

CHAPTER ONE: County Profile

LOCATION

Yellow Medicine County is located in west central Minnesota approximately 168 miles west of Minneapolis/ St. Paul, 141 miles southwest of St. Cloud and 50 miles southeast of Watertown, South Dakota. Shaped like a hammer Yellow Medicine County is 758 square miles in size. It is 54 miles from east to west and varies in length from 12 miles on the west end to 21 miles on the east end of the county. The County's eastern border angles with the Minnesota River along Chippewa and Renville Counties. Yellow Medicine County has nine cities and 21 townships. The Upper Sioux Community is located in the eastern end of the County. Granite Falls bordering the Minnesota River is the county seat and is the County's largest community.



Yellow Medicine Courthouse, Granite Falls

Built 1894

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Yellow Medicine County is bordered by the counties of Lac qui Parle and Chippewa to the north; Renville to the east; Redwood, Lyon and Lincoln to the south; and South Dakota's Deuel County to the west. Yellow Medicine County is part of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (Region 6W) planning and economic development district which includes Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties. The trunk highway system that runs through the County includes U.S. Highways 75, 59 and 212 and Minnesota Highways 67, 23 and 68.

HISTORY



Winter 1880-1881



Yellow Medicine County Fair 1884



Main Street Scene Early 1900's

Photo Source: Canby Depot Museum

In 1849 Yellow Medicine County became a part of the Minnesota Territory which included the Dakotas. The whole Mississippi Valley was part of the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. Minnesota statehood in 1858 brought rapid settlement to the area moving the frontier westward.

Prior to 1850, Yellow Medicine County was part of Redwood. In 1852, Dr. Thomas Williamson, a medical missionary of the Presbyterian Church, established the Pejuhutazizi Mission. This Indian name means Yellow Medicine, the name of the bitter root of the Moonseed plant used by the Indians for medicinal purposes. In 1854, Reverend Stephen R. Riggs established the Hazel Creek Mission. These two missions were located about five miles south of Granite Falls in what is now Minnesota Falls Township. The government established the Upper Sioux Agency in 1854 in what is now Sioux Agency Township. According to the treaties of 1850, when the Sioux surrendered title to their lands in Minnesota, a tract of land ten miles wide on each side of the Minnesota River was reserved as Indian Territory. During the Sioux uprising of 1862 the Upper Sioux Agency, missions, and all white settlements were destroyed and as a result Indian lands were declared forfeit. White settlement began again in 1865.

Yellow Medicine County was created by legislative act on March 6, 1871. Voters approved the act in November 1871. An appointed board of three county commissioners met for the first time on January 1, 1872, in Yellow Medicine City, which was then the largest settlement (population 40). Three communities vied for the county seat - Yellow Medicine City, Minnesota Falls, and Granite Falls - and on January 27 Yellow Medicine City was chosen. In 1874, Granite Falls took the honor and has continued to be the county seat but not without some contention. Several times other communities in the County vied for the county seat but with no success. The last attempt was made in 1940 by the city of Clarkfield.

Early settlers were predominantly English, Scandinavian and German with smaller settlements of Irish, Scotch and Bohemian. The nine cities in the County were incorporated beginning with Granite Falls and Canby in 1879 and ending with St. Leo in 1940. The two earliest cities to be platted were Minnesota Falls and Yellow Medicine City but both failed before being incorporated. The 21 townships were incorporated from 1871 to 1881 starting with Hazel Run and ending with Fortier Township.

