

# City of Sidney



## Appendix #3 Demographics

# Comprehensive Development Plan 2012

*Sidney, Nebraska.....Small Town Values.....Big Time Opportunities*



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# *Historic Population Trends*

- **Historic Census Population**
- **Population of Age Cohorts**
- **Natural Change**
- **Migration**
- **Dependency Ratio**
- **Median Age**
- **Households**
- **Race**
- **Mobility**

## Historic Census Population

Even though Sidney is the oldest settlement in Western Nebraska with its founding in 1867, the earliest census record of Sidney's population came with the 1900 census when Sidney recorded a population of just 1,001 persons. The City experienced a modest growth of population in the following decade increasing by 184 persons.

Sidney's population exploded in the 1910's as the population more than doubled to 2,852 persons, a 140.7% increase. Sidney continued to grow, albeit, not as rapidly, during the 1920's. By 1930, Sidney had a population of 3,306 persons.

The great depression and a significant drought contributed to Cheyenne County losing 6.7% of its population by 1940. This greatly curtailed the City's growth, yet Sidney still managed to increase its population by 82 people to 3,388.

Sidney's fortunes improved dramatically with the development of the Sioux Army Depot during World War II. This development spurred a 45% population increase in Sidney from 1940 to 1950. The Korean War helped maintain the Army Depot's importance and the discovery of oil in Cheyenne County in 1949 added another base industry for the regional economy. These developments, along with an enormous baby boom in the county, helped continue the rapid population growth during the 1950's. By 1960, Sidney reached its peak census population of 8,004 person. This figure is more than double Sidney's 1940 population of 3,388.

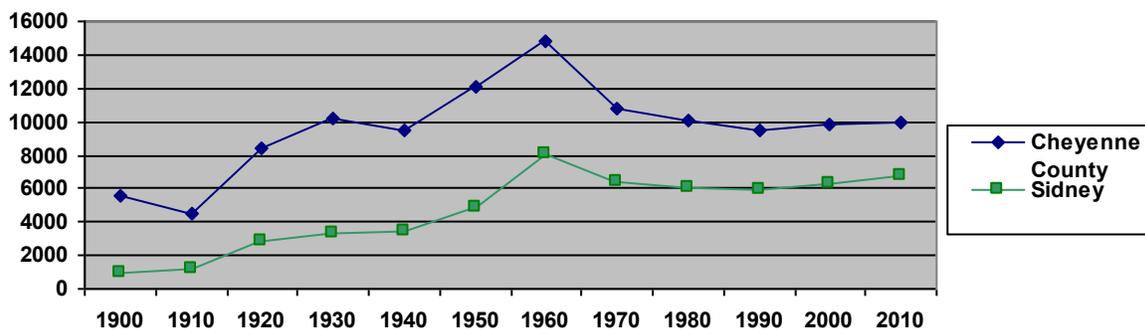
The closing of the Sioux Army Depot in 1967 coupled with the decline of the oil industry and the completion of minuteman missile silos in the area started a population decline that would continue for about 25 years. Sidney's population of 6,403 was 20% below its 1960 population of 8,004. Even though the Interstate Highway system was completed in the 1970's, Sidney continued to lose population through the 1970's and 1980's. In 1980, Sidney recorded a population of 6,010 and by 1990 the population had fallen to 5,959. Although this figure represented just 74.5% of the 1960 population, it was still 80% higher than the 1930 population.

Sidney's recent demographic revival began in the early 1990's with the rise to prominence of Cabela's, the expansion of their World Headquarters, and a positive change in its economic strategies that has led to the development of one of the most (if not the most) attractive and commercially prominent "Interchange Villages" in the state of Nebraska.

This economic growth in Sidney over the past two decades has resulted in another wave of demographic growth, albeit not nearly as great as the wave of growth experienced in the 1940's, but certainly stronger than the rest of Western Nebraska. The 2000 census recorded a population of 6,282, 5.4% greater than the 1990 level while 2010 census reading of 6,757 demonstrate continued strong and sustainable growth.

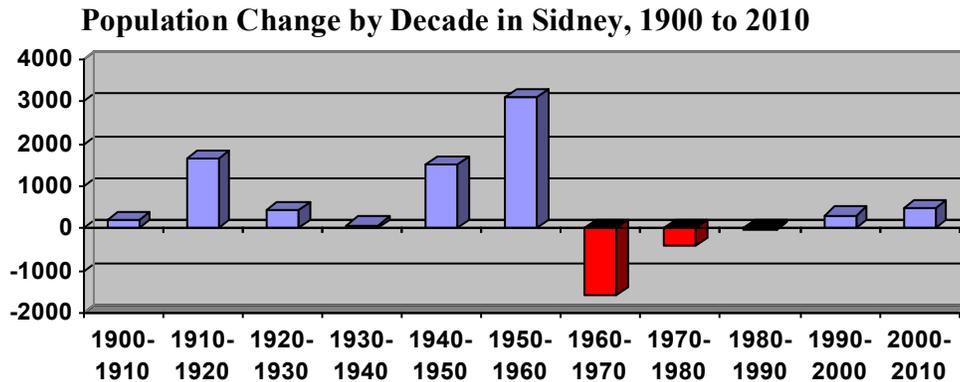
While this population level is still well below the City's historic high, Sidney's current population is grounded on a much more stable economic base than the government-supported 1960 population. The 2010 population also demonstrates a 100-year growth of 5,756 persons, a 470% increase. More importantly, the recent growth has added youth to the City's demographic structure

City and County Population by Decade, 1900 - 2010



## Population Change by Decade

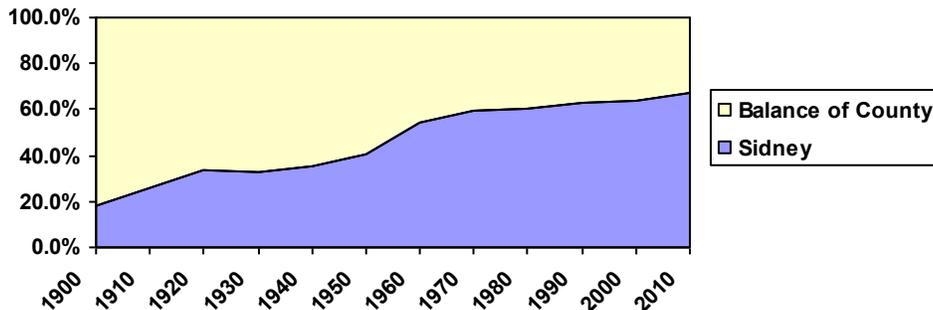
Sidney's population change has improved decade over decade for the past four decades and six of the past seven decades. The one exception to this trend is quite noticeable as Sidney quickly reversed from its most rapid population gain of 3,092 persons during the 1950's to its most rapid decade of decline of 1,601 persons during the 1960's.



## Sidney's Share of County Population

Sidney has steadily increased its share of the county's population. In 1900, only one-fifth of Cheyenne County residents lived in Sidney. Sidney increased its share of county population to one-third by 1920. Today, that ratio has flipped as two-thirds of county residents now live in Sidney.

**Sidney's Share of County Population, 1900 to 2010**



**Population of Sidney, 1900 to 2010**

	Sidney		Cheyenne Co		Nebraska	
	People	Change	People	Change	People	Change
1900	1,001	--	5,570	--	1,066,300	--
1910	1,185	+18.4%	4,551	-18.3%	1,192,214	+11.8%
1920	2,852	+140.7%	8,405	+84.7%	1,296,372	+8.7%
1930	3,306	+15.9%	10,187	+21.2%	1,377,963	+6.3%
1940	3,388	+2.5%	9,505	-6.7%	1,315,834	-4.5%
1950	4,912	+45.0%	12,081	+27.1%	1,325,510	+0.7%
1960	8,004	+62.9%	14,828	+22.7%	1,411,921	+6.5%
1970	6,403	-20.0%	10,778	-27.3%	1,485,333	+5.2%
1980	6,010	-6.1%	10,057	-6.7%	1,569,825	+5.7%
1990	5,959	-0.8%	9,494	-5.6%	1,578,385	+0.5%
2000	6,282	+5.4%	9,830	+3.5%	1,711,263	+8.4%
2010	6,757	+7.6%	9,998	+1.7%	1,826,341	+6.7%

## Historic Population Comparison

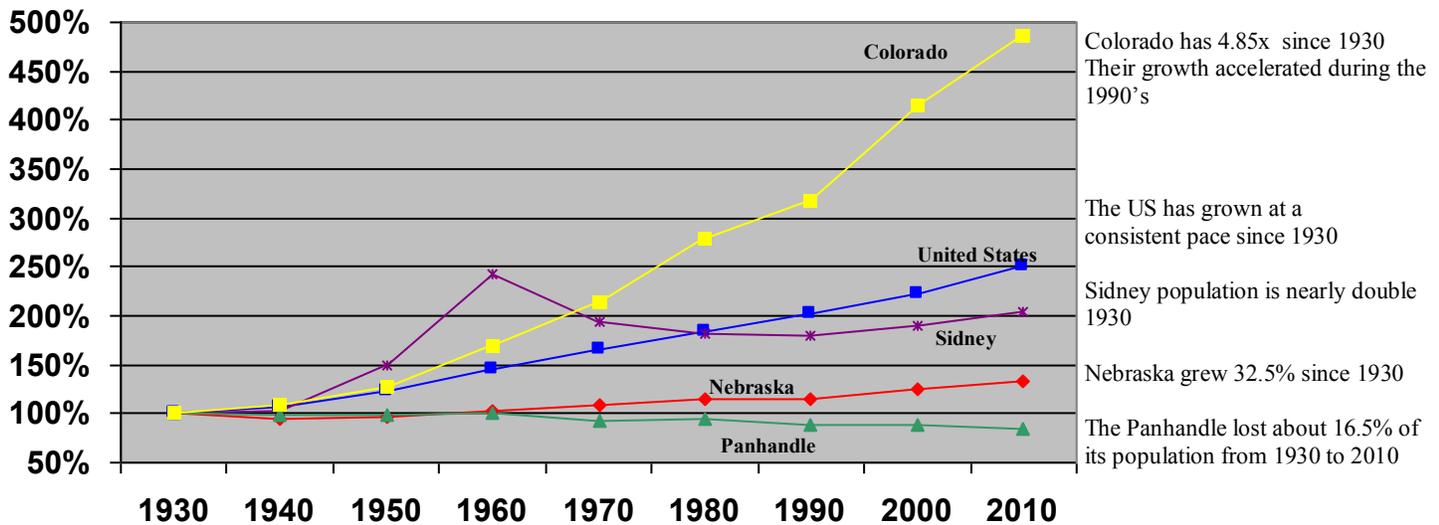
Sidney has grown at a much greater pace than the state and region over the past decade. In the past ten years, Sidney has increased its population by 7.6% which is slightly ahead of the state's 6.7% growth rate. The state (15.7%) has grown slightly faster than Sidney 13.4% over the past 20 years, though.

Compared to its peers in Western Nebraska, Sidney has far outperformed most of its neighbors. While Sidney has experienced steady growth the past two decades, this growth is even more impressive when taken in context of the Panhandle region which has experienced a shrinking population base for the past three decades.

Sidney's growth is even more impressive when examined from a longer time frame. Sidney has more than doubled its population since 1930. During the same time, Nebraska only increased its population by one-third while the region has lost 15%.

The population growth nationwide and in Colorado has been constantly higher than Sidney's for the past 50 years. The US population grew by 9.7% in the past decade and has increased its population by 250% since 1930. Colorado has grown at a much faster rate than both the US and Sidney as they have nearly increased their population five-fold since 1930. Their growth has been growing at an incredible rate the past two decades as their population growth 53% since 1990. The number of new residents in Colorado in the past two decades nearly equals Nebraska's total population and they are expected to grow by another equivalent of Nebraska in the next twenty years.

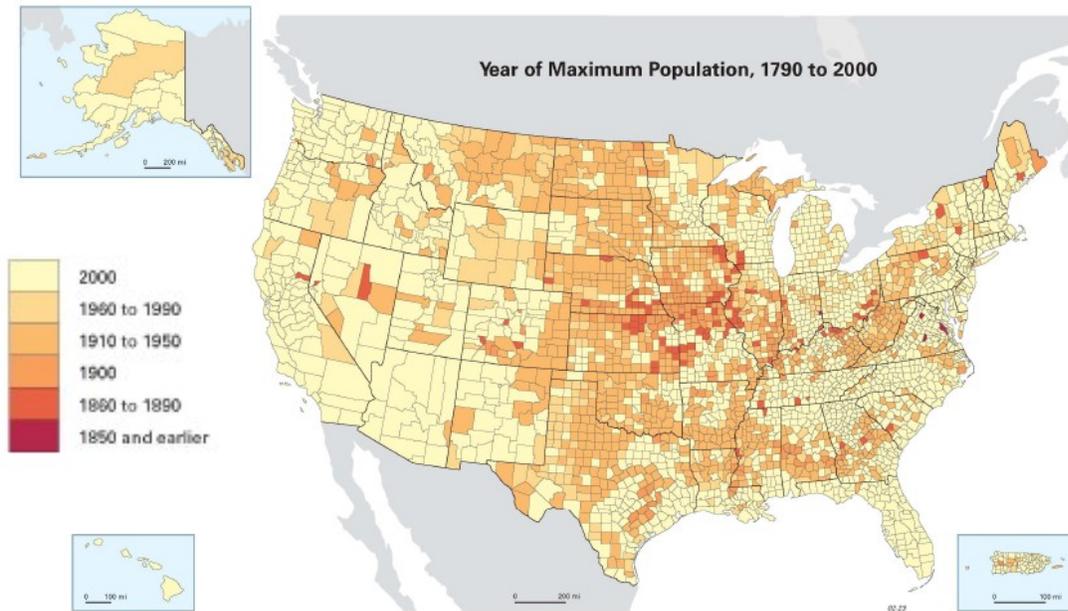
**Percentage of 1930 Population, 1930 to 2010**



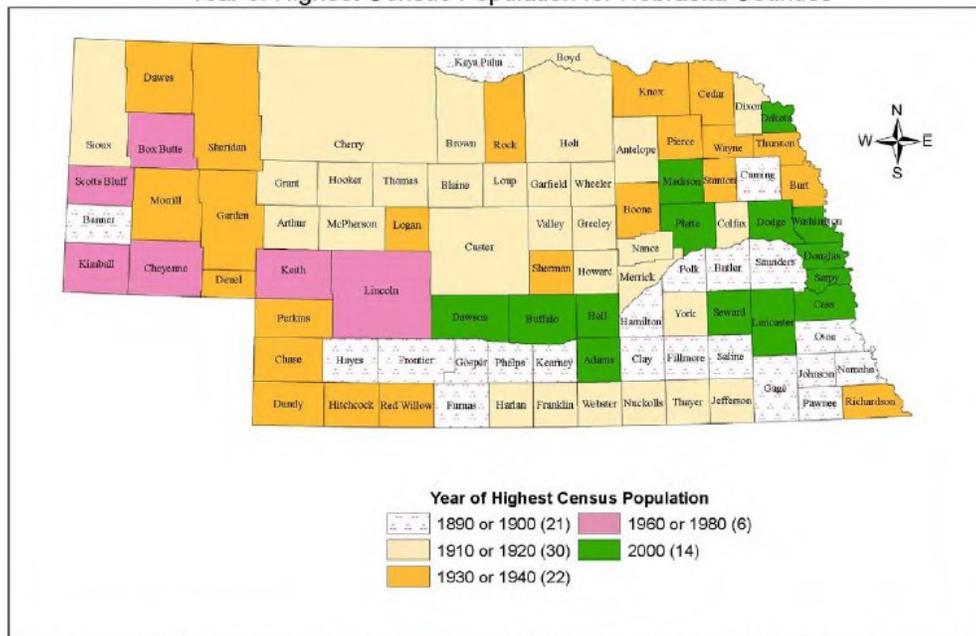
## Year of Peak Population

Cheyenne County, which reached its peak population in 1960, is in the minority of Great Plains and Western Nebraska counties that have reached their peak population in the past 50 years as 42 of Western Nebraska's 52 counties reached their peak population in 1930 or earlier.

