TITLE VI ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GOALS REPORT - WSDOT

This outline is for LPA and other governmental entities to report Title VI activities that occurred over the past year and report Title VI goals for the upcoming year. Reports must be returned on or before due date to meet eligibility requirements for federal funding. Send to TitleVI@WSDOT.wa.gov

DUE DATES: Refer to Section 28.3 for scheduled reporting period and due date

Contact Information

Name and title of administrator (signature on Standard Assurances): Hugh Conroy, Director

Mailing Address: 314 E. Champion St.

City: Bellingham WA Zip Code: 98225 County: Whatcom

Phone #:360-685-8384 email address: hugh@wcog.org

Name and title of head of transportation-related services: Hugh Conroy, Director

Mailing Address: Same

City: WA Zip Code: County:

Phone #: email address:

Name and title of designated Title VI coordinator*: Melissa Fanucci, Principal Planner

Mailing Address: Same

City: WA Zip Code: County:

Phone #: 360-685-8385 email address: melissa@wcog.org

*When the Title VI coordinator changes, notify TitleVI@WSDOT.wa.gov within 30 days.

To comply with Title VI requirements, each annual report submission must include signed Standard Assurances (USDOT1050.2A).

Accomplishments

1. Have there been any changes to the approved Title VI Plan that have not been reported to OECR? No. A Title VI Plan is being developed per FTA requirements and will be part of the next FY accomplishments.

2. Organization, Staffing, Structure: Describe the Title VI Program reporting structure including the Title VI Coordinator, Administrative Head, and transportation-related staff. The list should include name, race, color, and national origin of each individual. Include the same details if your LPA has a volunteer or appointed board related to transportation decision making.

Title VI Reporting Structure:

- Title VI Coordinator: Melissa Fanucci, Principal Planner (White, US)
- Planning and Programming Liaison: Hugh Conroy, Director (White, US)

- Consultant Contracts Liaison: Ron Cubellis, Deputy Director (White, US)

WCOG Council Board Members:

- Scott Korthuis, Chair (White)
- Michael Lilliquist, Vice-Chair (White)
- Greg Hansen, Secretary/Treasurer (White)
- Bruce Bosch (White)
- Bobby Briscoe (N/A)
- Jayce Cotton (N/A)
- Don Enos (N/A)
- Anthony Hillaire (Native American)
- Jeff Knakal (N/A)
- Kim Lund (N/A)
- Marshall Judy (N/A)
- John Perry (N/A)
- Jessica Rienstra (N/A)
- Jon Scanlon (N/A)
- Satpal Sidhu (Indian)

3. Community Demographics: Using a map of the LPA's boundaries, describe the demographics of the LPA's service area (e.g., race, ethnicity, and national origin). List, by individual languages, the percentage of the population who is Limited English proficient. If the LPA's Limited English proficient population is 5% of the total population or 1,000 individuals, whichever is less, explain the Four-Factor Analysis by answering the statements listed on the next page.

    1. Briefly describe the number of LEP persons served and languages spoken in the service area.

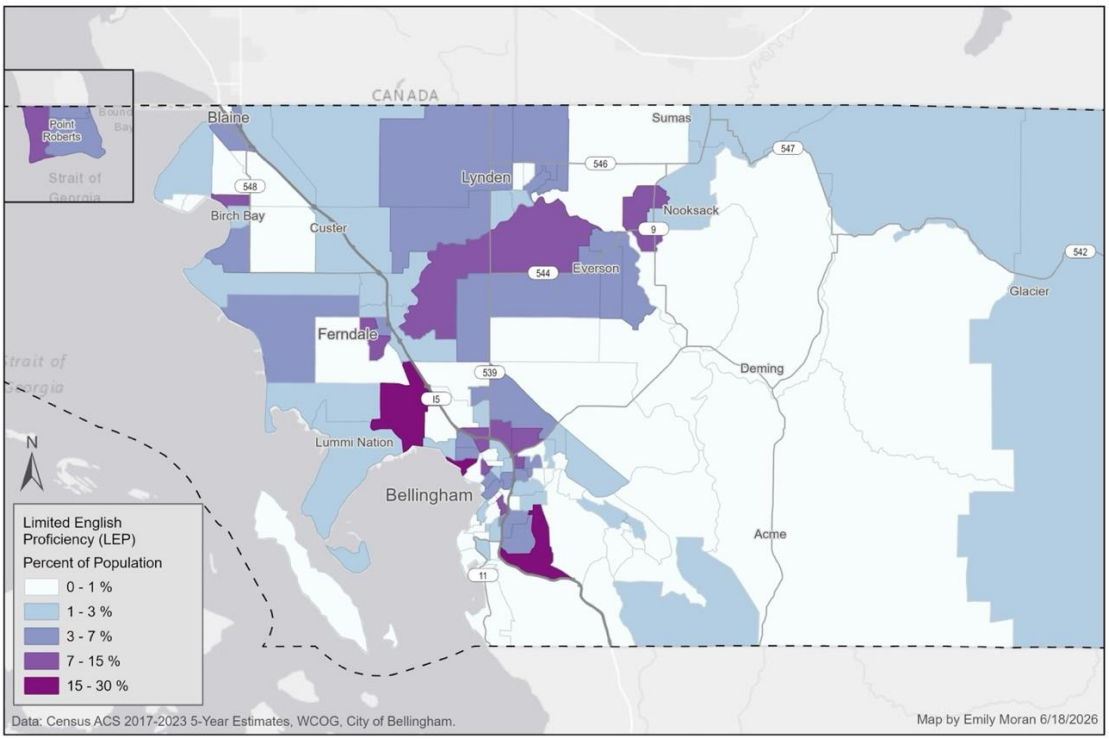
In Whatcom County, 12.5% of the population speak a language other than or in addition to English at home. 8,712 people are LEP — 4% of Whatcom's total population.

As shown below**,** Spanish is the most common language spoken by LEP individuals, making up 2.1% of the Whatcom region's population.

Language	Speakers at Home	# LEP	LEP Percentage
Spanish	13,495	4,581	2.1%
Other	13,975	4,131	2.0%
WHATCOM Population Total	**219,978**		

Total LEP	8,712		4.0%
Total Foreign Language Speakers	27,470		12.5%

Percent of LEP population by Census block group in Whatcom County.



2. Briefly describe the frequency of contact with LEP persons for services or projects (e.g., customer service interactions, public meetings, and contracts bidding and awarding).

WCOG infrequently interacts with people who don't speak English well enough to communicate effectively. Because of the nature of WCOG's work as a planning organization, WCOG is most likely to encounter LEP individuals at public meetings and customer service interactions.

Almost 100% of WCOG staff interaction has been with individuals who spoke English well. WCOG has not received any request for translation or interpretation services during this last year.

