

**Pullman, Washington: Community Analysis**

Minh E. Elan

School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, University of Missouri

ISLT 7313: Collection Access and Management

Dr. Beth Brendler

September 21, 2023

## **Pullman, Washington: Community Analysis**

### **Demographics**

Pullman is a city in eastern Washington, seven miles west of the Idaho border. Its total population is 32,968, with 3.9% of residents being under 5 years of age, 8.3% from 5 to 17 years of age, and 6.0% 65 or older (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021a). 11,927 residents are in “family” households and 11% of children live in single-parent households (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021f).

The median household income is \$31,992 (in 2021 dollars) and 33.6% of residents live below the poverty line (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021c). While city-specific data about individuals experiencing housing and food insecurity is unavailable, there are statistics for the surrounding county of Whitman. These statistics are likely representative of Pullman City, whose residents comprise 67.4% of the county’s population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021b). Within Whitman County, 24% of people are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity and 10.8% are food insecure, with most (92.5%) of these individuals falling above the SNAP threshold of 200% poverty (Continuums of Care, 2022; Feeding America, 2021).

In terms of access to technology, 97.8% of Pullman residents have computers and 85.7% have broadband internet subscriptions. Neill Public Library, the city’s municipal library, also loans wireless hotspots (Neill Public Library, 2023).

Most Pullman residents speak English, with only 18.2% reporting speaking a language other than English at home (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021d). In addition to English, 4.5% of Pullman residents speak Spanish, 4.4% speak another Indo-European language, 7.3% speak an Asian or Pacific Island language (2,359), and 1.5% speak a language not included in those mentioned. Regarding race, 67% of Pullman residents identified as White alone, 3.3% as Black or African American alone, .5% as American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 10.6% as Asian

alone, .4% as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and .6% as another single race (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). 6.3% identify as biracial and .5% identify as being of three or more races. Of the biracial respondents, most (93.4%) identified partially as White. The most prevalent biracial responses were White/Asian (43.8%), White/American Indian or Alaska Native (19.9%), and White/Black (17.2%).

With a binary system of sex to choose from, 50.8% of Pullman residents identified as male and 49.2% identified as female (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021e). There are no lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) statistics for Pullman specifically, however, state wide statistics show that 5.2% of Washington residents identify as LGBT, so it can be expected that approximately 5.2% of Pullman residents also identify as LGBT.

Most Pullman residents (62%) make under \$50,000 per year, 18.8% earn \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year, 14.2% earn \$100,000 to \$200,000, and 5% earn more than \$200,000 annually (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021c). This puts most Pullman residents in the lower tax brackets of the Internal Revenue Service (Internal Revenue Service, 2020).

Most Pullman residents have attended college with only 3% reporting having obtained no degree and 9% reporting that they only obtained a high school degree. 26.3% of residents reported their highest educational attainment as some college, 28.9% as a bachelor's degree, and 32.8% as a post-graduate degree.

### **Infrastructure**

Pullman has a pay-to-use public bus transportation system that is governed by the city and which serves students in both primary and secondary school. Government agencies serving the community include city and county departments, such as the Pullman Fire Department, Whitman County Fire District, Pullman City Hall, Pullman Post Office, Neill Public Library, and

Pullman Police Department.

There are a number of libraries accessible to Pullman residents. Neill Public Library is located centrally in downtown Pullman and free to use. WSU Libraries, located on WSU's Pullman campus, is also open to the public. Children attending schools in the Pullman School District have access to a library at each school. The Latah County Library District and Whitman County Library District, which have branches in all of Pullman's neighboring towns also serve Pullman residents. Access to the nearby library districts is limited to people who have access to personal transportation, as there is no public transit between the towns.

Pullman has a wide variety of organizations, including housing and shelter aide organizations, such as Hearth and Home Foundation, Community Action Center, and Palouse Cove Housing Group (Internal Revenue Service, 2023). There is one main mental health facility and other health facilities, such as Palouse River Counseling Center, Palouse Alliance for Healthy Individuals, Families, and Communities, and Pullman Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Each school has a respective parent-teacher association, and philanthropic organizations such as Kiwanis and the Lions Club also serve the area.

