

III. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

A. INTRODUCTION

The study of population and growth throughout the County provides an essential foundation for planning of capital improvements including schools, waterlines and sewers, recreation facilities, and transportation facilities. This chapter contains text and exhibits which describe the past and present nature of the County and projections of future growth. Information presented here introduces a number of issues which are central to the Comprehensive Plan. An understanding of these issues is necessary in order to plan effectively for the future.

Land use planning must be sensitive to the changing characteristics of the population of a community. Changes in population create changing demands for housing, commercial service public facilities, and services.

B. POPULATION TRENDS

The slight decline in County population which began in the 1980's has continued into the 1990's as evidenced by EXHIBIT III-A, below.

EXHIBIT III-A SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA POPULATION ESTIMATES-SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY REGION				
Locality	1970	1980	1990	% Change 1980 to 1990
Southampton	18,582	18,731	17,550	-6.3
Isle of Wight	--	21,603	25,053	16.0
Surry	--	6,046	6,145	1.7
Sussex	--	10,874	10,248	-5.8
Franklin, City	--	7,723	7,864	1.9
Suffolk, City	--	47,621	52,141	9.5
TOTAL		112,598	119,001	5.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

The Regional population trends have remained consistent with those identified in the previous Comprehensive Plan. The 1990 Census figures indicate that Isle of Wight had the largest rate of growth with a 16 percent increase over its 1980 Census figures. During the same period, the Cities of Suffolk and Franklin and the County of Surry netted increases of 9.5 percent, 1.9 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the counties of Southampton and Sussex actually lost population with decreases of 6.3 percent and 5.8

percent, respectively. Phase I of an annexation action by Franklin affected its population growth and Southampton County's loss.

These numbers confirm the continued population shift in Virginia from rural non-metropolitan areas to more urbanized areas. The population trends in Southampton County are compared in EXHIBIT III-B for the period 1970 through 1990.

EXHIBIT III-B SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA COMPARATIVE POPULATION DATA			
	1970	1980	1990
Population	18,582	18,731	17,550
Average Household Size	3.64	3.06	2.93
Median Age (years)	25.7	30.2	33.8
Percent of children age 14 and under	31.4	20.7	19.2
Percent of residents 65 years or older	--	10.9	14.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Regionally, a trend of shrinking average household size has been noticed; one factor contributing to this trend is the declining birth rate. An increase in the median age of citizens is indicative of an aging population.

The 1990 Census reflects that 54.6 percent (9,587) of the 17,550 Southampton County residents are white and 44.9 percent (7,876) are black, with the remaining .5 percent (87) representing American Indian, Cambodian or other races. It further identifies that 52.2 percent (9,167) are male and the remaining 47.8 percent (9,383) are female. The median age of persons living in Southampton County is 33.6 years, with the men's median age being 30.8 and the women's being 36.9. The 1990 Census indicates that 79.9 percent (14,017) were native-born Virginians, and 12.5 percent (2,198) were born in other southern states.

The County's estimated population in 1998 was 17,600. This figure takes into account the annexation of less than 1 square mile by Franklin on December 31, 1995 and reflects the loss of approximately 300 people to Franklin through the boundary adjustment action.

C. POPULATION BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX

The County's population, as recorded from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, was 17,550. There were 9,213 males and 8,337 females. The median age of the total population was 33.8 years. EXHIBIT III-C provides a breakdown by age, sex, and race.

EXHIBIT III-C SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE, 1992							
AGE GROUP	TOTAL	WHITE			NONWHITE		
		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Under 5	1,080	552	243	309	528	294	234
5-9	1,208	631	407	224	577	303	274
10-14	1,075	568	255	313	507	297	210
15-19	1,288	625	315	310	663	398	265
20-24	1,376	586	343	243	790	542	248
25-29	1,815	911	536	375	904	540	364
30-34	1,279	750	385	365	529	278	251
35-39	1,170	645	342	303	525	288	237
40-44	1,160	752	405	347	408	217	191
45-49	1,084	669	323	346	415	219	196
50-54	946	617	348	269	329	142	187
55-59	835	484	240	244	351	162	189
60-64	730	362	155	207	368	170	198
65-69	933	504	268	236	429	191	238
70-74	662	397	147	250	265	116	149
75-79	434	250	76	174	184	89	95
80-84	307	173	37	136	134	46	88
85+	168	111	44	67	57	6	51
TOTAL	17,550	9,587	4,869	4,718	7,963	4,298	3,665

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

The trend toward a higher median age in Southampton County is in keeping with both nationwide and statewide trends toward an older population. This increase in the age of the population stems from a decrease in the birth rate. Fewer children are being born; therefore, the general population grows older with each passing year.

