

BOSTON'S POPULATION;  
REVERSAL OF TWO DECADES OF POPULATION DECLINE;  
REBIRTH OF THE CITY AS A PLACE TO LIVE;  
EMERGENCE OF NEW AGE STRUCTURE  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERNS

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July 1973

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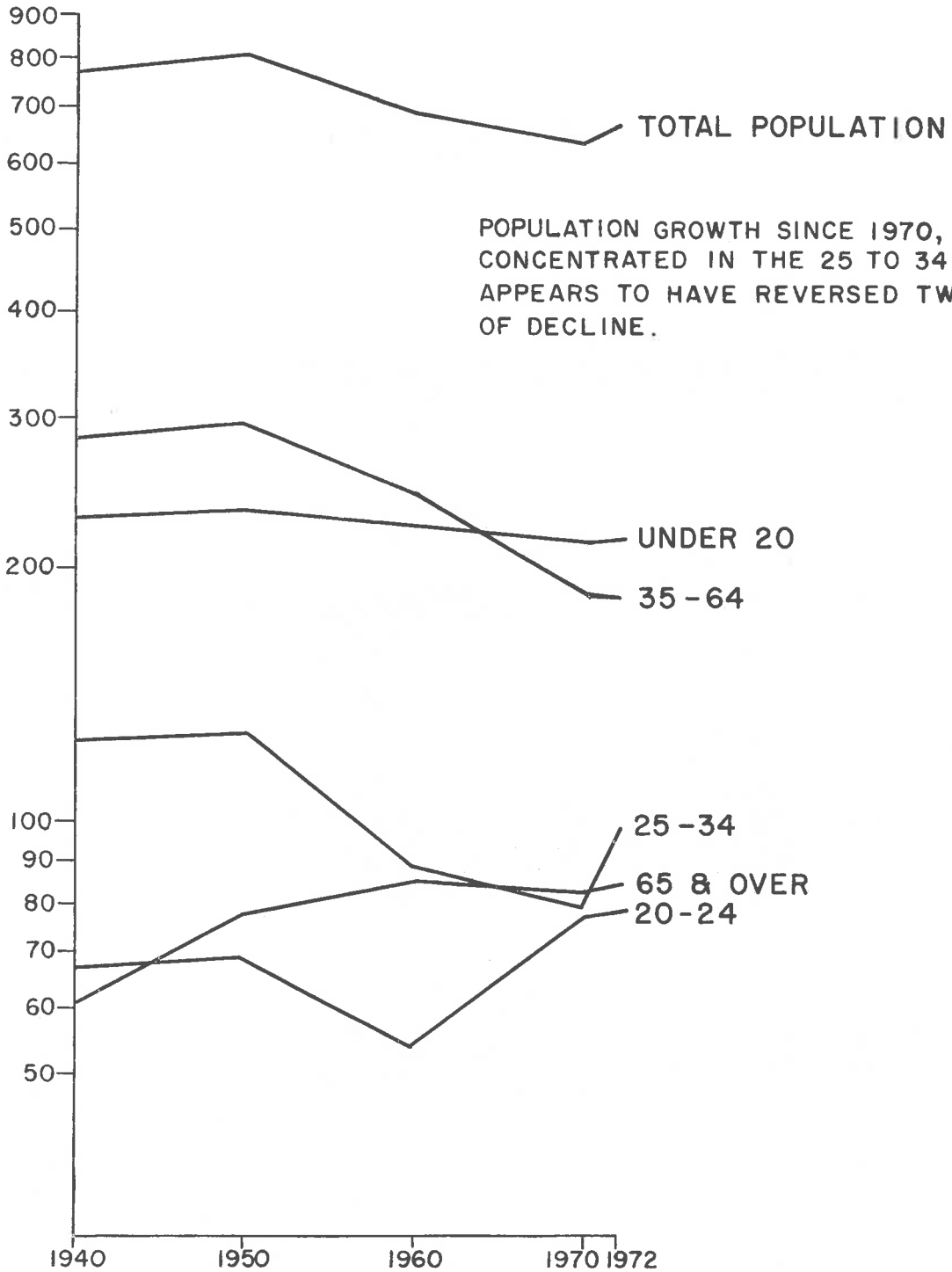
Net new population growth in the City of Boston, since 1970, appears to have reversed two decades of decline. This important development is revealed by the 1972 Census List of Residents of Voting Age conducted by the Boston Police Department for the City Election Department, and commonly referred to as the Police List. See Chart 1 and Table 1. The Police Census, conducted annually, lists all persons 17 years of age and over, residing in the City, by address, age, occupation, and citizenship. A "Technical Note", included in this report, describes the scope of coverage of this Census and compares its coverage with that of the Federal Decennial Census. This Census provides the first conclusive evidence that Boston's population is rising.

When matched with the U.S. Census of Population of 1970, the Police Census of 1972 indicates a Boston population growth of 18,566 persons, 20 years and over, in the two-year period, an increase of 4 percent. This 2 percent annual rate of growth compares with annual rates of decline of -1.4 percent, in the years 1950-60, and -0.8 percent, in the period 1960-70.

CHART I

# BOSTON'S POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP

(THOUSANDS OF PERSONS)



POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 1970, CONCENTRATED IN THE 25 TO 34 YEAR OLDS, APPEARS TO HAVE REVERSED TWO DECADES OF DECLINE.

SOURCE: TABLE I

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

After reaching a peak of 801,444 in 1950, the population of the City of Boston declined by 103,363 persons, from 1950 to 1960, and by 57,010 persons, between 1960 and 1970. Since 1970, growth has occurred principally in the 25 to 34 year age group, and in the more centrally located neighborhoods of the City. Both phenomena reflect important currents of strength in the re-emergence of Boston as a desirable place to live.

Highlights of the New Age Group and Neighborhood Patterns

The new information on population changes in the City of Boston, since 1970, suggests the emergence of new trends and patterns of population growth by age group and neighborhood. Population growth is concentrated in the 25 to 34 year age group. This appears to be a response to the growth in jobs and incomes of Boston's service activity oriented economy, and the changing life styles of this age group, involving a preference for City living. The continued, though lessened, loss of population in the 35 to 64 year age group suggests that the outflow of middle class families from the City has been significantly dampened, but not yet stemmed.

Population growth is occurring principally in the City Core area and neighborhoods of young singles, young marrieds, and elderly, and in transitional neighborhoods, those bearing the main brunt of the shift of population from inner city neighborhoods since 1960. The emergence of these neighborhoods as areas of population growth reveals a new pattern of rebirth of the City as a place to live in the 1970's. In the 1960's, in comparison, population had flowed to the suburban cities and towns of the metropolitan area.

Though these new trends and patterns have been observed for only two years, they may be significant in revealing a resurgence of Boston as a desirable place to live as well as to work.

