



EDC
ISLAND
COUNTY

Island County Demographics Report

Updated July 2022

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for Island County**
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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.

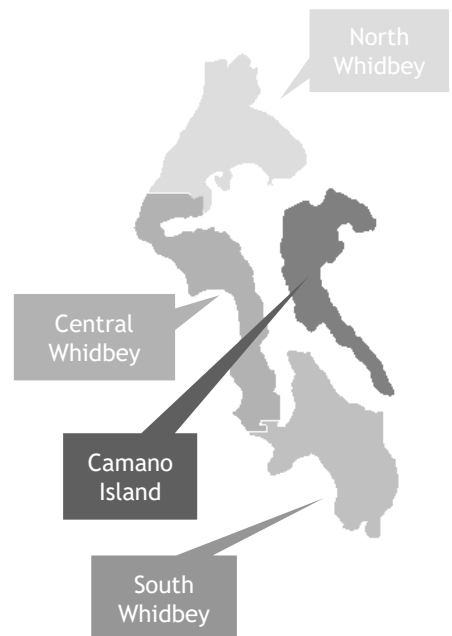
- Median: the middle value in a series arranged from smallest to largest.
- Mean: a value computed by dividing the sum of a set of terms by the number of terms.

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, 2020 5-year estimates using 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars* 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 of time. 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, North Whidbey, Central Whidbey, South Whidbey, and Camano Island 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:
North Whidbey, Central Whidbey, South Whidbey, and Camano Island

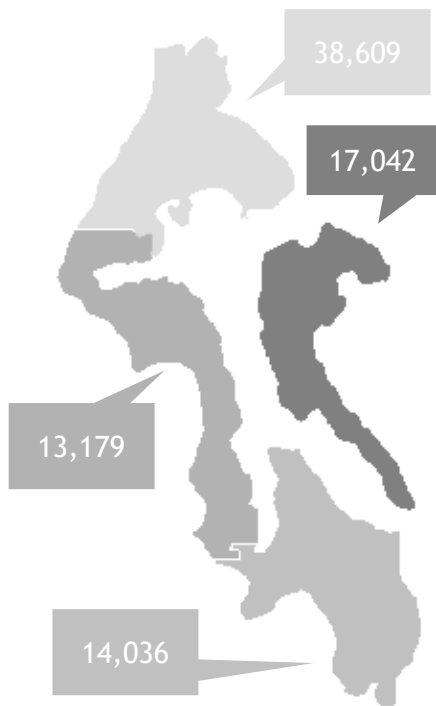
Population

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.

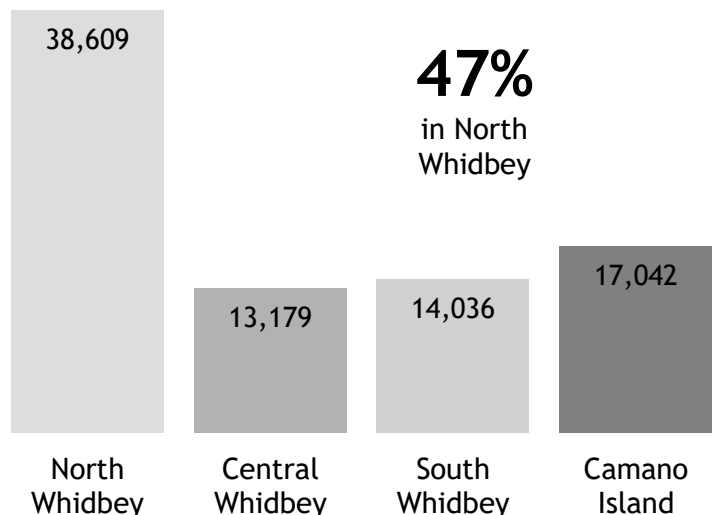
Island County is comprised of Whidbey, Camano, Ben Ure, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Minor, and Kalamut Islands, with Whidbey, Camano, and Baby as the three settled islands. Whidbey Island is the 5th longest island in the contiguous U.S.—45 miles long with 148 miles of shoreline. Camano is 16 miles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



Population by CCD



Total population **87,700***
across **208 mi²**

Population density
421 people/mi²

*Washington State Office of Financial Management, June 29, 2022, official population estimates update.

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

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.

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

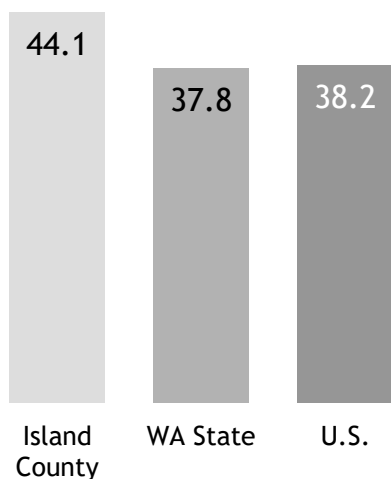
76% are under **35 years**

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.

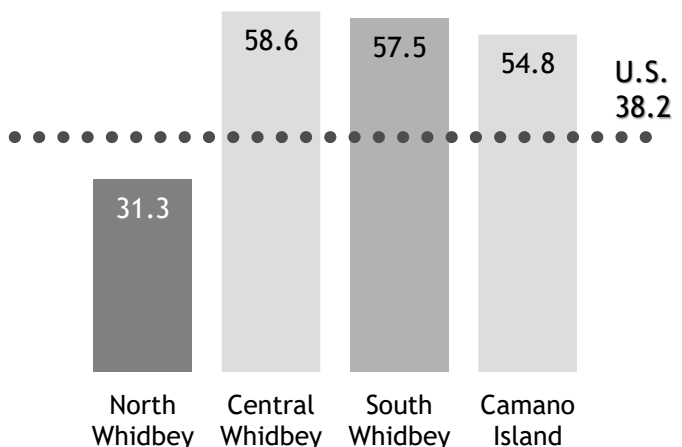
Department of Defense

Comparative Median Age



Island County’s median age is **~17% higher** than the U.S. and WA State median

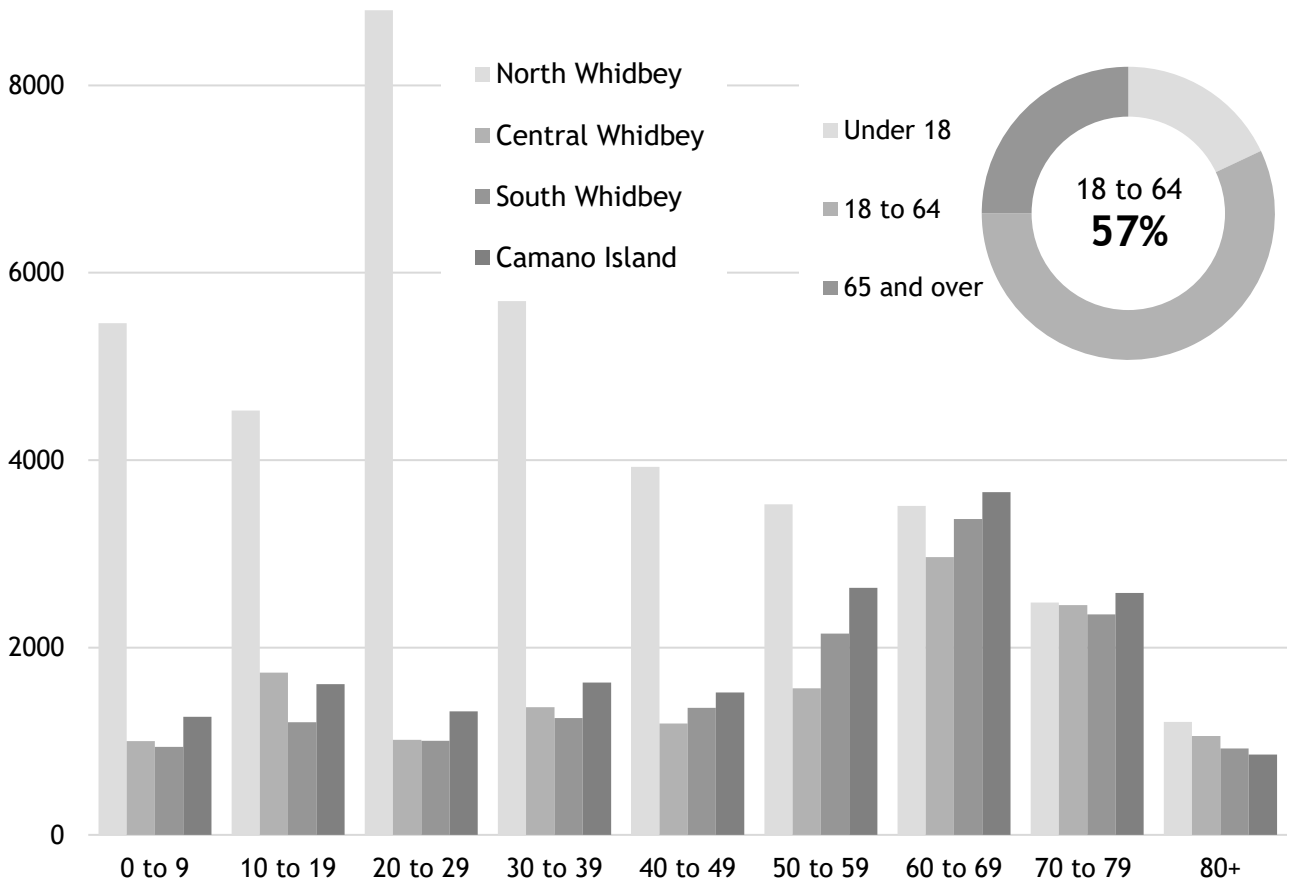
Median Age Island County by CCD



Location	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change
North Whidbey	32.1	31.3	-0.8
Central Whidbey	53.7	58.6	+4.9
South Whidbey	54.4	57.5	+3.1
Camano Island	51.1	54.8	+3.7
U.S.	37.4	38.2	+0.8

From 2010 to 2020 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 showed a decrease of 0.81 years.

Island County Population by Age Group by CCD



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 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.

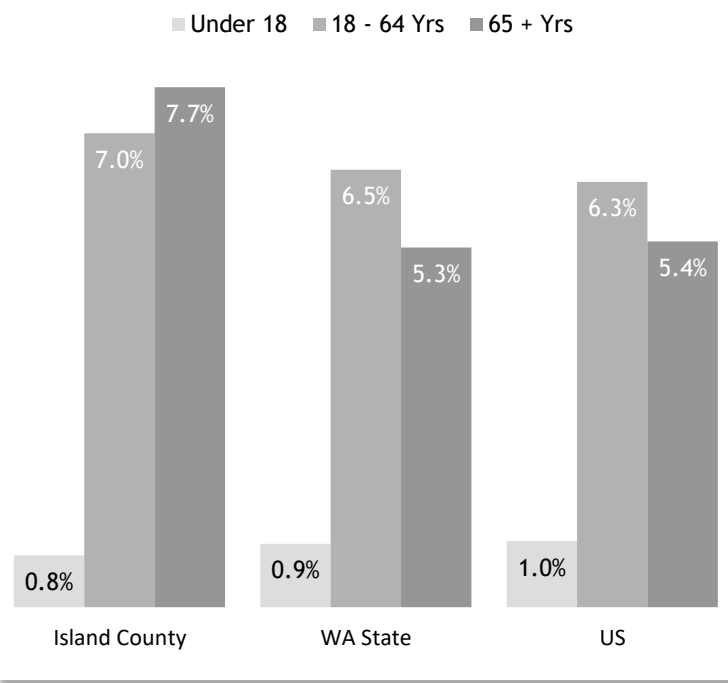
Disabilities

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

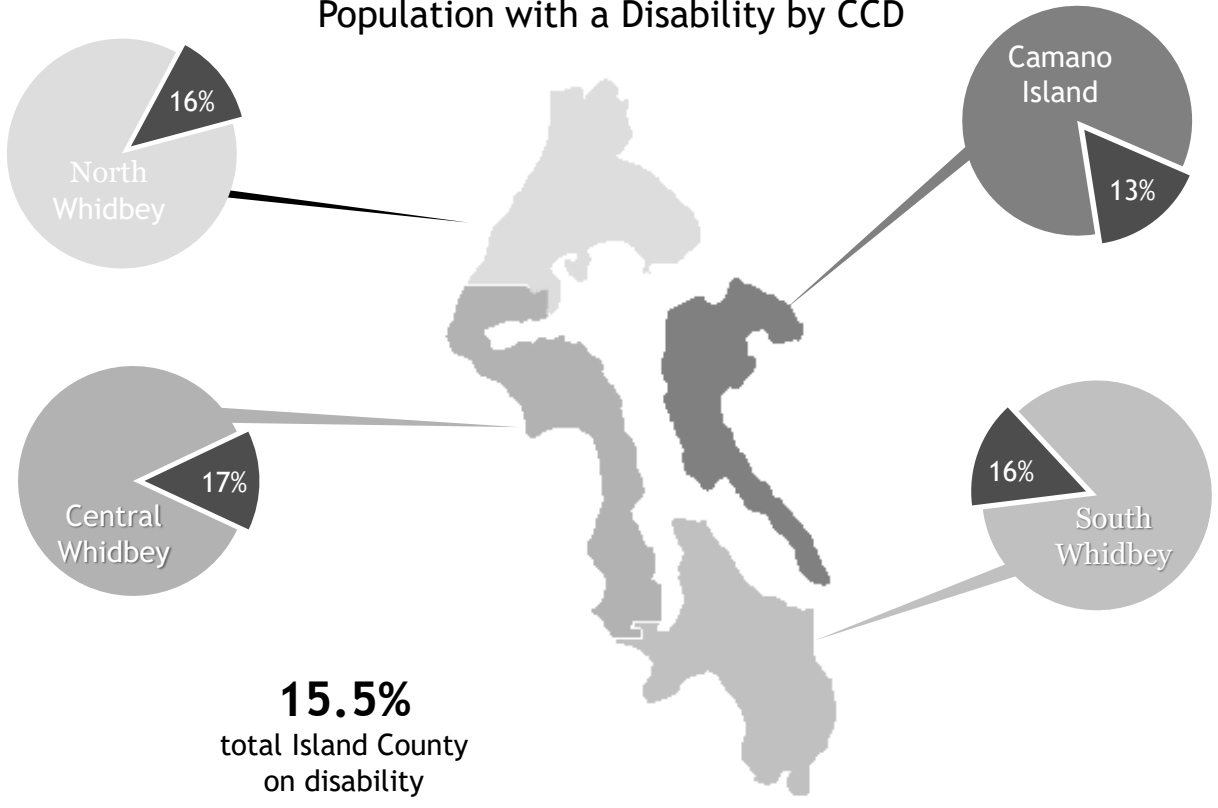
Apart from the under 18 age group, Island County has 11%+ more than the average percentage of disabilities than Washington State and the U.S. in the 18-64 age group, and 45% more than Washington State and the U.S. disabilities averages in the over 65 age group.

