

A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County Census 2000 Children in Poverty

Welcome to the December, 2005 edition of “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County.” This month we will be focusing on the children that are living in poverty. 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>

Due to the coming holiday season and the spirit of giving, it seems appropriate to remember the impoverished people of Frederick County. In February 2004, “A Demographic Exploration of Frederick County” explored the issue of poverty. This month we will be revisiting this topic with a highlight on the children of our County.

According to the 2000 US Census, Frederick County had the 10th highest number of people below poverty level in the state of Maryland. In 2000, 8,550 (4.5%) of Frederick County’s residents were below the poverty threshold. Of this 8,550 people 32% of them were children under the age of 18 years old. The highest numbers of children in poverty fall between the ages of 6 and 11 years old (See Figure 1.)

Number of Children by Poverty Status Frederick County 2000		
	Below Poverty Level	Above Poverty Level
Under 5 years old	800	13,045
5 years old	158	2,966
6-11 years old	926	17,620
12 – 17 years old	851	16,493
<small>Based on table P87 Census 2000 SF3</small>		

Figure 1.

Between 1989 and 1999, Frederick County increased its number of impoverished children by 461. However, because the total number of children under the age of 18 increased by 13,872 people, the percentage of impoverished children actually decreased. In 1989, 1 in every 17 children were living in poverty, in 1999 this difference rose to 1 in every 19 children. In 1989, 6% of children under the age of 18 years old were living in poverty, this decreased to only 5% in 1999. In both 1989 and 1999, the highest numbers of impoverished children are 5 years old and younger. The second highest age cohort is between the ages of 6 and 11 years old, and the third highest number of impoverished children are between the ages of 12 and 17 years old (See Figure 2.)

Number and Percentage of Children Living Above and Below Poverty Level Frederick County 1989 - 1999						
	1989 above poverty	1989 below poverty	1999 above poverty	1999 below poverty	Increase above poverty 1989 – 1999	Increase below poverty 1989 – 1999
5 Years and Younger	13,087 (34%)	918 (2%)	16,011 (30%)	958 (2%)	2,924 (22%)	40 (4%)
6 – 11 Years old	12,748 (33%)	793 (2%)	17,620 (33%)	926 (2%)	4,872 (38%)	135 (17%)
12 – 17 Years Old	10,878 (28%)	563 (1%)	16,493 (31%)	851 (2%)	5,615 (52%)	288 (51%)
Total Under 18 Years Old	36,713 (96%)	2,274 (6%)	50,124 (95%)	2,735 (5%)	13,411 (37%)	461 (20%)

Census 2000 P87 SF3 and Census 1990 P117 STF3

Figure 2.

Most children that are impoverished live in the Frederick City region. The census tracts have changed from 1989 to 1999 but still the highest concentration of children in poverty is Frederick City. There are some other interesting geographic changes in the location of impoverished children from 1989 to 1999. According to the 2000 Census, the census tract that encompasses Brunswick has decreased the number of below poverty children from 128 children in 1989 to only 46 children in 1999. A 64% decrease in child poverty. The opposite trend occurred in the census tract that encompasses Thurmont. In 1989 this census tract only had 33 impoverished children, in 1999 it rose to 111 children, an increase of 236% (See Figure 3).

20% of all impoverished children in Frederick County are white. This racial classification has the highest number of children below poverty level. These figures should be of no surprise since 86% of children under the age of 18 are white. Hence, it seems to follow that they would have the most number of children below poverty. The second highest racial classification of all impoverished children is black or African American, 706 or 8%. The racial classification of American Indian Alaskan Native, Asian Alone, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders had little to no reports of children living below the poverty level.

Respectfully within their racial classifications the highest percentage of children in poverty falls within the Some Other Race Alone classifications. 37% of the children that are Some Other Race Alone are below the poverty threshold. The second highest percentage of children is Two or More Races, where 32% of the children are impoverished. The third highest poverty percentage was in the Black African American race. In this category, 20% of all Black or African American children are living in poverty.

