NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2021

County Population Snapshot

2020 Census Trends

Report Released November 2021

Compiled by the New York State Association of Counties
from Census Bureau Data

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This report provides an update on population data in New York State on a statewide and county-by-county basis. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released detailed county level data for the 2020 decennial census. The first part of the report highlights information on population at the state level compared to the rest of the nation. The final portions of the report provide some initial snapshots of high-level demographic trends. As more data is released by the Census Bureau this report will be revised to include more detailed county-by-county population and demographic trends.

Population Trends in New York State

New York State and the Rest of the Nation
In 1960, New York State had the highest population in the nation with about 16.8 million people. By 1970, the rapid population growth in California had positioned that state as the most populace and New York dropped to second with about 18.2 million people.

The 1970's was a tumultuous decade for many urban and heavily industrialized states. New York, along with other similarly situated states, saw significant population losses during that decade. New York City's population alone dropped by more than 1 million during the 1970's as suburban communities blossomed and there was a large migration to southern states and the west coast. New York State would not surpass its 1970 population for 30 years, until the 2000 census.

Through the 2010 census, New York managed to cling to its 3rd most populous state ranking, but by the end of 2014 the Census Bureau estimated that Florida climbed to the number three spot, placing New York fourth. While New York should retain its number four ranking for some time, the rate of population growth over the last 60 years as compared to the rest of the nation is a cause for concern.

Table 1 highlights how New York's population ranking has changed over the last 60 years.

Total Population - Top 5 States
(1960 - 2020)

Rank	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
1	***New York***	California	California	California	California	California	California
2	California	***New York***	***New York***	***New York***	Texas	Texas	Texas
3	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Texas	Texas	***New York***	***New York***	Florida
4	Illinois	Texas	Pennsylvania	Florida	Florida	Florida	***New York***
5	Ohio	Illinois	Illinois	Pennsylvania	Illinois	Illinois	Pennsylvania

Table 1

Later in the report we will discuss the importance of population trends in regard to the distribution of federal funds and long-term planning, but population is also critical to congressional representation and electoral college votes. In 1960, when New York was the most populous state it held 45 congressional seats and electoral votes, for the 2022 election through 2030 New York will hold 26 congressional seats and electoral votes. While the state has grown, other states have grown much faster, and this has led to a 38 percent decline in New York's congressional representation and electoral college power.

The National Population Shuffle

New York's drop in the population rankings is further highlighted in Table 2 which shows the population growth rates for the fastest growing states, as well as the slowest. The growth trend for New York has not improved in recent years as the state remained near the bottom nationally in population growth, dropping from 5th lowest growth rate in the 1960 to 2010 period to the 4th lowest growth rate for the 1960 through 2020 period.

New York's total population growth of just 20 percent over the last 60 years is only about one-fourth the rate experienced by the nation, which grew by 84 percent over that period. New York trails far behind the fastest growing states with the national leader, Nevada, experiencing total growth of 989 percent over the period, a growth rate that is 50 times that of New York. For the top five fastest growing states, they all have a growth rate at least 10 times greater than New York's over the period.

Rate of Population Growth			
Top Five		**Bottom Five**	
	1960-2020		**1960-2020**
State	Growth	State	Growth
Nevada	989%	West Virginia	-4.0%
Arizona	449%	Pennsylvania	15.0%
Florida	335%	Iowa	16.0%
Utah	267%	**New York**	**20.0%**
Alaska	229%	Ohio	22.0%
United States 84%			

Table 2

The slower population growth rate for New York is not unique over the last decade however, as the 2010 to 2020 census period registered the lowest growth rate since the 1930's for the nation. In addition, the Midwest and Northeast region growth rates came in at 3.1 percent and 4.1 percent respectively, with the West and South growing 9.2 percent and 10.2 percent respectively. Overall, the national population grew by 7.4 percent from 2010 to 2020. New York's growth rate was 4.2 percent, ranking the state at 32nd in percentage change for the period.

Thirteen states experienced double digit population growth rates since 2010 ranging from 18.4 percent to 10.2 percent listed here from highest to lowest – Utah, Idaho, Texas, North Dakota, Nevada, Colorado, Washington, Florida, Arizona, South Carolina, Oregon, Georgia and Delaware. Only three states experienced population loss between 2010 and 2020 – West Virginia (-3.2%), Mississippi (-.2%) and Illinois (-.1%). Table 3 from the Census Bureau (Figure 3 as titled) highlights the population changes by state.

