

Section A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ELEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this section is to provide basic background information for the comprehensive planning process and general population and demographic characteristics for the Town of Dodgeville. More specifically this section includes information from the community survey and visioning sessions, demographic trends including population trends, age distribution, housing trends, education levels, income levels, employment characteristics, population projections, housing projections, and labor force projections.

**Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(a)****(a) *Issues and opportunities element.***

Background information on the local governmental unit and a statement of overall objectives, policies, goals and programs of the local governmental unit to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local governmental unit over a 20-year planning period. Background information shall include population, household and employment forecasts that the local governmental unit uses in developing its comprehensive plan, and demographic trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics that exist within the local governmental unit.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES POLICIES

The following are the issues and opportunities policies (not listed in order of priority) for the Town of Dodgeville. The essence of these recommendations is carried out throughout the entire document.

- 1. Protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of residents in the Town of Dodgeville.**
- 2. The Town Board, Plan Commission, and other Town officials and staff will utilize the Comprehensive Plan to guide Town decisions, policies, and processes.**
- 3. Preserve and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Town of Dodgeville.**
- 4. Protect and preserve the small community character of the Town of Dodgeville.**

Note: The above policy recommendations are further explained in other elements of this comprehensive plan. This section provides background information and overall direction. For example, the above recommendations may be carried out by implementing recommendations in other sections such as housing, economic development, and transportation.

BACKGROUND

Iowa County, together with twenty-two jurisdictions, including the Town of Dodgeville, applied for a Comprehensive Planning Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Administration in the fall of 2001. In the spring of 2002, the Comprehensive Planning Grant was awarded. Iowa County and the jurisdictions within it contracted with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) to complete individual comprehensive plans for each of the twenty-three participating jurisdictions (Iowa County, cities, towns, and villages) in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Because of the large number of involved jurisdictions and in an effort to streamline planning meetings, individual jurisdictions were grouped into “clusters”, based on their physical proximity to one another, resulting in six cluster groups. Iowa County was a separate cluster.

- “Northwest Cluster” (Towns of Highland and Pulaski, Villages of Avoca and Highland)
- “Northeast Cluster” (Towns of Arena, Clyde, and Wyoming, and the Village of Arena)
- “Central Cluster” (Towns of Dodgeville and Ridgeway, Village of Ridgeway, and City of Dodgeville)
- “Southwest Cluster” (Towns of Eden, Linden and Mifflin, and Village of Linden)
- “South Central Cluster” (Towns of Mineral Point and Waldwick, and City of Mineral Point)
- “Southeast Cluster” (Town of Moscow, and Villages of Blanchardville and Hollandale)
- Iowa County

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY SURVEY

In September and October of 2002, the staff from SWWRPC and University of Wisconsin Extension Service-Iowa County (UWEX-Iowa County) developed a countywide survey that was distributed to all property owners in Iowa County. A total of 10,752 surveys were sent out, 746 to Town of Dodgeville property owners. Two hundred fifty eight were sent back, giving the Town a 35 percent return rate. (See Appendix A-1 for complete survey results.)

COMMUNITY VISION

A vision statement identifies where an organization intends to be in the future and how to best meet the future needs of its stakeholders. The vision statement incorporates a shared understanding of the nature and purpose of the organization and uses this understanding to move towards a greater purpose together. SWWRPC, in conjunction with UWEX-Iowa County, sponsored visioning sessions for each cluster in the autumn and winter of 2002-2003. The Town of Dodgeville's Plan Commission utilized the visioning information from these sessions to create a formal vision statement:

The vision for the Town of Dodgeville is to balance its rural character, natural beauty, community, and economic vitality. We will strive to find a balance so:

- *People of all ages and backgrounds can reside, work, raise families, and retire in the Town.*
- *Agricultural activity will be maintained*
- *Natural resources and beauty will be preserved.*
- *Town services will be maintained and improved, while managing an appropriate level of taxation.*

VISIONING

In February 2003, the Town of Dodgeville planning representatives were asked to identify issues, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses specific to the Town of Dodgeville. The following lists are based on the cluster visioning exercise, countywide survey, and local Plan Commission meetings. (See Appendix A-2 for the Central Cluster's visioning results.)

