

CHAPTER THREE

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Historic Trend of Population

To better understand the people of Rappahannock County and their needs and requirements, an analysis of the population is necessary. Such an analysis lends insight into existing conditions and provides a basis for developing population projections.

Table 3.1 and Graph 3.1 show the dramatic changes in the population of Rappahannock County from 1940 to 2000. The population declined from 9,782 in 1850 to 5,199 in 1970. Between 1930 and 1970, the population of Rappahannock County declined by 32.6% from 7,717 to 5,199. The population increased 5.5% from 1990 to 2000 while the State's population increased 14.4% in the same period.

Table 3.1

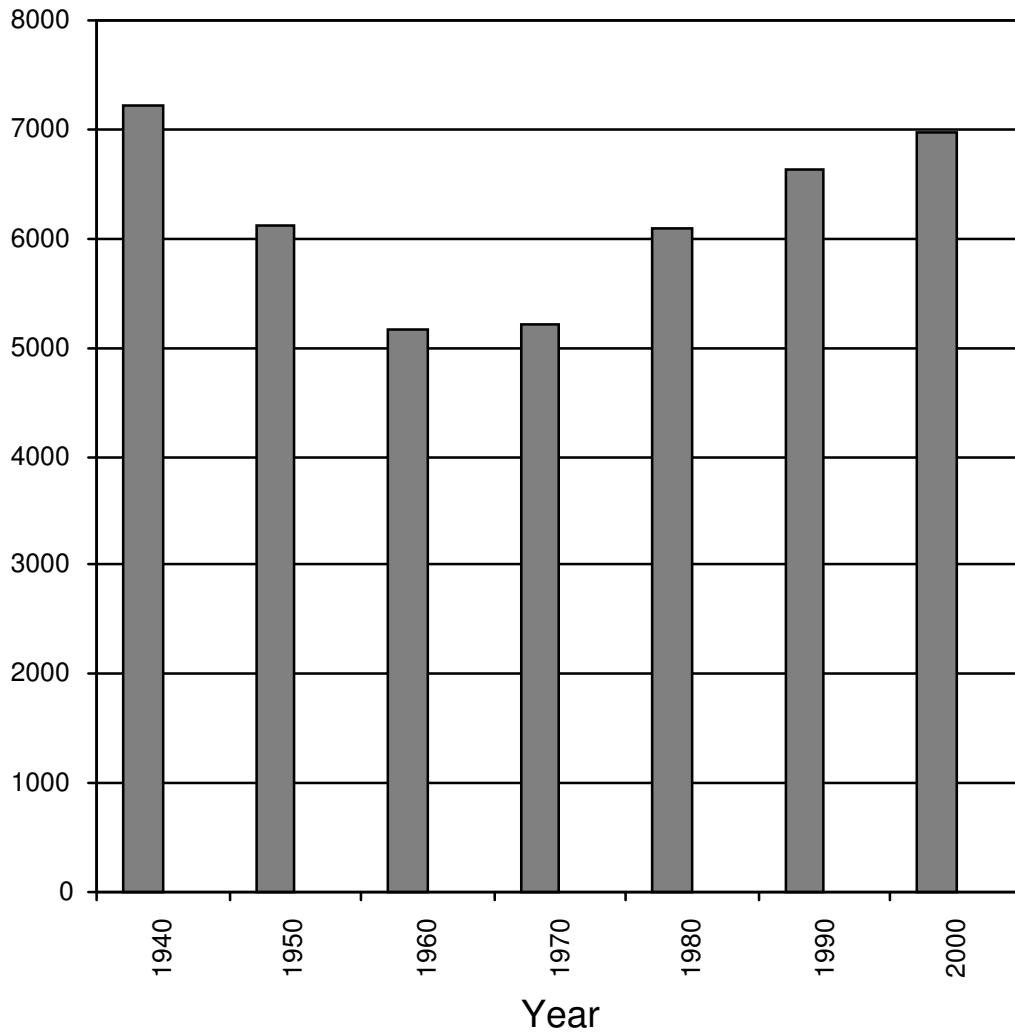
Historical Population Growth 1940-2000

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Rappahannock	7,208	6,112	5,168	5,199	6,093	6,622	6,983
Town of Wash.	245	249	255	189	247	196	183
Hampton Dist	1,764	1,489	1,130	1,231	1,181	1,129	1,403
Stonewall- Hawthorne Dist	1,492	1,166	1,058	908	1,133	1,306	1,386
Jackson Dist	1,291	1,118	1,028	1,043	1,404	1,485	1,443
Piedmont Dist	1,091	961	797	840	1,131	1,282	1,335
Wakefield Dist	1,570	1,378	1,155	1,177	1,244	1,420	1,416

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

With a land area of 266.6 square miles, Rappahannock County's 2000 population density of 26 persons per square mile stood as one of the lowest among Virginia's counties.

