

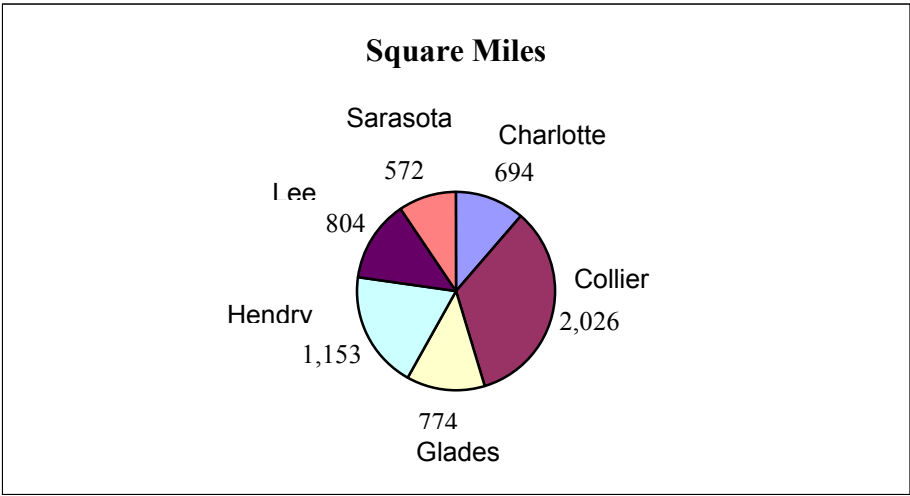
DEMOGRAPHICS

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

The six-county region known today as Southwest Florida has experienced significant changes over the past 100 years. This section describes the incredible population growth of the Region and the characteristics of that population.

Originally, the Southwest Florida Region fell within the boundaries of several larger counties. From 1840 to 1900, the Southwest Florida Region included only two counties. Those counties, Hillsborough and Monroe, governed the west coast of Florida from present-day Citrus County, south to the Keys. Early in the 1900s, the Region included parts of Manatee, DeSoto, Lee, and Monroe Counties. It was not until 1924 that the current boundaries of the six counties of Southwest Florida (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota) were established. Today, the Region contains approximately 6,023 square miles of land area (Figure 1). This is 11.2% of the total land area of the State (53,937square miles).

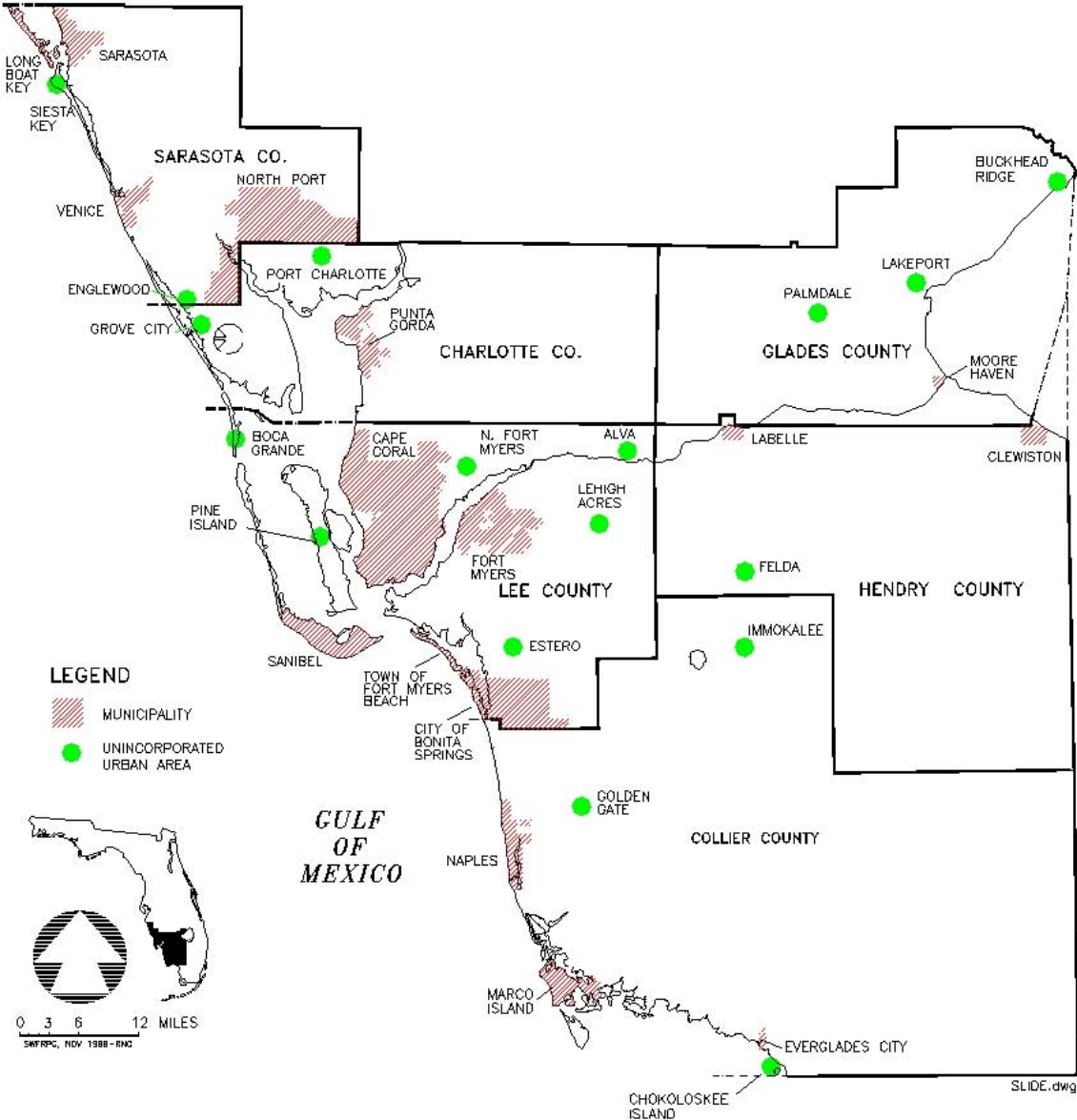
**FIGURE 1
LAND AREA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**



Source: Florida Statistical Abstract, 2000, Table 1.77, “County Rankings and Density: population Estimates, Rank, Percentage Distribution, Land Area, and Density in the State and Counties of Florida, April 1, 1999,” BEBR.

Southwest Florida is both a geographical and political area. The political region was established by Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties in 1973. It assumed its present form after the addition of Sarasota County in 1975. Designated by the Florida Department of Community Affairs as Region 9, Southwest Florida is bounded by Manatee, DeSoto, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties to the north; Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade Counties to the east; and Monroe County to the south. Map 1 shows the six counties in the Region and the sixteen incorporated municipalities.

MAP 1 - LOCATION OF COUNTIES AND URBAN AREAS

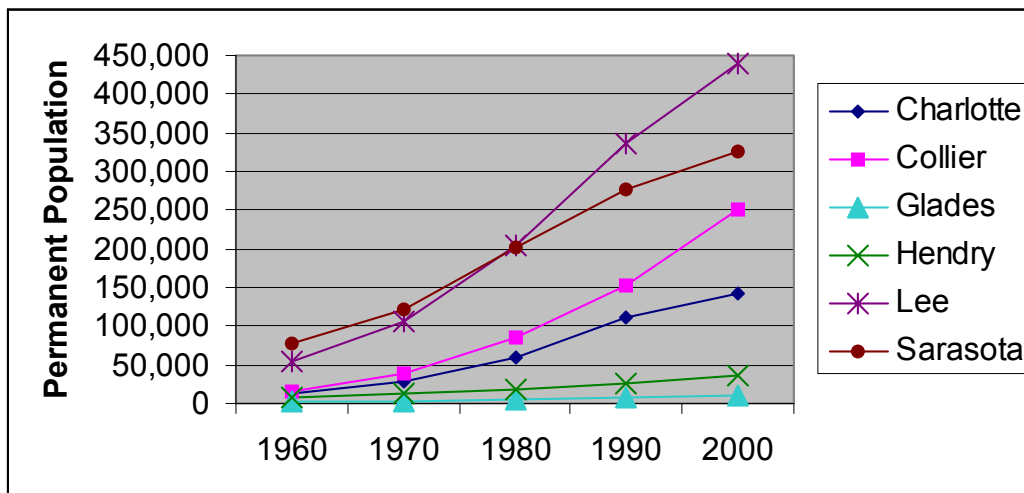


Southwest Florida Region

➤ **POPULATION GROWTH**

In 1930, the entire Region had only 40,580 people located primarily in the coastal counties. The U.S. Census that year was the first to count the population of the Region, with its current boundaries. In 1998, the estimated permanent population passed the 1,000,000 mark. The peak population during the winter months is not formally counted but is estimated to add about 22% to this total. Figure 2 and Table 1 show the rapid growth throughout the Region, especially in the coastal counties.

**FIGURE 2
POPULATION GROWTH BY COUNTY, 1960 TO 2000**



Source: Derived from Table 1.

