4 - QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE

MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE IN A COMPLEX COUNTY

There are several problems related to measuring the quality of life in a region or community, most of them stemming from the opaque and subjective nature of any human attempt to measure how life is experienced by others. What constitutes a "*high*" quality of life is obviously not the same for everyone. Good schools might mean less to single adults than they do to families with children. Higher wages might mean more to young workers than to retirees. Access to parks might mean more to middle-class hikers than to wealthy yacht owners.

The primary way in which this segment of Suffolk's comprehensive plan attempts to achieve greater clarity is to present a variety of objective data (i.e. data that generally does not include personal interviews or opinion surveys) in order to compare important aspects of life in Suffolk county with other similarly situated, comparable counties. To further that purpose, thirteen comparison counties nationwide, chosen on the basis of similarity with Suffolk in terms of population, density, geography, income, wealth, demographics, and other factors, have been selected and, where possible, will be compared with Suffolk.

Comprehensive and reliable data taken together cannot entirely explain how people experience life in Suffolk County, but we can attempt to examine actual migration patterns as one way to assess quality of life. While migration is a complex phenomenon, it can reasonably be assumed that residents act in ways that they believe will enhance their own best interest. Choosing a place to live is no exception. While migration data provided by the American Community Survey's Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) does not attempt to answer the question of why people choose to move in to or out of a county, it does provide us with a measure of how many people are moving to or moving from a given county, sometimes termed "voting with their feet." This is an indicator of where an area stands in terms of desirability relative to other places.

SUFFOLK COUNTY, AN INNER-RING SUBURB?

Suffolk County is often linked with Nassau County as comprising the Long Island region, outside of the jurisdiction of New York City. Yet sometimes Suffolk County is included with New York City in the larger New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area. In this way, Suffolk is considered to be similar to other older suburbs in the Northeast that experienced their highest rate of population growth in the 1950s and 1960s and developed as "bedroom" extensions of larger cities newly accessible by automobile via a new highway system.

These "inner-ring," "old line," or "first" suburbs now face challenges. In their report *One Fifth of America*, Brookings Institute scholars Robert Puentes and David Warren write: "Neither fully urban nor completely suburban, America's older inner-ring suburbs have a unique set of challenges – concentrations of elderly and immigrant populations as well as outmoded housing and commercial buildings – very different from those of the center city and fast growing newer places." Inner-ring suburbs are often characterized by a high cost of living, high population density, an aging population, growing racial and ethnic diversity, dwindling vacant land, and road and highway congestion. The 2004 Long Island Index, published by the Rauch Foundation, explained that the Nassau-Suffolk region was "the pioneer of America's suburban expansion" and that as the "nation's first mature suburb" it faces challenges that include, fragmentation of governance, independent communities, "and a growing disparity by income, race and ethnicity that is clear in current housing, education and health indicators." First suburbs are often distinguished from the newer, faster growing "exurbs" which are located further from central cities than inner-ring suburbs. Exurbs emerged in recent decades and many are located in the South and Southwest. Exurbs are often economically independent of large cities, less costly, more middle class, more racially balanced, and possess more vacant land to expand outward.

While Suffolk shares some characteristics with other inner-ring, post-war suburbs, the inner-ring model isn't always applicable. Unlike Nassau and other urbanized inner-ring suburbs, Suffolk still has some vacant land available for development, which accounts for its persistent population growth. In addition, a relatively large percentage of Suffolk's labor force works within Suffolk County itself. Suffolk County is separated from New York City by Nassau County, as most exurban counties are separated geographically from a central city by at least one county. Moreover, Suffolk's geography is unique. It is located on the largest island adjoining the continental United States, extending approximately 118 miles east-northeast from the mouth of the Hudson River to the Atlantic Ocean. It is separated from the mainland on the north by the Long Island Sound and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the south and east. This gives Suffolk County 990 miles of coastline, among the most of any county
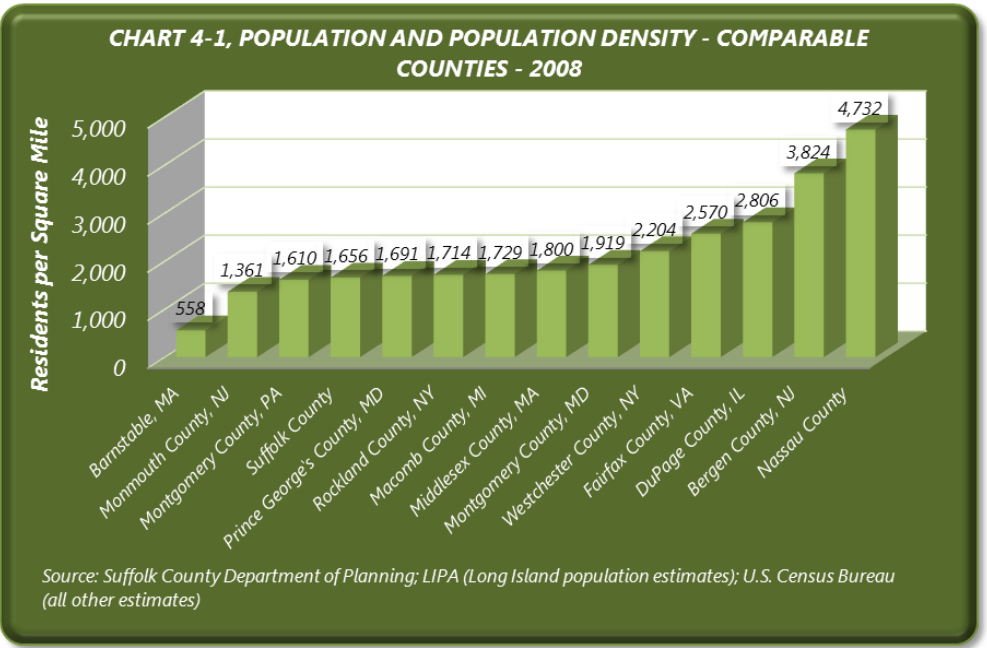
nationwide *(see Table 4-1)*. As a result, issues related to conservation, water access, water-dependent and water-related uses, water pollution, marine life, coastal zone housing and flooding have played a larger role in the political, economic, and social life of Suffolk County than might be assumed merely from its status as a suburb of America's largest city.

Nationally, suburban development density is roughly defined as at least 1,000 people per square mile, the point at which the demand threshold for basic public infrastructure services like water and utilities is reached. Overall, Suffolk County has 1,639 residents per square mile, compared to Nassau County's 4,672. However, population density on Suffolk's East End is 395 persons per square mile, well below the suburban cutoff, while density in the five western Suffolk towns (2,403) is somewhat closer to the Nassau County figure. *(see Table 4-2 and Chart 4-1).*
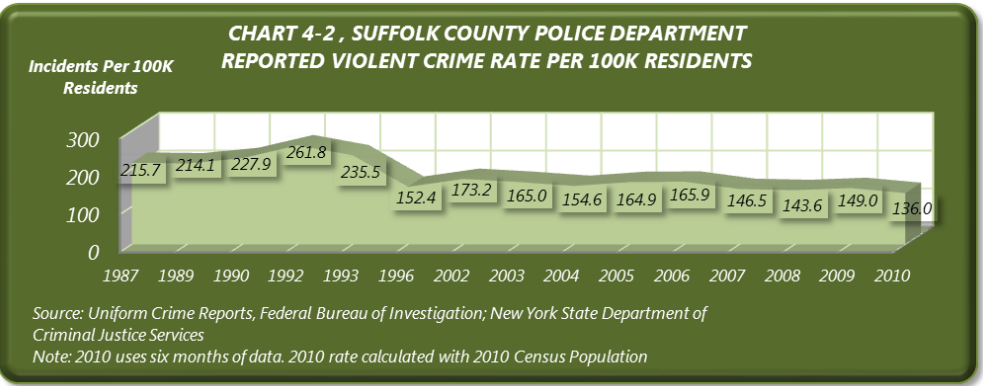
within those towns provide the bulk of police services for those residents. The East End towns also levy an additional real estate transfer tax earmarked for land preservation.

TABLE 4-1, ESTIMATES OF SHORELINE LENGTH (MILES) IN SUFFOLK COUNTY BY TOWN AND REGION				
TOWN	*South Shore*	*North Shore*	*Peconic & Gardiners Bays*	*Town Total*
Babylon	95	0	0	**95**
Brookhaven	105	40	0	**145**
East Hampton	30	0	90	**120**
Huntington	0	65	0	**65**
Islip	95	0	0	**95**
Riverhead	0	20	15	**35**
Shelter Island	0	0	50	**50**
Smithtown	0	30	0	**30**
Southampton	135	0	70	**205**
Southold	0	35	115	**150**
Suffolk County Total	**460**	**190**	**340**	**990**

Source: Suffolk County Planning Dept.

The varying development patterns within Suffolk County can also make it difficult to precisely classify Suffolk County's suburban status. The western Suffolk County Towns of Babylon, Huntington, Islip, and Smithtown generally reflect the typical inner-ring suburban development pattern expanding outward from the core of the central city (in this case, from New York City), somewhat similar to Nassau County. Moving eastward away from New York City, the Town of Brookhaven is more of a transition area, exhibiting some inner-ring suburb characteristics and some exurban characteristics. On the other hand, Suffolk County's East End (comprised of the Towns of East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold) retains a good deal of its rural agricultural heritage.

CHART 4-1, POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY - COMPARABLE COUNTIES - 2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; LIPA (Long Island population estimates); U.S. Census Bureau (all other estimates)

The difference between the more urbanized western half of Suffolk County and the less populated eastern half is also reflected in governing structure. The western portion of Suffolk County constitutes the county "police district," which is a function of county government. The East End of the County and the villages located

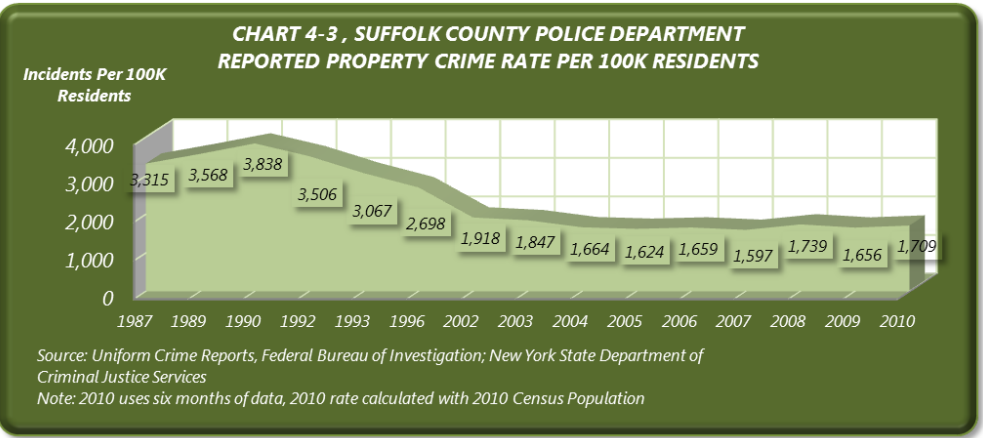| TABLE 4-2, POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY			
SELECTED AREAS	*Population 2008*	*Area in Square Miles*	*Population Density 2008*
Town of Babylon	218,370	52.3	4,175
Town of Brookhaven	491,035	259.3	1,894
Town of East Hampton	21,784	74.3	293
Town of Huntington	203,977	94.0	2,170
Town of Islip	333,566	105.3	3,168
Town of Riverhead	33,864	67.4	502
Town of Shelter Island	2,525	12.1	209
Town of Smithtown	120,269	53.6	2,244
Town of Southampton	60,281	138.9	434
Town of Southold	22,931	53.7	427
Eastern Suffolk County	141,385	346.4	408
Western Suffolk County	1,367,217	564.5	2,422
Suffolk County	**1,508,602**	**910.9**	**1,656**
Barnstable, MA	221,049	396.0	558
Monmouth County, NJ	642,448	471.9	1,361
Montgomery County, PA	778,048	483.1	1,610
Suffolk County	1,508,602	910.9	1,656
Prince George's County, MD	820,852	485.4	1,691
Rockland County, NY	298,545	174.2	1,714
Macomb County, MI	830,663	480.4	1,729
Middlesex County, MA	1,482,478	823.5	1,800
Montgomery County, MD	950,680	495.5	1,919
Westchester County, NY	953,943	432.8	2,204
Fairfax County, VA	1,015,302	395.0	2,570
DuPage County, IL	930,528	331.6	2,806
Bergen County, NJ	894,840	234.0	3,824
Nassau County	1,356,729	286.7	4,732

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; LIPA (Long Island population estimates); U.S. Census Bureau (all other estimates)
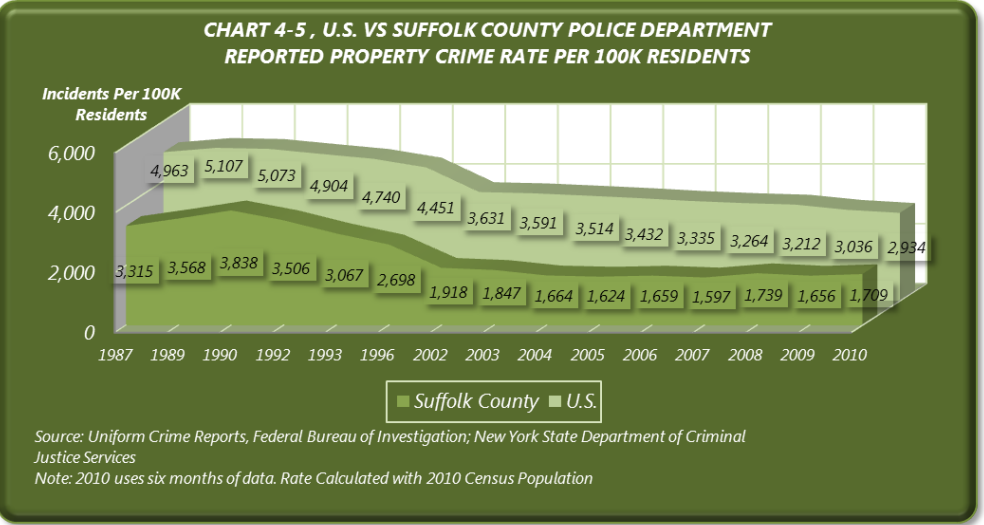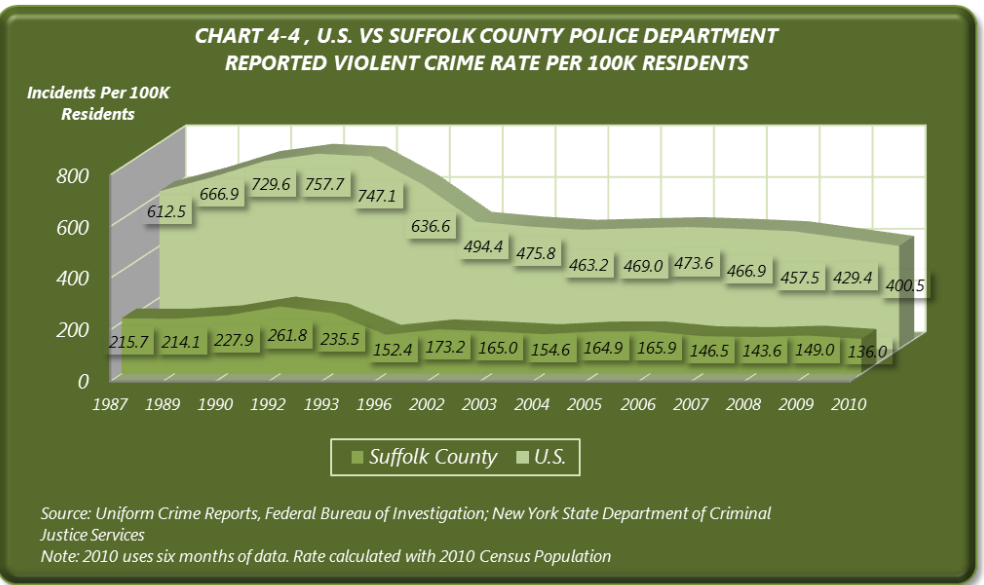
CRIME

For a large urban county, Suffolk is relatively safe. Crime reported to the Suffolk county police department has declined markedly over the past twenty-five years. In 1987, the Suffolk Police reported a violent crime (e.g. murder, theft, rape) rate of 215.7 incidents per 100,000 residents. By 2010 that rate had fallen by 37 percent, to 136 incidents per 100,000 residents. The same is true of property crimes. In 1987

CHART 4-2 , SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS

Incidents Per 100K Residents

Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation; New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
Note: 2010 uses six months of data. 2010 rate calculated with 2010 Census Population

Suffolk police reported a property crime rate of 3,315 incidents per 100,000 residents. By 2010 that rate had dropped by 48 percent to 1,709 incidents per 100,000 residents. Suffolk's crime rates remain well below the average for the nation, and have fallen further than the

CHART 4-3 , SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS

Incidents Per 100K Residents

Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation; New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
Note: 2010 uses six months of data, 2010 rate calculated with 2010 Census Population

nation's as a whole. The nation's violent crime rate dropped 35 percent between 1987 and 2010 (from 612.5 per 100,000 residents to 400), compared to Suffolk's rate drop of 37 percent. The nation's property crime rate dropped by 41 percent (from 4,963 per 100,000 residents to 1,709 per 100,000 residents), compared to Suffolk's drop of 48 percent.

