

Island County Demographics



January 2021
(updated July 2021)



Table of Contents

Introduction and Sources	3
Island County Census County Divisions (CCD) Overview	4
CCD Population	4
CCD Age	5
CCD Disabilities	7
CCD Sex and Fertility	8
CCD Housing	9
CCD Race	11
CCD Education	13
CCD Marital Status	14
CCD Income and Social Security	15
CCD Poverty	17
CCD Veterans	18
Island County Municipalities Overview	19
Municipalities Population	19
Municipalities Age	20
Municipalities Disabilities	20
Municipalities Sex and Fertility	21
Municipalities Housing	22
Municipalities Race	24
Municipalities Education and Marital Status	25
Municipalities Income	25
Municipalities Income and Social Security	26
Municipalities Poverty	28
Municipalities Veterans	29
Bibliography and EDC Contact Information	30

INTRODUCTION

Demographics is the study of a population based on age, race, sex, and a host of other factors that play an integral role in any local economy. For instance, the goods and services needed to support a family with young children differ dramatically from those needed for a retired couple. Governments, corporations, nongovernment organizations, and many others use demographics to learn more about a population's characteristics for a multitude of purposes, including policy development and economic market research.

This report presents basic demographic data about Island County so the reader can gain an understanding of how demographics might affect their local area. When reading this report, it's important to understand the difference between median and mean.

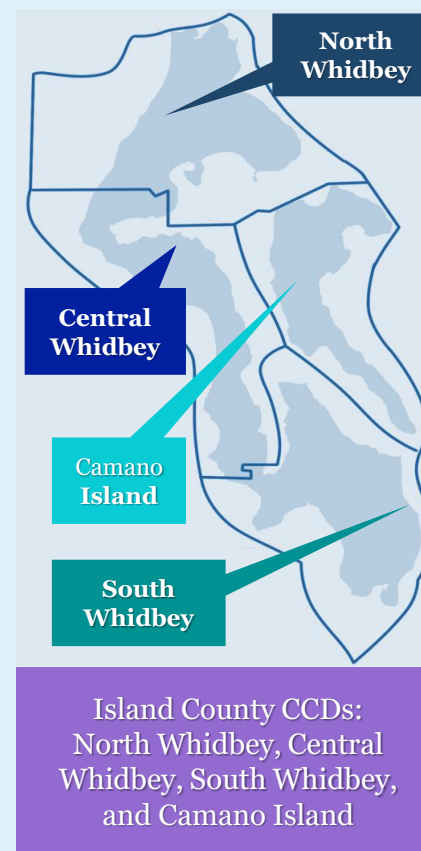
- Median: the middle value in a series arranged from smallest to largest.
- Mean: a value computed by dividing the sum of a set of terms by the number of terms.

For the median, Census finds the point smack dab in the middle of the data set (all reported incomes). For the mean, Census takes reported income from all Island County households, adds them together, and divides by the number of households.

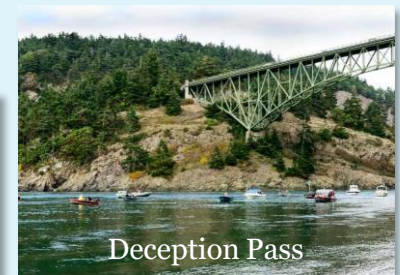
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

The primary source for all the information in this report comes from the *U.S. Census's American Community Survey, 2019 1-year estimates* except where noted. The use of various data sets is normal because of the time needed to aggregate and consolidate data for a specific period. This data is relevant and allows a baseline from which subsequent years can be compared.

All data is estimated using statistical projections and contains varying margins of error.

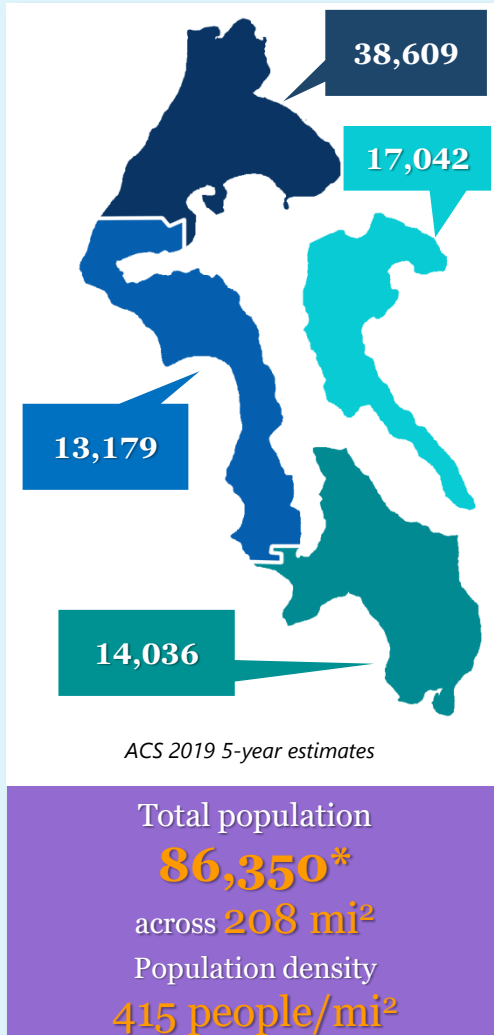


In the first half of the report, Camano Island, North Whidbey, Central Whidbey, and South Whidbey serve as "Census County Divisions (CCD)." A CCD is a subdivision of a county or equivalent entity that is a relatively permanent statistical area established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state, tribal, and local government authorities.



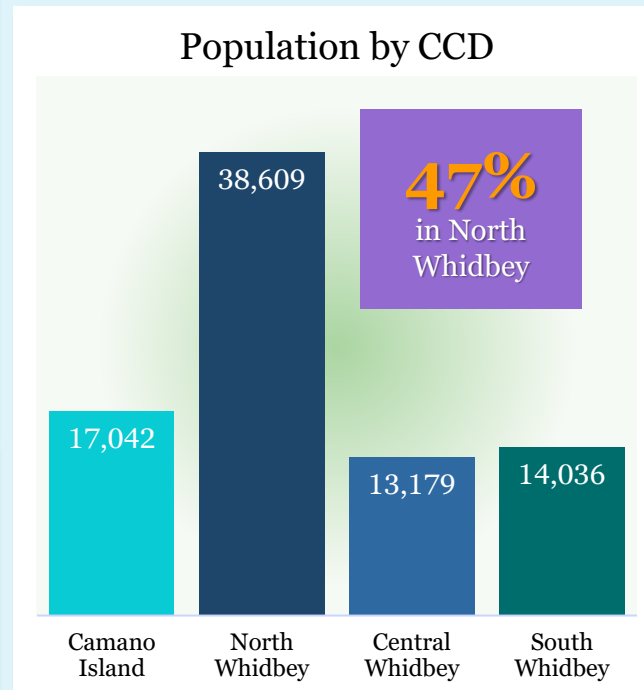
Island County CCDs

POPULATION



ISLAND COUNTY is a unique area, well known for its exceptional quality of life. Residents and tourists alike marvel at the fantastic views of the snow-covered Cascade and Olympic mountains, the scenic waters of Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca, and primordial rainforests mingled with pastoral vistas of this diverse island setting.

Island County is comprised of Whidbey, Camano, Ben Ure, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Minor, and Kalamut Islands, with Whidbey, Camano, and Baby as the three settled islands. Whidbey Island is the 5th longest island in the contiguous U.S.—45 miles long with 148 miles of shoreline. Camano is 16 miles long and has 52 miles of shoreline.



The effect of population size and growth can be positive or negative depending on the circumstances. Large populations have the potential to be great for economic development. Generally, the more people an area has, the more work is done, and the more work is done, the more value (or money) is created.

Unfortunately, it isn't that simple. In a wealthier county with abundant resources and money, a larger population is an asset. But that isn't always the case in counties with limited resources. Combined limited resources and a larger population put pressure on existing resources. A larger population means more people to feed, more healthcare and education services to provide, and generally more stress on infrastructure.

*Washington State Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2021 official population estimates.

AGE

The size of the U.S. population and its age distribution at any point in time are the result of historical trends in birth rates, mortality rates, and immigration rates. Today's aging U.S. population results from the sharp decline in the birth rate in the 1960s, which marked the end of the Baby Boom, and the long-running decline in mortality rates. Immigration can offset these demographic forces to some degree, but has not been of sufficient magnitude to reverse population aging.

Workers in different age groups may be substitutes or complements to one another and therefore the productivity of one age group can depend on interactions with workers in other age groups. Such productivity spillovers could occur between older and younger workers if, for example, an older worker's greater experience increases not only their own productivity but also the productivity of those who work with them.

The effective labor input depends on the employment rate in the economy and the human capital of the workforce, and both of these components are potentially shaped by the population age structure. Among individuals, labor supply behavior varies by age and over time.

While the above comments are written regarding the U.S. population, the implications are the same for Island County, too.

"The Effect of Population Aging on Economic Growth, the Labor Force and Productivity," 2016

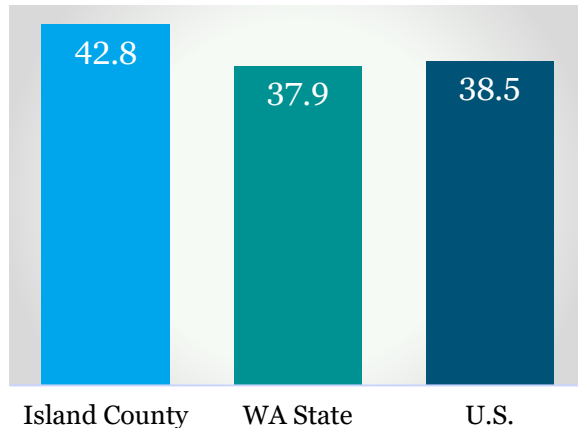
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island **influences the median age** of North Whidbey. Of the U.S. active duty force

66% are under **35 years**

61% are under **30 years**

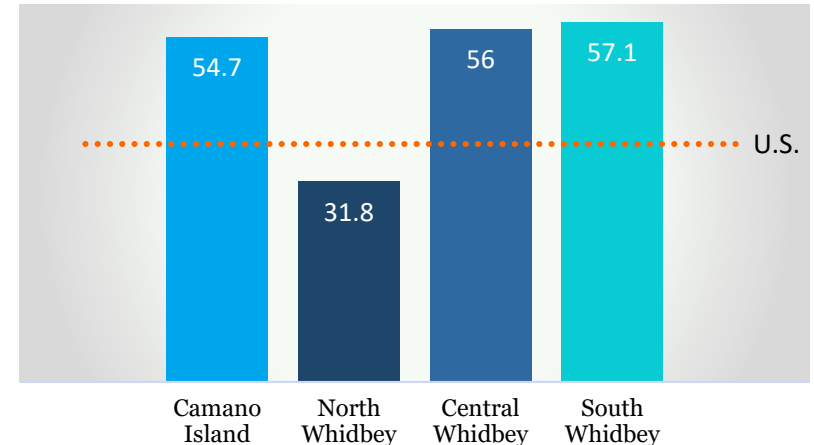
This plays a large role in keeping North Whidbey's and Island County's median age as low as it is.

Comparative Median Age*



Island County's median age is **~12% higher** than the U.S. and WA State median

Median Age Island County by CCD*



*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

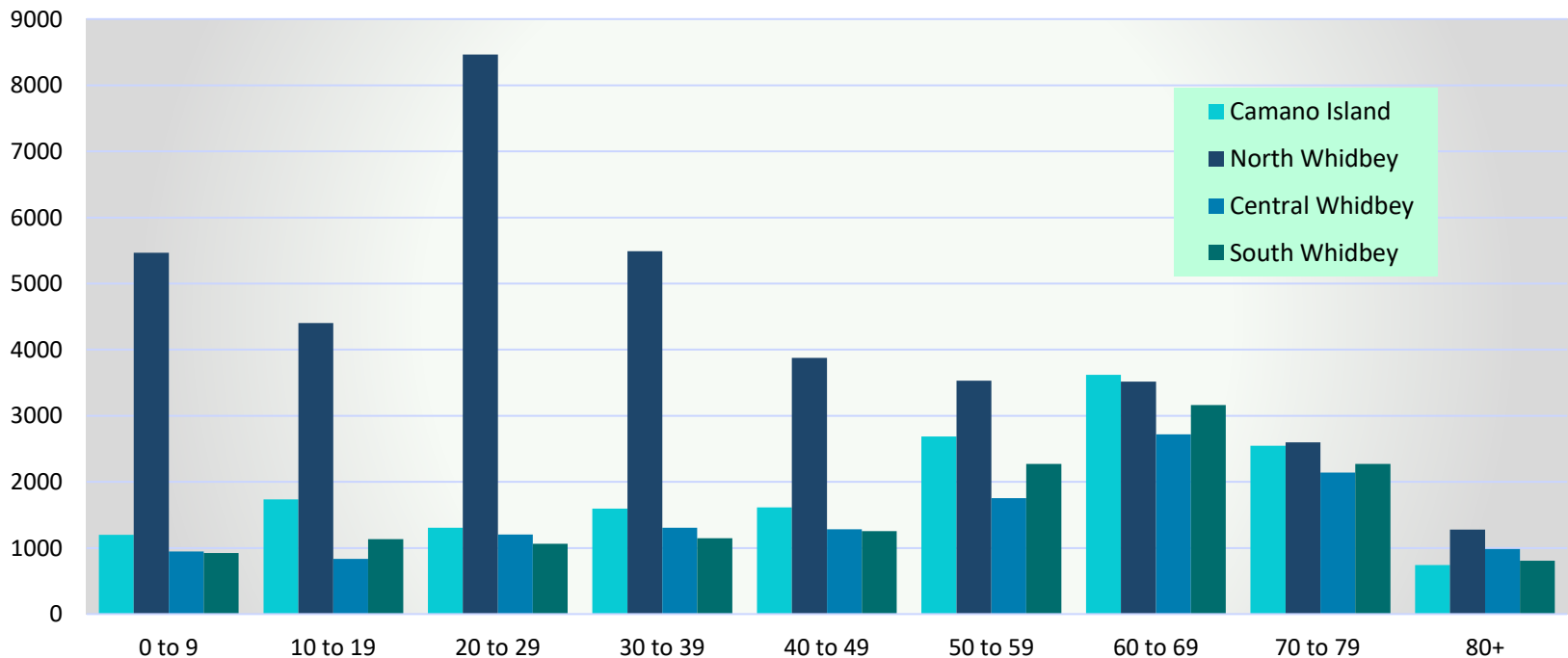
AGE

When looking strictly at numbers of people per age group, North Whidbey has more people in each age group except the 60-69 age range where Camano Island has slightly more. In the 0-49 age range, North Whidbey's population significantly exceeds the other three CCDs. In the 0-39 age range, North Whidbey's population significantly exceeds the other three CCDs. In the 0-39 age range, North Whidbey's population is greater than the combined population of the other three CCDs. The result is that North Whidbey's median age is significantly lower than Camano, Central Whidbey, and South Whidbey CCDs.

Location	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change
Camano Island	42.5	51.1	+8.6
North Whidbey	30.1	32.1	+2.1
Central Whidbey	46.0	53.7	+7.7
South Whidbey	44.0	54.4	+10.4

From 2000 and 2010
All CCDs in Island County showed an **increase** higher than the national average in the **median age** between the Census **except** for **North Whidbey**, which mimicked the national increase of 2.1 years.

