



Shaping
Our Region
from the Ground Up

Plan Central Vermont Regional Profile

January 30, 2013



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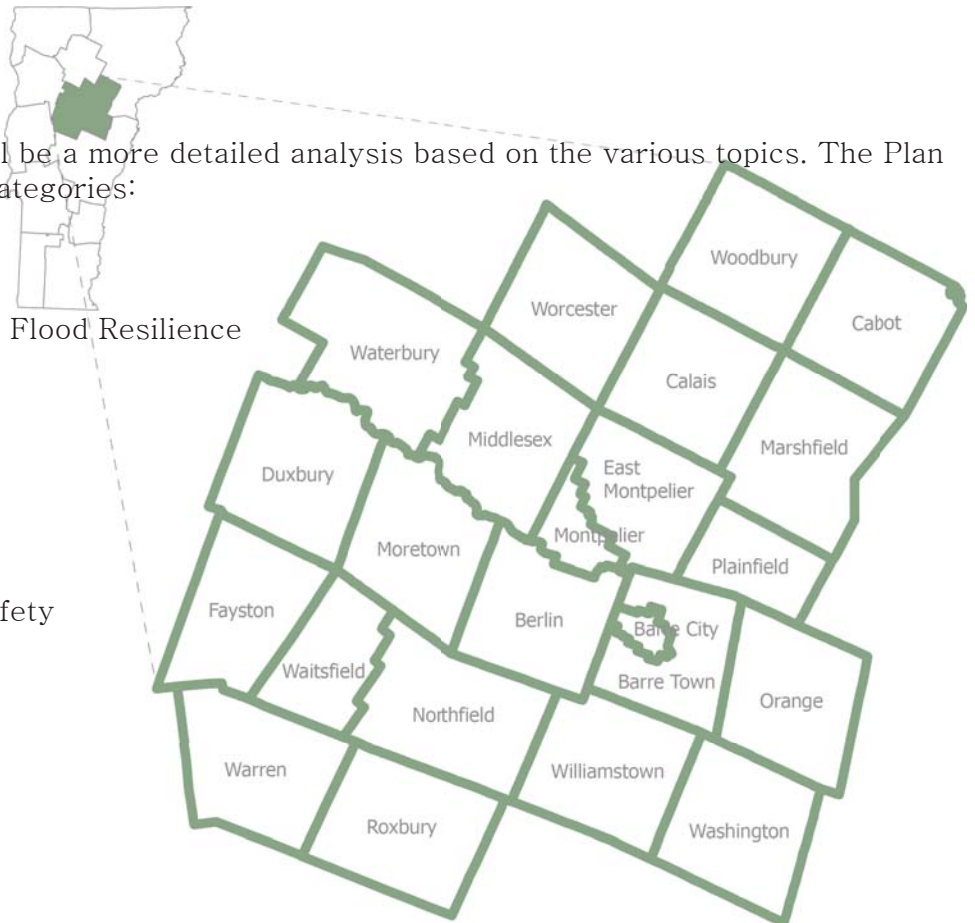
This Regional data analysis was put together by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) at the beginning of a Regional Plan update that will be completed and adopted in 2016: *Plan Central Vermont: Shaping our Region from the Ground Up*. This profile will serve as a starting point for the Regional Plan update to assess the current state of the Region and the changes that have been occurring. The profile is broken down into four main sections: Population, Housing, Economics and Transportation.

The Central Vermont Region consists of twenty-three communities throughout all of Washington County and parts of Orange County. Much of the data in this profile is given at the Regional scale as well as at the town level. Some of the information presented here is also compared to the State of Vermont as well as the United States.

Future Analysis

Within each section of the plan there will be a more detailed analysis based on the various topics. The Plan will be broken down into the following categories:

- Environment & Natural Resources
- Energy Efficiency & Development
- Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation & Flood Resilience
- Scenic Resources & Recreation
- Strong & Diverse Economy
- Forestry & Agriculture
- Community Resources & Facilities
- Active Transportation
- Historic & Cultural Resources
- Healthy Communities
- Emergency Management & Public Safety
- Utilities
- Roads & Infrastructure
- Safe & Affordable Housing
- Land Use



Data

The majority of the data presented in this profile is from 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data or the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates from 2007–2011. While the decennial census is a national survey of the entire US population, the ACS is a survey of sample populations. This data comes from random sections of the population each year and can be viewed in 1-year, 3-year and 5-year estimates. The 5-year estimates that are used in this profile are the most accurate data points from the ACS. They are a summary of the data from the previous five years and have the greatest statistical validity.

Public Outreach

This data will also be supplemented through various community engagement activities. Some activities that have already taken place include partnerships with area high school students to do community interviews and the creation of an interactive online map where residents can provide comments by Regional Plan topic. We will also be completing stakeholder interviews.

Figure 1: Central Vermont Regional Population, 1960-2010

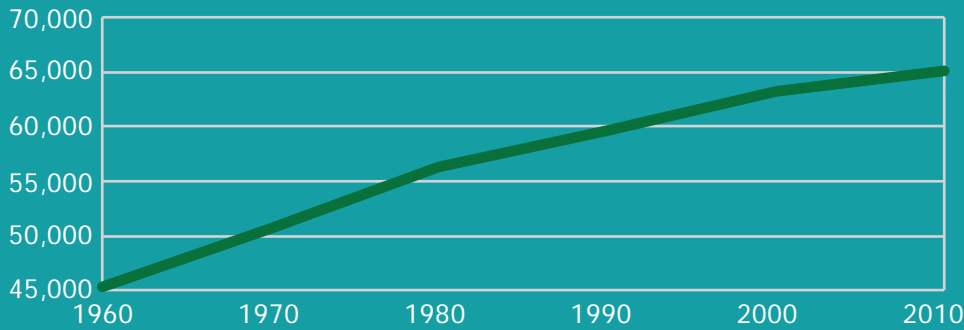


Figure 2: Comparative Population Growth Rate vs. Vermont and US, (1960=1)