### **Education**

Pullman has public and private schools. Of the public schools, there is one Montessori school that serves grades kindergarten through ninth grade, as well as a traditional public school district that has one preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in Pullman (National Center for Education Statistics, 2022a). There is a private religious school that serves grades Kindergarten through high school and a private Montessori school that serves children ages two through six (National Center for Education Statistics, 2022b). Pullman has two higher education institutions as well, a community college and a university that awards

bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees (National Center for Education Statistics, 2022a).

There are not Pullman specific statistics for students receiving home-based instruction, however, 3.6% of students in Whitman County are registered as such (Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2023). There are eight daycare centers in Pullman (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2020).

### **Needs**

Overall, the demographics reflect a population that is diverse, educated, and young. 18.2% of residents speak a language other than English, 14.4% identify as foreign born, 12% identify as Asian, 8% as Hispanic/Latino, and 9% as one or more other races (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020). More than 50% of those in Pullman are between the ages of 20 and 39 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021a).

Considering the proportion of residents who speak another language and are foreign born, services and programs geared toward their needs would be wise. They may be interested in resources or services connecting them to legal or immigration help, entertainment in their language, English learning resources, and community building. These residents also may not be aware of the services available to them at the library, so outreach would be key.

The abundant young and middle adult aged population may be well served with library collections and programs that help them enrich their lives or learn new skills as they prepare for the workforce. Potential programs would include casual recreational activities, social programs, and hobby building programs, such as do-it-yourself workshops or take-home activity kits. Collections might include resume and skill building resources, such as LinkedIn Learning and Gale databases.

Resume and skill building resources would also help the one-third of residents living in

poverty in Pullman (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021c), as well as resources and programs connecting patrons to community organizations, such as food banks and low-income housing.

## References

- Continuums of Care (2022). *2022 CoC homeless populations and subpopulations report - Washington*. Retrieved from [https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC\\_PopSub\\_State\\_WA\\_2022.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_State_WA_2022.pdf)
- Feeding America (2021). *2021 food insecurity in Whitman county, Washington*. Retrieved from <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/washington/county/whitman>
- Internal Revenue Service (2020). *Revenue procedure 2020-45*. Retrieved from <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-20-45.pdf>
- Internal Revenue Service (2023). *Exempt organizations by state – Washington*. Retrieved from <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organizations-business-master-file-extract-eo-bmf>
- National Center for Education Statistics (2022a). *2021-2022 Common Core of Data (CCD) preliminary files*. Available from [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/psu\\_rev.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/psu_rev.asp).
- National Center for Education Statistics (2022b). *Private School Universe Survey: 2019-20*. Available from <https://careshq.org/map-room/>
- Neill Public Library. (2023, September 15). *Neill Public Library*. [www.neill-lib.org](http://www.neill-lib.org)
- U.S. Census Bureau (2020). *Demographic and housing characteristics, 2020 decennial census*. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=race+in+Pullman+Washington&tid=DECENNIALDHC2020.P9>
- U.S. Census Bureau (2021a). *Age and sex, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=sex+in+Pullman+Washington&tid=ACSST5Y2021.S0101>

1

U.S. Census Bureau (2021b). *Age and sex, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates*.

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=whitman+county,+washington&tid=ACSST5Y2021.S0101>

01

U.S. Census Bureau (2021c). *Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars), 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year estimates subject tables*. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=Pullman+city,+Washington&t=Income+and+Earnings&tid=ACSST5Y2021.S1901>

U.S. Census Bureau (2021d). *Language spoken at home, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year estimates subject tables*. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=language+in+Pullman+Washington&tid=ACSST5Y2021.S1601>

U.S. Census Bureau (2021e). *Population by sex, 2021 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=sex+in+Pullman+Washington&tid=ACSSE2021.K200101>

1

U.S. Census Bureau (2021f). *Selected social characteristics in the United States, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=household+in+pullman+city,+washington&tid=ACSDP5YSPT2021.DP02>



U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2020). *Homeland infrastructure foundation-level data*.

Retrieved from <https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/geoplatform::public-schools/explore>

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (2023). *2022-2023 home-based instruction annual report* [data file]. Retrieved from <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-alternatives/home-based-instruction>.