**POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

**KEY FINDINGS**

* The median age in Carrabassett Valley has increased, and Carrabassett Valley is older than Franklin County and the state.
* Total housing units increased, both owner- occupied and vacant.
* There was an increase in overall households, particularly non-family households.
* Maine State Economist and the U.S. Census indicate that the population grew substantially and in now either declining or leveling off.
* Carrabassett Valley is predominantly white.
* Carrabassett Valley has high levels of educational attainment – 70% of the population has a bachelor’s degree or higher.
* Over half of the population is married and over half of the households are family households, though smaller family sizes.
* The median income in Carrabassett Valley is higher than Franklin County but lower than Maine.

**ABOUT THE DATA**

Analysis of demographics and population dynamics is a fundamental component of the planning process. These data points help provide a better understanding of the characteristics of a community and attempt to shed light on information that is not always readily apparent. This chapter looks at population and demographic data in order to identify possible trends and noteworthy key findings. It is important to note the challenges and inherent limitations of collecting and analyzing demographic data for small towns, particularly when that data is used for longer-term population projections. All data presented here attempts to create a demographic snapshot and should be viewed as official reference points used in conjunction with local knowledge of recent trends and developments. This chapter primarily relies on four different datasets:

* **The Decennial Census.** The decennial census is program of the United States Census Bureau. The decennial census is conducted once every ten years and attempts count every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. This census asks a short set of questions and provides an official count of the population, which determines congressional representation. The most recent decennial census was in 2020.
* **The American Community Survey (ACS).** The American Community Survey or ACS is conducted every month, every year. This survey is sent to a sample of addresses throughout the country, DC, and Puerto Rico, and collects more detailed information than the decennial census. The ACS asks more in-depth questions about a number of topics such as education, housing, employment, commuting and transportation, and internet access just to name a few. The ACS data is available in one-year, three-year, or five-year datasets. Given that the ACS is a sample survey by design, the data collected includes information about the margins of error for each reported data point. The shorter the time frame, the smaller the sample size and larger the margin of error; likewise, the smaller the community, the higher the margin of error.
* **Maine Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.** The Maine Office ofData, Research and Vital Statistics (DRVS) administers Maine's vital statistics system and provides quantitative information for surveillance, planning, policy development, program management and evaluation. It produces detailed population estimates for use within and outside the Department of Health and Human Services and compiles data on health status and health resources.
* **The Office of the Maine State Economist.** The Office of the Maine State Economist conducts ongoing analysis of Maine's economic and demographic conditions to help inform policy decisions. The State Economist creates population projections for the State of Maine and its counties and towns for 5-year intervals to 2038, based on 2018 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

As stated above, the data presented in this chapter comes from different sources and different years based on how the various agencies collect, analyze and report their data, and are noted accordingly.

**POPULATION SNAPSHOT**

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| **Town of Carrabassett Valley, Demographics Snapshot***Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses* |
|   | **2000** | **2010** | **2020** | **% change** |
| **Total Population** | 399 | 781 | 673 | 68.7% |
| *Female Population* | 189 | 369 | 325 | 72.0% |
| *Male Population* | 210 | 412 | 348 | 65.7% |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Median Age** | 38.4 | 50.0 | 56.3 | 46.6% |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Total Housing Units** | 1,675 | 2,103 | 2,138 | 27.6% |
| **Occupied** | 179 | 373 | 354 | 97.8% |
| *Owner-occupied* | 145 | 325 | 309 | 113.1% |
| *Renter-occupied* | 34 | 48 | 45 | 32.4% |
| **Vacant** | 1,496 | 1,730 | 1,784 | 19.3% |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Total Households** | 179 | 373 | 354 | 97.8% |
| *Family Households* | 110 | 219 | 178 | 61.8% |
| *Non-Family Households* | 69 | 154 | 176 | 155.1% |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| *Average Household Size* | 2.23 | 2.10 | 1.46 | -34.5% |
| *Average Family Size* | 2.71 | 2.62 | 1.82 | -32.8% |
| *Median Household Income* | 45,357 | 54,676 | 54,959 | 21.2% |

The table above provides a demographic snapshot data from the 2020 Decennial Census of Carrabassett Valley from the year 2000 through the year 2020. This includes total population, broken down by male and female; median age; total housing units (occupied vs. vacant); and total households. In nearly every one of these data points the percent change increased. The total population rose from 399 in the year 2000 to 673 in 2020, with a percent increase of 68.7%, with the female population rising more than the male population at 72%.

