

# Planning Areas

Charleston County is the third largest county in South Carolina in terms of population. At the time of the 1990 Census, the County was ranked second, behind Greenville County. By 2000, the populations of both Richland and Greenville Counties surpassed that of Charleston County. The County also encompasses almost 1,000 square miles of land and more than 100 square miles of water resources.

At the time of the 2000 Census, there were 78 Census Tracts in Charleston County. These tracts have been combined to form nine planning areas including County West, Coastal Islands West, West Ashley, James Island, the Charleston Peninsula, North Charleston, Ashley Phosphate North, East Cooper and East County. As with every Census, tracts within Charleston County were adjusted based on population trends for the 2000 Census. These changes include the following:

- Tract 24.98 was renamed 24
- Tract 23.98 was renamed 23
- Tract 25 was split into Tracts 25.01 and 25.02
- Tract 26.01 was split into Tracts 26.09 and 26.10
- Tract 1 includes Tracts 1 and 1.99
- Tract 9 includes Tracts 9 and 9.99
- Tract 31.82 was renamed 31.05
- Tract 31.85 was renamed 31.11
- Tract 32 includes Tracts 32.83, 32.84 and 32.85
- Tract 31.03 was split into Tracts 31.12 and 31.13
- Tract 46.06 includes Tracts 46.03 and 46.06

More than 21 percent of the Charleston County population lived in the North Charleston Planning Area in 2000. The West Ashley and East Cooper Planning Areas each were home to over 19 percent of the County-wide population. The East County Planning Area encompassed the smallest percent of the population, just over 1 percent.

There was a marked variation in the racial composition of the planning areas. In the two predominantly rural planning areas, County West and East County, as well as in the North Charleston Area, the majority of the residents were African American. The residents of the seven remaining planning areas were predominantly White. Overall, 62 percent of the County-wide population was White and 34 percent was African American.

The population of Charleston County aged slightly during the 1990's. In 1990, 75 percent of the population was over the age of 18, while in 2000, 76 percent of the population was older than 18. In 2000, 83 percent of the population of the Charleston Peninsula was over the age of 18. This planning area had the highest proportion of population over the age of 18 out of all the Charleston County planning areas. The County West, North Charleston and East County Planning Areas each had the lowest proportion (72 percent) of persons over the age of 18.

**Charleston County Planning Areas, 2000**

<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>2000 Population</b>	<b>Number Difference 1990-2000</b>	<b>Percent Difference 1990-2000</b>
Charleston County West	12,707	1,339	11.8%
Coastal Islands West	16,810	2,516	17.6%
West Ashley	61,197	1,956	3.3%
James Island	33,871	3,902	13.0%
Charleston Peninsula	33,318	-3,222	-8.8%
North Charleston	67,158	-11,399	-14.5%
Ashley Phosphate North	20,263	777	4.0%
East Cooper	59,554	18,435	44.8%
East County	5,091	626	14.0%