

CRANSTON CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

2000 US Census Data Compilation for Cranston, Rhode Island

Population Trends

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Population Trends

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The Cranston City Planning Commission presents this report as part of its continuing effort to improve the planning process for local government decision-making, and ensure the availability of comprehensive, useable data for Cranston's citizens and organizations.

This report was written by Demian A. Sorrentino, planning intern, under the direction of the Cranston City Planning Department staff.

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I. Introduction

Every ten years, the Federal Government puts forth a monumental effort to track a dizzying array of variables about the changing population of the United States. Each time the census is completed, it provides a greater amount of information regarding our diverse population, with increased levels of detail than the previous Census the decade before.

Occasionally, when census tracts become too large to manage properly, the Census Bureau will split a Census Tract into two smaller Tracts, and identify them by their original Census Tract number, followed by a decimal point and two additional numbers. One such change that has occurred in Cranston since the 1990 Census is that Census Tract 145, formerly Meshanticut, has been split into two separate Census Tracts, now recognized as 145.01, which is Comstock, and 145.02, which is Meshanticut East.

Because of this split, data represented in tables for Census Tracts 145.01 and 145.02 have been combined for reasons of comparability with 1990 data when analyzing trends between the past decades. Where data is not compared with 1990 data, these two Census Tracts are represented as individual Tracts, and are not combined.

Individuals using this data set should also be aware of the presence of the 4,051 institutionalized individuals within the City of Cranston. Census Tract 142, Pettaconsett, includes the Rhode Island State Institutions at Howard, now known as the Pastore Complex, where the vast majority of these institutionalized individuals reside. These institutionalized individuals are counted as Cranston residents in the U.S. Census, and have an increased likelihood to affect most information categories throughout the census, from racial composition to employment and income statistics. A breakdown of individuals living in group quarters (including institutionalized and non-institutionalized individuals) is given in Appendix A.

The intent of this edition of *Population Trends* is to provide a "snapshot" of the population in the City of Cranston at the time of the 2000 US Census, as well as to observe changes in several population characteristics over the past decades. It will explore general population characteristics, as well as more detailed characteristics regarding education, employment & labor, income & poverty, housing, and ethnicity & ancestry. Comparisons between the City of Cranston and the State of Rhode Island, and the City of Cranston and other Rhode Island Municipalities are made as well.

The Census Tract names for the 2000 Census are shown below, and their locations shown on a Cranston City map in Figure 1, on the following page:

134	Pawtuxet	141	Arlington
135	Edgewood	142	Pettaconsett
136	Park View	143	Dean Estates
137.01	Auburn East	144	Garden Hills
137.02	Auburn West	145.01	Comstock
138	Eden Park	145.02	Meshanticut East
139	Garden City	146	Oaklawn
140	Forest Hills	147	Knightsville
		148	Thornton

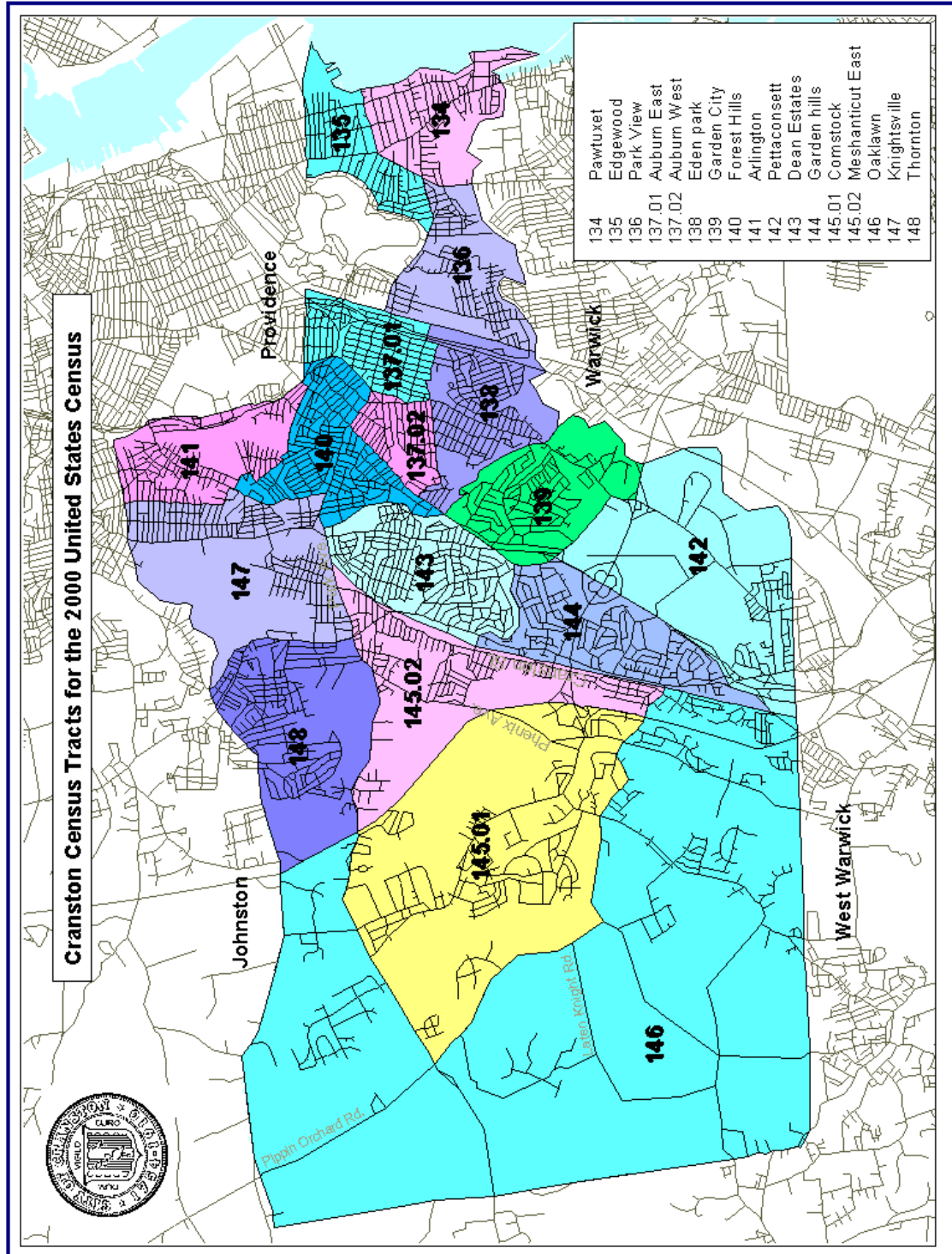


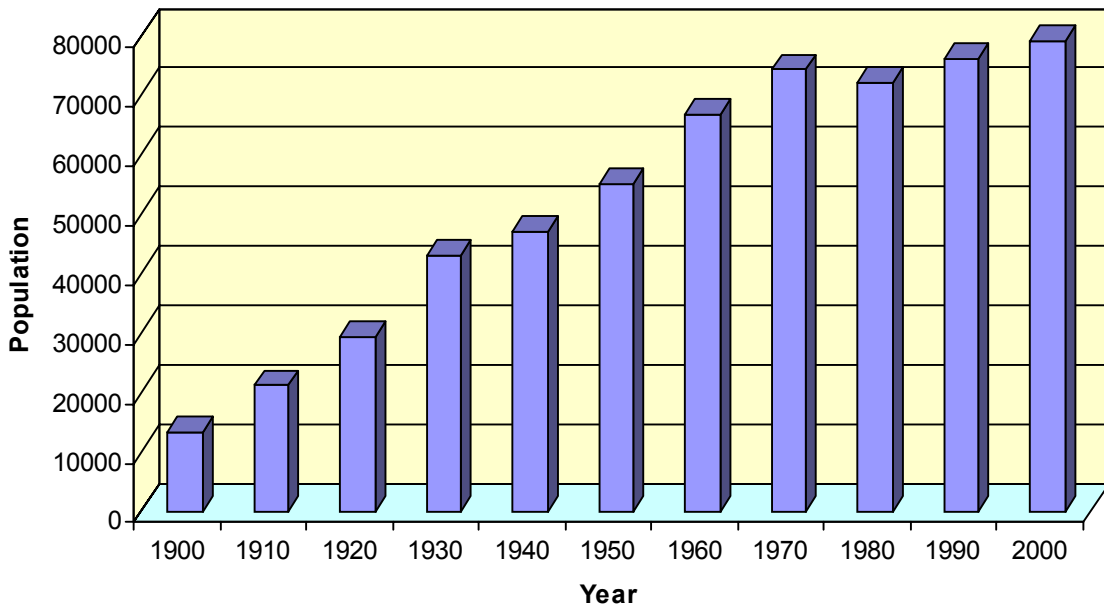
Figure I. Cranston Census Tracts for the 2000 United States Census

II. General Population Characteristics

According to the 2000 figures, the U.S. Census reported that the City of Cranston increased from 76,060 to 79,269 individuals over the past decade. This means that 3,209 individuals have been added to the population of the City of Cranston since the 1990 Census was conducted, continuing the pattern of relatively continuous growth in the City's population throughout history. Only in the decade of the 1970's did the City of Cranston experience a loss in population (represented in a population loss at the 1980 Census), but within the last two decades the population has again initiated its ascent.

Figure 2, below, represents the population of the City of Cranston over the past century:

Figure 2. City of Cranston Population History 1900-2000



1900	13,343	1960	66,766
1910	21,107	1970	74,287
1920	29,407	1980	71,992
1930	42,911	1990	76,060
1940	47,085	2000	79,269
1950	55,060		

Figure 3 on the following page shows the population change in the City of Cranston by Census Tract.

