



Chapter 1

Issues and Opportunities



INTRODUCTION

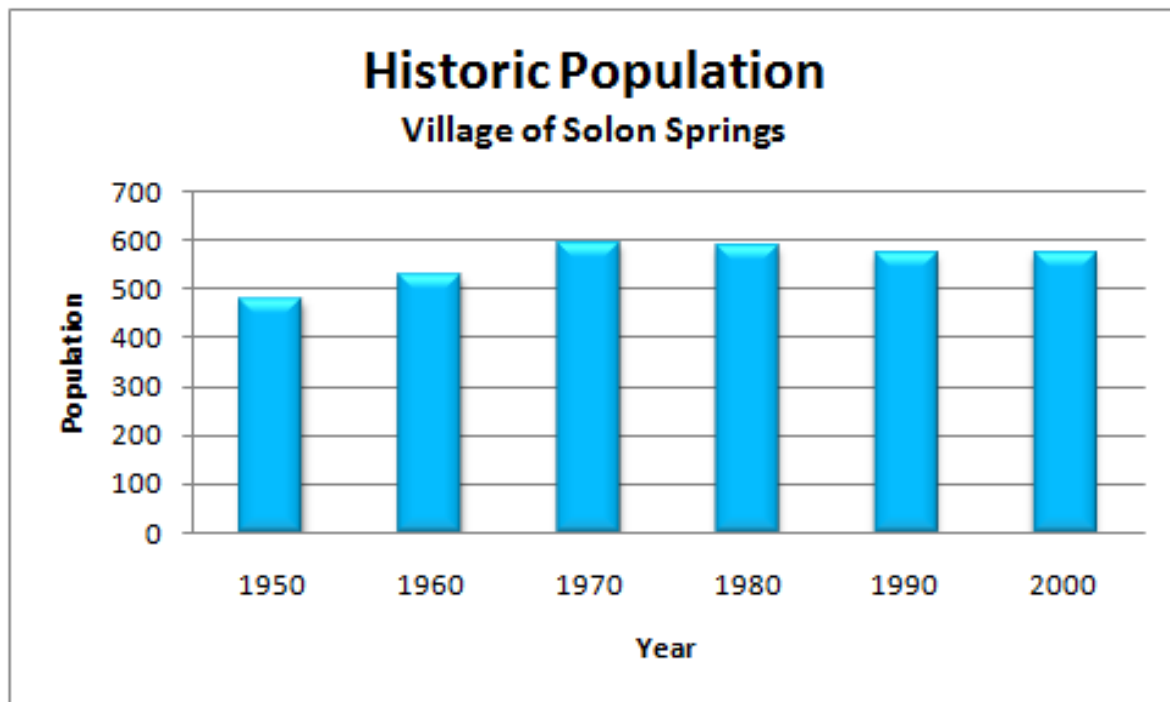
Population is an important contributing factor to both the pattern of settlement and development of a community. Significant changes in the number of inhabitants, along with the characteristics of income, education, and age, will impact economic development, land use, transportation, and use of public and private services. Examining population trends enhances the community's ability to prepare for and understand the future.

POPULATION

Historic Population

Population growth in the Village of Solon Springs increased during the period 1950 through 1970 (**Figure 1.1**). The population peaked in 1970, when the village supported 598 residents. Since that time, the village's population has decreased 3.8 percent to an estimated population in 2007 of 575 (WDOA, 2007).

Figure 1.1: Historic Population (1950-2000), Village of Solon Springs



Source: US Census Data, 1950-2000

At the same time that the Village of Solon Springs was losing population, the surrounding Town of Solon Springs experienced strong population growth. Between 1980 and 2000, the town grew by 46 percent, while the village declined in population by 2.4 percent. The historic population of all communities in Douglas County is depicted in **Table 1.1**.



