

Population Element

Understanding the demographic characteristics of the resident population is critical for both the City and County’s long range planning efforts. Changing demographics can signal the need to look at new strategies and policies to address a variety of issues ranging from health care, to transportation, to land use form, and more.

Notable Existing Conditions & Trends

1. Slow and inconsistent overall population growth in recent decades in both the City and County. The western areas of the City and County are seeing the most growth, with the central and eastern areas seeing the most loss.
2. The overall racial composition of the City and County is balanced. However, geographic concentrations of groups exist in certain areas.
3. Both the City and County are experiencing upward trends in residents aged 65 years and older.

2020 Sumter County Population
105,556
(16th most populated County in SC)

2020 City of Sumter Population
43,463
(10th most populated city in SC)

Population Change

Overall population in the City and County has remained flat since the 1990s. The City saw a large increase in population with the 1990 census due to annexations in and around Shaw Air Force Base (A.F.B.).

According to the most recent decennial population county the US Census Bureau (Census 2020), the population of Sumter County is 105,556. Of these 105,556 residents, 43,463 (41.2%) reside within the City of Sumter.

Table P-1

Total Population Change (1990 - 2020)						
Year	City of Sumter	Change From Previous Decade	Sumter County	Change From Previous Decade	South Carolina	Change From Previous Decade
1990	38,000*	52.4%**	101,271	14.8%	3,500,000	12.1%
2000	39,643	4.3%	104,646	3.3%	4,024,000	15.0%
2010	40,524	2.2%	107,456	2.7%	4,360,000	8.3%
2020	43,463	7.3%	105,556	-1.8%	5,118,425	17.4%

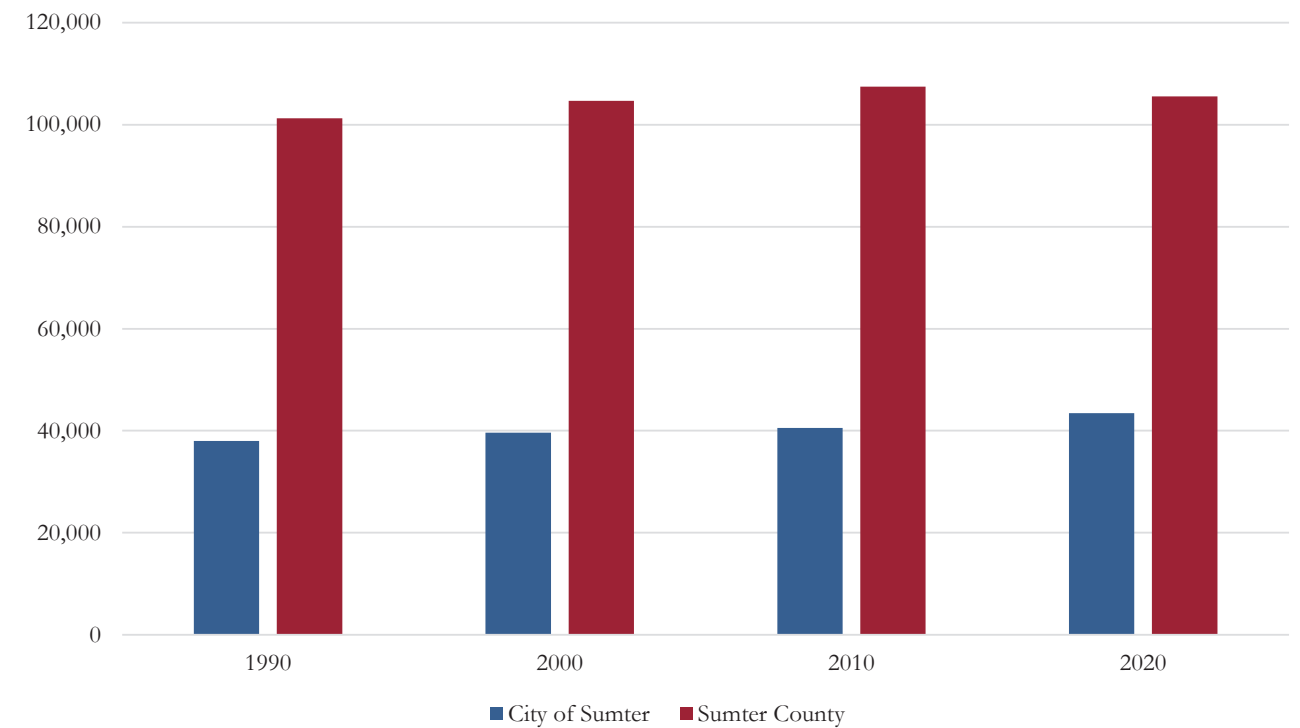
Source: 1990 - 2020 US Census Bureau Data & 2018 US Census Bureau Annual Estimate Data

* The US Census Bureau estimates the City of Sumter 1990 population to be approximately 38,000. The original count showed an incorrect population of 41,943.

