

STATE GOAL

Maine strives to:

There is no state goal specifically addressing population. However, all the other goals depend on an understanding of the population and demographic data for Clifton and the region.

LOCAL GOAL

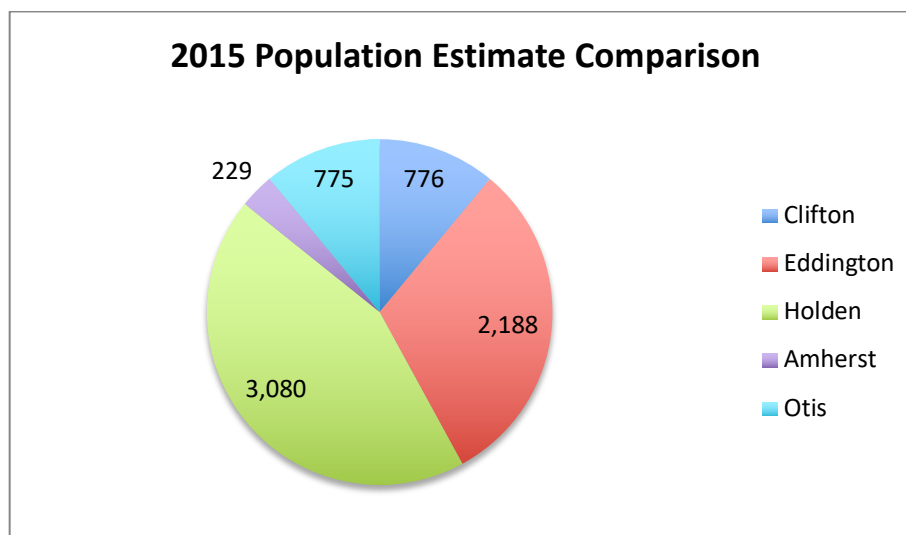
Clifton strives to maintain an accurate assessment of population demographics and to ensure local government remains proactive providing services and support when feasible and always advocacy services to assist with support needs of demographics requiring greater assistance.

INTRODUCTION

Drafting and adopting a functioning comprehensive plan performing as a growth management rudder for the Town's future course requires an understanding of Clifton's population and characteristics. Before attempting "crystal ball" predictions, a wise practice is to look back at the history of Clifton's population growth. An important goal of a comprehensive plan is to develop a productive relationship between the future population and important community resources. Accordingly, the size and composition of the Town's population strongly influences most phases of the Comprehensive Plan. All charts and graphs in this section developed from US Census data from their website.

