



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Community Workshop – May 26, 2022



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ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING

FITNESS • ENRICHMENT • ARTS • ATHLETICS
PORTSMOUTH
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
horsleywitten.com



PROJECT TEAM



City of Portsmouth

Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Barry Foley, Assistant Director/
Program Coordinator/ Supervisor
Recreation Department

Peter Rice, Director of Public Works

Stephanie Seacord, Public
Information Officer

Peter Stith, Principal Planner

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Alice Carey
Project Manager

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
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Craig Pereira
Senior Planner

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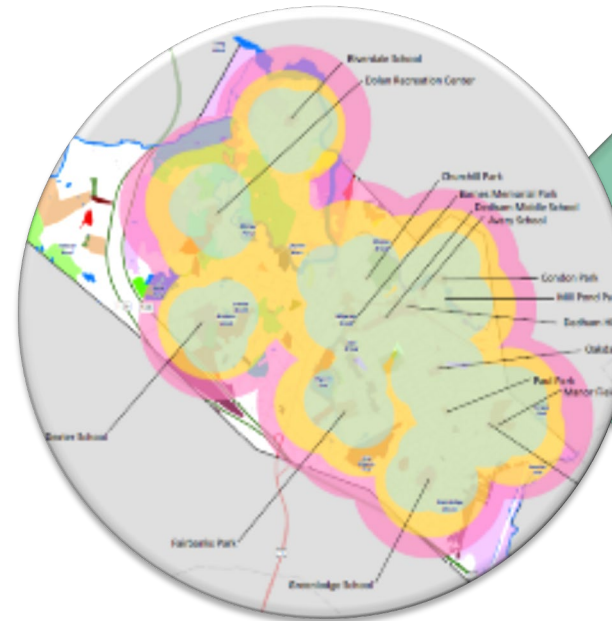
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COMMUNICATIONS

- Project Webpage Coordination
- Public Participation Plan
- Eblasts
- Local Media



ANALYSIS/RESEARCH

- Demographics/Trends
- Comparative Analyses
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Connectivity
- Level of Service GIS Analysis



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Project Webpage
- Community Surveys
- Interviews/Focus Groups
- Onsite Pop-Ups
- Public Forums



AGENDA

RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

What is a Recreational Needs Study?

Why Portsmouth needs a Recreational Needs Study

What's the process?

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Demographics, Trends + Assessments

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

What is a Recreational Needs Study?

An assessment of recreational programs and facilities that considers opportunities to improve or expand existing programs or facilities based on demand, capacity and projected future needs.

Why does Portsmouth need a Recreational Needs Study?

The original Recreational Needs Study was completed in 2010

The Recreational Needs Study will:

- Set forth a **vision** that reflects the needs and priorities of the community
- Establish a **roadmap** for how that vision can be implemented over the next ten years

