



PLANNING AND SERVICE AREA PROFILE

B-1 Population Profile:

We operate in a world that is dynamic; yet, to make order out of chaos, we design systems that work best in a stationary world. The ideal, of course, would be to have systems flexible enough to accommodate the dynamism of an ever changing world. The existing long term care system is primarily a public system with limited resources. Even private agencies or institutions, such as nursing homes, within the long term care system are primarily funded by public funds.

The legislative process is the pulse of this system. Provided that long term care services are publicly funded, they are regulated by many laws for the health and safety of the public and to ensure accountability of the public dollar. Thus, its decision making is highly centralized with many hierarchical levels and mechanistic processes primarily created by statute to ensure accountability. For the most part the system responds to change slowly. The dichotomy, however, is that legislation can be proposed and enacted which can dramatically change the long term care system. Taken in juxtaposition, this makes forecasting for demographic, public, social and legislative trends even more important. **More accurate projections can ensure well placed advocacy efforts in terms of what becomes legislation in the first place.**

Older Americans Act funding is a formula based upon the US Census and OFM projections. The formula is weighted and includes the same targeting indicators that drive our discretionary funding formula, i.e., number of square miles, number of people age sixty and over, etc.

Demographics can assist an organization in designing their service delivery system. For instance, Southeast Washington has a rapidly growing Hispanic population age sixty and over. The demographic characteristic assists SE/ALTC in its planning process to design long term care services that emphasize outreach to accommodate this population characteristic. US Census and Office of Financial Management (OFM) projections are not the only important demographic.

An agency's own statistical information can assist in determining trends and growth which aide in adjusting staffing patterns and focusing efforts that correspond to those trends and growth rates. For instance, SE/ALTC tracks growth in individual programs. This information helps to determine the effectiveness of outreach efforts, determine where staffing should be increased and prioritize service and project trends in the future.

What are the demographic trends in Southeast Washington?

SE/ALTC's service area encompasses 21% of the geographic area in Washington State but only accounts for 9% of the total state population. Counties served include Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties.

SE/ALTC's Planning and Service Area (PSA) is unique in its immensity. It encompasses four Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMAs) (Yakima, Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco), small cities (Walla Walla, Clarkston, Ellensburg, Sunnyside), a myriad of small towns (Mabton, Connell, Basin City, Burbank,

Dayton, Starbuck, Pomeroy, and Asotin, to name a few) and vast areas of land mass with seniors and disabled adults needing services dispersed throughout remote and isolated parts of the counties. For example, in Yakima County there are individuals receiving in-home services who live such a distance away that it takes three and a half hours round trip for the nearest case manager to visit. With a winter storm, some of these places are virtually inaccessible. Smatterings of people needing service are strewn throughout the service delivery area.

County	% Rural 2000	Land Area in Sq mile	Density	
			2000	2009
WA State	18%	66,581.9	89.7	100.21
Asotin	6%	635.3	32.6	33.84
Benton	12%	1,703.1	85.0	99.41
Columbia	33%	868.8	4.7	4.72
Franklin	20%	1,242.4	40.6	58.52
Garfield	100%	710.5	3.4	3.17
Kittitas	41%	2,297.2	14.8	17.37
Walla W.	19%	1,270.5	43.4	46.60
Yakima	29%	4,296.2	52.3	55.49
South East WA	38% (Avg)	13,024 (Total)	34.6 (Avg)	

- 2009 OFM Population Estimates
- US Census 2000, Summary File 3

The geography creates great service delivery challenges, i.e. finding volunteers to home-deliver meals, recruiting in-home workers willing to drive such a distance without reimbursement, and serving individuals with vulnerable health whose nearest service access center is well over an hour and a half away.

As well, SE/ALTC has service delivery areas that encounter issues attributable to “urban” service delivery, i.e. housing density issues and individuals in need of service where multiple family units reside in housing meant for single occupancy.

Our least populated county, Garfield, consists of older residents. The death and birth rate are parallel. The net migration is stagnant; this often creates a dynamic of older neighbors with their own vulnerable health issues to care for the older neighbor with even more vulnerable health. Forth-seven percent of the population in Garfield County is over the age of 60. Our most populated county (Yakima) is one of the most economically challenged counties in the State. Only a very small percent of its large land mass is taxable, as much of it is public land or a sovereign nation. More than three-fourths (77%) of the Yakima County budget goes to support the Criminal Justice System. The 2000 US Census indicates that 20% of Yakima County’s population base is at or below the poverty level, 16% of its population has less than a ninth grade education and an additional 17% has between a 9th and 12th grade education (33% have not completed high school). Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties have the highest rate per capita of households on public assistance in Washington State. These characteristics are important as they highlight information about our service delivery system. Any examination of our service delivery system must take into account the lack of local public funding available to help augment the long term care service delivery system, the tremendous competition for local donor dollars, and the extreme challenges that our service delivery providers face. Extreme poverty, social, and economic issues can overwhelm our population base.

