

ENOSBURGH

Franklin County,
Vermont

A COMMUNITY PROFILE

Prepared for the
Vermont Council on Rural Development



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Vermont**

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**Prepared for the
Vermont Council on Rural Development
Community Visit
March 24, 2003**

**By
The Center for Rural Studies
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A Note to the Reader

Just as a community is never finished modifying, adapting, and organizing its natural, political, and social environments, an attempt to profile those dynamic processes must be a work in progress. Materials below are organized to reflect community characteristics and resources. Please join us in this profiling effort and call attention to major omissions, inaccuracies, and errors of fact.

The Center for Rural Studies' Community Profile Series is supported, in part, by annual allotments of competitive Hatch Funds from the University of Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, and USDA's CSREES (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service). The ongoing support and attention of Senator Patrick Leahy and his staff is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

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Section 1.

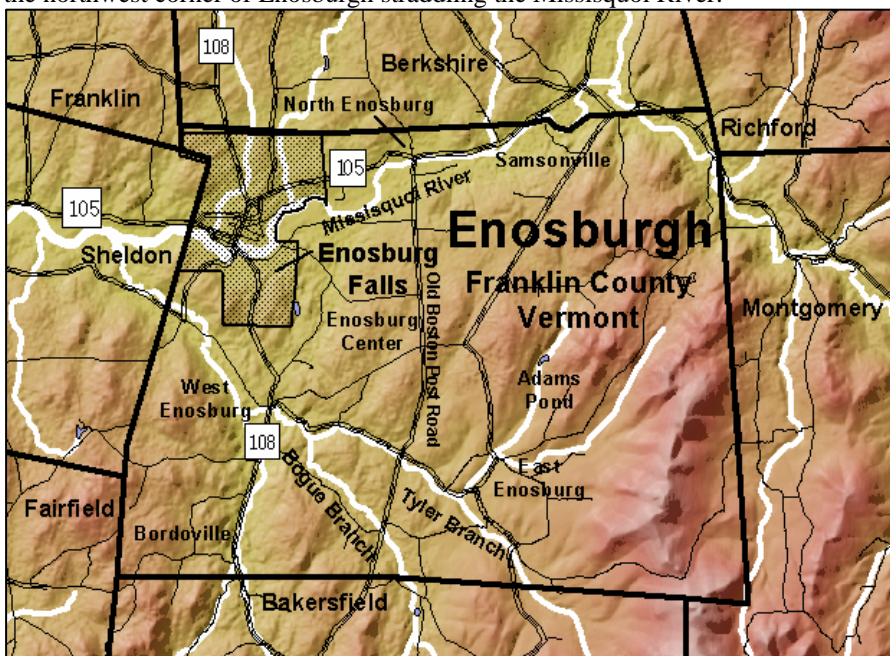
Town Organization

Where is Enosburgh?

Enosburgh is located in Franklin County. Its northern border is shared predominately with the town of Berkshire, but also with Franklin and Richford towns. To its west lie Sheldon and Fairfield. To the east Enosburgh shares a boundary with Montgomery. To the south lies the town of Bakersfield. The Missisquoi River runs through a significant portion of the northern part of town. The densely populated village of Enosburg Falls lies in the northwest corner of Enosburgh straddling the Missisquoi River.

What's in a Name?

There have been some discrepancies over time as to the correct spelling of the town and village names of Enosburg(h). Enosburgh is named after Major General Roger Enos who was granted the area by Governor Chittenden in 1780. The town charter, established shortly after the grant spells Enosburgh with the "H". The reason for spelling Enosburg Falls, on the other hand, without the "H", is a little bit more difficult to pinpoint. In many of the older maps and documents the spelling of the Village name is consistent with the spelling of the greater town's name. For the purpose of this document we will refer to Enosburgh Town and the Village of Enosburg Falls.



