

PART II

PEND OREILLE COUNTY POPULATION

Population Distribution

Most of Pend Oreille County's inhabitants live in the relatively narrow Pend Oreille River Valley forming a population string which extends from the northern part of the county to the southeastern section. The only significant populated area outside of the Pend Oreille River Valley is found in the southern part of the county along highways and in lowland areas such as Deer Valley. Elsewhere, the population is sparse to nonexistent because of rugged topography and lack of roads.

Population Growth

Settlement of the area now occupied by Pend Oreille County was slow prior to the middle of the nineteenth century. Early settlers were discouraged by the rugged terrain, dense forests, climate, distance from markets and Indian hostility. The first white men in the area were fur traders, missionaries, prospectors and miners.

After 1860, the population of the Pend Oreille River region grew at a faster pace with the discovery of important mineral deposits and because, by then, most of the Indian hostility had died down. By the turn of the century, railroads had reached the area bringing new settlers as well as providing easier access to distant markets. Population increased as a forest products industry and agriculture developed in the area.

Pend Oreille County had a population of 6,363 by 1920. The number of people in the county grew between 1920 and 1930 but the decade that followed was one of non-growth. The 1940's witnessed a population increase in the county, largely caused by the war effort. After 1950, however, the number of residents in Pend Oreille County decreased from 7,413 in 1950 to 6,914 in 1960.

Urban and Rural Population

Pend Oreille County has been entirely rural since its creation with all persons living in cities or villages under 2,500 or on farms and in the countryside. With farming, forest industries and mining being the principal economic activities in the region, the population has remained rural.

The rural population was largely rural-nonfarm in 1960, consisting of 5,751 persons living in the country but not on farms. Rural-farm population decreased in the twenty years between 1940 and 1960. Persons living on farms numbered 2,399 in 1930, 2,442 in 1940, then dropped to 2,026 in 1950 and to 1,163 in 1960. In 1960, Pend Oreille County ranked twenty-ninth among the 39 counties of Washington in farm population. The Census in 1960 counted 863 fewer people on farms than in 1950, a decline of nearly 43 percent. Agriculture has been operating on a gradually shrinking number of farm units in recent years. Production has continued to increase, however, because of new technology and better farming practices.

In 1960, Pend Oreille County contained five incorporated places. Newport is the largest in the county and had a population of 1,513 in 1960. It has grown steadily since 1930 when there were 1,080 residents. Newport, the county seat, is