Table 1.1: Historic Population (1950-2000), Douglas County

Municipality	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change 1950-2000
T Amnicon	623	657	898	916	929	1074	+72%
T Bennett	412	325	333	501	525	622	+51%
T Brule	660	575	497	544	527	591	-10%
T Cloverland	355	343	255	263	246	247	-30%
T Dairyland	368	256	233	258	222	186	-49%
T Gordon	572	389	416	627	553	645	+13%
T Hawthorne	704	578	677	902	1,049	1,045	+48%
T Highland	140	147	156	190	207	245	+75%
T Lakeside	438	480	514	572	569	609	+39%
T Maple	604	575	608	685	667	649	+7%
T Oakland	530	636	624	938	993	1,144	+116%
T Parkland	1,313	1,531	1,523	1,496	1,326	1,240	-6%
T Solon Springs	395	367	471	553	619	807	+104%
T Summit	823	841	905	1,057	1,009	1,042	+27%
T Superior	1,311	1,530	1,743	2,065	1,911	2,058	+57%
T Wascott	284	268	301	511	535	714	+151%
Total unincorporated	9,532	9,498	10,154	12,078	11,887	12,918	+36%
V Lake Nebagamon	340	346	523	780	900	1,015	+198%
V Oliver	210	222	210	253	265	358	+70%
V Poplar	489	475	455	569	516	552	+13%
V Solon Springs	480	530	598	590	575	576	+20%
V Superior	339	374	476	580	481	500	+47%
C Superior	35,325	33,563	32,237	29,511	27,134	27,368	-22%
Total incorporated	37,183	35,510	34,499	32,343	29,871	30,369	-18%
Douglas County	46,715	45,008	44,657	44,421	41,758	43,287	-7%

Source: US Census Data, 1950-2000

Factors Influencing Population Change

Currently, the most influential factors affecting population change in Douglas County are net migration and natural change (births, deaths). Between 2000 and 2004, the county experienced a net migration rate of 0.5%, which was lower than the both the statewide average and the average for Wisconsin’s metropolitan counties. The rate of natural increase during this period was 0.4%, which was also significantly lower than the statewide and Wisconsin metropolitan county averages.