Island County Population by Age Group by CCD

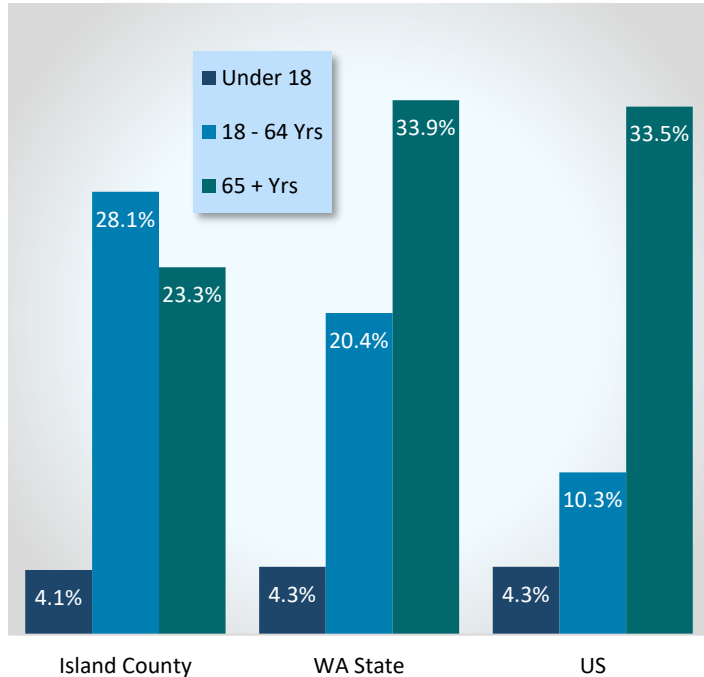


DISABILITIES

Census tracks the following disability areas: people with a hearing, vision, or cognitive loss and ambulatory, self-care, and independent living difficulty.

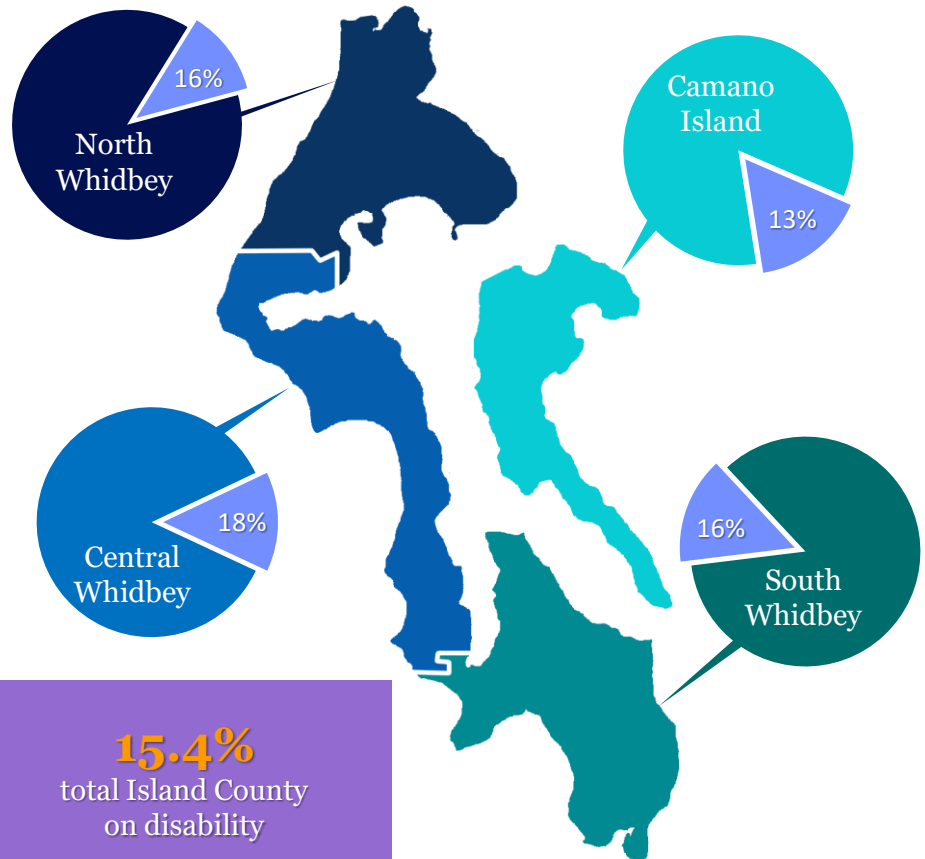
In the chart below, the four CCDs for Island County are close in percentage of the population with disabilities. Central Whidbey's higher median age helps drive their percentage of disabled people a bit higher than the other three CCDs.

Percent with a Disability by Age Group



Apart from the 65+ age group, Island County has roughly 10% less than the average percentage of disabilities of both Washington State and the U.S. In the under 18 age group, Island County mirrors Washington State and U.S. disabilities averages.

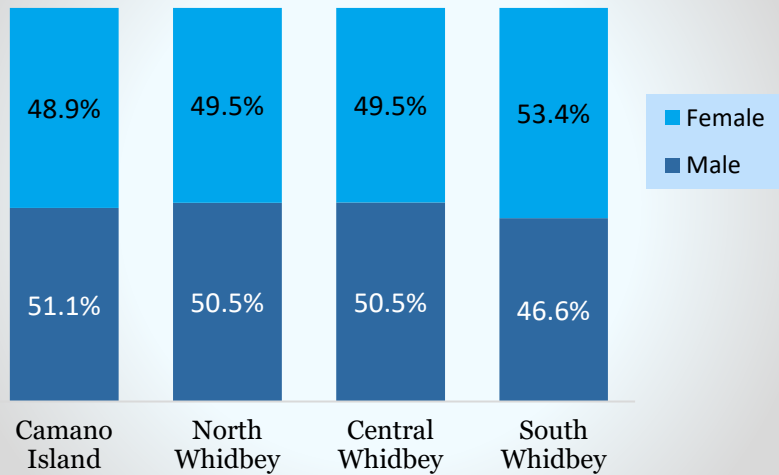
Population with a Disability by CCD*



*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

SEX & FERTILITY

Population of Men and Women
ACS 2019 5-year estimates



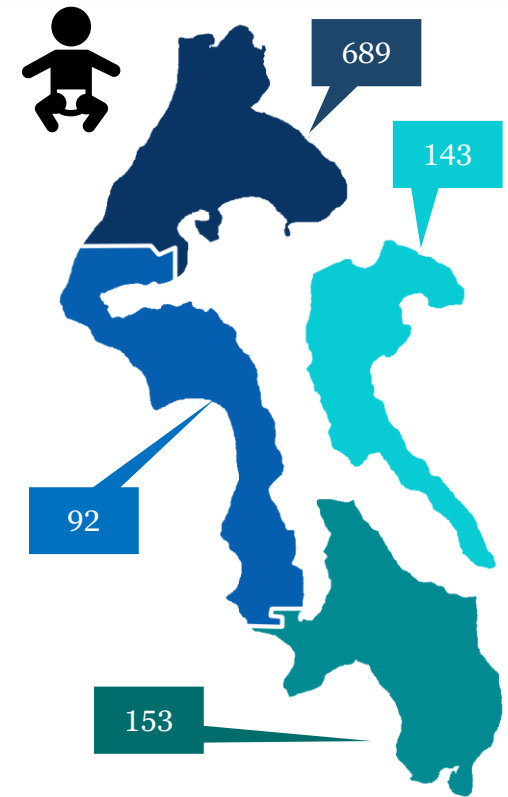
Island County has a **relatively equal** ratio of male-to-female residents

49.9%* men
50.1%* women

South Whidbey is the anomaly
14.7% more women than men

Population is one of the most important factors in economic growth, and the speed of its growth determines its size.

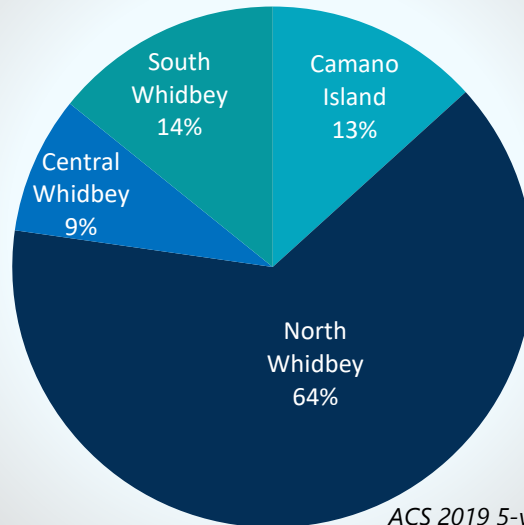
Births in the Past 12 Months
by numbers



~64% births occur in North Whidbey

due to lower median age higher population in 0-49 age range

Births in the Past 12 Months by Percent

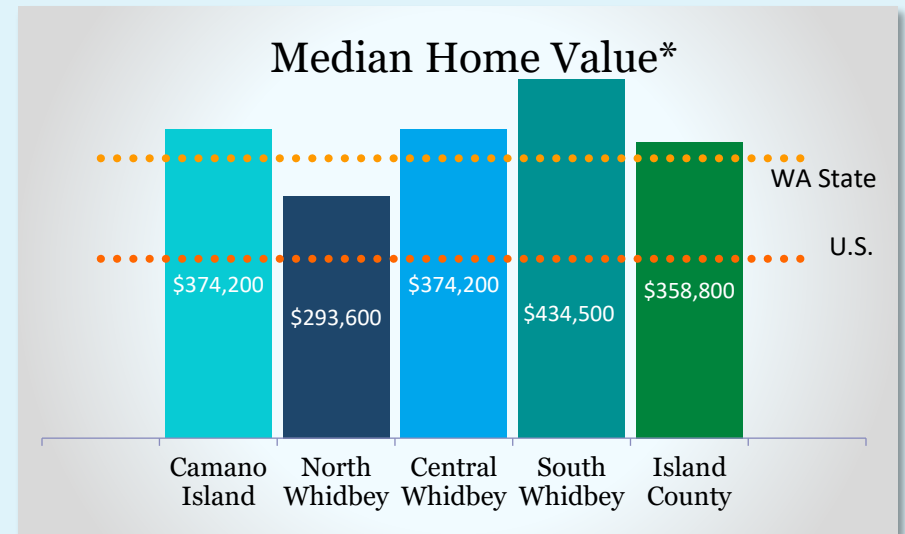
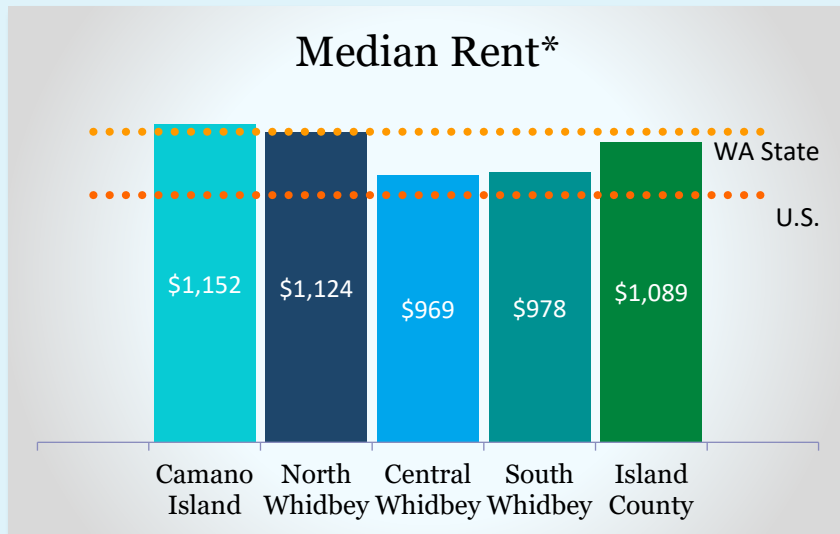
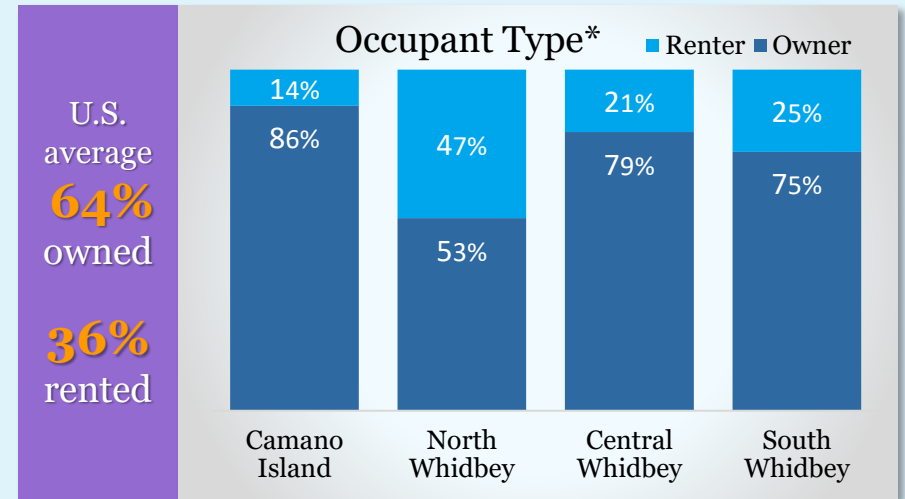
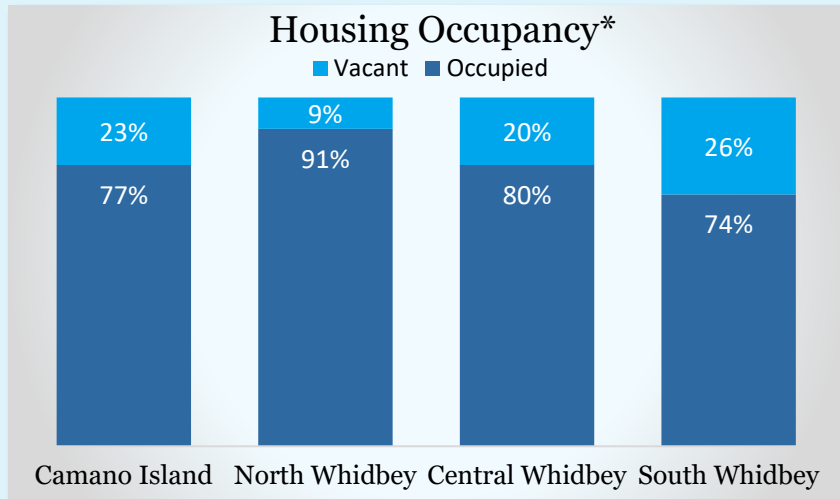


ACS 2019 5-year estimates

ACS 2019 5-year estimates

HOUSING

Census defines a housing unit as "a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall."



*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

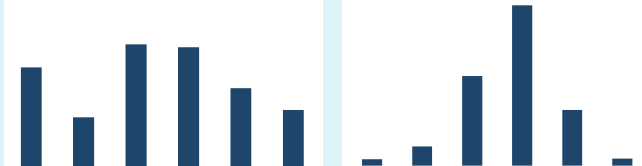
HOUSING

ACS 2019 5-year estimates



1 unit	780
2 units	388
3-4 units	961
5-9 units	938
10-19 units	481
20+ units	577

Studio	310
1 bedroom	915
2 bedrooms	4,318
3 bedrooms	7,736
4 bedrooms	2,677
5+ bedrooms	330

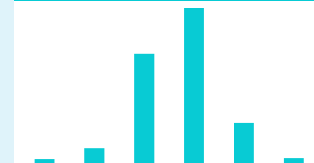


North Whidbey has the highest number of **multi-unit structures** (apartments, townhouses, etc.)