3. Briefly describe the importance of the program, activity, or service to the lives of LEP persons.

As the metropolitan and regional transportation planning agency, WCOG's interactions with the public are different than those of jurisdictions that own, operate, and maintain transportation networks in the Whatcom region. People in the region may be affected by regional transportation projects that the WCOG worked to advance through its planning and programming responsibilities.

Individuals may be impacted by the following WCOG's plans:

- The Regional/Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Human Services Transportation Plan
- Safety Action Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Title VI Plan

- Language Access Plan

4. Briefly describe current resources available for LEP persons and overall cost.

WCOG is a relatively small MPO and RTPO and as such has limited resources to provide language assistance. Employees at WCOG speak English and a small amount of basic Spanish.

WCOG is committed to providing any translation service within reason. To determine what is feasible, WCOG will monitor translation costs and services on an annual basis.

4. Complaints: Provide a copy of the LPA's Title VI complaint log, including new Title VI complaints received during this reporting period and any still pending. Include the basis of the complaint (race, color, national origin) and describe the disposition (status/outcome). No Title VI complaints were received during the reporting period.

5. Planning: Describe the transportation planning activities performed this reporting period. Describe the actions taken to promote Title VI compliance regarding transportation planning, including monitoring and review processes, community involvement, their outcome or status. Include examples of community outreach.

The following planning activities and projects were completed during this reporting period:

Planning activities and projects

- Continuing development of the 2027 Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plan.
- Website maintenance and upgrades to meet WCAG 2.1 requirements.
- Collaboration with WSDOT to make best use of data reporting products developed for statewide and regional monitoring of safety and system performance measures and targets.
- Coordination with other MPO's, RTPO's and WSDOT representatives.
- Monthly Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) meetings.
- Participation on Highway System Plan Advisory Committee and continued coordination on VMT reporting.
- Quarterly meetings of the Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG), WCOG's structured forum for ongoing citizen participation in the metropolitan planning process. CTAG is collaboratively organized with the Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) and other member jurisdictions as pertinent regional issues emerge.
- Quarterly meetings of the North Sound Transportation Alliance, a forum of elected officials and staff of transportation, transit, and planning agencies from WA's 5 northwestern-most counties to share best practices and learn about regional projects.
- Presentations on regional transportation planning topics given by WCOG to the Whatcom County Council's Business and Commerce Advisory Committee.
- Development of regional system performance report started, continuing into SFY2027.
- Cross-border working group meetings held. The IMTC is a binational coalition of public and private agencies that plan efforts for the four Cascade Gateway land ports-of-entry.
- Cross-border data collection and reporting including time series data, maintenance of the Border Data Warehouse, completion of the Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey, and early analysis for FIFA.

- Ongoing border stakeholder outreach to federal inspection agencies, state/provincial transportation agencies, local agencies, other government departments, and private sector stakeholders.
- Ongoing community outreach with the Whatcom Smart Trips transportation demand management program.
- Smart Trips online trip diary and website updated for WCAG 2.1 compliance.
- Incentives, employer programs, and compliance with the state's commute trip reduction law completed.
- Mobility management and travel training programs for seniors and 7th graders continued.
- GIS mapping support.
- Collaboration with local governments and their consultants for comprehensive plan updates.
- Research into grant eligibilities.
- Preferred/final forecast model scenario completed.
- Completion of the region-wide Household Travel Survey.
- Evaluation and acquisition of new data.
- Federal functional classification system updates.
- Human Services Transportation Plan updated.
- Level of Service coordination and standard setting.
- Collaboration with WSDOT to capture both northbound and southbound activity at the I-5 county border.
- Annually completed and approved the Metropolitan and Regional TIP.
- Compilation of ongoing project status for member jurisdictions for obligation status.
- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program annual list of project obligations report.

Community Outreach efforts

- Regional Household Travel Survey completed – 64,270 invitations sent with not Bellingham city, low-income, and ethnic/tribal oversampling. 1,200 respondents participated. For all segments other than the Not Bellingham City segment, response was better than anticipated.
- Quarterly CTAG meetings – CTAG is comprised of public citizens interested in transportation issues within Whatcom County.
- 2026 Human Services Transportation Plan outreach – this effort included public meetings, tabling at events, paper surveys, online surveys, special surveys for E. Whatcom residents, an online open house, and interviews with community-based organizations and key informants.
- Whatcom Smart Trips ongoing outreach – Smart Trips tables at events, makes presentations, and develops outreach materials as part of its key objective of helping people consider ways to get around the community and to and from work or school without a personal vehicle. Smart Trips works with almost every 7th grade class in Whatcom County, and develops outreach materials in multiple languages. They also provide multiple summer camps for youth to learn how to bike and ride the bus safely. They also reach out, present, and lead bus trips for seniors in the community.
- Survey for the Regional/Metropolitan Transportation Plan online.

Title VI compliance

All surveys included optional questions for demographic data including race, ethnicity, income, and disability status.

Board members are required to complete an information form that asks optional demographic questions.

6. Right-of-way actions: Describe activities during this reporting period associated with the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property (related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use). Include demographic information of affected populations. For example, the race, color, national origin of affected property/business owner(s)/tenant(s). WCOG is not involved in the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use.

7. Identify right-of-way appraisers and acquisition staff (used during this reporting period) by race, color, national origin. WCOG is not involved in the purchase, sale, lease/use, or transfer of real property related to highway transportation/public right-of-way use.

8. Studies and Plans: Were any transportation studies (including environmental reviews) conducted or transportation plans completed during this reporting period? Identify the data source(s) and provide data summary (Title VI/Environmental Justice Analysis) relative to ethnicity, race, languages spoken, neighborhoods, income levels, physical environments, and/or travel habits. Explain how data was used in these studies/reviews/plans.

Data pertaining to outreach responses as part of the Human Services Transportation Plan update included demographic questions. Below is a summary of the Title VI-related results.

HSTP transportation needs questionnaire survey respondent demographics

Age	**#**	**%**
25-34	2	8%
35-44	2	8%
55-64	2	8%
65-74	5	21%
75-84	8	33%
85+	5	21%
Total	*24*	

Race	**#**	**%**
White	22	88%
Hispanic/Latino	2	8%
Black/African American	1	4%
Total	*25*	

City	**#**	**%**
Lynden	10	50%
Bellingham	7	35%
Ferndale	2	10%
Maple Falls	1	5%
Total	*20*	

East Whatcom transportation survey respondent demographics

Age	#	%
13-17	2	6%
18-24	3	8%
25-34	4	11%
35-44	5	14%
45-54	5	14%
55-64	5	14%
65-74	7	19%
75-84	5	14%
Total	*36*	

Race Ethnicity	#	%
White	22	63%
American Indian/Alaska Native	6	11%
Hispanic/Latino	3	9%
African American/Black	2	6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	6%
Other	1	3%
Total	*35*	3%

Community	#	%
Kendall	12	40%
Maple Falls	9	30%
Deming	3	10%
Ferndale	2	7%
Everson	2	7%
Sumas	1	3%
Acme	1	3%
Total	*30*	

Whatcom Regional Transportation Study respondent demographics

Age	%
<5	8%
5-16	17%
16-17	5%
18-24	17%
25-34	21%
35-44	25%
45-54	18%
55-64	22%
65-74	24%
75-84	11%
85+	2%

Race/Ethnicity	%
White	74%
Hispanic/Latino	6%
Asian	5%
Two or more/Other	2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
African American/Black	1%
No answer	11%

This data helped define the plan's priority populations and communities that may have special transportation needs.

