



RESEARCH REPORT

A publication providing statistical information on Howard County demographics, socioeconomic and employment trends and patterns. Available from the Department of Planning and Zoning by calling (410) 313-4370.

2000 CENSUS OVERVIEW

Introduction

This marks the first in a series of reports that will be issued summarizing the Census 2000 data for Howard County. The Census Bureau has 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 common to both the Census 2000 Short-Form and Long-Form Questionnaires. About 1 in 6 households received the Long-Form Questionnaire and the rest received the Short-Form. The data released in SF1 therefore represents answers from all households. Data unique to the Long-Form are considered sample data and will be released sometime in the summer or fall of 2002. The sample data will include income and poverty statistics as well as other social and economic information.

This report summarizes the major 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.

Population Growth

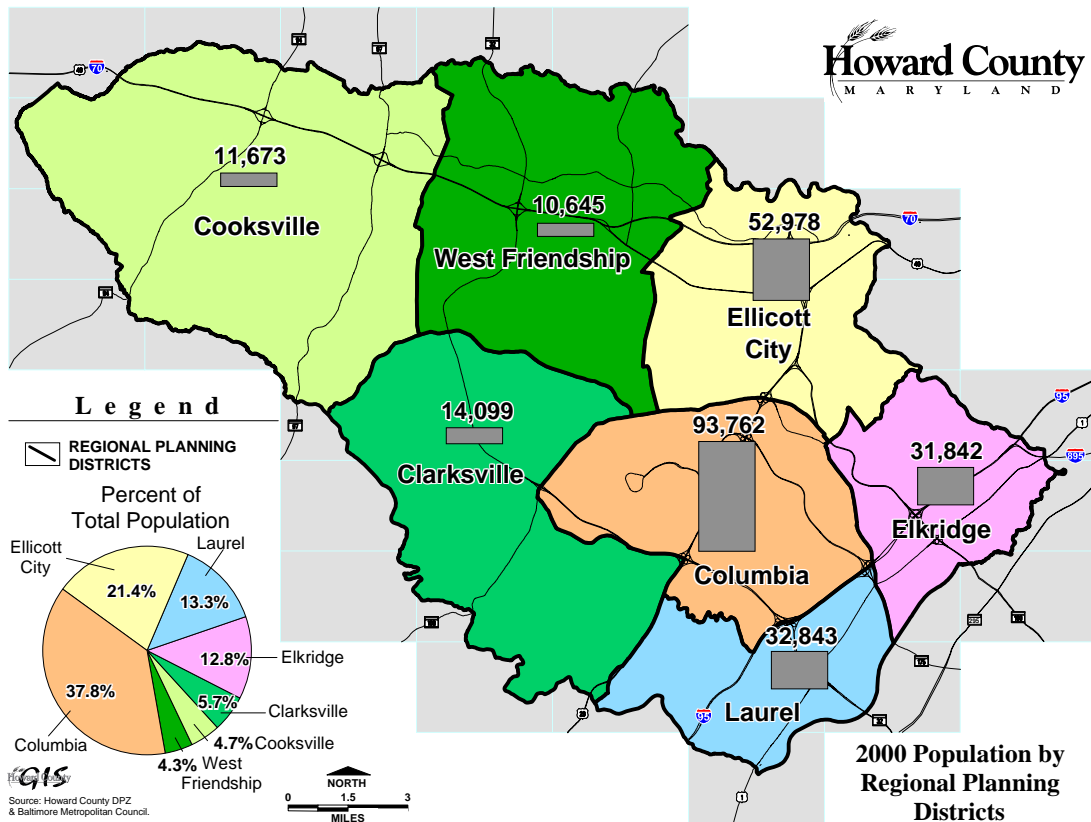
The table below summarizes the population growth in Howard County from 1990 to 2000. The County grew by 60,514 residents during the decade, a 32 percent increase. As expected, the

Howard County 1990 & 2000 Population

	1990	2000	Growth	% Growth
Cooksville	8,748	11,673	2,925	33.4%
West Friendship	7,592	10,645	3,053	40.2%
Clarksville	11,005	14,099	3,094	28.1%
Laurel	23,896	32,843	8,947	37.4%
Ellicott City	40,311	52,978	12,667	31.4%
Elkridge	17,511	31,842	14,331	81.8%
Columbia	78,265	93,762	15,497	19.8%
TOTAL	187,328	247,842	60,514	32.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

majority of the population growth occurred in the eastern part of the County, with smaller amounts of growth in the Rural West. The Cooksville, West Friendship, and Clarksville areas grew by 2,925, 3,053 and 3,094 people, respectively. This compares to relatively larger population growth amounts of 15,497, 14,331, 12,667 and 8,947 residents in Columbia, Elkrigde, Ellicott City, and Laurel, respectively. The percentage growth rates for areas in the Rural West are relatively high, however, due to the smaller population base there in 1990.



Population by Age

The tables and charts on the following pages summarize the age breakdown of Howard County residents in 1990 and 2000. Similar to national trends, it is apparent that the Baby Boomers and their children make up the largest age cohorts in the County.

There has been much discussion in the press and among policy makers, both nationally and locally, regarding the aging of the population. Baby boomers, defined as those born between 1946 and 1964 currently make up the greatest share of the national population. Howard County is no exception. As indicated in the table below, baby boomers (35 to 54 year-olds) make up

more than 35 percent of the Countywide population, almost 87,000 residents. Because of the size of this group the number 20 to 34 year olds actually shows a decline from 1990 to 2000 as the boomers cycled through into the next cohorts.

