

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

## POPULATION

The number of people living in a community is the basis for determining the need for housing, schools, businesses, streets utilities and public services. A city plan, as well as other planning activities, must have a sound population study to build the plan upon. In addition to the number of persons, knowledge of the population's characteristics -- age, sex and race, for example -- are also essential considerations when planning the future development pattern of a community.

### Trends

The first settler to the area was John C. Kennett, who established a mercantile business in 1843 for selling supplies to those on their way West during the gold rush. The town of Butler was platted in 1854 by J. S. Wilkins and John E. Morgan, and was designated the Bates County seat in 1856. Butler grew rapidly after the courthouse was completed in 1858, and by 1861, the population had reached 1,000.

With the outbreak of civil war hostilities, however, much of Butler's energies turned from progress to mere survival. Attempts at securing a railroad had failed since initiated in 1856, and no more efforts would be made until 1866. As a result of the continual across the border raiding between Missouri and Kansas, Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing issued General Order No. 11 in August 1863 in an attempt to depopulate the area and thus end the bloodshed and pillage. Virtually all of the residences in the city of Butler were abandoned in response to the Order. Most of the town was intentionally destroyed at various times before and after the occupancy of the town by the military in order to prevent Southern sympathizers from harboring rebels. During this period of conflict, the courthouse was also destroyed by fire.

The city regained its footing after the war, and was incorporated in 1872, and again incorporated as a city of the fourth class in 1879. Butler probably experienced its most rapid growth during the late 1870's and early 1880's, after the Rich Hill coal fields were opened. The Lexington and Southern Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad was completed through Butler and to the coal fields in 1879. In the early 1880's, Butler became known as the "Electric City" by obtaining the distinction of being the first city, outside St. Louis, to have a publicly supported and maintained electric utility. Reportedly, people traveled from Kansas City by train just to view the electric light on the Bates County Courthouse. By the turn of the century, the city had a complete waterworks system, with its intake on the Miami River. The population in 1900, according to the Census, was 3,158.

Following the period of rebirth, Butler experienced a 20-year period of population decline. By 1930, however, the city had regained growth, but it was not until 1950 that Butler exceeded its 1900 population level. Growth has been moderate since 1950, and in 1980 the Census reported the population of Butler to be 4,107.

The historical population changes for Butler, Mt. Pleasant Township and Bates County are shown in the *Population History* table. The percentage change for Missouri is also shown for purposes of comparison.

### POPULATION HISTORY

YEAR	BUTLER		MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP		BATES COUNTY		MISSOURI % Change
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change	Population	% Change	
1850	*	---			3,669	---	77.8
1860	1,000**	---			7,215	96.6	73.3
1870	1,064	6.4	2,688		15,960	121.1	45.6
1880	2,162	103.2	3,428	27.5	25,381	59.0	26.0
1890	2,812	30.1	3,831	11.7	32,223	27.0	23.6
1900	3,158	12.3	3,951	3.1	30,141	-6.5	16.0
1910	2,894	-8.4	3,744	-5.2	25,869	-14.2	6.0
1920	2,702	-6.6	3,543	-5.6	23,933	-7.5	3.4
1930	2,706	0.1	3,490	-1.5	22,068	-8.4	6.6
1940	2,958	9.3	3,633	4.1	19,531	-11.5	4.3
1950	3,333	12.7	4,208	15.8	17,534	-10.2	4.5
1960	3,791	13.7	4,484	6.6	15,905	-9.3	9.2
1970	3,984	5.1	4,647	3.6	15,468	-2.7	8.3
1980	4,107	3.1	4,863	4.6	15,873	2.6	5.1

\* Not established

\*\* Approximation

Source: U.S. Census of Population  
Population Change of Missouri Towns, 1890-1910  
Kaysinger Basin Regional Profile, Extension Division,  
University of Missouri-Columbia

## Population Change

Population change is the result of natural change (births minus deaths) and migration change (moving in or moving out). The *Population Change* table shows the natural and migration changes which have occurred in the Bates County population since 1910.