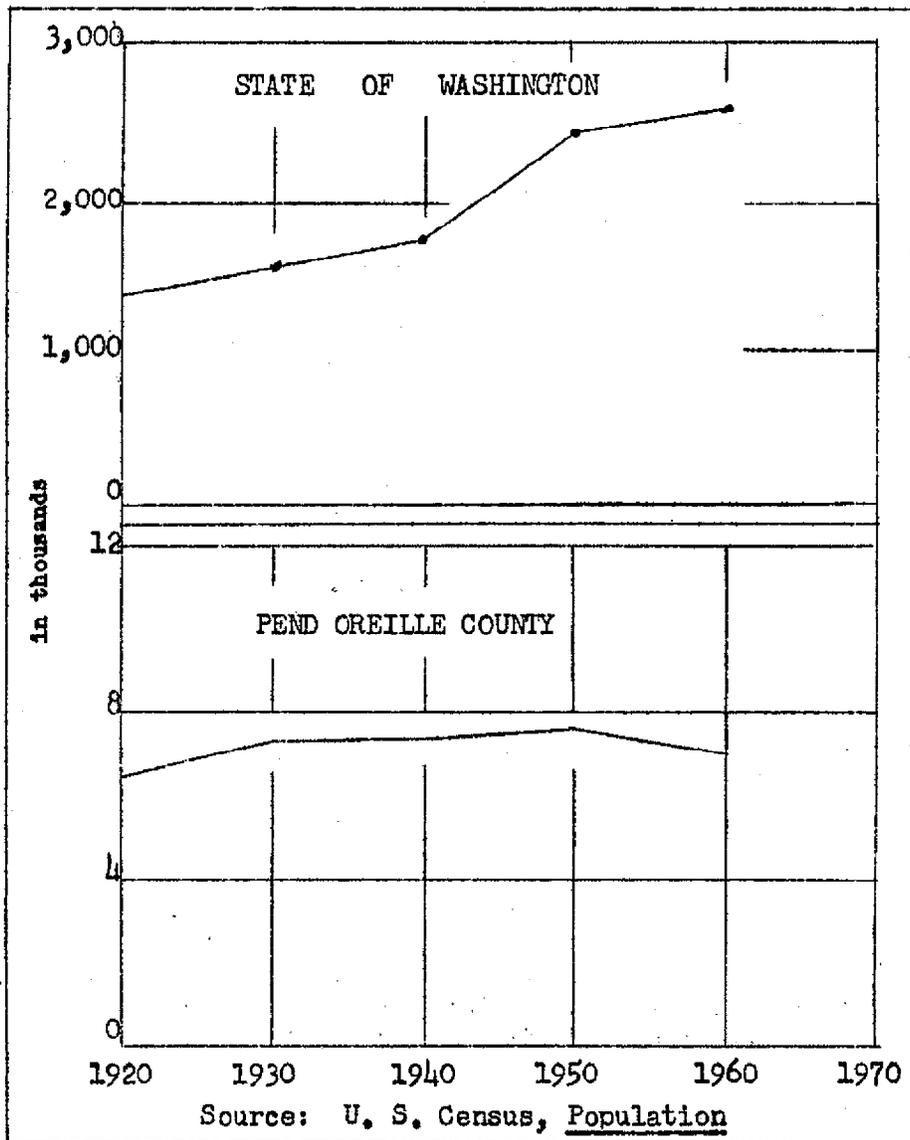


Figure 1. Population Trends: 1920-1960

Table 1. Population of Pend Oreille County, 1920-1960 ^{1/}

Year	Population	Percent Rural	Percent Urban
1920	6,363	100	0
1930	7,155	100	0
1940	7,156	100	0
1950	7,413	100	0
1960	6,914	100	0

^{1/} No Census data prior to 1920 as Pend Oreille County was established in 1911.

Source: U. S. Census, Population

located at an important rail and highway junction in the southeastern part of the county and serves as the gateway to the Pend Oreille Valley. Ione, located in northern Pend Oreille County, is the second largest settlement. It has recently declined in population from 714 in 1950 to 648 in 1960.

Meteline Falls, located downstream from Ione, also dropped in population between 1950 and 1960 (from 547 to 469). Meteline, a recently incorporated place across the river from Meteline Falls, lost 264 persons during the same decade and had a population of only 299 in 1960. Mining and the production of cement are important activities in these northern Pend Oreille County settlements. Cusick has decreased in population since 1940 from 404 to 299 in 1960. This reduction apparently has been the result of decreased lumbering and the drop in the number of farm families in the surrounding area. In 1960, the five incorporated places had a total population of 3,228 making up 47 percent of the county population figure.

Table 2. Population of Incorporated Places
Pend Oreille County, 1910-1960

Incorporated City or Town	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
Cusick	--	--	380	404	360	299
Ione	634	541	594	681	714	648
Meteline	--	--	--	--	563	299
Meteline Falls	--	153	316	453	547	469
Newport	1,199	950	1,080	1,174	1,385	1,513