The Baby Boomers are just now turning 55. Over the next 10 to 20 years large numbers will retire and move into the 65 plus category. This is recognized in the recently adopted General Plan 2000 which outlines several policies to ensure adequate housing and services to accommodate this growing population. Action has already been taken on this. The Howard County Zoning Regulations were recently amended in July, 2001 to include a new Planned Senior Community (PSC) District in addition to other changes to more appropriately address the needs for senior housing. In addition, the Adequate Public Facilities allocations chart now includes an annual 250 unit “set-aside” for senior housing in eligible areas of the County’s water and sewer Planned Service Area.

Howard County Population by Age - 1990 and 2000

Age	1990		2000		1990 to 2020 Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	15,200	8.1%	18,248	7.4%	3,048	20%
5 to 9	13,938	7.4%	20,718	8.4%	6,780	49%
10 to 14	12,213	6.5%	19,849	8.0%	7,636	63%
15 to 19	11,163	6.0%	15,270	6.2%	4,107	37%
20 to 24	12,680	6.8%	11,033	4.5%	(1,647)	-13%
25 to 34	39,236	20.9%	36,519	14.7%	(2,717)	-7%
35 to 44	36,230	19.3%	48,660	19.6%	12,430	34%
45 to 54	23,130	12.3%	38,322	15.5%	15,192	66%
55 to 59	6,800	3.6%	12,617	5.1%	5,817	86%
60 to 64	5,339	2.9%	8,138	3.3%	2,799	52%
65 to 74	7,178	3.8%	10,370	4.2%	3,192	44%
75 to 84	3,300	1.8%	5,955	2.4%	2,655	80%
85 and over	921	0.5%	2,143	0.9%	1,222	133%
Total	187,328	100.0%	247,842	100.0%	60,514	32%

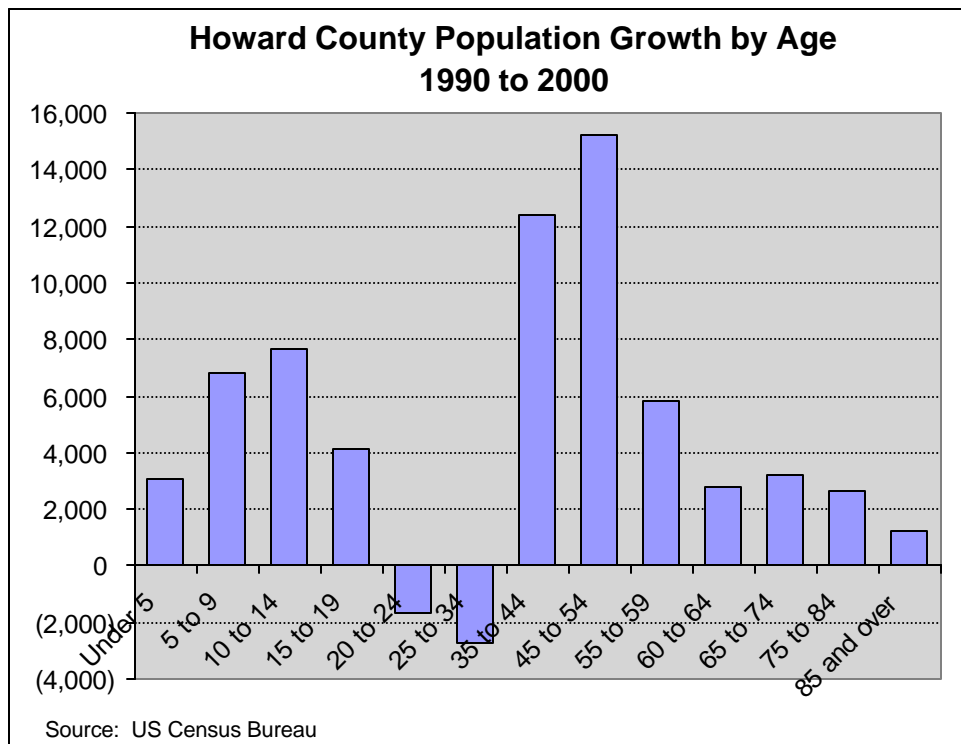
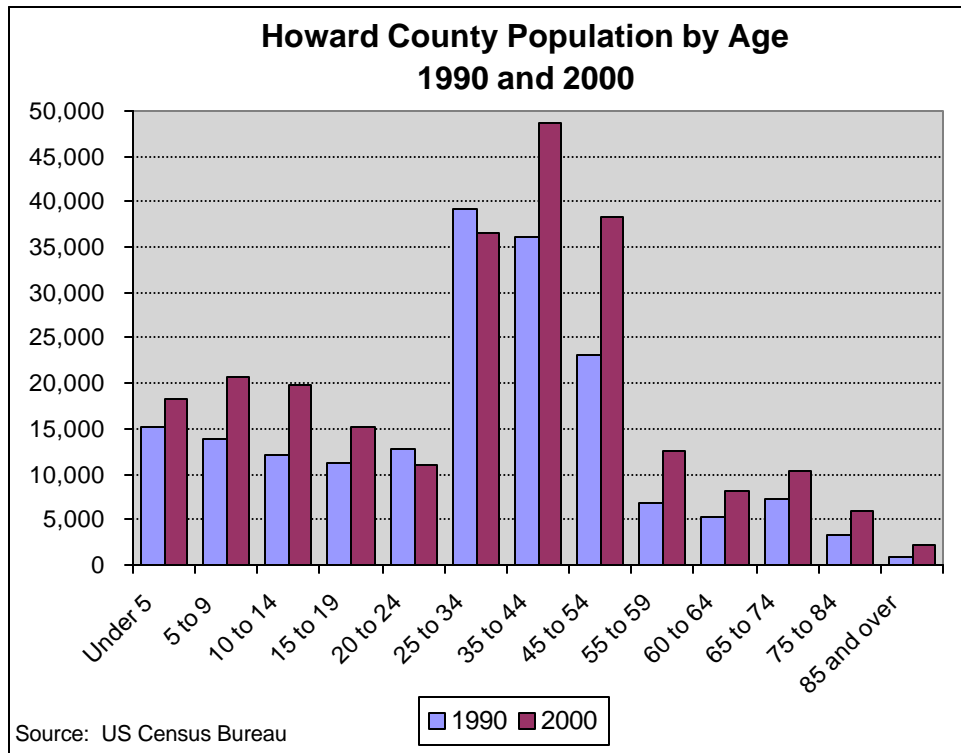
55 and older	23,538	12.6%	39,223	15.8%	15,685	67%
60 and older	16,738	8.9%	26,606	10.7%	9,868	59%
65 and older	11,399	6.1%	18,468	7.5%	7,069	62%

