

INDIAN RESERVES — MARITIMES REGION

1971

POPULATION STRUCTURE

EDUCATION BRANCH

RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION CENTRE *P4*

E78

.M28

G38

1972

c. 1

INDIAN RESERVES -- MARITIMES REGION

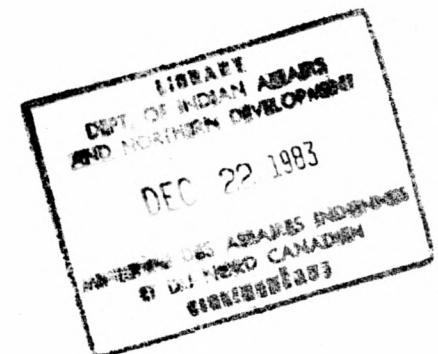
1971

POPULATION STRUCTURE

In 5 year age groups & sex by Region, Province & Reserve

J.R. Gaudet

October 1972



This study of Maritime Reserve demography is based upon details of population supplied by Departmental Statistics, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development using as the registered band membership as of December 1971 as a source.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report examines the population structure of the Indian Bands in the Maritimes Region by plotting the number of persons resident on the reserve and off the reserve by five year age groups & sex.
- 1.2. A total of twenty seven bands are examined, varying in size from a low of 18 to a high of 1423 persons. Five bands have less than a hundred members, only five have more than five hundred members and the preponderance (13) have between two hundred and three hundred members.
- 1.3. Population has also been plotted for all bands by Region and by Province. There is a small group in New Brunswick which is not associated with any band.
- 1.4. Some of the statistics may not reflect the true situation with regard to off-reserve population. Typical examples are as follows:
 - 1.4.1. Afton. There are 6 females in the age bracket 20-35 years on the reserve and 16 children in the 0-4 year group. However in the same age bracket there are 15 females living off the reserve but no children in the 0-4 years group.
 - 1.4.2. Kingsclear. The females in the 20-35 year bracket are 19 on reserve and 18 off reserve. The corresponding figures for children are 24 & 2 respectively.
 - 1.4.3. Lennox Island. The females in the 20-35 year bracket are 24 on reserve and 87 off reserve. The corresponding figures for children are 50 & 13 respectively.

2. Observations

- 2.1. In planning physical improvements to reserves it is possible to structure certain facilities (e.g. housing) to the existing population and add further facilities as the need arises. In the case of utilities it is frequently necessary to provide additional capacity to accommodate future growth at the outset. If funds are to be optimised the design must avoid both the short term expedient which makes no provision for future growth and the excessive over design of facilities in anticipation of growth which may not materialise. The optimum level of design can only be achieved by basing it upon a realistic assessment of population growth.

- 2.2. Population growth is a function of live births, deaths and migration. Births in turn are a function of the number of women of child bearing age. (i.e. those in the age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, & 35-39) The preponderance of live births occur to women in the 20-24 & 25-29 groups. If the women of child bearing age leave the reserve there will be a gradual decline in the birth rate so that although population may be increasing a point will be reached where the net rate of reproduction is less than one. The population will then gradually decline and will be an aging population. Ultimately the band would disappear.
- 2.3. Preliminary studies of some reserves showed that relatively large numbers of band members were living off the reserve. This study was made to determine the following questions.
- 2.3.1. Is there a general exodus of population from the Maritime reserves?
- 2.3.2. How will the future of population on the reserve be affected?
- 2.3.3. Are any reserves likely to experience a major loss of population in the foreseeable future?
- 2.3.4. Is there any relationships between the loss of population and the proximity to urban centres?

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. In the Maritime region there are 1352 males & 1407 females (representing 27.3% & 29.3% of the total population) living off the reserves. In New Brunswick & Nova Scotia the proportions of women in the 20-24, 25-29, & 30-34 year age groups living on and off the reserves are roughly equal. In Prince Edward Island there are 2 women living off the reserve for each one living on.
- 3.2. The loss of population is not characteristic of all reserves. Stability is not associated with a particular size. The larger reserves generally show greater signs of stability than the smaller ones which may be attributable to the greater range of community facilities which can be found in these reserves. Big Cove (p.11) and Eskasonie (p.18) have relatively few people living off the reserve and a large number of people under the age of 20. These are the two largest bands with populations of 1144 & 1423 respectively. However a similar pattern is noted at Chapel Island (p.14) with only 197 people. By contrast Acadia (p.6) with 275 members has only 10% left on the reserve.

- 3.3. The bands may be divided into four general categories.
- 3.3.1. Those bands where the loss of population is so great that the band faces the possibility of absorption into the general population in the near future. Acadia (page 6) Buctouche (page 12) and Fort Folly (page 19) are in this category. (see detailed note on page 7)
- 3.3.2. Those where the loss of women of child bearing age has reached a level where the preponderance are now living off the reserve and there is a danger that others may continue to leave the reserve. In this category are Afton (p.8), Annapolis Valley (p.9), Bear River (p.10), Pabineau (p.25), Truro (p.32) and Woodstock (p.34). It is a characteristic of these reserves that the number of children in the 0-4 yr. age bracket is less than that in the 5-9 year bracket.
- 3.3.3. Those where the situation has not become critical but where the start of loss of population can be identified. If adequate on reserve facilities are provided the trend may be reversed and some off the reserve population attracted back. The bands falling into this category are;
- Eel Ground (p.16), Lennox Island (p.22), Pictou Landing (p.26) and Sydney (p.30) where the 0-4 age group is the largest, and Eel River (p.17), Kingsclear (p.21), Shubenacadie (p.29) and Tobique (p.13) where contraction of the 0-4 age group is already evident.
- 3.3.4. Those where the loss of population is not serious and there is a large proportion of the population less than 20 years old. In this group are Big Cove (p.11), Burnt Church (p.13), Chapel Island (p.14), Edmundston (p.15), Eskasoni (p.18), Indian Island (p.20), Middle River (p.23), Oromocto (p.24), Red Bank (p.27), St. Marys (Devon) (p.28) and Whycocomagh (p.33). Minor population contraction is evident at Big Cove & Burnt Church but this is probably attributable to family planning rather than emigration.
- 3.4. The reserves in category 3.3.1. will properly continue to dwindle, of those in category 3.3.2. Afton, Annapolis Valley, Truro and Woodstock may lose young adult population fairly rapidly. Of those in category 3.3.3. all but Eel River & Sydney can be expected to lose their young population if steps are not taken to encourage them to stay on the reserve. Even among the more stable reserves, category 3.3.4. Eskasoni, Red Bank & St. Marys may lose some young adults.
- 3.5. There appears to be no direct correlation between the loss of population & the proximity to larger urban centres. Edmundston & St. Marys are contiguous with urban areas and have a similar visual appearance. Both have relatively stable populations. Indian Island a small reserve remote from an urban centre is equally stable.

- 3.6. The Reserves on Cape Breton Island are generally stable although there is some loss of population from Sydney. The position in Nova Scotia is less satisfactory & this is reflected in the diagram on p. 4. Unless there is a major change in this area all reserves other than Shubenacadie & Fisher's Grant will lose population. In New Brunswick most reserves appear to have reasonably stable population with the exception of Buctouche & Fort Folly which are virtually depopulated & Pabineau & Woodstock which are losing population.
- 3.7. The larger reserves are generally stable & exhibit strong population growth. If a high level of services, good housing & community facilities can be provided there appears to be no reason why these bands cannot prosper if an adequate economic base can be established. This presents a serious problem because even the largest reserve Eskasoni (1423) is not large enough to provide adequate business for residentiary industries. Even if this became the principal 'central place' for the adjoining reserves - Chapel Island (187), Middle River (284), Sydney (350) & Whycocamagh (327) - the total Indian population of 2600 does not reach the threshold level for the smallest shopping complex which could offer a comprehensive range of goods & services, without substantial support from local non-Indian population. This may lead to further erosion of the Indian way of life.
- 3.8. It was noted in 1.4 above that some of the statistics may not reflect the true situation. The proportion of children to adults living off the reserve is substantially lower than amongst the population living on the reserve. There are several possibilities which might account for this.
- 3.8.1. Some women may leave to take employment or higher education & do not give birth to children.
 - 3.8.2. Others may have moved off the reserve leaving their children to be cared for by grandparents.
 - 3.8.3. Away from the reserve & the family environment some women may practice family planning.
 - 3.8.4. Some children born to Indian women off the reserve may have non-Indian fathers in which case the children do not have Indian status.
 - 3.8.5. Once an Indian family has accepted the off-reserve way of life births may no longer be reported to the Band. If this occurs the children will ultimately be dissociated from the band & their culture.

- 3.9. Without further studies it is impossible to establish the reason for the above situation. It does however suggest that many Indians in this area are being assimilated into the off-reserve population.
- 3.10. This study is based upon the demography of a single year. By carrying out similar studies of other years it may be possible to assess the rate of depopulation and also to determine whether there is a recent phenomenon or a condition which has been developing over a number of years.
- 3.11. Reserves which remain stable & exhibit strong population growth characteristics can be developed as permanent year around settlements & should ultimately have a standard of facilities comparable with those found in urban centres.
- 3.21. Reserves which are losing population or are already depopulated might play a useful role as vacation and recreation areas or as cultural centres to which Indian families could return for relaxation or vacations. Here they could meet their own people and introduce their children to Indian culture & traditions away from the pressures of urban life.

Note

The Acadia reserve (p.6) is an example of a depopulated reserve, there being only 29 people on the reserve out of a total of 275. The following points should be noted: -

- a) In the age group 20-39 years there are 4 females & 1 male living on the reserve. Additional family formation is only possible if males living off the reserve return. It is more probably that females will leave the reserve.
- b) The 15-19 years group contains 3 females & 2 males, the 10-14 years group 1 female & 1 male. Only three new on reserve families can be formed in the next decade. There is little change that the on reserve population can continue to exist.
- c) The 25-29 years group with 15 females & 14 males is larger than any other 5 year group. The younger groups become progressively smaller, the 0-4 years group having only 3 females & 7 males. This suggests that the existence of the band as a whole is threatened.

This reserve should be compared with Burnt Church (p.11) a stable population, Buctouche (p.12) where the band has almost been extinguished & Middle River (p.23) a stable reserve of comparable size. Note the large proportion of children on the Burnt Church & Middle River Reserves & the number of females in the 20-39 years bracket who live on the reserve.

INDEX OF GRAPHS

	<u>Page</u>
Maritime Region	1
New Brunswick District	2
New Brunswick District General List	3
Nova Scotia District	4
Prince Edward Island Agency	5
Acadia	6
Afton	8
Annapolis Valley	9
Beaver River	10
Big Cove (Richibucto)	11
Buctouche	12
Burnt Church	13
Chapel Island	14
Edmundston	15
Eel Ground	16
Eel River	17
Eskasoni	18
Fort Folly	19
Indian Island	20
Kingsclear	21
Lennox Island	22
Middle River	23
Oromocto	24
Pabineau	25
Pictou Landing	26
Red Bank	27
Saint Mary's (Devon)	28
Shubenacadie	29
Sydney	30
Tobique	31
Truro	32
Whycocomagh	33
Woodstock	34

MARITIME REGION

POPULATION 9780

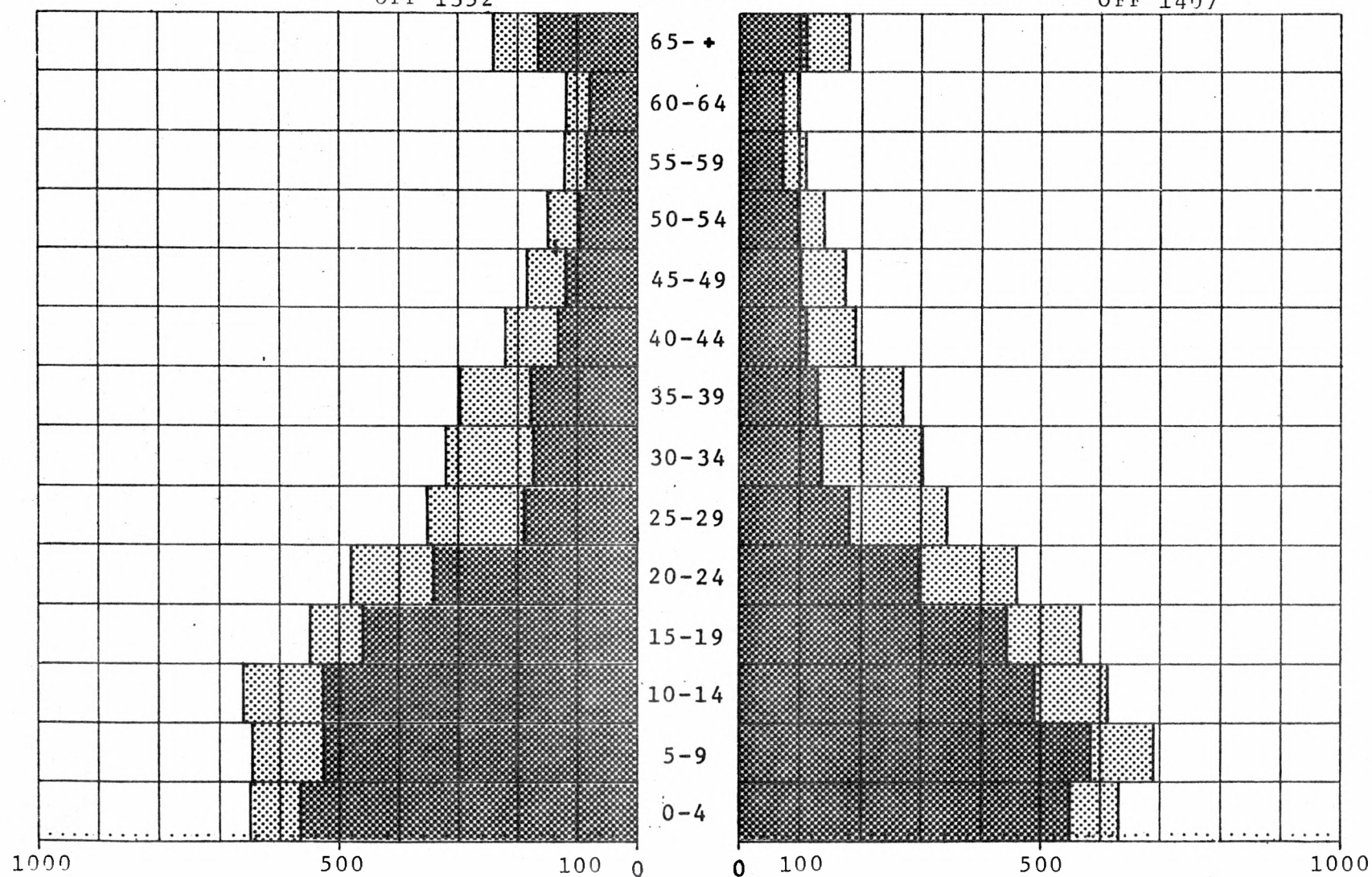
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 3610
OFF 1352

Age Group

FEMALES ON 3397
OFF 1407



NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT

POPULATION 4541

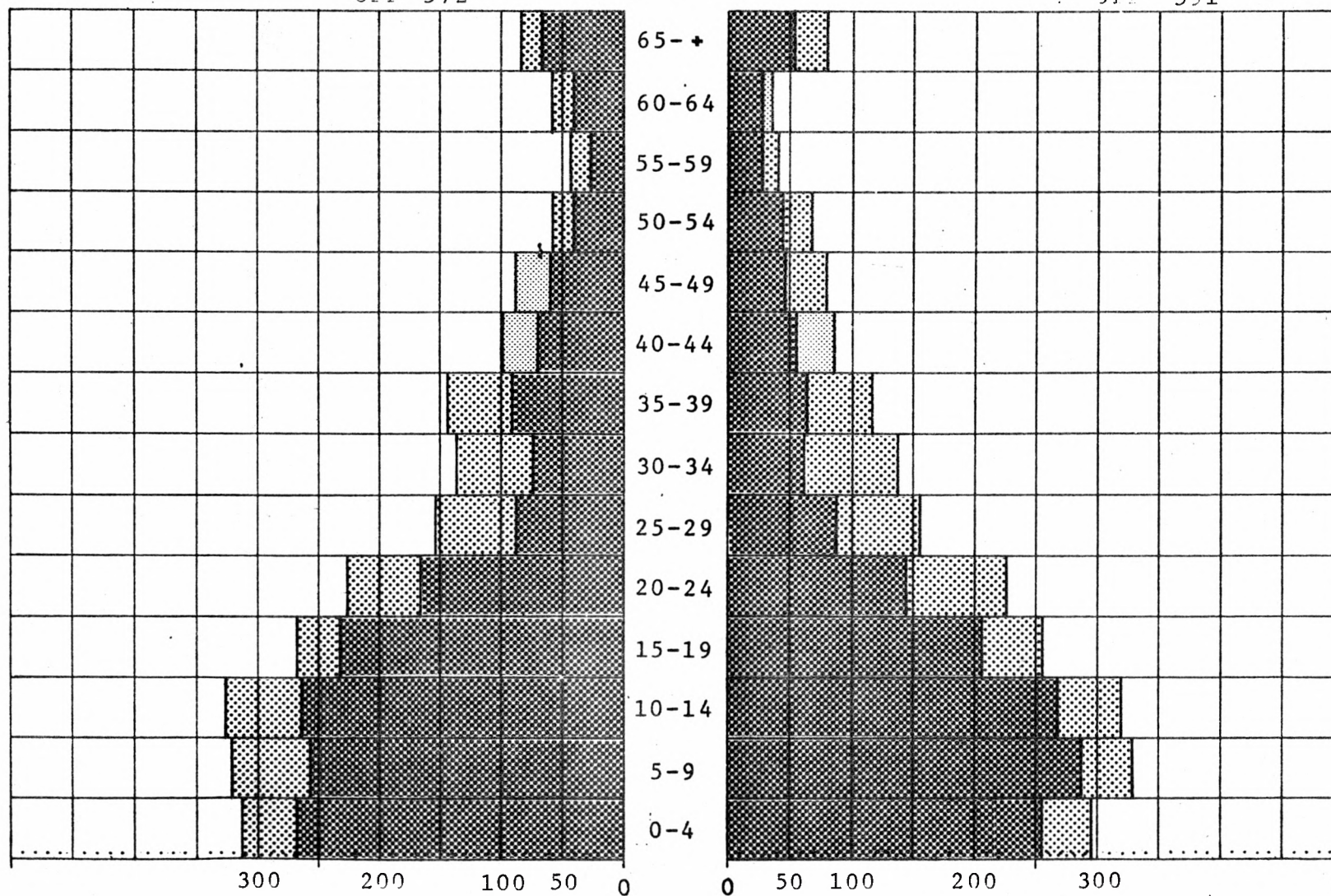
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 1748
OFF 572