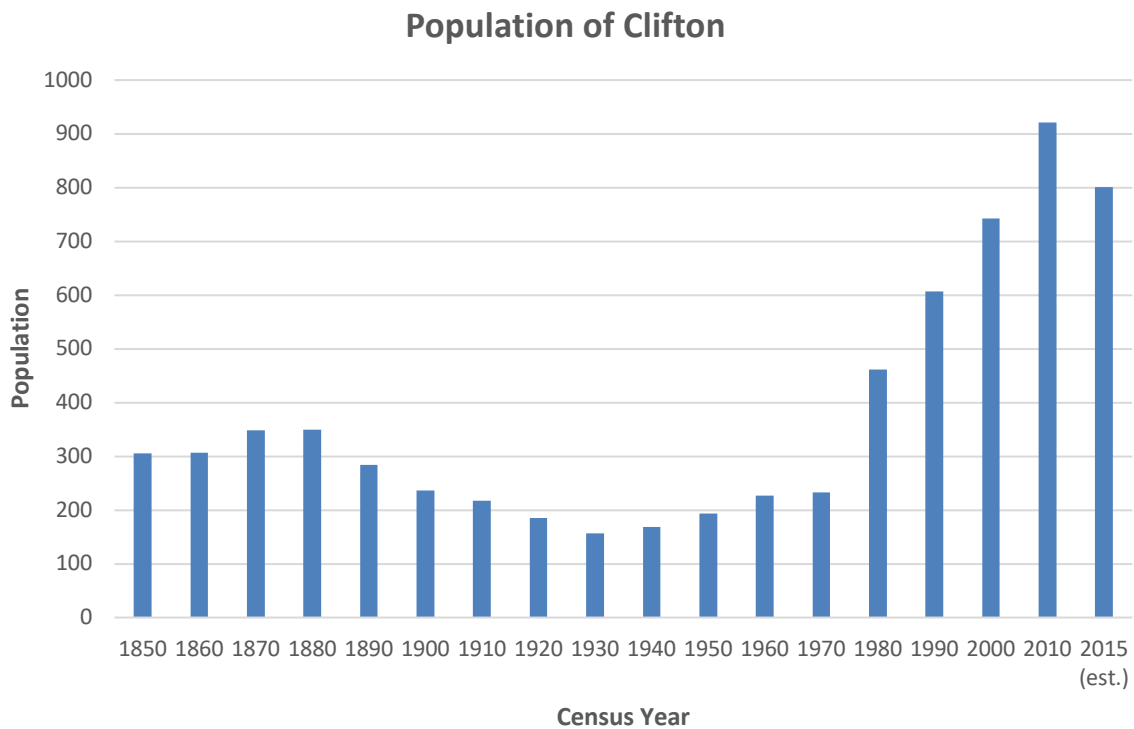
TOTAL POPULATION AND RATES OF CHANGE

The first Census recorded for Clifton was in 1850. The table below shows the population for each Census year from 1850 to 2015 and the rate of change (Note: the 2015 population estimate comes from the U. S. Census Bureau's 5-year population estimate system called the American Community Survey, or ACS).



Mirroring the rural population of the whole country, Clifton's population peaked between 1850 and 1880 and then declined steadily to 1930. Following a modest increase in the 1930s, the conclusion of World War II and the baby boom nudged Clifton's population growth

up into double digits in the 1940s and 1950s. After holding steady in the 1960s, Clifton experienced a dramatic 98.3% growth in the 1970s, from 233 to 462.



Remember this was the back-to-the-earth era when the youth of Maine and the Nation sought to reconnect with America’s roots. Clifton is ideal to live off the land, unfettered by technology and bureaucracy. Not as meteoric, but still substantial, population growth for the Town was 31.4% in the 1980s (to 607), 22.4% in the 1990s, and 26.65% in the 2000s, reaching a peak of 921 in the year 2010. Currently, projected growth will remain at 921 for 2019. The most recent population estimate suggests a possible downturn or stabilization - the 2020 Census will verify or reset the population basis.

Population Historic Trend Comparisons

As mentioned previously in the Plan, the Town of Clifton, although located in Penobscot County, is also very much tied to Hancock County. Therefore Clifton’s characteristics will also be compared to those of Hancock County and neighboring communities of Amherst and Otis in Hancock County.

