



Population growth directly impacts the physical growth and land use of a community. Population increases are accompanied by increased demands for housing, education, health care, human services, water and sewer, recreation, and other key community services. In turn, population characteristics and the prevalence of special populations shape the scope and delivery of these essential community services and infrastructure.

The Population Element provides the foundation for the other elements of the Newberry County Comprehensive Plan through the detailed assessment of Census data along with other social indicators. The Element provides an overview and analysis of key demographic aspects of the County including: historical growth trends and population projections for the County, municipalities, and surrounding region; household income and family status; educational levels; race, gender, and age characteristics; the prevalence of special populations; and related factors that can impact future growth. The Population Element provides the context for understanding the existing and future needs of Newberry County with respect to housing, employment and job growth, education, community services and infrastructure, and future land development.

2.1. Demographic Trends

Demographic data is primarily provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to conducting a decennial Census, the Census Bureau also conducts an annual nationwide *American Community Survey (ACS)*, collecting a wide range of demographic, social, economic, and housing data. The data is compiled into one-year and five-year estimates, with the latter compilation considered to

be the most accurate data depiction. While the main function of the decennial Census is to provide population counts for Congressional apportionment, the primary purpose of the ACS is to measure the changing social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population. Data from the most recent 5-year ACS is referenced where data from the 2020 Census is not yet available.

At more than 647 square miles in size, with 630.04 square miles of land area, Newberry County ranks 25th among the State’s 46 counties in total area. With a population of 37,719 residents, Newberry County ranks as South Carolina’s 28th largest county in terms of population (*2020 Census*). The County has a population density of only 58.3 persons per square mile. Approximately 90.6 square miles of the northern area of the County are within the Sumter National Forest – one of only two national forests in South Carolina (Map 2-1). Water comprises the remainder of the County’s area and delineates the County borders to the east and south.

Table 2-1. Size and Density of Newberry County and Municipalities, 2020

JURISDICTION	AREA (SQUARE MILES)	2020 POPULATION	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE
NEWBERRY COUNTY	647.12	37,719	58.29
Little Mountain	1.53	249	162.75
Newberry (City)	9.10	10,691	1,174.84
Peak	0.34	51	150.00
Pomaria	1.05	127	120.95
Prosperity	2.01	1,178	586.07
Silverstreet	3.35	164	48.96
Whitmire	1.26	1,390	1,103.17

Sources: Newberry County, S.C. GIS, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

Seven municipalities are located within the County (Map 2-1). The City of Newberry is the County seat and is located in the center of the County on the south side of Interstate 26. The City is the County’s largest municipality, both in land area at more than nine square miles and population, with 10,691 residents in 2020. The City has a population density of nearly 1,175 persons per square mile (Table 2-1).

Although much smaller at 1.26 square miles and a population of 1,390 residents, the Town of Whitmire ranks as the second largest municipality in the County. Whitmire is as almost as densely populated as Newberry at 1,103 persons per square mile. Whitmire is located in the northernmost area of the County and is surrounded by National Forest lands. The Town of Prosperity is the third largest with 1,178 residents. With a population of only 51 residents, the Town of Peak is the smallest of the County’s municipalities.

Map 2-1. Newberry County and Municipalities

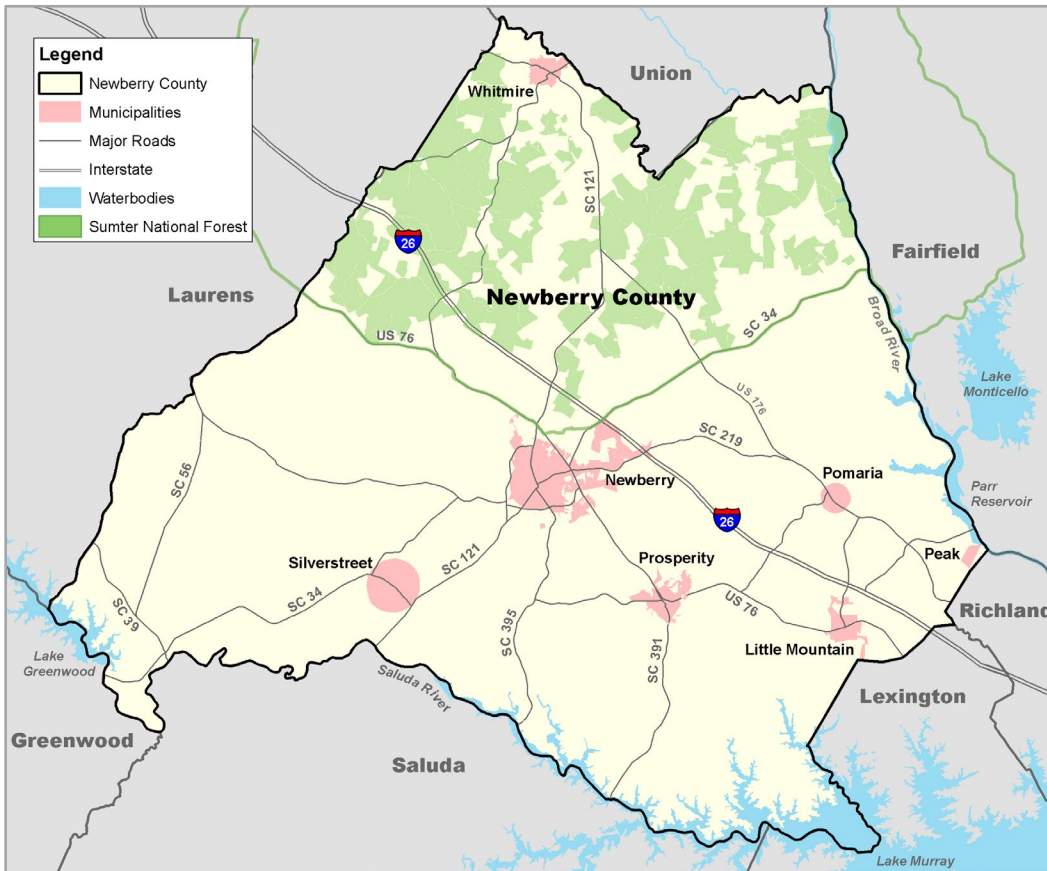


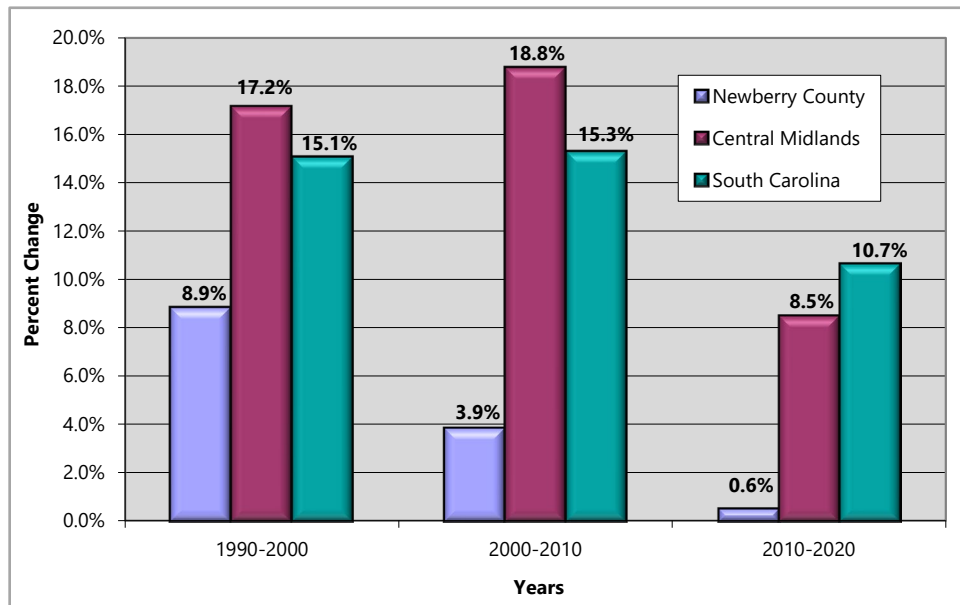
Table 2-2 and Figure 2-1 illustrate the population growth trends for Newberry County, the Central Midlands region, and South Carolina from 2000 to 2020. The County had a positive population growth rate in each decade through 2020 for a 30-year average of 4.5%, or a gain of 1,611 residents. The table and chart illustrate the significant growth both regionally and statewide by decade in contrast to the comparatively low population growth rate of the County during the 30-year period.

Table 2-2. Population Change, Newberry County, Region, and State

JURISDICTION	2000	2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE 2000-2020
Newberry County	36,108	37,508	37,719	4.5%
Central Midlands	596,253	708,359	768,805	28.9%
South Carolina	4,012,012	4,625,364	5,118,425	27.6%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census

Figure 2-1. Population Trends, 1990 to 2020



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census

Unlike the County, which must rely primarily on net migration for population growth, municipalities can increase population and potential for new growth through annexation. However, only the Town of Prosperity (12.5% increase) and the City of Newberry (1.0% increase) grew in population in the last two decades, while the remainder of the municipalities within Newberry County posted population losses (Table 2-3).

Table 2-3. Population Change, Newberry County, and Municipalities

JURISDICTION	2000	% CHANGE 2000-2010	2010	% CHANGE 2010-2020	2020	% CHANGE 2000-2020
NEWBERRY COUNTY	36,108	3.9%	37,508	0.6%	37,719	4.5%
Little Mountain	255	14.1%	291	-14.4%	249	-2.4%
Newberry (City)	10,580	-2.9%	10,277	4.0%	10,691	1.0%
Peak	81	-21.0%	64	-20.3%	51	-37.0%
Pomaria	177	1.1%	179	-29.1%	127	-28.2%
Prosperity	1,047	12.7%	1,180	-0.2%	1,178	12.5%
Silverstreet	216	-25.0%	162	1.2%	164	-24.1%
Whitmire	1,512	-4.7%	1,441	-3.5%	1,390	-8.1%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census

An analysis of population growth by Census tract illustrates patterns of population change throughout the County. Newberry County was divided into eight Census tracts for the 2010 Census and ten tracts for the 2020 Census. Most of the County's Census tracts encompass sizable, primarily rural areas. However, tracts 950202 and 950602 include the more densely populated City of Newberry and were each further divided into two tracts in the 2020 Census.

As illustrated in Map 2-2, four of the eight tracts experienced population loss over the last decade. These tracts include the more rural northern and western areas of the County. The largest

population gains occurred in the eastern half of the City of Newberry and the southeastern area of the County that includes the towns of Peak and Little Mountain and the area bordering Lexington County and Lake Murray.