1 unit	58
2 units	29
3-4 units	10
5-9 units	5
10-19 units	28
20+ units	41

Studio	141
1 bedroom	430
2 bedrooms	2,938
3 bedrooms	4,218
4 bedrooms	1,095
5+ bedrooms	161



North Whidbey has **1.8x more** housing than South Whidbey

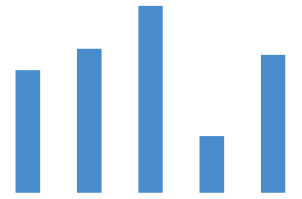
2.1x more housing than Central Whidbey

2.0x more housing than Camano Island



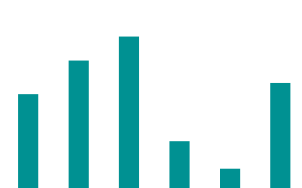
Studio	266
1 bedroom	487
2 bedrooms	2,813
3 bedrooms	3,414
4 bedrooms	560
5+ bedrooms	259

1 unit	80
2 units	94
3-4 units	122
5-9 units	37
20+ units	90



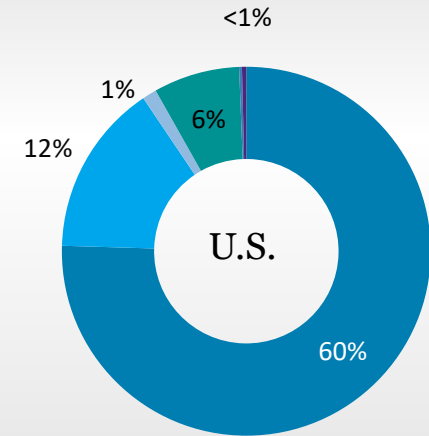
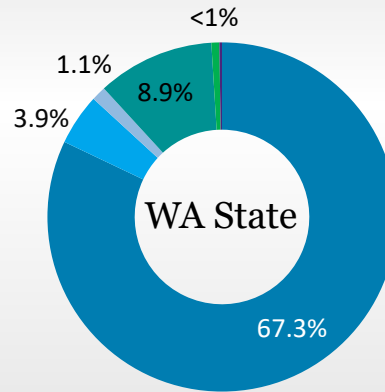
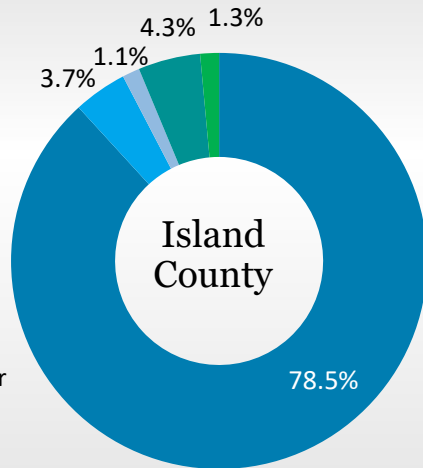
Studio	220
1 bedroom	800
2 bedrooms	3,563
3 bedrooms	3,090
4 bedrooms	962
5+ bedrooms	211

1 unit	111
2 units	150
3-4 units	178
5-9 units	56
10-19 units	24
20+ units	124



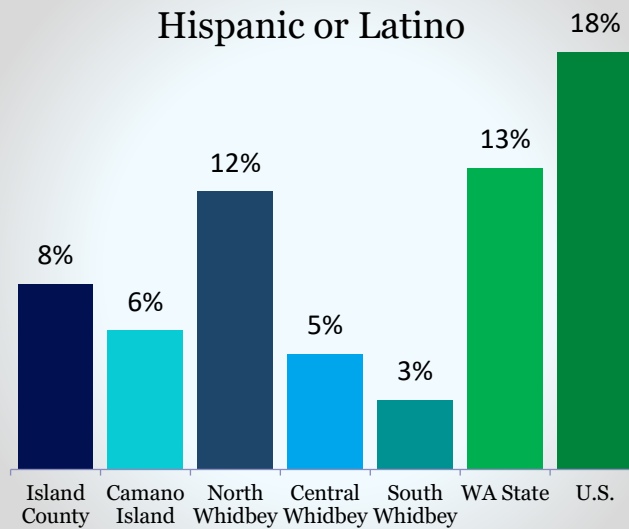
RACE

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian & Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other

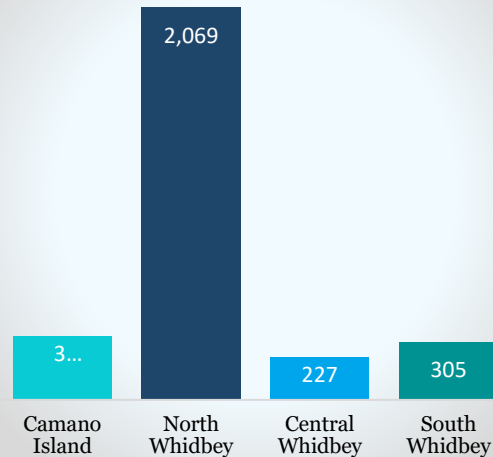


Hispanic or Latino

refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.



Population Two or More Races

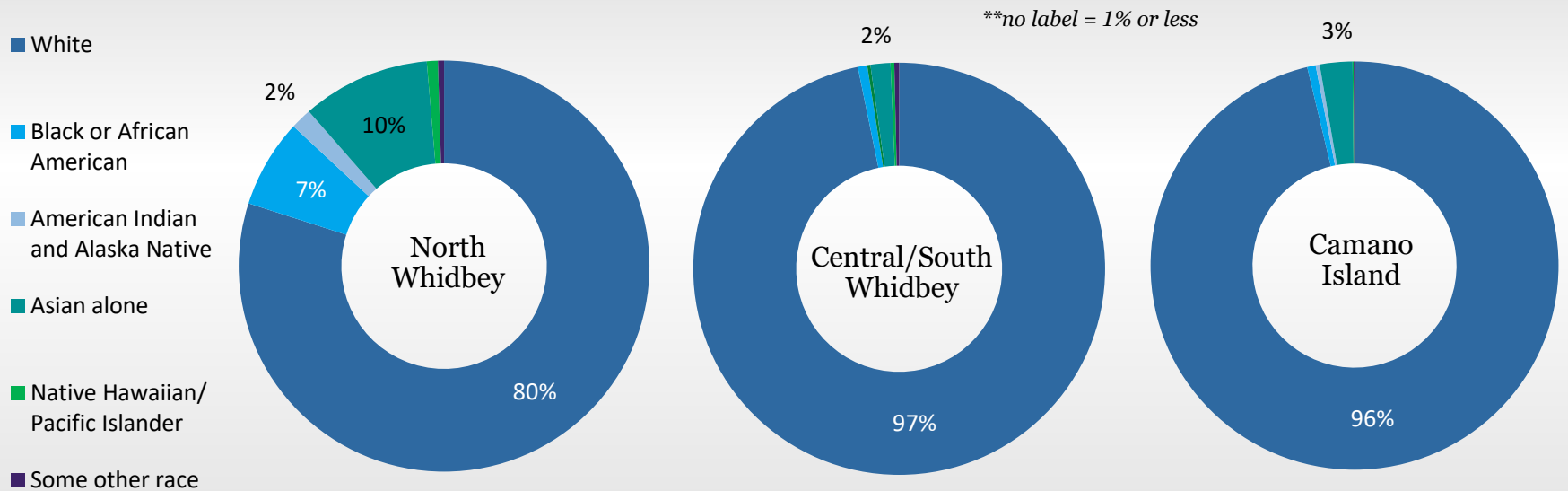
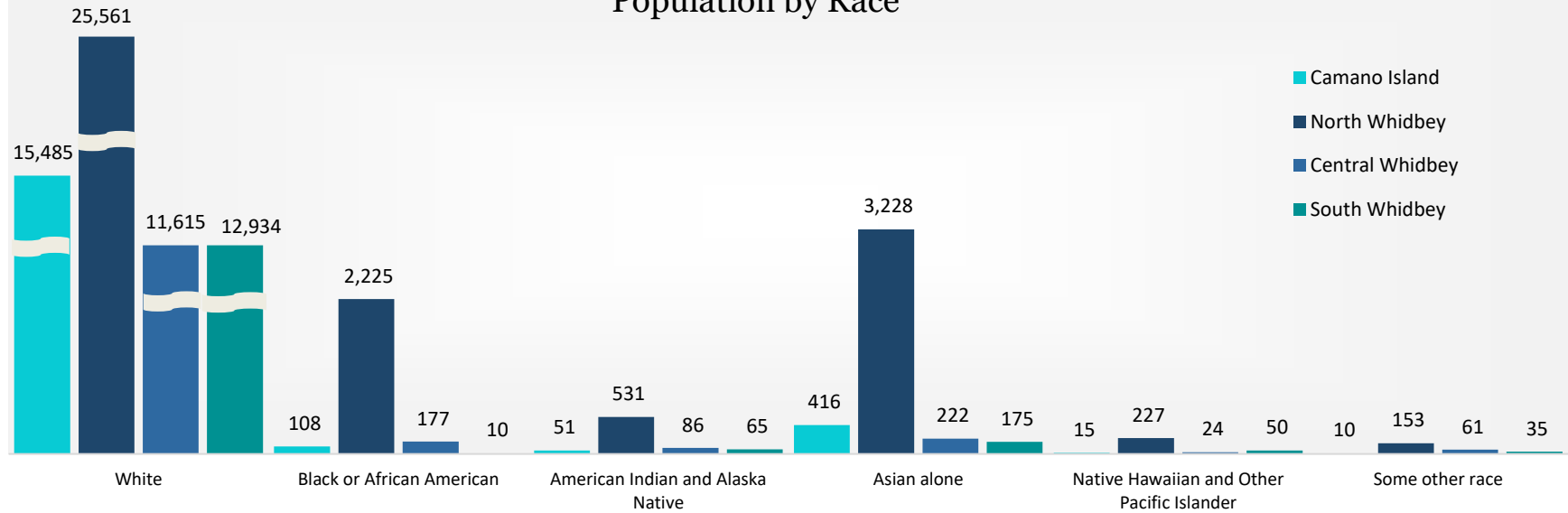


The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data based on self-identification.

Respondents may report more than one race.

RACE

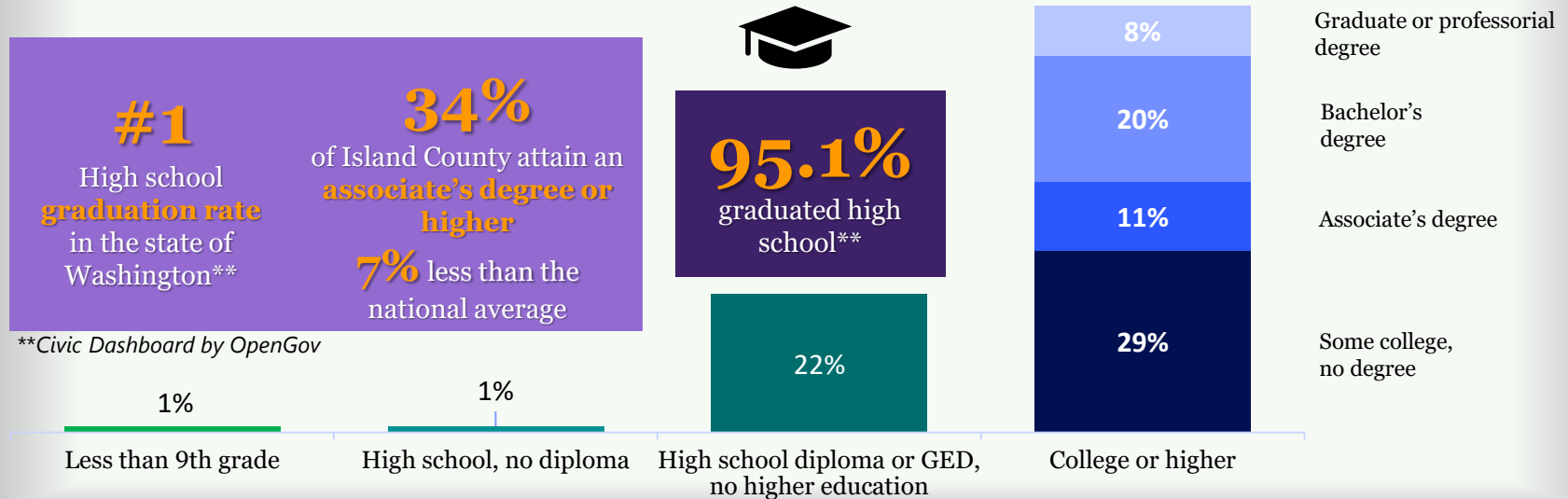
Population by Race*



EDUCATION

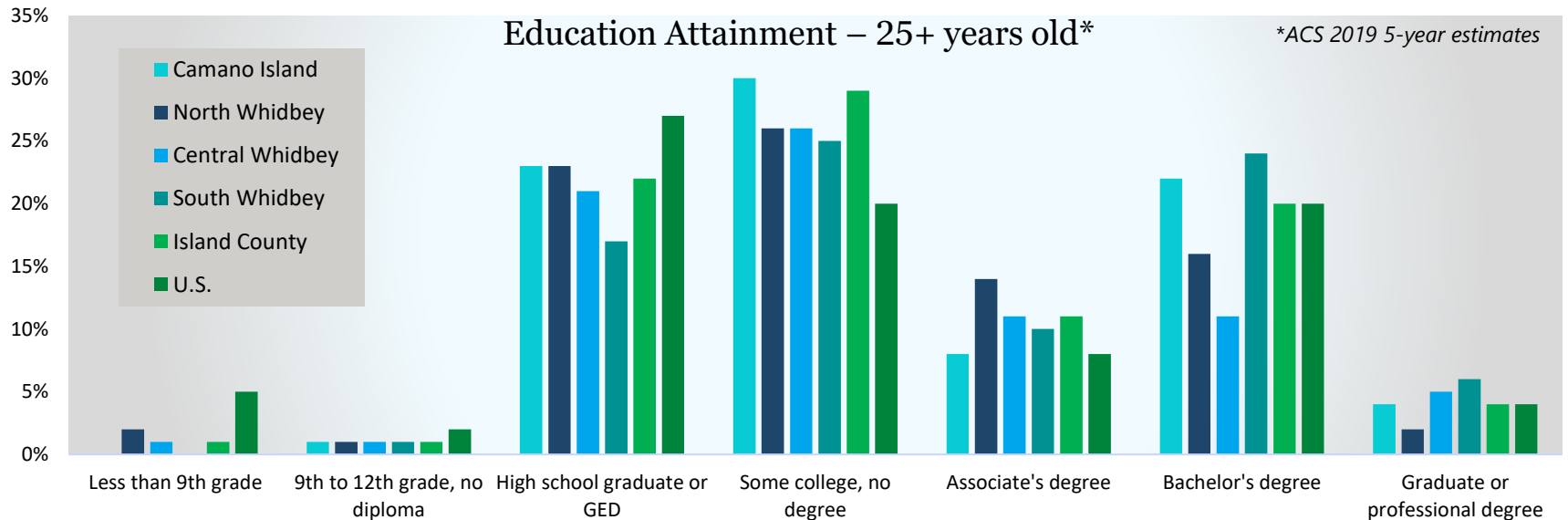
Highest Level or Education Attainment – 25+ years old*

