

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

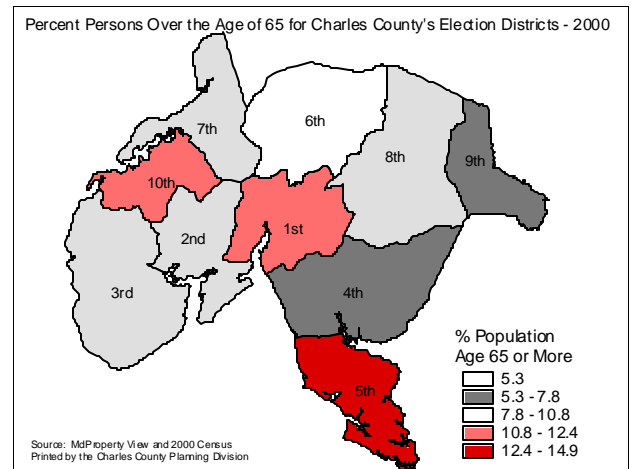
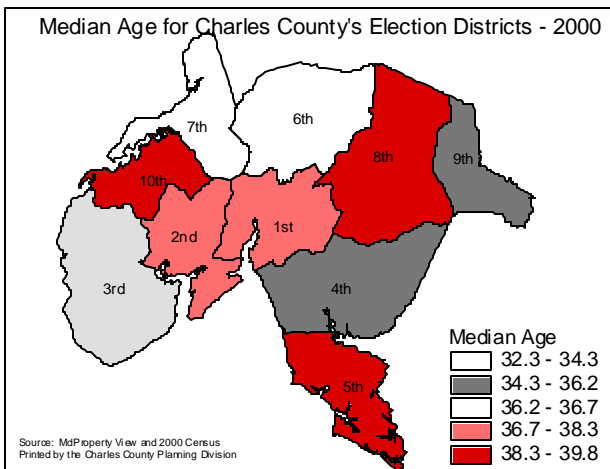
### MEDIAN AGE:

- Charles County has one of the youngest median ages in the State of Maryland. Charles' median age is 34.6 years, which is older than only Prince George's (33.3 years) and St. Mary's (34.2 years). This young median age is primarily a result of net natural increase (i.e., births exceeding deaths) and in migration of young families, many of which are from Prince George's County.
- Statewide, there is a 10 year age difference between the oldest and the youngest jurisdictions in Maryland. Talbot County has the oldest median age at 43.3 years, while Prince George's has the youngest. The statewide median age is 36 years.
- Taking an internal look at Charles County's median age by election districts, the youngest median age corresponds to the county's Development District. The Sixth (Waldorf) and Seventh (Pomomkey) Districts, corresponding roughly to the area of the Development District, have median ages of 32.3 years and 34.3 years, respectively. Older areas of the county include the Tenth (Marbury) Election District with a median age of 39.2 years, the Eighth (Bryantown) Election District with a median age of 39.3 years, and the Fifth (Thompkinsville) District with the oldest median age of 39.8 years.

**CURRENT  
POPULATION  
ESTIMATE  
127,193**

### PERCENT POPULATION AGES 65 AND OVER:

- Within the State of Maryland, the share of a jurisdiction's population ages 65 and over varies from more than 20% of total population, to less than ten percent of total population. Talbot and Worcester counties have the highest share of population ages 65 and over at 20.4% and 20.1%, respectively. Prince George's and Howard counties have the lowest share of population in the 65 and over age group, at 7.7% and 7.5%, respectively.
- Charles County total share of 65 and over population is the third lowest in the State, representing only 7.8% of the county's total population. According to the Maryland Office of Planning, counties such as Charles that are classified as newer suburban jurisdictions are likely to have large percentage increases in elderly population over the next 20 years.



## BUILDING PERMITS

### 2002 Permit Issuances (First Quarter)

Commercial: Between January 1, 2002 and March 31, 2002, the county approved 17,490 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. 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, 2002 and March 31, 2002:

Detached residential dwellings	216
Attached residential dwellings	55
Total New Residential	271

The Town of Indian Head issued 1 new permit for a residential dwellings during the first quarter of 2002. The Town of La Plata reports the issuance of 22 permits for new residential detached structures.

Last year, the County Permits Office issued a total of 310 permits for new residential structures during the first quarter. This represents a 12% decrease in the number of permits issued during the first quarter of this year when compared with the same period last year.

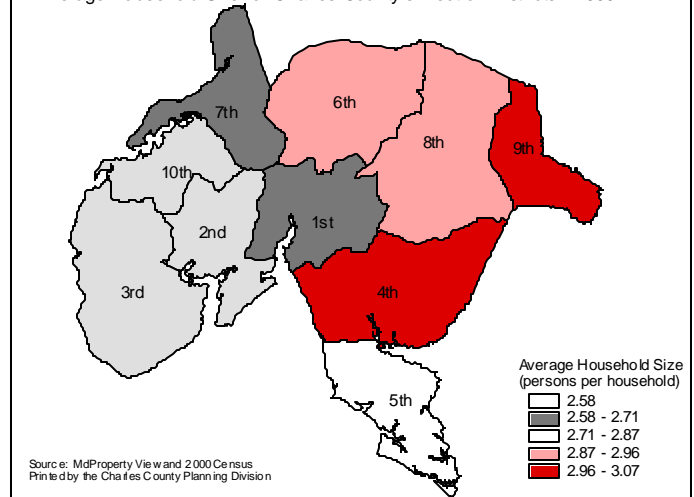
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### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know why it's becoming difficult to find tobacco growing in Charles County these days? On April 11, 1999, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the "Cigarette Restitution Fund." This act specifies that proceeds from the Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers will be used specifically for various programs, including implementation of the Southern Maryland Regional Strategy - Action Plan for Agriculture adopted by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, with the emphasis on alternative uses for agricultural land once used for growing tobacco.

As a part of this plan, a tobacco buyout program was offered by the State. Eligibility was based on tobacco production in the 1998 crop year. As of March 2003, 728 Southern Maryland growers have taken the tobacco buyout, which represents 72% of the total growers. The 728 growers represent 6.89 million pounds of tobacco, 84% of the total eligible pounds. In Charles County, 6,651 acres of land have been impacted by the tobacco buyout program, prohibiting the production of tobacco on these properties for the next 10 years and permanently prohibiting the individual growers who take the buyout from ever producing tobacco again.

Average Household Size for Charles County's Election Districts - 2000



### AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:

- Within the State of Maryland, Charles County has one of the largest persons per household sizes. With an average household size of 2.86 persons per household, Charles ranks second to only Calvert County, with an average household size 2.91 persons per household. The large household size correlates to Charles County's high proportion of family households (29.2%) and low proportion of elderly population (7.8%).
- The State's average household size is 2.61 persons per household.
- Within Charles County, the Fourth (Allens Fresh) and Ninth (Hughesville) Election Districts have the largest household sizes. These districts are also the two election districts outside of the Development District that had the largest percentage of population increases between the 1990 census and Census 2000, with 32.9% and 62.2% increases, respectively.

### Vision Statement

*Charles County is a place where ...*

- \* *Private initiative is rewarded and businesses grow and prosper, while the preservation of our heritage is paramount,*
- \* *Government services have reached the highest level of excellence, and*
- \* *The quality of life is felt by its citizens to be the best in the region and its government is recognized as a leader in support of these expectations.*

### 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 2150, La Plata, Maryland 20646, home page address [www.govt.co.charles.md.us/MaryL.Grant,Editor](http://www.govt.co.charles.md.us/MaryL.Grant,Editor)*