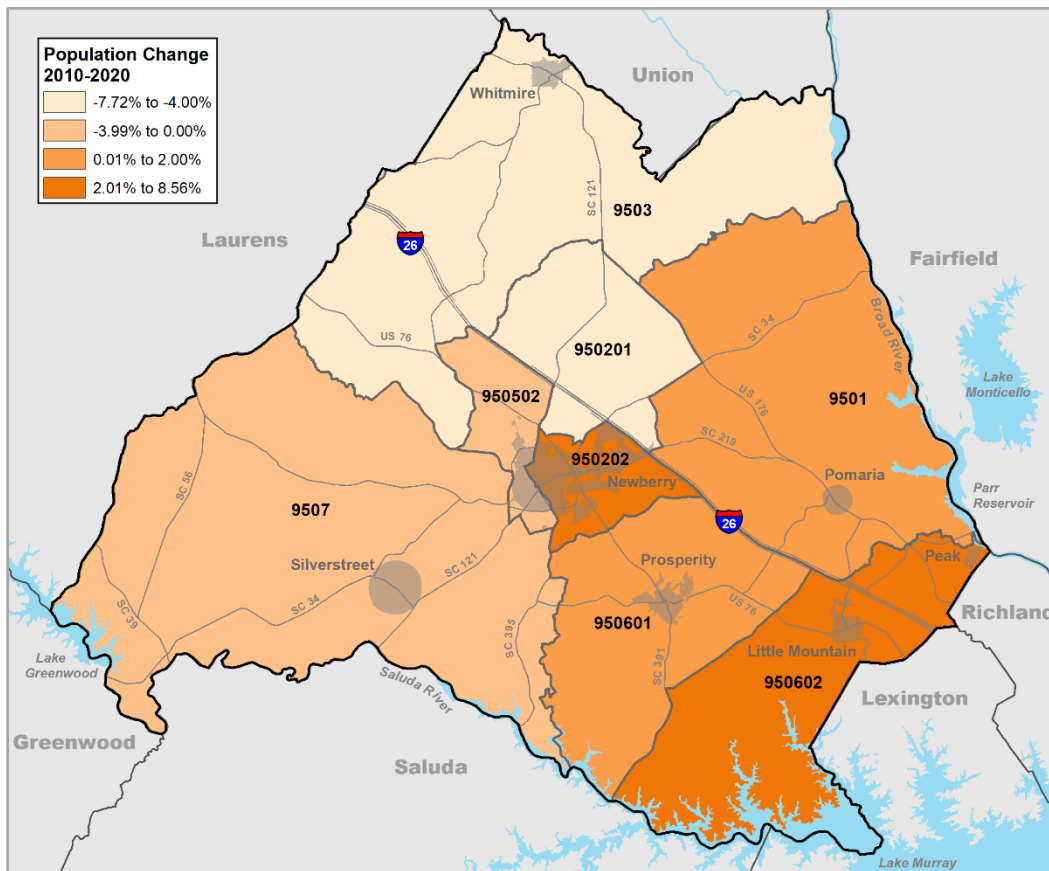
Table 2-4. Population Change by Census Tract*

CENSUS TRACTS	2010	2020	POPULATION CHANGE 2010-2020	% CHANGE 2010-2020
9501	3,631	3,643	12	0.33%
950201	2,615	2,413	-202	-7.72%
950202*	7,391	7,726	335	4.53%
9503	3,351	3,165	-186	-5.55%
950502	5,746	5,560	-186	-3.24%
950601	4,869	4,939	70	1.44%
950602*	5,877	6,380	503	8.56%
9507	4,028	3,893	-135	-3.35%
TOTAL	37,508	37,719	211	0.56%

*Based on 2010 Census tracts. Two tracts were further divided in the 2020 Census.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census

Map 2-2. Population Change by Census Tract, 2010 to 2020*



* Map based on 2010 Census Tracts

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census

The Census defines urban areas as those that “encompass densely settled territory,” while rural areas are defined as all territory located outside of urban areas. Described early in its history as the largest tract of unbroken farmland in South Carolina, Newberry County has long been known as a largely agrarian, rural community. While 2020 Census urban and rural data is not yet available, approximately two-thirds of the County’s population (67.8%) lived in areas classified as rural in 2010. As illustrated in Map 2-1, a major contributing factor to the County’s predominantly rural character is the Sumter National Forest, which includes much of the area north of U.S. Highway 76 and S.C. Highway 34. The most urbanized area of the County is the greater City of Newberry area (Census tracts 950202 and 950502).

2.2. Demographic Outlook

The percentage of the aging population with the financial resources to relocate will increase as more of the “baby boomer” generation enters retirement. The Midlands region is emerging as an attractive destination for both in-state and out-of-state retirees. South Carolina ranked sixth among states in population growth from 2020 to 2021 (*U.S. Census Bureau, December 2021*). *Wallethub.com* ranked South Carolina twelfth highest among the “Best States to Retire” in 2022, with a ranking of third in affordability. Census data continues to indicate that retirees are continuing their move from the North to the South but are also moving from Florida northward. The frequency and severity of natural disasters, such as recent hurricanes affecting popular retirement destinations along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, combined with rising property taxes, housing costs, and sharp increases in coastal insurance premiums have led many retirees to seek less expensive, less vulnerable communities further inland that offer many of the same amenities.

This trend is augmented by a new wave of domestic migration in response to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, which has prompted an increasing number of residents from Northern and Western states to also relocate to the Southeast. South Carolina ranked among the top ten destination states in 2021, behind only Vermont and South Dakota and leading all southeastern states including Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee (*United Van Lines National Movers Study, 2022*). Factors such as the ability to work remotely and the desire for less densely populated communities are fueling this trend. Newberry County is positioned as an attractive destination with the State for retirees seeking convenient regional and nationwide access through the Interstate, cultural venues, abundant historic resources, and the natural amenities offered by Lake Murray and Lake Greenwood, as well as State parks and the Sumter National Forest.

Annual estimates and five-year projections of population and other demographic data are produced by the Environics Analytics Company. The Company’s Claritas Pop Facts® data combines proprietary methodologies with Census and American Community Survey data to estimate current population and five-year projections for a range of geographies including counties and municipalities. The current edition provides 2022 estimates and 2027 projections for counties and municipalities based on the 2010 Census.

Assuming consistent growth through the coming decade, County population projections through 2032 can be made based on these five-year growth projections. Claritas Pop Facts® estimates indicate that the population of Newberry County is 37,807 in 2022, with a projected increase of

only 0.03% to 37,923 residents by 2032 (Table 2-5). Limited growth is also projected in the towns of Little Mountain, Pomaria, and Prosperity over the ten-year period, with no population change expected in the Town of Peak. The City of Newberry and the towns of Silverstreet and Whitmire are projected to lose a small number of residents in the coming decade. However, future growth rates will be dependent on many factors including household and family size, availability of new housing, in-migration and out-migration trends, economic activity, and the availability of a range of appropriate housing options. For municipalities, future annexations may also play a role in population growth.

Table 2-5. Population Estimates and Projections

JURISDICTION	2010 ² CENSUS	2022 ³ ESTIMATE	2027 ³ PROJECTION	2032 ¹ PROJECTION	PROJECTED CHANGE 2022-2032	
					#	%
NEWBERRY COUNTY	37,508	37,807	37,865	37,923	116	0.3%
Little Mountain	291	306	308	310	4	1.3%
Newberry (City)	10,277	10,234	10,213	10,192	-42	-0.4%
Peak	64	62	62	62	0	0.0%
Pomaria	179	167	168	169	2	1.2%
Prosperity	1,180	1,228	1,230	1,232	4	0.3%
Silverstreet	162	173	171	169	-4	-2.3%
Whitmire	1,441	1,443	1,422	1,401	-42	-2.9%

¹Population projections may be impacted by new and future residential developments
 Sources: ²U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census; ³Environics Analytics, Claritas Pop Facts®, 2022

As detailed in the Housing Element, several new residential subdivisions are planned or underway in Newberry County and the City of Newberry that could substantially increase available housing, and therefore population, in the coming years. A total increase of up to 1,060 homes countywide could result if these nine subdivisions are fully developed as planned. However, housing unit totals may change or construction may be delayed as plans are amended in response to a range of variables such as market conditions, labor and materials availability, mortgage rates, funding, infrastructure, and permitting.

While not all the residents of these potential future housing units will be new to the County, it is possible that given an average household size of 2.48 persons in Newberry County and 2.23 in the City (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS), the population of the unincorporated area of the County could increase by as many as 1,300 and the City by as many as 1,190 persons in association with these new developments.

Given factors including availability of water and sewer, proximity to major transportation routes, and the availability of large, undeveloped properties, it is anticipated that future residential development and growth in Newberry County will continue to be focused along the I-26 corridor within proximity to the Columbia Metro area and along the shores of Lake Murray and Lake Greenwood. Residential growth is also expected in the southern and southeastern area of the County that includes the Towns of Prosperity, Little Mountain, and Pomaria due to the proximity to major transportation corridors and to neighboring high-growth counties and the City of Newberry with its numerous amenities, access to I-26, and water and sewer service.

2.3. Demographic Composition

Consideration of population data relating to age, race, gender, educational attainment, income, and household composition is essential to the planning process. This information is requisite for siting new services or facilities such as parks, schools, emergency service centers, transit routes, health care facilities, and senior centers.

2.3.1. Age and Gender

The large number of baby-boomers, combined with increased life expectancy, has contributed to an aging population nationwide. The Newberry County population mirrors this trend to an even greater extent than most of the other counties of the Central Midlands Region and statewide. The median age for Newberry County residents increased steadily since 1960, surpassing 42 years by 2020 (Table 2-6). Newberry County has the second highest median age in the Midlands region and is 2.5 years higher than the State median. At 42.2 years, the County is four years higher than the national median of 38.2 years.

**Table 2-6. Median Age in Years by Decade
Central Midlands Region and South Carolina**

JURISDICTION	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Fairfield County	21.8	23.6	28.2	32.5	36.9	42.4	47.1
Lexington County	25.2	25.7	28.7	32.7	35.7	37.9	39.1
Newberry County	28.8	30.1	32.3	34.2	37.1	39.9	42.2
Richland County	23.9	23.2	26.5	30.4	32.6	32.6	33.7
South Carolina	23.4	24.8	28	32	35.4	37.9	39.7

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census; 2016-2020 ACS

County population by age group generally mirrors the age distribution statewide. Nearly a fifth (19.8%) of County residents are aged 65 or older, slightly higher than the 17.7% of individuals in this age group statewide (Table 2-7). Newberry County trails the State in the percentage of residents between the ages of 25 to 44 years by more than three percent.