Scope Review: Phase Highlights

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task 4

Existing Conditions

Public Engagement

Needs Assessment

Compilation of Resources + Final Report

- Data Collection + Analysis
- Supply / Demand + Demographics/ Trends Analyses

- Project Webpage
- Online Surveys
- Community Workshops

- Staff/Project Team Interviews
- Summary Findings

- Draft + Final Report

Overall Project Goals + Vision



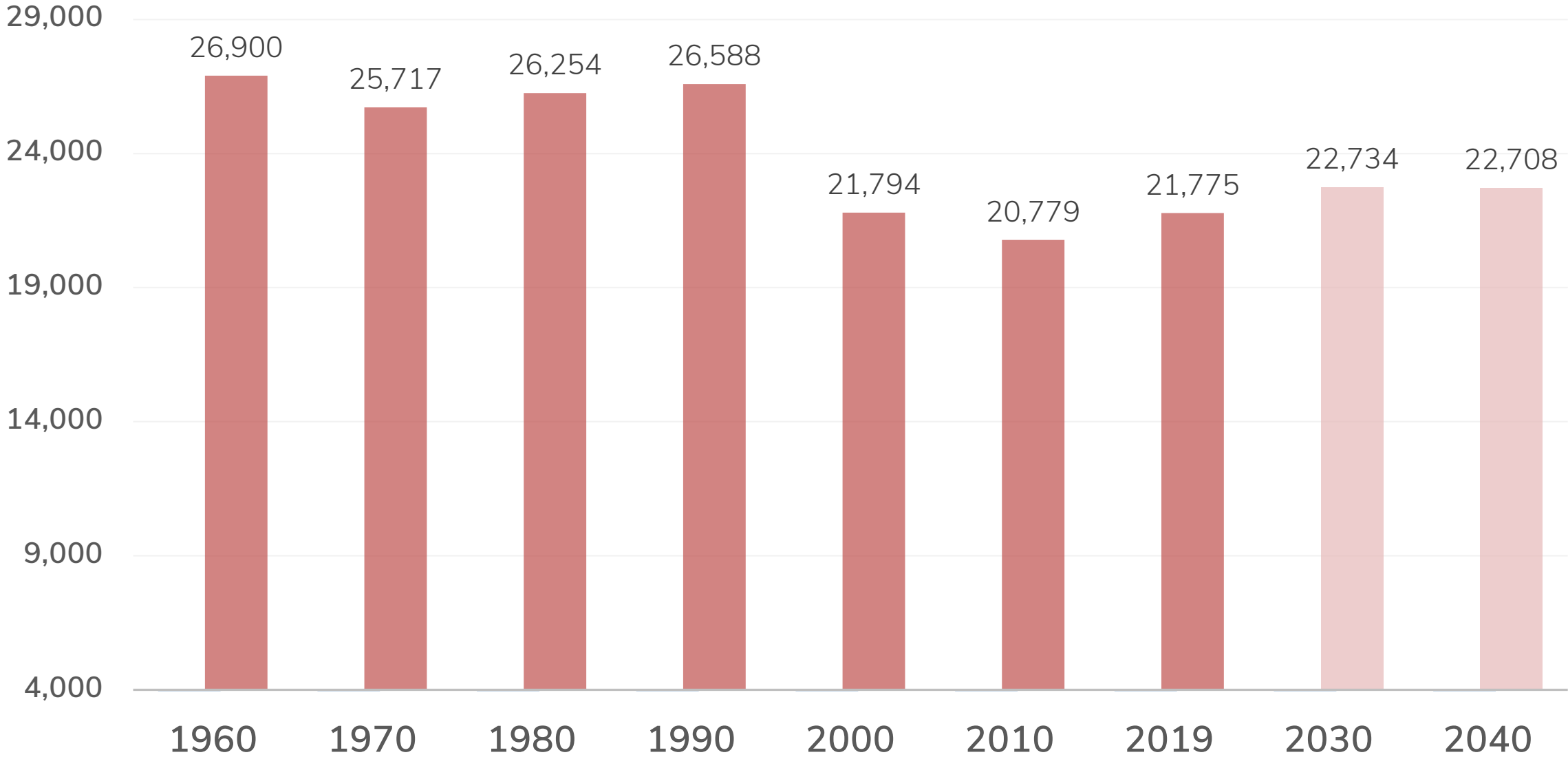
Focus on Community Engagement
Social and Environmental Factors
Future Planning

