

Hot Springs Village  
**Population and Residence Characteristics**

**Lu Otto**  
A Village Demographics Report  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
October 25, 2015

## **Village Population and Residence Characteristics**

Villagers come from every state in the union and 12 foreign countries. It is interesting and informative, therefore, to compare the Village with the U.S. population on basic demographic variables. Comparisons are based on U.S. Census data supplemented by Village records, where necessary. See End Notes for sources.

### **Population**

As with smaller and more recent relocation and retirement developments, the Village has posted periods of both exuberant and slow growth over its 45 year history. Nonetheless, long-term population increases have remained constant over the years. At the close of its first two decades, 1970-90, the Village numbered 6,361 residents. Two decades later the population had more than doubled to 13,722.

Though the Village has yet to recover fully from the 2008-12 national recession, recent growth rates have not been meaningfully different than rates nationally and within the state. Since 2010, the U.S. population increased 3 percent. Arkansas's population increased 1.5 percent. And the Village population increased 2 percent. At no time has the Village experienced a population decline. In 2015 the Village passed the 14,000 residents mark.

Recent expansion has been in the eastern part of the Village, narrowing the Village population differences in Garland and Saline counties. Today, 58 percent of Village residents live in Garland and 42 percent live in Saline County.

### **Gender and Age Distribution**

Through age 45, the percentage of men and women in the Village is about the same. After age 45 and through age 65, there are more women than men in the Village. At age 65, the percentage of men begins to exceed that of women, a trend that continues through age 85. After that the percentage of men declines faster than the percentage of women.

Fifty-two percent of the Village population is female, which compares closely to 51 percent for the U.S. However, the age disparity between the Village and the U.S. varies more. Four percent of the Village population is 19 years old or younger and 62 percent is 65 years old or older. By comparison, 27 percent of the U.S. population is 19 years old or younger and 13 percent is 65 years old or older.

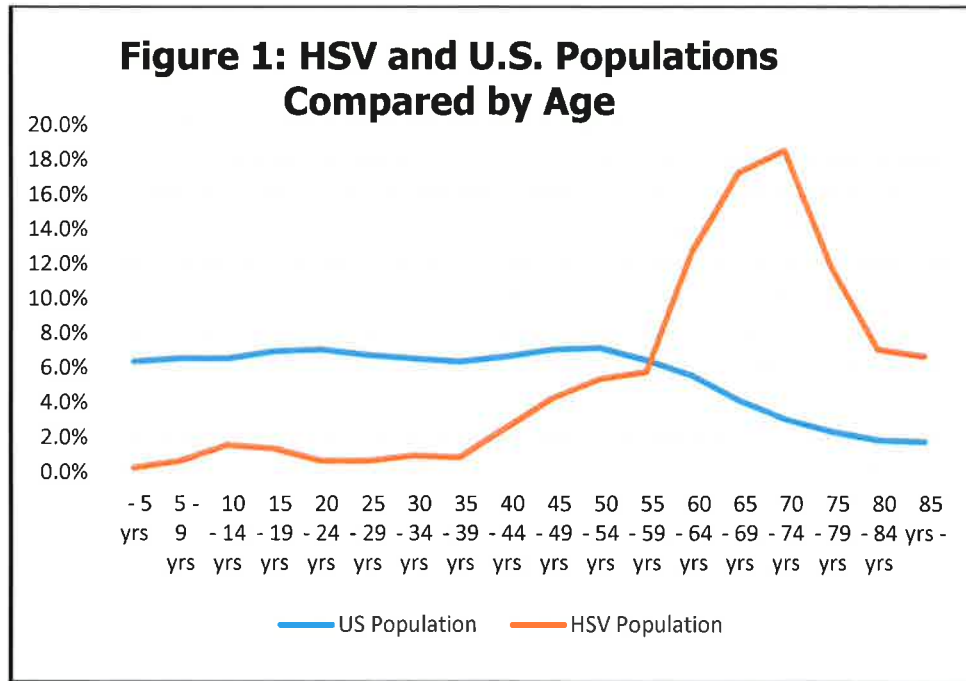


Figure 1 compares the Village and U.S. populations in 5-year age groupings. About 1 percent of Villagers populate each 5-year age grouping through age 40, when the percent in each age group rises dramatically through age 70. Indeed, nineteen percent of the Village population falls in the 70 to 74 age group, after which the percent of Villagers in each age group drops noticeably. By comparison, about 7 percent of the U.S. population appears in each 5-year age group through ages 50 to 54, where after the percent of the population in each age group drops.