In the year 2020 the median age for Carrabassett Valley was reported to be 56.3, which is an increase of 46.6% from the year 2000. Total housing units increased (27.6%), most notably the owner-occupied housing units increased 113.1% - from 145 in 2000 to 309 in 2020. Vacant housing units also increased by 19.3%, which may be due to an increased in vacation rentals as this table does not break out seasonal / vacation rental housing. See the Housing Chapter of this comprehensive plan for more detailed information on that topic.

Total households increased substantially (97.8%) between 2000 and 2020, with a large increase in non-family households (155.1%). The average household and average family size decreased (-34.5% and -32.8% respectively). Median Household Income increased a modest amount (21.2%).

**BACKGROUND & HISTORICAL TRENDS**

In 1970, approximately 40 people lived in Carrabassett Valley year-round. Three decades later, driven by the success of Sugarloaf, this number increased to 399. At that time, on the busiest weekend of the year, the number again multiplied to as high as 9,000 people. Four decades later in 2020, the population is reported by the U.S. Census Bureau’s Decennial Census as 673, a significant increase from the year 2000, and slight drop from 781 in 2010.

This volatile ebb and flow of population makes projecting the town’s future population and demographics unusually difficult. At the same time, the task is crucial if services and facilities in this town are to be properly scheduled and sized.

The figure above compares the rate of population change between Carrabassett Valley, Franklin County, and the State of Maine. All three geographies show a decline in the percent change: Maine and Franklin County are gradual, while Carrabassett Valley’s change swings more widely. This is primarily due to the smaller population size in Carrabassett Valley: when expressed as percent changes, small population growth or decline create a larger percent change. This data and figure show that the population in Carrabassett Valley is leveling off from the first establishment of the town: it grew quickly in the late 1970s and 1980s, then tapered off in the 1990s, grew again slightly in the 2000s and has declined again slightly in the 2010s.

**MIGRATION ANALYSIS**

Changes in a population depend on the number of births, deaths, and individuals moving in and out of an area. Analyses of these statistics indicate if a population is fluctuating due to migration or natural change (births and deaths). The Maine Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics collects and maintains records of births and deaths dating back to the 1890s. Net migration is calculated by finding the difference between births and deaths, and then comparing that to the Decennial Census population numbers. According to the Decennial Census, between 2000 and 2010 the Town of Carrabassett Valley experienced a substantial increase in population from 399 to 781 due to a positive natural change of 12 people and a relatively large estimated net migration into Carrabassett Valley of 370. Between 2010 and 2020, however, the Decennial Census reports a decrease in population from 781 to 673, with an estimated natural change of -1 person and an estimated net migration away of -107 people. The table below shows net migration estimates.

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| **Net Migration for the Town of Carrabassett Valley (2000 – 2020)** |
| **Data Point** | **Population** |
| **2000 to 2010 Net Migration** |
| 2000 Decennial Census | 399 |
| Natural Change\* | 12 |
| Estimated Net Migration\* | 370 |
| 2010 Census | 781 |
|   |
| **2010 to 2020 Net Migration** |
| 2010 Decennial Census | 781 |
| Natural Change\* | -1 |
| Estimated Net Migration\* | -107 |
| Estimated 2020 Decennial Census | 673 |
| *Source: Maine Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics births and deaths records; U.S. Census Decennial Census Total Population* *\*The Maine Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics births and deaths records did not have data for 2000, 2011, or 2012.* |

**POPULATION PROJECTIONS AND COMPARISONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Population Observed** | **Population Projected** | **Total Percent Change** |
| **Year** | **2010** | **2015** | **2020** | **2025** | **2030** | **2035** | **2040** | **2020 - 2040** |
| **CV** | **781** | **718** | **673** | **629** | **598** | **558** | **514** | **-23.6%** |
| Kingfield | 997 | 971 | 960 | 963 | 977 | 977 | 973 | 1.3% |
| Wyman | 88 | 84 | 82 | 79 | 78 | 76 | 73 | -11.3% |
| Coplin | 165 | 147 | 131 | 130 | 132 | 131 | 129 | -1.8% |
| Eustis | 619 | 629 | 641 | 661 | 691 | 709 | 725 | 13.0% |
| Franklin County | 30,768 | 29,727 | 29,418 | 29,330 | 29,603 | 29,414 | 29,109 | -1.1% |
| Maine | 1,328,362 | 1,335,777 | 1,362,280 | 1,362,280 | 1,374,728 | 1,397,663 | 1,407,396 | 3.1% |

