

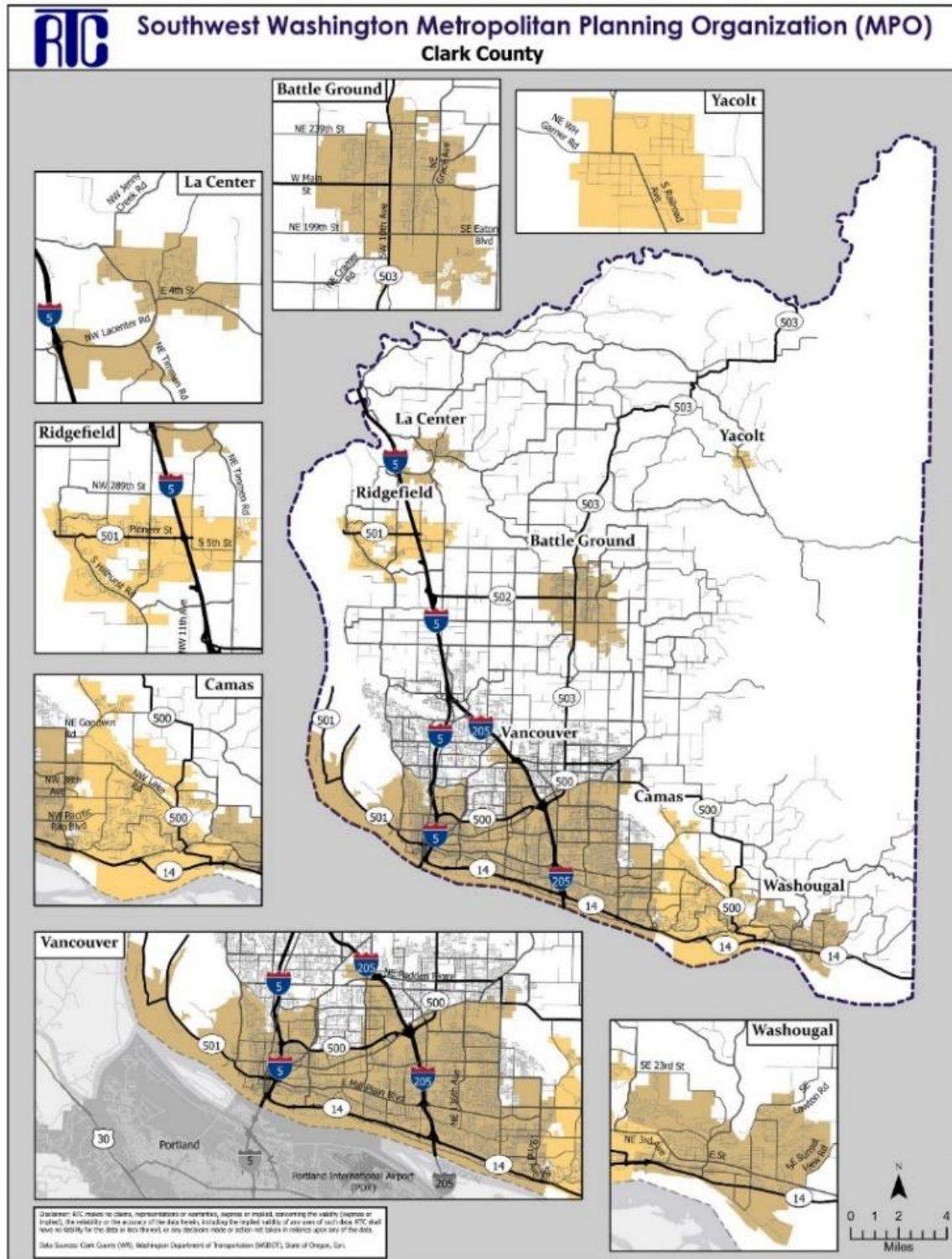
Appendix E: Demographic Profile

Introduction

Demographics refers to the statistical characteristics of human populations, such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, education level, income, occupation, and geographic location. Demographic information is used to analyze and understand the composition of a population and its various subgroups, such as ethnic or socioeconomic groups; is used to study and analyze the patterns and trends in populations; and is used to understand how different groups of people may be affected by various social and economic factors. It is often used by businesses, governments, and other organizations to make informed decisions about policies and planning. Demographic data can be collected through surveys, censuses, and other methods of data collection.

A profile is a description, representation, or summary of an individual or entity. It is often used to provide a snapshot of the individual's or entity's characteristics, traits, features, or background. A demographic profile is a description of a population based on selected characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, education level, income, occupation, and other factors that can help to categorize and understand groups of people.

Figure 1: Clark County, WA



As part of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a demographic profile was developed for Clark County, Washington (Figure 1) to provide regional stakeholders a snapshot of

Southwest Washington’s population and the social and economic conditions over the past 20 years. Demographic trends and socioeconomic factors influence regional travel patterns and behavior. An understanding of changes in these trends and factors is critical as we identify transportation needs and develop regional solutions for our transportation system for the next 20+ years.

The demographic profile for the RTP will focus on population, households, employment, education, poverty, housing, health disability, and journey to work in Clark County. The data will be focused on the 2000 to 2020 time period, with occasional use of 2021 and 2022 data.

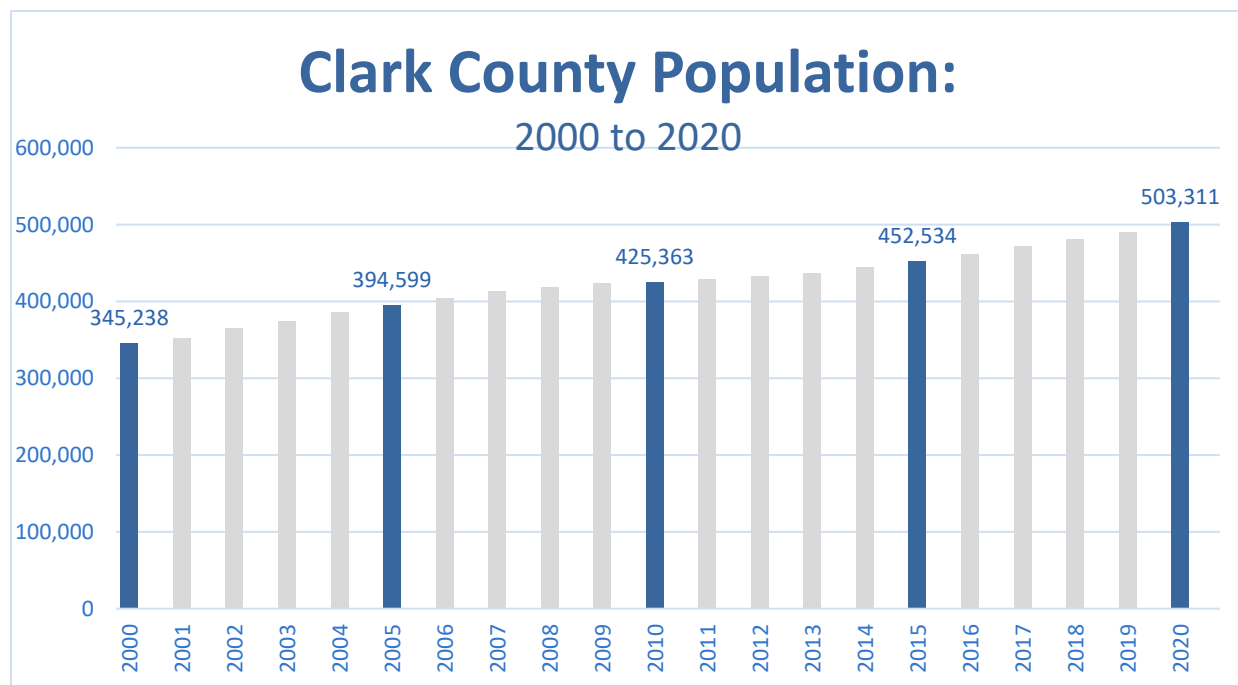
Population

Clark County

Clark County’s population has grown significantly over the past 20 years. In 2000 Clark County’s population was over 345,000. By 2010 Clark County’s population grew by 23%, to over 425,000. By 2020 the county grew to over 503,000, an 18% increase from 2010. Between 2000 and 2020, Clark County added an additional 158,000 residents, an increase of almost 46%.

This section of the demographic profile will focus on relevant population statistics, including population growth, population density, changes in the aging and minority populations, language in Clark County, and population changes due to migration.

Figure 2: Clark County Population: 2000-2020



Clark County Jurisdictions

As Clark County grew, so did the jurisdictions within the county. Between 2000 and 2010, the cities of Camas, Battle Ground, and Washougal all gained more than 5,000 residents. Between 2010 and 2020, the city of Camas added an additional 6,700 residents, while the city of Ridgefield added over 5,500 residents.

Between 2000 and 2020, the cities of Camas, Battle Ground, Washougal, and Ridgefield each added more than 8,000 residents. Camas added an additional 13,500 residents, while the city of Battle Ground added over 11,400 new residents. The city of Vancouver had the fourth highest population growth in Washington State between 2000 and 2020, with approximately 47,300 new residents. Vancouver only trailed Seattle, Kent, and Renton in population growth during that time period.

Figure 3: Population by Jurisdiction Under 30K: 2000, 2010, and 2020

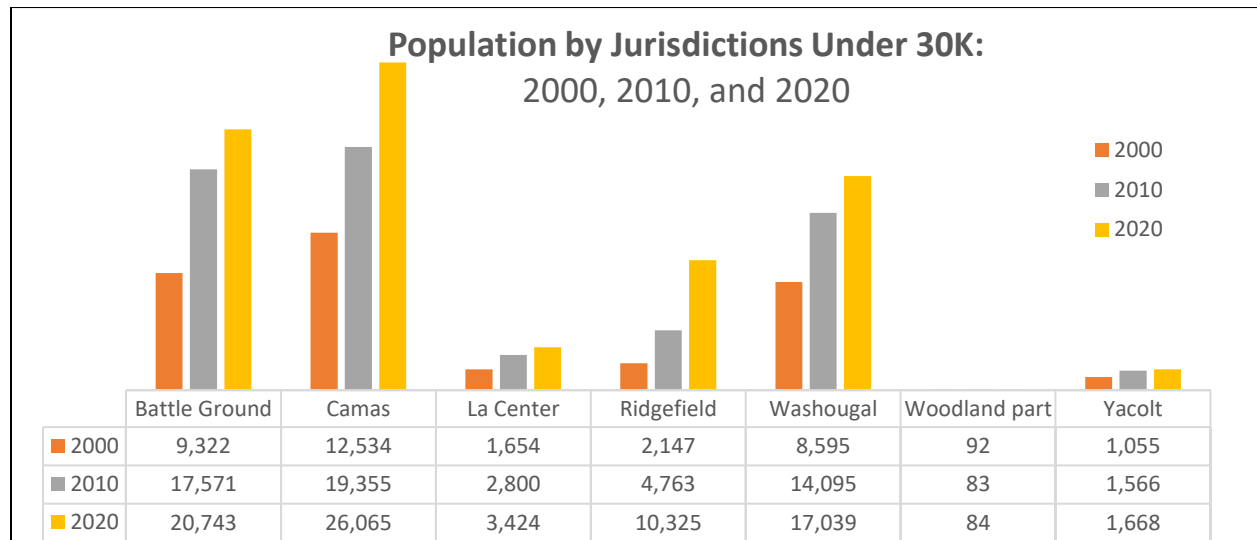


Figure 4: Clark County Unincorporated vs. Incorporated Population: 2000, 2010, and 2020

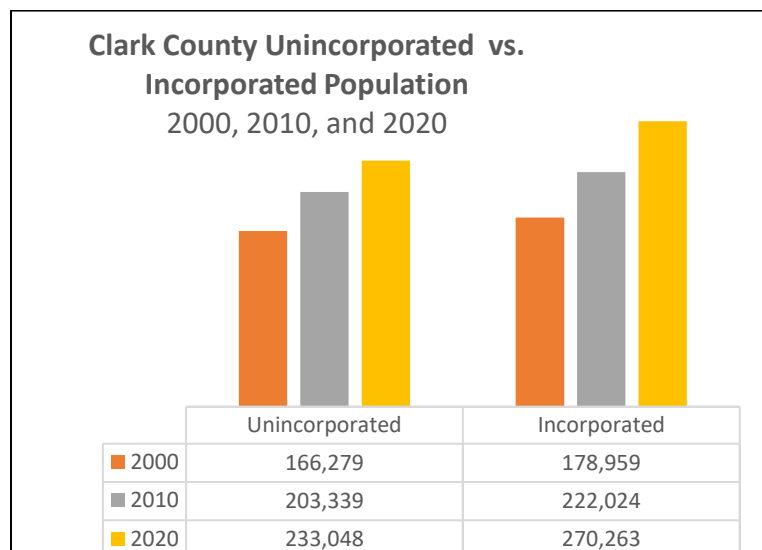
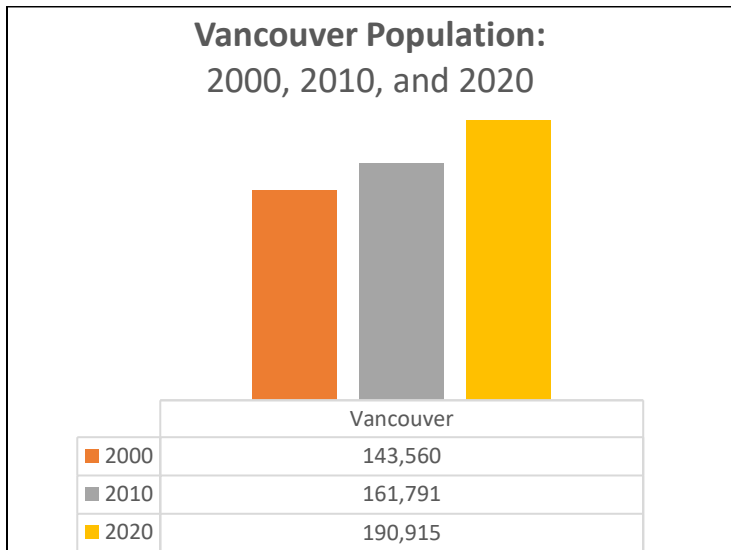


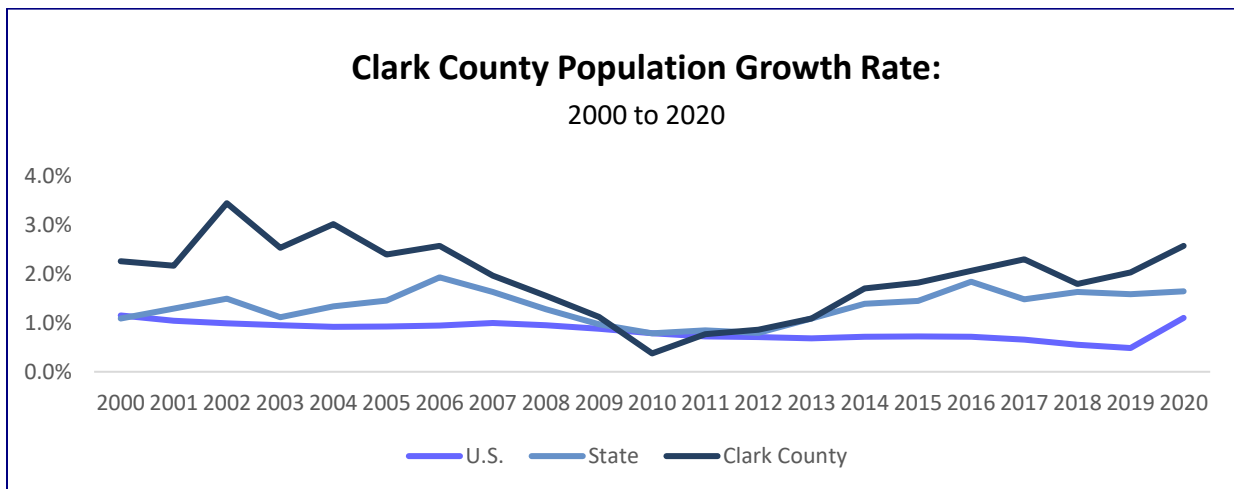
Figure 5: Vancouver Population: 2000, 2010, and 2020



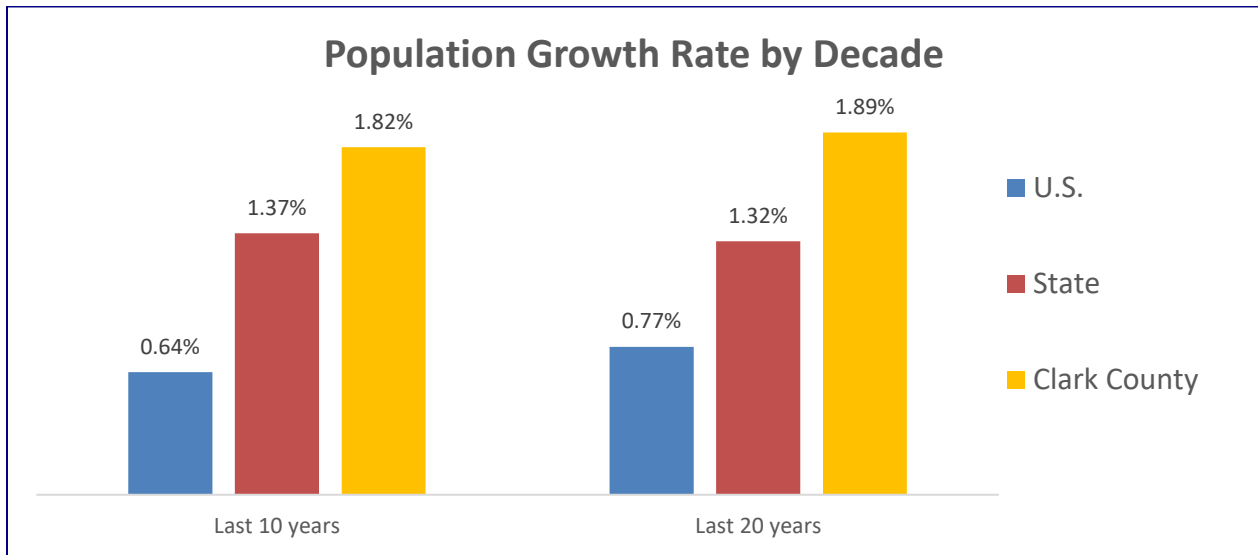
Population Growth

Between 2000 and 2020, Clark County overall had a higher growth rate than Washington State and the United States. After experiencing a down year in 2010 and a dip in 2018, the county experienced an increase in the growth rate. Clark County reached a growth rate peak in 2002 at 3.4%. In 2020 the growth rate reached 2.6% compared to 1.6% in Washington State.

