WHAT WE KNOW

Existing Land Use

| Sussex County Existing Land Use (DE FirstMap, 2016)		
Land Use	**Acreage**	**Percent**
Single Family Residential	60,529	10.5
Multi-Family Residential	2,498	0.4
Mobile Home Parks/Courts	4,924	0.9
Commercial	4,431	0.8
Industrial	2,283	0.4
Institutional	2,639	0.5
Mixed Use	382	0.1
Agriculture and Undeveloped Lands	487,400	84.3
Recreation	4,706	0.8
Utilities	8,573	1.5
Total	**578,365**	**100**

THE SUSSEX PLAN

The Sussex Plan
Sussex County Comprehensive Plan

2012 Existing Land Use

- Single-Family Dwellings
- Multi-Family Dwellings
- Mobile Home Parks/Courts
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Mixed Use
- Agricultural & Undeveloped Lands
- Recreation
- Utilities
- County Boundaries
- Municipalities
- Major Rivers
- Waterbodies

Sources: DE FirstMap, Sussex County Mapping Dept.
Office of Management and Budget, State of Delaware
Delaware Geographic Data Committee

McCORMICK TAYLOR

0   2.5   5
Miles
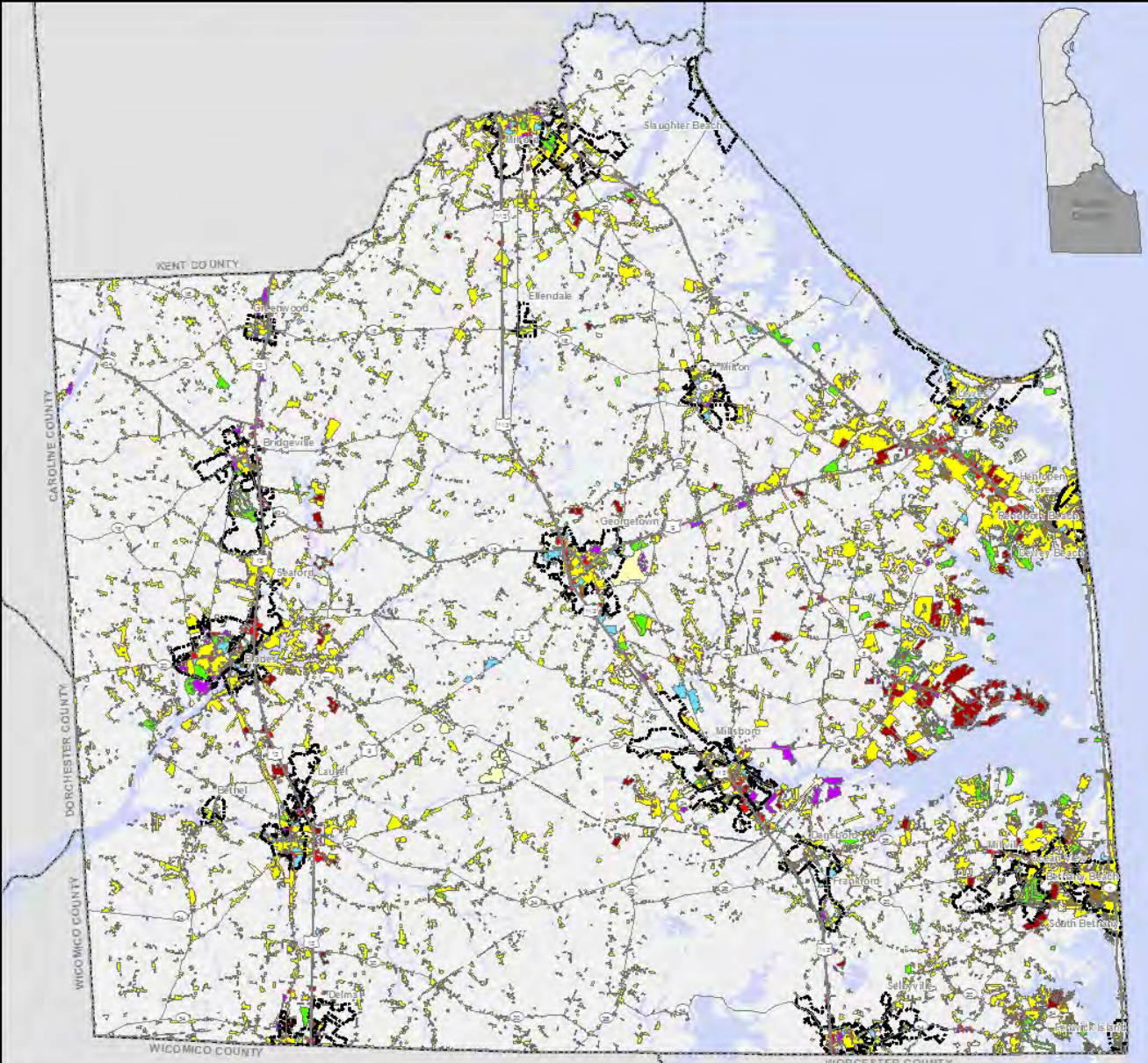
WHAT WE KNOW

Population Change

Sussex County Historical Population Trends (US Census Bureau, 2016)		
Year	**Population**	**Percent Change**
1970	80,356	-
1980	98,004	22
1990	113,229	16
2000	156,638	38
2010	197,145	26
July 1, 2015 (estimate)	215,622	9

