

PLAN 4: POPULATION/SOCIO-ECONOMIC

An analysis of the characteristics of Dauphin County's population is vital to understanding and planning for the needs of its residents. Past trends, present profiles, and future projections of population data provides a very complete picture of the past, present, and future composition of a community. Not only is it a tool for monitoring the population composition, but for making planning decisions that will affect the future development of the County. An analysis of population projections often uncovers future needs that are not made evident by other indicators.

The amount and type of population being served directly dictates the land use scenarios required by residential, commercial, and industrial development. Future population fluctuations will directly determine the size and number of public facilities needed such as schools, parks, and playgrounds. County level population trends can also be utilized by local municipalities when preparing and updating their Comprehensive Plans.

Population Trends

The population trends indicate that the population of boroughs and the City of Harrisburg are decreasing. Residential construction is occurring primarily in the townships, which in turn draws people out of the boroughs and the City. The vacancies are often not being filled. To stem this tide, infill development and redevelopment within the boroughs and City of Harrisburg should be encouraged. New development should be promoted in the Community Service Areas (CSAs) in and around the boroughs and City where infrastructure and services are readily available or planned.

Educational Attainment

The percentage of high school graduates for persons age 25 and over decreased approximately 2 percent between 1990 and 2000. High school graduation needs to be encouraged and promoted and curriculum and programs

offered for incentives. Post high school education has been increasing. To further the increase a variety of opportunities, both technical and collegiate should be maintained and increased in the Tri-County region. Efforts should be made to attract graduates into the area by providing a wide range of employment, as well as social and cultural, opportunities.

Income

Both median household and median family income has increased nearly 150 percent since 1980 in Dauphin County as a whole. To maintain this trend continued effort is needed to increase employment opportunities in the Tri-County area. Educational opportunities should be maintained and broadened to promote the availability of employment above the minimum wage.

Socio-Economic Demographics

The socio-economic demographics of Dauphin County are discussed in Chapter 4 of the Basic Studies portion of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. Trends are examined and population projections are made for 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. Population projections were based on the State Data Center county population projections, which were based on the 1990 U.S. Census. When the State Data Center prepares new projections based on the 2000 Census, the population projections in this plan should be re-examined. Housing projections which are based on population projections should also be re-evaluated at that time.

Basic Studies Chapter 4 provides both historical and current data. Data has been obtained from a variety of sources, which publish their data at various time periods. It is anticipated that the demographic information will be used by a variety of users, including municipal and county agencies. The comprehensive plan should be amended, as needed, to provide up-to-date data as it becomes available.

POPULATION/SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLAN			
GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	
P/SE-1 Continue population increase in Dauphin County	P/SE-1.1 Maintain and increase the population of boroughs, villages & the City of Harrisburg	P/SE-1.1.A	Encourage infill and redevelopment
		P/SE-1.1.B	Encourage new development to locate within areas where there is existing or planned infrastructure
P/SE-2 Increase standard of living of Dauphin County residents	P/SE-2.1 Increase income of Dauphin County residents	P/SE-2.1.A	Provide employment opportunities throughout Dauphin County and the Tri-County Region
		P/SE-2.1.B	Provide educational opportunities to promote employment at levels above minimum wage
		P/SE-2.1.C	Maintain low unemployment rates
P/SE-3 Well educated workforce	P/SE-3.1 Increase the educational attainment of Dauphin County residents	P/SE-3.1.A	Encourage high school graduation
		P/SE-3.1.B	Provide opportunities for education and training beyond the high school level
P/SE-4 Provide a data base for use by Dauphin Co., municipalities and the general public	P/SE-4.1 Provide historical data for Dauphin County	P/SE-4.1.A	Provide a central clearing house for historical population and socio-economic data for Dauphin County
		P/SE-4.1.B	Make data readily available to Dauphin County agencies, municipalities and the general public
	P/SE-4.2 Provide current, up-to-date data	P/SE-4.2.A	Provide a central clearing house for current, up-to-date population and socio-economic data for Dauphin County
		P/SE-4.2.B	Update data as more current information becomes available
		P/SE-4.2.C	Make data readily available to Dauphin County agencies, municipalities and the general public
	P/SE-4.3 Provide projected data for 2005, 2010, 2015 & 2020 and beyond	P/SE-4.3.A	Provide revised projected data as it becomes available
		P/SE-4.3.B	Update Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan when State Data Center provides new population projections based on the 2000 U.S. Census
	P/SE-4.3.C	Make data readily available to Dauphin County agencies, municipalities and the general public	