Bates County has continually lost population since 1910, due to out-migration of the population until 1970. Out-migration had slowed in 1960 to only a fraction of what it was in the early part of the century, however, other changes have taken place more recently. During the 1960's, for the first time in at least fifty years, Bates County showed more deaths than there were births and that phenomenon repeated itself during the 70's. The data available from 1970 to 1980, however, shows fewer deaths relative to the number of births. This, combined with the fact that people are now moving into the county rather than out, has given Bates County the first population increase since 1890.

### POPULATION CHANGE

#### BATES COUNTY

YEAR	POPULATION	NATURAL INCREASE			NET MIGRATION
		<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Net Increase</u>	
1910	25,869				
11-19		4,646	2,557	2,089	-4,025
1920	23,933				
20-29		3,923	2,542	1,381	-3,246
1930	22,068				
30-39		3,099	2,470	629	-3,166
1940	19,531				
40-49		2,952	2,287	665	-2,662
1950	17,534				
50-59		2,773	2,383	390	-2,019
1960	15,905				
60-69		2,310	2,632	-322	-115
1970	15,468				
70-79		2,179	2,323	-144	549
1980	15,873				

Source: Trends in Missouri Vital Statistics  
U.S. Bureau to the Census, Population Estimates

The number of births and deaths are shown for the city of Butler for each year from 1970 thru 1979 in the *Natural Increase* table. The net natural increase shown is the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths, and is added or subtracted to determine the number of persons. This table shows that the city of Butler has experienced a net population decline by this process. While Butler has experienced a natural population decline since 1970, the average rate of decline has steadily decreased, because of slight increases in the numbers of births and/or decreases in the numbers of deaths. If the residents of the city do not supply new citizens, the only ways in which Butler may increase its population is through in-migration or annexation.

NATURAL INCREASE  
BUTLER, MISSOURI

YEAR	OF PERSONS*	NET NATURAL INCREASE	BIRTHS	DEATHS
1970	3,984	-32	52	84
1971	3,952	-21	53	74
1972	3,931	-30	50	80
1973	3,901	-26	55	81
1974	3,875	-16	50	66
1975	3,859	-16	53	69
1976	3,843	-21	61	82
1977	3,822	-15	55	70
1978	3,807	-14	46	60
1979	3,793	-30	47	77
1980	3,763			

\*Based on natural increase/decrease only; does not take into account the migration which occurred.

