

Chapter 1

Population & Demographics



Overview

The foundation of comprehensive planning is the people within a community and how they interact with the built environment. To adequately plan, one must have an understanding of the population and their needs with respect to housing, employment, and services whether public or private. Examining the evolution of Kent County and how it has affected current conditions is essential in developing a plan for the future. There are a number of factors that affect the population in any given area including birth/death rates, in/out migration, and presence of adequate housing and jobs. Past and current trends are analyzed to project what the makeup and subsequent needs of the County will be in the future.

The data used in the Plan were taken from multiple sources. Primary among them is the US Census Bureau which provides much of the data within this chapter both from the 2010 Census and their intercensal projections. In addition, the Delaware Population Consortium (DPC) is charged with projecting population and household data throughout the State of Delaware. The DPC is staffed by the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research (CADSR) at the University of Delaware. More information about the Center and their projection methods can be found at www.cadsr.udel.edu. The DPC released single and five year population and household projections through 2050 in October of 2016 which are used throughout the Plan.

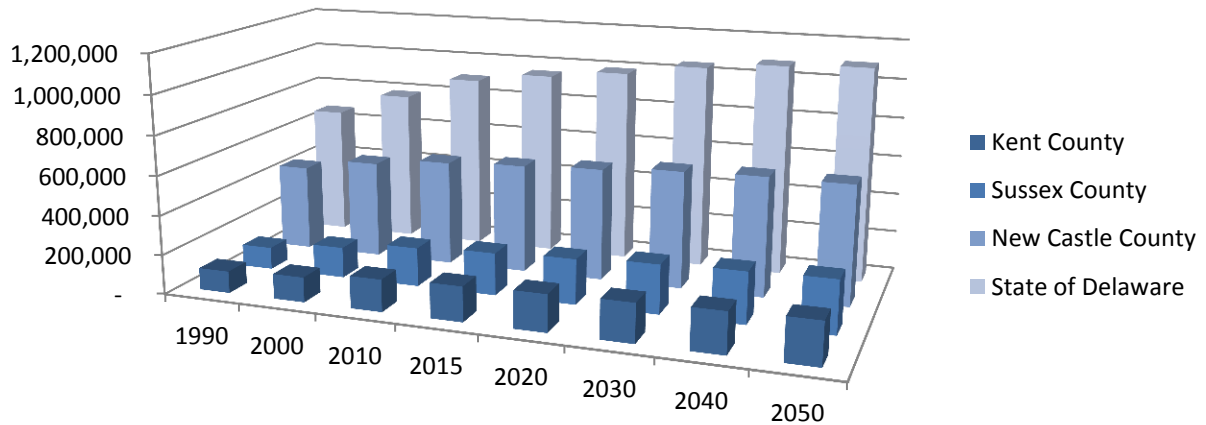
Population Growth

Kent County is projected to remain the smallest county but the growth rate is expected to remain steady due largely to in-migration.

Population Projections

	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Kent County	110,993	126,697	162,310	173,529	180,912	193,038	202,731	210,262
Sussex County	113,229	156,638	197,145	215,622	229,479	248,810	258,760	265,370
New Castle County	441,946	500,265	538,479	556,786	572,820	595,664	603,677	601,292
State of Delaware	666,168	783,600	897,934	945,937	983,211	1,014,667	1,065,168	1,076,924