Figure 6: Clark County Population Growth Rate: 2000-2020



The chart below shows the population growth rate by decade. Between 2010 and 2020, Clark County experienced a higher growth than Washington State and the United States. A similar growth rate occurred between 2000 and 2020.

Figure 7: Population Growth Rate by Decade

Population Change

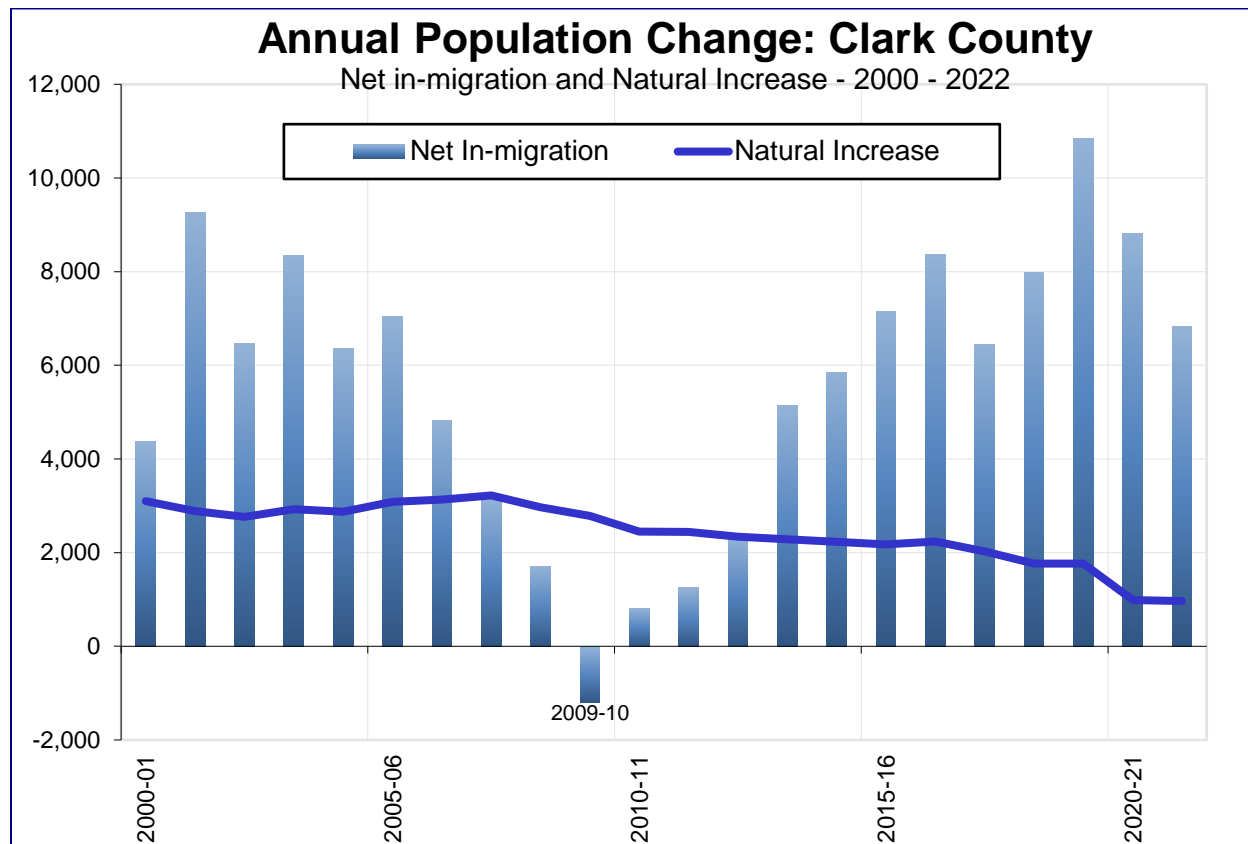
Although a portion of the population change in Clark County was due to natural increase between 2000 and 2020, the upward trend was largely due to net in-migration. This similar trend occurred in Washington State and the United States.

Natural Increase

Clark County, like Washington State and the United States, has experienced a natural decrease since 2000. This decrease was particularly prominent after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Factors that can lead to a natural decrease include an increased aging population, economic factors (such as high unemployment rates), and personal circumstances. There are people who decide to have fewer children, or no children at all, due to impacts like high cost of living, childcare costs, and lifestyle.

Figure 8: Annual Population Change: Clark County, Net In-Migration and Natural Increase: 2000-2022



Inbound Migration

Much of the net in-migration during the 2016-2020 time period was due to people moving to Clark County from surrounding areas, including Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah counties in Oregon.

In addition to the three counties mentioned above, residents were coming from King and Cowlitz counties in Washington, Maricopa County in Arizona, and San Diego and Los Angeles counties in California.

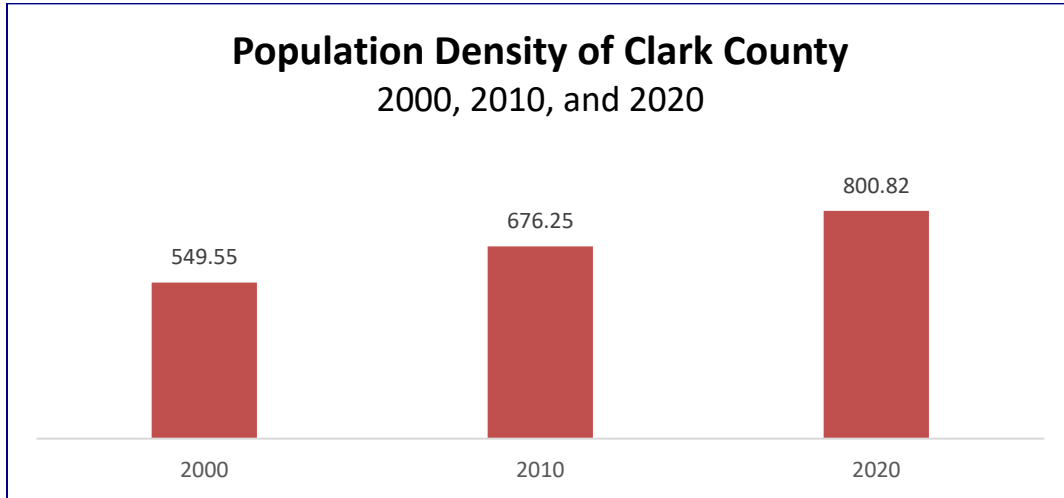
Outbound Migration

For the most part, people moving away from Clark County during the 2016-2020 time period were moving to counties in Washington and Oregon. These included Cowlitz and King counties in Washington and Multnomah and Washington counties in Oregon. Other counties included Spokane County in Washington and Maricopa County in Arizona.

Population Density

Clark County’s population density increased steadily between 2000 and 2020. Population density can change over time due to population growth or changes in land area.

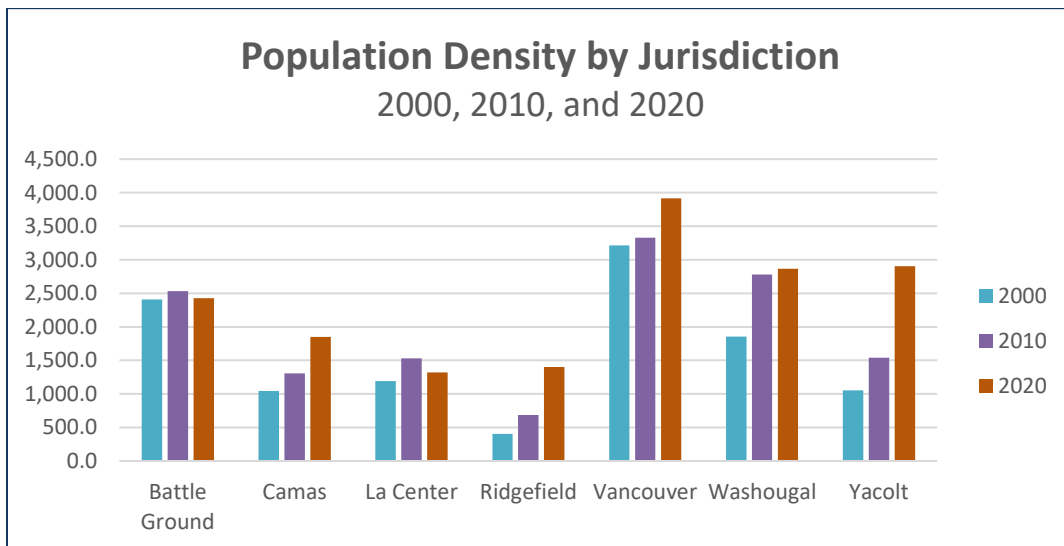
Figure 9: Population Density of Clark County: 2000, 2010, and 2020



The chart below provides population density by jurisdiction in Clark County in 2000, 2010, and 2020. While it is not a surprise that Vancouver, Camas, and Washougal had an increase in population density since 2000, there are some surprises in this particular dataset. Yacolt has shown a steady increase in population density since 2000, as has Ridgefield, a quickly growing community in the county.

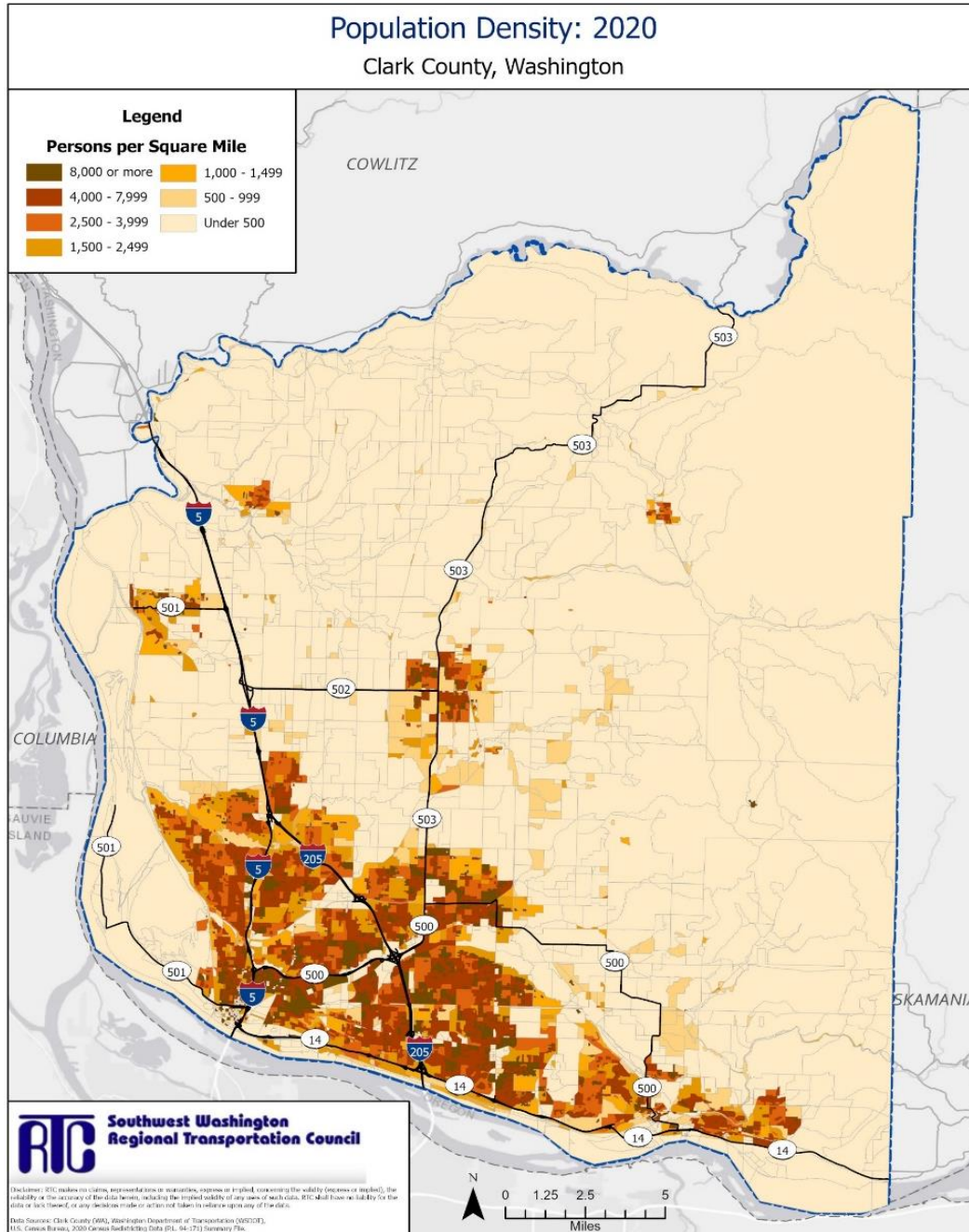
Population density is measured in persons per square mile.

Figure 10: Population Density by Jurisdiction: 2000, 2010, and 2020



The map below provides a visual representation of population density within Clark County in 2020. This particular map shows population density by census block. The darker the color on the map, the more densely populated that part of the county. All of the communities within Clark County had areas with 8,000 or more persons per square mile.

Figure 11: Population Density: 2020



Population: Age and Sex

Clark County’s population consists of a large number of young people, as seen in the population pyramid below. The pyramid shows the proportion of males and females in Clark County in 2022.

Young Population

The pyramid follows the typical curve at the top, with an interesting occurrence at the bottom. There is a noticeably high number of 10–19-year-olds in Clark County, as well as a high number of children up to the age of 9.

