

Research Report

A publication providing information on Howard County demographics, socioeconomic and employment trends and patterns. **Issue 19, January 2012**

2010 CENSUS OVERVIEW

Introduction

This marks the first in a series of reports to be issued summarizing the Census 2010 data for Howard County. The Census Bureau recently released data obtained from the 100% count enumeration known as Summary File 1 (SF1). This file contains data on age, sex, households, families, race, and housing units based on answers to the questions on the Census 2010 questionnaire. The data released in SF1 represents answers from all households and is not based on a sample data set, so there is no sample margin of error.

For the 2010 Census, the long form, which in past decennial censuses was sent to about one in seven homes, was no longer used. Instead the Census Bureau has developed the American Community Survey, an annual survey using a smaller sample size. The advantage of the American Community Survey is that results are collected annually, rather than only once every ten years. The disadvantage is that data are collected from a smaller sample size, resulting in larger margins of error and in some cases suppression or distortion of results at smaller geographical areas. Similar to the old long form, more data items are collected in the American Community Survey than were collected in the 2010 Census 100% count enumeration including income and poverty statistics as well as other social and economic information.

This report summarizes the major 2010 Census results for Howard County for the various datasets in SF1 including population, age, race, housing, household type and relationship information. Future reports will focus on particular data categories in more detail and include regional, state, and national comparisons as well as more detailed comparisons between different locations within the county. Results from the new American Community Survey will also be reported on in future research reports.

Overall Population Growth

Table 1 and Figure 1 below summarize the population growth in Howard County from 2000 to 2010. The County grew by 39,243 residents during the decade, a 16 percent increase. As expected, the majority of the population growth occurred in the eastern part of the county, with smaller amounts of growth in the more rural west. Ellicott City grew by the most with 9,719

new residents followed by Elkridge (8,300), Columbia (5,323), West Friendship (5,141), Laurel (5,031), Clarksville (3,503) and Cooksville (2,226). The map (Figure 2) further below shows the regional planning districts and their 10 year population increase.

Howard County 2000 and 2010 Population by Regional Planning District

	2000	2010	Growth	% Growth
Columbia	93,762	99,085	5,323	5.7%
Ellicott City	52,978	62,697	9,719	18.3%
Elkridge	31,842	40,142	8,300	26.1%
Laurel	32,843	37,874	5,031	15.3%
Clarksville	14,099	17,602	3,503	24.8%
West Friendship	10,645	15,786	5,141	48.3%
Cooksville	11,673	13,899	2,226	19.1%
TOTAL	247,842	287,085	39,243	15.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1: Population by Regional Planning District

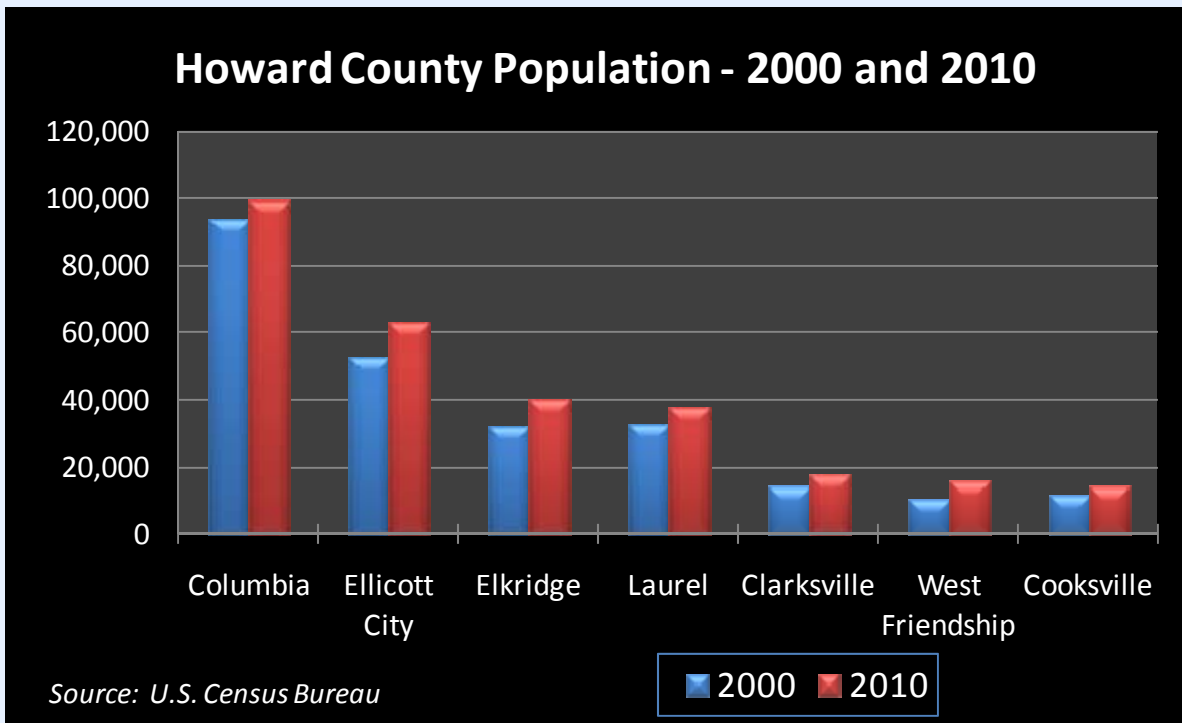


Figure 1: Howard County Population

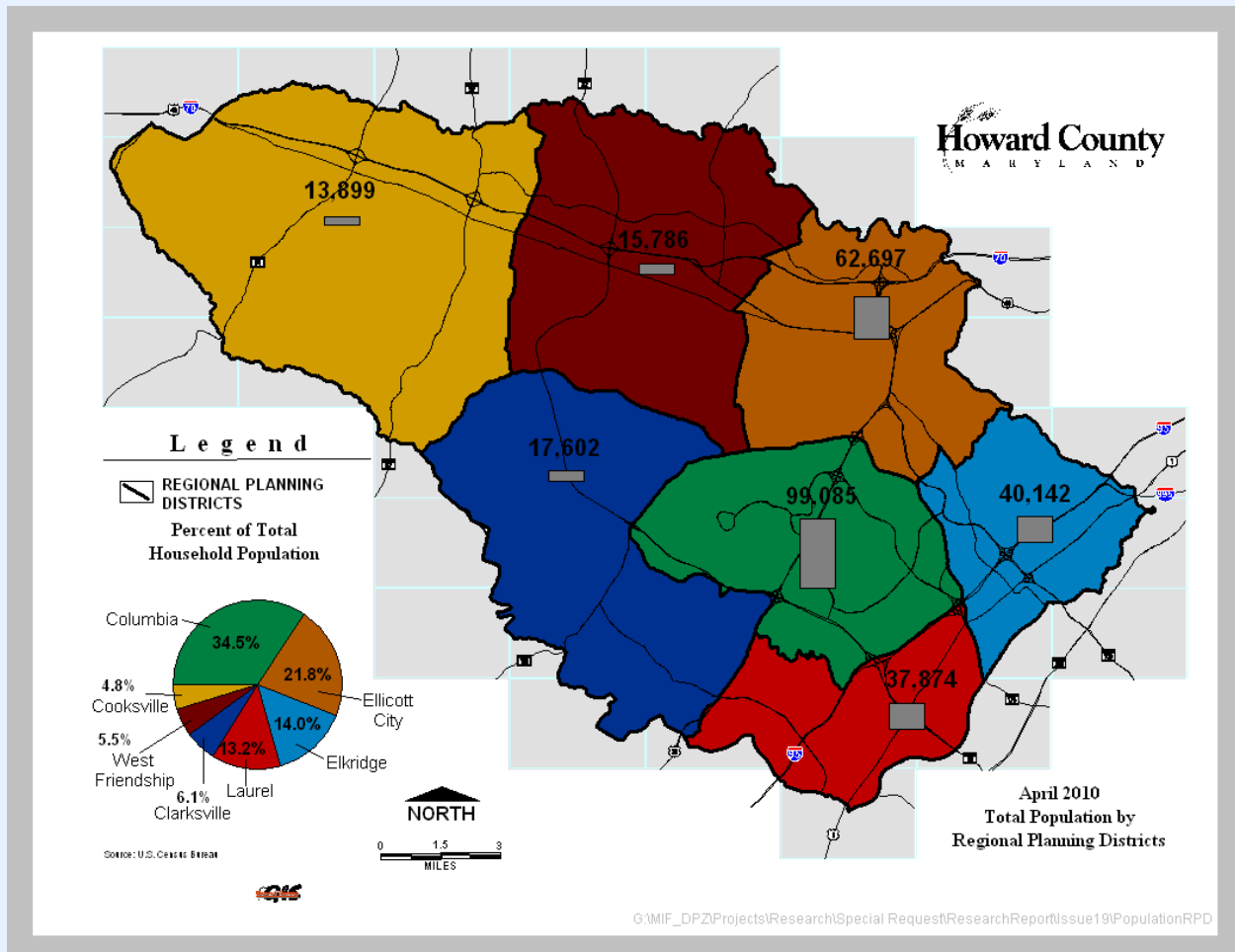


Figure 2: Population Growth by Regional Planning District

County Growth Slowing

Looking even further back, Howard County started growing significantly during 1970's and 80's. Since then growth has slowed. From 1970 to 1980, the population just about doubled from 61,911 to 118,572, an increase of almost 57,000 residents. During the following decade from 1980 to 1990, the population grew by an even larger 69,000 residents. Growth has slowed thereafter with an increase of about 60,000 in the 1990's followed by a 39,000 increase during the last decade from 2000 to 2010. Figures 3 and 4 below depict this historical growth.

