

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

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This chapter includes a snapshot of Kittery's current population and demographic profile, as well as comparisons with York County and the State of Maine. Population and demographic data summarized in this chapter include population change, population by age, race and ethnicity, education attainment, geographic mobility, and information about households.

Summary of Key Points

- Total population for Kittery has been declining since 1970, and that trend is projected to continue through the year 2032.
- Kittery is an aging community. Between 2000 and 2014, residents age 55 to 64 increased by 65 percent.
- The racial and ethnic composition of Kittery closely resembles that of York County, with a majority of residents identifying as White, non-Hispanic.
- The educational attainment of Kittery residents is slightly higher than that of York County.
- The number of family households in Kittery with children under the age of eighteen has declined since 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2014, average household size shrank from 2.29 persons per household to 2.16 persons per household.



Whaleback Lighthouse. Source: <http://www.flickrriver.com/photos/nelights/3925199200/>



Kittery Coast. Source: www.theatlantic.com

POPULATION CHANGE

Kittery was settled in the early 1600s, and since then its population has had several waves of in- and out-migration. Most notably, between 1900 and 1970 the Town's population increased four-fold from 2,872 to 11,028. The population of Kittery peaked at 11,028 in 1970 and has decreased 14 percent to 9,490 as of the 2010 Censusⁱ. This differs quite a bit from the population change for York County and Maine as a whole, which grew by 77 percent and 34 percent, respectively.

According to the State of Maine Data Center, Kittery's population is projected to continue to decrease by about 6 percent between 2014 and the 2032ⁱⁱ. These projections are consistent with what is anticipated to occur at the county and state level as well. York County's population is expected to decline by 0.4 percent, while the State's population is expected to decline by 2 percent over the same time period. Table 3.1 shows population change over time and compares Kittery to the county and state.

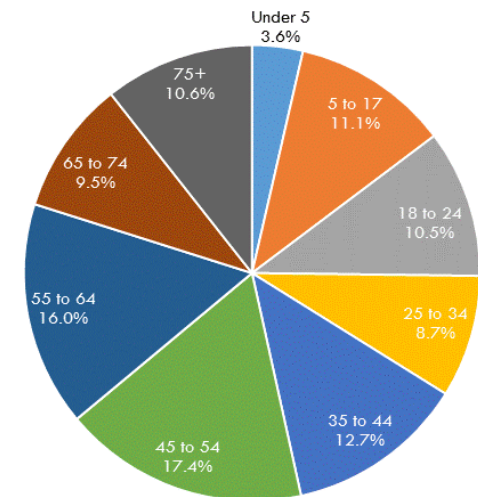
POPULATION BY AGE

Kittery's population is growing older. Between 2000 and 2014, Kittery residents in the 55 to 64 age cohort increased by 65 percentⁱⁱⁱ. During that same time period, residents over the age of 75 increased by 45 percent. The Baby Boomer phenomenon seen in Kittery is similar to what is occurring in many New England communities. As younger residents exit the higher education system, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find affordable housing options as well as jobs in parts of Maine.

Table 3.1: Total Population

US Decennial Census 1970-2010, 2010-2014 ACS, State of Maine Projections	Kittery	York County	Maine
TOTAL POPULATION			
1970	11,028	111,576	992,048
1980	9,314	139,666	1,124,660
1990	9,372	164,587	1,227,928
2000	9,543	186,742	1,274,923
2010	9,490	197,131	1,328,361
Percent Change (1970-2010)	-14%	77%	34%
2014 Estimate	9,649	200,710	1,330,089
2022 Projected	9,393	201,229	1,324,705
2032 Projected	9,069	199,933	1,300,166
Projected Percent Change (2014-2032)	-6%	-0.4%	-2%

Figure 3.1: Kittery's Population by Age
Source: ACS 2010-2014 Estimate



Younger workers are leaving the area to pursue jobs in other locations around the country. To that point, Kittery has seen the number of residents age 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 decline by 37 percent and 25 percent, respectively. The number of young children has also declined with the population of residents under the age of 5 declining by 40 percent. Interestingly, this has not had a major impact on school enrollment. Fluctuations in enrollment are driven primarily by military families living in Kittery who work at the Shipyard.

