POPULATION
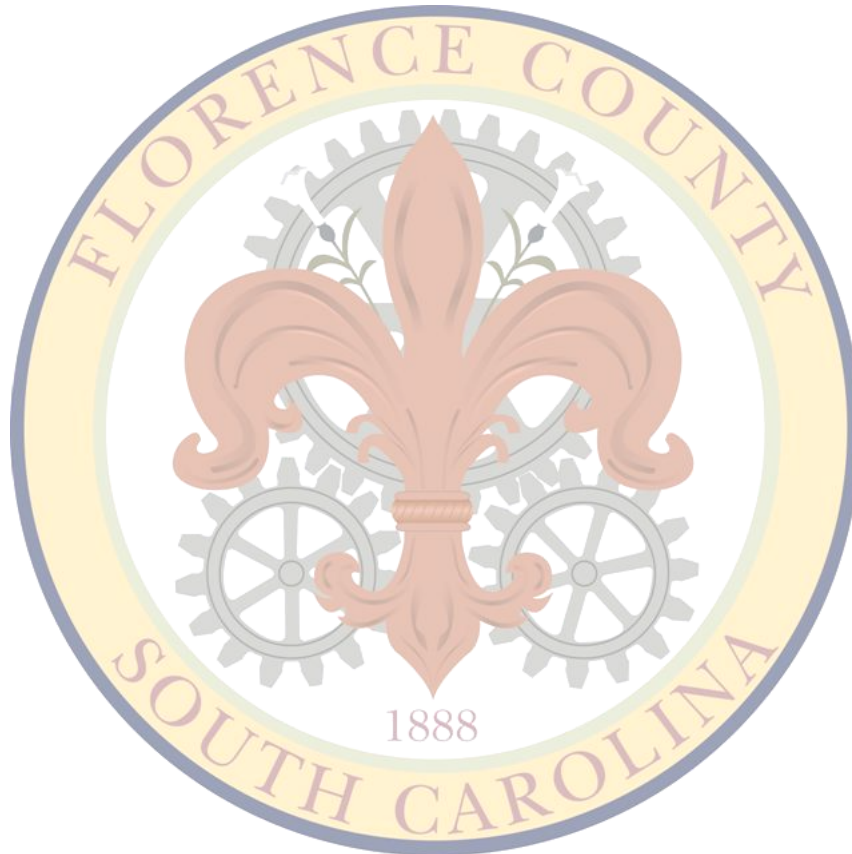# ELEMENT

FLORENCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN

POPULATION ELEMENT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLES & FIGURES

INTRODUCTION

Demographic information and analyses are important in providing evidence of the extent to which population factors affect current and future conditions throughout the County. With this in mind, the Population Element of the Florence County Comprehensive Plan provides information and analyses regarding various aspects of the demographics of the community including existing population levels and ethnic composition, socioeconomic aspects of the population, age group analyses, educational attainment levels of the residents, housing characteristics, and general income information. This Element also includes population projections through 2030, which allow for appropriate planning based on the projected growth of the County.

Florence County has nine incorporated municipalities and many other communities which are well-established in the eyes of local residents. The goal of this Element is to identify the population factors associated with communities in Florence County and to identify aspects of the County that may be impacted through planning efforts.

This Element is divided into 12 sections, including the Introduction. The remaining sections are:

- Population Figures and Estimates
- Population Density
- Rural and Urban and Populations
- Ethnic and Gender Composition
- Age
- Children in Florence County
- Socioeconomic Data
- Disabled Population
- Florence County Households
- Population Projections
- Summary
- Goals and Implementation Strategies

The information in the Population Element is a statement of current conditions and an analysis of that information. It serves to show where County growth is expected to occur and what services will be needed in those areas to support a growing population. Ideally, this document will be used as the basis for better planning in the future.

POPULATION FIGURES AND ESTIMATES

In 1888, the South Carolina General Assembly created the "County of Florence", encompassing the towns of Timmonsville, Coward, and Lake City with the Town of Florence as its county seat. Two years later, the "City of Florence" was incorporated. (Internet 1) In 1890, the Census showed the population of Florence County to be slightly over 25,000. Since that time, the population has continued to grow and today is over 125,000. The following table and graph represent the Census data for the last 110 years, which shows positive, though intermittent, growth each decade for the County.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table 1-1   Florence County Census Population Figures: 1890 to 2000

CENSUS YEAR	TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS CENSUS YEAR
1890	25,027	N/A
1900	28,474	13.77%
1910	35,671	25.27%
1920	50,406	41.30%
1930	61,027	21.07%
1940	70,582	15.65%
1950	79,710	12.93%
1960	84,438	5.93%
1970	89,636	6.15%
1980	110,163	22.90%
1990	114,344	3.79%
2000	125,761	9.98%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Population Counts

Figure 1-1   Florence County Population Growth
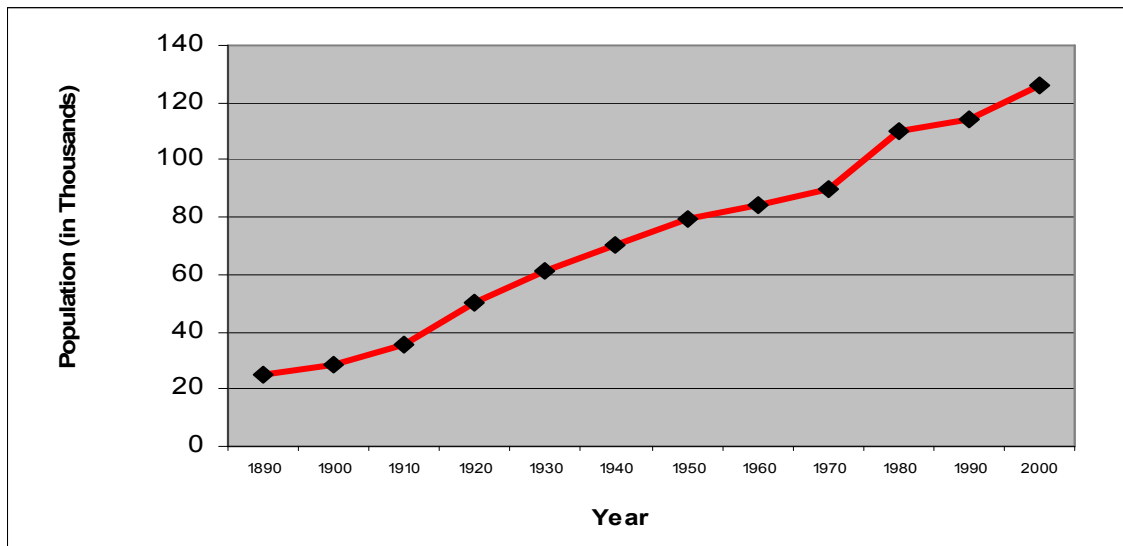
Source: Woods & Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

The overall population of the County since it was established has been fluctuating in terms of growth rate; however, the population has been on a consistent pattern of increase. The largest rate of growth occurred between 1910 and 1920, when the population grew by 41.3%. Since 1890, the population of Florence County has grown over 402% to 125,761 residents in 2000. By 2030 this number is expected to increase to 155,530, which would be an increase of 23.7% over a 30 year period (Woods & Poole).

Table 1-2 gives the population trends of the Pee Dee Counties since 1940. With the exceptions of Florence and Sumter Counties, sustained growth rates have been less than 50% for the adjacent counties. Darlington County has grown 49.1% since 1940 while Marion County had a 17.8% overall increase. In contrast, Florence County exhibited a 78.2% increase in population over the 1940 to 2000 period, ranking second only to Sumter, which experienced a 99.5% increase. The other adjacent counties demonstrated either a relatively flat growth rate over the same period or no growth at all as indicated by Census information. Lee, Marlboro, and Williamsburg Counties have all experienced a decline in population since 1940. These areas are primarily rural, and the decline in population is most likely attributed to the movement of residents from rural areas to more urbanized ones. The disproportionate growth of Florence County in

comparison to the most of the other Pee Dee area counties may indicate that Florence County serves the function of a destination point for residents moving to the region.

Table 1-2   Population Trends of Florence County & Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% CHANGE 1940-2000
Florence	**70,582**	**79,710**	**84,438**	**89,636**	**110,163**	**114,344**	**125,761**	**78.2%**
Clarendon	31,500	32,215	29,490	25,604	27,464	28,450	35,502	12.7%
Darlington	45,198	50,016	52,928	53,442	62,717	61,851	67,394	49.1%
Dillon	29,625	30,930	30,584	28,838	31,083	29,114	30,722	3.7%
Lee	24,908	23,173	21,832	18,323	18,929	18,437	20,119	-19.2%
Marion	30,107	33,110	32,014	30,270	34,179	33,899	35,466	17.8%
Marlboro	33,281	31,766	28,529	27,151	31,634	29,361	28,818	-13.4%
Sumter	52,463	57,634	74,941	79,425	88,243	102,637	104,646	99.5%
Williamsburg	41,011	43,807	40,932	34,243	38,226	36,815	37,217	-10.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Within Florence County, the total population is comprised of the individual populations of the nine municipalities and the population of the non-incorporated area. The distribution of the County population by municipalities and unincorporated areas is given in Table 1-3 below. Although three of the nine municipalities listed are not currently participating in the Consolidated Planning arrangement, they are shown in this Element for illustrative purposes. These municipalities include Coward, Lake City, and Pamplico. It is noteworthy that both Lake City and Pamplico currently have agreements with Florence County to provide building services.

Table 1-3   Area/Community Population Percentages of Florence County

JURISDICTION	1990 POPULATION	% OF COUNTY	2000 POPULATION	% OF COUNTY	% CHANGE 1990-2000
Florence County	**114,344**	**100.0%**	**125,761**	**100.0%**	**+9.98%**
Unincorporated	69,581	61.0%	81,116	64.5%	+16.8
City of Florence	29,813	26.0%	30,248	24.1%	+1.5%
Johnsonville	1,415	1.2%	1,418	1.1%	+0.21%
Lake City	7,153	6.3%	6,478	5.2%	-0.94%
Coward	532	0.5%	650	0.5%	+22.2%
Olanta	687	0.6%	613	0.5%	-0.11%
Pamplico	1,314	1.1%	1,139	0.9%	-0.13%
Quinby	865	0.8%	842	0.7%	-0.03%
Scranton	802	0.7%	942	0.8%	+17.5%
Timmonsville	2,182	1.9%	2,315	1.9%	+6.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 1990 & 2000

The City of Florence is shown above as the major urban area of the County, with over 30,000 residents. This population is over four times as large as the next largest municipality. However, over 65% of the population resides within an unincorporated area. The lesser populated municipalities of Coward, Olanta, Quinby, Pamplico and Scranton have individual population percentages which are less than one percent (1%) of the total County population in both 1990 and 2000. Moreover, the Town of Coward has experienced the greatest percentage of growth over the last 10 years at 22.2%. Some municipalities, such as Lake City, Olanta, Pamplico, and Quinby, have experienced declines in their populations since 1990. However, overall, the County's population has increased 9.98% since 1990, resulting in an additional 11,417 residents.

The population of the unincorporated areas of the County represents 64.5% of the total population. These areas of the County are not specific, within the census dates provided, to any particular geographic section of the County and therefore may not be particularly informative in

terms of providing population distribution information. The upcoming information provided for Census Tracts will more accurately display population across the County.

The nine incorporated municipalities in Florence County show significant diversity in terms of current population levels, when compared with one another for the 2000 Census. The municipalities that reported populations of less than 1,000 residents are Scranton, Quinby, Coward and Olanta. Those with populations between 1,000 and 2,000 residents are Johnsonville and Pamplico. Timmonsville is the only municipality with a population level between 2,000 and 5,000 residents, while Lake City's population is the range between 5,000 and 10,000. The largest jurisdiction in the County is the City of Florence with a population level greater than 30,000 residents. For a visual breakdown of these populations see Figure 1-2 below.

Figure 1-2   Population Percentages by Florence County Area/Community
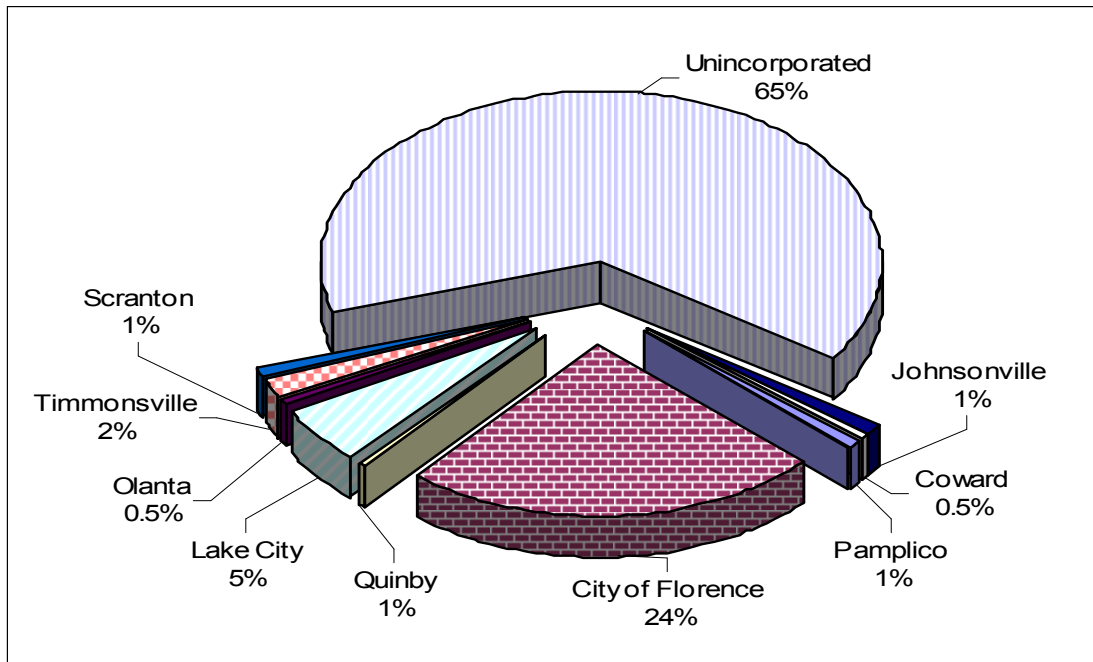
Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

The following table identifies population by Census Tracts, in order to more specifically define the population spatially in Florence County. Florence County is divided into 29 Census Tracts, each with defined characteristics (Appendix A).

