Chapter 5. Demographic Profiles of the Target Populations

Long Island

Introduction

This chapter presents demographic characteristics of the three target populations: older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low income, with the ultimate objective of identifying areas of the greatest need – where large numbers of the target populations live and also where the highest densities of these populations are located. Analysis is presented through tables and maps, using demographic data at the county, place, zip code, and tract level from the 2010 US Census, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, and 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-year estimates. Since some individuals may fall into more than one target population, the total numbers are not additive.

Consistent with the other elements of this study, the demographic analysis is based on the NYMTC region as well as three subregions:

- λ New York City – data is presented for New York City as a whole and for each of the five boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island. The analysis for New York City is based on Census tracts and ZIP Code tabulation areas for some presentation purposes.

- λ Lower Hudson Valley – data is presented for the entire Lower Hudson Valley region as well as individually for Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties. Data for the Lower Hudson Valley is shown by Census tract, but aggregated by Census place for analytical and presentation purposes.

- λ Long Island – data is presented for the whole of Long Island as well as individually for Suffolk and Nassau counties. Similar to the Lower Hudson Valley subregion, Long Island data is also shown by Census tract and aggregated by Census place for analytical and presentation purposes.

Demographically, each subregion within the wider NYMTC region has unique characteristics. NYC has very high densities of the target populations, but the region also has extensive public transportation, much of which is accessible. On Long Island, the South Shore has much higher need than the North Shore, and densities of target populations are highest in the towns west of Brookhaven.

Definitions and Methodology

For purposes of the analysis, the target populations have been defined as follows:

- λ Older Adults – Individuals 65 years of age and older from the 2010 Census

- λ Persons with Disabilities – The American Community Survey (ACS) replaced the decennial long form so that disability data was not collected in the 2010 Census. For purposes of this analysis, the Census American Community Survey 2009-2011 3-year estimates "Disability status of the civilian noninstitutionalized population" were utilized. In 2008 the questions on disability were changed, resulting in ACS disability data being

available only at the county level since a larger sample, which is collected over five years instead of three, is required for the smaller geographies of Census tracts and block groups.

The ACS question, found in 2008 and later, concerning disability covers six disability types:

- **Hearing difficulty** - deaf or having serious difficulty hearing.

- **Vision difficulty** - blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses.

- **Cognitive difficulty** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions.

- **Ambulatory difficulty** Having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

- **Self-care difficulty** Having difficulty bathing or dressing.

- **Independent living difficulty** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping.

Respondents who report to have one of the six disability types listed above are considered to have a disability. In 2013, the first 5-year estimates on the disability status of individuals will be produced for all geographies including Census tracts and block groups – that data is currently not available.[1]

Since the disability question was changed to focus on the impact certain conditions might have on basic functioning, the Census warns that data after 2008 should not be compared to previous years or the disability data from the 2000 Census.

λ   Persons Below Poverty – As with the disability data, the 2010 Census did not contain information on poverty. Instead the American Community Survey 2007-2011 5 year estimates table S1701: "Poverty status in the past 12 months" was utilized. The Census Bureau created definitions of poverty status based on income and the number of people per household. The data was not available at the block group level so tracts were substituted. Note that the 2009 Plan utilized ratio of income to poverty level, this update uses poverty status in order to align with NYMTC's RTP 2015-2040: Environmental Justice Assessment Appendix.

The demographic characteristics for each of the 10 NYMTC counties have been analyzed in terms of both the number and density (persons per square mile) of the target populations. Data is shown by Census tracts and by zip codes for New York City and by municipality for the Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island subregions. Data is presented graphically in maps and in table format.

Tracts vary in size, both geographically and in population. Therefore, two maps per target population were created – one that shows the absolute number of individuals living in the tract, and another displaying the density of the population, allowing differentiation between these separate factors. For example, a large geographic area will dilute the density of a large population, while a smaller population spread over smaller geographic area will have a higher

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[1] Source: http://www.census.gov/people/disability/methodology/acs.html

density. Thus the two separate maps, when viewed together, help give a more accurate view of conditions in each county than one map alone.

The maps show Census tract data and zip codes, with demographic data summarized in a series of tables. This data is aggregated by zip code for New York City and by Census place for the Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island, where available, and highlight the zip codes or municipalities with the highest density and number of members of the target populations. Given the large population size and density in NYC, Census zip code tabulation areas were used to identify significant locations within each borough, providing an easily recognizable geographic unit for readers. For Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island, aggregating by municipality is logical given population sizes and distributions, but, like disability data and poverty data, all place data is not available.

Long Island

True to its name, Long Island is 118 miles long from New York Harbor to Montauk Point and from 12 to 23 miles wide, with the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens taking up 13 percent of its western end, and Nassau and Suffolk counties making up its remaining 1,200 square miles. The East End of Suffolk County nearly reaches the eastern edge of Connecticut. This section describes the Long Island subregion of Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Population – The Long Island subregion contains 2.83 million people. From 2000 to 2010, the subregion grew by 2.8 percent. Long Island contains two cities, both of which are in Nassau County, 13 towns, and 96 villages.

Changes in Population – In 1900, Long Island contained just over 130,000 people, the lowest population of the three subregions. Population nearly doubled from 1920 to 1930, and by 1950, the area's population surpassed that of the Lower Hudson Valley (LHV). Population doubled again from 1950 to 1960, up to nearly 2 million, reflecting the suburbanization that occurred after World War II. The region's growth slowed significantly from 1970 to 2000 growing by only 7.3 percent over that time. As shown in Figure 5-1, population in both counties increased since 2000, for a current total of over 2.8 million.

Figure 5-1   Population Change by County, Long Island

	2000	2010	Change	% Change
Nassau	1,334,544	1,339,532	4,988	0.4%
Suffolk	1,419,369	1,493,350	73,981	5.0%
Long Island	2,753,913	2,832,882	78,969	2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Population Density – Long Island has a population density of approximately 2,360 people per square mile, which is around the same density as that of Westchester County. Nassau County population density is 4,650 people per square mile which is higher than Suffolk County at 1,637 people per square mile.

Population Age – Older adults make up 14 percent of the population, which is on par with state and national averages, and 62 percent of the population falls in the 18-64 age range.

Income – With Nassau at $95,823 and Suffolk at $87,187 per year, Long Island has the highest median income of the subregions. Only 6 percent of the population has been classified as living below the poverty level, which is less than half the national average.

Employment – Long Island is home to 1.37 million workers, which accounts for half the population. More than 40% of workers are in the management, business, science, and arts occupations, while another 27 percent work in sales and office. Service jobs account for 16 percent of employment.

Target Populations

Target populations as a percent of total population show that the subregion has a lower proportion of both persons with disabilities and persons below poverty than the country and the state do. For older adults, Long Island matches the state percentage.

