

# **SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHICS: POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS**

Presented to

**SC Association of Counties**

November 20, 2024



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## Who is RFA?

- **Mission:** To provide independent research, analysis, and resources to facilitate informed policy decisions and administration of services
- **Vision:** To be a leader in value-added public service by providing the most trusted, customer-focused information and solutions
- **Staff:** The agency has a staff of approximately seventy comprised of analysts, statisticians, epidemiologists, database administrators, web developers, GIS analysts, economists, surveyors, and project and program managers

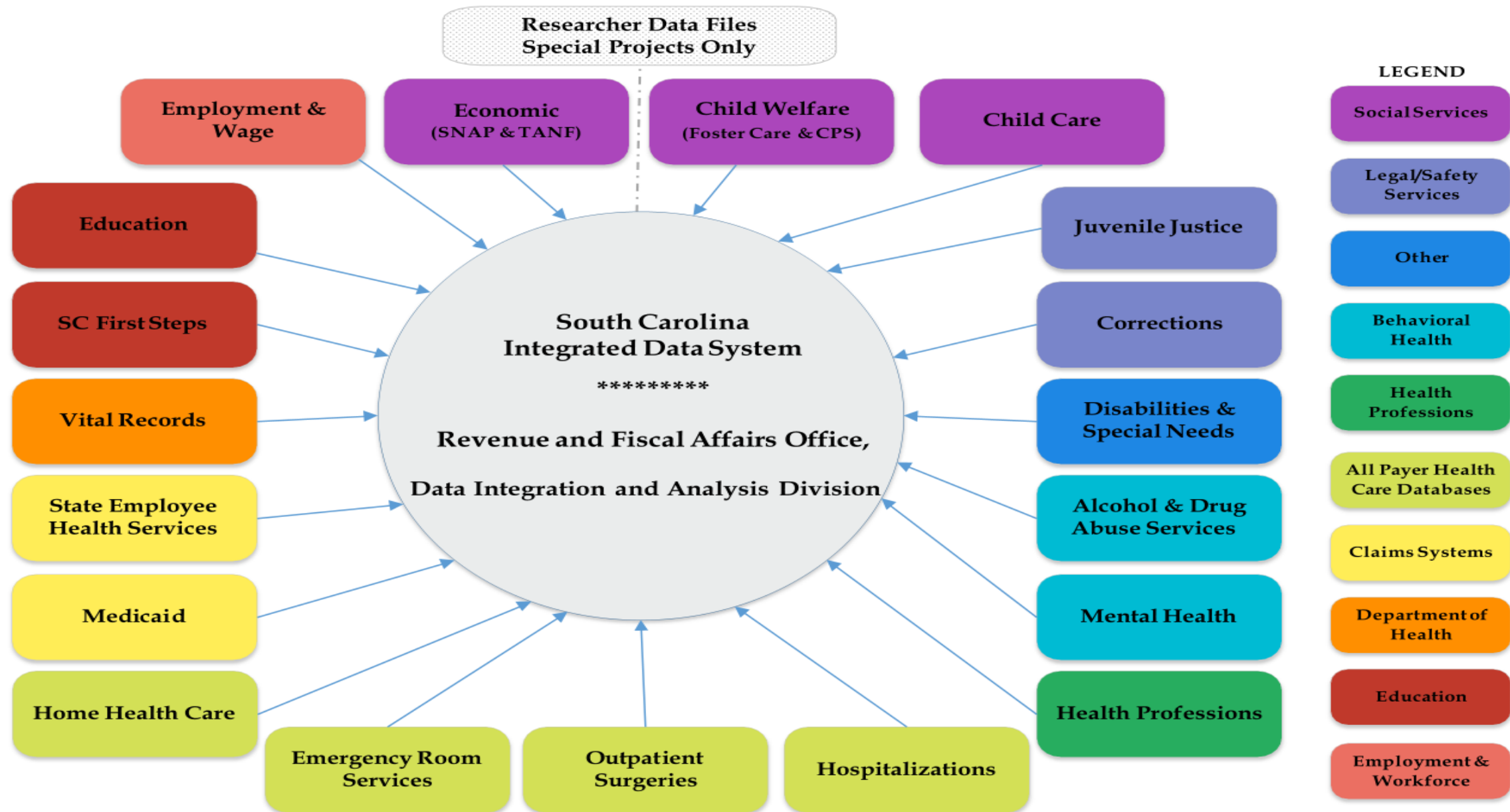
# Current Agency Overview



RFA has 4 divisions:

1. Mapping & Operations
2. Data Integration & Analysis
3. Fiscal Analysis
4. Compliance, Communications, and Technology







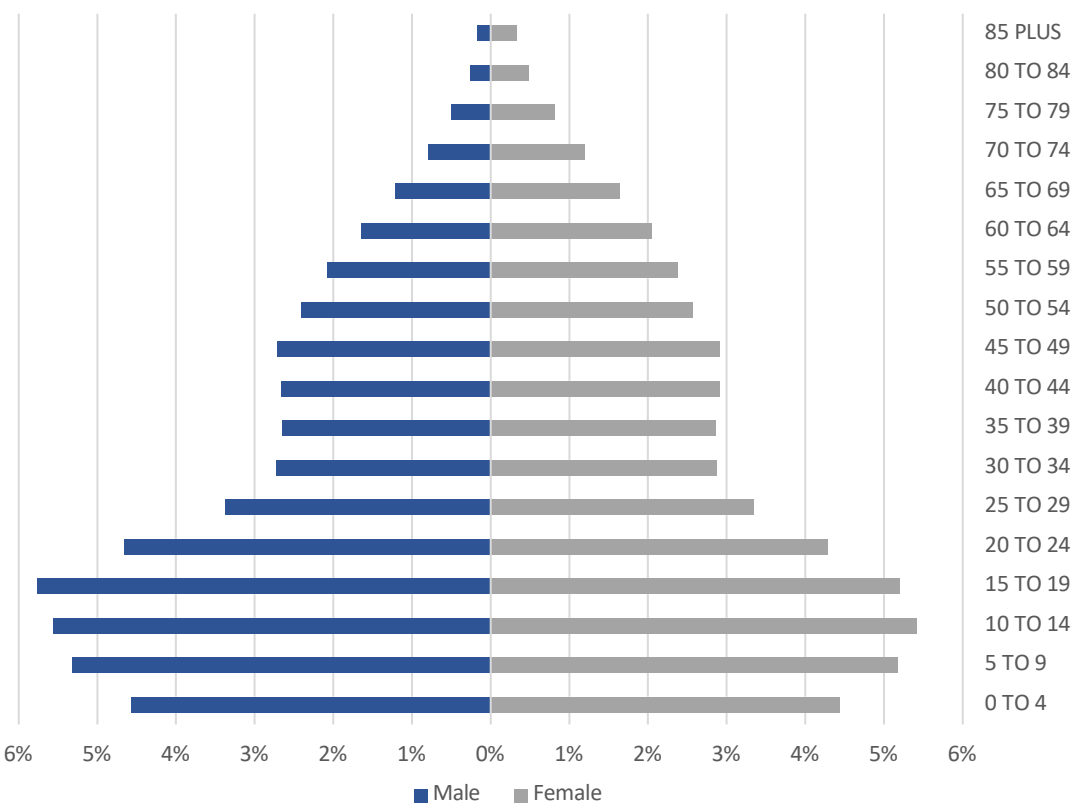
# Statewide Population Trends and Projections



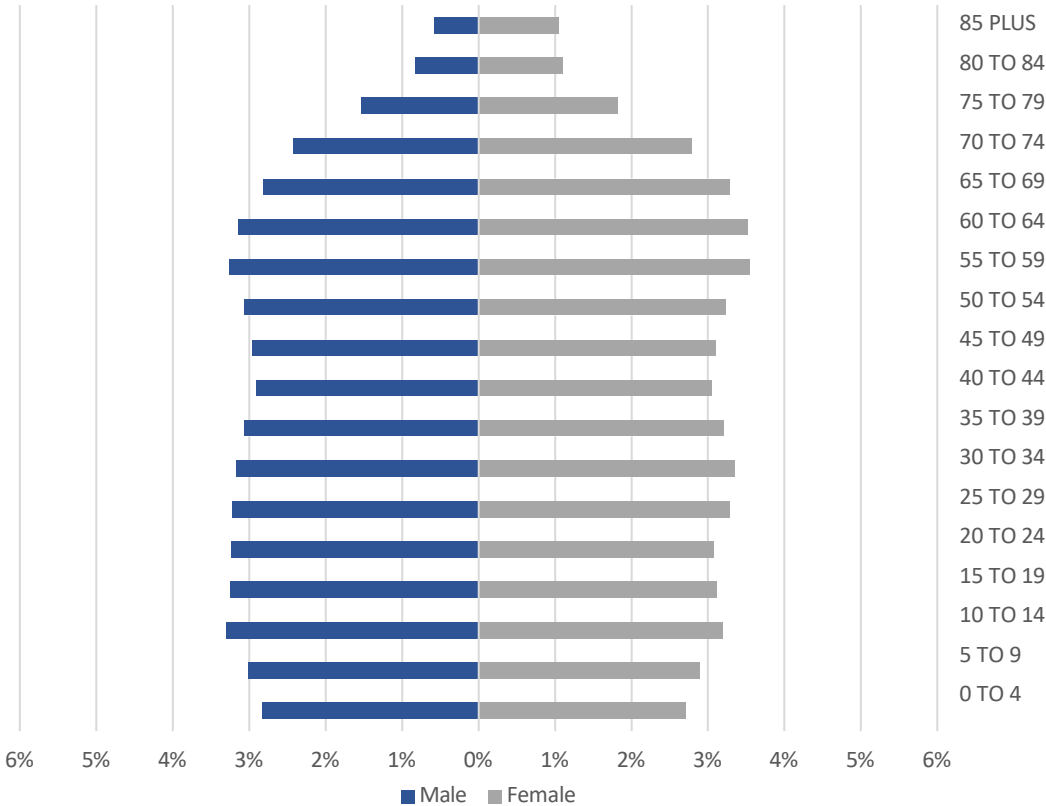
# SC Population Pyramid

The age distribution of the state’s population has shifted dramatically since 1970; the median age has increased from 24 in 1970 to 40 in 2020

1970 POPULATION PYRAMID



2020 POPULATION PYRAMID

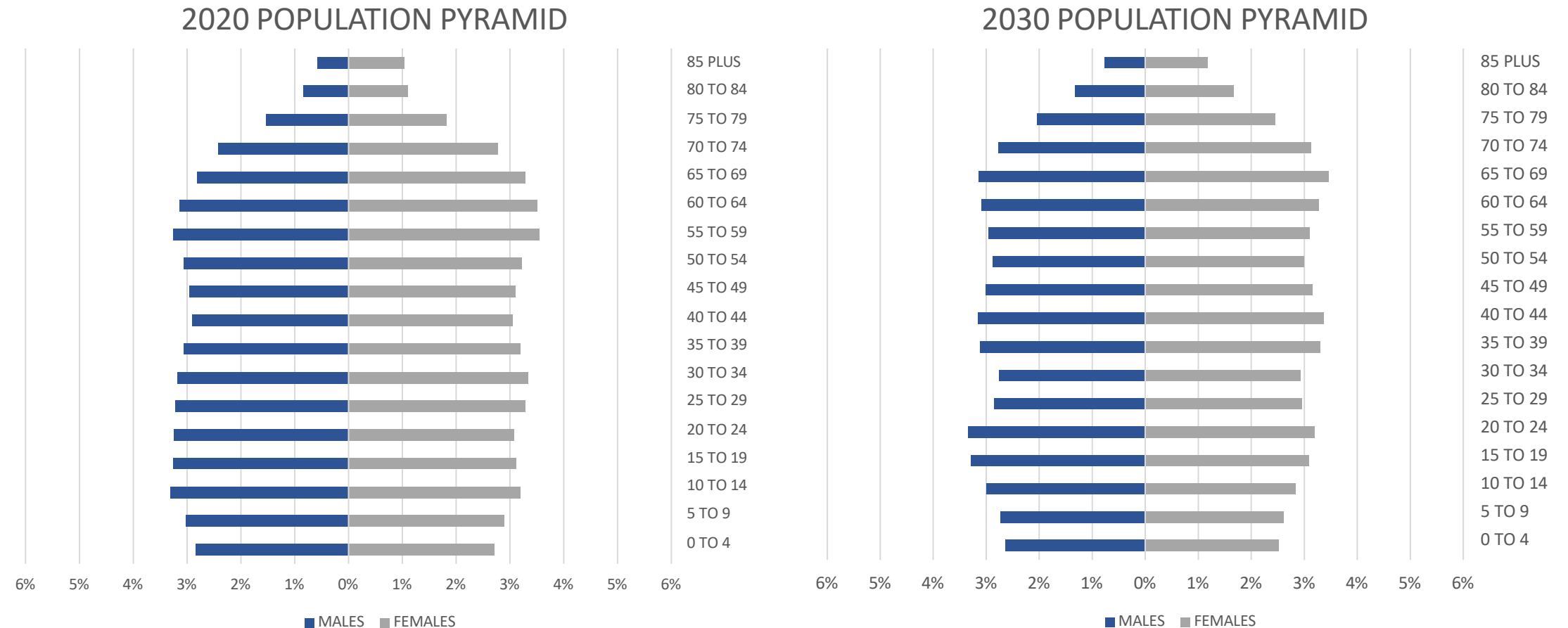


Source: S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office 320 /08/25/2020



# SC 2030 Population Projections

The median age is expected to increase from 40 to 42 over the next decade;  
all baby boomers will be older than 65

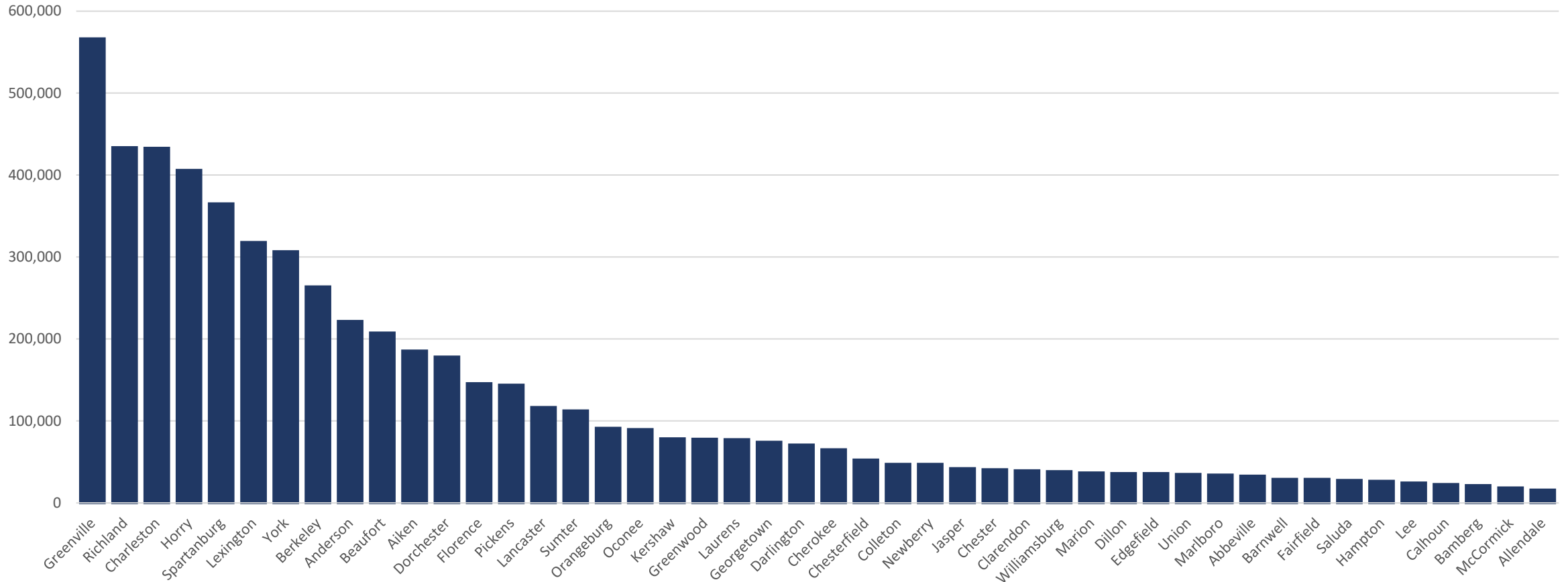


Source: US Census Bureau, Estimates, Projections by S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

