
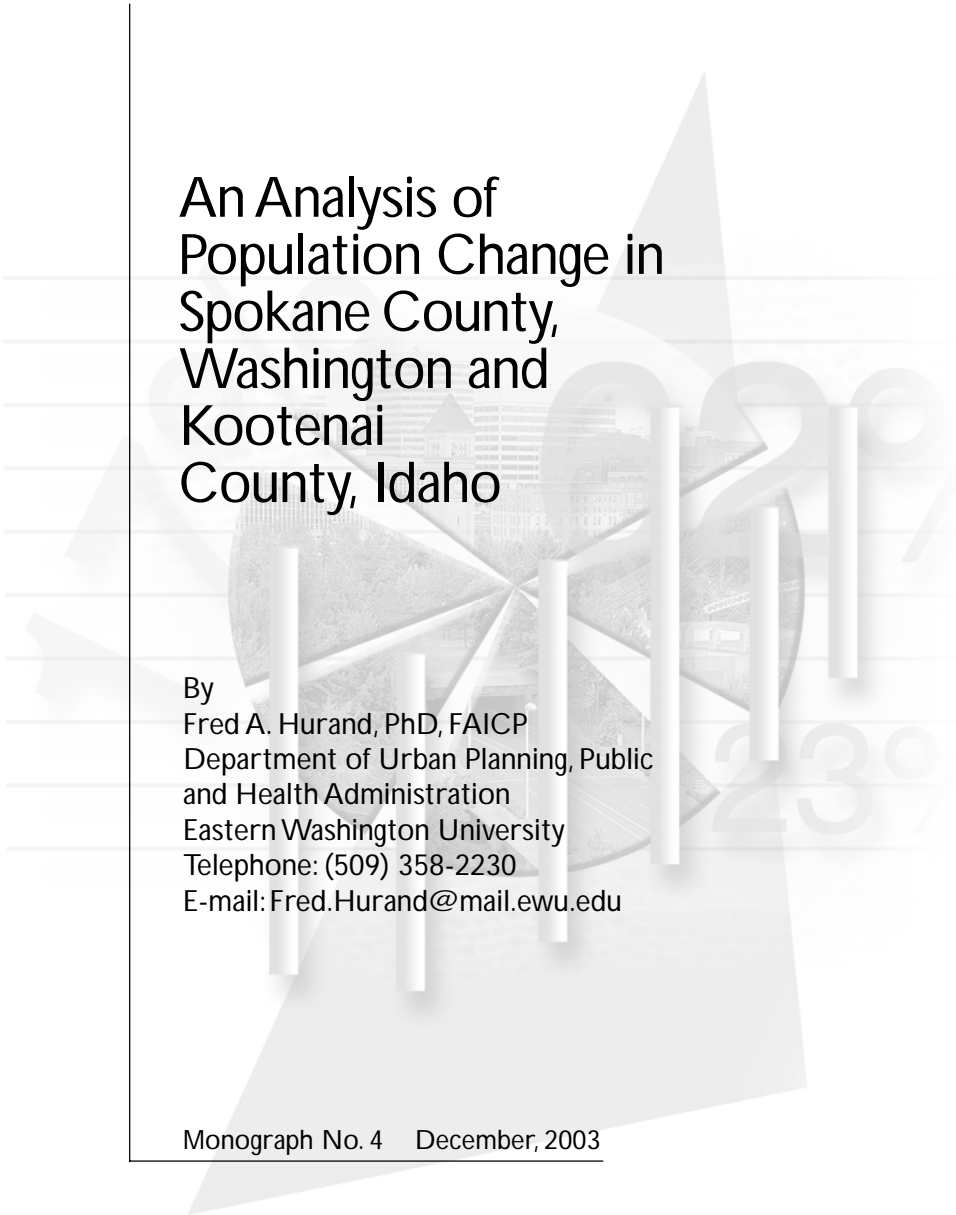


Institute for Public Policy
and Economic Analysis



*The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis at Eastern
Washington University will convey university expertise and
sponsor research in social, economic and public policy questions to
the region it serves – the Inland Pacific Northwest*

D. Patrick Jones, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis
668 N. Riverpoint Blvd.
Suite A, Room 238
Spokane, WA 99202-1660
dpjones@mail.ewu.edu



An Analysis of Population Change in Spokane County, Washington and Kootenai County, Idaho

By
Fred A. Hurand, PhD, FAICP
Department of Urban Planning, Public
and Health Administration
Eastern Washington University
Telephone: (509) 358-2230
E-mail: Fred.Hurand@mail.ewu.edu

Monograph No. 4 December, 2003



It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the monograph series of the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis from Eastern Washington University. I hope this research from Eastern faculty sheds new light on a particular aspect of life in the Inland Northwest.

The goal of the Institute is for our highly-qualified faculty to provide analysis and data that are relevant to your lives. The vision of a regional university that our Board of Trustees has adopted speaks directly to the notion of relevance to the Inland Northwest. Without relevance to the communities that make up this dynamic and beautiful corner of our country, our university is not fully living up to its mission.

Of course, our main mission at Eastern Washington University is to educate students to the highest levels possible, for the sake of their own careers, the future of the communities in which they will reside, and ultimately their growth as individuals. An increasingly important mission of Eastern is also to encourage faculty research. Not only does this help keep our faculty professionally current, but makes them better teachers, through the sharing of research opportunities with their students.

However, not all faculty research at Eastern need be written for professional audiences. In this day of increasingly specialization and complexity, I see an imperative for an informed citizenry. What better source can our region find to translate this knowledge into jargon-free, accessible information than a university like Eastern?

Since coming here five years ago, I am convinced there is a level of excellence at Eastern Washington University that is worthy of recognition and support. The university is a catalyst in the progress of the region – its economy, culture and way of life. The Board of Trustees and I regard the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis as a striking example of our commitment to this region. My office and that of the Institute director welcome all comments on how we might better serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. M. Jordan'.

Stephen M. Jordan, Ph.D.



Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	6
II. Introduction	8
III. Data Sources and Methods	8
1V. Population	9
V. Changes in Age Structure 1980 to 2000	12
VI. Migration	16
VII. Changes in Housing Stock.....	20
VIII. Population Forecasts.....	23
IX. Future Research and Conclusions	25
References	26
Appendix	27

I. Executive Summary

Spokane County, Washington and Kootenai County, Idaho encompass the largest single population center between Seattle and Minneapolis across the northern tier of the United States. As of the 2000 census, 526,624 people live in this two-county region. Since 1980, the population has increased 31%, with over 75% of that growth occurring in the 1990s. Regional decision-making and planning are dependent upon understanding these rates of growth, the changes in the general characteristics of the population and what can be anticipated as future growth. This report describes these factors. The following is a summary of the important findings from the report.

- Spokane County is the more populous county representing 80% of the region's population, but Kootenai County's population grew over 55% in the 1990s.
- Although both counties experienced significant growth during the 1990s, the rate of growth during the first half of the decade was greater than the last half and these rates appear to be lower during the early years of the decade beginning in 2000.
- The percentage of people over 35 in the two counties has increased since 1980.
- The largest increases in population have been in workforce age people and elderly.

-
- Migration accounts for the largest increases in population rather than natural increase.
 - Depending on the decade, migration represents from 71% to 90% of Kootenai County's population growth over the past three decades.
 - Migrants to Kootenai County are primarily from western states, whereas those to Spokane County represent a larger spectrum of locations across the United States.
 - According to one study, a large portion of the migrants to Spokane County in 2001 and 2002 are international.
 - 59% of all the housing stock built in the region between 1980 and 2000 occurred in Kootenai County
 - Over the past three decades, much of the housing has been built in former rural areas that are now becoming urbanized.
 - The range in forecasted population for 2010 for Spokane County is 477,909 to 486,303, or a gain of 60,000 to 70,000 from 2000.
 - The range in forecasted population for 2010 for Kootenai County is 142,575 to 152,495, or a gain of 34,000 to 44,000 from 2000.
-

II. Introduction

Spokane County, Washington and Kootenai County, Idaho form the population hub of the Inland Northwest. Traditionally, the City of Spokane and Spokane County have been the major players in this region. Since the turn of the last century, the City of Spokane has been the dominant urban place with other communities playing a supporting role. Recent growth and changes in the metropolitan landscape are challenging this dominance.

The dynamics of this changing landscape present a challenge for local planners, economic development specialists and transportation planners. These changes also pit old timers against newcomers, as evident in the controversy over grass burning. Old notions of resource-oriented economies come into conflict with more service and recreation focused development. Understanding the dynamics of this change can help identify directions for the future.

These two counties have experienced significant population growth over the past several decades, most particularly during the 1990's. However, Kootenai County is growing at a much faster pace, with communities in that county playing a much larger role than in the past. The counties are beginning to resemble a Metropolitan Statistical Area, although not officially recognized as such by the U. S. Census Bureau. This growth in population, jobs and housing affects both. Their interdependence is evident by the daily vehicular traffic flowing back and forth between the counties.

The purpose of this study is to chronicle the growth in Spokane and Kootenai Counties over the past three decades, analyze the components of this growth and provide forecasts of future growth over this next decade. As such, it provides a snapshot of the some of the major population characteristics of the region and should aid in community decision-making.

III. Data Sources and Methods

The primary sources of data for this study are the decennial censuses. For 1990 and 2000, these data are available on the U. S. Census Bureau's American Factfinder located on the bureau's website, www.census.gov, and its *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000*. The 1980 data are found in *Detailed Population Characteristics, 1980* and *Detailed Housing Characteristics, 1980* for each of the states in which the counties are located. Other information was obtained from various sources of vital statistics and websites referencing population information about Spokane and Kootenai Counties including Washington's Office of Financial Management (OFM) website, www.ofm.wa.gov, and the Idaho Department of Health.