Brief Chronology:

- 1780- Enosburgh is granted by Governor Chittenden to Major General Roger Enos and 59 other associates. Two months later Enosburgh received its official charter, the first in the area chartered by the state legislature.
- 1795- First proprietor's meeting of the Town of Enosburgh
- 1797- First mills are being built in West Enosburgh
- Early 1800s- Rapid settlement of the town with the dairy and wool industries predominating.
- 1804- Enosburgh Center receives the first town post office.
- Late 1800s- Largest creamery in New England at the time built in Enosburgh Center.
- Early 1900s- Enosburgh is producing and shipping by rail lines various types of dairy products to the Boston and New York markets.
- Mid 1900s- The dairy boom in Enosburgh begins to fade.

A History of Hamlets, Villages, and Settlements:

As Enosburgh grew, a number of small population clusters emerged due to the necessities of rural living at the time. Over time seven distinct settlements ebbed and flowed serving as social, commercial, and communication centers in an era of animal powered transportation. The Village of Enosburg Falls is an area that became a consistent focal point of settlement and development. Located on the Missisquoi River, the source of power at the time, the village quickly became home to many, diverse commercial and industrial enterprises. These businesses utilized the available water power to operate machinery used in activities such as milling and

manufacturing. Sampsonville, also known as the Upper Falls developed as a prosperous hamlet when a small dam was built. Several businesses sprang up along the banks of the Missisquoi to take advantage of the water power available there.

Times change, and many of old dams marking the industrial era of the area have washed away leaving only a footprint of its history along the riverbanks. The hamlet of Bordoville is one place that developed out of the necessity for accessible services in a pre-automobile economy. Located in the southwest corner of Enosburgh off of Route 108, this once isolated hamlet featured its own post office, school, church, and grocery store. Bordoville offers beautiful views of the surrounding mountains including Jay Peak, Mount Mansfield, and Cold Hollow Mountain in Bakersfield. Located in East Enosburgh on the Eastern slope of Enosburgh Mountain, the hamlet of Hillwest existed in isolation from the rest of Enosburgh. The farmers that carved out a living here considered themselves to be from Montgomery more than from Enosburgh. These days the once abundant fields have grown back into forestlands leaving only remnants of the farming community that once settled this area.

Government and Civic Structure:

Table 1.1 – General Town Characteristics

Town Name	Enosburgh
County	Franklin
Date of Town Charter	1780
Incorporated Village	Enosburg Falls
Other Villages and Neighborhoods (past and present)	Bordoville Sampsonville (The Upper Falls) Jacksonville (West Enosburgh) Stoneville (East Enosburgh) Hillwest The Woodward Neighborhood

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators> *Enosburgh Vermont. Geraw, 1985*

The Village of Enosburg Falls maintains a Village government distinct from that of the Town. Today, many town services are available in the Village, and include the Town Clerk's Office, Public Library, Post Office, and High School, It is the hub of the community with the majority of town commerce being located around its picturesque park and on its main streets. Not surprisingly, The Vermont Forum on Sprawl recognizes this historic village center and has designated the area a “Traditional Center” (see Table 1.2).

Table 1.2– Enosburgh General Planning Characteristics

Vermont Forum on Sprawl Category	1 -“Traditional Center”
Town Plan	Village-yes, Town-yes
Zoning Ordinance	May-1995
Subdivision Ordinance	No
Septic Approval Process	Yes

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

The surrounding communities

Franklin County was incorporated out of Chittenden County by the Vermont legislature on November 5th, 1792. When this county was created, it was much larger than it is today, including much of Grand Isle County and four towns in Lamoille County. Named for Ben Franklin, who had died in 1790, Franklin County was created just about a year and a half after Vermont was admitted to the Union. As Table 1.3. shows, town incorporation preceded the formation of Franklin County; seven of today's 14 minor civil divisions having been originally granted by New Hampshire's Governor Wentworth on the 17th and 18th of August, 1763. The remaining seven towns, including Enosburgh, were chartered by the Vermont legislature between 1780 and 1791.

