

# A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Census 2000 Senior Citizens

Welcome to the December, 2004 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” This month, the characteristics of the senior citizen population of Frederick County will be highlighted. Using the responses from the 2000 US Census, these attributes will be examined in order to create “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” For further information on the demographics of Frederick County, please visit <http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/DemographicsHome.html>

Senior citizens or the elderly are defined throughout this article as the population that is 65 years of age and older. According to the 2000 US Census, 35 million Americans were 65 years or older, a 12% increase from 1990. In Maryland 11% of the population is elderly. Frederick County is the home of 3% of Maryland’s senior citizens population and has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of persons 65 and older in the State. Since 1970, the number of elderly in Frederick County has been steadily increasing (Figure 1).

<b>The Elderly Population in Frederick County 1970 - 2000</b>			
	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Population</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>1970</b>	7,534	8.9 %	NA
<b>1980</b>	10,221	8.9%	2,687 (35.6%)
<b>1990</b>	14,180	9.4%	3,959 (38.7%)
<b>2000</b>	18,779	9.6%	4,599 (32.4%)

Figure 1.

In 2000, females between the ages of 70 and 74 years old were the majority of elderly in Frederick County. 1 in every 7 elderly was female in this age group. For at least the past 30 years, women have outnumbered men in the elderly community (Figure 2). In 2000, 1 in every 2 people that was 65 years and older was a female. Females outnumber males in all race categories as well. In 2000, there were 3,340 more white females than white males, 131 more black females than black males, 50 more other races females than other races males, and 23 more Hispanic females than Hispanic males.

<b>Female and Male Elderly in Frederick County 1970 – 2000</b>		
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>1970</b>	3,070 (41%)	4,464 (59%)
<b>1980</b>	4,105 (40%)	6,116 (60%)
<b>1990</b>	5,679 (40%)	8,501 (60%)
<b>2000</b>	7,629 (41%)	11,150 (59%)

Figure 2.

The Census Designated Place in Frederick County that has the most proportion of elderly is Emmittsburg. Even though only 1 in every 39 elderly live in Emmittsburg it has the highest percentage of the total population that is elderly, 21%. Throughout the rest of Frederick County it seems as though the total number of elderly mostly live around Frederick City (see Figure 3.)

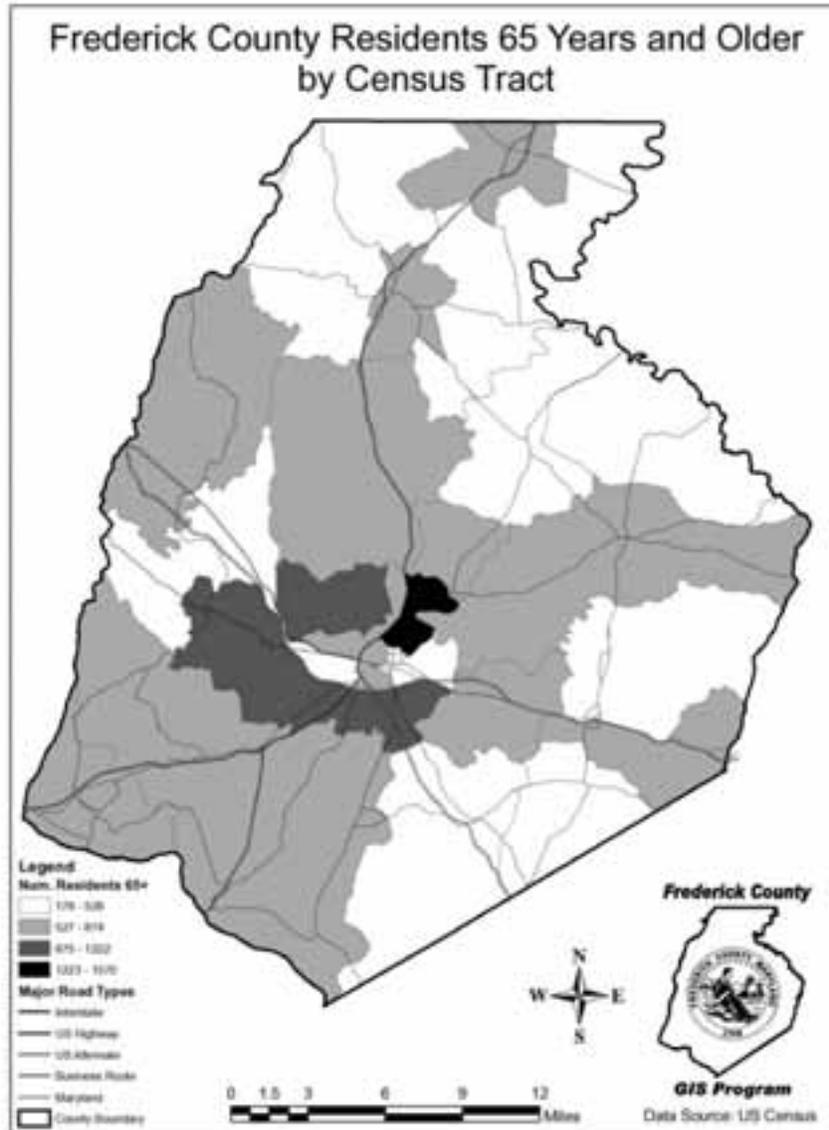


Figure 3.

There has been a slight rise in the number of elderly that live in group quarters, i.e. nursing homes and correctional institutions within the past decade. In 1990, only 972 or 7% of the elderly population lived in group quarters. In 2000, these numbers rose to 1,433 or 8% of the elderly population. There were 675 more females than males in group quarters in 2000. 84% of the elderly population in group quarters lived in nursing homes (see Figure 4).

<b>Male and Female Elderly Population in Defined Group Quarters 2000</b>			
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Correctional Institutions</b>	13 3%	0 0%	13 1%
<b>Nursing Homes</b>	339 90%	862 82%	1,201 84%
<b>Other non-institutionalized group quarters</b>	27 7%	192 18%	219 15%

Figure 4.

Even with a rise in group quarter population among the elderly there has also been a rise in home ownership. Since 1990, 2,170 more seniors have owned their homes. According to the 2000 Census, 8,978 or 48% of seniors owned their homes and 40% of them have lived in the same home for more than 20 years.

The trend of more elderly population in Frederick County does not seem like it will lessen in the near future. More people are living longer and baby boomers are coming into the golden age of life. Frederick, like most of the nation, will have to start considering and planning for how this will affect our communities in the future.