Issues

- Balancing public and private rights as related to land use
- Defining agricultural lands and the allowable uses on them
- Conflicting community opinions regarding lot sizes for residential development and rural and transitional zones between the City of Dodgeville and the Town
- Balancing population density with preservation of agricultural land and unique natural beauty
- Maintaining safe and quality natural resources
- Maintaining and managing a tax base to support services
- Planning for aging population
- Planning for opportunities and services for all ages
- If all the youth leave for greener pastures we don't maintain a working tax base and with the remaining aging population and their needs, economically and socially this could be difficult to manage

Opportunities

- Being flexible in considering alternative land uses while respecting community values
- Town officials working as partners with an informed and involved citizenry
- Planning for orderly development for both growth and preservation
- Shared services with other government entities
- Define, support, and promote commercial area in Iowa County
- Encourage a diversified job base in Iowa County
- Manage appropriate tourism, consider eco-tourism
- To support a strong and viable educational system and provide opportunities for lifelong learning
- Preservation of family farms and agricultural economy
- Recognize new, additional, alternative and adaptive uses of agricultural land and buildings
- Work through these issues and opportunities through an intergovernmental process
- To involve the younger generation in government and planning
- To maintain public participation as a staple of government operations

Strengths

- Quality and beauty of natural resources
- Agriculture, related ag businesses, and family farming is valued
- Strong community values
- Tourism and recreation
- Good road infrastructure

Weaknesses

- Not enough affordable housing (need starter, single family, elderly)
- Lack of coordinated and proactive efforts regarding economic development
- Survey not sent to renters
- Analysis of demographics between survey and census results needs to be evaluated
- Analysis of lot sizes between survey results and Master plan needs to be evaluated

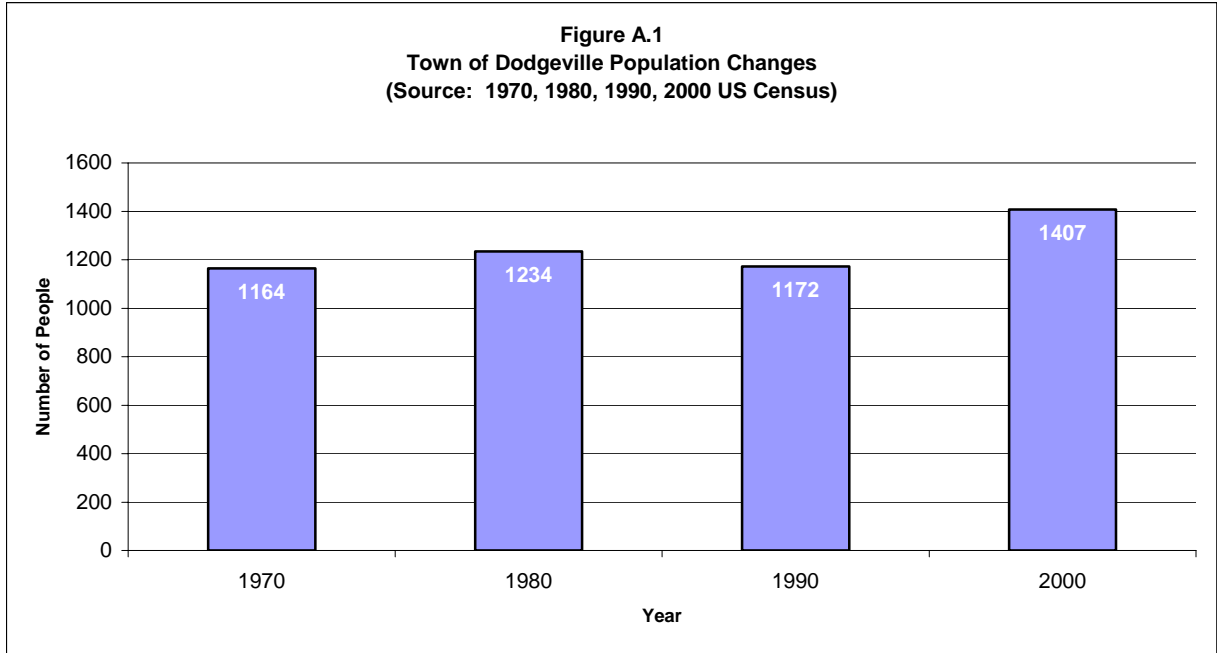
COMMUNITY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