More significantly, Cheyenne County is one of very few counties in the US Great Plains that have experienced rebounds in their population after descending from their historic peak population. In fact, Cheyenne County has rebounded from population troughs three times since 1900, a very rare "hat trick" for this region of the United States.

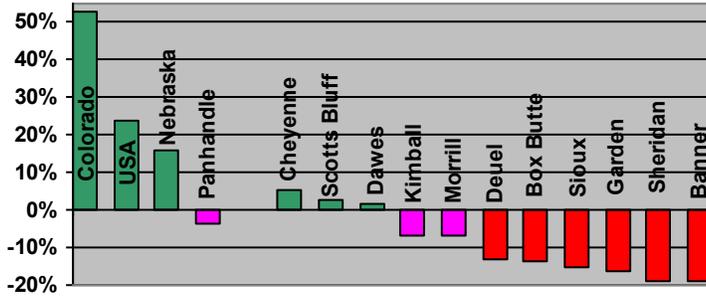


## Year of Highest Census Population for Nebraska Counties

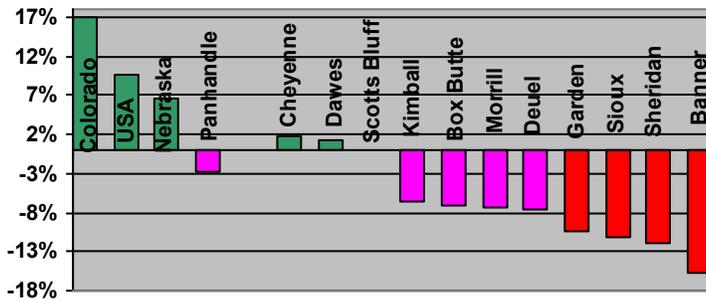


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Compiled by: Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR), University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Prepared by: David Drozd, CPAR - July 12, 2006

**Population Change from 1990 to 2010**



**Population Change from 2000 to 2010**



**Regional Population Change**

Cheyenne County has experienced the greatest population momentum in the region and is the only Panhandle County to increase its population by over 5% in both the 1990's and this decade.

While Cheyenne County has greatly outpaced most of the Panhandle in demographic growth in the past two decades, its 13.4% growth is behind the growth rates experienced statewide (15.7%), nationally (19.0%) and in Colorado (52.6%).

Scotts Bluff and Dawes Counties also increased their population from 1990 to 2010, but Dawes County only grew 1.3% this decade while Scotts Bluff County was essentially flat with just 0.1% population growth.

Six Panhandle counties have lost 10% or more of its population since 1990 while Kimball and Morrill Counties lost 7% during this time.

**Critical Mass in Cheyenne County**

It is very important for rural areas to retain a critical mass of population in order to maintain essential institutions such as schools, businesses, and churches and to provide adequate funding for roads, fire, and police departments. Maintaining a critical mass is also important in order to retain and enable the growth of businesses by having the quality and quantity of labor needed.

Low population density can have significant implications. In many sparsely populated areas, there are relatively few people to pay for vital infrastructure such as school, cities, counties, fire districts, and everything else. This heavy tax burden creates an environment where people often have a strong desire to cut taxes and spending. As a result, existing infrastructures often is allowed to decline, and new facilities are seldom if ever built. This makes these areas less attractive places to live, which leads to future population declines which then continue to perpetuate.

Fortunately, Sidney has not fallen into this downward spiral and has in fact experienced significant economic and demographic growth based on both public and private investment.

Continuing this culture of investment is a significant issue in Cheyenne County as the FDIC's John Anderlik estimates a county needs to have at least 10,000 persons to support services and infrastructure. Cheyenne County, with a population of 9,998, is sitting right at the minimum threshold. It is thus important to maintain the positive economic momentum in order to remain on the positive side of this sustainability threshold.

## Population Composition

The most significant changes within age groups from 1990 to 2010 were the very positive increases in young adults and upper middle age persons. During this period of time, the young adult population grew by 29.4% while the number of persons 45 to 64 years old is estimated to have grown by 41.7%.

All of the net gains in the young adult population occurred during the 2000's as Sidney experienced a net decline of 1 young adult from 1990 to 2000, which was actually quite positive as most of Western Nebraska experienced significant decline in its young adult population. However, this does not mean young adults were not leaving Sidney in the 1990's. As the age cohort table on the next page indicates, a net of 29.2% (128) of the persons who were 10 to 14 years old in 1990 were not in Sidney in the year 2000. This is nearly as great as the 35.3% loss experienced in the 10-14 year old cohort from 1980 to 1990.

During the 2000's, Sidney again lost many high school graduates as a net of 142 persons who were 10 to 14 years old in Sidney in 2000 were not in the community in 2010. This 30.3% loss is comparable to previous decades.

The big difference in the young adult age group from the 1980's to the 2000's was the number of 20-somethings who moved to Sidney in the '90's and 00s. While the City had a net 19.9% out-migration of 25-29 year olds in the 1980's, **Sidney had a net in-migration of 5.6% for 25 to 29 year olds in the 1990's and 14.9% during the 2000's.**

In-migration, however, was not the primary factor in the large increase in upper-middle-aged adults over the 20-year period. This age group experienced a 20-year net in-migration of 40 persons with a 34 person decline in this past decade. **In-migration accounts for just 8.2% of the growth in the 45 to 64 age group over 20 years and negative growth in the past decade. A majority of the growth resulted from more persons aging into this age group than out of the age group.**

**Despite an estimated net in-migration of 188 persons in the 30 to 44 year age group in the past decade, the total number of persons in this age group declined by 14 persons.** The net in-migration was offset by 917 persons aging out of the group while only 709 persons aged into the group. This age group did experience a net increase of 88 persons over 20 years, though, as the group had a net in-migration of 174 persons while slightly more person aged into this age group than the number that aged out over the 20 year period.

Pre-school age persons remained relatively flat from 1990 to 2000 but increased by 69 (15.7%) kids in the past decade. This was likely a direct result of the nearly 30% increase in young adults.

School age persons declined by 6% in the past decade, likely due to the decline in 30 to 44 year olds. The number of school age children did increase by 27 persons in the previous decade, thus over 20 years this age group declined by just 3.9%. This is the only age group with significant decline over 40 years with a 713 persons loss since 1970.

After remaining relatively flat the previous decade, the number of retirement age persons in Sidney declined by 53 persons (4.9%) from 2000 to 2010. The decline was due to just 556 persons aging into the age group but a total of 609 persons either moving or passing away.

**Population by Age Group, 1990 - 2010**

	1990	2000	2010	Change 1990-2010	% Change 1990-2010	Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010
<b>0 to 4</b>	443	441	510	67	15.12%	69	15.65%
<b>5 to 17</b>	1,175	1,202	1,129	-46	-3.91%	-73	-6.07%
<b>18 to 29</b>	880	879	1,139	259	29.43%	260	29.58%
<b>30 to 44</b>	1,214	1,316	1,302	88	7.25%	-14	-1.06%
<b>45 to 64</b>	1,163	1,362	1,648	485	41.70%	286	21.00%
<b>65+</b>	1,084	1,082	1,029	-55	-5.07%	-53	-4.90%
<b>Total</b>	5,959	6,282	6,757	798	13.39%	475	7.56%

Note: 2010 age groups estimated

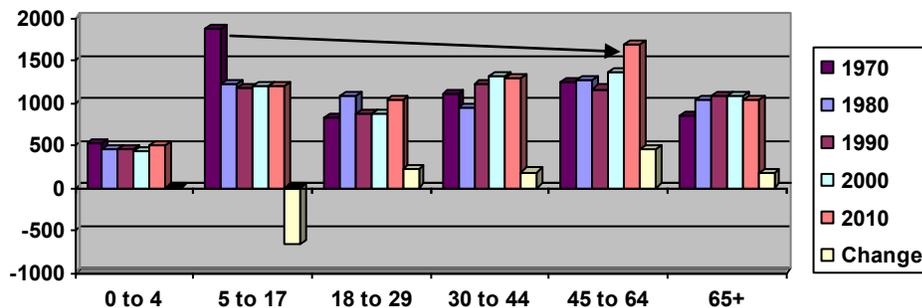
**Population Change by Age Group, 1970 to 2010**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	1970-2010	1980-2010	1990-2010	2000-2010
0 to 4	517	450	443	441	495	-22	45	52	54
5 to 9	640	423	498	413	494	-146	71	-4	81
10 to 14	772	473	439	469	461	-311	-12	22	-8
15 to 19	630	543	377	490	401	-229	-142	24	-89
20 to 24	342	448	306	311	327	-15	-121	21	16
25 to 29	295	428	435	398	563	268	135	128	165
30 to 34	342	347	431	399	446	104	99	15	47
35 to 39	359	305	429	460	449	90	144	20	-11
40 to 44	409	298	354	457	401	-8	103	47	-56
45 to 49	386	318	290	460	498	112	180	208	38
50 to 54	299	343	281	346	468	169	125	187	122
55 to 59	302	338	266	285	412	110	74	146	127
60 to 64	258	271	326	271	311	53	40	-15	40
65 to 69	246	318	300	245	230	-16	-88	-70	-15
70 to 74	231	262	229	287	221	-10	-41	-8	-66
75 to 79	375	309	245	226	183	125	69	-62	-43
80 to 84			167	135	195			28	60
85+			136	143	202			66	59
<b>Total</b>	6,403	6,010	5,959	6,282	6,757	354	747	798	475

**Population Change by Age Cohort, 1980 to 2010**

1980 AGE	1990 AGE	2000 AGE	2010 AGE	1980	1990	2000	2010	1980-2010	1990-2010	2000-2010				
			0 to 4				495	495	495	495				
			5 to 9				494	494	494	494				
			0 to 4				10 to 14	441	461	461	461	20		
			5 to 9				15 to 19	413	401	401	401	-12		
			0 to 4				10 to 14	20 to 24	443	469	327	327	-116	-142
			5 to 9				15 to 19	25 to 29	498	490	563	563	65	73
0 to 4	10 to 14	20 to 24	30 to 34	450	439	311	446	-4	7	135				
5 to 9	15 to 19	25 to 29	35 to 39	423	377	398	449	26	72	51				
10 to 14	20 to 24	30 to 34	40 to 44	473	306	399	401	-72	95	2				
15 to 19	25 to 29	35 to 39	45 to 49	543	435	460	498	-45	63	38				
20 to 24	30 to 34	40 to 44	50 to 54	448	431	457	468	20	37	11				
25 to 29	35 to 39	45 to 49	55 to 59	428	429	460	412	-16	-17	-48				
30 to 34	40 to 44	50 to 54	60 to 64	347	354	346	311	-36	-43	-35				
35 to 39	45 to 49	55 to 59	65 to 69	305	290	285	230	-75	-60	-55				
40 to 44	50 to 54	60 to 64	70 to 74	298	281	271	221	-77	-60	-50				
45 to 49	55 to 59	65 to 69	75 to 79	318	266	245	183	-135	-83	-62				
50 to 54	60 to 64	70 to 74	80 to 84	343	326	287	195	-148	-131	-92				
55+	65+	75+	85+	1,634	1,084	550	202	-1,432	-882	-348				
Total				6,010	5,959	6,282	6,757	747	798	475				

**Population Change by Age Group, 1970 - 2010**



## Distribution of Age Groups

Comparing Cheyenne County's and the region's age group distribution to the state and national average shows the county has a more balanced population while the surrounding region generally has a greater percentage of its population 45 years of age and older.

Sidney also has a much more balanced distribution of its population age structure. While Sidney has a higher ratio of persons 70 years of age and older compared to the state and the nation, it also generally has an above average ratio of 25 to 49 year old persons and persons under 15 years of age.

From an economic perspective, persons 20 to 50 years old form the heart of an economy's productivity. This bodes well for Sidney, as it has an above average ratio of its population in their most productive years..

However, given that Sidney has more jobs than people, it depends on commuters from neighboring towns and counties to provide labor to local businesses. This could present a long term challenge for the community as most of the surrounding towns and counties have populations that are above average in every age group over 45 and below average for persons under 45.

