



Section 6b: Demographics

General Population Trends

The population of Lathrop has grown every decade since 1930, with the exception of one losing decade from 1940 to 1950. As a whole, Lathrop has had a net population increase of 1,152 (123%) from 1930 to 2000. Looking at the percentage change in population shown in Table 6.1, Lathrop’s growth rate has exceeded that of both Clinton County and Missouri for five out the last seven decades.

While the need still exists to work in large cities, increasing numbers of families are developing a desire to live, play, and raise children in less populated areas. Located less than 35 miles from Kansas City, Lathrop is a prime location for urban commuters to call home. Lathrop is located approximately three miles west of Interstate 35, which is a major corridor into the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

In 2000, there were 966 individuals, sixteen years of age or older, living in Lathrop, but working outside of the city limits. As illustrated in Figure 6.1, a significant percentage of individuals travel outside of Lathrop to get to their place of employment. Of the commuters, 72% travel more than twenty minutes in order to get to work.

This trend of urbanization has been noted throughout the region. In fact, Liberty and Kearney, which are located south of Lathrop along I-35, are other examples where the population has rapidly

Table 6.1. Population and Percent Change, 1930 – 2000

Year	Lathrop		Clinton County		Missouri	
	Total Population	% Change	Total Population	% Change	Total Population	% Change
1930	940	-	13,505	-	3,629,367	-
1940	1,049	11.60	13,261	-1.81	3,784,664	4.28
1950	888	-15.35	11,726	-11.58	3,954,653	4.49
1960	1,006	13.29	11,588	-1.18	4,319,813	9.23
1870	1,268	26.04	12,462	7.54	4,677,623	8.28
1980	1,732	36.59	15,916	27.72	4,916,686	5.11
1990	1,794	3.58	16,595	4.27	5,117,073	4.08
2000	2,092	16.61	18,979	14.37	5,595,211	9.34

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1930; Census 1940; Census 1950; Census 1960; Census 1970; Census 1980; Census 1990; Census 2000.

increased in size during the last two decades. This increase may be attributed to its location in relation to the Kansas City urban core. Lathrop is along the path (Interstate 35) of this outward population growth.

Age Structure

As illustrated in Table 6.2, Lathrop's population is, in general, evenly distributed among the age cohorts. However, when compared to that of Missouri and Clinton County, the youth population seems to be a higher overall percentage. Looking at the first four age cohorts, one can notice that Lathrop's youth population stays an average of one percent higher than that of Clinton County and Missouri. Also noted is the age range of 40 to 49. This group tends to be lower in percentage compared to Clinton County and the state. All other age cohorts seem to be well balanced with that of the county and the state.

The age cohorts are also evenly spread for both Clinton County and Missouri, producing a median age of 37.7 and 36.1, respectively. The median age for Lathrop is 32.6. The slightly lower median age, when compared to Clinton County and Missouri, is explained by the larger percentage of younger individuals present in Lathrop, as mentioned earlier.

