

# Demographic Trends and Characteristics

## Population trends

Table 1-1 shows historical population counts for the City of Hillsboro. These counts are compared with counts for the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin. The population of the city from 1930 to 2000 grew by 330 persons, which was an increase of 34 percent. The largest growth within the city during this period occurred between 1930 and 1940 and between 1940 and 1950, with increases of 17.9 percent and 17.0 percent, respectively. The only decline in the City's population over the 70-year period occurred during the 1960s (-9.9 percent). The population of Hillsboro declined in every decade, except for the 1970s (23.7 percent growth) and the 1990s (19.3 percent growth). Vernon County's population over the past 70 years increased by only 150, or less than one percent. The county experienced the largest growth during the 1930s and 1990s, with population increases of 7.3 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively. Between 1930 and 1990s, Wisconsin's population increased by 2.5 million, or 86.2 percent. During this period, the largest growth within the State occurred during the 1960s and 1970s.

**Table 1-1**  
**Historical Population Counts and Growth Rates**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1930-2000**

Year	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County		Wisconsin	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
<b>1930</b>	972	--	948	--	27,906	--	2.9M	--
<b>1940</b>	1,146	17.9	946	-0.2	29,940	7.3	3.1M	6.8
<b>1950</b>	1,341	17.0	833	-12.0	28,537	-4.7	3.4M	9.5
<b>1960</b>	1,366	1.9	667	-19.9	25,663	-10.1	3.9M	15.1
<b>1970</b>	1,231	-9.9	617	-7.5	24,557	-4.3	4.4M	11.8
<b>1980</b>	1,263	2.6	763	23.7	25,642	4.4	4.7M	6.5
<b>1990</b>	1,288	2.0	642	-15.9	25,617	-0.1	4.9M	3.5
<b>2000</b>	1,302	1.9	766	19.3	28,056	9.5	5.4M	9.7
<b>1930-2000 Change</b>	330	34.0	-182	-19.2	150	0.5	2.5M	86.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1930-2000).

## Age Group Distribution Comparison

Table 1-2 shows the age group distribution of the City of Hillsboro's population in comparison to the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin for 1990. The age structure of the City in 1990 was older when compared to structures of the Town, County and State. About 36 percent of the City's population was

over 60 years of age, which was about 17 percentage points higher than the Town, 13 percentage points higher than Vernon County, and 19 percentage points higher than the State. In 1990, the proportions of the City's population in the middle-age (30-60 years) and younger age (under 30 years) groups were lower than the Town, County, and State. The percentage of middle-aged individuals within the City was about 11 percentage points less than the Town of Hillsboro, seven percentage points less than Vernon County, and eight percentage points less than the state. The proportion of the City's population in the younger aged group (34.6 percent) was 6.8 percentage points less than the figures for the Town of Hillsboro (41.4 percent), six percentage points less than Vernon County (40.6 percent), and over 10 percentage points less than Wisconsin (45 percent).

**Table 1-2**  
**Age Group Distribution of Population**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1990**

Age Groups	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County		Wisconsin	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
0-9	159	12.3	82	12.8	3,972	15.5	0.73M	15.0
10-19	142	11.0	92	14.3	3,603	14.1	0.70M	14.4
20-29	146	11.3	92	14.3	2,804	11.0	0.76M	15.6
30-39	175	13.6	97	15.1	3,883	15.2	0.81M	16.6
40-49	115	8.9	88	13.7	2,965	11.6	0.60M	12.3
50-59	85	6.6	70	10.9	2,368	9.2	0.42M	8.6
60-69	173	13.4	56	8.7	2,593	10.1	0.40M	8.2
70-79	160	12.4	52	8.1	2,159	8.4	0.29M	6.0
80 & Over	133	10.3	13	2.0	1,270	5.0	0.16M	3.3
<b>Totals</b>	1,288	100.0	642	100.0	25,617	100.0	4.87M	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1990, STF 1A.

### **Median Age**

In 2000, the median age of residents in the City of Hillsboro was 43.2 years, which was older than the Town of Hillsboro (39.6 years), Vernon County (39.1 years) and Wisconsin (36 years). Between 1970 and 2000 the City's population became younger, with the median age decreasing by 0.1 year. This figure compares to an increase of 8.3 years within the Town of Hillsboro, an increase of 4.8 years within the County, and an increase of 8.8 years within the State.