#### Factors in the New Population and Neighborhood Patterns

A number of local as well as national factors appear to have shaped the new demographic patterns. Locally, there is the growth in jobs and income, related to the continued expansion of Boston's service activity oriented economy. There is the rising public and private sector commitment to Boston as a place to live, as evidenced by the revitalization of public facilities and capital improvements, the

large scale effort in urban redevelopment, the construction of new housing and the rehabilitation of the old. There are the changing lifestyles of young adults, and their preference for city living. The currents of change, resulting from these social, economic, fiscal, and demographic factors are especially strong in the more centrally located neighborhoods.

Nationally, the era, when growth in the under 19 age group dominated population trends in the United States, appears to be behind us. In the 1970's, growth in the 25 to 34 year age group will far overshadow the anticipated population changes in all other age groups. In essence, the Baby Boom which ushered in the suburban growth in the postwar period, is now generating a large growth in the 25 to 34 year olds whose lifestyles show a strong preference for city living.

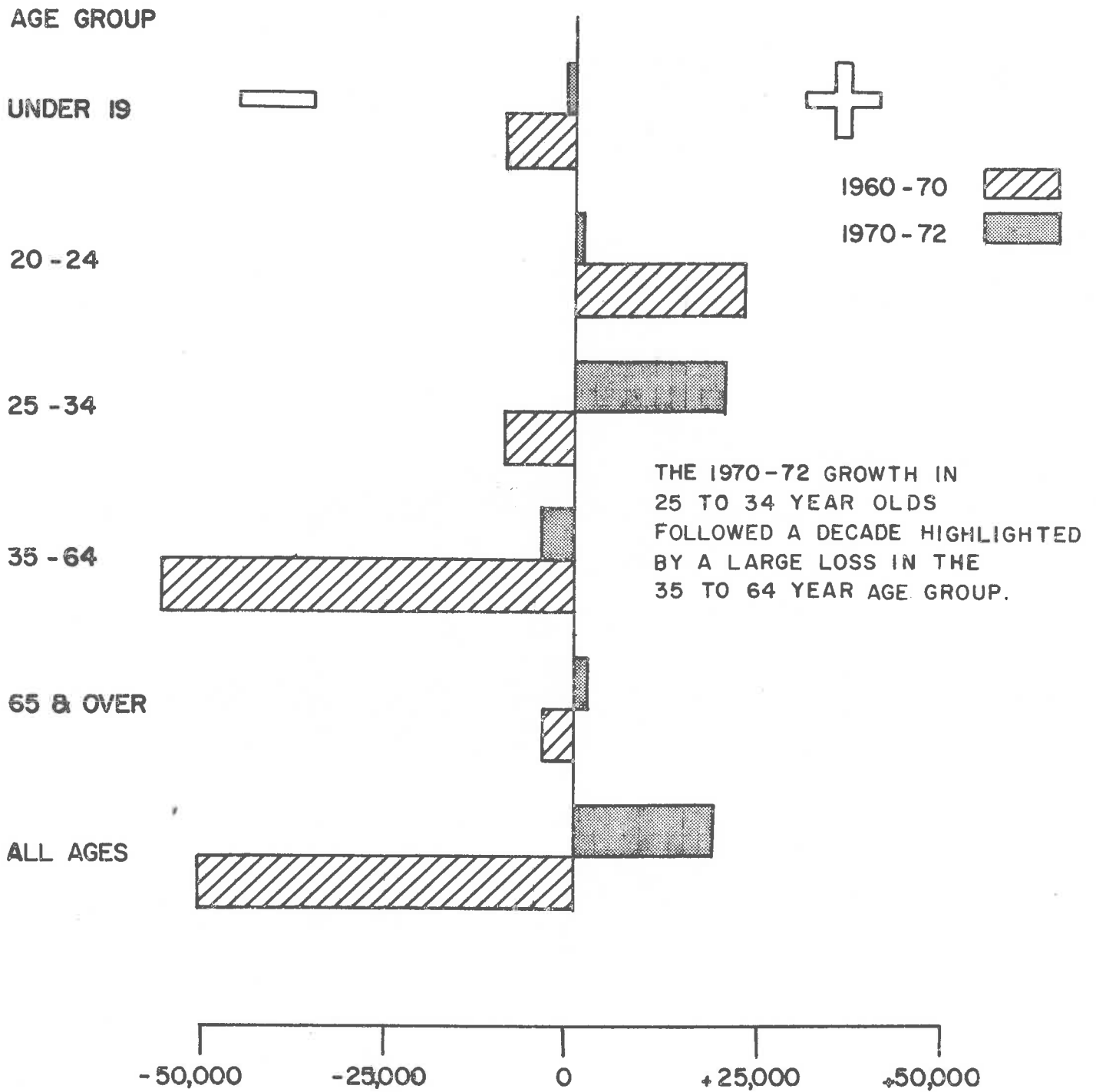
The New Age Structure of the City's Population

In the years 1970-72, in comparison with the 1960-1970 period, Boston experienced (1) continued growth in the 20-24 year age group, (2) a reversal of trend where population had fallen moderately in the 1960's, (in the 25 to 34 and 65 and over age groups), and (3) a significantly reduced loss where the 1960-1970 decline had centered, (in the 35 to 64 year age group).

Population growth in the 1970-72 period was concentrated in the 25 to 34 year age group, which increased by 19,629 persons, more than offsetting a decline of 9,641 persons in the same age group, between 1960 and 1970. See Chart 2 and Tables 2 and 3. The 20 to 24 year age group showed an increase of only 913 persons between 1970 and 1972, in comparison with a 1960-70 gain of 22,628.

The elderly, 65 and over, also showed a gain of 2,170 reversing a fall of 3,951 in the decade from 1960 to 1970.

