

CHAPTER TWO

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY PROFILE

Introduction

This chapter summarizes Clark County statistics and trends, providing a social baseline from which the housing and community development needs presented in later chapters can be extrapolated. The data is organized into the following categories:

- County Characteristics
- Demographics
 - Population Trends/Projections
 - Age/Gender/Household Composition
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Linguistic Isolation
- Economy and Employment
 - Employment Trends
 - Unemployment Trends
 - Household Income
 - Low-Income/Poverty Guidelines
 - Poverty Trends
 - Low-Income Neighborhoods
 - Other Indicators of Need
- Population with Disabilities
- Linking it All Together

County Characteristics

Located in the southwestern part of the State of Washington, Clark County is approximately 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Bordered on the north by the Lewis River and on the east by the foothills of the beautiful Cascade Mountains, Clark County is circumscribed by the Columbia River to the west and south. Within the county's 644 square miles are over 41 miles of Columbia River frontage. Clark is one of six counties included in the Portland-Vancouver Oregon-Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA). Other counties included in this PMSA comprise Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill, all located in Oregon. The 2007 total PMSA estimated population was 2,174,631, with Clark County representing 19.2 percent of the total PMSA with a population of 409,306¹.

Clark County has gained attention at the national level as one of the faster growing areas in the country and as the fastest growing county in Washington between 1990 and 2000. During that period, the County population increased by 69 percent, with 76 percent attributed to net migration. From 2000 to 2009, the county has been the state's second fastest growing county, behind Franklin County, with a

¹ American Community Survey, 2007.

growth rate of 24.9 percent with 68 percent attributable to net migration. In 2008, Clark County had a population density of 675 persons per square mile. Only King County had a higher population density.²

Demographics

Population Trends and Projections

In 2009, with 431,200 residents, Clark County represented 7.3 percent of the total population of Washington State. The City of Vancouver is the most populated city, comprising 38 percent of the county's population. Between 2000 and 2009, the population of Vancouver rose by a more modest 7.6 percent. Battle Ground (population of 17,150) and Camas (population of 16,950) are the next most populated cities in the Clark County, each representing approximately 4 percent. Washougal is the fourth largest city in Clark County with 13,870 residents (3.2 percent of the county's population). Since 2000, the most dramatic growth occurred in Ridgefield (96.3 percent) and Battle Ground (84.5 percent), followed by Washougal (61.4 percent).³ In 2009, 48.2 percent of Clark County's 431,200 residents, or 210,415 people, lived in unincorporated areas.

Between January 1, 2000 and February 27, 2009, Vancouver acquired 11.48 square miles, 1,338 housing units (1,229 occupied), and 3,474 people through annexations. During the same period, Battle Ground gained 249 units, Camas 247, Washougal 72, Ridgefield 30, and La Center 24. The majority of annexations occurred between 2006 and 2008.

TABLE 2-1
Cities, Towns, and Clark County Population: 2000 – 2009

Area	1980	1990	2000	2009	% Change 2000-2009
Unincorporated County	134,978	173,844	166,305	210,415	26.5
Incorporated County	57,248	64,209	178,933	220,785	23.4
Clark County Total	192,227	238,053	345,238	431,200	24.9
Battle Ground	2,774	3,758	9,296	17,150	84.5
Camas	5,681	6,798	12,534	16,950	35.2
La Center	439	483	1,654	2,545	53.9
Ridgefield	1,062	1,332	2,147	4,215	96.3
Vancouver	42,834	46,380	152,900	164,500	7.6
Washougal	3,834	4,764	8,595	13,870	61.4
Woodland*	2,415	2,500	3,780	5,195	37.4
Yacolt	544	600	1,055	1,470	39.3

Source: U.S. Census and Washington Office of Financial Management

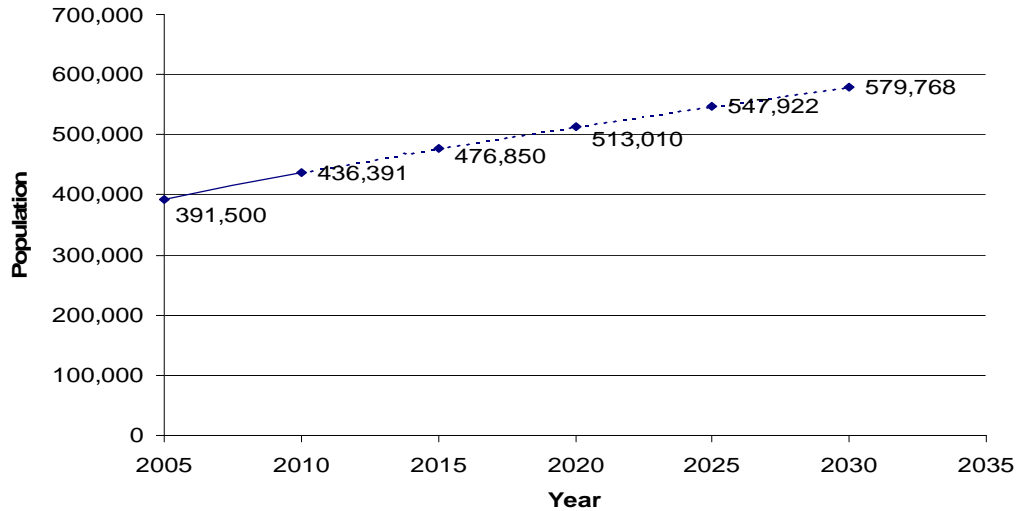
Notes: *The City of Woodland population that resides in Clark County and Cowlitz County

Clark County's rapid population growth is expected to continue. As Figure 2-1 indicates, the State of Washington's Office of Financial Management predicts that between 2000 and 2030, Clark County is expected to gain approximately 234,530 residents, an increase of 68 percent.

