

Profile

Spokane Community



Spokane is the heart of the Inland Northwest and the second largest city in Washington. It has a rich history of native indigenous people, western American exploration, rural homesteading, and urban industrial development. It is a major city, yet is intertwined with the natural beauty of rivers, forests, mountains, and waterfalls. Spokane metropolitan area borders North Idaho and the beautiful Coeur D'Alene area. It has been selected as an All-America City in 1985, 2004, 2015 and was again a finalist in 2021.

The Inland Northwest boasts four full seasons. The Spring and Summer are full of multiple large public events, 100,000s of runners, hikers, swimmers, fisherman, boaters, large farming operations, and backyard gardeners. The fall and winter will find five local ski slopes fully utilized and the majesty of white snow dazzling our beautiful landscape.

The city of Spokane has a population of 230,609, including an 9% growth since 2010. Projections include a 1.2% annual growth rate through 2030. In 2025, Spokane is the 101 largest city in America and represents 43% of the Spokane County residents. The area is 84.6% Caucasian, yet minority growth is evident with a large influx of Pacific Islanders and those of Hispanic descent. There is also a steady immigration of Ukrainian and Russian natives. The Inland Northwest has an exceptionally strong relationship with area Native Tribes

The immediate area boasts three major universities, two medical schools, and two community colleges. Gonzaga University, a private Jesuit college, sits immediately adjacent to downtown Spokane. Whitworth University, a private Christian college is within the city's northern border. Eastern Washington University is ten miles from Spokane's western boundary. The area also hosts numerous blue collar and administrative training centers. South Hill Bible Church borders two public high school districts and three middle schools.

The Spokane area is the largest medical community between Minneapolis and Seattle with three medical centers, five hospitals, and a plethora of dental, mental health, social services, and specialty care available. Spokane hosts Fairchild Air Force Base, the world's largest Air Refueling Tanker base supported by over 10,000 active duty, Air Guard, civilian, and contract personnel. A favorite retirement area for veterans, Spokane is home to 17,400 former military members.

Spokane County's median age is 36.2 years old. Home ownership is 55.2% for adults and average annual income is \$50,006, average family income is \$65,745, and married family income is \$106,741. The poverty rate averages 17.15% of all residents, but is significantly higher amongst the local minority populations, reaching 47% for Pacific Islanders and 33% for Indigenous people.

Spokane, and the Pacific Northwest area as a whole is part of what is termed the "Unchurched Belt," which refers to the region's low church membership and religious affiliation rates. Out of the population of 230,000 people, there are about 64,000 Evangelical Protestants, 66,000 Catholics, and 25,000 Mainline Protestants. The Spokane Islamic Center became the first mosque in the city in 2009. The city also has at least 3 Jewish congregations, including the Emanu-El congregation, which opened the first synagogue in the state in 1892. Spokane is also home to the Mormon Spokane Washington Temple District, and is the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane. There are over 200 churches in Spokane. Overall, the religious leaders and multiple congregations have a mutual respect and positive relationship with each other.