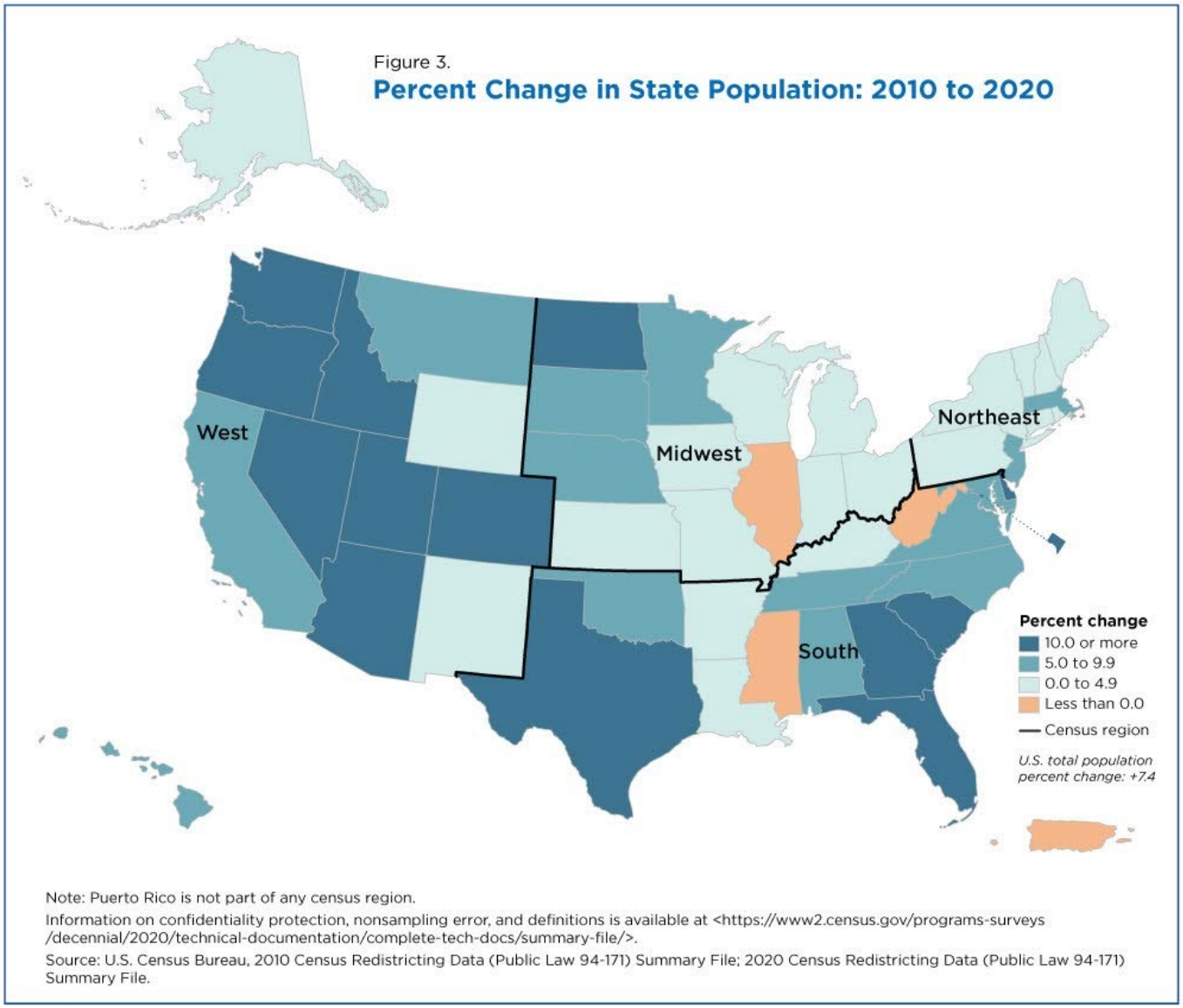


Table 3, Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The Biggest States Continue to Dominate

The 10 largest states in 2020 are unchanged from 2010 – led by California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina and Michigan. However, the line-up has changed slightly during the last decade:

- Florida took the number #3 spot from New York (slipping to #4)
- Pennsylvania took the #5 spot from Illinois (slipping to #6)
- Michigan slipped from #8 to #10
- Georgia and North Carolina each moved up one spot capturing #8 and #9 respectively

The 10 largest states also comprised 54.2 percent of the U.S. population in 2020, increasing their share from 54 percent in 2010. Because the top 10 states are so large it is projected they will continue to dominate population estimates through 2040. The University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, based on population projections using 2019 data, projects that the 10 largest states will remain the same with the top four remaining the same, numbers five through nine changing positions and number 10 remaining the same. Table 4 highlights this analysis.

Rank	2000		2010		2020		2030		2040	
1	California	33,871,648	California	37,253,956	California	40,438,640	California	43,751,116	California	46,467,001
2	Texas	20,851,820	Texas	25,145,561	Texas	29,604,099	Texas	34,738,482	Texas	40,015,913
3	New York	18,976,457	New York	19,378,102	Florida	21,877,257	Florida	25,372,664	Florida	28,886,983
4	Florida	15,982,378	Florida	18,801,310	New York	20,031,150	New York	20,638,066	New York	20,873,488
5	Illinois	12,419,293	Illinois	12,830,632	Pennsylvania	12,844,885	Pennsylvania	12,946,245	Georgia	12,820,271
6	Pennsylvania	12,281,054	Pennsylvania	12,702,379	Illinois	12,791,188	Illinois	12,709,901	Pennsylvania	12,809,150
7	Ohio	11,353,140	Ohio	11,536,504	Ohio	11,705,262	Ohio	11,837,405	North Carolina	12,658,927
8	Michigan	9,938,444	Michigan	9,883,640	Georgia	10,725,351	Georgia	11,835,126	Illinois	12,397,564
9	New Jersey	8,414,350	Georgia	9,687,653	North Carolina	10,568,033	North Carolina	11,673,849	Ohio	11,751,540
10	Georgia	8,186,453	North Carolina	9,535,483	Michigan	9,992,315	Michigan	10,068,941	Michigan	9,960,115

Table 4, Source: University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Five states accounted for just over half of the total 22 million in population growth in the country since 2010, with the following individual gains:

- Texas 3,999,944
- Florida 2,736,877
- California 2,284,267
- Georgia 1,024,255
- Washington 980,741

The Urban-Rural Divide Continues

According to the Census Bureau, urban-based regions grew by about nine percent, but rural regions primarily lost population or experienced minimal growth. Migration toward, and population growth in, urbanized areas has been ongoing for most of the last century. According to the Census Bureau, in 1910 about 46 percent of the total population lived in urban areas, by 2020 about 86 percent of the population lives in an urban area. There is some overlap in statistical areas used by the Census Bureau, so nonurban does not necessarily mean rural, but the overall movement from rural to urban is clear.

Just over half of all counties lost population from 2010 to 2020, but they were not all rural counties. Many small and medium sized urban areas lost population as well. Table 5 highlights the distribution of population gain and loss by county across the nation.

