

2. Community Profile

Community Context and History

“Enumclaw” is a Salish word meaning “strong wind” or “thundering noise”, derived from the strong evening wind blowing across the plateau from the mountains. This name came from the Native American groups who frequented the area and camped to the northeast of the present city limits.

When Allen Porter arrived in 1853 and settled 320 acres three miles west of the present city, he found a settlement of about 300 Native Americans living in the area. This native group lived there for part of the year and ranged over the whole region for their livelihood. They lived on salmon and other fish, game, seasonal shellfish, kelp, bulbs, roots, and berries. They also managed the landscape by prescribed burning of the underbrush to encourage the growth of the preferred food-producing plants.

In 1879 Frank and Mary Stevenson settled a 160- acre homestead in the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, starting a process of change for the plateau. Joe and Oscar Welch, and Charles Lee homesteaded the other quarter sections of Section 24 a few years later. In 1884-85, the Stevensons created a plat for the town of Stevensonville, but ultimately named the community Enumclaw. During this platting period, land was donated to the Northern Pacific Railroad in hopes that the town would be a rail-based center for the area’s abundant farmland, forests, and mines. This offer created the reality of a rail siting for switching railcars.

The town quickly grew with a two-story hotel, and a saloon and a general store following close behind. Land was donated for Calvary Presbyterian Church (and for other churches), a school, and the White River Lumber Company. The town incorporated on January 27, 1913. Since incorporation, the City of Enumclaw continued to grow and expand as a rural center and distribution point for the resource-rich area. Brick buildings replaced the original wooden structures along Cole Street in the 1920s.

Enumclaw is the gateway to the north and west entrances to Mt. Rainier National Park, established in 1899 as the fifth National Park. Present day Chinook Pass was opened in 1929, and established Enumclaw as a tourist stop and gateway to the mountains. Downhill skiing became popular soon after the pass was opened. In 1958, Crystal Mountain ski area opened for both winter and summer activities.

The area has continued to grow as a tourist stop, equestrian center, and as a rural residential area with easy access to city amenities. The community now offers all city services and provides retail, medical, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities. The community of Enumclaw has grown from its birth in 1879, and established its position as a vital, rooted, and unique community.

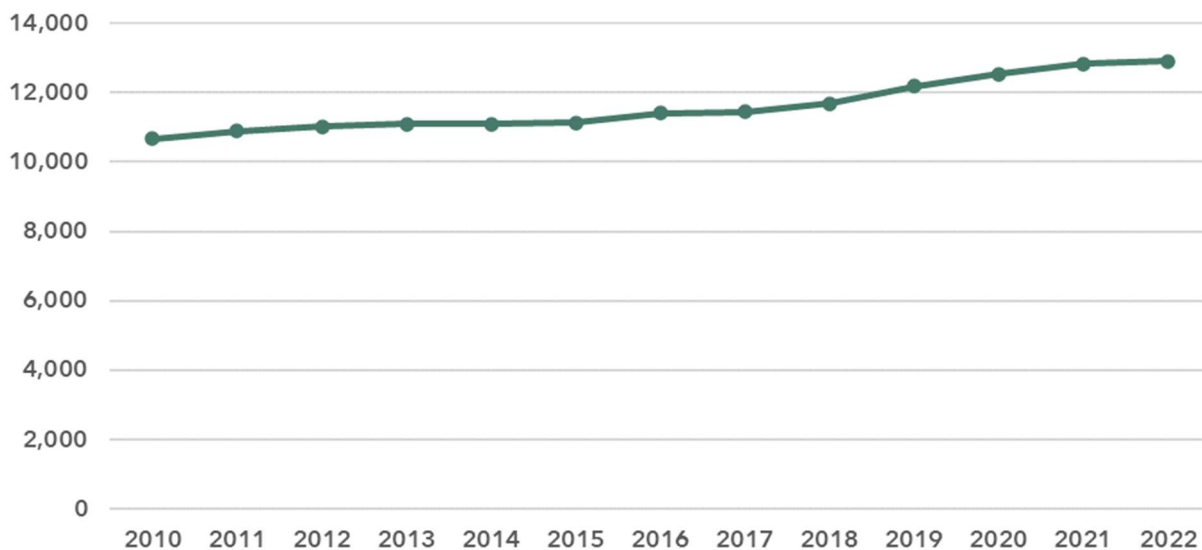
Today, the majority Enumclaw’s land falls within King County. A portion of Enumclaw falls within Pierce County, however, this land area does not have any population or employment. Enumclaw’s total incorporated lands amount to just over five square miles.