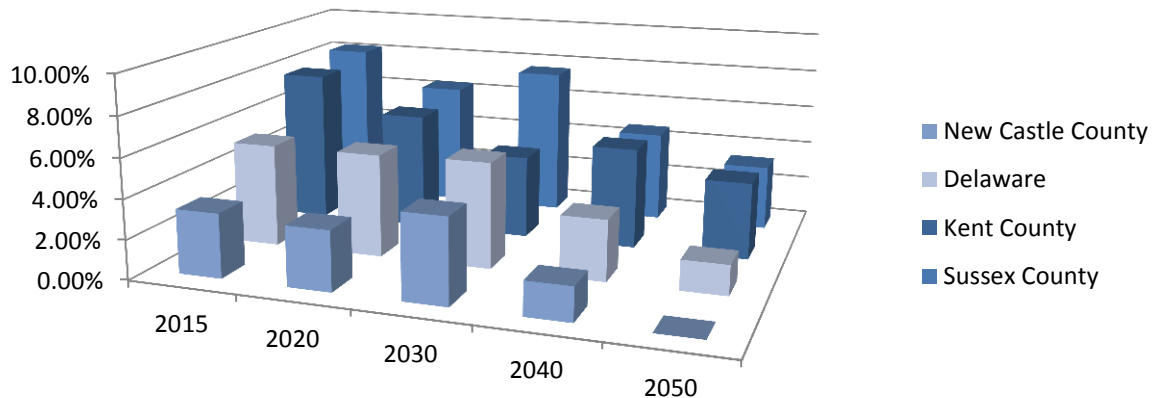
Sources: US Census Bureau and Delaware Population Consortium 2016 Annual Projections



Growth Rate

	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Kent County	7.77%	5.96%	4.23%	5.14%	3.91%
Sussex County	8.22%	6.39%	7.60%	4.64%	3.33%
New Castle County	3.25%	3.03%	4.28%	1.70%	-0.09%
Delaware	5.22%	5.22%	5.35%	3.09%	1.52%

Source: Delaware Population Consortium Annual Estimates 2017

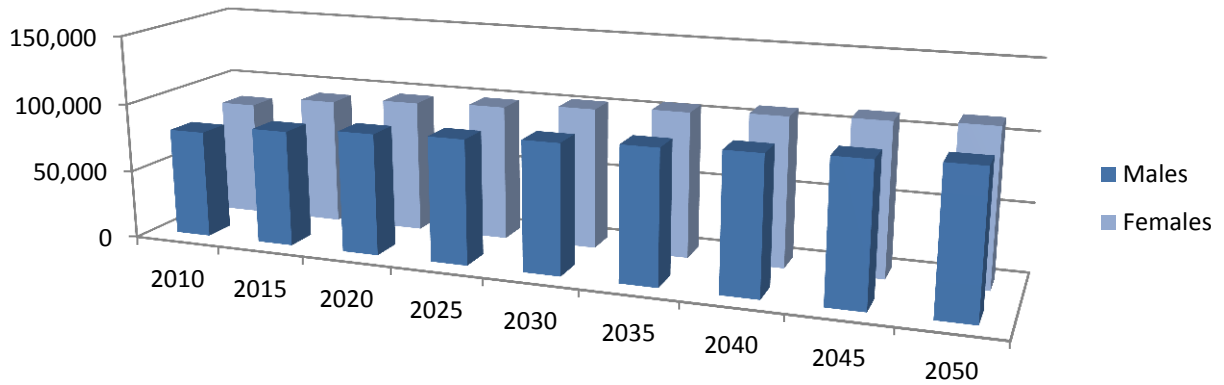


Gender Distribution

Women continue to outnumber men and are estimated to comprise just over 52% of the population in 2050.

	2000	2010	2016	2020	2030	2040	2050
Male	61,300	78,394	83,843	86,624	92,430	97,045	100,706
Female	65,803	84,571	91,267	94,288	100,608	105,686	109,556