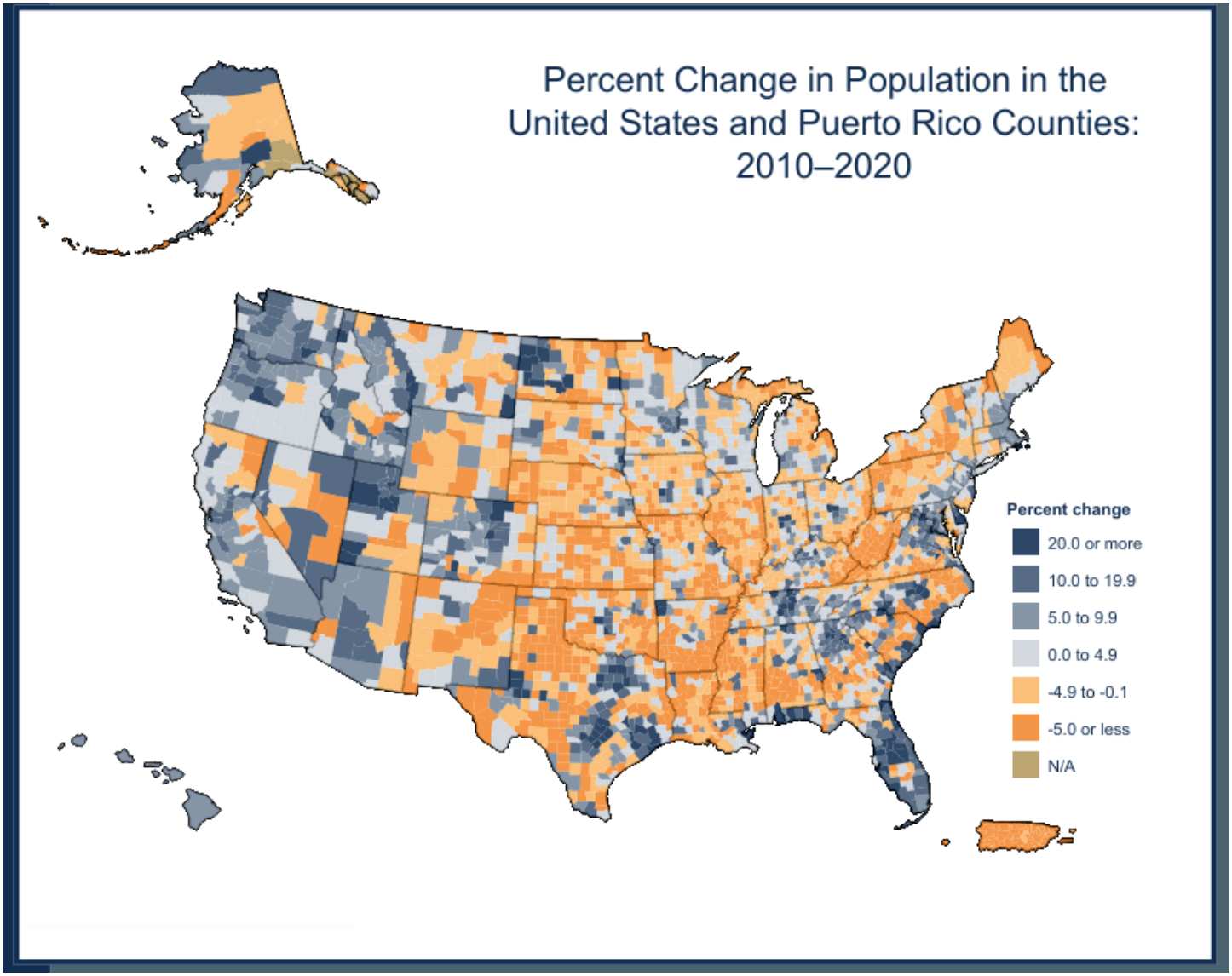


Table 5, Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Trends in New York's Counties

New York's population has been growing more slowly than the rest of the nation for decades and the changes at the county level have been even more stark. The population changes across New York's counties has varied widely with a large number of counties losing population over the last several decades. While most counties lost population since 2010 it was not as bad as Census Bureau *projections* thought it would be.

Each year, between decennial census, the Census Bureau estimates population changes for each county analyzing births, deaths and various intrastate, interstate and international migration patterns along with updating statistical models.

Estimates for 2020 projected that New York's population would decline by over 41,000 people, or -.2 percent. Additionally, it was projected that 52 of New York's 62 counties would lose population. However, the actual 2020 census count revealed that New York's population grew by 823,147, or 4.2 percent, and only 39 counties lost population since 2010. Of these, only 11 underperformed their projected figures. Table 6 shows the population changes by county since 2010.