Population Demographics and Forecast

This section describes Enumclaw’s current population and its characteristics, including age, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, school enrollment and employment, as well as relevant historical trends in population growth and characteristics over time. In some cases, comparison of Enumclaw’s population and its characteristics are made to King County and Washington state overall to provide context.

As of 2022, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimates the City of Enumclaw to have a population of 12,910.

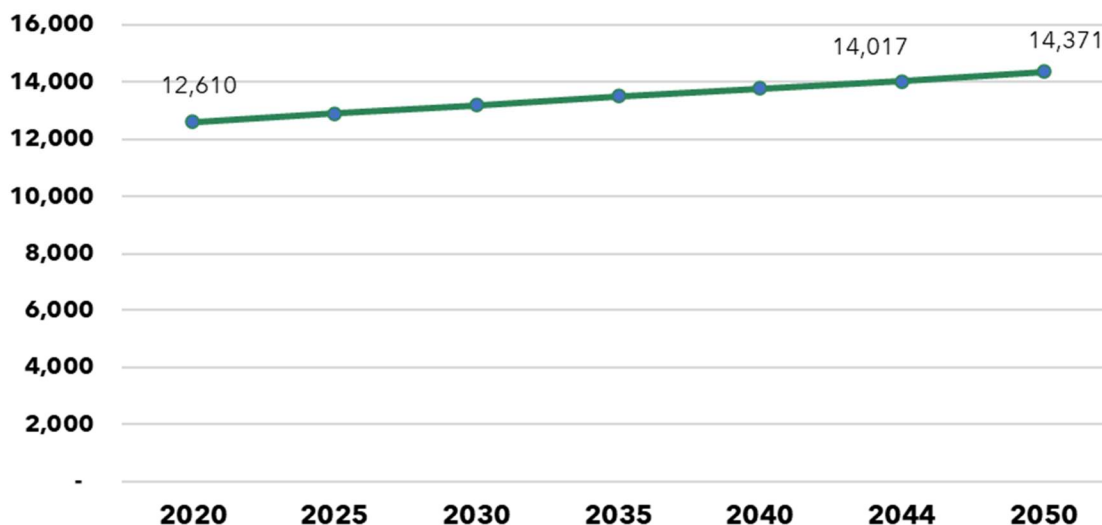
Exhibit 1 Population Trend, 2010 to 2022



Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Intercensal Estimates, 2010 to 2020 and April 1st Population Estimates, 2022; Sieger Consulting SPC, 2023.

For 2044, Enumclaw’s adopted housing growth target from the County is 1,057 additional units (King County Ordinance 19660). Assuming an average household size of 2.44 persons per household, this translates to an additional 2,579 people added between 2019 and 2044. This target is higher than the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) forecast estimate, which anticipates 1,407 additional people between 2020 and 2044.

Exhibit 2 Forecasted Population 2020-2050



Source: PSRC LUV-it Forecast

Between 2010 and 2022, the City of Enumclaw’s population has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.6%, higher than slightly above the growth rates for King County and Washington State overall, as shown below.

