

# Plymouth

## Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability refers to social, economic, demographic, or health factors that may make groups of people less resilient to climate change impacts. Certain vulnerabilities tend to be correlated; for example, older adults are more likely to have a disability and live alone than younger adults.

Our strategies for adapting to a changing climate should protect these populations in addition to our natural and built environment.

## Who is most at risk from climate change impacts?

**People who may be more susceptible to negative health effects:** These can include older adults, young children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and people with pre-existing health conditions, as they are more likely to be physically vulnerable to the health impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality caused by climate change. Individuals with physical mobility constraints, such as people with disabilities and seniors, may need additional assistance with emergency response.

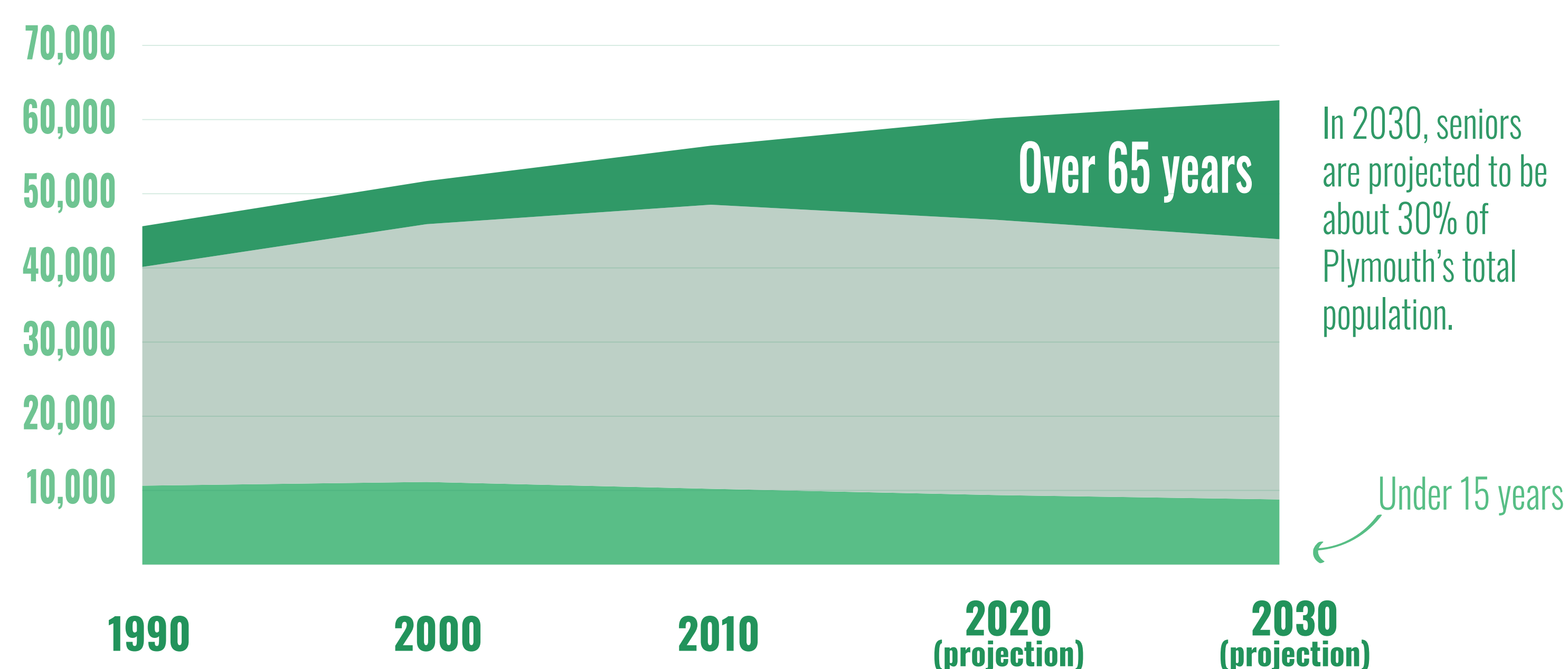
**People who may have more difficulty adapting to, preparing for, or recovering from extreme weather events:** Socioeconomic characteristics such as income and race can influence vulnerability to climate change. Low-income people are often more susceptible to financial shocks, which can occur after extreme weather and which can impact financial security and the ability to secure safe shelter and meet medical needs. Social isolation can also influence vulnerability, as it limits access to critical information, municipal resources, and social support systems. People at the most risk for social isolation include those living alone and people with limited English language proficiency.

