



Population Trends

State's most populous jurisdiction since 1989

With a 1997 total population estimate of 832,400, Montgomery County has the most people of any county in the state of Maryland. It is Maryland's first county to exceed 800,000 people. Neighboring Prince George's County is the State's second most populous area at 760,000. In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Montgomery County ranks lower in population size only to Virginia's Fairfax County (population 914,000). Nationally, Montgomery County falls in the top 50 counties ranked by total population. Currently, the January 2000 total population estimate for Montgomery County is 855,000.

All persons not residing in households are classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as living in group quarters. Group quarters consist of individuals living in institutions, including prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes, or 10 or more unrelated individuals sharing living quarters such as group homes, rooming houses, and homeless persons shelters. People living in group quarters make up 1.1 percent (8,900) of the County's total population. While the total population includes group quarters, all descriptions and analyses in this report, unless otherwise noted, are based on Montgomery County's 1997 household population, 823,500.

Population growth fueled by record level births and new residents influx

From 1990 to 1997, Montgomery County's total population grew 9 percent to reach 832,400. The 1990s annual growth rate of 9,700 people per year is just about half the phenomenally high rate witnessed in the previous decade. During the 1990s, the County experienced the largest total population increase (70,000 persons) among all Maryland's jurisdictions, and

accounted for over 20 percent of the state's population growth. Growth in the County's population is nearly one-half of Frederick County's total population in 1997. The County ranks 49th among the nation's counties in population growth in the 1990s. According to the Maryland Department of Planning, Montgomery will remain the most populous Maryland jurisdiction for the next 20 years or more. The County's total population is expected to hit the one million mark in the year 2020.

Annual Population Growth Rate: 1970-1997

Year	Difference	% Change	Average Annual Gain	%
1970-1980	56,244	10.76%	5,624	1.08%
1970-1977	58,900	11.40%	8,400	1.63%
1980-1990	183,154	31.63%	18,315	3.16%
1980-1987	100,947	17.43%	14,421	2.49%
1990-1997	67,876	8.88%	9,697	1.27%
1987-1997	152,400	22.41%	15,240	3.20%

Table 12: Annual Population Growth Rate 1970-1997

The two most important contributors to the County's sustained population growth are the unflagging record level of births, and the influx of new residents from other states and immigrants from other countries. Births are continuing at near record levels, even as Montgomery County begins a gradual decline from the peak of its second baby boom in 1990. For Montgomery, this upward trend from the "baby bust" of the 1970s has not been a "boomlet," but a full-fledged boom as the number of births reached levels 50 percent greater than the highest peaks of the World War II baby boom. The County's births peaked at 12,773 in 1990 and have gradually declined to 11,812 in 1997. Although overall gradual declines in births are expected to continue for some time, high numbers of births will continue for the foreseeable future.

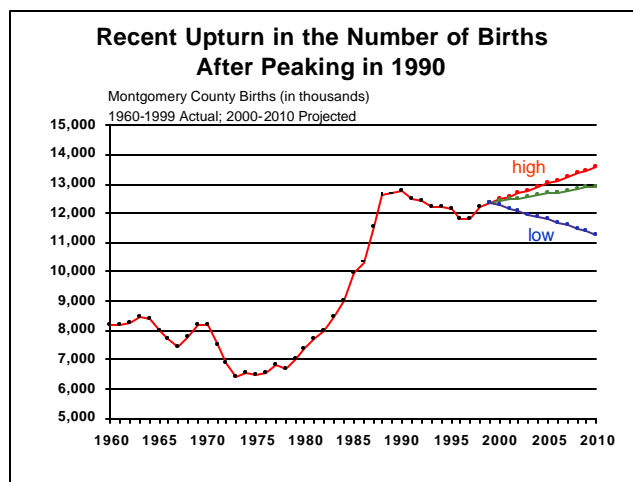


Figure 9: Annual Birth Rate 1960-2010

The County's births peaked at 12,773 in 1990 and have gradually declined to 11,812 in 1997. Although overall gradual declines in births are expected to continue for some time, high numbers of births will continue for the foreseeable future.

Montgomery County is a major migration "gateway" into Maryland for in-movers from other states and immigrants from the rest of the world. Individuals and families are continually attracted to Montgomery County because of its large employment base, the excellent quality of life, and its growing immigrant population base. Twenty-one percent of the County's population (175,000) were new residents between 1992 and 1997. The majority of those relocating (75 percent) came from outside the metropolitan area.

Foreign Immigration Spurs County's Growth & Cosmopolitan Milieu

Analysis of migration and immigration data shows that immigration from abroad is a major contributor to the County's growth. From April 1990 to July 1997, 43,500 immigrants moved to "gateway" Montgomery. This is 47 percent of all immigrants that moved into Maryland during this period. In the state, the County's only rival as a magnet for immigrants is neighboring Prince George's County, which attracted 21,000 immigrants during the same period, less than half of Montgomery County's total. Only births exceed immigration as a component of the County's growth.