Under 5	15,200	8.1%	18,248	7.4%	3,048	20%
5 to 19	37,314	19.9%	55,837	22.5%	18,523	50%
20 to 44	88,146	47.1%	96,212	38.8%	8,066	9%
45 to 64	35,269	18.8%	59,077	23.8%	23,808	68%
65 and over	11,399	6.1%	18,468	7.5%	7,069	62%
Total	187,328	100.0%	247,842	100.0%	60,514	32%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

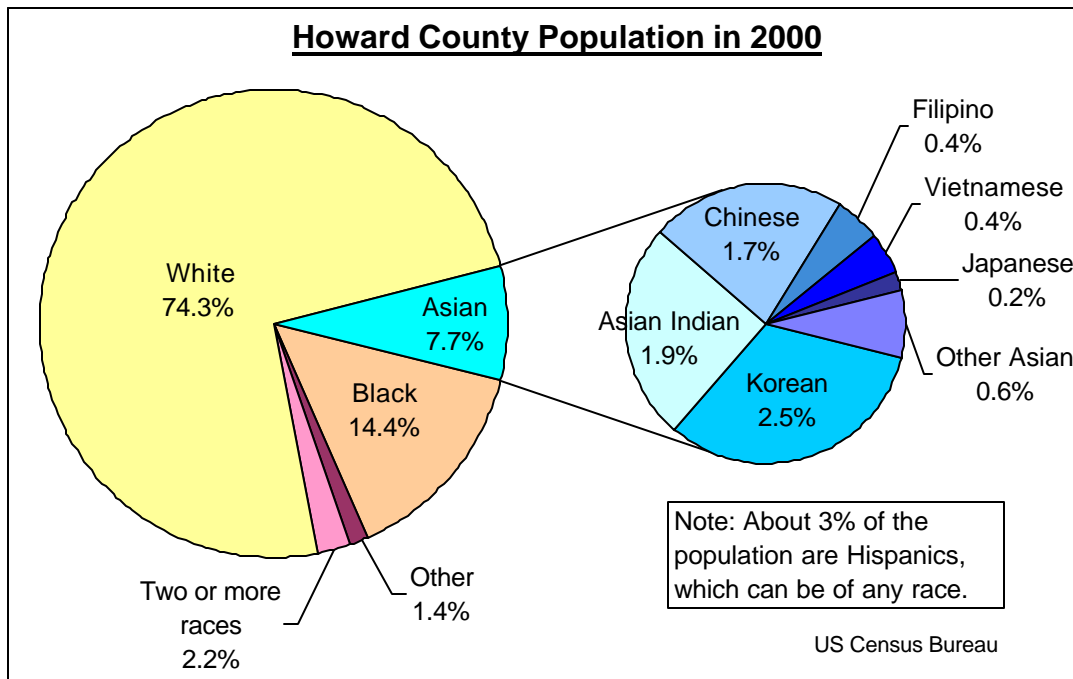
The number of children aged 5 to 19 has also grown significantly over the last 10 years and now make up more than 22 percent of the population. As a result school enrollments in Howard County have swelled during the past decade. The number of 5 to 14 year olds has increased the most putting pressure on elementary and middle schools. Over the next few years, high schools

will need to accommodate this large group. Small children under 5 has also grown from 15,200 in 1990 to 18,248 in 2000, a 20 percent increase. This is a smaller increase than the 50 percent increase in the number of 5 to 19 year olds, but nonetheless indicates that elementary schools will continue to have large enrollments over the next five years or so.



Population by Race

The 2000 Census shows that Howard County is about 74 percent White, 14 percent Black and 8 percent Asian. For the first time, the 2000 Census allowed residents to choose more than one race. In Howard County, 2.2 percent of the population indicated that they were of more than one race. (This compares to 2.0 percent for Maryland and 2.4 percent for the U.S. as a whole.) The remaining 1.1 percent are of another race including a small number of American Indians, Native Alaskans and Pacific Islanders. About 3 percent of the population is of Hispanic origin, which can be of any race. Of the Asian population, most are Korean, followed by Asian Indian and Chinese.



Although not directly comparable, insight can be gleaned from the 1990 and 2000 Census race data by observing the change based on those who chose one race in 2000. By looking at these statistics, the overall racial diversity of the County has grown over the last ten years. In 1990, the County was about 17 percent minority. By 2000, that percentage increased to about 25 percent.

The number of Asian and Pacific Islanders increased a significant 136 percent from 1990 to 2000, by about 11,000 people. This is followed by the Black population with a 62 percent growth rate, or about 13,700 residents. American Indian & Alaska Natives increased by 45 percent (181 residents). Some Other Race increased by 203 percent (1,845 residents). By comparison, the White population grew by 18 percent, or 28,316 residents, less than half the total Countywide population increase of 60,514. The Hispanic population, which can be of any race, more than doubled from 3,699 residents in 1990 to 7,490 residents in 2000.