The Maine State Economist produces population projections for towns, counties, and the state. The population of Carrabassett Valley is observed as declining through the 2010 – 2020 decade, with a 2010 population of 775 and a 2020 population of approximate 100 fewer persons. According to these projections, which use the trend identified in the observed data, the population of Carrabassett Valley is declining, with an estimated 2024 population of 514 persons. As stated in the “Understanding the Data” section at the start of this chapter, it is important to recognize that with smaller populations it is difficult to create highly accurate population projections, and thus these numbers should be understood with those limitations in mind.

According to the State Economist projections, Franklin County’s observed population declined slightly between 2010 and 2020, and the projection predicts a slow continued decline of approximately -1.1% between 2025 and 2040. Unlike Carrabassett Valley and Franklin County, the State of Maine shows a gradual increase in population between 2010 and 2020 and is projected to continue that growth between 2025 and 2040 at 3.1%.

Compared to the neighboring four towns in the Carrabassett Valley region along the State Route 16 / Route 27 corridors (Kingfield, Wyman, Coplin, Eustis), Carrabassett Valley’s population is projected to decrease at a higher rate (-23%).

**POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**AGE**

Compared to Franklin County and the State of Maine overall, Carrabassett Valley has a higher percentage of individuals in the 50-59 (16.9%), 60-69 (24.5%), and 70+ (18.3%) age cohort categories according to the 2020 Decennial Census. Franklin County and the State of Maine are younger than Carrabassett Valley, with higher percentages of individuals below age 40. Franklin County has a higher percentage of individuals in the ages 10-19 cohort than the state and Carrabassett Valley.

**RACE AND ETHNICITY**

Carrabassett Valley is predominantly white (94.5%) according to the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. Other reported race categories include a small percentage of two or more races (3.9%), Some Other Race alone (0.9%), and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone (0.7%).

Compared to Carrabassett Valley, Franklin County is similarly predominantly white (92.9%), with Population of two of more Races as the next highest percentage reported (4.3%). Maine as a whole is slightly whiter than Carrabassett Valley and Franklin County (95.2%), but also has a slightly higher percentage of Black or African American alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, and Some Other Race alone.

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

According to the American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, 70% of the Carrabassett Valley population has a Bachelor’s degree or higher, with almost an even split between Bachelor’s degrees (35.3%) and Graduate or professional degrees (34.7%). Less than a quarter of the population has some college or associate’s degree (18.7%), and 8.5% have a high school diploma or equivalent. A very small percentage of the population has less than a high school degree.

**MARITAL STATUS**

Just over half of the Carrabassett Valley population (56.1%) is married, according to the American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, while 22.4% has never married, and 20.1% are divorced or separated. A very small percentage (1.4%) of the population is widowed.

**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

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| **Town of Carrabassett Valley Households and Families (2022)***Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Households and Families." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1101, S2501, 2022* |
|  |
| **Label** | **Estimate** | **Margin of Error** |
| **HOUSEHOLDS** |  |  |
| *Total households* | 362 | ±112 |
| *Family households* | 191 | ±81 |
| *Average household size* | 1.53 | ±0.17 |
| **HOUSEHOLD SIZE** |  |  |
| *1-person household* | 163 | ±80 |
| *2-person household* | 177 | ±77 |
| *3-person household* | 18 | ±13 |
| *4-or-more-person household* | 4 | ±6 |
| **FAMILIES** |  |  |
| *Total families* | 191 | ±81 |
| *Average family size* | 1.93 | ±0.32 |
| **AGE OF OWN CHILDREN** |  |  |
| *Households with own children of the householder under 18 years* | 27 | ±15 |
| *Under 6 years only* | 37.0% | ±26.3 |
| *Under 6 years and 6 to 17 years* | 0.0% | ±52.5 |
| *6 to 17 years only* | 63.0% | ±26.3 |
| *Total households* | 362 | ±112 |
| **SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE** |  |  |
| *Households with one or more people under 18 years* | 7.5% | ±4.2 |
| *Households with one or more people 60 years and over* | 61.9% | ±14.8 |
| *Households with one or more people 65 years and over* | 56.4% | ±14.7 |
| *Householder living alone* | 45.0% | ±16.2 |
| *65 years and over* | 16.6% | ±6.8 |