See Appendix A-3 for the jurisdiction's public participation plan.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

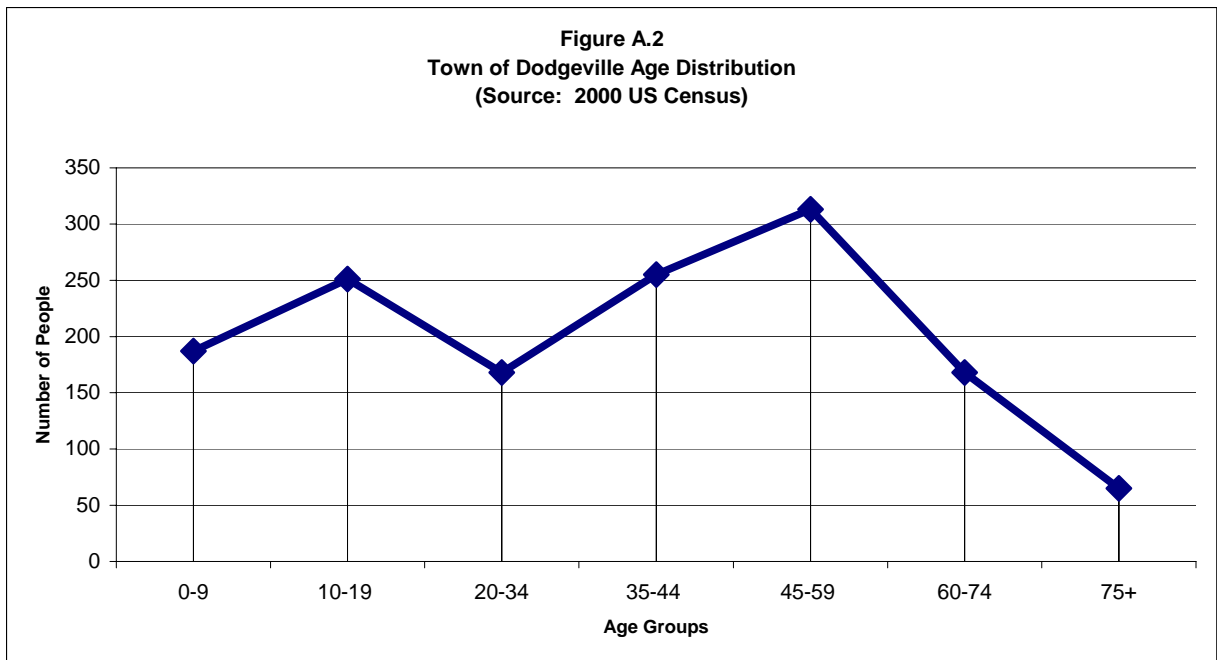
POPULATION CHANGES

The Town of Dodgeville’s population has increased by 243 people over the past 30 years. Between 1970 and 1980 the Town grew by 6 percent and dropped 5 percent between 1980 and 1990. But from 1990 to 2000 the Town grew 20 percent.