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table 1-4   Population of Florence County by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACT	POPULATION	AREA IN SQUARE MILES	POPULATION DENSITY
1	6,709	12.6	532.46
2.01	2,368	5.8	408.28
2.02	5,455	3.5	1,588.57
3	3,782	13.2	286.52
4	4,872	59.4	82.02
5	5,612	28.3	198.3
6	3,647	3.7	985.68
7	3,686	2.2	1,675.45
8	4,539	2.5	1,815.6
9	3,417	2.2	1,533.18
10	1,987	0.9	2,207.78
11	4,467	1.9	2,351.05
12	3,146	2.0	1, 573
13	3,758	1.5	2,505.33
14	6,299	3.5	1,799.71
15.01	7,742	31.0	249.74
15.02	4,660	38.3	121.67
16.01	4,905	11.8	415.68
16.02	5,052	59.8	84.48
17	2,456	67.1	37.86
18	3,563	78.5	45.39
19	6,416	91.8	69.89
20	3,782	52.9	71.49
22.01	5,992	13.1	457.4
22.02	3,348	16.0	209.25
23	3,420	53.9	63.45
24	4,062	59.7	68.04
25	2,781	54.7	50.84
26	3,748	27.4	136.79

Sources: US Census Bureau, Census 2000, American FactFinder

As the table above indicates, the Census Tract that is most densely populated is Tract 13, which is located partially in the City of Florence and has over 2,500 people per square mile (See Appendix N). Other Tracts that are densely populated include 2.02, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, with population densities of over 1,500 persons per square mile (See Appendix M).   All of the above listed Tracts are located in or just outside the city limits of Florence. These Tracts cover 20.2 square miles of the 799.21 in Florence County. Over 36,700 people live in these Tracts, which represents 29.2% of the total population of Florence County. Thus, it can easily be determined that the City of Florence is the most densely populated area in the County. Therefore, it may be necessary to create smart growth strategies for that area and employ tactics for expansion of more rural areas that meet not only the goals of the community, but also the goals of its residents. More sparsely populated areas of Florence County include Tracts 4, 16.02, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 25, with population densities of less than 85 (See Appendix M). This means that there are less than 85 people per square mile in these areas. These Tracts cover 577.8 square miles of Florence County, and over 36,000 people live in these Census Tracts, which is 26.7% of the population of Florence County. Census Tract 17 has the lowest population density at 37.86 persons per square mile, or approximately 1 person for every 16.7 acres (See Appendix I).

POPULATION DENSITY

When compared to other South Carolina counties, Florence ranks 12th in the State in population density, meaning that there are 11 counties that are more densely populated. Population density is given in terms of the number of residents per unit of land area. Based on the 2000 Census, Florence County is spread over 799.21 square miles and has a population density of 157.4 persons. This means that there are 157.4 persons per square mile in Florence County. Moreover, the comparison below shows that Florence County has the highest population density among adjacent counties. Among South Carolina counties, population densities range from 479.1 persons per square mile for Greenville County, to 27.7 persons per square mile in McCormick County. A comparison of the Florence County density figure with those of the other Pee Dee Counties is given in Table 1-5 below.

Table 1-5 Population Densities of Florence County & Adjacent Counties (2000)

COUNTY	POPULATION	LAND AREA	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE
Florence	**125,761**	**799.21**	**157.4**
Sumter	104,646	665.46	157.2
Darlington	67,394	562.06	119.9
Dillon	30,722	404.88	75.9
Marion	35,466	489.10	72.5
Marlboro	28,818	479.72	60.1
Clarendon	35,502	607.25	58.5
Lee	20,119	410.33	49.2
Williamsburg	37,217	934.00	39.8

Source: S.C. Statistical Abstract 2005

Population densities for the municipalities and unincorporated areas of Florence County are given in Table 1-6 below. The densities shown are much higher due to smaller jurisdictional sizes and the tendency for people to live in more urban, incorporated areas. In addition, lot sizes are generally smaller in the incorporated towns and cities, which would typically reflect higher densities for residential areas than in the more rural, unincorporated areas.

Table 1-6 Population Densities of Florence County Municipalities (2000)

JURISIDICTION	POPULATION	LAND AREA	PERSONS PER SQ. MILE
Florence County	**125,761**	**799.21**	**157.4**
Unincorporated Areas	81,116	764.25	106.1
City of Florence	30,248	17.70	1,708.9
City of Johnsonville	1,418	1.52	932.9
City of Lake City	6,478	4.75	1,363.8
Coward	650	3.6	180.6
Olanta	613	1.01	606.9
Pamplico	1,139	1.9	599.5
Quinby	842	1.1	765.5
Scranton	942	0.8	1,177.5*
Timmonsville	2,315	2.58	897.3

Sources: 2000 SC Statistical Abstract & US Census Bureau, Census 2000.
(*This number reflects how many residents would reside in 1 square mile. However, the Town of Scranton is only 0.8 sq. mi. Therefore, the entire population lives in that area.)

Table 1-6 shows that the higher densities are not necessarily associated with the largest cities and towns. While the City of Florence is the largest municipality in the County in terms of land area, the table shows that the town with the smallest land area (Scranton) also has a density which is estimated to be greater than all but two of the incorporated places in the County. More

population density information can be found in Table 1-4. The City of Florence and Lake City have the highest number of persons per square mile at 1,708.9 and 1,363.8 respectively.

RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS

The distinction between rural and urban areas of Florence County is important, because the needs for residents in rural and urban areas differ based on a variety of factors such as transportation, work, and general living patterns. According to the 2000 Census, 42% of residents in Florence County reside in rural areas. This is a total decline of 2.4% since 1980. The entire state of South Carolina is 39.5% rural. Table 1-7 below shows the percentage changes in the rural population of Florence County compared to the same changes in adjacent counties and the state since 1980.

Table 1-7   Rural & Urban Population Percentages in the Pee Dee Area

COUNTY	1980 RURAL POP	1990 RURAL POP	2000 RURAL POP	% CHANGE 1980 TO 1990	% CHANGE 1990 TO 2000	2000 URBAN POP
Florence	**44.4%**	**47.5%**	**42.0%**	**+3.1%**	**-5.25%**	**58%**
Clarendon	82.7%	84.4%	85.3%	+1.7%	+0.9%	14.7%
Darlington	68.2%	67.0%	54.6%	-1.2%	-12.4%	45.4%
Dillon	77.3%	76.5%	65.7%	-.08%	-10.8%	34.3%
Lee	79.2%	80.1%	81.3%	-.09%	+1.2%	18.7%
Marion	59.7%	60.0%	60.3%	+.03%	+.03%	39.7%
Marlboro	63.8%	59.0%	47.2%	-4.8%	-11.8%	52.8%
Sumter	48.2%	40.9%	37.9%	-7.3%	-3%	62.1%
Williamsburg	88.9%	89.5%	84.9%	+.06%	-4.6%	15.1%
S.C.	45.9%	45.4%	39.5%	-.05%	-5.9%	60.5%

Sources: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

The percentages in Table 1-7 show that Florence and Sumter Counties have a lower rural population and therefore a larger urban population than the adjacent counties. However, the urban population of Florence is still slightly less than that of the State. Florence, Sumter, and Marlboro Counties were the only counties demonstrating urban populations greater than 50%. The percentages in Table 1-7 also show that Florence County has more urban residents at the end of the period examined than at the start. Most notable for Florence County was the period between 1990 and 2000 where the rural population dropped 5.5% in Florence County. The table indicates that the majority of counties in the Pee Dee are slowly becoming more urban.

It is possible for the rural population to increase significantly without a major conversion of rural areas into urban areas. The general urban definition is based upon those defined localities with populations of at least 2,500 persons or 1,000 persons per square mile in density. Some of the places in the County with small populations in 1980 could have experienced significant population increases by 2000 while remaining below the thresholds which would reclassify the areas as urban. For example, from 1990 to 2000, the population of Timmonsville increased by 6.1% to 2,315 residents. However, while Timmonsville experienced a significant growth in population, the town is not considered urban because the population is less than 2,500 and the population density is less than 1,000 persons per square mile. The numeric distinction of rural and urban populations may conceal the fact that some areas identified as urban may not have the traditional services and cultural resources normally associated with urban areas. This may present some unique social and public service issues as traditional rural areas are confronted with density and service use issues generally thought to be found in cities.

ETHNIC AND GENDER COMPOSITION

RACIAL COMPOSITION

Understanding the racial composition of the Florence County population allows for better planning and utilization of services which are relevant to the overall well-being and representation of all people within the County. Table 1-8 gives past numbers and projections for race in Florence County as follows.

Table 1-8   Florence County by Race (1990-2030)

	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	HISPANIC
1990	69,430	44,330	150	280	510
2000	73,620	49,660	270	900	1,370
2010	75,340	56,490	340	1,480	1,950
2020	76,760	62,960	370	2,060	2,710
2030	78,980	69,460	390	2,860	3,840

Source: Woods and Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

While two of the years above have already passed, the numbers are only predictions. However, they do indicate an increase in all races in Florence County over the next 25 years.   When evaluating the reliability of these predictions, comparing the Woods and Poole data with the Census data is helpful. For the year 2000, the Woods and Poole predications can be seen above. The 2000 Census data, which reflects actual population counts, indicates numbers that differ only slightly from the above projections. Therefore, the data through the year 2030 will most likely be relatively accurate. The data above indicates that from 1990 to 2030, the minority populations will increase at a greater percentage than the White population. The Black or African American population is expected to increase by 56.7% by 2030. The Native American population is expected to increase 160%, and the Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations are expected to increase 921% and 653%, respectively.   The White population in Florence County is projected to increase, but only by 13.8%. The Figure below provides a visual display of the above information.
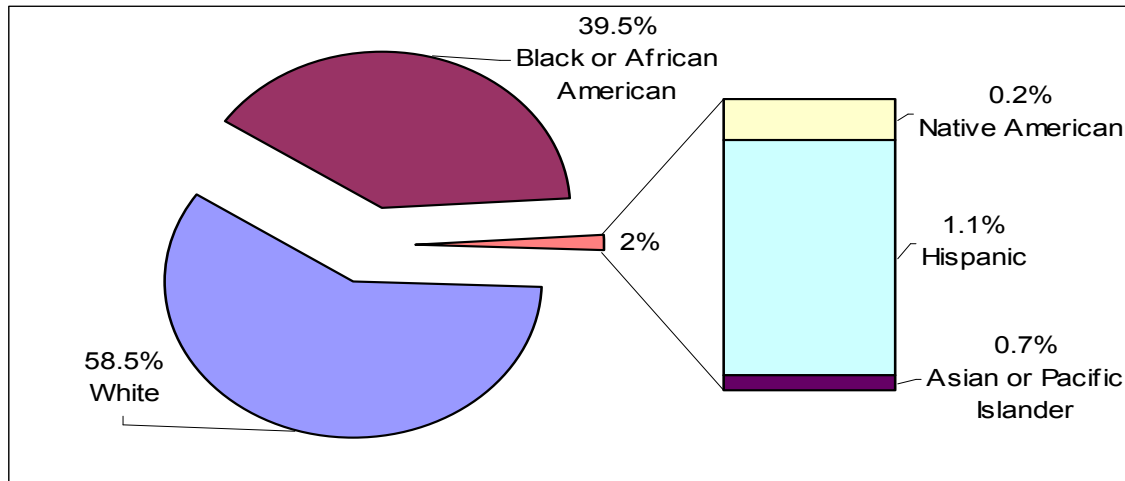
Figure 1-3   Florence County by Race (1990-2030)
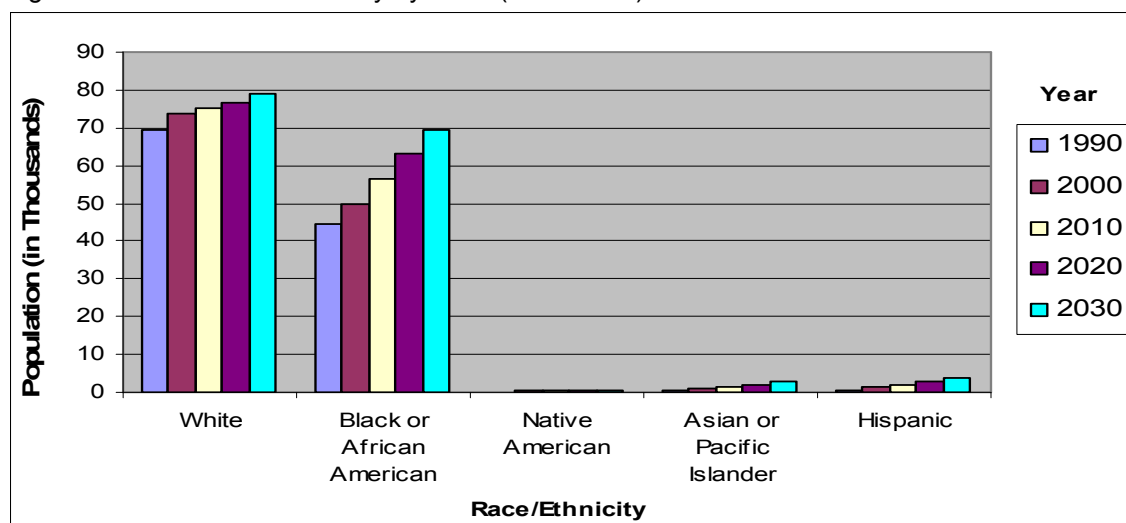
Source: Woods and Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

The racial composition of Florence County and the municipalities therein has been predominantly persons of White and Black or African American racial identification. Based on the 2000 Census, Florence County's population was 58.5% White, 39.5% Black or African American, 0.2% Native American, 0.7% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1.1% Hispanic. The Figure below represents the above data.

Figure 1-4   Florence County Population by Race

Source: Woods and Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

GENDER COMPOSITION

Data on gender distribution throughout Florence County and the municipalities therein is given in Table 1-9. Overall, the County has a female population larger than the male population. Nine of the ten municipalities reflect a greater percentage of females in their populations than males. Only Coward varies, with an even percentage. Moreover, while the female component was about 53% of the total County population for 2000, this is in line with the state and the nation.

Table 1-9   Gender Composition of the Florence County Population

NAME	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL FEMALE	% FEMALE	TOTAL MALE	% MALE
Florence County	125,761	66,662	53%	59,099	47%
Unincorporated	81,116	42,270	52%	38,846	48%
Coward	650	327	50%	323	50%
Florence	30,248	16,547	55%	13,701	45%
Johnsonville	1,418	754	53%	664	47%
Lake City	6,478	3,605	56%	2,873	44%
Olanta	613	314	51%	299	49%
Pamplico	1,139	601	53%	538	47%
Quinby	842	438	52%	404	48%
Scranton	942	515	55%	427	45%
Timmonsville	2,315	1,291	56%	1,024	44%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

AGE

In addition to race and gender, age factors may affect the demand for particular public services and provide information for planning infrastructure needs. For example, the age group under 5 may require daycare services, while the age group from 5-17 requires schools, and the 65 and over age group may need a passive recreation area. Age group divisions for the Florence County population are displayed in Table 1-10 and Figure 1-5.