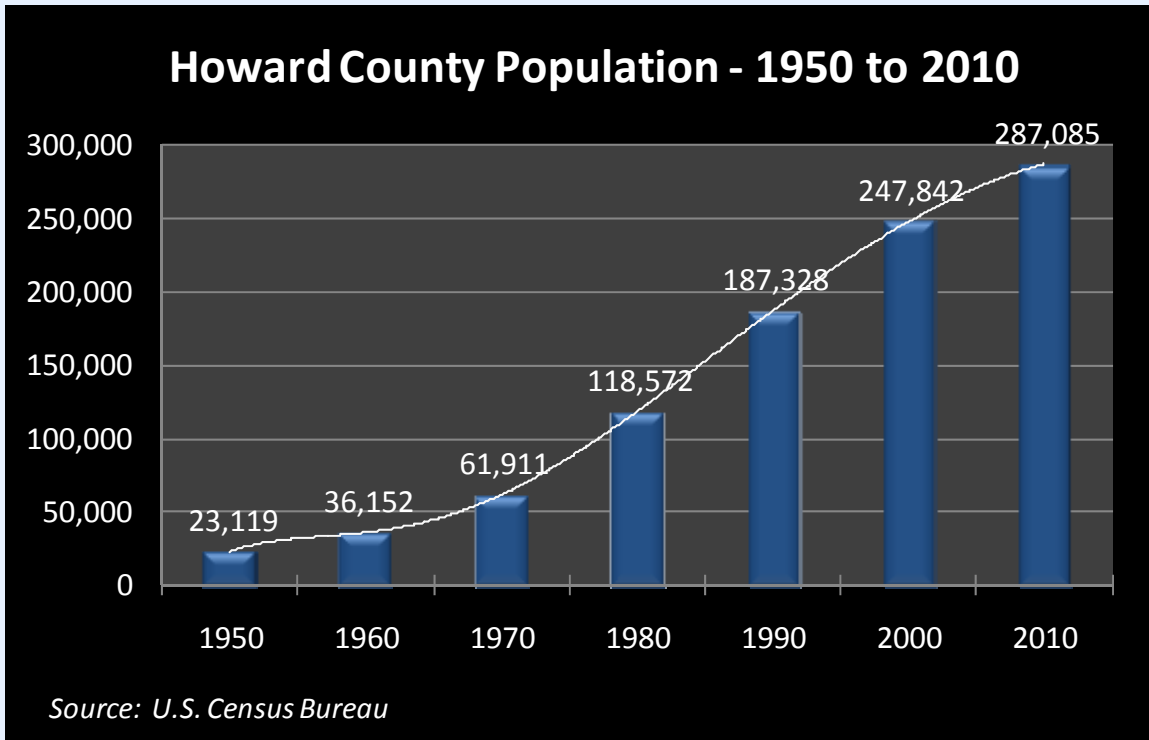


Figure 3: Population Growth, 1950 to 2010

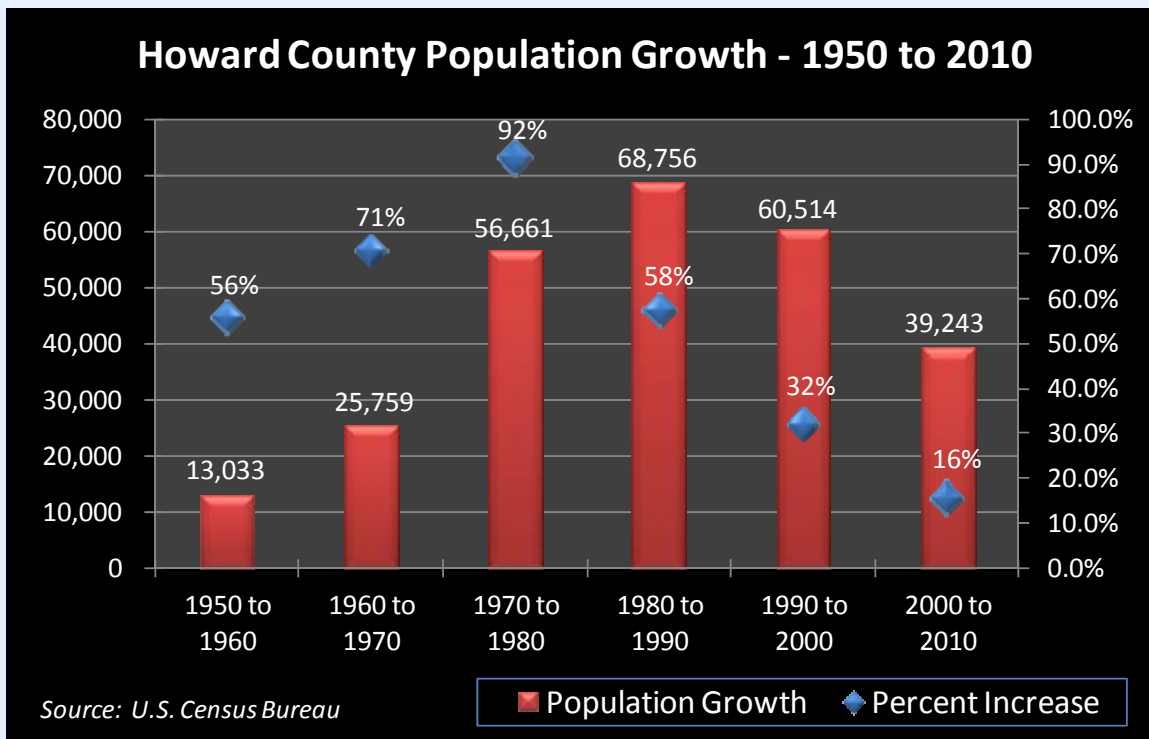


Figure 4: Total Growth vs. Growth Rate, 1950 to 2010

Population by Age

The tables and charts below summarize the age breakdown of Howard County residents in 2000 and 2010. There has been much discussion in the press and among policy makers, both nationally and locally, regarding the rapid aging of the population. Baby boomers, defined as those born between 1946 and 1964 currently make up a significant share of the national population. The first baby boomers are turning 65 now and over the next two decades will be entering their retirement years. Whereas the total U.S. population grew by 9.7 percent from 2000 to 2010, those entering the 45 to 64 year age cohort, the approximate ages of the baby boomers, increased by 31.5 percent during that same time period. This wave will progress into the 65 plus age cohort starting now.

Howard County is no exception. Baby boomers currently make up about 29 percent of the countywide population. Because of the size of this group, the number 30 to 44 year olds actually saw a decline from 2000 to 2010 as the boomers cycled through into the next cohorts.