**People who live or work in vulnerable locations:** Historic or predicted floodplain, urban flooding locations, areas prone to wildfire, heat islands, neighborhoods prone to power outages. Outdoor workers, first responders, those working in hot indoor environments.

### Older Adults and Young Children

Adults over 65 and children under 5 are more likely to develop health problems on very hot days or during heat waves. Older adults are also more likely to have disabilities or mobility constraints and may need additional assistance during emergencies. They are also more likely to live alone than younger adults.

#### Plymouth Recent and Projected Population by Age



### Low-Income Households

**7.5%** of households in Plymouth are below the poverty level—lower than the national average

**7.1%** of households in Plymouth receive food stamps/SNAP benefits

**Females over 65**

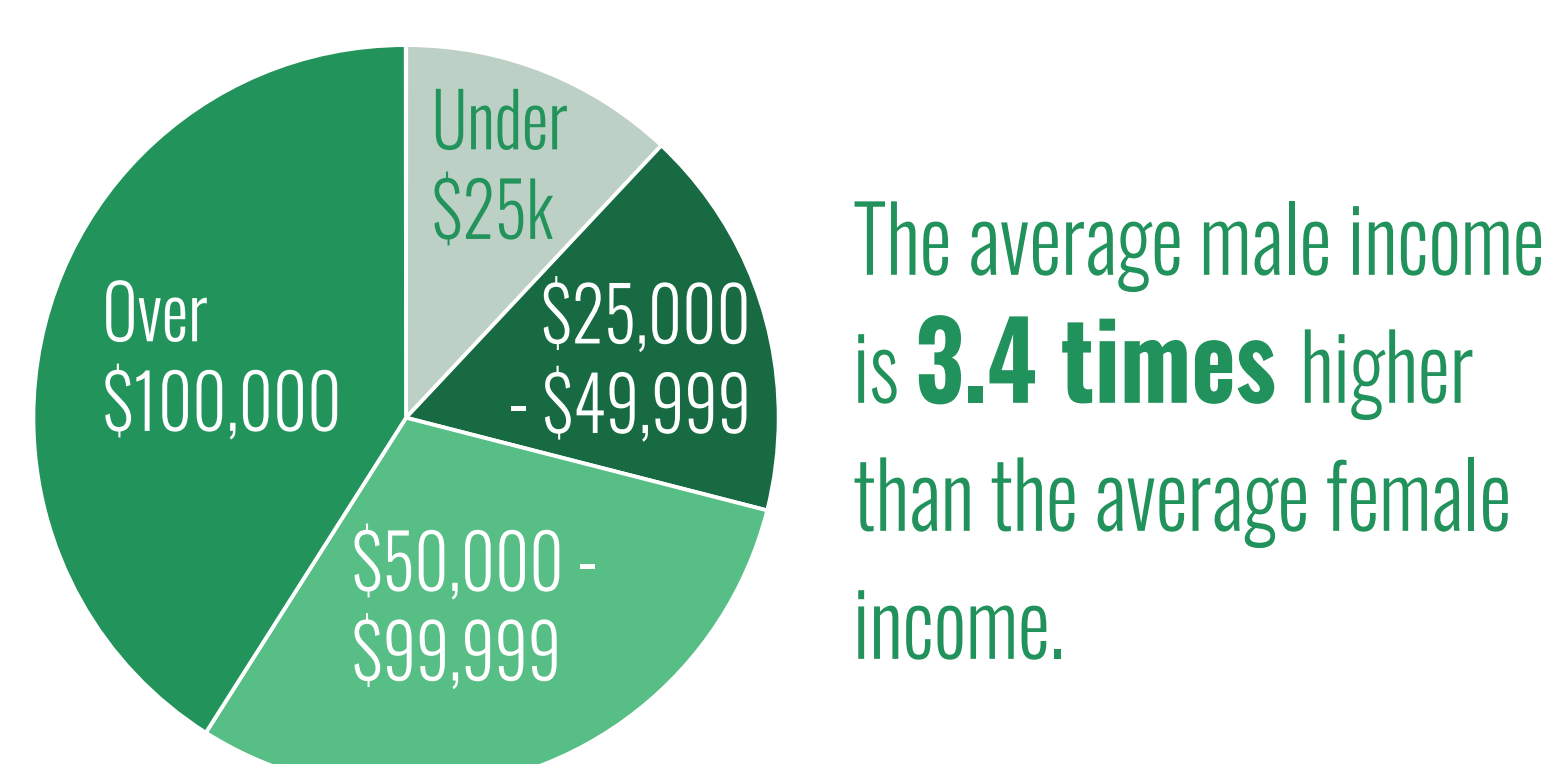
The largest demographic living in poverty