**Table 1-3**  
**Median Age**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1970-2000**

Area	1970	1980	1990	2000
City of Hillsboro	43.3	49.5	41.6	43.2
Town of Hillsboro	31.3	29.2	35.8	39.6
Vernon County	34.3	33.8	36.1	39.1
Wisconsin	27.2	29.4	32.9	36.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, for year cited.

### **Racial Composition**

The racial make-up of the City of Hillsboro is primarily persons who are European American (Table 1-4). In 2000, European Americans accounted for 99.2 percent of the total population. The other racial groups accounted for 10 residents, or less than one percent of the total population. The largest minority group within the City was Two or More Races. Over 98 percent of the population in the Town of Hillsboro and Vernon County in 2000 were European American.

**Table 1-4**  
**Number of Persons by Race**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, and Vernon County**  
**2000**

Race	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
<b>Total</b>	1,302	100.0	766	100.00	28,056	100.00
<b>European American</b>	1,292	99.23	751	98.04	27,723	98.81
<b>African American</b>	0	0.00	7	0.91	18	0.06
<b>Native American</b>	3	0.23	0	0.00	42	0.15
<b>Asian American</b>	0	0.00	1	0.13	60	0.21
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.01
<b>Two or More Races</b>	5	0.38	5	0.65	136	0.48
<b>Other Races</b>	2	0.15	2	0.26	75	0.27

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1930-2000).

### **Population Density**

In 1990, with a population of 1,288 persons and a land area of 1.2 square miles, the City of Hillsboro's population density was 1,073.3 persons per square mile (ppsqm) (Table 1-5). This figure was 171.5 ppsqm greater than the nearby City of Sparta. The 1990 population density figures for the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin were 18.0 ppsqm, 32.2 ppsqm, and 89.7 ppsqm, respectively.

**Table 1-5  
Population Density  
City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin  
1990**

Area	Land Area (Square Miles)	Population	Persons/Square Mile
City of Hillsboro	1.2	1,288	1,073.3
City of Elroy	1.7	1,533	901.8
Town of Hillsboro	35.6	642	18.0
Vernon County	795	25,617	32.2
Wisconsin	54,313.7	4,869,640	89.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, for year cited.

### **Households**

Table 1-6 shows U.S. Census household counts for the City of Hillsboro for 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000. These counts are compared with counts for the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin. The number of households within the City from 1970 to 2000 grew by 100, which was an increase of 21.5 percent. This figure compares to 53.2 percent for the Town of Hillsboro, 39.7 percent for the County, and 61.5 percent for the State. The largest growth in the number of households within all five areas occurred during the 1970s.

**Table 1-6  
Number of Households  
City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin  
1970-2000**

Year	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County		Wisconsin	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
1970	465	--	186	--	7,751	--	1.3M	--
1980	518	11.4	253	36.0	9,280	19.7	1.7M	24.3
1990	557	7.5	242	-4.4	9,725	4.8	1.8M	10.3
2000	565	1.4	285	17.8	10,825	11.3	2.1M	16.7
<b>% Change 1970-2000</b>	21.5		53.2		39.7		61.5	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

### **Average Household Size**

In 2000, the average household size in the City of Hillsboro was 2.18, which compares with 2.19 in 1990, 2.29 in 1980, and 2.65 in 1970 (Table 1-7). The City's average household size in 2000 was smaller than the average household sizes in the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin. In each of the decades from 1970 to 2000, the City's average household size was smaller than the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County and Wisconsin.

**Table 1-7**  
**Average Household Size**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1970-2000**

Area	1970	1980	1990	2000
City of Hillsboro	2.65	2.29	2.19	2.18
Town of Hillsboro	3.32	3.02	2.65	2.69
Vernon County	3.11	2.72	2.59	2.55
Wisconsin	3.22	2.77	2.61	2.50

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

### **Household Income Levels**

In 1989 (based on 1990 Census data) the household income levels within the City of Hillsboro were below the income levels within the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin. About 43 percent of the City's households had annual income levels under \$15,000, which compares to 32.1 percent for the Town of Hillsboro, 34.7 percent for Vernon County, and 23 percent for the State (Table 1-8). In 1989, about 12 percent of the City's households had annual income levels greater than \$50,000. This figure was comparable to the County and Town of Hillsboro, but approximately 10 percentage points lower than the State. The City's median household income level in 1989 was \$17,523, which compares to \$23,828 for the Town, \$21,548 for Vernon County, and \$29,442 for the State.

