

Population

(Updated in 2012)

Introduction

The information contained in this chapter represents a statistical summary and analysis of information pertaining to general population, education, and income characteristics of the Town of Plaistow. This information is relevant for a variety of reasons, one of which is to show how Plaistow compares to other communities in the region. Also, important historic and future trends about population can be identified.

The data presented in this chapter is presented in tables, graphs and charts, and is accompanied by corresponding text that explains and analyzes the information. The resulting analysis can be utilized for the broad purpose of decision making and the development of key policies. For example, the population characteristics may reveal gaps in Town services as well as certain land uses that should be encouraged to serve and benefit a particular population.

Of significance, the analysis of information in this and the other Master Plan chapters allows for the identification of important issues critical to the final analysis and recommendations made in this plan.

The information presented in this chapter was obtained from a variety of sources. The most comprehensive and therefore the most heavily utilized source is from the United States Census Bureau

Other various projections and estimates provided in this document are from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP), previously the New Hampshire Office of State Planning, the Timberlane Regional School District (TRSD), the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA), and the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC).

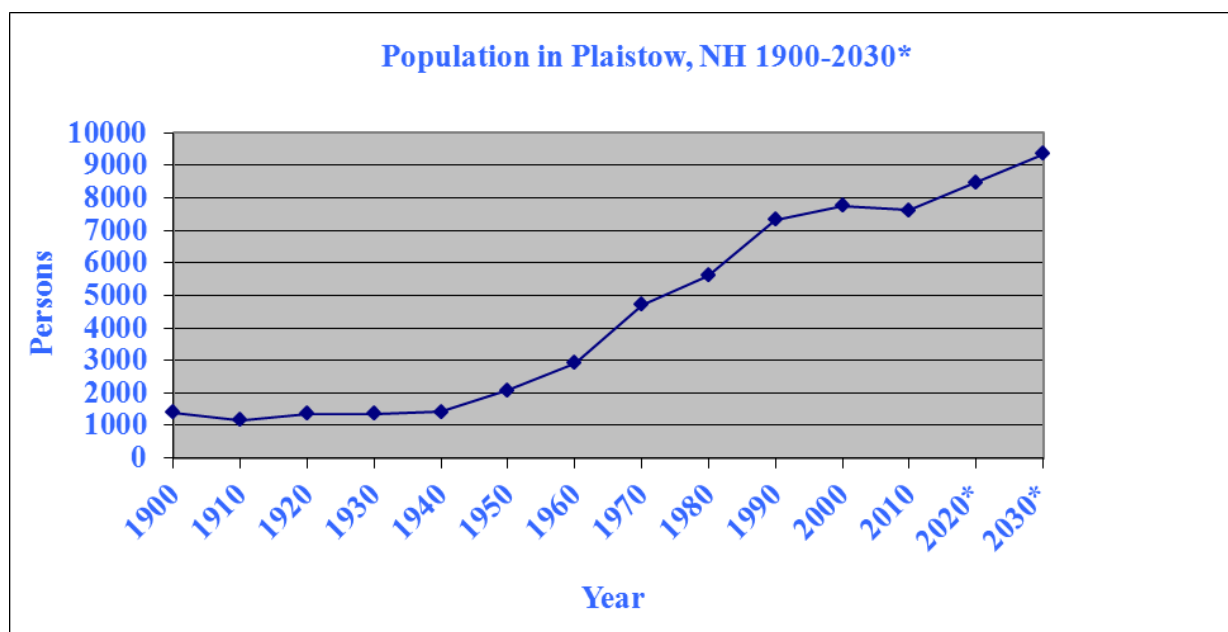
Most of the data presented is based on US Census data done every 10 years at the beginning of each decade. In cases where US Census data is not available, information is based on estimates from the NHOEP.

Population and Growth Patterns

There are several charts and data tables presented below. For each one, there is a brief explanation of what the chart and/or table contains. An analysis follows all the charts/tables regarding population and population percentage changes.

Figure POP-1 shows the population growth that has occurred in Plaistow by decade from 1900 through 2008 with minor declines in population from 2008 through 2010. The latest population projection figures for Plaistow provided by the NH Office and Energy Planning was completed in January of 2007.

