

COMMUNITY CENSUS STATISTICS

The Census statistics are more than mere numbers; they update and inform us more about ourselves and our community. Here are some observations:

- Lincoln County is one of the fastest growing counties in Maine, growing at 10.7%, over 2½ times the population growth in Maine generally for the last decade (3.8%), but slightly below the national average of 13.1%.
- Lincoln County has the largest percentage of people in Maine aged 65 and older, (18.2%) as contrasted with Maine's 14.4%, both well above the national average of 12.4%.
- Lincoln County's median age is 42.6, also the highest in the state, above Maine's average median age of 38.6. We are the "grayest" county in the fourth grayest state.
- Our home ownership rate in Lincoln County is an incredible 83.0%, well above the Maine average of 71.6%, and the national average of 66.2%.
- Lincoln County has the smallest percentage of renters (17.0%) in the state. The county with the second lowest percentage of renters is Waldo County, at 20.2%. Statewide, renters comprise 28.4% of the population, which is considered very low and unacceptable for growth. The problem is accentuated here in Lincoln County more than any other. Both year-round and seasonal workers are forced out due to skyrocketing rents and home sale prices and few affordable places to live.
- Lincoln County is tied with Piscataquis County for the county with the lowest percentage of children under the age of five, at 4.8%, with the general population of Maine having only 5.5% of the children under the age of five. This is the smallest percentage of any state in the country, even lower than Florida! In 1960, 11.2% of the Maine population was under the age of five. Even in 1990, 7% of Maine's population was under the age of five. These are items of concern for growth, both short term and long term. Schools, which have not increased significantly in population for over 100 years in the Boothbay Region, will probably see a decline over the next two decades.
- Lincoln County's median household money income is \$35,696, slightly above the state average of \$33,140, and slightly below the national average of \$37,500.

Lincoln County does well with persons below the poverty levels, at 9.6%, lower than the state average of 10.7%, and even lower than the national average of 13.3%. Similarly, 15.5% of the children in Lincoln County are below the poverty level, slightly in excess of the statewide average of 14.9% but below the national average of 19.9%. Our food pantries will continue to be an important service, fulfilling a critical need.