Figure 12: Clark County Population Pyramid: 2022

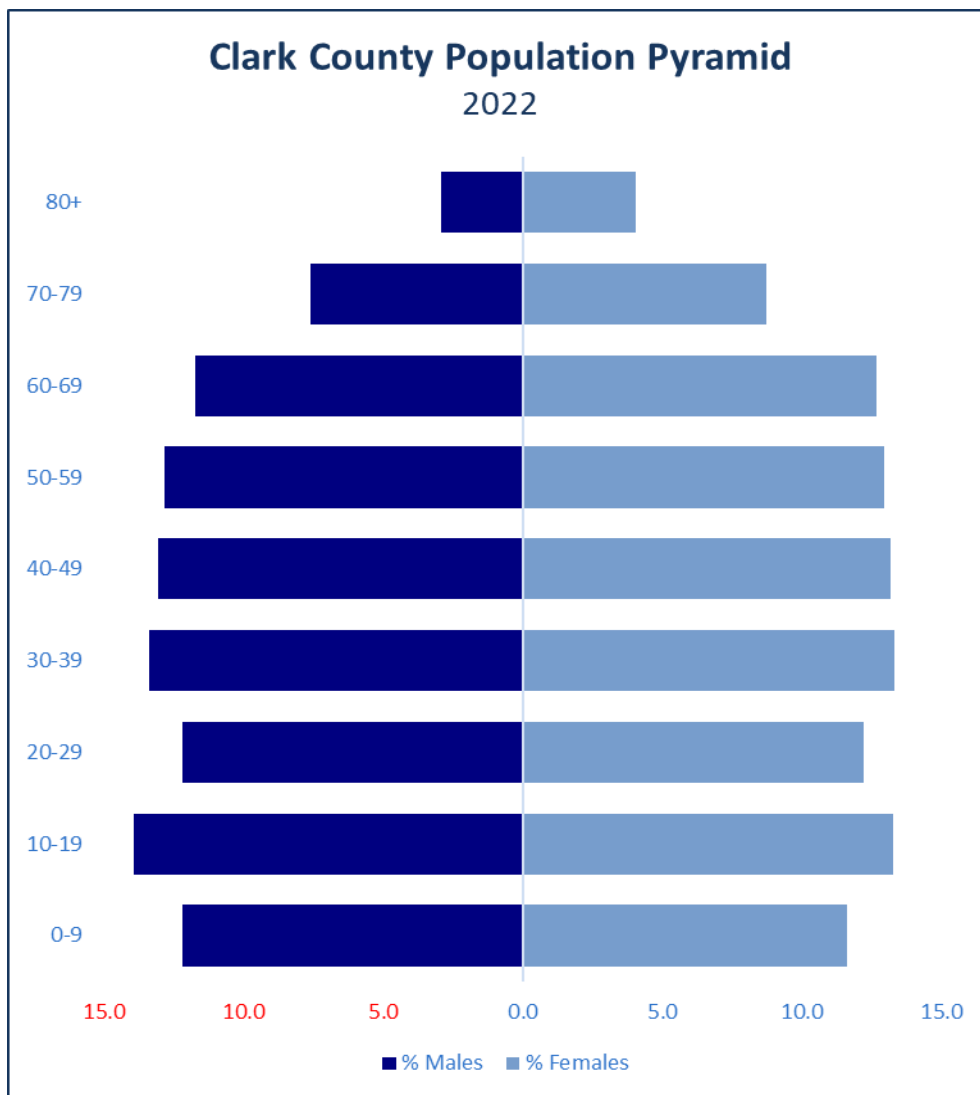
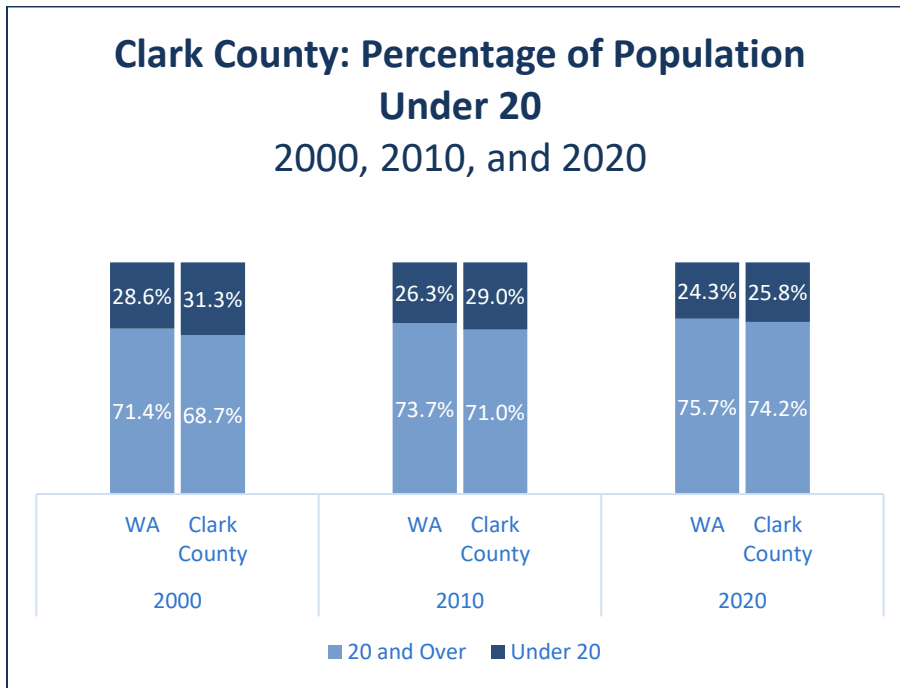


Figure 13: Clark County: Percentage of Population Under 20

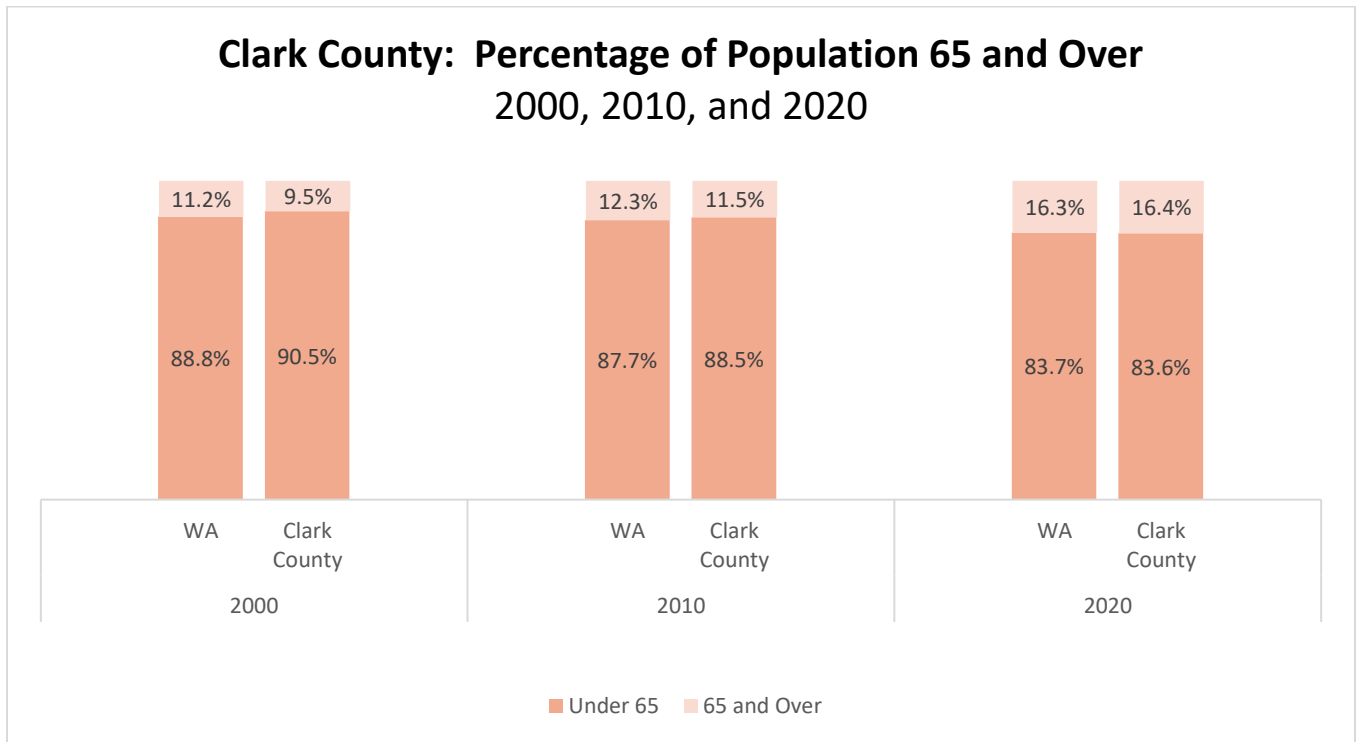


Continuing the theme of the young population, Clark County, as seen in the chart above, has maintained a healthy number of individuals under 20 since 2000, with at least 25% of the population 20 and under. In 2000, 2010, and 2020, Clark County saw a slightly higher percentage of individuals under 20 than the state of Washington.

Aging Population

In addition to a high number of young people, Clark County has seen an increase in the aging population and those individuals 65 and over. The chart below shows the change in the population 65 and over between 2000 and 2020. The 65-and-over population has grown steadily since 2000, with 9.5% of the population 65 and over in 2000 and 16.4% of the population 65 and over in 2020.

Figure 14: Clark County: Percentage of Population 65 and Over

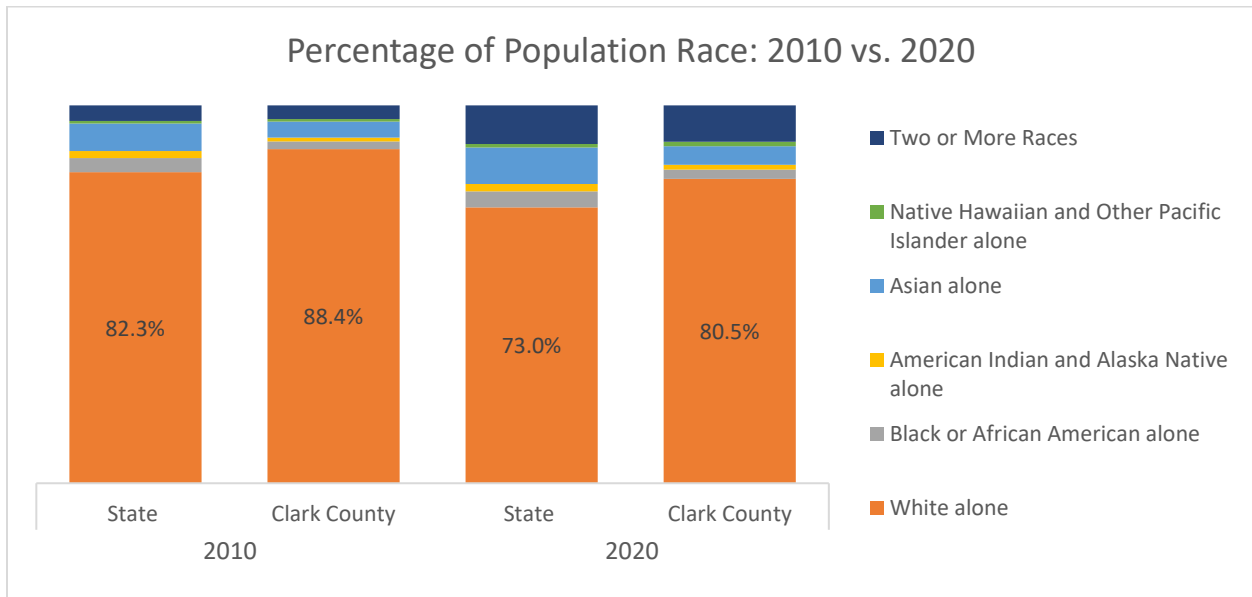


Population: Race and Ethnicity

Race

Clark County’s racial composition has significantly changed since 2010. Although the state’s overall population experienced a bigger change in its racial composition, Clark County changed as well. As seen in the chart below, the county’s white population decreased from 88% in 2010 to 80% in 2020.

Figure 15: Percentage of Population by Race: 2010 vs. 2020



As seen in the pie charts below, the share of the nonwhite population increased across all race categories between 2010 and 2020, particularly the *Two or More Races* population and *Asian alone* population.

Figure 16. Clark County by Race, 2010

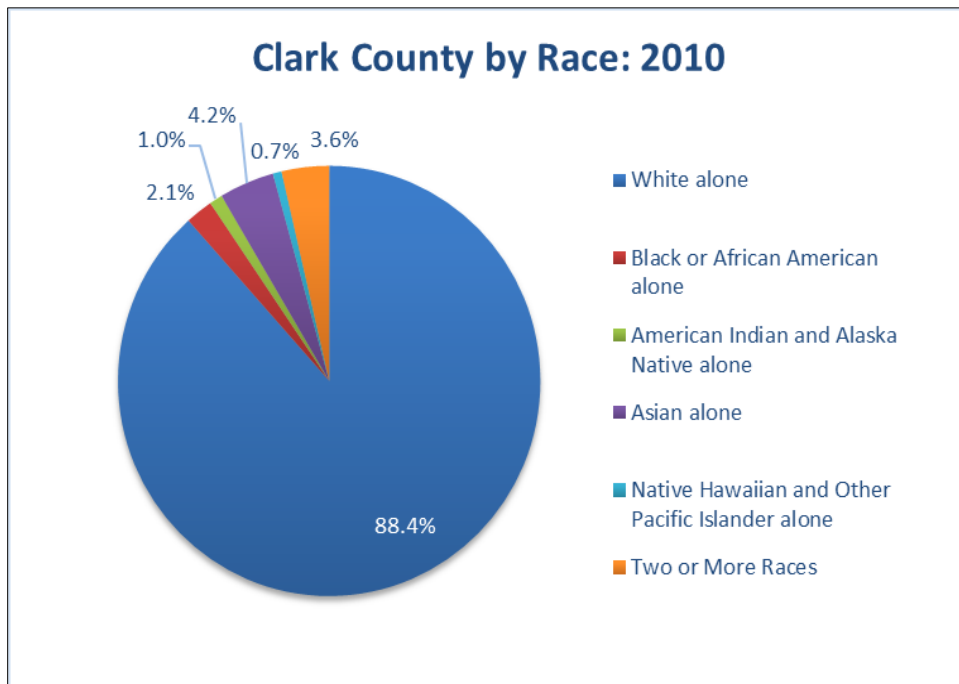
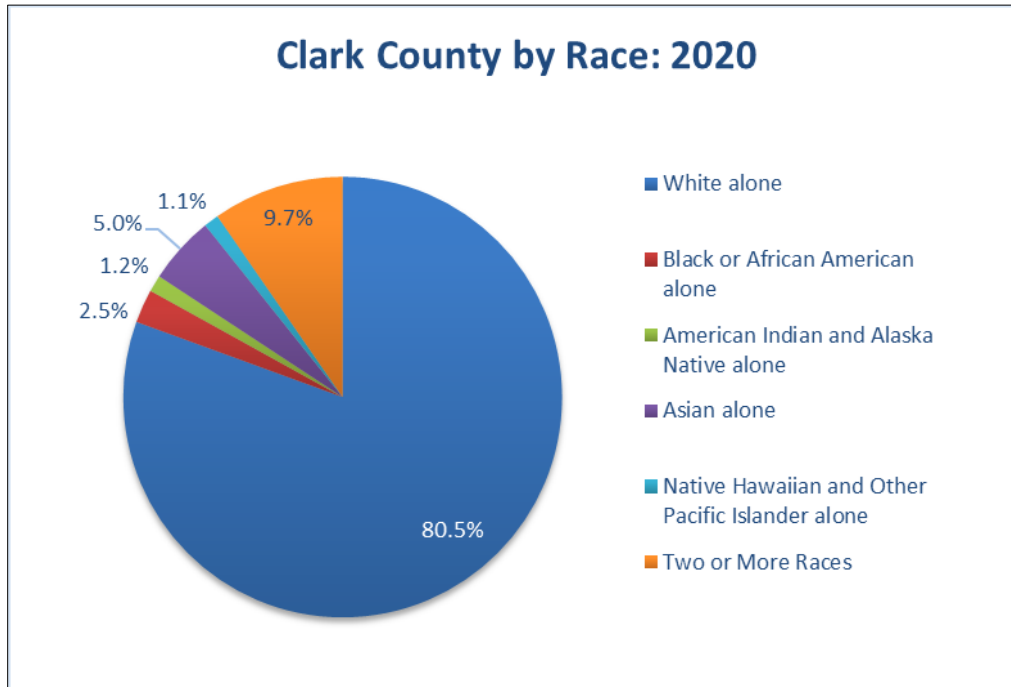


Figure 17. Clark County by Race, 2020



Minority Population

The maps below show the minority population by census block in 2010 and 2020. The values in each legend represent the percentage of the total population in the census block that is a minority. The darker the color of the block, the higher the number of minorities within the census block. There was an increase in the minority population across the county from 2010 to 2020, particularly along major corridors in the region and within Vancouver.

