

Demographics

Population

The Severn Small Area is home to 36,896 residents according to the 2000¹ Census. From 1990 to 2000, Severn grew by 6,430 people, or a 21.1 percent rate of growth. The projected population for 2010 will be about 42,755, a 15.9 percent increase from 2000.

Among its 36,896 residents, about 7.5 percent are pre-school children. The school-aged children constitute 21.2 percent of the area's total population. The household and career formers, who are 18 to 44 years old,² approximate to 42.7 percent of total residents in the Severn Small Area. The proportion of people who are in the established household and career age group (45-64 years old) is 22.8 percent. The Severn Small Area has about 2,100 senior citizens (65 years old or over). The senior citizens account for about 5.8 percent of the area's total population.

The Severn Small Area is one of the more racially and ethnically diverse areas within the County and is becoming more diverse. The area today has about 61 percent white residents, as compared to 70.3 percent in 1990. The Severn Small Area also consists of residents from other races, including 30 percent black or African American; 4.2 percent Asian, Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander; 0.4 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native; and 1.4 percent of people from other races. People of the Hispanic or Latino origin³ amount to 3.4 percent of the area's total residents.

Housing, Households, and Families

In 2000, there were 12,686 households in the Severn Small Area, an increase of 27.6 percent from 9,940 households in 1990. The projected households for 2010 will be about 15,300 in the Severn Small Area, in which the County will continue to accommodate and encourage the development within the Priority Funding Areas.

The Severn Small Area experienced growth in both owner and renter-occupied housing units. In 1990, the area had 6,880 owner-occupied units and 3,060 renter-occupied units. In 2000, there are 9,325 owner-occupied units and 3,361 renter-occupied units. At a 35.5 percent growth rate, the area grew faster in owner-occupied units, which triggered an increase in the home ownership rate from 69.2 percent in 1990 to 73.5 percent in 2000.

The Severn Small Area population is family-oriented. The area gained 1,728 families between 1990 and 2000. However, the proportion of families out of the area's total number of households dropped from 83.5 percent in 1990 to 79.0 percent in 2000.

Employment

Data on employment for the Severn Small Area are based on 1990 Census figures, which is the most recent information available. In 1990, there were 15,957 civilian and 649 military employed persons living in this area. The unemployment rate was 3.3 percent while the County's was 3.1 percent. The Severn Small Area has a very high labor force participation rate with 79.7 percent of the population age 16 and over in the labor force compared with 73.7 percent for the County. Male participation rates at 86 percent were much higher than the County rate of 82 percent. Female participation rates were 73.7 percent, again much higher than the County rate of 65.2 percent.

Major employers include: Kop-Flex Corporation, U.S. Foodservice, Russell William Ltd., Atlas Containers, Power Con Corp, Hi Tech Color, Inc., Lancaster Products, and Carnival Equipment. The Arundel Mills Mall, with 1.3 million square feet of retail space, employs about 3,500 employees with additional adjacent retail and office space to double this figure.

The percentage of people who drove alone to work from Severn was 71.6 percent, very close to the County rate of 72.3 percent. Just over 14 percent of workers carpooled to work. This percentage is slightly higher than the countywide figure of 12.7 percent. Only 1.3 percent used public transportation, which is lower than the County figure of 1.6 percent. Travel time to work was 24 minutes, while the County mean was 26 minutes.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau: Census 2000 Summary File 1.

² This age classification that was defined by Mr. Alexander "Sandy" Speer differs from the census age classification.

³ People of the Hispanic and Latino origin can be of any race.