Howard County Population by Age - 2000 and 2010

Age	2000		2010		2000 to 2010 Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	18,248	7.4%	17,363	6.0%	(885)	-5%
5 to 9	20,718	8.4%	20,557	7.2%	(161)	-1%
10 to 14	19,849	8.0%	22,451	7.8%	2,602	13%
15 to 19	15,270	6.2%	20,352	7.1%	5,082	33%
20 to 24	11,033	4.5%	14,727	5.1%	3,694	33%
25 to 29	15,994	6.5%	17,729	6.2%	1,735	11%
30 to 34	20,525	8.3%	17,632	6.1%	(2,893)	-14%
35 to 39	25,121	10.1%	19,716	6.9%	(5,405)	-22%
40 to 44	23,539	9.5%	23,157	8.1%	(382)	-2%
45 to 49	20,376	8.2%	26,164	9.1%	5,788	28%
50 to 54	17,946	7.2%	23,421	8.2%	5,475	31%
55 to 59	12,617	5.1%	19,178	6.7%	6,561	52%
60 to 64	8,138	3.3%	15,593	5.4%	7,455	92%
65 to 69	5,707	2.3%	10,770	3.8%	5,063	89%
70 to 74	4,663	1.9%	6,846	2.4%	2,183	47%
75 to 79	3,528	1.4%	4,823	1.7%	1,295	37%
80 to 84	2,427	1.0%	3,454	1.2%	1,027	42%
85 and over	2,143	0.9%	3,152	1.1%	1,009	47%
Total	247,842	100.0%	287,085	100.0%	39,243	16%
Under 5	18,248	7.4%	17,363	6.0%	(885)	-5%
5 to 19	55,837	22.5%	63,360	22.1%	7,523	13%
20 to 44	96,212	38.8%	92,961	32.4%	(3,251)	-3%
45 to 64	59,077	23.8%	84,356	29.4%	25,279	43%
65 and over	18,468	7.5%	29,045	10.1%	10,577	57%
Total	247,842	100.0%	287,085	100.0%	39,243	16%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2: Population by Age

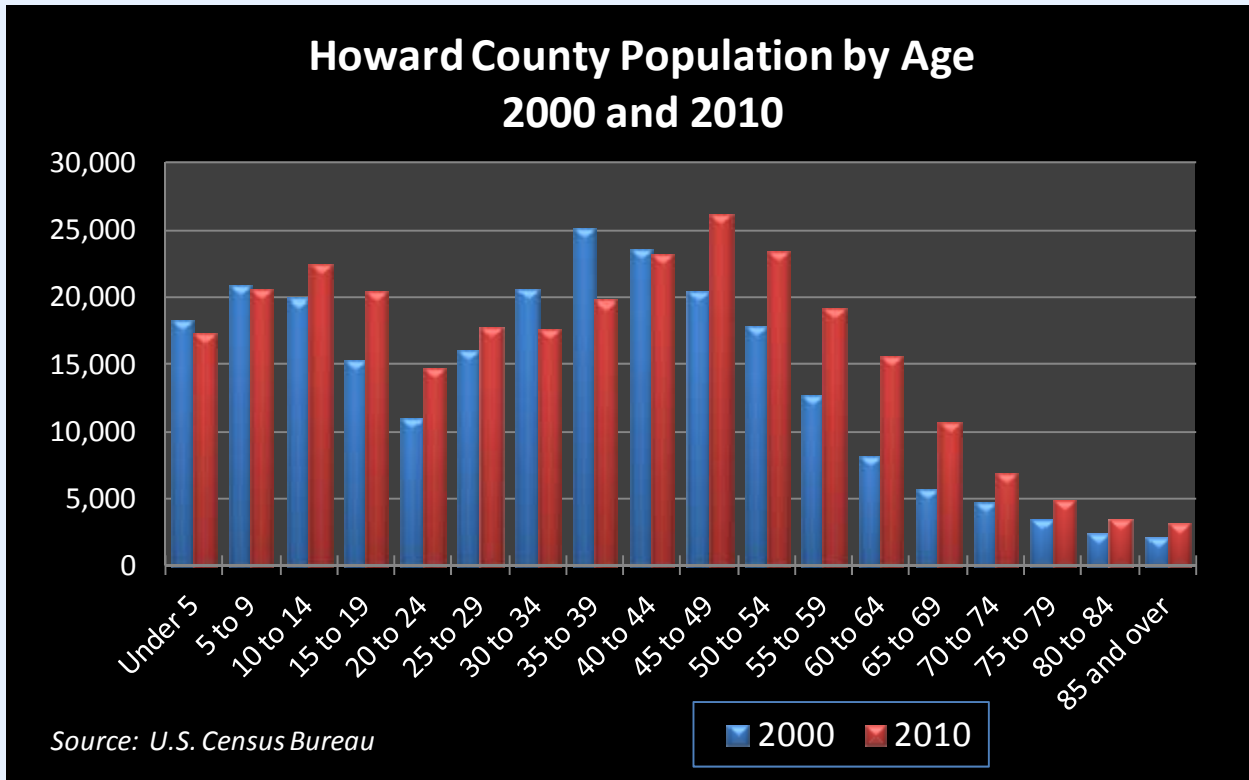


Figure 5: Population by Age

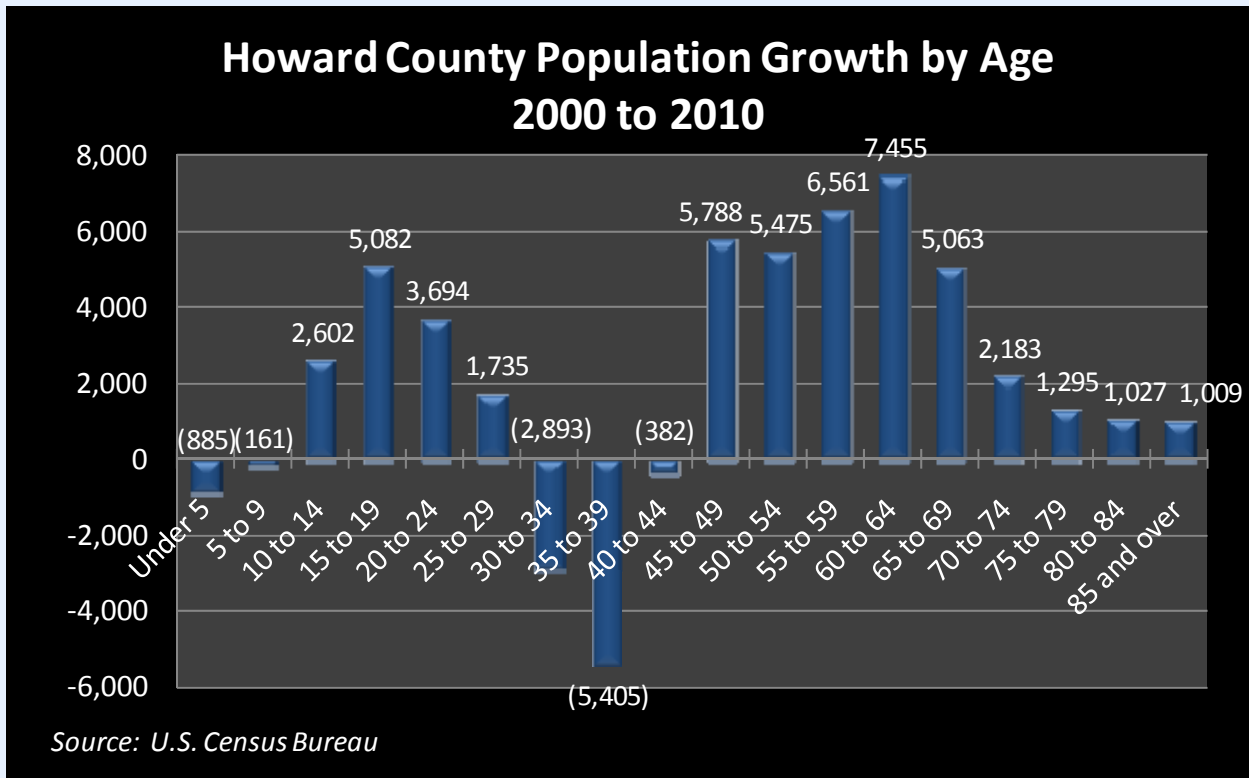


Figure 6: Population Growth by Age

Like the population as a whole, the number of children aged 5 to 19 has also grown over the last 10 years and make up about 22 percent of the population. As a result school enrollments in Howard County increased during the past decade. Young children under 5 have decreased, however, from 18,248 in 2000 to 17,363 in 2010, a 5 percent decrease. As the baby boomers age, the children of the baby boomers are aging as well putting less pressure on school enrollments.

The number of residents currently age 65 and older also increased over the last decade. While the overall county population increased by 16 percent, those 65 and over increased by a much greater 57 percent. There are now 10,577 more residents 65 and older compared to ten years ago – 29,045 total in 2010 compared to 18,468 in 2000. Almost 27 percent of the increase of 39,243 residents from 2000 to 2010 was comprised of those aged 65 and older. The very old, 85 and over, increased by an even greater 47 percent.

This trend will no doubt continue as the baby boomers continue to age. The question that often comes up is whether residents will “age in place,” or will they instead retire to some other place. Although some residents do, and will indeed move when they retire, the vast majority will stay. This was evidenced in a 2006 Maryland task force report.¹ The report also documented a trend of the very old moving back after initially moving away post-retirement. These trends should be followed closely over next five to ten years in order to fully understand the choices of older Howard County residents so policies and resources can be appropriately adopted and adjusted.

Population by Race

The 2010 Census reported that the population of Howard County is 59 percent non-Hispanic White, 17 percent non-Hispanic African American, 14 percent non-Hispanic Asian, and close to 6 percent Hispanic. About 3 percent of the population indicated that they were of more than one race. Less than 1 percent is of another race including a small number of American Indians and Native Alaskans. Note that Hispanics can be of any race. Refer to the table and figures below.

