

Chapter 2 Demographics



In 1950 Avon had a population of only 3,171, but by 2000 it had grown to 15,832. Avon was once a rural Town with a farm-based economy. Currently Avon is a desirable low density suburban community with excellent schools and a high standard of living. **Table 2.1** depicts the changes in Avon, the Farmington Valley towns, and the Capitol region from the period 1950 to the year 2000.

Avon has experienced higher than average growth as compared with the State as a whole as well as many of the neighboring towns and the Capitol Region. However, Avon's population growth has slowed somewhat over the last two decades, as has the population of the Farmington Valley and the Capitol Region. Still, Avon's population grew by 1895 persons from 1990-2000. The Bureau of the Census released population estimates for 2004 for Avon on July

1, 2004. **Table 2.2** shows that Avon grew from 15,832 in 2000 to 17,041 in 2004, or 7.6% over this 4-year period.

Avon's future population growth will be dependent on a number of factors. These include the availability of suitable land for new construction; changes in other social trends such as average age at time of marriage; changes in rates of births and deaths; in and out migration; and the state of the local, regional, and national economy.

Table 2.2 Population Estimates April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004				
Town or Region	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2004	Numerical Change	% Change
Avon	15,032	17,041	1,209	7.6%
Canton	9,040	9,806	766	8.7%
Farmington	23,641	24,737	1,096	4.6%
Granby	10,347	11,007	660	6.4%
Simsbury	23,234	23,504	270	1.2%
Capitol Region	721,320	739,462	18,142	2.5%
Connecticut	3,405,565	3,503,604	98,039	2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Report, Population Estimates, Released July 10, 2004

Table 2.1 Population Change 1950-2000											
Town or Region	1950	1960	% Change 50-60	1970	% Change 60-70	1980	% Change 70-80	1990	% Change 80-90	2000	% Change 90-00
Avon	3,171	5,273	71.3%	8,352	58.4%	11,201	34.1%	13,937	18.5%	15,832	13.6%
Canton	3,613	4,783	32.4%	6,868	43.6%	7,635	11.2%	8,268	8.3%	8,840	6.9%
Farmington	7,026	10,813	53.9%	14,390	33.1%	16,407	14.0%	20,608	25.6%	23,641	14.7%
Granby	2,693	4,968	84.5%	6,150	23.8%	7,956	29.4%	9,369	17.8%	10,347	10.4%
Simsbury	4,822	10,138	110.2%	17,475	72.4%	21,161	21.1%	22,023	4.1%	23,234	5.5%
Capitol Region	418,191	546,545	30.7%	669,907	22.6%	668,479	-0.2%	709,404	6.1%	721,320	1.7%
Connecticut	2,007,280	2,535,234	26.3%	3,032,217	19.6%	3,107,576	2.5%	3,287,116	5.8%	3,405,565	3.6%

Source: U.S. Census Reports, CROCO

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Population Forecasts

Population forecasts are frequently used to help governments plan for additional school facilities, open space and recreation needs, housing, public safety, and senior citizen services. Many methods and models of population projections can be utilized. For this plan, three separate methods were reviewed. First, the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management provides population forecasts based on historical trends. The OPM projections have not been updated since the mid 1990's which has affected the reliability of these studies. The second and third methods used in this plan are also based upon historical rates of growth. The Constant Growth Method assumes that the average rate of growth per year over the last 30-year period will continue. The Constant Rate Method assumes that the average percentage increases in population over the last 30-year period will continue. **Table 2.3 and Chart 2.1** portrays the results of three methods. It must be noted that population projections become less accurate as the duration of the projection becomes longer. Most demographers agree that a five-year

projection will be fairly accurate, while accuracy will decrease for every year after that. The Town's population is projected to increase to about 20,000 by the year 2015.