CHART 4-4 , U.S. VS SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS

Incidents Per 100K Residents

■ Suffolk County   ■ U.S.

Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation; New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
Note: 2010 uses six months of data. Rate calculated with 2010 Census Population

CHART 4-5 , U.S. VS SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS

Incidents Per 100K Residents

■ Suffolk County   ■ U.S.

Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation; New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
Note: 2010 uses six months of data. Rate Calculated with 2010 Census Population
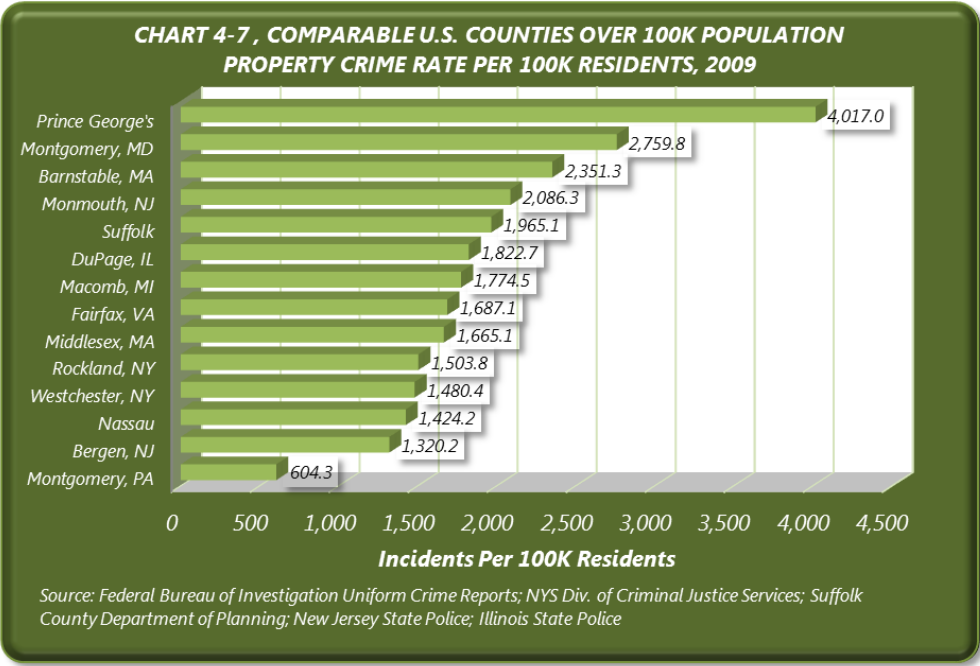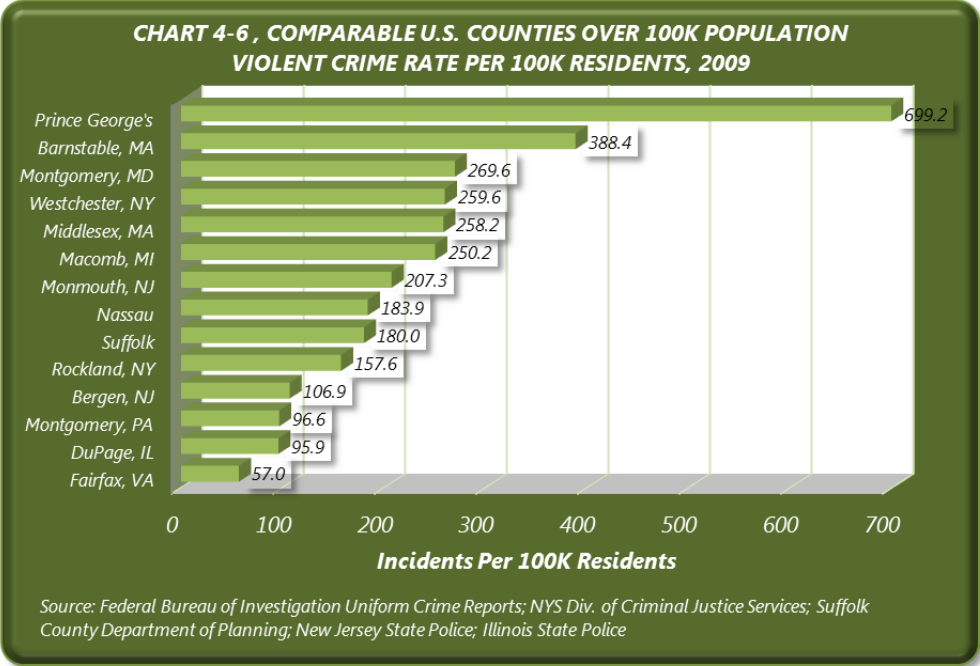
Data compiled from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and various state agencies for the year 2009 indicates that for violent crime Suffolk has the sixth lowest crime rate among fourteen comparable counties, with 180 violent crimes per 100,000 residents. Prince George's county, MD, Barnstable county, MA, Westchester county, Middlesex county, MA, Macomb county, MI, Monmouth county, NJ, and Nassau county all had higher violent crime rates. Rockland county, Bergen county, NJ, Montgomery county, PA, DuPage county, IL, and Fairfax, VA had lower violent crime rates. In terms of property crimes like burglary and auto theft, Suffolk's crime rate was 1,965.1 per 100,000 residents, the fifth highest of the fourteen comparable counties.
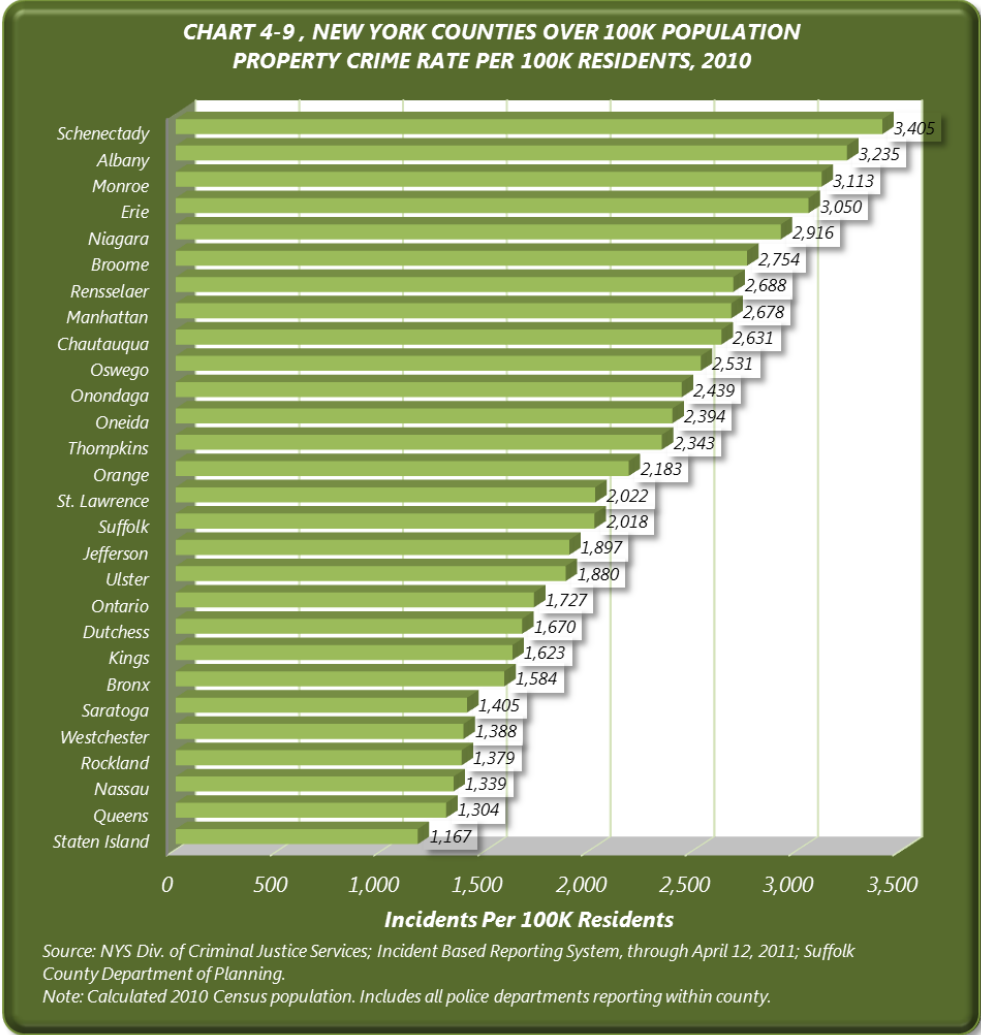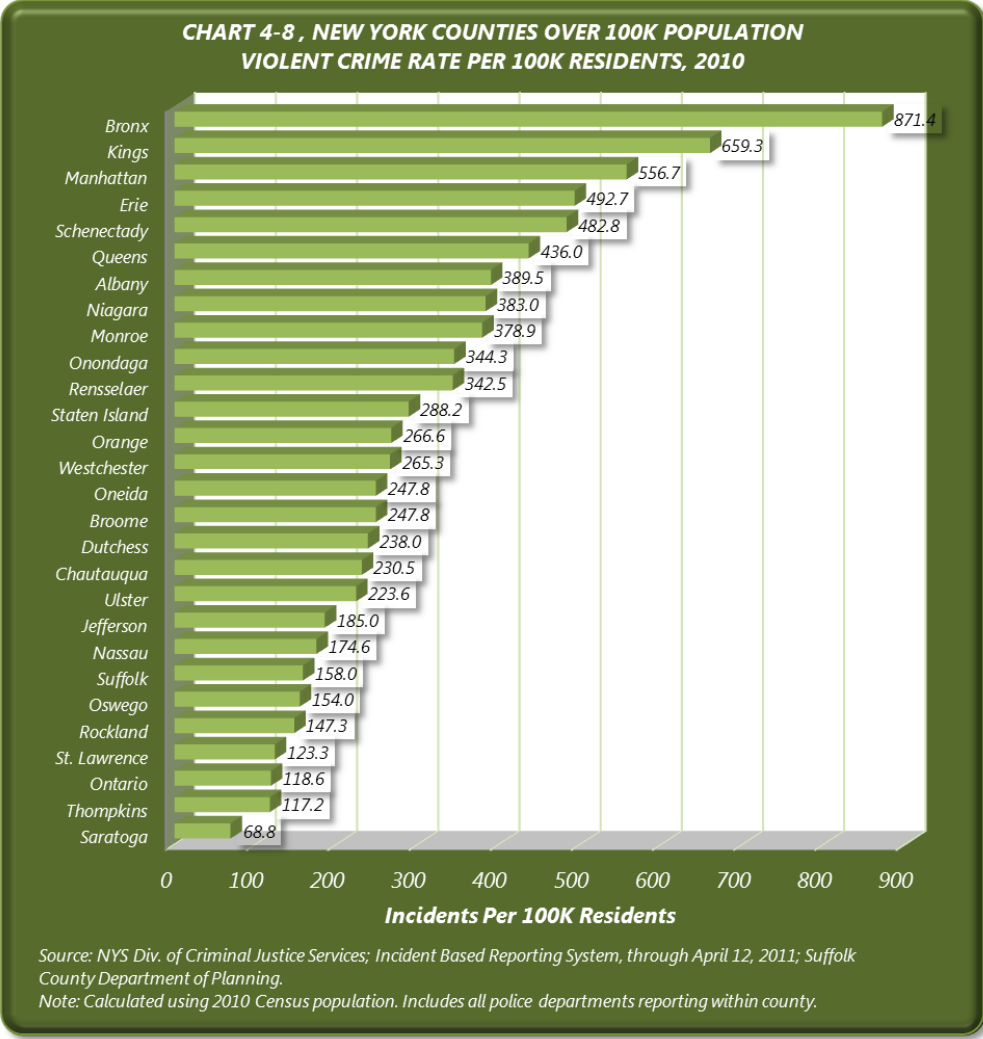
TABLE 4-3 ,CRIME RATES: COMPARABLE COUNTIES - 2009							
COUNTY	PD	Year	2009 Pop.	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Violent Crime Rate Per 100K	Property Crime Rate Per 100K
Suffolk	County Total	2009	1,518,475	2,733	29,840	180	1,965
Montgomery, MD	County Total	2009	971,600	2,619	26,814	270	2,760
Prince George's	County Total	2009	834,560	5,835	33,524	699	4,017
Macomb, MI	County Total	2009	831,427	2,080	14,754	250	1,775
Montgomery, PA	County Total	2009	782,339	756	4,728	97	604
Westchester, NY	County Total	2009	955,962	2,482	14,152	260	1,480
Bergen, NJ	County Total	2009	895,250	957	11,819	107	1,320
Monmouth, NJ	County Total	2009	644,105	1,335	13,438	207	2,086
Rockland, NY	County Total	2009	300,173	473	4,514	158	1,504
Nassau	County Total	2009	1,357,429	2,496	19,332	184	1,424
Barnstable, MA	County Total	2009	221,151	859	5,200	388	2,351
Middlesex, MA	County Total	2009	1,505,006	3,886	25,060	258	1,665
Fairfax, VA	County Total	2009	1,037,605	591	17,505	57	1,687
DuPage, IL	County Total	2009	930,528	892	16,961	96	1,823

Source: Unless otherwise specified, data was retrieved from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's online table building tool for Uniform Crime Reports found at www.ucrdatatool.gov. All sources utilized Uniform Crime Reports.
New York county data was provided by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.
New Jersey counties data from New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reports http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/info/ucr2009/pdf/2009_sect_7_a.pdf
Westchester county includes city of Yonkers.
Fairfax and Falls Church Cities not included in Fairfax county. Census counts them separately, as it does all cities in Virginia.
DuPage county data comes from Illinois State Police, Crime Index/Offense http://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/cii/cii09/cii09_Section_II_Pg27_to_196.pdf

In terms of the twenty-eight counties in New York state with over 100,000 residents, Suffolk's violent crime rate ranks seventh lowest for

CHART 4-6 , COMPARABLE U.S. COUNTIES OVER 100K POPULATION VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS, 2009

County	Incidents Per 100K Residents
Prince George's	699.2
Barnstable, MA	388.4
Montgomery, MD	269.6
Westchester, NY	259.6
Middlesex, MA	258.2
Macomb, MI	250.2
Monmouth, NJ	207.3
Nassau	183.9
Suffolk	180.0
Rockland, NY	157.6
Bergen, NJ	106.9
Montgomery, PA	96.6
DuPage, IL	95.9
Fairfax, VA	57.0

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports; NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services; Suffolk County Department of Planning; New Jersey State Police; Illinois State Police

CHART 4-7 , COMPARABLE U.S. COUNTIES OVER 100K POPULATION PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS, 2009

County	Incidents Per 100K Residents
Prince George's	4,017.0
Montgomery, MD	2,759.8
Barnstable, MA	2,351.3
Monmouth, NJ	2,086.3
Suffolk	1,965.1
DuPage, IL	1,822.7
Macomb, MI	1,774.5
Fairfax, VA	1,687.1
Middlesex, MA	1,665.1
Rockland, NY	1,503.8
Westchester, NY	1,480.4
Nassau	1,424.2
Bergen, NJ	1,320.2
Montgomery, PA	604.3

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports; NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services; Suffolk County Department of Planning; New Jersey State Police; Illinois State Police

2010, at 158 per 100,000 residents. Only the much more rural counties of Oswego, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Ontario, Thompkins, and Saratoga had lower violent crime rates in 2010. In terms of property crimes for the twenty-eight counties in New York state with over 100,000 residents, Suffolk's rate ranked 13th lowest, with 2,018 per 100,000 residents.