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WHAT WE KNOW

Total Population 1990–2015 By Surrounding County

Legend:
- Sussex County (DE)
- Kent County (DE)
- Caroline County (MD)
- Dorchester County (MD)
- Wicomico County (MD)
- Worcester County (MD)

Y-axis: Total Population (Thousands), scale 0 to 250

X-axis: 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015

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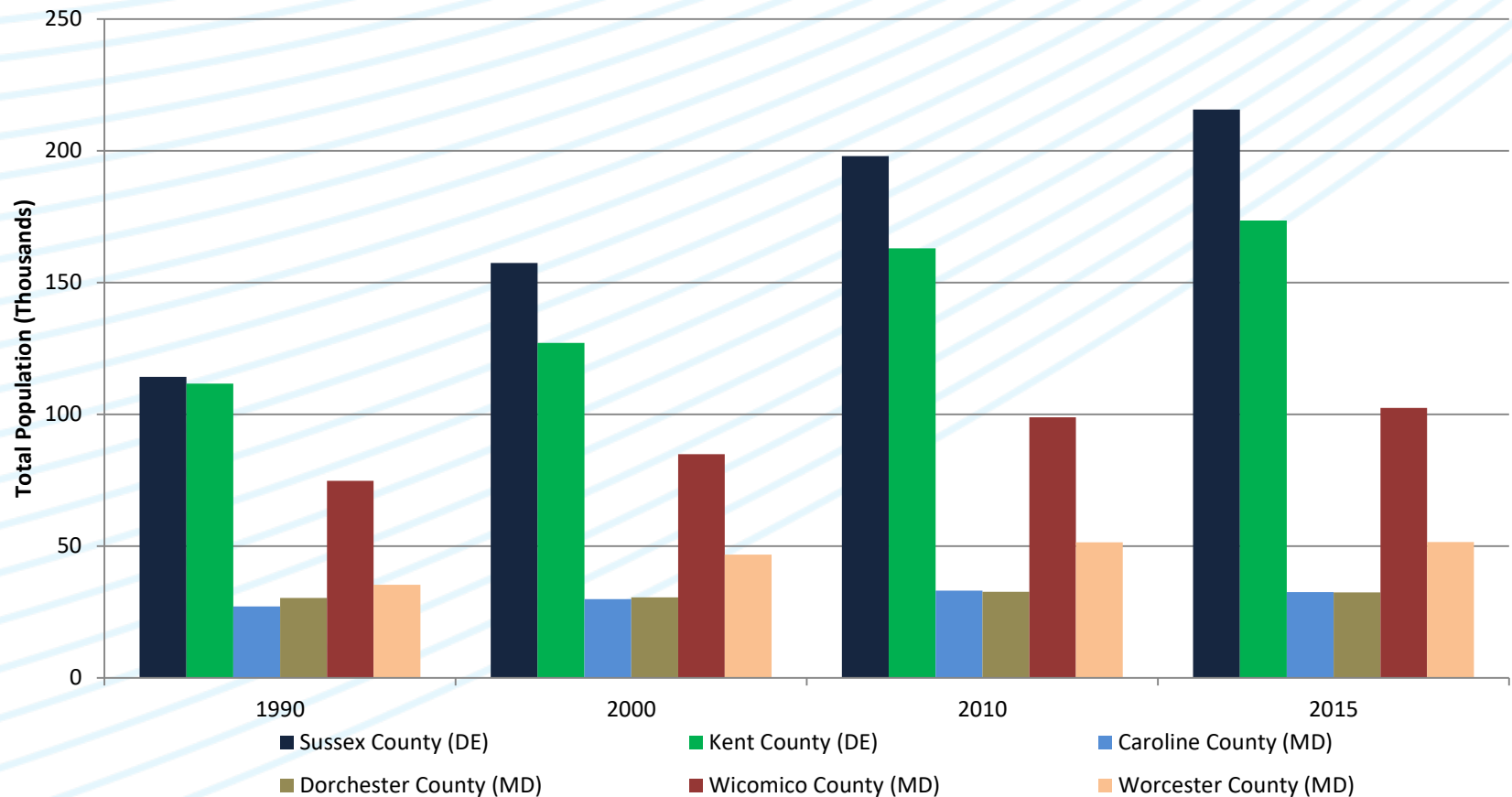
WHAT WE KNOW

Population Growth 2000–2015 Regional Comparison

Sussex County is growing faster than many of the neighboring counties.

Population Growth (2000=100)

Legend:
- Sussex County (DE)
- Kent County (DE)
- Caroline County (MD)
- Dorchester County (MD)
- Wicomico County (MD)
- Worcester County (MD)