Figure POP-1: Population in Plaistow 1900-2030



*Population Projections

Source: US Census data as reported by NH Office of Energy and Planning

Table POP-1 shows the actual population figures, again by decade, from 1970 to 2010. There are a couple of subtotals as well – 1 for the Timberlane towns and 1 for the Timberlane towns plus the directly abutting NH towns. Also included are the population figures for Rockingham County, the State of New Hampshire, and for Haverhill, Plaistow's southerly neighbor. Haverhill is in Essex County, Massachusetts so that data is also shown so Haverhill may be compared to not only Plaistow but its Massachusetts neighbors.

Table POP-1: Population in Plaistow and Surrounding Communities

Town/Region/State	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Plaistow	4,712	5,609	7,316	7,747	7,609
Atkinson	2,291	4,397	5,188	6,178	6,751
Danville	924	2,401	2,534	4,023	4,387
Sandown	741	2,057	4,060	5,143	5,986
Subtotal TRSD Towns	8,668	14,464	19,098	23,091	24,733
Hampstead	2,401	3,785	6,732	8,297	8,523
Kingston	2,882	4,111	5,591	5,862	6,025
Newton	1,920	3,068	3,473	4,289	4,603
Subtotal All Above Towns	15,871	25,428	34,894	41,539	43,884
Rockingham County	138,950	190,345	245,845	277,359	295,223
New Hampshire	737,578	920,475	1,109,117	1,235,786	1,316,470
Haverhill, MA	46,120	46,865	51,418	59,123	60,879
Essex County, MA	628,300	633,688	670,080	725,393	743,159
Massachusetts	5,689,170	5,737,037	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,580,629

Source: NHOEP, US Census

Table POP-2 is based on the same population data as shown in Table POP-1 but instead of showing population figures, it shows decade by decade percentage change in the population. The last column titled, “Annual % Change 1970 – 2010” calculates an average annual percentage change over the last 40 years (1970 – 2010).

Table POP-2: Percent Change in Population for Plaistow and Surrounding Communities

Town/Region/State	% Change 1970 - 1980	% Change 1980 - 1990	% Change 1990 - 2000	%Change 2000 - 2010	% Change 1970 - 2010	Annual % Change 1970 - 2010
Plaistow	19.04	30.43	5.89	-1.78	61.48	1.54
Atkinson	91.92	17.99	19.08	9.27	194.67	4.87
Danville	159.85	5.54	58.76	9.05	374.78	9.37
Sandown	177.60	97.37	26.67	16.39	707.83	17.70
Subtotal TRSD Towns	66.87	32.04	20.91	7.11	185.34	4.63
Hampstead	57.64	77.86	23.25	2.72	254.98	6.37
Kingston	42.64	36.00	4.85	2.78	109.06	2.73
Newton	59.79	13.20	23.50	7.32	139.74	3.49
Subtotal All Above Towns	60.22	37.23	19.04	5.65	176.50	4.41
Rockingham County	36.99	29.16	12.82	6.44	112.47	2.81
New Hampshire	24.80	20.49	11.42	6.53	78.49	1.96
Haverhill, MA	1.62	9.72	14.99	2.97	32.00	0.80
Essex County, MA	0.86	5.74	8.25	2.45	18.28	0.46
Massachusetts	0.84	4.87	5.53	3.65	15.67	0.39

Source: NHOEP, US Census

Table POP-3 on the following page shows projected populations for the same towns, regions, and states whose historical population figures were displayed. The projected estimates come from NHOEP and are based on historic, economic, and other demographic information.

**Table POP-3: Population Projections for Plaistow
and Surrounding Communities**

Town/Region/State	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Plaistow	7,609	8,480	8,770	9,070	9,350
Atkinson	6,751	7,090	7,330	7,570	7,790
Danville	4,387	4,870	5,060	5,240	5,420
Sandown	5,986	6,360	6,610	6,860	7,090
Subtotal TRSD Towns	24,733	26,800	27,770	28,740	29,650
Hampstead	8,523	9,430	9,810	10,190	10,550
Kingston	6,025	6,690	6,910	7,140	7,350
Newton	4,603	4,850	5,020	5,180	5,340
Subtotal All Above Towns	43,884	47,770	49,510	51,250	52,890
Rockingham County	308,220	320,490	331,190	341,850	351,660
New Hampshire	1,365,140	1,420,000	1,470,000	1,520,310	1,565,040
Haverhill, MA	60,879	62,363	63,413	64,627	65,041
Essex County, MA	743,159	770,778	787,032	803,186	819,340
Massachusetts	6,580,629	6,758,580	6,856,546	6,938,636	7,012,009

Source: NHOEP, US Census, Mass Data Center, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Table POP-4 on the following page is based on the same data that is displayed in Table POP-3 except that population deltas are displayed as percentages instead of displaying just the population figures.