Figure 18: Minority Population 2010, Clark County, Washington

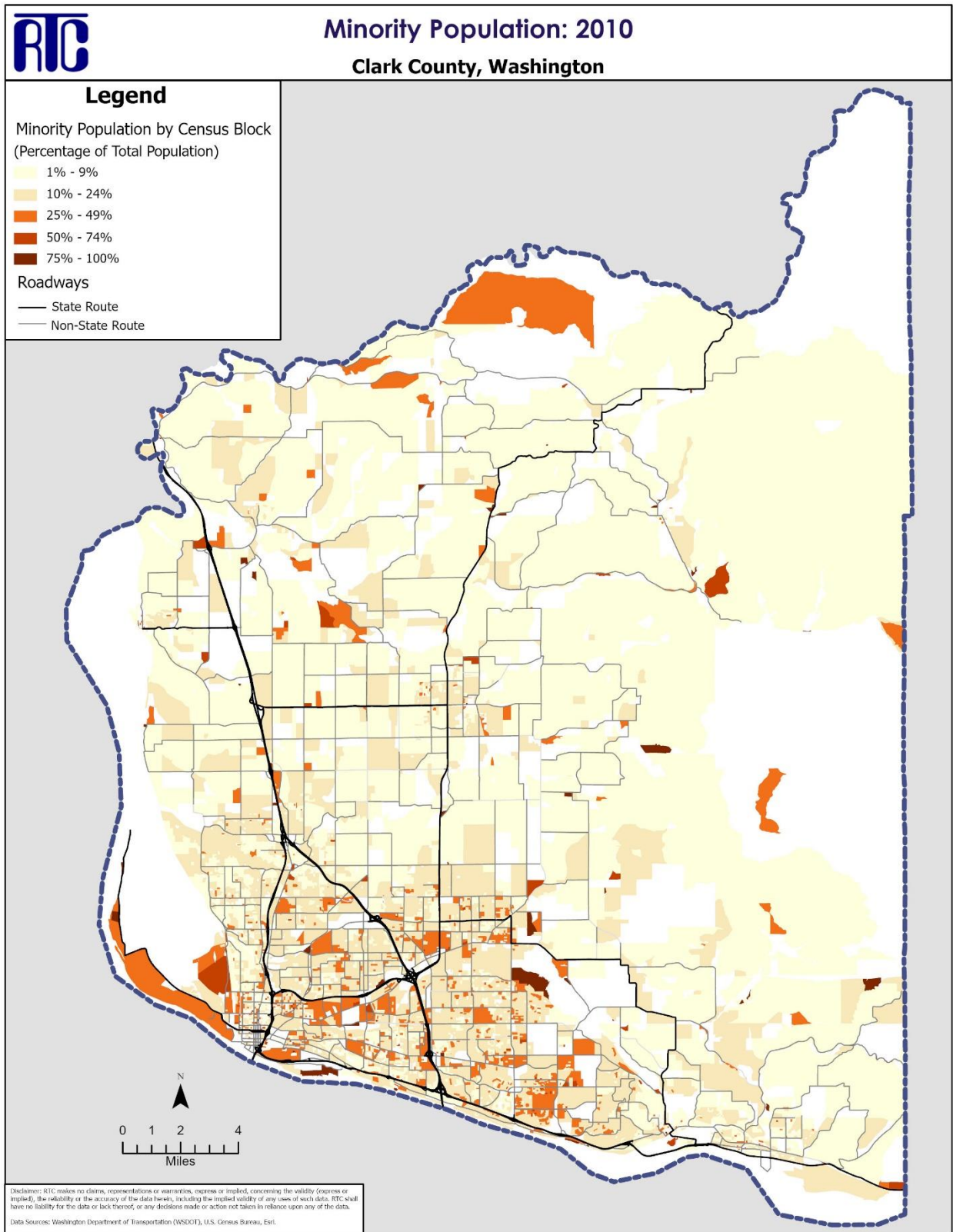
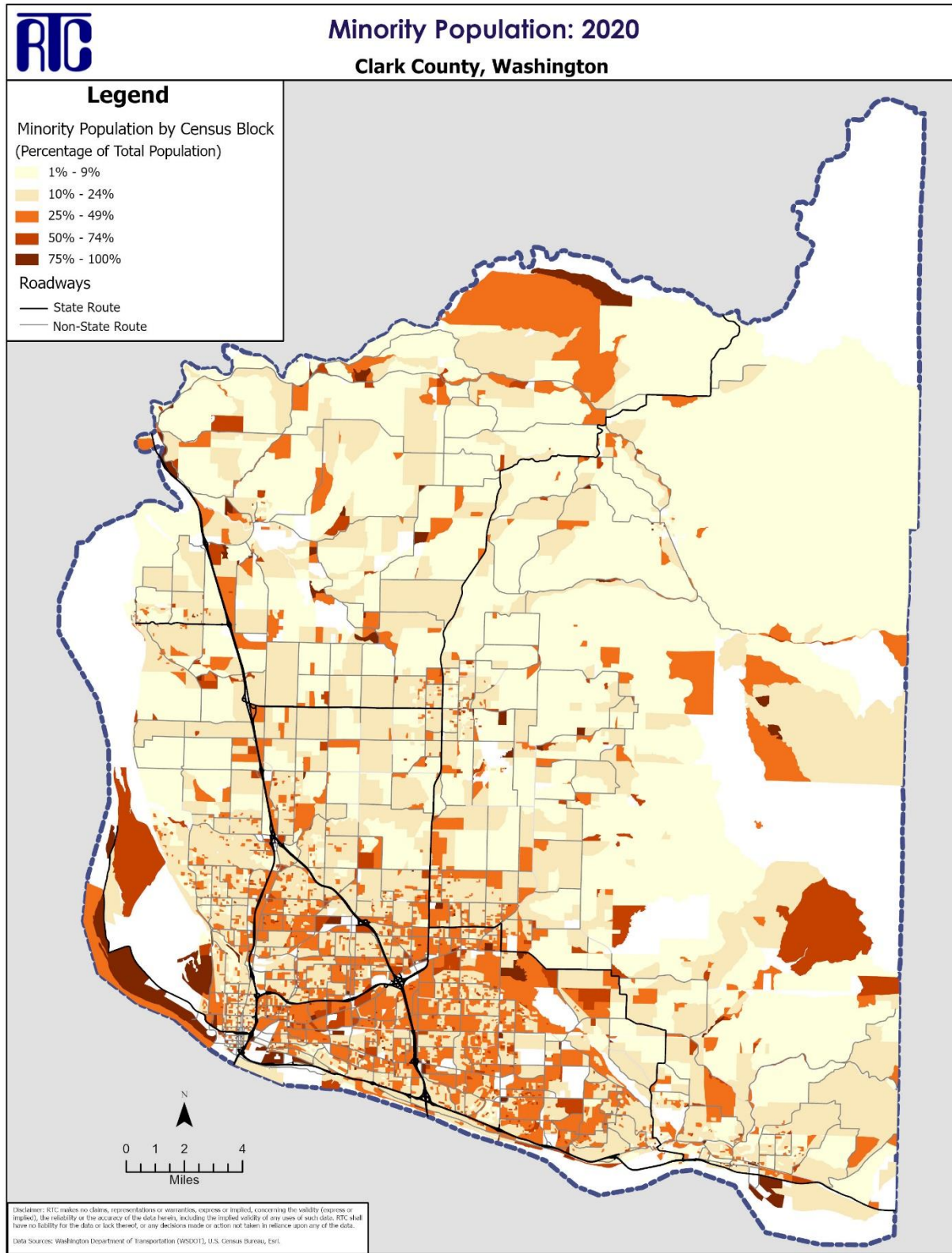


Figure 19: Minority Population 2020, Clark County, Washington

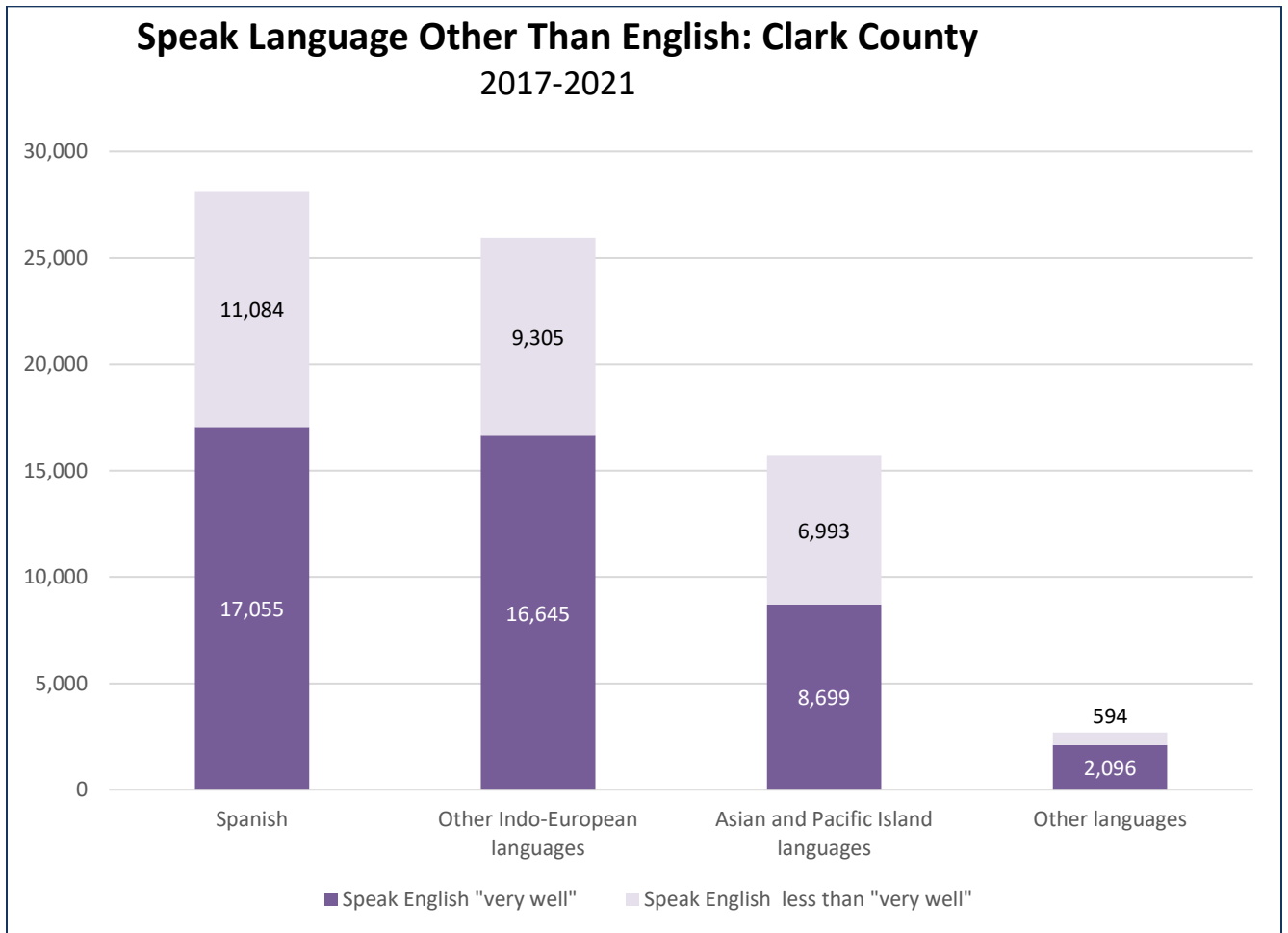


Population Density

Population: Language

In the 2017-2021-time frame, there were a number of individuals in Clark County who reported not speaking English very well. There were a high number of Spanish, Other Indo-European languages, and Asian and Pacific Island language speakers in Clark County.

Figure 20: 2021 Estimates of Student Population with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



In terms of students in Clark County, a high number spoke primarily Spanish or Russian, as seen in the table below.

Figure 21: 2021 Estimates of Student Population with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Primary Language	Number of Students	% of All Students in County	Race/Ethnicity of Applied Household Size	Household Size used in estimation	Estimate of Language Speakers
Chinese-Mandarin	310	0.44%	Chinese alone	2.62	812
Chuuk	431	0.61%	Chuukese alone	3.92	1,690
Romanian	269	0.38%	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2.37	638
Russian	2,404	3.40%	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2.37	5,697
Spanish	7,713	10.90%	County Specific Hispanic	3.5	26,996
Ukrainian	620	0.88%	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2.37	1,469
Vietnamese	505	0.71%	Vietnamese alone	3.39	1,712

Households

Households include all of the people that live in a housing unit. The members of the household can be related or not. Households can consist of a single person living in an apartment or a family living in a single-family house. This section of the report will examine various household-related topics, including household type and limited English-speaking households.

Household Types

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2021, there were 184,173 households in Clark County. The average household size was 2.67. A large number of these households were nonfamily households. The majority of households were 1- and 2-person households.

In terms of occupancy, 66.5% of the housing units were owner-occupied, while 33.5% were renter-occupied.

Figure 22: Family and Nonfamily Households: Clark County (2017-2021)

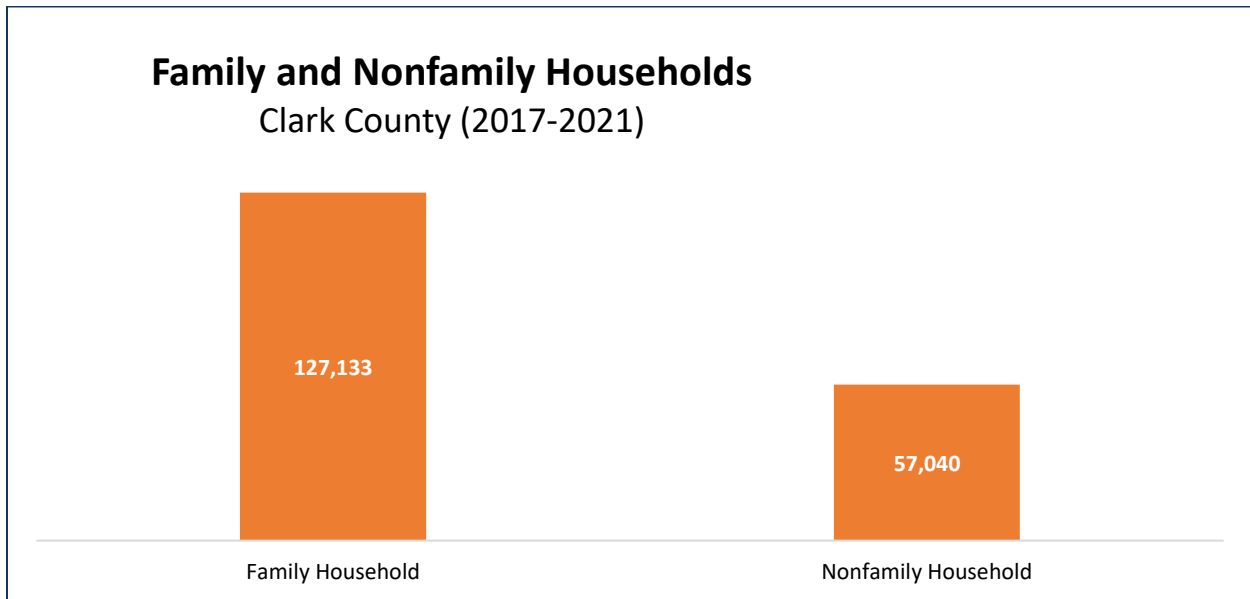
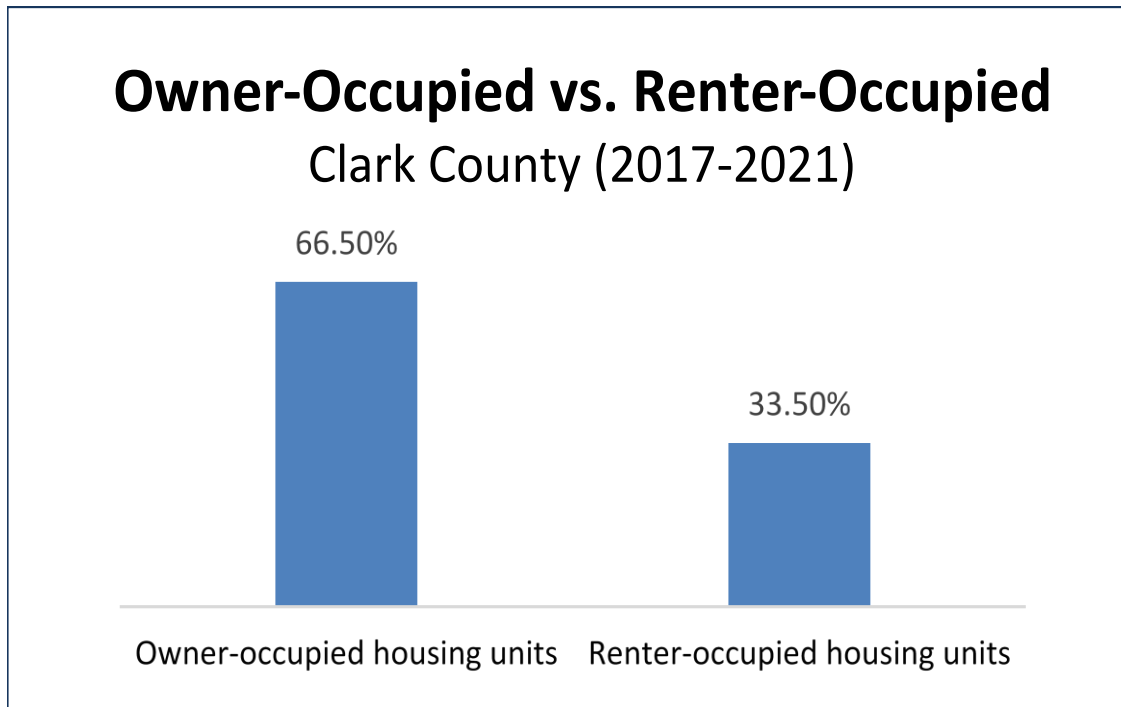


Figure 23: Household Size (2021)

Household Size (2021)	
Number	Percent
1-person household	23.0%
2-person household	35.6%
3-person household	16.1%
4-or-more-person household	25.3%

