

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

Population-Greene County and Missouri, 1950-2002							
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2002*
Greene	104,823	126,276	152,929	185,302	207,949	240,391	243,355
Missouri	3,954, 653	4,319,813	4,677,229	4,916,766	5,117,073	5,595,211	5,672,579

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

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

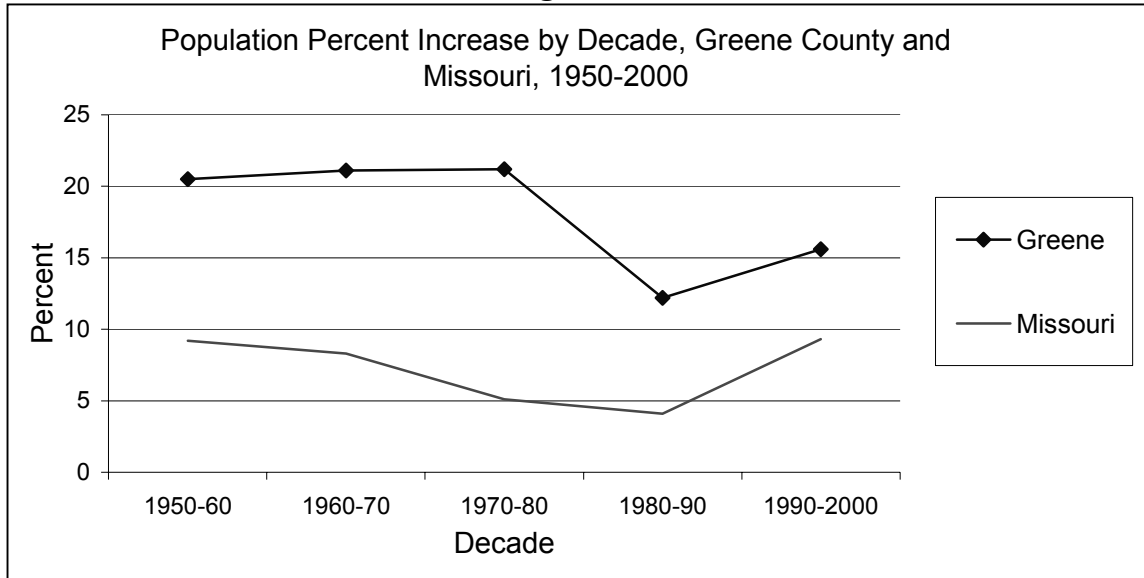
Table 1.2

Percent Change in Population-Greene County and Missouri, 1950-2002						
	1950-60	1960-70	1970-80	1980-90	1990-2000	2000-02
Greene	20.5	21.1	21.2	12.2	15.6	1.2
Missouri	9.2	8.3	5.1	4.1	9.3	1.4

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.

Figure 1.1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

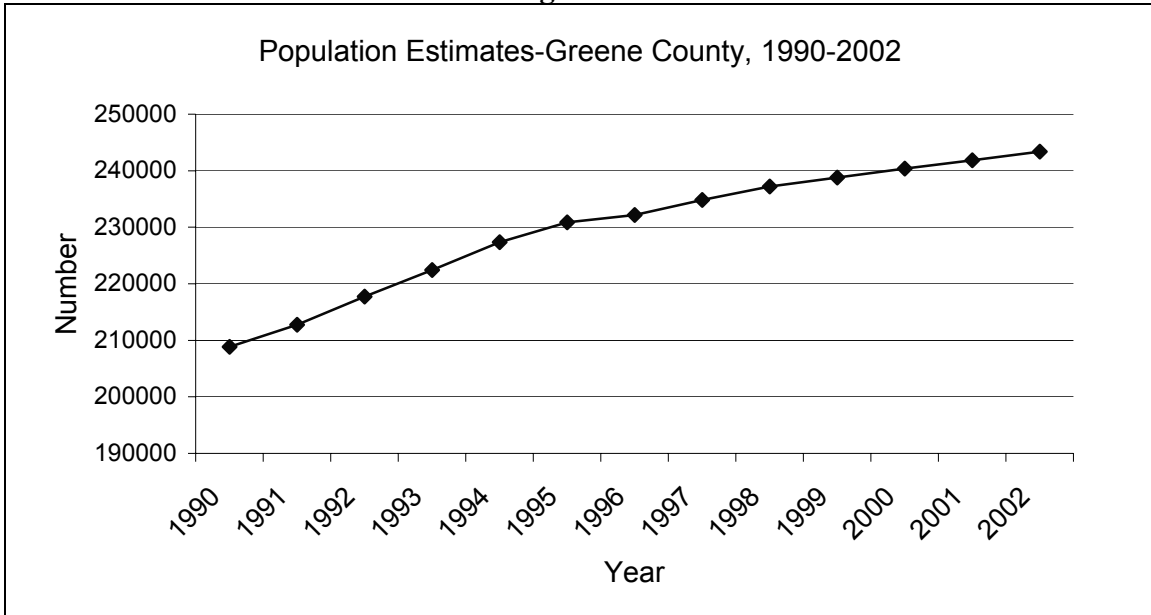
These projections estimate the population of Greene County will increase to over 263,000 residents by 2010. This growth rate of 9.8% is modest compared to what Greene County has achieved in each decade over the past 50 years.