According to the Federal Income Poverty Level (FPL),” non-metropolitan areas such as Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties have the highest percentage of families in poverty compared to non-metropolitan areas. The exceptions to this are the metropolitan areas of Yakima and Pasco. A DSHS report of

SFY 2007 outlining county by county use of DSHS services indicates that Yakima County, at 51.9%, has the highest percentage of adult residents enrolled in one or more DSHS service, followed by Franklin County with 46.5%.

SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON'S POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Between 1980 and 1990 in Southeast Washington persons age 60+ had a growth rate of 18%. The growth rate slowed to 9% between 1990 and 2000 and has then increased to **33% from 2000 to 2009**. Southeast Washington's 60+ population has, over the last twenty years, grown faster than the total population. From 1990 to 2000, this changed significantly, with the total population growing by 21%. This has in large part to do with the birth rate in some of our counties and the in-migration of individuals working on the Hanford cleanup. Between the 2000 census and April 2009 Franklin, Kittitas and Benton Counties were ranked 1st, 4th and 5th respectively for percentage of population growth by OFM. The Tri-Cities area has been a bright spot of economic expansion due to federal nuclear waste containment projects. Unemployment is low and residential construction is booming. By 2009 Kittitas County had moved up to the # 4 spot in the state for percentage of population growth, while Franklin County remains at # 1.

The increase of the 60+ population in Southeast Washington resonates throughout the nation. This is due in part to increased longevity but is more attributable to the great number of births prior to the 1920's and also after World War II and low birthrates (nation wide) after the mid-1960's. Another variable which affects population projections is life expectancy rates. In 2000 the life expectancy rate was 76.9 years.

SOUTHEAST WA AGE 60+ POPULATION FROM US CENSUS

County	1980	1990	2000	2009	Increase From 2000 to 2009
Asotin	3,226	3,769	4,341	5,229	888
Benton	11,084	15,811	19,833	27,911	8,078
Columbia	998	1,001	967	1,099	132
Franklin	4,093	5,170	5,590	9,782	4,192
Garfield	587	630	621	663	42
Kittitas	4,054	4,548	5,243	7,302	2,059
Walla Walla	8,700	9,696	10,099	12,374	2,275
Yakima	28,919	32,025	32,468	40,874	8,406
Total SE WA	61,661	72,650	79,162	105,234	26,072 33% growth

2009 figures from OFM Forecasting Division, August 2009 estimates

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) report, "Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2000," age adjusted deaths are falling for heart disease and cancer, two of the leading causes of death in the United States. Other leading causes of death are falling also, homicide, suicide, and accidents. Mortality rates increased however, for Alzheimer's disease, hypertension, septicemia and pneumonitis, deaths that disproportionately impact the elderly.



A senior enjoying his meal at the Yakima Pioneer Picnic

In Southeast Washington the 60+ population accounts for 15% of the total population according to the 2000 US Census. In our more rural counties, individuals age sixty and over account for a much larger portion of the population. One of four people in Garfield County (26%) and Columbia County (24%) is age sixty and over in 2000. The percentage of the population age sixty and over has continued to increase in all eight of our counties, as seen on the charts below.

	2000	2009	% change
County	Total Pop.	Total Pop.	
Asotin	20,551	21,500	4.62%
Benton	142,475	169,300	18.83%
Columbia	4,064	4,100	0.89%
Franklin	49,347	72,700	47.32%
Garfield	2,397	2,250	-6.13%
Kittitas	33,362	39,900	19.60%
Walla Walla	55,180	59,200	7.29%
Yakima	222,581	238,400	7.11%
Total	529,957	607,350	14.60%

PSA 09 Population 60+

	2000	2000	2009	2009
County	60+ pop.	% 60+	60+ pop.	% 60+
Asotin	4,341	21.1%	5,229	24.3%
Benton	19,833	13.9%	27,911	16.5%
Columbia	967	23.8%	1,099	26.8%
Franklin	5,590	11.3%	9,782	13.5%
Garfield	621	25.9%	663	29.5%
Kittitas	5,243	15.7%	7,302	18.3%
Walla Walla	10,099	18.3%	12,374	20.9%
Yakima	32,468	14.6%	40,874	17.1%
Total	79,162	14.94%	105,234	17.33%

One in ten people in Washington over the age of eighteen are below the poverty level. For those who live in SE/ALTC’s planning and service area, this means one in seven people are at or below the poverty level.