**TABLE 1
PERMANENT POPULATION AND GROWTH BY COUNTY**

County	1960	1970		1980		1990		2000	
	Total	Total	Increase	Total	Increase	Total	Increase	Total	Increase
Charlotte	12,594	27,559	14,965	58,460	30,901	110,975	52,515	141,627	30,652
Collier	15,753	38,040	22,287	85,971	47,931	152,099	66,128	251,377	99,278
Glades	2,950	3,669	719	5,992	2,323	7,591	1,599	10,576	2,985
Hendry	8,119	11,859	3,740	18,599	6,740	25,773	7,174	36,210	10,437
Lee	54,539	105,216	50,677	205,266	100,050	335,113	129,847	440,888	105,775
Sarasota	76,895	120,413	43,518	202,251	81,838	277,776	75,525	325,957	48,181
Region	170,850	306,756	135,906	576,539	269,783	909,327	332,788	1,206,635	297,308
State	4,951,560	6,791,418	1,839,858	9,747,197	2,955,779	12,937,926	3,190,729	15,982,378	3,044,452
Nation	179,323,175	203,302,031	23,978,856	226,545,805	23,243,774	248,709,873	22,164,068	281,421,906	32,712,033

Sources: Florida Statistical Abstract, 1981, 1998, Table 1.66; 1990 data from Table DP-1, "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," U. S. Census. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census.

The Region's portion of both the Florida and U.S. populations has grown steadily (see Table 2). In 1950, less than 0.05% of the U.S. population lived in Southwest Florida. By 2000, that figure had increased to 0.4%. Thus, from 1950 to 2000, the Region's share of the total U.S. population increased over nine times.

TABLE 2		
REGION'S SHARE OF STATE AND NATIONAL POPULATIONS		
Year	Florida	United States
1950	2.571%	0.047%
1960	3.450%	0.095%
1970	4.517%	0.150%
1980	5.915%	0.253%
1990	7.028%	0.366%
1999	7.410%	0.416%
2000	7.550%	0.429%

Sources: Derived from data and sources in Table 1.

The situation is similar for the Region's share of the state's population. In 1950, slightly more than 2.5% of all Floridians lived in Southwest Florida. By 2000, this figure had grown to more than 7.5%. This occurred even while Florida's population growth was surpassing that of the nation as a whole.

Growth Rates

Southwest Florida has experienced very strong growth for over 40 years. Growth rates, expressed as a percentage, are shown in Table 3. From 1950 to 1960, the population of the Region grew 140%. In the following decades, the population increased 80%, 88%, and then 58%. Since 1990, the growth rate has slowed even further. The Region's *average annual growth rate* from 1990 to 2000 was 3.3%, down from 5.8% in the 1980s.

TABLE 3					
POPULATION GROWTH RATES					
County	1950-60	1960-70	1970-80	1980-90	1990-00
Charlotte	194%	119%	112%	90%	28%
Collier	143%	141%	126%	77%	65%
Glades	34%	24%	63%	27%	39%
Hendry	34%	46%	57%	39%	40%
Lee	150%	93%	95%	63%	32%
Sarasota	153%	57%	68%	37%	17%
Region	140%	80%	88%	58%	33%
State	79%	37%	44%	33%	24%

Source: Derived from Table 1.

Growth rates must be analyzed in terms of the total population. When the population is considerably smaller, a small increase in actual population results in a high growth rate. For example, from 1950 to 1960, the Region's population grew by about 135,000 people, a 140% increase. But for the period 1980 to 1990, growth of about 333,000 persons yielded only a 58% increase,

reflecting the effect of a larger base population. For 1990-2000, growth of about 297,000 person resulted in an increase of less than 24%.

Population Forecasts

Southwest Florida's population will continue to grow into the next century, as depicted in Table 4 and Figure 3. Table 4 shows the latest official projections of growth through the year 2030. The *rate* of growth, however, is projected to decline over the next three decades. But even with the declining growth rates, the Region is expected to grow at a faster rate than the state through the year 2030.

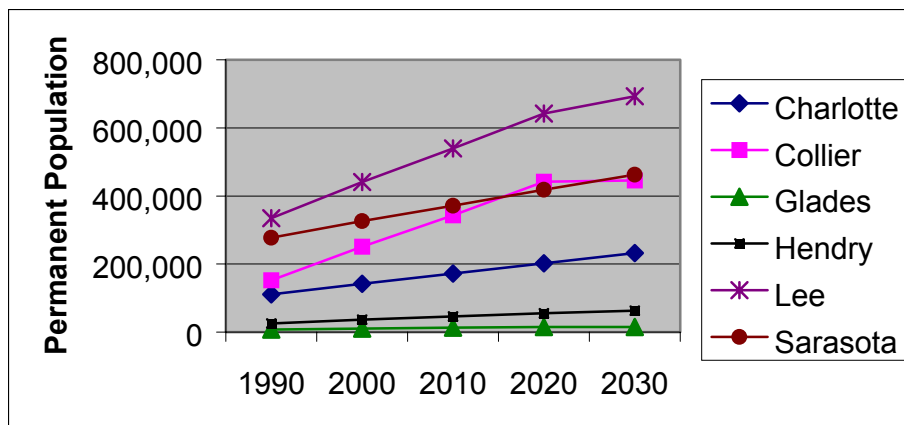
**TABLE 4
POPULATION FORECASTS***

County	1990 (actual)	2000 (actual)		2010 (forecast)		2020 (forecast)		2030 (forecast)	
	Total	Total	Increase	Total	Increase	Total	Increase	Total	Increase
Charlotte	110,975	141,627	27.6%	171,576	21.1%	202,390	18.0%	232,200	14.7%
Collier	152,099	251,377	65.3%	343,514	36.7%	441,637	28.6%	445,200	0.8%
Glades	7,591	10,576	39.3%	12,821	21.2%	14,961	16.7%	15,000	0.3%
Hendry	25,773	36,210	40.5%	45,772	26.4%	55,521	21.3%	63,400	14.2%
Lee	335,113	440,888	31.6%	539,332	22.3%	642,222	19.1%	693,300	8.0%
Sarasota	277,776	325,957	17.3%	371,322	13.9%	418,156	12.6%	462,700	10.7%
Region	909,327	1,206,635	32.7%	1,484,337	23.0%	1,774,887	19.6%	1,911,800	7.7%
State	12,937,926	15,982,378	23.5%	18,776,412	17.5%	21,683,344	15.5%	23,198,000	7.0%

*With percent change from previous decade.

Sources: 1990 data from Table DP-1, "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," U. S. Census. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census. Projections from Florida Statistical Abstract 2000, Table 1.84, "Projections: Population Estimates, April 1, 1999, and Projections, Specified Years April 1, 2005 through 2030, in the State and Counties of Florida."

**FIGURE 3
POPULATION FORECASTS BY COUNTY (000's)**



Source: Derived from Table 4.

Urban/Rural Split

Table 5 illustrates the increasing urbanization of Southwest Florida. The Census Bureau defines "urban" as urbanized areas and places of more than 2,500 persons outside of urbanized areas. (An "urbanized area" consists of a central place and adjacent densely settled areas that together have a minimum population of 50,000.) "Rural" areas constitute all areas not classified as urban.