*ACS 2019 5-year estimates



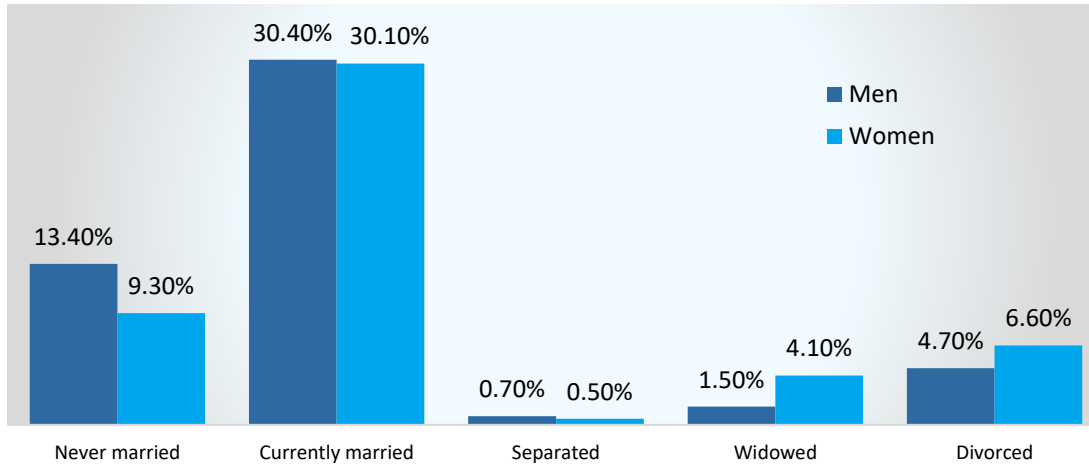
Education Attainment – 25+ years old*

*ACS 2019 5-year estimates



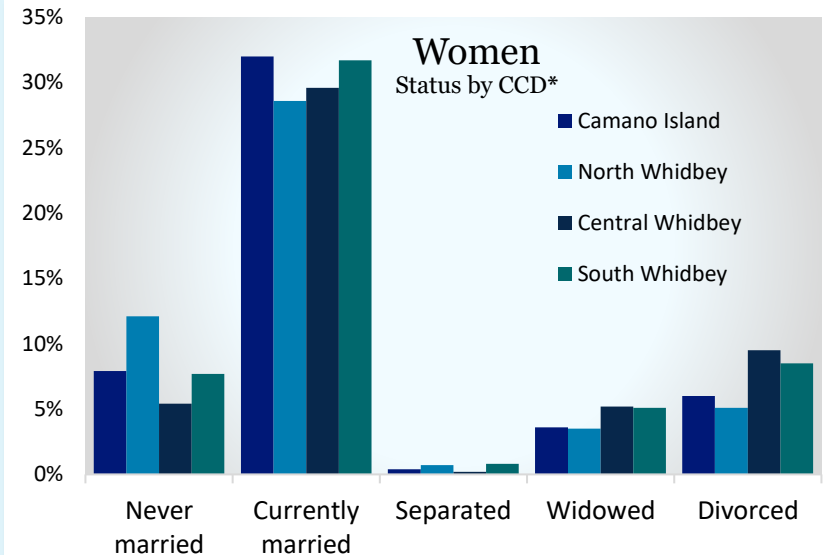
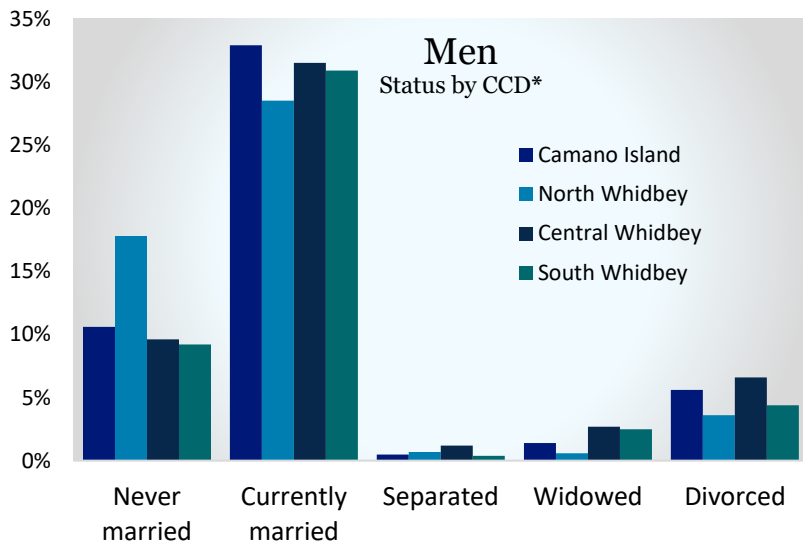
MARITAL STATUS

Island County Marital Status*



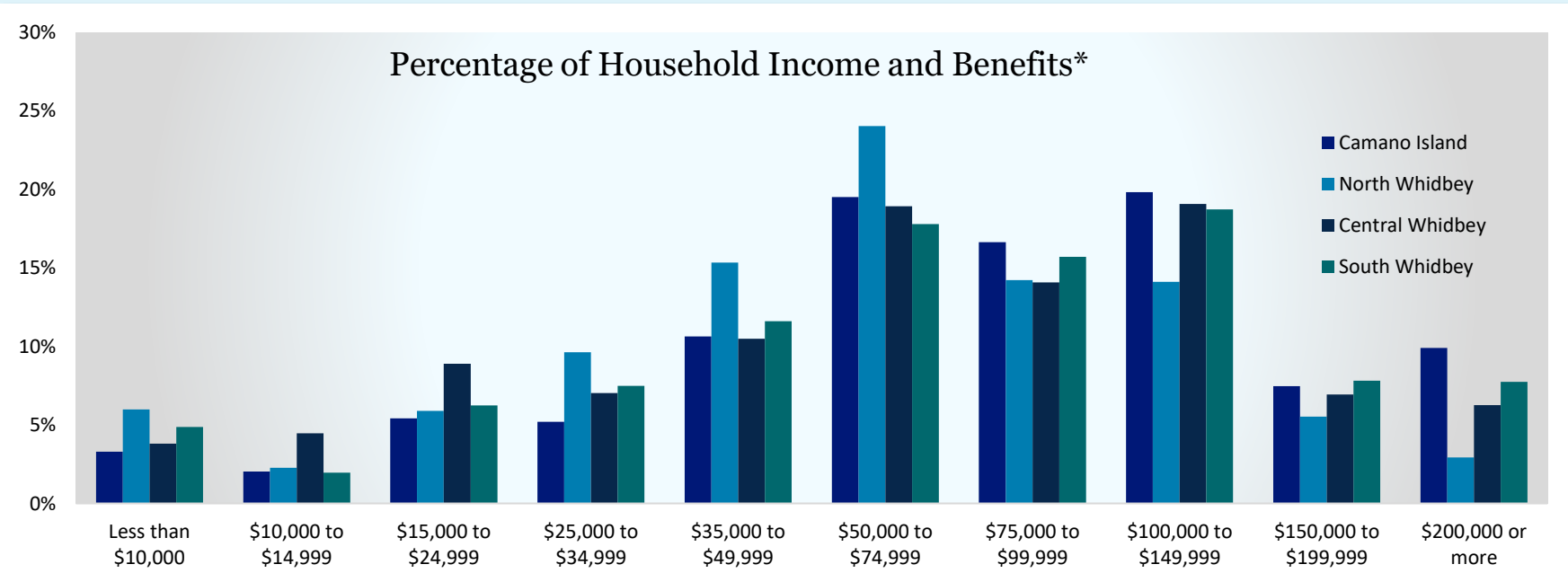
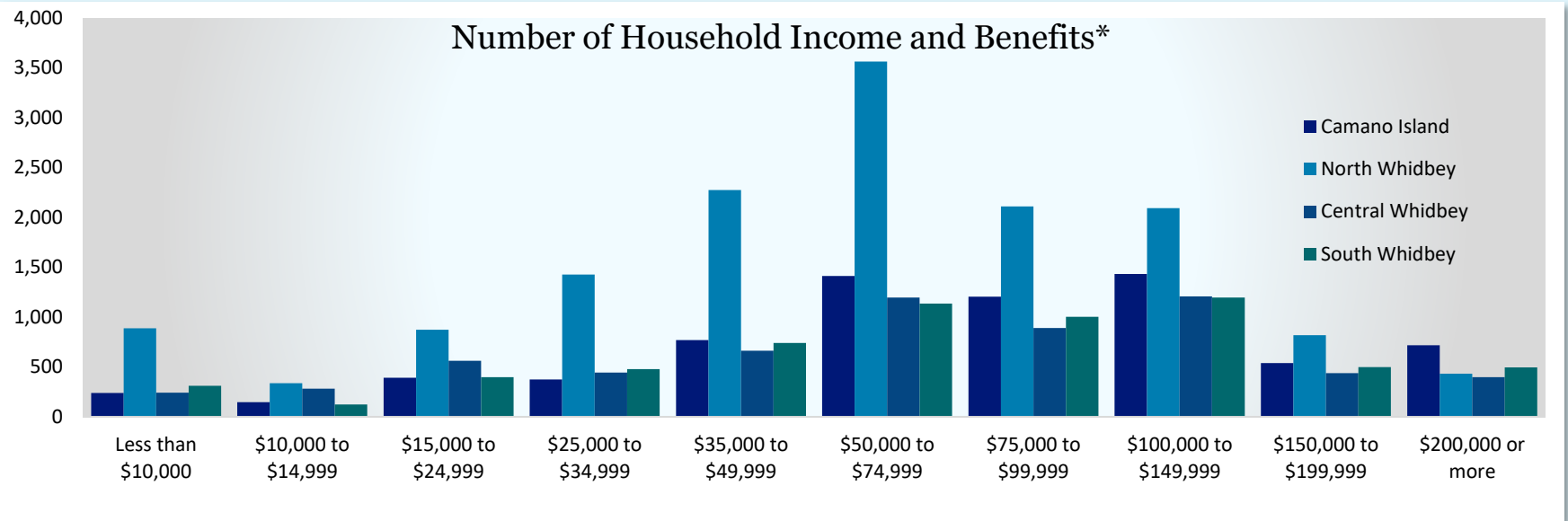
Marriage applies to the population over age 15.

Island County **exceeds** the national average of married couples **(50%)** by **10%**



*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

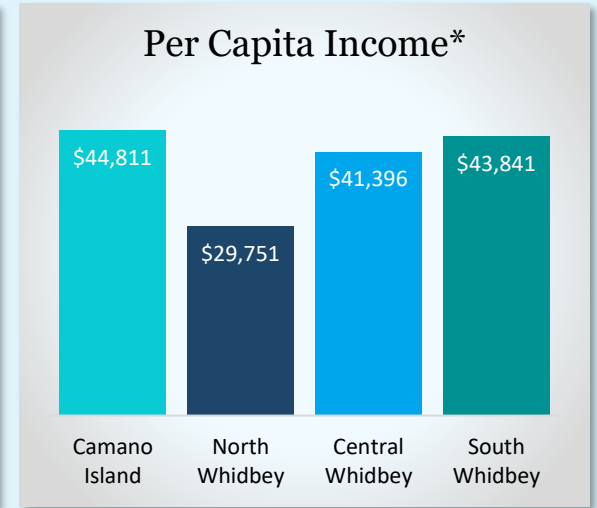
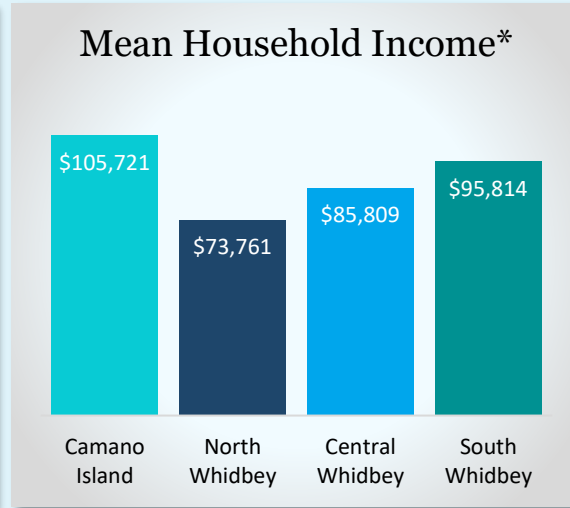
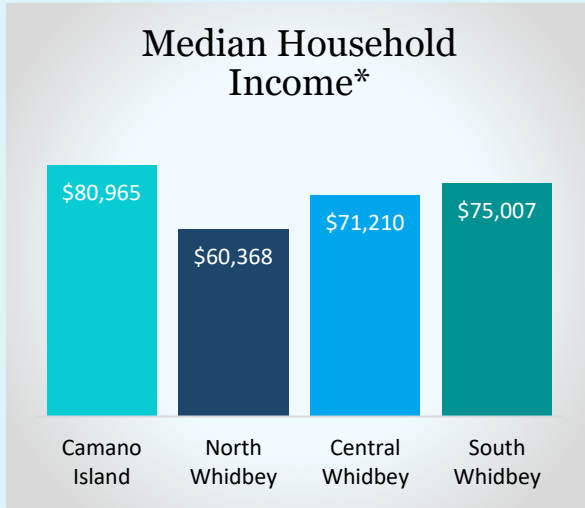
INCOME



*ACS 2019 5-year estimates, 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars

INCOME

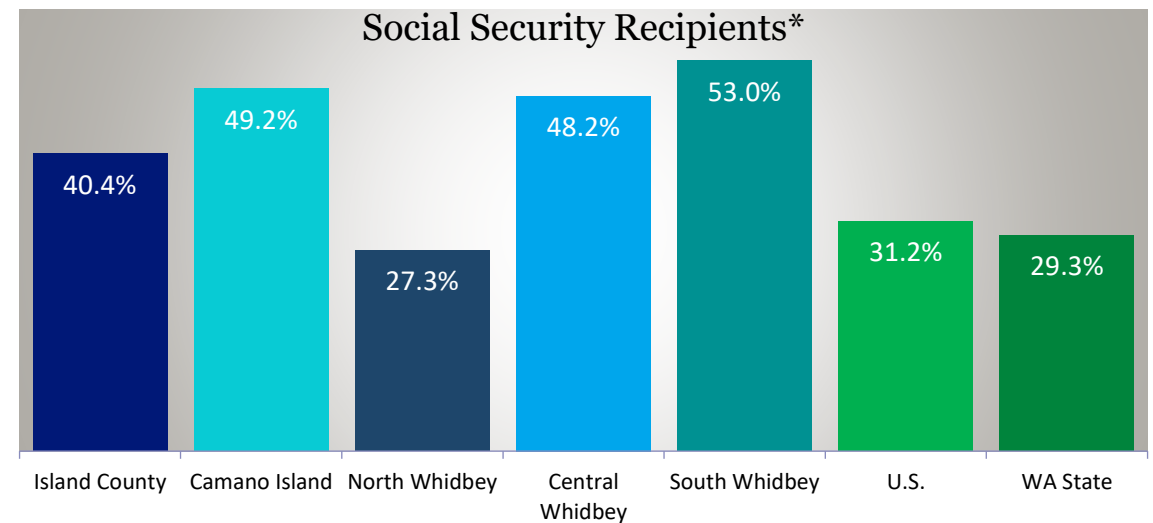
Mean is calculated by the average, while median is determined by selecting the middle-most occurring number in a data set. A higher mean than median in every CCD means there are more incomes occurring on the higher level of the spectrum than those on the lower level.



