



2 - POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

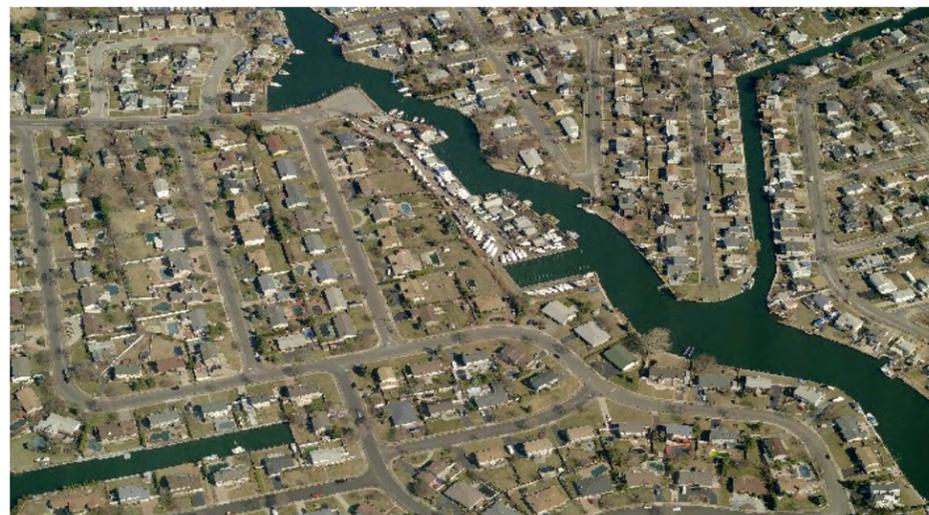
This report contains a summary presentation of population information that has been developed as an input into the comprehensive planning process. An understanding of the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of an area's residents – and the projections of future population – is essential information in the development of plans, proposals and policies to guide the most efficient arrangement of land uses and proper utilization of resources within Suffolk County. Accurate demographic information is also useful to market analysts, consulting firms, commercial and industrial location specialists, financial institutions, as well as public and quasi-public agencies. The population growth rate and changes in its composition have considerable impacts on the labor force, housing demand, consumption demand, and government expenditures. For these reasons the Suffolk County Department of Planning has a continuing population research and analysis program. The information contained herein represents the basic demographic data concerning topics of interest to local and regional planners.

The projections contained in this section should not be confused with the data dealing with the *saturation* or build-out population that would be allowable under current zoning regulations (land capacity analysis). Saturation figures indicate population under complete development of all vacant and unprotected agricultural land zoned for residential use. Since this point has almost been reached in western Suffolk County, population growth could be assumed to end. However, more intensive residential redevelopment of some currently developed land would put the projected population above the level of saturation under existing zoning. The reverse is true for eastern Suffolk. The population that could be accommodated by the use of land capacity figures is potentially greater than the 2035

projected population figures. This is because all land in eastern Suffolk will unlikely be developed by 2035.

HISTORICAL COMPARISONS

Suffolk County was one of the original thirteen counties in colonial New York. In 1790, the first U. S. Census showed that Suffolk County had more people than Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island combined. Suffolk's East End was settled earlier than its west end. The original European settlers of Suffolk County migrated from New England communities and these early settlers were tied nationally, religiously, culturally and politically to the communities across the Long Island Sound. They were engaged in agricultural pursuits and fishing, traditions that in part have continued to present day. The eastern portion of Suffolk County was a suitable area for early settlement because of the fertility of the soil and the proximity



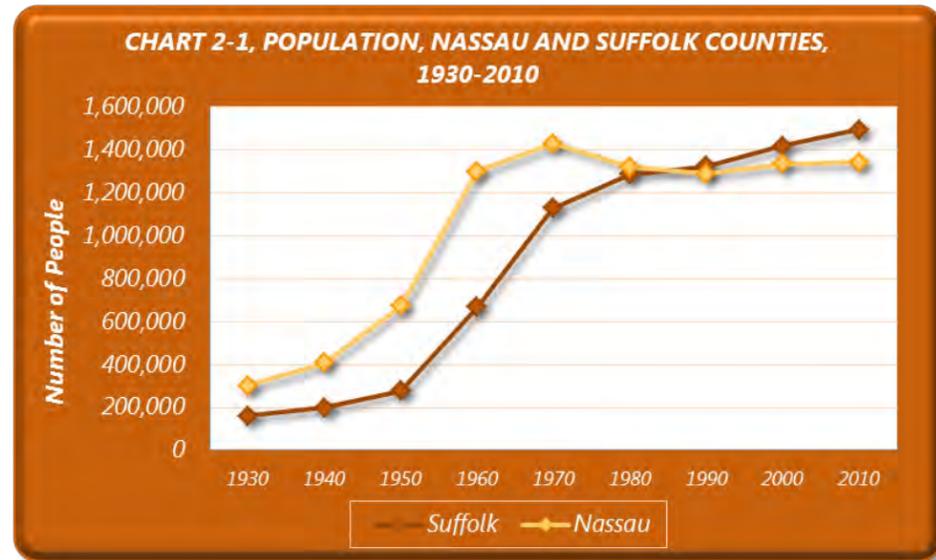
Much of the housing in Suffolk County was built between 1950 and 1970. Aerial photo of Copiague.

to water frontage amply protected by numerous coves, creeks and bays. Through the 1800s, the Towns of Southold and Southampton were among the most populous on Long Island. Suffolk County only became linked socially and economically to New York City with the development of rail transportation in the mid-1800s.

Suffolk's gradual population growth from colonial times until World War II was due primarily to natural increase. After World War II, the use of the automobile encouraged suburban growth from the west. In the 20 years between 1950 and 1970, Suffolk County developed rapidly and its population quadrupled, increasing from 276,000 to 1.1 million. The conversion of farms in Nassau and western Suffolk Counties into mass residential communities changed the Long Island economy from agriculturally based to one dependent on the metropolitan center for jobs. Eventually, employment in Nassau and Suffolk counties increased as the region developed its own major retail, office, industrial, and institutional centers.