Age Group as a Percentage of Population, 2010

	Sidney	Nebraska	United States
0 to 4	7.3%	7.2%	6.5%
5 to 9	7.3%	7.1%	6.6%
10 to 14	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%
15 to 19	5.9%	7.1%	7.1%
20 to 24	4.8%	7.1%	7.0%
25 to 29	8.3%	7.1%	6.8%
30 to 34	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%
35 to 39	6.6%	6.0%	6.5%
40 to 44	5.9%	6.0%	6.8%
45 to 49	7.4%	7.0%	7.4%
50 to 54	6.9%	7.1%	7.2%
55 to 59	6.1%	6.4%	6.4%
60 to 64	4.6%	5.2%	5.4%
65 to 69	3.4%	3.8%	4.0%
70 to 74	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%
75 to 79	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%
80 to 84	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%
85+	3.0%	2.2%	1.8%

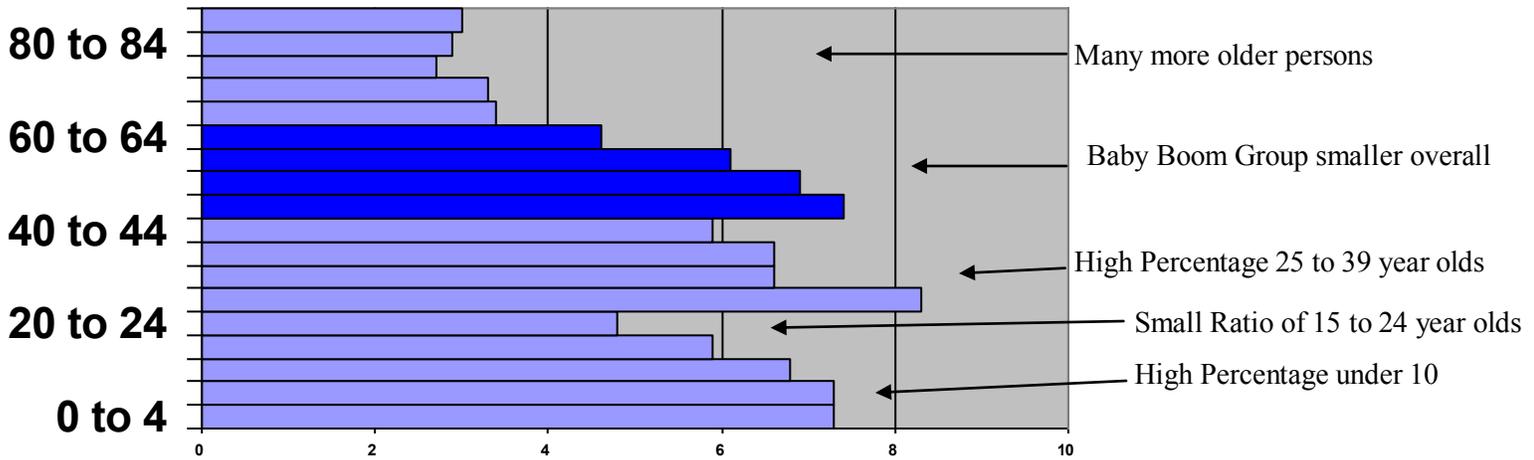
Yellow indicates Sidney at/above national average; white is below

## 2010 Population Composition Comparison

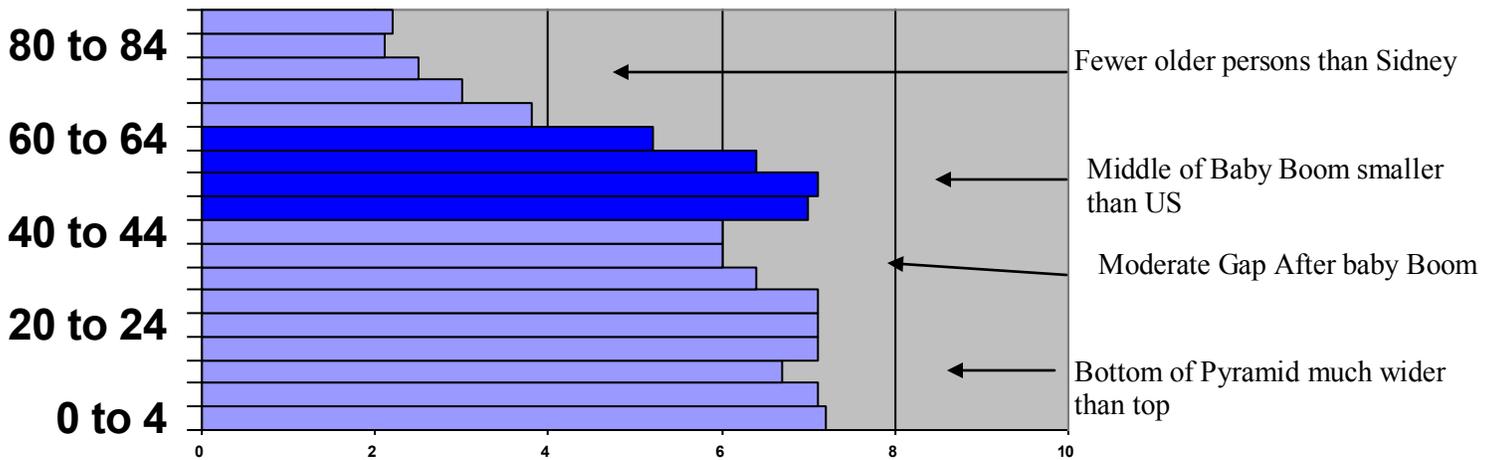
	Cheyenne	7 Surrounding Counties	5 Surrounding NE Counties	Panhandle	Nebraska	United States
0 to 4	7.3%	5.5%	6.1%	6.6%	7.2%	6.5%
5 to 9	7.3%	5.6%	6.0%	6.6%	7.1%	6.6%
10 to 14	6.8%	6.0%	6.3%	6.3%	6.7%	6.7%
15 to 19	5.9%	6.8%	5.9%	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%
20 to 24	4.8%	6.0%	4.2%	5.9%	7.1%	7.0%
25 to 29	8.3%	6.4%	4.4%	5.8%	7.1%	6.8%
30 to 34	6.6%	5.8%	4.5%	5.4%	6.4%	6.5%
35 to 39	6.6%	5.9%	5.1%	5.4%	6.0%	6.5%
40 to 44	5.9%	5.9%	5.6%	5.4%	6.0%	6.8%
45 to 49	7.4%	7.4%	7.6%	6.7%	7.0%	7.4%
50 to 54	6.9%	8.0%	8.3%	7.7%	7.1%	7.2%
55 to 59	6.1%	7.1%	7.8%	7.5%	6.4%	6.4%
60 to 64	4.6%	5.8%	6.3%	5.9%	5.2%	5.4%
65 to 69	3.4%	4.8%	6.1%	4.6%	3.8%	4.0%
70 to 74	3.3%	4.0%	4.9%	3.8%	3.0%	3.0%
75 to 79	2.7%	3.5%	4.4%	3.4%	2.5%	2.4%
80 to 84	2.9%	2.6%	3.2%	3.0%	2.1%	1.9%
85+	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	2.9%	2.2%	1.8%

Yellow indicates age group is above US level

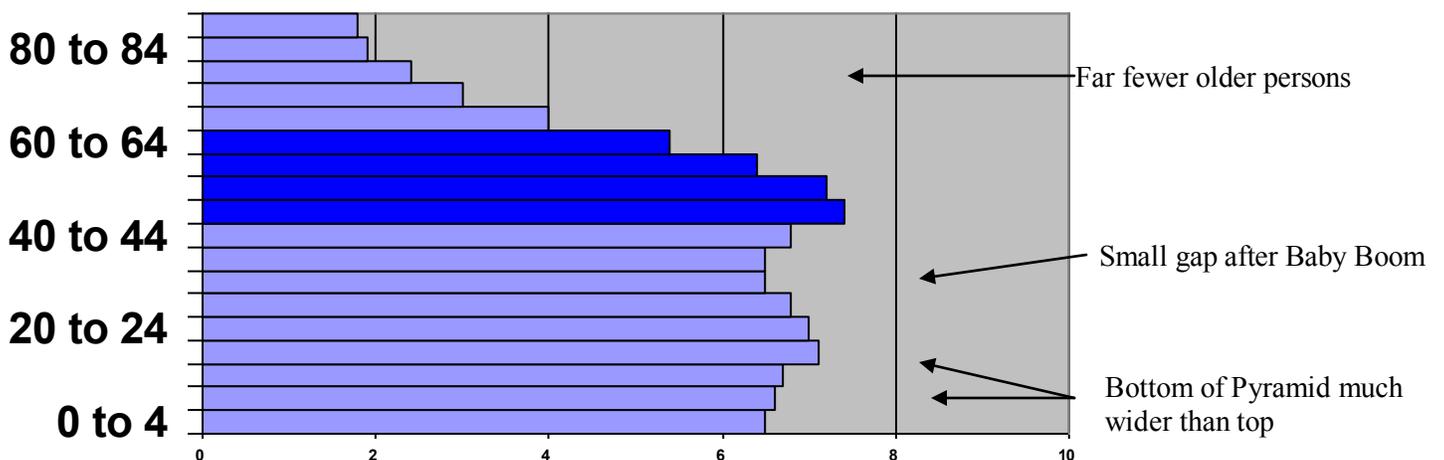
**Sidney Age Groups as a Percentage of Population, 2010**



**Nebraska Age Groups as a Percentage of Population, 2010**



**United State Age Groups as a Percentage of Population, 2010**



## Natural Change

Natural change has been a key (and underappreciated) factor in off-setting much of the high levels of out-migration in the county. From 1950 to 2009, natural change accounted for a net increase of 6,132 new county residents which offset much of the 8,233 net out-migrants during the same time.

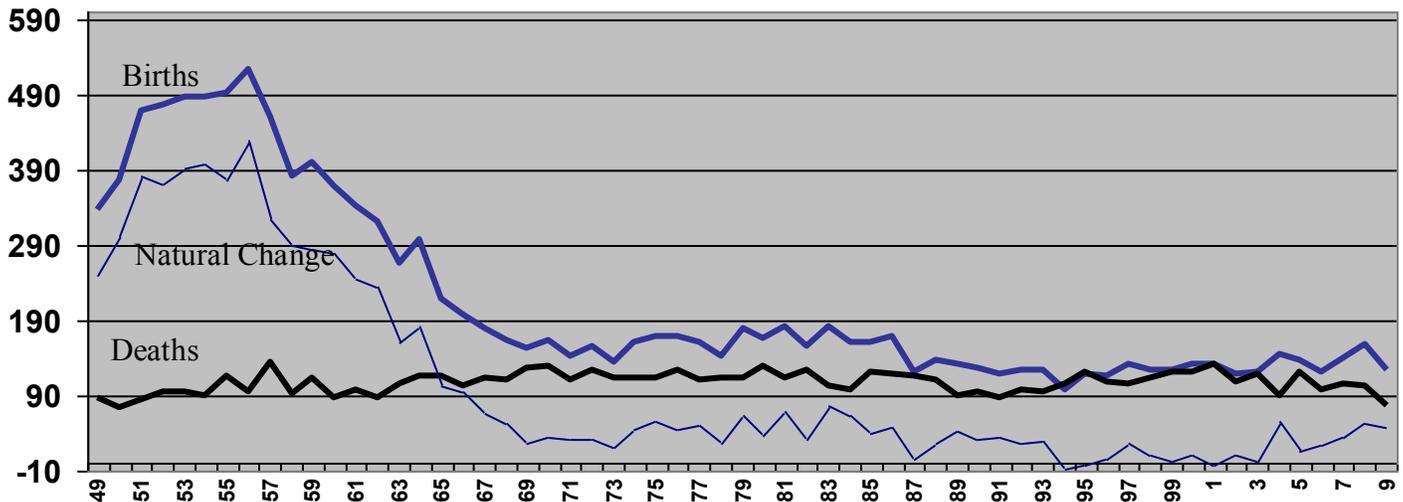
While natural change has historically provided a healthy cushion to offset out-migration, that natural cushion has nearly disappeared as the rate of natural change is evaporating at an alarming rate. **During the 1950's, the county experienced a net natural change of 3,542 new residents.** (That is well over half of the natural change gains in the 1950 to 2009 period.) **Presently, the net natural change gain is just 25.5 new residents per year.**

By simply looking at population numbers, one might assume the Sioux Army Depot boom, which helped increase the county population by 3,106 persons in one decade, had a much greater economic impact on the county than the present Cabela's/ interchange boom which has only increased the city population by 798 persons and the county population by 504 people over 20 years.

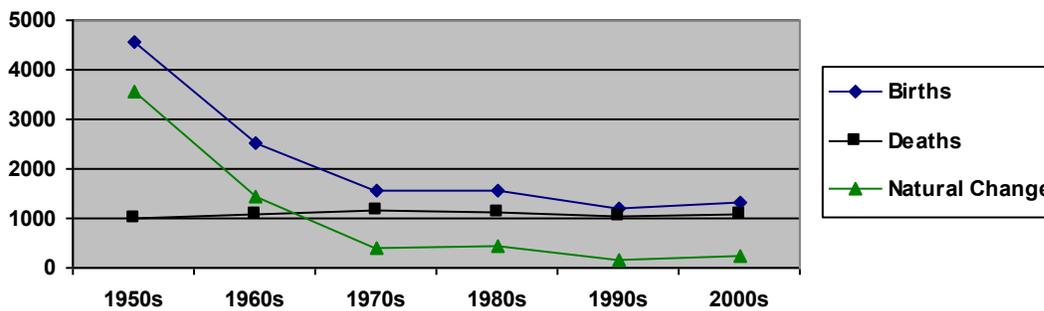
However, one must take into account the Sioux Army Depot boom took place during a time of enormous natural change. **If Sidney had the natural change momentum in the past 20 years that it had in the 1950's and 60's, the county population could have grown by nearly 5,000 persons in the past 20 years.**

While Cheyenne County has only a modest, yet positive, natural change, four of the five Nebraska counties bordering the county have had negative natural change since 1990. Thus, even if out-migration in these surrounding counties does not increase, the net population losses will actually increase as natural change contributes to these losses rather than help offset losses as it has historically done. This will have a negative impact on Sidney as people in these surrounding counties shop and work in Sidney.

**Cheyenne County Births and Deaths by Place of Residence, 1949 to 2009**



**Cheyenne County Births, Deaths and Natural Change by Decade, 1950 to 2009**



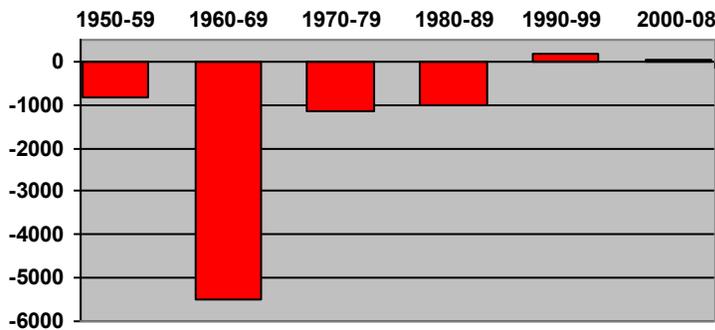
## Migration

From 1950 to 2008, Cheyenne County has had 8,233 more persons move out of the county than into it. This is significant because migration rates are often viewed as a significant indicator of economic performance and opportunities

All of this net out-migration occurred prior to 1990, though. Since 1990, Cheyenne County has experienced a net in-migration of 210 persons. While this is certainly a modest increase, it is an enormous improvement from the 8,443 net persons who left the region from 1950 to 1990, an average of 211 persons every single year. A majority of the out-migration, 5,494 persons, occurred during the 1960's after the Sioux Army Depot closed. However, it should be noted that the county also lost 815 persons during the 1950's while the Army Depot was still in use.