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Demographics

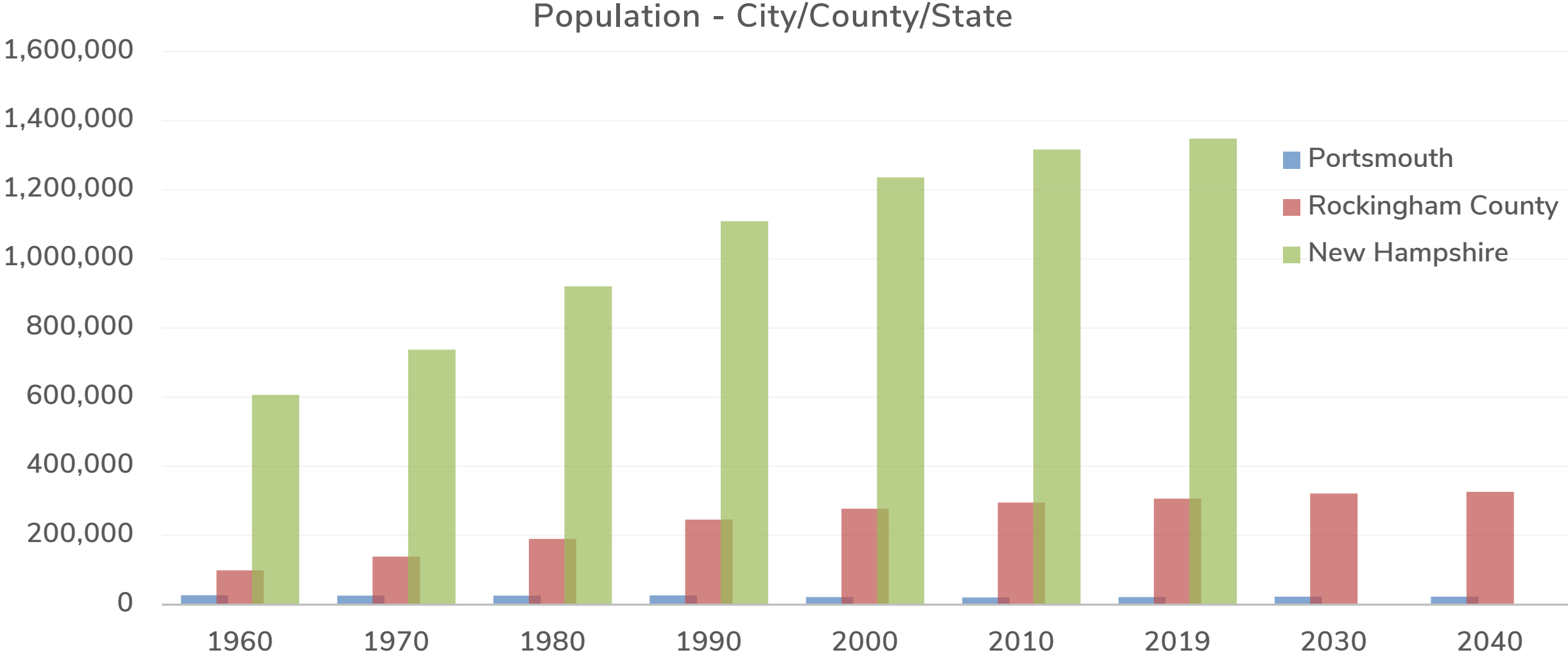
Population City of Portsmouth 1960-2040



Demographics