Because of its closer proximity to New York City, Nassau County experienced explosive population growth slightly earlier than Suffolk, primarily in the immediate post-World War II period through the mid-1960s. Nassau's population has not grown significantly since the 1970s. By 1970, as most of Nassau County's land became developed for housing and its population growth stalled, Suffolk County's population continued to increase because abundant vacant land was still available for residential development.

Chart 2-1 indicates the population growth trends in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties since 1930. The chart exhibits the explosive growth that both counties experienced between 1950 and 1970. While Nassau's population declined in the 1970s and 1980s, it has since increased modestly. In the 1980s, Suffolk County surpassed



Nassau County in population. Suffolk’s population has grown moderately in each decade since 1970.

The 2010 U. S. Census revealed that Suffolk County’s population was 1,493,350. This figure represents an increase of 5.2% since 2000, after increases of 7% in the 1990s and 3% in the 1980s. Suffolk County ranked 21st in population out of all 3,141 counties in the United States, and was larger in population than 12 U. S. states.

The five western towns of Suffolk County, Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip, and Smithtown have shown tremendous population growth since 1950. Dramatic growth took place in all five towns between 1950 and 1970, and significant growth continued to occur only in the Town of Brookhaven after 1970.

Population trends in eastern Suffolk County are somewhat different from the rest of the County. Explosive population growth has not occurred in the semi-rural eastern Suffolk towns furthest from New York City.

Table 2-1 details the population growth in each of Suffolk County’s ten towns between 1950 and 2010. Of the ten towns that comprise Suffolk County, the largest in population is Brookhaven at 486,000 and the smallest is Shelter Island with nearly 2,400 residents in 2010.

POPULATION DENSITY

Based on the 2010 U. S. Census results, Suffolk County’s population density was 1,639 persons per square mile. Yet Suffolk’s ten towns vary greatly in population size and density. The five western towns, Huntington, Babylon, Smithtown, Islip, and Brookhaven, contain 91% of the County’s population but just 62% of its land area. The 2010 population density in western Suffolk was 2,403 persons per square mile, and in eastern Suffolk the density was 395 persons per square mile.

Although Suffolk has more people than Nassau County, Suffolk is only about one-third as densely populated as Nassau. Population density in Suffolk County is lower than the density in Nassau County (4,672 persons per square mile), Westchester County (2,193), Queens County (20,420), and Manhattan (69,071). Suffolk County’s population density is very similar to the density in Rockland County, New York; Prince George’s County, Maryland (suburban Washington DC); Norfolk County, Massachusetts (suburban Boston); and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (suburban Philadelphia).

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Suffolk County’s population is projected to continue



Typical single family homes built in Suffolk County in the 1950s and 1960s.

to increase slowly for the next 25 years. Based on current trends and a gradual reduction in the amount of vacant land available for residential development, Suffolk County’s population is projected to increase by 240,000 or 16% between 2010 and 2035. Some of this projected increase is expected to come from redevelopment. Because Nassau County has significantly less land available for development,

TABLE 2-1, POPULATION, SUFFOLK COUNTY TOWNS, 1950-2010							
TOWN	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Babylon	45,556	142,309	204,256	203,483	202,940	211,471	213,603
Brookhaven	44,522	109,900	245,260	365,015	407,977	448,020	486,364
East Hampton	6,325	8,827	10,980	14,029	16,132	19,647	21,457
Huntington	47,506	126,221	199,486	201,512	191,474	195,289	203,264
Islip	71,465	172,959	278,880	298,897	299,587	323,504	335,543
Riverhead	9,973	14,519	18,909	20,243	23,011	27,680	33,506
Shelter Island	1,144	1,312	1,644	2,071	2,263	2,228	2,392
Smithtown	20,993	50,347	114,657	116,663	113,406	115,715	117,801
Southampton	17,013	27,095	36,154	43,146	45,909	55,216	57,452
Southold	11,632	13,295	16,804	19,172	19,836	20,599	21,968
Total	276,129	666,784	1,127,030	1,284,231	1,322,535	1,419,369	1,493,350

Source: US Census Bureau (Decennial US Census)

Nassau is expected to increase in population by 98,000 or 7% between 2010 and 2035, mostly because of redevelopment. These increases are significantly greater than the increase that would occur if all available land were developed in accordance with existing zoning. These figures assume that some zoning changes will occur, consistent with recent trends. It is possible that these figures may overstate or understate the effect of potential future changes in zoning of undeveloped or redeveloped land. **Chart 2-2** depicts the projected population for Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