Table POP-4: Percent Change in Projected Populations for Plaistow and Surrounding Communities

Town/Region/State	% Change 2010 - 2020	% Change 2020 - 2030	% Change 2010 - 2030	Annual % Change 2010 - 2030
Plaistow	15.26	6.61	22.88	1.14
Atkinson	8.58	6.28	15.39	0.77
Danville	15.34	7.11	23.55	1.18
Sandown	10.42	7.26	18.44	0.92
Subtotal TRSD Towns	12.28	6.77	19.88	0.99
Hampstead	15.10	7.54	23.78	1.19
Kingston	14.69	6.37	21.99	1.10
Newton	9.06	6.37	16.01	0.80
Subtotal All Above Towns	12.82	6.83	20.52	1.03
Rockingham County	7.45	6.18	14.09	0.70
New Hampshire	7.68	6.47	14.64	0.73
Haverhill, MA	4.16	2.57	6.84	0.34
Essex County, MA	5.90	4.11	10.25	0.51
Massachusetts	4.19	2.27	6.56	0.33

Source: NHOEP, US Census, Mass Data Center, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Population Growth Analysis

In 1900, the population in Plaistow was 1,408. It wasn't until 1950 that the town started to experience noticeable growth at which time the population had grown to 2,082 – a 47.87 percent increase (see **Figure POP-1**). Like many communities in Rockingham County and southern New Hampshire, Plaistow's population has increased significantly since 1970 when population was 4,712 (see **Table POP-1**). By 2000, the town's population had increased to 7,664 – a 62.65 percent increase from 1970 (see **Table POP-2**). Although the population has increased year over year, the population has decreased slightly from a peak of 7747 in 2000 to 7609 in 2010, a 138-person decrease.

While Plaistow's population increased 61.48 percent between 1970 and 2010, Rockingham County and the state as a whole grew by 112.47 percent and 78.49 percent respectively. Perhaps of more significance locally, the Timberlane towns collectively had a population increase of 185.34. All of Plaistow's bordering communities, except for Haverhill, grew significantly more during the same time period – most notably the town of Hampstead, which borders Plaistow to the northwest. Hampstead's population grew by 254.98 percent between 1970 and 2010. Danville and Sandown, both located to the north of Hampstead experienced

tremendous growth. Danville grew by 374.78 percent and Sandown grew by 707.83 percent during those same years. The City of Haverhill, Massachusetts, which borders Plaistow to the south, experienced the smallest growth – 32.0 percent.

Plaistow's population was projected to increase by 363 persons, or 4.69 percent, during the 2000 to 2010 period; however the most recent census data from 2010 shows that Plaistow actually lost population during the 2000 to 2010 decade (see **Table POP-1** and **Table POP-2**). Between 2010 and 2030, it is projected that an additional 1,741 persons will be added to the town's population, resulting in a population of 9350 or a 22.88 percent increase. During the 30-year period from 1960 through 1990 Plaistow's population made significant gains, however the population gains in the 1990s were somewhat modest and since 2008 Plaistow has seen its population decline year over year. **Table POP-4** shows that during the years 1970 through 2010 Plaistow's population experienced an average annual increase of 1.54% compared to annual gains of 4.63%, 2.81%, and 1.96% for the TRSD towns, Rockingham County, and the State of New Hampshire respectively. NHOEP has projected a smaller rate of growth for Plaistow for the period 2010 through 2030, namely 1.14%. The growth rates for the TRSD towns, Rockingham County, and the State of New Hampshire are also projected to slow to rates of 0.99%, 0.70%, and 0.73% respectively.

In June of 2006, the Planning Board contracted with RPC to do a Build-Out Analysis for Plaistow. A typical build-out analysis looks at current zoning, undeveloped land, natural resource barriers (ledge, steep slopes, wetlands, etc.), and conservation easements to determine how many more residential, commercial, and industrial units can be constructed on the remaining undeveloped land. For Plaistow this analysis revealed that 1907 more residential units could be constructed. This could result in an additional 5435 residents or a total maximum population of 13,044. Note that the NHOEP population projects do not take into account any land use constraints or zoning and that the build-out analysis does not include any time frame. Using NHOEP growth rates, the population of Plaistow would not reach the 13,044 mark until sometime between 2045 and 2050.

