



SHREWSBURY

Worcester County



[NARRATIVE](#)

[GEOGRAPHY](#)

[GOVERNMENT](#)

[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)

[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)

[TRANSPORTATION](#)

[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)

[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Shrewsbury is a suburban community with an uneven and hilly terrain cut by a number of minor streams providing several small water power sites. Grants of land were made in what would eventually be the town beginning in 1664, with the 3,200 acre grant called Haynes Farm as the largest. Settlers came primarily from Sudbury and Marlborough and the first permanent settler was Gersham Wheelock in 1720.

Townspeople created an agricultural economy with apple orchards and by 1750 there were two stores and four taverns as well as several small industries in operation. The rapid fall of prices for agricultural goods, the shortage of hard currency and the general economic depression following the Revolutionary War produced disastrous conditions for colonists. Shay's Rebellion in 1786 sought to close the courts to prevent debt collections and the foreclosure of mortgages. Shrewsbury became a staging area for the rebellion and the encampment of the more than 400 insurgents, before the march on the Worcester Court House.

A leather industry began in 1786 in Shrewsbury and town farmers developed large cattle herds to support the manufacture of boots and shoes. This was followed by the establishment of gunsmithing operations in 1797 which produced rifles, shotguns and pistols and eventually cutlery. Luther Goddard began in 1809 by making brass clocks and then established a small watch factory employing a few skilled Swiss and English watchmakers. Lumbering created sawmills and they in turn drew chair and cabinet makers, plow and wagon builders.

The development of streetcar routes in the 19th century spurred the growth of single-family housing in town and a summer resort population on Lake Quinsigamond became consumers of the market garden produce grown by town farmers. As Shrewsbury's industry was killed off by the lack of large waterpower sites and the tardy arrival of the railroad, its role as a suburb of Worcester grew more important. The town's population doubled from 1915 to 1940 as continued streetcar suburb growth brought more modern settlers into the community. Other modern developments included an increased number of lakeside cottages, ethnic clubs and recreational areas on the lake. The economy of modern Shrewsbury has been described as depending on agriculture, the resort industry and the providing of recreation and food for the population of Worcester.

(Narrative supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Worcester on the west, Northborough and Westborough on the east, and Grafton on the south and northwest. Shrewsbury is 5 miles east of Worcester, 27 miles south of Fitchburg, 34 miles west of Boston, and 183 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 21.65 sq. miles

Land Area: 20.73 sq. miles

Population: 24,146

Density: 1,165 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Worcester WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....22.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Shrewsbury, Worcester North, Grafton

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 842-7471

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1727

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	15,413		
Democrats	5,240	34.0	%
Republicans	2,915	18.9	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,256	47.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Shrewsbury town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	31,640	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	31,640	100.0
Male.....	15,390	48.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	504	1.6
Female.....	16,260	51.4	Mexican.....	46	0.1
Under 5 years.....	2,483	7.8	Puerto Rican.....	204	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	2,474	7.8	Cuban.....	27	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,119	6.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	227	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	1,499	4.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	31,136	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	1,126	3.6	White alone.....	27,875	88.1
25 to 34 years.....	4,460	14.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	6,106	19.3	Total population.....	31,640	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,406	13.9	In households.....	31,463	99.4
55 to 59 years.....	1,573	5.0	Householder.....	12,366	39.1
60 to 64 years.....	1,121	3.5	Spouse.....	7,435	23.5
65 to 74 years.....	2,156	6.8	Child.....	9,734	30.8
75 to 84 years.....	1,571	5.0	Own child under 18 years.....	7,822	24.7
85 years and over.....	547	1.7	Other relatives.....	1,003	3.2
Median age (years).....	37.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	219	0.7
18 years and over.....	23,529	74.4	Nonrelatives.....	925	2.9
Male.....	11,234	35.5	Unmarried partner.....	460	1.5
Female.....	12,295	38.9	In group quarters.....	177	0.6
21 years and over.....	22,891	72.3	Institutionalized population.....	106	0.3
62 years and over.....	4,950	15.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	71	0.2
65 years and over.....	4,274	13.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,706	5.4	Total households.....	12,366	100.0
Female.....	2,569	8.1	Family households (families).....	8,689	70.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,265	34.5
One race.....	31,325	99.0	Married-couple family.....	7,435	60.1
White.....	28,199	89.1	With own children under 18 years.....	3,671	29.7
Black or African American.....	459	1.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	931	7.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	37	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	474	3.8
Asian.....	2,408	7.6	Nonfamily households.....	3,677	29.7
Asian Indian.....	1,148	3.6	Householder living alone.....	3,125	25.3
Chinese.....	720	2.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,299	10.5
Filipino.....	96	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,438	35.9
Japanese.....	66	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,090	25.0
Korean.....	97	0.3	Average household size.....	2.54	(X)
Vietnamese.....	212	0.7	Average family size.....	3.09	(X)
Other Asian ¹	129	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-	Total housing units.....	12,696	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	12,366	97.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	330	2.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	90	0.7
Some other race.....	218	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	315	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	12,366	100.0
White.....	28,454	89.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	9,038	73.1
Black or African American.....	510	1.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,328	26.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	93	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.81	(X)
Asian.....	2,557	8.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.84	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	-			
Some other race.....	338	1.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 157

Conventional Federal: 99

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 1

Federal (Section 8): 160



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 140 running N-S; and U.S. Route 20 and State Route 9 (the Worcester Turnpike), both cross-state roads. Interstate 290 passes through the northern part of Shrewsbury and forms an interchange with Interstate Route 495, the outer loop around Boston, in the nearby town of Marlborough.

Rail

Passenger rail service to Boston, Providence, Springfield, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through neighboring Worcester.

Bus

Shrewsbury is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service to Worcester. The WRTA also offers paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Shrewsbury Nursing Home, Inc.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.