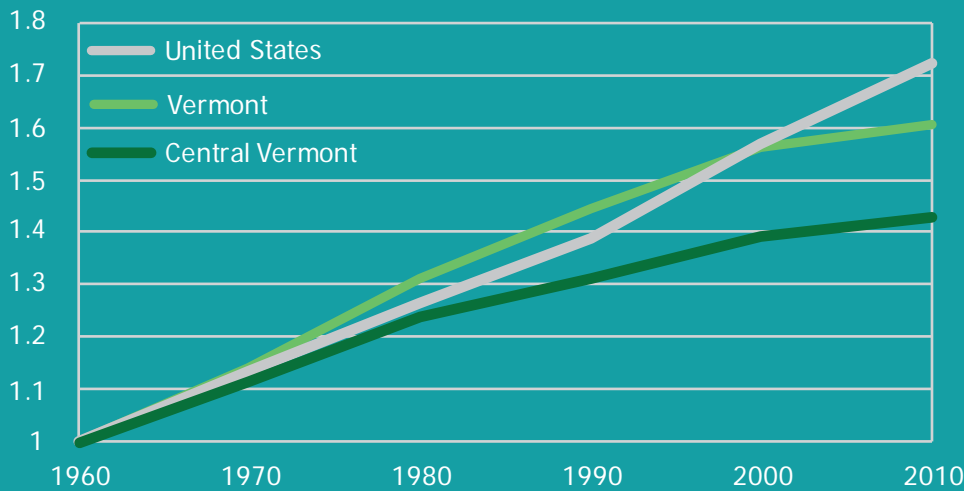
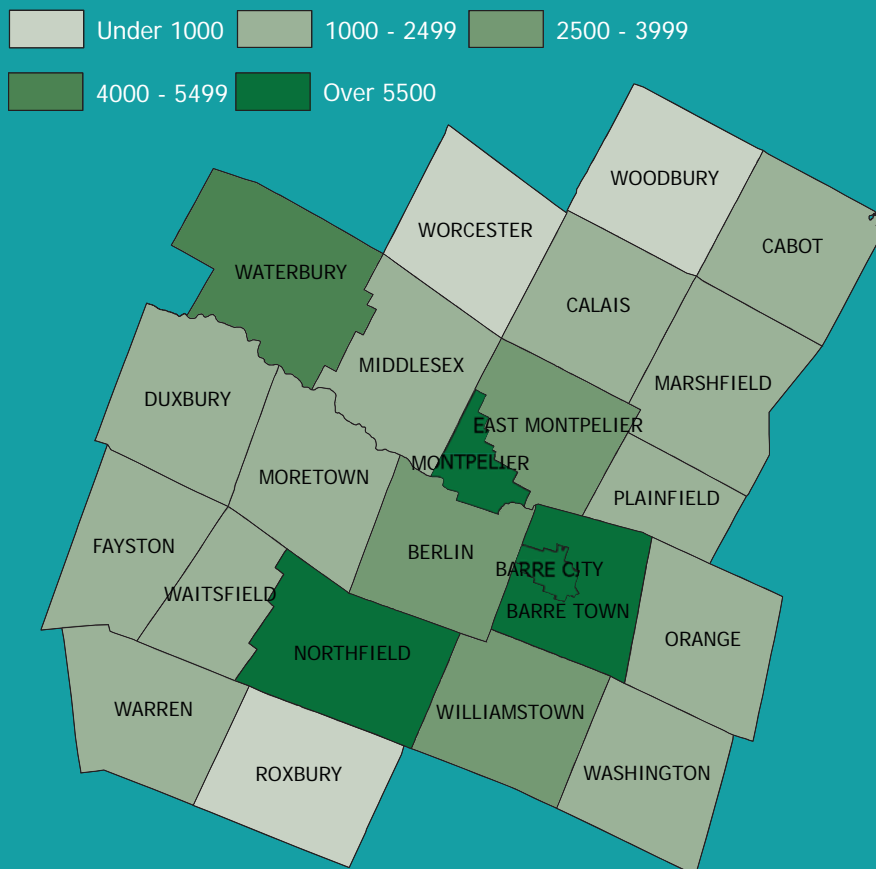


Figure 3: Population by Town, 2010



General Population Trends

According to the 2010 Census, the population of the Region was just over 65,000 people (Figure 1). Historically, the population has been on an upward trend from 50,417 in 1960 until today. Compared to the consistent upward trend of the United States (Figure 2), both the State of Vermont and the Central Vermont Region have seen a small leveling off in their rising population trend, with a slower growth rate regionally than in the State as a whole.

While this trend may seem to imply that the Region is not undergoing a significant change in population, the population within the Region has been shifting as people move into the countryside. As a result of this trend, many of Central Vermont's rural municipalities have doubled their population while our largest cities have not grown at all and even declined.