# South Carolina Population, 2023

**Five Largest: Greenville, Richland, Charleston, Horry, Spartanburg**

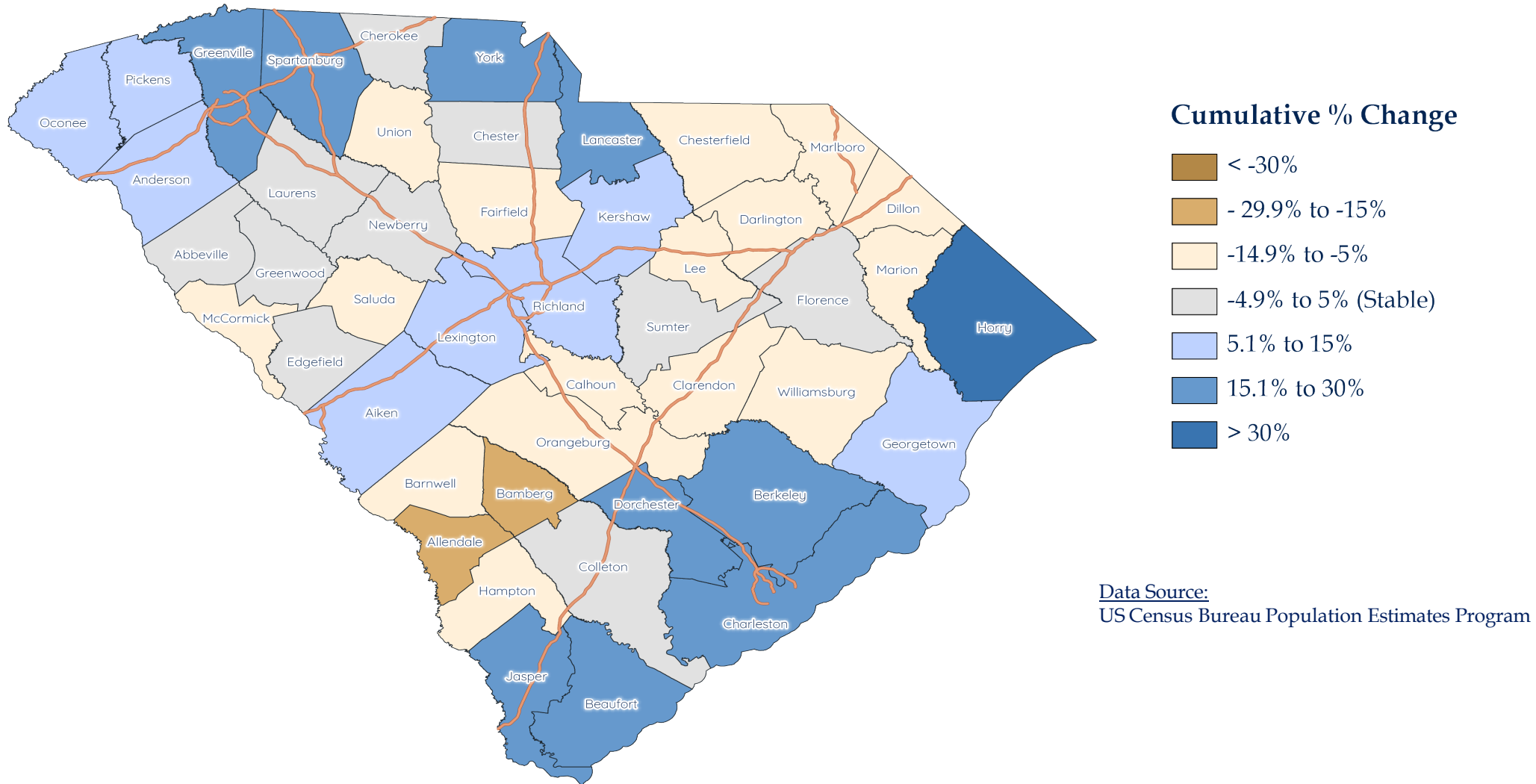
**Five Smallest: Allendale, McCormick, Bamberg, Calhoun, Lee**



Source: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 Postcensal Estimates

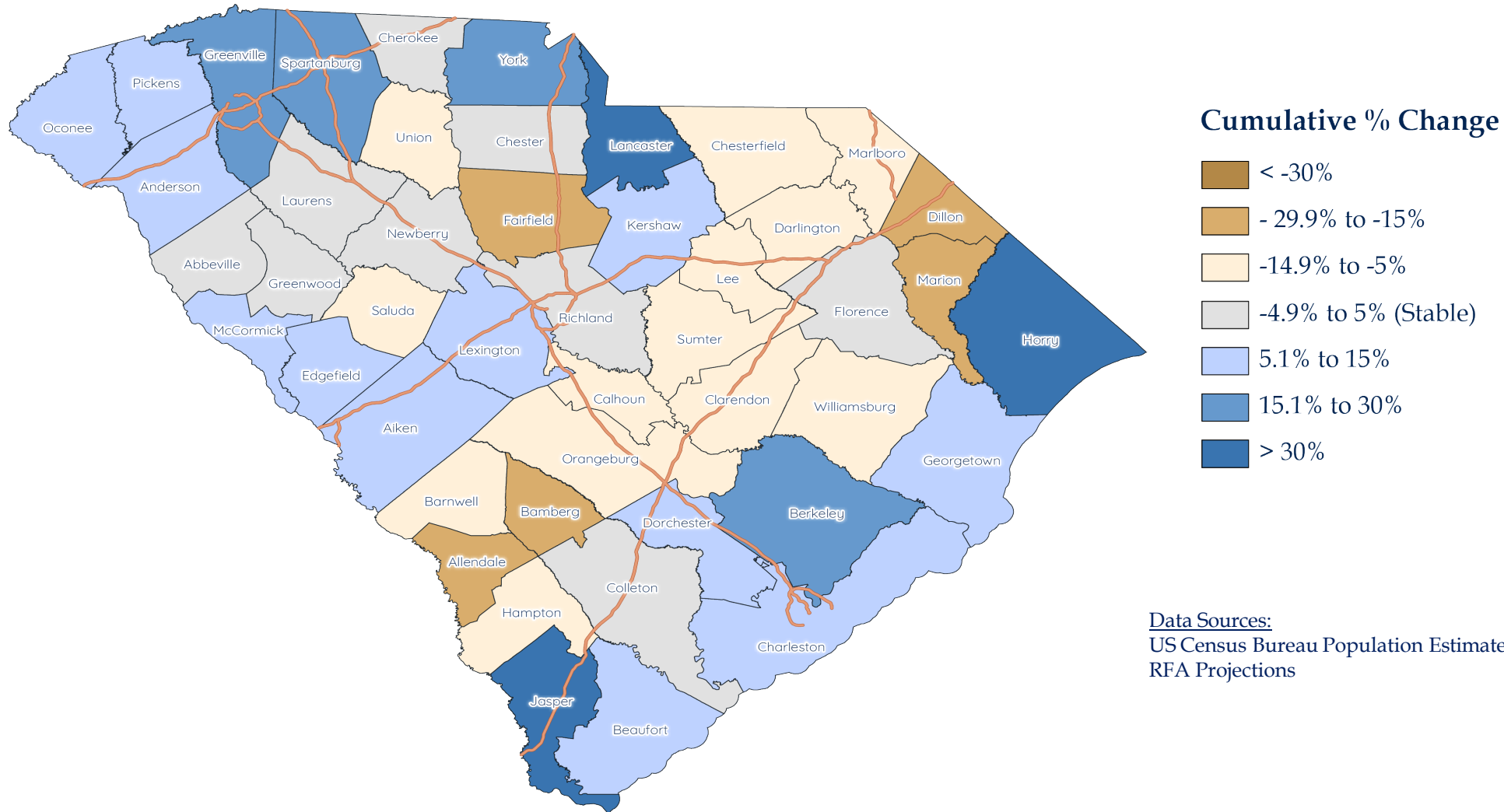
# South Carolina's Population Change, 2010 - 2020

Varied by county from +30.9% (Horry) to -23.4% (Allendale)



# South Carolina's Population Change, 2020 - 2030

Varied by county from +34.4% (Jasper) to -28.0% (Allendale)

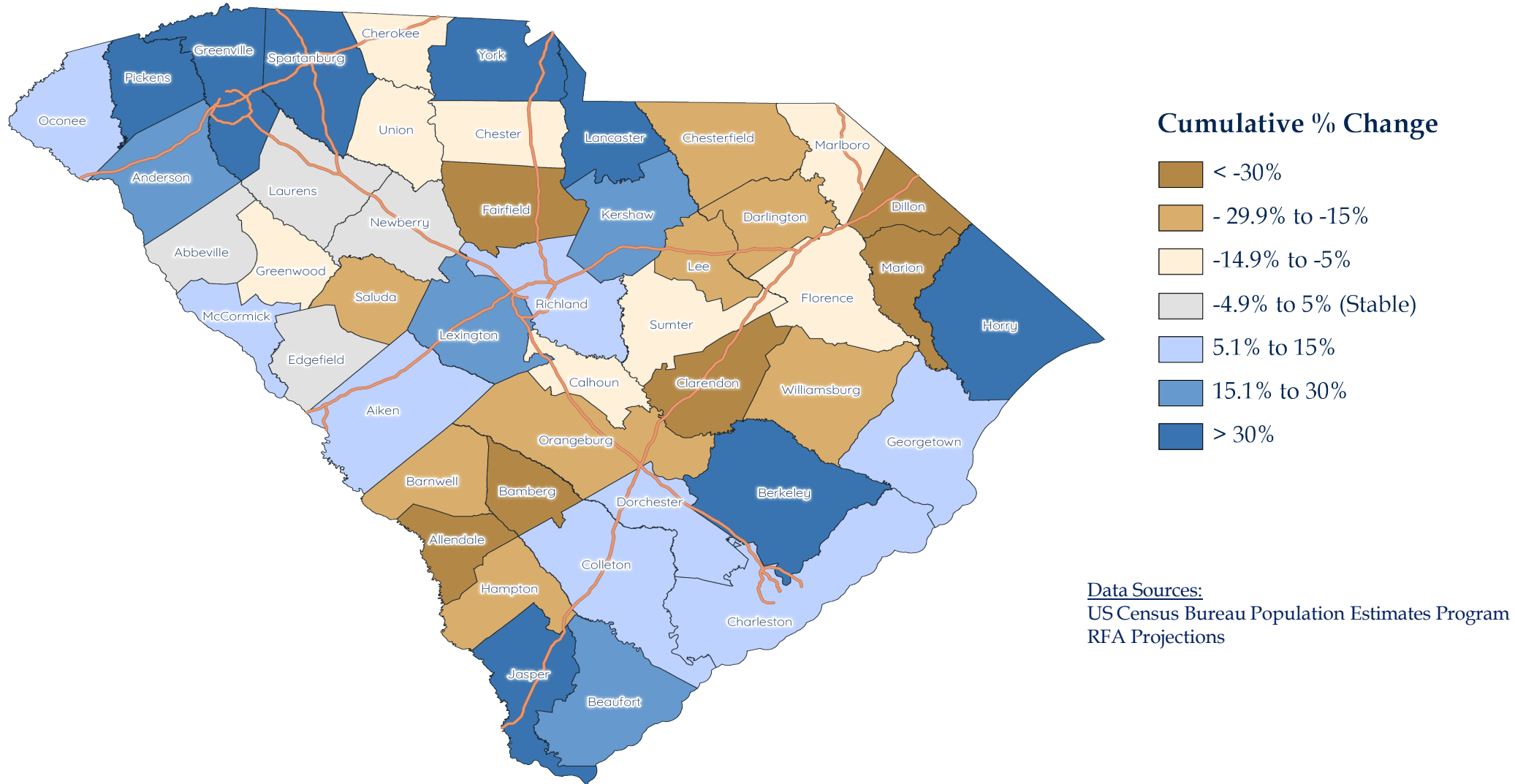


Data Sources:  
US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program  
RFA Projections



# South Carolina's Population Change, 2020 - 2040

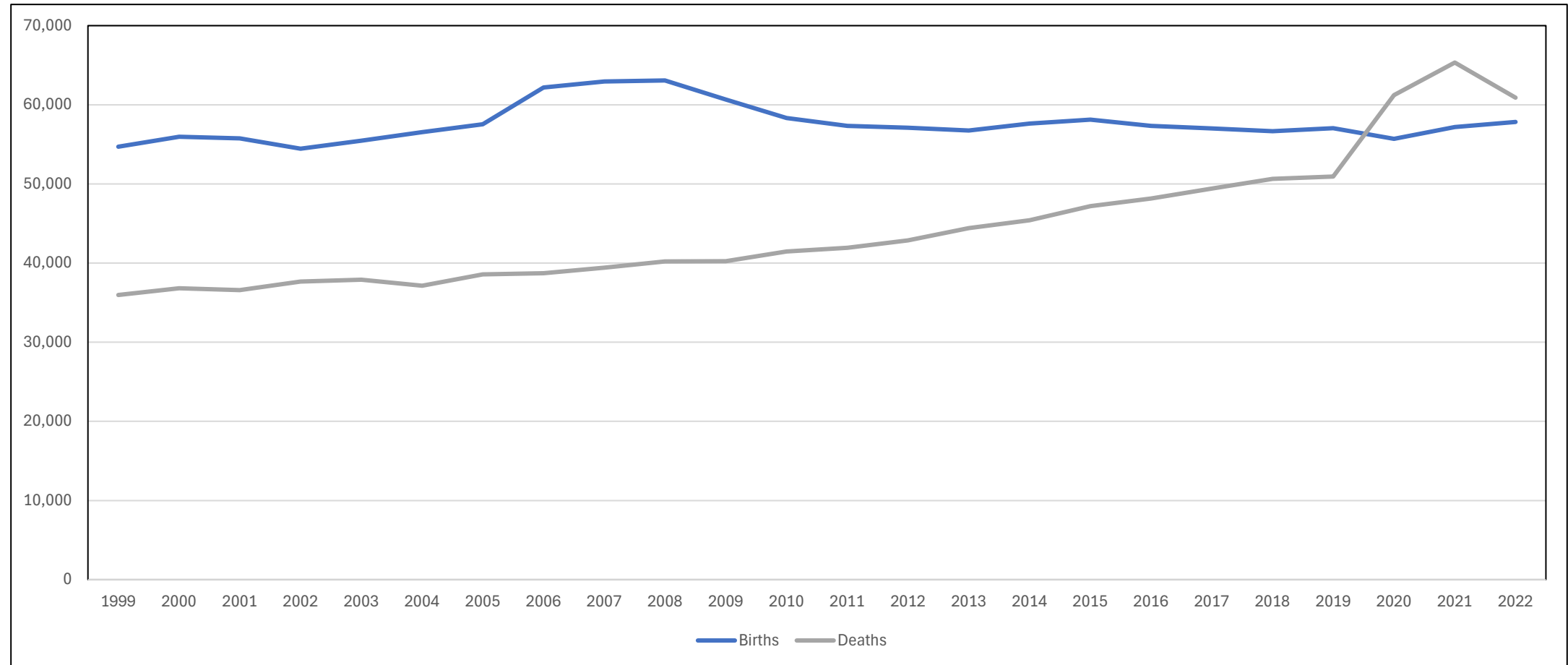
Varied by county from +68.6% (Horry) to -51.6% (Allendale)





# South Carolina Births and Deaths, 1999 - 2022

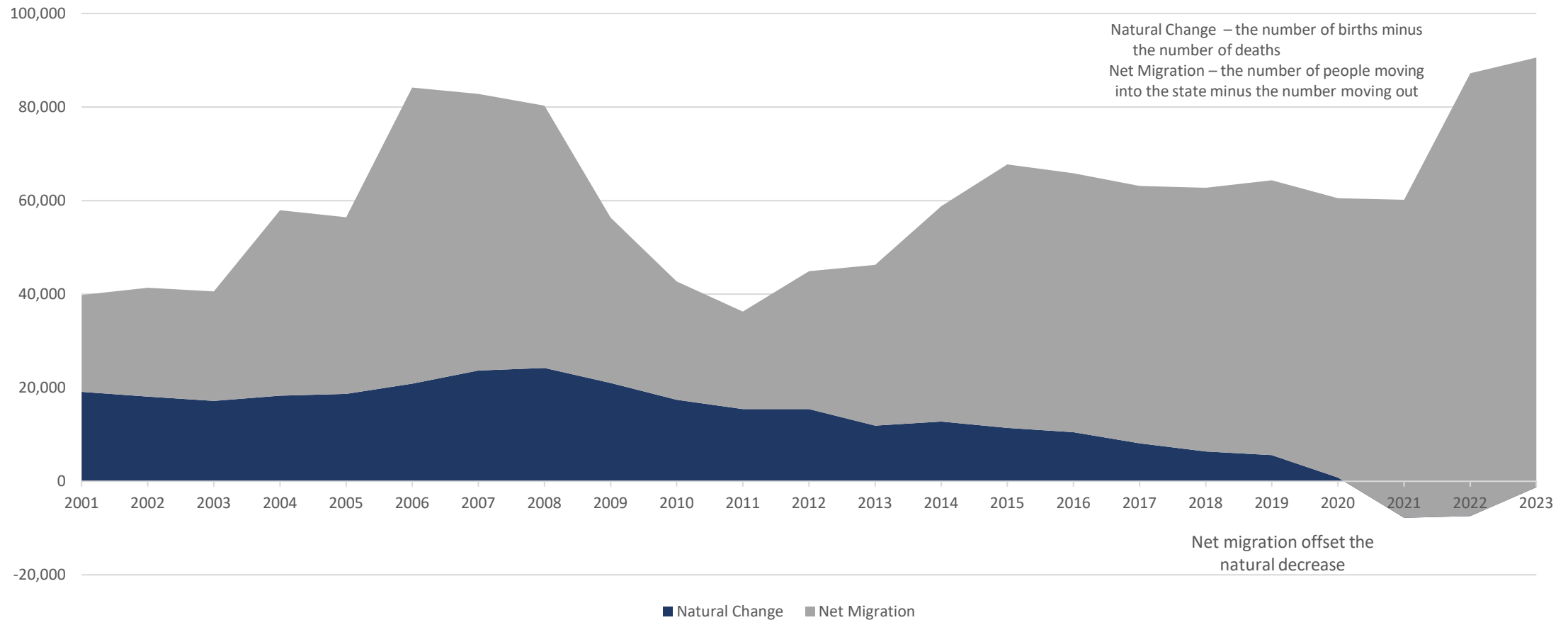
The number of births remains relatively constant while deaths increased each year until 2022, surpassing births in 2020.



