2.0 POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Population is an important contributing factor to both the pattern of settlement and development of a municipal unit. Significant increases or decreases in the number of inhabitants, along with the characteristics of income, education, and age, will impact economic development, land use, transportation, and use of public and private services. Examining past changes and present conditions of the population enhances the ability to prepare for and understand the future.

2.2 HISTORICAL POPULATION & PROJECTIONS

Historical Summary
Since its creation by the state legislature in 1865, Bayfield County (originally LaPointe County) has experienced periods of population growth and decline. In its first 20-some years of existence, the county's total population did not exceed 600 inhabitants. The introduction of railroads into the county in the 1880s, coupled with the development of mining and timber resources in the area, brought in numerous settlers, resulting in a period of growth peaking in 1920. Table 2.1 below displays the county's historical population from 1850 to 1940.

Table 2.1: Bayfield County, Historical Population, 1850-1940

1850[2]	1860[2]	1870[2]	1880[2]	1890[2]	1900[1]	1910[1]	1920[1]	1930[1]	1940[1]
489	353	344	564	7,390	14,392	15,987	17,201	15,006	15,827

[1] US Census
[2] State of Wisconsin Census (discontinued after 1895)

Present Conditions
From 1950 to 1960 the county's population decreased by 13.4 percent and from 1960 to 1970 it decreased by only 1.9 percent. From 1970 to 1980 the population rose by 186 (18.3%) inhabitants. The population has been on a steady increase, gaining 1,191 persons from 1980 to 2000. Table 2.2 displays population projections for the county generated by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) for the coming 20-year period. It should be noted the NWRPC's population projections are mathematical population estimates based on historical growth rates and ratio trends of minor civil divisions to overall county population. The ratio trend technique assumes that the relationship of a minor civil division to a larger geographic entity will prevail in the future. It does not take into account other forces that may alter or skew the projections. Other forces or dynamics that may affect future trends may include new developments or infrastructure such subdivisions or public sewer and water that accommodate population growth, unforeseen business growth, or increases in the number of retirees locating in the county.

Table 2.2: Bayfield County Historical Population and Population Projections, 1950-2020

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
US Census[1]	13,760	11,910	11,683	13,822	14,008	15,013	---	---	---	---
NWRPC[2]	---	---	---	---	---	---	15,333	15,653	15,986	16,319

[1]US Census Bureau , [2]Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projections

Countywide Population Trends

Figure 2.1 illustrates past and projected population trends for the county (blue) and the following subsets of the county: all unincorporated units (red), and the incorporated units (green). From 1950 to 1970, the county's population declined substantially. Beginning in 1970, the county and unincorporated units show a continual increase through 2000 while the incorporated areas show a slight decline. The City of Washburn has been increasing since 1960, while the City of Bayfield has been on the decline since 1950. The Village of Mason has steadily decreased since 1960. Projections to the year 2020 indicate that these trends are to continue with unincorporated areas to remain on a steady increase (see Tables 2.3 and 2.4).

Figure 2.1
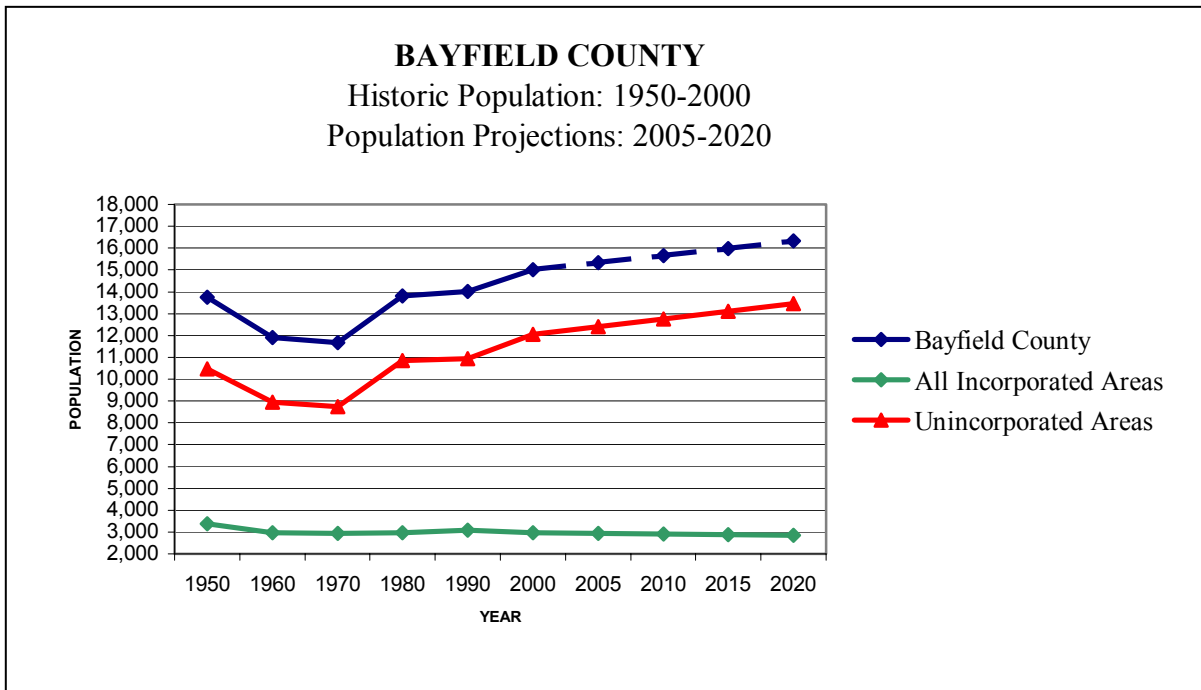
Population Change of Municipal Divisions