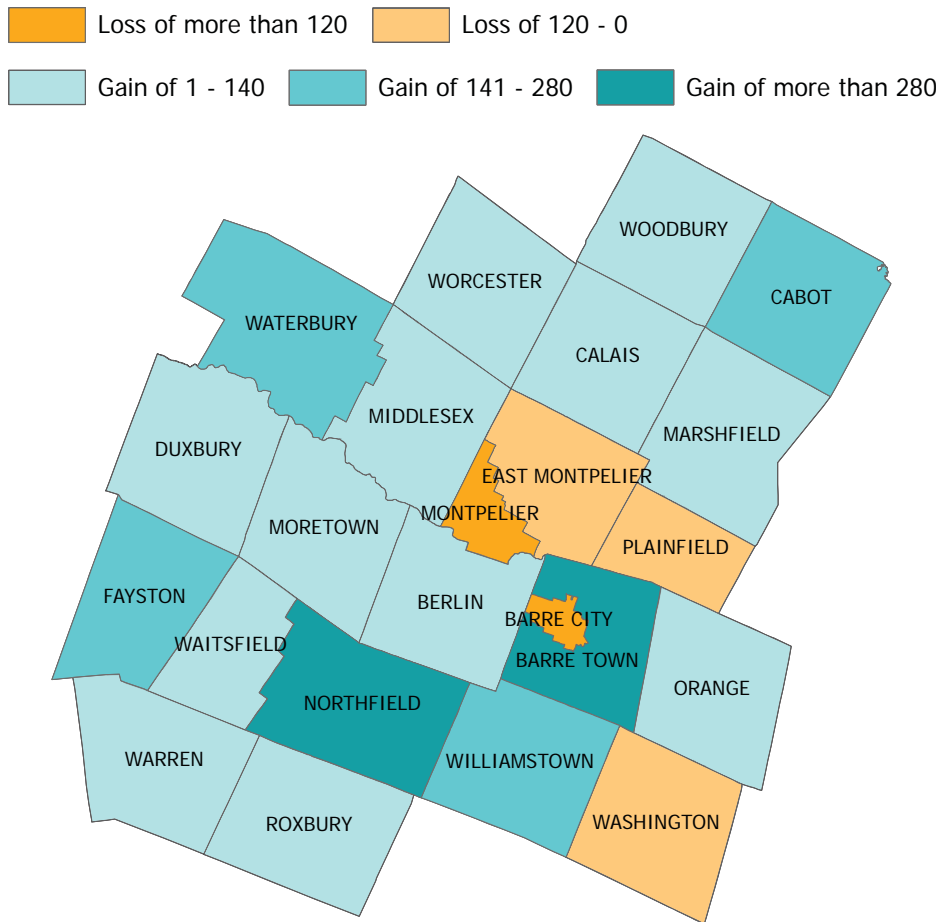
The reasons for shifting land use and habitation patterns include the emergence of commuter lifestyles, a population seeking rural environs and the growth of resort areas.

As of 2010, the largest population centers within the Region, in descending order, were Barre City (9,052), Barre Town (7,924), Montpelier (7,855), Northfield (6,207) and Waterbury (5,064) (Figure 3). The smallest towns, with populations under 1,000, were the more rural communities of Worcester (998), Woodbury (906) and Roxbury (691).

Figure 4 illustrates the population change within each town from 2000–2010. The two cities, Barre and Montpelier, declined in population, with 2010 populations of 9,052 and 7,855 respectively. Contrary to this decline, the majority of the towns saw an increase in population, including the smallest towns of Worcester, Woodbury and Roxbury. Northfield and Barre Town saw the greatest increase in the total number of residents over the 2000–2010 decade, with 322 and 416 additional residents respectively.

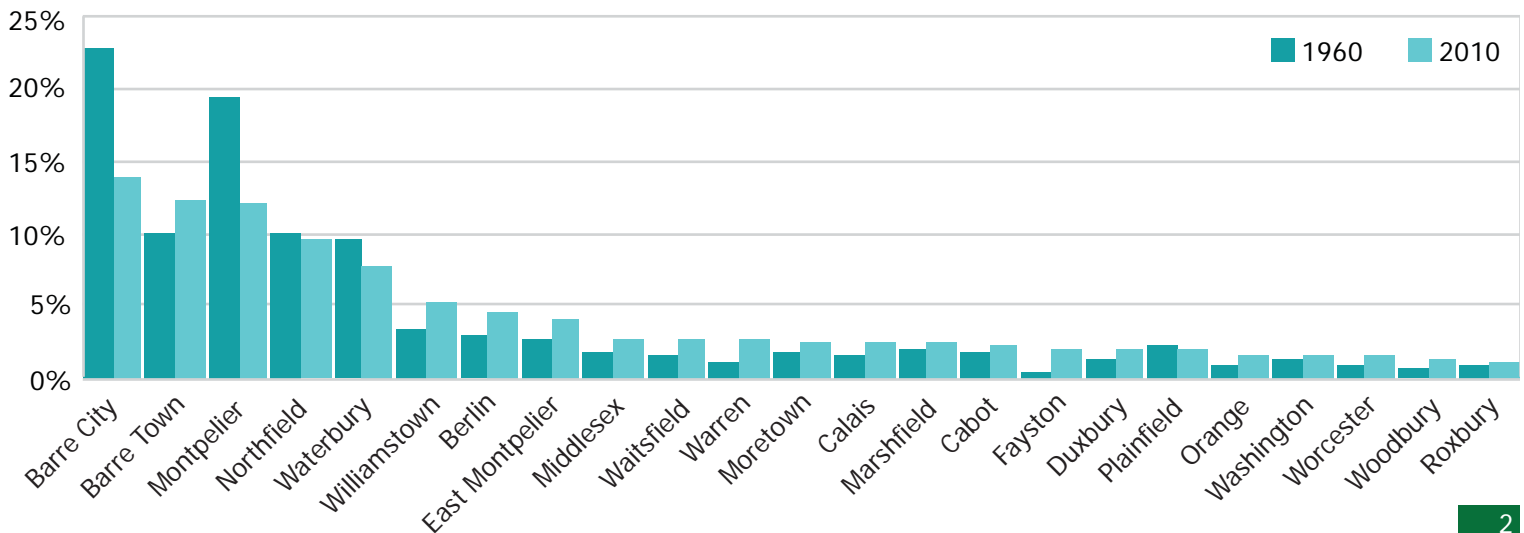
The most significant relative population growth outside of the urban core between 2000 and 2010 was concentrated in the smaller Towns of Cabot (18.1%), Fayston (18.6%) and Roxbury (20.0%) though each of these Towns had populations under 1,500 in 2010. Comparatively, the population in Barre City and Montpelier each declined by around 200 people in the same period, representing population losses of 2.6% and 2.2%, respectively.