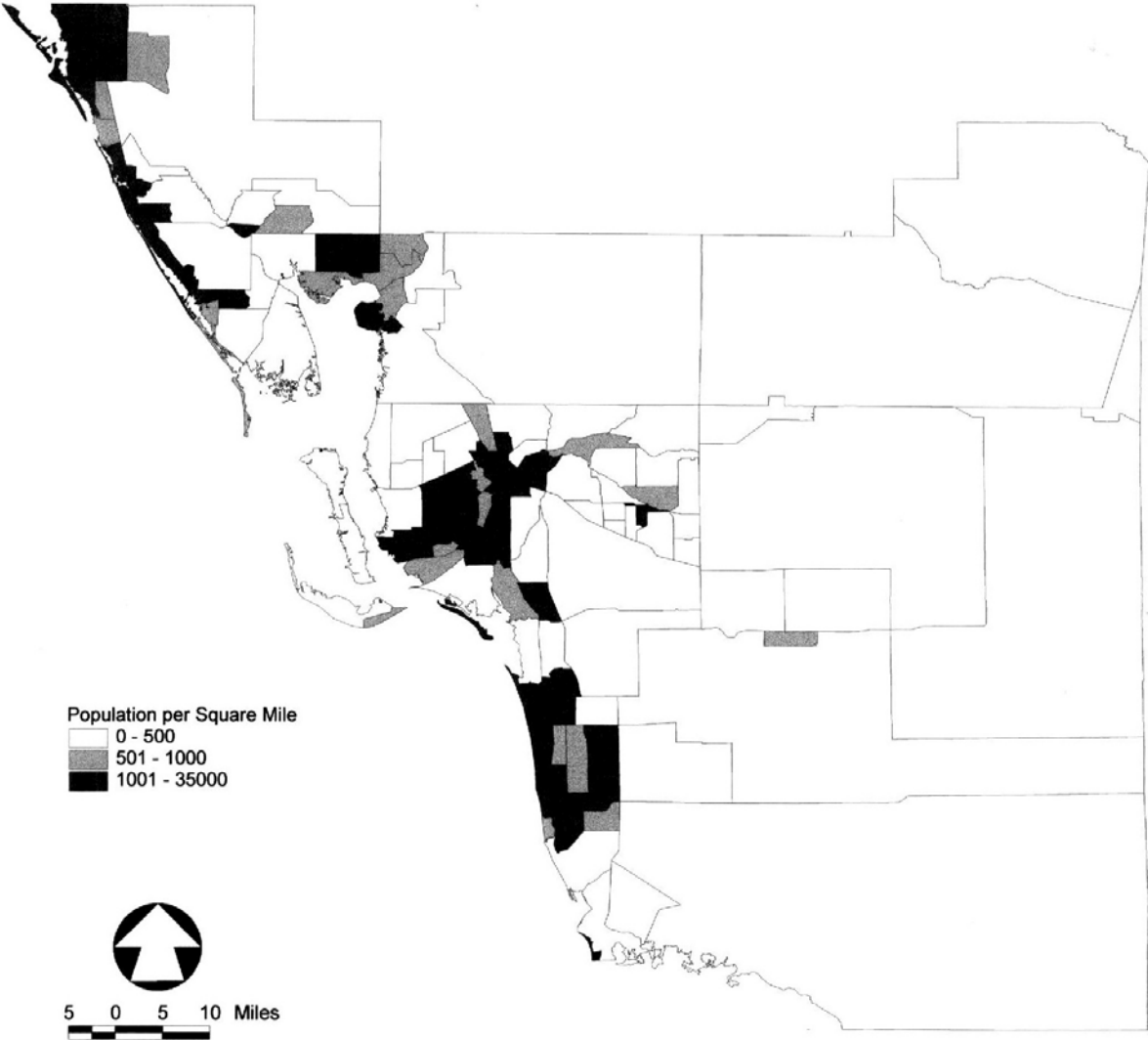
TABLE 5												
CHANGE IN POPULATION, RURAL TO URBAN, 1970-1990												
County	Rural Total			Rural Percent			Urban Total			Urban Percent		
	1970	1980	1990	1970	1980	1990	1970	1980	1990	1970	1980	1990
Charlotte	11,068	22,408	22,024	40.2%	38.3%	19.8%	16,491	36,052	88,951	59.8%	61.7%	80.2%
Collier	12,881	12,252	33,998	33.9%	14.3%	22.4%	25,159	73,719	118,101	66.1%	85.7%	77.6%
Glades	3,669	5,992	7,591	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hendry	7,963	10,711	14,240	67.1%	57.6%	55.3%	3,896	7,888	11,533	32.9%	42.4%	44.7%
Lee	27,388	32,137	46,541	26.0%	15.7%	13.9%	77,828	173,129	288,572	74.0%	84.3%	86.1%
Sarasota	19,913	12,819	18,771	16.5%	6.3%	6.8%	100,500	189,432	259,005	83.5%	93.7%	93.2%
Region	82,882	96,319	143,165	27.0%	16.7%	15.7%	223,874	480,220	766,162	73.0%	83.3%	84.3%

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, Number of Inhabitants, Table 3; U.S. Census of Population, 1990, Summary Tape File 3, Florida, Table 1.

By 1970, almost three-fourths of the Region's population lived in urban areas. The percentage of urban residents climbed to 83.3% by 1980, but increased only 1% over the following decade to 84.3% in 1990. Of the six counties, Sarasota County had the highest concentration of urban population in 1990, while Glades County remained completely rural.

Southwest Florida remains a mosaic of populated and unpopulated areas. Map 2 shows the population density of the entire Region, with the darker shades indicating the areas of denser population.

MAP 2 — POPULATION DENSITY



➤ **AGE/SEX/RACE**

Cohorts

Due to the Region’s attractiveness as a retirement destination, older people make up a larger proportion of the population of Southwest Florida than they do in the state as a whole (see Table 6). 27.4% of the Region's population is age 65 or older. This is significantly higher than the state's 17.6%.

TABLE 6					
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP					
(2000 CENSUS)					
County	0 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
Charlotte	12.8%	7.3%	18.8%	26.4%	34.7%
Collier	16.5%	10.0%	24.6%	24.5%	24.5%
Glades	18.2%	11.5%	27.0%	24.5%	18.8%
Hendry	24.7%	18.6%	28.3%	18.3%	10.1%
Lee	16.4%	9.4%	24.0%	24.8%	25.4%
Sarasota	13.4%	7.8%	21.7%	25.6%	31.5%
Region	15.5%	9.1%	23.0%	24.9%	27.4%
State	19.0%	12.2%	28.6%	22.7%	17.6%

Source: Table DP-1, Profile of General demographic Characteristics: 2000, U.S. Census.

Age distributions vary among the counties in the Region. The over-65 group is the largest segment in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, while Glades and Hendry Counties have proportionately younger populations.

Median Age

In 1970 the median age in the Region was 39.2 years, compared to 32.3 for the state and 28.1 for the nation (Table 7). (“Median age” means that exactly one-half of the population is younger and the other half is older than that number.)

TABLE 7										
MEDIAN AGE										
County	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change			Change		
					1970-80	1980-90	1970-00	1980-90	1980-00	1990-00
Charlotte	58.3	57.3	53.6	54.3	-1.0	-4.7	-4.0	-3.7	-3.0	0.7
Collier	35.2	38.0	40.7	44.1	2.8	5.5	8.9	2.7	6.1	3.4
Glades	27.1	35.5	40.0	40.2	8.4	12.9	13.1	4.5	4.7	0.2
Hendry	25.5	27.5	30.3	29.5	2.0	4.8	4.0	2.8	2.0	-0.8
Lee	39.3	41.3	42.0	45.2	2.0	2.7	5.9	0.7	3.9	3.2
Sarasota	49.6	50.4	49.0	50.5	0.8	-0.6	0.9	-1.4	0.1	1.5
Region	39.2	41.7	42.0	44.0	2.5	2.8	4.8	0.3	2.3	2.0
State	32.3	34.7	36.4	38.7	2.4	4.1	6.4	1.7	4.0	2.3
Nation	28.1	30.0	32.8	35.3	1.9	4.7	7.2	2.8	5.3	2.5

Source: U.S. Census, 1990, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Florida, Table 1; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1993, Table No. 13. 2000 data from Table DP-1, “Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000.” U.S. Census.

During the 1970s, the Region’s median age increased rapidly, reaching 41.7 years by 1980. It increased only slightly to 42.0 years by 1990, although the state and nation increased by a much larger amount during that same decade. Yet the Region’s median age remains higher than the state and nation by 15% and 28%, respectively. Charlotte County remains the oldest county in the region, although its median age declined more than that of any other Southwest Florida county from 1970 to 2000. Hendry County continues to be the only county in the Region with a population younger than the nation as a whole.

Race And Hispanic Origin

The racial composition of the Region has changed little over the last decade. Totals for 1990 and 2000 are found in Tables 8 and 9.

County	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	AM. IND.	OTHER	HISPANIC
Charlotte	110,975	95.0%	3.8%	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	2.5%
Collier	152,099	91.4%	4.6%	0.4%	0.3%	3.3%	13.6%
Glades	7,591	78.9%	12.1%	0.2%	5.7%	3.1%	8.0%
Hendry	25,773	72.1%	16.7%	0.4%	2.1%	8.6%	22.3%
Lee	335,113	91.4%	6.6%	0.6%	0.2%	1.2%	4.5%
Sarasota	277,776	94.6%	4.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	2.1%
Region	909,327	92.2%	5.6%	0.5%	0.3%	1.4%	5.6%
State	12,937,926	83.1%	13.6%	1.2%	0.3%	1.8%	12.2%

Source: U.S. Census, Census of Population: Florida, 1990 CP-1-11.

County	TOTAL	Total One Race	White	Black	Amer. Indian or Alaska Native	Asian, Hawaiian, and Other Pacific	Other Race	Total Two or More Races ¹	Hispanic or Latino ²
Charlotte	141,627	98.9%	92.6%	4.4%	0.2%	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%	3.3%
Collier	251,377	97.8%	86.1%	4.5%	0.3%	0.7%	6.2%	2.2%	19.6%
Glades	10,576	98.4%	77.0%	10.5%	4.9%	0.3%	5.6%	1.6%	15.1%
Hendry	36,210	96.8%	66.1%	14.7%	0.8%	0.5%	14.7%	3.2%	39.6%
Lee	440,888	98.4%	87.7%	6.6%	0.3%	0.8%	3.1%	1.6%	9.5%
Sarasota	325,957	99.0%	92.6%	4.2%	0.3%	0.8%	1.1%	1.0%	4.3%
Region	1,206,635	98.4%	88.5%	5.5%	0.3%	0.8%	3.3%	1.6%	10.4%
State	15,982,378	97.6%	78.0%	14.6%	0.9%	1.7%	3.0%	2.4%	16.8%

1. For the 2000 Census, an individual could report more than one race. That information is available only for the 2000 Census. Thus, in pre-2000 Census data, a person of more than one race was reported as being of only one race. As a result, racial data from earlier Censuses are not strictly comparable with similar data from the 2000 Census.
2. An individual who describes himself as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Source: Table DP-1, “Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000,” U.S. Census.