Figure 5-2   Target Population by County, Long Island

	Total Population	Older Adults (65+)	Percent Older Adults	Persons with Disabilities	Percent with Disability	Persons Below Poverty	Percent Below Poverty
Nassau County	1,339,532	204,681	15%	115,027	9%	68,703	5%
Suffolk County	1,493,350	201,793	14%	130,131	9%	83,759	6%
Long Island	2,832,882	406,474	14%	245,158	9%	152,462	6%
NY State	19,378,102	2,617,943	14%	2,091,270	11%	2,650,166	14%
USA	308,745,538	40,267,984	13%	37,188,115	12%	40,917,513	14%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-year
estimates, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Nassau County

Sitting between Queens and Suffolk County, Nassau County has high population density and exhibits higher need than its neighbor, Suffolk County.

Population – From 2000 to 2010, the population of Nassau County increased by 0.4 percent. In 2000, Nassau County's population of 1.3 million was about 85,000 lower than Suffolk, and by 2010, that difference nearly doubled to over 150,000 (Suffolk grew by 5%).

Changes in Population – Nassau County contained nearly 55,500 people in 1900, with the county experiencing rapid growth during the next few decades. From 1920 to 1930, population increased 140 percent and from 1950 to 1960, another 93 percent. Population reached an all-time high of 1.43 million in 1970, after which population decreased to current levels.

Population Density – For the five counties comprising the Long Island and LHV subregions, Nassau County has the highest population density at 4,650 people per square mile. The county measures 287 square miles.

Population Age – Nassau County has the highest median age of all 10 counties at 41.1 years, which is 3.1 years higher than New York State's median age. Thus it follows that Nassau County also has the highest percentage of older adults in the NYMTC region at 15 percent. Another 59 percent of the population falls between the ages of 18-64.

Income – Nassau County has the second highest median income of the 10 counties at $95,823, more than$3,000 higher than the highest median income in Putnam County. Five percent of its residents live below poverty.

Employment – Sixty-five percent of the population is in the labor force. Twenty-seven percent work in sales and office, 16 percent in service occupations, and the highest amount, 43 percent, have jobs in management, business, science, and arts occupations.

Older Adults

Nassau County is home to more than 204,681 older adults. Figure 5-3 shows the highest densities of older adults by census place. Great Neck Plaza and North Lynbrook have the highest densities of older adults.
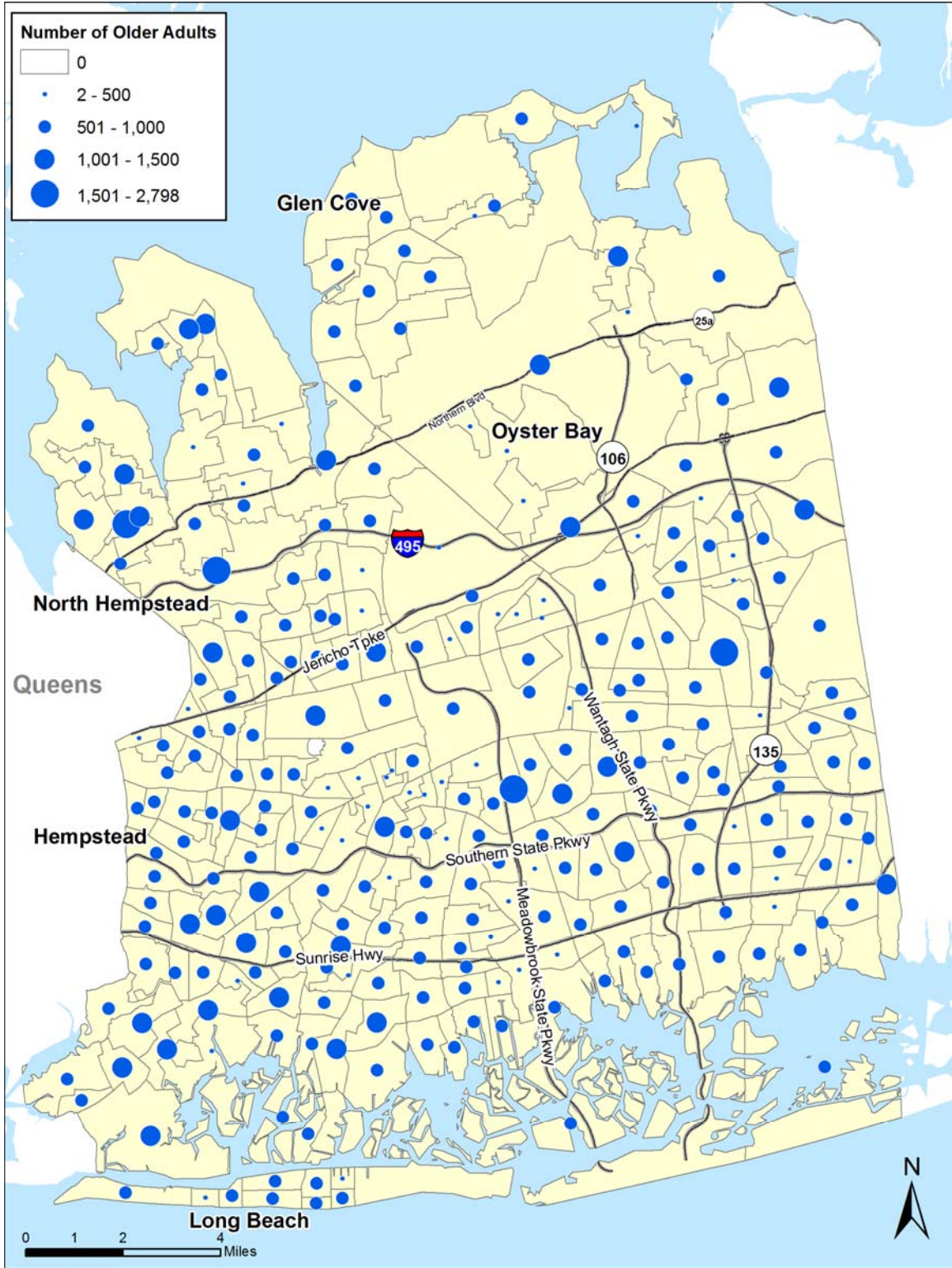
Figure 5-3   Older Adults by Census Place – Nassau County

