Chapter 5

Demographics

KENNEBUNKPORT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2030
Volume 2

May 2022

Demographics

Population

The year-round population of Kennebunkport is 3,629.[1] The 2020 population is approximately 4.5% greater than that of 2010, but slightly lower than the 3,720 people who lived in Kennebunkport in 2000.[2]

In Kennebunkport, the average town-wide population density is approximately 180 people per mile, or 0.28 people per acre. The average population density in York County is 205 people per square mile, although this number varies widely across and within communities.

As shown in Figure 5-1, darker areas, including the Goose Rocks, Cape Porpoise, and Dock Square vicinities are areas with a greater density of homes than lighter areas. This map was developed using E-911 address records located on residential lots as a proxy for population density.

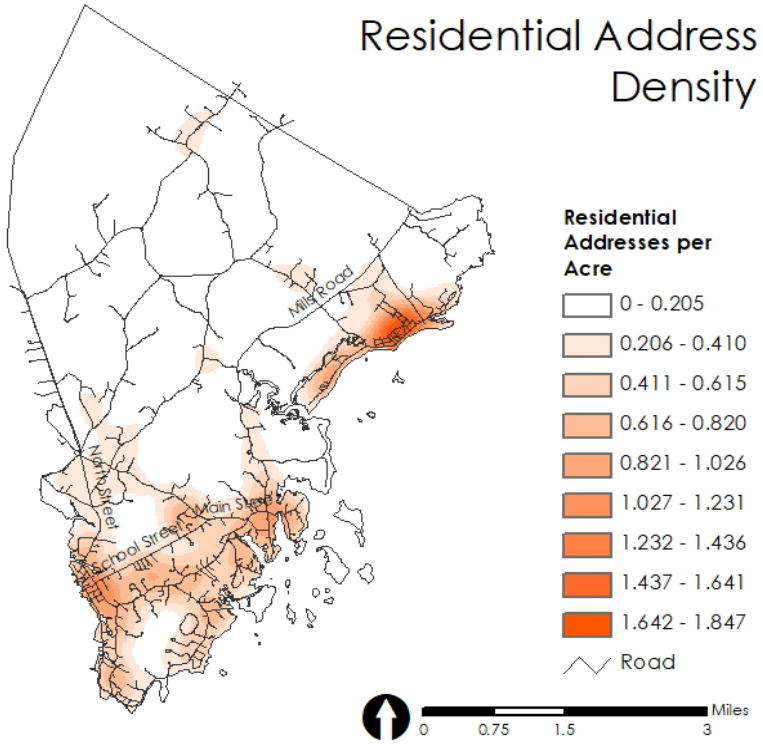

Figure 5-1 Residential addresses per acre. E-911 address data provides an alternative way to show residential density in different areas of the community for a town like Kennebunkport, which falls entirely within a single census tract. (Data source: ME GIS E-911, Assessing Department)

Seasonal Population

The town's seasonal population is estimated at over 12,000.[3] As noted in the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, one factor contributing to slower population growth rate in Kennebunkport is the conversion of year-round homes to seasonal or rental homes. This trend has contributed to the lack of year-round and affordable housing within the community and composition of the town's population.

According to Assessing Department records, 51% of the owners of parcels classified as residential have a permanent mailing address that is located outside of Kennebunkport, indicating a high rate of seasonal or rental homes. Figure 5-2 shows the location of residences with an owner mailing address of Kennebunkport or another town. As evident in this figure, a majority of seasonal or rental homes are located in coastal areas, while very few are located in the rural areas on the north side of town. While summer residents and tourists contribute to the vibrancy of Dock Square and the viability of its retail and restaurant industries, the high rate of off-season vacancies in coastal neighborhoods throughout town may detract from the vitality and character of neighborhoods.

Estimated Seasonal Population Using Sewer Flow Data

In 2012, the Town estimated that the average summer population on Town sewer was approximately 10,000. This figure was based on wastewater flow for one month in winter and one month in summer and the number of households and estimated number of residents on sewer.

In February 2020, a 5-year average daily winter flow and a 5-year average summer flow were estimated using monthly wastewater flow data provided by Public Works. The approach used in 2012 was replicated using these updated averages. The result was an estimated summer population on sewer of 6,000.

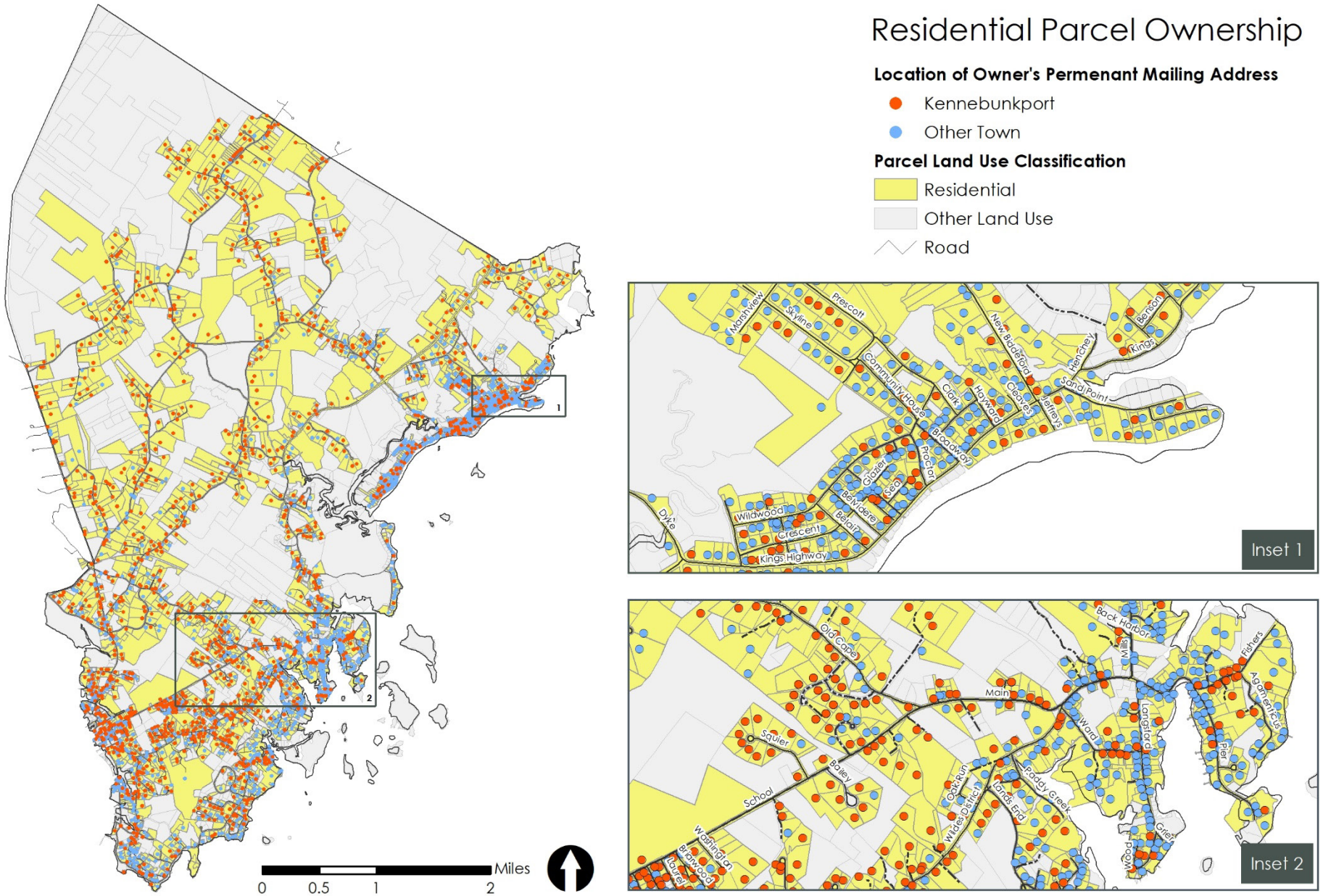

Figure 5-2 Permanent mailing address of residential parcels (Data source: ME GIS E-911, Assessing Department)

Regional Trends

From 2010 to 2020 the population of York County by approximately 7.5%, a slightly higher growth rate than that of the previous decade: 5.6%. The population of the county in 2020 was 211,972.