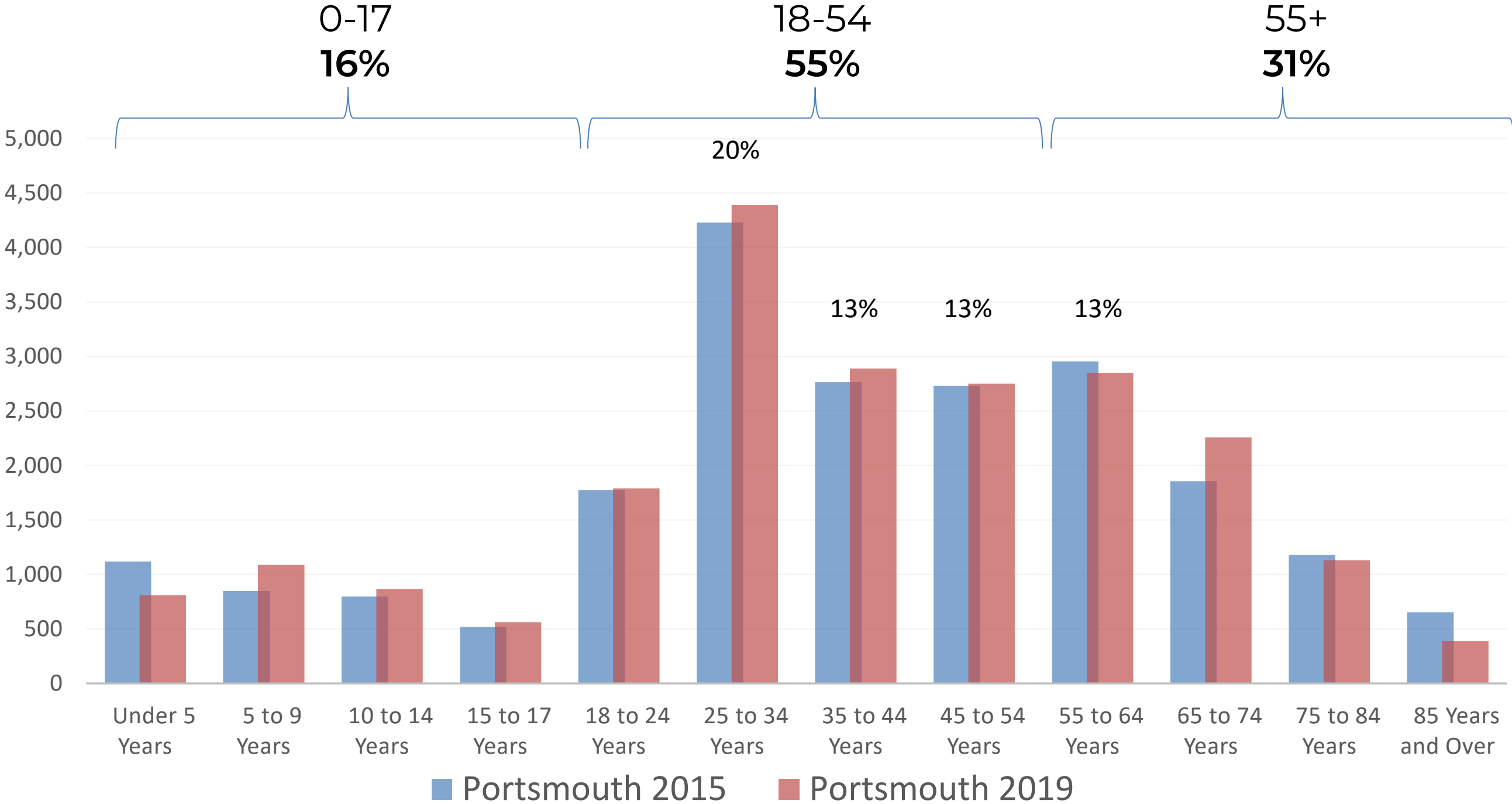
Population

City of Portsmouth 1960-2040, as compared to County + State



Demographics

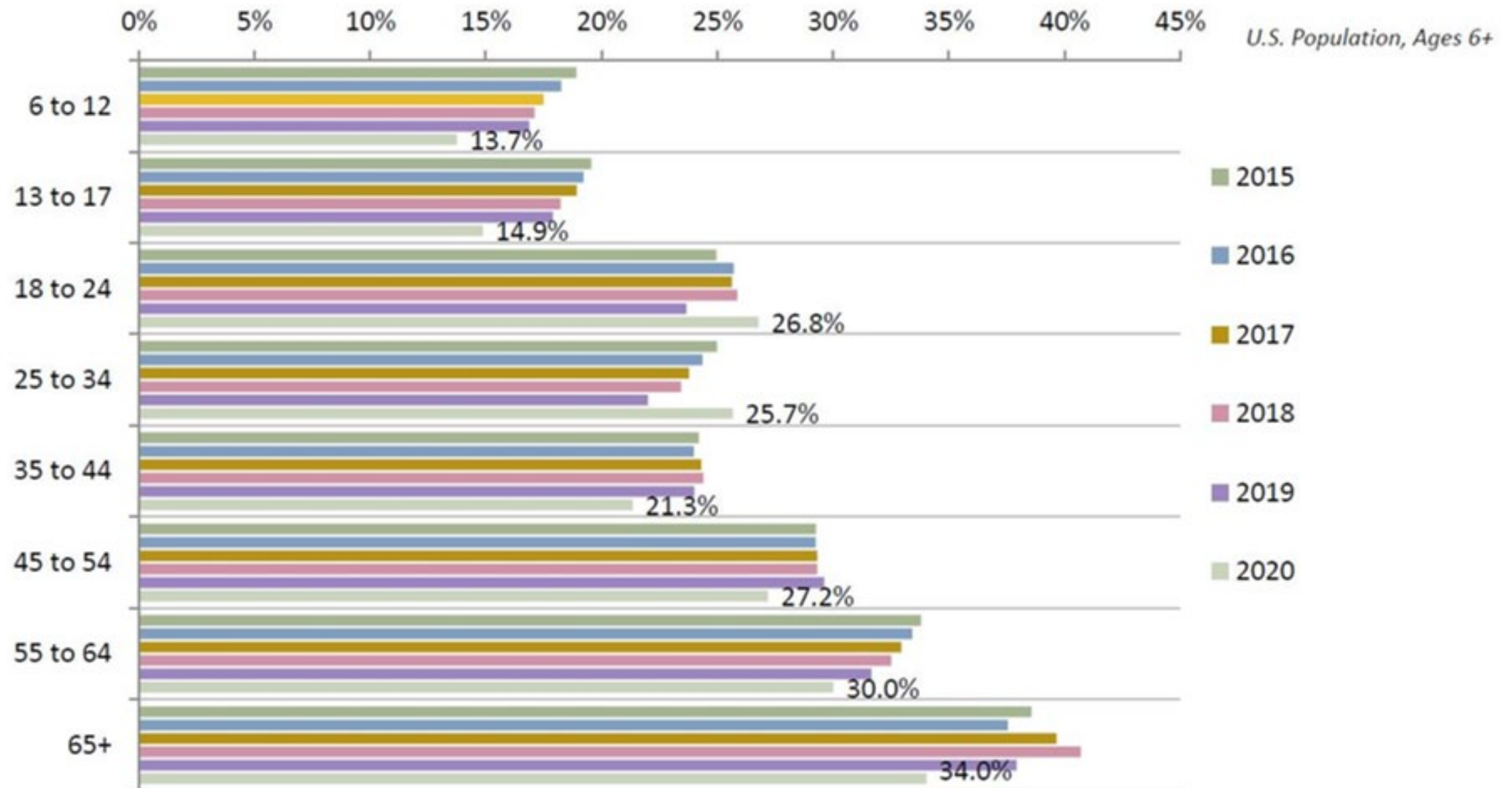
