

THIS IS NASSAU



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Key Population Trends



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMPTROLLER

Dear Nassau County,

This fall, our office launched a Policy and Research Unit that is focused on data-driven reports to help inform the policy-making process. This report compiles research from the U.S. Census and academia to highlight some of the trends important to Nassau County's future.

Shifts in population can result in major impacts on the tax base, as well as shifting demands for governmental services. To have an sustainable, long-term financial plan that appropriately—and strategically—allocates resources, it is essential to understand the County's changing demographic composition.

The average age of a Nassau County resident is increasing. The number of young professionals that want to call Nassau County home is decreasing. The level of education the average Nassau County resident has attained is impressive, with some caveats.

All of those key metrics are coupled with an historic increase in the overall diversity of Nassau County. This trend has driven population growth in the last 10 years.

The data is clear... Nassau is evolving. When the data is this clear, the response must be too.

It is projected that Long Island will be majority-minority in the early 2030s. Yet the persistent racial wealth gap threatens the County's long-term economic success, and language access continues to be an obstacle that governments and businesses have yet to overcome.

The large Baby Boomer population is aging. Many people in this generation were raised here on Long Island—their parents were the original residents who built this region into what it is today. While this population segment ages, many prepare to downsize their homes into more affordable and easier-to-maintain housing units.

It's no secret that the County is struggling to attract young professionals. This is detrimental to our communities, government, and economy. The need for government services increases with the senior population, but the tax base shrinks as millennials move to regions with more affordable housing and public transit options.

In 2018 we are presented with many challenges. While the data presented in this report is clear, whether policymakers will respond effectively remains uncertain. Working together, governments, businesses, and residents have an opportunity to create innovative solutions to ensure Nassau County's equitable, long-term prosperity. We must seize it.

Sincerely,



Jack Schnirman



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THIS IS NASSAU

2018 Demographic Profile

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Purpose

In order to efficiently allocate resources, inform the policy-making process, and improve the quality of life in Nassau County, it is essential to understand the County's demographic composition. Shifts in population can have major impacts on the tax base and demand for governmental services. For example, an increasing senior population with less disposable income can lead to a reduction in sales tax revenue, an increase in health care spending, and an altered demand for public transportation services. This report seeks to capture some of the major demographic trends in Nassau County since 2000 and the associated policy challenges.

Introduction

The United States has continued to change since its foundation 241 years ago. As the bedrock of the country has transformed over time, so have the people that call America home. The American population has become increasingly older as scores of “boomers” press into their sixties, and racial/ethnic minority groups continue to grow at a rapid pace.¹ These demographic trends are exemplified across the suburbs of America and are particularly apparent in Nassau County.

Nassau County is approximately 15 miles east of Manhattan and is home to more than 1.3 million people who live, work, and play in its three towns, two cities, 64 villages, and 56 school districts.² Born out of the post-war boom, Nassau County's Levittown paved the way for people to realize their aspirations for a new suburban lifestyle. Anchored by Robert Moses's network of roads, highways, bridges, and parks, Nassau County was a magnet for young, mostly white residents looking to buy houses and start families.³ The post-war years defined Nassau County for the latter half of the twentieth century and continue to define people's perception of the County. This is a definition in need of a revision.





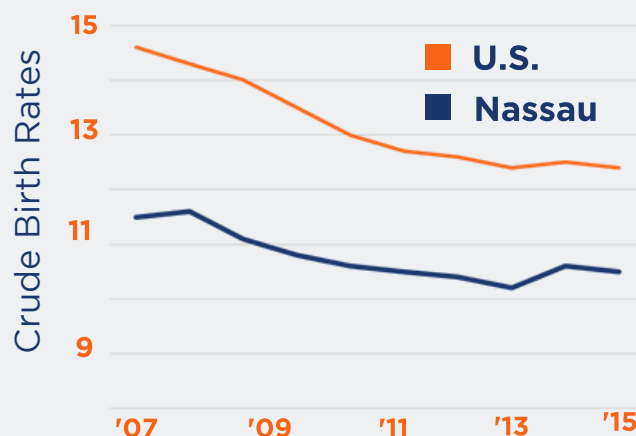
POPULATION GROWTH

Increasing Slowly

From 2005-2017 Nassau County's population grew 4.5%.⁴ As illustrated in the accompanying chart, the County's birth rate has declined over the past decade. Long Island's population growth has been largely driven by minority communities and foreign immigration.⁶

Nassau County has a growing and diverse immigrant population. 21.8% of the population is foreign born, and 7.7% moved into Nassau County since 2010.⁷

Declining Birth Rates



Source: NYS Department of Health Nassau County Birth Rate⁵

Nassau County Population Growth



Source: U.S. Census 2005-17 ACS 1 year Estimates⁴

**1.3 Million
Residents
in 2017**

Policy Challenges

Declining population growth will lead to less revenue for government services.⁸ Nassau County's lack of growth is occurring at a time in which a large share of residents are nearing retirement, and it is struggling to retain millennials. If Nassau County isn't able to attract young families, it will negatively impact the economic viability of the region.

