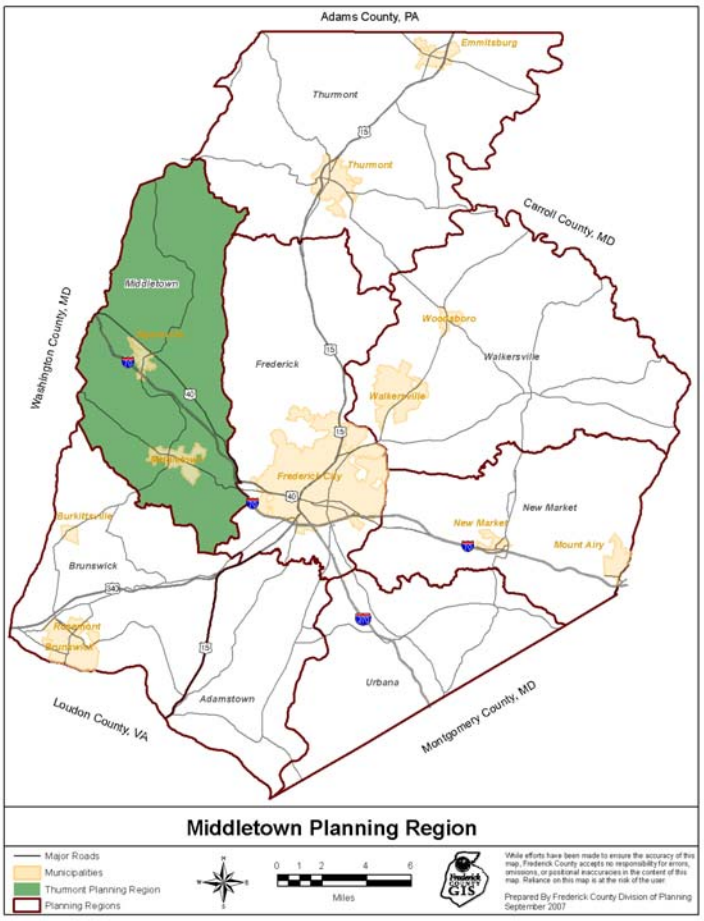
A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Middletown Planning Region Profile

Welcome to the September, 2007 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." The Middletown Planning Region comprehensive planning update is about to kick off. In its' honor, this month's article will focus on the 2000 SF3 and 1990 STF3 census tract data. The planning region boundaries changed on September 25th, 2006, to more closely match a census tract, wherever possible, for consistency in data collection. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning

The Middletown Planning Region is located in the western portion of Frederick County. The north and eastern extent of the region follow Ridenour Road to Wigville Road, than head south along Tower Road to Gambrill Park Road, past Frederick City to Mount Phillip Road. It begins to head northwest along Middle Creek and ends at the Washington County boundary. There are two incorporated municipalities in this Planning Region; Myersville and Middletown. Thurmont, Frederick, and Brunswick Planning Regions surround the Middletown Planning Region.



As of July 1, 2007, the Frederick County Planning Division estimates that the Middletown Planning Region has 20,672 people and a population density of 238 people per square mile. The Middletown Planning Region has the fourth largest population in Frederick County. According to the US Census from 1990 to 2000 the population of the Middletown Region increased by 12%, going from 15,461 people to 17,383.

The general demographic face of this Planning Region changed from 1990 to 2000. The male segment of the population grew slightly less (2.3%) than the female segment. In 2000, for every 100 female residents there were 98 male residents in the region. The population under the age of 5 declined by 15%, while the segment of the population over the age of 65 grew by 28%. School aged children (ages 5 to 18) rose by 18% or 596 children.

From 1990 to 2000, there was a change in the racial classifications given on the census forms. Due to this, it is somewhat difficult to make a direct correlation between these two decades. However, it does seem that, like the County as a whole, Middletown is becoming a more diverse region. From 1990 to 2000, there was only an increase of 11% of White Alone in the region, while the Black/African American segment of the population grew by 38%. In regards to other planning regions Middletown has the highest percentage of White Alone population (97%). However, this is slightly less than 1990 when 99% of the population was White Alone. Due to the large percentage of White Alone population the other segments of the population seem to have slower growth rate than that of other planning regions. The Hispanic population has been on the rise in Frederick County and Middletown is no exception. In 2000, they had the fourth highest (1.3%) concentration of the Hispanic population. From 1990 to 2000, Middletown experienced a 47% increase in the Hispanic population.