Swift (1976:231) notes that Enosburgh (and Berkshire) was one of the six towns created expressly to help the state raise money. A town charter defined boundaries, but settlement often took years. Thus the date of organization is a good indication of when the town had sufficient "critical population mass" to collectively consider issues of governance and formalize commerce. (Some historians use the difference between charter date and organization as an indicator of the length of time a community takes to get mobilized, but others simply see it as a question of a resource capable of attracting a cluster of settlers.) A similar indicator of critical population mass is reflected, albeit at a neighborhood level, by the emergence of incorporated villages. All totaled, there have been some 76 villages incorporated in Vermont's history, most emerging in the second half of the 19th century. The responsibilities accompanying incorporation have varied, but with the sustained growth in the towns with villages over the past five decades, many villages have merged again with their "host" towns. Richford is an excellent case in point. Today just 42 villages remain in Vermont (Duquette-Hoffman, 2002: 31).

Table 1.3 Enosburg and Immediate Neighbors - Civic History

	Charter	Source	Organized
Enosburgh	05/15/1780	Legislature	03/--/1798
Enosburg Falls Village.	05/03/1887	Legislature	
Berkshire	06/22/1781	Legislature	03/07/1796
Richford	08/21/1780	Legislature	03/30/1799
Richford Village	11/21/1878	(merged with town in 1999).	
Montgomery	10/08/1789	Legislature	08/12/1802
Bakersfield	01/25/1791	Legislature	03/30/1795
Fairfield	08/18/1763	NH Grant	03/ /1790
Sheldon	08/18/1763	NH Grant	/ /1791
Franklin	03/19/1789	Legislature	/ /1793
Franklin County	11/05/1792	Legislature	

Section 2.

Human Resources

Population Growth

Enosburgh's 10% growth rate from 1990 to 2000 reflects a slowdown in the growth rate from 1980 to 1990 which was 22%. The fact that Enosburgh's population is larger than 2,500 earns the town urban designation by some US Census definitions, but the community's independence from any adjacent larger place in excess of 50,000 enables it to be considered rural with regard to many state and federal programs. At 48.57 square miles, Enosburgh is one of the larger Vermont towns in land area. Table 2.1 shows basic

demographic data from both the Town of Enosburgh and the Village of Enosburg Falls. All Town of Enosburgh data in this report includes the Village of Enosburg Falls (a pattern established by federal reporting).

Table 2.1 – Population Characteristics	Enosburgh	Enosburg Falls
	2,788	1,473
Total Population, 2000		
Total Population, 1990	2,535	1,350
Absolute Population Change, 1990 – 2000	253 people	123 people
Percent Population Change, 1990 – 2000	10%	8.4%
Persons per Square Mile, 2000	57.4	NA
Persons per Square Mile, 1990	52.2	NA
Area in Square Miles	48.57	NA
Percent Dependent, 2000 (under 18 and over 65)	.42%	NA
Percent Rural, 2000	100%	NA
Percent Rural Farm, 2000	2.4%	NA
Population Reporting Native Birth (United States), 2000	2682	NA
Population Reporting French/French Canadian Ancestry, 2000	882	NA

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators> US Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American
 FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Age and Gender of Enosburgh's Citizens

