

CHAPTER II POPULATION

POPULATION GROWTH

Between 1970 and 1990, the population of Lewis and Clark County increased by 42.7 percent. A majority of this growth occurred between 1970 and 1980. Population growth within the county at that time was almost three times that of the State of Montana as a whole. The explanation for this increase within the County was attributed to the increase in State jobs that occurred between 1970 and 1977. Those jobs increased the total county employment by over 30 percent.

Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Lewis and Clark County increased by 17.3 percent, from 47,495 to 55,716. The population growth within the county was 4.4 percent greater than population growth of the State of Montana as a whole.

Census data specific for the Lincoln Planning Area is not available for the period prior to the 1990 Census. In the 1990 Census, the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census designated the area extending north from Highway 12 West, to the county lines on the west and north, and Interstate 15 on the east as the Lincoln Census Division. This census division included the communities of Canyon Creek, Marysville, Birdseye, and Lincoln.

For the 2000 Census, the Lincoln Census Division was replaced with the Lincoln Census Designated Place (CDP), which encompasses a much smaller area that includes the town of Lincoln and the surrounding area. A map of the Lincoln CDP is shown in Figure 4.

Census Designated Places are closely settled, named, unincorporated communities that generally contain a mixture of residential, commercial, and retail areas similar to those found in incorporated places of similar sizes.

**TABLE II-1:
POPULATION DATA FOR MONTANA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY AND
THE LINCOLN CENSUS DESIGNATED PLACE (CDP)**

Year	Montana	Percent Change	Lewis and Clark County	Percent Change	Lincoln CDP	Percent of Change
1980	786,690	NA	43,039	NA	N/A	N/A
1990	799,065	1.5%	47,495	10.4%	2,873	N/A
2000	902,195	13%	55,716	17.31%	1,076 *	N/A

*Population reflects change from designation as the Lincoln Division to Lincoln CDP (a smaller area)
(Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000)

According to the U.S. Census 2000 data, 30.8 percent of the population in Lewis and Clark County live in rural areas, while 69.2 live in an urban area. All persons living in the Lincoln CDP live in rural areas. Of the 1,076 persons in the Lincoln CDP, 15 (1.4%) were classified as rural farm dwellers, and 1,061 (98.6%) were classified as being non-farm rural dwellers. Lewis and Clark County, by contrast, had 803 persons (4.7% of those listed as rural) classified as rural farm dwellers and 16,369 (95.3 of persons listed as rural) as rural non-farm dwellers.

**TABLE II-2:
HOUSEHOLDS**

Characteristics (2000)	Montana	Lewis and Clark County	Lincoln CDP
Households	360,312	22,850	469
Average Household Size	2.44	2.38	2.29
Average Family Size	2.99	2.95	2.91
Family Households	237,407	14,958	299
Percent of family households with children under age 18	31.92	32.2	27.1
Married Couples	192,067	11,983	250
Percent of married couple with children under age 18	44.4%	23.3%	19.4%

(Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000)

Age - Sex Distribution

According to Census 2000, in the State of Montana and Lewis and Clark County, females made up a slightly higher percentage of the population (50.28% and 50.9%, respectively). In the Lincoln CDP, males made up approximately 52 percent of the population and females made up approximately 48 percent of the population.

According to Census 2000 data, the median ages of males and females in the state and the county are approximately equal, but the median age of males and females in the Lincoln CDP is several years higher than the state and county median ages for both sexes.

Also, within the Lincoln CDP, the median age for males was 3.5 years greater than that of females. Table II-3 summarizes the Census 2000 age-sex distribution data for the State, County and Lincoln Census CDP.

**TABLE II-3:
AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTIONS**

Characteristic (2000)	Montana	Lewis and Clark County	Lincoln CDP
FEMALE	452,715	55,716	533
Under 18	111,817	6,986	136
18 to 65 years	272,89	17,621	316
65 years and older	68,007	3,749	81
Median age (years)	38.5	38.7	41.4
MALE	449,480	27,360	567
Under 18 years	111,817	6,986	136
18 to 65 years	278,293	17,294	335
65 years and older	52,942	2,784	92
Median Age (years)	36.6	37.4	44.9

(Source US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000)

INCOME

Median Family Income

Table II - 4 summarizes the Census 2000 median family income data for the State of Montana, Lewis and Clark County, and the Lincoln Census CDP. The median family income for the Lincoln CDP was 30 percent less than median family income reported for Lewis and Clark County and 19 percent less than the State.

**TABLE II-4:
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES**

Characteristic (2000)	Montana	Lewis and Clark County	Lincoln CDP
Median Family Income	\$40,487	\$46,766	\$32,784

(SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000)

Per Capita Income

Per capita income data for the State of Montana, Lewis and Clark County, and the Lincoln CDP is presented in Table II - 5. Census 2000 data showed the per capita income for the Lincoln CDP was 24.09 percent less than the average per capita income for Lewis and Clark County, and nearly 17 percent less than average for the State. Lewis and Clark County (\$18,763) ranked third in the state in average per capita income behind Yellowstone County (\$19,303) and Gallatin County (\$19,074). According to HUD in 2005 56.3 percent of the people in the Lincoln CDP were classified as having low to moderate incomes.

**TABLE II-5:
PER CAPITA INCOME**

Characteristic (2000)	Montana	Lewis and Clark County	Lincoln CDP
Per capita income	\$17,151	\$18,763	\$14,243

(SOURCE: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000)

Poverty Status

According to the 2000 Census data, 14.6 percent of individuals and 9.2 percent of families in the United States live at or below the poverty level. In the Lincoln CDP, 21.2 percent of individuals and 17.4 percent of families had incomes at or below the poverty level, according to 2000 Census data. As detailed in Table 11-6, this percentage is higher than the percentages for the State and Lewis and Clark County.

Income cutoffs used by the Census Bureau to determine poverty status of families depend primarily on the number of family members or unrelated individuals in a household, and the age of family members (less than 18 years of age and more than 65 years of age). The total income of all members of a household is tested against the appropriate threshold. If the total income is less than the corresponding cutoff the family is classified "below poverty level". The poverty thresholds are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. The 2002 average poverty threshold for a family of four persons in the United States was \$18,390.

Another indicator of families below the poverty level specific to the Lincoln Planning Area is that during the 2004-2005, 51 percent of the students enrolled in the Lincoln School District were eligible for reduced cost or free lunches, according to the Lincoln School District. This figure is up from the 2003-2004 school year (45.6 percent), the 2002-2003 school year (43 percent) and the 2001-2002 school year (40 percent).

**TABLE II-6:
POVERTY STATUS**

Characteristic (2000)	Montana		Lewis and Clark County		Lincoln CDP	
	Total	Percentage of Total	Total	Percentage of Total	Total	Percentage of Total
Families with income below the poverty level	25,004	10.05%	1,086	7.3%	52	17.4%

(SOURCE: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000)