** Significant growth in the City of Sumter population between 1980 - 1990 is attributed to Shaw A.F.B. annexations that took place in 1989.

Sumter’s flat population growth contrasts with the overall trend for the state as a whole, which is experiencing a sustained upward growth trend. This statewide trend is primarily supported by strong population growth in existing urban areas and high amenity destinations. Rural areas throughout the State are experiencing population loss.

Figure P-1 Sumter City & County Total Population Overtime



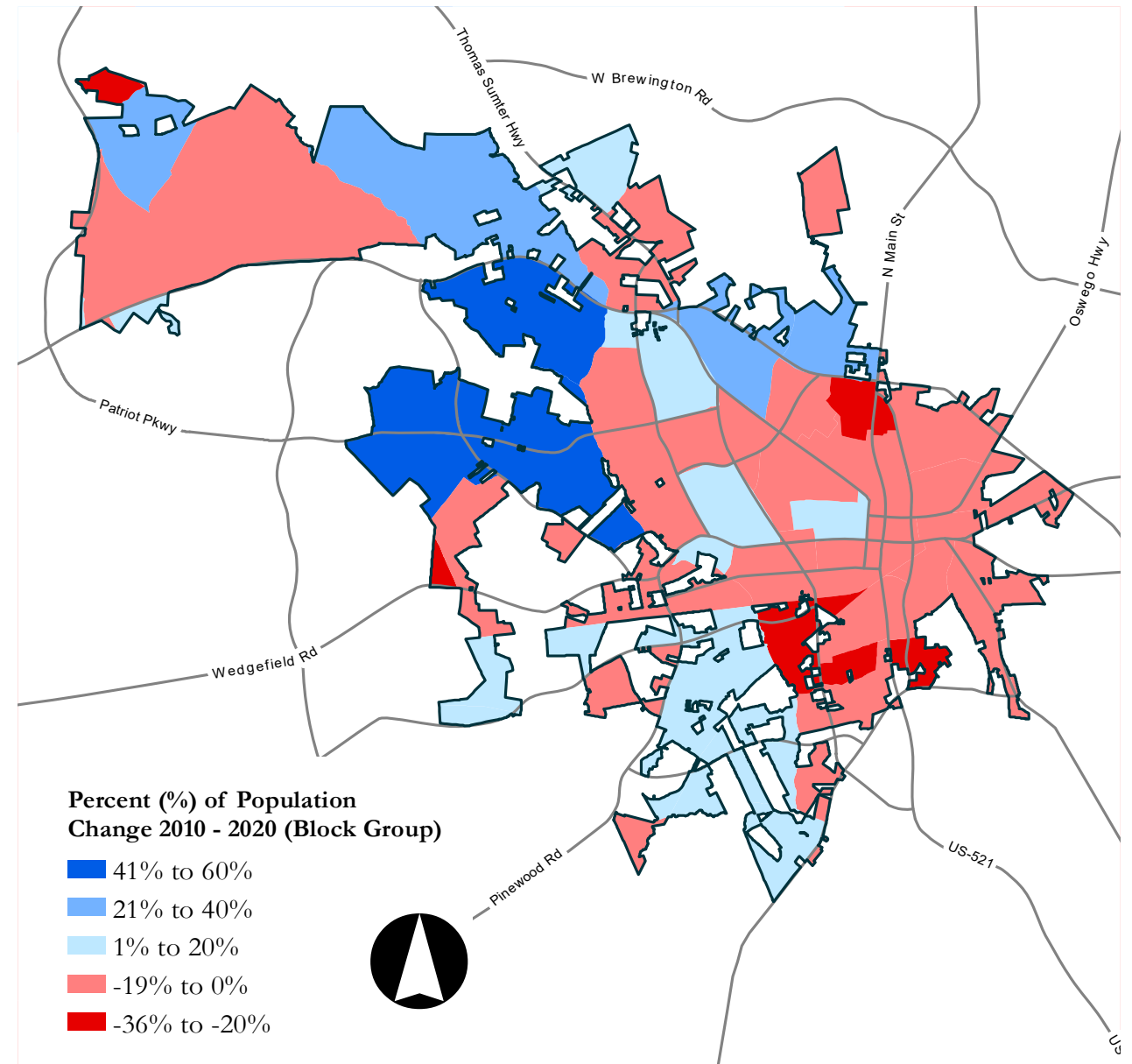
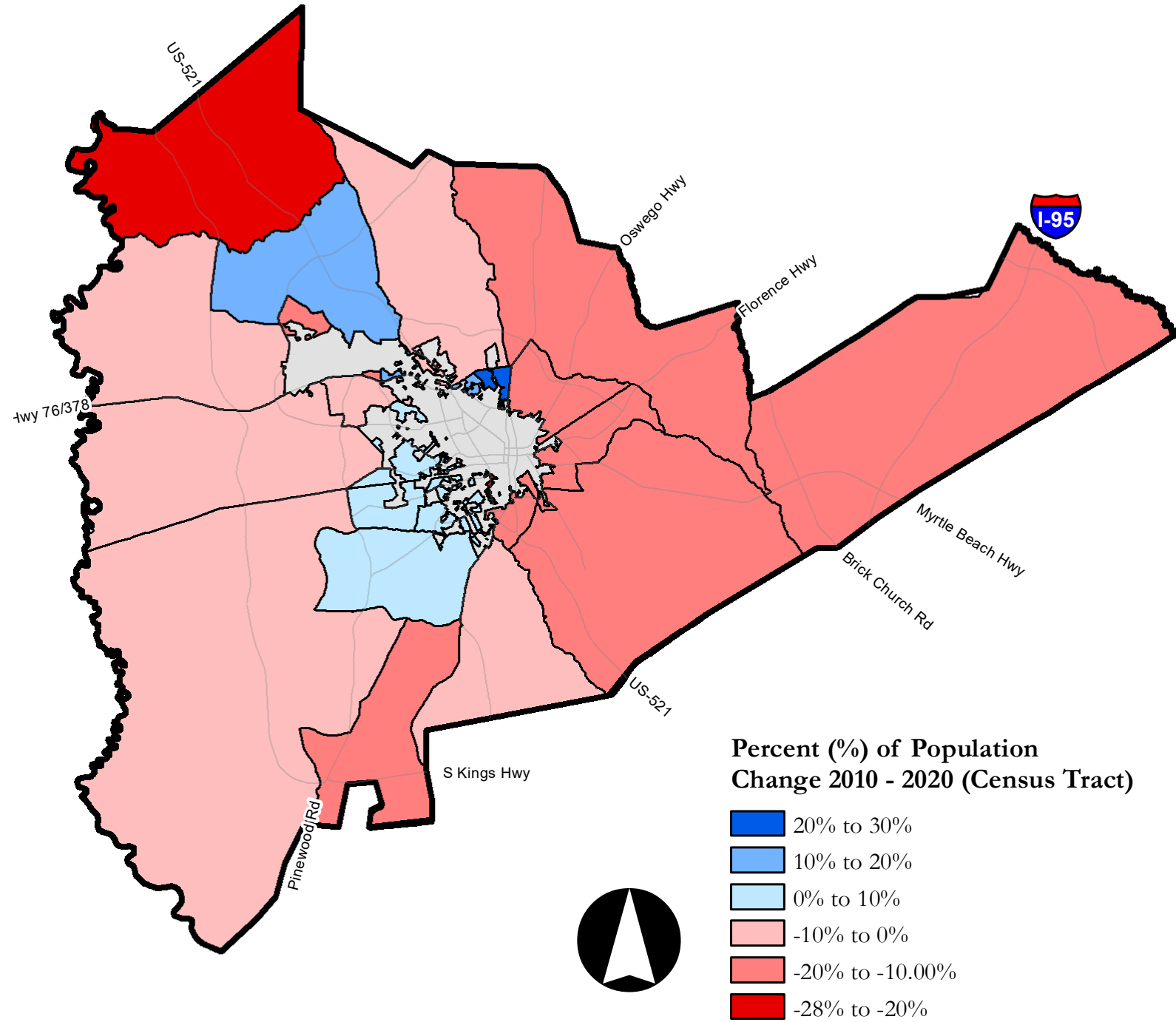
Source: 1990 - 2010 US Census Bureau Data & 2018 US Census Bureau Annual Estimate Data