Graph 3.1
Historical Population Growth 1940-2000



The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia has developed the following final estimates of population for Rappahannock County for 2004 and 2005:

Table 3.2

Estimates of Population Growth 2004-2005

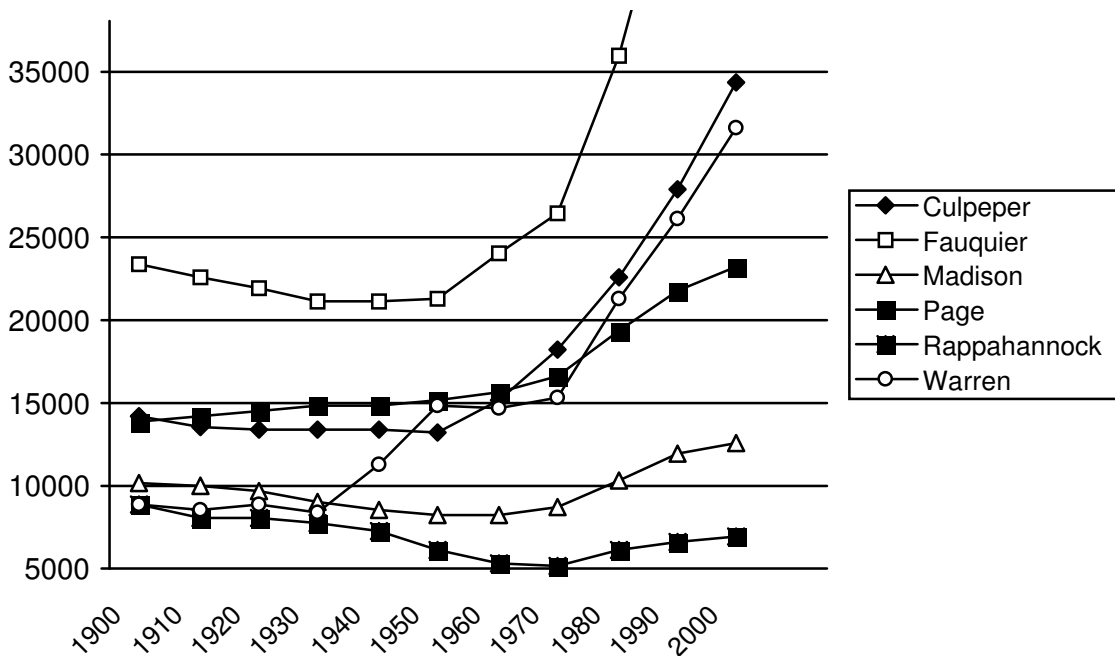
	2004	2005
Rappahannock	7,100	7,200

The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, by NPA Data Services, Inc., a private forecasting firm, projects between 2002 and 2010 the population of Rappahannock County will increase 0.6 percent per year.

In terms of total population, of the 95 counties in Virginia Rappahannock County ranked 89th in 1980, 90th in 1990, and 88th in 2000. Graph 3.2 shows Rappahannock population growth compared to growth in surrounding counties.

Graph 3.2

Population By County 1900-2000



NOTE: Fauquier 1990 = 48741, 2000 = 55139

SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Population Density

Population density provides a general indication of development in an area. These figures are thus valuable in monitoring the County's rate of growth and development. In terms of persons per square mile, the 1930 population of Rappahannock County was 28.9. By 1970 this number had decreased to 19.5. In 1980 the number of persons per square mile had risen back to 22.8, the 1990 figures identified a slight increase to 24.8, while in 2000 it totaled 26.2. Of the 135 counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth, Rappahannock ranks 128th in terms of population density.

Age Distribution

The age and sex distributions of the population are important for several reasons. People under the age of 18 and over the age of 65 are generally more dependent than those of "prime" working ages. Therefore, a large percentage of an area's population in these age groups have definite economic and fiscal repercussions affecting per capita income, buying power and the costs of providing governmental services. Further, a comparatively young population with many females in the child bearing ages influences birth rates, school enrollments, public service demands, and future population totals.

Table 3.3 displays the age distribution for all age groups. The percentage of the population composed of individuals under 20 years decreased steadily from 1970 to 2000 while those persons 65 years and over increased by 51%. Persons 65 years and over represented similar proportions of the total population from 1970 to 1990 (from 12.2%-12.98%). In 2000, those persons 65 years and over totaled 963 or 13.8% of the population. Persons in the 45-64 age brackets edged upwards from 21% of the population in 1970 to 24% in 1990 and then grew markedly to almost 32% in 2000. The proportion of those persons 0-19 years decreased from 37.5% in 1970 to 29.6% in 1980; fell still further to 25.3% in 1990, and was 24.3% of the population by 2000. The 20-44 years age brackets share grew from 28.5% in 1970 to 37.6% in 1990 and fell back to 30% in 2000. Graphs 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 show further breakdown of the data.

The 1990 Census results seemed to portend real future growth in population towards the lower end of the demographics. The surge in population in the prime child-rearing years has not been repeated with the 2000 Census, and indeed, the next demographic cohort set (45-64 yrs) has showed a roughly corresponding increase in percentage of the total.

This trend, along with the increase in the 65 and over population, resumes and reinforces Rappahannock's post World War II trend towards a "graying" of our population.