Table 2-7. Population by Age Group

AGE GROUPS	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	38,329	100.0%	5,091,517	100.0%
Under 5 yrs.	2,231	5.8%	291,651	5.7%
5 to 17 yrs.	6,089	15.9%	816,954	16.0%
18 to 24 yrs.	3,587	9.4%	470,286	9.2%
25 to 44 yrs.	8,455	22.1%	1,286,995	25.3%
45 to 64 yrs.	7,753	20.2%	986,476	19.4%
65 to 84 yrs.	9,499	24.8%	1,152,630	22.6%
85+ yrs.	715	1.9%	86,525	1.7%
Total under 18 yrs.	8,320	21.7%	1,108,605	21.8%
Total 18+ yrs.	30,009	78.3%	3,982,912	78.2%
Total 65+ yrs.	7,573	19.8%	900,696	17.7%
MEDIAN AGE	42.2 YEARS		39.7 YEARS	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

While the population of Newberry County generally trends older compared to residents statewide, the population of many of the County's municipalities is even older than that of the County (Table 2-8). The Town of Peak has the County's oldest population with a median age of 64.3 years, followed closely by Silverstreet at 56.1 years. The youngest population among County municipalities is found in Little Mountain at under 37 years. Median age in the City of Newberry is also comparatively younger at 40.6 years. Every municipality in the County exceeds the State median with the exception of Little Mountain.

The Town of Little Mountain has the largest percentage of children under age 18 at 30%, while Peak has the lowest percentage of children at only 13%. Newberry College influences age distribution within the City of Newberry, with nearly 14% of the City's population comprised of college age persons in the 18 to 24 age group. This is by far the largest percentage of residents in this age group among the County's municipalities.

Table 2-8. Percentage of Population by Age Group and Median Age

JURISDICTION	AGE GROUPS (YEARS)				MEDIAN AGE
	UNDER 18	18 TO 24	25 TO 64	65+	
NEWBERRY COUNTY	21.7%	9.4%	49.2%	19.8%	42.2 YEARS
Little Mountain	30.0%	6.2%	40.3%	23.5%	36.6 years
Newberry (City)	19.4%	13.9%	50.1%	16.6%	40.6 years
Peak	13.0%	0.0%	42.6%	44.4%	64.3 years
Pomaria	14.7%	8.6%	60.3%	16.4%	51.0 years
Prosperity	23.7%	4.5%	46.0%	25.8%	46.3 years
Silverstreet	25.2%	0.6%	39.0%	35.2%	56.1 years
Whitmire	21.1%	7.7%	56.8%	14.3%	45.4 years

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Percentages of working age residents between the ages of 25 and 64 years, range from 39% in Little Mountain to 60.3% in Pomaria. More than 44% of residents in Peak and over one-third in Silverstreet are over the age of 65, while seniors comprise only 14.3% of the Whitmire population.

Geographically, the County's youngest populations are found in the eastern portion of the City of Newberry and north of the City (Table 2-9 and Map 2-3). The southernmost corner of the County that borders Lake Murray and Lexington County (Census tract 950604) posted the oldest median age countywide at 53 years.

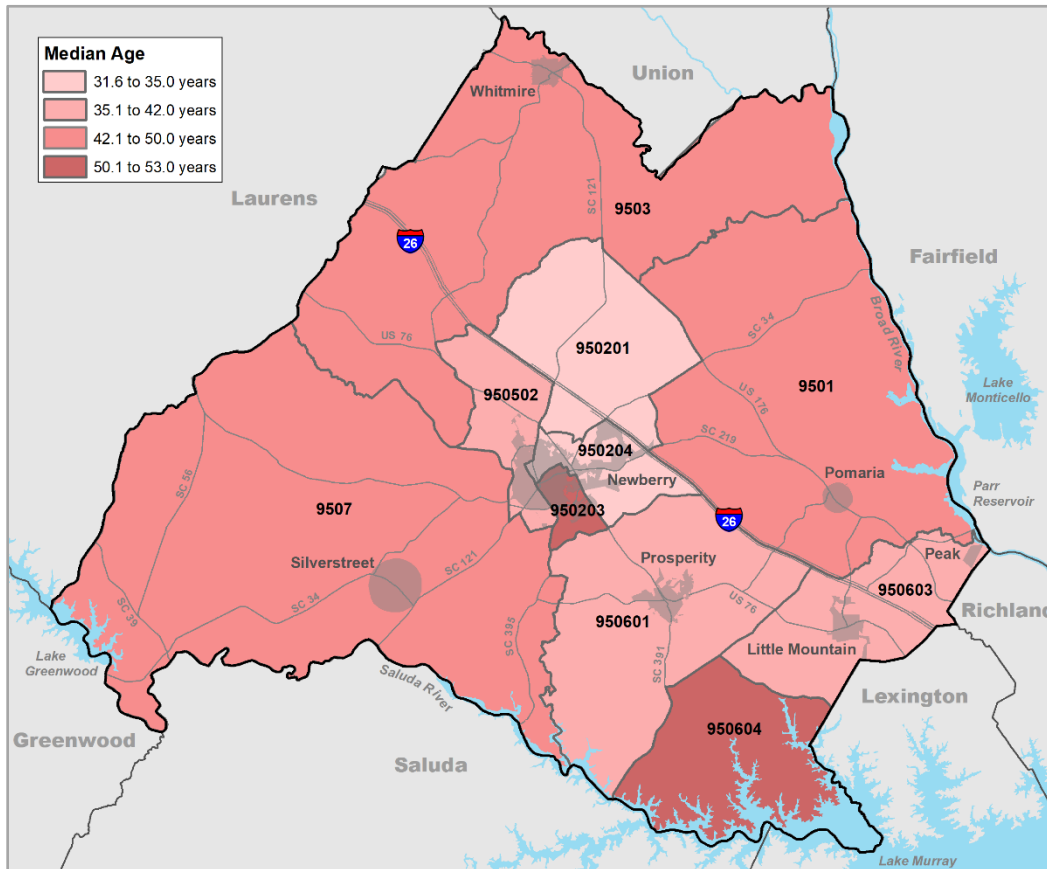
Table 2-9. Median Age by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACTS	MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)
9501	44.0
9502.01	34.8
9502.03	50.1
9502.04	31.6
9503	43.9
9505.02	41.1
9506.01	39.6
9506.03	40.4
9506.04	53.0
9507	45.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS



Map 2-3. Median Age of Population by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

The age and gender composition of County residents can be a significant factor in local planning. An aging population requires a host of special services such as health care, specialized housing, and transportation. The percentage of female residents in Newberry County at 51.7% is nearly equal to that of the State at 51.5% but slightly exceeds the Nation at 50.8%. The ratio of female-to-male residents in Newberry County increases substantially in the 65 and over age group where only 43.6% are male. Among residents aged 85 and older, more than 71% are female (Table 2-10). Younger mortality rates among men are the leading causes of the disparity between males and females in the age 65 and older category. Median age for males in Newberry County at 41.5 years is lower than the County median of 42.2 years. Females have a higher median age at 43 years.

Table 2-10. Age and Gender of Newberry County Residents

AGE GROUPS	TOTAL PERSONS	MALE		FEMALE	
		#	%	#	%
TOTAL POPULATION	38,329	18,530	48.3%	19,799	51.7%
Under 18 yrs.	8,320	4,071	48.9%	4,249	51.1%
18 to 24 yrs.	3,587	1,922	53.6%	1,665	46.4%
25 to 44 yrs.	8,455	4,309	51.0%	4,146	49.0%
45 to 64 years	10,394	4,929	47.4%	5,465	52.6%
65 to 84 years	6,858	3,094	45.1%	3,764	54.9%
85+ years	715	205	28.7%	510	71.3%
Total 18+ years	30,009	14,459	48.2%	15,550	51.8%
Total 65+ years	7,573	3,299	43.6%	4,274	56.4%
MEDIAN AGE	42.2 YEARS	41.5 YEARS		43.0 YEARS	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

2.3.2. Racial and Ethnic Composition

The Newberry County population includes an increasingly diverse mix. Nearly 62% of residents are white, 27.7% are black, and 10.6% are of other races including Asian and American Indian (Table 2-11). The County's percentage of white residents is slightly below that of the State at 63.4% but closer to the national percentage of 61.6%. The County's black population at 27.7% comprises a higher percentage than in South Carolina at 25% and is more than twice that of the Nation at only 12.4%. The percentage of persons of other races in Newberry County is less than 11%. This is lower than the State at 11.6% and considerably lower than nationwide at 26%. However, the ratio of persons of other races in the County has increased substantially over the last three decades, from only 2.9% in 2000 and 6.9% in 2010.

Residents of Hispanic origin are counted within the racial categories of white, black, and other races, as well as shown separately as an ethnic subcategory (Table 2-11). An individual is considered to be of Latino or Hispanic origin if the person is of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The percentage of Hispanic residents in the County at 8.8% is higher that of the State at 6.9% but less than half that of the Nation at 18.7%.

Table 2-11. Racial Composition

RACE	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	37,719	100.0%	5,118,425	100.0%	331,449,281	100.0%
White	23,263	61.7%	3,243,442	63.4%	204,277,273	61.6%
Black	10,451	27.7%	1,280,531	25.0%	41,104,200	12.4%
Other Races*	4,005	10.6%	594,452	11.6%	86,067,808	26.0%
Hispanic**	3,305	8.8%	352,838	6.9%	62,080,044	18.7%

*Includes two or more races

**Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

Change in the racial and ethnic composition of the County since 2000 has been significant among racial categories and the Hispanic population. The percentage of the County population that is white remained relatively steady, increasing by 1.7% in the 2000s but then dropping by 1.8% in the most recent decade. However, the change in the proportion of black residents was substantial, decreasing by 2.7% from 2000 to 2010 and by 12.6% from 2010 to 2020. Conversely, the percentage of persons of other races increased slightly from 10.6% of the County population in 2000 to 11.6% in 2010 and more than doubling to 26% in 2020. The percentage of Hispanic residents countywide decreased from 8.8% of the population in 2000 to 6.9% in 2010, but more than doubled to 18.7% in 2020.

