

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
FOR
KERSHAW COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA
2006 - 2016**

**PART I
POPULATION ELEMENT**

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POPULATION ELEMENT
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POPULATION ELEMENT
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PART I POPULATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This initial element of the Comprehensive Plan will dimension the population of the County's past, present, and future, its social characteristics, and their impact on development and land use.

Characteristics of the population are studied over time to determine trends and composition changes. Income distribution and educational attainment levels are viewed from a land use planning perspective. And social characteristics are assessed to determine lifestyle and conditions responsible for "the way of life" in Kershaw County.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND DISTRIBUTION

An awareness of the population and what it is doing is critical to the development of a Comprehensive Plan. How many people are we planning for? Where, within the County, are population changes taking place, or likely to take place?

The answer to these questions and more will tell us much about what to expect in the way of future land use, intensity of development, and facility needs.

The last official census data (2000) places the County population at 52,647. This represents a 21 percent gain over the 1990 census count of 43,599. This is a substantial leap in the rate of population increase as there was a steady 12 percent per decade increase in the County's population from 1970 to 1990.

Current (July 1, 2004) South Carolina Statistical Abstract estimates place the County's population at 55,491, a 5.5 percent increase since the 2000 census. This accelerated increase following three decades of sustained population growth is transitioning Kershaw from a predominantly rural to an urban county.

Kershaw County has been divided by the Bureau of Census into seven Census County Divisions (CCDs) for the purpose of data compilation, as depicted on the map titled Census Divisions, Kershaw County, South Carolina. Prior to the 2000 census, there were six designated CCDs, with the Camden CCD and Camden Northeast CCD combined as one Camden CCD. For purposes of comparison over time, the 2000 census data for Camden and Camden NE are aggregated. Population changes within each CCD are shown on Figure I-1.

Figure I-1
Population Trends, Kershaw County by Census Divisions, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	%Chg	1990	% Chg	2000	% Chg
Total County	34,727	39,015	12	43,599	12	52,647	21
Bethune	2,158	2,378	10	2,287	-4	2,423	6
Boykin	1,492	1,902	27	2,074	9	2,766	33
Camden/ Camden NE	18,611	20,381	10	20,349	0	20,781	2
Elgin	6,820	10,591	55	14,815	40	21,907	48
Mt. Pisgah	3,096	1,905	-38	2,114	11	2,420	14
Westville	2,550	1,858	-27	1,960	5	2,350	20

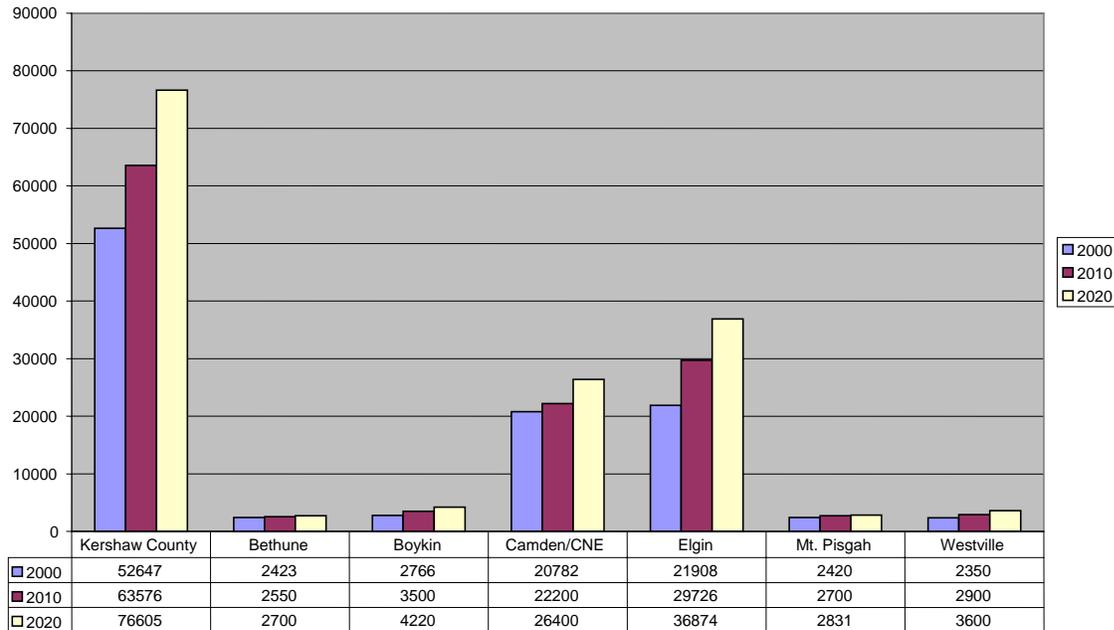
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

