A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Census 2000
Poverty Status

Welcome to the February, 2004 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." This month, poverty status will be explored. An important note is that the income information presented in the 2000 US Census is from the prior year or 1999. Using the responses from the 2000 US Census, these attributes will be examined in order to create "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County."

Poverty status is a statistic that is used to determine whether a family is poor or below the poverty level. The official poverty measures used by the 2000 US Census are established by a series of poverty thresholds (income cutoffs) determined by the Office of Management and Budget. These thresholds are based on the size and ages of a family (see Figure 1). Each year the poverty thresholds are revised to reflect changes in the cost of living. Even though the cost of living varies according to geographical location, the poverty thresholds are the same throughout the United States.

In order to determine poverty status the total income within the last 12 months is compared to the poverty thresholds of that person's family size and composition. The information presented in the 2000 US Census about poverty status is actually based on the total family income in 1999. If the total income falls below the appropriate threshold, then that person's poverty status is considered to be below the poverty level.

Size of Family Unit	**Number of Related Children**								
	None	**One**	**Two**	**Three**	**Four**	**Five**	**Six**	**Seven**	**Eight or More**
1 Person, -65 Years	$8,667								
1 Person, 65+ Years	$7,990								
2 People, Householder -65 Years	$11,156	$11,483							
2 People, Householder 65+ Years	$10,070	$11,440							
3 People	$13,032	$13,410	$13,423						
4 People	$17,184	$17,465	$16,895	$16,954					
5 People	$20,723	$21,024	$20,380	$19,882	$19,578				
6 People	$23,835	$23,930	$23,436	$22,964	$22,261	$21,845			
7 People	$27,425	$27,596	$27,006	$26,595	$25,828	$24,934	$23,953		
8 People	$30,673	$30,944	$30,387	$29,899	$29,206	$28,327	$27,412	$27,180	
9+ People	$36,897	$37,076	$36,583	$36,169	$35,489	$34,554	$33,708	$33,499	$32,208

Figure 1.

According to the 2000 US Census, 1 in 34 families in Frederick County have a total income below the poverty level. This makes Frederick County the eleventh poorest county in the state of Maryland (including Baltimore City). However, from 1989 to 1999, Frederick County had fewer individuals below poverty the level (see Figure 2).

Poverty Status of Maryland and Frederick County Residents 1989 To 1999

	Frederick Co		Maryland	
	1989	1999	1989	1999
All Individuals	4.8%	4.5%	8.3%	8.5%
Persons 18 Years and Over	4.5%	4.2%	7.3%	7.7%
Persons 65 Years and Over	9.2%	6.0%	10.5%	8.5%
Related Children under 18 Years	5.6%	4.9%	10.9%	10.3%
Related Children 5 to 17 Years	5.3%	4.6%	10.5%	9.8%
Related Children under 5 Years	6.2%	6.1%	11.9%	13.2%
Unrelated Individuals*	13.9%	13.8%	18.5%	18.2%
All Families	3.5%	2.9%	6.0%	6.1%
Families with related children under 18 years	4.8%	4.1%	9.0%	8.7%
Families with related children under 5 years	5.4%	5.6%	10.8%	10.7%
All Female Householders with Children	17.3%	13.8%	20.9%	18.4%
Female Households with related children under 18 years	25.1%	19.2%	29.1%	23.4%
Female Households with related children under 5 years	36.6%	32.8%	40.1%	32.6%

* Unrelated Individuals refers to the population that is over 15 years old
Data Source: US Census