The trend toward an older general population in the County is well established. Barring a

sharp increase in the birth rate, a rapid in-migration of young people, or a rapid out-migration of older residents, this trend will persist. The most notable fact about the age structure of the County is the discrepancy between the median age of white and black residents. In 1990, the median age of white males was 34.4 years, greater than that of black males. The same situation occurred for females. White females had a median age of 38.6 years, greater than that of black females. See EXHIBIT III-D.

EXHIBIT III-D SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA MEDIAN AGE BY RACE AND SEX, 1990				
YEAR	WHITE MALES	WHITE FEMALES	BLACK MALES	BLACK FEMALES
1990	34.4	38.6	28.2	34.7

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing*.

D. MARITAL STATUS

There were a total of 7,607 married persons 15 years or older in Southampton County, according to the 1990 Census. See EXHIBIT III-E.

EXHIBIT III-E SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA SEX BY MARITAL STATUS, 1990			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Never married	2,624	1,377	4,001
Married	3,879	3,728	7,607
Separated	336	238	574
Widowed	213	1,096	1,309
Divorced	378	317	695

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing*.

E. FAMILIES

In 1990, there were 4,545 families in Southampton County. EXHIBIT III-F breaks this figure down by family type.

EXHIBIT III-F SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA FAMILY TYPE AND PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 18 YEARS AND OVER, 1990	
Married-couple family:	
With children 18 years & over	757
No children 18 years & over	2,885
Other family:	
Male householder, no spouse:	
With children 18 years & over	44
No children 18 years & over	165
Female householder, no spouse:	
With children 18 years & over	315
No children 18 years & over	379

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing*.

F. HOUSEHOLDS

In 1990, there were 5,991 households recorded which housed a population of 17,550. There were 2.93 persons per household. EXHIBIT III-G indicates the number of persons per household.

EXHIBIT III-G SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD, 1990	
1 person	1,327
2 persons	1,930
3 persons	1,141
4 persons	959
5 persons	398
6 persons	117
7 or more persons	119
Total Households	5,991

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing*.

G. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

As previously noted, the County has lost population since 1980, primarily as the result of annexation actions. Population projections by age groups, as shown in EXHIBIT III-H for the years 2000 and 2010, indicate a continuation of the trend unless circumstances dramatically change. However, these projections are probably low. In fact, the 1990 provisional population estimate made by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia indicates that the County's population is 17,600 – even with the loss of population resulting from annexation actions by Franklin.

Future population growth within Southampton County over the next 20 years will probably be slight, with the addition of only a few hundred people if current trends in employment continue and institutional population remains constant.

The County can attempt to influence the extent and type of population growth which takes place through the active promotion of economic development and agricultural diversification.

EXHIBIT III-H SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (PROJECTED), YEAR 2000 AND YEAR 2010					
AGE GROUP	2000 PROJECTED	2010 PROJECTED	AGE GROUP	2000 PROJECTED	2010 PROJECTED
0-4	863	805	45-49	1,486	1,513
5-9	852	745	50-54	1,390	1,469
10-14	1,090	948	55-59	986	1,165
15-19	1,312	1,340	60-64	746	1,025
20-24	953	992	65-69	667	795
25-29	846	821	70-74	704	679
30-34	1,331	1,131	75-79	605	538
35-39	1,316	1,029	80-84	424	441
40-44	1,436	1,215	85+	290	346
			TOTAL	17,297	16,997

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

H. CONCLUSIONS

Indications are that Southampton County will experience slow to moderate population growth during the planning period. Growth management will become more problematic as competing uses vie for space and facilities.