² Office of Financial Management

³ Office of Financial Management

**FIGURE 2-1
Clark County Population, Intermediate Projections:
2000 – 2030**

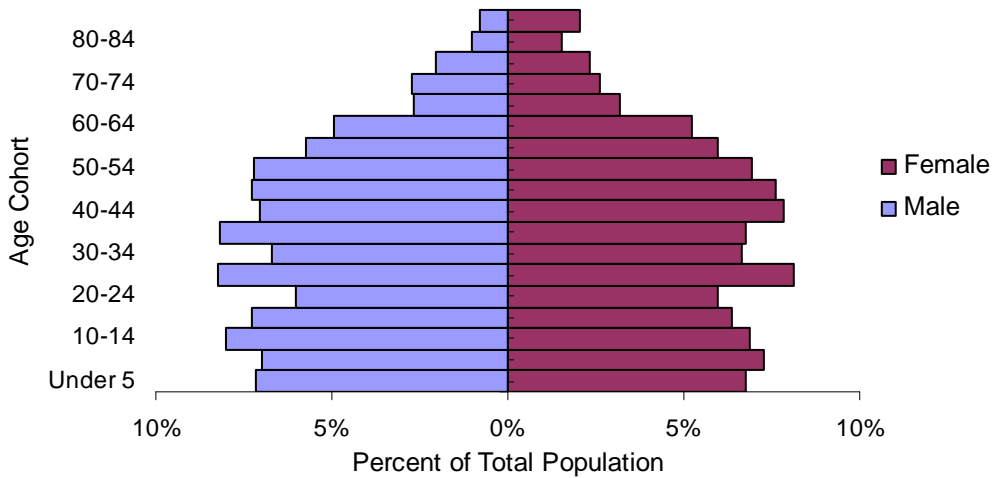


Source: Washington State OFM, County Population Projections for Growth Management – October 2007 Projections.

Age/Gender/Household Composition

Clark County’s population is aging: the median age of the county rose from 34.2 years in 2000 to 35.5 years in 2007. The oldest brackets of the population continue to grow as baby boomers approach retirement and people live longer. The American Community Survey showed that the number of people aged 55-64 increased by 62 percent between 2000 and 2007.

FIGURE 2-2
Clark County Age Distribution by Gender: 2007



Source: American Community Survey, 2007

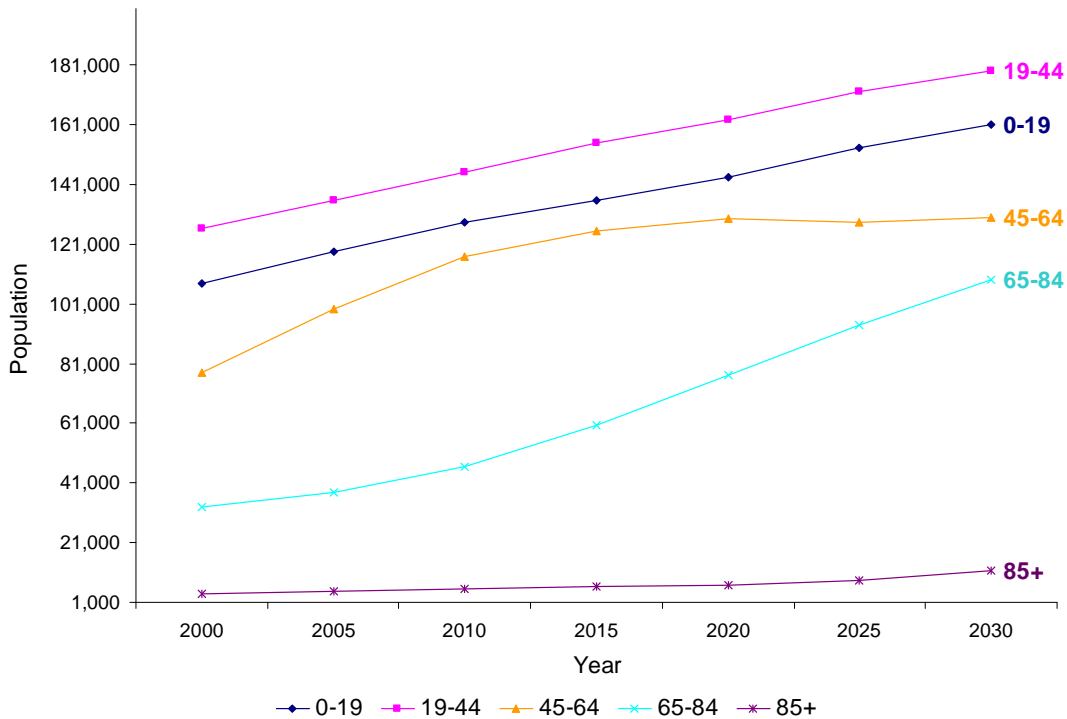
Table 2-2
Clark County Population Distribution by Age: 1990, 2000, 2007

Group	1990	2000	2007	% Change 2000 -2007
75+	10,194	15,673	20,526	31.0%
70-74	6,682	8,232	11,126	35.2%
65-69	8,317	8,903	12,226	37.3%
60-64	8,811	11,614	21,242	82.9%
55-59	8,956	16,613	24,437	47.1%
50-54	10,978	23,043	29,477	27.9%
45-49	14,096	26,640	31,145	16.9%
40-44	19,570	28,834	31,220	8.3%
35-39	19,570	28,860	31,200	8.1%
30-34	20,935	25,801	27,851	7.9%
25-29	18,335	22,916	34,215	49.3%
20-24	14,599	20,072	25,130	25.2%
15-19	16,948	24,876	28,439	14.3%
10-14	19,129	27,996	31,000	10.7%
5-9	19,480	28,279	29,800	5.4%
0-4	18,915	26,886	29,036	8.0%
Total	238,053	345,238	418,070	21.1%

Source: US Census 1990, 2000; American Community Survey, 2007

Figure 2-3 shows population projections for the County. The group of people aged 45 to 64 years old increased sharply relative to other age groups between 2000 and 2009. However, this age group is expected to plateau around 2020, at which time the number of people aged 65 to 84 years old is expected to increase sharply. This illustrates the trend of baby boomers moving into retirement.

**FIGURE 2-3
Clark County Population by Age: 2000 – 2030**



Source: Washington State OFM, County Population Projections for Growth Management - November 2007 Projections.

