



Pipestone County Courthouse

Chapter One: Pipestone County Profile

This Chapter profiles the people of Pipestone County, including information on the County's history, demographics and future population and household estimates. The history section is recreated from information provided by the Pipestone County Historical Society (see the source below). The demographic section is based primarily on U.S. Census data. Likewise, the population and household projections are based on the County's historic Census data since 1960. The projections simply estimate how many people and households Pipestone County may have over the next 20 years.

A Brief History of how Pipestone County was Founded

Recreated from www.pipestoneminnesota.com/museum/

Originally compiled from, Pipestone, by Lisa M. Ray, Minnesota Calls, March/April, 1994

It was not Horace Greeley's advice, "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country," which brought the first white people to the area in extreme southwestern Minnesota where grasses on the upland prairie stood taller than the average man. It was instead a curiosity gleaned from Native American legends and the folklore surrounding a pipestone quarry that attracted the inquisitive pioneers.

George Catlin, an author and popular portrait painter, had heard about the red rock while visiting tribes on the upper Mississippi River in the early 1800's. He was confident that it was different from other known minerals and set out to find it. Reaching the area on horseback, he wrote that he was "crossing one of the most beautiful prairie countries in the world...covered with the richest soil, and furnishes an abundance of good water, which flows from a thousand living springs." As he drew near the quarry he found "great difficulty in approaching, being stopped by several hundred Indians, who ordered us back and threatened us very hard, saying 'that no white man had ever been to it, and that none should ever go.'" Catlin forged ahead, arriving in 1836. He recorded, in painting and writing, the Native American's activities at the quarry. Before he left, he collected a sample of the red stone and sent it to Washington, D.C., to be analyzed. The new stone was given the geological name catlinite.

Charles Bennett, a druggist from Le Mars, Iowa, was intrigued by the legends of the pipestone quarry. He first traveled there in 1873 with a party of four others. He decided then that it would be the ideal place to establish a town. Previously, settlement of the region had been slowed by territorial disputes between the area's Native Americans and the U.S. government and eventually by the Civil War. Bennett returned in 1874 and, using a load of lumber hauled from Luverne, built the city's first house. The five-foot tall building was only meant to serve as a marker to show passers by that a claim had been made. After the death of his wife and infant son in Le Mars, Bennett asked his friend Daniel Sweet to return and hold his claim site. Bennett moved to Pipestone permanently in 1875. A grasshopper plague in 1876 drove some new residents away from the area, but Bennett and Sweet stayed on and platted the township of Pipestone City.

New settlers arrived and by 1878, Pipestone was a small but thriving trade center. Bennett was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Pipestone in 1879 by contributing cash and land to the rail companies. He also persuaded the Close Brothers Land Office, realtors from England, to open an office in Pipestone in 1884. The Close Brothers were partially responsible for a five-fold increase in the number of businesses within a year of the first train arrival and by 1880 the population of Pipestone was more than 200.



Olive Street East, Pipestone, MN (1908)

Pipestone National Monument (also see Chapter Three, Page 6)

Less than a mile north of the City of Pipestone lies the Pipestone National Monument, described in Native American legends as a square-cut jewel lying upon folds of shimmering green velvet. This is an accurate depiction of the red quartzite almost hidden by the vast prairie grasses. Designated a National Monument by Congress on August 25, 1937, the quarry is as rich in Native American history as it is in the red stone for which it is named. Monuments are distinct from national parks in that they act to preserve only on nationally significant resource.

Pipestone National Monument is not a monument in the conventional sense, not a towering statue to pose next to for vacation snapshots. The quarry is located on the west slope of a high plateau, called *Coteau des Prairies* by French explorers, the dividing ridge between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Today, only Native Americans are allowed to quarry pipestone. It may take up to three to six weeks to complete the quarrying process, which usually occurs from late May to late October. Only hand tools, such as sledge hammers, chisels, wedges and shovels can be used. To ensure that pipe making skills are passed on to new generations, the Upper Midwest Indian Cultural Center was created in the visitor's center at the Monument. Here Native American craftsmanship is demonstrated and the pipes and other handcrafted items sold.