9. Project Location and Design: Provide a list of construction projects that began during this reporting period. Using a map of the LPAs service area, identify project locations, and a brief description of the projects' benefits/burdens to affected populations. If possible, provide a map that overlays projects with the racial composition of affected neighborhoods.

WCOG is not involved in project construction.

10. Other Public Meetings: List other public meetings held during this reporting period. Identify efforts used to encourage citizen participation at those meetings. Detail dates, times, locations, attendance, and provide examples of outreach materials.

Public meetings held during the reporting period

Date & Time	Type	Location	Advertised?	Members of the Public
10/8/25 3pm	Council Board	WCOG	Online	1
10/8/25 3:30pm	Policy Board	WCOG	Online & Newspaper	0
12/10/25 3:30pm	Council Board	WCOG	Online	0
1/21/26 3pm	Council Board	WCOG	Online	1
1/21/26 3:30pm	Policy Board	WCOG	Online & Newspaper	2
1/29/26 1pm	Boundary Review Board	WCOG	Online	0
3/5/26 1pm	Boundary Review Board	WCOG	Online	0
3/11/26 3:30pm	Policy Board	WCOG	Online & Newspaper	1
4/1/26 1pm	Boundary Review Board	WCOG	Online	0
05/13/26 3pm	Council Board	WCOG	Online	1
5/13/26 3:30pm	Policy Board	WCOG	Online & Newspaper	1
7/8/26 3:30pm	Policy Board	WCOG	Online & Newspaper	1
7/16/26 1pm	Boundary Review Board	WCOG	Online	10

1. Identify members of the LPA's transportation planning and/or advisory groups by race, color, and national origin

While WCOG has a goal to maintain an inclusive and diverse board, WCOG has no control over the selection of board membership. Partner jurisdictions and organizations appoint board members.

WCOG's Boards and Committees:

- WCOG Council Board – Members appointed by jurisdictions
- WCOG Transportation Policy Board – Members determined by jurisdictions/agencies
- Transportation Technical Advisory Group – Members determined by jurisdictions/agencies.
- International Mobility & Trade Corridor Program (IMTC) Steering Committee – Participants determined by agencies
- North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) – Participants determined by agencies

- Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG) – Membership is open to anyone age 16 or older who lives, works, or owns a business in Whatcom County. A CTAG application is required to participate fully. CTAG has an open application process, thus the race/ethnicity of members may vary from meeting to meeting.

Race/Ethnicity of CTAG members

Race/Ethnicity	Count
Asian	4
Black or African American	1
European and African	1
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	1
Prefer not to answer/Unanswered	8
White	44
Grand Total	59

2. Specify methods used to collect demographic information from the transportation-related public meetings. (Self-identification surveys, notes by staff, etc.) Include summaries of Public Involvement Forms collected at each meeting, listing the demographics of those who attended by meeting.

Demographic questions are asked as optional questions in each survey. Almost all members of the public who attended a public meeting did so virtually and did not fill out a Public Involvement Form.

3. List any language assistance services requested. For which languages? Who provided the service? In addition, list vital documents translated during the reporting period and identify the languages.

No language assistance services were requested. Surveys were made available in Spanish.

11. Transportation-related Construction and Consultant Contracts (if applicable): Briefly describe the process used to advertise and award construction contracts during this reporting period. Include the process for negotiating contracts (e.g., consultants).

WCOG uses the process described in WSDOT's Local Agency Guidelines, Chapter 31 ("Using Consultants") when issuing RFPs and soliciting consultants.

12. Describe the actions taken to promote construction contractor/consultant compliance with Title VI by construction contractors/consultants, including monitoring and review processes, and their outcomes/status (e.g. what Title VI language was included in contracts and agreements; were contractors and consultants reviewed to ensure compliance; what Title VI responsibilities are explained to contractors and consultants?)

While some of the language we identified as needed for adding to our contracts last year was included, there is another portion we will be adding this fiscal year.

Language in contracts and agreements

TITLE VI ASSURANCES

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agrees as follows:

1. Compliance with Regulations: The Contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

2. Non-discrimination: The Contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The Contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.

3. Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment: In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the Contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the Contractor of the Contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.

4. Information and Reports: The Contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by WCOG or the Washington State Department of Transportation to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a Contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the Contractor will so certify to WCOG or the Washington State Department of Transportation, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

5. Sanctions for Noncompliance: In the event of a Contractor's noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract, WCOG will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Washington State Department of Transportation may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

   a. withholding payments to the Contractor under the contract until the Contractor complies; and/or

   b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.

6. Incorporation of Provisions: The Contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt

by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The Contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as WCOG or the Washington State Department of Transportation may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the Contractor may request WCOG to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of WCOG. In addition, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agrees to comply with the following non- discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

Compliance assurance review

For federally funded agreements, consultants complete a Contractor Compliance Checklist certifying they carried out the Title VI Assurances listed in the agreement.

13. List construction, right-of-way, and consultant contracts with your LPA/MPO/entity for this report period with dollar value of each. Identify funding sources (federal, state, local, other), and how many were awarded to certified disadvantaged contractors (as a prime contractor/consultant).

Consultant	Funding	DBE	SFY2026 Amount
Arcadis (IBI Group)	Federal	No	$12,480
Arcadis (IBI Group)	Federal	No	12,312
Lockersoft LLC (Jones)	Local	No	40,000
McBride Public Affairs	Local	No	53,532
McBride Public Affairs	Local	No	52,020
RSG Inc	Federal	No	384,248
Total			$554,592

14. Education & Training: Describe actions taken to promote Title VI compliance through education and trainings, including monitoring and review processes, and their outcomes/status.

1. List Title VI training/webinars your Title VI Coordinator attended this reporting period. Include dates and entity that conducted the training.

April 16, 2026: Title VI Training for Local Public Agencies

2. When was Title VI internal training provided to staff? Who conducted the training? What was the subject of the training? Provide the job titles and race/color/national origin of attendees.

Sept. 29, 2026: Title VI & Language Assistance Training for WCOG Staff – Provided by Title VI Coordinator as part of the annual compliance meeting. Presentations included Title VI history, policy, procedures, outreach, contracts; language assistance policies and procedures; document accessibility training. Participants:

- Director (White)
- Deputy Director (White)
- Principal Planner/Title VI Coordinator (White)
- Principal Planner (NA)
- Senior Planner (NA)
- Planner I (NA)
- Program Manager (NA)
- Employer Coordinator (NA)

- Education Coordinator (NA)

3. List other civil rights training conducted locally. Provide dates and a list of participants by job title and Title VI role, if applicable.