Moreover, the federal government has struggled to create a fair and comprehensive immigration system.⁹ This presents a unique set of challenges for Nassau's large immigrant population, which has been an engine for growth.

Policy makers will need to address these issues to sustain the County's quality of life, government services, and continued prosperity.



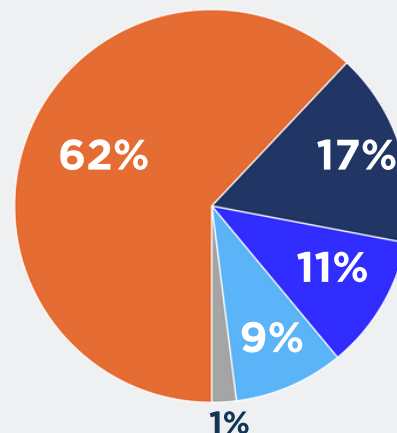
POPULATION DIVERSITY

Changing Rapidly

Nassau County has seen a substantial increase in its racial and ethnic minority populations.¹⁰ This is in alignment with the nation's demographic shift. The Brookings Institute has projected that the United States will become 'minority white' in 2045.¹¹

Nassau County's minority population reached 38% in 2016, up from 30% in 2005.¹² According to Policy Link, Long Island will become majority-minority in the early 2030s.

Nassau County 2016 Racial Profile

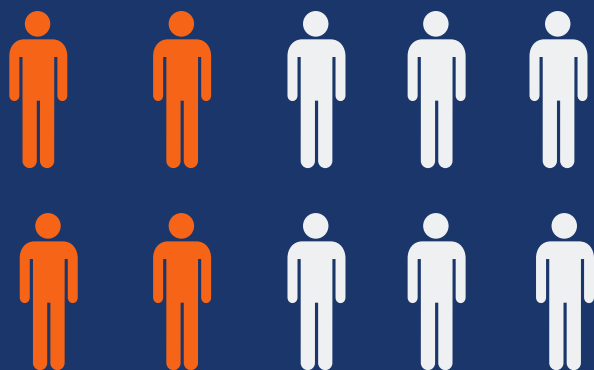


Key:



Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 1 year Estimates¹⁰

Minority Population: 4 in 10 Residents



2005-2016 Population Trends:

WHITE



-7.48%

ASIAN



+40.08%

HISPANIC



+41.81%

BLACK



+7.82%

Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates, 2005 ACS^{10 and 12}

Language Access

Nassau County has been enriched by diversity and so has the language spoken. This enhances competitiveness in a globalized economy.

However, 11.7% of the population speaks English less than "very well."¹³ Language access legislation is a good step to provide equitable access to goods and services on Long Island.



28%

**SPEAK
A LANGUAGE**

OTHER THAN ENGLISH¹³



POPULATION DIVERSITY

County Subdivisions

Nassau County is divided into five subdivisions. There are three towns (Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay) and two cities (Long Beach and Glen Cove).

The Town of Hempstead is rapidly becoming majority-minority. In 2000, 75% of the population was white.¹⁴ In 2016, the non-Hispanic white population was 54.8%.¹⁰

Diversity Rankings

1. Town of Hempstead
2. City of Glen Cove
3. Town of North Hempstead
4. Nassau County
5. City of Long Beach
6. Town of Oyster Bay

Race and Ethnic Composition by County Subdivision:

| 2016 | Nassau County | Town of Hempstead | Town of North Hempstead | Town of Oyster Bay | City of Long Beach | City of Glen Cove |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| White | 62% | 56% | 61% | 77% | 72% | 59% |
| Hispanic/ Latino | 17% | 19% | 14% | 9% | 16% | 25% |
| Black | 11% | 16% | 5% | 2% | 6% | 7% |
| Asian | 9% | 6% | 18% | 10% | 3% | 4% |
| Other | 1% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 5% |

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates

Policy Challenges

Nassau County's diversification should be viewed as a strength as the County seeks competitive advantages in the globalized economy. However, people of color face real structural disadvantages that must be addressed.

