



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 Age Characteristics

Introduction

The Department of Planning and Zoning's first Research Report, Issue 1, provided a summary of the 2000 Census results for Howard County. In that report, various datasets on population, age, race, housing, household type and relationship information were summarized. *This current report discusses more detailed results on age including regional, state, and national comparisons as well as more detailed comparisons between different locations within the County. Comparisons are also made to 1990 populations.* Note that this current report covers the overall age composition of the population. Future reports will cover such items as age by race, age by housing, and age by household type and relationship.

Howard County Compared to Maryland and U.S.

The table and charts below summarize the 2000 population by race in Howard County compared to Maryland and the United States. Both narrow and wide age cohorts are shown to provide various levels of detail as well as to provide data to serve a range of needs. For example, the 55 and older cohort would apply to the "active adult" community defined in the Howard County Zoning Regulations, whereas the 65 and older cohort would apply to those eligible to receive full social security benefits at the current time.

Overall, the State of Maryland has a younger population than the U.S. as a whole, and Howard County has a younger population than the State. This is apparent by looking at the percentage of total residents in the under 5, 5 to 9, and 10 to 14 age cohorts where there are higher percentages in Howard County compared to the Maryland and the U.S. The reverse is true at the other end of the spectrum – the 60 to 64, 65 to 74, 75 to 84, and 85 and older groups – where there are lower percentages in Howard County compared to Maryland and the U.S.

There are also greater percentages of 25 to 54 year olds in Howard County compared to Maryland and the U.S, which represent the Baby Boomers down to the so-called Generation X group. This age group includes those that have families with school-age children being attracted to Howard County because of its schools, low crime rate, nice built environment and other amenities. This trend is typical of growing suburbs around the country.

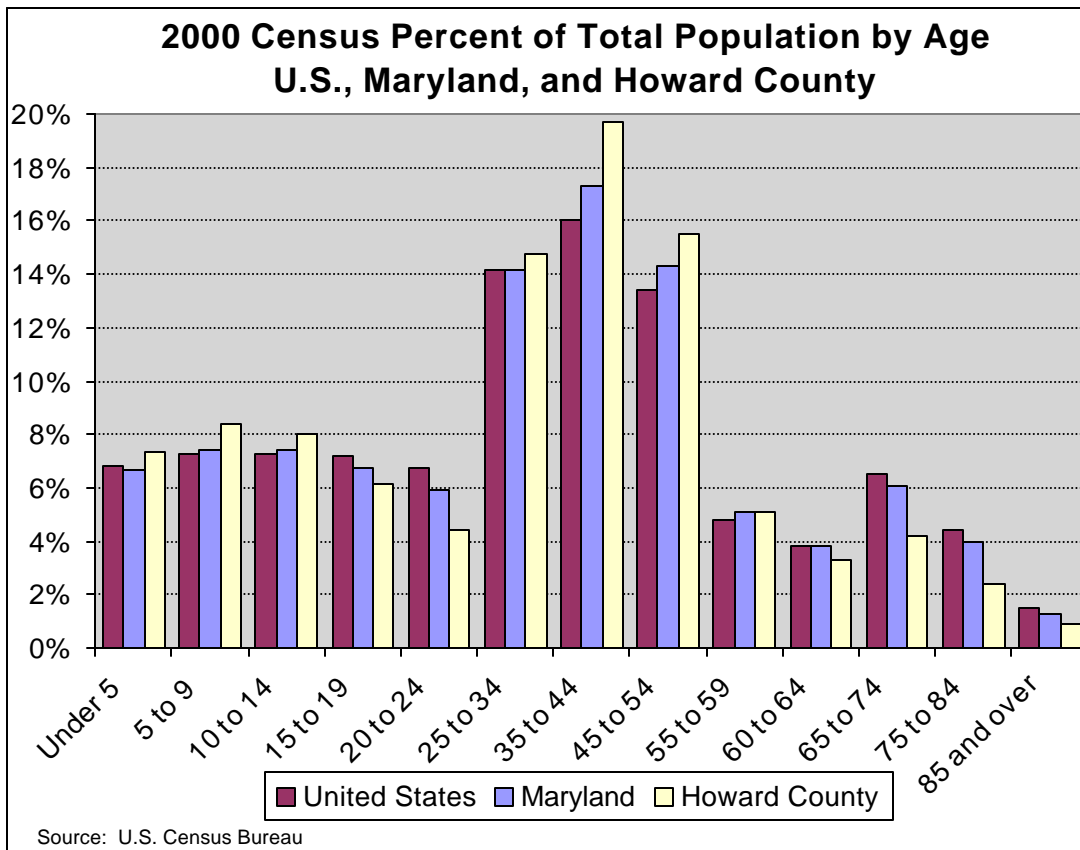
2000 Population by Age - United States, Maryland & Howard County

Age	United States		Maryland		Howard County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	19,175,798	6.8%	353,393	6.7%	18,248	7.4%
5 to 9	20,549,505	7.3%	391,318	7.4%	20,718	8.4%
10 to 14	20,528,072	7.3%	392,135	7.4%	19,849	8.0%
15 to 19	20,219,890	7.2%	356,119	6.7%	15,270	6.2%
20 to 24	18,964,001	6.7%	314,129	5.9%	11,033	4.5%
25 to 34	39,891,724	14.2%	748,521	14.1%	36,519	14.7%
35 to 44	45,148,527	16.0%	916,156	17.3%	48,660	19.6%
45 to 54	37,677,952	13.4%	755,032	14.3%	38,322	15.5%
55 to 59	13,469,237	4.8%	268,647	5.1%	12,617	5.1%
60 to 64	10,805,447	3.8%	201,729	3.8%	8,138	3.3%
65 to 74	18,390,986	6.5%	321,285	6.1%	10,370	4.2%
75 to 84	12,361,180	4.4%	211,120	4.0%	5,955	2.4%
85 and over	4,239,587	1.5%	66,902	1.3%	2,143	0.9%
Total	281,421,906	100.0%	5,296,486	100.0%	247,842	100.0%

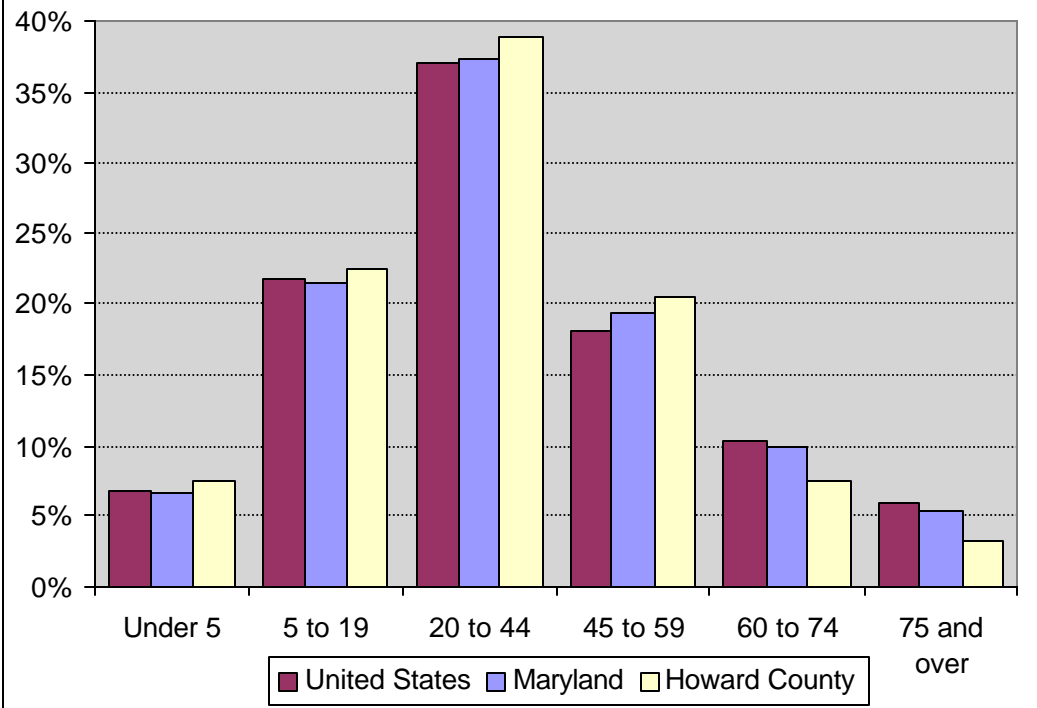
Under 5	19,175,798	6.8%	353,393	6.7%	18,248	7.4%
5 to 19	61,297,467	21.8%	1,139,572	21.5%	55,837	22.5%
20 to 44	104,004,252	37.0%	1,978,806	37.4%	96,212	38.8%
45 to 59	51,147,189	18.2%	1,023,679	19.3%	50,939	20.6%
60 to 74	29,196,433	10.4%	523,014	9.9%	18,508	7.5%
75 and over	16,600,767	5.9%	278,022	5.2%	8,098	3.3%
Total	281,421,906	100.0%	5,296,486	100.0%	247,842	100.0%

55 and older	59,266,437	21.1%	1,069,683	20.2%	39,223	15.8%
60 and older	45,797,200	16.3%	801,036	15.1%	26,606	10.7%
65 and older	34,991,753	12.4%	599,307	11.3%	18,468	7.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

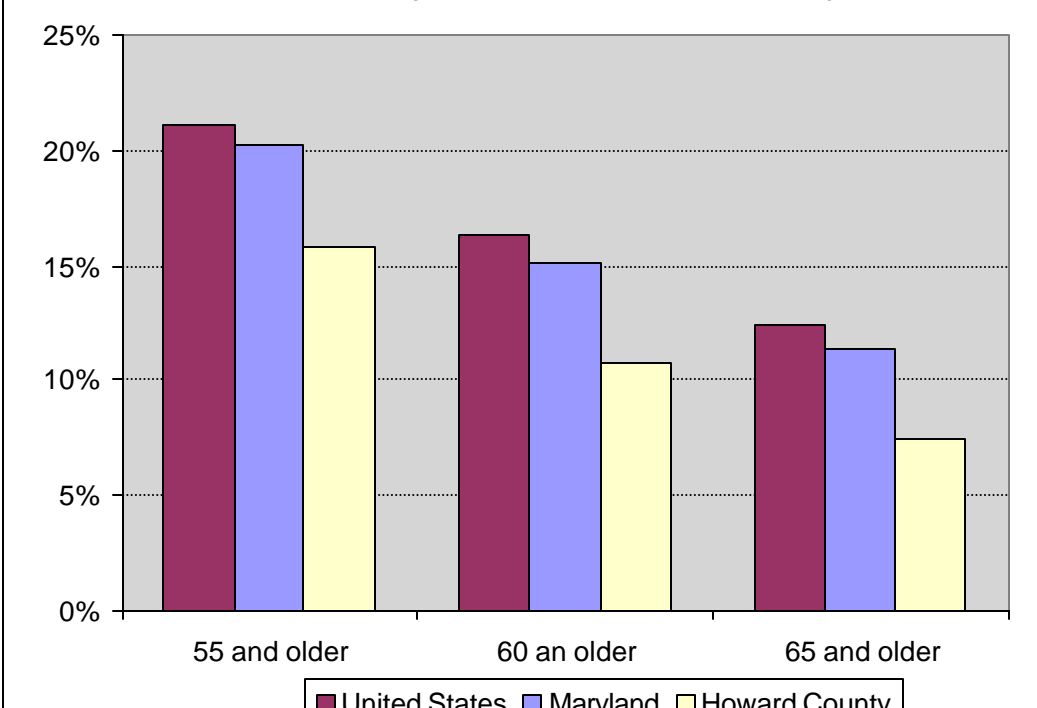


**2000 Census Percent of Total Population by Age
U.S., Maryland, and Howard County**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**2000 Census Percent of Total Population by Age
U.S., Maryland, and Howard County**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For the two age cohorts just below the 25 to 34 year olds – the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year olds – the reverse is true. That is, there are smaller percentages in Howard County compared to the State and the U.S. as a whole. Part of this is likely due to the relatively high rate of high school graduates who move out of the County to attend college.

