

POPULATION

The Comprehensive Plan is designed to be a guide for development and must measure community needs. Decisions concerning these needs are dependent on the number and characteristics of the people to be served. Therefore, a study of population is essential to the planning process.

This chapter will discuss the past trends and present characteristics of the population of Woodstock. These will be related to the population trends and characteristics of Shenandoah County and the area surrounding the Town. The population of Woodstock will be projected to the year 2030. Because population projections are necessarily based on assumptions about the factors affecting population, they are subject to significant discrepancies with what actually comes to pass. They are developed as carefully as possible and serve as useful planning tools, but must not be mistaken as population targets.

NOTE: Most of the following data is based on the 1990 Census and will change as the 2000 Census results are acquired.

HISTORICAL TRENDS TO PRESENT POPULATION

Table A shows the decennial populations of Woodstock and Shenandoah County since 1940. Figure A displays Woodstock's population from 1940 to 1990.

The fluctuations in the Town and County growth rates in the ten-year periods since 1940 reflects the sensitivity that the region has had to fluctuations in the national economy, and to the steadily declining household size from (3.33 in 1960 to 2.63 in 1990) the nation has experienced this century.

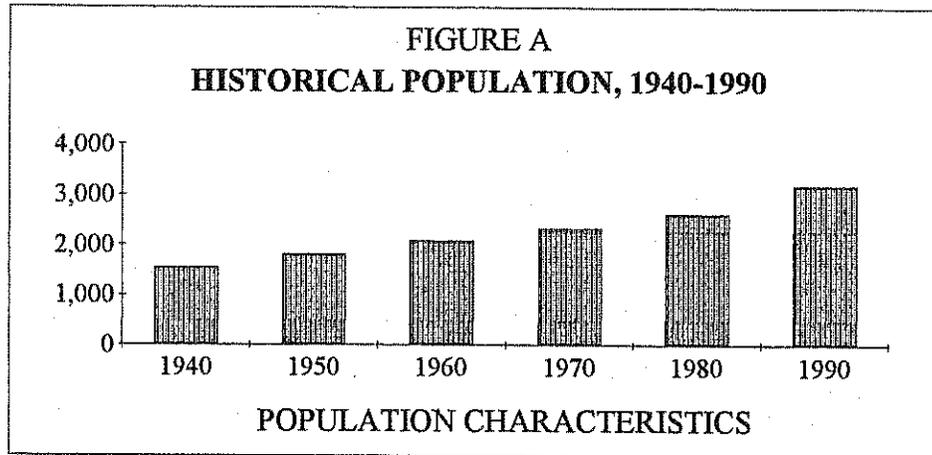
POPULATION GROWTH

TABLE A
HISTORICAL RATES OF GROWTH
WOODSTOCK AND SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Year	Woodstock	% Change	Shenandoah Co	% Change	Town's % of County Pop.
1940	1,546		20,898		7.4
1950	1,816	17.5	21,169	1.3	8.6
1960	2,083	14.7	21,825	3.1	9.5
1970	2,338	12.2	22,852	4.7	10.2
1980	2,627	12.4	27,559	20.6	9.5
1990	3,182	21.1	31,636	14.8	10.1

Sources: Shenandoah County Comprehensive Plan 1990, Nov., 1973

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



Woodstock is relatively densely populated within its corporate limits. The 1990 population count of 3,182 is distributed on 2,035 acres, resulting in a density of 1.56 persons per acre. For the County, a population of 31,636 persons is distributed on 324,480 acres, resulting in a .097 persons per acre density. In other words, Woodstock's population density is 16 times that of the County as a whole.

The distribution of the population by age group for 1980 and 1990 is shown below in Table B. The age group 65 plus had the greatest percentage increase. This group consisted of 25.4% of the Town's population in 1980, but by 1990 it represented 29.8% of the population. Several age groups had percentage decreases. The age group 55 to 64 had the greatest decrease in percentage share, from 12.9% in 1980 to 9.7% in 1990. The age group 5 to 14 also experienced a decrease in percentage share from 12.0% in 1980 to 9.3% in 1990.