Population by Age Group – 2015-2019



National Trends

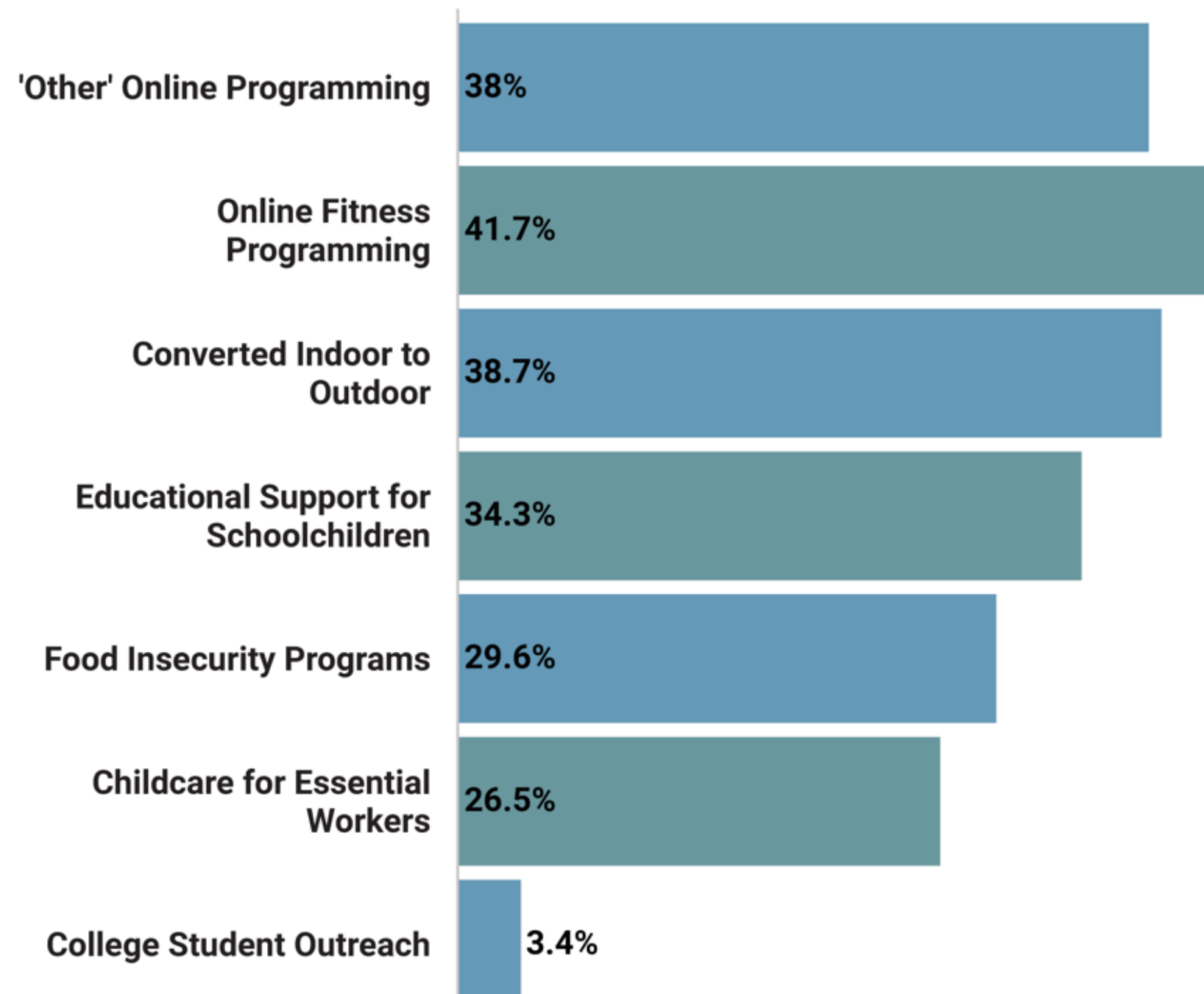
Inactivity Trends by Age 2015 – 2020

(Source: Physical Activity Council)



