

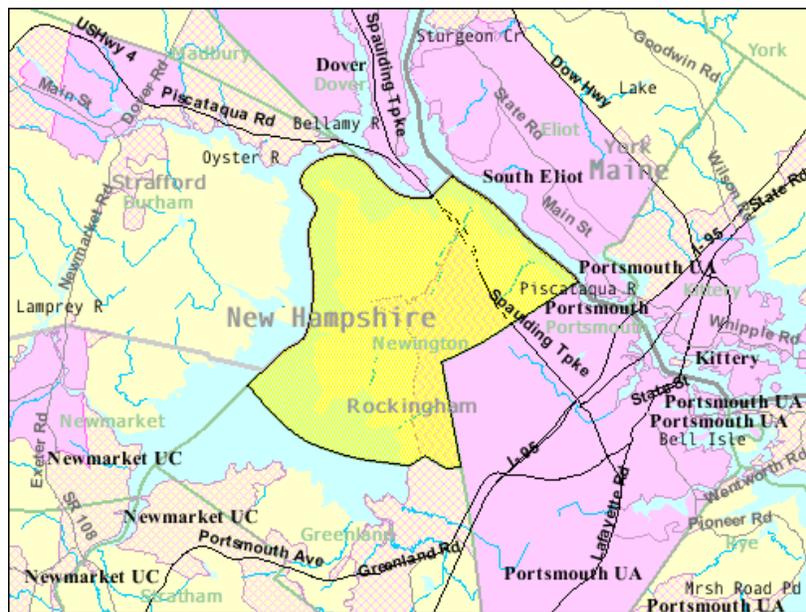
NEWINGTON, NH¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

The city of Newington (43.1°N, 70.50°) (USGS 2008) is located in New Hampshire's Seacoast Region in the county of Rockingham. The city is situated about 59 miles northeast of Boston, and 55 southwest of Portland. Newington is bordered on three sides by the Piscataqua River and the Great Bay Estuary and contains 8.2 square miles of land area and 4.1 square miles of inland water area (ELMIB 2007).



Map 1. Location of Newington, NH (US Census Bureau 2000a)

Historical/Background

Newington was originally called Bloody Point, over early colonists' defeat of an attacking band of Native Americans in the late 1600s. Early in the 1700s, it was renamed Newington Parish. Newington is surrounded on three sides by the Piscataqua River and Great Bay (ELMIB 2007). The miles of navigable waterways of the Great Bay estuary made transportation by vessel easier than by wagons over roads. Here early European settlers invented a sailing barge called the gundalow which sailed the waters from 1650s to the early 1900s, carrying bricks made of Great Bay blue clay, cord wood, fish, salt marsh hay, and other materials to Boston. Today the shore of the lower estuary is heavily industrialized along the Piscataqua River. The presence of oil depots and power plants, as well as the

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: "Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov."

development of a major port, has caused many to be concerned about the health of the estuary. This estuary is still an important site of recreational activity for residents and visitors alike. Both decision makers and the general public have begun to recognize the significance of the Great Bay Estuary to the shellfish and other marine fisheries (NERRS 2004).

Demographics³

According to US Census Bureau 2000 data, Newington had a total population of 775, down 21.7% from the reported population of 990 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 49.7% were males and 50.3% were females. The median age was 42.6 years and 75.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 16.5% of the population was 62 or older.

Newington's population structure (see Figure 1) shows that the highest percentage of the population in 2000 was between 40-49 years, and the percentages subtly decrease as age groups increase by decade. As is common in many smaller communities, there is a severe dip in the 20-29 age group, possibly indicating out-migration after high school for college or work. The fact that the population level at 40-49 is almost triple that of 20-29 may indicate people returning home in their middle years.