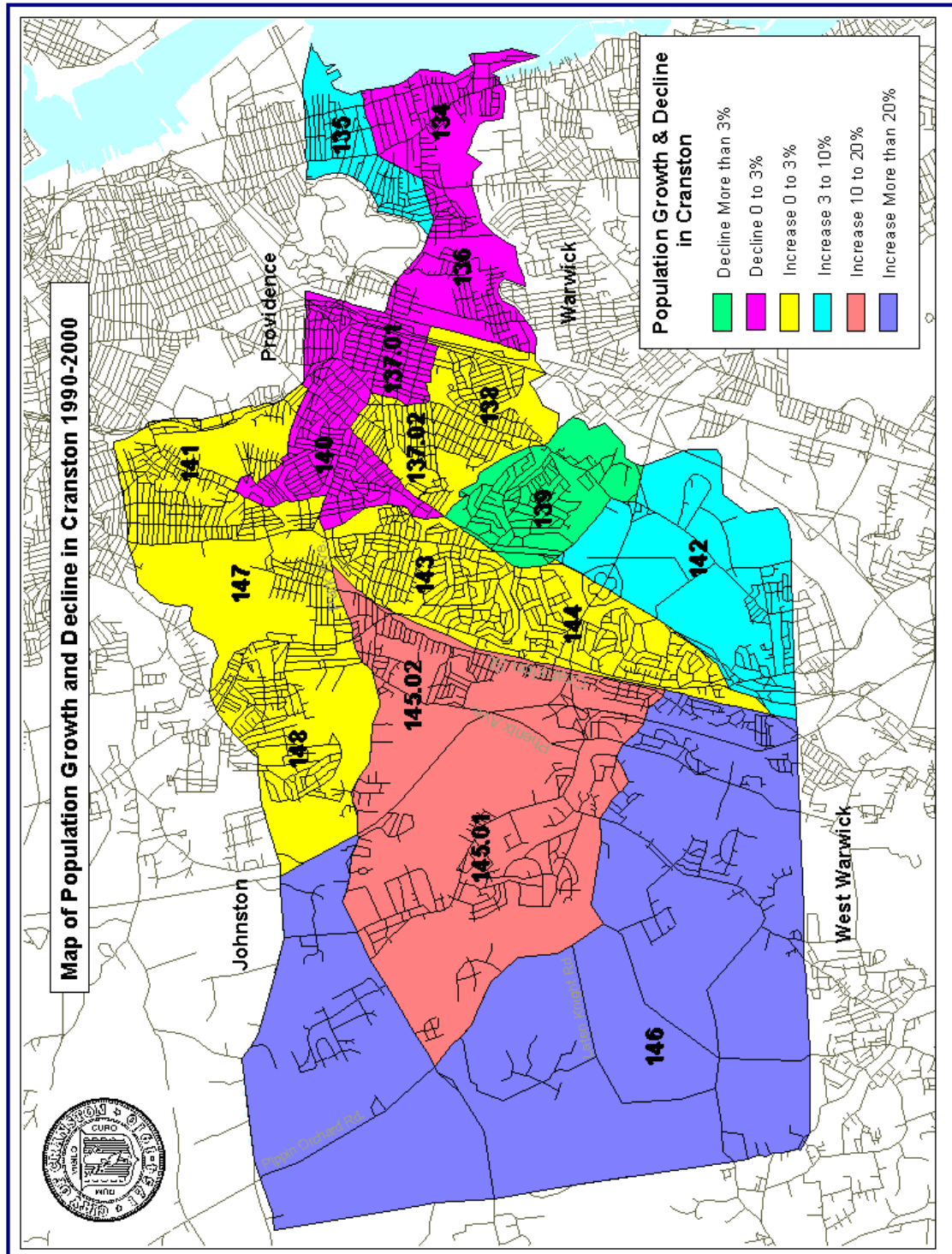


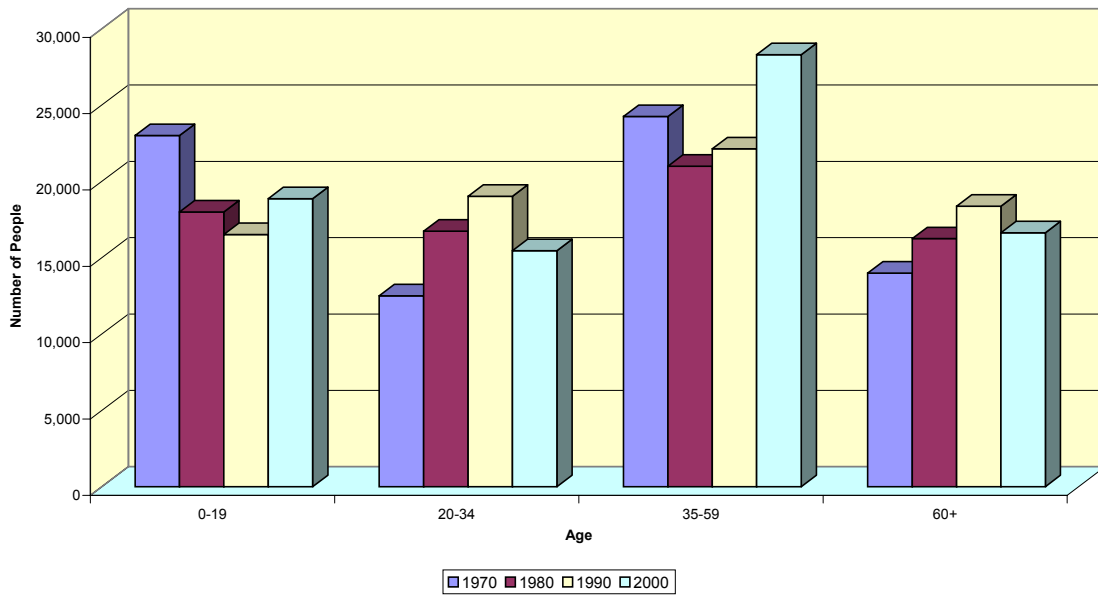
Figure 3. Population Growth & Decline in Cranston 1990-2000

ACCOUNTING FOR THE POPULATION GROWTH

When observing population growth in the City of Cranston over the past ten years, it is helpful to look at where the changes in population have taken place over the past several decades. There has been a significant shift in the age composition of city residents over the past thirty years.

Figure 4, below, shows changes in Cranston's population broken down into representative age groups, including school aged children (0-19), early twenties to mid-thirties (20-34), mid thirties to late fifties (35-59), and those over sixty (60+).

Figure 4. Cranston's Age Composition 1970-2000



In theory, the 3,209 individual increase in Cranston's population over the past ten years should be accounted for throughout the population when broken down by these specified age groups. The following is a simple breakdown of the change in population between the 1990 and 2000 Census, broken down into the same age groups as in Figure 4, above.

Age Group	Population Growth/Decline
0-19	+2,343
20-34	- 3,565
35-59	+6,174
60+	- 1,743
Total	+3,209

AGE & SEX COMPOSITION OF CRANSTON RESIDENTS

The graph of five-year cohorts shown as Figure 5, below, exemplifies the three waves associated with the "baby boom" generation. The parents responsible for the baby boom are represented by the smaller spike to the right of the graph, those individuals who are now in their seventies or older. The "baby boomers", as they are called, are those children born to post World War Two families. They are represented by the large spike in the center of the graph, those individuals who are now largely in their forties and fifties. The third wave, located to the left of the graph, is the group of individuals born to the baby boomers, this being a spike because there is a large pool of parents, even though families are having fewer children. This trend is opposite of the one that created the baby boom generation.

Also, a pattern emerges which is apparent, that the number of males falls below females after the mid-forties, whereas they outnumber females before the mid-forties. This exemplifies the phenomenon of slightly more male births than female births, and the tendency of females to live longer than males. This discrepancy grows increasingly apparent after age sixty.

Figure 5. City of Cranston 2000 Age/Sex Distribution by 5-Year Cohort

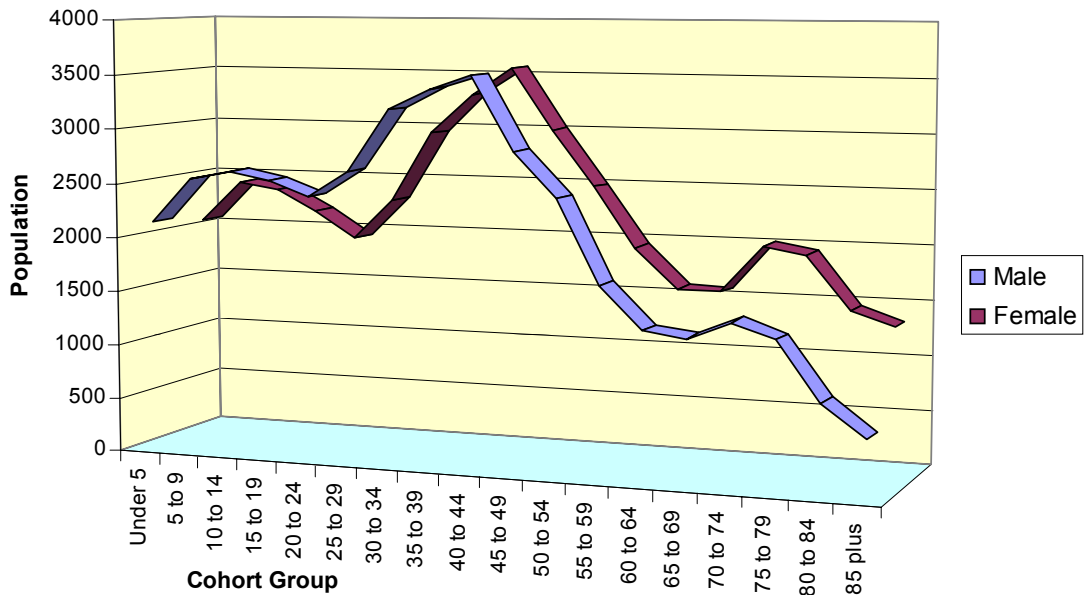
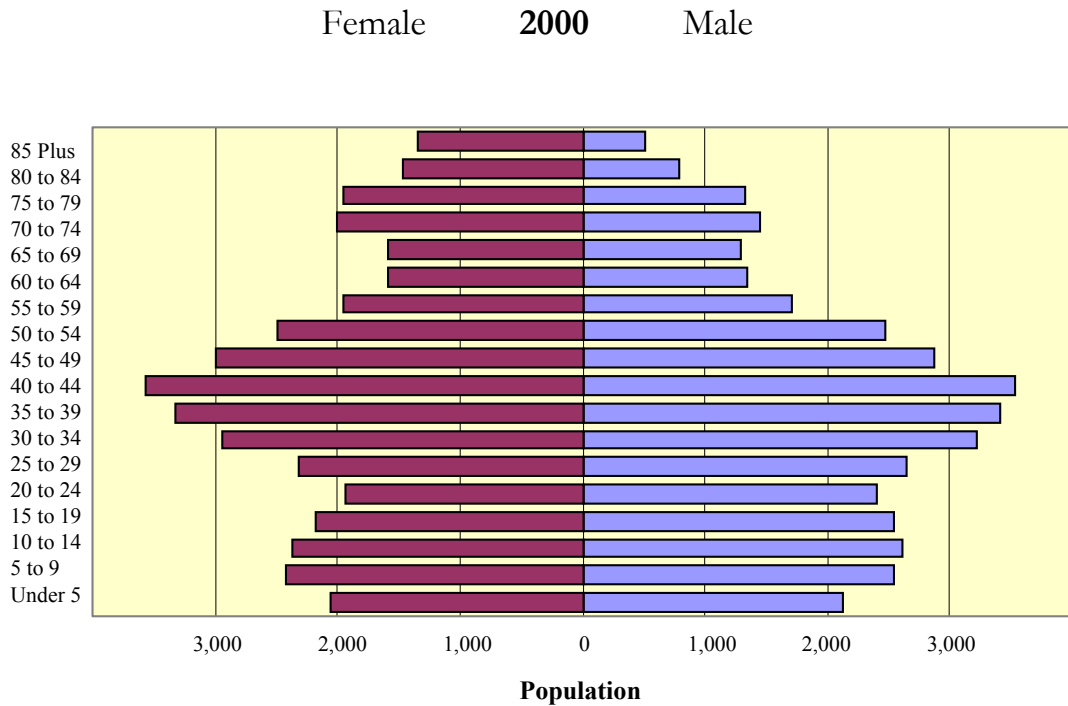
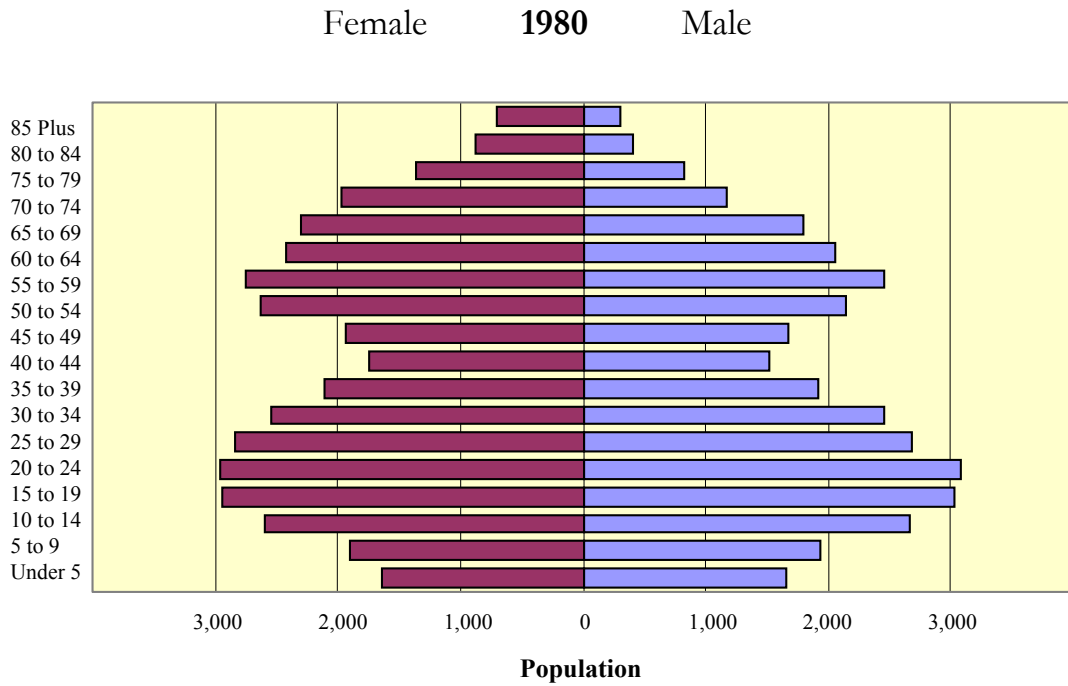