Source: U. S. Census, Population

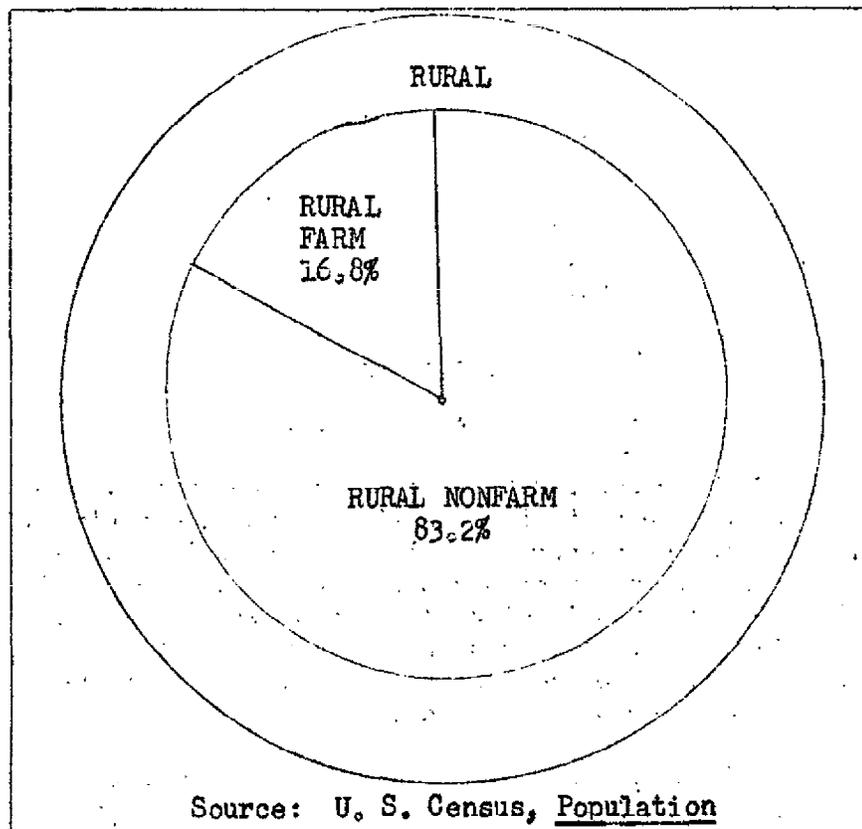


Figure 2. Population, Pend Oreille County, 1960.

Population Characteristics

Typical of many counties in the western United States, Pend Oreille has been a melting pot of immigrants from many foreign lands. In 1920, over one-sixth of the county population was foreign-born. Canada, Sweden, Norway and Germany led all nations as sources of foreign immigrants who settled in the area prior to 1920. Scandinavian immigrants composed of Swedes, Norwegians and Danes played an important role in the early development of the mining and forest industries in the county as well as agriculture. The percentage of foreign-born has decreased since 1920 because of lower immigration quotas and by 1950 only about six percent of the county's population was of foreign birth. In 1960, about 18 persons of each 100 were of foreign stock (i.e., all first- and second-generations). Major foreign groups ranked in numerical order were as follows: Canadians, Germans, Swedes, Englishmen and Norwegians.

The nonwhite population of Pend Oreille County was 175, according to the Census of 1960. Races included 136 Indians, 29 Japanese, 5 Chinese, 2 Negroes, 1 Filipino and 2 others. The Indians live on the Kalispel Indian Reservation east of Cusick.

Table 3. Employment of the Population
Pend Oreille County, 1960

Types of Employment	Total Workers
<u>Total employed workers</u>	2,157
Agriculture	191
Forestry and Fisheries	17
Mining	223
Construction	140
Manufacturing	563
Transportation, Communications and other Public Utilities	110
Retail and Wholesale Trade	330
Miscellaneous Services	441
Public Administration (govern- ment employment)	97
Other employment	45

Source: U. S. Census, Population

In 1960, a total of 2,157 persons were employed in the county. According to Census figures, 191 or about 9 percent of all self-employed and employed persons were in agriculture. The largest number of employed persons in the county were engaged in the manufacturing of lumber products and the processing of food goods. The second largest field of work was in miscellaneous services covering many trades. Work in wholesale and retail stores in the various towns was third as a source of wages. Mining was next in numbers employed with 223 persons. Agriculture ranked fifth in 1960 in terms of employment.

According to the 1930 Census, there were 134 males per 100 females in Pend Oreille County. In 1960, Pend Oreille's population consisted of 3,612 males and 3,302 females, a ratio of 109 males per 100 females. The number of women relative

to men tends to increase as the county becomes older and more settled. Other factors such as war and industrialization tend to bring the ratio of men to women down. In 1960, rural farm males numbered 637 and rural farm females 526—a ratio of 121 males per 100 females.

Pend Oreille County's population is aging. The percentage of older people has been increasing steadily over the years. The 1930 Census showed only 5.9 percent of the people in the county were 65 and over, whereas in 1960, this group accounted for 11.3 percent of the total. Improved health practices and greater medical knowledge have played an important part in lengthening the life span. In 1960, the largest single age group was that of children under five years of age. Children between five and nine years of age formed the second largest group while those between 10 and 14 years were third. Children under 15 years of age accounted for over 31 percent of the county's population.

