

DEMOGRAPHICS

The analysis of demographics and population involves the review and interpretation of vital statistics that taken together comprise a social profile of the area being studied. This analysis is central to projections of all other future County and community needs and is essential for sustaining or improving the quality of life. To planners, population is a basic building block for understanding the social context and economy of an area. This section of the plan analyzes change over time, primary age groups and the growth or decline of the County comparatively with neighboring counties and the Commonwealth as a whole, and communities within the County.

Cambria County had a population base totaling 186,785 in 1970 and 143,679 people in 2010. This represents an overall decrease of approximately 43,000 persons, or approximately 23%. In the shorter term between 2000 and 2010 Cambria County's population decreased by approximately 8,900 persons or 5.8%. These declines come at a time when the population on a State level has been increasing slightly.

Population analysis requires a more detailed and comparative analysis to be meaningful and to fully understand this demographic trend. This chapter will review Cambria County population in terms of the following:

- ❑ Current and past population
- ❑ Population estimates
- ❑ Population change
- ❑ Age and sex characteristics
- ❑ Racial and Ethnic characteristics
- ❑ Household and Family characteristics

Much of this information will be placed in a comparative framework with comparisons made between various time periods. The analysis begins with a review of County and Regional trends.

County and Regional Trends

An analysis of local trends is set in a context when viewed within County and regional trends. In this section, regional demographics and historic population fluctuations are summarized. The data in this section, analyzed collectively with socioeconomic data and conditions within Cambria County will enable better prediction of future needs, opportunities, and constraints, specifically as they relate to local housing markets within the County. Historic trends and subsequent projections provide a basis for formulation of social, economic, and environmental policy recommendations relative to growth and development in the County.

Table D-1 summarizes population counts for Pennsylvania, Cambria County and surrounding counties during the 1970-2010 time period and change percentages that actually provide a clearer view of the data. Overall, the County has experienced a continuously declining population throughout this period. According to the 2010 U.S.

Census, Cambria County's population stood at 143,679 people, which as noted before comprises a net loss of approximately 43,000 persons (23%) since 1970. Of the surrounding counties, only Blair and Westmoreland have experienced a net decline during this 40-year period. By comparison, Pennsylvania's population increased by 5.5% over the same time frame.

TABLE D-1
Population Trends – Persons: 1970-2010
Cambria and Surrounding Counties and Pennsylvania

AREA	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1970-10 Change	1970-10 % Change
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,864,720	11,881,643	12,281,054	12,440,621	646,712	5.5%
Cambria County	186,785	183,263	163,029	152,598	143,679	-43,106	-23.1%
Bedford County	42,353	46,784	47,919	49,984	49,762	7,409	17.5%
Indiana County	79,451	92,281	89,994	89,605	88,880	9,429	11.9%
Somerset County	76,037	81,243	78,218	80,023	77,742	1,705	2.2%
Clearfield County	74,619	83,578	78,097	83,382	81,642	7,023	9.4%
Blair County	135,356	136,621	130,542	129,144	127,089	-8,267	-6.1%
Westmoreland County	376,935	392,184	370,321	369,993	365,169	-11,766	-3.1%
Cambria and Surrounding Counties	971,536	1,015,954	958,120	954,729	933,963	-37,573	-3.9%

Source: U.S. Census

A review of this data suggests the following:

- ❑ Cambria County (23.1%) along with Westmoreland County (3.1%) and Blair County (6.1%) experienced net population declines during the 1970-2010 period, with Cambria's being the largest numeric and in percent decline.
- ❑ Pennsylvania (5.5%), Bedford County (17.5%), Indiana County (11.9%), Somerset County (2.2%) and Clearfield County (9.4%) all experienced net population increases during the 1970-10 period.
- ❑ Taken together, the population in Cambria and its six surrounding Counties declined by 3.9% since 1970. This area had a 1970 population of 971,536 and a 2010 population of 933,963 resulting in an overall net loss of 37,573 persons.

