

-- DRAFT FEBRUARY 2019 --

2 | COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Community Profile chapter analyzes demographic factors related to the County's socio-economic conditions. The demographic factors analyzed in this chapter are: Population • Age • Race and Ethnicity • Housing • Income, Poverty, and Benefits • Education • Employment • Commute.

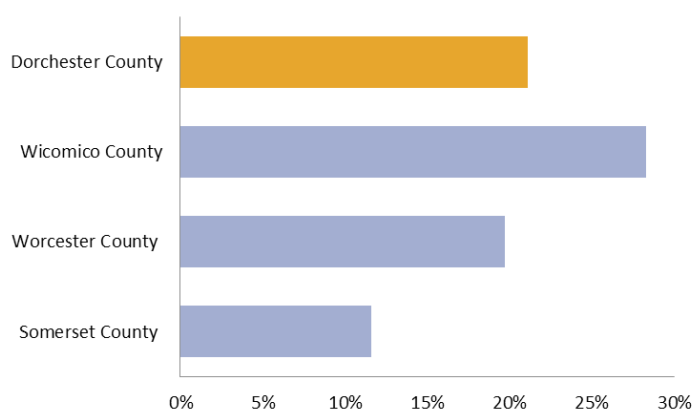
Though these factors constantly change, analyzing patterns over time help identify trends, changes, and needs. In addition, demographic analysis provide insights regarding future conditions enabling informed judgement on many important County strategies, such as investments and services, infrastructure needs, resource allocation, land use changes, and economic incentives. This community profile provides valuable insights about the County. For this reason, some of the information presented in this chapter will be further discussed in other chapters.

POPULATION

As of 2010, Dorchester County's population was estimated to be 32,618 people. Since 1970, the State's population steadily increased while Dorchester County's population fluctuated. From 1970 to 1980, the County gained 1,218 residents, and then lost 387 residents from 1980 to 1990. Since 1990, the County's population has only increased. The largest increase was experienced between 2000 and 2010, gaining 1,994 new residents, which is an increase of 5%. Altogether, the County gained 3,213 residents from 1970 to 2010, increasing its population by 11% over 40 years which is relatively low when compared to the State. During the same 40 years, the State experienced a 47% population increase. According to the Maryland Department of Planning State Data Center, this trend will shift in the upcoming decades. The agency has projected that the County will experience a 21% population increase between 2010 and 2040, while the State will experience an 18% increase during the same years. Based on these projections, the County's population will reach approximately 39,500 people by 2040. **Table 2.1 Population** shows State and County data from 1970 to 2040. As of 2016, the County's population was estimated to be 32,451 people, which indicates that the County has lost residents since 2010. However, according to the MDP population projections, the County is projected to gain 1,682 residents between 2010 and 2020. As of 2016, the County does not appear on track with the State projections. As such, the County may not reach the 2040 population projection.

Within the Lower Eastern Shore Region, Dorchester County is projected to have the second highest population growth between 2010 and 2040, behind Wicomico County who was projected to experience 28% growth. Overall, the average growth rate for the region from 2010 to 2040 is 20%. See **Figure 2.1** for more detailed information on the projected population growth for each County within the Lower Eastern Shore Region

Figure 2.1 2010 - 2040 Lower Eastern Shore Region Projected Population Growth



Source: Maryland Department of Planning, Projections and State Data Center, 2020 - 2040

Table 2.1 Population

	CENSUS					PROJECTIONS		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
DORCHESTER COUNTY								
TOTAL POPULATION	29,405	30,623	30,236	30,674	32,618	34,300	37,350	39,500
POPULATION CHANGE	N/A	1,218	-387	438	1,944	1,682	3,050	2,150
% CHANGE	N/A	4.1%	-1%	1%	6%	5%	9%	6%
MARYLAND								
% CHANGE	N/A	7.5%	13%	11%	9%	6%	6%	5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1970 - 2010
 Maryland Department of Planning State Data Center, 2017, Projections 2020 - 2040

Between 1970 and 2016, an average of 48% of the County’s population lived in municipalities and 52% lived in unincorporated areas. The municipalities that experienced the highest population increase within these years were Hurlock, Secretary, and East New Market while Brookview and Eldorado lost population. Within the upcoming years, the majority of the population might shift to live within the municipalities. As shown in **Table 2.2 Municipal Population**, since the year 2000, the population living in municipalities has increased while the population living in unincorporated areas has decreased. In 2016, when compared to all other State Counties, Dorchester ranked second as having the most population living within municipalities. Dorchester’s municipal population was 50% of the County’s total population, behind Talbot County which had 52% of the County’s total population living within municipalities. In 2016, Cambridge also ranked second with the highest County population living within a municipality at 38%, behind Easton which had 45% of the Talbot County’s population.

