

## **NESDEC Process for Enrollment Study**

NESDEC has been asked by the Sunapee School District to complete an enrollment study and projection.

In preparing the demographic component of Sunapee District study, NESDEC reviewed:

- Population and housing data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Birth data provided by the New Hampshire Department of Public Health
- Existing home sales statistics and other related information made available by local realtors
- A regional and New Hampshire analysis produced by the New England Economic Partnership
- Information on Sunapee residential housing provided by the Sunapee Zoning/Planning Department and local realtors
- Analyzed District enrollment data supplied by the District and the New Hampshire Department of Education
- Numbers of Nonresident students or tuition students

## **DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

### **Population Trends**

#### **The Outlook for Population Growth**

##### **National and Regional Factors Affecting the Size and Nature of Population Growth**

- On the national level, the “Baby Boomer” generation has begun turning 65 years of age at the rate of 10,000 per day, and this is projected to continue for the next 13 years! The most recent economic outlook analysis of the New England Economic Partnership’s 2015 Fall Conference noted that New Hampshire, like other areas of New England, is experiencing declining rates of in-migration.
- New England Economic Partnership – New Hampshire Economic Outlook Private services employment in New Hampshire is projected to increase by an average of 2% per year over the next 2 years.

##### **Data Related to the Population of Sunapee**

###### **General Population**

- In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Sunapee had a total population of 3,365. According to the Census Bureau’s 2015 Estimate Report, the Sunapee population had remained fairly constant, totaling 3,363.

- The 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate indicated that the Sunapee's age 55 and over population totaled approximately 2,793 people (48.7% of the total population), while the under age 18 estimate equaled 570 people (approximately 17% of the total population).
- The estimated Median Age in Sunapee in 2014 was 49 years.

## **Factors Affecting the Sunapee District's Population Growth**

### Births

- According to data provided by the New Hampshire Department of Public Health, the average number of births to residents of Sunapee District declined during the period from 2000 to 2014.
- Between 2000 and 2006, District births averaged 26 per year, while the average District birth rate during the 2007 to 2014 period was 22 per year.

### Residential Construction

- Government officials and realtors indicate that in recent years there has been significantly less new home construction, as compared to the housing boom years.
- Data provided by HUD indicates that the average yearly number of single-family permits issued in 2011-2014 was 15. During the housing boom peak year of 2005, Sunapee single family permits totaled 44.
- The Zoning/Planning Office has reported that there are no major subdivisions approved or in the approval pipeline.

### Existing Home Sales

- Local realtors indicate that although there has been an increase in residential housing sales compared to the period of the housing downturn, sales volume is still low compared to the boom years. They also noted that many of the sales involve vacation homes on the lake, rather than permanent residences.
- Most condominiums in the area are vacation homes and few are permanent residences.
- Many in-migrants are reported to be in the over 55 age group. Realtors indicate that the lack of significantly expanding job availability in the SAU #85 region is a factor that affects the in-migration of families with school-aged children.