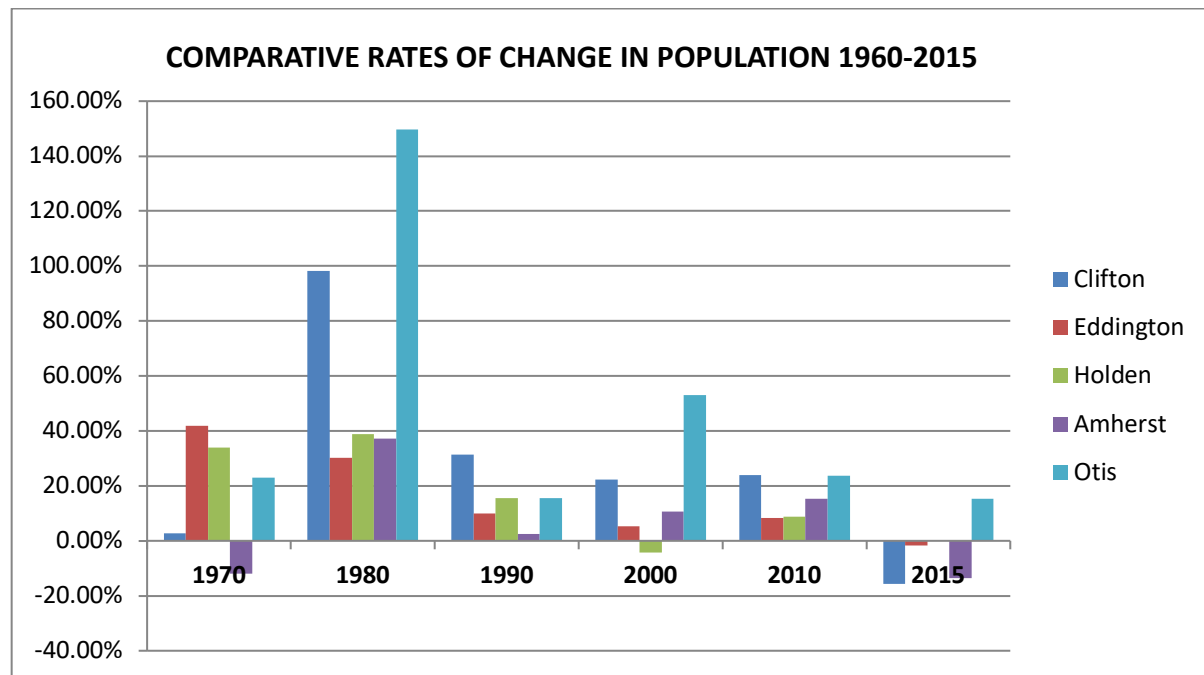
TOWN OF CLIFTON HISTORIC POPULATION TRENDS		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Rate of Change</i>
1850	306	--
1860	307	0.33%
1870	348	13.36%
1880	350	0.57%
1890	284	-18.86%
1900	236	-16.90%
1910	217	-8.05%
1920	185	-14.75%
1930	156	-15.68%
1940	168	7.69%
1950	193	14.88%
1960	227	17.62%
1970	233	2.64%
1980	462	98.28%
1990	607	31.39%
2000	743	22.41%
2010	921	23.96%
2015 (est.)	776	-15.74

The Table above shows rates of change in population from 1960 to present. Earlier 2010 Census projections through 2019 pegged Clifton as growing to nearly 1000. (With actual mid-Census numbers available, those projections are no longer showing on the table or chart.) It reveals that Clifton's population and growth rate changes do not follow the same curve as the nearby towns of Eddington and Holden, Penobscot County as a whole, or the State. In the past 50 years Clifton has experienced a population growth not similar to its neighbors or in alignment with regional or neighboring communities.

COMPARATIVE RATES OF CHANGE IN POPULATION 1960-2010							
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Clifton	227	233	462	607	743	921	776
Rate		2.64%	98.28%	31.39%	22.41%	23.96%	-15.74%
Eddington	958	1,358	1,769	1,947	2,052	2,225	2,188
Rate		41.75%	30.27%	10.06%	5.39%	8.43%	-1.66%
Holden	1,375	1,841	2,554	2,951	2,827	3,076	3,080
Rate		33.89%	38.73%	15.54%	-4.20%	8.81%	0.13%
Penobscot County	126,346	125,393	137,015	146,601	144,919	153,923	152,978
Rate		-0.75%	9.27%	7.00%	-1.49%	6.58%	-0.32%
Amherst	168	148	203	208	230	265	229

COMPARATIVE RATES OF CHANGE IN POPULATION 1960-2010							
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Rate		-11.90%	37.16%	2.46%	10.58%	15.22%	-13.58%
Otis	100	123	307	355	543	672	775
Rate		23.00%	149.59%	15.64%	52.96%	23.76%	15.33%
Hancock County	32,293	34,590	41,781	46,948	51,791	54,418	54,483
Rate		7.11%	20.79%	12.37%	10.32%	5.07%	0.44%
State of Maine	969,265	993,663	1,124,660	1,227,928	1,274,923	1,328,361	1,329,923
Rate		2.52%	13.18%	9.18%	4.20%	3.82%	0.06%