Nationally, homeownership rates of non-Hispanic white households is nearly 30% higher than Black and Hispanic households.¹⁵ Accordingly to Policy Link, Long Island's economy could have been nearly \$24 billion stronger in 2014 by closing the racial income gap.¹⁶

Policymakers must create innovative solutions to confront racial disparities in Nassau County. As the population becomes increasingly diverse, equity is essential to achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

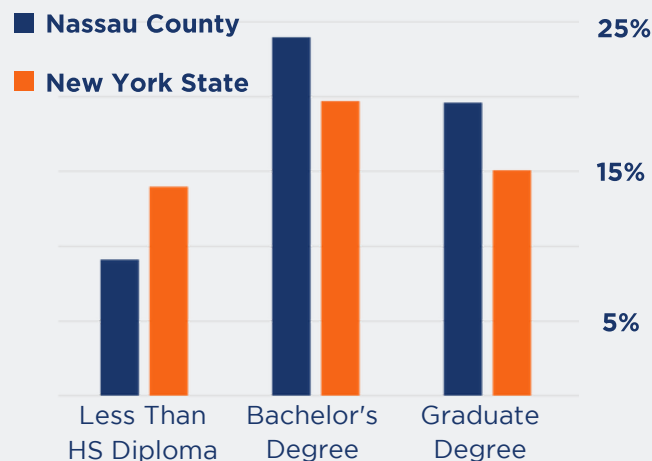


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Highly Educated

Nassau County is home to more than a dozen colleges and universities, as well 56 school districts and many parochial and private academies.¹⁷ The County is ahead of New York State (NYS) in educational attainment, as a larger share of Nassau County's population have earned high school diplomas and college degrees.¹⁸

2016 Educational Attainment



Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates

2016 County Educational Attainment (Over 25 Years Old):



- 20% have a Graduate or Professional degree
- 24% have a bachelor's degree
- 8% have an Associate's degree
- 16% have some college, no degree
- 24% are high school graduates only
- 9% do not have a high school diploma or equivalent



Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates

Achievement Gap

Nassau County is struggling with a significant racial and ethnic education achievement gap. Black and Latino students do not earn high school diplomas and Bachelor's degrees at the same rate as White and Asian students.¹⁸

According to Erase Racism, increasing school segregation is a cause of the achievement gap.¹⁹ Their 2017 report found that 60 years after Brown v. Board of Education, three out of every four Black Students and two out of every three Hispanic students attend a majority-minority school district.

Population With HS Diploma:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 95% White | 90% Black |
| 72% Latino | 91% Asian |



Bachelor's Degree:



| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 48% White | 31% Black |
| 21% Latino | 62% Asian |

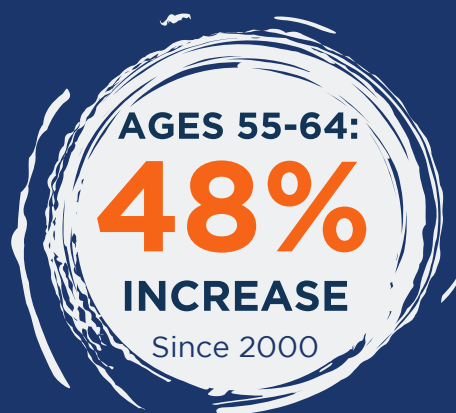
Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates

Age Trends Since 2000

Decline in Young Residents

Since 2000, Nassau County experienced a significant decrease in young residents, indicative of regional “brain drain.”²⁰ Brain drain occurs when highly trained or educated people move out of a particular region.

The Town of Oyster Bay saw its 25-34 population decrease by 14.24%. Additionally, the County’s 35-44 population shrank by an astonishing 26%.²¹



Aging Baby Boomers

Nassau County is experiencing a significant increase in its senior population as the large Baby Boomer generation ages. Between 2000 and 2016, there was an 11% increase in residents over 65 years old.²¹

The Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay, as well as the City of Long Beach saw its 55-64 population increase by more than 50%.