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



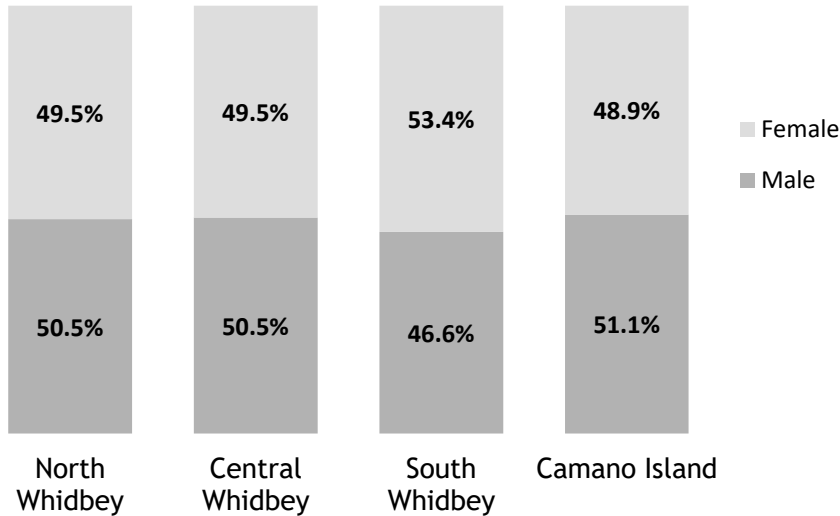
Population with a Disability by CCD



Sex and Fertility

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

Population of Men and Women

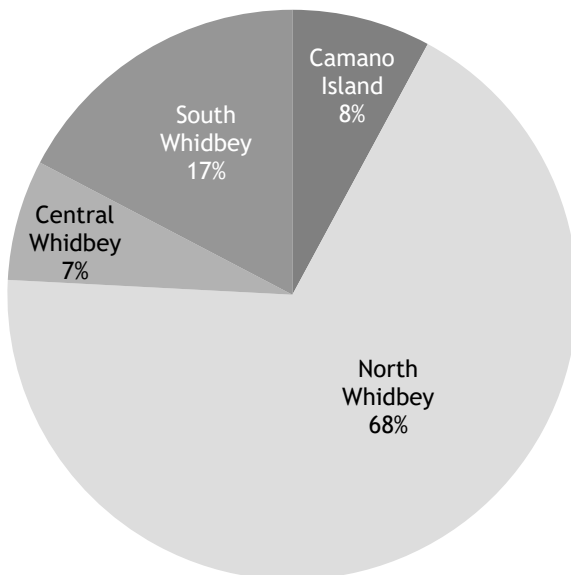


Island County has a roughly **equal** ratio of male-to-female residents

50% men
50% women

South Whidbey is the anomaly
12.2% more women than men

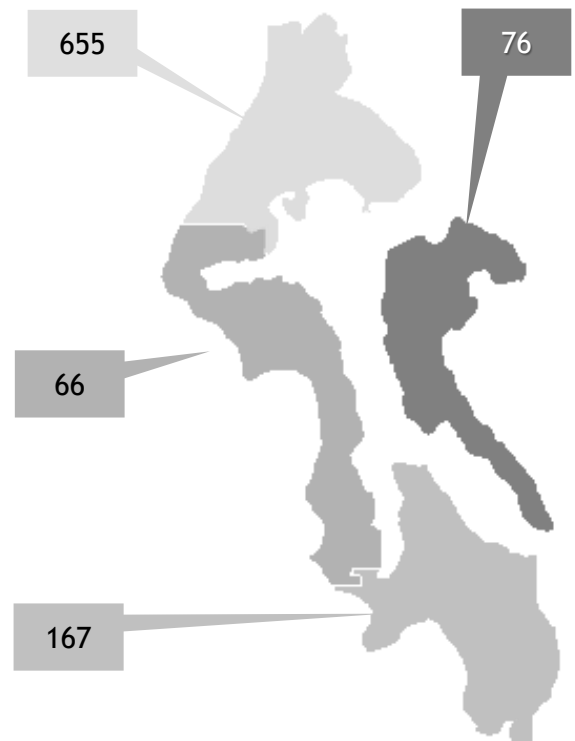
Births in the Past 12 Months by Percent



~65%

births occur in North Whidbey due to lower median age higher population in 0-49 age range

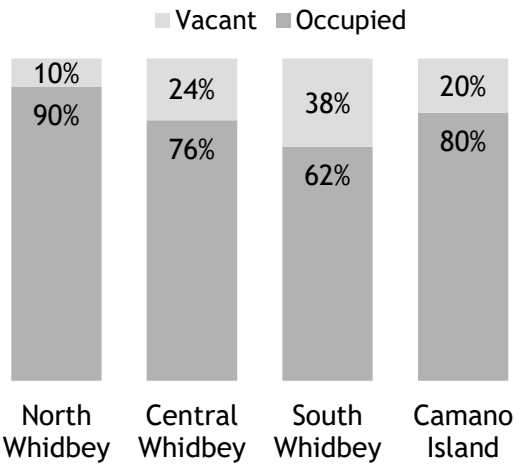
Births in the Past 12 Months by numbers



Housing

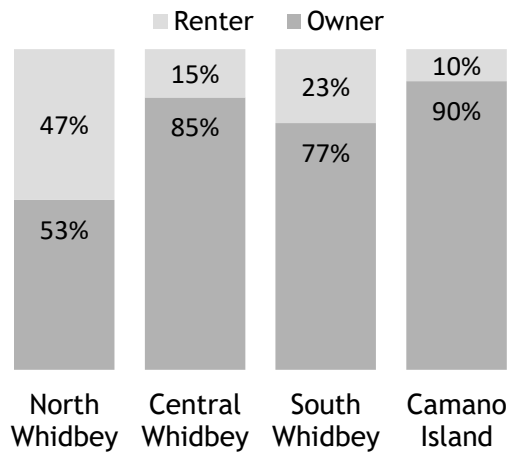
Census defines a housing unit as “a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from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

Housing Occupancy

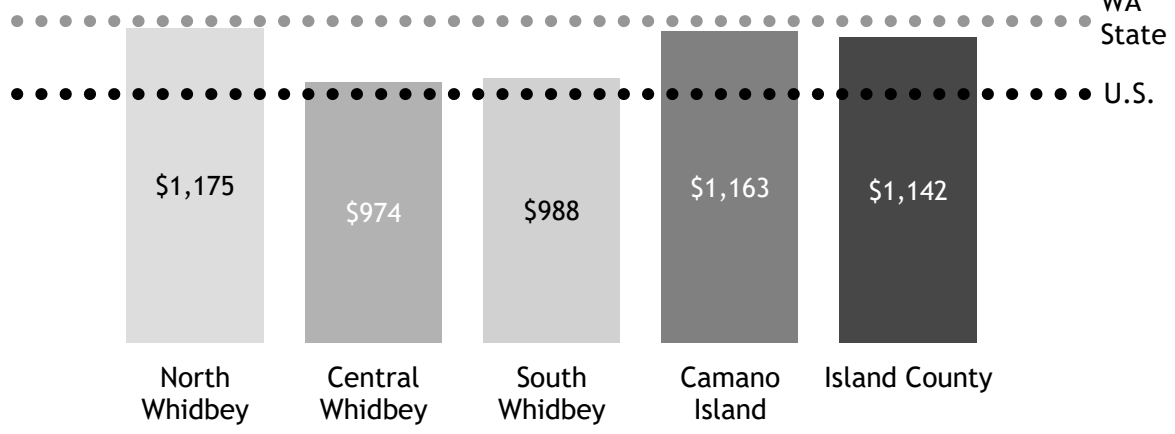


Occupant Type

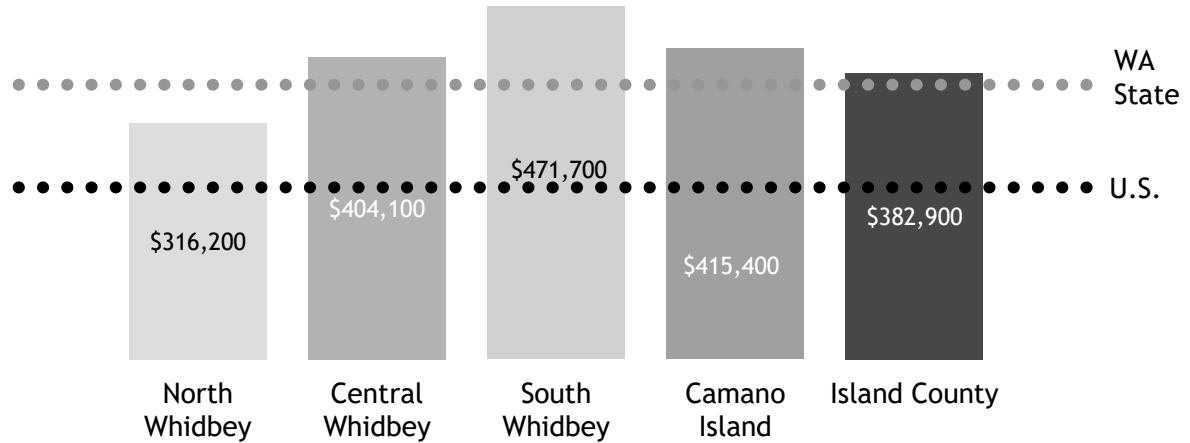
U.S. average
64% owned
36% rented



Median Rent



Median Home Value



Housing

Number of Units
North Whidbey



1 unit	1,102
2 units	733
3-4 units	1,041
5-9 units	866
10-19 units	646
20+ units	508

Number of Bedrooms
North Whidbey



Studio	376
1 bedroom	978
2 bedrooms	4,641
3 bedrooms	7,937
4 bedrooms	2,335
5+ bedrooms	275

North Whidbey has

1.9x more housing than South Whidbey

2.1x more housing than Central Whidbey

1.9x more housing than Camano Island

Number of Units
Camano Island



1 unit	52
2 units	15
3-4 units	9
5-9 units	6
10-19 units	25
20+ units	35

Number of Units
Central Whidbey



1 unit	95
2 units	65
3-4 units	90
5-9 units	30
10-19 units	7
20+ units	102

Studio	154
1 bedroom	684
2 bedrooms	2,746
3 bedrooms	3,550
4 bedrooms	548
5+ bedrooms	249

Studio	94
1 bedroom	399
2 bedrooms	2,815
3 bedrooms	4,430
4 bedrooms	928
5+ bedrooms	171

Number of Bedrooms
Camano Island



1 unit	129
2 units	156
3-4 units	216
5-9 units	52
10-19 units	0
20+ units	121

Studio	201
1 bedroom	756
2 bedrooms	3,559
3 bedrooms	3,163
4 bedrooms	987
5+ bedrooms	294

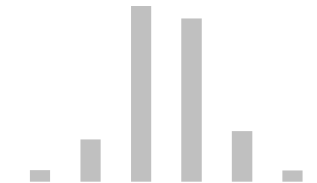
Number of Bedrooms
Central Whidbey



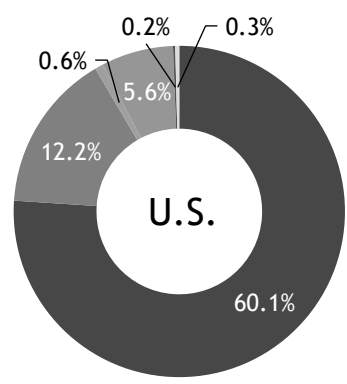
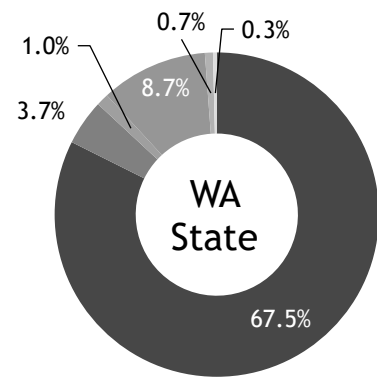
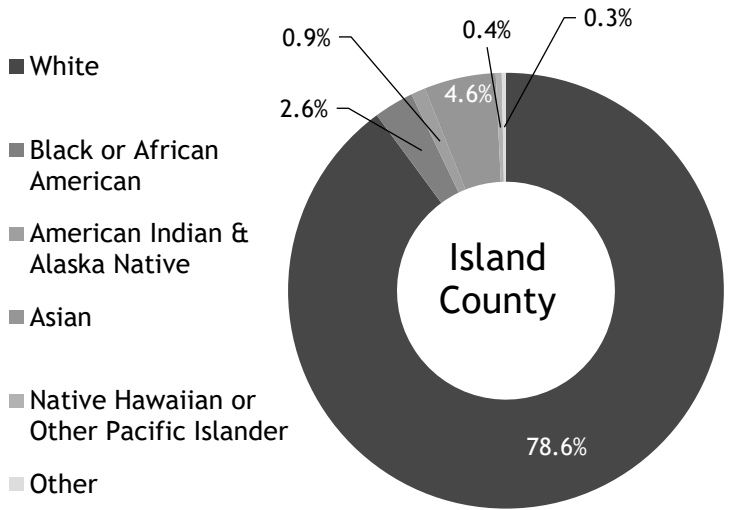
Number of Units
South Whidbey



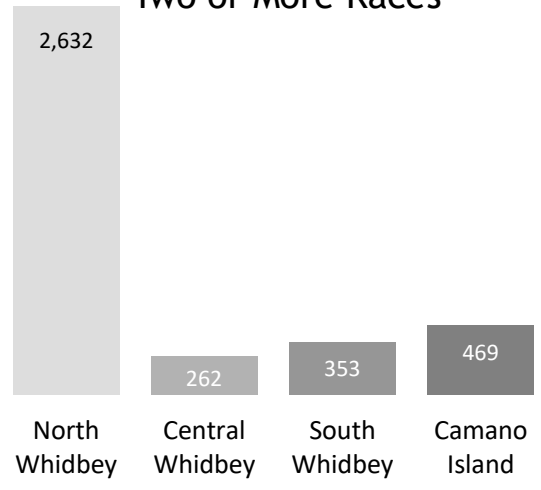
Number of Bedrooms
South Whidbey



Race



Population Two or More Races

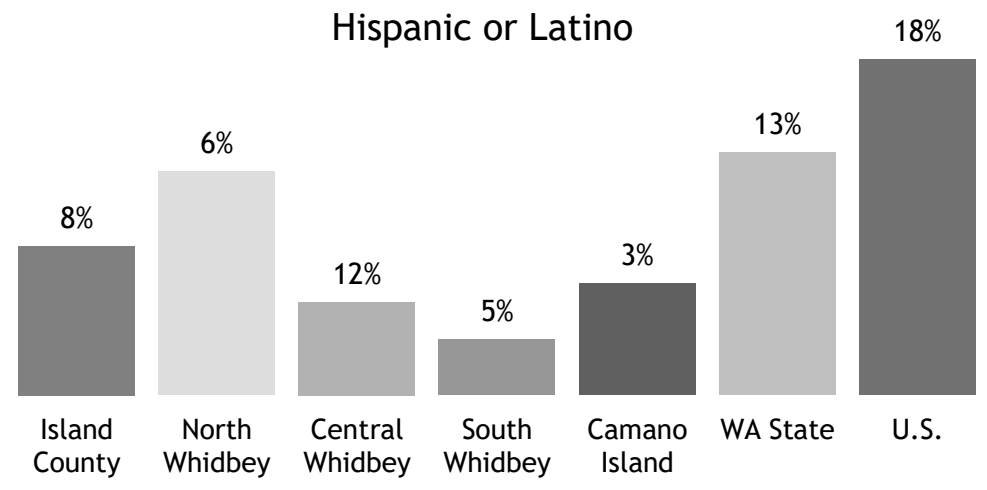


The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data based on self-identification.

