Berkshire County’s Changing Population

Mark Maloy
GIS, Data & IT Manager
Population Projections

Population currently at 131,219 (2010)

Peak population was 149,402 (1970)

18,183 loss over 40 years (454/year)
Natural Change

- Average 1,288/year, but decreasing
  - 1,174 in 2010

- Average 1,519/year, but relatively stable
  - 1,346 in 2010

Net change of -172 in 2010
Net Migration

- Average of 2,977/year
- 2,577 in 2010

Average of 3,262/year
2,815 in 2010

Net change of -238 in 2010
Age Distribution Comparison

United States
Massachusetts
Berkshire County
What Does our Future Hold?

• Future forecast of births, deaths and net migration by age cohorts.
  
  – Births mostly occur late teens to late 30’s

  – Deaths occur mostly after 65, but some occur throughout (rising rate from teens on)

  – Migration occurs throughout, but mostly occurs late teens (in), twenties (out), early thirties (out), late thirties (in), late sixties (out), seventies (in)
Caveats

• Existing Trend Projection – if anything changes, such as migration, this projection will be wrong.

• Use this data cautiously – we are encouraging the use of this data for planning, but the focus should be on the trend and the magnitude, not the actual numbers.

• Try to use this data constructively and to begin a dialogue on the future of our region
What Does the Next 10 Years Hold?

• More of the same - continued decline  
• Estimated population of 126,490 in 2020  
• Loss of 4,729 since 2010
What Does the Next 50 Years Hold?

- Decline slow to begin, but accelerates after 2030
- Estimated population of 80,695 in 2060
- Loss of 50,524 since 2010
Impacts - 2030

- Population – reduced by 12,420
- School age children – reduced by 28%
  – (school enrollment declined 13% over last 10 years)
- Educational Attainment – reduction in amount with college degrees (especially advanced degrees)
- Workers – reduction by 25%
- Seniors – increase of 69%
- Housing – continued demand in South County due to seasonal residence. High vacancies in North County.
% of Population 18-24

12,346 in 2010 (estimated 21,405 will retire by 2020)
# Effect on Labor Force

- Actual Labor Force (employed + looking for jobs) – 2010: 73,531

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age 16+</th>
<th>Age 18-64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>109,230</td>
<td>81,209</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>109,341</td>
<td>74,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>104,837</td>
<td>62,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>96,942</td>
<td>56,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>86,031</td>
<td>52,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>2060</td>
<td>75,853</td>
<td>44,819</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What Can We Do?

• Only long term solution is to change migration patterns
  – Need approximately 800 more young adults people migrating in each year
    • Attracting young adults helps sustain the population due to them having children
    • Attracting older citizens may slow the decline slightly, but we will still experience the same magnitude decline by 2060

• Stop the exodus after school
What to look for in the 2020 Census

What happens to this point?

Does this gap get wider?

What happens to this slope?