Chapter 1:

Demographic Characteristics

“To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward.”

Margaret Fairless Barber

“The times they are a-changing.”

Bob Dylan

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”

Henrik Ibsen
Demographic Characteristics

Did you know?

- Greene County’s estimated 2002 population was 243,355.

In the Year 2000:

- Approximately 35,877 commuters from surrounding counties reported that they traveled to Greene County for work during the week.
- 40.5% of the married couple households in Greene County had children less than 18 years of age living at home.
- The median age for Greene County residents was 35.1 years.

From 1990-2000:

- Females make up 51.4% of the population in Greene County.
- The Hispanic/Latino community has experienced a 149.8% growth in population since 1990, with a year 2000 total population of 4,434.
Demographics

From 1990 to 2000, Greene County recorded a 15.6% increase in total population. This resulted in the county’s population reaching 240,391 and Springfield’s population reaching 151,576. Within the population, many demographic changes have occurred as well. This is important because the overall health of the community can be influenced by certain population characteristics, such as age and poverty. Reviewing these changes is necessary to gain a better understanding of the community. Planning for the future will require an increased focus on trends, target populations, and disparate groups so everyone in the county can benefit.

Greene County Population Trends

The population of Greene County has experienced increased growth and change in the recent past. Table 1.1 illustrates the increase in population that has occurred in Greene County from the 1950’s to 2002. Table 1.2 shows the percent change in population since the 1950’s. The tables identify some important changes that should be noted. First, over the past two decades, Greene County has experienced rates of growth that have surpassed the state average, with growth percentages of 12.2% (1980’s) and 15.6% (1990’s). The population growth from 1980 to the year 2000 census totaled 55,089. High growth areas, such as Greene County, require a thoughtful planning process in order to lessen the impact on the area’s economic resources, environment, and community health status.

Table 1.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>104,823</td>
<td>126,276</td>
<td>152,929</td>
<td>185,302</td>
<td>207,949</td>
<td>240,391</td>
<td>243,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>3,954,653</td>
<td>4,319,813</td>
<td>4,677,229</td>
<td>4,916,766</td>
<td>5,117,073</td>
<td>5,595,211</td>
<td>5,672,579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
*2002 Population estimate released by U.S. Census Bureau, 2003

Table 1.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Figure 1.1 compares the population growth between Greene County and Missouri. Greene County has surpassed Missouri as a whole in growth percentages since the 1950’s. The decrease in growth in the 1980’s from the 1970’s was significant, but the 15.6% increase in population in the 1990’s surpassed early growth predictions by the state. Table 1.3 illustrates the population projections for Greene County until 2025.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Greene</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950-60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-90</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

These projections estimate the population of Greene County will increase to over 263,000 residents by 2010. This growth rate of 9.8% is modest compared to what Greene County has achieved in each decade over the past 50 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>126,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>152,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>185,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>207,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>240,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>250,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>263,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>277,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>290,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>303,972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Table 1.4 allows for an examination of the city populations in the county. Each city in the county has experienced substantial growth, with more growth generally observed in those cities closer to Springfield.

Table 1.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Number Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash Grove</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battlefield</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>1,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Grove</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>2,411</td>
<td>4,485</td>
<td>6,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogersville</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>120,096</td>
<td>133,116</td>
<td>140,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strafford</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>1,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Grove</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willard</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>1,799</td>
<td>2,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

The population growth in areas surrounding the City of Springfield and Greene County also influences commuting patterns of area workers as seen in Table 1.5. The year 2000 U.S. Census reported 35,877 commuters from surrounding counties worked in Greene County. This influx of visitors will continue to impact the area and will bring with it numerous challenges.
### Table 1.5

Number of Workers Commuting to Greene County, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>15,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>1,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laclede</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>2,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>3,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>1,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taney</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>6,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Counties (Barton, Camden, Cedar, Howell, Newton, Oregon, Ozark, St. Clair, Shannon, Texas)</td>
<td>973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>35,877</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Missouri Census Data Center; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Map 1.1

Source: Missouri Spatial Data Information Service
### Table 1.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township Population Data—Greene County, 1980–2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookline Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center No. 3 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Republic Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Campbell No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Campbell No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Campbell No. 3 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pond Creek Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robberson No. 1 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robberson No. 2 Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Grove Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Republic Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 1.6 lists the township population data that corresponds to Map 1.1. Townships are defined as “Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs),” which are primary governmental and/or administrative subdivisions of a county. By reviewing this data it is possible to determine which areas of the county are growing most rapidly.
Population Age and Gender Distribution

The aging population will be an important issue that will impact Greene County, as shown in Table 1.7. This trend will be examined more thoroughly in Chapter 8 of this assessment. If the current population trend continues over the next 25 years, a significantly larger percentage of the population will be over 60 years of age. Table 1.8a shows the number of individuals who were in this age group for the year 2000 census.

Table 1.7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Composition of Population-Greene County and Missouri, 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Age Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OSEDA

The cohort over 35 years of age is the group that will be over 60 years of age by the year 2025. This is significant because the increased number of seniors will require more health care and other senior services in our community.