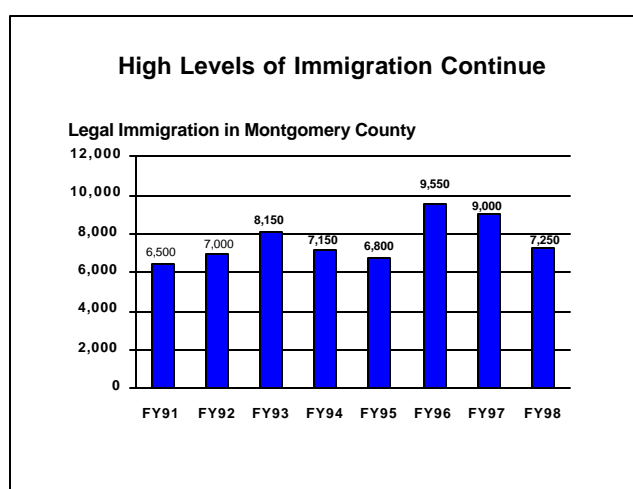
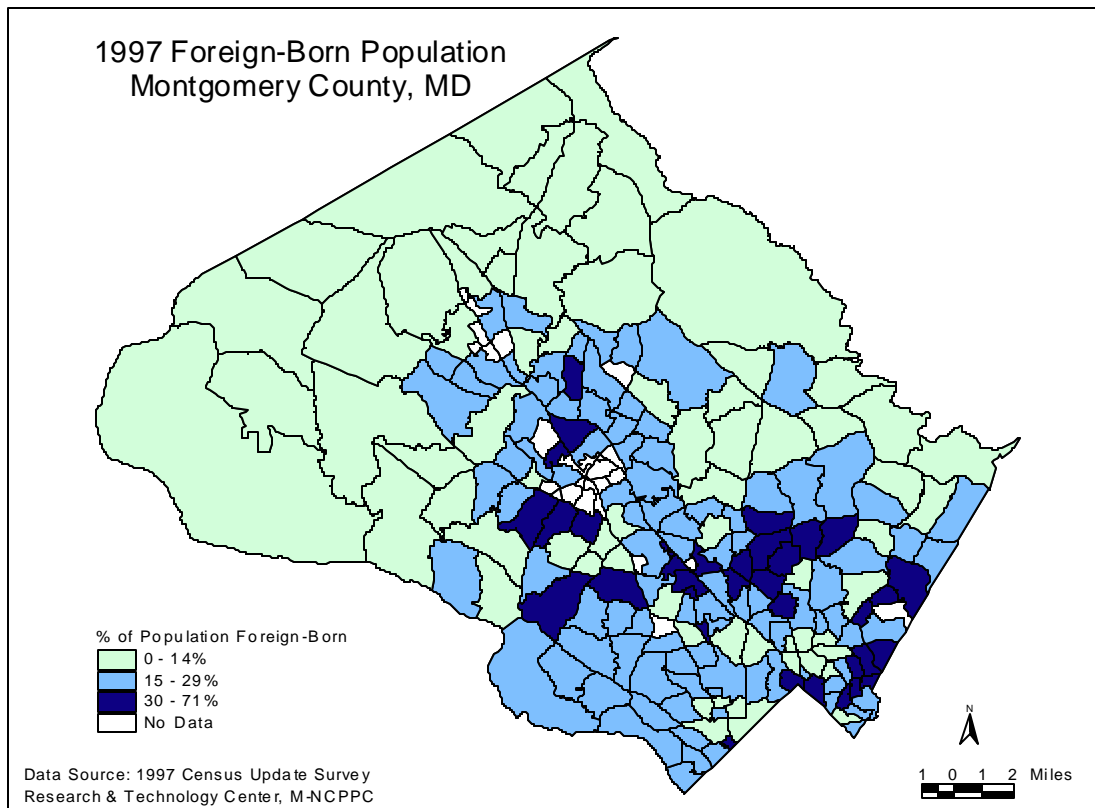


Figure 10: Legal Immigration into County 1991-1998

Immigrants are settling in the County's urban core and high growth areas. About 37 percent of recent immigrants moved to the County's "urban core" area, which includes Bethesda, Kensington, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and Wheaton. This area already

had a similar percentage of foreign-born residents in 1990. With only 2 percent of immigrants moving to the County's rural areas, the remainder – 61 percent of recent immigrants – have located along the I-270 Corridor and the suburban areas, which had 58 percent of the County's foreign born populace in 1990. Specifically, the suburban concentrations of immigrant growth are found in Gaithersburg/Germantown, Rockville/Potomac, and Colesville/Fairland.