Source: SC Department of Public Health, Vital Records

# Components of Population Change

Migration into the state accounted for all recent population growth as deaths have outnumbered births in recent years



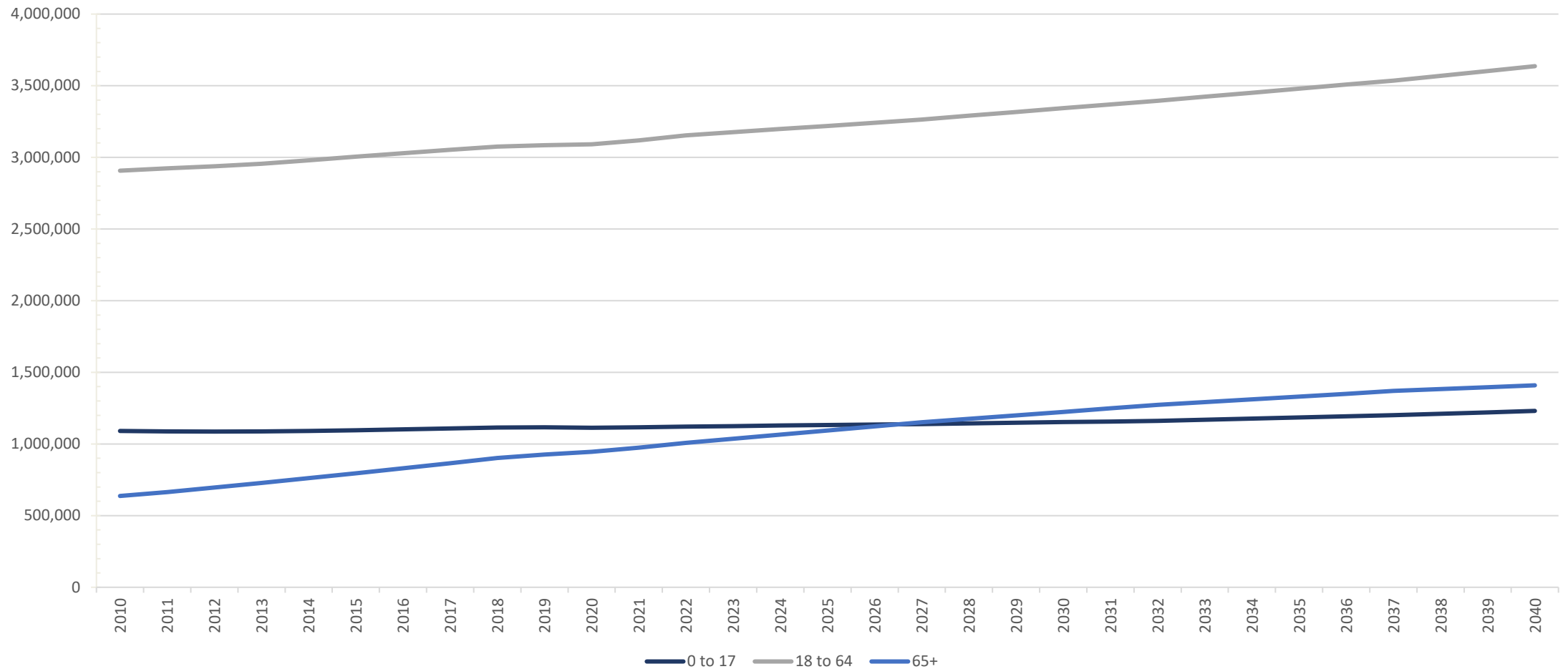
Source: US Census Bureau Population Estimates

# Statewide Age Trends



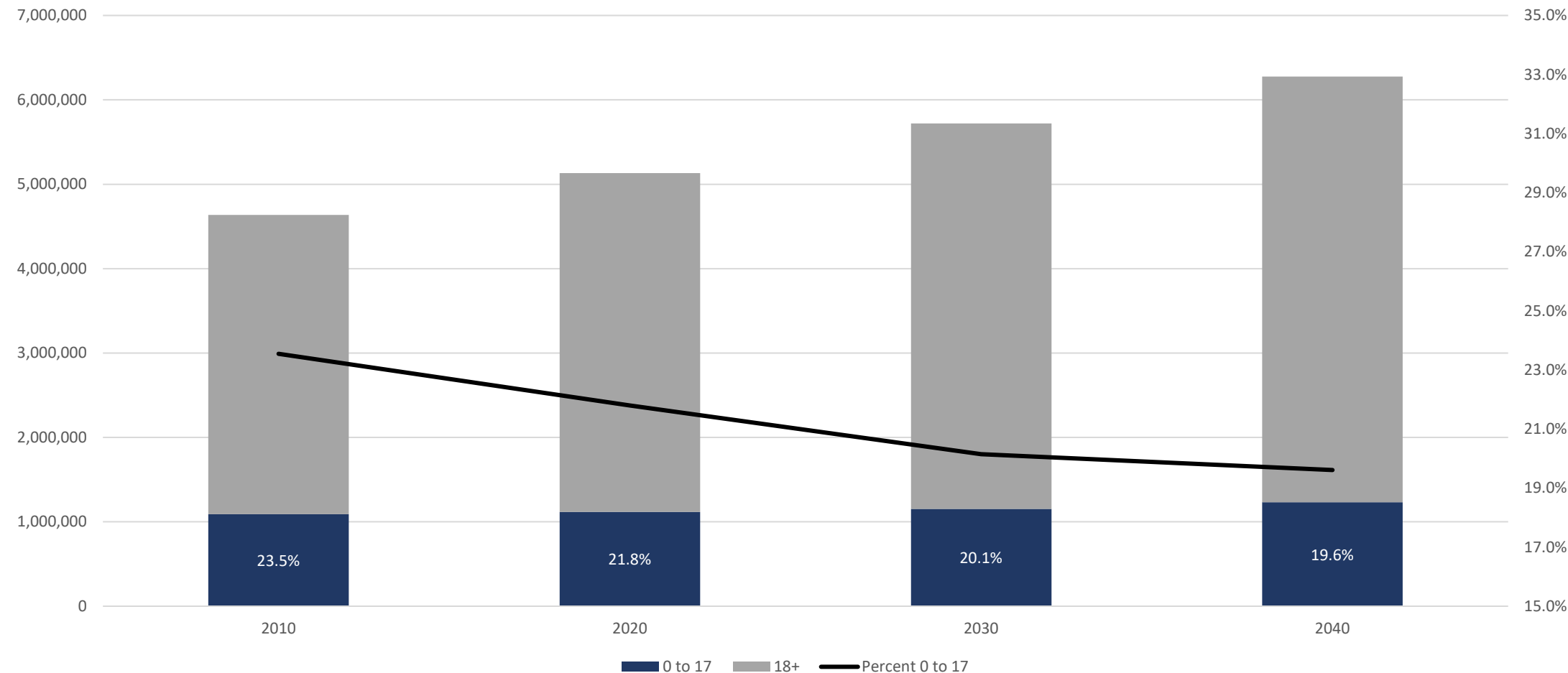
# SC Population by Age Group – South Carolina

Population in the 65 plus age range is projected to surpass the under 0-17 age range by 2027



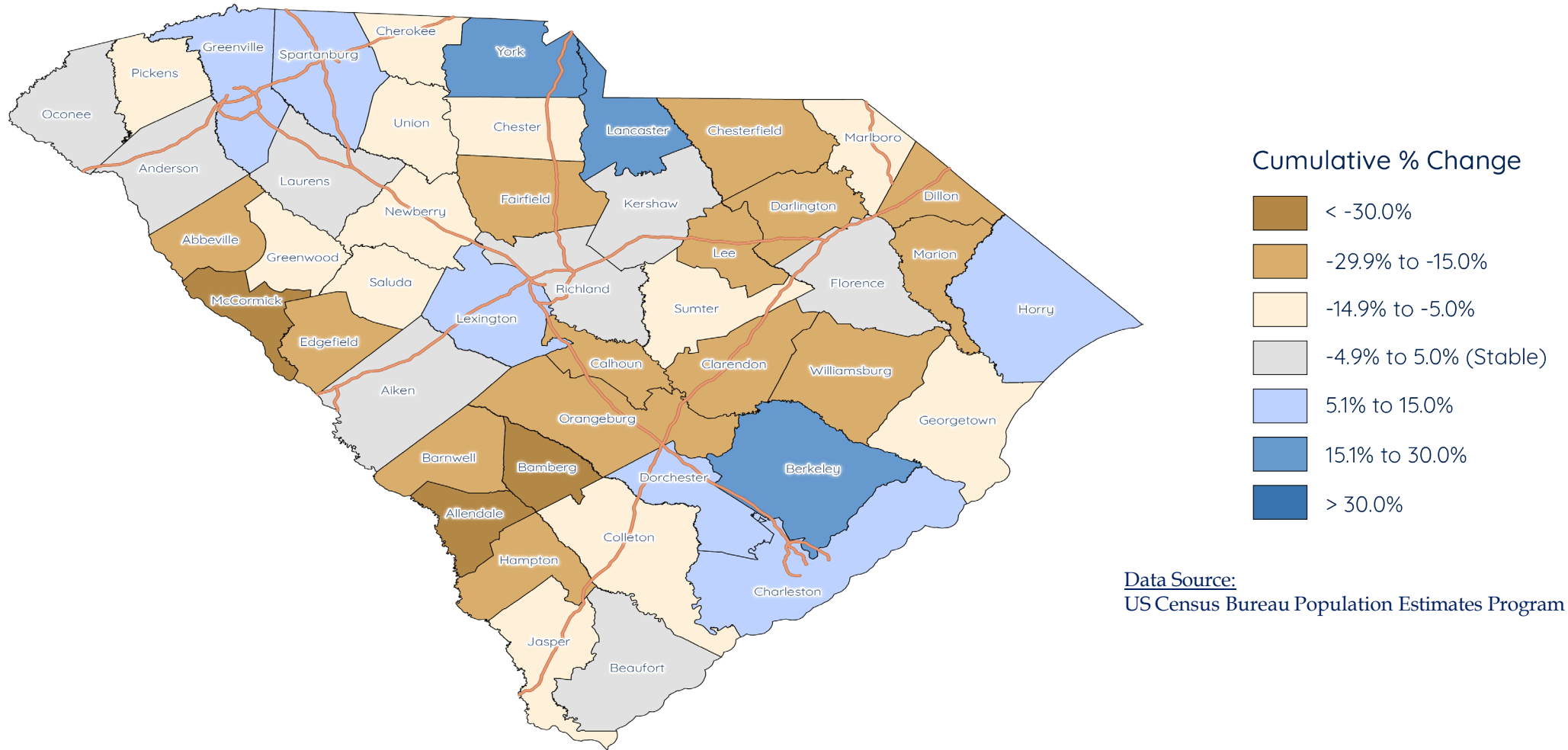
# SC Age 0 - 17 Population

## Projected to decline to less than 20% of total population by 2040



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates and RFA Population Projections

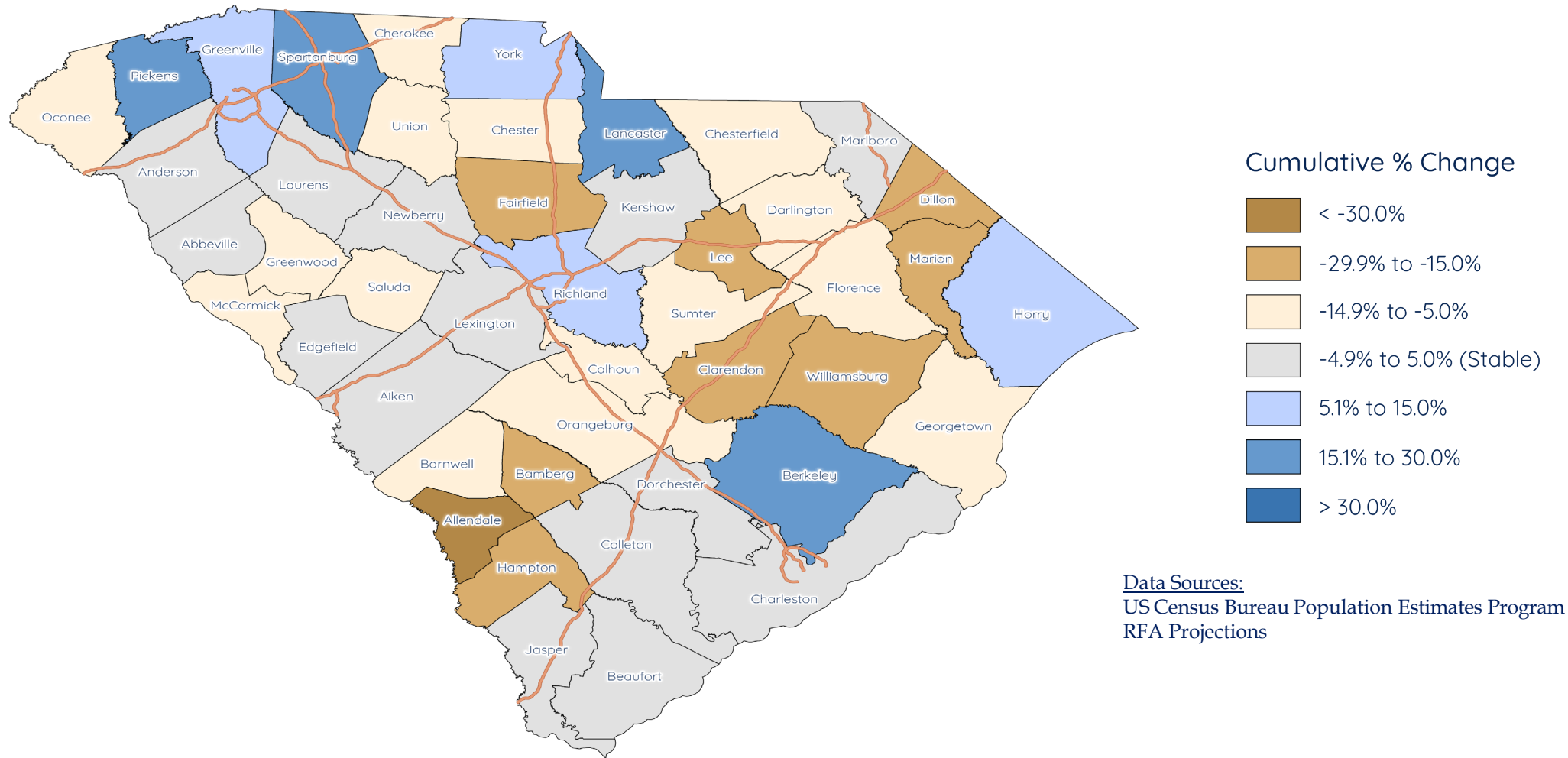
## Only nine counties increased in this age group