CHART 2  
CHANGES IN BOSTON'S POPULATION  
BY AGE GROUP  
1960-70 AND 1970-72



SOURCE: TABLE I

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



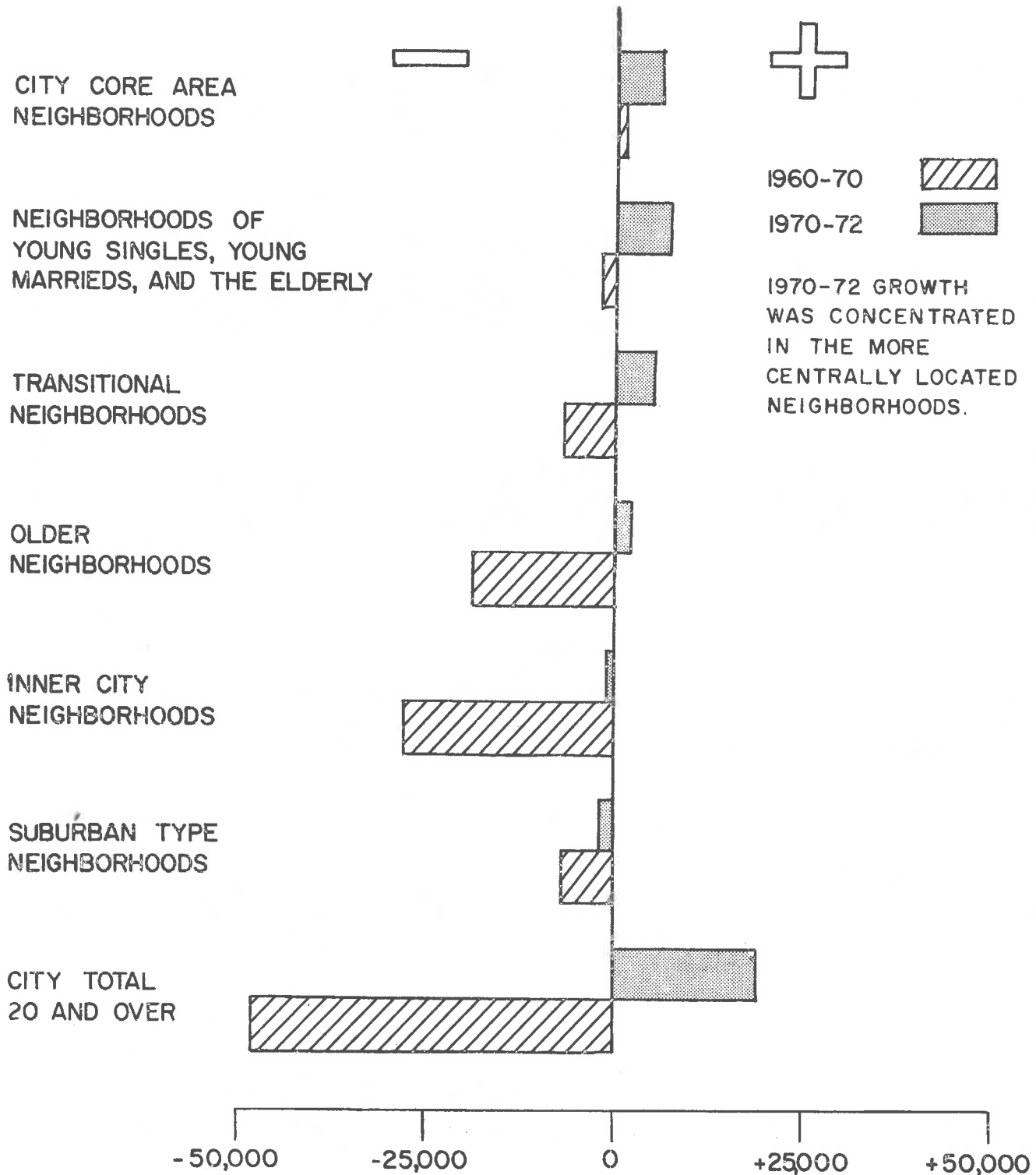
In contrast, there were continued declines in the 35-64 year age groups, though the 1970-72 loss of 4,161 persons was substantially less than the 1960-70 reduction of 55,696 persons. In the 1960-70 period the decline in the 35-64 year age group had borne the brunt of the City's population loss, reflecting the outflow of middle class families.

The New Neighborhood Growth Patterns

The net growth of 18,566 persons, between 1970 and 1972, centered principally (1) in the City Core Area (Back Bay-Beacon Hill and the Central Area) which gained 6,867, (2) in neighborhoods of young marrieds, singles and elderly (Fenway-Kenmore and Allston Brighton) which were augmented by 6,261 persons and (3) in the transitional neighborhoods (Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill, Mattapan and North Dorchester) which increased by 6,555 persons. See Chart 3, Map 1, and Table 4. The combined growth of these three neighborhood groups was 19,682 persons.

The older neighborhoods (East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, South Dorchester) experienced a modest growth of 1,491 persons, between 1970 and 1972, reflecting a new stability and emerging new factors of strength in our

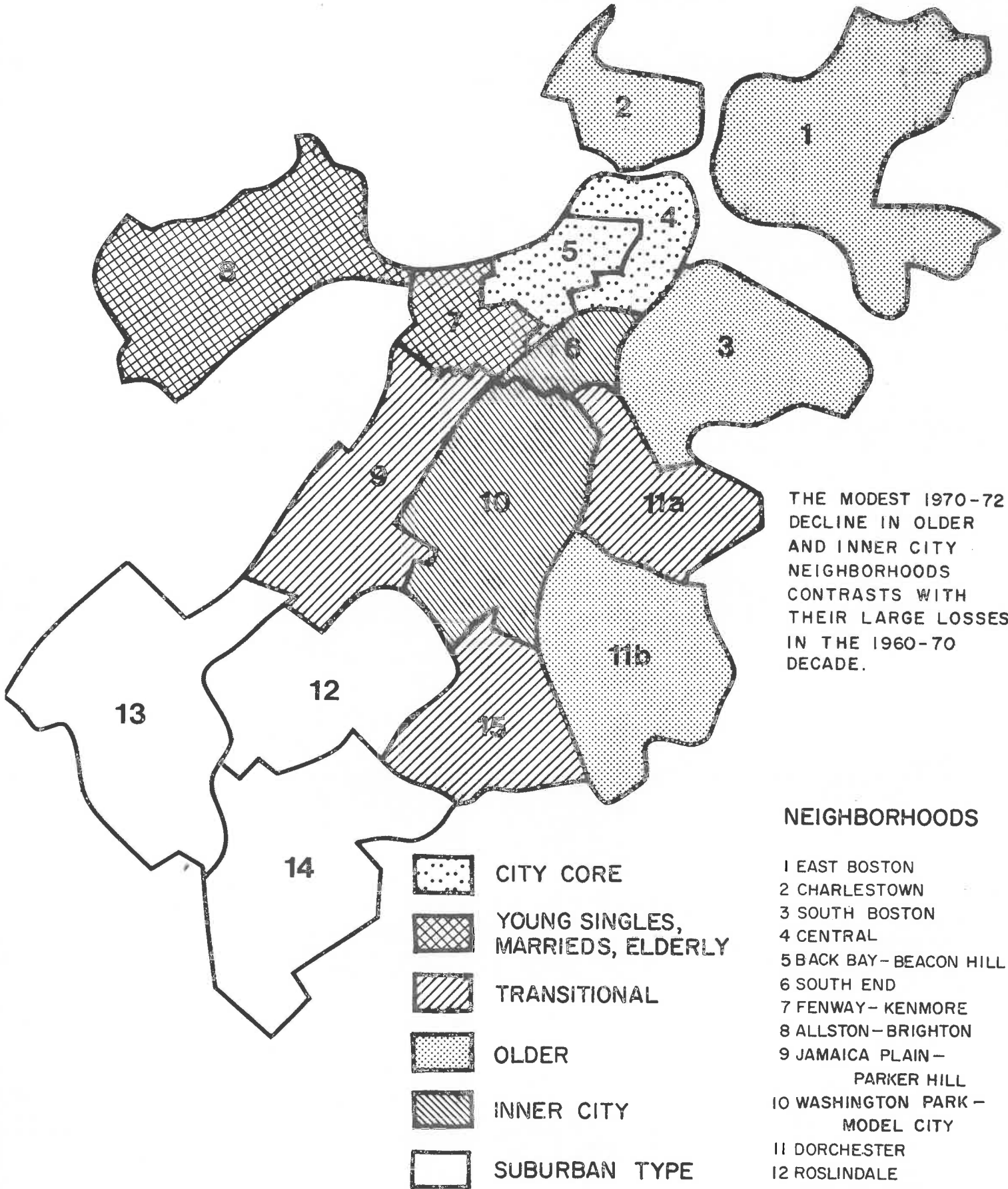
CHART 3  
CHANGES IN BOSTON'S POPULATION 20 & OVER  
BY NEIGHBORHOODS  
1960-70 AND 1970-72