The build out-analysis also does not take into account any population increases that may result from the 55-plus (years of age) housing ordinance in effect for 3 months in 2007. To date, no such units have been built, 40 units (Chandler Ave) are approved and could be built if completed in the appropriate time frame. Another 34 units (Snow's Brook – Rt. 108) have been approved and could be built if completed in the appropriate time frame, leaving only 1 more such subdivision proposal (maximum 40 units). This proposal has not yet been submitted to the Planning Board as for a Final Application review. If all such units (approved and proposed) are built, the population could jump somewhere between 114 and 263 people. The 114 number assumes only 1 person per unit, not likely, while the 263 number assumes 2.3 persons per unit, also not likely. A more realistic estimate would be around 1.8 persons per unit for a total of 206 additional Plaistow residents. Note that if all the 55-plus subdivisions were grid type subdivisions with no density bonuses allowed, there could be approximately 50 single-family houses built for an estimated population increase of 115. This estimate is based on 2.3 people per single-family house.

The NHOEP population projects are very likely to change significantly as the 2010 census data, current economic conditions, and housing market status are taken into account. For Plaistow at

least, the long term population estimates will probably be less than are being currently projected.

Population Characteristics

The next several charts and data table look at the residents of Plaistow by age, place of birth, and educational attainment. As in the Population and Growth section, a brief explanation of the contents of the chart and or data table will be included with the chart/data table. The analysis of the data will follow after all the data is presented.

Table POP-5 shows the number and percentage of residents that were born in New Hampshire, in one of the northeast states, and in any US state not a northeast state. The northeast states include Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Of course for this table New Hampshire is not included in the northeast states column because it has a column of its own.

Table POP-5: US Born Residents by Place of Birth

Town, Region, or State	New Hampshire		Northeast State other than NH*		US State other than a Northeast State	
	# of Residents	% Total Population	# of Residents	% Total Population	# of Residents	% Total Population
Plaistow	862	11.1	6,109	78.9	470	6.1
Atkinson	421	6.8	4,943	80.0	525	8.5
Danville	630	15.7	3,053	75.9	209	5.2
Sandown	1,217	23.7	3,378	65.7	361	7.0
Subtotal TRSD Towns	3,130	13.6	17,483	75.7	1,565	6.8
Hampstead	1,435	17.3	5,898	71.1	648	7.8
Kingston	1,296	22.1	3,785	64.6	624	10.6
Newton	675	15.7	3,229	75.3	255	5.9
Subtotal All Above Towns	6,536	15.7	30,395	73.2	3,092	7.4
Rockingham County	76,716	27.7	162,802	58.7	25,170	9.1
New Hampshire	534,558	43.3		0.0		0.0

Source: 2000 US Census

Table POP-6 shows the number of residents that were not born in one of the 50 states. The Outside US column refers to Puerto Rico, US outlying areas, or for those residents that were born anywhere outside the US but who had at least 1 parent that was a US citizen. The Foreign Born column refers to those residents that were born outside the US and whose parents were not US citizens. That column is further divided into 2 columns, one for those residents who have become naturalized citizens of the US and another for those who are not US citizens. The last column shows a percentage of residents who were foreign born regardless of their current citizenship status.

Table POP-6: Non-US Born Residents by Place of Birth

Town, Region, or State	Outside US**		Foreign Born		
	# of Residents	% Total Population	# Naturalized Residents	# Non-citizen Residents	% Foreign Born of Total Population
Plaistow	81	1.0	150	75	2.9
Atkinson	27	0.4	232	30	4.2
Danville	39	1.0	64	28	2.3
Sandown	26	0.5	104	57	3.1
Subtotal TRSD Towns	173	0.7	550	190	3.2
Hampstead	73	0.9	149	94	2.9
Kingston	33	0.6	79	45	2.1
Newton	22	0.5	57	51	2.5
Subtotal All Above Towns	301	0.7	835	380	2.9
Rockingham County	2,281	0.8	5,849	4,541	3.7
New Hampshire	11,492	0.9	25,761	28,393	4.4

** Puerto Rico, US outlying area, born abroad of American parents

Source: 2000 US Census

Brief Analysis of Place of Birth Data

11% of Plaistow's residents were born in New Hampshire in comparison with 16% of residents in the neighboring NH towns. Rockingham County's native population is significantly higher at 28% and New Hampshire as a whole at 43%. This is no doubt heavily influenced by Plaistow's proximity to the Massachusetts border and the Boston job market. Many long time residents have extended family members who still live in Haverhill, Lawrence, and Merrimac Massachusetts.