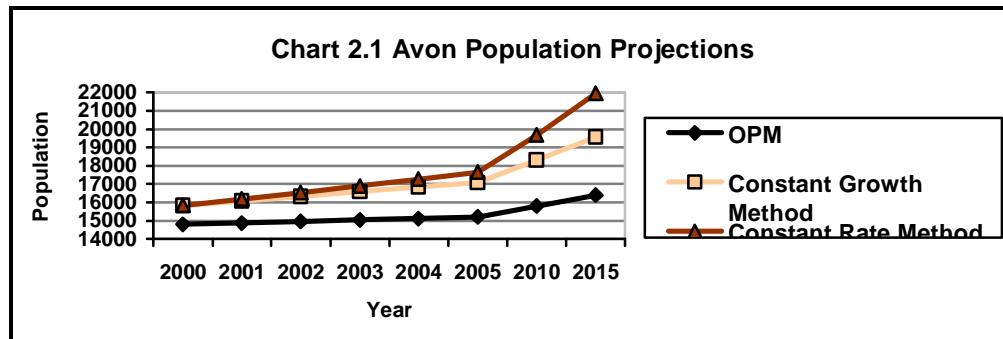
People of Avon

The population of every community is somewhat unique. In order to more fully understand the present and future needs of Town residents, it is helpful to have an understanding of various community characteristics. These include age-sex composition, income levels, educational levels, occupation and place of employment, and household characteristics. This information can be compared to the Capitol Region and the State. The following Tables summarize these characteristics, how they have changed over time, as well as a comparison with the Region, State, and Country as a whole. **Tables 2.4, 2.5 and Chart 2.2-2.6** illustrate how Avon's population has continued to age, increasing from a median age of 32.2 in 1970 to 42.0 in 2000. The median age is well above the regional, State and U.S. figures.

Table 2.3 Avon Population Projections								
Source/Method	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2010	2015
OPM	14,800	14,880	14,960	15,040	15,120	15,200	15,800	16,400
Constant Growth Method (average growth of 249 persons per year over last 30 years)	15,832	16,081	16,330	16,579	16,828	17,077	18,322	19,567
Constant Rate Method (average of 2.2% over last 30 years)	15,832	16,180	16,536	16,900	17,271	17,651	19,681	21,943

Source: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

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There has been a significant decrease in the 20 to 34 year old population segment over the years in Avon which is well below the regional, State, and national averages. This phenomenon may be due to the generally lower earning level of this group and the inability to afford the higher priced housing in Town. The younger age groups of 20-29 are those generally in need of rental housing and entry level jobs.

It is interesting to note that the two age groups 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 are the largest components of the population which are also generally the age groups with the largest earning capacity. These are also the same age groups that have the largest number of children and are often moving up to larger, more expensive housing.

Table 2.4 Demographic Comparison Gender and Age 1970-2000											
Demographic Group	Avon								Regional Comparison		
	1970	% of Population	1980	% of Population	1990	% of Population	2000	% of Population	% In Capitol Region	% in CT	% in US
Male	4,118	49.3%	5,456	48.7%	6,745	48.4%	7,579	47.9%	48.3%	48.4%	49.1%
Female	4,234	50.7%	5,745	51.3%	7,192	51.6%	8,253	52.1%	51.7%	51.6%	50.9%
Under 5 Years	671	5.6%	490	4.4%	766	5.5%	1,018	6.4%	6.5%	6.6%	6.8%
5-9	848	10.1%	659	5.9%	902	6.5%	1,295	8.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.3%
10-14	991	11.9%	1,056	9.4%	850	6.1%	1,184	7.5%	7.2%	7.1%	7.3%
15-19	717	8.6%	947	8.5%	793	5.7%	860	5.4%	6.3%	6.4%	7.2%
20-24	392	4.7%	606	5.4%	687	4.9%	310	2.0%	5.2%	5.5%	6.7%
25-34	928	11.1%	1,641	14.7%	1,767	12.7%	1,315	8.3%	13.1%	13.3%	14.2%
35-44	1,201	14.4%	1,644	14.7%	2,621	18.8%	2,814	17.8%	17.0%	17.1%	16.1%
45-54	1,166	14.0%	1,591	14.2%	2,112	15.2%	2,809	17.7%	14.3%	14.1%	13.3%
55-59	419	5.0%	792	7.1%	832	6.0%	1,050	6.6%	5.3%	5.2%	4.8%
60-64	331	4.0%	532	4.7%	745	5.3%	805	5.1%	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%
65-74	378	4.5%	769	6.9%	1,111	8.0%	1,279	7.7%	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%
75-84	217	2.6%	338	3.0%	563	4.0%	854	5.4%	5.2%	5.1%	4.4%
85 +	93	1.1%	135	1.2%	193	1.4%	298	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%	1.5%
Median Age	32.2		36.2		40.1		42		37.3	37.4	35.3

Source: U.S. Census Reports, CROCG

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Chart 2.2 Percent Avon Population by Age Group 1970