According to the American Communities Survey 5-year estimates (2022), there are approximately 362 households in the Town of Carrabassett Valley, 191 of which (52.7%) are family households. The average household size is estimated as 1.53 persons. There are slightly more 2-person households (49%) than 1-person households (45%) and very few 3-person (4.9%) and 4-or-more-person households (1.1%). The average family size is estimated at 1.93 persons.

Of the 27 households with own children under 18 years, 37% are estimated to have under 6 years only and 63% are estimated to have 6 to 17 years only. No households with own children under 18 years were estimated to have both under 6 years old and 6 to 17 years old. These data points also report moderate margins of error and should be regarded as best estimates but with recognition of their limitations.

Of the estimated 362 households reported in the ACS 5-year estimates, 7.5% have one or more people under 18 years; 61.9% have one or more people 60 years and over; 56.4% have one or more people 65 years and over; and 45% have a householder living alone.

**INCOME**

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| **Town of Carrabassett Valley Individuals' Income in The Past 12 Months In 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars (ACS 2022)***Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Characteristics of the Total and Native Populations in the United States." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0601, 2022* |
|  | **Estimate** | **Margin of Error** |
| **POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER** | 576 | ±143 |
| *$1 to $9,999 or loss* | 10.20% | ±6.0 |
| *$10,000 to $14,999* | 3.30% | ±2.5 |
| *$15,000 to $24,999* | 9.70% | ±5.9 |
| *$25,000 to $34,999* | 16.50% | ±4.7 |
| *$35,000 to $49,999* | 8.70% | ±3.9 |
| *$50,000 to $64,999* | 13.70% | ±12.1 |
| *$65,000 to $74,999* | 3.10% | ±1.8 |
| *$75,000 or more* | 31.40% | ±14.0 |
| Median income (dollars) | $47,344 | ±24,408 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS** |
| Population for whom poverty status is determined | 554 | ±149 |
| Below 100 percent of the poverty level | 2.50% | ±2.0 |
| 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level | 4.20% | ±3.2 |
| At or above 150 percent of the poverty level | 93.30% | ±4.0 |

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| **Comparative Household Income in the Past 12 Months in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars** *Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Income in the Past 12 Months in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901, 2022* |
|  |
|  | **Carrabassett Valley** | **Franklin County** | **Maine** |
| Median Household Income | 66,750 | 56,890 | 69,543 |

The American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2022) reports data on individuals’ income in the past 12 months in 2022 inflation-adjusted dollars for the population 15 years and over (576 persons). According to these estimates, the median income in dollars for individuals in 2022 in Carrabassett Valley was approximately $47,344, with nearly half the population earning over $50,000 and nearly half earning less than $50,000. Of those earning less than $50,000, approximately 23% earned less than $30,000. For those whom poverty status is determined (554 persons), 2.5% of the population was below 100% of the poverty level, while 93.3% were at or above 150 percent of the poverty level. A small number of people (4.2%) were between 100 and 149 percent of the poverty level. Compared to Franklin County ($56,890), the Town of Carrabassett Valley median household income is higher ($66,750) but less than the state of Maine median household income ($69,543).

**LANGUAGE**

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| **LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH** |
| Population 5 years and over |  |  |
|  Speak language other than English | 8.1% | ±6.2 |
|  Speak English "very well" | 3.4% | ±2.5 |
|  Speak English less than "very well" | 4.7% | ±5.7 |

*U.S. Census Bureau. "Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics for Workplace Geography." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0804, 2022.*

There are a very small number of households in Carrabassett Valley for whom English is not their first language. According to the 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, of the population 5 years old and older, 8.1% report that they speak a language other than English. Within that group, 3.4% say they speak English “very well” and 4.7% say they speak English less than “very well.” This is not defined in the survey and self-assessed by the survey respondent.