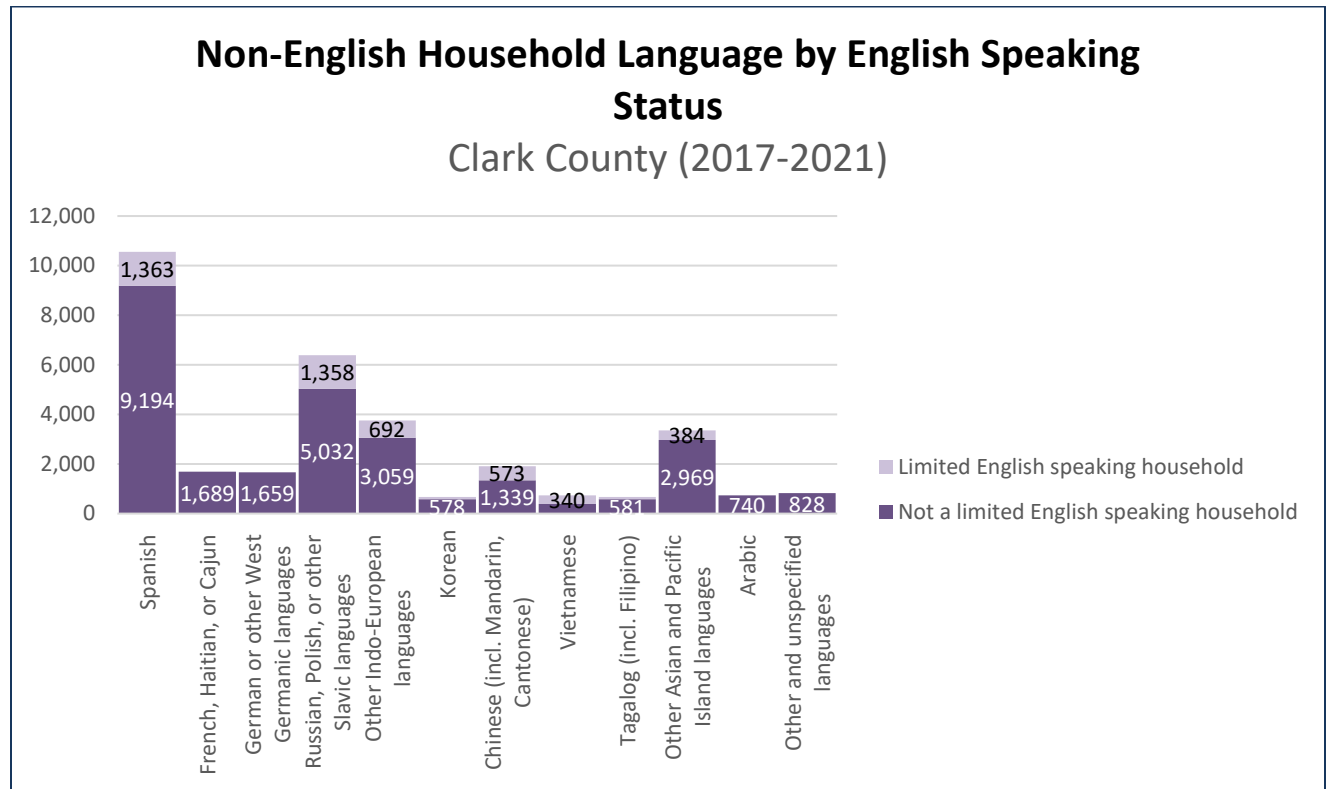
Figure 24: Owner-Occupied vs. Renter-Occupied, Clark County (2017-2021)



Households Language

In terms of households and English-speaking ability, *Spanish* and *Russian, Polish, or other Slavic-speaking* households had the highest number of limited English speakers. Other non-English-speaking households included French, Haitian, or Cajun; German or Other West Germanic languages; Korean; Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese); Vietnamese; Tagalog (including Filipino); and Arabic.

Figure 25: Non-English Household Language by English-Speaking Status: Clark County (2017-2021)



Employment

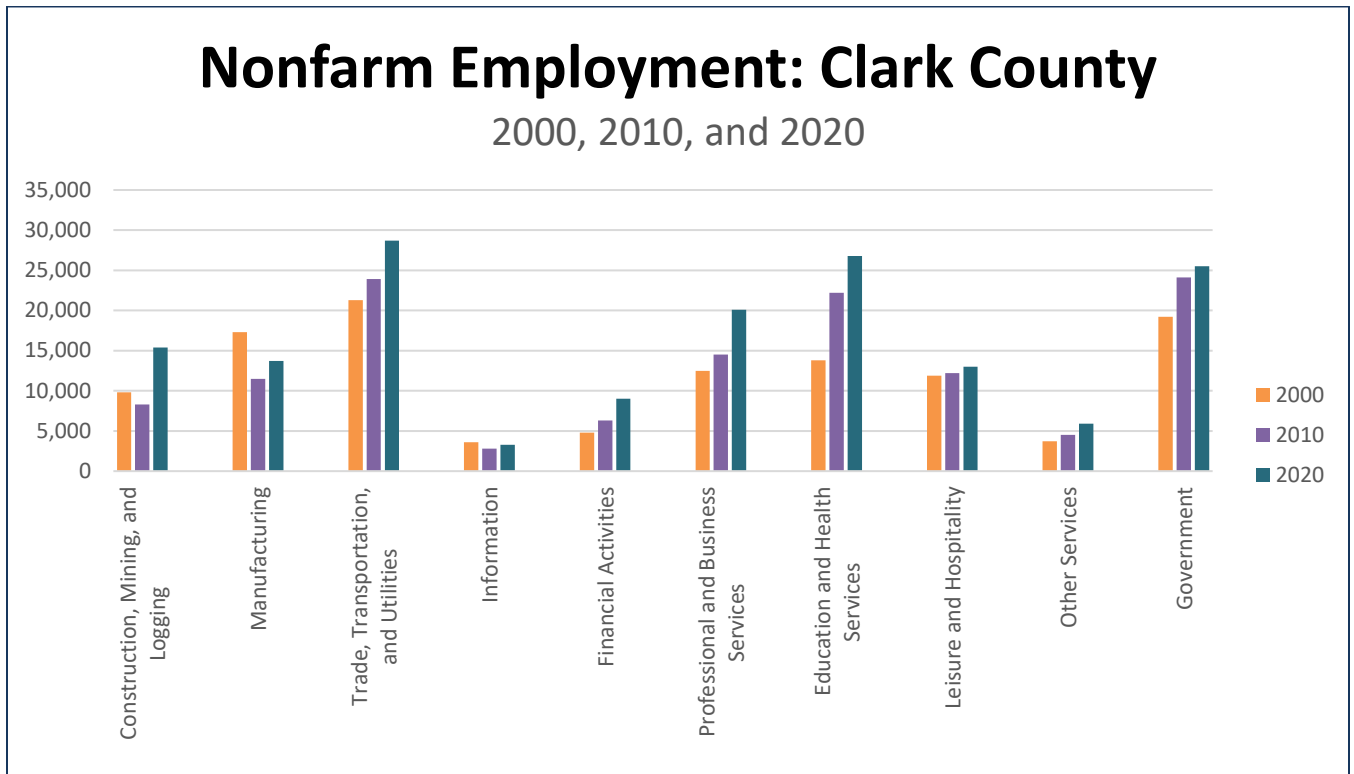
From 2000 to 2019, Clark County nonfarm employment grew almost 3 times faster than the nation and 58 percent faster than the state. Major industry sectors in Clark County included health care and social assistance, professional and business services, retail trade, leisure and hospitality, and manufacturing. Government and public education also employed a high number of workers.

This section of the report will present historical employment statistics, including nonfarm employment, employment growth, and the labor force.

Nonfarm Employment

Most of the nonfarm employment industries in Clark County saw a steady increase in employment between 2000 and 2020, with the highest employment in trade, transportation, and utilities; educational and health services; and government in 2020.

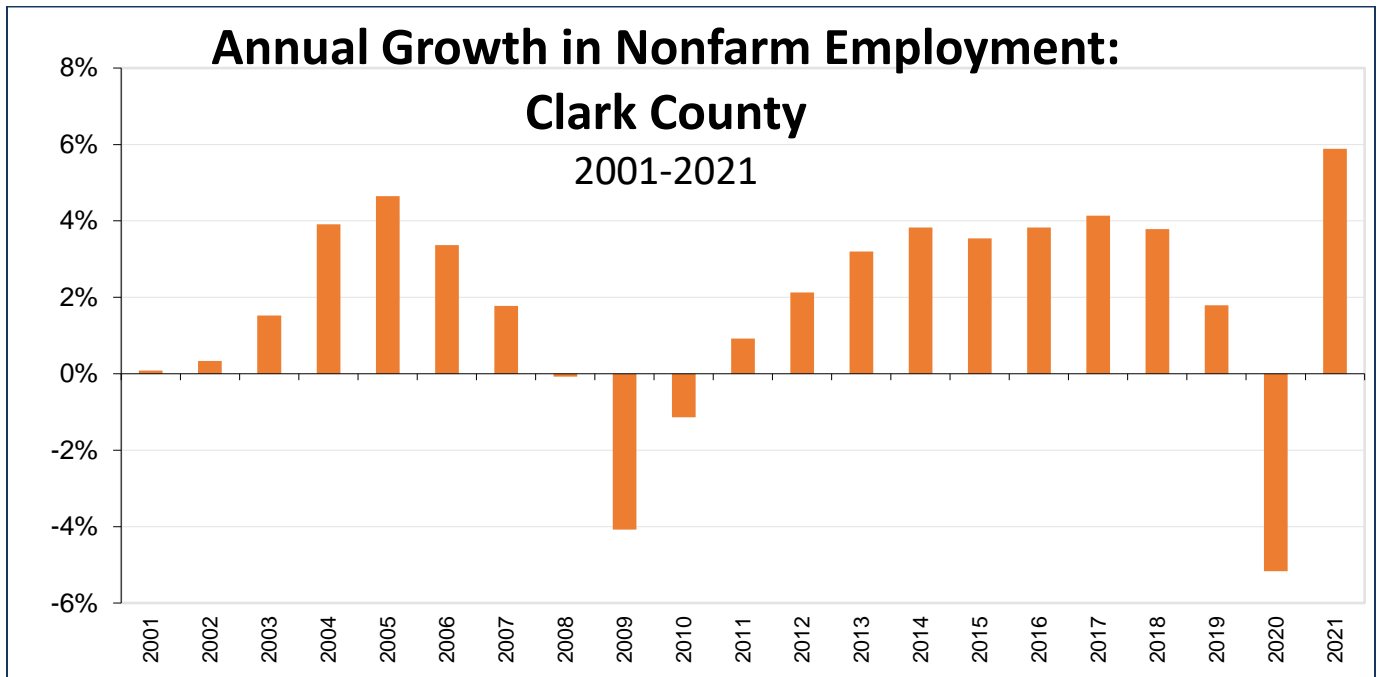
Figure 26: Nonfarm Employment: Clark County, 2000, 2010, and 2020



Employment Growth

Clark County’s nonfarm employment experienced ups and downs between 2001 and 2021, with significant down years in 2009 and 2020. The county quickly rebounded in 2021, with employment growth of 5.9%.

Figure 27: Annual Growth in Nonfarm Employment: Clark County, 2001-2021

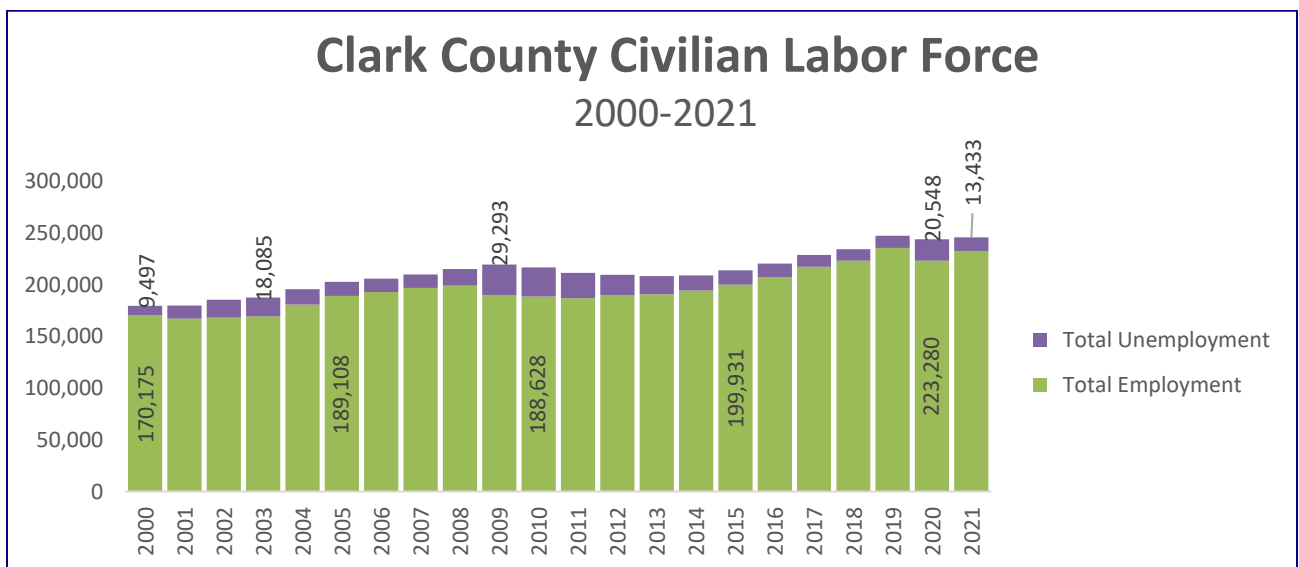


Employment Labor

Labor Force

Clark County experienced high unemployment in 2003, 2009, and 2020, as noted in the figure below. There was an improvement in the number of employed in 2021.

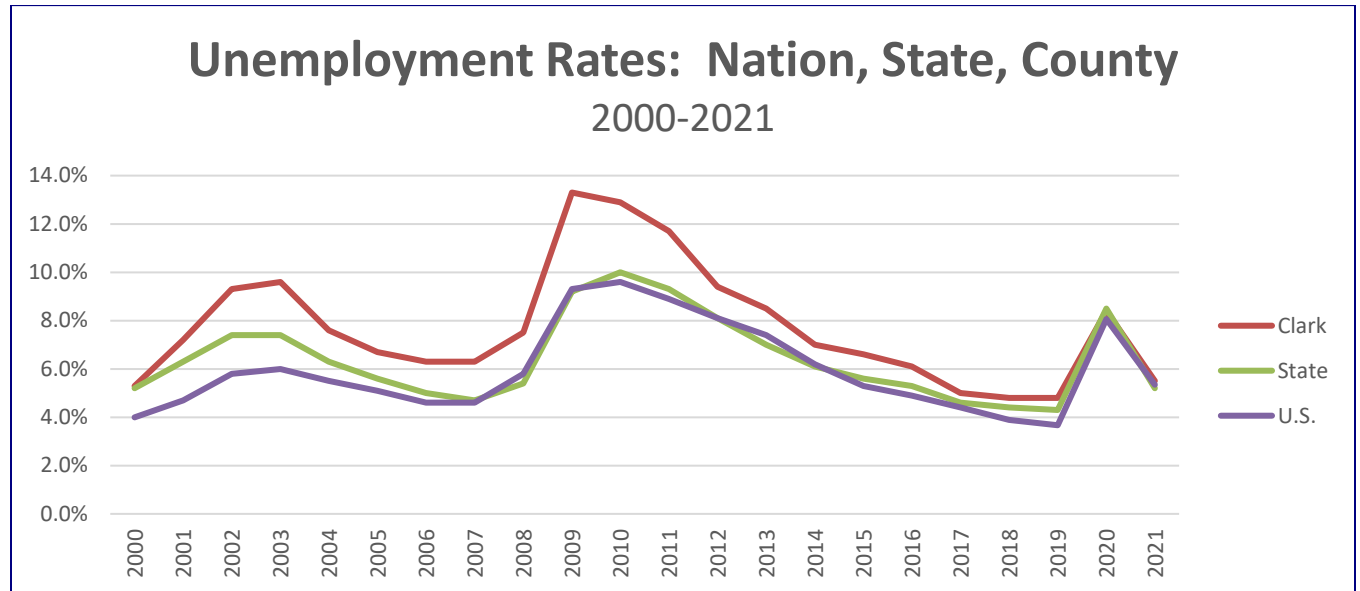
Figure 28: Clark County Civilian Labor Force: 2000-2021



Unemployment Rates

Clark County experienced higher unemployment rates than the state and nation in 2003 and 2009, with a similar unemployment rate to the state and nation in 2020 and 2021.