Figure 4: Change in Population Size by Town, 2000-2010

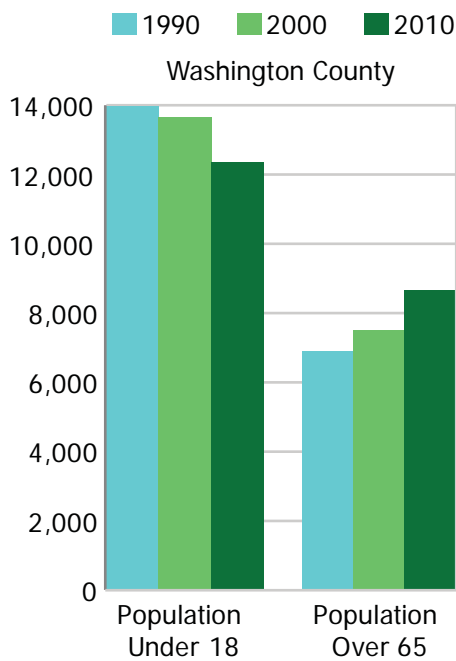
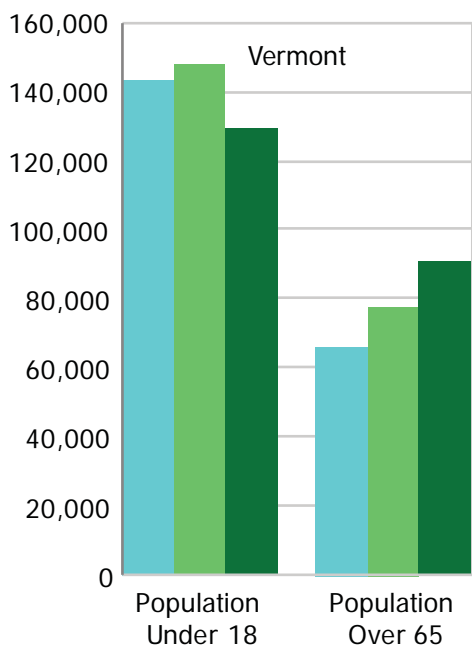


Another way to view this information is by the percent share of the regional population in each town. Figure 5 illustrates town populations as a percentage of the regional population in 1960 and 2010, sorted in descending order by the 2010 regional share. In 1960, the municipalities with the greatest share of regional population in descending order were Barre City, Montpelier, Barre Town, Northfield and Waterbury. In 2010, the top 5 municipalities with the greatest percent of the regional share remained the same, but Barre Town now boasts a greater share of regional population than Montpelier. Barre City also saw a significant decline in its share of regional population while many of the smaller towns saw an increase over the same period. These changes again illustrate a regional shift in population from the cities to the countryside.

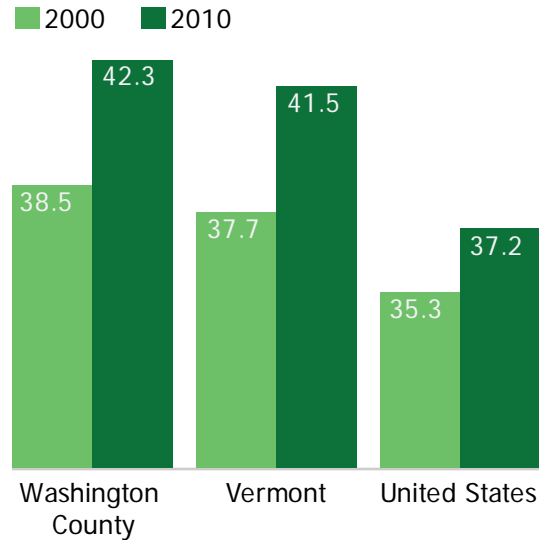
Figure 5: Percent Regional Share of the Population by Town, 1960 and 2010



**Figure 6: Change in Population Under 18 and Over 65
Washington County and Vermont**



**Figure 7: Change in Median Age in
Washington County, Vermont and the
United States**



Population Age

Similar to the State of Vermont, the population under 18 years of age in Washington County declined from 1990 to 2010 while the population over 65 years of age increased (Figure 6). With the exception of an increase in population under 18 at the State level in 2000, the age demographics have been changing at a similar rate at the State and County levels. In the US, State of Vermont and Washington County, the median age increased from 2000 to 2010 (Figure 7) though the median age in the State and County (both with a change of 3.8 years) is increasing twice as fast as the US (1.9 years).

As discussed in the general population trends, there was an increase in population between 2000 and 2010. The largest areas of increased population were in the 55 to 59 age range and the 60 to 64 age range, while the most significant change was the decline in residents age 35 to 44 (Figures 8 and 9). Overall, the

population of residents younger than 44 decreased by 3,797 residents, while the population 45 and over increased by 5,645 residents. This again illustrates that the population within Central Vermont is aging.