Historical Timeline	
1852	The first white man to settle in Yellow Medicine County was Dr. Thomas Williamson to do mission work.
1854	The federal government established the Upper Sioux Agency.
1862	Sioux uprising.
1865	White settlement began again after the Sioux uprising in 1862. Settlers were European.
1869	The first city and first school came to the County in 1869 - Yellow Medicine City. Later it failed and does not exist today.
1870	The village of Minnesota Falls was platted but was never incorporated and later failed.
1871	On March 6 Yellow Medicine became a county by legislative act and approved by voters in November. Prior to this they were part of Redwood County.
1872	In January three appointed commissioners (John Winter, Ole O. Lende and Leonard Hazelden) met for the first time in Yellow Medicine City, which was chosen as the county seat on January 27 – no courthouse was built. Minnesota Falls and Granite Falls also vied for the honor of the county seat. One of the commissioners’ first jobs was to organize 21 school districts. Granite Falls , a station for the Great Northern Railway, was platted by Henry Hill on May 7 but not incorporated until 1879. The city’s name came from the granite outcrops of the Minnesota River and the city capitalized on the river for power. Initially the city was divided into Granite Falls and East Granite Falls by the Minnesota River.
1873	Granite Falls succeeded to secure the county seat when Henry Hill introduced a legislative bill for the removal of the county seat from Yellow Medicine City to Granite Falls. Minnesota Falls filed a law action to contest but failed in halting the action. The first county board meeting held in Granite Falls was held December 10. The Winona and St. Peter Railroad (Chicago & Northwestern) laid the first railroad tracks in the County.
1876	Canby was platted and then incorporated in 1879 by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway with a population of 400.
1879	An act was passed to create a new county – Yellow Medicine – with 12 townships (some from Lac qui Parle and Lincoln Counties) on the west side of the County. Lincoln County residents did not vote for the change.
1880-81	Worst winter on record for Yellow Medicine County.
1881	The city of Porter , a station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, was platted and incorporated in 1898.
1882	The first county fair was held in Granite Falls.
1884	Four cities were platted this year in the County - Hanley Falls, Hazel Run, Wood Lake (incorporated in 1891) and Echo (incorporated in 1892).
1886	Clarkfield petitioned to become the county seat but failed. Again it was petitioned, but was defeated lacking required signatures. Hanley Falls petitioned at the same time but also failed to get the signatures. Several Granite Falls businessmen agreed to provide partial funding for a new more substantial courthouse in hopes to stop threats of moving the county seat. First municipal fire department was started in Canby and the first street lights were put up on main street of Canby.

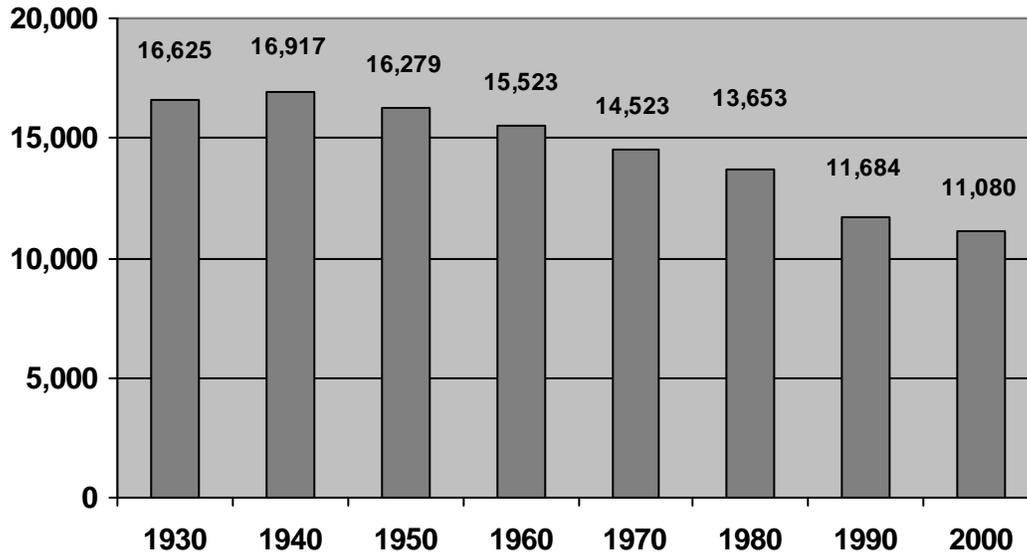
1887	City of Clarkfield was incorporated.
1889	Construction of the new courthouse began on July 4 and was completed on November 23 for \$14,769. The old one sold for \$200.
1891	Lynner Furniture opened in Clarkfield. Today they remain in the same building and location.
1893	The “Great Canby Fire” took place. Two years later the city was rebuilt but no wood structures were allowed. The county jail was erected in Granite Falls on the location of the old courthouse.
1898	Clarkfield was the first city to enjoy electric lights.
1900	City of Granite Falls purchased a power site on the river. The County fair moved to Canby. Free mail service started in Granite Falls – remainder of County started in 1904.
1912	First public health movement took place with tuberculosis shots. First public health nurse was hired in 1918. County Extension Service began.
1913	Riverside Sanatorium was authorized by the legislature to be built in Granite Falls for tuberculosis. It was completed in 1916 and closed in 1962.
1914	First rural electric lines were run in the County. First school consolidations took place. First through highway was built – Yellowstone Trail.
1916	“Transportation wagons” started to transport children to school. The Child Welfare Board began.
1919	First free baby clinics were held.
1920	First passenger bus service to the County was provided.
1930	Richard Hanson of Canby purchased the first airplane in the County.
1932	Trunk Highway 212 was the first hard surfaced road to Granite Falls - in 1935 it was completed to Montevideo.
1935	The County received one million dollars of farm relief after the drought – first of its kind.
1937	Yellow Medicine Historical Society got its start in Clarkfield. They were incorporated in 1952 and moved into their current building in Granite Falls in 1968.
1940	St. Leo was incorporated. Clarkfield again tried to have the county seat moved but failed with a vote of 3,269 in favor of the move to 5,269 to remain in Granite Falls.
1953	First municipal liquor store opened in St. Leo – it was the first legal liquor sold in the County since 1915.
1955	The Canby Vocational Technical School and Canby’s St. Peter’s Catholic School were built.
1960	The Yellow Medicine Mental Health Association was formed.
1961	Federal farm programs began – 78 percent of farmers signed on. County Council on Aging began.
1962	Abolished County Superintendent of Schools position. First airport was dedicated in Canby.
1965	First classes were held at the Granite Falls Vocational Technical School.
1968-69	Home nursing program began in the County. County experienced another hard winter. Farm census began dropping dramatically – fewer and larger.
1970	“Turnabout House” for alcohol treatment opened; later to be Project Turnabout treating chemical dependency and compulsive gambling as well.
1980s	Farm census took another hard hit.
1992	Clarkfield Tornado – an F3.
1995	SMI & Hydraulics, Inc. opened in Porter primarily as a welding and cylinder repair shop growing to a major metal fabrication, welding and manufacturing in the County
1997	Countywide flooding took place.
2000	Granite Falls Tornado – an F4.
2001	Countywide flooding took place.