The State of Washington’s Office of Financial Management estimates that the 65+ age group will comprise 19 percent of Clark County’s population in 2030, compared to 10 percent in 2000. Aging may impact the social infrastructure across a range of needs, including: medical services, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and other services.

In 2000, Yacolt had the youngest population in the County, with a median age of 26.5 years, followed closely by Battle Ground, with a median age of 27.3 years and 36 percent of its population under 17 years of age. On the other end of the spectrum, Ridgefield has the oldest population, with a median age of 35.5 years and 33 percent of its population over 45 years. Fourteen percent of Woodland’s population is over 65 years, and 11 percent of both Ridgefield and Washougal is over 65 years of age. Vancouver’s median age was 33.1 years.

**Table 2-3
Clark County Household Composition: 1990, 2000, 2007**

Household	1990	2000	2007	Change 2000-2007
Persons in Households	235,469	342,194	414,249	21%
Householder	63,895	127,208	150,640	18%
Family Households	32,868	90,958	104,609	15%
Spouses	52,243	72,256	80,885	12%
Children	76,498	110,024	129,182	17%
Non-Relatives	4,609	19,327	29,679	54%
Non-Family Households	31,027	36,250	46,031	27%
Total Persons	239,053	345,238	418,070	21%

Source: Census 1990, 2000; American Community Survey, 2007

Table 2-3 summarizes Clark County household composition. In 2007, there were 150,640 households in Clark County. The average household size was 2.8 people. Families made up 69 percent of the households in Clark County with married couples at 54 percent and other families at 16 percent. Nonfamily households made up 31 percent of all households in Clark County. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

Race and Ethnicity

Clark County has a smaller minority population than the state average. In 2008, Clark County had 84.9 percent reporting “White, not Hispanic” compared to 76.2 percent for the entire state. The proportion of the Hispanic/Latino population in Clark County increased by 53 percent between the year 2000 and 2008.

**TABLE 2-4
Clark County Population Distribution by Race and Ethnicity: 2000, 2008**

Race	2000	2008	% Change
White, non Hispanic	300,702	359,956	20%
Black or African-American	5,723	7,703	35%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,609	3,211	23%
Asian or Pacific Islander	12,460	18,153	46%
Two or More Races	7,496	10,263	37%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic or Latino	16,248	24,914	53%
Total	345,238	424,200	23%

Source: OFM State of Washington

Areas with minority concentrations are defined as the percentage of a specific minority in census tracts above the ‘minority mean’ specific to the County, plus one standard deviation for the specific minority. Most of the census tracts in Clark County with a minority concentration are within the City of

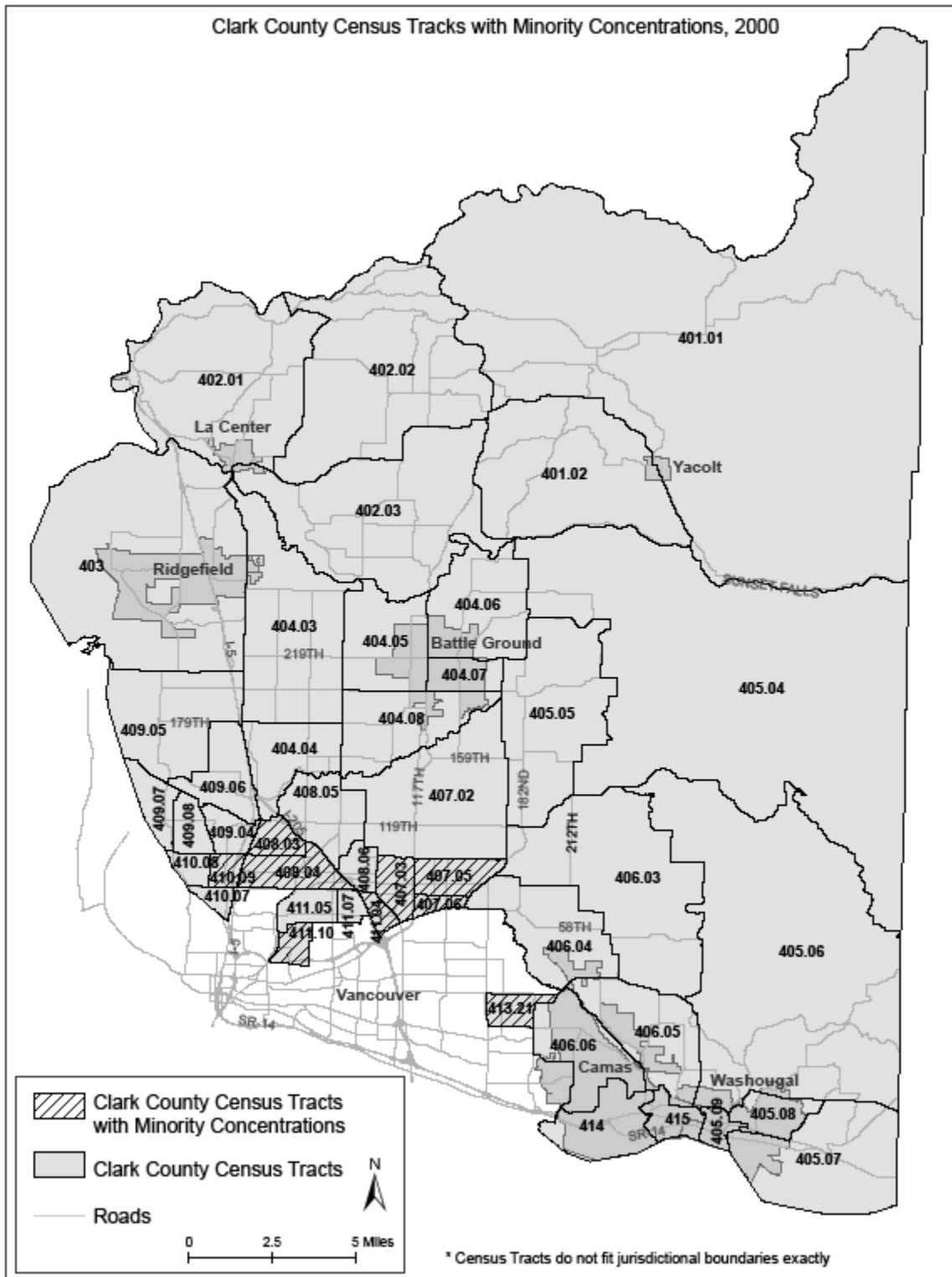
Vancouver. However, the following table and map show the census tracts in Clark County with minority concentrations, not including areas within the City of Vancouver.