Figure 6 on the following page represents the five-year cohorts broken down by sex at the Censuses of 1980 and 2000. It is interesting to notice the same shifts as were described above, but plotted graphically in a different manner. Perhaps it is more easily recognizable to notice the aforementioned trends in the figures that follow.

Figure 6. Comparison of 5-Year Cohort Group Shift Between 1980 & 2000



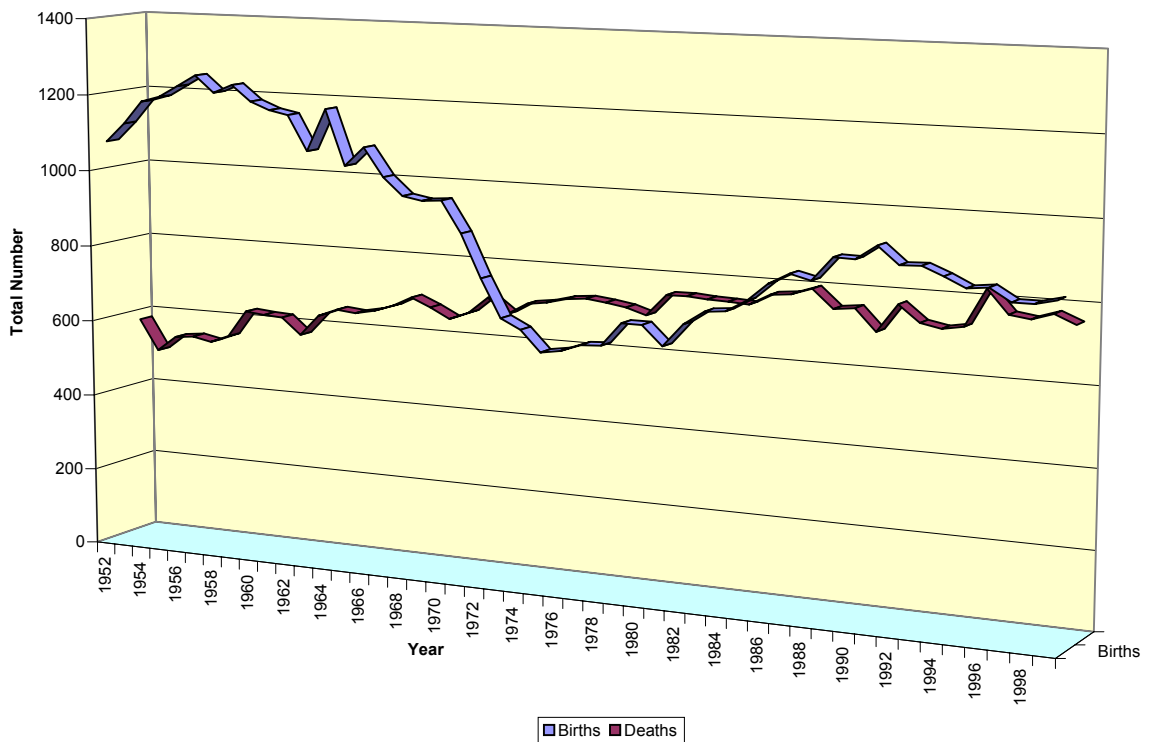
BIRTHS & DEATHS

As the figure below is observed in detail, the "baby boom" era is apparent by the explosion of births which peaks out in the mid to late 1950's. Births decreased sharply (with the exception of spikes during a few years) in the following decade and a half, finally bottoming out in the mid-seventies. Births grew at a moderate rate throughout the late seventies and eighties, reaching another, smaller peak in the early nineties before again entering a downward trend throughout the remainder of the nineties. The death rate appears to have remained on a relatively slow upward trend, likely relative to growth in general population.

It is likely that the City of Cranston will experience a sharp increase in the death rate as the "baby boom" generation enters the older age groups; that sector of the population that is represented by the large spike in Figure 5 on page 6. Although births have outnumbered deaths for the majority of the past fifty years, that trend will likely reverse itself in the coming decades, as it did during the period from the early seventies to the mid eighties.

Figure 7 depicts the trends of Birth and Deaths in the City of Cranston over the years from 1952 to 1998.

Figure 7. Resident Births & Deaths in Cranston 1952 – 2000



CRANSTON YOUTH

Analyzing the number of children that are between the ages of 0 and 9 is a good representation of where the "native" population growth that Cranston is experiencing is coming from, and where the largest impact for present and future school capacities will take place. The largest increases occurred in the central and western sections of the city, while the largest decreases occurred in the eastern sections of the city. This trend suggests that individuals and families either experiencing a child birth in the past ten years or those already having young children have located in the central and western areas of the City since the last Census.

Some areas experienced rapid growth in this sector of the population. The 0 to 9 population in the Garden Hills Census Tract rose by over 26%, and the Oaklawn Census Tract experienced over 34% growth over the past ten years. Data for individuals 0 to 9 years of age is broken down by Census Tract for further analysis in the following Table: (data for Tracts 145.01 and 145.02 are combined and shown in bold because they have been split for the 2000 Census, thus making the data incomparable with that from 1990)

Table 1. Population Change Age 0 to 9 by Census Tract 1990-2000

Census Tract	0 to 9 Population 1990	0 to 9 Population 2000	% Change 1990- 2000
134 Pawtuxet	532	537	0.94%
135 Edgewood	652	572	-12.27%
136 Park View	403	398	-1.24%
137.01 Auburn East	544	532	-2.21%
137.02 Auburn West	387	351	-9.30%
138 Eden Park	558	616	10.39%
139 Garden City	246	283	15.04%
140 Forest Hills	618	610	-1.29%
141 Arlington	620	647	4.35%
142 Pettaconsett	151	181	19.87%
143 Dean Estates	448	517	15.40%
144 Garden Hills	261	329	26.05%
145.01 Comstock	na	805	na
145.02 Meshanticut East	1052	420	16.44%
146 Oaklawn	714	958	34.17%
147 Knightsville	780	852	9.23%
148 Thornton	506	537	6.13%
Total	8472	9145	14.21%

(For further reference, the change in the 0 to 19 population is shown on a map of Cranston in Figure 9, on page 14, which is inclusive of the 0 to 9 population)

THE ELDERLY

The City of Cranston has experienced a remarkable change in elderly population since the 1990 edition of *Population Trends* was created. At that time, there was a trend of strong growth in the elderly population in the City, but over the past decade, the City has experienced a marked decline in the over 60 population. This is likely due to diminished births during the "depression era" and before World War Two, creating a smaller pool of individuals in that specific age group.

Table 2, below, shows the over 60 population of Cranston by Census Tract from 1980 to 2000, representing both the 10 and 20-year trends in elderly population dynamics.