Data Source:  
US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

# South Carolina Projected Age 0 – 17 Population, 2020 - 2030

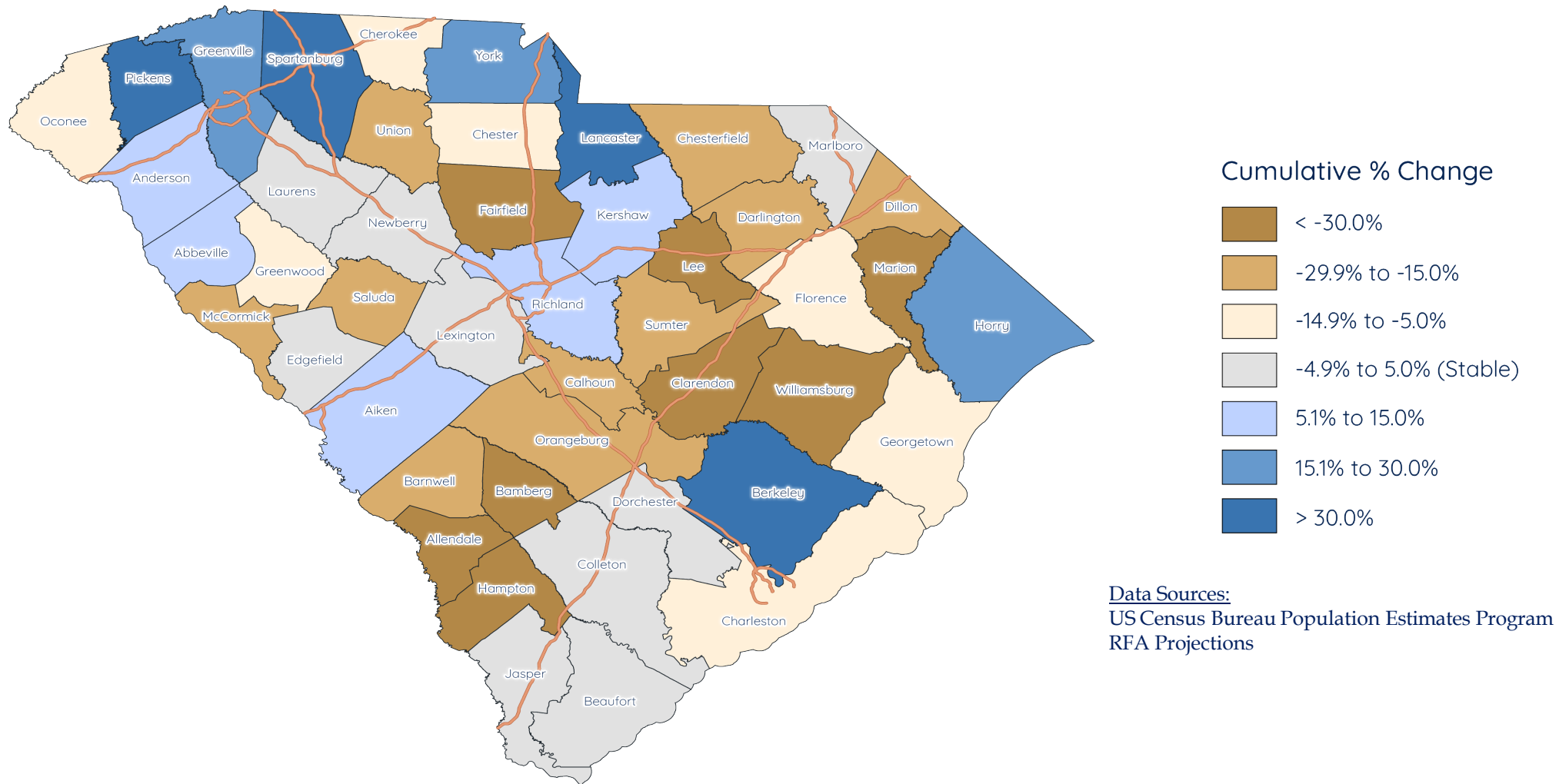
## Eight counties are projected to increase in this age group





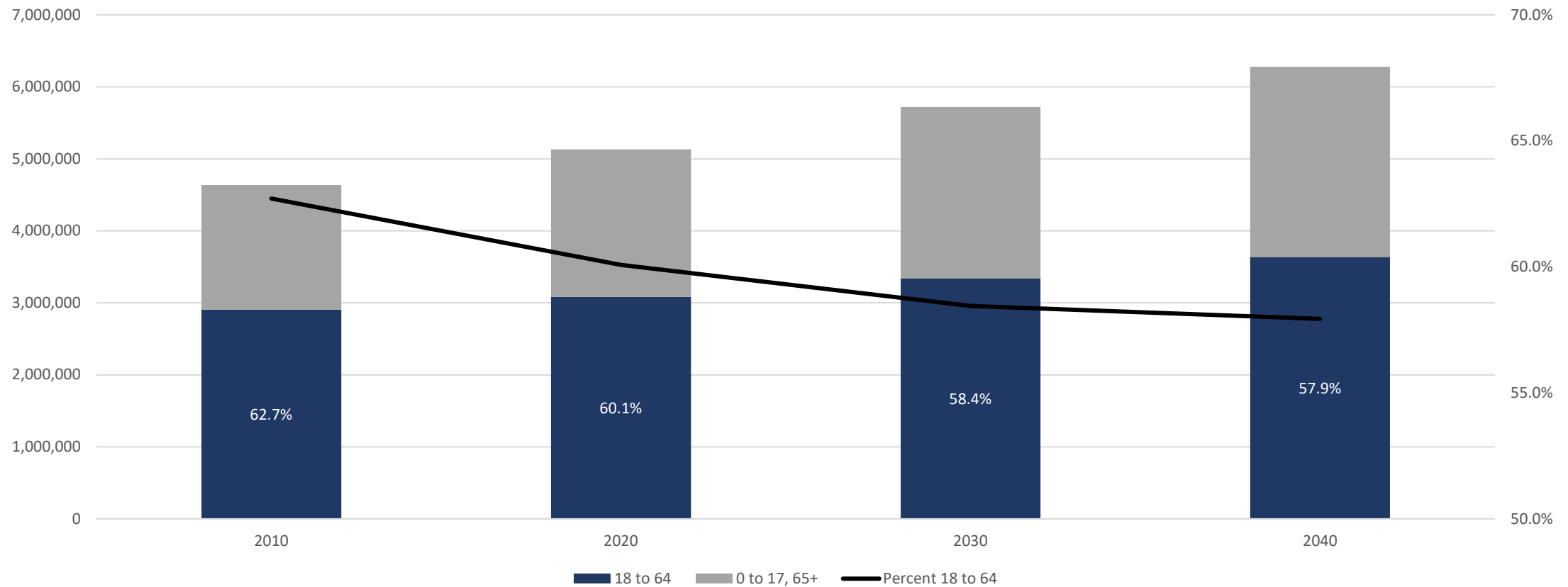
# South Carolina Projected Age 0 – 17 Population, 2020 - 2040

## Twelve counties are projected to increase in this age group



# SC Workforce Population, Age 18 - 64

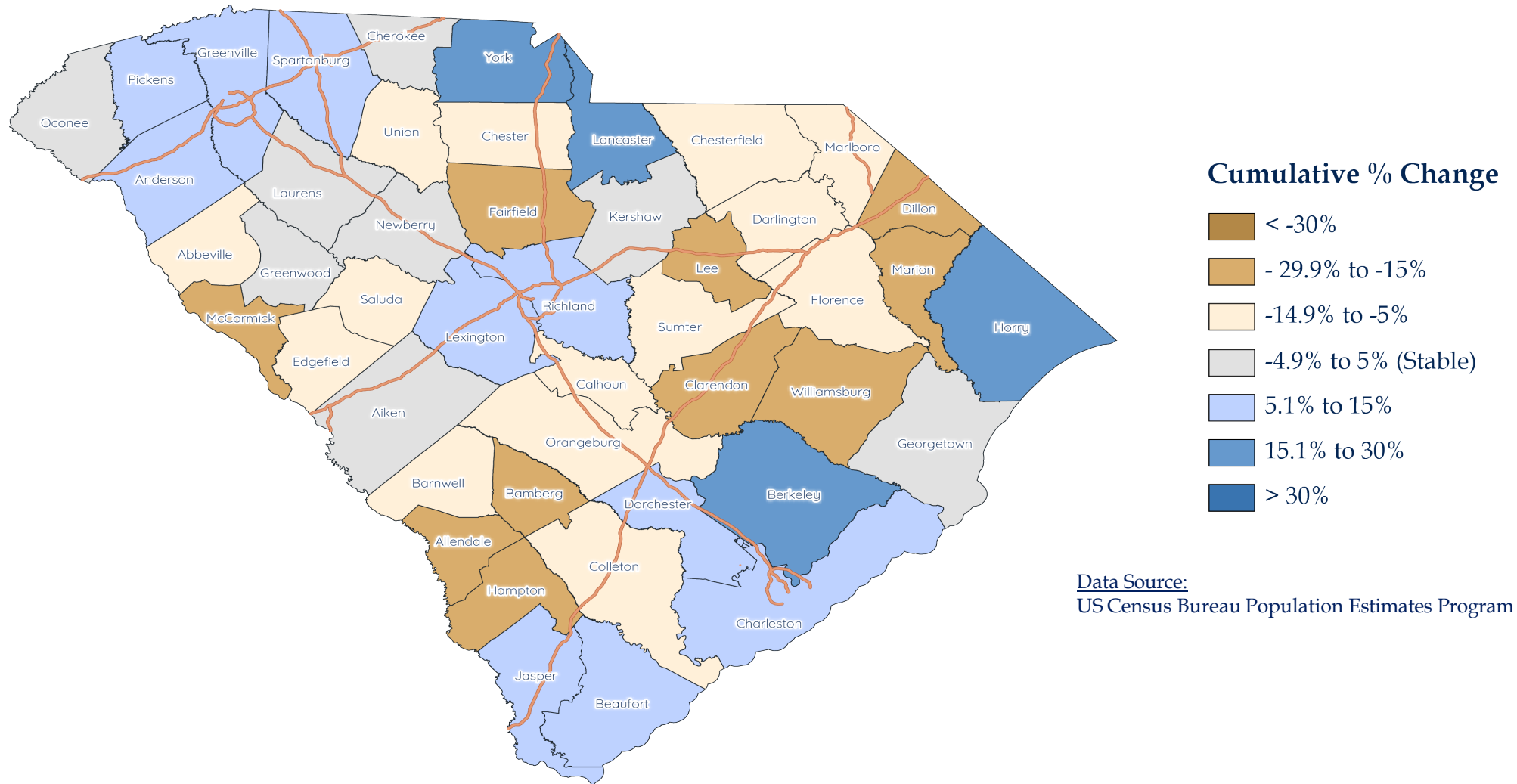
The workforce age population is expected to comprise a smaller percentage of the total SC population; employers may be faced with more demand for goods and services but a smaller pool of workers



Source: US Census Bureau Estimates; RFA Projections

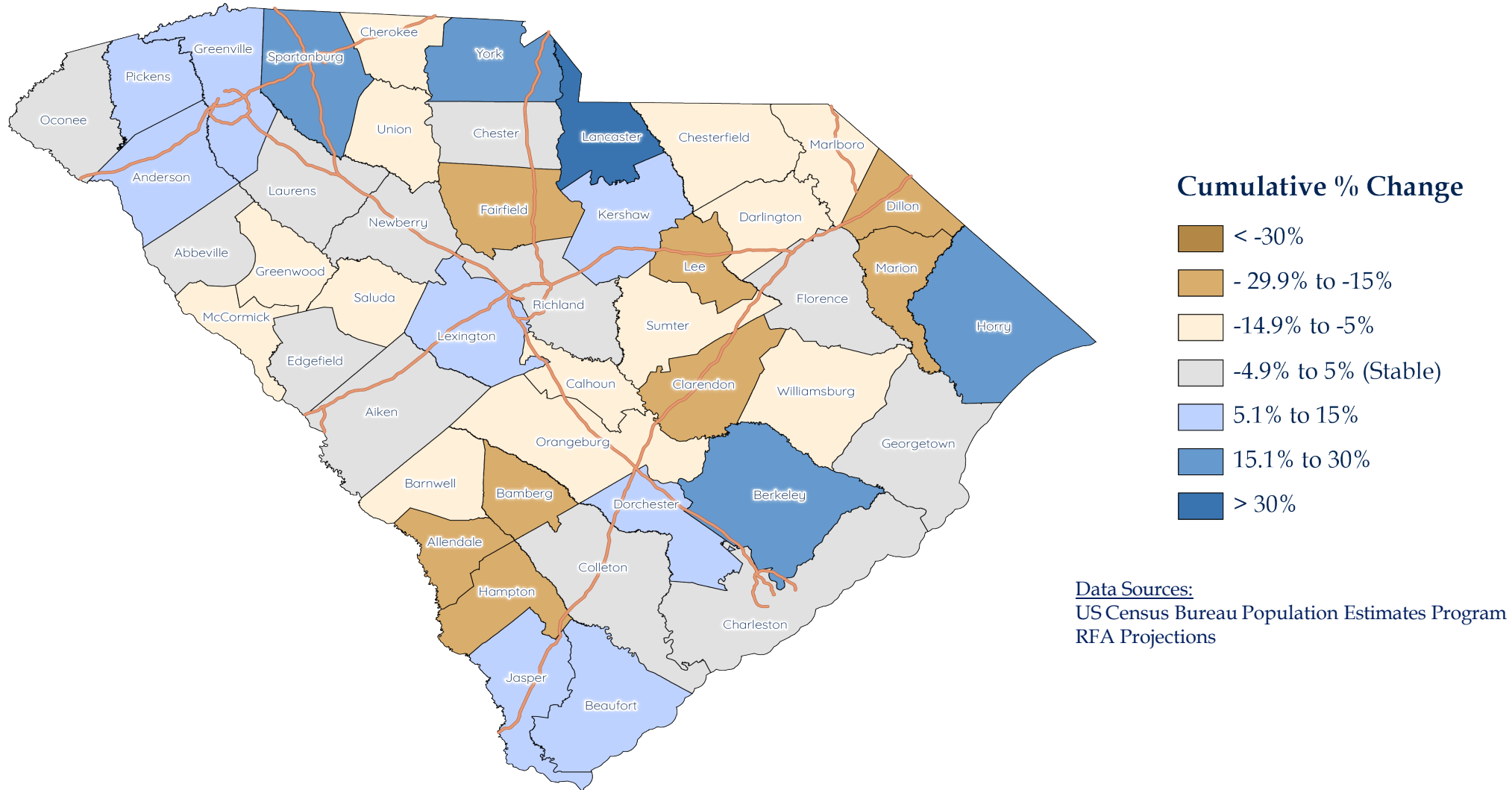
# SC Estimated Workforce Age (18 – 64) Population, 2010 – 2020

