General Trends

- In 2011, Bellevue’s population was estimated to be 123,400, compared to 109,569 in 2000; an increase of nearly 13%.
- The 2010 Census data shows that less than one-fifth (17.5%) of Bellevue residents are school-age, compared to 19.8% for the state and 20.4% for the nation.
- Since 1980, the proportion of Non-White residents in Bellevue has more than quadrupled to 40.8% in 2010. Bellevue’s Asians and Hispanics are the fastest growing racial and ethnic groups in the city.
- Families with incomes below the poverty level rose from 3.8% in 2000 to 5.0% in 2006-2008. Households headed by females with children age 5-17, individuals age 65-74, and individuals ages 18-24 are more likely to earn incomes below the federal poverty level.
- The November 2011 unemployment rate for King County was the same as Washington State, 8.3%.
- King County is one of the most highly educated communities in the US: 44% of its residents hold a bachelor’s degree and more than 90% have graduated from high school. For Bellevue, 61% of residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher and 98% graduated from high school.

Accessing Services

- In 2009, 8.4% of adults in Bellevue lacked health insurance but this could be higher as unemployment continues to be an issue.
- One in 20 King County residents is enrolled in the Basic Food Assistance program. According to Bellevue School District, the total percentage of students qualifying for lunch assistance during the 2004-05 school year reached 19.2% and increased to 22.8% by October 2011.
- Some speculate that the additional stress during the economic downturn is a major factor in the increase of family violence. Youth Eastside Services counselors who work with students in East King County school districts, staff from Healthy Start, and several Cultural Navigators all concurred that there are more survivors who are returning to abusive situations or staying in them because the poor economy makes it less financially possible for them to leave.

Older Adults

- People are living longer and are more likely to need some type of long term care support during their lifetimes. Fewer people live in nursing homes, the most expensive option. There is increasing demand for in-home services and assisted living residences.
- There are an estimated 570,000 family caregivers in Washington State who provide over 600 million hours of care annually. Yet, many of these caregivers experience health issues themselves and lose income due to their support of their family members.
- Certain groups of older adults are at risk for depression, and suicide, such as those who live alone. Nationally, older adults account for 13% of the population but 18% of all suicide deaths.
- In King County, an older adult living alone and renting would have a shortage in her budget of over $8,000 annually to pay for her basic needs if she was only relying on her Social Security benefits. This is becoming a more common scenario as fewer than half of today’s workers have pension coverage on their jobs that pay a defined benefit.
People with Disabilities

- Approximately 7% of Bellevue’s population, about 4,300 people, report having at least one disability, including employment related, mental, physical and sensory. Older adults are the age group most likely to have a disability.

- The high unemployment rate in the State has made it even more challenging for people with disabilities to find jobs. Due to the economic downturn, fewer employers have been hiring people with disabilities. In 2010, AtWork!—a non-profit agency that provides employment services for people with disabilities—placed 40% fewer clients in jobs compared to the previous two years.

Refugees and Immigrants

- In 2010 in King County, 1,894 refugees were screened through Public Health/Seattle & King County, compared to 1,526 refugees in 2009; nearly a 25% increase.

- In 2012, King County is expected to see new refugees arriving primarily from Bhutan, Burma, Iran, Iraq, and Somalia. Iranians and Iraqis are the largest groups anticipated for resettling in East King County.

- As of October 2011, 82 languages and dialects were spoken by Bellevue School District (BSD) students. The top languages are Spanish, Chinese-Mandarin, Korean, Chinese-Cantonese, Russian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Telugu, Hindi, French, Tamil, Arabic, and Farsi (Persian).

School-Aged Children and Youth

- Nearly 9% of BSD students are enrolled in English Language Learner (ELL) classes, primarily in grades K-5.

- The BSD student body is becoming more diverse. In 2011, 48.8% of students were White, down from 71.4% in 1996. In the past fourteen years, the percentage of Hispanic students has almost doubled, from 5.3% in 1996-97 to 10.3% in 2011. Asian Pacific Islander students comprised 30.4% of the district’s student population; African American students were 3.1%.

  - By comparison, the Issaquah School District reported 68.3% White, 22.2% Asian, 5.5% Hispanic, and 2.6% Black/African American.

Veterans

- The 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates 131,000 veterans in King County (7% of the population). About 30,000 of these veterans live in East King County; just over 7,000 residing in Bellevue.

- Consistent with national trends, the number of older veterans is increasing in the state and county. Veterans age 65-74 make up 50% of vets living in King County, and those 75 and older make up 30%.

- The 2009 unemployment rate for post 9/11 vets was 11.3%, higher than the overall national unemployment rate. For the 18-24 year-olds recently separated from the military, the unemployment rate approached 21%.

- Homelessness and lack of affordable housing are major issues for many vets and their families, both nationally and locally. County data suggests that veteran families account for approximately 3% of all homeless families, and that about 1,000-1,150 homeless veterans, both men and women, reside here.

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) have emerged as two signature injuries of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In King County, it is estimated that between 1,000-2,300 individuals are affected.

- Reports of sexual assault—ranging from unwanted sexual contact to rape—called Military Sexual Trauma (MST) continue to surface as the number of women serving in the military grows. Data from the VA indicates that one in five women responded on a survey that they had experienced MST.