Within the Region there is a large concentration of white residents in the coastal counties and a higher minority population in the inland counties, reflecting the dominance of the mostly-white retiree population in coastal areas. Charlotte and Sarasota Counties had the highest percentage of white residents in 1990 and 2000. In both 1990 and 2000, Hendry County had the highest percentage of blacks and Glades County had the highest percentage of American Indians. For the same years, the Region had a lower percentage of black residents than the state as a whole, again reflecting the large retiree population. While the black population in the state grew slightly from 1990 to 2000, that of the region declined somewhat.

The Census Bureau does not classify Hispanic origin as a racial distinction. Rather, the census questionnaire asks all Hispanic residents to classify themselves among the five racial categories. Therefore, the Hispanic totals in census tabulations are independent of race. Collier County had the highest total Hispanic population in 1990 and 2000, but Hendry County had the highest *percentage* of Hispanic residents. The Region's percentage of Hispanic residents has increased rapidly in the last decade (from 5.6% in 1990 to 10.4% in 2000). In 1990, the percentage of Hispanic population in the region (5.6%) was less than half that of the state (12.2%). By 2000, however, the regional figure (10.4%) was more than half that of the state (16.8%).

Table 10 illustrates the rapid growth that has occurred in the Hispanic population. From 1980 to 2000, the Hispanic population of the region increased 487%, twice that of the state (212.6%) and significantly more than that of the nation (141.7%). All six Southwest Florida counties have seen growth in the Hispanic population, in both the 1980s and the 1990s.

TABLE 10 HISPANIC ORIGIN, 1980-2000									
County	1980		1990		2000		Changes		
	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino*	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino*	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino*	1980-90	1980-00	1990-00
Charlotte	58,460	708	110,975	2,764	141,627	4,667	290.4%	559.2%	68.8%
Collier	85,971	9,214	152,099	20,734	251,377	49,296	125.0%	435.0%	137.8%
Glades	5,992	325	7,591	605	10,576	1,594	86.2%	390.5%	163.5%
Hendry	18,599	2,401	25,773	5,757	36,210	14,336	139.8%	497.1%	149.0%
Lee	205,266	5,897	335,113	15,094	440,888	42,042	156.0%	612.9%	178.5%
Sarasota	202,251	2,935	277,776	5,882	325,957	14,142	100.4%	381.8%	140.4%
Region	576,539	21,480	909,327	50,836	1,206,635	126,077	136.7%	487.0%	148.0%
State	9,746,324	858,105	12,937,926	1,574,143	15,982,378	2,682,715	83.4%	212.6%	70.4%

*An individual who describes himself as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race

Sources: 1980 data from Table 59, "Persons by Spanish Origin, Race, and Sex: 1980," and Table 62, "General Characteristics: 1980," General Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida, 1980 Census of Population, U. S. Census. 1990 data from Table DP-1, "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," U. S. Census. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census.

➤ **CHANGES IN THE POPULATION**

Birth & Death Rates

All population change is a result of three components: birth, death, or movement (migration). The Region's older population produces the expected lower birth rates and higher death rates per person compared to the state and nation (see Table 11).

TABLE 11								
BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES, 1999								
County	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.				Death Rate per 1,000 pop.			
	Total	White	Black	Other	Total	White	Black	Other
Charlotte	6.9	6.6	14.6	7.9	15.1	15.2	12.6	7.2
Collier	13.0	12.0	30.9	39.5	10.2	10.4	6.8	1.2
Glades	7.6	7.2	5.7	15.7	9.9	10.5	7.2	7.1
Hendry	20.0	19.7	22.7	14.1	7.9	8.4	6.1	2.6
Lee	11.3	10.3	25.6	14.4	12.0	12.3	7.9	2.7
Sarasota	8.2	7.7	17.3	19.8	14.7	15.0	10.2	2.5
Region	10.4	9.6	22.9	18.6	12.6	13.0	8.5	3.3
State	12.8	11.3	21.0	19.3	10.5	11.1	7.9	2.2

Sources: Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 1999, Table B-1, "Resident and Recorded Live Births and Birth Rates per 1,000 Population, by Race of Mother, by County, Florida, 1999" and Table D-1, "Resident and Recorded Deaths and Rates per 1,000 Population, by Race, by County, Florida, 1999."

Birth rates and death rates vary widely across the Region. For example, the Hendry County birth rate for 1999 is over twice that of Charlotte, Glades, and Sarasota Counties. Birth rates are highest for blacks and other races in the Region, as in the entire state. Death rates are highest among the white population in the Region as in the state.

Birth and death rates closely reflect the age of a population. Hendry County, for example, has the lowest median age and the highest birth rate in the Region. Charlotte County has the highest median age and the highest death rate (see Tables 7 and 11 above).

Mortality

Table 12 presents the total number of deaths in the Region and the non-disease and disease-related death rates per 100,000 in population for 1990 and 1999. The majority of deaths in the Region are caused by diseases typically associated with old age. Glades and Hendry Counties had higher non-disease-related death rates than the coastal counties in 1990 and 1999. In both 1990 and 1999, Charlotte, Lee, and Sarasota Counties posted the highest disease-related death rates. The Region exceeded the state's figures for both death rates in 1990 and 1999.

**TABLE 12
NON-DISEASE AND DISEASE-RELATED DEATHS
AND DEATH RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, 1990, 1997, AND 1999**

County	Total Deaths			Non-Disease Related Death Rates ²			Disease-Related Death Rates ¹		
	1990	1997	1999	1990	1997	1999	1990	1997	1999
Charlotte	1,565	2,019	2,073	66.2	50.3	56.6	1394.0	1487.4	1448.8
Collier	1,480	2,036	2,264	76.7	66.0	65.0	877.6	951.9	957.2
Glades	84	100	98	227.8	145.1	121.1	779.4	891.4	867.7
Hendry	216	234	242	110.9	125.4	78.2	687.8	646.7	710.0
Lee	3,731	4,611	5,017	70.0	65.4	74.6	1022.8	1104.1	1121.2
Sarasota	4,025	4,588	4,744	70.0	51.1	66.1	1421.4	1423.9	1405.7
Region	11,101	13,588	14,438	73.4	62.0	68.7	1147.9	1200.2	1196.0
State	133,294	153,830	162,122	67.3	60.1	60.4	940.2	985.5	992.7

1. Includes heart, cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, Alzheimer's, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, nephritis, HIV, septicemia, hypertension, perinatal, congenital, and all other natural causes.

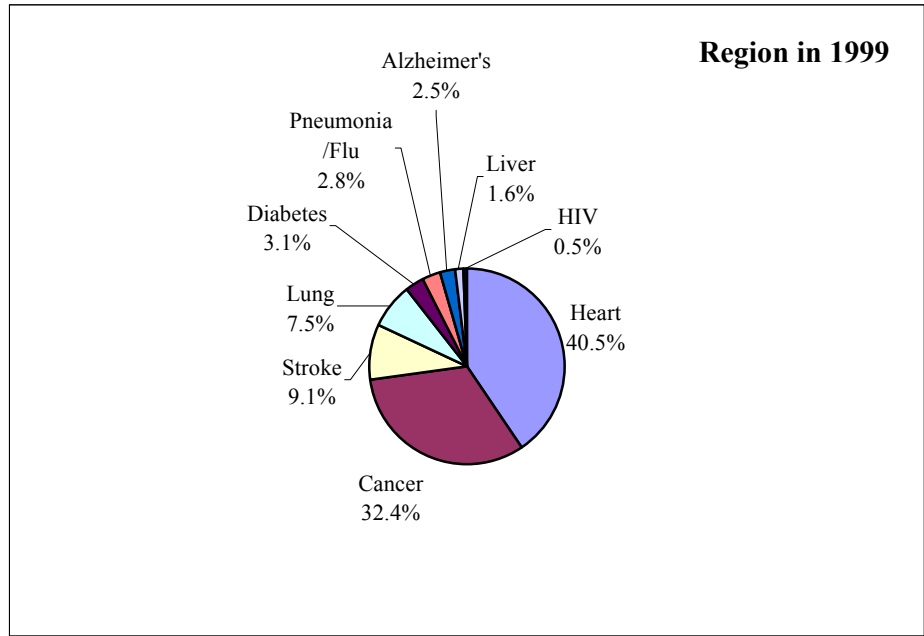
2. Includes accident, suicide, homicide, and all other external causes.

Source for county and state data: Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 1999, Table D-11, "Resident Deaths for Selected Causes, by Age Group, by County, Florida, 1999."