Table 2-12. Racial Composition in Newberry County, 2000, 2010 and 2020

RACE	2000		2010		2020	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	37,719	100.0%	5,118,425	100.0%	331,449,281	100.0%
White	23,263	61.7%	3,243,442	63.4%	204,277,273	61.6%
Black	10,451	27.7%	1,280,531	25.0%	41,104,200	12.4%
Other Races*	4,005	10.6%	594,452	11.6%	86,067,808	26.0%
Hispanic**	3,305	8.8%	352,838	6.9%	62,080,044	18.7%

*Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census

Among the County’s municipalities, the City of Newberry has the most diverse population, with the highest percentages of black residents (42.7%), persons of all other races (13.2%) and Hispanics (12.3%). Little Mountain has the lowest percentage of black residents at only 7.6%, while no persons of other races or Hispanics were counted in Peak in the 2020 Census.

Table 2-13. Racial Composition in County Municipalities

RACE	TOTAL	WHITE		BLACK		OTHER RACES		HISPANIC*	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Little Mountain	249	217	87.1%	19	7.6%	13	5.2%	4	1.6%
Newberry (City)	10,691	4,722	44.2%	4,560	42.7%	1409	13.2%	1,312	12.3%
Peak	51	36	70.6%	15	29.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pomaria	127	79	62.2%	38	29.9%	10	7.9%	5	3.9%
Prosperity	1,178	657	55.8%	425	36.1%	96	8.1%	58	4.9%
Silverstreet	164	127	77.4%	28	17.1%	9	5.5%	2	1.2%
Whitmire	1,390	1,012	72.8%	296	21.3%	82	5.9%	26	1.9%

*Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

As provided in Table 2-14 and illustrated in Map 2-6, the most racially diverse area of Newberry County is tract 950502 that includes the western portion of the City of Newberry and the extended area northwest of the City to I-26. More than half (56.4%) of the residents of this tract are black and 15% are of other races. Areas with the lowest racial diversity are tracts 950604 (bordering Lake Murray) and 950603 (bordering Lexington and Richland counties and including the towns of Little Mountain and Peak). Only 11.3% of residents in tract 950604 and 19% of residents in tract

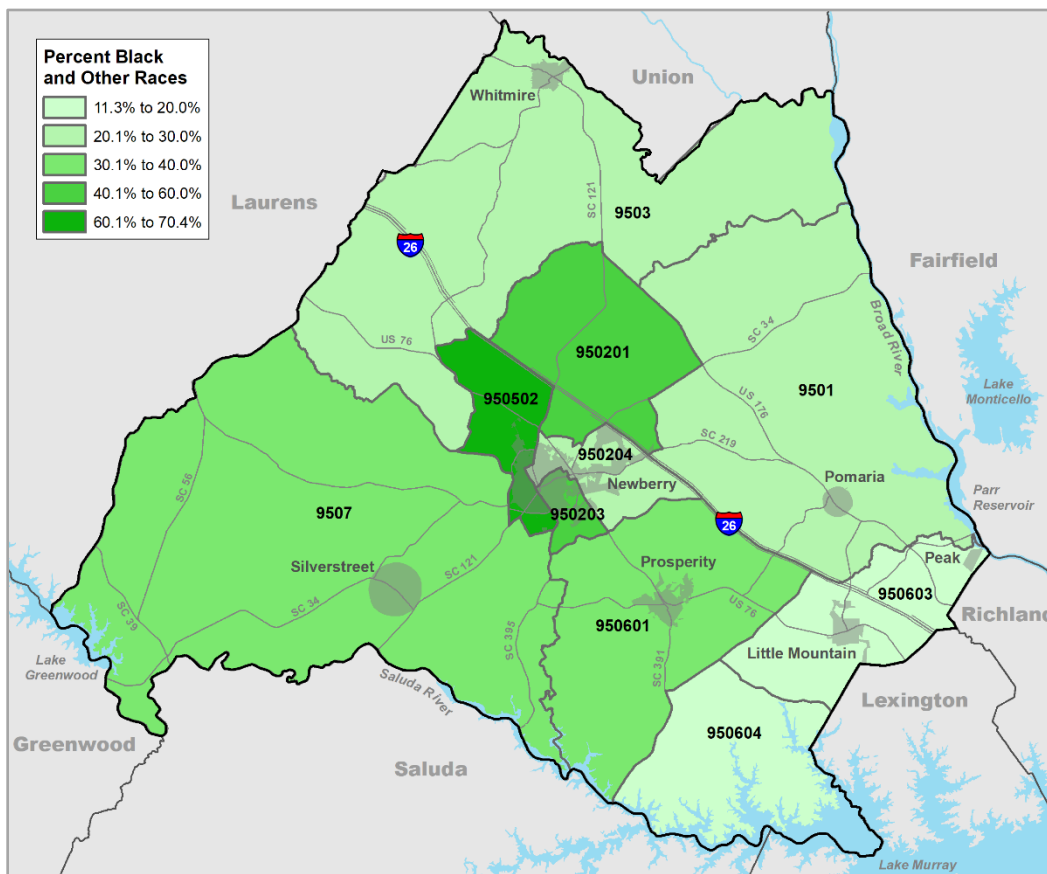
950603 are black or of other races. Nearly 24% of residents in tract 950201 (north of the City of Newberry) and 18.4% of residents in tract 950203 (including the southwestern area of the City of Newberry) are Hispanic.

Table 2-14. Racial Composition by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACTS	TOTAL	WHITE		BLACK		OTHER RACES		HISPANIC*	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
9501	3,643	2,732	75.0%	633	17.4%	278	7.6%	196	5.4%
950201	2,413	990	41.0%	859	35.6%	564	23.4%	573	23.7%
950203	3,723	1,614	43.4%	1,364	36.6%	745	20.0%	684	18.4%
950204	4,003	2,803	70.0%	776	19.4%	424	10.6%	489	12.2%
9503	3,165	2,262	71.5%	707	22.3%	196	6.2%	74	2.3%
950502	5,560	1,645	29.6%	3,136	56.4%	779	14.0%	624	11.2%
950601	4,939	3,354	67.9%	1,180	23.9%	405	8.2%	288	5.8%
950603	2,571	2,083	81.0%	364	14.2%	124	4.8%	56	2.2%
950604	3,809	3,377	88.7%	252	6.6%	180	4.7%	70	1.8%
9507	3,893	2,403	61.7%	1,180	30.3%	310	8.0%	251	6.4%

*Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

Map 2-4. Racial Diversity by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

In 2020, 1,895 residents (4.9%) of Newberry County were born in another country – similar to the percentage of foreign-born residents statewide at 5.2% (Table 2-15). More than 79% of Newberry County residents are life-long members of the State – substantially higher than the almost 59% of residents statewide who were born in South Carolina. Nearly 20% of County residents native to the United States were born in a state other than South Carolina, much lower than the 40.2% statewide who are not native South Carolinians.

Table 2-15. Place of Birth

PLACE OF BIRTH	NEWBERRY COUNTY				SOUTH CAROLINA			
	2010		2020		2010		2020	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
TOTAL	37,197	100.0%	38,329	100.0%	4,511,428	100.0%	5,091,517	100.0%
United States Native	35,213	94.7%	36,434	95.1%	4,299,169	95.3%	4,828,314	94.8%
<i>South Carolina</i>	28,065	79.7%	28,840	79.2%	2,678,326	62.3%	2,831,619	58.6%
<i>Different State</i>	6,970	19.8%	7,103	19.5%	1,578,086	36.7%	1,940,413	40.2%
<i>Outside of US*</i>	178	0.5%	491	1.3%	42,757	1.0%	56,282	1.2%
Foreign Born	1,984	5.3%	1,895	4.9%	212,259	4.7%	263,203	5.2%

* Born outside of the United States but entitled to U.S. citizenship

Source: U.S. Census, 2010 Census; 2016-2020 ACS

Limited English proficiency can pose a significant barrier for residents seeking housing, education, employment, and financial and legal services. Nearly 9% of the County’s population over the age of five speaks a language other than English at home. This is higher than the percentage for the State at 7.4% (Table 2-16). Residents speaking a language other than English includes only those who sometimes or always speak a language other than English at home. It does not include those who speak a language other than English only at school or work or those who are limited to only a few expressions of the language. Most people who speak another language at home also speak English. More than three-in-four Newberry County residents (77.2%) who speak another language at home speak Spanish, and of those, over half (50.8%) speak English less than “very well” – an indication of possible language barriers for these County residents.

Table 2-16. Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English

RACE	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER	36,098	100.0%	4,799,866	100.0%
Speaks English Only	32,901	91.1%	4,446,830	92.6%
Other Language Than English at Home	3,197	8.9%	353,036	7.4%
Speaks Spanish	2,469	77.2%	221,714	62.8%
<i>Speaks English Less Than "Very Well"</i>	1,255	50.8%	91,793	41.4%
Speaks Other Indo-European Language	439	13.7%	69,588	19.7%
<i>Speak English Less Than "Very Well"</i>	43	9.8%	15,673	22.5%
Speaks Asian & Pacific Island Language	17	0.5%	47,722	13.5%
<i>Speak English Less Than "Very Well"</i>	17	100.0%	20,001	41.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

2.3.3. Household and Family Characteristics

Household and family status are key indicators of social and economic conditions within the community. Households include all related and unrelated persons who occupy a housing unit. There are 14,976 households in Newberry County, with an average household size of 2.48 persons. This is slightly lower than the statewide average household size of 2.53 persons. More than a quarter (27.9%) of all County households include a child under the age of 18 and over a third (34.4%) include at least one person aged 65 or older (Table 2-17). More than 29% of the County's households consist of an individual living alone, with 46.3% of these single-person householders aged 65 years or older.

More than two-thirds (67.3%) of County households and nearly two-thirds of households statewide (65.3%) consist of a family – defined as two or more persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. There are 10,080 families in the County, with an average family size of 3.09 – only slightly lower than the State average of 3.13 persons per family. Over two-thirds (69.7%) of County family households consist of a married couple and nearly 31% of these families include children younger than 18 years. Females with no husband present comprise 22.9% of all family households (2,313 households) and more than half of these (55.8%) include a child under 18 years of age. Among Newberry County grandparents, 211 are responsible for raising their grandchildren under 18 years of age.

