

Highlights of 2010 General Demographic Characteristics for Maryland

The release of the one-page 2010 Demographic Profiles for Maryland on May 26, 2011 revealed more detailed information on the age structure of the State's population, greater detail on race for Asians and Hispanics, household type and family structure, household size, and housing vacancy and tenure. The following are some of the highlights of this demographic profile.

Age Detail

- Maryland's population continues to grow older. The median age of Marylanders reached 38.0 years of age, up two years from 2000, and five years from 1990.

- Even though Maryland's median age is greater than the U.S. median age (37.2 years), the percent of the State's population ages 65 or older is smaller, (12.3% vs. 13.0%). This is most likely because Maryland typically experiences net out migration of its elderly to Sunbelt states.

- The largest absolute and percentage increase during the 2000 to 2010 period occurred in the 55-64 age cohorts (225,392), or 47.9 percent. This group was the leading edge of the baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1955, which has so profoundly affected all demographic-sensitive issues, from entering public schools in the 1950s to colleges in the 1960s and early 1970s, to starting careers and buying houses in the 1980s and 1990s. And it will be this group which will be leading the charge into retirement over the next 10 years.

- Although not a perfect measure, the available cohorts that most closely match the school-age population (5 to 19 year olds) barely grew between 2000 and 2010, in contrast to the robust growth of the 1990s. Between 2000 and 2010, 5 to 19 year olds increased by 12,500 (or 1.1%), compared to just over 199,000 (21.2%) increase between 1990 and 2000. During the 1990s, this age group represented the last of the offspring of the baby boom generation (the "boomlet") which led to the substantial public school enrollment increases in Maryland during the 1990s (nearly 132,200, or 18.8%). In contrast, for the 2000 to 2010 period, public school enrollment in Maryland was about 10,400 (1.2%) below 2000 levels.

- The second largest percentage increase in population belonged to those ages 85 and over (46.7%). As a share of total population, however, this cohort comprised only 1.7 percent of the 2010 population of Maryland, up from 1.3 percent in 2000. It is this population that most often requires a disproportionate share of medical services.

- There were significant declines in 35-44 year olds in Maryland over the 2000 to 2010 period. The population for this age group declined by nearly 120,600 (-13.2%). Members of this cohort were born between 1966 and 1975 and generally coincide with the ending of the baby boom period and through the baby bust period of the 1970s.

Race Detail

- The growth of minorities – Hispanics, African Americans, Asians and those of two or more races – and the decline in non-Hispanic whites, has already been documented with the release of the Census 2010 PL 94-171 data in March of 2010. Maryland’s increase in population over the 2000 to 2010 time period was led in numeric and percentage terms by Hispanics (242,716, or 106.5%). The second largest numeric increase was in African Americans (209,494, or 14.3%) while Asians (106,956, or 51.0%) and those self-classified as multi race (42,894, or 51.0%) grew in excess of 50 percent. Non-Hispanic whites declined by 128,589, or 3.9%.

- This latest demographic profile lends some detail to the Asian and Hispanic categories. In Maryland, the largest Asian groups in 2010 are Asian Indians (79,051), Chinese (69,381), Korean (48,592) and Filipinos (43,923). During the 2000 to 2010 period, Asian Indians experienced the largest gains (29,142), while Filipinos grew the fastest (65.1%, from 17,315 to 26,608). Nationwide, Chinese (3.3 million) outnumber Asian Indians (2.8 million),

- The majority of Maryland’s Hispanic population by specific origin is classified in the “other Hispanic or Latino” category (70.0%). This is not unexpected in that immigration data for the 2000 to 2009 period from the American Community Survey showed that the greatest number of Hispanic immigrants were from Central America (which would fall into the “other” category in this demographic profile). Of those groups that were identified, Mexicans (88,004) were more numerous than either Puerto Ricans (42,572) or Cubans (10,366). Nationwide, Mexicans make up the largest Hispanic group (31.8 million, or 63.0%).