79% of Plaistow's residents were born in a northeast state (as defined by the US census) in comparison to the lower percentages of NH (42%) and Rockingham County (59%). 6% of

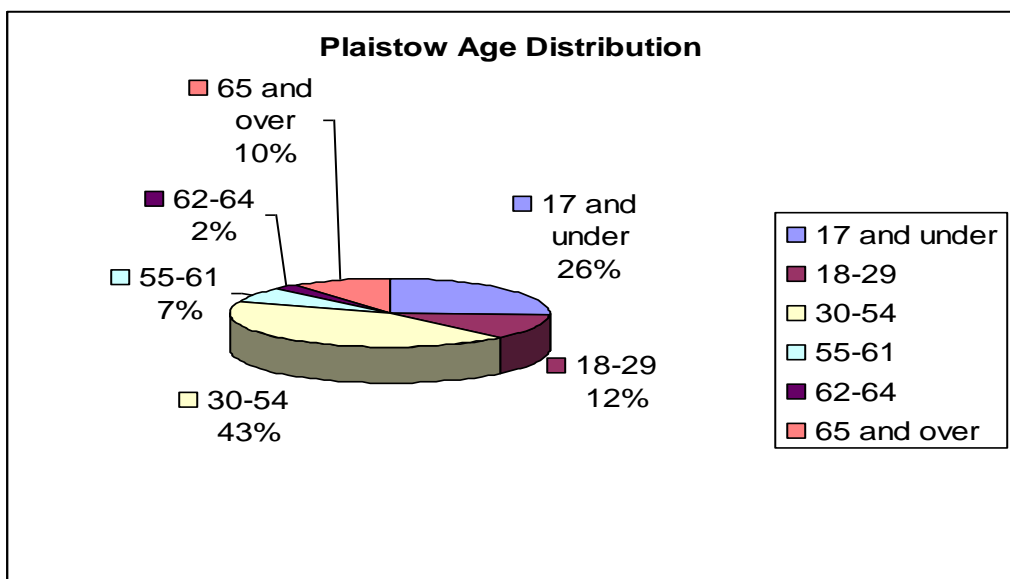
Plaistow's residents were born in states other than the northeast states and is consistent with NH at 10% and Rockingham County 9%.

A review of the previously published census results from 1990 shows that percentage wise (within 1% change), the residents of Plaistow continue to be born in the same places.

1% of Plaistow's residents were born outside of the US and this is again consistent with its NH neighbors (1%), Rockingham County (1%), and NH as a whole (1%). Similarly 3% of Plaistow's residents were foreign born and consistent with its NH neighbors (3%), Rockingham County (4%), and NH as a whole (4%).

Figure POP-2 graphically depicts the age distribution of Plaistow residents based on the 2000 census data.

Figure POP-2: Plaistow Age Distribution



Source: 2010 US Census

Tables POP-7 and POP -8: Plaistow and Surrounding Towns – Age Distribution

Tables POP-7 and POP-8 show the age distribution by number of residents and percentage of population for Plaistow and its neighbors. It also shows the median age of each town and region based on the 1990, 2000, and 2010 census data.

Table POP-7: Plaistow and Surrounding Towns - 2010 Age Distribution

Town, Region, or State	17 and under	18 - 20	21-29	30-54	55 - 61	62-64	65 and over
Plaistow	1,787	248	704	2,949	702	270	949
Atkinson	1,446	166	421	2,404	825	353	1,136
Danville	1,109	171	319	1,837	391	137	423
Sandown	1,484	248	524	2,506	566	164	494
Subtotal TRSD Towns	5,826	833	1,968	9,696	2,484	924	3,002
Hampstead	1,926	267	611	3,141	985	381	1,212
Kingston	1,279	202	552	2,314	681	233	764
Newton	1,141	159	389	1,923	426	140	425
Subtotal All Above Towns	10,172	1,461	3,520	17,074	4,576	1,678	5,403
Rockingham County	67,438	9,111	26,993	113,289	30,118	10,850	37,424
New Hampshire	287,234	57,159	139,076	476,490	130,776	47,467	178,268