TABLE 2-5
Clark County Census Tracts with Minority Concentrations: 2000

Census Tract	Minority Percentage	Largest Proportion of Minorities
413.21	10.49%	Asian
410.09	10.68%	Hispanic
407.05	11.53%	Hispanic
407.03	12.39%	Asian
408.03	12.67%	Hispanic
407.06	13.74%	Hispanic
408.04	17.86%	Hispanic

Source: 2000 US Census

FIGURE 2-4
Clark County Census Tracts with Minority Concentrations: 2000



Linguistic Isolation

The census identifies “linguistic isolation” as a case when no person in the household (14 years old and over) speaks only English, or speaks a non-English language and speaks English “very well.” In other words, all persons in the household over 14 years old have at least some difficulty with English. Immigrants in general face significant disadvantages when entering the country. In 2007, there were 3,624 linguistically isolated households in Clark County and 1,749 of these households were Spanish-speaking.

TABLE 2-6
Clark County Linguistic Isolation: 2007

Primary Language Spoken in Household	Number of Households
English	130,233
Spanish	6,888
Linguistically Isolated	1,749
Not linguistically isolated	5,139
Other Indo-European Languages	8,033
Linguistically Isolated	1,117
Not linguistically isolated	6,916
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	4,898
Linguistically Isolated	758
Not linguistically isolated	4,140
Other languages	588
Linguistically Isolated	0
Not linguistically isolated	588
Total Households	150,640
Total linguistically isolated households	3,624

American Community Survey, 2007

Economy and Employment

Employment Trends

In 2008, the Southwest Washington Medical Center was the largest employer in Clark County, with 3,800 employees. The Vancouver School District was the second highest employer, with 3,360 employees, followed by the Evergreen School District, with 3,089 employees. All three are located in Vancouver.

TABLE 2-7
Clark County Employers with 500 Employees or More: July 2008

Company	Product/Service	Function	Employment
Southwest Washington Medical Center	Healthcare	Hospital	3,800
Vancouver School District	Public Education	School	3,360
Evergreen School District	Public Education	School	3,089
Hewlett Packard	Inkjet Printers	R&D/Marketing	1,800
Clark County	Government	Government	1,715
Fred Meyer	Retail	Retail	1,295
Safeway	Retail	Retail	1,258
Battle Ground School District	Public Education	School	1,125
Bonneville Power Administration	Public Utility	Utilities	1,140
City of Vancouver	Government	Government	1,071
SEH America	Silicon Wafers	Branch Mfg.	1,190
WaferTech	Silicon Wafers	HQ	1,100
Clark College	Public Education	School	937
Legacy - Salmon Creek	Healthcare	Hospital	814
Kaiser Permanente	Healthcare	Healthcare	785
The Vancouver Clinic	Healthcare	Healthcare	711
Camas School District	Public Education	School	706
Columbia Machine	Concrete Block Machines and Palletizers	HQ	600
Frito Lay	Food Products	Branch Mfg.	580
Georgia Pacific	Pulp and Paper	Branch Mfg.	562
Nautilus Group	Exercise Equipment	HQ	525
The Holland, Inc.	Restaurants	Retail	500
RS Medical	Electrical Stimulators	HQ	500

Source: Columbia River Economic Development Council

In March 2009, 133,900 people were employed in non-farm jobs in Clark County. The fastest growing employment sectors between 2000 and 2009 were education and health services, which increased by 49 percent and finance and insurance, which increased by 41 percent. The manufacturing sector decreased by 25 percent between 2000 and 2009. See Table 2.8 below.

The average 2007 hourly wage for a retail job in Clark County was \$12.60, while the average manufacturing wage was \$23.75.⁴ The former is far below the income needed for a family of four to afford rent for a three-bedroom home in Clark County (in 2008 a family would have needed to earn \$21.19/hr).⁵ The average hourly wage for a health care job was \$20.13, and for construction it was \$20.25.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008.

⁵ National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach*, 2008.

In January 2009, county employment was 196,370, a loss of 4,860 jobs since January 2008.⁶ Seasonal jobs have been down in construction as fewer housing permits have been issued in the current economic slump.

In 2007, there were 197,910 workers in Clark County over the age of 16 and 156,350 (79 percent) of them drove alone to work. Only 2.2 percent of Clark County workers used public transportation. The mean commute travel time was 25.2 minutes⁷. In 2007, approximately 60,000 Clark County residents commuted to Oregon, primarily Multnomah County.⁸ However, relatively few Oregon residents tend to commute to Clark County. In 2000, approximately 87 percent of the jobs based in Clark County were held by local county residents, compared to only 61 percent of Multnomah County jobs held by local residents⁹. The commuter trends of Clark County residents help explain the strong link in employment indicators between Clark County and the greater Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area.

TABLE 2-8
Clark County Employment Levels for Selected Sectors: 2000 and March 2009

	2000	2009	Growth
LABOR FORCE	178,500	222,340	25%
Employment	169,600	191,650	13%
Unemployment	8,900	30,690	245%
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	13.8%	176%
TOTAL NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT	116,900	133,900	15%
Construction, Mining, Utilities, Logging	10,000	10,800	8%
Manufacturing	17,300	12,900	-25%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities (total)	21,000	25,000	19%
Wholesale Trade	4,100	5,200	27%
Retail Trade	13,100	15,500	18%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	3,500	4,300	23%
Information	3,600	2,600	-28%
Finance and Insurance	2,700	3,800	41%
Professional and Business Services	12,700	14,800	17%
Education and Health Services	12,600	18,800	49%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,900	13,200	11%
Government	19,300	24,800	28%

Source: Washington Employment Security Department, Clark County Nonfarm Employment, 2000; March 2009.