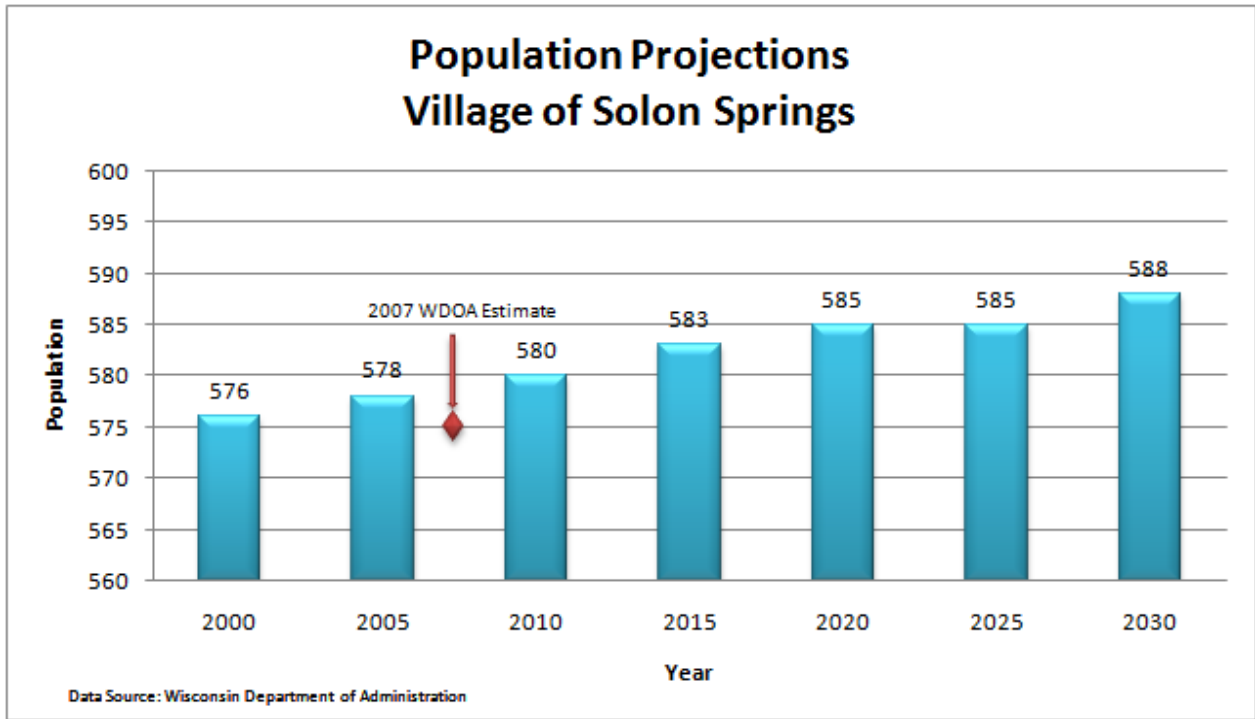


In 2006, the county's fertility rate¹ of 55.2 was lower than the surrounding counties and the less than the statewide average of 63.4. Over the past 15 years, the countywide fertility rate has generally been declining, meaning fewer residents are having babies. If this trend continues, future growth as a result of natural increase will likely diminish.

Population Forecasts for the Village of Solon Springs

Figure 1.2 reflects the 2007-2030 population projections for the Village of Solon Springs developed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA). Population projections represent estimates of future population change based on historical population change. Actual future population growth will be based on many social and economic factors. It is important to recognize that unforeseen events may cause dramatic deviations from the projected future values.

Figure 1.2: Population Projections 2000-2030, Village of Solon Springs



WDOA projections indicate that slow population growth is expected in of the Village of Solon Springs up to the year 2030. The current estimated population (2007) is 575 residents, which compares well with WDOA forecast population model which indicates 578 and 580 residents in 2007.

¹ Number of live births per 1,000 women (aged 15-44 years)



