

## CHAPTER TWO

The analysis of current and future population trends serves as a fundamental basis for many planning decisions. The size of the population, its composition, and spatial distribution can significantly impact future social, economic and physical land use needs. An examination of the current and future population size as well as composition also serves as a reference point to predict the future demand for additional facilities and services.

### PAST POPULATION TRENDS

It is necessary to examine past population trends to understand future projections. In order to put these trends into context it is important to understand population shifts as they have affected the state as a whole. As documented in the *Atlas of Kentucky*, the mean center of population in the United States has shifted westward since the first national census in 1790. In fact, the mean population center for the United States was located in extreme Northern Kentucky in 1880. Since the first census, the population of Kentucky has never declined but has experienced periods of slow growth as shown in Figure 2-1.

One of the most significant trends affecting population growth in Kentucky occurred between 1980 and 1990. During this time, the state's population increased by less than one percent (0.8%). This increase is extremely low compared to the national average increase of 10% during this same period. Lack of economic opportunities in the state relative to other states in the 1980's contributed to Kentucky's slow growth. During this period, many people sought employment in other states, mostly in the Sun Belt.

In 2000, the state's population totaled 4,041,769 which was a 9.63% increase from the year 1990. As of July 2002, the Kentucky State Data Center (KSDC) estimated that the state had a population of 4,092,891, an increase of 1.3% since 2000. KSDC also estimates that Kentucky will continue to grow between 8% - 9% through the year 2030. According to the KSDC middle population growth projections, released in July 2003, it is estimated that Kentucky will have a total population of 5,006,887 by 2030.



# Population

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Figures 2-2 and 2-4 depict the change in population for Campbell County and the City of Alexandria. Figures 2-3 and 2-5 show population trends in the Northern Kentucky region as well as for the various cities within Campbell County.

Figure 2-2 shows the change in population in Campbell County from 1950 to 2000. The chart also details population projections into the year 2030. From 1950 to 1960, the county experienced a substantial increase (14%) in population, followed by a period of minimal growth (2%) between 1960 and 1970. The population then decreased by almost six percent (-5.86%) from 1970 to 1980. This decrease in population is attributed to out-migration from the state overall. From 1980 to 1990, the county had a slight increase (.66%) in population. In 2000, the population of Campbell County was 88,616, a 5.66% increase from 1990. As of July 1, 2002, the State Data Center estimates that the population of the county is 88,604 which is a slight decrease from the 2000 Census.

In a regional context, Campbell County's population has experienced more fluctuation and has grown at a slower rate than Boone or Kenton Counties. During the period between 1970 and 1980, the county lost population while Kenton County maintained a minimal growth rate and Boone County's population increased. In addition, Campbell County only experienced a less than one percent (.6%) change in population during the period from 1980 to 1990 while Kenton County grew at a rate of 3.6% and Boone County at 25.6%. All three counties grew between 1990 and 2000, with Boone County having the largest increase (49.3%) in population. Campbell County had the second largest increase (6.64%) of the three counties. This compares with a 9.63% increase in the population for Kentucky overall during this same period.

In contrast to the county, the population trend for the City of Alexandria, the third largest city in Campbell County, has been one of steady growth. Figure 2-3 shows the census population for Alexandria for the years 1960 to 2000. The chart also depicts estimated population projections for the city in ten year increments up to the year 2030. From reviewing Figures 2-4 and 2-5, it can be seen that the population of the City of Alexandria has consistently increased over the past forty (40) years while the population for Campbell County cities have fluctuated and even lost population.

Alexandria experienced its greatest increase (191.7%) in population from 1960 to 1970. Significant increases in population continued during the years between 1970 and 1980 when the city grew by 23.2%. From 1980 to 1990, the

city's population increased by 18.1%. Alexandria's second largest increase (48.2%) in population occurred from 1990 to 2000. This large increase is attributed to immigration. On July 1, 2002, the Kentucky State Data Center estimated that the city had a population of 8,274.

For many Campbell County cities, the decreases in population from 1980 to 1990 were caused by out-migration and slowed economic development. However, Campbell County cities near major arterial routes continued to grow in population due to their location and suburban character. Figures 2-5, 2-6, and 2-7 detail the change in population of incorporated cities in Campbell County from 1980 to 2000. During the period between 1980 and 1990, nine out of fifteen (60%) of the county's incorporated cities lost population. From 1990 to 2000, seven out of fifteen (47%) of the county's incorporated cities lost population. As a whole, Campbell County cities gained population while the unincorporated areas lost population. This reverses the trend from 1980 to 1990 where residents were moving out into the unincorporated portions of the county. It is estimated that the loss in population from the unincorporated areas is not due to out-migration but can be attributed to aggressive annexation efforts by Campbell County cities.