15. Title VI Goals for Upcoming Year
What area(s) of Title VI does your agency plan to focus on in the upcoming year? Describe by particular program area what your agency hopes to accomplish. Include any significant problem areas to focus on and plans to address those.

- Do more follow-up on Board membership forms at the beginning of the year to gather info – we have a lot that have not been completed.
- Collect demographic data on staff.
- Keep a stack of involvement forms printed and ready at the table of our conference room where meetings are held to encourage more use of the forms.

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The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Standard Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances

DOT Order No. 1050.2A

The Whatcom Council of Governments (herein referred to as the "Recipient"), **HEREBY AGREES THAT**, as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), is subject to and will comply with the following:

Statutory/Regulatory Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin);
- 49 C.F.R. Part 21 (entitled Non-discrimination In Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department Of Transportation-Effectuation Of Title VI Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964);
- 28 C.F.R. section 50.3 (U.S. Department of Justice Guidelines for Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964);

The preceding statutory and regulatory cites hereinafter are referred to as the "Acts" and "Regulations," respectively.

General Assurances

In accordance with the Acts, the Regulations, and other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and/or guidance, the Recipient hereby gives assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to ensure that:

> *"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, "for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from DOT, including the Washington State Department of Transportation.*

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the original intent of Congress, with respect to Title VI and other Non-discrimination requirements (The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), by restoring the broad, institutional-wide scope and coverage of these non-discrimination statutes and requirements to include all programs and activities of the Recipient, so long as any portion of the program is Federally assisted.

Specific Assurances

More specifically, and without limiting the above general Assurance, the Recipient agrees with and gives the following Assurances with respect to its Federally assisted program:

1. The Recipient agrees that each "activity," "facility," or "program," as defined in §§ 21.23(b) and 21.23(e) of 49 C.F.R. § 21 will be (with regard to an "activity") facilitated, or will be (with regard

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to a "facility") operated, or will be (with regard to a "program") conducted in compliance with all requirements imposed by, or pursuant to the Acts and the Regulations.

2. The Recipient will insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids, Requests For Proposals for work, or material subject to the Acts and the Regulations made in connection with all Federal-Aid Highway Programs and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements regardless of funding source:

> "The Whatcom Council of Governments, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award."

3. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix A and E of this Assurance in every contract or agreement subject to the Acts and the Regulations.

4. The Recipient will insert the clauses of Appendix B of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting or recording a transfer of real property, structures, use, or improvements thereon or interest therein to a Recipient.

5. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance to construct a facility, or part of a facility, the Assurance will extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.

6. That where the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the Assurance will extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.

7. That the Recipient will include the clauses set forth in Appendix C and Appendix D of this Assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, licenses, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Recipient with other parties:

    a. for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program; and
    b. for the construction or use of, or access to, space on, over, or under real property acquired or improved under the applicable activity, project, or program.

8. That this Assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property, or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the Assurance obligates the Recipient, or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:

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a. the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; or
b. the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.

9. The Recipient will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom he/she delegates specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants of Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Acts, the Regulations, and this Assurance.

By signing this ASSURANCE, Whatcom Council of Governments also agrees to comply (and require any sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and/or assignees to comply) with all applicable provisions governing the WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. You also recognize that you must comply with any program or compliance reviews, and/or complaint investigations conducted by the WSDOT. You must keep records, reports, and submit the material for review upon request to WSDOT, or its designee in a timely, complete, and accurate way. Additionally, you must comply with all other reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law or detailed in program guidance.

Whatcom Council of Governments gives this ASSURANCE in consideration of and for obtaining any Federal grants, loans, contracts, agreements, property, and/or discounts, or other Federal-aid and Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipients by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Federal Highway Administration. This ASSURANCE is binding on Washington State Department of Transportation, other recipients, sub-recipients, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors and their subcontractors', transferees, successors in interest, and any other participants in the Federal-Aid Highway Program. The person(s) signing below is authorized to sign this ASSURANCE on behalf of the Recipient.

Whatcom Council of Governments
(***Name of Recipient***)

Signed by:
by Hugh Conroy
C0BEC771DAE745D...
(***Signature of Authorized Official***)

DATED 10/16/2026

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APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations**: The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

2. **Non-discrimination**: The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.

3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment**: In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.

4. **Information and Reports**: The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance**: In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Washington State Department of Transportation may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

    a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
    b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.

6. **Incorporation of Provisions**: The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment,

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unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

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APPENDIX B

CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the Whatcom Council of Governments will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with Title 23, United States Code, the Regulations for the Administration of Washington State Department of Transportation, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the Whatcom Council of Governments all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto Whatcom Council of Governments and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the Whatcom Council of Governments, its successors and assigns.

The Whatcom Council of Governments, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the Whatcom Council of Governments will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended [, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned non-discrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

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APPENDIX C

CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the Whatcom Council of Governments pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:

    1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.

B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, Whatcom Council of Governments will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.*

C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the Whatcom Council of Governments will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the Whatcom Council of Governments and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

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APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by Whatcom Council of Governments pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.

B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, Whatcom Council of Governments will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*

C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, Whatcom Council of Governments will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of Whatcom Council of Governments and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

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APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

2026 Demographic Profile

For the Whatcom Region

Version date: October 25, 2026

whatcom council of governments

Prepared by:
Whatcom Council of Governments
314 E. Champion St, Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 676-6974
www.wcog.org

Title VI Notice to Public

Whatcom Council of Governments fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit www.wcog.org/titlevi, call (360) 676-6974, or email us at titlevi@wcog.org.

This material can be made available in an alternate format by using the email address and phone number above. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Esta información está disponible en español si envía un correo electrónico a espanol@wcog.org o llama al 360-676-6974. Las personas sordas o con dificultades auditivas pueden solicitarlo llamando a Washington State Relay al 877-833-6399 TTY/877-833-6398 Voz

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Introduction

The Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) developed this demographic profile to accomplish three goals:

1. Inform regional transportation planning.
2. Ensure that transportation plans, programs, policies, and activities incorporate environmental justice.
3. Ensure that minority communities and priority populations (based on age, income, disability, or limited English proficiency) have a voice in the planning process.

