

North Brookfield experienced a significant growth in population between 1980 and 1990, adding 558 new residents over the course of the decade. This was followed by a slight decline (a loss of 25 residents) in population 1990 to 2000. However, recent development activity in and around North Brookfield indicates that another growth spurt may be underway. According to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's (CMRPC) regional growth forecast, North Brookfield's population growth rate is projected to increase by a modest 2.5% between 2000 and the end of the decade.

Table OSR-2
North Brookfield Age Characteristics

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total Population</u>
Under 5 Years of Age	260	5.6%
5 – 19 Years of Age	1,109	23.7%
20-44 Years of Age	1,613	34.4%
45-64 Years of Age	1,096	23.4%
<u>65 Years of Age and Over</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>12.9%</u>
Total:	4,683	100%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Approximately 29% of North Brookfield's population consists of school-aged children or soon to be school-aged children. This represents a slight increase from the 1990 Census when 27.6% of the Town's population consisted of school-aged or soon to be school-aged children. The 45-64 age-group (or the soon to be seniors) saw the greatest increase, growing from 16.9% in 1990 to 23.4% by 2000. North Brookfield's senior population showed only a modest increase between 1990 (596 seniors) and 2000 (605 seniors). These trends indicate there will be more people throughout North Brookfield looking for recreation opportunities in the future and these activities will need to be varied to serve a variety of populations.

Table OSR-3
North Brookfield Household by Type

<u>Type of Household</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total Households</u>
Married Couple Family	969	53.5%
Male Householder	71	3.9%
Female Householder	196	10.8%
Non-Family Household	<u>575</u>	<u>31.8%</u>
Totals:	1,811	100%

Source: 2000 US Census

Table 3 indicates that more than half of the households in North Brookfield consist of married couples with children. Families with children often expect to find a diverse selection of recreational opportunities (both passive and active) in their communities, whether provided by the municipality itself or by private entities.