The most significant increase over the 30 years between 1970 and 2000 has occurred in the Elgin CCD. The reason, of course, is the proximity to the growing Columbia Metropolitan Area and direct access via I-20. Most residential development occurring in this area is directly attributed to ties with the larger Columbia area economic marketplace. The Camden area has remained stable with only a two percent growth between 1980 and 2000. The population of Bethune has also remained stable. Boykin has enjoyed a modest, but steady increase in population because of its proximity to Sumter and connections to Bishopville, Darlington, Florence, and other employment centers on the I-20 corridor. Mt. Pisgah and Westville experienced sharp declines in population between 1970 and 1980. Although both divisions have slowly increased in population since 1980, neither has regained its 1970 population level.

Figure I-2
Census County Divisions, Kershaw County, South Carolina



**Figure I-3
Population Growth Trend & Projections 2000 - 2020**



Source: Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments

DEMOGRAPHIC FORECAST

Established population trends are not expected to change drastically in the future. Forecasts for the County by the Santee-Lynches Council of Governments (COG) show continued overall growth.

Areas to the north of Camden, including the Westville, Mt. Pisgah, and Bethune Census Divisions (Figure I-2) are projected to change very little into the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Westville is projected to experience modest increases due to further development on Lake Wateree. The Boykin CCD is expected to also experience modest population increases because of the I-20 connection. It should, however, be noted that despite gains, the populations of the Westville and Boykin CCDs are projected to remain sparse at 3,600 and 4,220 respectively by 2020. Growth and population increases are forecasted to remain concentrated in the Camden and Elgin Census Divisions with the Elgin Division gradually exceeding the Camden Division. This means even stronger economic and social ties to the Columbia area.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

To more fully understand the population, we need to take stock of its component parts or characteristics including race, gender, and age.

RACE

Two significant patterns in the racial composition of Kershaw County have emerged in the 30 year study period between 1970 and 2000. One trend is the overall reduction in the percentage of minority (Non-white) populations. Although a relatively smaller percentage of the total, the Non-white population actually increased 13 percent during this period by 13 percent. However, the increase was not as great as that of the White population. The major exception is in the Camden CCD where the Non-white population grew by 40 percent to comprise 38 percent of the

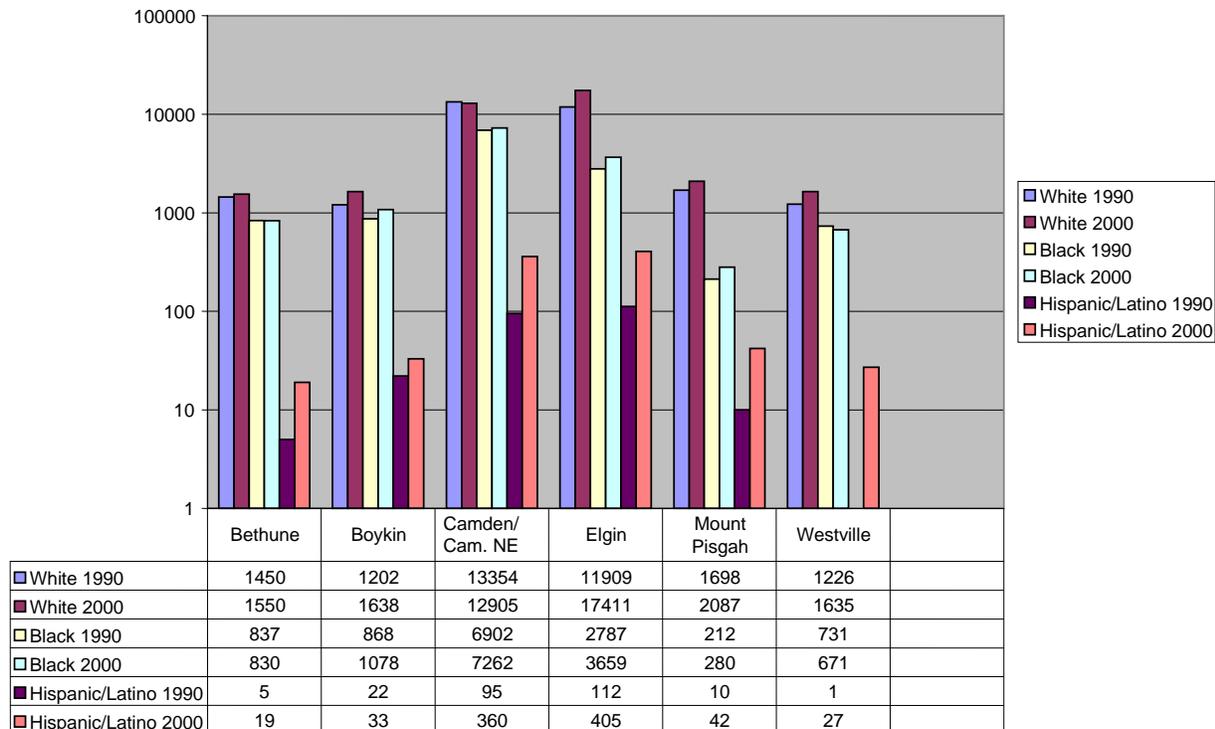
total Camden CCD population. The White population of the Camden CCD actually experienced a decrease of one percent in the same time period.

