

The 2020 Census

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Why the Census Matters

And what we are looking forward to learning from the 2020 data

Census 2020 Matters

- ❑ The U.S. Census is the official count of the population, and it happens every 10 years.
- ❑ The 2020 Census began in March and will continue until October 31 of 2020.
- ❑ Census results determine the allocation of billions of dollars for vital programs and determines legislative representation **for the next 10 years**.
- ❑ A significant percentage of historically undercounted communities are at risk of being undercounted again in the 2020 Census.



Topics on the 2020 Census Questionnaire

Age

Age asked since 1790.

AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH QUESTIONS ARE USED TO UNDERSTAND THE SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA BY AGE.

Gender

Gender asked since 1790.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE GENDER OF EACH PERSON IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT MALES AND FEMALES AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA, SUCH AS OCCUPATION, BY GENDER.

Race/Ethnicity

Race asked since 1790, ethnicity asked since 1970.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S RACE OR ETHNICITY ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT RACE AND ETHNIC GROUPS.

Relationship

Relationship asked since 1880.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH PERSON IN A HOUSEHOLD TO ONE CENTRAL PERSON IS USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES ABOUT FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS, AND OTHER GROUPS, AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA AT A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL.

Tenure (Owner/Renter)

Tenure asked since 1890.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A HOME IS OWNED OR RENTED IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT TENURE, RENTERS, AND HOME OWNERSHIP.

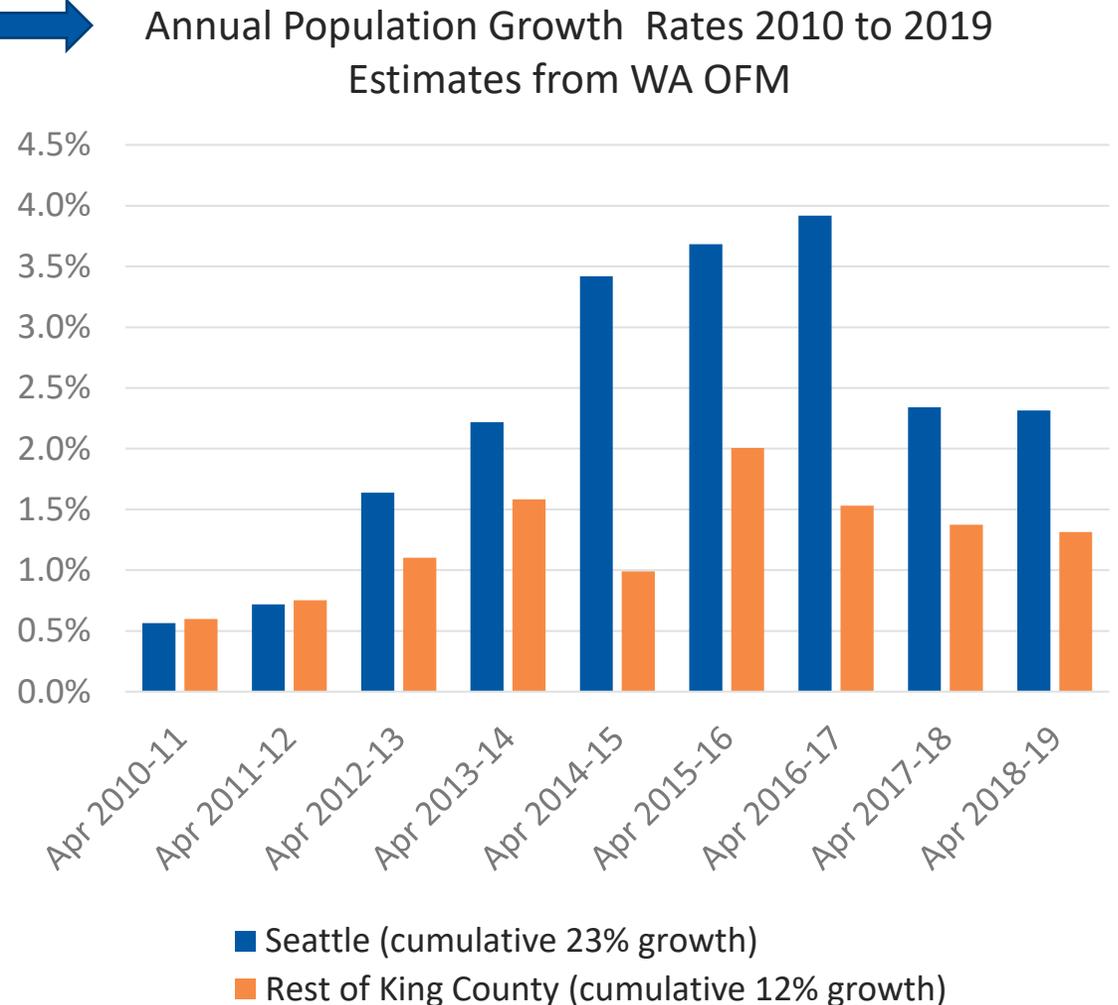
Note: The old long form portion of the census was been replaced with the American Community Survey (ACS).