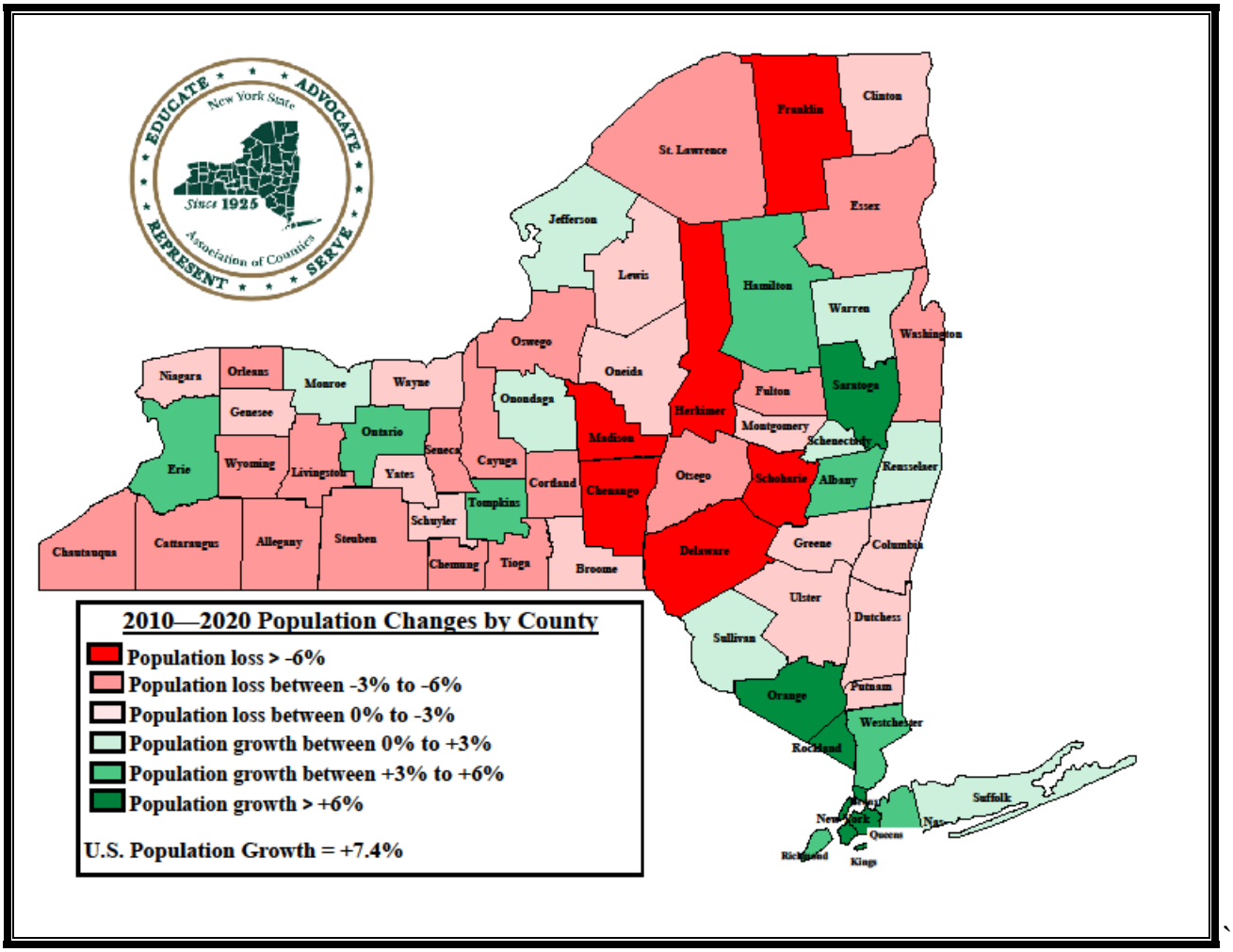


Table 6, Source: U.S. Census Bureau, NYSAC calculations

Table 7 shows the actual counts for 2010 and 2020 plus selected intervening annual *population estimates* from the Census Bureau.

New York State - County by County Population, 2010 - 2020

Geography	Census 2010*	*Population Estimates as of July 1st**				Census 2020	*% Change* 2010-2020
		2012	2014	2016	2018		
Albany	304,078	305,723	307,151	307,597	306,585	314,848	**3.54%**
Allegany	48,962	48,210	47,652	47,044	46,332	46,456	**-5.12%**
Broome	200,600	198,667	197,251	194,498	191,925	198,683	**-0.96%**
Cattaraugus	80,317	79,348	78,677	77,658	76,726	77,042	**-4.08%**
Cayuga	80,026	79,505	78,762	77,674	77,121	76,248	**-4.72%**
Chautauqua	134,905	133,304	131,751	129,206	127,472	127,657	**-5.37%**
Chemung	88,830	89,137	87,177	85,644	83,935	84,148	**-5.27%**
Chenango	50,477	49,883	49,319	48,315	47,445	47,220	**-6.45%**
Clinton	82,128	81,714	81,463	80,500	80,679	79,843	**-2.78%**
Columbia	63,096	62,449	61,942	60,835	59,785	61,570	**-2.42%**
Cortland	49,336	49,023	48,740	47,915	47,722	46,809	**-5.12%**
Delaware	47,980	47,215	46,562	45,393	44,526	44,308	**-7.65%**
Dutchess	297,488	297,023	295,127	293,029	293,939	295,911	**-0.53%**
Erie	919,040	919,906	921,755	918,678	919,717	954,236	**3.83%**
Essex	39,370	38,875	38,323	37,671	37,288	37,381	**-5.05%**
Franklin	51,599	51,791	51,096	51,081	50,279	47,555	**-7.84%**
Fulton	55,531	54,845	53,932	53,610	53,633	53,324	**-3.97%**
Genesee	60,079	59,672	58,725	58,013	57,487	58,388	**-2.81%**
Greene	49,221	48,587	47,964	47,494	47,381	47,931	**-2.62%**
Hamilton	4,836	4,803	4,700	4,556	4,432	5,107	**5.60%**
Herkimer	64,519	64,227	63,384	62,436	61,713	60,139	**-6.79%**
Jefferson	116,229	120,235	117,971	112,980	111,866	116,721	**0.42%**
Lewis	27,087	27,196	27,089	26,647	26,486	26,582	**-1.86%**
Livingston	65,393	64,796	64,585	64,000	63,213	61,834	**-5.44%**
Madison	73,442	72,414	72,210	71,387	71,117	68,016	**-7.39%**
Monroe	744,344	747,344	747,364	743,770	742,864	759,443	**2.03%**
Montgomery	50,219	49,829	49,679	49,169	49,394	49,532	**-1.37%**
Nassau	1,339,532	1,349,616	1,354,705	1,355,952	1,357,534	1,395,774	**4.20%**
Niagara	216,469	214,713	213,305	211,554	210,060	212,666	**-1.76%**
Oneida	234,878	233,765	232,598	230,375	229,474	232,125	**-1.17%**
Onondaga	467,026	467,030	467,285	464,109	461,649	476,516	**2.03%**
Ontario	107,931	108,611	109,334	109,229	109,738	112,458	**4.19%**
Orange	372,813	373,699	374,845	377,799	382,126	401,310	**7.64%**
Orleans	42,883	42,391	41,861	41,247	40,655	40,343	**-5.92%**

Table 7 - Numbers in Red denote loss in population from prior year (preceding year may not show in this abbreviated table).