2000 Census

County	Below Poverty All Races Age 18-64	Below Poverty All Races Age 65+	% of Poverty for 18+ Compared to Total 18+ Population
Asotin	1,724	216	13%
Benton	7,355	994	8%
Columbia	274	80	09%
Franklin	4,586	310	16%
Garfield	178	48	13%
Kittitas	4,712	310	21%
Walla W	4,399	645	14%
Yakima	21,138	2,678	16%
Total	44,366	5,278	14%
Washington State	361,512	47,967	10%

MINORITY 60+: There was a **58%** growth in the **60+ minority** population in Southeast Washington from the 1990 to the 2000 Census. Those age **60+ of Hispanic origin** grew by **78%** during this same time frame. It is difficult to calculate racial minority growth within specific categories as the 2000 Census had multiple categories that were not available choices in the 1990 Census count.

The minority 60+ population accounts for 8% of Southeast Washington’s 60+ population, according to the 2000 Census. Six percent of the 60+ population is of Hispanic origin.

Southeast Washington has 6,320 persons age 60+ minority. Yakima County’s population accounts for 62% of the minority population, followed by Benton County with 16%, Franklin with 13%, Walla Walla at 6%, Kittitas at 2% and Asotin County with 1% of the minority 60+ population.

AGE 60+ RACIAL MINORITIES AND HISPANIC ORIGIN IN SE WA.

2000

County	Total Racial Minority	% Minority	Hispanic Origin	% Hispanic Origin
Asotin	73	2%	28	1%
Benton	993	5%	583	3%
Columbia	24	3%	20	2%
Franklin	808	14%	679	12%
Garfield	5	1%	1	0%
Kittitas	107	2%	36	1%
Walla W	405	4%	325	3%
Yakima	2,128		3,412	11%
Total	4,543	6%	5,084	6.7%

2008

County	Total Racial Minority	% Minority	Hispanic Origin	% Hispanic Origin
Asotin	82	1.61%	33	0.65%
Benton	1,118	3.24%	860	3.24%
Columbia	22	2.04%	24	2.23%
Franklin	352	3.84%	1,224	13.34%
Garfield	7	1.06%	1	0.15%
Kittitas	87	1.24%	49	0.7%
Walla W	279	2.33%	425	3.55%
Yakima	2,239	5.68%	4,227	10.73%
Total	4,186	4.15%	6,843	6.78%

SE WASHINGTON MINORITY & HISPANIC ORIGIN BELOW POVERTY FOR AGES 18+

County & Age	Minority Below Poverty	% Minority Below Poverty	Hispanic Origin Below Poverty	% His. Origin Below Poverty
Asotin 18-64	132	25%	31	17%
Asotin 65+	0	n/a	0	n/a
Benton 18-64	1,904	17%	2,054	22%
Benton 65+	87	16%	53	13%
Col. 18-64	18	12%	19	15%
Col. 65+	0	n/a	0	n/a
Franklin 18-64	2,049	25%	3,298	27%
Franklin 65+	92	19%	56	14%
Garfield 18-64	11	52%	7	47%
Garfield 65+	3	38%	0	n/a
Kittitas 18-64	516	34%	297	32%
Kittitas 65+	3	11%	3	13%
Walla W 18-64	1,050	26%	1,225	27%
Walla W 65+	36	18%	37	25%
Yakima 18-64	10,989	27%	12,011	29%
Yakima 65+	577	21%	573	27%
Total 18-64	16,669	24%	18,645	27%
Total 65+	798	20%	722	23%
WA State 18-64	106,124	17%	53,433	21%
WA State 65+	8,219	16%	1,777	18%

One in four minorities in Southeast Washington age eighteen and over is at or below poverty level. In Washington State, for this same age group one in six minorities is at or below poverty. One in five minorities age 65+ in Southeast Washington (one in six for Washington State for the same age group) live at or below poverty level.



Yakima Pioneer Picnic participants

**Limited English Speaking for SE/ALTC
From 18+ population & Percentage of LES
Compared to Total Population**

COUNTY	AGE 18-64 LES	% LES	AGE 65+	% LES	TOTAL	% LES
Asotin	61	1%	0	0%	61	0%
Benton	3,475	4%	215	2%	3,690	4%
Columbia	45	2%	3	0%	48	2%
Franklin	5,819	21%	285	7%	6,102	19%
Garfield	7	0%	2	0%	9	1%
Kittitas	463	4%	20	1%	483	2%
WW	2,020	6%	78	1%	2,098	5%
Yakima	16,807	13%	1,032	4%	17,839	12%
Total SE WA	28,697	9%	1,635	3%	30,330	8%
WA State	136,147	4%	18,629	3%	154,776	4%

*2000 US Census Persons Who Do Not Speak English Well or At All.