Source 2010 US Census

Table POP-8: Plaistow and Surrounding Towns - 2010 Age Distribution and Median Age by Decade

Town, Region, or State	17 and under	18-20	21-29	30-54	55-61	62-64	65 and over	Median Age 1990	Median Age 2000	Median Age 2010
	% *	% *	% *	% *	% *	% *	% *			
Plaistow	23.5	3.3	9.3	38.8	9.2	3.5	12.5	32.0	37.4	41.6
Atkinson	21.4	2.5	6.2	35.6	12.2	5.2	16.8	36.0	40.3	46.7
Danville	25.2	3.9	7.3	41.9	8.9	3.1	9.6	33.0	35.4	41.5
Sandown	24.8	4.1	8.8	41.9	9.5	2.7	8.3	30.4	34.8	40.6
Subtotal TRSD Towns	23.6	3.3	8.0	39.2	10.0	3.7	12.1	32.9	37.1	42.7
Hampstead	22.6	3.1	7.2	36.9	11.6	4.5	14.2	33.5	38.1	45.7
Kingston	21.2	3.3	9.2	38.4	11.3	3.9	12.7	32.4	38.0	43.7
Newton	24.8	3.5	8.5	41.8	9.3	3.0	9.2	32.5	35.3	40.4
Subtotal All Above Towns	23.2	3.3	8.0	38.9	10.4	3.8	12.3	32.8	37.1	43.2
Rockingham County	22.8	3.1	9.1	38.4	10.2	3.7	12.7	32.6	37.2	42.2
New Hampshire	21.8	4.3	10.6	36.2	9.9	3.6	13.5	32.8	37.1	41.1

* Percent of Total Population for the given town, region, county, or state

Source: US Census of Population 1990, 2000, 2010

Brief Analysis of Age Distribution Data

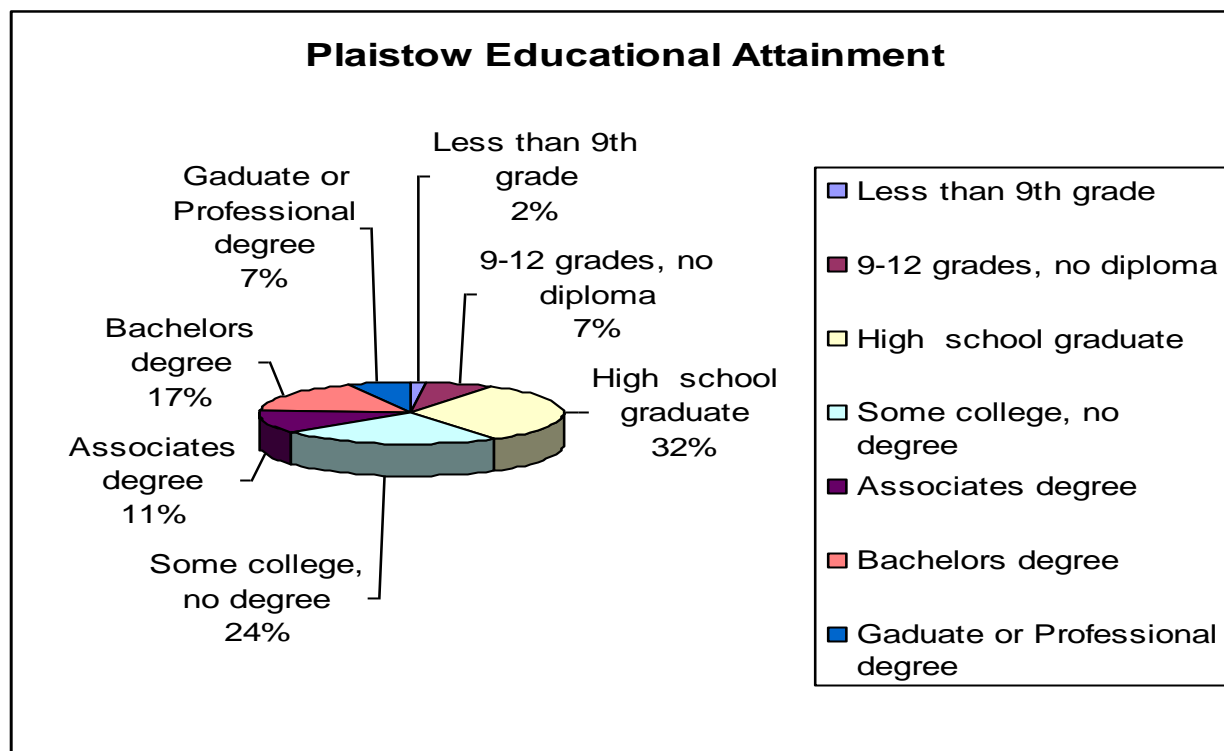
People 30 to 54 years of age comprise the highest percentage of residents in Plaistow (39%), followed by people 17 years of age and under (24%). This is not too surprising because both of these age brackets span a greater number of years than the other brackets. The data was presented in this format to help plan for recreation needs as well as elderly housing needs.