Per capita income represents the average income received by an individual in the CCD. It is important to note that one individual with extremely high income can skew the average upward.

South Whidbey has the highest percentage, **22% higher** than the national average

North Whidbey is **4% less** than the national average, and **2% less** than the Washington state average

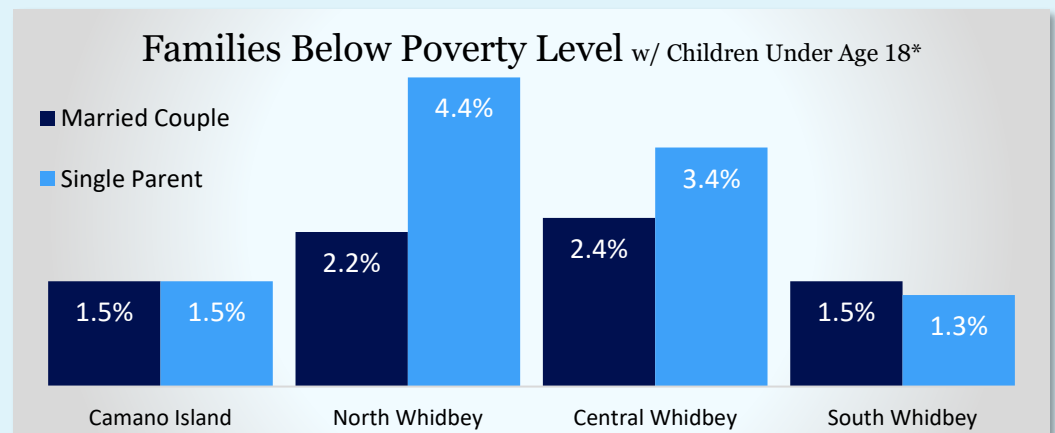
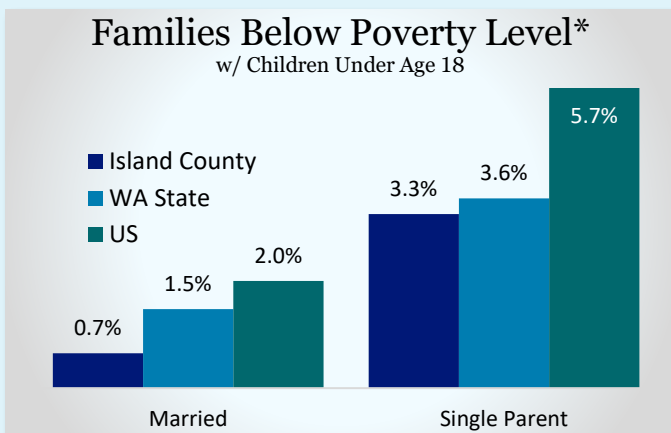
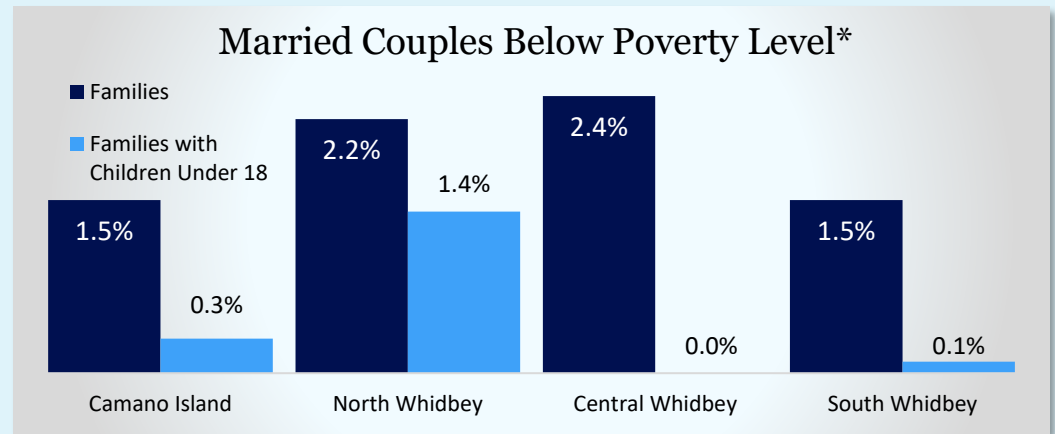
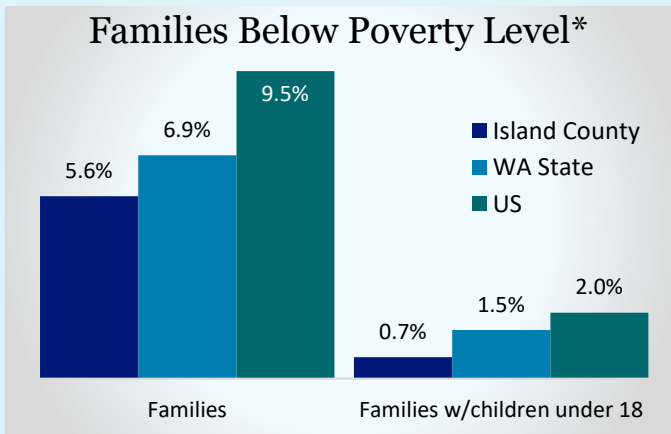


*ACS 2019 5-year estimates, 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars

POVERTY

Poverty affects an economy in several ways. Those living in poverty, by definition, are that portion of a population living below the designated poverty line. These people have little money to spend, which creates less demand for many goods than might otherwise be the case. This has an adverse effect on the supply-side of the economic equation, which means less money paid to others to produce, distribute, and sell.

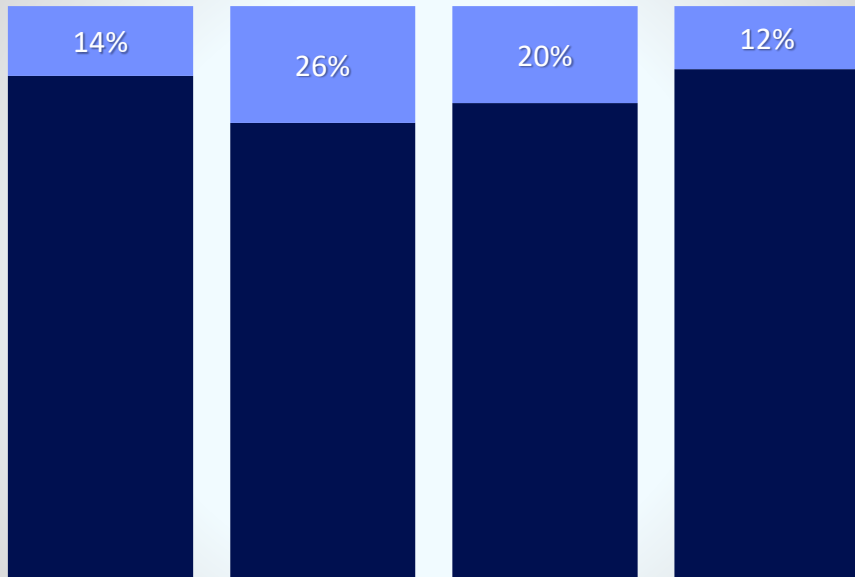
Poverty also adversely affects a nation's economy by diverting government revenue to programs oriented toward the poorer and less-advantaged segments of the population, such as welfare and unemployment payments, government-provided healthcare assistance, and so on.



VETERANS

All areas in the county have a higher number of veterans than the U.S. average, with **North Whidbey** having a concentration **3.6 times higher than the U.S. average of 7.3%**. This includes veterans who served at NAS Whidbey and those who served in other locations but are now retired and living in Island County.

Veterans by Percentage by CCD Population*



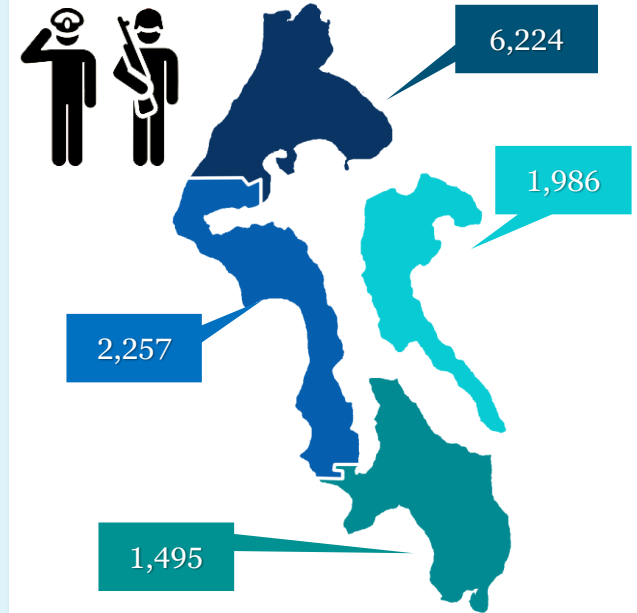
Camano Island North Whidbey Central Whidbey South Whidbey

19.3%
veteran population
Island County



2.7X
national average of
7.3%

Veterans by Number by CCD*



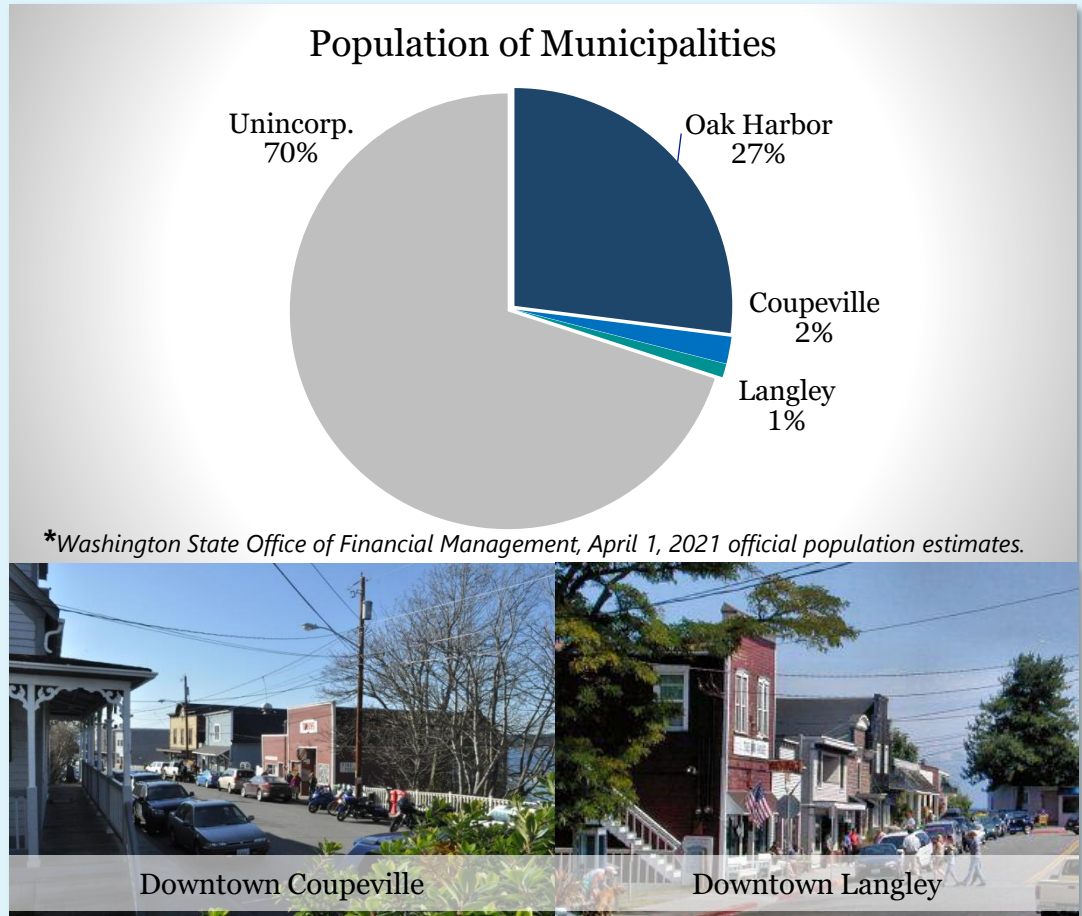
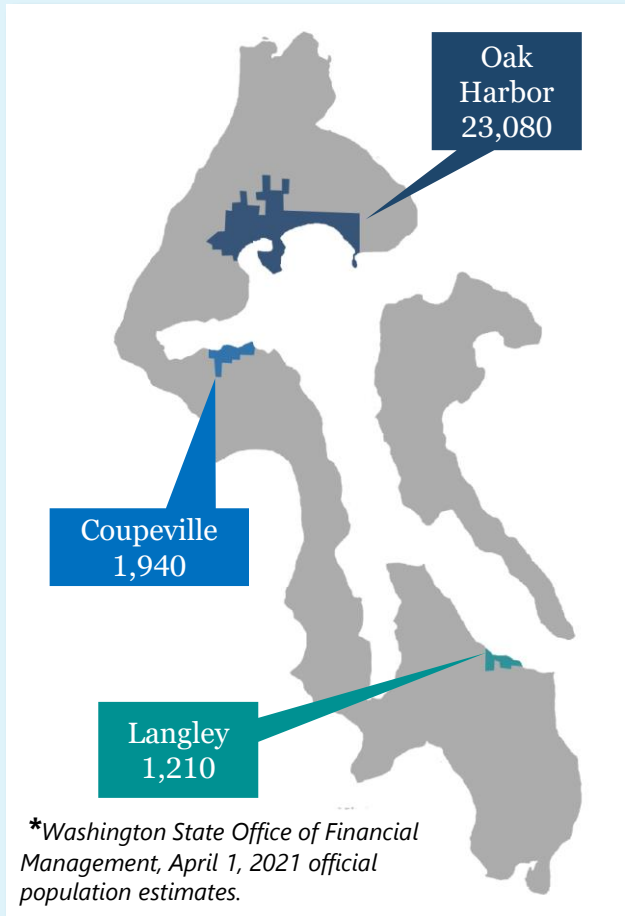
Total veteran population
11,962