Table 2. Changes in Elderly Population by Census Tract 1980-2000

Census Tract	Age 60+ 1980	Age 60+ 1990	Age 60+ 2000	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 1980-2000
134 Pawtuxet	969	904	808	-10.6	-16.6
135 Edgewood	1,112	885	716	-19.1	-35.6
136 Park View	547	578	493	-14.7	-9.9
137.01 Auburn East	966	906	657	-27.5	-32.0
137.02 Auburn West	756	686	483	-29.6	-36.1
138 Eden Park	1,287	1,289	1,038	-19.5	-19.3
139 Garden City	926	1,193	931	-22.0	0.5
140 Forest Hills	1,660	1,694	1,323	-21.9	-20.3
141 Arlington	979	1,205	913	-24.2	-6.7
142 Pettaconsett	1,071	737	636	-13.7	-40.6
143 Dean Estates	1,100	1,473	1,659	12.6	50.8
144 Garden Hills	888	1,357	1,522	12.2	71.4
145.01 Comstock			496	na	na
145.02 Meshanticut East	952	1,559	1,147	5.4	72.6
146 Oaklawn	485	746	851	14.1	75.5
147 Knightsville	1,715	1,961	1,647	-16.0	-4.0
148 Thornton	756	1,204	1,315	9.2	73.9
Cranston City Total	16,169	18,377	16,635	-9.5	2.9

It is interesting to note that although the over 60 population has declined over the past decade, when broken down further it becomes apparent that the 85 plus population has in fact increased consistently over the past twenty years. The 85 and over population was at 996 individuals in 1980, and grew to 1,296, then 1,848 individuals in 1990 and 2000, respectively. Additionally, the aging "baby boomer" generation will cause the elderly population of Cranston to increase dramatically over the next 10 to 20 years, increasing the demand for elderly programs and facilities in the City.

Figure 8, on the following page depicts the changes in the over 60 population over the past decade.

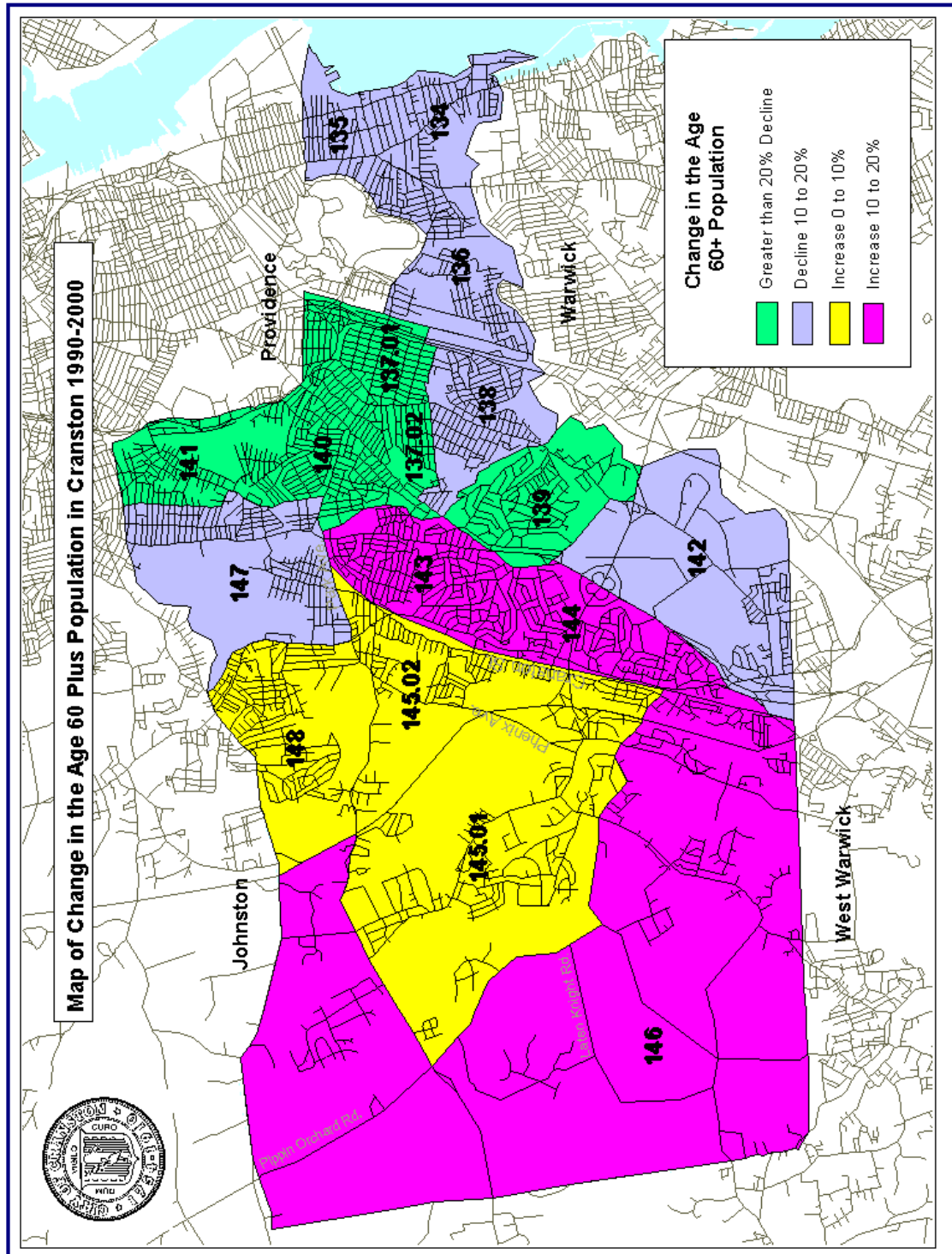


Figure 8. Change in the 60 Plus Population in Cranston 1990-2000

AREAS OF RELATIVE STABILITY

Although the patterns of youth and the elderly affect population changes throughout the City, the population of the City of Cranston remained relatively stable over the last decade. Eleven out of the seventeen Census Tracts in the City experienced less than a 3 percent loss or gain in total population (see those Census Tracts which are pink or yellow in Figure 3 on Page 4), and twelve of the seventeen Census Tracts in the City experienced less than a 5 percent loss or gain in total population.

Because of the relatively slow growth of the City of Cranston over the past decade, nearly all of Cranston's Census Tracts can be considered stable over the past ten years. Imposing a limit of 2% change includes only the most stable of Cranston's Census Tracts, and brings the number of those included down to seven of the total seventeen.

Table 3 shows those Census Tracts that have changed less than 2% over the past decade.

Table 3. Areas of Relative Population Stability (<2% change 1990-2000)

Census Tract		Percent Population Change
136	Park View	-0.5%
137.01	Auburn East	-0.5%
138	Eden Park	1.3%
143	Dean Estates	1.5%
144	Garden Hills	0.7%
147	Knightsville	0.5%
148	Thornton	1.0%

III. Educational Characteristics

Educational characteristics are important factors to consider when analyzing the population dynamics of a municipality. Because education and education related expenses are the most formidable expenses in a city budget, factors that affect education should be monitored closely to ensure the current and future suitability of the City's educational system to meet the needs of Cranston's residents.

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Consistent with the prediction made in the previous edition of *Population Trends*, the 0 to 19 age group did indeed bottom out in 1990, and has risen significantly in the past ten years. The 0 to 19 age group contains 2,343 more individuals than it did in the last Census.

Table 4. School Age Children 0 to 19 Years Old by Census Tract 1990-2000

Census Tract	Age 0 to 19 Pop. 1990	Age 0 to 19 Pop. 2000	% Change 1990 - 2000
134 Pawtuxet	1026	990	-3.51%
135 Edgewood	1281	1306	1.95%
136 Park View	754	816	8.22%
137.01 Auburn East	970	1082	11.55%
137.02 Auburn West	674	746	10.68%
138 Eden Park	1103	1225	11.06%
139 Garden City	493	583	18.26%
140 Forest Hills	1172	1363	16.30%
141 Arlington	1067	1288	20.71%
142 Pettaconsett	637	690	8.32%
143 Dean Estates	918	970	5.66%
144 Garden Hills	627	660	5.26%
145.01 Comstock	na	1608	n/a
145.02 Meshanticut East	1951	867	26.86%
146 Oaklawn	1296	1809	39.58%
147 Knightsville	1478	1741	17.79%
148 Thornton	1067	1117	4.69%
Cranston City Total	16,514	18,861	14.2%

It is interesting to note that Pawtuxet, Census Tract 134, was the only Cranston Census Tract to experience a decline in school aged children over the past decade. Figure 9, on the following page, shows the breakdown of growth and decline in the school aged population by Census Tract.