Table 1.8a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Distribution of Population-Greene County, 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Than 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 and Over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 85</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 85</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 79</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 74</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 69</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 64</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 59</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 54</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 49</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Females comprise 51.5% of the total population in Greene County as the data in Table 1.9 indicates.

### Table 1.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>116,703</td>
<td>48.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>123,588</td>
<td>51.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

**Household Characteristics**

In the year 2000, almost 60% of married couple households reported not having children present. Table 1.10 also shows that Greene County had a higher proportion of married couples without children as compared to the state average.

### Table 1.10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Number of Households</th>
<th>Married Couple Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W/ Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>97,859</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>219,4594</td>
<td>43.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Housing characteristics were also examined to provide a better understanding of the community. Important characteristics such as single mothers with children (6.1%) and householders over 65 years old (9.7%) help to gauge the numbers of families who may have special needs (Table 1.11).

### Table 1.11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Household</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent of Total Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>97,859</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Households</td>
<td>61,837</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Own Children Under 18 Years</td>
<td>27,726</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couple Families</td>
<td>48,961</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Own Children Under 18 Years</td>
<td>19,820</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Householder (No Husband Present)</td>
<td>9,569</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Own Children Under 18 Years</td>
<td>5,971</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Family Households</td>
<td>36,022</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Householder</td>
<td>28,482</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder 65 Years and Over</td>
<td>9,528</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households With Individuals Under 18 Years</td>
<td>29,866</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Figure 1.5 displays the occupied, vacant, and seasonal housing characteristics present in Greene County for the year 2000. Owner occupied housing was lower and renter occupied housing was higher than the state average. Another important characteristic is that vacant housing was only 6.4% as compared to the state average of 10.1%.

![Figure 1.5](image.png)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; n=104,517

The majority of Greene County’s population is located in urbanized area (Table 1.12). However, a sizable portion of the population (43,158) is located in rural areas of the county.

### Table 1.12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban and Rural Population-Greene County, 2000</th>
<th>Greene County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>240,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>197,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Urbanized Areas</td>
<td>188,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Urban Clusters</td>
<td>8,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>43,158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau 2000
Population Ethnic and Racial Characteristics

The ethnic and racial composition of Greene County has also changed in the last decade. This topic will be examined more in-depth in the Chapter 7. Whites represent 92.5% of the population, but the percentages of other racial and ethnic groups are increasing (Table 1.13).

### Table 1.13
Percentage of Ethnic and Racial Groups in Total Population-Greene County, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African American/Black</th>
<th>Hispanic /Latino</th>
<th>Native American/Alaskan Native</th>
<th>Asian, Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 1.14 indicates the percent that populations have increased in Greene County for certain racial groups. This table excludes classifications such as: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, Other, and Person’s Reporting 2 or more Races because of differences in reporting methods from 1990 to 2000. Several racial groups have had large increases in their representation in the population. Table 1.15 lists the number of people in certain racial groups.

### Table 1.14
Percent Population Increases in Racial Groups- Greene County, 1990-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African American/Black</th>
<th>Native American/Alaskan Native</th>
<th>Asian American, Pacific Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene County (%)</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>88.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Table 1.15
Number of Population by Race and Ethnicity-Greene County, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African American/Black</th>
<th>Native American/Alaskan Native</th>
<th>Asian, Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Some Other Race</th>
<th>Non-White Percent of Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>224,859</td>
<td>5,426</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>4,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>4,748,083</td>
<td>629,391</td>
<td>25,076</td>
<td>64,773</td>
<td>45,827</td>
<td>82,061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

The most significant increases in population representation have occurred with the Hispanic/Latino ethnic groups. Table 1.16 indicates that a 149.8% growth has occurred in the number of Hispanic/Latino residents. The numbers and percent of the total population are presented in Table 1.17.
Greene County has experienced phenomenal population growth in the recent past. If the current population growth rate continues at 15.6% per decade, the Greene County population could exceed 277,800 by 2010, which would surpass the current population projection estimates. Coping with such growth will prove challenging. Planning is crucial in preparing for future health care and environmental demands.

The aging community will also pose challenges for the county. Additional services to provide transportation, health care, assisted living, and other services that aid the senior members of the community will be required. It is also important to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles so that debilitating chronic diseases, such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease can be avoided, and quality of life can be improved.

The Hispanic/Latino and African American/Black populations will also increase in numbers over the next decade. These changes in demographics will provide welcome diversity, as well as some challenges for the community. If each group continues to grow at a rate seen over the 1990’s, by 2010:

- The Hispanic/Latino population in Greene County will number over 11,000.
- The African American/Black population will increase in number to over 7,800.
- The non-White population will comprise over 10% of the total population.

This community health assessment will focus on some of these topics in more detail in the following chapters to provide a more in-depth examination of the issues and to serve as a planning resource for the community.
For More Information, Please Refer To These Works Cited and Consulted

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Website: http://www.dhss.state.mo.us

Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, OSEDA. Website: http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/

Springfield-Greene County Health Department. State of the Environment for Springfield and Greene County Missouri, 2002.


“Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.”

Charles Schultz
“Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have. “
H. Jackson Brown Jr.

“The philosophers have already perceived the world in various ways; the point is to change it. “
Karl Marx

“A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. “
George Bernard Shaw

“It is easy to be brave from a safe distance. “
Aesop