Table 2-17. Household Type and Size

HOUSEHOLDS (HH) BY TYPE	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	% OF ALL HH OR FAMILIES	#	% OF ALL HH OR FAMILIES
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	14,976	100.0%	1,961,481	100.0%
Householder living alone	4,400	29.4%	571,147	29.1%
<i>Householder 65 years and over</i>	2,036	46.3%	233,589	40.9%
Households with children < 18 yrs.	4,171	27.9%	567,817	28.9%
Households with persons 65+ yrs.	5,154	34.4%	631,743	32.2%
Average household size (persons)	2.48		2.53	
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS (FAMILIES)	10,080	67.3%	1,280,623	65.3%
With own children < 18 yrs.	3,740	37.1%	491,337	38.4%
Married-couple family	7,029	69.7%	923,300	72.1%
<i>With own children < 18 yrs.</i>	2,167	30.8%	314,381	34.0%
Single-parent families with children < 18 yrs.	1,573	15.6%	176,956	13.8%
Female householder, no husband	2,313	22.9%	272,756	21.3%
<i>With own children < 18 yrs.</i>	1,290	55.8%	139,253	51.1%
Average family size (persons)	3.09		3.13	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Among the County's municipalities, the percentage of family households ranges from 55.2% in Peak to 73.6% in Silverstreet. Nearly one-third of households in Prosperity (31.6%) and Little Mountain (31.2%) include children under 18 years of age, while only 20.7% of households in Peak

and 20.8% in Silverstreet include children. Two-thirds (65.5%) of households in Peak and well over half (56%) of households in Silverstreet include seniors aged 65 and older, while less than 23% of households in Whitmire included persons in that age group.

Table 2-18. Household (HH) Type and Size for County Municipalities

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	FAMILY HHs		% HHs WITH CHILDREN < 18 YRS.	% HHs WITH PERSONS 65+ YRS.	AVG. HH SIZE (PERSONS)	AVG. FAMILY SIZE (PERSONS)
		#	% of HHs				
Little Mountain	141	83	58.9%	31.2%	45.4%	2.61	3.56
Newberry (City)	4,099	2,406	58.7%	22.8%	29.0%	2.28	3.01
Peak	29	16	55.2%	20.7%	65.5%	2.23	2.93
Pomaria	42	25	59.5%	23.8%	31.0%	3.45	3.62
Prosperity	449	291	64.8%	31.6%	39.6%	2.51	3.03
Silverstreet	53	39	73.6%	20.8%	56.6%	2.75	3.20
Whitmire	673	471	70.0%	27.9%	22.9%	2.74	3.46

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Average household size among the County’s municipalities ranges from 3.45 persons in Pomaria to only 2.23 persons in Peak (Table 2-18). Pomaria also has the largest average family size at 3.62 persons, followed by Little Mountain at 3.56 persons per family. Average family size is smallest in Peak at 2.93 persons.

Only 3.9% of Newberry County’s residents live in group quarters. The Census divides group quarters into two categories: 1) *institutional*, including correctional facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals; and 2) *non-institutional*, including college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, and shelters. Newberry College students residing in campus dormitories are included in the non-institutional housing population count. Of the 1,475 Newberry County residents who were counted in group quarters, more than three-fourths (1,118 persons) are in non-institutional housing and 357 persons are in institutional quarters. The majority of persons in non-institutional housing (95.1% or 1,063 persons) are Newberry College students living in on-campus housing provided by the College. Among the County’s institutionalized population, 269 persons (75.4%) are in nursing facilities.

Table 2-19. Population in Group Quarters

	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
TOTAL POPULATION	37,719	100.0%	5,118,425	100.0%
In Group Quarters	1,475	3.9%	138,603	2.7%
<i>Institutionalized Population</i>	357	24.2%	56,578	40.8%
<i>Non-institutionalized Population</i>	1,118	75.8%	82,025	59.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

2.3.4. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment can have a significant impact on current and future earnings potential. Higher educational attainment can also have a positive financial impact on the community in the form of lower criminal justice and public safety costs, decreased social support payments, lower health care costs, increased tax revenues, and stronger civic engagement. The educational attainment of Newberry County residents will continue to be important, as many new and existing job openings require some form of postsecondary education or training.

As shown in Table 2-20, several educational attainment indicators measurably improved in Newberry County between 2010 and 2020. The percentage of County residents aged 18 and older whose education ended with a high school diploma or equivalent degree rose from 31.1% to 35.9%, while the percentage of persons with no high school diploma dropped from 25% to 15.7% in 2020. The percentage of adults with an associate degree also increased from 7.8% to 10.1% between 2010 and 2020.

More than 84% of Newberry County residents aged 18 and older are high school graduates (including GED recipients). This percentage of graduates is lower than the 88.2% of residents statewide who have earned a high school diploma.

The County trails the State in the percentage of residents with postsecondary degrees, with 17.7% of County residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the 26.7% of South Carolinians that hold a postsecondary degree. However, the 10.1% of Newberry County residents who hold an associate degree is higher than the state at 9.2%. This reflects the accessibility and affordability of postsecondary educational opportunities provided by Piedmont Technical College.

Table 2-20. Educational Attainment, Persons 18+ Years

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	NEWBERRY COUNTY				SOUTH CAROLINA			
	2010		2020		2010		2020	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
POPULATION 18+ YEARS	28,624	100.0%	30,009	100.0%	3,442,167	100.0%	3,982,912	100.0%
No High School Diploma	7,142	25.0%	4,706	15.7%	592,532	17.2%	469,729	11.8%
High School Graduate*	8,897	31.1%	10,784	35.9%	1,083,016	31.5%	1,170,918	29.4%
Some College, No Degree	5,235	18.3%	6,171	20.6%	752,847	21.9%	910,228	22.9%
Associate Degree	2,234	7.8%	3,022	10.1%	263,511	7.7%	367,900	9.2%
Bachelor's Degree	3,277	11.4%	3,868	12.9%	496,238	14.4%	681,812	17.1%
Graduate/Professional Degree	1,839	6.4%	1,458	4.9%	254,023	7.4%	382,325	9.6%

*Includes equivalency

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 and 2016-2020 ACS

Educational attainment of residents in the County's municipalities varies (Table 2-21). Nearly 43% of residents aged 18 and older in Peak, 31.3% of residents in Newberry, and 28.2% in Little Mountain hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Nearly one-fourth of residents in the Town of Peak (21.3%) hold graduate or professional degrees. Conversely, 28% of Whitmire residents, nearly 18% of Prosperity residents, and 16.3% of City of Newberry residents over the age of 18 did not graduate from high school. Less than 2% of Little Mountain residents did not earn a high school diploma.

Table 2-21. Educational Attainment by Percentage of Persons 18+ Years in County Municipalities

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	LITTLE MOUNTAIN	CITY OF NEWBERRY	PEAK	POMARIA	PROSPERITY	SILVERSTREET	WHITMIRE
No High School Diploma	1.7%	16.3%	6.4%	13.1%	17.7%	13.4%	28.0%
High School Graduate/GED	23.5%	27.4%	29.8%	44.4%	41.6%	38.7%	35.9%
Some College, No Degree	16.0%	22.3%	10.6%	13.1%	18.6%	12.6%	13.2%
Associate Degree	30.7%	2.6%	10.6%	10.1%	7.0%	15.1%	12.0%
Bachelor's Degree	16.8%	17.8%	21.3%	11.1%	9.7%	12.6%	6.9%
Graduate/ Professional Degree	11.3%	13.5%	21.3%	8.1%	5.4%	7.6%	4.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

2.3.5. Income and Poverty

Income is a measure of financial prosperity in a community. Comparisons with state data reveal how well a community's income measures are in line with those statewide. Household and family incomes in Newberry County are significantly lower than those statewide. Median household income in the County is \$46,038 – more than \$8,800 lower than the State (Table 2-22). The disparity is even more pronounced in median family income. The Newberry County median of \$58,904 is \$9,909 lower than the statewide median of \$68,813.

Median household income among the County's municipalities ranges from highs of \$60,250 in Little Mountain and \$60,114 in Peak to a low of \$31,464 in Whitmire. Pomaria has by far the highest median family income at \$103,438, while Whitmire posted the lowest median family income among the municipalities at \$33,583.

Table 2-22. Median Household and Family Income

JURISDICTION	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
NEWBERRY COUNTY	\$46,038	\$58,904
Little Mountain	\$60,250	\$79,063
City of Newberry	\$38,613	\$56,190
Peak	\$60,114	\$60,833
Pomaria	\$52,500	\$103,438
Prosperity	\$47,639	\$53,125
Silverstreet	\$59,375	\$59,375
Whitmire	\$31,464	\$33,583
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$54,864	\$68,813

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 ACS

In 2020, the County ranked 20th statewide in per capita income at \$26,501 – \$4,226 less than that of residents statewide and \$8,883 below the nation (Table 2-23). Income growth for local residents exceeded the State and the Nation from 1999 to 2010 with a 33.4% increase in per capita income. Income growth has been lower than statewide and nationwide in the most recent decade, slowing to less than 24%.

Table 2-23. Per Capita Income

JURISDICTION	1999	2010	2020	% CHANGE 1999-2010	% CHANGE 2010-2020
Newberry County	\$16,045	\$21,410	\$26,501	33.4%	23.8%
South Carolina	\$18,795	\$23,443	\$30,727	24.7%	31.1%
United States	\$ 21,587	\$27,334	\$35,384	26.6%	29.5%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; 2006-2010 and 2016-2020 ACS

Table 2-24 details the per capita income for racial and ethnic groups in Newberry County. While the per capita income for the County's black residents is only \$1,785 less than the income for black residents statewide, it is \$12,446 lower than the per capita income for the County's white residents (Table 2-24). Countywide per capita income for white residents at \$31,279 is nearly \$4,500 lower than for white residents throughout the State at \$35,727. Per capita income among the County's Hispanic residents at \$13,009 is more than \$5,780 below that of Hispanics statewide.

Within Newberry County municipalities, the Town of Silverstreet has the highest per capita income at \$47,548. Whitmire has the lowest per capita income at \$19,318. Per capita income among white residents is also highest in Silverstreet and lowest in Whitmire. Black residents have the highest per capita income in Whitmire at \$23,531 and the lowest in Little Mountain. Per capita income data is not available for Hispanic residents in five of the seven Newberry County municipalities.