These data are displayed in tabular and graphical form to illustrate changes that have occurred over the three decades. Three standard techniques were used to create these forecasts. Forecasts are educated guesses. One should not expect that the outcomes of these forecasts will be the actual population at the end of the forecast period. To illustrate this, a range of forecasts have been created for each county. Most likely, the future population will fall somewhere within these ranges. However, changes in national and regional economic conditions and unforeseen catastrophic events could easily produce different results.

IV. Population

Population Change 1900 to 2000

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Spokane County has been the more populous county in the two-county region, with the county's population representing 80% to 90% of the total regional population. However, more recently, Kootenai County has been growing significantly faster than Spokane County, consuming a larger portion of the total regional population. In 1990, Spokane County represented 83.8% of the total population. By 2000 this percentage had dropped to 79.4% (see Table 1). During the 1990 to 2000 decade, Kootenai County grew by 55.7% and Spokane County by 15.7%. Even though the absolute change in population in Kootenai County, 38,890, was less than Spokane's, 56,600, the rate of growth was nearly *four* times that of Spokane County.

Historically, there have been periods of change where Spokane County grew faster than Kootenai County and vice versa. During the second decade of the twentieth century Kootenai County actually lost a significant portion of its population while Spokane County barely kept even. Since that time, each county has experienced ever increasing populations but with surges in different decades. From 1940 through 1960, Spokane County grew 69% and then declined by 3.3% during the next decade. This surge can in part be accounted for by the military build-up during the '40s and the subsequent post war development. Although Kootenai County experienced increases during this same period, its greatest increases were between 1970 and 1980 and then over the last decade.

In summary, Spokane and Kootenai Counties have been consistently growing over the last century, with each experiencing significant gains at different times. It would appear that these increases should continue with each county absorbing different rates of growth. One specific factor that could affect Spokane County's growth is the Washington Growth Management Act. This statute requires that

Spokane County accommodate the growth designated by the state's Office of Financial Management, and that controls be in place to insure that this growth does not exceed the various municipalities' and special purpose districts' ability to provide services to the new population. Kootenai County does not have similar constraints. Since Spokane County and its local municipalities have only recently adopted their growth management plans, current data cannot assess the impact of this legislation.

From 1940 through 1960, Spokane County grew 69% and then declined by 3.3% during the next decade. This surge can in part be accounted for by the military build-up during the '40s and the subsequent post war development.

1990 to 2000 Rates of Change

Both counties experienced significant growth between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Spokane County gained 56,606 people and Kootenai County, 38,890 (see Table 1). Kootenai County grew much faster, with a nearly 56% increase in total population while Spokane County lagged behind at approximately 16%. For Kootenai County this was

the largest increase in people but the second largest percentage increase in the century. The largest percentage increase occurred during the 1970-1980 decade. Spokane County's growth nearly equaled the population increases of the war and postwar decades, 1940s and 1950s.

Table **1**

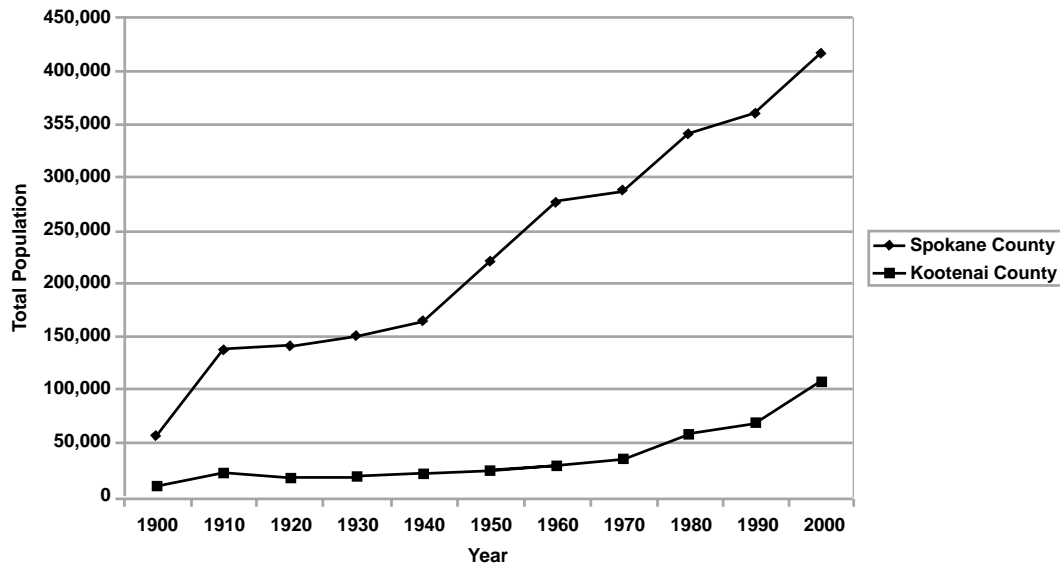
Population Change 1900-2000

Decade Ending In	Population			Percent of Total Population	
	Spokane County	Kootenai County	Total	Spokane County	Kootenai County
1900	57,542	10,216	67,758	84.9%	15.1%
1910	139,404	22,747	162,151	86.0%	14.0%
1920	141,289	17,878	159,167	88.8%	11.2%
1930	150,477	19,469	169,946	88.5%	11.5%
1940	164,652	22,283	186,935	88.1%	11.9%
1950	221,561	24,947	246,508	89.9%	10.1%
1960	278,333	29,556	307,889	90.4%	9.6%
1970	287,487	35,332	322,819	89.1%	10.9%
1980	341,835	59,770	401,605	85.1%	14.9%
1990	361,333	69,795	431,128	83.8%	16.2%
2000	417,939	108,685	526,624	79.4%	20.6%

Decade Ending In	Amount of Change		Percent Change	
	Spokane County	Kootenai County	Spokane County	Kootenai County
1900				
1910	81,862	12,531	142.3%	122.7%
1920	1,885	-4,869	1.4%	-21.4%
1930	9,188	1,591	6.5%	8.9%
1940	14,175	2,814	9.4%	14.5%
1950	56,909	2,664	34.6%	12.0%
1960	56,772	4,609	25.6%	18.5%
1970	9,154	5,776	3.3%	19.5%
1980	54,348	24,438	18.9%	69.2%
1990	19,498	10,025	5.7%	16.8%
2000	56,606	38,890	15.7%	55.7%

Source: Washington Office of Financial Management, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Figure 1
Population Change 1900-2000



Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Web Sites

Table **2**

1990-2000 Population Change

Even though this was a significant decade of growth for both counties, it is important to note that the rates of growth were different for the first half of the decade versus the last half. Both counties' growth rates declined over the second half of the decade (see Table 2). The U. S. Census Bureau (2003) estimates that the 2000 to 2002 growth rates for Spokane and Kootenai counties are 1.2% and 3.3% respectively, roughly the same rates of change as the last half of the previous decade for both counties. The early growth during the '90s might reflect the overall strength in the local and national economy during the first part of the decade, and the decline in the rate of growth from 1996 to 2000 a result of the recent recession.

	Spokane County	Kootenai County	Percent Change	
			Spokane County	Kootenai County
1990	361,333	69,795		
1991	365,887	73,800	1.26%	5.74%
1992	371,147	77,300	1.44%	4.74%
1993	377,020	82,300	1.58%	6.47%
1994	384,035	87,300	1.86%	6.08%
1995	391,318	91,700	1.90%	5.04%
1996	397,508	95,505	1.58%	4.15%
1997	403,954	98,809	1.62%	3.46%
1998	408,740	101,305	1.18%	2.53%
1999	413,665	104,807	1.20%	3.46%
2000	417,939	108,685	1.03%	3.70%
Total Change 1990-1995			8.30%	31.38%
Average Change 1990-1995			1.61%	5.61%
Total Change 1995-2000			6.80%	18.52%
Average Change 1996-2000			1.33%	3.46%
Total Change 1990-2000			15.67%	55.72%
Average Change 1990-2000			1.47%	4.54%

Source: Washington Office of Financial Management, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare websites.

V. Changes in Age Structure 1980 to 2000

Tables A1 through A6 in the Appendix and Figures 2 through 7 display the age and sex structure of the two counties for each of three decades 1980 to 2000. Table 3 summarizes some of the changes in age structure that have occurred over the past three decades. First, for both counties there has been a small decline in the percentage of preschool children. Likewise, the percentage of school age children (5 – 19) has declined. While these declines might, in part be reflective of national trends, it is most likely due to the larger portions of middle aged and elderly people in these populations.

In addition, for both counties young adults (20-34) represent a smaller portion of the population in 2000 than in 1980. Spokane County's proportion dropped 7% with Kootenai County's falling 6%. This is the stage in the life cycle where young adults leave to go to school or find opportunities elsewhere. However, migration to region should have countered some of this emigration.