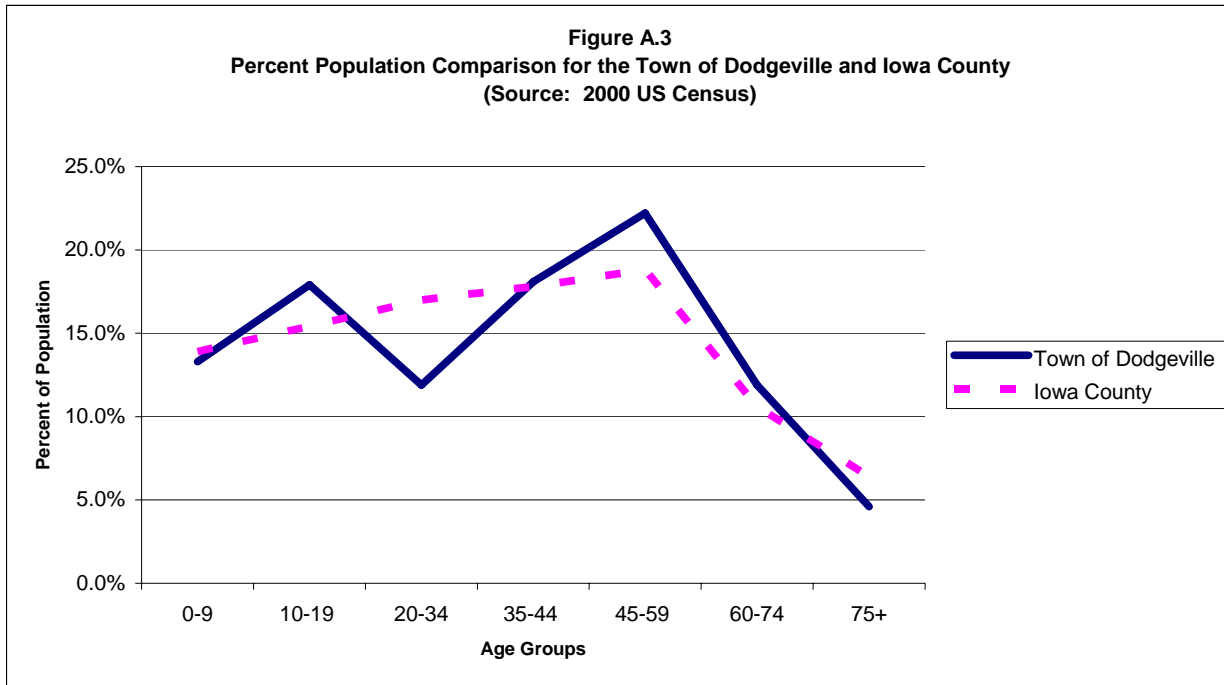
AGE DISTRIBUTION

Figure A.2 shows the age distribution of the Town of Dodgeville residents, according to the 2000 US Census. Overall the population is well distributed among all the various age groups. The age group of 45 to 59 year olds has the highest concentration of the population in the Town.



