

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Population & Demographics

Conditions & Trend

(1) *The community’s Comprehensive Planning Population and Demographic Data Set (including relevant local, regional, and statewide data) prepared and provided to the community by the Office or its designee.*

Bowdoinham has seen a 135.4% growth since the year 1970, showing to be 2.4 times the growth of Sagadahoc County and 3.7 times that of the State.

Population Changes from 1970 to 2020			
Year	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc County	Maine
1970	1,294	23,452	993,722
1980	1,828	28,795	1,125,043
1990	2,192	33,535	1,227,928
2000	2,612	35,214	1,274,923
2010	2,889	35,293	1,328,361
2020	3,047	36,699	1,362,359
Change	1,753	13,247	368,637
Percent Change	135.4%	56.4%	37%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau

Bowdoinham has continued to grow since the 1970s but at a slower rate each successive decade. The County and State have grown at a slower rate than has the Town in each of the last five decades.

Percent Population Changes By Decade			
Decade	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc County	Maine
1970 - 1980	41.3%	22.8%	13.2%
1980 - 1990	19.9%	16.5%	9.1%
1990 - 2000	19.2%	5.0%	3.8%
2000 - 2010	10.6%	0.2%	4.2%
2010 - 2020	5.5%	4.0%	2.5%

Source: Maine State Economist Office

Note: Based upon 2020 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

The State predicts that both Bowdoinham’s and Sagadahoc County’s population will increase over the next seven years with data generated from the US Census Bureau population projections. The Town concurs with the predicted direction, but not quite with the change percentage. The Town believes this growth change prediction to be a greater number around 13%. For planning purposes, the 2040 population of the Town is forecasted to a total of 3,442 peoples.

State Economist Population Projections 2020 - 2040						
Area/Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Change
Bowdoinham	3,047	3,098	3,154	3,176	3,187	4.6%
Sagadahoc County	36,688	36,794	36,921	36,747	36,292	1.1%

Source: Maine State Economist Office

Note: Based upon 2020 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

From 2010 to 2020, the Town's population increased by 158 people. Of that growth, 57 was due to natural increase (births minus deaths). The remainder, 101, was due to the immigration of new residents.

Vital Statistics for Bowdoinham												
Vitals/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Deaths	12	23	24	23	18	18	22	21	25	22	15	223
Births	32	21		26	33	25	27	29	27	35	25	280

Source: Bowdoinham Annual Town Reports 2011-2021.

In 2020, females comprised 50.7% of Bowdoinham's population, while males comprised 49.3%. In Sagadahoc County, females comprised 50.9%. while males comprised 49.1%. Statewide, females comprised 50.7%, while males comprised 49.3%.

The median age of Bowdoinham residents has surpassed ten years over the past four decades. In 2020, Bowdoinham's median age was much higher than the County and the State's median age.

Median Age					
Area	1990	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change
Bowdoinham	33.9	39.1	43.7	53.4	57.5%
Sagadahoc County	32.6	38.0	44.1	46.8	43.5%
Maine	33.9	38.6	42.7	45.1	33%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau

In the last decade, Bowdoinham lost population in these age groups: 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 35-44, and 45-54. The Town gained population in all the other groups, most noticeably for those aged 65-74, and to a lesser extent, those aged 75-84 and 60-64. This suggests that Bowdoinham's residents are aging, younger populations are moving away, and the new populations coming in are older. This also suggests that the Town has become more attractive to those in or nearing retirement age than it is to families with children.

Age Groups in Bowdoinham					
Population	2000	2010	2020	Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	141	145	151	6	4%
5 to 9 years	179	174	170	-4	-2%
10 to 14 years	221	182	162	-20	-11%
15 to 19 years	188	181	169	-12	-7%
20 to 24 years	99	114	130	16	14%
25 to 34 years	283	299	322	23	8%
35 to 44 years	504	411	383	-28	-7%
45 to 54 years	469	568	400	-168	-30%
55 to 59 years	172	241	260	19	8%
60 to 64 years	92	208	278	70	34%
65 to 74 years	136	250	424	174	70%
75 to 84 years	93	87	165	78	90%
85 years and over	35	29	33	4	14%
Total	2,612	2,889	3,047	158	5%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau

Sagadahoc County lost population in age groups 0-5, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 35-44, and 45-54. The county gained population in the other groups, the most notable were those in the groups 75-84 and 65-74. Overall, the county grew by 4%. This is data indicating that younger people and younger families are moving away and being replaced with older age groups.

Age Groups in Sagadahoc County					
Population	2000	2010	2020	Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	2,153	1,912	1,613	-299	-16%
5 to 9 years	2,523	2,033	1,879	-154	-8%
10 to 14 years	2,814	2,114	2,021	-93	-4%
15 and 19 years	2,358	2,048	1,846	-202	-10%
20 to 24 years	1,534	1,606	1,550	-56	-3%
25 to 34 years	4,477	3,626	4,014	388	11%
35 to 44 years	6,253	4,717	4,351	-366	-8%
45 to 54 years	5,403	6,149	4,714	-1,435	-23%
55 to 59 years	1,933	2,852	2,943	91	3%
60 to 64 years	1,432	2,448	3,062	614	25%
65 to 74 years	2,261	3,341	5,093	1,752	52%
75 to 84 years	1,474	1,667	2,641	974	58%
85 years and over	599	780	972	192	25%
Total	35,214	35,293	36,699	1,406	4%

Source: 2020 U.S. Census Bureau

The State projects that Sagadahoc County’s population will have moderate growth between 2020 and 2023, but start its descent shortly after and end with a 2% growth by 2040 from 2020. Age groups 0-40, and age groups from 50-69, all show a negative growth rate. If not for the drastic increase in age groups 75-79 and up, the county’s population projection would showcase a drastic negative growth rate. This indicates that younger people are not coming back after college, young families are moving away, and older populations are moving in.