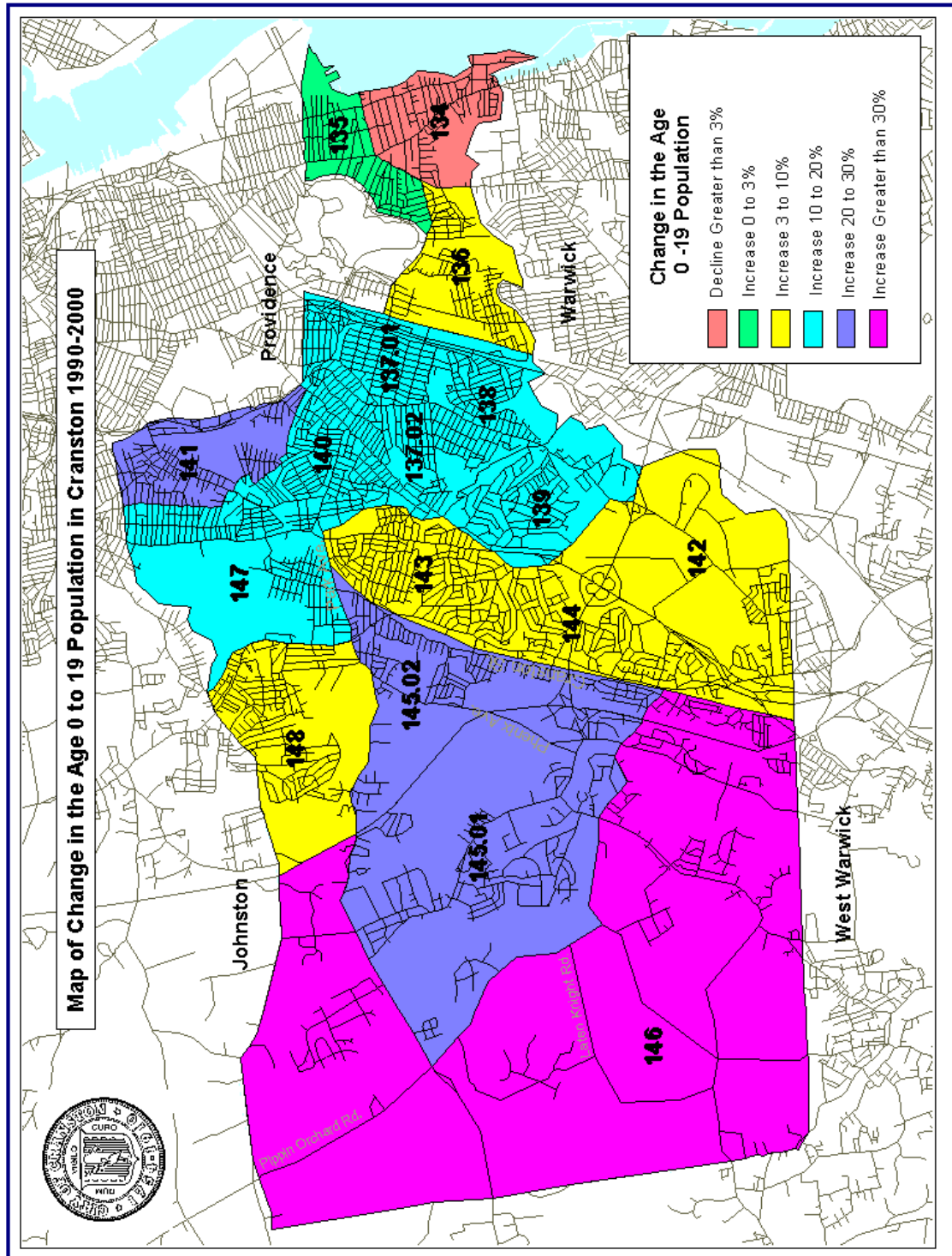


Figure 9. Change in the Age 0 to 19 Population in Cranston 1990-2000

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Consistent with the prediction made in the 1990 edition of *Population Trends*, increases in the population of individuals of preprimary and elementary school age have occurred over the course of the past decade, creating a significant increase in the number of individuals enrolled in school in the City of Cranston.

Table 5. School Enrollment for Cranston 1990-2000 Age 3 and Over

	1990	2000	% Change
Preprimary School	1,056	2,141	104%
Public	511	1,277	150%
Private	545	864	59%
Elementary or High School	9,709	12,639	30.2%
Public	8,480	10,866	28.1%
Private	1,229	1,773	44.3%
College/Graduate	5,284	4,771	-9.7%
Public	3,788	3,183	-16%
Private	1,496	1,588	6.6%

ADULT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Adult educational attainment is also a determining factor when analyzing employment and labor characteristics, which are discussed in the next section. The data in Table 6, below, shows that educational attainment is improving in Cranston, including reductions in individuals with less than a high school education, and large increases in higher educational attainment.

Table 6. Cranston Adult Educational Attainment 2000

Education	1990	2000	% Change
Persons 25 Years and Older	54,062	55,866	3.3%
Less Than 9th Grade	4,604	3,681	-20%
9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	9,467	8,194	-13.4%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	16,317	16,036	-1.7%
Some College, No Degree	8,738	9,973	14.1%
Associate Degree	3,522	4,257	20.9%
Bachelor's Degree	7,421	8,713	17.4%

IV. Labor & Employment Characteristics

The labor force characteristics of Cranston have continued the evolution that has been occurring over the past decades, consistent with those that were noted in the previous edition of *Population Trends*.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of the workforce that is female has been constantly increasing, as the percentage of the workforce that is male has been consistently decreasing. This trend is so dramatic that as of the 2000 Census, 49.4 percent of the labor force was female, and 50.6 percent was male. Judging by this continuing trend, females will likely represent at least 50% of the Cranston work force at the time of the next Census.

Another interesting factor to analyze, which corresponds to the above discussion, is the fact that although the number of males 16 and over increased since the last Census, the number of males in the labor force actually decreased since 1990. A likely cause for this phenomenon is the concurrent increase in individuals housed in the State's correctional institutions located in Cranston (see appendix A).

Table 7. Cranston Labor Force Profile 1960-2000

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Persons 16 Years and Over	49,956	53,945	58,255	62,903	64,096
Males 16 Years and Over	23,761	25,101	26,803	29,891	30,539
In Labor Force	17,333	18,588	19,284	20,410	19,770
% of Males in Labor Force	72.9	74.1	71.9	68.3	64.7
% of labor Force that is Male	65.8	59.8	54.0	52.4	50.6
Females 16 Years and Over	26,195	28,844	31,422	33,012	33,557
In Labor Force	8,989	12,496	16,430	18,514	19,290
% of Females in Labor Force	34.3	43.3	52.3	56.1	57.4
% of Labor Force that is Female	34.2	40.2	46.0	47.6	49.4

In addition to analyzing the labor force characteristics, it is also interesting to observe the industries in which Cranston residents are employed. Table 8 on the following page, compares the number and percentages of Cranston residents that are employed in specified industry types with the greater State of Rhode Island.

Table 8. People Employed by Industry Type in the State of RI & Cranston 2000

Industry	State	Cranston
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, and Mining	2,396 (0.5%)	44 (0.1%)
Construction	27,242 (5.4%)	1,784 (4.8%)
Manufacturing	82,260 (16.4%)	5,437 (14.6%)
Wholesale Trade	16,965 (3.4%)	1,407 (3.8%)
Retail Trade	60,426 (12.1%)	4,871 (13.1%)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	19,474 (3.9%)	1,495 (4.0%)
Information	11,346 (2.3%)	880 (2.4%)
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental & Leasing	34,688 (6.9%)	3,249 (8.7%)
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Management Services	41,550 (8.3%)	2,890 (7.8%)
Educational, Health & Social Services	115,236 (23.0%)	7,980 (21.5%)
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services	43,230 (8.6%)	2,934 (7.9%)
Other Services (except public administration)	23,299 (4.7%)	1,997 (5.4%)
Public Administration	22,619 (4.5%)	2,180 (5.9%)
Total	500,731	37,148

As the State of Rhode Island economy continues its shift from a manufacturing past to a service oriented future, employed individuals will likely have to change accordingly, as local markets continue to reflect trends that are taking place throughout the state and the region.

Because the categorical classification of industry types has changed between the 1990 and 2000 Census, it is impossible to compare data from the two Censuses, and therefore impossible to analyze trends based purely on Census data.

For this specific trend analysis, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) has done research and formulated a table of selected economic data, which may be found on-line at <http://www.riedc.com/mcbs/rimcdrame.html>. Selected data from this table on employment by industry type has been included as Table 9 on the following page. It is important to recall that this data is not provided by the U.S. Census.

Table 9. Employment by Industry in Cranston RI 1989 - 1999

Private Industry Employment	1989	1994	1999	Change 89 to 99	%Change 89 to 99
Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	238	160	162	-76	-31.93%
Construction	1,592	1,281	1,433	-96	-6.28%
Manufacturing	7,158	6,844	5,889	-1,269	-17.73%
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	785	690	1,628	843	107.39%
Wholesale Trade	1,671	1,899	2,534	863	51.65%
Retail Trade	5,525	6,139	6,212	687	12.43%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,639	1,161	1,190	-449	27.39%
Service Industries	5,657	6,352	8,527	2,870	50.73%

Source: Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

The data in the table above exemplifies the shift from manufacturing to services that was mentioned earlier. In addition to this trend, it is apparent that agricultural and other natural resource based industries are declining as well, while transportation, communications and utilities, along with trade industries are on the rise in Rhode Island.

V. Income & Poverty Characteristics

Income is considered a good measurement of the overall economic vitality of a community, as well as its residents. The following section describes income in several different manners, cataloguing and analyzing income data for households, families and on a Per Capita basis, as well as exploring statistics related to poverty in the City of Cranston.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household income represents the amount of money that is gained from work that a household claims to have made when they responded to the Census questionnaire. A "household" can be anything from an individual (single person household), to a group of unrelated individuals residing together, or even a group of related individuals residing together (a family household).

Table 10. City of Cranston Household Income Data 2000

Income 1999	Number of Households
Less than \$10,000	2,361
\$10,000-\$14,999	2,037
\$15,000-\$24,999	3,979
\$25,000-\$34,999	3,946
\$35,000-\$45,999	4,957
\$50,000-\$74,999	6,641
\$75,000-\$99,999	3,574
\$100,000-\$149,999	2,319
\$150,000-\$199,999	715
\$200,000 or more	442
Median Household Income	\$44,108

FAMILY INCOME

Family income represents the amount of money earned from work that a family unit brings into their household. This differs from household income in that single individuals and unrelated groups of individuals are not included as families for this statistical calculation, thus making it a representative statistic of a portion of the population.

The statistics for Family Income in the City of Cranston are given in Table 11, below, with the Median Family Income value being \$55,241 at the time of the 2000 Census. This is a 31.8% increase over the \$41,896 figure from the 1990 Census, which was a 103% increase over the 1980 Census figure of \$20,651. The State of Rhode Island saw a slightly higher increase than the City with 34.7%, with figures of \$39,172 in 1990 to \$52,781 in 2000. Naturally, income is expected to increase over time, and the figures are consistent with that phenomenon.

Table 11. City of Cranston Family Income Data 2000

Income 1999	Number of Families
Less than \$10,000	773
\$10,000-\$14,999	616
\$15,000-\$24,999	1,848
\$25,000-\$34,999	2,323
\$35,000-\$45,999	3,463
\$50,000-\$74,999	5,181
\$75,000-\$99,999	3,133
\$100,000-\$149,999	2,055
\$150,000-\$199,999	644
\$200,000 or more	356
Median Family income	\$55,241

PER CAPITA INCOME

Income statistics from the U.S. Census may also be analyzed on a Per Capita basis. Per Capita income is the combined personal income of the residents of a given area, divided by the population of that area, and is a good representative statistic of the overall wealth of a given area. Although this data set was not included in the previous edition of *Population Trends*, it is deemed important in the overall analysis of income and general economic welfare.

Table 12, on the following page, contains Per Capita income data for all of Cranston's Census Tracts, as well as the City of Cranston and the State of Rhode Island. The City of Cranston is slightly "wealthier" than the State of Rhode Island, with several Census Tracts having Per Capita incomes well higher than that of the City, including Pawtuxet, Dean Estates, and Comstock comprising the top three.

