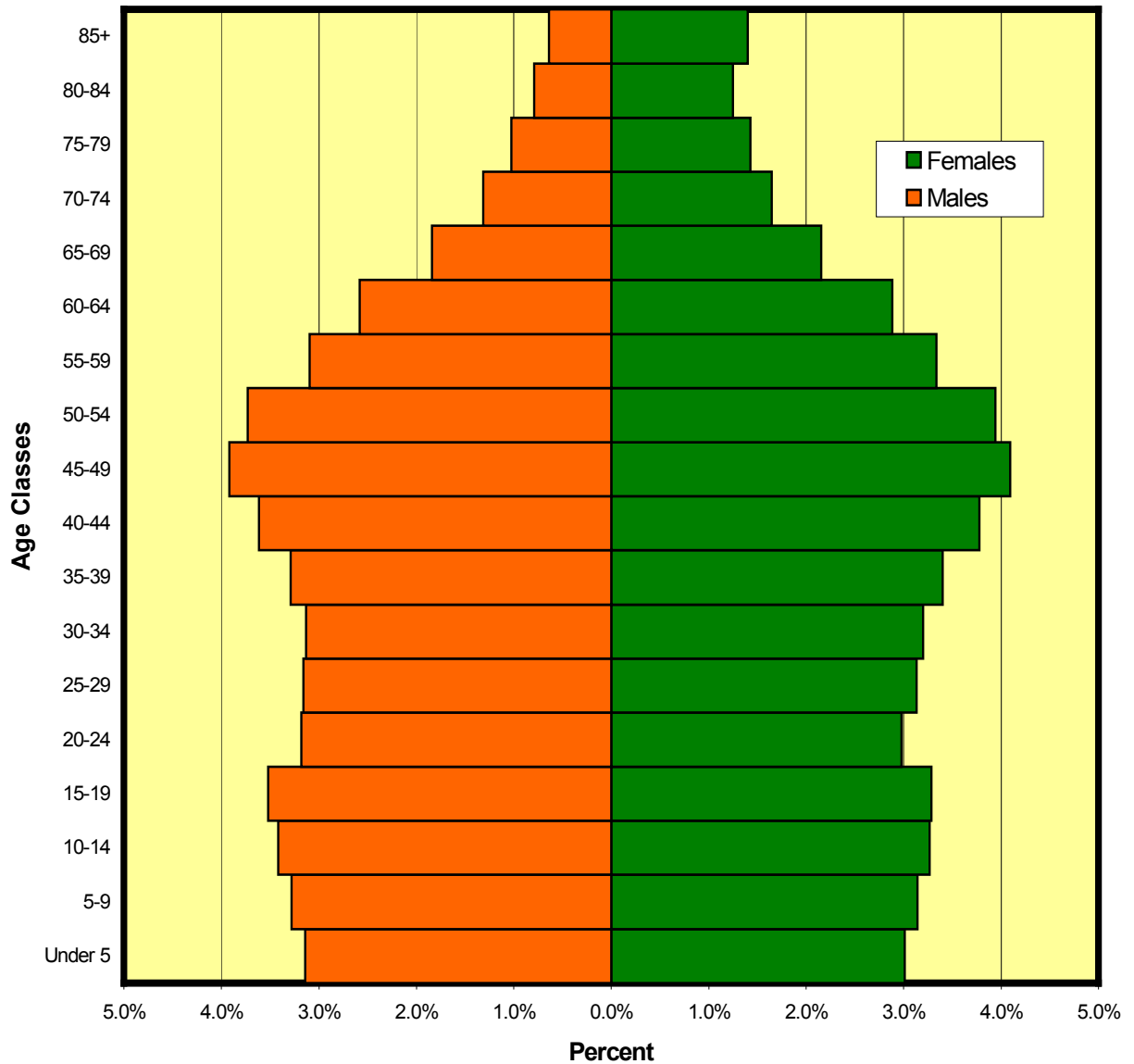


***Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, which aims to inform and educate school administrators on the process of performing enrollment projections and other topics related to school demography.***

In our last newsletter, I discussed the decline in the percent of women in the 20-34 age group occurring in some communities, which is the age segment with the greatest number of births. This results in a decline in a community's birth rate and subsequently, declining enrollment.

Fortunately, demographers have many tools at their fingertips to help them see how a community's age structure is changing. One of those tools is known as the population pyramid. A population pyramid shows the percent of males and females on opposite sides of a graph for a continuum of age ranges (0-4, 5-9, 10-14, etc.). The population pyramid for New Jersey is shown below.

