

— County Profile —



CHAPTER 2

2. County Profile



OVERVIEW

Chapter 2 offers a geographic and demographic profile of Queen Anne’s County. Factors that make up the County’s geography including heritage, transportation, incorporated towns, and unincorporated communities can be found in this chapter, along with population statistics and projections, which offer a snapshot of the County’s demographics over time.

COUNTY GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION

Queen Anne’s County is located on the Delmarva Peninsula in the State of Maryland. It is part of the Upper Eastern Shore Region, which comprises five counties: Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot. It is bounded in large part by water—to the north by the Chester River and Kent County, Maryland; to the east by Caroline County, Maryland and Kent County, Delaware; to the south by the Wye River and Talbot County, Maryland, and to the west by the Chesapeake Bay. The County has approximately 495 miles of waterfront, much of that being the shores of Kent Island.

Figure 2-1. Location Map



HERITAGE

Queen Anne’s County is one of the oldest sites of colonial settlement in the nation. It was named for Queen Anne of Great Britain, who reigned when the County was established in 1706. Today, traces of history can be found throughout the landscape as noted by hundreds of documented historic sites

countywide. The community has been farming the land and harvesting the water since the early 18th century. Over time, farming practices have evolved to the point where farms within the County lead the State in production of corn, wheat and soybean crops.

From the time when vacationers arrived by steamboat and ferry service to Kent Island where they would make rail connections to the bay-side and ocean resorts, and continuing with the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge so Western Shore vacationers can reach the beach by automobile, Queen Anne’s County has been known as the “Gateway to the Eastern Shore.” Due to its location on the Chesapeake Bay, the County offers miles of scenic waterways, accompanied by acres of pastoral rural landscape, and a relaxing environment for working, living and recreation. It is this exceptional quality of life that residents and visitors enjoy through a variety of natural resources that support outdoor recreation, such as boating, fishing, golfing, bird watching, biking, hiking, hunting, and sport shooting.

See **Chapter 7—Historic & Cultural Resources** for additional information on the County’s history.

TRANSPORTATION

Major highway access routes near or within Queen Anne’s County include US 50, US 301, MD 213, and MD 404. State Routes serving the County include MD 8, MD 18, MD 19, MD 290, MD 300, MD 302, MD 304, MD 309, MD 313, MD 404, MD 405, MD 481, and MD 544. Every major city within the MidAtlantic region is located less than 300 miles from the County. The closest regional cities include Dover and Wilmington, Delaware; Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C., all of which are within two hours driving time of the County.

See **Chapter 6—Transportation** for additional information on the County’s transportation system.

GEOGRAPHY & RESOURCES

Queen Anne's County is approximately 238,038 acres or 372 square miles in land size. According to the Maryland Geological Survey, County elevation ranges from 0 to 87 feet above sea level and is located entirely within the Atlantic Coastal Plain, a geographical area extending along the East Coast seaboard below New York and Pennsylvania. The topography of the region is relatively flat, which has created an environment suitable for crop farming.

Queen Anne's County contains numerous natural resource areas including large forested areas, a number of rivers and streams, and large areas of wetlands. Major water resources include the Chester, Corsica, and Wye Rivers and approximately 40 creeks. The County is served by several large freshwater aquifers.

INCORPORATED TOWNS

Queen Anne's County contains the incorporated towns of Barclay, Centreville, Church Hill, Millington (portion also in Kent County), Queen Anne (portion also in Talbot County), Queenstown, Sudlersville, and Templeville (portion also in Caroline County). Each town has its own government and, under State law, they each have their own planning authority and adopt their own comprehensive plans.

PlanQAC emphasizes a continuing role for its incorporated municipalities as major population and commercial, industrial, and institutional centers for the region. Concentrating population in and around the existing towns with adequate public infrastructure and services is the most efficient way to provide basic community facilities and services to residents, support historic investment in infrastructure (such as existing streets), and reduce pressure for development in rural areas and those with limited or no sewer capacity. It also maintains the County's land use tradition, namely compact communities surrounded by rural countryside.

PlanQAC seeks to direct growth to the towns where treatment facilities already exist (see *Chapter 4—Land Use, Chapter 5—Environmental Resources, and Appendix D—Water Resources Element for additional information*). It is imperative that the County and towns work together to implement appropriate development and redevelopment strategies. All residents of the County benefit from having incorporated towns that are desirable places for residents to live, work, play, and shop. Most

towns have infill and redevelopment opportunities, as well as designated Growth Areas. Several towns have indicated a desire to establish greenbelts around their boundaries.