Despite the differences in percentages between the County, State, and U.S., one trend is clearly apparent for all – that is, the aging of the population. Over the next ten to twenty years, the 25 to 54 year olds – those who currently make up the greatest percentage of the total population (at close to 50 percent in Howard County and about 46 percent and 44 percent in Maryland and the U.S., respectively) – will slide into the older age cohorts.

There has been much discussion in the press and among policy makers, both nationally and locally, regarding the aging of the population. More specifically, the discussion has focused on the Baby Boomers, defined as those born between 1946 and 1964, which currently make up a large share of the population. Howard County is no exception. Baby boomers (35 to 54 year-olds) make up more than 35 percent of the Countywide population in 2000, 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 table and chart on the next page depict the ten year growth trends from 1990 to 2000 by age cohort. The data clearly show this negative trend for the 20 to 34 year old age cohorts for the County, State and U.S. as a whole.

As indicated in Research Report Issue 1, 2000 Census Overview, this dramatic shift in the population has been recognized in the recently adopted General Plan 2000, which outlines several policies to ensure adequate housing and services to accommodate future needs for aging County residents. Action has already been taken on this. The Howard County Zoning Regulations were 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.

As depicted in the table and chart on the next page, Howard County grew by 60,514 residents or 32.3 percent, from a population of 187,328 in 1990 to 247,842 in 2000. This compares to a 10.8 percent growth rate for the State and a 13.2 percent growth rate for the U.S. The horizontal lines on the chart depict these total population growth rates. Looking closely at these lines and the associated percentages in the table, one thing that stands out is the fact that the ten year growth rate of the 60 to 64 and 65 to 74 year olds in Howard County – at 52.4 and 44.5 percent, respectively – was so much *higher* than the 32.3 percent total population growth rate. By comparison, at the statewide and national levels, the growth rates of these age cohorts were considerably *less* than their respective total population growth rates. Although not as extreme a differential, the growth rate of those aged 75 and older was also greater in the County compared to the State and the U.S. This is an indication that the aging of the population in Howard County is *even more pronounced* than what is occurring at the both the statewide and national levels. This trend, if it continues with County residents deciding to age in place, is likely to have the single biggest impact on the future social, economic and fiscal structure of the County.

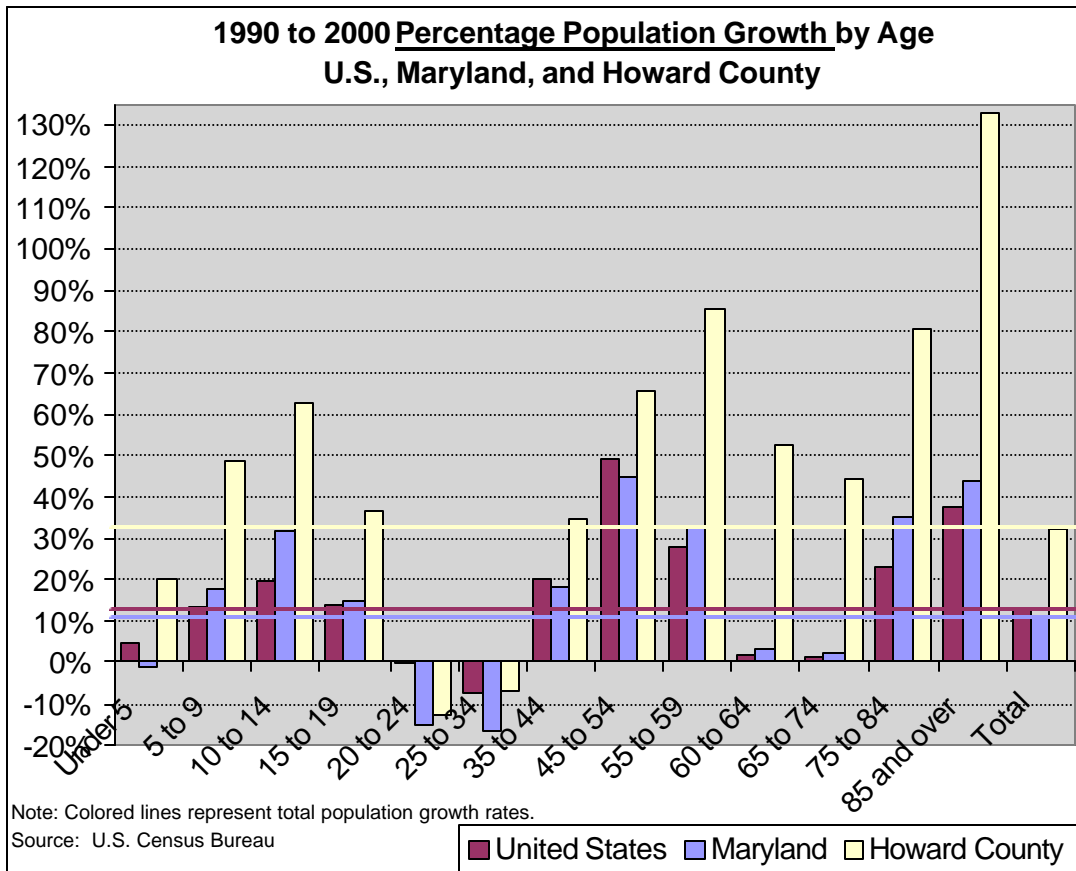
**1990 to 2000 Population Growth by Age - United States, Maryland & Howard County
(Showing Ten Year Percentage Growth)**

Age	United States		Maryland		Howard County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	821,355	4.5%	(4,425)	-1.2%	3,048	20.1%
5 to 9	2,450,326	13.5%	58,945	17.7%	6,780	48.6%
10 to 14	3,413,823	19.9%	94,971	32.0%	7,636	62.5%
15 to 19	2,465,875	13.9%	45,469	14.6%	4,107	36.8%
20 to 24	(56,311)	-0.3%	(55,480)	-15.0%	(1,647)	-13.0%
25 to 34	(3,284,208)	-7.6%	(151,577)	-16.8%	(2,717)	-6.9%
35 to 44	7,569,624	20.1%	139,150	17.9%	12,430	34.3%
45 to 54	12,454,866	49.4%	233,231	44.7%	15,192	65.7%
55 to 59	2,937,481	27.9%	66,477	32.9%	5,817	85.5%
60 to 64	189,280	1.8%	6,432	3.3%	2,799	52.4%
65 to 74	284,428	1.6%	6,794	2.2%	3,192	44.5%
75 to 84	2,306,072	22.9%	54,625	34.9%	2,655	80.5%
85 and over	1,159,422	37.6%	20,406	43.9%	1,222	132.7%
Total	32,712,033	13.2%	515,018	10.8%	60,514	32.3%

Under 5	821,355	4.5%	(4,425)	-1.2%	3,048	20.1%
5 to 19	8,330,024	15.7%	199,385	21.2%	18,523	49.6%
20 to 44	4,229,105	4.2%	(67,907)	-3.3%	8,066	9.2%
45 to 59	15,392,347	43.0%	299,708	41.4%	21,009	70.2%
60 to 74	473,708	1.6%	13,226	2.6%	5,991	47.9%
75 and over	3,465,494	26.4%	75,031	37.0%	3,877	91.9%
Total	32,712,033	13.2%	515,018	10.8%	60,514	32.3%

55 and older	6,876,683	13.1%	154,734	16.9%	15,685	66.6%
60 an older	3,939,202	9.4%	88,257	12.4%	9,868	59.0%
65 and older	3,749,922	12.0%	81,825	15.8%	7,069	62.0%

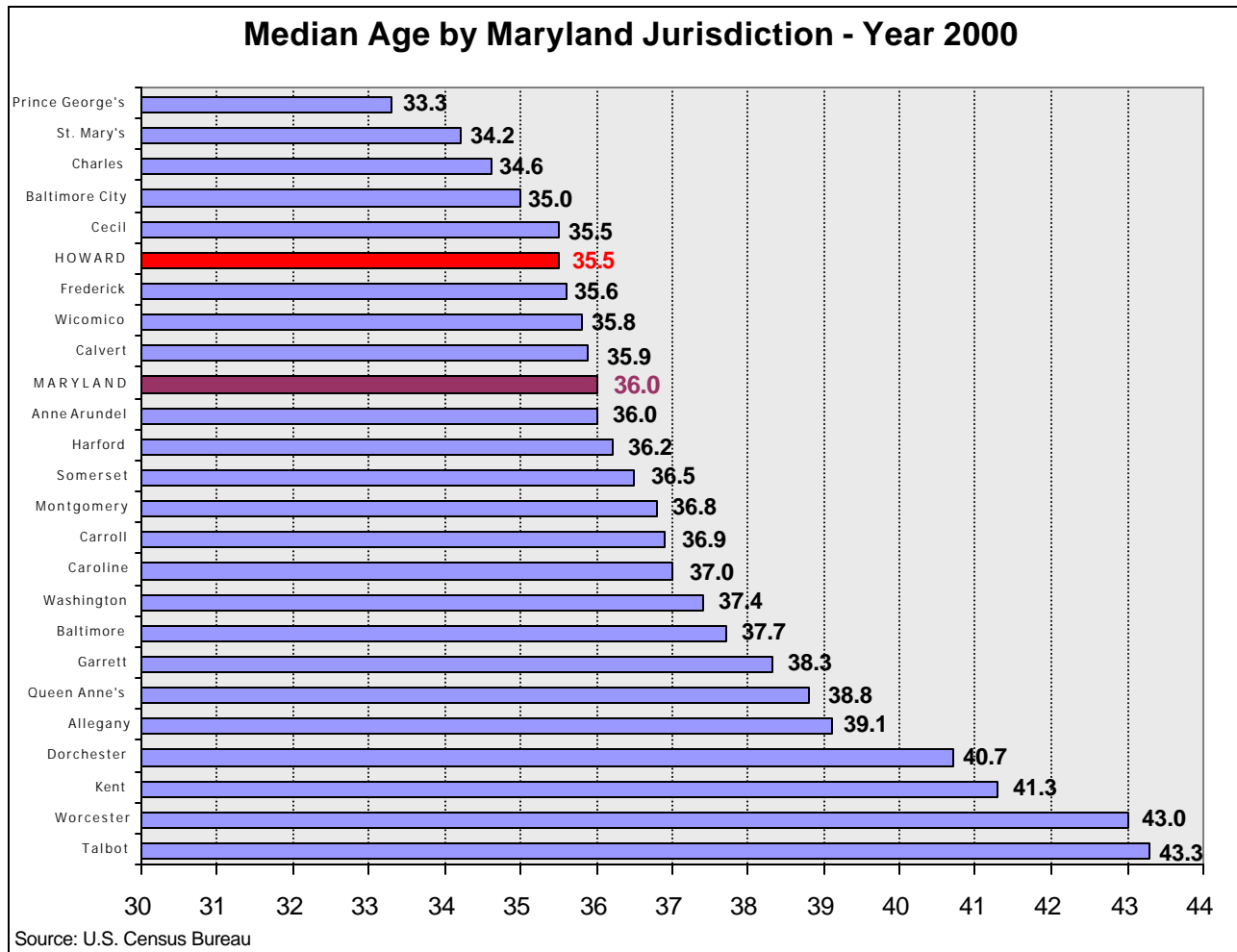
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Intra-State and Regional Comparisons