Table 2.3 indicates the population of each civil division and their change in population from 1950 to 2000. Of the county's 28 civil divisions, 12 units sustained a loss of population while the entire county reported a net gain of 9.1 percent for the period. Thirteen of Bayfield County's 17 towns indicated growth, with all unincorporated areas averaging a 15.1 percent increase since 1950. This period, 1950 to 2000, marked the beginning of the trends identified above; increased seasonal home construction, conversion of seasonal homes to permanent residences, and an influx of individuals seeking aesthetically pleasing places to live.

Table 2.3: Bayfield County Historical Population, 1950-2000

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Absolute Change: 1950 to 2000	Percent Change: 1950 to 2000
Towns								
Barksdale	573	585	574	762	756	801	+228	+39.7%
Barnes	226	194	311	493	473	610	+384	+69.9%
Bayfield	551	474	503	607	603	625	+74	+13.4%
Bayview	330	296	297	343	402	491	+161	+48.7%
Bell	301	238	205	247	237	230	-71	-23.5%
Cable	680*	622*	738*	831*	817	836	+156	+22.9%
Clover	430	274	277	254	213	211	-219	-50.9%
Delta	147	160	150	205	215	235	+88	+59.8%
Drummond	425	368	349	442	417	541	+116	+27.2%
Eileen	654	618	599	664	665	640	-14	-2.1%
Grand View	450	387	370	440	419	483	+33	+7.3%
Hughes	174	128	174	290	334	408	+234	+134.4%
Iron River	850	711	716	991	901	1,059	+209	+24.5%
Kelly	485	371	336	354	383	377	-108	-22.2%
Keystone	365	339	314	344	320	369	+4	+1.0%
Lincoln	320	254	206	280	294	293	-27	-8.4%
Mason	445	351	304	304	296	326	-119	-26.7%
Namakagon	205	125	224	286	276	285	+80	+39.0%
Orienta	187	116	108	109	114	101	-86	-45.9%
Oulu	725	649	505	547	513	540	-185	-25.5%
Pilsen	266	265	193	222	203	203	-63	-23.6%
Port Wing	588	487	385	525	434	420	-168	-28.5%
Russell**	526	419	475	791	978	1,216	+690	+130.6%
Red Cliff Reservation	NA	NA	NA	686	857	1,078	+392	57.1%
Tripp	198	196	138	145	182	209	+11	+5.5%
Washburn	370	318	282	386	490	541	+171	+46.2%
TOTAL	10,471	8,945	8,733	10,862	10,935	12,050	+1,579	+15.1%
Villages								
Mason	140	100	119	102	102	72	-68	-48.5%
Cities								
Bayfield	1,153	969	874	778	686	611	-542	-47.0%
Washburn	2,070	1,896	1,957	2,080	2,285	2,280	+210	+10.1%
TOTAL	3,363	2,965	2,950	2,960	3,073	2,963	-400	-13.5%
BAYFIELD COUNTY	13,760	11,910	11,683	13,822	14,008	15,013	+1,253	+9.1%

Source: US Census Bureau and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
*Note: The Town of Cable figures for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980 include the Village of Cable which dissolved into the Town of Cable in 1984.
** Red Cliff Reservation numbers are calculated as part of the Town of Russell's totals.