The municipalities play an important role in the County's growth management strategies. Towns with designated Growth Areas are the preferred location for future population growth and non-agricultural economic activity in the region, in accordance with State laws. Stemming from a recommendation in the County's *2010 Comprehensive Plan*, the County and its towns embarked on a joint planning program to address local growth management issues through the Council of Governments (COG). Continued collaboration between the County and its towns will build the community resources necessary to effectively implement growth management and revitalization strategies and achieve economies of scale, while also preserving jurisdictional integrity.

Additional, more detailed information about the County's incorporated towns can be found in **Chapter 10—Town Planning Framework**.

UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

Unincorporated communities do not have any formally recognized organized municipal government; rather, they are governed by the County. Other than the communities that have been identified as Census Designated Places (CDPs) due to their population size, the unincorporated communities do not have official, legal boundaries. The County's unincorporated communities vary in size, complexity, and intensity of land uses. There are 16 unincorporated communities dispersed geographically throughout the County, four of which are designated Community Growth Areas that are discussed in the next section. The remaining 12 unincorporated communities include:

- **BRIDGETOWN** is located along the Queen Anne's/Caroline County border along MD 304.
- **CRUMPTON** is located along MD 290 and the Chester River, approximately five miles southwest of Millington. Crumpton was identified as a CDP for the 2020 Census.
- **DOMINION** is located in Kent Island along MD 552, two miles south of Chester.
- **INGLESIDE** is located on MD 19, 6.5 miles southeast of Church Hill.

- **KINGSTOWN** is a CDP, located along the Chester River across from Chestertown.
- **LOVE POINT** is the name for the northernmost tip of Kent Island and marks the southern point of the mouth of the Chester River. It has served as a major ferry terminal, the western terminus of the Queen Anne’s Railroad, and the nominal western terminus of MD 18, which is aligned in a north/south direction near Love Point.
- **MATAPEAKE** is located south of Stevensville on Kent Island. It is named for the historic Matapeake Tribe, who lived there at the time of English colonization in 1631. Before construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Matapeake was the eastern terminus of a cross-bay ferry; the ferry building is now part of the Matapeake Maritime Center.
- **PRICE** is located at the junction of US 301 and MD 405, 3.5 miles southeast of Church Hill.
- **ROMANCOKE** is located at the southern terminus of MD 8. Romancoke was identified as a Census Designated Place for the 2020 Census. The name “Romancoke” comes from the Algonquian word for “circling the water.” Romancoke was once linked with Claiborne (an unincorporated community in Talbot County) via the Romancoke-Claiborne ferry; however, the ferry service ended the year after the Chesapeake Bay Bridge opened. Today, Romancoke is almost entirely residential.
- **RUTHSBURG** is located at the junction of MD 304 and MD 481, north of Queen Anne and the Tuckahoe State Park.
- **STARR** is located along MD 309, between Wye Mills and Ruthsburg.
- **WYE MILLS** is located along the Queen Anne’s/Talbot County border at the intersection of ME 213, MD 404, and MD 662. The community lies between Wye Oak State Park and the Wye Mills Community Lake and is located just south of the Chesapeake College campus.

These unincorporated communities each have their own distinctive character yet exhibit fundamental design elements of traditional communities. Often, the communities exhibit identifiable edges between their more rural surroundings; have similar lot sizes

and configurations; and have similar building scale, massing, materials, and roof configurations. Some important characteristics include the following:

- **Edges & Boundaries.** The communities often have identifiable boundaries between their development and their more rural surroundings, which enhances community identity and helps to preserve agricultural land.
- **Buildings.** Buildings provide the backbone of a community’s character. New buildings and additions to existing buildings should maintain and enhance character to blend with the established surroundings.
- **Transportation & Circulation.** Properly planned and designed vehicular and pedestrian pathways provide circulation to and within the hamlets. As primarily residential areas, it is important to be aware of any speeding or congestion concerns and address appropriately.