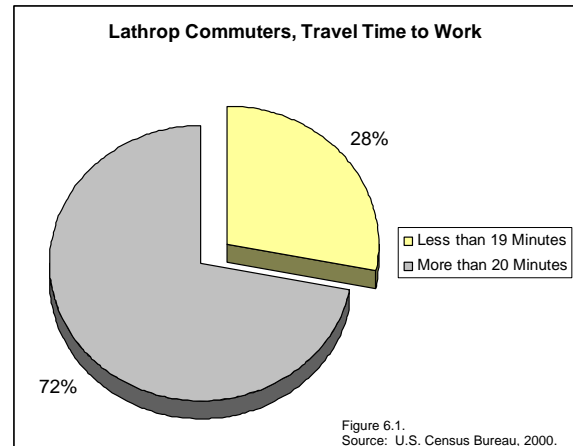


Table 6.2 Age Specific Population and Percent Change, 1990 and 2000

Age Cohort	Lathrop					Clinton County			Missouri		
	1990		2000		% Change	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	% Change
	Total Pop.	% of Pop.	Total Pop.	% of Pop.		% of Pop.	% of Pop.		% of Pop.	% of Pop.	
0 to 4	148	8.25%	160	7.65%	-0.60%	7.18%	6.57%	-0.61%	7.22%	6.61%	-0.61%
5 to 9	141	7.86%	170	8.13%	0.27%	8.02%	6.94%	-1.08%	7.40%	7.13%	-0.27%
10 to 14	150	8.36%	182	8.70%	0.34%	8.13%	8.16%	0.03%	7.04%	7.36%	0.32%
15 to 19	149	8.31%	181	8.65%	0.35%	6.90%	7.73%	0.83%	7.09%	7.39%	0.30%
20 to 24	92	5.13%	124	5.93%	0.80%	5.07%	4.72%	-0.35%	7.05%	6.60%	-0.45%
25 to 29	120	6.69%	149	7.12%	0.43%	6.90%	5.38%	-1.52%	8.21%	6.48%	-1.73%
30 to 34	131	7.30%	160	7.65%	0.35%	7.71%	6.26%	-1.45%	8.44%	6.73%	-1.71%
35 to 39	104	5.80%	166	7.93%	2.14%	7.06%	8.25%	1.19%	7.61%	7.92%	0.31%
40 to 44	133	7.41%	143	6.84%	-0.58%	7.15%	8.31%	1.16%	6.74%	7.94%	1.20%
45 to 49	124	6.91%	102	4.88%	-2.04%	6.47%	6.96%	0.49%	5.56%	7.07%	1.51%
50 to 54	92	5.13%	120	5.74%	0.61%	5.39%	6.55%	1.16%	4.67%	6.20%	1.53%
55 to 59	52	2.90%	117	5.59%	2.69%	4.78%	5.59%	0.81%	4.47%	4.99%	0.52%
60 to 64	57	3.18%	71	3.39%	0.22%	4.20%	4.44%	0.24%	4.47%	4.08%	-0.39%
65 to 69	64	3.57%	50	2.39%	-1.18%	3.87%	3.78%	-0.09%	4.28%	3.67%	-0.61%
70 to 74	59	3.29%	55	2.63%	-0.66%	3.49%	3.02%	-0.47%	3.42%	3.36%	-0.06%
75 to 79	67	3.73%	61	2.92%	-0.82%	3.07%	2.60%	-0.47%	2.80%	2.81%	0.01%
80 to 84	54	3.01%	36	1.72%	-1.29%	2.42%	2.09%	-0.33%	1.94%	1.90%	-0.04%
85 +	57	3.18%	45	2.15%	-1.03%	2.18%	2.63%	0.45%	1.59%	1.76%	0.17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990; Census 2000.

Sex Composition

The sex ratio is a frequently used measurement of how many males there are per 100 females. Therefore, a sex ratio of 100 indicates a perfect balance of males and females in the sampled area. Table 6.3 shows the sex ratios for Lathrop, Clinton County, and Missouri. The sex ratio for Lathrop, Clinton County, and Missouri have increased from 1990 to 2000. Lathrop's sex ratio of 90.5 is lower than that of Clinton County's and Missouri's sex ratios in 2000. In the past few decades, Lathrop's sex ratio has continued to result in this minor difference. The United State's sex ratio for 2000 was 96.3.

Table 6.3. Sex Composition, 1990 and 2000

	Lathrop		Clinton County		Missouri	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Male	838	994	8,026	9,294	2,464,315	2,720,177
Female	956	1,098	8,569	9,685	2,652,758	2,875,034
Sex Ratio	87.7	90.5	93.7	96.0	92.9	94.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990; Census 2000.

The following table, Table 6.4, shows the ratios of different age cohorts for the year 2000. Lathrop's male/female ratio for higher age cohorts continues to follow traditional trends as the male population declines at a faster rate than that of females. As a rule, older males tend to have a higher mortality rate than the females. Lathrop, being no exception, shows this same trend with the females significantly outnumbering the males starting at age 50 and up.

