

Summary of Population and Household Data

2000 Census

Information from STF-1 (Tabulated responses to the short census questionnaire)

- Between 1990 and 2000, Mercer County's population stabilized. The county's population dropped from 121,003 in 1990 to 120,293 in 2000, a loss of 710 or .6%.
- Cities and boroughs combined experienced a decline in population from 1990, however, townships experienced a gain in population. The population of cities and boroughs dropped from 67,988 in 1990 to 65,865 in 2000, a loss of 2,123 or 3.1%. The population of townships increased from 53,015 in 1990 to 54,428 in 2000, an addition of 1,413 or 2.6%.
- Five of the seventeen cities and boroughs in Mercer County saw a population increase since 1990. Sheakleyville Borough experienced the highest percentage increase of 11.6%. Twenty-three of the 32 townships experienced a population increase since 1990. Fairview, Jefferson, Salem and Wolf Creek Townships all saw percentage increases of greater than 10%.
- In 1990, the population of minorities in Mercer County was 6,917, or 5.7% of the total population. In 2000, the population of minorities increased to 8,785, or 7.3%.
- The median age in Mercer County rose from 36.4 in 1990 to 39.6 in 2000.
- In 1990, the population in Mercer County of people aged 65 and over was 20,777, or 17.2% of the total population. In 2000, the population of people aged 65 and over increased to 21,740, or 18.1%.
- In 1990, the population in Mercer County of the 15-24 age cohort was 17,532. In 2000, this cohort's population (aged 25-34) decreased to 13,505.
- In 1990, the population in Mercer County of the 5-14 age cohort was 15,835. In 2000, this cohort's population (aged 15-24) increased slightly to 16,073.
- Mercer County saw an increase in the number of housing units from 48,689 in 1990 to 49,847 in 2000, an addition of 1,158 or 2.3%.
- While cities and boroughs in Mercer County combined saw a small decrease in the total number of housing units since 1990, townships saw an increase of 1,167, or 5.5%.
- In 1990, the number of owner occupied housing units in Mercer County was 34,184, or 70.2% of all housing units. In 2000, the number of owner occupied housing units was 35,646, or 76.3%.
- In 1990, the number of renter occupied housing units in Mercer County was 11,407, or 23.4% of total housing units. In 2000, the number of renter occupied housing units decreased slightly to 11,066, or 23.7%.
- Cities and boroughs combined saw a decrease in the number of owner occupied housing units, dropping from 18,125 in 1990 to 18,037 in 2000, a loss of 88 or .5%.
- The percentage of housing units in Mercer County that are vacant increased from 4.9% in 1990 to 6.3% in 2000.
- The percentage of housing units in cities and boroughs combined that are vacant increased from 5.6% in 1990 to 6.8% in 2000.
- The average household size in Mercer County dropped from 2.54 in 1990 to 2.44 in 2000.
- In 1990, the number of households in Mercer County with children under the age of 18 was 15,043, or 33% of total households. In 2000, the number of households with children under the age of 18 decreased to 14,883, or 31.9%.
- In 1990, the number of households in Mercer County with children under the age of 18 and headed by a single parent was 3,382, or 22.5% of total households with children under the age of 18. In 2000, this number increased to 3,696, or 24.8%.
- In 1990, the number of households in Mercer County with people aged 65 and over was 14,407, or 31.6% of total households. In 2000, the number of households with people aged 65 and over was 14,672, or 31.4%.
- In 1990, the population in Mercer County living in group quarters was 5,378, or 4.4% of the county population. In 2000, the population living in group quarters increased to 6,362, or 5.3%.