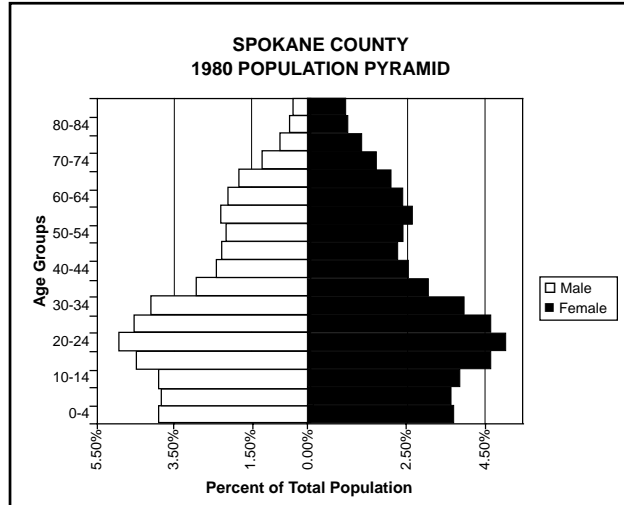
Part of the explanation lies in what appears to be a

migration into these two counties of middle aged and elderly age groups from other locations. For Spokane County, the proportion of people 35 or older has risen nearly 10% over the three decades. Kootenai County's change has been the same. This includes a larger number of people in the workforce, 25-59, approximately a 5.5% increase for Spokane County and a 4.8% increase for Kootenai County. Also, although the 60+ proportion has been relatively stable, the share of those over 75 has increased.

Although the population of each of these counties seems to be growing older, a portion of this aging is due the migration of working age people into the regional economy. It also appears that both counties may also be experiencing the arrival of retirees. Regardless, the rates of growth for the region indicate that this is a rapidly growing region. Spokane County's growth rate of 15.7% exceeded the national rate of 13.1% but was less than the state rate of 21.1%, but Kootenai County's 55.7% exceeded Idaho's, 26.5%, and the national rate.

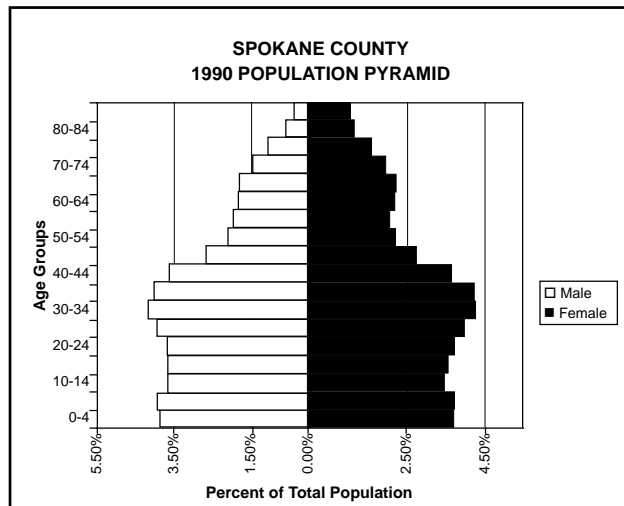
Although the population of each of these counties seems to be growing older, a portion of this aging is due the migration of working age people into the regional economy.

Figure 2



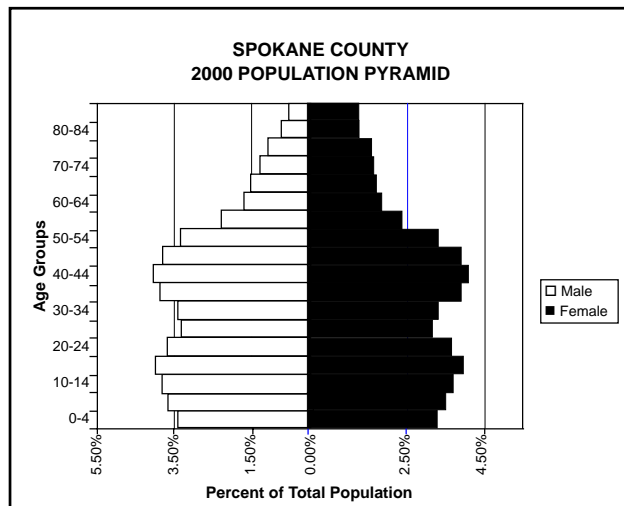
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1980c

Figure 3



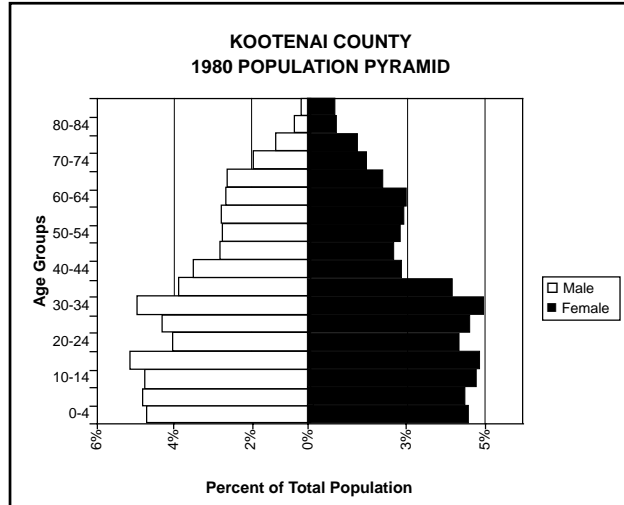
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, STF 1

Figure 4



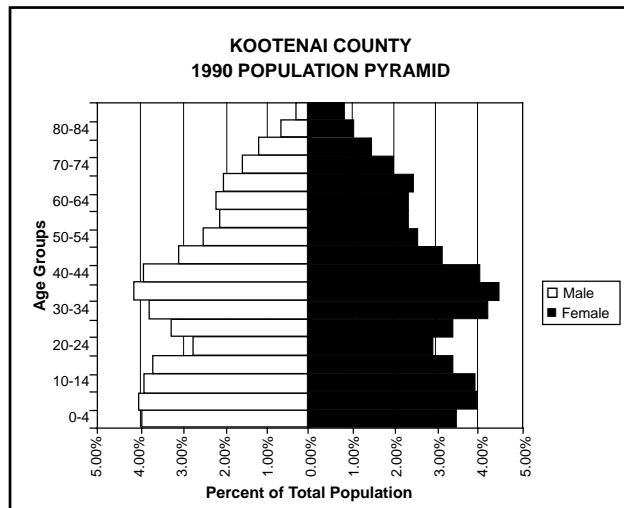
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

Figure 5



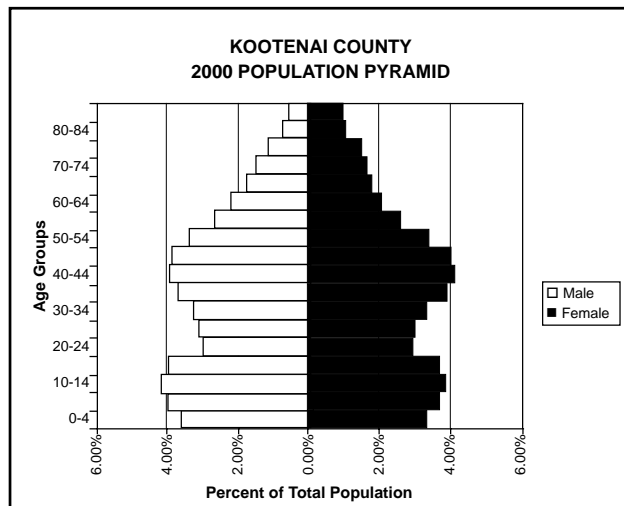
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a

Figure 6



Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, STF 1

Figure 7



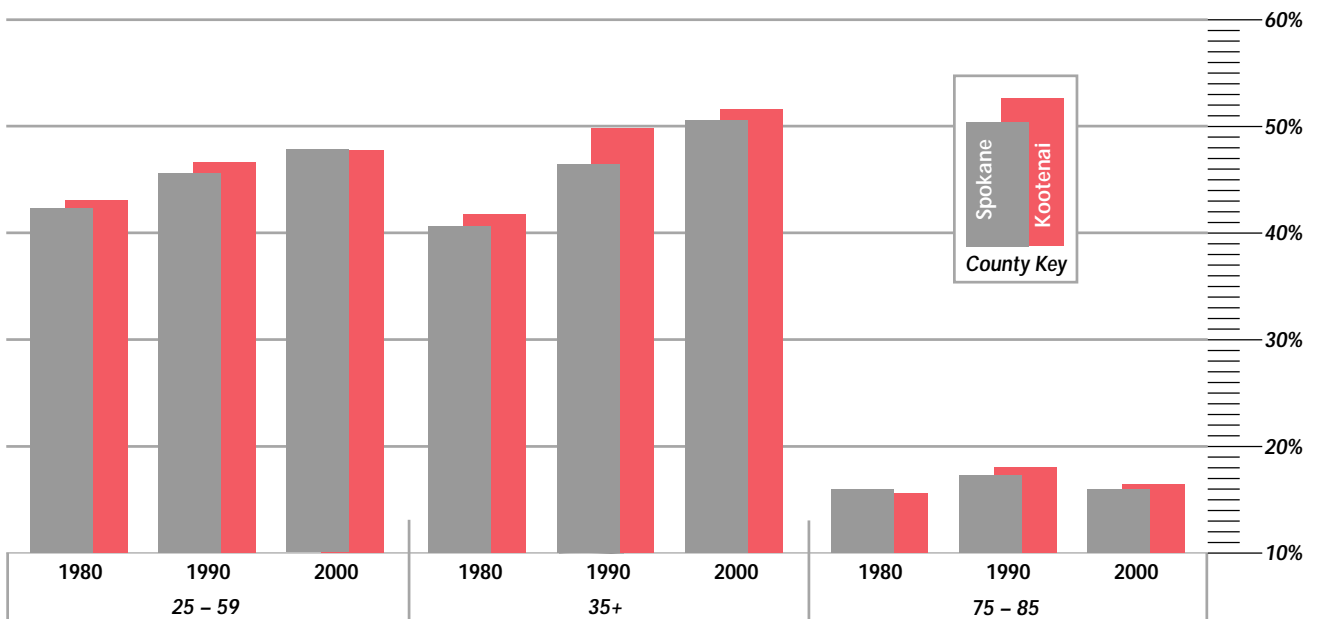
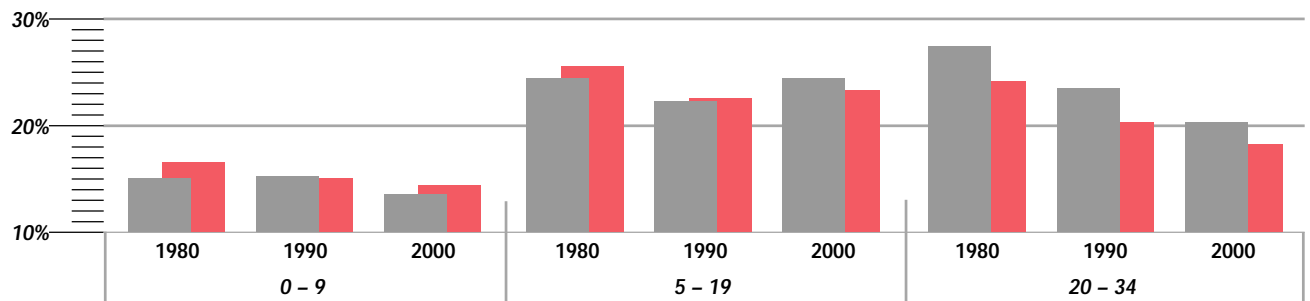
Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