Source: Delaware Population Consortium 2016 Annual Projections

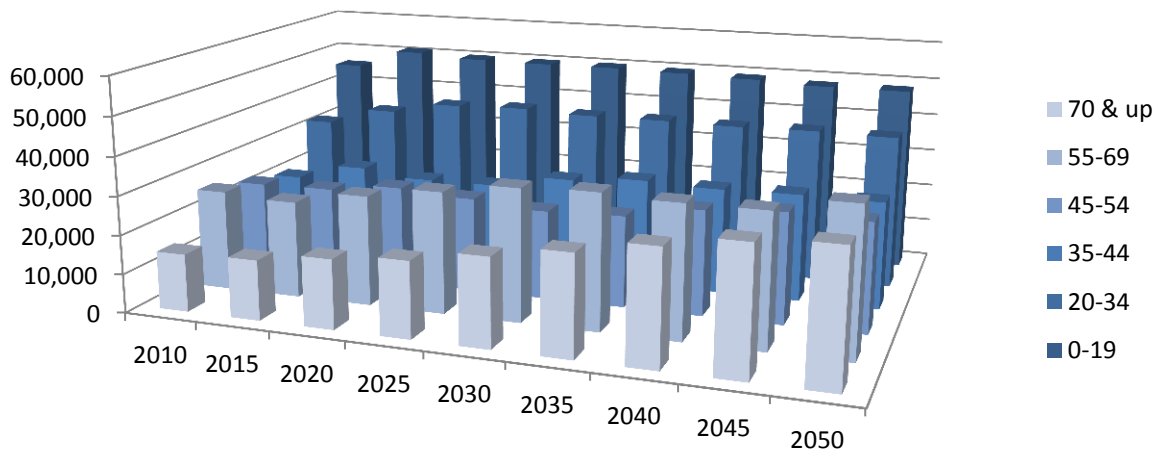


Age Distribution

The population is aging which brings about specific economic and service concerns. As driving becomes a challenge, alternative modes of transportation and proximity to medical providers, shopping, and recreation become priorities. Alternative housing options such as smaller lots, multi-family units, and in-law suites (accessory apartments) can become attractive for empty nesters. In addition, the ability to age in place and retrofit existing housing to address mobility challenges should be an option for residents. These are elements that should be considered as new development, both residential and commercial, is designed as well as when investment is made in new infrastructure ranging from roads to parks.

At the same time, economic development and job growth remain priorities in order to attract more working age adults to the County as well as encourage graduates to stay and make a life here. Community design and amenities are also no small part of what can attract young people to the County.

	2000	2005	2010	2016	2030	2050
0-19	38,803	41,865	45,924	49,974	47,192	47,141
20-34	25,754	29,021	32,458	36,518	40,247	37,724
35-44	20,616	21,303	20,566	24,127	26,365	26,793
45-54	15,882	19,763	23,227	23,695	22,693	28,272
55-69	15,801	19,330	25,941	25,158	33,752	37,138
70 & UP	10,242	12,176	14,862	15,638	22,789	33,194
TOTALS:	127,098	143,458	162,978	175,110	193,038	210,262



Race & Ethnicity

Much like the national trend Kent County is diversifying. The greatest increase is projected in the Hispanic community (274% between 2010 and 2050?). In addition, the White (non-Hispanic) population is projected to decrease by 4% between 2010 and 2050. The County currently has a Language Access Plan (LAP) but must be mindful to keep it updated and be prepared to provide services to citizens for whom English is a second language.

Racial Composition

	2010	2016	2020	2030	2040	2050
White (non-hispanic)	106,435	109,172	109,482	109,177	106,620	102,459
Black / African-American (non-hispanic)	38,246	42,904	45,944	51,999	56,707	60,413
Other Races (non-hispanic)	8,881	10,559	11,229	11,997	12,397	12,176
Hispanic Population	9,416	12,475	14,257	19,865	27,004	35,214
Total	162,978	175,110	180,912	193,038	202,728	210,262

Source: Delaware Population Consortium 2016 Annual Projections

Percentage of Total Population

	2010	2016	2020	2030	2040	2050
White (non-hispanic)	65%	62%	61%	57%	53%	49%
Black / African-American (non-hispanic)	23%	25%	25%	27%	28%	29%
Other Races (non-hispanic)	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Hispanic Population	6%	7%	8%	10%	13%	17%

Source: Delaware Population Consortium 2016 Annual Projections