The median age of Villagers is 68. The median age in the U.S. is 37.

**Nativity and Race**

Ninety-seven percent of Villagers were born in the U.S., but only 15 percent were born in Arkansas and now live in Arkansas. By comparison, 87 percent of the U.S. population was born in the U.S. and most, 59 percent, live in the state in which they were born.

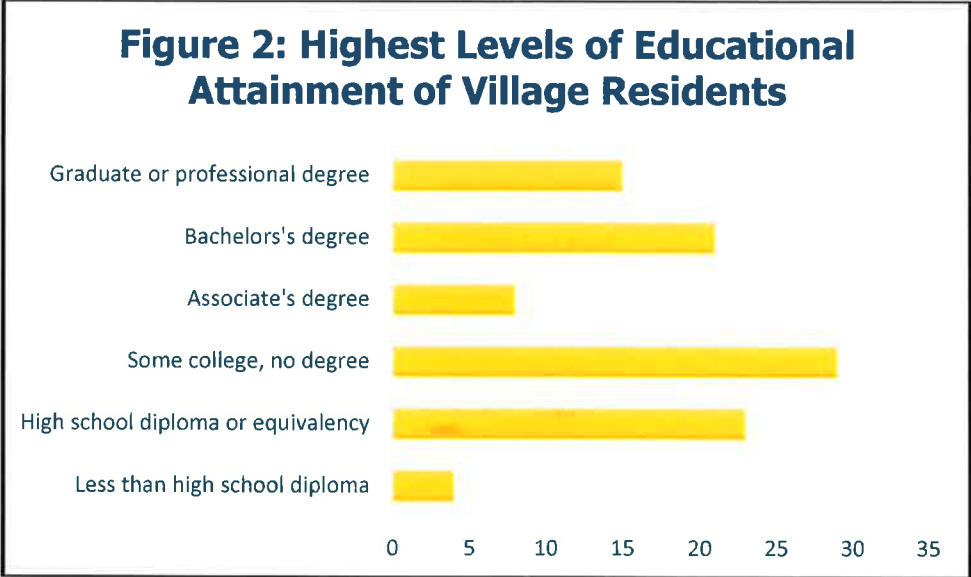
Three percent of Village residents are foreign born compared with 13 percent of the U.S. population. Among Villagers who are foreign born, 73 percent are naturalized U.S. citizens. By comparison, 45 percent of the foreign born U.S. population are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Ninety-eight percent of Villagers are White, 1 percent are Black or African American, and small fractions of one percent are of other races. By comparison, 76 percent of the U.S. population is White, 13 percent is Black or African American, 5 percent Asian, and the remainder is of some other race.

Among Villagers five years old and older, 4 percent speak a language other than English at home compared with 21 percent in the U.S.

**Education**

Village education levels (Figure 2) are notably higher than the national average. Ninety-six percent of Villagers 25 years and older graduated from high school compared to 86 percent in the U.S. Thirty-six percent of Villagers 25 years and older have bachelor's degrees compared with 29 percent in the U.S. Four percent of Villagers did not complete high school compared with 14 percent of U.S. residents.



