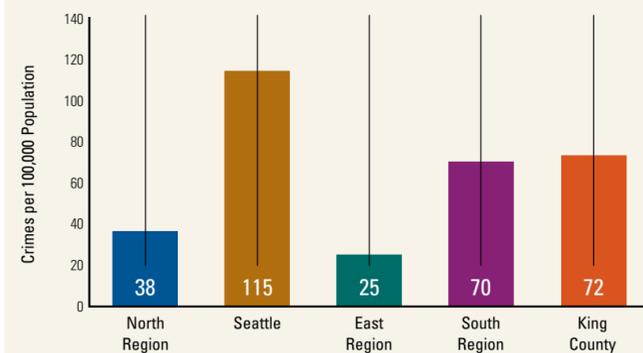


Too many people experience discrimination

Over one in four of people surveyed said that they had experienced some kind of discrimination.

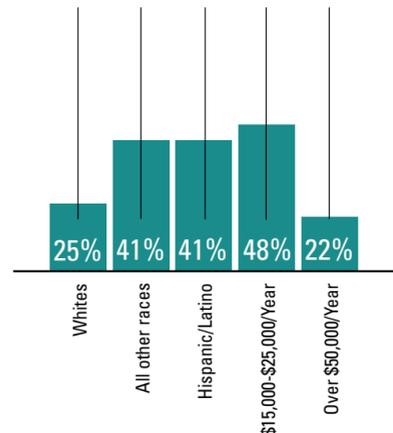
- 41% of people of color report discrimination compared with 25% of white people.
- More than 48% of low income residents report discrimination compared with 22% of households earning over \$50,000/year.

Domestic violence rates by region, 2002-2006 average



Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and King County Sheriff's Office Annual Reports

Percent of King County residents who experienced discrimination, 2007



Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey



Photo: Joseph M. BEACH



Community

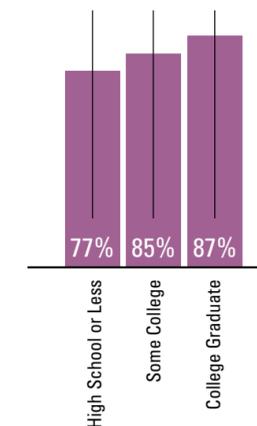


Involvement in our communities

More than four out of every five adults in the County are active or very active in at least one community organization such as a neighborhood group, civic club, arts or cultural organization, political organization, school or religious group. People who have completed college are more active than people with a high school education or less. Almost half of adults provide community service or help others.



Who participates



Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey

We feel safe but worry about our children's safety

Most people in King County do not worry about safety in their neighborhood or home, but those who live in South Region reported feeling less safe than people in the other regions. Concerns centered around children's safety at school or in the neighborhood.

- People living on less than \$25,000 a year feel less safe in their neighborhoods than those who earn \$50,000 a year or more.
- People with a college degree feel greater safety than those with a high school education or less.

How we view our neighborhoods

How strongly do you agree with the following statements:	Percent of King County residents who "strongly agree" or "agree" 2007
...This is a close-knit neighborhood.	57%
...People in this neighborhood can be trusted.	83%
...People around here are willing to help their neighbors.	85%
...People in this neighborhood don't share the same values.	22%
...People in this neighborhood generally don't get along well with each other.	8%

How likely is it that your neighbors would do something if:	Percent of King County residents who say it is "very likely" or "likely" 2007
...children were skipping school and hanging out in the neighborhood?	64%
...children were spray-painting graffiti on something in the neighborhood?	86%
...children were showing disrespect to an adult?	62%
...a fight broke out in front of their house?	83%
...a fire station closest to their home was threatened with budget cuts?	72%

Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey

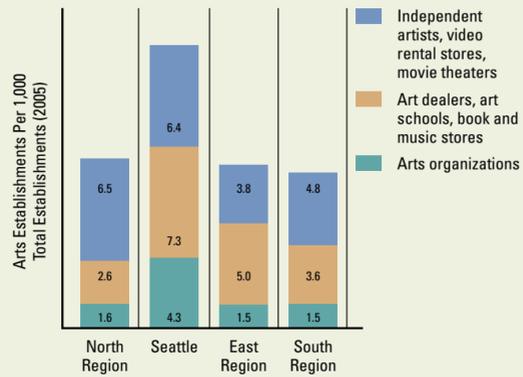


Arts & Culture



Photo: John W. REACH

Presence of Arts & Culture in King County



Source: 2005 County Business Patterns, Zip Business Patterns, U.S. Census



Photo: Youth in Focus



Photo: Youth in Focus

Arts and cultural programs:

- Enrich the fabric of our lives
- Engage people in activities beyond work and family
- Bridge differences across diverse groups and cultures
- Have economic and cultural impacts that increase the vitality of regional communities

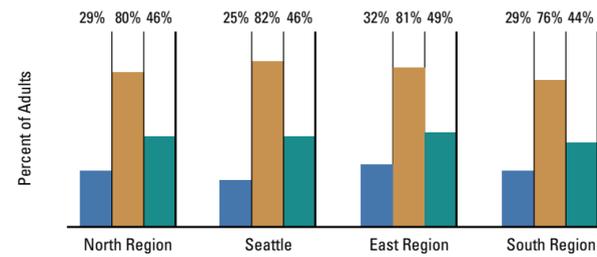
More than 3 out of 4 adults wrote, read, attended a book club, studied a language, or participated in theater in the past month. Almost half of adults did some sort of arts and crafts, and one-third of adults made music or danced.

All residents were more likely to have attended music or dance performances than to have attended plays or lectures.

Approximately one-third of King County residents were actively involved in an organization such as an arts, culture, music or theater group.

King County residents actively participate in informal arts & culture

- Made music or danced in the last month
- Wrote, read, attended book club, studied language, participated in theater in the last month
- Participated in arts/crafts in last month

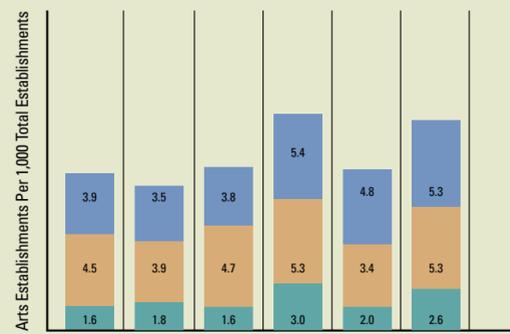


Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey



Photo: Youth in Focus

How do we compare with similar counties?



- Independent artists, video rental stores, movie theaters
- Art dealers, art schools, book and music stores
- Arts organizations

Source: 2005 County Business Patterns, Zip Business Patterns, U.S. Census

Natural and Built Environment



Photo: Youth in Focus

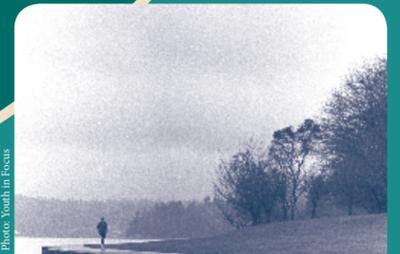


Photo: Youth in Focus

King County residents value natural surroundings, trees and greenery on streets and roadways. There is a common vision for a clean environment and for protection of natural resources including air, water, land and wild creatures.



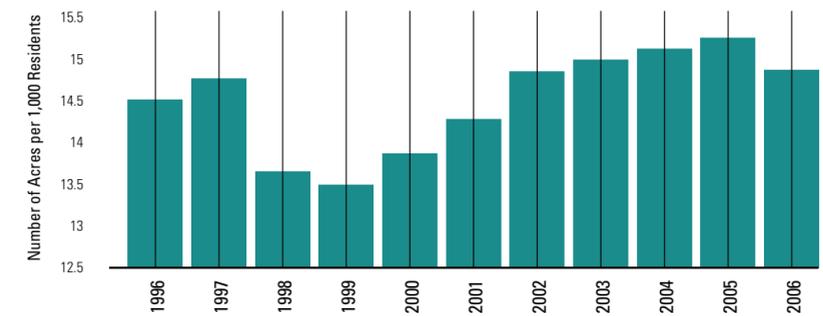
More organic farms and farmer's markets

The number of certified organic farms in King County more than tripled from 7 in 1995 to 23 in 2002, and remained relatively constant since then. The amount of acreage in organic production increased substantially in 2007. The number of farmers' markets in King County has also grown.