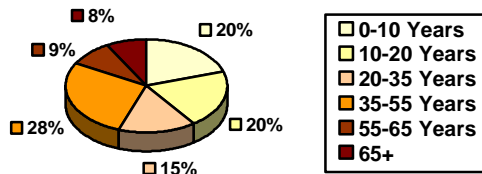


Chart 2.3 Percent Avon Population by Age Group 1980

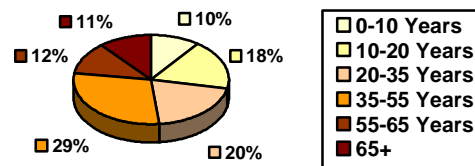


Chart 2.4 Percent Avon Population by Age Group 1990

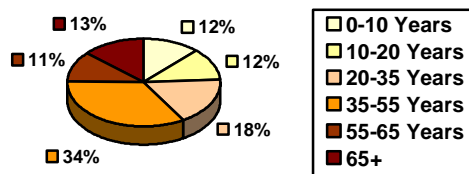
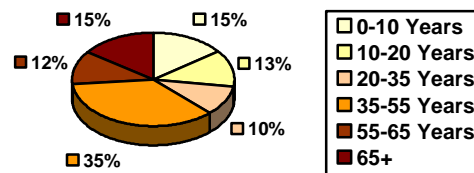


Chart 2.5 Percent Avon Population by Age Group 2000



The 55-64 year age group has also increased in Avon with a higher percent of the population in this group than regional and national averages. This age group is often referred to as the “empty nester” group.

Another trend is in the increasing number and percentage of the population in Avon over age 75, which is also consistent with regional, state, and national trends. There have been several retirement and assisted living facilities built in Avon to accommodate the needs of this population. In addition, there is a significant percentage of non-deed restricted condominiums which are occupied by people in this age group. The 75 and over population is expected to

further increase nationally and Avon’s population is expected to mirror this trend. This will continue to have some impact on the specialized transportation, health care, and housing needs of this group.

One last observation is the actual number and percent of the population under 5 years old which has implications for future school enrollments. This age group has continued to increase from 1980 to the present. This trend followed a significant drop experienced from the period 1970 to 1980. The increase in the number of children in this age group since 1990 closely follows regional, State, and national trends.

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Age Group	Avon % Population	Canton % Population	Farmington % Population	Granby % Population	Simsbury % Population	Farmington Valley % Population
Under 5 Years	8.4%	8.5%	5.7%	8.8%	7.2%	6.5%
5-9	8.2%	7.6%	7.0%	8.2%	8.7%	7.9%
10-14	7.5%	7.3%	7.6%	7.7%	8.9%	7.8%
15-19	6.4%	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%	6.2%	5.7%
20-24	2.0%	2.7%	3.2%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%
25-29	2.8%	4.6%	4.8%	3.2%	3.1%	3.7%
30-34	5.5%	7.1%	6.8%	6.6%	5.8%	6.4%
35-39	6.3%	9.0%	6.5%	9.8%	8.7%	8.9%
40-44	9.5%	10.2%	9.5%	10.4%	10.2%	10.0%
45-49	9.0%	6.9%	6.7%	9.7%	9.0%	9.1%
50-54	8.7%	8.1%	7.7%	8.1%	8.1%	8.1%
55-59	6.8%	6.3%	5.5%	6.1%	5.8%	6.0%
60-64	5.1%	4.3%	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	4.2%
65-69	3.3%	3.0%	3.7%	3.2%	3.5%	3.5%
70-74	3.3%	2.6%	3.7%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%
75-79	3.4%	2.0%	3.3%	2.2%	2.7%	2.8%
80-84	2.0%	1.9%	2.5%	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%
85 +	1.9%	1.9%	2.3%	1.1%	1.5%	1.7%
Median Age	42.0	39.9	40.4	39.6	39.6	40.3

Source: U.S. Census Reports, CRR00

Avon's Labor Force

There are 7,943 workers (over 16 years in age) in the labor force in Avon according to the 2000 Census. While the great majority of the labor force is employed outside of Avon there has been a significant increase in the number of workers who both live and work in Avon. **Table 2.6 and 2.7** depict the changes in the last decade from 1990 to 2000 in the work location for Avon residents.

It also indicates that the number of residents working outside of Avon did not significantly change between 1990 and 2000. However, 465 more residents are remaining within Avon to work. This is an indication of an increase in the number of local jobs available and an increase in the number of people working at home or "telecommuting". It is interesting to note that according to the 2000 Census, Avon is one of the few communities in the State that showed an increase in the number of residents who work in the community in which they reside.