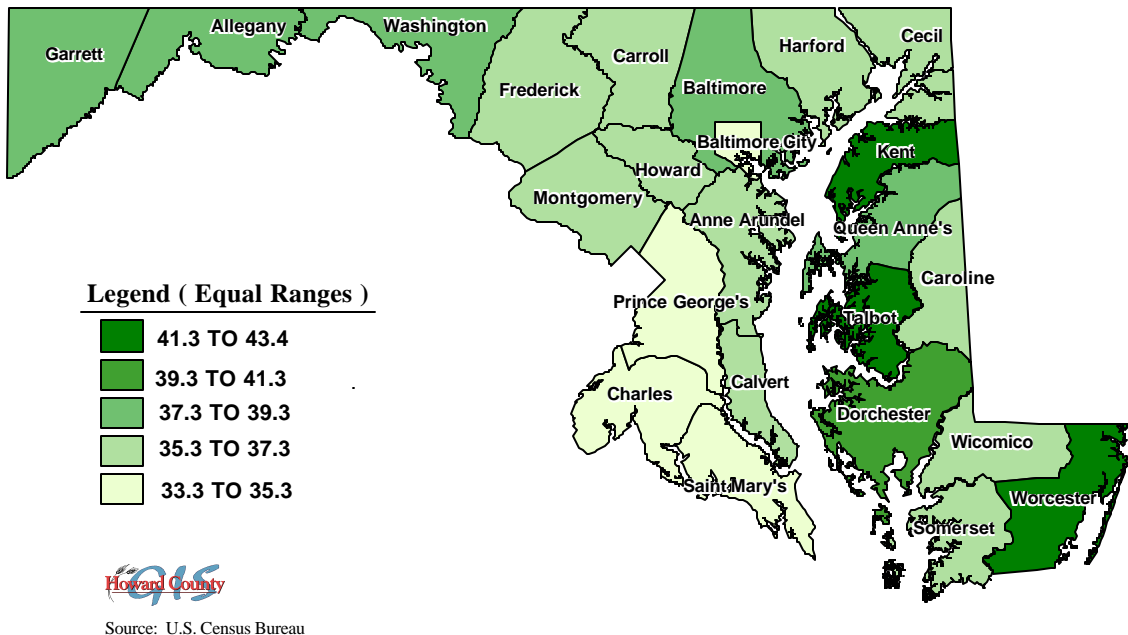
The chart and map below show the median age in the year 2000 for each jurisdiction in Maryland. The average age in Maryland is 36 years old. As expected based on the data presented above, the median age in Howard County at 35.5 is less than this statewide average. In fact, Howard County has one of the youngest jurisdictions in the State with only five jurisdictions having a smaller median age. Prince George's County has the youngest population in the State with a median age of only 33.3. By contrast, Talbot County on the eastern shore has the oldest population with a median age of 43.3. This represents a fairly significant range of ten years. Several other eastern shore counties as well as Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties in the west have relatively older populations compared to the Statewide average.

In general, with only a few exceptions, the more central counties in the State tend to have younger populations. These are also the counties that experienced some of the greatest population increases during the decade. The nine central jurisdictions – Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, Prince George's, Harford, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore City – had a total population growth of 397,842 residents, 77 percent of the total statewide growth of 515,018 residents (*even including Baltimore City's population decline of 84,860*). By contrast, the seven counties with the *greatest median ages* in the State had a total population growth of only 24,873 residents. This is less than 5 percent of the total 515,018 statewide growth.



Map 1

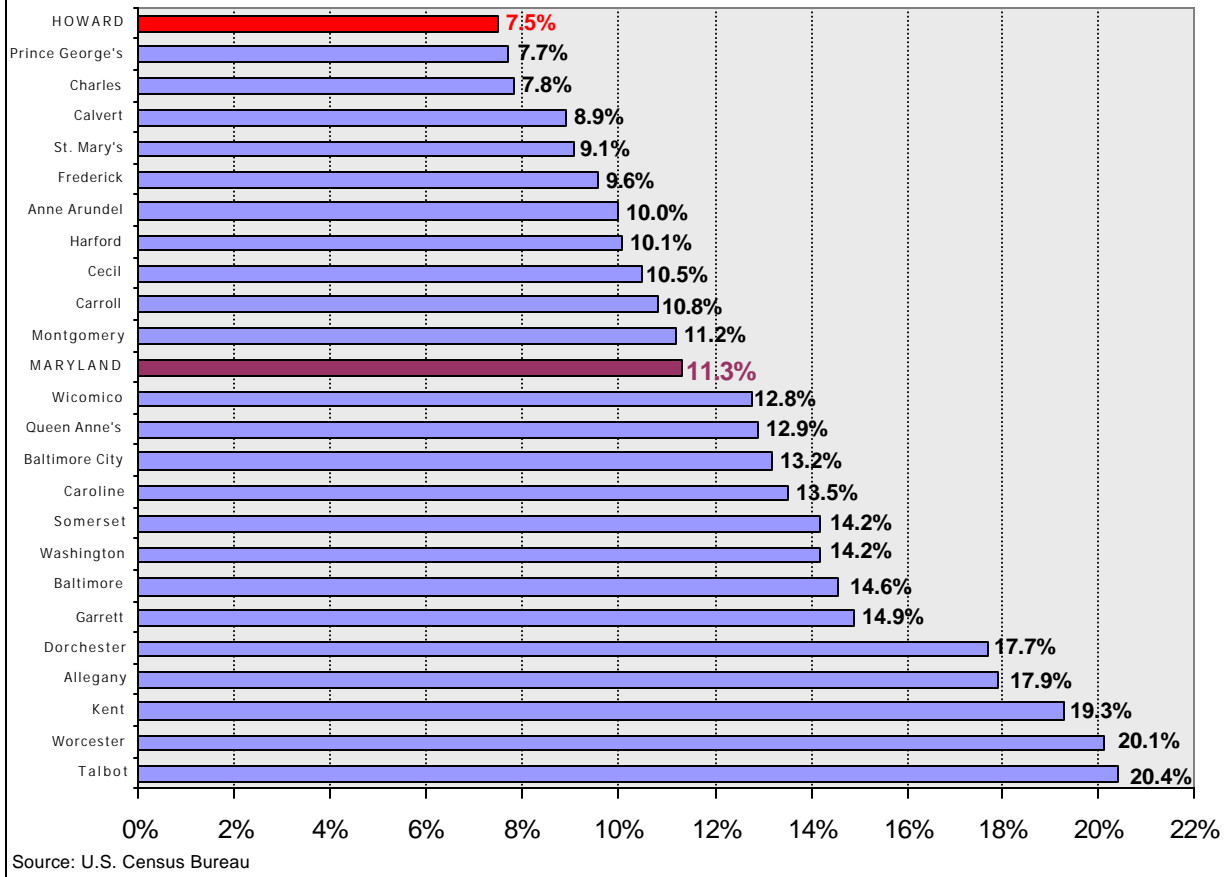
Median Age of Population by Maryland Jurisdiction in 2000



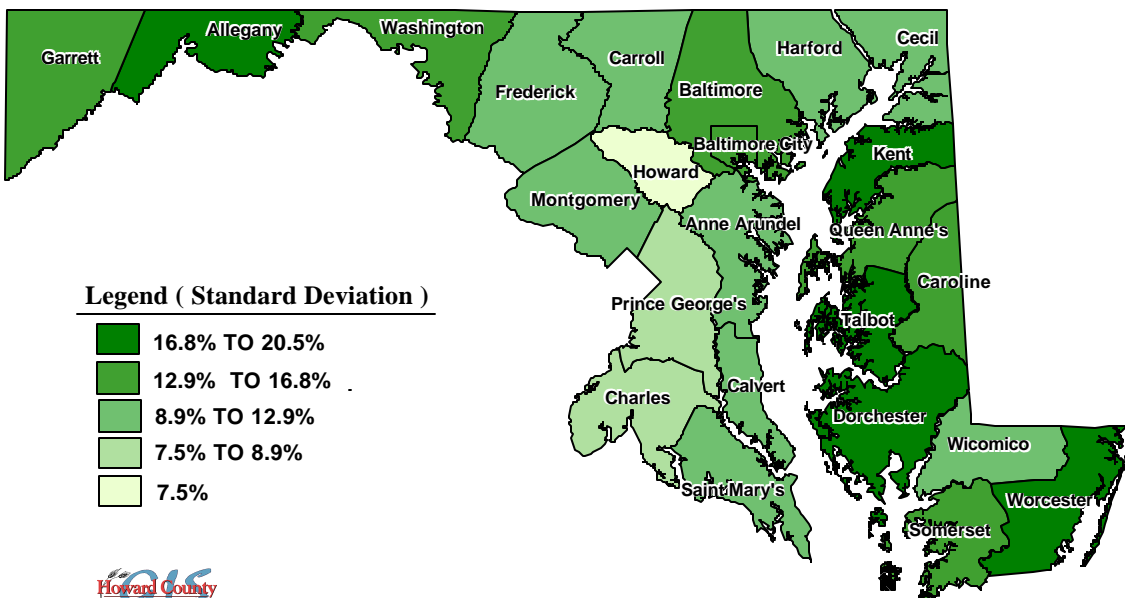
The chart and map on the next page compare the percentage of those 65 and older for all jurisdictions in the State. *Howard County has the smallest percentage in the State, with only 7.5 percent of its population aged 65 and older in 2000. The statewide average is 11.3 percent. The greatest percentage is in Talbot County with 20.4 percent of its population aged 65 and older. In general, the same trend as discussed above holds true, with the more central and faster growing counties in the State having relatively smaller concentrations of older residents.*

As discussed earlier, although Howard County currently has the smallest percentage of older residents in the State, it is poised to have one of the most rapidly aging populations over the next 10 to 20 years. The single biggest factor impacting the degree to which the population will age is whether or not residents decide to age in place or move out of the County. Current trends suggest that people tend to want to age in place, and the County's General Plan 2000 and recently revised zoning and subdivision regulations are aimed to both support and encourage this. How future social and economic pressures and choices alter this trend, to a lesser or greater degree, will dictate the rapidity and extent of this phenomenon and resulting impacts.