Respondents may report more than one race.

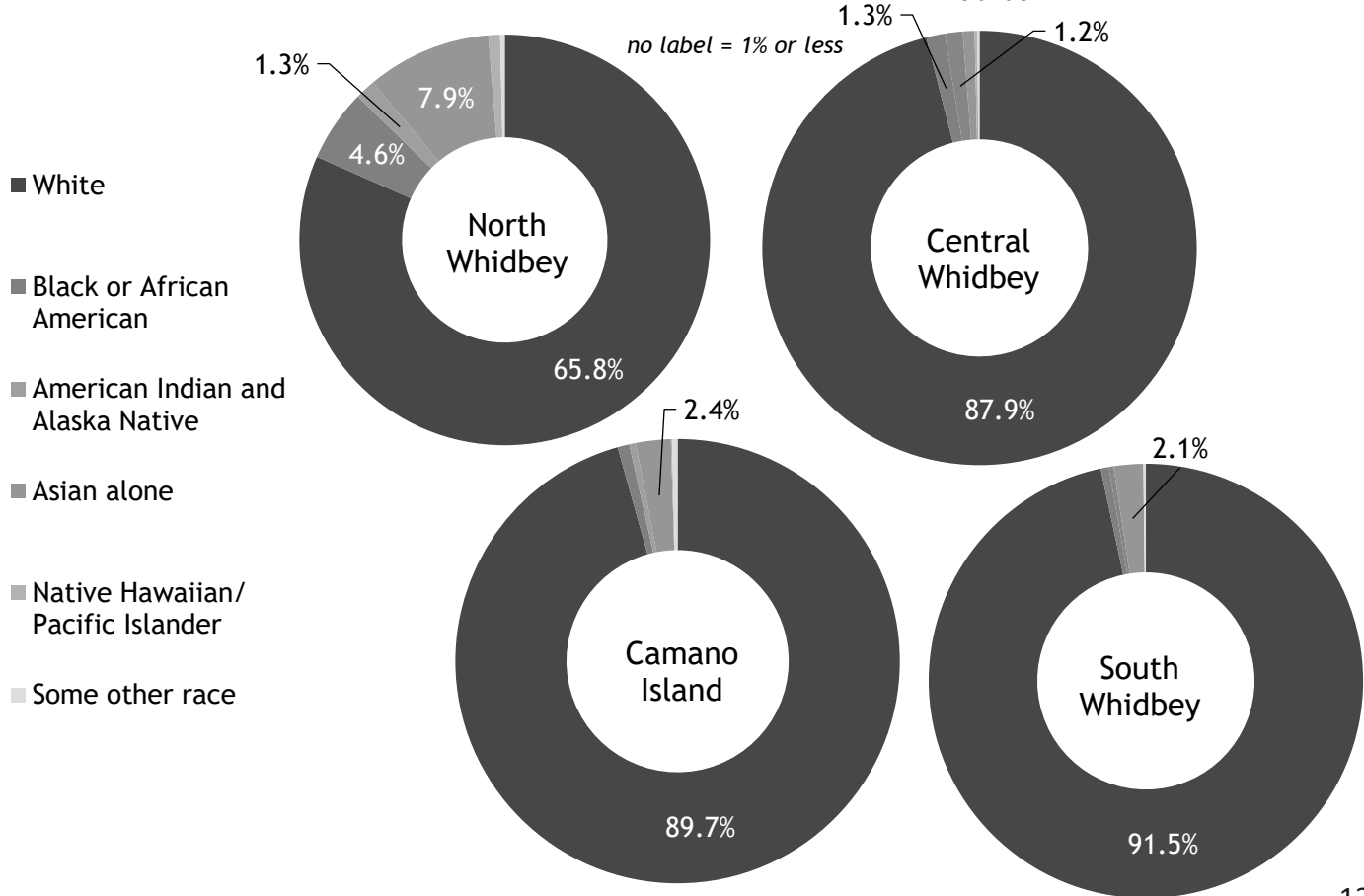
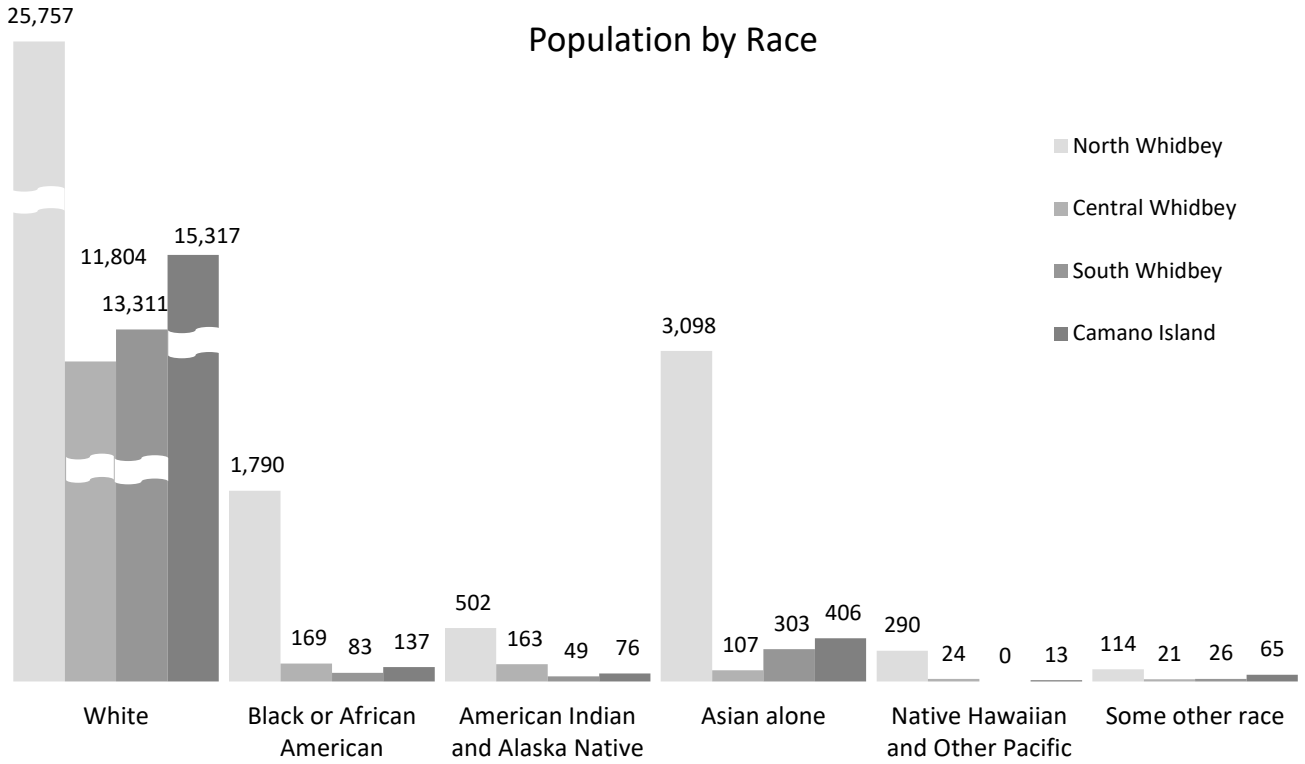
Hispanic or Latino

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.

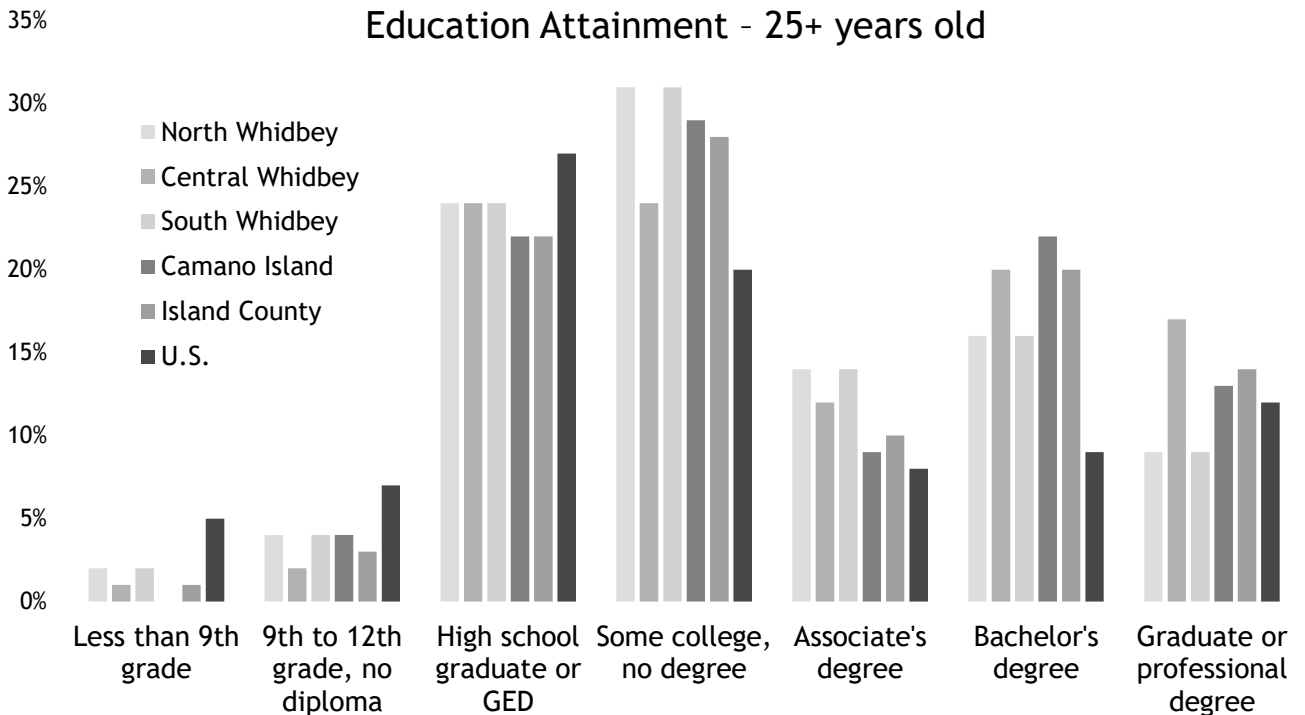
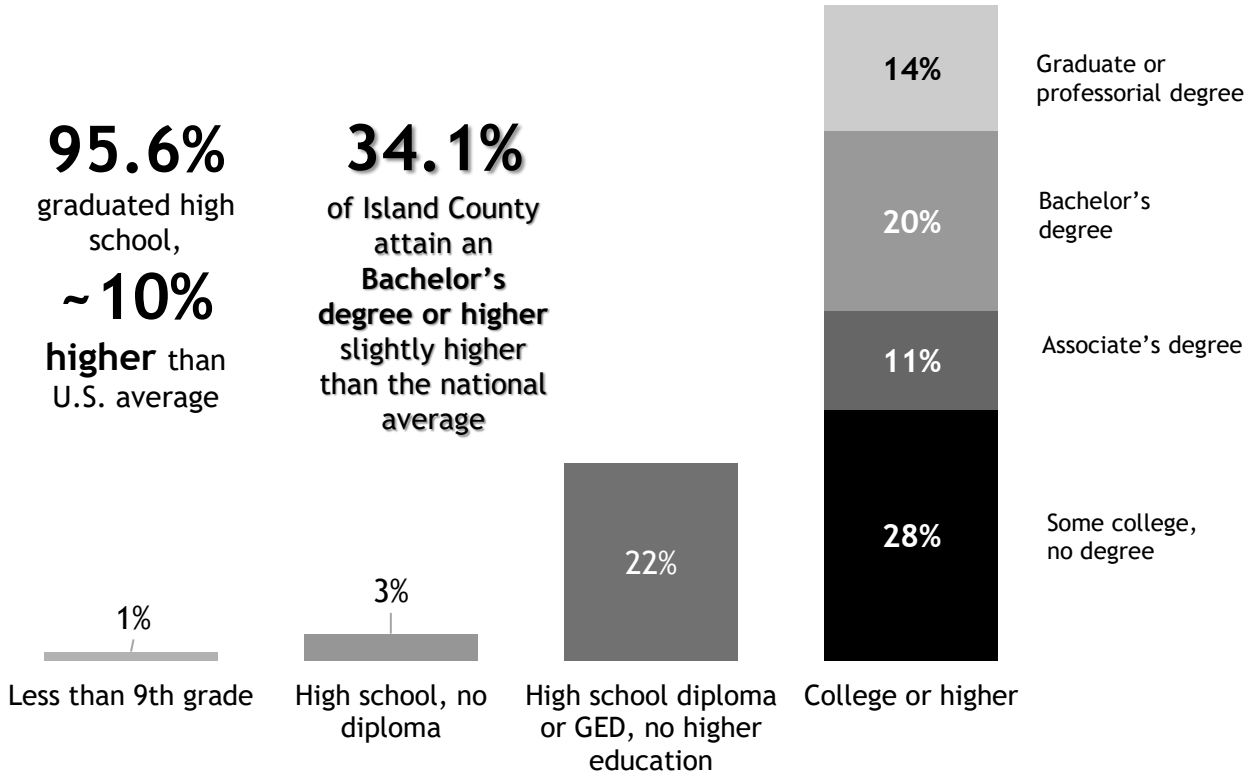