National Trends

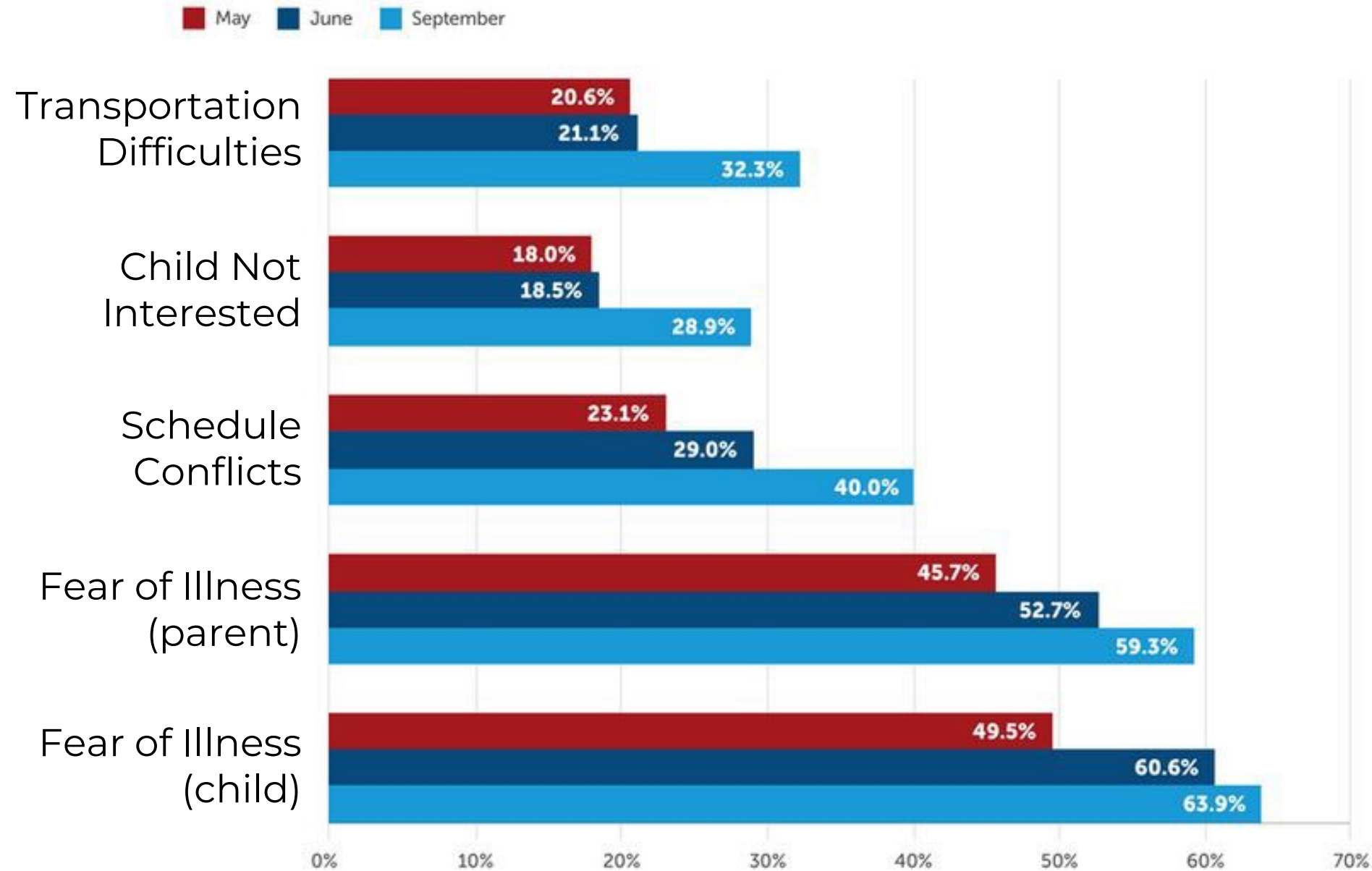
Pandemic Impacts: Activity and Program Adjustments Due to COVID-19 (Source: Recreation Management Magazine)