Percent Population 65+ by Maryland Jurisdiction - Year 2000



Map 2 Percent Population 65+ by Maryland Jurisdiction in 2000

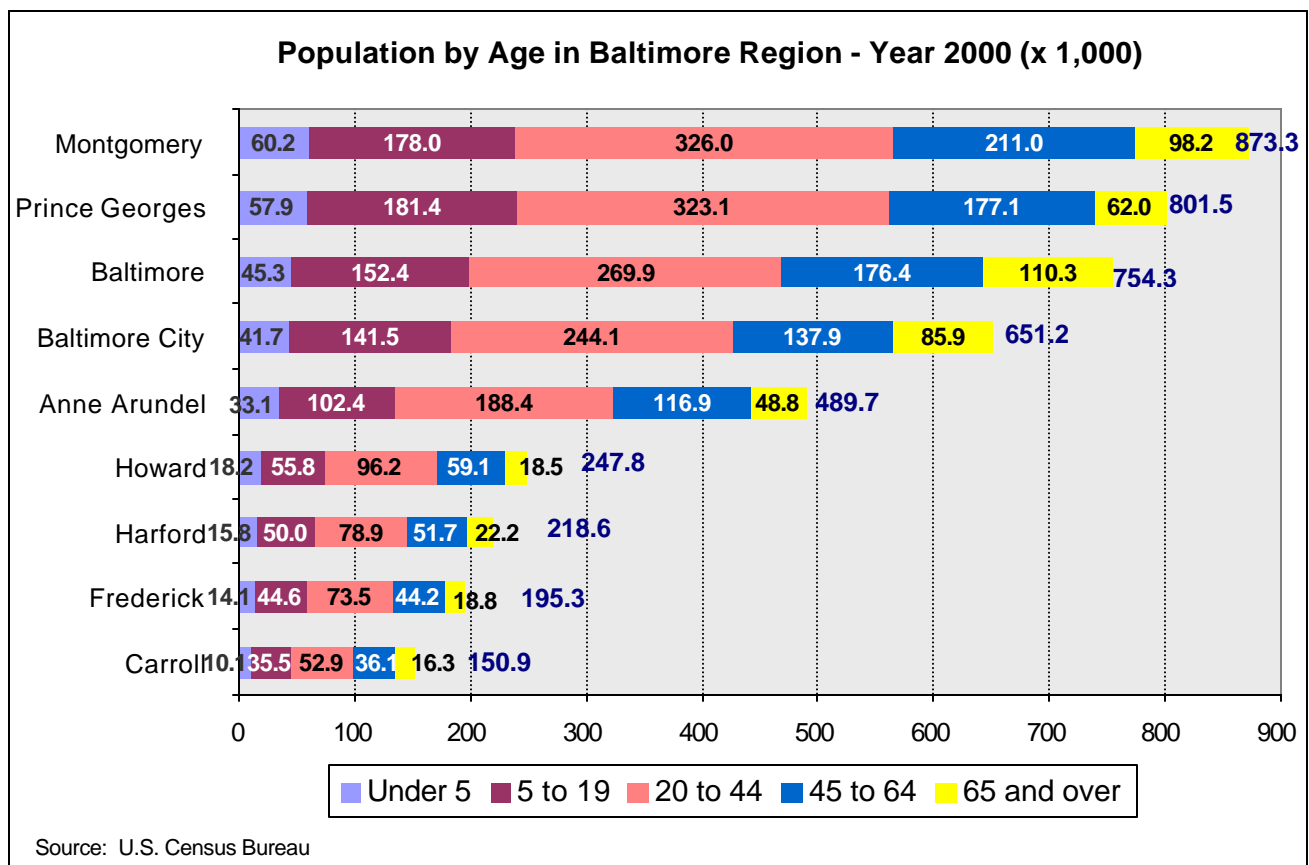


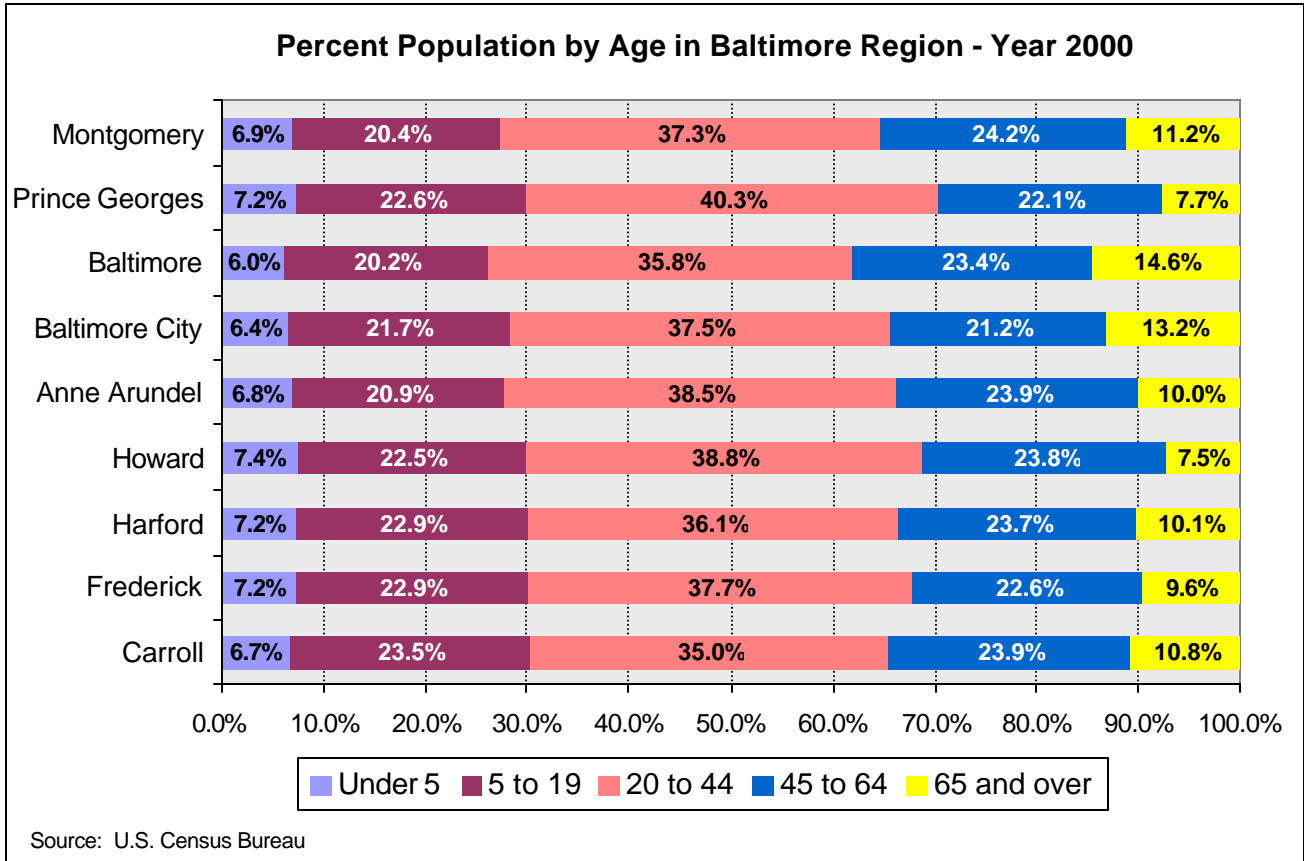
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The charts below show the age breakdown in 2000 for counties in the region as well as Baltimore City. The first chart shows the absolute age characteristics and the second shows the percentage of total for each of the nine local jurisdictions. These nine jurisdictions also have the largest populations in the State in the order shown.

Montgomery County has the largest total population with 873,341 residents in 2000. However, despite Montgomery's greatest total population, Prince George's County has slightly more 5 to 19 year olds and Baltimore County has about 12,000 more 65 plus year olds than Montgomery. This is an indication of Prince George's relatively young population (with the youngest median age in the State) and Baltimore's relatively older population.

A similar anomaly occurs for Howard County. Howard County is the sixth most populous jurisdiction in the region (and the State) with 247,842 residents in 2000. However, Harford and Frederick counties, with smaller total populations of 218,590 and 195,277 residents, respectively, actually have more residents that are 65 and older. Carroll County, with almost 100,000 less total residents than Howard, has only about 2,000 less residents that are 65 and older. This shows the extent of Howard County's relatively young population.





Comparisons Within Howard County – Year 2000

The tables below summarize the 2000 population by age in Howard County by Regional Planning District (RPD). The first table indicates the population and the next two tables show the percentage breakdowns. (Refer to the map beginning on Page 14 to see a delineation of the Regional Planning Districts.)

The percentages in red are those percentages that are less than the total percentage for the associated category. For example, as shown in the second table, 12.9 percent of all 15 to 19 year olds in the County live in Laurel. This is *less than* the 13.3 percent of total County residents who live in Laurel. On the other hand, 15.9 percent of all 20 to 24 year olds in the County live in Laurel, a *greater percentage* than the 13.3 percent of total County residents who live in Laurel. These variations, although minor, do show the relative concentrations by age in the County between regions.

Generally, the differences between percentages are small, but patterns do become apparent in the tables. For example, concentrations of red in Laurel and Elkrigde for the higher age brackets indicate that, relatively speaking, there is less of a propensity for older residents to live in these regions as a whole compared to the other areas. The thematic maps further below (beginning on Page 14) show variations by census tract which depict even smaller areas within each RPD.

Howard County Population by Age by Regional Planning District -- 2000

Age	West							TOTAL
	Elkridge	Ellicott City	Friendship	Cooksville	Clarksville	Columbia	Laurel	
Under 5	3,025	3,419	685	815	941	6,708	2,655	18,248
5 to 9	2,858	4,458	947	1,052	1,251	7,264	2,888	20,718
10 to 14	2,266	4,646	902	1,150	1,364	6,837	2,684	19,849
15 to 19	1,593	3,592	702	833	946	5,635	1,969	15,270
20 to 24	1,489	2,160	277	407	404	4,547	1,749	11,033
25 to 34	6,540	5,823	827	898	859	15,695	5,877	36,519
35 to 44	7,261	10,027	1,992	2,350	2,683	17,196	7,151	48,660
45 to 54	3,544	9,075	1,994	2,041	2,639	14,721	4,308	38,322
55 to 59	961	2,667	779	766	1,043	5,268	1,133	12,617
60 to 64	665	1,849	521	432	680	3,164	827	8,138
65 to 74	947	2,849	660	564	784	3,573	993	10,370
75 to 84	584	1,788	288	283	369	2,137	506	5,955
85 and over	109	625	71	82	136	1,017	103	2,143
Total	31,842	52,978	10,645	11,673	14,099	93,762	32,843	247,842
55 and older	3,266	9,778	2,319	2,127	3,012	15,159	3,562	39,223
60 and older	2,305	7,111	1,540	1,361	1,969	9,891	2,429	26,606
65 and older	1,640	5,262	1,019	929	1,289	6,727	1,602	18,468
Under 5	3,025	3,419	685	815	941	6,708	2,655	18,248
5 to 19	6,717	12,696	2,551	3,035	3,561	19,736	7,541	55,837
20 to 44	15,290	18,010	3,096	3,655	3,946	37,438	14,777	96,212
45 to 59	4,505	11,742	2,773	2,807	3,682	19,989	5,441	50,939
60 to 74	1,612	4,698	1,181	996	1,464	6,737	1,820	18,508
75 and over	693	2,413	359	365	505	3,154	609	8,098
Total	31,842	52,978	10,645	11,673	14,099	93,762	32,843	247,842

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Howard County Population by Age by Regional Planning District -- 2000
(As Percent of Total Population Range)

Age	West							TOTAL
	Elkridge	Ellicott City	Friendship	Cooksville	Clarksville	Columbia	Laurel	
Under 5	16.6%	18.7%	3.8%	4.5%	5.2%	36.8%	14.5%	100%
5 to 9	13.8%	21.5%	4.6%	5.1%	6.0%	35.1%	13.9%	100%
10 to 14	11.4%	23.4%	4.5%	5.8%	6.9%	34.4%	13.5%	100%
15 to 19	10.4%	23.5%	4.6%	5.5%	6.2%	36.9%	12.9%	100%
20 to 24	13.5%	19.6%	2.5%	3.7%	3.7%	41.2%	15.9%	100%
25 to 34	17.9%	15.9%	2.3%	2.5%	2.4%	43.0%	16.1%	100%
35 to 44	14.9%	20.6%	4.1%	4.8%	5.5%	35.3%	14.7%	100%
45 to 54	9.2%	23.7%	5.2%	5.3%	6.9%	38.4%	11.2%	100%
55 to 59	7.6%	21.1%	6.2%	6.1%	8.3%	41.8%	9.0%	100%
60 to 64	8.2%	22.7%	6.4%	5.3%	8.4%	38.9%	10.2%	100%
65 to 74	9.1%	27.5%	6.4%	5.4%	7.6%	34.5%	9.6%	100%
75 to 84	9.8%	30.0%	4.8%	4.8%	6.2%	35.9%	8.5%	100%
85 and over	5.1%	29.2%	3.3%	3.8%	6.3%	47.5%	4.8%	100%
Total	12.8%	21.4%	4.3%	4.7%	5.7%	37.8%	13.3%	100%
55 and older	8.3%	24.9%	5.9%	5.4%	7.7%	38.6%	9.1%	100%
60 and older	8.7%	26.7%	5.8%	5.1%	7.4%	37.2%	9.1%	100%
65 and older	8.9%	28.5%	5.5%	5.0%	7.0%	36.4%	8.7%	100%
Under 5	16.6%	18.7%	3.8%	4.5%	5.2%	36.8%	14.5%	100%
5 to 19	12.0%	22.7%	4.6%	5.4%	6.4%	35.3%	13.5%	100%
20 to 44	15.9%	18.7%	3.2%	3.8%	4.1%	38.9%	15.4%	100%
45 to 59	8.8%	23.1%	5.4%	5.5%	7.2%	39.2%	10.7%	100%
60 to 74	8.7%	25.4%	6.4%	5.4%	7.9%	36.4%	9.8%	100%
75 and over	8.6%	29.8%	4.4%	4.5%	6.2%	38.9%	7.5%	100%
Total	12.8%	21.4%	4.3%	4.7%	5.7%	37.8%	13.3%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Howard County Population by Age by Regional Planning District (RPD) -- 2000
(As Percent of Total RPD)**