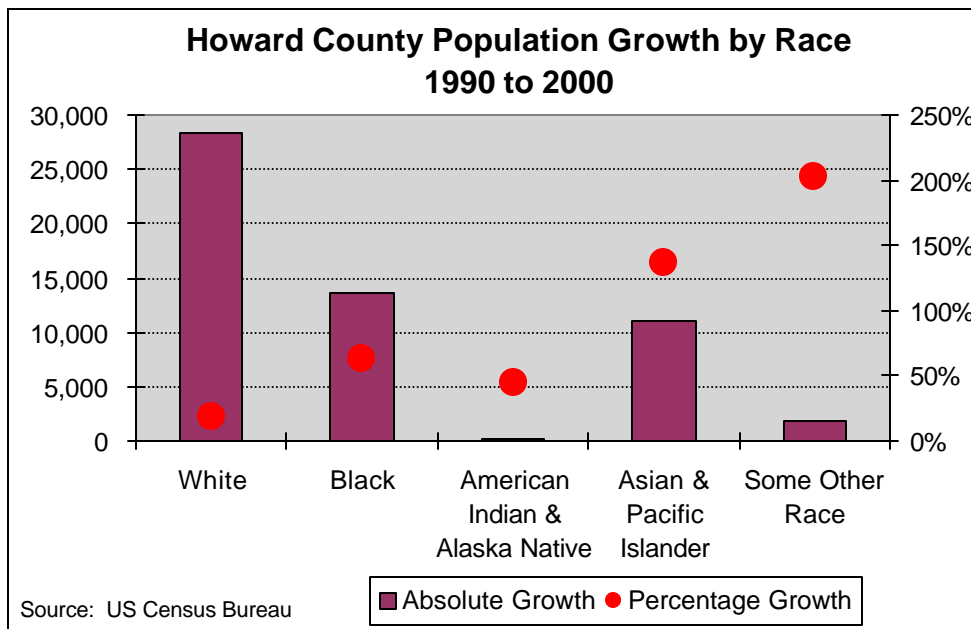
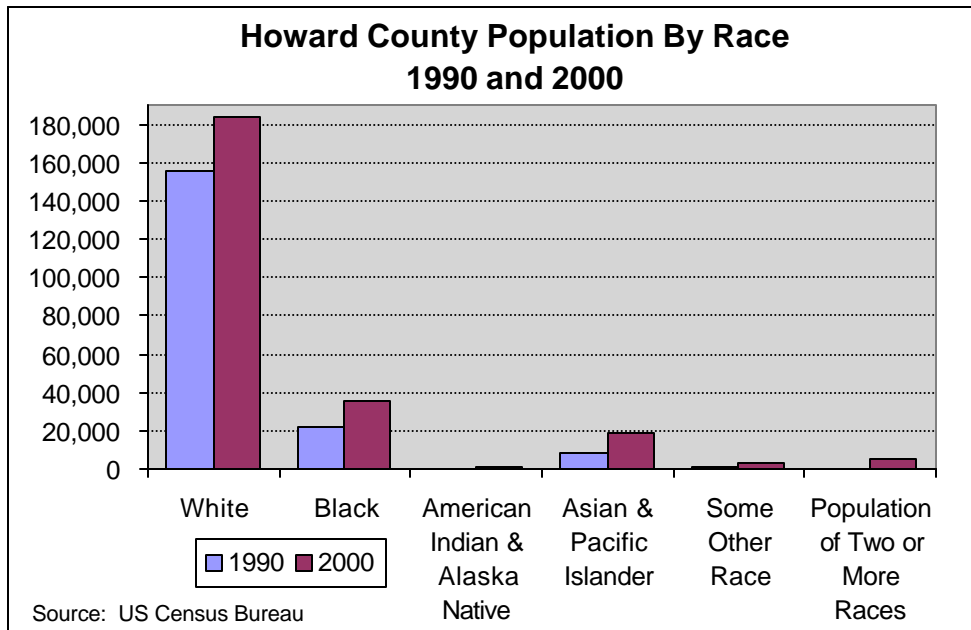
Howard County Population by Race -- 1990 & 2000

Population of One Race Alone	1990		2000		Growth	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
White	155,899	83.2%	184,215	74.3%	28,316	18.2%
Black	22,019	11.8%	35,730	14.4%	13,711	62.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	402	0.2%	583	0.2%	181	45.0%
Asian & Pacific Islander	8,098	4.3%	19,124	7.7%	11,026	136.2%
Some Other Race	910	0.5%	2,755	1.1%	1,845	202.7%
Population of Two or More Races (1)			5,435	2.2%		
TOTAL POPULATION	187,328	100.0%	247,842	100.0%	60,514	32.3%
Total Hispanic Population (2)	3,699	2.0%	7,490	3.0%	3,791	102%

(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



Housing Units

According to Census data, 20,235 new housing units were built in Howard County between 1990 and 2000, an average of about 2,000 new units per year. As indicated earlier in the discussion on population, most of the growth occurred in the eastern part of the County with the greatest number of new units being built in Columbia (5,863 new units). This is followed by Elkridge, Ellicott City, and the Laurel area with 4,863, 3,866, and 2,682 new units, respectively. A total of 2,961 units were built in the Cooksville, West Friendship and Clarksville areas combined, an average of about 150 per year.