Table 2-24. Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity

JURISDICTION	ALL PERSONS	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC
NEWBERRY COUNTY	\$26,501	\$31,279	\$18,833	\$13,009
Little Mountain	\$34,029	\$36,523	\$14,208	--*
City of Newberry	\$21,449	\$29,601	\$15,381	\$12,647
Peak	\$27,670	\$39,421	\$15,015	--*
Pomaria	\$30,529	\$35,801	\$17,273	--*
Prosperity	\$22,490	\$26,502	\$17,034	\$22,300
Silverstreet	\$47,548	\$55,812	\$19,847	--*
Whitmire	\$19,318	\$18,482	\$23,531	--*
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$30,727	\$35,727	\$20,618	\$18,790

*Per Capita Income not available

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

An examination of household income by age (Table 2-25) reveals that Newberry County's youngest baby-boomers (residents aged 45-to-64) have the County's highest median household income at \$58,560. Incomes are also higher for persons aged 25-to-44 at \$45,800. The lowest median household income is found among the County's youngest residents (aged 25 years and

younger) at \$35,436. Median household income for the County’s oldest residents (aged 65 and older) is also comparatively lower at \$37,907. This mirrors State and national income distribution. County income levels are lower within all age groups than for residents of South Carolina, with the exception of residents under 25 years of age. The median household income for County residents in this age group is \$449 higher than the median household income for that age group statewide. This may be attributed in part to the number of Newberry College students.

Table 2-25. Median Household Income by Age of Householder

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER	NEWBERRY COUNTY	SOUTH CAROLINA
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	\$46,038	\$54,864
15 to 25 years	\$35,436	\$30,987
25 to 44 years	\$45,800	\$60,452
45 to 64 years	\$58,560	\$64,299
65 years and over	\$37,907	\$43,822

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

An examination of income by Census tract reveals that the highest median household income of \$69,948 is found in tract 950604 that borders Lake Murray and Lexington County (Table 2-26 and Map 2-5). Tract 950603 that borders Lexington and Richland counties and includes the towns of Little Mountain and Peak also has a comparatively higher median household income at \$67,589. Tract 950502 that includes the western portion of the City of Newberry has the lowest median household income at only \$28,904.

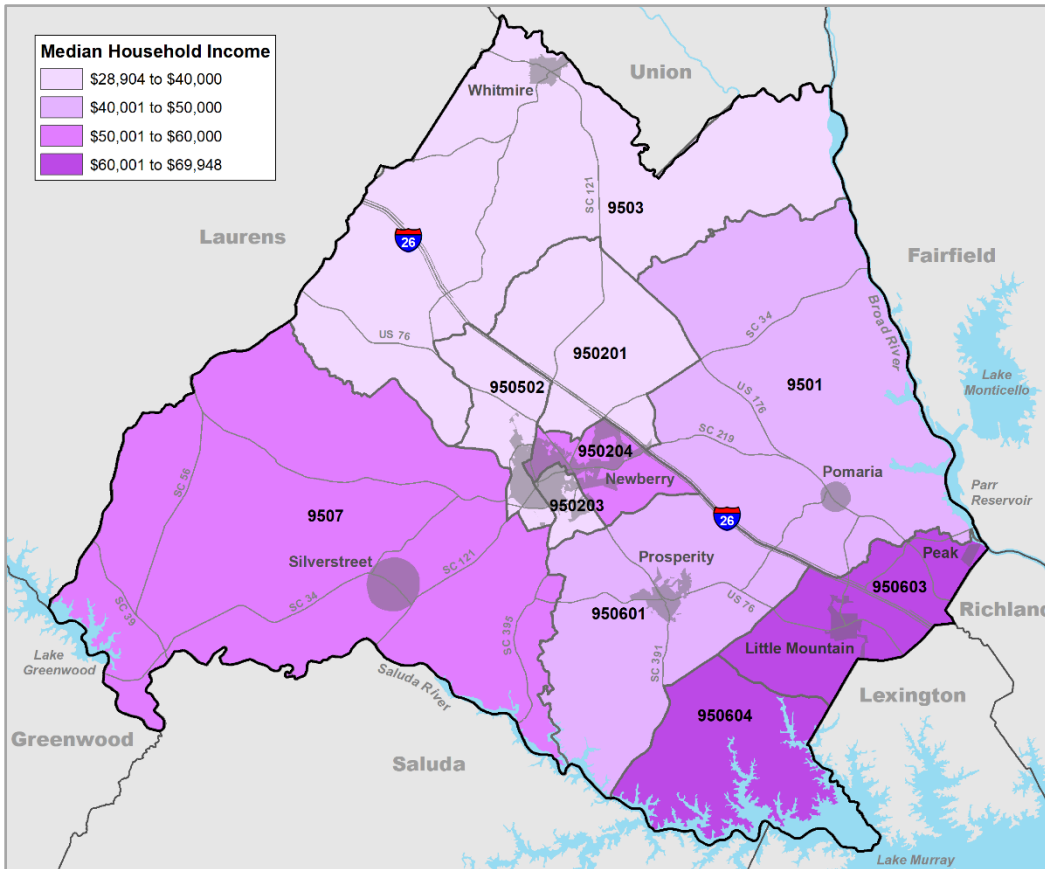
Table 2-26. Median Household Income by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACTS	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
9501	\$46,137
950201	\$36,563
950203	\$35,882
950204	\$54,628
9503	\$38,668
950502	\$28,904
950601	\$49,788
950603	\$67,589
950604	\$69,948
9507	\$51,518

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS



Map 2-5. Median Household Income by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Poverty is defined as having insufficient resources to meet basic living expenses, including the costs of food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Thirteen percent of Newberry County families and 10.5% of families statewide live in poverty (Table 2-27). Of family households living in poverty in the County, more than two-thirds (68.4%) include related children under 18 years of age. Nearly one-in-four (23.4%) families living in poverty are headed by a single parent, with most of these (806) households headed by a single female. More than 73% of these single parent families include children under 18 years of age.

Table 2-27. Poverty Status by Family Type

FAMILY TYPE	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
TOTAL FAMILIES	10,080	100.0%	1,280,623	100.0%
Family Households in Poverty	1,315	13.0%	133,914	10.5%
<i>with related children < 18 years</i>	900	68.4%	97,898	73.1%
Married Couple Family	348	26.5%	43,303	32.3%
<i>with related children < 18 years</i>	190	54.6%	21,787	50.3%
Single Parent Household, no spouse	967	73.5%	90,611	67.7%
<i>with related children < 18 years</i>	710	73.4%	76,111	84.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Financial data for the School District of Newberry also indicates a significant number of low-income households in the County. The District reported that 71.6% of its students in the 2020-2021 school year live in poverty, based on participation/enrollment in programs such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and if the child is fostered, homeless, or a migrant. This is higher than the percentage statewide of 61.9%.

Nearly 18% of all County residents live in poverty, higher than the percentage of State residents in poverty at 14.7% (Table 2-28). More than one-third of County residents living in poverty (35.5%) are children under age 18, higher than the percent statewide at 31.8%. Seniors aged 65 and older comprise 10.6% (687 residents) of the County's impoverished population, slightly lower than the percentage statewide at 11.7%. Income is a leading concern for elderly residents that touches almost every facet of life from housing and health care to food and medications.

Table 2-28. Poverty Status by Age

AGE	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
TOTAL PERSONS*	37,223	100.0%	4,950,181	100.0%
Persons in Poverty	6,496	17.5%	726,470	14.7%
<i>Under 5 years</i>	810	12.5%	66,543	9.2%
<i>5 to 17 years</i>	1,494	23.0%	164,518	22.6%
<i>18 to 34 years</i>	1,477	22.7%	186,047	25.6%
<i>35 to 64 years</i>	2,028	31.2%	224,299	30.9%
<i>65+ years</i>	687	10.6%	85,063	11.7%

* Population for whom poverty is determined

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

More than one-in-three white residents in Newberry County live in poverty. This is low when compared to the 47.7% of white residents statewide living in poverty (Table 2-29). Over half (55.5%) of the County's black citizens live in poverty, as compared to 42.9% of black residents living in poverty statewide. Among the County's Hispanic residents, 14.7% live in poverty. This is significantly higher than the overall percentage of the State's Hispanic residents living in poverty at 9.6%.

Table 2-29. Persons with Income Below Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

RACE/ETHNICITY	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
TOTAL PERSONS*	37,223	100.0%	4,950,181	100.0%
Persons in Poverty	6,496	17.5%	726,470	14.7%
<i>White</i>	2,231	34.3%	346,694	47.7%
<i>Black</i>	3,607	55.5%	311,319	42.9%
<i>Other Races</i>	658	10.1%	68,457	9.4%
<i>Hispanic**</i>	953	14.7%	69,992	9.6%

* Population for whom poverty is determined

**Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Among the County's municipalities, Whitmire and Newberry have the highest poverty rates at 22.1% and 22%, respectively. Little Mountain has by far the lowest poverty rate at 2.4%, with only eight residents living in poverty. Within racial and ethnic categories, poverty rates are much lower for white than black residents of Newberry, Pomaria, and Prosperity. There were no persons living in poverty among white Peak residents and among black residents of Little Mountain and Silverstreet. Poverty rates for white and black Whitmire residents were similar and comparatively high at 22.9% and 21.2%, respectively. All Hispanic residents of Little Mountain (seven) and Silverstreet (two) and one-in-four Hispanic residents in Newberry (133 people) are living in poverty.

Table 2-30. Persons Living in Poverty within County Municipalities*

MUNICIPALITY	PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL						
	TOTAL	AGE (YEARS)			RACE AND ETHNICITY		
		< 18	18-64	65+	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC**
Little Mountain	2.4%	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Newberry	22.0%	38.7%	20.1%	7.2%	6.1%	33.7%	29.0%
Peak	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	30.8%	0.0%
Pomaria	14.7%	35.3%	13.8%	0.0%	12.0%	21.2%	0.0%
Prosperity	17.0%	20.3%	14.6%	18.5%	7.7%	29.8%	0.0%
Silverstreet	8.3%	18.4%	9.5%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Whitmire	22.1%	18.7%	27.5%	2.6%	22.9%	21.2%	0.0%

* Population for whom poverty status is determined

**Hispanic is an ethnic category in the Census, therefore persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

The percentage of County residents living in poverty by Census tract is illustrated on Map 2-6. Tract 950201 (north of Newberry) has the highest poverty percentage at nearly 34%, followed by tract 950502 (west and northwest of the City of Newberry) at nearly 26% (Table 2-31). Tracts with the lowest poverty rates include 950603 (in the eastern edge of the County including Little Mountain and Peak) at 10% and 9501 (eastern border with Fairfield County including Pomaria) at 10.6%.

