

WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION SURVEY

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Transportation to Work or School: 2004

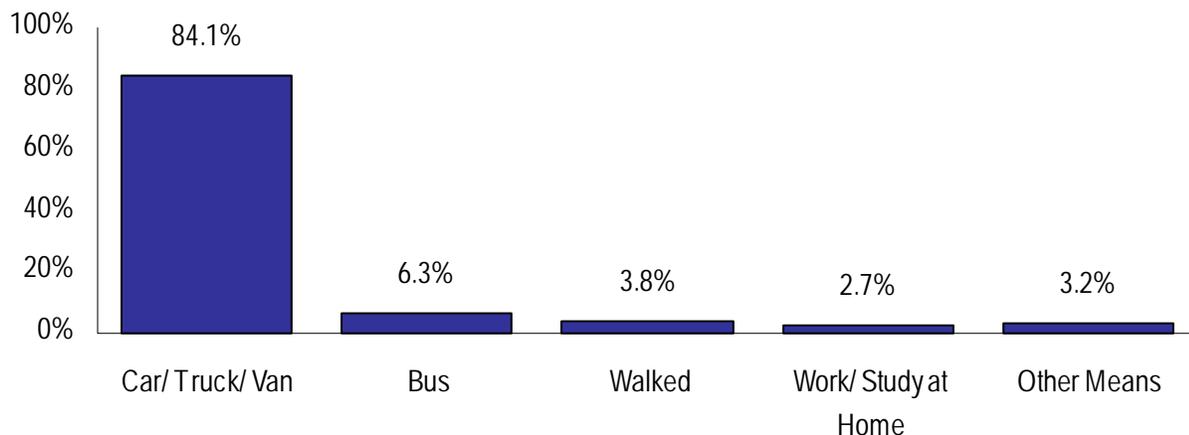
By Erica Gardner

The 2004 Washington State Population Survey (WSPS) asked each respondent four questions pertaining to his/her transportation to work or school. The first question asked the respondent how he/she usually gets to work or school. The second question asked respondents whether they participated in an employer sponsored telecommute program. Next, respondents were asked how long it usually takes to get to work or school. Finally, respondents whose usual mode of transportation was a car, truck, or van were asked how many people ride in the vehicle (including the respondent). Results are presented for the state as a whole and by region.

The 2004 WSPS allows analysis by eight regions. The names used for each of those regions and the names of the counties included in each region are as follows:

- North Puget (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom)
- West Balance (Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific Skamania, Wahkiakum)
- King County (King)
- Puget Metro (Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston)
- Clark County (Clark)
- East Balance (Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman)
- Spokane County (Spokane)
- Tri Cities (Benton, Franklin, Yakima)

Figure 1: How Washington Residents Get To Work or School



Mode of Transportation

- Eighty-four percent of Washington State residents rode a car, truck, or van to work or school (see Figure 1). Residents of King County were significantly less likely and residents of West Balance, Clark County, and Tri-Cities were significantly more likely than Washington State residents overall to ride in a car, truck, or van to work or school (see Table 1).
- Overall, six percent of Washington State residents rode a bus to work or school. King County residents were more likely and North Puget, West Balance, Spokane County, and Tri-Cities were less likely than Washington State residents overall to ride a bus to work or school.
- Four percent of Washington State residents walked to work or school. Residents in the Puget Metro and Tri-Cities regions were less likely and residents in the East Balance region were more likely than Washington State residents overall to walk to work or school.
- Three percent of Washington State residents worked or studied from home.
- Three percent of Washington State resident got to work through other means such as a bicycle, motorcycle, taxi, ferry, SUV, airplane, a combination of modes, or some other way. West Balance, Clark County, and Tri-Cities residents were less likely than Washington State residents overall to go to work via other means.