SOURCE: TABLE 4

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

# BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS



THE MODEST 1970-72 DECLINE IN OLDER AND INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS CONTRASTS WITH THEIR LARGE LOSSES IN THE 1960-70 DECADE.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

- 1 EAST BOSTON
- 2 CHARLESTOWN
- 3 SOUTH BOSTON
- 4 CENTRAL
- 5 BACK BAY - BEACON HILL
- 6 SOUTH END
- 7 FENWAY - KENMORE
- 8 ALLSTON - BRIGHTON
- 9 JAMAICA PLAIN - PARKER HILL
- 10 WASHINGTON PARK - MODEL CITY
- 11 DORCHESTER
- 12 ROSLINDALE
- 13 WEST ROXBURY
- 14 HYDE PARK
- 15 MATTAPAN - FRANKLIN

older neighborhoods; the loss of population in these neighborhoods between 1960 and 1970 was 18,762 persons.

The inner city neighborhoods of South End, Washington Park-Model City, which had undergone a reduction of 28,252 persons, in the decade of 1960-70, experienced a continued, but much lessened decline of 828 persons, between 1970 and 1972, revealing a new pattern of stabilization.

The suburban-type neighborhoods of West Roxbury, Roslindale, and Hyde Park showed mixed trends with West Roxbury increasing by 1,849 persons and a combined decline in Roslindale and Hyde Park of 3,591 persons from 1970 to 1972.

All neighborhoods participated in the growth in 25 to 34 year olds, but there was a relative concentration of growth in three neighborhood groups. The neighborhoods of young marrieds and young singles, Fenway-Kenmore and Allston-Brighton had the largest share of the growth with an increase of 5,211 persons in this age group. The City Core Area, including the Central Area and Back Bay-Beacon Hill, also showed a gain of 4,788 persons. The transitional neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and North Dorchester

experienced an increase of 3,500 persons in this age group. These patterns highlighted the residential location preferences of the 25 to 34 year age group.

There was a mixed pattern of gains and losses for the other age groups by neighborhoods. All neighborhoods, with the exception of the City Core area and transitional neighborhoods, experienced a continued loss of population in the 35 to 64 year age groups. The inner city and suburban type neighborhoods lost elderly persons while other neighborhoods gained persons 65 years old or over.

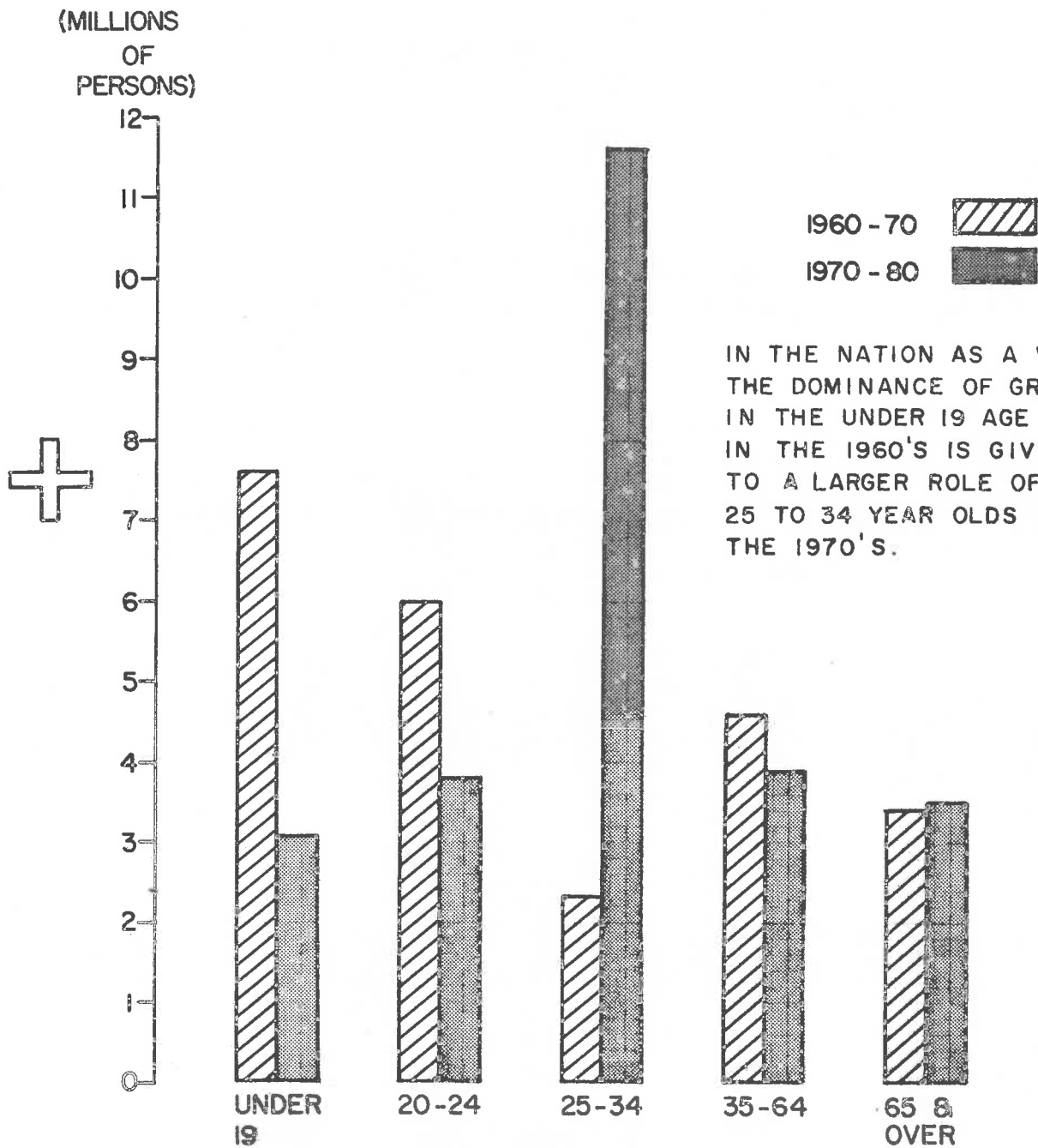
The Implications of National Demographic Patterns for Our Cities

In the 1960's, growth in the under-19 age group, reflecting the postwar Baby Boom and suburbanization, dominated the Nation's growth. From 1960 to 1970, an increase of 7.6 million persons under 19 made up more than one-fourth of the Nation's population growth of 24.1 million. See Chart 4 and Table 5.