Households by Type

- While the *share* of all households with own children less than 18 years of age has been declining since the 1970s, the *number* of these families actually fell in the most recent decade. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of households with own children under age 18 fell by just over 11,100 (-1.7%), in contrast to a gain of nearly 76,300 (13.0%) of these households in the 1990s. For the U.S., families with own children grew slightly (0.4%).¹

- Married couple families with own children – the so called nuclear family – had an even sharper drop in Maryland, declining by nearly 22,000 households (-4.8%) between 2000 and 2010, (and about the same as the 5.0 percent drop for the U.S.) in contrast to the nearly 24,600 (5.6%) gain during the 1990s. As a result of this drop – and the growth of other types of families – the nuclear family in Maryland now makes up only one-fifth

¹ “Own children” are biological children, including step children, as well as adopted children of the householder. Own children are a subset of “related children” which would also include other related children, such as grandchildren.

(20.4%) of all households in Maryland in 2010, down from 23.3 percent in 2000 and 25 percent in 1990. This is very similar to the national rates of 20.2 percent in 2010, 23.5 percent in 2000 and 25.6 percent in 1990. Forty years ago, in 1970, the nuclear family comprised 41.4 percent of all households in Maryland.

- In contrast to the decrease in families with own children and two parents, there was an increase in single-parent families with own children. Over the 2000 to 2010 period, both female-headed households (+5,024, or 3.2%) and male-headed households (+5,807, or 14.0%) with own children grew, although these gains were well below what happened during the 1990s for both female-headed households (+37,102, or 30.4%) and male-headed households (+14,595, or 54.5%).

- Female-headed households with own children under 18 comprise 25.2 percent of all households with own children under 18, while male-headed households comprise 7.2 percent. In other words, nearly one-third, or 32.5 percent, of all households with own children less than 18 years of age are single-parent households. This is up from 30.2 percent in 2000. In 1970, only 12.8 percent of families with children were single-parent households.

- All families, i.e. households with two or more individuals living together related by blood, marriage or adoption, comprised 67.1 percent of all households in Maryland in 2010, down from 68.6 percent in 1990, and 82.7 percent in 1970.

- With the decline in families as a percent of all households has come the rise of non-family households. Non-family households as a percent of total households rose from 31.4 percent in 2000 to 32.9 percent in 2010. In 1970, non-family households comprised just 17.3 percent of all households.

- Nearly 80 percent (79.4%) of all non-family households in 2010 were one-person households. One-person households comprise over one-quarter of all households in 2010 (26.1%), up from 25.0 percent in 2000.

- One-person elderly households comprised one-third (33.5%) of all one-person households in 2010. This represents a slight increase from 2000 when the elderly comprised of 32.4 percent of all one-person households.

- Average household size remained virtually the same in Maryland between 2000 and 2010 at 2.61 persons per household, ending a downward trend from at least 1940. In 1940 the average household size in the State was at 3.77 and fell steadily over the decades until 2000, with larger declines in the earlier decades. Reasons behind the stabilization of average household size over the last decade include growth of the foreign born population, which tend to have relatively larger household sizes than native born households, a drop in non-Hispanic whites, which typically have an older age structure and thus have smaller household sizes, as well as the effects of the Great Recession and the collapse of the housing market late in the decade which led to a substantial increases

in foreclosures and “doubling up” among households. (See [Average Household Size Stabilizes in Maryland](#) for more information.)

Housing Tenure

- Maryland’s homeownership rate fell slightly to 67.5 percent in 2010, down from 67.7 percent in 2000. More than likely homeownership rates were higher in the latter part of the decade before the housing market collapse. Nationally, homeownership rates took more of a tumble during the decade, falling by 2.7 percentage points to 63.5 percent in 2010 from 66.2 percent in 2000.

- Along with the drop in tenure has come a rise in vacancy rates. The 2010 vacancy rate for Maryland, not including seasonal units, was 7.2 percent in 2010, up from 6.0 percent in 2000.