Changes in Percentage of Population for Certain Age Groups

Age	Spokane County			Kootenai County		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
0-9	15.10%	15.27%	13.69%	16.55%	15.06%	14.45%
5 to 19	24.35%	22.12%	22.44%	25.78%	22.81%	23.10%
20-34	27.27%	23.85%	20.34%	24.21%	20.15%	18.41%
25-59	42.10%	45.74%	47.78%	42.99%	46.59%	47.76%
35+	40.76%	46.48%	50.64%	41.72%	49.94%	51.63%
60+	15.97%	17.15%	15.95%	15.60%	17.90%	16.43%
75-85*	4.78%	5.78%	6.40%	3.97%	5.39%	5.72%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & c and U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

Figure 8: Changes in Percentage of Population for Certain Age Groups



VI. Migration

Over the past decade, the overwhelming increase in population for both counties has been migration rather than natural increase. This is especially so for Kootenai County, where migration represents 71% to nearly 90% of each decade's population increase. Table 4 depicts the components of change in population from 1991 to 2002 for each of the counties. Table 5 chronicles the former location of migrants to each county in the five years previous to the 1980, 1990, and 2000 censuses.

During the 1990s, Spokane County saw a net *out* migration in two of the years, 1997 and 1999. During the other years, the net migration represents a smaller portion of the total growth in each year than Kootenai County, ranging from 16% to 68%. For both counties, migration represented a larger portion of growth in the early '90s than in the latter half of the decade. Since the 2000 census, Kootenai County's proportion of migrants have declined while Spokane County's is on the rise.

Table 5 describes the location of residents over 5 years of age who have moved to either county within the five years preceding the census. Over one-half of this population resided in another house in a different location five years before. Half of these lived in another county. Most of the "other county" folks came from outside of Idaho and Washington, primarily as immigrants from western states.

There are some minor differences between the two counties. In Spokane County, more people lived in the location previously, and by 2000 half lived in the same house. In Kootenai County, over 60% of 1990 population lived another home. Kootenai County also consistently has more out-of-state migrants than Spokane County.

People from the western states represent the largest portion of Kootenai County's immigrant population. Migrants to Spokane County, on the other hand, represent a broader spectrum of geographic locations, including international locations. Table 4 notes that during the last two years, a significant portion of Spokane migrants are foreigners.

Over the past three decades, immigration has contributed significantly to the population growth in the region. Every indication is that this will continue to be the case, but current rates of growth may have slowed. This continued immigration can be a source for new ideas, innovations and new economic initiatives. It can also be source of conflict between these who represent these initiatives and those who still view the region as a resource based economy.

This continued immigration can be a source for new ideas, innovations and new economic initiatives. It can also be source of conflict between these who represent these initiatives and those who still view the region as a resource based economy.

**Components of Population
Change: 1991-2002**

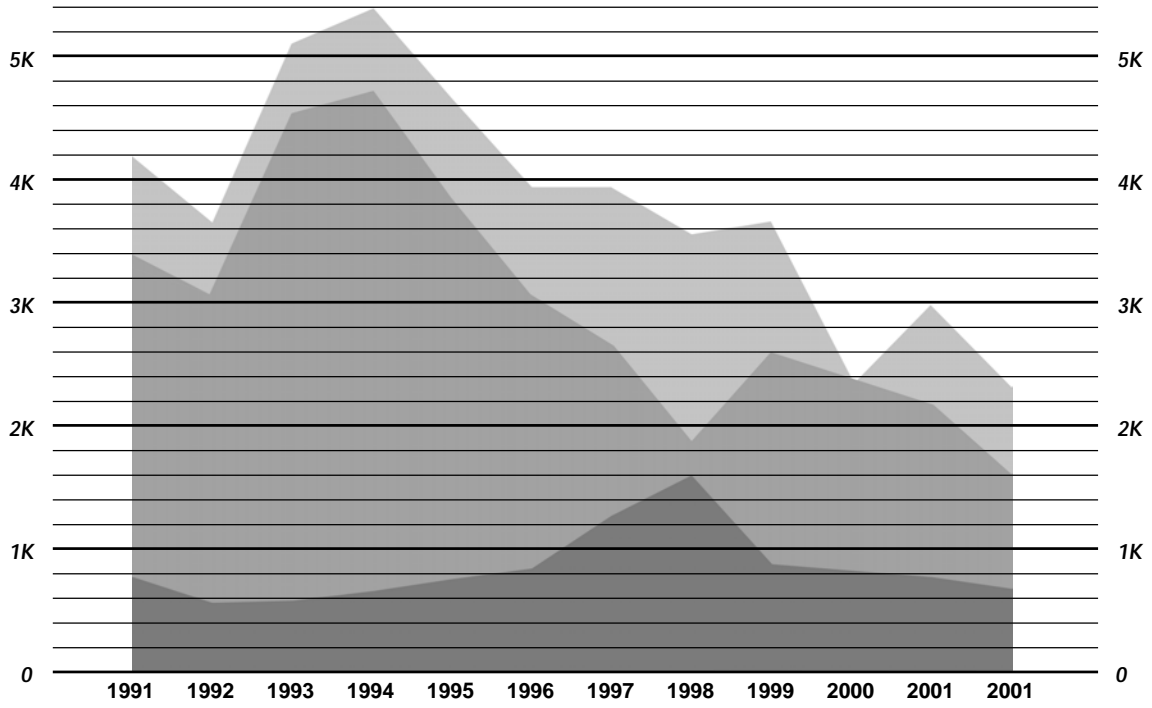
Table **4**

<u>Kootenai County</u>					
	Total Change	Natural Increase	International Migration	Domestic Migration	Percent Migration
1991	4,151	752	6	3,393	81.88%
1992	3,631	535	42	3,054	85.27%
1993	5,077	540	25	4,512	89.36%
1994	5,392	631	50	4,711	88.30%
1995	4,631	751	51	3,829	83.78%
1996	3,913	831	30	3,052	78.76%
1997	3,913	1,254	44	2,615	67.95%
1998	3,518	1,594	64	1,860	54.69%
1999	3,629	872	58	2,699	75.97%
2000	2,339	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	2,974	758	57	2,159	74.51%
2002	2,295	662	45	1,588	71.15%
<u>Spokane County</u>					
	Total Change	Natural Increase	International Migration	Domestic Migration	Percent Migration
1991	4,151	752	6	3,393	81.88%
1991	11,437	3,953	358	7,126	65.44%
1992	10,250	3,480	462	6,308	66.05%
1993	9,768	3,115	467	6,186	68.11%
1994	5,756	3,020	396	2,340	47.53%
1995	6,108	2,774	369	2,965	54.58%
1996	3,545	2,515	408	622	29.06%
1997	2,003	2,780	489	-1,266	-38.79%
1998	3,310	2,788	422	100	15.77%
1999	1,916	2,431	445	-960	-26.88%
2000	2,513	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	5,098	2,147	1,583	1,368	57.89%
2002	4,469	1,683	1,225	1,561	62.34%

Note: Information not available is designated as "n/a."