For the 1970's, the U.S. Bureau of the Census projects a fundamental change in growth patterns. In the 1970-80 decade, the projected growth of 11.6 million 25 to 34 year olds will make up more than two-fifths of the total population increase of 26.1 million foreseen.

In effect, a basic new era is emerging with large consequences for the redirection of our national life. These national demographic changes have fundamental and positive implications for the future of our large cities. The impact on Boston is already emerging. It may be felt more strongly in Boston than in other cities because of its national reputation as a livable city, recent commitments to and investments in revitalizing the City, and the large numbers of young persons already living here.

CHART 4  
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED CHANGES IN THE POPULATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
BY AGE GROUP  
1960-70 AND 1970-80



SOURCE: TABLE 5

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Table 1

LONG TERM PATTERNS OF POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP,  
CITY OF BOSTON

<u>Year or Period</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Under 20</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-64</u>	<u>65 and Over</u>
1940	770,816	230,529	67,323	125,951	285,432	61,581
1950	801,444	231,992	69,288	127,719	294,811	77,634
1960	697,197	223,486	54,480	88,891	244,755	85,585
1970	641,071	213,792	77,108	79,353	189,059	81,759
1972	659,230	213,446*	78,016	98,982	184,898	83,888
1940-50	+ 30,628	+ 1,463	+ 1,965	+ 1,758	+ 9,379	+ 16,053
1950-60	-104,247	- 8,506	-14,808	-38,828	-50,056	+ 7,951
1960-70	- 56,126	- 9,690	+22,628	- 9,542	-55,696	- 3,826
1970-72	+ 18,159	- 346*	+ 908	+19,629	- 4,161	+ 2,129

Sources: 1940-70

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Censuses of  
Population, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970

1972

Boston Police Department, Census of Population  
17 Years of Age and Over

\* Estimated as follows:

Changes in the under 20 year olds are closely associated with those of the 35-64 year age group. In the 1960-70 decade, the decline in the number of persons under 20 was one-sixth that of the decrease in the 35-64 year olds. In view of the increase in the black population, with their larger number of children, it is estimated that the rate of decline of the under 20's, in relation to the 35-64 year olds, would be half that in the 1960-70 decade.



Table 2

CHANGE IN POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER,  
BY NEIGHBORHOODS, CITY OF BOSTON, 1970-72

Neighborhood*	Change in Population, 1970-72				
	All Age Groups 20 and Over	20-24	25-34	35-64	65 and Over
City Core Area Neighborhoods	+ 6,867	- 412	+ 4,788	+ 2,011	+ 480
Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Young Marrieds and Elderly	+ 7,261	+1,349	+ 5,638	- 683	+ 957
Transitional Neighborhoods	+ 5,554	+ 58	+ 3,987	+ 503	+1,006
Older Neighborhoods	+ 1,491	- 170	+ 2,558	- 1,902	+1,005
Inner City Neighborhoods	- 828	- 733	+ 1,573	- 891	- 777
Suburban Type Neighborhoods	- 1,742	+ 821	+ 1,085	- 3,147	- 501
City Totals	+18,566	+ 913	+19,629	- 4,109	+2,170

\* Planning Districts included in Neighborhood Types are as follows:

- City Core Area: Back Bay-Beacon Hill, Central.
  - Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Young Marrieds and Elderly: Fenway-Kenmore, Allston-Brighton
  - Transitional Neighborhoods: Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill, North Dorchester, Mattapan
  - Older Neighborhoods: East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, South Dorchester
  - Inner City Neighborhoods: South End, Washington Park-Model City
  - Suburban Type Neighborhoods: Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park
- Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970; Boston Police Census, 1972.  
Tabulation prepared by Mary Tompkins, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Research Department, March 19, 1973.

CHANGE IN POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER,  
BY NEIGHBORHOODS, CITY OF BOSTON, 1970-72

Table 3

Neighborhood*	Population in 1970 and 1972				
	All Age Groups 20 and Over	20-24	25-34	35-64	65 and Over
City Core Area Neighborhoods (1972) (1970)	45,375 38,508	10,085 10,497	13,232 8,444	15,560 13,549	6,498 6,018
Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Young Marrieds and Elderly	79,306 72,045	25,879 24,530	18,483 12,845	20,963 21,646	13,981 13,024
Transitional Neighborhoods	84,585 79,031	12,121 12,063	19,252 15,265	36,228 35,725	16,984 15,978
Older Neighborhoods	108,935 107,444	13,374 13,544	21,024 18,466	52,073 53,975	22,464 21,459
Inner City Neighborhoods	56,442 57,270	7,411 8,144	14,101 12,528	25,886 26,777	9,044 9,821
Suburban Type Neighborhoods	71,141 72,883	9,146 8,325	12,890 11,805	34,188 37,335	14,917 15,418
City Totals	445,784 427,218	78,016 77,103	98,982 79,353	184,898 189,007	83,888 81,718

\* Planning Districts included in Neighborhood Types are as follows:

City Core Area: Back Bay-Beacon Hill, Central

Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Fenway-Kenmore, Allston-Brighton

Young Marrieds and Elderly: Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill, North Dorchester, Mattapan

Transitional Neighborhoods: East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, South

Older Neighborhoods: Dorchester

Inner City Neighborhoods: South End, Washington Park-Model City

Suburban Type Neighborhoods: Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970; Boston Police Census, 1972  
Tabulation prepared by Mary Tompkins, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Research  
Department, March 19, 1973.

Table 4  
CHANGE IN POPULATION 20 AND OVER,  
BY NEIGHBORHOODS, CITY OF BOSTON, 1960-70 AND 1970-72

Neighborhoods*	Change		Population, 1960, 1970 and 1972			
	1960-70	1970-72	1960	1970	1972	
City Core Area Neighborhoods	+ 972	+ 6,867	37,536	38,508	45,375	
Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Young Marrieds and Elderly	- 1,326	+ 7,261	73,371	72,045	79,306	
Transitional Neighborhoods	- 6,538	+ 5,554	85,569	79,031	84,585	
Older Neighborhoods	- 18,762	+ 1,491	126,206	107,444	108,935	
Inner City Neighborhoods	- 28,552	- 828	85,822	57,270	56,442	
Suburban Type Neighborhoods	+ 7,107	- 1,742	65,776	72,883	71,141	
City Totals	- 47,062	+18,566	474,280	427,218	445,784	

\* Planning Districts included in Neighborhood Types are as follows:

- City Core Area: Back Bay-Beacon Hill, Central
- Neighborhoods of Young Singles, Young Marrieds and Elderly: Fenway-Kenmore, Allston-Brighton
- Transitional Neighborhoods: Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill, North Dorchester, Mattapan
- Inner City Neighborhoods: South End, Washington Park-Model City
- Older Neighborhoods: East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, South Dorchester
- Suburban Type Neighborhoods: Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970; Boston Police Census, 1972. Tabulation prepared by Mary Tompkins, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Research Department, March 19, 1973.