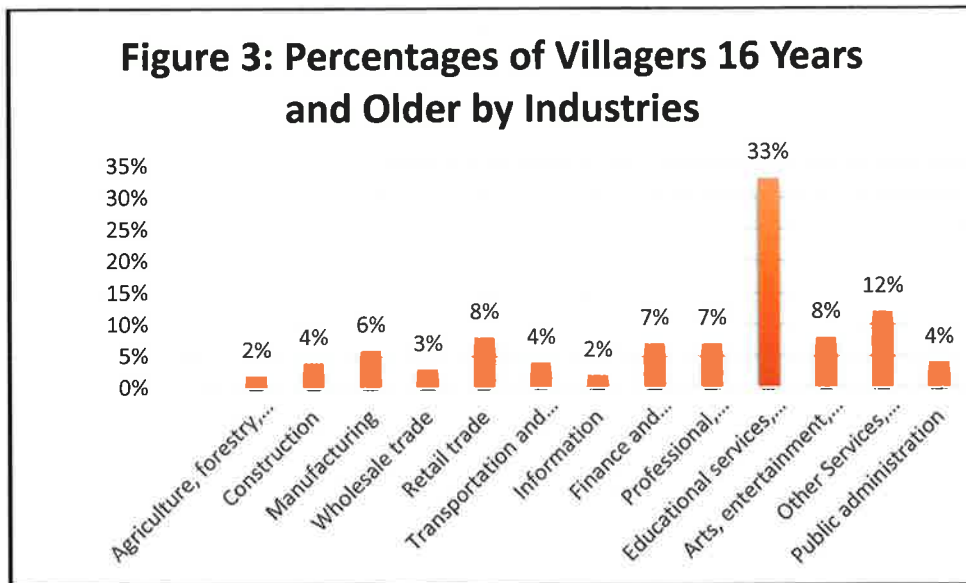
While most Villagers are older and retired from their work careers, increasing numbers move to the Village and continue working. Many have children. In fall 2015, 516 Village children were enrolled in nursery school, kindergarten, elementary and high school in Jessieville and Fountain Lake, the two school systems serving the Village. Another 136 were enrolled in college or graduate school.

**Employment, Type of Employer and Commuting**

Twenty-five percent of the Village population 16 years old and older is employed compared to 58 percent of the U.S. population. Whether employed as private wage and salary, government or self-employed, the distribution of Village workers mirrors the U.S. labor force. With both, 79 percent of workers are employed as private wage and salary workers; 15 percent are federal, state, or local government workers; and 6 percent are self-employed in their own unincorporated businesses.

Figure 3 details the distribution of Village workers across industries. Noteworthy, two industries – education services, health care and social assistance; and other services except public administration – employ nearly half of Village workers.

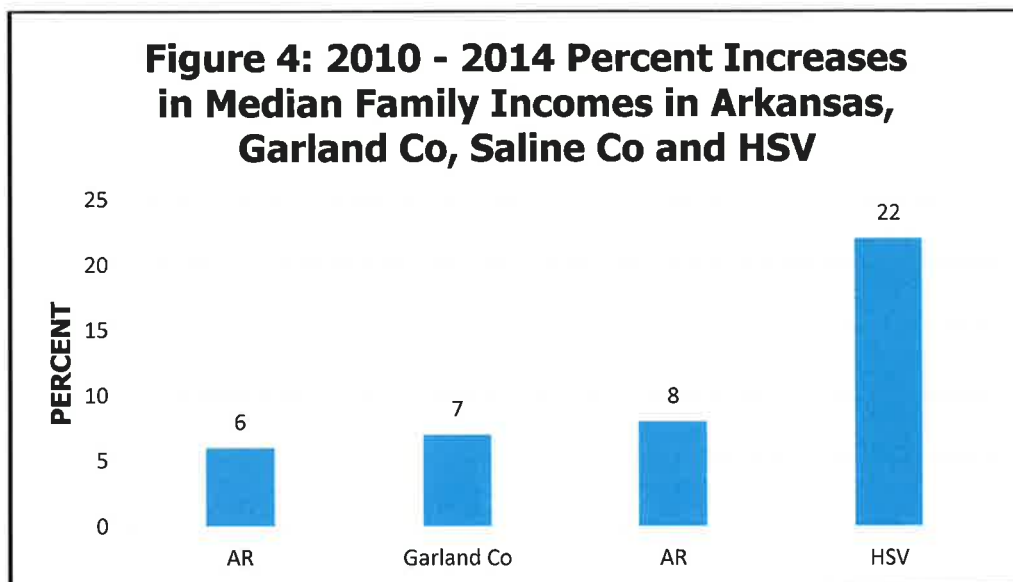
Eighty-seven percent of Village workers commute from the Village and drive alone. Seven percent carpool. The average commute-to-work time in the Village is 28 minutes, which compares to the national average of 26 minutes commute time to work.



