

A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Race, Origin, and Ancestry 2006

Welcome to the November, 2007 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” The 2006 data from the American Community Survey (ACS) has been released for Frederick County. This month we will discuss the updated information on race and origin that was released with this round of the ACS. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning>

The 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) has recently released the data for Frederick County. This survey will replace the long form from the decennial US Census and will be updated annually. At this time, only data for Frederick County as whole has been released. Sometime within the next year, data for smaller geographic areas should be released. For more information on the ACS go to www.census.gov or view the Frederick County Division of Planning, July 2005 Demographic Newsletter.

According to the 2006 ACS, Frederick County is becoming more diversified in its’ racial make-up. From 2000 to 2006, the white race had the slowest growth of any other racial category, only a 7.5% increase. The white alone racial category went from 89.3% of the total Frederick County population in 2000 to 84.0% of the total population in 2006. The Asian alone racial category had the highest increase with 81%, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native alone with a 72% increase. Although there has been a rapid increase in racial diversity in Frederick County the portion of the total population that minorities’ makeup is still rather low. Only 1 in every 12 people in Frederick County are Black/African American, 1 in every 37 people are Asian, and 1 in every 279 people are American Indian/Alaskan Native. (see Figure 1)

Racial Categories of Frederick County 2000 - 2006			
	2000	2006	Increase 2000 - 2006
White alone	174,293 (89.3%)	187,341 (84.0%)	13,048 (7.5%)
Black/African American alone	12,191 (6.2%)	18,403 (8.3%)	6,212 (51.0%)
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	466 (0.2%)	800 (0.4%)	334 (71.7%)
Asian Alone	3,327 (1.7%)	6,026 (2.8%)	2,699 (81.1%)
All Other Races	5,000 (2.6%)	8,361 (3.7%)	3,361 (67.2%)

Figure 1

For the first time, in the 2006 ACS many of the racial categories reported by the United States Census Bureau were broken down into smaller categories. For example, American Indian/Alaska Native Alone was also reported on the tribal grouping level:

Cherokee, Chippewa, Navajo, and Sioux. However, for Frederick County there was only enough data to delineate these smaller categories in the Asian Alone and Two or more racial categories. The top three races claimed by the Asian Alone population were, Korean (2,129 residents or 26.5%), Asian Indian (1,844 residents or 23%), and Chinese (1,820 residents or 23%) respectively. A majority, 55%, of residents who claimed they were two or more races were White and Black or African American.

The Hispanic or Latino community of Frederick County has also been on the rise. From 2000 to 2006, the Hispanic community increased by 147% from 4,664 residents in 2000 to 11,537 in 2006. That is an average annual increase of 1,146 Hispanic/Latino residents. In 2006, 1 in every 19 people in Frederick County was of Hispanic/Latino descent. Since Hispanic/Latino is an origin and not a race, no racial breakdowns are given at this time within the ACS data for this community. However, the origins of this population are reported. The largest segment of the Hispanic population in Frederick County is Other Hispanic or Latino (67%). The second largest segment of descent was Puerto Rican (20%). (see Figure 2)

Origin of Frederick County's Hispanic or Latino Residents 2006		
Origin	Number	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	11,537	100%
Mexican	1,172	10.2%
Puerto Rican	2,283	19.8%
Cuban	329	2.9%
Other Hispanic or Latino	7,753	67.2%

Figure 2

In the 2006 ACS, ancestry data has been reported for Frederick County. The term ancestry refers to a person's ethnic origin, descent, roots, heritage, place of birth, or ancestral origins. Most reported ancestry is based on a geographic location, i.e. France, Italian, etc. other reported ancestry are ethnic identifiers i.e. Welsh, Arab, etc. In Frederick County, German was the largest reported ancestry. 1 in every 4 residents are German. The second largest ancestry was Irish; whose ancestry represents 1 in every 6 residents. Only 15,277, 1 in every 15, residents claimed they were American. This ancestral category was introduced the United States Census Bureau in 2000. (see Figure3)

Ancestry of Frederick County's Residents 2006		
Ancestry	Number	Percentage
German	61,755	27.7%
Irish	38,347	17.2%
English	30,627	13.7%
Italian	15,325	6.9%
American	15,227	6.8%

Figure 3

The racial, origin, and ancestral demographic characteristics are becoming more diversified throughout Frederick County. From 2000 to 2006, the White alone racial

category had the slowest rate of growth at only 7.5%. All other racial categories had much higher rates of growth. The Hispanic or Latino community also had a high rate of growth, 147%. A majority (28%) of the County's residents are of German descent. This trend will most likely continue to occur as Frederick County enters into a new era of more diversity.