Age Group

FEMALES ON 1630
OFF 591



NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT GENERAL LIST

POPULATION 44

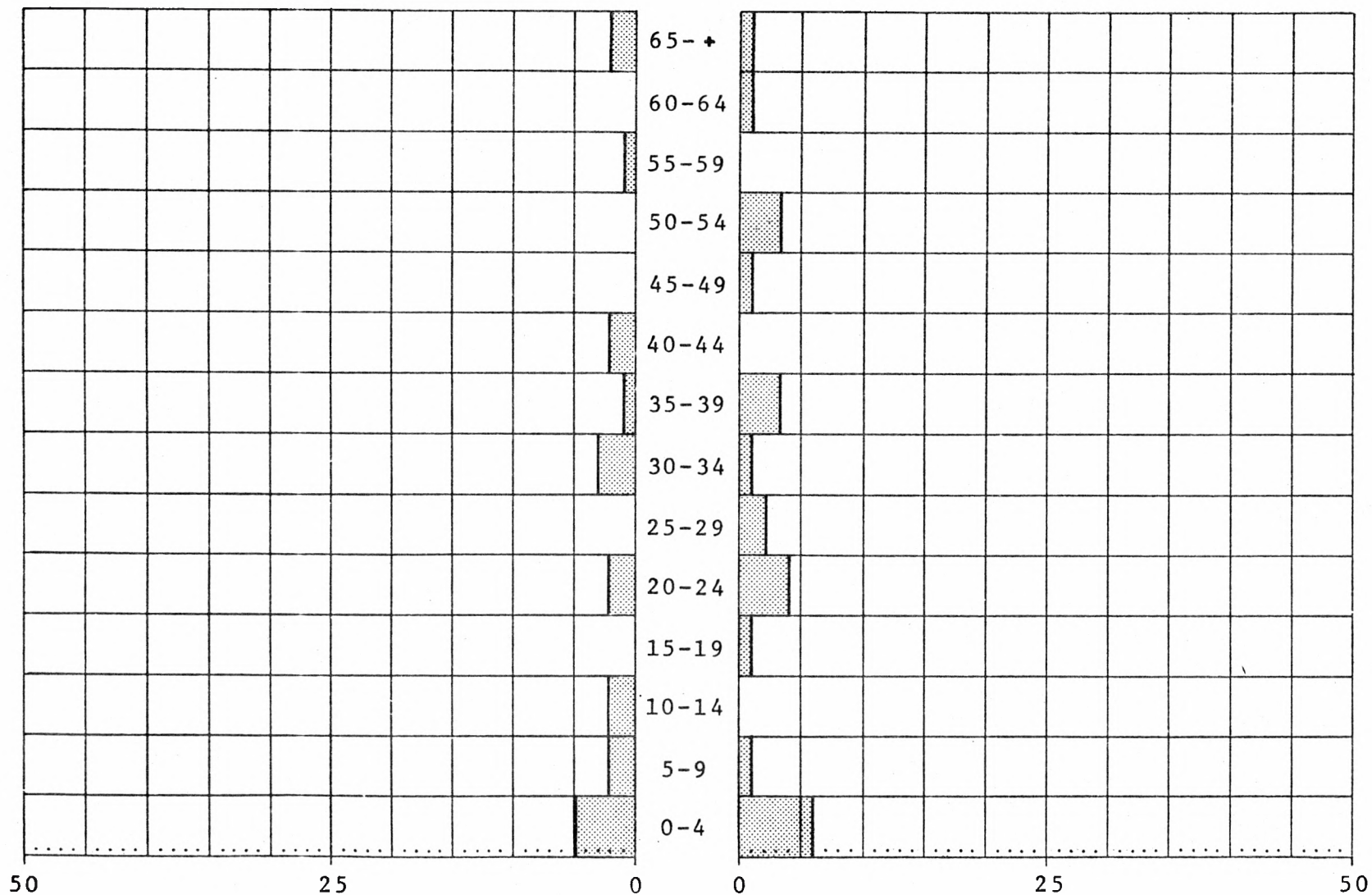
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve: ☐ off reserve: ☒

MALES OFF 20

Age Group

FEMALES OFF 24



NOVA SCOTIA DISTRICT

POPULATION 4788

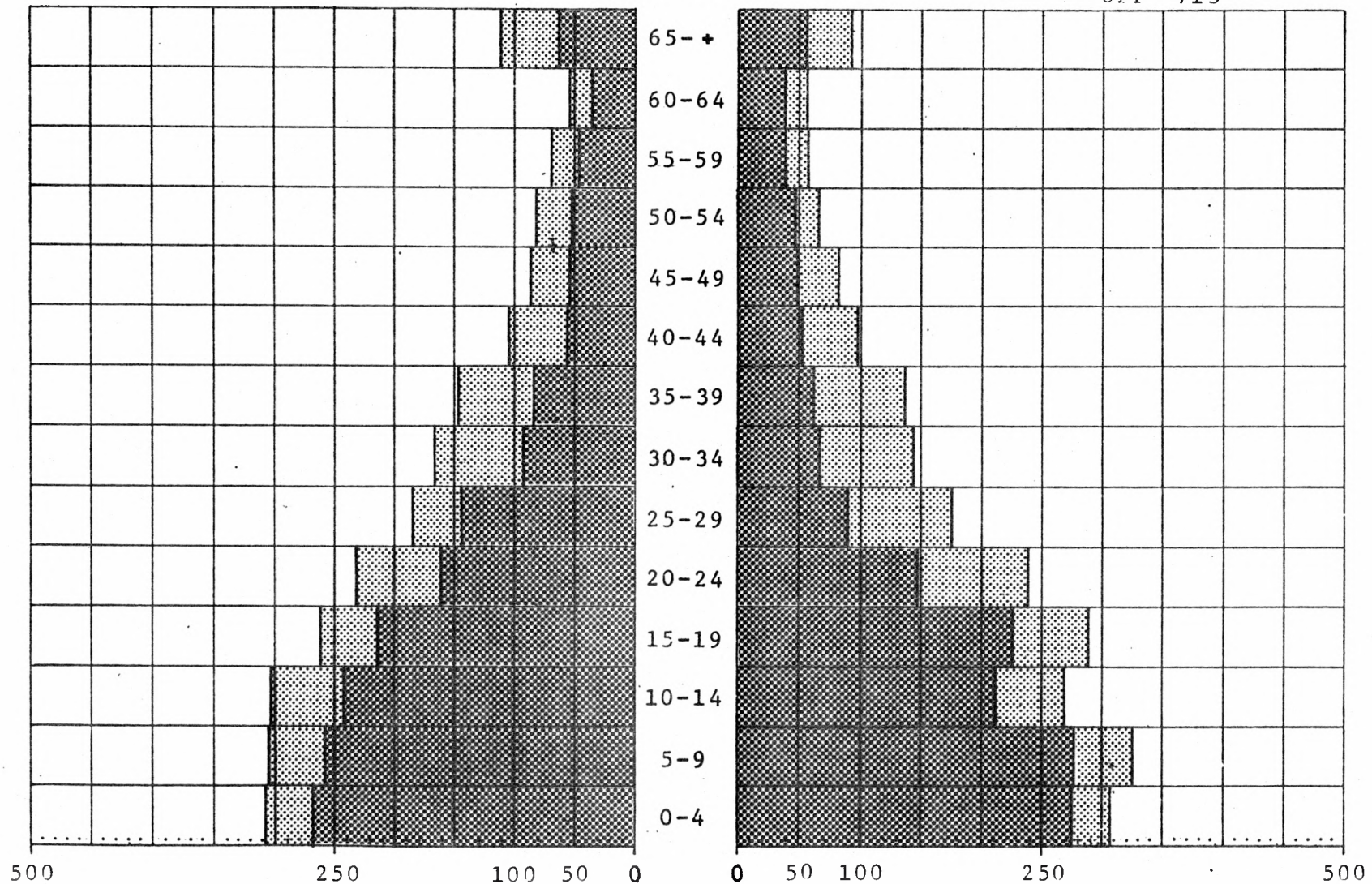
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 1716
OFF 701

Age Group

FEMALES ON 1644
OFF 713



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AGENCY

POPULATION 451

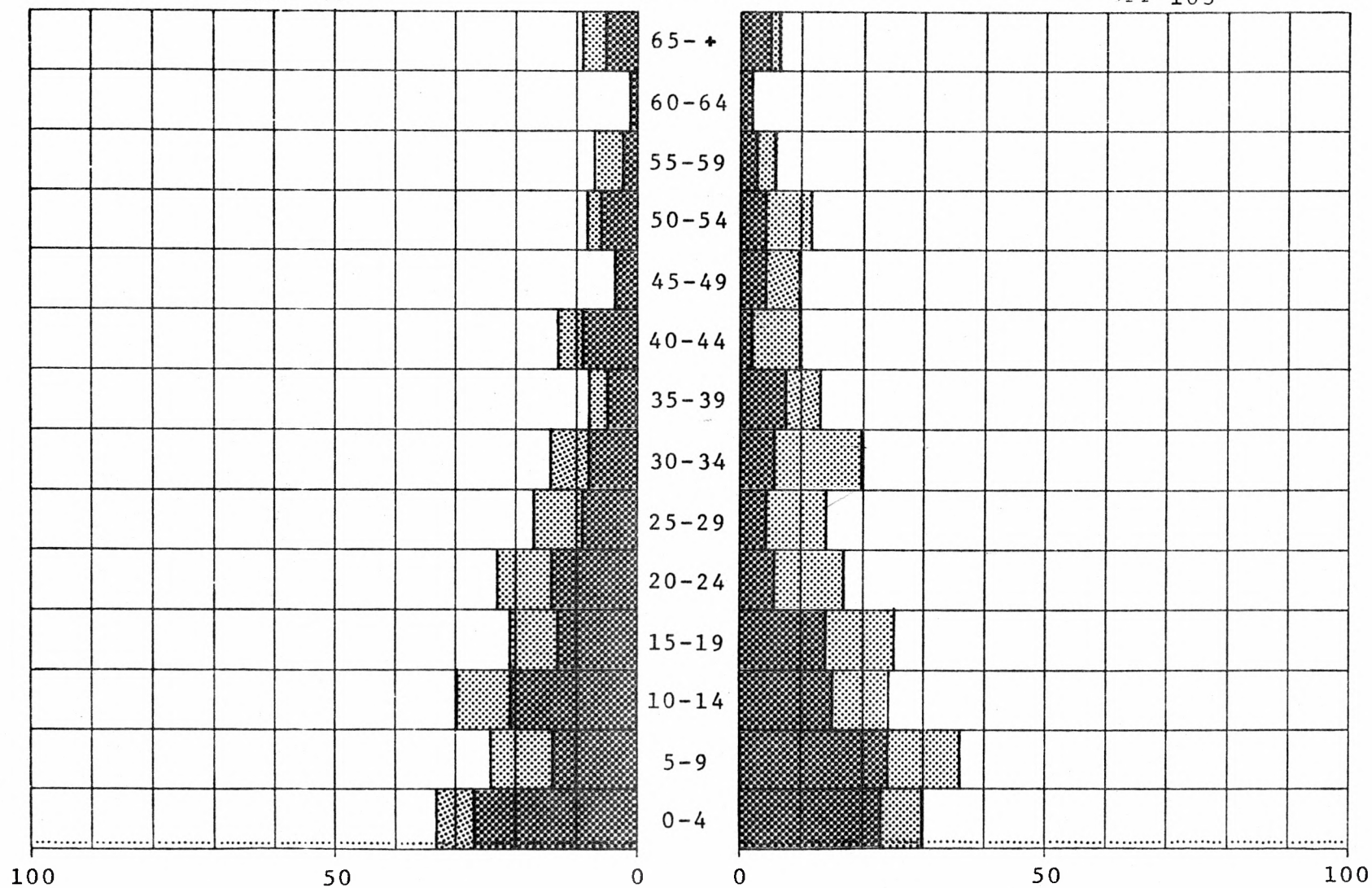
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

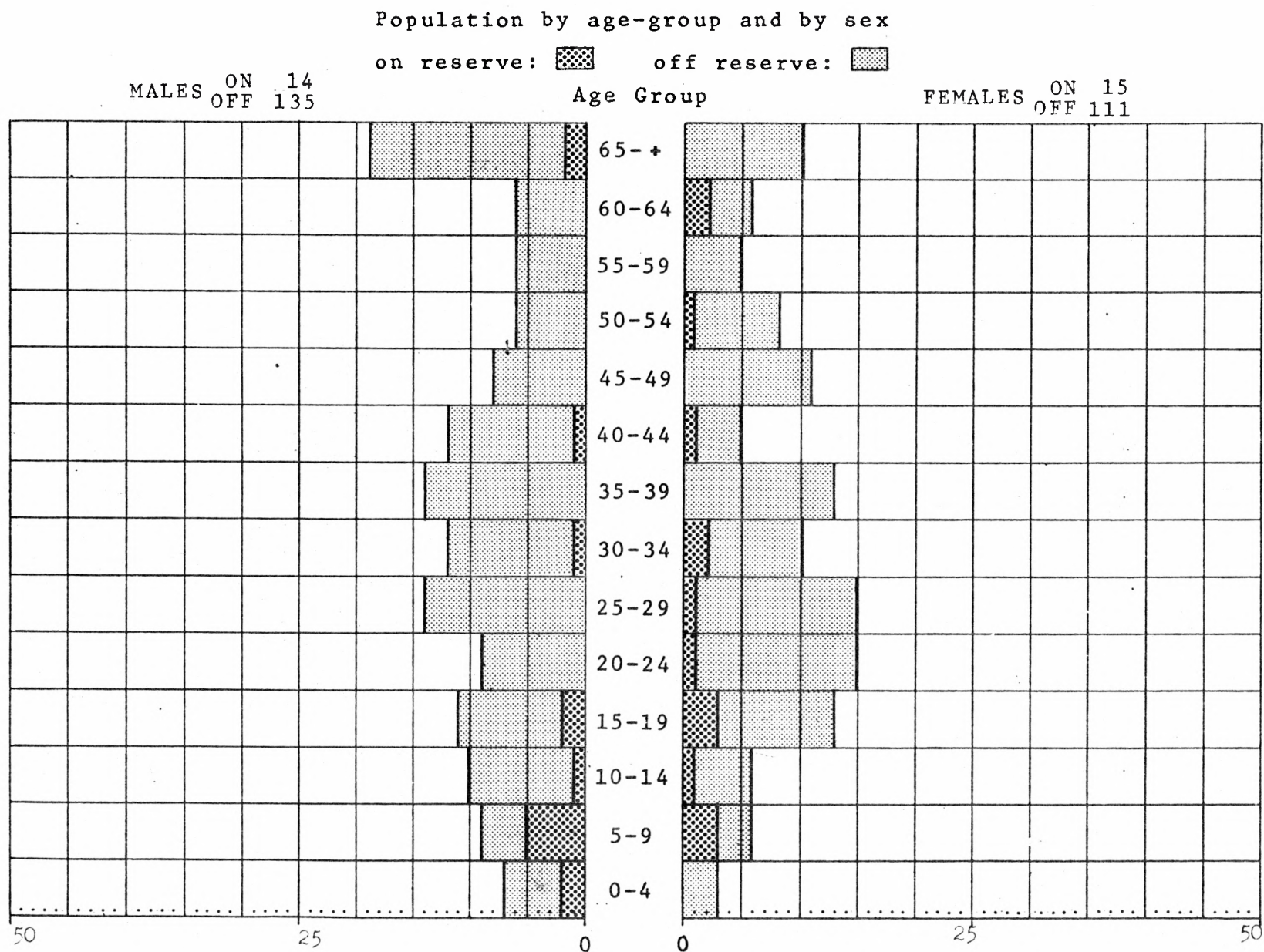
MALES ON 146
OFF 79

Age Group

FEMALES ON 123
OFF 103



A C A D I A
POPULATION 275



Note

The Acadia reserve (p.6) is an example of a depopulated reserve, there being only 29 people on the reserve out of a total of 275. The following points should be noted: -

- a) In the age group 20-39 years there are 4 females & 1 male living on the reserve. Additional family formation is only possible if males living off the reserve return. It is more probably that females will leave the reserve.
- b) The 15-19 years group contains 3 females & 2 males; the 10-14 years group 1 female & 1 male. Only three new on reserve families can be formed in the next decade. There is little change that the on reserve population can continue to exist.
- c) The 25-29 years group with 15 females & 14 males is larger than any other 5 year group. The younger groups become progressively smaller, the 0-4 years group having only 3 females & 7 males. This suggests that the existence of the band as a whole is threatened.

