

Population Trends

Settlement of the area now known as Minnehaha County began in 1856 when the Western Town Company of Dubuque, Iowa acquired 320 acres of land in what is now Sioux Falls. By 1860 the United States Census reported that Sioux Falls City in Dakota Territory had a population of 38 and that the area "on the Sioux River" in the territory had 34 residents. From this early period to the present, the county has experienced steady population growth except during the depression of 1890.

Population has historically been concentrated within Sioux Falls, comprising over one-half of the county population since 1920. By 1990 this share had increased to over 80 percent.

The combined population of the small cities remained fairly constant from 1920 to 1970 at approximately 5,000 persons. By 1980, the population of the small cities nearly doubled as two more areas incorporated. Today nearly 90 percent of the total county population resides within one of the municipalities.

Rural population trends have been influenced by several factors - - farm consolidation, city annexations and municipal incorporation. Even with a dramatic increase in housing construction within the rural sector, population actually decreased due to annexation of fringe developments around Sioux Falls and the incorporation of Crooks and Brandon. After reaching a high of over 17,600 residents in 1980, the rural population declined to just under 13,000 by 1990. The estimated 1997 rural population was 15,100 persons.

Recent county growth trends have been impressive, reaching an estimated population of 143,000 persons in 1997, 15.5 percent above the 1990 Census figure of 123,809. As expected, Sioux Falls contributed significantly to the population increase. The 1997 estimated Sioux Falls population was 113,600. An additional 3,900 city residents lived in Lincoln County, pushing the total Sioux Falls population to 117,500. Nearly 80 percent of the 1997 county population lived in Sioux Falls.

FIGURE 1

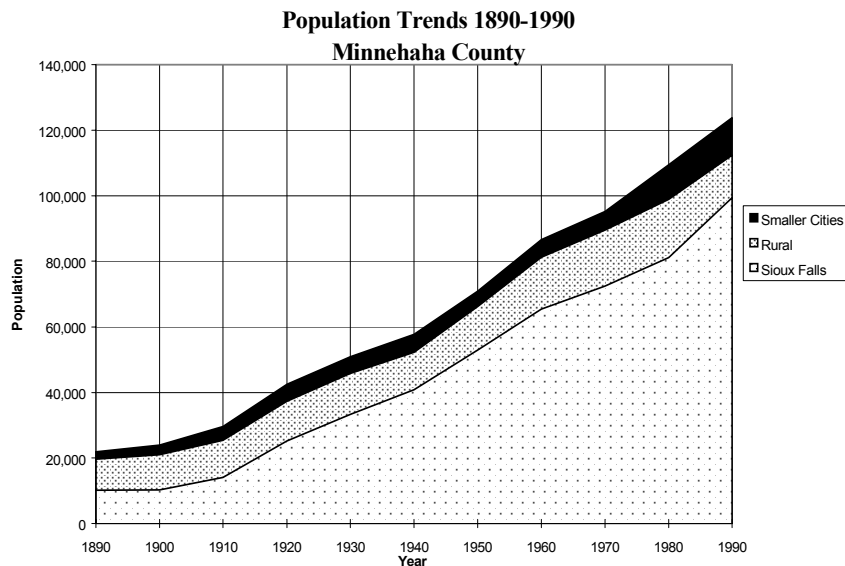


TABLE 1

**Population and Housing Data - 1990
Minnehaha County**

<u>Townships</u>	<u>Housing Units</u>			<u>Population</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>% Vacant</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Group Quarters</u>	<u>Persons per Occupied Unit</u>
Benton	200	193	3.5	630	49	3.01
Brandon	217	206	5.1	612		2.97
Buffalo	86	80	7.0	238		2.98
Burk	102	99	3.0	306		3.09
Clear Lake	68	60	11.8	175		2.92
Dell Rapids	117	115	1.7	338		2.94
Edison	122	114	6.6	346		3.04
Grand Meadow	94	90	4.2	268		2.98
Hartford	173	164	5.2	542		3.30
Highland	64	61	4.7	164		2.69
Humboldt	105	101	3.8	318		3.15
Logan	98	92	6.1	277		3.01
Lyons	210	191	9.0	559		2.93
Mapleton	630	614	2.5	1,686		2.75
Palisade	95	89	6.3	276		3.10
Red Rock	113	109	3.5	342		3.14
Split Rock	715	699	2.2	2,137		3.06
Sverdrup	218	209	4.1	614		2.94
Taopi	115	111	3.5	347		3.13
Valley Springs	112	102	8.9	275		2.70
Wall Lake	305	280	8.2	863		3.08
Wayne	435	423	2.8	1,307		3.09
Wellington	101	97	4.0	304		3.13
Township Total	4,495	4,299	4.4	12,924	49	2.99
<u>Municipalities</u>						
Baltic	249	231	7.2	666		2.88
Brandon	1,143	1,120	2.0	3,543		3.16
Colton	284	269	5.3	657		2.44
Crooks	215	207	3.7	671		3.24
Dell Rapids	955	918	3.9	2,484	118	2.58
Garretson	380	361	5.0	924	77	2.35
Hartford	465	450	3.2	1,262		2.80
Humboldt	188	179	4.8	468		2.61
Sherman	29	27	6.9	66		2.44
Sioux Falls	41,095	39,354	4.2	99,405	4,161	2.42
Valley Springs	282	266	5.7	739		2.78
Municipal Total	45,285	43,382	4.7	110,885	4,356	2.46
County Total	49,780	47,681	4.2	123,809	4,405	2.50

Source: U. S. Bureau of Census

Population History 1890-1990 Minnehaha County

Census Year	Sioux Falls	Rural	Smaller Cities	Total County	Incorporated Since Previous Census	Dissolved Since Previous Census
1890	10,177	9,483	2,219	21,879		
1900	10,266	10,748	2,912	23,926	Hartford, South Sioux Falls	Rowena
1910	14,094	11,300	4,237	29,631	Baltic, Colton , Sherman	
1920	25,202	12,104	5,184	42,490	Humboldt	East Sioux Falls
1930	33,362	12,404	5,106	50,872		
1940	40,832	11,399	5,466	57,697		
1950	52,969	13,219	4,722	70,910		
1960	65,466	15,803	5,306	86,575		South Sioux Falls
1970	72,488	17,059	5,662	95,209		
1980	81,182	17,687	10,566	109,435	Brandon, Crooks	
1990	99,405	12,924	11,480	123,809		

The "smaller cities" population for 1890 included Dell Rapids, East Sioux Falls, Garretson, Rowena and Valley Springs.

The "smaller cities" population for 1990 included Baltic, Brandon, Colton, Crooks, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Hartford, Humboldt, Sherman and Valley Springs.