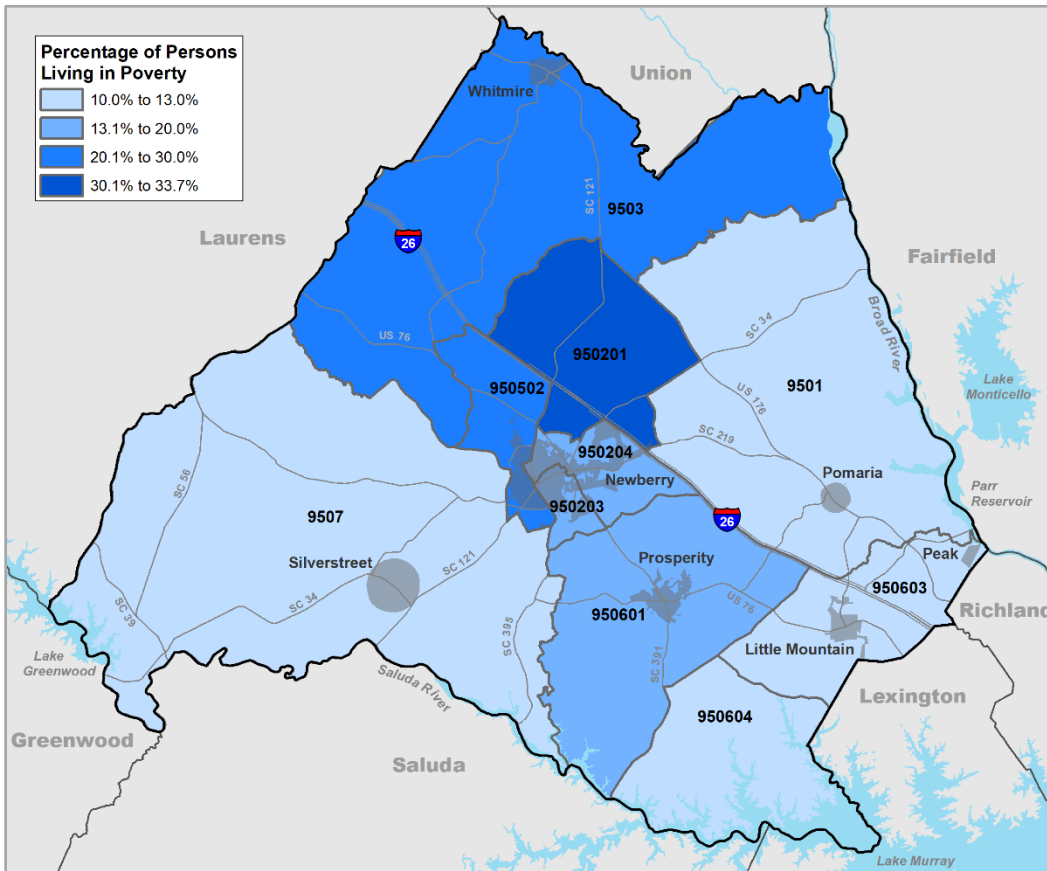
Table 2-31. Percentage of Persons* with Income Below Poverty by Census Tract

CENSUS TRACTS	TOTAL PERSONS*	PERSONS WITH INCOME BELOW POVERTY	
		#	%
9501	4,459	474	10.6%
950201	2,459	828	33.7%
950203	3,505	608	17.3%
950204	3,763	541	14.4%
9503	3,601	826	22.9%
950502	4,544	1172	25.8%
950601	4,829	928	19.2%
950603	2,779	277	10.0%
950604	3,552	430	12.1%
9507	3,732	412	11.0%

* Population for whom poverty status is determined

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

Map 2-6. Percentage of Persons with Income Below Poverty by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 ACS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines low and moderate income (LMI) households as those with incomes below 80% of median family income (MFI). More than 44% of County residents (16,170 persons) are considered to be living in LMI households. Among the County’s seven municipalities, the Town of Peak has by far the highest LMI rate at 70%. The City of Newberry ranks second highest at 55% (Table 2-32). Little Mountain has the lowest rate of LMI households among the County’s municipalities at under 8%.

Table 2-32. Persons with Low and Moderate Incomes

JURISDICTION	TOTAL LMI	PERCENT LMI
NEWBERRY COUNTY	16,170	44.3%
Little Mountain	20	7.7%
City of Newberry	5,075	55.2%
Peak	35	70.0%
Pomaria	25	25.0%
Prosperity	380	35.5%
Silverstreet	50	31.3%
Whitmire	655	48.3%

Source: U.S. HUD Exchange, FY 2021 LMI Summary Data

Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data is a special tabulation of household and income data commissioned by HUD for use by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grantees in the development of local consolidated plans. This data includes valuable information on household income for low-income residents. Table 2-33 depicts income as a percentage of the HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) for Newberry County and South Carolina. More than one-third (38%) of all County households are considered to be LMI. Ten percent are considered to have *extremely low incomes* (0% to 30% of MFI). This is lower than the percentage of households statewide at 11.5% in this lowest income category. Nearly 12% of households are considered to have *low incomes* (31% to 50% of MFI), similar to the 11.1% of households statewide in this income group. Sixteen percent of households in Newberry County have *moderate incomes* (51% to 80% of MFI), also similar to the 61% of households statewide in this income category.

Table 2-33. Low and Moderate Income Households

INCOME CATEGORIES	NEWBERRY COUNTY		SOUTH CAROLINA	
	#	%	#	%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	14,940	100.0%	1,894,710	100.0%
Extremely Low Income (0-30% HAMFI)	1,545	10.3%	218,785	11.5%
Low Income (31-50% HAMFI)	1,730	11.6%	210,380	11.1%
Moderate Income (51-80% HAMFI)	2,400	16.1%	309,105	16.3%
Other Income (> 80% HAMFI)	9,260	62.0%	1,156,445	61.0%

Source: U.S. HUD, HUD User, CHAS Database, 2022

2.4. Special Populations

Special populations can experience a greater need for community services than the public as a whole. Data reveals that special populations in Newberry County include residents with low incomes, the elderly, and single-parent families. Consideration of these residents and their needs should be addressed through each Comprehensive Plan element.

2.4.1. Elderly

The needs of an aging population can increase overall demand for services such as adult day care, home meal delivery, transportation services, in-home respite services, home repair and modification, long-term care, assisted living, and focused recreational and fitness programs. Nearly 20% of Newberry County residents (7,573 persons) are aged 65 and older (2020 ACS). More than 34% percent of County households include at least one person of retirement age and 46.3% of residents living alone are adults aged 65 and older (2,036 persons). Nearly 11% of Newberry County seniors (687 persons) live in poverty. More than one-third of the County's elderly population (2,785 persons) has a disability and of those, one-in-three (965 persons) have a cognitive difficulty. Among the County's elderly residents, 1,334 (18.1%) have difficulty living independently.

2.4.2. Homeless Population

Homeless populations encompass a broad range of individuals and families with special needs. National research indicates that 30% are in families with at least one child and the



remainder are individuals (*2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, U.S. HUD*). More than 8% of the nation's homeless adults are veterans. One-quarter of the unsheltered population is considered chronically homeless – a 15% increase from the previous year. The chronic homeless experience repeated periods of homelessness, coupled with physical or mental disabilities, and require permanent support systems for housing and support services.

Homelessness is a significant risk factor for a broad range of health and social problems. Alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, and mental illness are common problems among the adult homeless population. Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for females. More than 80% of homeless women with children have experienced domestic violence (*U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2018*). Among South Carolina's homeless population, an estimated 20% are chronically homeless, 12.7% are identified as having a substance use disorder, and 14.5% are diagnosed with mental illness (*S.C. PIT Count Report, 2020*). Ten percent are veterans and 8.6% are adult survivors of domestic violence.

One-in-five homeless persons in South Carolina are adults and children in families, while the remainder are individuals. Individuals and families without adequate shelter experience greater barriers in obtaining needed support services. The unique circumstances and conditions of the homeless requires close coordination among local agencies and service providers to have a sustained impact.

The Newberry County is located within the service and planning area of the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH). The MACH was created in 1994 following the federal creation of the Continuum of Care (CoC) process for communities in an effort to consolidate, at the local level, federal funds identified for homeless persons. The MACH Consortium encompasses a 13-county region that includes Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, and York Counties. The MACH supports more than 100 agencies that provide services to the homeless and near homeless such as the United Way, faith-based organizations, and housing authorities.

Most homeless persons living in the Newberry area tend to either double-up with friends or family or gravitate to the more structured services provided primarily in more urban areas such as the City of Columbia. While families who are doubling up (staying) with friends or relatives because they have no other housing options are not included in the HUD definition of homeless individuals and families, they are often at risk of losing such temporary shelter and becoming homeless. Doubling-up is considered a temporary situation, one that is often prohibited by public housing laws and landlords. Both families can face eviction if the extra household residents are discovered. Moreover, doubled-up friends or families often impose space and financial burdens on the host family and guests are often asked to leave after a short time. In smaller and more rural communities with no public shelters, doubling up is often the stop-gap measure before sleeping on the streets.

The most accurate assessment of the homeless population at the county, state and national levels is provided through bi-annual, HUD mandated *point-in-time* (PIT) counts. Point-in-time counts are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The homeless



count includes those in shelters, in transitional housing, living on the street, or in other locations not meant for human habitation. The S.C. Homeless Coalition has provided the statewide organization and planning for recent point-in-time counts.

The most recent point-in-time count was conducted in January 2020 in an effort led by the United Way of the Midlands. Although a formal PIT count was not conducted in Newberry County at that time, PIT counts are conducted annually. Participation by the County and associated service agencies and organizations in future counts may provide a more accurate insight into the extent of homelessness in Newberry County. Only six persons living in shelters were attributed to Newberry County in the 2020 count.

Data collected by the School District of Newberry County through the *McKinney-Vento Act* reveals that homelessness is more prevalent than indicated by the PIT count. The Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are sharing the housing of others due to housing loss, economic hardship, or related cause; staying in motels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative; staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings. The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, each school district is required to have a trained, local homeless education liaison to identify and assist these families with enrolling and fully participating in school. The number of homeless students in the School District of Newberry County has steadily increased over the last five years. The District identified 79 homeless students enrolled in the 2022-2023 school year. This represents a 65% increase from 48 students in the previous year and nearly seven times the increase from only 12 students in the 2018-2019 school year.

It is estimated that many Americans are just one paycheck away from becoming homeless, with 64% of adults having no emergency savings for unexpected and costly expenses such as a major health issue or home or auto repair (*Federal Reserve, Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2020*). These precariously housed individuals and families are most at risk for crisis poverty and very vulnerable to becoming homeless. Indicators for families at risk of becoming homeless include those with low to moderate incomes, who are cost-burdened, with children receiving free or reduced lunch at school, or living in overcrowded conditions.