Table 12. City of Cranston Per Capita Income Data 2000

Census Tract		Income
134	Pawtuxet	\$29,458
135	Edgewood	\$19,358
136	Park View	\$17,497
137.01	Auburn East	\$19,125
137.02	Auburn West	\$22,375
138	Eden Park	\$23,438
139	Garden City	\$27,203
140	Forest Hills	\$21,341
141	Arlington	\$15,927
142	Pettaconsett	\$11,843
143	Dean Estates	\$29,123
144	Garden Hills	\$27,331
145.01	Comstock	\$27,876
145.02	Meshanticut East	\$23,117
146	Oaklawn	\$26,231
147	Knightsville	\$16,805
148	Thornton	\$20,389
City of Cranston		\$21,978
State of Rhode Island		\$21,688

FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

Poverty is a serious problem in American municipalities, and the City of Cranston is no exception to that rule. Being part of the inner ring of the Providence metropolitan area, Cranston is more likely to have elevated levels of individuals and families that are below the poverty level than those municipalities further away.

The City of Cranston currently has a total of 1,141 families and 5,437 individuals that are recognized as being below the poverty level. On the individual level, that represents approximately 6.8% of the total population of the City. In 1990, the City had 999 families, and 4,715 individuals recognized as being below the poverty level. This represents an increase of 14.2% for families and a 15.3% increase in individuals below the poverty level from 1990 to 2000.

The City of Cranston maintains a lower percentage of the population below the poverty level than State of Rhode Island as a whole, in which approximately 11.5% of the population are currently below the poverty level. In 2000, there are 23,608 families and 120,548 individuals below the poverty level. The 1990 figures of 17,867 families and 92,670 individuals show increases of 32.1%, and 30.0% respectively.

The table below gives the statistics for the number of families and individuals below the poverty level for each of the City of Cranston's Census Tracts, as well as the City as a whole and the State of Rhode Island as of the 2000 Census.

Table 13. Families & Individuals Below the Poverty Level in 2000

Location	Families 2000	Individuals 2000
134 Pawtuxet	31	242
135 Edgewood	96	513
136 Park View	49	229
137.01 Auburn East	70	332
137.02 Auburn West	49	152
138 Eden Park	60	278
139 Garden City	38	187
140 Forest Hills	55	301
141 Arlington	148	723
142 Pettaconsett	26	151
143 Dean Estates	64	253
144 Garden Hills	22	174
145.01 Comstock	16	51
145.02 Meshanticut East	58	287
146 Oaklawn	27	146
147 Knightsville	244	1,091
148 Thornton	88	327
City of Cranston	1,141	5,437
State of Rhode Island	23,608	120,548

The large numbers of individuals below poverty level in the Arlington and Knightsville Census Tracts seem to be due to relatively higher percentages of individuals who receive social security income, supplemental security income, and public assistance income, more than any other apparent factors.

VI. Housing Characteristics

Housing data has historically been a large part of the U.S. Census, because of its relative importance to the population of a given area. The following are selected characteristics of housing for the City of Cranston.

GENERAL HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Table 14, below, represents selected housing characteristics for the City of Cranston for 1960 through 2000.

Table 14. Selected Cranston Housing Characteristics 1960-2000

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
All Housing units	19,456	22,951	27,254	30,516	32,068
Vacant Units	604	536	1,150	1,167	1,114
Percent Vacant	3.1%	2.4%	4.2%	3.8%	3.5%
Occupied Units	18,852	22,055	26,104	29,349	30,954
Owner Occupied	13,813	15,862	17,667	19,477	20,671
Percent Owner Occupied	73.3%	71.9%	67.7%	66.4%	66.8%
Renter Occupied	5,039	6,193	8,437	9,872	10,283
Percent Renter Occupied	26.7%	28.1%	32.3%	33.6%	33.2%
Median Number of Rooms	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4
Percentage One Unit Housing Structures	69%	64.9%	62.7%	61.1%	62.9%
Median Value of Owner Occupied Unit	\$13,500	\$18,600	\$45,900	\$129,700	\$122,500
Median Number of Persons Per Occupied Housing unit	3.32	3.18	2.67	2.46	2.41
Number of Single Person Households	1,687	3,272	6,010	7,953	9,109
Percentage Single Person Households	8.9%	14.8%	23.0%	27.1%	29.4%

A steady decrease in the median number of persons per occupied housing unit, coupled with an increasing number of single-person households over the past five decades exemplifies the continuing trend that Cranston residents are moving away from larger households and are increasingly likely to live on their own. It is apparent that the Western side of Cranston is receiving the most additional single family residential housing units, as the older, Eastern sections of the City are already built to near capacity.

Another interesting fact is that the Census showed the median value of owner occupied housing unit decreased in the past ten years, after a pattern of continually increasing for the three previous decades. Although the Census data confirms this phenomenon, it is highly unlikely that this is actually reflected in current home values. A combination of homeowner's misconceptions of what their homes were worth in 2000, and a dramatic shift in the housing market since the April date of the 2000 Census are likely responsible for this (see Figure 11, Page 26). Anyone who has studied home prices in the recent past will agree that the median value of a home is absolutely not less than it was in 1990.

AGE OF HOUSING UNITS & OCCUPANCY TENURE

As is apparent from Table 15, below, housing units in Cranston are generally old, most of which are located in the more densely populated, Eastern sections of the City. Approximately 58.6% of Cranston's housing stock was built before 1960, again reiterating the fact that Cranston is within the Urban Ring, and also experienced large housing growth with the rapid suburbanization that followed World War Two.

Table 15. Age of Cranston Housing Units 2000

Year Built	Number of Units	% Age of All Units
1999 to March 2000	211	0.7%
1995 to 1998	845	2.6%
1990 to 1994	1,270	4.0%
1980 to 1989	3,510	10.9%
1970 to 1979	3,434	10.7%
1960 to 1969	4,080	12.7%
1950 to 1959	5,783	18.0%
1940 to 1949	4,392	13.7%
1939 or earlier	8,543	26.6%

The data in Table 16 shows that housing turnover is fairly prominent in the City of Cranston, as approximately 54.7% of householders moved into their unit since 1990. This could also be attributed to the relatively high percentage of rental property in the City.

Table 16. Year Householder Moved Into Unit 2000

Year Moved Into Unit	Number of Householders	Percent of all Householders
1999 to March 2000	4,612	14.9
1995 to 1998	7,464	24.1
1990 to 1994	4,865	15.7
1980 to 1989	5,239	16.9
1970 to 1979	3,422	11.1
1969 or earlier	5,352	17.3

Figures 10, 11, 12 and 13 graphically represent some trends in housing in the City of Cranston over the past fifty years.