Table 1.3

Population Census Estimates and Forecasts-Greene County, 1960-2025										
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Greene	126,276	152,929	185,302	207,949	240,391	250,628	263,944	277,279	290,708	303,972

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Figure 1.2



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

City Population Data-Greene County, 1970-2000						
City	Population				Number Change	% Change
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000	1990-2000
Ash Grove	934	1,157	1,128	1,430	302	26.8
Battlefield	-	1,227	1,526	2,385	859	56.3
Brookline	247	211	283	326	43	15.2
Fair Grove	431	863	919	1,107	188	20.5
Republic	2,411	4,485	6,292	8,438	2,146	34.1
Rogersville	-	751	987	1,508	521	52.8
Springfield	120,096	133,116	140,494	151,156	10,662	7.6
Strafford	491	1,121	1,166	1,845	679	58.2
Walnut Grove	442	504	549	630	81	14.8
Willard	1,018	1,799	2,177	3,193	1,016	46.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

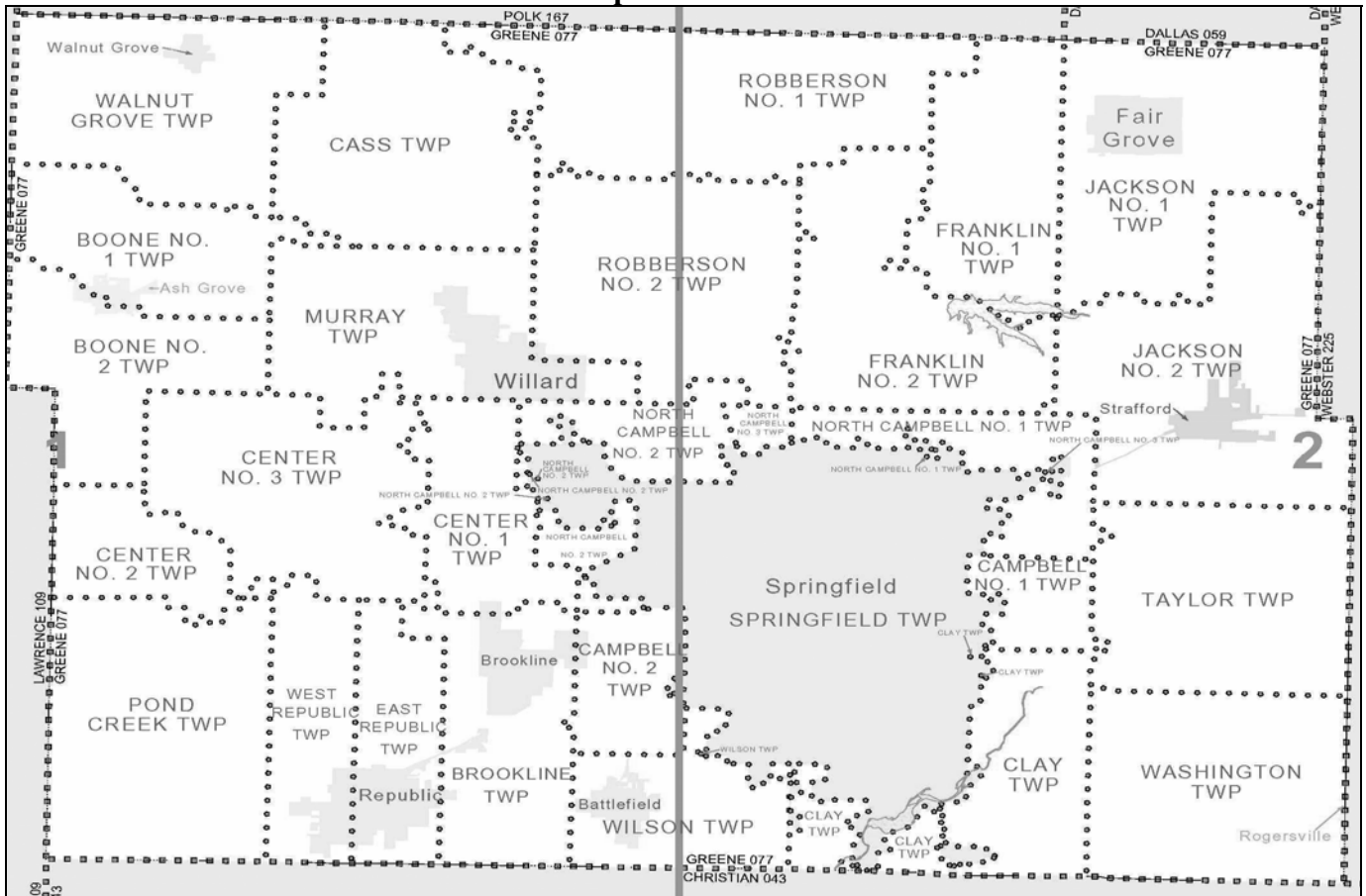
The population growth in areas surrounding the City of Springfield and Greene County also influences commuting patterns of area workers as seen in Table 1.5. The year 2000 U.S. Census reported 35,877 commuters from surrounding counties worked in Greene County. This influx of visitors will continue to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