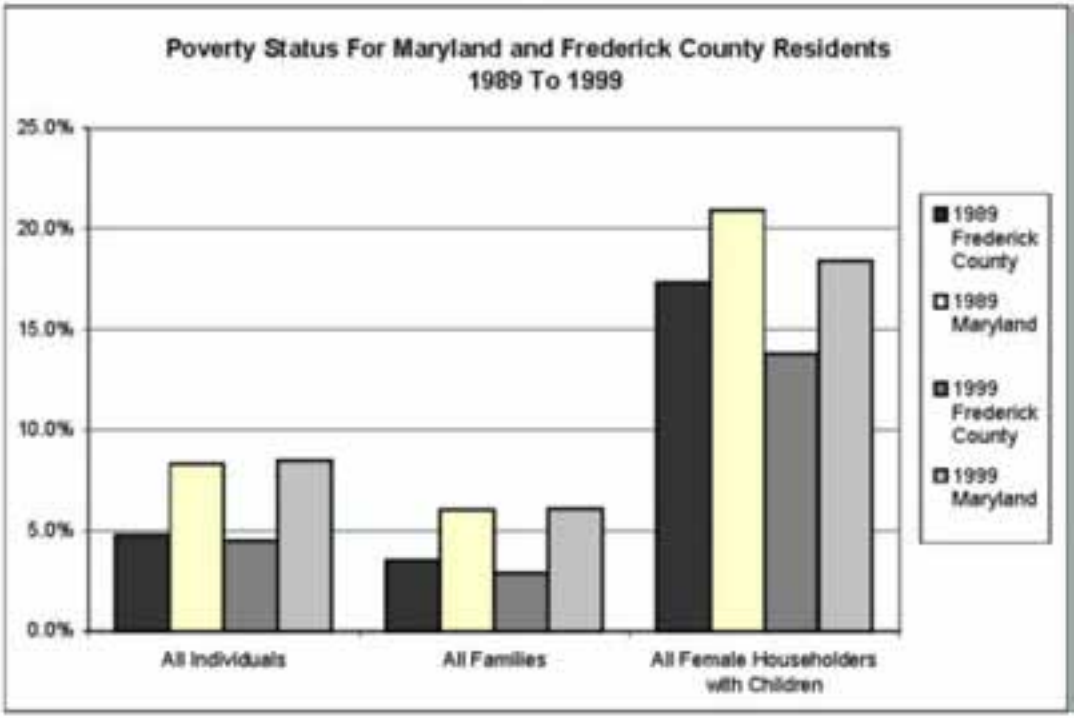

Figure 2.

The highest concentration of poverty within Frederick County is located in Frederick City; where two census tracts have more then 106 families below the poverty level (Figure 3.)

