

The Health of Jefferson County: 2010 Demographic Update

BACKGROUND

How people live – the sociodemographic context of their lives – influences their health. People who have lower incomes may not have the resources to meet basic needs including food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. Insufficient resources can lead to negative health outcomes. Those with higher incomes may have adequate resources to meet basic needs, which in turn leads to improved health outcomes.

Communities with concentrations of low-income populations often have higher levels of health-related problems than more affluent communities. Identifying these patterns is important because differences between a community's demographic characteristics can help explain differences in health indicators for these communities. Therefore, understanding variations in community characteristics is an important part of community assessment.

The Jefferson County Demographic Update includes data on population growth, gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, employment, income, poverty, households, marital status and housing.

SUMMARY

POPULATION

Total population and annual population growth

- The 2010 estimated population is 29,300 persons.
- Population growth has been around one percent since the 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2009, the population grew about 3,000 persons.

Components of population growth

- Population growth has resulted from in-migration since the mid-1990's.

Population by gender and age groups

- Among both men and women, the population age 35+ has grown considerably while the population age 20-34 has decreased.

Population change by age groups

- From 1990 to 2000, the population age 85+ increased nearly 100% followed by the 50-64 age group (82%) and 75-84 age group (66%); each increase was at least 50% higher than WA.
- From 2000 to 2009, the population age 85+ and age 50-64 increased 38%, each increase was 10% lower than Washington State.

Median Age

- The 2009 median age was 50.2 years, an increase of 15 years since 1980; 13 years above the Washington median.

Race and Ethnicity

- Jefferson County is predominately white (90%), the proportion of non-whites increased 2% from 2000 to 2010.
- Eighty-four percent of public school students are white, the proportion of non-whites increased 3.2% from 2000 to 2009 (2.3% increase in Hispanic students alone).

Disability status

- From 2000 to 2005-07, the population age 16+ with a disability increased by almost 1,000.
- Fewer Jefferson adults age 65+ report being disabled (34%) than Washington adults age 65+ (42%), however more Jefferson adults age 16-64 report being disabled (18%) than Washington adults age 16-64 (14%).

EDUCATION

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Highest education attained

- About a third of adults report a high school or less (35%) or some post high school (33%); 18% report a bachelor's degree and 14% a graduate or professional degree.
- Compared to 1990, more adults report a bachelor's or higher degree.
- Compared to Washington, more Jefferson adults report a graduate or professional degree.

High School graduation rates

- The high school ontime graduation rate is 80%; higher (better) in Chimacum and among females and better than Washington State.
- The high school drop out rate is 3%; lower in Chimacum and lower than Washington.
- The high school extended graduation rate is 85%; higher among females.

Public School enrollment

- Public School enrollment is down in all Jefferson districts from 1999-00.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rate

- The unemployment rate peaked at 10.9% in February 2010, down to 8.6% by June.

Employment by Industry

- Employment was down in goods producing and service providing industries except for government between June 2009 and 2010.

INCOME AND POVERTY

Per capita personal income

- 2008 per capita personal income was \$43,105, \$358 above Washington, 3rd highest in WA.

Median household income

- 2009 median household income was \$47,660, down \$1,170 from 2008 and about \$5,000 below Washington.

Average earnings per job

- From 1969 to 2008, average earnings per job increased 346% however after adjusting for inflation, earnings per job actually fell 8%.
- From 1969 to 2008, average earnings per job in Washington increased 45%; 46% in the US.

Poverty of all residents

- About 12% of Jefferson and 11% of Washington residents live at 100% of poverty - a family of four earning less than \$22,050 per year.
- Highest in the West End (40%), lowest in Chimacum/Beaver Valley/Port Ludlow and NW Port Townsend areas (6%).

Children age 5-17 living in families in poverty

- Nearly 17% of children age 5-17 live at 100% of poverty compared to 12.5% in Washington.
- Highest in Queets-Clearwater (26%) and Quilcene (23%) districts; lowest in Chimacum (14%).
- Since 1999, rate increased about 2% in all districts but Queets-Clearwater (down 31%).

Poverty by age group

- Jefferson and Washington adults age 18-64 in poverty increased from 1999 to 2006-08.
- Jefferson adults age 65+ in poverty increased from 1999 to 2006-08, decreased in WA.

Working poor

- About 9,000 (31.5%) of Jefferson residents live at 185% of poverty - a family of four earning less than \$40,793 per year - compared to 25% of Washington State residents.
- From 2000 to 2006-08, Jefferson residents at 185% of poverty increased nearly 6%, 1% in WA.

Public School student applications to the free and reduced lunch program

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- In 2009, 47% of public school students applied for the free and reduced meals program compared to 42% in Washington; both up sharply from previous years.
- Highest in the Queets-Clearwater and Brinnon districts, lowest in Chimacum.