Source: Yellow Medicine County Website: www.yellowmedicine.govoffice.com and *History of Yellow Medicine County* by Carl and Amy Nanvestad.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

**Population Data for
Yellow Medicine County from 1930 - 2000**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Yellow Medicine County, Area Counties and Minnesota
Population Change from 1970 – 2000**

County	1970	1980	1990	2000	30-Year Change	Percent Change
Yellow Medicine	14,523	13,653	11,684	11,080	-3,443	-24%
Big Stone	7,941	7,716	6,285	5,820	-2,121	-27%
Chippewa	15,109	14,941	13,228	13,088	-2,021	-13%
Deuel, SD	5,686	5,289	4,522	4,498	-1,188	-21%
Lac qui Parle	11,164	10,592	8,924	8,067	-3,097	-28%
Lincoln	8,143	8,207	6,890	6,429	-1,714	-21%
Lyon	24,273	25,207	24,789	25,425	1,152	5%
Swift	13,177	12,920	10,724	11,956	-1,221	-9%
Eight County Area	84,329	98,525	88,210	86,363	2,034	2%
State of Minnesota	3.8 Mil	4.1 Mil	4.4 Mil	4.9 Mil	1.1 Mil	29%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census); Deuel County - 2004 Comprehensive Plan

A NOTE ON POPULATION PROJECTIONS

A population projection is “an attempt at providing a view of what the future **could** look like”. Projections are only an **estimate**. Therefore, projections should be viewed with caution. The population projections were created by the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

**Population Projections for Yellow Medicine County, Area Counties
and Minnesota from 2000 – 2025**

County	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	25 year Change	Per Cent Change
Yellow Medicine	11,080	10,900	10,780	10,810	10,830	10,890	-190	-2%
Big Stone	5,820	5,660	5,570	5,490	5,450	5,480	-340	-6%
Chippewa	13,088	12,970	12,980	13,120	13,330	13,470	382	3%
Lac qui Parle	8,067	7,680	7,500	7,360	7,310	7,240	-827	-10%
Lincoln	6,429	6,360	6,320	6,320	6,430	6,480	51	1%
Lyon	25,425	25,630	25,880	26,120	26,320	26,510	1,085	4%
Swift	11,956	12,060	12,310	12,580	12,910	13,140	1,184	10%
MINNESOTA	4.9 Mil	5.2 Mil	5.5 Mil	5.7 Mil	5.9 Mil	6.1 Mil	1.2 Mil	25%

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – July 1, 2004; Deuel County - 2004 Comprehensive Plan

Population Summary

- Yellow Medicine County has been experiencing a steady decline in population since 1930 losing 33 percent of the population. The 2000 population of 11,080 was 5,782 males and 5,902 females with a minority population of 511¹ (4.6 % of the total population).
- Yellow Medicine County experienced the largest loss of population, 1,969 residents, in the 1980s.
- Yellow Medicine County’s declining population from 1970 – 2000 (-24%) was part of a trend for the region. Of the counties neighboring Yellow Medicine County, only Lyon County experienced an increase of five percent during that time period while the state’s growth was 29 percent. In the region, Lac qui Parle County had the largest population loss of 28 percent during this same time period.
- Yellow Medicine County’s population projections suggest they will lose two percent, an additional 190 residents, by 2025. Projected 2025 populations for neighboring counties range from an additional 10 percent loss in Lac qui Parle County to a 10 percent gain in Swift County compared to a 25 percent expected gain for the state.