Many of these communities offer services and facilities such as volunteer fire companies, post offices, and greater densities of housing. Because they are located in unincorporated areas of the County, **PlanQAC** does not have a particular chapter dedicated to these communities as they are governed by Queen Anne’s County and its regulations; however, many chapters include pertinent information including **Chapter 3—Community Facilities & Services**, **Chapter 4—Land Use**, **Chapter 5—Environmental Resources**, **Chapter 6—Transportation**, **Chapter 7—Historic & Cultural Resources**, and **Chapter 8—Economic Development**. The location of these communities is shown on most of the **PlanQAC** maps.

GROWTH AREAS

Growth Area boundaries generally serve as a line between urban and suburban land uses and more rural land uses, such as agriculture, natural resource lands, or low-density rural/residential development. Growth Areas define a planned, long-range build-out limit for both the County and its municipalities.

There are two types of Growth Areas discussed in **PlanQAC**: Municipal Growth Areas and Community Growth Areas. For language consistency in **PlanQAC**, Municipal Growth Areas include those areas adjacent to incorporated towns and may also be known as Town Future Annexation Areas. Individual

towns may also have additionally longer-range planning areas; however, these are not addressed in **PlanQAC**. Community Growth Areas include four unincorporated developed areas on Kent Island:

- **CHESTER** is a CDP that encompasses approximately 5.3 square miles of land. Chester is part of the Chester/Stevensville Community Growth Area.
- **GRASONVILLE** is a CDP that encompasses approximately 4.7 square miles of land. It lies between the Kent Narrows Community Growth Area and the Town of Queenstown and is bisected by US 50/301.
- **KENT NARROWS** is a CDP that encompasses approximately 1.0 square mile of land. It lies to either side of the Kent Narrows waterway, between Chester and Grasonville, and is bisected by US 50/301.
- **STEVENSVILLE** is a CDP that encompasses approximately 6.1 square miles of land. It has the highest population of any of the County's CDPs or incorporated towns. It is the eastern terminus of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and is bisected by US 50/301. Stevensville is part of the Chester/Stevensville Community Growth Area.

More detailed information about the Chester/Stevensville and Grasonville Community Growth Areas can be found in **Chapter 11—Community Plans**. Discussions of the Kent Narrows Community Growth Area can also be found in the *Kent Narrows Community Plan* (separate from this document). More information on the incorporated towns and their Municipal Growth Areas (or Future Annexation Areas) can be found in **Chapter 10—Town Planning Framework**.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