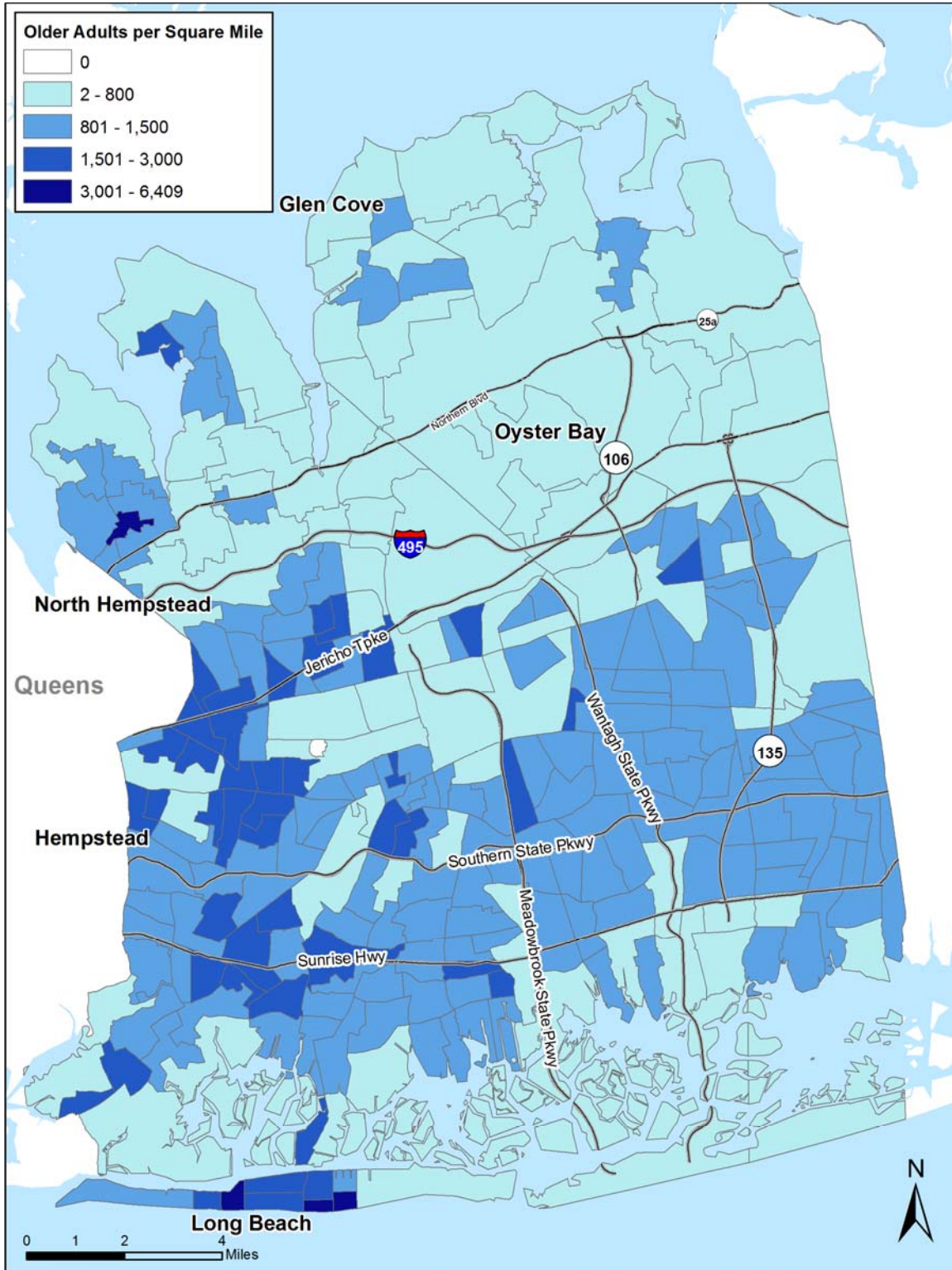| Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Older Adults (65+)	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS				
Levittown	6.8	51,881	6,963	1,019
East Meadow	6.3	38,132	6,404	1,012
Hicksville	6.8	41,547	6,292	924
Long Beach	2.2	33,275	5,349	2,484
Oceanside	5.1	32,109	5,160	1,009
HIGHEST DENSITY OF OLDER ADULTS				
Great Neck Plaza	0.3	6,707	2,051	6,570
North Lynbrook	0.1	793	234	2,704
Long Beach	2.2	33,275	5,349	2,484
South Floral Park	0.1	1,764	230	2,396
Williston Park	0.6	7,287	1,195	1,910

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Figure 5-4 shows older adults by number per tract and Figure 5-5 shows the population by density per square mile. The numbers map shows older adults throughout North Hempstead and Hempstead and also in the southern portions of Oyster Bay. The density map shows that the highest concentrations are generally along the Queens border.

Figure 5-4   Number of Older Adults (65+) by Tract – Nassau County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Figure 5-5   Older Adults (65+) per Square Mile by Tract – Nassau County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
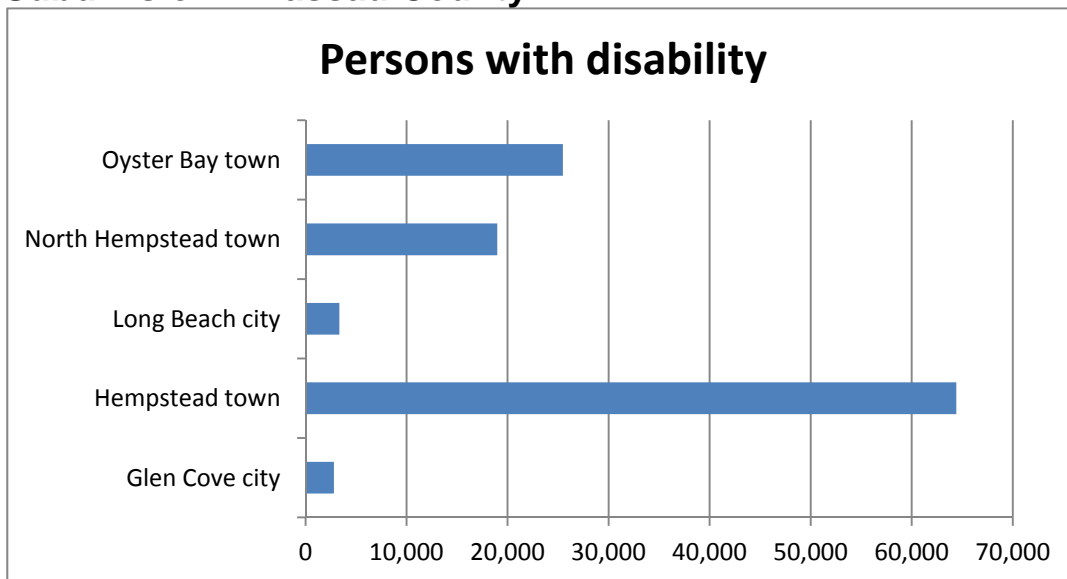
Persons with Disabilities

Less than 10 percent of the population of Nassau County has disabilities, with 115,027 as the estimate.

