

Clark County, Washington



Clark County is located in the southwest area of Washington state. Clark County borders Oregon on both the south and west sides, Cowlitz County to the north, and Skamania County to the east.

The area was part of a large tract of western land first known in 1844 as "Vancouver District." In 1849, Clark County was formed, named in honor of explorer William Clark of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition.¹ Clark County was one of the first two counties in what would later become Washington State.

2011 Population

Clark is the 5th most populous county in the state, with a 2011 population of 428,000. From 2000 to 2010, the county's population grew by 82,762 people, or 23%. This is the second-fastest rate of growth in the state.²

In 2011, just over half of the Clark County population (52%) lived in incorporated cities. The 4 largest were:²

- Vancouver, county seat: 162,300
- Camas: 19,620
- Battle Ground: 17,780
- Washougal: 14,210

Education

In 2009, the majority of Clark County residents over age 25, or 91%, had graduated from high school. Almost one-fourth (24%) of residents had obtained at least a bachelor's degree.³

Income

The median annual household income in 2009 in Clark County was \$56,074.⁴

Poverty

In 2009, 13% of families with children in Clark County were below the Federal Poverty Level.⁴ The Federal Poverty Level for a family of four in 2009 was \$22,050.⁵

Race/Ethnicity

Clark County's racial* demographics for 2010 were:⁶

- White: 89% (347,793)
- Asian: 4% (17,276)
- Two or more races: 4% (13,905)
- Black: 2% (8,025)
- Amer. Indian/Alaska Native: 1% (2,970)
- Pacific Islander: 1% (2,589)

Eight percent (32,166) of the population was Hispanic.⁶ Since 1990, the percent of Clark County residents that describe themselves as White has fallen from 93%, indicating that Clark County is becoming more racially diverse.⁷

Language Spoken at Home

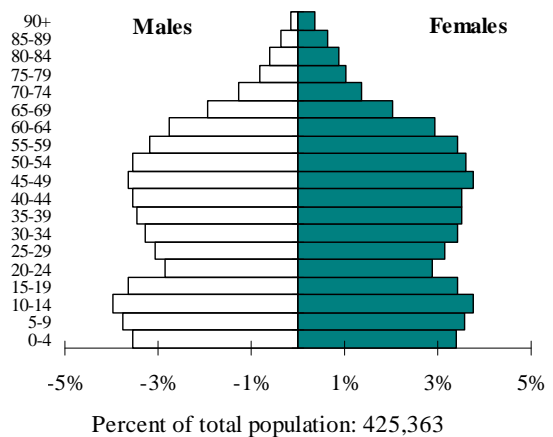
In 2009, 87% (347,976) of residents over age 5 spoke English at home. Thirteen percent (53,453) spoke a language other than English at home. Forty-eight percent of the people who spoke a language other than English at home speak English *less than* "very well" (25,441) The languages spoken by these people were:³

- Indo-European:⁸ 11,796
- Spanish: 5,648
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 6,608
- Other: 1,389

Age/Sex Characteristics

The median age of Clark County residents in 2010 was 36.7 years. The percent of the Clark County population broken down by age group and gender can be seen below.⁹

Population composition of Clark County, 2010



*Race groups are non-Hispanic.

Data Sources

- ¹ Clark County, Washington. Proud Past. Retrieved July 2009 from http://www.co.clark.wa.us/aboutcc/proud_past/index.html
- ² Washington Office of Financial Management. April 1 Population. April 1 Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues. Retrieved August 2011 from www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2009 (1-year Estimates). Data Profiles for Clark County, WA. Selected Social Characteristics. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2009 (1-year Estimates). Data Profiles for Clark County, WA. Selected Economic Characteristics. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>
- ⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Poverty Guidelines. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 Census. Table QT-P3: Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. 1990 Census. Table P010: Hispanic Origin by Race. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ⁸ Indo-European Languages include most of the major languages of Europe as well as many spoken in South, Southwest, and Central Asia. Source: Wikipedia. Retrieved July 2009 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European_languages
- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 Census. Table QT-P1: Age groups and sex. Retrieved August 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.



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