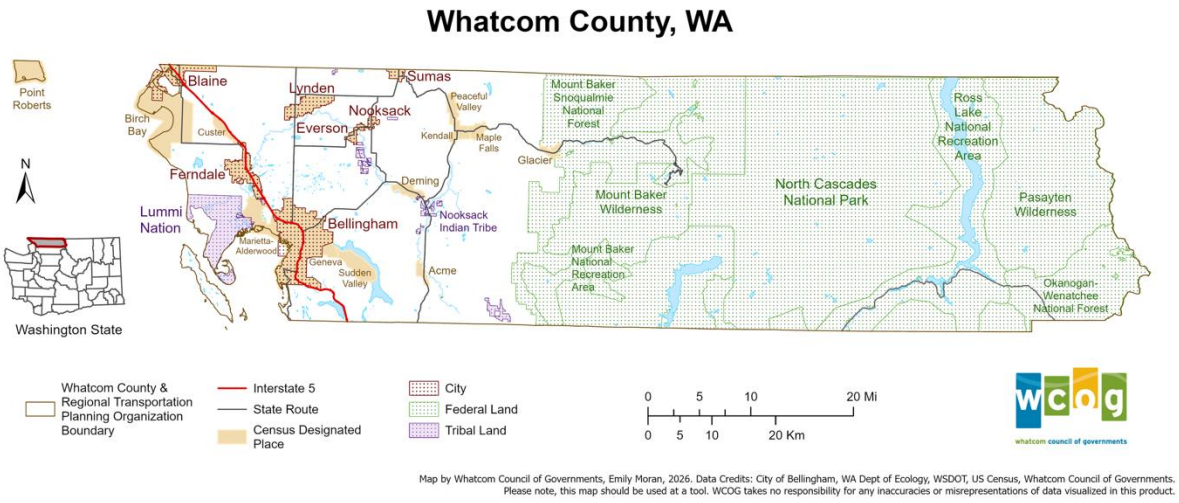
Unless otherwise noted, all data come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. The most recent data are from the 2024 ACS. WCOG will update this profile as new 5-year estimates are released.

Regional context

Whatcom County is 2,504 square miles, the majority of which is federal land (see Figure 1). There are 7 incorporated cities (Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, and Sumas), 2 tribal governments (Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe), and Whatcom County government. There are also 12 census-designated places in Whatcom County (Acme, Birch Bay, Custer, Deming, Geneva, Glacier, Kendall, Maple Falls, Marietta-Alderwood, Peaceful Valley, Point Roberts, and Sudden Valley).

In this profile, "Whatcom" includes both Whatcom County and all jurisdictions within county boundaries.

Figure 1: Map of Whatcom County



Population by jurisdiction

In 2026 Whatcom's estimated population is 242,250, with 39% of the population living in unincorporated areas of the region (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Whatcom population by jurisdiction

City	Population	% of Total	% Increase Since 2020
Bellingham	99,030	41%	8%
Blaine	6,775	3%	15%
Everson	3,320	1%	15%
Ferndale	17,240	7%	15%
Lynden	17,220	7%	9%
Nooksack	1,895	1%	29%
Sumas	1,835	1%	10%
Incorporated Total	147,315	61%	10%
Unincorporated Total	94,935	39%	2%
Total Whatcom Population	**242,250**		**7%**

Data source: April 1, 2026, Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division, https://ofm.wa.gov/data-research/population-demographics/estimates/april-1-official/

Population by age

A little over a third of Whatcom's population (37%) may have special transportation needs due to age. As shown in Figure 3, 19% of the population are youth aged 17 and under and 19% are seniors aged 65 and older.

Figure 3: Population by age

Age	#	%
Under 5 years	10,525	5%
5 to 9 years	12,509	5%
10 to 14 years	12,115	5%
15 to 17 years	7,594	3%
18 and 19 years	7,498	3%
20 years	4,810	2%
21 years	4,709	2%
22 to 24 years	12,952	6%
25 to 29 years	16,204	7%
30 to 34 years	15,832	7%
35 to 39 years	15,545	7%
40 to 44 years	14,192	6%
45 to 49 years	12,716	6%
50 to 54 years	12,990	6%
55 to 59 years	13,015	6%

Age	#	%
60 and 61 years	5,867	3%
62 to 64 years	7,862	3%
65 and 66 years	5,520	2%
67 to 69 years	8,471	4%
70 to 74 years	12,462	5%
75 to 79 years	8,386	4%
80 to 84 years	4,742	2%
85 years and over	3,987	2%
Total	*230,503*	
17 and under	42,743	19%
65 and older	43,568	19%
Total	*86,311*	*37%*

Comparing population to numbers from the 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (Figure 4) shows that the senior population (65 and over) grew by 14,223 (49%), nearly half as many seniors in eight years. Comparatively, youth aged 17 and under grew by only 671 people (2%)

Figure 4: Changes in age group percentages, 2014 to 2024

	2016		2024	
	#	%	#	%
17 and under	42,072	21%	42,743	19%
65 and older	29,345	14%	43,568	19%
Total	*71,417*	*35%*	*86,311*	*37%*
Total population	*204,855*		*230,503*	

Whatcom residents under the age of 18 are more likely to live outside Bellingham, based on data from the WA State Department of Health Information By Location tool and shown in Figure 5. Unless otherwise noted, all maps come from this dataset.

