

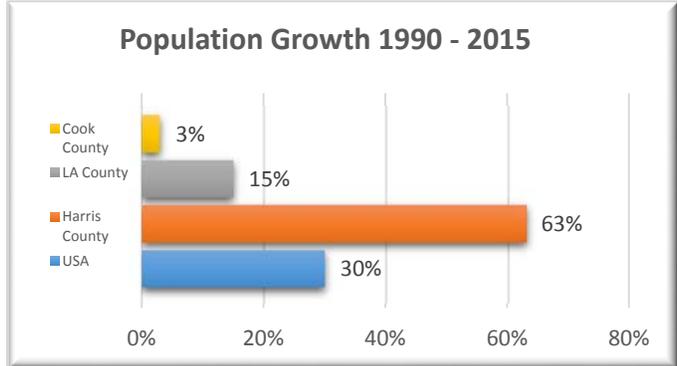
# Population Report – February 2016

Harris County’s population has grown to an estimated 4.6 million residents as of December 31, 2015. The population estimates and information included in this report are based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) data and historical trends.

## Sustained Rapid Growth

Harris County continues to be the third largest county in terms of population and one of the fastest growing counties with 63% growth since 1990.

The chart shows the percentage of population growth for Harris County, the entire nation and both LA and Cook counties which are the only 2 with more population than Harris County. Over a 25 year period, Harris County’s population has grown more than twice as fast as the nation’s population.

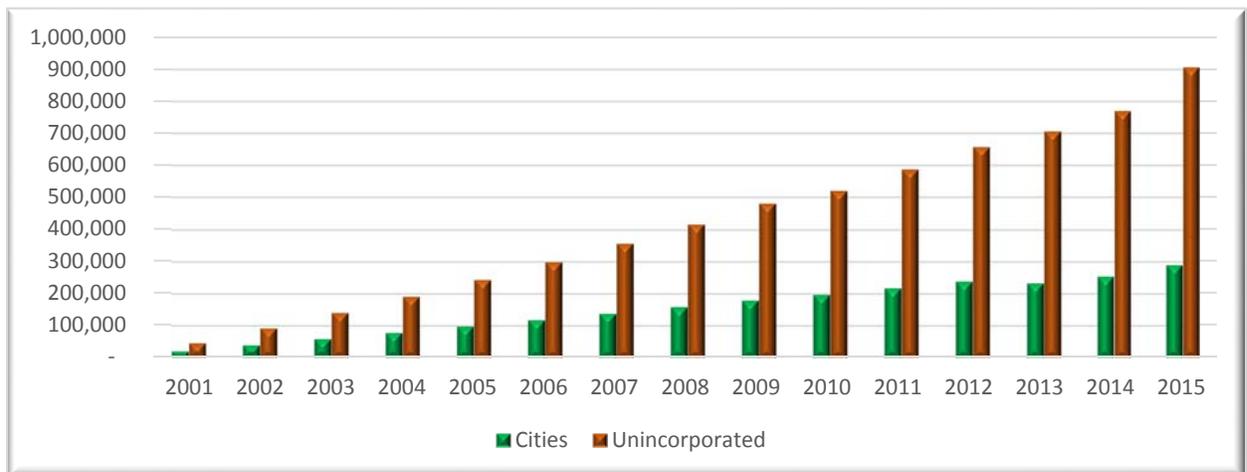


Harris County is on track to pass Cook County and become the second most populous U.S. County within the next 7-10 years.

## Unique Unincorporated Area

Harris County is unique among all large counties in the nation for having an unincorporated area population that would be the fifth largest city in the country if it were incorporated as a single city. "Harris County Unincorporated" would be the second largest city in Texas and has a larger population than 12 U.S. states.

Over 80% of the growth in population since 2000 has been in the unincorporated area. The chart below shows the population growth for the unincorporated area compared to the growth for the City of Houston and the 34 other cities within Harris County.



The unincorporated area now represents 42% of the total Harris County population which is up from 31% in 2000 and 38% in 2010.

