

## NORTHWEST VALLEY DATAPOINTS

# Northwest Salt Lake County Demographics

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November 2025

Northwest Salt Lake County serves as home to 1 in 10 Utahns and makes up one-quarter of the state's most populous county. Located west of I-15 and hemmed in by Great Salt Lake and the southern suburbs, this region includes West Valley City—Utah's second largest city—along with the communities of Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, and the western portion of Salt Lake City.

As the University of Utah establishes its first off-campus

hospital—located in the heart of Northwest Salt Lake County—and launches a suite of local initiatives aimed at long-term societal impact, community stakeholders need data about the region. The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute meets this need with “Northwest Valley Datapoints,” a series of fact sheets designed to inform local decision-makers and community partners. This second installment provides a demographic overview of the region.

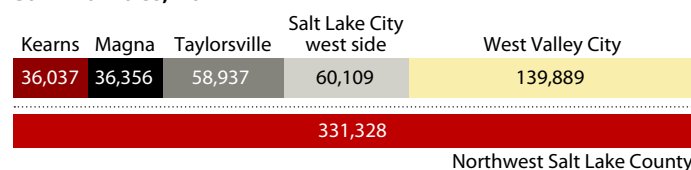
## POPULATION

Northwest Valley, home to 331,328 Utahns, includes five communities ranging in size from 36,000 residents in Kearns to nearly 140,000 in West Valley City.<sup>1</sup> Between 2020 and 2024, populations grew in Magna and the west side of Salt Lake City but declined slightly in Kearns, Taylorsville, and West Valley City.

- **Slow growth in Northwest Valley** – Northwest Valley's regional population gained 8,725 new residents between 2020 and 2024, growing 2.7%. Over the same period the state's population increased 6.8%.
- **Mixed experiences across cities** – Between 2020 and 2024, Taylorsville's population declined by 1,444 residents. Meanwhile, Magna grew by 6,894 residents, and the west side of Salt Lake City gained 4,281 residents.
- **Rapidly growing Magna** – Magna grew three times as fast as Utah overall, increasing 23.4% between 2020 and 2024. Over the same period, the west side of Salt Lake City grew 7.7%, West Valley City's population remained stable with a 0.3% decrease, and Kearns and Taylorsville decreased 1.5% and 2.4%, respectively.

## Northwest Valley includes 5 unique communities.

**Figure 1: Population of Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2024**

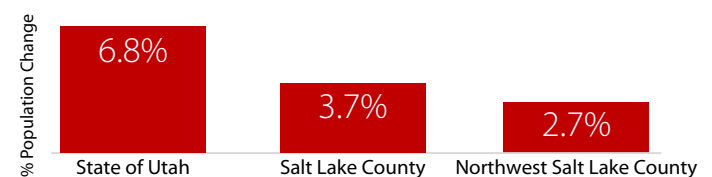


Note: Population estimates for July 1, 2024.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Subcounty Estimates, Vintage 2024

## Northwest Valley grew slower than the state between 2020 and 2024.

**Figure 2: Percent Change in Population for Utah, Salt Lake County, and Northwest Salt Lake County, 2020 to 2024**

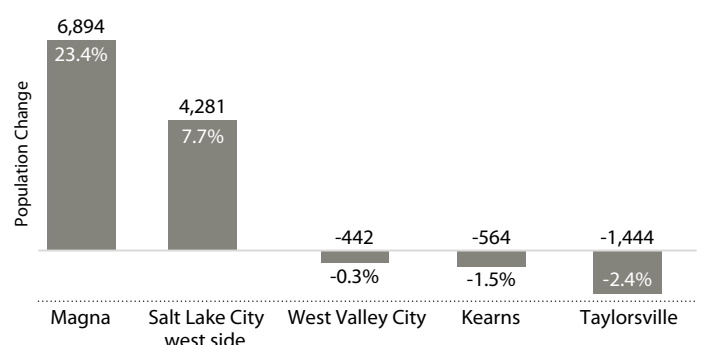


Note: Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.

Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Subcounty Estimates, Vintage 2024

## Populations grew in Magna and Salt Lake City, declined in West Valley City, Kearns, and Taylorsville.

**Figure 3: Population Change in Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2020 to 2024**



Source: Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Subcounty Estimates, Vintage 2024

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Northwest Valley’s population includes people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. Over half of residents (54.3%) identify as Hispanic or non-White, more than twice the statewide share (24.3%). Nearly 2 in 5 residents (39.3%) are Hispanic or Latino, while 45.7% identify as non-Hispanic White. Smaller numbers of residents identify as Asian (4.8%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (3.4%), Black or African American (2.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.8%), and Two or More Races (3.4%).

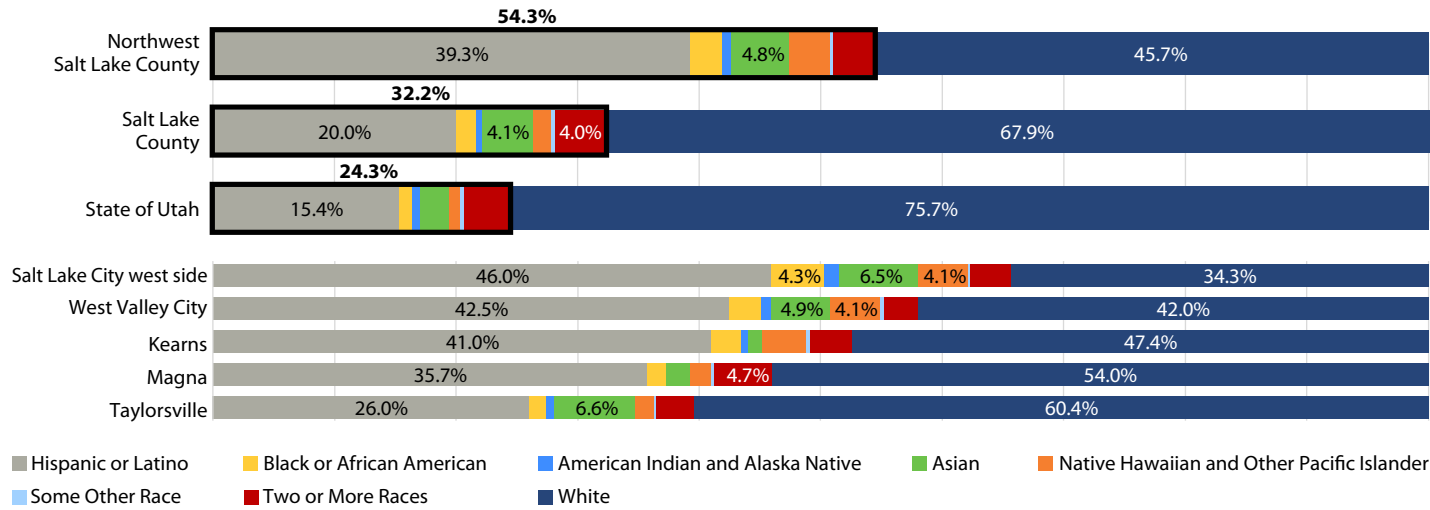
- **Diverse Hispanic or Latino origins** – Northwest Valley’s Hispanic and Latino residents represent 20 different origins. Most (78.0%) identify as Mexican, though Peruvian, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Spanish, and Colombian origins are each reported by more than 2,000 residents.
- **Large Vietnamese population** – More than 4 in 10 Utahns who identify as Vietnamese (either alone or in combination