Source: Missouri Vital Statistics

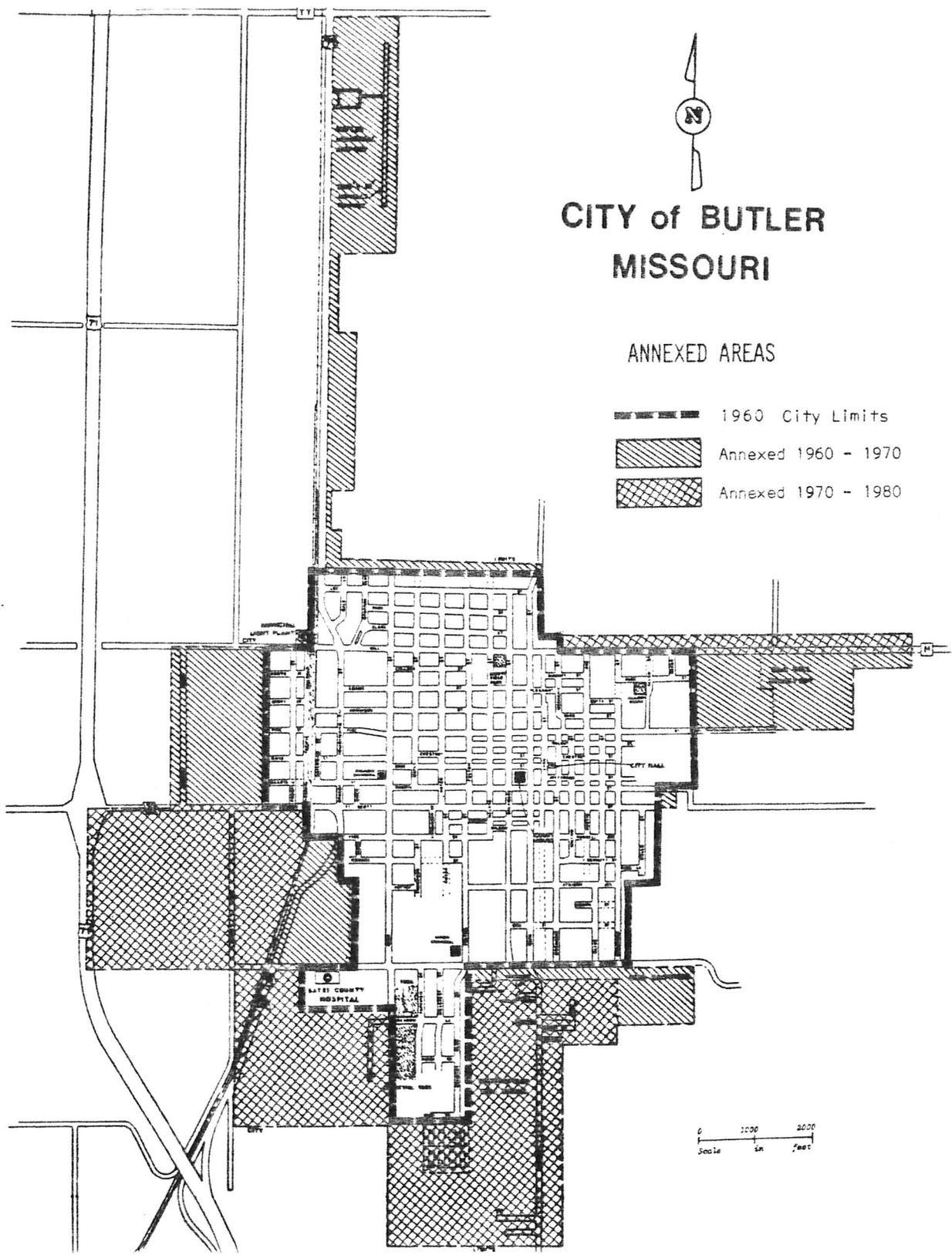
Unlike counties and states, a city may also increase its population by annexing adjacent populated areas. This ability to increase population has become significant in recent years for some cities because of the large number of persons living just outside the city limits. Annexation has also become an important tool for use in directing growth to those areas of the community which can or should be provided with city services prior to development. The *Annexed Population* table shows that the areas annexed by the city of Butler between 1960 and 1970 proved to be growth areas for the city.

The population declined by 7% within Butler's 1960 city limits, while the growth areas, shown on the *Annexed Areas* map experienced enough increase to boost Butler's total 1970 population by 5% over the 1960 population. By annexing these areas, Butler was able to provide city services to those areas identified as having growth potential before extensive development occurred.

1970 POPULATION IN  
ANNEXED AREAS  
(1960-1970)

1970 Population	3,984
-in 1960 corporate area	3,543
-in annexed area	441
1960 Population	3,791
Change, 1960-1970 in 1960 area	-248

*Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1970*



# CITY of BUTLER MISSOURI

## ANNEXED AREAS

- 1960 City Limits
- ▨ Annexed 1960 - 1970
- ▩ Annexed 1970 - 1980

0 1000 2000  
Scale in feet

## General Population Characteristics

The characteristics of a community's population are important to consider, particularly in determining the types and levels of public services. The *Population Characteristics* table shows the general composition of the Butler, Bates County and Missouri populations for purposes of comparison. The following characteristics should be noted:

- The city of Butler experienced a greater population gain, percentage-wise, than Bates County, while the City and Mt. Pleasant Township made similar gains from 1960 to 1980.
- The small number of Negro persons living in the area, when compared to the statewide average. It should also be noted that of the 121 Blacks living in the county, 117 reside within Butler and the remaining four within Mt. Pleasant Township.
- The much greater "spread" between the number of males exceeded by the number of females in Butler, (10.4%); when Butler statistics are excluded from Mt. Pleasant, the percentage of females exceeds the percentage of males by less than one percent. Percentages for Bates County and Missouri are similar (3.6% Bates and 3.8% State).
- In 1970, a large percentage of Butler's population were 65 years of age and over, when compared to the state average. Those living in Mt. Pleasant Township outside the city of Butler appeared to be younger families, with 16% of the population comprised of persons in their retirement years, and nearly 40% being under the age of 18; it is assumed that the same situation still exists.
- A significant percentage of the Butler and Mt. Pleasant Township population live in group quarters. All Blacks living in group quarters in Bates County in 1980 resided in Mt. Pleasant Township. This reflects the presence of several nursing homes and homes for the aged in Butler and the township.
- The number of persons per household reflects the presence of a significant number of one-person households when compared to the state. This may be due to the large number of retired persons who may be living alone.
- The fertility ratio of Butler reflects a favorable sign, as compared with Bates County and the State. In the decade of 1960-70 the Butler ratio was 322 as compared to the 1970-80 figure of 328. Bates County declined from 355 to 320 and the State declined from 343 to 282 for the same periods.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

	BUTLER	RURAL MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP	TOTAL BATES COUNTY	MISSOURI
POPULATION	4,107	756	15,873	4,916,686
% change 1960-80	8.1	NA	-0.2	13.8
RACE: % Non White	3.7	.4	1.3	11.6
% Negro	2.8	.4	0.8	10.5
% Spanish Origin	0.8	0	0.4	1.1
SEX: % Male	44.8	49.5	48.2	48.1
% Female	55.2	50.5	51.8	51.9
AGE: % under 18	22.5	25.7	26.5	27.7
% 65 and over	26.9	15.6	20.1	13.2
median age	42.9	38.3	36.9	30.9
IN GROUP QUARTERS	135	55	249	2.6%
PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD	2.3	3.1	2.6	2.7
FERTILITY RATIO*	328	298	320	282

\*Fertility ratio: children under 5 years per 1,000 women 15 to 49 years.

Source: U.S. Census of Population and Housing 1980

Age Groups

The number of people in various age groups is a significant factor in analyzing population change and the community's potential to grow. Three general age groups; youth, work force and retired; have been used in this study. These age groups or "stages of life" have different social, economic and political positions in the community, but all three groups should be considered.

Youth - This age group includes persons under 18 years of age. These persons are usually a part of a family unit and most are in school. They generally do not have an income and require total support from the community in which they live. Because of their young age, they are not in decision or advisory positions. Their only means of self-travel are walking, tricycles and bicycles (until age 16) or public transportation. Community facilities which directly affect this age group include the location of schools, parks, sidewalks, public transportation systems, entertainment and recreation areas. Walking distance is a major consideration in planning for the youth of a community.

Work Force - This general age group contains persons between the ages of 18 and 64 years of age. This largest of age groups is the "backbone" of the community for several reasons:

- They provide the labor force necessary to support the local economy.
- They are in their major income earning years, and thus are able to pay taxes to support community services for themselves and others.
- They comprise the basic elements of the family unit which produces natural population increase.
- They are the decision-makers in the community, generally both in policy and administrative positions.
- They have all forms of transportation available for their use.

Retired - This age group (65 years and older) is entering--or has entered--the retirement period of life. Employment often becomes part-time or ceases altogether due to work policies or personal health. Income declines in relation to the amount of hours worked, until full retirement results in a fixed income level. The buying power of this age group is steadily eroded by increasing medical expenses due to age and inflation. Fixed incomes and increasing costs limit their abilities to pay taxes for needed community services, public transportation, health care, food and recreation. Eventually, the maintenance of decent housing can outgrow their fixed incomes. A few persons in this age group do remain in decision-making positions as long as self mobility with the automobile is available. Self travel eventually reverts back to walking as eyesight and reaction time decline.