Race

Population by Race

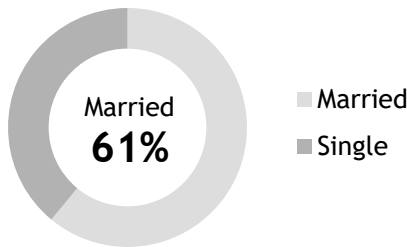
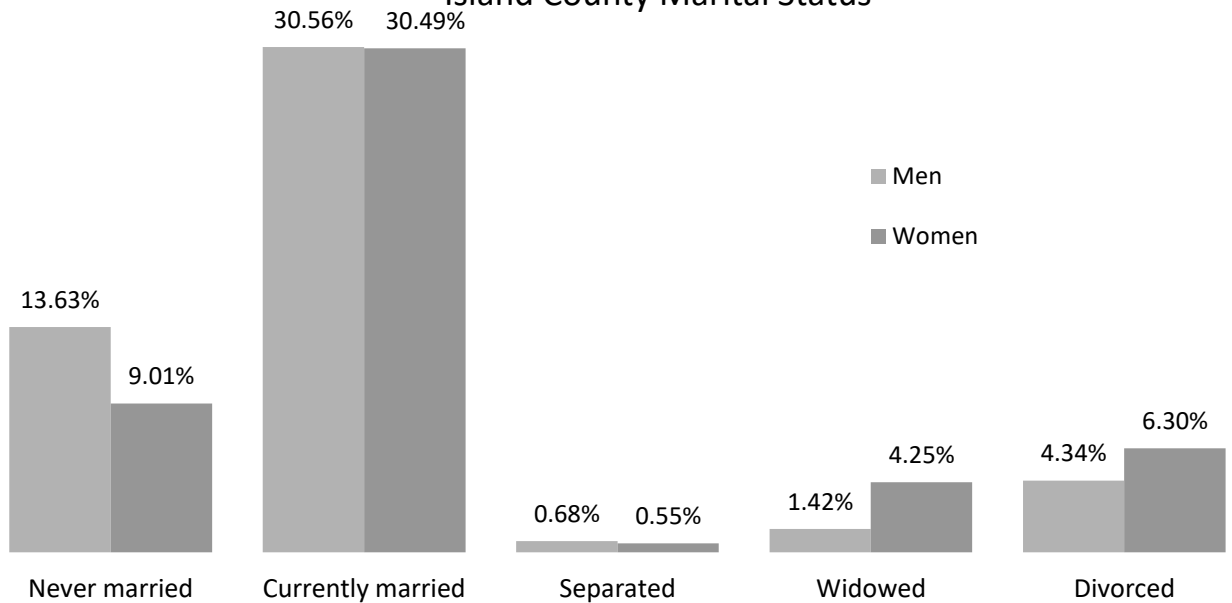


Highest Level or Education Attainment - 25+ years old



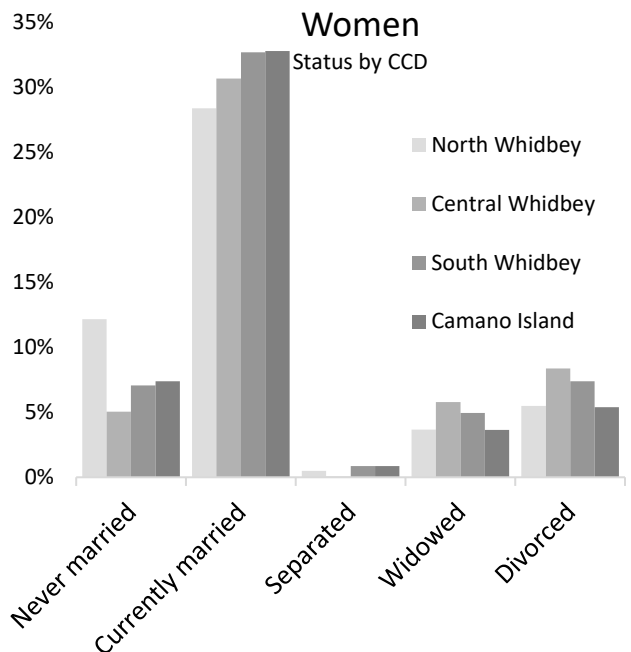
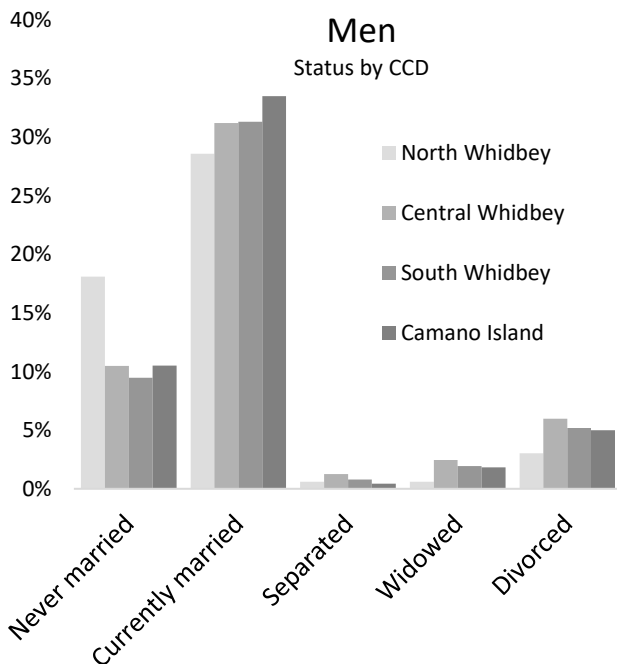
Marital Status

Island County Marital Status



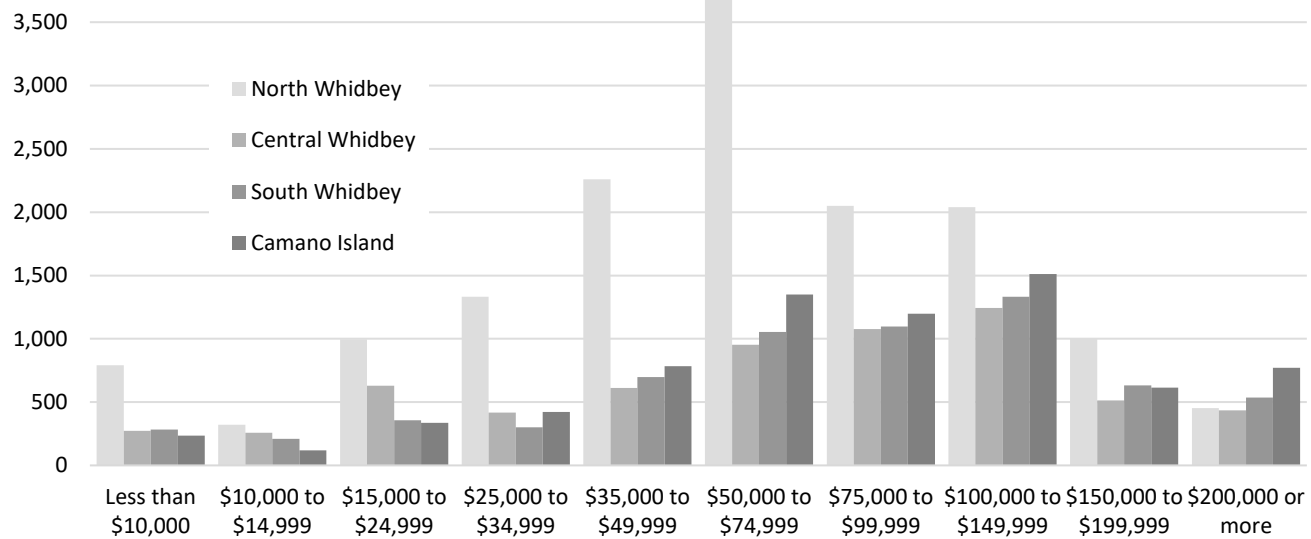
Marriage applies to the population over age 15.

Island County **exceeds** the national average of married couples (50%) by **22%**

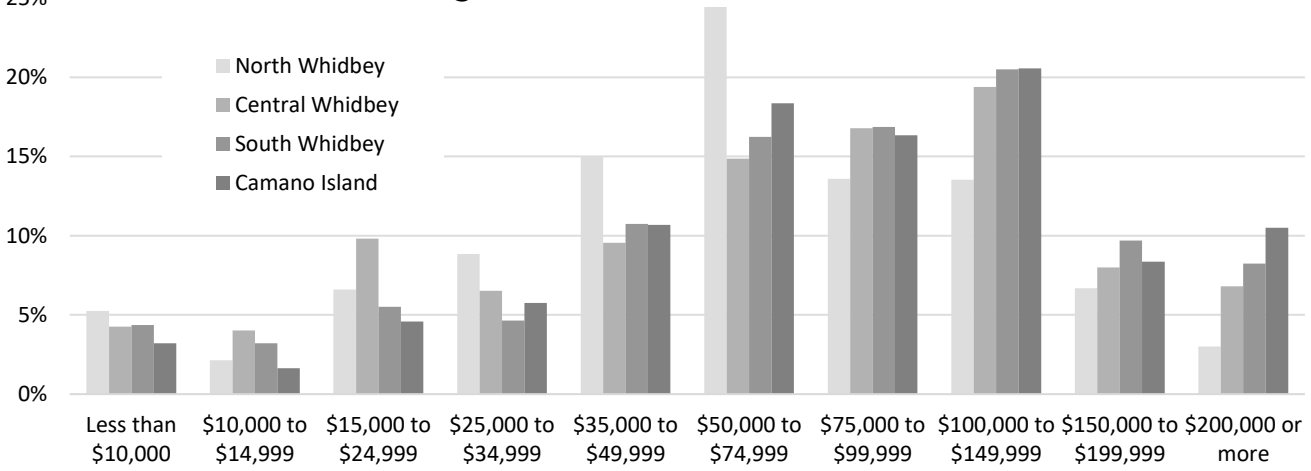


Income and Social Security

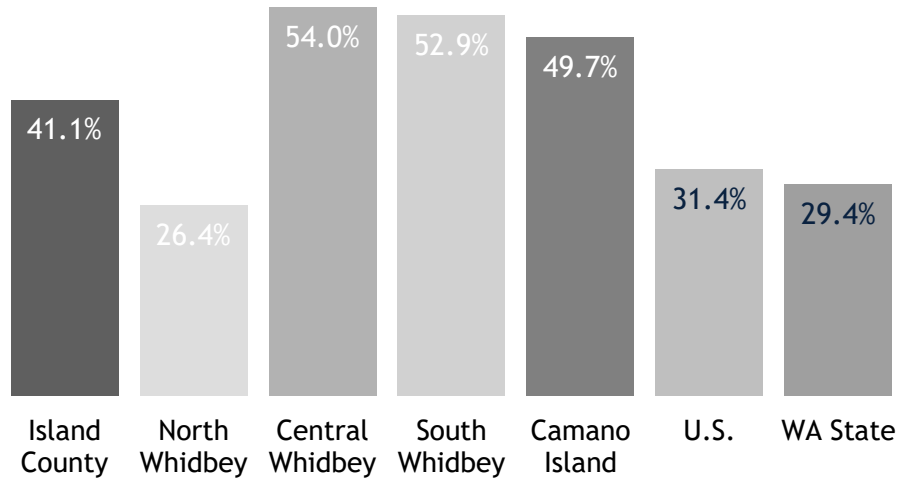
Number of Household Income and Benefits



Percentage of Household Income and Benefits



Social Security Recipients



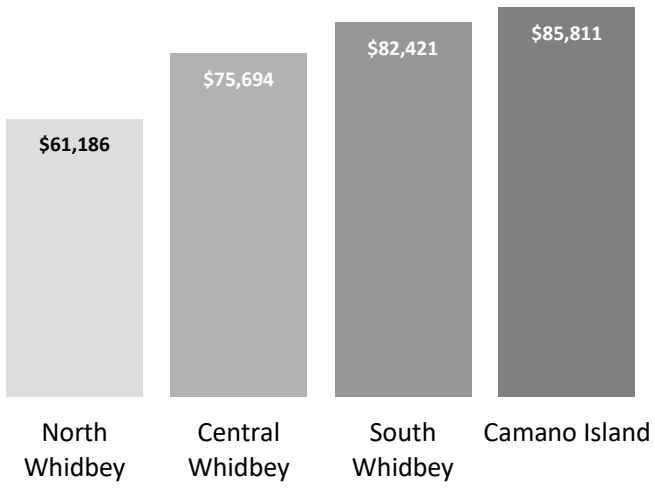
Central Whidbey has the highest percentage, **72% higher** than the national average

North Whidbey is **16% less** than the national average, and **10% less** than the Washington state average

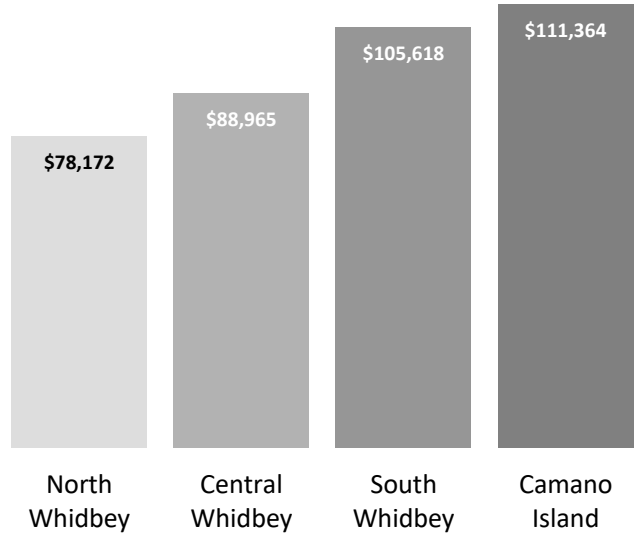
Income and Social Security

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.