Table 1.5

Number of Workers Commuting to Greene County, 2000	
County	Number
Barry	451
Christian	15,188
Dade	763
Dallas	1,846
Douglas	531
Hickory	300
Laclede	630
Lawrence	2,575
Polk	3,499
Stone	1,564
Taney	573
Webster	6,287
Wright	697
Other Counties (Barton, Camden, Cedar, Howell, Newton, Oregon, Ozark, St. Clair, Shannon, Texas)	973
Total	35,877

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

Map 1.1



Source: Missouri Spatial Data Information Service

Table1.6

Township Population Data-Greene County, 1980-2000					
	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000	Housing Units
Greene County	185,302	207,949	240,391	15.6	104,517
Boone No. 1 Township	1,002	1,153	1,312	13.8	546
Boone No. 2 Township	799	839	944	12.5	399
Brookline Township	1,250	1,636	1,642	0.4	714
Campbell No. 1 Township	1,861	2,629	2,410	-8.3	925
Campbell No. 2 Township	1,880	5,261	9,568	81.9	4,045
Cass Township	851	904	1,095	21.1	416
Center No. 1 Township	1,885	1,687	2,425	43.7	910
Center No. 2 Township	434	232	323	39.2	121
Center No. 3 Township	1,247	1,364	1,403	2.9	566
Clay Township	4,437	6,739	9,270	37.6	3,507
East Republic Township	3,257	5,129	6,928	35.1	2,682
Franklin No. 1 Township	996	1,236	1,434	16.0	576
Franklin No. 2 Township	2,378	2,515	2,740	8.9	1,065
Jackson No. 1 Township	1,939	2,053	2,561	24.7	999
Jackson No. 2 Township	2,672	2,845	3,665	28.8	1,468
Murray Township	2,756	3,123	4,618	47.9	1,674
North Campbell No. 1 Township	2,101	2,976	3,039	2.1	1,180
North Campbell No. 2 township	1,193	1,493	1,728	15.7	778
North Campbell No. 3 Township	812	1,064	1,363	28.1	512
Pond Creek Township	713	1,155	1,414	22.4	536
Robberson No. 1 Township	1,545	1,537	1,777	15.6	743
Robberson No. 2 Township	1,900	2,249	2,338	4.0	930
Springfield Township	133,157	140,494	151,567	7.9	69,642
Taylor Township	1,799	2,031	2,356	16.0	944
Walnut Grove Township	1,187	1,259	1,393	10.6	576
Washington Township	1,854	2,048	2,255	10.1	930
West Republic Township	2,113	2,368	2,841	20.0	1,156
Wilson Township	7,284	9,930	15,982	60.9	5,977