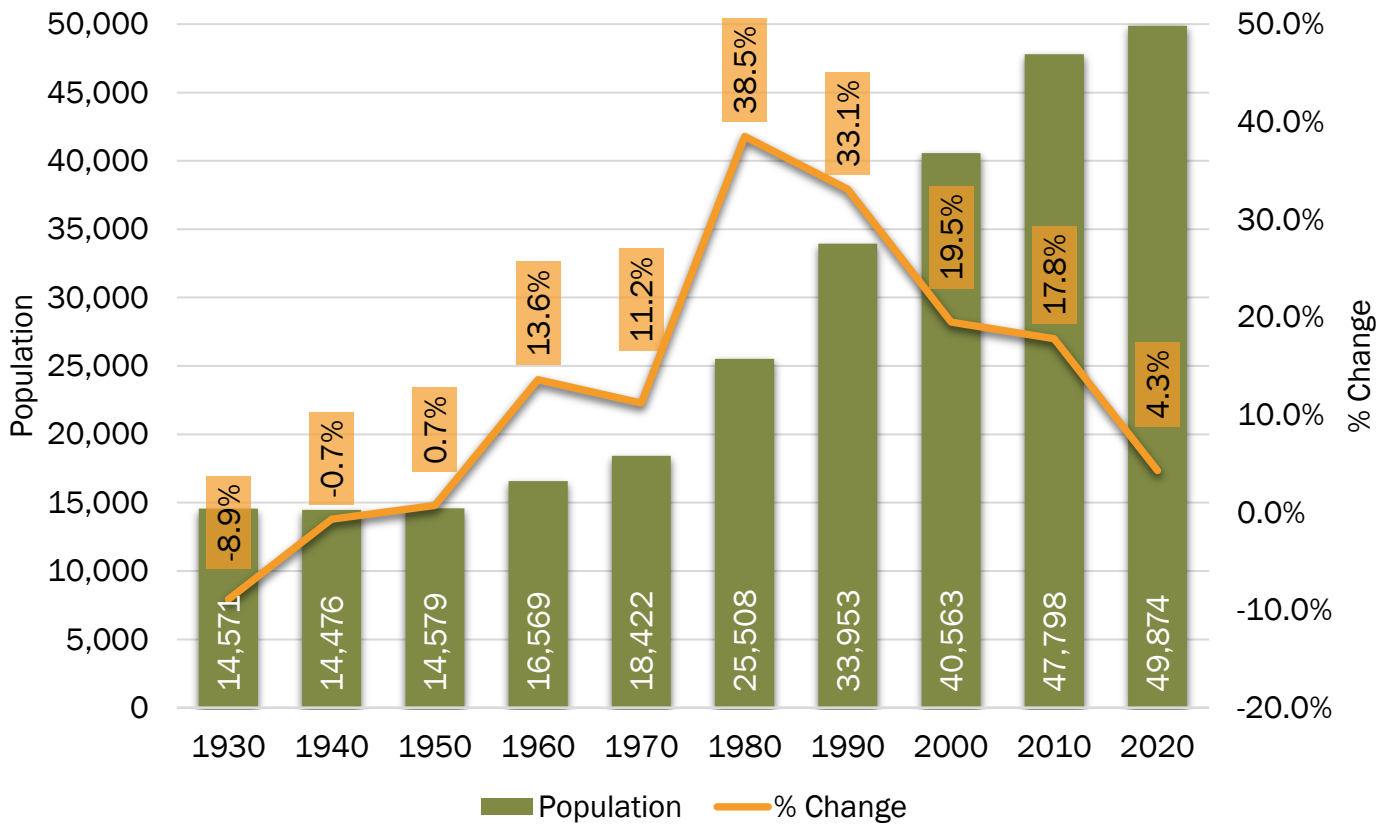
Most of the data included in this section come from the U.S. Census Bureau. Beginning with the 2010 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau stopped distributing the traditional 'long form' survey that historically provided enhanced data. These included detailed social statistics (e.g., educational attainment, household relationships, veteran status, disability status, ancestry, language spoken), economic data (e.g., employment, occupation, income, poverty status), and housing statistics (e.g., unit makeup, year built, value). These summary files were replaced by American Community Survey (ACS) data, which are available in five-year estimates. Due to sampling and surveying error, the data cannot be construed as an irrefutable measure of existing conditions. In addition, full release of 2020 Census statistics has not occurred due to delays by the COVID-19 pandemic. Where possible, the 2020 data was utilized; however, the more descriptive data is only available from the ACS. Data sources were clearly identified for each table and chart.

POPULATION

According to the 2020 Census, Queen Anne's County had a population of 49,874 residents. This is a 4.3% increase from the 2010 Census population count of 47,798, but a notable 23.0% increase from the 2000 Census population count of 40,563. This equates to an average annual growth rate for the County of 1.04%. During the same period, the State's population saw a greater increase of 7.0% from 2010-2020, but a smaller increase of 16.6% from 2000-2020. The State's average annual growth rate lagged behind that of the County at 0.77%. The nation's population saw the greatest increase of 7.4% from 2010-2020, but only an increase of 17.8% from 2000-2020. The nation's average annual growth rate fell between that of the County and State at 0.82%. **Figures 2-2 through 2-4** depict the population trends for the County, State, and nation since 1930.

