

Multnomah County AFH Data: Preliminary Conclusions

In order to help create an AFH report, HUD (<https://egis.hud.gov/affht/>) has provided all recipients with data on:

- Patterns of integration and segregation
- Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP)
- Access to education, employment, low-poverty communities, transportation and environmental health
- And disproportionate housing needs based on membership in a protected class.

Additional Data will be collected from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data, the US Census, and the 2015 American Community Survey, and other data sources as necessary.

Multnomah County: Demographic and Socio-Economic Findings

Race and Ethnicity

- Multnomah County (2015 Population – 768,418) is a racially and ethnically diverse county and this diversity is increasing. In 2015, people of color made up 28.7% of County's total population as compared to 71.3% for Non-Hispanic Whites.
- In general, the non-Hispanic White population is older than other racial and ethnic groups. Hispanics are the youngest minority group.

Age

In addition to becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, county's population is getting older.

Disability

In 2015, people with disabilities in the county constituted 12.9% of the county's total population. The data on disability status make clear the connection between disability and age.

Sex/Gender

Multnomah County is 51% female and 49% male. This ratio has remained relatively steady over the last 10 years. Because gender discrimination in housing is most frequently reported by women, female-specific information is important to this analysis of impediments.

Familial Status

Discrimination against families with children can take many forms, but those most frequently reported are discrimination based on the presence of children and single-parent status. Single households with own children under 18 increased from 8.1% (2009) to 8.4% in 2015.

Linguistic Proficiency

Across the region, there has been an increase in the Foreign Born and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population since 1990. The biggest increases over that time were seen in the areas outside of the City of Portland.

Income/Poverty

Significant disparities in income and poverty are evident for several groups in the county. Non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics earn less than what non-Hispanic Whites earn in the county. Single-parents earn significantly less than married couples with children. Women earn 88% of what men earn (2015 median income). People with disabilities also have disproportionately low income, earning on average 66% of what people without disabilities earn.

The Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty or R/ECAPs in 1990 were concentrated in Northeast Portland. Those tracts that qualified in as R/ECAPs expanded in 2000. This changed dramatically by 2010. Now, there are no R/ECAPs in Multnomah County.

Taken as a whole, Multnomah County has experienced **several notable population shifts that have fair housing implications.**

- Population of color is increasing while its non-Hispanic White population is decreasing. This could mean a demand for housing on the part of areas that have traditionally been predominately non-Hispanic White.
- The county's older non-Hispanic White population is increasing just as a younger population of color is growing. As a result, there may be an increased demand for both housing for elders and housing for families with children.
- The increase in the county's older population has also meant that its population with disabilities has grown and likely will continue to do so. As a result, there is also a growing need for accessible and supportive housing.
- The number of single-parent households and unmarried households is increasing, which means less income for many families to spend on housing.
- The number of people eligible for housing benefits covered by the source of income protections under the county FHA is increasing. However, the availability of housing benefits is not sufficient to address this need.

Housing Segregation and Disparities in Multnomah County?

High poverty neighborhoods: In general, majority of African-Americans and Latinos live in areas with high poverty rates, failing schools, and little access to jobs compared to non-Hispanic Whites.

Employment: Job growth is occurring outside urban areas in places where few people of color live.

Education: Racial, ethnic, and economic housing segregation contributes to severe disparities in educational outcomes because most school districts assign children to schools by neighborhood.

Disparities in Health outcomes: Maternal health care and insurance differences among various race/ethnicity groups

Need for Affordable Housing and Public Policy Implications

As a result of above disparities, non-Hispanic African Americans, Hispanics, women, single parent families, people with disabilities under the age of 65, and people with a source of income other than employment have a disproportionate need for affordable housing. Thus, increasing the supply of affordable housing and locating it in communities throughout the county will promote integration.

While segregation results from a variety of factors including the intended or unintended impact of public policies, private discrimination, or individual choice, the segregation levels in the county are cause for concern and should be taken into account when making public policy decisions in the future.

Next Steps:

Detailed **comparative** analysis of AFFH data for Multnomah County, Cities of Portland & Gresham and the balance of the County.