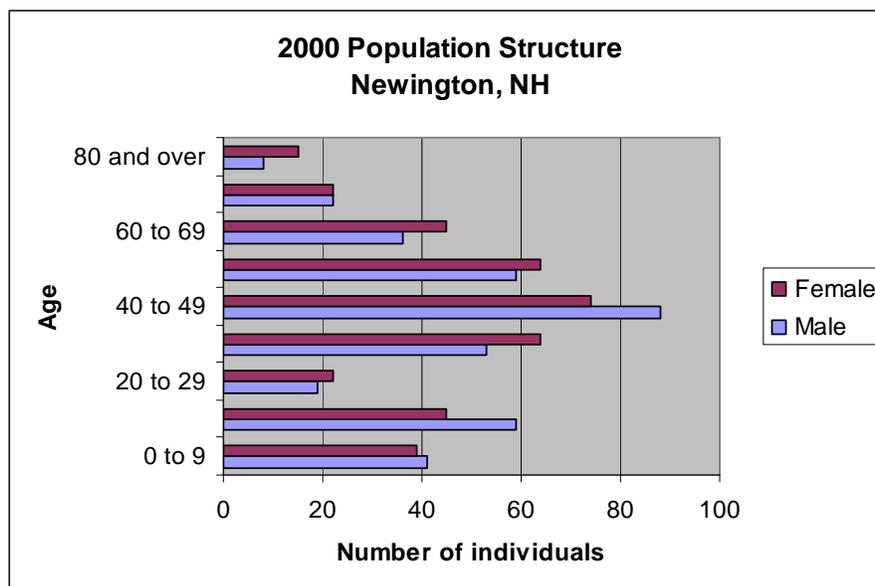


Figure 1. Newington's population structure by sex in 2000

The majority of the population was white (96.9%), with 1.8% black or African American, 1.0% Asian, 0.3% Native American, and none Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.8% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: English (18.1%), Irish (9.7%), Scottish (7%), French (6.3%), and French Canadian (5.2%) (US Census Bureau 2000a).

With regard to region of birth, 47.6% were born in New Hampshire, 47.6% were born in a different state and 3.7% were born outside the U.S. (including 1.4% who were not US citizens).

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

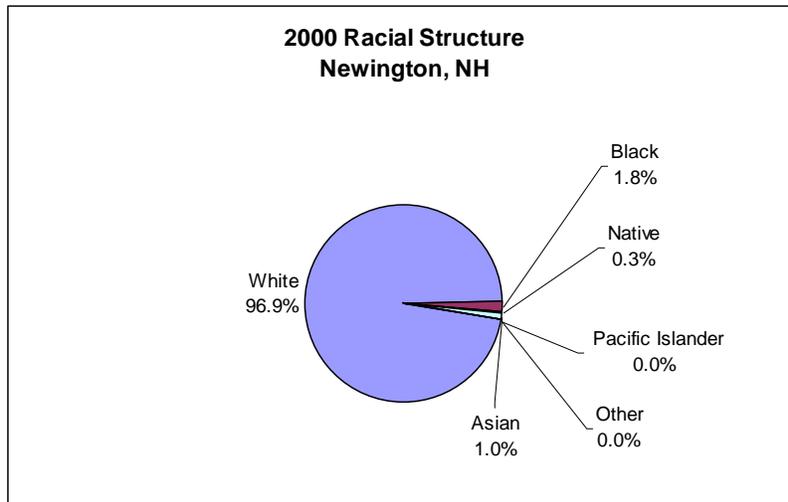


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

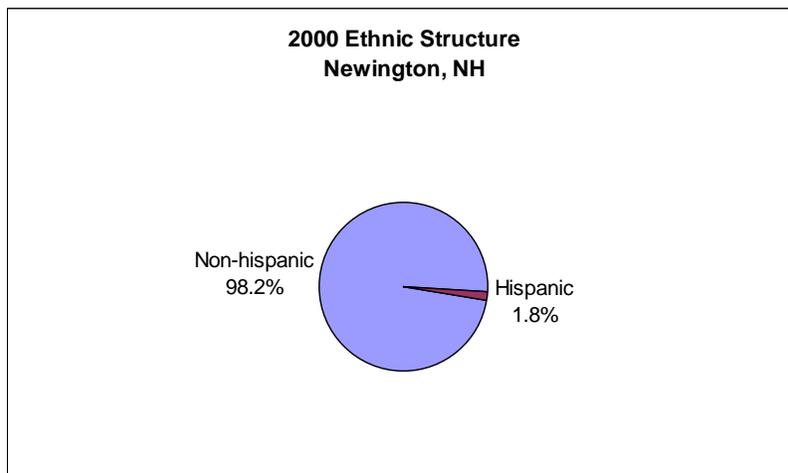


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (U.S. Census 2000)