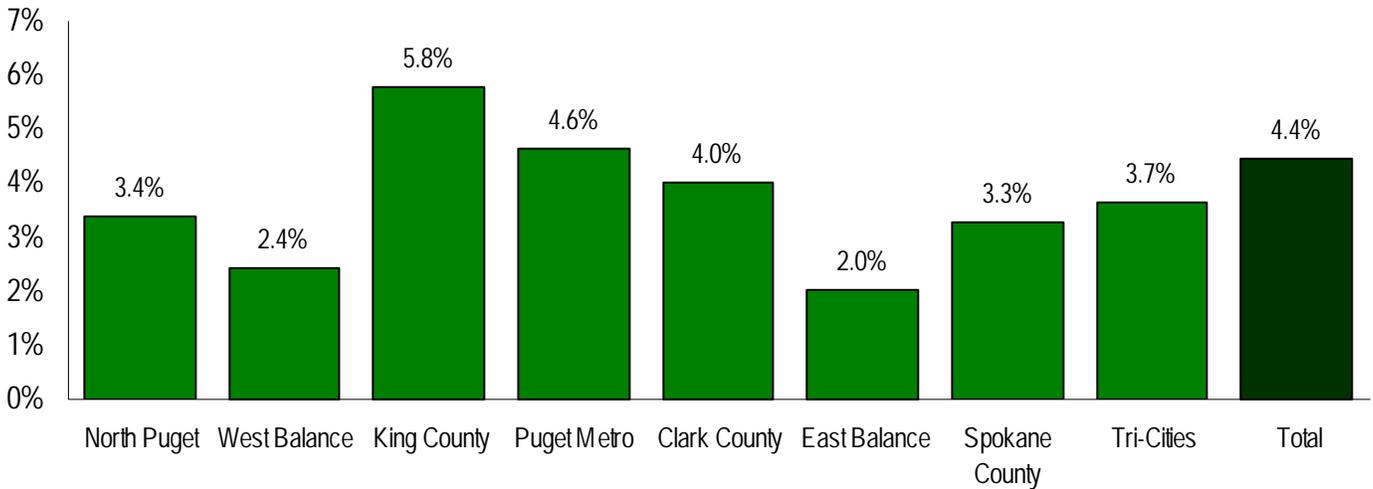
Table 1: How Washington Residents Get To Work or School

	Car/ Truck/ Van	Bus	Walked	Work/ Study at Home	Other Means
North Puget	85.0%	3.0%	5.5%	3.6%	3.0%
West Balance	89.1%	1.7%	4.4%	3.5%	1.3%
King County	77.7%	11.1%	4.6%	3.1%	3.6%
Puget Metro	87.4%	5.4%	1.9%	1.4%	4.0%
Clark County	89.0%	4.1%	2.3%	3.4%	1.2%
East Balance	81.0%	3.3%	9.5%	3.2%	3.0%
Spokane County	87.5%	3.1%	3.1%	3.4%	2.9%
Tri-Cities	92.2%	1.2%	1.8%	3.7%	1.0%
Total	84.1%	6.3%	3.8%	2.7%	3.2%

Employer Sponsored Telecommute Plan

Overall four percent of Washington State Residents reported participation in an employer sponsored telecommute program (see Figure 2). The participation rate in telecommute programs was lower in East Balance than the state overall.

Figure 2: Participation in Employer Sponsored Telecommute Program



Number of People In Vehicle

Those respondents going to work in a car, truck, or van were asked about the number of people usually in their vehicle. Eighty-five percent of residents who use a car, truck or van usually ride to work or school by themselves, ten percent ride to work with one other person, three percent ride to work with two other people, and two percent ride with three or more other people (see Figure 3). With the exception of the West Balance region, statistically significant regional differences were not found (see Table 2). West Balance residents were less likely than Washington State residents as a whole to commute to work or school with four or more individuals (including themselves).

Figure 3: Number of People that Usually Ride To Work or School in Vehicle, Including Yourself?