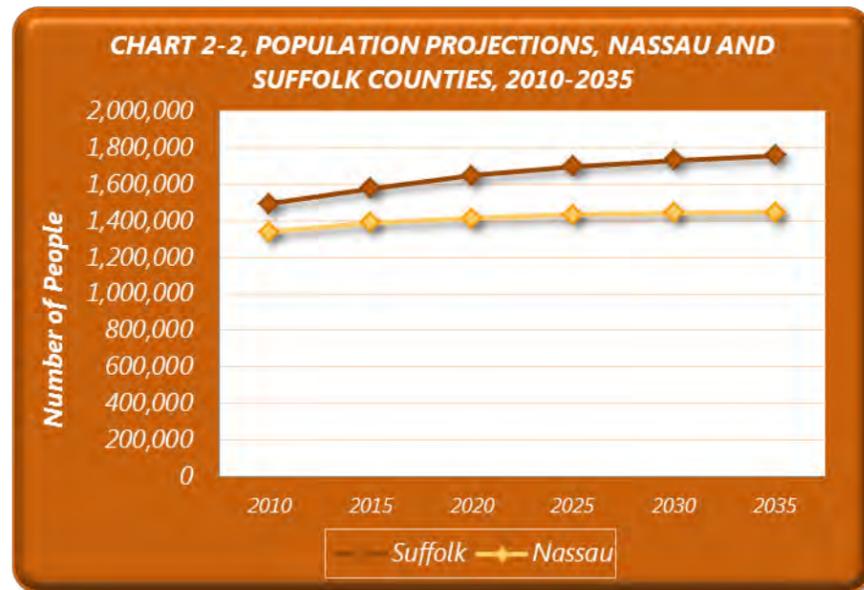


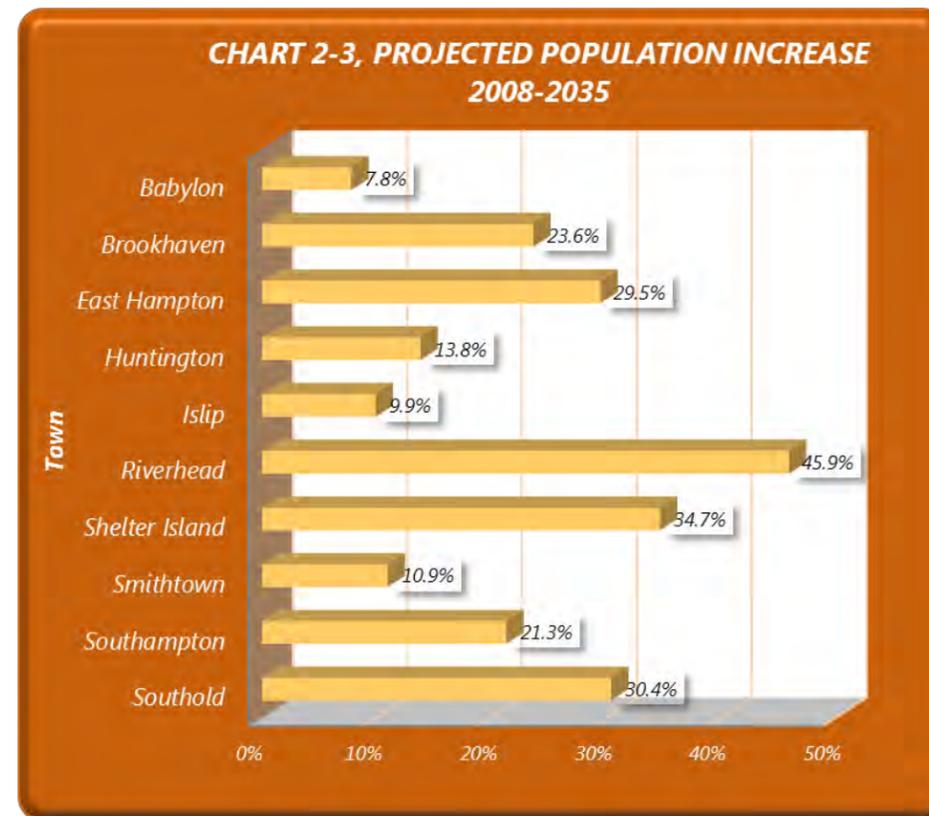
Table 2-2 details the expected population growth in each of Suffolk County's ten towns between 2010 and 2035. The largest numerical increase in population is expected in the Town of Brookhaven with an addition of 108,000 persons.

Of Suffolk's ten towns, the largest percentage increase in population between 2010 and 2035 is expected in the Town of Riverhead (42%), followed in order by the towns of Shelter Island (38%), Southold

Town	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Babylon	213,603	223,300	228,100	231,600	233,800	235,300
Brookhaven	486,364	522,400	554,900	579,300	595,500	607,000
East Hampton	21,457	23,700	25,400	26,600	27,500	28,200
Huntington	203,264	212,500	220,100	225,800	229,600	232,100
Islip	335,543	344,200	353,000	359,500	363,700	366,500
Riverhead	33,506	37,800	42,200	45,500	47,700	49,400
Shelter Island	2,392	2,800	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,400
Smithtown	117,801	124,300	127,900	130,600	132,300	133,400
Southampton	57,452	63,900	67,400	69,900	71,700	73,100
Southold	21,968	25,000	26,800	28,200	29,200	29,900
Total	1,493,350	1,580,000	1,648,800	1,700,200	1,734,300	1,758,200

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census 2010

(33%), East Hampton (28%), Southampton (25%), and Brookhaven (22%). **Chart 2-3** shows a comparison of projected population increase by Town.



Babylon Town in western Suffolk County is the most densely populated town in the County. Photo of an apartment complex in Babylon Village.

Saturation population is the population which can be expected if all available land were to be developed according to existing zoning. It is estimated that Suffolk County's saturation population would be 1.75 million persons, and this population figure may be reached by around the year 2040. The saturation population figure represents a 17% increase over the 2010 population figure for the County.

In 1962, the saturation population in Suffolk County was estimated to be 3.4 million. Through the 1970s and 1980s, large tracts of land were up-zoned to lower densities, household size declined, and land preservation efforts have continued to remove land from potential development. Because of these changes, Suffolk County's estimated saturation population was reduced to 1.55 million according to projections made in the 1990s. However, in recent years, some land in the County has been down-zoned to higher density housing for development and redevelopment. These changes have caused the ultimate saturation population of Suffolk County to start to increase and the saturation population is now estimated to be 1.75 million. In the future, if redevelopment for higher density residential development and zoning changes to higher density residential

outpace preservation of acreage, the saturation population will increase further.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Suffolk County’s population in 2010 was 39.8 years (up from 36.5 years in 2000). **Table 2-3** shows the median age in 2000 and 2010 in Suffolk County, Nassau County, and the United States as a whole.