Age	West							TOTAL
	Elkridge	Ellicott City	Friendship	Cooksville	Clarksville	Columbia	Laurel	
Under 5	9.5%	6.5%	6.4%	7.0%	6.7%	7.2%	8.1%	7.4%
5 to 9	9.0%	8.4%	8.9%	9.0%	8.9%	7.7%	8.8%	8.4%
10 to 14	7.1%	8.8%	8.5%	9.9%	9.7%	7.3%	8.2%	8.0%
15 to 19	5.0%	6.8%	6.6%	7.1%	6.7%	6.0%	6.0%	6.2%
20 to 24	4.7%	4.1%	2.6%	3.5%	2.9%	4.8%	5.3%	4.5%
25 to 34	20.5%	11.0%	7.8%	7.7%	6.1%	16.7%	17.9%	14.7%
35 to 44	22.8%	18.9%	18.7%	20.1%	19.0%	18.3%	21.8%	19.6%
45 to 54	11.1%	17.1%	18.7%	17.5%	18.7%	15.7%	13.1%	15.5%
55 to 59	3.0%	5.0%	7.3%	6.6%	7.4%	5.6%	3.4%	5.1%
60 to 64	2.1%	3.5%	4.9%	3.7%	4.8%	3.4%	2.5%	3.3%
65 to 74	3.0%	5.4%	6.2%	4.8%	5.6%	3.8%	3.0%	4.2%
75 to 84	1.8%	3.4%	2.7%	2.4%	2.6%	2.3%	1.5%	2.4%
85 and over	0.3%	1.2%	0.7%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	0.3%	0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
55 and older	10.3%	18.5%	21.8%	18.2%	21.4%	16.2%	10.8%	15.8%
60 and older	7.2%	13.4%	14.5%	11.7%	14.0%	10.5%	7.4%	10.7%
65 and older	5.2%	9.9%	9.6%	8.0%	9.1%	7.2%	4.9%	7.5%
Under 5	9.5%	6.5%	6.4%	7.0%	6.7%	7.2%	8.1%	7.4%
5 to 19	21.1%	24.0%	24.0%	26.0%	25.3%	21.0%	23.0%	22.5%
20 to 44	48.0%	34.0%	29.1%	31.3%	28.0%	39.9%	45.0%	38.8%
45 to 59	14.1%	22.2%	26.0%	24.0%	26.1%	21.3%	16.6%	20.6%
60 to 74	5.1%	8.9%	11.1%	8.5%	10.4%	7.2%	5.5%	7.5%
75 and over	2.2%	4.6%	3.4%	3.1%	3.6%	3.4%	1.9%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

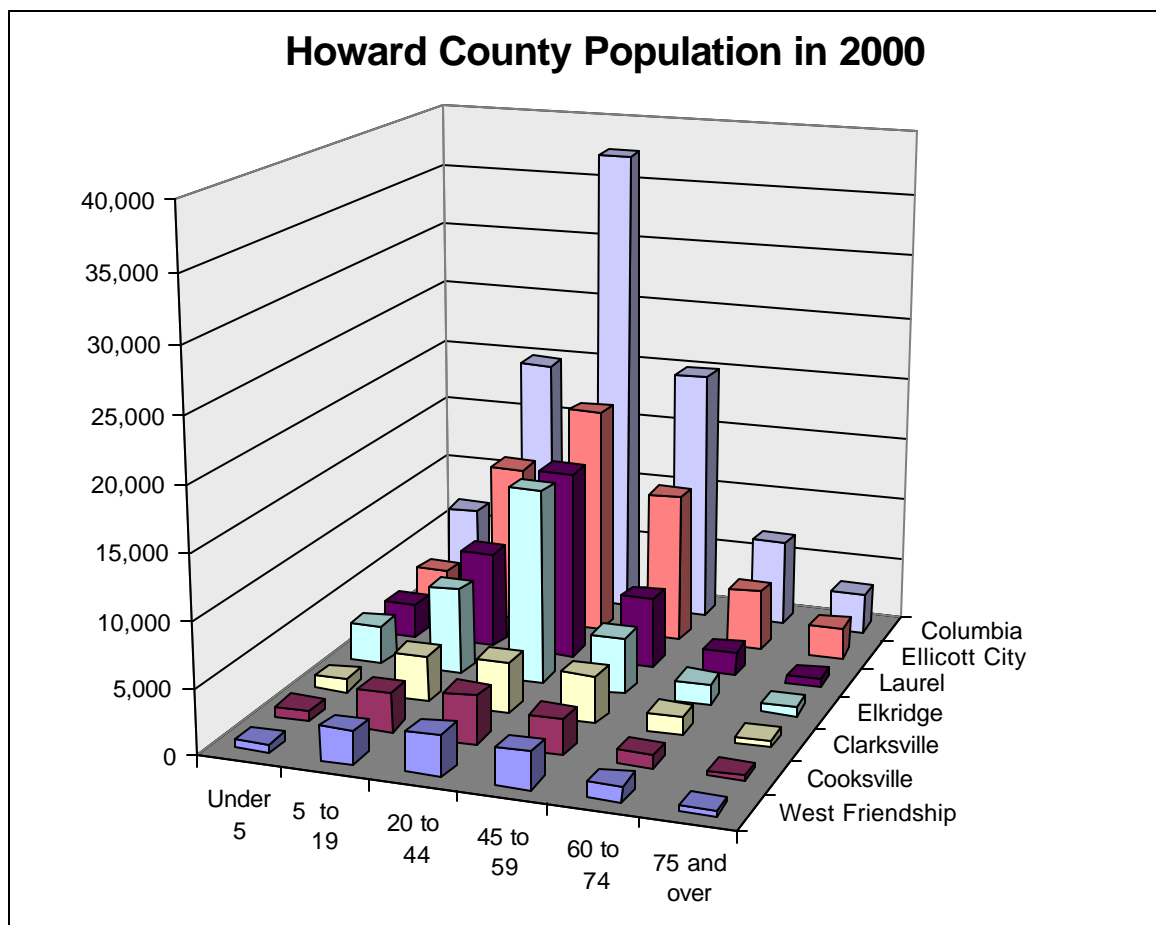
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

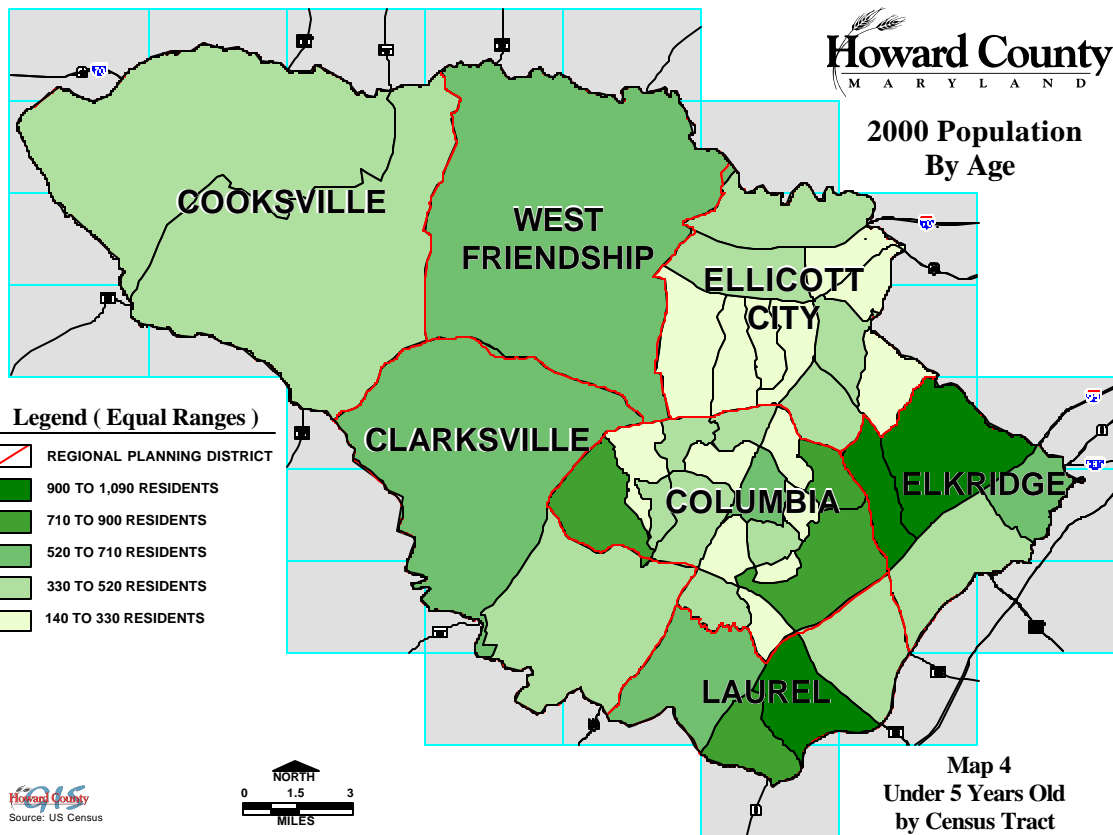
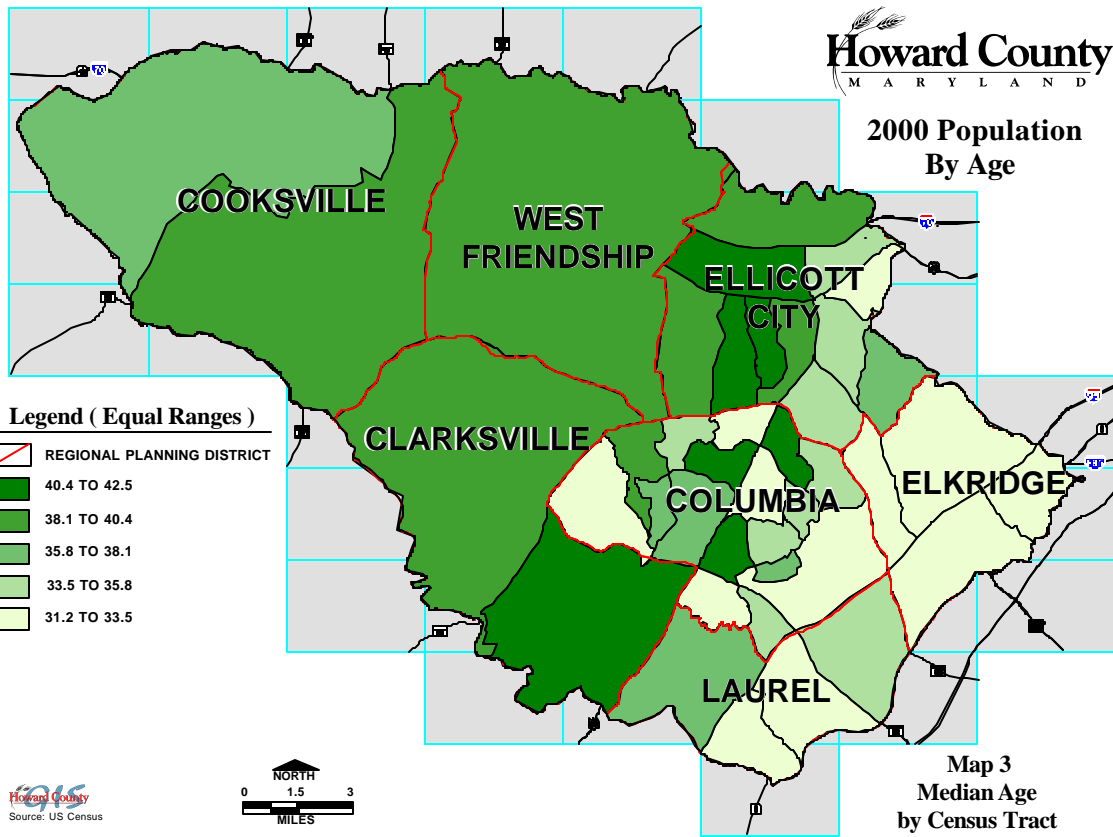
The chart on the next page shows the population by age for each RPD graphically. Only the larger age cohorts shown at the bottom of the tables above are shown in the chart. Columbia, which has the greatest population, also has the largest population in each age category. This is generally the pattern followed by all the other regions as well. Unlike racial characteristics, as discussed in detail in Research Report Issue 3, where there tends to be concentrations of races in certain regions, similar concentrations by age are less apparent, as would be expected. Minor variations or concentrations do exist, however, as indicated in the percentages in the above tables as well as the maps beginning on Page 14.