The Non-white population of Bethune increased by one percent during the three-decade study period. All other census divisions experienced a decline in the percentage of Non-whites relative to the White majority. This trend was most pronounced in Mt. Pisgah and Westville. As noted above, Mt. Pisgah and Westville both experienced a decline in their overall (both White and Non-white) populations from the 1970 census figures. These figures reflect a national trend of migration from the more rural areas to the urban centers. Although this urbanization occurs across all racial lines, it tends to be more pronounced among the minority populations. Minority populations tend to gravitate to urban environments for economic and social reasons. Municipal areas are increasingly becoming preferences for Non-whites, with their compact social and economic structures.

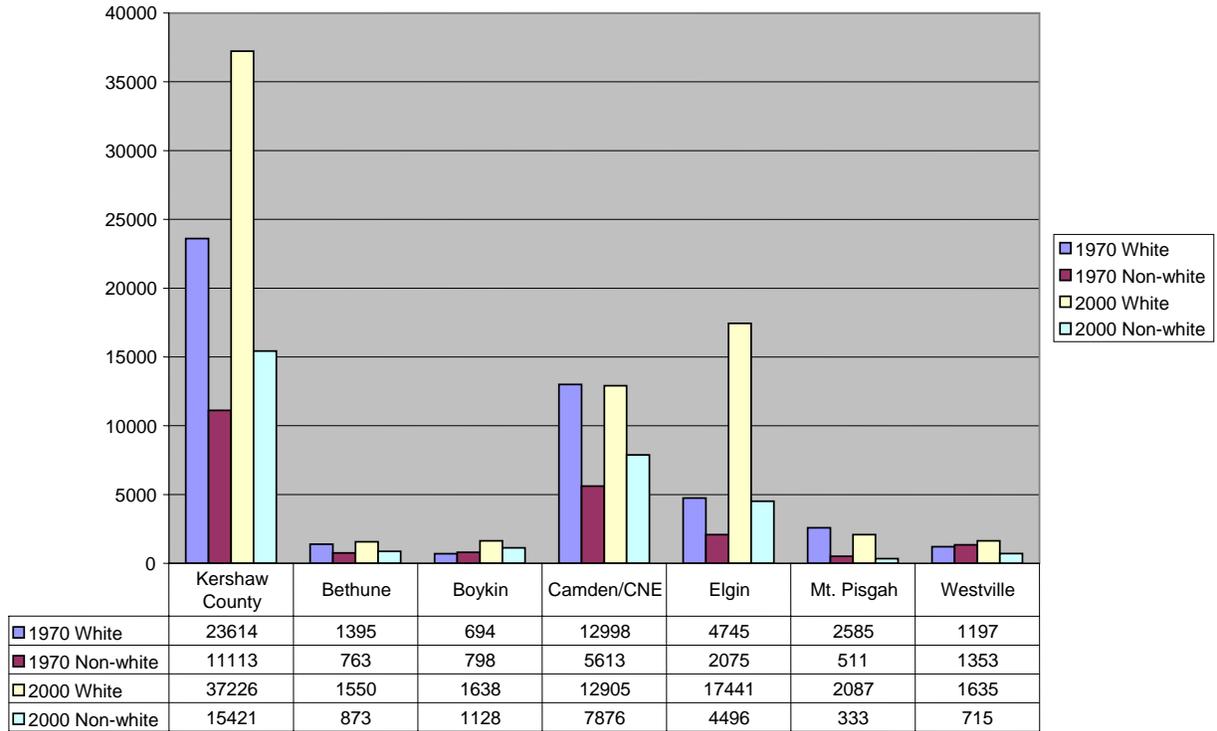
The second significant pattern in the County’s racial composition also reflects a major national trend in the increase in the Hispanic/Latino population. Although in real numbers, the Hispanic/Latino population represents a very small portion of the overall population, this group experienced the greatest gains in all CCDs from 1970 to 2000.