**White**

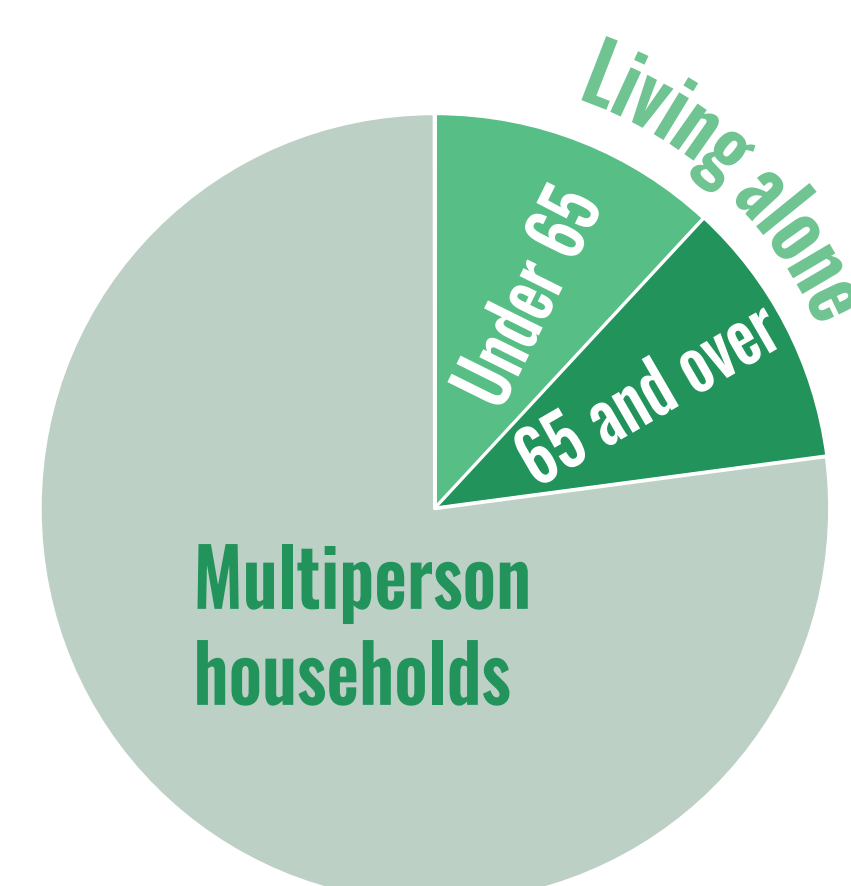
The largest race or ethnicity living in poverty

**\$83,745** median household income

Income of year-round full-time workers



### People Living Alone



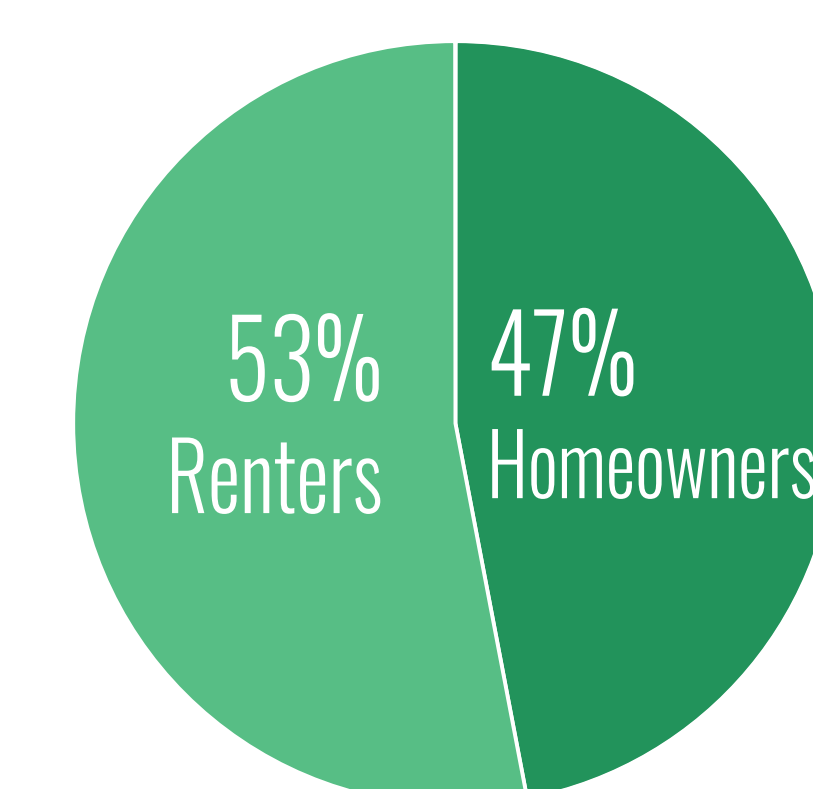
About 23% of Plymouth households consist of someone living alone.