Map 2: Percent of Population Foreign-Born

Montgomery County's recent immigrants are an extremely diverse group; immigrants came from 186 countries, with 62 countries providing more than 100 immigrants each. No single country contributed more than 8 percent of all immigrants and no region of the world contributed over half. El Salvador contributed the greatest absolute number of immigrants, but accounted for only 8.4 percent of total immigration, followed by China with 7.1 percent, India with 7.0 percent, and Vietnam with 6.4 percent. Forty-three percent of the County's immigrants came

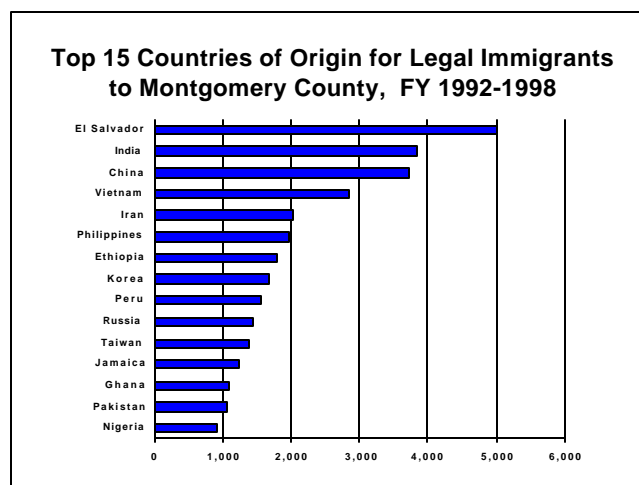


Figure 11: Top 15 Countries of Origin for Legal Immigrants

from Asia, 31 percent from the Americas, and 13 percent each from both Africa and Europe. This diverse influx of immigrants is contributing to the County's continuing trend of ethnic and racial diversity, making Montgomery County a vibrant place to live and work.

Profile of households with a foreign-born head or spouse

The percentage of persons born outside the United States and currently living in Montgomery County has risen from 18.6 percent in 1990 to 21.9 percent in 1997. Moreover, almost one-third of the County's population lives in a household where the head or spouse is foreign-born. Compared to the rest of the County, the population in these households is characterized as younger with more children, more diverse, greater extremes in educational attainment, and more likely to work for private firms than the government.

The lower average age of those in a foreign-born household - 33 years old compared to 37.2 years for native-born headed households - is underscored by a higher percentage of children, 28.3 percent versus 24.2 percent, and a lower percent of elderly, 7.3 percent and 13.2 percent, respectively. Cultural differences as well as age support the trend toward more children. Typically, a household with a foreign-born head or spouse will be more diverse than a native-born household. Over 30 percent of the population in these households are Asian or Pacific Islander and about 15 percent are black. Those of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) make up over one-fifth of the population. A higher percent of adults, age 25 and older, living in foreign-born headed households have a Master's, professional, or Doctoral degree, than their native born counterparts, 32.1 percent and 30.7 percent, respectively. The foreign-born households also tip the other end of the scale with a higher percent of adults lacking a high school diploma (10.9 percent) than adults in households headed by native-born (7.1 percent). Most of each group's work force characteristics are similar except that workers in foreign-headed households are more likely to work for the private sector and not the government, and also, the women with young children are less likely to work.

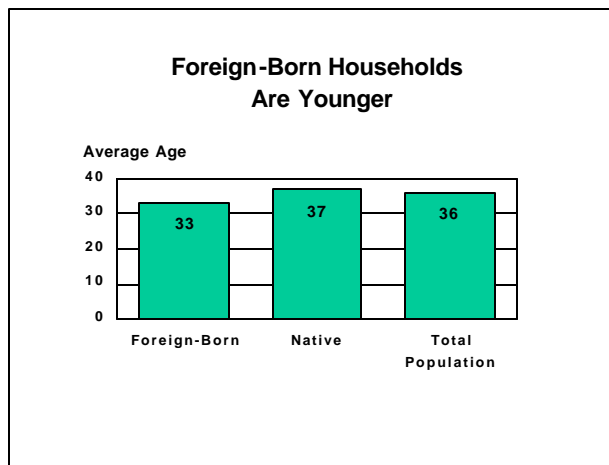


Figure 12: Average Age of Foreign-Born and Native-Born Population

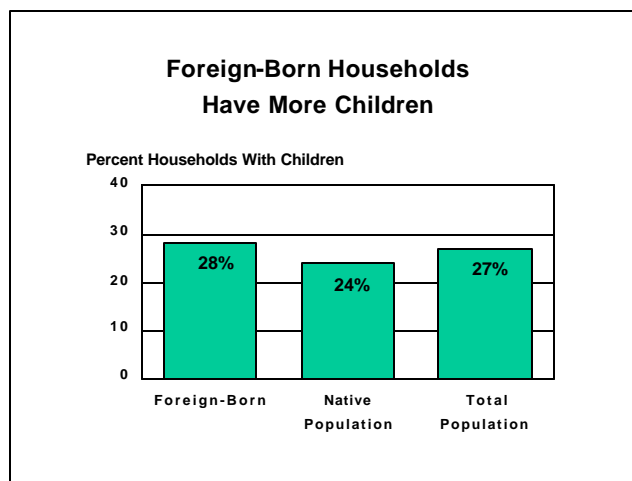


Figure 13: Households with Children by Foreign-Born Status

In 1997, over one-quarter, approximately 81,620 households in Montgomery County, have either a foreign-born head or spouse. These households are predominately families, larger than average, paying more than the average costs for housing since they are recently settled in the County. Half of the foreign-born households have lived in their present home for four years or less compared to the seven-year median for the native householder. The shorter length of residency is reflected in the higher average housing costs of foreign households. The average monthly payment for foreign-born homeowners is \$1,333 and renters pay \$819 while native-born homeowners average \$1,221 and renters, \$796. It is more typical for foreign-born households to rent than native-born households, 35.4 percent versus 26.3 percent, respectively. Again, this is a reflection of their new residency in the County, and that the young householders with lower incomes are not yet in position to buy a home. The 1996 median income of foreign-born headed households is \$61,785, a 9.7 percent discrepancy from the native-born households' median of \$67,805.