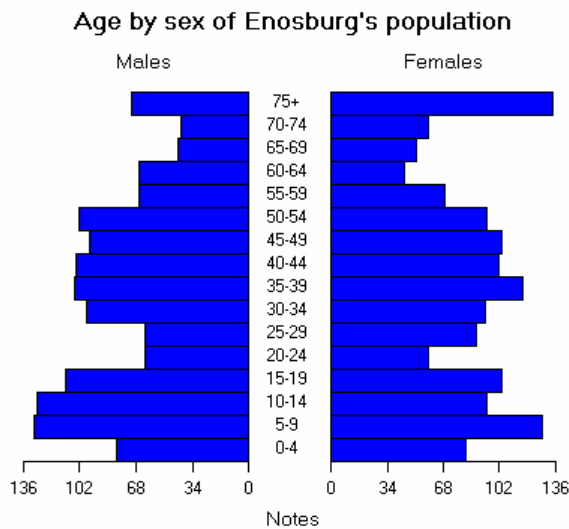


Table 2.2 shows that Enosburgh reflects state trends toward a graying of the population. The effect of the baby boom is shown in the bulge in the age cohorts from 40-60. Similarly, the increases in numbers of people 65 and over mirror state and national trends. Town officials will want to look carefully at changes in the under-five-year-old cohort, an age range that is not growing nearly as rapidly as it has in previous decades. Also of note is the decrease in population of 20 to 29 year olds given the larger numbers of younger cohorts. This trend might show an out migration of young people from the town after becoming independent.

Some Famous Citizens

As a small community, Enosburgh has many residents to be proud of. Due to space constraints, we present only a few here to draw attention to the human capital a community may draw upon and celebrate. Source materials for this information were stated in the present tense. That tense is preserved here, albeit the citizens listed may have sadly passed on since.

One of the Town of Enosburgh's most important historical figures is Roger Enos whom the town was named for. Roger Enos served under Benedict Arnold in the colonial war. He might best be remembered as leading his sick and disabled men out of the Maine woods and back to safety after an unsuccessful attempt to lead them, upon Arnold's command, on an expedition into Quebec. After moving to Vermont from Connecticut, Roger Enos quickly became Brigadier General of Vermont's militia forces until his retirement. In 1780 Enos was granted the area of land soon to be known as Enosburgh along with 59 other grantees as a way for the Republic of Vermont to bankroll its efforts in the colonial war. He knew and worked closely with both of the Allens and with Governor Chittenden throughout his time in Vermont. In fact, he became Ira Allen's father-in-law when Ira married his daughter Jerusha Enos Jr. in 1787. Roger Enos died in 1808 at his residence in Colchester, Vermont.

Another well known figure from Enosburgh's history is Doctor Burney Kendall inventor of Kendall's Spavin Cure for horses. A local pharmacist, Kendall developed a remedy for Spavin in horses in the late 1880s. Shortly thereafter his cure was being marketed and sold around the United States and as far away as Europe and Australia. The company produced his remedies as well as printed pamphlets that he wrote all right from their buildings in Enosburg Falls. Through the efforts of the Kendall company the town thrived. In 1892 the company built the opera house and turned ownership of it over to the town. The company also put in an aqueduct behind the plant to provide clean water to the community. Though this water had to be paid for, it helped mitigate Typhoid fever in town.

Enosburgh Housing and Family Information

Table 2.3 depicts housing and family characteristics and shows that Enosburgh is reversing the state trends in terms of family and household sizes. At the same time, median housing unit values are increasing at a greater rate in Enosburgh than in the rest of the state. As housing unit value is increasing, family and household sizes are increasing as well. Median gross rent in Enosburgh is increasing at a much slower rate than in the rest of the state.

Table 2.3 – Housing and Family Characteristics	Year	Enosburgh		Enosburg Falls		Vermont	
		1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Number of Families		675	728	364	378	118,905	157,763
Number of Households		979	1,058	567	591	210,650	240,634
Average Family Size		3.09	3.11	2.90	3.03	3.06	2.96
Average Household Size		2.55	2.6	2.32	2.44	2.57	2.44
Total Housing Units		1,115	1,149	602	618	271,214	294,382
Number of Owner-Occupied Housing Units		649	742	356	371	145,368	169,784
Number of Renter-Occupied Housing Units		330	316	211	220	65,282	70,850
Median Housing Unit Value		\$62,900	\$83,100	\$63,600	\$76,800	\$95,500	\$111,500
Median Gross Rent		\$446	\$457	\$343	\$441	\$446	\$553

Table 2.4 gives some insight into income data for Enosburgh, Franklin County and the State. Enosburgh lags consistently on all income figures, and has higher poverty levels than both the county and the state.

