

SUMMARY

This report contains Vermont census counts of population for 2000, and population estimates for 2001 and 2002. Population totals for counties and towns are presented (Tables 2 and 3, Figures 2 and 4). A listing of towns ranked in order of decreasing 2002 population is provided (Table 4). In addition, the age-sex distributions for the state and counties are given (Table 5). Historical population data for Vermont counties are provided in Table 1. Housing unit estimates are no longer available in this report.

The population of Vermont to was estimated to be 615,611 on April 1, 2002 (Table 1), up from the census count of 608,827 on April 1, 2000. This is an increase of 6,784 people, or 1.1 percent from the census. Net migration in Vermont from 2000 to 2002 indicates an overall in-migration of 4,375 people (Table 2). Net migration is calculated as the difference between population change and natural increase (births minus deaths). The highest growth rates occurred in Grand Isle, Lamoille and Franklin Counties (Table 2, Figure 3). In Grand Isle County the large percentage increase is in part a reflection of the small population. Rutland County showed the slowest growth, increasing just 0.2 percent since 2000.

Of the 255 towns and cities in Vermont, eight had total populations that exceeded 10,000 (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 2). These eight places accounted for 23.8 percent of the state's population. Ninety four towns had resident populations less than 1,000 people, and three unorganized places in Essex County had no permanent residents (Avery's Gore, Lewis and Warner's Grant). Due to limitations in the data available for many towns, estimates may vary substantially from year to year. Observing the population trend for several years gives sense of the true population picture.

The fastest growing segment of the Vermont population is the 45-64 year old age group (Figure 5, Table 5). There has been a slight decline since the Census in the under 10 population, as well as in the 25-39 and 65-79 year age groups.

The 2001 and 2002 population estimates were produced for the Vermont Department of Health by Claritas, Inc. The 2001 estimates were produced without the benefit of complete 2000 Census data, so there is more fluctuation than usual in the year to year estimates, particularly in the age group estimates. Also, both the 2001 and 2002 estimates were produced with uncorrected Census data, the result being that the estimates for some towns (most noticeably Burlington and South Burlington) do not reflect corrections made to the original Census counts. The corrected Census counts are published here. A description of the methods used in producing these estimates is available from VDH at (802) 863-7300.

No postcensal estimates of the racial and ethnic distribution of Vermont's population are available at the time of this publication. We have included race and ethnicity data from the 2000 Census here (Tables 6 and 7).