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

Age Composition of Population-Greene County and Missouri, 2000							
		Percentage in Age Range					
	Total Number	<18	18-34	35-54	55-64	65 and Over	Median Age
Greene	240,391	22.3	27.6	28.0	8.6	13.6	35.1
Missouri	5,595,211	25.5	22.8	29.1	9.1	13.5	36.1

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

Age Distribution of Population-Greene County, 2000		
Age Groups	Number	%
Less Than 1	3,099	1.3
1 to 4	11,600	4.8
5 to 9	14,806	6.2
10 to 14	14,888	6.2
15 to 17	9,108	3.8
18 to 19	9,554	4.0
20 to 24	23,691	9.8
25 to 34	33,067	13.8
35 to 44	35,586	14.8
45 to 54	31,665	13.2
55 to 64	20,659	8.6
65 to 74	16,414	6.8
75 to 84	11,699	4.9
85 and Over	4,555	1.9
Total	240,391	

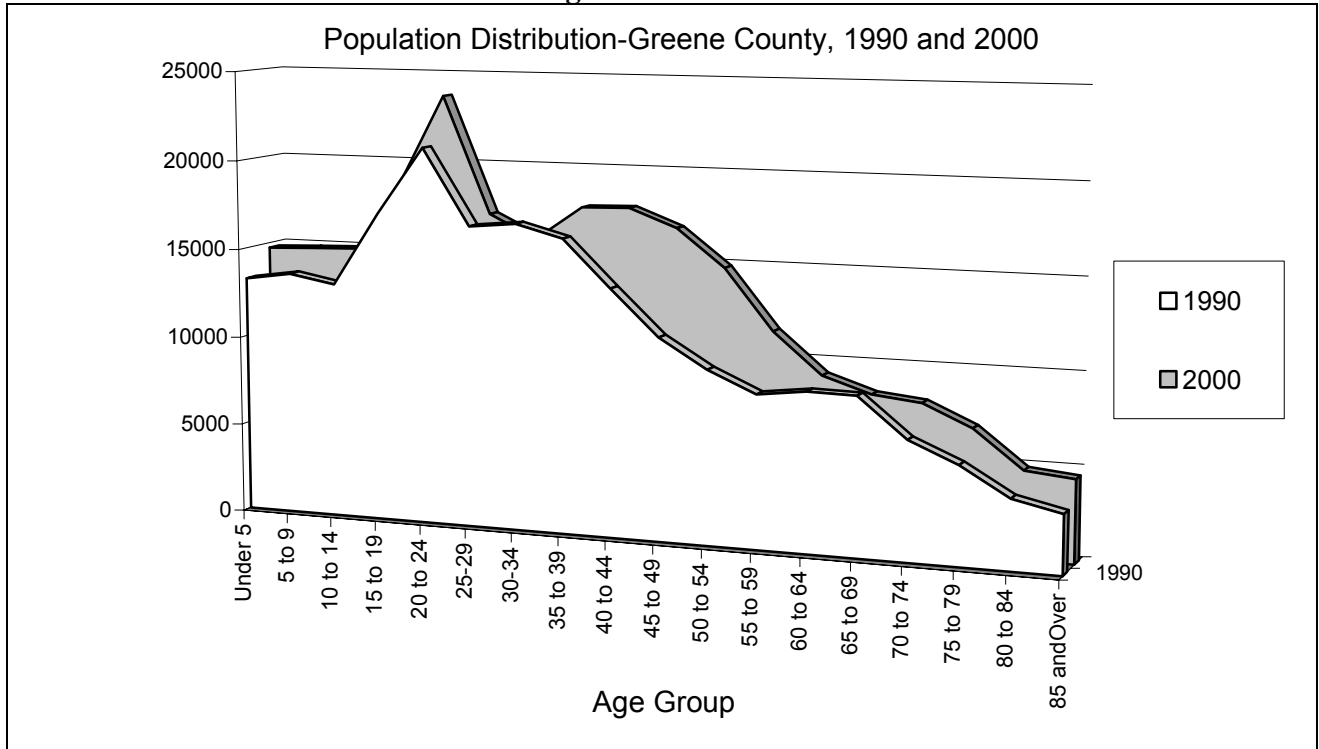
Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Table 1.8b

