

People with Disabilities



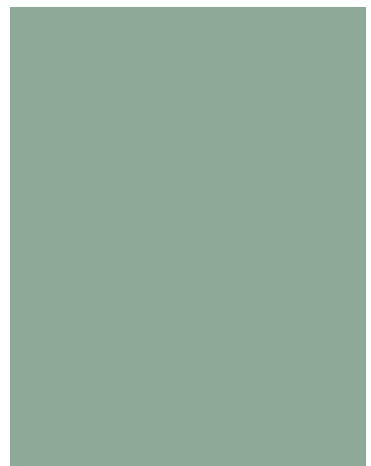
75% of people with developmental disabilities in King County are not served through the state DDA



Bellevue has **22,958** disabilities reported

38% of individuals with disability are low-income in King County

70% of people with disabilities reported that they have been victims of **abuse**



1 in 6 children aged 3-17 years have one or more disabilities



1 bedroom unit
\$1557
Individual on SSI can afford **\$231** rent

People with Disabilities

Key Findings

- Funding for services for people with all types of disabilities continues to lag behind the growth of this population. The result is that there are wait lists for many programs, including family support programs and subsidized supportive housing program. This trend is predicted to continue over the next several years due to higher life expectancy of the aging population with developmental disabilities and the increase of referrals of children with disabilities.
- Lack of affordable housing is a problem for people with disabilities as the need is growing faster than housing stock is produced. It is especially critical for people with disabilities to find housing in familiar neighborhood settings, near support systems and convenient amenities, in order to maintain their independence to whatever extent they are able.
- Early intervention services for children birth to three with disabilities save costs later; for children whose needs are identified when they are older, critical time is lost.