Figure 5: Population under 18 years of age by census tract

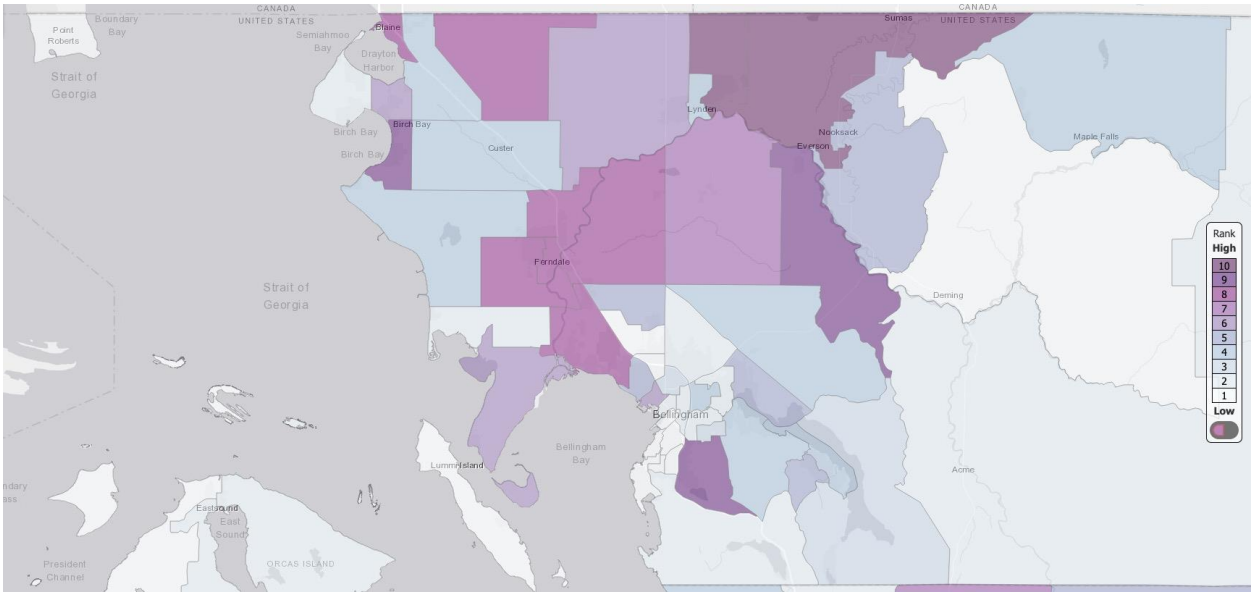
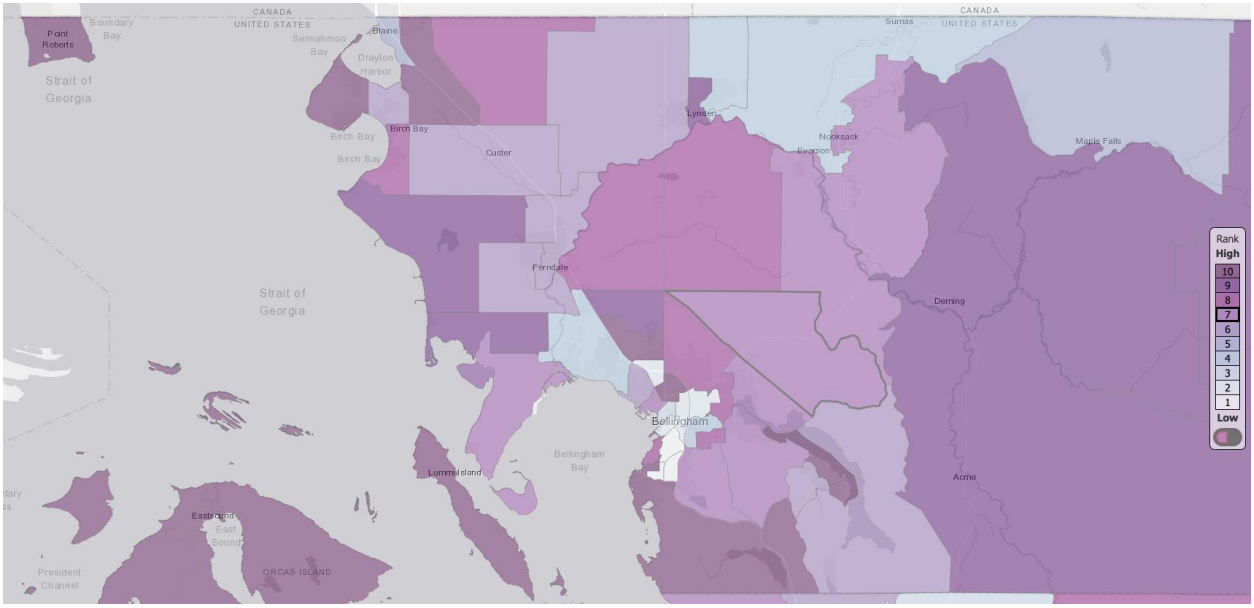


Figure 6 shows that residents aged 65 and over, however are more evenly distributed across areas of Whatcom County.

Figure 6: Population aged 65 and older by census tract



Population by income

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services develops an annual poverty line threshold table (Figure 7). This is used to define "low income" as individuals in households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line (FPL).

Figure 7: 2026 Annual federal poverty line (FPL) thresholds for the 48 contiguous states

Household size	50%	100%	150%	200%
1	$7,980	$15,960	$23,940	$31,920
2	$10,820	$21,640	$32,460	$43,280
3	$13,660	$27,320	$40,980	$54,640
4	$16,500	$33,000	$49,500	$66,000

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. 2026 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States. https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines

Figure 8 shows that over a quarter of Whatcom residents, 26%, are considered low-income.

Figure 8: Ratio of annual income to poverty level

Poverty Line	#	%
Under .50	14,304	6%
.50 to .99	14,734	7%
1.00 to 1.24	6,958	3%
1.25 to 1.49	7,670	3%
1.50 to 1.84	10,330	5%
1.85 to 1.99	4,992	2%
2.00 and over	166,407	74%
Total	*225,395*	

As seen in Figure 9, Whatcom has a higher poverty rate than Washington State as a whole – 3 percentage points higher under 100% FPL and nearly 5 points higher under 200% FPL.

Figure 9: Percentage of population by poverty line threshold and region

Region	Under 100%	100-199%	Under 200%
Whatcom	13%	13%	26%
Washington	10%	12%	22%
United States	12%	16%	28%

Another measure of economic stability is looking at the number of households that are ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These households may earn more than the FPL but still do not bring in enough money to afford basic living expenses like housing, food, childcare, health care, and technology. The ALICE threshold is based on cost of living by county.

Figure 10 illustrates a minimum household survival budget to live and work in Whatcom. This does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2024, household costs in every county in Washington were well above the FPL of $15,060 for a single adult and $33,000 for a family of four.

Figure 10: Household survival budget, Whatcom County, 2024

	Single Adult	One Adult One Child	One Adult One Childcare	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults Two Childcare	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing	$1,379	$1,437	$1,437	$1,437	$1,728	$1,728	$1,379	$1,437
Child Care	$0	$539	$1,437	$0	$1,078	$3,168	$0	$0
Food	$578	$978	$877	$1,060	$1,777	$1,568	$532	$976
Transportation	$375	$467	$467	$550	$820	$820	$313	$426
Health Care	$162	$424	$424	$424	$778	$778	$489	$979
Technology	$95	$95	$95	$129	$129	$129	$95	$129
Miscellaneous	$259	$394	$474	$360	$631	$819	$281	$395
Taxes	$394	$388	$561	$456	$600	$1,007	$442	$688
Monthly Total	*$3,242*	*$4,722*	*$5,772*	*$4,416*	*$7,541*	*$10,017*	*$3,531*	*$5,030*
ANNUAL TOTAL	*$38,904*	*$56,664*	*$69,264*	*$52,992*	*$90,492*	*$120,204*	*$42,372*	*$60,360*
Hourly Wage	*$19.45*	*$28.33*	*$34.63*	*$26.50*	*$45.25*	*$60.10*	*$21.19*	*$30.18*

United for ALICE. https://www.unitedforalice.org/the-cost-of-basics/washington

39% of Whatcom households live at the ALICE threshold or below. Figure 11 shows the number and percentage of households living at the FPL as well as at or below the ALICE threshold broken out by Census County Division.

Figure 11: Number of households at poverty level and ALICE level

Census County Division	Households	Poverty	%	ALICE	%
Bellingham	53,992	8,289	15%	16,390	30%
Blaine	9,314	864	9%	2,525	27%
East Whatcom	3,505	519	15%	1,344	38%
Ferndale	13,650	1,231	9%	3,041	22%
Lummi Island	458	26	6%	120	26%
Lummi Reservation	1,851	173	9%	583	31%
Lynden	7,204	628	9%	1,456	20%
Point Roberts	743	117	16%	193	26%
Sumas	3,304	246	7%	967	29%

United for ALICE. https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-reports/washington#:~:text=%2470%2C296-,%2486%2C940,-%2433%2C996

As illustrated in the Figure 12 chart and the Figure 13 map, a disproportionate number of households in East Whatcom (53%) live at or below the ALICE threshold.