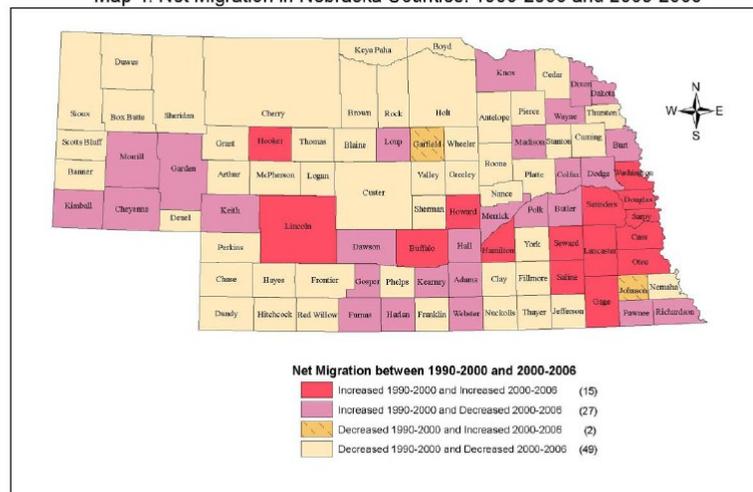
Not only has migration trends reversed in Cheyenne County, the positive economic impact from Sidney has spilled into the neighboring counties as Kimball, Morrill and Garden counties all experienced net in-migration in the 1990's as Cheyenne County was not able to house all of its new work force.

### Net Migration in Cheyenne County by Decade, 1950 to 2008



DECADE	Net Migration	AVE PER YEAR
1950-59	-815	-81.5
1960-69	-5,494	-549.4
1970-79	-1,128	-112.8
1980-89	-1,006	-100.6
1990-99	+177	+17.7
2000-08	+33	+3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>-8,233</b>	<b>-139.5</b>

Map 4: Net Migration in Nebraska Counties: 1990-2000 and 2000-2006



Sources: 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses; Cumulative Estimates of Population Change - released March 20, 2007, U.S. Census Bureau  
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - March 20, 2007

## Births by Residents

In the past four years, the number of births occurring in Sidney is actually lower than the number of babies born to residents of Sidney. This is a bit surprising as towns with hospitals typically have more births occurring in the community than the number of births from residents.

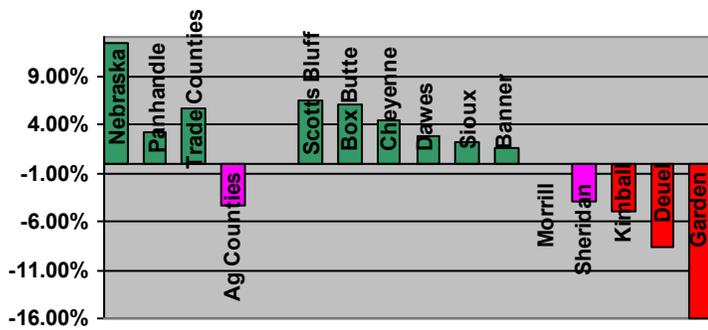
**Cheyenne County Births, Deaths and Natural Change by Decade, 1950 to 2009**

	Births	Death	Natural Change
1950-59	4,555	993	3,562
1960-69	2,508	1,064	1,444
1970-79	1,578	1,171	407
1980-89	1,568	1,125	443
1990-99	1,210	1,051	159
2000-09	1,331	1,076	255
Total	12,327	6,195	6,132

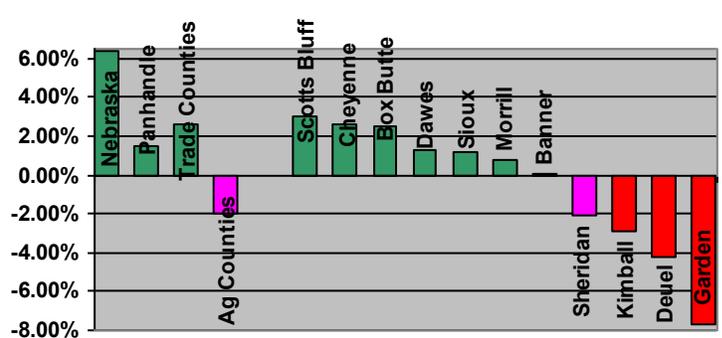
**Cheyenne County Births and Deaths by Occurrence and Residence, 2007 to 2009**

	Births				Deaths			
	Cheyenne Co		Sidney		Cheyenne Co		Sidney	
	Occur	Reside	Occur	Reside	Occur	Reside	Occur	Reside
2007	101	141	101	112	91	105	85	65
2008	83	157	83	117	90	104	81	73
2009	78	125	78	99	74	76	69	58

**Natural Change from 1990 to 2009**



**Natural Change from 2000 to 2009**



## Place of Birth

Sidney's non-native population significantly increased its share of the local population in the past decade.

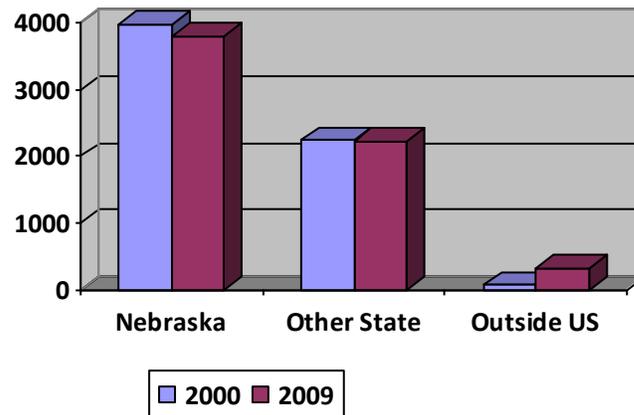
In the year 2000, two out of every three (67%) Sidney residents were born in Nebraska. By 2009, it is estimated this rate declined to just 60% of Sidney residents being Nebraska natives.

Most of Sidney's residents born outside of Nebraska were born in the United States. However, the share of foreign-born residents increased tremendously during the decade.

In 2000, 97.2% of Sidney residents born outside of Nebraska, were born in the USA. This figure declined to 86.9% in 2009 as foreign-born residents increased from just 0.9% of the population in 2000 to 5.2% in 2009.

Less than half of Sidney's foreign born persons (45 of 91) were not US citizens according to the 2000 Census. By 2009, 70% of foreign born residents were not US Citizens. (It should be noted that this does not mean these persons are illegal immigrants.)

**Place of Birth, 2000 and 2009**



## Dependency Ratio

Sidney's dependency ratio is above the state and national average. This is not good for two reasons. Economically, it reduces per capita productivity. Secondly, with fewer workers supporting more dependents and their special needs, it places a greater tax burden on those working.

However, thanks to the Baby Boomers entering working age and the in-migration of workers, particularly to Cabela's, Sidney's dependency ratio has been steadily declining (improving) since 1970, falling from 101.9 in 1970 (which means there were more persons of non-working age than working age) to 76.6 in 2000 and 67.7 in 2010.

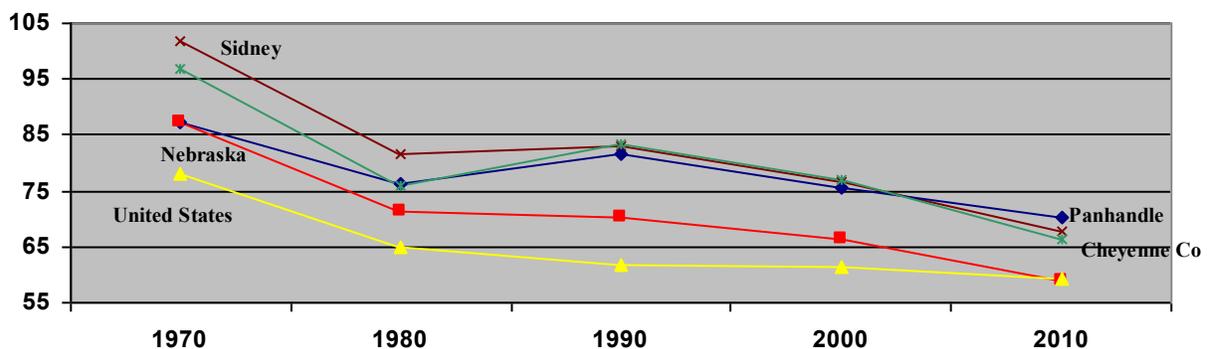
Due to high levels of youth out-migration which has led to fewer births, the youth dependency ratio has fallen significantly from 75.1 in 1970 to 42.1 in 2010.

Sidney has had a high elder dependency ratio for many years, but it actually declined in each of the past two decades as many working-age people moved into Sidney. In 1970, Sidney's elder dependency ratio was over 50% higher than the US ratio. The elder ratio increased from 26.8 in 1970 to 33.3 in 1990, but has fallen to 25.6 in 2010.

### Dependency Ratio, 1970 to 2010

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>Sidney</b>					
Youth Dependency Ratio	75.1	50.6	49.7	46.2	42.1
Elder Dependency ratio	26.8	31.0	33.3	30.4	25.6
Total Dependency Ratio	101.9	81.6	83.0	76.6	67.7
<b>Panhandle</b>					
Youth Dependency Ratio	63.9	50.7	50.9	45.0	40.3
Elder Dependency ratio	23.5	25.4	30.6	30.5	30.1
Total Dependency Ratio	87.4	76.1	81.5	75.4	70.3
<b>Nebraska</b>					
Youth Dependency Ratio	64.0	48.8	46.3	43.8	41.0
Elder Dependency ratio	23.2	22.4	24.1	22.6	22.0
Total Dependency Ratio	87.2	71.2	70.4	66.3	63.0
<b>United States</b>					
Youth Dependency Ratio	60.8	46.3	41.3	41.5	38.2
Elder Dependency ratio	17.4	18.5	20.3	20.1	17.2
Total Dependency Ratio	78.2	64.8	61.6	61.5	58.9

### Dependency Ratio, 1970 to 2010



## Median Age

Sidney's median age of 37.1 in 2010 is well below most Panhandle towns, many that have a median age well above 45. Sidney's median age is less than a year older than the state median of 37.2 which is the closest Sidney has been to the state median since the 1960's.

The median age in many neighboring counties is well above Sidney's, some as much as a decade or more higher. The median age of surrounding counties includes 49.8 in Garden, 48.3 in Deuel, 48.1 in Banner, 46 in Kimball, 43.4 in Morrill and 49.2 in Sedgwick, CO. This could have a negative impact in Sidney as it demonstrates an older workforce that is nearing retirement. It also could hurt retail sales in Sidney as empty nesters and retired persons, especially those on fixed incomes, spend less on average than families with children in the household.

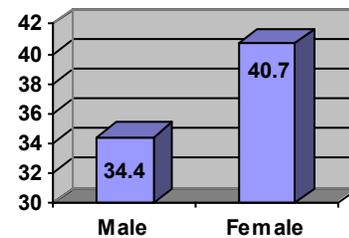
While having a median age a decade higher than Sidney's may not sound like a lot, consider that it took nearly forty years for Sidney's median age to increase by a decade.

The median age of females (40.7) in Sidney is much higher than of men (34.4). This is not surprising given that women live longer than men. The median age of women in surrounding counties is much higher with Garden County being on the extreme end where the median age of females is now an incredible 50.2.

### Median Age, 1970 to 2010

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>Sidney</b>	26.6	30.1	33.4	35.6	37.5	37.1
<b>Cheyenne Co.</b>	26.6	30.8	32.8	35.9	38.7	40.4
<b>Nebraska</b>	30.2	28.6	29.7	33.0	35.3	36.2
<b>United States</b>	29.6	28.1	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2
<b>Difference to NE</b>	-3.6	+2.0	+3.7	+2.6	+2.2	+0.9

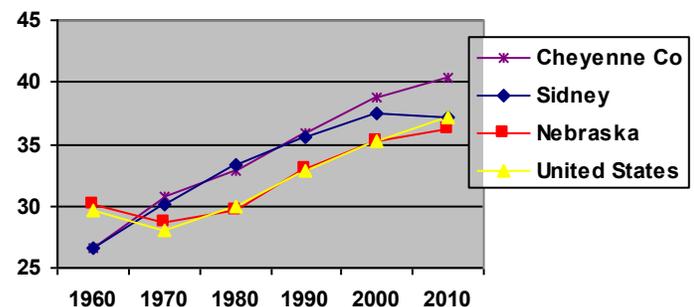
Median Age by Gender, Sidney 2010



### Estimated Median Age by Gender, 2010

	Median Age Population	Median Age Males	Median Age Females
<b>Sidney</b>	37.1	35.8	38.7
<b>Garden</b>	49.8	49.3	50.5
<b>Sedgwick CO</b>	49.2	47.9	50.2
<b>Deuel</b>	48.3	48.2	48.6
<b>Kimball</b>	46.0	44.4	47.3
<b>Banner</b>	48.1	48.2	48.0
<b>Cheyenne Co</b>	40.4	39.1	41.8
<b>Morrill</b>	43.4	42.7	44.3
<b>Logan CO</b>	38.4	36.5	42.0
<b>Nebraska</b>	36.2	35.0	37.5
<b>United States</b>	37.2	35.8	38.5

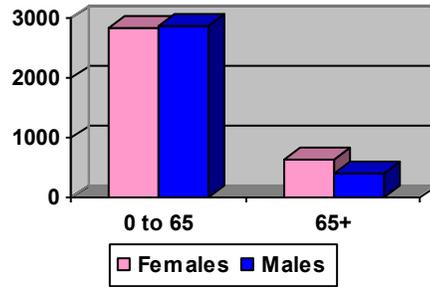
Median Age, 1970 to 2010



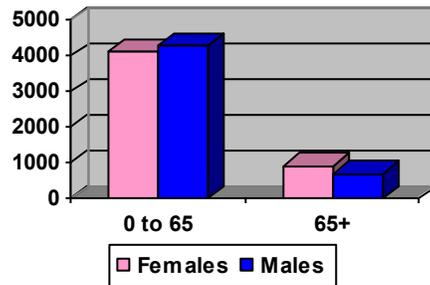
## Gender

Females outnumbered males in Sidney 3,479 (51.5%) to 3,278 (48.5%) in 2010. However, Sidney has 36 more men under 65 than there are women of the same age. Meanwhile, there were 237 more women (634) than men (397) above the age of 65.