In regards to the economic characteristics, the Middletown Planning Region has one of the lowest percentages of workers in the County. Only 72% of the population 16 and older is in the labor force. Of the 9,543 workers in Middletown, 62% of them work and live in Frederick County. The time it takes workers to get to work has increased within Frederick County. In Middletown there was a 119% increase in workers that traveled more than 90 minutes to work each day, going from 187 workers in 1990 to 409 in 2000. A possible reason for the low labor force participation rate may be due to Middletown having the 3rd highest income levels in Frederick County and the lowest percentage of individuals below the poverty level. In 2000, the average median household income in Middletown was $67,942 and the average median family income was $73,193. From 1990 to 2000, the number of people below the poverty line dropped dramatically by 18% going from 469 people to 387.

The Middletown Planning Region is the fourth most populace region in Frederick County. This planning region seems to represent mainstream Frederick County. Many of the changes and the 2000 social, economic, and household characteristics are within the average for the County. The extreme characteristics for Middletown represented in Middletown are represented in the racial makeup and poverty level. Middletown has the highest percentage of White Alone population and the slowest growth of the Hispanic population. Middletown also has the lowest percentage of individuals in the County below the poverty level. Please see the detailed demographic profile below for more information regarding this Planning Region.

Middletown Planning Region
Demographic Profile

	1990		2000		Change 1990 to 2000	
General Characteristics	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Total Population	15,461	100.0%	17,383	100.0%	1,922	12.4%
Population Density (persons per square mile)	178.1	x	200.2	x	22.1	x
Male	7,754	50.2%	8,627	49.6%	873	11.3%
Female	7,707	49.8%	8,756	50.4%	1,049	13.6%
Under 5 Years	1,160	7.5%	982	5.6%	-178	-15.3%
5 to 18 Years Old	3,360	21.7%	3,956	22.8%	596	17.7%
18 Years and Over	11,220	72.6%	12,572	72.3%	1,352	12.0%
65 Years and Over	1,372	8.9%	1,753	10.1%	381	27.8%
White Alone	15,261	98.7%	16,933	97.4%	1,672	11.0%
Black or African American Alone	71	0.5%	98	0.6%	27	38.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	51	0.3%	17	0.1%	-34	-66.7%
Asian and Pacific Islander	78	0.5%	105	0.6%	27	34.6%
Some Other Race Alone	0	0.0%	77	0.4%	77	x
2 or More Races	NA	NA	153	0.9%	NA	NA
Hispanic or Latino	152	1.0%	223	1.3%	71	46.7%
Social Characteristics						
High School Graduate or Higher	8,313	84.2%	10,380	89.0%	2,067	24.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2,493	25.3%	3,937	33.8%	1,444	57.9%
Foreign Born	263	1.7%	322	1.9%	59	22.4%
Never Married	2,412	20.4%	2,588	19.2%	176	7.3%
Now Married	8,289	70.0%	9,375	69.4%	1,086	13.1%
Widowed/Divorced	1,140	9.6%	1,544	11.4%	404	35.4%
Speak a Language Other Than English at Home	1,066	7.5%	1,578	9.6%	512	48.0%
Household Characteristics						
Households	5,350	100.0%	6,115	100.0%	765	14.3%
Family Households	4,429	82.8%	4,940	80.8%	511	11.5%
Married-Couple Family Households	3,958	89.4%	4,424	89.6%	466	11.8%
Married-Couple Families with Own Children Under 18	2,100	53.1%	2,158	48.8%	58	2.8%
Male Householders (No Wife Present)	155	3.5%	166	3.4%	11	7.1%
Male Householders With Own Children Under 18	77	49.7%	67	40.4%	-10	-13.0%
Female Householders (No Wife Present)	316	7.1%	350	7.1%	34	10.8%
Female Householders With Own Children Under 18	156	49.4%	221	63.1%	65	41.7%

NonFamily Households	921	17.2%	1,175	19.2%	254	27.6%
Economic Characteristics						
Workers	8,375	72.1%	9,543	72.1%	1,168	13.9%
Live and Work in Frederick County	5,537	66.1%	5,896	61.8%	359	6.5%
Travel More Than 30 Minutes to Work	3,505	41.9%	4,061	42.6%	556	15.9%
Travel More Than 90 Minutes to Work	187	2.2%	409	4.3%	222	118.7%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	469	3.1%	387	2.2%	-82	-17.5%
Averaged Median Household Income	$45,550	x	$67,942	x	$22,392	49.2%
Averaged Median Family Income	$48,166	x	$73,193	x	$25,027	52.0%
Housing Characteristics						
Total Housing Units	5,447	100.0%	6,328	100.0%	881	16.2%
Occupied Housing Units	5,280	96.9%	6,131	96.9%	851	16.1%
Vacant Housing Units	167	3.1%	197	3.1%	30	18.0%
Owner-occupied Housing Units	4,363	82.6%	5,286	86.2%	923	21.2%
Renter-occupied Housing Units	917	17.4%	845	13.8%	-72	-7.9%