AGE

Between 2000 and 2016, both the County and the State had a similar distribution of age groups. In 2000, the median age for the County was 41 years and 36 in the State. By 2016, the median age increased to 44 years in the County and 38 years in the State. In the same period, there has been a decline in the number of school-age children of 10 to 19 years, while the number of citizens over 60 has increased. The 60 to 64 age group increased the most with a 52% increase in the County and a 76% increase in the State. **See Table 2.3 Age.**

Table 2.2 Municipal Population

						% CHANGE
	1970	1980	2000	2010	2016	1970 - 2016
BROOKVIEW	95	78	65	60	48	-49%
CAMBRIDGE	11,595	11,703	10,911	12,326	12,552	8%
CHURCH CREEK	130	124	85	125	106	-18%
EAST NEW MARKET	251	230	167	400	414	65%
ELDORADO	99	93	60	59	58	-41%
GALESTOWN	123	142	101	138	123	0%
HURLOCK	1,056	1,690	1,874	2,092	2,092	98%
SECRETARY	352	487	503	535	681	93%
VIENNA	358	300	280	271	283	-21%
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES	14,059	14,847	14,046	16,006	16,357	16%
% OF COUNTY	48%	48%	46%	49%	50%	2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1970 - 2010
 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016

Table 2.3 Age

	AGE			% OF POPULATION	COUNTY % CHANGE	MD % CHANGE
	2000	2010	2016	2016	2000-2016	2000-2016
DORCHESTER COUNTY						
UNDER 5 YEARS	1,650	2,037	1,953	6%	18%	4%
5 TO 9 YEARS	2,017	1,902	2,032	6%	1%	-4%
10 TO 14 YEARS	2,166	1,855	1,738	5%	-20%	-4%
15 TO 19 YEARS	1,954	2,035	1,713	5%	-12%	9%
20 TO 24 YEARS	1,434	1,803	1,902	6%	33%	28%
25 TO 34 YEARS	3,457	3,537	3,824	12%	11%	10%
35 TO 44 YEARS	4,760	3,872	3,417	11%	-28%	-16%
45 TO 54 YEARS	4,343	5,181	4,638	14%	7%	16%
55 TO 59 YEARS	1,885	2,401	2,455	8%	30%	53%
60 TO 64 YEARS	1,585	2,224	2,415	7%	52%	76%
65 TO 74 YEARS	2,872	3,186	3,606	11%	26%	48%
75 TO 84 YEARS	1,922	1,829	1,979	6%	3%	12%
85 YEARS AND OVER	629	756	779	2%	24%	61%
TOTAL POPULATION	30,674	32,618	32,451	-	-	-
COUNTY MEDIAN AGE	41	43	44	-	-	-
MARYLAND MEDIAN AGE	36	38	38	-	-	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Dorchester County's population slightly diversified between 2000 and 2016. The white population decreased by 3.1%. Asian, other, and two races or more racial groups increased by 0.4%, 1.3%, and 1.8%, respectively. Throughout the same years, the Hispanic or Latino ethnic group had the highest percentage increase in the County and State as indicated in **Table 2.4**. The County's Hispanic or Latino population increased by 4%, and the State experienced a 5% increase. As of 2016, the County's population was still not as diverse as the State's. White and black were the predominant races accounting for 94% of the County's population. These same racial groups represented 87% of the State's population.

Table 2.4 Race and Ethnicity

	2000	2010	2016
DORCHESTER COUNTY			
WHITE	69%	68%	66%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	28%	28%	28%
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	0%	0%	0%
ASIAN	1%	1%	1%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC	0%	0%	0%
OTHER	0%	1%	2%
TWO RACES OR MORE	1%	2%	3%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	1%	3%	5%
NOT HISPANIC	99%	97%	95%
MARYLAND			
HISPANIC OR LATINO	4%	8%	9%
NOT HISPANIC	96%	92%	91%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016

HOUSING

This section analyzes two demographic factors, housing units and households. The U.S. Census defines housing units as a “house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room... when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters”. A household can generally be defined as an occupied housing unit.

HOUSEHOLDS

From 1970 to 2010, the County and State experienced a household increase, 39% and 84%, respectively. Both geographies had the highest household increase between 1970 and 1980 with an increase of 16% in the County and 24% in the State. From 1980 to 2000, the household growth rate declined in both the County and the State. The County experienced a 1% increase in households from 2000 to 2010, despite the State experiencing a 4% decrease. The Maryland Department of Planning has projected an increase of 3,405 households in the County from 2010 to 2040, equating to an increase of 25%. Similarly, the Maryland Department of Planning has projected households statewide to increase by 23% over the same period.