Area	2000	2010
Suffolk County	36.5	39.8
Nassau County	38.5	41.1
USA	35.3	37.2

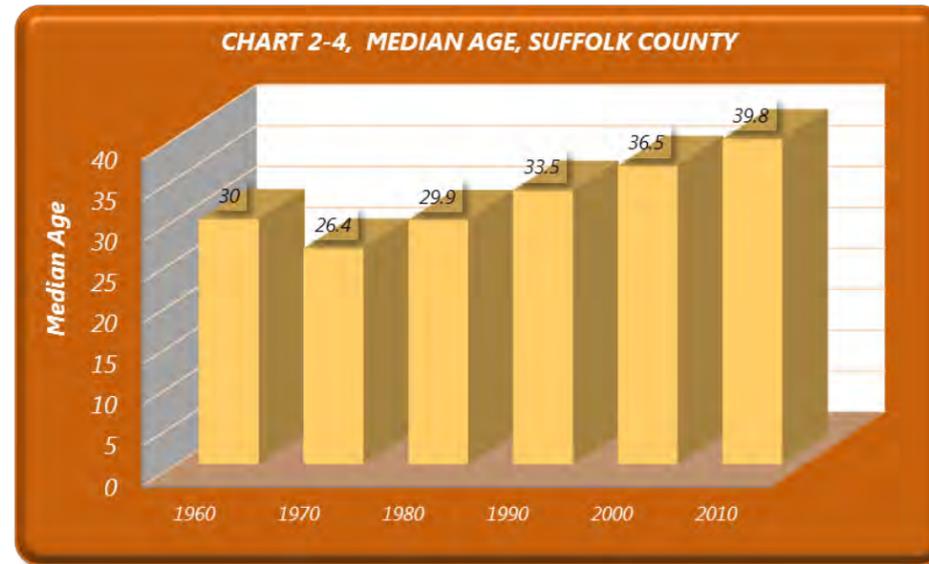
Source: US Census Bureau

Nassau, Suffolk, and the U. S. as a whole continue to experience an increasing median age. Suffolk County’s population has a slightly higher median age compared to the State’s median of 38.0 and the national median of 37.2, but lower than Nassau County’s median age of 40.7.

Chart 2-4 shows that since the end of the baby boom in the 1960s, the median age of Suffolk residents has steadily increased, from 26.4 in 1970 to 29.9 in 1980, 33.5 in 1990, 36.5 in 2000, and 39.8 in 2010.

AGE GROUP CHANGE

Because of its development history, Suffolk County has an interesting age composition. As its population began to grow exponentially in the 1950s and 1960s, Suffolk County had relatively more pre-school



and elementary school children (age 0-14) and more adults in their early middle years (age 30-49) than might have been expected had the age distribution more closely resembled that of the entire U. S.. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that so much of Suffolk’s housing at that time (much of it new single family homes) was occupied by young families with children. At that same time, Suffolk had fewer older children and young adults (age 15-24), fewer adults in their older middle years, and fewer elderly persons than the U. S. as a whole.

By 1970, these phenomena were demonstrated in the census statistics of that year. The population in Suffolk County was noticeably younger than the population in the U. S. as a whole. The percentage of population in the age groups 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 was noticeably larger in Suffolk County than in the U. S. as a whole. The proportion aged 20-24 in Suffolk County was noticeably smaller than the U. S. as a whole, and the percentage of those in the age groups 35-39 and 40-44, (the age of young parents, and likely relatively new

Suffolk residents) was higher in Suffolk County than in the U. S. as a whole. In Suffolk County, the percentage of persons in many of the older age groups was smaller than the U. S. as a whole. **Table 2-4** details the 1970 population by age group for Suffolk County and the U. S. as a whole.

Age Group	% of Suffolk Pop.	% of USA pop.
0-4	10%	8%
5-9	12%	10%
10-14	12%	10%
15-19	9%	9%
20-24	6%	8%
25-29	7%	7%
30-34	6%	6%
35-39	7%	5%
40-44	7%	6%
45-49	6%	6%
50-54	5%	5%
55-59	4%	5%
60-64	3%	4%
65-69	3%	3%
70-74	2%	3%
75-79	1%	2%
80-84	1%	1%
85+	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Source: US Census Bureau (1970 US Census)

The reason for these differences in age composition between Suffolk County and the U. S. was that so much of Suffolk County’s housing was developed in a relatively short time. A tremendous number of new residents, many of whom were young couples starting families,

moved to Suffolk County in the 1950s and 1960s. The County had a tremendous influx of similarly aged people, with similarly aged children, during this period.

By 2008, Suffolk County’s age structure was more similar to the U. S. as a whole. This change has occurred as the County has aged demographically and some people have aged in place, while others have migrated out or into the County, in addition to the natural occurrences of births and deaths. **Table 2-5** shows that the percentage of population in each age group in Suffolk County is within one percentage point of the percentage for the U. S. as a whole. Some remnants of the 1970 data are still evident. Suffolk

TABLE 2-5, POPULATION BY FIVE-YEAR AGE COHORT, SUFFOLK COUNTY & USA, 2008

Age Group	Suffolk	% of Pop.	USA	% of Pop.2
0-4	92,304	6%	21,005,852	7%
5-9	98,934	7%	20,065,249	7%
10-14	106,659	7%	20,054,627	7%
15-19	112,193	7%	21,514,358	7%
20-24	96,593	6%	21,058,981	7%
25-29	83,611	6%	21,333,743	7%
30-34	80,196	5%	19,597,822	6%
35-39	96,055	6%	20,993,781	7%
40-44	121,846	8%	21,507,349	7%
45-49	131,312	9%	22,879,874	8%
50-54	114,925	8%	21,492,191	7%
55-59	96,235	6%	18,583,445	6%
60-64	83,861	6%	15,102,736	5%
65-69	61,718	4%	11,348,682	4%
70-74	46,392	3%	8,774,259	3%
75-79	37,581	2%	7,275,163	2%
80-84	26,973	2%	5,749,844	2%
85+	24,836	2%	5,721,768	2%
Total	1,512,224	100%	304,059,724	100%

Source: US Census Bureau (2008 Population Estimates)

County in 2008 had a slightly higher percentage of persons in the 40-44, 45-49, and 50-54 age groups, which are roughly equivalent to the 0-4, 5-9, and 10-14 age groups in 1970.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the birth rate in Suffolk County dropped to levels significantly below the birth rates in the U. S. as a whole. This change contributed to the relatively low percentage of persons in the 20-24, 25-29, and 30-34 age groups by 2008.

PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION

The pre-school population, age 0-4, is influenced heavily by birth rates. When birth rates change significantly, the pre-school population can change dramatically. This age group’s population declined by 22% in the 1970s in Suffolk County as birth rates declined after the “baby boom.” The age 0-4 population then climbed by 6% in the 1980s and by 8% in the 1990s as birth rates increased with the “baby boom echo”-- these are the children of the baby boomers. Since 2000, birth rates have decreased in Suffolk County. As a result, the population age 0-4 in Suffolk County decreased by 14,000 (-14%) between 2000 and 2010.

