

## Population Trends and Analysis (con't)

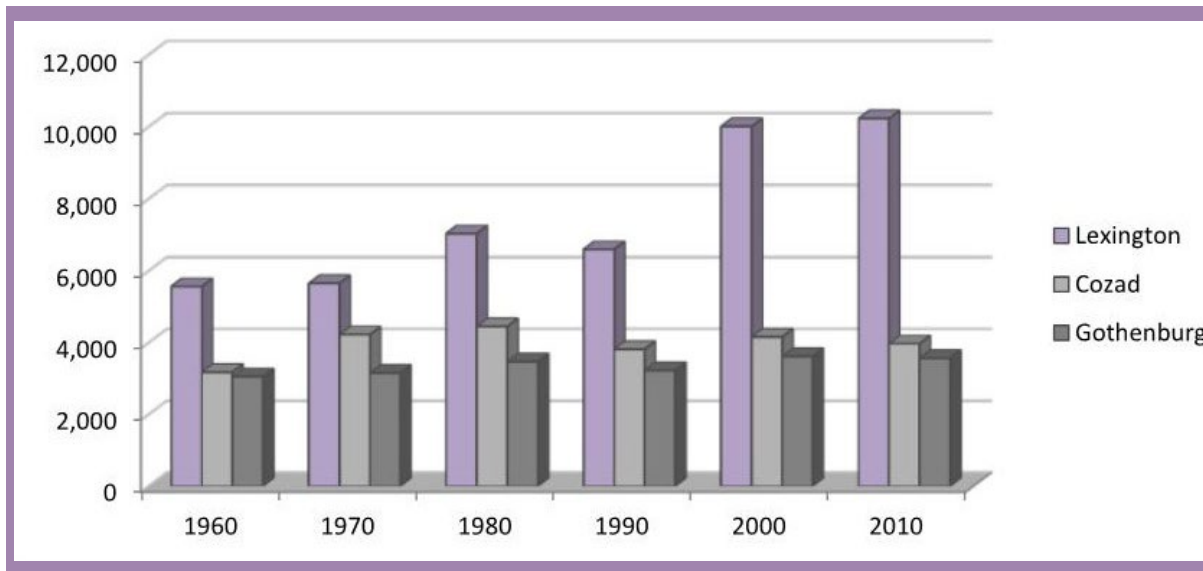


Figure 2: Population Comparison with Dawson County cities

Figure 2 shows a visual representation of the historical population of the previous 50 years within Dawson County. It can be seen that Lexington's growth had increased the 1970s with a brief dip in the 1980s. However, Lexington responded to this loss of population by having its largest growth in the 1990s and continues to influence in Dawson County.

Table 2 compares its population growth of Lexington to Dawson County and the larger cities of Cozad and Gothenburg over the past forty years. This information provides an understanding of the county's long term population trends. The decade of 1970 showed an increase for Dawson County while the 1980s revealed an overall decrease for both the cities and the county. Lexington's population in 2010 was 10,230 persons, which was an increase of 3,629 persons, or 55%, since 1990. The large population growth in the 1990s has elevated Lexington to remain above its contemporaries in 2010. Within the same time period, Dawson County's population increased by 22.0%; with all communities and incorporated areas increasing their population by 4,386. The table also shows that Cozad lost 4.5% of its population between 2000 and 2010.

Community	1970	1980	% Change 1970 to 1980	1990	% Change 1980 to 1990	2000	% Change 1990 to 2000	2010	% Change 2000 to 2010
Lexington	5,654	7,040	24.5%	6,601	-6.2%	10,011	51.7%	10,230	2.2%
Cozad	4,225	4,453	5.4%	3,823	-14.1%	4,163	8.9%	3,977	-4.5%
Gothenburg	3,158	3,479	10.2%	3,232	-7.1%	3,619	12.0%	3,574	-1.2%
Dawson County	19,467	22,304	14.6%	19,940	-10.6%	24,365	22.2%	24,326	-0.2%

Source: U.S. Census and American Factfinder

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