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## **U. T. El Paso 2001 Commission Community Development Committee Report**

University of Texas at El Paso

U. T. EL PASO 2001 COMMISSION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

October 26, 1989

Submitted by: Nestor A. Valencia, Chairman

IVETTE SEGOVIA  
541-4019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Preamble	i-v
Community Development Committee Report	1-20
List of Community Development Committee Members	21
List of Charrette Participants	22-27

## **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **PREAMBLE**

#### **EL PASO, PAST AND PRESENT**

The El Paso/Juarez Region is growing rapidly. In 1920 El Paso and Ciudad Juarez had a combined population of 96,000. By 1989 that population had grown to over 1,500,000. When the outlying and neighboring communities in New Mexico and Hudspeth County are also considered the regional population in 1989 is over 1,630,000.

#### **EL PASO IN THE YEAR 2001**

In the next 12 years, by the year 2001, the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez Region will be home to more than 2,400,000 residents. The quality of life and future of El Paso will rest in the hands of a new generation of El Pasoans. Children who are between ten and twelve years old today will be the year 2001 graduates of the University of Texas at El Paso and future leaders. The University must provide the right quality of education and training in civic responsibilities so that graduates are prepared to meet the great challenges that lie ahead.

Many changes will be in store for these new graduates. Planning for El Paso in the year 2001 will require a close relationship between the city of El Paso and the University of Texas at El Paso. Government alone cannot provide for all the social, economic, and environmental needs of people.

El Paso in the year 2001 will have to deal with rising costs, finite resources, and changing demographic characteristics (see Figures 1-6).

**FIGURE 1  
POPULATION GROWTH**

	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
<b>EL PASO/CIUDAD JUAREZ</b>	96,000	1920
<b>EL PASO COUNTY/CIUDAD JUAREZ</b>	1,500,000	1989
<b>EL PASO REGION/CIUDAD JUAREZ</b>	1,630,000	1989
<b>EL PASO REGION/CIUDAD JUAREZ</b>	2,410,000	2001

Source: Department of Planning, Research and Development 1989

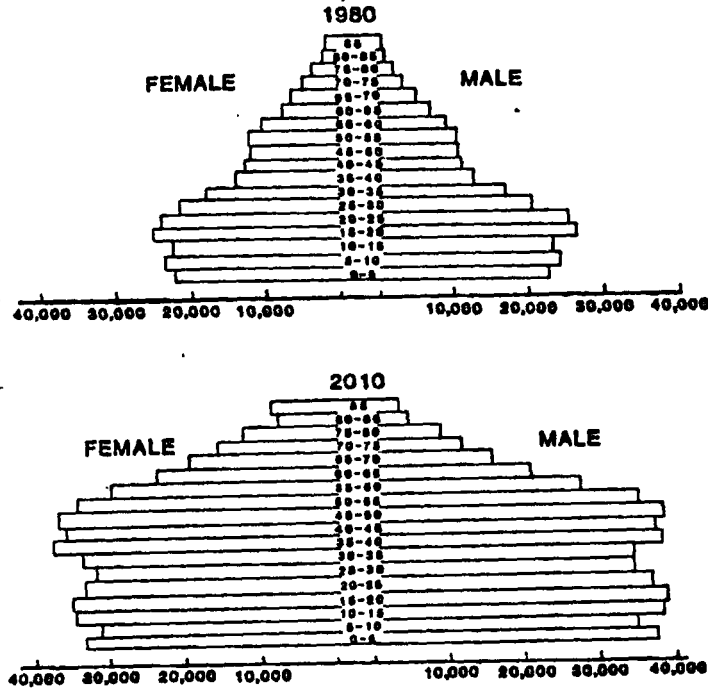
#### **GROWTH TRENDS**

The most apparent trend illustrated is that the City, and the surrounding area, will continue to grow although the growth will not be evenly distributed due in part to urban sprawl.

