

DEMOGRAPHICS

Mason County Data Series

TOTAL POPULATION

Over the 1990-2000 time period, the total population of Mason County grew by 29%, or by about 3% each year. The total population grew at a much slower pace for the 2000-2002 time period. Between 2000-2002, total county growth was less than 1% or half a percent each year. (DS1-2)

Total Population and Population Change, Mason County 1990-2002

AREA	# 1990	# 2000	% CHANGE 1990-2000	# 2002
Mason County	38,341	49,405	↑ 29%	49,800

POPULATION CHANGE

The percent of population growth attributable to net migration was substantially higher for Mason County (93%) compared to the state (63%) for the 1990-2000 time period. The total increase in Mason County's population from both natural increase and net migration was 11,604 persons (based on 1990-2000 time period). (DS2)

Components of Population Change, Mason County & Washington 1990-2000

AREA	% MASON	% WA STATE
Natural Increase	7%	37%
Net Migration	93%	63%
Total	100%	100%

Natural increase is the number of births minus deaths in the county.

Net migration the number that results when you calculate the number of people entering and leaving the county.

POPULATION BY AREA

Though the county's total population grew substantially over the 90's, the proportion of people living in unincorporated areas (i.e. the county) versus incorporated areas (i.e. the City of Shelton) barely changed. Nearly 8 out of every 10 Mason County residents live in unincorporated areas in 1990 and 2002. Washington State shows a very different trend with increasingly more residents living in incorporated cities or towns. In 2002, 4 in 10 state residents lived in an unincorporated area. (DS2-3)

Population by Area, Mason County 1990-2002

AREA	# 1990	# 2000	# 2002	% OF TOTAL 1990	% OF TOTAL 2002
Unincorporated	31,100	40,963	41,305	81%	83%
Incorporated*	7,241	8,442	8,495	19%	17%

* The City of Shelton is the only incorporated area within the county.

Mason County was the 11th fastest growing county in the state during 1990-2000. There are 39 counties in the state. (DS1)

Mason County was officially formed in 1854.

In 2000, the Census asked residents where they lived in 1995. About 1 in 2 Mason County residents stated that they lived in the same house. (DS4)

A large portion of Mason County's population growth is attributed to increasing numbers of individuals choosing to live in the county, but commuting outside of it for employment. (DS5)

In 2000, 6 in 10 employed county residents stated that they worked within the county. 4 in 10 stated they worked outside of the county. (DS6)

Unincorporated areas of Mason County grew by 33% over the 1990-2002 time period. During that same time frame, incorporated areas experienced a population increase of 17%. The difference in growth patterns contributed to the slight rise in percentage points, 81% (1990) to 83% (2000) of population living in unincorporated areas. (DS2, 3, 5)

The City of Shelton was formed in 1890.

POPULATION BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

All but one Mason County school district area increased in population over the 1990-2000 time period. The fastest growing school district boundary within the county was Pioneer. Population data presented here use the school district boundary to identify the number of people present in that geographic area. School district population data includes people who reside in the boundary regardless of age or school attendance. (DS7-8)

Population by School District Boundary, Mason County 1990-2000

AREA	# 1990	# 2000	% CHANGE* 1990-2002
Grapeview	1,861	1,753	↓ 6%
Hood Canal	3,927	4,843	↑ 23%
Mary M. Knight	988	1,241	↑ 26%
North Mason	8,730	11,046	↑ 27%
Pioneer	4,888	7,948	↑ 63%
Shelton	16,247	20,692	↑ 27%
Southside	1,853	1,954	↑ 5%

* If geographical boundaries changed over the last decade, it could affect the % change figure.

POPULATION BY AGE

Population by Age, Mason County 1990-2002

AGE GROUP	# 1990	# 2000	% CHANGE 1990- 2000	# 2002*	% OF TOTAL 2002
0-4	2,518	2,663	↑ 6%	2,641	5%
5-9	2,887	3,181	↑ 10%	3,038	6%
10-14	2,782	3,540	↑ 27%	3,552	7%
15-19	2,369	3,524	↑ 49%	3,534	7%
20-24	1,979	2,507	↑ 27%	2,625	5%
25-29	2,476	2,594	↑ 5%	2,459	5%
30-34	2,988	2,882	↓ 4%	2,890	6%
35-39	3,158	3,596	↑ 14%	3,365	7%
40-44	2,685	4,008	↑ 49%	3,976	8%
45-49	2,177	3,830	↑ 76%	3,937	8%
50-54	1,877	3,392	↑ 81%	3,566	7%
55-59	1,879	2,862	↑ 52%	3,196	6%
60-64	2,315	2,677	↑ 16%	2,865	6%
65-69	2,361	2,451	↑ 4%	2,468	5%
70-74	1,765	2,253	↑ 28%	2,202	4%
75-79	1,056	1,684	↑ 59%	1,618	3%
80-84	623	1,003	↑ 61%	1,058	2%
85+	446	758	↑ 70%	809	2%
Total	38,341	49,405	↑ 29%	49,800	100%

* Breakdown estimates may not add to total due to rounding. (DS9)

Data for years other than 1990 and 2000 are estimates. Census years are the only years that we have complete counts of the total population.