The following charts were tabulated from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census data:

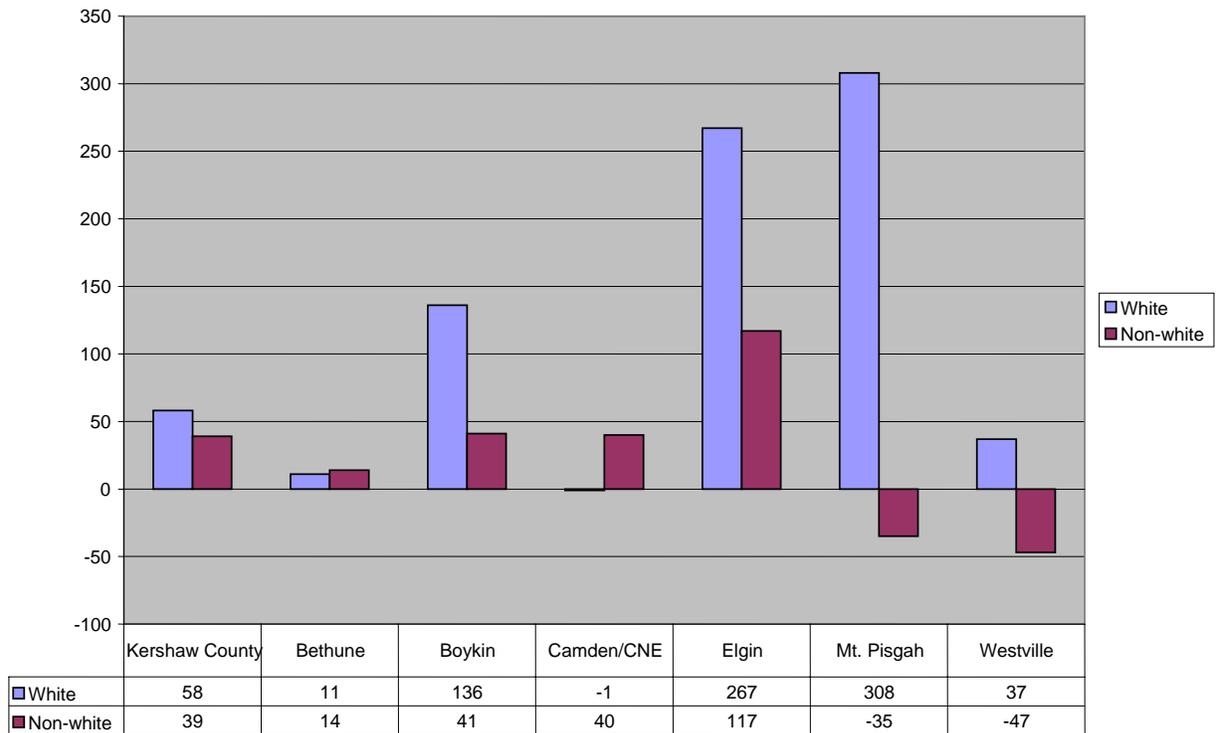
**Figure I-4
Racial Trends of Kershaw County by CCD 1990 & 2000**