Table 6.4. Lathrop Sex Ratios by Age Cohorts, 2000

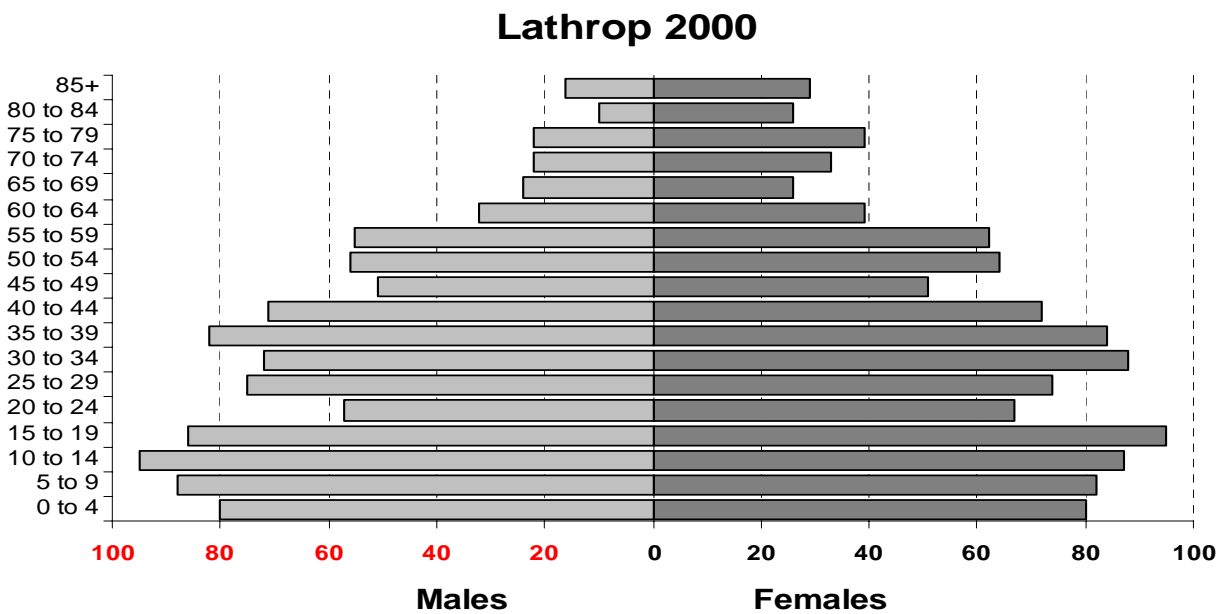
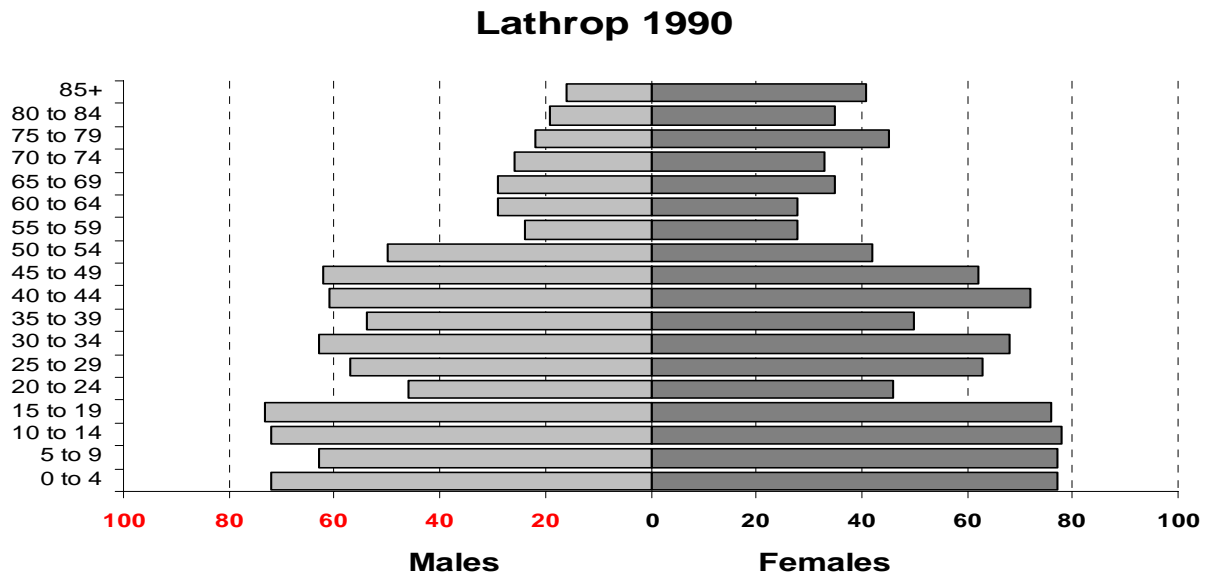
Age	Males	Females	Ratio (M:F)
0-4	80	80	100.0
5-9	88	82	107.3
10-14	95	87	109.2
15-19	86	95	90.5
20-24	57	67	85.1
25-29	75	74	101.4
30-34	72	88	81.8
35-39	82	84	97.6
40-44	71	72	98.6
45-49	51	51	100.0
50-54	56	64	87.5
55-59	55	62	88.7
60-64	32	39	82.1
65-69	24	26	92.3
70-74	22	33	66.7
75-79	22	39	56.4
80-84	10	26	38.5
85+	16	29	55.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Population Pyramids

The use of population pyramids is a technique that visually compares age and sex of a given population. Traditionally, a “normal” population results in a graph resembling a pyramid. The base represents the younger population with males to the left of the center axis and females to the right. As age increases the population decreases, resulting in a pyramid-like shape.

Figure 6.2. 1990 and 2000 Population Pyramids



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990; Census 2000.

As noticed in Figure 6.2, Lathrop's population pyramids differ from 1990 to 2000. In 1990, Lathrop was more evenly spread in the younger age cohorts, resulting in a wider base. Also, the females more heavily outnumbered the males, making the pyramid skew more to the right. In 2000, the sex ratio increased causing the pyramid to appear more balanced. The population grew in size, as did the youth population. Note the smaller age cohort for persons 20-24 for both census years. As this cohort usually represents college-age students, it is possible that Lathrop does not in fact have fewer college-age students, but rather were not counted due to being away at school.