National Trends

Pandemic Impacts: Barriers to Participation 2021 (Source: Aspen Institute)


Potential Barriers to Resume Sports When Restrictions are Lifted (Strongly Agree or Agree)



National Trends

Most Commonly Planned Programs 2021

(Source: Recreation Management Magazine)

- Group exercise programs
 - Teen programming
 - Fitness programs
 - Mind/Body balance programs (yoga)
 - Programs for active, older adults
 - Educational programs
 - Environmental education programs
 - Holidays and other special events
 - Adult sports teams
 - Special needs programs
- 

Limited Site Assessments

Athletic Fields/Recreation Areas

Portsmouth High School:

- Practice and Competition Fields
- Track & Field Areas
- Tennis Courts
- Ropes Course
- Cross-Country Trail Access

Lister Academy School Field

Dondero School Field + Playground

Little Harbour School Field + Playground

New Franklin Elementary:

- Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Playgrounds

Lafayette School Field + Playground

Pannaway Field + Playground

Alumni Ball Field

Plains Ball Field + Playground

Maple Haven Field

Clough Field

Pease Ball Field

Hislop Park Ball Field

New Athletic Field

Peirce Island:

- Playgrounds
- Boat Launch
- Four Tree Island
- Pool + Bathhouse

South Mill Pond Area:

- South Mill Pond Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Central Little League Ball Field
- Leary Ball Field
- Dog Park