¹ The U. S. Bureau of Census defines “minority population” as total population minus non-Hispanic white.

Households

Yellow Medicine County, Area Counties and Minnesota's Household Change from 1980 - 2000

County	1980	1990	2000	20 year Change	Percent Change
Yellow Medicine	4,991	4,607	4,439	-552	-11.1
Big Stone	2,873	2,463	2,377	-410	-14.3
Chippewa	5,583	5,245	5,361	-222	-4.0
Deuel, SD	2,330	2,208	2,172	-158	-6.8
Lac qui Parle	3,885	3,505	3,316	-569	-14.6
Lincoln	2,928	2,704	2,653	-275	-9.4
Lyon	8,679	9,073	9,715	1,036	11.9
Swift	4,694	4,268	4,353	-341	-7.3
MINNESOTA	1,445,222	1,647,853	1,895,127	449,905	31.1

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census) - 2003

Yellow Medicine County Household Projections from 2000 – 2025

	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2000 - 2025 % Change
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	4,439	4,390	4,370	4,410	4,430	4,510	1.6

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center – 2003

Note: County projected numbers rounded to nearest 10.

**Yellow Medicine County, Area Counties and Minnesota's
Persons Per Household Change from 1980 – 2000**

County	1980	1990	2000	20 year Change	Percent Change
Yellow Medicine	2.68	2.48	2.42	-0.26	-10
Big Stone	2.59	2.43	2.38	-0.21	-8
Chippewa	2.63	2.48	2.39	-0.24	-9
Deuel, SD	2.78	2.52	2.40	-0.38	-4
Lac qui Parle	2.66	2.48	2.37	-0.29	-11
Lincoln	2.74	2.47	2.35	-0.39	-14
Lyon	2.74	2.56	2.49	-0.25	-9
Swift	2.71	2.46	2.39	-0.32	-12
MINNESOTA	2.74	2.58	2.52	-0.22	-8

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Yellow Medicine County Household Characteristics in 2000

Household Composite	Households	
	Data	Pct.
One person households:		
Male householder	545	12.3
Female householder	757	17.1
Two or more person households:		
Family households		
Married couple family	2,602	58.6
Other family		
Male householder, no wife present	118	2.7
Female householder, no husband present	254	5.7
Non-family households		
Male householder	116	2.6
Female householder	47	1.1
Total	4,439	100.0

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Household Summary

- The number of households in Yellow Medicine County has decreased since 1980 by 11 percent, a loss of 552 households, while the state's number increased by 31 percent.
- The projected number of households in Yellow Medicine County by 2025 will increase slightly by 71 households or 1.6 percent.
- The average number of people in each household in Yellow Medicine County decreased slightly (less than 10 %) over the past 20 years, which is a statewide trend in Minnesota.
- In Yellow Medicine County 59 percent of the households are married couples with families; 17 percent are single females; 12 percent are single males; nine percent are single parent families; and four percent other.

Age and Gender

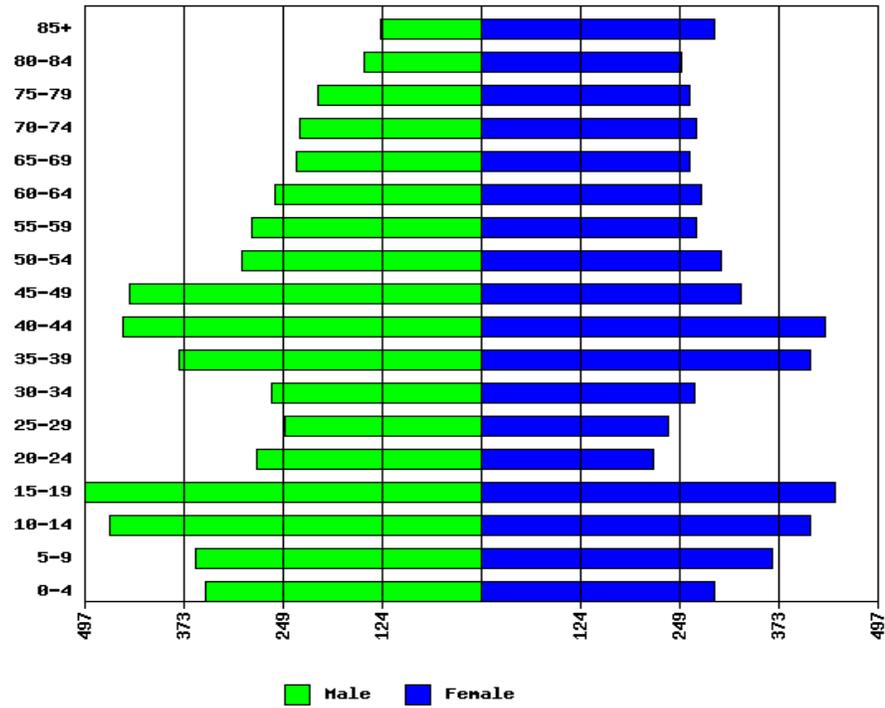
**Yellow Medicine County Population Projections
by Age Group from 2000 – 2025**