One interesting notation in the data is the 42 percent increase from 2000 to 2014 in the age cohort of residents 18 to 24. This could be the results of a large cohort of young families with children who were living in Kittery in 2000 and have aged in place since, resulting in a large bump in the 18 to 24 year olds fourteen years later. It could also be the result of places like Portsmouth becoming too expensive and forcing younger workers and college age students to seek a slightly more affordable housing option.

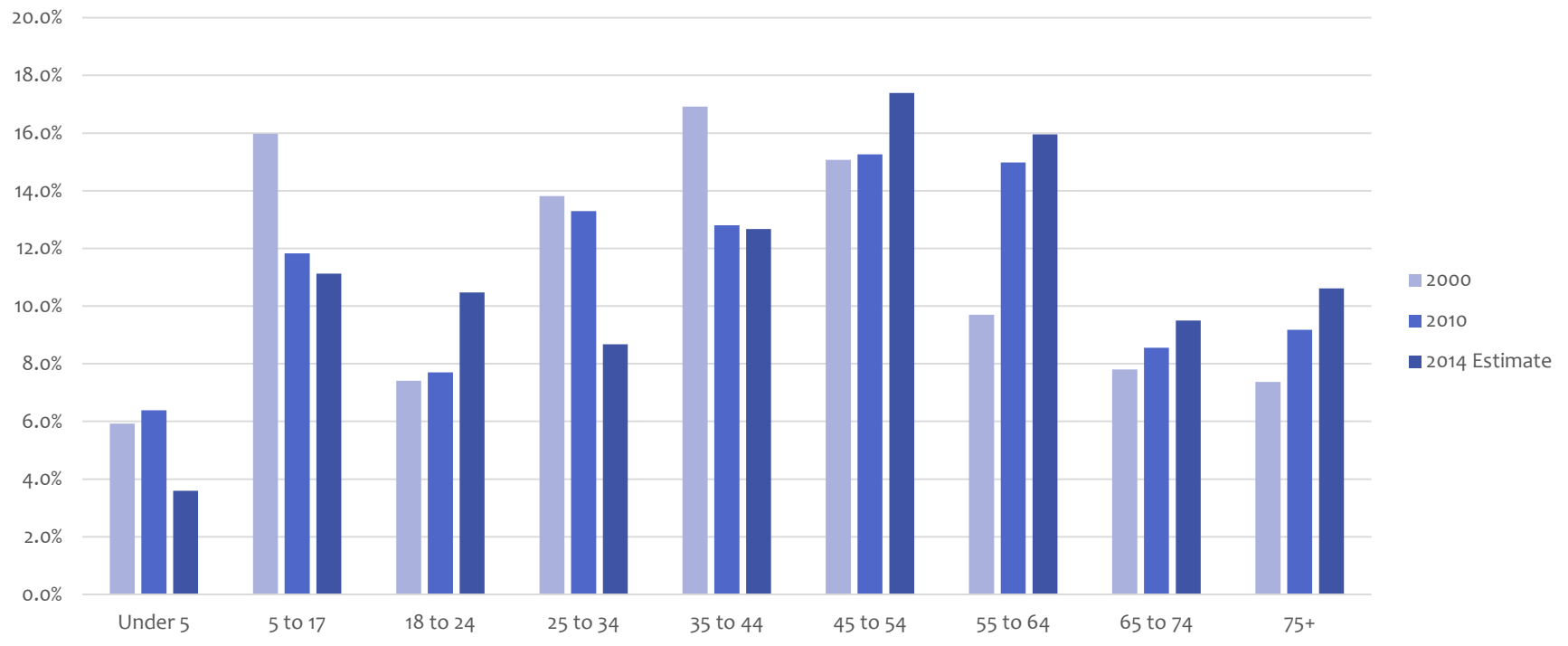
Table 3.2: School Enrollment by Year

Year	Enrollment	% Change
2000-01	1244	
2001-02	1240	-0.32
2002-03	1193	-3.79
2003-04	1167	-2.18
2004-05	1120	-4.03
2005-06	1082	-3.39
2006-07	1077	-0.046
2007-08	1048	-2.69
2008-09	1001	-4.48
2009-10	971	-3
2010-2011	1014	4.43
2011-12	1013	-0.1
2012-13	1082	6.81
2013-14	1082	0
2014-15	1084	0.18
2015-16	1063	-1.94

