

Plan On It

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2010 Census: What Do the Numbers Tell Us?

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The US Census Bureau recently released detailed 2010 population, age, sex, race, ethnic, and housing data for the nation. The full count of the population has provided an updated portrait of America every 10 years since the Census began in 1790. As mandated by the Constitution, the count determines the number of seats each state receives of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each member of the House represented about 34,000 residents in 1790 (69 seats). Since then the House has more than quadrupled that amount, with each member representing over 700,000 constituents.

Population

The United States population has passed the 300 million mark, with 308,745,538 people. Dutchess County didn't quite reach the 300 thousand mark, with 297,488 people, a 6.2% increase since 2000. We did retain our standing as the 15th most populated county in New York State (NYS). The State did not fare as well with a population growth rate of 2.1%, significantly behind the national average of 9.7%. Due to the low level of growth in the State, New York lost two seats in the House of Representatives.

The Mid-Hudson region (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties) has been growing steadily throughout the decades, and was the fastest growing region in NYS during the last decade. Dutchess County had the 5th highest percentage population growth rate among the state's 62 counties. Orange and Rockland counties rank 2nd & 3rd in fastest growing counties in the state.

Population				
	1990	2000	2010	2000 - 2010 % Change
New York State	17,990,455	18,976,457	19,378,102	2.1%
Mid-Hudson region	2,025,972	2,179,189	2,290,851	5.1%
Dutchess	259,462	280,150	297,488	6.2%
Orange	307,647	341,367	372,813	9.2%
Putnam	83,941	95,745	99,710	4.1%
Rockland	265,475	286,753	311,687	8.7%
Sullivan	69,277	73,966	77,547	4.8%
Ulster	165,304	177,749	182,493	2.7%
Westchester	874,866	923,459	949,113	2.8%

Race

The most recent release from the 2010 Census gave details on six race choices, and respondents could indicate if they were of one race or two or more races. The only race category that showed a decrease in percentage growth for Dutchess County was White Alone, which decreased by 3.6%. The two categories that showed the biggest percentage increases were Some Other Race (increased 1.1%) and Asian (increased 1.0%). Nationwide, the Asian race group grew more than any other race.

Race — Dutchess County				
	2000	% of Population	2010	% of Population
White	234,385	83.7%	238,387	80.1%
Black or African American	26,097	9.3%	29,518	9.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	609	0.2%	893	0.3%
Asian	7,048	2.5%	10,437	3.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	88	0.0%	108	0.0%
Some other race	6,626	2.4%	10,345	3.5%
Two or more races	5,297	1.9%	7,800	2.6%

Ethnicity

The census also asked respondents if they are of Hispanic or Latino Origin. This is not a race category, but rather a question of ethnicity. The data includes the breakout of Hispanic or Latino Origin along with the associated racial category chosen. As the table below shows, the percentage of people indicating that they are of Hispanic or Latino Origin has increased significantly. Nationwide, more than half of the total population increase of 27.3 million was of Hispanic or Latino Origin, a 43% increase since 2000. Puerto Rico had the highest percentage for origin, and the race category with the highest percentage of Hispanic/Latino Origin was White Alone.

Ethnicity — Dutchess County				
	2000	% of Population	2010	% of Population
Hispanic or Latino Origin	18,060	6.4%	31,267	10.5%

Age

After the 2000 Census, the Planning Department took a look at the age data and how it related to the aging "Baby Boomer" population. Baby boomers are the largest generation in history, born post-World War II between 1946 and 1964. Although the 1957 baby boomer generation single year record birth rate of 4.3 million was surpassed in 2007, with 4.31 million births, there has been no other generation that has had the consistently high birth rates of post-World War II. Recent data shows birth rates in the U. S. are decreasing from the 2007 record setting number. The U.S. birth rate fell more rapidly from 2007 through 2009 than for any other 2-year period in more than 30 years. Early numbers from 2010 show a continued drop, which is the historic reaction to a recession.

We expected that the percentage of population age 65 and over would increase over the next few decades, and the percentage of the under 18 age group to decrease as the baby boomers' children (known as the boomlet or baby echo generation) aged. The 2010 Census confirms that forecast to be correct.

