

CHELSEA



A Note to the Reader

Just as a community is never finished modifying, adapting, and organizing its natural, political, and social environments, an attempt to profile those dynamic processes must be a work in progress. Materials below are organized to reflect community characteristics and resources. Please join us in this profiling effort and call attention to major omissions, inaccuracies, and errors of fact.

Thank you,
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<http://crs.uvm.edu>
<http://factfinder.census.gov>
www.chelseavt.org

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Section 1. Town Organization1

Community Profile – Chelsea, VT

Chelsea is a unique valley community with a time honored distribution of its population south of a river fork where White River valley broadens. This is not, nor has it been, an isolated rural community. Straight forward and well traveled roads illustrate social and commercial ties to Tunbridge to the south on Route 110 (from where the first settlers arrived), and still on Route 110, north to Washington. Similarly, Route 113 links to Vershire and Corinth to the east, and, to the north west, up over a Green Mountain ridge to the commercial center of Williamstown. There is a pairing of themes in Chelsea: an “open country rural” (with still viable, but declining timbering and farming) contrasted with light manufacturing and retail village centered activity; a dogged identity with and allegiance to the town contrasted with an increasing dependence on several neighboring towns to provide a critical mass for the center of town attention, a k to 12 school system. Similar “leakage” of local identity occurs as folks travel further to jobs in the capitol area, White River and other more urban commercial centers. The duality continues: two popular general stores in the village, paired greens, and a constructive tension between newcomer and old timer that leaves few topics of civic concern unarticulated.

Civic Structure

Table 1.1 – General Town Characteristics

Town Name	Chelsea
County	Orange
Date of Town Charter	1781
Incorporated Village(s)	None
Other Villages and Neighborhoods (past and present)	West Hill, Kennedy Corner, etc.

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2004. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Table 1.2– Chelsea General Planning Characteristics

<i>Vermont Forum on Sprawl Category</i>	3-Outlying Town
Town Plan	Dec, 1997
Zoning Ordinance	Mar, 1998
Subdivision Ordinance	No
Septic Approval Process	-

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2004. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 2 Human Resources

Table 2.1 – Chelsea Population Characteristics

Total Population, 2000	1240
Total Population, 1990	1166
Absolute Population Change, 1990 – 2000	74.0
Percent Population Change, 1990 – 2000	6.35%
Persons per Square Mile, 2000	31.06
Persons per Square Mile, 1990	29.21
Area in Square Miles	39.92
Percent Dependent, 2000 (under 18 and over 65)	44.5%
Percent Rural, 2000	100%
Percent Native Born (United States), 2000	1.2%
Percent Reporting Irish Ancestry, 2000	14.9%
Percent Reporting French/French Canadian Ancestry, 2000	15.2%

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>
US Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 2.2 - Ethnic Diversity

	Number	Percent
Total population (all races)	1240	100
White alone	1242	97.8
White in combination	1226	98.1%
Black or African American alone	2	0.2%
Black or African American in combination	2	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	9	0.7
Asian alone	1	0.1%
Asian in combination	1	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (any type)*	5	0.4%
Some other race alone	3	0.3%
Some other race in combination	2	0.2%

* Hispanic race population percentage **significantly below** state average. (Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov>)

Age and Gender of Chelsea's Citizens

Table 2.3 shows the gender and the age break down for Chelsea. The data suggest surprising declines in the youngest population cohorts since 1990. As the following age-sex pyramids suggest, those young cohorts are using greater human, social and medical services.

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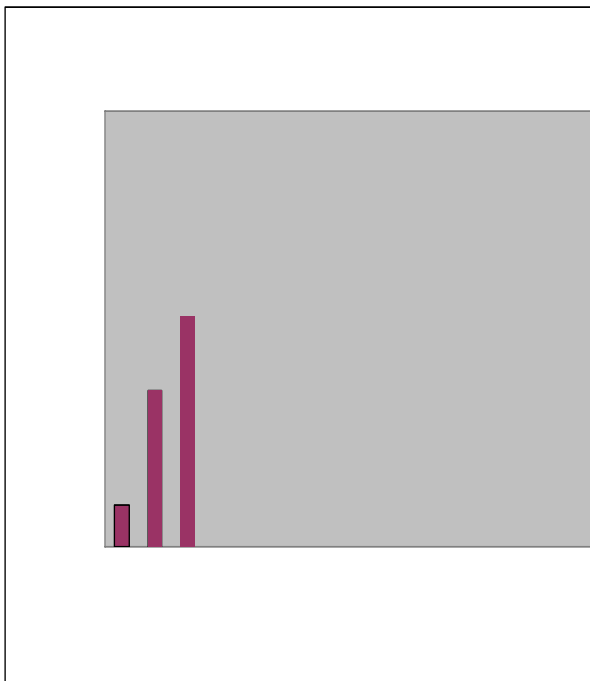
Table 2.3 Age and Gender