Percent of Total Population by Age and Gender-Greene County, 2000

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Over 85	.5	1.4
80 to 85	0.7	1.3
75 to 79	1.2	1.7
70 to 74	1.4	1.9
65 to 69	1.6	1.9
60 to 64	1.8	2.0
55 to 59	2.3	2.5
50 to 54	3.0	3.1
45 to 49	3.4	3.6
40 to 44	3.6	3.8
35 to 39	3.7	3.7
30 to 34	3.4	3.2
25 to 29	3.7	3.4
20 to 24	4.9	5.0
15 to 19	3.8	4.0
10 to 14	3.2	3.0
5 to 9	3.2	3.0
Under 5	3.2	2.9
	0	

Figure 1.3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census

Females comprise 51.5% of the total population in Greene County as the data in Table 1.9 indicates.

Table 1.9

Gender of Population-Greene County, 2000		
	Number	Percent
Male	116,703	48.6
Female	123,588	51.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Household Characteristics

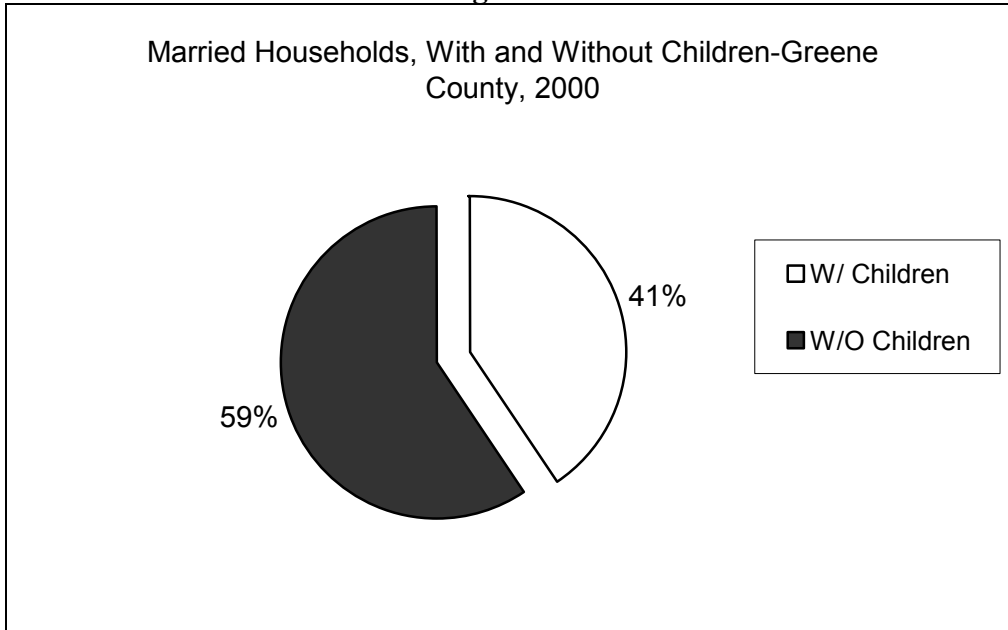
In the year 2000, almost 60% of married couple households reported not having children present. Table 1.10 also shows that Greene County had a higher proportion of married couples without children as compared to the state average.

Table 1.10

Percent of Households by Type-Greene County, 2000			
	Total Number of Households	Married Couple Households	
		W/ Children	W/O Children
Greene	97,859	40.5	59.5
Missouri	219,4594	43.6	56.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Figure 1.4



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; n=3,307

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).