The population of municipalities in York County has varied significantly in recent decades. Between 2010 and 2020, the average population change of municipalities was 9.2%, ranging from -5.6% in Parsonsfield to +76.8% in Ogunquit. During this time, Kennebunkport experienced only 4.5% growth in its population and its share of the county's population remained at less than 2%. Since 2010, the populations of Kennebunkport and of York County have experienced little change. The population trends in York County in the early 2000's reflect a general shift in growth of population in the coastal and more urban communities to growth in suburban and rural areas (Source: US Census, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020).

Age

The median age in Kennebunkport is 53.5 years. As shown in Figure 5-3, median age has increased since 2000. The town's median age is approximately 16% higher than that of York County, 18% higher than that of Maine (44.8 years), and 38% higher than the national median age of 38.2. However, in recent years it appears that the median age in Kennebunkport has increased at a lower rate than that of the county and state.

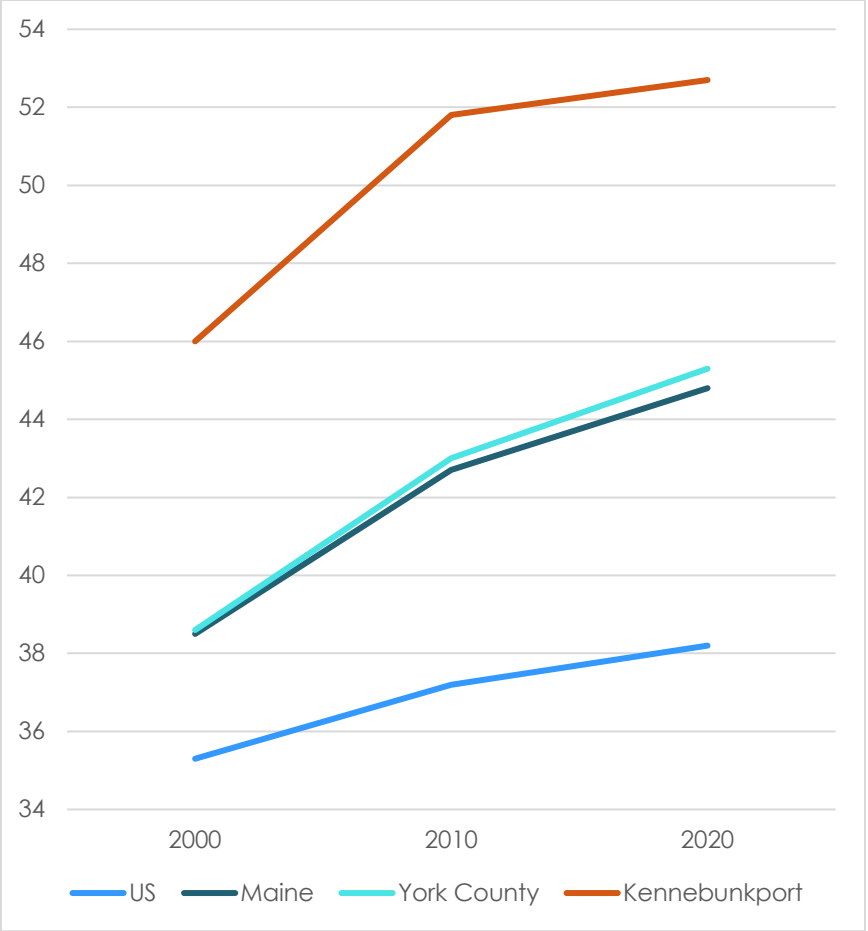

Figure 5-3 Median age in Kennebunkport, York County, Maine, and the US. Note that 2020 data is estimated data and unlike the data used for 2000 and 2010, it does not reflect the full population (Source: US Census 2000, 2010, ACS 2020 5-year estimates).

Distribution of the Population by Age

Kennebunkport has, in general, fewer younger people and more older people than the region, state, and nation (Figure 5-4). The residents ages 60 to 64 comprise the second largest five-year cohort in Kennebunkport, accounting for 10.2% of the town's total population.[4] Fourty percent of the population is over age 60. The population under age 20 comprises 17% of the population. With the exception of 10 to 14-year-olds, the share of the population of all five-year cohorts under age 35 is lower in Kennebunkport than the county, state, and national share of the population in these cohorts. Conversely, five out of eight out of the population cohorts ages 50 and over are higher in Kennebunkport than the county, state, and national share of the population in these cohorts.[5]

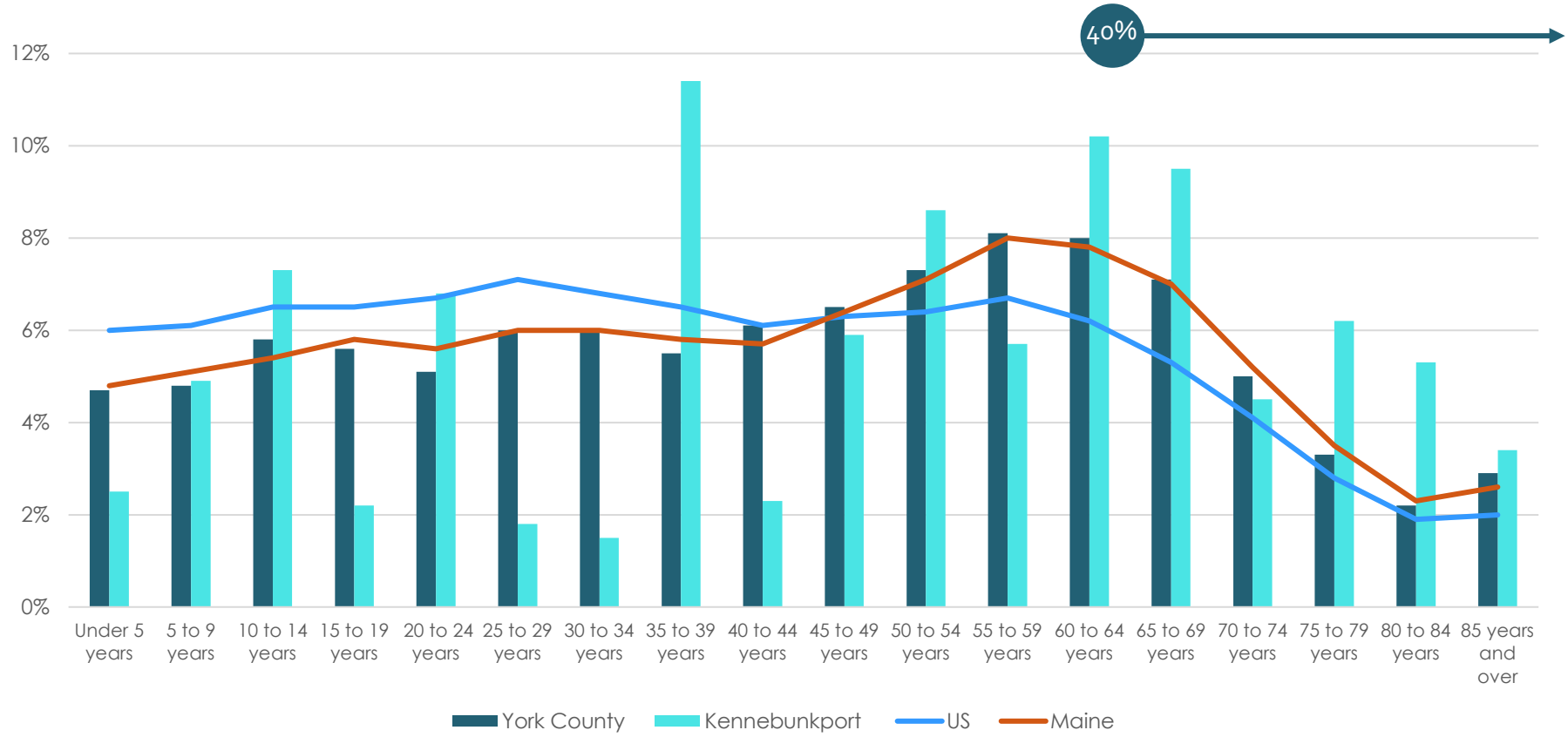

Figure 5-4 Age distribution of the population (Source: ACS 2020 5-year estimates, Table S0101)

Population Pyramid

Population pyramids graphically display the distribution of males and females in different age groups. When a population is growing, the distribution forms a pyramid-like shape. The population pyramid for Kennebunkport's population reveals an almost inverted pyramid, reflecting a high share of older people (Figure 5-5). This figure also highlights the especially low population in the 30 to 44-year cohorts. This form is indicative of populations with characteristics including:

- Declining birth rates
- Aging and longer-living residents
- A shrinking population
- Fewer working people to support the older population.