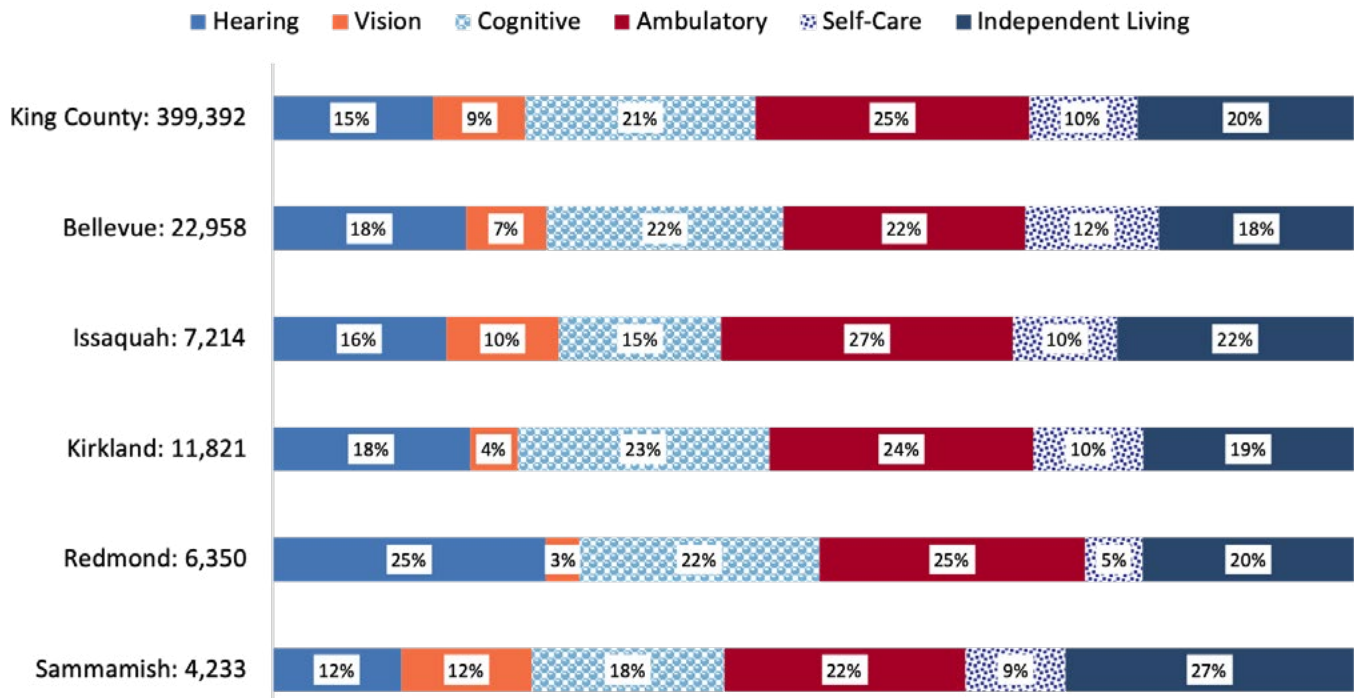
Brief Description

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), adopted in 1990, provides protection from discrimination for people with disabilities. The ADA defines disability as “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.” The City of Bellevue has consistently and diligently worked to make all its programs, services and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. For over 30 years the city has provided adaptive recreation programs, as well as other accommodations, and access to general recreation programs. It’s important to note that under Title II of the ADA, social services must be accessible for people with disabilities. Title III of the ADA covers public accommodations, which generally includes all places open to the public, such as offices for counseling services, legal services, translation services, doctors’ offices and shelters.¹

25% of adults in King County have a disability, compared to 21% in East King County.² When compared with the general population, individuals with disabilities are more likely to be low-income or unemployed. In King County, 38% of individuals with disabilities are low-income compared to 24% of the general population. Ten percent of people with disabilities in King County are unemployed compared to 5% of the general population.³

With medical advances helping more people survive longer with disabilities than in the past, there is a greater need for a network of supports. In Bellevue, older adults have the largest share of people with one or more disabilities with almost one third of older adults having one or more disabilities compared to nearly 5% of people ages 18 to 64 and 3% of children.⁴

Figure 1: Number of Disabilities by Type, 2017



U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey⁵

As shown in Figure 1, Bellevue has 22,958 disabilities reported with a slightly higher rate of hearing, cognitive, and self-care reported than King County. Respondents can select more than one disability. Based on the Census definition, ‘Self-Care’ is defined as someone having difficulty bathing or dressing because of a disability and ‘Independent Living’ is defined as someone having difficulty doing errands alone, such as a doctor’s appointment or shopping because of a disability. This chapter only provides information about goals 1 through 5 as they relate specifically to People with Disabilities. For a broader discussion of these areas, please see their respective chapters.

- Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead
- Goal 2: Supportive Relationships
- Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence
- Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible
- Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential
- Additional Topics for Consideration
 - Transportation

