



The Evidence

Statistical set 1 reprinted from James A. Henretta, The Evolution of American Society, 1700–1815: An Interdisciplinary Approach (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath, 1973), p. 27. Data for statistical sets 2–8 from Henretta, pp. 13, 15, 19, 25, 29–30, 12, and 133, respectively. Data for statistical sets 9–12 from Gary B. Nash, "Urban Wealth and Poverty in Pre-Revolutionary America," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 6 (Spring 1976), 545–584.

1. Population Increase in New England, by Decade

1700–1710	24%	1740–1750	24%
1710–1720	48%	1750–1760	25%
1720–1730	27%	1760–1770	29%
1730–1740	33%		

2. Child Mortality⁵

Sweden: 50% of those born did not reach 15 years, 1751–1799

France: 50% of those born did not reach 21 years, 1750–1800

Andover, Mass.: 10% of those born did not reach 21 years, 1650–1700

3. New England Farm Size

1650s: 200–300 acres (one-third cultivated)

1750s: under 100 acres (mostly cultivated)

4. Period of Fallow,⁶ New England Farms

1650: field left fallow between 7 and 15 years

1770: field left fallow between 1 and 2 years

5. Abbot Family, Andover, Mass.

1650: George Abbot was only adult male

1750: 25 adult male Abbots in Andover

5. Normally historical demographers use the term *child mortality* to refer to the deaths of children under five years old. Note that this is not the way the term is used here.

6. Fallow land is plowed and tilled but left unseeded during a growing season. Land is left fallow to replenish the soil's nutrients. Colonial farmers as a rule did not use fertilizer.

6. Division of Estates, Andover, Mass.

- 1st generation: 95% of all estates divided among all male heirs
- 2nd generation: 75% of all estates divided among all male heirs
- 3rd generation: 58% of all estates divided among all male heirs
- 4th generation (which came to maturity after 1750): under 50% of all estates divided among all male heirs

7. Average Age at Marriage for Females

- Andover, Mass., 1650s: 19 years
- Andover, Mass., 1750s: 23-24 years

writing = need? (and) (with)

8. Premarital Conceptions

- Hingham, Mass.
 - 1660: under 10%
 - 1700: 10%
 - 1750: 30%

at need = poor

- Bristol, R.I.
 - 1740-1760: 50%

9. Migration⁷ into Boston, 1747-1771, by Group

Group	1747	1759	1771
Single men	3.0%	8.5%	23.4%
Single women	4.0%	16.8%	20.0%
Widows and widowers	7.9%	8.9%	4.4%
Married couples	33.6%	27.4%	27.5%
Children	51.5%	38.4%	24.7%

10. Wealth Distribution⁸ in Boston, 1687 and 1771

Wealth Distribution	1687	1771
Wealth possessed by the richest 5% of the people	30.2%	48.7%
Wealth possessed by the next wealthiest 5% of the people	16.1%	14.7%

7. Migration refers to internal migration, and not to immigration from Europe.

8. See Questions to Consider for assistance in reading this set.

Wealth possessed by the next wealthiest 30% of the people	39.8%	27.4%
Wealth possessed by the next wealthiest 30% of the people	11.3%	9.1%
Wealth possessed by the poorest 30% of the people	2.6%	0.1%

11. Taxables⁹ in Boston, 1728–1771

Year	Population	Taxables
1728	12,650	c. 3,000
1733	15,100	c. 3,500
1735	16,000	3,637
1738	16,700	3,395
1740	16,800	3,043
1741	16,750	2,972
1745	16,250	2,660
1750	15,800	c. 2,400
1752	15,700	2,789
1756	15,650	c. 2,500
1771	15,500	2,588

12. Poor Relief in Boston, 1700–1775

Year	Population	Average Annual Expenditure	Expenditure per 1,000 Pop.
1700–10	7,500	£ 173	£ 23
1711–20	9,830	181	18
1721–30	11,840	273	23
1731–40	15,850	498	31
1741–50	16,240	806	50
1751–60	15,660	1204	77
1761–70	15,520	1909	123
1771–75	15,500	2478	156

9. *Taxables* refers to the number of people who owned a sufficient amount of property (real estate and buildings) to be taxed.