Foreign-born households have a larger average household size, 3.19 persons per household, compared to native-headed households' 2.45. Two out of five of these households have four or more occupants compared to one out of five native-born households. Over one-quarter of native-born householders live alone, far exceeding the one-tenth of foreign-born householders. Almost 90 percent of the foreign born households are families compared to about 70 percent of native-born households. It is no surprise that with the predominance of young families with children in the households headed by someone foreign-born, a high percentage, 72.0 percent, have at least one computer in the home, compared to 66.5 percent in other households.

1996 Household Income by Foreign Born Status

1996 Household Income	Foreign Head or Spouse	No Foreign Head or Spouse	Total Households	%
< \$5,000	1.3%	1.0%	3,226	1.0%
\$5,000- 9,999	1.5%	1.0%	3,787	1.2%
\$10,000- 14,999	2.1%	1.8%	5,762	1.9%
\$15,000- 19,999	2.5%	2.3%	7,354	2.4%
\$20,000- 24,999	4.5%	3.2%	10,869	3.5%
\$25,000- 29,999	5.0%	3.7%	12,514	4.0%
\$30,000- 34,999	4.9%	4.5%	14,387	4.6%
\$35,000- 39,999	5.9%	4.7%	15,487	5.0%
\$40,000- 44,999	5.7%	5.3%	16,661	5.4%
\$45,000- 49,999	4.9%	5.1%	15,783	5.1%
\$50,000- 54,999	5.4%	6.0%	17,956	5.8%
\$55,000- 59,999	4.4%	4.0%	12,919	4.2%
\$60,000- 64,999	5.0%	5.3%	16,204	5.2%
\$65,000- 69,999	3.7%	4.0%	12,245	3.9%
\$70,000- 74,999	5.1%	4.2%	13,555	4.4%
\$75,000- 79,999	3.2%	3.8%	11,243	3.6%
\$80,000- 89,999	5.0%	6.2%	18,434	5.9%
\$90,000- 99,999	4.9%	5.8%	17,555	5.6%
\$100,000- 119,999	8.9%	9.0%	27,706	8.9%
\$120,000- 139,999	5.0%	6.1%	18,414	5.9%
\$140,000- 159,999	3.5%	3.9%	11,711	3.8%
\$160,000+	7.4%	9.3%	27,364	8.8%
Total Percentage	100.0%	100.0	311,135	100.0%
Total Households	81,620	229,515	311,135	
Median 1996 Income	\$61,785	\$67,805	\$66,085	
% HH > \$100,000	24.8%	28.2%		27.4%

Table 13: Household Income by Foreign-Born Status

Foreign Born Head or Spouse Households

Montgomery County, MD.

1997 Census Update Survey

		<u>Household Head or Spouse</u>		County
		Foreign Born	Native	Total
P O P U L A T I O N	Household Population	260,885	562,615	823,500
	% of Population	31.7%	68.3%	100.0%
	% Female	52.3%	53.6%	53.2%
	Age Distribution:			
	% 0-4 Years Old	7.8%	6.8%	7.1%
	% 5-17 Years Old	20.5%	17.4%	18.4%
	% 18-29 Years Old	14.3%	12.7%	13.2%
	% 30-44 Years Old	29.0%	26.0%	26.9%
	% 45-64 Years Old	21.0%	23.9%	23.0%
	% 65-74 Years Old	4.5%	7.3%	6.4%
	% Over 74 Years Old	2.8%	5.9%	5.0%
	Average Age	33.0	37.2	35.9
	Race:			
	% White	48.2%	84.6%	73.1%
	% Black	14.9%	12.5%	13.3%
	% Asian or Pacific Islander	30.6%	1.7%	10.8%
	% Other	6.3%	1.1%	2.8%
	% Hispanic Origin ¹	21.2%	2.6%	8.5%
	Educational Attainment:			
L A B O R F O R C E	Persons 25 Years and Older	166,910	392,110	559,020
	% Less than High School Diploma	10.9%	7.1%	8.1%
	% High School Graduate	26.7%	28.3%	27.9%
	% Associate or Trade School	5.0%	4.3%	4.5%
	% Bachelor's Degree	25.2%	30.1%	28.8%
	% Grad, Professional or Doctoral	32.1%	30.2%	30.7%
	Number of Employed Residents ²	143,335	320,740	464,075
	% Females Who Are Employed ²	65.6%	67.9%	67.3%
	Women with Children Under Age 6 ²	23,600	37,795	61,395
	% Employed	60.9%	71.2%	67.9%
	Employer:			
	% Private for Profit	52.3%	48.8%	49.7%
	% Private not for Profit	15.0%	12.6%	13.2%
	% Self-Employed	11.9%	11.1%	11.3%
	% Government	20.8%	27.5%	25.8%
	Work Location:			
	% In the County	54.7%	58.9%	57.8%
	% Inside the Beltway	20.3%	17.8%	18.4%
	% Outside the Beltway	34.4%	41.2%	39.4%
	% Elsewhere in Maryland	9.4%	9.1%	9.2%
	% to Washington, D.C.	26.4%	22.6%	23.6%
	% to Virginia	7.6%	8.2%	8.0%
	Work Trip:			
	% Driving	81.4%	81.7%	81.6%
	% Alone	70.7%	73.2%	72.5%
	% Carpool	10.8%	8.5%	9.1%
	% Public Transit or Rail	14.2%	12.8%	13.2%
	% Walk/Bicycle/Other	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
	% Work at Home	2.5%	3.6%	3.3%
	Access to Metrorail:			
	% Car	51.9%	53.9%	53.4%
	% Ride-On/Metrobus	24.0%	14.7%	16.9%
	% Walk/Bicycle	24.1%	31.4%	29.7%