Population Change Geography

While overall population growth in the City and County has remained relatively flat in recent decades, a notable trend can be discerned when looking at where growth and loss are occurring within the City and County. Census tract level population data from the last two decades clearly shows that population growth is occurring to the west, away from downtown and toward Shaw A.F.B. and Columbia. Population loss is occurring in the historic city core and both the eastern and extreme northern portions of the county.

One area of particular interest is census tract 3, which encompasses all of the Shaw A.F.B. Data indicates a large loss of population in this particular tract between 2000 and 2020. This can be attributed to a reorganization of base housing just prior to the 2010 Census, wherein a large number of residences were removed, and not to a reduction in total personnel stationed at Shaw. Evidence suggests that the population moved off base to nearby census tracts, further contributing to population growth in the western areas of the City and County.

Population Change (2000 - 2020) Sumter County & City of Sumter

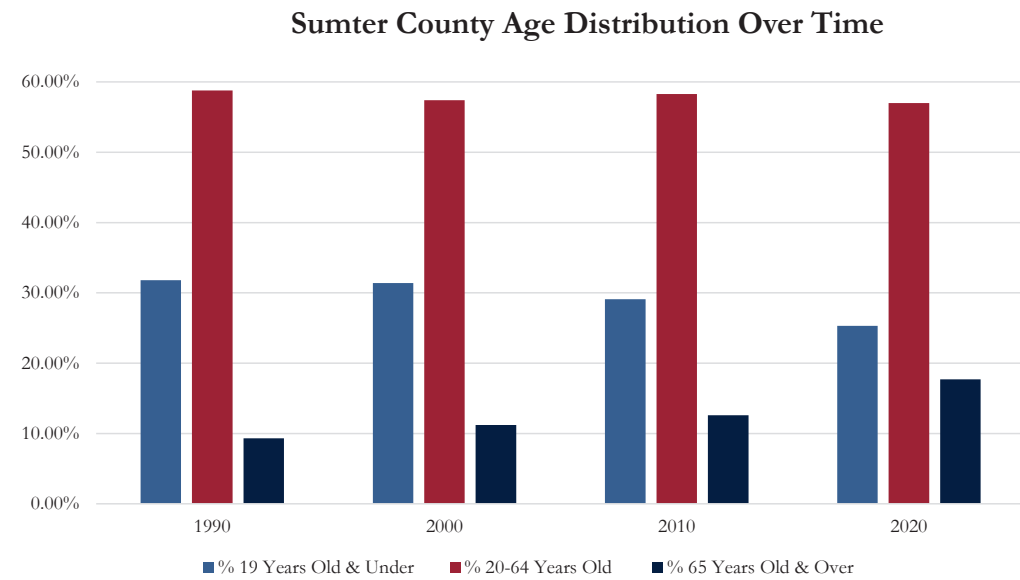


Source: 2017 ACS Population Estimates

Age & Sex

Both the City and the County have an increasingly aging population. This signals a need evaluate policies that may have an impact on the aging population.

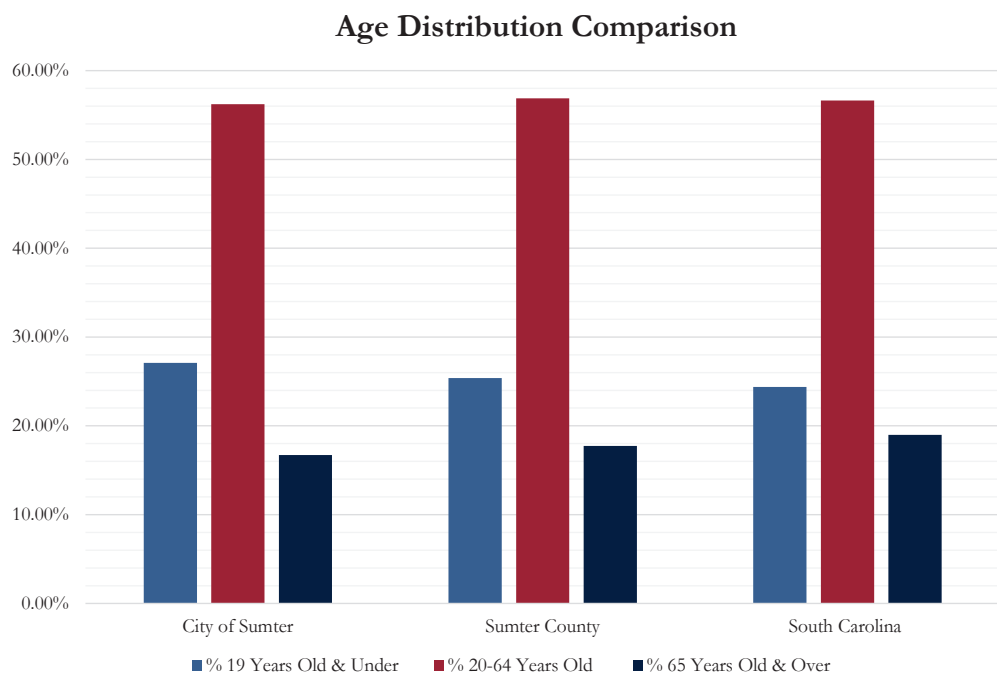
Figure P-2



Source: 1990 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Age distribution within the City and County of Sumter is generally consistent with the State of South Carolina as a whole.