Figure 5-6   Persons with Disabilities by Census County Subdivision – Nassau County

Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Persons with Disabilities	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES				
Hempstead town	121.2	759,757	64,410	531
Oyster Bay town	104.3	293,214	25,475	244
North Hempstead town	52.7	226,322	18,974	360
Long Beach city	2.2	33,275	3,354	1,560
Glen Cove city	6.8	26,964	2,814	413
HIGHEST DENSITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES				
Long Beach city	2.2	33,275	3,354	1560
Hempstead town	121.2	759,757	64,410	531
Glen Cove city	6.8	26,964	2,814	1
North Hempstead town	52.7	226,322	18,974	360
Oyster Bay town	104.3	293,214	25,475	244

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-year estimates

Figure 5-7 Number of Persons with Disabilities by Census County Subdivision – Nassau County

Persons Below Poverty

Figure 5-8 shows the density of persons below poverty by city, town, and village. Just over 68,703 persons live below poverty in Nassau County, approximately 5 percent of the population.
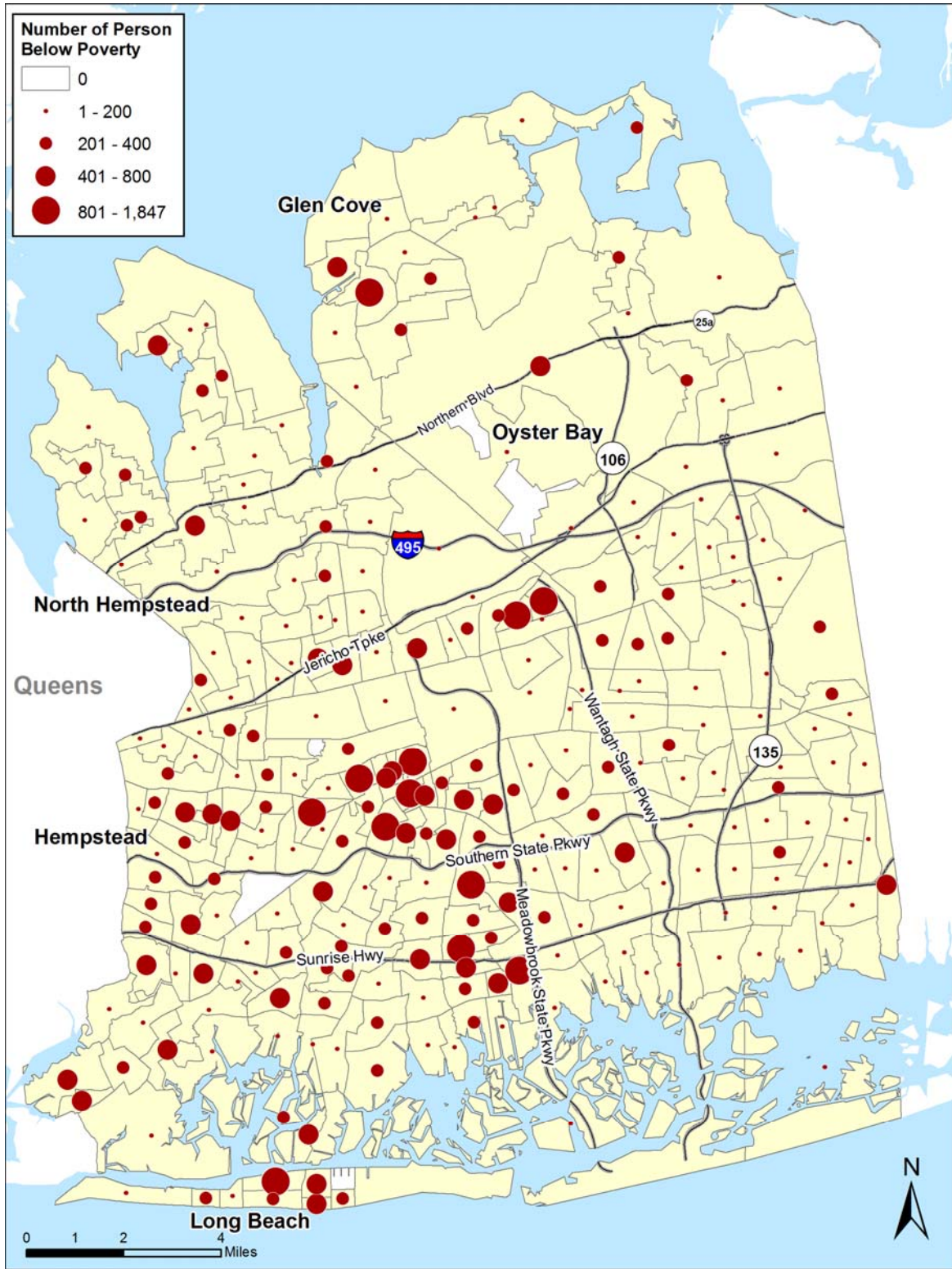
Figure 5-8 Persons Below Poverty by City/Town and Village – Nassau County

