

# Racial Composition of Households

Land Use Technical Advisory Committee – 2022 May 24

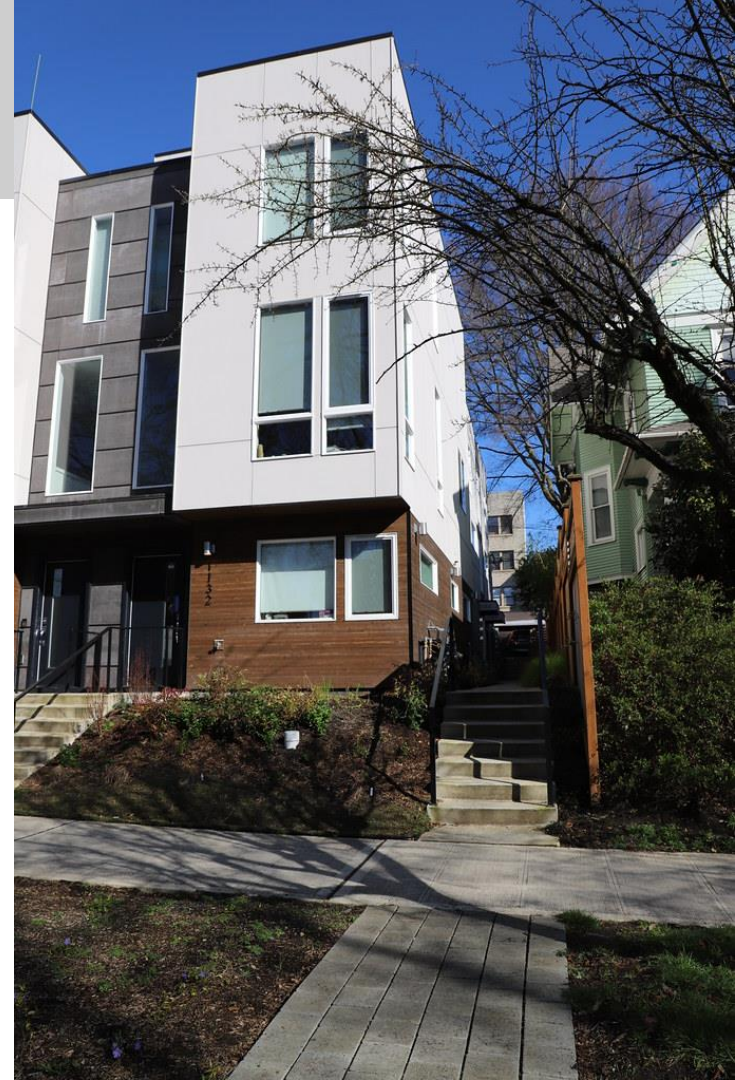
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# Overview

- **Context**
- **Problem**
- **Analysis**
- **Findings**
- **Next Steps**





# Context

## Advancing equity

- Analysts use data to **reveal disparities** between people with different characteristics/identities
- Cross-tabulating **life outcomes** (e.g., educational attainment, income, displacement) with **socio-demographic/economic/housing data** (e.g., race/ethnicity, income, housing tenure) can show if some groups are doing better than others



# Problem



## Person- & household-level data

- Some life outcomes are best represented at the **person-level** (e.g., edu. attain.)
- While others at the **household-level** (e.g., residential displacement)
- A few may be represented at **either** (e.g., person wages & household income)
  
- Cross-tabulation with socio-demographic data may require person-level characteristics/identities be aggregated to the household-level (& vice versa)
  - **Person-level** → **household-level**: may have options
  - **Household-level** → **person-level**: can be direct
  
- Examples of **person-level** socio-demographics: age, disability status, gender identity, linguistic abilities, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.

# Problem – Census data



## “Householder”

- Census data products, including tables derived from the American Community Survey (ACS), use the “householder” to bridge the person & household levels:

*[T]he person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the house is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The person designated as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.*

- In ACS tables, household-level data (e.g., median income) is cross-tabulated with householders’ person-level characteristics/identities



## Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

- An alternative to ACS pretabulated data products: PUMS
  - Sub sample of ACS records
  - Allows users to create custom estimates
- PSRC examined estimates of households (counts) & median income by race/ethnicity using:
  - 1-year ACS (pretabulated) data → rely on “householder”
  - 1-year PUMS data → consider all members, incl. “multiracial/ethnic”