The median age in Plaistow and its surrounding towns has risen significantly between 1990 and 2010 as shown in **Table POP-8**. The median age of Plaistow's residents increased from 32 years to 37.4 years during 1990 to 2000 time period and from 37.4 years to 41.6 years during the 2000 to 2010 time period – an overall increase of 30.0% in twenty years. Plaistow's median age for the year 2010 and the increase between 1990 and 2010 is comparable to neighboring towns, the county, and the state. In short, the population in Plaistow and surrounding communities is aging and at a significant rate.

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment levels of a community's residents are important to assess since educational levels commonly reflect earning potential and household income. A brief analysis of the data follows the pie chart (Plaistow only) and the data table comparing Plaistow to surrounding towns.

Figure POP-3: Education - Plaistow Residents 25 Years and Older



Source: US Census of Population, 2000

**Table POP-7: Education - Plaistow and Surrounding Towns' Residents
25-Years and Older**

Town/Region/State	Less than 9th grade	9-12 grades, no diploma	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associates degree	Bachelors degree	Graduate or Professional degree
Plaistow	1.8	7.2	31.8	23.8	11.3	17.1	7.0
Atkinson	1.0	3.7	24.0	20.7	11.4	26.4	12.9
Danville	1.2	7.9	34.0	28.4	9.6	14.1	4.9
Sandown	1.9	6.4	32.7	25.8	11.6	15.5	6.1
Subtotal TRSD Towns	1.5	6.3	30.6	24.7	11.0	18.3	7.7
Hampstead	1.8	4.9	26.0	20.0	10.9	23.8	12.5
Kingston	1.9	8.2	32.6	23.6	10.8	13.6	9.2
Newton	2.2	8.9	31.0	23.8	12.9	16.8	4.6
Subtotal All Above Towns	1.7	6.7	30.3	23.7	11.2	18.2	8.2
Rockingham County	2.5	7.1	28.6	20.7	9.5	21.1	10.6
New Hampshire	3.9	8.7	30.1	20.0	8.7	18.7	10.0
Haverhill, MA	5.7	10.7	31.1	20.2	9.0	16.1	7.3
Essex County, MA	5.9	9.5	28.1	17.7	7.6	19.5	11.7
Massachusetts	5.8	9.4	27.3	17.1	7.2	19.5	13.7

Source: US Census of Population 2000

Educational Attainment Data Analysis

Thirty two percent (31.8%) of Plaistow residents over 25 years old have a high school diploma; this compares favorably with all Timberlane towns where 30.6% of the residents (including Plaistow) have a high school diploma. Plaistow is on the high end of 25-year olds without a high school diploma (9%) compared to 7.8% for the Timberlane school district towns. Fifty nine percent (59.2%) of Plaistow residents have some college experience through post graduate degrees while 61.7% of the residents of all Timberlane school districts towns have comparable college experience.

Recommendations

1. Update this chapter in years ending in 1, 5, and 9. This gives the decennial US census data a chance to be collected, corrected, and published as well as midterm updates by various state agencies.

Revision History

Revision Year	Reason for Revision
19xx	Original Master Plan
1988	Major revision to Master Plan and Zoning, all census data updated
1994	Major revision to include the 1990 census data; update performed at Appledore Engineering.
1996	Minor revision to include elderly housing; update performed locally.
2009	Major update to include the 2000 census data; update performed locally; not formerly approved by the Planning Board.
2011	Major update to include the 2010 census date; update performed locally