Source: Kittery School District

Figure 3.2:
Population by Age

Population By Age 2000-2014
Source: U.S. Census, ACS 2010-2014 Estimates



RACE AND ETHNICITY

Kittery has limited racial and ethnic diversity, which is consistent with the population composition of York County as a whole. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Kittery's population in 2014 was 96.6 percent White. The Asian population in Kittery was the second largest group comprising 2.2 percent of the total population. Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native made up the other 1.2 percent of the population. Table 3.2 shows the change in racial and ethnic composition of Kittery and York County between 2000 and 2014^{iv}.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Since 2000, the educational attainment of Kittery residents increased for those with an Associate degree or higher. Over the fourteen-year period between Census responses, the number of residents over the age of 25 with a Bachelor's degree increased by about 21.5 percent. The percent of residents with an Associate degree also increased by 38.7 percent^v. The percentage of residents with a high school degree or less declined over the fourteen-year period. Kittery performed better than York County as a whole for educational attainment, earning more Bachelor's degrees and have fewer residents earn less than a high school diploma.

Table 3.3: Race and Ethnicity

US Decennial Census 2000-2010, 2010-2014 ACS	Kittery			York County		
	2000	2010	2014 Est.	2000	2010	2014 Est.
RACE						
White alone	96.0%	95.8%	96.6%	97.6%	96.5%	96.2%
Black or African American alone	1.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian alone	0.6%	1.1%	2.2%	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race alone	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Two or more races:	0.9%	1.5%	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

The current population in Kittery is very stable, with over 86 percent of residents living in the same home they did a year ago^{vi}. This is fairly typical for a smaller size town without a college or university. High rates of transiency are more frequent in larger cities and municipalities with colleges and universities. About 10 percent of residents in Kittery moved from another state within the last year, and those residents had a median age of 31. This is unexpected given that the age cohort 25 to 34 has been consistently shrinking in Kittery over the last 14 years. Another interesting data point is the median age of those who moved to Kittery from abroad in the past year. Between 2010-2014, an estimated thirty-eight people moved to Kittery from abroad. The median age of those coming from another country to live in Kittery was 72. This shows the popularity of the Maine coast as a location for retirees, and speaks to the future demand for housing and services to meet the needs of an aging resident population.

Kittery also appears to have an increasing market of seasonal housing supporting short-term residents and tourists. Between 2000 and 2014, the number of seasonal homes grew by 188 percent (150 to an estimated 432)^{vii}. Not only are people coming to Kittery from other places to live, the Town also supports a growing tourism draw and possibly a market for vacation homes as well.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

A household is defined as one or more people living in the same housing unit. The U.S. Census divides households into two groups: families and non-family households. A family household is where two or more people living together are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A non-family household includes all other types of households, including single people living alone. It is

worth noting that the Census Bureau report all same-sex couples as non-family households regardless of their marital status under state law.

According to Census data, the number of family households in Kittery has slowly declined between 2000 and 2014. The Town has seen about a 4 percent decline over the fourteen-year period^{viii}. In 2000, nearly two-thirds of all households were family households. That number has now declined to 58 percent as of the 2014 estimates. This pattern matches what is occurring at the county-level as well, with about a 3 percent decline in family households over the same time period.

