A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Age and Gender Updates

Welcome to the October, 2005 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." The US Census recently released population estimates for July 2004. This month's article will focus on the Age and Gender updates released within these updates from the US census. For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit: http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/Demographics.htm

According to the US census, Frederick County is estimated to have 217,653 residents in July 2004. 49% of the population in July 2004 was male and 51% were female. This has been a trend in Frederick County since at least 1930. The actual percentage and sex ratio has fluctuated slightly; however, the one constant that remains is that Frederick County as a whole has more females than males (See Figure 1.)

Males and Females in Frederick County, 1930 - 2004									
	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	July 2004
Males	27,033	28,012	30,786	35,504	41,700	56,155	73,955	96,079	107,364
Females	27,371	29,210	31,481	36,426	43,227	58,637	76,235	99,198	110,289
% Males	49.7	49.0	49.4	49.4	49.1	48.9	49.2	49.2	49.3
% Female	50.3	51.0	50.6	50.6	50.9	51.1	50.8	50.8	50.7
Sex Ratio*	98.8	95.9	97.8	97.5	97.5	95.8	97.0	96.9	97.3
*Sex Ratio is the number of males per 100 females									

Figure 1.

Historically, census tract 7506, which surrounds Hood College, has the most concentration of females. In 1990 and 2000, 61% of the population was female in census tract 7506. This is the highest percentage in the County. Frederick City has the top three census tracts, which have the highest percentage of female population (See Figure 2.)

Frederick City having the highest concentration of female population is not unusual. The national trend is that in more urban areas there are more females than males. Frederick County is no exception to this trend. Since at least the 1960's, in Frederick County's urban areas, females tend to outnumber males and in the rural areas males tend to outnumber females. In the rural areas of Frederick County there were 101 males for every 100 females in 1990 and in 2000. The urban areas had a sex ratio of 95 males for every 100 females.

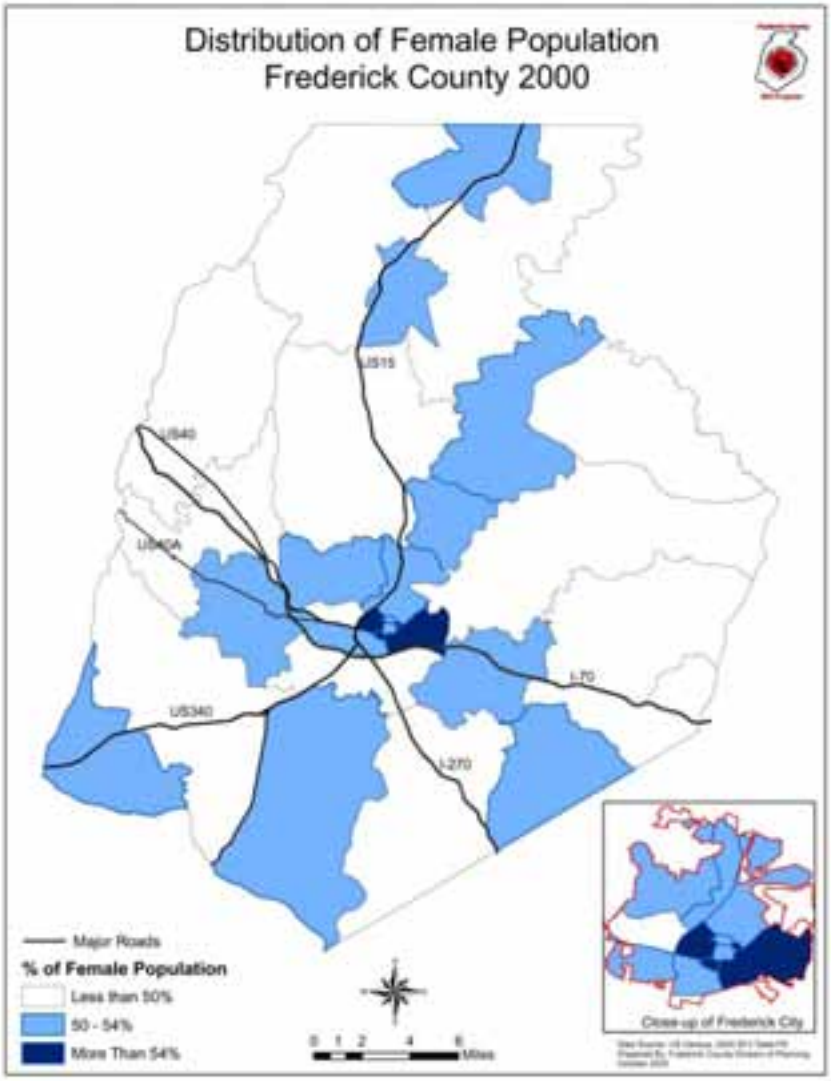

Figure 2.

51% of the school age children in Frederick County are males. Males tend to outnumber females until the age of 18. From 2000 to 2004 the male population grew by 1,980, while the female population only grew by 1,717. As of July 2004, there were 29,583 males under the age of 18, while there are only 28,001 females. This means that for every 100 females there are 106 males under the age of 18 years old. However, past the age of 18 there are more females than males. For example, in the population between the ages of 18 and 24 years old, there are 10,342 females and only 10,185 males. This means that even though as a whole there are more females than males in the County the females tend to be older. This can also be shown through the median age. In Frederick County the median age was 36.1. However, the median age for males is lower than this at 35.2 and the female median age is higher at 36.8. The older the population becomes the more females there are. It is interesting to point out that until the age of 64 the female/male distribution of the population tends to be even. After the age of 64 females become an interestingly predominate sector of the population (see Figure 3.)

Gender Composition by Age Frederick County July 2004					
	Under 17 Years Old	15 to 44 Years Old	45 to 64 Years Old	65 Plus Years Old	85 Plus Years Old
Males	29,583	47,374	26,718	8,890	843
Females	28,001	47,883	26,818	12,436	1,820
Sex Ratio	106	99	100	71	46

Figure 3.

Not much has changed in the form of gender trends since the 2000 US Census. The majority of the population in the County has continued to be older females. The gender spatial distribution continues to have more males in rural areas and more females in the urban areas of the County. This trend has been present since at least the 1960s. The female population is older then the male population. Male school aged children out number females. However, after the ages of 18 years old the females begin to outnumber males. This is seen especially in the 85 years and older sector of the population.