# Findings



## Household Race/Ethnicity for the Four-County Region

King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties

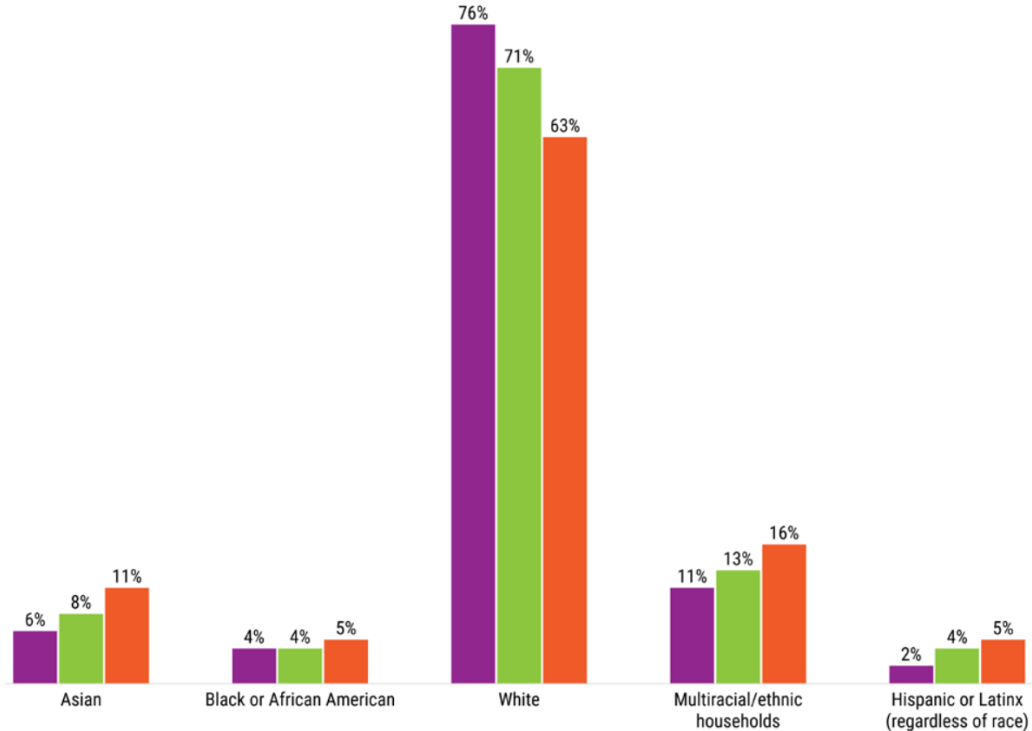
2019	1-Year-ACS		1-Year-PUMS	
	Households	% of Total	Households	% of Total
Total Households	1,649,000	100%	1,649,000	100%
Racial groups (regardless of ethnicity)				
American Indian Alaska Native	14,000	0.8%	7,000	0.4%
Asian	212,000	13%	179,000	11%
Black or African American	91,000	6%	75,000	5%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	9,000	0.6%	5,000	0.3%
White	1,203,000	73%	1,047,000	63%
Other race	45,000	3%	35,000	2%
Two or more races	75,000	5%	35,000	2%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,649,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,382,000</b>	<b>84%</b>
Multiracial/ethnic households*	–	–	267,000	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,649,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,649,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
Hispanic or Latinx (regardless of race)**	118,000	7%	77,000	5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 1-Year Estimates, 2019 PUMS 1-Year

# Findings



## Region's Largest Racial/Ethnic Household Groups, 2000, 2010 and 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2019 PUMS 1-Year, 2000 Decennial Census



# Findings



## Household Median Income for King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties

Data not available for Kitsap County

2019	1-Year-ACS (based on race/ethnicity of householder only)		1-Year-PUMS (based on racial/ethnicity of all household members)		Difference in Income Gap Compared to ACS
	Median Income	Income Gap (% difference compared to all households)	Median Income	Income Gap (% difference compared to all households)	
<b>Total Households</b>	\$94,000	100%	\$93,000	100%	–
Asian	\$117,000	124%	\$114,000	123%	-2%
Black or African American	\$56,000	60%	\$52,000	56%	-4%
White	\$96,000	102%	\$92,000	99%	-3%
Multiracial/ethnic households*	–	–	\$111,000	119%	–
Hispanic or Latinx (regardless of race)**	\$75,000	80%	\$62,000	67%	-13%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 1-Year Estimates, 2019 PUMS 1-Year

Note: At the regional level, the Census Bureau only includes King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties for the “Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue” metro area. To make a direct comparison, Kitsap County is not included.

# Discussions



- Using PUMS data can provide different perspectives from ACS tables
- Flexibility of PUMS data for creating custom tables have drawbacks:
  - While publicly available, it is less user friendly
  - Only available at Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) & higher
  - For more regional applications, county is the lowest geography of use
- Use of PUMS data may introduce comparability considerations:
  - At county & regional levels when ACS pretabulated data is also used
  - Between ACS pretabulated data at lower geographies & PUMS data at higher geographies

# Next Steps



- PSRC staff has been developing an R package to more easily use Census data, including PUMS: <https://psrc.github.io/psrccensus/>
- Beyond race/ethnicity, we have started to explore similar problems
- Another socio-demographic group where there are differences of note between using ACS pretabulated & PUMS data is people with disabilities
- Broad discussions about race/ethnicity is represented is different data
  - Started documentation
  - Goals: provide guidance & help enhance consistencies & comparability

Puget Sound Trends, March 2022:

<https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/trend-households-multiracial-202203.pdf>

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**Thank you.**