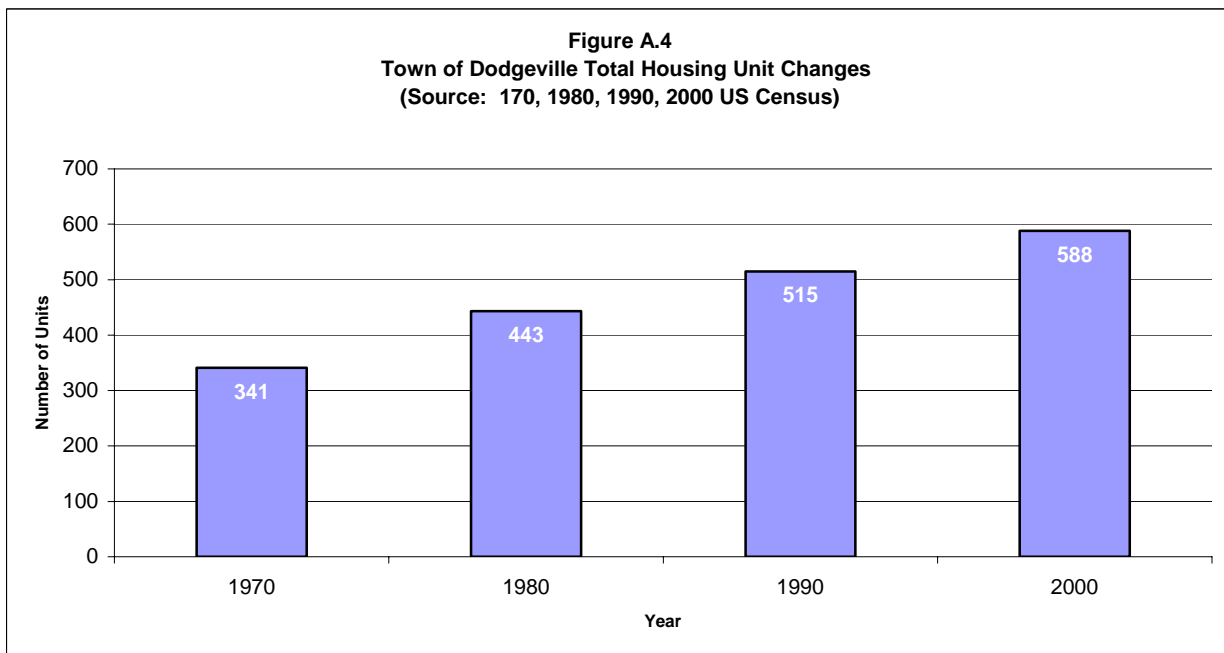
PERCENT POPULATION

Figure A.3 compares the Town population to Iowa County as a whole. The distribution of the Town population is somewhat similar to the county population, although the Town is much higher than the County in the 10 to 19 and the 45 to 59 year age group.

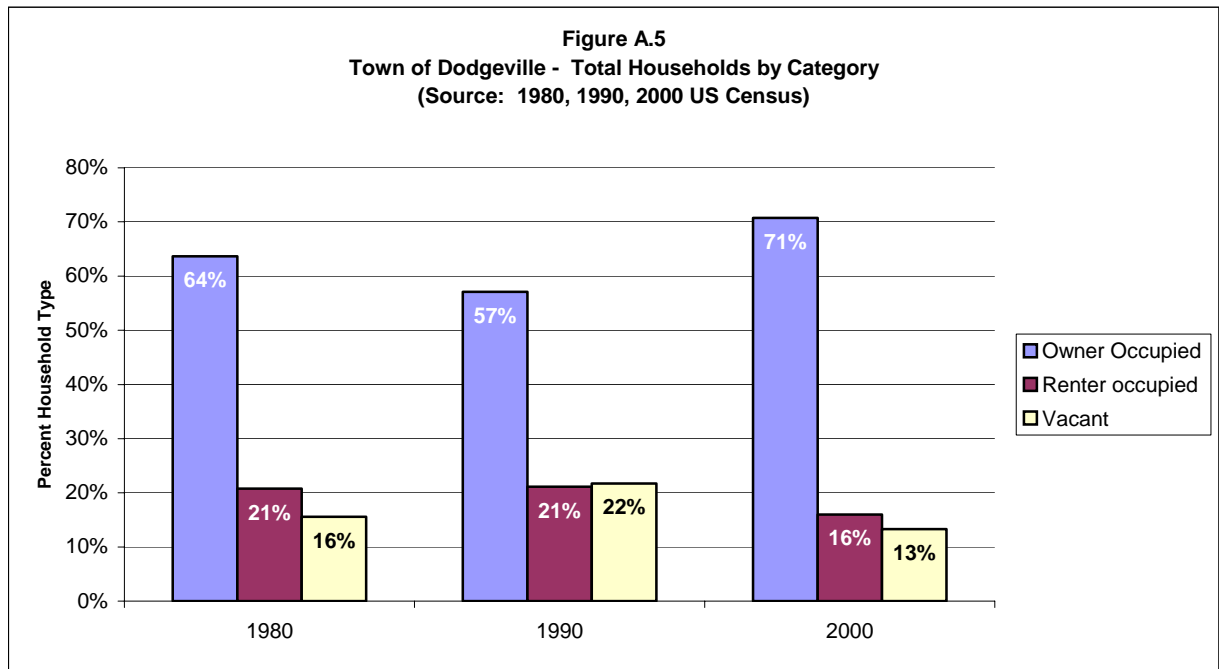


HOUSING TRENDS

Historically, the Town of Dodgeville has seen an increase in the housing supply. “Total Housing Units” refers to the total number of units available for habitation: owned, rented, and vacant. As indicated by Figure A.4 the Town of Dodgeville had an increase of 247 units between 1970 and 2000. For more housing information, go to Section B, Housing Element.