Table 1-10   Population by Age Group (2000)

NAME	TOTAL POPULATION	UNDER 5	5-17	18 - 24	25-64	65 +
Florence County	125,761	8,216	20,437	12,215	66,108	14,837
Unincorporated	81,116	5,299	13,174	8,262	43,593	8,228
Coward	650	49	110	63	353	64
Florence	30,248	1,936	4,736	2,627	15,496	4,557
Johnsonville	1,418	89	247	126	742	175
Lake City	6,478	472	1,202	613	3,064	874
Olanta	613	31	84	45	306	131
Pamplico	1,139	84	212	119	551	142
Quinby	842	41	126	46	455	144
Scranton	942	50	141	72	445	206
Timmonsville	2,315	165	405	242	1,103	316

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Figure 1-5   Florence County Age Distribution
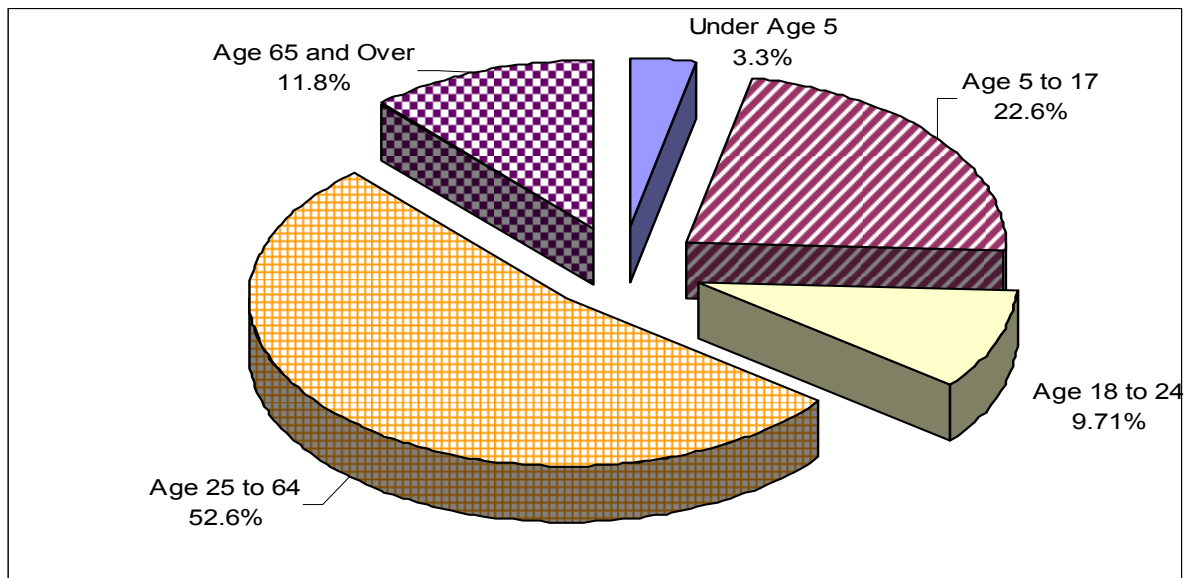
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

The information on age groups is helpful in determining the number of facilities that are needed to meet specific demands in the community, such as schools and recreation facilities. In order to aid better, more specific planning, age groups are defined by Census Tract in Table 1-11 below.

Table 1-11   Age Distribution of Florence County by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACT	TOTAL POPULATION	% UNDER 5	% 5 TO 17	% 18 TO 24	% 25 TO 64	% 65 & OVER
1	6,709	3.73%	23.03%	7.21%	58.27%	7.77%
2.01	2,368	2.83%	22.64%	7.52%	55.11%	11.91%
2.02	5,455	3.23%	19.36%	8.56%	56.41%	12.45%
3	3,782	2.75%	23.37%	7.59%	53.25%	13.04%
4	4,872	3.33%	21.49%	11.62%	54.80%	8.76%
5	5,612	3.65%	20.01%	25.46%	44.42%	6.45%
6	3,647	3.21%	21.31%	6.99%	56.02%	12.48%
7	3,686	3.96%	26.72%	9.88%	47.07%	12.37%
8	4,539	3.26%	26.06%	10.64%	49.00%	11.04%
9	3,417	3.13%	23.00%	9.31%	48.79%	15.77%
10	1,987	2.26%	14.44%	9.66%	43.28%	30.35%
11	4,467	2.98%	19.30%	9.81%	53.08%	14.84%
12	3,146	2.77%	19.80%	6.52%	49.87%	21.04%
13	3,758	2.98%	18.76%	9.71%	54.42%	14.13%
14	6,299	3.08%	20.40%	7.84%	56.01%	12.67%
15.01	7,742	3.33%	23.75%	8.67%	53.67%	10.58%
15.02	4,660	3.54%	23.00%	9.01%	55.79%	8.65%
16.01	4,905	4.04%	27.83%	8.79%	52.15%	7.20%
16.02	5,052	2.91%	19.04%	11.64%	55.64%	12.07%
17	2,456	2.97%	24.02%	7.74%	54.68%	10.59%
18	3,563	3.28%	22.85%	9.29%	52.82%	14.29%
19	6,416	3.69%	25.53%	8.84%	51.50%	10.44%
20	3,782	2.78%	22.10%	8.73%	52.01%	14.38%
22.01	5,992	3.91%	27.59%	9.91%	47.75%	10.85%
22.02	3,348	3.08%	24.85%	9.29%	48.36%	14.43%
23	3,420	3.57%	21.02%	9.42%	56.55%	9.44%
24	4,062	2.98%	24.00%	9.26%	52.14%	11.62%
25	2,781	3.38%	20.75%	8.45%	56.13%	11.29%
26	3,748	2.51%	15.39%	6.27%	41.65%	8.38%

Sources: US Census Bureau, Census 2000, American FactFinder

As more of the demographic age group known as the "baby boomers", age 42 to 60, move into becoming senior citizens, age 65 and over, local governments can expect an increase in the percentage of persons over age 65 (US Census Bureau). Based on the 2000 Census, there are 14,837 individuals in Florence County that are over the age of 65. 41.6% of that population is concentrated in the City of Florence, more specifically in Tracts 10 and 12, which have senior populations of 30.35% and 21.04%, respectively. By 2030, the number of individuals in Florence County over the age of 65 is expected to increase to over 31,000. This is an increase of over 100% in the next 25 years. Therefore, special emphasis should be placed on planning and providing the amenities necessary to support an aging population, as well as other growing areas of the population (See Appendices D-H). Based on statistical and historic data, people are living longer now than in previous generations.   In 1915, the life expectancy in the United States was 54.5 years. This number increased to 77.8 by 2005. The median age has also increased with this trend. In 1915, the median age in the U.S. was 24.1 years. In 2005, that number increased to 36.2 (Internet 2). Florence County is no exception. The table below provides median age projections for Florence and adjacent counties through 2030. Median age projections were not available for adjacent counties after 2015.

Table 1-12   Median Age Projections for Florence and Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Florence	35.56	36.45	37.24	37.68	38.80	39.33	39.48
Clarendon	36.90	38.70	40.11	41.03	-----	-----	-----
Darlington	36.86	38.52	39.74	40.48	-----	-----	-----
Dillon	34.46	35.65	36.48	37.06	-----	-----	-----
Lee	34.57	35.74	36.60	37.33	-----	-----	-----
Marion	34.76	35.69	36.31	36.73	-----	-----	-----
Marlboro	35.69	37.25	38.46	39.33	-----	-----	-----
Williamsburg	33.26	34.35	35.17	35.81	-----	-----	-----

Sources: Woods & Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet (Florence) & S.C. Statistical Abstract, 2005

Furthermore, the Woods and Poole Economics, 2006 Date Pamphlet, provides projections for specific age groups through 2030. This information is provided in the figure below.

Figure 1-6   Population Projection by Age for Florence County through 2030
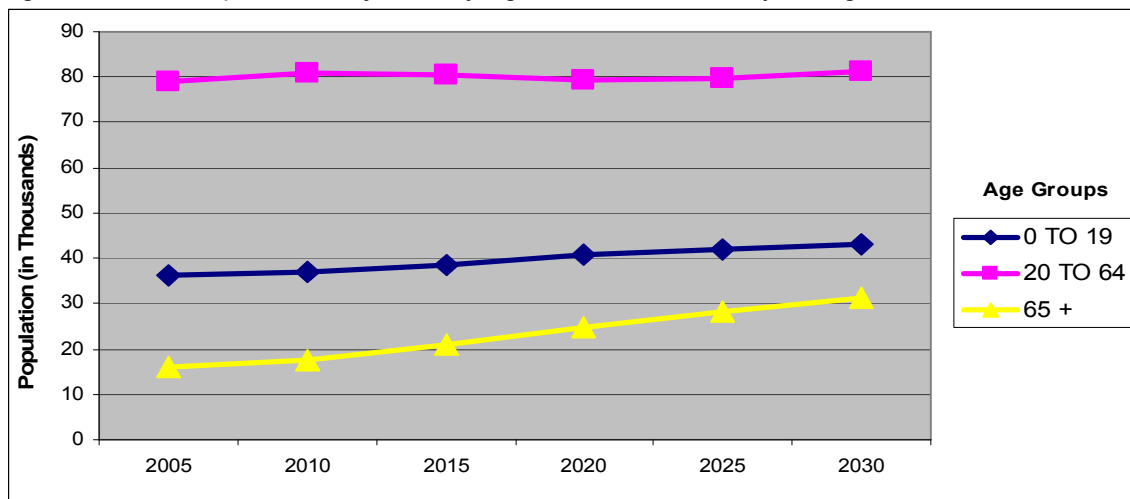
Source: Woods & Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

Based on the figure above, it can be determined that the population that will experience the most growth over the next 25 years is senior citizens. The 0 to 19 age group will experience minimal growth of about 13,000, while the 25-64 age group will experience a fluctuation in growth, declining between 2015 and 2020, but eventually experiencing a 25 year growth of almost 3000.

CHILDREN IN FLORENCE COUNTY

The state of the children in our community is important to understand as they represent the future of Florence County, the State of South Carolina, and the United States. The South Carolina Kids Count is an extensive report developed by the South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics that addresses the state of youth in South Carolina. This information can be accessed through the South Carolina Budget and Control Board.

In 2004, there were 1,842 live births in Florence County. Of these births, 51.2% were White, 47.2% were African American, 1.5% were of another race, and 0.1% were of an unknown race.

From this report, it is explained that in 2003, there were an estimated 32,193 children under age 18 in Florence County. Of these children, 16,153 were White, 15,347 were Black or African American, 694 were other races, and 470 were recorded as Hispanic.

The most recent statistics show that there were 35,010 children under age 18 in 1970. In 2000, this number declined to 32,601. By 2030, it is projected that there will be 39,120 children under 18 in Florence County. While there has been a fluctuation in the under 18 population, it is expected to increase over the next 25 years as represented in the Table below (Woods & Poole).

Figure 1-7   Population Under 18 (1990-2000)
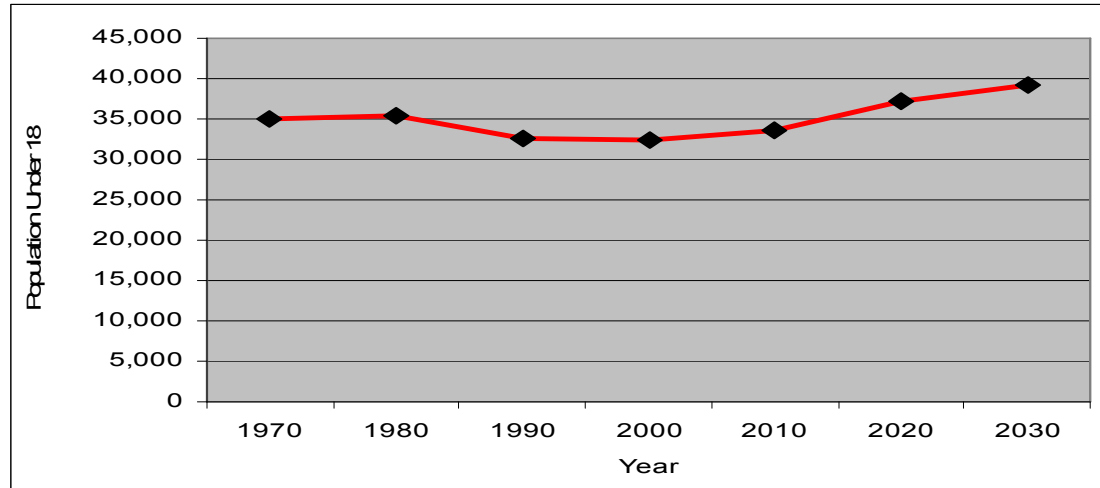
Source: Woods & Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet

For an additional analysis level, in 2003, the 10,645 pre-schoolers under age six comprised 8.3% of the total population.

When reviewing economic status, 7,313 children under the age of 18 lived below the poverty line in 1999, comprising 22.7% of all children in Florence County.   While 9.1% of Whites lived below the poverty line, 36.5% of children of other races were in this category. A rough estimate of child poverty in Florence County in 2003, as calculated by the Census Bureau, was 23.7% for children below the age of 18. However, the average income for families with children is on the rise. In 1999 it was $52,314. In 1989 it was $45,044, and in 1979, it was $40,989.

To review household situation, in 2000, 9,521 children lived with only one parent. This was 34.2% of all children, up from 29.6% in 1990, 20.7% in 1980, and 15.1% in 1970. 17.8% of these were White, while 53.6% were another race.

When looking at child welfare, there were 287 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children in 2003-2004. Of these 287 investigations, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) determined that 80 were reported to be abused or neglected: 27.2% for physical abuse, 14.3% for sexual abuse, 46.9% for physical neglect, 2.7% for educational neglect, 3.4% for medical neglect, 4.8% for threat of harm for physical/sexual abuse, and 0.7% for other types of abuse.

Moreover, as of June 2004, 40 children lived in foster care.

In 2003, 106 babies were born to mothers younger than age 18. This constituted 5.4% of all babies born in the County. Births to single mothers have increased steadily over the last four decades. In 2003, 770 babies, or 39.2% of all babies in Florence County, were recorded as being born to single mothers. In 1990, the percentage was 33.7% and in 1960 was 12.3%.