CHART 4-8 , NEW YORK COUNTIES OVER 100K POPULATION VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS, 2010

County	Incidents Per 100K Residents
Bronx	871.4
Kings	659.3
Manhattan	556.7
Erie	492.7
Schenectady	482.8
Queens	436.0
Albany	389.5
Niagara	383.0
Monroe	378.9
Onondaga	344.3
Rensselaer	342.5
Staten Island	288.2
Orange	266.6
Westchester	265.3
Oneida	247.8
Broome	247.8
Dutchess	238.0
Chautauqua	230.5
Ulster	223.6
Jefferson	185.0
Nassau	174.6
Suffolk	158.0
Oswego	154.0
Rockland	147.3
St. Lawrence	123.3
Ontario	118.6
Thompkins	117.2
Saratoga	68.8

Source: NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services; Incident Based Reporting System, through April 12, 2011; Suffolk County Department of Planning.
Note: Calculated using 2010 Census population. Includes all police departments reporting within county.

CHART 4-9 , NEW YORK COUNTIES OVER 100K POPULATION PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 100K RESIDENTS, 2010

County	Incidents Per 100K Residents
Schenectady	3,405
Albany	3,235
Monroe	3,113
Erie	3,050
Niagara	2,916
Broome	2,754
Rensselaer	2,688
Manhattan	2,678
Chautauqua	2,631
Oswego	2,531
Onondaga	2,439
Oneida	2,394
Thompkins	2,343
Orange	2,183
St. Lawrence	2,022
Suffolk	2,018
Jefferson	1,897
Ulster	1,880
Ontario	1,727
Dutchess	1,670
Kings	1,623
Bronx	1,584
Saratoga	1,405
Westchester	1,388
Rockland	1,379
Nassau	1,339
Queens	1,304
Staten Island	1,167

Source: NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services; Incident Based Reporting System, through April 12, 2011; Suffolk County Department of Planning.
Note: Calculated 2010 Census population. Includes all police departments reporting within county.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Suffolk County has 415 local governmental units, 113 of which are general-purpose municipalities with home rule powers (see **Table 4-4**). In Suffolk County, government structure is fragmented and decision-making is decentralized, like many suburbs in the Northeast (see **Table 4-5**). Suffolk County has 6,374 residents per local

TABLE 4-4, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ON LONG ISLAND			
	Nassau	Suffolk	LI
Municipal Corporations	126	113	239
Counties	1	1	2
Cities	2	0	2
Towns	3	10	13
Villages	71	32	103
School Districts	56	71	127
Special Purpose Units	90	56	146
Housing Auth.	9	3	12
Parking Auth.	0	0	0
Urban Renewal Agencies	1	3	4
Industrial Dev. Agencies	3	5	8
Municipal Libraries	34	30	64
Soil /Water Cons. Districts	1	1	2
Special Districts	36	7	43
Consol. Health Districts	0	0	0
All Other	6	8	14
Town – Special Districts	139	198	337
Fire Protection	30	34	64
Lighting	3	21	24
Sewer	5	11	16
Drainage	1	1	2
Water	28	18	46
Refuse and Garbage	24	21	45
Park	23	9	32
Other	25	83	108
Fire Districts	39	31	70
County Districts	92	17	99
Total	**486**	**415**	**900**

Source: Suffolk Planning: New York State Comptroller's Office, Special Report on Municipal Affairs, Appendix A, Local Government Entities, Component Units and Special Purpose Units – 1997. Villages updated by Suffolk Planning.

TABLE 4-5, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN COMPARABLE COUNTIES - 2002									
COUNTY	Total Govts	Counties	Cities/Villages	Townships	School Districts	Special Districts	Dependent School Dist*	Population 2008	No. of Residents Per Local Govt Unit
Monmouth	145	1	38	15	54	37	2	641,673	4,425
Barnstable	47	1	1	14	4	27		222,118	4,726
Montgomery, PA	152	1	24	38	23	66		775,304	5,101
Rockland	58	1	19	5	8	25	1	297,159	5,123
Dupage	169	1	29	9	45	85		927,410	5,488
Bergen	149	1	61	9	74	4	5	891,246	5,982
Suffolk	237	1	31	10	70	125	1	1,510,716	6,374
Nassau	202	1	66	3	56	76	1	1,352,817	6,697
Westchester	120	1	29	17	39	34	2	950,237	7,919
Middlesex, NJ	78	1	15	10	22	30	4	783,646	10,047
Middlesex, MA**	126	0	12	42	12	60	48	1,471,977	11,682
Macomb, MI	56	1	15	12	22	6		829,436	14,811
Prince George's, MD	34	1	27			6	2	825,924	24,292
Montgomery, MD	23	1	19			3	2	942,747	40,989
Fairfax, VA	9	1	3			5	1	1,005,980	111,776

Source: Suffolk Planning, U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Governments – 2002

* Not included in Total

** County type area without county government

more decentralized than Suffolk. As can be seen in the table above, Suffolk lies in the middle of the pack of comparable counties in terms of the total number of residents per local government unit at 6,374. Monmouth County, New Jersey has the least number of residents per

local government unit (meaning more local governments) at 4,425 while Fairfax, Virginia has the most at 111,776 local residents per local government.

CHART 4-10, NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau; Census of Governments 2002

government unit, which places Suffolk in the middle of the list of comparable counties, seventh lowest out of 15 counties (*see* ***Chart 4 -10***). Suffolk has around 300 fewer residents per governmental unit than neighboring Nassau. Some other suburban counties appear

Although the number of local governments does not necessarily reflect the presence or absence of local power, it dramatizes the different approaches that have been taken by American states in their approach to local governments. Many critics point to the overlapping and duplicative nature of local governments in New York State and on Long Island. ***Table 4-6*** indicates New York and the Long Island suburbs are not alone in valuing small jurisdictions. The table addresses the concentration of local governments based on the land area and population of the state and indicates that other states have a large number of local governments per square mile and per capita. They can be found both among states with large numbers of local

governments (Illinois and Pennsylvania) and those with fewer local jurisdictions (Connecticut and Delaware). At the low end of this continuum are states like Kansas, with an average of 706 state residents served by each local government. While few states exceed 10,000 residents per local government, Hawaii is an outlier with over 67,000 residents per local government.

TABLE 4-6, LAND AND POPULATION DENSITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN STATES WITH MOST AND FEWEST UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

STATE	Square Miles Per Govt.*	Residents Per Government**
Illinois	8,052	1,848
Penn.	8,908	2,471
Texas	54.723	4,778
Cal.	35,373	8,195
Kansas	21,048	706
Ohio	11,262	3,153
Minn.	22,863	1,474
Missouri	20,130	1,695
New York	13,804	5,630
Indiana	11,626	3,085
Connecticut	8,353	6.052
New Hampshire	16,043	2,343
Virginia	75,996	14,524
Louisiana	92,095	9,564
Delaware	5,764	2,488
Maryland	36,979	21,133
Nevada	554***	12,956***
Alaska	3,231***	3,946***
Rhode Island	8,856	9,120
Hawaii	338***	67,115

*Based on dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water. U.S. Census 2000.

**Based on 2005 population. U.S. Census Bureau.

***Based on 2007 population.

TRAFFIC

Suffolk County has experienced traffic and transportation problems similar to those of many postwar suburbs nearing saturation development conditions. Many of Suffolk's roads are regularly listed on the nation's "most congested" lists. The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council estimated that each day in 2010, Suffolk drivers experienced 123,687 hours delayed in traffic during A.M. peak periods and 258,715 hours delayed during P.M. peak periods **(see Table 4-7)**.

TABLE 4-7, COUNTY AUTO TRANSPORTATION CHARACTERISTICS - 2010

COUNTY WIDE	2010 Base Year AM/PM Peak Periods					
		Avg. D/C	Avg Speed	VHD	PHD	TTI
Suffolk County	A.M.	0.25	32.69	70,678	123,687	1.37
	P.M.	0.37	26.46	147,837	258,715	1.67

Source: NYMTC. "VHD" = vehicle hours delayed, "PHD" = person hours delayed, "D/C" = demand to road capacity ratio.

Average commute times in a county are heavily impacted by complex factors that include the geographical size of the county, its population density, modes of travel, and especially the distance of jobs from residents. In the period 2006-2008, the average commute time of employed Suffolk County residents was 29.8 minutes. This represents a decrease from Suffolk's average commute time of 31.8 minutes in 2000, 28.5 minutes in 1990, and 31.0 minutes in 1980 (see **Chart 4-11**). In comparing this figure to comparable counties, Suffolk County falls in the middle range (see **Chart 4-12**).

Generally, counties with a high percentage of employed residents working in the same county have lower commute times. Suffolk's average travel time to work increased from 1990 to 2000 as the percentage of Suffolk's resident workers commuting to relatively distant Manhattan grew from 5.4 to 5.6%. In the 2006-2008 period, as

CHART 4-11, AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME TO WORK - SUFFOLK COUNTY

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; ACS 2006-2008

CHART 4-12, AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME TO WORK - COMPARABLE COUNTIES

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; ACS 2006-2008
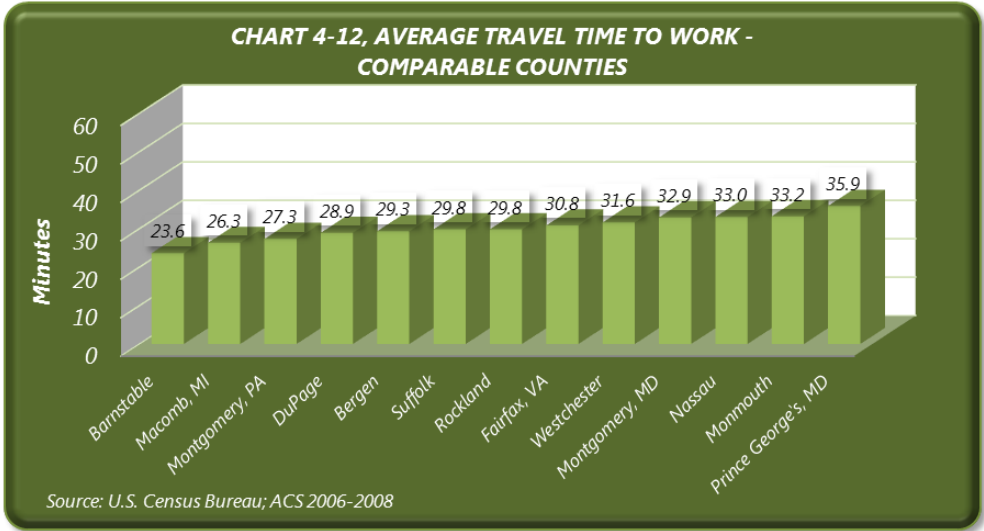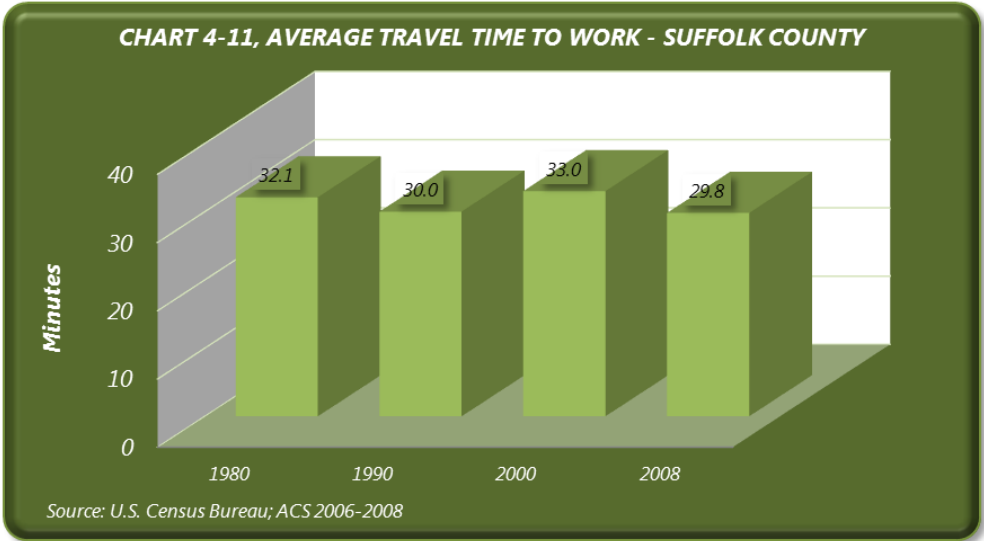
the percentage of Suffolk commuters to Manhattan declined to 5.1%, the average commute time fell to 29.8 minutes (see **Table 4-8**).

Of the comparable counties, Suffolk has a high percentage of employed residents who work within the county (75.7%), second only

TABLE 4-8, SUFFOLK WORKERS COMMUTING TO NEW YORK CITY BY BOROUGH, 1990, 2000, 2009					
BOROUGH	2008 from Suffolk	2008, % of Total Suffolk Labor Force	2000, % of Total Suffolk Labor Force	1990, % of Total Suffolk Labor Force	2008, % of Total Borough Employment
Bronx	3,493	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.4
Manhattan	40,822	5.1	5.6	5.4	1.6
Richmond	27	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Kings	10,801	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.1
Queens	25,896	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.8
Total NYC	81,039	10.2	10.9	11.1	2.1

Source: Suffolk Planning, U.S. Census Bureau PUMA Data, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

to Barnstable, Massachusetts. In Barnstable, 84.7% of employed residents work in that county. As a result, Barnstable has the shortest commute time of the comparable counties of 23.6 minutes. On the other hand, in Prince George's County, Maryland, only 39.3% of employed residents work in that county. Many of Prince George's residents commute to nearby Washington, D.C. Not surprisingly, Prince George's County also has the longest average commute time of comparable counties of 35.9 minutes. (see **Chart 4-13**).
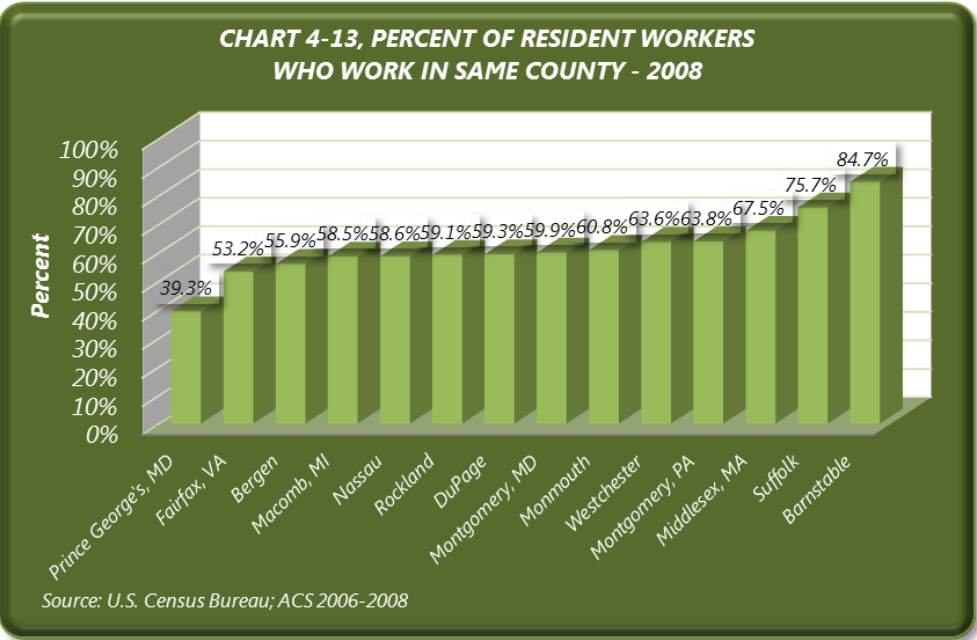
Long Island Expressway

EDUCATION

Suffolk's school districts are at the core of Suffolk County's identity and quality of life. Like other inner-ring suburbs, Suffolk's public schools are generally very highly regarded (see **Chart 4-14**). However, the school districts in Suffolk County are also characterized by racial disparities and uneven quality. Since the complex system of 69 school districts spans the entire range of achievement, size, demographic makeup, and resource allocation, the matter requires and is given more detailed consideration in a separate and discrete report.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

National data shows that income and wealth among people and households with varying degrees of education have become more unequal in recent decades. Many economists believe that the value of education and high-end skill sets has increased in an information-

CHART 4-14, SUFFOLK SCHOOL DISTRICTS - HIGH MINORITY DISTRICTS VS ALL DISTRICTS 2007
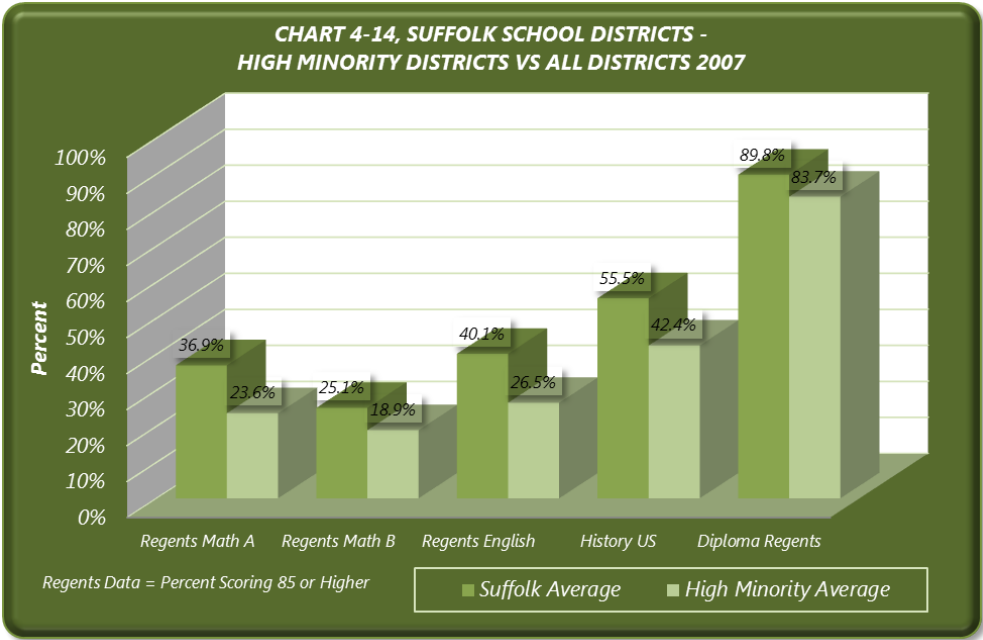
based economy, and has resulted in a greater disparity in wages and salaries between those who possess high skill levels and those who do not.