*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

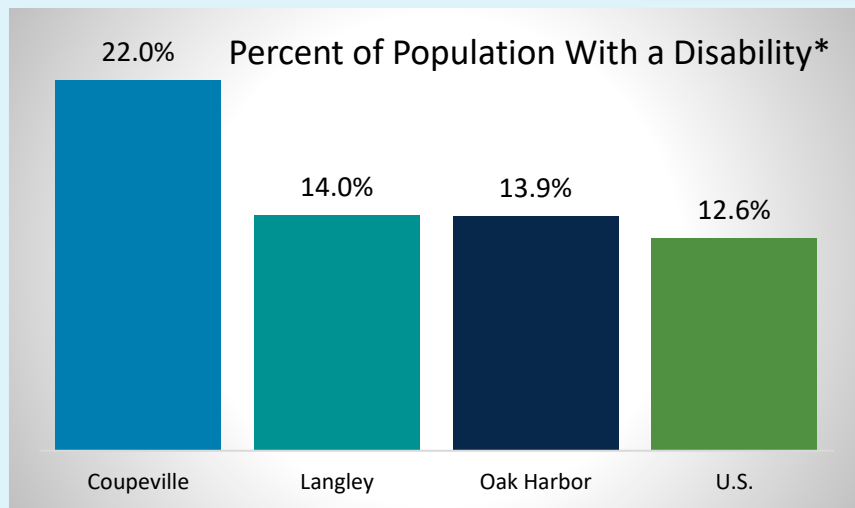
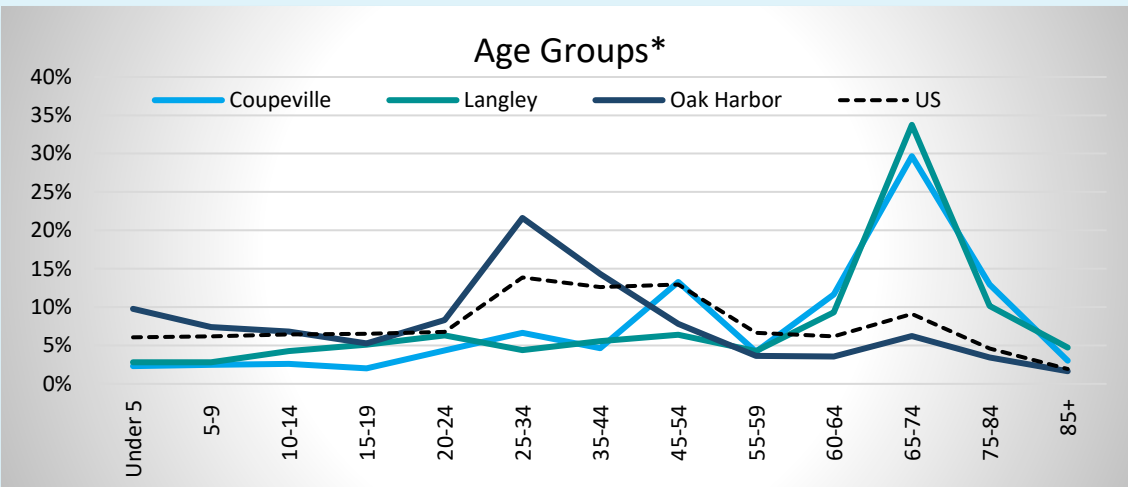
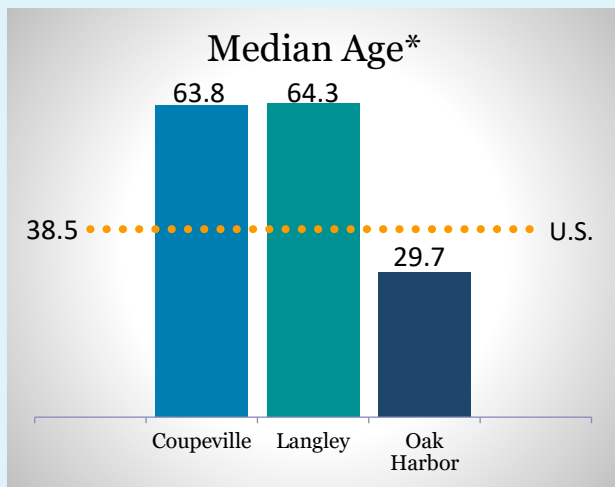
Island County Municipalities

POPULATION

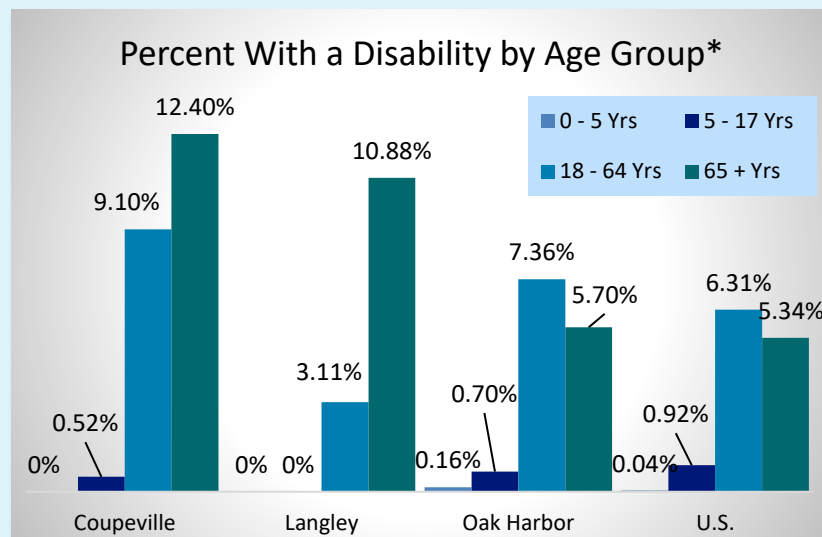
The three municipalities in Island County are the **City of Oak Harbor**, the **Town of Coupeville**, and the **City of Langley**. The NAS Whidbey base is located near the City of Oak Harbor, which influences the city's higher population count and lower median age.



AGE AND DISABILITIES



As a percent of the total non-institutionalized population, Langley has the highest number of disabled residents at roughly 7% higher than the U.S. average. Oak Harbor has the least at 0.5% higher than the U.S. average.

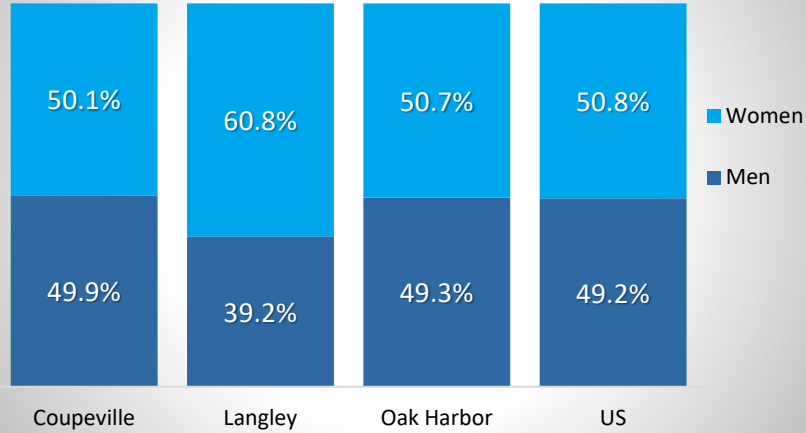


*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

Coupeville has the highest percentage of population with a disability at 22%, which is 74% higher than the national percentage. Oak Harbor, on the other hand, has the lowest percentage of population with a disability at 13.9%, which is only 10% higher than the national percentage.

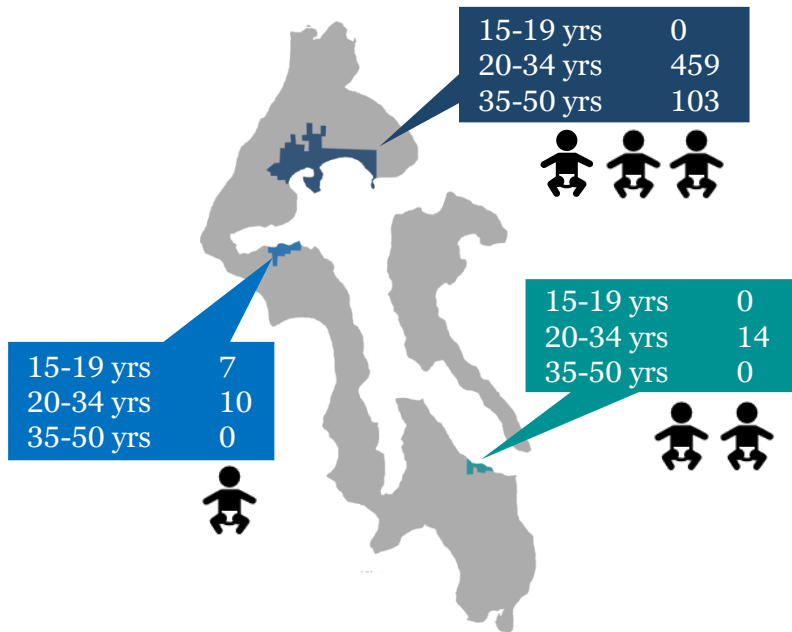
SEX AND FERTILITY

Percentage of Men and Women*

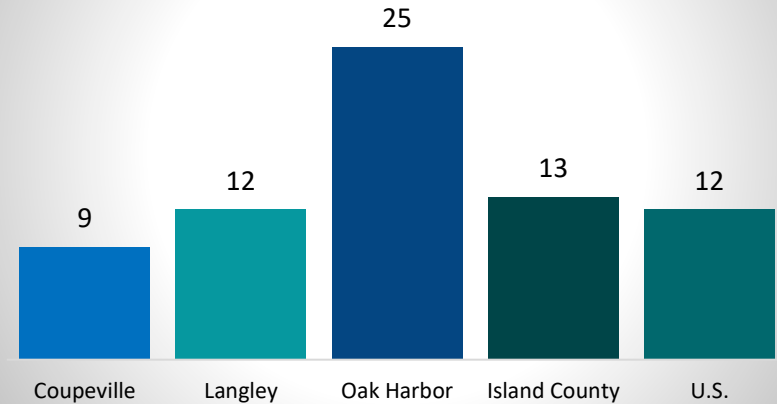


Percentage-wise, Oak Harbor and Coupeville ratios of men to women matches the U.S. average, while Langley has about 22% more women than men.

Birth by Age Group by Municipality*



Births Per 1,000*
Women aged 15 - 50



Oak Harbor's birthrate is
~2x higher
than the national average

Coupeville's birthrate is
25 % lower
than the national average

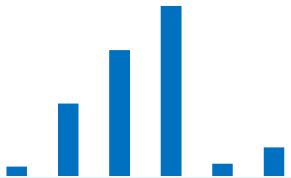


HOUSING

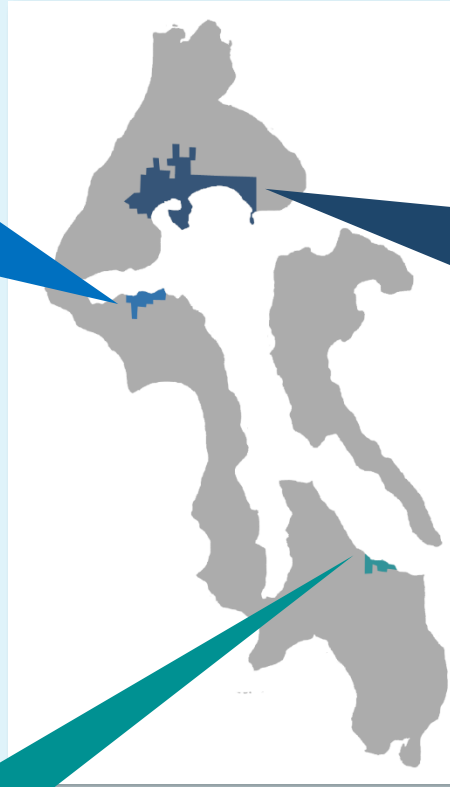
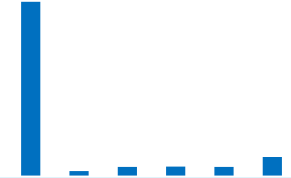
ACS 2019 5-year estimates



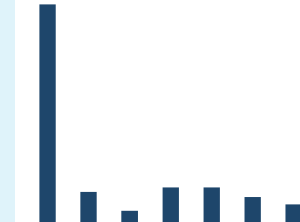
Studio	24
1 bedroom	182
2 bedrooms	315
3 bedrooms	426
4 bedrooms	31
5+ bedrooms	72



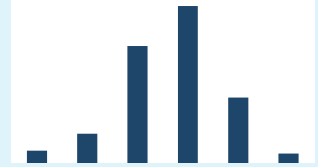
1 unit, attach	755
1 unit, detach	19
2 units	37
3-4 units	39
5-9 units	37
20+ units	80



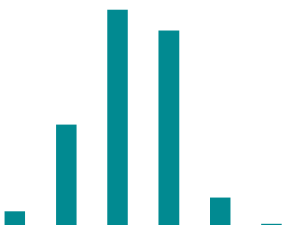
1 unit, attach	5,360
1 unit, detach	740
2 units	277
3-4 units	852
5-9 units	854
10-19 units	617
20+ units	431



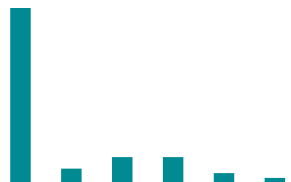
Studio	310
1 bedroom	744
2 bedrooms	2,980
3 bedrooms	3,996
4 bedrooms	1,667
5+ bedrooms	224



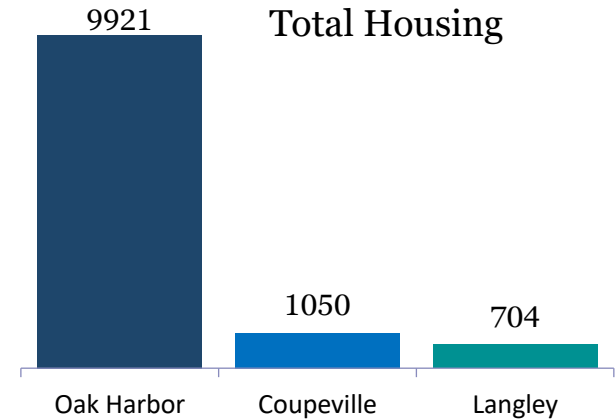
Studio	19
1 bedroom	128
2 bedrooms	272
3 bedrooms	246
4 bedrooms	36
5+ bedrooms	3



1 unit, attach	461
1 unit, detach	41
2 units	71
3-4 units	71
5-9 units	29
20+ units	17

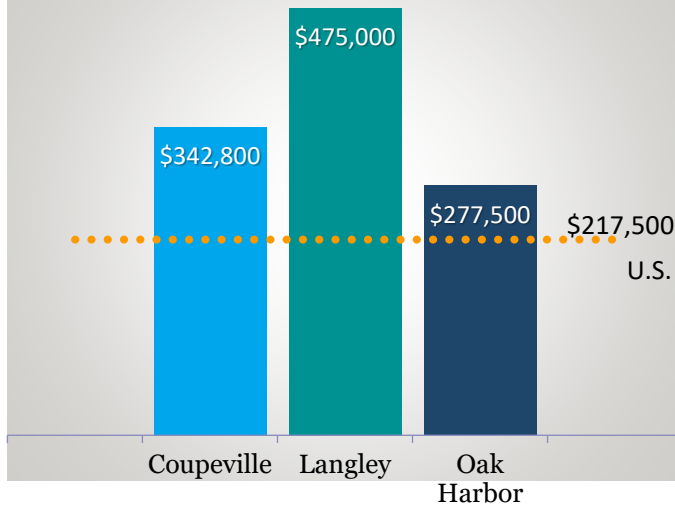


Oak Harbor has
9.4x more
housing than
Coupeville
and
14.1x more
than Langley



HOUSING

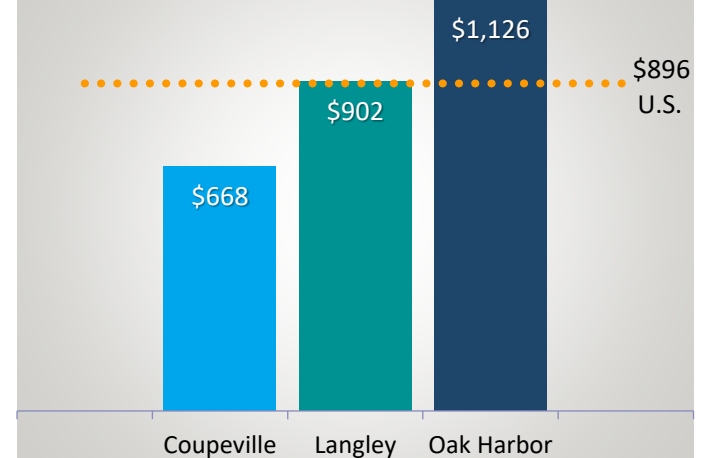
Median Home Value*



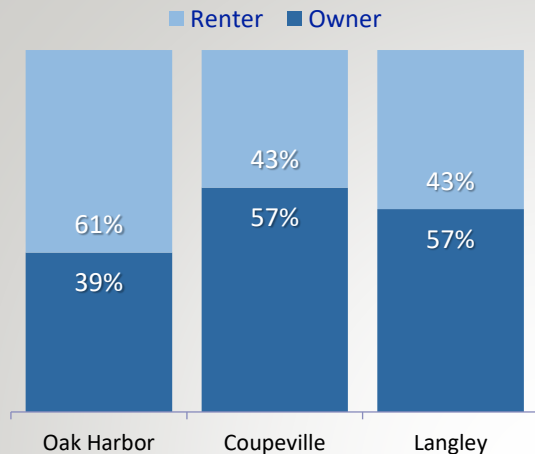
Median home value in Langley is
2.2X
higher than the U.S. average