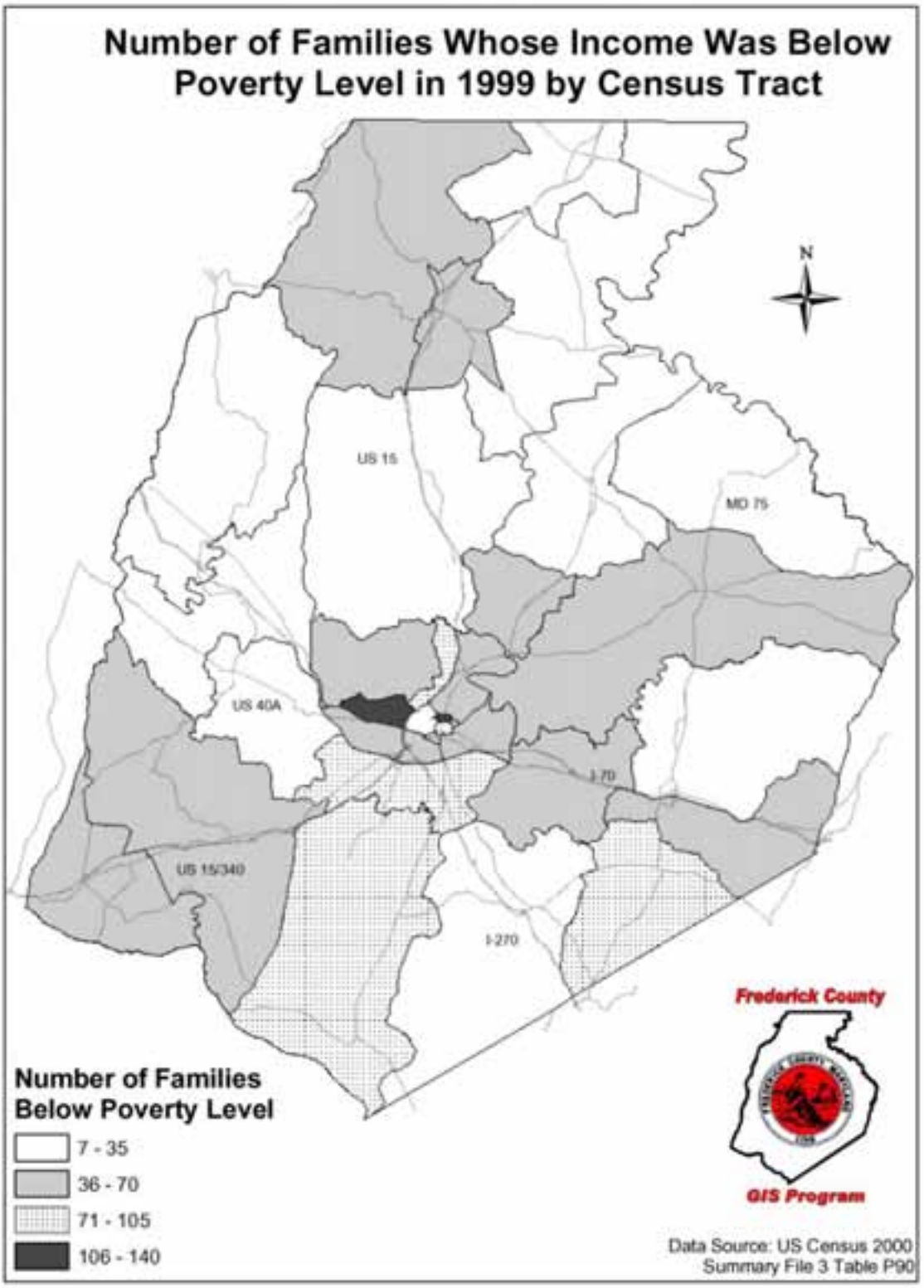

Figure 3.

According to the 2000 US Census, the top three poorest cities in Frederick County are 1. Emmitsburg 2. Frederick City and 3. Thurmont (Figure 6).

City	Percentage
Emmitsburg	13 % (1 in 7 People)
Frederick City	7 % (1 in 13 People)
Thurmont	6 % (1 in 16 People)

Figure 6.

The decline of poverty status that Frederick County has been experiencing may be attributed to the decline in household size (Figure 4) within the past ten years and the increased income levels (Figure 5).

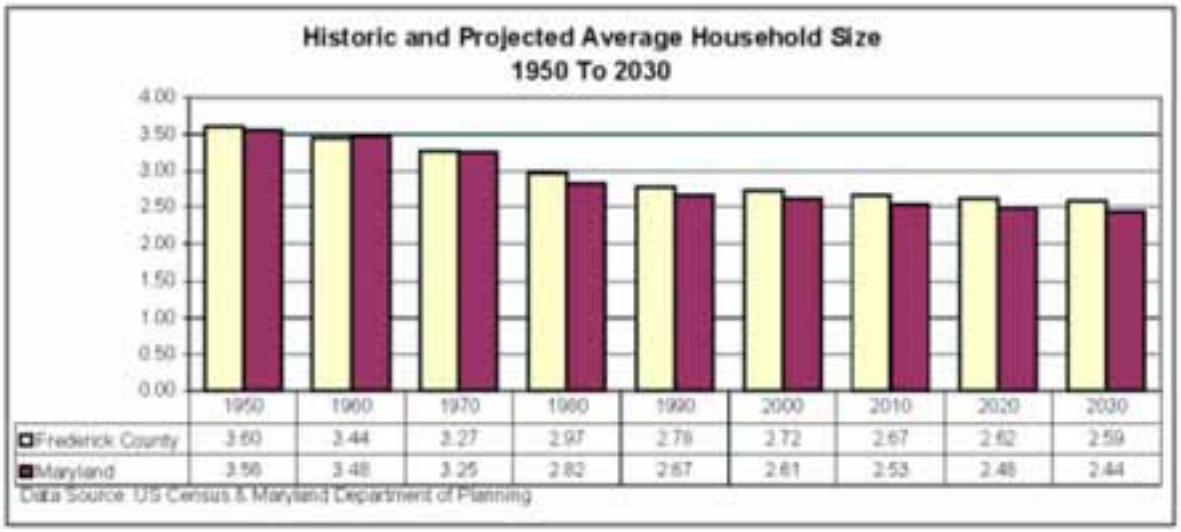

Figure 4.

Household Income Characteristics
Maryland and Frederick County 1989 To 1999

	Frederick County 1999		Maryland 1999		Frederick County Change 1989 To 1999	
Total Households	70,115	100.0%	1,981,795	100.0%	17,357	32.90%
Income Range						
$0 - 9,999	2,754	3.9%	137,199	6.9%	-1,224	-30.8%
$10,000 - 14,999	2,260	3.2%	83,328	4.2%	-207	-8.4%
$15,000 - 24,999	5,519	7.9%	188,104	9.5%	-825	-13%
$25,000 - 34,999	6,554	9.3%	212,135	10.7%	-1,439	-18%
$35,000 - 49,999	11,063	15.8%	305,987	15.4%	-1,362	-11%
$50,000 - 74,999	16,815	24.1%	427,180	21.6%	4,080	32%
$75,000 - 99,999	11,846	16.9%	268,558	13.6%	7,563	176.6%
$100,000 - 149,999	9,495	13.5%	230,285	11.6%	7,737	440.1%
$150,000 +	3,809	5.4%	129,019	6.5%	3,034	391.5%
Median Household Income	$60,276		$52,868			
Per Capita Income	$25,404		$25,614			

Data Source: US Census

Figure 5.