When evaluating the infant population, it is important to review several key statistics. In 2003, 27.2% of pregnant women in Florence County received less than adequate prenatal care: 187 or

17.9% of Whites and 348 or 37.7% of other races. In that same year, 22 women received no prenatal care, leading to increased health risks for newborns. Also in 2003, 255 or 13% of all babies in the county were born with low birth weight: 10.4% were White and 15.9% were of other races. Over the three-year period from 2001 to 2003, 17 White infants and 46 African American and infants of another race died before age one. However, the infant mortality rate has decreased significantly in the last 15 years.

In Florence County between, 2001 and 2003, there was an 11.0 infant mortality rating in Florence County, meaning that approximately 11 infants died for every 1,000 born between 2001 and 2003. This has Florence ranked 32nd in the state for infant mortality rates. In comparison, Greenville County ranks first in the state with only 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 births between, 2001 and 2003.

It is important to pay special attention to the youth and children in Florence County when planning for the future, as they will have a significant impact on the community. Negative trends, such as lack of prenatal care, low birth weight, and abuse among children should be addressed in order to create a better life for the future leaders of our county, state, and nation.

SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

EDUCATION

The education level of a population is an important factor that affects the quality of family life, community health, and the stability and growth of the economy. Education is the vehicle that promotes community growth. Those individuals with higher education levels tend to earn higher salaries and thus demand quality housing and services, which will likely have a direct impact on land use and development. Furthermore, post-high school education is an indicator of the community's preparation to attract and support industry and cultural opportunities. This is due partly to industries who seek out areas in which they can find a valuable and knowledgeable workforce (1997 Comprehensive Plan). The education level of the adult population in Florence County and adjacent Counties is given in Table 1-13 below and is shown in Figure 1-8.

Table 1-13   Educational Attainment for Persons 18 and Over (2000)

COUNTY	TOTAL IN AGE GROUP	LESS THAN 9TH GRADE	9TH - 12TH GRADE NO DIPLOMA	HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE	SOME COLLEGE NO DEGREE	ASSOC. DEGREE	BACH. DEGREE	GRAD. OR PROF. DEGREE
Florence	**93,175**	**8,027**	**17,082**	**28,858**	**18,125**	**5,201**	**10,845**	**5,037**
Clarendon	24,097	2,876	5,684	8,300	3,629	1,132	1,693	783
Darlington	49,704	5,227	10,129	16,217	9,125	2,841	4,347	1,818
Dillon	21,792	3,128	5,512	7,368	3,014	976	1,195	599
Lee	14,954	2,006	3,801	5,264	2,094	562	888	339
Marion	25,666	2,822	5,620	9,747	4,048	1,042	1,661	726
Marlboro	21,261	2,762	5,732	7,417	2,927	845	906	672
Sumter	75,212	6,330	13,163	22,807	17,359	4,919	7,333	3,301
Williamsburg	26,553	2,813	6,492	9,247	4,056	1,145	1,983	817

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 & SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Figure 1-8   Florence County Educational Attainment
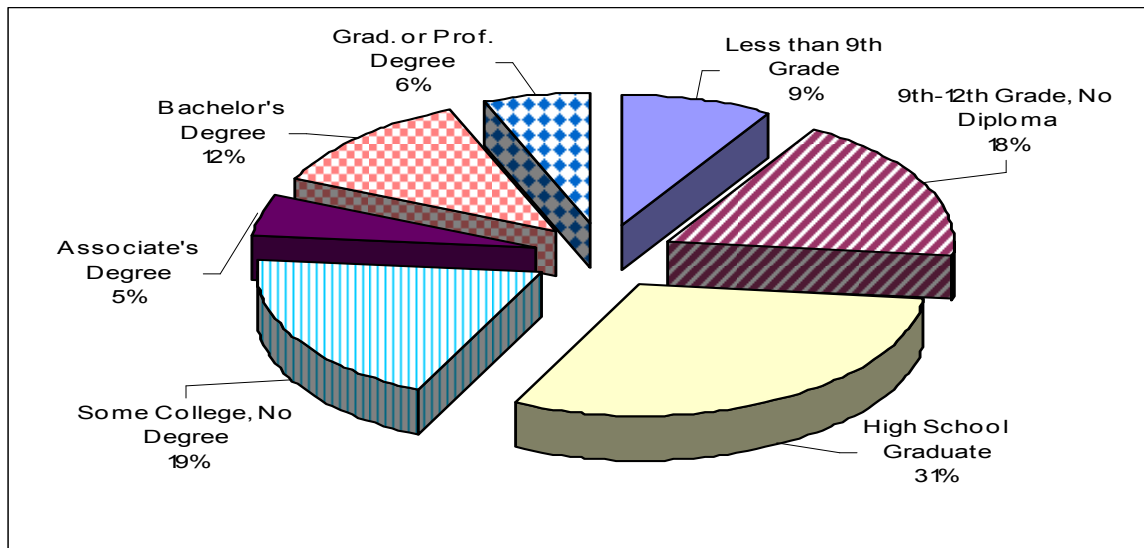
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Regionally, Florence County ranks first in persons over 18 with a Bachelor's Degree (12.3%) and first for those with a Graduate or Professional Degree (6.1%). The State average for individuals 18 or over with a Bachelor's Degree is 12.6%. For the same group of individuals, the percentage with a Master's Degree is 6.0%. Therefore, one can see that Florence County is either just at or slightly above the State average in these categories. In contrast, 8.6% of Florence County residents age 18 or over have less than a high school education. This is considerably greater than the State average of 7.1%. Therefore, while many Florence residents are seeking higher education, there are still many residents that are not completing high school. The Table below provides information on high school graduation for Florence County.

Table 1-14   Florence County High School Graduation Rates (2004-2006)

SCHOOL	2004 GRADUATION RATE	2005 GRADUATION RATE	2006 GRADUATION RATE
DISTRICT 1			
South Florence	79.4%	67.2%	58.1%
West Florence	76.7%	71.0%	73.7%
Wilson	60.1%	58.6%	64.0%
DISTRICT 2			
Hannah-Pamplico	88.6%	85.9%	92.2%
DISTRICT 3			
Lake City	71.4%	79.5%	58.7%
DISTRICT 4			
Timmonsville	64.4%	64.1%	72.2%
DISTRICT 5			
Johnsonville	80.9%	81.6%	71.2%
Yearly Average	**73.3%**	**70.1%**	**65.5%**

Source: SC Department of Education (Internet 5)

As indicated in the Table above, School District 2 has the highest percentage of graduates for all three years examined, including an impressive 92.2% rating in 2006. In contrast, in 2006 South Florence High School, located in School District 1, experienced the lowest graduation rate at 58.1%. It is also noteworthy that since 2004, five of the eight high schools in Florence County have experienced a decline in graduation rate. This trend has resulted in a decline in the overall

graduation rate in Florence County. In 2004, Florence County experienced a 73.3% graduation rate, compared to 65.5% in 2006. Based on this information, special attention should be paid to identify methods to change the current trend.

INCOME

The income level of residents of a county or municipality is an indicator of economic prosperity. The median family income levels for Florence County and adjacent Counties are given in Table 1-15 below.

Table 1-15   Median Family Income for Florence & Adjacent Counties (2000)

JURISDICTION	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME 1989	% CHANGE 1989-1999	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME 1999	STATE RANKING 1999
Florence	$28,718	44.8	$41,274	**19th**
Clarendon	$21,207	53.8	$33,951	39th
Darlington	$26,754	37.3	$37,662	31st
Dillon	$22,144	45.0	$32,690	41st
Lee	$22,201	48.1	$34,209	40th
Marion	$21,873	48.8	$32,932	43rd
Marlboro	$22,231	47.2	$32,019	42nd
Sumter	$25,683	48.6	$38,970	24th
Williamsburg	$21,985	31.5	$30,379	44th
South Carolina	$30,797	43.6	$44,227	-----

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

Florence County is shown as having the highest median family income in the Pee Dee region at $41,274, which also ranks Florence County 19th out of the 46 South Carolina counties. Therefore, these salaries not only indicate that Florence County is the region's economic leader, but also show that there is still room for regional and statewide improvement. The median family income for the State of South Carolina in 2000 was $44,227, which is $3,000 higher than that of Florence County. For 2006, the estimated median family income for Florence County is $48,000, while the State average is expected to be $52,900. Thus, while Florence County is expected to improve, they are not expected to meet or surpass the State average. Table 1-16 below is a breakdown of income by Census Tract, making it simple to identify areas of low, moderate, medium, and high income.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table 1-16   Median Household Income of Florence County Census Tracts

Census Tract	Tract Income Level	% Below Poverty Line	2000 Tract Median Family Income	2006 Estimated Tract Median Family Income
1	Upper	2.95	$61,993	$74,261
2.01	Upper	8.46	$69,583	$83,352
2.02	Upper	6.15	$53,214	$63,744
3	Middle	16.00	$39,333	$47,117
4	Middle	12.84	$41,699	$49,954
5	Middle	16.84	$35,417	$42,427
6	Upper	7.38	$53,258	$63,797
7	Low	46.32	$16,283	$19,507
8	Moderate	32.42	$25,341	$30,355
9	Moderate	30.88	$21,488	$25,742
10	Moderate	28.19	$30,268	$36,259
11	Middle	21.56	$35,114	$42,062
12	Upper	5.19	$72,902	$87,331
13	Middle	10.32	$46,403	$55,584
14	Upper	3.88	$61,401	$73,550
15.01	Middle	11.13	$46,148	$55,282
15.02	Middle	10.26	$43,510	$52,118
16.01	Middle	14.93	$41,596	$49,829
16.02	Middle	9.80	$44,206	$52,954
17	Middle	13.76	$39,129	$46,872
18	Middle	19.52	$37,451	$44,861
19	Middle	19.55	$36,117	$43,262
20	Middle	21.94	$34,400	$41,208
22.01	Moderate	31.21	$28,273	$33,869
22.02	Middle	22.43	$45,428	$54,418
23	Moderate	15.50	$30,174	$36,144
24	Middle	18.74	$35,135	$42,086
25	Middle	18.31	$39,844	$47,731
26	Moderate	21.33	$31,744	$38,026

Source: Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) Census Report, 2006

As indicated in the Table above, five Tracts are considered to have an upper income level or a median family income of greater that $53,000. These are Tracts 1, 2.01, 2.02, 6, and 12, all of which are located in West Florence, with the exception of Tract 6 being located in South Florence. By 2006, it is estimated that the upper income level households will have a median family income of greater than $63,000. In contrast, Tract 7 is the only area that has a low income level, with a median family income of $16,283. The majority of the county is considered to be in the middle income level, between $34,000 and $47,000 (See Appendix B).

POVERTY

According to the 2000 Census, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was $19,971 in 2005. By definition, the poverty level identifies individuals and families that do not receive an adequate income amount to provide basic living necessities. In 2005, 15.6% of South Carolinians were living below the poverty line. Similarly, 13.3% of the United States was below the poverty line. Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, South Carolina ranks 11th in residents living below the poverty line, meaning that only 10 states have a higher poverty rating that South Carolina. New Hampshire ranks best at 51st, with only 7.5% of residents living in poverty. The most recent Census information from 2000 indicates that over 16% of Florence County's population is living below the poverty level. The picture for the remaining counties in the Pee Dee is not much better. While more recent statistics are not yet available, Table 1-17 gives the

poverty levels and percentages for the State and the Pee Dee counties in both 1989 and 1999, and the percentage change over that 10 year period.

Table 1-17   Percent of County Population in Poverty (1989-1999)

COUNTY	# IN POVERTY 1989	% IN POVERTY 1989	# IN POVERTY 1999	% IN POVERTY 1999	% CHANGE 1989-1999
Florence	22,500	20.1%	20,063	16.4%	-10.8%
Clarendon	8,160	29.0%	7,164	23.1%	-12.2%
Darlington	12,043	19.9%	13,426	20.3%	11.5%
Dillon	8,114	28.1%	7,311	24.2%	-9.9%
Lee	5,410	29.6%	4,009	21.8%	-25.9%
Marion	9,613	28.6%	8,117	23.2%	-15.6%
Marlboro	7,640	26.6%	5,882	21.7%	-23.0%
Sumter	19,550	20.6%	16,451	16.2%	-15.9%
Williamsburg	10,487	28.7%	10,294	27.9%	-1.8%

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

Figure 1-9   Poverty Numbers for Florence and Adjacent Counties (1989-1999)
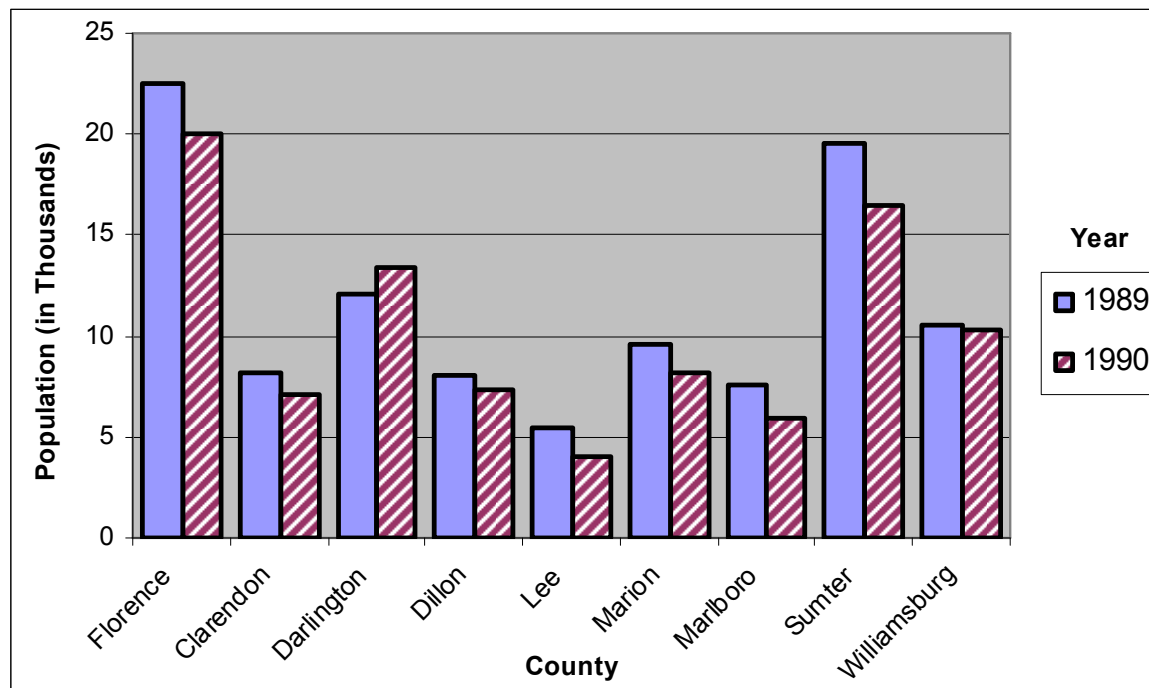
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Compared to the State percentage, all of the Pee Dee counties reflect a higher figure for poverty within their populations. In South Carolina, there are 17 counties with poverty percentages greater than 20%. Seven of these counties are located in the Pee Dee. This appears to be a regional condition that may require the cooperation of the Pee Dee Counties and municipalities, as well as state level support, to address the larger socioeconomic implications of this problem.