Screenshots from

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/2020/operations/planned-subjects-2020-acs.pdf>

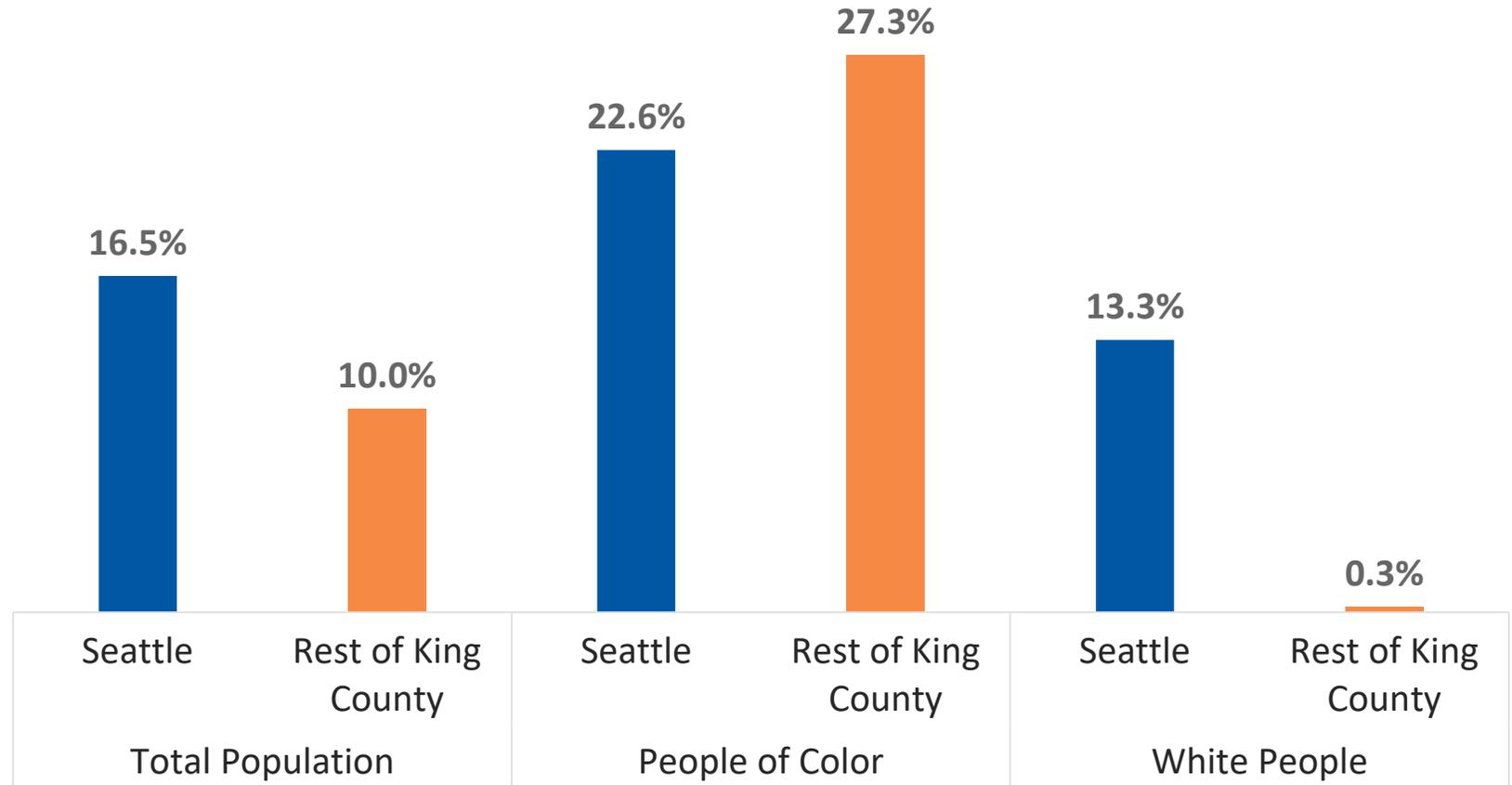
Population Numbers and Growth

- Seattle has been growing extremely quickly 
 - City's population was nearly 750K as of 2019, a 23% increase since 2010 Census compared to 12% in the remainder of King County.
 - Last 5 years of population estimates from Census Bureau show Seattle was fastest-growing large city in the U.S. from 2014 to 2018.