## Fourteen counties increased in this age group



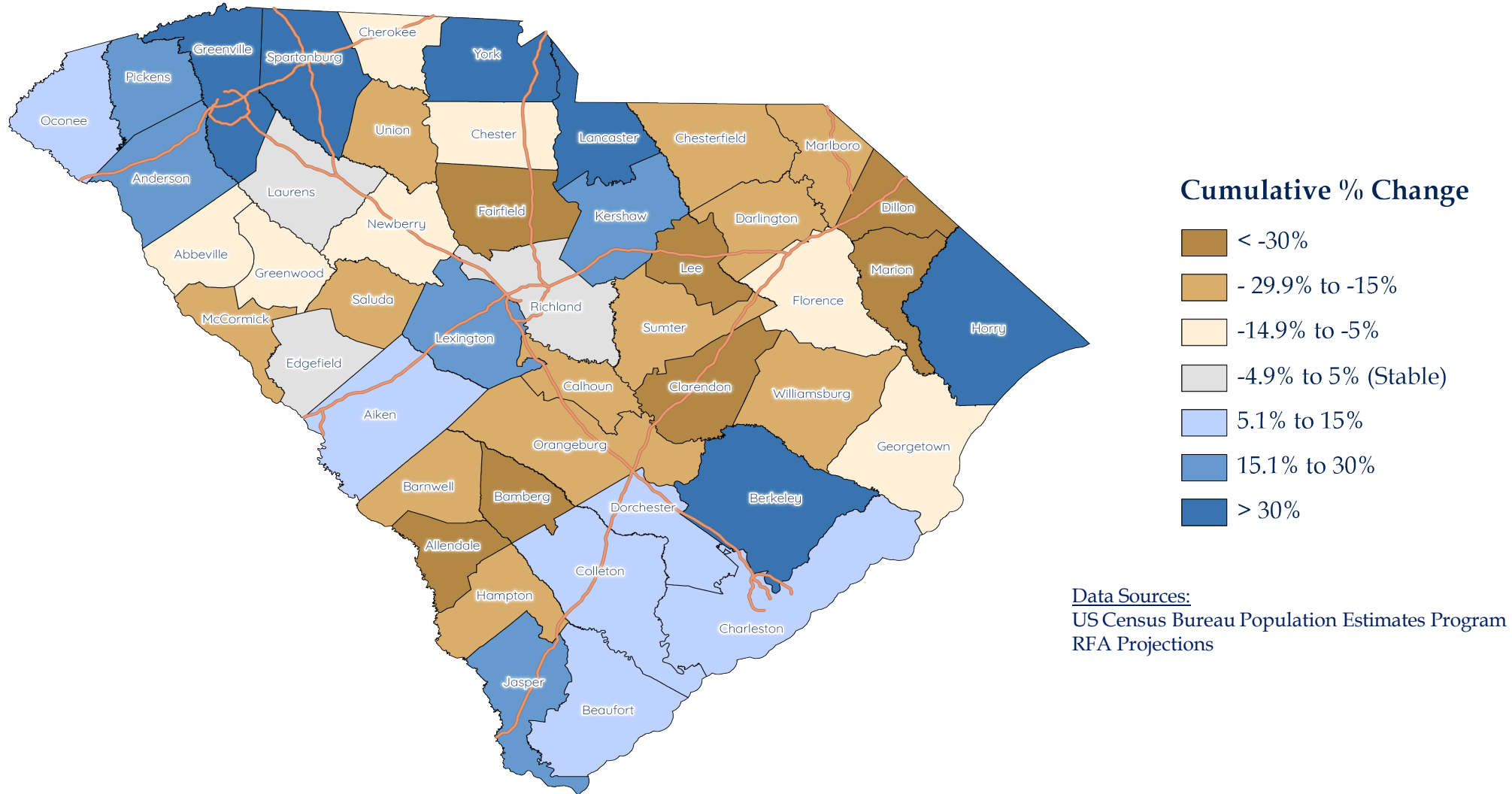
# SC Estimated Workforce Age (18 – 64) Population, 2020 – 2030

## Thirteen counties are projected to increase in this age group



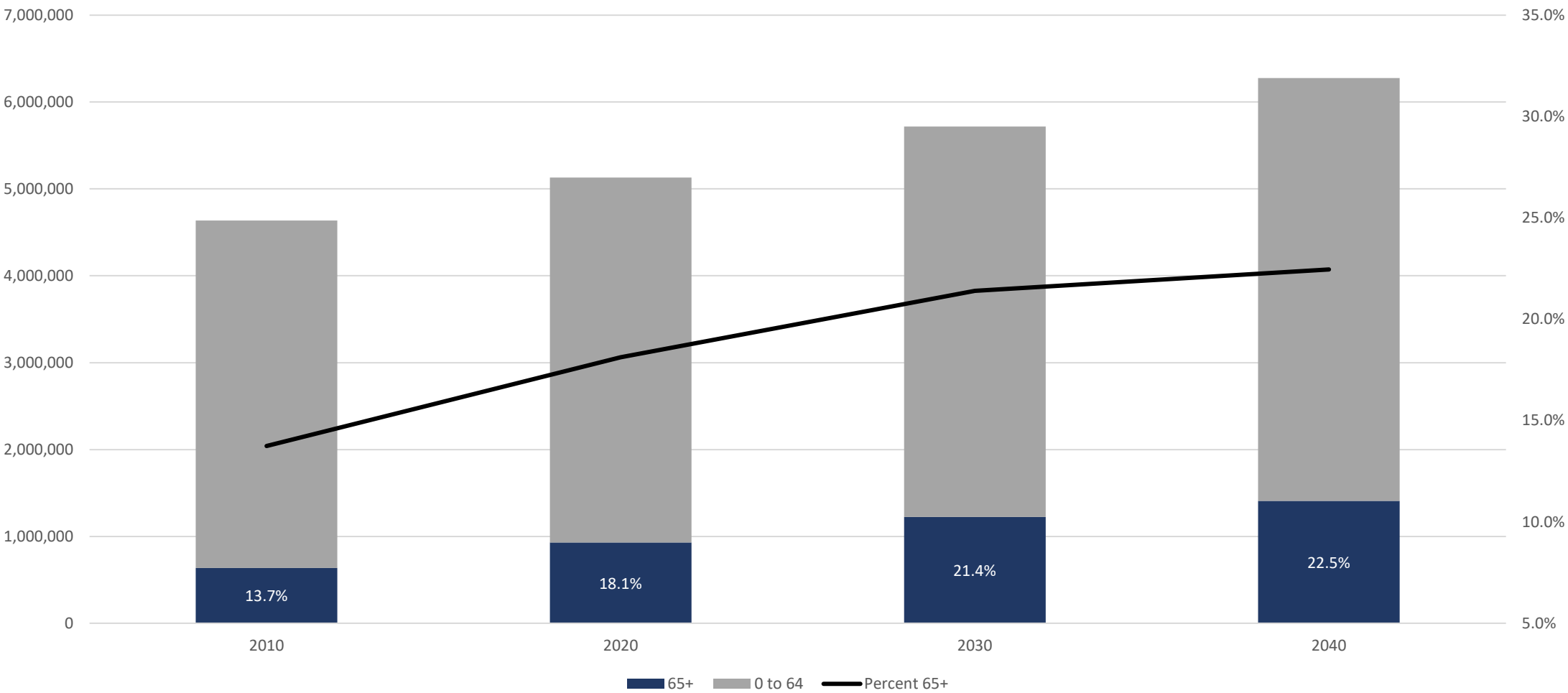
# SC Estimated Workforce Age (18 – 64) Population, 2020 – 2040

## Seventeen counties are projected to increase in this age group



# SC Projected Age 65+ Population

## Projected to increase to over 22% of total population by 2040

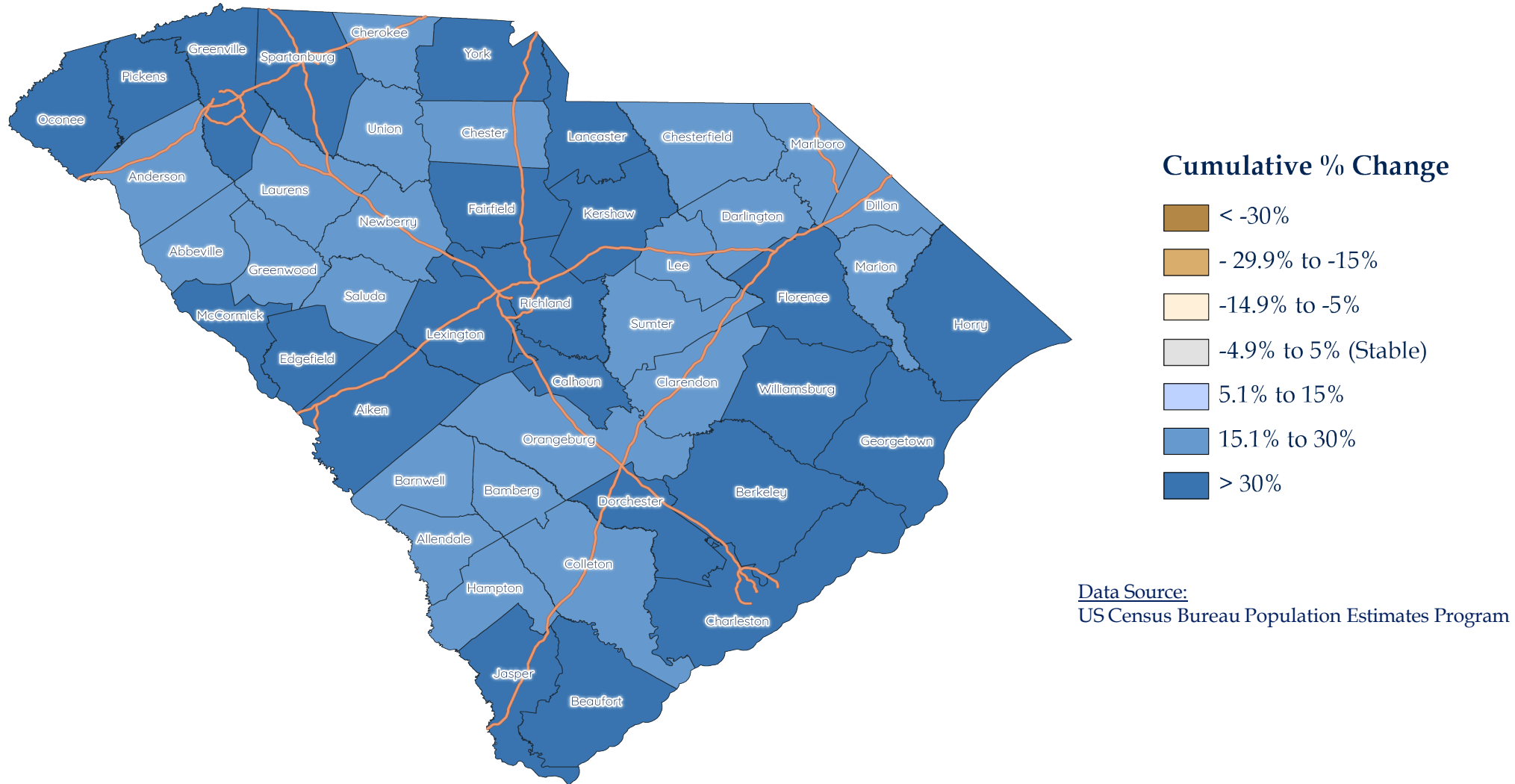


Source: US Census Bureau Estimates; RFA Projections



# SC Estimated Retirement Age (65+) Population, 2010 - 2020

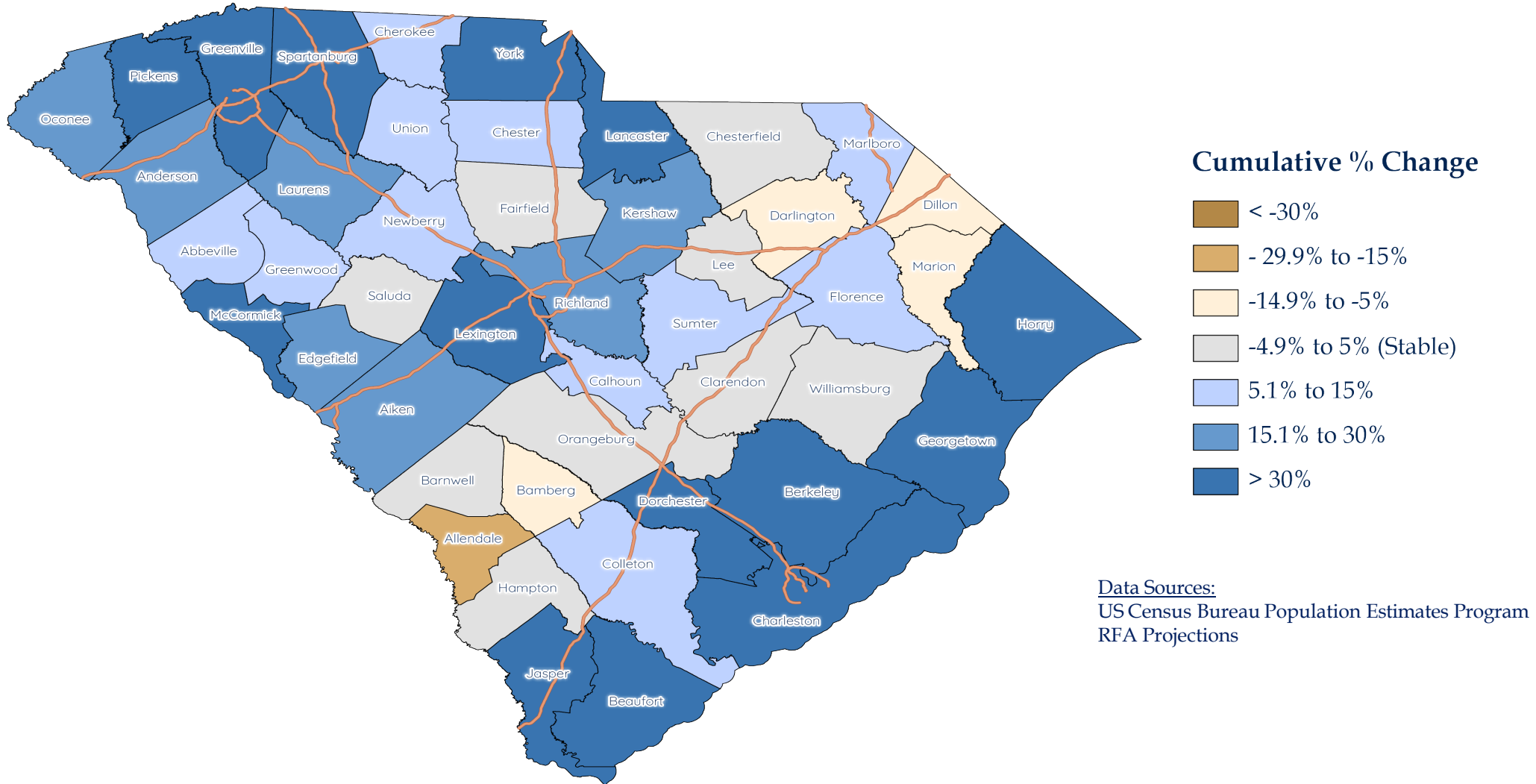
## All counties experienced an increase in this age group





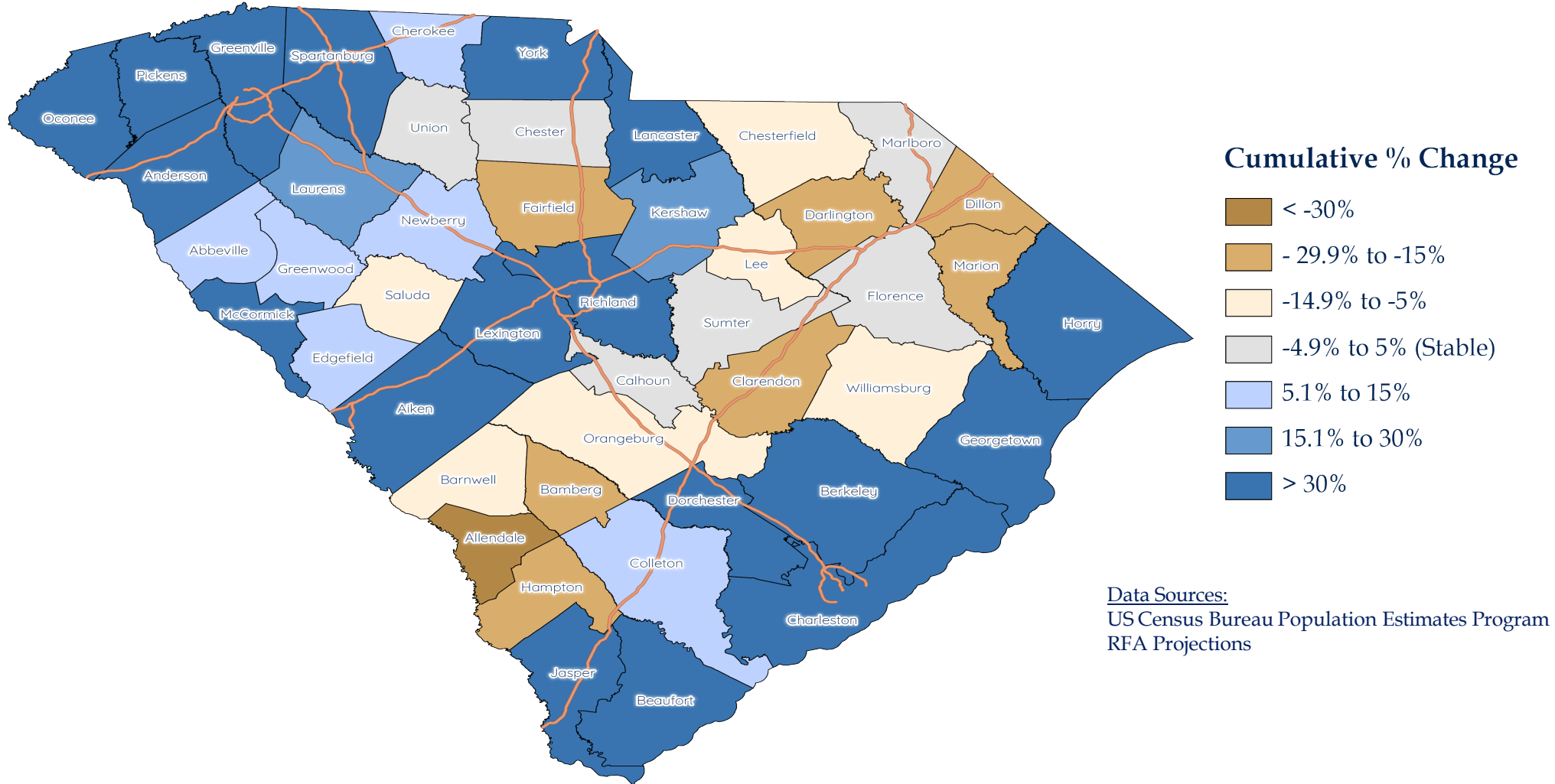
# SC Estimated Retirement Age (65+) Population, 2020 - 2030