For more information on the Pipestone National Monument, visit the following website:

www.nps.gov/pipe/history.htm

PIPESTONE COUNTY'S DEMOGRAPHICS

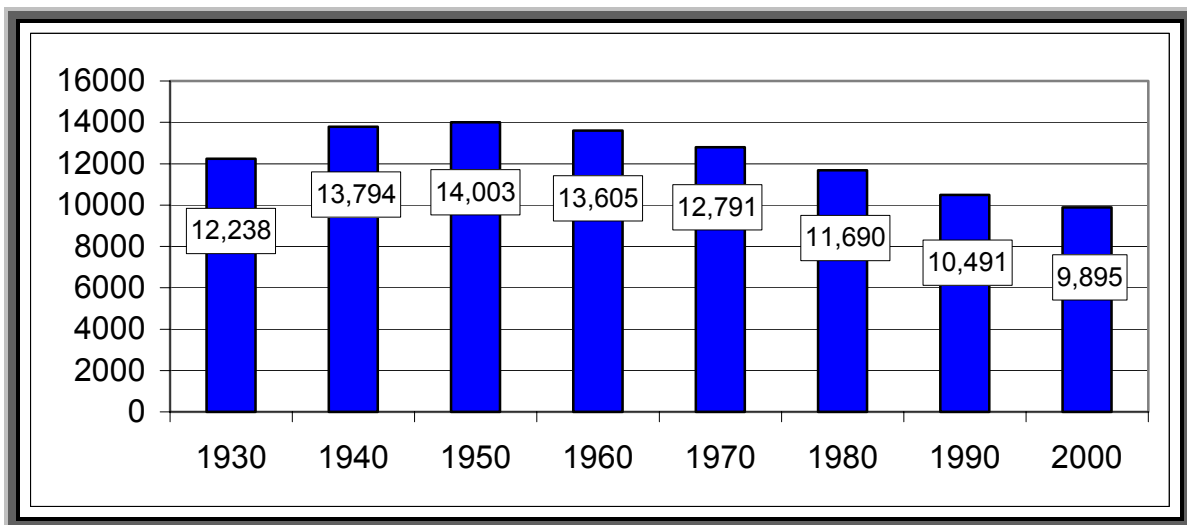
The demographic analysis within any comprehensive plan is intended to provide a background on the type, age and general characteristics of those people living within the plan's service area. By knowing the age and number of people living in Pipestone County, decision makers will be better able to understand trends that may be developing or that have the potential to develop. All of the data used in this chapter is taken from the Census and pertains mainly to countywide data. A copy of the County's 2000 Census Profiles can be found in Appendix A. Demographic data specific to the cities and townships can be found in Chapters Four and Five in the City and Township Profiles.

Population Trends

A key trend to analyze in a County Comprehensive Plan is to look at the historic population levels within the County. Figure 1A illustrates Pipestone County's population data since 1930. Pipestone County's population peaked in 1950 at the height of agricultural employment and has since dropped in recorded population every ten years since.

The data comprising Figure 1A shows that the County grew by 1,765 people from 1930 to 1950. This was an annual average of 88.25 people per year, or a growth rate of 14.4 percent. From 1950 to the year 2000, Pipestone County lost 4,108 people, a decrease rate of 29.3 percent. The State's Demographers Office also publishes annual population estimates for all of the counties within Minnesota. Currently, the Demographers Office has estimated Pipestone County's 2001 population at 9,883 people, a loss of 12 people (-.1%) from the official 2000 Census.

**Figure 1A:
Historic Population Data (1930 – 2000)**



Source: U.S. Census, 1930 – 2000

One of the best ways to compare the County’s rate of population growth (or decline) is to compare the similar results of its neighboring Counties. Table 1A does this for the twelve county area around Pipestone County, including all of Region 8 (Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock Nobles and Jackson) and three counties in South Dakota.

**Table 1A:
Twelve County Area Population Changes (1980 – 2000)**

County	1980	1990	2000	1980-2000 Change	Percent Change
Cottonwood	14,854	12,694	12,167	-2,687	-18.09%
Jackson	13,690	11,677	11,268	-2,422	-17.69%
Lincoln	8,207	6,890	6,429	-1,778	-21.66%
Lyon*	25,207	24,789	25,425	218	0.86%
Murray	11,507	9,660	9,165	-2,342	-20.35%
Nobles	21,840	20,098	20,832	-1,008	-4.62%
PIPESTONE	11,690	10,491	9,895	-1,795	-15.36%
Redwood	19,341	17,254	16,815	-2,526	-13.06%
Rock	10,703	9,806	9,721	-982	-9.17%
South Dakota					
Brookings	24,332	25,207	28,220	3,888	15.98%
Moody	6,692	6,507	6,595	-97	-1.45%
Minnehaha	109,435	123,809	148,281	38,846	35.50%

Source: US Census 2000

Table 1A shows that every county sharing a direct border with Pipestone County has lost population since 1980. Pipestone County lost the 4th highest percentage of its population compared to the other counties in Region 8.