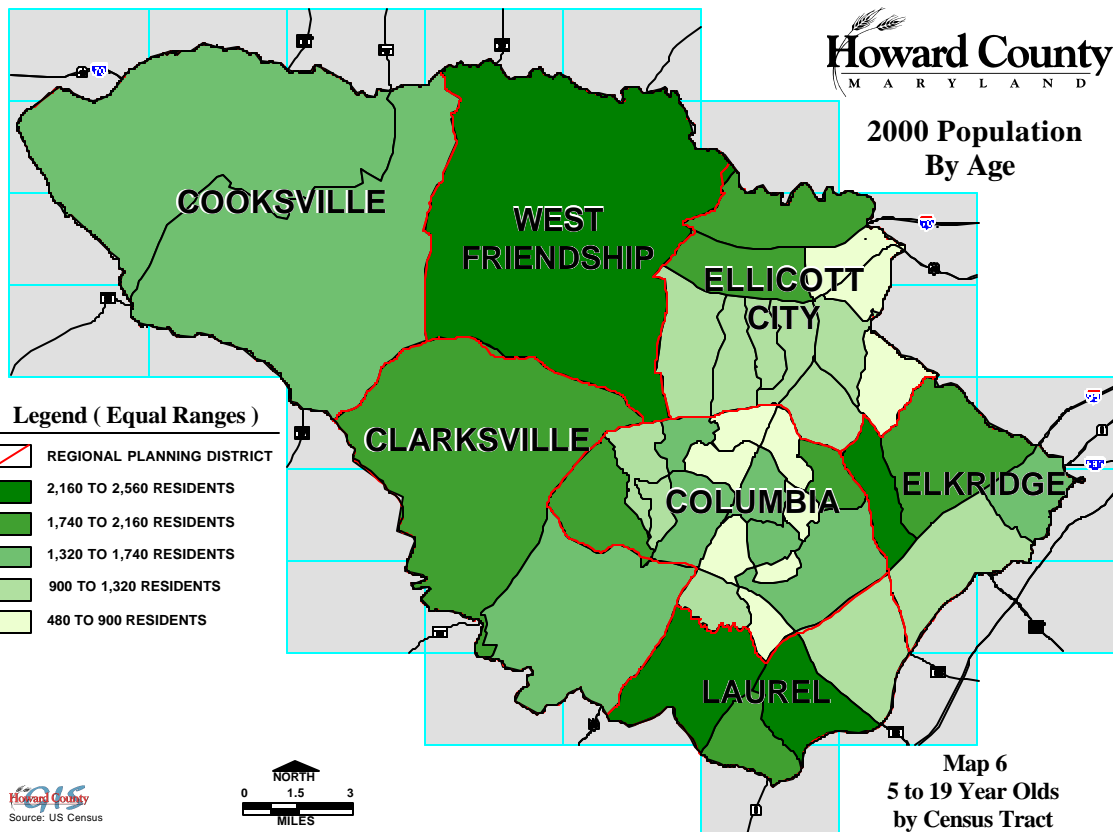
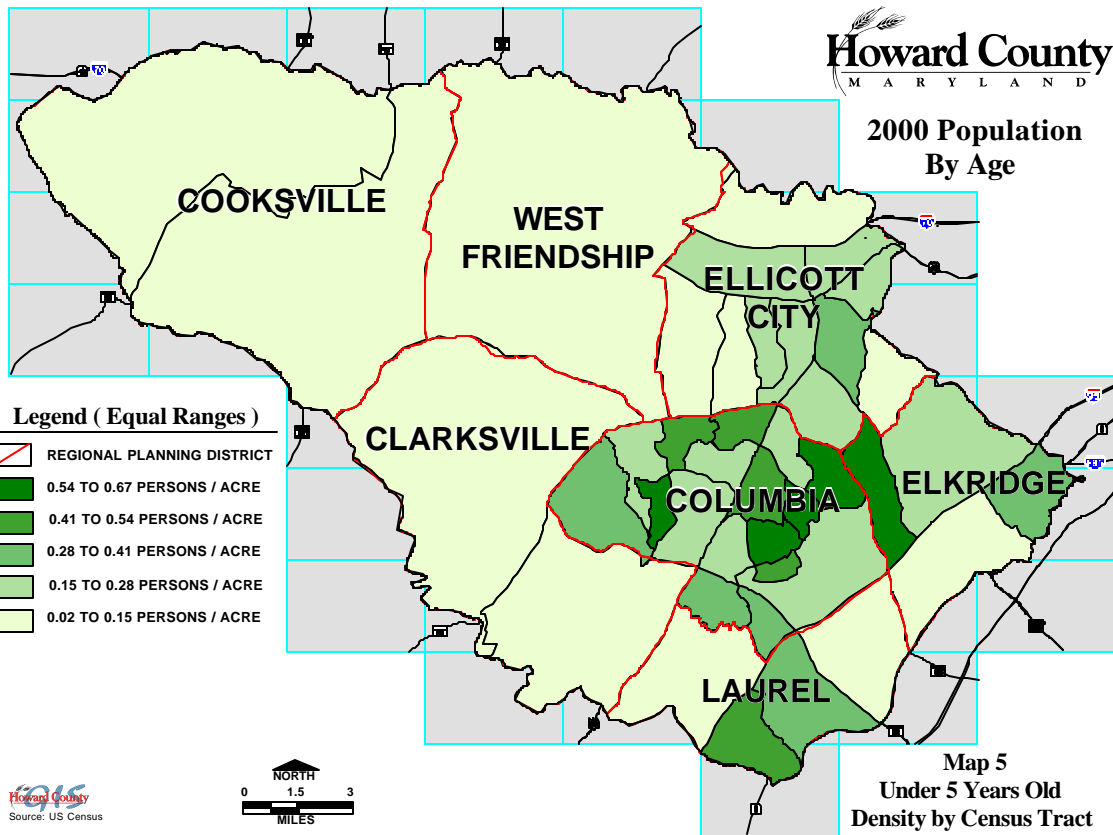
These maps show a more detailed breakdown of the 2000 population in Howard County at the census tract level. The first map (Map 3) shows the median age shown thematically at equal intervals. The median age ranges from 31.2 to 42.5 years old. The subsequent pairs of maps show the populations by various age cohorts – the darker the shade the greater the number. For each pair, the first map displays the total populations and the second map shows the population densities. The density maps better show the population concentrations by normalizing the results given census tracts vary in acreage. The following summarizes some of the major findings:

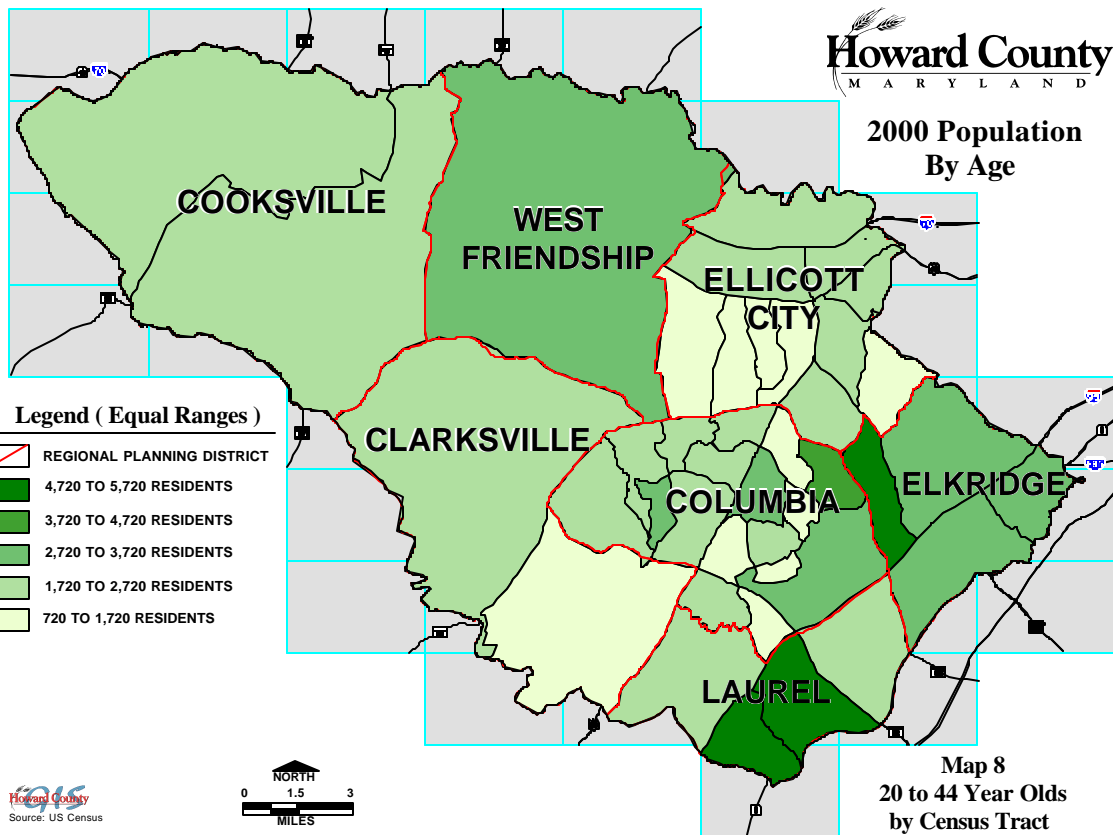
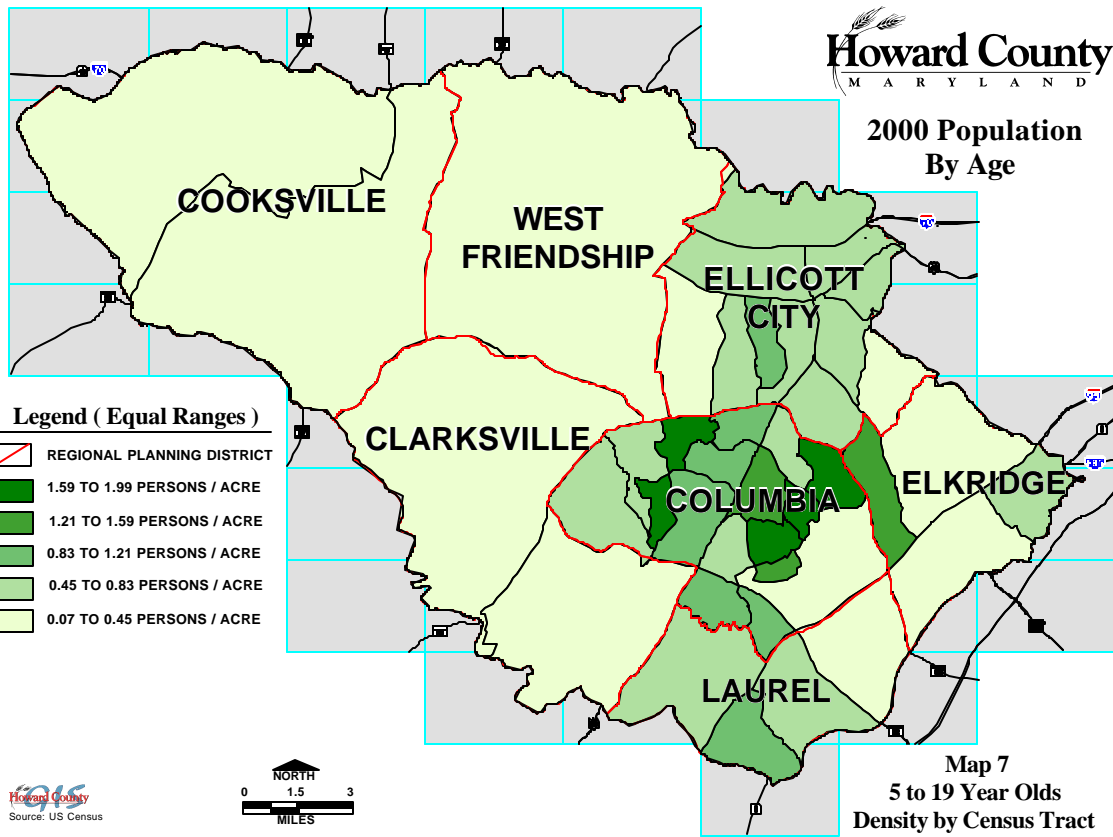
- Younger populations live in Elkridge, Laurel and parts of Columbia, including the two newest areas of River Hill and Kendall Ridge. These areas have some of the smallest median age characteristics as well as higher concentrations of children under 5.