Municipal and Planning Region Trends

Population is an important indicator for the County, its communities and the economy. In general, people are retained in or attracted to regions with strong economies, because they offer job opportunities for both residents and migrants. Conversely, stagnant or declining populations often characterize weaker economies, as younger residents move out seeking new employment opportunities. As noted previously, the population of Cambria County on a whole has been steadily declining since 1970. Tables D-2, D-3 and D-4 on the following pages summarize population change between 1970 and 2010 in a municipal and planning region comparative format. A review of this data suggests the following:

- ❑ Fifty-two (52) municipalities (83%) experienced net population decreases since 1970 including the following municipalities which all lost over 50% of their population - the City of Johnstown (51%), Tunnelhill Borough (52%), Dale Borough (55%), East Conemaugh Borough (55%), and Franklin Borough (63%),
- ❑ Eleven (11) municipalities (17%), all of which were townships, experienced net population increases since 1970 including Jackson Township (1.1%), Adams Township (1.4%), East Carroll Township (11.2%), Susquehanna Township (19.7%) Richland Township (25.7%), Gallitzin Township (27.2%), Clearfield Township (41.4%), Cresson Township (49.8%), Chest Township (66.1%), Allegheny Township (98.5%) and White Township (148%).
- ❑ Overall since 1970, Richland Township has gained the most in terms of aggregate persons at 2,619 and the City of Johnstown has declined by the most in terms of net persons at 21,498.
- ❑ All three Planning Regions experienced double digit percentage population losses with Planning Region 1 (30.7%) outpacing the declines experienced in Planning Region 2 (11.5%) and Planning Region 3 (16.1%).
- ❑ Overall, Planning Region 1, the region with historically the largest population, declined by 32,768 persons since 1970 which is far more than the aggregate declines in Planning Region 2 (-6,363 persons) and Planning Region 3 (-3,975 persons).

TABLE D-2
Change In Population: 1970-2010
Cambria County Planning Region 1

Municipality	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1970-10 Change	1970-10 % change
Adams Township	5,889	7,520	6,869	6,495	5,972	83	1.4%
Brownstown Borough	1,035	1,099	937	883	744	-291	-28.1%
Conemaugh Township	2,402	2,688	2,399	2,145	2,012	-390	-16.2%
Daisytown Borough	371	423	367	356	326	-45	-12.1%
Dale Borough	2,274	1,906	1,642	1,503	1,234	-1,040	-45.7%
East Conemaugh Borough	2,710	2,138	1,470	1,291	1,220	-1,490	-55.0%
East Taylor Township	3,571	3,276	3,073	2,726	2,726	-845	-23.7%
Ferndale Borough	2,482	2,204	2,020	1,834	1,636	-846	-34.1%
Franklin Borough	864	549	565	442	323	-541	-62.6%
Geistown Borough	3,633	3,304	2,749	2,555	2,467	-1,166	-32.1%
City of Johnstown	42,476	35,496	28,134	23,906	20,978	-21,498	-50.6%
Lorain Borough	972	997	824	747	759	-213	-21.9%
Lower Yoder Township	4,099	4,029	3,342	3,029	2,699	-1,400	-34.2%
Middle Taylor Township	1,001	1,019	802	792	727	-274	-27.4%
Richland Township	10,195	12,940	12,777	12,598	12,814	2,619	25.7%
Scalp Level Borough	1,353	1,187	1,158	851	778	-575	-42.5%
Southmont Borough	2,653	2,683	2,415	2,262	2,284	-369	-13.9%
Stonycreek Township	4,543	4,381	3,562	3,204	2,844	-1,699	-37.4%
Upper Yoder Township	6,347	6,113	5,435	5,862	5,449	-898	-14.1%
Westmont Borough	6,673	6,113	5,789	5,523	5,181	-1,492	-22.4%
West Taylor Township	1,193	1,150	995	862	795	-398	-33.4%
Region 1 Totals	106,736	101,215	87,324	79,866	73,968	-32,768	-30.7%
Cambria County	186,785	183,188	163,029	152,598	143,679	-43,106	-23.1%
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,864,720	11,881,643	12,281,071	12,702,379	90,8470	7.7%