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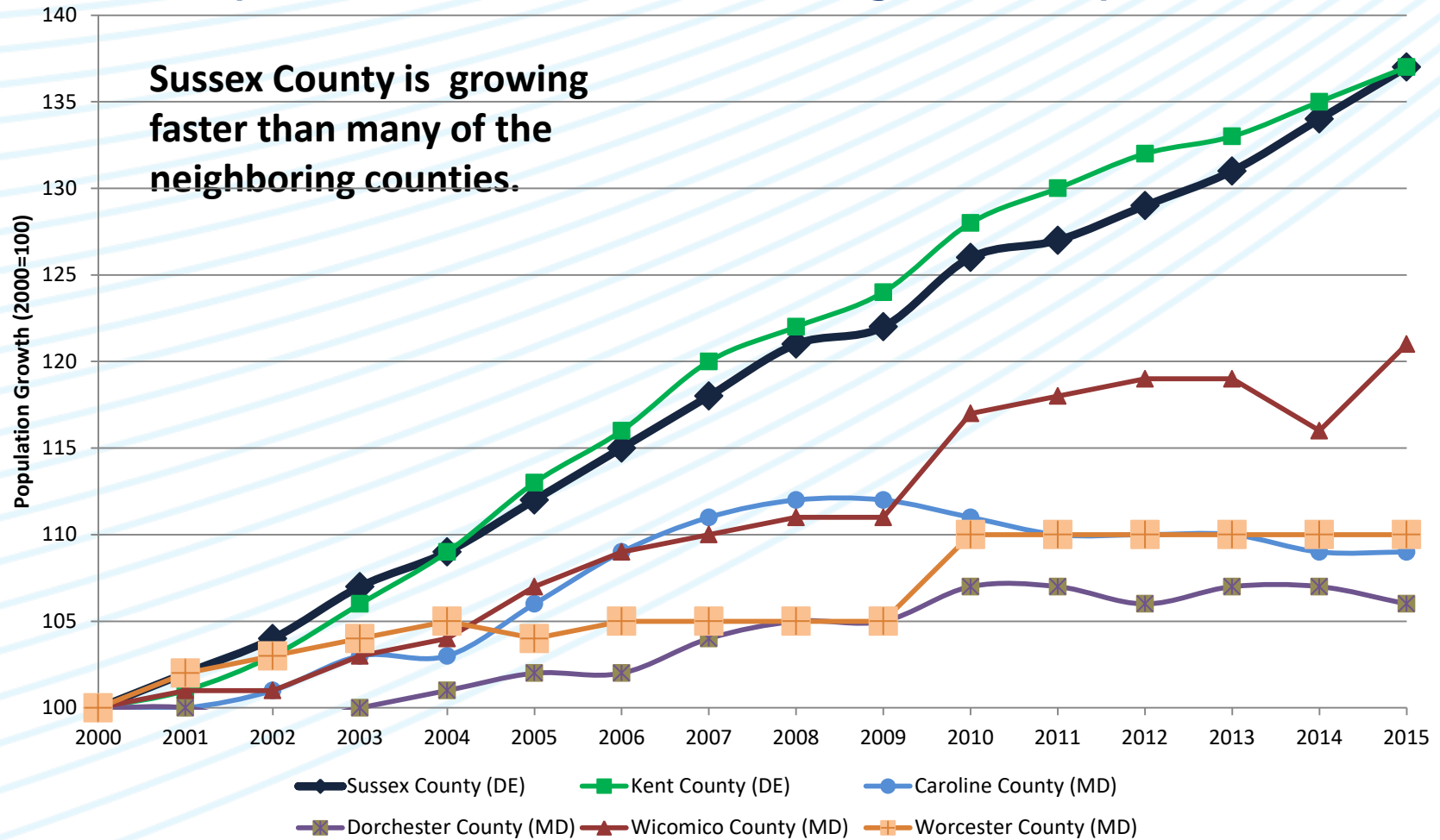
WHAT WE KNOW

Population Growth 2000–2015 By DE County

Sussex County population has increased nearly 40 percent since 2000. Outpacing the state as a whole.

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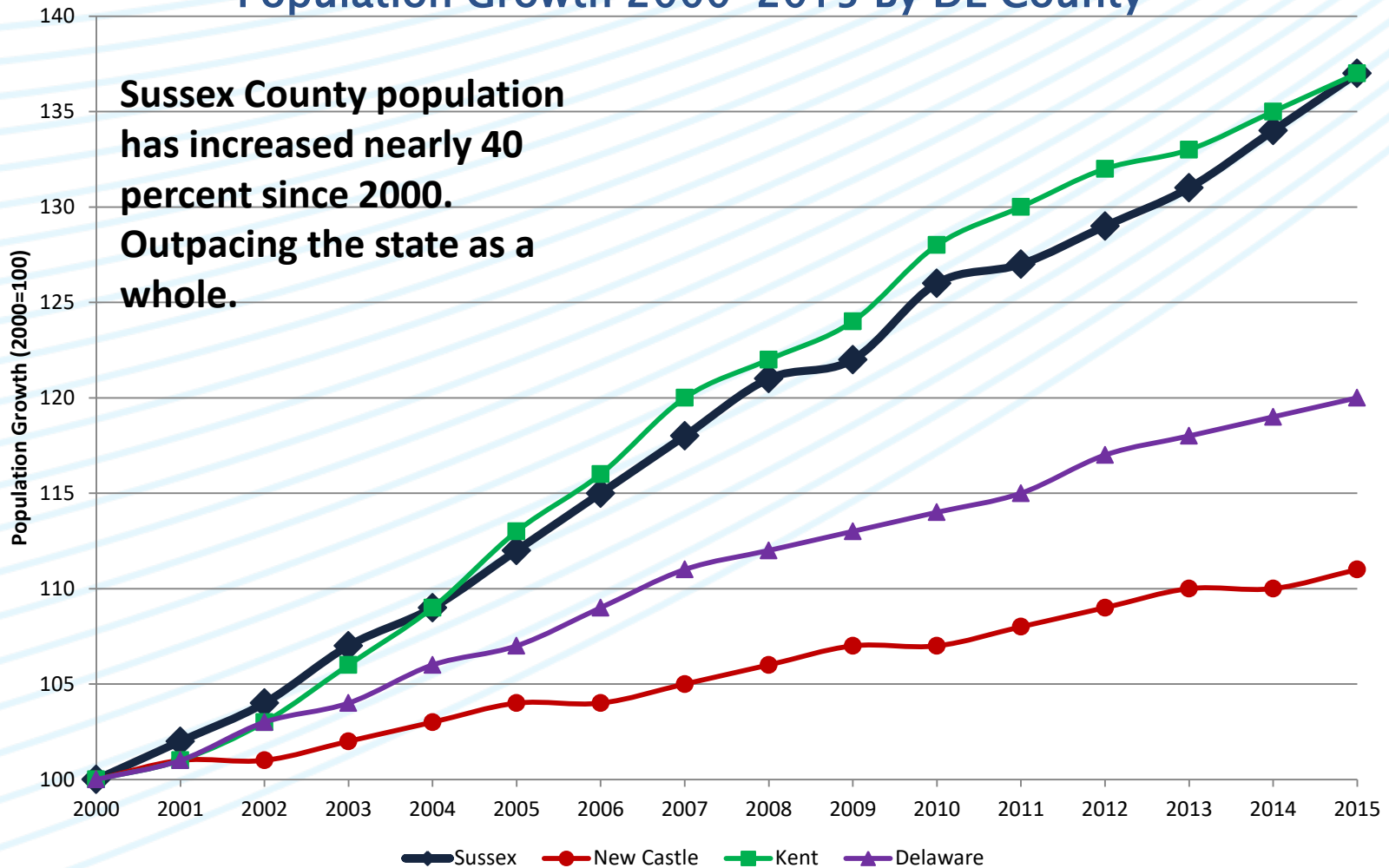
WHAT WE KNOW