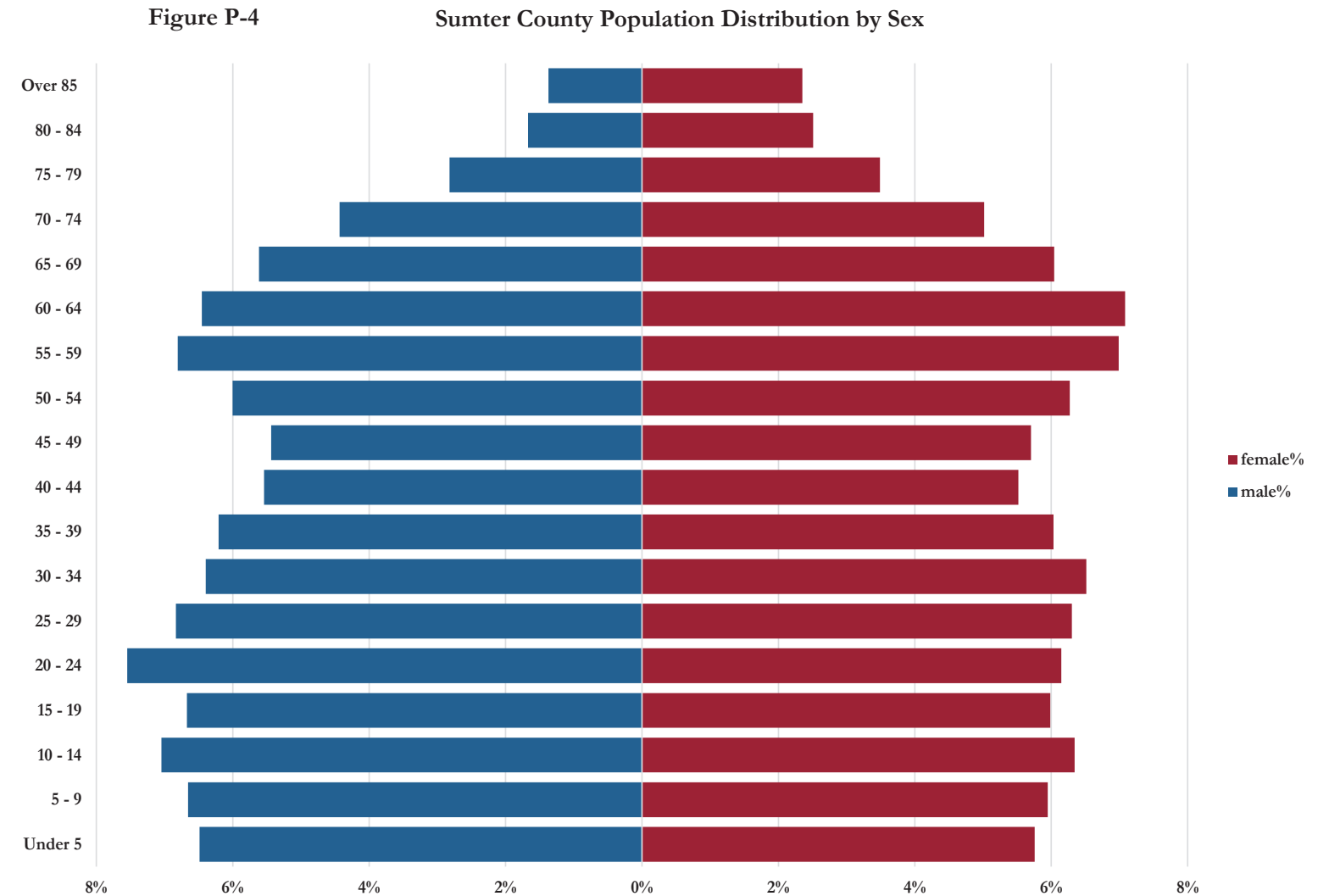
Figure P-3



Source: 1990 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

The gap in population representation between men and women in Sumter County has continued to rise, with females currently outnumbering males 52.1% to 47.9%, up from 51.0% female to 49.0% male in 2010. This is consistent with the trend for the nation as a whole, where women represent 50.8% of the overall population. This trend is most consistently seen at ages 65 and over, as women out live men.