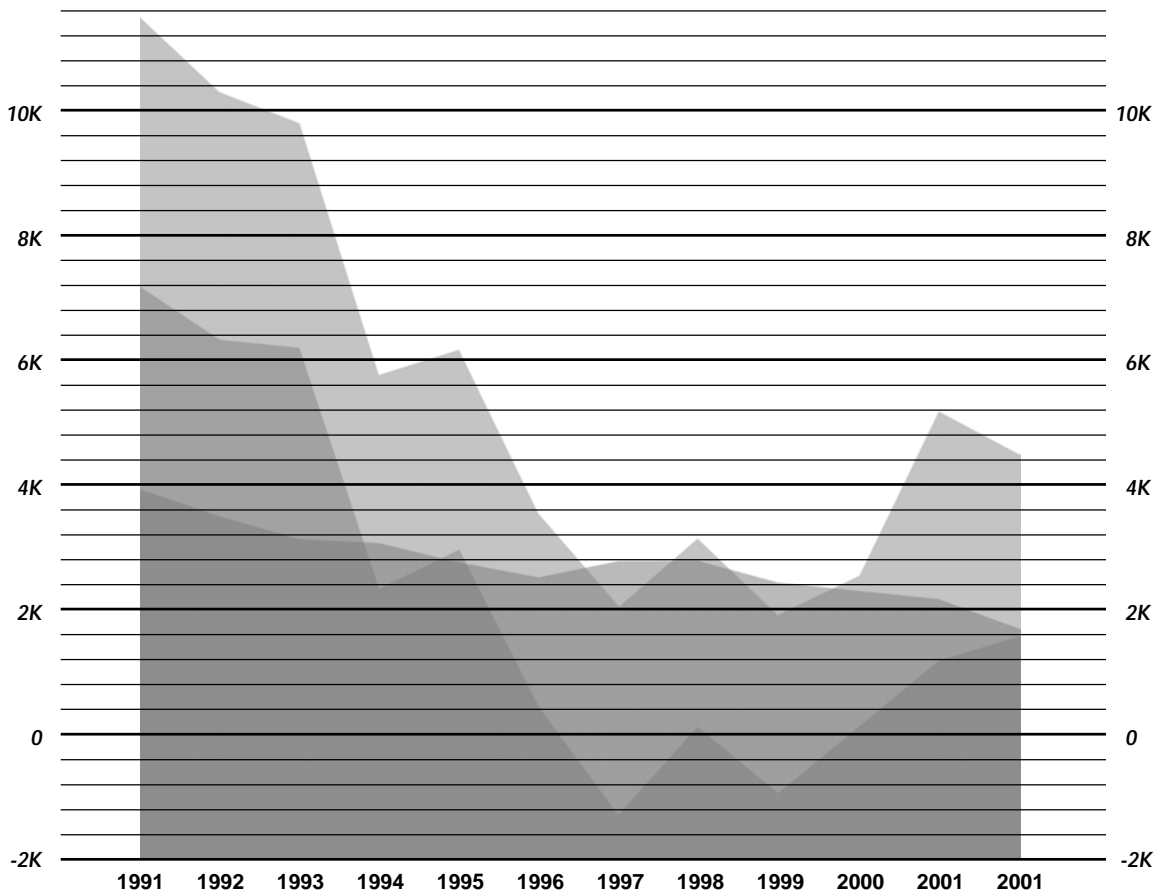
Source: Real Estate Center, Texas A & M University 2003

Figure 9: Components of Annual Population Change — Kootenai County



Key for Figures 9 and 10: Total Change Domestic Migration Natural Increase

Figure 10: Components of Annual Population Change — Spokane County



Location of Population
Five Years Prior to Census

Table

5

<u>Kootenai County</u>						
	1980		1990		2000	
Total	54,977		78,322		101,260	
Same house five years earlier	22,231	40.4%	30,302	38.7%	47,377	46.8%
Different house	32,746	59.6%	48,020	61.3%	53,883	53.2%
In United States						
Same county	13,348	24.3%	17,002	21.7%	25,980	25.7%
Different county:						
Same state	3,538	6.4%	3,718	4.7%	5,829	5.8%
Different state:	15,444	28.1%	13,477	17.2%	21,378	21.1%
Northeast	418	0.8%	266	0.3%	375	0.4%
Midwest	1,512	2.8%	1,167	1.5%	1,562	1.5%
South	628	1.1%	1,058	1.4%	1,309	1.3%
West	12,886	23.4%	10,986	14.0%	18,132	17.9%
Outside Continental U. S.	416	0.8%	346	0.4%	696	0.7%
<u>Spokane County</u>						
	1980		1990		2000	
Total	309,687		376,994		390,366	
Same house five years earlier	138,563	44.7%	162,197	43.0%	198,457	50.8%
Different house	171,124	55.3%	214,797	57.0%	191,909	49.2%
In United States						
Same county	96,642	31.2%	102,209	27.1%	115,198	29.5%
Different county:						
Same state	22,869	7.4%	23,072	6.1%	28,988	7.4%
Different state:	51,163	16.5%	42,271	11.2%	39,918	10.2%
Northeast	2,920	0.9%	1,782	0.5%	1,774	0.5%
Midwest	7,008	2.3%	5,023	1.3%	4,037	1.0%
South	6,435	2.1%	5,658	1.5%	6,180	1.6%
West	5,809	1.9%	29,808	7.9%	27,927	7.2%
Outside Continental U. S.	438	0.1%	4,974	1.3%	7805	2.0%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & c and U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF3.

VII. Changes in Housing Stock

To accommodate the growth in population, comparable changes also occurred in the housing stock in the region. If the housing market was not responding to growth, the value of housing would accelerate and discourage immigration. It appears that the housing stock has kept pace with the growth in population.

Table 6 records some of the basic changes in general housing characteristics in the region. From 1980 to 2000, 22,352 units were added to Kootenai County's housing stock. The housing stock grew 92% over this period of time, nearly doubling the previous level. Over the same period, Kootenai County population increased by 82%.

From 1980 to 2000, 37,621 units were added to Spokane County's stock, representing a much smaller growth of 27%, even though the number of units built was larger than Kootenai County. Over the same period, Spokane County population grew by 22%. Spokane County had far more units at the beginning of the period; however, the 22,352 units built in Kootenai County over the three decades represent 59% of the total built in Spokane County during the same time period.

Approximately 90% of all housing units were occupied in both counties over the three decades. However, owner occupied units were more common in Kootenai County, roughly 75% of the occupied housing units compared to 65% in Spokane County. This could be an indication of a more transient population in Spokane County. However, it may just reflect the larger population base or a difference in housing affordability.

The location of housing stock is significantly different. In Kootenai County, the housing stock in rural areas has declined from 62% to 30%. Much of the growth in Kootenai County has occurred in the Post Falls – Rathdrum area, where large areas of housing have been added to existing cities. In Spokane County the percentage of rural housing has remained relatively constant.

It is important to note that for both counties, much of the land development occurred in areas outside

of municipal boundaries. Figures 11 and 12 are maps of the growth in housing and population by census tracts in the region in the 1990s. More and more of these developed areas are being annexed or incorporated. In Spokane County, the City of Spokane Valley now encompasses much of the non-municipal development that has occurred in the area between the City of Spokane and Kootenai County. However, a large portion of this area would have been considered urbanized by the Census Bureau in previous decades.

The expansion in housing stock reflects the growth in population. Housing development is often demand driven, which is the case here. As the population grows, the housing market expands to meet it. With current vacancy rates at or near 10%, it does not appear that the market is overbuilt. Yet, with what appears to be some decline in the rate of population growth, increased housing development could outpace demand in the near future.

In Spokane County, the City of Spokane Valley now encompasses much of the non-municipal development that has occurred in the area between the City of Spokane and Kootenai County.

Basic Housing Data: 1980-2000

Kootenai County						
	1980	Percent of Total	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total
Total Housing Units	24,255		31,964		46,607	
Total Occupied Units	21,404	88%	26,942	84%	41,308	89%
Owner Occupied Units	16,033	75%	19,208	71%	30,785	75%
Renter Occupied Units	5,371	25%	7,734	29%	10,523	25%
Rural Housing	15,070	62%	16,662	52%	14,158	30%
Spokane County						
	1980	Percent of Total	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total
Total Housing Units	137,384		150,105		175,005	
Total Occupied Units	128,403	93%	141,619	94%	163,611	93%
Owner Occupied Units	86,087	67%	90,233	64%	107,203	66%
Renter Occupied Units	42,316	33%	51,386	36%	56,408	34%
Rural Housing	19,353	14%	23,051	15%	22,557	13%

Note: Percentages for owners and renters are % of occupied units

Source: U. S Census 1980b and c and U. S. Census American Factfinder SF1

With current vacancy rates at or near 10%, it does not appear that the market is overbuilt. Yet, with what appears to be some decline in the rate of population growth, increased housing development could outpace demand in the near future.