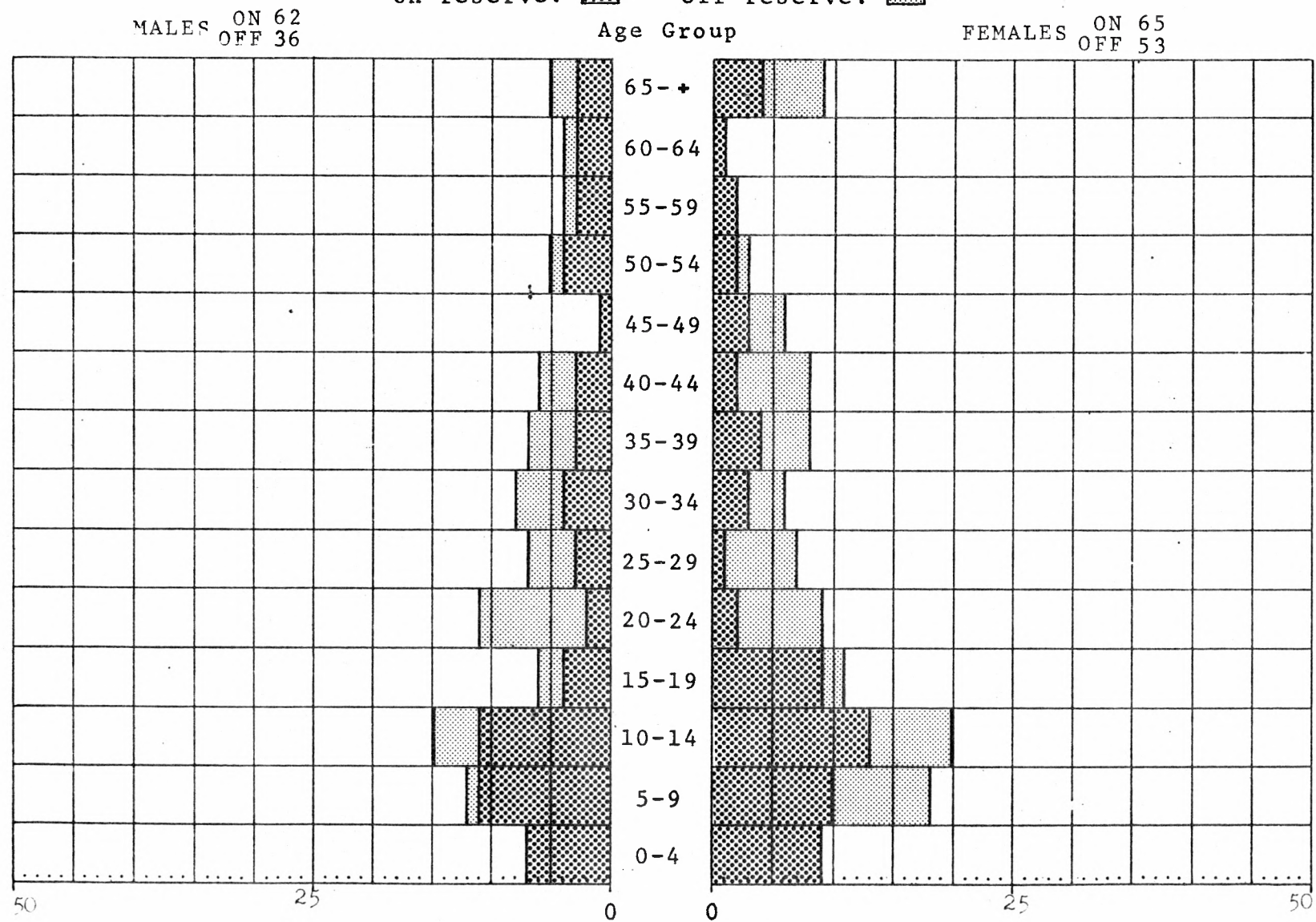
This reserve should be compared with Burnt Church (p.11) a stable population, Buctouche (p.12) where the band has almost been extinguished & Middle River (p.23) a stable reserve of comparable size. Note the large proportion of children on the Burnt Church & Middle River Reserves & the number of females in the 20-39 years bracket who live on the reserve.

A F T O N

POPULATION 216

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



ANNAPOLIS VALLEY

POPULATION 150

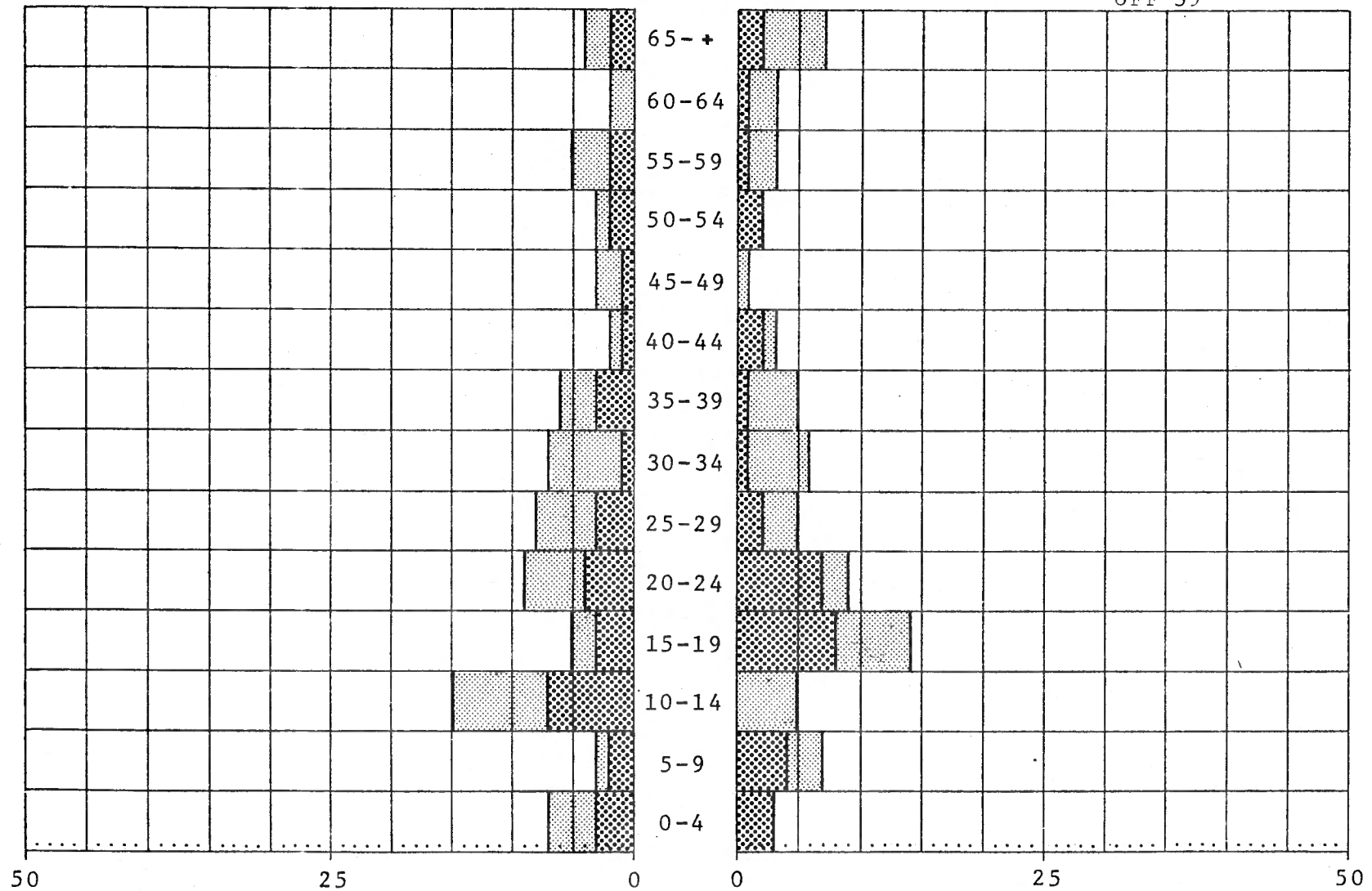
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 34
OFF 43

Age Group

FEMALES ON 34
OFF 39



B E A R R I V E R

POPULATION 113

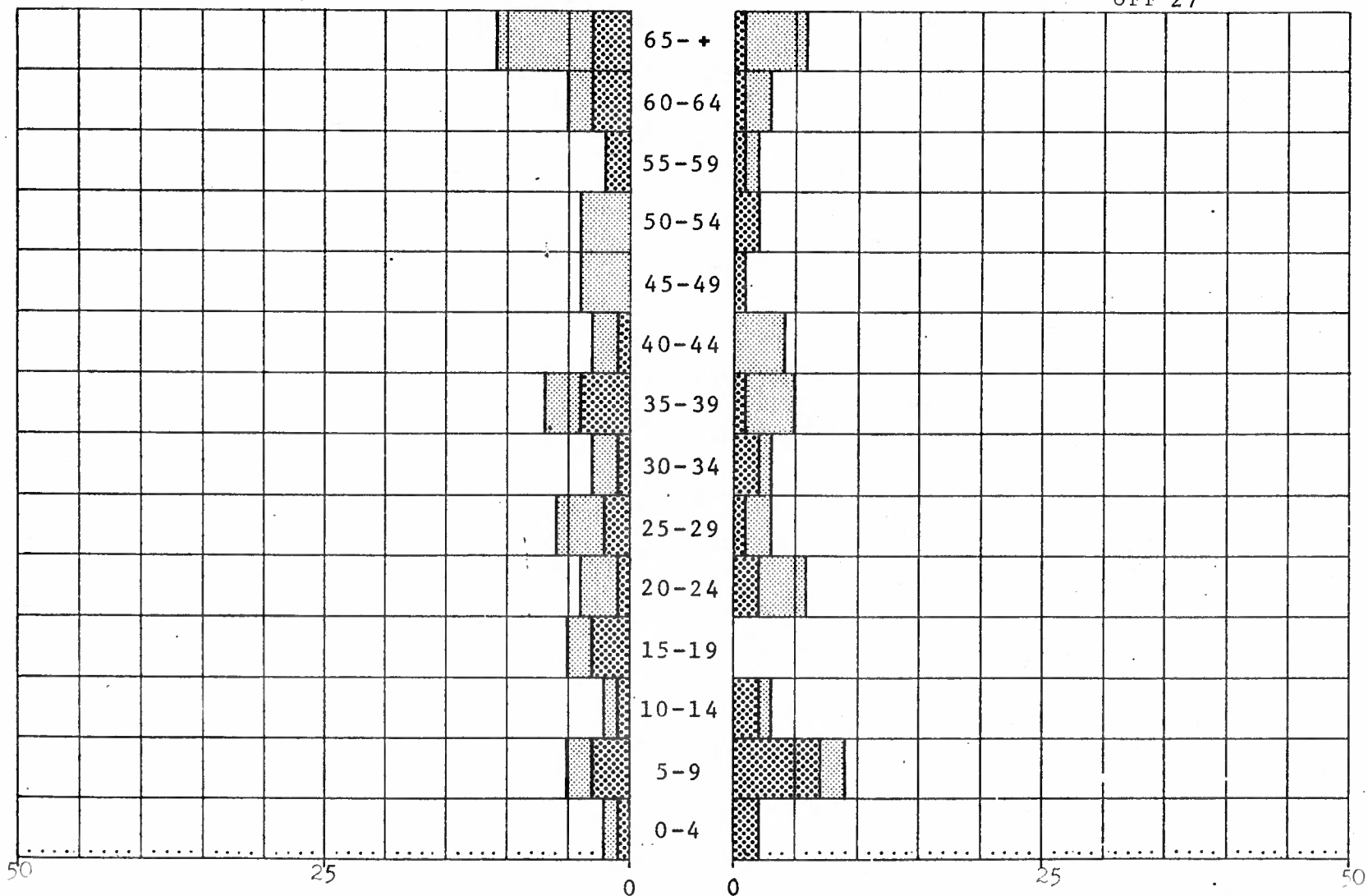
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 23
 OFF 40

Age Group

FEMALES ON 23
 OFF 27



B I G C O V E

POPULATION 1144

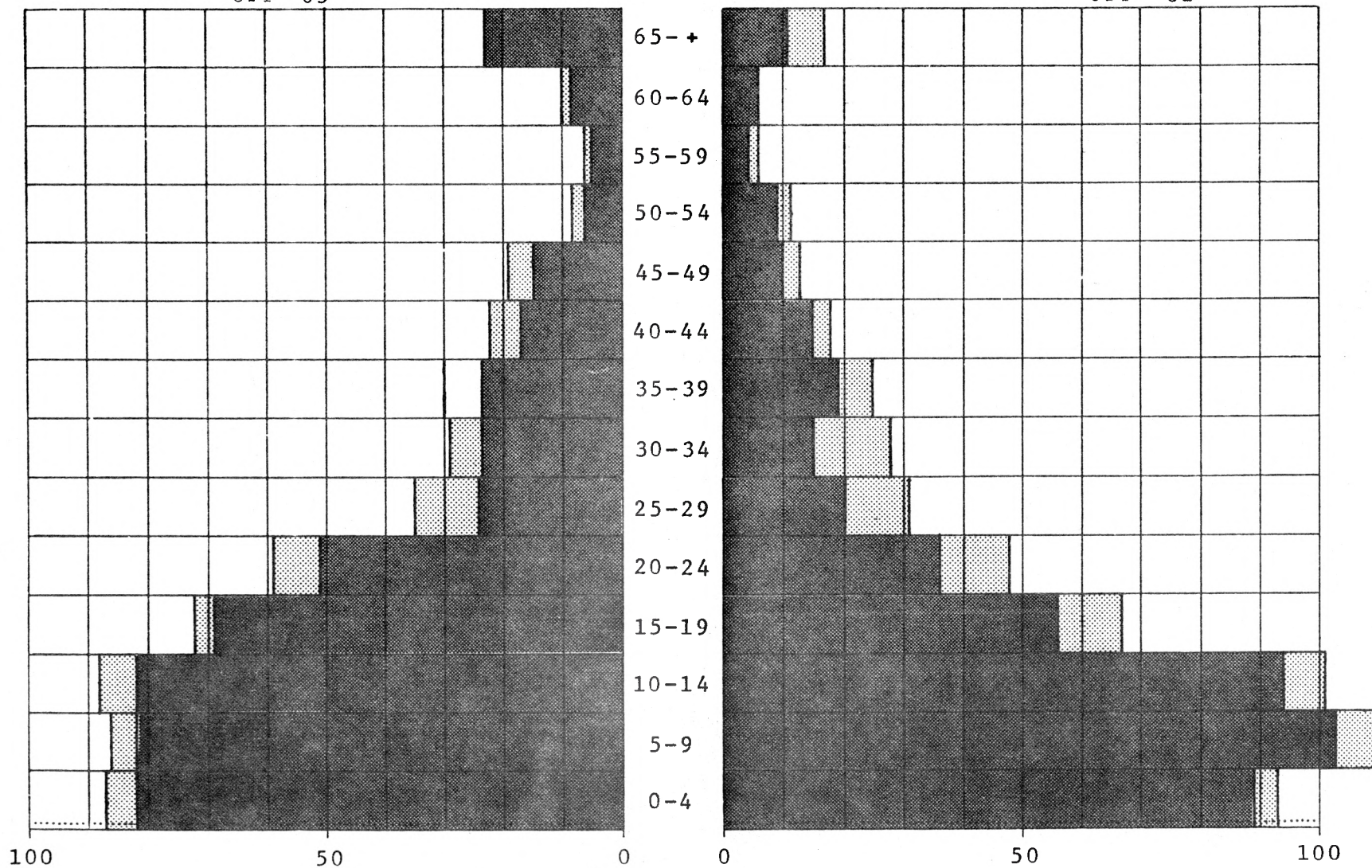
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 507
OFF 65