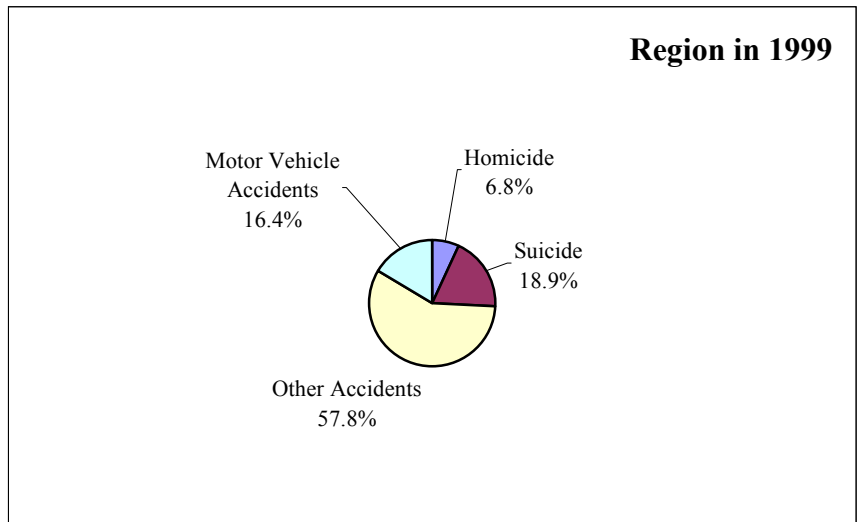
Most of the 13,654 disease-related deaths in 1999 in Southwest Florida were caused by nine groups of diseases (heart disease, cancer, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, Alzheimer's disease, liver disease, and human immunodeficiency virus). In 1999, 11,267 people died in Southwest Florida due to those diseases with 81.9% dying from heart disease, cancer, and stroke (see Figure 4).

Non-disease-related deaths comprise a lesser, but still significant, portion of all deaths. They represented 667 deaths in 1990 in Southwest Florida, increasing to 784 deaths in 1999. Not surprisingly, motor vehicle and other accidents are generally the greatest causes of these types of death (Figure 5).

**FIGURE 4
DISEASE RELATED DEATHS, 1999**



**FIGURE 5
NON-DISEASE-RELATED DEATHS, 1999**



Sources: Table D-11, "Resident Deaths for Selected Causes, by Age Group, by County, Florida, 1999," Florida Vital Statistics 1999, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. Motor vehicle death data from "Resident Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes." Unintentional injury data from "Resident Deaths from Unintentional Injuries." Motor vehicle and unintentional injury data from Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, website, Public Health Indicator Reports, accessed June 19, 2001.

Migration

The Region's population growth has been caused largely by "net migration," which is the surplus of in-migration over out-migration. For the state as a whole, migration caused 82.4% of the population gain since 1990. For the Region, migration caused *all* of the gain. Recent effects of births, deaths, and migration are summarized in Table 13.

County	Natural Increase		Net Migration		Population Increase
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	
Charlotte	-7,358	0.0%	33,156	100.0%	25,798
Collier	6,591	9.8%	60,995	90.2%	67,586
Glades	-29	0.0%	2,305	100.0%	2,276
Hendry	3,313	69.3%	1,466	30.7%	4,779
Lee	1,292	1.6%	80,709	98.4%	82,001
Sarasota	-15,988	0.0%	59,256	100.0%	43,268
Region	-12,179	0.0%	237,887	100.0%	225,708
State	418,994	17.6%	1,964,975	82.4%	2,383,969

Source: Table 2, "Components of Population Change in Florida, by County, April 1, 1990 to April 1, 1999;" in *Florida Estimates of Population 1999*, BEBR, February 2000.

Within Southwest Florida, the six counties vary widely. Hendry County, with the youngest population, owed a larger percentage of its growth to natural increase than any other county. Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, having older populations and thus higher death rates, both required some in-migration just to maintain their 1990 population levels.

A large number of those moving into the Region from other states are from the Northeast and Midwest. In 1990, 18.9% of the Region's residents lived in one of these two areas only five years earlier. In 1980 this figure was 23.0%. The full data, showing wide variations by county, are contained in Table 14.

County	Population ²		North-east		Mid-west		South		West		Abroad		Florida ³	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
Charlotte	56,192	106,202	14.0%	15.3%	14.0%	10.8%	5.4%	4.7%	1.1%	1.6%	1.3%	0.6%	8.3%	10.0%
Collier	81,189	143,129	9.5%	9.4%	12.9%	9.6%	4.7%	6.4%	0.8%	1.6%	1.8%	2.6%	7.2%	7.3%
Glades	5,587	7,133	5.8%	2.2%	8.8%	3.6%	2.0%	4.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	1.4%	26.0%	19.8%
Hendry	17,119	23,581	2.8%	1.3%	3.5%	3.1%	4.6%	5.1%	0.2%	0.8%	1.7%	4.6%	17.5%	15.0%
Lee	194,379	315,388	11.0%	9.4%	13.0%	10.0%	5.6%	5.4%	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	6.4%	6.1%
Sarasota	194,346	265,067	11.3%	8.9%	11.0%	8.0%	4.1%	4.3%	1.1%	1.5%	1.3%	0.8%	6.5%	6.0%
Region	548,812	860,500	10.9%	9.7%	12.1%	9.2%	4.8%	5.1%	1.0%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	7.3%	7.1%

¹ Expressed as a percentage of the population of the current county of residence.

² 5 years and older.

³ Different County, Same state.

Source: U.S. Census, 1980 General Social Economic Characteristics, Florida, 1980 & 1990 Table 174 & 143.

Other parts of Florida also contribute to the Region's population growth. For Southwest Florida, the in-migrants from other regions within Florida represented gains of 7.3% in 1980 and 7.1% in

1990. In 1980 and 1990, Glades and Hendry Counties were more likely than other coastal counties to have new residents who had lived in other Florida counties five years earlier.

➤ **TRANSIENT/SEASONAL POPULATION**

As a tourist and retirement mecca, Southwest Florida experiences significant seasonal variations in population. These fluctuations in population can be attributed to three broad groups: part-time residents (usually in the winter), tourists, and seasonal workers (mostly resort employees and farmworkers). It is very difficult to determine the number of people within each group because of mobility and varying lengths of stay.

Winter Residents

Winter residents, sometimes called "snowbirds," are persons who live in other parts of the country except during the winter. The busiest period for winter residents is from mid-November to mid-April. They may own a second home or condominium here or have a long-term rental arrangement.

During the season, winter residents may increase the Region's population by as much as 22%. Most of this increase occurs in the coastal counties. This estimate is based on a combination of taxable sales, the number of homes held for seasonal use, and a ratio of seasonal households to total households.

Tourists

Tourists can include business travelers and short-term vacationers. Business travelers visit throughout the year, often staying only a few days. Vacationers spend anywhere from a few days to several weeks in the Region. Peak vacation season is now occurring later than in previous years, peaking in mid-winter to early spring.

Visit Florida, the public/private state organization for tourism, publishes annual profiles of vacationing tourists. Data from their 1998 profile appear in Table 15 (Southwest Florida was defined by Visit Florida in 1998 to include Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.) Sarasota County data were included in the Central West region. The region's boundaries were redrawn in 2000 and the new Southwest Region defined by Visit Florida will include Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hendry, Manatee, Lee and Sarasota Counties.) As the data indicate, Southwest Florida receives only 5.9% of the visitors to Florida, compared with 29.5% in the Central region where Disney World is located. The average age and average income of the visitors to the Southwest Florida region is slightly higher than elsewhere in the state. This is probably due to the high number of retirees who visit the region. Although the length of stay of visitors to the region is longer than elsewhere in the state, the average expenditures per person per day of a visitor to Southwest Florida falls in the middle. Finally, the table shows that only 8% of the visitors to the region come for business purposes. This is the smallest percentage of business travelers to any region in the state.

**TABLE 15
VISITORS TO FLORIDA, 1998**

	Central Region	South East	Central West	North West	Central East	North East	South West	North Central
Share	29.5%	18.6%	17.3%	11.9%	8.0%	6.6%	5.9%	2.2%
Average Age	42.7	45.5	45.3	40.7	46.5	44.7	48.1	47.2
Average Income	\$63,200	\$69,500	\$58,800	\$56,300	\$60,000	\$54,500	\$70,700	\$54,700
Average Persons on Trip	2.8	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2
Length of Stay (Nights)	6.4	6.0	6.3	5.5	6.6	4.6	8.4	4.0
Average miles traveled	794	964	776	367	719	516	897	593
Business/Leisure Mix	22%/78%	25%/75%	19%/81%	17%/83%	13%/87%	24%/76%	8%/92%	16%/84%
Expenditures per Person/Day	\$139.80	\$137.00	\$97.30	\$92.40	\$102.60	\$102.60	\$100.90	\$88.00

Source: "Florida Visitor Study," 1998. Visit Florida.