Although the percentage of the children under 18 in poverty has been slowly decreasing the actual number of children in poverty is rising. Most of the impoverished children come from the Frederick City area; however, the census tract encompassing Thurmont has greatly increased its population of impoverished children from 1989 to 1999. Most of the children that are impoverished are white. The greatest percentage of children in poverty; however, falls within the Some Other Race Alone classification. Poverty can be witnessed throughout the world, nation, state, county, and cities.

Identifying some of the key issues and trends of poverty in Frederick County may aid in the understanding of how we can help those most in need. Happy Holidays.

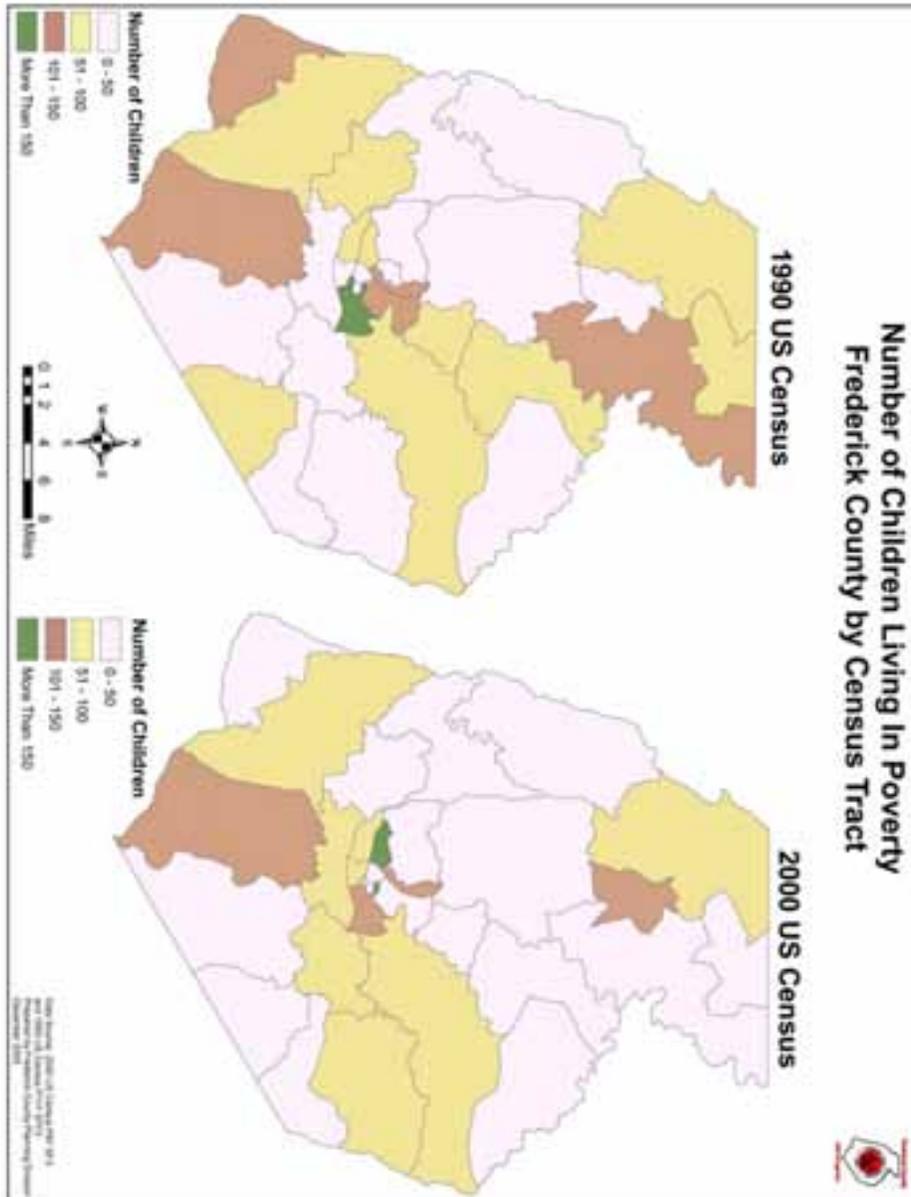


Figure 3.