Figure 12: Percentage of households at poverty level and at ALICE level

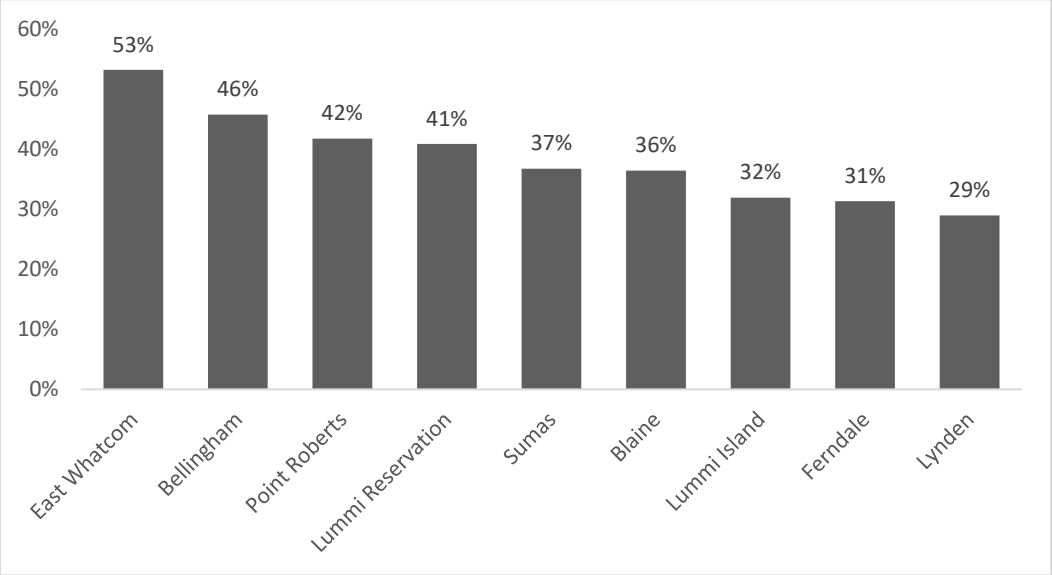
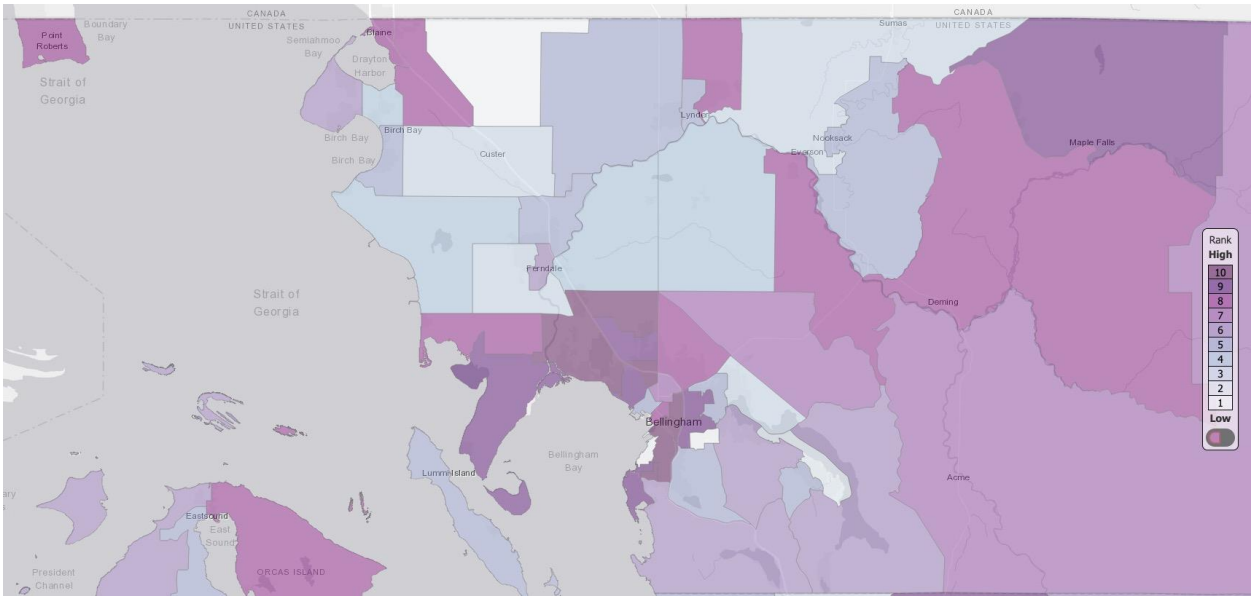


Figure 13: Percentage of population at poverty level by census tract



Population with disabilities

In Whatcom, 14% of the population has a disability (see Figure 14). This rate is notably higher among seniors: 30% of individuals aged 65 and older have a disability.

Figure 14: Whatcom population with a disability, by age

	With a disability	No disability	% with a disability
17 and under	2,446	40,241	6%
18 to 64	17,434	125,958	14%
65 and over	12,801	30,006	30%
Total	*32,681*	*196,205*	*14%*

Many individuals have more than one type of disability. The most common is cognitive difficulty, affecting 48% of those with a disability, as shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15: Prevalence of disability

Difficulty	#	%
Hearing	9,281	28%
Vision	5,032	15%
Cognitive	15,834	48%
Ambulatory	12,557	38%
Self-care	5,074	16%
Independent living	10,761	33%
Total population with a disability	*32,681*	

While seniors are most likely to have a disability, working-age adults with disabilities are more likely to be living in poverty. Figure 16 shows that 24% of those aged 18 to 64 with a disability live below the FPL, compared to just 8% of seniors with disabilities and 4% of children with disabilities . This suggests working-age adults with disabilities face compounding barriers — likely tied to employment access — that aren't offset by safety nets (Social Security, Medicare) available to seniors.