Income levels in Suffolk County, one of the first of America's middle class suburbs of the post-World War II period, have become less evenly distributed among Suffolk's households. The percentage of households at the high end of the income spectrum has increased, with fewer in the low income category and even fewer in the middle income category, similar to Manhattan and San Francisco. In inflation adjusted terms, the percentage of upper income households (with household incomes of $116,500 or greater) increased by 10 percentage points between 1999 and the period 2006-2008 (before the major effects of the nationwide recession that began in 2008). Lower income households decreased by 3 percentage points and middle income households decreased by 8 percentage points. In the

CHART 4-13, PERCENT OF RESIDENT WORKERS WHO WORK IN SAME COUNTY - 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; ACS 2006-2008

period 2006-2008, 48.3% of Suffolk County households had incomes in the middle range between $35,000 and $116,500 compared with 56.1% in 1999 (inflation adjusted) (*see Chart 4-15*).

CHART 4-15, SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION 1999 VS 2008

Note: (2008 Income Categories in Parenthesis)
Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; American Community Survey; U.S. Census Bureau
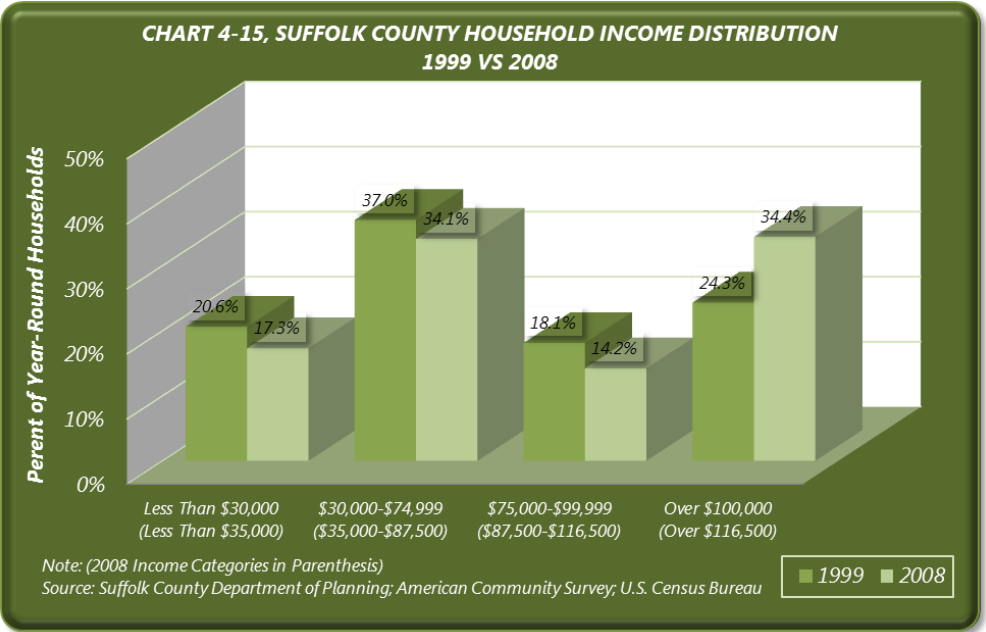
With 48.3% of households considered middle income or middle class, Suffolk County lies in the middle range among comparable counties. Suffolk has a higher percentage of middle class households than Manhattan, New York (36.6%) and Fairfax, Virginia (41.1%), but a lower percentage than Prince George's, Maryland (55.5%) and Barnstable, Massachusetts (54.0%) (*see Chart 4-16*).

This data leads to a number of questions. Is it preferable for Suffolk County to become a region characterized by a smaller middle class, even if it means that more people are wealthier? If it is believed that a large, or at least stable, middle-class is necessary for Suffolk to flourish, is there anything policy makers can do to sustain, attract or

CHART 4-16, PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE MIDDLE INCOME* - COMPARABLE COUNTIES 2008

*2008 Income = $35,000-$116,500
Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau; ACS 2006–2008
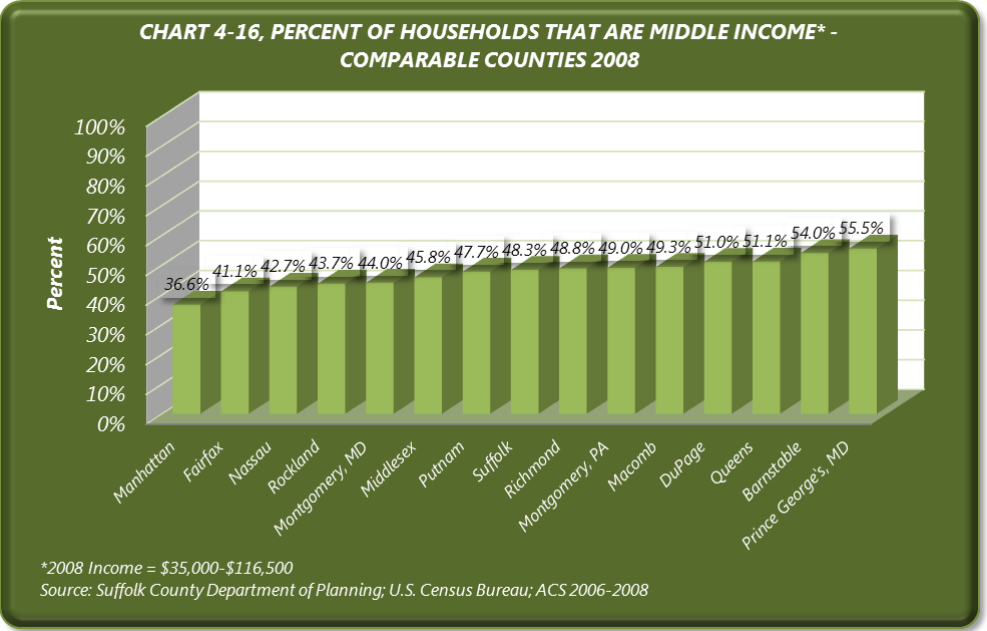
"create" a middle class? The great urbanist Jane Jacobs wrote, "*A metropolitan economy, if it is working well, is constantly transforming many poor people into middle-class people, many illiterates into skilled people, many green horns into competent citizens . . . Cities don't lure the middle-class. They create it.*" The implications of this changing wealth distribution – what it means for housing, education, government, the labor force, the cost of living – will be addressed throughout this plan

COST OF LIVING

As with other postwar suburbs located in major metropolitan areas, it has become more expensive to live in Suffolk relative to other places in the United States. The overall cost of living is now between 30 and 40% higher than the average for the rest of the nation. Sperling's Best Places and Townhunter.com have cost of living

calculators that indicate that someone earning the median household income in Suffolk County ($85,560 from the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey) could enjoy a similar standard of living with considerably less income in most comparable counties: $75,497 in Barnstable, Massachusetts; $72,986 in DuPage, Illinois; $59,855 in Macomb, Michigan; $81,941 in Middlesex, Massachusetts; $46,571 in Montgomery, Pennsylvania; $62,000 in Prince George's, Maryland; $81,000 in Rockland, New York, and $79,500 in Westchester, New York. There are several comparable counties however, in which the median household income would have to be higher in order to enjoy the same standard of living as households making the median in Suffolk: $94,929 in Bergen, New Jersey; $88,875 in Fairfax, Virginia; $89,596 in Montgomery, Maryland; and $92,845 in Nassau, New York (*see Chart 4-17 and Table 4-9*).

CHART 4-17, COMPARABLE SALARIES FOR COMPARABLE COUNTIES - 2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; Sperlings Bestplaces.net; Townhunter.com Cost of Living Index - 2008
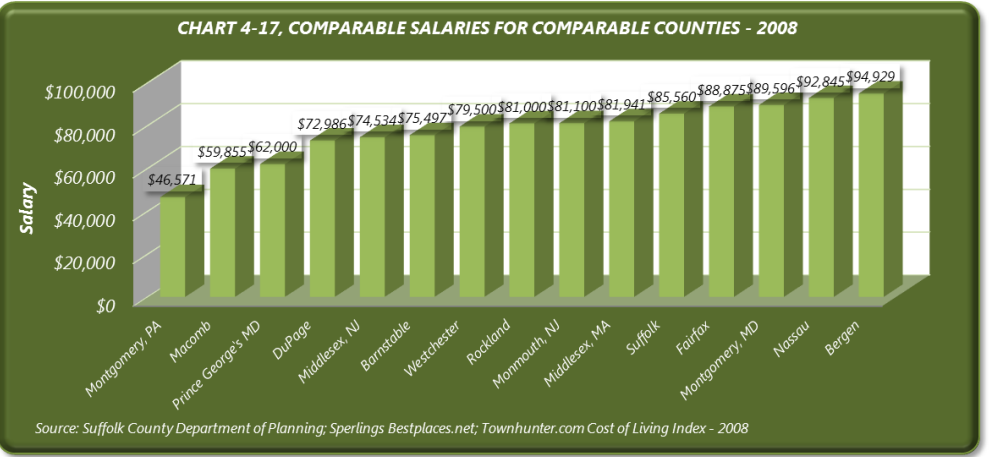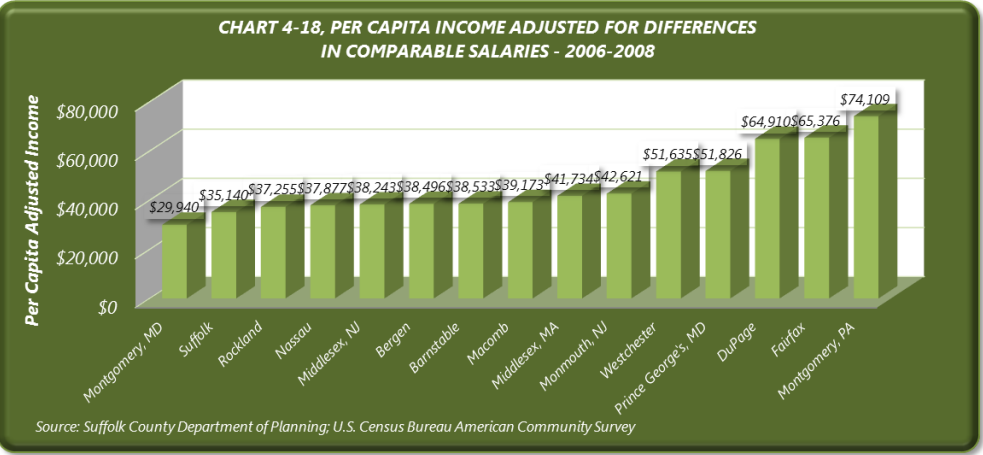
One way to better contextualize the cost of living in Suffolk County in relation to other comparable counties is to adjust a measure of income by the cost of living differentials. This calculation indicates that Suffolk's standard of living for the median income household is lower than for almost all comparable counties. The only comparable

COUNTY	Comparable Salary for Someone Making $85,560 in Suffolk	Percent Difference	2006-2008 Per Capita Income	2006-2008 Per Capita Income Adjusted	2006-2008 Median Household Income	2006-2008 Median Household Income Adjusted
Montgomery, PA	$46,571	-83.7	$40,338	$74,109	$76,834	$141,159
Macomb	$59,855	-42.9	$27,404	$39,173	$56,377	$80,588
P. George's	$62,000	-38.0	$37,555	$51,826	$71,242	$98,314
DuPage	$72,986	-17.2	$55,371	$64,910	$77,441	$90,783
Middlesex, NJ	$74,534	-14.8	$33,315	$38,243	$77,315	$88,752
Barnstable	$75,497	-13.3	$34,001	$38,533	$60,452	$68,510
Westchester	$79,500	-7.6	$47,978	$51,635	$80,297	$86,418
Rockland	$81,000	-5.6	$35,269	$37,255	$84,105	$88,840
Monmouth, NJ	$81,100	-5.5	$40,399	$42,621	$82,282	$86,807
Middlesex, MA	$81,941	-4.4	$39,969	$41,734	$77,373	$80,790
Suffolk	**$85,560**	**0.0**	**$35,140**	$35,140	**$85,560**	$85,560
Fairfax	$88,875	3.7	$67,909	$65,376	$106,785	$102,802
Montgomery, MD	$89,596	4.5	$31,352	$29,940	$93,999	$89,765
Nassau	$92,845	7.8	$41,102	$37,877	$93,579	$86,236
Bergen	$94,929	9.9	$42,711	$38,496	$82,354	$74,226
New York	$127,874	33.1	$60,596			
Queens	$92,273	7.3	$25,129			
Brooklyn	$104,496	18.1	$22,914			
Bronx	$87,252	1.9	$17,464			
Staten Island	$91,000	6.0	$30,375			
Putnam			$37,190			

Source: Sperlings Bestplaces.net; Townhunter.com Cost of Living Index; Salary.com; NYC Comps from CNNMoney.com; NYC Comps calculated for Nassau. Adjusted for Suffolk by subtracting $1,000; Monmouth is average of 5 communities; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2006-2008

Note: For Nassau county comparison of Hauppauge and Plainview were used. For Prince George's County, Cheverly was compared to Smithtown in Suffolk. For Rockland, Nyack was compared to Smithtown in Suffolk. For Westchester, Yorktown was compared to Smithtown in Suffolk.

CHART 4-18, PER CAPITA INCOME ADJUSTED FOR DIFFERENCES IN COMPARABLE SALARIES - 2006-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

CHART 4-19, MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME ADJUSTED FOR COMPARABLE SALARIES - 2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

county where the standard of living for a household with the equivalent of Suffolk's median income is Montgomery County, Maryland, whose per capita income would be adjusted down to $29,940 from $31,352, compared to $35,140 for Suffolk. The highest standard of living according to this measure would be enjoyed by residents of Montgomery, PA, whose per capita income of $40,338 would be adjusted up almost 84% to $74,109 (*see **Chart 4-18**).*

Per capita income numbers are averages and as such may not be the most accurate reflection of income, because a relatively few very high income individuals can distort the data, raising the perceived income of a region. Instead, a median can be used as a measure of central tendency. A median indicates the middle value where an equal number of households fall above and below that income figure. When median household incomes are adjusted for differences in the cost of living, Suffolk stands in the middle of the list of comparable counties. Its median household income of $85,560 is higher than Barnstable, Bergen, Macomb, Middlesex MA, and Nassau, and lower than Westchester, Montgomery MD, Rockland, DuPage, Prince George's, Fairfax, and Montgomery PA (*see **Chart 4-19**).*
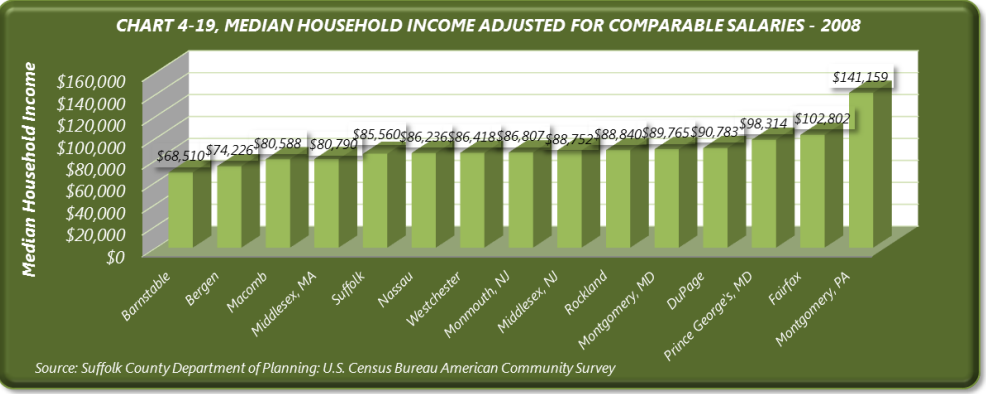
MIGRATION

Migration patterns can be an important indicator to help determine whether Suffolk is at an advantage or disadvantage in relation to other regions. However, while there has been concern over the "loss" of native born Long Island residents to other parts of the country in recent years, many people who move often do so for reasons far beyond the control of policymakers. The U. S. Census Bureau found in a 2010 report that common reasons why people move within the United States vary and may include anything from desire to change their climate or to attend college. A PEW Research Center migration report for the years 2005-2007 found that 36% of all people who moved to a new community in the United States did so because they had family ties there.

