

1.20 Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

Watershed Management Area 4 incorporates parts of New Jersey State Congressional Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (Plate 1.20.1). Plate 1.20.2 shows population density based on the 1990 census and Plate 1.20.3 shows population density in WMA 4 based on the 2000 census.

This data, summarized in Table 1.20.1, shows that over this period, population in WMA 4 has increased by 74,530, or over 6%. The New Jersey portion of WMA 4 had a greater increase in terms of number of people, and the New York portion of WMA 4 had a greater increase in terms of percentage.

Table 1.20.1 -Population of Watershed Management Area 4

| | 1990 Census | 2000 Census | Change | % Change |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| New Jersey | 1,117,585 | 1,185,899 | 68,314 | 6.11 |
| New York | 33,659 | 39,875 | 6,216 | 18.47 |
| Total | 1,151,244 | 1,225,774 | 74,530 | 6.47 |

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 1.20.2 summarizes numbers of households per square mile based on data from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. Again, the New Jersey portion of WMA 4 had a greater increase in terms of number of households, and the New York portion of WMA 4 had a greater increase in terms of percentage, with the overall household density increase in the watersheds exceeding 10%.

Table 1.20.2 -Households per Square Mile – Watershed Management Area 4

| | 1990 Census | 2000 Census | Change | % Change |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| New Jersey | 1,895 | 2,091 | 196 | 10.34 |
| New York | 888 | 1,035 | 147 | 16.55 |
| Weighted Average | 1,854 | 2,048 | 194 | 10.46 |

Income information from the 1990 Census is shown in Table 1.20.3.

Table 1.20.3 -1990 Income Information – Watershed Management Area 4

| | New Jersey | New York | Entire WMA |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Median household income | \$39,284 | \$49,213 | \$39,395 |
| Per capita income | \$17,417 | \$17,315 | \$17,416 |

Increases in household density and population affect a watershed in several ways. Growth in new areas requires expansion of services, including utilities, businesses, transportation and waste disposal. It can also provide increased employment opportunities, which then draws more population to the area. Growth within developed areas lessens these pressures to some degree, if within the capacity of the existing infrastructure.