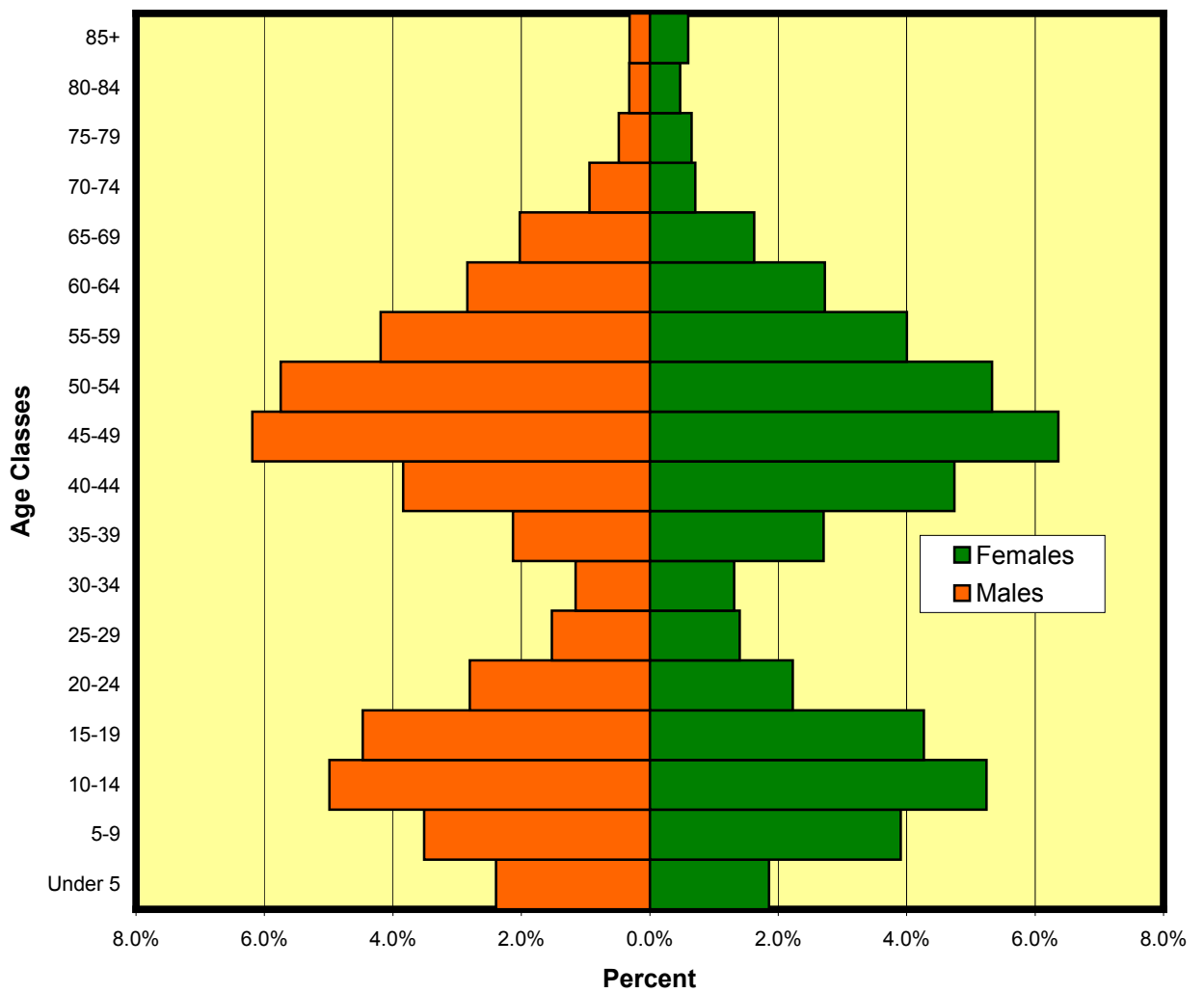
## New Jersey Age Pyramid 2010



For this graph, notice that females outnumber males, particularly after age 70, which is consistent with their longer life expectancies. The shape of this graph tells me that the future population in New Jersey future should be stable. The number of children aged 14 and under will someday replace those of child-bearing age, which is typically 15-49. Since the number of people in each of these age groups are very similar, the number of future children from those currently aged 0-14 will be similar to current levels, assuming a constant fertility rate. Of course, a lot can happen between now and then, namely, people tend to move or migrate. That certainly can have an effect on the population.

Besides using a population pyramid to peer into the future, sometimes it can be used to determine current trends. In the diagram below, this community in Monmouth County does not have nearly equal percentages across the age groups as compared to New Jersey. In fact, this community is missing a lot of people in the 20-34 age group, which is the age when most births occur. Not surprisingly, enrollment in this district is decreasing due to a declining birth rate.

**Monmouth County Community Age Pyramid  
2010**



What causes such a different shape than the one for New Jersey? While there are many variables, the one that I have noticed relates to the affordability of a community. Communities that consist of homes with exorbitant price tags tend to prevent younger individuals from purchasing a home. It is hard for people aged 20-34 to take root in an expensive community.

As you can probably see, there are many layers to peel back to determine what cause enrollment change. Fortunately, with enough research, we can get an answer.

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