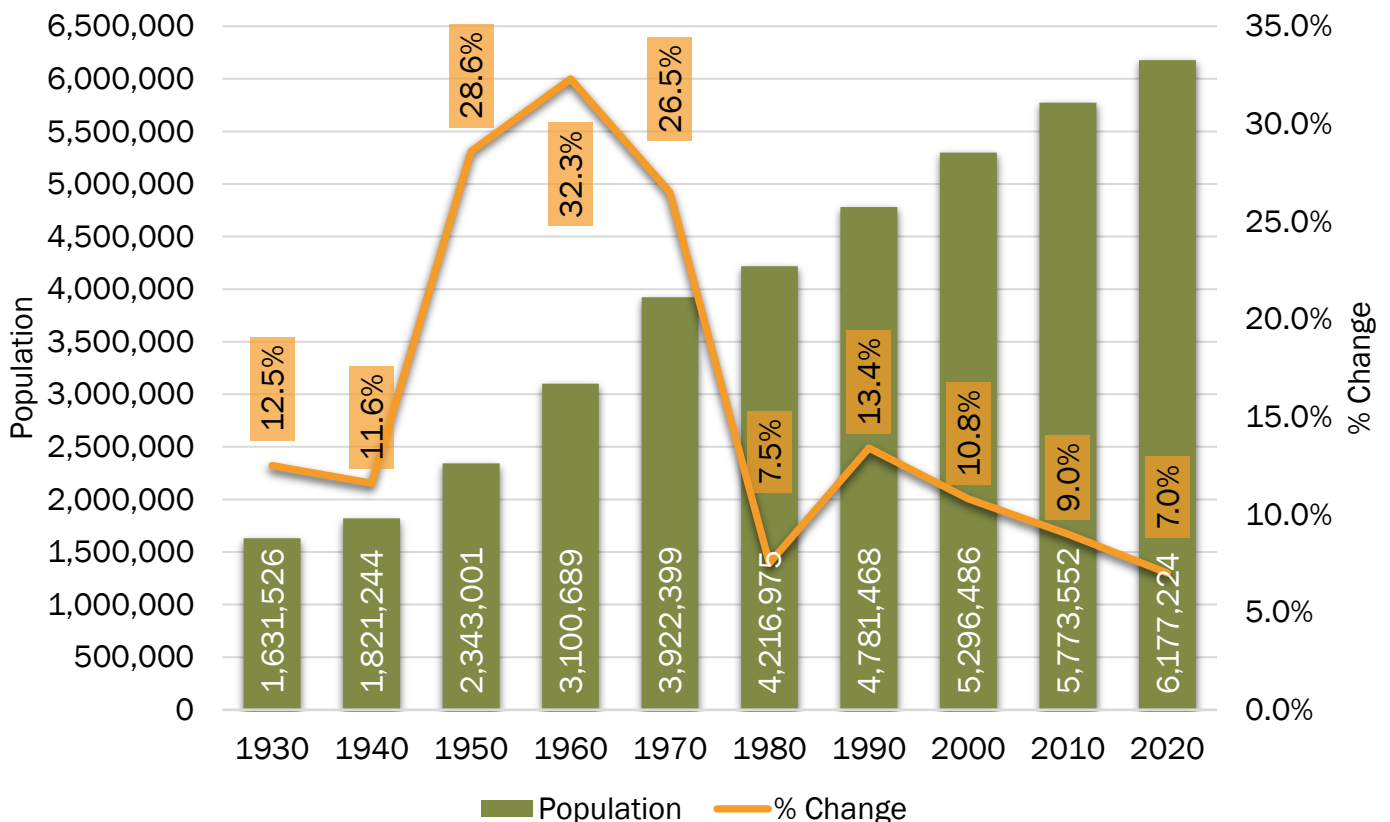
Please note that when 2006-2010 or 2015-2019 ACS data are used for analysis, total population counts will differ.