- 2020 Census population counts will provide:
 - Basis for many funding formulae
 - Baseline for data collection, analysis, and forecasting throughout coming decade
 - Denominators for identifying rates and understanding disparities



Population Growth in Seattle v. rest of King County

Population Growth Rates
2010 Census to 2014-2018 to 5-Year ACS



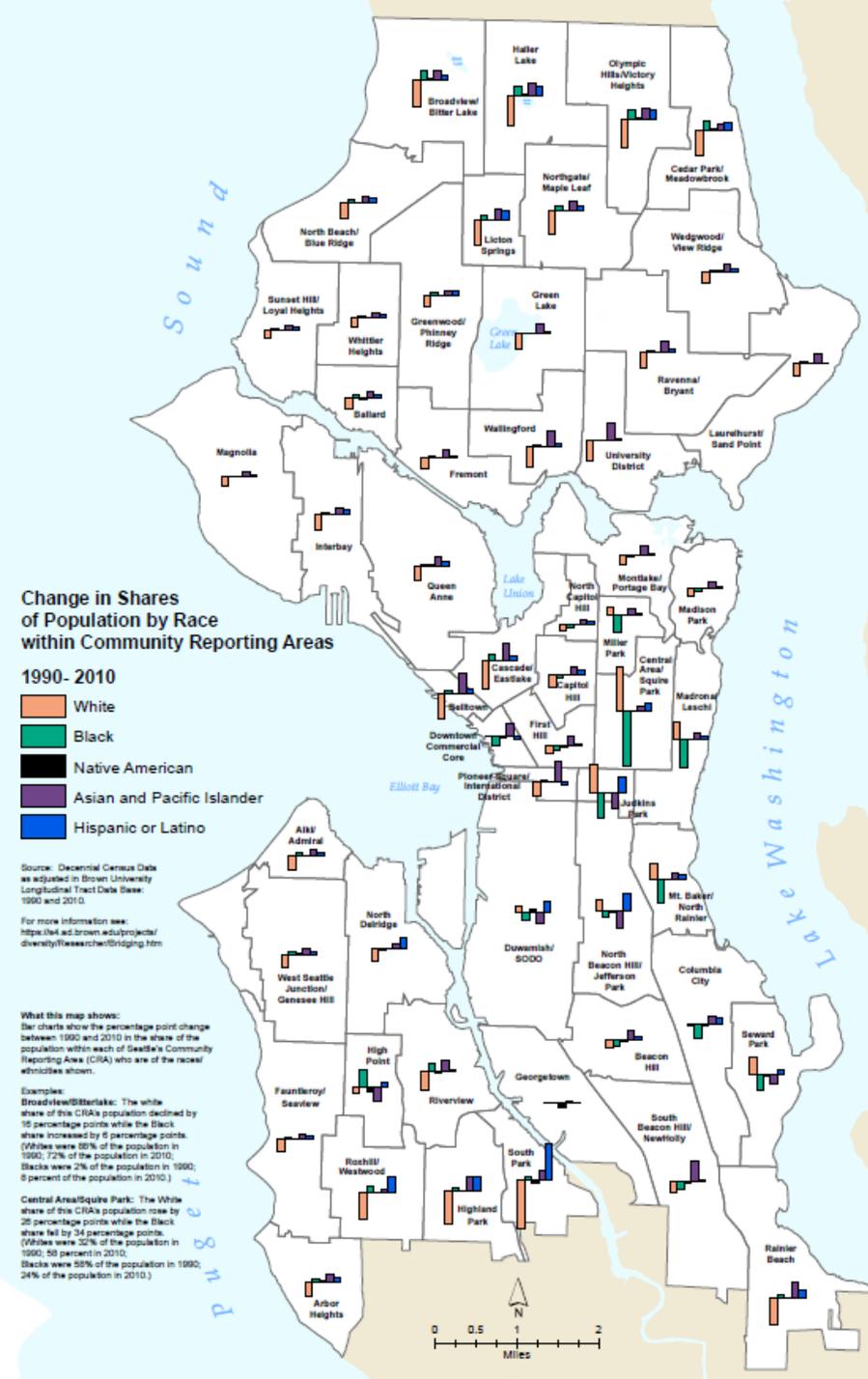
Sources: 2010 Census and 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau.
Note: ACS estimates carry margins of error.