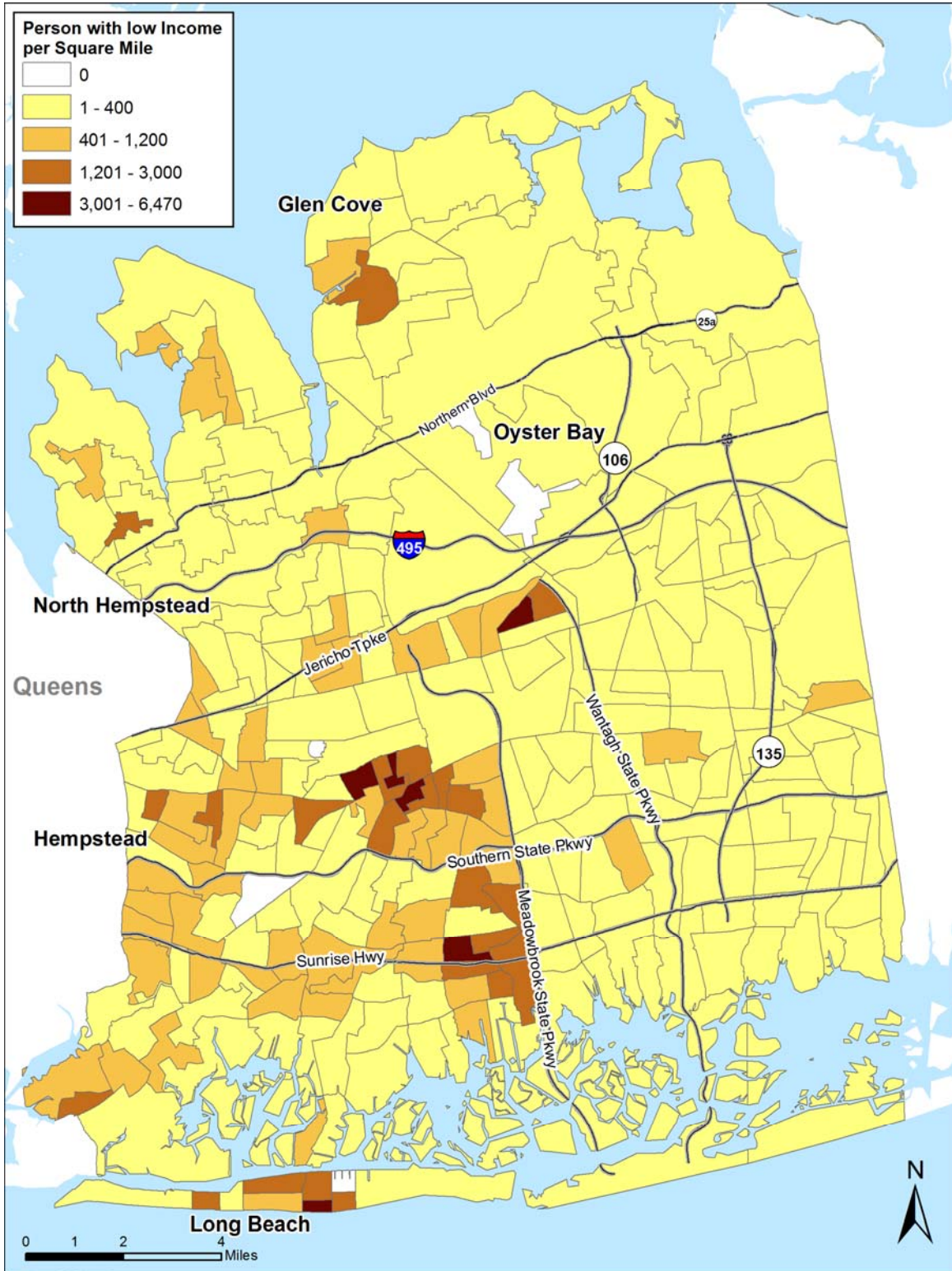| Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Persons below Poverty	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY				
Hempstead Village	3.7	53,891	8,525	2,312
Freeport	4.7	42,860	5,376	1,147
Long Beach	2.2	33,275	3,213	1,492
Glen Cove	6.8	26,964	3,057	448
New Cassel	1.5	14,059	2,206	1,491
HIGHEST DENSITY OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY				
Hempstead Village	3.7	53,891	8,525	2,312
Long Beach	2.2	33,275	3,213	1,492
New Cassel	1.5	14,059	2,206	1,491
Great Neck Plaza	0.3	6,707	460	1,474
Roosevelt	1.8	16,258	2,161	1,214

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2007-2011
American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Figure 5-9— persons below poverty by number—shows many persons living below poverty in the Town of Hempstead along the Meadowbrook State Parkway, as well as in Long Beach, Glen Cove, and in a small pocket of southeast North Hempstead. Figure 5-10— persons below poverty per square mile—reveals the same trends.

Figure 5-9 Number of Persons with Below Poverty by Tract – Nassau County

Source:U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

PARSONS
BRINCKERHOFF

Figure 5-10 Person Below Poverty per Square Mile – Nassau County

Needs Assessment

The older adult population grew by almost 2 percent, which is higher than the overall growth of the county at 0.4 percent.

Hempstead village, Long Beach city, and New Cassel CDP have high number and density of populations living below poverty. In terms of the older adult population, Great Neck Plaza has the highest density and Levittown has the highest overall population. Long Beach had high density of all three target populations.

Suffolk County

By far the largest NYMTC County in terms of geographic area, Suffolk County is more than three times larger than Nassau County. Although the two counties have fairly similar population numbers, Suffolk County's size means that its densities are much lower than Nassau County's.

Population – Unlike Nassau County, Suffolk County's population increased 5 percent from 2000 to 2010 up to 1.49 million people. The county contains 10 towns and zero cities. Suffolk County has 31 villages, most of which lie along the shorelines. The Town of Brookhaven, in the middle of the county, is the largest in both size and population.

Changes in Population – In 1900 Suffolk County was home to more than 77,500 people, approximately 20,000 more than were living in Nassau County at the time. Suffolk County grew much more slowly than Nassau County, however; in 1930 Nassau County had more than four times the population of Suffolk County. Growth jumped for both counties from 1950 to 1960, and in the 1970s Suffolk County's population passed the 1 million mark. From 1980 to 2000 the county added another 400,000.

Population Density – At 912 square miles, Suffolk County is three times larger than the entire NYC subregion. Its population is between that of the Bronx and Manhattan, but due to its size Suffolk County's population density is only 1,637 people per square mile. This is comparable to the population density of Rockland County. The density of the county changes going from west to east, with the western towns being denser.

Population Age – Similar to the other subregions, 14 percent of Suffolk County's population is made up of older adults. In addition, 63 percent fall in the 18-64 age range. The county has a median age of 39.6 years, approximately 2 years older than New York State's median age.

Income - Suffolk County has a median income of $87,187, midway between that of Putnam and Rockland counties.

Employment – Thirty-eight percent of Suffolk County employees work in management, business, science, and arts occupations, and another 27 percent work in sales and office. Half of Suffolk County's population is in the labor force, of which 17 percent work in the service industries and 10 percent, in production, transportation, and material moving jobs.

Older Adults

Just over 201,700 older adults live in Suffolk County. Figure 5-11 displays the five towns and villages with the highest densities of older adults.

Figure 5-11 Older adults by Hamlet and Village – Suffolk County

Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Older Adults (65+)	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS				
West Babylon	7.8	43,213	6,141	785
Commack	12.0	36,124	6,067	507
Brentwood	11.0	60,664	5,023	457
Coram	13.8	39,113	4,760	344
Deer Park	6.2	27,745	4,393	712
HIGHEST DENSITY OF OLDER ADULTS				
North Amityville	2.4	17,862	2,182	927
Amityville	2.1	9,523	1,894	898
Lindenhurst	3.8	27,253	3,299	878
Copiague	3.2	22,993	2,698	835
West Babylon	7.8	43,213	6,141	785

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Figure 5-12 shows older adults per tracts. The western end of Suffolk County, where populations are higher and tracts are small, has a large number of older adults. In addition, several tracts on the East End have high numbers of older adults, but these numbers represent very large tracts. Figure 5-13 depicts density of older adults per square mile. The population is concentrated almost entirely west of the William Floyd Parkway, and especially in South Babylon and southern Islip, and also in Huntington.