New York State - County by County Population, 2010 - 2020

Geography	Census 2010*	Population Estimates as of July 1st* 2012	2014	2016	2018	Census 2020	% Change 2010-2020
Oswego	122,109	121,458	120,590	118,895	117,515	117,525	-3.75%
Otsego	62,259	61,747	60,950	60,132	59,810	58,524	-6.00%
Putnam	99,710	99,625	99,438	98,761	98,814	97,668	-2.05%
Rensselaer	159,429	159,437	159,666	159,294	159,283	161,130	1.07%
Rockland	311,687	317,196	321,119	323,258	325,522	338,329	8.55%
Saint Lawrence	111,944	112,355	111,437	109,449	108,327	108,505	-3.07%
Saratoga	219,607	222,483	224,513	227,122	230,170	235,509	7.24%
Schenectady	154,727	155,016	155,016	154,475	155,079	158,061	2.15%
Schoharie	32,749	32,039	31,767	31,304	31,146	29,714	-9.27%
Schuyler	18,343	18,498	18,176	17,967	17,884	17,898	-2.43%
Seneca	35,251	35,388	34,879	34,710	34,179	33,814	-4.08%
Steuben	98,990	98,925	98,165	96,958	95,860	93,584	-5.46%
Suffolk	1,493,350	1,496,982	1,495,525	1,486,406	1,480,830	1,525,920	2.18%
Sullivan	77,547	76,931	75,634	74,922	75,399	78,624	1.39%
Tioga	51,125	50,278	49,824	48,824	48,441	48,455	-5.22%
Tompkins	101,564	102,726	103,391	102,942	102,419	105,740	4.11%
Ulster	182,493	181,538	180,400	179,042	178,418	181,851	-0.35%
Warren	65,707	65,417	64,866	64,438	64,215	65,737	0.05%
Washington	63,216	63,003	62,475	61,795	61,274	61,302	-3.03%
Wayne	93,772	93,029	91,801	90,758	90,200	91,283	-2.65%
Westchester	949,113	959,585	967,044	970,267	968,213	1,004,457	5.83%
Wyoming	42,155	41,700	41,134	40,432	40,023	40,531	-3.85%
Yates	25,348	25,337	25,149	25,059	24,951	24,774	-2.26%
Rest of State	**11,202,859**	**11,226,239**	**11,217,243**	**11,164,275**	**11,140,270**	**11,397,059**	**1.73%**
Bronx County	1,385,108	1,411,496	1,430,942	1,444,417	1,432,087	1,472,654	6.32%
Kings County	2,504,700	2,568,450	2,601,513	2,608,423	2,578,074	2,736,074	9.24%
New York County	1,585,873	1,623,911	1,630,678	1,635,443	1,629,055	1,694,251	6.83%
Queens County	2,230,722	2,272,222	2,298,736	2,306,830	2,274,605	2,405,464	7.83%
Richmond County	468,730	470,614	471,937	474,040	476,260	495,747	5.76%
New York City	**8,175,133**	**8,346,693**	**8,433,806**	**8,469,153**	**8,390,081**	**8,804,190**	**7.69%**
New York State	**19,377,992**	**19,572,932**	**19,651,049**	**19,633,428**	**19,530,351**	**20,201,249**	**4.25%**
United States	**308,745,538**	**313,830,990**	**318,301,008**	**322,941,311**	**326,687,501**	**331,449,281**	**7.35%**

Table 7 - Numbers in Red denote loss in population from prior year (preceding year may not show in this abbreviated table).
https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/

Population loss and slow growth are always a concern, but the number of New York counties losing population each decade has been increasing since 1970. Even though the year-to-year decline in some counties is only a handful of people, the overall trend is troubling.

- From 1970 to 2020 --- 18 counties lost population
- From 1980 to 2020 --- 21 counties lost population
- From 1990 to 2020 --- 31 counties lost population
- From 2000 to 2020 --- 34 counties lost population
- From 2010 to 2020 --- 39 counties lost population

Table 8 highlights the five counties, outside of New York City, experiencing the greatest population growth and the five counties experiencing the lowest growth since 1970. As expected, counties with the highest growth rates over the last 50 years have experienced a steady rate of increase in nearly every decade since 1970.

Population Trends by County for Select Periods, 1970-2020				
1970-2020	**1980-2020**	**1990-2020**	**2000-2020**	**2010-2020**
Saratoga (93%)	Orange (55%)	Orange (30%)	Rockland (18%)	Rockland (8.5%)
Orange (81%)	Saratoga (53%)	Saratoga(29.9%)	Orange (17.6%)	Orange (7.6%)
Putnam (72%)	Jefferson (32%)	Rockland (27%)	Saratoga (17.4%)	Saratoga (7.2%)
Sullivan (50%)	Rockland (30%)	Ontario (18%)	Ontario (12%)	Westchester (5.8%)
Rockland (47%)	Putnam 27%)	Putnam (16%)	Tompkins (10%)	Hamilton (5.6%)
Montgomery (-11%)	Herkimer (-9.8%)	Cattaraugus (-8.5%)	Delaware (-7.8%)	Herkimer (-6.8%)
Chautauqua (-13%)	Cattaraugus (-10.1%)	Herkimer (-8.6%)	Chenango (-8.1%)	Madison (-7.3%)
Erie (-14%)	Allegany (-10.2%)	Chenango (-8.8%)	Cattaraugus (-8.2%)	Delaware (-7.7%)
Oneida (-15%)	Chautauqua (-13%)	Chautauqua (-10%)	Chautauqua (-8.6%)	Franklin (-7.8%)
Chemung (-17%)	Chemung (-14%)	Chemung (-12%)	Orleans (-8.7%)	Schoharie (-9.3%)

Table 8

New York City experienced dramatic population loss during the 1970's, losing more than 1 million people, declining from 8,175,133 to 7,071,639, a 13.5% decline. New York City did not exceed their 1970 population total until 2010. However, outside of that one decade much of New York's population growth has come from New York City since 1980. Since 1980 New York's population has grown by just over 2.6 million people, with more than 1.7 million of the population increases coming from New York City, or 66 percent.

Demographic Trends

National Demographic Trends
The 2020 census included redesigned questions for race and ethnicity that build upon prior updates and modifications used in recent census counts. The latest changes allow respondents to self-identify their race and ethnicity in more detail by including more examples in the check boxes section, as well as providing a dedicated write-in response area. These questions have been redesigned over time beyond the five minimum groups that included White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. In 2000, *Some Other Race* became the 3rd largest category that respondents self-identified.

In addition, the Census Bureau expanded its coding and processing capability for the 2020 census by increasing data capture from 30 characters to 200 characters. Longer answers were being cut short as the questions were redesigned over the years.

The Census Bureau believes for the 2020 census data "…that differences in the overall racial distributions are largely due to improvements in the design of the two separate questions for race data collection and processing, as well as some demographic changes over the past 10 years." In the end, the Census Bureau believes the redesign of the questions "…reveal that the U.S. population is much more multiracial and more diverse…" than what they measured in the past.

Accordingly, the Census Bureau indicates that data comparisons between the 2020 Census and 2010 should be made with caution in light of survey question redesign and data collection and processing improvements implemented since the last count. This is not the first time the Census Bureau has offered this "caution" as question redesign and data collection capabilities are regularly reviewed, updated and improved.