Tabulations made by the Pew Research Center for the years 2005-2007 show the Northeast region having a net loss of 787,000 movers to the South, but only 4,000 to the Midwest, and 124,000 to the West. The half-century-long migration from the cold Northeast to the warm Sunbelt would likely continue with or without policy changes (*see **Chart 4-20**).*

Net Regional U.S. Migration, 2007   Chart 4-20

South, West make gains

Arrows show data from sum of three
one-year flows, 2005-2007

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations from American Community Survey,
Integrated Public Use Microdata Series

Suffolk County is part of what demographer William Frey has termed the "melting pot" region of the country: the nine states, including New York, which have experienced roughly 10-15% growth in the 2000s mostly due to large amounts of overseas immigration; a loss of White, native born population; and a growing minority population, particularly Hispanics and Asians, the two fastest growing minority groups in the country.

Between 2000 and 2004 eighteen of the country's 25 largest metropolitan statistical areas experienced average annual net domestic migration losses. The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island metropolitan region was one of four areas (including Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont) that experienced an average net domestic migration loss of more than 60,000. One area (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario) had an average net domestic migration gain of more than 60,000. These migration patterns were similar to those of the 1990s, though numbers in both directions moderated for the

2000-2004 period, probably a reflection of 2000-2001 and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

County level migration patterns are important to study because trends that are invisible at larger levels of geography can come into focus when a smaller geographic unit is analyzed. For example, a variety of migration patterns often exist at the county level within a state. Most counties experience small net domestic migration gains or losses. Among the country's 3,141 counties and county equivalents, only 117 had annualized net in or outmigration of 5,000 or more people in 2000–2004. A few groupings of counties with relatively high or low levels of net migration exist nationwide. Groups of counties with high levels of net immigration are found in Florida, the desert Southwest, and east of the San Francisco Bay area. Clusters of counties with large amounts of net outmigration are seen in New York and coastal California. For 2000 through 2004, nearly all of the 25 counties with the most net immigration between 2000 and 2004 are located in the South or the West, with seven in Florida and five each in California and Texas. Ocean County, NJ, and Will County, IL, are the only two such exception counties.

Suffolk, along with most Northeastern metropolitan areas, is a net "sender" of people to other parts of the country, and a net magnet for people from other countries. But determining how much of a sending county Suffolk is compared to neighboring counties, or compared with similar counties nationwide, determining the age, educational status, income, family structure, housing and other characteristics of movers will help policy makers develop solutions to the region's problems. It will also prevent policymakers from being led astray by faulty assumptions about how many and what kinds of people are staying, moving away, or coming to Suffolk County.

Suffolk experienced a net loss of native-born population over the nine-year period 2000-2009, typical of inner-ring suburbs. Approximately 60,000 more residents moved out of Suffolk to other parts of the country than moved in from elsewhere within the United States. But the county netted about 29,500 residents from overseas migration in the same period (also not unusual for inner-ring suburbs) and gained 73,300 residents through natural increase (births over deaths). Overall, Suffolk added 99,000 residents since 2000 (*see Chart 4-21*).

**CHART 4-21, COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE -
SUFFOLK COUNTY 2000-2009**

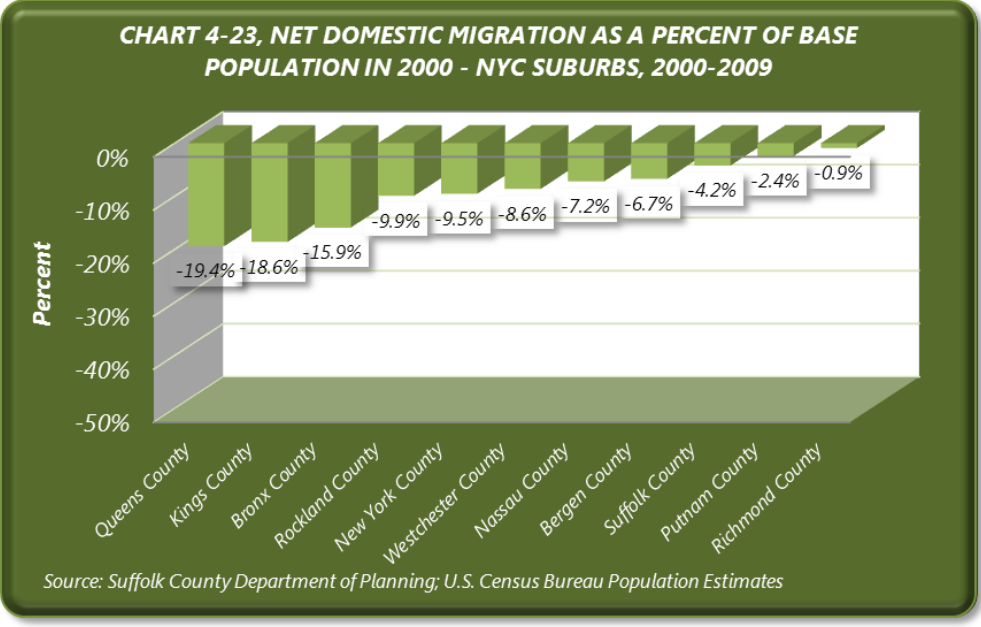Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates
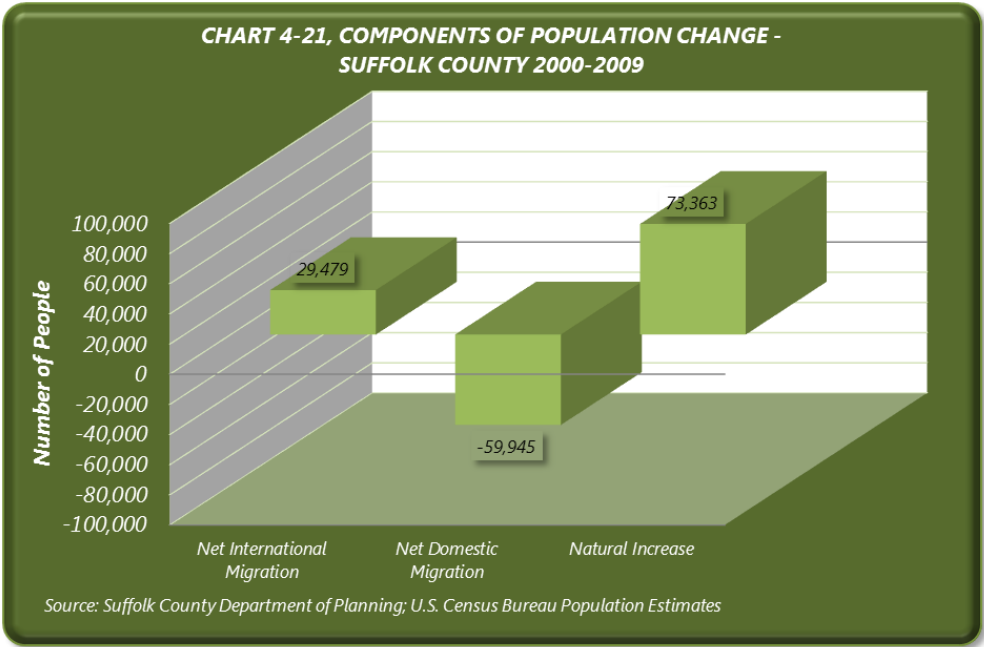
When compared to the counties in and surrounding New York City, Suffolk County had a higher net domestic migration loss (in absolute numbers between 2000 and 2009) than Rockland, Putnam, and Bergen counties and less of a loss than New York City (except Richmond), Nassau, and Westchester *(see Chart 4-22)*. Since absolute
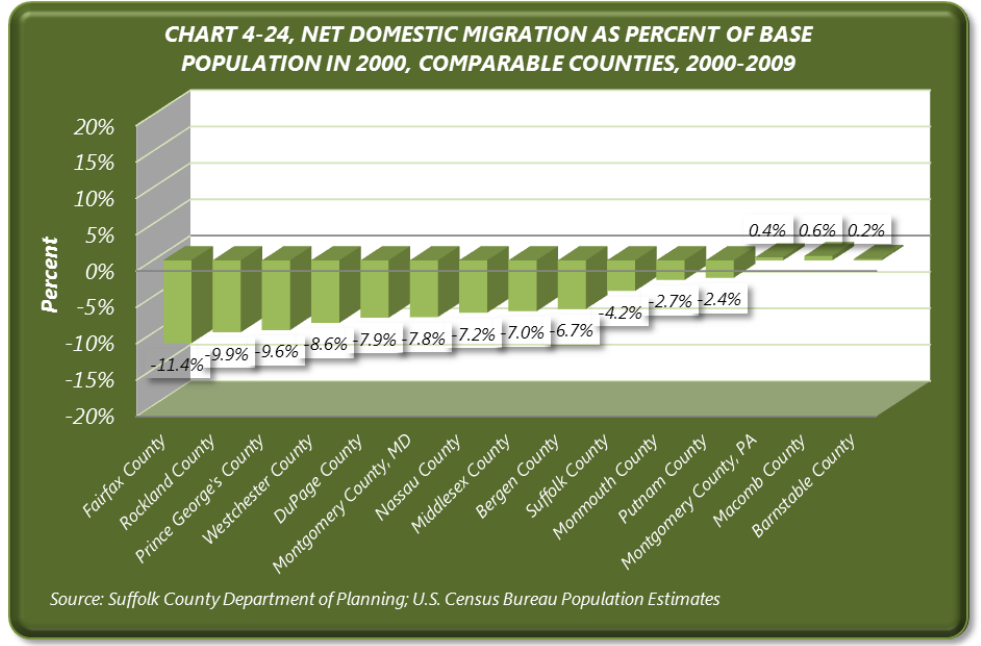
CHART 4-22, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION, NEW YORK CITY SUBURBAN COUNTIES, 2000-2009

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates

CHART 4-23, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION AS A PERCENT OF BASE POPULATION IN 2000 - NYC SUBURBS, 2000-2009
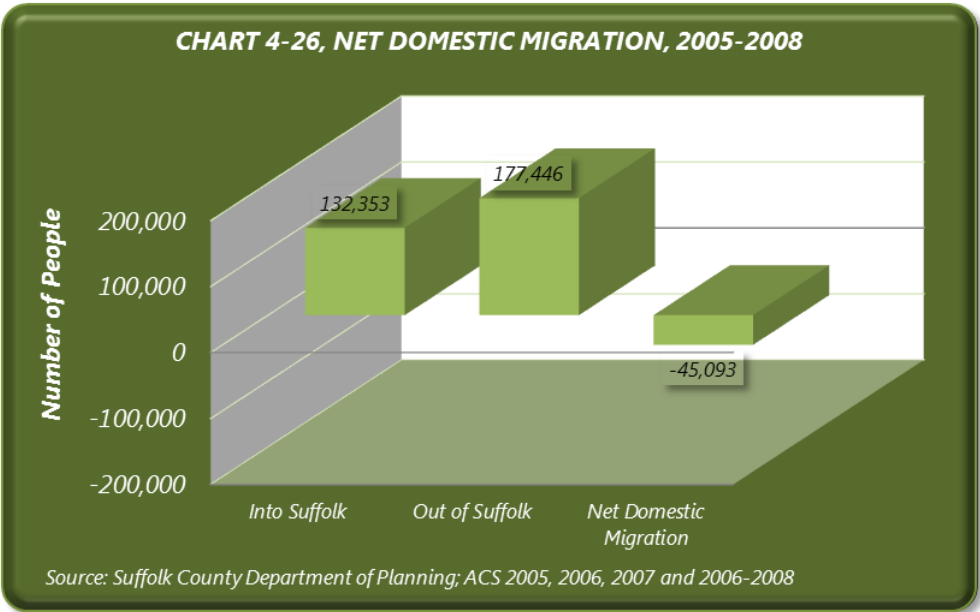
Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates

In looking at international migration, all of the comparable counties experienced positive international migration between 2000 and 2009; from 1.4% in Barnstable to 10.2% in Montgomery. Suffolk had a 2.1% net international migration gain from base population. This means that out of the 99,106 total population gain in Suffolk between 2000 and 2009, 29,479 or 30% was from overseas migration (*see Chart 4-25*).

CHART 4-25, NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AS PERCENT OF BASE POPULATION IN 2000, COMPARABLE COUNTIES, 2000-2009

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates

numbers are influenced by differences in total population, it is important to look the percentage that net migration makes up of the base year population. When net domestic migration between 2000 and 2009 is calculated as a percentage of the 2000 population base, only Putnam and Richmond had smaller net percentage losses than Suffolk. Suffolk's net domestic migration loss of 4.2% was lower than Rockland County (9.9% loss), along with Westchester (8.6% loss), Nassau (7.2% loss), and New York City's combined 15.7% loss. (*see Chart 4-23*).

Among comparable counties nationwide, Suffolk's position in terms of net domestic migration loss is favorable. Out of fifteen comparable counties, Suffolk has the sixth lowest percentage net domestic migration loss at -4.2%, trailing only Montgomery, PA, Barnstable, Monmouth, Putnam, and Macomb. The following counties all had net domestic migration losses for 2000-2009 that exceed Suffolk's as a percentage of base population: Fairfax, Rockland, Prince George's,

Westchester, DuPage, Montgomery MD, Nassau, Middlesex, and Bergen (*see Chart 4-24*).

CHART 4-24, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION AS PERCENT OF BASE POPULATION IN 2000, COMPARABLE COUNTIES, 2000-2009

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates
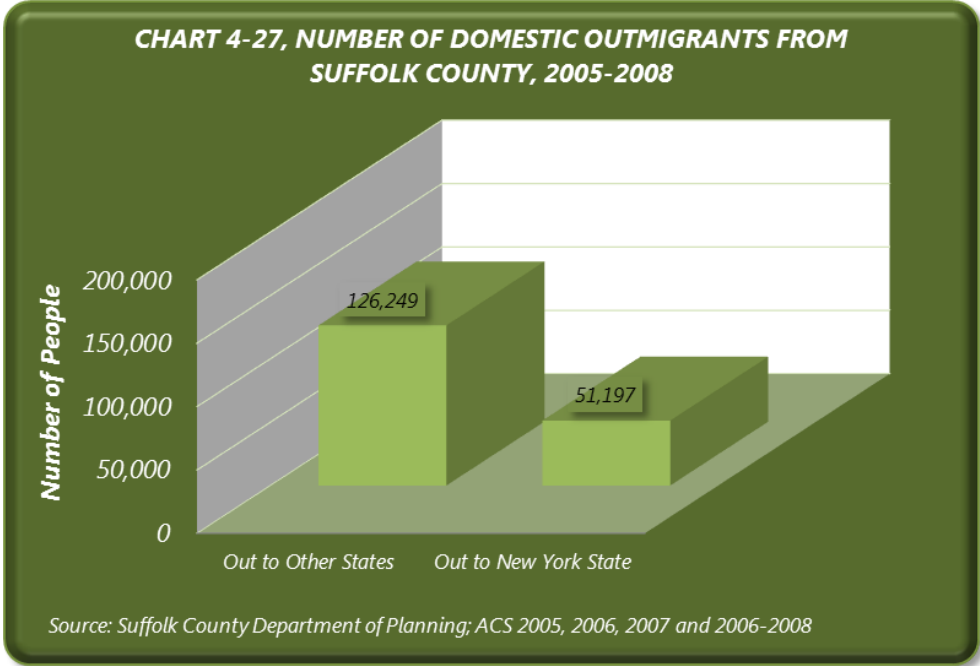
SUFFOLK COUNTY DOMESTIC MIGRATION, 2005-2008

Over the four years 2005-2008, approximately 132,353 people moved to Suffolk County from elsewhere, while 177,446 moved out of Suffolk, for a net domestic migration loss of 45,093 residents. This is consistent with census data for much of the Northeast region of the United States. The flow of population of U.S. residents has been from the older, longer settled Northeast to other regions of the country for several decades. New York City, for example, has had a net domestic

migration loss of roughly 16% of its base population between 2000 and 2009. Suffolk's net domestic migration loss for the 2005-2008 period is approximately 3% of base population in 2005. In recent years, population growth in the Northeast has resulted primarily from a greater number of live births than deaths and from immigration from abroad (*sees Chart 4-26*).