## Thirty-two counties projected to increase in this age group

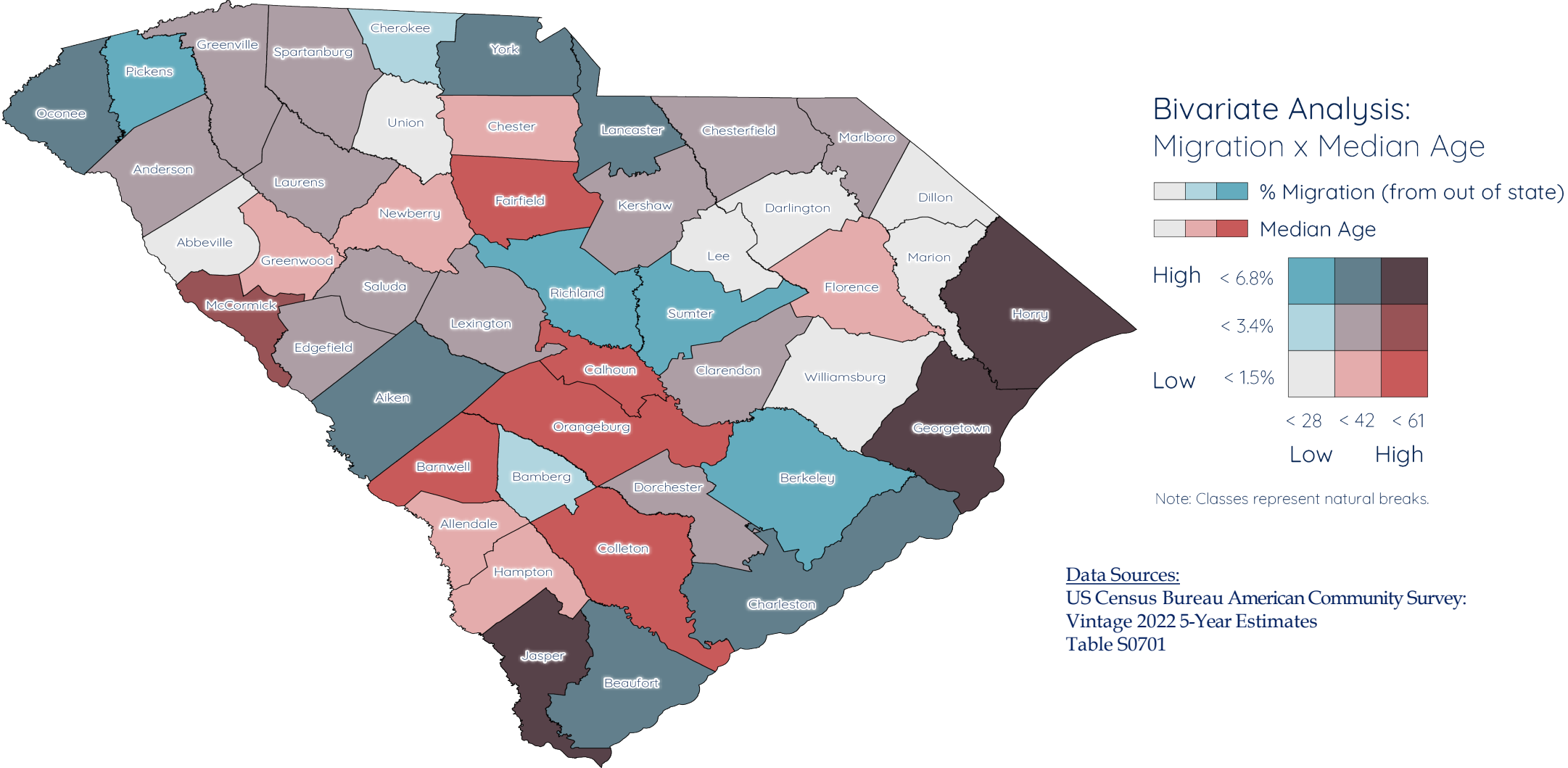


# SC Estimated Retirement Age (65+) Population, 2020 - 2040

## Twenty-Six counties projected to increase in this age group



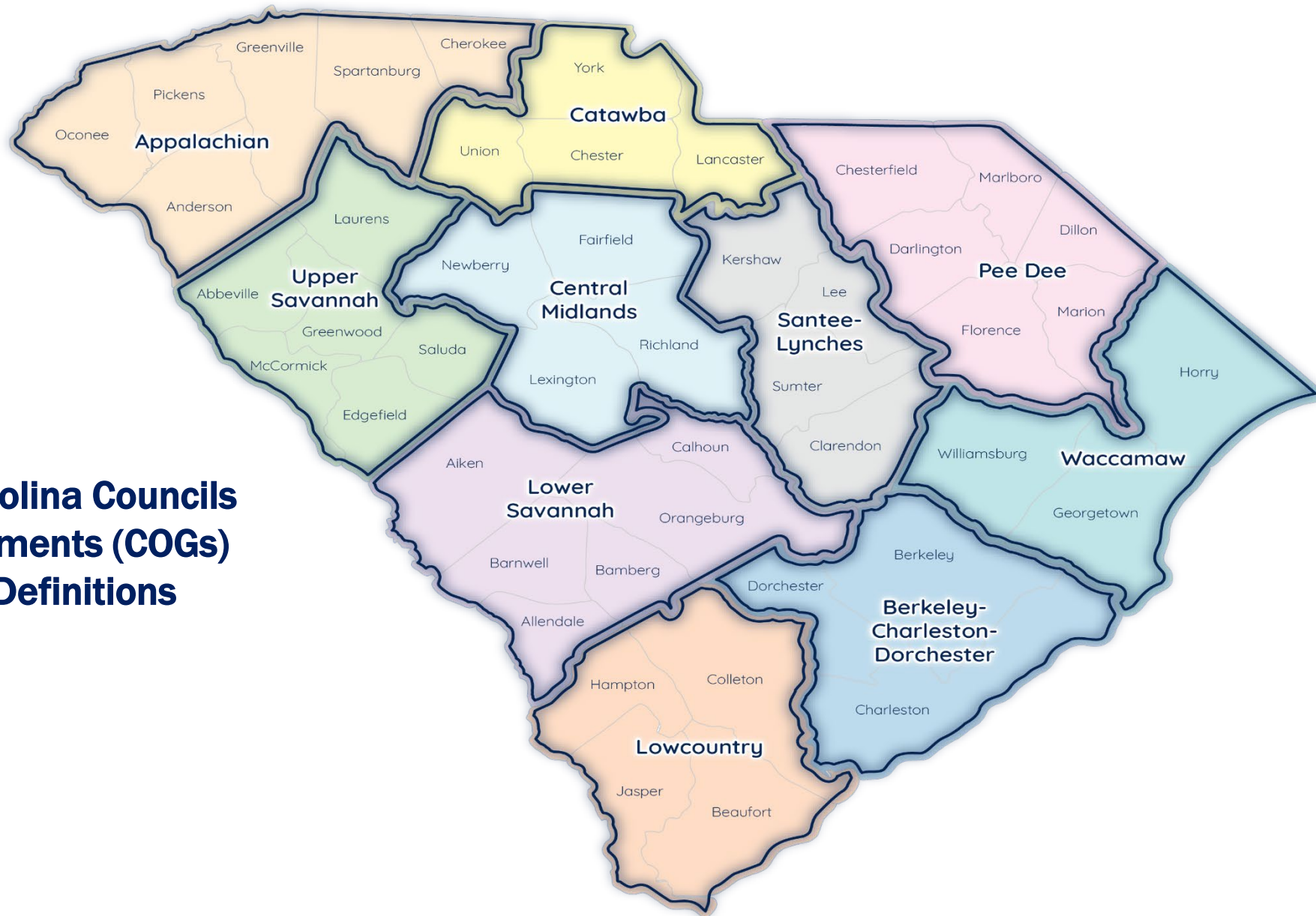
# SC Bivariate Analysis of Population Migration and Age: 2022



# COG and State Population Comparison By Age



## South Carolina Councils of Governments (COGs) Regional Definitions



# Projected Population Change by COG, 2020 to 2040

COG	2020 Population	2030 Projected Population	2030 Change	2030 Percent Change	2040 Projected Population	2040 Change	2040 Percent Change
Appalachian	1,327,511	1,548,227	220,716	17%	1,786,286	458,775	35%
BCD	803,475	912,993	109,518	14%	1,011,883	208,408	26%
Catawba	440,081	528,221	88,140	20%	624,298	184,217	42%
Central Midlands	769,336	816,312	46,976	6%	846,632	77,296	10%
Lowcountry	274,017	306,561	32,544	12%	329,615	55,598	20%
Lower Savannah	309,016	308,082	-934	0%	299,854	-9,162	-3%
PeeDee	326,774	302,419	-24,355	-7%	274,213	-52,561	-16%
Santee Lynches	218,446	211,834	-6,612	-3%	202,312	-16,134	-7%
Upper Savannah	215,307	215,290	-17	0%	210,458	-4,849	-2%
Waccamaw	448,188	569,438	121,250	27%	690,926	242,738	54%

Source: US Census Bureau Population Estimates and RFA Population Projections

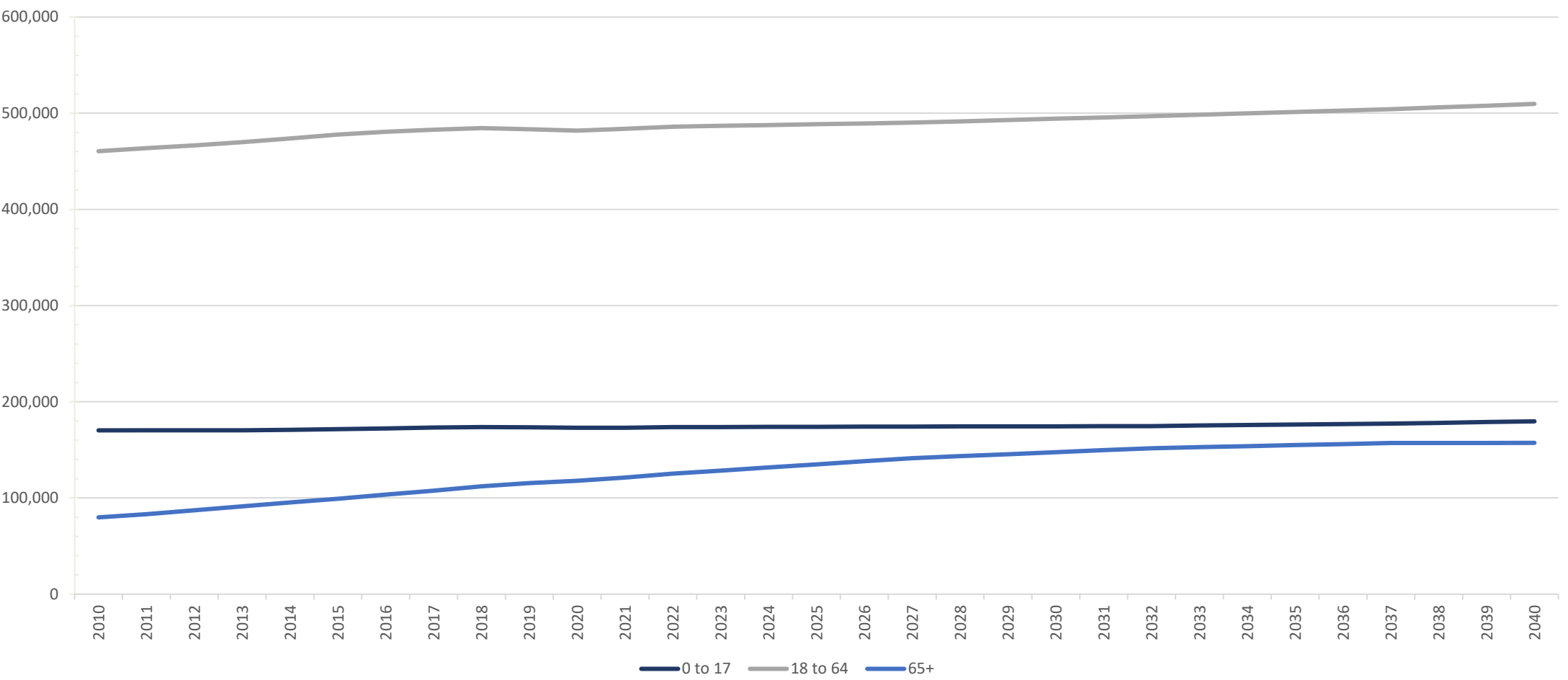


## COGs With a Similar Pattern to the State

- In South Carolina, the 18 to 64 and 65 plus age groups are growing at a similar pace while the 0-17 population is projected to remain steady into the future.
- COGs with similar patterns:
  - Central Midlands



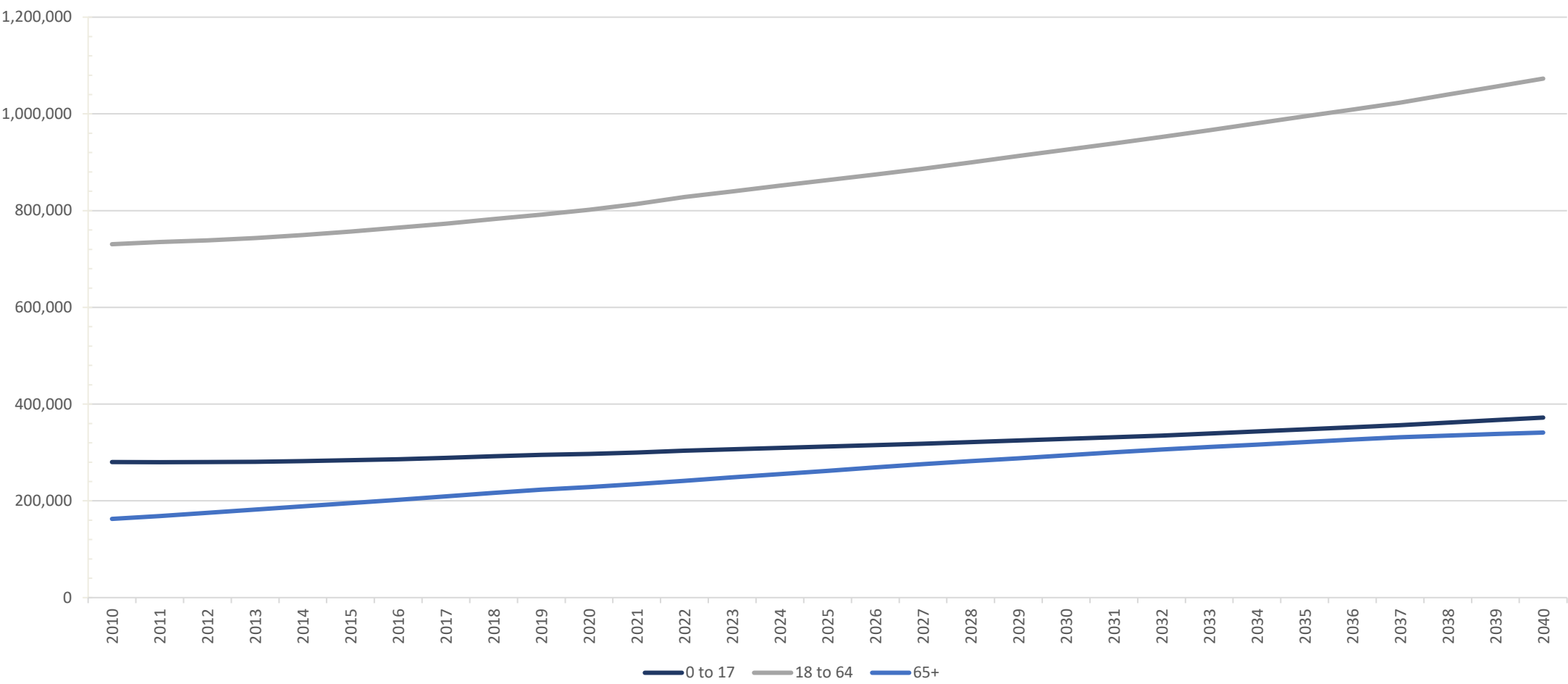
# SC Population by Age Group – Central Midlands



