

Section 1 Conclusions

- § The city's population grew by a healthy 6.5% between 1990 and 2000.
- § Current projections predict that growth will continue and the city's population will exceed 50,000 by 2010.
- § Middletown has a relatively young population with a median age of 36.
- § The baby boomers comprise a significant portion of the population. As that generation ages, the city will need to begin planning for this aging population. For Instance,
- Zoning- Currently all of Middletown's Residential Zones allow for accessory apartments but not for many mixed use neighborhoods. Scholars believe that the elderly will either continue to live in their living environment and/or move in with relatives. Mixed-use zones will allow for elderly services in neighborhoods that are densely populated by the elderly.
 - Better Accessibility- One of the major concerns is that of transportation and walkways. Larger street signs, maintained walkways, and better transportation services will increase the quality of life for the elderly.
 - At home commodities- Business that can cater to in home commodities such as grab bars and wider doorways will become a demand in an aging city.
- § There are very significant and troubling disparities within the city. The downtown census tracts are losing population at alarming rates and the areas on the outskirts of town are growing faster than the city as a whole.
- § The median income in the census tracts in and around the downtown are significantly lower than the areas on the outskirts.
- § Downtown census tracts experienced virtually no growth in median income between 1990 and 2000 while the areas on the outskirts increased significantly.
- § The downtown census tract 5416 has a level of poverty similar to that found in the poorest neighborhoods in Connecticut's largest cities.
- § To be truly successful, Middletown needs to reverse the decline in its urban core and raise the incomes in census tract 5416.