CHART 4-26, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION, 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

Suffolk County sends more people out of New York State than it sends to other counties within New York State. An estimated 126,249 residents from Suffolk moved to other states from 2005 to 2008 (71.1% of total outmigrants), while 51,197 migrated to other counties within New York state (28.9% of total outmigrants) (*see Chart 4-27*).

Other counties within New York State are the largest sending and receiving counties for Suffolk. An estimated 90,212 people moved to Suffolk, while 51,197 moved from Suffolk to other counties in the state, a net intrastate migration gain of 39,015 for Suffolk (*see Chart*

CHART 4-27, NUMBER OF DOMESTIC OUTMIGRANTS FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY, 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

4-28). Of all migrants to Suffolk for 2005-2008, 90,212 (or 68.1%) came from another county within New York State, while 42,141 (or 31.9%) came from other states (*see Chart 4-29*).

Seven out of the top ten states with which Suffolk has a net domestic migration loss are in the South and Maryland, a border state (Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia). Of the other three top ten states with which Suffolk has a net domestic migration loss, one is a border state (New Jersey), one is a near border state (Pennsylvania), and one is a Southwest state (Arizona) (*see Chart 4-30*).

Florida is by far the state with which Suffolk County had the highest net domestic migration loss, with 24,167 people. North Carolina follows with 18,197, Pennsylvania with 7,261, Texas with 4,577,

CHART 4-28, SUFFOLK COUNTY DOMESTIC MIGRANTS WITHIN NEW YORK STATE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-29, DOMESTIC MIGRANTS TO SUFFOLK COUNTY, OTHER STATES VS NEW YORK STATE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008
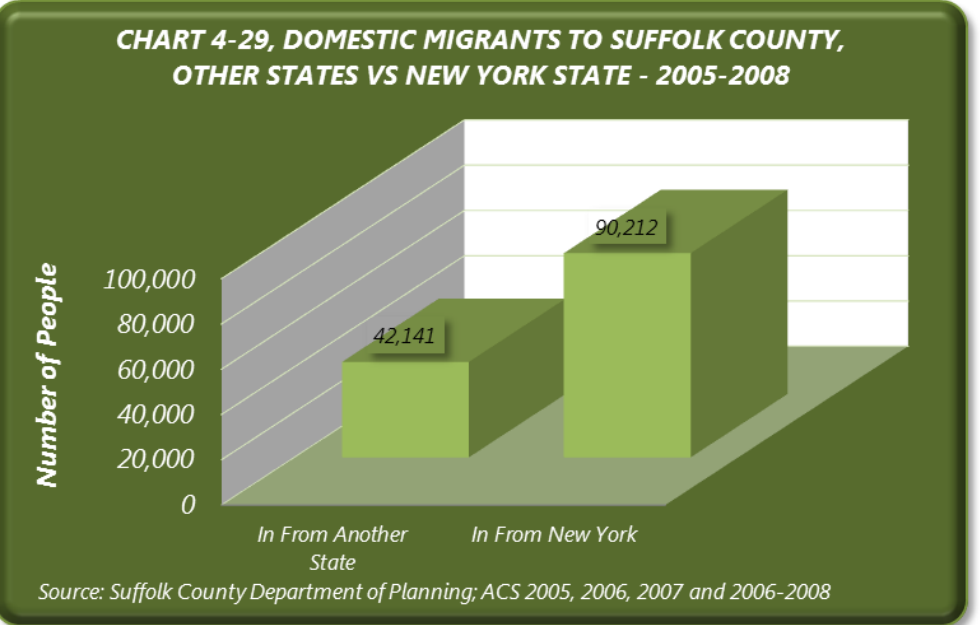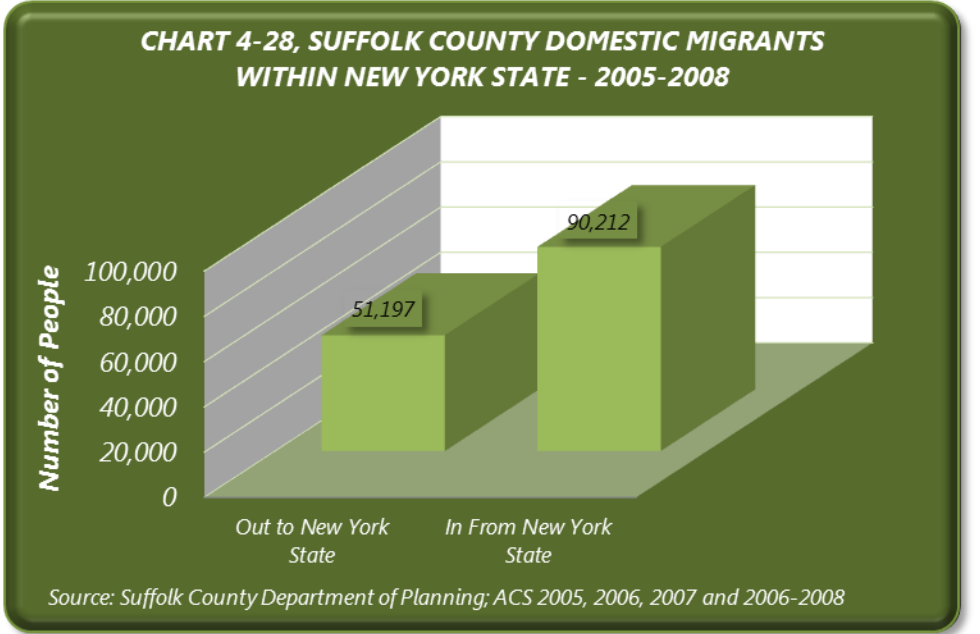
Georgia with 4,063, Maryland with 3,114, Virginia with 2,834, South Carolina with 2,649, Arizona with 2,542, and New Jersey with 1,843.

CHART 4-30, SUFFOLK'S TOP TEN NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION STATES - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-31, SUFFOLK'S TOP TEN NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION COUNTIES IN THE TRI-STATE REGION (NY, NJ, CT) - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-32, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY AGE GROUP, SUFFOLK COUNTY - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

Within the tri-state region (NY, NJ, CT), the counties with which Suffolk has the largest net domestic migration gain are Nassau (25,849), Queens (16,816), Bronx (4,062), Westchester (2,389), Kings (2,288), and Richmond (1,797). Those tri-state region counties with the largest domestic migration loss for Suffolk are Dutchess (1,448), Manhattan (1,429), Orange (805), and New Haven (277) (*see Chart 4-31*).

The only New York City borough with which Long Island has a net domestic migration loss is Manhattan (-1,429). The other four boroughs and Nassau send Suffolk county more residents than any other place. This is consistent with other findings in this data, including the large presence of unmarried in Suffolk's outmigrant flow, the high number of renters and apartment dwellers in Suffolk's outmigrant flow, and the large number of 15-24 year-olds in Suffolk's
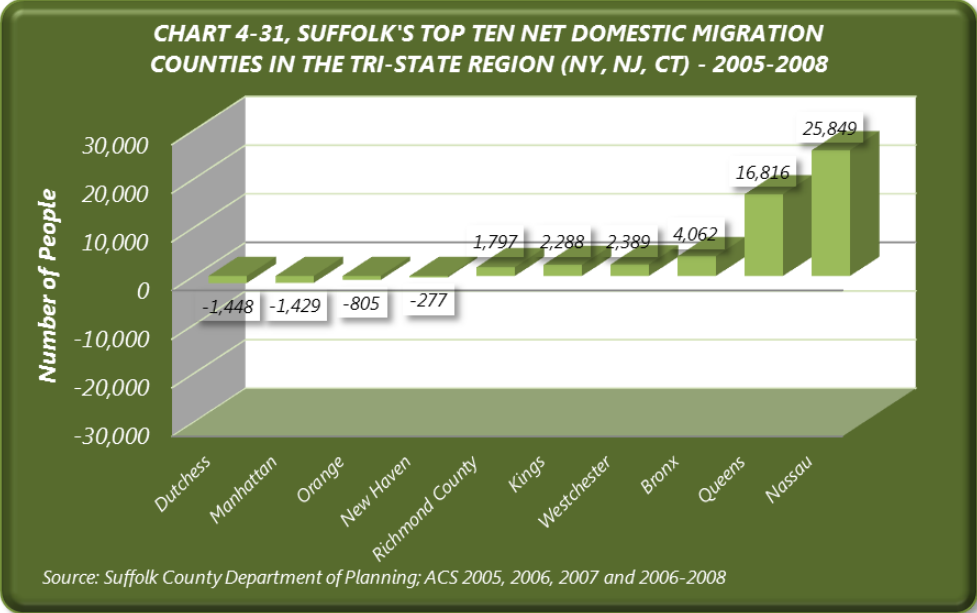
outmigrant flow. Manhattan residents who do migrate out of that borough typically leave the state or settle in an outer borough (Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Richmond) or counties bordering the city (Westchester, Bergen, Hudson, Union, Middlesex, and Monmouth).

Suffolk had a net domestic migration loss of population for all age groups except for the 65 and over group, which realized a 2,534 net gain for 2005-2008. For the four year period analyzed, the 15-24 age group had the biggest net loss (-13,913), followed by the 45-54 age group (-8,426), the 55-64 year-olds (-7,266), the 35-44 year-old age group (-5,045), the 25-34 age group (-2,464), and the under 15 age group (-1,892) (***see Chart 4-32 and Chart 4-33***).
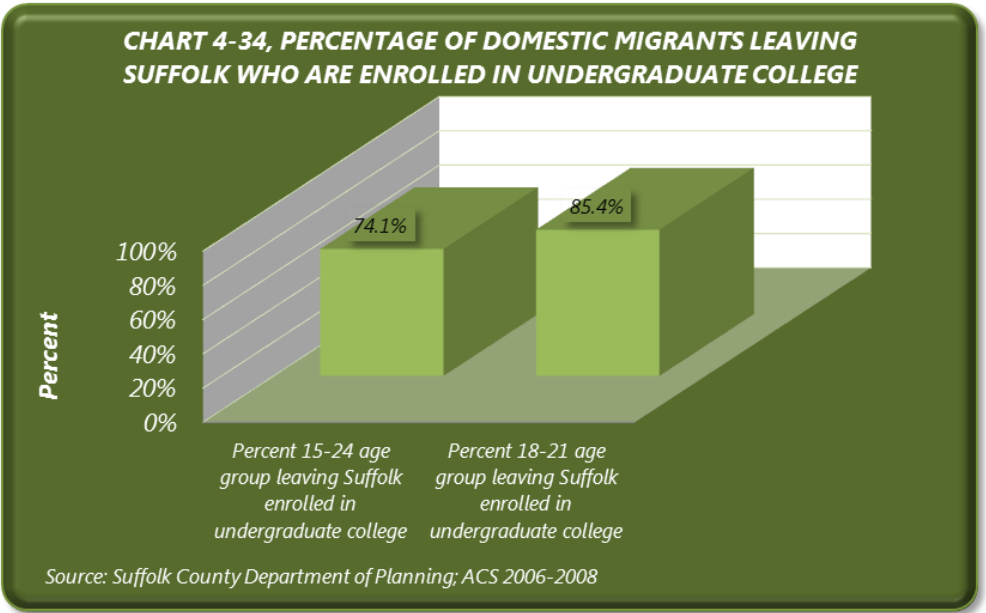
As a percent of base year population (2005), the age group that had the largest net domestic migration loss was the 15-24 year olds (-7.1), followed by the 55-64 age group (-4.3), the 45-54 age group (-3.7), the 35-44 age group (-2.1), the 25-34 age group (-1.5), and the under

CHART 4-33, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY AGE GROUP AS A PERCENT OF 2005 POPULATION, SUFFOLK COUNTY - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008
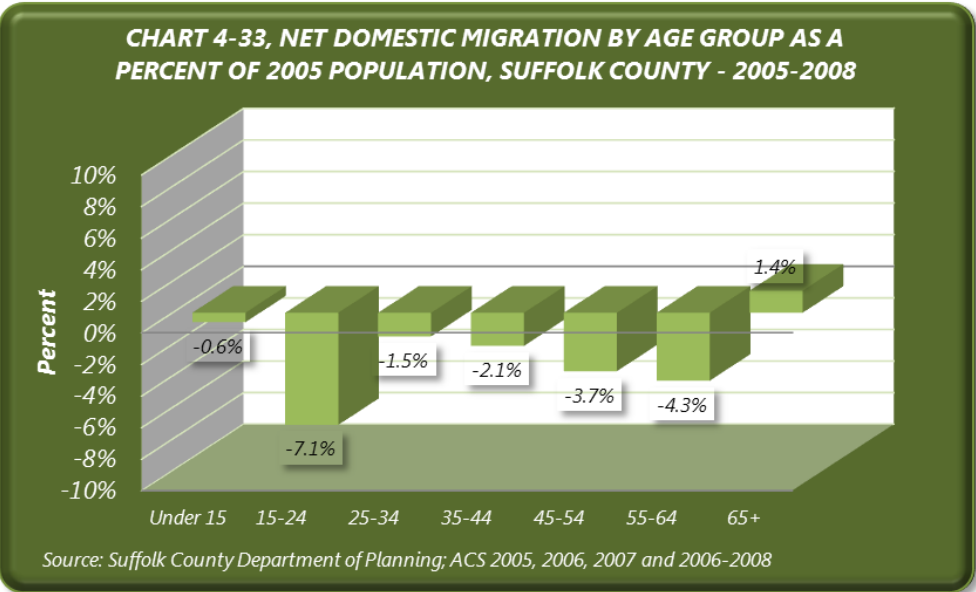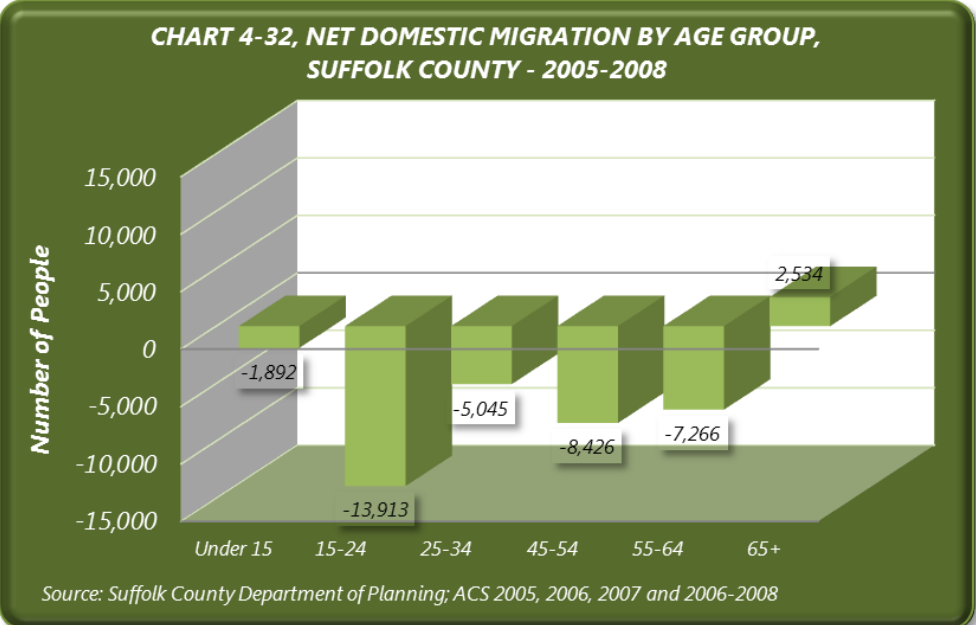
15 age group (-0.6). The 65 and older age group had a 1.4% net domestic migration gain.

These findings are in some ways consistent with what is known generally about the life stages of people in different age groups. The largest net domestic migration loser was the 15-24 age group, an age group that, by age 17 or 18, is almost universally attending college or finding a first job on a career ladder. They are typically single, not tied down with family obligations, and are highly mobile. For the years 2006-2008, the percentage of 15-24 year-olds leaving Suffolk who were enrolled in undergraduate college was 74.1%. When looking at only the college-aged group – that is, 18-21 year-olds, the percentage of those leaving Suffolk rises to 85.4% (*see **Chart 4-34***).