The school-age population consists of persons age 5-17. After the baby boom, Suffolk County’s public school enrollment declined more than one-third from a peak of 331,000 in 1976 to 214,000 in 1990. These declines led to the closing of over 70 schools in Suffolk County. In the 1990s, the population age 5-17 increased by 15% and public school enrollment in Suffolk County increased every year between 1991 and 2004, but has decreased each year since 2004. Public school enrollment in the fall of 2010 was 252,000 in Suffolk County, far below the levels of the 1970s. The number of children age 5-17 increased by only 2,000 or 1% between 2000 and 2010. However, the population age 5-17 in Suffolk County is expected to slowly decrease

for the next several years as the smaller populations currently in the 0-4 age group age into this demographic.

YOUNG ADULT POPULATION

The population in the age groups 20-34 is important to study because these are our young workers. The population in the age 20-34 age group in Suffolk County was 257,000 in 2010, a decrease of 4% from the 2000 figure, which was 19% lower than the 1990 figure. It is expected that the population in this age group will begin to *increase* as the “baby boom echo” population enters this age group. This change has already begun to happen; the population age 20-24 increased by 19% between 2000 and 2010. Many of the people in the age 20-34 group in 1990 were baby boomers who aged out of this group by 2000, replaced in 2000 by baby “busters” who are smaller in number. Now, the baby boom “echo” people are starting to reach their young adult years, causing that age group to increase in number.

Table 2-6 shows the percentage change in population for the age groups that are among those considered the young adult or young worker population. Population declines are shown in bold.

TABLE 2-6, PERCENTAGE POPULATION CHANGE FOR SELECTED AGE GROUPS, SUFFOLK COUNTY, 1970-2010

Age Group	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010
15-19	39%	-27%	-9%	21%
20-24	50%	3%	-26%	19%
25-29	23%	23%	-26%	-2%
30-34	42%	11%	-5%	-22%
35-39	24%	11%	25%	-26%
40-44	1%	34%	18%	-4%

Source: US Census Bureau



Thousands of units of senior housing, such as these apartments in Sayville, have been built in Suffolk County to house an aging population.

While housing, employment, and entertainment opportunities outside Long Island may contribute to brain drain - there is more to the story. Settlement patterns and falling birth rates also impact the age structure in Suffolk County. The population declines move to the older age groups, as the baby boomers age out of the younger age groups. Recent 2010 Census data (**Table 2-6**) provides some promising news - the population in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 are beginning to grow again.

The population in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 are beginning to grow again. Soon the population age 25-29 will begin to grow in size as well, as the baby boom "echo" reaches this age group. When discussing whether our young adults are "leaving Long Island," one must be careful making that assumption. For the most part, what is really happening is that people are aging out of certain age groups and entering the next. Young adults are not necessarily leaving; they

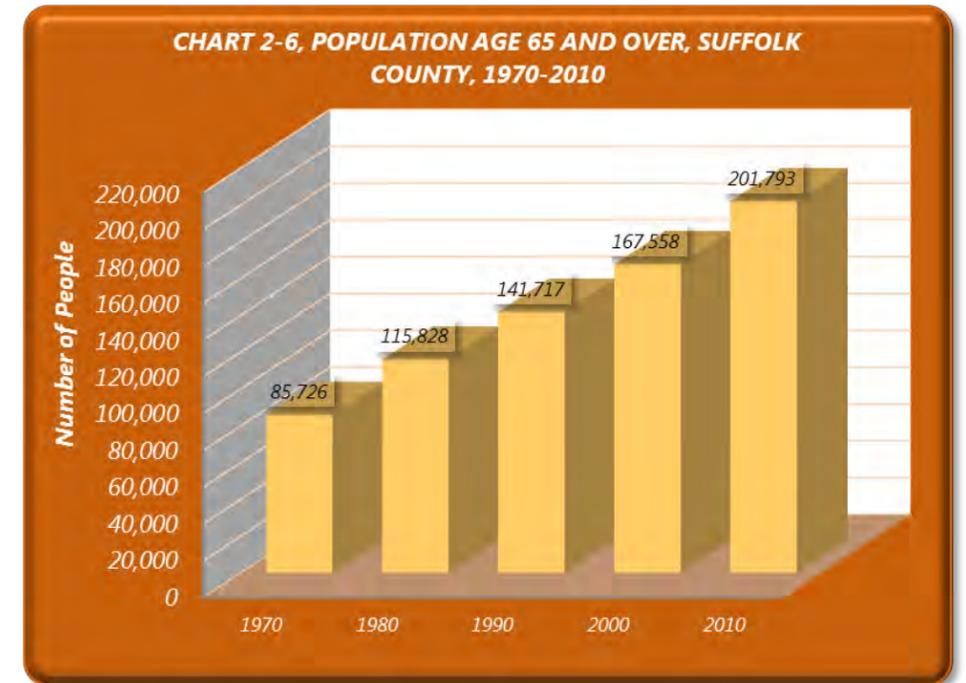
are just not being replaced by the same amount of people born after them (see **Chart 2-5**).

SENIOR CITIZEN POPULATION

Persons age 65 and over have been a consistently growing segment of Suffolk County's population (see **Chart 2-6**). In 2010, there were 201,000 persons age 65 and over in Suffolk, comprising 14% of the population. In 1990, seniors age 65 and over represented 11% of the population, up from 9% in 1980 and 8% in 1970. Between 2000 and 2010, the number age 65 and over increased by 20%, after increasing by 18% in the 1990s, by 22% in the 1980s and by 35% in the 1970s.

The 2010 census revealed that 45,000 or 23% of the County's seniors (age 65 and over) live alone, and that 29% of Suffolk County households contain a senior citizen. These figures are even more striking in the five eastern Suffolk towns: 19% of the population is age 65 or over and 35% of all households contain a senior citizen.