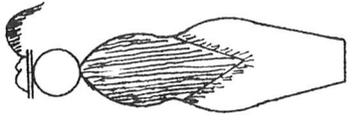
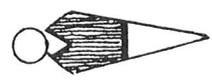
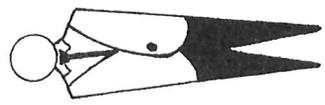
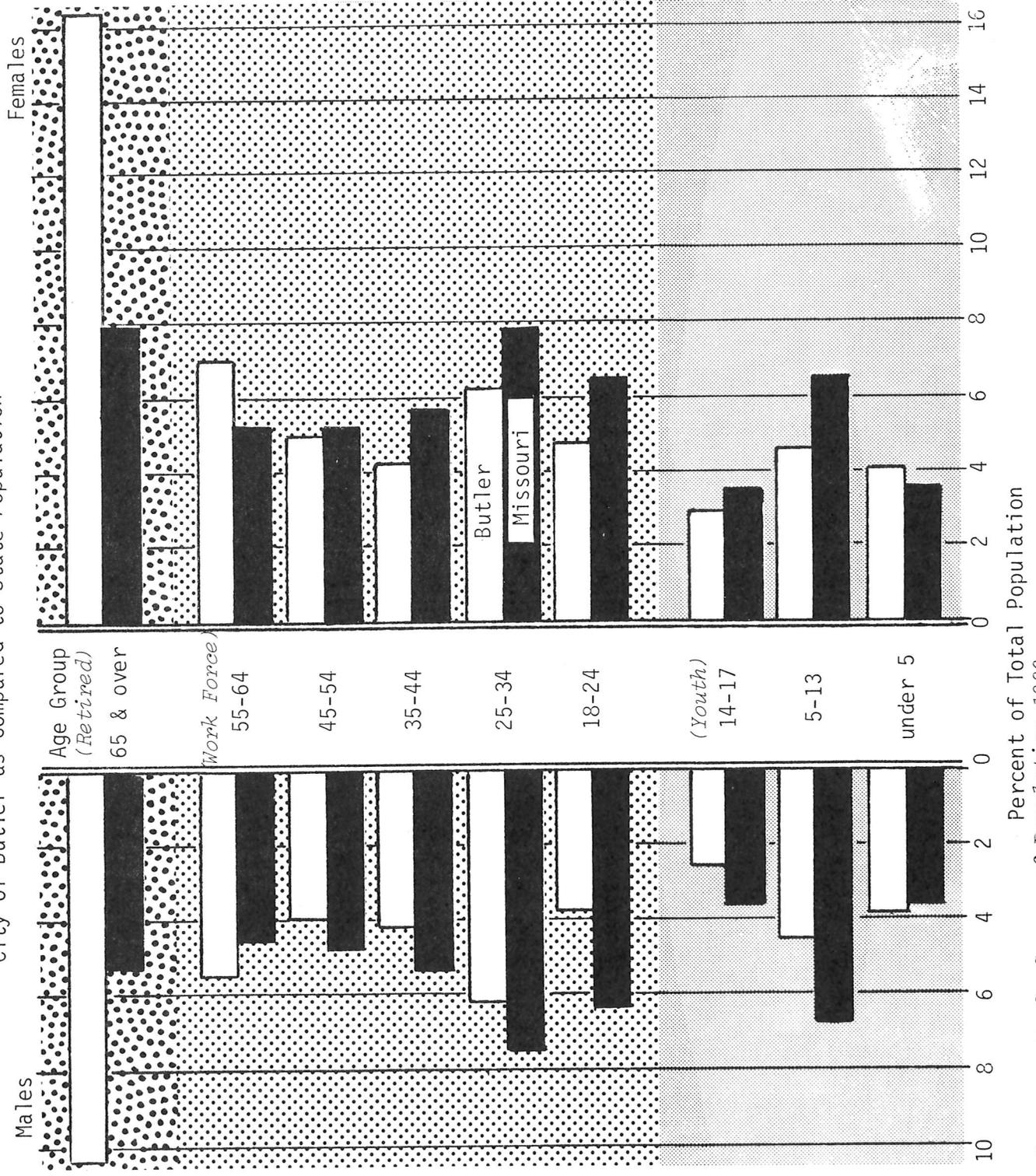
The *Population By Age Group* table shows Butler's population by age and sex. Percentages are shown for Butler and Bates County, for purposes of comparison.