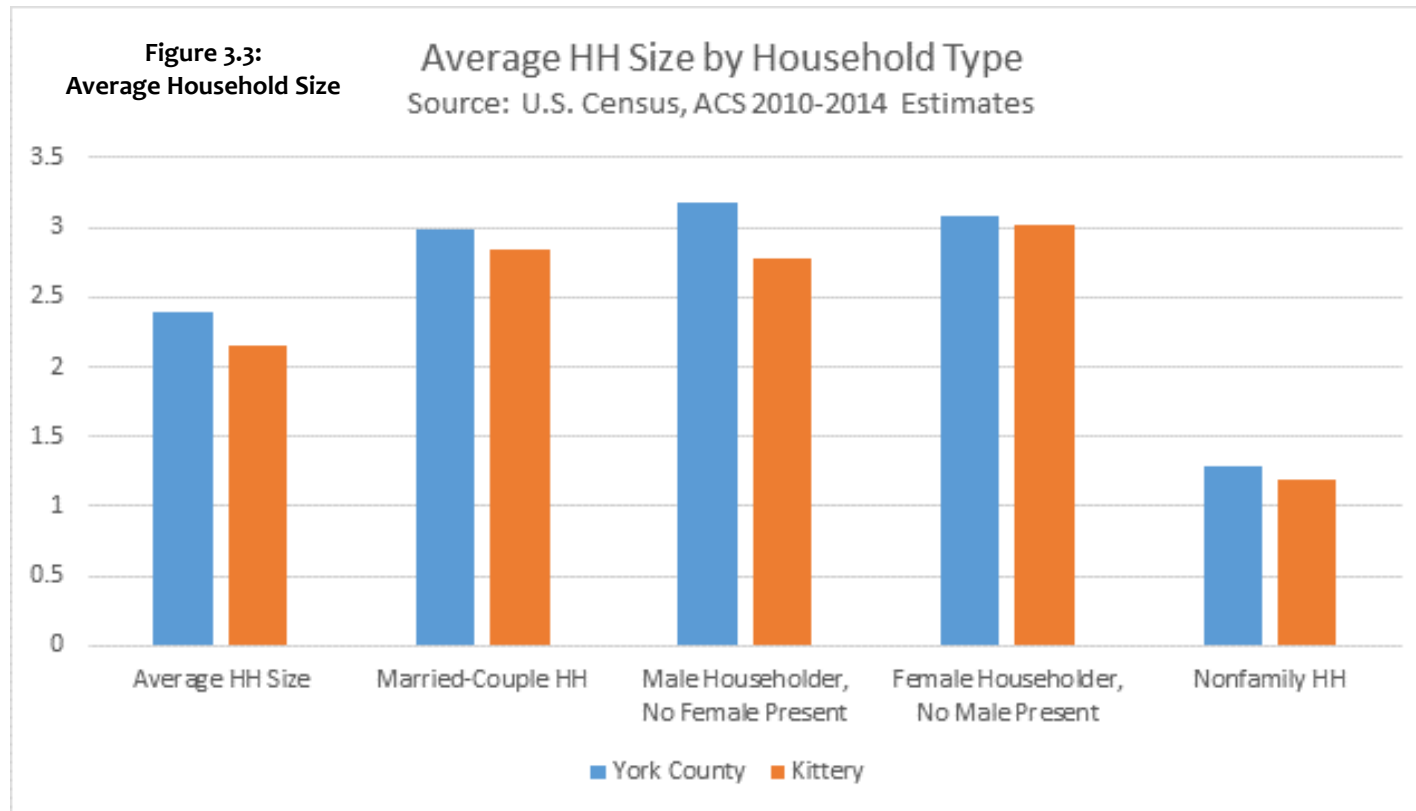
Within the family household category, married couple households are still dominant making up 75 percent of family households in Kittery. That number is slightly higher, 78 percent, for York County. Kittery has a higher percentage of female (no male present) households compared to male (no female present) households. In 2014, the Census estimated only 16 percent of households in Kittery had a child under the age of eighteen. This is

down from 28.6 percent in 2000. At the county level, households with children are down about 8 percent over that same time period.