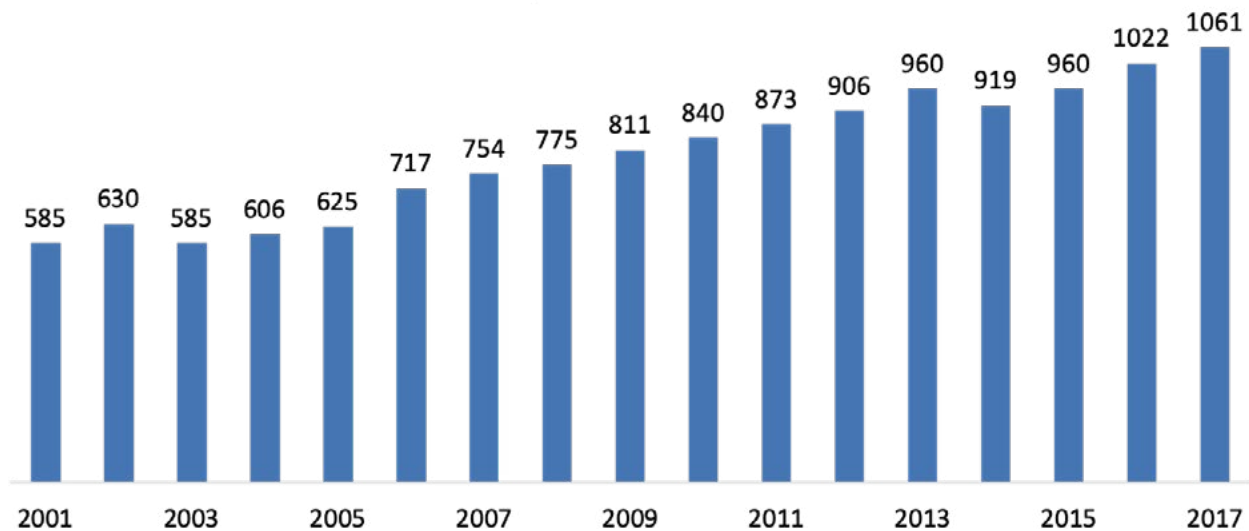
Goal 1: Food to Eat and Roof Overhead

- People with disabilities who are not able to work are often on a fixed income, which makes it almost impossible for them to be able to afford housing unless it is subsidized or a low-income unit.⁶
- There is a lack of nutrition education and support for the population of people with disabilities.⁷
- Parents who have adult children with disabilities living in their homes are facing significant and increased challenges finding affordable housing and supportive services for their adult son or daughter.⁸
- Finding affordable housing in the community is challenging for many people, especially those with disabilities who seek an independent living arrangement. In January 2018, there were roughly 8.07 million individuals receiving federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because they are elderly, blind or disabled and have few economic resources.⁹ With the maximum federal monthly payment of \$771/month for an eligible individual in 2019, an SSI recipient could only afford \$231/month rent (30% of income). There is not one county in the U.S. where even a modest efficiency apartment is affordable for someone receiving SSI.¹⁰ The Fair Market rent for a one bedroom apartment in the Seattle-Bellevue Metropolitan area is \$1,557/month, more than the entire SSI check.¹¹ For individuals who rely solely on their SSI check for income, or even those working in supported employment, market rate housing is not an option.
- In King County, the number of persons with developmental disabilities living in residential habilitation centers (RHCs) and nursing homes, facilities that provide intensive nursing care and skill development for those who are severely disabled, has decreased dramatically. In 2017, there were about 943 individuals in one of these 4 facilities in the State, compared to 4,145 at their peak in 1967. The average annual cost per client living in RHCs is \$230,120 compared to \$24,322 per client annually to receive personal care services in the family's home or community residential facilities.¹²

Goal 2: Supportive Relationships

- In the 2019 phone/online survey, 22% of respondents indicated that lack of services for people with disabilities was a major or moderate problem in the community. 9% of respondents stated that not finding programs for someone with a disability was a major/moderate household problem and 9% stated that not being able to find affordable care for a person with a disability was a major/moderate problem, down from 10% and 14% in 2017 and 2018, respectively.
- A key informant interview with Bellevue Special Needs PTA stated that there is a need for the community of Bellevue to become inclusive to populations that have been marginalized, including people with disabilities, so they are included and invited.¹³
- About 115,000 people in Washington live with a developmental disability. However, almost three-fourths will not receive services through the state Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) to help them keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Statewide, this leaves more than 85,000 people at increased risk of unemployment, homelessness and incarceration. It also puts their families at increased risk for financial or housing instability. Similarly, in King County, 74% of people with developmental disabilities are not served through the state DDA.¹⁴

Figure 2: Number of Bellevue Residents Receiving DSHS Developmental Disabilities Services



Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services¹⁵

- As shown in Figure 2, as of 2017, there were 1061 people with developmental disabilities in Bellevue enrolled through the Department of Social and Health Services.
- Enrollment has also increased over the last few years for services offered by the King County Division of Developmental Disabilities (KCDDD). In the last five fiscal years, total annual enrollment has grown from 2,543 to 3,419 children served, representing a growth rate of 34%. Despite this growth in numbers of children served with Early Intervention (EI) services in King County, the percent of infants and toddlers who receive EI services has remained fairly flat.¹⁶
- The City of Bellevue Department of Parks and Community Services provides adaptive recreation opportunities for those with disabilities as well as inclusion support to participate in general recreation. Most adaptive programs occur at the Highland Community Center and several programs are also offered at various other locations, including the Northwest Arts Center, Tennis Center, Aquatic Center and the Bellevue Youth Theater. Bellevue offers forty adaptive recreation programs. In 2019, the Highland Community Center had 250 active participants. The other recreation programs have another 86 active adaptive participants, with 45 at Bellevue Youth Theater, 25 at Northwest Arts Center, and 10 for adaptive tennis and 6 for wheelchair tennis at the Tennis Center.¹⁷
- Bellevue's Parks and Community Services Choices Plan for People with Disabilities outlines the process for providing recreation services for people with disabilities. There has been an increase of kids with disabilities participating in general recreation programs, primarily in summer day camps.¹⁸
- Bellevue Parks and Community Services has a Recreation Inclusion Coordinator and Inclusion Recreation Staff to assist with accommodations or modifications to reinforce successful experiences in general recreation programs. A small number of people specifically request inclusion services, but the recreation division served kids with disabilities in the majority of camps offered. Highland Center staff report that children attending summer camps at Highland Center have higher needs than in previous years. As a result, a lower

child to staff ratio is needed. Other adaptive recreation programs in Bellevue are offered by Special Olympics of Washington, Bridge of Promise and Outdoorsforall.¹⁹

Goal 3: A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence

- Sexual assault is a huge concern for people with developmental disabilities. Bullying is also a growing issue for adults with developmental disabilities.²⁰
- Seventy percent of people with disabilities reported that they had been victims of abuse. Of the various types of abuse, victims with disabilities reported verbal-emotional abuse (87.2%), physical abuse (50.6%), sexual abuse (41.6%), neglect (37.3%), and financial abuse (31.5%).²¹
- Children with disabilities were two to three times more likely to be bullied than their nondisabled peers.²²
- Bullying Prevention & Social Skills curriculum is taught across all schools in the Bellevue School District. Younger students learn about empathy, making friends, problem solving and responding to bullying. Integrated lessons for older students include the impact of gossiping, taunting and bullying, as well as the dangers of cyber-bullying.²³

Goal 4: Health Care to be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- People with disabilities often experience a sense of social isolation and loneliness, which can also lead to depression and other mental health issues. Inaccessible environments and misunderstanding from non-disabled individuals often contribute to isolation. Research links loneliness to a number of health concerns, including a greater risk of premature death, dementia, heart disease, and a decreased immunity.²⁴
- In the United States, about 1 in 6 children aged 3 to 17 years have one or more developmental or neurological disabilities, such as autism, a learning disorder, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder¹. In addition, many children have delays in language or other areas that can affect how well they do in school. However, many children with developmental disabilities are not identified until they are in school, by which time significant delays might have occurred and opportunities for treatment might have been missed.²⁵
- Kinderling reports that 13% of children have a developmental disability.²⁶ This is significantly higher than the 3% reported in American Community Survey,²⁷ which could be due to people underreporting disabilities in children.²⁸
- In 2017, Kinderling provided services to 4,455 children, including early intervention for 2,485 infants and toddlers with special needs. Of the early intervention graduates, 46% will not need special education and 75% narrowed the development gap.²⁹
- Kinderling's Early Care and Education Consultation program focuses on early identification of developmental disabilities/delays and behavioral challenges by providing consultation and

"The medical field does not understand how to work with people with disabilities. Training is needed. Often when patients go in with a health concern, medical providers will treat it as a behavioral issue."

~ Key Informant Interview, Kim Indukar, Community Services Supervisor at Bellevue's Highland Community Services Center

training to child care programs. 75% of parents of children age 6 months to 5 years reported using some form of regularly scheduled child care. In 2018, Kinderling provided services for 132 Bellevue residents with 986 hours of assistance.³⁰