with other races) live in Northwest Valley— the area’s largest Asian group.

- **Tongan and Samoan residents** – Over one-third (35.8%) of Utah’s Pacific Islander population lives in Northwest Valley, most of whom identify as Tongan or Samoan.
- **Young Black, Hispanic, and multiracial populations** – Northwest Valley’s Black or African American population is especially young, with 55.8% of residents under the age of 25. About half of the region’s multiracial and Hispanic or Latino residents are also under 25.
- **Salt Lake City’s west side leads in diversity** – Salt Lake City’s west side features Northwest Valley’s highest shares of Hispanic or Latino (46.0%), Black or African American (4.3%), and American Indian and Alaska Native residents (1.3%).

Northwest Valley is racially and ethnically diverse.

Figure 4: Race and Ethnicity in Select Communities, 2019-2023



Note: All race groups are single race alone except Two or more Races and Hispanic or Latino, which includes residents of all races who also identify as Hispanic or Latino. All race groups are non-Hispanic except Hispanic or Latino. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019-2023 5-Year Estimates

Most Hispanic residents identify as Mexican.

Table 1: Largest Hispanic or Latino Origin Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County, 2019–2023

Hispanic or Latino Origin	Population
Mexican	98,437
Peruvian	3,629
Guatemalan	3,427
Salvadoran	2,861
Spanish	2,546
Venezuelan	2,193
Colombian	1,995
Puerto Rican	1,853
Spaniard	1,544
Honduran	1,414

Table 2: 3 Largest Hispanic or Latino Origin Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2019–2023

Kearns	Magna	Taylorsville	West Valley City	Salt Lake City west side
Mexican (11,822)	Mexican (8,190)	Mexican (9,893)	Mexican (47,513)	Mexican (21,019)
Spanish (510)	Peruvian (428)	Venezuelan (752)	Guatemalan (1,733)	Guatemalan (1,019)
Puerto Rican (484)	Salvadoran (401)	Salvadoran (603)	Peruvian (1,615)	Peruvian (902)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Vietnamese residents make up the region's largest Asian group.

Table 3: Largest Asian Race Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County, 2020

Detailed Race	Population
Vietnamese	5,445
Filipino	1,700
Burmese	1,350
Laotian	1,313
Cambodian	1,268
Chinese, except Taiwanese	1,266
Asian Indian	963
Japanese	829
Other Asian, not specified	584
Thai	359

Table 4: 3 Largest Asian Race Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2020

Kearns	Magna	Taylorsville	West Valley City	Salt Lake City west side
Vietnamese (293)	Filipino (167)	Vietnamese (871)	Vietnamese (3,528)	Burmese (739)
Filipino (167)	Japanese (97)	Asian Indian (538)	Cambodian (1,046)	Vietnamese (683)
Laotian (128)	Laotian (97)	Filipino (321)	Laotian (919)	Filipino (297)

Note: Alone or in combination race groups. These include people who identify as a single detailed race alone (Vietnamese alone) and people who identify as multiple races (Vietnamese and Thai, or Vietnamese and White). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census, Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A

The majority of Pacific Islanders are Tongan or Samoan.

Table 5: Largest Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County, 2020

Detailed Race	Population
Tongan	7,718
Samoan	6,230
Native Hawaiian	1,029
Marshallese	635
Other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, not specified	503
Fijian	100
Māori	< 100
Chamorro	< 50
Chuukese	< 50

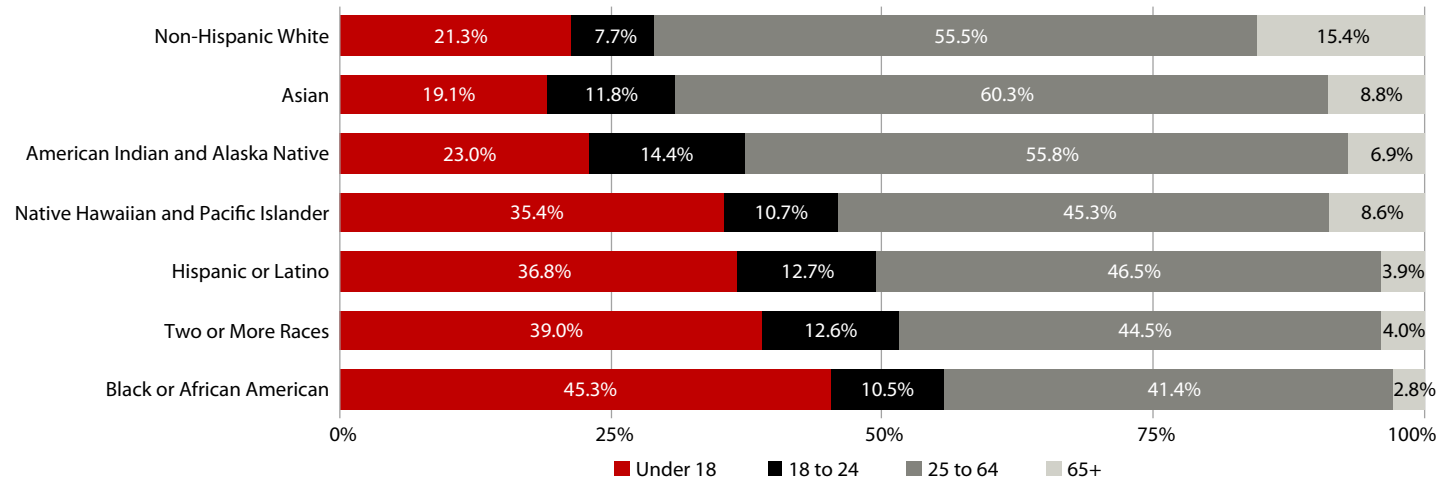
Table 6: 3 Largest Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Race Groups for Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2020