Exhibit 3 Comparison of Population Compound Annual Growth Rate to King County and Washington State Overall, 2010 to 2022

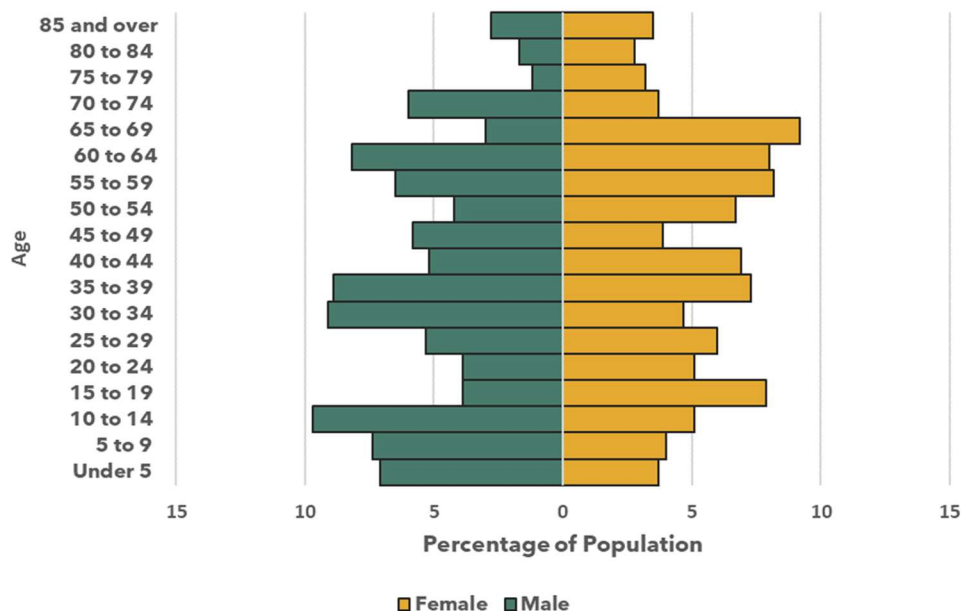
	City of Enumclaw	King County	Washington State
Population Compound Annual Growth Rate	1.60%	1.53%	1.38%

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Intercensal Estimates, 2010 to 2020 and April 1st Population Estimates, 2022; Sieger Consulting SPC, 2023,

Age Demographics

The median age of residents in the City of Enumclaw is 40 years according to the 2021 ACS, this is slightly higher than the median age in King County (37) and the median age in Washington State 38.2. Exhibit 4 shows the population pyramid for the City.

Exhibit 4 Population Distribution by Age



Source: 2021 ACS, Age and Sex.

Ages 30 to 40 account for the greatest share of the residents, accounting for 18% of the local population.

It can be useful to compare the population between 15 to 64, which is largely the working-age population to the size of the population under 15 (children) and the population 65 and older (older adults) to understand the ratio of dependents compared to the working age population. Generally, the higher this dependency ratio is, the greater the burden of support on working-age people. The results for the City of Enumclaw, and a comparison to King County and Washington State overall are provided in Exhibit 5.

Exhibit 5 Age Dependency Ratios Compared to King County and Washington State Overall, 2021

Group	City of Enumclaw	King County	Washington State
Child Dependency Ratio	35.9	29.8	34.8
Old-age Dependency Ratio	30.9	20.7	26.0
Overall Age Dependency Ratio	66.7	50.4	60.8

Source: 2017 to 2021 ACS Five-year Estimates, Age and Sex, and Sieger Consulting SPC, 2023.

Enumclaw has a significantly higher overall age dependency ratio than both King County and Washington State overall, with higher child and old-age dependency ratios. This means that City residents bear a greater burden in supporting age-dependent populations there. It's

likely then, that Enumclaw needs more support and resources for children, households with children, older adults, and households with older adults than the county and state overall.

In addition, a slightly larger percentage of children and working age adults in Enumclaw are living with a disability than those in King County and Washington state overall. 14% of Enumclaw’s population reports living with one or more disabilities, as shown in Exhibit 9 , below.

Exhibit 6 Population with One or More Disabilities Compared to King County and Washington State, 2021

Age Group	City of Enumclaw	King County	Washington State
Under 18 years old	9%	3%	5%
Ages 18-65	10%	8%	11%
Ages 65+	35%	29%	33%
Total Residents with a Disability	14%	10%	13%

Source: 2021 ACS, Age by Number of Disabilities.