Howard County 1990 & 2000 Housing Units

	1990	2000	Growth	% Growth
Cooksville	2,885	3,768	883	30.6%
West Friendship	2,508	3,673	1,165	46.5%
Clarksville	3,624	4,537	913	25.2%
Laurel	9,434	12,116	2,682	28.4%
Ellicott City	15,489	19,355	3,866	25.0%
Elkridge	7,044	11,907	4,863	69.0%
Columbia	31,599	37,462	5,863	18.6%
TOTAL	72,583	92,818	20,235	27.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Tenure and Vacancy

As in 1990, the 2000 Census reports that a majority of the housing units in the County are owner occupied. In 2000, about 72 percent of the occupied units are owned, an increase over the 68 percent owned in 1990. This amounts to 66,479 owner occupied and 23,564 renter occupied units in 2000.

Household Tenure and Occupancy Rates in Howard County

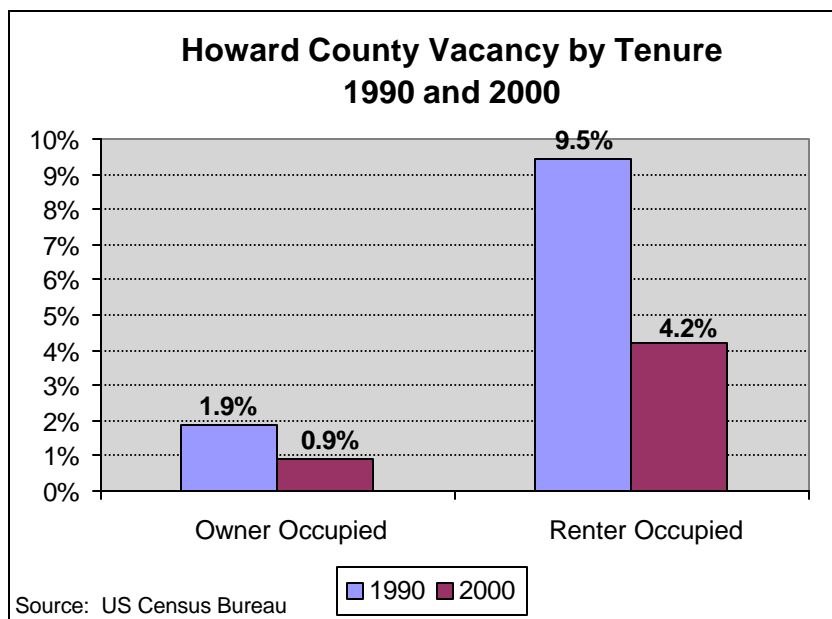
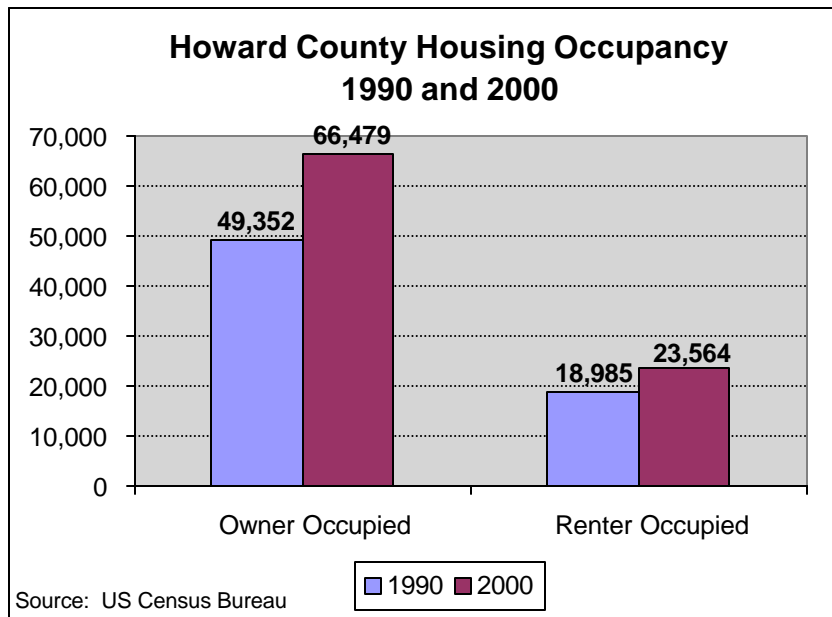
	1990		2000	
	Units	Percent	Units	Percent
Total Units	72,583		92,818	
Occupied	68,337	94.2%	90,043	97.0%
Owner Occupied	49,352	68.0%	66,479	71.6%
Renter Occupied	18,985	26.2%	23,564	25.4%
Vacant	4,246	5.8%	2,775	3.0%
Seasonal Units	155	0.2%	325	0.4%
Vacant w/o Seasonal Units	4,091	5.6%	2,450	2.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The number of vacant units has decreased significantly over the last 10 years, from 4,246 vacant units in 1990 to only 2,775 vacant units in 2000, cutting the vacancy rate in almost half from 5.8 percent to 3.0 percent. This is due, in part, to the large housing construction boom at the end of

the 1980's, where about 4,000 units per year were being built. At that time, it was believed that the Census Bureau counted units that perhaps were recently completed but not yet occupied. Nonetheless, the drop in vacancies also reflects the strong demand for housing in Howard County. As has been observed by many and often reported on in the press, housing supply has been low relative to demand in recent years resulting in low vacancies and higher prices.

The vacancy rate for owner occupied units has dropped from almost 2 percent in 1990 to less than one percent in 2000. Renter occupied units dropped significantly from 9.5 percent in 1990 to 4.2 percent in 2000.



