

## Inquiry Activity • In Your Neighborhood

## Chapter 8

## Using Census Data

**Problem** *Is my local population growing too fast, not at all, or is it declining?*

**Your Prediction**

1. Does your town's population diagram more closely resemble that of Canada or Madagascar? (See **Figure 9**, on page 236 of your textbook.)
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**Background**

In 2010, the world population exceeded six billion, and continues to grow at a rate of 1.3 percent yearly (an increase of 80 million people). Understanding population growth—or lack of it—at the local level helps environmental scientists understand how resources are used and wastes created. Comparing current population data with historical data and regional or national statistics may reveal patterns of change that can be useful in resource management.

An age structure diagram provides a quick basis for assessing the population structure of a country or region and using it to predict population trends. A pyramid-shaped diagram—fewer elderly individuals, many young individuals—indicates rapid growth. In contrast, a diagram shaped more like a pillar or column indicates little or no growth. And a population in which the smallest groups are the youngest (for which the diagram can look like a column with a pinched-in base) is actually experiencing negative growth. In this case, the population is decreasing over time and cannot replace itself.

**Research Your Local Environment****Procedure**

**Materials** Computer with Internet access or pre-printed census data tables; graph templates (in lab) or graph paper

**Step 1** Use the Data in the back to construct TWO Age-Sex Pyramids - Use the Percentage!

**Step 2** Answer the Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### 2000 Census - Union Township - Age Structure Diagram

	Males	Females
90 & up		
85 to 89		
80 to 84		
75 to 79		
70 to 74		
65 to 69		
60 to 64		
55 to 59		
50 to 54		
45 to 49		
40 to 44		
35 to 39		
30 to 34		
25 to 29		
20 to 24		
15 to 19		
10 to 14		
5 to 9		
0 to 5		

  

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Population																					

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### 2010 Census - Union Township - Age Structure Diagram

	Males		Females
90 & up			
85 to 89			
80 to 84			
75 to 79			
70 to 74			
65 to 69			
60 to 64			
55 to 59			
50 to 54			
45 to 49			
40 to 44			
35 to 39			
30 to 34			
25 to 29			
20 to 24			
15 to 19			
10 to 14			
5 to 9			
0 to 5			
	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	<b>Population</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Using Census Data Lab Activity

1. **Look at the data for your town for 2000.** Which age group is the largest? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which age group is the smallest? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Graph an age structure diagram for 2000 data.

4. How do the numbers of men and women compare? (answer after you make your graph)

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5. **Look at the data for your town for 2010.** Which age group is the largest? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which age group is the smallest? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Graph an age structure diagram for 2010 data.

8. How do the numbers of men and women compare? (answer after you make your graph)

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9. What differences do you see between the 2000 and the 2010 data?

10. **Interpret the Graphs.** Describe the general shape of Union's Age Structure Diagram for 2000.

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11. Does this show rapid growth, no growth, little growth, or negative growth? Explain your answer.

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12. Describe the general shape of Union's Age Structure Diagram for 2010.

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13. Does this show rapid growth, no growth, little growth, or negative growth? Explain your answer.

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14. What might be the cause of why these graphs are different?

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15. Are you concerned about the population patterns you observed? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

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16. Some experts predict that the world's population will reach 8 billion by 2030. How do you think will this affect pollution?

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QT-P1

Age Groups and Sex: 2000

Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, definitions, and count corrections see <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf1u.htm>.

Age	Union township, Union County, New Jersey					
	Number			Percent		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total population	54,405	25,446	28,959	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	2,994	1,525	1,469	5.5	6.0	5.1
5 to 9 years	3,568	1,841	1,727	6.6	7.2	6.0
10 to 14 years	3,538	1,842	1,696	6.5	7.2	5.9
15 to 19 years	3,600	1,800	1,800	6.6	7.1	6.2
20 to 24 years	3,242	1,595	1,647	6.0	6.3	5.7
25 to 29 years	3,068	1,480	1,588	5.6	5.8	5.5
30 to 34 years	3,896	1,802	2,094	7.2	7.1	7.2
35 to 39 years	4,527	2,150	2,377	8.3	8.4	8.2
40 to 44 years	4,433	2,105	2,328	8.1	8.3	8.0
45 to 49 years	3,842	1,859	1,983	7.1	7.3	6.8
50 to 54 years	3,507	1,664	1,843	6.4	6.5	6.4
55 to 59 years	2,597	1,221	1,376	4.8	4.8	4.8
60 to 64 years	2,166	959	1,207	4.0	3.8	4.2
65 to 69 years	2,050	886	1,164	3.8	3.5	4.0
70 to 74 years	2,135	899	1,236	3.9	3.5	4.3
75 to 79 years	2,245	845	1,400	4.1	3.3	4.8
80 to 84 years	1,606	566	1,040	3.0	2.2	3.6
85 to 89 years	917	293	624	1.7	1.2	2.2
90 years and over	474	114	360	0.9	0.4	1.2



QT-P1

Age Groups and Sex: 2010

2010 Census Summary File 1

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.

**Geography: Union township, Union County, New Jersey**

Age	Number			Percent		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total population	56,642	26,786	29,856	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	3,082	1,575	1,507	5.4	5.9	5.0
5 to 9 years	3,124	1,629	1,495	5.5	6.1	5.0
10 to 14 years	3,421	1,753	1,668	6.0	6.5	5.6
15 to 19 years	4,347	2,200	2,147	7.7	8.2	7.2
20 to 24 years	4,026	2,070	1,956	7.1	7.7	6.6
25 to 29 years	3,313	1,645	1,668	5.8	6.1	5.6
30 to 34 years	3,608	1,680	1,928	6.4	6.3	6.5
35 to 39 years	3,691	1,707	1,984	6.5	6.4	6.6
40 to 44 years	4,088	1,902	2,186	7.2	7.1	7.3
45 to 49 years	4,499	2,159	2,340	7.9	8.1	7.8
50 to 54 years	4,644	2,219	2,425	8.2	8.3	8.1
55 to 59 years	3,794	1,776	2,018	6.7	6.6	6.8
60 to 64 years	3,053	1,420	1,633	5.4	5.3	5.5
65 to 69 years	2,094	940	1,154	3.7	3.5	3.9
70 to 74 years	1,642	664	978	2.9	2.5	3.3
75 to 79 years	1,442	554	888	2.5	2.1	3.0
80 to 84 years	1,313	473	840	2.3	1.8	2.8
85 to 89 years	947	288	659	1.7	1.1	2.2
90 years and over	514	132	382	0.9	0.5	1.3