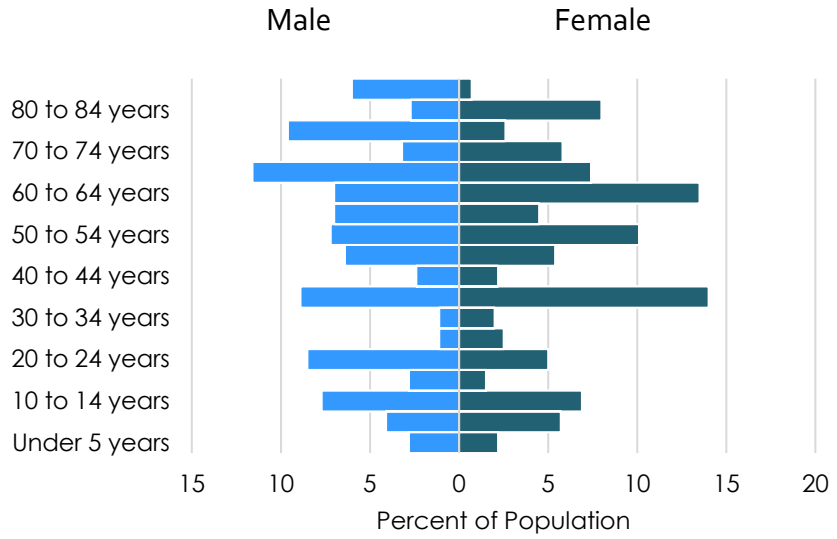

Figure 5-5 Population pyramid of Kennebunkport (Source: ACS 2020 5-yr estimates, Table S0101)

Age Dependency

The age dependency ratio is an indicator of the proportion of non-working people who are not likely earning an income and often receiving outside support to meet their needs. An age dependency ratio over 65 is considered high. Figure 5-6 displays the old-age and child dependency rations for Kennebunkport, compared to York County, the State of Maine, and the US. The overall age dependency ratio, or ratio of the population not typically in the workforce (under age 14 or over age 65) is 83. A ratio of around 80 means that for every four adults who are not working, there are five who are. Kennebunkport has a much higher old-age dependency ratio than the county, state, and nation, while the child dependency ratio is comparable to other geographies. At a national scale it is more difficult to cover social security and Medicare benefits with the payroll taxes of the working population when the old-age dependency ration is high because there are fewer workers to support the older population.

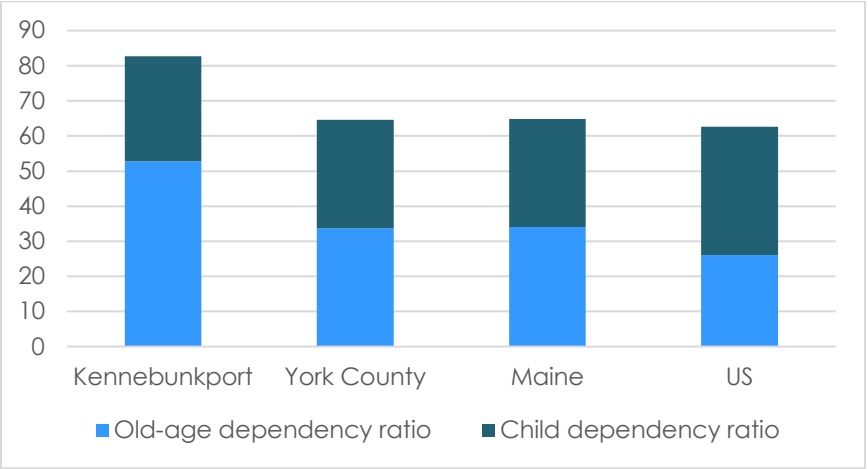

Figure 5-6 Old-age and child dependency ratio in Kennebunkport (Source: ACS 2020 5-yr estimates, Table S0101)

School Population & Enrollment

The 2021 school population of Kennebunkport was 317 students, 96 of whom attended the Consolidated School, the town's only public school (Figure 5-7).[6] From 2010 to 2021, total enrollment of Kennebunkport students at RSU 21 schools has declined by over 26%.[7] Total enrollment of students from all towns at all RSU 21 schools declined by approximately 1% from 2010 to 2019.[8] Enrollment at the Consolidated School (Kindergarten through 5th grade) has trended downward in recent years from a peak of 214 in 2012 to less than 100 students in 2021 (Figure 5-8).

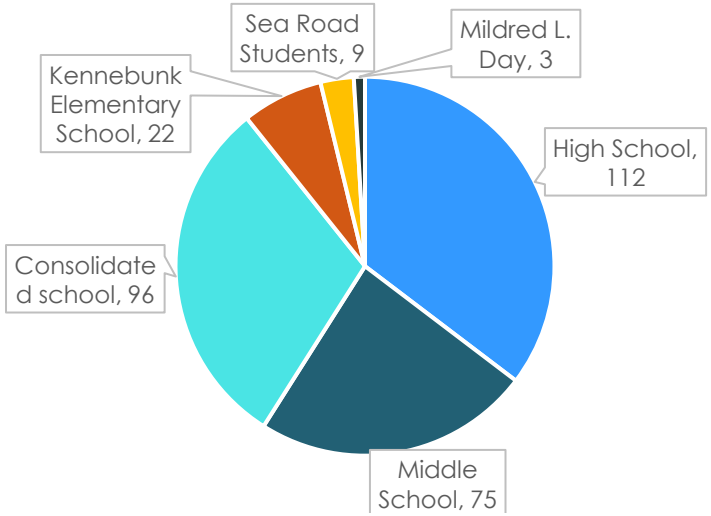

Figure 5-7 Share of the school population by school in 2021 (Source: Town Annual Report, 2021)

