

UNDERSTANDING SEATTLE'S CHANGING HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILD POPULATIONS



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Seattle's Growing Population & Household Numbers

POPULATION	
1990 Census	516,259
2000 Census	563,374
2009 estimate (OFM)	601,986

HOUSEHOLDS	
1990 Census	236,702
2000 Census	258,499
2009 estimate (OFM)	280,622



Since 2000 Census, the number of people and households in Seattle has continued to grow.

Factors Affecting Number of Children in Seattle

- Types of housing developed
- Demographic characteristics
 - ▣ household and family formation
 - ▣ aging and household turnover
- Residential mobility
- Housing prices
- Other economic conditions



Census Bureau Surveys: Resources for Planning

□ Decennial Census

Snapshot every 10 years

- Population count, incl. child pop.
- Basic demographic and housing characteristics

□ American Community Survey (ACS)

Continuous

- Detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics previously on census “long form”
- Includes key community characteristics for school planning

The image shows a sample of the 2010 U.S. Census form. It includes the following sections:

- Header:** "United States Census 2010" and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION U.S. CENSUS BUREAU".
- Instructions:** "This is the official form for all the people at this address. It is quick and easy, and your answers are protected by law." and "Use a blue or black pen."
- Start here:** A blue arrow pointing to the beginning of the form.
- Section 1:** "The Census must count every person living in the United States on April 1, 2010. Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines." It lists instructions for counting people, including babies, college students, and those in institutions.
- Section 2:** "The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so: Do not count anyone living away either at college or in the Armed Forces. Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc., on April 1, 2010. Leave these people off your form, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military, jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice." It also states that the census must include people without a permanent place to stay.
- Section 3:** "How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?" with a line for the number of people.
- Section 4:** "Were there any additional people staying here April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1? Mark X if that apply." It lists categories like children, relatives, nonrelatives, and people staying temporarily.
- Section 5:** "Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark X ONE box." It lists options for ownership, rental, or occupancy without payment of rent.
- Section 6:** "What is your telephone number? We may call if we don't understand an answer." with lines for area code and number.
- Section 7:** "Please provide information for each person living here. Start with a person living here who owns or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If the owner or renter lives somewhere else, start with any adult living here. This will be Person 1." It asks for the person's name and sex.
- Section 8:** "What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old." It asks for age and date of birth.
- Section 9:** "Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races." It asks for Hispanic origin and race.
- Section 10:** "Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?" It lists various reasons for being elsewhere.
- Footer:** "OMB No. 0607-0919-C; Approval Expires 12/31/2011. Form D-61 (1-18-2010) U.S. CENSUS BUREAU"

ACS and 2010 Census New Data Coming!

- Already have:
 - ▣ ACS one- and three-year estimates at city level

- Getting soon:
 - ▣ *Late 2010:*
ACS five-year estimates incl. city & neighborhood levels

 - ▣ *Starting Spring 2011:*
Census 2010 estimates incl. city & neighborhood levels

U.S. Census Bureau

Main Search Feedback

Data Sets

POPULATION FINDER

FACT SHEET

PEOPLE

HOUSING

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

ABOUT THE DATA

DATA SETS

- Decennial Census
- **American Community Survey**
- Puerto Rico Community Survey
- Annual Population

Main ▶ Data Sets

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The American Community Survey is a national survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at their changing demographics. The Puerto Rico Community Survey is the equivalent of the American Community Survey. [Learn more...](#)

[2008 Quick Guide](#) | [Errata Notes](#)

2008

2006-2008 American Community Survey Estimates

Seattle's Changing Households and Families

Average household (HH) size declining:

- HHs of one person up
- Families with children still one-fifth of HHs
- Number of children per family down

Average Household Size <i>For All Households</i>	
1990 Census	2.09
2000 Census	2.08
2006 to 2008 three-year ACS estimate	approx. 2.07
Average Number of Children <i>For Families w/Children</i>	
1990 Census	1.72
2000 Census	1.70
2006 to 2008 three-year ACS estimate	approx. 1.65

Children in Seattle



Share of Pop. Who are Children (<18 yrs)

1990 Census	16.3%
2000 Census	15.5%
2006-2008 three-year ACS estimate	approx. 15.3%

Number of Children (<18 yrs)

1990 Census	84,342
2000 Census	87,113
2006-2008 average (Estimate based on ACS and OFM)	approx. 90,000

Since 2000 Census:

- Child share of the pop. may have continued to decline
- *Number of children probably continued to increase*

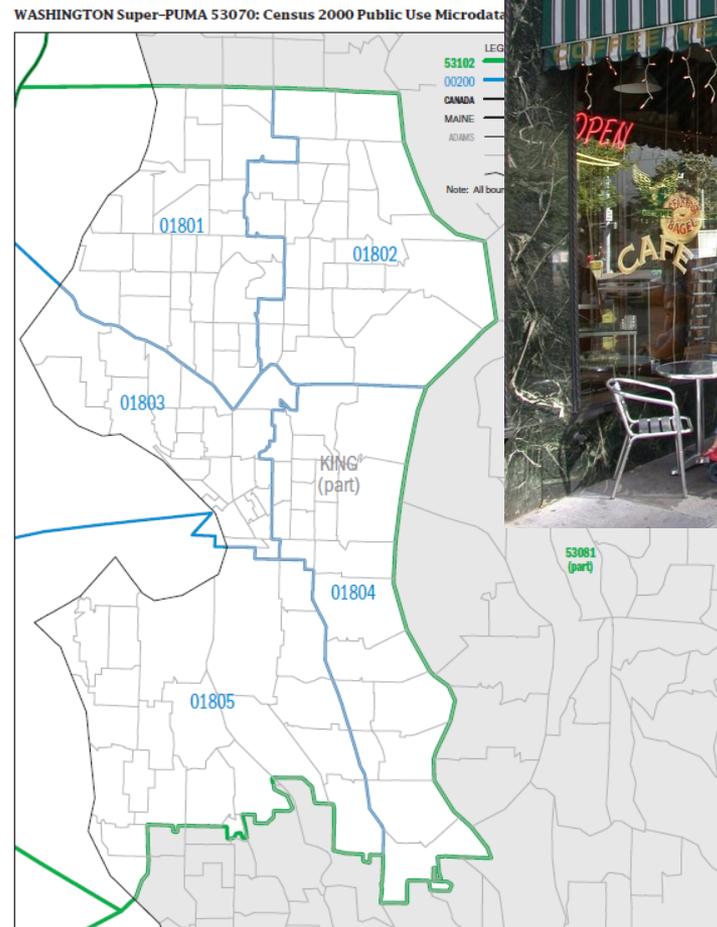
Young Children in Seattle

- Number of young children declined in 1990s, but likely up since 2000
- Child share of population smaller in Seattle than King County
 - ▣ Difference smaller for children under five:
Seattle families may be moving once children are older



Fertility Rates : U.S. and Seattle

- Birth rates have been up nationally and locally
- Seattle's overall birth rate lower than nation's, yet higher for women 35+, especially in some areas of Seattle



2010 Census Data for Neighborhoods



Enable accurate updates of neighborhood demographics:

- New counts of HHs, families, and children
- Which age groups have—on balance—moved in/out

Provide key insights
for neighborhood
and school planning



What the Decennial Census and ACS *Don't Tell US*

- Census no longer collects detailed housing and socioeconomic data; must rely on ACS.
- ACS has larger margins of error.
- ACS gives characteristics, not counts.
- Neighborhood data difficult to interpret because only 5-year aggregations available.
- Neither the ACS *nor* Census follow individual households over time.

For further info:

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