In July 2002, the Kentucky State Data Center estimated that Campbell County was the 8th largest county in the state in terms of population size. Out of a total of 422 cities in Kentucky, Alexandria ranked 43rd in terms of population size. Other Campbell County cities were ranked as follows:

**Table 2-1  
Ranking of Campbell County Cities  
in Terms of Population Size**

	<b>2000 Rank</b>	<b>2002 Rank</b>
Newport	19th	21st
Fort Thomas	22nd	24th
<b>Alexandria</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>43rd</b>
Highland Heights	56th	58th
Bellevue	58th	60th
Dayton	63rd	71st
Cold Spring	88th	77th
Southgate	95th	94th
Wilder	116th	112th
Silver Grove	190th	192nd
Crestview	305th	306th
Melbourne	310th	311th
Woodlawn	365th	366th
Mentor	394th	395th
California	419th	419th

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau (Release Date: July 10, 2003)



## FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Population projections are derived from statistical analysis that consider both recent and historic population trends. Typically population forecasts for counties such as Campbell County are generally accurate while those for cities like Alexandria are generally considered less reliable due to the possibility of annexation which can significantly alter the population of an area in a short period of time.

Population projections for Campbell County are shown on Figure 2-2. These projections are issued by the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute which produces projections of Kentucky state and county resident populations by age and sex. The projections used for the development of the comprehensive plan were released on August 5, 2003 and replace all previous forecasts produced by the Institute. They are the latest official population forecasts since the 2000 U.S. Census and are revised periodically.

Although, three (3) alternative series of projections are provided (low, middle, and high), the middle series is preferred and generally recommended for planning purposes. Forecast assumptions for future fertility, survivorship, and migration are derived from the range of cohort rates shown for the components during the 1990-1995 and 1995-2000 periods. For each series, there are county migration rates by age and sex. Fertility assumptions, measured by age-specific birth rates, were derived for each county. Lower birth rates were used in the low projections, and higher birth rates were used in both the middle and high projections. Projections of future population growth were derived from detailed analysis of county-level demographic components of change such as births, deaths, and migration and are based on a cohort-component method. State projections are obtained by summing the county projections. For each county, resident population birth cohorts by sex and five-year age groups through the age of eight-five (85) and above are projected forward in five-year age intervals. Age-sex cohorts are aged forward from a beginning age (x) to an ending age (x+5) by adjusting for migration and survivorship. Resident live births over the five-year period are derived from the projected size of the female populations and county-level-age-specific birth rates.

As can be seen in Figure 2-2, Campbell County's population is projected to continue to grow over the next thirty (30) years. The institute has estimated that a 4% rate of growth will continue into the year 2010 and then slightly slow to 1-2% from 2010 to 2030. From these projections it can be seen that Campbell County is being influenced by the same population trends experienced by the United States

overall. We are entering a period of little or no growth and the birth rate is lower than in earlier periods. Although the death rate has declined, more deaths are occurring, as there are more elderly persons in the population. In essence, the number of deaths is approaching the number of births. In Kentucky, the birth rate is lower than the national average and the death rate is higher than the national average. As a result, it is projected that by the year 2030, the number of deaths in Kentucky will exceed the number of births. This also indicates that migration has become an increasingly important factor in population projections. From 1990 to 1995, Campbell County had 6,333 births and 4,016 deaths. Migration rates have been typically negative for the county. In the period from 1980 to 1986 there was a negative migration rate (-4,400 persons). However, due to a strong local and regional economy, Campbell County experienced a positive net migration rate from 1990 to 1995. This positive net migration resulted in an overall population increase of 1,559 persons during this period. However, in 2000 the number of births was 6,246 and deaths 4,158. The migration rate during the time period was -1214.