Figure 2-2. Population Trends—County



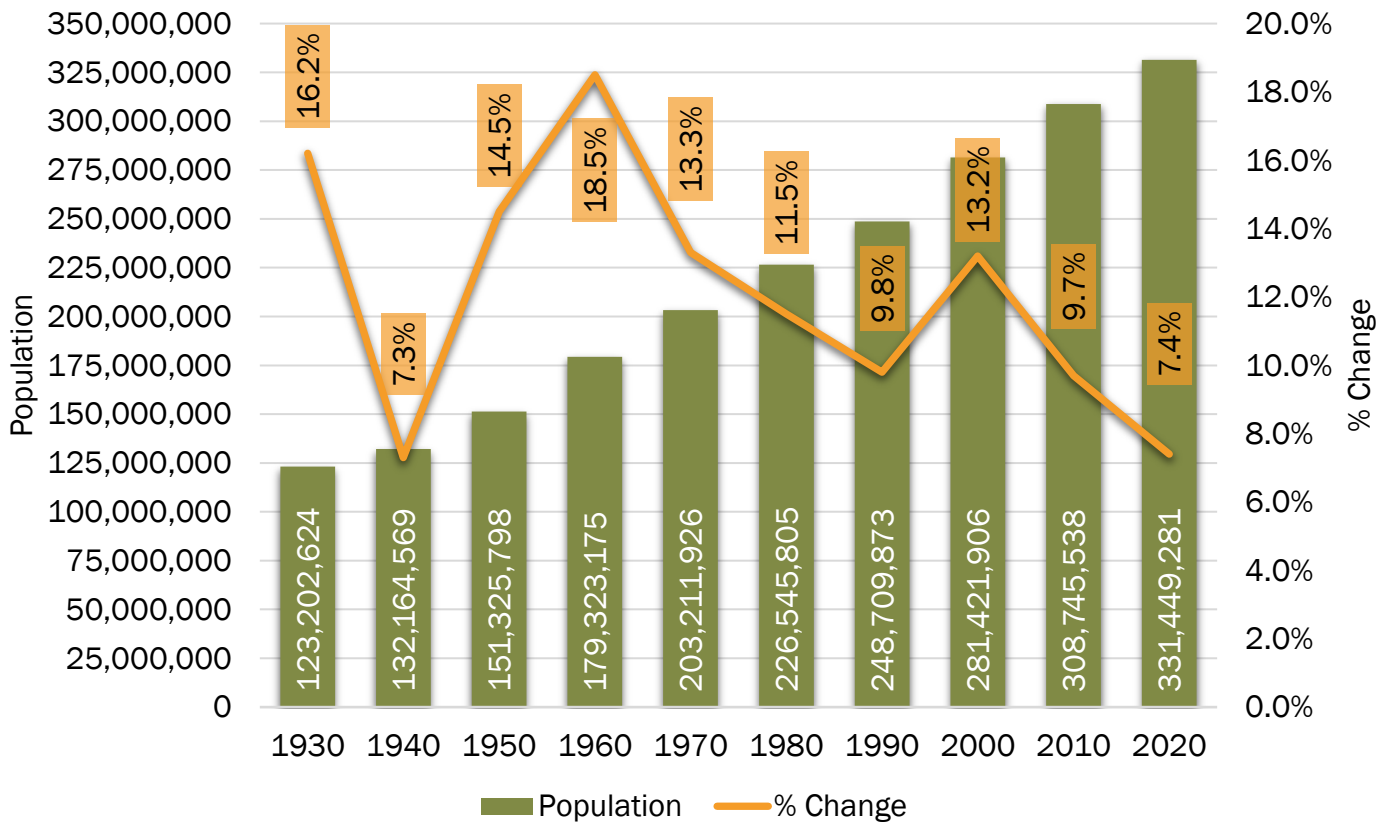
Source U.S. Decennial Census 1930-2020

Figure 2-3. Population Trends—State



Source: U.S. Decennial Census 1930-2020

Figure 2-4. Population Trends—Nation



Source: U.S. Decennial Census 1930-2020

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Table 2-1 shows population projections for Queen Anne’s County, developed by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). These projections were updated using U.S. Census population estimates through July 1, 2019 and included projected fertility, survival, and migration rates.

The projected County population growth affects water consumption, schools, recreation land, emergency services, and other public services such as libraries and transportation. County growth and its effects are discussed throughout PlanQAC, primarily in Chapter 3—Community Facilities & Services, Chapter 4—Land Use, Chapter 5—Environmental Resources, Chapter 6—Transportation, and Appendix D—Water Resources

Element. MDP’s related housing unit projections can be found in Chapter 9—Housing.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Table 2-2 compares the County’s racial composition to that of the State and nation in 2020. Table 2-3 summarizes changes in the County’s racial composition from 2010-2020. The County is less racially diverse than either the State or the nation. This trend lessened slightly over the 2010-2020 period, as the County’s White population decreased by 107 persons (0.3%). The greatest change was in the population reporting two or more races, which increased by 1,918 persons (233.3%); the greatest decrease was in the Black or African American population, which decreased by 487 persons (14.8%).

Table 2-1. County Population Projections

	Count	Estimate			Projection			
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
No.	47,798	48,480	50,810	53,430	56,320	59,520	62,030	64,650
Increase	+7,235	+682	+2,330	+2,620	+2,890	+3,200	+2,510	+2,620
% Increase	+17.8%	+1.4%	+4.8%	+5.2%	+5.4%	+5.7%	+4.2%	+4.2%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning, Historical & Projected Total Population for Maryland’s Jurisdictions, October 2020.

Table 2-4 provides a summary of the County’s population reporting Hispanic or Latino origin. The absolute number of people reporting Hispanic or Latino origin increased by 1,086 from 2010-2020, as did the percent change (increasing by 74.8%).