Household Size and Composition

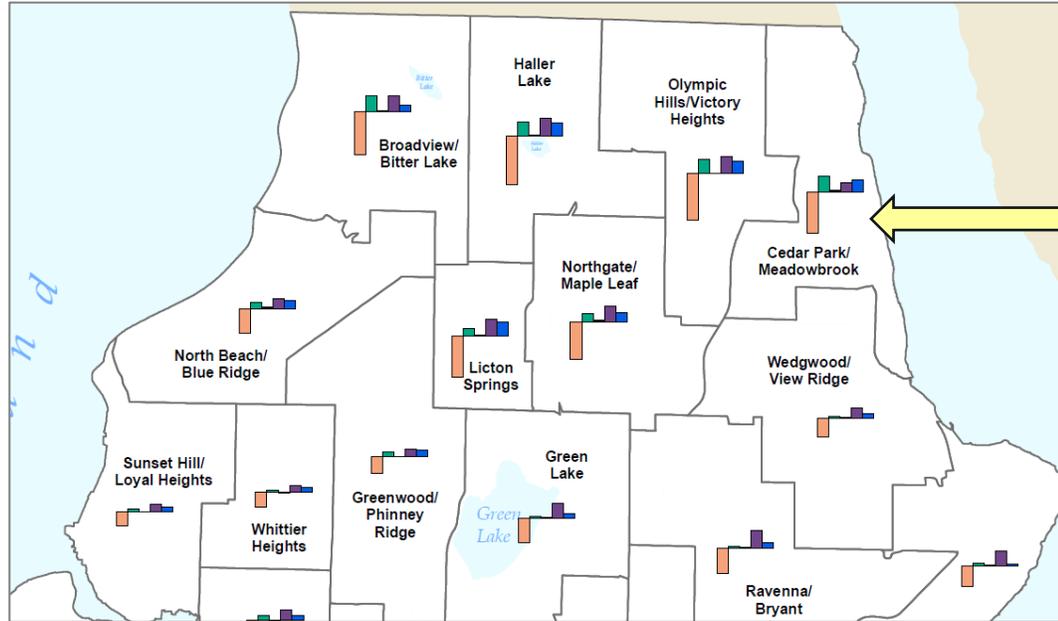
- Average household sizes had been declining prior to 2010. Since 2010, they have increased:
 - 2.06 in the 2010 Census
 - 2.12 in the most recent 5-Year ACS dataset (2014-2018)
- 2020 Census population counts will:
 - Give us more definitive estimates and help answer what's behind the increase in HH size: young adults living w/parents? more roommates? families doubling up? more kids?
 - Provide baseline against which we can understand shifts in living arrangements during recovery from COVID-19 pandemic

Change in Racial Composition of Neighborhoods: 1990-2010

Decennial Census data give us the ability to see demographic trends at the neighborhood level.



