

The regular meeting of the Island County Board of Health was called to order at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, January 13, 1997, beginning at 11:15 a.m. in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Coupeville, Wa. Board of Health members attending: Tom Shaughnessy, Mike Shelton and Wm. L. McDowell. Others present included: Roger Case, MD, Health Officer; Tim McDonald, Health Services Director; Jan Dahl, Assessment Coordinator; and Andy Ross, Regional Epidemiologist.

APPOINTMENT TO COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

As submitted and recommended by Tim McDonald, the Board by unanimous motion,

appointed John Whitlock, North Whidbey, and Carrie Jo McLachlan, South Whidbey, to the Community Health Advisory Board. The Committee total membership is 21. There are still two positions unfilled.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ISLAND COUNTY

The Socio-Demographic Profile of Island County was presented by Jan Dahl and Andy Ross. Board members were given the following hand-outs associated with today's pre-sentation: Demographic Profile; Community Health Process; Island County Health Report (Draft) Table of Contents; List of Indicators for Regional Health Indicator Database; and copy of *The Pulse*, published by Whidbey General Hospital Vol. 4. No. 1.

Ms. Dahl explained the information was important since CHAB is taking over the community assessment process and they need to know "who we are" in order to plan the services needed. On the hand-out showing indicator categories, the socio demographic

is the first piece information to look at, particularly at the bottom of the page showing the socio demographic variables tracked. That information will be put in a data base to be

measured from year to year.

Mr. Ross provided highlights from the report [report includes Island, San Juan and Skagit Counties]. This is the first chapter of a report which will be a more comprehensive health status profile of the three county areas involved with the Northwest Regional Epidemiology Partnership.

Page 1. About 70,000 people live in Island County based on estimates by the Washington State Office of Financial Management. The first graph shows population growth rates between 1980 and 1995. The rate of increase in Island County peaked in 1990 and the rate has dropped off since then. The population is not declining, only that the rate of growth is declining. Island County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State.

Page 2. Charts look at residential stability and where people lived 5 years' previous. In

Island County 13% of the 1990 population lived in a different state other than Oregon, California or Idaho in 1985; 16% lived in either Oregon, California or Idaho.

Page 3. Charts show crude birth rates and crude death rates. Island County stands out as having the highest crude birth rate of the three counties and higher than the State as a whole. Island County has the lowest crude death rate which results in a natural population increase. For the time period 1985 - 1990 natural increase accounted for about 25% of the total population increase in Island County, thus about 75% of the population increase was from people moving in.

Page 4. Chart shows birth rates for teenagers 15-17 and across the counties and in the State as a whole, birthrates in that group is increasing. Island County's is lower than the State as a whole.

Page 5. Population profiles showing county population broken out into males and females

and into specific 5 year age groupings. The 1980 and 1995 profiles contain interesting aspects of county population. The military population shows up well in Island County, particularly 1980 profile where there is a very large percentage of males in the 20-24 and 25-29 age group. In 1980 in Island County there was a bulge in retirement population or those approaching retirement 60-75. However, 1995 population shows Island County is not a retirement community, but more of a typical baby boomer community (35-50 age groups) and children of the baby boomers between 0 and 10 years of age.

Page 6. Household composition pie charts show percent of households that fall into different household type categories. Island County has the largest percentage of married households of the three counties and the smallest percent of non-family households (those do not have people related by blood or marriage). For single parents with children Island County compared to San Juan and Skagit Counties falls in-between, with relatively few single households.

Page 7, Race and Ethnicity. Island County shows population as 92.4% white according to 1990 census data. Hispanic ethnicity as it is reported can be of any race. Island County has the largest Asian and Black populations relative to the other two counties.

Page 8. This chart shows percent of the population living below federal poverty level. Island County compared to Skagit County and the State as a whole has relatively few people living under the poverty level. However, Island, Skagit and San Juan Counties, and the State, all show a general pattern where there is a higher percentage of kids in poverty particularly ages 5 and under.

Page 9. Income distribution - a large segment of the population is in the \$25,000 - 50,000

year household income bracket .

Page 10. Unemployment rates. First chart shows average annual unemployment rates by year 1980-1995 and that Island County was consistently lower than the State-wide unemployment rates. The second chart is from 1990 census data self-reported employment status, and breaks unemployment out into three groups: overall population; single mothers of children under 6 years and; single

mothers of children 6-17 years in age. Island County status with respect to the other counties varies across those different groups, but is the lowest for single mothers with children in school.

Page 11. Information related to travel time to work and where people work, the percent of the working population works outside county of residence. Island County stands out as having the highest percent of people who travel outside the county to work - 24% versus 17% in Skagit County, 16% State and 8% San Juan County. As far as minutes of travel time to work, Island County has the highest percentage of people who travel more than an hour to work.

Page 12. Educational attainment from the 1990 census. Nothing too unique about Island County stands out.

Commissioner McDowell noted that looking at the population change percent increase 1984 - 1990 corresponded with growth of NAS Whidbey when the Navy doubled the size of the

EA6B squadrons, and then in 1990 started dropping back off. The Station should have those specific numbers easily attainable at the Base to show how tremendous the influence

of the Navy is. There are about 25,000 active duty military and dependents and there is a good chance those who lived here in 1990 did live in another state in 1985 .

Mr. Ross agreed it would be interesting to look at the percent of increase due to Navy population. He noted that the same pattern is seen, however, in each of the other counties and peaked in 1990 and 1991. Four percent of the 1990 Island County residents lived in a different country, probably much of that military related.

Jan Dahl reviewed the hospital publication *The Pulse*, where the middle section on page 12

is the report of the behavioral risk factor survey, the information provided to the Board of Health last month.

Mr. McDonald stated that part of the process is to get the different community elements to step forward and be part of the process. In this case, the Hospital District through publishing the quarterly *The Pulse* helped the County get the information out to the general public.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Chairman

Shelton adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board

of Health is scheduled for February 10, 1997 at 11:15 a.m.

ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman

Wm. L. McDowell, Member

Tom Shaughnessy, Member

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