For 92.3% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 7.7% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 3.4% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 86.4% were high school graduates or higher and 31.2% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 5.5% did not reach ninth grade, 8.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 27.5% completed high school, 17.5% had some college with no degree, 10.2% received their associate’s degree, 23.1% earned their bachelor’s degree, and 8.1% received either their graduate or professional degree.

Although religious percentages are not available through U.S. Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations in Rockingham County were Catholic (25 with 117,542 adherents), United Church of Christ (23 with 6,352 adherents), and American Baptist (21 with 4,449 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 70.5% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

Issues/Processes

For the state of New Hampshire in general, but particularly in towns closest to Portland and Newington especially, these areas are overrun by intense coastal development and tourism (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). This is mainly because of Newington's picturesque coast and proximity to large cities such as Boston. The Newington fishing industry also competes with other water dependant industries. For example, Newington exports tallow (the by-product from animal fat renderings and deep-fryer grease) and steel scrap. One recent export is wood chips to Europe by ship for use as fuel for electrical power generating plants (Brown 2003).

Cultural attributes

Information on cultural attributes in Newington is unavailable through secondary data collection.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

In Newington, the [Little Bay Lobster Company](#) (sometimes under the auspices of Shafmaster Fleet Services), formed in 1980, harvests lobsters and delivers them nationally and internationally. Seven vessels of 75 feet each make week long trips to fish for lobster for the company. Besides the tanks for lobsters and crabs, their facility has freezer space and manufactures its own electricity (Hall-Arber et al. 2001). In Portsmouth, the [New England Marine and Industrial, Inc.](#) formed in 1984 sells industrial supplies and commercial fishing gear.

Newington has a large commercial area as well as a number of industries which attract employees and shoppers from around the region to Newington. The largest employers in Newington are the following: Fox Run Mall (600), Thermo Electron (lab equipment manufacturing – 600), Combustion Engineering (175), Xings at Fox Run (retail – 100), Georgia Pacific (gypsum board – 90), and Sprague Energy (fuel storage – 65) (ELMIB 2007). Tyco and Westinghouse also have facilities in Newington (Town of Town of Newington, no date).

According to the U.S. Census 2000⁴, 60.6% (470 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which none were unemployed, 1.0% were in the Armed Forces, and 74.8% were employed.