Median Household Income

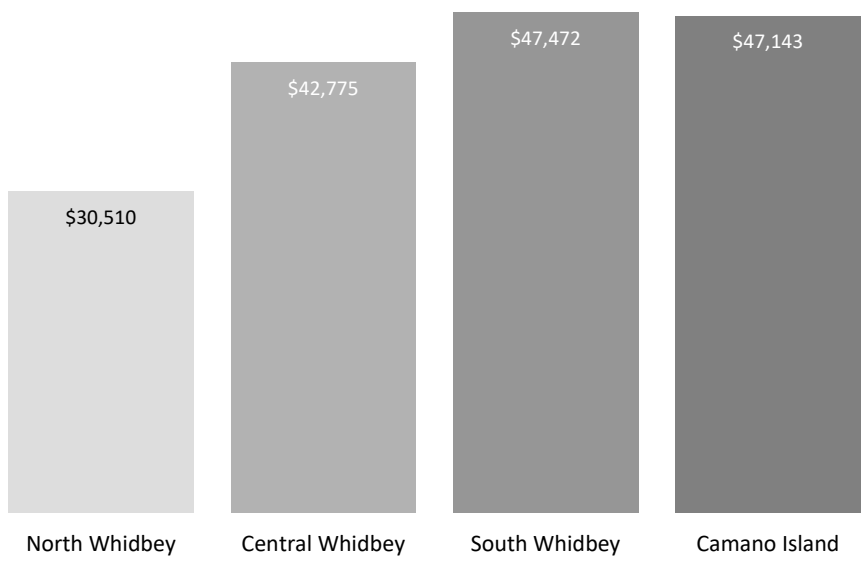


Mean Household Income



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

Per Capita Income

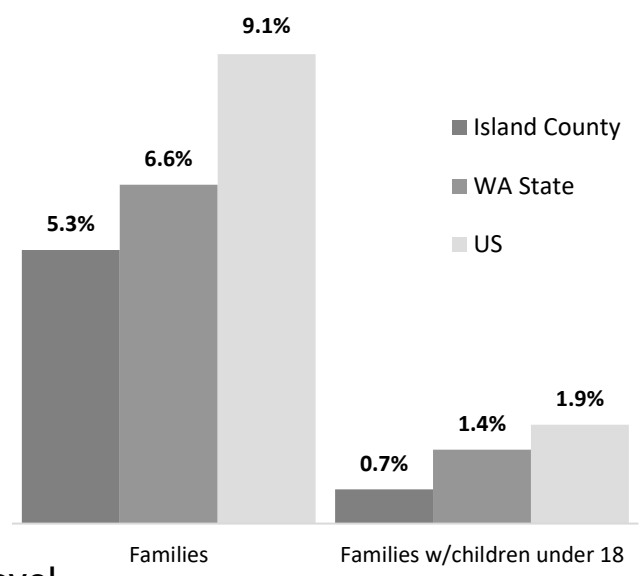


Poverty

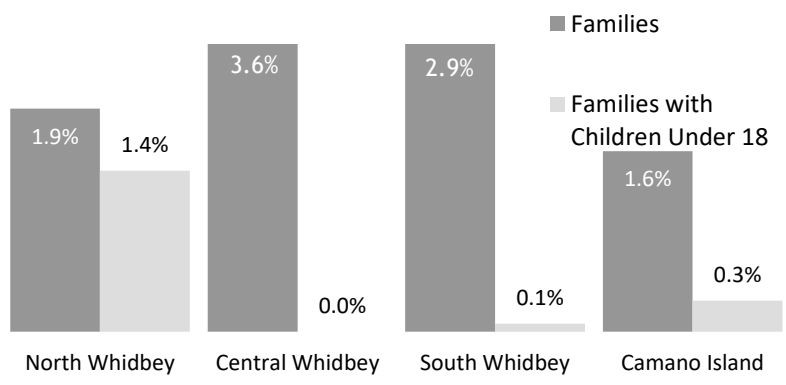
Poverty affects an economy in several ways. Those living in poverty, by definition, are that portion of a population living below the designated poverty line. These people have little money to spend, which creates less demand for many goods than might otherwise be the case. This has an adverse effect 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.

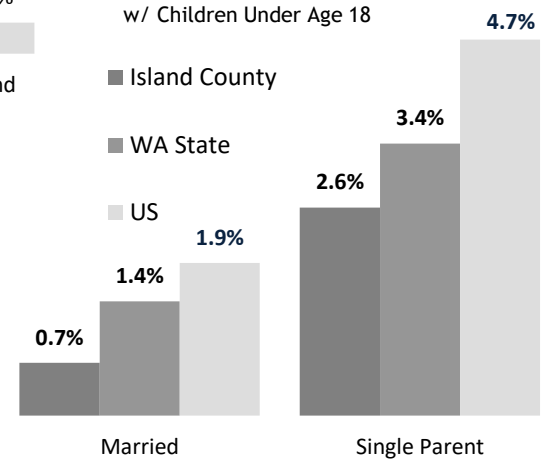
Families Below Poverty Level



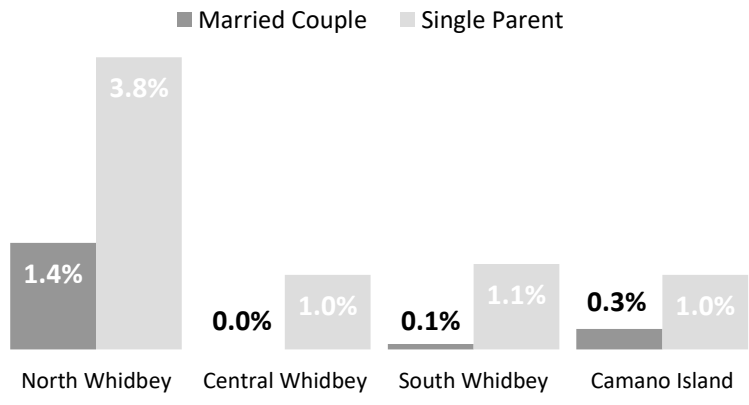
Married Couples Below Poverty Level



Families Below Poverty Level w/ Children Under Age 18

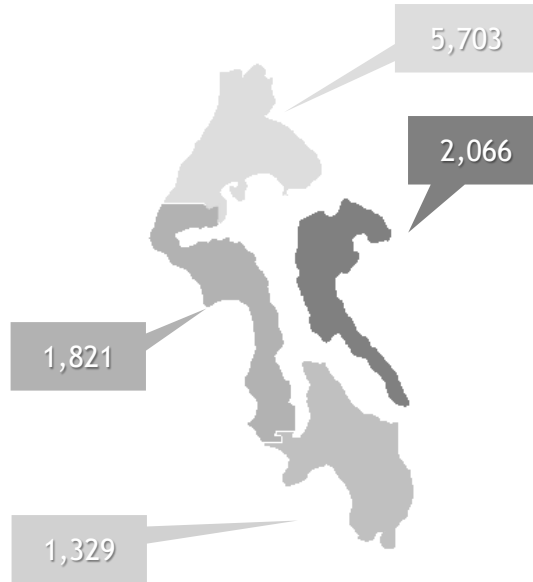


Families Below Poverty Level w/ Children Under Age 18



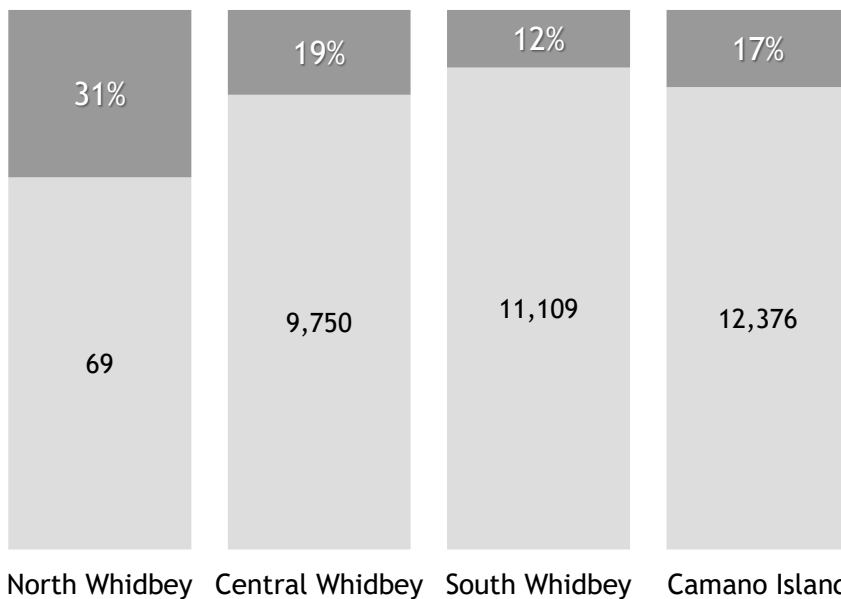
All areas in the county have a higher number of veterans than the U.S. average, with **North Whidbey** having a concentration **3.6 times higher than the U.S. average of 7.1%**. This includes veterans who served at NAS Whidbey and those who served in other locations but are now retired and living in Island County.

Veterans by Number by CCD



Total veteran population
10,919

Veterans by Percentage by CCD Population

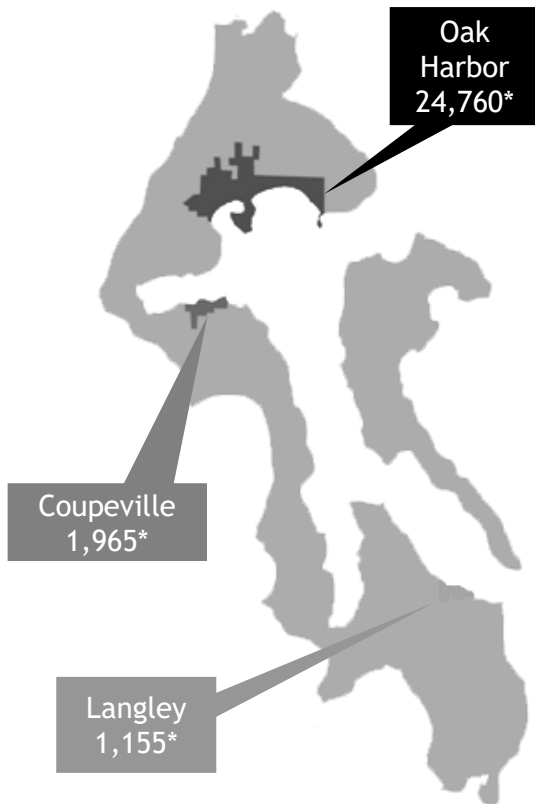


17.6%
veteran
population
Island County

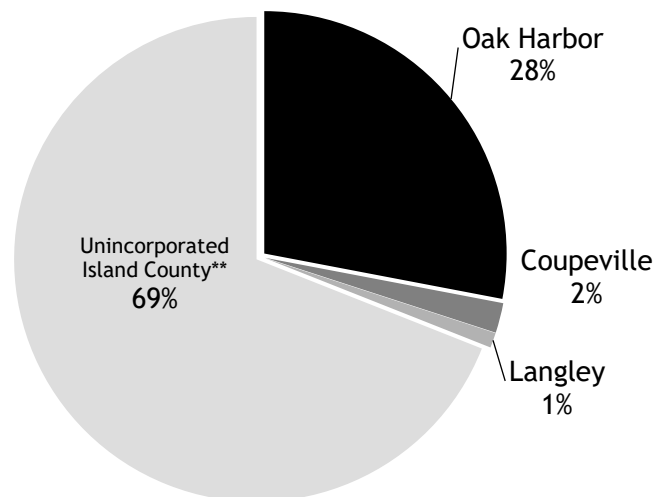
2.5X
national
average of
7.1%

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.



Population of Municipalities

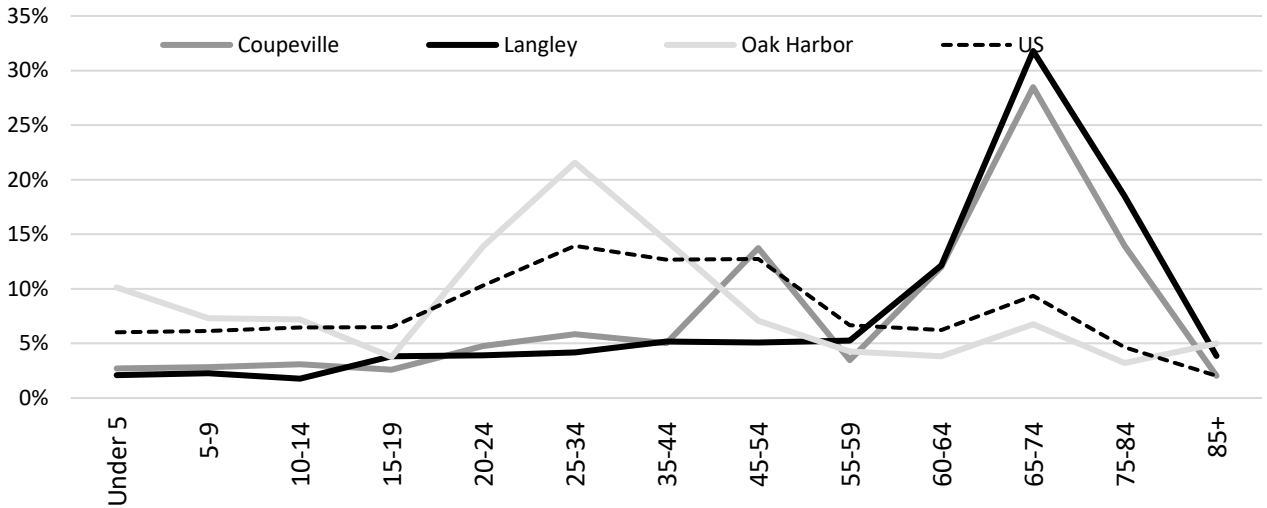


**Washington State Office of Financial Management, June 29, 2022, official population estimates.*

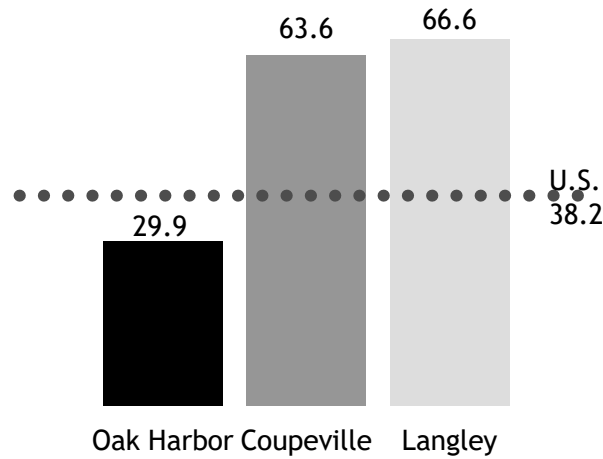
***Unincorporated Island County includes Camano Island.*