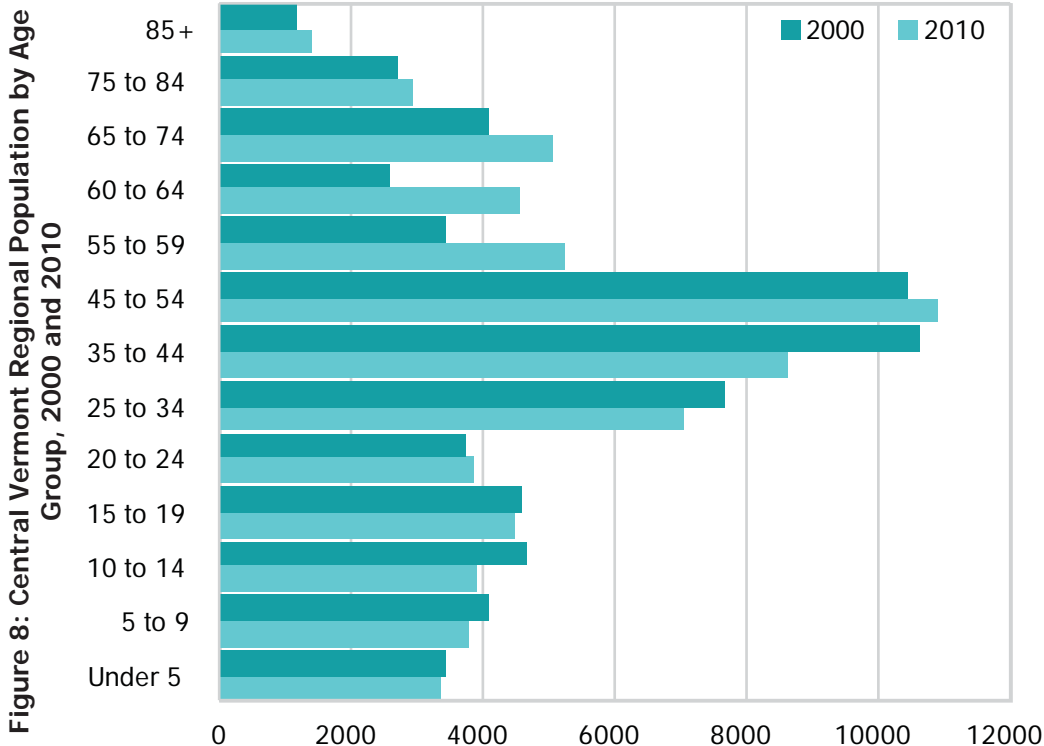


Figure 9: Central Vermont Regional Population Change by Age Group, 2000-2010

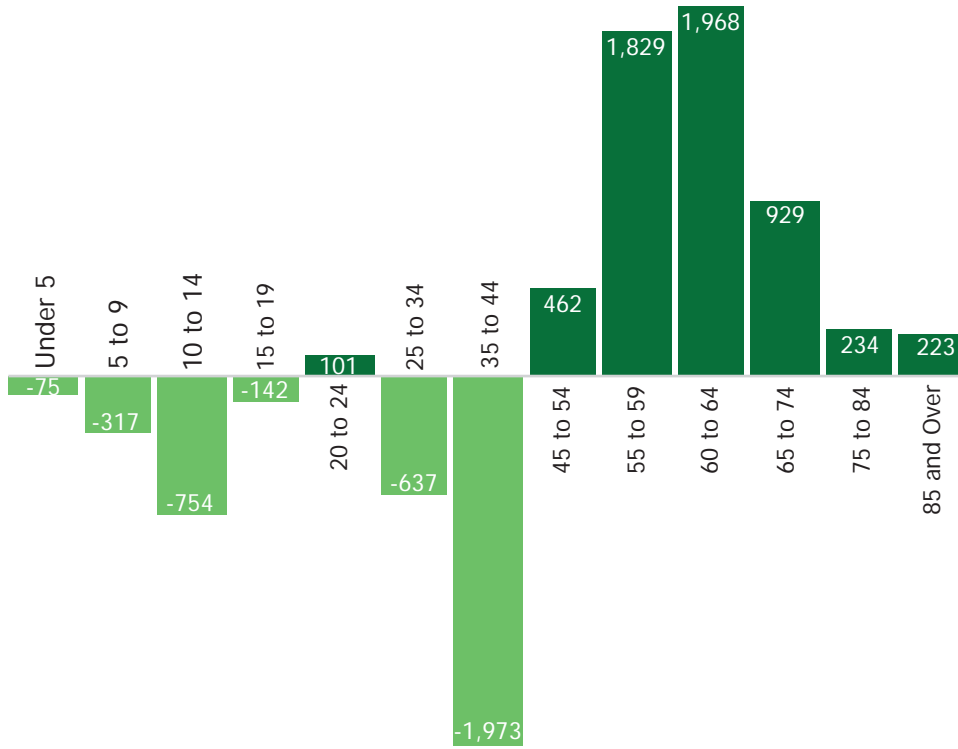


Figure 10: Percent Change in Population Under 18 by Town, 2000-2010

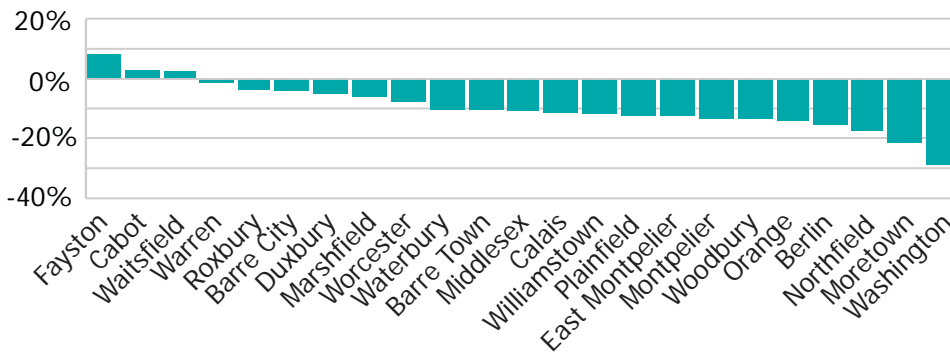
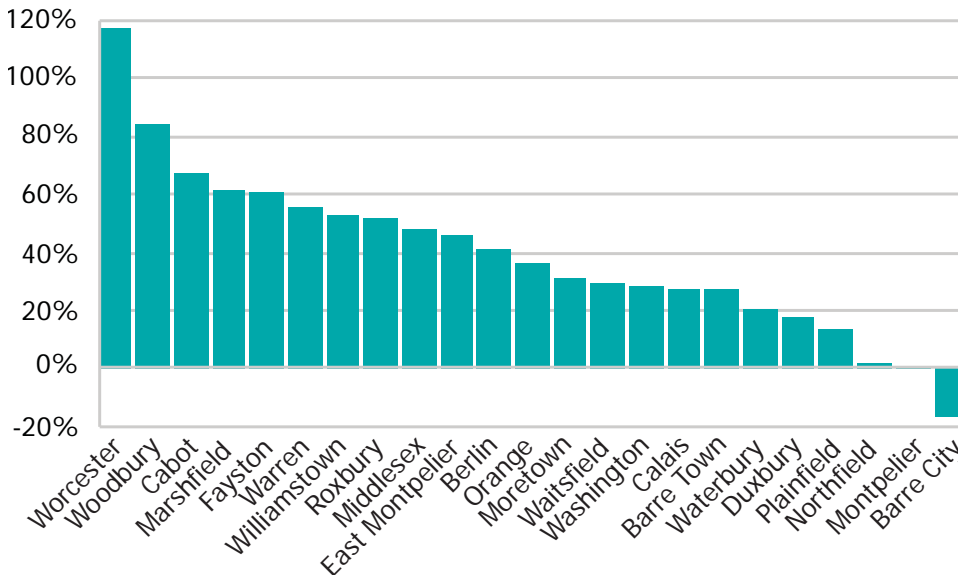


Figure 11: Percent Change in Population Over 65 by Town, 2000-2010

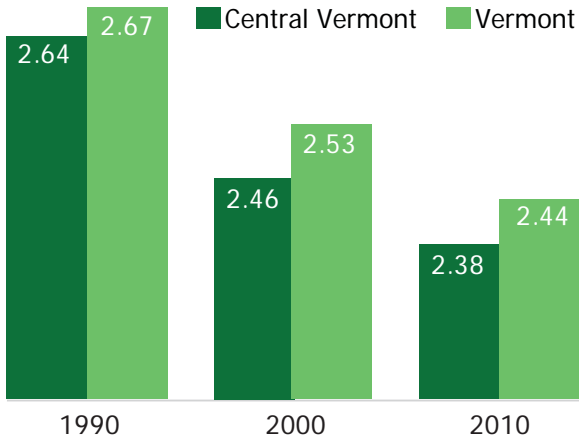


Figures 10 and 11 show the percent change between 2000 and 2010 in populations under 18 and over 65 by town, sorted from highest to lowest. The general trend was a decline in the population under 18 in the majority of the towns and an increase in the population over 65. The only towns to see an increase in population under 18 were Fayston, Cabot and Waitsfield. Barre City was the only municipality to see a decline in the population over 65; however, the city saw a significant decline in overall population in this time period as well.

Northfield is the only municipality that saw a decline in the median age with a decrease of 3.6 years, but also contains Norwich University. The presence of a significant college-aged population could be skewing this data point. Berlin saw the greatest increase in median age of 7 years and Moretown, Orange, Plainfield, Washington and Williamstown all saw an increase of 6 years or more. These rural towns are aging significantly faster than the Region as a whole. Plainfield and Washington are the only two of these towns that saw a decline in overall population during this period.