* Insufficient data for reliable estimates.

¹ Those of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

² Ages 16 and older and employed full- or part-time.

Table 14: Profile of Foreign-Born Head or Spouse Households

Foreign Born Head or Spouse Households (cont.)

		<u>Household Head or Spouse</u>		County
		Foreign Born	Native	Total
H O U S I N G	Households by Foreign Born Status	81,620	229,515	311,135
	% Total Households	26.2%	73.8%	100.0%
	Average Household Size	3.19	2.45	2.64
	Tenure:			
	% Rental	35.4%	26.3%	28.7%
	Average Monthly Costs:			
	Homeowners	\$1,333	\$1,221	\$1,246
	Renters	\$819	\$796	\$803
	% in Same Home 5 Years Ago	47.6%	59.0%	56.0%
	Median Years in Same Home	4	7	6
	Average Age of Household Head	46.6	49.9	49.0
	% Households with Foreign Born Head or Spouse	100.0%	0.0%	26.2%
	Households by Type:			
	% Family Households	88.1%	70.2%	74.9%
	% Married-Couple	77.7%	58.6%	63.6%
	% Single-Parent	8.1%	9.9%	9.4%
	% Nonfamily Households	11.9%	29.8%	25.1%
	% Householder Living Alone	10.5%	26.4%	22.2%
	Persons in Households:			
	% 1 Person	10.5%	26.4%	22.2%
	% 2 Persons	27.6%	35.7%	33.6%
	% 3 Persons	21.2%	16.0%	17.3%
	% 4 Persons	22.7%	13.8%	16.1%
	% 5+ Persons	18.0%	8.2%	10.7%
	Average Number of Cars	1.9	1.8	1.8
	% of Households with Computers	72.0%	66.5%	67.7%
	% with Internet Connection	63.5%	63.2%	63.2%
I N C O M E	1996 Household Income Distribution:			
	% Under \$15,000	4.9%	3.8%	4.1%
	% \$15,000 to \$29,999	12.1%	9.2%	9.8%
	% \$30,000 to \$49,999	21.4%	19.6%	20.0%
	% \$50,000 to \$69,999	18.6%	19.2%	19.1%
	% \$70,000 to \$99,999	18.2%	20.0%	19.6%
	% \$100,000+	24.8%	28.2%	27.4%
	1996 Median Household Income	\$61,785	\$67,805	\$66,085
	% of Households Spending More Than 25% of Income on Housing Costs:			
	% Homeowners	30.4%	18.3%	21.0%
	% Renters	44.7%	37.7%	39.7%

* Insufficient data for reliable estimates.

Source: 1997 Census Update Survey; Montgomery County Planning Dept, Research and Technology Center, January 2000.

Population growth follows the County's General Plan

Population growth within the County is concentrated in a few areas, coinciding with a high number of recent housing completions. Between 1987 and 1997 over one-third of the County's residential population growth (approximately 54,420 people out of the 149,500 total growth) occurred along the I-270 Corridor. Colesville and Potomac areas each had about an 11 percent share of the decade's growth, both gaining about 16,000 people. The Kensington/Wheaton and Olney combined planning areas each gained over 12,000 people in ten years, each accounting for over 8 percent of the County's growth. Over the next ten years, over half of the anticipated population growth is projected to occur in the I-270 Corridor combined planning area together with the City of Rockville.

