

## A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Hispanic Population

Welcome to the September, 2005 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” In celebration of National Hispanic Month, September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, this month’s article will focus on Frederick County’s Hispanic Population. The information presented in this article will come from the US Census Bureau’s information from the decennial census and the July 2004 estimates. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit:  
<http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/Demographics.htm>

In order to fully understand the statistics given about the Hispanic population one point needs to be highlighted; the Hispanic population is defined as a population being of similar origin not of similar race. Hispanics or Latinos can be of any race. What makes them a cohesive group of individuals is their similar ancestry, country of birth, heritage, lineage, or nationality. With some types of analysis, people may try to delineate a rise in population to a rise in Whites, African Americans, Asians, other races, and Hispanics. All of these categories are linear comparisons except for Hispanic, which is a complimentary one. For example, in 2000, most of the Hispanic population considered themselves to be first white, then some other race, and third 2 or more races (Figure 1.)

<b>Hispanic Population by Race</b>		
	<b>Number in Hispanic Population</b>	<b>Percentage of the Hispanic Population</b>
White	2,188	48%
Some other race	1,706	37%
Two or more races	436	9%
Black or African American	184	4%

Figure 1.

Frederick County has experienced a tremendous rise in the Hispanic population within the past 24 years. In 1980, there were 826 persons of Hispanic origin in the County; as of July 1, 2004 there were 8,608 Latino residents. This is an enormous increase within 24 years (Figure 2.) In 1980, 1 in every 139 people was of Hispanic origin in the County; as of July 2004, 1 in every 25 people was of Hispanic origin.

<b>Hispanic Population of Frederick County 1980 to July 2004</b>			
	<b>Total Hispanics</b>	<b>Percentage of the Total Population</b>	<b>Percentage of Increase</b>
1980	826	0.7%	N/A
1990	1,713	1.1%	107%
2000	4,664	2.4%	172%
2004	8,608	4.0%	85%

Figure 2.

Most of the Latino residents of Frederick County have lived in the areas to the west of and within Frederick City. The top three areas have historically been the census tracts identified as 7505.1, 7505.2, and 7507 (See Figure 3.) Census tract 7505.1 has been home to most of the Hispanic community since 1990, when 12% called this area home, to 2000 when 20% of all Latinos in the County did.