Population Forecasts for Douglas County

Table 1.2: Population Projections 2000-2030, Douglas County

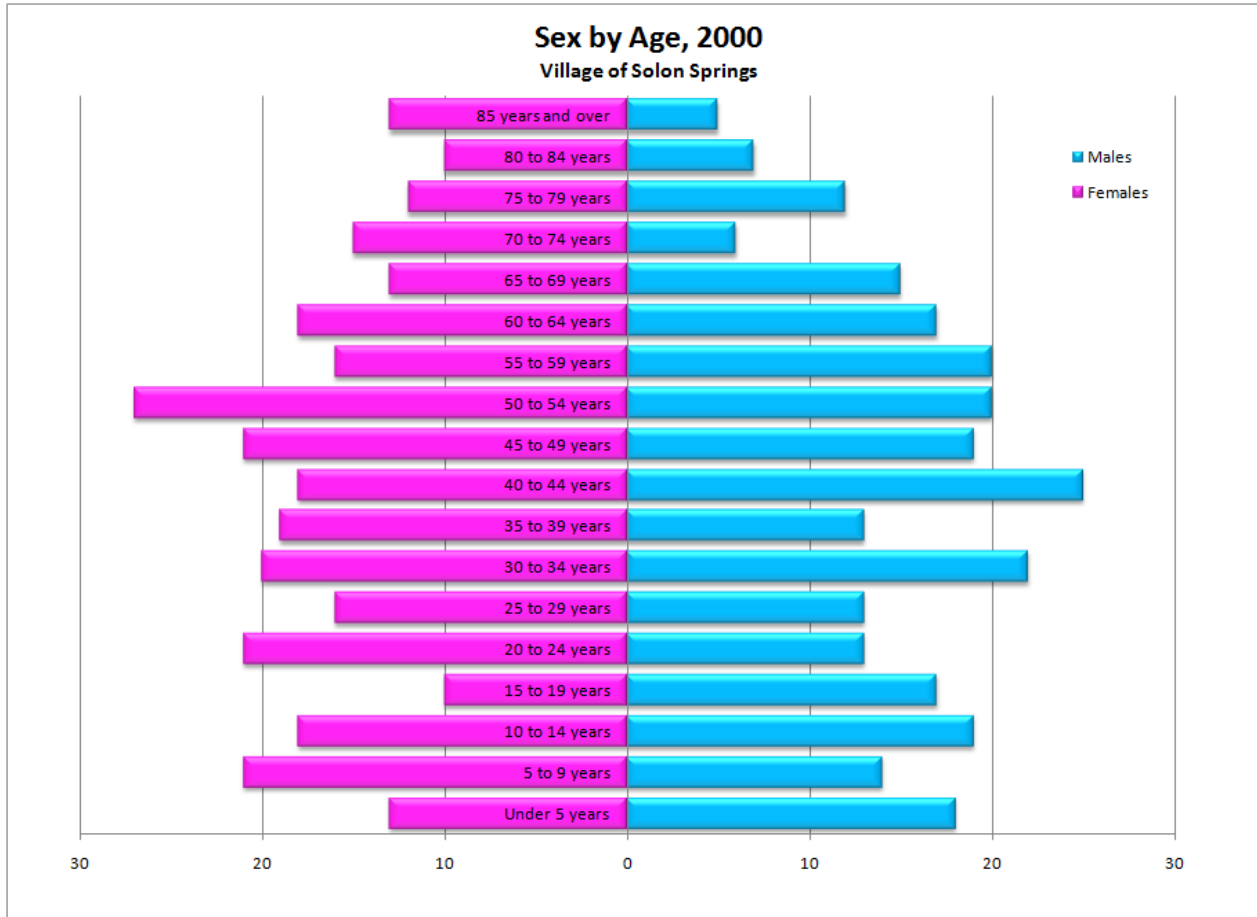
Towns	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Amnicon	1,074	1,134	1,196	1,259	1,322	1,378	1,386
Bennett	622	658	696	734	772	806	811
Brule	591	624	658	693	727	758	762
Cloverland	247	245	244	243	241	239	240
Dairyland	186	181	177	172	167	162	163
Gordon	645	700	756	813	870	922	927
Hawthorne	1,045	1,079	1,115	1,152	1,188	1,218	1,225
Highland	245	272	299	327	354	380	382
Lakeside	609	630	651	673	695	713	717
Maple	649	659	671	683	694	702	706
Oakland	1,144	1,217	1,292	1,369	1,445	1,513	1,522
Parkland	1,240	1,218	1,198	1,178	1,157	1,130	1,137
Solon Springs	807	886	966	1,048	1,129	1,205	1,212
Summit	1,042	1,062	1,084	1,107	1,128	1,144	1,151
Superior	2,058	2,157	2,260	2,366	2,470	2,561	2,576
Wascott	714	786	860	935	1,009	1,079	1,085
Villages							
Lake Nebagamon	1,015	1,061	1,109	1,159	1,207	1,249	1,256
Oliver	358	400	443	486	529	570	573
Poplar	552	561	570	580	590	596	599
Solon Springs	576	578	580	583	585	585	588
Superior village	500	528	558	587	617	643	647
City							
Superior	27,368	27,337	27,351	27,385	27,385	27,240	27,397
County Total							
Douglas County	43,287	43,973	44,734	45,532	46,281	46,793	47,062

Population projections for Douglas County as a whole indicate consistent growth through 2030 (**Table 1.2**). The Village of Solon Springs is expected to grow at a much slower pace than the other four villages in Douglas County. The Town of Solon Springs is expected to grow at a much greater rate than the village.



AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

Figure 1.3: Sex by Age, 2000



Source: US Census Data, SF1 Data File -2000

In understanding community composition, it is important to go beyond simple population statistics. Other factors such as age and sex characteristics play a pivotal role in understanding trends and anticipating future changes.

Solon Spring’s population pyramid (**Figure 1.3**) is reflective of a slow growth trend. In a community which is growing, this graph would show a more triangular pyramid shape. The “barrel” type shape of Solon Springs population pyramid reflects the trends of declining birth rate coupled with a relatively stable death rate.

Table 1.3 depicts population change in key age categories between the 1990 and 2000 Census.



Table 1.3: Population Change by Age Class, 1990-2000

Age category	1990 Decennial Census	2000 Decennial Census	Change 1990-2000	Percent Change: 1990-2000
Under 5	27	31	4	+14.8%
5 to 14	80	72	-8	-10.0%
15 to 24	58	61	3	+5.2%
25 to 34	70	71	1	+1.4%
35 to 44	84	75	-9	-10.7%
45 to 54	62	87	25	+40.3%
55 to 64	49	71	22	+44.9%
65 to 74	75	49	-26	-34.7%
75 to 84	56	41	-15	-26.8%
85 and over	14	18	4	+28.6%
Selected Age Categories				
All inhabitants under 14	107	103	-4	-3.7%
All inhabitants under 24	165	164	-1	-0.6%
All inhabitants over 65	145	108	-37	-25.5%
All inhabitants over 75	70	59	-11	-15.7%

Children (Under age 18)

In Solon Springs, the under 18 age cohort is comprised of 123 individuals. This age cohort is generally declining, as evidenced by reductions in school enrollment within the Solon Springs School District. Reasons for this decline include lower birth rates and that fact that families are having fewer children.

Young Population (Ages 18-24)

In the Village of Solon Springs, the 18 to 24 age cohort consists of 41 individuals. The small number of young people reflects the fact that these individuals are being drawn to other communities for educational or work purposes. The fact that a large university (University of Wisconsin-Superior) and technical college (WITC-Superior) exists nearby may actually assist in sustaining some of the population in this age class. Young people in Solon Springs choosing to attend these institutions may continue to live at home while commuting to Superior for classes. A challenge in retaining this age class is the lack of employment opportunities available in the village.

Working-Age Population (Ages 24-54)



The 24 to 54 age cohort is the largest population group in the Village of Solon Springs. This age group is typically less mobile than the young population, and is more likely to purchase homes and have children. Because of the lack of available employment opportunities in the village, many of the individuals in this age class commute to outlying areas for work.

Retirement-Age Population (Ages 65 and over)

In 2000, there were 108 individuals aged 65 and older in the Village of Solon Springs. As the working age population continues to age and retire, the post-retirement age class will become larger. This sector of the population typically requires more services and programs than the younger population groups. Health care, assisted-living facilities and senior housing needs can be expected to grow as the village's population ages.



RACE AND ORIGIN

Table 1.4: Race Characteristics, Village of Solon Springs

Race	Village of Solon Springs		Douglas County		State of Wisconsin	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	544	94.4	41,273	95.3	4,827,514	90.0
Black or African American	4	0.7	246	0.6	326,506	6.1
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	2.3	786	1.8	69,386	1.3
Asian	8	1.4	273	0.6	102,768	1.9
Hispanic or Latino	3	0.5	315	0.7	192,921	3.6
Two or more races	8	1.4	612	1.4	66,895	1.2
Other	0	0.0	109	0.3	86,472	1.6

Source: US Census Data, SF1 Data File -2000

Most Solon Springs residents were born in the USA. Slightly over one-half (55.4%) of village residents were born in the State of Wisconsin. Of those residents born outside of Wisconsin, most (34.6%) were born in other Midwestern states. According to the 2000 census, 9 village residents were born outside of the United States. There was very little change in race and origin characteristics in the Village of Solon Springs between 1990 and 2000. **Tables 1.4-1.5** contain detailed origin and characteristics for the Village of Solon Springs.