Table 2.4– Town, County, and State Income & Poverty Comparisons

	Enosburg	Franklin Co.	Vermont
Annual Average Wage, 2001	\$21,429	\$27,329	\$30,239
Per Capita Income, 1999	\$16,281	\$17,816	\$20,625
Median Family Income, 1999	\$38,958	\$46,733	\$48,625
Median Household Income, 1999	\$33,683	\$41,659	\$40,856
Persons for whom Poverty Status was determined*	2,777	44,774	588,053
Poverty Rate, 1999	11.4%	9%	9.4%
Child Poverty Rate (persons under 18 years), 1999	3.8%	3.1%	2.8%
Elderly Poverty Rate (persons 65 years or over), 1999	2%	1.1%	1.1%
Percentage of Households with Public Assistance Income, 1999	8.1%	5.1%	4.8%

Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

*"Persons for whom poverty status was determined" refers to the actual number of the total population for whom poverty was assessed.

Section 3.

Business and Infrastructure Resources

History of Business and Employment in Enosburgh

Enosburgh’s agricultural history has mirrored that of the rest of the state over time. In the early settlement days one of the larger cash crops in the area was potash. The ashes of lumber being cleared to create fields was shipped north on Lake Champlain and along trail networks into Canada to be sold and used in the commercial wool industry. After technological advances in the industry made potash unnecessary, farmers turned to alternative means to get by. In Enosburgh wool became a large part of the local economy, though production levels never mirrored that of the rest of the state. In 1850 there were a reported 1,681 sheep on 149 farms. As the price of wool began to drop drastically, so too did wool production in Enosburgh. By 1880 there were only 44 sheep reported left. Dairy was fast becoming the new “boom” industry.

By the mid 1800s cheese production in Vermont was transformed from a cottage industry to a factory-based industry, and Enosburgh was following this trend. The late 1880s found St. Albans and the surrounding areas being dubbed “The Buttermilk of America”. At this time in history creameries were sprouting up all over Vermont, St. Albans, and even Enosburgh. In fact, Enosburgh became home to several creameries and dairy production facilities throughout the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. Rail lines were built right through Enosburgh with the express purpose of picking up dairy products to be shipped directly down to the Boston and New York markets.

During the late 1880’s another thriving industry was developing in Enosburgh. The Kendall company was mass-producing its Spavin cure for horses as well as other products for livestock and farmers. The Woodward family, located in eastern Enosburgh produced the

Green Mountain Salve for cuts, bruises, and rheumatism. At least two other local producers were known to have been profitably involved in this industry in the 1880s.

Enosburgh Employment Information

Despite its revered agrarian past, employment in contemporary Franklin County follows regional trends. Please consider the data depicted in Table 3.1 which depicts employment in just the top five categories in Enosburgh and Franklin County. Employment in agriculture (and for that matter, all of the "extractive, primary activity areas of the economy) is in decline. The growth areas are in the service sector, indicating an increase in commuting, and obviously, ever closer ties to the national economy.

Table 3.1—Enosburgh and Franklin County Employment Characteristics

Top Five Industries, 2000 (employed persons 16 years and over)		
	Enosburgh	Franklin County
Manufacturing	276	5,362
Educational, Health and Social Services	263	4,464
Retail Trade	141	2,635
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Mining	109	1,607 (Construction)
Public Administration	90	1,549
Unemployment Rate, 2001	7.4%	4.2%
Annual Average Employment, 2001	1,087	15,207