1990				2000				
Total Workers	Worked In Avon	Worked Outside Avon	% Worked In Avon	Total Workers	Worked In Avon	Worked Outside Avon	% Worked In Avon	% Change 1990-2000
7,447	1,447	6,000	19.4%	7,943	1,912	6,031	24.1%	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census Reports

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Table 2.7 Work Commutes In and Out of Avon			
Non Residents Commuting to Avon From:		Avon Town Residents Commuting to:	
Simsbury	728	Avon	1,912
Farmington	844	Hartford	1,294
Carton	510	Farmington	581
West Hartford	432	Simsbury	563
Bristol	425	West Hartford	548
Hartford	376	Bloomfield	275
New Britain	370	New Britain	258
Torrington	332	Bristol	267
Other Towns	5,440	Other Towns	2,375

Source: CT Dept. of Economic Development, 2003

Table 2.8, below, shows there were 214 more persons working at their home in 2000 than in 1990 for a total of 452 persons working at their place of residence, or 5.7% of the workforce. This is the largest percentage of any town workforce in the Region working at home.

Table 2.8 Means to Work for Avon Residents 1990-2000		
Type of Commute to Work	1990	2000
Drove Alone	80.0%	80.6%
Carpooled	5.5%	3.8%
Public Transportation	1.5%	0.8%
Walked	0.5%	0.6%
Other Means	0.6%	0.3%
Worked at Home	0.2%	5.7%

Source: U.S. Census

Most Avon residents continue to use their private automobile as a means to work, with actually fewer persons carpooling or using public transit in 2000 as compared with 1990.

The actual number of jobs in Avon has continued to increase. As noted in **Table 2.9**, the overall number of employees has increased from 5,770 in 1980 to 9,180 in 2000 for an increase of 1,260 jobs. This increase in the daytime population has an impact on weekday

daytime traffic volumes and the provision of Emergency Services during these hours. Manufacturing jobs have decreased slightly in the past 10 years, but 1,270 jobs have been added in the non-manufacturing category, particularly in the services area.

Table 2.9 Total Employment by Work Sector in Avon 1980-2000					
Work Sector	1980	1990	% Change 80-90	2000	% Change 90-00
Non-Manufacturing	5,071	7,511	48.3%	9,180	22.7%
Manufacturing	370	382	3.2%	140	-62.8%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	40	50	25.0%	90	80.0%
Trade	2,110	1,500	-29.0%	2,090	40.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	500	1,000	100.0%	1,340	34.0%
Services (includes non profit)	1,070	2,700	153.3%	3,800	40.7%
Government	100	550	450.0%	540	-1.8%
Manufacturing	370	1,110	200.0%	1,180	6.3%
Total Non Farm Employment	5,770	7,600	32.6%	9,180	20.9%

Source: U.S. Census Reports

Educational Levels

Avon continues to rank very high in educational attainment levels. **Table 2.10** depicts the changes that have occurred over the last decade and compares Avon with the Capitol Region, the State and the nation. The percentage of Avon residents possessing a college degree is almost 2 times that of the Region and State, and 2.5 times as many as the United States as a whole.

Table 2.10 Percent of Population 25 Years and Older by Educational Attainment 1990-2000						
Region	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Avon	7.0%	4.6%	16.0%	11.7%	52.4%	52.0%
Farmington Valley *	8.5%	7.0%	20.2%	17.7%	47.7%	52.6%
Capitol Region	22.2%	18.0%	28.7%	7.1%	28.3%	32.4%
Connecticut	20.8%	16.0%	20.5%	28.5%	27.2%	31.4%
United States	24.8%	19.6%	30.0%	28.6%	20.3%	24.1%

* Does not include Avon

Source: U.S. Census Reports

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Professions

Table 2.11 summarizes Avon's major employment categories and compares them with the Capitol Region. According to the 2000 Census, the majority of Avon's workforce, or 62.3 percent, was categorized as management, professional, and related occupations as compared with 41.3 percent of the Region's workforce. There are generally fewer persons employed in service, construction and production jobs in Avon as compared with the Region.

Work Sector	Avon	Farmington Valley*	Capitol Region
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	62.3%	55.0%	41.3%
Service Occupations	5.6%	8.9%	13.3%
Sales and Office Occupations	26.0%	25.2%	27.9%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	2.7%	4.6%	6.5%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	3.3%	6.0%	10.8%

Source: U.S. Census Reports 2000

Income, Households and Family Income

Avon has the highest median income level in the Farmington Valley as well as within the Capitol Region. Data from the 2000 Census is presented in **Table 2.12** comparing Avon with neighboring towns and the Capitol Region depicting median household incomes from 1969 through 1999.