Air Quality has improved but is still of concern

- Concentrations of air pollutants in King County have decreased over the last decade due to better control of air pollution.
- Ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter remain a concern and are driving the air quality ratings in King County. On-road vehicles and wood burning are the main culprits for these pollutants.
- These substances can cause health problems particularly for children, the elderly, people with weakened immune systems and people with respiratory problems.

Urban parks and open spaces steadily growing



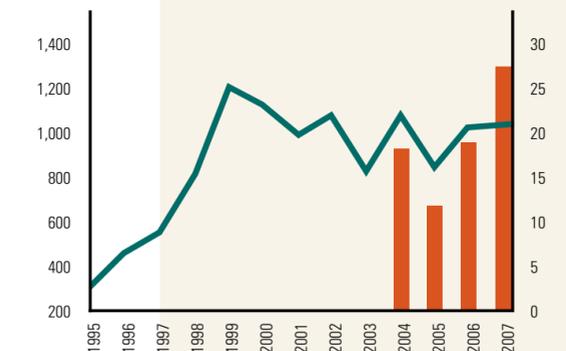
Source: King County Benchmarks, Land Use 2008 Report

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends 10 acres of park space for each urban resident.



Photo: Youth in Focus

Organic farming is increasing



Source: Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources, Washington State University, WA

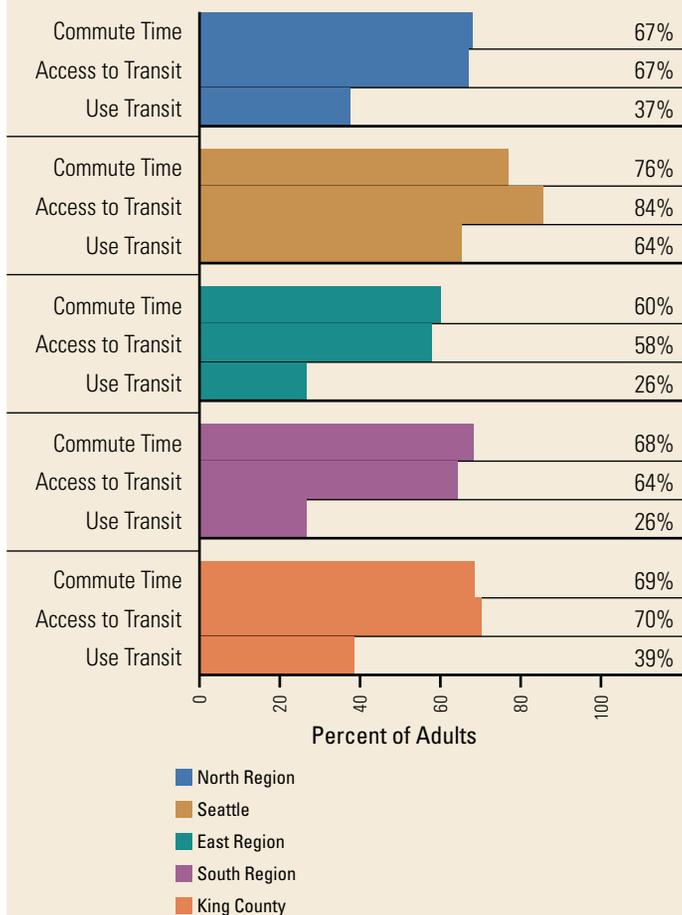


Photo: Youth in Focus

Natural and Built Environment



Percent of adults who are satisfied with commute time and access to public transit and percent who use public transit



Source: 2007 King County Community Health Survey

Commute Choices... a majority of residents drive alone to work

- Over two thirds of King County residents drive alone to their places of work. The proportion of workers who carpool, use public transportation, bike, walk or use other means to commute to work has increased 1-2% since 1990.
- People across all regions of King County are less satisfied with their commute time in 2007 than in 2004.
- People are also less satisfied with access to public transit.
- Four in ten of King County's residents reported that they use public transportation. The heaviest use is in Seattle (64%) and the lowest use is in East and South Region (26% each).
- On-road vehicles are a leading contributor to air pollution, which also contributes to environmental and human health problems. Traffic congestion causes stress and reduces the amount of time spent with family or exercising. Incorporating alternative means to commute to work such as by biking or walking benefits the health of people and the environment.

