

SECTION 5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Human and Social Capital

Every town enjoys the existence of individuals who possess unique talents and expertise (human capital); and organizations, institutions, and activities that provide connections and solidarity between residents (social capital). Following is a quick list of some of the human and social capital characteristics of Wilmington:

- Major Jonathan Childs was a Revolutionary War hero, who no doubt set a tough standard for his progeny, many of which are still prominent in the life of the town.
- Clarence Budington Kelland studied in Wilmington, and it is said that the town is where he cast Scattergood Baines, the original of his widely known characters (Bears 1996).
- Today Wilmington is home to Skip Morrow, a singer turned cartoonist. His *The Official Why I Hate Cats Book* was on the New York Times Bestseller List for more than a year in 1980-81 (Smalleer 2001, 9).
- There are two schools in Wilmington, Deerfield Valley Elementary School and Wilmington Middle-High School. The middle-high school moniker is “The Warriors.”
- Wilmington is the host of the annual Deerfield Valley Farmers Days.

Table 5.1- Income and Poverty

Annual Average Wage, 1998	\$19,336
Median Family Income, 1979	\$15,308
Median Family Income, 1989	\$32,581
Household Income, 1990	\$27,335
Annual Average Unemployment Rate, 1998	5.3%
Poverty Rate, 1979	12.7%
Poverty Rate, 1989	5.9%
Persons for whom Poverty Status was Determined, 1990	1,928
Child Poverty Rate (persons 18 years or under), 1989	5.5%
Elderly Poverty Rate (persons 65 years or over), 1979	15.9%
Elderly Poverty Rate (persons 65 years or over), 1989	8.0%
Percentage of Households with Public Assistance Income, 1979	11.4%
Percentage of Households with Public Assistance Income, 1989	4.6%

Table 5.2- Educational Attainment (# persons) | 1980 | 1990

Percent with less than a high school diploma	18.5	13.9
Percent with high school diploma or equivalent	35.0	34.4
Percent with Associate degree or some college	21.8	25.4
Percent with Bachelors degree or higher	24.7	26.2

sources: U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 1980, 1990.

[Table of Contents](#)

Next: [Community Priorities](#)

Previous: [Natural Resource Base](#)