Compared to a decade ago, it is clear that the county has become increasingly diverse. In 2000, the non-Hispanic White population was 73 percent of the total. The remaining 27 percent consisted of minority populations. By 2010, the minority populations increased to 41 percent of the total, a significant increase over a relatively short period of time.

The non-Hispanic Asian population increased the most between 2000 and 2010 by more than 22,000 people, a 116 percent increase. This is followed by the non-Hispanic African American population which grew by close to 14,000 residents, a 39 percent increase. Hispanics increased by about 9,200 residents, representing the largest growth rate at 123 percent. By comparison, the non-Hispanic White population *decreased* by 10,000 residents, a 5.6 percent decline. This is the first time the non-Hispanic White population decreased in Howard County between decennial censuses. At the current rate of change it is likely that Howard County will be a “majority-minority” county sometime between now the 2020 Census.

¹ “The Dynamics of Elderly and Retiree Migration Into and Out of Maryland”, A Task Force Report to Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and the Maryland General Assembly, 2006.

Howard County Population by Race -- 2000 to 2010

	2000		2010		Growth	
Population of One Race Alone (Non-Hispanic)	235,591	95.1%	261,585	91.1%	25,994	11.0%
White (Non-Hispanic)	180,010	72.6%	169,972	59.2%	(10,038)	-5.6%
African American (Non-Hispanic)	35,353	14.3%	49,150	17.1%	13,797	39.0%
Amer. Ind. & Alaska Native (Non-Hispanic)	515	0.2%	511	0.2%	(4)	-0.8%
Asian & Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic)	19,057	7.7%	41,206	14.4%	22,149	116.2%
Some Other Race (Non-Hispanic)	656	0.3%	746	0.3%	90	13.7%
Population of Two or More Races (Non-Hispanic) (1)	4,761	1.9%	8,771	3.1%	4,010	84.2%
TOTAL NON-HISPANIC POPULATION	240,352	97.0%	270,356	94.2%	30,004	12.5%
TOTAL HISPANIC POPULATION (2)	7,490	3.0%	16,729	5.8%	9,239	123.4%
GRAND TOTAL POPULATION	247,842	100.0%	287,085	100.0%	39,243	15.8%

(1) This option was available for the first time in the 2000 Census.

(2) Hispanic Origin can be from any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 3: Population by Race

