

COMMUNITY PROFILE

2000 US Census data contains a wealth of information on the inhabitants of Winooski. The statistics which follow present a “snapshot” of the characteristics of Winooski at that time. In ensuing years, in-depth comparative analysis will be conducted to identify trends in the population. Policies and programs will then be put in place to address community needs.

POPULATION

The Census reports that the 2000 population of Winooski is 6,561. This figure represents a decrease of 1.34% from the 1990 population of 6,649. The population of Winooski since 1930 is highlighted in [Table 3](#).

TABLE 3.
WINOOSKI POPULATION, 1930 - 2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1930	5,300
1940	6,036
1950	6,722
1960	7,420
1970	7,903
1980	6,318
1990	6,649
2000	6,561

Source: US Census

Overall, Winooski’s population has grown since the City was formed. However, during the 1970s Winooski lost population as the County and State population boomed. This decrease was caused by a combination of attitudes and events: increased interest in a rural lifestyle, an increase in nonresidential use of properties within the City, and, urban renewal which displaced approximately 100 residents. The declining trend reversed itself between 1980 and 1990 as Winooski’s population grew from 6,318 to 6,649, an increase of 5.2%. Population declined slightly during the ensuing decade; this is attributable to out-migration.

Population change is determined by a combination of three variables: births, deaths, and migration. [Table 4](#) features statistics on Winooski’s natural growth and migration since 1980. Births outnumbered deaths between 1980 and 2000. Census figures indicate that an out-migration of 480 persons occurred during the period.

Age and Gender

In 2000 nearly two-thirds of the City’s population was between the ages of 19 and 64. The median age was 32.9 years. 23.7 Percent of the population was nineteen years or under, while, 13.5% was aged 65 and over. Women out-numbered men 3,374 (51.4%) to 3,187 (48.6%), continuing a trend from previous decades.

TABLE 4.
NATURAL CHANGE & MIGRATION, 1980-2000

<u>1980-1990</u>		
	1980 Census Population	6,318
<i>Plus.....</i>	Births (1980-89)	1,032
<i>Minus.....</i>	Deaths (1980-89)	<u>599</u>
<i>Equals.....</i>	1990 Indicated Population	6,751
	Actual 1990 Census Population	6,649
<i>Minus.....</i>	1990 Indicated Population	<u>6,751</u>
<i>Equals.....</i>	(Out) Migration	(102)
<u>1990-2000</u>		
	1990 Census Population	6,649
<i>Plus.....</i>	Births (1990-99)	922
<i>Minus.....</i>	Deaths (1990-99)	<u>632</u>
<i>Equals.....</i>	1990 Indicated Population	6,939
	Actual 2000 Census Population	6,561
<i>Minus.....</i>	2000 Indicated Population	<u>6,939</u>
<i>Equals.....</i>	(Out) Migration	(378)

Source: US Census, City of Winooski Vital Records.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Households

In 2000 Winooski had 3,015 housing units and 2,944 households. Average household size has decreased since 1970 (Table 5); this decrease is viewed as indicative not only of the increase in the number of dwelling units in the City, but, also of the national trend toward smaller families. In 2000 the Census reports that the average household size was 2.21, while the average family size was 2.98.

The Census identified 1,467 family, and, 1,477 non-family households. Of the family households, householders and their spouses comprised 49.8% of the total of people in such situations. 36.8% (1,082) of the householders lived alone. 12.2 Percent (359) of the households were occupied by a householder age 65 and older. Nearly one-half (49%) of people resided at the same address as they did in 1995 compared to 42% a decade earlier.

TABLE 5.
HOUSEHOLDS, 1970-2000

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Number of Households	2,152	2,330	2,828	2,944
Average Number of Persons/Household	3.4	2.7	2.4	2.2

Source: US Census.