Moreover, the poverty picture becomes more focused as components of the population are isolated for individual analysis. The following table gives the poverty status of the County's population by race and Hispanic origin.

Table 1-18   Florence County Poverty Levels by Race & Ethnicity

Ethnic Group	Total Below Poverty	Percent Below Poverty
White	5,802	8.1%
Black	13,721	28.7%
Hispanic*	369	33.3%
Other Races	540	19.5%

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

(*Persons identifying themselves as ethnically Hispanic may be of any race.)

The largest population in poverty in Florence County exists among persons identifying themselves as Hispanic. The 33.3% poverty figure indicates that one out of every three persons identified as Hispanic in the County is living in poverty.

To look at more details for Florence County, Table 1-16 (p. 21) provides the percentage of individuals living below the poverty line divided by Census Tract (Appendix C). The highest percentages of those in poverty are located in Tract 7, South Florence, with 46.32% of individuals in this area living below the poverty line (Appendix J). Other Tracts indicating high percentages of poverty are: 8, 9, 10, 11, and 20, near the City of Florence; 22.01 and 22.02 in Lake City; and 26 in Timmonsville; all of which have poverty percentages of greater than 20% (Appendix K). Tract 1 has the lowest percentage of people in poverty at 2.95% (Appendix L).

MORTALITY

The mortality rate is a measure of the number of deaths occurring in a community over a specific period of time. Although, death is a naturally occurring event and all communities will reflect some measure of mortality, relatively high mortality rates may indicate distressed health, social, or living conditions of a particular community. The mortality rates as reported by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for each County is given in terms of number of deaths per 1,000 residents. Mortality rates for Florence County and its neighbors are given in Table 1-19 below.

Table 1-19   Mortality Rates for Florence and Neighboring Counties (2004)

COUNTY	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	MORTALITY RATE	STATE RANKING
Florence	1,266	10.5	11th
Clarendon	342	10.2	19th
Darlington	746	10.3	15th
Dillon	356	11.5	4th
Lee	227	11.0	7th
Marion	373	9.9	23rd
Marlboro	306	10.8	9th
Sumter	942	8.7	35th
Williamsburg	424	11.1	6th

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

The table above shows that Florence County had a mortality rate of 10.5, in 2004. This rate indicates that approximately 10.5 residents died for every 1,000 residents in the County during 2004. Thus, with a State mortality rate of 8.8, Florence County is above the State as a whole. Florence County ranked 11th, indicating that our mortality rate is better than only 10 counties in South Carolina. Berkeley County ranked the highest (46th) with a mortality rate of 6.3. Of the adjacent counties, Sumter ranked best (35th) with a rate of 8.7. In contrast, in 2004, there were 1,842 live births in Florence County. Therefore, in 2004, there were more births than deaths in Florence County.

The mortality rate in Florence County may be affected by the availability, quality, and level of health care received by residents, as well as congenital health conditions and lifestyle decisions of residents. The information provided through studies of the incidents of death within a community may be helpful in identifying factors that can be controlled and may reduce the area's mortality rate.

DISABLED POPULATION

The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental, or emotional condition. Individuals with disabilities may find it difficult to perform daily activities such as walking, bathing, climbing stairs, dressing, learning, or remembering (American Community Survey). However, while a disability *may* impede the ability to work, many individuals classified as disabled, are employed.

Table 1-20 below gives the defined population and the disability percentages for Florence County and the neighboring counties. The defined population includes all non-institutionalized individuals within the ages of 21 and 64. The table also indicates the percentage of disabled citizens that are actively employed.

Table 1-20   Disabled Population Comparisons with Neighboring Counties

COUNTY	CIVILIAN, NON-INST. PERSONS AGE 21 TO 64	NUMBER WITH DISABILITY	PERCENT WITH DISABILITY	PERCENT OF DISABLED EMPLOYED
Florence	71,622	17,907	25.0%	51.5%
Clarendon	17,068	5,486	32.1%	51.6%
Darlington	38,739	10,818	27.9%	52.8%
Dillon	16,804	5,369	32.0%	53.6%
Lee	10,144	2,434	24.0%	45.5%
Marion	19,654	5,601	28.5%	49.5%
Marlboro	15,095	4,386	29.1%	47.4%
Sumter	54,142	13,102	24.2%	51.1%
Williamsburg	19,916	6,668	33.5%	49.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Florence County has 25% of the defined population with some type of recognized disability. This amounts to a total of almost 18,000 persons in the county with one or more disabilities. Most of the adjacent counties are also in the 24% to 30% range in terms of disabled persons within the defined population group. Of the disabled population in Florence County, 51.5% are actively employed. The disability percentages for the municipalities in Florence County are shown in Table 1-21 below.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table 1-21   Disabled Populations within Florence County Municipalities

JURISDICTION	CIVILIAN, NON-INST. PERSONS AGE 21 TO 64	NUMBER WITH DISABILITY	PERCENTAGE WITH DISABILITY	PERCENT EMPLOYED
Florence County	71,622	17,907	25.0%	51.5%
Unincorporated	47,307	11,633	24.6%	N/A
City of Florence	16,628	4,062	24.4%	51.7%
Johnsonville	824	195	23.7%	48.2%
Lake City	3,389	981	28.9%	39.4%
Coward	369	125	33.9%	56.8%
Olanta	334	153	45.8%	29.4%
Pamplico	564	157	27.8%	44.6%
Quinby	512	130	25.4%	66.9%
Scranton	451	124	27.5%	31.5%
Timmonsville	1,244	347	27.9%	54.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

While the disability percentages for the non-institutionalized population ages 21-64 in Florence County municipalities range from 23.7% in Johnsonville to 45.8% in Olanta, 48.5% of the disabled population in Florence County is unemployed. Thus, any effort to facilitate and support the disabled population in functioning and working in the County will benefit the community. Appropriate measures and existing policies should be supported to increase efforts to permit the disabled population to participate in the labor force and to cope with their disabilities.

FLORENCE COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS

While numerous details about housing in Florence County will be described in the Housing Element of this Comprehensive Plan, the information below is an overall review of the households in the County. The composition and demographics of Florence County households provides information related to community needs and services. Florence County had 51,836 total housing units in 2000, 47,147 of which were occupied. For the same year, the State had 1,753,670 housing units. Of these 1.7 million units, 87.5% were occupied. Currently, the average number of persons per household in Florence County is estimated at 2.6 persons. When looking at the recent past, the average number of persons per household in Florence County in 1990 was 2.8, which fell to 2.6 by the 2000 Census. Overall, the number of families in Florence County in 2000 was 33,798.

Table 1-22 offers a variety of characteristics of households in Florence and adjacent counties, including number of households and average persons per household.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table 1-22   Household Growth of Florence County & Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS 1990	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS 2000	% CHANGE	AVG. PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD IN 1990	AVG. PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD IN 2000
Florence	40,217	47,147	17.2%	2.8	2.6
Clarendon	9,544	11,812	23.8%	3.0	2.6
Darlington	21,999	25,793	17.2%	2.8	2.6
Dillon	9,887	11,199	13.3%	2.9	2.7
Lee	6,054	6,886	13.7%	3.0	2.7
Marion	11,766	13,301	13.0%	2.9	2.6
Marlboro	10,163	10,478	3.1%	2.8	2.6
Sumter	32,723	37,728	15.3%	2.9	2.7
Williamsburg	12,108	13,714	13.3%	3.0	2.7
S.C.	1,258,044	1,533,854	21.9%	2.4	2.5

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room intended for occupancy (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000). According to the 2000 Census, 73% of Florence County's housing units are owner-occupied. This is slightly higher than the State percentage of 72.2%. Adjacent Counties owner-occupied percentages range from 69.5% in Sumter to 80.5% in Williamsburg. Table 1-23 provides a breakdown of this information.

Table 1-23   Housing Units: Owner vs. Renter Occupancy (2000)

COUNTY	TOTAL UNITS	# OF OCCUPIED UNITS	OWNER OCCUPIED	% OWNER OCCUPIED	RENTER OCCUPIED	% RENTER OCCUPIED
Florence	51,836	47,147	34,415	73.0%	12,732	27.0%
Clarendon	15,303	11,812	9,348	79.1%	2,464	20.9%
Darlington	28,942	25,793	19,854	77.0%	5,939	23.0%
Dillon	12,679	11,199	8,064	72.0%	3,135	28.0%
Lee	7,670	6,886	5,467	79.4%	1,419	20.6%
Marion	15,143	13,301	9,771	73.5%	3,530	26.5%
Marlboro	11,894	10,478	7,419	70.8%	3,059	29.2%
Sumter	41,751	37,728	26,217	69.5%	11,511	30.5%
Williamsburg	15,552	13,714	11,041	80.5%	2,673	19.5%
S.C.	1,753,670	1,533,854	1,107,617	72.2%	426,237	27.8%

Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

Over the next 25 years, the population of Florence County is expected to increase by an additional 21,800 people, which equates to an additional 8,300 homes in the County, assuming 2.6 persons per household, the current average.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections are estimates of the future population level based on current trends and other available indicators of change for a particular community. Population projections are planning tools which should be adjusted periodically to reflect new information affecting the community's future population. Table 1-24 below gives population projections for Florence and adjacent counties in five year increments beginning in 2000, with the 2000 figures being Census counts.

Table 1-24   Population Projections for Florence County & Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Florence	125,761	131,100	135,590	140,100	144,850	149,940	155,530
Clarendon	32,502	33,190	34,540	35,870	37,210	38,550	39,670
Darlington	67,394	68,170	69,520	70,880	72,230	73,590	74,750
Dillon	30,722	30,820	30,880	30,950	31,010	31,070	31,150
Lee	20,119	20,500	20,970	21,440	21,920	22,390	22,830
Marion	35,466	35,300	35,750	36,190	36,650	37,100	37,340
Marlboro	28,818	28,120	27,480	26,840	26,190	25,550	24,890
Sumter	104,646	108,820	112,780	116,740	120,700	124,660	128,690
Williamsburg	37,217	35,910	35,770	35,640	35,500	35,370	34,840
S.C.	4,012,012	4,229,990	4,458,930	4,687,920	4,916,870	5,145,850	5,371,150

Source: S.C. Statistical Abstract, 2005 & Woods and Poole Economics, 2006 Data Pamphlet (Florence data)

The population of Florence County is expected to increase by an average of approximately 3.0% every five years through 2030. Figure 1-10 below shows the growth of Florence County over the next 25 years. The projected growth of the State is similar in nature to the projected growth of Florence County. It is also noteworthy that of the Pee Dee Counties, Florence is projected to experience the largest percentage of growth at 23.7%.

Figure 1-10   Florence County Population Projections
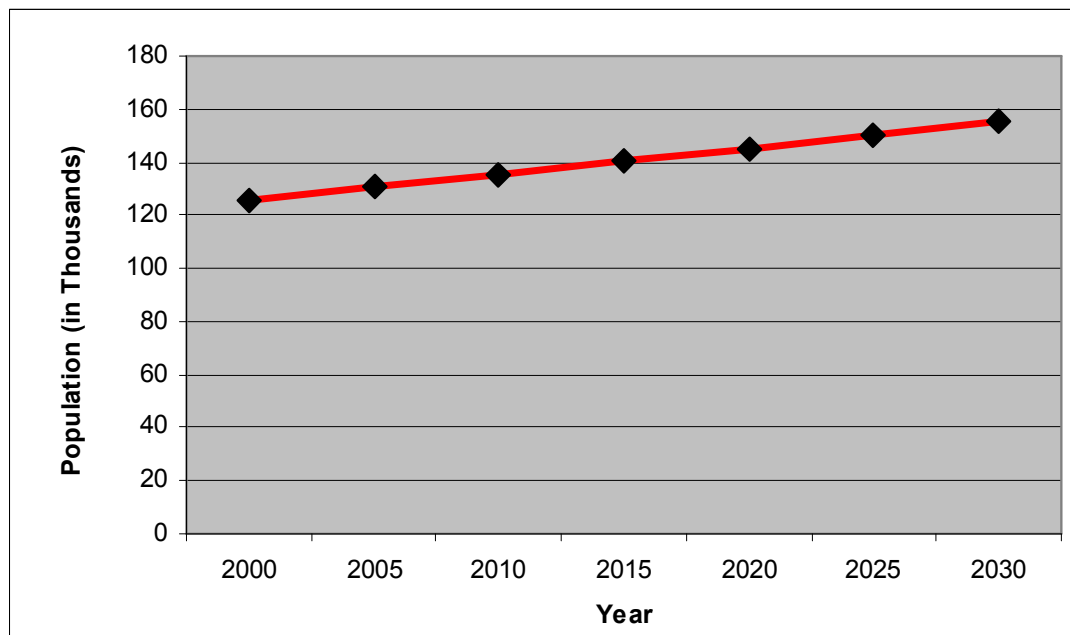
Source: SC Statistical Abstract, 2005

SUMMARY

GENERAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION

Since its establishment in 1888, Florence County has experienced relatively healthy population growth in comparison to other Pee Dee counties. The nine incorporated municipalities in Florence County account for approximately 35.5% of the total population, with about 64.5% distributed among the unincorporated area of the County. According to the 2000 Census, 58% of the population is urban and 42% rural, with the majority of the urban area clustered around the

City of Florence. Additionally, the population is expected to increase by 24% over the next 25 years to just over 155,000 people.

RACE/ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND AGE CHARACTERISTICS
The major racial groups in Florence County, in terms of size, are White at 58.5% and Black or African-American at 39.5%. There are also residents of Native American heritage (0.2%), Asian or Pacific Islander descent (0.7%) and Hispanic identification (1.1%) throughout the County. Over the next 25 years, the Black or African American population is expected to increase by 56.7%. In addition, the Native American population is expected to increase 160%, while the Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations are expected to increase 921% and 653%, respectively. The White population in Florence County is projected to increase, but by a smaller margin at 13.8%. In terms of gender, females outnumber males countywide by a ratio of 1.13 to 1.0 (53.0% female to 47% male). This trend is expected to continue as the population increases.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS
Education, income, mortality, and poverty levels, are all pieces of the socio-economic composition of Florence County. County residents over the age of 25, having less than a ninth grade education is at 9.6%. For the same age group in Florence County, those with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 18.7%, which is close to the State level of 20.4%. Among adjacent Counties, Florence had the highest median family income for 2003 at $41,274. However, this is still below the State's median family income of $44,227. Moreover, the levels of poverty in Florence and adjacent counties are significantly higher than that of the State. Florence County has a poverty level of 16.3%, while South Carolina's is 13.8%. Four of the nine municipalities in Florence County have poverty levels greater than 20.0%. The County's mortality rate for 2003 was 7.6 deaths per 1,000 residents, or 1,266 deaths. This exceeds the State mortality rate of 8.8.