Age Group

FEMALES ON 490
OFF 82



B I G C O V E

POPULATION 1144

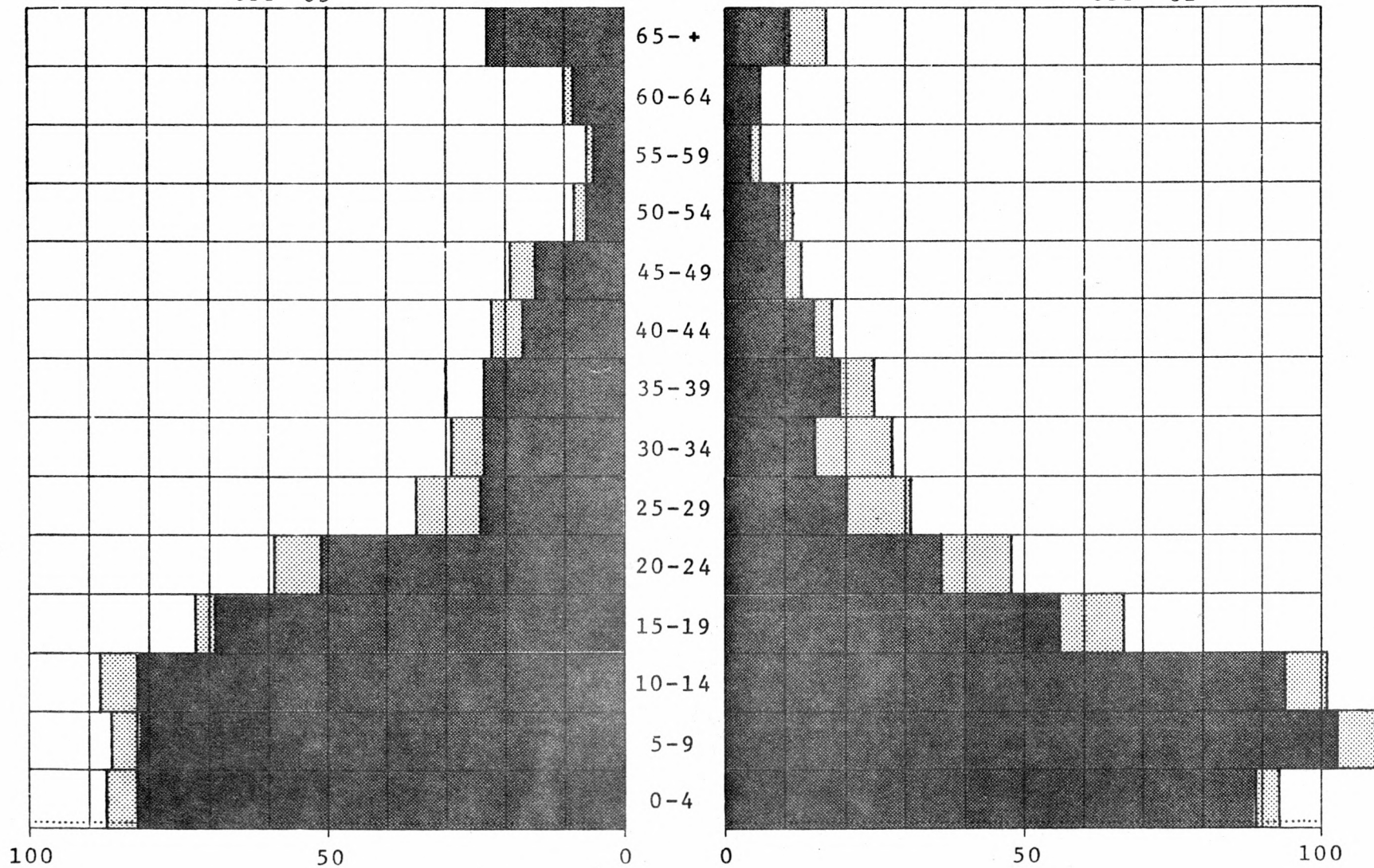
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 507
OFF 65

Age Group

FEMALES ON 490
OFF 82

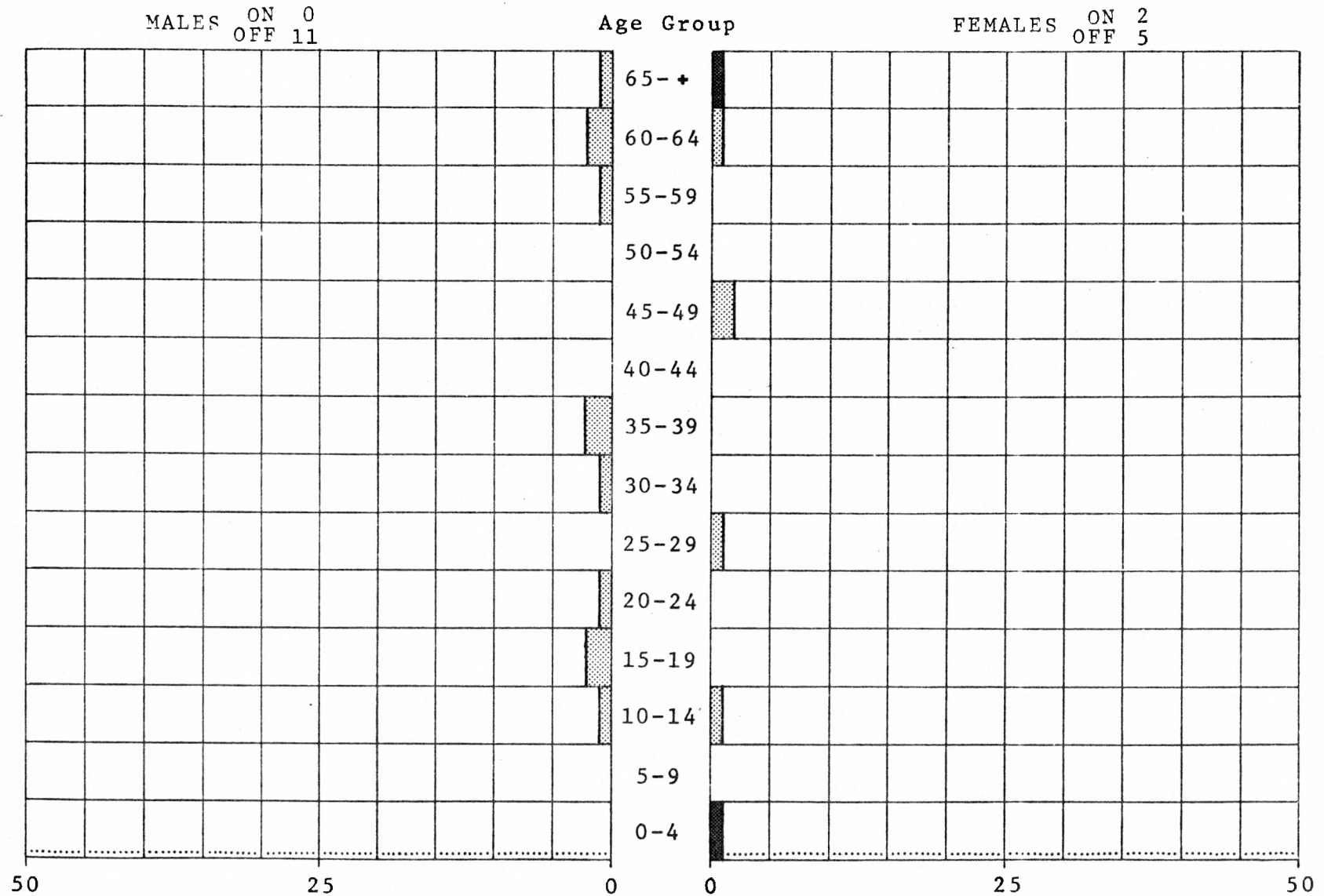


BUCTOUCHE

POPULATION 18

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



BURNT CHURCH

POPULATION 642

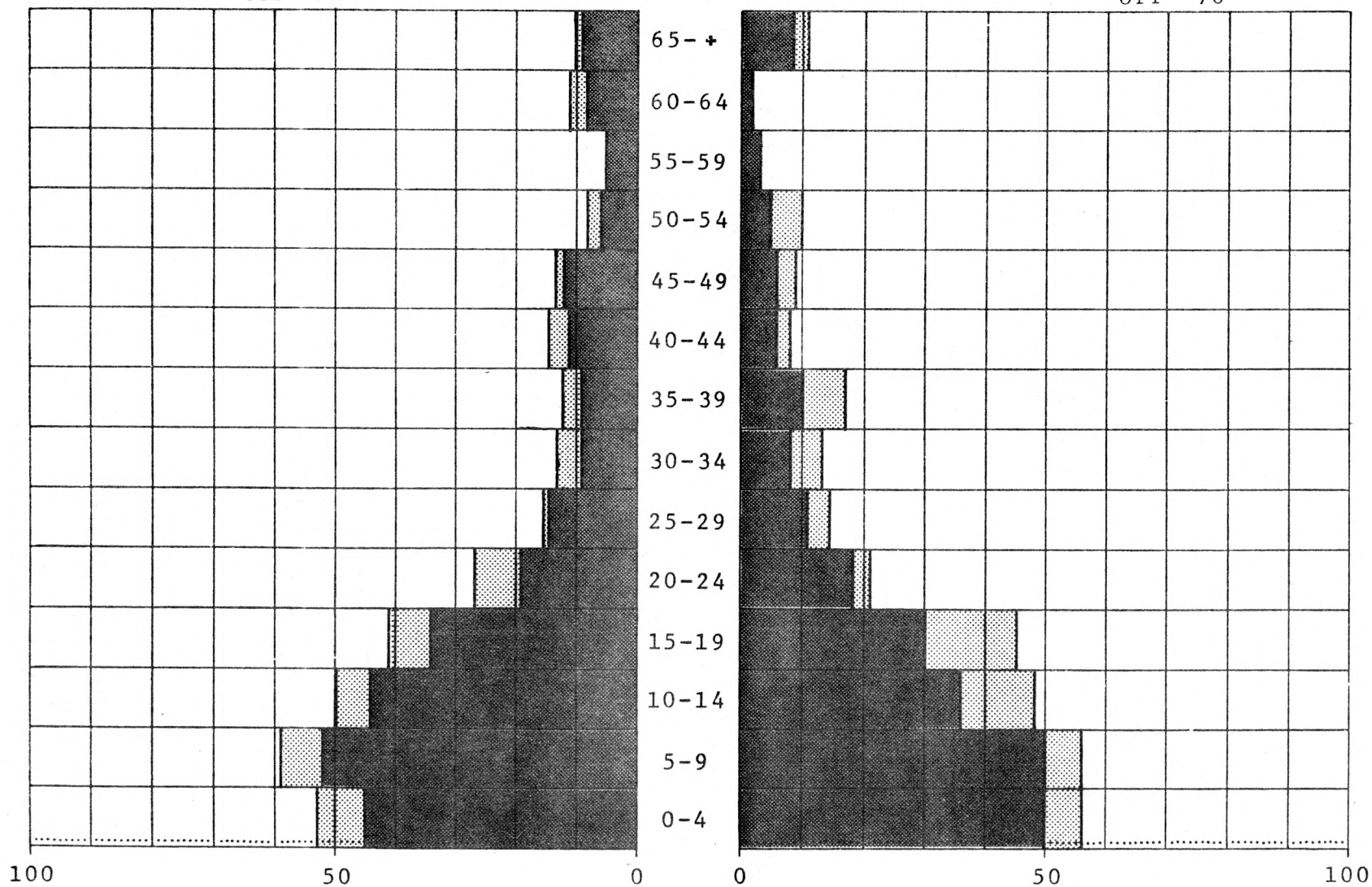
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 277
OFF 52

Age Group

FEMALES ON 243
OFF 70

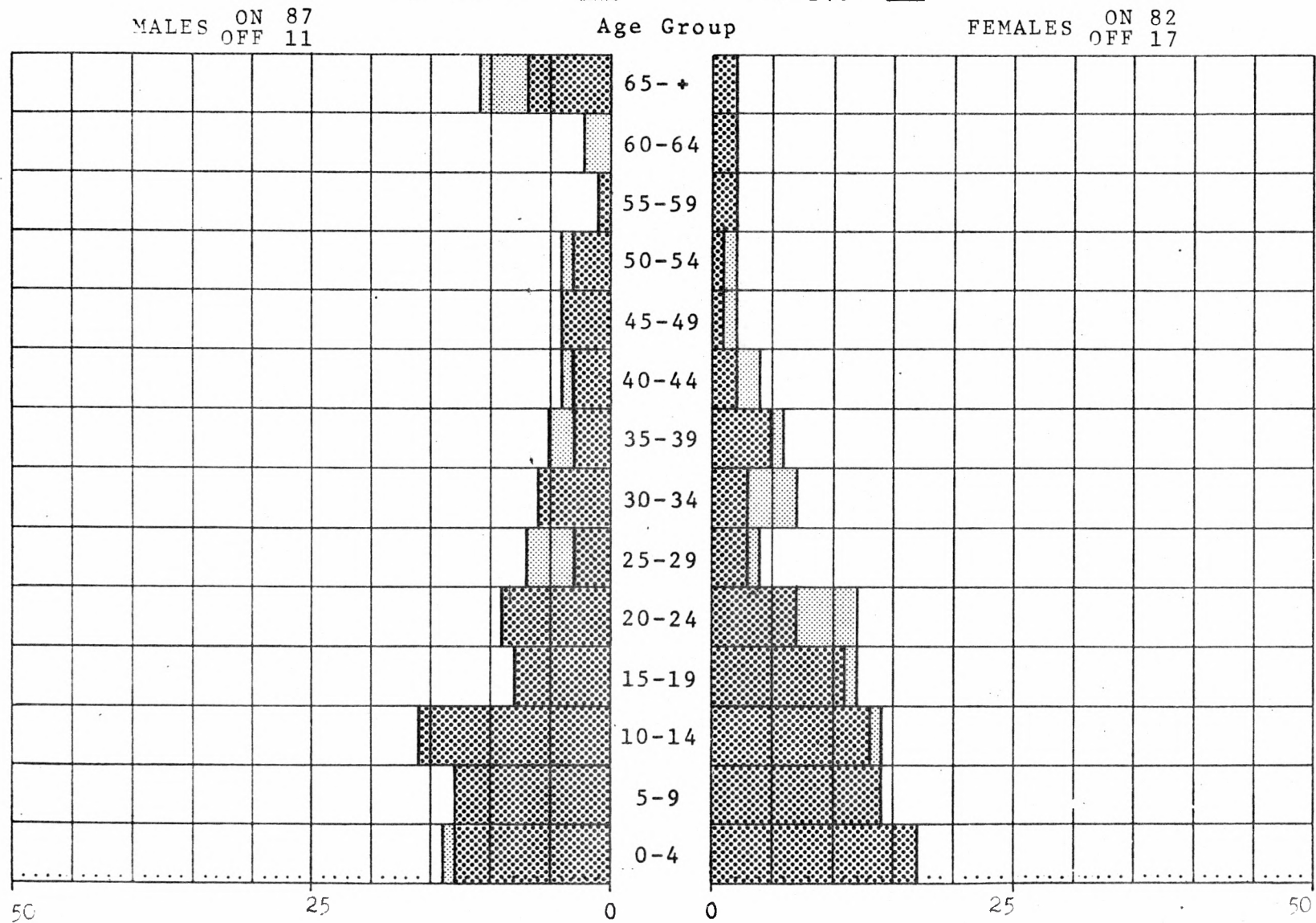


CH A P E L I S L A N D

POPULATION 197

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



EDMONSTON

POPULATION 72

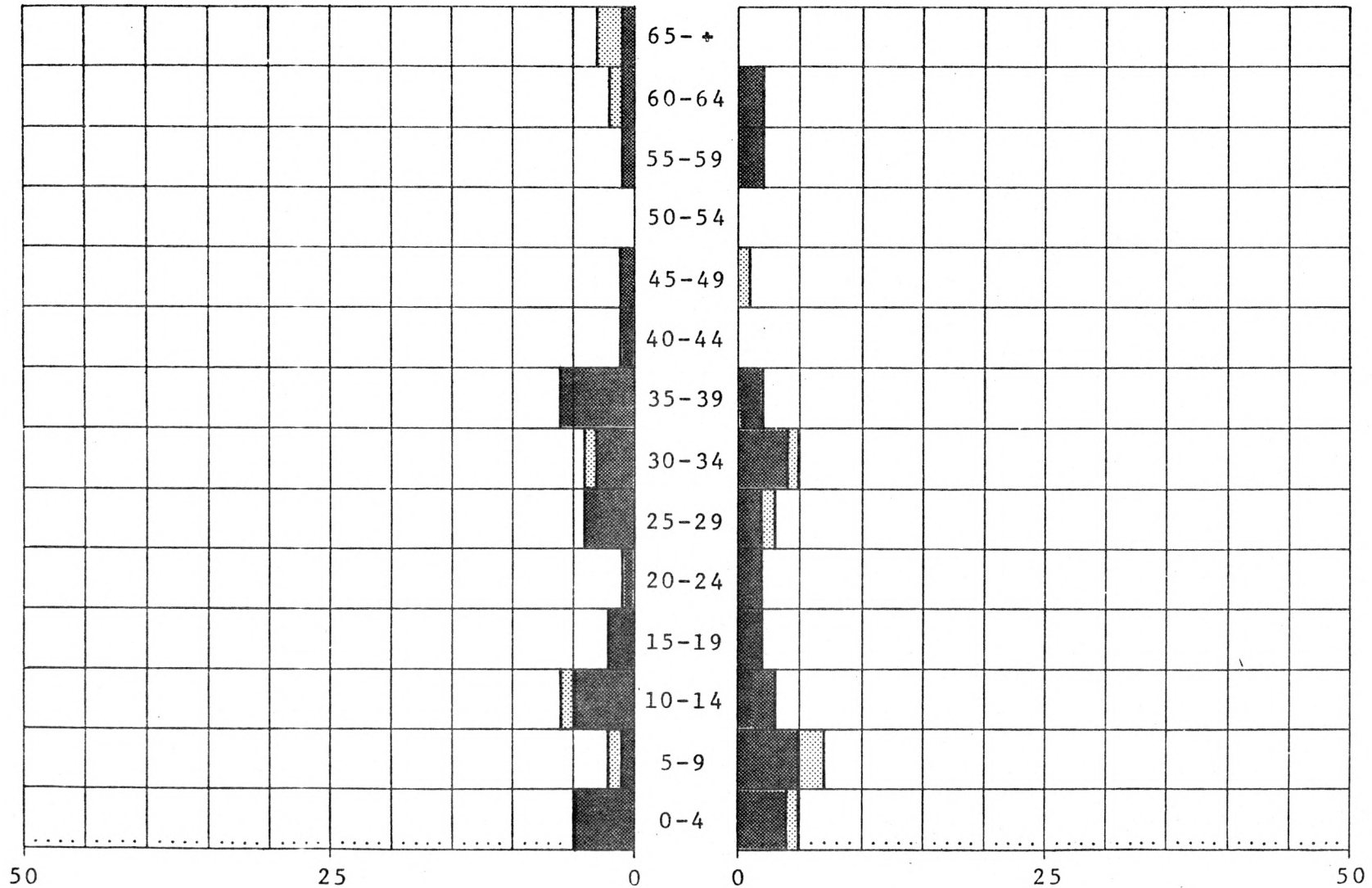
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 32
OFF 6