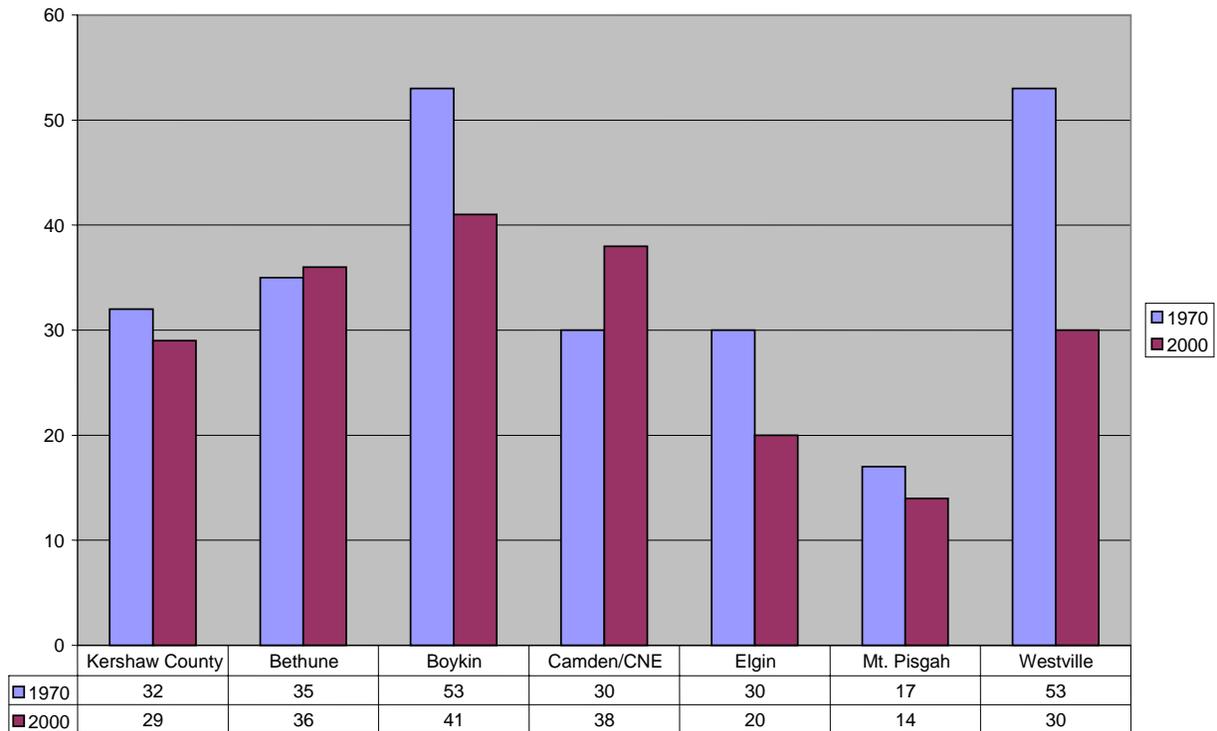
**Figure I-5
Racial Characteristics of Kershaw County by CCD 1970 and 2000**



**Figure I-6
Percent Change in White and Non-white Population 1970 - 2000**



**Figure I-7
Non-white Population Percentage of Total 1970 & 2000**



What are the implications of these trends? They tell us that the County is being impacted by a “suburbanization” movement generated by the expanding Columbia economy, and that Whites are the primary participants in the movement. In land use terms, this translates to new “starter home” subdivisions in the Elgin area predominated by single-family detached units. If the County continues to serve as a residence for Columbia’s economic development, the population could contain even more Whites in the future. If, on the other hand, more jobs are created in Kershaw County, the situation could become more balanced.

Although the actual numbers of the Kershaw County Hispanic/Latino population are currently low, the trend indicates that these numbers will grow rapidly in the future. County government must be prepared to provide services to its Spanish speaking citizens.

AGE

The 2000 census showed a continuation of the trend towards a decrease in the percentage of the County’s population under the age of 18. It also reflected an increase in the percentage of the population age 65 and older. These extremes were accompanied by a sustained increase in the more productive and procreative ages between 18 and 64.