Source: 1970-2000 data as per Cambria County Municipal Demographic Profile and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

TABLE D-3
Change In Population: 1970-2010
Cambria County Planning Region 2

Municipality	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1970-10 Change	1970-10 % change
Allegheny Township	1,436	1,607	2,075	2,498	2,851	1415	98.5%
Ashville Borough	409	407	306	279	227	-182	-44.5%
Blacklick Township	2,029	2,376	2,206	2,200	2,013	-16	-0.8%
Cambria Township	6,441	7,254	6,357	6,323	6,099	-342	-5.3%
Cassandra Borough	250	242	192	136	147	-103	-41.2%
Cresson Borough	2,446	2,184	1,784	1,631	1,711	-735	-30.0%
Cresson Township	2,895	2,686	3,284	4,055	4,336	1,441	49.8%
Croyle Township	2,384	2,553	2,451	2,233	2,339	-45	-1.9%
Ebensburg Borough	4,318	4,096	3,872	3,091	3,351	-967	-22.4%
Ehrenfeld Borough	397	400	307	234	228	-169	-42.6%
Gallitzin Borough	2,496	2,315	2,003	1,756	1,668	-828	-33.2%
Gallitzin Township	1,041	1,198	1,289	1,310	1,324	283	27.2%
Jackson Township	4,343	5,477	5,213	4,925	4,392	49	1.1%
Lilly Borough	1,429	1,462	1,162	948	968	-461	-32.3%
Loretto Borough	1,661	1,387	1,072	1,190	1,302	-359	-21.6%
Munster Township	517	683	688	675	690	173	33.5%
Nanty Glo Borough	4,298	3,936	3,190	3,054	2,734	-1,564	-36.4%
Portage Borough	4,151	3,510	3,105	2,837	2,638	-1,513	-36.4%
Portage Township	3,750	4,503	4,089	3,906	3,640	-110	-2.9%
Sankertown Borough	881	857	770	680	675	-206	-23.4%
South Fork Borough	1,661	1,401	1,197	1,138	928	-733	-44.1%
Summerhill Borough	726	767	614	521	490	-236	-32.5%
Summerhill Township	2,709	2,632	2,798	2,724	2,467	-242	-8.9%
Tunnelhill Borough	508	376	259	291	245	-263	-51.8%
Vintondale Borough	812	685	582	528	414	-398	-49.0%
Washington Township	966	893	929	921	875	-91	-9.4%
Wilmore Borough	386	356	277	252	225	-161	-41.7%
Region 2 Totals	55,340	56,243	52,071	50,336	48,977	-6,363	-11.5%
Cambria County	186,785	183,188	163,029	152,598	143,679	-43,106	-23.1%
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,864,720	11,881,643	12,281,071	12,702,379	90,8470	7.7%

Source: 1970-2000 data as per Cambria County Municipal Demographic Profile and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

TABLE D-4
Change In Population: 1970-2010
Cambria County Planning Region 3

Municipality	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1970-10 Change	1970-10 % change
Barr Township	2,371	2,261	2,260	2,175	2,056	-315	-13.3%
Carrolltown Borough	1,507	1,395	1,286	1,049	853	-654	-43.4%
Chest Springs Borough	178	198	166	110	149	-29	-16.3%
Chest Township	210	295	312	346	349	139	66.2%
Clearfield Township	1,134	1,649	1,749	1,680	1,604	470	41.4%
Dean Township	530	480	398	408	391	-139	-26.2%
East Carroll Township	1,487	2,089	1,951	1,798	1,654	167	11.2%
Elder Township	1,293	1,272	1,185	990	1,038	-255	-19.7%
Hastings Borough	1,791	1,574	1,431	1,398	1,278	-513	-28.6%
Northern Cambria Borough*	5,817	5,140	4,598	4,199	3,835	-1,982	-34.1%
Patton Borough	2,762	2,441	2,206	2,023	1,769	-993	-36.0%
Reade Township	1,752	1,895	1,716	1,764	1,619	-133	-7.6%
Susquehanna Township	1,676	2,672	2,299	2,198	2,007	331	19.7%
West Carroll Township	1,865	1,834	1,524	1,445	1,296	-569	-30.5%
White Township	336	535	553	813	836	500	148.8%
Region 3 Totals	24,709	25,730	23,634	22,396	20,734	-3,975	-16.1%
Cambria County	186,785	183,188	163,029	152,598	143,679	-43,106	-23.1%
Pennsylvania	11,793,909	11,864,720	11,881,643	12,281,071	12,702,379	90,8470	7.7%

