King County’s Changing Demographics

A View of Our Increasing Diversity

Chandler Felt, Demographer

King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

King County Council, June 5, 2013
A note on sources

- Decennial Census: 1990, 2000, 2010
- American Community Survey (ACS)
  - Most recent detailed data, 2007-11
- Reliability of data
  - ACS accuracy is not so good
- Margins of Error
King County Population Growth, 2000 - 2012

- King County now 1.9 million people
- Gained 220,000 persons
- Equivalent to population of Tacoma
- Population grew 11%, while job numbers remained flat
- Data we’re reporting are from 2010 Census and American Community Survey
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
20 years of King County growth: increase is mostly persons of color

- **1990**
  - Non-Hisp. White: 1,200
  - Persons of Color: 400
- **2000**
  - Non-Hisp. White: 1,400
  - Persons of Color: 600
- **2010**
  - Non-Hisp. White: 1,600
  - Persons of Color: 800
Persons of color are widely distributed across the county.
Nearly half of King County kids are children of color

King County Children by Race / Ethnicity, 2000 and 2010
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></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native-born</td>
<td>1,366,700</td>
<td>1,468,700</td>
<td>1,544,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born</td>
<td>140,600</td>
<td>268,300</td>
<td>395,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pop.</td>
<td>1,507,300</td>
<td>1,737,000</td>
<td>1,939,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Immigrants Dominate Population Growth

![Bar chart showing population growth by birthplace over time]
Immigrants arrive from all over the world


- Canada: 18,054
- Central & South America: 15,812
- Mexico: 48,820
- Australia-Pacific Island: 6,745
- Africa: 28,025
- Southeast Asia: 70,064
- South Asia: India, Iran: 33,845
- East Asia: China, Korea: 67,000
- E. Europe: Russ, Ukrn: 33,200
- N. & Western Europe: 29,147
- Other: 8,663
Refugee population in King County

Numbers steady until recently
South King has majority

Refugees in King County, 2000-09

- Seattle+North
- East and other
- South King Co.
Increasing numbers speak other languages

King County Languages Other Than English

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speak other language</td>
<td>299,600</td>
<td>462,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English proficiency</td>
<td>137,700</td>
<td>199,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
King County residents speak 170+ different languages

Major Languages Spoken in King County

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

Total: 401,900
Percent Speak Language Other Than English at Home by Census Tract, with Cities, King County, Washington, 5-year Average 2006-2010

Legend
- King County border
- Cities
- Water

Percent Population Ages 5+
- 0% - 13.6%
- 13.7% - 22.8%
- 22.9% - 32.5%
- 32.6% - 45.8%
- 45.9% - 70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey
Produced by: Public Health - Seattle & King County; Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation Unit, 6/26/2012
Spanish speakers in King County by census tract

- Highest category: 18% - 37% speaking Spanish

Spanish speakers are widely distributed
Chinese languages in King County

- Highest category: 10% - 47% speaking Chinese.
  Evenly split between Cantonese, Mandarin

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

• Highest category: 10% - 17% speaking languages including Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali.

Clustered in Seattle and SW King County
Household types have changed little since 2000 - single persons remain the largest category.
King County Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity

Income in thousands of 2009 dollars
Median income varies substantially by subarea

Median Household Income by Subarea, 2007-11

- Seashore
- South KC
- Eastside
- King County
Income distribution: where’s the middle class?

Households in 5 Income Categories

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<th>2007</th>
<th>Median household income:</th>
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<td>Under 50%</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>181,100</td>
<td></td>
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<td>50 - 80%</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>126,400</td>
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<td>140,500</td>
<td>138,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>120 - 180%</td>
<td>145,700</td>
<td>151,400</td>
<td>1999, ('99$) '99, ('07$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 180%</td>
<td>147,900</td>
<td>169,800</td>
<td>2007, ('07$) $53,200 $66,300 $67,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total H'holds</td>
<td>711,300</td>
<td>767,500</td>
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KC-income Cats07upd
Poverty rates increased, especially in the suburbs.
Numbers of persons below poverty: now primarily in the suburbs

Seattle

King less Seattle
“Food deserts” – no nearby grocery stores
In many areas, half of households were paying 30% or more of their incomes for housing in 2008-2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

Note: ACS estimates contain margins of error and differences between neighborhoods shown in map may not be statistically significant.
What future trends can we expect?

• Continuing population growth in King County.
• Continuing increase in diversity of cultures.
• Perhaps increasing disparity between communities.
• Growth in Seattle and the suburban cities - with the greatest changes in the suburbs.
• Continuing shift from unincorporated into cities.
Thank you!

- Questions…?

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