Migrant Farmworkers

Migrant farmworkers are the third group contributing to seasonal population variations in Southwest Florida. Estimates of the migrant farmworker population are provided by two sources. The first is a U.S. Health and Human Services report entitled An Atlas of State Profiles Which Estimate Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Members of Their Families (see Table 16). As defined by this report, migrant farmworkers are individuals who work in agriculture and who temporarily reside in areas other than their normal homes. Their length of stay in an area is determined mostly by the agricultural season.

**TABLE 16
ESTIMATES OF MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS***

County	Atlas 1990		IFAS 1998	
	Migrant Population	Seasonal Population	Migrant Population	Seasonal Population
Charlotte	75	1,281	0	0
Collier	14,202	7,808	19,713	21,903
Glades	503	2,396	1,233	1,370
Hendry	3,958	7,108	6,776	7,529
Lee	6,139	10,322	3,080	3,422
Sarasota	1,220	10,403	N/A	N/A
Region	26,097	39,318	30,802	34,224

*Estimates include farmworkers and their families.

Sources: "An Atlas of State Profiles which Estimate Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Members of their Families," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March, 1990; Farmworkers in Southwest Florida 1998," Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Fritz, Roka.

The Atlas estimated that 26,097 migrant farmworkers and their family members lived in the region in 1990. The Atlas estimated that another 39,318 people were seasonal farmworkers or family members of seasonal farmworkers in the region. Seasonal workers are those that reside in the area year-round, but only work in agriculture during season.

In 1998, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida completed a five-county study entitled Farmworkers in Southwest Florida. This study produced estimates of the migrant and seasonal farmworker population in Southwest Florida during the growing season. Using slightly different definitions, the IFAS study counted anyone who worked seasonally in agriculture as a seasonal worker, whether he/she was a migrant or not. As shown in Table 16, the IFAS study estimated that 34,224 seasonal farmworkers and their family members worked in the five-county area in 1998. Of the 34,224, the IFAS study estimated that 30,802 were migrant farmworkers or family members of migrants.

➤ **HOUSEHOLD NUMBER AND SIZE**

The number of households in Southwest Florida increased 34.4% from 1990 to 2000 (Table 17). (The term "household" refers to one or more persons living together who may or may not be related.) This represents an average annual increase of about 3.4%. This is well below the 6.2% annual growth in households from 1980 to 1990.

TABLE 17					
HOUSEHOLDS					
County	Households			% Change	
	1980	1990	2000	1980-90	1990-00
Charlotte	25,922	48,433	63,864	86.8%	31.9%
Collier	33,966	61,703	102,973	81.7%	66.9%
Glades	2,224	2,885	3,852	29.7%	33.5%
Hendry	5,959	8,402	10,850	41.0%	29.1%
Lee	82,509	140,124	188,599	69.8%	34.6%
Sarasota	88,739	125,493	149,937	41.4%	19.5%
Region	239,319	387,040	520,075	61.7%	34.4%
State	3,744,254	5,134,869	6,337,929	37.1%	23.4%

Note: The population in households is the total population less the population in group quarters. The population in households is needed in order to calculate the average household size for the Region. Sources: 1980 data for households and size from "Number of households and average household size for Florida and its Counties 1999, 1990 and 1980," in Florida Population Studies, Volume 33, Number 1, Bulletin 125, January 2000, BEBR. 1990 data from Table DP-1, "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1), U. S. Census. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census.

The growth of households in the Region was only slightly higher than the population increase (32.7%) from 1990 to 2000. This difference is accounted for by the continuing decrease in the number of persons per household (Table 18). During the period 1990 to 2000, the number of persons per occupied housing unit (average household size) in the Region decreased from 2.30 persons to 2.28.

**TABLE 18
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

County	1980	1990	2000	% Change		
				1980-1990	1980-1990	1990-2000
Charlotte	2.25	2.23	2.18	-0.9%	-3.1%	-2.2%
Collier	2.49	2.41	2.39	-3.2%	-4.0%	-0.8%
Glades	2.69	2.57	2.51	-4.5%	-6.7%	-2.3%
Hendry	3.06	2.99	3.09	-2.3%	1.0%	3.3%
Lee	2.46	2.35	2.31	-4.5%	-6.1%	-1.7%
Sarasota	2.25	2.18	2.13	-3.1%	-5.3%	-2.3%
Region	2.53	2.46	0.97	-3.0%	-4.4%	-1.3%
State	2.55	2.46	2.46	-3.5%	-3.5%	0.0%

Sources: 1980 data for households and size from "Number of households and average household size for Florida and its Counties 1999, 1990 and 1980," in Florida Population Studies, Volume 33, Number 1, Bulletin 125, January 2000, BEBR. 1990 data from Table DP-1, "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1), U. S. Census. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census.

All counties in the Region experienced declines in the number of persons per occupied household in 1990 and 2000. Hendry County was the exception, with a small increase from 1990 to 2000. That county had the largest average household size in 1990 and 2000 while County had the smallest. Household size and age are directly related because most children start their own households after reaching a certain age. Also, older persons may be living alone because they are widows or widowers. The 2000 Census shows that average household size in the state as a whole was unchanged from 1990. For the same period, however, both the Region and the nation experienced declines (1.27% and 1.52%, respectively).

➤ **HOUSEHOLDS OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

Households of special concern are divided into the following groups: large-family households, female heads of household (with no husband present), minority households, and elderly or disabled households. Each type has special needs that distinguish it from other types of households.

Large-family Households

Large-family households include five or more persons. These households require a larger-than-average size home. In 1990, large-family households made up 6.2% of Southwest Florida's households, as shown in Table 19. This was 2.3 percentage points lower than the state's figure of 8.5%. Within the Region, Hendry County had the highest percentage of such households (16.7%), while Sarasota County had the lowest percentage (4.6%).

**TABLE 19
LARGE-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS, 1980 AND 1990***

County	1980		1990	
	Households	Percent	Households	Percent
Charlotte	1,436	5.2%	2,495	5.2%
Collier	3,280	9.6%	4,774	7.7%
Glades	313	13.8%	315	10.9%
Hendry	1,118	18.6%	1,400	16.7%
Lee	7,117	8.6%	9,277	6.6%
Sarasota	5,471	6.2%	5,824	4.6%
Region	18,735	7.8%	24,085	6.2%
State	390,867	10.4%	436,757	8.5%

* Large-family households contain five or more members.

Source: U.S. Census, 1980 & 1990, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Florida, Tables 62 & 171 and Tables 39 & 57.

Female Heads of Household

The number of females acting as the head of a household, without a husband present, comprised 9.4% of all family households in the Region in 1980 (Table 20). By 1990, the number of female-headed households increased slightly to 10.1% of all family households.

**TABLE 20
FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD, 1980 AND 1990***

County	1980			1990		
	Households	% All Families	% Below Poverty Level	Households	% All Families	% Below Poverty Level
Charlotte	1,243	6.3%	20.2%	2,622	7.4%	20.9%
Collier	2,165	8.6%	32.7%	4,161	9.4%	22.0%
Glades	148	8.6%	37.2%	167	7.8%	22.8%
Hendry	614	12.8%	59.6%	1,007	15.3%	41.2%
Lee	6,170	9.8%	27.0%	10,834	10.8%	23.5%
Sarasota	6,325	10.0%	19.8%	8,822	10.4%	18.1%
Region	16,665	9.4%	25.8%	27,613	10.1%	22.0%
State	363,260	13.4%	30.4%	533,410	15.1%	28.4%

*No husband present.

Sources: U.S. Census, 1980 & 1990, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Florida, Tables 72 & 181; Tables 29 and 149.

Within the Region in 1990, this percentage varied from a high of 15.3% in Hendry County to a low of 7.4% in Charlotte County. The Region's proportion of female-headed households was well below the state's figure of 15.1%.

The percentage of female-headed households below the poverty level ranged from 18.1% in Sarasota County to 41.2% in Hendry County in 1990. It is especially important for these households to have access to employment opportunities and affordable transportation and child care.

Elderly and Disabled Households

The Region has a substantially higher proportion of elderly (age 65 or older) than the state as whole. In 1990, 27.4% of the Region's population was elderly, as opposed to 18.3% of the total state population. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of the Region's elderly residents grew 128% (Table 21).

TABLE 21						
ELDERLY POPULATION, 1980, 1990, and 2000						
County	1980		1990		2000	
	Number	% of Pop.	Number	% of Pop.	Number	% of Pop.
Charlotte	19,849	34.0%	37,489	33.8%	49,167	34.7%
Collier	16,391	19.1%	34,583	22.7%	61,513	24.5%
Glades	882	14.7%	1,490	19.6%	1,990	18.8%
Hendry	1,553	8.3%	2,825	11.0%	3,641	10.1%
Lee	45,877	22.4%	83,003	24.8%	112,111	25.4%
Sarasota	60,629	30.0%	89,408	32.2%	102,583	31.5%
Region	145,181	25.2%	248,798	27.4%	331,005	27.4%
State	1,684,763	17.3%	2,369,431	18.3%	2,807,597	17.6%

Sources: "65 and over" 1980 data for Florida from "Resident Population of States (by single year to 85+ and sex): April 1, 1980 Census," release date June 4, 1996, U. S. Bureau of the Census, at <http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/state/stiag/stiag480.txt>. "General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990," in 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1), U. S. Census 1990. 2000 data from Table DP-1, "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000," U. S. Census 2000.