Figure 29: Unemployment Rates: Nation, State, County, 2000-2021



Education

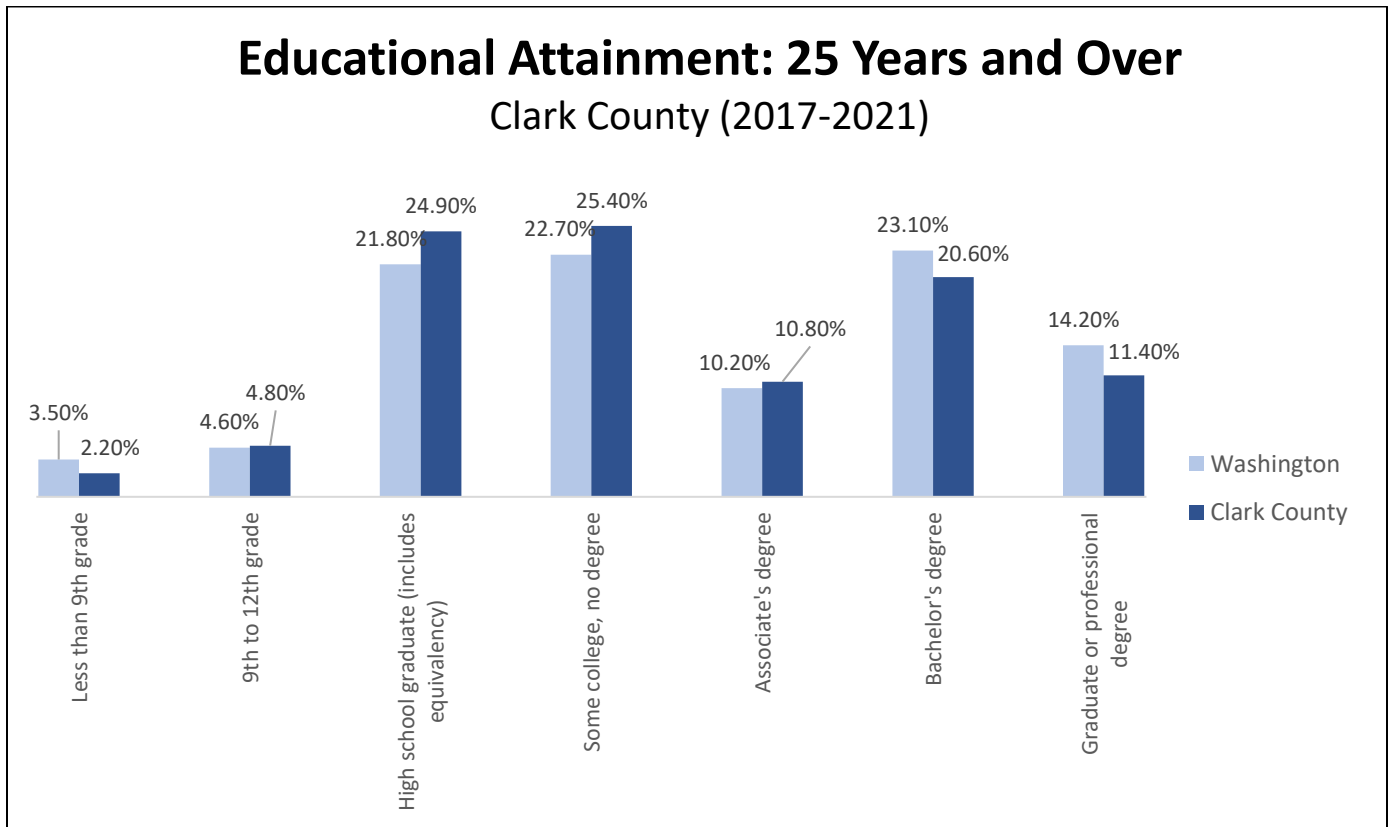
Education leads to better jobs and higher income. People with more education are more likely to have jobs with higher earnings, live in communities with more resources, and acquire knowledge and skills to support healthier behaviors.

This section of the report will look at educational attainment in Clark County, including students attending trade schools.

Educational Attainment

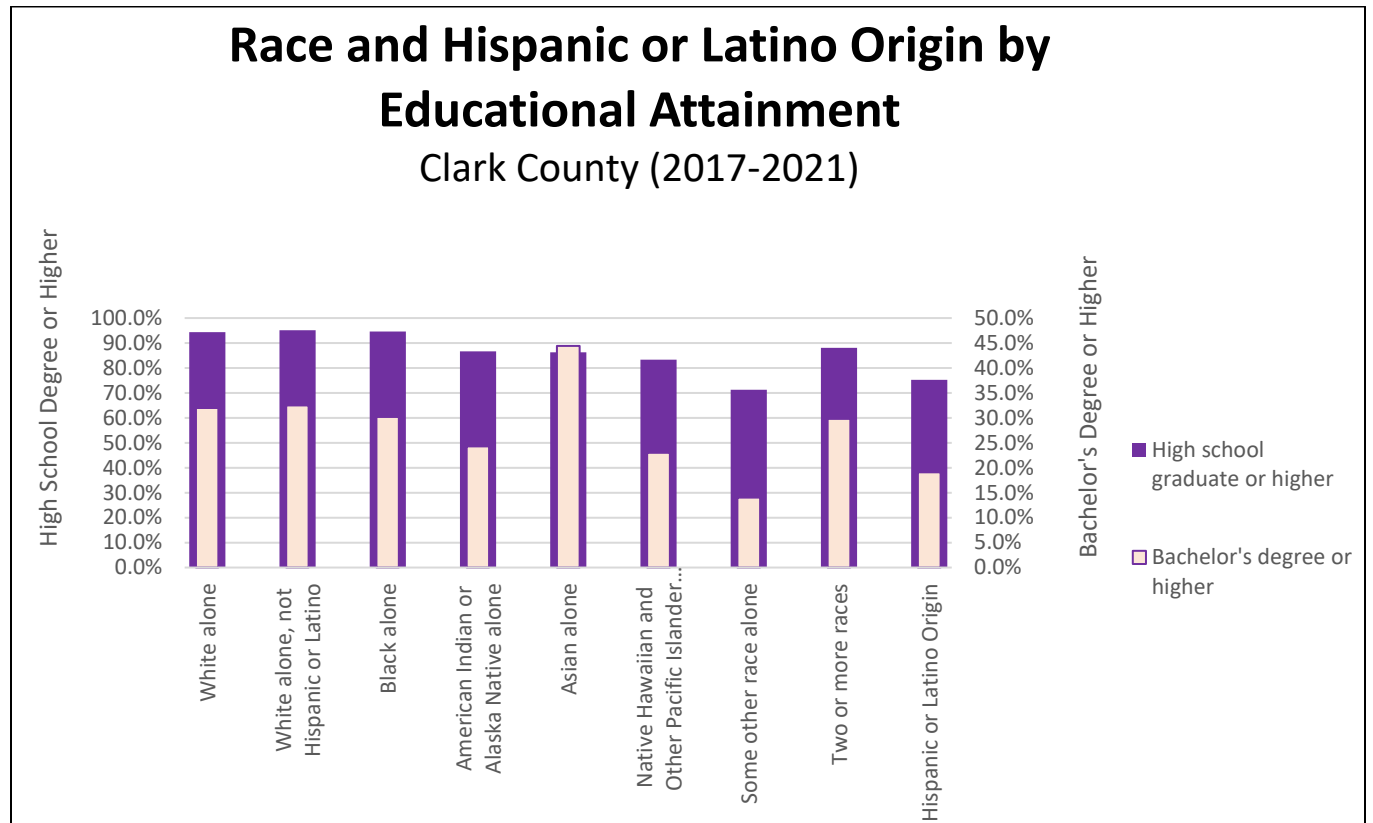
Washington State and Clark County saw similar education attainment percentages for those individuals aged 25 years and over in the 2017-2021 timeframe. There was a slightly higher percentage of high school graduates in Clark County and a slightly higher percentage of bachelor's degree recipients and graduate degree recipients in Washington State.

Figure 30: Educational Attainment: 25 Years and Over, Clark County, 2017-2021



In terms of educational attainment by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin, the group with the lowest percentage of *High School Degree or Higher* was *Some Other Race Alone*, at 71% followed by *Hispanic or Latino Origin*, at 75%. When it comes to *Bachelor's Degree or Higher*, the highest percentage was *Asian alone*, at 44%, and *White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino*, at 32.5%.

Figure 31: Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin by Educational Attainment, Clark County, 2017-2021



Trade Schools

According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the 2019-2020 academic year, there were a total of 1,423 students enrolled in postsecondary institutions in Clark County. Of these students, 31% were enrolled in trade schools, also known as career and technical education (CTE) programs.

- Clark College is the largest postsecondary institution in the county, with a total enrollment of over 9,000 students in the 2019-2020 academic year. The college offers a variety of CTE programs in fields such as automotive technology, welding, and health care.
- Perry Technical Institute, a private trade school with a campus in Vancouver, also offers CTE programs in fields such as welding, plumbing, and HVAC. The school has a total enrollment of around 1,100 students, according to its website.

Overall, trade schools in Clark County provide a range of vocational education and training programs designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in various trades and industries.

Poverty

Poverty thresholds are the minimum income levels that are considered sufficient to meet the basic needs of a household, including food, shelter, and other essential expenses. These thresholds are used by governments and organizations to measure poverty. Poverty thresholds are determined by the Census Bureau and vary depending on the size and composition of a household. For example, in 2019 the poverty threshold for a single individual under the age of 65 was \$13,300, while the threshold for a family of four with two children under the age of 18 was \$25,926.

Poverty thresholds can be a useful tool for understanding the extent and nature of poverty in a given population, but they also have limitations. For example, poverty thresholds do not account for differences in the cost of living across different regions or for the effects of nonmonetary factors—such as access to health care, education, and social services—on poverty. It is important to note that poverty thresholds are not the same as poverty guidelines or the poverty line, which are used to determine eligibility for specific government assistance programs.

Clark County is a diverse region that is home to many individuals and families who face poverty and economic hardship. While Clark County is one of the fastest growing regions in the state, poverty remains a significant issue in the area.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey, the poverty rate in Clark County was approximately 9 percent. This compares to 12 percent of the U.S. population and 10 percent of Washington State's population.

Poverty Rate

Clark County's poverty rate remained lower than the state's and nation's during the 1999 to 2019-time frame, as seen in the figure below.

Figure 32: Poverty Rate: 1999-2019

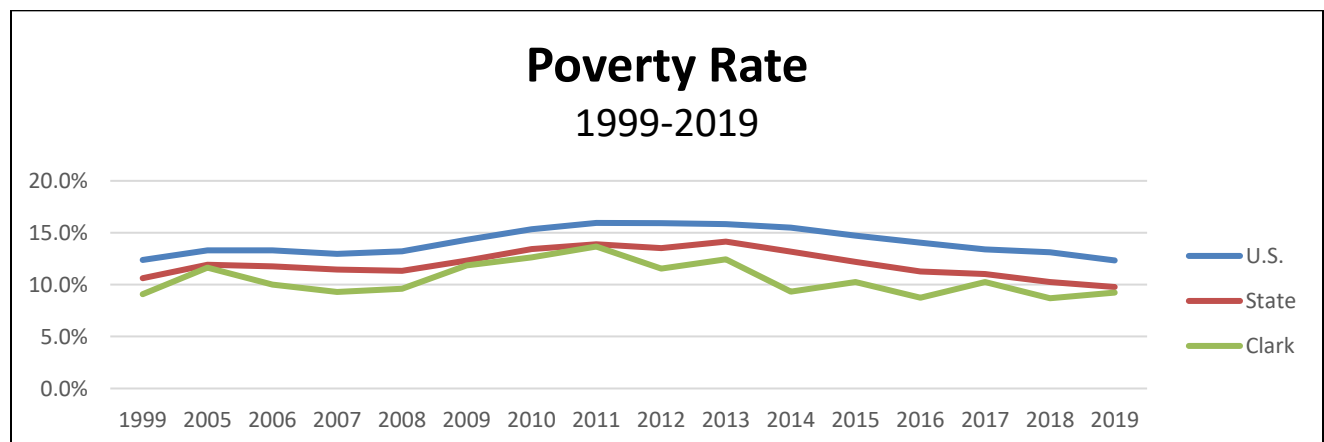
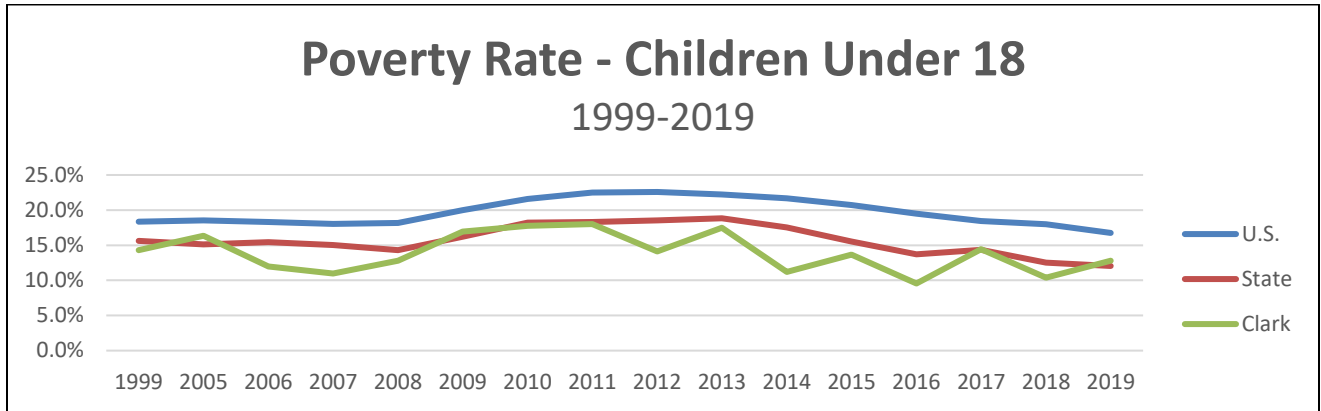


Figure 33: Poverty Rate: Children Under 18, 1999-2019

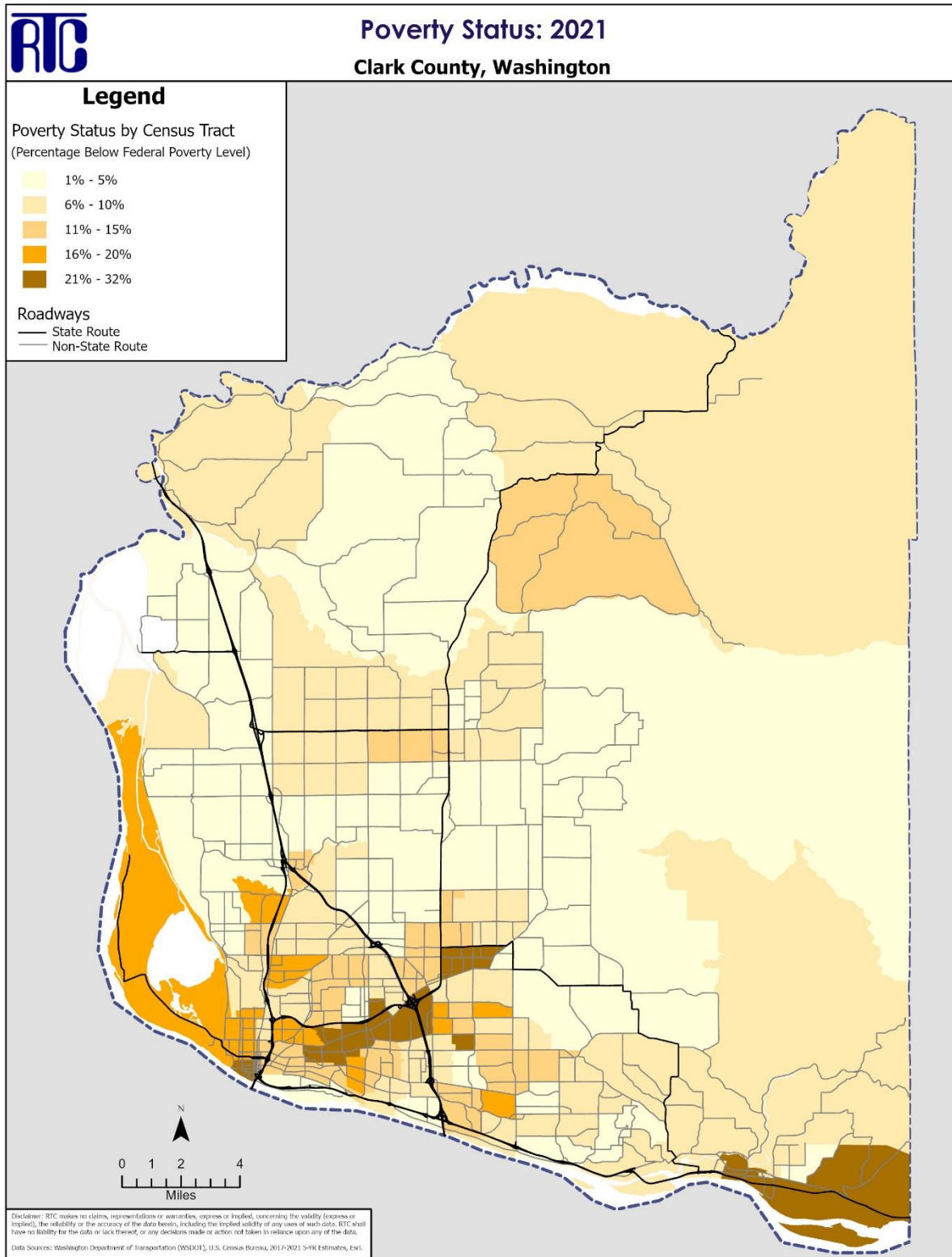


Poverty Status

The map below shows poverty status by census tract in Clark County in 2021. The darker the color of the tract, the higher the number of individuals living below the federal poverty level within the census tract.

