

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 89 : POPULATION TRENDS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Macdonald's question about historic trends, since 1960, in population, the number of children in the City and the number of families with children. Mr. Macdonald also asked how many children who attend Samuel Tucker Elementary School live in Cameron Station.

ACPS staff report that 32 children at Samuel Tucker live in Cameron Station, although they expect this number to increase next year. In September 2004, Samuel Tucker had an enrollment of 613 students. Cameron Station has 1,528 residential units.

The attached table presents information gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau dating back to 1960, with regard to total population, the number of all children and school-age children, the number of families, and the number of families with children.

It is evident from the data that while the population and the number of families have increased from 1960 to 2000, the percentages of all children and school-age children have declined by about half, and the percentage of families with children has declined by 23 percent. However, between 1990 and 2000 this trend reversed to some degree.

Attachment

Attachment

ALEXANDRIA POPULATION DATA

<u>ALEXANDRIA</u>	1960 /1	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1960-2000
Population	91,023	110,938	103,217	111,183	128,283	40.9%
Pop. under age 18	30,920	30,628	18,938	17,132	21,537	-30.3%
Under age 18 as % of population	34.0%	27.6%	18.3%	15.4%	16.8%	-50.6%
School-age pop. age 5-17	19,595	20,785	13,452	10,925	13,575	-30.7%
School-age 5-17 as % of pop.	21.5%	18.7%	13.0%	9.8%	10.6%	-50.7%
Pop. under age 5	11,325	9,843	5,486	6,207	7,962	-29.7%
Under age 5 as % of population	12.5%	8.9%	5.3%	5.6%	6.2%	-50.4%
# of Families	24,001	28,573	23,851	24,149	27,749	15.6%
Families with own children under age 18	12,901	14,479	9,838	9,313	11,487	-11.0%
% of families w/ own children	53.8%	50.7%	41.2%	38.6%	41.4%	-23.0%

/1 Please note that 1960 census data is not totally comparable to other years, because in 1960, a "family" was defined as a married couple.

The U. S. Census Bureau does population estimates for intercensal years. For 2003, the latest estimate available, 18.3 % of the population is under the age of 18 and 10.0% of the population is of school age (5-17 years).