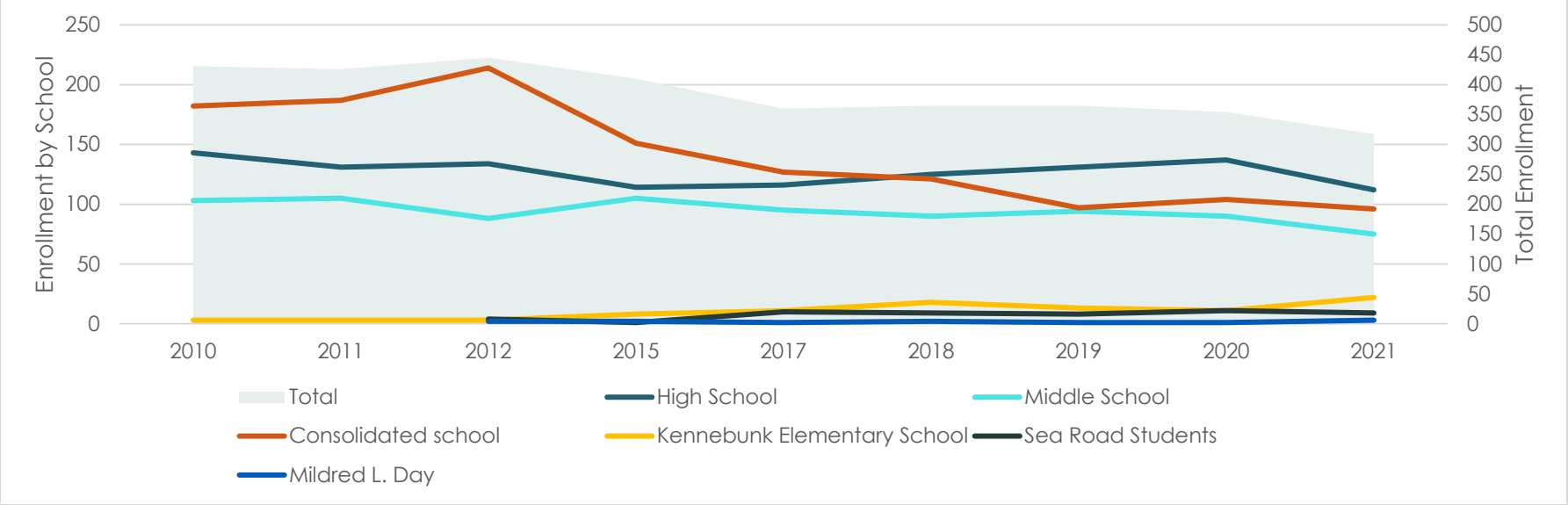

Figure 5-8 RSU 21 Enrollment (Source: Town Annual Report, 2011-2013, 2016-2021)

Parents have the option of enrolling their children in RSU 21's larger schools situated outside of Kennebunkport. Likewise, parkents in Kennebunk and Arundel are permitted to enroll their children in the smaller Kennebunkport school. In 2019, 23 Kennebunkport children in kindergarten through 5th grade commuted out of town, while 46 out-of-town students enrolled in the Kennebunkport school. While enrollment at KCS has declined over the last decade, enrollment of non-Kennebunkport residents has increased by 28% (48 students).[9]

A decline in the birth rate between 2013 and 2014 may factor into the decline in school enrollment from 2016 to 2019, the time when children born in 2013 and 2014 would be entering the schools system (Figure 5-9).

RSU 21 reports that the number of Kennebunkport children (Kindergarten through 5th grade) who are home schooled or who attend private schools number seven and two, respectively.

Finally, there is a perception in the community that a rapid increase in the cost of housing, the acquisition of housing by seasonal residents, and the loss of permanent housing to short term rentals (this trend is documented in the Housing chapter of the Comprehensive Plan) has put housing beyond the reach of many young families, and thus the school enrollment is in decline.[10]

While enrollment of Kennebunkport students is projected to increase from the 2019/2020 school year to the 2024/2025 school year, totall enrollment in RSU 21 is projected to decline by 3%.[11]

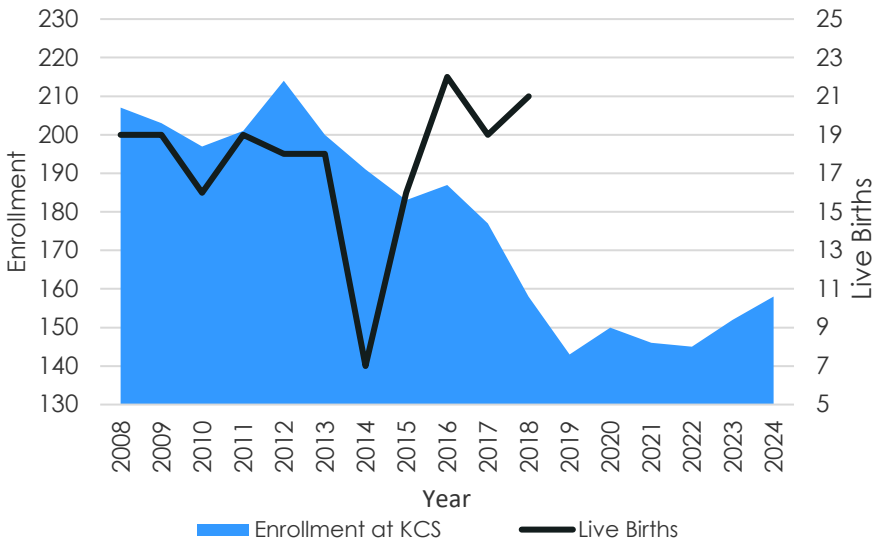

Figure 5-9 Enrollment at Kennebunk Consolidated School with live births. Enrollment data and projections prepared in 2015 provided by RSU 21. Birth data provided by the Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- HISTORICAL ENROLLMENT PATTERNS
- POPULATION, ECONOMIC, AND LABOR TRENDS
- US CENSUS DATA
- HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (NEW HOMES)
- FIRST GRADE CLASS SIZES
- NET PRESCHOOL MIGRATION TRENDS (FAMILIES WHO MOVE IN WITH PRE-SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
- NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH TRENDS

(SOURCE: MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 21 2015 ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS)

Race

Kennebunkport has a homogenous population with respect to race and ethnicity. Almost 100% of the population is white. Less than 1% are American Indian and Alaska Natives, and less that 1% identify as some other race. Similarly, the population that identifies as two or more races is also under 1%.[12]

Income & Employment

Median Household Income

Kennebunkport residents earn more than the average household in York County. The median household income (MHI) in Kennebunkport is $77,216, which is approximately 12% higher than that of York County ($68,932) and 30% higher than the median household income in the state ($59,483).[13] This figure does not reflect the income of part time residents, which would likely shift the median income higher.

The town's MHI grew by about 17% between 2012 and 2020, compared to 23% in the US and 22% in the state.[14] When adjusting for inflation, median household income in Kennebunkport increased by about 7% during this time. Figure 5-10 displays the median household income in Kennebunkport, York County, and Maine, adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). From 2012 through 2017, MHI in Kennebunkport grew steadily. Data shows that MHI declined from 2019 to 2020.

The estimated MHI for householders age 25 to 44 is $86,484, compared to $96,351 for 45 to 64-year-olds and $37,171 for householders age 65 and over.[15] It is possible that the recent decline in income is attributable to a smaller population of high-earning younger individuals.[a]

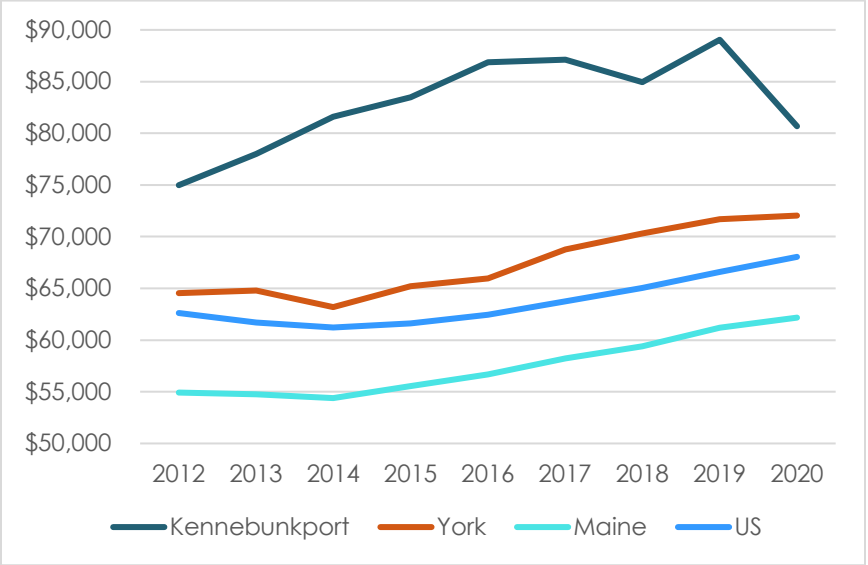

Figure 5-10 Median household income in Kennebunkport compared to Maine and the US, adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (ACS 2020 5-yr estimates; CPI Northeast - Size class B/C, not seasonally adjusted and US City Average, not seasonally adjusted)

[a] "Total income" is the sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income. (Source: ACS Definitions)

Cost Of Living

According to one cost of living calculator, which determines how much it costs to maintain a standard of living from one place to the next, the cost of living index in Kennebunkport is 149, or approximately 50% more than the national average. This reflects the cost of food, housing, utilities, transportation, health, taxes, and housing cost (Source: bestplaces.net).