Source: 1970-2000 data as per Cambria County Municipal Demographic Profile and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

* Figures for 1970-1990 represent the combined populations for the former Boroughs of Barnesboro and Spangler, which consolidated in 2000 to form Northern Cambria Borough.

Population Projections

Growth trends and projections are used as a reference point from which planning, policy evaluation and management of programs develop, and a sense of demographic conditions and trends is a prerequisite for future planning. Tables D-5, D-6 and D-7 on the following pages provide population projections for a 30-year period on a municipal and county level. The Population projections presented in the tables were prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) for the 2008 update of the State Water Plan. Act 220 of 2002, The Water Resources Planning Act, requires the PaDEP to update the State Water Plan by March of 2008, thus necessitating the development of new population projections. The PaDEP developed a procedure that utilized U.S. Census Bureau records for decades 1980, 1990 and 2000 for projecting decadal populations at the state, county and municipal levels through the year 2030. A final adjustment factor (applied only to decade 2030 individual municipal-level projections) was used to proportionally adjust the 2030 municipal-level projections to bring the state total population to within 5% of the 2030 Census Bureau state total. The 2010 and 2020 projections were already within 5% of the Census Bureau state totals and were not adjusted. Population projections are also available through 2030 on a county basis only through the Pennsylvania State Data Center. The County population projection for year 2030 reported in the State Water Plan was compared against the Cambria County 2030 population projection published by the Pennsylvania State Data Center to determine a level of consistency between the two sources. It was found that the 2030 totals from the two sources noted above were within 0.7% of each other. The population of Cambria County is projected to decline to 123,263, or approximately 14% below the actual 2010 Census figure. A review of the projections suggests:

- ❑ Only twelve (12) municipalities (19%) are projected to have a net increase in population by 2030 including Brownstown Borough (31.8%) and Upper Yoder Township (5.2%) in Region 1, Allegheny Township (18.1%), Blacklick Township (2.1%), Cresson Township (22.7%), Gallitzin Township (3.3%), Summerhill Township (7.0%) and Washington Township (6.5%) in Region 2 and Chest Township (13.5%), Clearfield Township (4.9%), Reade Township (2.7%) and White Township (30.8%) in Region 3.
- ❑ Six (6) municipalities (9.5%) are projected to lose over 50% of their current population by 2030 including Ebensburg Borough (51%), Ehrenfeld Borough (71.5%), Lilly Borough (76.2%) East Conemaugh Borough (83.5%), Cassandra Borough (132.6%) and Chest Springs Borough (191.2%)
- ❑ All three Planning Regions are projected to experience population losses by 2030 with Planning Region 1 (21.2%) outpacing the projected declines in Planning Region 2 (9.0%) and Planning Region 3 (7.8%).
- ❑ Again the largest aggregate decline is projected for Planning Region 1 (14,575 persons) followed by Planning Region 2 (4,237 persons) and Planning Region 3 (1,604 persons).