“Total Households” refers to occupied (owned and rented) housing units only. According to Figure A.5, of the 588 housing units in Town of Dodgeville in 2000, 71 percent were owner occupied, 16 percent were renter occupied, and the remaining 13 percent were vacant. The average number of persons per household was 2.78 for owner occupied units, 2.65 for rental units.



EDUCATION LEVELS

An important factor tied to a community’s economic well being, as well as its potential for economic growth, is the link between education levels of residents and employment opportunities. Table A.1 reflects the educational attainment of the Town residents 25 years and older compared with Iowa County and the State of Wisconsin.

Table A.1 Educational Attainment of Residents 25 Years and Older

Education	Town of Dodgeville		Iowa County Number	State of Wisconsin Percent
	Number	Percent		
<9 th grade	38	3.8%	4.2%	5.4%
9 th –12 th grade, no diploma	57	5.7%	7.4%	9.6%
HS Grad (incl. Equivalency)	394	39.2%	41.8%	34.6%
Some college, no degree	193	19.2%	19.9%	20.6%
Associate Degree	107	10.6%	8.3%	7.5%
Bachelor Degree	125	12.4%	13.2%	15.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	91	9.1%	5.3%	7.2%
Total population 25 Years and older	1005	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: 2000 US Census

INCOME COMPARISONS

Table A.2 compares the income levels of the Town of Dodgeville with those of Iowa County and the State of Wisconsin. Median household income is based on every unit of occupancy with one or more unrelated individuals. Median family income is based on units of occupancy with individuals related by blood (children, grandparents, etc.) or law (marriage, adoption, etc.). Per capita income is based on each individual wage earner.

Table A.2 Income Comparisons

Income Type	Town of Dodgeville	Iowa County	State of Wisconsin
Median household income	\$49,327	\$45,518	\$43,791
Median family income	\$58,203	\$49,972	\$52,911
Per capita income	\$22,521	\$19,497	\$21,271

Source: 2000 US Census

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Table A.3 is reflective of the 2000 US Census for employed persons 16 years and over and their respective occupations in the Town of Dodgeville, compared by percentage to Iowa County and the State of Wisconsin. By definition of the Census, occupation is referred to as the type of work a person does on the job. For more information, go to Section F, Economic Development Element.