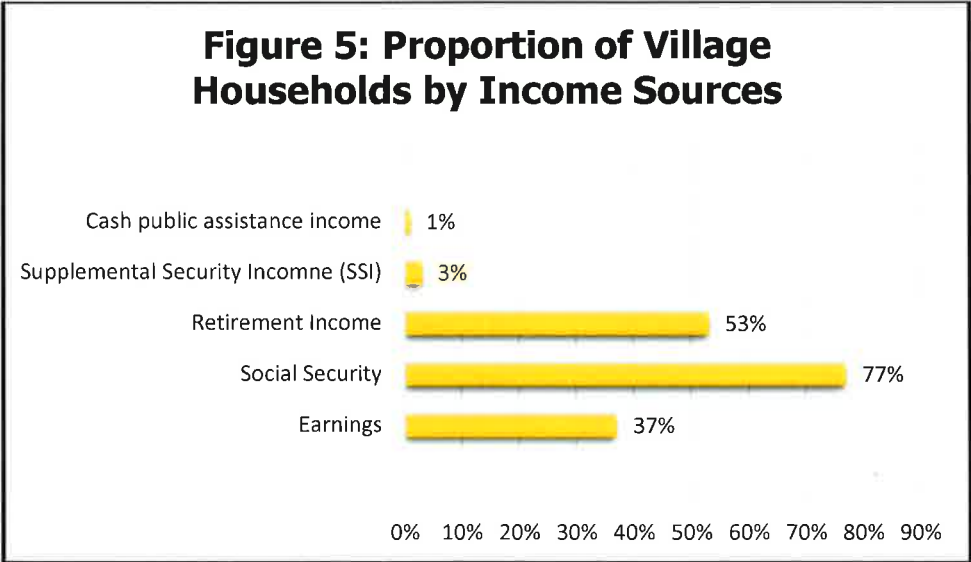
Twenty-five percent of the Village population is employed, which underscores the fact that although most residents are retired from work careers, the Village is neither age-restricted nor is it a designated retirement community. Increasingly, the Village is becoming both a relocation and retirement destination of choice, and Village planning accommodates both.

### Income and Health Insurance

The Hot Springs Village increase in median household income from 2010 – 2014 is virtually three times the increase for Arkansas, for Garland and for Saline County. Figure 4 documents the increases: a 6 percent increase for Arkansas, a 7 percent increase for Garland County, an 8 percent increase for Saline County and a 22 percent increase for Hot Springs Village. The median household income in the Village is \$52,886, which compares to \$53,046 in the U.S.



Thirty-seven percent of Village households received employment earnings compared with 78 percent of U.S. households, and 53 percent of Village households received retirement income other than Social Security. This compares with 18 percent of U.S. households that receive retirement income other than Social Security. Seventy-seven percent of Village households received Social Security compared to 29 percent of U.S. households. The average income from Social Security in the Village is \$21,846 compared to \$17,189 nationally.