Table 3.3
Age Distribution 1970-2000

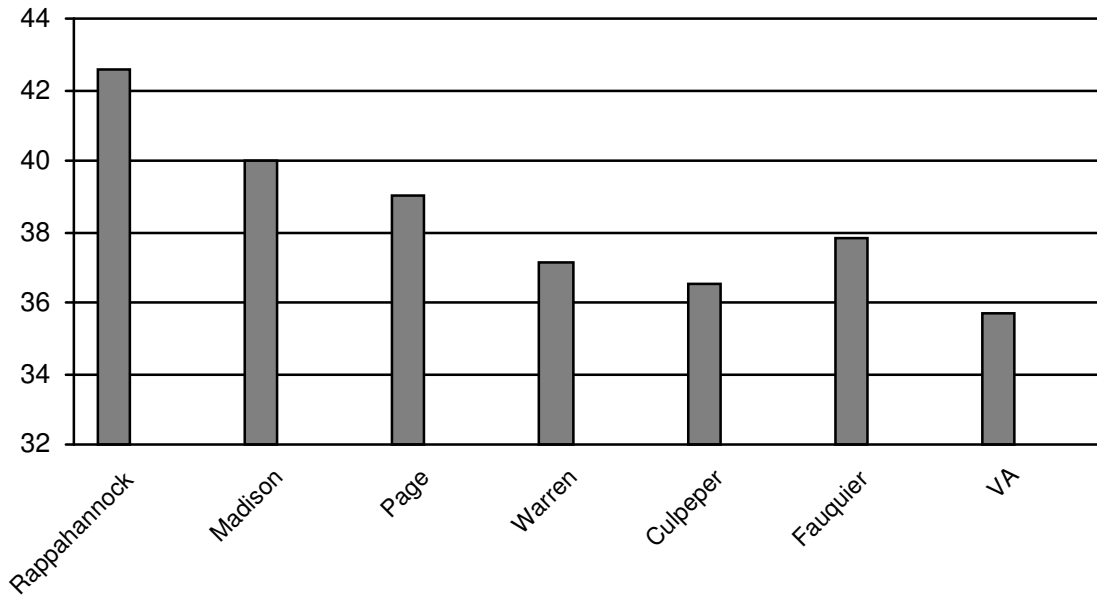
	Total 1970	Total 1980	Total 1990	Total 2000
TOTAL PERSONS	5,199	6,093	6,622	6,983
Under 5 Years	391	361	453	356
5 - 9 Years	543	406	409	421
10-14 Years	532	499	415	518
15-19 Years	483	535	404	403
20-24 Years	334	418	360	252
25-29 Years	295	494	492	314
30-34 Years	283	478	503	385
35-39 Years	271	414	602	528
40-44 Years	298	367	534	620
45-49 Years	283	311	492	626
50-54 Years	280	338	424	660
55-59 Years	314	362	343	507
60-64 Years	255	303	331	430
65-69 Years	232	309	285	304
70-74 Years	180	205	242	263
75-79 Years	119	142	170	198
80-84 Years	77	92	107	111
85 Years & Over	29	59	56	87

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

A further analysis of this data provides that the median age of Rappahannock County increased between 1970 and 2000 from 30.4 to 42.6 years. Comparatively, the 1980 median age for the State of Virginia was 29.8 years.

Graph 3.3

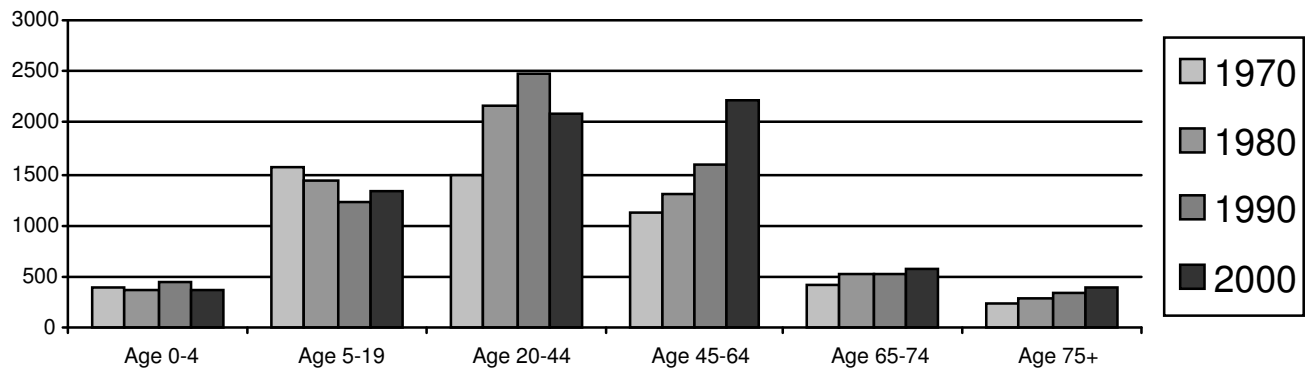
**Median Age of Residents in Rappahannock
& Surrounding Counties - 2000**