Age Group

FEMALES ON 28
OFF 6

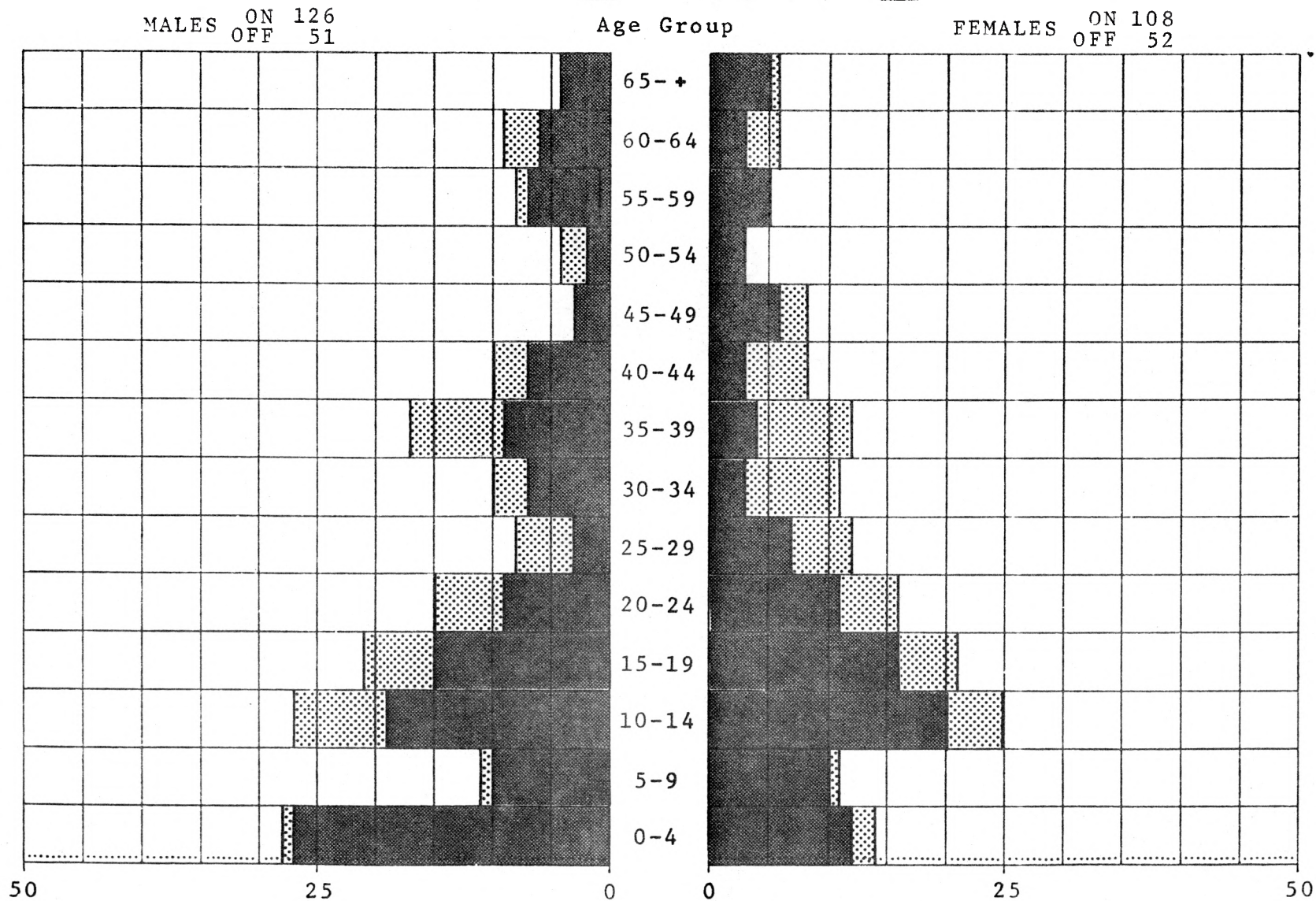


E E L G R O U N D

POPULATION 337

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

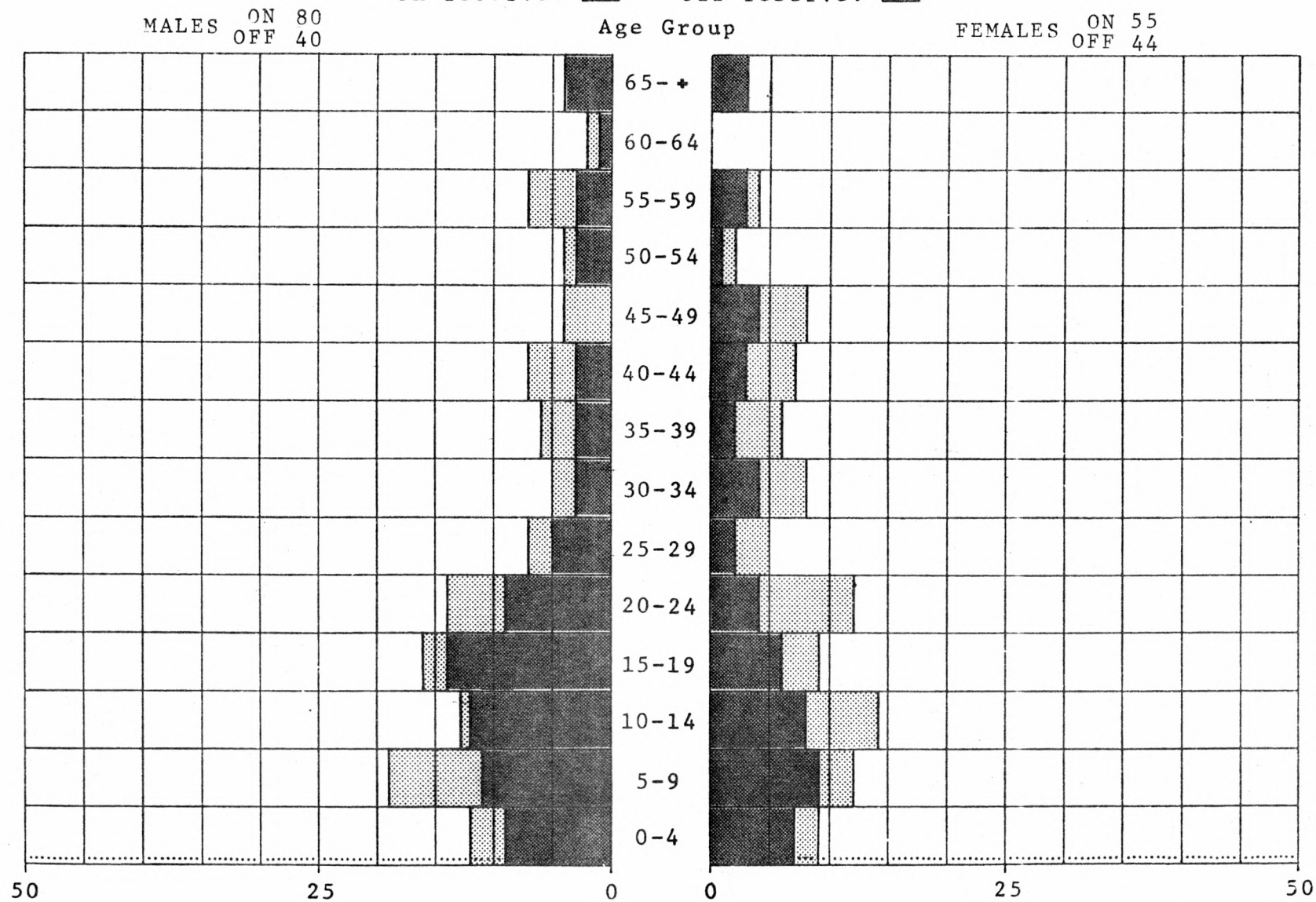


E E L R I V E R

POPULATION 219

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



E S K A S O N I

POPULATION 1423

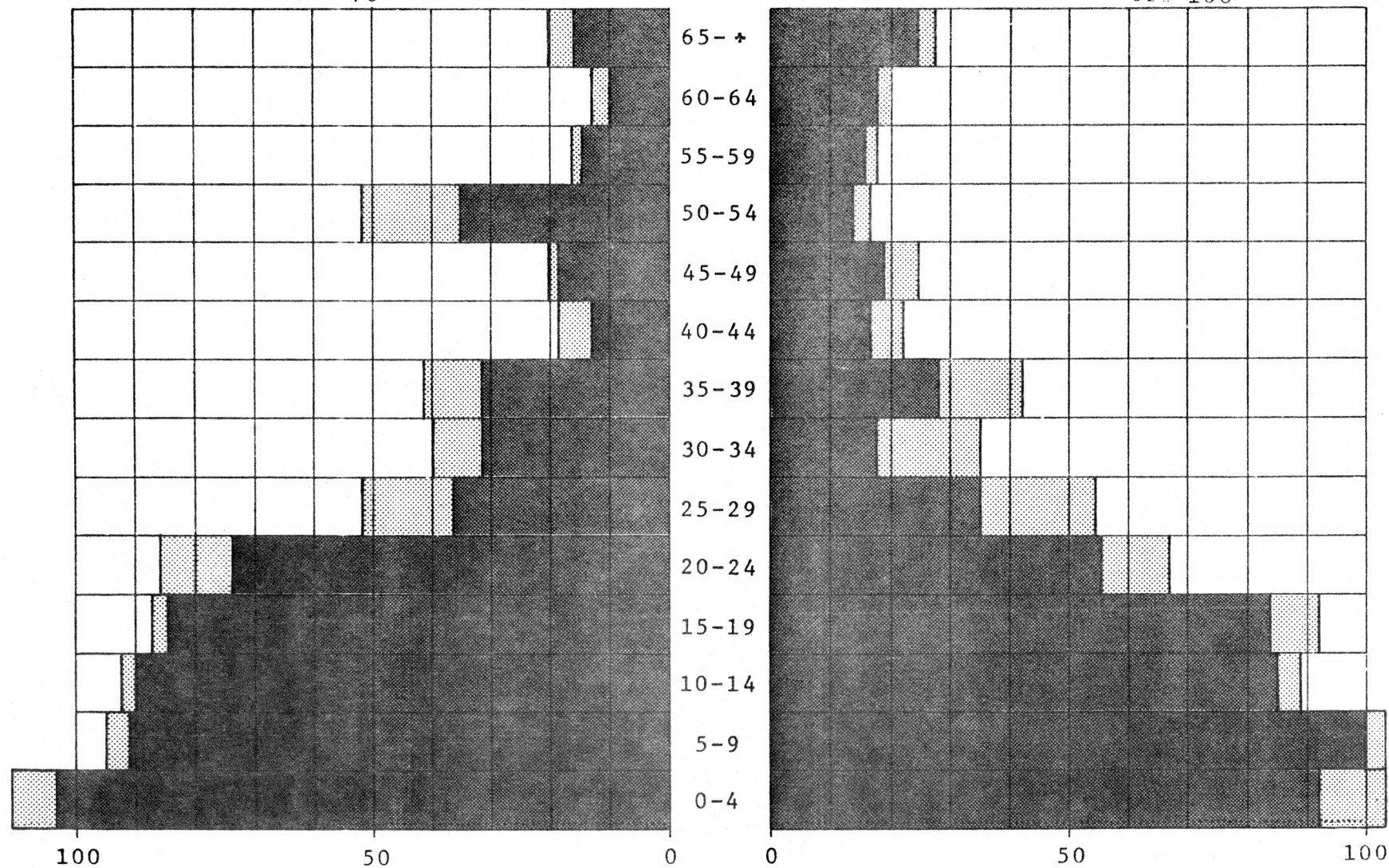
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 636
OFF 78