RACE & ETHNICITY CATEGORIES

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (US OMB) defines the race and ethnicity categories that federal agencies must use to collect data—including the Census Bureau. Local, state, tribal, and federal programs use these data, and they are critical factors that inform numerous policies, particularly for civil rights.

In the 1970s, Latino advocacy groups lobbied the federal government to create a separate category for Hispanics and Latinos. Before this time, both categories were grouped under the “White” race. When surveys were distributed, they often did not reach Hispanic and Latino households; those that did were not in Spanish, so results were far from accurate.

Once the US OMB provided for the distinct categories, government and other agencies began using these data to evaluate programs and policies to ensure that they fairly and equitably serve the needs of the Hispanic population and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. While some may expect to see the Hispanic or Latino category as part of the race question, it is currently asked separately because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s). Each decade, prior to the decennial census, questions on race, ethnicity, and ancestry are reviewed to determine if the categories and wording continue to reflect the country’s diverse and rapidly changing population.

Table 2-2. Racial Composition Comparisons, 2020

Race	County		State		Nation	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
One Race	47,134	94.5%	5,695,323	92.2%	297,600,338	89.8%
White	42,290	84.8%	3,007,874	48.7%	204,277,273	61.6%
Black or African American	2,811	5.6%	1,820,472	29.5%	41,104,200	12.4%
American Indian & Alaska Native	156	0.3%	31,845	0.5%	3,727,135	1.1%
Asian	589	1.2%	420,944	6.8%	19,886,049	6.0%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	19	<0.1%	3,247	0.1%	689,966	0.2%
Some Other Race	1,269	2.5%	410,941	6.7%	27,915,715	8.4%
Two or More Races	2,740	5.5%	481,901	7.8%	33,848,943	10.2%
Totals	49,874	100.0%	6,177,224	100.0%	331,449,281	100.0%

Source: 2020 U.S. Decennial Census

Table 2-3. Change in County Racial Composition

Race	2010		2020		Change	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
One Race	46,976	98.3%	47,134	94.5%	+158	+0.3%
White	42,397	88.7%	42,290	84.8%	-107	-0.3%
Black or African American	3,298	6.9%	2,811	5.6%	-487	-14.8%
American Indian & Alaska Native	149	0.3%	156	0.3%	+7	+4.7%
Asian	469	1.0%	589	1.2%	+120	+25.6%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	12	<0.1%	19	<0.1%	+7	+58.3%
Some Other Race	651	1.4%	1,269	2.5%	+618	+94.9%
Two or More Races	822	1.7%	2,740	5.5%	+1,918	+233.3%
Totals	47,798	100.0%	49,874	100.0%	+2,076	+4.3%

Source: 2010 & 2020 U.S. Decennial Census

Table 2-4. Change in Hispanic & Latino Population

Race	2010		2020		Change	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1,452	3.0%	2,538	5.1%	+1,086	+74.8%
Not Hispanic or Latino	46,346	97.0%	47,336	94.9%	+990	+2.1%
Totals	47,798	100.0%	49,874	100.0%	+2,076	+4.3%

Source: 2010 & 2020 U.S. Decennial Census

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Table 2-5 compares the County’s educational attainment for the population 25 years or older with that of the State and the nation. As the table shows, the County has a lower percentage of residents who have not graduated from high school or received their graduate equivalency (GED) than the State or the nation, while concurrently, the percentage of the population who have bachelor’s degrees or other advanced degrees is between the two. The percentage of the County’s population that are high school graduates with no other degrees is higher than those of the State or the nation, while its population with associate’s degrees is slightly higher than the State or the nation.

Please note that educational attainment data has not yet been released for the 2020 Census.

AGE

As **Table 2-6** indicates, the County’s population is older than that of the State. The median age of County residents increased by 5.6 years during the 2000-2019 period, while the median age of State residents only increased by 2.7 years during the same period. The share of the County’s population that is of working age, or between 20-64 years old, is slightly less than the State’s; the County’s population over 65 years is greater than that of the State.

Table 2-6 also shows that the County experienced some shifting in its age groups. During the 2000-2010 period, the greatest increases were seen in the 85+ and 20-24 year categories and the only losses were seen in the 25-34 and 35-44 year categories. During the 2010-2019 period, the greatest increases were seen in the 65-74 and 75-84 year categories and the losses were seen in the 35-44, 5-9, and under 5 year categories. During the overall 2000-2019 period, the greatest increases were seen in the 65-74, 85+, and 20-24 year categories and losses were seen in the 35-44, under 5, and 5-9 year categories. Changing percentages in the under 5 years and 65 years and over groups should be watched and are important as these two age groups can result in the need for more specialized services.