These households have special requirements due to the age or infirmities of the residents. These needs include access to medical facilities, congregate living facilities, and specialized recreational and social services. Households comprised of disabled persons have similar special needs.

Table 22 also shows people who listed some type of a mobility or self-care limitation in the 1990 Census. The data indicate that roughly 4% of the population aged 16-64 had a disability of some type, while 14% of the 65 and older population reported a disability.

TABLE 22				
DISABLED PERSONS, 1990				
County	Persons with mobility or self care limitations (ages 16-64)	Percent of 16-64 Population	Persons with mobility or self care limitations (ages 65 & over)	Percent of 65 & over Population
Charlotte	2,392	4.2%	4,850	13.3%
Collier	2,944	3.3%	3,842	11.3%
Glades	394	8.9%	277	19.0%
Hendry	856	5.5%	529	20.6%
Lee	8,629	4.5%	11,759	14.4%
Sarasota	6,003	4.0%	12,090	14.0%
Region	22,135	4.3%	34,124	13.8%
State	391,826	5.0%	415,062	18.1%

Source: U.S. Census, 1990, Social and Economic Characteristics, Tables 34 & 140.

Very Low and Low Income Households

Very low and low income households constitute households of special concern through their inability to meet housing costs and also the general cost of living. “Very-low income” and “low-income” persons are defined as those living in households with incomes less than 80% of the area's median income (based on the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's analysis of 1990 census data).

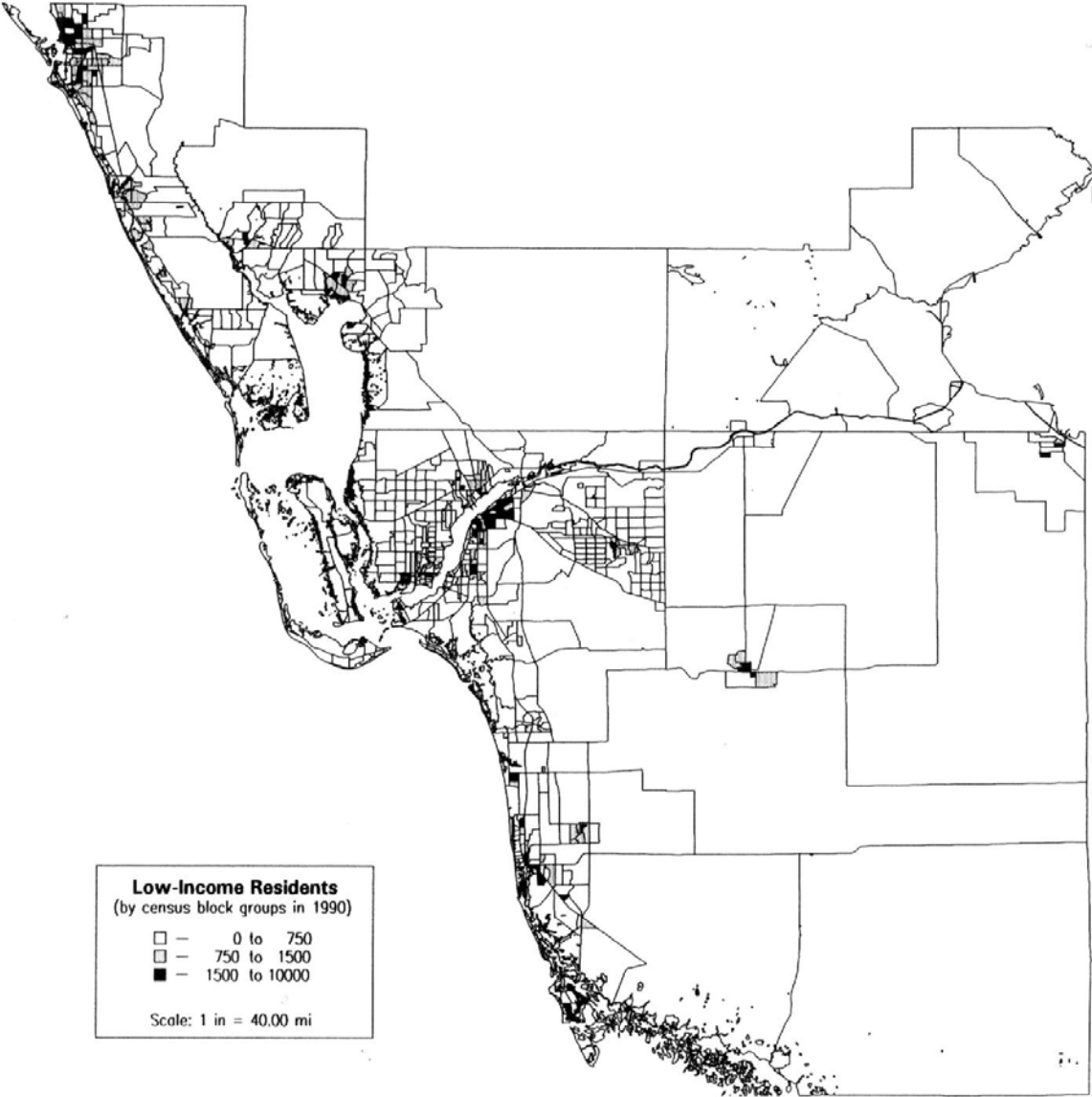
Although the median household income of each county in the Region approximately doubled from 1979 to 1989, very low and low income households still represented a significant portion of the Region's households in 1990 (Table 23). Collier, Glades, and Hendry Counties maintained the largest percentages of very low income households. Charlotte, Glades, and Lee Counties had the highest percentages of low income households.

County	Very Low Income				Low Income			
	Number		% of Households		Number		% of Households	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
Charlotte	5,069	10,287	19.5%	21.2%	4,438	10,914	17.1%	22.5%
Collier	7,875	17,233	23.1%	28.0%	5,583	12,012	16.4%	19.5%
Glades	483	823	21.3%	28.6%	441	661	19.4%	23.0%
Hendry	1,526	2,299	25.4%	27.3%	913	1,575	15.2%	18.7%
Lee	16,574	28,868	20.0%	20.6%	14,214	28,576	17.2%	20.4%
Sarasota	18,495	25,366	20.8%	20.2%	15,791	18,459	17.8%	14.7%
Region	50,022	84,876	21.7%	21.9%	41,380	72,197	17.2%	18.6%

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1980, Table 180. & U.S. Census of Population, 1990, Selected Social Characteristics, Florida, Table 3; SWFRPC Staff calculations.

Those in the lower income ranges often live in fairly concentrated areas, usually where the housing stock is older and of lower quality. Map 3 shows the areas of concentration of very-low and low-income persons.

MAP 3 - LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS



➤ **EDUCATION**

As the population of Southwest Florida grows, the demand on schools also grows. Table 24 shows that the number of students enrolled in the Region's public schools from 1985 to 1999 increased 66.5%, compared to 49.1% in the state as a whole. While the rate of growth has slowed over the last three decades, it still is higher than the state's. For the 1995-99 period, Collier County experienced the largest percentage increase (22.6%) while Hendry County saw an increase of only 7.6%. Collier County also had the largest numerical increase, with 5,785 additional students.

TABLE 24								
ENROLLED STUDENTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS K-12								
County	1985	1990	1995	1998	% Change			
					1985-99	1985-90	1990-95	1995-99
Charlotte	8,101	11,700	15,143	16,313	101.4%	58.2%	18.2%	7.7%
Collier	15,819	19,260	25,548	31,333	98.1%	29.7%	24.5%	22.6%
Glades	900	860	1,022	1,110	23.3%	-4.3%	18.7%	8.6%
Hendry	5,058	5,555	6,841	7,358	45.5%	13.2%	19.5%	7.6%
Lee	33,821	41,058	49,627	54,800	62.0%	26.3%	16.2%	10.4%
Sarasota	23,345	27,122	30,432	34,003	45.7%	17.6%	10.9%	11.7%
Region	87,044	105,555	128,613	144,917	66.5%	26.5%	16.8%	12.7%

Sources: Profiles of Florida School Districts, 1985-86 (1985), 1990-91 (1990), 1995-96 (1995), and 1999-2000 (1999). Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services. The 1985 figure for Florida is from Florida Statistical Abstract 1987, Table 4.02, "Public Elementary and Secondary Schools: Specified Student Data in Florida, 1983-84 through 1986-87."

Table 25 illustrates educational attainment for persons aged 25 and over. The data below shows that 33% of that group in Southwest Florida had a high school diploma in 1990, while 12% had a bachelor's degree. The high school diploma percentage is similar to that for the state as a whole (30.1%) and identical to the college degree percentage. Within Southwest Florida in 1990, Collier and Sarasota Counties had the highest percent of graduates with bachelor's degrees or master's degrees or higher.