	1990
Total Population	116,000
Percent 0-17 Years Old	32%
Percent 18-24 Years Old	8%
Percent 25-44 Years Old	26%
Percent 45-64 Years Old	22%
Percent 65+ Years Old	18%
Median Age*	38
Percent Male	57%
Percent Female	59%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

*Median age significantly below state average. (Source: www.city-data.com)

Chelsea Population Trend since 1790 – Today



Community Profile – Chelsea, VT

Figure 2.2 Tunbridge Age / Sex Pyramids, 1990 & 2000

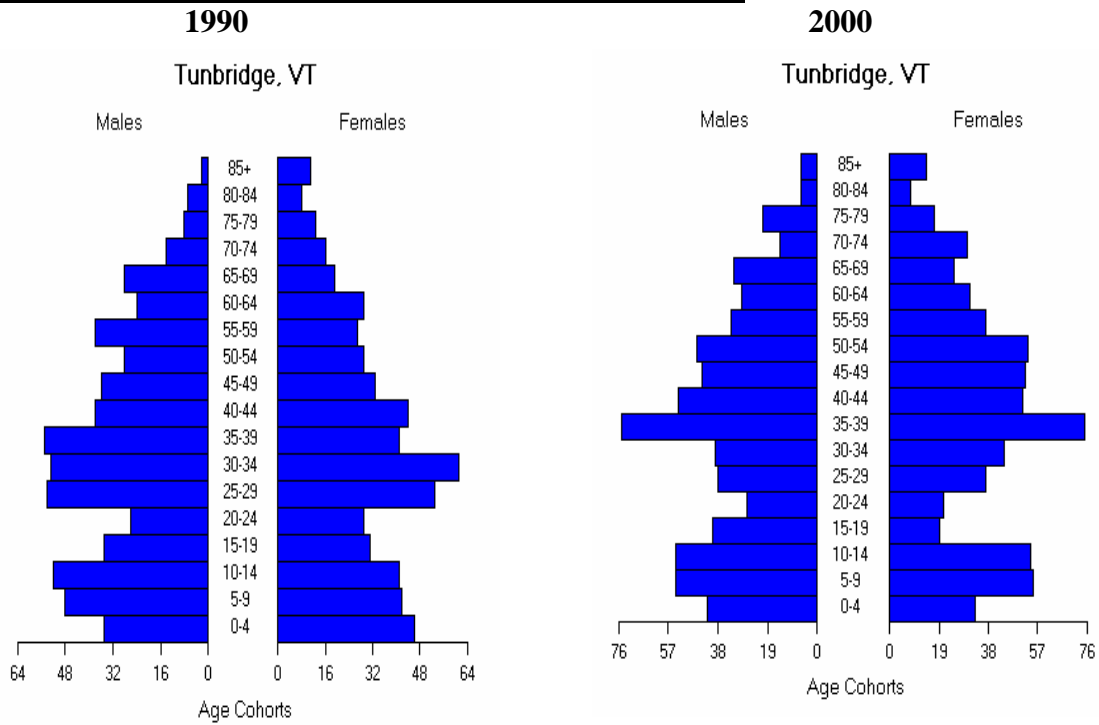
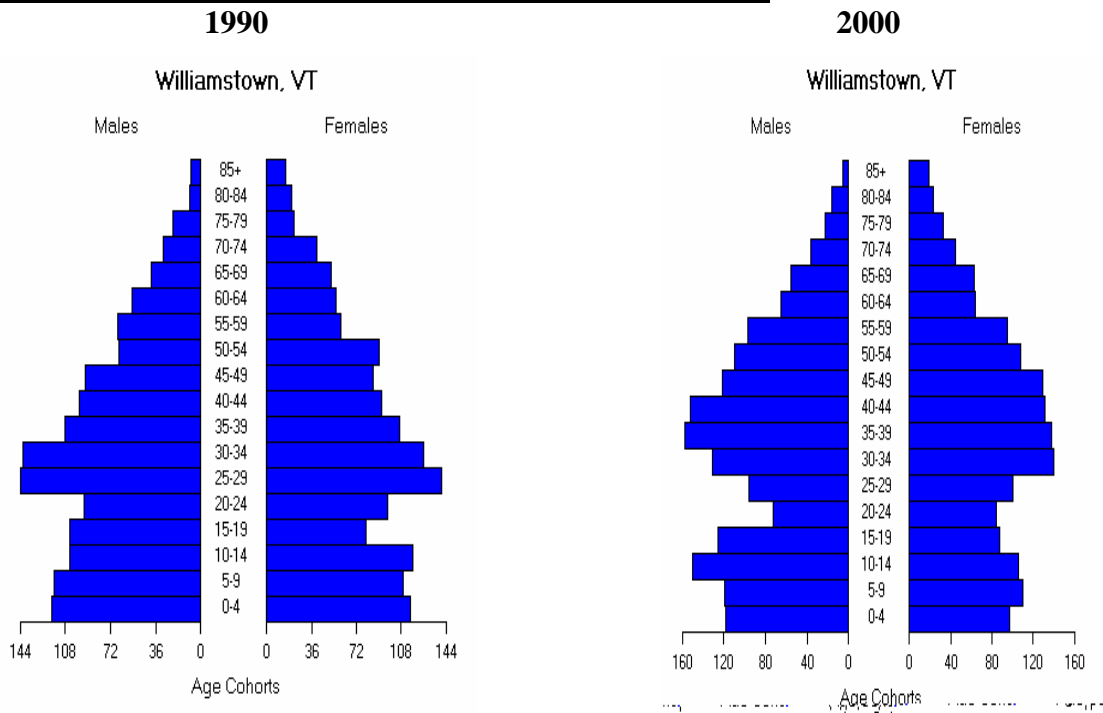


