

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS



It's out! It's official! The population counts from Census 2000 have been released.

The recently released population count from Census 2000 shows Charles County's population at **120,546** persons. According to this latest count, the county's population increased 19.2% over the last decennial count in 1990, representing an average annual rate of growth of 1.77% per year.

When looking at the newly released figures by election district, the most significant absolute increase was in the Waldorf (Sixth) election district. The Waldorf election district grew to a new total of 62,532 persons, an increase of 15,115 persons since the 1990 census. This growth accounts for 78% of the county-wide increase in population. A comparison of the 2000 population counts with the 1990 counts, by election district, a map of which is on the reverse, shows the following:

| Election District | 1990 Population | 2000 Population | Difference | % Change |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| La Plata (First) | 11,197 | 11,997 | 800 | 7.1% |
| Hill Top (Second) | 1,787 | 1,912 | 125 | 7.0% |
| Nanjemoy (Third) | 3,250 | 3,169 | (81) | -2.5% |
| Allens Fresh (Fourth) | 3,591 | 4,774 | 1,183 | 32.9% |
| Thompkinsville (Fifth) | 3,545 | 3,682 | 137 | 3.9% |
| Waldorf (Sixth) | 47,417 | 62,532 | 15,115 | 31.9% |
| Pomonkey (Seventh) | 11,583 | 11,859 | 276 | 2.4% |
| Bryantown (Eighth) | 12,358 | 12,603 | 245 | 2.0% |
| Hughesville (Ninth) | 2,950 | 4,784 | 1,834 | 62.2% |
| Marbury (Tenth) | 3,476 | 3,234 | (242) | -7.0% |
| TOTALS | 101,154 | 120,546 | 19,392 | 19.2% |

Other significant growth areas include the Hughesville (Ninth) election district, increasing from a population of 2,950 people in 1990 to a total of 4,784 people in 2000. This represents a 62.2% increase in the population of the ninth district. The Allen's Fresh (Fourth) district grew by 32.9% from a population of 3,591 in 1990 to a new population of 4,774. Population declined in two election districts, Nanjemoy (Third) and Marbury (Tenth). Nanjemoy shrunk by 2.5% of its previous population, while Marbury lost 7% of its 1990 population.

Eighty percent (80%) of the new growth since 1990 occurred in the Development District (approximate boundaries of the Sixth and Seventh Election Districts). While the county's new decennial count was somewhat less than had been projected, the growth rate is very consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policy of maintaining an "effective growth management system that accommodates population growth at the rate of approximately 2.0 percent but less than 2.5 percent per year . . ." This achievement is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's goal of concentrating 75 percent of all new growth in the Development District.

CENSUS 2000 POPULATIONS OF INCORPORATED TOWNS AND CENSUS DESIGNATED PLACES

Population totals and other census information are separately reported for incorporated towns and census designated places (CDPs). The Census Bureau defines a CDP as a "closely settled, unincorporated, named community that has a strong local identity and relatively well-known boundaries that are identifiable in the landscape."

Reflected in the Census 2000 population counts are totals for the three incorporated towns in Charles County - Indian Head, La Plata and Port Tobacco - and six census designated places - Bensville, Bryans Road, Hughesville, Potomac Heights, St. Charles and Waldorf. The geographic boundaries of each of these areas can be viewed over the internet through the Maryland State Data Center, Maryland Department of Planning at www.mdp.state.md.us. Follow the links to the Data Center and then to the 2000 Census "Place" maps for Charles County.

Census 2000 populations for the incorporated towns and census designated places are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Indian Head Town | 3,422 |
| La Plata Town | 6,551 |
| Port Tobacco Village Town * | 15 |
| Bensville CDP | 7,325 |
| Bryans Road CDP | 4,912 |
| Hughesville CDP | 1,537 |
| Potomac Heights CDP | 1,154 |
| St. Charles CDP | 7,887 |
| Waldorf CDP | 22,312 |

* Port Tobacco Village Town is the smallest incorporated town in the State of Maryland

BUILDING PERMITS

2001 Permit Issuances (First Quarter)

Commercial:

Between January 1, 2001 and March 31st, the county approved 76,260 new square feet of commercial/ industrial space. This total includes new commercial and/or industrial buildings, as well as additions to existing space and conversion of residential space to commercial space. With the exception of 5,975 square feet, all of the new commercial space was located inside of the development district.

Residential:

The Charles County Permits Office issued the following building permits for the period January 1, 2001 through March 31, 2001:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Detached residential dwellings | 232 |
| Attached residential dwellings | 78 |
| Total New Residential | 310 |

The **Town of Indian Head** issued no new permits for residential dwellings during the first quarter of 2001. The **Town of La Plata** reports the issuance of 6 permits for single-family detached dwellings and 2 permits for single-family attached dwelling units during this period.

Of the 310 residential permits issued by the County permits office, 72% (222 permits) were located inside of the county's Development District.

Last year, the County Permits Office issued a total of 239 permits for new residential structures during the first quarter. This represents a **30% increase** in the number of permits issued during the first quarter of this year when compared with the same period last year.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long and short term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility.

This information is provided by the Charles County Government, Department of Planning and Growth Management, Planning Division, Post Office Box B, La Plata, Maryland 20646, home page address www.govt.co.charles.md.us/ Mary L. Grant, Editor