Growth

Number of Building Permits Issued (Office of State Planning Coordination, 2016)			
Year	# Building Permits Issued	Number of Residential Units	Nonresidential Square Footage
2008	1,113	1,343	238142
2009	1,010	1,296	46200
2010	972	1,227	215473
2011	954	1,158	313156
2012	1,217	1,517	815006
2013	1,715	1,886	233058
2014	1,562	1,902	303227
2015	1,719	1,946	386892
Total	**10,262**	**12,275**	**2,551,154**

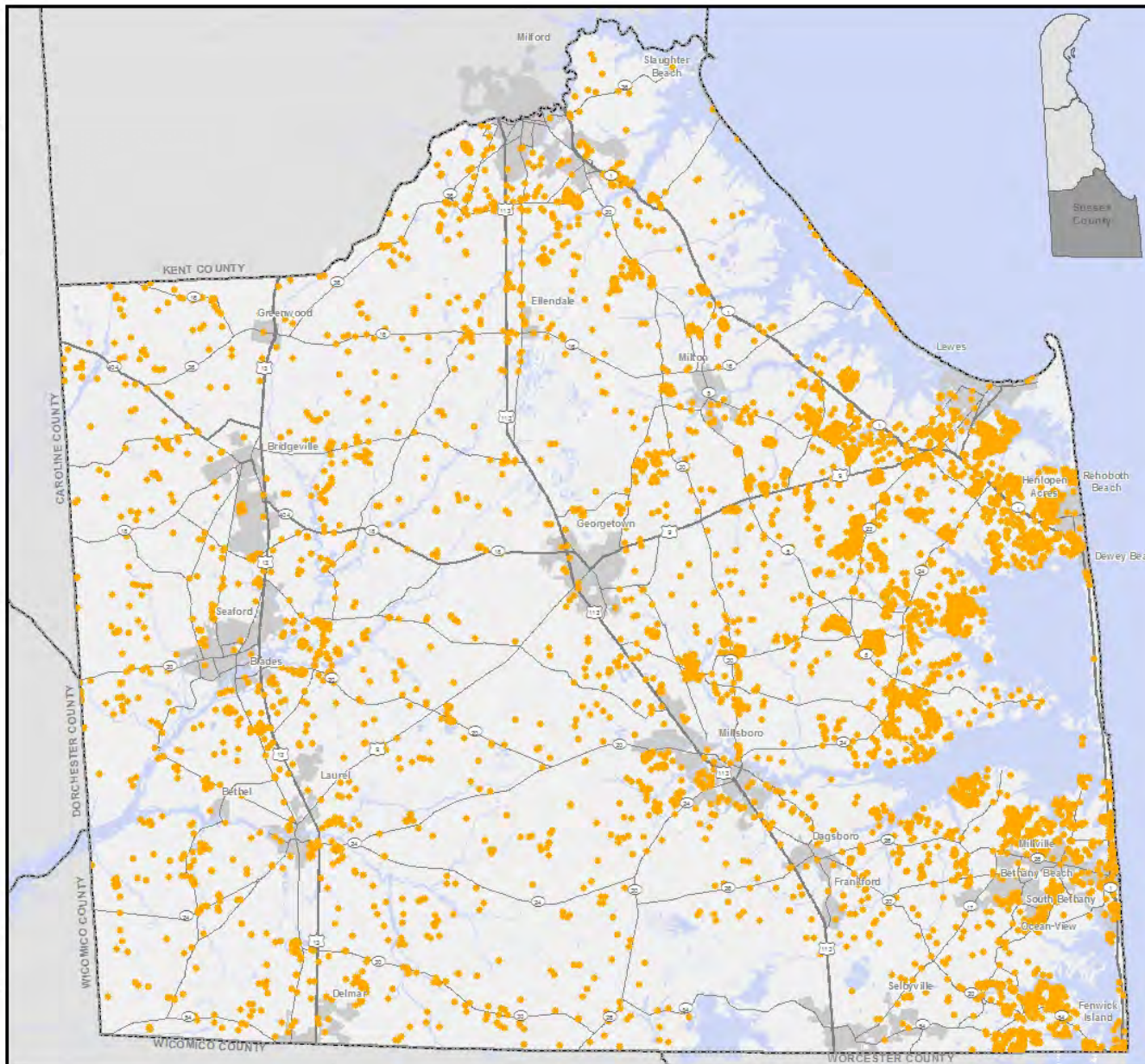THE SUSSEX PLAN

The Sussex Plan
Sussex County Comprehensive Plan

Building Permits Issued (2008-2015)

Legend:
- Building Permits
- County Boundaries
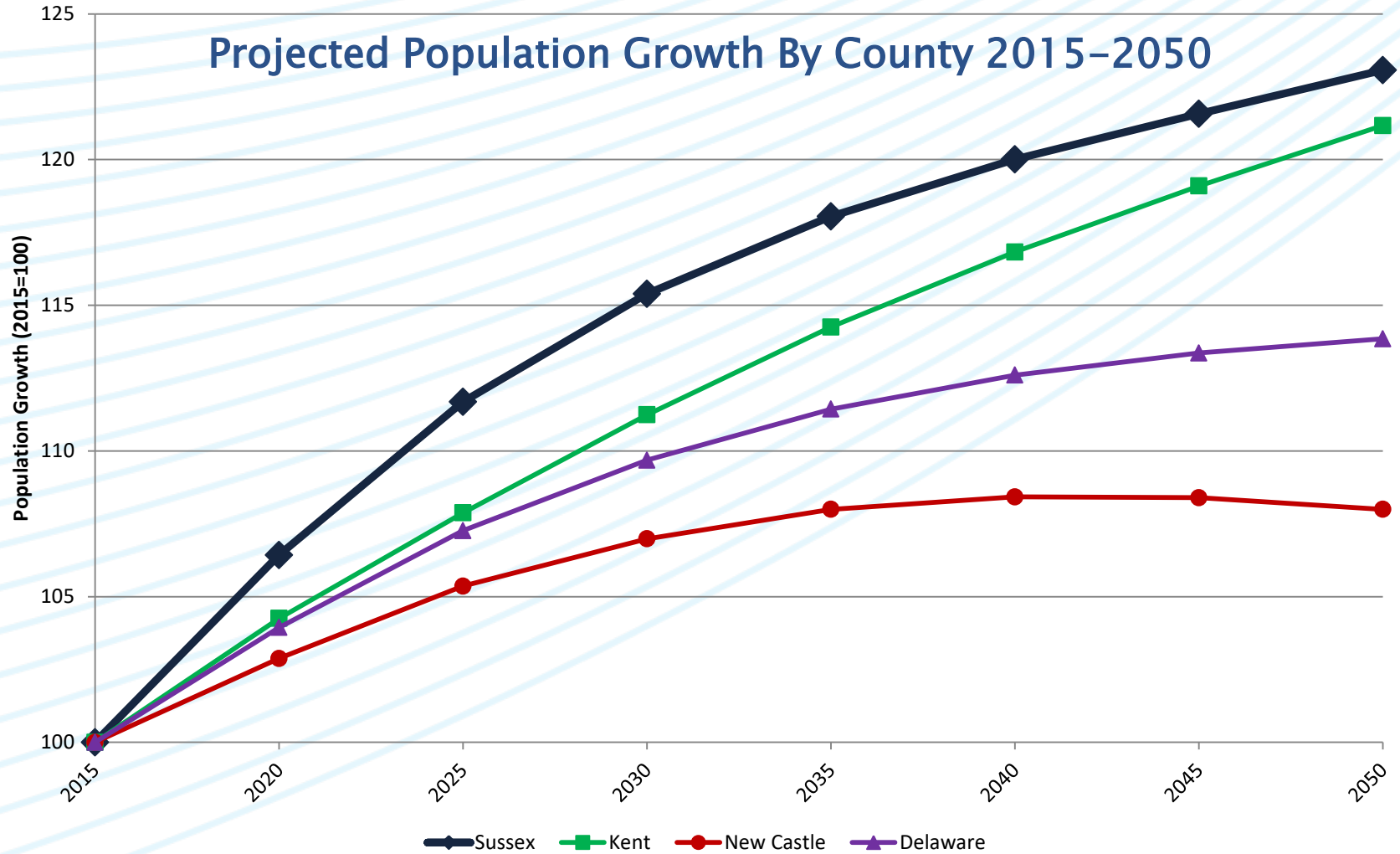- Major Rivers
- Waterbodies
- Municipalities