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Graph 3.4

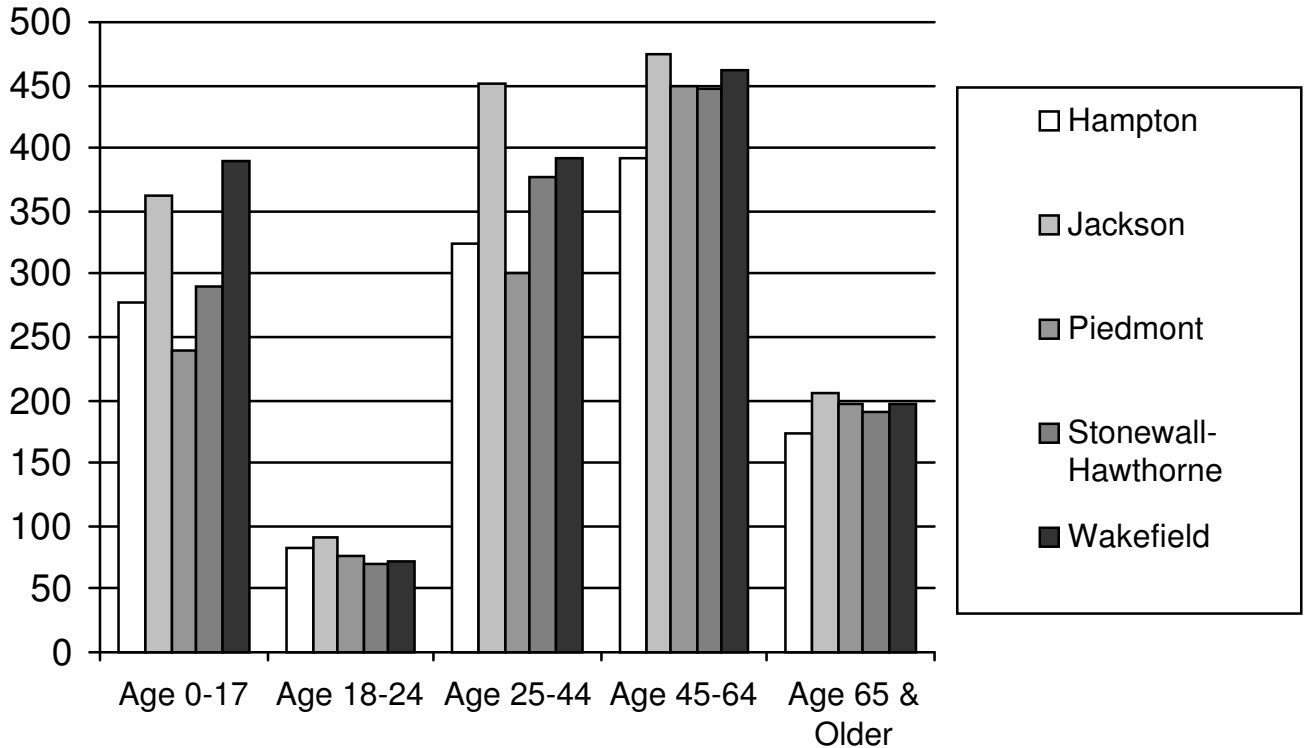
Number of Residents in each of Six Age Groups, 1970-2000



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Graph 3.5

Number of Residents in the Five Districts - 2000



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Minorities

Table 3.4 and Graph 3.6 show the race distribution in the population of Rappahannock County from 1950 to 2000. While there are a large number of various groups included in the non-white category, including African-Americans, persons of Hispanic descent, native Americans and others, African Americans are by far the dominant group with almost 90% of the category's total. The non-white population declined sharply to 11.6% in 1980, and slipped even further to 2000's 7.4%.

It is plain that the non-white population in this county is declining in absolute terms, and that the percentage of that population that is composed of African-Americans is itself declining. Rappahannock County ranks 36th in highest percentage white population, and 95th in percentage black population, out of the 135 counties and independent cities of the Commonwealth.

Table 3.4

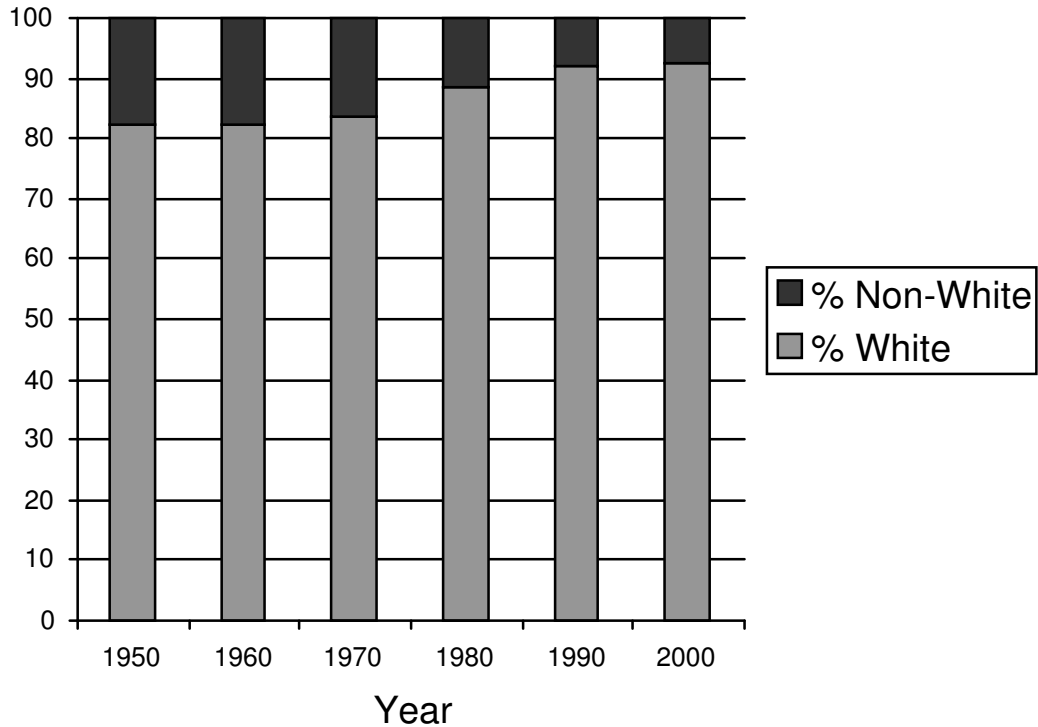
Race Distribution (%) 1950-2000

Year	White	Non-White
1950	82.3	17.7
1960	82.5	17.5
1970	83.5	16.5
1980	88.4	11.6
1990	92.0	8.0
2000	92.6	7.4

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Graph 3.6

Race Distribution (%) 1950-2000



Educational Attainment

Since 1960 the educational attainment of Rappahannock County residents has increased dramatically. The median number of school years completed rose from 7 years in 1960 to over 14 years in 2000 (see Table 3.5). The median number of school years completed for the State was 11.7 in 1970 and approximately 13 in 2000. Major improvements can be seen in educational attainment, both since 1960 and particularly over the past decade. In 1960, 33.2% had no school or 1-4 years, only 12.6% in 1980, and 4.1% in 1990. While aggregated with other age groups in the 2000 census, it appears as though that percentage has dwindled to statistical insignificance. Likewise, the number of persons who completed 4 years or more of college rose from 3.1% in 1960, 11.2% in 1980, 18.9% in 1990, and 27.6% in 2000. The percentage of high school graduates also increased from 19.6% in 1960, 46.7% in 1980, 62.6% in 1990, and 76.0% in 2000.