Those census tracts with a high number of individuals living below the federal poverty level can be found near the major roadway corridors in the region.

Figure34: Poverty Status 2021, Clark County, Washington

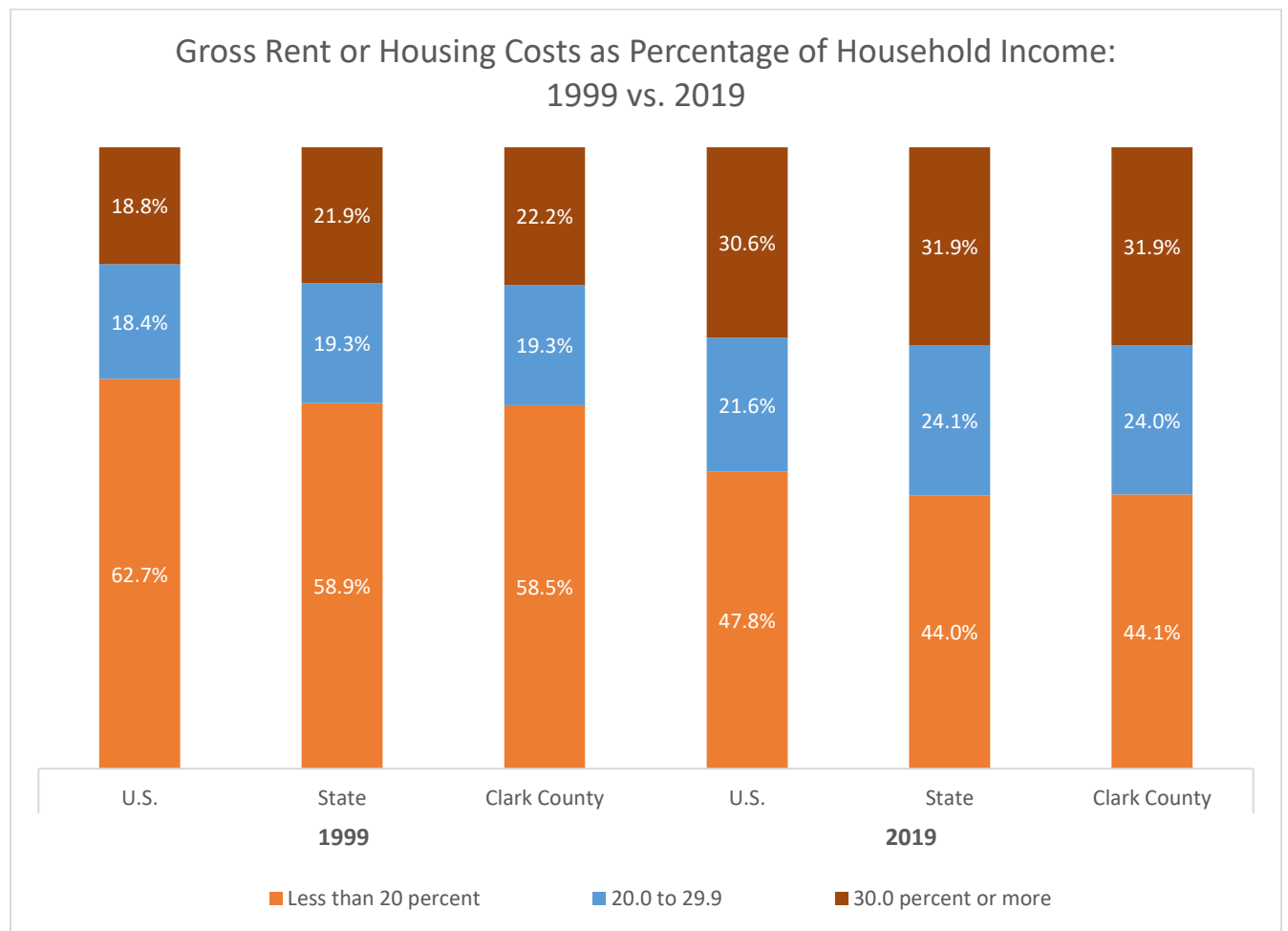


Housing

Housing has a direct correlation to population, household, and income. In Clark County, for example, the rising aging population will have an impact on housing needs moving forward. Also, households consist of various family types, including multigenerational households and households consisting of individuals with particular housing needs given a health disability. Household income is impacted by the cost of housing.

This section of the report will look at how household income has been impacted by housing and renting costs over time. The section will also look at how the region’s housing stock has changed over time and those individuals experiencing homelessness.

Figure 35: Gross Rent or Housing Costs as Percentage of Household Income, 1999 vs. 2019

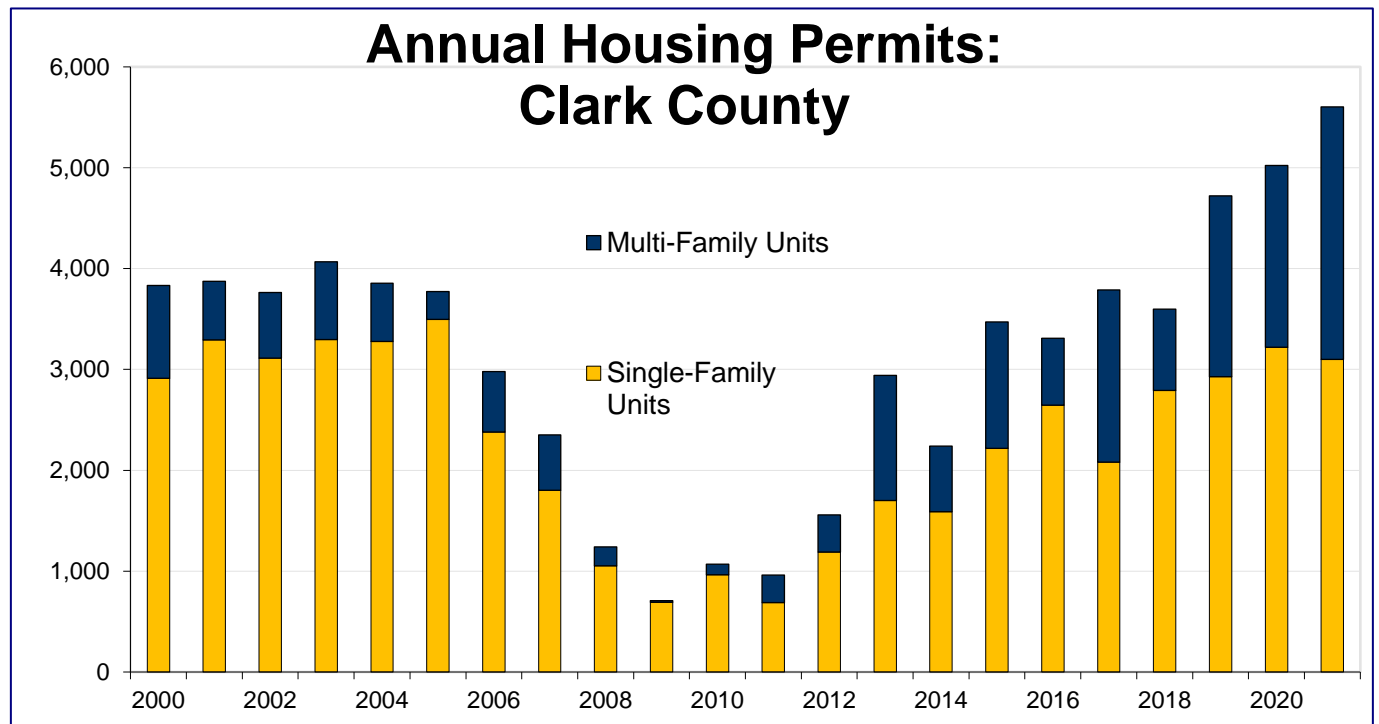


Housing Permits

Between 2000 and 2021, there was a noticeable dip in housing permits in 2009. There was also an increase in the number of multifamily units in the county.

In terms of single-family and multifamily housing permits in Clark County, there was a noticeable increase in multifamily units between 2010 and 2021. The number went from 10% in 2010 to 44% in 2021.

Figure 36: Annual Housing Permits: Clark County, 2000-2021



Rent and Housing Costs

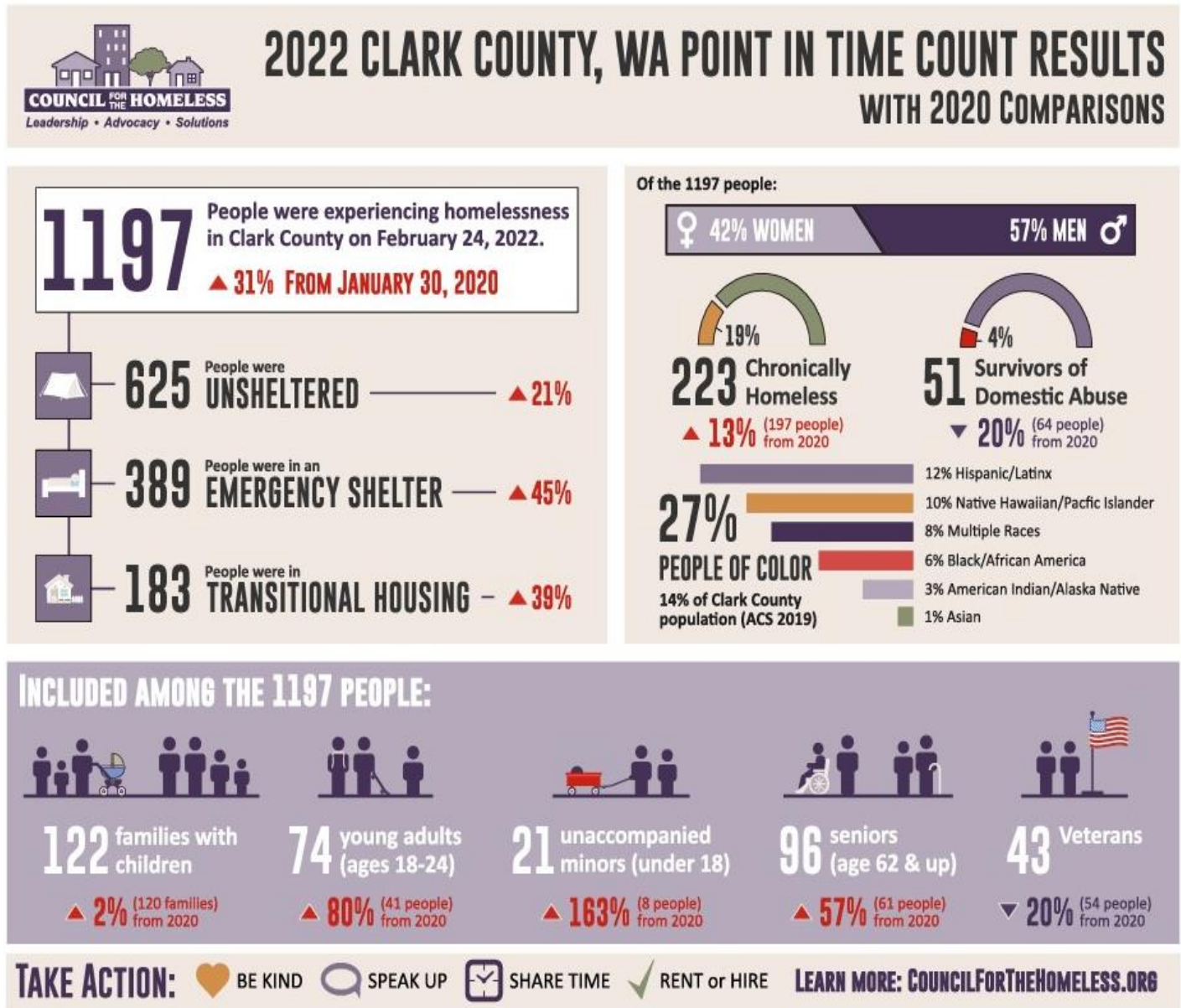
The nation, state, and Clark County all saw an increase in the percentage of household income being used for gross rent or housing costs between 1999 and 2019. All three saw over 30 percent of income being used towards rent or housing costs.

Homelessness

The Council for the Homeless produced a graphic that compared homelessness statistics in Clark County between 2020 and 2022. Almost all of the categories provided in the graphic show an increase between 2020 and 2022, including people who were unsheltered, in an emergency shelter, and in transitional housing.

There was also an increase in families with children, young adults, unaccompanied minors, and seniors.

Figure 37: 2022 Clark County, WA Point In Time Count Results with 2020 Comparisons (Council for the Homeless)



Source: Council For The Homeless (<https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/>)

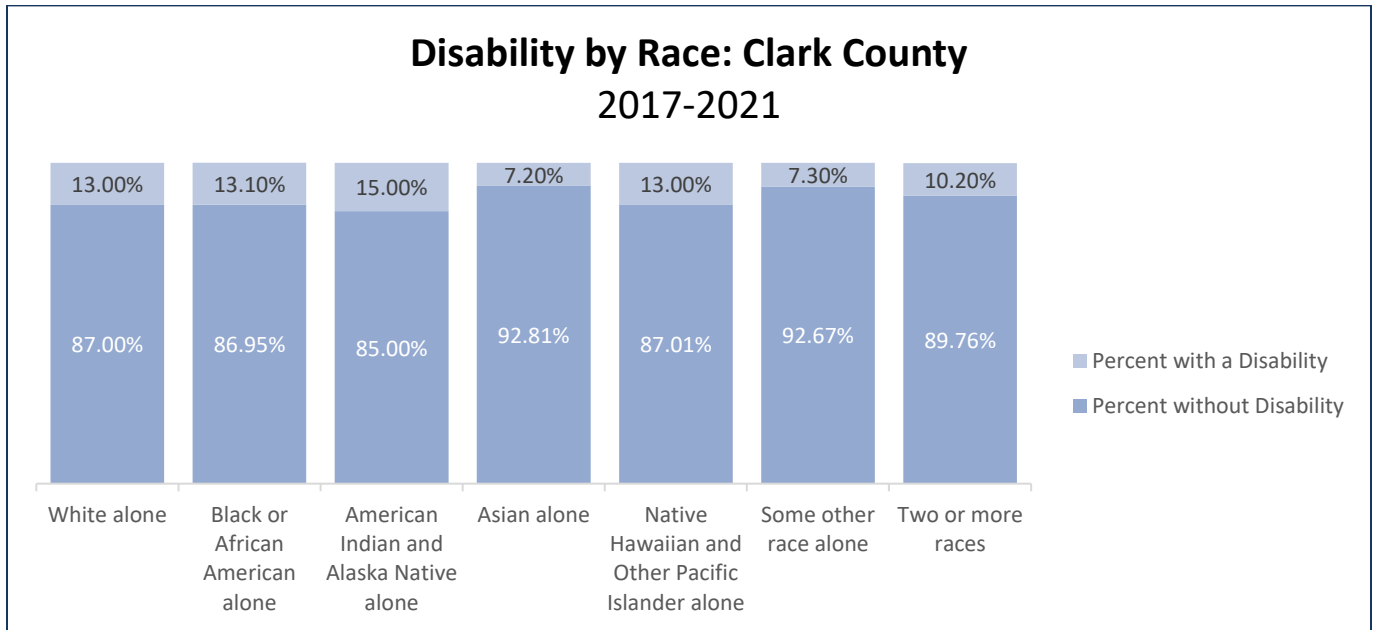
Health Disability

Planning means planning for people. Our health is influenced by education, income, and transportation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), approximately 8 percent of those people under 65 reported a disability between 2017 and 2021.

Disability by Race

During the 2017-2021-time frame, 5 out of the 7 race categories listed in the figure below had at least 10% of their population with a disability.