DISABLED POPULATION
Florence County has 25% of its non-institutionalized population between the ages of 21 and 64 considered disabled. Of this section of the population, 48.5% are prevented from working because of their disability. Of the nine municipalities in the County, Olanta experiences the highest percentage of a disabled population between the ages of 21 and 64 at 45.8%, meaning that almost half of the 334 residents, age 21-64, in Olanta are disabled.

FLORENCE COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS
The 2000 Census reported 51,836 housing units in Florence County, with the average number of persons per household at 2.59. This number represents a 20% increase in the number of housing units since the 1990 Census. By 2030, this number is expected to increase to 59,690, which is a 15.2% increase in the number of households in the County. Currently, 73% of the housing units in Florence County are occupied. Additional information about Florence County housing can be found in the Housing Element of this Comprehensive Plan.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS
According to the 2000 Census, Florence County has 125,761 residents and ranks 11th out of 46 counties in South Carolina, meaning that it is the 11th largest County in South Carolina. By the year 2030, Florence County's population is anticipated to increase to approximately 155,530 residents. This is an addition of 29,769 residents over a 25 year period, or a growth of 23.7%, the largest of all Pee Dee Counties. The median age for Florence County will also rise from the 35.5 level reported with the 2000 Census to 39.48 by the year 2030.

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

GOALS AND IMPLEMETATION STRATEGIES

The goals of the Population Element seek to promote an atmosphere of cooperation among residents, officials and local government staff; promote orderly growth which benefits the County residents, is considerate of County resources and enhances community character; to promote a higher quality of life for all County residents; and cooperate with neighboring counties in addressing common issues.

GOAL 1
Implement smart growth strategies for densely populated Census Tracts to expand more rural areas, while continuing to meet the needs and goals of the communities and residents. Densely populated Tracts include 2.02, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and are all located in the City of Florence. The more rural Tracts are 4, 16.02, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 25, and are distributed throughout the County.

Implementation Strategy: Incorporate resident needs and desires and professional planning expertise to create a growth strategy that benefits the entire County.

Time Frame: Ten years. Hopefully, before the next Comprehensive Plan is updated, growth will be more evenly distributed among all areas of the County.

GOAL 2
Ensure that the population of Florence County is leveraged as a tool for economic and other development.

Implementation Strategy: Encourage the Florence County Economic Development Partnership to use Florence County population data as an enticement for economic development.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 3
Accommodate the growing population by providing the appropriate infrastructure and facilities.

Implementation Strategy: By 2030, the population of Florence County is expected to increase by almost 30,000 residents, or 23.7%. Therefore, the County must ensure that necessary resources are provided, while continuing to protect green areas and natural resources. Special attention must be paid to the Land Use Element in order to accommodate additional residents.

Time Frame: 25 years

GOAL 4
Reduce the number of families and individuals that are currently living in poverty by 10%.

Implementation Strategy: Improve educational attainment, provide affordable housing, and continued economic development.

Time Frame: 5 years

GOAL 5
Improve the accessibility of countywide facilities for disabled persons.

Implementation Strategy: Florence County and its municipalities should continue to upgrade facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Updates should occur

after each review by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The most recent review was conducted in October of 2003. The County continues to work with DOJ on continued compliance.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 6
Improve the support of the working disabled.

Implementation Strategy: Identify improvement opportunities related to current services provided to the working disabled, and encourage businesses to hire eligible and qualified working disabled persons. Include consideration of tax credits and other incentives for participating businesses.

Time Frame: 10 years

GOAL 7
Improve the graduation rate of high school aged residents in Florence County to 75%.

Implementation Strategy: Provide schools with the capacity to improve teaching and learning, and pass students based on their mastery of a particular subject, rather than time accrued in the classroom.

Time Frame: 5 years

GOAL 8
Reduce the mortality rate in Florence County.

Implementation Strategy: In order to reduce deaths in Florence County, residents should be educated on living a healthy, active lifestyle, residents should be provided with walking/biking trails, and road conditions throughout the County must be constantly improved to prevent traffic fatalities.

Time Frame: 10 years

GOAL 9
Plan for the senior citizens in the future by creating passive recreation facilities and better neighborhood designs that are close to those facilities that are utilized by the aging population.

Implementation Strategy: In order to better plan for the growing senior citizen population in Florence County, passive recreation areas should be created in areas where seniors are concentrated, specifically in Census Tracts 10 and 12. Furthermore, special attention should be paid to developing nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and/or neighborhoods in areas near the facilities that are required and utilized by the senior citizens in Florence County.

Time Frame: 10 years

REFERENCES

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000. Washington, DC. United States Department of Commerce, 2000.

2. Bureau of the Census. <u>2005 Statistical Abstract of the United States</u>, Washington, DC. United States Department of Commerce, 2005.

3. Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. 2006 Data Pamphlet, Washington, DC. Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., January 2006.
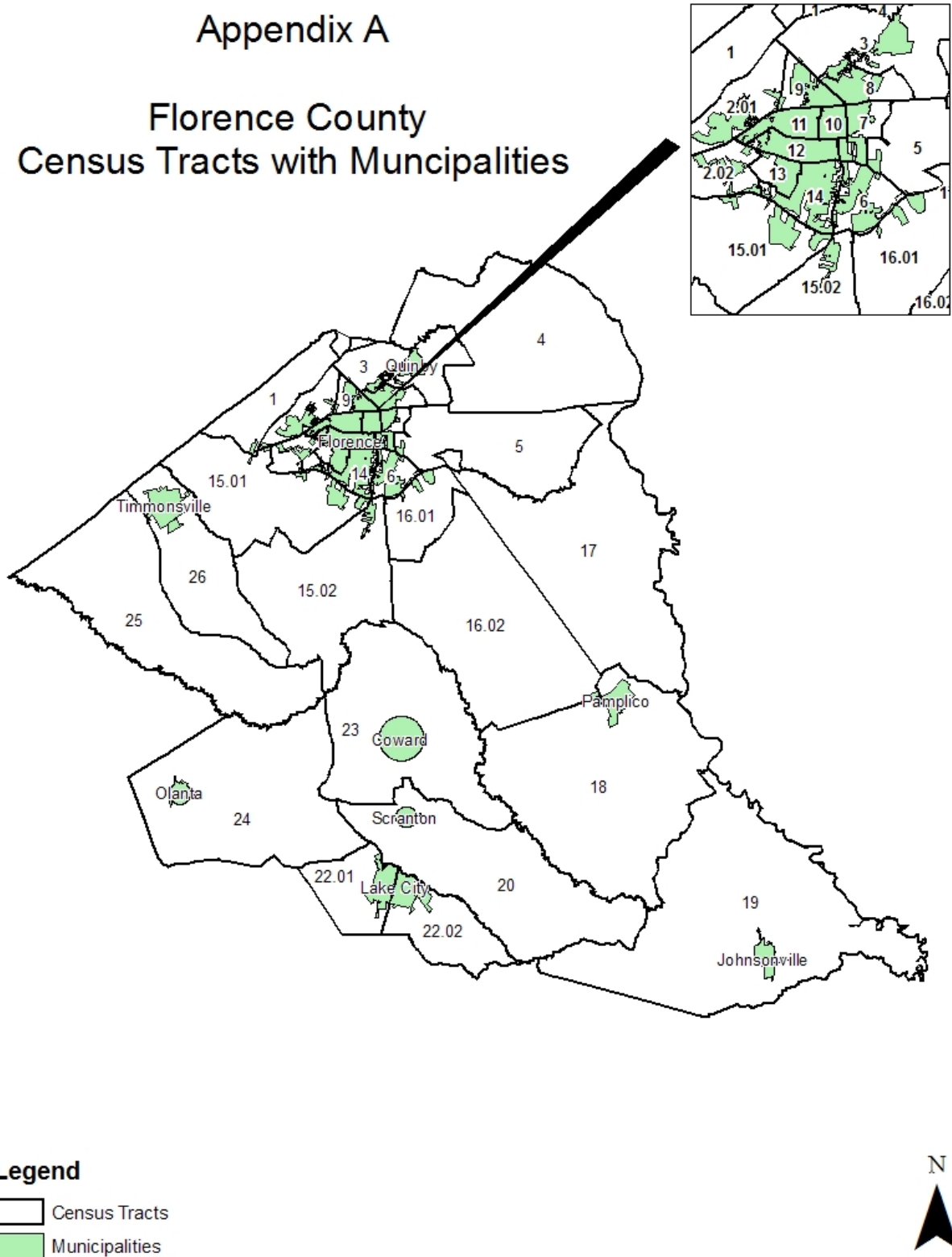
Internet Sources

1. "History of Florence". Accessed at http://www.florenceco.org/GeneralInformation/History/default3.htm October 11, 2006

2. "Through the Years". Accessed at www.thestate.com. October 17, 2006.

3. Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Accessed at http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/. October 20, 2006.

4. "South Carolina Kids Count". Accessed at www.sckidscount.org. November 4, 2006.

5. School Report Cards. S.C. Department of Education.   Accessed at http://ed.sc.gov/topics/researchandstats/schoolreportcard/ . February 22, 2007.
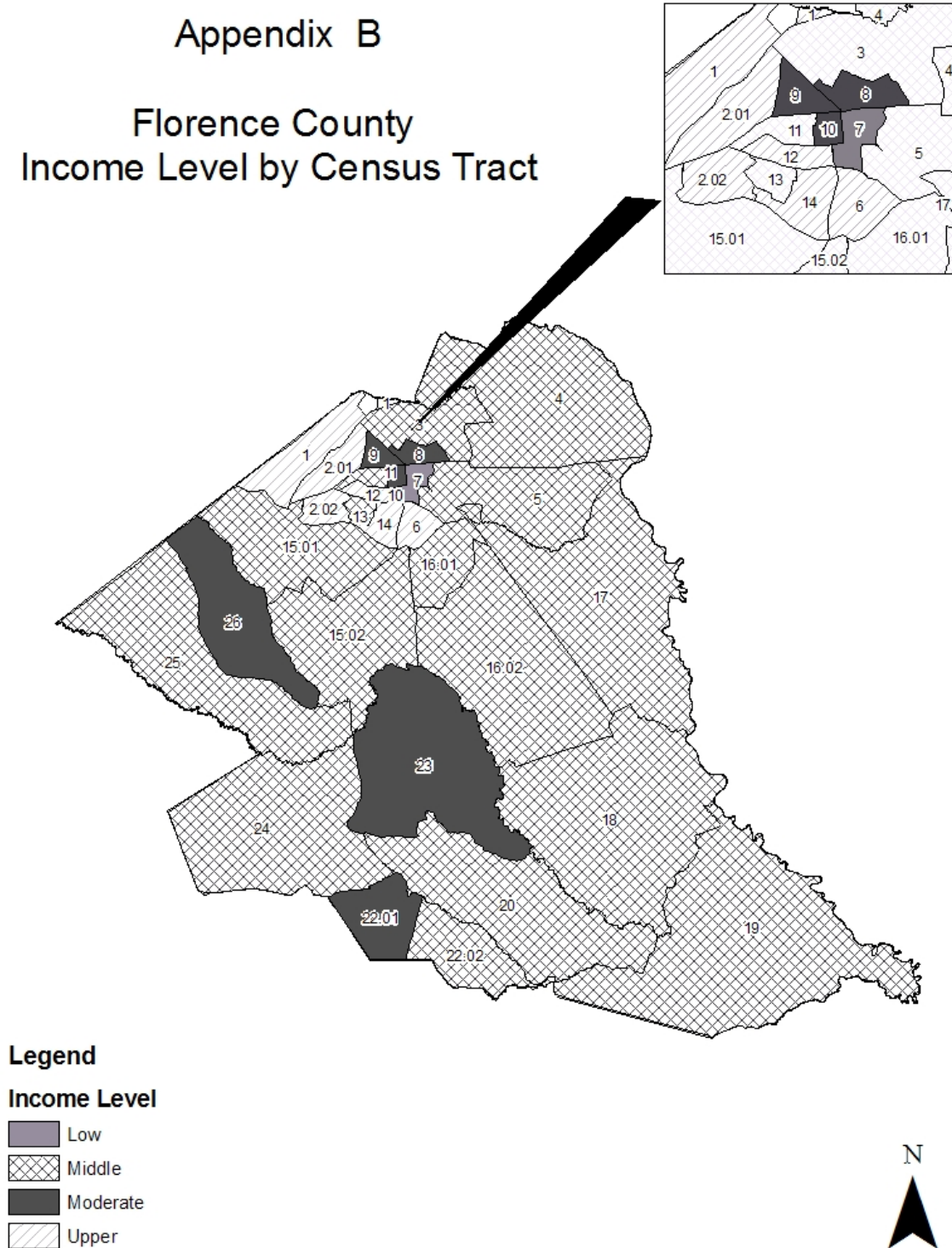
LIST OF APPENDICES