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## Population Estimates

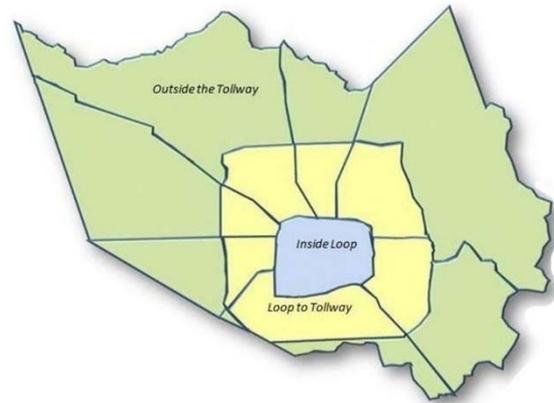
Harris County’s population is increasing by over 80,000 people every year. The following chart shows the latest estimate:

Within Harris County	2000	2010	12/31/2015	Growth since 2000	
	Census	Census	Estimate	Population	%
City of Houston	1,919,789	2,057,280	2,161,000	241,211	13%
Other Cities	439,615	473,716	487,000	47,385	11%
Unincorporated Area	1,041,174	1,561,463	1,942,000	900,826	87%
	3,400,578	4,092,459	4,590,000	1,189,422	35%
<i>Percent Unincorporated</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>76%</i>	

Over the last 15 years, the population in Harris County has spread out considerably. The Sam Houston Tollway forms a complete outer loop in the county. The following chart shows the estimates for inside Loop 610, between the Loop and the Sam Houston Tollway and outside the tollway.

Within Harris County	2000	2010	12/31/2015	Growth since 2000	
	Census	Census	Estimate	Population	%
Inside Loop 610	456,649	469,051	502,000	45,351	10%
Loop 610 to SH Tollway	1,493,635	1,597,326	1,737,000	243,365	16%
Subtotal Inside Tollway	1,950,284	2,066,377	2,239,000	288,716	15%
Outside the Tollway	1,450,294	2,026,082	2,351,000	900,706	62%
	3,400,578	4,092,459	4,590,000	1,189,422	35%
<i>Percent Outside Tollway</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>76%</i>	

The number of residents living outside the Sam Houston Tollway now represents 51% of total county population up from 43% in the 2000 census. Harris County government is primarily responsible for providing law enforcement and related services to most of the area outside the Sam Houston Tollway. While there has been some growth in the number of multi-family housing units being built both inside the loop and between the loop and the tollway, there is much more undeveloped property outside the tollway for residential construction and development. This growth trend is not expected to change significantly over the next few years.

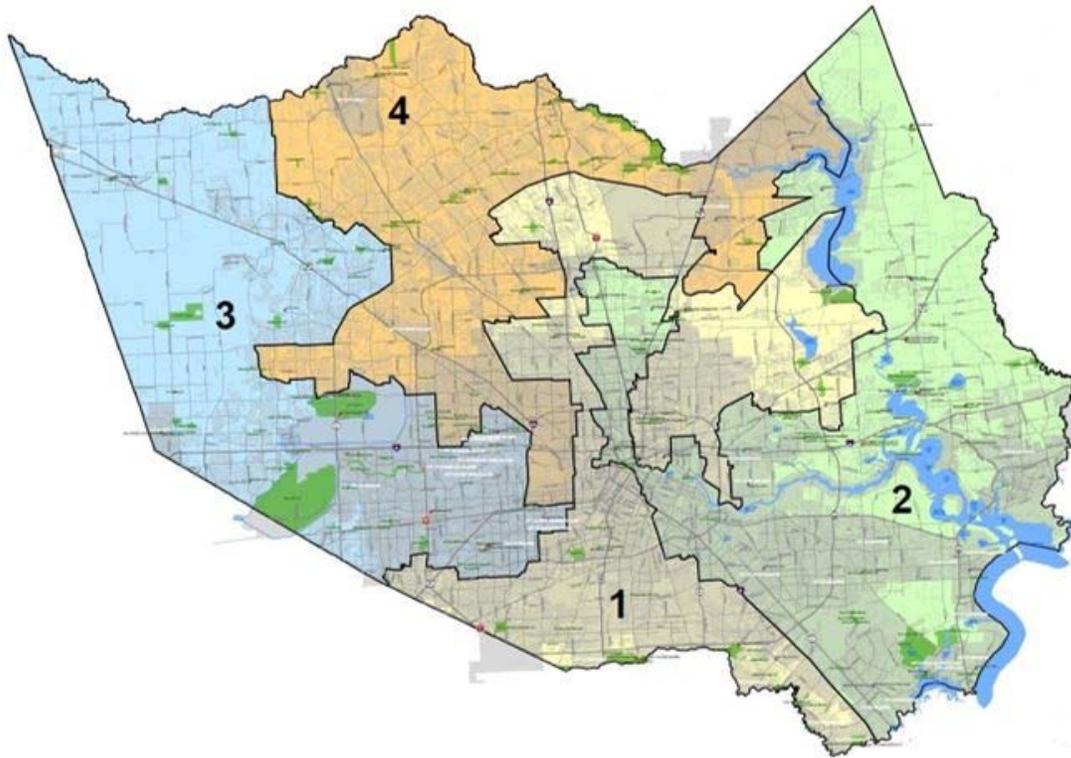


# **Population Report – February 2016**

## **Estimated Population by Precinct**

The map below shows the boundaries of each of the four commissioner precincts. The shaded areas represent the 35 cities including the City of Houston. Houston extends into both Fort Bend County to the south and Montgomery County to the north. The City of Houston includes areas outside the Sam Houston Tollway and some of the unincorporated area is located inside the Sam Houston. Other cities are spread over multiple counties including Katy to the west, Pearland, Friendswood and other cities to the south.