Change in Racial Composition of Neighborhoods: 1990-2010



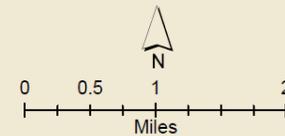
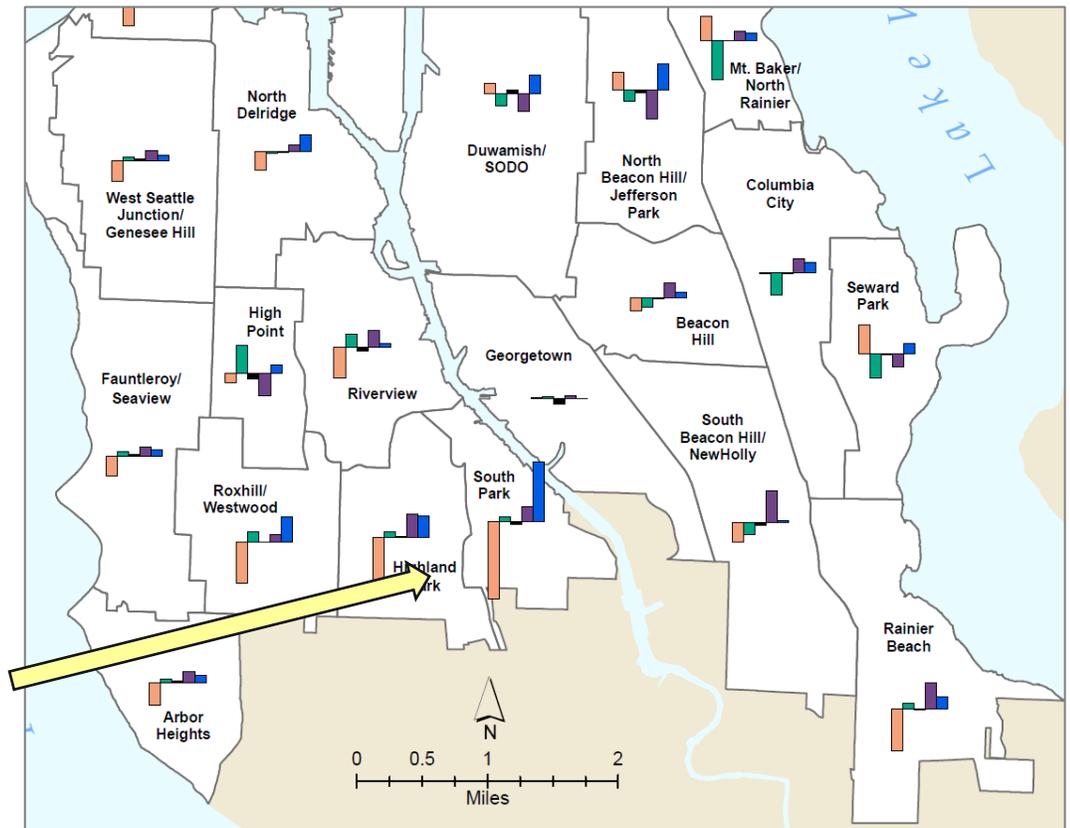
Integration has risen in many neighborhoods with increases in populations of color—*especially in the north-end.*

Change in Shares of Population by Race within Community Reporting Areas 1990-2010