Almost 50% of people living alone were over 65.

### Housing

**14%** of all Plymouth households are categorized as "unmarried with dependents"

**10%** of all Plymouth households consist of unmarried female head of households with dependents



**45%**

of renter households pay more than 35% of their annual income on rent

**57%** of Plymouth housing units were built in 1979 or earlier

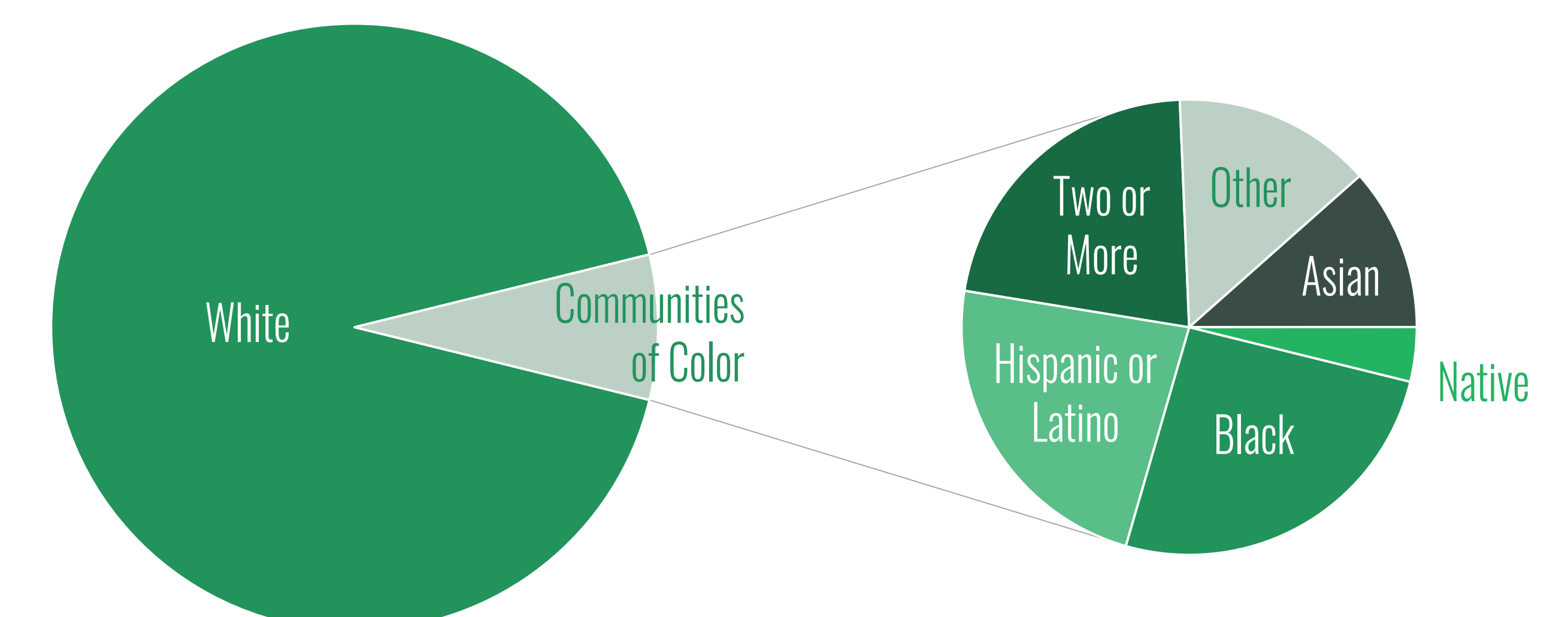
### People Who Work Outside

**8.4%** of Plymouth's workforce work outside in construction and agriculture. People who primarily work outside may be at added risk from extra exposure to high heat and poor air quality.