⁶ Washington State Employment Security Department, 2009.

⁷ American Community Survey 2007.

⁸ Columbia River Economic Development Council, December 2007.

⁹ Oregon Labor Market Information Systems, "Commuting Patterns Within the Portland PMSA", 2003.

Unemployment Trends

The unemployment rate for Clark County was 13.8 percent in March 2009. There were 222,340 people in the labor force with 191,650 employed and 30,690 unemployed. Each year from 1990 to 2004, the unemployment rate in Vancouver was higher than the county, state and nation. However, in 2005, the Vancouver unemployment rate dropped below the county as a whole, and remained below through 2007. For those years the city unemployment rate remained approximately at the same level as the nation.¹⁰

**Table 2-9
Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

Location	Year		
	2000	2005	2009
Portland/Vancouver MSA	4.6	6.5	10.8
Clark County (Includes Vancouver)	4.9	7.2	14.3
Washington	5.5	6.4	9.5
United States	4	5.2	10.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2000 and 2005 data is for the month of January.

The unemployment rate spiked across the country in late 2008 and continued to rise in early 2009. In January 2008, the unemployment rate in Clark County was 6.5 percent (compared to the state rate of 5.2 percent). By March 2009, the unemployment rate in Clark County had more than doubled to 13.9 percent (compared to the state rate of 9.2 percent).¹¹

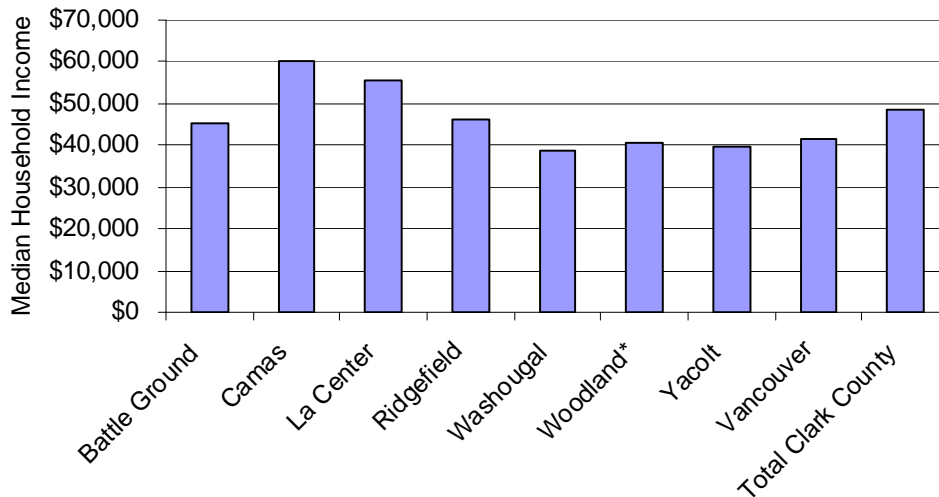
Household Income

The median household income in Clark County was \$48,376 in 2000. The City of Camas had the highest median income in the county, with \$60,187, while the City of Washougal's was just \$38,719. According to the Office of Financial Management, the 2008 projected median household income for Clark County was \$57,917.

¹⁰ Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008.

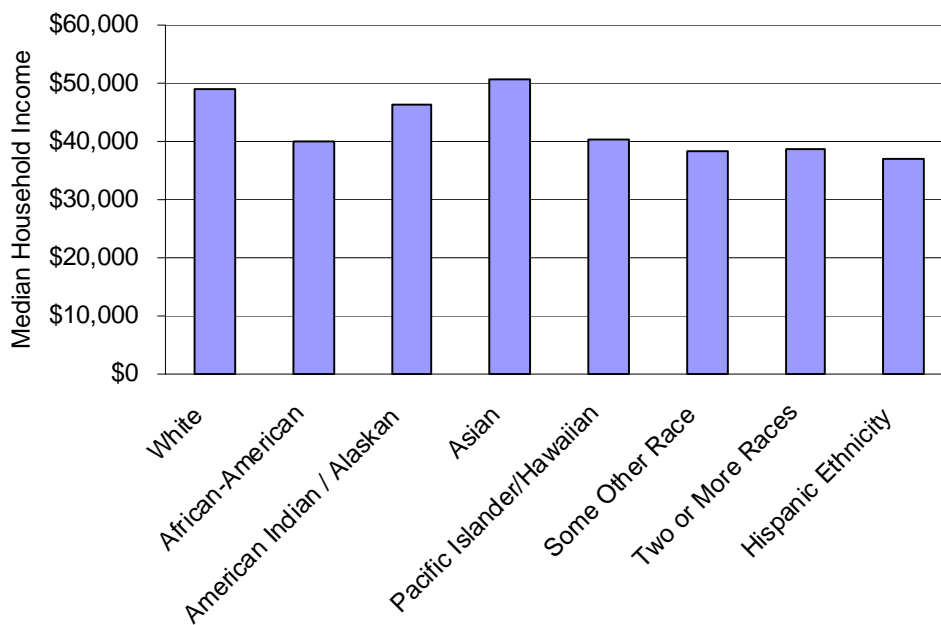
¹¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, not seasonally adjusted, 2009.