Kearns	Magna	Taylorsville	West Valley City	Salt Lake City west side
Samoan (677)	Tongan (469)	Samoan (963)	Tongan (3,343)	Tongan (2,565)
Tongan (576)	Samoan (425)	Tongan (765)	Samoan (3,103)	Samoan (1,062)
Native Hawaiian (91)	Native Hawaiian (117)	Native Hawaiian (179)	Marshallese (574)	Native Hawaiian (103)

Note: Alone or in combination race groups. These include people who identify as a single detailed race alone (Tongan alone) and people who identify as multiple races (Tongan and Samoan, or Tongan and White). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census, Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A

Black, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and multiracial communities stand out as especially young.

Figure 5: Northwest Salt Lake County Race and Ethnicity by Age, 2019–2023



Note: Hispanic or Latino includes residents of all races who identify as Hispanic or Latino. All other groups are single-race alone, except Two or More Races. All groups include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic residents, unless otherwise specified. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

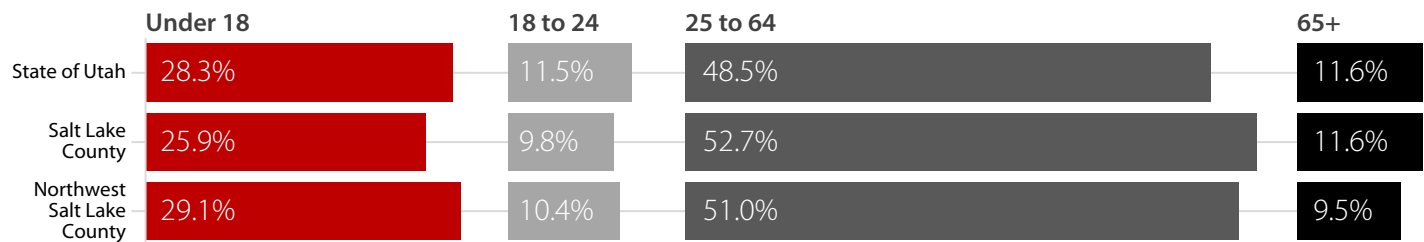
AGE

Northwest Valley residents are younger on average than those in Salt Lake County. Children under 18 make up 29.1% of the population, and another 10.4% are ages 18 to 24. Adults ages 25 to 64 account for 51.0%. Another 9.5% of residents are age 65 or older—a smaller retirement-age share than the county or state.

- **Median age varies** – Median age ranges from 30.3 in West Valley City to 34.4 in Taylorsville, compared to 31.7 statewide.
- **Aging population** – Like the rest of the state and nation, Northwest Valley's population is aging. Median age increased by at least three years in every community between 2000 and the most recent estimates (2019-2023).

Northwest Valley reflects Utah's young population.

Figure 6: Age Groups in Northwest Salt Lake County, Salt Lake County, and Utah, 2019–2023

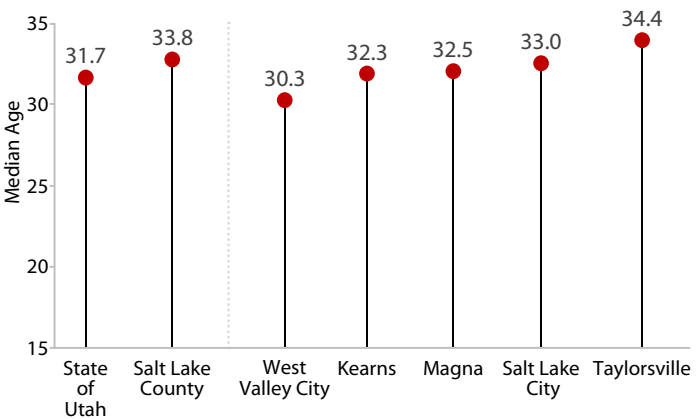


Note: Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Median age in Northwest Valley ranges from 30.3 to 34.4.

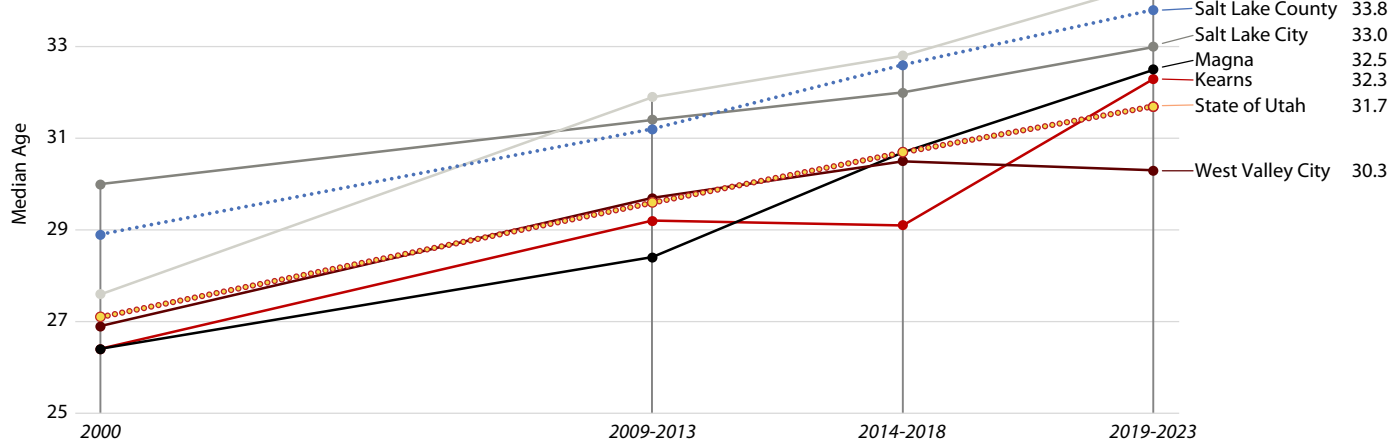
Figure 7: Median Age in Select Communities, 2019–2023

Note: 2024 estimates show Utah's median age at 32.4; however, to allow for comparison with smaller communities, 2019-2023 data is presented here instead. Due to data availability, median age is shown for all of Salt Lake City, not just the west side.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates



Northwest Valley communities are aging alongside the state.