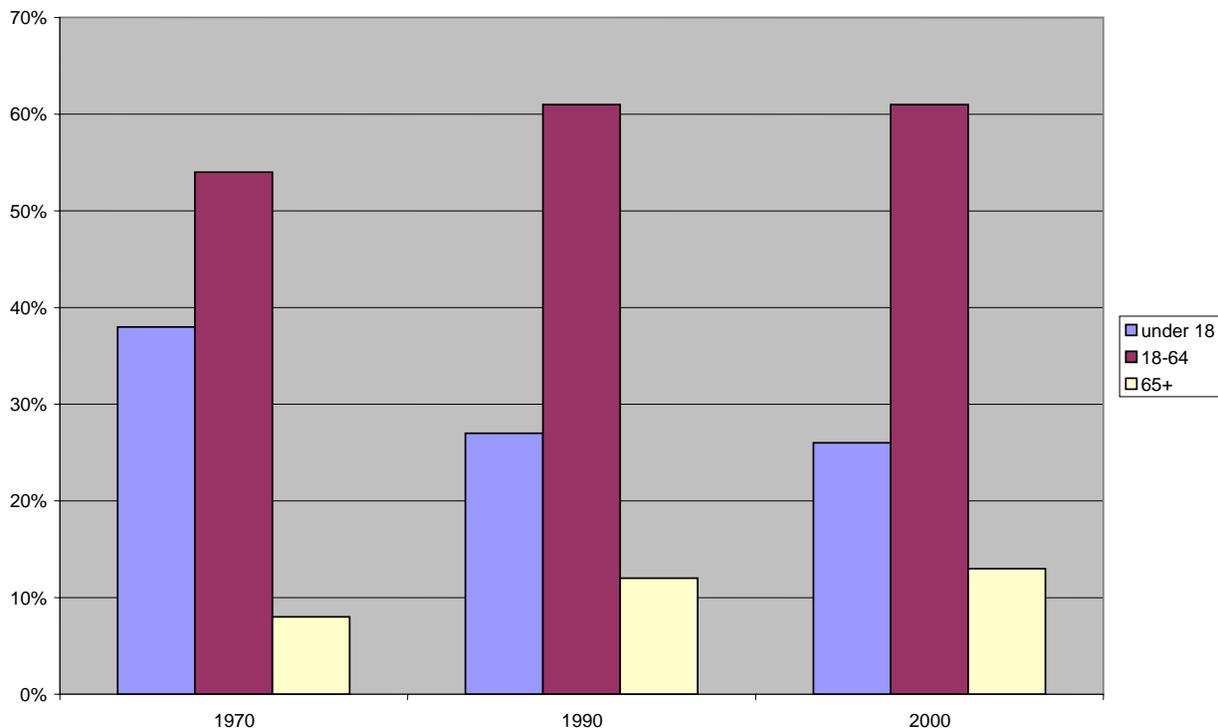
Changes in the age composition of County residents tell us much about the social and economic conditions that are at work.

**Figure I-8
Population Trends, By Age Groups
Kershaw County, 1970-2000**

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>1970 No.</u>	<u>1970 %</u>	<u>1990 No.</u>	<u>1990 %</u>	<u>% Chg</u>	<u>2000 No.</u>	<u>2000%</u>	<u>% Chg</u>
< 18	13,377	38	11,811	27	-11	13,750	26	16
19 - 64	18,669	54	26,496	61	42	32,101	61	21
65 >	2,721	8	5,292	12	95	6,796	13	28

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

**Figure I-9
AGE GROUP TRENDS 1970, 1990, & 2000**



Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

The decline in the below 18 age group may be attributed to a national trend of family downsizing. To be sure, this decline will show up in future population counts if it is not offset by in-migration. Too, the number of elderly persons (65 and older) is increasing significantly. Again this trend is in line with what is happening nationally. The population is graying.

From 38 percent of the County population in 1970, the under-18 population group dropped to 27 percent by 1990, an 11 percent decline. The 2000 census figures indicate that this decline is leveling off with the under-18 age group representing 26 percent of the total population. The elderly population increased by 95 percent between 1970 and 1990 and by an additional 28

percent by 2000. The 18 to 65 group increased from 54 to 61 percent between 1970 and 1990 and remained 61 percent of the total county population in 2000.

Figure I-10
Comparative Trends in Selected Age Groups,
Kershaw County and South Carolina, 1970-2000

	1970 %	1990 %	2000 %
Under18 - County	38	27	26
Under 18 - State	37	24	25
Over 65 - County	8	12	13
Over 65 - State	7	11	12

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

These age group trends in Kershaw County are consistent with the trend in the State, where the less than 18 age group declined over the last 30 years from 37 to 25 percent of the population. Actually, the ratio of young people in Kershaw County is slightly higher than the State average.

The ratio of elderly persons is also slightly higher in Kershaw County than it is in the State. The reason lies logically in increased longevity and stability. Kershaw County’s aging population is staying home, as do about 85 percent of most retirees, instead of migrating to “retirement areas.”

The implications of this from a planning and land use standpoint suggest that more attention be placed on addressing the needs of an aging population, i.e. congregate housing, nursing homes, healthcare facilities, passive parks, public transportation, small lot subdivisions, patio and multi-family dwellings, etc. Also, the influx of population spillover from Richland County will continue to impact the housing market and land use in the lower part of the County. Finally, recreational and school planners should take note of the drop in school age children and its impact on facilities planning.