TABLE D-5
Population Projections: 2010 To 2030
Cambria County Planning Region 1

Municipality	Actual 2010	Projected 2020	Projected 2030	2010-2030 change	2010-2030 % change
Adams Township	5,972	5,529	5,511	-461	-7.7%
Brownstown Borough	744	1,054	1,070	326	31.8%
Conemaugh Township	2,012	1,607	1,605	-407	-21.8%
Daisytown Borough	326	299	297	-29	-9.1%
Dale Borough	1,234	1,123	1,117	-117	-9.0%
East Conemaugh Borough	1,220	542	520	-700	-83.5%
East Taylor Township	2,726	2,150	2,156	-570	-23.2%
Ferndale Borough	1,636	1,464	1,464	-172	-10.4%
Franklin Borough	323	301	307	-16	-4.1%
Geistown Borough	2,467	1,872	1,855	-612	-28.4%
City of Johnstown	20,978	12,895	12,748	-8,230	-46.0%
Lorain Borough	759	522	517	-242	-39.0%
Lower Yoder Township	2,699	1,752	1,714	-985	-43.6%
Middle Taylor Township	727	603	593	-134	-20.2%
Richland Township	12,814	12,303	12,302	-512	-4.1%
Scalp Level Borough	778	465	478	-300	-42.7%
Southmont Borough	2,284	1,862	1,857	-427	-20.9%
Stonycreek Township	2,844	2,038	2,023	-821	-32.0%
Upper Yoder Township	5,449	5,794	5,741	292	5.2%
Westmont Borough	5,181	4,944	4,941	-240	-4.6%
West Taylor Township	795	578	577	-218	-30.4%
Region 1 Totals	73,968	59,697	59,393	-14,575	-21.2%
Cambria County	143,679	123,718	123,263	-20,416	-14.2%
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	13,198,043	13,380,579	702,003	5.5%

Source: 2020-2030 data as per State Water Plan and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

TABLE D-6
Population Projections: 2010 To 2030
Cambria County Planning Region 2

Municipality	Actual 2010	Projected 2020	Projected 2030	2010-2030 change	2010-2030 % change
Allegheny Township	2,851	3,381	3,383	532	18.1%
Ashville Borough	227	184	182	-45	-20.2%
Blacklick Township	2,013	2,064	2,057	44	2.1%
Cambria Township	6,099	5,551	5,510	-589	-10.2%
Cassandra Borough	147	32	33	-114	-132.6%
Cresson Borough	1,711	1,123	1,112	-599	-44.8%
Cresson Township	4,336	5,413	5,402	1,066	22.7%
Croyle Township	2,339	1,894	1,900	-439	-21.1%
Ebensburg Borough	3,351	1,984	2,010	-1,341	-51.0%
Ehrenfeld Borough	228	104	105	-123	-71.5%
Gallitzin Borough	1,668	1,209	1,206	-462	-31.4%
Gallitzin Township	1,324	1,367	1,368	44	3.3%
Jackson Township	4,392	4,369	4,370	-22	-0.5%
Lilly Borough	968	450	446	-522	-76.2%
Loretto Borough	1,302	1,066	1,045	-257	-24.3%
Munster Township	690	670	671	-19	-2.8%
Nanty Glo Borough	2,734	2,284	2,256	-478	-18.6%
Portage Borough	2,638	2,189	2,183	-455	-18.3%
Portage Township	3,640	3,348	3,337	-303	-8.4%
Sankertown Borough	675	546	548	-127	-20.4%
South Fork Borough	928	902	895	-33	-3.3%
Summerhill Borough	490	320	319	-171	-40.9%
Summerhill Township	2,467	2,648	2,657	190	7.0%
Tunnelhill Borough	245	243	237	-8	-3.3%
Vintondale Borough	414	370	367	-47	-10.7%
Washington Township	875	934	936	61	6.5%
Wilmore Borough	225	204	205	-20	-8.7%
Region 2 Totals	48,977	44,849	44,740	-4,237	-9.0%
Cambria County	143,679	123,718	123,263	-20,416	-14.2%
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	13,198,043	13,380,579	702,003	5.5%

Source: 2020-2030 data as per State Water Plan and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