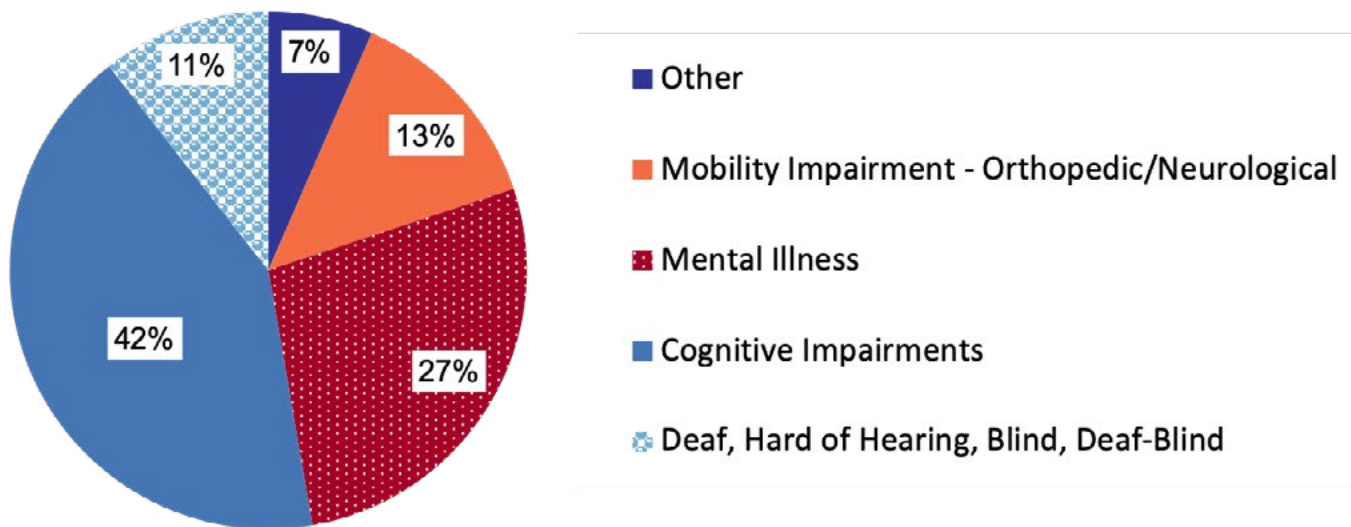
- In 2018, 7.2% (1459) of students enrolled at Bellevue School District were receiving Special Education services.³¹ However, Census data reports that only 3.7% of children ages 5 to 17 in Bellevue have a disability.³² It appears disabilities are under-reported in Census data.
- People with disabilities can receive medical insurance through three different programs based on eligibility. **Medicaid** provides free or low-cost medical benefits to people with disabilities. **Medicare** provides medical health insurance to people under 65 with certain disabilities and any age with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant). **Affordable Care Act Marketplace** offers options to people who have a disability, who don't qualify for disability benefits, and need health coverage.³³

Goal 5: Education and Job Skills to Help Individuals Reach their Full Potential

- Accessibility and inclusive hiring practices can be an issue to seeking and obtaining employment. However, more people who have traditionally been considered unemployable are now working.³⁴
- AtWork! staff report that they are seeing more clients who are transitioning from high school and need employment services.
- The State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a service for people with disabilities to obtain and keep employment. DVR serves 4.4% of individuals with disabilities in the workforce and 33.7% of those who are unemployed.³⁵
- Factors that contribute to disproportionate poverty in the disability community include lower labor force participation, differences in workers' occupations, and differences in educational attainment levels compared to people without disabilities. Most working age individuals with disabilities (56.6%) are not in the labor force. An estimated 36.8% of working age individuals with disabilities are employed, compared to 76.4% of people without disabilities. Workers with disabilities are more likely to be employed part-time and in service occupations, compared to workers without disabilities. In addition to disability-related barriers, the most common barriers to seeking employment include lack of education and training, lack of transportation, and needed for job accommodations that are not provided.³⁶
- Median annual earnings for people with disabilities are \$22,445, the equivalent of about \$10.75/hour for fulltime employment. They earn 62% of the median earnings (\$36,217) of Washingtonians without disabilities. Women with disabilities earn 63% of their male counterparts with disabilities, with an annual earnings gap of \$10,573.³⁷
- AtWork! provides supported employment and works with businesses to identify job opportunities that take advantage of an individual with disabilities' unique talents while meeting a critical business need. They report a new partnership with Salesforce as a new supportive employment site.³⁸ In 2018, AtWork! provided Bellevue residents with 536 one-on-one employment sessions to support them in gaining and maintaining employment. They were in contact with employers regarding Bellevue residents 2,216 times.³⁹