Age Group	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2000 - 2025 % Change
0-4	637	710	720	720	710	680	6.8
5-9	722	650	700	720	720	700	-3.0
10-14	877	730	660	700	710	710	-19.0
15-19	941	860	740	670	700	710	-24.5
20-24	497	590	550	490	450	460	-7.4
25-29	480	530	610	590	550	510	6.3
30-34	530	520	570	640	610	580	9.4
35-39	790	550	530	570	620	610	-22.8
40-44	881	740	510	500	530	590	-33.0
45-49	767	880	760	540	520	550	-28.3
50-54	600	820	930	820	620	580	-3.3
55-59	556	560	760	870	770	580	4.3
60-64	533	530	540	740	830	750	40.7
65-69	491	490	490	510	680	790	60.9
70-74	497	490	490	510	550	720	44.9
75-79	466	420	420	430	440	490	5.2
80-84	397	360	320	330	340	370	-6.8
85+	418	470	480	460	480	510	22.0
Total	11,080	10,900	10,780	10,810	10,830	10,890	-1.7

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center 2003

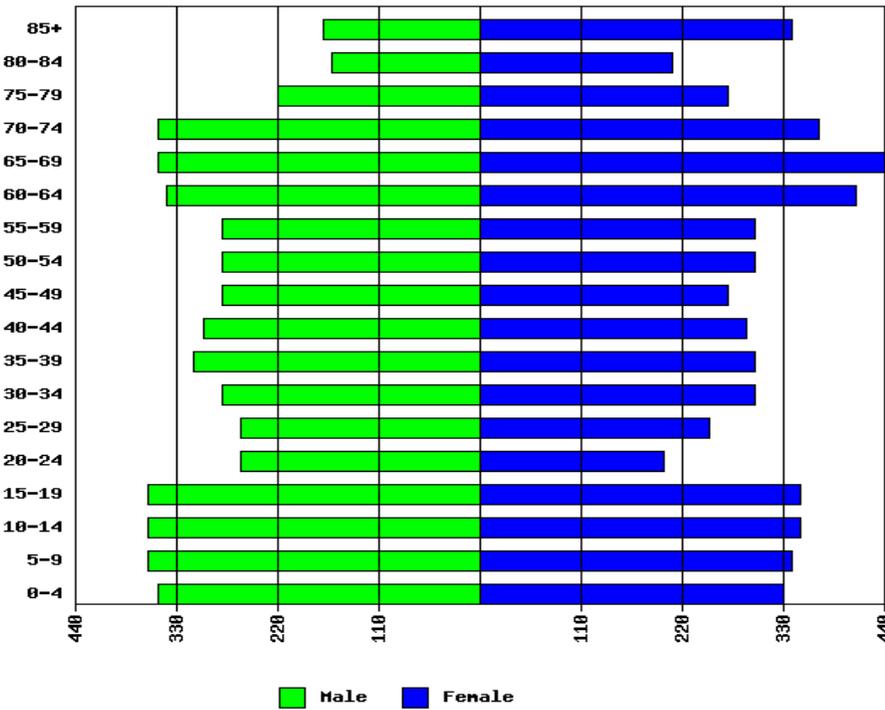
Note: County data is rounded to nearest 10.

2000 Population for all races:
Yellow Medicine County



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

2025 Population:
Yellow Medicine County



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center 2003

**Yellow Medicine County Population by Age Group Comparison
from 1970 – 2000**

	YM County 1970	YM County 1980	YM County 1990	YM County 2000
Under 19	38.8%	32.1%	29.2%	28.6%
Ages 20-24	4.2%	7.7%	4.1%	4.5%
Ages 25-44	19.1%	21.2%	25.1%	24.2%
Ages 45-64	22.5%	20.7%	20.3%	22.2%
Ages 65+	15.4%	18.3%	21.3%	20.5%
Totals	14,418	13,653	11,684	11,080

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Yellow Medicine County and Minnesota Median Age of Population
from 1970 – 2000**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change In Years
Yellow Medicine County	32.9	33.3	37.0	40.4	+7.5
State of Minnesota	26.8	29.2	32.5	35.4	+8.6