Residents with low and moderate incomes can have difficulty affording adequate and safe housing in Newberry County. As detailed in Table 2-32, more than one-third of all Newberry households are considered to be LMI with incomes below 80% of the Median Family Income (MFI). One-in-six County residents are living in poverty. Over half of families in poverty (710 families) are single-parent families with children.

2.4.3. Veterans

South Carolina's large veteran population often experiences a need for employment assistance, long-term care, shelter, and specialized medical care. Nearly 48% of living veterans in South

Carolina and more than half (55.2%) in Newberry County are aged 65 years or older. However, due to more recent conflicts in the Middle East and Asia, younger veterans aged 35-to-54 and females represent a growing percentage of the veteran population. These changing demographics generate an expanded need for a full spectrum of home and community-based support programs.

Twenty-eight percent of all veterans in Newberry County and 29.6% statewide are disabled. The majority of the County's disabled veterans (84.9%) and 64.9% of the State's disabled veteran population are aged 65 and older. The number and percentage of disabled veterans continues to climb as aging veterans of the baby boom era develop disabilities and younger service personnel deal with disabling injuries incurred while serving in more recent conflicts such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 8% of the nation's homeless adult population are veterans, with many more living in poverty and at risk of becoming homeless (*2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, U.S. HUD*). Nearly half of these homeless veterans (49%) live in unsheltered locations. However, homelessness among veterans has generally declined since 2009, with declines recorded each year since 2010, with the exception of a slight increase in 2017. Veterans comprised 10% of the total homeless population during the 2020 South Carolina PIT count, with more than one-in-four living without shelter.

There are 1,999 veterans living in Newberry County, of which the majority (86.4%) are male. Nearly 15% of the County's older residents (aged 65 and older) and one-in-three (33.4%) older males are veterans. Veterans comprise 6.7% of the County population aged 18 and older and 9.1% of the population statewide.

While area veterans are attracted to the Midlands region by many of the same factors that most retirees seek – recreation, temperate weather, and lower housing prices – many are also drawn by the close proximity of Fort Jackson in Richland County and Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. In addition, the Veterans Administration (VA) operates the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia. The Dorn VA Medical Center is a 216-bed facility providing a wide range of primary care and specialty health services including mental health services, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, cardiology, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.

2.4.4. Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions

Disabilities can include a wide range of conditions – from physical limitations and mental illness to serious medical conditions. An individual is considered to have a disability when he or she experiences difficulty performing functions such as seeing, hearing, talking, walking, climbing stairs, lifting and carrying; has difficulty performing activities of daily living; or has difficulty with social roles such as helping children with homework, working at a job or doing household chores. A person who is unable to perform one or more activities, who uses an assistive device to get around, or who needs assistance from another person to perform basic activities is considered to have a severe disability. Included are persons with mental retardation, autism, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and similar disabilities. Nearly 13% of Americans have some form of disability (Table 2-34). The percentage is higher in Newberry County with 15.8% of the population

(5,967 persons) having at least one type of disability. More than one-in-three County residents aged 65 and older are disabled (37.7%), slightly higher than the statewide percentage of 34.7%. Nearly 47% of all disabled persons in Newberry County are 65 years or older. One-in-ten County residents aged 65 and older have a disability that makes it difficult to care for themselves (specifically bathing and dressing) and one-in-four have difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Thirteen percent of older County residents (965 people) have cognitive issues that make it difficult to remember, concentrate, or make decisions.

Newberry County residents also suffer from potentially serious chronic health conditions such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and diabetes that can lead to hospitalization, disability, and even death. The leading causes of death in Newberry County include heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents, Alzheimer’s, lung disease, and diabetes (*Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy, Newberry County Memorial Hospital, 2019*). The rates of death for heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer’s, and diabetes in the County are higher than the state and are higher than expected when compared to the nation. Newberry County ranks third highest out of 46 counties in deaths due to Alzheimer’s and 16th highest statewide in deaths due to diabetes. In addition, the County ranks third highest statewide for COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, with 168 confirmed deaths attributed to the virus to date. (*SCDHEC, COVID-19 Data, 2022*).

Table 2-34. Disability Status of Civilian Non-institutionalized Population

AGE GROUPS	NEWBERRY COUNTY			SOUTH CAROLINA		
	TOTAL	# WITH A DISABILITY	% WITH A DISABILITY	TOTAL	# WITH A DISABILITY	% WITH A DISABILITY
TOTAL POPULATION	37,872	5,967	15.8%	4,990,992	725,628	14.5%
Population under 5 years	2,231	4	0.2%	291,630	2,479	0.9%
Population 5 to 17 years	6,073	296	4.9%	814,338	49,674	6.1%
Population 18 to 64 years	22,190	2,882	13.0%	3,002,335	366,910	12.2%
Population 65+ years	7,378	2,785	37.7%	882,689	306,565	34.7%

Source: U.S. Census, 2016-2020 ACS

2.4.5. Immigrants

Immigrants face particular challenges and barriers relative to language, education, employment, housing, transportation, and health care. According to the 2020 ACS, 13.5% of the population of the United States and 5.2% of South Carolinians were born in another country. Of the foreign-born South Carolina residents, more than one-in-three were born in Latin America. These figures do not include an estimated 88,000 undocumented immigrants living in South Carolina (*Migration Policy Institute, 2022*).

In Newberry County, Hispanic residents comprise 8.8% of the population (3,305 persons), a decrease of more than 600 since 2010. In addition to being predominantly Mexican (68.8%), the County’s Hispanic population is comprised of slighter more males (50.6%) than females, with a median age of 25.4 years. Nearly half (44.7%) of the County’s Hispanic residents (1,160 persons) speak English “less than very well.” Almost 43% (637 persons) of the County’s Hispanic residents

aged 25 and older lack a high school education. One-in-three (953 persons) live in poverty, including 517 children under 18 years of age.

The County’s Hispanic population presents unique community needs for local service providers, including the Newberry County School District and the Newberry County Memorial Hospital. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that the leading causes of death for the Hispanic or Latino population are COVID-19, heart disease, and cancer (*CDC Fastats, 2022*). Forty-six percent of men and 35.4% of women have high blood pressure. Hispanic residents are more likely not to seek medical care due to cost than white, black, or other non-Hispanic residents. Hispanics are also more likely to lack health insurance than other racial or ethnic groups, with nearly one-in-three adults uninsured (*CDC Interactive Biannual Early Release Estimates, 2022*). The local hospital emergency room often becomes the primary source for medical treatment for immigrant residents who lack a primary care physician.

2.5. Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies

The goals, objectives, and strategies for implementation (GOIS) table summarizes the actions that will be undertaken in the coming decade to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Population element. Element goals are broad-based ideals that are intended to guide the future of the community, while an objective is a more specific elaboration of a goal that also provides direction. Together the goals and objectives outline the framework for the element and provide the basis for the more detailed and specific plan strategies. Each supporting implementation strategy includes a listing of the agencies that are accountable for the implementation of the strategy, as well as a time frame for completion.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
GOAL 2.1. Improve the quality of life for existing and future County residents		
OBJECTIVE 2.1.1. Encourage young adults and families to remain in or relocate to Newberry County		
<i>STRATEGY 2.1.1.1.</i> Continue to create economic opportunities for residents and potential residents through recruitment and retention of industries, businesses, and other employers.	Newberry County, Central SC Alliance, Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing
<i>STRATEGY 2.1.1.2.</i> Work with the Newberry County School District, private schools, and the County’s postsecondary institutions to improve educational quality, foster workforce readiness, and promote advanced training opportunities.	Newberry County, School District of Newberry County (SDNC), Private Schools, Piedmont Technical College (PTC), Newberry College	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE 2.1.2. Assess and seek to address the needs of the County’s special populations		
<i>STRATEGY 2.1.2.1.</i> Encourage participation by appropriate local service agencies and organizations in the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH).	Newberry County, Municipalities, Local Service Agencies and Organizations, Faith-based Organizations	Ongoing
<i>STRATEGY 2.1.2.2.</i> Seek partnerships with appropriate local organizations to explore County participation in the Point-in-Time Homeless Counts for the Midlands Region.	Newberry County, Municipalities, Local Organizations, MACH	Annually



GOALS/OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
GOAL 2.2. Promote a livable community in which residents are healthy, engaged, and productive		
OBJECTIVE 2.2.1. Ensure access to adequate health care and preventative services		
<i>STRATEGY 2.2.1.1.</i> Support County health care providers in establishing the medical services and expertise needed by local residents, especially geriatric care for the elderly and programs that address the leading chronic health problems among local residents.	Newberry County Hospital, County Health Department, Newberry DSNB, Council on Aging, Newberry County	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE 2.2.2. Provide a range of wellness resources and programs for residents		
<i>STRATEGY 2.2.2.1.</i> Provide a range of fitness and recreational opportunities that encourage health and well-being and that safely accommodate residents with disabilities, older adults, youth, and other special needs populations.	Newberry County, Municipalities, YMCA, Newberry College, SDNC	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE 2.2.3. Promote higher levels of educational attainment and job readiness among County residents		
<i>STRATEGY 2.2.3.1.</i> Support workforce development programs that address the skilled labor needs of current and potential employers in the County.	Newberry County, Municipalities, Upper Savannah WIA, SDNC, Piedmont Technical College, Adult Education, Local Employers	Ongoing
GOAL 2.3. Foster a high level of efficiency, coordination, and cooperation among County and municipal services to meet the diverse needs of residents		
OBJECTIVE 2.3.1. Coordinate planning efforts among the County, municipalities, and neighboring jurisdictions		
<i>STRATEGY 2.3.1.1.</i> Prepare a new County Comprehensive Plan every ten years.	Newberry County	2033
<i>STRATEGY 2.3.1.2.</i> Coordinate service delivery planning among the County, municipalities, and neighboring jurisdictions to eliminate duplication of effort and address long-term needs of residents.	Newberry County, Municipalities, Neighboring Jurisdictions, CMCOG	Ongoing
<i>STRATEGY 2.3.1.3.</i> Foster on-going coordination and communication among Newberry County, municipalities, and neighboring jurisdictions on a wide range of issues including land use planning and regulation, facilities planning, transportation, mobility, employment, and the extension and upgrade of utilities and other infrastructure to meet the needs of residents.	Newberry County, Municipalities, CMCOG, Neighboring Jurisdictions, Public and Private Utility Providers	Ongoing
<i>STRATEGY 2.3.1.4.</i> Strive to maintain existing County and municipal service levels and examine ways to enhance public services as needed.	Newberry County, Municipalities	Ongoing