Household Size

Overall household size in Howard County has not changed since 1990 remaining at 2.71 persons per household. This compares to a slight decrease in the Statewide average household size from 2.67 in 1990 to 2.61 in 2000.

Generally, Howard County has a higher proportion of families with children than other counties resulting in larger households on average and offsetting any declining trend. In addition, the relatively small Statewide decline in household size and the constant household size in Howard County is probably driven, in part, by the large number of foreign immigrants that came to the State and County in the 1990's. Immigrant households tend to have larger household sizes than native-born households. In fact, the Statewide decrease in household size is the smallest since the 1950's.

Owner occupied housing averages 2.89 persons per household compared to 2.22 persons per unit for renter occupied housing in Howard County. This represents no change from 1990 for owner occupied units and a slight decrease of 0.04 persons per unit for renter occupied households, which had an average size of 2.26 persons per occupied unit in 1990.

Household Size in Howard County

	1990	2000
Total Occupied	2.71	2.71
Owner Occupied	2.89	2.89
Renter Occupied	2.26	2.22

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

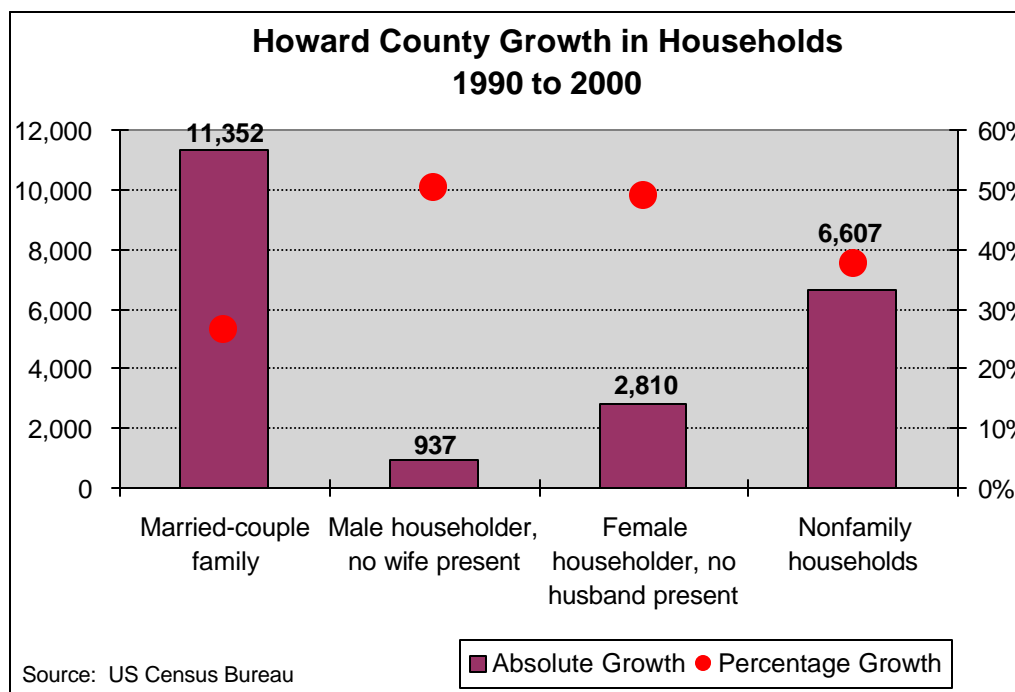
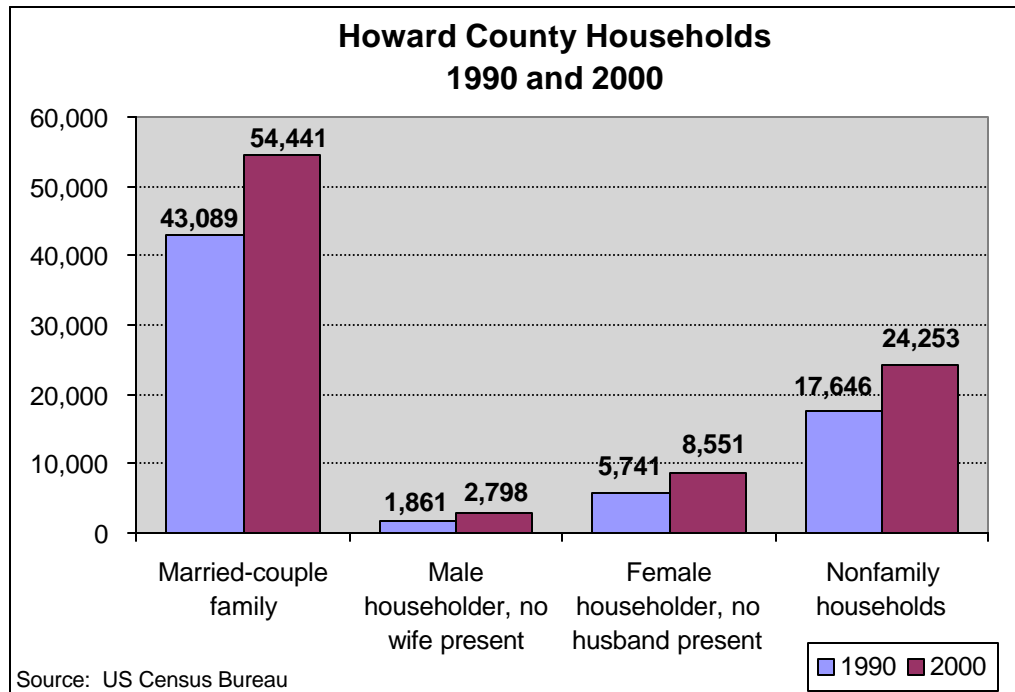
Household Type and Relationship

Household type in Howard County has remained relatively consistent since 1990. About 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. Statewide, 68.6 percent of all households were family households in 2000. 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.