There are 175 multi-family housing complexes dedicated for seniors in Suffolk County. Suffolk contains more than 25,000 units of senior-

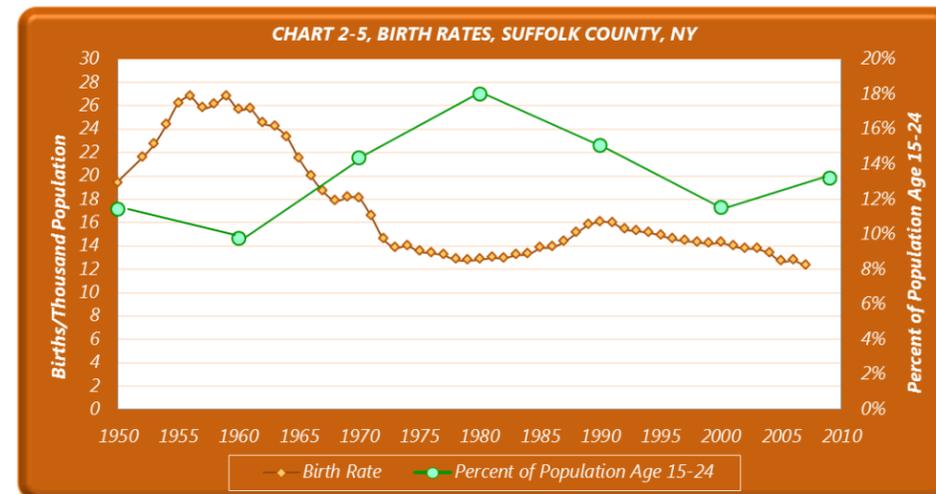


dedicated housing units in condos, apartments, and co-ops. There are fewer such units (12,000) in Nassau County.

EDUCATION

The level of education of an area is a demographic indicator of the employment capability of a population. The educational attainment level of Suffolk County residents has steadily increased for more than fifty years, similar to the rise in educational attainment levels nationwide.

The Long Island region is generally well educated compared to the nation as a whole. Based on data from the 2009 American Community Survey, the County has a relatively well-educated population. Among residents age 25 and over, 92.6% were high





Suffolk County's school age population is projected to slightly decrease in the coming years.

school graduates, and 37.3% held a bachelor's degree or higher. These figures compared to 87.0% and 30.9%, respectively, for the nation as a whole. Suffolk County is slightly less well educated than Nassau County, and there are variations in educational attainment among Suffolk's 10 towns, especially in the percentage of college graduates. **Table 2-7** provides details from the 2000 census, the most recent data available.

All ten towns of Suffolk County have a higher percentage of high school graduates than the nation as a whole, ranging from 81.6% high school graduates in Riverhead, to 91.5% in Smithtown. In four-year college degrees, three of Suffolk's towns are below the national average of 24.4%: Babylon (18.6%), Islip (21.8%), and Riverhead (22.1%). Four Suffolk towns have four-year degree percentages at least several points higher than the national average: Huntington (44.5%), Shelter Island (42.9%), Smithtown (36.4%), and East Hampton (35.6%).

TABLE 2-7, PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGE 25 AND OVER THAT ARE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES, 2005-2009

Town	% High School	% 4 Year College
Babylon	86.7%	22.2%
Brookhaven	89.9%	28.7%
East Hampton	92.0%	44.8%
Huntington	93.0%	47.0%
Islip	85.3%	25.3%
Riverhead	87.8%	29.9%
Shelter Island	91.0%	49.6%
Smithtown	95.0%	42.1%
Southampton	89.9%	39.2%
Southold	90.7%	37.7%
SUFFOLK COUNTY	89.3%	31.5%
Nassau	89.8%	40.3%
USA	84.6%	27.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The average household size in Suffolk County (and in the US as a whole) has decreased significantly in recent decades. As of 2010, the average household size in Suffolk County was 2.93 persons per household. The average household size in Suffolk peaked at 3.74 in 1967. Household sizes declined significantly in the 1970s as baby boomers moved out of their parents' homes, average family size became smaller, and more people lived alone. Average household size in Suffolk County was 3.04 by 1990. In 2000 the average household size in Suffolk County was 2.96 people, and has been relatively stable since then.

New housing developments tend to contain younger families and larger household sizes. As an area's residents and housing mature (as is the case in Suffolk County), household size tends to decrease. This is especially true as development approaches saturation conditions and little new housing is built. Eventually, larger numbers of young

households replace the older households and the household size stops declining or even increases slightly, which is beginning to happen now in Suffolk County. A stable or very slowly increasing household size is expected in the coming years.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Suffolk County is a suburban county, and as such, contains a preponderance of family households (see **Chart 2-7**). In fact, the 2010 Census showed that 74% of Suffolk's households were family households. This figure is several percentage points higher than the nation as a whole. Non-family households comprised the remaining 26% of households in Suffolk County. Non-family households include one-person households and households containing only unrelated persons. **Table 2-8** details the households in Suffolk County by household type.

In Suffolk County, the percentage of family households has decreased since 1980. In 2010, family households accounted for 74% of all

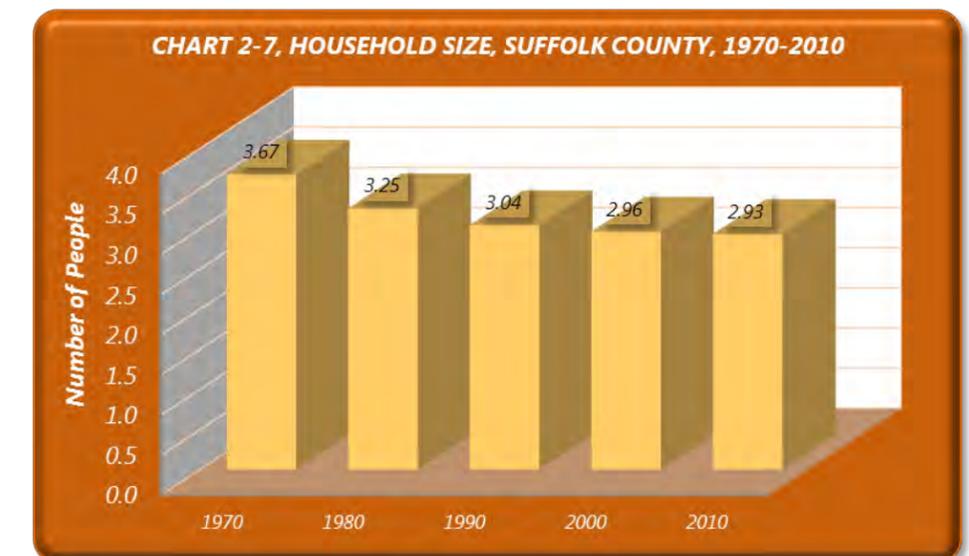


TABLE 2-8, HOUSEHOLD TYPE, SUFFOLK COUNTY				
Type	1980	1990	2000	2010
Family Households	84%	80%	77%	74%
Married couple, with children* present	43%	34%	31%	27%
Married couple, no children present	28%	33%	32%	31%
Male head of HH, no wife, with children present	1%	1%	2%	2%
Male head of HH, no wife and no children present	1%	2%	2%	3%
Female head of HH, no husband, with children	6%	6%	5%	5%
Female head of HH, no husband and no children	3%	5%	6%	6%
Non-Family Households With Two or More Persons	3%	4%	5%	5%
One Person Households	14%	16%	18%	21%
Male	5%	6%	7%	8%
Female	9%	10%	11%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

