



# County of Rockland

## Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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#### **County releases first phase of Population Projections project data** **Increase of 24,000 in Rockland's population by 2020;** **number of seniors 65 and older expected to increase 33% in next decade**

NEW CITY, NY – County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef today announces the release of the first phase of data for the County's Population Projections project. Cornell University's Program on Applied Demographics, in conjunction with the County's Planning Department, has developed population projection figures by age and sex, housing units, households and householders for Rockland from 2005 to the year 2035. The project has resulted in a County-endorsed set of projections for Rockland County, its Towns, Villages, Hamlets and School Districts, informed by recent demographic patterns and local knowledge regarding Rockland's land use and development.

The Population Projections project was accomplished through the cooperation of the project's Projections Review Advisory and Technical Committees, as well as state and regional demographic experts, land-use and transportation planners and officials, and a panel of local real estate and economic development experts.

"The projections data will serve as a vital tool in the future planning for Rockland's municipalities, as well as in the County's own planning efforts," said Vanderhoef. "This valuable data will also enable Rockland's service agencies and organizations to better plan for future service needs."

"It's important to note that these population projections are not associated with the 2010 Census," said Rockland County Demographer and project manager Michael D'Angelo. "However, new data provided through the 2010 Census may be used in the future to update the County's population projections. At the planning level, we are pleased that this project has created another valuable data resource that we now have at our disposal."

Results of the Projections Project indicate that Rockland's population is projected to increase to nearly 320,000 people by 2020. This would be an increase of almost 24,000 people and 8.1% between 2005 and 2020. This projected increase would include an increase of more than 12,000 in the number of seniors 65 years old and over and a 33% increase in that population, from around 36,400 to over 48,000 seniors, between 2005 and 2020. This projected increase would also include a nearly 4,000-person increase in the number of youth under 18 years old and a nearly 5% increase, from about 82,400 to over 86,000 persons, in that population between 2005 and 2020.

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Results also indicate that Rockland's population is projected to increase to over 343,000 people by 2035. This would be an increase of 49,000 people and 16.6% between 2005 and 2035. This projected increase would include a more than 23,300 person rise in the number of seniors 65 years old and over and a 64% increase in that population, from around 36,400 to nearly 60,000 seniors, between 2005 and 2035. This projected increase would also include a more than 16,000-person increase in the number of youth under 18 years old and a more than 19% increase, from 82,400 to over 98,000 persons, in that population between 2005 and 2035.

The County-level data is currently available on the County's website at [www.rocklandgov.com](http://www.rocklandgov.com) (click on "County Offices", then "Departments", then "Planning", then "Population Projections" (<http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/planning/PopulationProjections.htm>), with the sub-County-level data expected to be available online by September.

Forty percent of the \$50,000 cost for the project was funded through the NY Metropolitan Transportation Council's Unified Planning & Work Program (UPWP). A portion of the County's staff time on the project was also reimbursed.

These County-level results are not predictions of future population and housing size and composition, but rather are projections illustrating the impact of recent rates of population change, housing change and demographic characteristics shares. For this phase of the project, Rockland's population has been projected using a cohort-component model, which determines population change based on current life expectancy and survival rates, fertility rates and rates of net migration.

Although this project has provided results to 2035 for the purposes of long-range planning, it is recommended that data users exercise caution when working with data from the outer limit of the time horizon.

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