Figure 10. Total Housing Units

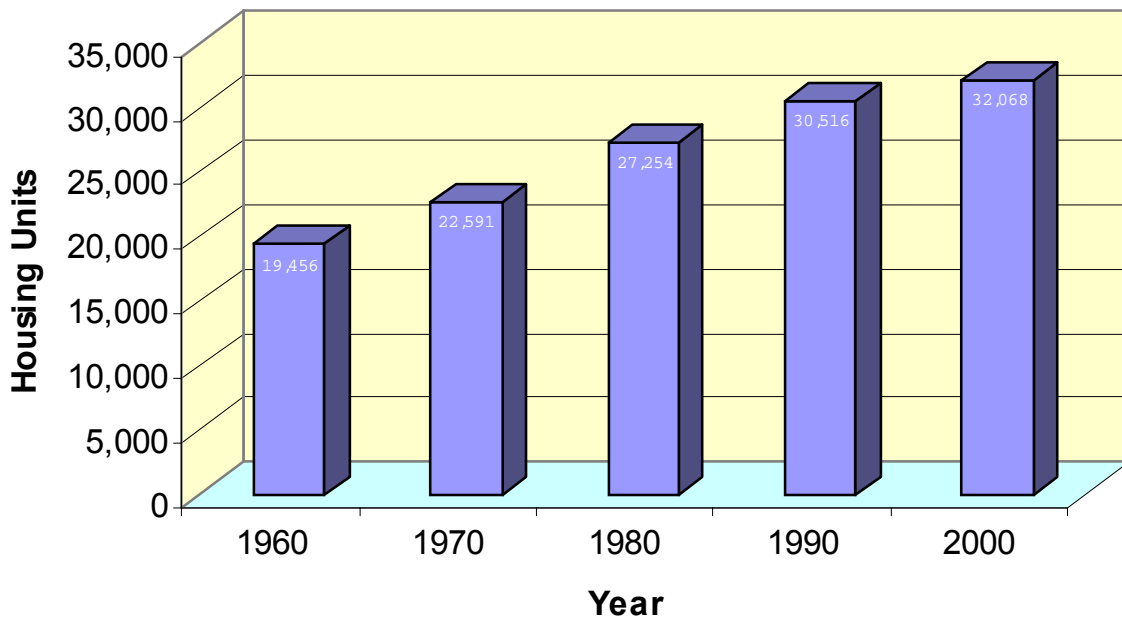


Figure 11. Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units

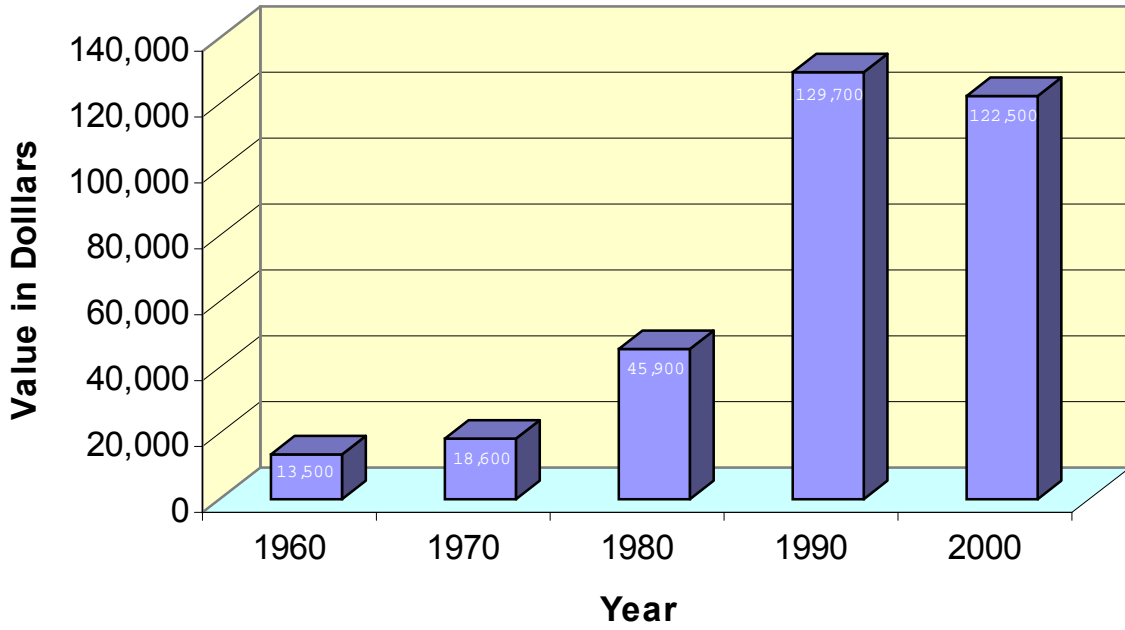


Figure 12. Number of Single Person Households

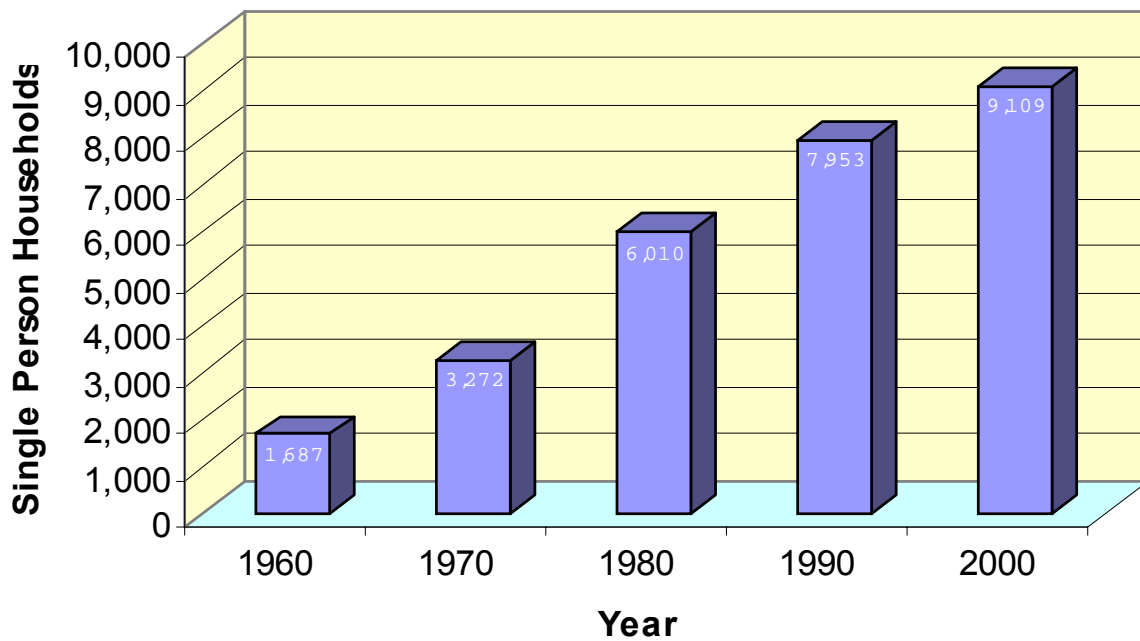
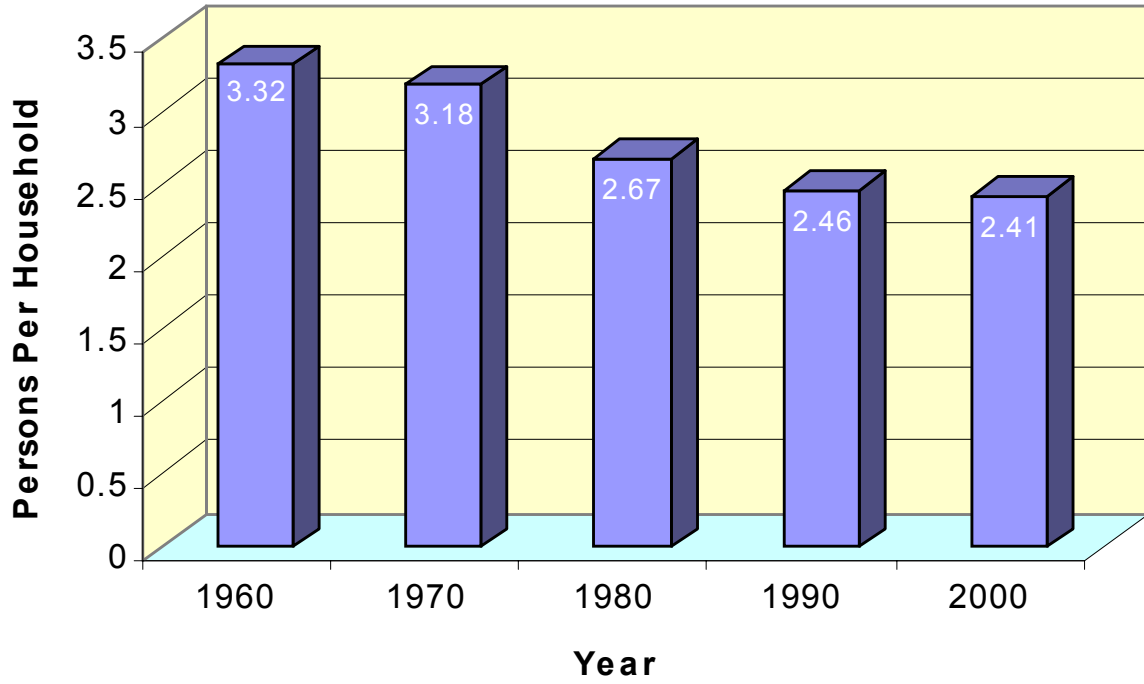


Figure 13. Median Number of Persons per Occupied Housing Unit



VII. Ethnicity & Ancestry

In the United States, race, ancestry and family origin play a large role in how we define ourselves as Americans, and how we interact socially with one another. The City of Cranston is currently undergoing a trend of increasing diversity.

ETHNICITY

Consistent with the patterns that were reported in the previous edition of *Population Trends*, the minority population in Cranston is rising considerably, as the white population has declined somewhat. The population of Cranston has gone from 95% to 89% white, while African American races represent 3.7% of the population (representing an increase from 2.4% in 1990), Asians represent 3.3% of the population (representing an increase from 1.8%), and the remaining 4% of the population is comprised of American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other races.

Because the method by which individuals are identified as Latino or Hispanic has changed between the 1990 and 2000 Census, those individuals who claim to be Hispanic or Latino are now represented as a percentage of the total population of the City. This percentage has risen (actually more than doubled) from 2% in 1990 to 4.6% in 2000. Table 17 shows the breakdown of Race in the City of Cranston, while the racial breakdown of all individual Cranston Census Tracts is attached as Appendix B.

Table 17. Racial Composition of Cranston 1990 - 2000

Category	1990	2000
Total Population	76,060	79,269
White	72,318	70,703
Percent White	95%	89%
African American	1,837	2,926
Percent African American	2.4%	3.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	139	236
Asian	1,338	2,599
Percent Asian	1.8%	3.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10	33
Other	418	1,528
Two or More Races	na	1,244
Hispanic or Latino (as percent of total population)	2.0%	4.6%

ANCESTRY CLAIMED BY CRANSTON RESIDENTS

Of the 79,269 individuals that make up the population of Cranston, 67,258 (84.8%) individuals reported at least one ancestry to the US Census bureau when filling their response. Of those that specified an ancestry, 56.3% reported a single ancestry, while 28.6% reported multiple ancestries.

By far, the top ancestry claimed in the City of Cranston is Italian (27,359), followed by Irish (15,429), English in third place (8,140), and French in fourth.

To better understand the ancestral makeup of the City of Cranston, a breakdown of the top four ancestries claimed for each Census Tract is provided in Table 18, below.

Table 18. Top Four Ancestries Claimed in Cranston by Census Tract

Census Tract	First	Second	Third	Fourth
134 Pawtuxet	IR	ENG	IT	FR
135 Edgewood	IR	IT	ENG	HIS
136 Park View	IR	IT	ENG	POR
137.01 Auburn East	IT	IR	POR	ENG
137.02 Auburn West	IR	IT	FR	ENG
138 Eden Park	IR	IT	ENG	FR
139 Garden City	IT	IR	ENG	POR
140 Forest Hills	IT	IR	ENG	FR
141 Arlington	IT	HIS	IR	ENG
142 Pettaconsett	HIS	IT	IR	FR
143 Dean Estates	IT	IR	ENG	FR
144 Garden Hills	IT	IR	ENG	FR
145.01 Comstock	IT	IR	ENG	FR
145.02 Meshanticut East	IT	IR	ENG	FR
146 Oaklawn	IT	IR	ENG	FR
147 Knightsville	IT	IR	FR	ENG
148 Thornton	IT	IR	FR	ENG

ENG=English FR=French HIS=Hispanic IR=Irish IT=Italian POR=Portuguese

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

A new addition to the Census for 2000, and an interesting data set to observe when analyzing race and ancestry, is what language is primarily spoken in an individual's home. It is interesting to note that of the population of 75,081 individuals that are 5 years of age and older, 63,173 (or 84%) of individuals speak only English at home. This means that approximately 16 percent of the population of Cranston that is 5 years of age or older speaks a language other than English at home.

A further breakdown of language spoken at home in the City of Cranston is supplied in Table 19, below.

Table 19. Language Spoken at Home in Cranston 2000

Category	Population
Population 5 Years and Over	75,081
English Only	63,173
Language other than English	11,908
Speak English less than "very well"	4,031
Spanish	3,155
Speak English less than "very well"	1,063
Other Indo-European Languages	5,997
Speak English less than "very well"	1,811
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	2,378
Speak English less than "very well"	1,051

VIII. Cranston & the State of Rhode Island

Consistent with the previous edition of *Population Trends*, the average Cranston resident remains slightly wealthier, equally as educated and somewhat older than the average Rhode Islander. Population density is much greater than in Rhode Island as a whole, because Cranston is within the Urban Ring.

The median value of an owner-occupied home is lower in Cranston than in the greater State, and gross rent is significantly higher in Cranston than the state-wide average.

Cranston experienced a much smaller growth in new housing units than it experienced in the decade preceding the 1990 Census, and within the last decade has fallen below the State of Rhode Island for new housing starts.

Although comparisons of findings from the 2000 Census for Cranston and the State of Rhode Island have been provided throughout this report, several areas of comparison are presented in the following data table for the reader's convenience.