Figure 8: Median Age in Select Communities, 2000 to 2019–2023



Note: Due to data availability, median age is shown for all of Salt Lake City, not just the west side.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census (SF4), American Community Survey 2009–2013, 2014–2018, 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

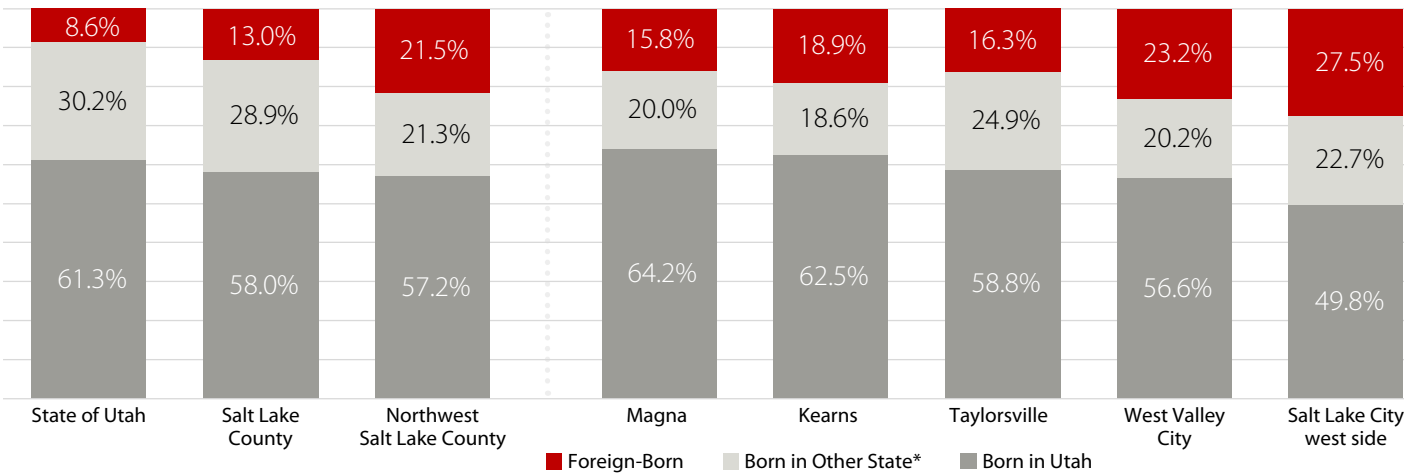
PLACE OF BIRTH

- Most Northwest Valley residents were born in Utah (57.2%), with another 21.3% born in other U.S. states and 21.5% born outside the U.S. Those born outside of the United States (the foreign-born population) make up a larger share of the region's population than in the state overall.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, transplants from other states compose a smaller share than their percentage statewide.
- **West Valley City's large foreign-born population** – West Valley City is home to nearly 32,000 residents born outside

- the U.S.— more than any other city in Utah— representing 23.2% of the city's population.
- **Magna's Utah-born population** – Magna includes a higher percentage of residents born in Utah than the state overall (64.2% vs 61.3%).
  - **Taylorsville's out-of-state migrants** – Within Northwest Salt Lake County, Taylorsville includes the largest share of residents born in other states (24.9%), though both Salt Lake County and the state exceed that level.

Northwest Valley features similar shares born in other states and abroad.

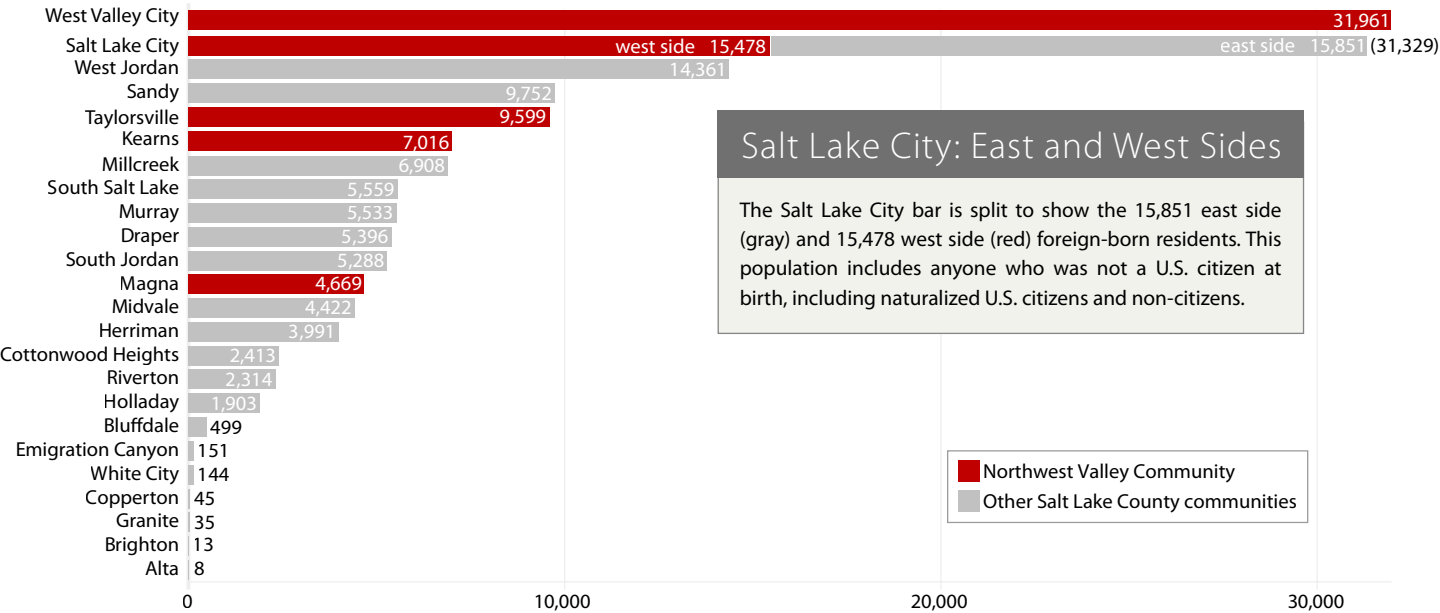
Figure 9: Place of Birth for Residents in Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: "Born in other state" includes those born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island Areas, and born abroad to American parents. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens. Foreign-born shares for Kearns, Magna, and Taylorsville are statistically similar. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

West Valley City includes a large foreign-born population.