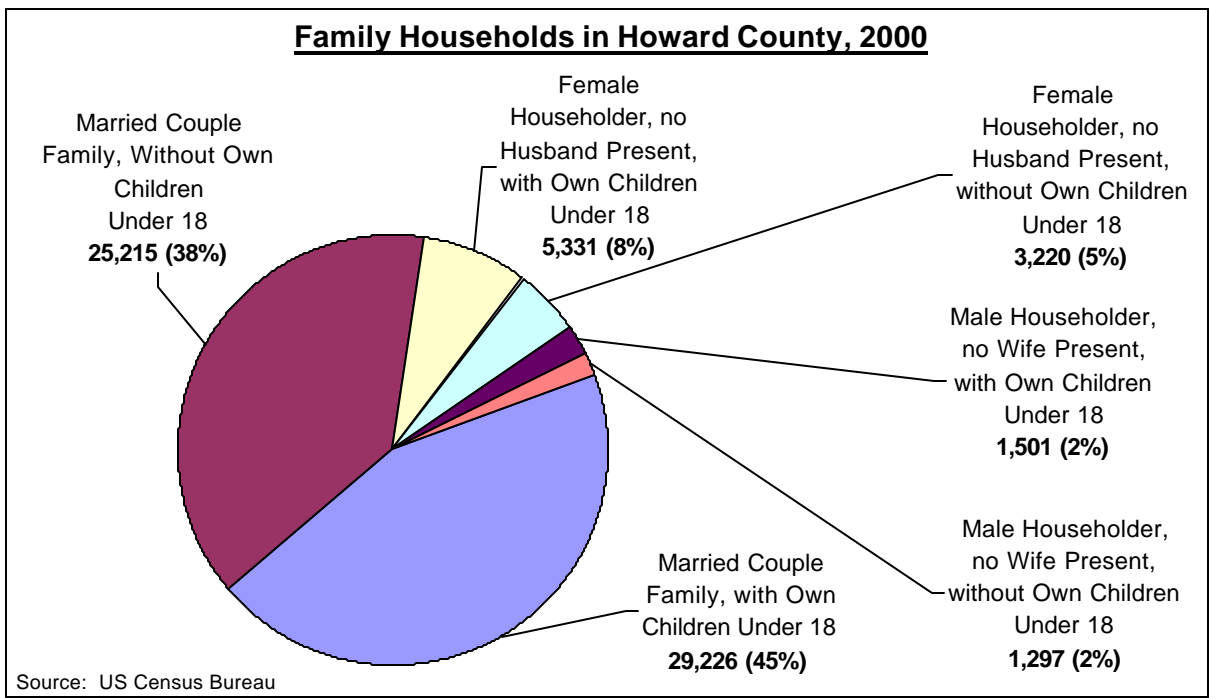
Household Type in Howard County

Category	1990		2000		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family households	50,691	74.2%	65,790	73.1%	15,099	29.8%
Married-couple family	43,089	63.1%	54,441	60.5%	11,352	26.3%
Other family	7,602	11.1%	11,349	12.6%	3,747	49.3%
Male householder, no wife present	1,861	2.7%	2,798	3.1%	937	50.3%
Female householder, no husband present	5,741	8.4%	8,551	9.5%	2,810	48.9%
Nonfamily households	17,646	25.8%	24,253	26.9%	6,607	37.4%
Total Households	68,337	100%	90,043	100%	21,706	31.8%

Of the family households most include married couples (about 83 percent or 54,441 households). The remaining are other family households. Most of these are headed by a female householder with no husband present (8,551). The remaining 2,798 family households are headed by a male householder with no wife present. Since 1990 family households with no wife or husband present have increased at faster rates than married couple family households growing to about 17 percent of family households and 13 percent of total households in the County.