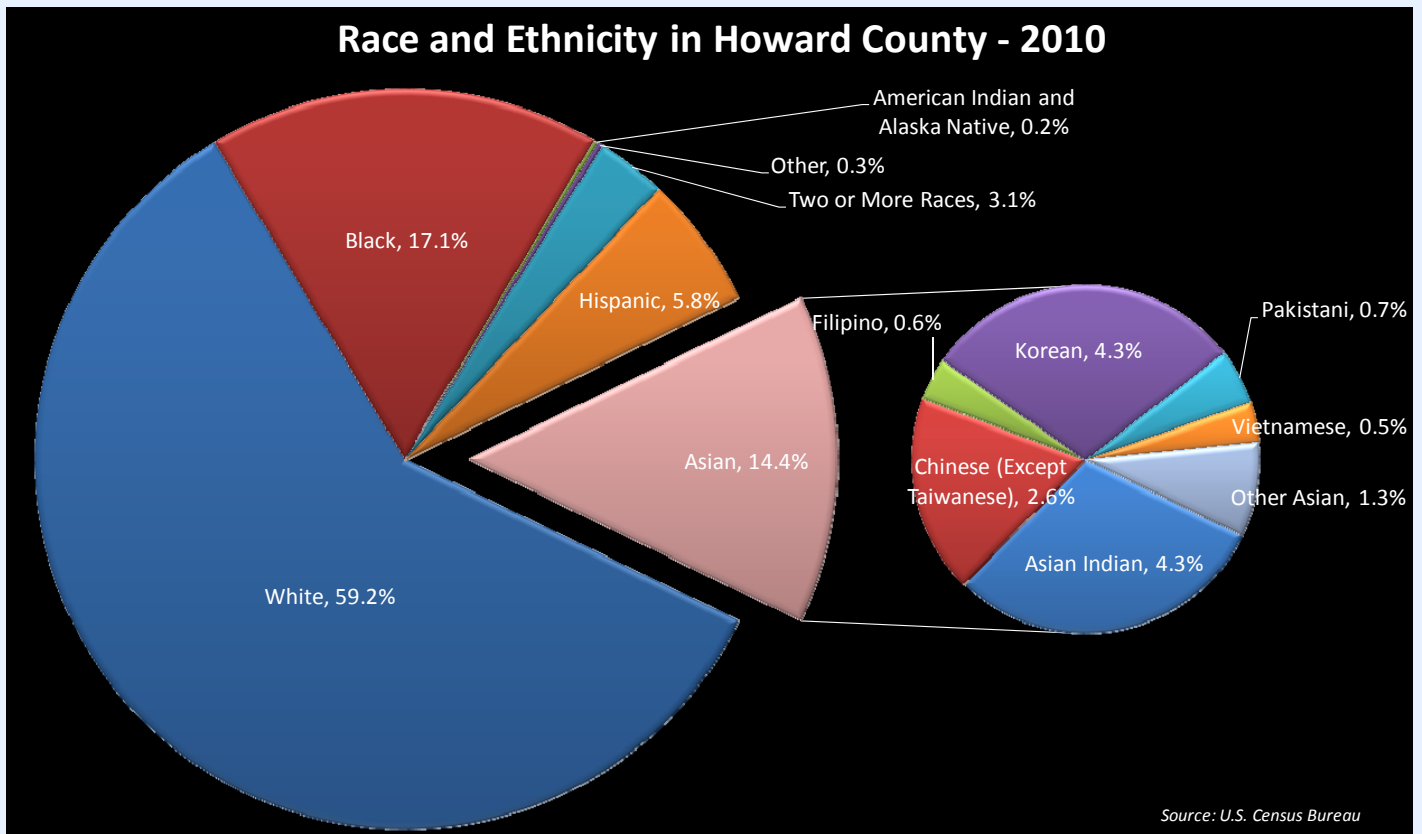


Figure 7: Race and Ethnicity

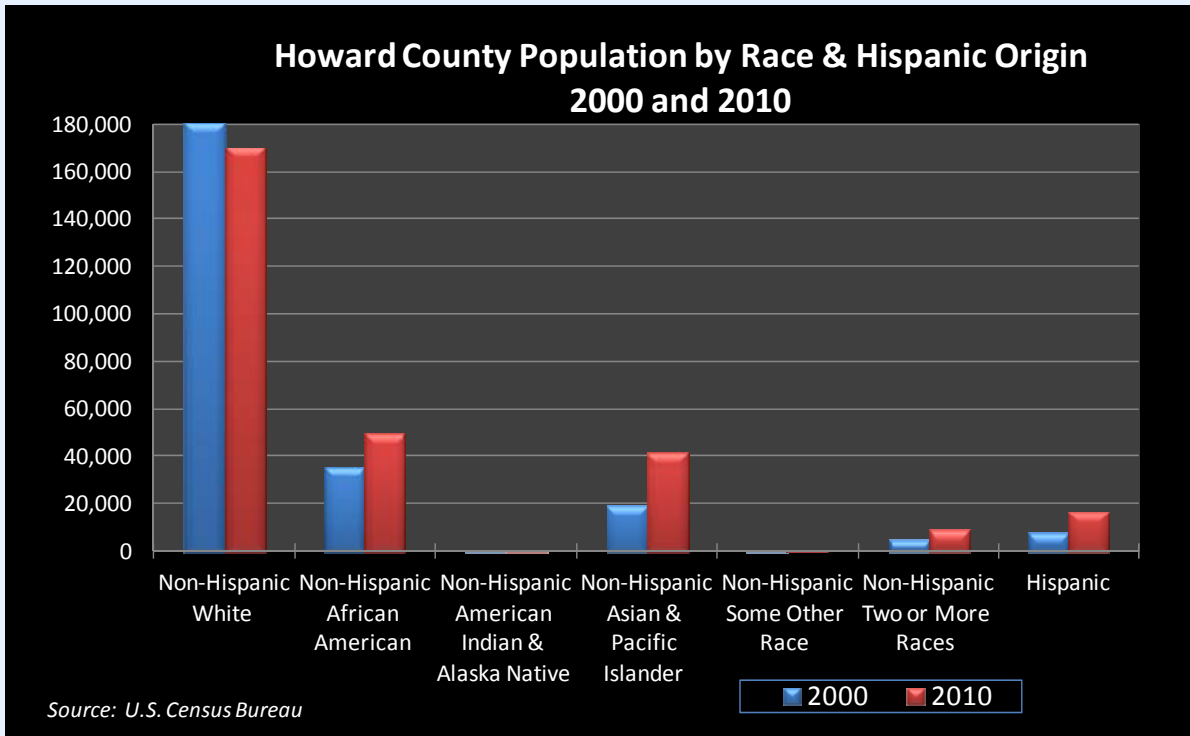


Figure 8: Population by Race and Hispanic Origin

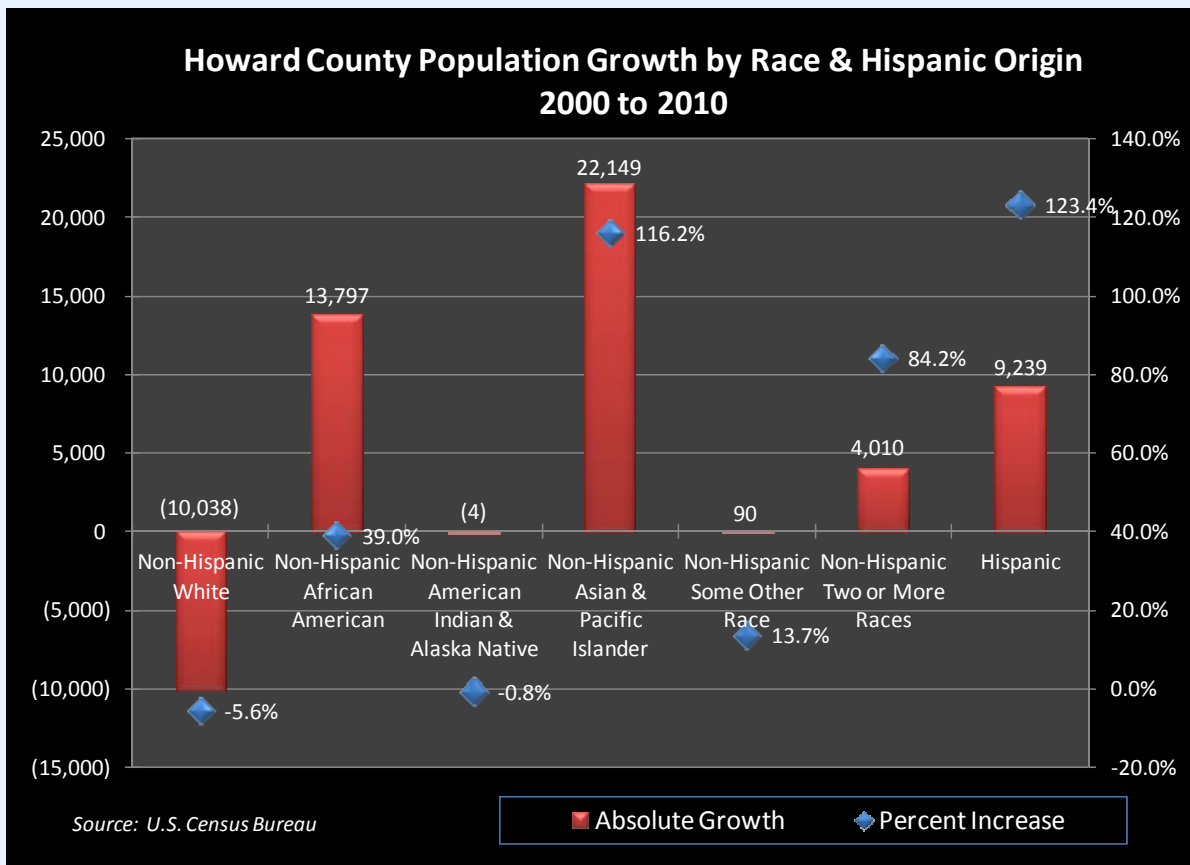


Figure 9: Population Growth by Race and Hispanic Origin

Housing Units

According to Census data, 16,464 new housing units were built in Howard County between 2000 and 2010, an average of about 1,650 new units per year. The majority of growth occurred in the eastern portion of the county, as previously mentioned, with Ellicott City experiencing the greatest increase (4,026 new units) since the last decennial census. Overall, housing in Howard County grew approximately 17.7 percent, from 2000 to 2010 which is down from the 20,235 units, or 27.9 percent increase, that occurred from 1990 to 2000.

Howard County Housing Units

	2000	2010	Growth	
Cooksville	3,768	4,676	908	24.1%
West Friendship	3,673	5,602	1,929	52.5%
Clarksville	4,537	5,870	1,333	29.4%
Laurel	12,116	13,860	1,744	14.4%
Ellicott City	19,355	23,381	4,026	20.8%
Elkridge	11,907	14,885	2,978	25.0%
Columbia	37,462	41,008	3,546	9.5%
Total	92,818	109,282	16,464	17.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 4: Housing Units

Housing Tenure and Vacancy

As in 2000, the 2010 Census indicates that a majority of the units in the County are owner occupied. In 2010, 70.6 percent of housing units are owner occupied, one percent less than the 71.6 percent reported in 2000. The total number of households in the county include 77,193 owner occupied and 27,556 renter occupied units in 2010.

Household Tenure and Occupancy Rates in Howard County

	2000		2010	
	Units	Percent	Units	Percent
Occupied	90,043	97.0%	104,749	95.9%
Owner Occupied	66,479	71.6%	77,193	70.6%
Renter Occupied	23,564	25.4%	27,556	25.2%
Vacant	2,775	3.0%	4,533	4.1%
Seasonal Units	325	0.4%	418	0.4%
Vacant w/o Seasonal Units	2,450	2.6%	4,115	3.8%
Total Units	92,818	100%	109,282	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 5: Housing Tenure and Occupancy Rates

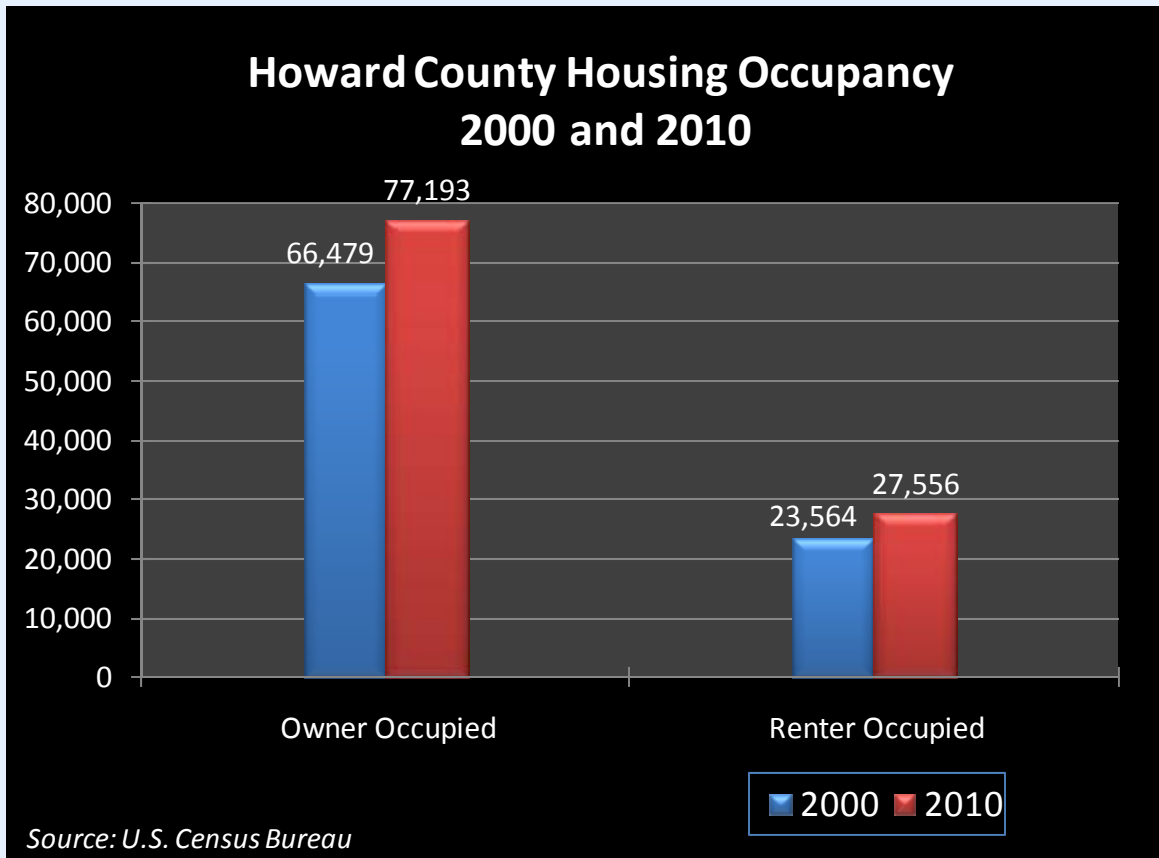


Figure 10: Housing Occupancy

Housing vacancy has increased over the last decade, up from 2,775 in 2000 to 4,533 in 2010. Different reasons may account for the increase, but some explanations could be, in part, to the downturn of the economy beginning in 2008, which has contributed to higher unemployment and difficulties in obtaining home mortgages. Vacant units in 2010 are now at 1990 levels (4,246). However, an important factor to consider is while vacancies have increased over the last decade, so have the total number of housing units in Howard County. The vacancy rate is therefore lower in 2010 at 4.1 percent than the 5.8 percent reported in 1990.