Two of the three counties in South Dakota showed large increases in population during this time span. This steady level of decreasing population is typically attributed to “specialization” in agriculture – decreases in the number of farms, increases in the size of farms and increases in the number of confinement type livestock operations. Not only has the real price farmers receive for the commodities they sell decreased, but the amount of positions that the agricultural industry used to support largely declined during the last half of the twentieth century.

**Figure 1B:
Pipestone and Surrounding Counties**



Population by Age

Much can be learned about an area by studying its population broken down into age categories. Using data provided from the U.S Census, the age of the County's population can be analyzed. Table 2B displays this information for the years 1980, 1990 and 2000.

From 1980 through 2000, there was an overall decrease in population of 15.36% in Pipestone County. In addition, Table 1B indicates that the age groups that had the highest percentage decreases were in the 20-24 and 25-34 age groups. The smallest decrease was seen in the 65-74 age group. Small increases were seen in the 45-54 and 75-84 age groups. The 35-44 age group saw continual increases during the entire period while the 85 and over group had the largest increase (60.16%), demonstrating an increasing demand to accommodate senior needs within the County. It should be noted, however, that the number of Pipestone County citizens between the ages of 65 and 74 decreased from 1,133 people in 1980, to 921 in 2000 (representing a decline of 18.71%). This trend was unique in Southwestern Minnesota, as a high number of counties are seeing large increases in elderly population. By comparison, the number of Pipestone County citizens under the age of 25 went from 4,667 in 1980, to 3,223 in 2000 (a decrease of 30.9%).

**Table 1B:
Pipestone County Population
by Age Category (1980 – 2000)**

Age Group	1980	1980 Percent of Total	1990	1990 Percent of Total	2000	2000 Percent of Total	1980-2000 Percent Change
0-9	1,736	14.85%	1,668	15.90%	1,241	12.54%	-28.51%
10-19	2,063	17.65%	1,554	14.81%	1,574	15.91%	-23.70%
20-24	868	7.43%	468	4.46%	408	4.12%	-53.00%
25-34	1,412	12.08%	1,420	13.54%	989	9.99%	-29.96%
35-44	1,039	8.89%	1,264	12.05%	1,450	14.65%	39.56%
45-54	1,135	9.71%	907	8.65%	1,220	12.33%	7.49%
55-64	1,279	10.94%	1,017	9.69%	901	9.11%	-29.55%
65-74	1,133	9.69%	1,120	10.68%	921	9.31%	-18.71%
75-84	774	6.62%	751	7.16%	789	7.97%	1.94%
85+	251	2.15%	322	3.07%	402	4.06%	60.16%
General Summary							
0-19	3,799	32.50%	3,222	30.71%	2,815	28.45%	-25.90%
20-44	3,319	28.39%	3,152	30.04%	2,847	28.77%	-14.22%
20-64	5,733	49.04%	5,076	48.38%	4,968	50.21%	-13.34%
65+	2,158	18.46%	2,193	20.90%	2,112	21.34%	-2.13%

Source: U.S. Census 1980 – 2000

Median Age

According to the U.S. Census, the median age between 1980 and 2000 increased in almost every community and township in Pipestone County (refer to Table 1C). Overall, Pipestone County's median age of 33.2 in 1980 increased to a median age of 40.2 in 2000. During this time, the Region 8 median age was 32.2 in 1980 and 39.9 in 2000. Statewide, this compares to 29.2 in 1980 and 35.4 in 2000. This shows that Pipestone County is closely following the State trend towards an increasingly elderly population.