Of Southeast Washingtonians age eighteen or over, 8% do not speak English well or at all. One in five people age 18+ do not speak English well or at all in Franklin County and one in eight in Yakima County. **From 1990 to the 2000**, the U.S. Census indicates the **65+** population that **does not speak English well or at all in Southeast Washington grew by 70%**.

Southeast Washington is a multiethnic region. Over the last two decades it has experienced tremendous growth in its Hispanic population. This growth has its origins in farm labor. The farm labor population of twenty years ago was quite migratory, but this is no longer the case. The Hispanic population has become a very important part of Southeast's demographics and landscape. Families have established their residence and are aging in place.

Of the 65+ population, 4,796 clients speak a language other than English. Of this population, 34% do not speak English well or at all.

Of those age 65+ speaking a primary language other than English, Spanish accounts for 62%. The following chart illustrates the ability to speak English.



Three percent of the 65+ population in Southeast Washington is linguistically isolated. The linguistically-isolated population has no members of the household who speak English. This creates additional access barriers.

Linguistically Isolated Population by County

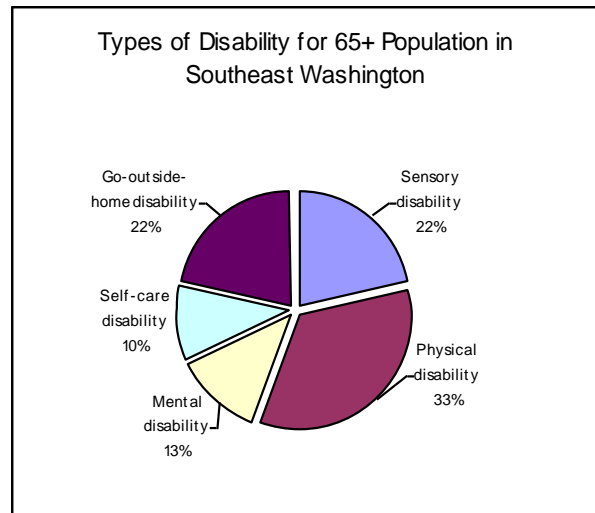
County	Age 65+ Not Linguistically Isolated	Age 65+ & Linguistically Isolated
Asotin	3,060	25
Benton	14,039	209
Columbia	719	0
Franklin	3,752	222
Garfield	469	0
Kittitas	3,752	19
Walla W.	7,762	36
Yakima	22,582	923
Total	56,165	1,434

A portion of Yakima County encompasses a part of the Yakama Nation (YN). The Yakama Nation has its own Area Agency on Aging. The 60+ Native American population accounts

for 14% of the minority 60+ population in Southeast Washington. Our Native American and Alaskan Native population is as follows:

COUNTY	Number Age 60+ Native American And Alaskan 2000 Census	Number Age 60+ Native American And Alaskan 2008 OFM Est.
Asotin	18	25
Benton	48	175
Columbia	7	8
Franklin	25	28
Garfield	1	2
Kittitas	34	22
Walla Walla	30	45
Yakima	726	931
Total	889	1,236

Of those individuals age 65+ reporting a disability, the most commonly cited was a physical disability. The chart below illustrates the distribution of disabilities in Southeast Washington for age sixty-five and over.



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON: One out of every three persons (37%) age sixteen and over in Southeast Washington has some form of disability.

Number of People Disabled Age 16+ and Percentage of Total Population by Age Group

County	Disabled Age 16-64	% of Total Pop. 16-64	Disabled Age 65+	% of Total Pop. Age 65+	% Disabled for Ages 16 and over
Asotin	4,786	32%	2,917	62%	39%
Benton	27,240	37%	11,690	58%	32%
Col.	1,028	35%	690	66%	38%
Franklin	11,867	34%	3,417	60%	38%
Garfield	387	25%	417	64%	36%
Kittitas	6,539	25%	2,946	57%	30%
WW	11,290	34%	7,554	51%	36%
Yakima	54,580	35%	22,401	61%	40%
SE WA Total	117,717	32%	52,032	60%	37%
WA State	1,159,686	27%	544,316	60%	33%

**US Census 2000 Census Tape File 3