The average household size in both the County and the State experienced a slight decrease between 1980 and 2010. The Maryland Department of Planning estimated that the average household size will continue to slightly decrease between 2010 and 2040 in both geographies. **Table 2.5 Households** shows State and County data from 1970 to 2040.

Table 2.5 Households

	CENSUS					PROJECTIONS		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
DORCHESTER COUNTY								
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	9,725	11,329	12,117	12,706	13,522	14,374	15,802	16,927
HOUSEHOLDS CHANGE	N/A	1,604	788	589	816	852	1,428	1,125
% CHANGE IN DECADE	N/A	16%	7%	5%	6%	6%	10%	7%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	N/A	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
MARYLAND								
% CHANGE IN DECADE	N/A	24%	20%	13%	9%	8%	8%	6%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE	N/A	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1970 - 2010
 Maryland Department of Planning, Projections and State Data Center

HOUSING UNITS

There were approximately 16,700 housing units within Dorchester County as of 2016. These units had the same renter/owner occupied ratio as the State, about 65% owner occupied and 35% renter occupied. **See Table 2.6 2016 Occupancy and Tenure Characteristics.** Compared to the State, the County’s vacancy rate was two times greater and the median property value was almost a third lower.

Per the 2016 American Community Survey, it was estimated that 73% of the County housing units were single family detached, 16% were multi-family units, and 6% were mobile homes. Since the year 2000, about 87% of the new housing units built have been single family homes.

Table 2.6 2016 Occupancy and Tenure Characteristics

	DORCHESTER COUNTY		MD
OCCUPIED	13,206	79%	90%
OWNER-OCCUPIED	8,628	52%	60%
RENTER-OCCUPIED	4,578	27%	30%
VACANT	3,494	21%	10%
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	16,700		2,421,909
MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE	\$188,100		\$290,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016

INCOME, POVERTY, AND BENEFITS

As indicated in **Table 2.7 2016 Income and Poverty**, there is a wide disparity in income levels between the overall State as compared to Dorchester County. Approximately half of the County's households earn less than \$50,000 per year as compared to approximately 33% of the State's households. In addition, only 18% of the County's population earn more than \$100,000 compared to 37% of the State's households. The 2016 median household income for the County is \$47,907 compared to \$76,067 for the entire State. Additionally, 17% of the County's households fall below the poverty line compared to 10% of the State's households. Finally, the County has a higher percentage of households receiving Food Stamps / Snap benefits than the State.

COMMUTE

In 2016, the vast majority of County and State employed residents drove alone to work. The remaining carpooled, worked from home, or walked. Very few employed County residents, 1%, took public transportation to work. Public transportation was significantly higher at State level, where 9% of employed residents chose this method. The average commute time for County residents was 25 minutes, 7 minutes shorter than the average State commute. See **Table 2.8 2016 Commute**.

Table 2.9 represents the County's inflow and outflow of jobs. In 2015 there were 10,810 people employed within Dorchester County. Of these employed people, 5,425, or 50%, lived outside and 5,385 were residents in the County. Also in 2015, there were 15,703 employed residents of Dorchester County. Of these employed residents, 10,318, or 66%, commuted out of the County for employment.

Table 2.8 2016 Commute

	DORCHESTER COUNTY		MD
DRIVE ALONE	11,644	79%	74%
CARPOOL	2,042	14%	9%
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	77	1%	9%
WALK	341	2%	2%
OTHER MEANS	257	2%	1%
WORK AT HOME	458	3%	4%
MEAN TRAVEL TIME (MIN)	25		32

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016

Table 2.9 2015 Job Inflow and Outflow

EMPLOYED IN THE COUNTY	10,810	
LIVED OUTSIDE COUNTY	5,425	50%
LIVED IN COUNTY	5,385	50%
EMPLOYED RESIDENTS IN THE COUNTY	15,703	
COMMUTED OUTSIDE OF COUNTY	10,318	66%
EMPLOYED AND LIVED IN THE COUNTY	5,385	34%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies, 2015

Table 2.7 2016 Household Income and Poverty

	DORCHESTER COUNTY		MARYLAND	
LESS THAN \$24,999	3,367	25%	323,996	15%
\$25,000 TO \$49,999	3,421	26%	383,194	18%
\$50,000 TO \$99,999	3,990	30%	657,009	30%
\$100,000 OR MORE	2,428	18%	813,293	37%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	13,206	100%	2,177,492	
MEDIAN HH INCOME	-	\$47,907	\$76,067	
POVERTY LEVEL ¹	-	17%	-	10%
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS AND SNAP BENEFITS	3,144	24%	24%	11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates 2012-2016
 Note: 1. Percentage of people whose income was below the poverty level.