Table 5

ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES, BY AGE GROUP  
(Number of People, in Thousands)

Age Groups	1960	1970	1980	Change	
				1960-70	1970-80
All Ages	180,667	204,800	230,855	+ 24,133	+ 26,055
Under 5	20,337	17,184	22,748	- 3,153	+ 5,564
5-9	18,812	19,876	19,840	+ 1,064	- 36
10-14	16,924	20,805	17,499	+ 3,881	- 3,306
15-19	13,455	19,285	20,171	+ 5,830	+ 886
20-24	11,124	17,176	21,024	+ 6,052	+ 3,848
25-29	10,940	13,758	19,500	+ 2,818	+ 5,742
30-34	11,978	11,520	17,400	- 458	+ 5,880
35-39	12,543	11,208	13,914	- 1,335	+ 2,706
40-44	11,678	11,918	11,543	+ 240	- 375
45-49	10,915	12,210	11,032	+ 1,295	- 1,178
50-54	9,657	11,059	11,418	+ 1,402	+ 359
55-59	8,477	9,992	11,294	+ 1,515	+ 1,302
60-64	7,144	8,656	9,769	+ 1,512	+ 1,113
65-69	6,293	6,831	8,239	+ 538	+ 1,408
70-74	4,769	5,634	6,447	+ 865	+ 813
75 and over	5,623	7,691	9,017	+ 2,098	+ 1,326
Under 19	69,528	77,150	80,258	+ 7,622	+ 3,108
20-24	11,124	17,176	21,024	+ 6,052	+ 3,848
25-34	22,918	25,278	36,900	+ 2,360	+ 11,622
35-44	24,221	23,126	25,457	- 1,095	+ 2,331
45-54	20,572	23,269	22,450	+ 2,697	- 819
55-64	15,621	18,648	21,063	+ 3,027	+ 2,415
65 and over	16,685	20,156	23,703	+ 3,471	+ 3,547

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Population Estimates and Projections; Series P-25, No. 476, February 1972.

Table 6

CHANGE IN THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, 1970-72,  
 BY AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER;  
 COMPARISONS OF U.S. CENSUS OF 1970 AND THE BOSTON POLICE LIST\* OF 1972

Age Groups	U.S. Census of Population, 1970		Boston Police Department Census, 1972		Population Change 1970 - 1972		
	Total	Male	Total	Male	Total	Male	Female
20-24	77,103	33,206	78,016	35,171	+ 913	+1,965	- 1,052
25-34	79,349	39,145	98,982	48,235	+19,633	+9,090	+10,543
35-44	60,719	29,226	59,050	28,961	- 1,669	- 265	- 1,404
45-54	65,457	30,061	64,685	30,242	- 772	+ 181	- 953
55-59	32,082	13,850	30,937	13,633	- 1,146	- 217	- 928
60-64	30,749	13,043	30,226	12,813	- 523	- 230	- 293
65-69	26,891	10,906	26,554	10,898	- 337	- 8	- 329
70-74	22,578	8,413	22,710	8,692	+ 132	+ 279	- 147
75-79	15,933	5,972	16,485	6,208	+ 552	+ 236	+ 316
80-84	9,805	3,396	10,737	3,745	+ 932	+ 349	+ 583
85+	6,552	2,132	7,402	2,479	+ 850	+ 347	+ 503
<u>Total</u>	<u>427,218</u>	<u>189,350</u>	<u>445,784</u>	<u>201,077</u>	<u>+18,566</u>	<u>+11,727</u>	<u>+ 6,839</u>
<u>Over 20</u>							
<u>Total, 65</u>	<u>81,759</u>	<u>30,819</u>	<u>83,888</u>	<u>32,022</u>	<u>+ 2,129</u>	<u>+ 1,203</u>	<u>+ 926</u>
<u>And Over</u>							

\* One of the principal functions of the Boston Police List is to identify eligible voters, 18 years old and over; information on the population less than 18 was not obtained, thus limiting the scope of comparison with the U.S. Census of Population.

Table 7  
1970-72 POPULATION CHANGE IN THE AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER  
BY PLANNING DISTRICTS, CITY OF BOSTON

	Total Change									
	20 & Over	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-74	75+	
East Boston*	+ 124	- 561	+ 558	- 460	- 111	+ 79	+ 223	+ 154	+ 242	
Charlestown	+ 839	+ 174	+ 414	- 59	+ 115	+ 63	+ 8	+ 44	+ 80	
South Boston	+ 899	+ 90	+ 598	- 85	- 43	- 7	+ 47	+ 82	+ 217	
Central	+ 3,289	- 339	+ 1,537	+ 532	+ 484	+ 204	+ 227	+ 344	+ 300	
Back Bay-Beacon Hill	+ 3,578	- 71	+ 3,251	+ 590	+ 239	- 116	- 149	- 106	- 58	
South End	- 217	- 147	+ 605	+ 103	- 180	- 115	- 184	- 196	- 103	
Fenway-Kenmore	+ 2,499	+ 844	+ 1,744	+ 381	+ 45	- 93	- 201	- 124	- 97	
Allston-Brighton	+ 4,762	+ 505	+ 3,894	- 311	- 199	- 168	- 137	+ 271	+ 907	
Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill	+ 2,037	- 211	+ 1,317	+ 59	- 119	- 27	- 17	+ 151	+ 884	
Washington Park-Model Cities	- 611	- 586	+ 968	- 384	+ 18	- 94	- 55	- 334	- 144	
Washington Park	- 945	- 266	+ 6	- 426	- 73	- 41	+ 2	- 147	-	
Campus High	- 235	+ 26	- 1	- 33	- 46	- 24	- 28	- 79	- 50	
Model City	+ 569	- 346	+ 963	+ 75	+ 137	- 29	- 29	- 108	- 94	
Dorchester	+ 3,146	+ 396	+ 3,658	- 484	+ 15	- 443	- 153	- 193	+ 350	
Dorchester 1	+ 383	+ 150	+ 481	- 284	+ 2	+ 101	+ 9	- 71	- 41	
Dorchester 2	- 371	+ 127	+ 988	- 844	- 212	- 405	- 211	- 70	+ 256	
Mattapan	+ 3,134	+ 119	+ 2,189	+ 608	+ 225	- 139	+ 49	- 52	+ 135	
Roslindale	- 1,603	+ 109	+ 222	- 424	- 323	- 188	- 127	- 369	- 503	
West Roxbury	+ 1,849	+ 729	+ 801	- 320	- 74	- 111	+ 175	+ 296	+ 353	
Hyde Park	- 1,988	- 17	+ 62	- 807	- 639	- 129	- 180	- 197	- 81	
City Totals	+18,566	+ 913	+19,629	-1,669	- 772	-1,145	- 523	- 177	+2,347	

\* Includes Harbor Islands and Crews of Vessels  
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970; Boston Police Census, 1972. Tabulation prepared by Mary Tompkins, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Research Department, March 19, 1973.