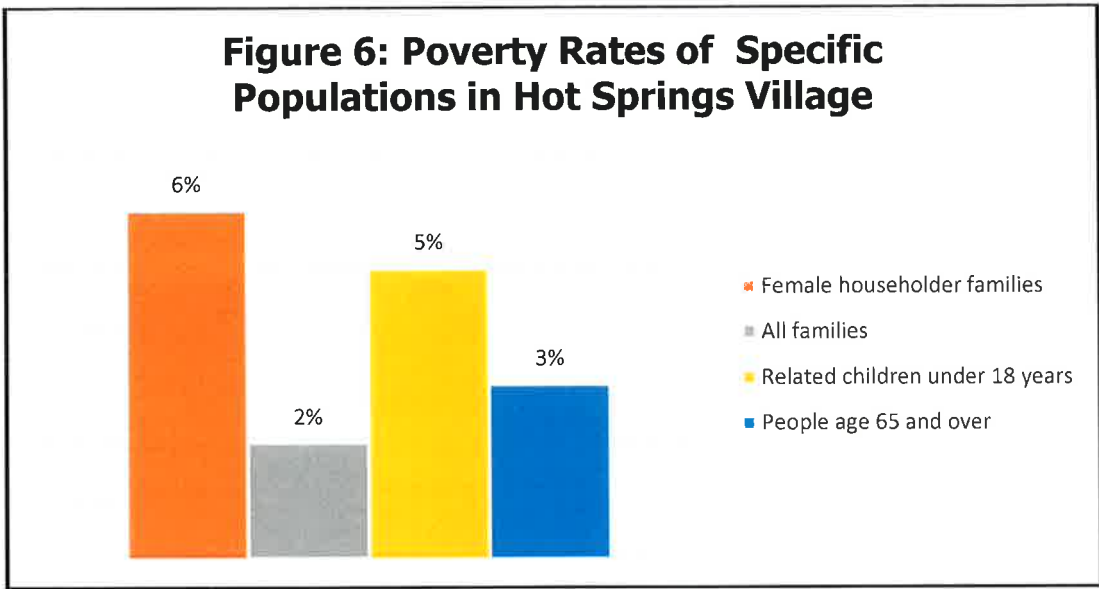


Ninety-six percent of Villagers have health insurance compared with 85 percent of the U.S. population. Eight percent of persons 18 years old and younger in both the Village and the U.S. are without health insurance.

**Poverty and Participation in Government Programs**

Four percent of Villagers live below the poverty level compared with 15 percent of the U.S. population. Five percent of related children 18 years old and younger in the Village live below the poverty level compared with 21 percent in the U.S. Three percent of Village adults 65 years and older live below the poverty level as do 9 percent of people 65 years old and older in the U.S.

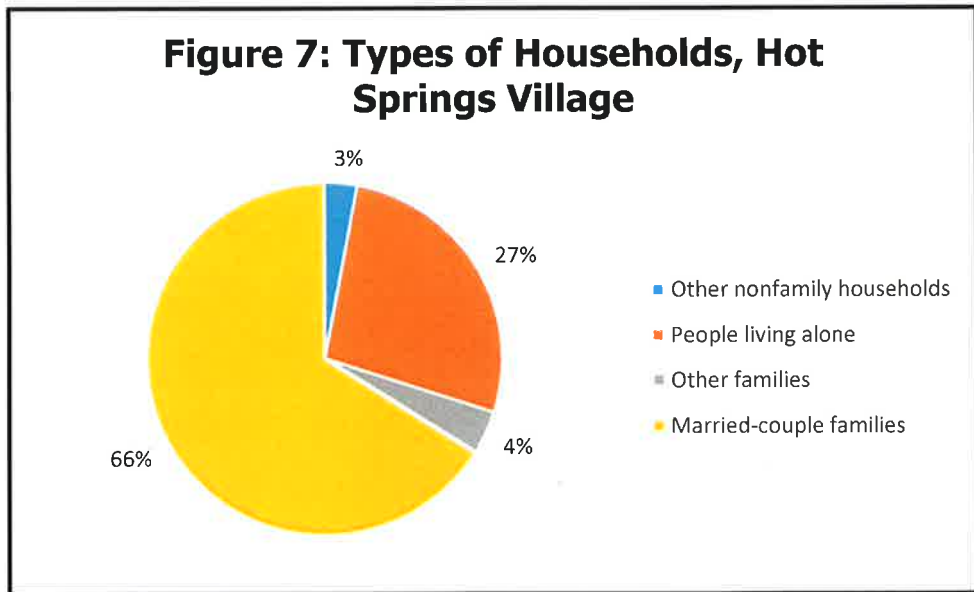
Two percent of Village families and 6 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present have incomes below the poverty level. By comparison, 11 percent of U.S. families and 31 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present have incomes below the poverty level.



