

Extending the Lesson
Indianapolis and Unigov

After reading the article on pages 75A – 75B, answer the follow questions.

1. How did the population trends in the 1950s and 1960s impact the city?

2. How did World War Two impact the population of Indianapolis?

3. How did the schools react?

4. What role did population play in the 1970s governmental merger?

5. Why did many feel it was necessary for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County to merge?

6. What impact did the merger have on Indianapolis population data?

7. What has been the continuing impact on the area?

8. What impact have population trends had on Indianapolis since the 1970s?

FOCUS ON INDIANAPOLIS: What does analysis of Indianapolis's population trends tell us about the development of the community over time?

Population trends have lasting impacts on communities. The population trends in Indianapolis have impacted the city's development, employment patterns, cultural diversity, schools, and environment.

How did population trends in the 1950s and 1960s impact the city?

Mobilization for-war production during World War II created nearly 19 million new jobs in the United States. Many of the new jobs were in cities like Indianapolis, and thousands of people migrated to urban centers in search of better jobs. African Americans moved in large numbers from the rural South to the industrial North to fill these new jobs. While Indianapolis's general population increased by 10.4 percent from 1940 to 1950, its African American population increased by nearly 30 percent, greatly increasing the city's diversity.

Population growth in Indianapolis, like many other cities after World War II, is also explained by the phenomenon known as the "baby boom," which occurred from 1945 to 1961. During this period, more than 65 million children were born in the United States. This rapid increase in population required public services, including public school systems, to respond.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) made numerous modifications to accommodate the growth in student enrollment. As the city's school-age population grew, IPS constructed three new high schools in a seven-year span. IPS also had to allow for Indianapolis's growing African American population. Like many other large cities of the time, African American students were subject to racial segregation. One school, Crispus Attucks High School,

enrolled only African American students. In 1971 a U.S. District Court found IPS guilty of *de jure* segregation, or segregation by law, because enrollment boundaries had been drawn on the basis of race. In reaction to the ruling, thousands of students were bused to schools throughout the city in an effort to desegregate the district.

What role did population play in the 1970s governmental merger?

By the 1960s, Indianapolis had grown to encompass much of Marion County. During this period, city officials began to realize that the city and county governments were duplicating efforts. The overlap caused inefficiency and wasted a great deal of money. To resolve this problem, Mayor Richard G. Lugar, along with other city officials, created plans to merge the governments of the City of Indianapolis and Marion County.

The Indiana General Assembly made the plan official on January 1, 1970, and formed a new consolidated government called Unigov. As a result, Indianapolis extended its boundaries to include all of Marion County, increasing the city's population by fifty percent. (Notice the dramatic population growth in 1970 in the population trends chart.) Unigov combined the Indianapolis City Council and Marion County Council to form the City-County Council, and divided itself into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, similar to those of the federal government.

Many experts believe that consolidation of the two governments has improved economic development in the region and reduced inequalities between city and suburban residents. Although most experts believe that Unigov has reduced the costs of government, it did not lead to lower taxes. It also limited citizens' choices. Before the merger, residents could move to another part of Marion County if they did not like the services provided by the Indianapolis government.

In 2005 the City-County Council approved a plan to merge the Indianapolis Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department. As a result of the merger, in 2007 the Indianapolis Municipal Police Department was formed, furthering governmental efficiency and potentially saving the region millions of dollars.

Indianapolis Population Trends Over the Decades

Year	Population	Percent Change
1950	427,173	10.4%
1960	476,258	11.5%
1970	744,624	56.3%
1980	700,807	-5.9%
1990	731,327	4.4%
2000	781,870	6.9%
2006	785,597	0.47%

Source: United States Census Bureau.

What impact have population trends had on Indianapolis since 1970?

While Unigov caused the 1970 census to show a large increase in Indianapolis's population, the 1980 census showed a slight decline. This decline is most likely because of the decentralization of the city's core population to the less densely populated suburbs in surrounding counties. Because it was primarily the wealthiest individuals who moved to the suburbs, outside the Unigov area, the city began to lose tax revenue. Loss of revenue threatened the availability of some city services.

Indianapolis's population rebounded in the 1990s, however, as a result of economic revitalization efforts in the downtown area. Revitalization of the downtown has helped generate additional revenue for the city. Despite positive population growth, however, decentralization continues to shift population numbers toward outer neighborhoods and suburbs.

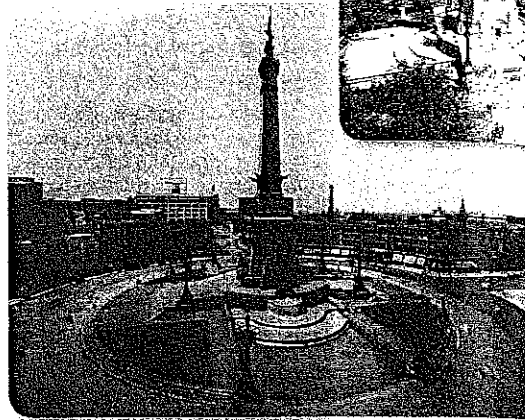
What do past population trends predict for the city's future?

The city of Indianapolis, like any other large metropolitan area, poses certain problems to the local environment. Manufacturing plants in and around Indianapolis produce large amounts of waste and emit toxic fumes into the atmosphere. Left unchecked, such large amounts of pollution damage the local environment and citizens' health. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies have concluded that residents in Indianapolis's heavily industrial southwest side have some of the highest cancer risks in the United States. Some attribute these high risks to the highly concentrated amount of toxic air pollutants emitted by industrial plants, smaller businesses, and high volumes of highway traffic. In data collected in 2001, it was found that of the 1.7 million pounds of air pollution emitted, three-fourths came from 19 companies located in a two-mile radius on the city's southwest side.

Despite the city's environmental shortcomings, efforts have been made to confront future problems. In 2006, to combat greater amounts of solid waste and landfill growth caused by a growing population, the city created Recycle Indianapolis. This program is designed to educate the public about reducing the amount of waste it produces and to recycle as much solid waste as possible.

The population of Indianapolis is projected to continue growing for the next 20 years, but at a slower rate than during the past decade. Employment is also

The State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, erected in Indianapolis between 1888 and 1901, was dedicated to Indiana military who died in wars prior to World War I. These images show how the area around the monument has changed from 1911 to the present day. ➤



expected to increase in the future. The increase in jobs is expected in large part to be an effect of the baby-boom generation's retiring at a faster rate than the growth of the adult population. This trend also means that a higher percentage of the population will be living on fixed incomes, which will affect the city's economy. For instance, because so many people will be retiring around the same time, the country's tax income may be less than what is required to pay for needed services. It also means a larger percentage of the population will be older, requiring a response from the health care industry to provide more health care options to an aging population.