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Age and Gender Summary

- Over the last 30 years Yellow Medicine County’s 65+ population grew from 15.4 percent of the total population to 20.5 percent.
- It is estimated that the 60+ population in Yellow Medicine County will be the fastest growing segment of the population by 2025. The 65-69 year age group is expected to increase 61 percent by 2025 in Yellow Medicine County.
- The segments of the population estimated to see the most significant decrease in population by 2025 in Yellow Medicine County include the 10-19 year olds (-22%) and 35-49 year olds (-28%).
- Yellow Medicine County’s median age has increased by 7.5 years over the last 30 years to 40.4 years.
- Yellow Medicine County’s median age in 2000 of 40.4 years was 5 years (14%) older than the state’s median age of 35.4 years.

Race and Ancestry

Yellow Medicine County 2000 Population by Race

Race	All Persons		Under 18		18 & Over	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
White	10,647	96.1	2,661	93.1	7,986	97.1
Black or African American	12	0.1	5	0.2	7	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	226	2.0	85	3.0	141	1.7
Asian	19	0.2	6	0.2	13	0.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Other Race	102	0.9	51	1.8	51	0.6
Two or More Races	73	0.7	50	1.7	23	0.3
Total Population	11,080	100.0	2,858	100.0	8,222	100.0

2000 Total Minority	All Persons		Under 18		18 & Over	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Total Population Minus White Alone non-Hispanic	511	4.6	231	8.1	280	3.4

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Yellow Medicine County 2000 Hispanic/Latino Population by One Race

Race	All Persons		Under 18		18 & Over	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Hispanic or Latino: White	78	40.0	34	36.2	44	43.6
Hispanic or Latino: Black or African American	3	1.5	0	0.0	3	3.0
Hispanic or Latino: American Indian and Alaska Native	2	1.0	0	0.0	2	2.0
Hispanic or Latino: Asian	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	1.0
Hispanic or Latino: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hispanic or Latino: Other Race	100	51.3	50	53.2	50	49.5
Hispanic or Latino: Two or More Races	11	5.6	10	10.6	1	1.0
Hispanic or Latino: Total Population	195	100.0	94	100.0	101	100.0

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Yellow Medicine County Ancestry
(Single or Multiple)**

Nationality	Number	Percent
Arab	0	0.0
Czech ¹	198	1.8
Danish	288	2.6
Dutch	286	2.6
English	382	3.4
French (except Basque) ¹	278	2.5
French Canadian ¹	63	0.6
German	4,620	41.7
Greek	0	0.0
Hungarian	6	0.1
Irish ¹	566	5.1
Italian	33	0.3
Lithuanian	7	0.1
Norwegian	4,308	38.9
Polish	306	2.8
Portuguese	0	0.0
Russian	7	0.1
Scotch-Irish	43	0.4
Scottish	77	0.7
Slovak	0	0.0
Sub-Saharan African	3	0.0
Swedish	784	7.1
Swiss	17	0.2
Ukrainian	6	0.1
United States or American	246	2.2
Welsh	10	0.1
West Indian (excluding Hispanic groups)	0	0.0
Other ancestries	1,245	11.2
Total Population	11,080	100.0
<i>Total ancestries reported</i>	13,779	124.4

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

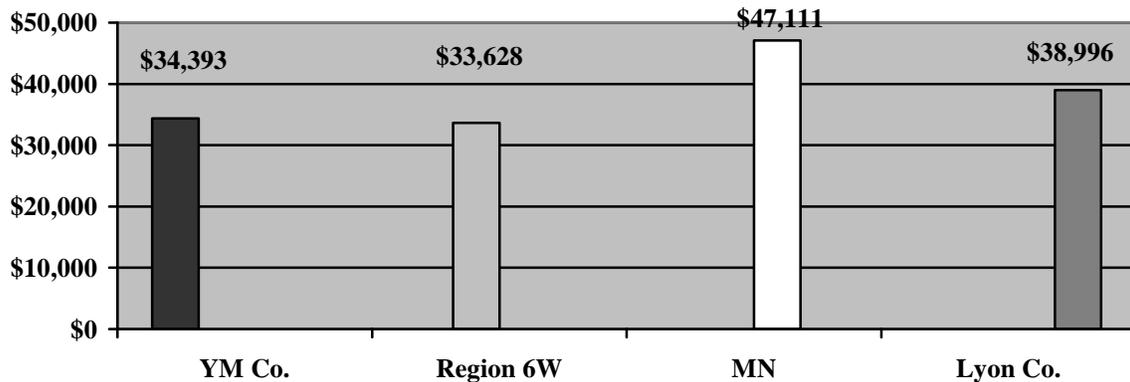
¹ The data represent a combination of two ancestries shown separately in Summary File 3. Czech includes Czechoslovakian. French includes Alsatian. French Canadian includes Acadian/Cajun. Irish includes Celtic.