Table 1.5 : Origin Characteristics, Village of Solon Springs

Origin Variables	Number of Residents	Percent of Residents
Total:	572	100.0%
Native:	559	97.7%
Born in state of residence	317	55.4%
Born in other state in the United States:	233	40.7%
Northeast	16	2.8%
Midwest	198	34.6%
South	12	2.1%
West	7	1.2%
Born outside the United States:	9	1.6%
Puerto Rico	0	0.0%
U.S. Island Areas	4	0.7%
Born abroad of American parent(s)	5	0.9%
Foreign born:	13	2.3%
Naturalized citizen	6	1.0%
Not a citizen	7	1.2%

Source: US Census Data, SF3 Data File -2000



HOUSEHOLDS

According to the Census Bureau, A **household** includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. Detailed household characteristics for the Village of Solon Springs are shown in **Table 1.6**.

Household Characteristics

Table 1.6: Household Characteristics, Village of Solon Springs

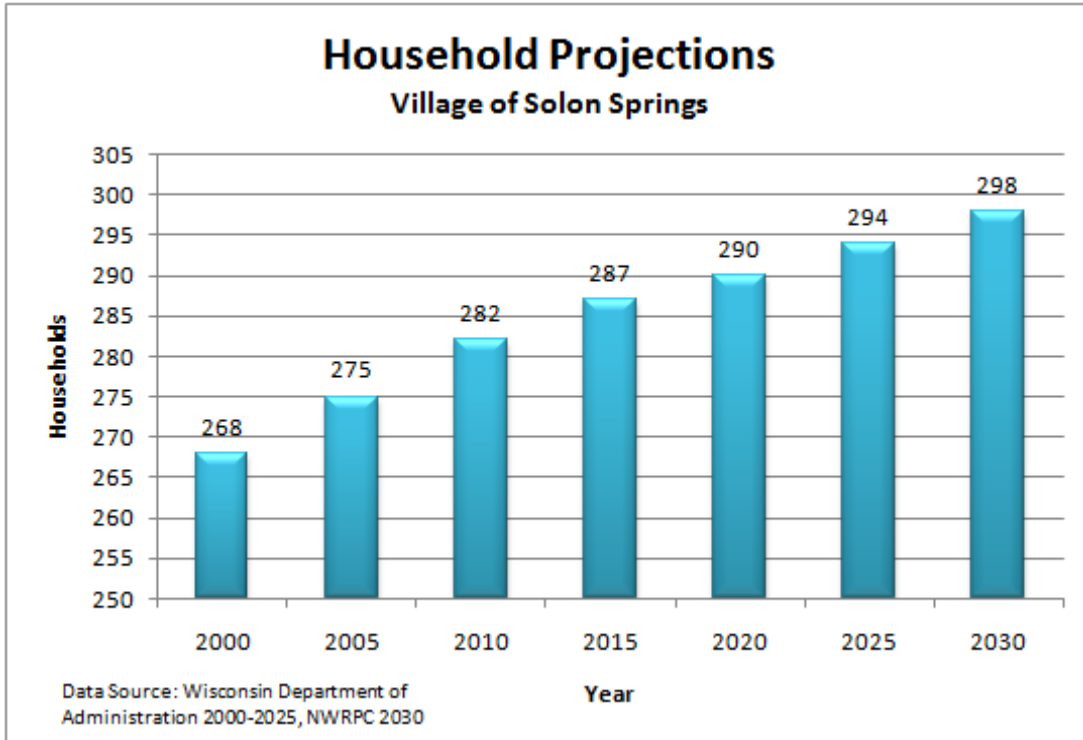
	Total	Percent
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	268	100.0%
1 PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	93	34.7%
Male householder	36	13.4%
Female householder	57	21.3%
Householder age 65 and over	43	16.0%
Householder age 64 or younger	50	18.7%
2 OR MORE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS	175	65.3%
Family Households	157	58.6%
Married couple families	133	49.6%
Married couple families with related children	47	17.5%
Female householder, no husband present	17	6.3%
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	12	4.5%
Female householder, no husband present, with no related children	5	1.9%
2 persons in household	102	38.1%
3 persons in household	33	12.3%
4 persons in household	25	9.3%
5 persons in household	11	4.1%
6 persons in household	3	1.1%
7 or more persons in household	1	0.4%
Non-family Households	111	41.4%
Male householder	45	16.8%
Female householder	66	24.6%