**Households and Families**

The average size of households in the Village is 1.8 persons compared to a national average of 2.6 persons.

Families make up 70 percent of Village households compared to 66 percent nationally. These figures include both married-couple families (66 percent in the Village and 49 percent in the U.S.) and other families (4 percent in the Village and 18 percent in the U.S.). Of other families in the Village, 1 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years old, which compares to 7 percent in the U.S. The average size of families in the Village is 2.1 persons compared to the national average size of families of 3.2 persons.



Nonfamily households make up 30 percent of all households in the Village compared to 34 percent of all households in the U.S. Most nonfamily households are people living alone, though some are composed of people living in households in which no one is related to the householder.

Five percent of Village households have one or more residents under age 18 compared with 33 percent of households in the U.S; and 73 percent of Village households have one or more residents 65 years and older, which compares with 25 percent in the U.S.

Among Village residents 15 years old and older, 81 percent of males and 71 percent of females are married. Comparable percentages of males and females married in the U.S. are 51 and 47 percent, respectively.

**Figure 8: Marital Status of Village Residents**

<b>Village Population 15 Years Old and Older</b>	<b>Males Percent</b>	<b>Females Percent</b>
Never married	7	5
Now married, except separated	81	71
Separated	2	1
Widowed	5	15
Divorced	6	9

Five percent of Village households have one or more residents under age 18 compared with 33 percent of households in the U.S; and 73 percent of Village households have one or more residents 65 years and older, which compares with 25 percent in the U.S.

Among Village residents 15 years old and older, 81 percent of males and 71 percent of females are married. Comparable percentages of males and females married in the U.S. are 51 and 47 percent, respectively.

**Housing Unit Characteristics and Occupancy**

Hot Springs Village has 8,990 housing units. Ninety-six percent are single-unit structures compared with 68 percent of U.S. housing. Seven percent of Village housing is multi-unit compared with 26 percent in the U.S. Fifty-nine percent of Village housing was built since 1990 compared with 29 percent of U.S. housing.

The median number of rooms in housing units in both the Village and the U.S. is 6. However, 75 percent of Village housing units have three or more bedrooms compared with 60 percent of housing units in the U.S.

Ninety-one percent of Village housing units are owner occupied; 9 percent are renter occupied. By comparison, 65 percent of U.S. housing units are owner occupied and 35 percent are renter occupied.



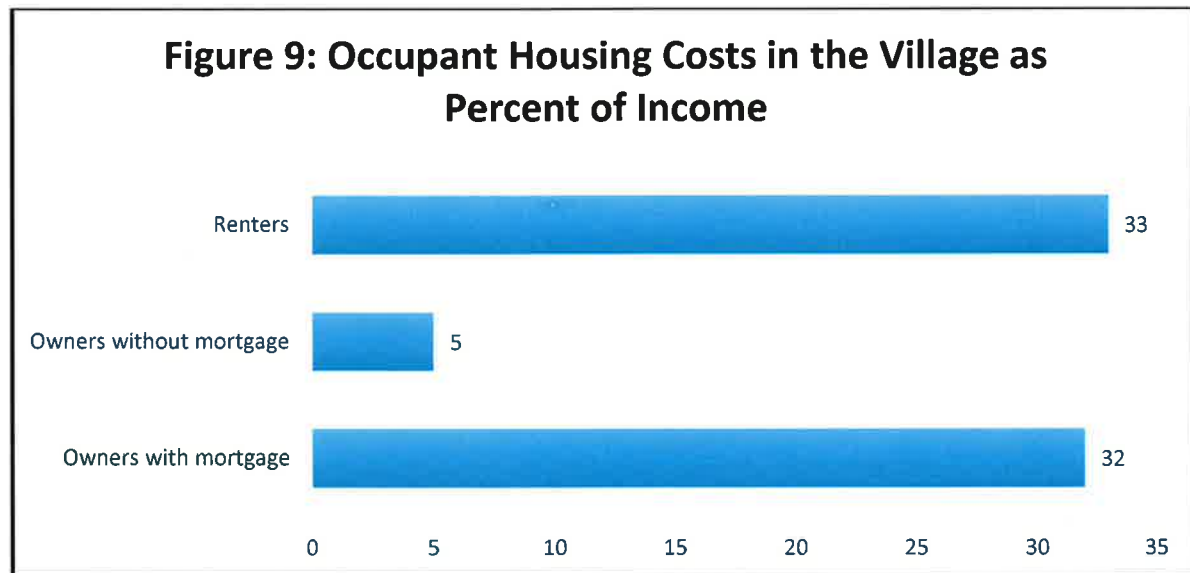
Seventy percent of Village homes are occupied by families compared to 66 percent nationally. Sixty-six percent of Village households include a married couple. Nationally, 49 percent include a married couple.