Figure 10: Foreign-Born Population in Salt Lake County Cities, 2019–2023



Salt Lake City: East and West Sides

The Salt Lake City bar is split to show the 15,851 east side (gray) and 15,478 west side (red) foreign-born residents. This population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens.

Northwest Valley Community  
Other Salt Lake County communities

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS<sup>2</sup>

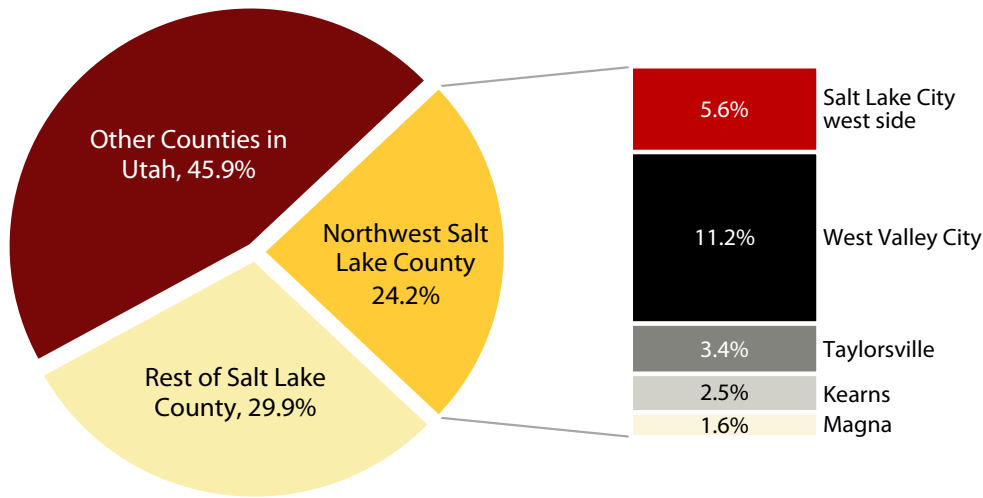
One-quarter (24.2%) of Utah's 285,000 foreign-born residents live in Northwest Valley, adding to the region's cultural diversity. Most (69.6%) were born in Latin America, and another 15.8% in Asia. The majority are long-term residents—72.1% have lived in the U.S. for more than 15 years.

- **Latin American-born residents in West Valley City** – Over 20,000 residents of West Valley City were born in Latin America, three-quarters (78.0%) of whom were born in Mexico.

- **Taylorsville's large Asian-born population** – In Taylorsville, almost one-third of foreign-born residents come from Asia (31.0%), including large populations from Vietnam, China, and the Philippines.
- **Long-term residents from abroad in Kearns** – Over 55% of the foreign-born residents in Kearns entered the country more than 25 years ago (before 2000).

One-quarter of Utah's foreign-born population lives in Northwest Valley.

Figure 11: Utah's Foreign-Born Population by Place of Residence, 2019–2023



Note: The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Most foreign-born residents come from Latin America.

Table 7: Foreign-Born Population by Region of Origin for Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2019–2023

Community	Region of Origin						Total Foreign-Born Population
	Northern America	Europe	Africa	Oceania	Asia	Latin America	
Magna	8	328	97	279	290	3,667	4,669
Kearns	6	324	232	438	321	5,695	7,016
Taylorsville	53	507	376	350	2,975	5,338	9,599
Salt Lake City west side	71	534	858	994	2,705	10,689	15,851
West Valley City	39	1,151	1,491	1,898	4,658	22,724	31,961
Northwest Salt Lake County	177	2,844	3,054	3,959	10,949	48,113	69,096

Note: Northern America refers to Canada, Greenland, and Bermuda. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Top origins include Mexico, Vietnam, and parts of Oceania.

Table 8: Top Countries of Origin for the Foreign-Born Population in Northwest Salt Lake County, 2019–2023

Country of Origin	Foreign-born Population
Mexico	35,799
Vietnam	3,646
Oceania n.e.c.*	3,250
Guatemala	2,269
Peru	2,164
Venezuela	1,705
El Salvador	1,651
Colombia	1,386
Philippines	1,060
China**	1,000

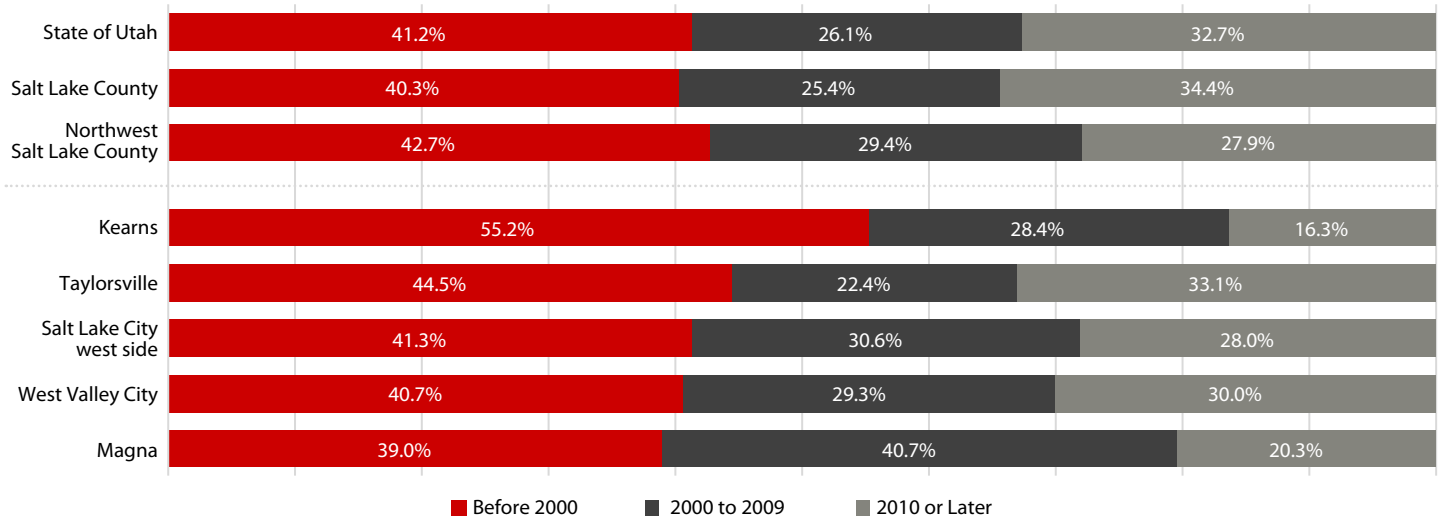
Table 9: Top Countries of Origin for Foreign-Born Residents in Northwest Salt Lake County Communities, 2019–2023