Figure P-4



Source: 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Male
47.9%



Female
52.1%

Racial Composition by Census Tract Sumter County & City of Sumter

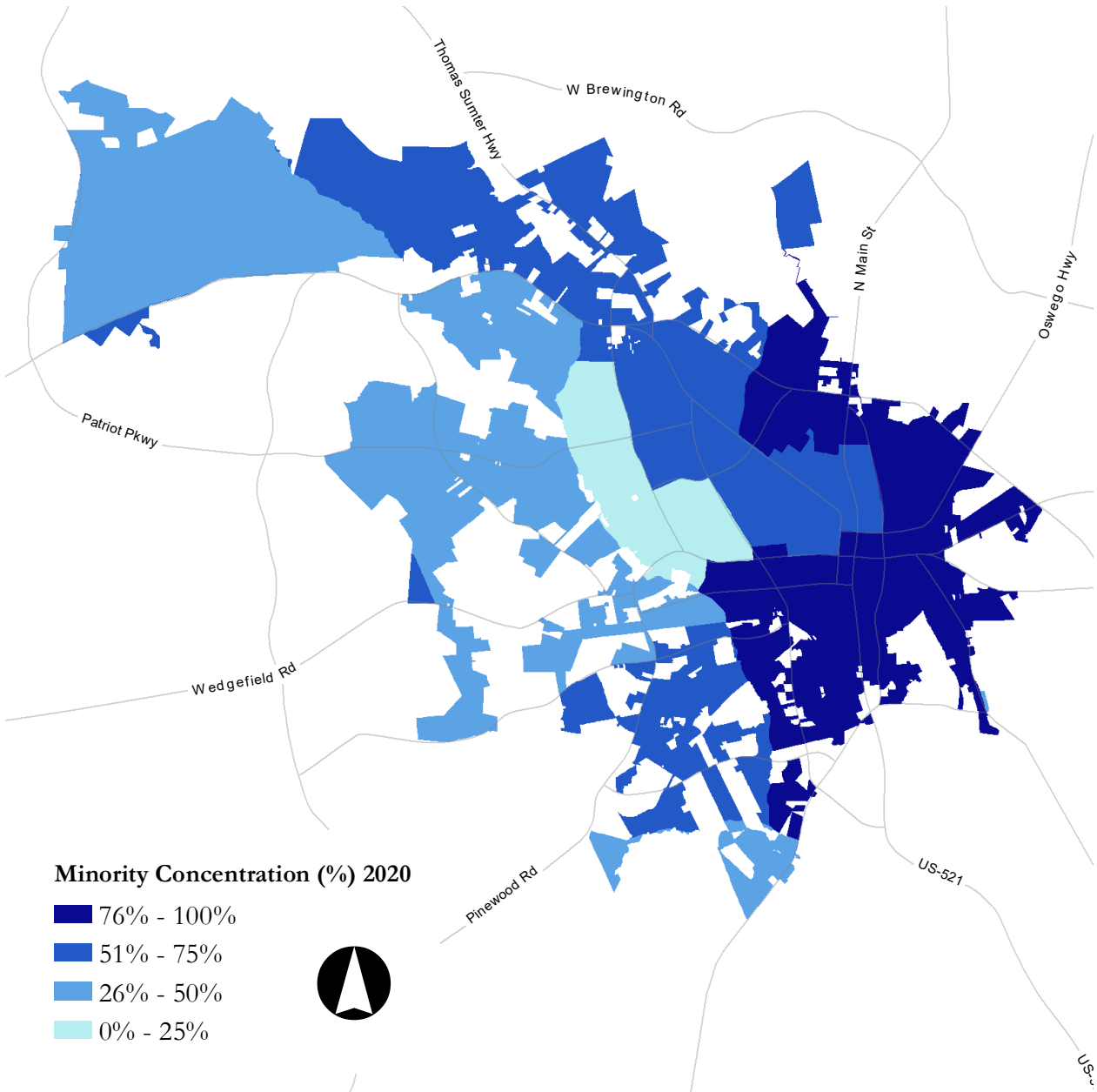
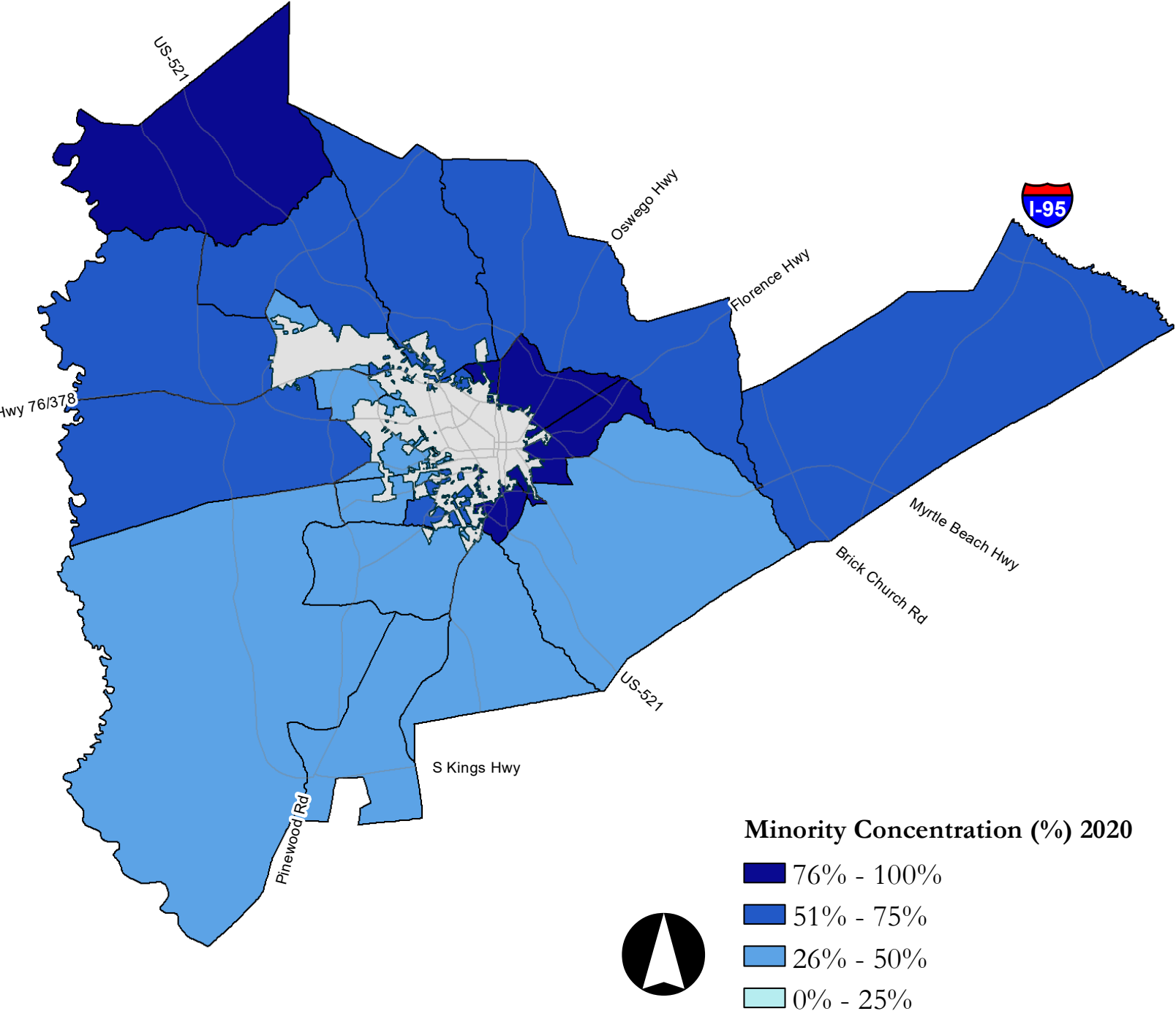
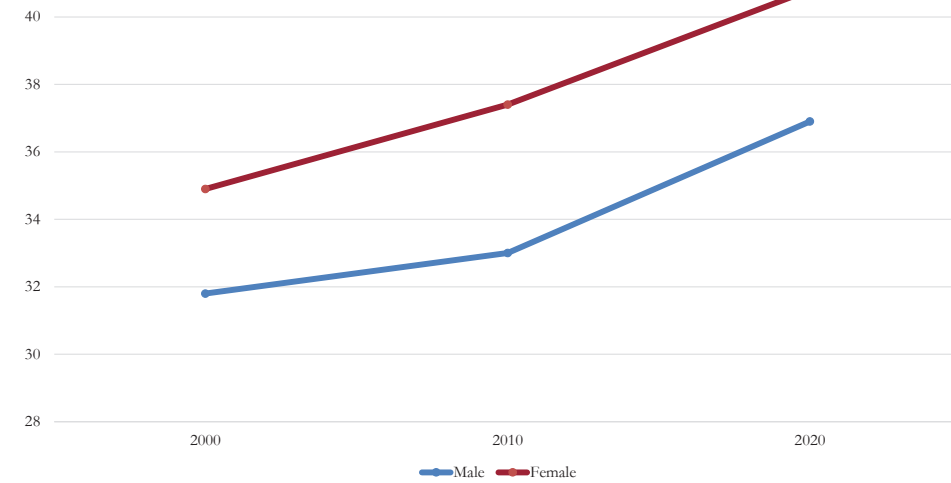