The average household size in the Village is 1.8 persons. The average nationally is 2.6. Twenty-seven percent of householders in the Village live alone, about the same as the 28 percent nationally.

Two percent of Village households have no vehicles available as compared to 9 percent of U.S. households. Eight percent of Village households have three or more vehicles available as do 20 percent of U.S. households.

### Housing Costs

The median monthly housing cost for mortgaged home owners in the Village is twenty-seven percent lower than the national average, \$1,127 compared to \$1,540. The median monthly housing cost for Village non-mortgaged owners is \$402 compared with \$452, nine percent less than the national average. However, the median monthly housing cost in the Village for renters is \$958 as compared to \$904, nine percent higher than the national average.



In the Village 32 percent of owners with mortgages, 5 percent of owners without mortgages, and 33 percent of renters spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing. By comparison, the U.S. average is 36 percent of owners with mortgages, 15 percent of owners without mortgages, and 52 percent of renters spending 30 percent or more of their household income on housing.

Fifty-seven percent of Village owner-occupied units have a mortgage compared to 66 percent of U.S. householders.

## Summary

Over its 45-year history, Hot Springs Village has grown at a sustained average of 310 new residents a year. If that rate continues, the Village population will approximate 15,500 residents by its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

As expected of retirement and relocation communities, the mean age of the Village population is higher than that of the U.S. population, though its gender distribution differs little from that of the general population.

Village residents are an advantaged population. They come from extraordinarily diverse experiential, career and cultural backgrounds. They bring significant assets - education, income, health, housing, family and household structure advantages - and the 25 percent who continue working further enrich the Village experience.

Across a broad spectrum of quality of life indicators, life is good in Hot Springs Village.

## End Notes

The data for this study consist of the most recent, reliable and valid data available on the subjects reviewed. More specifically, the primary data resources are the U. S. Bureau of the Census decennial surveys, the U. S. Census 2014 American Community Survey and Village Administrative files.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the U.S Census Bureau provides population counts that inform population trends at ten-year intervals. U. S. Census Bureau counts for the Village population in 1970, 1990 and 2010 reported at the beginning of this study are documented in the corresponding Census reports.

We supplement the Census data with the most recent U. S. Census Bureau American Community Survey reports which provide annual estimates of a much larger domain of population characteristics gathered to inform public administration and planning. The U. S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2014 provides the data basis for most of the analysis in this report.

Village administration files provide a third data resource for information not available elsewhere, namely, the opening statement to this report: "*Villagers come from every state in the union and 12 foreign countries.*" All other statements are based on U. S. Census Bureau data.

Finally, although great care has been taken to assure the accuracy and to carefully double-check assertions, inadvertent mistakes do occur. I will be grateful if you bring such to my attention. Thank you.

Lu Otto  
151025  
501-922-9395  
LuOttohsv@att.net