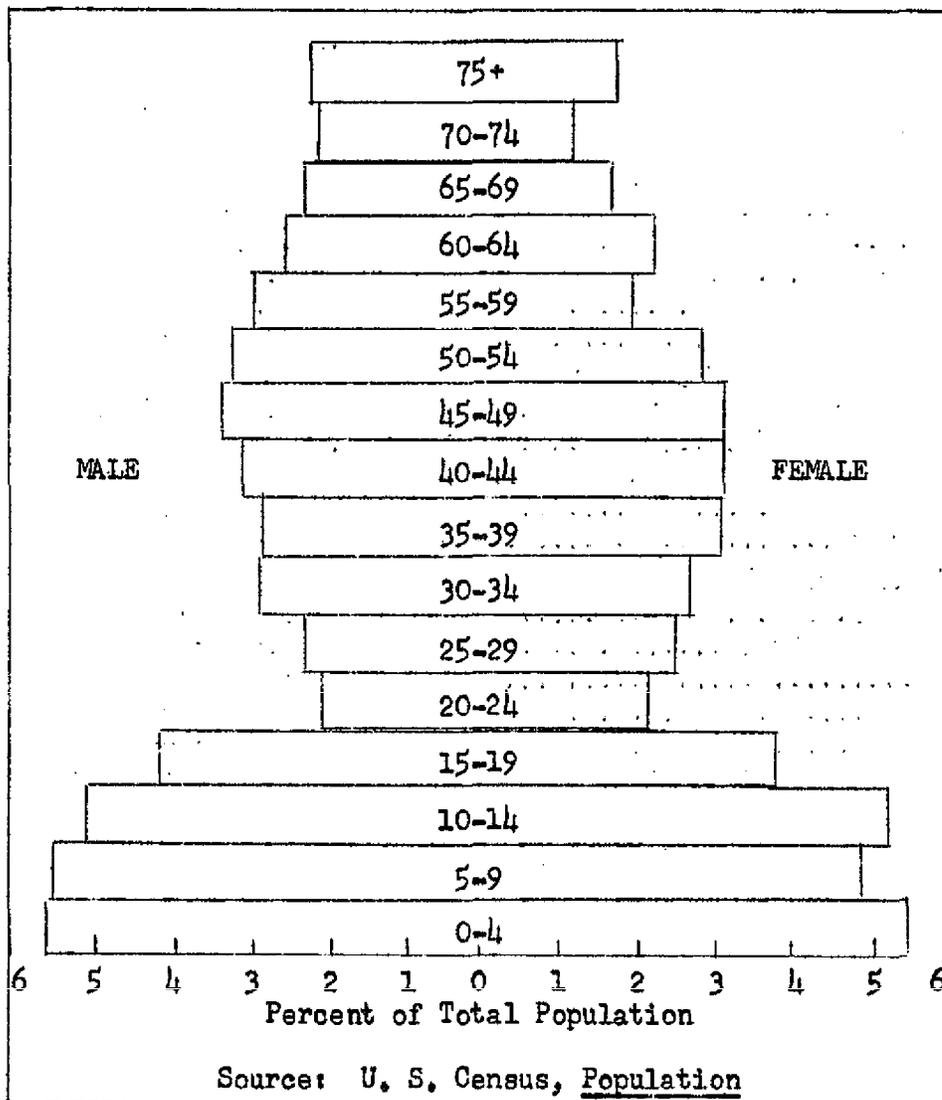


Figure 3. Age Distribution of Population, Pend Oreille County, 1960

Table 4. Pend Oreille County's Rank Compared With Other Washington Counties, 1959

Item Compared	Rank	Quantity
<u>General</u>		
Land area	30	899,840 acres
Number of farms	28	366 farms
Land in farms-percent	26	13.8 percent
Average size of farms	17	339.5 acres
Cropland harvested	29	16,317 acres
Irrigated land in farms	27	2,702 acres
Rural farm population	29	1,163 persons ^{1/}
Total county population	33	6,914 persons ^{1/}
<u>Cash farm income</u>		
Value of all farm products sold	33	1,487,489 dollars
Value of livestock sold	27	1,222,488 dollars
Value of crops sold	35	265,001 dollars
<u>Livestock on farms</u>		
All cattle and calves	31	9,067 head
Milk cows	6	1,302 head
Hogs	31	677 head
Chickens	34	11,781 birds
Horses and mules	28	432 head
Sheep and lambs	36	326 head
<u>Dairy and poultry products sold</u>		
Value of dairy products sold ..	22	452,822 dollars
Whole milk sold	22	11,129,008 pounds
Value of poultry products sold	34	30,844 dollars
Chickens sold	35	5,987 birds
Eggs sold	36	63,820 dozen
<u>Important crops harvested</u>		
Alfalfa	16	5,545 acres
Clover-timothy	13	4,512 acres
Oats	16	1,663 acres
Wheat	24	567 acres
Berley	25	546 acres

^{1/} U. S. Census of Population, 1960.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959.