West Valley City	Taylorsville	Magna	Kearns	Salt Lake City – west side
Mexico (16,781)	Mexico (3,350)	Mexico (2,851)	Mexico (4,431)	Mexico (8,386)
Vietnam (1,895)	Vietnam (1,034)	Peru (300)	El Salvador (360)	Oceania n.e.c.* (959)
Oceania n.e.c.* (1,607)	Philippines (487)	Oceania n.e.c.* (161)	Guatemala (329)	Vietnam (699)
Guatemala (1,242)	China** (434)	Venezuela (161)	Oceania n.e.c.* (317)	Thailand (597)
Peru (1,179)	El Salvador (407)	Italy (151)	Chile (179)	Guatemala (572)

Note: \*\*Oceania n.e.c.” represents all countries in Oceania except Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. \*\*China includes Taiwan and Hong Kong. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Most foreign-born residents have lived in the U.S. for over a decade.

Figure 12: Year of Entry for Foreign-Born Residents in Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates



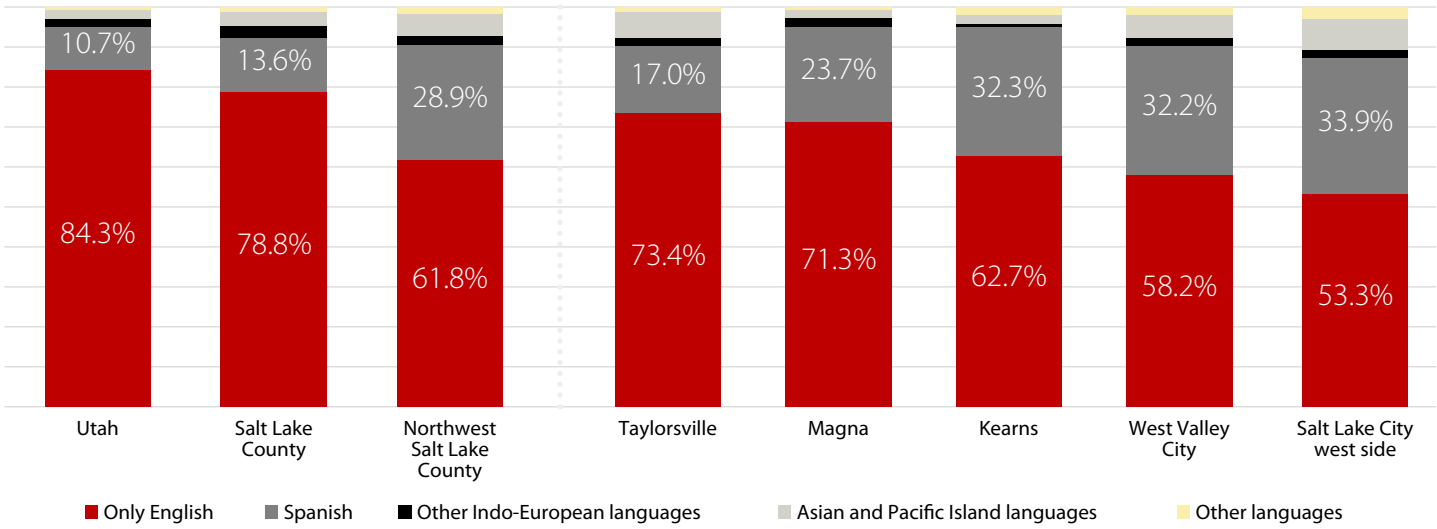
LANGUAGE

Residents of Northwest Salt Lake County speak more than 95 unique languages. The majority of residents speak English, with 61.8% of the population speaking only English at home. Another 28.9% of residents speak Spanish at home. Other languages commonly spoken include Swahili, Somali, Vietnamese, Samoan, and Tongan.

- **Multilingual abilities** – Of Northwest Valley residents who speak a language other than English at home, 59.1% report also speaking English “very well.”

1 in 3 Northwest Valley residents speak Spanish or an Asian or Pacific Island language.

Figure 13: Language Spoken at Home in Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens and non-citizens. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

Students in area elementary schools speak many languages.

Figure 14: Most Common Languages Spoken by Students in Grades K through 6 in Northwest Salt Lake County, 2025

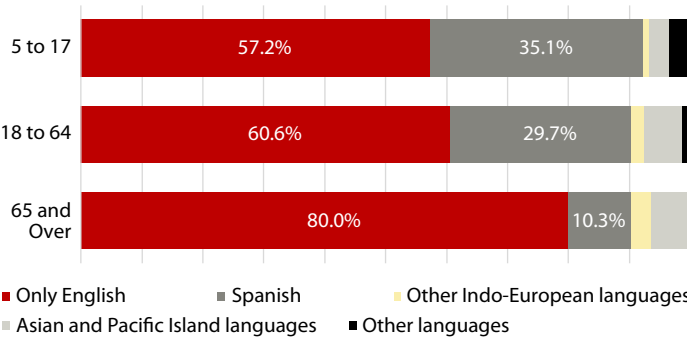


Note: All languages listed are spoken by a minimum of 25 students and in at least 17 area schools in the Granite or Salt Lake City School Districts. Kinyarwanda is a Bantu language spoken in Rwanda. Karen is primarily spoken in Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand. Pushto (Pashto) is an eastern Iranian language primarily spoken in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Dari is also spoken in Afghanistan.  
Source: Utah State Board of Education, 2025 Student Language Counts, Granite School District and Salt Lake City School District (select schools)

- **School district insights** – Spanish is spoken by students at every elementary school in Northwest Valley. Swahili, Somali, Vietnamese, and Arabic are each represented at over half the region's schools.
- **Spanish-speaking youth** – Northwest Valley youth speak Spanish at higher rates than older residents, with 35.1% of children under age 18 speaking Spanish compared to 29.7% of residents age 18 to 64, and 10.3% of residents age 65 and older.