Barre City and Montpelier only increased in median age by 1.5 and 2.8 years, respectively, the two smallest increases in median age in two of the largest municipalities. This could be partially do to their higher population numbers or that the younger residents of Central Vermont are more attracted to living in the cities than the countryside. Barre City and Montpelier also have a greater number of rental units, which will be discussed in the housing section. Younger population that cannot afford to buy homes and are living in rental units may be more prevalent in these areas, causing a smaller increase in median age within Barre City and Montpelier.

Figure 12: Change in Household Size vs. Vermont



Household Composition

Out of a total population of 65,034 people in the Central Vermont Region in 2010, there were 27,268 total households. This represents an average household size of 2.38 people and an average family size of 2.8 people throughout the Region. Figure 12 illustrates the average household size in Central Vermont and the State in 1990, 2000 and 2010. Comparatively, Central Vermont has consistently had a smaller average household size. The general trend has been very similar in Central Vermont and the State, both saw a decline in household size, with a slightly larger decline in Central Vermont from 1990 to 2010. This decline can be attributed to many factors including smaller families, an aging population and higher divorce rates.

Figure 13 shows the breakdown of households within the Central Vermont Region into 62% family households and 38% non-family households in 2010. Within these categories, husband and wife families without children

and householders living alone represented the largest groups, accounting for around 30% of households each. Single parent households accounted for around 14% of all households. Just over 26% of all households include the householders' children under 18.