Gender by Age, Sidney 2010



Gender by Age, Cheyenne County 2010



## Households

Sidney experienced a 10.4% increase in households during the past decade. This rate outpaced the state's growth of 8.2% and was on pace with the national growth rate of 10.7%.

From 1970 to 1990, the number of households in Sidney increased by 12.6% despite a population decrease of 6.1%, largely due to baby boomers starting their own households. In the past 20 years, Sidney increased the number of households by 13.7% with a 13.4% increase in population.

The primary reason for the large variance in household/population growth ratios over the 20-year periods was a steep reduction in household size during the 1970's and a modest drop in household size in the past 20 years.

Between 1970 and 1980 the average household size plummeted from 2.985 persons to 2.477 persons as the baby boomers left their parents homes and started their own households. This helped increase the number of households by 267 despite a population decrease of 393 persons during the decade. Household size continued to decline through the 1980's, but not nearly as rapidly, as they declined from 2.477 persons per household in 1980 to 2.378 in 1990.

Household size fell slightly during the 1990's as the 2.351 persons per household in Sidney in 2000 was just below the 2.378 persons per household in 1990. Household size declined at a slightly faster pace in the past decade to a household size of 2.30 persons.

The growth in households, however, has not been distributed evenly across Cheyenne County. Sidney **captured 120% of the net growth in county households in the past decade**. Thus the percentage of Cheyenne County's households in Sidney increased from 60.1% in 1970 to 67.3% in 2010.

Sidney's growth in households has not spread to the surrounding counties either. Logan County, Colorado was the only neighboring county to increase its households in the past decade, thanks to growth in Sterling. Household declines ranged from -2.5% in Morrill County to -6.2% in Sedgwick County, CO. This is not positive for Sidney as people in these counties work and shop in Sidney.

### Households, 2000 to 2010

	2000	2010	Change	% Change
Sidney	2,621	2,893	272	+10.4%
Cheyenne Co	4,071	4,298	227	+5.6%
Logan CO	7,551	8,047	496	+6.6%
Morrill	2,138	2,085	-53	-2.5%
Kimball	1,727	1,673	-54	-3.1%
Deuel	908	867	-41	-4.5%
Banner	311	293	-18	-5.8%
Garden	1,020	961	-59	-5.8%
Sedgwick CO	1,165	1,093	-72	-6.2%
Nebraska	666,184	721,130	54,946	+8.2%
United States	105,480,101	116,716,292	11,236,191	+10.7%

### Households, 1970 to 2009 Estimates

	1970		1980		1990		2000		2010	
	HHS	Per HH								
Sidney	2,124	2.985	2,391	2.477	2,457	2.378	2,621	2.351	2,893	2.30
Cheyenne Co	3,537	3.000	3,935	2.53	3,851	2.44	4,071	2.38	4,298	2.30

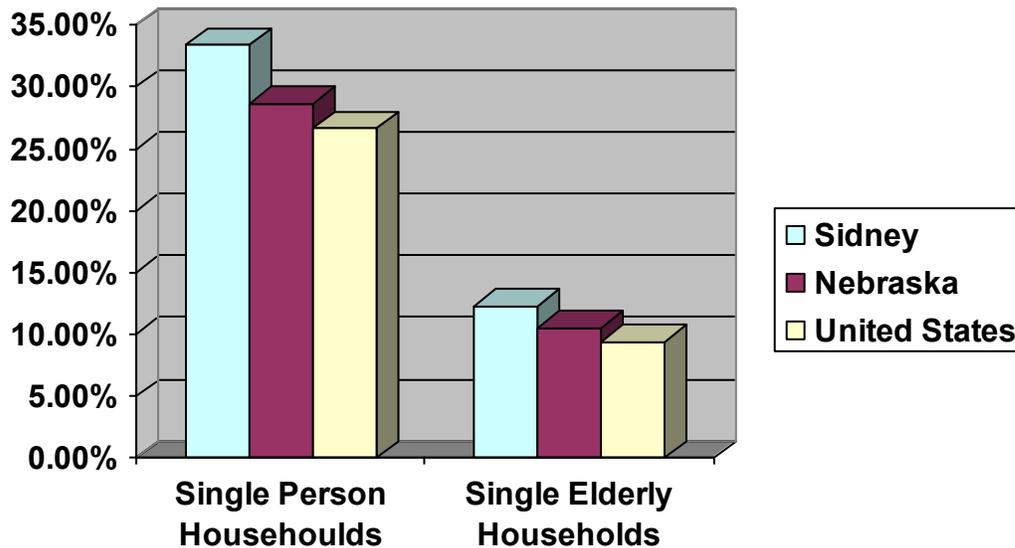
## Single Person Households

Nearly a third (31.4%) of Sidney’s households are occupied by just one person. While over half of these single persons homes were occupied by person over 65 years of age in 1990, the rate was down to 36.8% in 2010 which correlates to the increase in 20-somethings.

Single-person Households, 1990-2010

	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS			SINGLE PERSON HH			SINGLE PERSON HH 65+		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Sidney	2,457	2,621	2,893	762 (31.0%)	825 (31.5%)	967 (33.4%)	386 (15.7%)	348 (13.3%)	356 (12.3%)
Cheyenne County	3,851	4,071	4,298	1,104 (28.7%)	1,224 (30.1%)	1,348 (31.4%)	555 (14.4%)	543 (13.3%)	519 (12.1%)

Single-person Households, 2010



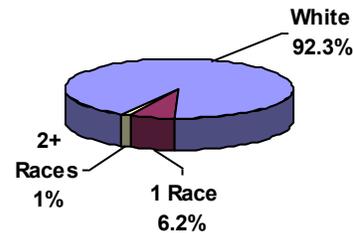
## Race/Origin

Sidney is predominately composed of persons of European descent with only 421 residents not of Caucasian background. A vast majority of Sidney's residents are Caucasian (92.3%) which is slightly lower than the 1970 level of 97.9%. About 8.1% of Sidney residents are of Hispanic origin, up from 6% in 2000.

### Race in Sidney, 2010

	1 Race	2+ Races	3+ Races
<b>White</b>	6,240	89	7
<b>Black</b>	15	13	1
<b>Native American</b>	54	32	7
<b>Asian</b>	157	10	1
<b>Other</b>	190	44	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,656</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>*Total Hispanic</b>	498	49	1

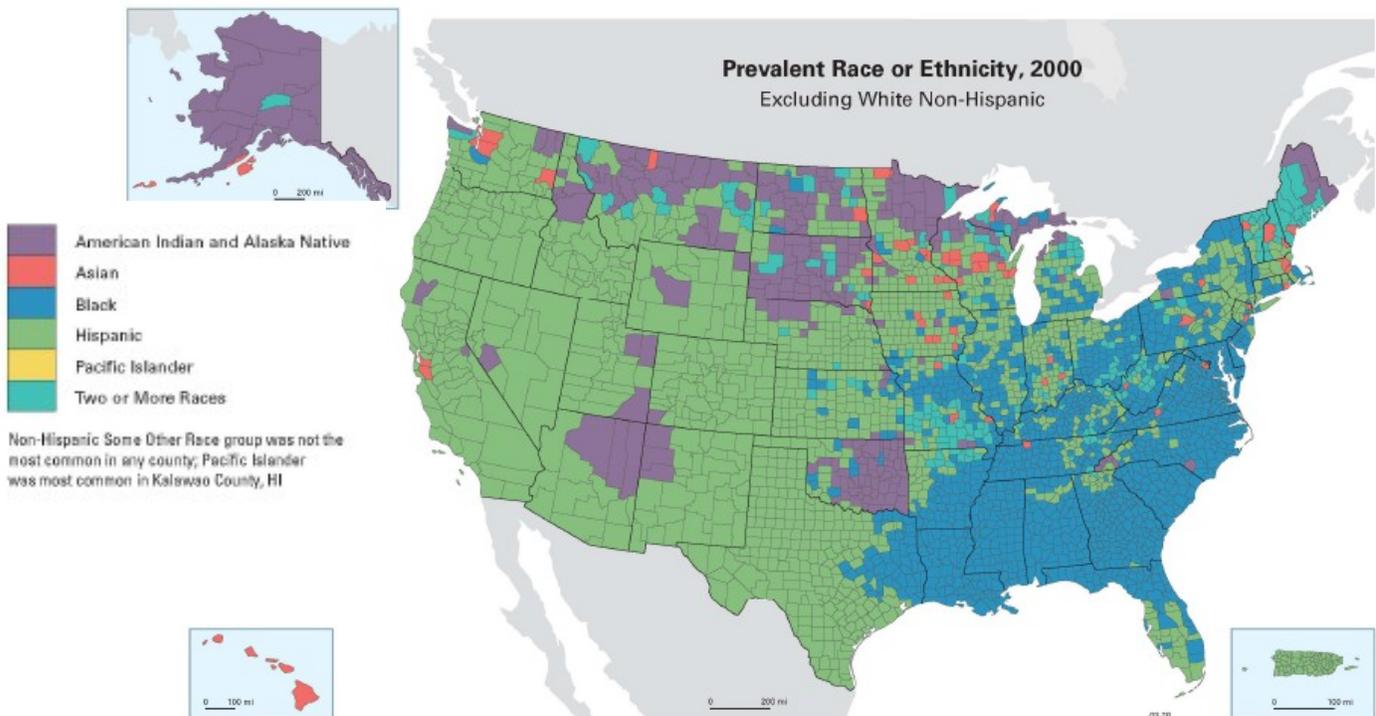
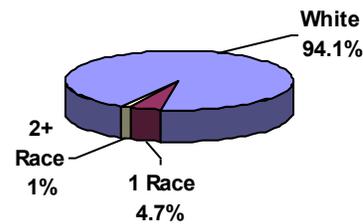
Population by Race and Origin, Sidney 2010



### Race alone or in combination, Cheyenne County 2010

	1 Race	2+ Races	3+ Races
<b>White</b>	9,404	113	8
<b>Black</b>	19	16	2
<b>Native American</b>	66	55	7
<b>Asian</b>	158	13	1
<b>Other</b>	224	41	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,871</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>*Total Hispanic</b>	610	0	0

Population by Race, Cheyenne County 2010



## Mobility

Census data for 2000 shows that a 42% of Sidney householders moved at least once from 1995 to 2000. A fifth (17.5%) of Sidney’s householders in 2000 lived outside of the county in 1995. According to the 2000 census, 574 came from another Nebraska county, 494 of these persons came from a Western State outside of Nebraska, 188 came from a Midwest state, 158 came from a Southern state, and 49 came from another country.

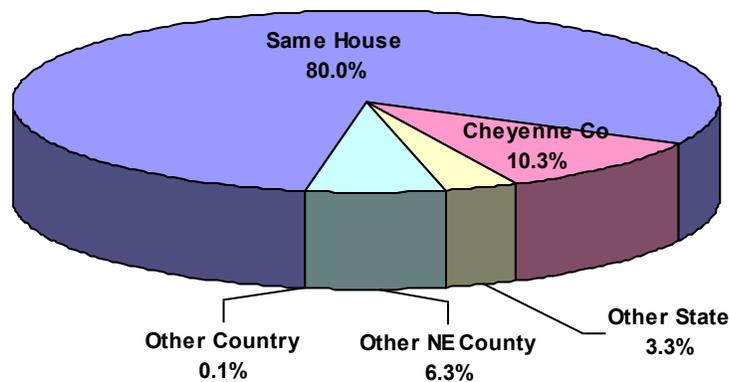
Population estimates for the 2005 to 2009 period indicate Sidney’s population may be turning over at a faster rate. During this time one in five residents had moved in the previous year. About one in ten residents lived outside Cheyenne County in the previous year. This turnover was at a slightly faster pace than the state, with all of the net difference coming from Sidney having more persons moving from outside the county.

**Place of residence in Previous Year, 2005-09 Estimate**

	Sidney		Nebraska
<b>Same House</b>	5,051	80.1%	82.2%
<b>Different House</b>	1,256	19.9%	17.8%
<b>Same County</b>	647	10.3%	10.5%
<b>Other NE County</b>	398	6.3%	3.9%
<b>Other US State</b>	211	3.3%	2.9%
<b>Elsewhere</b>	4	0.1%	0.5%

\* Persons 5 years old and older

**Place of Residence previous year, Sidney 2005-2009**



# *Population Projections*

- **Projected Population**
- **Projected Population of Age Cohorts**
- **Projected Median Age**
- **Projected Dependency Ratio**
- **Demographic Opportunities**

## Population Projection

Projected growth or decline in the population is one of the most important factors to consider when planning for future development. A fluctuation in total population, as well as changes within age groups in the population, can impact the City in a variety of ways. Potential impacts may include differing needs for public infrastructure and services or making additional land available for new development. The City's ability to generate or attract new development will also be influenced by changes in population.

Population change is measured in terms of natural change and net migration. The effects of natural change are measured by applying birth and survival rates to 5-year age cohorts. For the purposes of this plan, a Cohort-Survival Projection model is used that incorporates birth and survival rates adjusted to reflect local trends. Migration rates for 5-year age cohorts were developed by reviewing historical migration trends with consideration given to current economic and housing development activity in Sidney.

It is important to understand that population projections are not predictions. Unlike a weather forecast where we are using accurate observations within a tested model, population projections are based on assumptions using limited data applied to human actions that will be unpredictably responsive to an unlimited number of future events that can not be known. However, we can make some reasonable assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration based on past and recent history and apply these assumptions to our known age structures to provide a general view of how our demographic composition may look like in the future. We know in ten years people will be ten years older or deceased; the odds of survival by age, the probability of people at different ages having kids, etc., It is much more difficult to gauge migration patterns. Although migration rates can be estimated somewhat accurately using historic trends, migration patterns are dependent upon an aggregate of individual decisions. These decisions can be largely based on ever changing economic and social conditions both locally and elsewhere in the world.