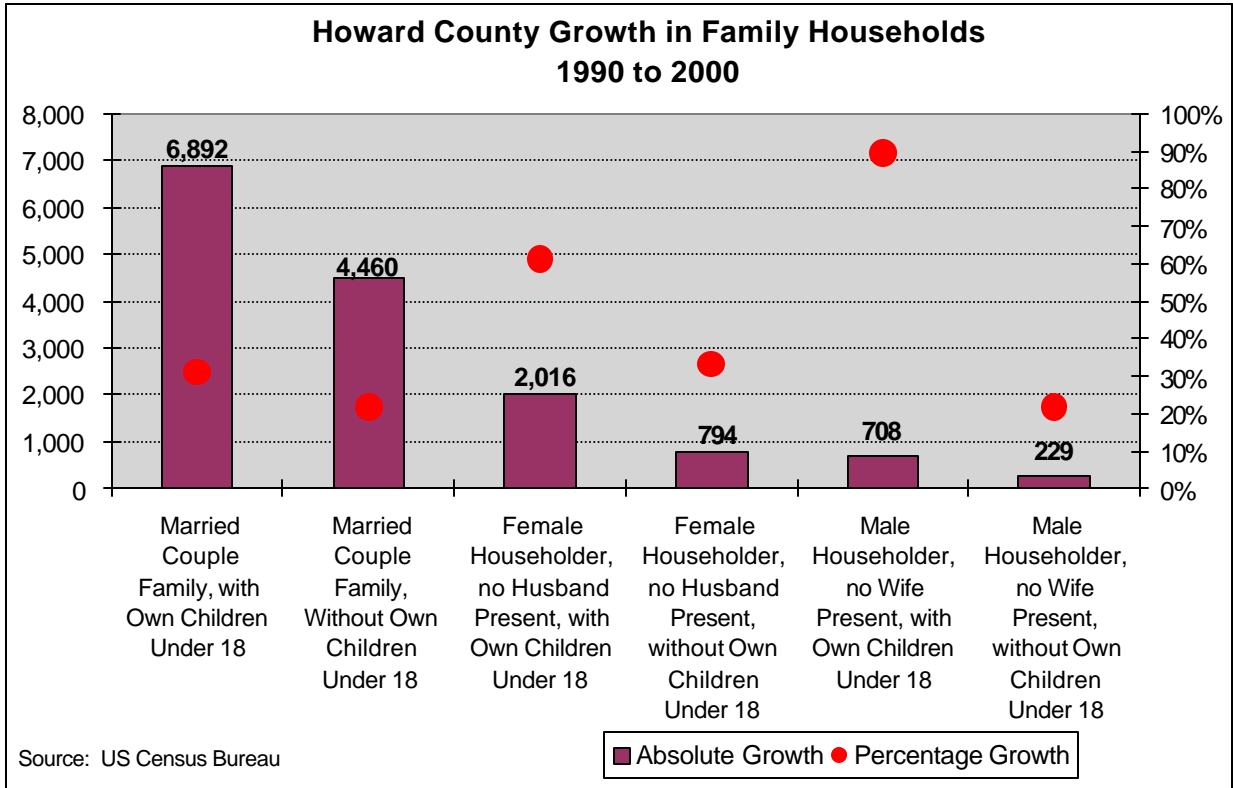


Looking at family households more closely, of the total 65,790 in Howard County in 2000, 29,226 or 45 percent are the “traditional” nuclear family defined as a married couple living with one or more of their own children under 18. Married couples without their own children under 18 make up the next greatest group with about 25,215 households (38 percent). The remaining 17 percent of family households consist of families with no spouse present. Of these, most are women living with their own children under 18 (5,331), followed by women with no children of their own under 18 (3,220). The latter category would include women living with their own children *over* 18 or living with another relative such as a brother or sister. Men with no spouse present make up the remaining 4 percent of all family households.



By comparison, Statewide only 34 percent of family households consist of the traditional nuclear family, and 27 percent are families with no spouse present (with 12 percent being female headed households with their own children and no husband present). Married couple families with no children of their own under 18 represent 39 percent of all family households, about the same as in Howard County.

The chart at the top of the next page shows the 1990 to 2000 growth for each of the family household categories. In terms of percentage growth increase, “single father” households increased the most significantly, by about 90 percent, although their absolute growth and total numbers in 2000 remain small. “Single mother” households were the second fastest growing group with a growth rate of about 60 percent. In absolute numbers, the traditional nuclear family grew the most, by 6,892 households.

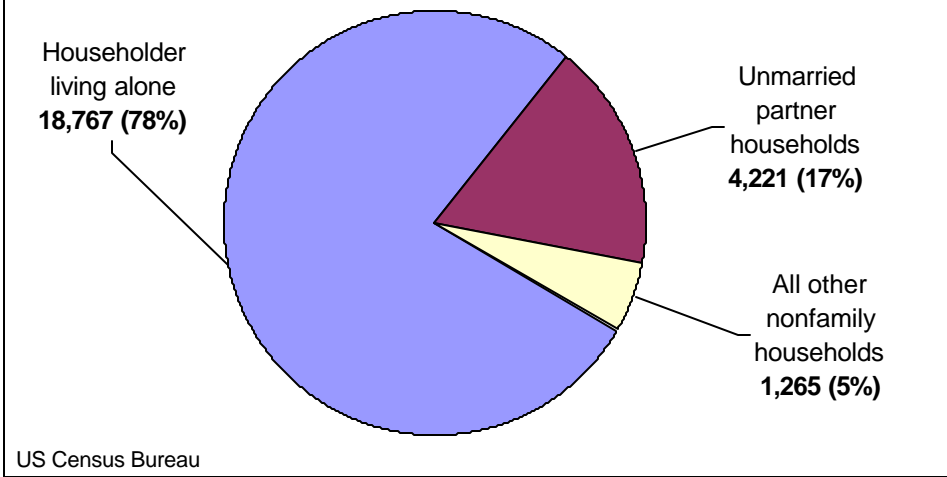


Of the total 90,043 households in Howard County, only about one in three are traditional nuclear families (32.5 percent), about the same as in 1990 (32.7 percent). This compares to a smaller 23.3 percent of all households Statewide in 2000 and 25 percent in 1990. By comparison, in 1970 close to half of all households in the State were traditional families. Reasons for the decline in the numbers of traditional families include increases in the divorce rate and out of wedlock births, couples choosing not to marry, a decrease in birth rates, and the fact that people are living longer after their children move out of the house. While Howard County reflects the general societal trends of a decrease in the traditional family and an increase in single parent and non-family households, relative to other places the County is still an attractive place for traditional families for the reasons stated earlier.

Of the 24,253 non-family households, 18,767 or close to 80 percent, consist of people living alone. (See chart on next page.) This is about one in five households in Howard County, a lower ratio than Maryland as a whole, where about one in four households have a single resident. The 2000 Census also reported that there were 4,221 unmarried partner households in Howard County. These include both same sex and opposite sex close personal relationships. The remaining 1,265 non-family households include other categories of non-related people living together, such as roommates or housemates, boarders and foster children.

The second chart below shows that from 1990 to 2000, there has been a 35 percent increase in non-family households in Howard County. This compares to an increase of only 23 percent Statewide. The majority of the increase are householders living alone.

Nonfamily Households in Howard County, 2000



Howard County Growth in Nonfamily Households 1990 to 2000