Employment

Approximately 58% of the population of Kennebunkport that is age 16 and over is in the labor force. This population includes people that are either employed or unemployed and seeking work. Approximately 2.5% of the population age 16 and over is unemployed.[16] The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average annual unemployment rate in 2021for York County was 4.5%,[17] while the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Maine is 4.5[18]

The percentage of workers ages 16 and over who worked at home fell from 2010 to 2015 to around 8%, then increased significantly in 2020 to 22%.[19] This likely reflects an increase in people working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 93% of residents work within the state of Maine, while 79% work in York County and 7.4% work in town.[20] As efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with vehicle miles traveled increase, it is likely the proportion of people working from home will grow, provided that workers have access to reliable high-speed broadband. Other factors such as presence of shared workspace, the availability of public transportation, and the availability of affordable housing near jobs will also affect the region's ability to reduce GHG emissions associated with commuting. Additional information on employment, occupation, and industry is included in the Economy Chapter. Commuting patterns are discussed further in the Transportation Chapter.

Educational Attainment

Kennebunkport has an exceptionally high level of educational attainment compared to the state average (Figure 5-11). Over 99% of the population over age 25 are high school graduates or higher and 54% have a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, 93% of Maine residents are high school graduates or higher and 32% have a bachelor's degree or higher.[21] The effect of this higher level of education is reflected in the town's high median household income.

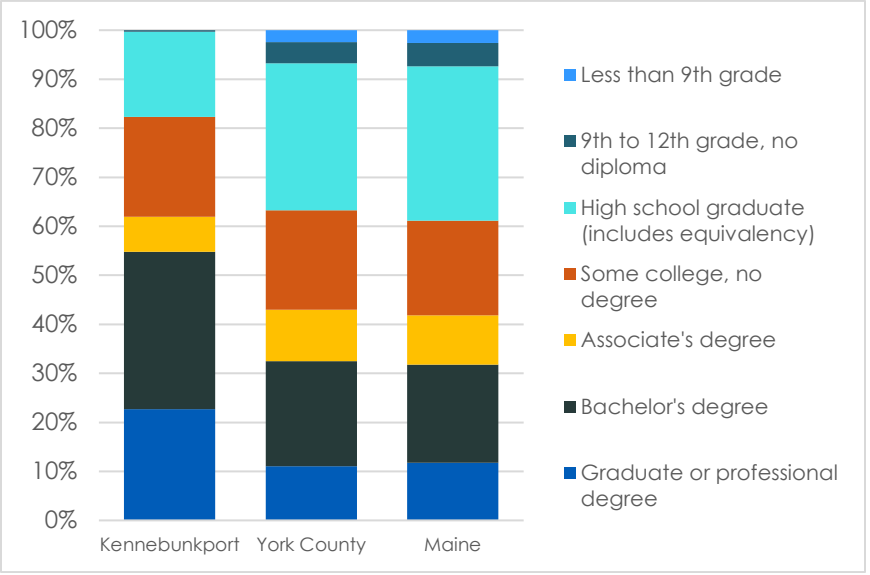

Figure 5-11 Educational attainment (Source: ACS 2020 5-yr estimates, Table S1501)

Vulnerable Populations

Poverty[a]

The poverty rate of Kennebunkport is 5.5%, up from 2.6% five years ago.[b22,23] In comparison, York County has a poverty rate of 7.4%. Approximately 36 of the town's households (2.2% of total households) received public assistance income in the last 12 months and 69 households received cash assistance and food stamps/SNAP benefits.[24] An estimated 19% of the population experiences a housing burden.[25] A housing burden is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as paying more than 30% of income for housing and is an indicator of both hardship and high cost of housing. Nearly half of these households earn less than $35,000. Refer to the Housing Chapter for information about the housing burden.

Disability

The disability rate in Kennebunkport is 15.7%, which is higher than the national rate of 12.7%.[26] Approximately 10% of the population ages 65-74 and 52% of the population age 75 year and over have a disability.[27] As the proportion of the elderly population in Kennebunkport increases, it is anticipated that the disability rate will also increase.

Veteran Population

Approximately 12% of the population age 18 or older are veterans[28]. Qualifying veterans ages 62 and older are eligible for a property tax exemption. A total of 121 post WWI veterans receive a property tax exemption.[29]

Center for Disease Control Social Vulnerability Ranking

Census tract 270, which comprises the Town of Kennebunkport, received an overall social vulnerability ranking of 0 to 0.25, which is the lowest category of vulnerability assigned by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Several variables are included within this score. The tract's socioeconomic theme score, which is based on the population below poverty, unemployed, the median income, and population without a high school diploma, was 0.0254 on a 0 to 1 scale with 1 being the highest vulnerability. Under the household composition/disability category, tract 270 received a higher score of 0.3836. This metric is based on the population aged 65 or older, 17 or younger, civilians with a disability, and single parent households. Thus, it is not surprising that with its older population, the tract scored higher. Under the housing and transportation theme, with accounts for accounts for multi-unit structures, mobile homes, crowding, households without a vehicle, and group quarters, the tract scored 0.1700, indicating a low level of vulnerability. Lastly, in the race and language theme, which is based on the population that speaks English "less than well," the tract similarly had a low vulnerability score of 0.0028 (Source: CDC Social Vulnerability Index).

The vulnerability rankings indicate that social vulnerability is low in Kennebunkport. There is potential that this low vulnerability translates into a low supply and demand for social services and support. As a result, the individuals who do experience high vulnerability may not have access to the services and support they require locally.

[a] Note that the margin of error for this data is high due to the small sample size.

[b] The population for whom the poverty status is determined does not include people in institutional group quarters (such as nursing homes), college dormitories, military barracks, living situations without conventional housing, dormitories, or children under 15 living in foster care.

Obesity

Obesity is increasingly prevalent across the country. Maine's Interactive Health Data portal provides statistics on a range of health indicators, including physical activity, weight, and nutrition. The dashboard resports that, although trending downward, 29% of adults in Maine are obese and 36% are overweight. Furthermore, 15% of both middle and high school students in Maine are obese.[30] There are a number of factors that lead to obesity, some of which relate to the surrounding environment and accessibility to health food and opportunities for physical activity.

OTHER HEALTH INDICATORS

- THE LIFE EXPECTANCY IN YORK COUNTY IS 79.1, COMPARED TO 78.6 IN MAINE
- OVERDOSE DEATHS DUE TO SUBSTANCE USE INCREASED BY OVER 125% BETWEEN 2011 AND 2016
- LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN YORK COUNTY:
  #1: CANCER
  #2: HEART DISEASE
  #3: UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES
  #4: CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASES
  #5: STROKE

Access to Health Food

The USDA's Food Atlas suggests that the population's access to food stores increased between 2010 and 2015 in York County.[31] Another positive trend is the increase in farms with direct food sales and the increase of farmers markets, which more than doubled between 2010 and 2016 in the county.[32] Concurrently, however, the number of households with no car and low access to food stores increased by around 15% from 2010 to 2015. Low access means that at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the population lives more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store.[33]

Opportunities for Physical Activity

Twenty percent of adults over age 20 in York County report that they do not engage in leisure-time physical activity.[34] Access to recreational opportunities, such as parks, trails, and health and fitness centers, also affect the wellbeing of the population. Refer to the Recreation and Natural Resources Chapters to learn about access to these amenities in Kennebunkport. The presence of safe places to walk or bike is critical to encouraging active transportation. Over the last decade, the awareness of the importance of designing streets for all users - not just automobiles – has grown. Complete streets, as these multi-user transportation routes are known, foster active transportation by providing welcoming, safe places for people to travel. More information on complete streets can be found in the Transportation Chapter.