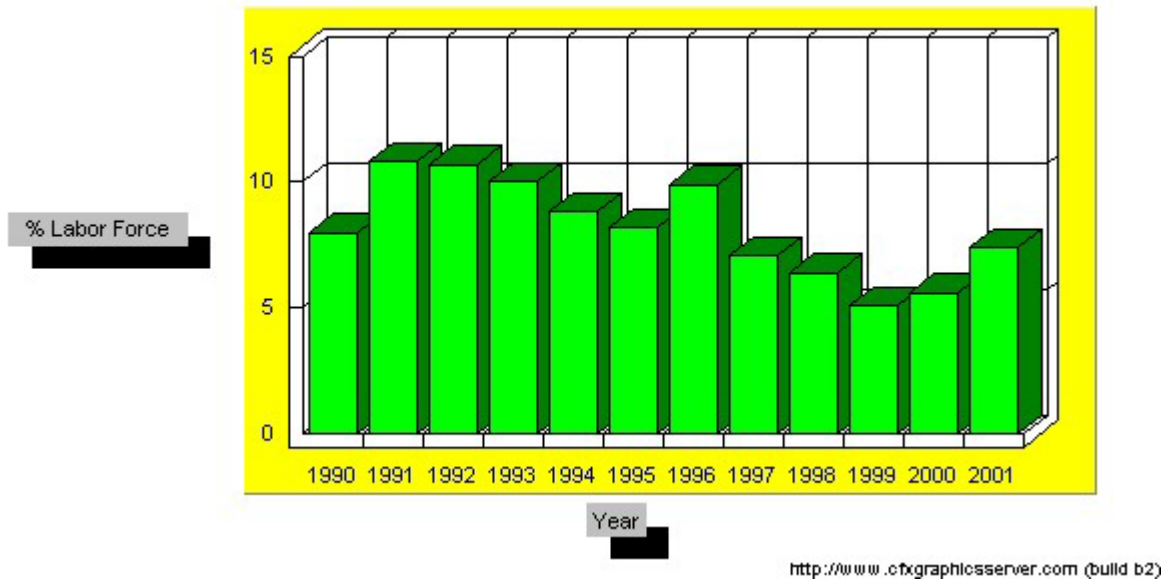
Sources: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

U.S. Census Bureau. 1990, 2000. *American FactFinder*.

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

Table 3.2 - ENOSBURG - Annual Average Unemployment Rate, 1990-2001



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ENOSBURG	8.0	10.8	10.7	10.0	8.8	8.2	9.9	7.1	6.4	5.1	5.6	7.4

Property Values

Table 3.3 shows average residential value, the Grand List and the Effective Property Tax Rate. These data are not strictly comparable with other census indicators here and are collected by the state Tax Department.

Table 3.3—Enosburgh Property Valuation & Taxation

Average Residential Value R-1 Equalized, (on less than 6 acres), 1999	\$73,204
Effective Property Tax Rate (rate per \$100), 2001	\$1.87
Grand List Value	\$939,236

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Vermont Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review. 1998-2000

Transportation

The Village of Enosburg Falls lies along the intersection of VT Routes 108 and 105. The approximate travel distance from Enosburg Falls to Saint Albans and Interstate 89 is 18 miles making Saint Albans the closest city destination. From Enosburg Falls South

through Saint Albans onto Interstate 89 to Burlington is around 45 miles. The distance from Enosburg Falls, North to the Canadian Border on Route 108 is approximately 8 miles. The distance from Enosburgh to Montreal, Quebec is approximately 70 miles making Montreal a relatively close major international destination.

Table 3.4 (next page) depicts several indicators reflecting transportation in Enosburgh, but strictly comparable data is only now in the process of being released by Census 2000 and/or assimilated into the Center for Rural Studies databases. We will be eager to see the changes in these indicators over the decade.