Projecting Sidney's estimated 2010 population to the year 2020 indicates the City's population may increase by 591 persons to 7,348 persons. Projecting the City's population to 2030 indicates the City's population may increase by another 530 persons to 7,878 persons.

Population projections for the twenty year period from 2010 to 2030 shows the City's population may experience a very manageable increase from 6,757 people to 7,878 persons, a 16.6% increase (which is less than 1% per year). Although the City is expected to have a fairly large net in-migration over the twenty-year period in the 25 to 44 year age group, the under 25 age groups in the City will likely be moderated as a large percentage of the high school graduates will leave to attend college and the City does not have the high level of natural change that it had in past decades to offset migration. The City may also be unable to capture its full in-migration potential due to housing constraints.

Due to the large number of economic opportunities presently available in Sidney, the City could potentially achieve a much larger rate of in-migration than the rate used in these projections. Thus, Sidney is very capable of achieving higher population levels than projected if it can develop enough housing to satisfy its latent demand of in-migrants.

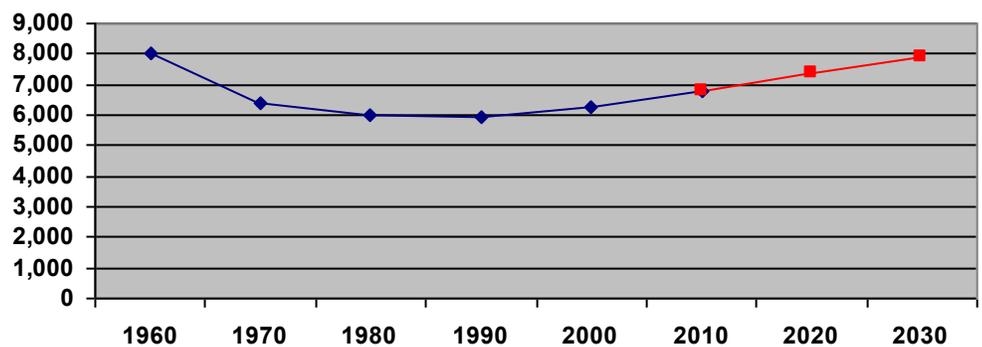
Because much of the growth that is projected is supported by the in-migration of 25 to 44 year olds, it is important for the local economy to remain strong. Fortunately, an economic downswing similar to the one experienced in the 1960's is less likely to occur in the present day due to the City's successful efforts in diversifying the City's economy and Sidney's ability to become less reliant on outside political decisions, although it is susceptible to the decisions of individual corporate boards.

**Sidney Projected Population, 1950 - 2030**

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Sidney	4,912	8,004	6,403	6,010	5,959	6,282	6,757	7,348	7,878

While the prospects for continued growth appear to be a higher probability than stagnation or decline, Sidney could come short of these projections for any number of reasons such as a failure to develop enough housing to meet latent demand; a natural disaster; a collapse of ag commodity prices; a slowdown in Cabela's growth due to a reduction in national retail demand; a reduction in interstate traffic volumes due to even higher energy prices; or a new revolution in trade/transportation. Fortunately these potential events are a lower probability than the many positive events that will likely continue to move in a positive direction.

**Sidney Projected Population, 1960 - 2030**



## Projected Population by Age Group

Examining projected populations by age group indicates Sidney can expect a large increase in middle age adults from 2010 to 2020 if the economy continues to grow at recent rates. The City's projected population of 1,890 persons between the ages of 20 and 39 for the year 2020 is 5.9% greater than 2010 figures and 20.5% greater than 2000 figures. By the year 2030, the number of persons between the ages of 20 and 39 is expected to remain steady at 1,896 persons, a six person increase projected 2020 levels, but still 6.2% greater than 2010 levels.

The number of 40 to 59 year old age group will likely remain steady in the coming decade as projected in-migration in this age group will be offset by more persons shifting out of this age group than into it. However, if in-migration continues at its current rate for 25 to 44 years olds, the number of 40 to 59 years old could swell to 2,058 by 2030 if these newcomers remain in the community. This would be a 15.6% increase over present levels. However, if recent newcomers do not remain in the community, the rate of growth in this age group will likely not come to fruition.

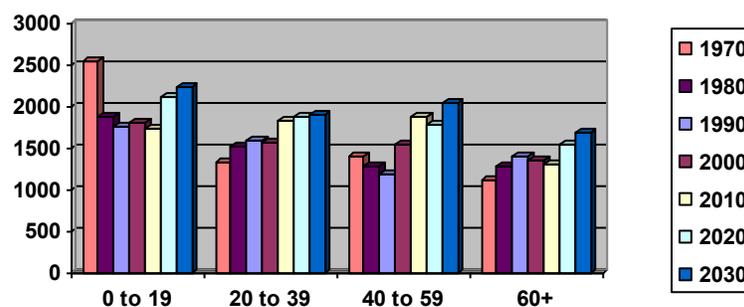
While projecting the future growth in the middle age groups is a bit precarious as they depend on continued economic growth and retention of newcomers, the growth in the number of persons over 60 years of age in Sidney is a higher probability. As the baby boomers move into retirement over the next 10 to 20 years, the number of persons over 60 in Sidney is likely to increase significantly. The number of 60+ persons is expected to grow 14.9% (200 persons) from 2010 to 2020 and another 9.6% (148 persons) between 2020 and 2030. This equates to a 20 year growth 25.9% (348). This number could become even greater if Sidney is successful in attracting rural residents in the southern Panhandle to retire in the community.

The primary reason for this large increase in elderly residents is the large number of persons 40 to 59 years old living in Sidney in 2010 who will shift into this age group and are highly likely to remain in the community. This group of persons is much larger than the number of persons 65+ that have a much lower likelihood of surviving to the year 2030, so the upward shift of demographics will overwhelmingly offset projected deaths in this age group.

The number of persons under 20 is also a very precarious projection as not only must one factor in uncertain migration rates of their parents, this age group will be largely determined by fertility rates. This projection assumes many of the younger newcomers will be more "professionally oriented" than Sidney's more family oriented baby boomer generation, and will thus have fewer children.

The number of Sidney residents under 20 is expected to increase in the coming decades due to an increased number of young adults. The number of persons under 20 is expected to increase 14.7% by 2020 and another 5.2% by 2030. The number of young persons could fall short of expectations if career oriented persons put off starting families or if many young professional newcomers merely utilize Sidney's economic opportunities as career stepping-stones rather than staying to raise families, the number of young persons could decline further than projected. However, the upside potential is likely higher than the downside possibilities for persons under 20.

**Projected Population Change, 1970 to 2030**



## Projected Population Change by Age Group, 1970-2030

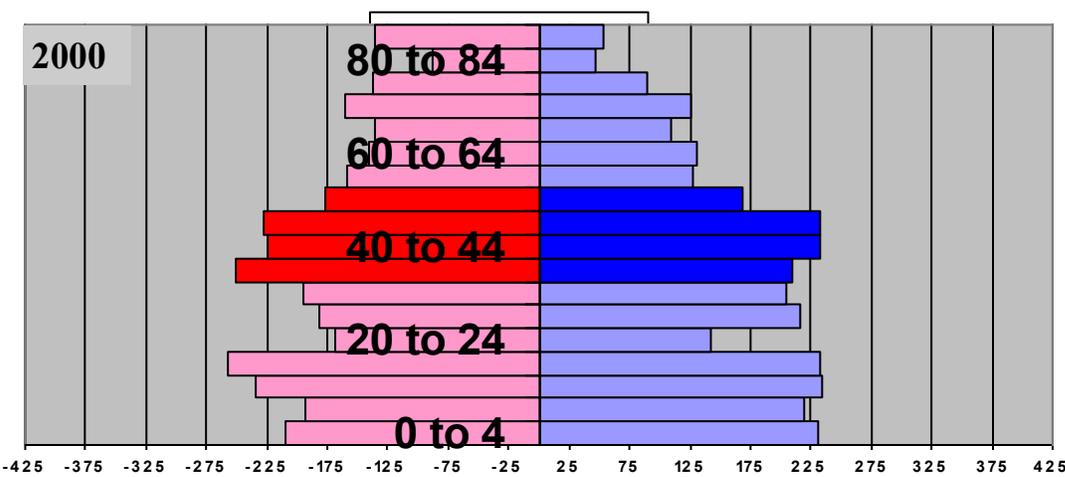
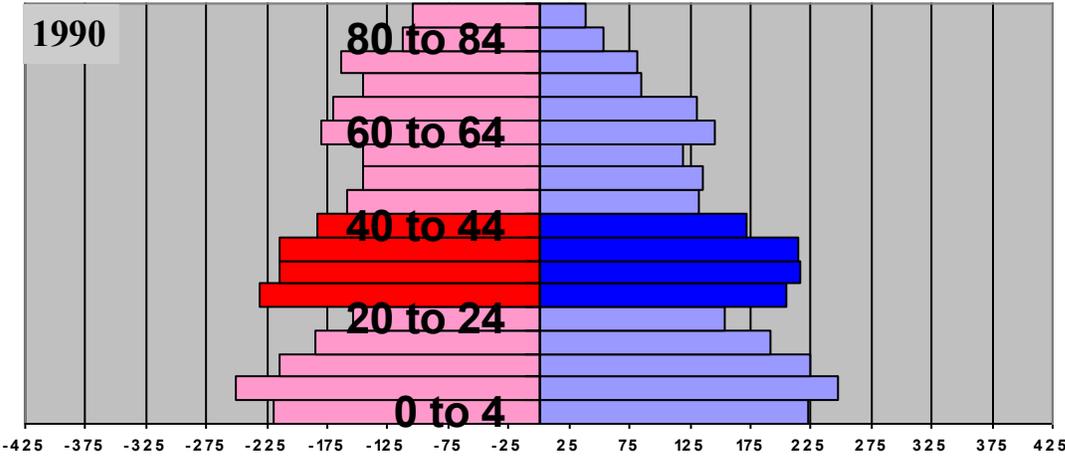
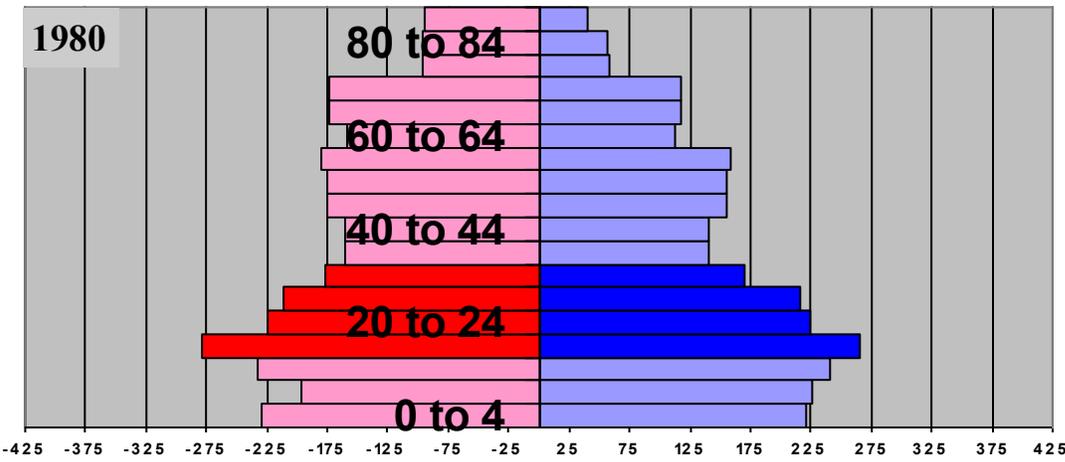
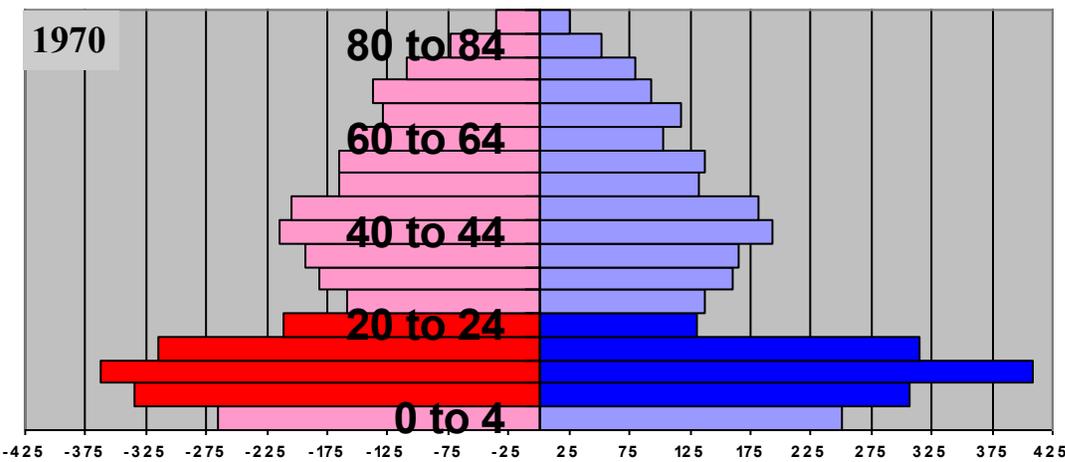
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020P	2030P	2010-2020	2010-2030
0 to 4	517	450	443	441	495	539	526	44	31
5 to 9	640	423	498	413	494	587	574	93	80
10 to 14	772	473	439	469	461	518	565	57	104
15 to 19	630	543	377	490	401	479	569	78	168
0 to 19	2,559	1,889	1,757	1,813	1,851	2,123	2,234	272	383
20 to 24	342	448	306	311	327	321	361	-6	34
25 to 29	295	428	435	398	563	462	552	-101	-11
30 to 34	342	347	431	399	446	469	461	23	15
35 to 39	359	305	429	460	449	638	522	189	73
20 to 39	1,338	1,528	1,601	1,568	1,785	1,890	1,896	105	111
40 to 44	409	298	354	457	401	447	471	46	70
45 to 49	386	318	290	460	498	489	691	-9	193
50 to 54	299	343	281	346	468	410	458	-58	-10
55 to 59	302	338	266	285	412	447	438	35	26
40 to 59	1,396	1,297	1,191	1,548	1,779	1,793	2,058	14	279
60 to 64	258	271	326	271	311	421	368	110	57
65 to 69	246	318	300	245	230	332	360	102	130
70 to 74	231	262	229	287	221	253	340	32	119
75 to 79	375	309	245	226	183	172	248	-11	65
80 to 84			167	135	195	152	173	-43	-22
85+			136	143	189	202	212	201	10
60+	1,110	1,296	1,410	1,353	1,342	1,542	1,690	200	348
<b>BBoom</b>	2,901	2,239	1,955	2,122	2,090	1,863	1,489	-227	-601
<b>Total</b>	6,403	6,010	5,959	6,282	6,757	7,348	7,878	591	1,121