The Town more than tripled in number between 1970 and 2000. Although the Town has had its own pattern of development, it does not mean the Town is unaffected by what is happening in its region or across the town line. The same social and economic forces that propelled strong growth for Holden (33.9%) and Eddington (41.8%) in the 1960s did not translate into growth for Clifton. Whatever drove Clifton’s growth in the 1970s did not similarly affect those towns to the same degree.



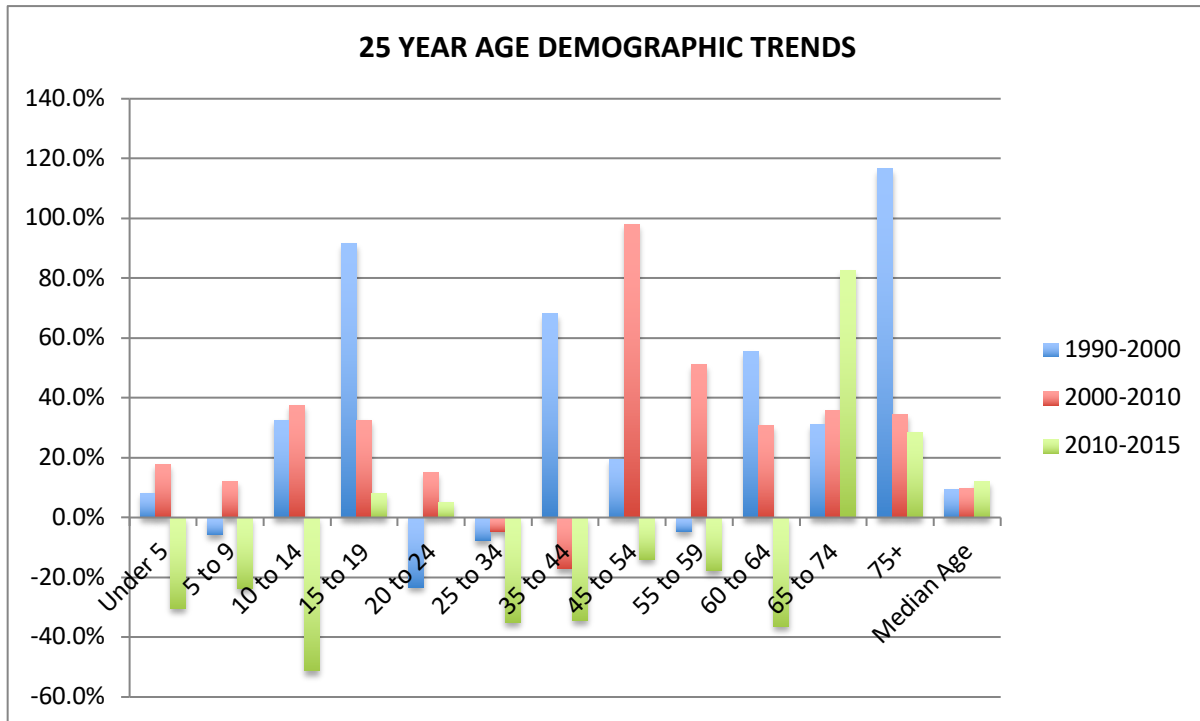
Population Detail

POPULATION BY GENDER					
Year	Female	Percent	Male	Percent	Total
2015	378	48.7%	398	51.3%	776
2010	440	47.8%	481	52.2%	921
2000	370	49.8%	373	50.2%	743
1990	309	50.9%	298	49.1%	607

