




THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION


MCPB
Item No. 2
July 25, 2002

July 18, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Drew Dedrick, Chief, Research and Technology Center 

FROM: Pamela Zorich, Planner Coordinator, Research and Technology Center 

SUBJECT: Demographic Changes in Montgomery County Revealed in the 2000 U.S. Census

The 2000 U.S. Census data released over the past year offers a snapshot of Montgomery County and how it has changed since 1990. The data confirms how demographically diverse the County has become over the recent decades. The evolving diversity underlies the County's population growth, increasing racial diversity, immigration patterns, and housing characteristics.

Now compared to 10 years ago, the Census data reveals that County residents are:

- more diverse; two out of five residents (40.5%) are categorized as a minority compared to two out of seven (27.6%) in 1990
- more likely to be from abroad; a 65 percent increase in the County's foreign born population translates into about one out of four residents (26.7%) who have immigrated into the United States
- more educated; there are almost twice as many people with a graduate or professional degree (163,326) than with a high school diploma (86,009)
- enduring a longer commute (32.8 minutes); residents are more likely to be driving alone (68.9%) and less likely to be using carpools (10.9%), or are avoiding traffic all together by working at home (4.8%)
- bringing in slightly more household income (\$71,551), even though male, full-time workers are earning \$1,500 less
- owning houses that dropped in value (\$221,800), but cost a little more when adjusted for inflation (\$1,577)

Drew Dedrick, Chief of the Research and Technology Center, and staff have prepared a presentation highlighting the demographic shifts occurring across the past decade. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation will be available at the meeting.