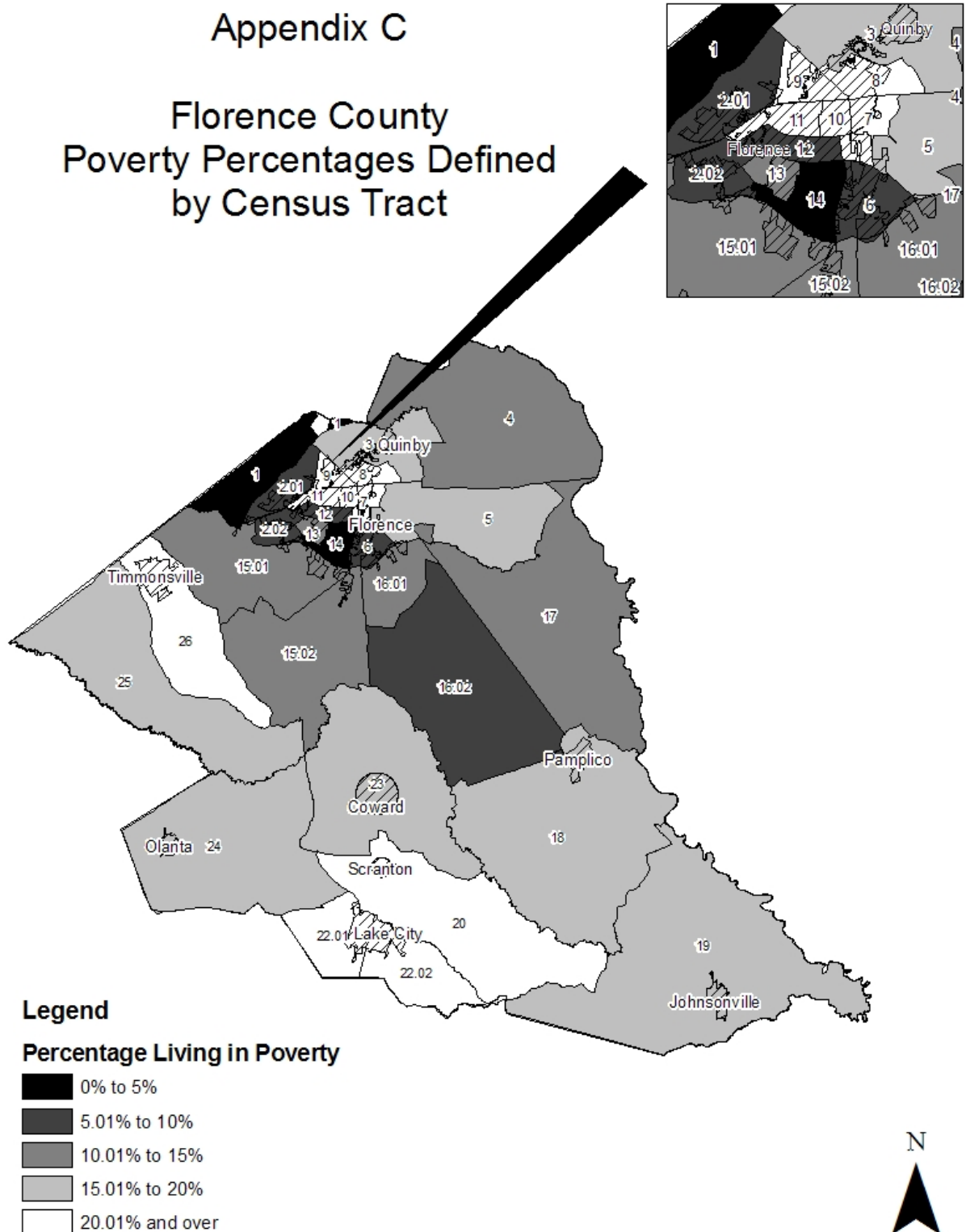Appendix A   Florence County Census Tracts with Municipalities

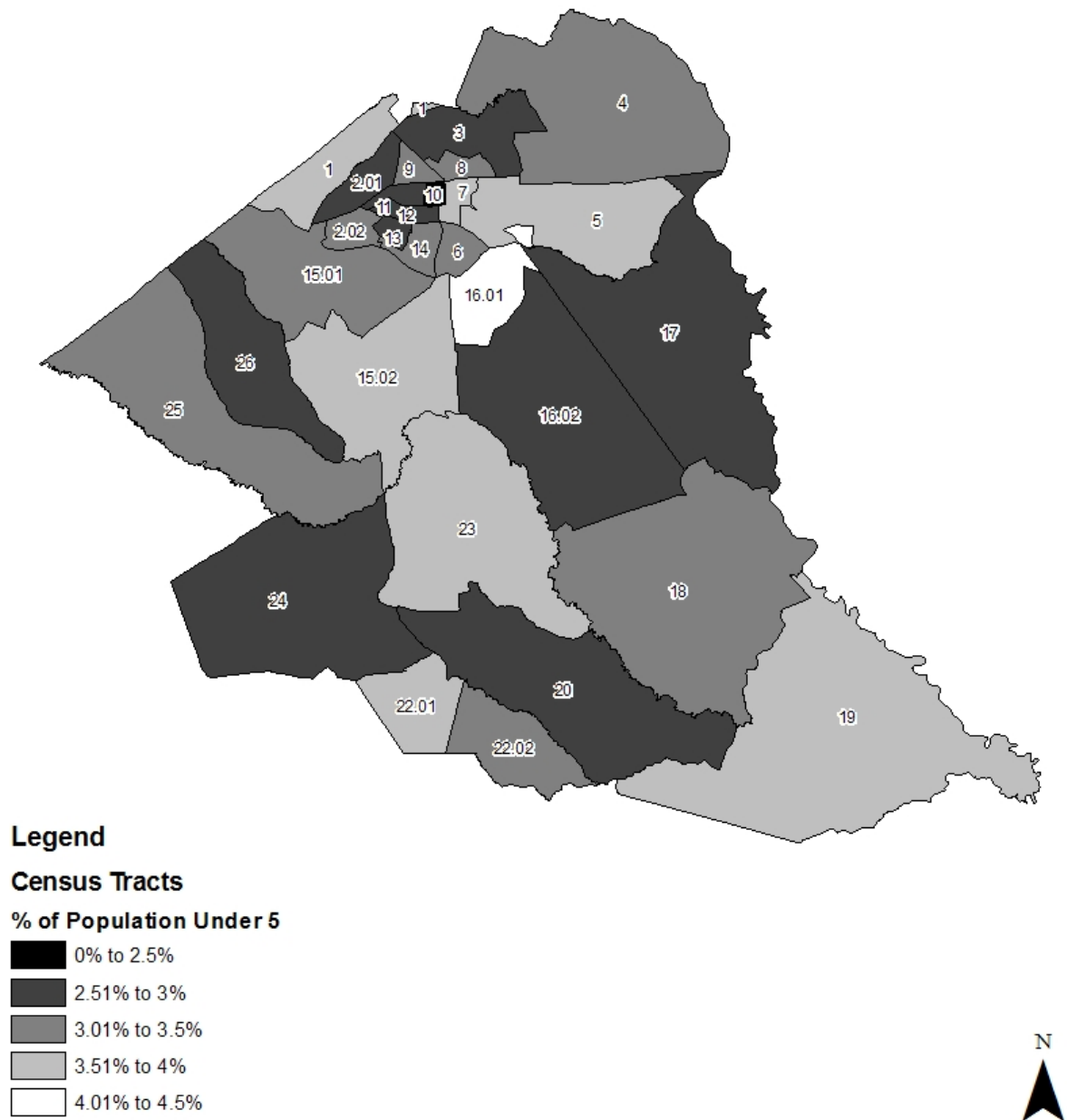Appendix B   Florence County Income Level by Census Tract

Appendix C   Florence County Poverty Percentages Defined by Census Tract

Appendix D   Florence County Population Under Age 5

Appendix E   Florence County Population Age 5 to 17
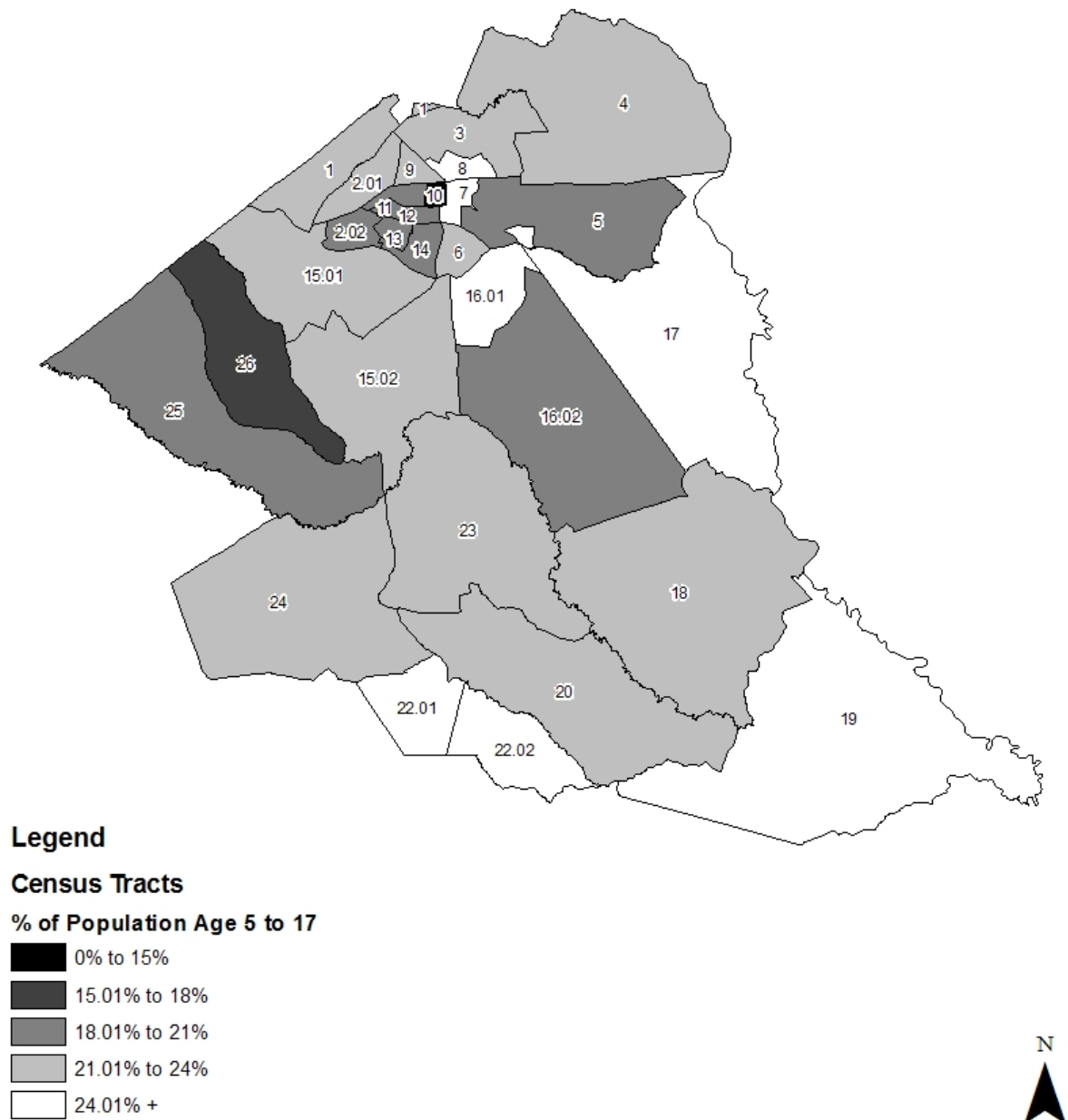
Appendix F   Florence County Population Age 18 to 24
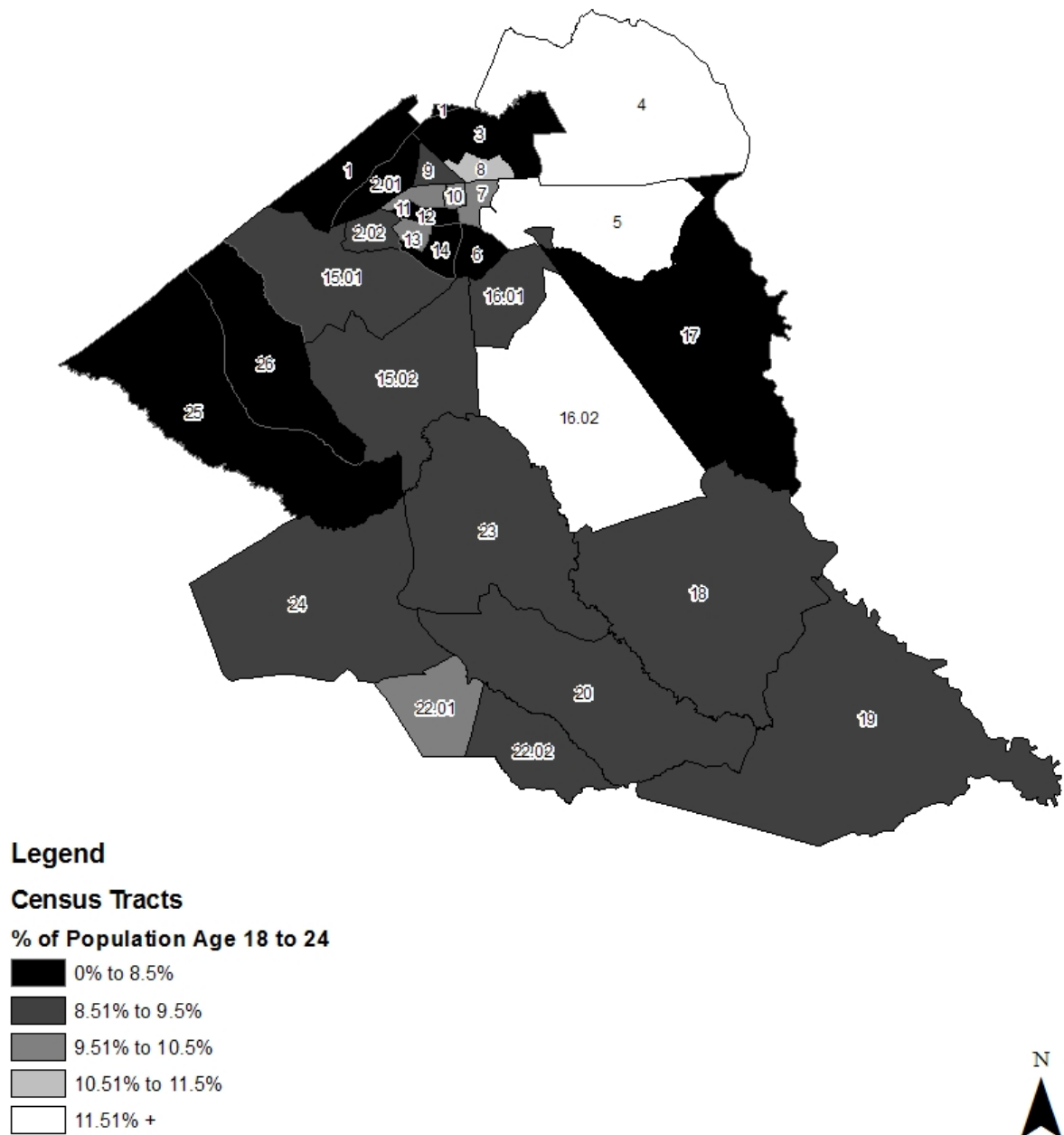
Appendix G   Florence County Population Age 25 to 64