AGE DEMOGRAPHICS							
	1990	Rate of Change	2000	Rate of Change	2010	Rate of Change	2015
Under 5	36	8.3%	39	17.9%	46	-30.4%	32
5 to 9	52	-5.8%	49	12.2%	55	-23.6%	42
10 to 14	46	32.6%	61	37.7%	84	-51.2%	41
15 to 19	24	91.7%	46	32.6%	61	8.2%	66
20 to 24	43	-23.3%	33	15.2%	38	5.3%	40
25 to 34	117	-7.7%	108	-4.6%	103	-35.0%	67
35 to 44	94	68.1%	158	-17.1%	131	-34.4%	86
45 to 54	82	19.5%	98	98.0%	194	-13.9%	167
55 to 59	43	-4.7%	41	51.2%	62	-17.7%	51
60 to 64	27	55.6%	42	31.0%	55	-36.4%	35
65 to 74	32	31.3%	42	35.7%	57	82.5%	104
75+	12	116.7%	26	34.6%	35	28.6%	45
Median Age	34.1	9.7%	37.4	9.9%	41.1	12.2%	46.1

Over the past 20 years the age distribution of Clifton's population shifted represented by one statistic: the population is aging. The median age increased from 29.2 in 1980 to 41.4 years in 2010. Despite a steady increase through 2010 (as predicted) mid-term number strongly indicate an exodus from the town in the past 5 years particularly evident from the loss in family age groups. Alternately, the elder population is dramatically increasing.

In order to have a sufficient and economically viable entry-level work force, it is important to maintain and train a young adult population (20 to 24). The young adult population in Clifton increased by 15.2% from 2000 to 2010 yet dramatically decreased after 2010.



The 25 to 44 years old population brings more than dollars to economy. Generally, this segment of the population participates actively in the workforce, purchases homes, start businesses and have children enrolled in school. Clifton’s 25 to 44 years old population has decreased by 12.0% from 2000 to 2010. The State projects that Penobscot County will see a change in the number of residents aged 25 to 44 between 2010 and 2019 of -7.4%, and a change of 15.1% between 2019 and 2029 (for the entire state of Maine, the projected changes are -0.7% and -1.5%, respectively).

Peak earning years for workers happens between the ages of 45 and 54, making it very important economically for a community to maintain that population segment. Clifton’s 45 to 54 years population nearly doubled between 2000 and 2010, increasing by 98.0% from 1990 to 2000. Looking ahead, based on low numbers younger than 45, it is clear, the population is not sustainable.

Maine has one of the oldest populations in the United States. The senior population (65+) in Maine as a whole has grown rapidly and is projected to continue increasing, causing communities to shift special services and public support to meet the needs of the elderly, which is quite challenging in rural communities where services are not always readily available. Clifton’s 65+ population increased by 35.3% from 2000 to 2010 and is likely to continue increasing through the year 2020. In Penobscot County the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to rise 26.8% between 2010 and 2019, and 37.0% between 2019 and 2029 according to state population projections (for the entire state of Maine, the projected changes are 31.2% and 35.3%, respectively).