Policy Challenges:

The aging population and flight of young professionals present adverse consequences for the County as the tax base could decline and the demand for public services could rise substantially. It is essential that there is an adequate working population to provide government with a revenue stream to support the senior population.⁸

Housing costs coupled with taxes are often cited as the main reason that more people don’t move to Nassau County and why residents move away.²² For example, 71% of Long Islanders age 18-35 recently indicated that they’re likely to leave Long Island as a result of housing costs and property taxes.²³

In the competition for economic success, it will be regions that are able to attract and retain a young, highly educated workforce that will be the most prosperous. Nassau County policymakers will need to find innovative solutions to expand affordable housing options, walkable downtowns, and public transportation to remain competitive.

Generational Profiles



Traditionalists

Born: 1928-1945

Age: 73-90

Percent of County: 7.8%

Status: Nearly all in retirement, though many without savings are still working.



Millennials

Born: 1981-1996

Age: 22-37

Percent of County: 24%

Status: In the workforce but struggling with wage stagnation and student debt.



Baby Boomers

Born: 1946-1964

Age: 54-72

Percent of County: 23.8%

Status: Entering retirement but expected to live longer than previous generations.



Gen Z

Born: 1997-2009

Age: 9-21

Percent of County: 18.6%

Status: Technologically driven students. Beginning to enter the workforce.



Gen X

Born: 1965-1980

Age: 38-53

Percent of County: 20.3%

Status: Experiencing less financial security than previous generations.



Generation Alpha

Born: 2010+

Age: 8 and younger

Percent of County: 5%

Status: The most diverse generation in the county's history. Entering school.



Source: U.S. Census 2012-16 ACS 5 year Estimates

Note: Generations are defined in accordance to years of birth outlined by the Pew Research Center and experts in generational research.^{23, 24} Generational analysis is a tool used by researchers to study society and human behavior.

Conclusion

This is Nassau County. America's first suburb is rapidly becoming more diverse. Today, nearly 4 in 10 residents in Nassau are nonwhite, and projections suggest the trend will continue into the next decade. Nassau County is also becoming older as baby boomers age and millennials leave the County for expanded economic opportunities. These changes present new realities and a need to adapt policies to fit a 21st century, multi-cultural county.

Policymakers will have to confront the evolving needs of the County with innovative and practical solutions. Your race and zip code should not determine your future success. As the County trends towards minority-majority status, our future prosperity will be dependent on eliminating racial disparities.

An aging population will depend more on health care services and need greater access to public transportation. Nassau will have to focus on making its neighborhoods attractive to younger professionals seeking affordable housing options in centrally located developments and fostering an economic climate to generate high paying jobs. Without affordable, transit-oriented housing units, the County will remain unattractive to a young, talented workforce and will bear the burdens of that loss.

Just as the post-war boom years allowed Nassau County to meet the needs of a new suburban lifestyle, these shifts present similar opportunities for the County to once again serve as a conduit for a suburban lifestyle in a new era. It remains to be seen if Nassau will seize this opportunity.

**NO
100**



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NASSAU COUNTY, NY

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

Population: 1.37 Million

2.6% Growth Since 2000



22%

Are Immigrants

8%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

48%



55-64

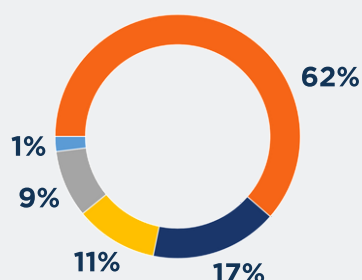
18%



25-44

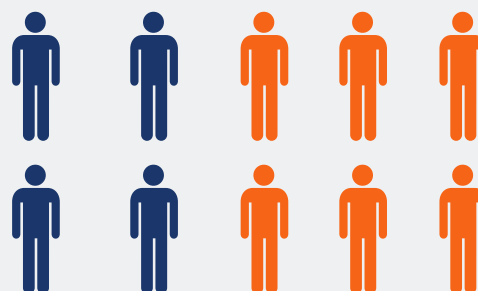
POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Minority Population: 4 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

28%

Speak a language other than English

12%

Are not fluent in the English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



44%

Have a Bachelor's degree or higher

9%

Do not have a high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates



TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

Population: 768,708

1.7% Growth Since 2000



22%

Are Immigrants

8%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

54%



55-64

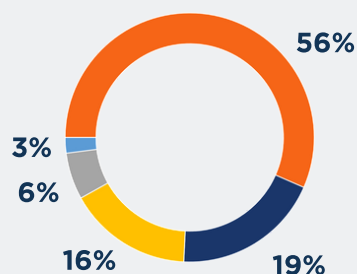
17%



25-44

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Minority Population: 4 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