⁴ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

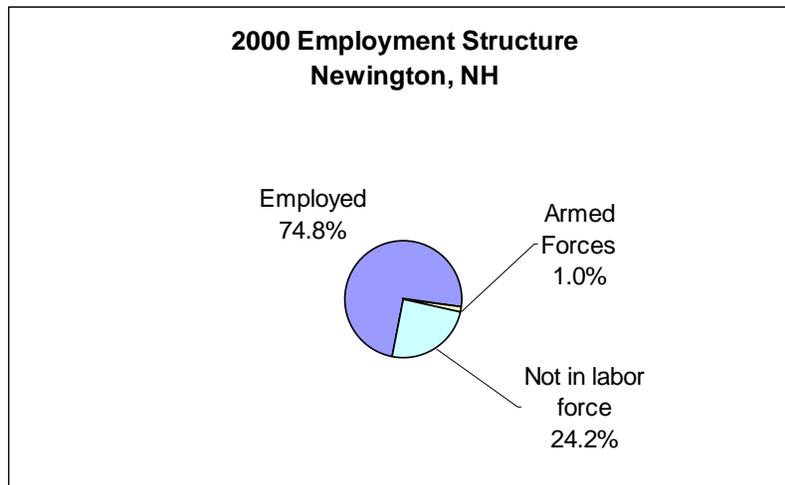


Figure 4. Employment structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for no local jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 58 positions or 12.5% of jobs. Educational health and social services (19.2%), manufacturing (15.3%), professional, scientific, management, administrative services (11.8%), and retail trade (9.9%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Newington was \$59,464, up 42.9% from \$41,607 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and median per capita income was \$31,172. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 37.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Newington consisted of 3.01 persons. With respect to poverty, 4.9% of families, down from 6.5% in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990) and 4.6% of individuals earned below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 17.4% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Newington had a total of housing units, of which 96.4% were occupied and 85.9% were detached one unit homes. Approximately one-quarter (22.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes and boats accounted for 10% of the total housing units; 82.9% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$256,800. Of vacant housing units, 45.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 22.1% were renter occupied.

Government

Newington is run by a Board of Selectmen and a town manager (ELMIB 2007).

Fishery involvement in government

While Newington does not appear to have its own Harbormaster, the nearby towns of Kittery Point, ME (9 miles) and Rye, NH (8 miles) do have Harbormasters and Shellfish Wardens.

Institutional

Fishing associations

The New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association represents both lobstering and groundfishing, the major components of New Hampshire's commercial fishing industry.

It has been an active advocate for industry issues at both the state and federal level with members participating as representatives on boards, commissions, and councils.⁵

In addition, Little Bay Lobster in Newington is a sponsoring member of the [Massachusetts Lobsterman's Association](#), headquartered in Scituate, MA (about 90 miles from Newington).

Fishing assistance centers

When NMFS proposed Amendment 13, which closed vast areas to fishing, this reduced the number of days fishermen can fish, and required fishermen to purchase new and expensive gear. New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg (R) asked Senate Appropriations for more than \$11 million in economic assistance for New England fishing communities (Davidson 2002). As a result of Senator Gregg's efforts, a revolving loan fund was made available to the fishing industry. Fund activity has been sporadic because of the decline in economic investment in the industry resulting from regulatory conditions.⁶

Other fishing related organizations

Newington has a Conservation Commission's whose duties "include research into local land and water areas, open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas, marshlands, swamps, and all other wetlands, and review & comment upon dredge/fill applications that are filed with the NH Department of Environmental Services. The Commission also keeps a sharp eye out for construction along the shore so as to ensure that the NH Shoreland Protection law is respected by all." (Town of Newington, no date)

Research on lumpfish, several flounder species, cod, and haddock is being conducted at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Coastal Marine Laboratory. Engineering research on offshore fish pens has been conducted in association with one of the finfish projects by the UNH Ocean Engineering Department (Jones 2000).

Physical

Newington's commercial district is the epicenter of New Hampshire's third largest retail market, and there is a strategic proximity to Highway 4 that connects the cities of Rochester, Dover, Somersworth, and Portsmouth. An easy access to Maine and Massachusetts is also assured by the proximity to Interstate 95. Newington is also served by the Boston & Maine Railroad, and a commercial airport at Pease (Town of Newington, no date).

Newington also hosts the largest deep-water port in New Hampshire. The port is three miles along the Piscataqua riverfront. Newington's port has over 3 million barrels of bulk storage facilities for oil, gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, and asphalt, and it handles large quantities of salt and gypsum rock. As much as 80% of New Hampshire's ocean-going shipping docks in Newington (Town of Newington, no date). "Newington also holds more publicly owned conservation land than any other municipality in southeast New Hampshire. Protected tracts include the 120 acre Fox Point which juts far into Little Bay, and the spectacular 1,100 acre Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge which accounts for six miles of shoreline along the Great Bay Estuary." (Town of Newington, no date)

⁵ Profile review comment, Erik Anderson, President, New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, September 28, 2007

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INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁷

Commercial

A commercial fishery for American lobster is very active in the Great Bay Estuary. Other commercial fisheries in the Great Bay estuary include herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*), baitfishing for alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), mummichogs (*Fundulus sp.*) and tomcod (*Microgadus tomcod*) using gillnets, seines and minnow traps; trapping for eels (*Anguilla rostrata*); and angling and dipnetting for smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) (Jones 2000:177-182).