Population and Housing

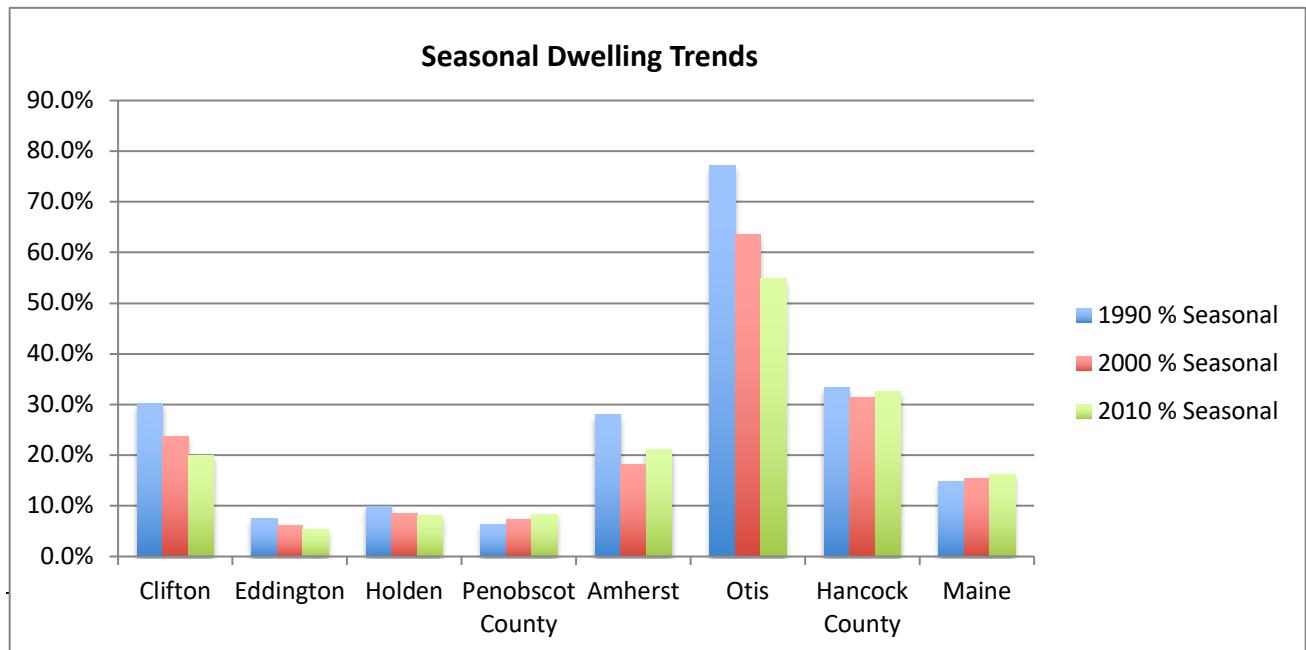
In terms of percentage (despite the relatively small absolute impact), Clifton housing needs grew much more rapidly than adjoining towns and in particular faster than Penobscot County. Alternately, Clifton housing growth is more similar to that found in Hancock County to the southeast. Seasonal housing also grew faster in the past than neighboring towns.

Clifton has significantly more seasonal use than Eddington or Holden, and Penobscot County as a whole, but less than Amherst, Otis, and Hancock County as a whole. Clifton’s ratio of seasonal to year-round dwellings population is considerably larger than the statewide percentage. It may be reasonable to view Clifton as more nearly shadowing its Hancock County neighbors than its own county in the timing and character of its growth. While the actual number of seasonal dwellings in most of these places increased between 200 and 2010, it decreased in Clifton.

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RATE OF CHANGE				
	1980	1990	2000	2010
Clifton	165	222	303	346
Rate of Change		34.55%	36.49%	14.19%
Penobscot County	45,974	54,063	58,096	62,966
Rate of Change		17.59%	7.46%	8.38%
Hancock County	15,411	18,342	21,864	24,221
Rate of Change		19.02%	19.20%	10.78%
State of Maine	395,184	465,312	518,200	557,219
Rate of Change		17.75%	11.37%	7.53%

It may also be safe to conclude that some of the housing need created by the Town’s population growth was met by the conversion of seasonal dwellings to year-round residences and vice versa. That is, at least some of Clifton’s in-migration was due to seasonal residences

becoming year-round homes. The trend of converting seasonal to year-round residences may generate increasing demands for road maintenance and waste disposal, and create increased need for code enforcement. Although it appears Clifton’s seasonal population declined as the



number of dwellings in this category declined; anecdotal evidence lends the possibility these dwellings often receive use and attention in the ‘off season’ and so-called occasional weekend use extends year-round. A safe conclusion is Clifton continues to have a significant seasonal population, however, quantifying the number is challenging.