Age and Disabilities

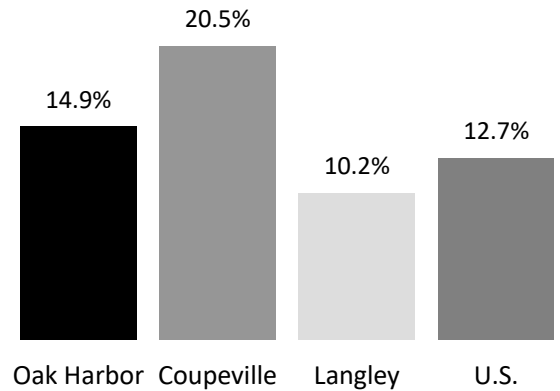
Age Groups



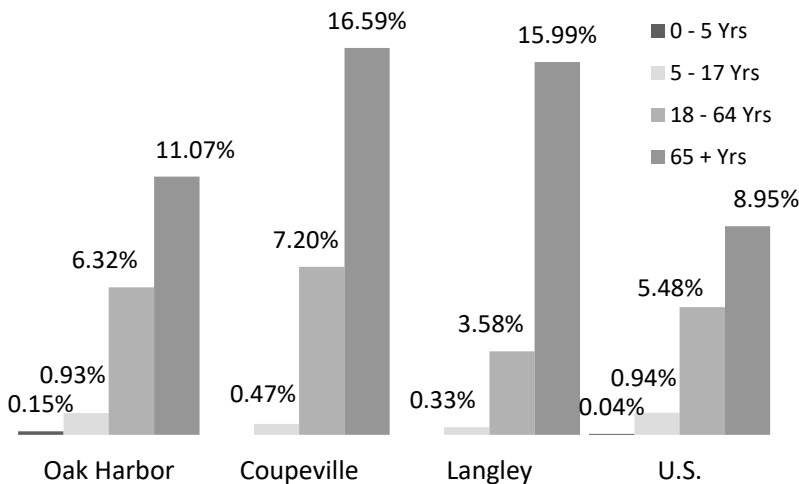
Median Age



Percent of Population with a Disability



Percent With a Disability by Age

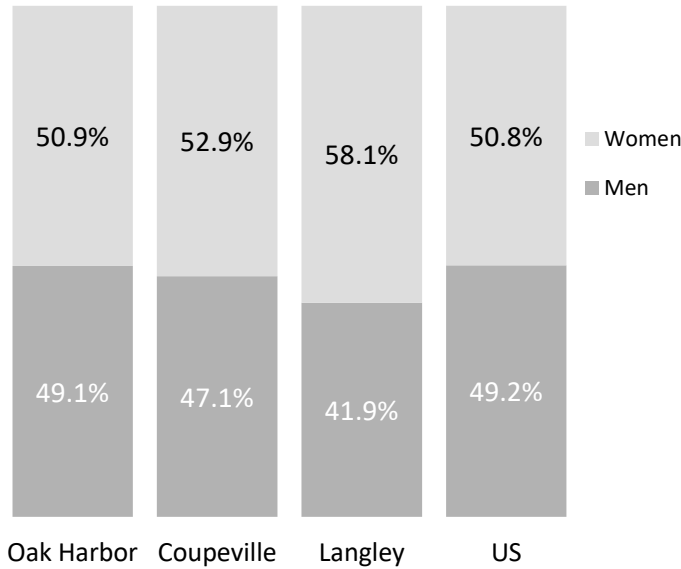


Coupeville has the highest percentage of population with a disability at 20.5%, which is 61% higher than the national percentage. Oak Harbor, on the other hand, has the lowest percentage of population with a disability at 14.9%, which is only 17% higher than the national percentage.

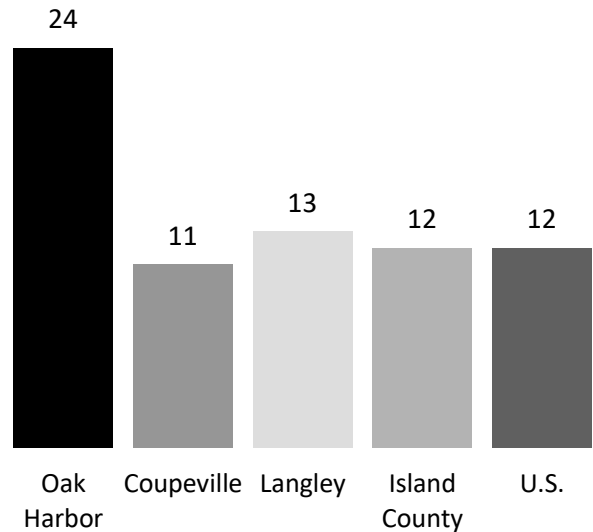
Sex and Fertility

Percentage-wise, Oak Harbor and Coupeville ratios of men to women more closely match the U.S. average, while Langley has about 39% more women than men.

Percentage of Men and Women



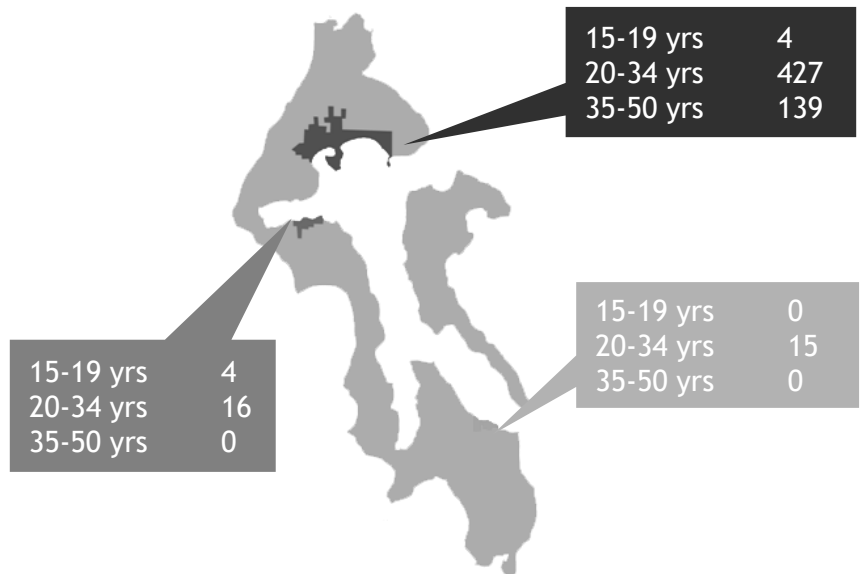
Births Per 1,000 Women aged 15 - 50



Birth by Age Group by Municipality

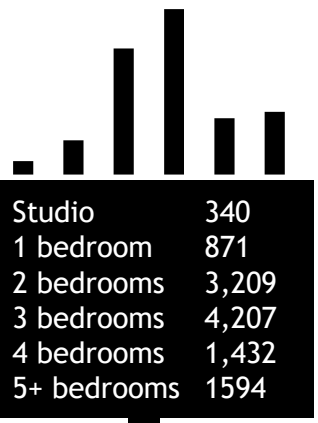
Oak Harbor's birthrate is **2x higher** than the national average

Coupeville's birthrate is **~54% lower** than the national average

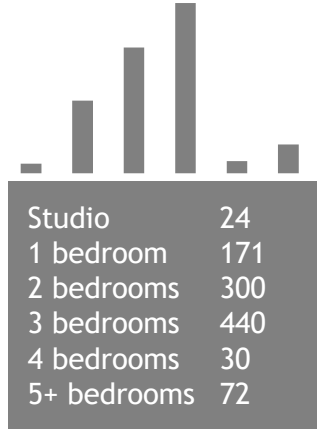


Housing

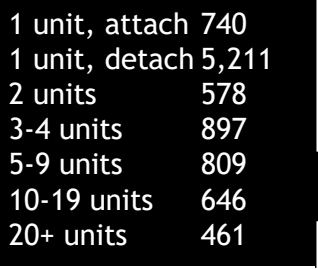
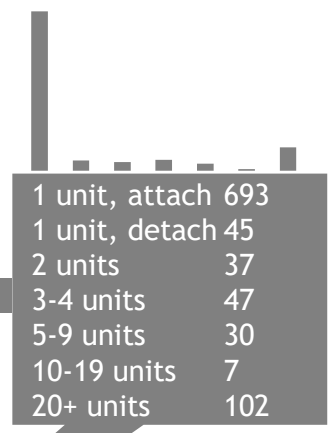
Number of Units
Oak Harbor



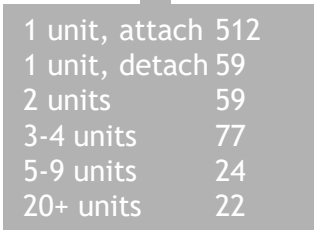
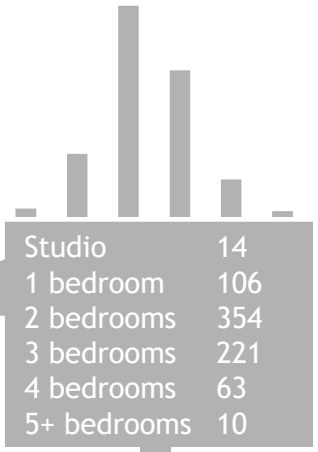
Number of Units
Coupeville



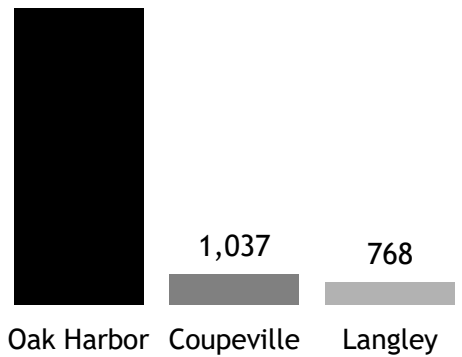
Number of Bedrooms
Coupeville



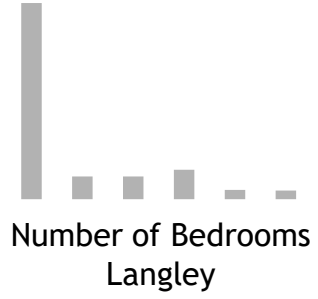
Number of Units
Langley



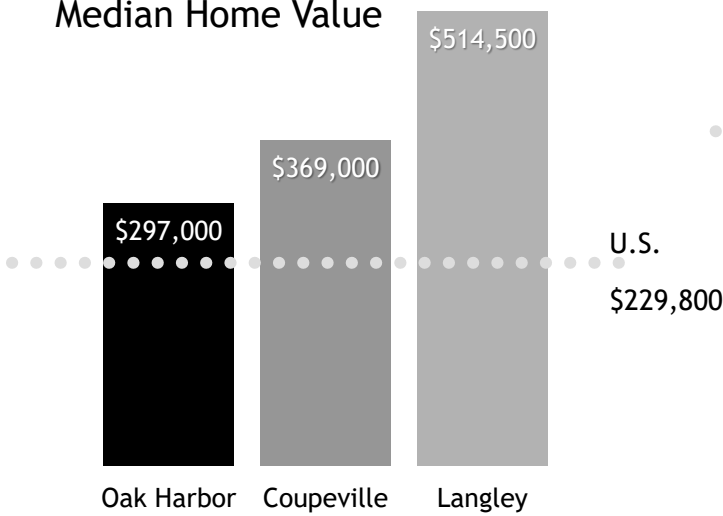
10,218 Total Housing



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

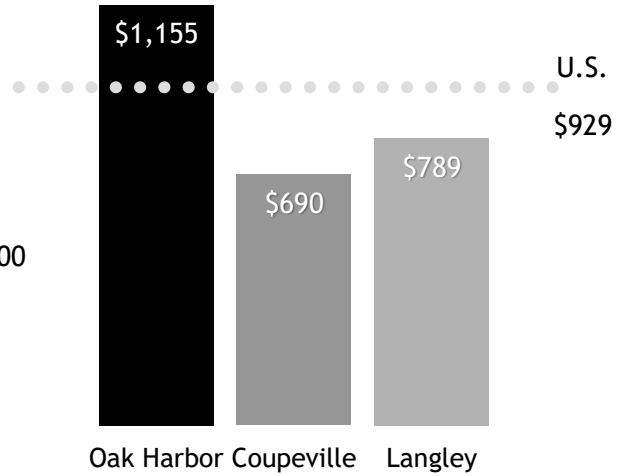


Median Home Value



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

Median Rent



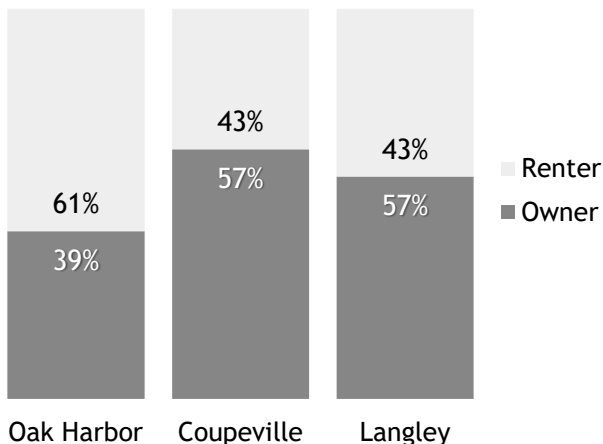
Rental rates in Oak Harbor are
24%
higher than U.S. average

Oak Harbor has the highest rental rates at about \$236 or 24% 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. 53%** of the Navy’s ranks concentrate in the E-4 to E-6 pay grades. In 2022, for NAS Whidbey Island, WA, the BAH rates are \$1,512 per month for an E-4 with dependents, \$1,542 per month for an E-5 with dependents, and \$2,100 per month for an E-6 with dependents.