Many people in the 55-64 age group are nearing retirement. They watch adult children move out of family homes and become the proverbial "empty nesters." Many find that it is an ideal time to sell

CHART 4-34, PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC MIGRANTS LEAVING SUFFOLK WHO ARE ENROLLED IN UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2006-2008

single-family detached homes and seek smaller, often attached housing units, sometimes in warmer climes. It is not unusual for some high status professionals in this age group to be reaching the pinnacle of their careers. Company CEOs, college deans, and hospital administrators in this age group may only recently have gained the ability to command salaries at the high end of their occupation. By this time, many no longer have to worry about keeping young children in school or pulling them away from friends should they decide to move. In this situation, it is easier for individuals to accept high-level appointments in other states or counties that in earlier years they would have had to pass up. This may in part explain the 55-64 year olds as the second largest net domestic migration loser.

A lesser known fact, is that Suffolk has become an attractive place for those 65 and over. This age group is the only net domestic migration gainer in the 2005-2008 period. In addition to an increase in senior housing and retirement communities, Suffolk County provides relatively easy access to first-rate medical care both in Suffolk and in neighboring counties. It may also be that we are seeing the consequences of longer life spans. It is not uncommon for retirees in their 60s and 70s to retire to a warm climate, only to reach their late 80s and 90s without the friends and neighbors they moved to the South to be near in the first place. As they grow older and more infirm, many seniors return home to Suffolk to be near adult children and good medical care.

The 25-34 and 35-44 year-old age groups are smaller net losers because it is a relatively stable time in life. If people marry, it is typically at this age that they are caring for young children and moving up the ranks of a career or job. These age groups are closely related to children under the age of 15, which also had a small net domestic migration loss for 2005-2008.

The median income of households leaving Suffolk was $67,241 (2008 dollars), and the median household income of those coming to Suffolk was $81,471 (2008 dollars) (*see **Chart 4-35***).

The higher median income for migrants to Suffolk from other places reflects the higher wage and salary structure on Long Island. The U.S.


CHART 4-35, MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF DOMESTIC MIGRANTS - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008
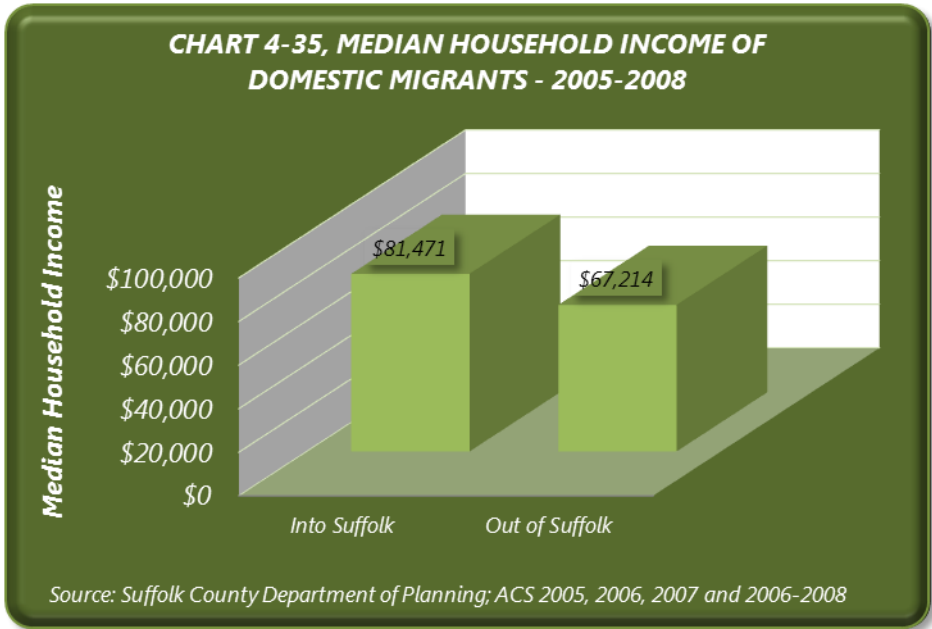
Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2008, the average weekly wage in Nassau-Suffolk was $944; while nationwide, it was $841. It probably also reflects the much higher number of unmarried persons migrating out of Suffolk than migrating in and the preponderance of college students among outmigrants from Suffolk.

Suffolk had a net domestic migration loss of both married and unmarried households, but outmigrating unmarried households far exceeded unmarried households coming into Suffolk. Unmarried

households that moved out of Suffolk totaled 35,090 during the period 2005-2008, compared to 20,549 unmarried households that moved to Suffolk, a net loss of 14,541. Approximately 28,198 married households moved out of Suffolk during the period 2005-2008, while 19,545 married households moved to Suffolk, for a net loss of 8,653 married households. The average number of people in households moving into Suffolk was 3.1. The average number of people in households moving out of Suffolk was 2.6 (*see **Chart 4-36** and **Chart 4-37**).

The number of households that move to Suffolk and rent housing (20,996) is about the same as the number of households moving to Suffolk and own housing (19,543), but more households that move out of Suffolk rent (33,168) than own (30,120) (*see **Chart 4-38**).
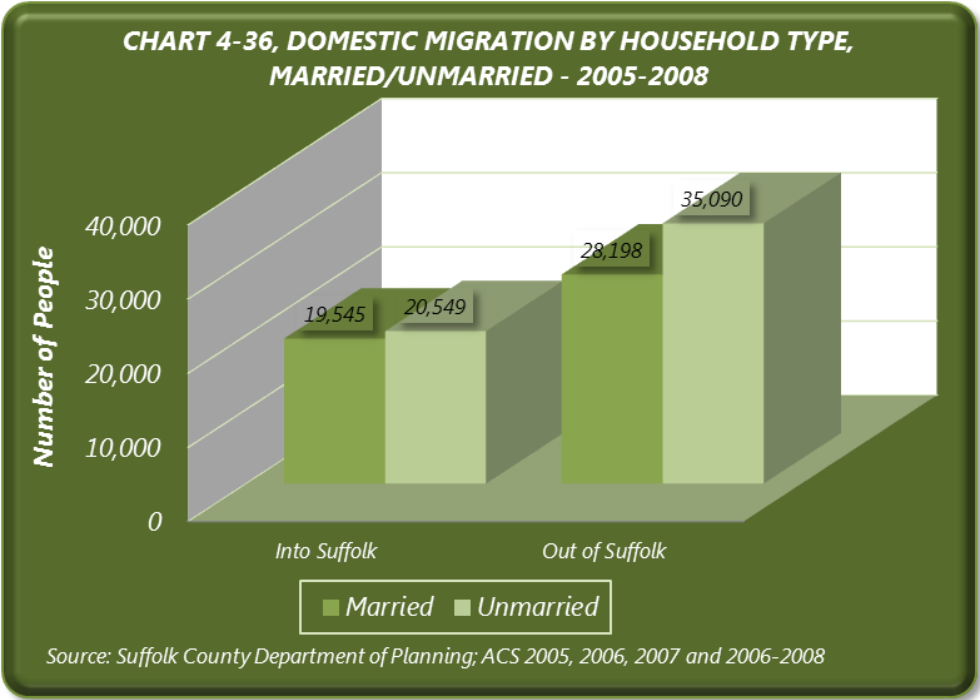
Out-migrating households that live in multi-unit or attached single-family units outnumber outmigrating households that move into detached single-family housing units 34,286 to 27,399. Those
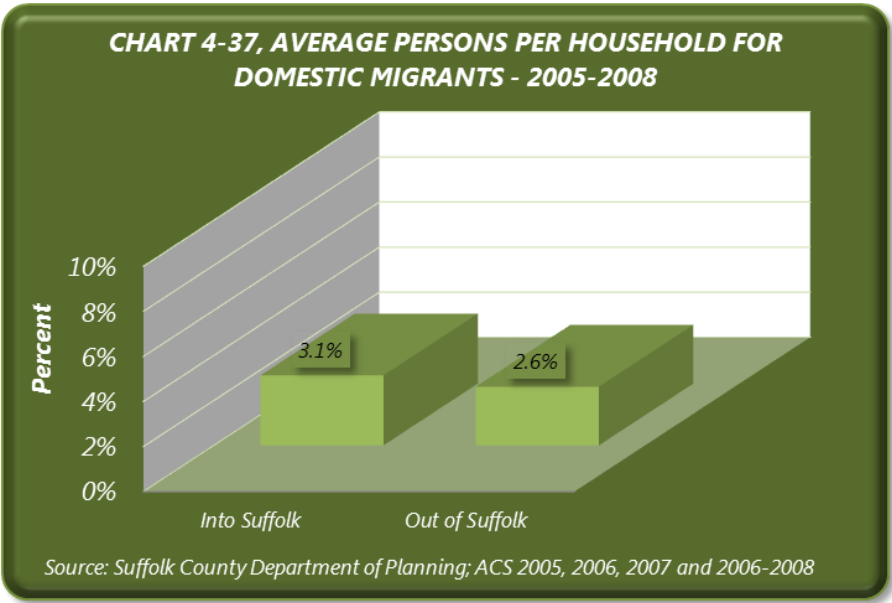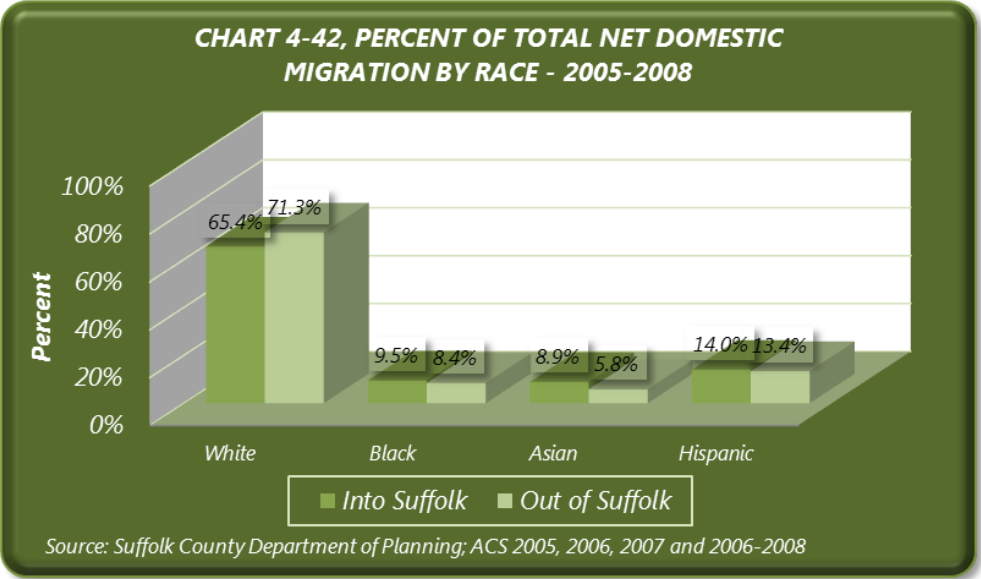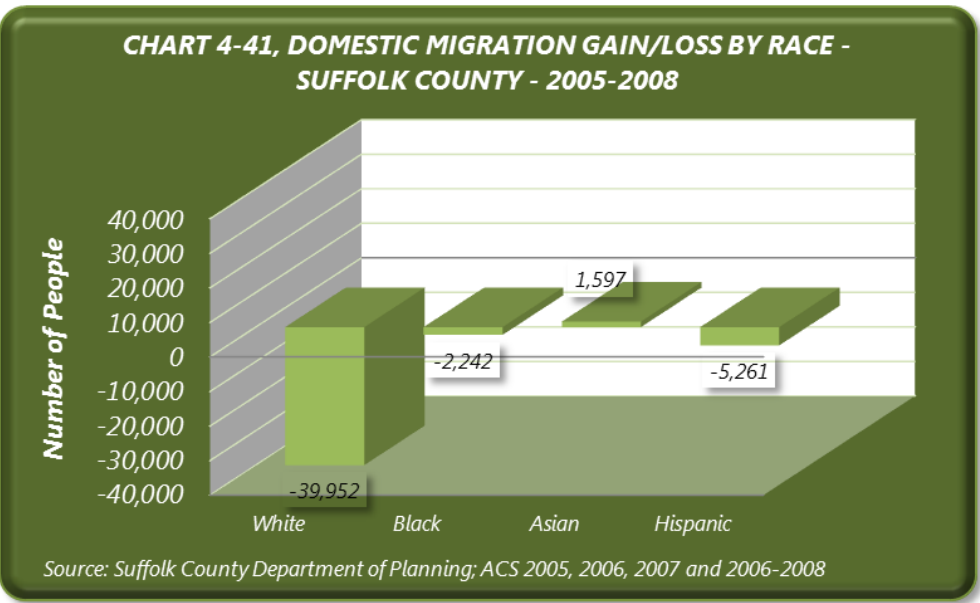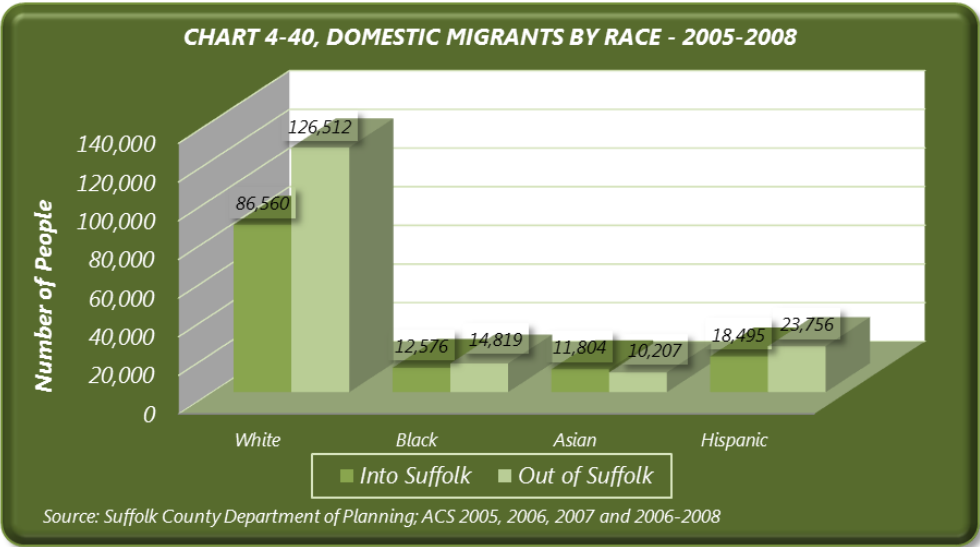
numbers are reversed for households moving into Suffolk, of which 24,143 live in single-family, detached homes and 15,701 live in attached single-family or multi-unit housing (*see **Chart 4-39**).
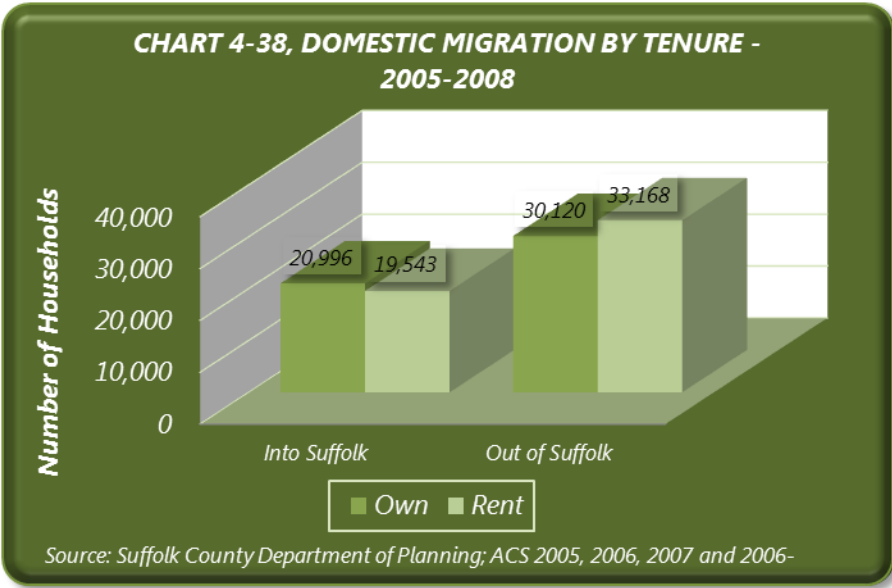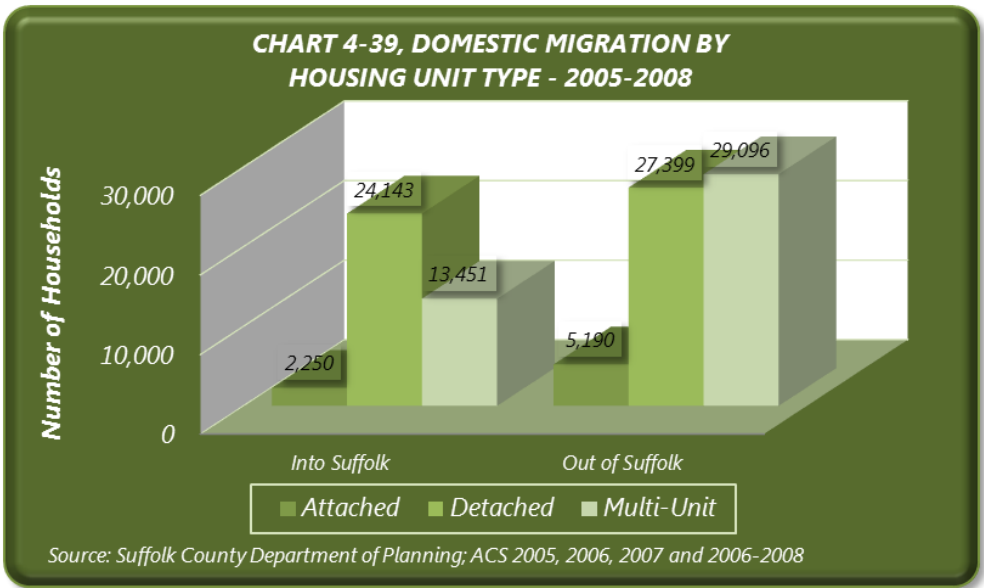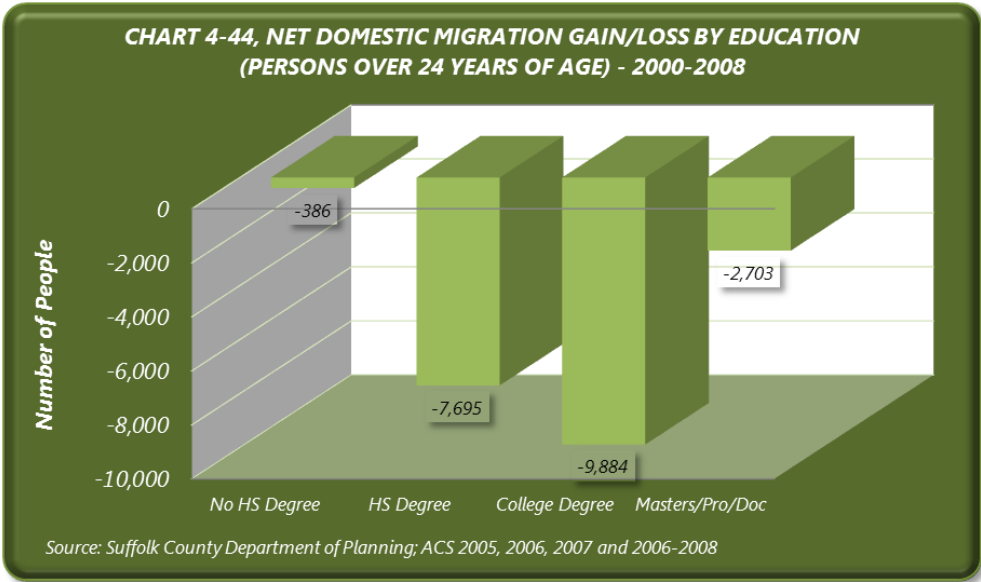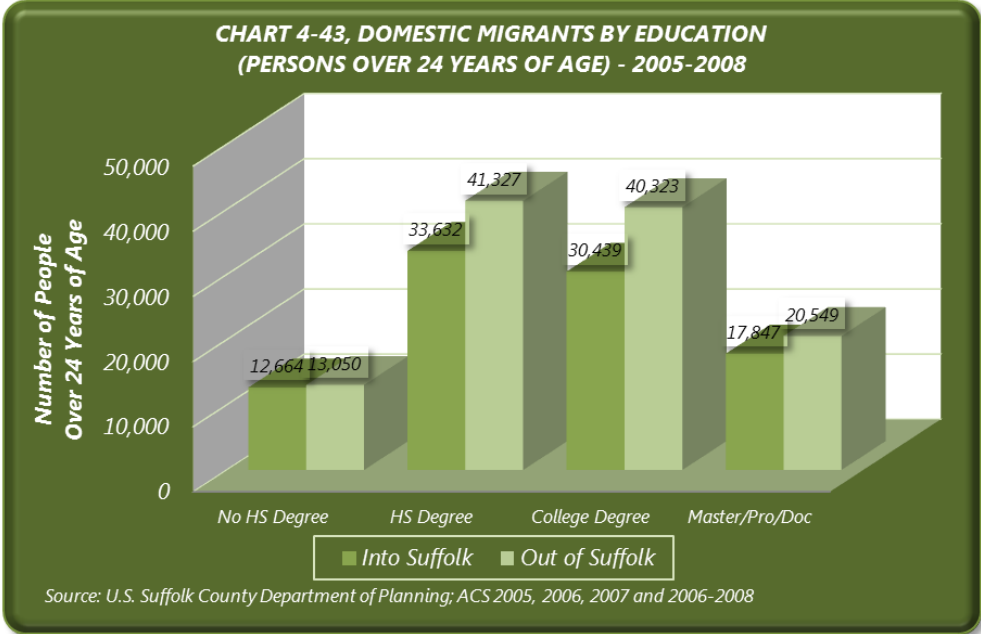
Among racial groups, only Asians saw a net gain of domestic migrants into Suffolk County for 2005-2008. All other racial groups had net losses. Whites had the highest net loss of 39,952 and represented 71.3% of all outmigrants and 65.4% of all domestic migrants into Suffolk County. Hispanics had the second highest net loss of 5,261 but, interestingly, represented only 13.4% of all outmigrants and 14% of all domestic migrants into Suffolk County. Blacks had the third highest net domestic migration loss with 2,242 but, as with Hispanics, they represented a higher percentage of domestic migrants into Suffolk County (9.5) than out of Suffolk County (8.4). Asians had a net domestic migration gain of 1,597 and represented 5.8% of outmigrants and 8.9% of domestic migrants into

