

# Chapter 5



# POPULATION



Population trends and projections are fundamental to planning for long-range needs of a community. These trends and projections provide the basis for future land use and physical improvements.

Preparing reasonable population projections requires consideration of past growth trends, existing demographic characteristics and current development trends. These factors were the basis for formulating population projections for the city of Chenoa. This chapter summarizes Chenoa's historical population growth, existing characteristics and the population projections developed for the city.

### HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Census records for the city of Chenoa have been kept since 1880. The largest ten-year increase in population was reported in 1900 (see Table 5.1). Another significant increase was reported in 1970. The most significant population declines occurred in the decades ending 1910 (minus 18.5 percent) and in the decade ending 1990 (minus 6.2 percent). Between 1970 to 2000, the population of Chenoa decreased very slightly. However, according to the 2000 Census, in the period

between 1990 and 2000 the city of Chenoa realized a population increase of .3 percent resulting in a total population of 1,845 and seemingly reversing the trend of population loss (see Table 5.1). Chenoa's location between two significant employment centers (Bloomington-Normal and Pontiac) give it an advantage over most rural locations in making it attractive as a bedroom community that can offer a high quality of life and potential for future growth.

### EXISTING POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Selected demographics of the city of Chenoa are analyzed in this section. Topics covered include age distribution, size of household, income, and education.

#### Age Distribution

Assessing a community's age distribution is important when planning for future needs. A community's needs may change as circumstances evolve that result in younger or older residents becoming more prevalent. According

Year	City of Chenoa			McLean County		State of Illinois	
	Population	Actual Increase	Rate of Increase	Population	Rate of Increase	Population	Rate of Increase
1880	1,063			60,100		3,077,871	
1890	1,220	157	14.8	63,036	4.9	3,826,352	19.6
1900	1,612	392	32.1	67,843	7.6	4,821,550	20.6
1910	1,314	-298	-18.5	68,008	0.2	5,638,591	14.5
1920	1,311	-3	-0.02	70,107	3.1	6,485,280	13.1
1930	1,325	14	1.1	73,117	4.3	7,630,654	15
1940	1,401	76	5.7	73,930	1.1	7,897,241	3.4
1950	1,452	51	3.6	76,577	3.6	8,712,176	9.4
1960	1,523	71	4.9	83,877	9.5	10,081,158	13.6
1970	1,860	337	22.1	104,389	24.5	11,113,976	9.3
1980	1,847	-13	-1	119,149	14.1	11,426,518	2.7
1990	1,732	-115	-6.2	129,180	8.4	11,430,602	0
2000	1,845	113	6.5	150,433	16.5	11,883,546	3.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Age Group	Chenoa	Lexington	Danvers	Hudson	McLean County	Illinois
under 5	8.0	6.0	8.4	9.7	6.5	7.1
5 to 9	7.2	7.7	9.6	10.1	6.7	7.5
10 to 14	8.6	7.9	8.8	8.3	6.5	7.3
15 to 19	5.8	8.1	8.0	7.2	9.2	7.2
20 to 24	4.4	4.7	4.1	3.0	13.2	6.9
25 to 34	13.7	12.7	15.2	17.2	14.2	14.6
35 to 44	15.8	16.3	19.2	19.9	15.0	16.0
45 to 54	12.1	14.4	11.2	12.9	12.2	13.1
55 to 59	5.6	6.6	3.0	3.6	3.9	4.7
60 to 64	3.7	3.2	3.6	2.0	2.9	3.7
65 to 74	7.7	5.8	5.3	3.5	5.0	6.2
75 to 84	5.2	4.8	2.5	1.8	3.4	4.3
85 plus	2.1	1.7	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.5
Tot. Pop.	1,845	1,912	1,183	1,510	150,433	12,419,293
Med. Age	36.2	36.7	32.2	32.5	30.5	34.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

to U.S. Census data, Chenoa’s average age is 36.2 years (see Table 5.2). This is higher by 5.7 years when compared to McLean County as a whole; in this context, it should be noted that the county-wide age distribution is impacted by the large student population in Bloomington-Normal. When contrasted with neighboring communities and the state of Illinois, the average age in Chenoa was comparable.

The largest distribution of ages in Chenoa is the 24 to 54 age group. This group makes up nearly 41.6 percent of the population. This demographic group is important as it is this group that represents the core full-time employable labor force for the city. The age group that represents child bearing age is between 24 to 44 years and comprises 29.5 percent of Chenoa’s population. This percentage is approximately the same as the county and slightly higher than that of the state of Illinois. Chenoa has a large number of children between the ages of 1 and 14. Chenoa’s number in this category is higher than both the

county and state.