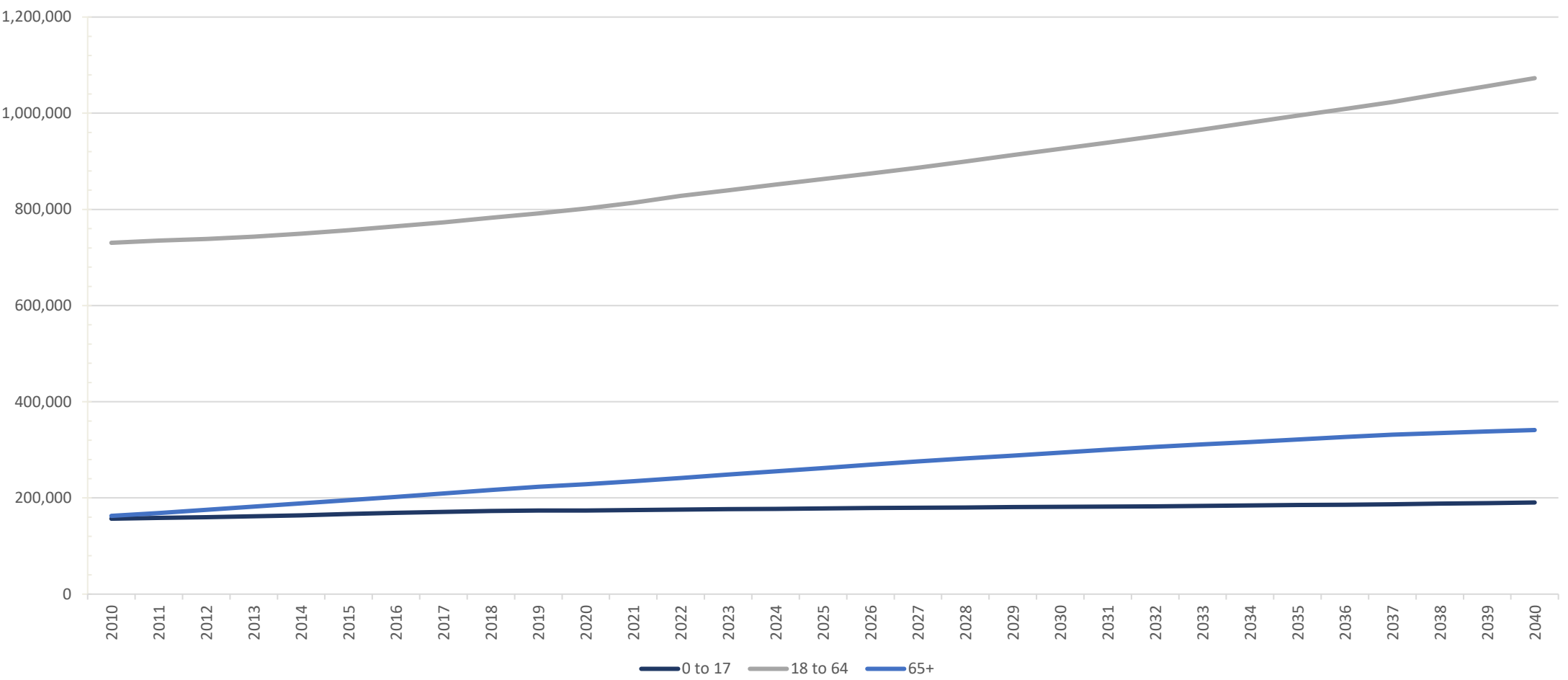
## COGs With a Growing Workforce

- In these areas the 18 to 64 age group is projected to grow more quickly than the 0 to 17 or 65 plus age groups.
- COGs:
  - Appalachia
  - Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester
  - Catawba

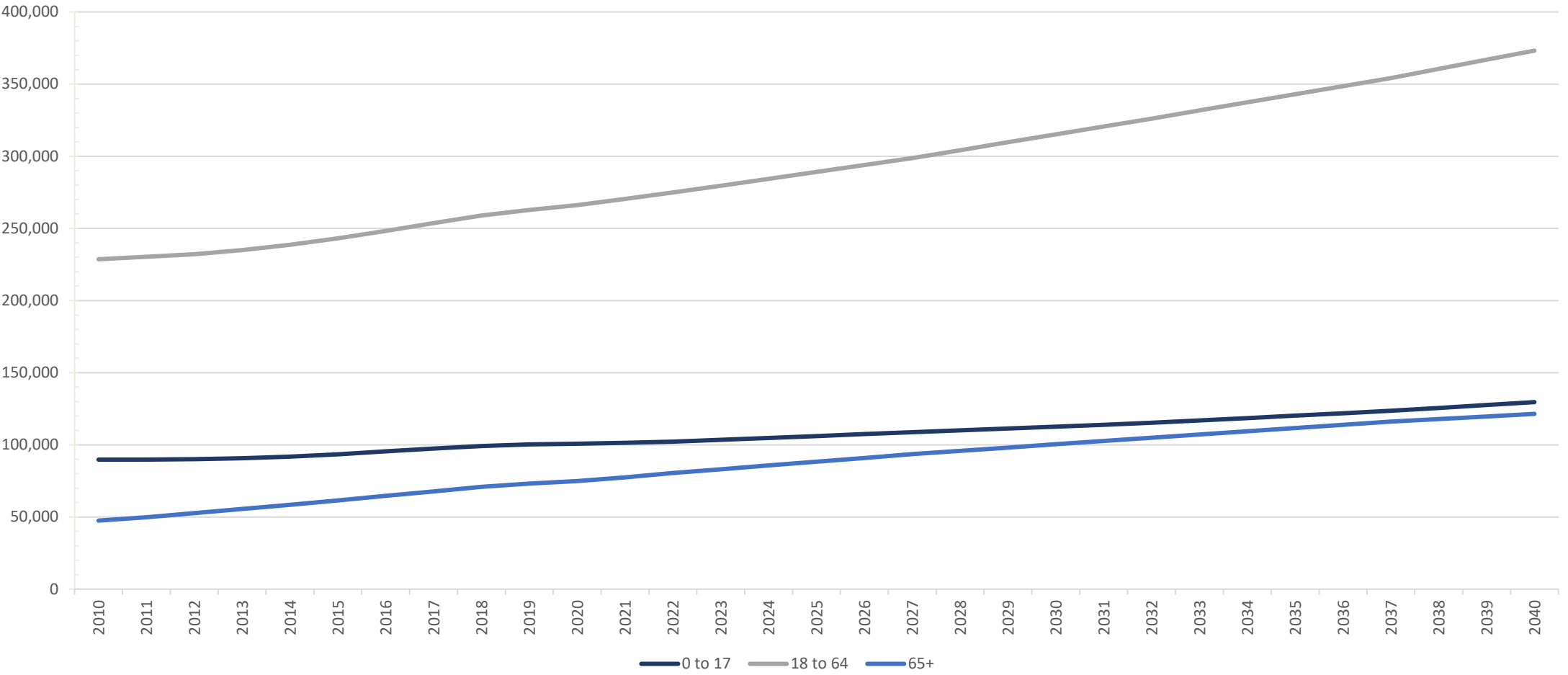
# SC Population by Age Group - Appalachia



# SC Population by Age Group – Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester



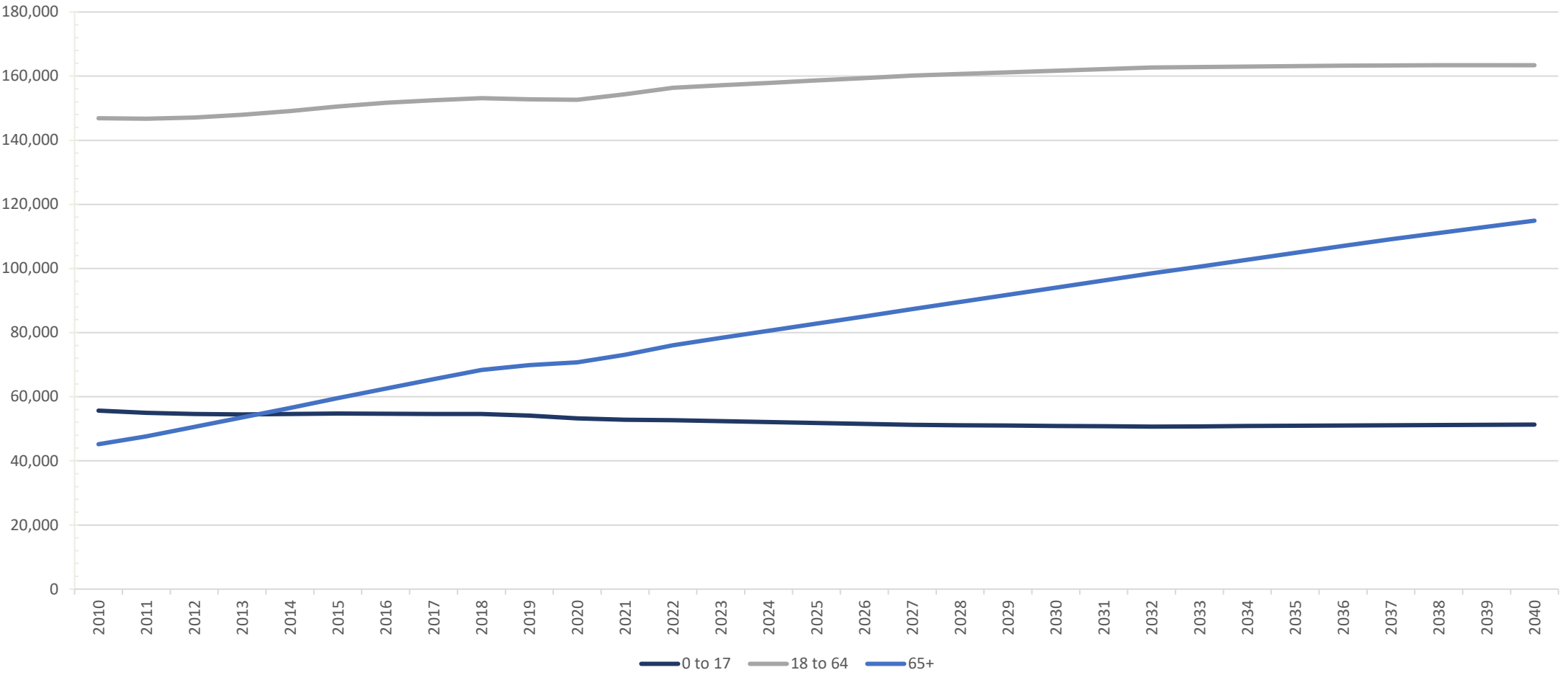
# SC Population by Age Group - Catawba



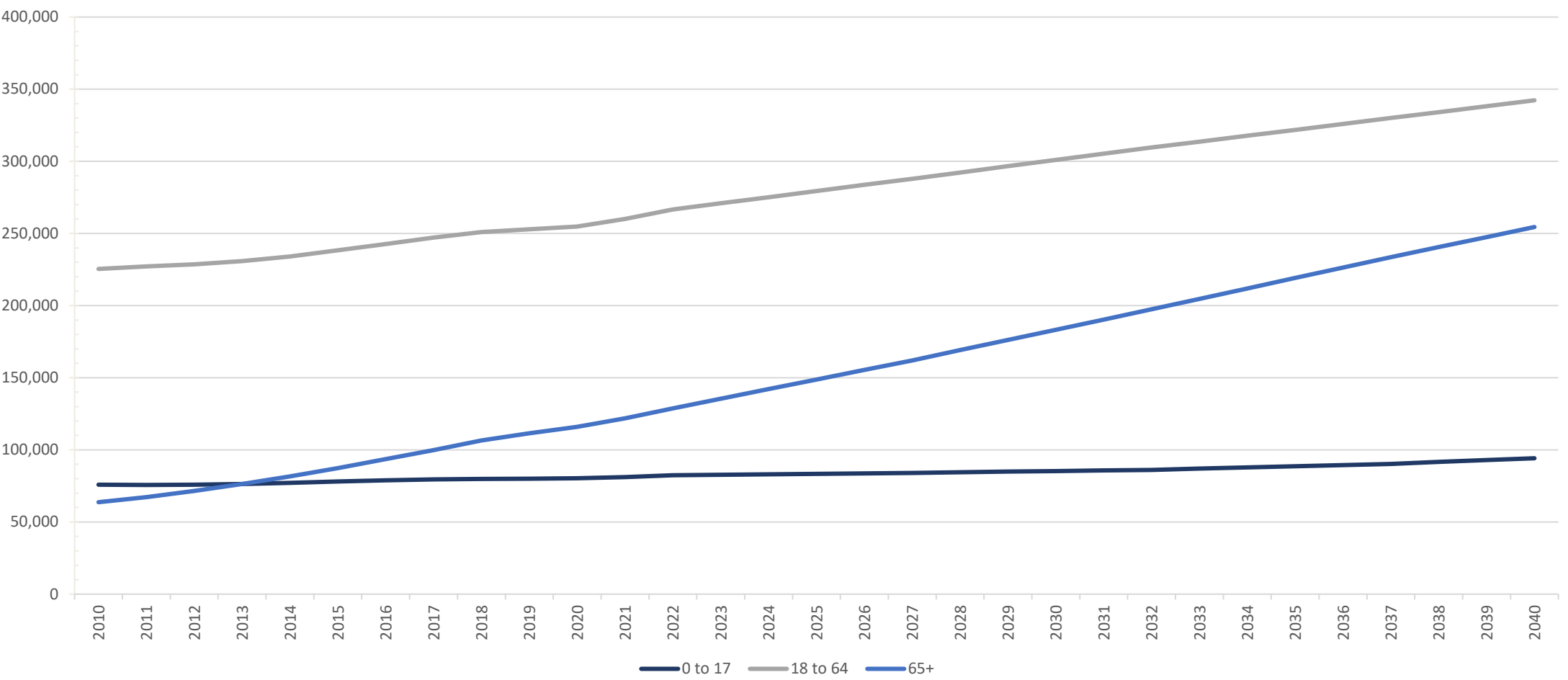
## COGs With a Growing Population Over the Age of 65

- In these areas the number of potentially retired people is projected to grow much faster than the younger student or working age groups.
- COGs:
  - Lowcountry
  - Waccamaw