Figure 2-5
Median Household Income Clark County Cities: 2000



Source: 2000 Census

Figure 2-6
Median Clark County Household Income/Race: 2000



Source: 2000 Census

**Table 2-10
Median Clark County Household Income/Race: 2000**

Location	Total Area MHI	White	African-American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Pacific Islander/Hawaiian	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic Ethnicity
Battle Ground	\$45,070	\$45,757	\$11,250	\$63,750	\$48,750	\$-	\$39,091	\$16,250	\$40,500
Camas	\$60,187	\$60,157	\$51,250	\$52,500	\$77,500	\$69,250	\$14,688	\$68,250	\$37,500
La Center	\$55,333	\$56,167	\$127,308*	\$83,922	\$16,750	\$-	\$40,000	\$50,625	\$42,083
Ridgefield	\$46,012	\$46,310	\$57,500	\$36,250	\$11,250	\$28,750	\$-	\$36,875	\$63,750
Washougal	\$38,719	\$38,587	\$16,250	\$31,000	\$102,264	\$-	\$45,208	\$42,321	\$28,750
Woodland**	\$40,742	\$40,352	\$-	\$54,107	\$-	\$-	\$63,750	\$18,750	\$41,250
Yacolt	\$39,444	\$39,583	\$33,750	\$32,500	\$-	\$46,250	\$-	\$31,250	\$40,000
Vancouver	\$41,618	\$41,873	\$37,321	\$37,935	\$47,524	\$42,171	\$36,535	\$35,365	\$36,297
Total Clark County	\$48,376	\$48,894	\$40,048	\$46,424	\$50,625	\$40,357	\$38,484	\$38,750	\$37,049

*La Center has a total of three African American households all within the \$125,000-\$149,000 income range. **Includes Woodland population that resides in Clark County and Cowlitz County. Source: US Census 2000.

Income Limits/Poverty Guidelines

The Department of Housing and Urban Development sets income limits to determine qualification levels as well as set maximum rental rates for certain projects in the CDBG, HOME, and HOPWA programs. These limits are based on estimates of median family income, with adjustments based on family size. Family sizes in excess of eight persons are calculated by adding eight percent of the four-person income limit for each additional family member.

**Table 2-11
HUD Income Limits for Clark County: 2009
Annual Income by Household Size**

Percent of Median Income	Number in Households							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% of Median	\$39,200	44,800	50,400	56,000	60,500	64,950	69,450	73,900
60% of Median	29,400	33,600	37,800	45,200	45,360	48,720	52,080	55,400
50% of Median	24,500	28,000	31,500	35,000	37,800	40,600	43,400	46,200
30% of Median	14,700	16,800	18,900	21,000	22,700	24,350	26,500	27,700

Note: Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA MSA Median Family Income: \$70,000
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, effective April 27, 2009

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues poverty guidelines annually in the *Federal Register*. The programs that use this information to determine eligibility include Head Start, Weatherization, the Food Stamp Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the National School Lunch Program. The following table indicates the 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 contiguous states.

TABLE 2-12
Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines: 2009

Annual Income	Number of People in Household							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	\$10,830	14,570	18,370	22,050	25,790	29,530	33,270	37,010

Note: For each additional person after 8 persons, add \$3,740.
 Source: Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, p.4199

Low Income/Poverty Trends

In 2007, 9.3 percent of individuals in Clark County were living in poverty. Approximately 6.6 percent of all families in Clark County had incomes below the poverty level and 9.5 percent of families with children under the age of 18 lived in poverty. Among female heads of household with children under the age of five, 53.5 percent earned incomes below the poverty level in 2007.

According to the *Clark County Profile of Poverty*, children raised in poor families are less healthy and are at risk for reduced cognitive development, school achievement, and emotional well-being. Furthermore, poverty often perpetuates more poverty, as those who grow up in economically marginalized families are more likely to become poor adults. People who are poor often feel alienated and isolated from mainstream society, and suffer feelings of humiliation, anxiety, and rage. They are also more likely to experience family instability, achieve low levels of education, and experience more health problems and reduced life spans.¹² Table 2-13 below shows the number of children living in poverty in the county.

TABLE 2-13
Clark County Percent of Population Living in Poverty: 2000 & 2007

Population Group	2000	2007
Individuals	9.1%	9.3%
Individuals 18 or older	7.9%	8.7%
Individuals 65 and older	6.8%	6.4%
Families	6.9%	6.6%
Families with children <18	10.3%	9.5%
Families with children <5	13.4%	13.1%
Females alone with children <18	31.1%	27.6%
Females alone with children <5	43.5%	53.5%

Source: American Community Survey: 2007

Table 2-15 below demonstrates how difficult it is for the lowest income households (those living in poverty) to budget for daily expenses. The data was taken from an analysis of national costs and expenditures prepared by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.¹³ The budget starts with an annual income of \$20,614 per year – a national figure for a household of four living in poverty in 2007. As the table shows, families living in poverty have insufficient income to meet their daily living expenses.

¹² Clark County Department of Community Services Community Action Program, *Poverty in Clark County*, December 2006.

¹³ Catholic Campaign for Human Development, *Poverty USA*, 2007.

TABLE 2-14
Budgeting for Poverty in the United States: 2007

Item	Source	Amount
Annual Income (for a family of 4 living in poverty)	US Census, Current Population Survey, <i>Annual Social and Economic Supplement</i> , 2006.	\$20,614
Rent	DOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Consumer Expenditures Survey</i> , February 2007	-5,756 \$14,858
Utilities	DOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Consumer Expenditures Survey</i> , February 2007	-2,656 \$12,202
Transportation	DOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Consumer Expenditures Survey</i> , February 2007	-5,330 \$6,872
Food	DOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Consumer Expenditures Survey</i> , February 2007 (assuming food stamps for the majority)	-4,064 \$2,808
Health Care	DOL, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <i>Consumer Expenditures Survey</i> , February 2007 (assumes health insurance through employer)	-2,329 \$479
Child Care	US Dept. of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, <i>Expenditures on Children by Families</i> , April 2007 (assumes subsidy of ¾ of real cost)	-2,600 -\$2,121

Source: Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Poverty USA, 2007.

Note: The expenditures above assume a substantial subsidy in the form of food stamps and child care as well as employer-paid health insurance. The list leaves out toiletries, school supplies, shoes, clothes, holiday gifts, education, life insurance, furnishings, recreation, cleaning supplies, entertainment, birthdays, and similar expenses.

According to the *Clark County Profile of Poverty*, self-sufficiency is defined as “the ability to maintain a decent standard of living, including not having to choose between basic necessities.”¹⁴ The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Clark County in 2001 for one adult, one school-age child and one teenager was \$26,927. This compares with the Federal Poverty Level of \$14,630 or the HUD median family income for three of \$44,700 (80 percent AMI), and \$27,950 (50 percent AMI).