The *Population Pyramid* shows graphically age and sex comparison between Butler and the state populations, while the *Age Group Trends* table and graph show changes which have occurred since 1950. Among the characteristics and trends which should be noted concern the aging of Butler's population:

- A large percentage of the population (26.9% of the total) are 65 years and over. Of these, 1106 individuals living in Butler at the time of the 1980 Census:
  - 61.3% were female
  - one-half are age 75 and over
  - 31.5% are females, age 75 and over.
- There have been steady increases in the percentages and actual numbers of persons age 65 and over since 1950.
- There has been rapid growth within the oldest age group; a 20.6% increase since 1970 nearly doubling the increase between 1960-70.
- The median age declined between 1970-80 from 44.5 to 42.9.

POPULATION PYRAMID

City of Butler as Compared to State Population



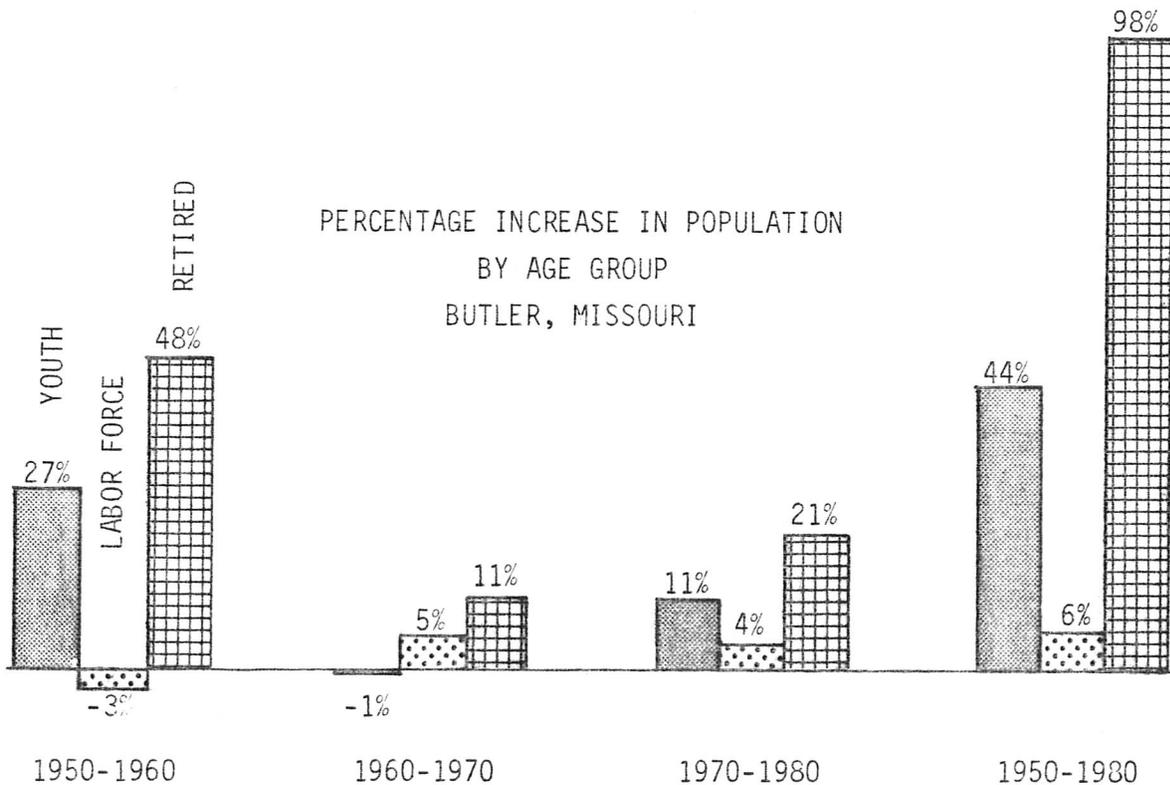
Source: U. S. Census of Population 1980.