Table A.3 Employment Characteristics

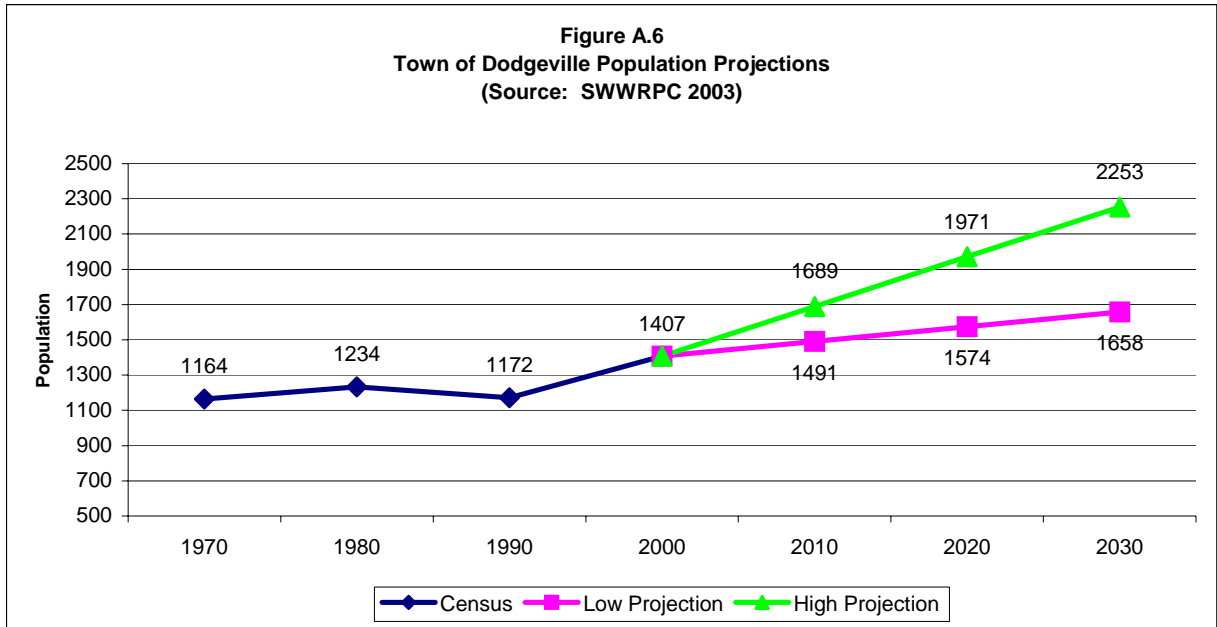
Occupations	Town of Dodgeville		Iowa County	State of Wisconsin
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Management, professional and related	340	40.0%	30.9%	31.3%
Services occupations	85	10.0%	12.8%	14.0%
Sales and office occupations	188	22.1%	25.5%	25.2%
Farming, fishing and forestry occupations	14	1.6%	2.5%	0.9%
Construction, extraction and maintenance occupations	92	10.8%	10.9%	8.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	132	15.5%	17.4%	19.8%
Total employed civilian population 16 years and older	851	100%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: 2000 US Census

DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS

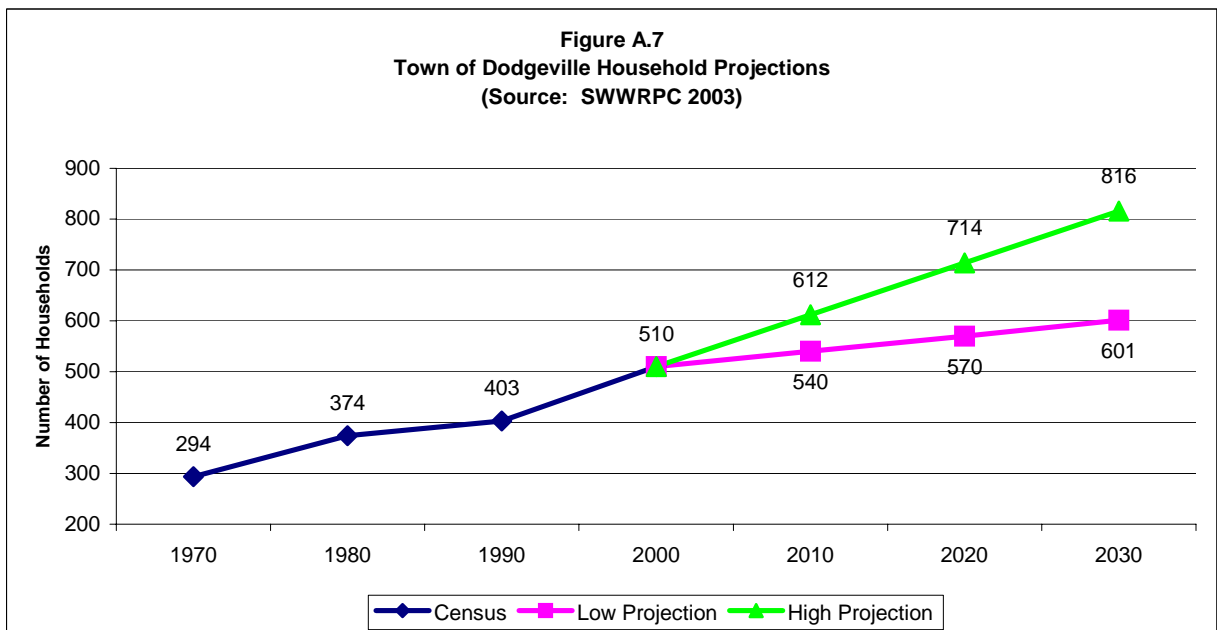
POPULATION

Preparing population projections is necessary to provide planners, developers, and others with expected increases or decreases in given base years. Reliable projections of population are needed for all kinds of planning or policy decisions whether involving the need for extending utilities, building a new highway, or starting a business. All these require some notion of probable demand for such facilities. Figure A.6 shows past population trends as well as projections to the year 2030. The figure gives both low and high projections, showing an overall population increase in the next 30 years.



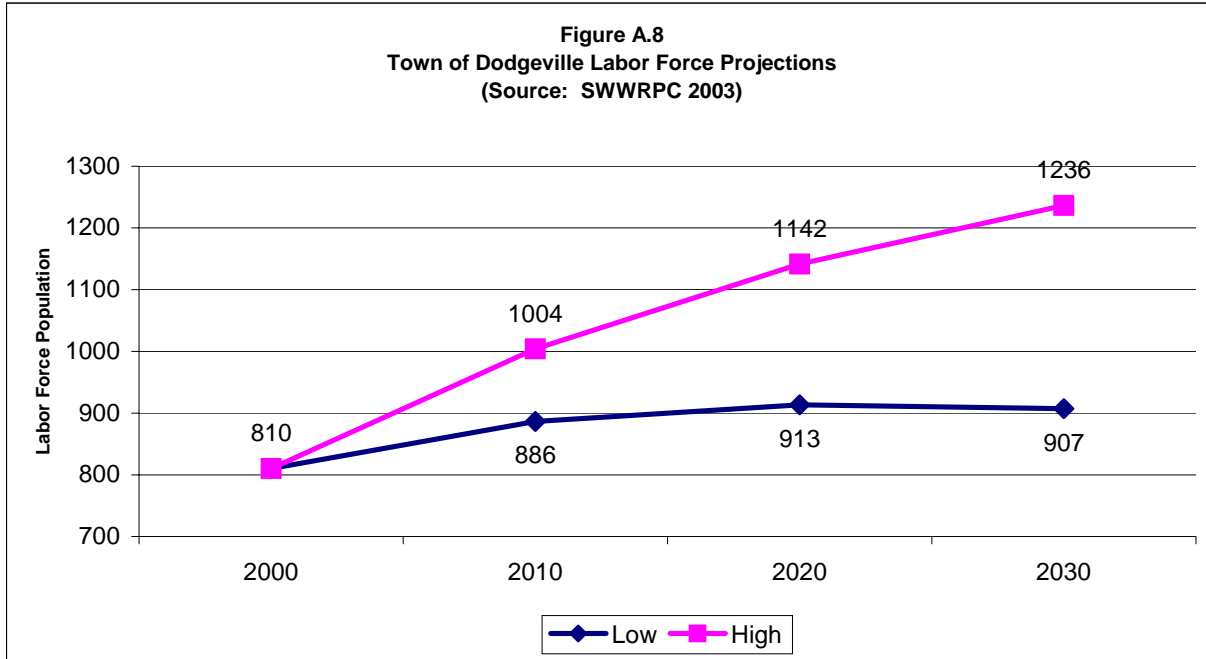
HOUSEHOLD

Figure A.7 shows household projections based on population projections and average household size from the 2000 US Census.



LABOR FORCE

Figure A.8 shows labor force projections for the Town of Dodgeville. These available workers will not necessarily find employment in the Town: many will work in nearby towns and cities. The figure merely indicates the available labor pool residing in the Town of Dodgeville. For more information, go to Section F, Economic Development Element.



All of the projections presented in this section are based on past trends. The projections are intended as a guide. A sudden change, such as the creation of a large industry in an outlying area may dramatically impact these projections.