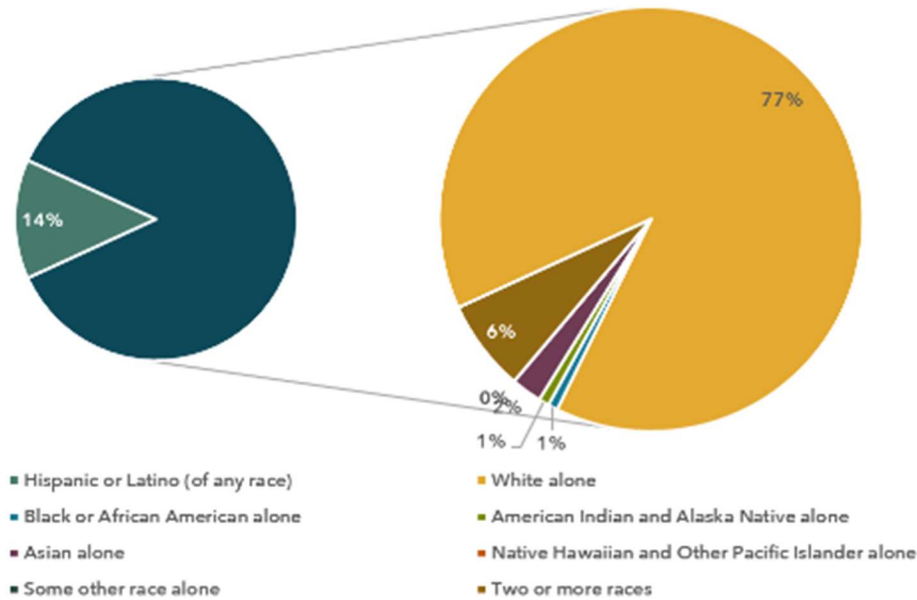
The largest share of the population living with disabilities are those 65 years of age and older.

Race and Ethnicity

Over the past 10 years Enumclaw’s race and ethnicity has seen a slight increase in those identifying as black or African American (1%) or two or more races (7%). The largest share of the population (89%) identifies as white. One percent of the population identifies as American Indian/Alaska Native, 1% identifies as Asian, and 1% identifies as “Other.”

Around 9% of the overall population identifies as Hispanic or Latino. See Exhibit 7 below.

Exhibit 7 Race and Ethnicity

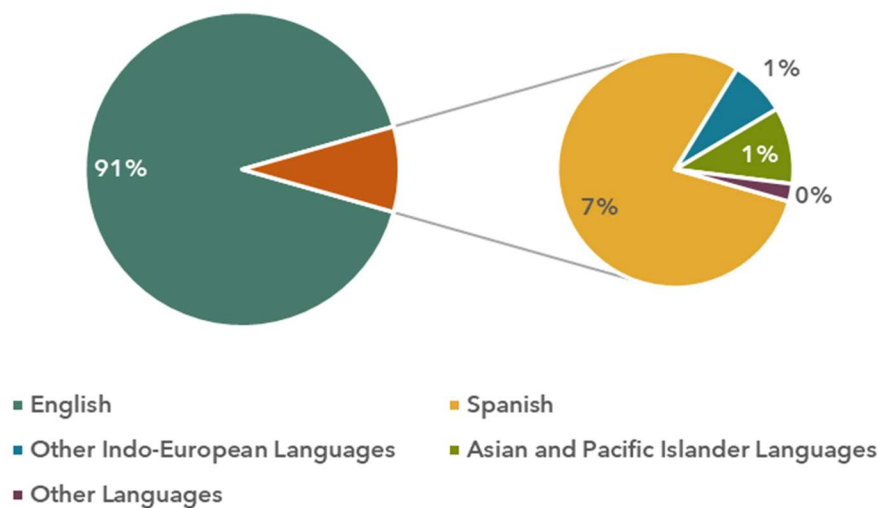


Source: 2017 to 2021 ACS One-year Estimates, Race and Hispanic or Latino; 2017 to 2021 ACS Five-year Estimates, Race and Hispanic or Latino; and Sieger Consulting SPC, 2023.