1990-2010

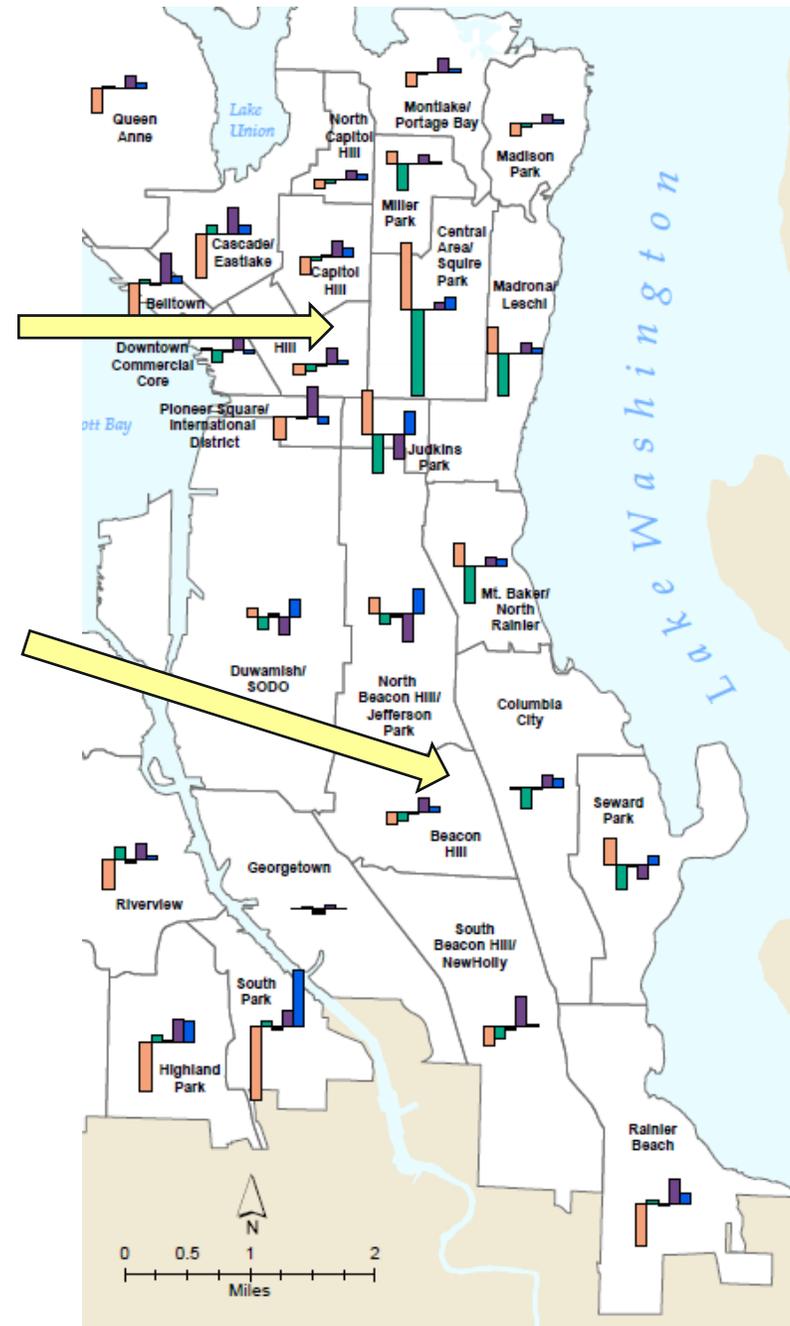


Hispanics/Latinos have increased as a share of the population in most neighborhoods, especially in and around Southpark.



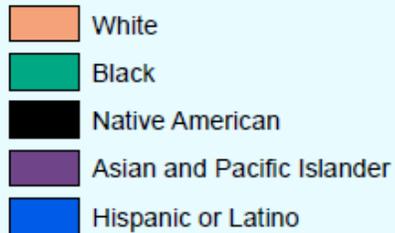
Change in Racial Composition of Neighborhoods: 1990-2010

Loss of the Black population in the Central District and in much of Southeast Seattle contributed to declines in segregation; however, accompanying displacement occurred at a cost to these communities and the city.



Change in Shares of Population by Race within Community Reporting Areas 1990-2010

1990-2010



Source: Decennial Census Data as adjusted in Brown University Longitudinal Tract Data Base: 1990 and 2010.

For more information see: <https://is4.ad.brown.edu/projects/diversity/Researcher/Bridging.htm>

Challenges to getting accurate, representative data

Challenges of the 2020 Census

- ❑ Increased general distrust of government and fear regarding data protection and privacy.
- ❑ 2020 will be the first-ever predominantly online Census.
- ❑ The Census Bureau currently has fewer funds for outreach, putting more of the burden on local governments and communities.
- ❑ COVID-19



Census 2020: Focus on Historically Undercounted Communities

The following communities have been historically undercounted by the Census consistently:

- Communities of color
- Immigrants and refugees
- Children under five
- Native communities
- LGBTQ+ people
- Renters
- Students

In 2010, about 20% of the population was undercounted. (Harvard Kennedy School)

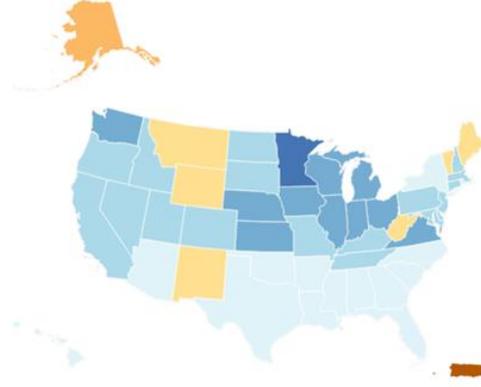


Children aged 0–5 are historically the most undercounted age group, with an estimated net undercount of 4.6% in the 2010 Census.

