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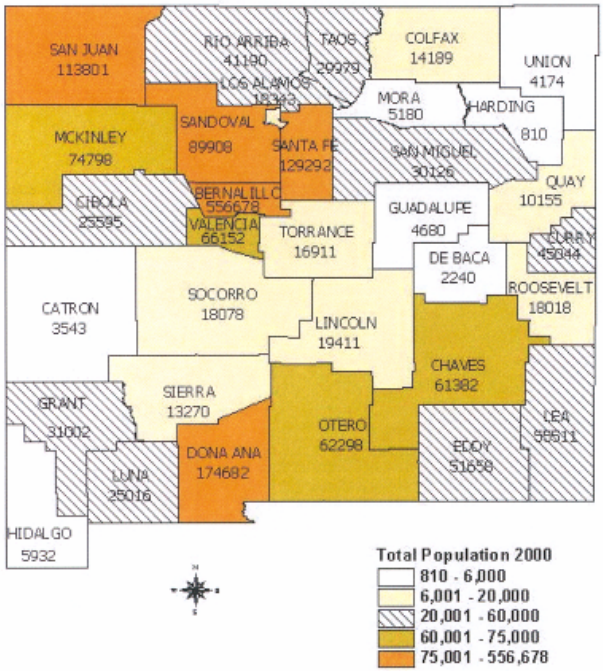
DEMOGRAPHICS

County Demographics:

Lincoln County, located in south central New Mexico, contains the communities of Ruidoso, Alto, and Ruidoso Downs which make-up Ruidoso Municipal School District. Lincoln County's 2000 census placed the population at 19,411 making it one of the more populated counties in New Mexico.

The following map shows the 2000 population of counties in the State of New Mexico.



The New Mexico population is 1,819,046.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Redistricting Data

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) estimated the County population in 2005 to be 21,898 and in 2010 to be 22,733. This is a population growth of approximately 160 per year over that 5 year period. They further estimated the population to have a slow growth over the next 25 years, growing only 2,014 or less than 100 per year. These population projections have been down graded since the 2007 Master Plan Update.

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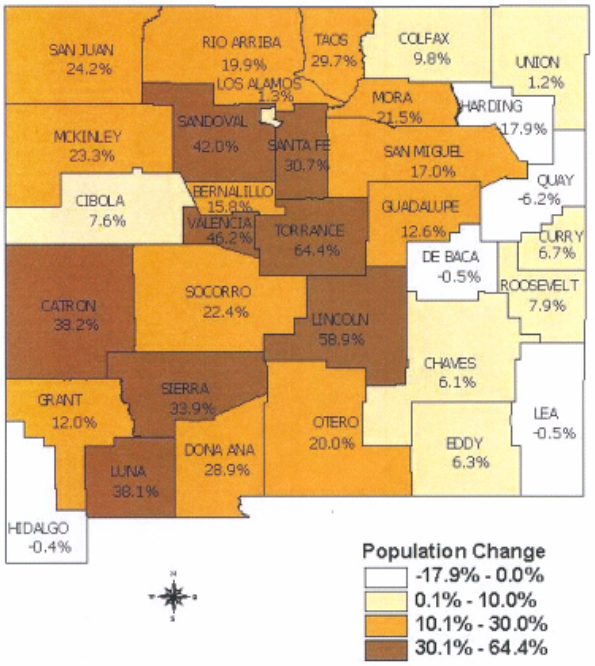
The following map shows the 1990 to 2000 percent of change in population of counties in the State of New Mexico, showing the 58.9% growth in Lincoln county as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

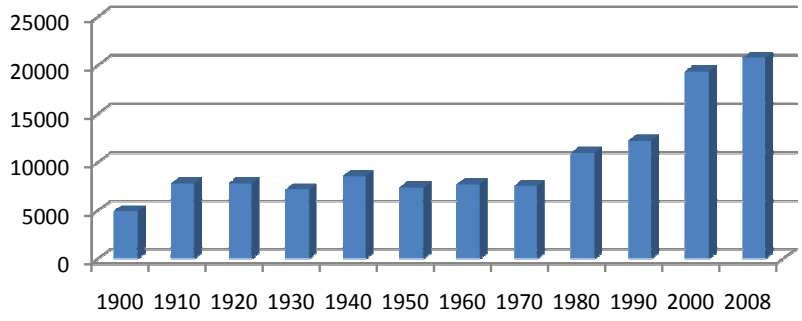


The New Mexico population is 1,819,046, a 20.1% increase from 1990.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Redistricting Data.

The following chart shows the growth of Lincoln County from the beginning of the last century until 2008. While growth has shown steady and slow there has been significant growth in the last decade.

LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORIC POPULATION



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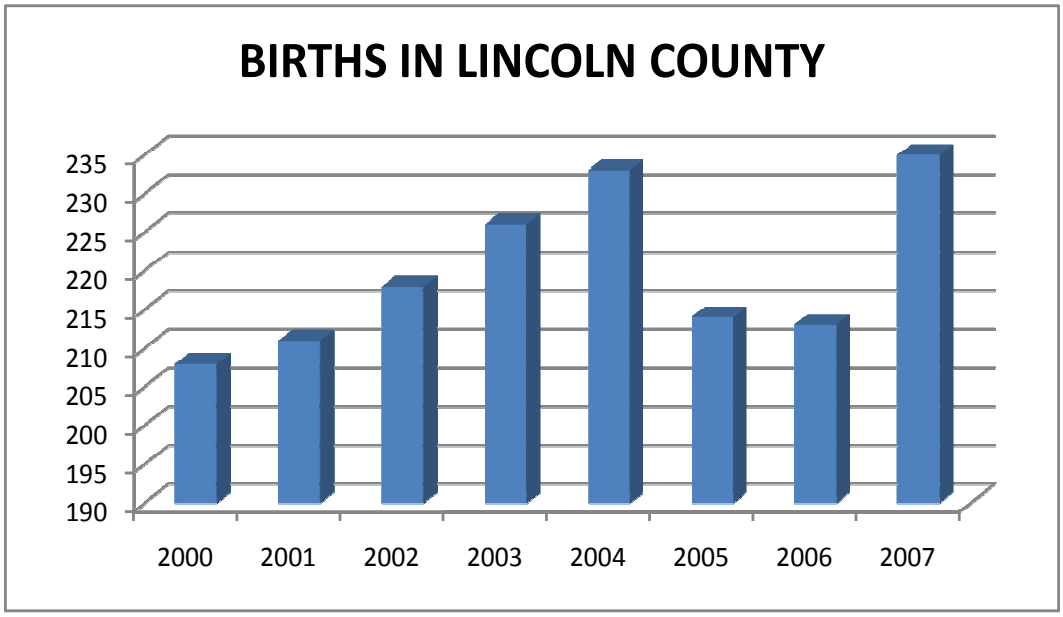
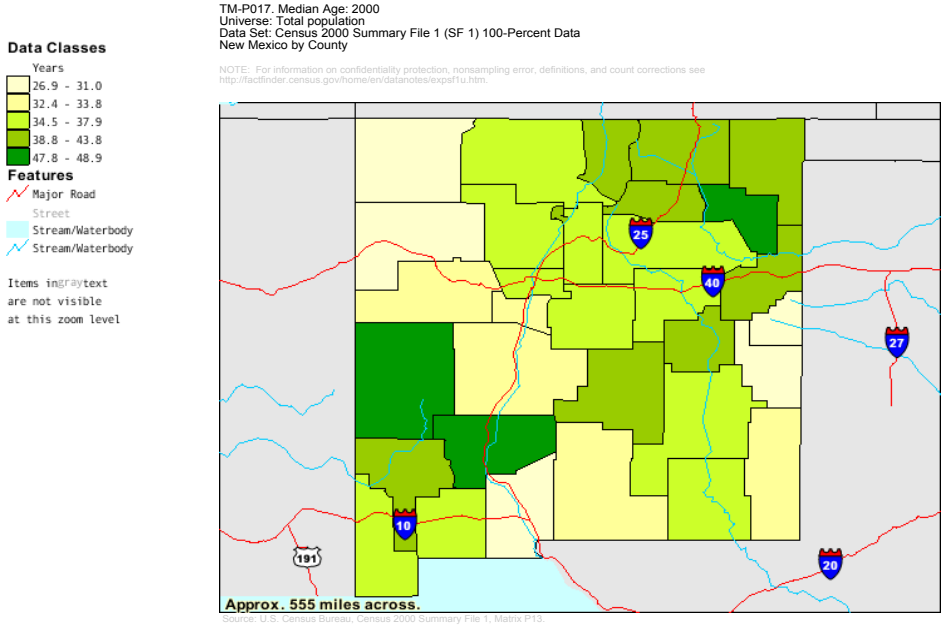
Birth rates have shown slow growth over the last decade with minor fluctuations. The following graph shows the actual birthrates per year:



The single largest population center in the County and the School District is Ruidoso Village at 9,262 or 57% of the County population in 2009. This percentage has grown from 45% in 1990 to the 2009 percentage of 57%.

Median Age:

The Lincoln County median population age of 43.8 is older than the National median age of 35.4 and New Mexico media age of 36.6. The map below shows medain age by county across New Mexico.