Projected Changes Through 2020
Table 2.4 indicates population projections for the civil divisions through the year 2020. Bayfield County is expected to retain a stable population through 2020, with a projected total net increase of 11.8 percent for the unincorporated towns and a projected net total decline of 21.9 percent for the incorporated Village of Mason. The Cities of Bayfield and Washburn had a combined decline of 3.9 percent.

Table 2.4: Bayfield County Population Projections, 2005-2020

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	Projected Absolute Change: 2000-2020	Projected Percent Change: 2000-2020
Towns							
Barksdale	801	829	856	882	908	+107	+13.4%
Barnes	610	686	763	855	946	+336	+55.1%
Bayfield	625	633	640	646	651	+26	+4.2%
Bayview	491	511	531	551	571	+80	+16.3%
Bell	230	224	219	213	206	-24	-10.4%
Cable	836	853	869	883	896	+60	+7.2%
Clover	211	198	184	172	159	-52	-24.6%
Delta	235	247	258	270	282	+47	+20.0%
Drummond	541	556	572	586	600	+59	+10.9%
Eileen	640	637	634	628	623	-17	-2.7%
Grand View	483	487	490	492	494	+11	+2.3%
Hughes	408	453	497	549	601	+193	+47.3%
Iron River	1,059	1,088	1,117	1,144	1,170	+111	+10.5%
Kelly	377	368	359	349	339	-38	-10.1%
Keystone	369	369	369	368	366	-3	-0.8%
Lincoln	293	292	292	290	288	-5	-1.7%
Mason	326	316	306	296	286	-40	-12.3%
Namakagon	285	303	321	340	359	+74	+26.0%
Orienta	101	96	90	85	80	-21	-20.8%
Oulu	540	525	509	493	476	-64	-11.9%
Pilsen	203	198	193	188	182	-21	-10.3%
Port Wing	420	409	399	387	375	-45	-10.7%
Russell*	1,216	1,342	1,467	1,612	1,757	+541	+44.5%
Red Cliff Reservation	1,078	1,168	1,266	1,364	1,462	+384	35.6%
Tripp	209	211	214	215	217	+8	+3.8%
Washburn	541	565	590	614	638	+97	+17.9%
TOTAL	12,050	12,396	12,741	13,106	13,470	+1,420	+11.8%
Villages							
Mason	72	68	64	60	56	-16	-22.2%
Cities							
Bayfield	611	573	535	499	464	-147	-24.1%
Washburn	2,280	2,297	2,313	2,321	2,328	+48	+2.1%
TOTAL	2,963	2,938	2,912	2,880	2,848	-115	-3.9%
BAYFIELD COUNTY	15,013	15,333	15,653	15,986	16,319	+1,306	+8.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projections (2005-2020), and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
*The Town of Russell includes projections for the Red Cliff Indian Reservation. Red Cliff Reservation numbers are included in the Town of Russell's total figures.

Red Cliff Indian Reservation
The Red Cliff Indian Reservation, which is located at the northeast tip of Bayfield County in the Town of Russell, comprises 14,016 of the 31,872 total acres in the Town of Russell. Native Americans of the Red Cliff band inhabit three-fourths of the Town of Russell, which has the largest population of any town in the county at 1,216 residents in 2000. Since 1950, the Town of Russell increased by 690 people and is projected to increase 44.5 percent by the year 2020.

Existing Population Density
Maps 2.1 and 2.2 illustrate the population density by Census tract in 1990 and 2000. As is shown, much of Bayfield County has a low population density—at ten persons per square mile or less—with higher densities found along the inland lakeshore areas and along major roadways.

Change from 1990 to 2000
Comparison of the data shown in Maps 2.1 (1990) and 2.2 (2000) reveals the following population trends: a steady growth rate occurring around small unincorporated towns that are along major roads in towns such as Barnes, Cable, Iron River, Washburn and Red Cliff. One area that is seeing an obvious growth surge is the area around the City of Ashland (Ashland County), specifically the Towns of Barksdale and Eileen, as many rural residents commute there to find work. Other areas of note are the continued increases in areas around lakes. One reason for this is the many seasonal residents that are converting from seasonal homes to permanent homes.