Appendix H   Florence County Population Over 65

Appendix I   Florence County Population by census Tract

Appendix J   Tract with Greatest Amount of Persons Living in Poverty

Appendix K   Census Tracts with High Poverty Percentages

Appendix L   Tract with Least Amount of Persons Living in Poverty

Appendix M   Florence County Population Density by Census Tract

Appendix N   Florence County Census Tract with Highest Population Density

Appendix O   Element Adoption Dates

Appendix A

Florence County
Census Tracts with Muncipalities

Legend

▢ Census Tracts

🟩 Municipalities

N

Appendix B

Florence County
Income Level by Census Tract

Legend

Income Level

▨	Low
▨	Middle
▨	Moderate
▨	Upper

N

Appendix C

Florence County
Poverty Percentages Defined
by Census Tract

Legend

Percentage Living in Poverty

- 0% to 5%
- 5.01% to 10%
- 10.01% to 15%
- 15.01% to 20%
- 20.01% and over

N

Appendix D

Florence County Population Under Age 5

Legend

Census Tracts

% of Population Under 5

- 0% to 2.5%
- 2.51% to 3%
- 3.01% to 3.5%
- 3.51% to 4%
- 4.01% to 4.5%

N

Appendix E

Florence County Population Age 5 to 17

Legend

Census Tracts

% of Population Age 5 to 17

- ⬛ 0% to 15%
- ⬛ 15.01% to 18%
- ⬛ 18.01% to 21%
- ⬜ 21.01% to 24%
- ⬜ 24.01% +

N

Appendix F

Florence County Population Age 18 to 24

Legend

Census Tracts

% of Population Age 18 to 24

- 0% to 8.5%
- 8.51% to 9.5%
- 9.51% to 10.5%
- 10.51% to 11.5%
- 11.51% +

N

Appendix G

Florence County Population Age 25 to 64

Legend

Census Tracts

% of Population Age 25 to 64

- ■ 0% to 45%
- ■ 45.01% to 50%
- ■ 50.01% to 55%
- ■ 55.01% to 60%

N

Appendix H

Florence County Population Over 65

Legend

Census Tracts

% of Population Over 65

- 0% to 9%
- 9.01% to 12%
- 12.01% to 15%
- 15.01% to 18%
- Over 18.01%

N

Appendix I

Florence County Population by Census Tract

Legend

Census Tracts

Population

■	0 to 2500
■	2501 to 4000
■	4001 to 5500
■	5501 to 7000
□	Over 7000

N

Appendix J

Tract with Greatest Amount of Persons Living in Poverty

Legend

— Major Roads

▨ Municipalities

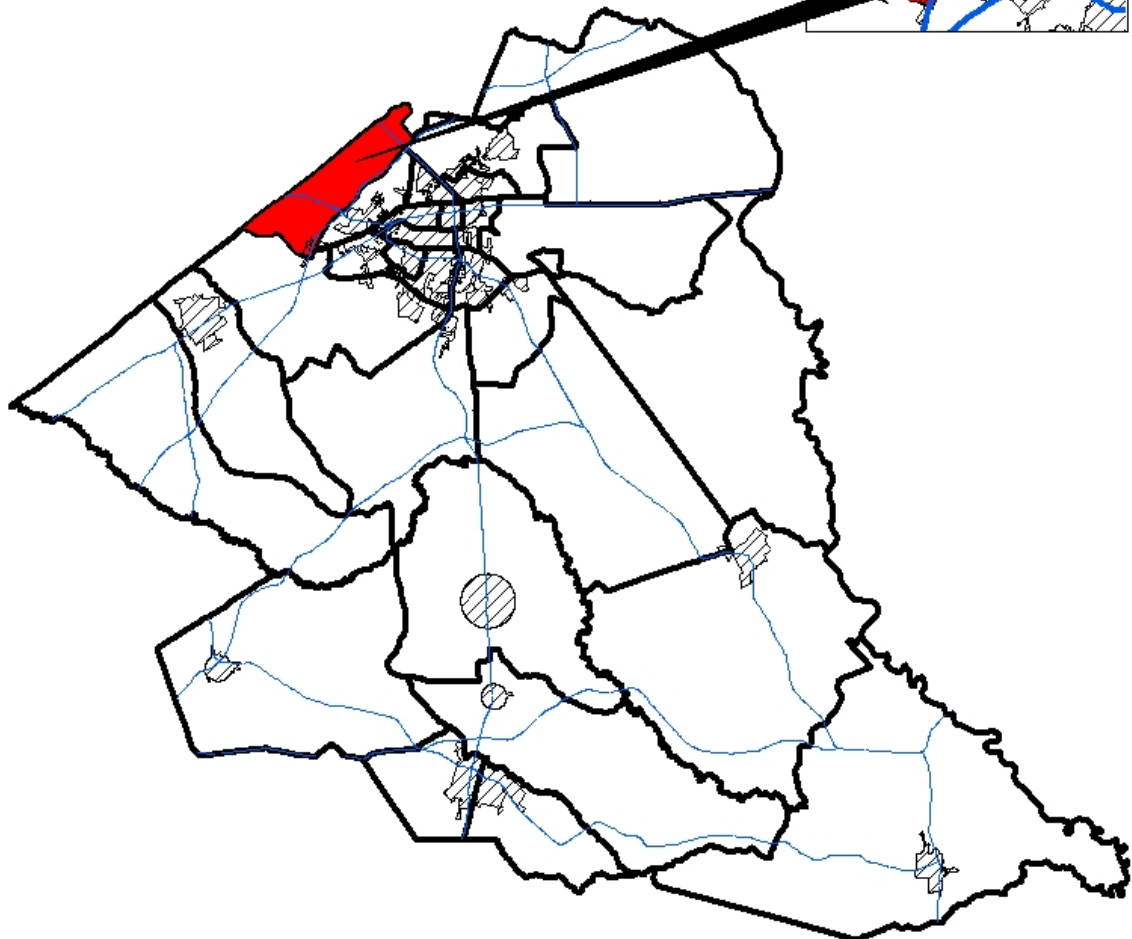▰ Census Tract 7

▢ Census Tracts

N

Appendix K
Census Tracts with High Poverty Percentages

Appendix L

Tract with Least Amount
of Persons Living in Poverty

Legend

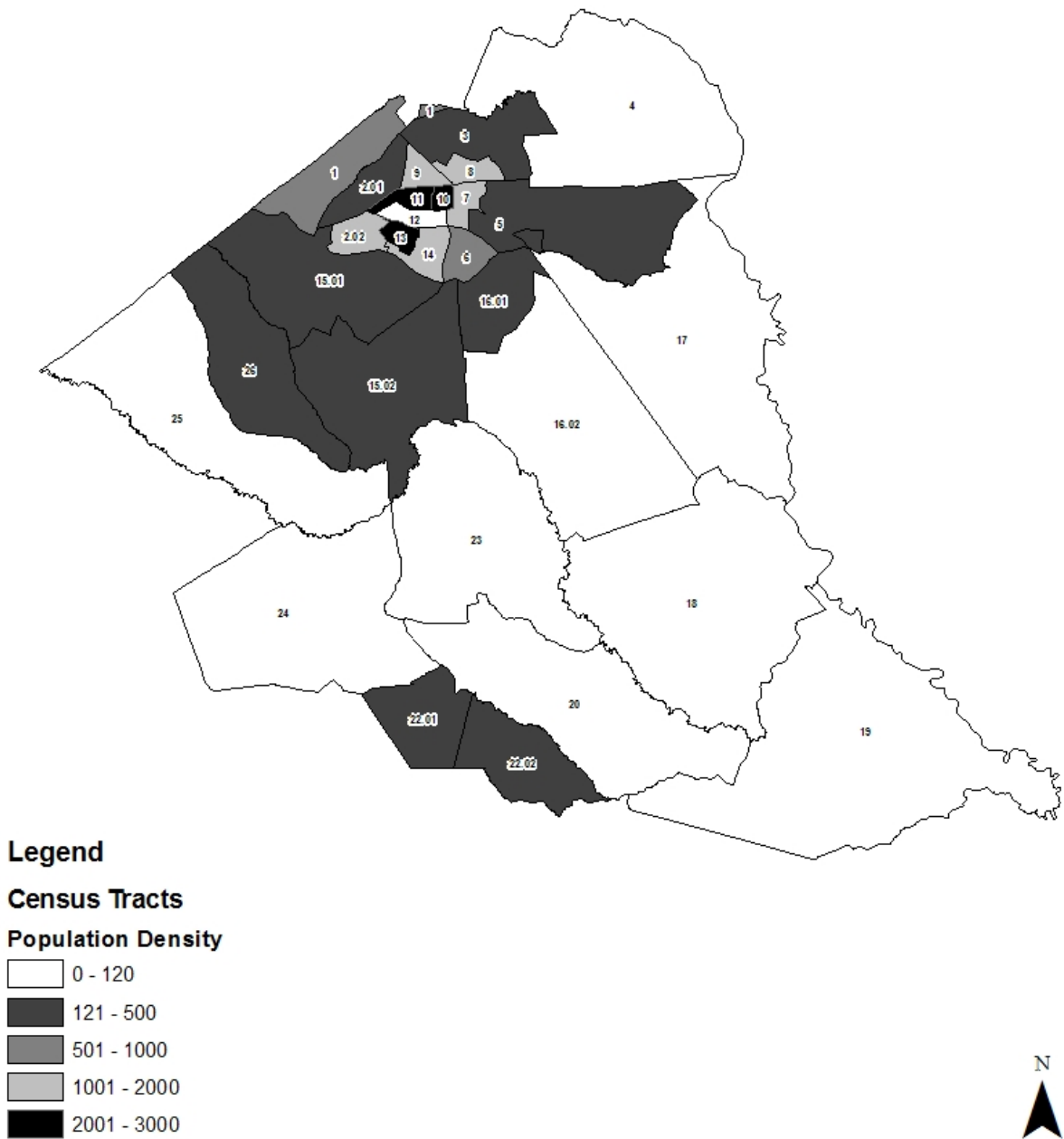— Major Roads
▨ Municipalities
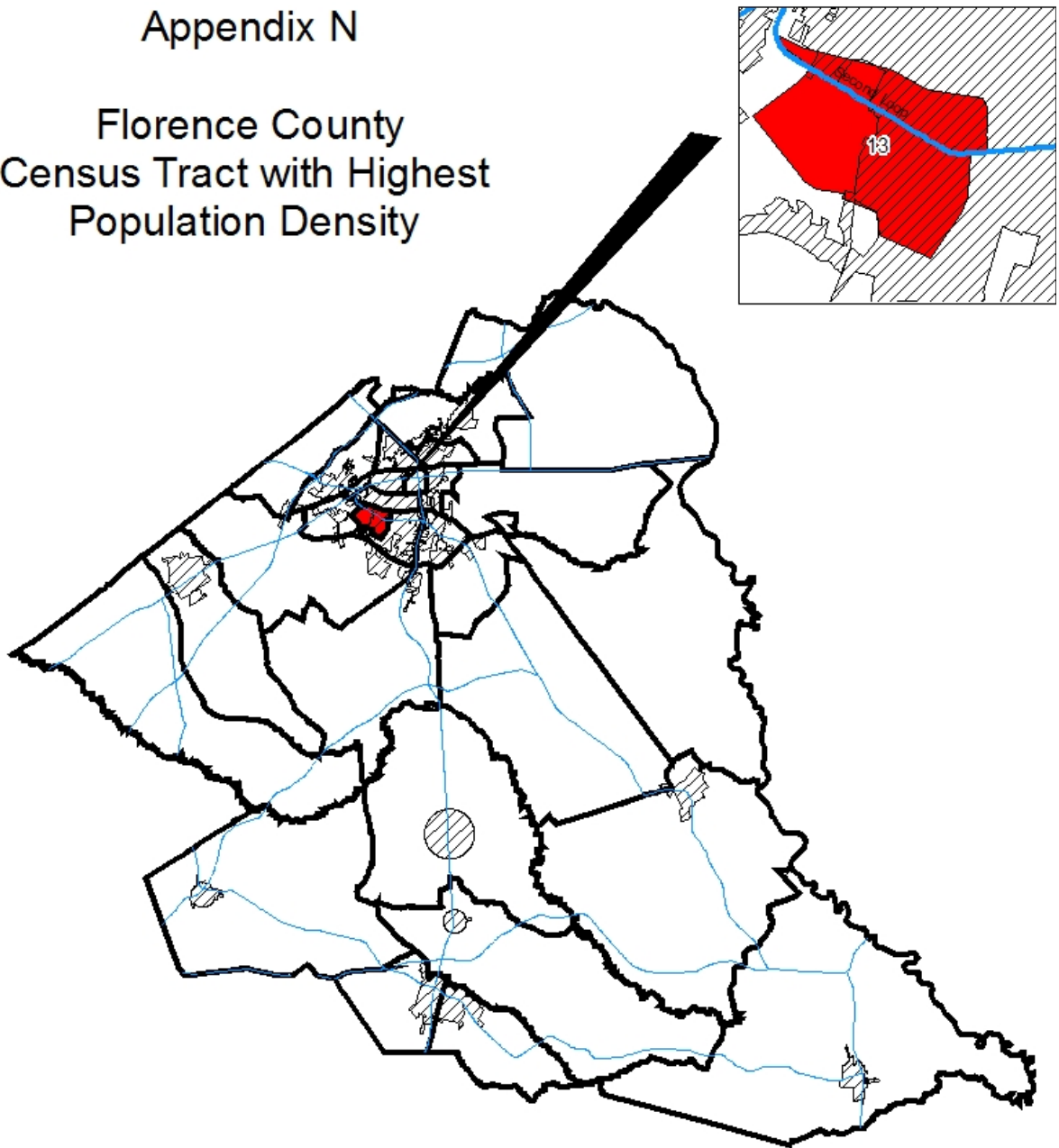🟥 Census Tract 1
⬜ Census Tract

N

Appendix M

Florence County
Population Density by Census Tract

Legend

Census Tracts

Population Density

☐	0 - 120
■	121 - 500
▨	501 - 1000
▨	1001 - 2000
■	2001 - 3000

N

Appendix N

Florence County
Census Tract with Highest
Population Density

Legend

— Major Roads

▨ Municipalities

▢ Census Tracts

🟥 Most Dense Census Tract

N

Appendix O

Element Adoption Dates

Florence County…………………………………. May 17, 2007   Ordinance No. 32-2006/07

City of Johnsonville…………………………… June 5, 2007   Ordinance No. (No Number)

Town of Olanta………………………………….. June 5, 2007   Ordinance No. 16 I, 16-2

Town of Quinby………………………………….. June 5, 2007   Ordinance No. 12-06-07

Town of Scranton……………………………… June 4, 2007   Ordinance No. (No Number)

Town of Timmonsville………………………….. May 10, 2007   Ordinance No. 454