Climate Change Vulnerability

Vulnerability to Hazards

Kennebunkport (census tract 270) ranks 'medium-low' on a Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI)[c] that ranks the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards based on several socioeconomic variables.[35] While this score does not reflect the town's capacity to adapt to climate change specifically, it indicates the community's relatively strong ability to plan for and recover from hazards, such as more severe storms and other events associated with climate change. Figure 5-12 displays the SoVI ranking by census tract in the vicinity of Kennebunkport. Sixty percent of the census tracts in York County are ranked 'low' or 'medium low'.[36]

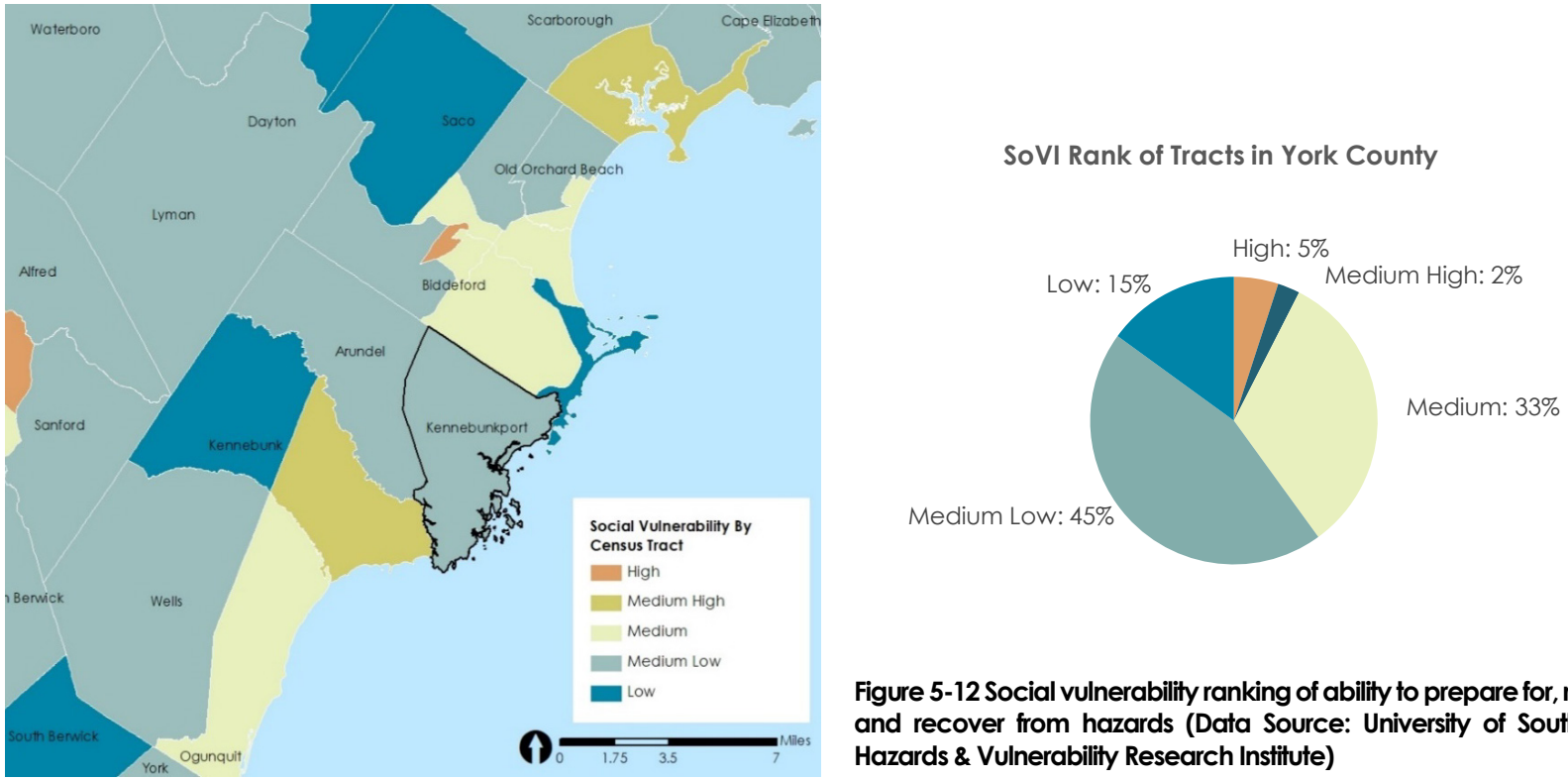

Figure 5-12 Social vulnerability ranking of ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards (Data Source: University of South Carolina Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute)

[c] SoVI was developed by the University of South Carolina based on county level 2010-2014 data. The ranking is based off of 29 total variables that fall within the following eight categories: wealth, race (black) and social status, age (elderly), ethnicity (Hispanic) and lack of health insurance, special needs populations, service sector employment, race (Native American), and gender (female).

Coastal Population

Historical settlement patterns and desirable waterfront property have led to dense settlement along Kennebunkport's coastline and tidal Kennebunk River. The population that resides in coastal homes will become increasingly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge throughout this century. Flooding has the potential to result in damage to infrastructure and public and private property, road closures that limit travel and accessibility, and hazardous conditions that threaten the wellbeing of individuals. Figure 5-13 displays residential land use, the approximate location of residences, and impervious surfaces (buildings and roads) with the mean high water level and the low and high sea level rise and storm surge scenarios developed by the Maine Geological Survey: Highest astronomical tide plus 1.2 feet of sea level rise and storm surge and highest astronomic tide plus 10.9 feet of sea level rise and storm surge. These low and high scenarios encompass the range of possible sea level rise that is projected in Maine by the end of this century. Refer to Chapter 3 Land Use for information about the area of land that is vulnerable to development under each of six scenarios. A discussion of homes located within the FEMA floodplain, which are inherently vulnerable to flooding, is included in Chapter 5 Housing. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Level Rise Viewer to zoom in on aerial imagery and view properties that are impacted under sea level rise scenarios, visit: https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#.