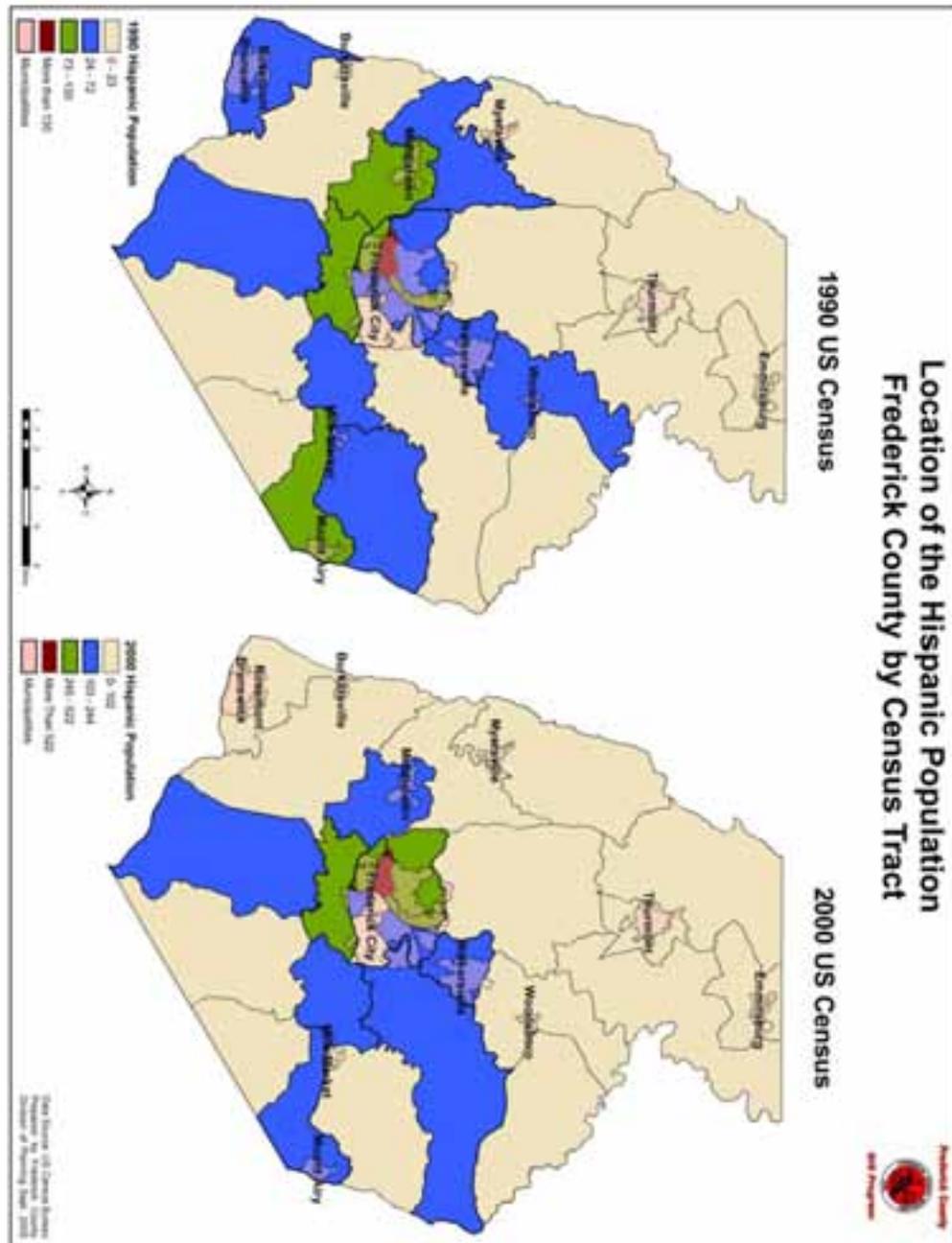


Figure 3.

According to the 2000 US Census, 68% of the Hispanic community was born in the United States. However, only 24% of them were born in Maryland. Majorities of the Hispanics born in the United States are from the northeast. Of the 32% of Latinos that were born in another country, most of them are from Mexico. The top five countries of birth for these residents are 1. Mexico 2. El Salvador 3. Guatemala 4. Columbia and 5. Peru.

In a sense the Latino community is becoming more educated. In all educational attainment categories there are more people in numbers that are being educated; however, in 1990 the percentage of the Latino community is not attaining as high educational levels as in 2000. More people graduated high school in 2000 than in 1990. However there are more residents over 25 years old that did not receive a high school diploma in 2000 than in 1990. For example, in 2000, there were 433 people (19%) over 25 years old that did not receive a diploma. In 1990, there was only 119 or 16% of the Hispanic population that did not graduate high school. Also less Hispanics are going to college. In 1990, a total of 489 (68%) of the Hispanic community either had some college experience or graduated with a degree. In 2000, there were only 1,286 (56%) of the Latino population that had some type of college experience (Figure 4.) This is a strange and rare phenomenon within a community in Frederick County.

<b>Educational Attainment of the Hispanic Population in Frederick County 1990 - 2000</b>		
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
No High School Diploma	119 (16%)	433 (19%)
High School Diploma	115 (16%)	567 (25%)
Some College, no degree	199 (28%)	532 (23%)
Associates Degree	89 (12%)	135 (6%)
Bachelor's Degree	93 (13%)	284 (12%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	108 (15%)	335 (15%)

Figure 4.

According to the 2000 US Census, there were 8,550 resident below poverty level. 6.5% of these individuals are Hispanic. Latinos made less money than the average Frederick County resident in 2000. According to the US Census the median income for a Hispanic living in Frederick County was \$55,771. This is \$4,505 less than the County median household income for 1999. In 2000, Hispanic families only made \$57,029; this is \$10,850 less than the County median family income of \$67,789.

The Hispanic community is a vastly growing sector of the population in Frederick County. Most of the Hispanics consider themselves to be white and live in the census tract in the western section of Frederick City. 76% of the Latinos living in Frederick County were not born in Maryland. Many of them came from the northeastern United States and Mexico. More Hispanics are graduating high school; however, not as many of them are continuing their education. Latinos make less money on average than other households and families in Frederick County. With the growing number of Latinos it will be interesting to see how these statistics and the Hispanic demographic profile will continue to change throughout the next couple of years.