

# POPULATION

## OVERVIEW

Population growth in Laurens County has historically been steady with decreases from 2000-2010. Pressures from increased suburban sprawl in the northern portion of Laurens County have underscored the need for the planning of utilities, infrastructure, and support services.

**County Population Trends**

Year	Population	Change	% Change
1980	52,214	0	0.00%
1990	58,092	5,878	11.26%
2000	69,567	11,475	19.75%
2010	66,537	-3,030	-4.36%
2020	68,998	2,461	3.56%

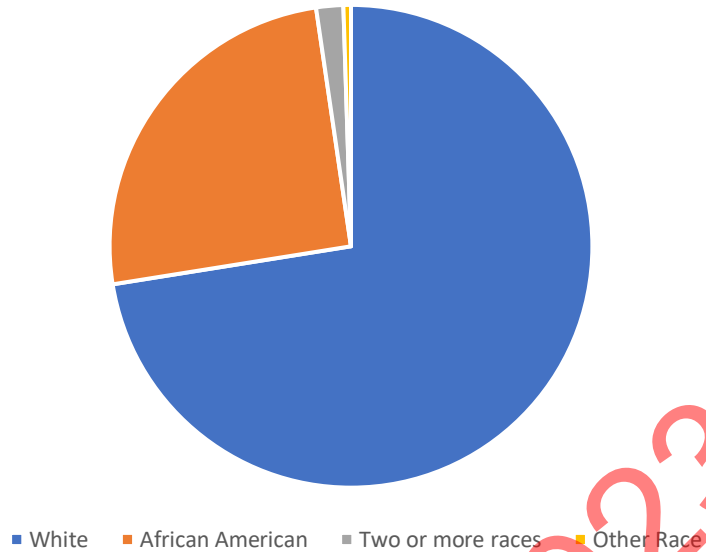
While it is important to know how the County's population is changing, understanding the location of this growth is also beneficial in order to determine the best potential areas to target improvements. Laurens County is divided into six (6) Census County Divisions by the Census Bureau. Through this data, Laurens County can clearly determine which areas are growing and will likely require future resources.

The 2010 census data and 2012 Comprehensive Plan illustrated that the areas around incorporated cities and towns grew modestly and rural areas near metropolitan areas saw the largest increases. County Census Divisions located nearest to neighboring Greenville, Greenwood, and Spartanburg Counties saw the sharpest increases in population. Laurens County should continue to take steps to control this type of spillover suburban sprawl to maintain a positive quality of life.

### Racial Composition

The racial makeup of the residents of Laurens County has remained relatively unchanged since 2010 according to the Census. The racial composition of the County is White (71.9%), African American (25.0%), Hispanic or Latino (5.7%), Two or More Races (1.8%) and Other (0.5%). Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

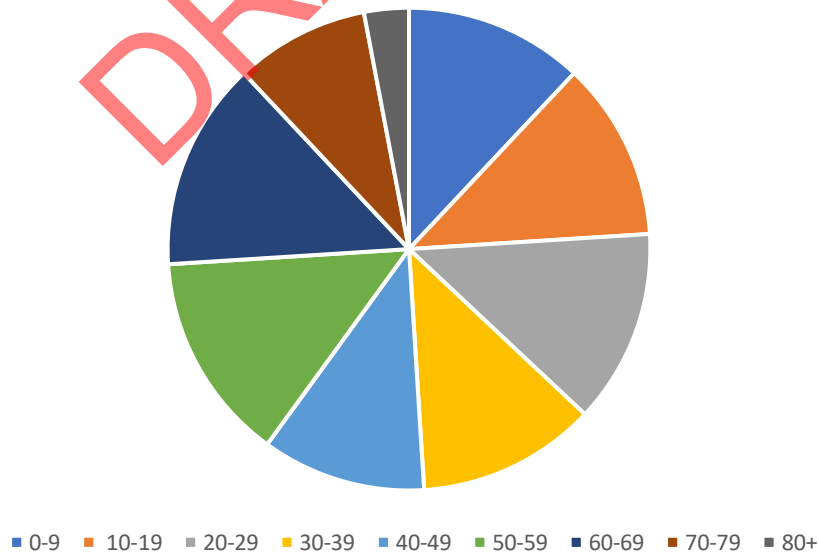
Laurens County SC Racial Diversity



Age

As the population as a whole ages, a new set of challenges will emerge. Officials should be aware of the changes in Laurens County demographics as well as changes nationally. Within the growth regions of Laurens County, local leaders should analyze household ages to best prepare for the additional services and resources that will be needed in the future as the population ages. (eg. Increase in 5-17 year olds will burden school district, increase in 65+ would burden senior facilities, etc.)

Age



The decline in the number of 10-19 year olds suggests that Laurens County must take measures to retain this group to avoid a declining population. Laurens County must continue to attract well paying jobs, affordable housing, and recreational opportunities to sustain the quality of life. At the same time, emphasis should be placed on senior citizens and their need for additional affordable housing, senior centers, etc.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** Monitor population growth by working with school districts, utility providers, and other Laurens County offices to monitor and track areas of high population growth

- Prioritize infrastructure in growth management areas
- Diversify housing stock throughout Laurens County to retain and attract all demographics