- Through King County Developmental Disability Division and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, AtWork! offers School to Work Transition services to students in local school districts, including Bellevue. Working with high school staff, AtWork! provides community work experience, job trials, resume development, job search, job placement and on-the-job coaching while in school and after graduation. In 2018, AtWork! placed 86% of eligible King County School-to-Work students in rewarding jobs.⁴⁰

Figure 3: Types of Disabilities of DVR Customers Successfully Employed



Source: State of Washington Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

- In a competitive environment, job developers need to be more creative to find work for their clients. Figure 3 shows the percentage of clients statewide within each disability category who were successfully employed in 2015 through DVR. These percentages remain relatively unchanged from two years ago.⁴¹

Additional Topics for Consideration

Transportation Gap

- People with disabilities must have access to transportation to lead full, independent lives. Even where accessible public transportation exists, adults with disabilities consider transportation inadequate. In the U.S., 24 million individuals with disabilities use public transit to maintain their independence and participate fully in society. For many, it is their only transit option. Inadequate transportation inhibits community involvement and ability to work. Those living in rural areas often face the greatest challenge of all due to total lack of public transportation and long distances between destinations.⁴²
- The demand for transportation for special needs populations, defined as older adults, people with disabilities, youth and people with low-incomes, is growing steadily. The King County Mobility Coalition (KCMC) is a collaborative group of diverse partners who have a stake in mobility management for special needs populations. The Coalition works with transit authorities, service providers, end-users, and various stakeholders to identify and

address transportation equity in King County. Through its 2015-2020 action plan and beyond, the KCMC has launched a number of initiatives through specialized committees – like Access to Healthcare and Access to Work and School – to evaluate and fill gaps in transportation barriers. A project from the committee is the Inclusive Planning grant, which seeks to improve transportation for all King County community members using an inclusive planning lens and a focus on older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Various grants have allowed the KCMC to pursue and test solutions that further the Coalition’s goal to connect more people to transportation.⁴³

“Many areas of Bellevue don’t have sidewalks, which make it incredibly challenging for people in wheelchairs and people that are blind. Bus stops are located on roads without sidewalks, which isn’t safe especially for someone with a disability.”

~ Participant, Community Conversation, Eastside Neighborhood Network

- King County Metro’s Access program fills some of the need for door-to-door service for eligible people with disabilities but continues to have gaps for many customers. For the first half of 2019 (January through June), Access provided 37,381 trips to 1,462 unique riders in Bellevue compared to 476,521 trips for all of King County for 8,744 unique riders.⁴⁴ Transit Advisory Commission advises Metro and King County on issues related to transit service in the county, including matters of concern to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Some of the topics addressed include safety, better transit access for specific populations such as people who are blind, and customer service issues.⁴⁵

