

Massachusetts State Data Center Newsletter

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MISER Releases Latest Population Projections

by Alison Donta, State Liaison/Product Manager - Boston Office

As part of the State Data Center Population Estimates and Projections project, the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER) at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has just released the latest population projections for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. According to these projections, the population of the Commonwealth will be 6,340,843 in the year 2000. This number assumes that Massachusetts continues to experience the same fertility, mortality, and migration rates as the previous decade. This increase represents a projected population growth of 5.4% since the last Census in 1990. By 2010, the population is projected to be 6,690,740.

This population growth differs among the Massachusetts counties. Those showing the highest projected growth rates since 1990 are Nantucket (34.6%), Dukes (32.9%), Barnstable (18.0%) and Hampshire (16.6%) counties. These four counties are also predicted to continue at a high rate of growth through 2010. In contrast, Suffolk County is predicted to have a slight population decrease (-0.1%) by 2000 but will rebound by 2010.

MISER projections indicate that Hampden (0.3%) and Berkshire (2.8%) counties will have a very slow rate of growth by 2000.

By 2000, five Massachusetts cities (Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Cambridge, and Lowell) are projected to have populations over 100,000. Although the population of Boston is projected to show a 0.9% decrease between 1990 and 2000, it is then projected to have a population increase of 4.7% between 2000 and 2010. Worcester is projected to show a similar slight population decrease by 2000 followed by an increase in the subsequent decade. Springfield, on the other hand, is predicted to have a population decrease of 8.1% between 1990 and 2000 and a further population decrease of 0.6% between 2000 and 2010.

In the Commonwealth overall, the segments of the population projected to have the highest rate of growth between 1990 and 2000 are the Hispanic and Black, non-Hispanic populations. The projected growth rate for Hispanics is 40.8% by 2000 and another 38.5% between 2000 and

2010. Blacks show a similar growth rate with a 40.5% increase between 1990 and 2000 and 32.1% in the following decade. Between 1990 and 2000, the greatest growth rate by age is predicted to be in the groups 50 to 54 years (57.7%), 45 to 49 years (38.1%) and 10-14 (33.4%), reflecting the Baby Boomers and their children.

MISER, under the direction of its chief demographer Dr. Zongli Tang, produces population projections for every city and town in the Commonwealth by sex, race-ethnicity, and five-year age groups at regular intervals. The last set of projections were produced in 1994. These new projections represent the addition of data from the early 1990's in the Commonwealth (including birth, death, and migration records), and incorporate an improved methodology that attempts to better account for the large student population of Massachusetts.

These data are available to the public at: <http://www.umass.edu/miser/population/miserproj.htm>. Questions about the latest projections can be directed to Alison Donta at: 617-727-4537.

*The first in a series of reports is available from the 1997 Economic Census: Health Care and Social Assistance - Geographic Area Series. For more information go to:
<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/econ97.html>*

Census 2000 Will Benefit Older Adults



Staffing News

- People who answer the census help their communities obtain federal funding and valuable information for planning hospitals, care facilities, community centers and special transportation services for people with disabilities.
- Information on age and disability is used to plan for the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.
- Equal employment opportunities are enforced under the Age Discrimination and Employment Act using census information.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs uses census information to determine the future need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries,

domiciliary services and other benefits for veterans.

- Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on census information about elderly people with low incomes.
- Census information assists state and local agencies in determining the adequacy of housing for older people.
- Under the Federal Transit Act, census information is used to allocate funds for mass transit systems to provide handicapped facilities.
- The Administration on Aging uses information about whether or not there is a telephone available as a measure of social isolation.

The Data Center welcomes the following new people to our staff:

Alison Donta - State Liaison/Product Manager, Boston Office

Lonnie Kaufman - Education Data Coordinator

Notable Quotables from our Main Office...

"Could you please send me all the census data you have?"

"I would like to track all the tables in the 1990 census back to first census ever taken."

"I don't really know what I want or if I should even be calling here."

For more information, go to: <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/pdf/d3282c.pdf>

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