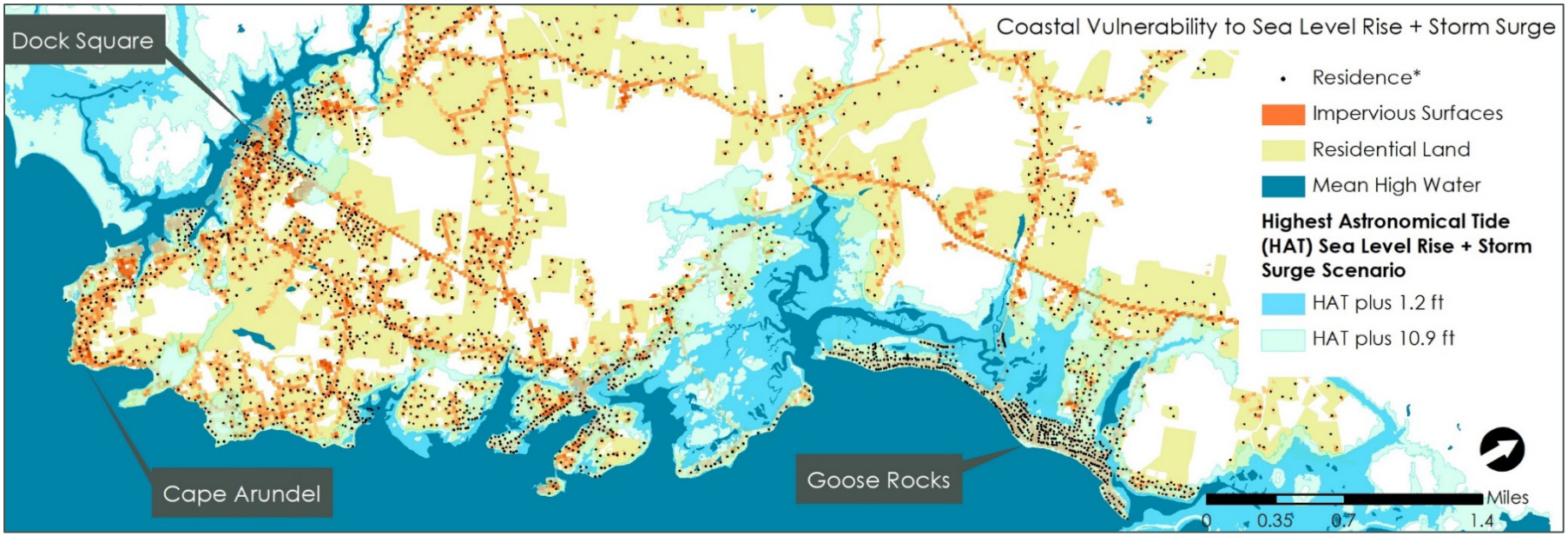

Figure 5-13 Residential land and impervious surfaces with low and high sea level rise scenarios. *The dots representing residences are derived from E-911 addresses and do not necessarily show the exact location of homes (Data Source: Maine Geological Survey, NOAA CCAP, Assessing Department)

Extreme Heat & Air Quality

Temperatures have increased by almost 3°F since the beginning of the 20th century[37] and Maine residents can expect to see temperatures continue to warm over this century due to climate change.

While warmer winters may be welcomed by some, prolonged heat waves and extreme heat events are a threat to public health. Certain segments of the population — including the very young, elderly, those with existing health problems, people without access to air conditioning, and individuals who work outside — will be particularly vulnerable to hotter temperatures. In addition to stroke and dehydration, extreme heat can lead to cardiovascular, respiratory and cerebrovascular disease.[38]

It is anticipated that warmer temperatures will increase the frequency of days with unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone, which increases risk of respiratory problems and premature death, as well as more hospital visits. [39] In addition, warmer temperatures coupled with higher primary productivity in plant associated with higher levels of carbon dioxide increase airborne allergens. [40]

While the asthma rate in Maine children (8.0%) is lower than that of the national average (8.4%), Maine's adult population has a considerably higher asthma rate (11.2%) than the national average (7.7%).[41] The Maine's high rates of asthma are likely caused by a number of factors, one of which is the state's location in the 'tail-pipe' of the US, where pollutants from across the country are deposited. Due to geographic and prevailing winds and currents, Maine residents may feel the effect of climate change impacts on air quality that occur across the nation.

Heat Index

By mid-century, the average number of days when the heat index is greater than or equal to 95°F is expected to be 13.5 days per year. This represents an increase of 238% compared to the beginning of the century (Source: Fernandez et al., Maine's Climate Future).

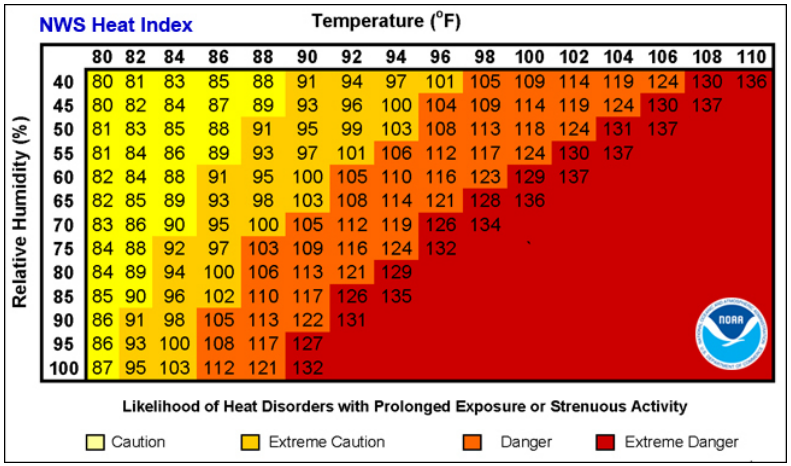

Figure 5-14 Heat Index (Source: National Weather Service)

Future Population

Between 2018 and 2038, Kennebunkport's population is projected to increase by approximately 13.8% from 3,639 to 4,140 people. Kennebunkport is projected to grow at a similar rate as York County. The state of Maine's popiulation is projected to increase by only 2.3% during this time.[42] Figure 5-15 displays the projected population change in five-year increments.

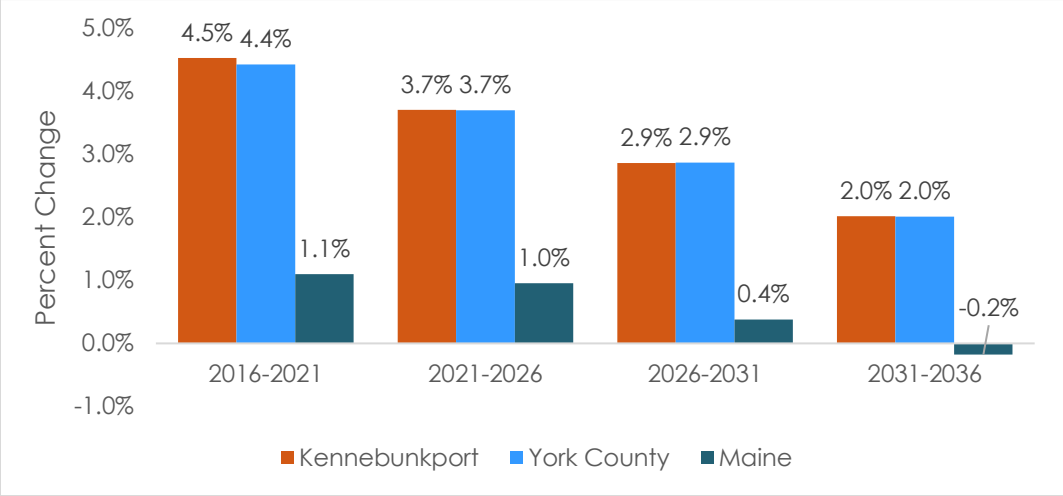

Figure 5-15 Percent of population change in five-year increments between 2018 and 2038 (Source: State of Maine Economist)

Assuming the projected increase of 501 people over the 20-year period from 2018 to 2038, the town can expect an average increase of 25 people per year. With a current average household size of 2.2 people per household,[d,43] an estimated 11-12 new units per year would be required to accommodate this growth. The town's high housing vacancy rate of 44.3% indicates that the existing housing stock may easily accommodate the relatively low rate of population growth that is projected.[44] However, a majority of vacancies are seasonal homes and seasonal rentals which may not be available or affordable to potential incoming residents.

Although the town's population is expected to increase, the stagnant state population may have implications for the local labor force and tourism industry in Kennebunkport. Lower unemployment rates, fewer federal H2B visas for foreign seasonal workers, and the aging population will likely exacerbate worker shortage associated with the lack of population growth, particularly in the service and tourism industry.

[d] Average household size is based on a weighted average of the average household size of owner- and renter-occupied housing units.

Age

Maine ranks highest in the nation with respect to the share if its population over age 65. The future population will be an older population. Factors including lower birth rates, movement of younger populations out of state, and the aging baby boomer population will continue this trend.

Figure 5-16 displays the age profile of York County in 2009, 2018, and the projected profile in 2038. The most dramatic change in the composition of the community over the next two decades is the increase of the population age 70 and older (Figure 5-17).