Rental rates in Oak Harbor are
26%
higher than U.S. average

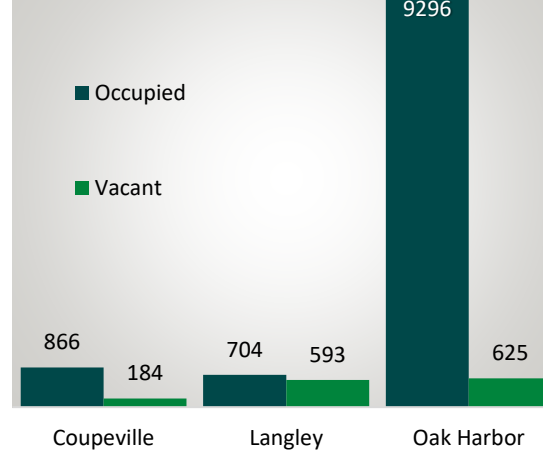
Median Rent*



Occupant Type*



Occupancy*



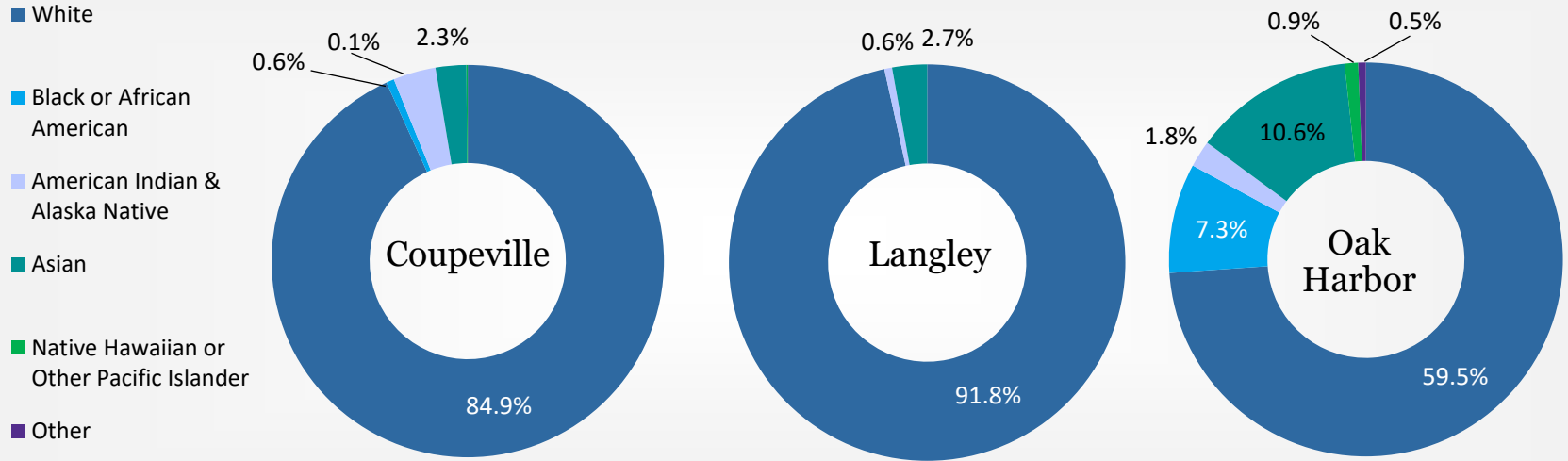
Oak Harbor has the highest rental rates at about \$230 or 26% higher than the U.S. median. Frequently, the presence of a military base can lead to inflated rental prices as landlords attempt to match their rates to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)** rates of the installation's highest population. 51%*** of the Navy's ranks concentrate in the E-4 to E-6 pay grades. In 2019 the BAH rates were \$1,422 per month for an E-4 with dependents, \$1,476 per month for an E-5 with dependents, and \$1,860 per month for an E-6 with dependents.

**BAH Calculator – Defense Travel Management Office. Updated: 12/15/2020

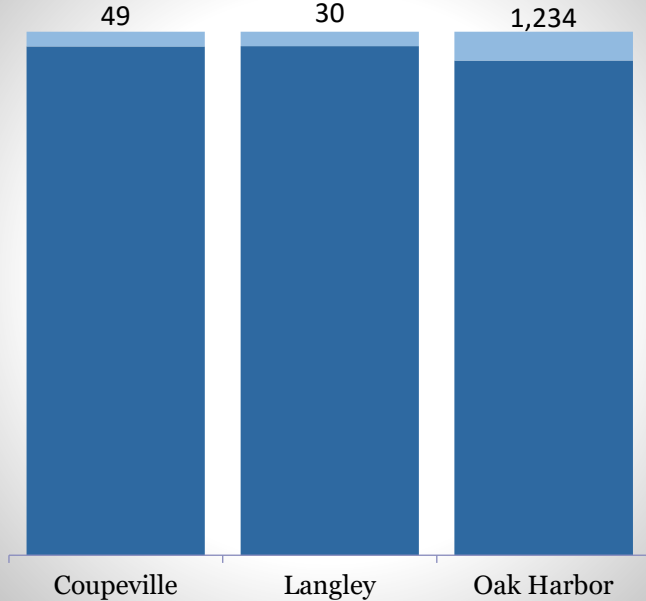
***Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, "Profile of the Military Community," 2019

*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

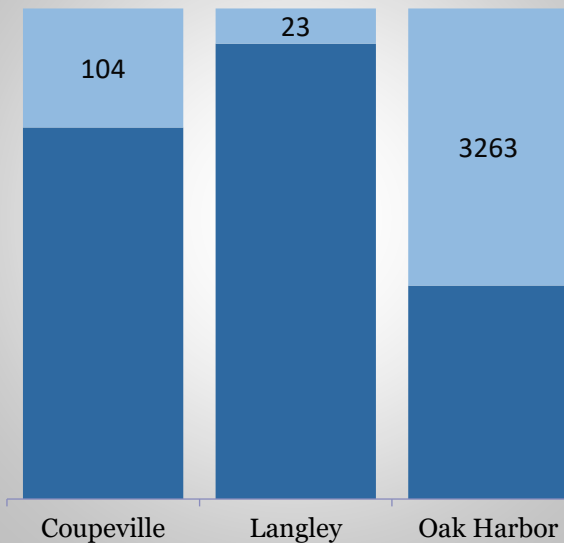
RACE



Population Two or More Races



Population Hispanic or Latino



Oak Harbor has the highest Hispanic or Latino population by count at

3,263

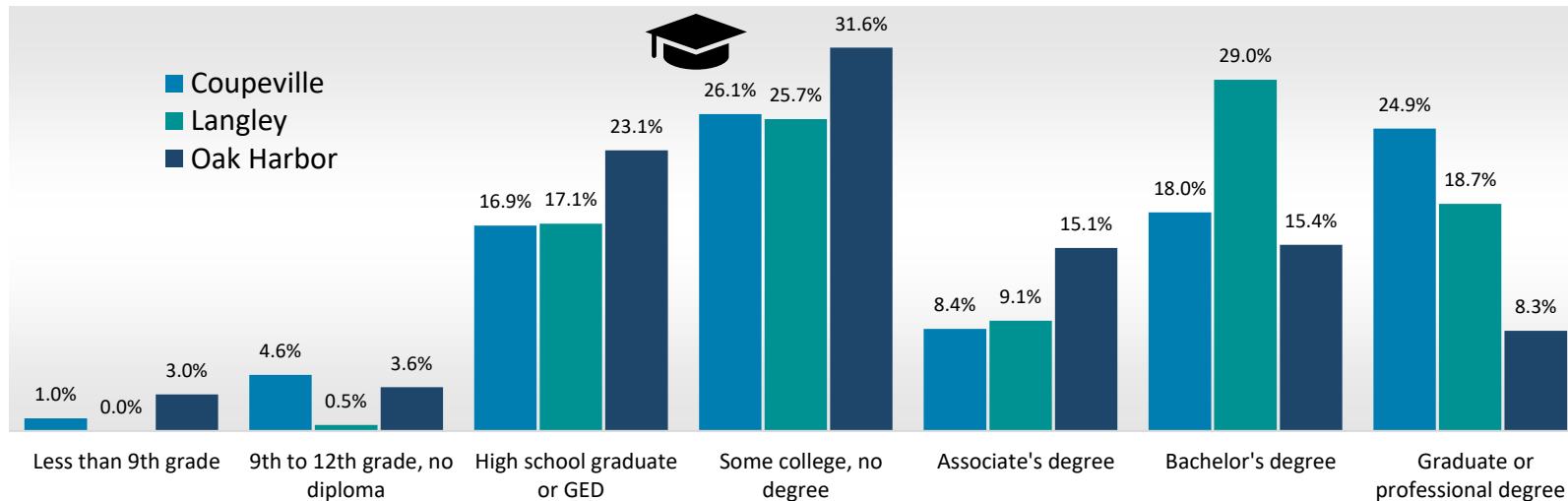
and the highest population as percentage at