# SC Population by Age Group - Lowcountry



# SC Population by Age Group - Waccamaw

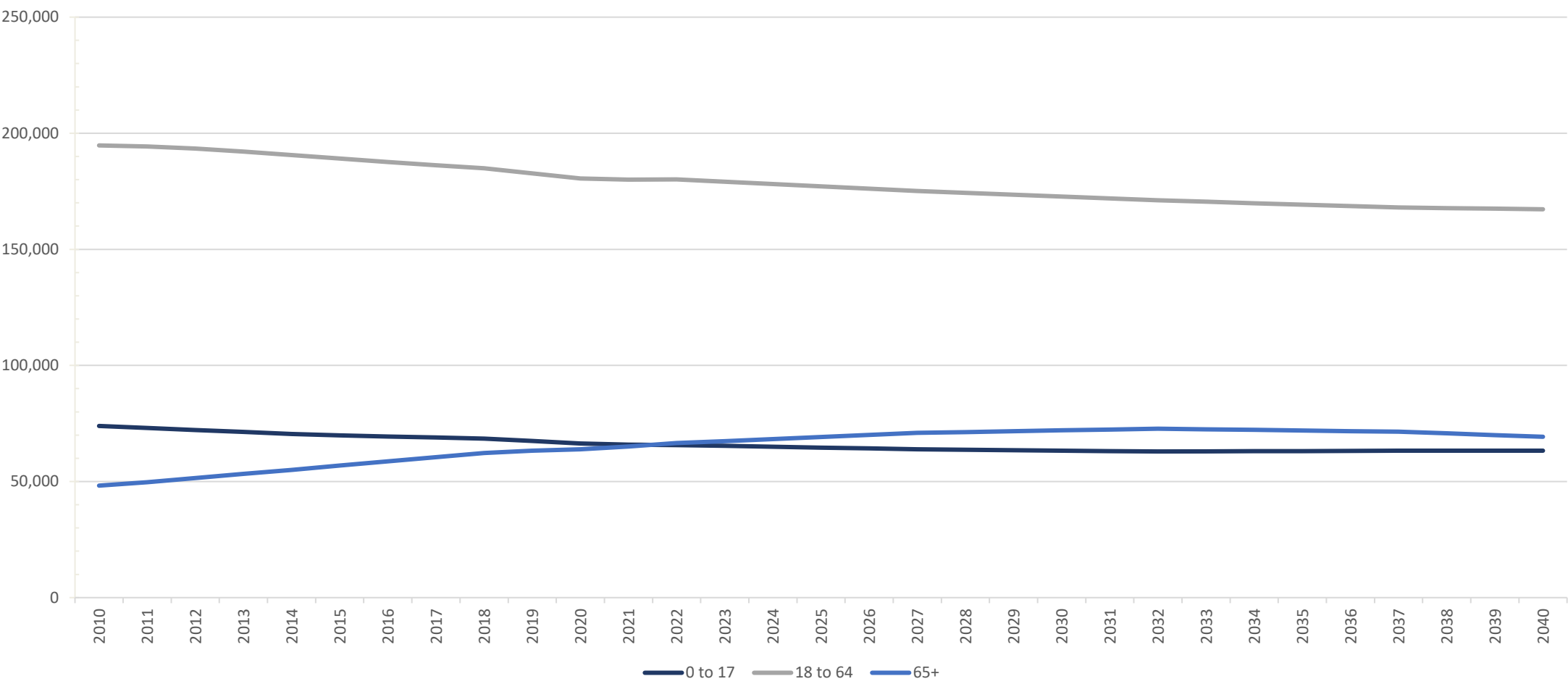




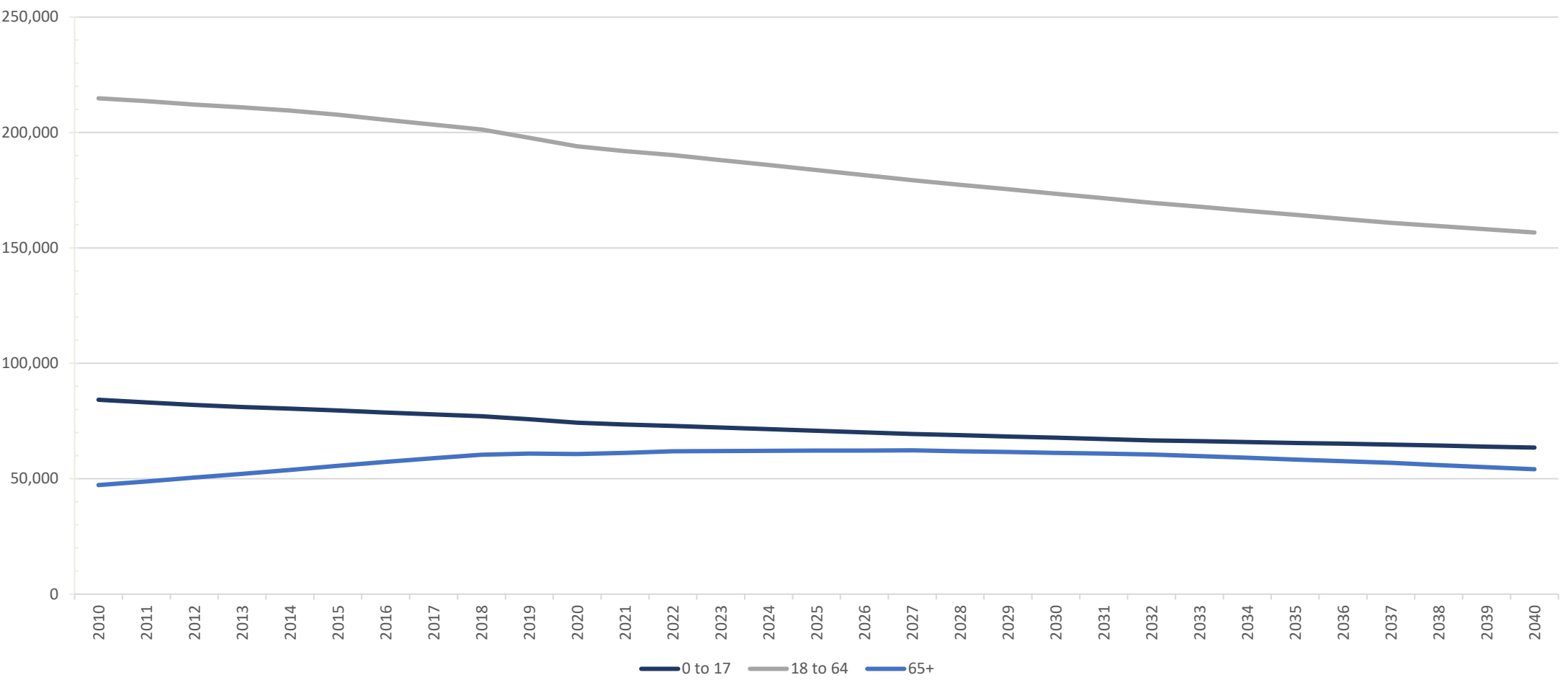
## COGs Declining in Population Across All Age Groups

- The population in these areas is projected to decrease or remain stable across all age groups.
- COGs:
  - Lower Savannah
  - Upper Savannah
  - PeeDee
  - Santee Lynches

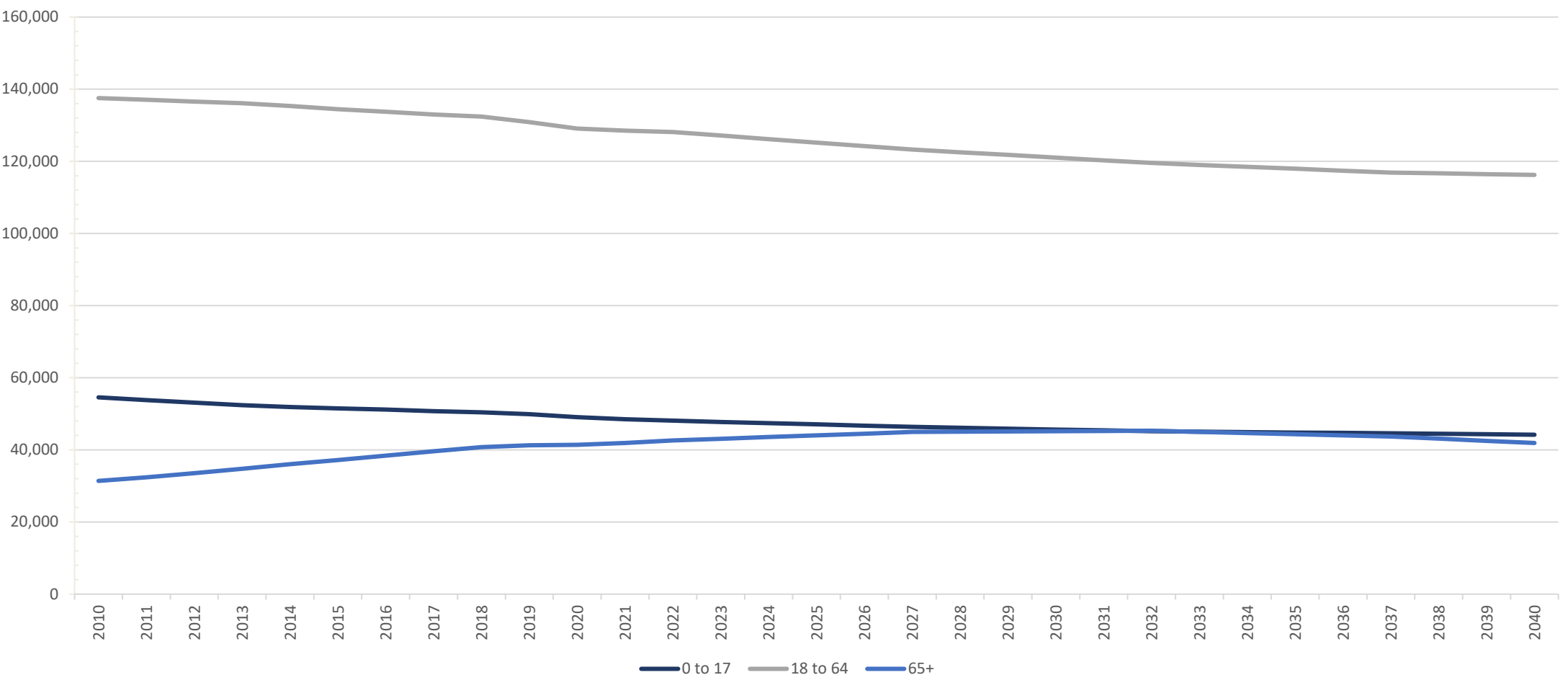
# SC Population by Age Group – Lower Savannah



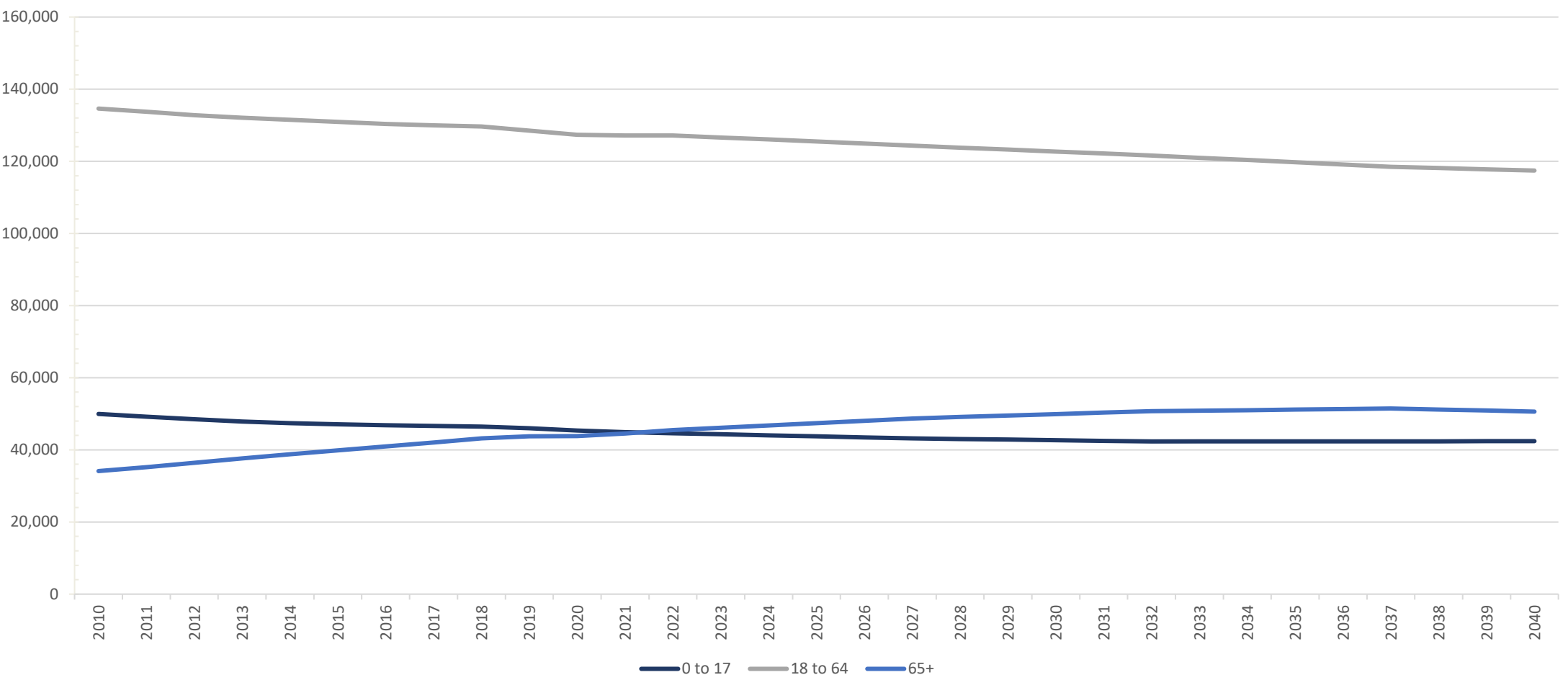
# SC Population by Age Group – Pee Dee



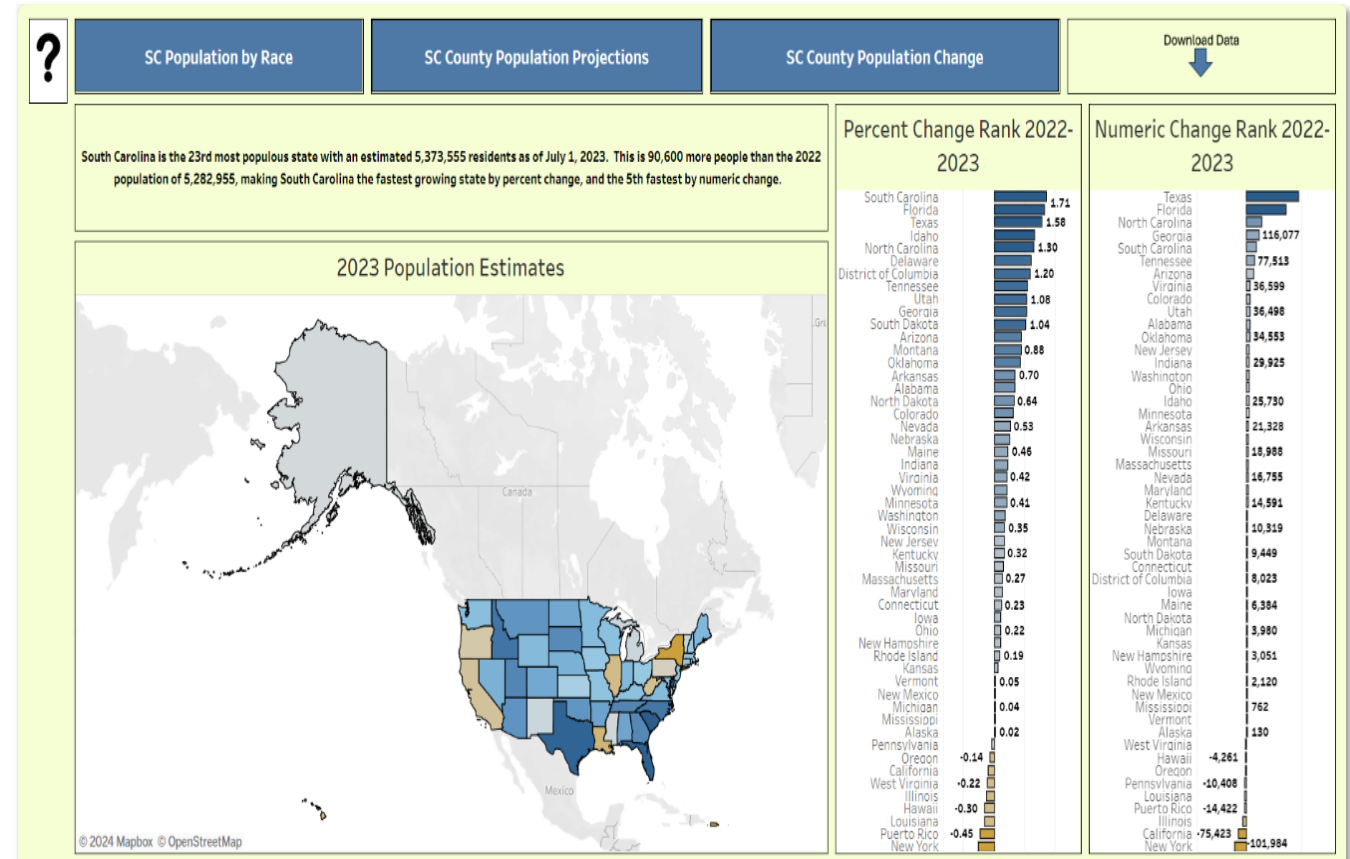
# SC Population by Age Group – Santee Lynches



# SC Population by Age Group – Upper Savannah



- **South Carolina Population Estimates and Projections**
- The South Carolina Census State Data Center at RFA is the U.S. Census Bureau's premier partner in our state for making census data more easily accessible, and for providing guidance in the use of Census Bureau data products.
- [Check out RFA's website to view the dashboard](#)



# Contact Us

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