Please note that detailed age data has not yet been released for the 2020 Census.

Table 2-5. Educational Attainment, 2019

Education Level	County		State		Nation	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Not High School Graduates	2,389	6.8%	405,463	9.8%	26,472,261	12.0%
High School Graduate, No Degree	16,863	48.0%	1,792,984	43.3%	104,517,446	47.4%
Associate’s Degree	3,053	8.7%	277,837	6.7%	18,712,207	8.5%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	12,801	36.5%	1,662,724	40.2%	70,920,162	32.1%
Totals 25 Years or Older	35,106	100.0%	4,139,008	100.0%	220,622,076	100.0%

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Table 2-6. Age Distribution

	Age	2000		2010		2019		Change		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	'00-'10	'10-19	'00-'19
County	Under 5 Years	2,591	6.4%	2,734	5.8%	2,513	5.1%	+5.5%	-8.1%	-3.0%
	5–9 Years	2,936	7.2%	3,308	7.0%	2,914	5.9%	+12.7%	-11.9%	-0.7%
	10–19 Years	5,617	13.9%	6,531	13.9%	6,402	12.9%	+16.3%	-2.0%	+14.0%
	20–24 Years	1,510	3.7%	2,216	4.7%	2,697	5.4%	+46.8%	+21.7%	+78.6%
	25–34 Years	4,724	11.6%	4,063	8.7%	5,136	10.3%	-14.0%	+26.4%	+8.7%
	35–44 Years	7,471	18.4%	7,326	15.6%	5,501	11.1%	-1.9%	-24.9%	-26.4%
	45–54 Years	6,048	14.9%	8,109	17.3%	7,597	15.3%	+34.1%	-6.3%	+25.6%
	55–64 Years	4,439	10.9%	6,022	12.8%	7,753	15.6%	+35.7%	+28.7%	+74.7%
	65–74 Years	2,995	7.4%	3,890	8.3%	5,521	11.1%	+29.9%	+41.9%	+84.3%
	75–84 Years	1,715	4.2%	1,966	4.2%	2,669	5.4%	+14.6%	+35.8%	+55.6%
	85+ Years	517	1.3%	780	1.7%	929	1.9%	+50.9%	+19.1%	+79.7%
	Totals	40,563		46,945		49,632		+15.7%	+5.7%	+22.4%
	Median Age	38.8		41.9		44.4		+3.1	+2.5	+5.6
State	Under 5 Years	353,393	6.7%	365,093	6.4%	364,868	6.1%	+3.3%	-0.1%	+3.2%
	5–9 Years	391,318	7.4%	365,680	6.4%	370,687	6.2%	-6.6%	+1.4%	-5.3%
	10–19 Years	748,254	14.1%	794,108	13.9%	761,705	12.7%	+6.1%	-4.1%	+1.8%
	20–24 Years	314,129	5.9%	381,611	6.7%	382,580	6.4%	+21.5%	+0.3%	+21.8%
	25–34 Years	748,521	14.1%	740,163	13.0%	827,944	13.8%	-1.1%	+11.9%	+10.6%
	35–44 Years	916,156	17.3%	833,033	14.6%	769,605	12.8%	-9.1%	-7.6%	-16.0%
	45–54 Years	755,032	14.3%	882,486	15.5%	835,312	13.9%	+16.9%	-5.3%	+10.6%
	55–64 Years	470,376	8.9%	656,969	11.5%	803,469	13.3%	+39.7%	+22.3%	+70.8%
	65–74 Years	321,285	6.1%	362,224	6.4%	530,437	8.8%	+12.7%	+46.4%	+65.1%
	75–84 Years	211,120	4.0%	225,847	4.0%	262,287	4.4%	+7.0%	+16.1%	+24.2%
	85+ Years	66,902	1.3%	89,209	1.6%	109,954	1.8%	+33.3%	+23.3%	+64.4%
	Totals	5,296,486		5,696,423		6,018,848		+7.6%	+5.7%	+13.6%
	Median Age	36.0		37.6		38.7		+1.6	+1.1	+2.7

Source: 2000 U.S. Decennial Census; 2006-2010 & 2015-2019 American Community Survey