Age Group

FEMALES ON 601
OFF 108

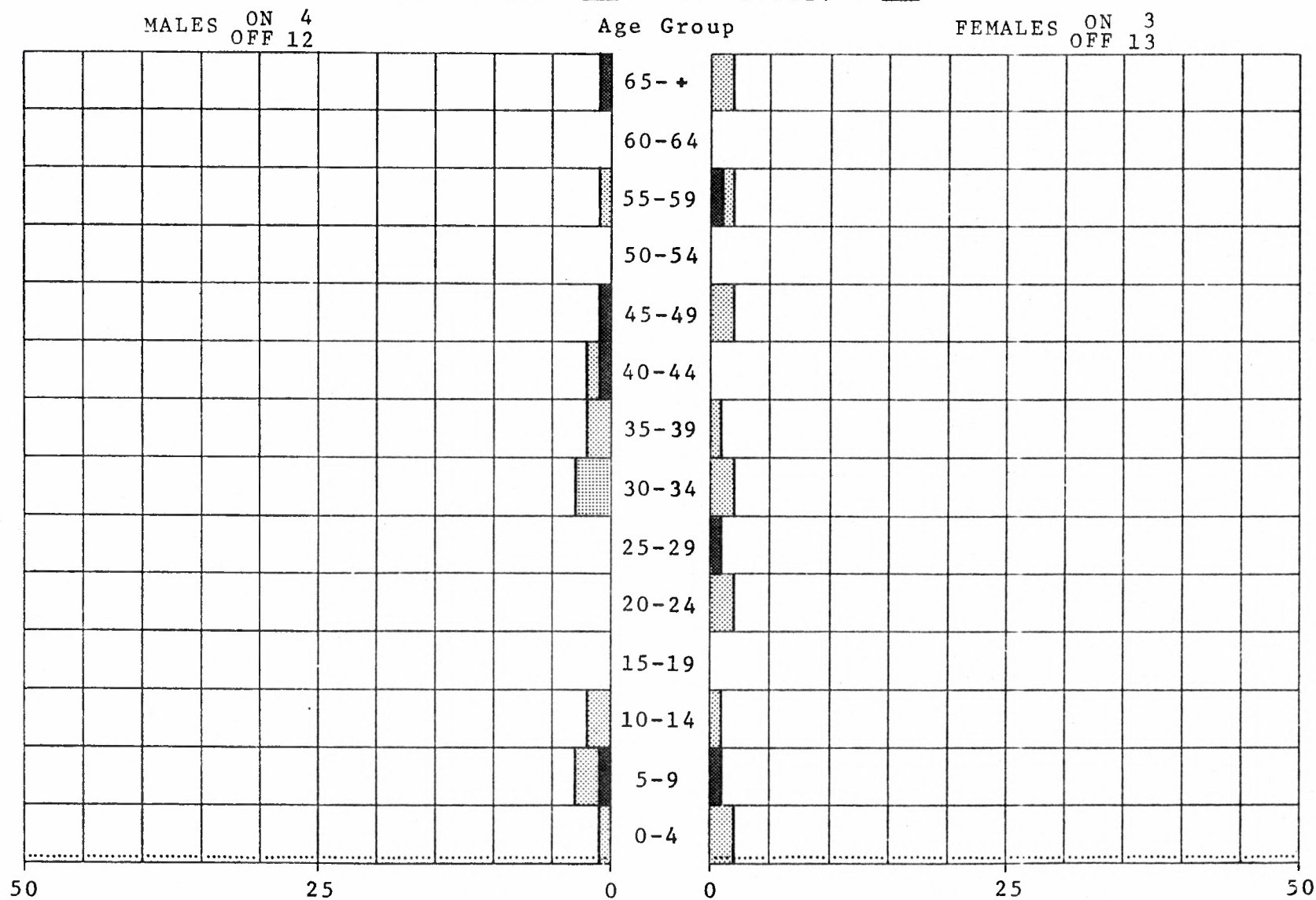


F O R T F O L L Y

POPULATION 32

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

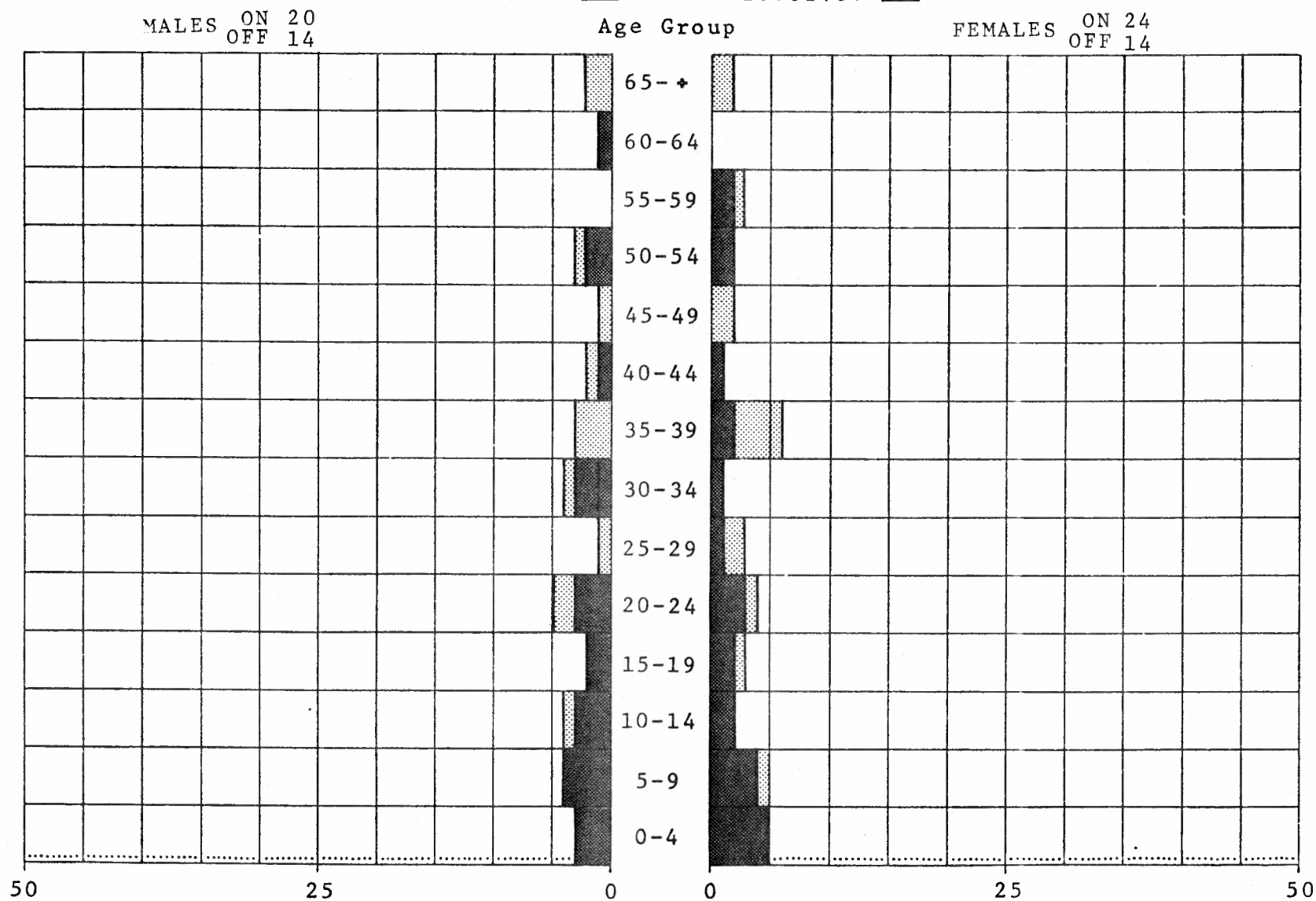


INDIAN ISLAND

POPULATION 72

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

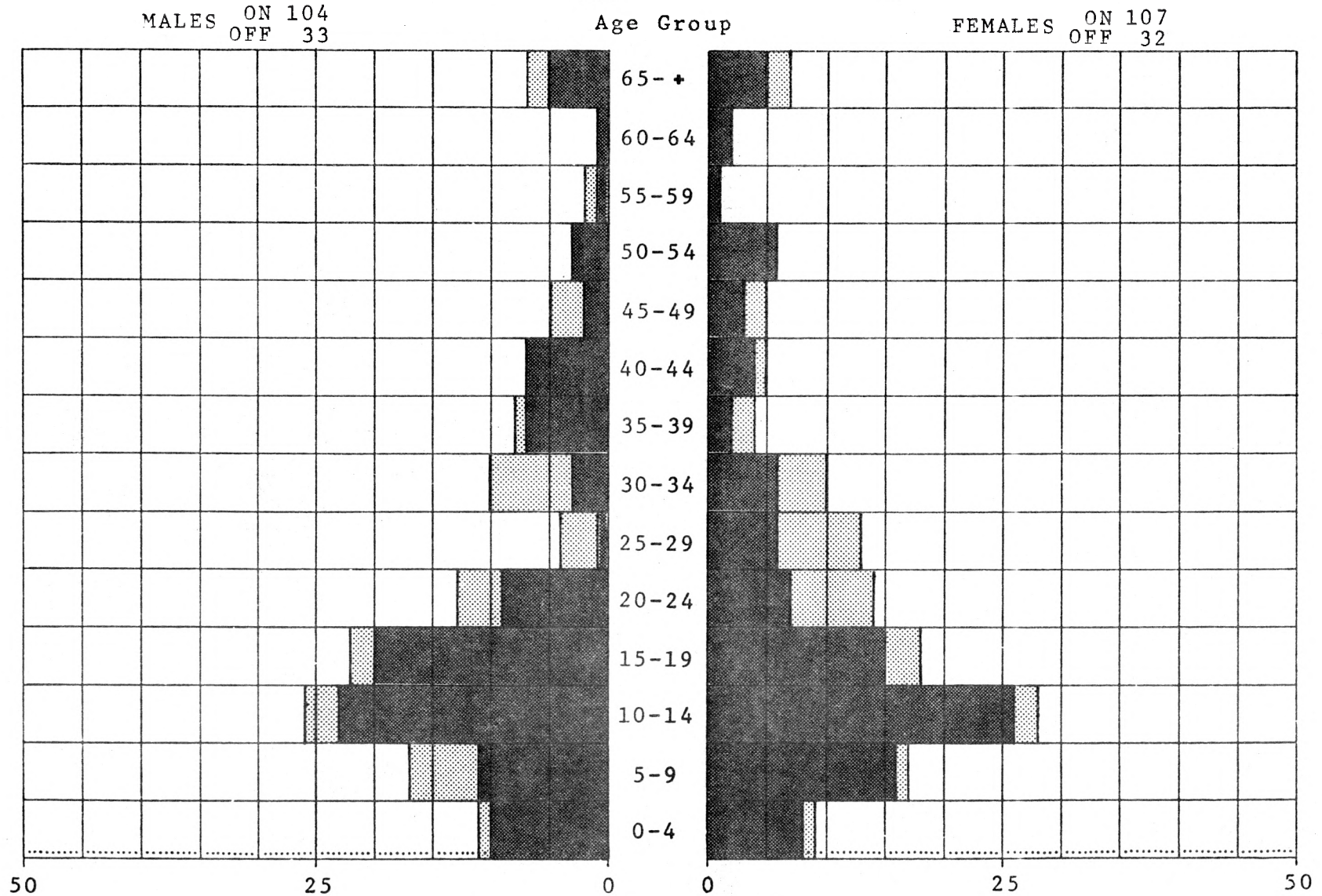


K I N G S C L E A R

POPULATION 276

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



L E N N O X I S L A N D

POPULATION 451

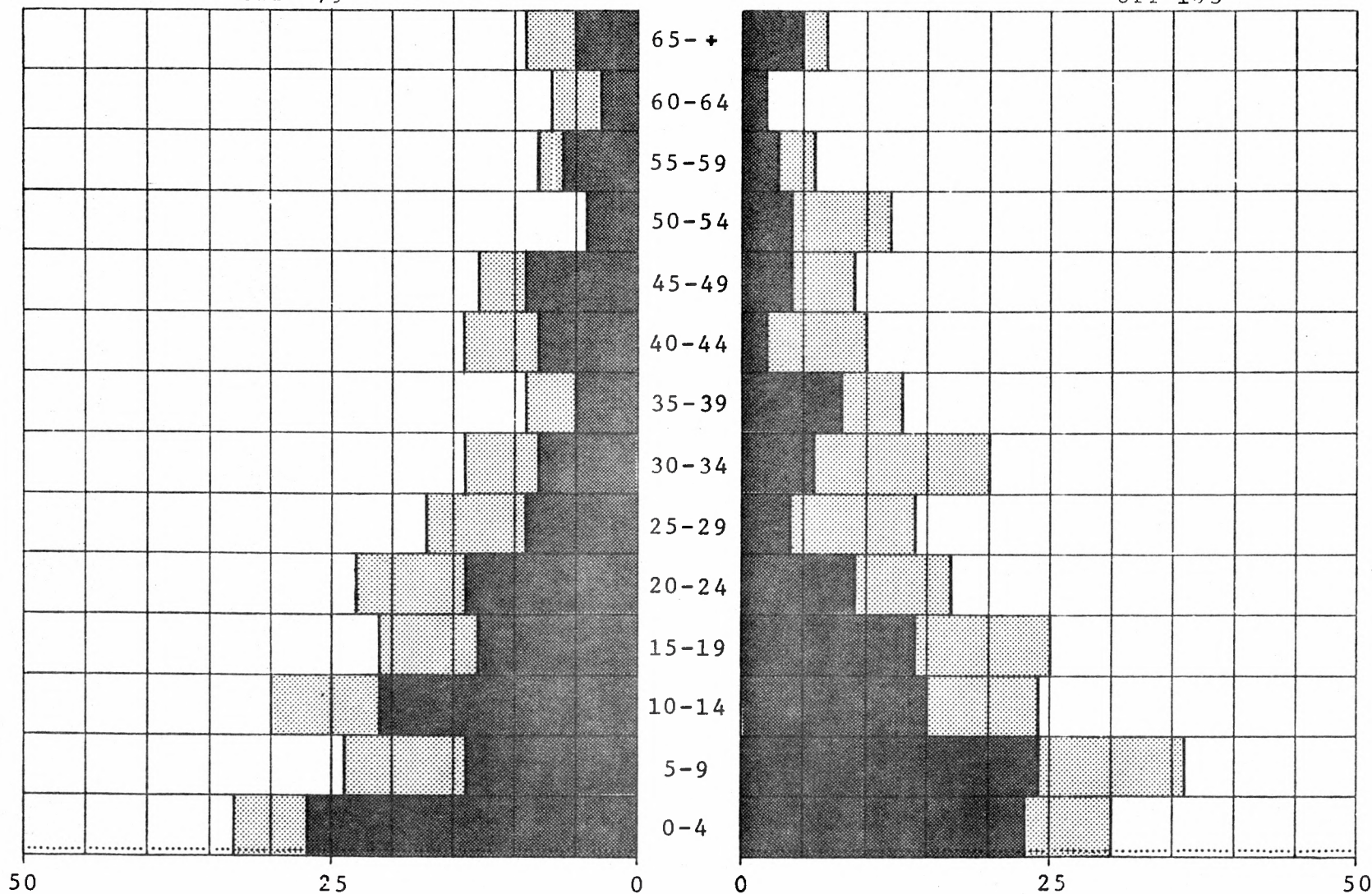
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 146
OFF 79

Age Group


FEMALES ON 123
OFF 103



M I D D L E R I V E R

POPULATION 285

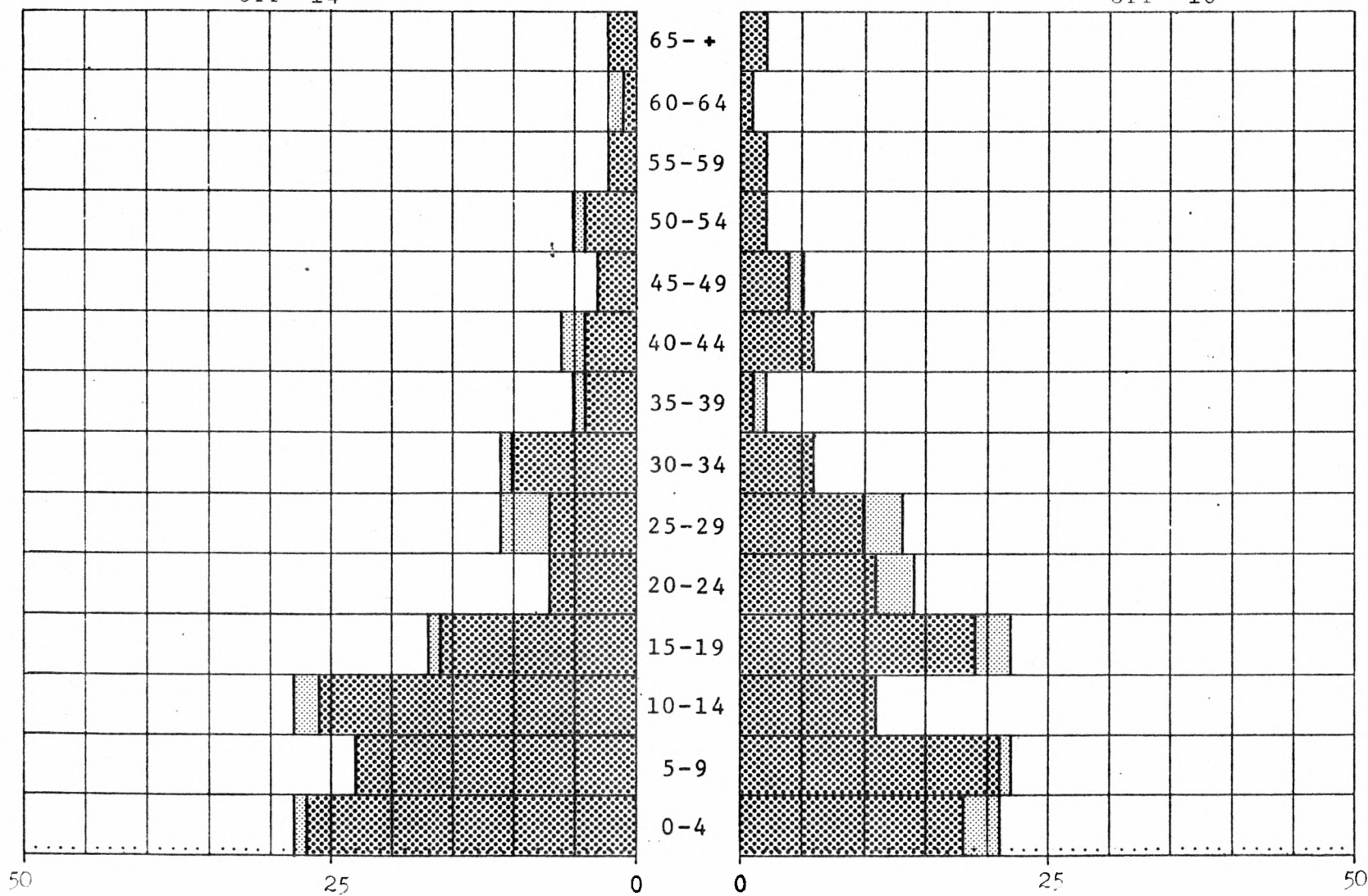
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 136
OFF 14

Age Group


FEMALES ON 119
OFF 16



O R O M O C T O

POPULATION 124

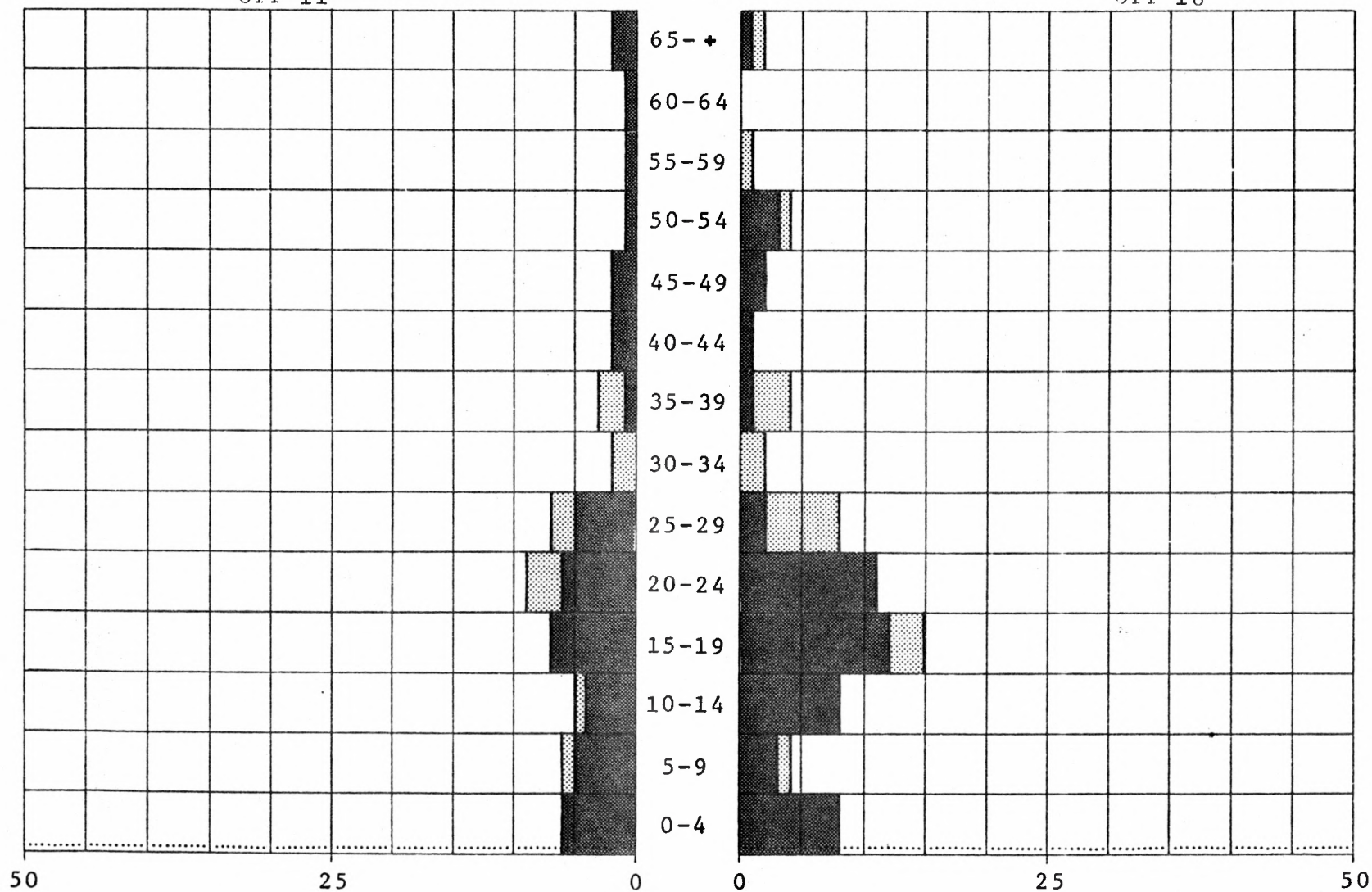
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 43
OFF 11