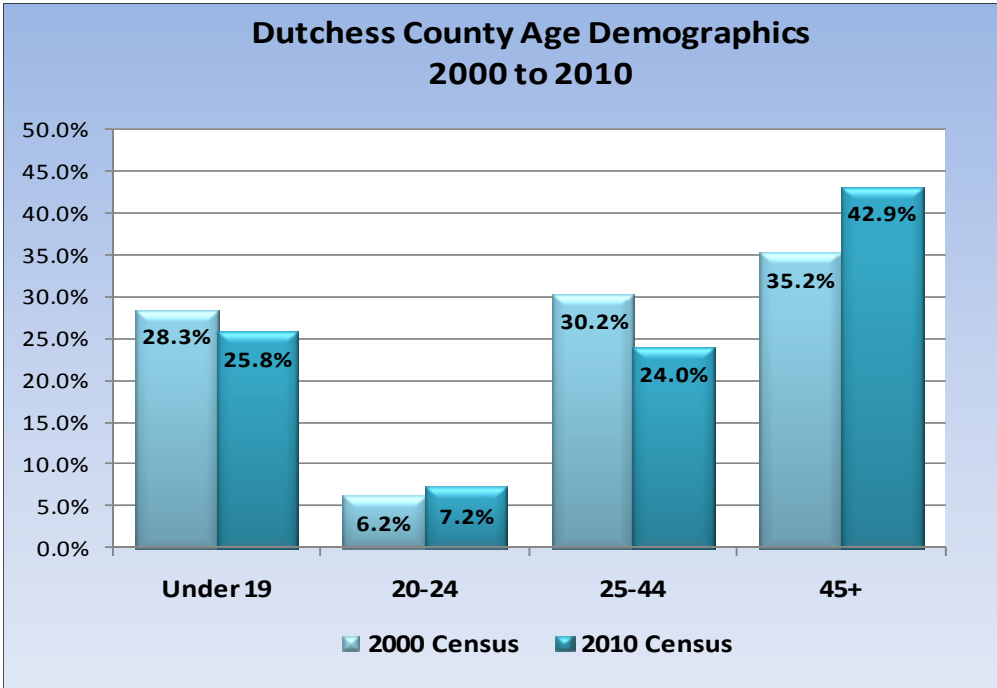
There was no repeat of a "baby boom" generation in the past decade. There is a real concern, especially in many rural and older suburban communities, of having few kids and a large elderly population. These demographics change the dynamics of a community, limiting growth and changing the types of supporting services and retailers to ones that cater to the older community. It is expected that the elderly population growth rates during the 2010-2030 period will continue to increase dramatically as the Baby Boomer generation ages into the 65 and over group.

2010 Census Quick Facts

- All Dutchess County municipalities gained population of Hispanic or Latino Origin
- Town of Rhinebeck has the oldest median age in the County — 50.4
- Only four municipalities had a decrease in the percentage of population over age 18 (since 2000 Census)

[Click Here for more Quick Facts](#)

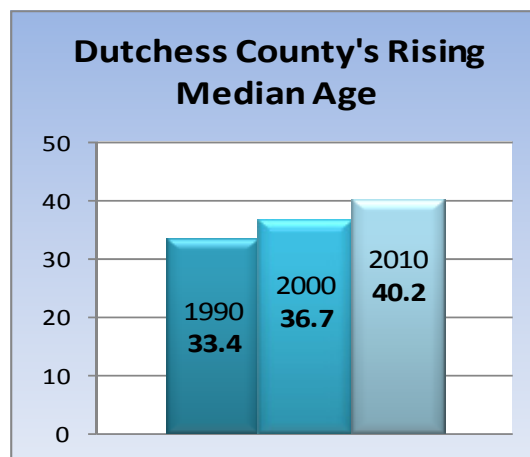
As the chart below illustrates, the last of the baby boomers are now over the age of 44 and the boomers' children are in short supply. Nationally the 20-44 age group percentage decreased 3.3% between 2000 and 2010. Dutchess County saw a loss of 5.2% in this same age group. While the 20-24 age group actually increased in Dutchess by 1%, the 25-34 group decreased by 1.8%, and the 35-44 age group decreased by 4.4%. This is important to planners, and especially to communities who want to attract and retain the limited percentage of younger age groups. Targeting the types of development that will create opportunities for affordable housing, providing a variety of available housing types, and job availability are key factors to keeping and attracting the 20-44 age group.