Each precinct has a fairly significant unincorporated area and population, as indicated on the map in the lightly colored areas.



Since the last census count was made in 2010 and the Census Bureau does not publish detailed estimates in the years between census counts, the estimates of population by precinct are based on historical trends, HCAD data and voter registration information. The estimates as of the end of 2015 by precinct are presented below:

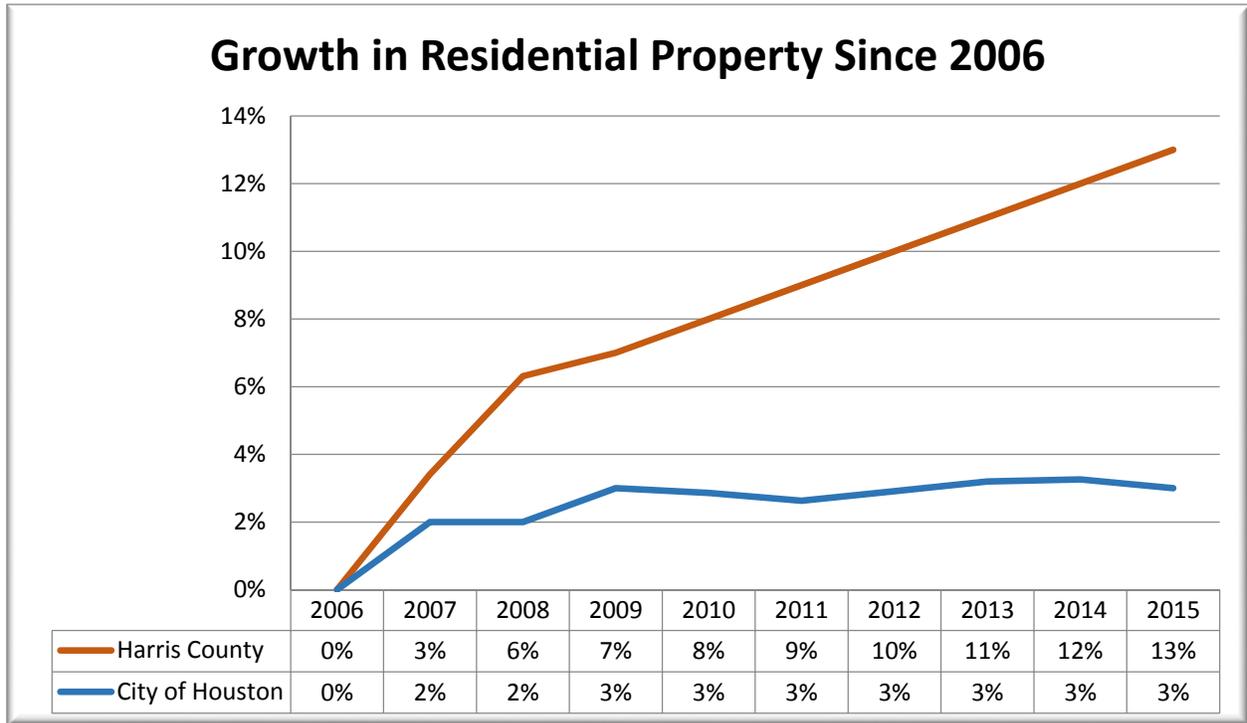
Precinct	Estimated Population - December 31, 2015		
	Total Population	Within City Limits	Unincorporated Area
Precinct 1	1,096,000	824,000	272,000
Precinct 2	1,095,000	824,000	271,000
Precinct 3	1,190,000	660,000	530,000
Precinct 4	1,209,000	340,000	869,000
	4,590,000	2,648,000	1,942,000

Population Within City Limits	Share of Unincorporated Population
75.2%	14.0%
75.3%	14.0%
55.5%	27.3%
28.1%	44.7%
100.0%	100.0%

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## Growth in Residential Property

The total number of residential properties in Harris County including single family, multi-family and agricultural property added to the tax roll through 2015 has increased by 13.2% over the last ten years compared to only 2.9% within the City of Houston. The graph below shows the annual percentage growth:

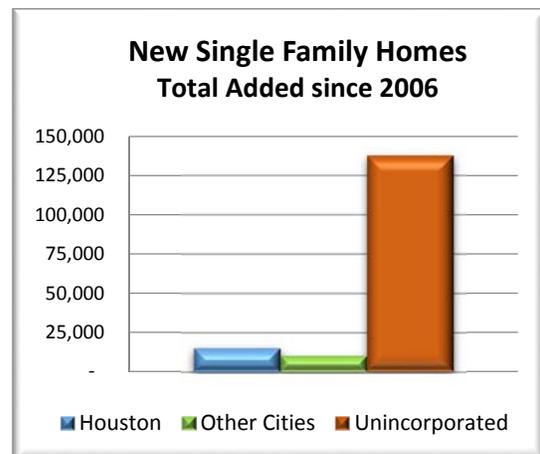


## Growth in Number of Single Family Homes

The number of single family homes in Harris County has increased by over 163,000 from 2006 to 2015. Over 84% (137,000 homes) of the new homes are located in the unincorporated areas.

The City of Houston has added a net of 15,114 new single family homes since 2006. Other cities in the county have grown by 10,713 new homes over the same ten year period.

This rapid growth impacts the county in many ways including increased demand for new roads and related infrastructure along with additional law enforcement and other services provided in the suburban areas. These new homes have also been a significant component in the growth of the tax levy for Harris County.

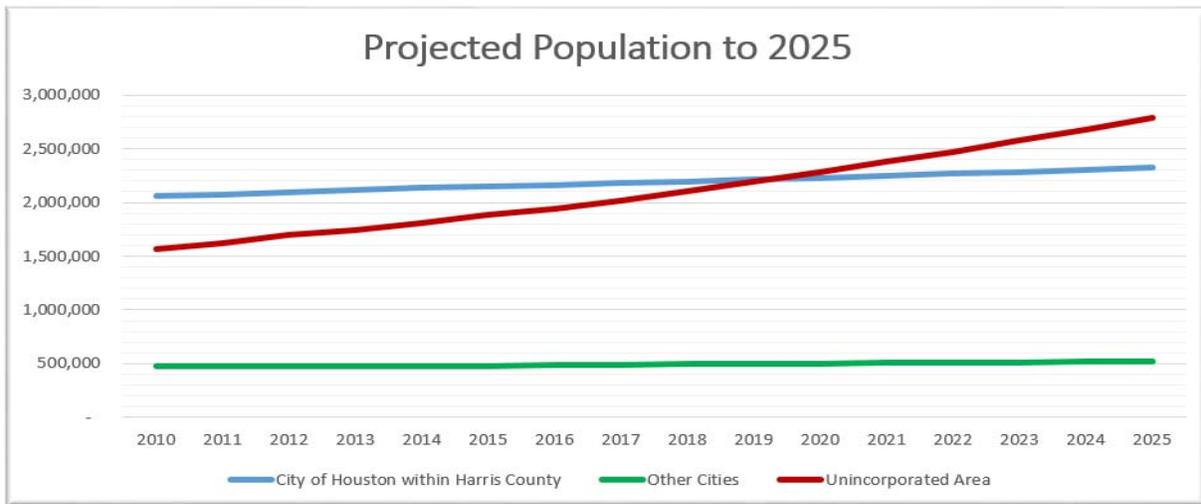


# **Population Report – February 2016**

## **Leading up to the 2020 Census**

Harris County’s unincorporated population has grown by an annual average of 4.1% since the 2000 Census, which is over 5 times as fast as the cities within the county which have averaged 0.7% per year. The overall county growth rate has averaged 2.0% annually over the 15 year period.

The following graph shows the projected population growth based on these percentages through 2025. Based on these trends, Harris County population will pass the 5 million mark during 2020 and reach 5.6 million by 2025. The unincorporated population would also pass the City of Houston population that is within Harris County during 2020 and grow to nearly 2.8 million by 2025.



This projection assumes no annexation or new incorporation of any populated areas within the unincorporated area of the County.

## **Impact on County Government**

Harris County government provides services to all of the residents of the county. Most of the higher cost county functions including the courts system, the Hospital District, the county jail and most of the county administrative functions are located within the City of Houston. County government is the primary provider of roads, parks, facilities and law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas.

Harris County funds the county-wide and unincorporated area services primarily with property tax revenue. Despite the significant size and population of the unincorporated area, the County does not receive sales tax revenue to help fund these services. The unique, ongoing challenge for Harris County government is to meet the needs of this rapidly growing unincorporated area without the funding sources provided to large cities in Texas. Most of the growth in expenditures in the County General Fund during this period has been for county-wide functions including the administration of justice, managing the jail and the growing cost of indigent healthcare.

As the population continues to grow, the demand for services, new roads and expanded facilities in the unincorporated areas of the county will increase.