The self-sufficiency standard for Clark County was about 48 percent of HUD median family income, and was higher than levels set for welfare and food stamps, the poverty level, or what one could make at full-time minimum wage in 2001.

Low & Moderate Income Neighborhoods

Census tracts with 51 percent or more low and moderate-income households are defined as concentrated lower-income areas. Table 2-15 and Figure 2-7 illustrate these areas. Figure 2-8 adds data on racial and ethnic minorities.

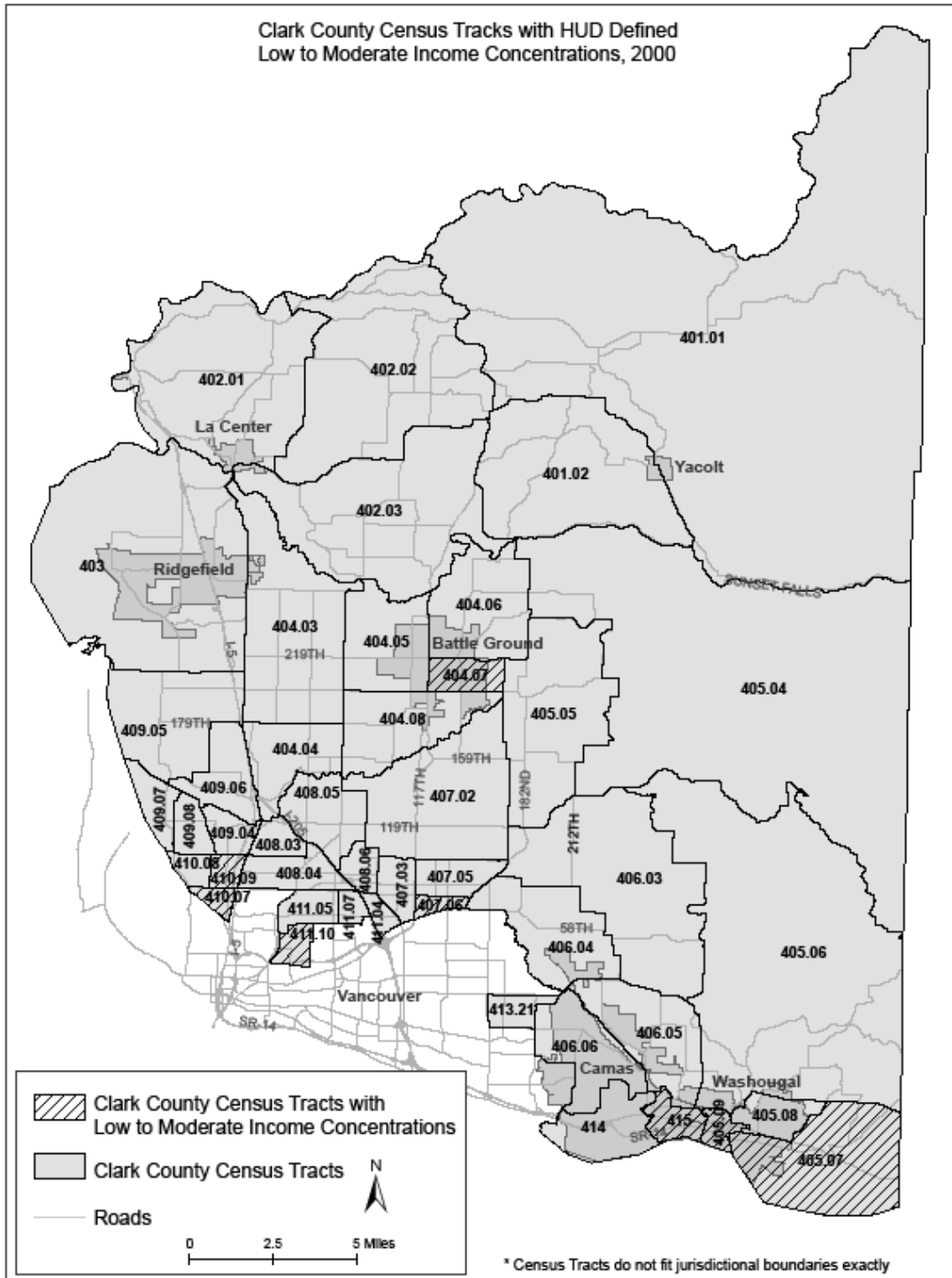
¹⁴ Clark County Department of Community Services Community Action Program, Poverty in Clark County, December 2006. The self-sufficiency standard is based on calculations in Pearce, D, and Brooks, J., *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State*, University of Washington, 2000. The measure estimates how much a family must earn to pay for housing, food, transportation, childcare, taxes, health care and other basic necessities. It assumes that all adults in a household work full time, weighs the number and ages of children in each household, and takes into account taxes and tax credits in its calculations. Differences in cost of living across the state, particularly between counties, are part of the formula, including costs associated with living and working in a particular area.

TABLE 2-15
Census Tracts with Concentrations of Low/Moderate Income Persons
& Minority Percentage: 2000

Location	Census Tract	Total Population in Census Tract	% of Low/Mod-Income Persons	Minority Percentage
Battleground	404.07	3,717	54.39%	4.33%
Washougal	405.07	2,118	54.55	2.36
Washougal	405.09	2,917	60.08	3.43
Orchards	407.06	3,355	57.47	3.05
Lake Shore	410.07	3530	47.6%	2.92
Minnehaha	410.09	3484	46.38%	5.45
Minnehaha	411.10	4891	46.63%	4.83
Camas	415.00	2470	49.2%	3.4