Figure 5-6   Number of Older Adults (65+) by Tract – Suffolk County
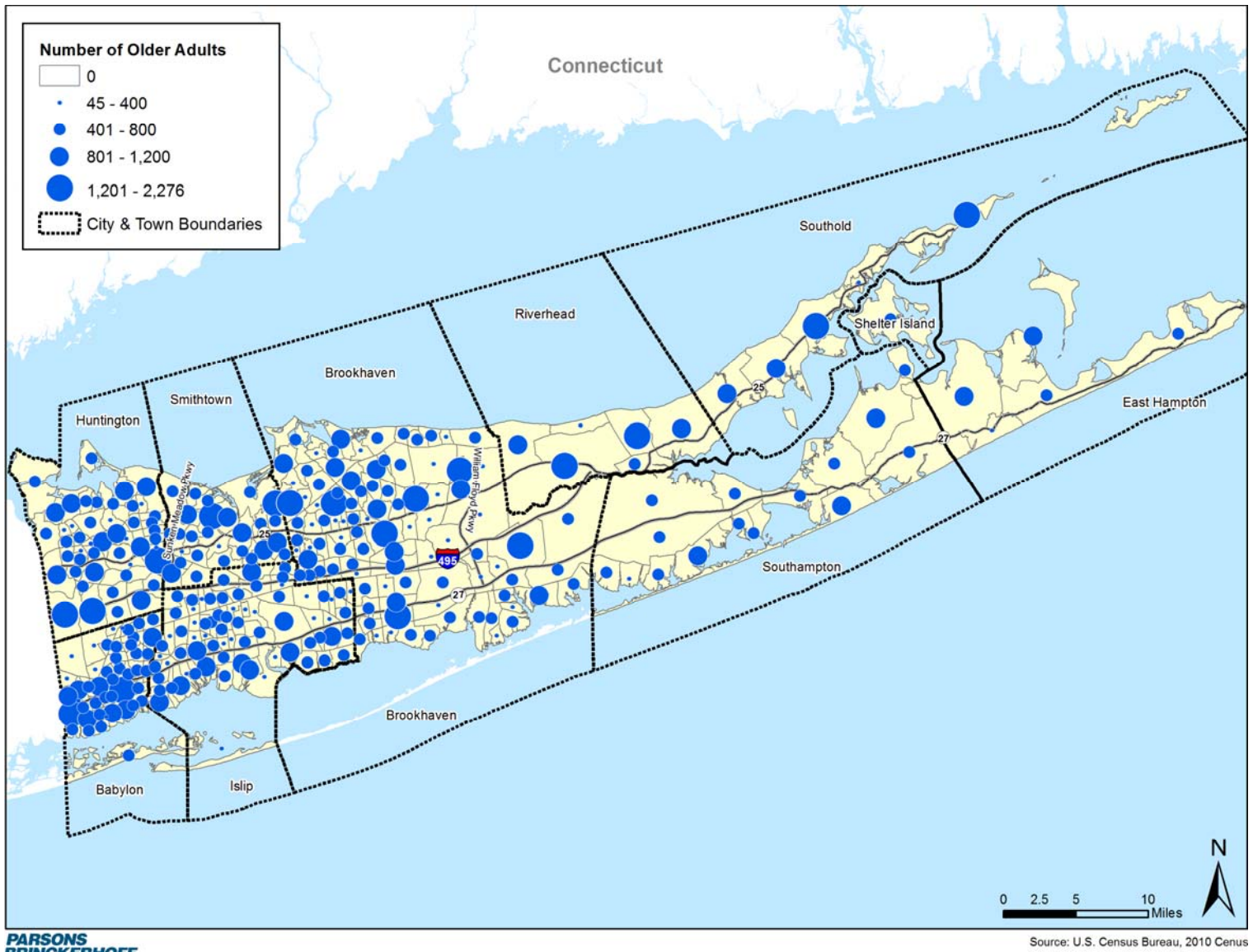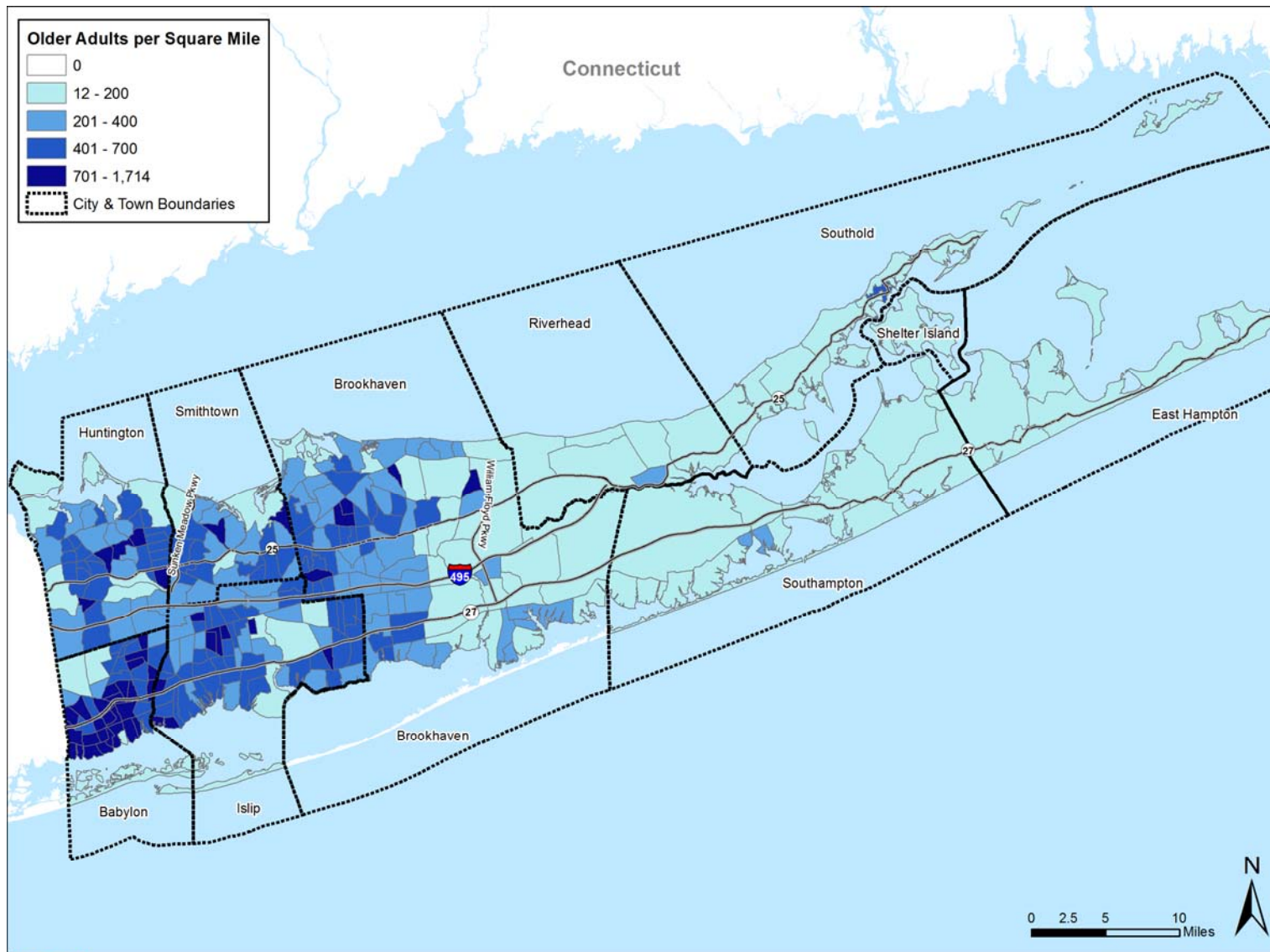
Figure 5-13 Older Adults (65+) per Square Mile by Tract – Suffolk County

Persons with Disabilities

Similar to Nassau County, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of the population in Suffolk County has a disability.