Green: Baby Boomers; 2020 to 2030 Projected

## Projected Population by Age Cohort, 2000 - 2030

2000 AGE	2010 AGE	2020 AGE	2030 AGE	2000	2010	2020P	2030P	2000-2030	2010-2030	2020-2030		
			0 to 4				526	526	526	526		
			5 to 9				574	574	574	574		
			0 to 4				10 to 14	539	565	565	565	26
			5 to 9				15 to 19	587	569	569	569	-18
			0 to 4				20 to 24	495	518	361	361	-134
	5 to 9	15 to 19	25 to 29	494	479	552	552	58	73			
0 to 4	10 to 14	20 to 24	30 to 34	441	461	321	461	20	0	140		
5 to 9	15 to 19	25 to 29	35 to 39	413	401	462	522	109	121	60		
10 to 14	20 to 24	30 to 34	40 to 44	469	327	469	471	2	144	2		
15 to 19	25 to 29	35 to 39	45 to 49	490	563	638	691	201	128	53		
20 to 24	30 to 34	40 to 44	50 to 54	311	446	447	458	147	12	11		
25 to 29	35 to 39	45 to 49	55 to 59	398	449	489	438	40	-11	-51		
30 to 34	40 to 44	50 to 54	60 to 64	399	401	410	368	-31	-33	-42		
35 to 39	45 to 49	55 to 59	65 to 69	460	498	447	360	-100	-138	-87		
40 to 44	50 to 54	60 to 64	70 to 74	457	468	421	340	-117	-128	-81		
45 to 49	55 to 59	65 to 69	75 to 79	460	412	332	248	-212	-164	-84		
50 to 54	60 to 64	70 to 74	80 to 84	346	311	253	173	-173	-138	-80		
55+	65+	75+	85+	1,638	1,031	536	201	-1,437	-830	-335		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	6,282	6,757	7,348	7,878	1,596	1,121	530		

Yellow: Gains through births; Green: Gains due to in-migration; Pink: Losses due to out-migration; Orange: Loss due to deaths/migration  
2020 and 2030 Projected



Female Male

Examining population pyramids with the Baby Boomers in bright red and blue on these two pages gives us a good visual understanding of the Sidney's past and future population.

(A quick overview of how population pyramid works, from the bottom to the top is people getting younger to older, the pink is the number of females, and the blue is the number of males.)

Sidney's 1970 population illustrates the City had a very young population. This large percentage of young persons provided the city with very positive population momentum which provided the potential for rapid growth in the future if the city could retain this young population of baby boomers.

The 1970 pyramid does show with the "tightening belt" in the middle, including the upper level of the baby boomers, that the region was losing large numbers of young adults in the previous decades.

It is visually apparent that by 1980 Sidney had lost a pretty significantly number of its baby boomers as there is a big gap between the 10 to 19 and 20 to 30 year old age groups. Even though Sidney had lost many young adults in previous decades, the City still had a young population with positive momentum.

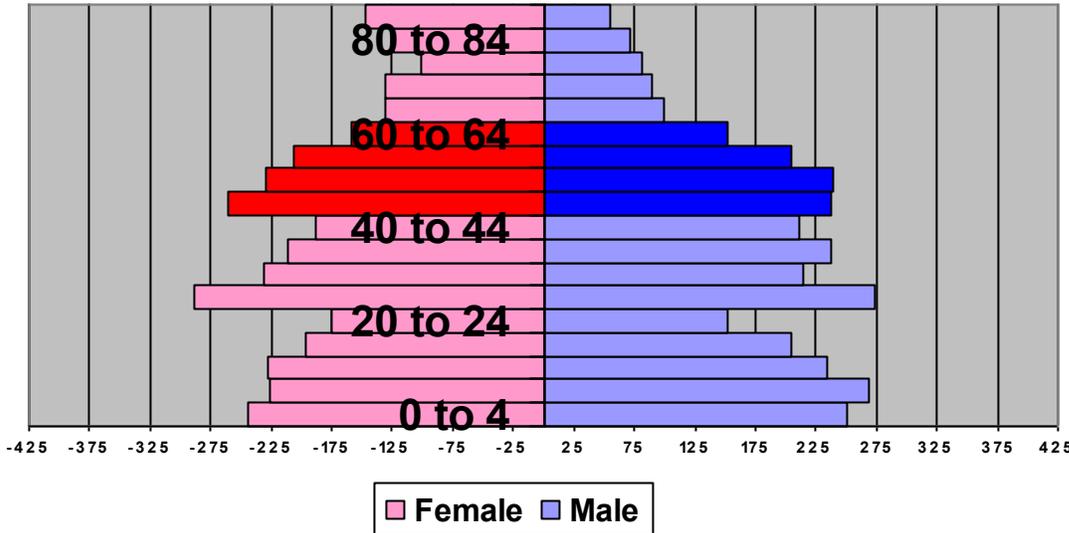
During the 1980's Sidney experienced really heavy out-migration of young adults, that is very visible by the "belt" being tighter in and around the 20 to 24 year age group. It is also very visible that Sidney had far fewer young persons than the previous decades but a larger proportion of working age persons.

By 1990 the baby boomers were fully into the work force and this helped to increase the labor force significantly even though the total population was lower.

During 1990's the baby boomers are aging into their most productive working years. While Sidney continued to lose young adults, they retained far more than previous decades. Sidney also added working age persons. As a result the school age population started to widen slightly

Even though Sidney's internal growth potential wasn't nearly as good as it was in the 70's or 80's, it still projected slight growth in population through natural change.

**Projected Population Pyramid, 2010**



Observing population pyramids of Sidney's projected populations for 2010 and 2020, we can clearly see that if trends continue the city will see an increase in persons under 40 years of age while the number of 40-65 year olds will continue to grow into 2010

After 2010, the labor force will increase due to in-migration. The number of persons over 65 will start to increase after 2010, and ramp up into 2020.

Sidney's 2010 population shows the large number of our bay boomers are right on the doorstep of retirement.

We can also see that the baby boomers makeup a large proportion of the labor force, although recent in-migration is helping balance out the labor force.

Most of the population losses will be due to some deaths on the top and continued loss of high school graduates. In-migration of young adults is increasing the number of children.

The labor force is expected to grow due to in-migration after 2010. As the number of persons aging out of the labor force is clearly larger than number of persons aging into the work force, it will be imperative for Sidney to continue to attract young workers.

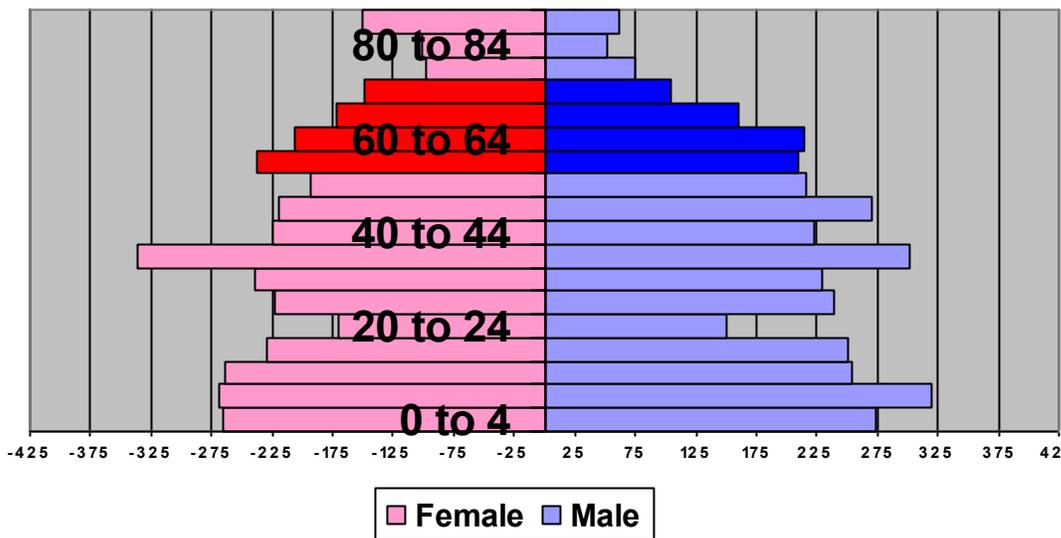
This will occur at a time when many of the surrounding counties will be losing labor force at a significant rate. (Many of these counties have seen an annual decline in labor force since 2003)

As we move into 2030, our baby boomers will be another 10 years older and it is apparent the projection relies on the retention of newcomers and continued recruitment of new workers age 25 to 50.

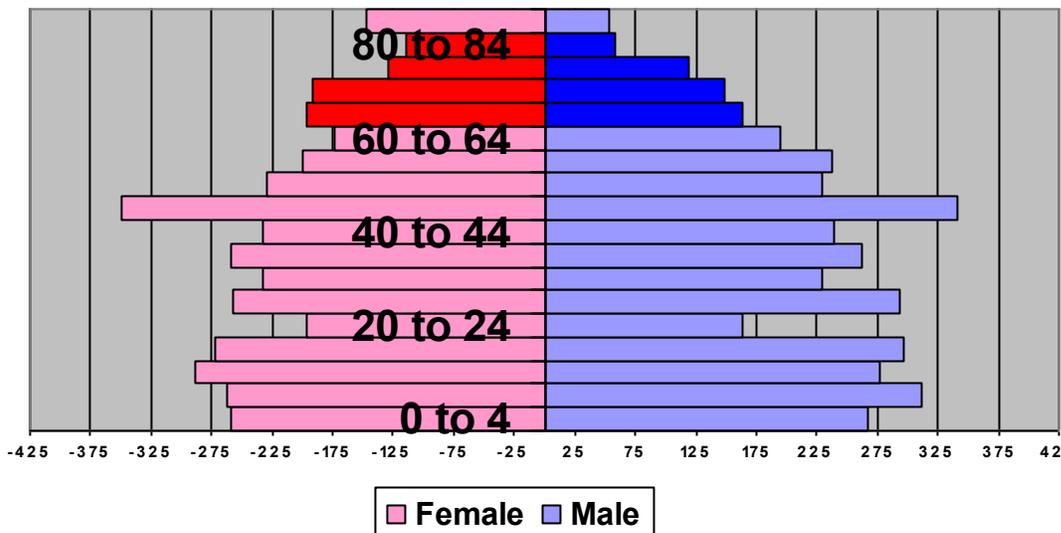
The population momentum in 2030 could quickly turn negative if new residential growth of young workers does not continue.

The baby boomers will no longer be the largest age group by 2020 and by 2030 they will have largely moved out of the labor force. It is thus apparent, the future of Sidney will be decided by the "next generation" starting in this this coming decade. Thus Sidney's future relies on its attractiveness to potential newcomers.

**Projected Population Pyramid, 2020**



**Projected Population Pyramid, 2030**



## Projected Median Age

Sidney's median age will likely remain steady over the next two decades as the attraction of younger workers offsets the upward pull of the baby-boomers. The median age of the community is projected to decline slightly to 37.1 in 2020 before returning to current levels at 37.2 years by 2030. Much of this increase will be due to the aging of the baby boom generation and young adult migration. However, Sidney's success in attracting young workers in the past 20 years will prevent the Baby Boom generation from pulling the median age into the 40's as will likely occur in many rural Nebraska communities in the next decade. Many of the surrounding counties that already have median age in the upper 40's will likely see their median age approach and even top 50, in some instances, by 2020.

**Projected Median Age, 1980- 2030**

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020P	2030P
<b>Sidney</b>	27.5	26.6	30.1	33.4	35.6	37.5	37.1	36.3	37.2
<b>Change</b>	—	-0.9	+3.5	+2.3	+2.2	+1.9	-0.4	-0.8	+0.9

**Projected Population 65 Years and Older, 1970- 2030**

Year	Persons 65+	Percent
<b>1970</b>	852	13.3%
<b>1980</b>	1,025	17.1%
<b>1990</b>	1,084	18.2%
<b>2000</b>	1,082	17.2%
<b>2010</b>	1,031	15.3%
<b>2020P</b>	1,121	15.3%
<b>2030P</b>	1,322	16.8%

## Projected Households

From 2010 to 2030, the number of households in Sidney is expected to increase at a rate faster than population growth. This counter-intuitive event is expected due to an expected continued decrease in the number of persons per households as a result of young adults leaving their parents homes, elderly couples becoming single households, and an increase in single young professionals moving to Sidney.

**Projected Households, 1970 to 2030**

Year	Household Population	PPH	Households
<b>1970</b>	6,340	2.985	2,124
<b>1980</b>	5,922	2.477	2,391
<b>1990</b>	5,843	2.378	2,457
<b>2000</b>	6,162	2.351	2,621
<b>2010</b>	6,655	2.30	2,893
<b>2020P</b>	7,237	2.24	3,230
<b>2030P</b>	7,759	2.23	3,479

## Projected Dependency Ratio

Sidney's dependency ratio has continued to improve every decade since 1970 and is now just above the state and national ratios. Sidney's dependency ratio will likely continue to improve this decade. This is a very positive sign as it helps to increase productivity and reduce the local tax burden.

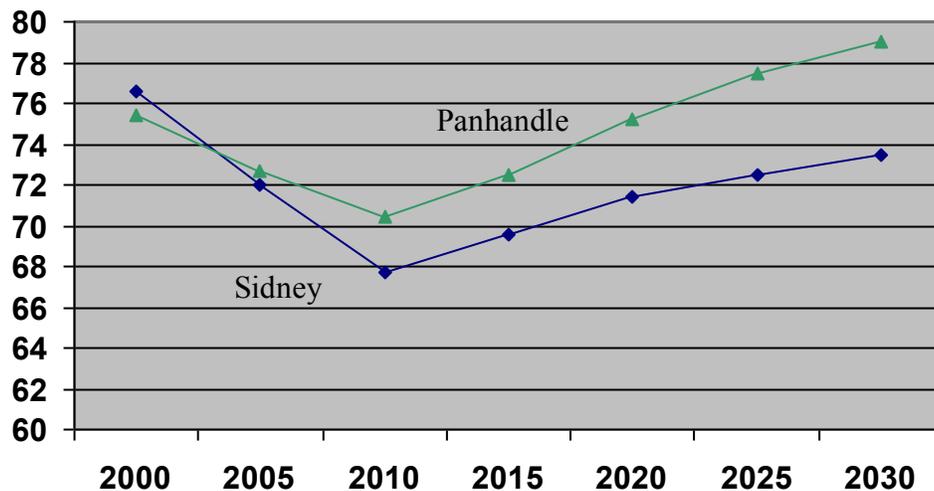
The higher the dependency population, the larger the burden on those who are working as they support those that are not. High dependency ratios also hurt overall productivity as wealth creation is divided by non-wealth creators.