14%

EDUCATION AND MARITAL STATUS

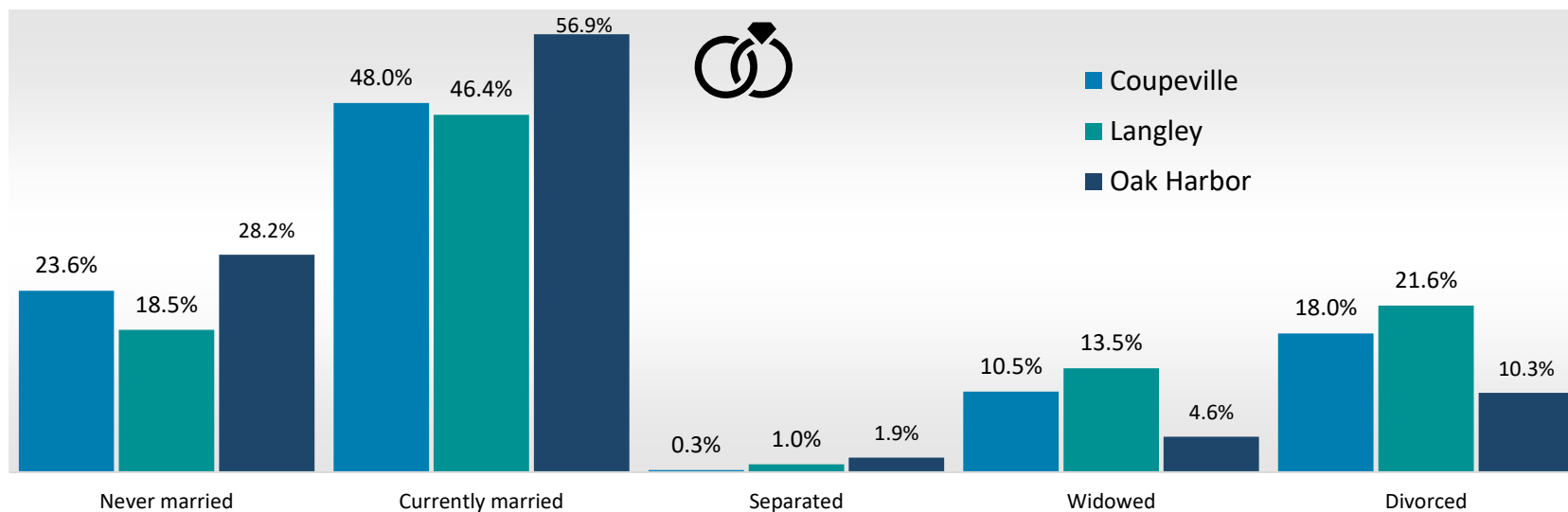
Education Attainment - 25+ yrs Old

ACS 2019 5-year estimates



Marital Status

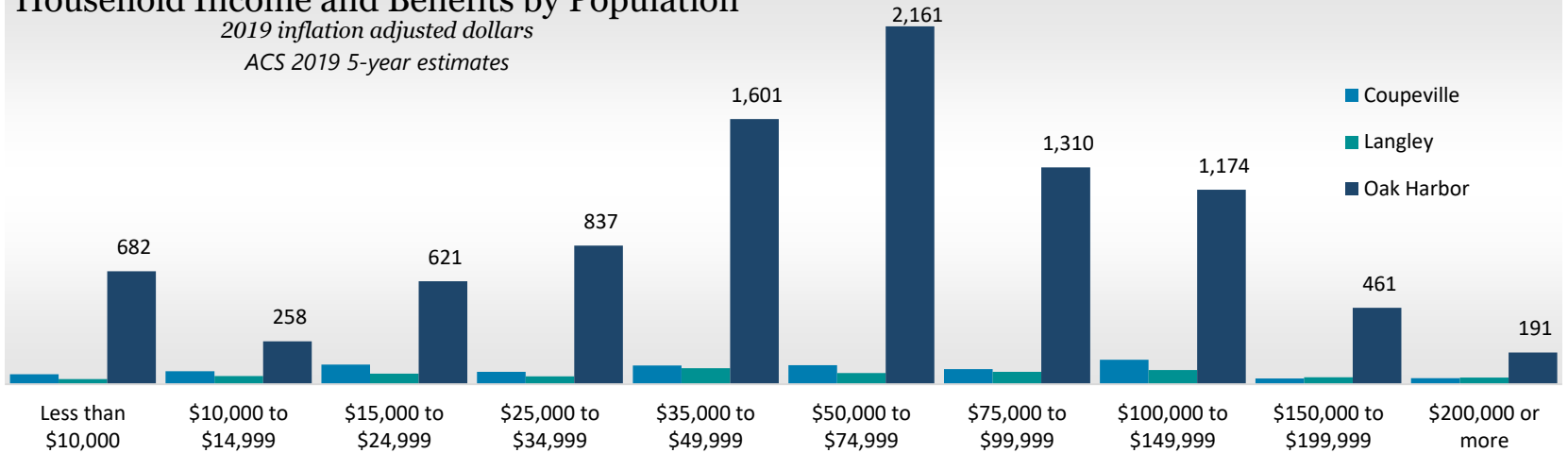
ACS 2019 5-year estimates



INCOME

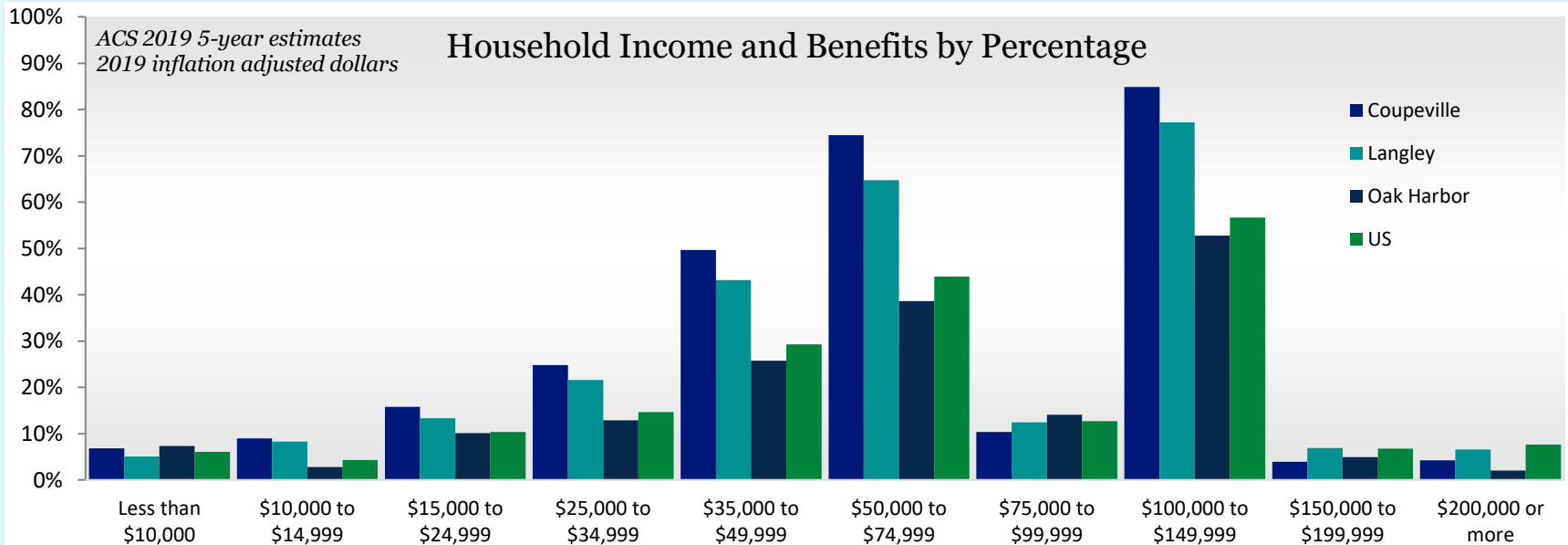
Household Income and Benefits by Population

2019 inflation adjusted dollars
ACS 2019 5-year estimates



ACS 2019 5-year estimates
2019 inflation adjusted dollars

Household Income and Benefits by Percentage



INCOME

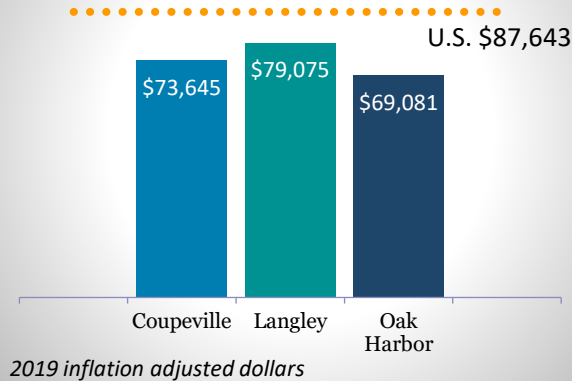
*ACS 2019 5-year estimates

Oak Harbor's mean household income is

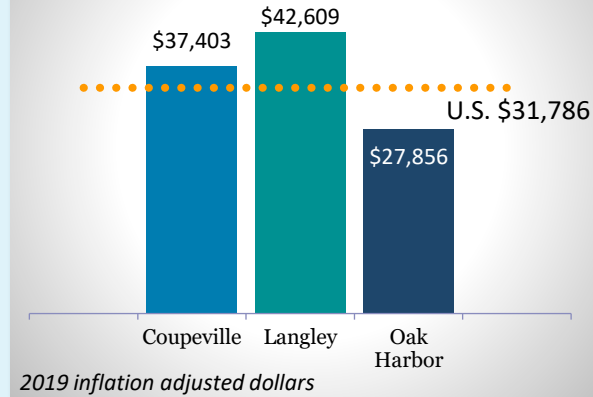
27%

lower than the U.S. mean household income

Mean Household Income by Municipality*



Per Capita Income by Municipality*



Oak Harbor's per capita income is

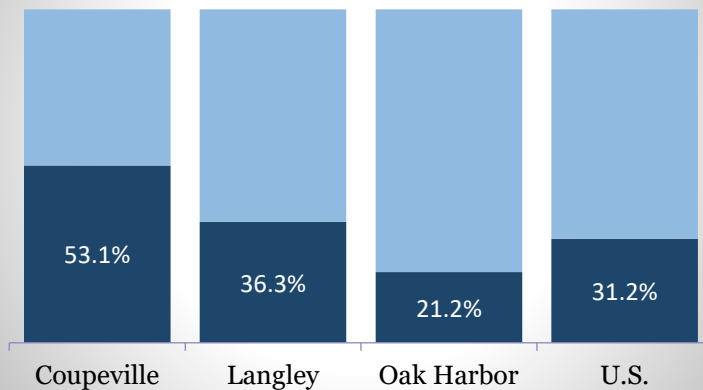
14%

lower than the U.S. per capita income

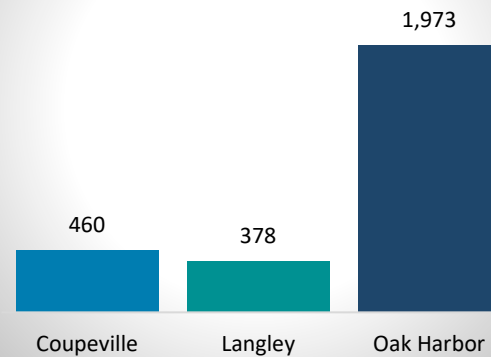
SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT INCOME

As a percentage of the total population, Coupeville's and Langley's populations are significantly higher in the number of households receiving Social Security than Oak Harbor and the national number.

Households Receiving Social Security*



Households Receiving Social Security*

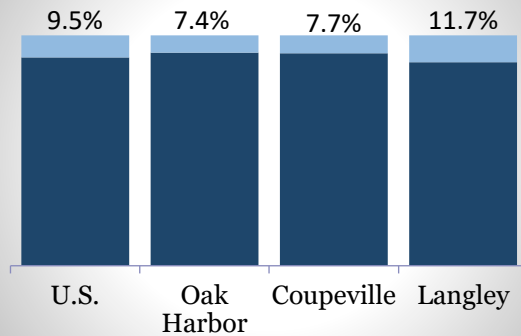


The City of Oak Harbor is **11.9X larger** than the Town of Coupeville and **19.2X larger** than the City of Langley and has

~5X more households receiving benefits

POVERTY

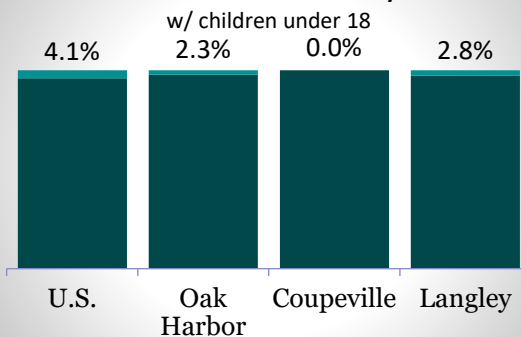
Families Below Poverty Level



Langley has
1.2x more
families **living**
under poverty
than the national
average

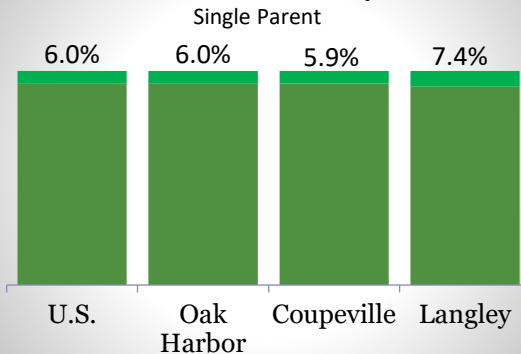
Keep in mind that both Coupeville and Langley have very small populations, so a minor increase can inflate the percentage significantly.

Families Below Poverty Level



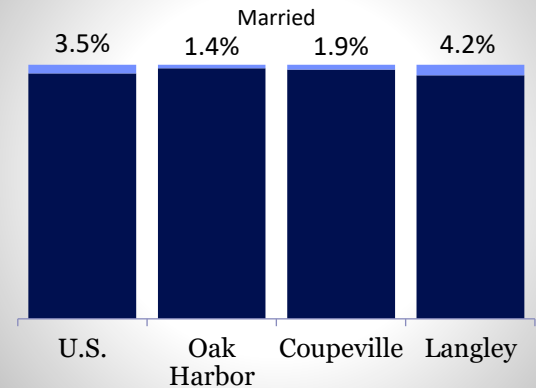
All
municipalities
have less
families with
children under
18 living **under**
poverty than the
national average

Families Below Poverty Level



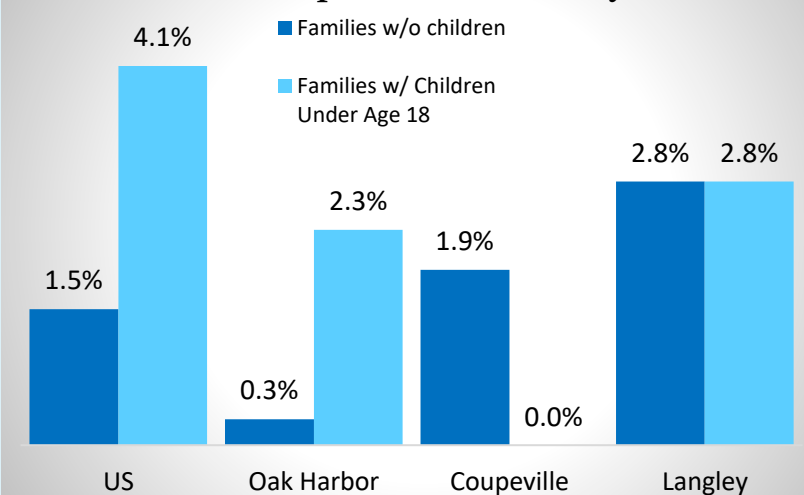
Coupeville has
1.2x more
single parent
families living
under poverty
than the
national average

Families Below Poverty Level



Langley has
1.2x more
married families
living **under**
poverty than the
national average

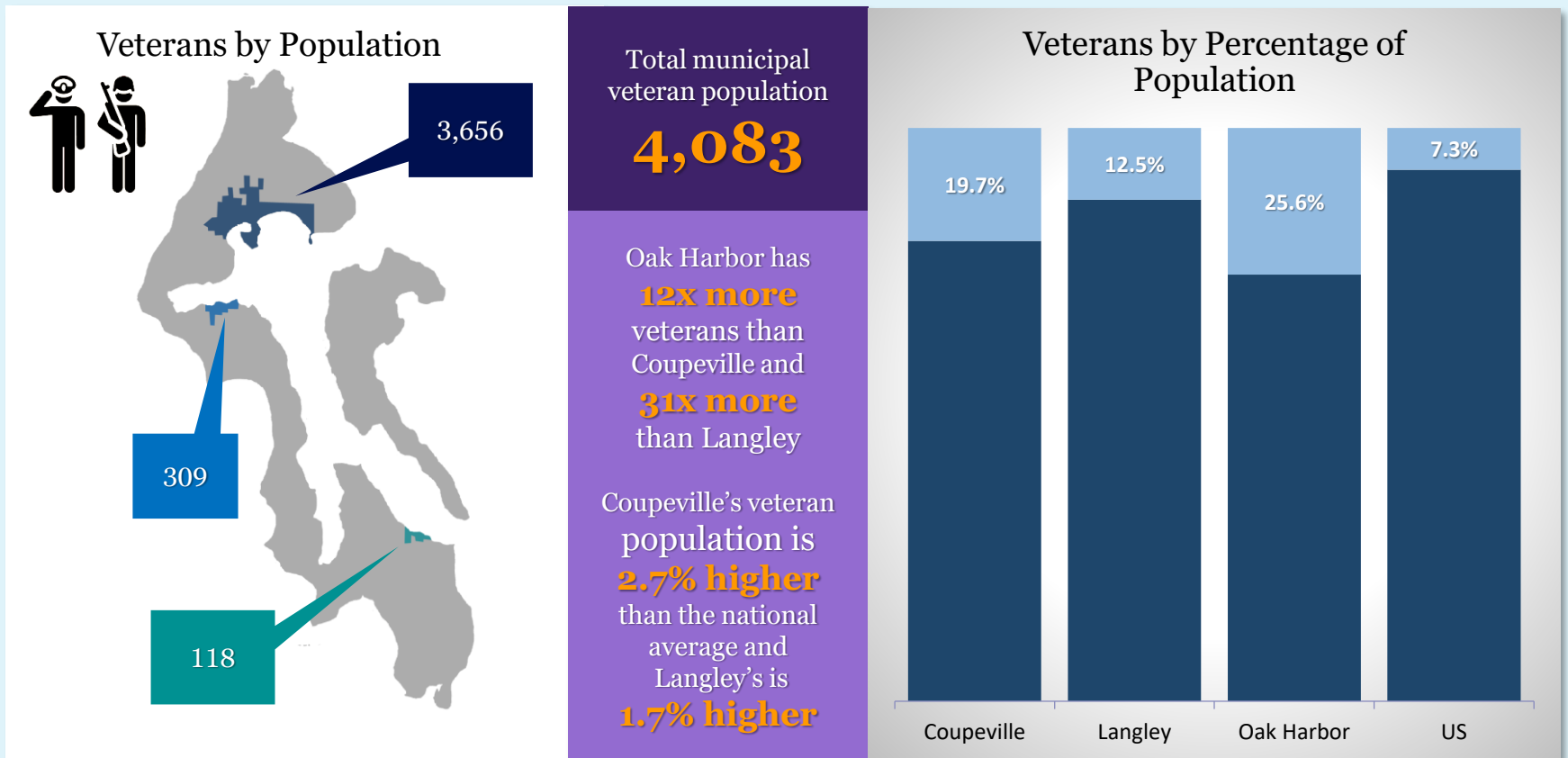
Married Couples Below Poverty Level



All data from ACS 2019 5-year estimates

VETERANS

By total count, the City of Oak Harbor has the highest number of veterans. The closer proximity to the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island contributes significantly to this stark difference.



All data from ACS 2019 5-year estimates

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https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/pop/april1/ofm_april1_population_final.xlsx



The Economic Development Council for Island County (EDCIC) is a 501(c)6 non-profit dedicated to:

- ✓ Enhancing economic vitality of Island County
- ✓ Assisting local businesses find resources and connections
- ✓ Working to attract new businesses to our communities, and
- ✓ Engaging with community partners and leaders to enhance our collective prosperity and encourage our economic future

Membership in the EDCIC starts as low as \$70 for many businesses. Contact us for more information.