Some of the greatest challenges to a community can be the aging of the population. Chenoa has a relatively high proportion of people 60 years of age and older, comprising 18.7 percent of the population. This is not uncommon for rural communities. There was only a slight increase of 2.1 percent since 1990 of those 60 years and above. This increase may become more significant as the 25 to 54 age groups move into this older category.

### Size of Household

The average number of persons per household has been declining statewide and nationwide in recent decades resulting in a greater demand for housing. Smaller households result from lower birthrates, delays in marriage and in an increasing number of households without children (empty nesters).

While the trends outside of Chenoa reflect a decline, the data for an average household

Type of Occupied Units	Population in Units	Occupied Units		Persons per Unit	
		Total	% Change over 1990	2000	1990
Renter	292	128	-16.9	2.28	2.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>2.59</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

in Chenoa has shown little change. The average household size for Chenoa is 2.59 persons (see Table 5.3). Projections for housing demand will reflect a range of household sizes.

### Income

An indicator of the relative wealth of a community and its needs is income. Income will reflect the ability to finance housing, community facilities and services. Median household income (MHI) for the City of Chenoa as reported in the 2000 Census was \$44,420 (see Table 5.4). Chenoa's MHI is

lower than both McLean County and the State of Illinois. According to the U.S. Census, the national MHI average is \$44,334, which makes Chenoa comparable with the national MHI. Approximately 63.6 percent of Chenoa households (460) have incomes falling between \$35,000 to \$75,000. Chenoa households (158) with incomes below \$25,000 represent the second largest percentage at 21.9 percent. Around 14.5 percent (105) of Chenoa households had incomes at or exceeding \$100,000 per year.

Incomes	Chenoa	Lexington	Danvers	Hudson	McLean County	Illinois
< \$10,000	35	23	21	4	4,195	383,299
< \$15,000	44	63	16	11	3,014	252,485
< \$25,000	79	98	47	33	6,838	517,812
< \$35,000	100	88	47	37	6,766	545,962
< \$50,000	151	141	54	58	9,169	745,180
< \$75,000	209	198	145	177	12,493	952,940
< \$100,000	63	79	64	99	6,623	531,760
< \$150,000	35	65	34	67	5,427	415,348
< \$200,000	2	7	0	2	1,243	119,056
> \$200,000	5	4	2	6	1,024	128,898
<b>Households</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>56,792</b>	<b>4,592,740</b>
<b>Median \$</b>	<b>\$44,420</b>	<b>\$46,146</b>	<b>\$52,647</b>	<b>\$62,632</b>	<b>\$47,021</b>	<b>\$46,590</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Level	Chenoa	Lexington	Danvers	Hudson	McLean County	Illinois
< 9th grade	7.0	4.0	9.0	2.6	3.0	7.5
9-12 grade (no diploma)	9.9	6.6	4.4	5.0	6.3	11.1
High school graduate (includes GED)	42.2	39.9	43.9	32.0	28.2	27.7
Some college, no degree	21.4	24.6	23.1	21.5	20.5	21.6
Associate degree	4.3	5.4	5.7	8.7	5.8	6.1
Bachelor's degree	10.9	14.3	16.7	23.5	25.2	16.5
Graduate or professional degree	4.2	5.2	5.0	6.7	11.0	9.5
High school graduates or higher	83.0	89.4	94.3	92.5	90.7	81.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	15.1	19.5	21.7	30.4	36.2	26.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Education

The educational attainment in Chenoa has been increasing. According to the 2000 Census, 42.2 percent of Chenoa residents had graduated high school. This is an increase of 14.2 percent since 1990 when only 28 percent of the population had received high school diplomas. In 1990, only 5.8 percent of Chenoa residents had obtained a bachelor's degree while 10.9 percent of the population had received a college degree by the year 2000. The number of people receiving bachelor's degrees or higher increased 15.1 percent when comparing 1990 and 2000 figures (see Table 5.5).

### FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH

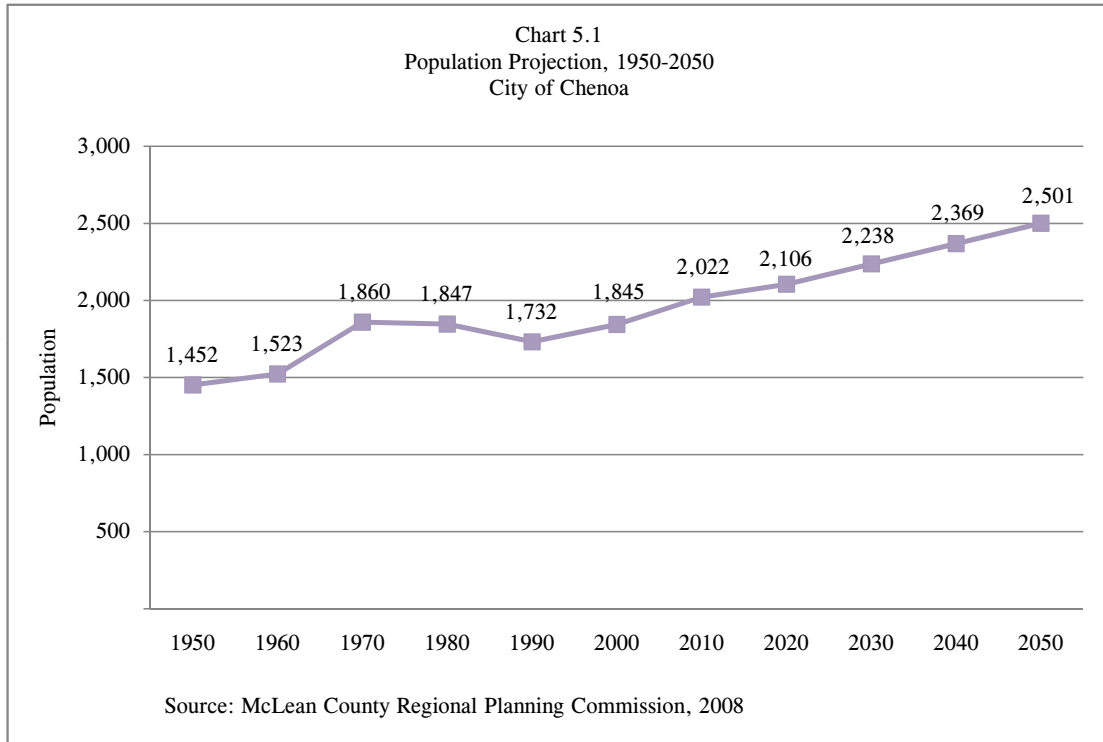
The City of Chenoa's population projections were developed for five-year increments through the 2025 planning period and for ten

year increments for the period 2030 through 2050, resulting in an estimated 2035 population of approximately 2,300. The projection figures for 2010 were arrived at by considering growth factors including possible future commercial and industrial development. The City of Chenoa and the McLean County Regional Planning Commission worked together to develop population projections. The projections are based on the following assumptions:

- Chenoa will continue to be an attractive rural community that offers an appealing quality of life. People will continue to look at communities such as Chenoa as an alternative place to live and raise a family.
- The City of Chenoa will continue to seek to improve the business climate. This includes the active recruitment of commercial and industrial operations that can take advantage of established transportation arteries, such as

Year	Chenoa	Bloomington	Danvers	Downs	Heyworth	Hudson	LeRoy	Lexington	Normal	Towanda	County
2005	1,855	67,800	1,220	1,550	2,850	4,550	3,400	2,100	47,700	535	156,560
2010	2,020	70,800	1,250	2,300	3,300	1,600	3,500	2,250	50,100	575	162,510
2015	2,040	74,900	1,300	3,100	3,750	1,700	3,650	2,450	52,500	580	170,020
2020	2,105	79,000	1,350	3,900	4,150	1,850	3,750	2,650	54,900	590	177,610
2025	2,170	83,100	1,400	4,050	4,350	1,950	3,900	2,900	57,400	595	185,180
2030	2,240	87,200	1,450	4,250	4,600	2,050	4,000	3,100	59,800	600	192,470
2040	2,370	95,500	1,600	4,600	5,200	2,150	4,300	3,700	64,600	610	208,640
2050	2,500	103,700	1,700	5,000	5,450	2,500	4,550	4,350	69,500	620	227,650

Source: McLean County Regional Planning Commission, 2008



highways, interstates and railroads that serve the area.

- Resources will be made available for development in an organized and responsible manner that supports sound community planning concepts and design.
- City leaders will continue to encourage areas for redevelopment, including the downtown, parks and established neighborhoods, that lead to increased opportunities for business and recreation and enhance the quality of life.
- Development along Old Route 66, Cemetery Street (Illinois Route 24) and near Interstate 55 will continue to stimulate the economy and contribute to population growth.

These projections provide the basis for developing the comprehensive plan and should be periodically reviewed and revised when needed as part of a continuing planning process.

Population projections reflecting the above assumptions are presented in Table 5.6 and illustrated graphically in Chart 5.1. The city is projected to grow by 325 residents or nearly 18 percent to total 2,170 by the end of the year 2025 planning period. Comparable growth is also projected to the year 2050.