The key race and ethnicity takeaways from the 2020 count according to the Census Bureau include:

- The White population remained the largest race or ethnicity group in the United States, with 204.3 million people identifying as White alone. Overall, 235.4 million people reported White alone or in combination with another group. However, the White alone population decreased by 8.6% since 2010.
- The Two or More Races population (also referred to as the Multiracial population) has changed considerably since 2010. The Multiracial population was measured at 9 million people in 2010 and is now 33.8 million people in 2020, a 276% increase.
- The "in combination" multiracial populations for all race groups accounted for most of the overall changes in each racial category.
- All of the race alone or in combination groups experienced increases. The Some Other Race alone or in combination group (49.9 million) increased 129%, surpassing the Black or African American population (46.9 million) as the second-largest race alone or in combination group.
- The next largest racial populations were the Asian alone or in combination group (24 million), the American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination group (9.7 million), and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination group (1.6 million).
- The Hispanic or Latino population, which includes people of any race, was 62.1 million in 2020. The Hispanic or Latino population grew 23%, while the population that was not of Hispanic or Latino origin grew 4.3% since 2010.

The most diverse states in the country hail from the West (Hawaii, California and Nevada), the South (Maryland, D.C., and Texas) and the Northeast (New York and New Jersey). The Census Bureau

measures diversity using and index that captures "…the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups." The higher the percentage the more diverse.

Using the same diversity calculation and noting the question redesign and data collection improvements for 2020 and 2010, the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial or ethnic groups has increased to 61.1% in 2020 from 54.9% in 2010.

New York State & County Demographic Trends

As indicated, New York is a demographically diverse state. While the national diversity measure for 2020 was 61.1 percent, the diversity measure for New York in 2020 was 65.8 percent, rising from 60.2 percent in 2010. Table 9 highlights the diversity index score for each county in New York for both 2020 and 2010. As expected by the Census Bureau due to question redesign and data collection improvements, the chart shows an increase in every county's diversity score, with the exception of the Bronx, with the average county seeing their score increase by nearly 47 percent compared to 2010.

Population Diversity by County in New York State[1]

Jurisidiction	2020 Census Diversity Index	2010 Census Diversity Index
Albany County	52.2%	40.3%
Allegany County	16.8%	8.9%
Bronx County	60.8%	61.0%
Broome County	37.1%	25.1%
Cattaraugus County	22.7%	15.3%
Cayuga County	23.9%	16.3%
Chautauqua County	29.9%	19.8%
Chemung County	30.8%	23.1%
Chenango County	16.2%	8.5%
Clinton County	24.3%	16.8%
Columbia County	31.2%	21.8%
Cortland County	23.6%	12.0%
Delaware County	22.8%	13.0%
Dutchess County	51.6%	42.3%
Erie County	46.9%	37.6%
Essex County	18.4%	13.5%
Franklin County	33.2%	30.8%
Fulton County	21.7%	11.8%
Genesee County	23.4%	16.1%
Greene County	31.2%	23.6%
Hamilton County	12.6%	7.0%
Herkimer County	17.1%	8.5%
Jefferson County	35.8%	25.9%
Kings County	74.8%	72.1%
Lewis County	11.8%	6.2%
Livingston County	21.6%	14.8%
Madison County	19.4%	11.9%
Monroe County	52.1%	44.2%
Montgomery County	38.0%	26.3%
Nassau County	62.9%	53.3%
New York County	69.2%	67.5%
Niagara County	32.4%	23.3%
Oneida County	38.0%	27.4%
Onondaga County	44.8%	35.8%
Ontario County	24.5%	15.5%
Orange County	60.3%	49.3%
Orleans County	28.1%	22.4%
Oswego County	18.8%	9.5%
Otsego County	22.2%	13.9%
Putnam County	42.2%	29.7%
Queens County	76.9%	76.4%
Rensselaer County	38.9%	26.0%
Richmond County	62.4%	54.5%
Rockland County	57.6%	53.2%
Saratoga County	24.7%	13.9%
Schenectady County	53.5%	39.1%
Schoharie County	19.2%	11.8%
Schuyler County	13.6%	7.4%
Seneca County	24.6%	17.3%
St. Lawrence County	20.5%	13.7%
Steuben County	18.5%	10.8%
Suffolk County	54.3%	45.5%
Sullivan County	51.1%	41.9%
Tioga County	16.6%	7.7%
Tompkins County	45.4%	34.5%
Ulster County	41.6%	32.1%
Warren County	18.3%	9.2%
Washington County	20.3%	12.8%
Wayne County	24.1%	17.0%
Westchester County	66.0%	60.2%
Wyoming County	22.5%	18.2%
Yates County	13.3%	7.5%
New York State	**65.8%**	**60.2%**