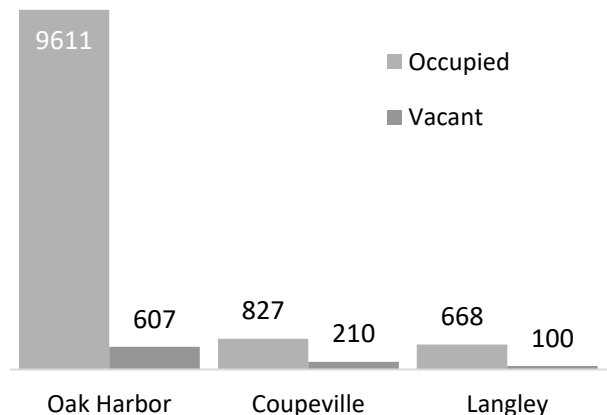
*BAH Calculator - Defense Travel Management Office. Updated: 12/15/2021

**Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, "Profile of the Military Community," 2020

Occupant Type

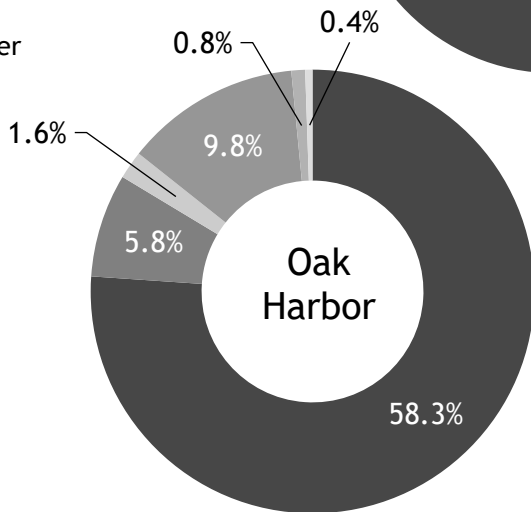
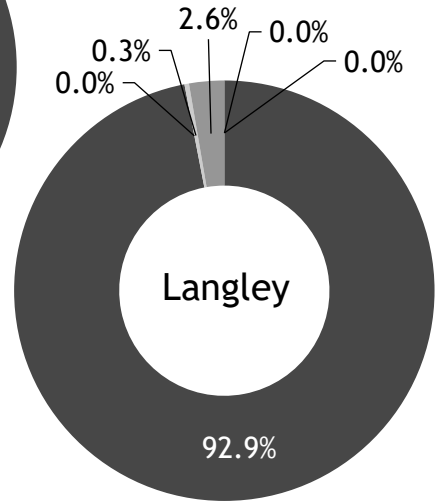
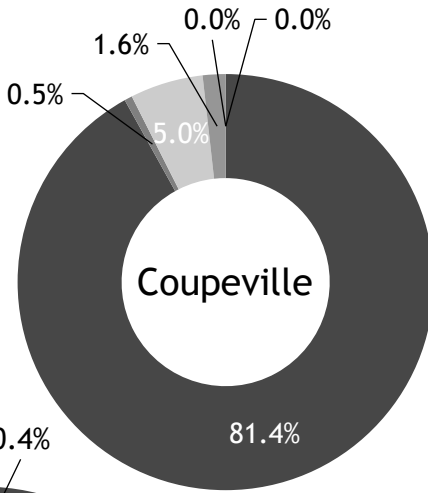


