



# SUMMARY

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The most important element of the new Census information is what it tells us about our communities, our county and the region. What do the numbers present, directly or indirectly? What conclusions or summaries can be drawn that will aid us in planning for the future? Throughout this digest, text accompanying the tables and charts provided analysis and explanation of key parameters and highlighted trends that are continuing or are newly developing. Overall what the reader should have surmised is that Union County and local municipalities are experiencing change. This change is in the form of population growth, housing growth, and shifting of population age clusters. In many cases we are experiencing a rate of change significantly greater than Pennsylvania and our neighboring counties.

Some of these changes can affect us in a positive manner, but there are those that can be undesirable. We need to keep in mind that, if we do not adequately plan for the future and are unprepared for what lies ahead, even the trends that we would typically view as being good for our County and communities could become problematic. For example a steady increase of population and housing units will equal a corresponding demand for water, sewage disposal and roadways. Table 29 uses the projected population and housing units to forecast future sewage generation, increases in vehicle trips and water demand based upon commonly accepted planning and engineering standards. For these purposes sewage generation was calculated using two methodologies-one that is based upon 70 gallons per capita and the other based on 350 gallons per household per day. Future water demand was derived by using the 62 gallons of water per day per capita estimate while vehicle trips followed the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) figure of eight vehicle trips per day per housing unit. In only 10 years from now the county could be faced with the need to address the dis-

**Table 29: Projected Sewage, Water, and Traffic Demands**

UNION COUNTY	2010	2020	2030	2050
<b>Additional Population<sup>1</sup></b>	3,954	7,247	10,541	17,128
<b>Additional Housing Units<sup>1</sup></b>	2,089	4,048	6,008	9,611
Sewage - Gallons Per Day (70/capita)	276,780	507,290	737,870	1,198,960
Sewage - Gallons Per Year (70/capita)	101,024,700	185,160,850	269,322,550	437,620,400
Sewage - Gallons Per Day (350/unit)	731,150	1,416,800	2,102,800	3,363,850
Sewage -Gallons Per Year (350/unit)	266,869,750	517,132,000	767,522,000	1,227,805,250
Water - Gallons Per Day (62/capita)	245,148	449,314	653,542	1,061,936
Water - Gallons Per Year	89,479,020	163,999,610	238,542,830	387,606,640
Vehicle - Trips Per Day (8/Unit)	16,712	32,384	48,064	76,888
Vehicle - Trips Per Year	6,099,880	11,820,160	17,543,360	28,064,120

<sup>1</sup> Population and Housing Units are expressed in terms of the number projected above 2000 Census levels.

posal of an additional 266 million gallons of sewage per year plus be able to meet an added 89 million gallon per year water demand. It is difficult to even comprehend that by 2020 and 2030 we may need nearly 164 million and 238 million more gallons of water per year respectively. In addition , there will be more cars on our local roads, an estimate of more than 6 million vehicle trips above the current conditions. Given recent droughts, shrinking sewage treatment capacity, and existing local road congestion, the next 10 years could prove to be a serious challenge. As these figures are only for the 10 year horizon, one can only imagine how the county might be transformed should projections for 20, 30 and 50 years hold true. If the population and housing growth of the past several decades continues over the next 20, 30 and 50 years the demand on local government services will be enormous.

The figures are staggering. Obviously certain areas of the county will experience more growth than others. It is likely that the area in and around Mifflinburg Borough including Buffalo, Lewis, Limestone and West Buffalo Townships will continue to grow. The 2000 Census revealed that this area gained more population than any other in the county during the past 10 years (not considering federal prisoners in Gregg Township). Similarly it is expected that East Buffalo, Kelly, and White Deer Townships will continue to expand in terms of population and housing development. East Buffalo and Kelly are also likely to see continued commercial development. Union Township also has the potential to become a significant growth area if and when the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project is constructed, particularly in light of the fact the municipality does not have zoning. These areas identified as having high growth potential are then likely to see the brunt of future sewage and water service demands and more traffic. In addition these municipalities, and others that have not enacted land use controls, will see more pressure on agricultural lands and open spaces for conversion to housing subdivisions, commercial and industrial uses.

Another statistic that could have a dramatic impact within the county, on both the public and private sector, is the fact that the population is becoming increasingly older. In addition young people and those entering some of their prime wage earning years are leaving. The data has shown that the county actually lost more than one percent of the baby boomers and nearly three percent of those considered generation “X”. The number of early generation X-ers, those aged 25-34, declined by over 36%. If this continues, and generation “Y”, those aged 0 to 17 in the year 2000, follows in the footsteps of generation “X”, the proportion of older adults will be even greater. This obviously could impact taxes, revenues, schools, health care, available labor force, and local government spending. Certainly there are other changes that could occur as a result of our evolving demographics that have not been mentioned here; however, the overarching and most critical message is that it is imperative that both the public and private sector build partnerships and initiate steps today in order to be prepared for what could be in store for our tomorrow.