Table 9

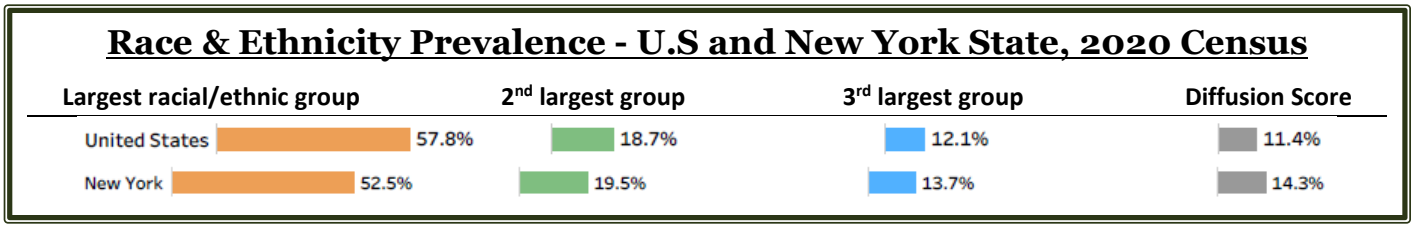
Race and Ethnic Diversity in New York

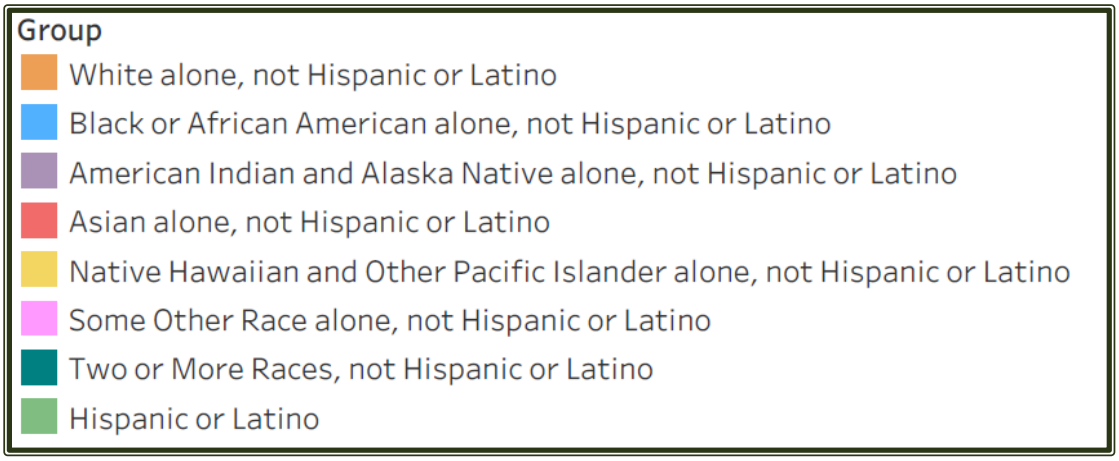
A variety of different tools have been created by the Census Bureau to display racial and ethnic diversity in a state. One such tool is a race and ethnicity prevalence graph that shows the percentage of the population that falls into the largest racial or ethnic group, the second largest, and third largest. This is augmented with a diffusion score that measures the percentage of the population not in the first, second or third largest racial or ethnic groups combined.

This calculation tells us how diverse and "diffused" the population is relative to the largest groups. The higher the score, the less concentrated the population is in the three largest race or ethnic groups. Table 10 shows what this looks like for the counties of New York. The colored coded legend (Example 1) defines the different racial and ethnic groups that appear in the chart.

For example, in Table 10, Queens County shows a very diverse and diffused population with the three largest racial and ethnic groups being of similar size (28% Hispanic or Latino – 27% Asian alone, not Hispanic or Latino – 23% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino) along with a diffusion score of 22%. This contrasts with Allegany County which has a less diverse make-up with the largest racial and ethnic group exceeding 90 percent and a diffusion score of 3 percent.

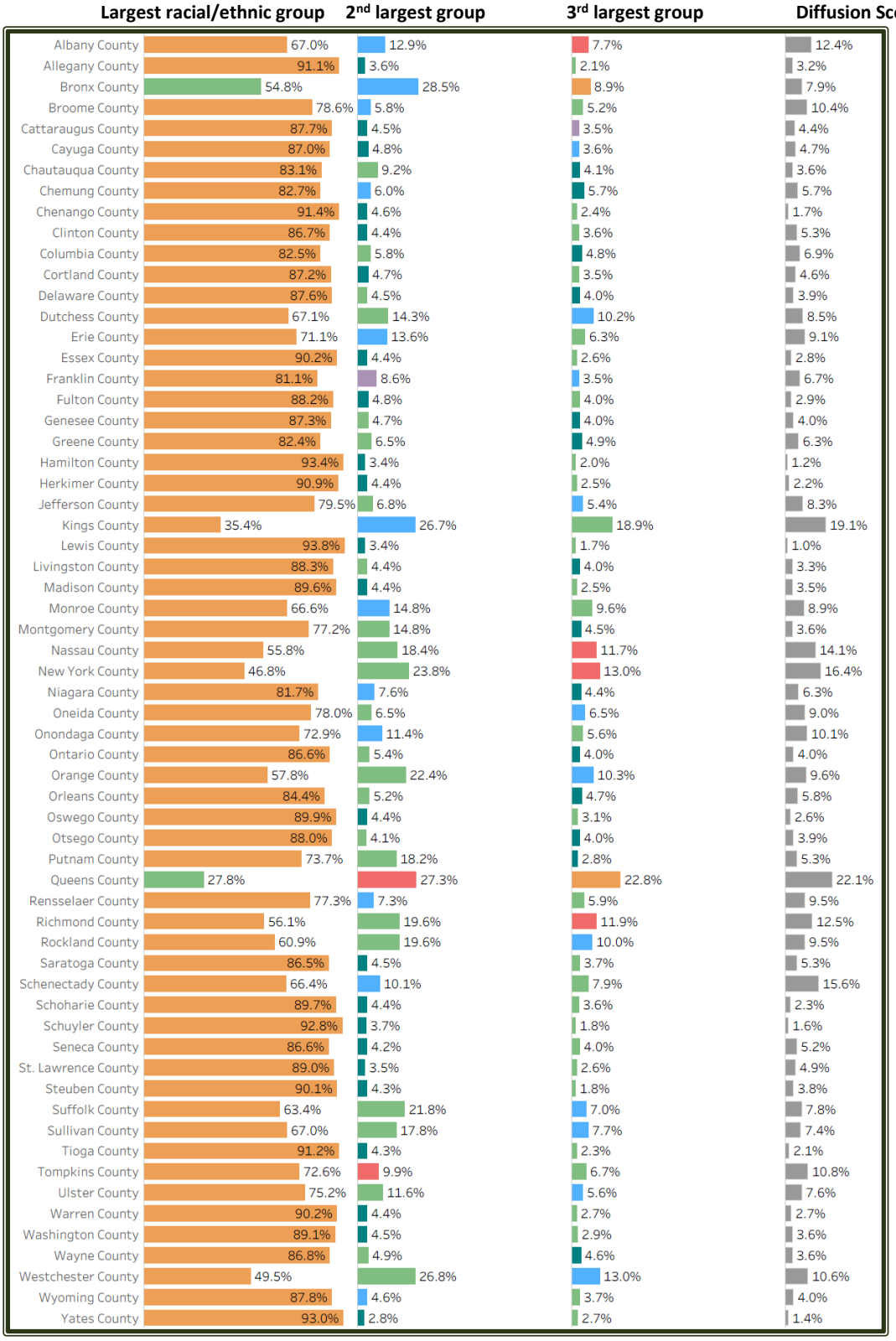
The racial and ethnicity graph for the State of New York and the United States is below:





Counties can view multiple visualizations of census data created by the Census Bureau at: https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/racial-and-ethnic-diversity-in-the-united-states-2010-and-2020-census.html

Race and Ethnicity Prevalence by County, 2020 Census



The Importance of Census Data and Trends

The federal government uses Census data for a broad array of purposes beyond just redistricting and congressional representation including the distribution of federal formula grants to regions of the country and all corners of each state. Population and demographic trends are also used to analyze cultural shifts and to plan for future needs, such as ensuring adequate resources are in place to meet the needs of an aging population; where to build schools, hospitals, housing and roads; planning for long term infrastructure needs; and drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts. Business and industry look at the data to determine market opportunities and workforce needs. Below is a list from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding how government and business officials use key demographic data for planning purposes.

Significant Ways Population and Demographic Data Are Used:

- Decision-making at all levels of government.
- Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts.
- Attracting new businesses to state and local areas.
- Distributing hundreds of billions in federal funds and even more in state funds each year.
- Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.
- Forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population.
- Directing funds for services for people in poverty.
- Designing public safety strategies.
- Development of rural areas.
- Analyzing local trends.
- Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.
- Developing assistance programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Creating maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance.
- Delivering goods and services to local markets.
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children.
- Planning future government services.
- Planning investments and evaluating financial risk.
- Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people.
- Facilitating scientific research.
- Developing “intelligent” maps for government and business.
- Distributing medical research.
- Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives.
- Providing evidence in litigation involving land use, voting rights, and equal opportunity.
- Drawing school district boundaries.
- Planning budgets for government at all levels.
- Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation and regions of the country.
- Planning for public transportation services.
- Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities.
- Establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices.
- Directing services to children and adults with limited English language proficiency.

- Planning urban land use.
- Planning outreach strategies.
- Understanding labor supply.
- Assessing the potential for spread of communicable diseases.
- Analyzing military potential.
- Making business decisions.
- Understanding consumer needs.
- Locating factory sites and distribution centers.
- Evaluating programs in different geographic areas.
- Providing genealogical research.
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.

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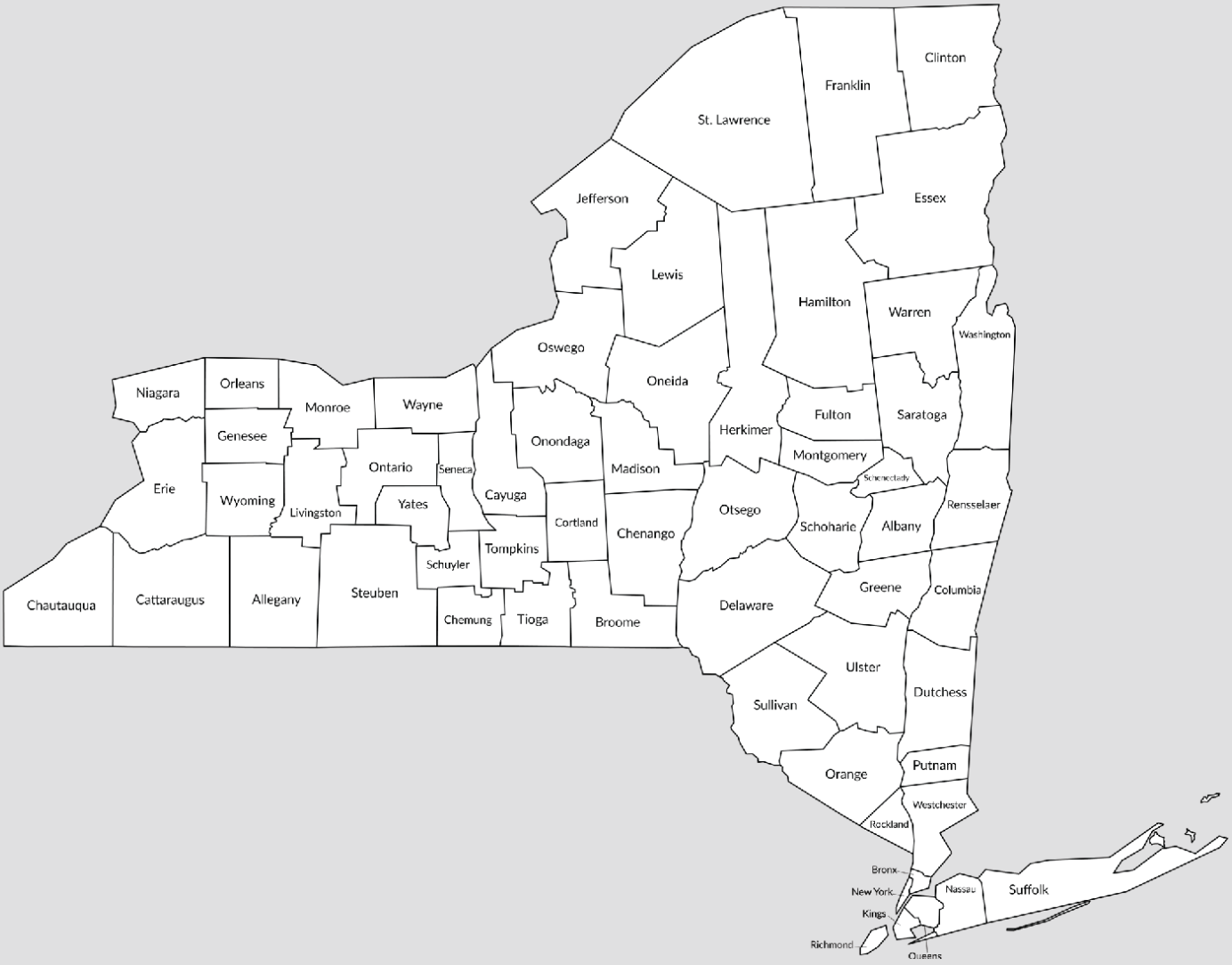

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