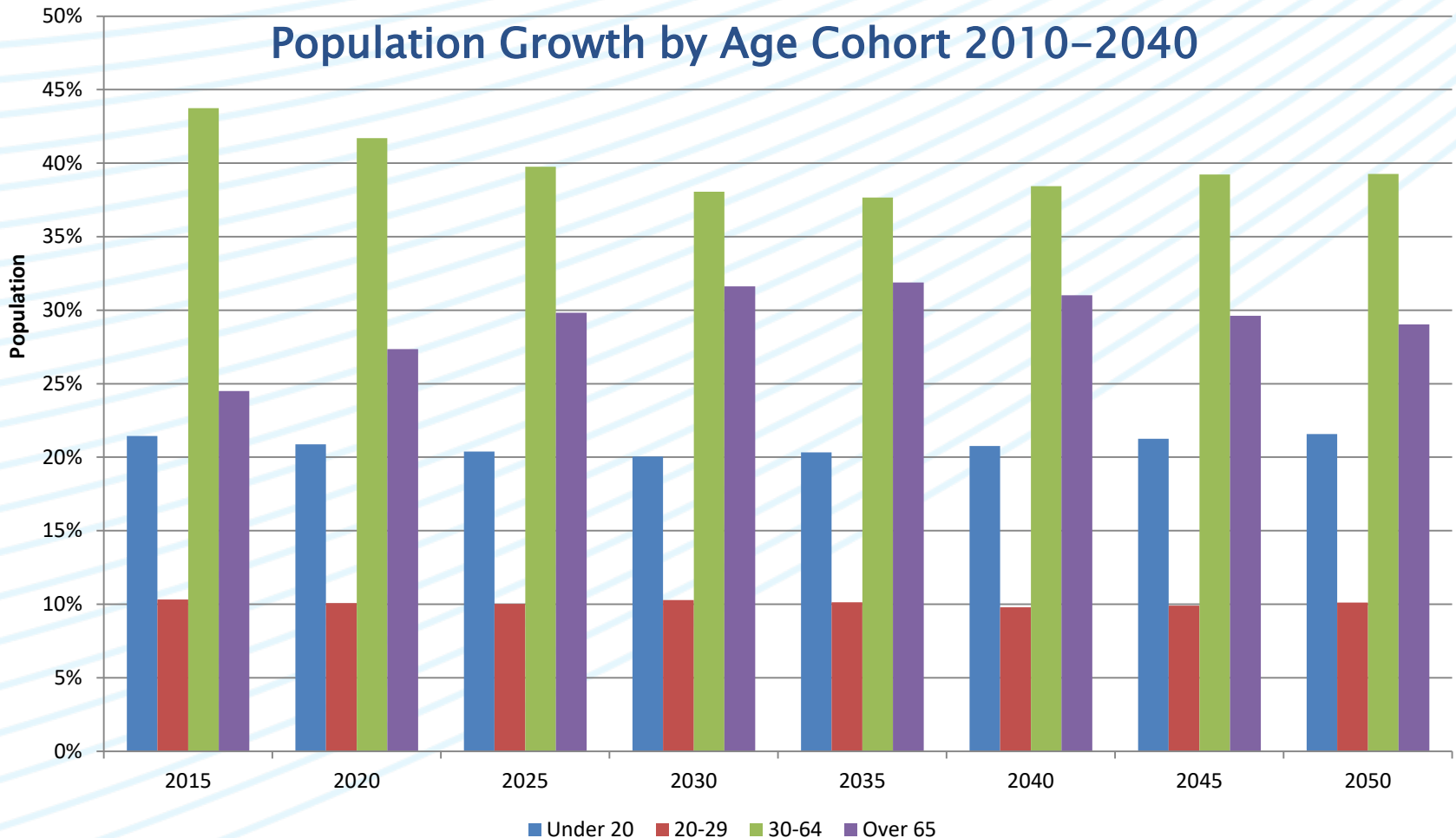Sources: DE FirstMap, Sussex County Mapping Dept., DE Office of State Planning Coordination.

McCORMICK TAYLOR

0   2.5   5 Miles

N

WHAT WE KNOW

Projected Population Growth By County 2015–2050

WHAT WE KNOW

Population Growth by Age Cohort 2010–2040

Legend: Under 20, 20-29, 30-64, Over 65

Sussex County's population is projected to get older over time.

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WHAT WE KNOW

▸ Between 2010 and 2045, the 65+ population of the County is expected to increase by 90%

◦ Baby boomers are working longer and growth in the 65+ age cohort could help offset the stagnant or declining growth in the younger cohorts.

◦ Will have workforce impacts by changing the nature and types of services demanded.