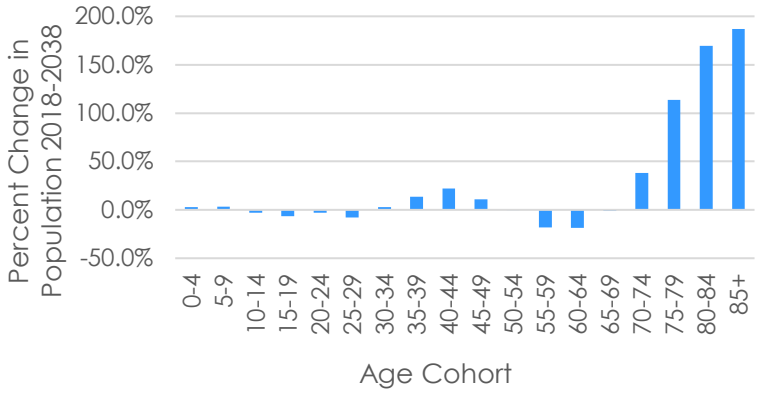

Figure 5-17 Percent change in population from 2018-2038 by age cohort (Source: State of Maine Economist)

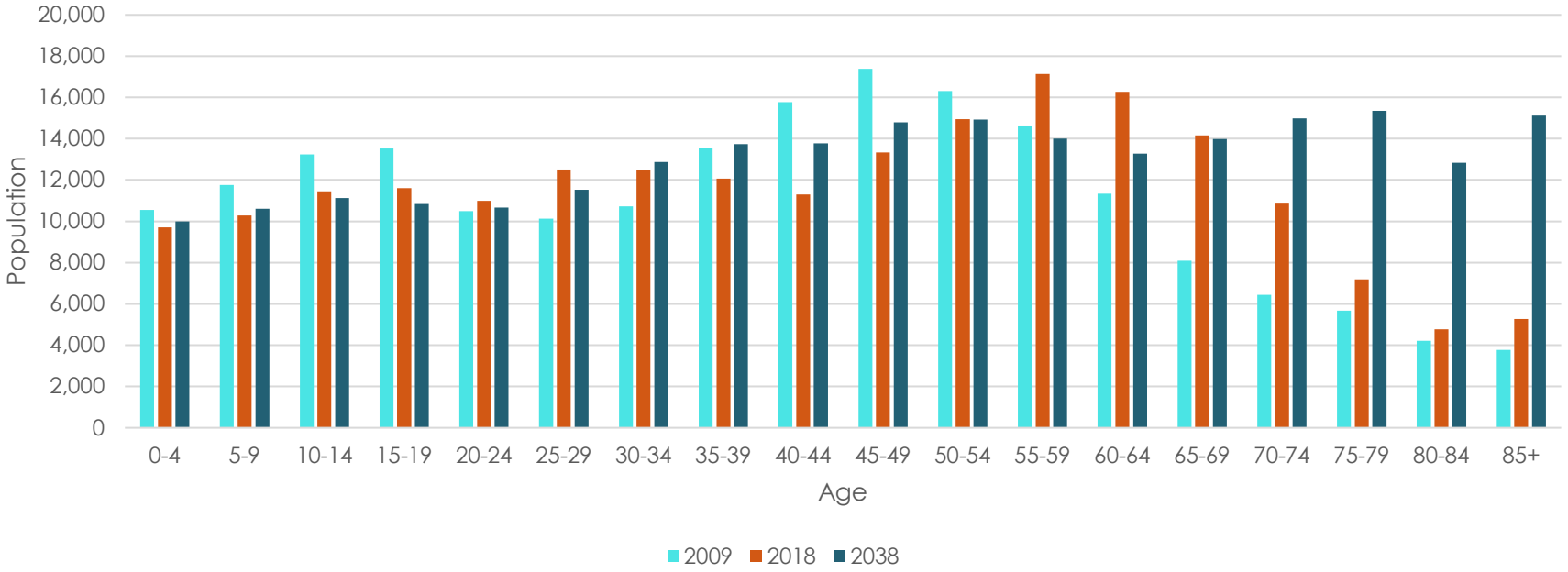

Figure 5-16 Past and projected age distribution for York County (Source: State of Maine Economist)

At the same time, the school age population (ages 0-19) in the county is projected to decline by 2% from 2018 to 2038.[45]

The decline in young people is likely to reinforce the downward trend in total school enrollment in Kennebunkport. However, the projections suggest that a bump in the 0-4-year-old cohort in the early 2020s will boost enrollment in this class as they move through the school system (Figure 5-18). If future cohorts follow this trend, the school age population and enrollment may begin to rebound.

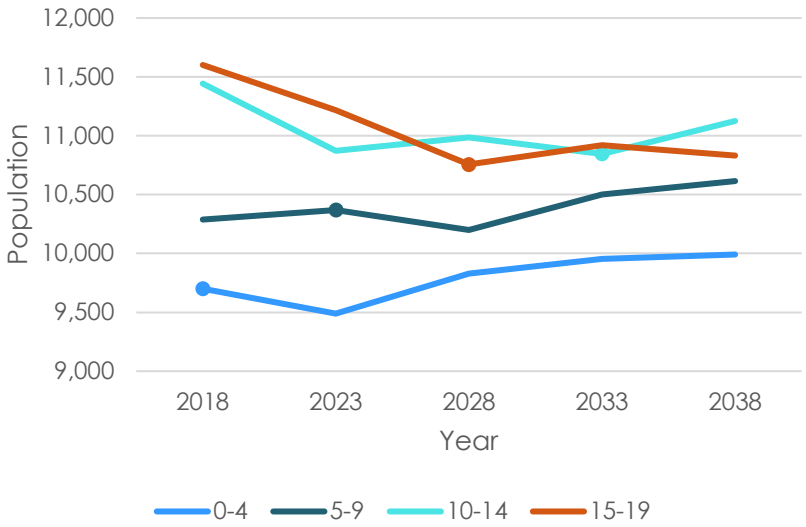

Figure 5-18 Projected change in school aged population (under age 19) in York County. Dots represent movement of the cohort of the population that is ages 0-4 in 2018 (Source: Maine State Economist).

In and Out Migration

A number of internal and external factors — such as housing affordability, services and resources, vacant housing, developable land, local and regional job opportunities, birth and death rates, socio economic unrest, and climate change — will impact population change in Maine and people moving to and from Kennebunkport.

Attracting and retaining a younger demographic is a key challenge that Kennebunkport faces. Communities that provide high quality and diverse housing options, amenities such as services, restaurants, and parks, and local employment opportunities will be better positioned to attract this population.

Attracting Young Adults

The State has developed incentives to attract and retain young people. Programs such as the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit, which offers a credit to individuals who live, work, and pay taxes in Maine after graduation, have been developed by the State to combat the outward migration of young adults from Maine.

One effect of Maine's welcoming of international refugees is an increase in both the diversity of the state's population and an increase in younger working people and families. Similar to attracting younger people, providing affordable housing, local jobs, and a high quality of life will influence the town's ability to grow a year-round population and workforce.

Aging in Place

As the elderly population grows, there will be a greater demand for different housing options that allow residents to age in place rather than move from their town. The demand for social and medical services and transportation assistance will also increase. Residents who are not able to find smaller homes, condominiums, and communities that offer assisted living will likely face no other alternative than moving from Kennebunkport.

Climate Migrants

In the coming years, climate change will impact some regions of the United States more severely than others. For example, Gulf Coast states will experience storms and flooding of great intensity, the Southwest will struggle to provide sufficient potable water to support its population, and western states such as California will continue to face wildfires on a large scale.

In contrast, a state like Maine with ample water supplies and a temperate climate will likely attract migrants fleeing other parts of the US. By and large, the migrants will be US citizens, and those who are affluent may displace Mainers who are less so.

Concurrently, a rising sea will force some Kennebunkport residents to seek higher ground within the town and elsewhere.

Planning to accommodate these migrants while enabling local residents to remain in the community is a new challenge the community will face.

[1] US Census 2020
[2] US Census 2000, 2010, 2020
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[6] Toan of Kennebunkport 2020 Annual Report
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[12] ACS 2020 5-year estimates
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Labor Force Data by County. 2021.
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[43] ACS 2020 5-year estimates
[44] Ibid.
[45] Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services. State Economist. Demographic Projections. Available: https://www.maine.gov/dafs/economist/demographic-projections