*"children" in this table refers to own children under age 18.
Source: US Census Bureau (Decennial US Census)

households in Suffolk County, down from 84% in 1980. The one category of family households responsible for this decline has been married couples with children under age 18. In 1980 this category accounted for 43% of all households in the County, but that number was 27% in 2010. The most common household type in Suffolk County in 2010 was married couples with no children under age 18, comprising 31% of all households.

Single parent female-headed households comprised 5% of all households in Suffolk County in 2010. This percentage has not varied since 1980. The percentage of single parent male-headed households accounts for 2% of all households, an increase since 1980.

Family households with children under age 18 accounted for 34% of Suffolk County households in 2010, higher than the percentage nationwide. This figure was 51% in 1980 in Suffolk County.

In Suffolk County, the number of one person households increased from 52,754 in 1980 to 102,900 in 2010, a 95% increase. In 2010, 21%

of all households were single person households, up from 14% in 1980 and just 9% in 1970. Nearly half of the County's one person households are persons age 65 and over, and much of the growth in the one person households is attributable to our aging population, in addition to social trends such as delayed marriage, persons remaining single, and the incidence of divorce. Although the percentage of one person households has increased in Suffolk County in recent decades to 18%, the percentage of one person households nationwide remains much higher, 26%.

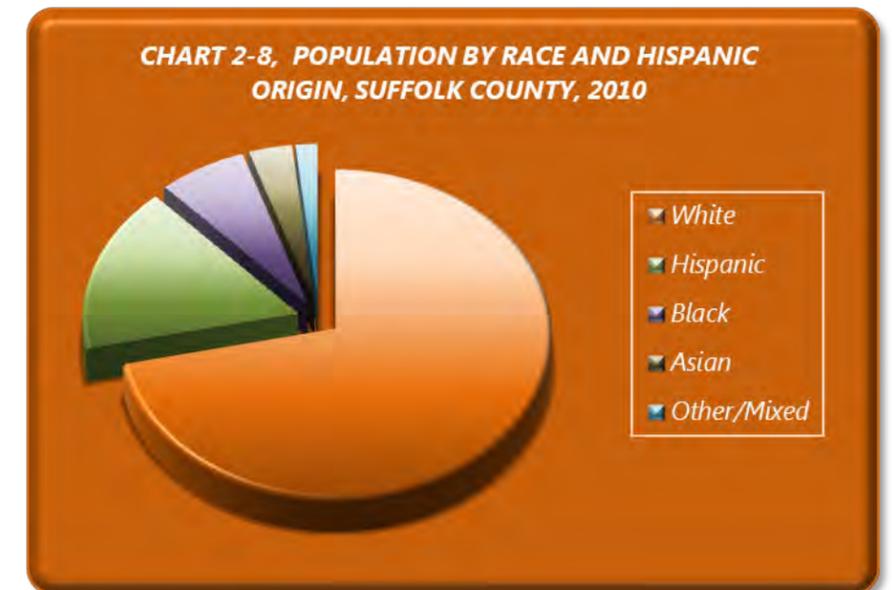
RACIAL AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

Suffolk County's population is mostly White and in 2010, non-Hispanic Whites made up 72% of the population. Hispanics are the largest minority group in Suffolk County and numbered 246,000 or 16% of the population in 2010. Blacks numbered 102,000 or 7% of the total, and there were 50,000 Asians comprising 3% of the population. An additional 1% of the population was of two or more races. **Chart 2-8** depicts the population shares of the largest racial groups and the Hispanic population. Suffolk County continues to become more racially diverse. In 1980, Suffolk was 89% White, 5% Hispanic, 5% Black, and 1% Asian. The White population percentage in Suffolk County remains higher than the U. S. as a whole, and Suffolk's Asian, Black, and Hispanic percentages are slightly below the national figures, despite dramatic growth in the number of Hispanics in Suffolk.

Between 2000 and 2010, the non-Hispanic White population declined by 4%, while the Black population rose 9%, the Hispanic population increased by 65%, and the Asian population grew by 46%. Between 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic population also increased by the largest raw number, rising by 96,000. These trends are expected to continue.



The foreign born population has increased in Suffolk County. Photo of store front in the Town of Brookhaven.



ANCESTRY

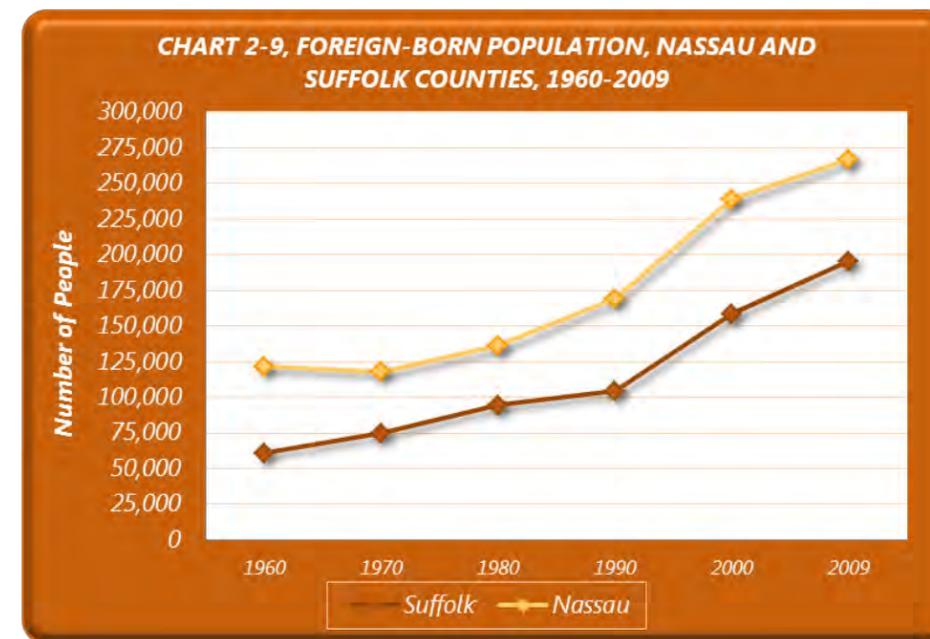
As of 2009, three ancestry groups dominate Long Island’s population. Suffolk County has more persons of Italian ancestry than any county in the United States. Italians make up 29% of the County’s population, Irish persons comprise 24% and Germans make up 17% of the population. There are more people of Irish and German descent on Long Island than in all of New York City.