TABLE 25					
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 1990					
County	Persons 25 yrs & Over	High School Graduate or higher	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree or higher
Charlotte	87,427	75.7%	5.5%	8.2%	5.2%
Collier	110,308	79.0%	5.9%	14.8%	7.4%
Glades	5,198	57.4%	3.6%	0.0%	2.7%
Hendry	15,027	56.6%	4.0%	6.8%	3.2%
Lee	245,559	76.9%	5.7%	10.7%	5.7%
Sarasota	217,375	81.1%	6.4%	14.0%	7.9%
Region	680,894	77.9%	5.9%	0.1%	6.6%
State	8,887,168	74.4%	6.6%	12.0%	6.3%
Nation	158,868,436	75.2%	6.2%	13.1%	7.2%

Source: Table DP-2, "Social Characteristics: 1990," (Educational Attainment), 1990 Summary Tape File 3 (STF 3), U. S. Census.

➤ **CRIME****Crime Rate**

Crime rates have shown an overall decline in the last two decades (Table 26). From 1980 to 1990, crime rates in the region declined 7.1%, while the state rate grew 1.8%. For that period, only two Southwest Florida counties (Hendry and Sarasota) had increases in the crime rate. From 1990 to 2000, the decline continued with greater strength. All six Southwest Florida Counties experienced decreases over the 1990 rates. Overall, the Region's crime rate per 100,000 persons decreased 18.4% from 1990 to 2000, while the state's figure dropped 34.4%.

County	Rate			% Change	
	1980	1990	2000	1980-90	1990-00
Charlotte	3,352.9	2,809.9	2,327.9	-16.2%	-17.2%
Collier	7,883.9	6,335.0	3,959.8	-19.6%	-37.5%
Glades	4,713.7	3,522.9	3,337.7	-25.3%	-5.3%
Hendry	5,100.1	5,303.9	4,266.8	4.0%	-19.6%
Lee	5,301.1	5,159.8	4,838.4	-2.7%	-6.2%
Sarasota	6,574.0	7,446.0	4,201.3	13.3%	-43.6%
Region	5,487.6	5,096.3	4,158.1	-7.1%	-18.4%
State	8,387.8	8,539.4	5,604.3	1.8%	-34.4%

*Per 100,000 population.

Sources: 1980 data from the Florida Statistical Abstract 1981, Table 22.05, "Criminal Offenses: Crime Index Offenses, Crime Rates, Percentage of Offenses Cleared, Number of Victims in the State, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) Counties, and NonSMSA Counties in Florida, 1980." 1990 and 2000 data from Florida Department of Law Enforcement website (www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC), "Total Index Crime for Florida by County and Offense," accessed June 1, 2001.

Arrests

From 1990 to 2000, arrest rates increased in Southwest Florida (4.4%), while in the state, the arrest rate declined 4.0% (Table 27). Within the Region, Collier and Lee Counties had the largest increases. Glades and Hendry Counties had the highest arrest rates in 1990, as well as in 2000. Hendry and Sarasota Counties had the highest rates in 1995.

TABLE 27						
ARRESTS						
County	1990		1995		2000	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Charlotte	4,966	4,673.1	3,498	2,740.4	3,642	2,571.5
Collier	6,673	4,340.2	8,518	4,567.2	13,494	5,368.0
Glades	495	5,951.7	377	4,408.8	706	6,675.5
Hendry	2,214	8,240.6	2,347	7,956.7	2,535	7,000.8
Lee	12,242	3,617.3	13,743	3,648.2	20,489	4,647.2
Sarasota	13,919	5,273.5	17,051	5,727.2	15,777	4,915.8
Region	40,509	4,513.2	45,534	4,435.3	56,643	4,713.9
State	756,750	5,754.7	726,240	5,132.7	882,859	5,524.0

*Per 100,000 population.

Note: The formula for the arrest rate is the number of arrests divided by population multiplied by 100,000. Compare changes in the rate of arrests, not the number of arrests. This is because the rate incorporates changes in population --while the number of arrests does not.

Sources: 1990, 1995, and 2000 crime data from Florida Department of Law Enforcement, "Part I Arrests by County." The population numbers are from Florida Department of Law Enforcement, "Florida's Crime Rate, 1960-2000." Both from the FDLE website (www.fdle.state.fl.us.FSAC), accessed June 1, 2001.

When arrests are compared to population for the period 1990-2000, the Region has shown a slight increase (Table 28). The state has had a slight decrease. In 1990, arrests were 4.5% of population in Southwest Florida, compared to 5.8% in the state. By 2000, those numbers had changed to 4.7% and 5.5%, respectively. Charlotte County had the lowest percentage (2.6%) of the six counties. Glades and Hendry Counties had the highest.

TABLE 28			
ARRESTS AND POPULATION			
County	As a % of Population		
	1990	1995	2000
Charlotte	4.7%	2.7%	2.6%
Collier	4.3%	4.6%	5.4%
Glades	6.0%	4.4%	6.7%
Hendry	8.2%	8.0%	7.0%
Lee	3.6%	3.6%	4.6%
Sarasota	5.3%	5.7%	4.9%
Region	4.5%	4.4%	4.7%
State	5.8%	5.5%	5.5%

Source: Derived from Table 27.

Adult and Juvenile Arrests

In 2000, most arrests made in the Region—involved adults (Table 29), as was true for the state overall. Sarasota and Glades Counties had the highest percentage of adult arrests, while Collier had the highest percentage of juvenile arrests.

TABLE 29					
ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS, 2000					
County	Total Arrests	Adult		Juvenile	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Charlotte	3,642	3,016	82.8%	626	17.2%
Collier	13,494	10,826	80.2%	2,668	19.8%
Glades	706	662	93.8%	44	6.2%
Hendry	2,535	2,258	89.1%	277	10.9%
Lee	20,489	17,237	84.1%	3,252	15.9%
Sarasota	15,777	14,492	91.9%	1,285	8.1%
Region	56,643	48,491	85.6%	8,152	14.4%
State	882,859	757,877	85.8%	124,982	14.2%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement website (www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC), "Part I Arrests by County," accessed June 1, 2001.

Types of Crimes

The crime index is a basic measure of crime used by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to gauge the volume, fluctuation, and distribution of crime. The seven crimes in this index are murder, forcible sex, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. These crimes were selected as an index on the basis of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence, and the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies. The crime index represents the number of crimes that comes to the attention of law enforcement agencies, not the number of arrests or convictions. As a result, changes in the crime rates may reflect a higher or lower number of reports to law enforcement officials - rather than an actual increase or decrease in crime.

Index crime for Southwest Florida in 2000 is listed in Table 30. The Region and the state show proportionately the same rates among the seven crimes in the index. Both in the region and the state, property crimes constituted the majority of crimes.

**TABLE 30
INDEX CRIME, 2000**

County	Total Crime Index	Murder		Forcible Sex		Robbery		Aggravated Assault		Burglary		Larceny		Motor Vehicle Theft	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Charlotte	3,297	3	0.09%	19	0.58%	44	1.3%	246	7.5%	755	22.9%	1,943	58.9%	287	8.7%
Collier	9,954	13	0.13%	202	2.03%	208	2.1%	955	9.6%	2,186	22.0%	5,820	58.5%	570	5.7%
Glades	353	0	0.00%	3	0.85%	9	2.5%	20	5.7%	117	33.1%	183	51.8%	21	5.9%
Hendry	1,545	5	0.32%	34	2.20%	82	5.3%	150	9.7%	454	29.4%	659	42.7%	161	10.4%
Lee	21,332	16	0.08%	351	1.65%	821	3.8%	1,412	6.6%	4,282	20.1%	11,570	54.2%	2,880	13.5%
Sarasota	13,484	12	0.09%	179	1.33%	286	2.1%	1,003	7.4%	2,584	19.2%	8,741	64.8%	679	5.0%
Region	49,965	49	0.10%	788	1.58%	1,450	2.9%	3,786	7.6%	10,378	20.8%	28,916	57.9%	4,598	9.2%
State	895,708	890	0.10%	12,388	1.38%	31,392	3.5%	83,371	9.3%	170,131	19.0%	509,616	56.9%	87,920	9.8%

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement website (www.fdle.state.fl.us.FSAC), Total Index Crime for Florida by County and Offense, 1999 and 2000, accessed June 1, 2001.

From 1999 to 2000, the region saw a small increase (3.2%) in the number of crimes, while the state overall experienced a small decrease (4.1%). The number of index crimes increased in Charlotte, Lee, and Sarasota Counties. Sarasota County experienced the largest percentage increase, while Lee County had the largest increase in the number of index crimes.

➤ **SUMMARY**

As this section indicates, the Southwest Florida Region has experienced substantial population growth over the past 100 years. The majority of the population growth has resulted from migration of retirees who moved to the area to enjoy the warm weather and ideal climate. As a result, the retiree influx has produced a population that is primarily white and generally older than the state as a whole. The next section examines the economy of the Region and the economic impact wealthy retirees have produced.

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