TABLE D-7
Population Projections: 2010 To 2030
Cambria County Planning Region 3

Municipality	Actual 2010	Projected 2020	Projected 2030	2010-2030 change	2010-2030 % change
Barr Township	2,056	2,027	2,028	-28	-1.3%
Carrolltown Borough	853	679	685	-168	-19.0%
Chest Springs Borough	149	18	19	-130	-191.2%
Chest Township	349	400	399	50	13.5%
Clearfield Township	1,604	1,680	1,688	84	4.9%
Dean Township	391	353	349	-42	-11.5%
East Carroll Township	1,654	1,504	1,505	-149	-9.0%
Elder Township	1,038	688	693	-345	-40.3%
Hastings Borough	1,278	1,242	1,237	-41	-3.1%
Northern Cambria Borough*	3,835	3,284	3,278	-557	-15.0%
Patton Borough	1,769	1,615	1,612	-157	-8.7%
Reade Township	1,619	1,675	1,664	45	2.7%
Susquehanna Township	2,007	1,774	1,761	-246	-12.7%
West Carroll Township	1,296	1,098	1,088	-208	-16.9%
White Township	836	1,135	1,124	288	30.8%
Region 3 Totals	20,734	19,172	19,130	-1,604	-7.8%
Cambria County	143,679	123,718	123,263	-20,416	-14.2%
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	13,198,043	13,380,579	702,003	5.5%

Source: 2020-2030 data as per State Water Plan and 2010 data as per US Census Bureau.

Projections and Caution

Some words of context and caution on projections are worth noting. First of all, projections for relatively small geographic areas are always difficult because small variations sometimes skew the results exponentially, positively or negatively. In addition, projections tend to reflect a general continuation of trends occurring presently (i.e. patterns of births, deaths, in/out-migration, etc.). Changes in any or all of these may be affected by unanticipated circumstances, such as unforeseen economic development activities, changes in lifestyle and tastes, locational decisions on large institutions offering group quarters, etc. As a reflection of these, many communities in the northern tier of the Commonwealth were projected to face continuing population declines as recently as projections made five or six years ago, but have actually seen increases due to the largely unanticipated Marcellus Shale boom. Conversely, some eastern Pennsylvania communities experiencing dramatic growth through the 1990's and early part of this decade did not see the dramatic increase in their 2010 populations due to the impacts of the financial crunch that became evident after 2007.

Population Characteristics

Beyond the population count and change, the study and use of demographic information requires the identification and analysis of information that helps describe and understand the County population. This includes information on age, ethnicity, and households. Table D-8 characterizes the population of Cambria County and changes over time from 1990 to 2010.

TABLE D-8
Population Characteristics: 1990-2010
Cambria County

Factor	1990		2000		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population	163,029		152,598		143,797	
Age						
Median Age	37.3		41.2		43.8	
0-17 Years Old	37,970	23.3%	32,075	21.0%	28,235	19.7%
18-64 Years Old	94,477	58.0%	90,436	59.3%	88,373	61.5%
65 Years and Over	30,582	18.8%	30,087	19.7%	27,071	18.8%
Race & Ethnic						
Race - White	158,584	97.3%	146,183	95.8%	135,206	94.1%
Race – Black or African American	3,734	2.3%	4,322	2.8%	5,222	3.6%
Race – Hispanic or Latino	985	0.6%	1,352	0.9%	2,006	1.4%
Race - Asian	384	0.2%	573	0.4%	729	0.5%
Race – Two or More	-	-	977	0.6%	1,758	1.2%
Households and Families						
Total Households	62,004		60,531		58,950	
Population in Households	156,885	96.2%	144,290	94.6%	135,587	94.4%
Population in Group Quarters	6,144	3.8%	8,308	5.4%	8,092	5.6%
Average Household Size	2.53		2.38		2.30	
Households with Males over 65 years	2,048	3.3%	2,189	3.6%	2,384	4.0%
Households with Females over 65 years	7,467	12.0%	7,280	12%	6,415	10.9%
Households with individuals under 18 years	20,188	32.6%	17,697	29.2%	15,453	26.2%
Households with individuals over 65 years	21,905	35.3%	20,974	34.7%	19,407	32.9%
Family Households (families)	44,179	71.3%	40,615	67.1%	37,835	64.2%
Family Households with Children Under 18 years	16,117	26.0%	16,352	27.0%	14,010	23.8%
Average Family Size	3.09		2.96		2.87	