Of Suffolk County’s Hispanic population, one-quarter were Puerto Rican, based on 2010 census data. The Salvadoran population is also quite large in Suffolk County. Other significant Hispanic groups in Suffolk County are Ecuadorian, Dominican, Mexican, and Colombian.

FOREIGN BORN POPULATION

The foreign born population has increased significantly in Suffolk County in the past two decades. In 2009, there were 195,000 foreign-born persons living in Suffolk County, representing 12.9% of the population. This percentage was 7.4% in 1980. **Table 2-9** displays the foreign born percentage of the population in Suffolk County, compared to Nassau and the nation as a whole, since 1960.

County is nearly 20%. **Chart 2-9** depicts the foreign born population in Nassau County and Suffolk County since 1960. Significant increases have occurred in the two decades since 1990.



Slightly more than half of the foreign born persons living in Suffolk County were born in Latin America. Approximately one-fifth were born in Europe, and one-fifth were born in Asia.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

In 2009, there were 266,000 Suffolk County residents age 5 and over who speak a language other than English at home (19%). Of those, 152,000 spoke Spanish, 18,000 spoke Italian, 10,000 spoke Chinese, 8,000 spoke Urdu, and 7,000 spoke French Creole. Of the 266,000 people in Suffolk County who speak another language, 121,000 or

46% of them did not speak English very well.

Spanish speakers have increased from 40,600 in 1980 to 62,900 in 1990, 115,700 in 2000, and 152,000 in 2009. Of the Spanish speakers, 76,000 or 50% of them did not speak English very well. In Suffolk County, the largest number of people who do not speak English very well were located in the Town of Islip. In Islip, 64,000 persons spoke Spanish but 52% of those did not speak English very well.

INCOME

PERSONAL AND PER CAPITA INCOME

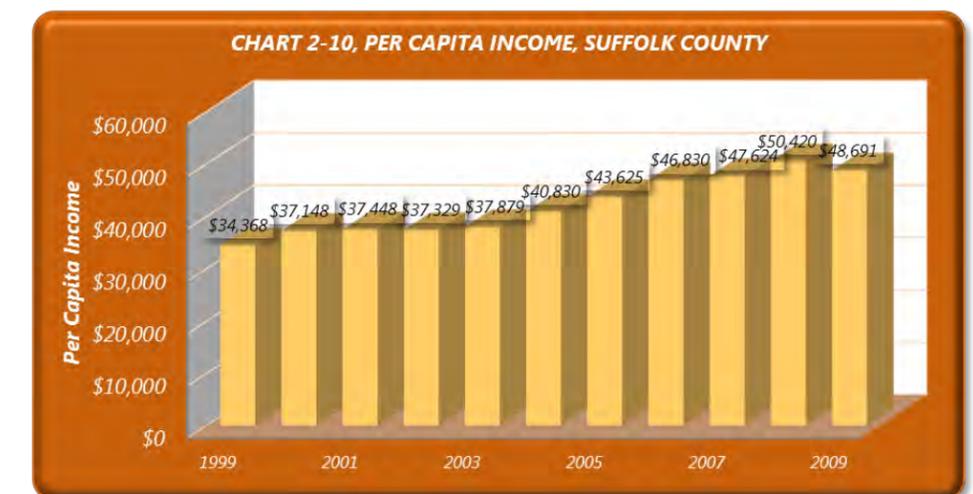
According to the U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the total personal income of Suffolk County residents amounted to \$73.9 billion in 2009. The County’s 2009 per capita personal income was \$48,691, ranking 6th highest out of the 62 counties in New York State and was 23% higher than the national average. See **Chart 2-10** for Suffolk County’s per capita income for the past several years.

TABLE 2-9, FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION

Location	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009
Suffolk	9.2%	6.6%	7.4%	7.9%	11.2%	12.9%
Nassau	9.3%	8.3%	10.3%	13.2%	17.9%	19.6%
USA	5.4%	4.7%	6.2%	11.4%	11.1%	12.5%

Source: US Census Bureau (Decennial US Census, 2009 American Community Survey)

The percentage of population that is foreign born is higher in Suffolk County than in the nation as a whole. The percentage in Nassau



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the 2009 median household income in the County was \$83,620, ranking it 25th highest (in the top 1%) out of all counties in the nation and placing it 67% higher than the median household income in the nation as a whole. The County's average annual pay in 2009 amounted to \$49,963 and ranked in the top 4% of all counties in the nation.

POVERTY

Suffolk County's poverty rate (the percentage of people living under the poverty level) remains low. However, in 2009 there were still 78,000 people in Suffolk County living in poverty, 5% of the population, according to the U. S. Census Bureau. This figure is based on a poverty income threshold which was \$22,050 for a family of four in 2009 and \$10,830 for an individual. This means that a one-person household earning \$11,000 in Suffolk County is considered to be living above the poverty level. In a relatively high cost area such as Suffolk County, poverty can be easily understated because the thresholds are based on a national standard.

In Suffolk County, the poverty rate for children was higher than for the overall population. In 2009, more than 23,000 or 6.5% of persons under age 18 in Suffolk County lived in poverty as defined by the Census Bureau.

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