Children speak Spanish at higher rates than older residents.

Figure 15: Language Spoken at Home by Age for Northwest Salt Lake County, 2019–2023



Note: Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15. Indo-European languages include languages of India and Europe (besides Spanish and English). Other languages include Arabic, Hebrew, languages of Africa, and Native languages of North America.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

HOUSEHOLDS

On average, Northwest Valley households are larger than households statewide. Unlike the state of Utah and Salt Lake County—where one-person households outnumber households with five or more people—Northwest Valley has more large households, with 20.9% of households including five or more people and 18.4% consisting of one person living alone.

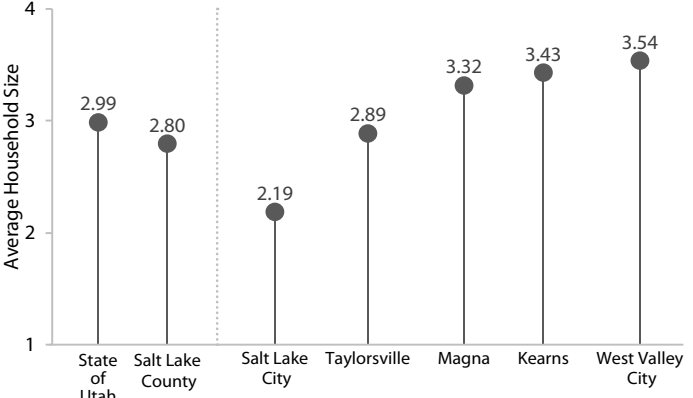
Children live in 41.3% of Northwest Valley homes, while married couples without children make up another 25.1%. Nonfamily households, which include individuals living alone or with unrelated roommates, make up another quarter (24.9%), and other family arrangements account for the last 8.7%. A distinct feature of the region is its high share of multigenerational households (9.1%).

- **Average household size varies** – Household size ranges from 2.19 people on average in Salt Lake City (east and west sides combined) to 3.54 in West Valley City.
- **Large households in West Valley City** – One-quarter of households in West Valley City (25.1%) include five or more people. In comparison, these large households make up 18.4% of Utah households overall.
- **Multigenerational households** – More than 1 in 10 households in Kearns (11.3%) and West Valley City (10.3%) include members from three or more generations of a family—more than double the rate in Utah overall (4.9%).

- **Nonfamily households on Salt Lake City's west side** – Over one-third of households (35.4%) on Salt Lake City's west side are nonfamily households, with residents living alone or with unrelated roommates.

Magna, Kearns, and West Valley City stand out with large average household sizes.

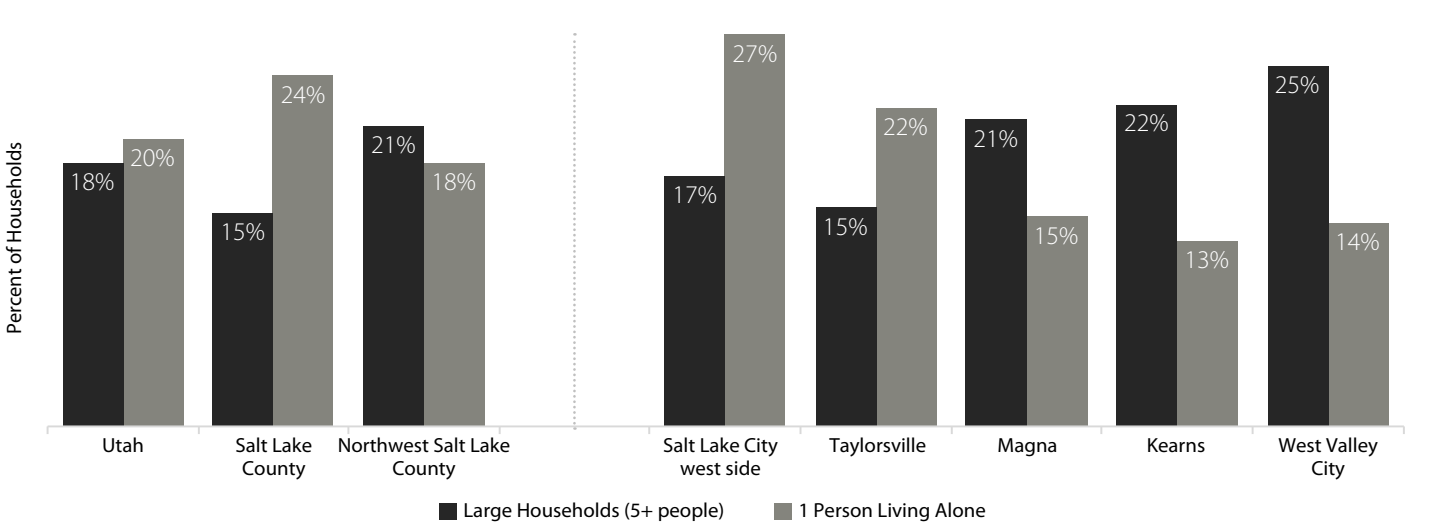
Figure 16: Average Household Size for Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: Data reflects average household size for all of Salt Lake City, as data for the west side alone is unavailable.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

5+ person households outnumber 1 person households in Northwest Valley.