Table 2.3 illustrates population changes in the individual municipal divisions of the county for the periods from 1950 to 2000. During this period, 12 municipal divisions experienced growth. The largest increases took place in the Towns of Barnes, Hughes and Russell. The same 50-year period saw declines in the City of Bayfield, Village of Mason and Towns of Bell, Clover, Eileen, Kelly, Lincoln, Mason, Orienta, Oulu, Pilsen, and Port Wing. Projections through 2020, illustrated in Table 2.4, indicate this trend to continue for these communities, with the exception of the Town of Keystone, which is projected to increase by three people.

Map 2.1 – Population Density 1990

Map 2.2 – Population Density 2000

2.3 AGE DISTRIBUTION & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Summary of Changes in Population Age

In the decade from 1990 to 2000, the US Census reports a gain of 1,005 inhabitants for Bayfield County; a 7.2 percent increase in population. However, this increase was not uniform to all age groups within the county. The greatest changes for specific age groups (in absolute numbers) for the decade were the increase in persons aged 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64 and 85+. Table 2.5 details the demographic changes encountered by Bayfield County for the decade between 1990 and 2000. Figure 2.5 makes use of population pyramids to graphically depict the age and male/female distribution of Bayfield County in 2000.
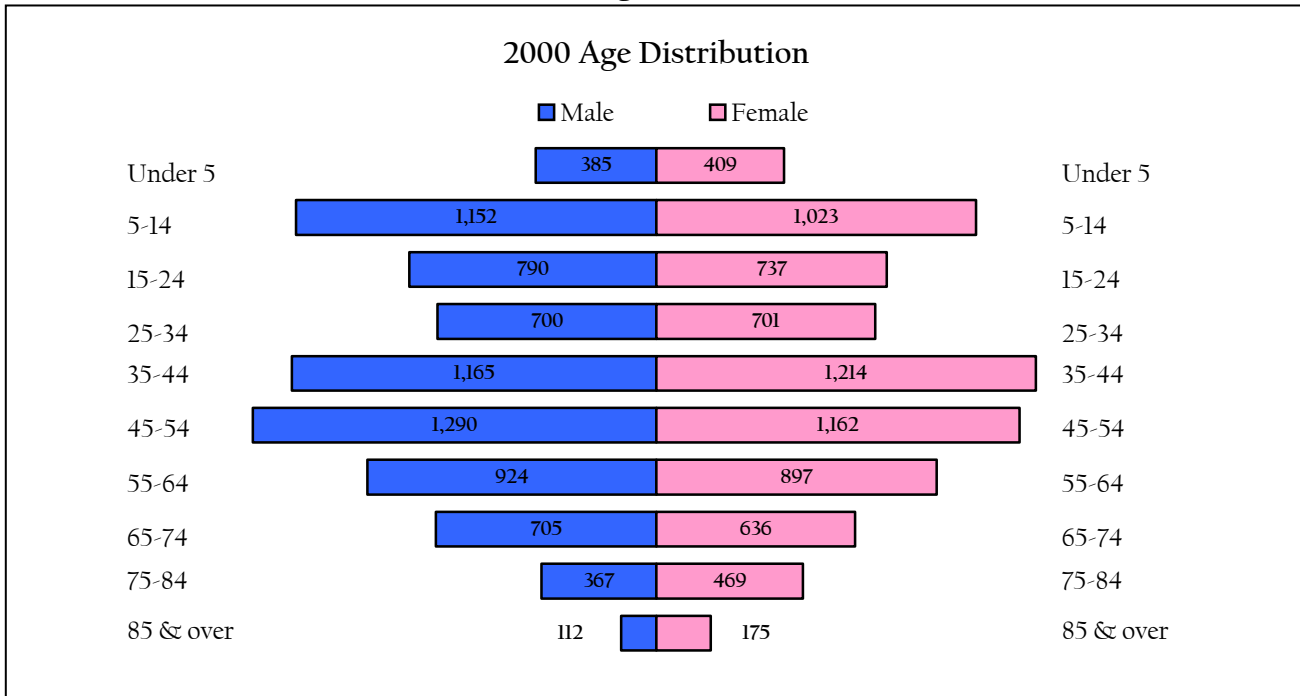
Table 2.5: Bayfield Demographic Change, 1990-2000