28%

Speak a language other than English

12%

Are not fluent in the English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



39%

Have a Bachelor's degree or higher

10%

Do not have a high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates

TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

Population: 229,640

3.2% Growth Since 2000



29%

Are Immigrants

2%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

27%



55-64

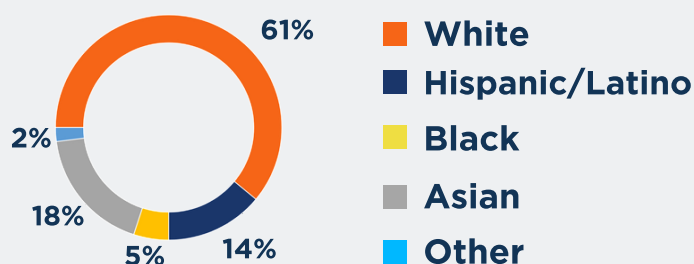
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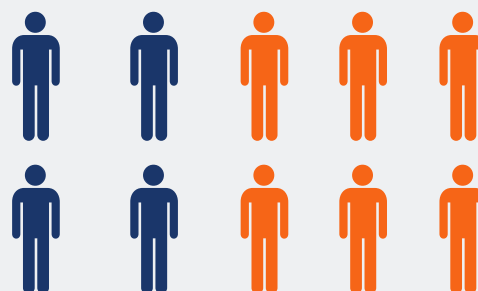
25-44

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



Minority Population: 4 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

37%

Speak a language
other than English

16%

Are not fluent in the
English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



53%

Have a Bachelor's
degree or higher

9%

Do not have a
high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates



TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

Population: 297,537

1.2% Growth Since 2000



16%

Are Immigrants

9%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

51%



55-64

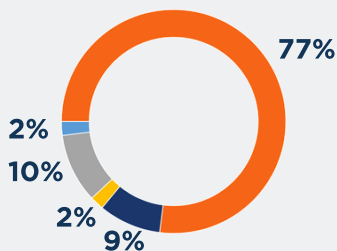
25%



25-44

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Minority Population: 2 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

21%

Speak a language other than English

7%

Are not fluent in the English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



48%

Have a Bachelor's degree or higher

6%

Do not have a high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates

THE CITY OF LONG BEACH

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

POPULATION: 33,670

5.4% Decline Since 2000



16%

Are Immigrants

10%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

54%



55-64

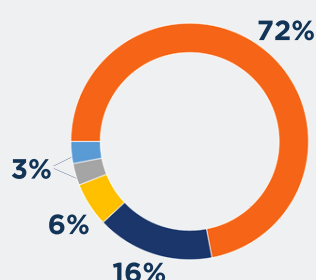
20%



25-44

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Minority Population: 3 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

21%

Speak a language other than English

9%

Are not fluent in the English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



47%

Have a Bachelor's degree or higher

9%

Do not have a high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates



CITY OF GLEN COVE

December 2018

QUICK FACTS

Population: 27,246

2.3% Growth Since 2000



29%

Are Immigrants

8%

Have a Disability

AGE TRENDS

2000-2016

36%



55-64

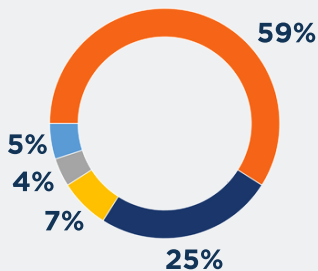
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25-44

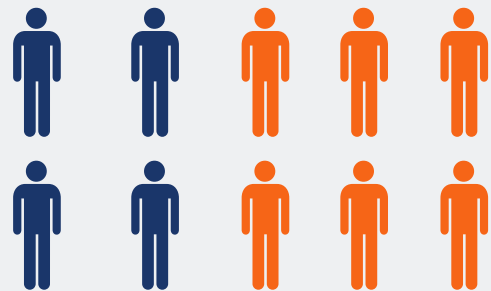
POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2016 Profile:



- White
- Hispanic/Latino
- Black
- Asian
- Other

Minority Population: 4 in 10 Residents



LANGUAGE ACCESS

40%

Speak a language
other than English

18%

Are not fluent in the
English Language



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



38%

Have a Bachelor's
degree or higher

18%

Do not have a
high school diploma

Source: U.S. Census 2012-2016 ACS 5 Year Estimates



OFFICE OF THE NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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