Languages

The majority of the City's community members speak only English at home, as seen Exhibit 8. 7% of households speak Spanish. Indo-European and Asian and Pacific Island languages each accounted for 1% of households respectively (2021 ACS).

Exhibit 8 Languages Spoken at Home



Source: 2017 to 2021 ACS Five-year Estimates, Language Spoken at Home; and Sieger Consulting SPC, 2023.

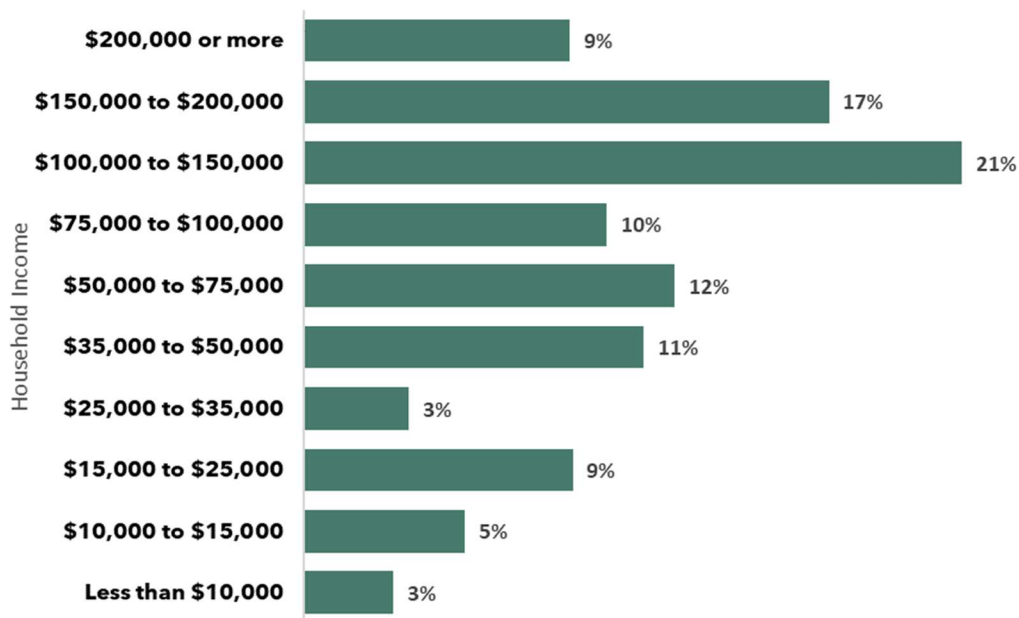
Educational Attainment

Based on U.S. Census 2020 data, the share of Enumclaw’s population over the age of 25 years with a high school degree or higher is 95.3%, which is on-par with the King County figure of 93.7%. However, the percentage of persons over the age of 25 with a Bachelor’s degree or higher is just 25.7%, which is less than half of the County-wide figure of 54%.

Household Income and Community Economic Context

The median household income for the City was \$91,855 in 2021, with an average household income of \$108,237. According to the 2021 ACS, 8% of Enumclaw's population fell below the poverty level. 10% of children under 18 were considered in poverty compared to 7% of adults. The distribution of household incomes is shown below in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 9 Household Income Distribution



Source: 2021 ACS, Income.

Addressing Changes in Community Needs

This Comprehensive Plan addresses several changes in community needs as identified in the “[Community Issues](#)” section of the Introduction chapter. Goals and policies throughout the plan provide flexibility for diverse types of housing to increase the amount of affordable housing and provide housing that fits the needs of all residents, including young families, those living alone, and seniors, among other specific housing needs. Other goals and policies throughout the plan include ones that address the expansion and maintenance of city services, such as parks, utilities, police, and providing additional community services and basic needs within walking distance of recreational neighborhoods. Furthermore, community needs are addressed through goals and policies outlining improvements to the transportation system, enhancing the walkability and safety of all users, increasing support for local businesses, increasing the city’s resilience to climate change, and ensuring adequate utility and facilities to accommodate future growth. Overall, this Comprehensive Plan intends to provide a framework for addressing the community’s needs that is clear, actionable, and responsive to current and future needs.