Age category	Change in Absolute Numbers 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Under 5	-147	-15.6%
5 to 14	-33	-1.5%
15 to 24	+86	+6.0%
25 to 34	-524	-27.2%
35 to 44	+239	+11.2%
45 to 54	+990	+67.7%
55 to 64	+400	+28.1%
65 to 74	-23	-1.7%
75 to 84	-41	-4.7%
85 and over	+58	+25.3%
Selected age categories		
All inhabitants over 75	+19	+1.7%
All inhabitants over 65	-4	-0.2%
All inhabitants 45 to 64	+1390	+48.2%
All inhabitants under 24	-94	-2.0%
All inhabitants under 14	-180	-5.7%

Source: Calculated from US Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Figure 2.5

2000 Age Distribution

■ Male   ■ Female

Age Group	Male	Female	Age Group
Under 5	385	409	Under 5
5-14	1,152	1,023	5-14
15-24	790	737	15-24
25-34	700	701	25-34
35-44	1,165	1,214	35-44
45-54	1,290	1,162	45-54
55-64	924	897	55-64
65-74	705	636	65-74
75-84	367	469	75-84
85 & over	112	175	85 & over

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Factors Affecting Population and Demographic Change

Bayfield County is experiencing trends common to other counties in the northern portion of Wisconsin:

- A growing population of elderly (age 85 and over) inhabitants who remain, have family or other ties to the area;
- An influx of 35 to 54 year olds who are generally well educated, without children or with few children, and seek a tranquil setting to reside or start businesses;
- An out-migration of retired individuals (aged 65 to 84) who have spent their work careers in the area but seek to retire elsewhere and maintain their residence as a seasonal home;
- An increase of retired individuals (85 and over) who have spent their working career elsewhere and are now establishing a residence in the county or converting their summer home or seasonal dwelling into a permanent residence;
- A decrease in infants born into or moving with families into the county;
- An overall decrease in persons between the ages of 15 and 34; as this age group is most likely to seek employment and educational opportunities elsewhere.

These demographic changes are by no means uniform throughout all municipal units of the county, as several municipal units deviate from the overall county trends. The Towns of Barksdale, Barnes, Drummond, Hughes, Iron River, Kelly, Keystone, Lincoln, Mason, Russell, and Washburn report an increase in persons age 24 and under for the decade, while 16 of the county's 29 units of government report an increase in persons aged 65 and over. Map 2.3 depicts the change in the 24 and under group and the 65 and over group from 1990 to 2000 by municipality.

Map 2.3 – Change in Inhabitants by Municipality 1990-2000

Population Summary

Two central trends are evident in examining the projections through 2020. First, towns that are remote or lack the traditional amenities for recreation or seasonal home construction (desirable lakefront property, ideal secluded building sites, proximity to recreational sites and activities) are projected to grow more slowly or experience a declining population. Secondly, civil divisions that have these amenities are projected to sustain a higher continued population growth. Map 2.4 depicts historic change by municipality from 1950 to 2000 and projected population change from 2000 to 2020 by municipality.

2.4 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Households

An analysis of the households in the county helps to establish a generalized understanding of the lives of the county's inhabitants and an insight into community life. Understanding household composition and condition is essential in assessing future needs of the county's inhabitants.

The US Census identified 6,207 households in Bayfield County in 2000, an increase of 12.5 percent from 1990. Of this total, 1,637 (26.3%) are identified as one-person households, while 4,570 (73.3%) are identified as having two or more persons. Of all households, 4,275 (68.9%) are reported as family households and 1,932 (31.1%) are reported as non-family households.

Of all county households, over three-fourths (80.3%) are composed of three persons or less. Table 2.6 reveals in more detail the composition and characteristics of households in the county from the 2000 Census.

Table 2.6: Bayfield County Household Characteristics, 2000

	Total	Percent of all households
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	**6,207**	100%
1 PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	*1,637*	25.6%
2 OR MORE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	*4,570*	73.3%
2 persons in household	2,456	39.6%
3 persons in household	891	14.4%
4 persons in household	722	11.6%
5 persons in household	330	5.3%
6 persons in household	111	1.8%
7 or more persons in household	60	1.0%
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	*4,275*	68.9%
NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	*1,932*	31.1%
Male householder	1,052	54.5%
Female householder	880	45.5%
Average Household Size	2.40	(X)
Average Family Size	2.88	(X)

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2000

Note: Percentages are not cumulative; they are representative subsets of the total percentage of households.

(X) Not Applicable+

Map 2.4 – Change in Population from 1950-2000, 2000-2020 by Municipality