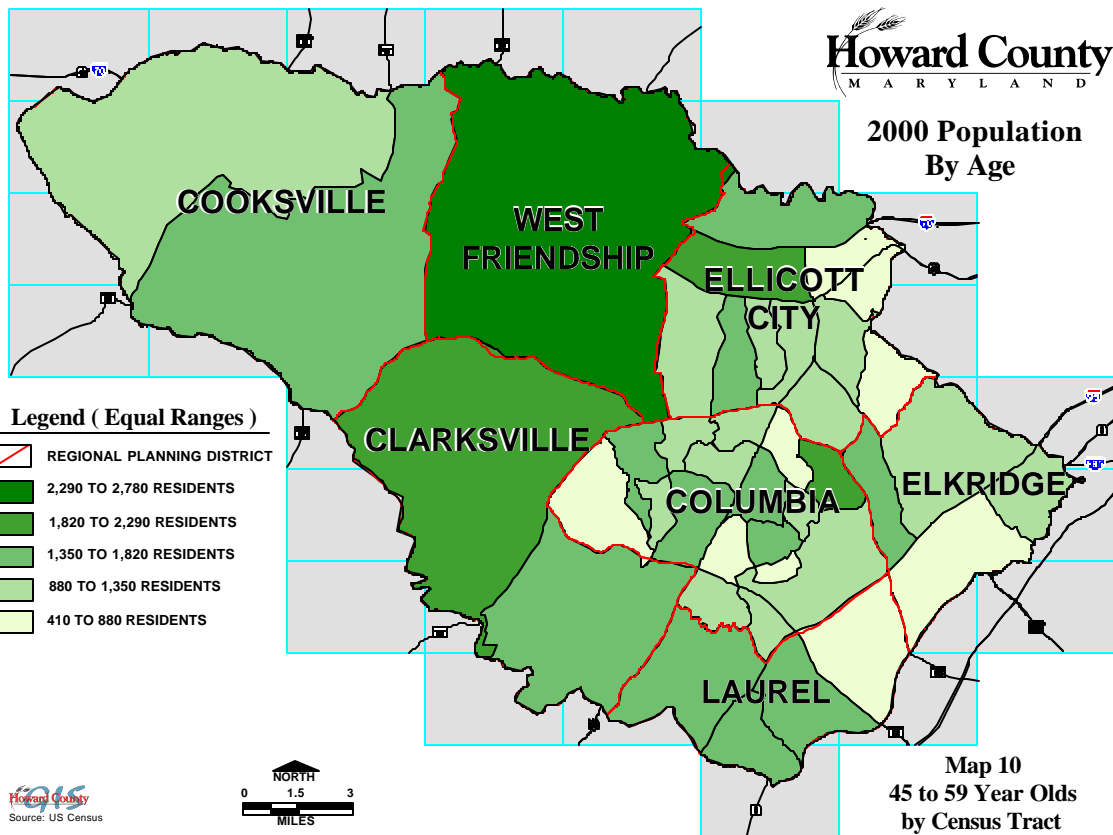
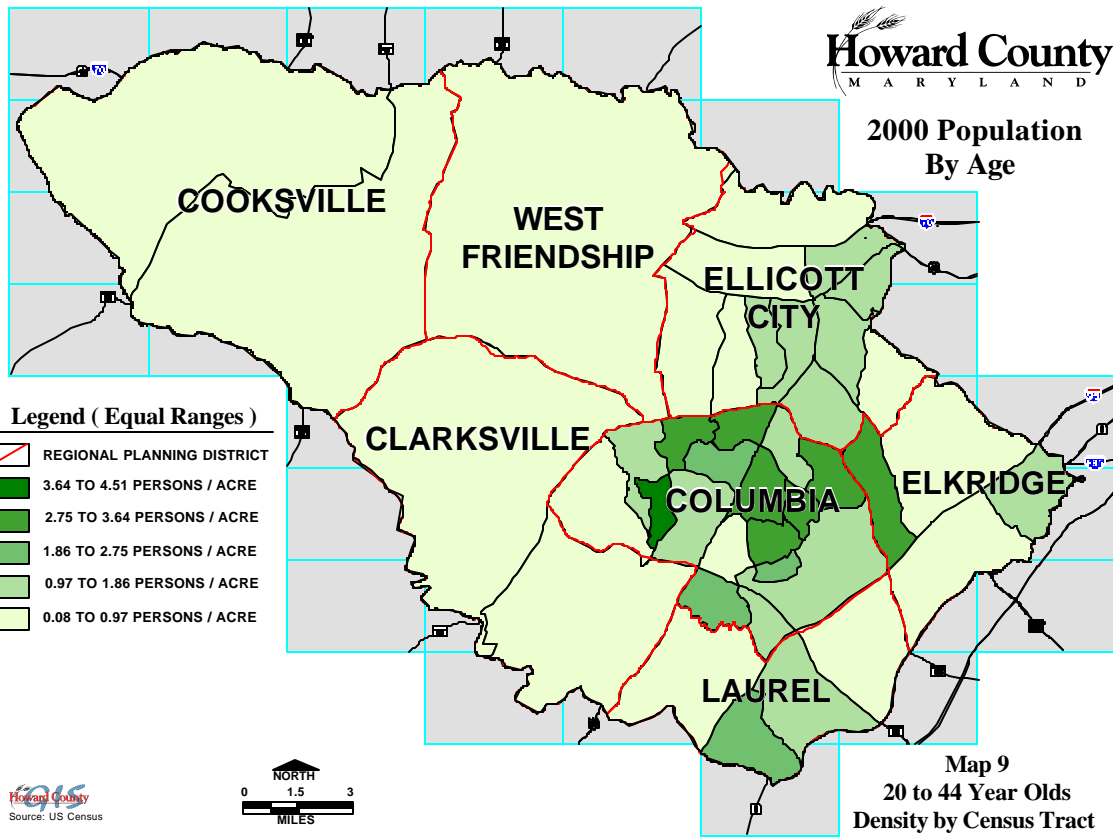
- Relatively older populations live in Clarksville, the older and more central parts of Columbia and parts of Ellicott City. Other areas in western Howard County, including the Cooksville and West Friendship areas, also have relatively older populations.
- School age children, those 5 to 19, being a larger age cohort are more evenly distributed throughout the county. Relatively larger numbers of this age group live in the Elkrigde and Laurel areas as well as parts of western Howard County, Columbia and Ellicott City.
- The next cohort displayed, 20 to 44 year olds, also have concentrations in parts Laurel and Elkrigde and Columbia. This cohort includes the parents of the children discussed above.
- There is a relatively greater number of 45 to 59 year olds in the western part of the County as well as higher concentrations in the older communities in Columbia, Elkrigde and Ellicott City. These same areas also include relatively more residents aged 60 and above.
- Although elderly residents 75 and older live throughout the County, a few census tracts show relatively larger numbers. In some cases, these are where senior housing and nursing home establishments are located (maps 14 through 17).

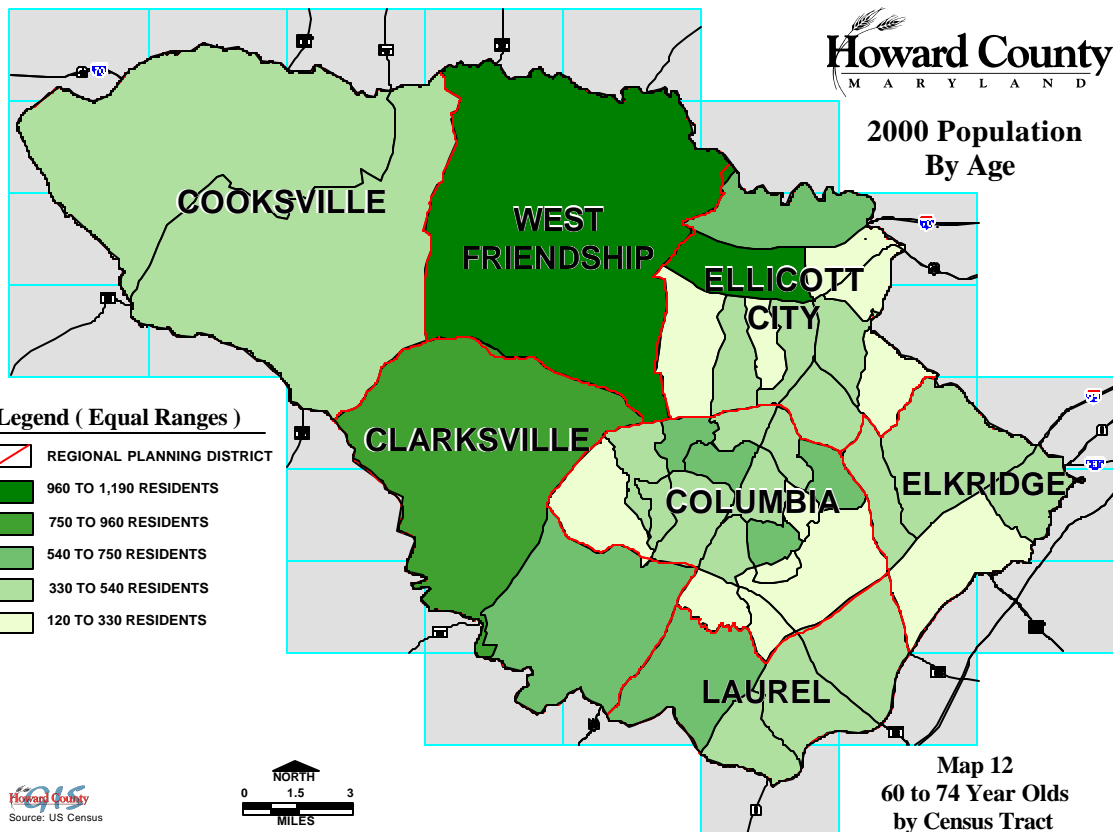
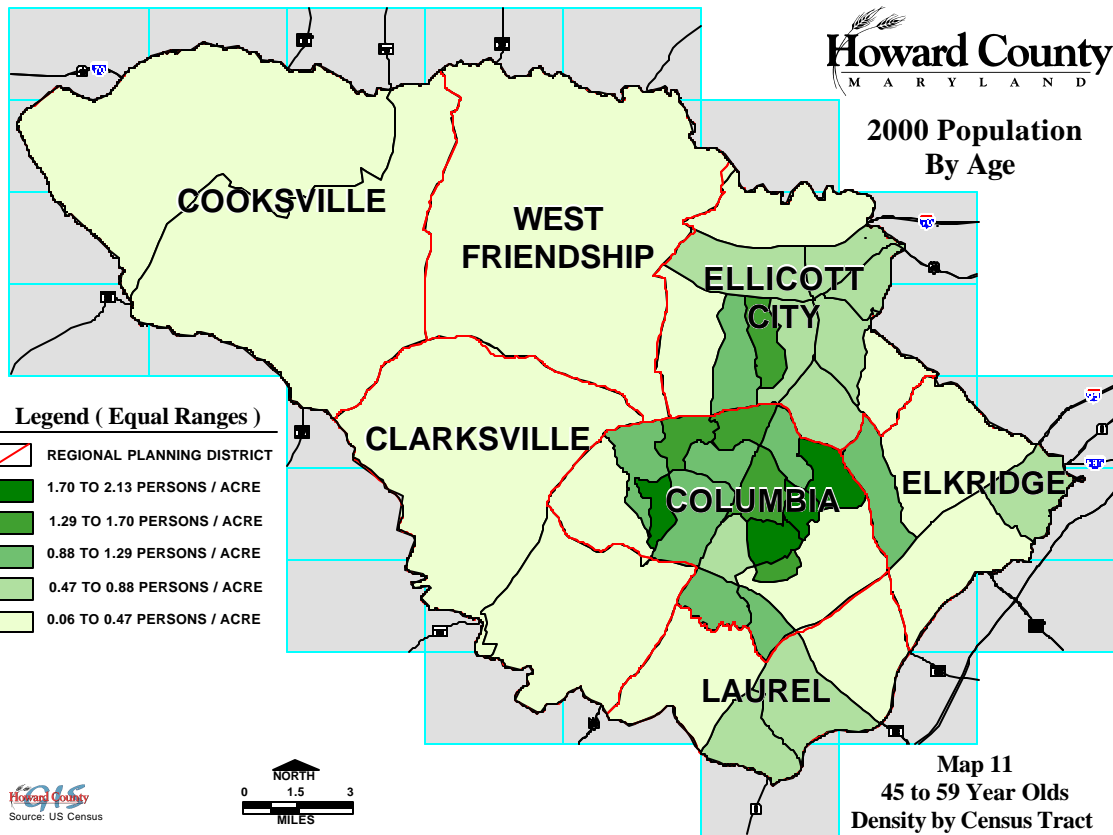