As of 2000, Rappahannock County ranked 26th in the percentage of adults with college degrees (27.6%) out of Virginia's 135 counties and independent cities. Similarly, Rappahannock ranked 25th in percentage of adults with advanced educational degrees (9% of the population).

Table 3.5

School Years Completed - Persons 25 years and Older (%) 1960-2000

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
No School	10.1	5.3	*	*	Less
1 - 4 Years	23.1	18.0	12.7	4.1	Than
5 - 7 Years	29.7	27.6	20.0	14.0	9th Gr.=
8 Years	8.7	9.5	6.8	19.0	11.2
9 - 11 Years	8.8	14.9	13.8	13.8	12.7
High School	11.4	14.8	25.9	28.0	30.1
1 - 3 Yrs College	5.1	6.8	9.6	20.2	18.4
4+ Yrs College	3.1	3.1	11.2	18.9	27.6
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Median School-Years Completed

7.0 8.0 10.8 12.4 14.0

High School Graduates (%)

19.6 24.7 46.7 62.6 76.0

*In 1980-2000 the No School category was included in the 1-4 Years category.

**Median is the point at which 50% of the cases are greater and 50% are less.

Educational Trends

Student enrollment generally increased from 1988 through 1997. Since the high water mark of 1,067 students in the fall of 1997, average daily membership has declined steadily when measured at the start of the school year, until a recent up tick in 2001-02. Preliminary figures for subsequent years do not indicate that this is a trend (see Table 3.6 and Graph 3.7).

Table 3.6

Student Membership - September 30-End of Year Membership

Year Membership	Sept. 30 Membership	End-of-Year
1988-89	941	921
1989-90	928	916
1990-91	948	927
1991-92	993	980
1992-93	1,030	994
1993-94	991	958
1994-95	1,008	1,013
1995-96	1,051	1,021
1996-97	1,046	1,045
1997-98	1,067	1,056
1998-99	1,052	1,055
1999-00	1,039	1,011
2000-01	1,020	1,004
2001-02	1,041	1,037

SOURCE: FACING UP, STATISTICAL DATA ON VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Superintendent's Annual Report for Virginia, VA Dept. of Education

Graph 3.7

Student Membership - September 30-End of Year Membership

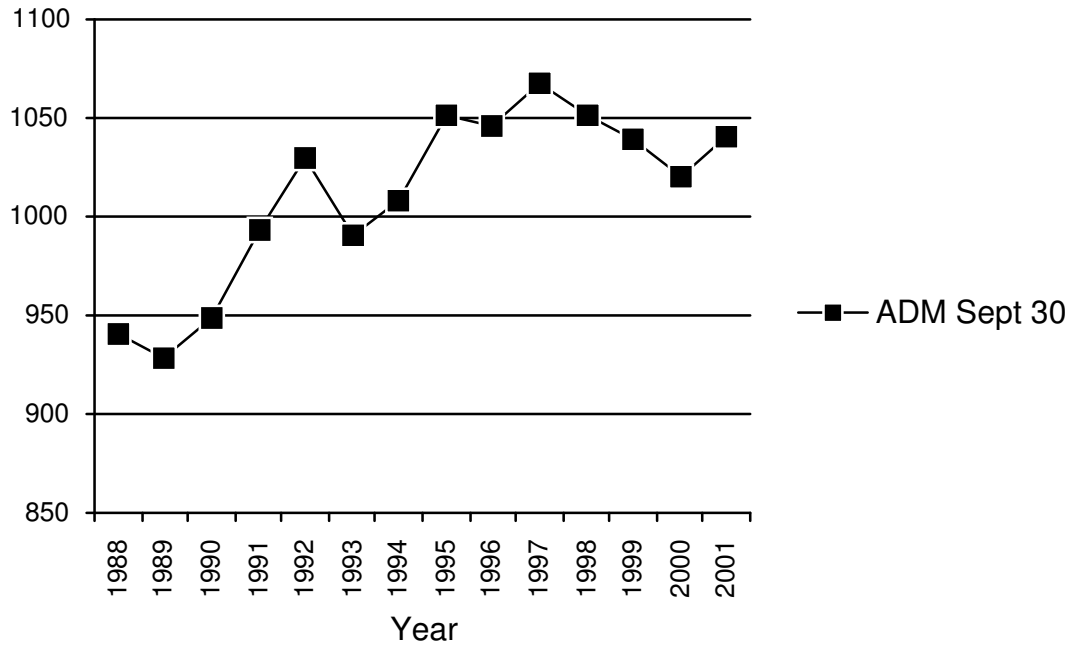


Table 3.7 shows that graduates as percent of ninth grade membership ranged from 92% in 1988-89 to 81% in 2001-02, with a high degree of annual variation due to the extremely small class sizes in the Rappahannock County School System.