Census data by school district reflects this change in age demographics. Many school districts saw an increase in overall population for the district, but in all but one case, the number of school-age children in the districts have dropped.

School Districts Population						
District	Total Population (2000)	Total Population (2010)	% Change	Age 0-17 (2000)	Age 0-17 (2010)	% Change
Arlington	52,044	58,107	11.6%	14,048	13,660	(-2.8%)
Beacon	25,938	27,294	5.2%	5,431	5,132	(-5.5%)
Dover	10,262	10,260	0.0%	2,801	2,330	(-16.8%)
Hyde Park	31,725	32,065	1.1%	7,106	6,145	(-13.5%)
Millbrook	7,641	7,905	3.5%	2,048	1,854	(-9.5%)
Pawling	8,034	9,030	12.4%	2,052	2,228	8.60%
Pine Plains	11,238	9,080	(-19.2%)	2,154	1,788	(-17.0%)
Poughkeepsie	29,871	32,602	9.1%	7,750	7,261	(-6.3%)
Red Hook	12,740	14,033	10.1%	3,290	2,930	(-10.9%)
Rhinebeck	9,719	9,711	(-0.1%)	2,081	1,693	(-18.6%)
Spackenkill	8,763	8,870	1.2%	2,317	2,074	(-10.5%)
Wappingers	66,797	73,111	9.5%	17,831	17,578	(-1.4%)
Webutuck	6,468	6,750	4.4%	1,773	1,654	(-6.7%)

Along with this, the median age is rising. For the United States, the 2010 median age (half younger and half older) rose to 37.2 up from 35.3 in 2000. In Dutchess County the median age went from 36.7 to 40.2, with the Town and Village of Rhinebeck having the oldest median ages at 50.4 and 49.6 respectively. The municipality with the youngest median age was the City of Poughkeepsie at 32.4.



Housing

Dutchess County has 118,638 housing units, up from 106,103 in 2000. As the table below shows, while we have more housing units, the percentage of units occupied has decreased and the percentage of non-seasonal vacant units has increased. The average household size for rented units continues to be smaller than for owner-occupied units, but is up a little from 2000, following a national trend.

Housing Occupancy — Dutchess County			
2000		2010	
Occupied Units	93.8%	Occupied Units	91.0%
Owner	69.0%	Owner	69.5%
Renter	31.0%	Renter	30.5%
Vacant Units	6.2%	Vacant Units	9.0%
Vacant	63.0%	Vacant	67.0%
Seasonal	37.0%	Seasonal	33.0%

Average Household Size — Dutchess County		
	2000	2010
Owner occupied	2.81	2.72
Renter occupied	2.23	2.24

Family households (related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption) account for 67.5% of all households in Dutchess County, a decrease of 2% since 2000. When looking at the number of all households with residents under 18, the decreasing percentages agree with the age data looked at previously. The average family and household size has also been decreasing. Some places across the nation, like Maryland and Florida, are actually reversing the 50 year trend of declining household size by showing slight increases or remaining steady. The cause of this is believed to be more multi-generational families living together due to the current economy.

So what do the numbers tell us?

Dutchess County is following the nationwide trend of getting a bit older, yet getting more diverse. Our county has the good fortune to have five prestigious colleges and the amenities to attract all generations, but the question remains — how do we retain the variety of ages that will keep us a thriving and successful community? The data tells us that we should be planning now for facilities and activities for older adults, as well as providing those that will attract and retain the younger set. To remain the healthy community we currently are, we will have to provide a little of both.

More Information

[Overview of 2010 Census](#)

Dutchess County's [2010 Census Quick Facts](#)

[2010 Census general profiles](#) for Dutchess County and its municipalities

[CLICK HERE](#) to view past issues of the DCPF's newsletter, *Plan On It*.

This newsletter was developed by the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Planning Federation.

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