Race and Ancestry Summary

- Yellow Medicine County’s population was 96 percent white in 2000 compared to the state at 88 percent. Minnesota’s white population decreased six percent from 1990 to 2000 while Yellow Medicine County did not significantly change.
- Yellow Medicine County’s minority population was 511 persons, or four percent of the total population, in 2000.
- The American Indian/Alaskan Native population was 44 percent of the total 2000 minority population in Yellow Medicine County.
- Yellow Medicine County’s ancestry is primarily German (41.7%) followed closely by Norwegian (38.9%) then Swedish (7.1%) and other (11.2%).

Income

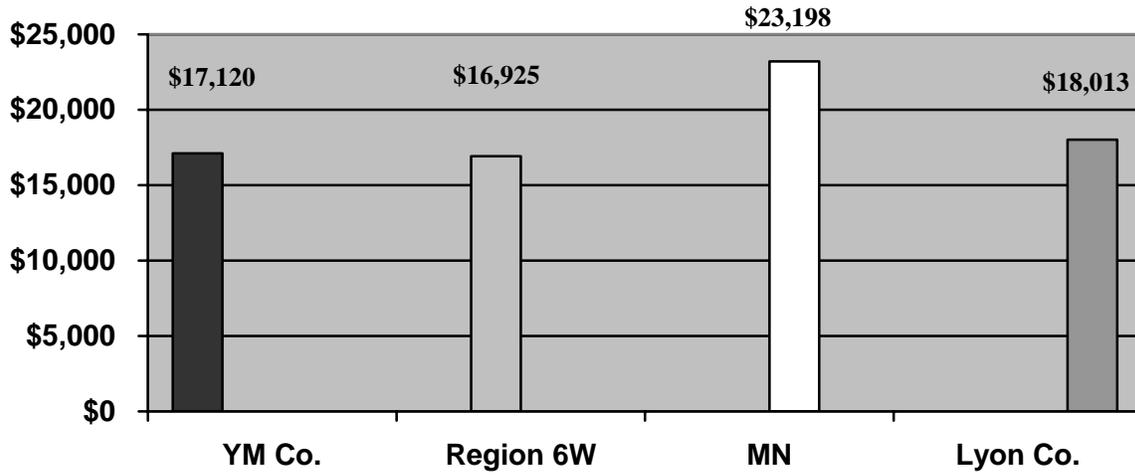
**Yellow Medicine County, Region 6W, Lyon County and Minnesota
Median Household Income Comparison in 1999**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

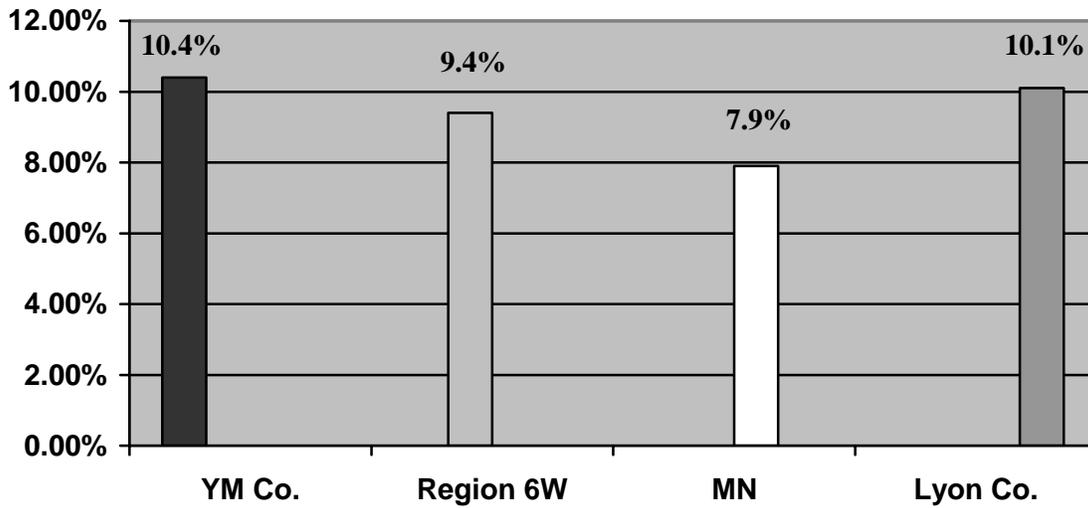
Note: Region 6W median household income is an average median income of the five counties in the region.