In the early 1980's there were four commercial shellfish aquaculture operations in the Great Bay Estuary, engaged in the culture of indigenous (Eastern) oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), European flat oysters (*Ostrea edulis*), and hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*). There has also been a great deal of activity in the past few years associated with finfish culture. In 1996, Great Bay Aquafarms commenced operation on a commercial summer flounder hatchery and nursery, the first commercial summer flounder facility in the United States. The facility produces fingerlings which are transferred for grow-out to other locations, but plan to construct their own grow-out facility on-site in the future. The company's operations are based in a warehouse on the Public Services of New Hampshire (PSNH) power generation site in Newington, and the facility is located entirely indoors. They use sophisticated recirculation and bio-filtration technologies to grow the fish in land-based tanks and more than 250,000 fish were produced in 1996.

The north of Cape Cod midwater trawl fleet (pair and single) consists of 15 vessels with principal ports of Gloucester MA, Newington NH, New Harbor ME, Portland ME, Rockland ME, and Vinalhaven ME. This sector made 720 trips and landed 62,145 metric tons of herring in 2003. Maine had the highest reported landings (46%) in 2003, followed by Massachusetts (38%), New Hampshire (8%), and Rhode Island (7%) (NEFMC 2004:45).

The species with the highest dollar value landed in Newington were lobster and herring between 1997 and 2006 (see Table 1). Several other species were landed throughout the same time period but of less significant value. Lobster and herring were the only two species landed in Newington in 2006, and the value of lobster landings in 2006 were more than double the ten-year average landings value. The number of vessels whose home port was Newington varied from a low in 2005 of 2 vessels, to a high in 2001-2003 of 9 vessels. The level of fishing home port value also varied and was generally low, yet the landings in Newington were consistently very high in every year beginning in 2000. This indicates that few landings in Newington are actually made by the home ported vessels, which are few in number and relatively inactive. The number of vessels whose owner's city was Newington varied between 8-17, with the high in 2005 (opposite for home port vessels where the low was in 2005) (see Table 2).

⁷In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Herring	2
Other ⁸	3
Scallop	4
Monkfish	5
Dogfish	6
Largemouth Groundfish ⁹	7
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	8
Skate	9
Smallmesh Groundfish ¹⁰	10

(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)

Vessels by Year¹¹

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# vessels (owner's city)
1997	6	8
1998	7	8
1999	7	10
2000	8	12
2001	9	11
2002	9	12
2003	9	14
2004	3	15
2005	2	17
2006	2	14

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence¹²)

⁸ "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

⁹ Largemouth Groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

¹⁰ Smallmesh Groundfish (Multi-Species): red hake, ocean pout, mixed hake, black whiting, silver hake (whiting)

¹¹ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

¹² The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

Recreational

Large oyster beds occur within the Great Bay estuary and are harvested recreationally (Jones 2000). The Great Bay Estuary also supports a diverse community of resident, migrant, and anadromous fishes, many of which are pursued by recreational fishermen. The main species of recreational interest are: striped bass, bluefish, salmon, eels, tomcod, shad, smelt, and flounder. Fishing is not limited to boats, as cast or bait fishing is done from the shore in many places (including the bridges crossing the estuary), and ice fishing is popular in the tidal rivers in the winter season. Recreational fishing in salt water does not require a license except for smelt in Great Bay Estuary; trout, shad and salmon in all state waters; and to take any fish species through the ice. Another important recreational fishing activity is trap fishing for lobsters (Jones 2000). Further, [Finish Line Charters](#) in Newington provides open ocean sport fishing.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in Newington is either available through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

Information on future issues in Newington is unavailable through secondary data collection.

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