

2. Population and Housing

Population and housing are two key indicators that will help Burnett County and its communities plan ahead for future growth and change. Population and housing should be considered together, as community housing needs vary based on the diversity of age groups, income levels, household sizes, and accessibility needs. This element of the comprehensive plan provides an inventory and analysis of the existing population and housing base and provides population and housing projections for the future of Burnett County.

Population data can aid in the understanding of potential changes in supply and demand with respect to housing, community facilities and services, utilities, transportation, jobs, and associated land development. Understanding housing data helps to identify issues and trends related to something in which everyone in Burnett County holds a stake – the places they live. Housing costs are the single largest expenditure for most Burnett County residents, and for homeowners, their home is likely their most valuable asset. The physical location of housing impacts the quality and cost of providing community services and facilities. The programs and actions of local governments can influence the housing market who chooses to locate in a community, and patterns of land use. Therefore, population and housing should be considered when making decisions concerning the future conservation and development of Burnett County.

2000 Census

A significant amount of information, particularly with regard to population, housing, and economic development, was obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. There are two methodologies for data collection employed by the Census, STF-1 (short form) and STF-3 (long form). STF-1 data was collected through a household by household census and represents responses from every household in the country. To get more detailed information, the U.S. Census Bureau also randomly distributes a long form questionnaire to 1 in 6 households throughout the nation. Tables that use this sample data are indicated as STF-3 data. It should be noted that STF-1 and STF-3 data may differ for similar statistics, due to survey limitations, non-response, or other attributes unique to each form of data collection.

It should also be noted that some STF-3 based statistics represent estimates for a given population, and statistical estimation errors may be readily apparent in data for smaller populations. For example, the total number of housing units will be identical for both STF-1 statistics and STF-3 statistics when looking at the County as a whole – a larger population. However, the total number of housing units may be slightly different between STF-1 statistics and STF-3 statistics when looking at a single community within Burnett County – a smaller population.