Howard County Vacancy Rate

Census Year	1990	2000	2010
Total Number of Vacancy	4,246	2,775	4,533
Total Housing Units	72,583	92,818	109,282
Vacancy Rate	5.8%	3.0%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 6: Vacancy Rate

Vacancy rates in Howard County are low compared to other counties in Maryland. In fact, Howard County has the lowest reported *net* vacancy rate (which excludes seasonal units) at 3.8 percent. The net vacancy rate statewide for Maryland in 2010 is 7.0 percent. According to the 2010 Census, almost 8 percent of the almost 132 million housing units nationwide were vacant. A further breakdown of vacancies in Howard County is shown in the table below.

Howard County Vacancies by Type

Type	2000		2010		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
For Rent	1,022	36.8%	1,779	39.2%	757	74.1%
Rented/Sold, Not Occupied	589	21.2%	443	9.8%	(146)	-24.8%
For Sale	316	11.4%	949	20.9%	633	200.3%
Seasonal	325	11.7%	418	9.2%	93	28.6%
For Migratory Workers	6	0.2%	2	0.0%	(4)	-66.7%
Other Vacant	517	18.6%	942	20.8%	425	82.2%
Total Vacant	2,775	100.0%	4,533	100.0%	1,758	63.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 7: Vacancy by Type

Household Size

Overall household size in Howard County has not changed significantly since 2000, increasing only slightly to 2.72 persons per household from 2.71 a decade earlier. Average household size was also 2.71 in 1990, so it has remained essentially unchanged for 20 years in Howard County.

By comparison, the 2010 household size for Maryland as a whole was a lower 2.61, decreasing from 2.67 in 1990 two decades earlier, the smallest decrease since the 1950s. The Statewide average remained flat at 2.61 also in 2010. Generally, Howard County has a higher proportion of families with children than other counties resulting in larger households on average. Household size values, including owner and renter occupied, are summarized in the table below.

**Howard County Household Size
(with Statewide Comparison)**

Household Type	1990	2000	2010	Statewide 2010
Owner Occupied	2.89	2.89	2.86	2.71
Renter Occupied	2.26	2.22	2.34	2.42
Total Occupied	2.71	2.71	2.72	2.61

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 8: Household Size

Household Type and Relationship

Household type in Howard County has remained relatively consistent since 2000. Almost three-quarters of total households are family households and one-quarter are non-family households. The Census defines a family as two or more people living together who are related by birth, marriage or adoption. Domestic relationships may be categorized in family or non-family households. For example, same sex partners would be categorized as a non-family household regardless if the state in which they reside issued them a marriage license. However, that same domestic household would be categorized as a family household if an adopted or related child resided in the household.² Statewide, 67.1 percent of all households were family households in 2010. Howard County’s greater family household percentage reflects its status as a “bedroom community,” most likely attracting families due to its high quality school system, safe environment, and other amenities.

Household by Type in Howard County

Category	2000		2010		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family Households	65,790	73.1%	76,333	72.9%	10,543	16.0%
Husband-Wife Households	54,441	60.5%	61,671	58.9%	7,230	13.3%
Other Family	11,349	12.6%	14,662	14.0%	3,313	29.2%
Male Householder, No Wife Present	2,798	3.1%	3,639	3.5%	841	30.1%
Female Householder, No Husband Present	8,551	9.5%	11,023	10.5%	2,472	28.9%
Non-Family Households	24,253	26.9%	28,416	27.1%	4,163	17.2%
Total Households	90,043	100%	104,749	100%	14,706	16.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 9: Household Type

Of all household types in Howard County in 2010, husband-wife households are the largest cohort (61,671 households or 58.9 percent of total households). The second largest group is non-family households (28,416 households or 27.1 percent). This is followed by female householders with no husband present (11,023 households or 10.5 percent). Finally, the remaining 3,639 family households (3.5 percent) are headed by a male householder with no wife present. Continuing the trend since 2000, family households with no wife or husband present have increased at greater rates than husband-wife family households. This information is also shown graphically in the charts below.

² Additional information may be found at http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/langfiles/qrb_English.pdf