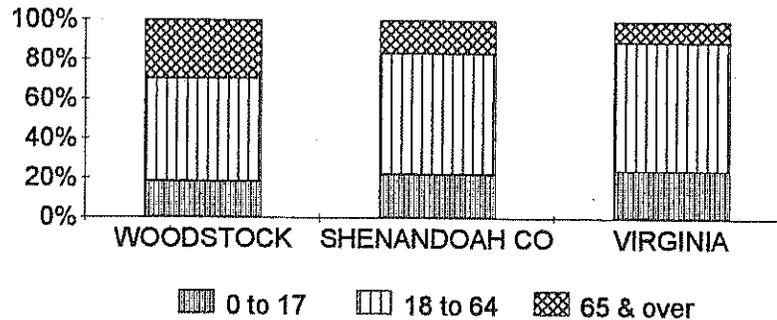
**TABLE B
 AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION, 1980 % 1990**

Age Group	1980				1990			
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%
0-4	72	52	124	4.7	106	83	189	5.9
5-14	172	142	314	12.0	147	148	295	9.3
15-24	181	177	358	13.6	209	194	403	12.6
25-34	162	155	317	12.1	197	209	406	12.8
35-44	107	125	232	8.8	151	180	331	10.4
45-54	127	148	275	10.5	138	164	302	9.5
55-64	151	188	339	12.9	134	175	309	9.7
65+	<u>233</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>668</u>	<u>25.4</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>623</u>	<u>947</u>	<u>29.8</u>
TOTALS	1,205	1,422	2,627	100.0	1,406	1,776	3,182	100.0

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, 1980.
Summary Tape File 1A, Bureau of Census, June 1991

Figure B displays comparative age categories for Woodstock, Shenandoah County, and Virginia. Nearly 30 percent of Woodstock's population in 1990 was 65 years or older. In comparison, Shenandoah County's elderly population was 16.7 percent and Virginia's was only 10.6 percent.

FIGURE B
COMPARATIVE AGE CATEGORIES: 1990



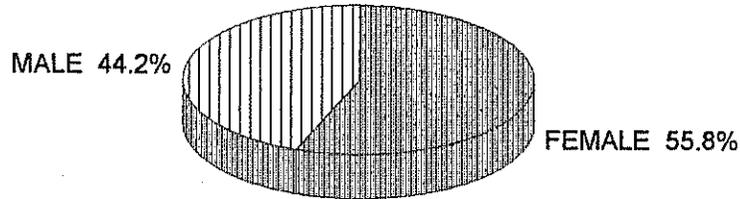
The median age of Woodstock, Shenandoah County, and Virginia residents increased between 1980 and 1990. Woodstock's median age was higher than Shenandoah County's in 1980 and 1990, as shown in Table C. In 1980, Woodstock's median age was 43.6 which increased slightly to 43.9 in 1990. Shenandoah County's median age was 37.4 and Virginia's was 32.6 in 1990.

TABLE C
MEDIAN AGE, 1980 AND 1990
WOODSTOCK, SHENANDOAH COUNTY AND STATE OF VIRGINIA

	Woodstock	Shenandoah County	Virginia
1980	43.6	34	29.8
1990	43.9	37.4	32.6

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980.
Summary Tape File 1A, Bureau of Census, June 1991

**FIGURE C
MALE/FEMALE COMPOSITION**



As mentioned in the section on trends, the average household size for the Town has followed the national and state trends of a slow, steady decline. This means that for any given increase in population, there will have to be an even greater increase in the number of dwelling units, since there will be more individual households. Table D compares Woodstock, the County, and the State for 1980 and 1990.

**TABLE D
HOUSEHOLD SIZE, 1980 AND 1990
WOODSTOCK, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, STATE OF VIRGINIA**

	Woodstock	Shenandoah Co.	Virginia
1980	2.36	2.72	2.77
1990	2.21	2.5	2.61

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980.
Summary Tape Files 1A, U.S. Census Bureau, June 1991.

Woodstock also follows the pattern of Shenandoah County with regard to the racial composition of its population. Compared to Virginia as a whole, there is a very small percentage of non-whites in the Town, and an even smaller percentage in the County. This is a long-standing trend for most of the rural portions of the Shenandoah Valley.

**TABLE E
RACIAL COMPOSITION, 1980 AND 1990
WOODSTOCK, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, STATE OF VIRGINIA**

		Woodstock	Shenandoah Co.	Virginia
1980	% white	95.1	98.3	79.2
	% non-white	4.9	1.7	20.8
1990	% white	96.2	98.2	77.4
	% non-white	3.8	1.7	22.6

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980.

In 1990, 63.7 percent of Woodstock's residents 25 years and older had at least a high school degree. As shown in Table F, the percent of Woodstock's residents with at least a high school degree was slightly below Shenandoah County's 65.2 percent and well

below Virginia's 75.2 percent. Of the Woodstock residents 25 years and older, 15.8 percent had at least a bachelor's degree. This was higher than Shenandoah County's 11.2 percent, but below Virginia's 24.5 percent.