Medicaid-paid births

- About 6 in 10 (61.5%) 2008 births were covered by Medicaid compared to 48% in WA.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND MARITAL STATUS

Household Composition

- Nearly 4 in 10 Jefferson households are married couples with no children compared to about 3 in 10 in WA.
- Jefferson had a slight increase in married couple with children and nonfamily 1+ person households between 2000 and 2006-08 while both decreased in WA.

Marital Status

- Since 1990, the proportion of married persons has decreased; never married persons has increased in both Jefferson County and WA.
- From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of divorced persons increased, but decreased from 2000 to 2006-08.

Divorce Rate

- The divorce rate has been declining - in 2008 the rate was 4 per 1,000; 5 per 1,000 in WA.

Births to Unmarried Women

- About 4 in 10 births are to unmarried women; increasing since 1997-99, higher than WA.

HOUSING

Median house prices

- Median house price peaked in 2007 and appears to be increasing again as of 1st qtr 2010.

Housing affordability gap

- In 2009, Jefferson residents earning an average income wanting to purchase an average priced home have an affordability gap of about \$24,000, down from \$38,000 in 2007.

Housing affordability

- One in four Jefferson households earn an income that would allow them to purchase an average priced house compared to 37% of Washington households.

Owner-occupied housing

- About three-quarters of houses are owner-occupied compared to two-thirds in WA.

Housing costs

- Twenty-seven percent of Jefferson residents spend 35% or more of monthly income on owned housing, about the same as WA.
- Nearly half of Jefferson residents spend 35% or more of their monthly income on rented housing, 10% higher than WA.

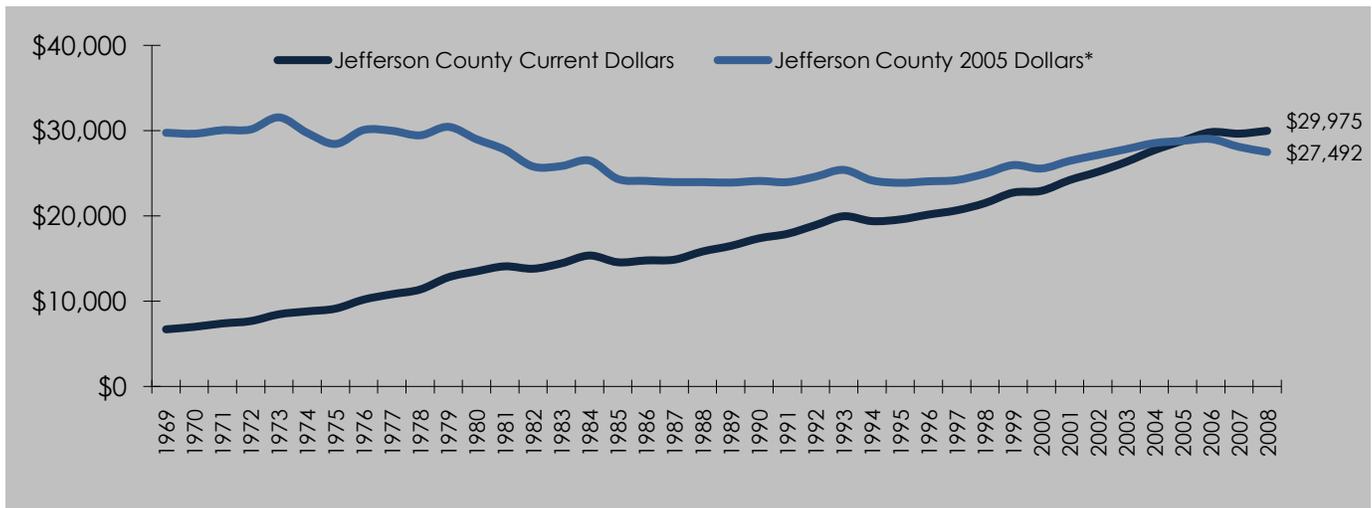
D.3. Average Earnings per Job

Jefferson County and Washington State, 1969-2008

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis with calculations prepared by the *Washington Regional Economic Analysis Project*

Average earnings per job is total industry earnings estimates divided by total full- and part-time jobs estimates. Average earnings per job within industries with more part-time work is lower than industries with more full-time work. Part-time average earnings might make full-time earnings seem to get lower when they are unchanged.

From 1969 to 2008, the average current dollar earnings per job in Jefferson County increased 346% from about \$7,000 to about \$30,000. After adjusting for inflation (2005 dollars) however, since 1969, the earnings per job actually fell by about 8%. One explanation for such a trend is a shift from high-wage goods producing to low-wage services related employment.



Compared to 1969 as the base year, in 2008, Jefferson County average earnings had fallen by about 8% while Washington State earnings increased by 45% and United States earnings increased by 46%.