The Census 2020 is still happening and it still crucial

- Seattle is amongst cities leading the response rate in the country.
- We still need to count everyone.
 - www.my2020census.gov
 - It's not too late!

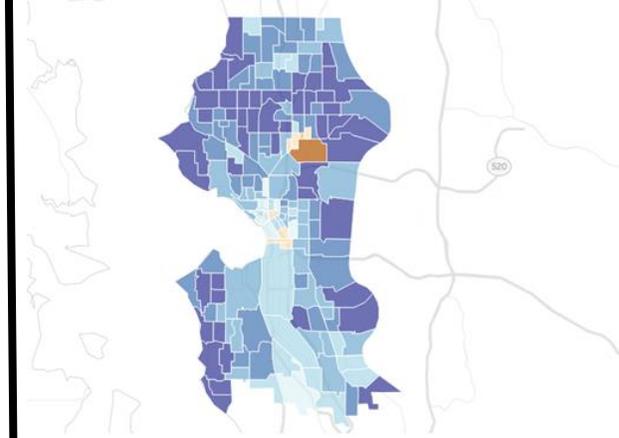
National
Self-Response
58.7%



Washington
Self-Response
64.1%

Seattle, Washington
Self-Response
68.5%

Tract 1.01
Self-Response
58.9%

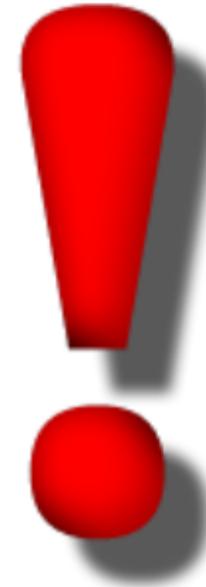


These areas have a better chance at receiving its **fair share of federal funding for services, better political representation, and better data for the next 10 years**

Differential Privacy

The Census Bureau's Decision

- Advances in computing power and the availability of external data sources make database reconstruction and re-identification increasingly likely.
- The Census Bureau recognized that its traditional disclosure avoidance methods are increasingly insufficient to counter these risks.
- To meet its continuing obligations to safeguard respondent information, the Census Bureau has committed to modernizing its approach to privacy protections.



Screenshot from presentation "[Differential Privacy and the 2020 Decennial Census](#)" presented by Michael Hawes of the U.S. Census Bureau at the NCSL Webinar, March 5, 2020

Controlling Privacy Risk and Tradeoff with Accuracy

Privacy vs. Accuracy

The only way to absolutely eliminate all risk of re-identification would be to never release any usable data.

Differential privacy allows you to quantify a precise level of “acceptable risk,” and to precisely calibrate where on the privacy/accuracy spectrum the resulting data will be.

Providing accurate data



Safeguarding individual privacy

Data Quality | Bnae Kegouqe
Dada Qualitg | Vrkk Jzcfkdy
Data Qaality | Dncb PrhvBlN
Dzte Qvality | Dncb Prtnavy
Dfha Quapyti | Tgta Ppijacy
Tgta Qucjity | Dfha Pnjvico
Dncb Qhulitn | Dzhe Njivaci
Ntue Quevdto | Dzte Privacy
Vrkk Zuhnvry | Dada Privacg
Bnaq Denorbe | Data Privacy

Screenshot from presentation “[Differential Privacy and the 2020 Decennial Census](#)” presented by Michael Hawes of the U.S. Census Bureau at the NCSL Webinar, March 5, 2020

Differential Privacy: a Work in Progress

Dear Director Dillingham:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the demonstration data products. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS). To provide you with the best possible feedback, we compared the results of the DAS approach against 2010 data and have reached the conclusion that the DAS as currently designed will harm Washington residents if it is applied to the 2020 Census data.

Excerpt from the February 6, 2020 [letter to Census Bureau Director from Washington State Demographer](#), Mike Mohrman, Office of Financial Management

[Census Bureau presentation from March 2020](#) indicates that the Bureau realizes that the differential privacy demonstration dataset “falls short on ensuring ‘fitness for use’”. Bureau notes that this is mostly due to methods used for post-processing, rather than from application of differential privacy itself.

The Bureau is working to improve these methods while continuing to solicit feedback from data users and stakeholders.