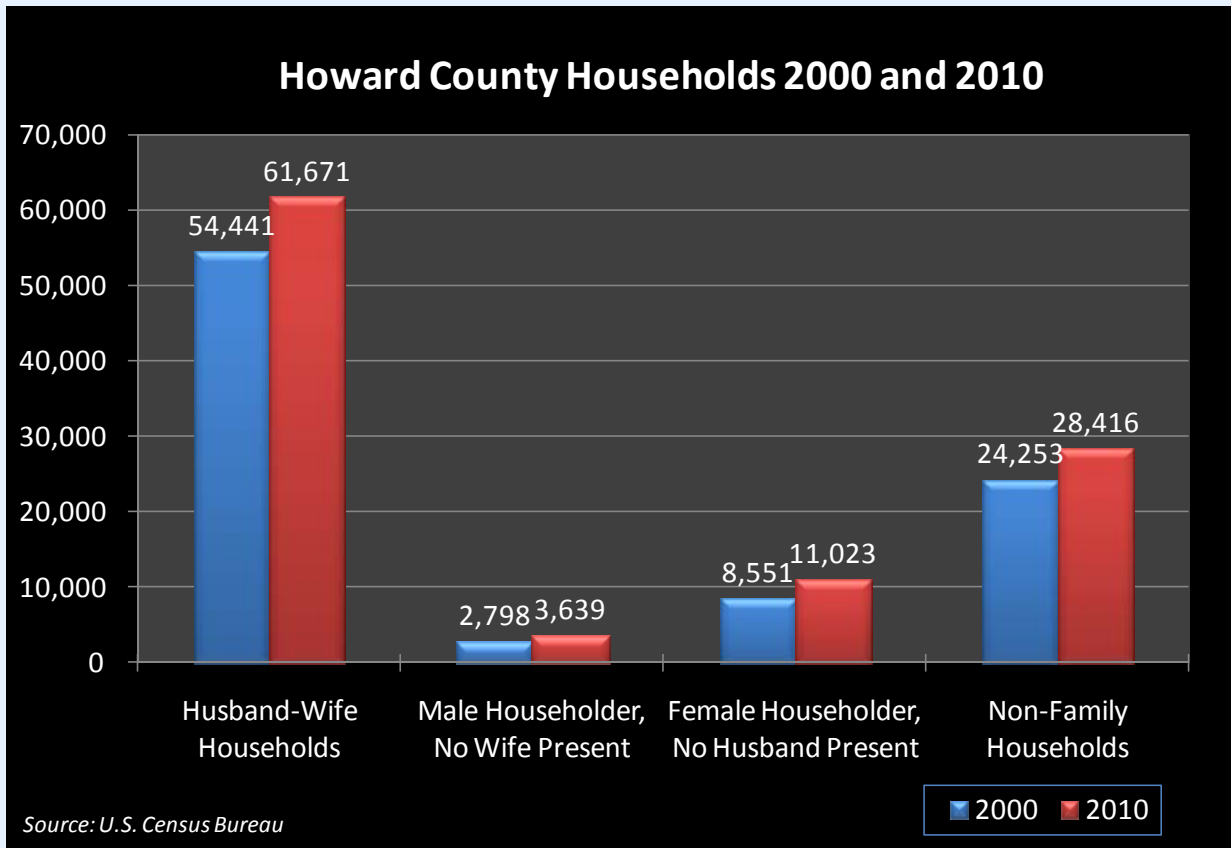


Figure 11: Household Type

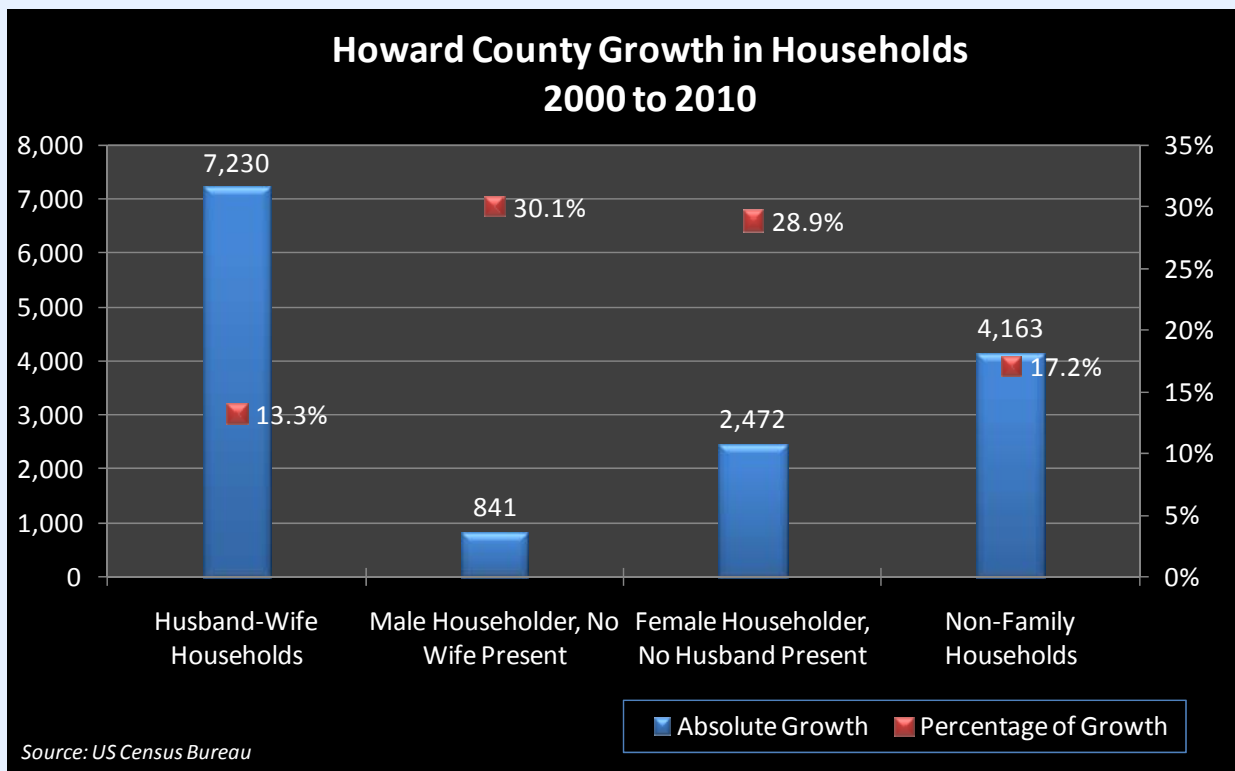


Figure 12: Household Growth by Type

Comparing *family households* with and without children more closely, of the total 76,333 family households in 2010, 30,994 or 40.6 percent are husband-wife households without one or more of their own children under 18 followed by husband-wife households with their own children under 18 at 30,677 or 40.2 percent. The remaining 19 percent of family households consist of non-married family households. Of these, the majority are women householders living with their own children under 18 (6,331 or 8.3 percent), followed by women with no children under 18 of their own (4,692 or 6.1 percent). Men with no wife present without their own children under 18 make up 2.5 percent of all family households in Howard County, followed by men with no wife present with their own children under 18 at 2.3 percent.

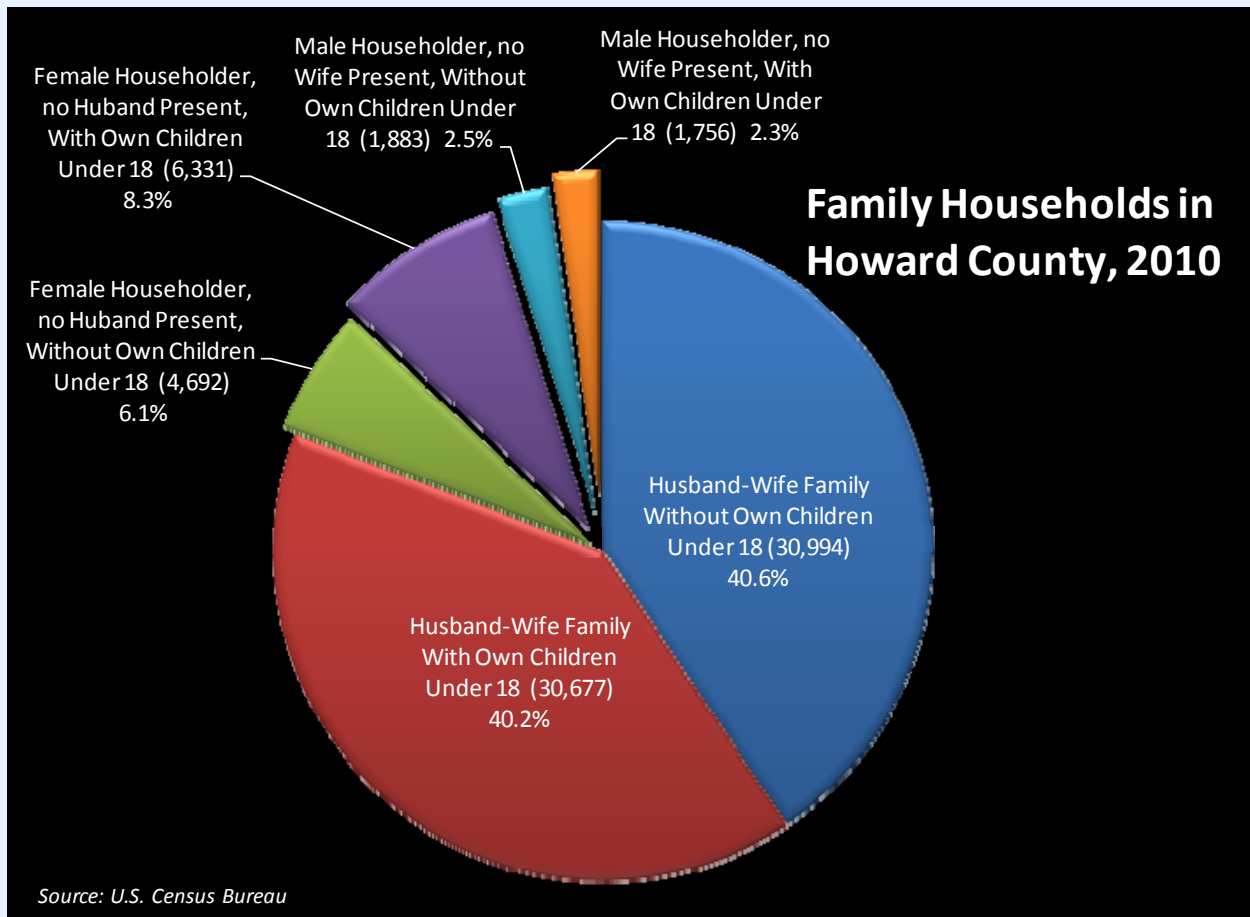


Figure 13: Family Households

Husband-wife households in Howard County with their own children under 18 exceed the Maryland statewide average. In Maryland, these households make up only 30.4 percent of families compared to 40.2 percent of families in Howard County. Statewide, 11.4 percent of families are female headed households with no husband with their own children under 18. This compares to 8.3 percent for this category in Howard County. For male headed households with no wife present with their own children under 18, the percentage is 3.3 percent statewide compared to 2.3 percent in Howard County.

The chart below shows Howard County family households in 2000 and 2010 and indicates the 10 year growth rate for each category. In terms of percentage increase, male households with no wife present with their own children under 18 and female households with no husband present with their own children under 18 grew the most significantly at 45.2 and 45.7 percent, respectively. The “traditional nuclear family” defined as husband-wife families with their own children under 18 grew at the smallest rate of only 5.0 percent. The group with the greatest absolute increase are husband-wife households without their own children under 18, which increased from 25,215 households in 2000 to 30,994 households in 2010, a 22.9 percent increase.