Occupancy



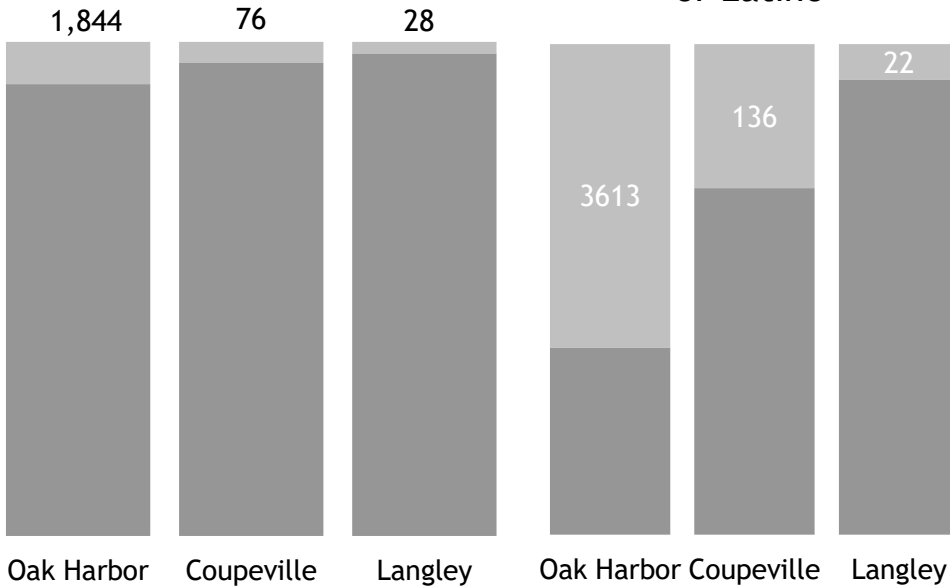
Race

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



Population Two or More Races

Population Hispanic or Latino



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

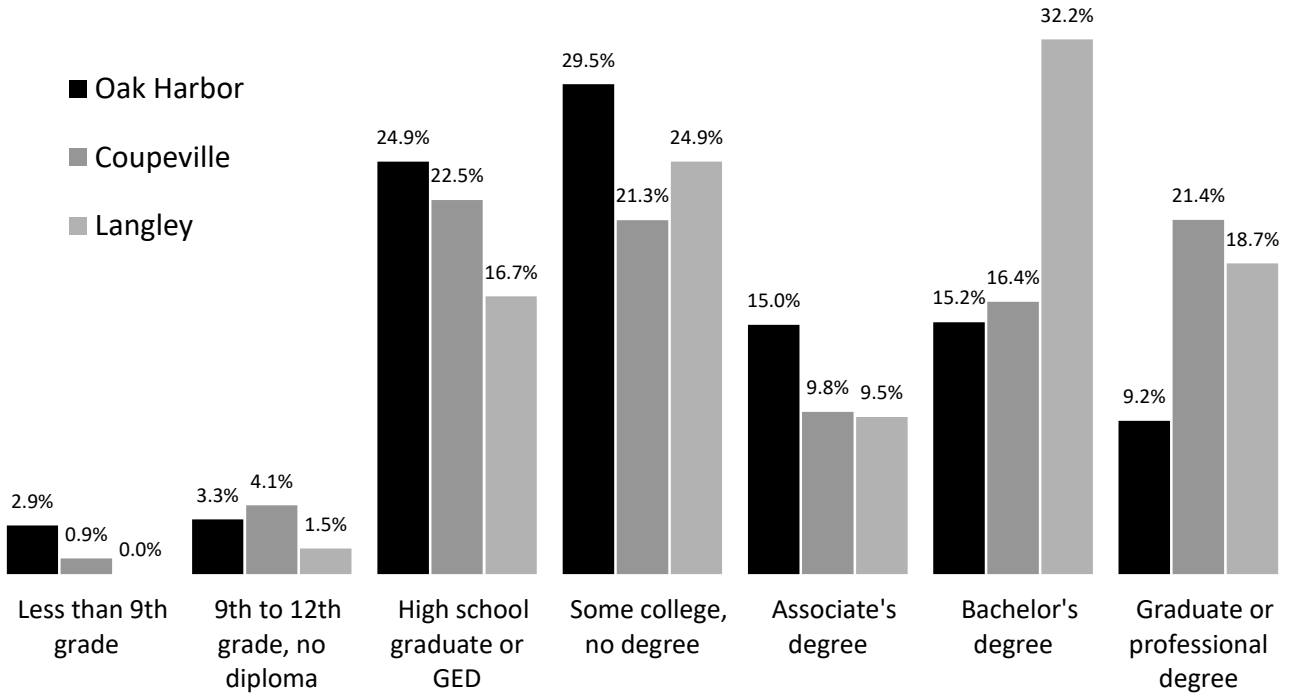
3,613

and the highest population as percentage at

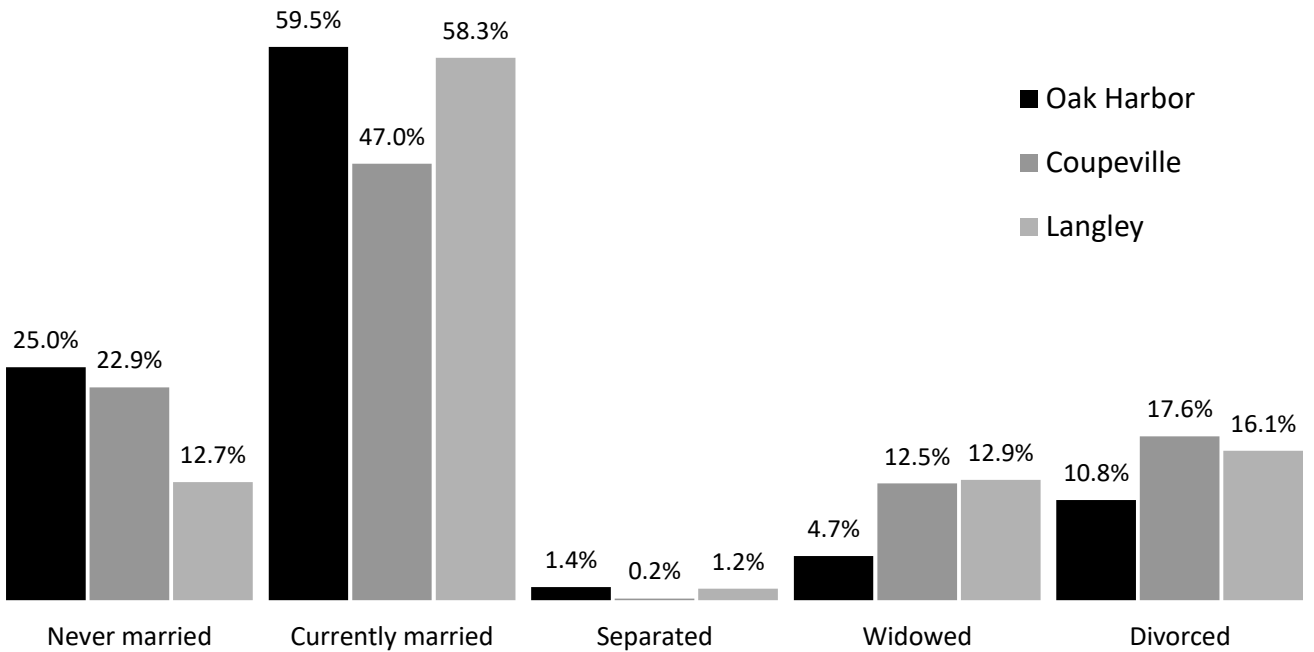
15.5%

Education and Marital Status

Education Attainment - 25+ yrs Old

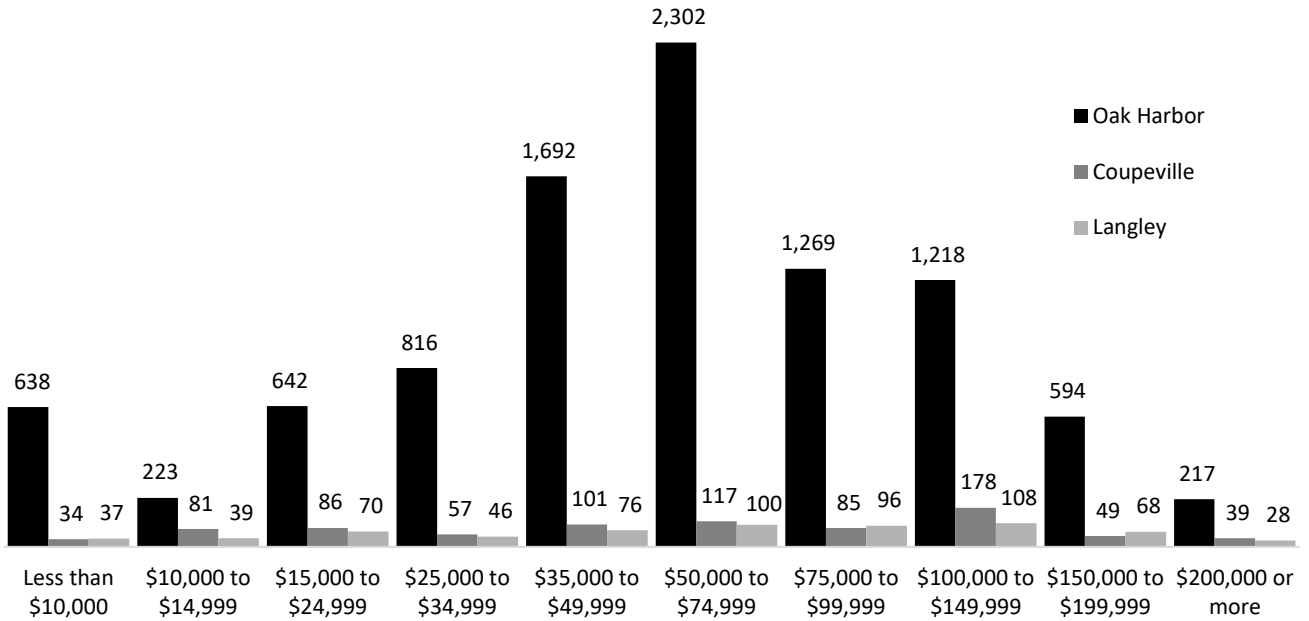


Marital Status

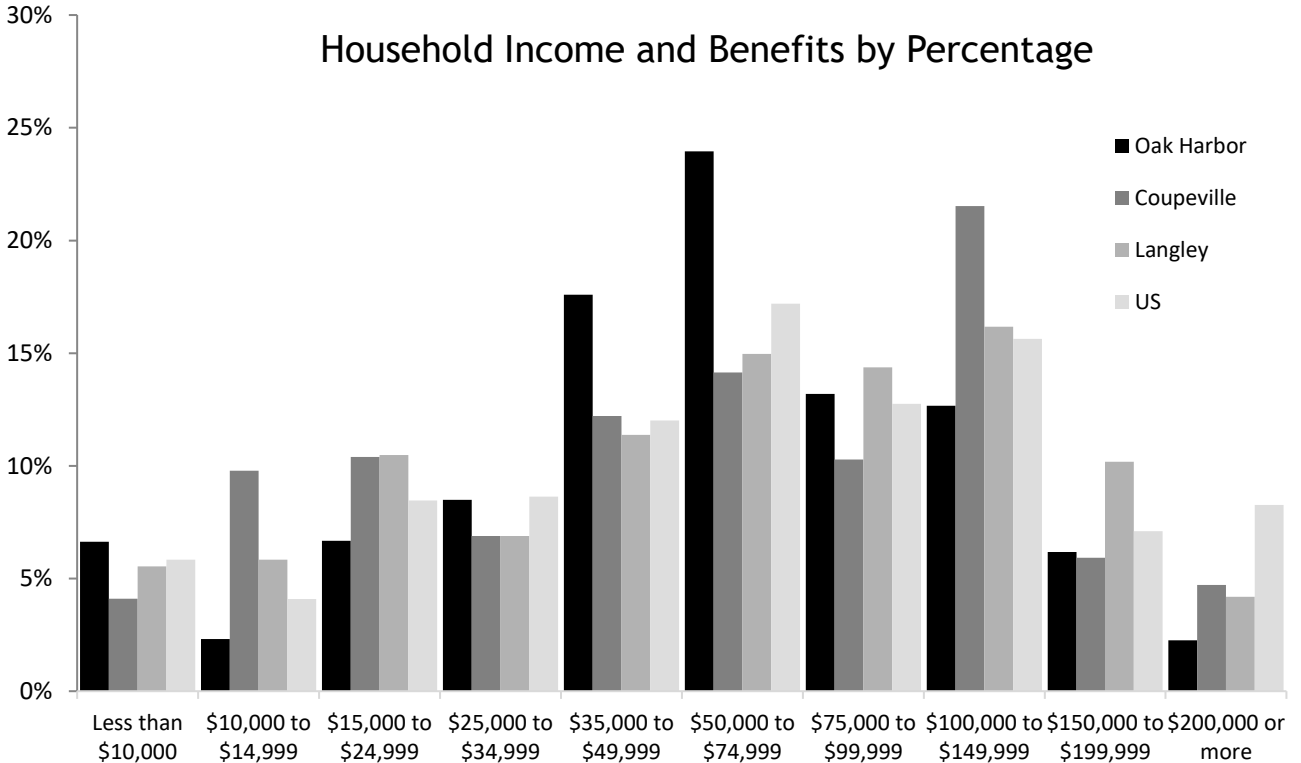


Income and Social Security

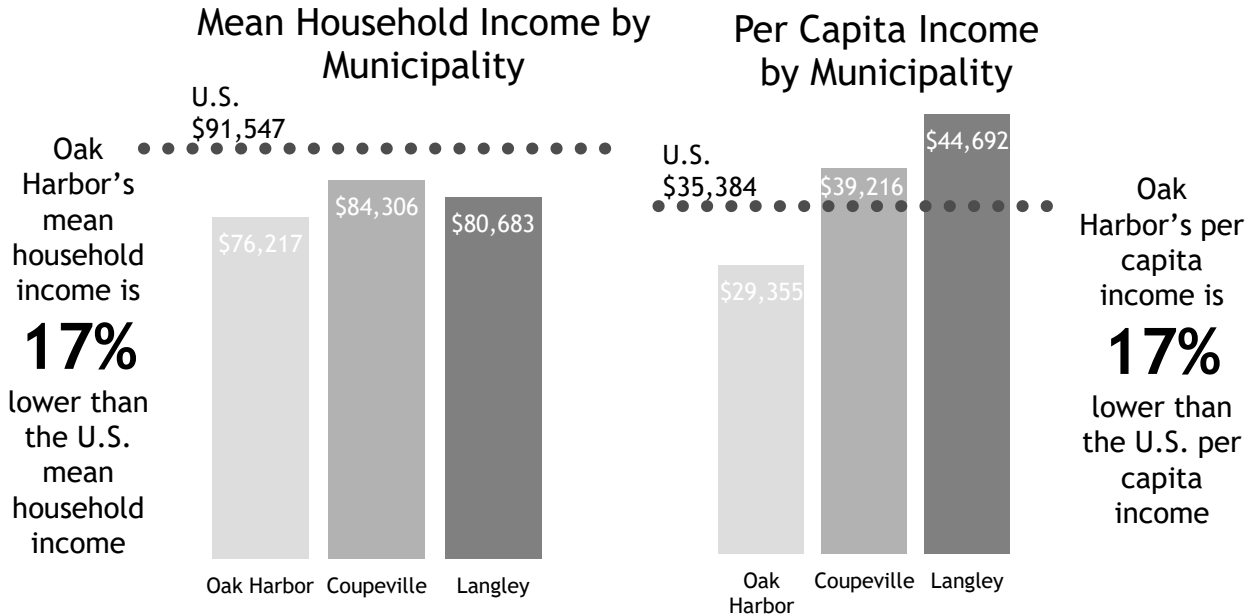
Household Income and Benefits by Population



Household Income and Benefits by Percentage

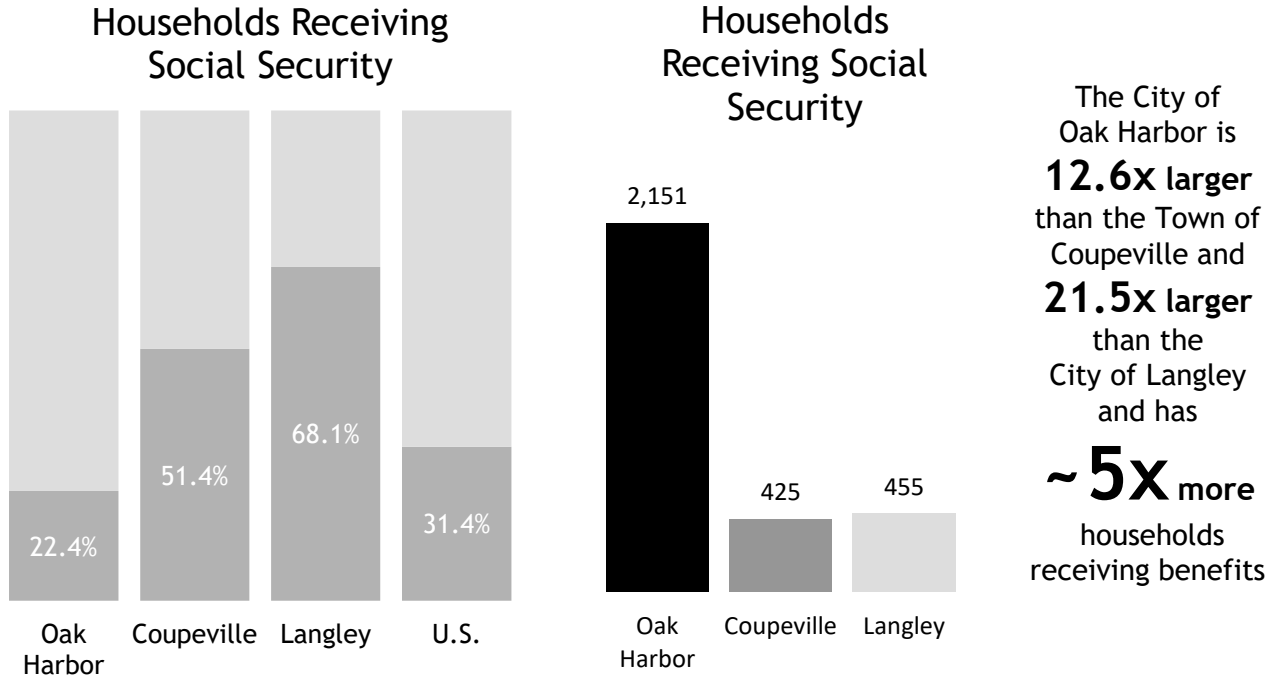


Income and Social Security



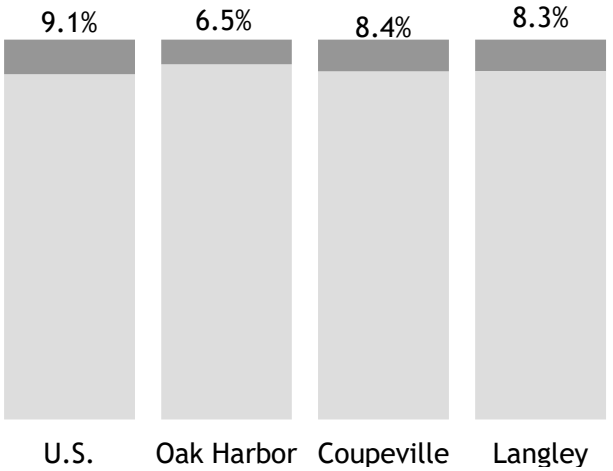
Social Security and Retirement Income

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.

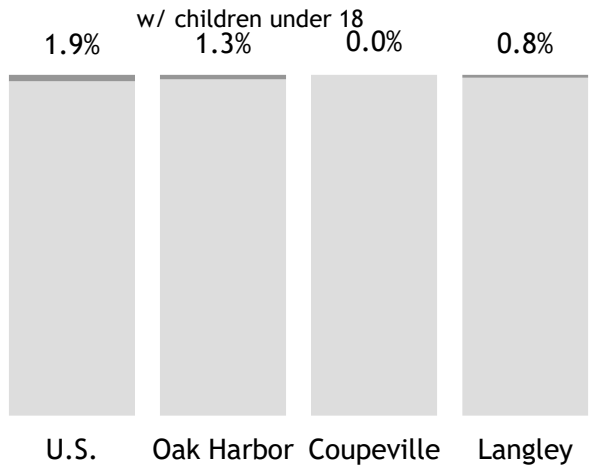


Poverty

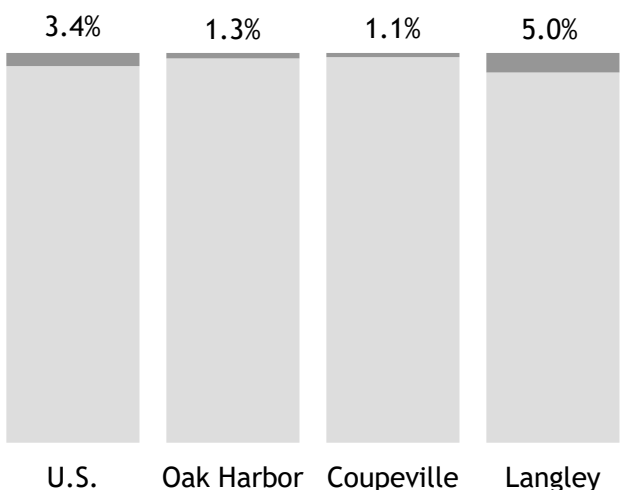
Families Below Poverty Level



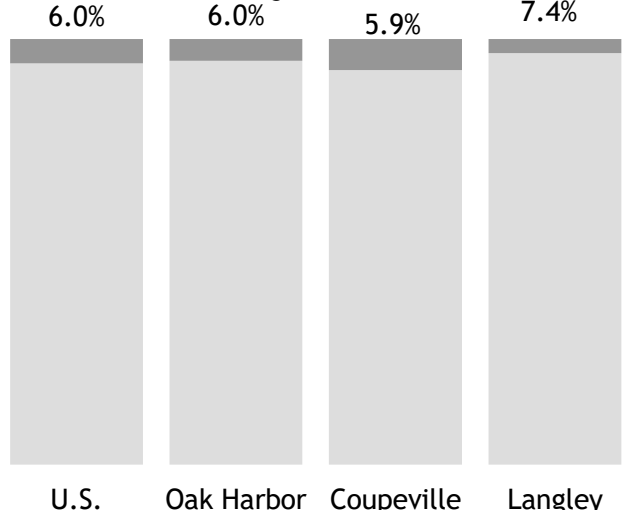
Families Below Poverty Level w/ children under 18



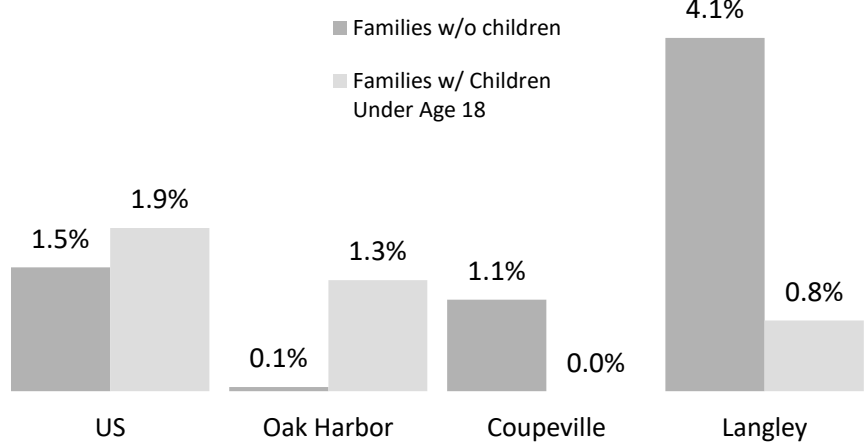
Families Below Poverty Level Married



Families Below Poverty Level Single Parent



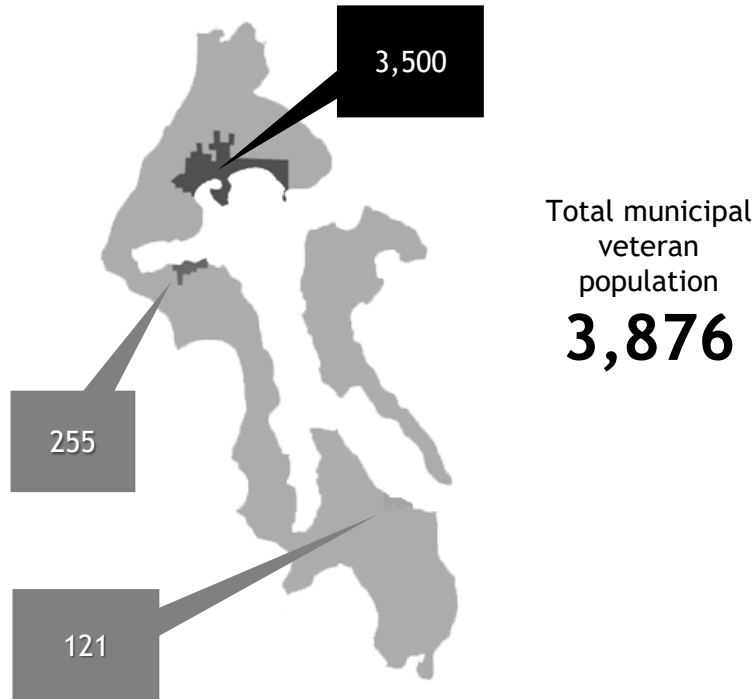
Married Couples Below Poverty Level



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

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.

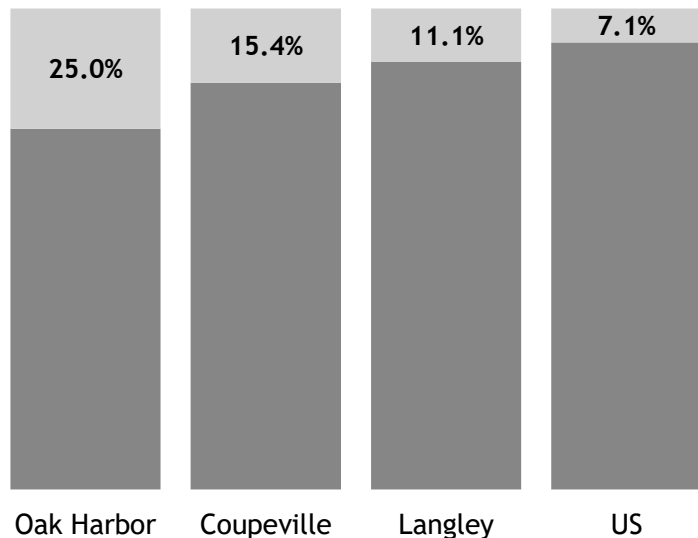
Veterans by Population



Veterans by Percentage of Population

Oak Harbor has **~14x more** veterans than Coupeville and **~30x more** than Langley

Coupeville's veteran population as a percentage is **2.2x higher** than the national average and Langley's is **1.6x higher**



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The Economic Development Council for Island County (EDC) is an independent nonprofit that works to create a thriving economic environment where business can grow and create jobs while preserving our unique quality of life.

- Providing one-on-one business advising, connecting owners to state and local resources, nurturing startup entrepreneurs, and sharing economic data and information.
- Giving members a voice in the economic development of their community.
- We are the County's designated partner with the WA State Department of Commerce and a channel for information and assistance between the State, County, and businesses.

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www.iscoedc.com
(360) 678-6889

Join us! By becoming a member or sponsor of the EDC you will help support economic vitality in Island County.