Figure 11
Population Change by Census Tract 1990 - 2000

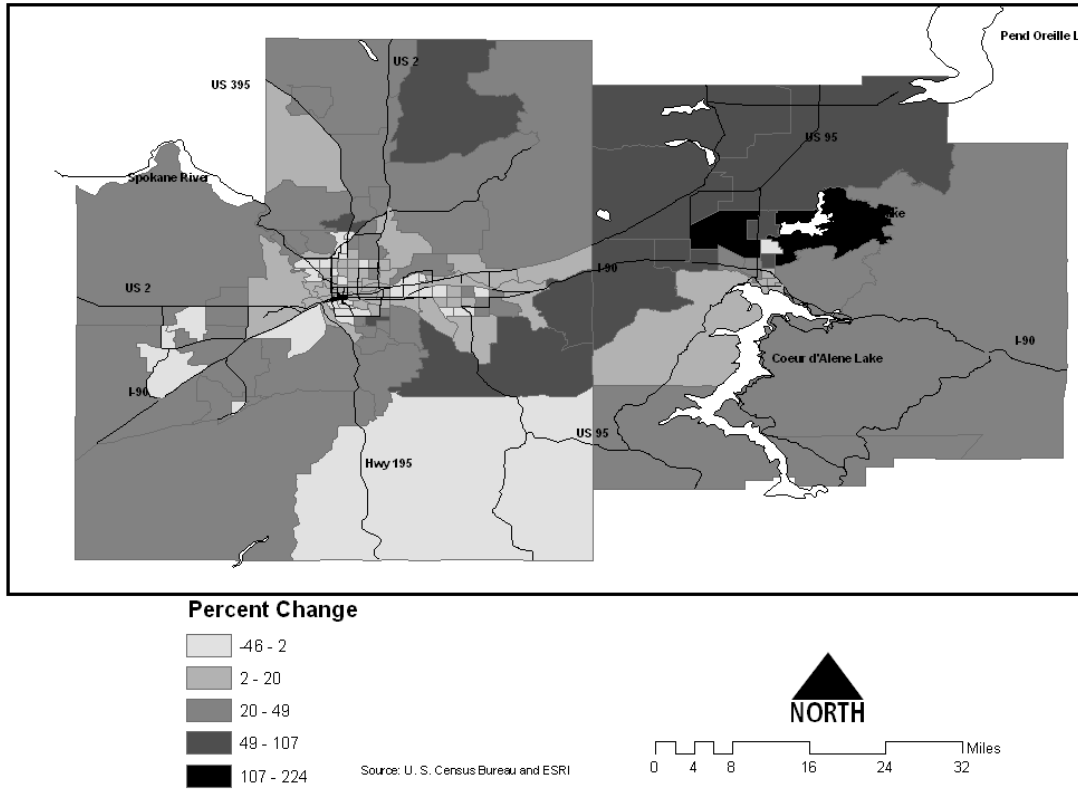
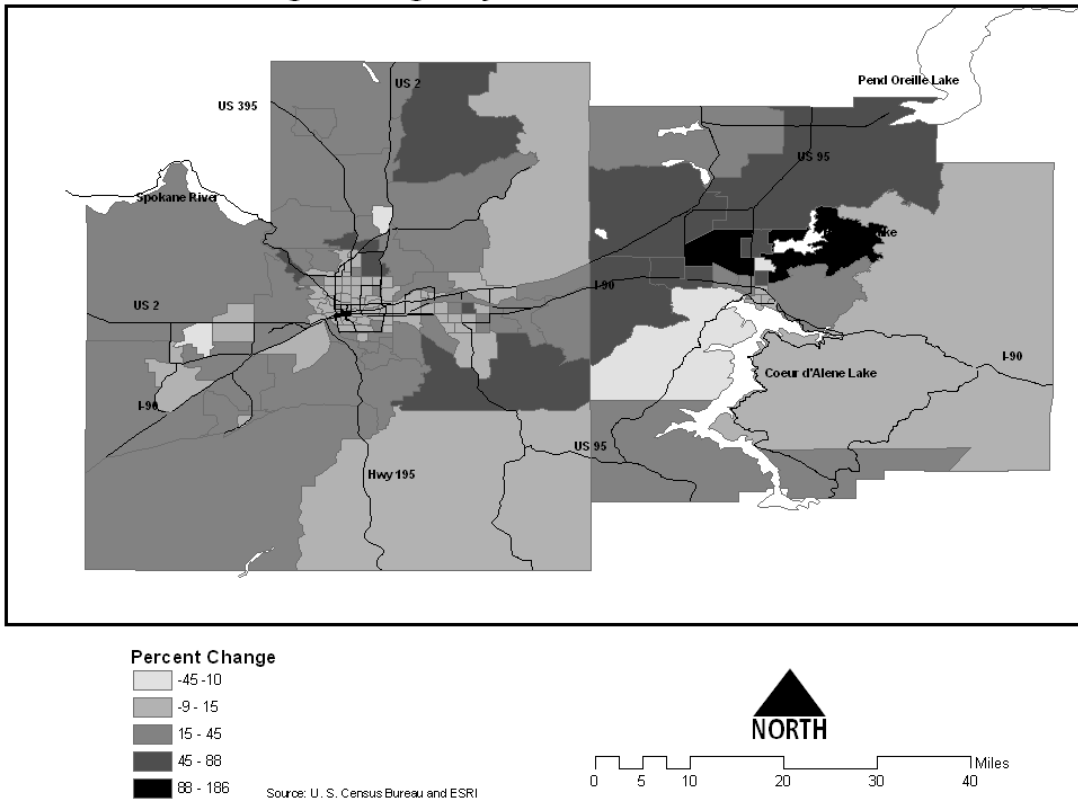


Figure 12
Housing Change by Census Tracts 1990 - 2000



VIII. Population Forecasts

Population forecasts provide a foundation for determining future needs. How much new housing will be required? What changes in the population might occur that would require different facilities? What demand will be placed on current community facilities? Will they be sufficient or will they need to be expanded? How much land will be consumed by urban development? Do we need larger or different transportation facilities? All these are important questions that rely on population forecasts.

Three methods were used to forecast population for each county. The purpose of creating several forecasts is to give the reader a sense of the possible range of outcomes for planning purposes. The first of these methods is a *linear* forecast (see Tables A7 and A8 in the Appendix). For each county the trend lines over several time periods were extrapolated to the year 2010 and 2020. Each time period represents different rates of growth. In this case, the whole century was used as well as the 1990s. For the 1990s, the whole decade was used, as well as the first and second halves, since the rates of growth varied over the two parts of the decade. The assumption behind a linear increase is that the future will mirror the past, producing average amounts of increase either for each decade or, in the case of the yearly estimates, for each year. These average increases are then added to the last known year's population to produce the forecasts.

The second technique is a *ratio* technique, which compares the ratio of a smaller area population to a larger area of which it is a part, in this case, the states of the two counties. To use this method, a future forecast for the larger population is necessary to calculate the local areas population. For Kootenai County, a forecast by the Idaho Department of Transportation was used for 2010 and 2020 (Idaho Department of Transportation 2003). For Washington, the OFM's growth management forecasts were used. The average ratios for the century were used, as well as those for the last three decades. This yielded two alternative outcomes (see Tables A9 and A10 in the Appendix). This technique assumes that the average

ratio between the larger and smaller population will stay the same in the future. This average ratio is then applied to a given future forecast for the larger area.

Finally, the most complex methodology was used, the *composite*. This technique divides the population into age and sex specific groups. Using these groups as cohorts, they are advanced through time, using birth and survival rates to yield the natural increase for a given time frame. Using data from a previous time frame, 1990 to 2000, the natural increase is calculated. These figures are then subtracted from the actual 2000 census data to give a migration rate for each age/sex cohort. The data are then applied to the forecasting period, advancing the population to the future date.

For Spokane, five-year age groups were used, advancing them over two increments to reach 2010. For Kootenai County ten-year groups were used. The different approaches were associated with the difference in the structure of the birth and death statistics available for the two counties. Washington vital statistics were more detailed, while national statistics had to be used for Kootenai County. These latter statistics were then used for one iteration to achieve the 2010 population. Tables A9 and A10 indicate the 2010 forecasts for natural increase and migration and the total population.

This is a much more complex methodology and assumes that, by using vital statistics, the outcomes should be more accurate. However, it is highly dependent upon the accuracy of the vital statistics and the estimators of migration for each age cohort.

Table 13 summarizes the data from the previous forecasting tables. However, it is important to note the percent increases in Tables A7 through A10. These percentage increases give some clue to the most probable outcomes and will be used to summarize forecasts for each county.

Kootenai County Forecasts

As noted previously, over the past decade Kootenai County's growth rate has been over 50%. However, during the latter part of the decade, this rate slowed and this slowdown seems to be continuing into this decade. The forecasts for 2010 range from 84,879 to 168,599. The low forecast, actually a decline in population, is a result of the ratio forecast for the century. Both this forecast and the ratio for the last three decades yield numbers that are not probable, given the rates of growth over the past two years. Likewise, the composite forecast of 168,599 would mean that the same rate of growth would have to occur over this next decade as in the '90s. This is also not probable given that growth during the first two years of the decade is not equivalent to that of the '90s.

More than likely, the 2010 population will lie between 142,575 and 152,495, the linear forecasts based upon the growth rates for the two portions of the '90s. The decadal percentage rates of increase for each of these estimates are 31% and 40%, respectively, which seems reasonable given the trends over the past two years. As a comparison, Idaho's Department of Transportation (2003) estimates Kootenai County's population will be 130,016 in 2010, lower than the low end of this forecast.

Spokane County Forecasts

Spokane County's forecasts for 2010 range from 453,979 to 631,559. The largest forecast comes from the ratio method utilizing the average ratio for the century. However, a review of the ratios indicates that the ratio has been constantly declining. Thus, this seems to be spurious outcome. Likewise, the low forecast, also a ratio forecast, seems unlikely since this would only represent a 9% increase over the decade, and trends for the last two years indicate that this is unlikely.

More likely would be a range from 477,909 to 486,303, the linear rate based on the first half of the '90s forecast and the composite forecast, representing 14% and 16% change, respectively. These numbers seem to be in line with the rates of growth over the last two years. OFM's estimates of Spokane County's population in 2010 range from 432,602 to 509,327. The forecasts in this report suggest that the population will be greater than OFM's low forecast but much less than the larger one. OFM is charged with the responsibility of forecasting future population for the state's growth management program and employs a number of additional factors not utilized in this study. However, it seems unlikely, given the rates of growth over the first two years of this decade that the county would grow by 22%, OFM's estimate.

Table

7

Summary Forecasts for 2010

	Linear Forecasts				Ratio Forecasts		Composite
	1900 to 2000 Average	90 to 2000 Average	90-95 Average	96 to 2000 Average	Century Average	80 to 2000 Average	
Kootenai County	118,532	147,575	152,495	142,655	84,879	109,897	168,599
Spokane County	453,979	474,545	477,909	471,181	631,559	447,709	486,303

Summary

Although forecasts may vary, it is quite evident that there will be a significant increase in the region's population over this decade. It may be smaller than what has occurred in the past decade, but

population growth over the next eight years will be substantial. Kootenai County should gain from 34,000 to 44,000 people while Spokane County should gain from 60,000 to 70,000 from 2000.