• This will have workforce preparedness effects in terms of potential skill deficits of older workers as well as generating demand for certain occupations to serve their needs, such as healthcare and long-term care.
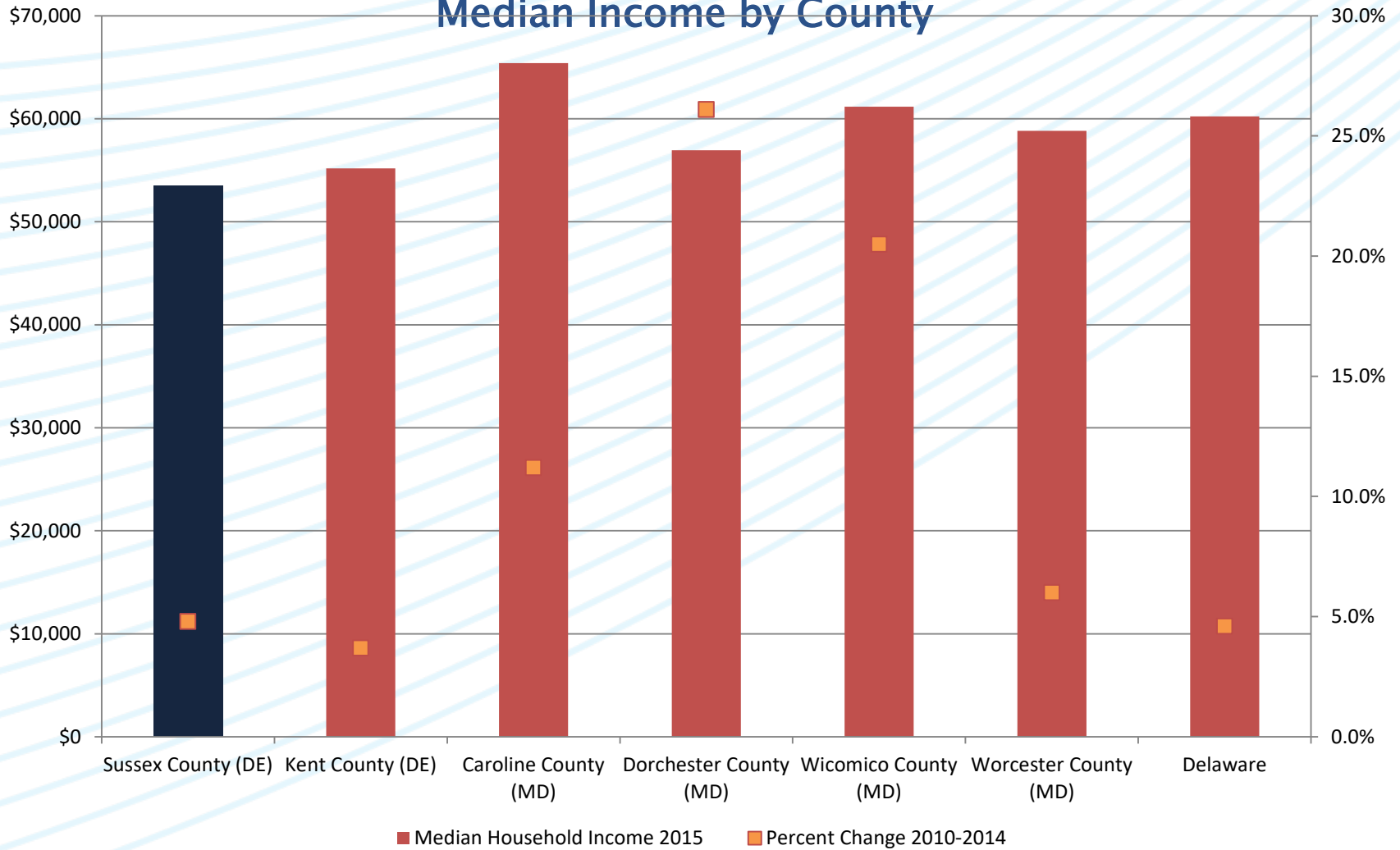
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WHAT WE KNOW