Mason County is home to the Skokomish and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes. In 2000, the Skokomish Reservation population was 730. The Squaxin Island Reservation & Trust Land had a population of 405 in 2000. More than 1 in 3 residents of these areas was between the age of 0-17. (DS10)

In 2000, about 1 in 4 or 25% of Mason County residents were age 0-17. In 2002, people age 0-17 made up 23% of the total county population. (DS9)

The median (middle) age of the county population was 40 in 2000 compared to 35 for the state. Minority populations within the county have a considerably younger median age. The two largest minority groups in the county, Hispanic and American Indian, have a median age of 23 and 29 respectively. (DS11)

48% of county residents were female and 52% male in 2000. The state breakdown for male and female is 50% each. (DS12-13)

% = Percent
= Number or count
N/A = Not applicable

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Several changes occurred with the classification of race in the 2000 Census. An existing racial group was split into two and people were allowed to count themselves as more than one race for the first time. Due to this change the 1990 and 2000 census figures are not directly comparable. However, data in the table below illustrate shifts in how people define themselves in terms of race. (DS13)

The percent of Mason County's total population that can be described as a racial minority or non-white was 6% in 1990 and 2000. The percent of the population that described themselves as white decreased by 4% between 1990-2000, from 93% (1990) to 89% (2000). In 2000, more people described themselves as an "other" race than they did in 1990. The ability to select more than one race to describe yourself impacted the county's overall racial profile as 3% selected 2 or more races. (DS12-13, 16)

Between 1990-2000, the Hispanic population of Mason County tripled due to the high growth rate during that time period. The Hispanic population for the state also increased at a fast pace, growing by 106% between 1990-2000 compared to 167% for Mason County. (DS12-13, 16)

Population by Race and Ethnicity, Mason County 1990-2000

	# 1990	# 2000	% OF TOTAL 1990	% OF TOTAL 2000	% CHANGE 1990-2000
American Indian	1,430	1,840	4%	4%	↑ 29%
Asian	478	519	1%	1%	↑ 55%+
Black	332	587	1%	1%	↑ 77%
Native Hawaiian	+	221	+	0%	N/A
White	35,769	43,705	93%	89%	↑ 22%
Other	332	1,036	1%	2%	↑ 212%
2 or more races	+	1,497	+	3%	N/A
Total	38,341	49,405	100%	100%	↑ 29%
Hispanic	883	2,361	2%	5%	↑ 167%

+ Data was not collected for these categories in 1990. Asian and Native Hawaiian were combined to develop the percent change.

Population by Race and Ethnicity, Washington State 1990-2000

AREA	% OF TOTAL 1990	% OF TOTAL 2000	% CHANGE 1990-2000
American Indian	2%	2%	↑ 15%
Asian	4%	6%	↑ 64%+
Black	3%	3%	↑ 27%
Native Hawaiian	+	0%	N/A
White	89%	82%	↑ 12%
Other	2%	4%	↑ 98%
2 or more races	+	4%	N/A
Hispanic	4%	8%	↑ 106%

Five categories of race were officially designated for the 2000 census.

These categories were:
 1) American Indian and Alaskan Native, 2) Asian, 3) Black or African American, 4) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 5) White or Caucasian. In the 1990 Census, only four of these race categories were recognized. Individuals could select "other" if they defined themselves as none of the government existing race categories. (DS14)

Individuals who were counted in 2000 as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander were counted under the Asian race category in 1990. (DS15)

Hispanic is defined as an ethnicity. Persons who define themselves as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Hispanic origin can be viewed as heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth for the individual or their parents/ancestors. (DS15)

8% of all Mason County children 0-17 were Hispanic in 2000. Within the City of Shelton, 16% of all children 0-17 were described as Hispanic in 2000. (DS17)

Project funded by the Family Policy Council. Questions about the data can be directed to Kim Klint 360.427.9670 x543.

DEMOGRAPHICS

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