GENDER

As a general rule, the female population is larger than its male counterpart. In 2000, the Kershaw County female population was 52 percent. On average, the County’s female population has fluctuated between 51 and 52 percent of the total over the last 30 years. This is in line with national and state averages.

Nationally, the sexes are about evenly distributed in the pre-teen and teenage years, but with age the ratio generally becomes imbalanced on the female side. While the process is gradual, females at age 65 and over are in a majority position. This pattern is also prevalent in Kershaw County where in 1990, 79 percent of all persons 65 and older living alone were female.

From a planning standpoint, this trend has obvious housing implications. More people of one

sex, living alone, produce more one-person households, favoring smaller units and congregate housing facilities.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Suffice to say, there is a positive correlation between land use and the quality of housing, income, and education. Here, we shall examine the correlation and its impact on the County.

Educational Profile

Education, or lack of an adequate education, has an indirect influence on the use of land and the quality of development. Higher education equates generally to higher income and standard of living, which in turn translates into quality housing, development, and enhanced living environs. Lower educational levels, on the other hand, generally produce lower standards of living. Point in fact, 1990 Census data show the following relationships between education and income. When applied to Kershaw County we see that 33 percent of the persons 25 years and older in 1990 failed to finish high school and as a result, their earning power was reduced accordingly. This information is based on education-income data for the State (Figure I-11).

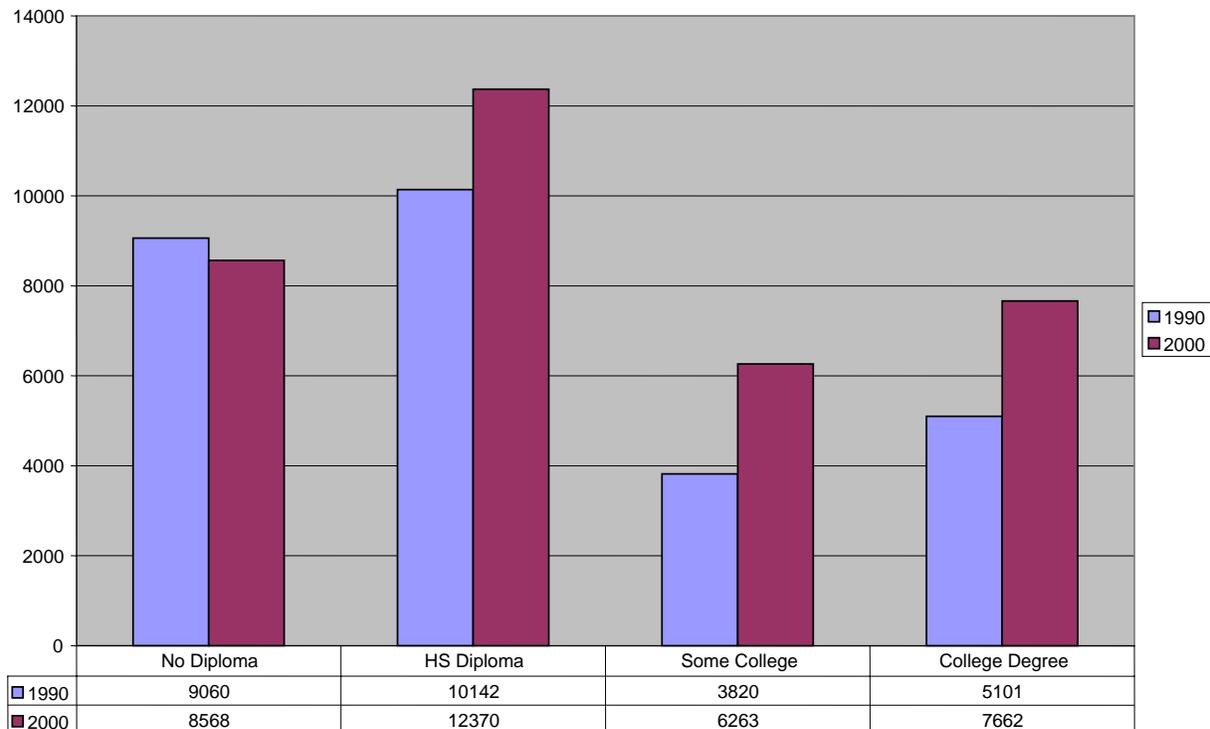
**Figure I-11
Education-Income Correlation
For Residents 25 Years Plus**

Education Level	SC Av. Income \$	County %	State %
No High School	14,282	32	32
HS Diploma	17,418	36	30
College – No Degree	20,488	14	16
AA Degree	22,211	6	6
BA Degree	29,536	8	11
MA Degree	31,790	N/A	N/A
PhD Degree	52,925	4	5

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1990.