**Table 1C:
Median Age for Political Subdivisions (1980 – 2000)**

Political Subdivision	1980	1990	1980 - 1990 Percent Change	2000	1980 - 2000 Percent Change
<i>Municipalities</i>					
Edgerton	38.9	43.3	11.31%	49.7	27.76%
Hatfield	27.3	27.5	0.73%	34.3	25.64%
Holland	49.7	38.5	-22.54%	43.9	-11.67%
Ihlen	27.8	40.4	45.32%	41.8	50.36%
Jasper	42.4	44.5	4.95%	44.2	4.25%
Pipestone	35.7	37.2	4.20%	39.4	10.36%
Ruthton	39.8	34.1	-14.32%	38.3	-3.77%
Trosky	40.5	32.5	-19.75%	41.5	2.47%
Woodstock	46	39.7	-13.70%	39.8	-13.48%
City Average	38.68	37.52	-2.99%	41.43	7.12%
<i>Townships</i>					
Aetna	28.9	38	31.49%	35.9	24.22%
Altona	30.1	31.3	3.99%	33	9.63%
Burke	24.8	28.4	14.52%	38	53.23%
Eden	30.2	33.3	10.26%	35.3	16.89%
Elmer	25.3	28.1	11.07%	34.7	37.15%
Fountain	25.9	33.2	28.19%	33.8	30.50%
Grange	27.2	32.2	18.38%	37	36.03%
Gray	29.8	35.3	18.46%	40.3	35.23%
Osborne	25	30.1	20.40%	39.2	56.80%
Rock	26.5	32	20.75%	40.8	53.96%
Sweet	30.5	35.7	17.05%	47	54.10%
Troy	29.8	32.7	9.73%	37.7	26.51%
Township Average	27.83	32.53	16.86%	37.73	35.54%
Pipestone County	33.2	36	8.43%	40.2	21.08%
Region 8	32.2	36.9	14.60%	39.9	23.90%
Minnesota	29.2	32.5	11.30%	35.4	21.20%

Source: U.S. Census, 1980, 1990, 2000

County Migration

A report by the Minnesota State Demographic Center (November 2000) identified the leading origins on in-migrants and out-migrants for each county in Minnesota. The information was based on Internal Revenue Service data and identifies the top origins and destinations for the years 1998 – 1999. Before examining this data, it is important to understand that the IRS data does a better job of counting out-migrants than it does of counting in-migrants. Since IRS data is based on matched income tax returns, they may undercount college students and other young adults, immigrants, newly divorced and separated people, and others who are likely not to have matchable returns. It does, however, allow for annual calculations while the U.S. Census only calculates migration once every ten years.

The IRS data indicates that the leading places of origin of in-migrants to Pipestone County during 1998 to 1999 were from Lincoln County (1st), Minnehaha County SD (2nd), Murray County (3rd) and Lyon County (4th). The leading places of destination of out-migrants from Pipestone County during the years spanning 1998 to 1999 were to Minnehaha County (1st), Rock County (2nd), Lyon County (3rd) and Nobles County (4th). Table 1D looks at Region 8's Natural Increase and Residual Net Migration for the years spanning 1990 – 2000. This data comes from MN Planning and is based on population data from the U.S. Census as well as birth and death data from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics. The report from Minnesota Planning indicated that almost every county in Minnesota had a more positive migration pattern the 1990's than it did in the 1980's (more people migrated in than migrated out). Between 1990 and 2000, 55 of Minnesota's 87 counties experienced net in-migration. As Table 1D indicates, however, all of the counties within Region 8 experienced negative net migration during the 1990's.

Table 1D
Natural Increase and Residual Net Migration, Region 8 (1990 – 2000)

County	1990 Population	2000 Population	Change	Births 4/1/90 - 03/31/00	Deaths 4/1/90 - 03/31/00	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Migration per 100
Cottonwood	12,694	12,167	-527	1,392	1,604	-212	-315	-2.5
Jackson	11,677	11,268	-409	1,206	1,281	-75	-334	-2.9
Lincoln	6,809	6,429	-461	696	1,060	-364	-97	-1.4
Lyon	24,789	25,425	636	3,499	2,303	1,196	-560	-2.3
Murray	9,660	9,165	-495	1,009	1,009	0	-495	-5.1
Nobles	20,098	20,832	734	2,903	2,056	847	-113	-0.6
Pipestone	10,491	9,895	-596	1,222	1,275	-53	-543	-5.2
Redwood	17,254	16,815	-439	2,057	2,162	-105	-334	-1.9
Rock	9,806	9,721	-85	1,153	1,064	89	-174	-1.8

*Natural Increase=(births – deaths) and Net Migration=(population change – natural increase).
Source: MN Planning – MN State Demographic Center

Households and Average Household Size

Table 1E shows population, number of households and average household size in Pipestone County for the years spanning 1970 through 2000 (the United States Census defines household as “including all of the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence”). There was a slight increase in the number of households from 1970 to 1980, however, the County lost most of what it gained by 1990. Pipestone County also witnessed a decreasing average household size, going from an average of 3.21 people per household in 1970, to 2.43 people per household in 2000. Smaller household sizes were seen throughout Minnesota during the same time span.

**Table 1E:
Population and Households in Pipestone County
(1970 – 2000)**

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	12,791	11,690	10,491	9,895
Households	3,982	4,357	4,078	4,069
Household Size	3.21	2.68	2.57	2.43

Source: U.S. Census 1970 - 2000

Population Projections

The information presented to this point in the Chapter helps to pinpoint a reliable range of population projections for the County over the next 20 years. Chapters Five and Six provide detailed population and household projections for each city and township located within Pipestone County. These projections should be used to plan for each of these identified areas.