Table 3.4– Enosburgh Town Local Transportation Behavior

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for State Highways, 2000	34,586
Total Number of Accidents, 1997	3
Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 1997	0
Percent Population who Work in Town of Residence	NA
Percent Commuters who Drive Alone, 2000	70.3%
Percent Commuters who Carpool, 1990	19%
Percent Commuters who use Public Transit, 1990	0%

Source: Center for Rural Studies / VCGI. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*.
<http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>

Section 4. Education

Schools

A school is not just an education resource, but also a great social networking hub for the community. Enosburgh’s school system, which includes an elementary school and a high school, ranks well on many indicators for Vermont schools (see Vermont School Report at <http://crs.uvm.edu/schlprt/>).

Enosburgh Elementary School’s total school enrollment in 2002 was 289, this drop in enrollment slightly more than the average variances for this recent data. The average class size in 2002 shows that Enosburgh Elementary has slightly higher class size compared to the state average. Special education enrollment is also higher than the state average. The student teacher ratio dropped significantly in 2002 to come closer to the state average.

Table 4.1 – Enosburg Falls Elem. School (K-6): General School Information

School Participation Information	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Vermont (most recent)
Total School Enrollment	316	320	316	289	100,867
Attendance Rate	94.7%	95.4%	95.5%	95.2%	94.7%
Retention Rate	1.9%	3.0%	5.9%	1.4%	2.3%
Average Class Size	20.3	20.4	16.5	17.1	16.6
Student/Teacher Ratio	15.9	16.0	14.3	12.7	11.4
Eligible Special Education	13.6%	12.5%	17.4%	18.0%	13.5%
Home Study (Number)	10	8	5	6	1,819

Table 4.2 shows that Enosburgh High School enrollment has decreased significantly in the past few years, while attendance rates are getting better. The retention rate in 2002 was significantly lower than the state level. The grades 9-12 dropout rate was 2.5% higher than the state average in 2002, while the student teacher ratio is lower than the state average.

Table 4.2 - Enosburgh Falls Jr/Sr High School: General School Information

School Participation Information	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Vermont (most recent)
Total School Enrollment	480	450	402	404	100,867
Attendance Rate	93.3%	93.9%	94.9%	94.1%	95.1%
Retention Rate	0.2%	3.5%	.7%	.5%	2.2%
Average Class Size	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0
Student/Teacher Ratio	11.8	8.6	11.3	10.6	11.4
Eligible Special Education	20.6%	23.3%	20.6%	23.0%	13.0%
9-12 Dropout Rate	5.6%	9.4%	8.1%	6.4%	3.9%
Home study (Number)	1	8	8	6	1,540

Enosburgh Education Levels

Table 4.3 suggests that Enosburgh's proportions of those who have received associate's or bachelor's degrees are slightly lower than the county's numbers. However Enosburgh has a higher percentage of residents with high school degrees. The percentage of residents with no high school degrees though, is much higher than the county average.

Table 4.3 –Enosburgh Town Educational Attainment, 2000 (percent persons 25 years and older)

	Enosburgh	Franklin Co.
Less than High School or no Diploma	23.8%	17.4%
High School Diploma	43%	41.1%
Some College	16.9%	16.7%
Bachelor's / Associate's Degree	12.6%	19.7%
Graduate / Professional / PhD Degree	3.7%	5.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

The reader of this profile interested in more detailed educational information is invited to reference <http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt/index.htm>, The Vermont School Report. This annual report is maintained at the CRS www site for the Vermont Department of Education. Indicators for each of Vermont's Public Schools are displayed in seven sections:

1. general information, 2. program information, 3. staff information, 4. more community social indicators, 5. financial resources, 6. financial expenditure and 7. student performance. The Vermont School Report was last updated on February 25, 2003. Also available is the "Complete Vermont Report" which shows state averages and totals for up to four years of data.

Section 5.

Sources

This Community Profile is an attempt to bring together information from many different sources.

The internet resources used include:

For data:

The Center for Rural Studies. 2002. *Vermont Indicators Online*. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators/>

The U.S. Census Bureau. 2002. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Vermont Dept. of Education. 2002. *Vermont School Report*. <http://maps.vcgi.org/schlrpt/>

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