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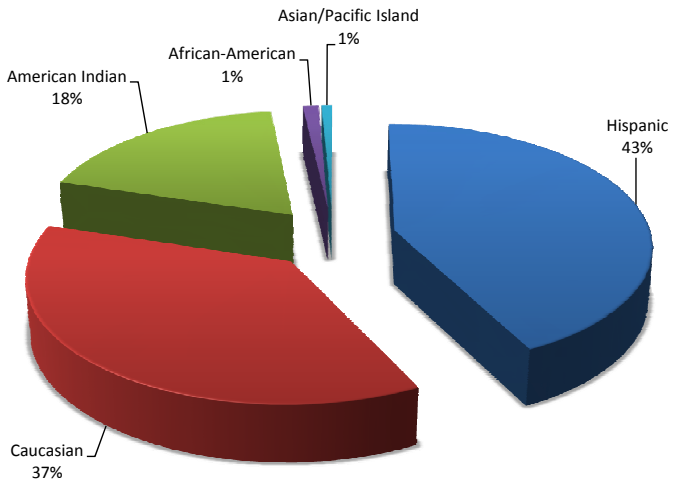
District Demographics:

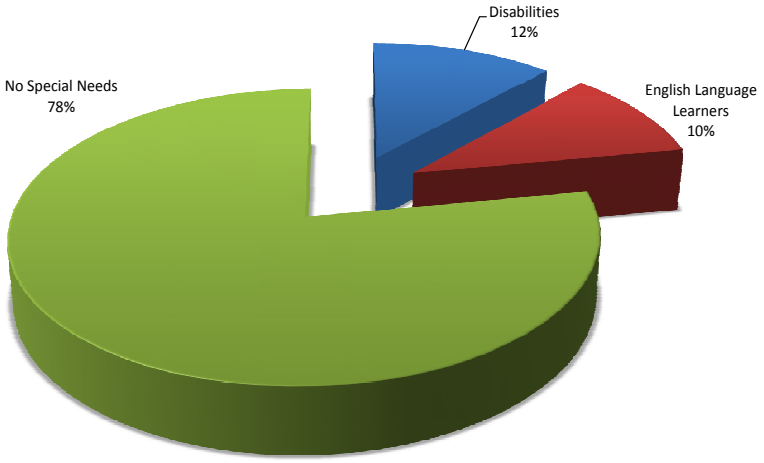
Ruidoso Municipal School District, a small district located in the Southern part of Lincoln County, has a student population of 2,282 in 2009. The student population breakdown is shown in the following chart:

Student Ethnicity Demographics



There are 272 students with disabilities or 12% of the student population. 10.3% of the students are English Language Learners. The chart illustrates the 22% of students needing special services:

Special Needs Student Demographics



Teacher/Student Ratio is 1:15 which is slightly higher than the State's 1:14. The graduation rate for the District is 80.60% (76.9% for male senior students and 85.7% for senior female students) compared to the State's 66.1%. The average household size is 2.2 and the percentage of homes with children is 21%. Eighty percent (80%) of seniors enter post-secondary institutions. The District wide drop-out rate is only 1.6%.

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The District serves the communities of Ruidoso Village, Ruidoso Downs, Hollywood, Mescalero, and Alto. Over half of the student enrollment comes from the Ruidoso Village. A majority of the District is comprised of Federal Lands, mainly the Lincoln National Forest. The District buses 1800 students daily.

There is one (1) private Christian School within the District; the Sierra Blanca Christian Academy serving K to 8th grade with an enrollment of 40 students.

Economics:
In 2009 the Private Sector of Lincoln County was the primary source of income at 73% of the total income. The Accommodation & Food Service and Retail Trade Sectors make up 30% of the Private Sector income; while the Government (Federal, State and Local) Sector was the next largest income sector making up 27% of the total. The total 2009 employed in Lincoln County was 6,802 with weekly average wage of $506.00. This placed Lincoln County 28th out of 35 Counties in the State.

Presently Lincoln County has an unemployment rate of 8.1%. This compares with a rate of 4.3% when the last Master Plan update was done in 2007. Lincoln County's unemployment rate is lower than both the State rate of 8.2% and the National rate of 9.5%. The present recession has affected Lincoln County just as it has many other communities; however personal per capita income is up by 6% or $1,340 to $22,721. This equates to a household income of $37,107.

There is a core group of employers, just as there was in 2007, including the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino, Ski Apache, the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, Wal-Mart, Ruidoso Municipal School District, Lincoln County Medical Center, the Village of Ruidoso and Lincoln County Government. The Ruidoso Area claims two of New Mexico's finest casinos, horse racing at the Downs, top rated golf courses, art galleries, museum and shopping which attracts visitors.

DEVELOPMENT FACTORS:

Local Developments:

An important entity under development in the region is the Ruidoso Economic Development Council. The vision of the Council is to support and enhance a healthy and diverse economy while applying sound stewardship to the human and natural resources which make the Ruidoso Valley unique.

Single Family New House Construction Permits:

District Growth

Year	Homes	Average Cost
2000	168	$160,100
2001	145	$177,500
2002	180	$173,400
2004	222	$171,700
2005	256	$171,600

It is important to note that the increase in new home construction has not resulted in an increase in the student population. While the Ruidoso valley area is thriving economically, the cost of living has resulted in attracting people to the area who do not have student age children. There are no foreseeable changes in the local economy that will result in an increase in student population.