Residential Population by Combined Planning Areas, 1987-1997								
Combined Planning Areas	Population		1987-1997		% Change	% Change	% Gain	Avg Annual Growth
	1997	%	1987	%				
Silver Spring/Takoma Park	64,749	7.9	54,583	8.1	10,167	18.6%	6.8%	1,017
Bethesda/Chevy Chase	85,003	10.3	80,381	11.9	4,622	5.7%	3.1%	462
Rockville/ N. Bethesda	82,409	10.0	72,377	10.7	10,032	13.9%	6.7%	1,003
Kensington/Wheaton/Aspen Hill	168,559	20.5	155,180	23.0	13,379	8.6%	8.9%	1,338
I-270 Corridor	177,320	21.5	122,900	18.2	54,419	44.3%	36.4%	5,442
Colesville	86,433	10.5	70,506	10.5	15,926	22.6%	10.7%	1,593
Potomac	79,227	9.6	62,564	9.3	16,664	26.6%	11.1%	1,666
Olney	33,293	4.0	20,958	3.1	12,336	58.9%	8.3%	1,234
Damascus	38,174	4.6	28,826	4.3	9,348	32.4%	6.3%	935
Poolesville	8,333	1.0	5,725	0.8	2,608	45.5%	1.7%	261
Total	823,500	100.0	674,000	100.0	149,500	22.2%	100.0%	14,950

Table 15: Residential Population by Combined Planning Areas 1987 and 1997

Baby Boomers leave their thumbprint on the population

The age structure of the County's population has changed during the past ten years. Children, 5 to 17 years of age, and prime earners, 45 to 64 years of age, comprise larger proportions of our population, while young adults, age 18 to 29, comprise a smaller proportion of the population now than ten years ago. Rapid growth in the number of people age 65 and over also occurred across the decade.

Record births in the 1980s and 1990s fueled the increase in the 5 to 17 age cohort, increasing from 17.0 percent of the County's

1987 & 1997 Residential Population				
Age	1987	%	1997	%
0-4	46,147	6.8%	58,424	7.1%
5-9	44,251	6.6%	64,197	7.8%
10-14	41,130	6.1%	56,877	6.9%
15-19	43,037	6.4%	46,178	5.6%
20-24	43,057	6.4%	39,152	4.8%
25-29	59,042	8.8%	54,172	6.6%
30-34	66,257	9.8%	70,820	8.6%
35-39	61,883	9.2%	78,703	9.6%
40-44	54,523	8.1%	72,063	8.8%
45-49	41,602	6.2%	63,382	7.7%
50-54	34,144	5.1%	57,121	6.9%
55-59	34,494	5.1%	38,569	4.7%
60-64	33,868	5.0%	30,227	3.7%
65-69	27,073	4.0%	27,512	3.3%
70-74	19,549	2.9%	25,108	3.0%
75+	23,943	3.6%	40,995	5.0%
Total	674,000	100.0%	823,500	100.0%

Table 16: Residential Population 1987 and 1997

population in 1987 to the current 18.4 percent. In 1997, there are approximately 151,700 children 5 to 17 years of age, 37,400 more than ten years ago. The increase in the number of school age children – the echo of the baby boomers having children – is just a minor up-tick in the percentage share because the numbers are neutralized as the proportion of the baby boomer cohort swells.

The baby boom echo

results in the first time the number of all children (ages 0 to 19 years) exceeds the County's all time high hit in the 1970s, 225,700 in 1997 and 203,400 children in 1970. However, the children's percent share of the population is lower: in 1970, children were 39.1 percent of the population, and in 1997, 27.7 percent. The ratio of adults to children is higher now than in the 1970s, which means there are more adults to share County school costs. The 5 to 9 age group is the largest of all the children cohorts with 64,200 or 7.8 percent of the 1997 population; the other groups in descending order are 0 to 4, 58,400 (7.1 percent), 10 to 14, 56,900 (6.9 percent), and 15 to 19, 46,200 (5.6 percent). The sizeable 5 to 9 age group will continue to make its presence known, creating additional middle school and high school enrollments as it progresses through the school system.

The prime earner group (ages 45 to 46) increased from 21.4 percent of the 1987 population to 23 percent in 1997. The leading edge of the "baby boomers" (those born between 1946 and 1964) now make up the youngest 6 years of the prime earner group accounting for much of the increase in this group. In 1997, there are 189,400 people in the prime earner group, 45,000 more than in 1987. The influence of the baby boomers – those ages 33 to 51 in 1997 – is far ranging. For instance, the aging of the baby boomer women into their 40's is not favorable for increasing births, yet this trend is countered by an increasing share of women of childbearing age from countries with higher fertility rates than the United States, in particular Hispanic/Latino. Also, the impact of the boomers will be felt in 2011, when the crest of the boomer wave will turn 65 years old.

The proportion of the County's young adults (ages 18 to 29) dropped from 17.2 percent of the population in 1987 to 13.2 percent of today's population. There are about 108,000 young adults in 1997's population, 7,200 less than 10 years ago. The decline is attributable to the "baby bust" generation moving into this age group. Coupled with the fact that young adults are one of the age groups most likely to move is associated with the County having a net domestic out-migration during the 1990s.

