

Maryland's Demographic Diversity

Previous releases of Census 2010 data earlier this year revealed how demographically diverse Maryland has become. Foreign immigration and other domestic migration streams have resulted in all of Maryland's population increase between 2000 and 2010 being composed of minorities, where minorities are defined as everyone other than non-Hispanic white alone. Altogether, minorities grew by just over 605,000 while non-Hispanic whites declined by nearly 129,000. As of April 1, 2010, the non-Hispanic white population in Maryland was down to 54.7 percent, down from 62.1 percent in 2000 (and from 69.6% in 1990). The largest minorities in Maryland are Black/African-American (29.4%), Hispanics (8.2%), which can be of any race but the majority of which are white in Maryland, and Asians (5.5%). Additionally, 3.0 percent of the population classified themselves as being two or more races and another 3.6 percent classified themselves as "some other race."

This increasing diversity has significantly affected the overall demographic characteristics of the State, from age structure to homeownership. The following are some of the highlights of this diversity.

Median Age – There is a vast 22.5-year difference between the oldest and youngest race/Hispanic origin groups in Maryland. (See [Chart 1.](#)) Non-Hispanic whites are by far the oldest group, with a median age of 43.0 years. Those who classified themselves as "two or more races" are the youngest (19.4 years) as many of these people are children of bi-racial marriages, which took place in the last few decades. Asians (35.9 years) and blacks (34.7 years) and Hispanics (27.8 years) are the other numerically significant minority populations with substantially lower median ages than non-Hispanic whites.

Given the younger age profile of minorities compared to non-Hispanic whites – and what that implies for future births and deaths (proportionately more the former and proportionately less of the latter for minorities) – it is most likely that Maryland will be a majority minority state (where minorities make up more than 50 percent of the population) by the time the 2020 Census is taken.¹ It is also more than likely that a majority of the future labor force growth will be minorities. As such, Maryland will need to ensure that policies are in place so that educational and job opportunities are accessible to all if the State is to be able to successfully compete in the knowledge-based global economy.

Household size – The median age differences by race/Hispanic origin are also reflected to a great extent in the household size data. Those who are the oldest, non-Hispanic whites, also have the smallest household size (2.45). (See [Chart 2.](#)) The largest household sizes are for those who classify themselves in the "other race" category – 4.3 persons per household, or 72 percent larger than non-Hispanic whites. From other data, it can be determined that a large proportion of the "other race" category are Hispanics, and this is reflected in the relatively large household size of this group (3.87) – nearly 58 percent larger than non-Hispanic whites. Asians also have an average household size above three persons (3.04).

¹ Maryland's 2010 minority share of 45.3 percent is already the seventh highest minority share in the country.

As baby-boomers age over the next two decades, smaller household sizes would mean a demand for different types of housing than has been the custom over most of the last decade. Older and smaller households are more likely to want housing with less square feet, be in locations which are less dependent on auto travel, and be more amenable to high quality urban neighborhoods rather than suburban large-lot developments. Continued growth in minority households, however, may mean there is still some demand for larger homes.

Homeownership rates are a function of both age and income/relative wealth. In Maryland, as in much of the rest of the U.S., there is a large gap in homeownership rates by race. Just over three-quarters of whites (76.1%) are homeowners. (See [Chart 3](#).) This is just over 24 percentage points higher than blacks (51.9%) the largest minority in Maryland. The Asian population, which actually has a higher median household income than whites, has the second highest homeownership rate (66.4%).² Despite the high income, homeownership in this group is probably held down somewhat by the fact that many in this group are recent immigrants.

Although Asians did lag whites in homeownership rates in 2010, Asians did have the largest percentage point increase in homeownership rates since 2000 (5.8 percentage points), which was way above the increase for whites (0.7 percentage points). (See [Chart 4](#).) Surprisingly, given the housing market collapse during the last couple of years of the 2000 to 2010 decade, homeownership rates increased for all groups in Maryland with the exception of American Indians, which declined by 2.3 percentage points.

Household Type – Much has been made of the decline in the “nuclear family” – two-parent households with children – both locally and nationally. In 1970, the nuclear family comprised 41.4 percent of all households in the State. Forty years later, in 2010, the nuclear family made up just over one-fifth (21.9 %) of all households.

The latest Census release shows quite a difference in the proportion of traditional families by race/Hispanic origin. Blacks are the least likely to live in a traditional family – one in six households (16.7%) have this structure. (See [Chart 5](#).) Those who are self-classified as “some other race,” as well as Hispanics have the highest share of traditional families, 40.3 percent and 37.2 percent, respectively. Asians also have a relatively high proportion (36.9%) of this household type, while about one fifth (21.8%) of all non-Hispanic whites do.

Another way to examine household data is to look at the proportion of all families with children in relationship to the number of parents. [Chart 6](#) shows by race/Hispanic origin the percent of all families with children who have two-parents. Nearly 90 percent (87.2%) of all Asian families with children, are two-parent families, while nearly three-quarters of (75.8%) of non-Hispanic white families would fit this category as well and two thirds (66.6%) of Hispanic families.

[Chart 7](#) shows the proportion of all family households with children that are headed by a single parent – either male or female. More than one-half (56.9%) of all black families with

² According to the 2009 American Community Survey, the 2009 median household income for whites is \$76,404 and \$89,558 for Asians.

children are single-parent households. This is 4.4 times the rate of Asian families, which at 12.8 percent, have the lowest share of single-parent families with children.

There is a high correlation of poverty with family structure. According to the 2009 American Community Survey, the poverty rate for blacks is 13.9 percent, nearly double that of Asians (7.0%) and more than double that of non-Hispanic whites (6.2%).

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