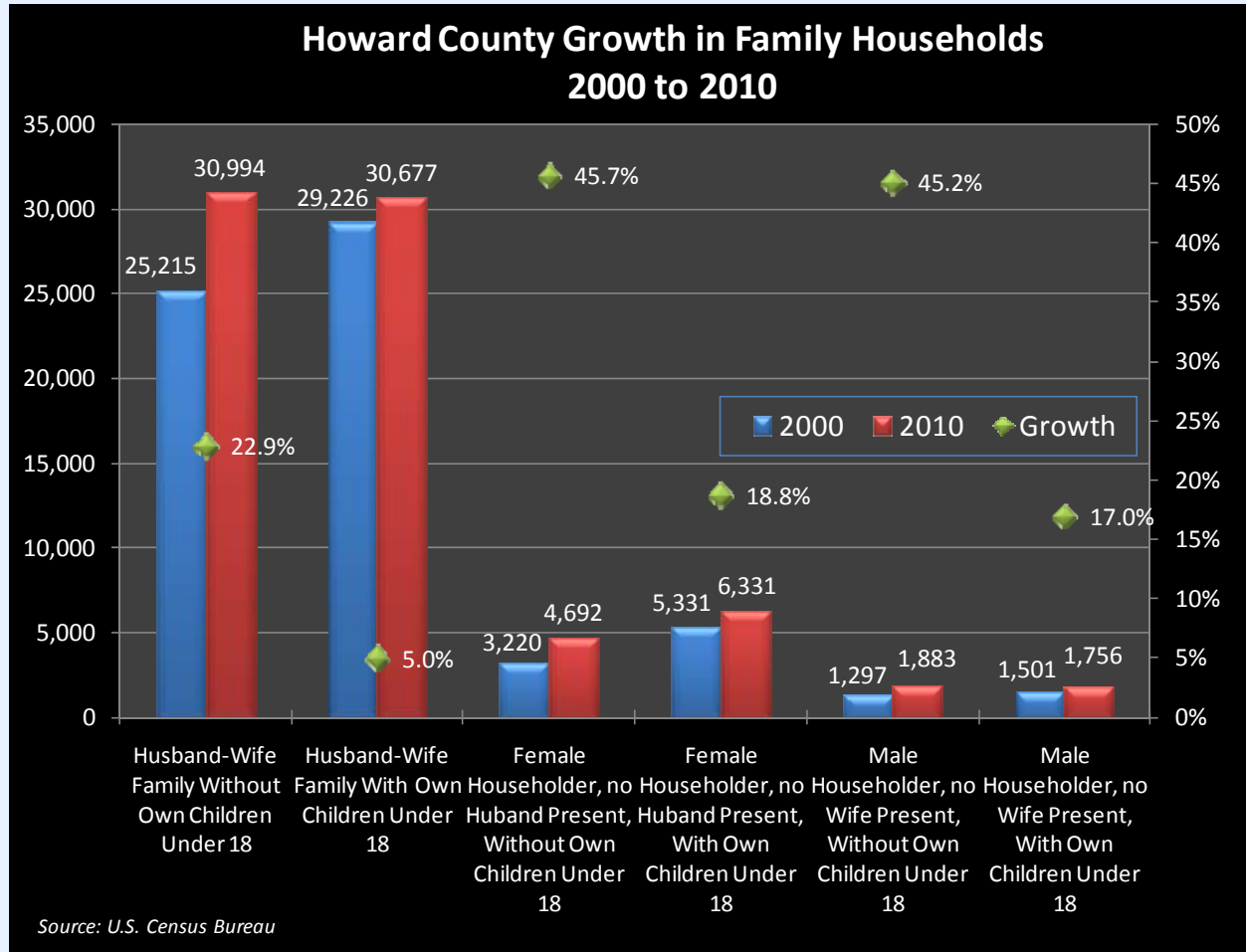


Figure 14: Family Household Growth

Of the 104,749 households in Howard County in 2010, 28,416, or a little more than one quarter of households, were non-family households. Non-family households are defined as those living alone or those living together who are not related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Of all non-family households, 22,903 (80.6 percent) were those living alone. The remaining 5,513 non-family households include those with two or more non-related residents. As indicated earlier, these would include residents not related by birth, marriage, or adoption. This summarized in the figures below. Figure 16 also summarizes growth in nonfamily households since 2000.

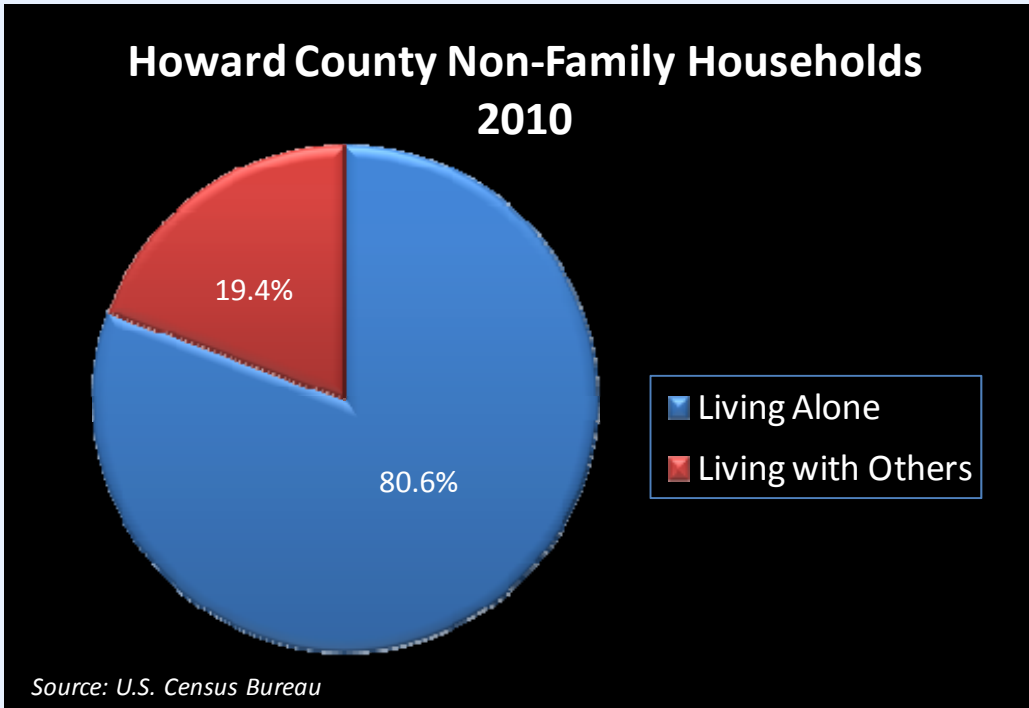


Figure 15: Non-Family Households

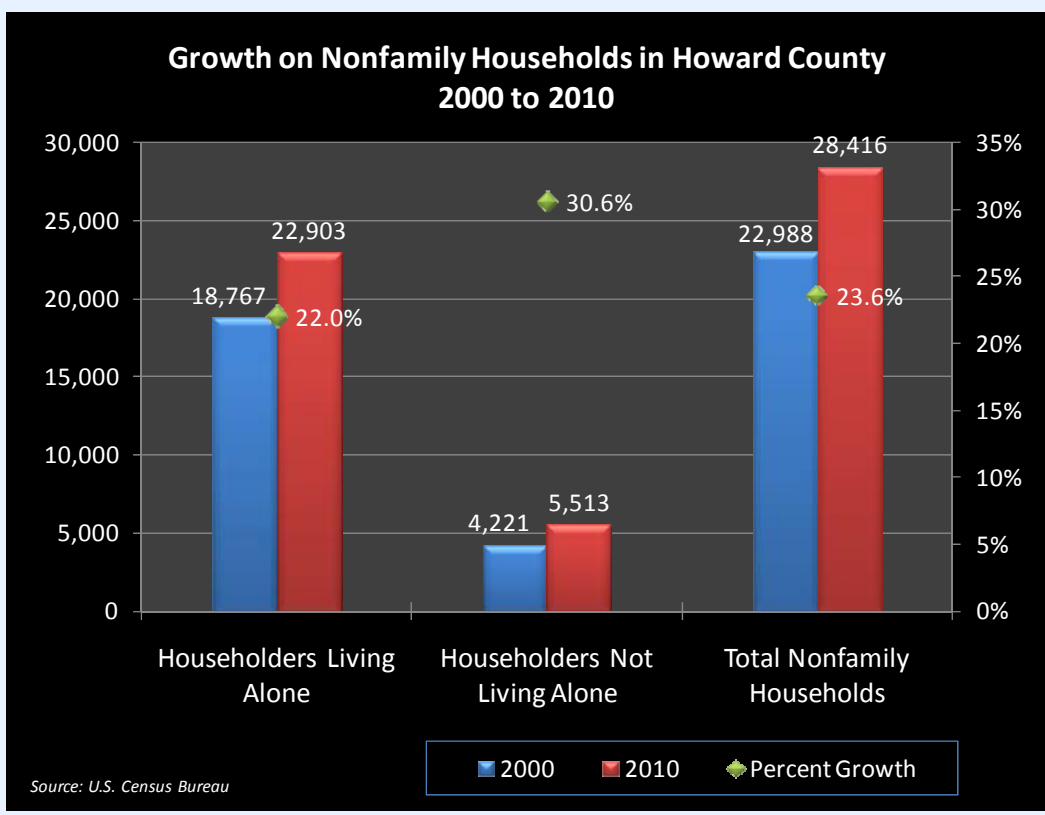


Figure 16: Growth of Non-Family Households

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