The Kentucky State Data Center (KSDC) does not issue population projections for cities. City populations are projected as a proportion of the county's population. Figure 2-3 shows population projections for the City of Alexandria based upon the middle growth population projections for Campbell County. Since 1970, the number of residents within the City of Alexandria has increasingly accounted for a greater percentage of the county's population. In 1990, Alexandria's population accounted for almost 7% of the county's population. This percentage increased to 9.3% in the year 2000. As the city is currently annexing large tracts of developing land adjacent to city limits, it is estimated that the rate of population as a percentage of the county's population will continue to increase by 2-4 % for each ten year period. Using this method, projections suggest that the city's population will continue to grow at a greater rate than the county and account for a greater proportion of the county's population in the future. Based upon these assumptions, it is estimated that the population of the city will reach 12,429 by the year 2010 and 15,537 by 2020. Therefore, it is estimated that the city will more than double in size by the year 2030 if annexation and development continue to occur at the current rate. In 2030, it is estimated that 18.64% of Campbell County's population will reside in the City of Alexandria.



## POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Prior to the year 2000, the U.S. Census classified a county's population as either "urban", "rural farm", or "rural non-farm" (suburban). These classifications were based upon the location of an individual's home and the amount of income earned from agricultural activities. According to the 1990 Census, Campbell County was 82.4% urban, 16% rural non-farm, and 1.2% rural farm. In a regional context, Campbell County was more urban than Boone County or the State of Kentucky. However, Kenton County was the most urbanized with 92.6% of its population living in urban areas. Alexandria, being an incorporated city, was considered to have 100% urban population.

In the year 2000, the Census only had two classifications referring to population distribution; "urban" and "rural". Under this classification system, the State of Kentucky was considered to have a population that was 55.7% urban and 44.3% rural. All three (3) Northern Kentucky Counties exceeded the state's percentage of residents living in urban areas. In 2000, 84.3% of Campbell County's population was classified as "Urban". Comparatively, Kenton County reported the highest percentage (92.6%) with Boone County the lowest percentage (75.3%) of residents living in rural areas.

## AGE & SEX CHARACTERISTICS

A population pyramid shows the proportion of a population by sex and age group. Age groups are broken into five (5) year increments up to the age of 85. Those 85 and older are typically shown as one group. A population pyramid for a growing population is in the shape of a true pyramid, wide on the bottom and tapering smaller at the top. A large base of young and working aged persons support a smaller number of elderly persons. An inverted pyramid, with fewer younger persons than older persons, indicates that the population is declining.

The figures shown on page 2-14 show the population pyramids for Campbell County for the years 2000, 2010, and 2020 as developed by the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute (released August 2003). These figures depict changes in the population composition in Campbell County from 2000 to 2020. During this time period, the number of school aged children (0-19) continues to decline while those in the workforce age toward retirement. The number of elderly

persons and those aged 20 to 30 remain fairly constant over the twenty year period. Therefore, the median age of Campbell County residents will gradually increase over the next twenty years with the majority of workers entering retirement age.

There are slightly more females than males in the population overall. In 1990, Campbell County's population distribution was 47.8% male and 52.2% female. In the year 2000, the percentage of males increased slightly to 48.2% while females accounted for 51.8%. As the population ages, the percentage of females to males gradually increases from age 60.

## RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Although the county has become more racially diverse since the 1990 Census, Campbell County and the City of Alexandria have a relatively homogeneous racial composition with the majority of the population categorized as "White" as shown in Figure 2-10. In 2000, Campbell County had a total population of 88,616 with 87,942 persons (99.2%) considering themselves as one race and 674 persons (.7%) considering themselves as two or more races. Of the persons considering themselves as one race, 85,636 (96.6% ) of the total population were White. Black or African American persons accounted for 1.6% of the population. A very small percentage of the population (.2%) was categorized as American Indian and Alaska Native, .5% were Asian, and less than 1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. The number of persons categorized "some other race" comprised .3% . Persons considering themselves to be Hispanic accounted for .8% of Campbell County's population.

In 2000, the City of Alexandria had a total population of 8,286 with 8,258 persons (99.6%) considering themselves as one race and 28 persons (.3%) considering themselves as two or more races. Of the persons considering themselves as one race, 8,188 (98.8% ) of the total population were White. Persons considering themselves Black or African American, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders accounted for less than one percent of the population. A very small percentage of the population (.5%) was categorized as Asian. The number of persons categorized as "some other race" comprised .3% Persons



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considering themselves to be Hispanic accounted for .7% of Alexandria's population.

Minority populations are expected to increase as a percentage of the United States population overall. As a high level of migration into the county is anticipated for the foreseeable future, it can be expected that minority populations in Campbell County and the City of Alexandria will increase during the planning period.

## HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILY

The basic reporting unit, in terms of demographic data, is the household. The household is also the most prevalent living arrangement in American society. A household can either be classified as a family household or a non-family household. A family household is comprised of two persons or more who are related by blood, legal adoption, or marriage.

In 1990, Kentucky had 2.60 persons per household. However, by the year 2000, the number of persons per household had declined to 2.47. As can be seen from reviewing the table below, the number of persons per household in Campbell County exceeded that of the State of Kentucky and Boone County. Alexandria had the second highest number of persons per household of incorporated cities in Campbell County.

**Table 2-2  
Persons Per Household**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Number of Persons Per Household</b>
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>2.47</b>
<b>Campbell County</b>	<b>2.49</b>
Boone County	2.44
Kenton County	2.52
<b>Alexandria</b>	<b>2.87</b>
Bellevue	2.35
California	3.31
Cold Spring	2.59
Crestview	2.84
Dayton	2.69
Fort Thomas	2.39
Highland Heights	2.16
Melbourne	2.54
Mentor	2.59
Newport	2.38
Silver Grove	2.56
Southgate	2.17
Wilder	2.26
Woodlawn	2.73

*Source: 2000 U.S. Census*



Campbell County and the City of Alexandria are experiencing the same trend as Kentucky and the U.S. overall as household sizes continue to shrink. It is anticipated that this trend will continue in the future as the population continues to age and as family sizes continue to remain small.

## EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The educational level of an area's population must be considered when analyzing the ability of those in the local workforce to obtain and sustain meaningful and well-paying employment in the future. In today's economy, the fastest growing professional occupations require at least a bachelor's degree and are concentrated heavily on professional specialty occupational groups. The following table compares U.S., Kentucky, Northern Kentucky Counties, and Campbell County Cities in terms of the percentage of the population which are high school graduates and persons with bachelor's degrees and higher for persons 25 years and older.

**TABLE 2-3**  
**EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF POPULATION**

<b>Location</b>	<b>% High School Graduates or Higher</b>	<b>% of 25++ with Bachelors or above</b>
USA	80.4%	24.4%
Kentucky	74.1%	17.1%
<b>Campbell County</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>20.5%</b>
Boone County	85.1%	22.8%
Kenton County	82.1%	22.9%
<b>Alexandria</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>
Bellevue	81.2%	12.5%
California	72.5%	11.8%
Cold Spring	89.9%	28.5%
Crestview	90.0%	21.2%
Dayton	69.2%	5.2%
Fort Thomas	89.3%	<b>37.0%</b>
Highland Heights	80.5%	22.6%
Melbourne	79.6%	31.0%
Mentor	83.8%	12.6%
Newport	65.3%	10.8%
Silver Grove	73.6%	10.7%
Southgate	89.5%	30.7%
Wilder	<b>93.6%</b>	35.8%
Woodlawn	90.7%	13.7%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census



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In 2000, 80.8% of Campbell County's population completed high school with 20.5% of 25 year olds or older having a bachelors degree or higher. These percentages were higher than the state overall but lower than that for Boone and Kenton Counties. The City of Alexandria exceeded the county's and state's averages with 87.1% completing high school, and 21.9% of those aged 25+ with a bachelor's degree. Of Campbell County cities, Wilder had the highest percentage (93.6%) of those graduating high school, while Fort Thomas had the highest percentage (37%) of population with a bachelor's degree or above.

## **SUMMARY**

The following statements summarize the findings of the population chapter:

1. Campbell County's population growth is expected to continue at a moderate rate until the year 2020. It is estimated that a total of 95,862 persons will reside in the county by the year 2030.
2. The City of Alexandria will continue to experience rapid population growth due to its suburban context, desirable location near two arterial routes, and the city's aggressive efforts to annex adjacent developing property. It is estimated that the city will more than double in size by the year 2030 when it is projected that the city will have a population of 17,868.
3. The areas of greatest population growth in Campbell County are anticipated to occur in the cities of Southgate, Wilder, Cold Spring, and Alexandria and unincorporated areas near I-275, along the "AA" Highway and U.S. 27. Most future development will occur in an "urban" context as Campbell County cities continue to annex new development.
4. The population within Campbell County and the City of Alexandria is expected to become increasingly diverse as in-migration into the region continues over the planning period.
5. The number of Campbell County residents living in urban areas will continue to increase as household sizes continue to shrink.