Group Quarters

The federal government defines “Group Quarters” as living quarters where residents share common facilities or receive formally authorized care. Examples include college dormitories, retirement homes, and communes. For some group quarters, such as fraternity and sorority houses and certain types of group houses, a group quarters is distinguished from a housing unit if it houses ten or more unrelated people. Group quarters are either institutional or non-institutional and further are military or civilian. The 2010 Census reported no people living in group quarters in Clifton.

Households and Household Size

As total population increased during the decade between 2000 and 2010, so too did the number of new households. However, the State projects the total population in Clifton to remain stagnant through 2024 and the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the number of households dropped between 2010 and 2015.

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After decreasing over the previous two decades, the average number of people per household in Clifton is estimated to have increased in recent years, from 2.3 in 2010 to 2.64 in 2015. The State of Maine as a whole and Penobscot and Hancock Counties are exhibiting the same trends in household size.

PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD				
	1990	2000	2010	2015 (est.)
Clifton	2.61	2.45	2.3	2.64
Rate of Change		-6.53%	-6.52%	0.15%
Penobscot County	2.57	2.38	2.2	2.33
Rate of Change		-7.98%	-8.18%	5.91%
Hancock County	2.56	2.31	2.14	2.20
Rate of Change		-10.82%	-7.94%	2.80%
State of Maine	2.56	2.39	2.23	2.32
Rate of Change		-7.11%	-7.17%	4.04%

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a community planning issue based on the premise that meeting the academic requirements of specific programs better prepares a labor force to function at a more productive level. As the economic environment grows to be more complex, there is a corresponding increase for educational expectations and aspirations. At one time, an eighth grade education was considered sufficient. Today a high school diploma is considered a minimum level of achievement. However, the means for more earning potential has evolved to require technical (vocational) training or a college education.

The table shows the percent of population 25 years and older graduated from high school or obtained a minimum of a four-year degree. The percentage of the Clifton population obtaining high school diplomas and four-year degrees or higher is smaller than that of Penobscot and Hancock

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (Persons 25 and Older)				
	High School Graduate		4 Year College Degree or >	
	2000	2015 (est)	2000	2015 (est)
Clifton	85.70%	87.90%	13.30%	18.50%
Penobscot County	85.70%	90.80%	20.30%	24.50%
Hancock County	87.80%	93.70%	27.10%	32.70%
State of Maine	85.40%	91.60%	22.90%	29.00%

Counties and the State as a whole. However, the percentage of Clifton residents with these two levels of education increased between 2000 and 2015.

Generally, people attend post high school education as a way of ensuring greater economic opportunity. With this comes the tendency to migrate to places where the opportunities are the greatest. This propagates the cycle of decreasing young adult, entry-level workforce population. It is important to remember, given current trends of our mobile society, individual educational attainment levels are not a direct reflection of educational attitudes of the geographical area. The distribution and comparison figures shown in the table are more a reflection of economic labor force conditions, trends in mobility and quality of life decisions rather than a reflection of the school system.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Demographic information is very relevant to municipal decision-making. The Town should periodically review and assess demographic growth indicators. Due to the slow change pace and limited access to reliable government data, reviewing every five to ten years is probably adequate.

During such reviews (by officials, staff or contractors), the minimum analyses recommended is as follows:

- (1) Is the rate of population change expected to continue as in the past, slow down or speed up? What are the implications of this change?
- (2) What will be the likely demand for housing, municipal and school services to accommodate the change in population and demographics, both as a result of overall change and or as a result of change among different age groups?
- (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?
- (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?

Town office staff should maintain localized demographic data in a binder and digitally according to the town's information management plan. The raw data is readily available from government sources to the general public. Any specific data analysis developed by town officials, staff, or contractors is subject to Freedom of Information Act and as such, should be in a state easily provided to the public. The most likely event driving population impact is the planned extension of interstate highway 395 to Route 9 and the likely decreasing of transit time to the Bangor/Brewer area and Bangor International Airport. This project *may* increase some growth in Clifton *over the next decade*.