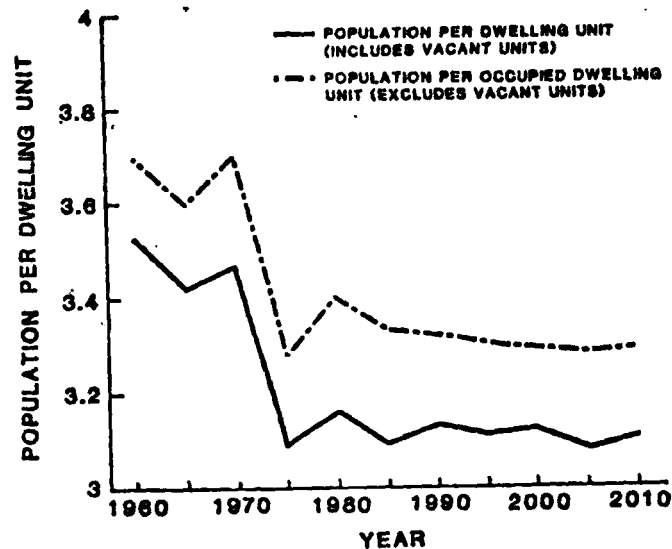
### AGE CHARACTERISTICS

El Paso is currently a young community with a high birth rate when compared with national trends. One of the changes which lies ahead for El Paso is an older population with more people on fixed incomes. There will be smaller households for both young and old, and a need for more affordable housing.

**FIGURE 2  
AGE PYRAMIDS FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS 1980-2010**



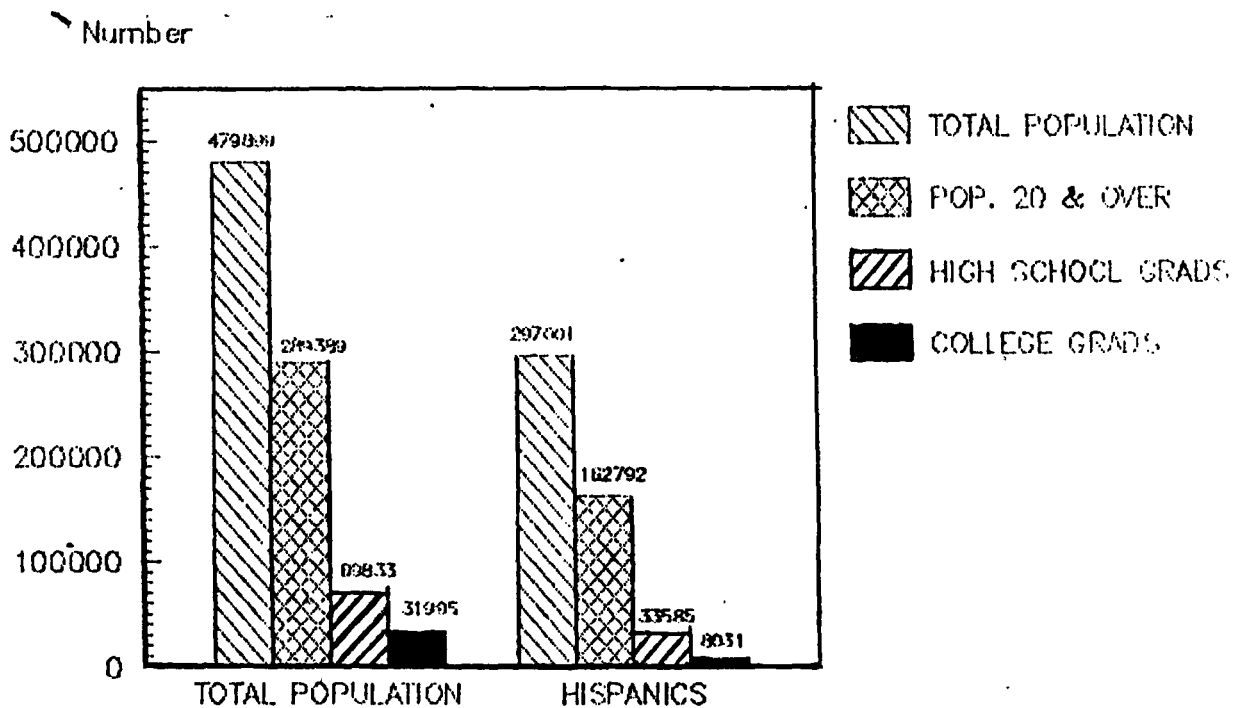
**FIGURE 3  
AVERAGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER DWELLING UNIT  
CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, 1960-2010**



## EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

El Paso has a low college graduate rate, a high dropout rate, and a large pool of unskilled labor. Reversing this trend, providing diversified educational opportunities, and providing enough jobs to meet the challenge of rapid growth will be crucial to our economic well being.