Age Group

FEMALES ON 52
OFF 18



P A B I N E A U

POPULATION 49

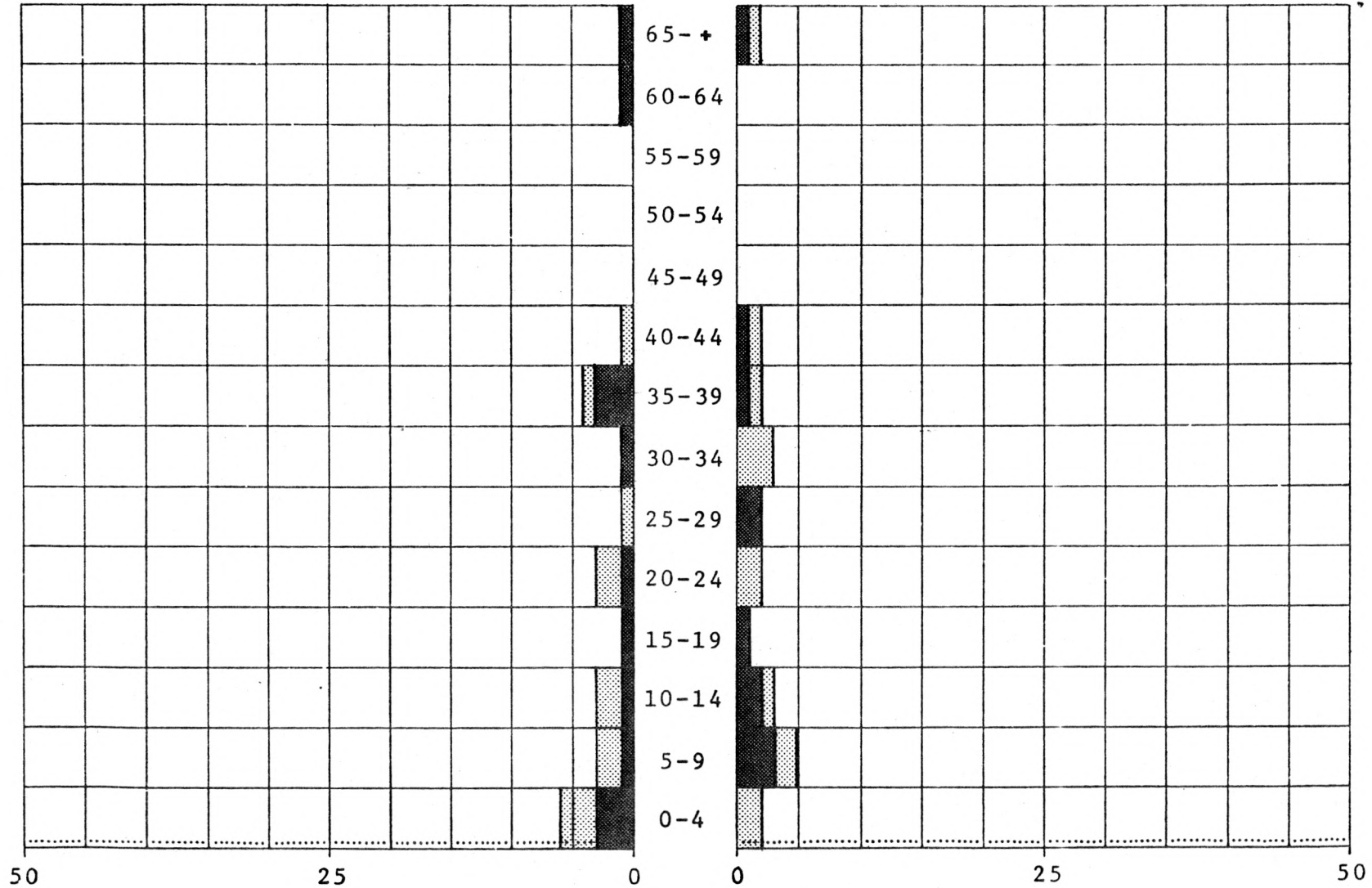
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 13
OFF 12

Age Group

FEMALES ON 11
OFF 13



P I C T O U L A N D I N G

POPULATION 252

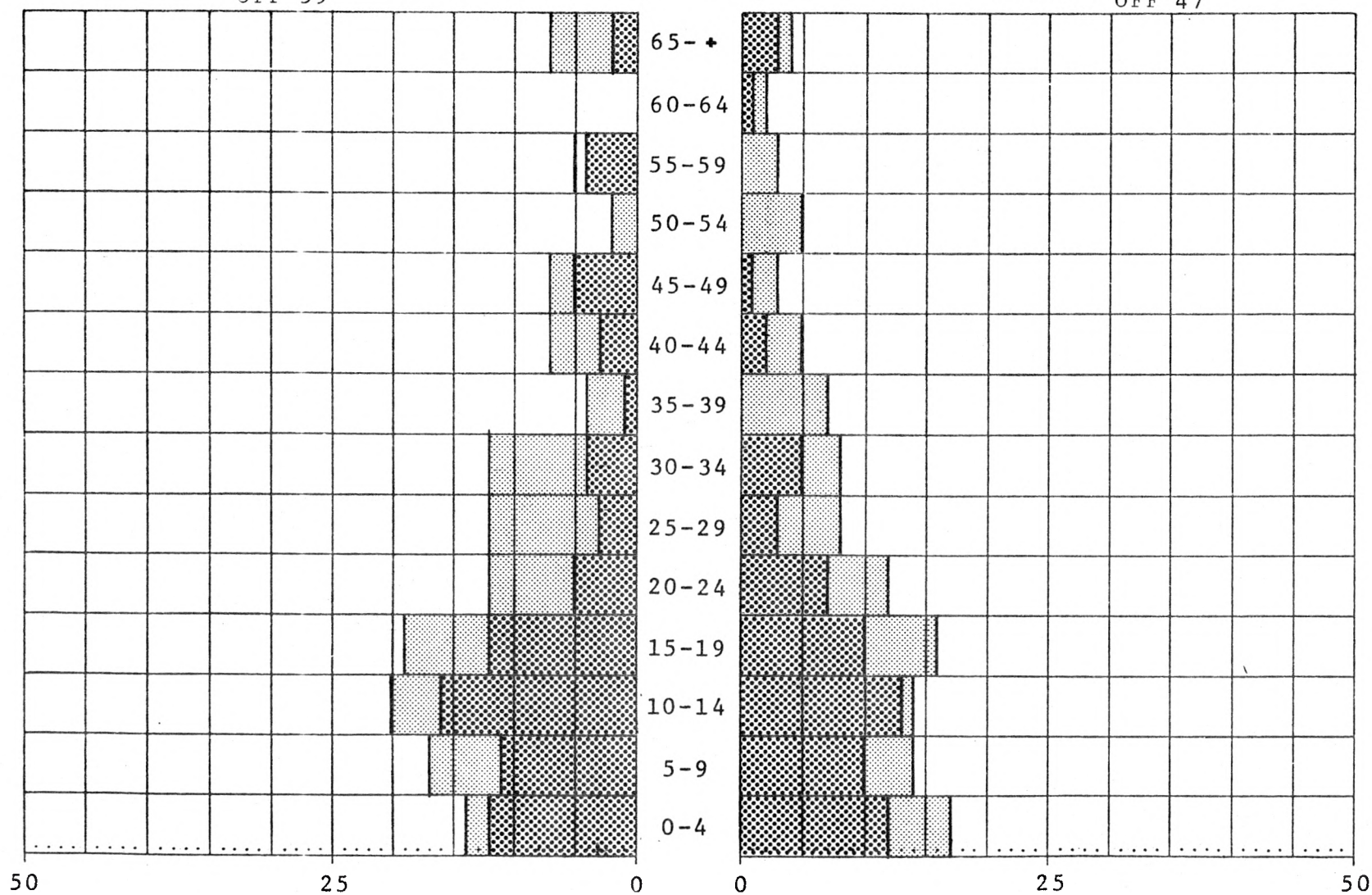
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 73
OFF 59

Age Group

FEMALES ON 73
OFF 47



R E D B A N K

POPULATION 217

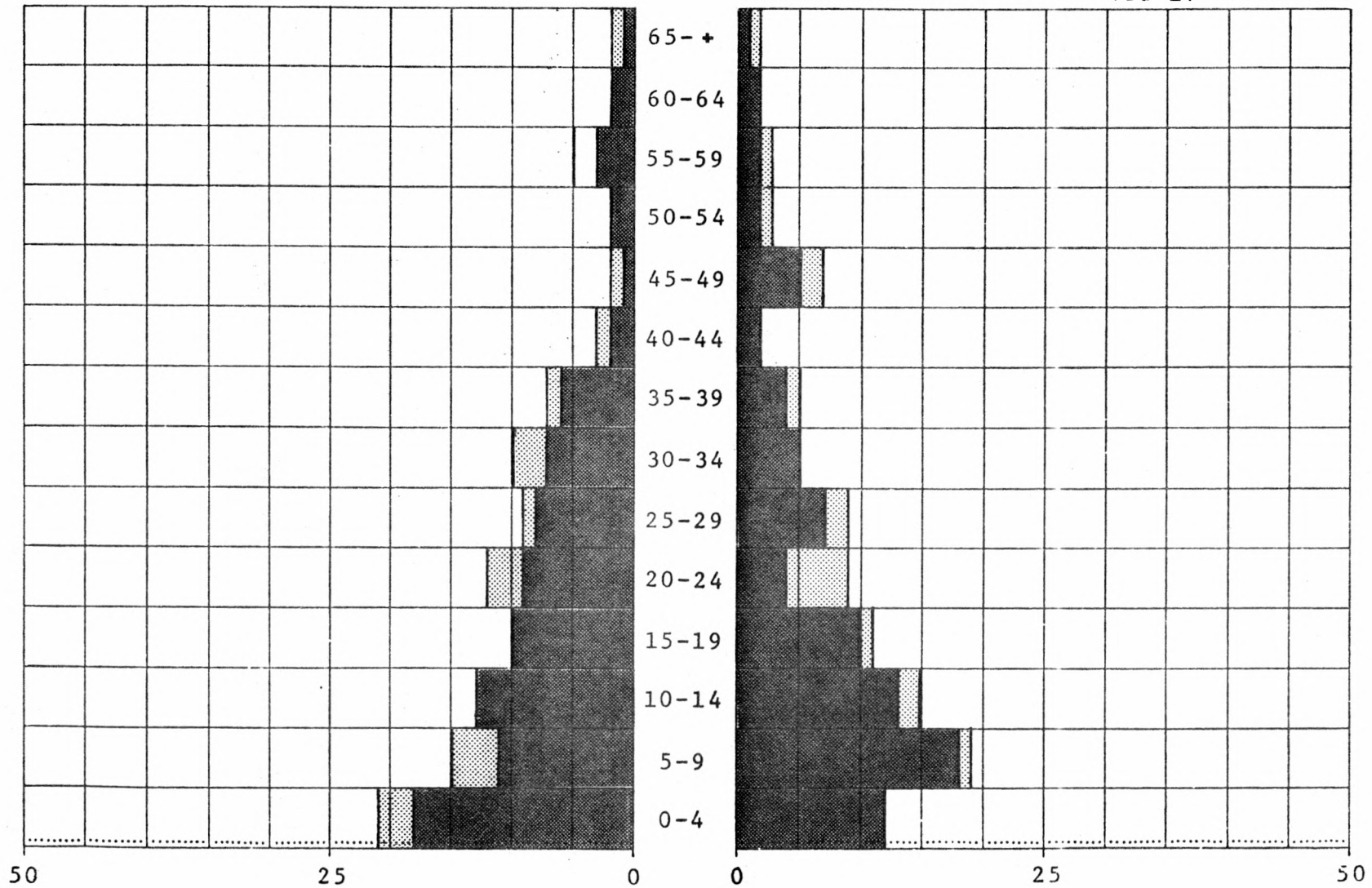
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 93
 OFF 20

Age Group

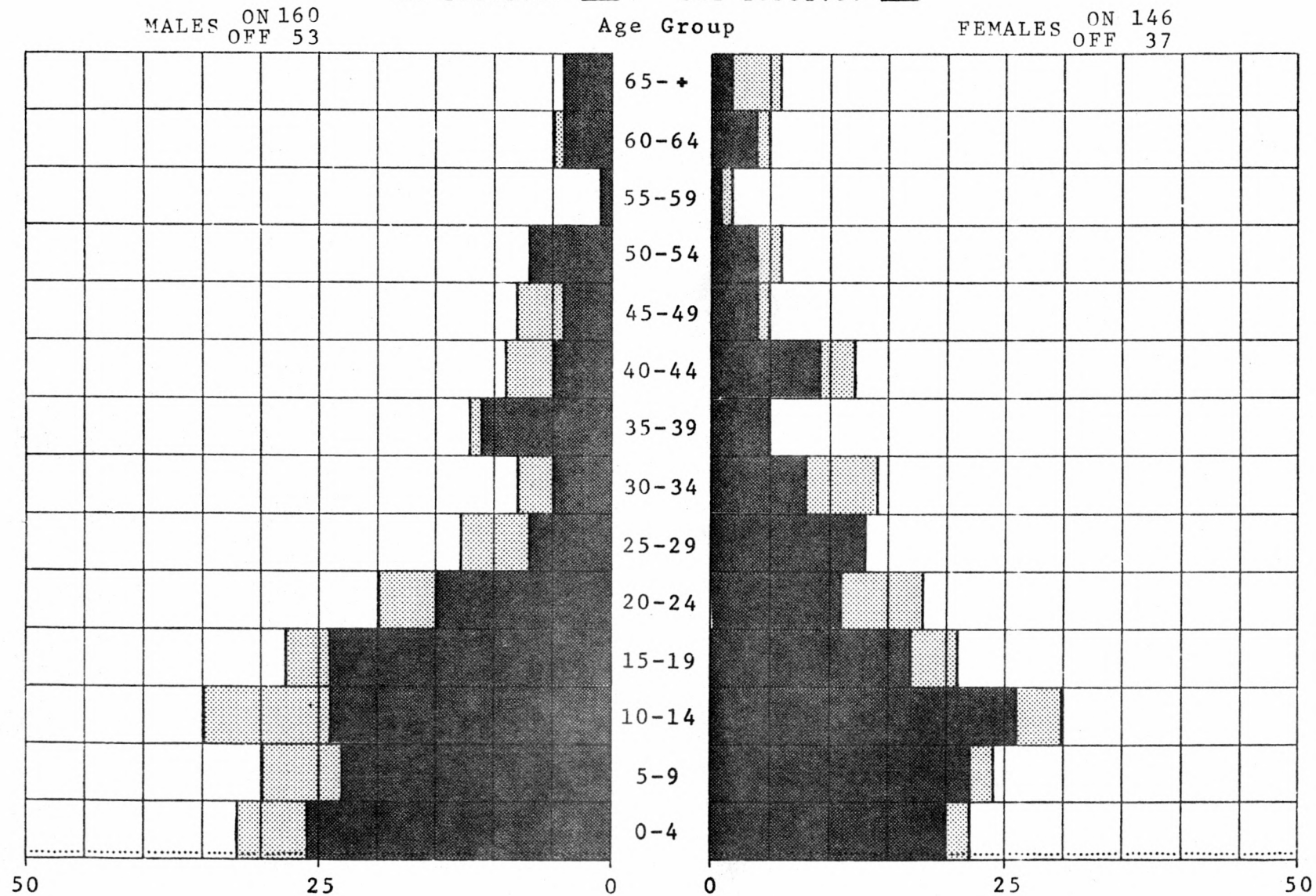
FEMALES ON 87
 OFF 17



S A I N T M A R Y ' S
(DEVON)
P O P U L A T I O N 3 9 6

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve: off reserve:



S H U B E N A C A D I E

POPULATION 864

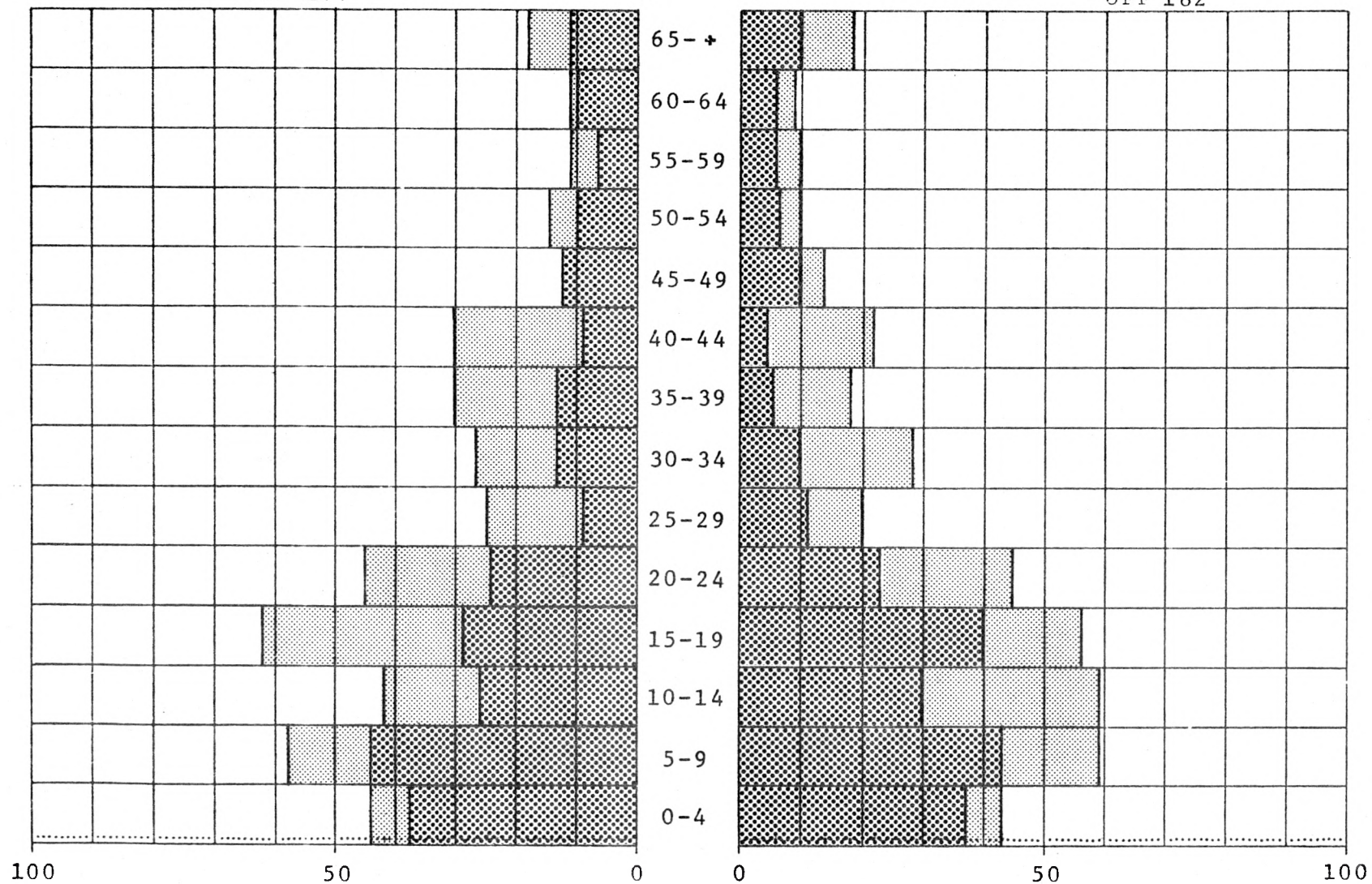
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 248
OFF 177