Age

The age distribution of residents is a key factor in projecting population growth and in identifying the type of services best suited for the majority of their residents. Trends in median age and age groups are two measures that can provide insights into the general age profile for a given population. Healthy growth will take place when there is a balance of age groups. For example, a County with a high percentage of young adults in the childbearing years will result in more rapid growth than a community with a high percentage of senior citizens. The 0 to 17 age group represents the younger community where the demand for educational and child care facilities and other facilities related to that age group would likely be a higher priority. The 18 to 64 age group is the range of persons most eligible for marriage, within the prime childbearing years and most frequently engaged in household formations. In addition this segment of the population comprises much of the local labor force, and may be buying and/or selling homes. The last age group, ages 65 and over, are considered to be the retired workforce and trends in the upper age groups (65 or over) should be examined closely to determine specialized housing and community facility needs specifically suited for the older residents.

- ❑ Since 1990, the median age in the County has increased from 37.3 in 1990 to 43.8 years in 2010, which is older than the 40.1 median age statewide in 2010. This increase in the median age highlights that the population on a whole is getting older in Cambria County.
- ❑ The percent of the population aged 0 to 17 years old in Cambria County has decreased from 23.3% in 1990 to 19.7% in 2010. In terms of actual persons, this represents a decrease of approximately 9,700 persons since 1990 and approximately 3,800 since 2000. A large part of this age group represents the school age population. Thus, it is no surprise that County school districts have experienced enrollment declines in recent decades, and in fact 11 of the 14 districts serving County residents are projected to sustain enrollment declines between 2010 and 2020. Also of concern is this age group is the future work force for the County and a continuing loss in this age group will mean a smaller work force to replace our existing workers.
- ❑ The percent of the population aged 18 to 64 years of age has actually increased since 1990 increasing from 58% in 1990 to 61.5% in 2010. However, in terms of actual persons, there are 6,100 fewer persons in this age category in 2010 than in 1990 and approximately 2,000 fewer than in 2000.
- ❑ Although Cambria County's population has decreased by approximately 12% since 1990, the percentage of the population over 65 years of age in 2010 is at the same level, 18.8%, as it was in 1990. Although the percentage may be the same, in terms of aggregate numbers, there are approximately 3,500 fewer persons over the age of 65 in 2010 than there were in 1990 and approximately 3,000 fewer than in 2000.

Overall, there is a pattern of a maturing population base even while that base is declining.

Race and Ethnicity

Cambria County had a relatively homogenous population in 2010 in racial terms, with 94.1% of the population being white and very small percentages of minority populations including Black (3.6%), Asian (0.5%) and Hispanic (1.4%) populations. These minority populations have each increased slightly but consistently since 1990 with the black population increasing from 2.3% in 1990 to 3.6% in 2010, Asian from 0.2% in 1990 to 0.5% in 2010 and the Hispanic population increasing from 0.6% in 1990 to 1.4% in 2010. Changes in the methods of collection for Race and Ethnicity information for the US Census have evolved since 1990. Starting in 2000, respondents were able to indicate 2 or more races. As the data shows persons in Cambria County indicating they are 2 or more races has almost doubled since 2000 from 977 persons to 1,758 persons in 2010.

Households and Families

At first glance, the terms “household” and “family” may be viewed as being synonymous; however, there is an important distinction between them. Simply stated, a household is one or more persons living together in a housing unit, a family is two or more *related* persons living together under the same roof. Thus, a household may include a family, a single person living alone, and two or more unrelated persons living together. To put it another way, every family is a household, but not every household is a family.