Table 3.7

Graduates as Percent of Ninth Grade Membership

Year	Membership Ninth Grade	Total Graduates	Percent
1988-89	81	75	92.6
1989-90	84	69	82.1
1990-91	85	71	83.5
1991-92	66	54	81.8
1992-93	77	65	84.4
1993-94	74	61	82.4
1994-95	87	64	73.6
1995-96	81	71	87.7

Year	Membership Ninth Grade	Total Graduates	Percent
1996-97	94	84	89.4
1997-98	65	63	96.9
1998-99	75	56	74.7
1999-00	88	86	97.7
2000-01	79	60	75.9
2001-02	80	65	81.3

SOURCE: *FACING UP, STATISTICAL DATA ON VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Superintendent's Annual Report for Virginia, VA Dept. of Education*

Historically, the percent of graduates continuing education attending 2 and 4-year colleges, etc., fluctuated from year to year through 1983. However, since 1984, there has been a fairly constant increase. Generally, more than 60% of the County High School graduates now continue their education always allowing for a certain variation in any given year due to the small class size (see Table 3.8).

Table 3.8
Graduates Continuing Education

Year	Number of Graduates	Attending Two-Year Colleges		Attending Four-Year Colleges		Other Continuing Education		Percent Continuing Education
		#	%	#	%	#	%	
1988-89	75	19	25.3	22	29.3	2	2.7	57.3
1989-90	84	13	18.8	16	23.2	1	1.4	43.5
1990-91	71	9	12.7	24	33.8	7	9.9	56.3
1991-92	54	11	20.4	20	37	4	7.4	64.8
1992-93	77	6	9.2	20	30.8	8	12.3	52.8
1993-94	61	20	32.8	14	23	5	8.2	63.9
1994-95	64	22	34.4	28	43.8	1	1.6	79.7
1995-96	71	15	21.1	36	50.7	2	2.8	74.6
1996-97	84	14	16.7	30	35.7	8	9.5	61.9
1997-98	63	14	22.2	23	36.5	6	9.5	68.2
1998-99	56	16	28.6	21	37.5	19	33.9	100.0
1999-00	86	12	14.0	34	39.5	6	7.0	60.5
2000-01	60	19	31.7	23	38.3	0	0.0	70.0
2001-02	65	16	24.6	20	30.8	3	4.6	60.0

SOURCE: *FACING UP, STATISTICAL DATA ON VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Superintendent's Annual Report for Virginia, VA Dept. of Education*

Total expenditures for operations increased 221 percent from 1988-89 through 2001-02. Table 3.9 shows percentages of Local, State, and Federal financial support for expenditures. Local expenditures increased from \$1,988,579 to \$5,270,837 or 265 percent in this time period (not adjusted for inflation). The Federal share of spending has remained relatively constant while the state share has declined.

Table 3.9

Total Expenditures for Operations And Sources of Financial Support for Expenditures

Year	Total(\$)	Local(\$)	%	Retail(\$)	%	State(\$)	%	Fed.(\$)	%
1988-89	3,899,438	1,988,579	51.0	375,305	9.6	1,328,664	34.1	206,890	5.3
1989-90	4,285,755	2,224,833	51.9	426,304	9.9	1,407,289	32.8	227,328	5.3
1990-91	4,423,133	2,387,189	53.9	440,949	9.9	1,348,106	30.4	246,890	5.5
1991-92	4,663,006	2,467,059	52.9	449,052	9.6	1,344,920	28.8	401,976	8.6
1992-93	4,986,488	2,818,955	56.5	477,822	9.5	1,228,364	24.6	461,348	9.2
1993-94	5,211,792	3,035,175	58.2	524,691	10.6	1,145,163	21.9	506,763	9.7
1994-95	5,488,274	3,243,433	59.0	563,415	10.3	1,355,596	24.7	325,829	6.0
1995-96	5,711,995	3,444,301	60.3	583,645	10.2	1,429,950	25.0	254,099	4.5
1996-97	6,123,781	3,839,015	62.7	637,684	10.4	1,405,186	22.9	241,896	4.2
1997-98	6,659,071	4,475,874	67.2	686,598	10.3	1,220,525	18.5	276,074	4.1
1998-99	6,704,742	3,820,578	56.9	738,151	11	1,831,529	27.3	314,485	4.69
1999-00	7,136,000	4,163,265	58.3	798,309	11.1	1,825,051	25.5	349,375	4.89
2000-01	7,829,112	6,266,269	80	836,676	10.7	493,365	6.3	232,801	2.9
2001-02	8,485,506	5,270,837	62.1	850,773	10	1,860,928	21.9	502,968	5.9

SOURCE: FACING UP, STATISTICAL DATA ON VIRGINIA' S PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Superintendent' s Annual Report for Virginia, VA Dept. of Education

Table 3.10 shows per pupil expenditures based on the average daily membership (ADM) for operations from local, State, and Federal funds. Both local and State funds for each pupil expenditure increased by more than 100 percent. On the other hand, expenditures from retail sales and use tax and federal funds per pupil increased only slightly. Altogether, per pupil expenditures increased from \$4,202 to \$8,143 from 1988-89 to 2001-02.