Table 8  
POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER,  
BY PLANNING DISTRICTS, CITY OF BOSTON, 1972 AND 1970

	Total									
	20 and Over	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-74	75+	
East Boston* (1972)	26,900	2,867	5,064	3,983	5,063	2,543	2,153	2,972	2,255	
(1970)	26,776	3,428	4,506	4,443	5,174	2,464	1,930	2,818	2,013	
Charlestown	10,376	1,494	2,100	1,592	1,771	830	764	1,121	704	
	9,537	1,320	1,686	1,651	1,656	767	756	1,077	624	
South Boston	25,790	3,058	4,393	3,662	4,599	2,257	2,066	3,222	2,533	
	24,891	2,968	3,795	3,747	4,642	2,264	2,019	3,140	2,316	
Central	18,888	2,214	4,576	2,765	3,000	1,503	1,375	2,014	1,441	
	15,599	2,553	3,039	2,233	2,516	1,299	1,148	1,670	1,141	
Back Bay-Beacon Hill	26,487	7,871	8,656	2,772	2,114	910	1,121	1,848	1,195	
	22,909	7,944	5,405	2,182	1,875	1,026	1,270	1,954	1,253	
South End	16,337	1,987	3,920	2,656	2,554	1,071	1,109	1,892	1,148	
	16,554	2,134	3,315	2,553	2,734	1,186	1,293	2,088	1,251	
Fenway-Kenmore	25,928	12,240	5,429	1,837	1,581	795	921	1,861	1,264	
	23,429	11,396	3,685	1,456	1,536	888	1,122	1,985	1,361	
Allston-Brighton	53,378	13,639	13,054	4,559	5,222	2,907	3,141	6,265	4,591	
	48,616	13,134	9,160	4,870	5,421	3,075	3,278	5,994	3,684	
Jamaica Plain	33,752	5,431	7,083	4,229	4,410	2,275	2,408	4,198	3,718	
	31,715	5,642	5,766	4,170	4,529	2,302	2,425	4,047	2,834	
Washington Park-Model Cities	40,105	5,424	10,181	7,030	6,784	2,542	2,140	3,348	2,656	
	40,716	6,010	9,213	7,414	6,766	2,636	2,195	3,682	2,800	
Washington Park	10,810	1,465	2,812	1,773	1,758	652	566	970	814	
	11,755	1,731	2,806	2,199	1,831	693	564	1,117	814	

\* Includes Harbor Islands and Crews of Vessels

Table 8 (Continued)

POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 20 AND OVER  
BY PLANNING DISTRICTS, CITY OF BOSTON, 1972 AND 1970

Page 2

	Total 20 and Over	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-74	75+
Campus High (1972) (1970)	844 1,079	140 114	175 176	117 150	145 191	64 88	60 88	81 160	62 112
Model Cities	28,651 27,882	3,819 4,165	7,194 6,231	5,140 5,065	4,881 4,744	1,826 1,855	1,514 1,543	2,297 2,405	1,780 1,874
Dorchester	96,702 93,556	12,645 12,249	21,636 17,978	14,280 14,764	15,304 15,289	7,089 7,532	7,023 7,176	11,332 11,525	7,393 7,043
Dorchester 1 (North)	19,789 19,406	2,759 2,609	4,117 3,636	2,875 3,123	3,364 3,362	1,583 1,482	1,377 1,368	2,183 2,254	1,531 1,572
Dorchester 2 (South)	45,869 46,240	5,955 5,828	9,467 8,479	6,651 7,495	7,253 7,465	3,356 3,761	3,530 3,741	5,865 5,935	3,792 3,536
Mattapan	31,044 27,910	3,931 3,812	8,052 5,863	4,754 4,146	4,687 4,462	2,150 2,289	2,116 2,067	3,284 3,336	2,070 1,935
Roslindale	24,647 26,250	3,119 3,010	4,601 4,379	3,516 3,940	4,149 4,472	2,057 2,245	2,024 2,151	3,219 3,588	1,962 2,465
West Roxbury	25,947 24,098	3,225 2,496	4,385 3,584	3,188 3,508	4,191 4,265	2,255 2,366	2,438 2,263	3,857 3,561	2,408 2,055
Hyde Park	20,547 22,535	2,802 2,819	3,904 3,842	2,981 3,788	3,943 4,582	1,903 2,032	1,543 1,723	2,115 2,312	1,356 1,437
City Totals	445,784 427,218	78,016 77,103	98,982 79,353	59,050 60,719	64,685 65,457	30,937 32,082	30,226 30,749	49,264 49,441	34,624 32,277

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970; Boston Police Census, 1972. Tabulation prepared by Mary Tompkins, Boston Redevelopment Authority, Research Department, March 19, 1973.



Technical Note:

Comparisons of Population Concept and Coverage of the Federal Census (1970) and the Boston Police Listing, (1972).

A primary source of information for Boston's population, in inter-censal years, is the amended Police List, a compilation of the voting age population prepared annually by the Police Department, and amended by the Elections Department to include persons registered after January 1. The amended Police List complements and may be compared with the Federal Census, which provides decennial information on the population.

The Police Department compiles an annual listing of the City's population, between January and March. Data cards are verified and finalized by April 1, and a complete listing of Boston residents as of January 1 is available by June 1. The 1972 Police List showed that, as of January 1, 1972, the total number of Boston residents aged 20 and over was 417,496. Between January and October 15, an additional 28,288 persons who wished to be listed for voting or other purposes, were added to an amended Police List by the Election Department.

Hence, the total number of 1972 City residents aged 20 and over, as reported in the amended Police List, was 445,784.

The January-October population gains are substantiated by estimates of the population missed in the January count, of in- and out-migration, and of deaths which occurred during this nine-month period. The 1970 Census of Population throws interesting light on recent in-migration and out-migration patterns for Boston.\* The Census report shows that, over the five-year period 1965-70, the rate of in-migration to Boston exceeded the rate of out-migration. When estimates of nine-month in-migration and out-migration, in 1972, are calculated on the basis of these rates, and registered deaths deducted, and an allowance for population missed in the January count added, the result is a net gain in population, corroborating the amended Police List total as of October 15, 1972.

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U.S. Bureau of Census, 1970 Census of Population, Migration Between State Economic Areas, PC(2)-2E, Table 2.

U.S. Bureau of Census, 1970 Census of Population, Census Tracts, Boston, Mass., SMSA, PHC (1)-29, Table P-2.

The extent to which the Police List is in error, or undercounts Boston's population is not known, although knowledgeable persons have indicated that 5 percent might approximate the undercount. It is considered that the recording of the residents in low turnover neighborhoods has a high degree of accuracy, while the registering of the residents in the high turnover and certain ethnic and minority neighborhoods is poorer. Related to this is the undercounting which may arise from the failure of the police canvassers to identify additional new or subdivided residential units. In addition, police officers are instructed not to count those who do not wish to be listed. The doublecounting which could occur from the possible misspelling of name and/or address or errors in listing the previous address are only partially offsetting, at best.

Despite the probable undercount and the differences in coverage between the Police List and the U.S. Census, documented in the next section, the Police List count was between 93 and 97 percent of the decennial census counts of 1970 and 1960, respectively.\*

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\*

Accuracy is expressed as: 
$$\frac{\text{1960 Police List (20 and over)}}{\text{1960 Federal Census (20 and over)}}$$

or: 
$$\frac{(1960) 463,612}{(1960) 474,280} = .97$$

The comparable figure for 1970 is .93.