Cultural Diversity

The racial composition of Winooski became more diverse between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 90.6% of Winooski's population was white, compared to 97.5% a decade earlier (Table 6). The comparative racial make up of Winooski is presented in Table 6. The majority of Winooski's citizens, 4,183 (63.8%), were natives of the State of Vermont; 1,669 (25.4%) were born elsewhere in the United States; 33 (0.5%) were born abroad of American parents; and, 676 (10.3%) were foreign-born. The latter figure is indicative of the increasing number of recent immigrants to Winooski; it represents an increase from 247 in 1990.

TABLE 6.
RACIAL PROFILE, 1990-2000

RACE	1990	2000
White	6,431	5,902
Black	49	80
American Indian, Alaska Native	17	33
Asian or Pacific Islander	73	356
Hispanic	60	75
Other race, alone	19	7
Two or more races	na	108
	6,649	6,561

Source: US Census

Family Structure

Over the past decade, Winooski's close-knit family structure -a legacy of its mill days and French ancestry- continued to erode. There were 1,467 family households in the City in 2000 compared to 1,604 a decade earlier. 713 (24.2%) Of the family households had children under eighteen years of age. Both parents lived at home in 14.8% of the households with children, compared to 28% in 1990 and 73% in 1980. 330 Single female parents headed households with children under eighteen years.

Educational Attainment

In 2000 81.2% of the population above the age of twenty-five had a high school degree compared to 71.7% in 1990; 26.9% of the population had graduated from college compared to 17.8% in 1990. Improvements over the 1990 and 1980 rates imply that the City's younger residents were more apt to finish school than were their parents. On the whole, however, Winooski's residents were not as well educated as others in the County.

Income

An analysis of the distribution of 1999 incomes by category indicates that 39.7 percent of Winooski's population has an income of less than \$25,000; this compares to 22.5% for Chittenden County and 28.4% for the State. While only 52.3% of County households had 1999 income below \$50,000, 73.6% of Winooski residents were in that bracket. Conversely, over one-quarter of County residents had incomes in excess of \$75,000 that year, while only half that rate of City residents (9.8%) were in that category.

Median earnings for male, full-time, year-round workers was \$30,257; for women it was \$21,168.

These income figures reflect the fact that Winooski's residents are located in the state's most prosperous county, but, overall, they are not sharing equally in that prosperity ([Table 7](#)).

TABLE 7.
INCOME COMPARISON, 1999

	WINOOSKI	COUNTY	VERMONT
Median Household Income	\$30,594	\$47,673	\$40,856
Median Family Income	38,551	59,460	48,625
Per Capita Income	17,208	23,501	20,625

Source: US Census.

Poverty

In 1999 economic hardship remained a fact of life for many of Winooski's citizens. 993 People, or, 15.2% of the population, had incomes below the poverty level compared to 8.8% in Chittenden County. Poverty affects all of Winooski's age groups: 275 (27.7%) of citizens living below the poverty level were under the age of 18; while, those over 65 comprised 13.1%. The number of families below the poverty level and their relative percentage has remained consistent since 1970 ([Table 8](#)).

TABLE 8.
FAMILY POVERTY, 1970-2000

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Number of Families Below Poverty Level	230	204	208	154
Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level	10.7%	13.5%	13.0%	10.2%

Source: US Census.

Employment

In 2000 68.1% of Winooski's citizens over the age of sixteen were engaged in some form of employment. [Table 9](#) and [Table 10](#) identify the types of jobs held by working citizens for the 1980 to 2000 period.

TABLE 9.
WINOOSKI CITIZENS IN THE LABOR FORCE, 2000

STATUS	WINOOSKI		CHITTENDEN COUNTY		STATE of VERMONT	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Armed Forces	10		402		761	
Employed Civilian	1,865	1,730	43,759	40,395	172,293	158,838
Unemployed	235		3,367		13,997	
Not in Labor Force	1,689		31,454		147,248	

Source: US Census. Persons aged 16 and over.

TABLE 10.
CITIZEN EMPLOYMENT by OCCUPATION, 2000

OCCUPATION	Percent	Number
Management, professional & related occupations	30.1	1,011
Service	17.9	601
Sales & office	23.9	803
Farming, fishing & forestry	0.4	13
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	9.3	312
Production, transportation & material moving	18.5	620

Source: US Census.