Although Sidney's dependency ratio has been improving, just like the rest of the region, state and nation, the dependency ratio should increase going forward as the baby boomers leave the work force.

Even though the City's dependency ratio will likely start to increase, the dependency ratio in Sidney in 2030 should remain below most of rural Nebraska.

This is in contrast to the rest of the Panhandle which could see a significant increase in its dependency ratio as baby boomers that leave the work force are not offset due to high youth out-migration rates.

### Projected Dependency Ratio, 2000 to 2030



### Projected Dependency Ratio for Sidney, 1970 to 2020

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020P	2030P
Youth Dependency Ratio	75.1	50.6	49.7	46.2	42.1	45.2	44.4
Elder Dependency ratio	26.8	31.0	33.3	30.4	25.6	26.1	29.1
Total Dependency Ratio	101.9	81.6	83.0	76.6	67.7	71.4	73.5

# Demographic Opportunities

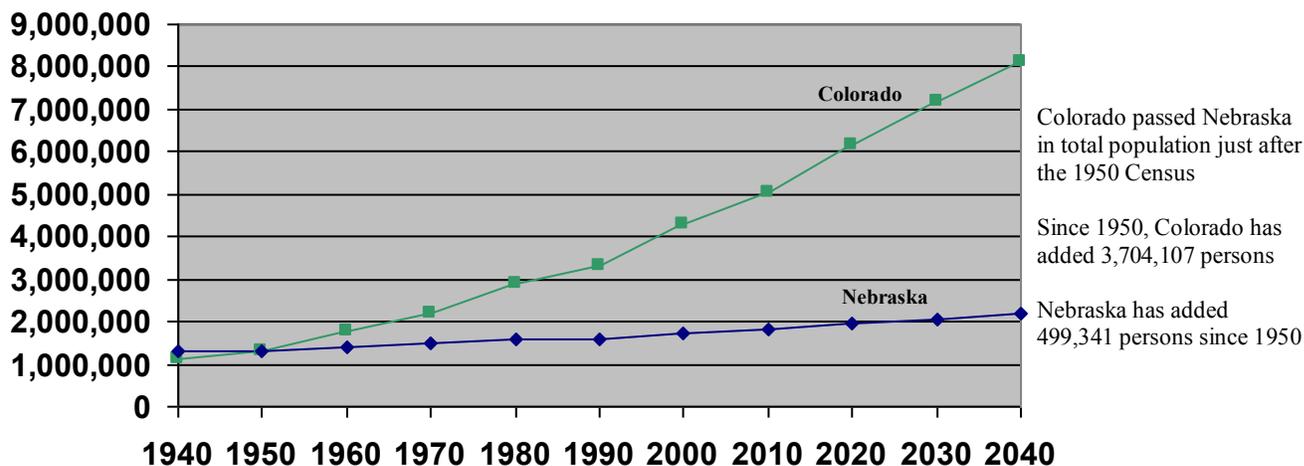
One significant opportunity for Sidney is the rising population and subsequent rising costs in Colorado as the state continues to grow at almost an unsustainable level. At some point, water, traffic and other issues are going to arise making some people looking to relocate.

Comparing Colorado's projected growth to Nebraska's total population, illustrates the growth opportunities for Sidney. Nebraska's population of about 1.8 million is less than the anticipated growth in Colorado from 2010 to 2030. From 2010 and 2040, Colorado is expected to grow by more than one and a half Nebraskas. If Sidney can capture just a small sliver of that growth, it can continue to regenerate its working population with younger workers. However, Sidney will need to maintain its positive economic while developing additional social amenities to attract potential residents from Colorado.

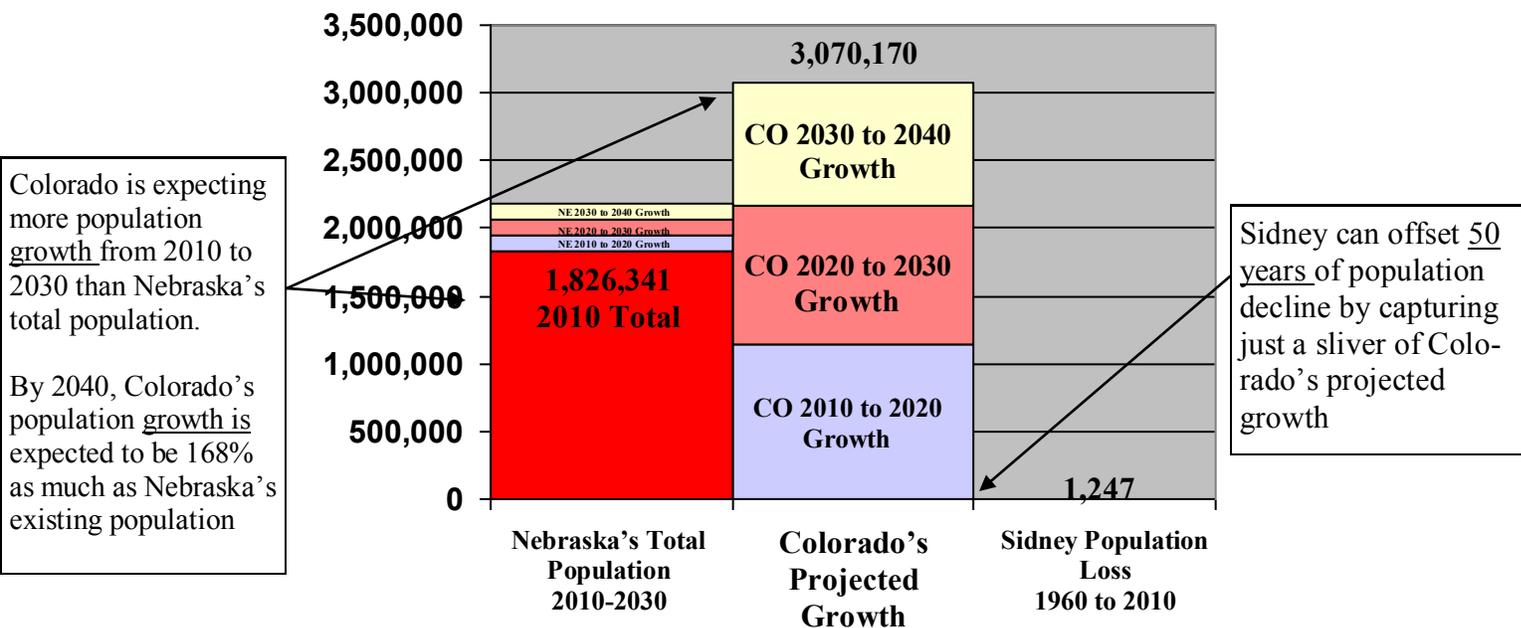
As the baby boomers move into retirement, the retirement industry is a enormous opportunity for Sidney since it is already likely to have a higher percentage of its population move into retirement, and will have to accommodate their special needs. This provides Sidney an opportunity to build the retirement industry to attract wealthier and more active retirees that will be the core of that growth industry.

Another demographic opportunity is that Sidney is very affordable compared to nearby places like Colorado,. Sidney has an opportunity to attract "equity refugees" which are people that can sell their home, buy a comparable home in Sidney, and still have enough money left over to start a new business or just have a very comfortable living in Sidney.

**Historic/Projected Population Change from 1940 to 2040**



**Comparing Colorado Projected Growth to Nebraska Population and Panhandle Population**



## Demographic Strengths

- Sidney's 2010 population of 6,757 demonstrate strong and sustainable growth
- Sidney has grown at a greater pace than the state and region over the past decade
- Sidney has doubled its population since 1930 while the region has declined and Nebraska grew by just 33% during the same time period.
- Cheyenne County has rebounded from population troughs three times since 1900.
- Sidney has been able to attract many younger workers in the past 20 years
  - The young adult population grew by 29.4% between 1990 and 2010
  - Net in-migration of 25 to 29 years was 5.6% in the 1990's and 13.1% in the 2000's
- Sidney experienced a net in-migration of 188 persons 30 to 44 year olds in the past decade
- The number of pre-school age kids increased nearly 12.2% in the past decade
- Sidney generally has an above average ratio of 20 to 50 year olds compared to the state and nation
- Sidney's population change has improved decade over decade for the past four decades
- Natural Change has helped off-set much of the city's out-migration since 1950
- Cheyenne County has had a net in-migration of 210 persons since 1990
  - Sidney's growth helped Kimball, Morrill and Garden County experience net in-migration during the 1990's
- Sidney's dependency ratio has improved significantly over the past forty years.
  - The youth dependency ratio has fallen from 75.1 in 1970 to 42.1 in 2010
  - The elder dependency ratio has decreased from a peak of 33.1 in 1990 to 25.6 in 2010
- Sidney's median age of 37.1 is well below most of rural Nebraska
- The number of households in Sidney increased by 10.4% in the past decade
  - Between 1970 and 1990, households increased by 12.6% with a 6.1% population decline.
  - Between 1990 and 2010, households increased by 13.7% with a 13.4% population increase
- The average household size has decreased from 2.985 in 1970 to 2.30 in 2010
  - Sidney captured 120% of the net growth in county households this past decade
- Sidney is expected to continue its strong and sustainable rate of population and housing growth
- Sidney's working age population is expected to increase due to an in-migration of working age persons
- Sidney's retirement age persons are very likely to increase significantly for the next 20 years.
- Sidney should continue to increase the number of households at a steady and sustainable rate.
- Sidney's dependency ratio should remain below rural Nebraska's

## Demographic Weaknesses

- Even though the young adult population has increased, many young adults are still leaving the community
  - A net of 30% of 10 to 14 year olds in Sidney in 2000 were not in the community in 2010
  - A net of 29% of 10 to 14 year olds in Sidney in 1990 were not in the community in 2000
  - A net of 35% of 10 to 14 year olds in Sidney in 1980 were not in the community in 1990
- The school age population has declined by 734 persons (39.4%) since 1970.
  - School age persons is estimated to have declined 6% in the past decade
- Even though Sidney experienced net in-migration in 30 to 44 year olds, this age group declined slightly this past decade due to demographic shifts
- Cheyenne County's natural change growth has diminished from 354 persons/year in the 1950's to just 25.5 persons/year
  - The number of births by resident in the county has declined from a peak of 523 in 1956 to just 125 in 2009
- Many residents are having the births of their children outside the community
- Four of Cheyenne Counties neighboring counties have negative natural change (more deaths than births)
- The number of retired persons in the community declined in the past decade
- All of the surrounding Nebraska Counties have a smaller ratio of their population in every age group under 45 than the state and nation.
- From 1950 to 2008, Cheyenne County has had 8,233 more persons move out of the county than into it.
- Many of the counties surrounding Sidney have been losing population since 1930
- The aggregate labor force of the surrounding Nebraska counties has been declining annually since 2003
- The median age in many surrounding counties is well above Sidney's with some well over 45 years of age
- Most of the surrounding counties experienced a decline in the number of households this past decade
- Nearly a third of Sidney's households are occupied by just one person
- Sidney's school age population is projected to increase the coming decades
- Unlike most of rural Nebraska, Sidney's median age should remain steady over the next 20 years.
- The Panhandle's and Western Nebraska's population loss is leading to less political clout for Sidney
  - Nebraska could potentially lose its 3rd Congressional seat by 2022
  - Nebraska lost its 6th Congressional District in 1930, the 5th in 1940 and the 4th in 1960
  - The number of State Senators representing urban interest is increasing steadily
  - The 47th State Legislative District boundaries could move further east in the future
- Seven of the Panhandle's counties reached their peak population in 1930 or earlier
  - The region's rural population has been declining for the past eight decades
- The FDIC's John Anderlik estimates a county needs to have at least 10,000 persons to support services and infrastructure
  - Cheyenne County is at the cusp of this threshold with 9,998 persons

## Demographic Opportunities

- Successful private sector businesses such as Cabela's could continue to increase the number of young professionals in the community
- Much of Colorado's rapid growth is in close proximity to Sidney
- Colorado is expected to grow by nearly two Nebraska's between 2010 and 2040
  - Capturing just a sliver of Colorado's growth can regenerate a young population in Sidney
- Sidney is very affordable compared to place like the Front Range making "Equity Refugees" a prime opportunity
- If economic trends continue to enable an improvement in young adult migration, the City's future population should experience a strong and sustainable increase
- The retirement industry is an opportunity for Sidney as the surrounding counties with few services for the elderly are increasing their number of elderly persons
- A boom in the number of retirees in the region could begin after 2010 and last decades.
  - The number of retirees in 2030 could be double the number of retirees the region had in 1960
- The large number of retirees in the region could provide the foundation for a successful retirement/health care industry
- The large number of retirees can provide a valuable volunteer resource base
- WNCC could help retain young adults as persons who stay for an education are more likely to remain in Sidney than persons who leave the community for another college.

## Demographic Threats

- The rate of natural change decline in the area is evaporating at an alarming rate. Due to lower levels of natural change (and negative rates in surrounding counties) future population increases, or even stabilization, will require much higher levels of net migration than in previous decades. The continued loss of young adults decade after decade has and will likely make this a challenging task in the future.
- Regardless of Sidney's economic success, the City will continue to lose many high school graduates who leave to attend college, join the military, or simply move for a change of scenery
- A large number of workers in the area are on the doorstep to retirement creating workforce issues
  - The working age population in some surrounding counties in 2020 could be over 20% below 2000 levels
- Western Nebraska's continued population loss will continue to diminish Sidney's political clout
- Even if the economy can enable improvements in net young adult migration, housing issues could limit the city's growth potential
- The median age of working age adults in neighboring counties could be over 50 years of age by 2020
- Many surrounding counties are losing extremely high levels of young adults
- As deaths in the community increase in coming decades, millions of dollars of wealth could be bequeathed out of the community to relatives that have left the region.