Estimate of Population of Boston in 1972 ; Hypothetical  
Adjustment of the Police List Count for Federal Census  
Concept and Coverage

Although there are differences in coverage between the Police List and the U.S. Census,\* the discrepancy in the total count of the voting age population is not large, and some factors of coverage and concept tend to be offsetting.

The following table presents a hypothetical estimate of the population in Boston in 1972, in accordance with the U.S. Census concept. Starting with the amended Police List Count, factors are added or subtracted to illustrate how the amended Police List may be reconciled with the Federal Census concept and coverage. A detailed analysis of each factor is presented in the following pages.

Table A

BOSTON'S POPULATION, 20 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, 1972

1. 1972 Police Census Count, as of October 15	445,784
2. Armed Forces	+ 919
3. Crews of Vessels	+ 27
4. Transients	+ 740
5. Americans Abroad	- 2,724
6. Students Undercounted in Police List	+ 1,038
7. 1972 Hypothetical Population According to Federal Census Concept	445,784

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\*Ellen Snyder, "Comparison of Population Data Collected by the Federal and State Censuses and Boston Police Listing", Memorandum, August 18, 1970.

In both counts, the inmates of institutions are enumerated at the institutions. Differences in the enumeration between the Police List and the U.S. Census occur in (1) the enumeration of all population vs. legal residents 17 years of age and over, (2) the persons absent overseas, (3) the members of the armed forces, (4) the crews of vessels, (5) the college students, and (6) the transient population.

1. Place of Abode

The primary difference between the Police List count and that of the U.S. Census is that the Police List enumerates legal residents aged 17 and over, while the Federal census lists all persons at their usual places of abode, or, if none, where found. By the Federal definition, an individual's "usual place of abode" is the place where he lives and sleeps most of the time, not necessarily the same as his legal or voting residence. To the City, however, a legal residence is a permanent residence, in the sense of voting residence or domicile.

The Police List began enumerating the 17 to 19 year olds in 1971 (due to the changes in the voting laws). Prior to this time, only residents aged 20 and over were listed. Comparing the 17 to 19 population group with that enumerated by the Federal Census suggests that the Police List has not yet achieved sufficient accuracy in the recording of these age groups. Consequently, comparisons of the Federal and Police censuses are based on the population 20 years and over.

## 2. Armed Forces

The Police List does not enumerate military personnel living on bases in Boston.

In the Police survey, any members of an enumerated family, or persons who formerly lived with such a family, serving with the armed forces or the Peace Corps, and intending to return, are enumerated with that family. All such persons are enumerated whether located in or outside of Massachusetts, if they are presumed to be alive on January 1 of the census year.

In contrast, in the Federal Census, persons in the armed forces and their families quartered on military installations are enumerated as residents of the districts in which their installations are located. Americans in the armed forces overseas are not included in the population of any of the States or the District of Columbia.

Using 1970 Census figures,\* there are 1,410 Boston residents in the armed forces, of whom 429 are in military barracks and, therefore, not counted in the Police List as Boston residents. Of the remaining 981 military, perhaps 50 percent may be counted as members of families residing in Boston, leaving another 490 uncounted in the Police List. This is a conservative estimate of military underenumerated as Boston residents in the Police List since it does not include dependents of military.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Massachusetts, PC (1)-C23, Tables 84 and 85.

### 3. Crews of Vessels

The crews of vessels of the U.S. Navy and of the U.S. Merchant Marine in the U.S. harbors are counted by the Federal census as part of the population of the ports in which their vessels are berthed on April 1. This is, again, in contrast to the Police List which enumerates only such civilian, military and naval personnel who claim no other place as their usual permanent place of abode.

The 1970 Federal Census counted 27 crew members.

### 4. Transient Population

The Federal Census enumerates transient population where found if there is no usual place of abode, whereas, the Police List does not count those with no permanent abode. Since rooming house managers list only those they consider permanent residents rather than all transients, there will be an undercount of this population group. This resulting undercount of persons is conservatively estimated as 5 percent of rooming housing residents and 15 percent of those in "other group quarters"\* who were not members of religious orders.

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\* Ibid., Table 84.



5. Persons Absent on Census Day

Both surveys enumerate those persons who are absent from their usual place of residence on Census Day, but the Police List includes persons who are absent for extended periods of time, while the U.S. Census ignores them. Local enumeration of persons abroad, however, is dependent on the individual or family who respond to the Enumerator. Therefore, there could be an undercount of some persons due to household members forgetting to mention the absent family members.

Since the Federal Census does not include Americans abroad, it is necessary to estimate the number that might be included in the Police List. The method utilized was to estimate the number of Bostonians abroad as the proportion of all Americans abroad (.0085)<sup>\*</sup> times Boston's population, or 5,449 persons. Of these, perhaps half, or 2,724 persons may have been listed on the Police Count as Boston residents.

6. College Students

The Police List enumerates college students 17 years of age and older living in Boston who want to be considered as Boston residents. The Federal Census enumerates all students as residents of the communities in which they attend school.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Number of Inhabitants, United States Summary, PC (1)-A1, Table 1.

It was estimated that up to 10 percent of Boston's 19,491 students living in dorms\* and 7,501 or more full-time students in private apartments\*\* were undercounted in the Police List. This undercounting was affected by students wishing to be legal residents of areas other than Boston to retain financial aid from those areas, possible omissions of some students living together, etc.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census, Op.Cit., PC (1)-C23, p. 305.

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Melvin R. Levin and Norman A. Abend, University Impact on Housing Supply and Rental Levels in the City of Boston, Boston University, Urban Institute, Occasional Papers, February, 1970, p.4.

Postscript

After the preparation of the present study, a July 1973 publication of the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported an increase in the population of Suffolk County\* from 735,190 in 1970 to 739,500 in 1972, confirming the reversal of two decades of population decline.\*\* This increase in the population of Suffolk County in 1972 is based on an estimate made by the Bureau of Research and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development, and not on a "head-count" of the decennial Census and Police List type. The estimate was an average of the results of two methods employing vital statistics, elementary school enrollment, and automobile registration data. An estimate arrived at in this way could be expected to understate growth in the 25-34 year age group, and in the public transit-oriented centrally located neighborhoods.

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In 1970, the City of Boston made up 87% of the population of Suffolk County.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates; Estimates of the Population of Massachusetts Counties: July 1, 1971 and July 1, 1972", Current Population Reports, Series P-26, No. 42, July 1973.

In the development of the estimating methods, the State Bureau of Research and Statistics tested individual methods and combinations, i.e., averages, thereof, and selected a combination yielding the best test results for the counties of Massachusetts as a whole. The testing experiment indicated that the selected combination was not the best for Suffolk County. Four methods were tested, and two selected for the prediction equation. For Suffolk County, these two yielded the highest error factor (downward bias) of the four.