Table 20. Cranston & The State of Rhode Island 2000

	Cranston 1990	Cranston 2000	Rhode Island 2000
Population	76,060	79,269	1,048,319
Population Change	+5.65%	+4.2%	+4.5%
Persons per Household	2.46	2.41	2.47
Median Family Income	\$41,896	\$55,241	\$52,781
% Increase in Median Family Income from Past Census	103%	31.8%	34.7%
Education			
% high school graduates	74.0	78.8	78.0
% college graduates	21.1	24.6	25.6
Median Age	37.0	39.0	36.7
Population Density (per square mile of land area)	2,659	2,772	999
Median Value of owner occupied Home	\$129,700	\$122,500	\$133,000
Median Gross Rent	\$534	\$615	\$553
Growth in # of Housing Units	+11.96%	5.1%	6.1%

IX. Cranston & Other Rhode Island Municipalities

The following pages provide a brief summary of several characteristics of the City of Cranston as compared with the other 38 municipalities of Rhode Island, for the purpose of observing both "static" characteristics of these places, as well as trends throughout the state.

In a 1999 report published by Grow Smart Rhode Island entitled *The Cost of Suburban Sprawl and Urban Decay in Rhode Island*, all of Rhode Island's municipalities are classified into four groups; being Urban Core, Urban Ring, Suburban, and Rural/Emerging Suburban. These classifications are important when analyzing the data and discussion on the following pages.

The City of Cranston's population of 79,269 as of the 2000 Census, makes it the third largest municipality in the State of Rhode Island. All of the municipalities listed in Table 21, below, are either Urban Core, or Urban Ring communities, thus being a direct result of high population densities over relatively large municipal areas.

Table 21. Five Largest Municipalities in Rhode Island 2000

Municipality	2000 Population
1. Providence	173,618
2. Warwick	85,808
3. Cranston	79,269
4. Pawtucket	72,958
5. East Providence	48,688

When observing the municipalities that have experienced the fastest rates of population growth in Table 22, the trend is consistent with "suburban sprawl", although there are likely other contributing factors as well. With the exception of Lincoln, which is classified as a suburban community, the five fastest growing communities in Rhode Island are classified as Rural/Emerging Suburban. Although Cranston ranks at twenty-fifth (25) out of 39 in the State, it is likely that the continuing trend of suburban sprawl is responsible for the positive growth in the City, particularly new residential development in the Western portion of the City.

Table 22. Five Fastest Growing Municipalities in Rhode Island 1990-2000

Municipality	Rate of Population Growth
1. West Greenwich	+45.6%
2. Richmond	+35.0%
3. Charlestown	+21.3%
4. New Shoreham	+20.8%
5. Lincoln	+15.8%
25. Cranston	+4.2%

The population decline experienced in some Rhode Island municipalities is an interesting phenomenon to observe, as well. Although Cranston did not have a decline in population over the past ten years, it remains interesting to observe those five communities that experienced the greatest declines in Table 23, below.

Table 23. Five Largest Percentage Population Declines 1990-2000

Municipality	Rate of Population Decline
1. Middletown	-10.9%
2. Newport	-6.2%
3. East Providence	-3.4%
4. Burrillville	-2.7%
5. Woonsocket	-1.5%

The median age in Cranston according to the 2000 Census is 39 years of age, up two years from 37 for the 1990 Census. A median age of 39 ranks the City of Cranston nineteenth (19) of all Rhode Island municipalities when median age is ranked from oldest to youngest. In other words, 18 communities have a higher median age than Cranston, and 20 communities have lower.

The median value of owner occupied housing units in Cranston in 2000 was \$122,500, ranking it thirty-first (31) among Rhode Island municipalities. This low ranking is likely caused by the increased density and generally smaller home size in the Urban Core and Urban Ring communities throughout the State, as well as the inherent issues in the valuation discussed earlier in Section VI.

Table 24. Five Highest Median Values of Owner Occupied Housing Units 2000

Municipality	Median Value of Owner Occupied Unit
1. New Shoreham	\$473,900
2. East Greenwich	\$244,900
3. Little Compton	\$228,200
4. Jamestown	\$215,200
5. Barrington	\$198,500
31. Cranston	\$122,500

According to the Census figures, 78.8% of Cranston residents over the age of 25 have received a high school diploma or equivalent. This places Cranston at twenty-ninth among all Rhode Island municipalities, as may be seen in Table 25, on the next page. In addition to high school diplomas, 24.6% of Cranston residents over the age of 25 have earned a four-year college degree.

Table 25. Five Highest Percentages of High School Graduates 2000

Municipality	Percentage of High School Graduates
1. New Shoreham	94.7%
2. Jamestown	93.2%
3. East Greenwich	92.6%
4. Barrington	92.4%
5. North Kingstown	91.5%
29. Cranston	78.8%

The City of Cranston ranks thirtieth when compared with all other municipalities in Rhode Island for Per Capita income, with a value of \$21,978. The five municipalities with the highest Per Capita income are given in Table 26, below.

Table 26. Five Highest Per-Capita Income Municipalities in Rhode Island 2000

Municipality	Per Capita Income
1. Jamestown	\$38,664
2. East Greenwich	\$38,593
3. Barrington	\$35,881
4. Little Compton	\$32,513
5. New Shoreham	\$29,188
30. Cranston	\$21,978

X. References & Other Sources of Information

The following sources of information and census data have been used in the production of this document. Readers are advised to consult these sources if they are in need of further information regarding National, State or Municipal Census data in the form of detailed data sets, maps and other helpful figures.

Grow Smart Rhode Island.

Grow Smart Rhode Island. 1999. *The Cost of Suburban Sprawl and Urban Decay in Rhode Island*. (A report prepared for Grow Smart Rhode Island by H.C. Planning Consultants, Inc., and Planimetrics, LLP.)

Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC)

<http://www.riedc.com/mcads/rimcdrame.html>

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program

<http://www.planning.state.ri.us/census/ri2000.htm>

The Providence Plan

<http://www.providenceplan.org/cen2000/riprofiles/>

United States Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

United States Census Bureau American Factfinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

Of course, additional information is also available from the Cranston City Planning Commission at 869 Park Avenue, in Cranston City Hall.

Appendix A. Individuals in Group Quarters 1990 - 2000

	1990	2000	% Change
Population in Group Quarters	3,763	4,659	+23.8%
Institutionalized Population	3,620	4,051	+12%
Correctional Institutions	2,645	3,252	+23%
Nursing Homes	240	242	+0.8%
Other Institutions	735	557	-24%
Non-Institutionalized Population			
College Dormitories	0	309	+309%
Other Non-Institutional	143	299	+109%

Appendix B. Racial Composition by Census Tract in Cranston 2000

Census Tract	Total Population	White	% White	African American	Am. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Hisp. or Latino (of any Race) as % of Total Pop.
134 Pawtuxet	4,305	4,002	93.0%	120	10	31	2	59	81	2.6%
135 Edgewood	4,970	3,852	77.5%	385	26	235	2	234	236	9.9%
136 Park View	2,942	2,496	84.8%	92	15	151	5	111	72	6.1%
137.01 Auburn East	4,087	3,618	88.5%	138	27	133	5	78	88	5.3%
137.02 Auburn West	2,862	2,550	89.1%	29	9	167	1	63	43	3.3%
138 Eden Park	5,036	4,619	91.7%	104	11	149	3	43	107	2.0%
139 Garden City	2,946	2,745	93.2%	34	6	87	1	31	42	2.4%
140 Forest Hills	5,599	5,000	89.3%	121	14	262	2	106	94	3.2%
141 Arlington	4,605	3,459	75.1%	183	26	484	1	298	154	13.1%
142 Pettaconsett	5,717	4,088	71.5%	1,326	30	102	0	150	21	11.6%
143 Dean Estates	5,025	4,784	95.2%	31	7	148	0	26	29	1.8%
144 Garden Hills	3,948	3,804	96.4%	23	2	84	2	5	28	1.0%
145.01 Comstock	4,833	4,692	97.1%	22	0	82	0	6	31	1.0%
145.02 Meshanticut East	4,186	4,072	97.3%	26	6	32	4	21	25	1.4%
146 Oaklawn	5,980	5,736	95.9%	33	7	148	0	24	32	1.3%
147 Knightsville	7,009	6,175	88.1%	223	35	236	2	212	126	6.9%
148 Thornton	5,219	5,011	96.0%	36	5	68	3	61	35	2.1%
Total	79,269	70,703	89.2%	2926	236	2599	33	1528	1244	8.6%

Appendix C. Census Tract Summary Table

Census Tract	Total Population	Pop Change 90-00	Change 60+ Pop 90-00	Change 0-9Yrs 90-00	Change 09-19 Yrs 90-00	Median Family Income	% of Pop. at Least H.S. Grad	Median Age	Median Gross Rent
134 Pawtuxet	4,305	-2.5%	-10.6%	0.9%	-3.5%	\$67,933	89.9%	39.6	\$628
135 Edgewood	4,970	6.4%	-19.1%	-12.3%	2.0%	\$46,061	80.5%	33.0	\$618
136 Park View	2,942	-0.5%	-14.7%	-1.2%	8.2%	\$43,083	72.8%	35.9	\$567
137.01 Auburn East	4,087	-0.5%	-27.5%	-2.2%	11.6%	\$47,156	79.8%	35.7	\$613
137.02 Auburn West	2,862	2.1%	-29.6%	-9.3%	10.7%	\$48,229	86.0%	37.7	\$642
138 Eden Park	5,036	1.3%	-19.5%	10.4%	11.1%	\$56,979	86.8%	38.7	\$682
139 Garden City	2,946	-7.6%	-22.0%	15.0%	18.3%	\$55,966	83.5%	45.9	\$664
140 Forest Hills	5,599	-2.3%	-21.9%	-1.3%	16.3%	\$51,722	77.1%	40.1	\$618
141 Arlington	4,605	2.8%	-24.2%	4.4%	20.7%	\$36,614	64.0%	35.7	\$514
142 Pettaconsett	5,717	5.5%	-13.7%	19.9%	8.3%	\$50,640	64.8%	35.1	\$635
143 Dean Estates	5,025	1.5%	12.6%	15.4%	5.7%	\$62,917	82.3%	46.4	\$766
144 Garden Hills	3,948	0.7%	12.2%	26.1%	5.3%	\$62,951	86.4%	51.4	\$696
145.01 Comstock	4,833					\$79,734	91.6%	36.8	\$523
145.02 Meshanticut East	4,186	17.3%	5.4%	16.4%	26.9%	\$49,215	77.4%	43.0	\$453
146 Oaklawn	5,980	29.2%	14.1%	34.2%	39.6%	\$72,667	90.1%	37.7	\$753
147 Knightsville	7,009	0.5%	-16.0%	9.2%	17.8%	\$36,306	62.5%	37.6	\$559
148 Thornton	5,219	1.0%	9.2%	6.1%	4.7%	\$56,168	75.0%	41.8	\$774
Total	79,269	4.20%		7.90%	14.20%	\$41,896	78.8%	39.0	\$615