Figure 13: Central Vermont Regional Household Composition, 2010

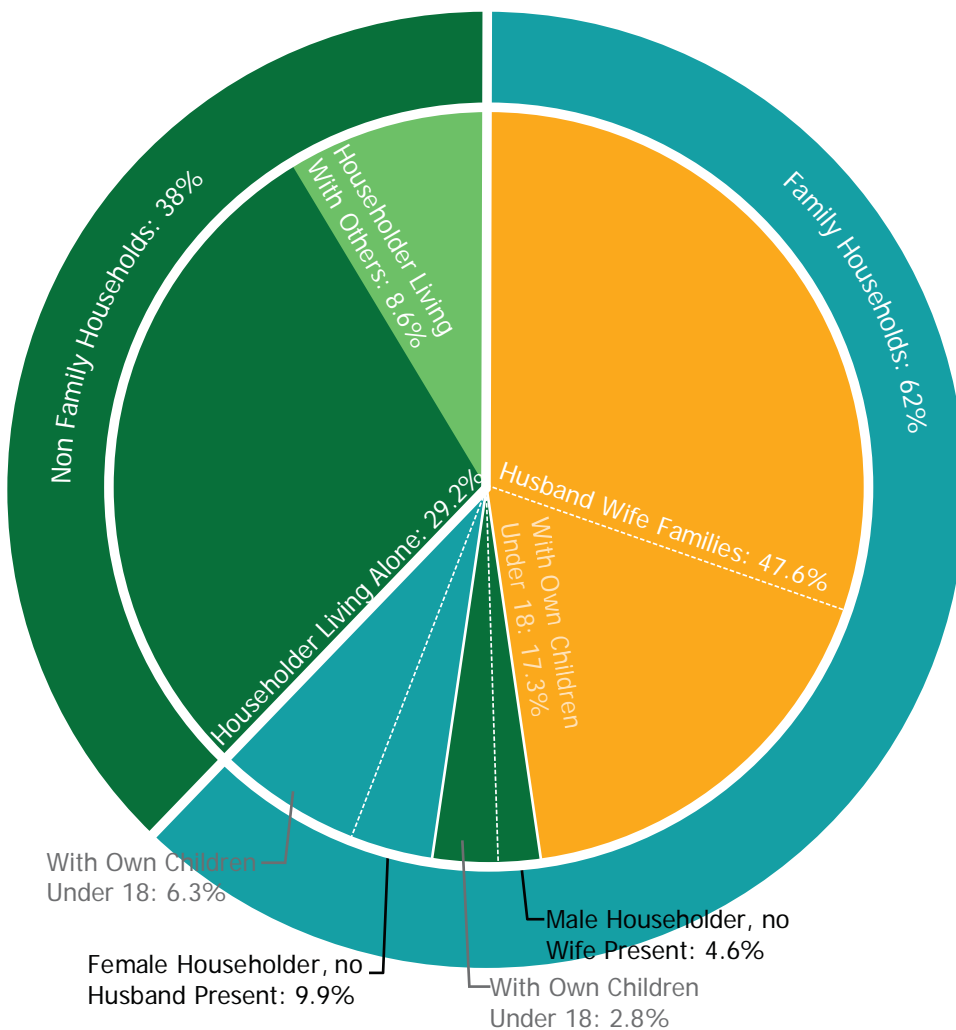


Figure 14: Central Vermont Regional Household Composition Percent Change, 2000-2010

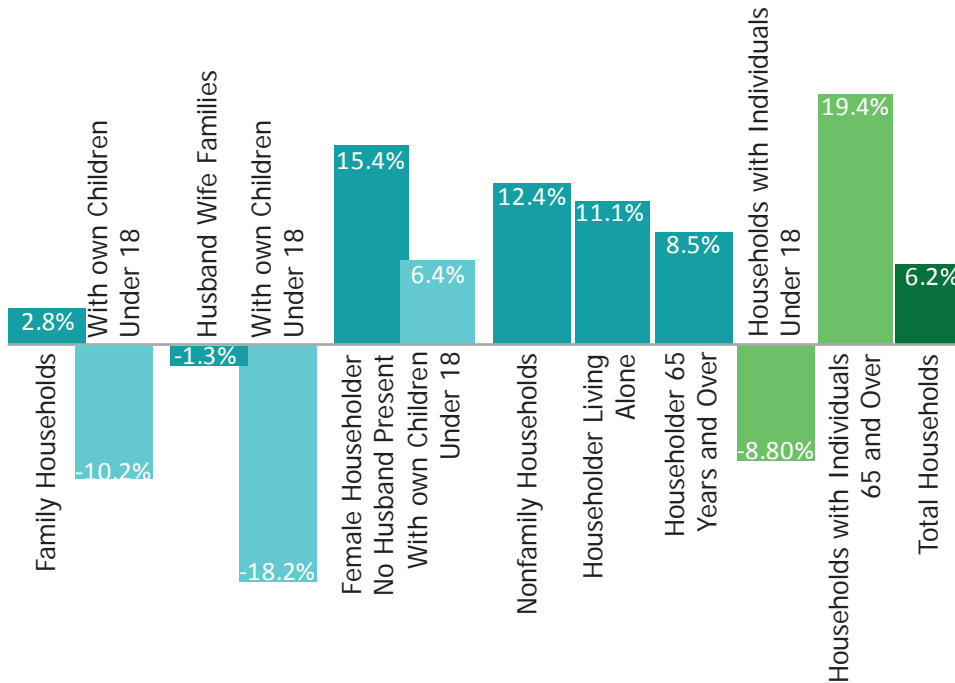
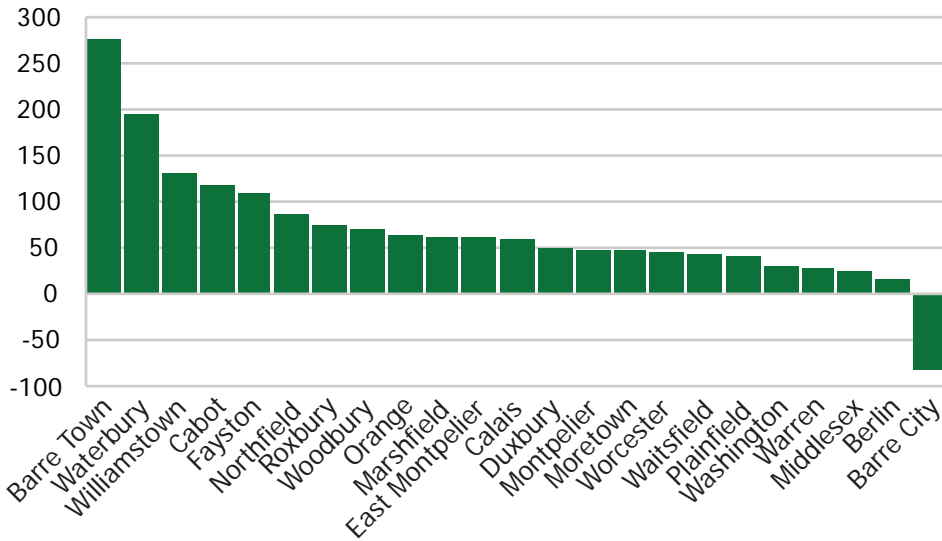