Race Considerations

Located in rural Clinton County, Lathrop's population is predominately made up of white Caucasians. This trend is consistent throughout the remainder of Clinton County, as well as northwest Missouri.

Race	Lathrop	Clinton County	Missouri
White	96.3%	96.6%	84.9%
Black	2.0%	1.5%	11.2%
Hispanic or Latino	1.6%	1.1%	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Household Characteristics

The size distribution of households varies from one person households to four person households when compared to the state of Missouri as a whole. As evidenced by Table 6.6, Missouri has 4.2 percent more one- and two-person households than Lathrop does. Lathrop has 3.9 percent three-person households and 3.2 percent four-person households more than Missouri's percentage. Lathrop exceeds Missouri's percentages for all households housing three or more persons.

The housing structure in Lathrop is generally consistent with the state of Missouri. The most significant difference between Lathrop and Missouri is the percentage of family households. As evident in Table 6.7, Lathrop's family household percentage is 5.5 percent higher than that of Missouri. Lathrop's ratio of family households to non-family households is 2.68:1. This indicates that

Household Size	Lathrop		Missouri
	Number	Percent	Percent
1-Person Household	180	23.5	27.3
2-Person Household	225	29.4	34.0
3-Person Household	154	20.1	16.2
4-Person Household	129	16.8	13.6
5-Person Household	50	6.5	5.9
6-Person Household	19	2.5	2.0
7-or-more Person Household	9	1.2	1.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

for every one non-family household, there exists 2.68 family households in the Lathrop community.

Populations Estimates and Projections

Population estimates are based on existing data, while projected estimates are based on assumptions about future demographic trends. Estimates are created by the use of past populations reported by the United States Census. Assumptions about future births, deaths, and international/domestic migration are

used to produce population projections. Population projections are based on different levels of each particular component.

Household Characteristics	Lathrop		Missouri
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total Households	766	100	100
Family Households	558	72.8	67.3
Married couples with children	219	39.2	33.7
Married couples without children	205	36.7	43.6
Male headed households	30	5.4	5.5
Female headed households	104	18.6	17.2
Non-Family Households	208	27.2	32.7
Male householder	97	46.6	45.1
Female householder	111	53.4	54.9

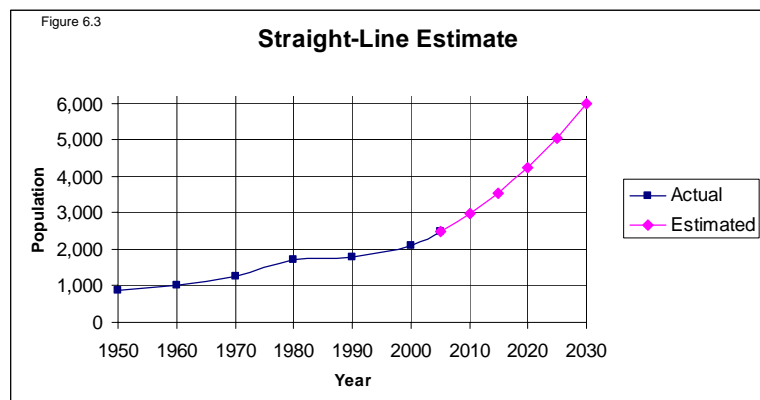
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Straight-Line Estimate

The straight-line estimate is created from the average percentage change in recent population numbers. This percentage is then applied to the most recent population number reported by the U. S. Census. In using this method, the following assumptions are made:

- Lathrop has experienced an average per decade increase in population of 19.22% since 1950,
- The death and birth rate will remain constant, and
- There will be no major change in the regional economic conditions or employment opportunities.

As indicated by Figure 6.3 the straight-line estimate results in a population of approximately 3,000 by 2010. This estimate doubles in size by the year 2030, with an estimation of 6,000 persons.



Step Down Ratio Projection

The step down ratio takes into consideration characteristics of the surrounding area. For example, the change in Lathrop's population contributes to the population change of Missouri. Missouri, Lathrop, and Clinton County have all grown in population over the last several decades. Lathrop's growth contributes to that of Clinton County's, and Clinton County's growth contributes to Missouri's growth. For the step down ratio projections shown below in Figure 6.4, Lathrop's contribution to Missouri's population growth was taken into consideration. The formula used is as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Population of Lathrop}}{\text{Population of Missouri}} \right) * \text{Projected Population of Missouri} = \text{Projected Population of Lathrop}$$

The step down ratio projections do not show an increase in population as dramatic as the straight-line estimate method. The step down ratio projections result in a population of 2,404 by the year 2030. This result differs significantly from the straight line estimate because the step down ratio is based on trends from the state of Missouri as a whole, whereas the straight line ratio is based on the past growth rates of Lathrop alone.