Table 3.10**Per Pupil Expenditure for Operations From Local, State, and Federal Funds**

Year	ADM Determining Cost Per Pupil(\$)	Per Pupil Expenditure From Local Funds (\$)	Per Pupil Expenditure From Retail Use Tax Funds(\$)	Per Pupil Expenditure From State Funds (\$)	Per Pupil Expenditure From Federal Funds (\$)	Total Per Pupil Expenditure (\$)
1988-89	928	2,143	404	1,432	223	4,202
1989-90	922					4,648
1990-91	944	2,529	467	1,428	262	4,686
1991-92	992	2,487	453	1,356	405	4,701
1992-93	1,011					4,932
1993-94	1,085	2,797	484	1,055	467	4,803
1994-95	1,006	3,224	1,348	560	324	5,456
1995-96	1,031	3,341	1,387	566	246	5,540
1996-97	1,046	3,670	610	1,343	231	5,854
1997-98	1,063	4,211	646	1,148	260	6,264
1998-99	1,054	3,625	700	1,738	298	6,361
1999-00	1,023	4,070	780	1,784	342	6,976
2000-01	1,015	6,174	824	486	229	7,713
2001-02	1,042	5,058	816	1,786	483	8,143

SOURCE: FACING UP, STATISTICAL DATA ON VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Superintendent's Annual Report for Virginia, VA Dept. of Education.

The local private non-profit public education support group, Headwaters, Inc., in collaboration with the Rappahannock County Public Schools and the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors, commissioned a study concerning local-state financing of education in Rappahannock County from Public and Environmental Finance Associates, of Washington, D.C. The report is entitled "Analysis of the Impact of the Local Composite Index on Rappahannock County, Virginia", and was issued in September 2002.

The LCI (Local Composite Index) in the words of the report, "is used by the Commonwealth to allocate state aid to local school districts. It is applied by the Commonwealth as a measure of relative economic well-being among Virginia cities and counties." Three weighted components make up the LCI: property values (50%), Adjusted gross Income (40%) and sales tax receipts (10%). While sales tax receipts are very low, and the County is close to the state average for median income and median residential property values. The fact remains that the LCI for

Rappahannock is the tenth highest in the state, resulting in extreme limitations on state aid, particularly for education.

The report's principle conclusion is that the success that the County has had in preserving open space has resulted, through the intricacies of the LCI formula, in a "penalty" in education funding. Succinctly, property taxed locally at its "use-value" (value for productive agricultural enterprises versus fair market value - often a reduction of 75-85%) is nevertheless valued by the Commonwealth at its fair market value in the LCI's workings.

The County has determined on a series of initiatives (discussed elsewhere) to address this unintended consequence.

While only an indicator of local educational investment and effort, pupil-teacher ratios are one means of measuring a local educational system. The Commonwealth as a whole had a Public School Pupil-Teacher ratio of 13:1 and 11:1 for K-7 and 8-12 education, respectively. Rappahannock's ratios for 1991-92 were 15:1 and 12:1 and in 2000, 11:1 and 9:1. These numbers are self-evidently better than the state averages, and represent the advantages (and challenges) of a smaller school system. In neighboring counties, the elementary and secondary ratios range from a high of 13:1 ratio in both K-7 and 8-12 in Warren County to a low for elementary of 12:1 in Culpeper and 9:1 for secondary in Fauquier County.

Teacher salaries are also a measure of a localities' ability to attract and retain qualified instructional personnel (including principals, assistant principals and central administration). A comparison between Rappahannock and other counties in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission is included in Table 3.11.

Table 3.11

Average Public Teacher Salary

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Rappahannock	\$31,551	\$32,647	\$34,890	\$35,681
Culpeper	\$35,144	\$36,759	\$39,653	\$38,692
Fauquier	\$41,457	\$37,005	\$39,568	\$43,374
Madison	\$28,790	\$32,293	\$32,553	\$35,726
Orange	\$38,934	\$43,275	\$40,794	\$40,407

SOURCE: Virginia Dept. of Education (RRRC Data Summary, March 2004)

Income Characteristics

Between 1969 and 1979 the median income of Rappahannock County families increased from \$12,625 to \$16,878 or 33.7%. Likewise, the 1979 mean or average income of Rappahannock County families was \$20,694 while the State figure was \$25,022.

Clearly, the income of Rappahannock residents has been on a steady rise since then with particularly notable increases in the past decade. Median family income in 2000 stood at \$51,848 while per capita income stood at \$23,863.

Anecdotal evidence of the Counties' general increase in wealth may also be showing the fact that 12.8% of the population reported incomes of \$100,000 or above, the twelfth highest percentage from among the 135 counties and independent cities. Similarly, with 5.2% of families reporting incomes below the poverty line, Rappahannock ranked 87th in the Commonwealth (this figure is less than one half what it was in 1990 and is 7.7 % of total population).

The overall distribution of the County' s adjusted family incomes from 1979 through 2000 is presented in the following Table (see Table 3.12).

Table 3.12
Adjusted Family Income

	1979	%	1990	2000
Total Families	1,654	100	1,951	2,024
Less than \$2,500	32	1.9	*	*
\$2,500 to \$4,999	102	6.2	3.8%	*
\$5,000 to \$7,499	158	9.6	*	*
\$7,500 to \$9,999	124	7.5	5.0	2.5
\$10,000 to \$12,499	160	9.7	*	*
\$12,500 to \$14,999	103	6.2	*	4.2
\$15,000 to \$17,499	189	11.1	*	*
\$17,500 to \$19,999	111	6.7	14.3	*
\$20,000 to \$22,499	90	5.4	*	*
\$22,500 to \$24,999	140	8.5	*	10.0
\$25,000 to \$27,499	98	5.9	*	*
\$27,500 to \$29,999	43	2.6	16.4	*
\$30,000 to \$34,999	100	6.1	*	11.5
\$35,000 to \$39,999	31	1.9	18.9	*
\$40,000 to \$49,999	91	5.5	12.1	18.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	51	3.1	-	23.5
\$75,000 or more	32	1.9	-	15.7

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census

*Income levels combined with next reported figure below

Median Income	\$16, 878	\$36,399	\$51,848
Mean Income	\$20, 694	\$47,076	

A comparison of the adjusted per capita income for other jurisdictions in the Planning District is presented in Table 3.13. Rappahannock County citizens experienced the second greatest percentage change in their per capita income, after having the greatest between 1980 and 1990; however, this figure is still just below the State average of \$23,975 and over \$2,000 above the national average of

\$21,578. Nonetheless, the County per capita income figure grew substantially when compared to adjacent counties. Out of the three counties in the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission adjacent to Rappahannock County, Fauquier had the highest and Madison had the lowest per capita income in 2000, a trend that has remained constant since 1970.