**Yellow Medicine County, Region 6W, Lyon County and Minnesota
Per Capita Income in 1999**



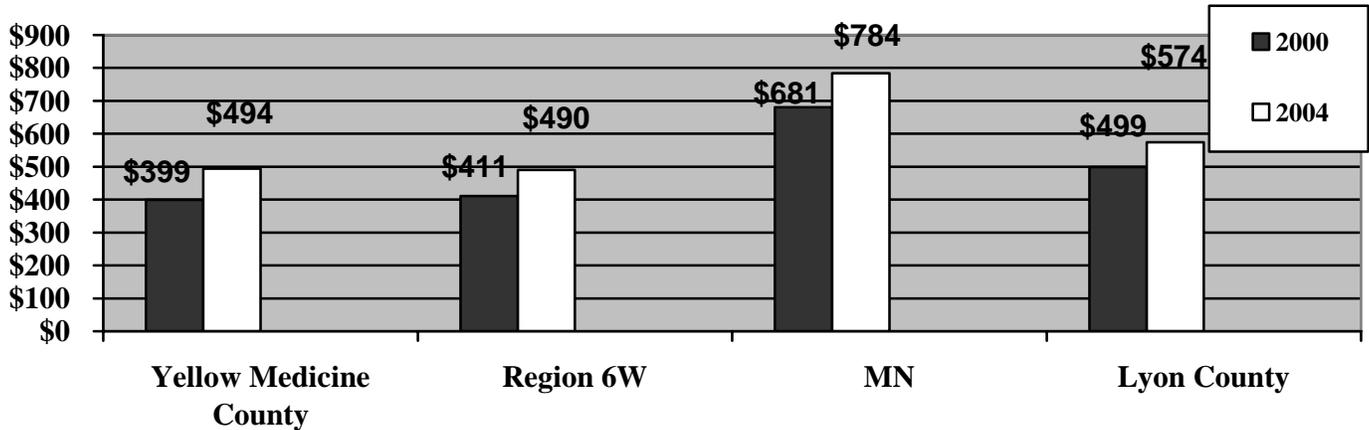
Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

**Yellow Medicine County, Region 6W, Lyon County and Minnesota
Percent of Population Below Poverty in 1999**



Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U.S. Census)

**Yellow Medicine County, Area Counties and Minnesota
Average Weekly Wage Comparison in 2000 and 2004**



Source: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development – Quarterly Census Employment and Wages Program.(February 2006)

Income Summary

- Yellow Medicine County’s 1999 median household income was 27 percent less than the median household income for Minnesota.
- Yellow Medicine County’s per capita income in 1999 was similar to Region 6W and Lyon County’s per capita income but 26 percent less than Minnesota’s per capita income.
- The average weekly wage in Yellow Medicine County increased 24 percent from 2000 to 2004.
- Yellow Medicine County’s 2004 average weekly wage of \$494 was 37 percent less than Minnesota’s average weekly wage of \$784.
- In 1999, 10.4 percent of Yellow Medicine County’s population were below poverty which was higher than Region 6W at 9.4 percent, Lyon County at 10.1 percent and Minnesota at 7.9 percent.

Education

Yellow Medicine, Region 6W, Lyon County and Minnesota Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over in 2000

	12th Grade or Less	High School Graduate	Some College	Associates	Bachelor	Graduate/ Professional	Doctorate
Yellow Medicine	18%	35%	25%	7%	10%	4%	< 1%
Region 6W	19%	37%	23%	7%	10%	3%	< 1%
State of Minnesota	12%	29%	24%	8%	19%	7%	< 1%
Lyon County	17%	32%	22%	7%	16%	5%	< 1%

Source: Minnesota Department of Administration Datanet (U. S. Census)

Education Summary

- In 2000, 18 percent of Yellow Medicine County's 25 years old and older population had less than a high school diploma as the highest level of education compared to Minnesota at 12 percent, Lyon County at 17 percent and Region 6W at 19 percent of their populations.
- The percent of Yellow Medicine County's population in 2000 having completed only high school as the highest level of education was 35 percent while the state was at 29 percent, Lyon County at 32 percent and Region 6W at 37 percent.
- Persons with some post-secondary training in Yellow Medicine County in 2000 was 25 percent of the population compared to 24 percent for Minnesota, 23 percent for Region 6W and 22 percent for Lyon County.
- In Yellow Medicine County 82 percent of the population had a high school diploma or more in 2000, which was lower than Minnesota at 88 percent and the same as Region 6W and Lyon County.
- In 2000, 15 percent of Yellow Medicine County's populaion had bachelor degrees or higher compared to Minnesota at 27 percent, Region 6W at 14 percent and Lyon County at 22 percent.