

SUMMARY

This report contains Vermont census counts of population for 2000, and population estimates for 2007 and 2008. 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 2008 population is provided (Table 4). In addition, the age-sex distributions for the state and counties are given (Tables 5,6). 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 was estimated to be 621,270 on July 1, 2008 (Table 1), marginally higher than the 2007 estimate of 621,254, and up from the census count of 608,827 on April 1, 2000. This is an increase of 12,443 people, or 2.0 percent from the census. Net migration in Vermont from 2000 to 2008 indicates an overall in-migration of 790 people (Table 2) since the Census, but the net migration has been negative since 2006. 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. The four southernmost counties all show a small decline in population since 2000.

Of the 255 towns and cities in Vermont, nine had total 2008 populations that exceeded 10,000 (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 2). These nine places accounted for 25.4 percent of the state's population. Ninety-one 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 55-64 year old age group (Figure 5, Table 5). There has been a decline since the Census in the under 18 population, as well as in the 30-44 age group.

Population estimates by race and ethnicity for Vermont for 2008 are included in tables 7 and 8. These estimates are for the race and ethnicity categories used prior to the 2000 Census. Estimates utilizing the Census 2000 race and ethnicity categories are available from the US Census Bureau at www.census.gov.

The estimates published here were produced for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) by the United States Census Bureau with minor exceptions for one town and two unorganized places. The Census Bureau estimated that one person lived in each of Lewis and Avery's Gore in Essex County. These places have previously been uninhabited, and VDH has received no compelling evidence to suggest that this has changed, so VDH continues to estimate zero population in these places and added those people to the largest neighboring town, Brighton. Information about the Census Bureau's estimate methodology is available at www.census.gov.