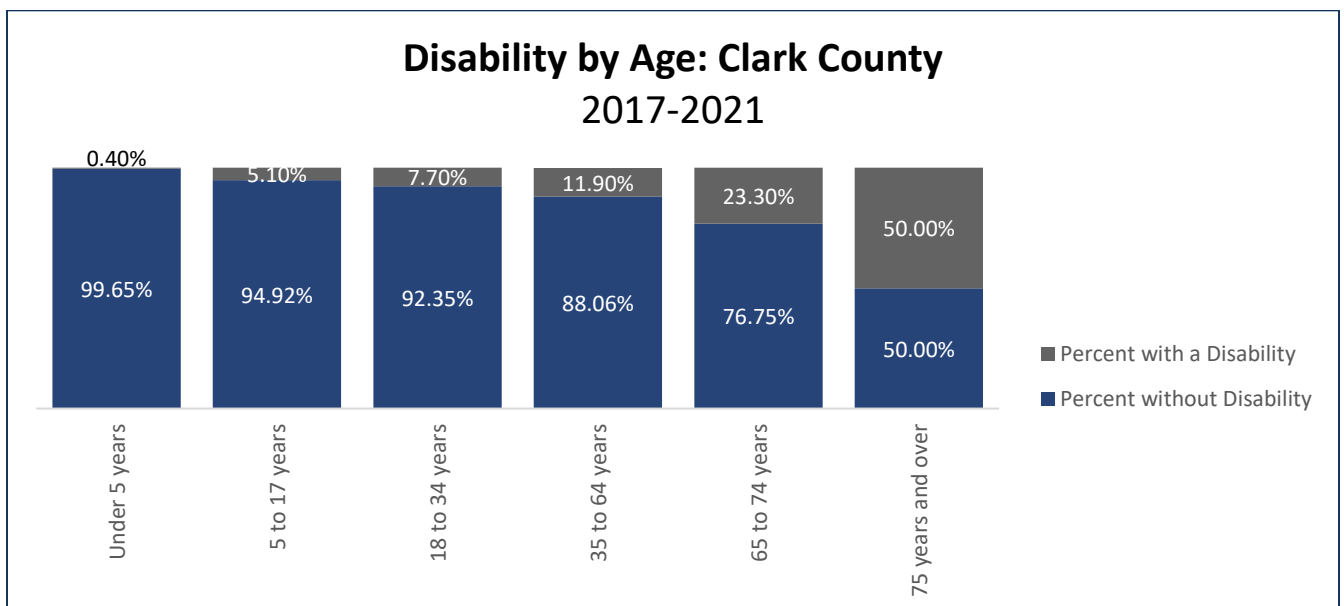
Figure 38: Disability by Race: Clark County, 2017-2021



Disability by Age

In terms of disability by age, over 11 percent of those between the aged of 35 and 64 had a disability.

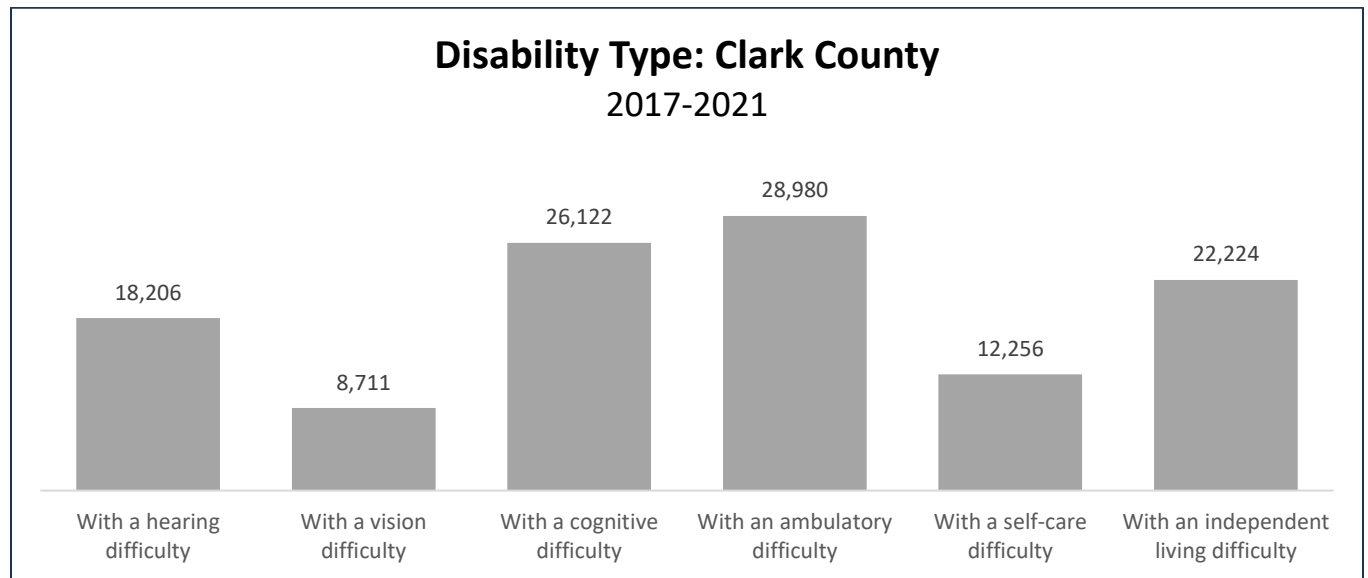
Figure 39: Disability by Age: Clark County, 2017-2021



Disability by Type

Six disability types are provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Ambulatory difficulty, cognitive difficulty, and independent living difficulty were the disability types with the highest number of individuals between 2017 and 2021. *Ambulatory difficulty* refers to people who experience serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

Figure 40: Disability by Type: Clark County, 2017-2021



Journey To Work

Many residents of Clark County choose to drive their personal vehicles to work. Some residents do not have a car available to them. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 4.6% of occupied housing units in Clark County did not have a car available during the 2016-2021 time period. This compares to 6.8% of occupied housing units statewide, and 8.3% of occupied housing units nationwide. Major highways in the area include Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, both of which run north-south through the county, and State Route 14, which runs east-west along the Columbia River.

Clark County offers several public transit options for commuting, including C-TRAN buses and the Portland-Vancouver Express (PVE) commuter bus, which runs between Vancouver and Portland, Oregon. C-TRAN also operates a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system called The Vine, which runs along the Fourth Plain corridor in Vancouver. For those who prefer to carpool to work, C-TRAN offers a vanpool program that provides a van for a group of commuters to share.

For those who live close to their workplace, biking or walking may be a viable option. Clark County has several multiuse paths and bike lanes, including the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail and the Salmon Creek Greenway Trail. With advancements in technology, many jobs can now be done from home.

Telecommuting can eliminate the need to commute altogether, saving time and money while reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a *Journey to Work* survey as part of its American Community Survey (ACS). The survey collects information about how people commute to work, including the modes of transportation they use, the time it takes to travel to work, and the distance they travel. This information is used to analyze commuting patterns and identify trends and patterns in how people travel to work.

Employer Locations for Clark County Resident Workforce: 2020

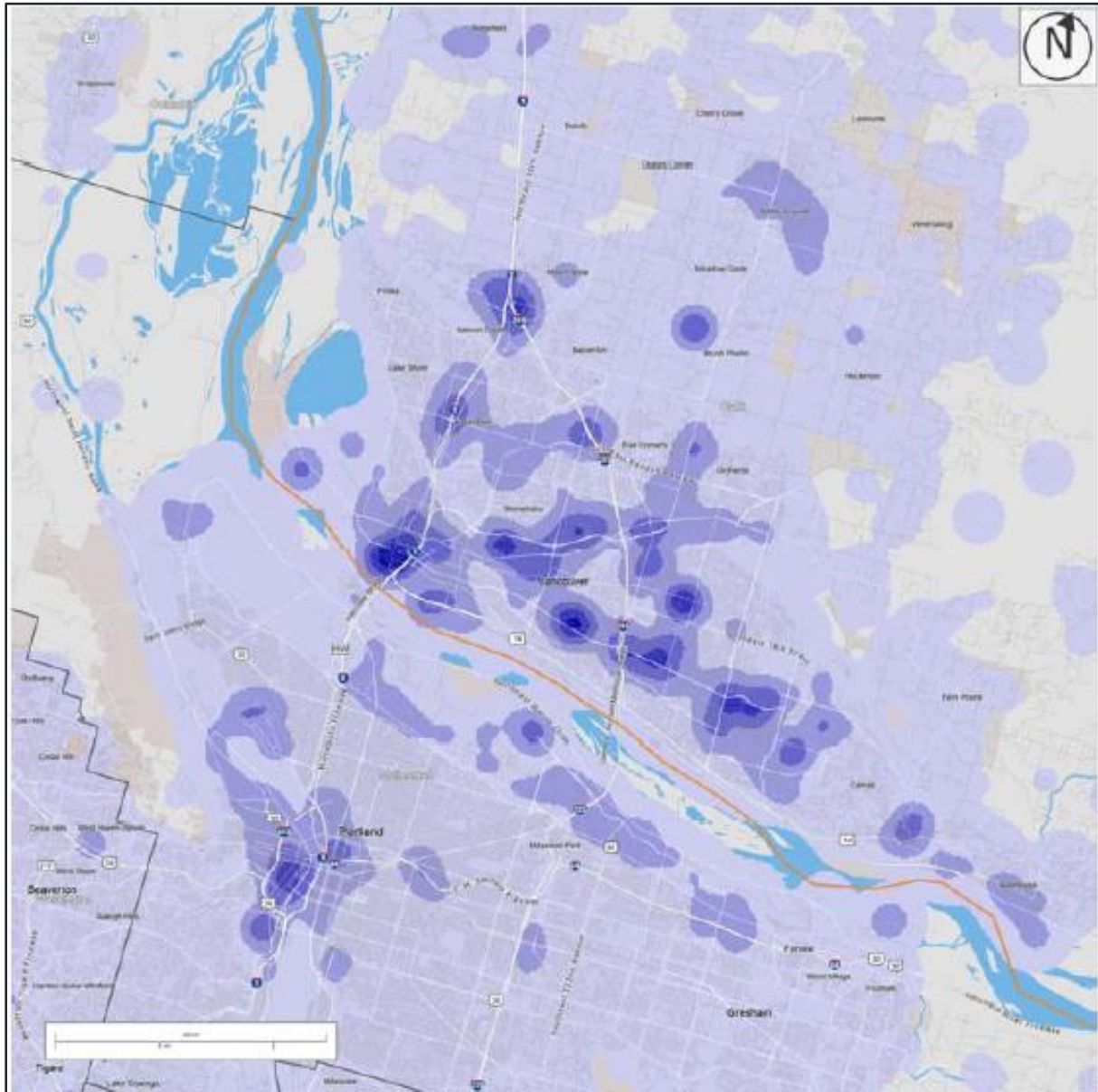
Most residents of Clark County worked in Clark County in 2020. Outside of Clark County, the majority of workers commuted to Multnomah County (21.7%). King County, Washington had the third highest number of workers commuting from Clark County. This can be attributed to a high number of business headquarters being located in King County, including Amazon and Alaska Airlines. A significantly smaller number of workers commuted to Washington (4.8%) and Clackamas (3.2%) counties in Oregon.

In terms of those commuting to Multnomah County, the majority of workers were employed close to the Columbia River, with concentrations of employment hubs located between the river and Interstate 84. There was also a high concentration of commuters going to downtown Portland. The table below provides a list of counties that employed Clark County residents in 2020. There is also a heat map provided that shows the concentrations of employment in Vancouver and Portland. The darker the color on the map, the higher the concentration of commuters from Clark County.

Figure 41: 2020 Employer Locations for Clark County Resident Workforce

Employer County	Number Employed	Share of Employed
Clark County, WA	111,725	51.5%
Multnomah County, OR	47,042	21.7%
King County, WA	12,692	5.9%
Washington County, OR	10,349	4.8%
Clackamas County, OR	6,940	3.2%
Cowlitz County, WA	5,226	2.4%
Pierce County, WA	3,786	1.7%
Thurston County, WA	2,415	1.1%
Snohomish County, WA	1,818	0.8%
Marion County, OR	1,636	0.8%
All Other Locations	13,184	6.1%
<i>Total Workers</i>	<i>216,813</i>	<i>100%</i>

Figure 42: 2020 Concentration of Employer Locations for Clark County Resident Workforce

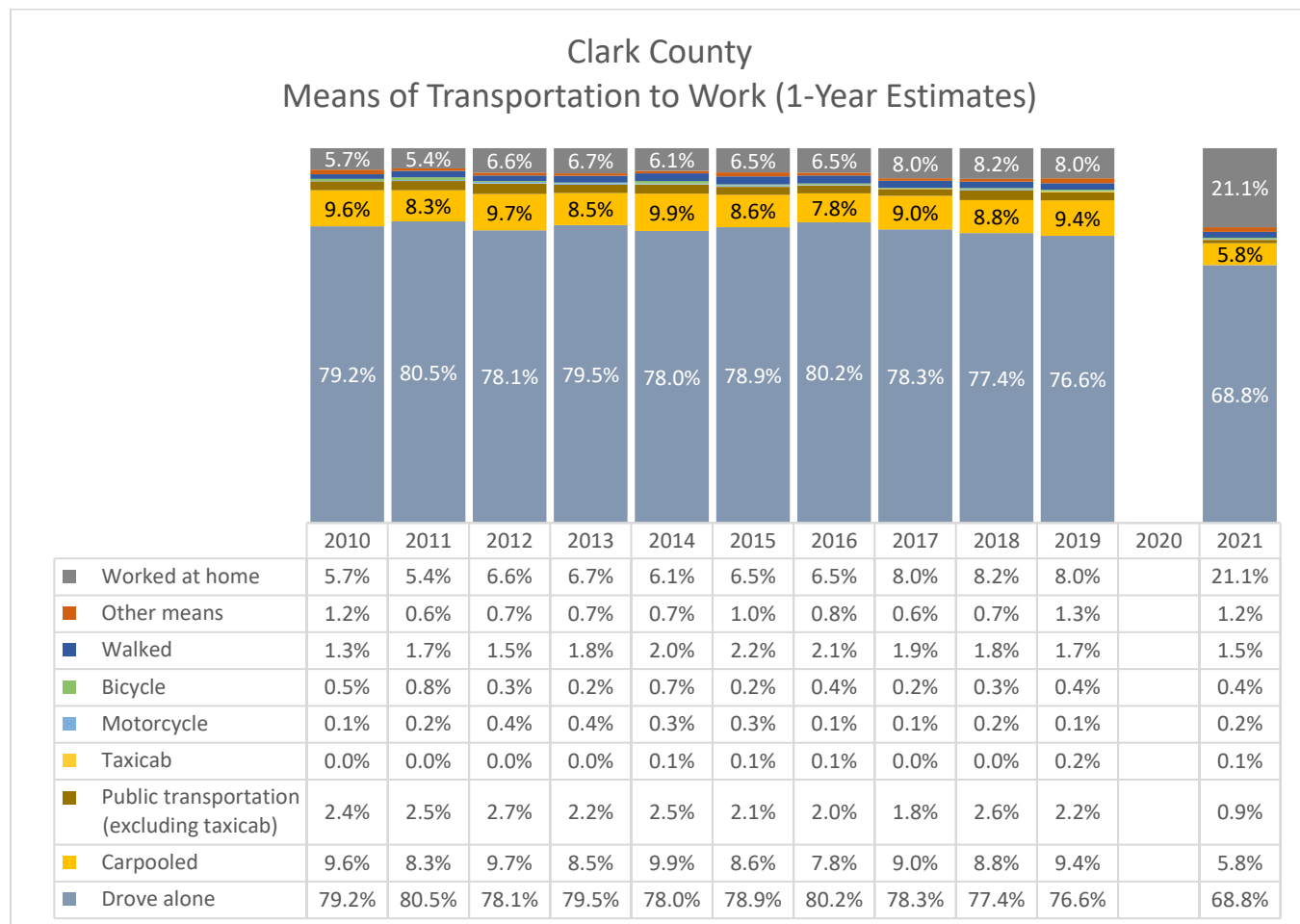


Means of Transportation to Work by Mode: 2020–2021

According to American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates, the most notable change between 2019 and 2021 was the number of people working from home. The county went from 8.0% working remotely in 2019 to 21.1% in 2021. This change is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the larger number of people working from home, there was a noticeable drop in people driving alone to work. 76.6% of people drove alone to work in 2019. In 2021 that number dropped to 68.8%. In addition to a decrease in driving alone, there was a reduction in public transportation use and carpooling. Given the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020, no data is available for that particular year. Means of

Transportation to Work, 1-year data, covering 2010 to 2021, can be found on the following page of the report.

Figure 43: Means of Transportation to Work: Clark County – 2010-2021 (1-Year Estimates)



KEY TAKEAWAYS

As RTC’s decision-making bodies make key policy decisions during the development of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, it is important to recognize the key demographic changes that have occurred in the region over the past 20 years and the possible impacts these changes will have on future land use and transportation.

Population

- Region continued to grow
- Increase in aging and minority populations
- Primary cause for growth was net in-migration

Households

- Significant number of nonfamily households
- Large number were renter-occupied households
- Growing number of cost-burdened households

Housing

- Increased focus on multifamily housing
- Increase in people experiencing homelessness

Journey to Work

- Increase in working from home
- Decrease in driving alone and public transportation usage to work

Demographic Resources

- American Community Survey (ACS) (U.S. Census)
 - Homepage: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>
 - Tables: <https://data.census.gov/all/tables?q=ACS>
- Council for the Homeless: <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/>
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES): <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/>
- U.S. County Migration Patterns (U.S. Census): <https://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/map.html#>
- Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD): <https://esd.wa.gov/>
- Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM): <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research>