Table 1F presents three population projections for the entire County based on its historic level of growth since 1960. In addition to the historic-based projection (the one referred to as “based on the last 40 years” in the Table), Table 1F includes population projections that are based on a slow rate of decline and a slow rate of population gain. Ordinarily, projections would be based on historic rates of growth and include projections for both a slower and faster rate of growth. However, Pipestone County’s population has a historic rate of decline and rather than plan for three different possibilities of population decline, what would be the “fast rate of decline” projection has been changed to a “slow rate of growth”. The slow decline projection is 50 percent of the County’s historic rate of decline. Likewise, the slow rate of growth projection is a 50 percent growth of the County’s historic rate of decline. The combination of the slow decline, historic, and slow growth population projections provide a reliable range of possibilities that could occur in Pipestone County over the next 20 years.

**Table 1F:
20-Year Population Projections Pipestone County**

County's Population	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change
		13,605	12,791	11,690	10,491	9,895
County's Population Projections		2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on Slow Decline		9,663	9,431	9,199	8,967	-928
Based on The Last 40 Years		9,431	8,968	8,504	8,040	-1,855
Based on Slow Growth		10,127	10,359	10,591	10,823	928

Table 1F suggests that Pipestone County would lose an additional 1,855 residents by the year 2020, if it simply experiences the same growth rate over the next 20 years as it has since 1960. This decrease would continue to have negative impacts on the economy, school enrollments and County's tax base. Although the loss of this many residents would cause many population decline-related problems, the potential for a slow rate of growth also does exist. Table 1F shows a potential increase of 928 people for the slow growth estimate.

Pipestone's situation of continual population loss is not unique in southwest Minnesota. Furthermore, one important characteristic of population projections must be clearly understood: ***they are only an estimate of potential population gain or loss.*** The main function of the projections are not to be "right" as much as it is for the County to be "prepared" for population fluctuations. The following text box explains what variables can factor into population projections.

A note about population projections...

A population projection is a well-informed estimate of how many people could live in an area in the future. One of the best indicators used to make a reliable estimate is the area's historic level of growth. For example, if a community has grown by an average of two people per year for the last 20 years, it is often assumed that this average rate of growth will continue into the future.

The difficult part of making population projections is determining whether past trends will continue and, if not, how they will change. The future population of a community is derived from its present population plus births and net migration minus any deaths. Therefore, any factor that influences births, deaths, or migration will alter the projected population. In addition, the community's population can also change simply by altering its attractiveness to both current and potential residents, the ease and cost of community employment areas; employment opportunities within the community; local housing supply and housing costs; and the community's overall aesthetics (lakes, scenery, etc.).

As a result of the complexity of making population projections, they should only be viewed as ***estimates.*** To help compensate for their uncertainty, the population projections used in this comprehensive plan provide a low, a medium, and a high range of possibilities.

Household Projections

Using the population projections found in Table 1F (and reproduced again below) and the household size information presented in Table 1E, household projections for Pipestone County can be created. The results are shown in Table 1G. An average size of 2.4 per household was used, due to the County’s 2000 average of 2.43 people and taken into consideration a shrinking average household size. If the County experienced the same level of population loss over the next 20 years as it has since 1970, the County would lose approximately another 580 households. This decrease, however, could reach a leveling off point and might even start to rebound for a variety of reasons (i.e., land availability, economic development, low cost of living, etc.).

One of the trends currently being noticed throughout rural Minnesota is the demand for rural residential housing. This is sometimes viewed by current residents in a number of different ways. On one side, some townships like to see new housing, primarily because in theory, it increases their tax base. On the other side, new housing is sometimes placed in areas that encroach on the farming community. Furthermore, new rural residents often place additional demands on public services, such as school busing and snow removal. For these and other reasons, it is advantageous to discuss the ideal location of new rural residential development before it occurs.

**Table 1G:
Pipestone County Population and Household Projections**

County's Population Projections	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on Slow Decline	9,663	9,431	9,199	8,967	-928
Based on The Last 40 Years	9,431	8,968	8,504	8,040	-1,855
Based on Slow Growth	10,127	10,359	10,591	10,823	928
County's Household Projections Based on 2.4 People per Unit	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change
Based on Slow Decline	4,026	3,930	3,833	3,736	-290
Based on The Last 40 Years	3,930	3,737	3,543	3,350	-580
Based on Slow Growth	4,220	4,316	4,413	4,510	+290