1997 Household Population by Age and Sex						
Age	Male		Female		Total	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
0-4	27,752	7.2%	30,673	7.0%	58,425	7.1%
5-9	33,287	8.6%	30,906	7.1%	64,193	7.8%
10-14	28,489	7.4%	28,360	6.5%	56,849	6.9%
15-19	22,877	5.9%	23,300	5.3%	46,177	5.6%
20-24	18,032	4.7%	21,120	4.8%	39,152	4.8%
25-29	23,255	6.0%	30,920	7.1%	54,175	6.6%
30-34	32,381	8.4%	38,465	8.8%	70,846	8.6%
35-39	36,661	9.5%	42,041	9.6%	78,702	9.6%
40-44	33,493	8.7%	38,570	8.8%	72,063	8.8%
45-49	29,418	7.6%	33,964	7.8%	63,382	7.7%
50-54	28,298	7.3%	28,822	6.6%	57,120	6.9%
55-59	17,901	4.6%	20,668	4.7%	38,569	4.7%
60-64	14,877	3.9%	15,349	3.5%	30,226	3.7%
65-69	12,352	3.2%	15,160	3.5%	27,512	3.3%
70-74	10,683	2.8%	14,426	3.3%	25,109	3.0%
75-79	8,269	2.1%	11,118	2.5%	19,387	2.4%
80-84	4,654	1.2%	7,231	1.7%	11,885	1.4%
85+	3,121	0.8%	6,607	1.5%	9,728	1.2%
Total	385,800	100.0%	437,700	100.0%	823,500	100.0%

Table 17: Household Population by Age and Sex

In 1970, only 6.2 percent of the population was age 65 and older but by 1997, it reaches 11.4 percent; there are three times as many elderly in 1997 than in 1970. More recently, the percentage growth of those 65 and older in the County's population has slowed, but between 1987 and 1997 the rate of increase in the number of persons 75 and over averaged about 1,700 persons per year for a 71.2 percent increase across the decade. The population forecast predicts an increasing elderly presence as the percentage share of those age 65 and older edges up to 13 percent in 2010 and almost 15 percent of the population in 2025.

Rising median age

Since 1987, the "baby boomers" (those born between 1946 and 1964) pushed the median age of County residents from 34 to 36 years of age. During this period, the aging boomer cohort shifted its bulging percentage share into the 35 to 54 age group. New in-mover households with heads averaging 39.1 years of age also contributed young boomers to the mix. Moreover, shrinkage in the percentage share of the 20 to 34 age group by 5 percent (down to 20 percent of the total population) assured the median's rise. Between 1970 and 1997, the population steadily matured from a median age of 27.9 in 1970, to 32.1 in 1980, to 34.5 in 1987 to the current 36.0.

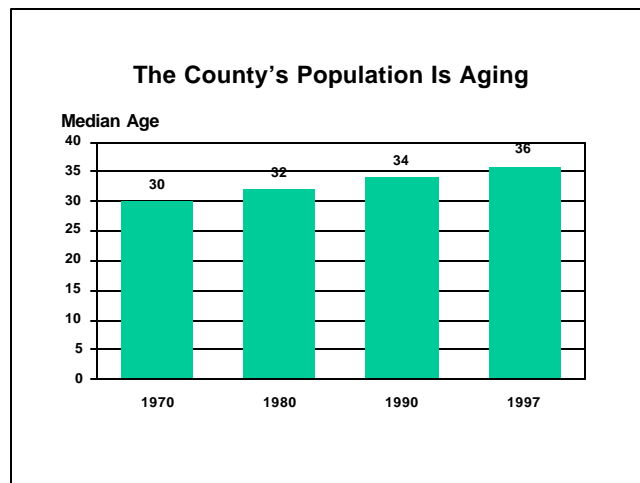


Figure 14: Median Age of Population 1970-1997

Other statistics support that the overall structure of Montgomery County's population is aging. Between 1970 and 1997, the percent of school age children dropped by a third, 27.9 percent versus 18.4 percent, respectively. At the same time, those age 65 and older have almost doubled. In 1970, 6.2 percent of the population were ages 65 and older; by 1997, it had reached 11.4 percent. Between

	1970	1980	1987	1990	1997
Under 5	43.0	33.1	46.1	58.6	58.4
5-9	54.6	37.8	44.3	50.6	64.2
10-14	57.9	48.7	41.1	44.2	56.9
15-19	47.9	50.7	43.0	42.4	46.2
20-24	34.3	45.9	43.1	50.9	39.1
25-34	68.9	100.0	125.3	148.8	125.0
35-44	69.6	80.9	116.4	133.9	150.8
45-54	69.1	68.6	75.7	89.1	120.5
55-64	41.1	58.0	68.4	62.2	68.8
65-74	19.8	31.0	46.6	46.1	52.6
75+	10.5	18.7	23.9	27.6	41.0
Household Pop	516.7	573.4	674.0	754.4	823.5
Total Population	522.8	579.0	680.0	762.2	832.4
Group Quarters	6.1	5.6		7.7	8.9
Median Age	29.7	32.1	34.5	33.9	36.0
Percent Under 20	39.4	29.7	25.9	26.6	27.4
Percent 65+	5.9	8.7	10.5	9.8	11.4

Table 18: Montgomery County Population Growth 1970-1997

1970 and 1980, the rate of increase in persons 75 and over averaged about 820 persons a year. Recently, this number has increased more than twofold from 1987 to 1997, to slightly more than 1,700 persons a year.