TABLE F
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 1990
WOODSTOCK, SHENANDOAH COUNTY, STATE OF VIRGINIA

	Woodstock	Shenandoah County	Virginia
% high school graduate or higher	63.7	65.2	75.2
% bachelor's degree or higher	15.8	11.2	24.5

Source: Summary Tape Files 3A, U.S. Census Bureau, 1993

BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES 1960-1990

Birth rates in Shenandoah County were consistently lower than the State average throughout the period of 1960-1990, and death rates were consistently higher. This can be attributed to an aging population in Shenandoah County and in Woodstock. The factors of a low birth rate and high death rate provide a very low natural increase in the population (if any). Consequently, in-migration will play a significant role in Woodstock's future population.

TABLE G
BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES FOR
SHENANDOAH COUNTY AND VIRGINIA
1960-1990

	Shenandoah Co.	Virginia	Shenandoah Co. as % of State
1960 Birth Rate	19.5	24.4	80%
Death Rate	12.1	9.2	131%
1970 Birth Rate	16.5	18.6	89%
Death Rate	12.3	7.9	156%
1980 Birth Rate	13.4	14.7	91%
Death Rate	11.4	7.9	144%
1990 Birth Rate	12.2	16	76%
Death Rate	10.9	7.8	139%

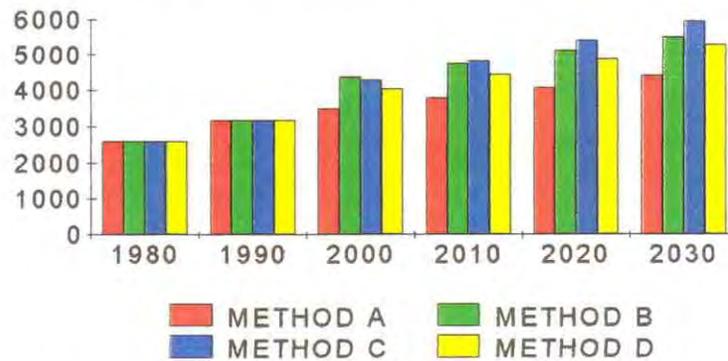
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The future population is an indicator of the Town's growth potential. The size, kind, and number of community facilities that should be available, as well as the potential for industrial, commercial, and residential expansion, are related to future population estimates. Population projections are based on an analysis of past trends and present development. With a relatively small population base, unforeseeable events could greatly alter the projections. The establishment or closing down of a large industry in or near Woodstock is an example of such an unexpected event.

Population forecasts here are based on the assumption that stable economic and political conditions will exist, that no natural or man-made disasters will occur, and that the present social structure will remain basically unchanged. The estimates are also based on the Town's current corporate boundaries.

Shenandoah County's Comprehensive Plan calls for growth in the county to occur at existing population centers, so Woodstock might well capture a higher percentage of the county's growth than it has in the past. Figure D below, shows a range of population projections to the year 2030. These figures are also shown in tabular form in Table H, with notes on the projections methods used.

**FIGURE D
 POPULATION PROJECTIONS**



METHOD A	2627	3182	3500	3800	4100	4410
METHOD B	2627	3182	4375	4750	5125	5513
METHOD C	2627	3182	4292	4847	5402	5957
METHOD D	2627	3182	4056	4466	4876	5293

**TABLE H
POPULATION PROJECTIONS - WOODSTOCK**

	Census Totals		Projections			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Method A @10%	2,627	3,182	3,500	3,800	4,100	4,410
Method B @ 12.5%	2,627	3,182	4,375	4,750	5,125	5,513
Method C	2,627	3,182	4,292	4,847	5,402	5,957
Method D	2,627	3,182	4,056	4,466	4,876	5,293

Method A assumes Woodstock will maintain approximately 10% of Shenandoah County's population.*

Method B assumes Woodstock will maintain approximately 12.5% of Shenandoah County's population.*

Method C uses trend-line analysis (form of linear regression) to project future trends from past and present data. Due to previous ranges between years, the results depend heavily upon the figure entered for 1990.

Method D is the average of Methods A, B, and C.

* The preliminary County population projections released in October 1992 by the Virginia Employment Commission were used for 2000 and 2010. The growth rates used in the population projections released in January 1990 by the Virginia Employment Commission and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission were applied to the October 1992 preliminary population projections and computed for the years 2020 and 2030.