**FIGURE 4  
COUNTY OF EL PASO  
1980 HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES**

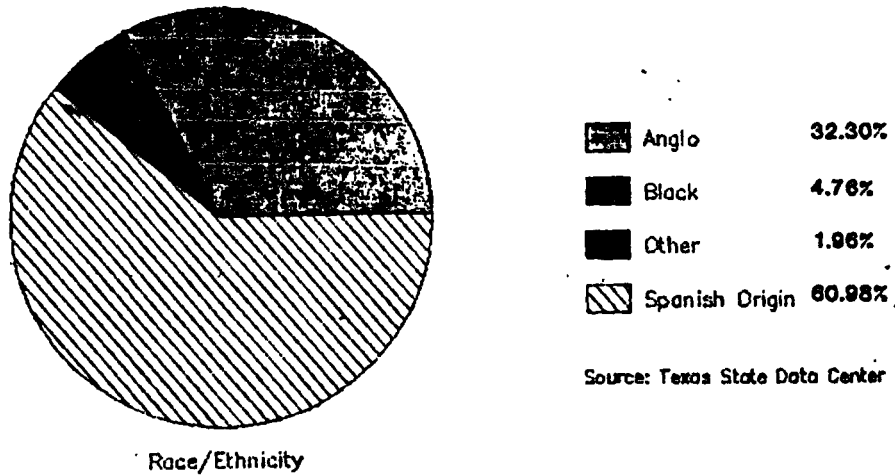


Source: PHC80-2-144, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity will also change due to continued immigration trends. Our diverse border culture is a major resource and asset and helps to endow our students with a broader viewpoint and understanding of international affairs.

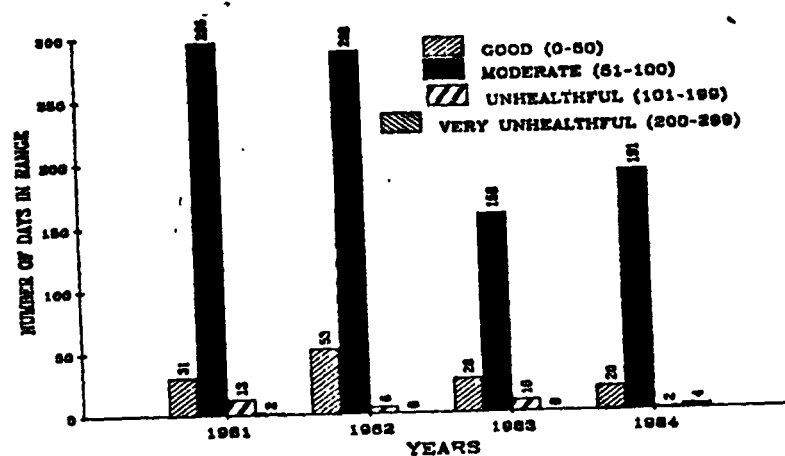
**FIGURE 5**  
**1987 COUNTY OF EL PASO**  
**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY RACE & SPANISH ORIGIN**



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Environmental and health concerns such as reducing air and water pollution, and conservation of our limited water resources will be of utmost importance.

**FIGURE 6**  
**EL PASO CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**  
**INDEX RANGES FOR TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES 1981-1984**



## THE FUTURE

Close coordination between the community and the University of Texas at El Paso will be essential to provide research and applied technology in the areas of science, business, manufacturing, social services, health, the arts, and public administration.

The University and community together should provide for a high quality of life, housing, jobs, and the public facilities needed to support the projected growth and meet the following objectives:

- \* Assure the availability of community facilities and services, including diversified educational opportunities and public transportation.
- \* Promote greater job and housing opportunities for all El Pasoans, especially for low-income families throughout El Paso.
- \* Promote retention, renovation and rehabilitation of the existing businesses and housing stock along with the creation of new homes and businesses.
- \* Provide for art, cultural, and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life.
- \* Upgrade areas of blight and deterioration.
- \* Ensure that continued growth does not sacrifice the environmental and health concerns of the citizens of El Paso and limit the future of the El Paso region.



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