New residents contribute to County's high level of educational attainment

One characteristic that sets Montgomery County apart is the high level of education attained by its adults; 59.3 percent of the County's population 25 years or older has a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 23.6 percent nationally. This percentage is up since 1990, when half of this age group held at least a Bachelor's degree. Additionally, three out of ten adults in the County have a Master's, professional, or Doctoral degree.

Educational Attainment by Age and Sex Montgomery County, MD												
Educational Attainment, Age 25+	25-44			45-64			65+			25+		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Less than High School Diploma	5.8	5.0	5.4	6.6	8.5	7.6	11.6	21.7	17.4	7.1	9.3	8.3
% High School Graduate	26.1	27.6	26.9	20.2	29.8	25.3	24.8	43.7	35.7	23.8	31.4	27.9
% Associate or Trade School	5.2	4.4	4.8	3.7	5.2	4.5	3.3	4.3	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.5
% Bachelor's Degree	31.2	36.6	34.2	22.4	27.1	24.9	26.2	17.9	21.4	27.2	29.9	28.7
% Grad, Professional or Doctoral	31.6	26.3	28.7	47.1	29.4	37.8	34.1	12.4	21.6	37.6	24.8	30.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	125,793	149,977	275,770	90,495	98,807	189,302	39,080	54,544	93,623	255,368	303,327	558,695

Table 19: Educational Attainment by Age and Sex

The County attracts highly educated adult movers; the many mid- and upper-level technology and federal government jobs in the County necessitate a highly educated workforce. Of the adults 25 years or older who moved into the County between 1992 and 1997, 70.7 percent have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Almost 40 percent had earned Master's, professional or Doctoral degrees. Only one quarter of new residents are a high school graduate or did not complete school compared to almost 40 percent of residents who have lived in the County for more than five years.

The growing proportion of foreign-born and minority populations contribute to the County's high level of educational attainment. Foreign-born residents are just as likely to hold advanced degrees as native-born residents, 31 percent of each group. Actually, the County's foreign-born population is characterized by the extremes – 12.4 percent have less than a high school diploma (6.9 percent for the nation) and another 10.2 percent hold a doctorate degree (nationally, 6.2 percent). Educational attainment of minorities in the County far surpasses national level statistics.

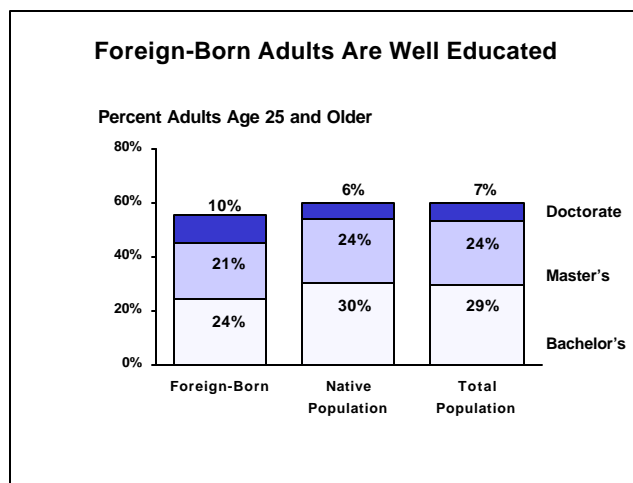


Figure 15: Educational Attainment by Foreign-Born Status

Specifically, among blacks age 25 years old and over in the County, 44.4 percent have at least a Bachelor's degree, which is more than three times the proportion of blacks in the nation (13.9 percent). More than two thirds of Asian residents graduated from college compared to 42.3 percent for the nation. Adult Hispanics in the County are four times more likely to have a college degree (38.8 percent) than Hispanics at the national level (9.3 percent) and they are more likely than the general national population (23.6 percent) to be college graduates.

Montgomery County can expect an even more educated population in the future. The expected rise is primarily attributed to the higher education of young adults combined with attrition of older adults who typically have less formal education. Educational attainment is highly correlated with a person's age because far more educational opportunities surmounting sex and race barriers became available, starting with the baby boomer generation, and more recently, equal opportunity laws. In 1997, those age 65 years and older are over three times more likely to be without a high school diploma than 25 to 34 year olds (17.4 percent and 5.0 percent respectively). Also, nationally, college gains of women have outpaced those of men as more women are graduating from college and continuing their education than men. Finally, as recent immigrants make a new home in the County, second and third generations usually obtain more education.

Educational Attainment by Race and Hispanic Origin Persons 25 Years and Older					
	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Isl.	Hispanic
% Less than High School	8.1	7.3	11.6	8.9	21.3
% High School Graduate	27.9	27.5	36.4	19.7	35.2
% Associate or Trade School	4.5	4.2	7.6	3.7	4.6
% Bachelor's Degree	28.8	29.3	24.3	32.0	17.7
% Advanced Degree	30.6	31.6	20.1	35.7	21.1
% Masters	23.5	24.5	16.9	24.5	16.3
% Doctoral	7.0	7.1	3.2	11.3	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 20: Educational Attainment by Race and Hispanic Origin