

OSSIPEE MASTER PLAN

CHAPTER ONE

Chapter 1: Population - Page 1

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Summary and Update

An analysis of population trends and characteristics is one of the most important components of a town's Master Plan. Changes in population numbers and composition influence every aspect of a community's development including demand on natural resources, land use, housing, transportation, and the demand for private and public services. Population also affects a town's proportion of state and federal revenue sharing.

Historically, Ossipee's population grew steadily from 1785-1840. From 1850-1920 the population declined because of the westward movement and urbanization, the move to urban areas. From 1920-1960 the population fluctuated. According to the Office of State Planning, since 1960 the population has been increasing steadily.

In 2000 Ossipee's percentage of population increase since 1990, 27.3%, was more than that of Carroll County or the state of New Hampshire. In the 2000 census the population of Carroll County had risen 23.3% since 1990. This was the largest increase in county population in the state. Although the increase in population for Ossipee was less than the increase from 1980 to 1990, the increase from 1980 to 2000 was 34.2%. Ossipee now ranks 76 of the 234 municipalities in New Hampshire in total population in the 2000 census. The larger increase in Southern Carroll County is attributed by some to being part of the Lakes Region and by the migration of people from Massachusetts.

TOTAL POPULATION OF OSSIPEE

YEAR	1970	1980	1990	1999	2000
POPULATION	1647	2465	3309	3376	4211

Population Projections

Projections of the future population of Ossipee vary depending on the method used to compute them. The following projections come from Municipal Population Projections by the NH Office of State Planning, 1997.

YEAR	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
POPULATION	3730	4046	4277	4602	4965

Since Ossipee is already close to the population projection for 2010, it seems reasonable to project that the population of Ossipee will continue to grow at a rate larger than expected. Office of State Planning is preparing new projections based on the 2000 census information. Hot off the press in 2004, here are the new larger numbers from the Office of Energy and Planning:

YEAR	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
POPULATION	4570	5010	5460	5860	6180

Household Size

Household size is an important demographic variable that is useful for predicting future housing needs and in designing community facilities. National trends indicate a decrease in household size; Ossipee is also being affected similarly by this demographic shift, except for a slight increase in the 1990 census figures.

AVERAGE POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD IN OSSIPEE

YEAR	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
# PER HOUSEHOLD	3.10	3.01	2.58	2.63	2.43

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960-1990, 2000

Population Density

Ossipee has approximately 71.3 square miles of land area. The town's population per square mile has been increasing since 1960 from 19.8 persons per square mile to 48 persons per square mile in 1999 according to the Office of State Planning. As a result of the 2000 census, the population density has risen to 59 people per square mile.

Characteristics of the Population

The percentage of males and females in the population of Ossipee is equal; each makes up 50% of the population. 99.1% of the population is white. There are very small numbers of Blacks, American Indian, and Asian residents. Age distribution within a community influences public service demand, especially on the school system. It is very difficult to compare the changes in population distribution from the 1983 Master Plan, because different age groupings were used. However, comparing the 1980 census with the 1990, it appears that the percent of preschool age children increased, while the number of school age residents decreased slightly. The number of working age residents increased more than the others, and the number of elderly (65+) decreased in that 10 year period. Surprisingly, the median age of the population dropped one year from 37.8 to 36.8 in that same decade.

About 1/4 of the population was under 19 according to the 1990 census. About 1/2 of residents were within the working age group (ages 20-59), and a little less than 1/4 were in the oldest group, those 60 and above. According to The Lakes Region Planning Commission, this is consistent with the number of retirees settling in the Lakes Region and is a higher percent of elderly than the state percent.

This trend to an aging population continues in the 2000 census results. The median age has increased to 41.5 years. The preschool age group decreased this time, while the number of school age children increased. The number of residents between 25 and 34 decreased quite a bit, as did the number of people between 55 and 59, while the number of people 45 to 54 increased. Although the number of people 85 and over stayed at 100, the percent of that population dropped 0.6%, because of the overall population increase.

The number of people between 20-34 is only 13% of the population. Young people leaving for higher education and better paying jobs have an effect here. The number of people between 35 and 54 rose to 31.3% in the 2000 census, an increase of almost 500 people. This may reflect the desire to move to more rural areas to raise families. Some of the fluctuations among the age groups may be caused by people moving from one age bracket to another.

YEAR	AGE	NUMBER	% OF POPULATION
1999	under 5	238	7.1
2000	under 5	201	4.8
1999	5-9	253	7.3
2000	5-9	295	7
1999	10-14	219	6.6
2000	10-14	325	7.7
1999	15-19	194	5.8
2000	15-19	285	6.8
1999	20-24	79	2.3
2000	20-24	163	3.9
1999	25-34	586	17.7
2000	25-34	393	9.3
1999	35-44	497	15.6
2000	35-44	393	9.3
1999	45-54	331	10
2000	45-54	618	14.7
1999	55-59	348	10.5
2000	55-59	261	6.2
1999	60-64	117	3.5
2000	60-64	225	5.3
1999	65-74	314	9.5
2000	65-74	419	10
1999	75-84	174	5.2
2000	75-84	229	5.4
1999	85+	100	3
2000	85+	100	2.4

Causes of Population Change

Changes in population numbers can be due to the ratio of birth to death rates and to the number of people leaving or entering an area. In Ossipee the increase is because of the immigration of people from other places. Without this, the number of people would be decreasing, because the number of deaths has exceeded the number of births every year since 1980 the last year studied in the 1883 Master Plan. In the last eight years the death rate has been two or three times higher than the birth rate.

Rate of Births and Deaths in Ossipee From 1995-2002

YEAR	BIRTHS	DEATHS
1995	23	57
1996	19	64
1997	25	58
1998	25	60
1999	16	58
2000	25	60
2001	21	60
2002	22	64
2003	23	50

Source: Town Reports of Ossipee

Seasonal Fluctuation

Seasonal population fluctuation is very important in Ossipee. Seasonal residents significantly raise the town's population during the summer months placing additional demands on local resources and services. Housing unit statistics from the 1990 census indicate that the population of people living in Ossipee at least doubles during the summer. In the 2000 census the percent of people living in seasonal or recreational housing has dropped to 1/3 of the total. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the conversion of seasonal homes into year round residences. In addition to the impact of people who have seasonal homes, the town's economy and resources are affected by the number of tourists at motels, campgrounds, and visiting homes. If the number of people staying in the over 900 sites in campgrounds is added in, the number of seasonal residents rises significantly.