**Table 1-8**  
**Household Income Levels**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1989**

Annual Income	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County		Wisconsin	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
Less than \$5,000	43	7.5	27	10.7	659	6.8	67,487	3.6
\$5,000-\$9,999	113	19.7	28	11.1	1,464	15.0	187,926	10.1
\$10,000-\$14,999	88	15.4	26	10.3	1,259	12.9	170,828	9.2
\$15,000-\$24,999	125	21.8	53	21.0	2,235	23.0	341,433	18.4
\$25,000-\$34,999	69	12.0	39	15.4	1,591	16.3	317,699	17.1
\$35,000-\$49,999	68	11.9	53	21.0	1,457	15.0	368,148	20.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	53	9.3	15	5.9	768	7.9	257,090	13.9
\$75,000-\$99,999	7	1.2	4	1.6	169	1.7	65,362	3.5
\$100,000 or more	7	1.2	8	3.2	135	1.4	77,721	4.2
<b>Median</b>	\$17,523		\$23,828		\$21,548		\$29,442	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, STF 3A and STF 3C.

## **Educational Attainment**

In 1990, the number of residents over 25 years of age within the City of Hillsboro that had no high school diploma was 320, or 34.1 percent (Table 1-9). This figure was higher than the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin. Overall, 66 percent of residents over 25 years of age within the City were high school graduates or higher, which was lower than the Town of Hillsboro (68.7), Vernon County (69.1 percent), and the State (78.6 percent). The proportion of City residents in 1990 with an associate degree or higher was 17.7 percent. This figure compares to 14.2 percent for the Town of Hillsboro, 18.9 percent for Vernon County, and 24.9 percent for the State.

**Table 1-9**  
**Educational Attainment of Persons Over 25 Years**  
**City of Hillsboro, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin**  
**1990**

Education Level	City of Hillsboro		Town of Hillsboro		Vernon County		Wisconsin	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Less than 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	230	24.5	73	16.2	3,278	19.4	294,862	9.5
<b>9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade no Diploma</b>	90	9.6	69	15.3	1,920	11.4	367,210	11.9
<b>High School Graduate</b>	333	35.5	206	45.6	6,303	37.3	1,147,697	37.1
<b>Some College, No Degree</b>	120	12.8	40	8.9	2,184	12.9	515,310	16.7
<b>Associate Degree</b>	43	4.6	29	6.4	1,307	7.7	220,177	7.1
<b>Bachelor Degree</b>	79	8.4	31	6.9	1,279	7.6	375,603	12.1
<b>Graduate or Professional Degree</b>	44	4.7	4	0.9	612	3.6	173,367	5.6
<b>Total Population over 25 Years</b>	939	100.0	452	100.0	16,883	100.0	3,094,226	100.0
<b>% High School Graduate or Higher</b>	66.0		68.7		69.1		78.6	
<b>% Associate Degree or Higher</b>	17.7		14.2		18.9		24.9	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, STF 3A and STF 3C.

## **Summary of the City's Demographic Trends and Characteristics**

- Over the past 70 years, the City's population has grown annually by about one-half percent. The most significant growth occurred between the 1930 to 1950.
- In 1990, the age structure of the City's population was older when compared to the Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, and Wisconsin.
- The minority population within the City in 2000 accounted for only 0.77 percent of the City's total population.
- In 1990, the population density of the City was higher than the nearby City of Elroy.

- Between 1970 and 2000, the number of households within the City grew by about 22 percent. During this same period, the City's average household size declined.
- The household income levels within the City in 1990 were lower than the income levels within the State.
- About 70 percent of the City's residents over 25 years of age in 1990 were a high school graduate or higher, which was lower than the State's rate.