State Economist Population Projections for Sagadahoc County						
Age/Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Percent Change
0-4	795	758	724	682	662	-17%
5-9	892	786	768	741	709	-21%
10-14	973	883	782	768	747	-23%
15-19	946	882	823	747	737	-22%
20-24	794	875	815	783	737	-7%
25-29	981	821	844	805	790	-19%
30-34	1,145	1,019	819	838	808	-29%
35-39	1,128	1,254	1,116	951	970	-14%
40-44	1,069	1,234	1,352	1,231	1,100	3%
45-49	1,123	1,077	1,202	1,306	1,204	7%
50-54	1,236	1,015	1,010	1,121	1,214	-2%
55-59	1,487	1,293	997	1,001	1,101	-26%
60-64	1,560	1,464	1,297	1,035	1,047	-33%
65-69	1,433	1,606	1,446	1,297	1,068	-25%
70-74	1,210	1,429	1,635	1,479	1,352	12%
75-79	849	1,118	1,400	1,577	1,433	69%
80-84	524	669	984	1,222	1,368	161%
85+	558	581	770	1,080	1,357	143%
Total	18,703	18,764	18,785	18,665	18,404	-2%

Source: Maine State Economist Office

Note: Based upon 2020 Census data.

The average household size has decreased in Bowdoinham, Sagadahoc County and statewide. This trend is due to several factors: a lower proportion of married couples, fewer children per family, and more people living alone. The Town’s relatively larger average household size than that of the County or State suggests the presence of proportionally more families in Bowdoinham. Given the lack of rental housing in Town, it is not surprising that single persons would be drawn to larger service center communities. See the Housing Chapter for more information.

Average household size of owner-occupied unit			
Year	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc County	Maine
1970	3.37	3.12	3.16
1980	2.92	2.80	2.75
1990	2.68	2.63	2.56
2000	2.54	2.47	2.39
2010	2.45	2.32	2.32
2021	2.54	2.29	2.31
Percent Change	-24.6%	-26.6%	-26.9%

Source: Maine State Economist Office

Note: Based upon 2020 Census data.

Bowdoinham's Educational Attainment has surpassed the County and State from 2000 to 2010. However, the County and State have now closed that gap and are more equal with numbers of residents graduating from both High School and College. See the Public Facilities Chapter for current enrollment figures in area schools.

Educational Attainment				
Category	Year	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc County	Maine
High School Graduate or Higher	2000	90.53%	87.97%	85.4%
	2010	94.5%	91.8%	89.8%
	2020	94.5%	94.1%	93.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2000	28.63%	24.99%	22.9%
	2010	36.5%	29.6%	26.5%
	2020	36.5%	38.2%	33.6%

Source: Maine State Economist Office

Note: Based upon 2020 Census data.

Analysis

- (1) *Is the rate of population change expected to continue as in the past, or to slow down or speed up? What are the implications of this change?*

Over the past fifty years, the population of Bowdoinham has increased from 1,294 persons in 1970 to 3,047 persons in 2020. The rate of population increase has slowed. The State predicts a 4.6% population increase for the Town over the next two decades based upon 2020 data. Given the results of the most recent Census and the observed growth trends (since 1970 and since 2000), however, the Town believes that its population will continue to increase more significantly at 13%. For planning purposes, the 2040 population of the Town is forecast to total a maximum of 3,442 persons. With more residents, the demand for the range of existing municipal services, and for expanded services, like those found in larger communities, is likely to increase, putting pressure on already tight budgets. See the Fiscal Capacity Chapter for more information.

- (2) *What will be the likely demand for housing and municipal and school services to accommodate the change in population and demographics, both as a result of overall change and as a result of change among different age groups?*

Increasing population along with declining average household size, as seen locally over the past fifty years, suggests that the demand for new housing will outpace the overall forecasted growth in population. Much of the growth seen in the Town's population has been in the older age groups. School enrollments have declined over the past decade. School statistics of future enrollments are not available. For planning purposes, enrollments are predicted to remain stable or decline modestly. Expanded school facilities will not be needed. However, the renovation or replacement of aging facilities will be of concern. See the Public Facilities Chapter for more information.

The demand for services to meet elderly needs like assisted living is expected to increase. To balance these demographic trends, the Town could seek to attract younger families with children through the provision of more affordable housing options and growing our local businesses and employment opportunities. See the Housing Chapter and Economy Chapter for details.

- (3) *Does your community have a significant seasonal population, is the nature of that population changing? What is the community's dependence on seasonal visitors?*

In 2010, the Census recorded 42 seasonal housing units in Bowdoinham. The national average household size was 2.58 persons in 2010. Accordingly, on average there are about 109 people in seasonal housing units in Town. Bowdoinham has no licensed transient accommodations (hotels, motels, or inns) and a modest number of Airbnb rentals. Given the small number of seasonal visitors, the Town is not dependent on this group economically, but would like to grow it.

- (4) *If your community is a service center or has a major employer, are additional efforts required to serve a daytime population that is larger than its resident population?*

Bowdoinham is not a service center community. Bath, with a 2020 population of 8,766, is the principal service center in Sagadahoc County. Brunswick, with a population of 21,756, in neighboring Cumberland County is the closest service center to Bowdoinham.

Bowdoinham does not have a single major employer. The Town does not draw a daytime population that is significantly larger than its resident population. See the Economy Chapter for more information.