- ❑ By 2010, the number of total households in the County has decreased by approximately 3,414 households (5%) since 1990 and approximately 1,581 households (2.6%) since 2000.
- ❑ Total population of persons in households has declined by approximately 21,230 persons (13.5%) since 1990 and by approximately 8,700 persons (6%) since 2000. The percentage of the population in households has also decreased since 1990.
- ❑ The percentage of the population in group quarters has increased from 3.8% in 1990 to 5.4% in 2000 to 5.6% in 2010. Overall, the population in grouped quarters (i.e. correctional, extended care and dormitory facilities) has increased by approximately 2,000 persons since 1990.
- ❑ Average Household Size has also consistently declined since 1990 and 2000, a trend shared regionally, statewide and nationally. In 1990, the County had 2.53 persons per household, in 2000 the number was 2.38 and in 2010 this number had dropped to 2.30 persons per household. This population characteristic reinforces the previously-illustrated population trend data by indicating that fewer children will be around to mature and grow and start families of their own in future years, thereby compounding future population losses.
- ❑ Comparing households with males over 65 years of age and households with females over 65 years of age reveals that at a time of an increase in the number and percent composition of males of over 65 since 1990 and 2000 and a decline in the percentage of households with females over 65 since 2000, the actual number of households with

females over 65 years of age far out numbers the number of males in 1990, 2000 and 2010.

- The number of households with individuals under 18 years of age and corresponding percentages of total households have decreased since 1990 and 2000 from 20,188 (32.6%) in 1990 to 17,607 (29.2%) to 15,453 (26.2%) in 2010. This again is expected to have compounding ramifications through the demographic chain.
- Similarly, the number of Households with individuals over 65 years of age and corresponding percentages of total households have also decreased since 1990 and 2000 from 21,905 (35.3%) in 1990 to 120,974 (34.7%) in 2000 to 19,407 (32.9%) in 2010. Thus, even with the decline in aggregate numbers the percentage composition remains remarkably consistent.
- The number of total families in the County has decreased by approximately 6,344 families (14.4%) since 1990 and by approximately 2,780 families (6.8%) since 2000. Thus, the decline is more pronounced among families than households in general.
- The total number of families with Children under 18 years of age has decreased by approximately 2,107 families (13.1%) since 1990 and by approximately 2,342 (14.3%) families (6.8%) since 2000.
- The Average Family Size in Cambria County has also consistently declined since 1990 from 3.09 in 1990 to 2.96 in 2000 to 2.87 in 2010, again reflecting nationwide trends.

Summary

The analysis of demographics and population is a key component of the planning process as it help to gain an appreciation of an area over a period and time and not necessary as a snapshot of today's conditions. The results highlight historic trends and projected future conditions and establish a reference point from which planning, policy evaluation and management of programs develop, and a sense of demographic conditions and trends is a prerequisite for future planning.

Overall the population of the County is getting smaller, older and slightly more diverse. Age group characteristics indicate that there are fewer children in Cambria County, our young to middle-age work force is getting smaller and our number of senior citizens is decreasing but the percent composition of the population remains stable. These factors may indicate the need for fewer education facilities, but the need for more health-oriented facilities and perhaps smaller housing units. Population projections made by both the Pennsylvania State Water Plan (2006) and the Pennsylvania State Data Center indicate that historic population declines experienced in are likely to continue to 2030, thus signaling a need to accept this trend in the planning process, even though it does not mean that we should ignore developmental efforts that may reverse this trend. There are more people are now living in group quarters, while the total number of households, persons living in households, average household, number of families and average family size has all been decreasing. The total number of households with males over 65 is increasing while total number of households with females over 65 is decreasing and total number of households with individuals under 18 and total number of households over 65 are decreasing in terms of percentages and total numbers.

This would indicate that any future population growth would come from people moving into the County from outside locations (in-migration). The only tangible reasons supporting in-migration would be for employment or retirement opportunities. Modern highway connections with local and regional market places remain a major concern among County residents and local business operators as well. Hopefully, with modern highway access, Cambria County can begin to attract new and/or expand existing industry development and thereby turn around the County's population decline.