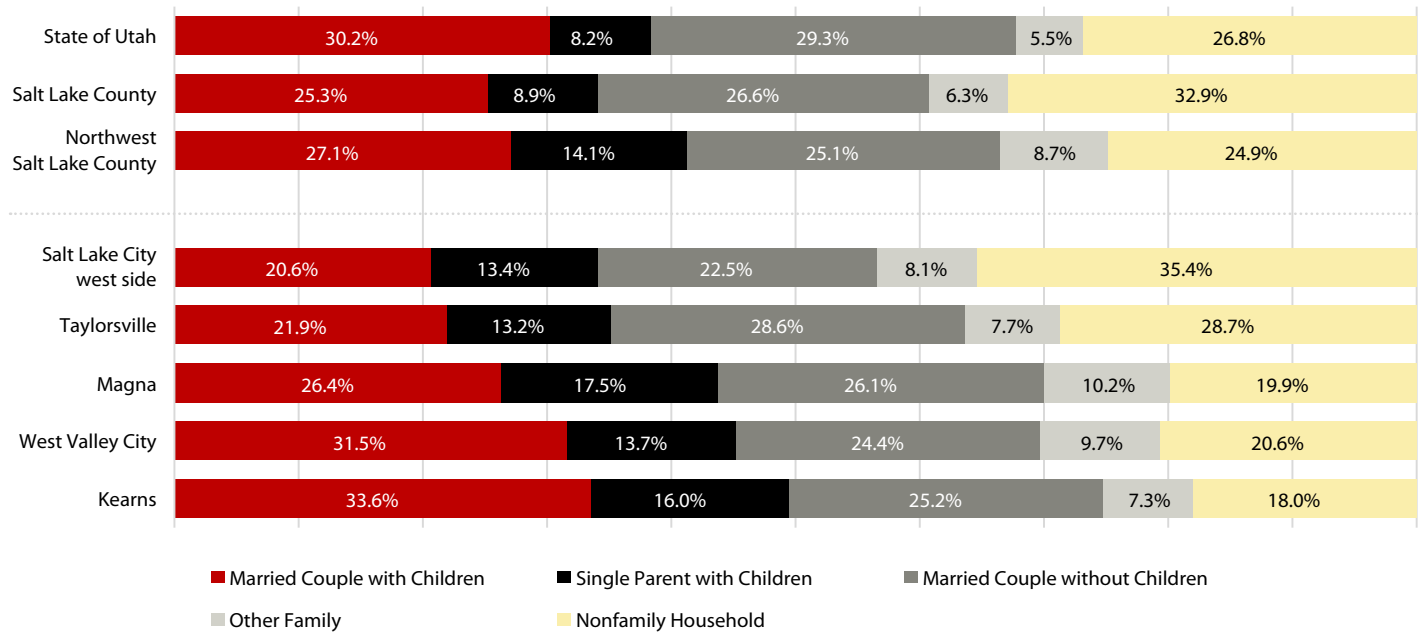
Figure 17: Share of 1-Person and 5 or More Person Households in Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

## 4 in 10 Northwest Valley households include children.

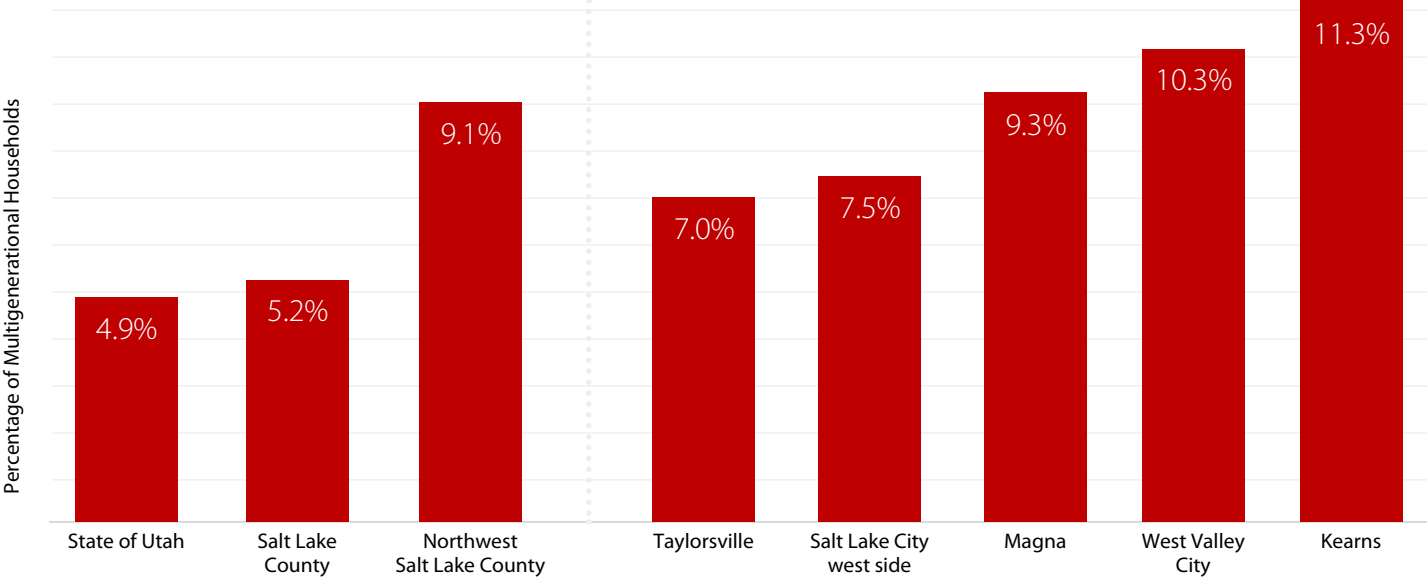
Figure 18: Households by Type in Select Communities, 2019–2023



Note: Nonfamily households include individuals living alone or with unrelated roommates. Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates

## Many families choose multigenerational living.

Figure 19: Share of Multigenerational Households in Select Communities, 2020



Note: Multigenerational households include related individuals from three generations (for example, a grandparent, adult child, and grandchild). Northwest Salt Lake County includes Kearns, Magna, Taylorsville, West Valley City, and Salt Lake City west of I-15.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census, Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

### Endnotes

1. These counts, taken from the 2019–2023 5-Year American Community Survey estimates, do not sum to the 2024 regional population of 331,328 due to the earlier time period of the survey and different source. The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Subcounty Estimates used for population totals do not include data for place of birth.
2. The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes survey respondents who indicated they were a U.S. citizen by naturalization or not a U.S. citizen. More information can be found at [www.census.gov/topics/population/foreign-born/about.html](https://www.census.gov/topics/population/foreign-born/about.html).

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Clark Ivory  
Ann Marie McDonald

Derek Miller  
Ann Millner  
Sterling Nielsen  
Jason Perry  
Ray Pickup  
Gary B. Porter  
Taylor Randall  
Jill Remington Love  
Josh Romney  
Charles W. Sorenson  
James Lee Sorenson  
Vicki Varela

### Ex Officio (*invited*)

Governor Spencer Cox  
Speaker Mike Schultz  
Senate President  
Stuart Adams  
Representative  
Angela Romero  
Senator Luz Escamilla  
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