Figure P-5

Sumter County Median Age Overtime By Sex
2000 - 2020



Source: 2000 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

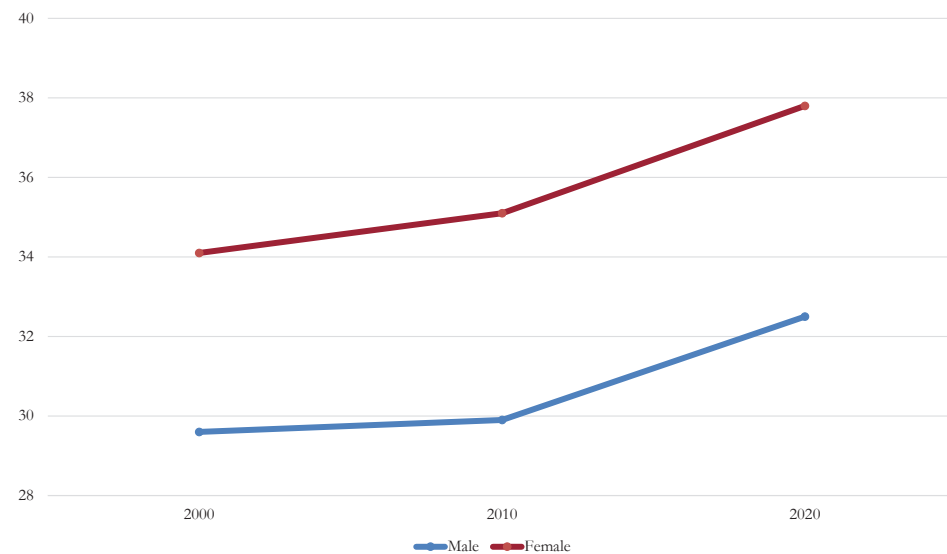
Table P-2

Sumter County Overall Median Age Over Time		
2000	2010	2020
35.3	35.3	38.9

Source: 2000 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Figure P-6

City of Sumter Median Age Overtime By Sex
2000 - 2020



Source: 2000 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Table P-3

City of Sumter Overall Median Age Over Time		
2000	2010	2020
31.9	32.5	35.3

Source: 2000 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Racial Composition

The overall racial composition of both the City and the County can be characterized as balanced, with even proportions of Black and White residents. These two groups are the predominant racial groups in the Sumter community at large. City and County percentages for American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and individuals identifying as some other race are essentially the same. These cohorts are slightly underrepresented when compared to the state as a whole, and well underrepresented when compared to the nation as a whole.

The percentage of the City and County populations identifying as Hispanic has continually grown over the past three decades, although they are still significantly lower than state and national percentages. Despite the decreases in population at both the City and County level, the Hispanic population continued to grow from 3,330 in 2010 to 4,301 in 2020.

Table P-4

2020 Racial Composition				
Race	County	City	State	US
White	44.9%	41.2%	63.3%	61.7%
Black or African American	46.3%	48.7%	25.0%	12.4%
Native American and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	1.1%
Asia	1.4%	2.1%	1.8%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Some Other Race	1.8%	2.0%	3.5%	8.4%
Two or more races	5.1%	5.6%	5.8%	10.2%

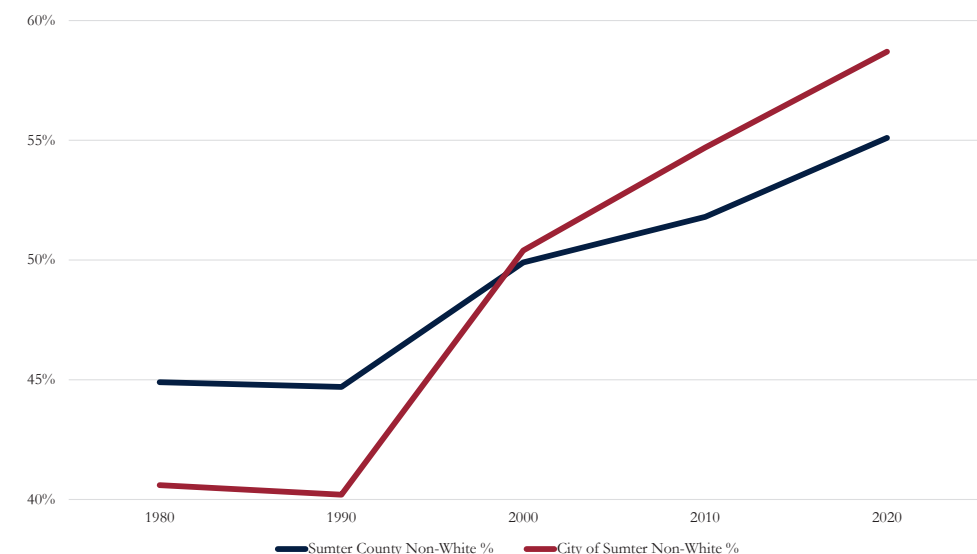
Source: 2020 US Decennial Census Data

Demographic Concentration

Both the City and the County are majority-minority areas. Majority-minority areas refer to jurisdictions in which one or more racial and/or ethnic minorities (relative to the entire US population) make up a majority of the local population. Population data shows that the overall minority population is increasing. Understanding these demographics and trends are important to making critical policy decisions that benefit all Sumter residents, especially those that have been historically under represented.

Figure P-7

Sumter City & County Non-White Population %



Source: 1980 - 2020 US Decennial Census Data

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