Permanent population for the entire A/P Study area has increased steadily since 1970 and is expected to reach almost 3 million by the year 2000 (Figure V-1). When the population data is shown as a growth rate, or percentage change in population format, further trends are evident. In the period 1970 to 1980, North Carolina counties within the study area grew at a rate below the state-wide average; however, the projected growth rates for 1980 to 1990 and the following decade are expected to slightly exceed the state's growth rate. The growth rates for Virginia's A/P counties, indicate that the counties within the study area are growing at a rate much greater than the state-wide growth rate. Growth during the 1970's exceeded state-wide rates, and the projected growth for this decade is expected to exceed that of the state by over 1.5 times. Population growth is projected to slow to a rate only slightly greater than the state-wide rate during the 1990's.

During 1970 to 1980, 7 of the North Carolina A/P counties and 2 of the Virginia A/P counties exceeded the state-wide growth rates. The rates of growth varied from slightly above 1 to almost 6 times (in Dare County) the state-wide averages. During the same period, six counties lost population. During 1980 to 1990, 15 of the A/P counties areprojected to exceed state-wide growth rates, 12 of which are located in North Carolina. Six counties are projected to lose population during the 1980's. During the period 1990 to 2000, 14 counties are expected to experience growth exceeding that of the respective states, and 8 counties should lose population. Twelve of the 14 growth counties are located in North Carolina.

These data indicate that population growth rates vary from county to county as well as regionally. To further illustrate this point, select counties from Tschetter's classification were analyzed. North Carolina's "coastline" counties are experiencing tremendous growth in permanent populations. Currituck, Dare and Carteret Counties are among the fastest growing counties in North Carolina. During the 1970's, Dare County's growth rate exceeded the state-wide rate by almost 6 times, Currituck almost 4 times, and Carteret almost doubled the state's growth rate. These trends are projected to continue during the 1980's and 1990's, although, growth rates are expected to slow. Hyde County is a coastline county, but it has grown at a rate well below that of the state and is projected to lose population during this and the succeeding decade.

Of the "sound" counties, Beaufort County grew at a rate slightly below that of the state in the 1970's, and it is projected to continue that pattern during the 1980's and the 1990's. Craven County's growth rate was below that of the state during the 1970's, but the county is expected to surpass the state's growth rate for the next two census periods.

There are mixed growth rates for the "drainage basin" counties. Durham and Johnston Counties grew at a rate slightly below that of the state during the 1970's; however, both are projected to exceed the state's growth rate during the 1980's and the 1990's. Wake County grew at twice the state's growth rate during the 1970's, and the county is projected to almost triple the state-wide rate during the next 2 census periods. Nash County presents a very different picture. The county grew at rate below that of the state during the 1970's, and it is projected to fall below state-wide rates during the next 2 census periods. Pitt County grew at double the State's growth rate during the 1970's and is projected to exceed state-wide rates during the 1980's and 1990's. Wayne County's growth equalled the state's growth during the 1970's, but it is projected to grow at a rate well below that of the state during the 1980's and lose population during the 1990's.

Finally, two counties in Virginia, selected for analysis, also present a picture of contrasting growth rates. Currently, the City of Virginia Beach is the second fastest growing area in the state. The city's growth rate was 3.5 times greater than the state-wide growth during the 1970's. While