Source: 2000 US Census STF 1



As shown in **Figure 1.4**, projected growth in households in the Village of Solon Springs is forecast to be 11.2 percent between 2000 and 2023. The rate of growth in households is projected to exceed the rate of growth in population during the planning period. This is a direct result of a steadily declining average household size. In 1980 the average household size in Solon springs was 2.73 persons per household. This figure had declined to 2.20 by 2000. By 2030, the average household size is expected to be less than 2.0 persons per household (**Table 1.7**).

Figure 1.4: Household Projections, 2000-2030



Factors contributing to this decline in persons per household include the out migration of inhabitants over the age of 18 for work or school, overall smaller family sizes, fewer families with children moving into the area, and fewer children being born to village residents. Additionally, many households are composed of retired couples or are single person households.



Table 1.7: Average Household Size 1980-2030, Douglas County

Towns	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Amnicon	3.16	2.96	3.00	2.89	2.82	2.79	2.77	2.74	2.62
Bennett	2.98	2.84	2.80	2.72	2.66	2.62	2.60	2.58	2.45
Brule	2.52	2.41	2.40	2.36	2.32	2.29	2.27	2.25	2.15
Cloverland	2.92	2.65	2.60	2.58	2.52	2.51	2.48	2.44	2.45
Dairyland	3.19	2.55	2.10	2.08	2.06	2.02	2.01	2.00	2.04
Gordon	2.63	2.29	2.20	2.11	2.07	2.05	2.03	2.01	1.89
Hawthorne	2.96	2.92	2.80	3.02	2.95	2.91	2.88	2.87	2.77
Highland	2.53	2.30	2.30	2.23	2.20	2.17	2.15	2.12	1.97
Lakeside	3.16	2.80	2.70	2.64	2.57	2.55	2.53	2.51	2.43
Maple	2.98	2.66	2.30	2.29	2.24	2.22	2.20	2.17	2.13
Oakland	3.06	2.86	2.70	2.62	2.57	2.54	2.52	2.50	2.37
Parkland	3.07	2.81	2.70	2.61	2.56	2.53	2.51	2.49	2.52
Solon Springs	2.56	2.47	2.40	2.36	2.31	2.29	2.26	2.24	2.10
Summit	2.93	2.67	2.50	2.44	2.38	2.36	2.34	2.31	2.26
Superior	3.15	2.77	2.70	2.63	2.58	2.55	2.52	2.50	2.40
Wascott	2.47	2.21	2.20	2.37	2.31	2.27	2.25	2.24	2.09
Villages									
Lake Nebagamon	2.74	2.65	2.40	2.31	2.27	2.24	2.22	2.20	2.11
Oliver	2.94	2.94	2.80	2.76	2.70	2.66	2.65	2.61	2.43
Poplar	3.21	2.77	2.60	2.59	2.53	2.50	2.48	2.45	2.40
Solon Springs	2.73	2.30	2.20	2.10	2.06	2.03	2.02	1.99	1.97
Superior village	2.97	2.56	2.40	2.34	2.29	2.26	2.24	2.22	2.13
City									
Superior	2.46	2.36	2.30	2.30	2.25	2.22	2.20	2.19	2.17
County Total									
Douglas County	2.60	2.46	2.40	2.38	2.33	2.30	2.28	2.26	2.22

Source: US Census 1980-2000, NWRPC 2000-2030