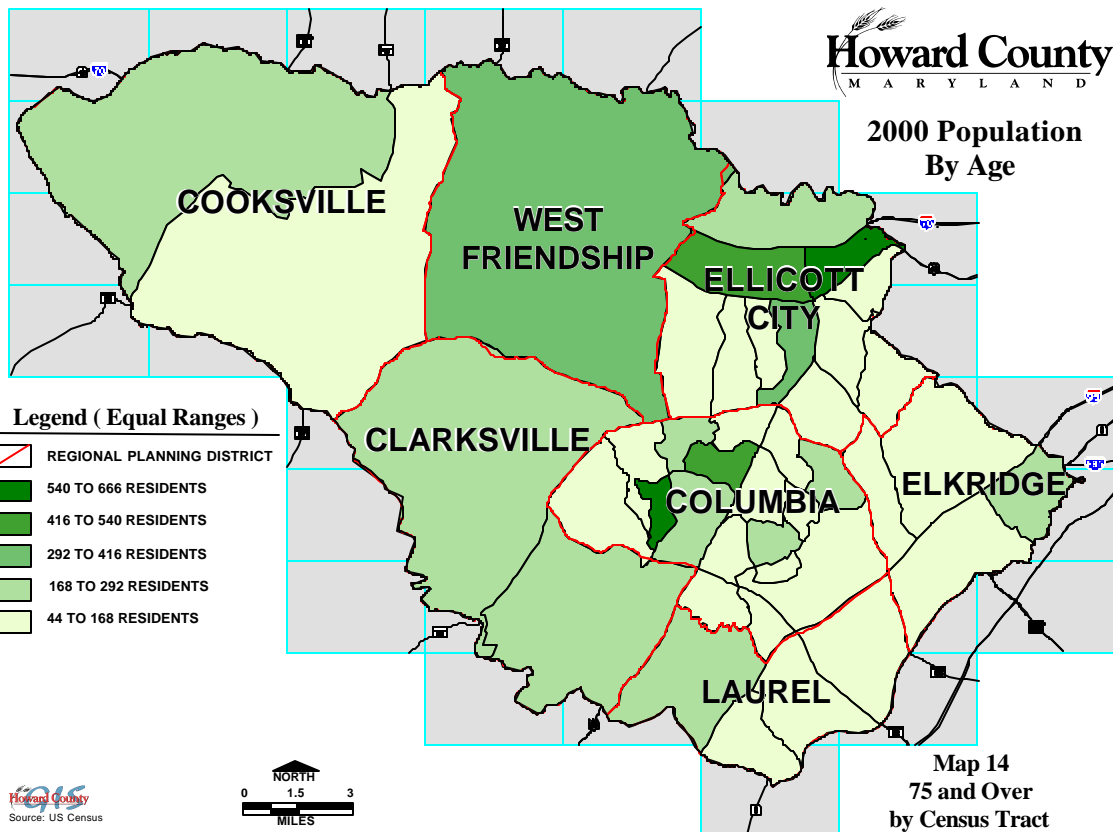
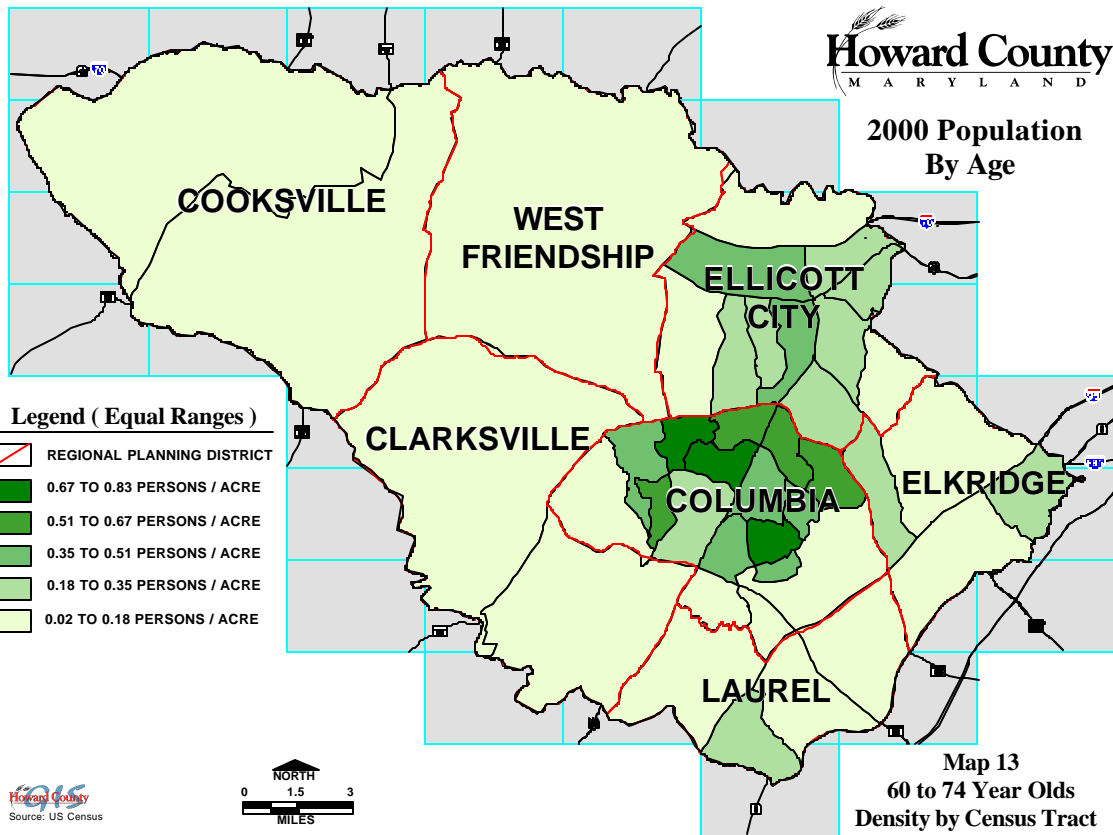


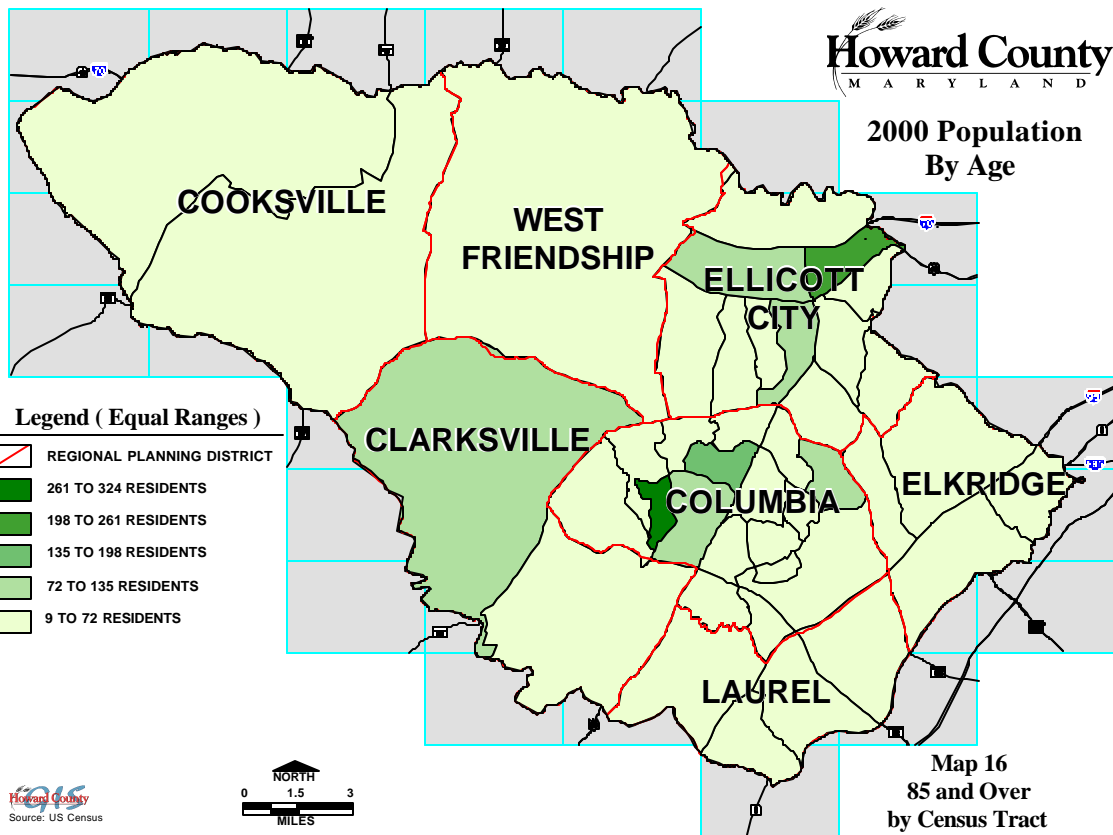
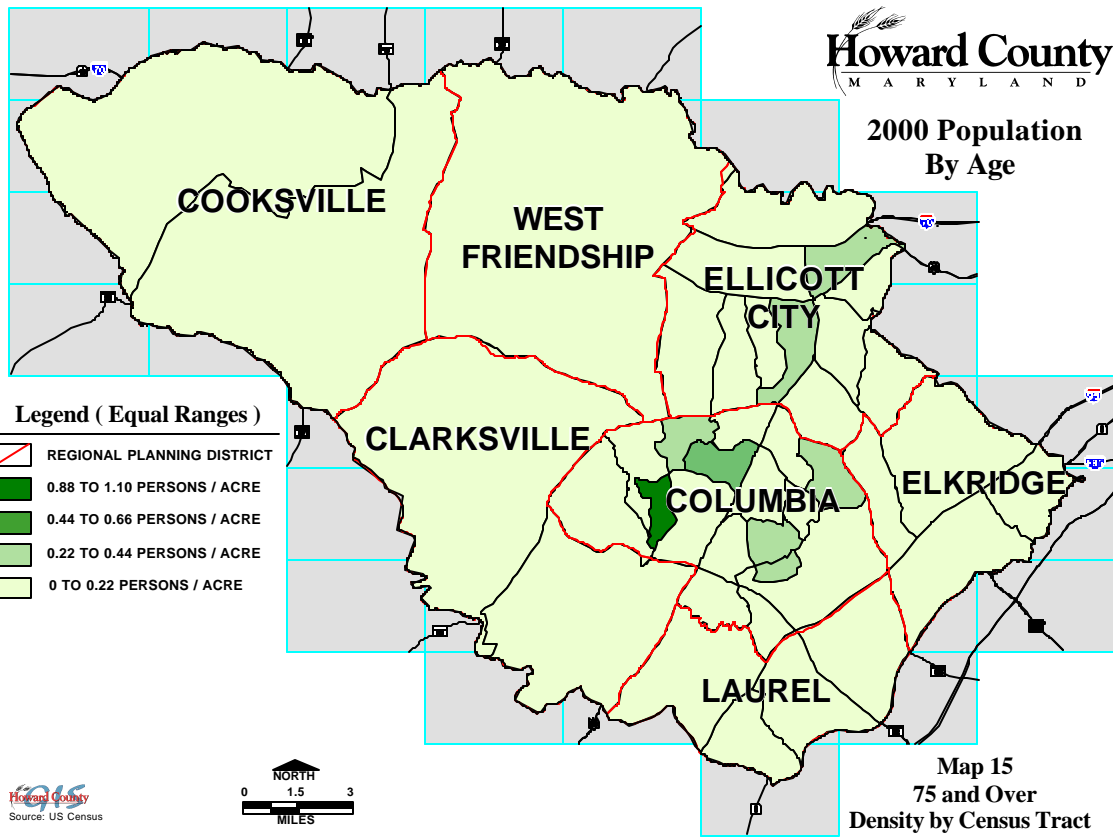












2000 Population
By Age