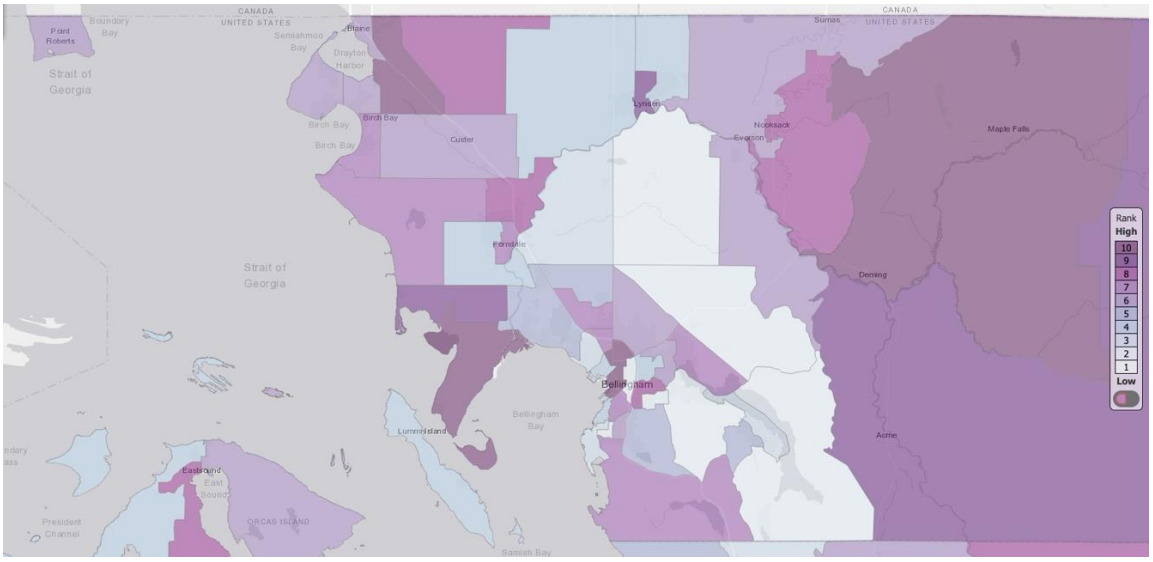
Figure 16: Count and share of individuals with disabilities and low income by age

	Total	With a disability		With a disability & below poverty line	
17 and under	41,294	2,896	7%	114	4%
18 to 64	143,294	16,850	12%	3,994	24%
65 and over	45,241	14,814	33%	1,212	8%
Total	*229,829*	*34,560*	*15%*	*5,320*	*15%*

Note: Data for this table is from the ACS 2024 1-Year Estimates.

While many destinations for people with disabilities are in Bellingham, individuals with disabilities live throughout the county as seen in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Individuals with disabilities by census tract



Population by race

Figure 18 shows Whatcom's population by race.

Figure 18: Race as a percent of total population

Race	#	%
White	174,501	76%
Hispanic/Latino	24,461	11%
Two or more races	14,396	6%
Asian	10,036	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3,609	2%
Black/African American	2,118	1%
Other	879	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	503	0.2%
Total	*230,503*	

The percentage of persons of color (POC) has grown substantially, from 19% a decade prior (2014) to 24% in 2024 (see Figure 19) . POC residents accounted for 65% of all growth in Whatcom's population – the POC population increased 42% vs. 13% growth regionally.

Given that Whatcom's population is aging, the share of youth of color has decreased from 14% of the population to 7% of the population, even though the actual number of youth of color has increased.

Figure 19: Population changes for POC by age

People of color	2024	% Pop.	2014	% Pop.
17 and under	15,592	7%	12,441	14%
18 to 64	35,482	23%	24,733	53%
65 and over	4,928	5%	2,168	13%
Total	*56,002*	*24%*	*39,342*	*19%*
Total population	*230,503*		*204,855*	

In Whatcom, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and "Other"-identifying residents face poverty at roughly 1.5 times the rate of White residents (Figure 20).

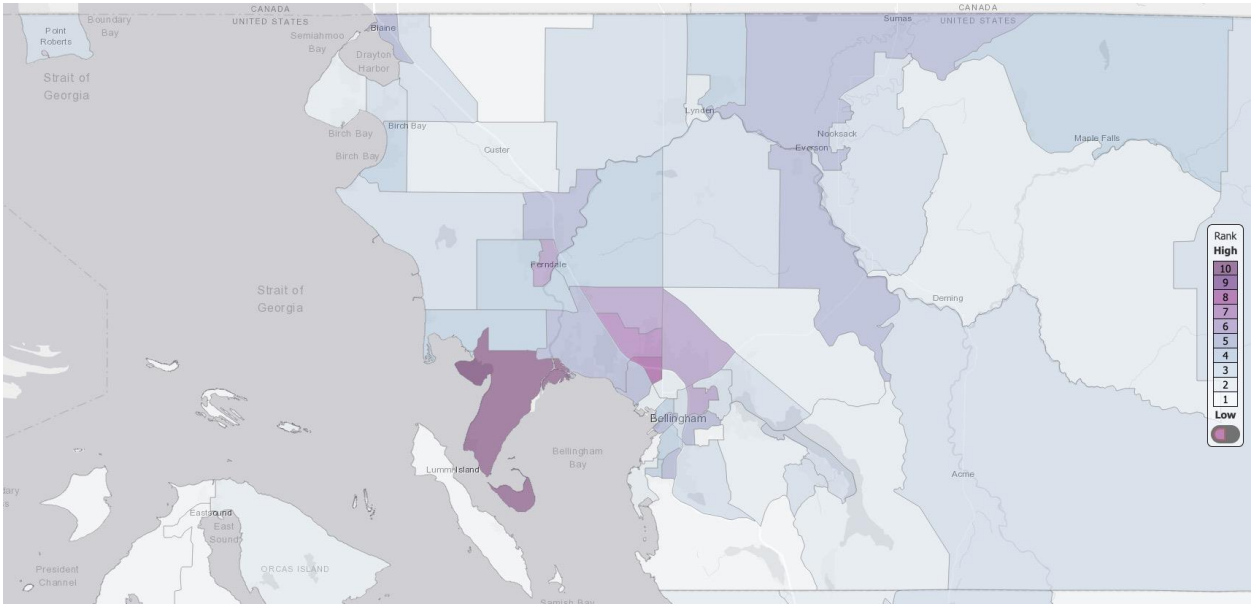
Figure 20: Poverty statistics by race

Race	Total	Below Poverty Level	% Below
White	176,200	21,651	12%
Black/African American	1,993	355	18%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3,983	574	14%
Asian	9,869	1,195	12%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	554	26	5%
Other	10,265	2,005	20%
Two or more races	22,531	3,232	14%
Hispanic/Latino	24,016	4,342	18%
*Total Population**	*225,395*	*29,038*	*13%*

**Individuals may identify with more than one race*

Many POC in Whatcom County live in and around Bellingham and the Lummi Reservation (Figure 21).

Figure 21: People of Color by census tract



Population by Limited English Proficiency

People who do not speak English as their primary language and who report speaking English less than “very well” are said to have Limited English Proficiency(LEP). LEP individuals face language barriers that impact daily living.

As shown in Figure 22, LEP individuals make up 4% of Whatcom’s total population. Spanish is the most widely spoken language other than English, with over 2% of the LEP population.

Figure 22: Population of LEP individuals by language spoken at home

Language	# LEP	%
Spanish	4,581	2.1%
Other	2,201	1.0%
Indo-European languages	959	0.4%
Russian & Slavic languages	971	0.4%
Total	*8,712*	*4.0%*

Total population	*219,978*

LEP individuals live in many parts of Whatcom County. Figure 23 shows the percentage of LEP households as a percent of population.

Figure 23: Map of LEP households by percent of population