CHART 4-37, AVERAGE PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD FOR DOMESTIC MIGRANTS - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-39, DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY HOUSING UNIT TYPE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-36, DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, MARRIED/UNMARRIED - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-38, DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY TENURE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-

Suffolk County (see **Chart 4-40, Chart 4-41** and **Chart 4-42**).

While more graduate degree holders left Suffolk County between 2005-2008 than came to Suffolk, they made up 18.9% of domestic

CHART 4-40, DOMESTIC MIGRANTS BY RACE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-41, DOMESTIC MIGRATION GAIN/LOSS BY RACE - SUFFOLK COUNTY - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-42, PERCENT OF TOTAL NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY RACE - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008
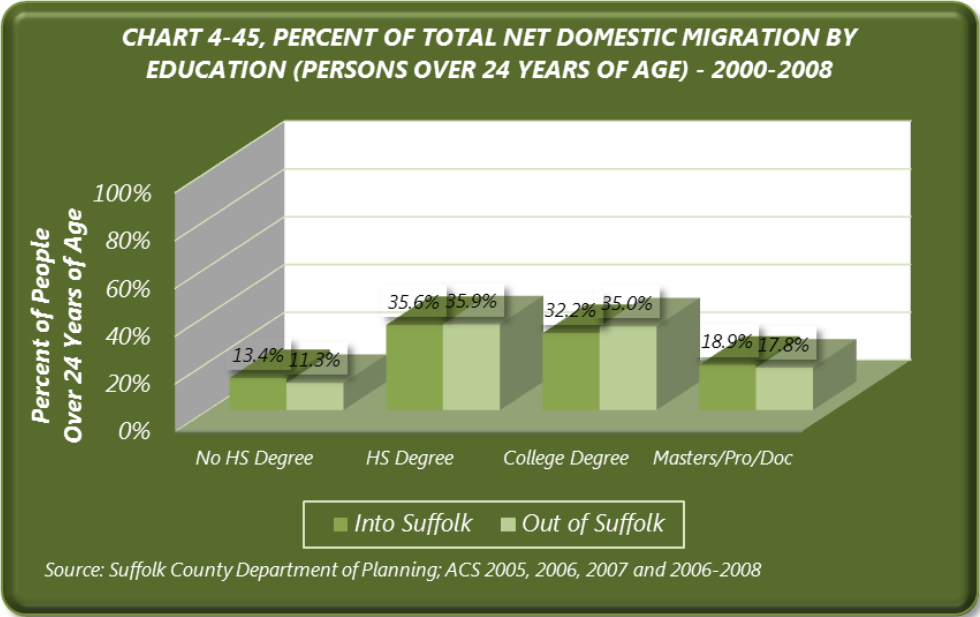
migrants over the age of 24 to Suffolk County and 17.8% of outmigrants. People holding either 2 or 4-year college degrees made up 35% of outmigrants over the age of 24 and 32.2% of domestic migrants to Suffolk, for a net loss of 9,884. Those with a high school degree made up 35.6% of domestic migrants over the age of 24 to Suffolk County and 35.9 of outmigrants, for a net loss of 7,695. People without a high school degree made up 13.4% of domestic migrants over the age of 24 to Suffolk County and 11.3% of outmigrants, for a net loss of 386. These findings reflect the increases in Suffolk County among high status, high earning households, as well as lower status, low earning households (see **Chart 4-43, Chart 4 -44** and **Chart 4-45**).

Suffolk County's migration was roughly split between males and females. Males made up a slightly higher percentage of outmigrants (50.6) than females (49.4), while females made up a slightly higher percentage of domestic migrants into Suffolk County (50.1) than males (49.9) (see **Chart 4-46**).

CHART 4-43, DOMESTIC MIGRANTS BY EDUCATION (PERSONS OVER 24 YEARS OF AGE) - 2005-2008

Source: U.S. Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-44, NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION GAIN/LOSS BY EDUCATION (PERSONS OVER 24 YEARS OF AGE) - 2000-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

The **P**ublic **U**se **M**icrodata **S**ample files, or PUMS, are a sample of the actual responses to the American Community Survey (ACS) and

CHART 4-45, PERCENT OF TOTAL NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY EDUCATION (PERSONS OVER 24 YEARS OF AGE) - 2000-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

CHART 4-46, PERCENT OF DOMESTIC MIGRANTS BY GENDER - 2005-2008

Source: Suffolk County Department of Planning; ACS 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2006-2008

include most population and housing characteristics. These files provide users with the flexibility to prepare customized tabulations and can be used for detailed research and analysis.

PUMS files from the American Community Survey show the full range of population and housing unit responses collected on individual ACS questionnaires. The PUMS files contain records for a subsample of ACS housing units, group quarters persons, with information on the characteristics of these housing units, and group quarters persons plus the people in the selected housing units.

The difference between the PUMS and the ACS summary data is that the summary data are predefined tabulations of characteristics. The basic unit of analysis is a specific geographic entity -- state, county, etc. -- for which estimates of persons, families, households, or housing units in particular, categories are provided.

With PUMS, the basic unit is an individual housing unit, a group quarters person, or persons who live in the selected housing unit. Each record shows all the information associated with a specific housing unit or individual except for names, addresses, or other personal identifying information. Only large geographic areas (100,000 or higher) are identified on microdata records – including, in the case of the ACS, the nation, states, and Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). There are 12 PUMAs in Suffolk County, including one for the east end, and 12 for Nassau County. The Long Island Regional Planning Board (now Council) drew PUMA boundaries to roughly coincide with existing community boundaries.

For the household population, there are two basic record types: the housing unit record and the person record. Each record has a unique identifier, i.e. a serial number that links the person to their proper

housing unit. This analysis uses the person record for most migration findings and the housing unit record when making findings on subjects that concern housing units or families (e.g. median income, number of children, and type of housing unit).

Each record has an individual weight, which allows users to produce population estimates close to those in other products showing sample data. Each record also includes replicate weights that are used to produce standard errors and to do statistical testing. This report does not include an analysis of margins of error, which can be large given the small number of cases reported in many ACS fields in PUMA data.

Each state in the United States has its own databases for persons and for housing units. To look at characteristics for domestic migrants coming to Suffolk, the New York State databases were downloaded from the ACS website. Migrants to Suffolk were selected using the field MIG 3 (whether they moved into housing unit within 1 year), MIGSP (the state they migrated from), and MIGPUMA (the PUMA they migrated from). To measure the migrants who leave Suffolk it was necessary to look at this data for all of the individual states, since migrants were residents of different states and their PUMAs when the survey was taken. All databases were downloaded from the ACS/PUMS Microdata website.
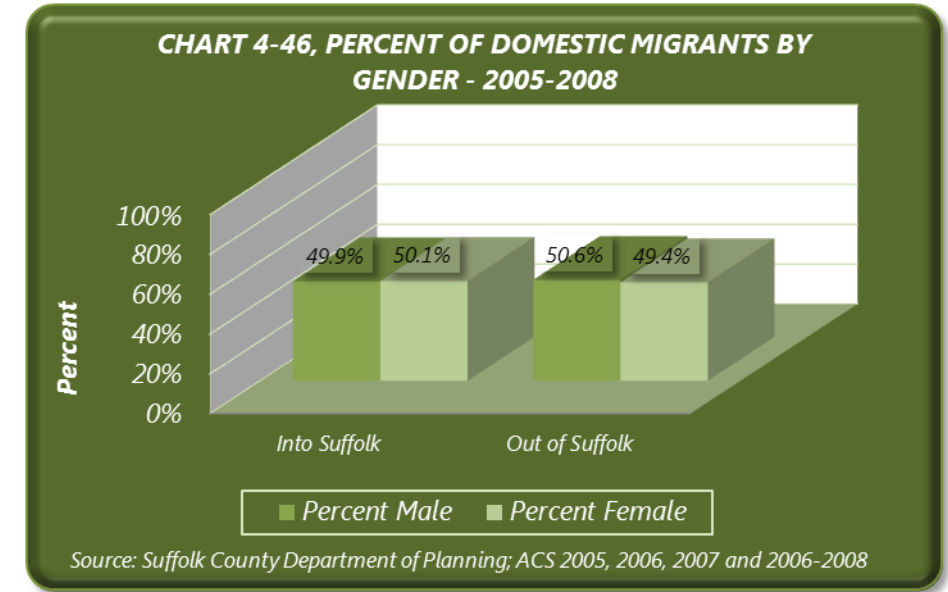
POPULATION FIELDS:

AGEP- Number of people 0-14, 15-24, etc.

SEX- Number of males, females

SCHL- Number of people w/o hs degree, w/hs degree, etc.

RAC1P- Number of people of each Race

HISP- Number of Hispanics

HINCP - Household Income

HHT- Number of married, unmarried households

BLD- Number of attached, detached, multi-unit households

TEN- Number of rented, owned households

HUPAC- Number of households w/ children under 18, no children

AGEP- numerical age

SEX- 1=male, 2=female

SCHL- 1-8=no hs degree, 9=hs degree, 12-13=college degree, 14+=professional degree

RAC1P- 1=White, 2=Black, 6=Asian, 9=mix

HISP- 1=not Hispanic 2+=Hispanic

HHT- 1=married household 2+=unmarried household

BLD- 2=detached, 3=attached, 4-9=multi-unit

TEN- 1-2=own, 3-4=rent

HUPAC- 1-3=children under 18, 4=no children

HINCP- numerical income

MIG- 3=moved into residence within 1 year

MIGSP- state migrated from

MIGPUMA- PUMA migrated from

REL- 0=householder

PWGTP- population weight

PWGTP- housing weight

PUMA- puma code

PUMAS FOR NY:

4300- Suffolk

4200- Nassau

4100-Queens

4000-Kings

3900- Richmond

3800-Manhattan

3700- Bronx

NOTES

The various components of population change used by the Census Bureau in its Population Estimates program do not add up to the net change in population mostly because of the county's successful 2007 challenge to the Census Bureau's estimate. This challenge increased the population estimate for Suffolk County by approximately 60,000 and caused an upward adjustment of prior year estimates. This adjustment is called the "residual" and that is incorporated into the population estimate after the usual components of change (net migration, natural increase/decrease, change in-group quarters population) are calculated. The residual also includes small adjustments made as a result of challenges by other counties to their population estimate. Essentially, the total state population estimate does not change, but all of the component counties must be adjusted to their total adds up to the statewide estimate.

American Mobility: Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home? PEW Research Center, (December 2008), 14. Found on World Wide Web at *<http://pewsocialtrends.org>* (accessed April 22, 2010); Why

People Move: Exploring the March 1999-2000 Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington D.C., (May 20010). Found on World Wide Web at *< http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/ p23-204.pdf>* (accessed May 15, 2010).

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