Town or Region	1969	1979	1989	1999	2005
Avon	\$14,434	\$31,565	\$66,502	\$80,934	\$101,558
Canton	\$12,378	\$23,598	\$53,449	\$65,013	\$74,500
Farmington	12,046	\$24,769	\$52,979	\$67,073	\$74,379
Granby	\$12,820	\$27,301	\$59,839	\$61,151	\$91,573
Simsbury	\$15,882	\$31,937	\$64,536	\$62,996	\$93,474
Capitol Region	\$10,493	\$20,755	\$42,077	\$53,305	\$71,140

Source: U.S. Census Reports

Households

Data about Avon's household characteristics is important to understanding the community. **Tables 2.13 and 2.14** show demographic information regarding household characteristics and household size in the town of Avon. The U.S. Census reports data on family households and non-family households. A family household is defined as a household that consists of two or more people, one of whom is the householder, related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing in the same housing unit. A non-family household is defined as a household that consists of all people who occupy a housing unit regardless of relationship. A household may consist of a person living alone or multiple unrelated individuals or families living together. The great majority (86.3%) of Avon's population is in family households. The remainder of the population is in non-family households composed of single individuals living alone or together with unrelated persons (12.6%), and those in group quarters (1.1%).

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Table 2.13 Household Characteristics

Total Population	15,832
Total Persons in Family Households	13,660
% Population in Family Household	86.3%
Total Persons in Non-Family Household	1,997
% Population in Non-Family Household	12.6%
Number in Group Quarters	175
% Population in Group Quarters	1.1%
Average Household Size	2.53
Average Family Size	3.03

Source: 2000 Census

Table 2.14 Household Size

Households	Family Households	Non-Family Households	Total Households
# of Households	4,483	1,709	6,192
% of Total Households	72.4%	27.6%	100.0%
1 Person in Household	0	1,455	1,455
% of Household 1 Person	0.0%	85.1%	23.5%
2 People in Household	2,053	233	2,286
% of Household 2 People	45.8%	13.6%	37.0%
3 People in Household	675	12	687
% of Household 3 People	19.5%	1.0%	14.3%
4 People in Household	1,007	7	1,014
% of Household 4 People	22.5%	0.4%	16.4%
5 People in Household	414	0	414
% of Household 5 People	9.2%	0.0%	6.7%
6 People in Household	103	2	105
% of Household 6 People	2.3%	0.1%	1.7%
7 People in Household	27	0	27
% of Household 7 People	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: 2000 Census

Population Mobility

Avon is a community of mobility, meaning that many of its residents have moved to the area recently and from many different locations. Much of this is due to the attractiveness of Avon

to persons relocating due to a job transfer, as well as those area residents moving here to take advantage of Avon's schools and other attributes.

Table 2.15 shows the place of birth of Avon, Connecticut and U.S. residents, as well as where they were living in 1995. As can be seen in this Table, over half of Avon's population was born outside of Connecticut. In addition, over 40 percent of the population was living in a different house in 1995 and over 14 percent were located in a different state. This indicates a fairly high transition in the population over the five-year period. However, this trend is not unlike the population of Connecticut and the U.S. as a whole.

Table 2.15 Place of Birth and Residence

Place of Birth	Number	Percent	Percent of CT Population	Percent of US Population
Total Population of Avon	15,832	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Residents Born in CT or State of Residence	7,511	47.4%	57.0%	60.0%
Residents Born in other US State	7,013	44.3%	28.8%	27.7%
Born Outside US	1,305	8.2%	14.2%	12.4%
Residence in 1995	Number	Percent	Percent of CT Population	Percent of US Population
Population 5 Years +	14,829	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Same House 1995	8,348	56.3%	58.2%	54.1%
Different House in US in 1995	6,167	41.6%	28.6%	43.0%
In Same Town	0	0.0%	10.1%	N/A
In Same County	3,601	24.3%	23.1%	24.9%
Different County	2,565	17.3%	13.5%	18.1%
Same State	773	5.2%	5.3%	8.7%
Different State	1,793	12.1%	8.2%	8.4%
Elsewhere	305	2.1%	3.3%	2.9%

Source: 2000 Census