The average size of households in Kittery has also declined between 2000 and 2014, shrinking from 2.29 persons per household to an estimated 2.16 persons per household^{ix}. This is common across many parts of New England as people are having

fewer children, younger people are waiting longer to marry, and older residents are living longer as a single- or two-person household. This is also consistent with the growing age cohorts of residents ages fifty-five and older.

The large older single household population that faces many communities now and in the coming decade will be a significant challenge for housing, healthcare, and social services.



HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND POVERTY

Since 2000, the median household income in Kittery has grown from \$45,067 to \$60,205 in 2014^x. This represents a 34 percent increase in the median. By comparison, the median household income of York County increased by 31 percent over the same time period. In Kittery, the largest number of households fall within the income range of \$50,000 to \$74,999, at 22 percent. That is followed closely by households earning between \$35,000 and \$49,999 (19 percent).

Kittery's poverty rates are much lower than York County, which actually increased between 2010 and 2014 according to Census estimates. The percentage of individuals in poverty in Kittery dropped from 8.5 percent in 2010 to 5.7 percent in 2014. In York County, the poverty rate increased by 2 percent (8.5 to 10.6) over the same time period. Kittery has one of the lowest poverty rates of any municipality in the county.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following is a preliminary list of issues, challenges and opportunities posed by the findings of the inventory of existing conditions of Kittery's population and demographics. Please note that these are subject to change with the preparation of goals and objectives, not yet drafted (at the time the inventory was prepared).

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The population in Kittery is getting older and household size is shrinking. This has an impact on the types of housing needed in the community, and the types of services that are sought by older residents. The aging population in Kittery could create some issues for the Town, which may include:

- The need for smaller and more accessible housing units.
- The need for transportation options that do not rely on a personal vehicle.
- The need for expanded senior services.
- The ability to attract younger workers to Kittery to backfill jobs vacated by retirees.
- The continued aging of the population could impact school enrollment, which in turn will shape the curriculum opportunities Kittery can offer its children.

While Kittery's median household income has increased since 2000, the aging demographic could mean more residents on a fixed income as older workers retire. This may have an impact on local spending and local business if younger residents and families

are not attracted to Kittery. This could also have an impact on housing due to the rising housing costs for both renters and owners in Kittery. If younger workers are looking for more affordable housing options in Kittery in support living and working in the same community, the Town must consider a diversity of housing options across Kittery. The same can be said for senior households on a fixed income. This group will also need more affordable housing options, particularly ones that integrate universal accessibility.

The percentage of families in Kittery with children under the age of 18 has declined since 2000. School enrollment has also declined based on records back as far as 1985. As the number of school age children continues to decline, the Town may need to evaluate school programming, staffing, and space.

As the population of Kittery continues to age, there will be a growing need for more services oriented toward seniors. This includes programming, social services, and transportation. Currently, the Town does not have a Council on Aging program which typically acts as the programming and social service center for seniors in a community. In the future, there may be a need for dedicated Town staff to work directly with the aging population.

OPPORTUNITIES

While Kittery's overall population is both shrinking and changing demographically, household median income is on the rise. This bodes well for housing stability and additional expendable income for supporting local businesses. The mobility of Kittery's population is relatively stable, with more than 86 percent of households residing in the same place they lived a year ago. This helps with neighborhood development, homeowner investment, and social cohesion across the community. Finally, household size is shrinking in Kittery which can certainly be a challenge in some regards but an opportunity for others. The Town should consider ways in which it can promote services and housing options that are attractive to both younger and older single householders.

REFERENCES

ⁱ NH GIS, Table 0005

ⁱⁱ Maine Data Center Projections

<http://www.maine.gov/economist/projections/index.shtml>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table B01001.

^{iv} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 1, Table QTP3. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010, Summary File 1, Table QTP3. U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table B03002.

^v U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3, Table QTP20. U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table S1501.

^{vi} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table B07001 and B07002.

^{vii} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, and American Community Survey 2010-2014, Table B25004.

^{viii} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3, Table QTP10. U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table S1101.

^{ix} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3, Table QTP10. U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table S1101.

^x U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census, Summary File 3, Table HCT011. U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Table B19013.