Educational attainment levels in Kershaw County generally mirror statewide levels. As a result, it may be assumed that the quality of life and physical environment are reflective of conditions throughout South Carolina. We may also conclude that conditions have improved over time. From an educational profile of the County and a look at trends in the educational attainment levels of County residents over the past 20 years (1980–2000), there has been a substantial reduction in the number of residents 25 years and older who lack a high school diploma. In 1990 this figure was 32 percent. By 2000 the 25+ segment of the population without a high school education had been reduced to 24.5 percent. There have been significant increases in the number of persons who have completed high school and gone on to higher education.

**Figure I-12
EDUCATIONAL PROFILE/TRENDS KERSHAW COUNTY**



Improvements aside, still nearly one quarter of County residents 25 years of age and older have less than a high school education. Statistics show that 80 percent of the children whose mothers have less than a high school education will grow up in poverty.

The findings of this study indicate that educational attainment levels are still inadequate and are suppressing the quality of living and lifestyles for a significant portion of the County’s residents. This is reflected by the landscape in various areas of the County, both urban and rural. South Carolina was recently named as the highest state in the U.S. for high school drop out rates. Clearly this is not simply a county level problem.

Income Profile

As indicated in the previous section, higher education generally equates to higher incomes. And higher incomes generally produce higher standards of living and quality environs. The extent to which these conditions exist in Kershaw County may be gauged from Figure I-13.

Incomes in the County, like educational attainment levels, reflect State averages. Per capita income is slightly lower, but median family income is somewhat higher. These conditions suggest a standard of living and environmental conditions comparable to those statewide. They also reflect the economic importance of the two wage earner family.

Figure I-13
Average Annual Income
Kershaw County/State of South Carolina

	<u>Per Capita Income (\$)</u>		<u>Median Family Income (\$)</u>	
	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
1999	18,360	18,795	38,804	37,082
1993	NA	NA	35,300	34,400
1991	15,228	15,391	33,200	31,100
1989	13,656	13,838	31,562	30,797
1987	12,363	12,283	27,000	26,400

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board, Office of Research and Statistical Services, Newsletter, Spring 1994, Statistical Abstract 2000.

NEEDS AND GOALS STATEMENT

Population trends and forecasts indicate a need to plan for an enlarged populace. And based on prevailing social characteristics, there is a need to raise the educational attainment level and incomes of a substantial portion of the County's population.

Toward these ends, the following goals are hereby established:

Population Goals

PG-1: Channel projected population gains into areas of the County best suited to accommodate growth, i.e. areas with existing and/or planned infrastructure, and away from rural areas and natural resources.

The Land Development and Zoning ordinances should be reviewed to strengthen provisions for discouraging development in those areas of the County where existing and/or planned facilities and infrastructure will not be adequate to support such development.

PG-2: Improve the social status of the population by leading the State in education and skilled job training.

The Kershaw County Strategic Planning Leadership Team has established 90 percent as the goal of students graduating from high school and placed increased emphasis on training programs for the under-skilled to develop skills required by existing and newly attracted industries.

The Kershaw County School District, in its Strategic Plan 2005, has established the mission (goal): "...to prepare students to excel as productive and responsible citizens in a global society by ensuring relevant, innovative and challenging learning experiences in partnership with parents and communities."

Objectives and strategies designed to produce measurable results are contained in the Plan, and adopted herein by reference (and the succeeding five-year updates), as a means of reaching Goal PG-2.

PG-3: Improve the quality of life of County residents by leading the State in the production of higher incomes.

The realization of this goal is contingent in part on the realization of Goal PG-2 as well as the strategic goals and objectives of the Kershaw County Economic Development Plan. With an above average education and trained labor force, the County will be positioned to better attract higher paying businesses and industries. The initiative to site a new Central Carolina Technical College, Kershaw County campus should be implemented. The proposed campus would also support Lee County and would include an industrial training center.