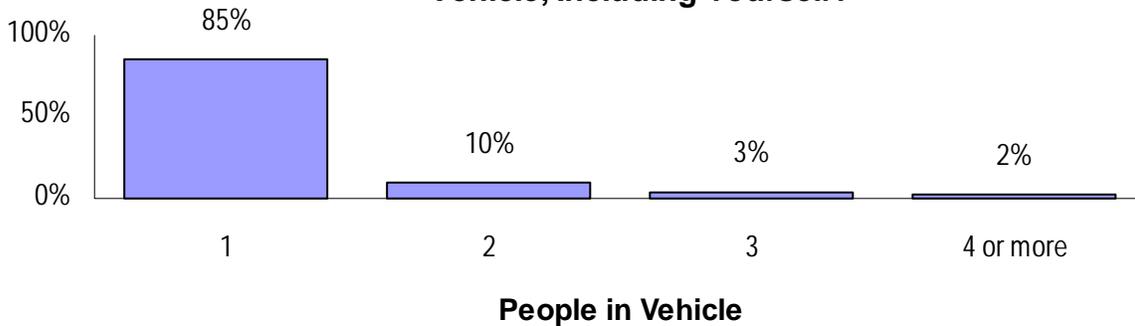


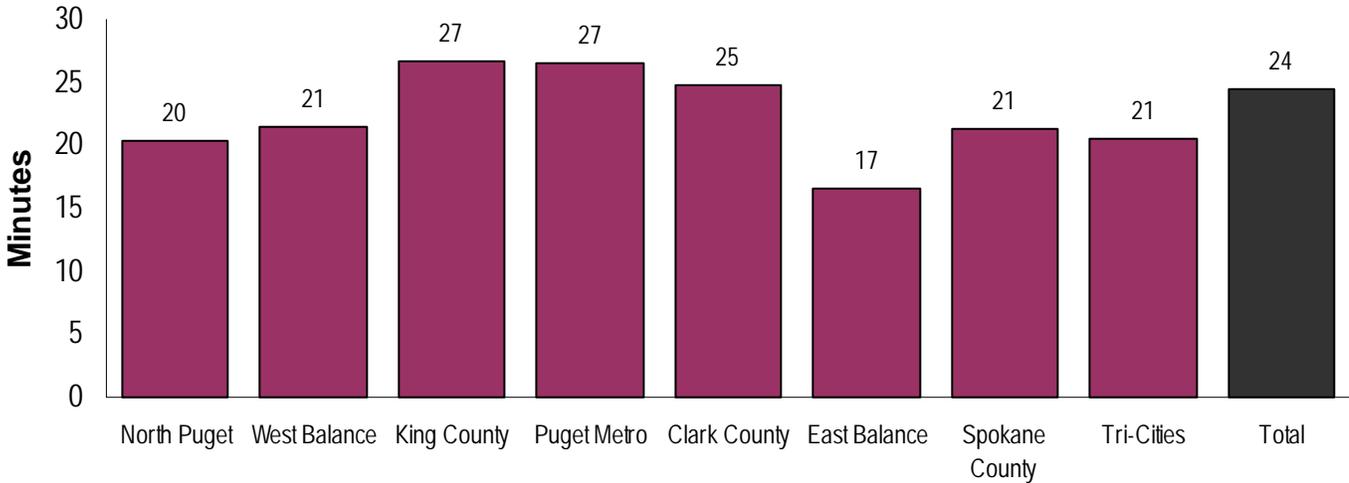
Table 2: Number of People that Usually Ride To Work or School in Vehicle, Including Yourself?

	1	2	3	4 or more
North Puget	86.8%	8.0%	3.3%	2.0%
West Balance	87.2%	6.9%	5.3%	0.6%
King County	84.4%	10.7%	3.0%	1.9%
Puget Metro	85.3%	8.7%	3.1%	2.9%
Clark County	86.0%	8.6%	3.8%	1.5%
East Balance	84.4%	10.7%	2.9%	2.0%
Spokane County	85.6%	10.3%	2.8%	1.3%
Tri-Cities	80.7%	12.3%	3.4%	3.5%
Total	84.9%	9.7%	3.3%	2.2%

Minutes to Work

Among those who do not work or study at home, the average time to work or school was 24 minutes (see Figure 4).¹ Residents in North Puget, East Balance, Spokane, and Tri-Cities reported an average travel time that was significantly less than the average travel time to work or school for the state. King County residents reported travel times that on average were significantly higher than the travel time for the state as a whole.

Figure 4: Average Minutes to Work or School



Notes:

1. Minutes spent traveling were topcoded at 180 minutes.

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