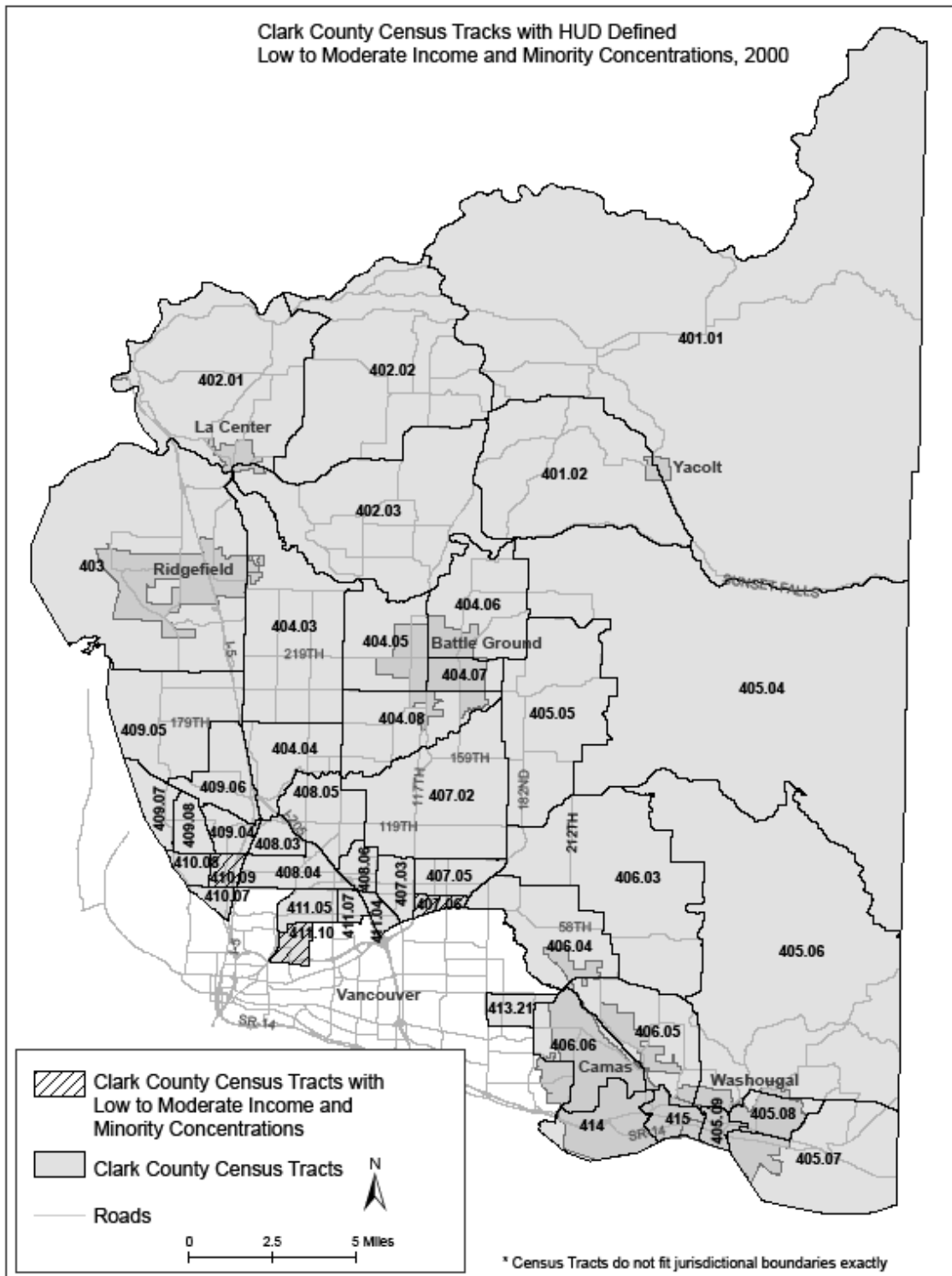
Sources: 2000 Census, using U.S. Department of Housing definitions of Low/Minority Incomes.

FIGURE 2-7
Clark County Census Tracts Low to Moderate Income: 2000



Source: 2000 U.S. Census (SF3) Table P52, and Vancouver GIS

FIGURE 2-8
Clark County Census Tracts Low to Moderate Income
and Minority Concentrations: 2000



Source: 2000 U.S. Census (SF3) Table P 7, P 52 and Vancouver GIS

Other Indicators of Need

The National School Lunch Program provides low cost or free lunches to students, with eligibility based on a student's family size and income. Children from families with incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. In May 2008, 44.2 percent of the Vancouver School District's 22,655 students were eligible for free or reduced lunches. Thirty-six percent of Evergreen School District's 25,396 students and 33 percent of Washougal's 3,054 students were eligible.¹⁵ A detailed table is listed in the Appendix.

Population with Disabilities

The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. It can impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business, and it includes persons with severe vision or hearing impairments. In 2007, 55,027 people (14.2 percent of the population) in Clark County were disabled.

TABLE 2-16
Population with Disabilities by Age: 2007

Age	#	% of Population
5 to 15 years	3,497	5.1%
16 to 64 years	33,337	12.1%
65 years and over	18,193	47.7%
Total	55,027	14.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 2007.

While most disabilities do not prevent employment, a considerably lower percentage of people with disabilities were employed than those without disabilities in 2007. Forty-three percent of those aged 16 to 34 with a disability were unemployed in 2007.

TABLE 2-17
Persons with Disabilities by Age and Employment Status: 2007

	Ages 16 to 34			Ages 35 to 64		
	Number w/Disability	Disabled & Unemployed	% Disabled Unemployed	Number w/Disability	Disabled Employed	% Disabled Unemployed
Vancouver	3,436	1,305	38%	11,192	2,097	19%
Clark County*	8,213	3,532	43%	25,121	8,664	34%
Washington	134,506	58,671	44%	440,847	123,459	28%

*Includes Vancouver. Source: American Community Survey, 2007

¹⁵ Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, *Washington State Report Card*, 2008.

Linking It All Together

Housing and community development needs in any area are closely linked to social and cultural design. The physical environment, economy, schools, and health and social institutions form an interconnected infrastructure within which people live their daily lives. Clark County has made significant strides in trying to create a community environment that is supportive and provides requisite services for all citizens. The demographic information, future trends, and social perspectives presented in this chapter are intended to serve as a framework for housing and community development priorities, objectives, and actions presented in later chapters.