Table 3.13

Virginia Adjusted Per Capita Gross Income Comparison

Locality	1990	2000	% Change
Rappahannock County	\$12,635	\$23,863	188.86
Fauquier County	\$17,223	\$28,757	166.94
Culpeper County	\$11,772	\$20,162	171.27
Madison County	\$9,699	\$18,636	192.14
Commonwealth of Virginia	\$12,706	\$23,975	188.69

SOURCE: Commonwealth of Virginia, VA. Department of Taxation, Virginia Department of Taxation Annual Report. Richmond, VA 1982-1991

Population Projections

Although difficult to develop because of the numerous complex variables that influence them, population projections are an important component of the comprehensive planning process. Based on past trends and predicted events, such projections assist in establishing a basic idea of the County's future population level and structure, the overall rate of growth and development, and the degree of change. Further, population projections are necessary to plan for future community programs and essential public services required by the general population.

The two primary population growth components are births vs. deaths and in-migration vs. out-migration. Many factors serve to affect these determinants in an area or locality. These factors include:

1. The general physical and natural environment and amenities of an area.
2. The health of the local population.
3. The age components of the local population.
4. The fertility rate of the locality's childbearing aged females.
5. The regional setting of the locality.
6. Employment opportunities and type of employment in the locality and its environs.
7. Income and wealth of the locality.

8. Public facilities and services available to the populous of the locality.
9. The cost and availability of housing in the locality.
10. The tax rate and tax structure of the locality.
11. Growth occurring in adjacent localities.

All of the above factors are important to projecting population for a place. Unfortunately, not all factors are easily projected, and the factors can change quickly over time. Under these constraints, a range of assumptions about what will influence a locality' s population changes in the future would be determined and population projections based on the assumptions developed.

The population projections for Rappahannock County have been developed in a range from a lower to an upper limit. This range is based on assumptions of what could happen to the County' s population and is intended to provide a projection of what would result under different growth scenarios. It is probable that the population growth will fall somewhere within the range shown. At any one time during the projection period it is possible that unforeseen occurrences could quickly change the projections.

Lower Limit-Lowest anticipated growth rate:

This projection is seen as the lowest likely population growth scenario for Rappahannock County. Assumptions under this scenario include:

1. The continued attractiveness of Rappahannock County as a place to live by retirees and former residents of the County.
2. A fairly consistent fertility rate and death rate with that of the 1980 to 2000 period.
3. A slowing of in-migration by individuals who commute to jobs outside of the County.
4. A continued dominance of agriculture and tourism in Rappahannock County' s economic base.
5. A small growth in non-agricultural employment opportunities in the County.
6. A smaller growth in areas adjacent to Rappahannock County.

The result of these assumptions is a population growth characteristic in the County similar to that which occurred from 1980 to 1990. Thus, a decennial population growth rate of 8.6% (the 1980-90 rate) has been adopted for the lower limit projection.

Median Projection-Moderate annual growth rate:

This projection is seen as close to the middle of the likely population growth range. Assumptions under this scenario include:

1. The continued attractiveness of Rappahannock County as a place to live by retirees and former residents of the County.
2. A fertility rate and death rate consistent with that of the 1980 to 2000 period.
3. A continued significant in-migration of individuals who commute to jobs outside the County.

4. A moderate growth in non-agricultural employment opportunities in the County.
5. A continued growth in areas adjacent to Rappahannock County.

The result of the assumptions is a population growth characteristic in the County similar to that which the Commonwealth has estimated to have occurred from 1990 to 1993. Thus, a decennial population growth rate of +15% has been adopted for the median projection.

Upper Limit-Highest anticipated annual growth rate:

This projection is seen as the highest likely growth scenario for Rappahannock County. Assumptions under this scenario include:

1. The continued attractiveness of Rappahannock County as a place to live by retirees, returning County natives, and commuters working outside the County. Thus, a continued heavy in-migration.
2. A continued large growth in areas adjacent to Rappahannock County.
3. A "spill-over" of growth into Rappahannock County from adjacent counties similar to the growth experienced in those counties from 1990 to 2000.
4. A large growth in non-agricultural employment opportunities in the County.
5. An increasing fertility rate and stable or slightly decreasing death rate.

The result of these assumptions is a larger population growth in Rappahannock County than occurred from 1980 to 1993. A 2% annual increase in population was adopted.

The translation of these assumptions into numbers through the year 2010 is found in Table 3.14. As shown, the application of growth rates yields a dramatic range between the upper and lower population growth limits.

Table 3.14

Population Projection Range, Rappahannock County

	2000	2005	2010
Upper Limit-High Decennial Growth: 22%	6,983	7,709	8,512
Median Limit-Moderate Decennial Growth: 15%	6,983	7,506	8,030
Lower Limit-Low Decennial Growth: 8.6%	6,983	7,283	7,584