Figure 5-14 Persons with Disabilities by Census County Subdivision – Suffolk County
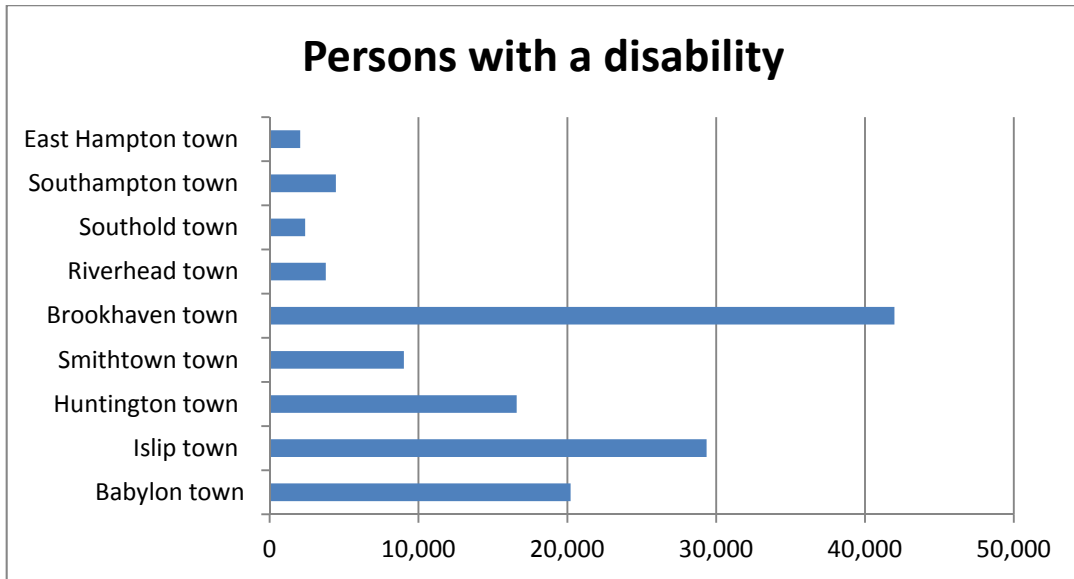
Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Persons with Disabilities	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES				
Brookhaven town	260.3	486,040	41,985	161
Islip town	106.0	335,543	29,358	277
Babylon town	52.5	213,603	20,223	386
Huntington town	94.0	203,264	16,599	177
Smithtown town	53.9	117,801	9,016	167
HIGHEST DENSITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES				
Babylon town	Cha	Cha	Cha	Cha
Islip town	106.0	335,543	29,358	277
Huntington town	94.0	203,264	16,599	177
Smithtown town	53.9	117,801	9,016	167
Brookha	260.3	486,040	41,985	161

ven town				

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2009-2011
American Community Survey 3-year estimates

Figure 5-15 Number of Persons with Disabilities by Census County Subdivision – Suffolk County

Persons with a disability

Town	Persons with a disability (approx.)
East Hampton town	~2,000
Southampton town	~5,000
Southold town	~2,500
Riverhead town	~4,000
Brookhaven town	~42,000
Smithtown town	~9,000
Huntington town	~16,000
Islip town	~29,000
Babylon town	~20,000

Persons below Poverty

Slightly more than 83,759 persons live below poverty in Suffolk County. Figure 5-16 shows the towns and villages with high densities of persons living below poverty.
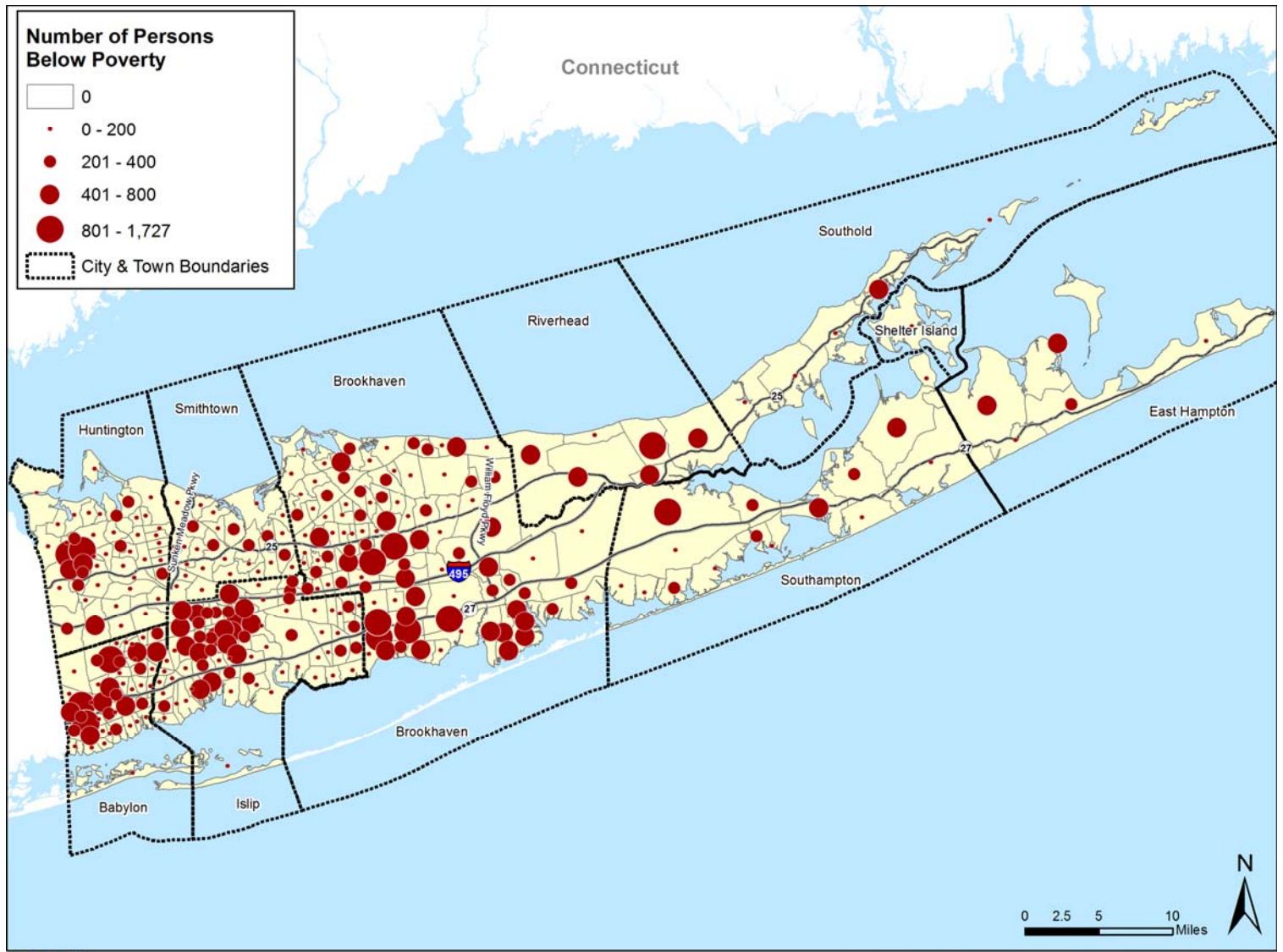
Figure 5-16 Persons Below Poverty by Hamlet and Village – Suffolk County