### Communities of Color

Particular racial or ethnic groups may also be more likely to have certain social vulnerabilities than others. For example, Black and Latino populations have a much higher rate of asthma hospitalizations than other groups. Heat waves and poor air quality can trigger asthma.

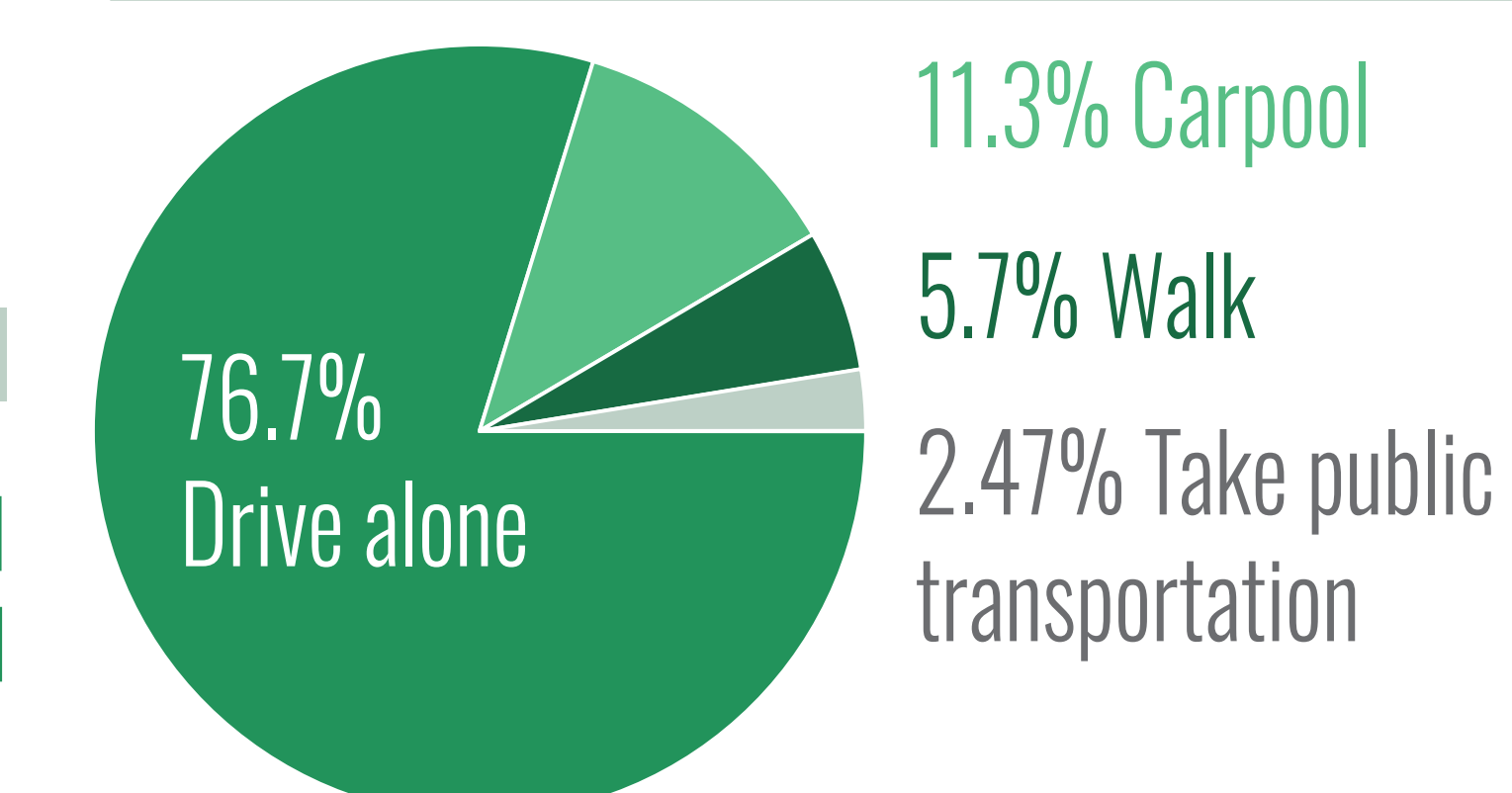
**Plymouth is over 93% white, but growing more diverse.**



**1%** of Plymouth's residents are foreign-born. The majority of foreign-born or non-citizens are from Latin America, Asia, & Europe.

**7.9%** speak a language other than English, and **30%** of those speak English less than very well

### Transportation and Commute



**43%** of households have two cars

**28%** have one car

**26%** have more than two cars

**3%** have zero cars