A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County
Census 2000
American Indian and Alaskan Natives

Welcome to the November, 2005 edition of "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." In honor of Native American Heritage Month, this article will focuses on the American Indian and Alaskan Native population. Using the responses from the US Census and the recently released 2004 population estimates, population characteristics will be examined in order to create "A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County." For further information on the demographics and other statistics of Frederick County, please visit http://www.co.frederick.md.us/planning/Demographics/Demographics.htm

The information presented in this month's article comes directly from the responses received from the US Census questionnaires. In 2000, for the first time, people could claim more than one race. Prior to 2000, this was not an option; people who claimed more than one race were placed in the "other" race category. This is an important discrepancy to keep in mind, especially when describing the American Indian, Alaskan Native population in Frederick County. In the 2000 Census, 1,083 people claimed that they were American Indian, Alaskan Native, or a combination of two or more races. Only 404, or 37%, of the American Indian, Alaskan Native population have no other racial component. This means that a significant majority (77%) of the American Indian population has more than one racial component in their heritage. The top three racial classifications for the American Indian Alaskan Native population in Frederick County are 1. American Indian, Alaskan Native and White, 2. American Indian, Alaskan Native Alone, and 3. American Indian, Alaskan Native and Black or African American.

According to the 2004 population estimates from the US censu,s Frederick County ranks 7th in Maryland for the number of American Indian, Alaskan Native Alone population. In 2004, Frederick County had 594 residents that were American Indian or Alaskan Natives. This sector of the population represents only 0.3% of the total Frederick County population. The American Indian, Alaskan Native population within the County has seen the smallest representation of the total population for at least the past 35 years. In 1970, there were only 42 American Indian residents in Frederick County. This means that 1 in every 1,882 County residents were American Indians. In 2004, this ratio has diminished significantly with 1 in every 366 residents of the County being American Indian (see Figure 1).

American Indian Alaskan Native Population of Frederick County 1970 - 2000					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004
Number of American Indian Alaskan Native Alone	42	140	284	404	594
Percentage of the Total Population of American Indian Alaskan Native Alone	0.05%	0.13%	0.19%	0.21%	0.27%

Figure 1.

An interesting aspect of the American Indian, Alaskan Native population is the vast number of tribes that make up this population. When answering the US Census this sector of the population can chose to specify the tribe in which they come from. In Frederick County there were a total of 1,112 different tribes tallied in the 2000 Census. The number one tribe specified for American Indian, Alaskan Native Alone affiliated with only one tribe was Cherokee (22%). The following is a list of the top five tribes represented in Frederick County for the American Indian, Alaskan Native Alone, or in combination of one or more races with more than one tribe affiliation:

1. Cherokee
2. Blackfeet
3. Lumbee
4. Sioux
5. Chippewa

Since, the 2000 Census was the first time that people could claim more than one race, the rest of the demographic characteristics presented in this article will focus on the American Indian, Alaskan Native Alone racial classification. The tables used will be from the 100 percent count data from the summary file (SF) 1 2000 Census and summary tape file (STF) 1 1990 Census.

Between 1990 and 2000, the American Indian population increased by 42%. Unlike most age trends, the greatest increase in the American Indian population occurs in the age group 45 to 64 years old. Since 1990, there was a 140% increase within this age cohort. There is a balance throughout the age groups of males and females; however it does not seem to follow the typical Frederick County patterns. Under the age of 18 years old in Frederick County males tend to out number females; this is the opposite in the American Indian community. Also, American Indian males outnumber females in the age group of 45 – 64; this is another atypical situation for Frederick County residents (see Figure 2.)

American Indian Alaskan Native, Male Female Population 2000		
	Male Population	Female Population
Under 5 years old	14 (58%)	10 (42%)
5 to 17 years old	33 (43%)	44 (57%)
18 – 44 years old	86 (48%)	92 (52%)
45 – 64 years old	55 (53%)	48 (47%)
65 years and older	6 (27%)	16 (73%)

Figure2.

According to the 2000 US Census there are 153 American Indian, Alaskan Native households in Frederick County. This represents only 0.2% of the total households in the County. A majority (67%) of the American Indian households are family households. The average household size is 2.69, which is a little lower than the County average of 2.72. However, the average family size is slightly larger than the County at 3.17 compared to 3.16.

Of the 404 American Indians in Frederick County, 392 of them live in households while 12 of them live in noninstitutionalized group quarters. A typical American Indian family household in 1990 and 2000 consisted of a married-couple family with children under the age of 18 years old. A nonfamily American Indian household was usually a male living alone in 2000. In 2000, 63% of American Indian Alaskan Native family households were headed by a married-couple; this is a decrease from the 76% of married-couple family households in 1990. From 1990 to 2000, there was a 55% increase in family households headed by males, with no wife present, and an 80% increase in family households headed by females, with no husband present, within the American Indian population (See Figure 3).

Types of American Indian, Alaskan Native Family Households in Frederick County 1990 - 2000		
	1990	2000
Family Households:	82 (100%)	103 (100%)
Married-Couple Families	62 (76%)	65 (63%)
Married-Couple Families with Children under 18	34 (41%)	33 (32%)
Male Householder, no wife present with children under 18	3 (4%)	7 (7%)
Female householder, no wife present with children under the age of 18	12 (15%)	24 (23%)

Figure 3.

The American Indian, Alaskan Native population within Frederick County is small with some unique characteristics. American Indians have the least amount of representation, only 0.3% of the total population. A unique characteristic of this sector of the population is that the largest increases within the population, between 1990 and 2000, occurred in the age group of 45 to 64 years old. Another unique characteristic is the distribution of males to females. Males outnumber females from 45 to 64 years old and females outnumber males under the age of 18 years old. This is the opposite of the Frederick County age/sex trends. One of the most unique characteristics may be that of all minorities in the County, most American Indian, Alaskan Natives represents more than just one racial component, with American Indian Alaskan Native and White being the majority.