Rail Trail – access points, pump track

Greenleaf Skate Park

Atlantic Heights Playground

South Street Playground

Pine Street Playground

Buildings/Indoor Facilities

Portsmouth High School Gym

Portsmouth High School Field House

Lister Academy School Gym

Dondero School Gym

Little Harbour School Gym

New Franklin Elementary Gym

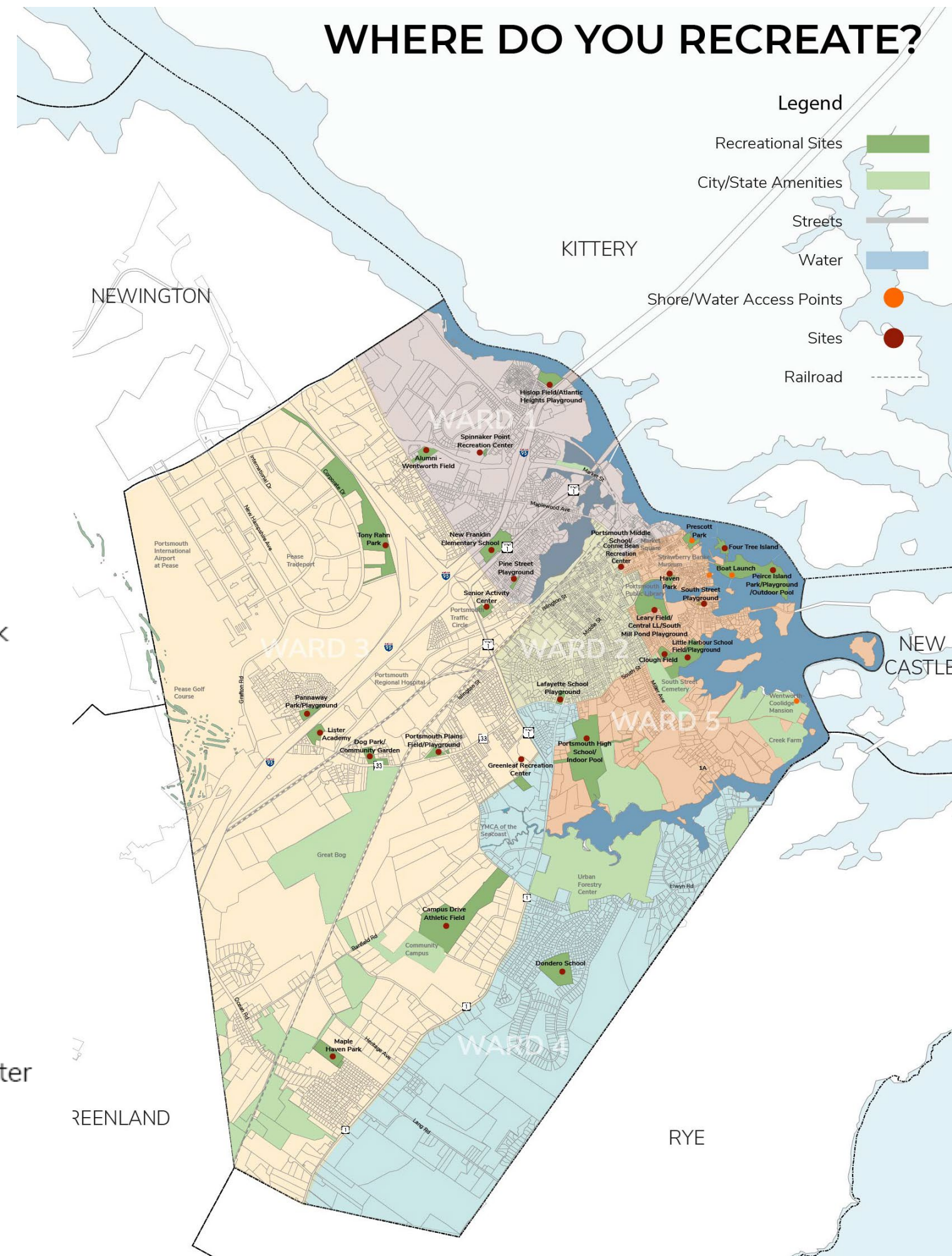
Connie Bean Recreation Center

Spinnaker Point Recreation Center

Portsmouth Middle School Gym

Portsmouth Indoor Pool

Greenleaf Recreation Center



Comparative Analysis of Other Communities

Portsmouth

- A range of sports programs and specialized classes offered year-round (for a range of demographics)
- Fitness programs offered for youth (Fall/Winter/Spring)
- Variety of camps for youth offered during summer and vacation weeks
- Trips/One-time events offered year-round (for a range of demographics)
- Year-round programs/classes offered for seniors and adults

How does this stack up to offerings in OTHER COMMUNITIES?



Find Us Online!

Provide Your Input and Stay Updated

Project Webpage
Email List
Online Survey

The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top left, it says "City of PORTSMOUTH NH". In the center is the "RECREATION DEPARTMENT" logo. To the right are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, followed by a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below this is a dark green navigation bar with white text for "Programs", "Rec Centers", "Holiday Schedule", "Skatepark", "Recreational Needs Study", and "Contact". Underneath the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "City of Portsmouth > Recreation Department > Recreational Needs Study Update".

RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY NOW ONLINE!

The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. **Complete the survey** and become part of the plan!

Background

The City of Portsmouth has launched a Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study project to update the City's **2010 Recreational Needs Study** (last revised in 2016). The project team includes the Recreation Director, DPW Director, Steering Committee, **Recreation Board** and consultants **Placework-Horsley Witten Group**.

To update the Recreational Needs Study, the team seeks to understand how residents utilize the City's recreational facilities and programs, assess whether existing recreational facilities and programs are meeting the needs of the community and project trends in future recreational amenities, in order to define a comprehensive plan for the future of recreation in Portsmouth.

The scope of the project includes:

- Data Collection and Analysis, including a review of the inventory of existing

RECREATION BOARD

City Manager Karen Conard, Ex-Officio

Rich Blalock, Council Liaison

Brian French, School Board Liaison

Carl Diemer, Chairperson

Lauren Krans

Robert Bogardus

Jacqueline Cali-Pitts

Richard Duddy

Kathryn Lynch

Kory Sirmaian

PROJECT TEAM

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Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Peter Rice, Director of Public

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/recreational-needs-study-update>

Questions?



FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

PURPOSE

To understand how residents gauge the City's progress in meeting needs for recreation programs and facilities.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

WHAT'S MISSING?





THANK YOU!

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