AGE GROUP TRENDS

BUTLER, MISSOURI

	1950		1960		1970		1980	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Under 5	265	8.0	307	8.1	252	6.3	272	6.6
5-14	462	13.9	630	16.6	625	15.7	749	18.2
15-19	180	5.4	219	5.8	293	7.3	284	6.9
20-24	187	5.6	140	3.7	199	5.0	243	5.9
25-44	945	28.3	845	22.3	745	18.7	852	20.7
45-64	735	22.0	822	21.7	953	23.9	876	21.3
65 and over	559	16.8	828	21.8	917	23.0	1106	26.9
% of increase/decade		48.1		10.7		20.6		
Median Age	36.1		38.5		44.5		42.9	

Source: U.S. Census of Population



Source: U. S. Census of Population

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

AGE GROUP	SEX		<u>BUTLER</u>		<u>BATES</u>
	MALE	FEMALE	NUMBER OF PERSONS	% OF POPULATION	COUNTY % OF POPULATION
Under 5	159	168	327	8.0	6.9
5- 9	87	109	196	4.8	6.7
10-14	118	105	223	5.4	7.3
15-19	132	152	284	6.9	8.5
20-24	108	135	243	5.9	6.3
25-29	139	135	274	6.7	6.6
30-34	115	120	235	5.7	5.6
35-44	169	174	343	8.4	10.4
45-54	160	205	365	8.9	10.4
55-59	113	136	249	6.1	5.3
60&61	34	53	87	2.1	2.2
62-64	76	99	175	4.3	3.7
65-74	222	330	552	13.4	11.2
75 and over	206	348	554	13.5	8.9

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980.

The characteristic of Butler's population which may have the most impact - that of aging - requires the community to carefully examine community services and priorities. Considerations might include a more ample supply of senior citizens' rental housing; living areas located within easy walking distance of commercial, religious and recreation facilities; a moderately low and stable tax burden because retirement income is generally fixed and low; and the development of a sidewalk improvement/construction/maintenance program.

Aging of the population is not a characteristic peculiar only to Butler; it is a national phenomenon. The most rapidly growing age group in the U.S. is the oldest--those persons 85 years and over--which tripled during the last 25 years. The effect of this phenomenon on our entire society is already being felt through increases in social security taxes, increased demand upon health care facilities (particularly nursing homes) and increased emphasis on federal, state and local programs designed for the benefit of our senior citizens.

The elderly today are more likely than any other age group to be poor, to live in substandard housing, to lack ready transportation to doctors' offices shopping areas and other destinations. With an increasing number of senior citizens, the community may be called upon to provide many supportive services which this growing age group requires.

## Non-White Groups

The number of persons in racial or ethnic minority groups in Butler is low when compared to the state and nation. The 1980 Census of Population reported that 96.3% of Butler's population is white, and that there were 153 non-white persons living in Butler in 1980.

Blacks constitute 76.5% of the non-white population in Butler, with no other racial or ethnic group of significant size. The *Black and Spanish Origin* table shows the breakdown by age and sex of Butler's black population. The 1980 Census also reported the presence of seven American Indians, one Fillipino, twelve Chinese, one Asian Indian and fifteen listed as other. All but four of the Blacks reported by the Census to be residing in Bates County in 1970 lived within the Butler city limits, and the remaining four within Mt. Pleasant Township.

When Butler's black population is compared with the total population, some interesting comparisons may be made. While approximately the same proportion of the black population comprises the labor force age group as the total population, proportions of both youth and retired age groups are quite dissimilar. A much higher percentage of youth-age blacks exist (34%) as compared to the total population (22%). There also exists a significantly lower percentage of retired blacks (12%) as compared to the total population (27%).

Since the Spanish Origin population is less than 1% of the City population, no narrative is provided. However, the figures are shown in the following table.

POPULATION  
BLACK & SPANISH ORIGIN

AGE	BLACK			SPANISH ORIGIN			TOTAL BLACK & SPANISH ORIGIN	% OF TOTAL POP. BY AGE
	NO. OF PERSONS	% OF BLACK	% OF TOTAL POP. BY AGE	NO. OF PERSONS	% OF HISPANIC	% OF TOTAL POP. BY AGE		
Under 5	9	7.7	2.8	6	19.4	2.2	15	5.5
5-17	31	26.5	4.7	6	19.4	0.9	37	5.7
18-64	62	53.0	3.0	17	54.8	0.8	79	3.8
65 & over	15	12.8	4.4	2	6.4	0.2	17	1.5
TOTAL	117	100	2.8	31	100	0.8	148	3.6

NOTE: Total Non-White Population 153 Persons (3.7% of Total Population)

Source: U.S. Census of Population 1980.