Figure 2.3 Williamstown Age / Sex Pyramids, 1990 & 2000



Community Profile – Chelsea, VT

Chelsea Housing and Family Information

Table 2.4 – Chelsea Housing and Family Characteristics

Number of Families	317	324
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Section 3. Business and Infrastructure Resources

Table 3.1–Chelsea Employment Characteristics

Property Values

Table 3.2 shows average residential value, the Grand List and the Effective Property Tax Rate. These data are not strictly comparable with other census indicators because, as indicated in the footnotes, they come from different sources here and are collected by the state Tax Department.

Table 3.2–Chelsea Property Valuation & Taxation

Average Residential Value (on less than 6 acres), 1999 \$87299

1999 \$77042

Effective Property Tax Rate (rate per \$100), 2001 2.41%

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002.

Transportation

Table 3.3 below shows the transportation patterns for people in Chelsea. Many people drive their own cars as little to no public transportation is available. A small number share or carpool.

Table 3.3– Chelsea Town Local Transportation Behavior

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for State Highways, 2000	53,168
Total Number of Accidents, 1997	2
Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 1997	0
Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000	1,088
Percent commuters who Drive Alone, 2000	74.87%
Commuters who Carpool, 1990	172
Percent Commuters who Carpool, 1990	12.56%
Commuters who use Public Transit, 1990	11
Percent Commuters who use Public Transit, 1990	1.34%

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 5. Natural Resources

Rivers and Mountains

Table 5.1– Chelsea Town Selected Natural and Geographical Information

Land Area (square miles)	39.92
Water Area (square miles)	.02
Percent Conserved Lands, 1999	2.3
Change in Forest Land to Developed Land, 1970-90 (acres)	25.6
Change in Forest Land to Non-Forested Land, 1970-90 (acres)	91.4
Change in Non-Forested Land to Developed Land, 1970-90 (acres)	2.7

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 6. Sources

This Community Profile is an attempt to bring together information from many different sources.

The internet resources used include:

For data:

The Center for Rural Studies. 2005. *Vermont Indicators Online*. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators/>

The U.S. Census Bureau. 2005. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Vermont Dept. of Education. 2005. *Vermont School Report*. <http://maps.vcgi.org/schlrpt/>

For text:

Chelsea town website. 2004. <http://www.chelseavt.org>

Environmental Protection Agency. 2004. <http://www.epa.gov/region1/pr/2003/sep/030915.html>

For maps:

<http://www.mapquest.com>