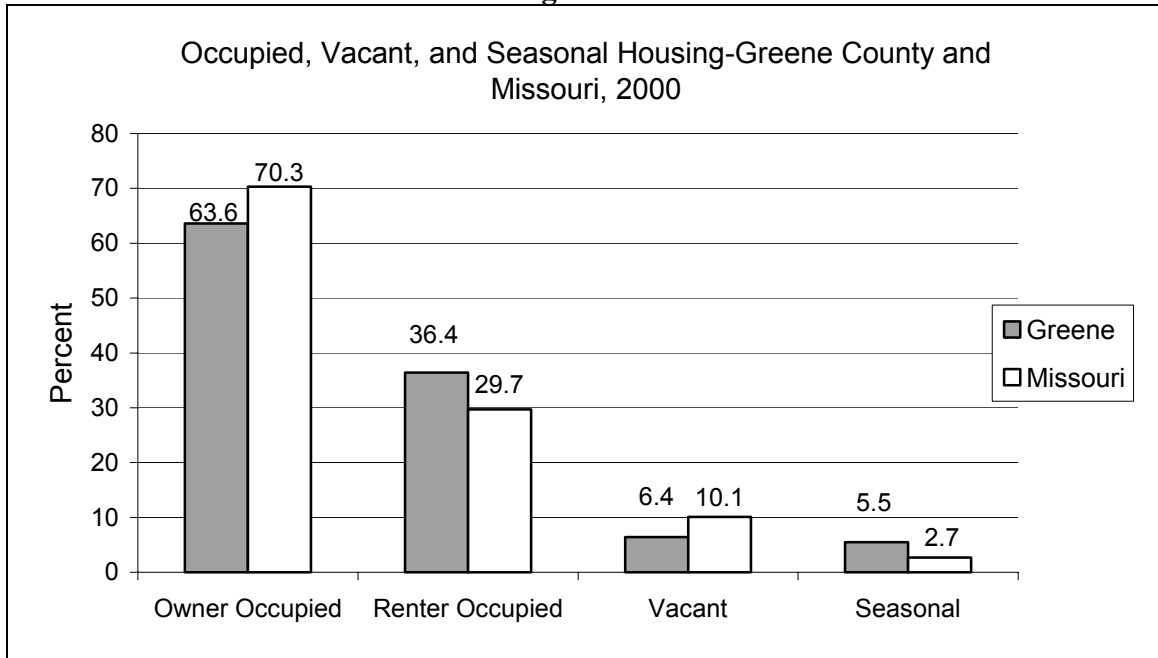
Table 1.11

Housing Data by Household Type-Greene County, 2000		
Type of Household	Number	Percent of Total Households
Total Households	97,859	100
Family Households	61,837	63.2
<i>With Own Children Under 18 Years</i>	27,726	28.3
Married Couple Families	48,961	50.0
<i>With Own Children Under 18 Years</i>	19,820	20.3
Female Householder (No Husband Present)	9,569	9.8
<i>With Own Children Under 18 Years</i>	5,971	6.1
Non-Family Households	36,022	36.8
Single Householder	28,482	29.1
Householder 65 Years and Over	9,528	9.7
Households With Individuals Under 18 Years	29,866	30.5

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



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

Urban and Rural Population-Greene County, 2000	
	Greene County
Total	240,391
Urban	197,233
Inside Urbanized Areas	188,482
Inside Urban Clusters	8,751
Rural	43,158

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						
	White	African American/Black	Hispanic /Latino	Native American/Alaskan Native	Asian, Pacific Islander	Other
Greene	92.5	2.3	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.7
Missouri	83.8	11.2	2.1	0.4	1.2	0.8

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				
	White	African American/Black	Native American /Alaskan Native	Asian American, Pacific Islander
Greene County (%)	11.9	44.7	23.6	88.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 1.15

Number of Population by Race and Ethnicity-Greene County, 2000							
	White	African American /Black	Native American/Alaskan Native	Asian, Pacific Islander	Other	Some Other Race Alone	Non-White Percent of Total Population
Greene	224,859	5,426	1,583	2,865	1,617	4,041	6.5
Missouri	4,748,083	629,391	25,076	64,773	45,827	82,061	17.8

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.

Table 1.16

Hispanic/Latino Groups-Greene County, 1990- 2000					
	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other
1990	1,775	911	183	58	726
2000	4,434	2,594	381	110	1,349
% Change	149.8	184.7	108.2	89.7	85.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Table 1.17

Number and Percent of Hispanic/Latino Groups-Greene County, 2000					
	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other
Number	4,434	2,594	381	110	1,349
Percent of Total County Population	1.84	1.07	0.15	0.05	0.56

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

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.*

U.S. Census Bureau, US Department of Commerce. Summary File 1, 100 Percent Data. Census 2000.

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

U.S. Census Bureau, US Department of Commerce. Summary File 3, 100 Percent Data. Census 2000.

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

“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