Name	Square Miles	Total Population	Persons below Poverty	Per Square Mile
HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY				
Brentwood	11.0	60,664	4,798	437
Central Islip	7.1	34,450	3,629	510
Huntington Station	5.5	33,029	3,212	586
East Patchogue	8.4	22,469	3,150	374
Shirley	11.6	27,854	2,547	220
HIGHEST DENSITY OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY				
North Amityville	2.4	17,862	2,230	947
Patchogue	2.3	11,798	2,052	876
Greenport	1.0	2,197	588	615
Huntington Station	5.5	33,029	3,212	586
Central Islip	7.1	34,450	3,629	510

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, 2007-2011 American
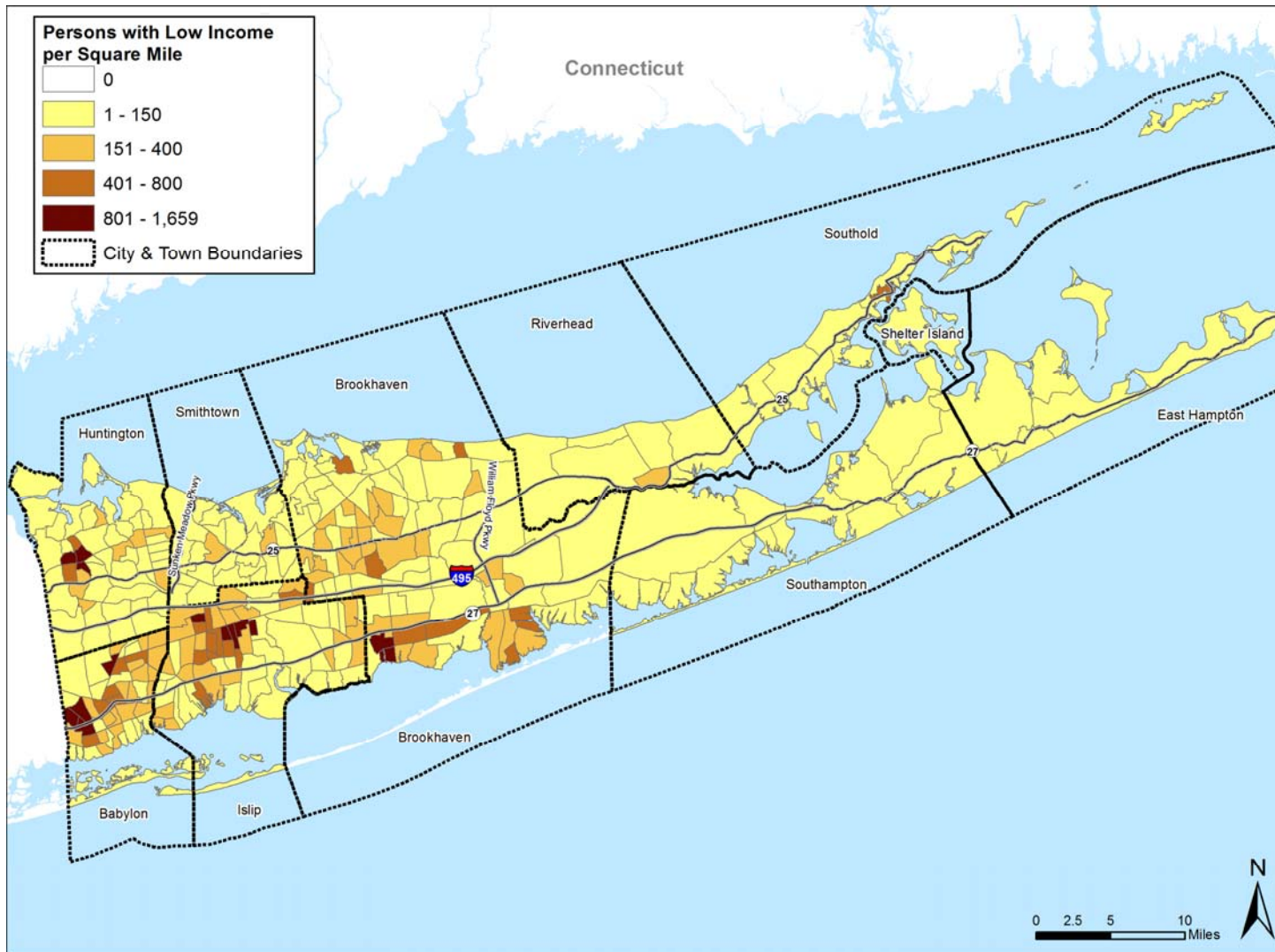Community Survey 5-year estimates

Figure 5-17 shows the number of persons below poverty per tract. Figure 5-18 displays the below poverty population density per square mile. Concentrations of persons below poverty exist in the western end of the county, similar to the older adult population.

Figure 5-17   Number of Persons Below Poverty by Tract – Suffolk County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Figure 5-18   Persons Below Poverty per Square Mile by Tract – Suffolk County

Needs Assessment

Suffolk County had the highest number of older adult growth in the NYMTC region from 2000 to 2010, with an increase of more than 34,000. The older adult population grew 17 percent during that time compared to 5 percent for the county as a whole.

The Town of Babylon has the highest number and density of persons with a disability. North Amityville had high densities of both older adult and living below poverty populations, while Brentwood had high population numbers for both target population but lower density than North Amityville.