IX. Future Research and Conclusions

Future Research

This research provides a broad brush stroke of population change in the region since 1980. It suggests several areas that could use either additional research or careful monitoring. Taking the latter first, forecasts are, at best, educated guesses at future outcomes. Since the Census Bureau and various state agencies monitor or estimate annual growth for these counties, it will be important to examine these figures annually and adjust forecasts accordingly.

Since migration accounts for such a large portion of the population increase in the region, particularly in Kootenai County, knowing why people have migrated to the region would provide clues to its attractiveness. Has migration solely been a result of jobs, or are there other factors such as environment that have attracted people? If it has been the latter, how much resiliency does the region have before the growth begins to erode some of these attractions?

Given the large portion of international migration reported by Texas A&M's Real Estate Center (2003), a local study of immigrant population would help to discover why Spokane County is encountering this large increase in foreign migrants. Do these people come from specific countries? If so, are they from the same region in those countries, as has happened in past waves of immigration?

If, as there appears to be, a regional shift to older populations, a more detailed investigation of this phenomenon would be important. Accommodating this shift in population could lead to changes in local policies that focus on elderly such as housing types and location.

Pairing population information with economic and social data available in the censuses and other data resources could also answer questions about the ability to provide for the health and welfare of this ever increasing population. Has the creation of jobs kept up with this growth? Do these jobs pay enough for people to afford housing in the region?

Conclusions

This report has chronicled some of the changes in population growth and characteristics over the past three decades and provided forecasts for the next decade. Although the region continues to grow, it appears that this growth is at a slower pace. Regardless, this growth has resilience, suggesting that the region has many benefits that can't be analyzed in this report but which serve as an attractive force.

The region benefits from an ever increasing work force, but the population seems to be aging. A growing number of retirees who bring their retirement funds with them are also an advantage for the region. This migration of both work force age citizens and retirees helps improve the economic outlook. However, growth also brings problems that must be addressed.

Given the current "no new tax" climate, can municipalities continue to provide the infrastructure resources to accommodate this growth? Is there some tipping point where unprecedented growth begins to erode those elements of the natural and person-made environment that make the region attractive? Can we achieve some balance between economic and environmental sustainability? These are public policy issues that need to be carefully examined if growth is to continue unabated.



REFERENCES

Hurand, F. A., A. Byrne and M. Rooney. 2002. *Kootenai County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan*. Spokane, WA: Fred A. Hurand, Planning Consultant.

Idaho Department of Transportation. 2003. *Idaho's Transportation Future*. <http://www.idahofuturetravel.info/DemogTr-Pop>

Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University. 2003a. *Population and Components of Change*. <http://recenter.tamu.edu/data/popc>.

U. S. Census Bureau. 1980a. *Detailed Population Characteristics, Idaho*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.

U. S. Census Bureau. 1980b. *Detailed Housing Characteristics, Idaho*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office

U. S. Census Bureau. 1980c. *Detailed Population Characteristics, Washington*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.

U. S. Census Bureau. 1980d. *Detailed Housing Characteristics, Washington*. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.

APPENDIX

Table **A1**

Spokane County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	1980				
	Total	Population		Percent of Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	26,036	13,328	12,708	3.90%	3.72%
5-9	25,574	13,141	12,433	3.84%	3.64%
10-14	26,445	13,412	13,033	3.92%	3.81%
15-19	31,232	15,379	15,853	4.50%	4.64%
20-24	34,040	16,795	17,245	4.91%	5.04%
25-29	31,495	15,490	16,005	4.53%	4.68%
30-34	27,672	14,017	13,655	4.10%	3.99%
35-39	20,422	10,023	10,399	2.93%	3.04%
40-44	16,607	8,220	8,387	2.40%	2.45%
45-49	15,393	7,666	7,727	2.24%	2.26%
50-54	15,462	7,413	8,049	2.17%	2.35%
55-59	16,863	7,908	8,955	2.31%	2.62%
60-64	15,140	7,113	8,027	2.08%	2.35%
65-69	13,225	6,186	7,039	1.81%	2.06%
70-74	9,896	4,195	5,701	1.23%	1.67%
75-79	6,993	2,540	4,453	0.74%	1.30%
80-84	4,960	1,736	3,224	0.51%	0.94%
85 +	4,380	1,340	3,040	0.39%	0.89%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau 1980a & c.

Table **A2**

Spokane County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	1990				
	Total	Population		Percent of Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	27,288	14,049	13,239	3.89%	3.66%
5-9	27,879	14,364	13,515	3.97%	3.74%
10-14	25,951	13,395	12,556	3.71%	3.47%
15-19	26,119	13,257	12,862	3.67%	3.56%
20-24	26,836	13,371	13,465	3.70%	3.73%
25-29	28,801	14,286	14,515	3.95%	4.02%
30-34	30,531	15,012	15,519	4.15%	4.29%
35-39	29,836	14,584	15,252	4.04%	4.22%
40-44	26,442	13,146	13,296	3.64%	3.68%
45-49	19,735	9,746	9,989	2.70%	2.76%
50-54	15,547	7,621	7,926	2.11%	2.19%
55-59	14,410	7,068	7,342	1.96%	2.03%
60-64	14,315	6,602	7,713	1.83%	2.13%
65-69	14,572	6,565	8,007	1.82%	2.22%
70-74	12,215	5,286	6,929	1.46%	1.92%
75-79	9,636	3,874	5,762	1.07%	1.59%
80-84	6,151	2,159	3,992	0.60%	1.10%
85 +	5,100	1,395	3,705	0.39%	1.03%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, STF 1.

Table **A3**

Spokane County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	2000 Population		Percent of Total		
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	27,478	14,118	13,360	3.38%	3.20%
5-9	29,734	15,178	14,556	3.63%	3.48%
10-14	31,176	15,850	15,326	3.79%	3.67%
15-19	32,890	16,671	16,219	3.99%	3.88%
20-24	30,336	15,288	15,048	3.66%	3.60%
25-29	26,903	13,799	13,104	3.30%	3.14%
30-34	27,771	14,096	13,675	3.37%	3.27%
35-39	32,231	16,029	16,202	3.84%	3.88%
40-44	33,794	16,845	16,949	4.03%	4.06%
45-49	32,046	15,825	16,221	3.79%	3.88%
50-54	27,505	13,733	13,772	3.29%	3.30%
55-59	19,423	9,484	9,939	2.27%	2.38%
60-64	14,703	7,054	7,649	1.69%	1.83%
65-69	13,147	6,216	6,931	1.49%	1.66%
70-74	12,042	5,222	6,820	1.25%	1.63%
75-79	11,145	4,503	6,642	1.08%	1.59%
80-84	8,183	3,040	5,143	0.73%	1.23%
85 +	7,432	2,187	5,245	0.52%	1.25%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

Table **A4**

Kootenai County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	1980 Population		Percent of Total		
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
<5	4,956	2,511	2,445	4.20%	4.09%
5 to 9	4,936	2,550	2,386	4.27%	3.99%
10 to 14	5,106	2,536	2,570	4.24%	4.30%
15 to 19	5,365	2,750	2,615	4.60%	4.38%
20 to 24	4,391	2,101	2,290	3.52%	3.83%
25 to 29	4,757	2,269	2,488	3.80%	4.16%
30 to 34	5,323	2,641	2,682	4.42%	4.49%
35 to 39	4,201	2,002	2,199	3.35%	3.68%
40 to 44	3,216	1,787	1,429	2.99%	2.39%
45 to 49	2,663	1,353	1,310	2.26%	2.19%
50 to 54	2,733	1,336	1,397	2.24%	2.34%
55 to 59	2,801	1,347	1,454	2.25%	2.43%
60 to 64	2,795	1,291	1,504	2.16%	2.52%
65 to 69	2,403	1,259	1,144	2.11%	1.91%
70 to 74	1,753	871	882	1.46%	1.48%
75 to 79	1,244	514	730	0.86%	1.22%
80 to 84	640	227	413	0.38%	0.69%
85+	487	107	380	0.18%	0.64%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau 1980a.