Figure 14 shows the percent change in household compositions from 2000-2010. The most significant increase was in households containing individuals 65 and over and the most significant decline was in husband and wife families with their own children under 18. Female head of households and non-family households both increased over this decade along with householders living alone.

The decline in husband and wife families with their own children under 18 is mirrored in the increase in single parent households along with the aging of the population overall, as discussed in the previous section. The increase in householders living alone may be related to the aging population as well along with lifestyle changes. These trends all contribute to the overall decline in household size in Central Vermont.

Figure 15: Change in Number of Households by Town, 2000-2010



While the number of people per household has declined over the past few decades, the number of households overall saw an increase over the 2000 to 2010 period. This trend is shown by town in figure 15. The only municipality to see a decline in households was Barre City.

Figure 16: Change in Average Household Size by Town, 2000-2010

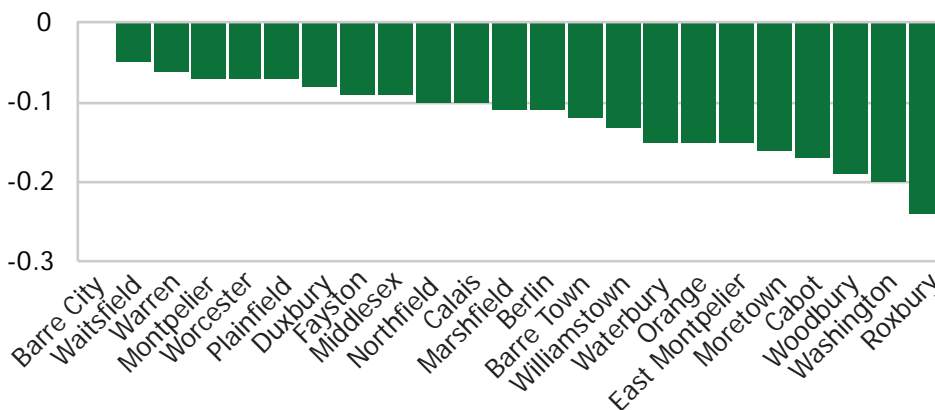


Figure 16 illustrates the corresponding change in household size by town from 2000 to 2010, with no change in Barre City and a decline in every other town. Figures 15 and 16 together show that with the exception of Barre City, every municipality saw an increase in the number of households and a decline in the average household size between 2000 and 2010. Overall, the Central Vermont Region has seen a decline in the number of people per household and a corresponding increase in the number of households. The relationship between housing units and the changing population will be discussed in the housing section.

POPULATION

Figure 1: Central Vermont Regional Population, 1960-2010

1960-2000 Data Source: UVM Center for Rural Studies, 2010 Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census Data (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/, www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 2: Comparative Population Growth Rate vs. Vermont and US, 1960-2010 (1960=1)

Data Sources: UVM Center for Rural Studies, Decennial Census Data (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/, www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 3: Population by Town, 2010

Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 4: Change in Population Size by Town, 2000-2010

Data Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 5: Percent Regional Share of the Population by Town, 1960 and 2010

1960 Data Source: UVM Center for Rural Studies, 2010 Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census Data (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/, www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 6: Change in Population Under 18 and Over 65 in Washington County and Vermont, 1990, 2000 and 2010

Data Source: UVM Center for Rural Studies, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/, www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 7: Change in Median Age in Washington County, Vermont and the United States, 2000 and 2010

Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 8: Central Vermont Regional Population by Age Group, 2000 and 2010

Data Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 9: Central Vermont Regional Population Change by Age Group, 2000-2010

Data Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 10: Percent Change in Population Under 18 by Town, 2000-2010

Data Source: UVM Center for Rural Studies, from Decennial Census (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/)

Figure 11: Percent Change in Population Over 65 by Town, 2000-2010

Data Source: UVM Center for Rural Studies, from Decennial Census (http://www.uvm.edu/crs/indicators_2010/)

Figure 12: Change in Household Size vs Vermont, 1990, 2000 and 2010

Data Source: 1990, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 13: Central Vermont Regional Household Composition, 2010

Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census Data (www.factfinder2.census.gov)

Figure 14: Central Vermont Regional Household Composition Percent Change, 2000-2010

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