Age Group

FEMALES ON 247
OFF 182



S Y D N E Y

POPULATION 350

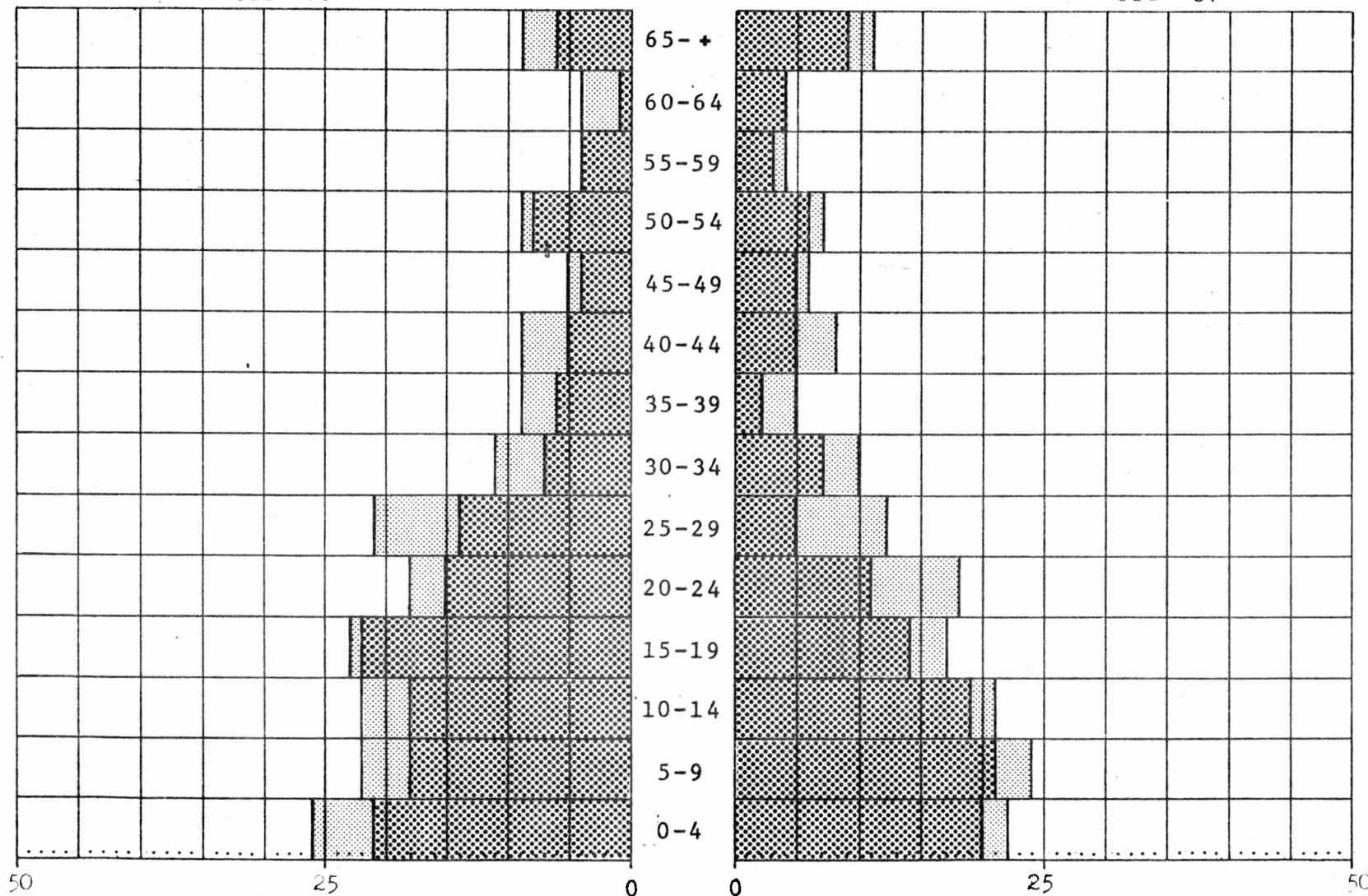
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 139
OFF 43

Age Group

FEMALES ON 131
OFF 37



T O B I Q U E
POPULATION 639

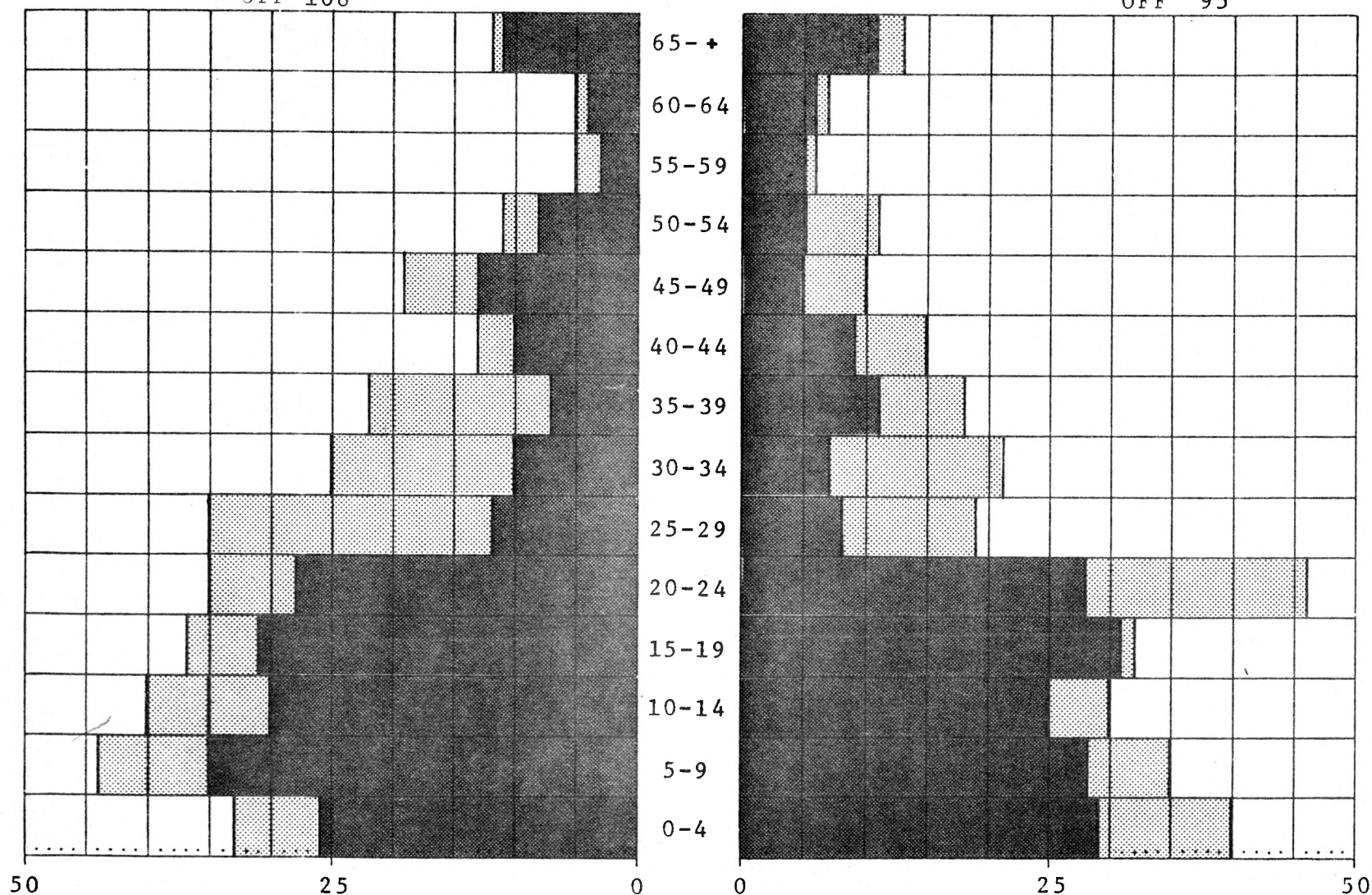
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve: off reserve:

MALES ON 228
OFF 108

Age Group

FEMALES ON 208
OFF 95



T R U R O
POPULATION 336

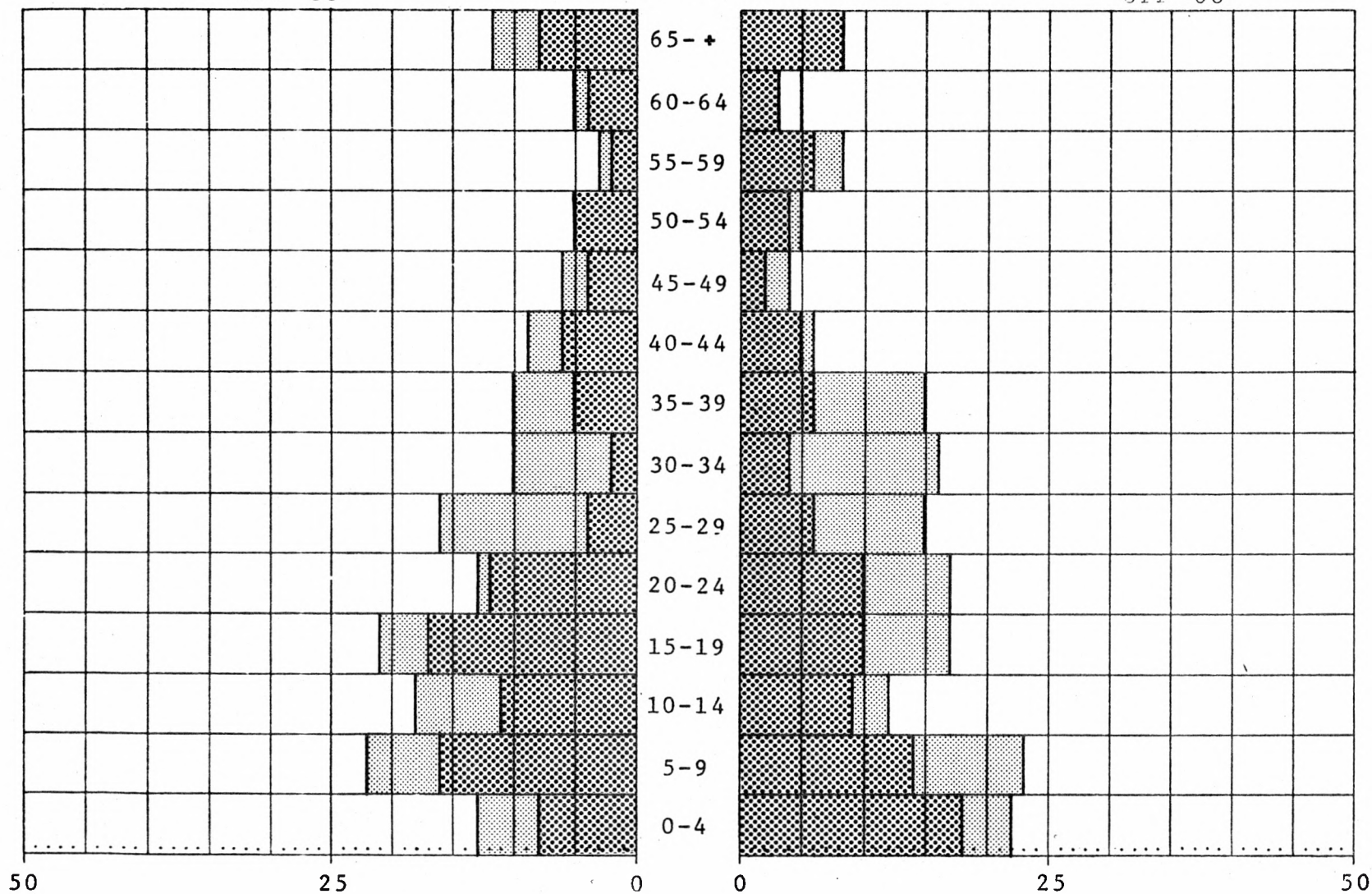
Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 104
OFF 55

Age Group

FEMALES ON 105
OFF 68

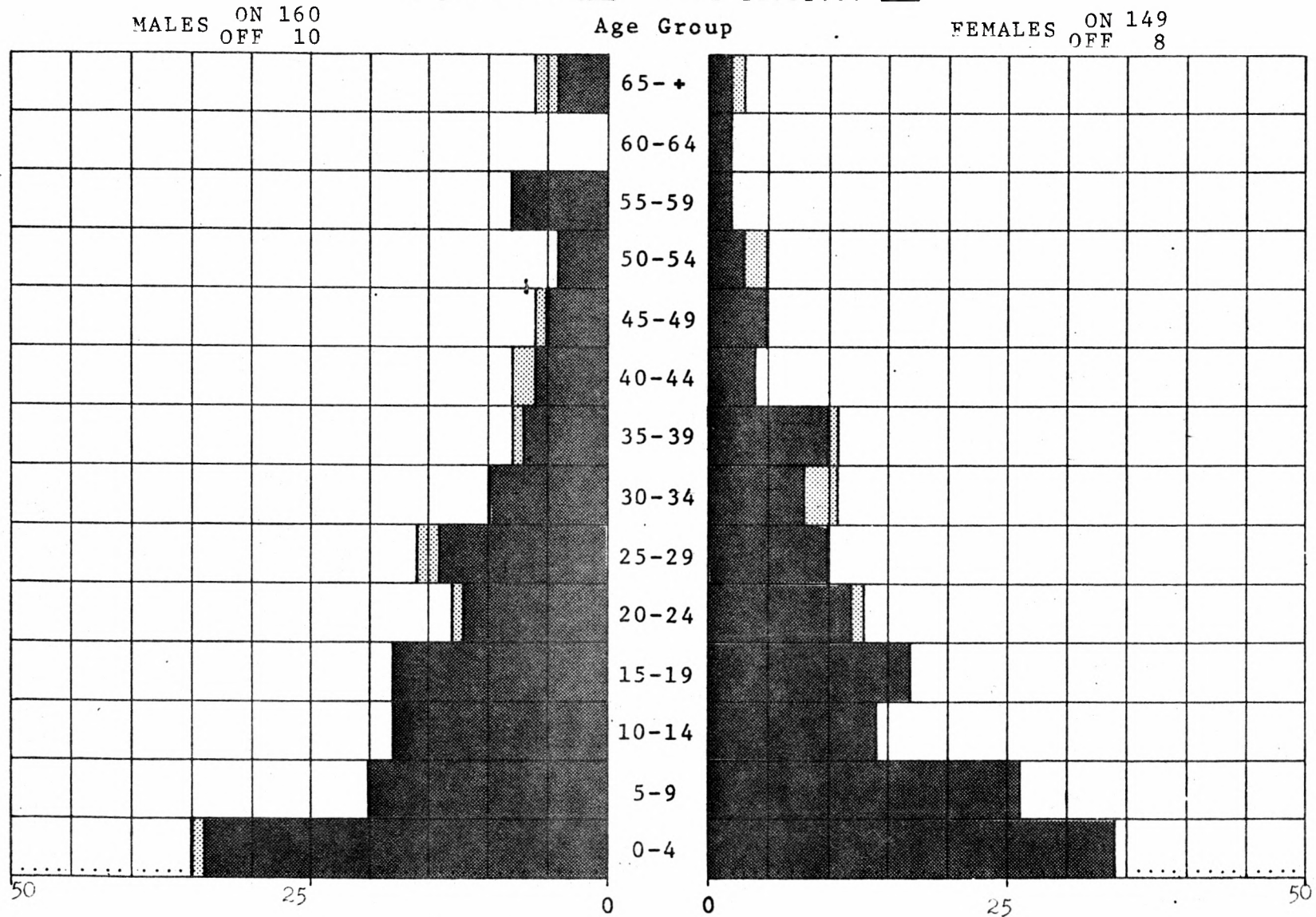


W H Y C O C O M A G H

POPULATION 327

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 



WOODSTOCK

POPULATION 260

Population by age-group and by sex

on reserve:  off reserve: 

MALES ON 61
OFF 64

Age Group

FEMALES ON 66
OFF 69