Younger Workers By County
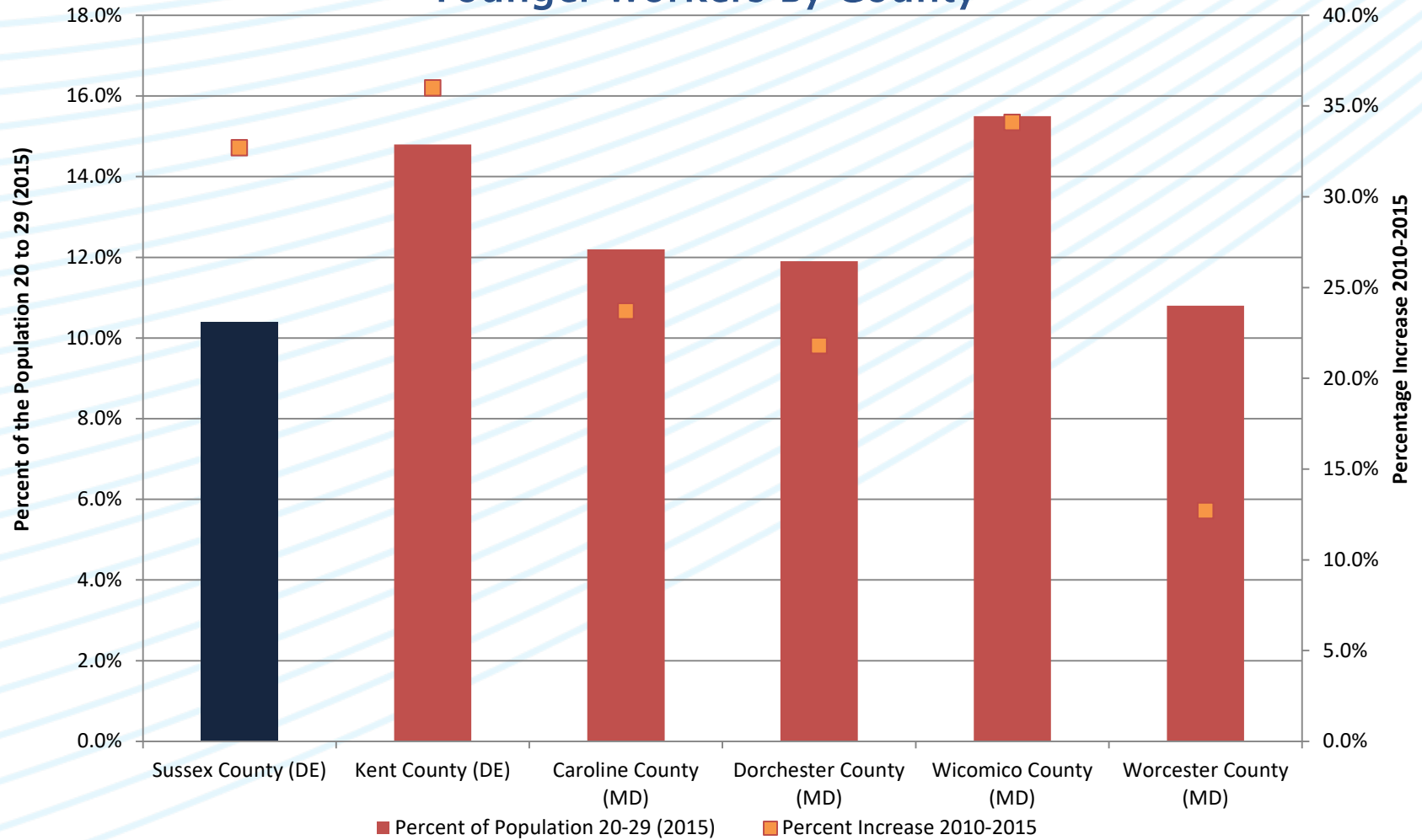
WHAT WE KNOW

Median Income by County

Legend: ■ Median Household Income 2015 ■ Percent Change 2010-2014

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD

What do people love best about Sussex County?

Small Town Feel

Beaches

Trail System

Shopping

Low Taxes

Quality of Life

Inland Bays

Farmland

Agricultural Heritage

Restaurants

Rural Character

Relaxed Pace of Life

Friendly People

Parks

Open space

Affordable living

Proximity to the Coast

Natural Beauty

Close to Everything

Entertainment

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: HOUSING

▸ Encourage the rehab/renovation of existing housing

▸ Improve housing quality and condition

▸ Provide affordable housing options

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: HOUSING

▸ *"More senior housing and housing for moderate to low incomes"*

▸ *"Affordable housing should be a priority to keep and attract younger residents"*

▸ *"Provide incentives for higher density housing"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

▸ Support existing businesses and entrepreneurs

▸ Attract and retain new businesses/industries in the County

▸ Expand job training and workforce development

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

▸ *"Invest in good paying jobs"*

▸ *"Keep agriculture industry viable in long term"*

▸ *"Attract and retain younger people"*

▸ *"Expand Georgetown airport as a place for new tech business"*

▸ *"Historic tourism can be an even larger economic driver"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: CONSERVATION

▸ Protect streams and watersheds

▸ Protect wetlands and tidal areas

▸ Protect wildlife and habitat

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: CONSERVATION

▸ *"More farmland preservation"*

▸ *"Clean up the Inland Bays and their tributaries"*

▸ *"Preservation of Nanticoke"*

▸ *"Protect wetlands, forest, and farmland from overdevelopment"*

▸ *"Flooding is getting worse"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

▸ Secure more open space and trails

▸ Maintain and preserve existing protected open space

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▸ *"Create a County Parks and Recreation Department/Program"*

▸ *"More bike lanes and walking trails"*

▸ *"Need a recreation center like in Kent County"*

▸ *"More public access"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: MOBILITY / TRANSPORTATION

- Improve traffic flow on existing roads

- Maintain road and bridge network

- Improve safety on existing roads and intersections

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: MOBILITY / TRANSPORTATION

▸ *"Coordinate land use and DOT planning and implementation"*

▸ *"North/south connections, east/west connections"*

▸ *"More interconnectivity of roads/neighborhoods/commercial"*

▸ *"Roads cannot handle seasonal traffic"*

▸ *"Broaden public transportation in the County"*

▸ *"Flooded roads"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: UTILITIES

▸ Maintain and improve stormwater management

▸ Maintain and improve existing sewer facilities

▸ Maintain and improve water facilities

THE SUSSEX PLAN

WHAT WE'VE HEARD: UTILITIES

▸ *"Area-wide fiber optic"*

▸ *"Migrate away from septic tanks to sewer"*

▸ *"More natural gas"*

▸ *"Drainage in developing areas is a problem"*

▸ *"Encourage solar and wind energy"*

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▸ Maintain and improve public services (fire, police, emergency management, EMS, etc)

▸ Maintain and improve public health facilities/programs

▸ Maintain and improve educational opportunities K-12

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- *"Medical, education services, and roads are not sufficient to support over building"*

- *"Public education support is essential for providing the future residents and workforce of the community"*

- *"Need to plan for library services as development grows"*

- *"County should provide support to its municipalities to assist with planning, conservation, and land use decisions"*

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
FUTURE LAND USE & COMMUNITY DESIGN

- Improve the quality and character of coastal areas

- Maintain and improve existing older communities

- Improve the quality and character of rural / agricultural areas

- New development should incorporate the preservation of environmentally critical areas and open space into subdivision design

- Construction of new homes and businesses should provide for pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, etc)

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WHAT WE'VE HEARD:
FUTURE LAND USE & COMMUNITY DESIGN

▸ *"More mixed use areas to make other uses accessible to residents on foot or bikes"*

▸ *"Limit sprawl"*

▸ *"Too much development without supporting infrastructure (roads)"*

▸ *"More sidewalks, safer neighborhoods"*

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