

Census 2000 Supplemental Survey Shows a Changing Maryland

The Census Bureau's Supplemental Survey has revealed a Maryland (as well as the nation) which is more diverse, better educated and more wealthy than 10-years ago. The following are some of the highlights of recently released data.

Foreign Immigration

More than a quarter-million foreign immigrants entered Maryland during the 1990s, an increase of over 70 percent from the nearly 148,000 foreign immigrants that entered during the 1980s. Altogether, it is estimated that there are over one-half million (534,412) foreign born in Maryland in 2000, representing 10.4 percent of the State's population. [\(See Table 1.\)](#)

Nationally, the 13.3 million foreign immigrants that entered the U.S. during the 1990s were nearly 53 percent higher than the 8.7 million that came to the U.S. during the 1980s. Nationally, the foreign born make up a higher percentage of the total population (11.1%) than they do in Maryland (10.4 %). This gap was narrowed somewhat during the 1990s as the foreign born share grew 3.2 percentage points nationally (7.7% to 11.1%) compared to 3.8 percentage points in Maryland (6.6% to 10.3 %).

The foreign born in Maryland are more likely to be U.S. citizens (44.9%) than in the U.S. as a whole (40.2%). This represents an increase for Maryland (from 40.5% in 1990) and a decrease for the U.S. (from 40.4% in 1990).

Language Spoken at Home

The increase in the number of foreign immigrants during the 1990s also led to gains in the number of people who speak a language other than English at home. In Maryland, it is estimated that 12.7 percent of the population ages 5 and over speak another language at home, an increase from the nearly 9.0 percent share in 1990. Nationally this share went from 13.9 percent in 1990 to 17.6 in 2000. [\(See Table 2.\)](#)

Maryland's share of the population that speaks another language was ranked 17th in the U.S. in 2000 and was substantially below the high immigrant states of California (39.4%), New Mexico (35.5%), Texas (32.0%) and New York (27.4%). [\(See Table 3.\)](#)

More importantly are the numbers of people who do not speak English. Nearly 104,000 Marylanders, or 2.2 percent of the population ages 5 and over, were described as not being able to speak English ("not well/not at all"). This represents a substantial increase from the nearly 62,000 Maryland residents in 1990 in this category (1.4 % of the population). [\(See Table 2.\)](#)

Nationally, there was an even greater increase in non-English speakers with the estimated 2000 share of the population (4.1%) substantially above the Maryland share of 2.2 percent.

Locally, Spanish speakers were more likely not to be able to speak English (26.7%) than those who spoke an Asian/Pacific Islander language (19.2%). This was also true nationally, where an estimated 28.1 percent of Spanish speakers do not speak English compared to 22.6 percent of the Asian/Pacific Islander language speakers.

Educational Attainment

Over the course of the 1990s, both the U.S. and Maryland population became more educated. In Maryland, it is estimated that 31.7 percent of the population ages 25 and over in 2000 had a bachelor's degree or higher, an increase over the 26.5 percent share in 1990. (See [Table 4.](#)) Maryland's 2000 share was substantially higher than the U.S. rate of 25.1 percent and was exceeded only by District of Columbia (41.1%), Massachusetts (35.0%), Connecticut, (33.3%) and Colorado (33.4%). (See [Table 5.](#))

On the other end of the educational spectrum, those without a high school diploma in Maryland dropped from 21.5 percent in 1990 to 15.6 percent in 2000. Nationally there was a decrease from 24.8 percent in 1990 to 18.4 percent in 2000. (See [Table 4.](#))

Median Income

High educational attainment is generally closely correlated with high income. The Census Supplemental survey has Maryland's median household income of \$52,449 substantially above the \$41,349 estimate for the U.S. (See [Table 6.](#)) Nationally, Maryland is exceeded only by New Jersey (\$54,126), Connecticut (\$53,089) and Alaska (\$52,876) although the confidence intervals do not allow for determining a precise rank among the top tier states. (See [Table 7.](#))

Poverty

Being a high-income state, Maryland also has a relatively low level of poverty. Estimates from the 2000 Supplemental Survey have Maryland's overall poverty rate at 9.3 percent, substantially below the U.S. rate of 12.5 percent and tied for ninth lowest in the country. (See [Table 8.](#))

Median House Value

Although Maryland is one of the top four states in median income, its median housing value is ranked around 11th in the U.S. At an estimated \$146,866, Maryland's median housing value is 21.9 percent higher than the U.S. median value of \$120,496. (See [Table 9.](#)) In 1990, Maryland's median housing value (\$116,500) was 47.3 percent higher than the U.S. value (\$79,100).

More important than median house value is the affordability of the housing stock. In this regard, Maryland comes out ahead of the rest of the nation as a whole. Traditionally, housing costs in excess of 35 percent of household income was viewed as a measure of affordability. In 2000, 16.3 percent of Marylanders with a mortgage had housing costs in excess of 35 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 18.8 percent. (See [Table 10.](#))

Commuting to Work

The number of workers over the last 10 years increased more than twice as fast nationally, 10.8 percent, than locally (4.0%). (See Table 11.) Among these workers, the number of people carpooling declined both in Maryland (-17.8%) and in the U.S. (-7.0%). Carpoolers in Maryland were thus reduced to a 12.0 percent share of total commuters in 2000 (down from 15.2% in 1990), and U.S. carpoolers to a 11.2 percent share for the U.S. (down from 13.4% in 1990).

Public transportation users as a share of total commuters increased slightly in Maryland and declined slightly in the U.S. In 2000, 8.4 percent of Maryland commuters used public transportation to get to work, up from 8.1 percent in 1990. Nationally, 5.2 percent of all commuters used public transportation in 2000, compared to 5.3 percent in 1990. Maryland's increased use of public transportation resulted entirely from the increased use of fixed rail modes of travel (streetcar/trolley, subway and railroad). These increases reflect the State's heavy investment in fixed rail over the 1990s.

While rail enjoyed increased patronage over the 1990s in Maryland, the other major form of public transportation, busses, saw a decline of just over 15 percent. As a result, commutation by bus fell from 4.9 percent of all commuters in 1990 to 4.0 percent in 2000.