Table **A5**

Kootenai County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	1990			Percent of Total	
	Total	Population Male	Female	Male	Female
<5	4,955	2,563	2,392	3.67%	3.43%
5 to 9	5,559	2,826	2,733	4.05%	3.92%
10 to 14	5,410	2,735	2,675	3.92%	3.83%
15 to 19	4,949	2,607	2,342	3.74%	3.36%
20 to 24	3,907	1,925	1,982	2.76%	2.84%
25 to 29	4,602	2,265	2,337	3.25%	3.35%
30 to 34	5,558	2,648	2,910	3.79%	4.17%
35 to 39	5,981	2,891	3,090	4.14%	4.43%
40 to 44	5,486	2,737	2,749	3.92%	3.94%
45 to 49	4,310	2,180	2,130	3.12%	3.05%
50 to 54	3,496	1,767	1,729	2.53%	2.48%
55 to 59	3,086	1,497	1,589	2.14%	2.28%
60 to 64	3,141	1,558	1,583	2.23%	2.27%
65 to 69	3,119	1,420	1,699	2.03%	2.43%
70 to 74	2,477	1,113	1,364	1.59%	1.95%
75 to 79	1,807	829	978	1.19%	1.40%
80 to 84	1,139	458	681	0.66%	0.98%
85+	813	248	565	0.36%	0.81%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

Table **A6**

Kootenai County Age/Sex Table

Age Group	2000			Percent of Total	
	Total	Population Male	Female	Male	Female
<5	7,456	3,850	3,606	3.54%	3.32%
5 to 9	8,245	4,249	3,996	3.91%	3.68%
10 to 14	8,600	4,475	4,125	4.12%	3.80%
15 to 19	8,263	4,279	3,984	3.94%	3.67%
20 to 24	6,357	3,208	3,149	2.95%	2.90%
25 to 29	6,550	3,317	3,233	3.05%	2.97%
30 to 34	7,103	3,498	3,605	3.22%	3.32%
35 to 39	8,194	4,004	4,190	3.68%	3.86%
40 to 44	8,623	4,183	4,440	3.85%	4.09%
45 to 49	8,462	4,132	4,330	3.80%	3.98%
50 to 54	7,312	3,612	3,700	3.32%	3.40%
55 to 59	5,659	2,832	2,827	2.61%	2.60%
60 to 64	4,516	2,303	2,213	2.12%	2.04%
65 to 69	3,796	1,874	1,922	1.72%	1.77%
70 to 74	3,331	1,561	1,770	1.44%	1.63%
75 to 79	2,775	1,150	1,625	1.06%	1.50%
80 to 84	1,834	729	1,105	0.67%	1.02%
85+	1,609	556	1,053	0.51%	0.97%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, SF 1

**Linear Forecasts
for Spokane County**

Table

A7

1900 to 2000					
	Total Population	Change	Average Change		
1900	57,542				
1910	139,404	81,862			
1920	141,289	1,885			
1930	150,477	9,188			
1940	164,652	14,175			
1950	221,561	56,909			
1960	278,333	56,772			
1970	287,487	9,154			
1980	341,835	54,348			
1990	361,333	19,498			
2000	417,939	56,606	36,040		
2010			453,979		
2020			490,018		
Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			8.62%		
1990 to 2000					
	Total Population	Change	Average Change 90 to 2000	Average Change 90 to 95	Average Change 96 to 2000
1990	361,333				
1991	365,887	4,554			
1992	371,147	5,260			
1993	377,020	5,873			
1994	384,035	7,015			
1995	391,318	7,283		5997	
1996	397,508	6,190			
1997	403,954	6,446			
1998	408,740	4,786			
1999	413,665	4,925			
2000	417,939	4,274	5,661		5,324
2010			474,545	477,909	471,181
2020			531,151	537,879	524,423
Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			13.54%	14.35%	12.74%

Source: Washington Office of Financial Management, U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & c and U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder SF1.

**Linear Forecasts
for Kootenai County**

Table **A8**

1900 to 2000					
	Total Population	Change	Average Change		
1900	10,216				
1910	22,747	12,531			
1920	17,878	-4,869			
1930	19,469	1,591			
1940	22,283	2,814			
1950	24,947	2,664			
1960	29,556	4,609			
1970	35,332	5,776			
1980	59,770	24,438			
1990	69,795	10,025			
2000	108,685	38,890	9,847		
2010			118,532		
2020			128,379		
Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			9.06%		
1990 to 2000					
	Total Population	Change	Average 90 to 2000	Average 90 to 95	Average 95 to 2000
1990	69,795				
1991	73,800	4,005			
1992	77,300	3,500			
1993	82,300	5,000			
1994	87,300	5,000			
1995	91,700	4,400	4,381		
1996	95,505	3,805			
1997	98,809	3,304			
1998	101,305	2,496			
1999	104,807	3,502			
2000	108,685	3,878	3,889	3,397	
2010			147,575	152,495	142,655
2020			186,465	196,305	176,625
Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			35.78%	40.31%	31.26%

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & c and U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder SF1.

Spokane County Ratio and Composite Forecasts

Table

A9

Ratio Forecasts						
	Washington State	Spokane County	Ratio	Average Century	Average 80 to 2000	
1900	518,103	57,542	0.1111			
1910	1,141,990	139,404	0.1221			
1920	1,356,621	141,289	0.1041			
1930	1,563,396	150,477	0.0963			
1940	1,736,191	164,652	0.0948			
1950	2,378,963	221,561	0.0931			
1960	2,853,214	278,333	0.0976			
1970	3,143,250	287,487	0.0915			
1980	4,132,353	341,835	0.0827			
1990	4,866,669	361,333	0.0742			
2000	5,894,121	417,939	0.0709	0.0944	0.0760	
2010	6,690,317			631,559	447,709	
2020	7,496,120			707,626	569,395	
				Percent Increase 2000 to 2010	51.11% 7.12%	
Composite Forecast						
Age Group	Natural Increase		Migration		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	14,896	22,025	729	488	15,625	22,512
5-9	14,219	13,681	1,287	1,210	15,506	14,892
10-14	13,954	13,221	2,324	2,716	16,278	15,937
15-19	15,137	14,532	2,950	3,438	18,087	17,970
20-24	15,782	15,285	2,230	2,823	18,012	18,108
25-29	16,535	16,155	628	264	17,163	16,419
30-34	15,158	15,002	788	222	15,946	15,223
35-39	13,708	13,078	2,019	1,822	15,727	14,901
40-44	13,923	13,618	2,584	1,905	16,508	15,523
45-49	15,742	16,099	2,439	1,732	18,181	17,830
50-54	16,357	16,742	1,745	1,110	18,101	17,851
55-59	15,193	15,928	171	176	15,364	16,105
60-64	13,023	13,402	-185	-64	12,838	13,339
65-69	8,883	9,585	-383	-130	8,500	9,456
70-74	6,312	7,201	-678	-435	5,635	6,767
75-79	5,314	6,370	-1,290	-827	4,024	5,543
80-84	3,434	5,576	-614	-672	2,820	4,903
85 +	2,595	8,313	7	-2,206	2,602	6,108
			Totals		236,917	249,386
			Grand Total			486,303
			Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			16.36%

Source: Washington Office of Financial Management and Department of Health and Social Services, U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & c and U. S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder SF1

Kootenai County Ratio and Composite Forecasts

Table

A10

Ratio Forecasts						
	Idaho Population	Kootenai Population	Ratio	Average 1900 to 2000	Average 80 to 2000	
1900	161,772	10,216	0.0632			
1910	325,594	22,747	0.0699			
1920	431,866	17,878	0.0414			
1930	445,032	19,469	0.0437			
1940	524,873	22,283	0.0425			
1950	588,637	24,947	0.0424			
1960	667,191	29,556	0.0443			
1970	712,567	35,332	0.0496			
1980	943,935	59,770	0.0633			
1990	1,006,749	69,795	0.0693			
2000	1,293,953	108,685	0.0840	0.0558	0.0722	
2010	1,521,830			84,879	109,897	
2020	1,751,575			97,693	126,488	
	Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			-21.90%	1.12%	
Composite Forecast						
Age Group	Natural Increase		Migration		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	6,329	6,135	-756	-925	5,574	5,210
5 to 14	3,830	3,591	9,686	8,618	13,516	12,209
15 to 24	8,699	8,106	3,208	2,863	11,907	10,968
25 to 34	7,378	7,098	3,259	3,304	10,636	10,402
35 to 44	6,677	6,788	4,907	5,057	11,584	11,845
45 to 54	7,937	8,512	4,489	4,726	12,426	13,237
55 to 64	7,284	7,759	2,391	2,084	9,675	9,842
65 to 74	4,391	4,614	1,116	950	5,507	5,564
75 to 85	2,407	3,019	151	370	2,559	3,390
85+	895	1,881	-91	-137	804	1,743
			Totals		84,188	84,411
			Grand Total			168,599
			Percent Increase 2000 to 2010			55.13%

Note: Forecasts from Idaho Dept. of Transportation

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Department of Transportation,
U. S. Census Bureau, 1980a & American Factfinder SF1, United States Statistical Abstract.



From One to Z - artist: Ms. Gloria Borroskin



Our Mission

Eastern Washington University's mission is to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient and highly productive citizens to obtain meaningful careers, to enjoy enriched lives and to make contributions to a culturally diverse society. The University's foundation is based on career preparation, underpinned by a strong liberal arts education.

Our Students

Eastern is emerging with fresh, dynamic leadership and campus-wide enthusiasm for its future. As of fall quarter 2002, Eastern's enrollment numbers were 9,093 full-time equivalent students.

Accreditations

The university is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and many discipline-specific associations, such as the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education, the Planning Accreditation Board and many more.

Exceptional Faculty and Academic Programs

Eastern provides a student-centered learning environment. Students have access to more than 130 undergraduate majors, nine master's degrees, four graduate certificates, 76 graduate programs of study and a doctor of physical therapy. The University consists of six colleges – Business and Public Administration; Education and Human Development; Arts and Letters; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Science, Mathematics and Technology; and School of Social Work and Human Services.

Eastern enhances its strong commitment to teaching and learning by vigorously pursuing grants, extramural funding and student-faculty research collaborations. For the most recent fiscal year, the university secured a total of over \$11.2 million in grants and extramural funding. This success placed Eastern at the second-highest ranking university in its class (Carnegie Masters I) in the country. In addition, university faculty often win awards such as Fulbright scholarships to deepen their mastery of their fields.

Several Institutes or Centers of Excellence add focus to faculty research and performance. They are: creative writing, music and honors. Student-faculty research projects are a priority of the institution. Every spring, the Research and Creative Works Symposium showcases undergraduate and graduate students' collaborative efforts with their professors.