Endnotes

- 1 The National Domestic Violence Hotline (N.D.) Domestic Violence and People with Disabilities. Retrieved August 28, 2019 from: <https://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/domestic-violence-disabilities/>
- 2 Communities Count (2018) Disability 2011-2015. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.communitiescount.org/disability?rq=Disabilities>
- 3 The Regional Transportation Plan – 2018 Appendix H PSRC Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (2018) Puget Sound Regional Council. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/1af394e0-4e37-4982-9155-a2ee1e221b75>
- 4 American Community Survey (2013-2017). Table S1810: Disability Characteristics
- 5 United States Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. (2017). Table K201803: Number of disabilities by type (2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>
- 6 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), key informant interview, May 1, 2019
- 7 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), key informant interview, May 1, 2019
- 8 Chris Brandt (AtWorks!), Provider’s Survey, 2019
- 9 Annual report of the Supplemental Security Income program (2018). Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ssir/SSI18/ssi2018.pdf>
- 10 Social Security (2019), SSI Federal Payment Amounts for 2019. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/SSI.html>
- 11 Rent Data, (2019) Seattle-Bellevue, WA HUD Metro FMR Area Rental Data. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.rentdata.org/seattle-bellevue-wa-hud-metro-fmr-area/2019>
- 12 Washington Department of Social and Health Services (2017). Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <http://clientdata.rda.dshs.wa.gov/Home/ShowReport?reportMode=0>
- 13 L. Molnar (Bellevue Special Needs PTA), key informant interview, July 25, 2019
- 14 King County ARC (N.D) Most Don’t Get DDA Services. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from <http://arcofkingcountyvoice.blogspot.com/p/most-do-not-get-dda-services.html>
- 15 Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. (2018). DSHS Client Services 2016-2017. Retrieved July 9, 2019 from <http://clientdata.rda.dshs.wa.gov/Home/ShowReport2?reportMode=0>
- 16 King County Department of Community and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Division. The King County Plan for Early Intervention Services: 2014-2017. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/health/ddd/documents/2014%20Documents/EI_Three-Year_Plan_2014-2017_-_Final.ashx?la=en
- 17 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), personal communication, August 28, 2019.
- 18 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), personal communication, August 28, 2019.
- 19 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), personal communication, August 28, 2019.
- 20 K. Indukar (City of Bellevue), key informant interview, May 1, 2019
- 21 T. Coleman, J.D. (N.D.) Statistics on Disability and Abuse Should Inform the Legislative Process Retrieved September 5, 2019 from: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/abuse-statistics.pdf>

- 22 PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center (N.D) Bullying and Harassment of Students with Disabilities. Retrieve September 5, 2019 from: <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/students-with-disabilities/>
- 23 Bellevue School District (2019) Bullying Prevention and Social Skills. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://bsd405.org/about/initiatives/bullying-prevention/>
- 24 1800wheelchair.com (2017) Physical Disability and Mental Health. Retrieved September 30, 2019 from <https://www.1800wheelchair.com/news/physical-disability-mental-health/>
- 25 United States Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019) Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability.htm>
- 26 Kindering (2017) 2017 Report Card. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: https://kindering.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Kindering_Annual_Report_Card_2017.pdf
- 27 American Community Survey (2013-2017). Table S1810: Disability Characteristics
- 28 Kindering (2017) 2017 Report Card. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: https://kindering.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Kindering_Annual_Report_Card_2017.pdf
- 29 Kindering (2017) 2017 Report Card. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: https://kindering.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Kindering_Annual_Report_Card_2017.pdf
- 30 City of Bellevue. (2018). Human Services Division Database. [Data file]
- 31 Bellevue School District (2019) Demographics at a Glance [PDF file]
- 32 American Community Survey (2013-2017). Table S1810: Disability Characteristics
- 33 USA Gov (2019) Benefits and Insurance for People with Disabilities. Retrieved September 30, 2019 from <https://www.usa.gov/disability-benefits-insurance>
- 34 Chris Brandt (AtWorks!), Provider's Survey, 2019
- 35 Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan FY 2015. Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/JJRA/dvr/pdf/DVRStatePlanFFY2015.pdf>
- 36 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (August 2018) Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for Washington (Adults 18+ years of age). Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/washington.html>
- 37 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (August 2018) Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for Washington (Adults 18+ years of age). Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/washington.html>
- 38 Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (July 2017) Disability & DVR Statistics Report Retrieved from: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/JJRA/dvr/pdf/2017%20Disability%20%26%20DVR%20Statistics%20Report.pdf>
- 39 City of Bellevue. (2018). Human Services Division Database. [Data file]
- 40 AtWork! 2018 Annual Report. (2019). Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://atworkwa.org/2018-annual-report/>
- 41 B. Clark (Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), personal communication, July 17, 2015
- 42 Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <https://thearc.org/position-statements/transportation/>
- 43 S. Haber (Hopelink), Personal Communication, October 18, 2019
- 44 N. Sable (King County Metro Transit), Personal Communication, September 17, 2019
- 45 King County Metro, (2015) Retrieved September 10, 2019 from: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/MetroTransit/AdvisoryGroups/TransitAdvisoryCommission.aspx>