

Highlights of General Demographic Characteristics for Maryland

Total Population by Age

▶ The largest absolute and percentage increase during the 1990s occurred in the 44-54 age cohorts (233,231), or 44.7 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 1960 and early 1970s, to starting careers and buying houses in the 1980s and 1990s. Soon, this group will be leading the charge into retirement.

▶ Although not a perfect measure, the available cohorts that most closely match the school-age population (5 – 19 year olds), also grew significantly during the 1990s. This cohort was up by just over 199,000 (21.2%) over the past decade. These children were essentially the offspring of the baby boom and created the “boomlet” which led to the school enrollment increases in Maryland during the 1990s.

▶ The second largest percentage increase in population belonged to those ages 85 and over (43.9%). As a share of total population, however, this cohort comprised only 1.3 percent of the 2000 population of Maryland, up from 1.0 percent in 1990. It is this population that most often requires a disproportionate share of medical services.

▶ There were significant declines in 20-34 year olds in Maryland over the 1990s. The population for this age group declined by just over 200,000 (-16.3%). Members of this cohort were born between 1966 and 1980 and generally coincide with the ending of the baby boom period and through the baby bust period of the 1970s. It is the shrinking of this cohort, which encompasses many who are entering full-time permanent employment for the first time, which were behind some of the labor shortages in the booming latter half of the 1990s.

▶ The median age of Marylanders reached 36.0 years of age, up three years from 1990. All baby boomers – those born between 1946 and 1964 – are now older than the median age.

▶ Even though Maryland’s median age is greater than the U.S. median age (35.3), the percent of the State’s population ages 65 or older is smaller, (11.1% vs. 12.4%).

Race Detail

▶ The growth of minorities – African Americans, Asians and Hispanics – and the decline in non-Hispanic Whites, has already been documented with the release of the PL 94-171 data in March of 2001. Comparing those that defined themselves as one race in 2000 with 1990 data, African Americans (287,512, or 24.2%), Asians (72,781, or 52.7%) and Hispanics (102,814, or 82.2%) – which can be of any race-- led the population gains during the 1990s. Non-Hispanic whites, on the other hand, declined by nearly 40,000 (-1.2%).

► This latest demographic profile lends some detail to the Asian and Hispanic categories. In Maryland, the largest Asian groups in 2000 are Asian Indians (49,909), Chinese (49,400), Korean (39,155) and Filipino (26,608). During the 1990s, Asian Indians experienced the largest gains (21,579), while Vietnamese grew the fastest (88.9%, from 8,862 to 16,744). Nationwide, Chinese (2.4 million) outnumber Asian Indians (1.7 million),

► The majority of Maryland's Hispanic population by specific origin is classified in the "other Hispanic or Latino" category (68.3%). This is not unexpected in that immigration data for the 1990s showed the greatest number of Hispanic immigrants were from Central America. Of those groups that were identified, Mexicans (39,900) were more numerous than either Puerto Ricans (25,570) or Cubans (6,754). Nationwide, Mexicans make up the largest Hispanic group (58.4%).

Relationship

► As has been reported from the national data, the number of unmarried partners in Maryland has increased significantly during the 1990s (up 46.9%). However, as a share of the total population, they still make up only a tiny amount, 2.1 percent in 2000, up from 1.6 percent in 1990.

► Group quarters population was up a significant 17.7 percent during the 1990s, compared to a 10.6 percent increase in the household population. The non-institutionalized group quarters population – college dorms, barracks, shelters and halfway houses – grew much more in both absolute (13,642) and percentage (26.7%) terms than did the institutional population (6,558, or 10.4%) which consists of persons in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. For the nation as a whole, institutional group quarters grew much more rapidly than non-institutional group quarters (21.7% vs. 10.5%).

Households by Type

► In Maryland the "nuclear family" – two parents and one or more children -- made up less than one-quarter (23.3%) of all households in the State in 2000, down from 25 percent in 1990. This is very similar to the national rates of 23.5 percent in 2000 and 25.6 percent in 1990. Thirty years ago, in 1970, the nuclear family comprised 41.4 percent of all households in the State.

► The decline of the nuclear family has led to the rise of different types of households. Much has been made of the increase in single-parent households with children. Female-headed households increased 30.4 percent in the 1990s while male-headed households grew by 54.5 percent. (Female-headed households, however, outnumber male-headed households in Maryland by just over three to one.) As a proportion of all family households with own children under 18, female-headed households comprise 24.0 percent and male-headed households comprise 6.2 percent. In other words, 30.2 percent of all households with own children under 18 years of age are

single-parent households. 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 68.6 percent of all households in Maryland in 2000, down from 71.2 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 28.8 percent in 1990 to 31.4 percent in 2000. In 1970, non-family households comprised just 17.3 percent of all households.

- ▶ The majority of non-family households are one-person households. Nearly 80 percent (79.7%) of all non-family households in 2000 were one-person households. One-person households comprise one-quarter of all households in 2000, up from 22.6 percent in 1990.

- ▶ One-person elderly households comprised nearly one-third (32.4%) of all one-person households in 2000. This represents a decrease from 1990 when the elderly comprised of 34.3 percent of all one-person households.

- ▶ The average household size in Maryland in 2000 (2.61) was slightly larger than the national average (2.59). Maryland's household size declined by 0.6 persons per household from 1990, the smallest decline since the 1950s. The declines by decade: 1950s - 0.2; 1960s - 0.23, 1970s - 0.43; 1980s - 0.15. The slowdown in household size decline is probably driven in part by the large number of foreign immigrants that came to Maryland in the 1990s. Immigrant households tend to have larger household sizes than native-born households.

Housing Tenure

- ▶ Maryland's homeownership rate climbed to 67.7 percent in 2000, up from 65 percent in 1990 and 58.7 percent in 1970. Nationally, homeownership increased from 64.2 percent in 1990 to 66.2 percent in 2000.