

## Profile 2 - Socioeconomic Profile

### Introduction

Quantitative and qualitative analyses of population trends and characteristics are needed to assess the demand for current services and to make reasonable projections for future population growth and needs. Land area requirements for future residential, recreation, commercial, industrial, and other needs are directly related to the requirements of the population to be served. Population projections indicate trends in future demand for schools, transportation facilities and other public infrastructure and services.

### Population Growth Trends

**Mercer County's population is slipping as a result of changes in the economy.** According to the 2000 Census, Mercer County had a resident population of 120,293 persons in 2000. The County ranked 29th in total population among Pennsylvania's 67 counties in 2000.

The County saw a decrease of 0.6 percent, or 710 residents, between 1990 and 2000. This trend is a result of death and out-migration rates exceeding birth and in-migration rates. This trend began in the 1980s and by 1990 had resulted in a 5.7 percent loss in resident population. Much of this trend is due to the direct and indirect economic impacts of manufacturing operations downsizing and/or leaving Mercer County over the past 20-25 years.

**Table 2-1 Population Growth in the Mercer County Region, 1960-2003**

|                     | Population |            |            |            |            | 2003<br>estimate | Population<br>Change |               |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|                     | 1960       | 1970       | 1980       | 1990       | 2000       |                  | 1990-<br>2000        | 1960-<br>2000 |
| Pennsylvania        | 11,319,366 | 11,793,909 | 11,863,895 | 11,881,643 | 12,281,054 | 12,365,455       | 3.4%                 | 8.5%          |
| Mercer              | 127,519    | 127,225    | 128,299    | 121,003    | 120,293    | 119,895          | -0.6%                | -5.7%         |
| Butler              | 114,639    | 127,941    | 147,912    | 152,013    | 174,083    | 180,040          | 14.5%                | 51.9%         |
| Crawford            | 77,956     | 81,342     | 88,869     | 86,169     | 90,366     | 89,846           | 4.9%                 | 15.9%         |
| Lawrence            | 112,965    | 107,374    | 107,150    | 96,246     | 94,643     | 93,408           | -1.7%                | -16.2%        |
| Venango             | 65,295     | 62,353     | 64,444     | 59,381     | 57,565     | 56,600           | -3.1%                | -11.8%        |
| Mahoning County, OH | 300,480    | 303,424    | 289,487    | 264,806    | 257,555    | 251,660          | -2.7%                | -14.3%        |
| Trumbull County, OH | 208,526    | 232,579    | 241,863    | 227,813    | 225,116    | 221,785          | -1.2%                | 8.0%          |

Source: US Census Bureau

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- According the U.S. Census Bureau, the County's estimated 2003 resident population was 119,895 persons. This represents a decline of 398 persons or an additional 0.3 percent since 2000. Mercer County maintained its rank as the 29<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Pennsylvania and ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in population change from 2000-2003. Butler County was the only county in the Mercer County area estimated with positive growth (3.4 percent), most of which is attributed to out-migration from Allegheny County.

**Table 2-2  
2003 Population Estimates in the Mercer County Region**

|                 | 2000 Census | 2000 PA<br>County Rank<br>by Population | July 1, 2003<br>Population<br>Estimate | 2003 PA<br>County Rank<br>by Population | Population<br>Change 2000-<br>2003 | Percent<br>Population<br>Change 2000-<br>2003 | County Rank by<br>Population<br>Change<br>2000-2003 |
|-----------------|-------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Pennsylvania    | 12,281,054  | -                                       | 12,365,455                             | -                                       | 84,401                             | 0.7   | -   |
| Mercer County   | 120,293     | 29                                      | 119,895                                | 29                                      | -398                               | -0.3  | 38  |
| Butler County   | 174,083     | 20                                      | 180,040                                | 19                                      | 5,957                              | 3.4   | 8   |
| Crawford County | 90,366      | 34                                      | 89,846                                 | 34                                      | -520                               | -0.6  | 40  |
| Lawrence County | 94,643      | 31                                      | 93,408                                 | 32                                      | -1,235                             | -1.3  | 50  |
| Venango County  | 57,565      | 42                                      | 56,600                                 | 42                                      | -965                               | -1.7  | 59  |
| Mahoning County | 257,555     | -                                       | 251,660                                | -                                       | -5,895                             | -2.3  | -   |
| Trumbull County | 225,116     | -                                       | 221,785                                | -                                       | -3,331                             | -1.5  | -   |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

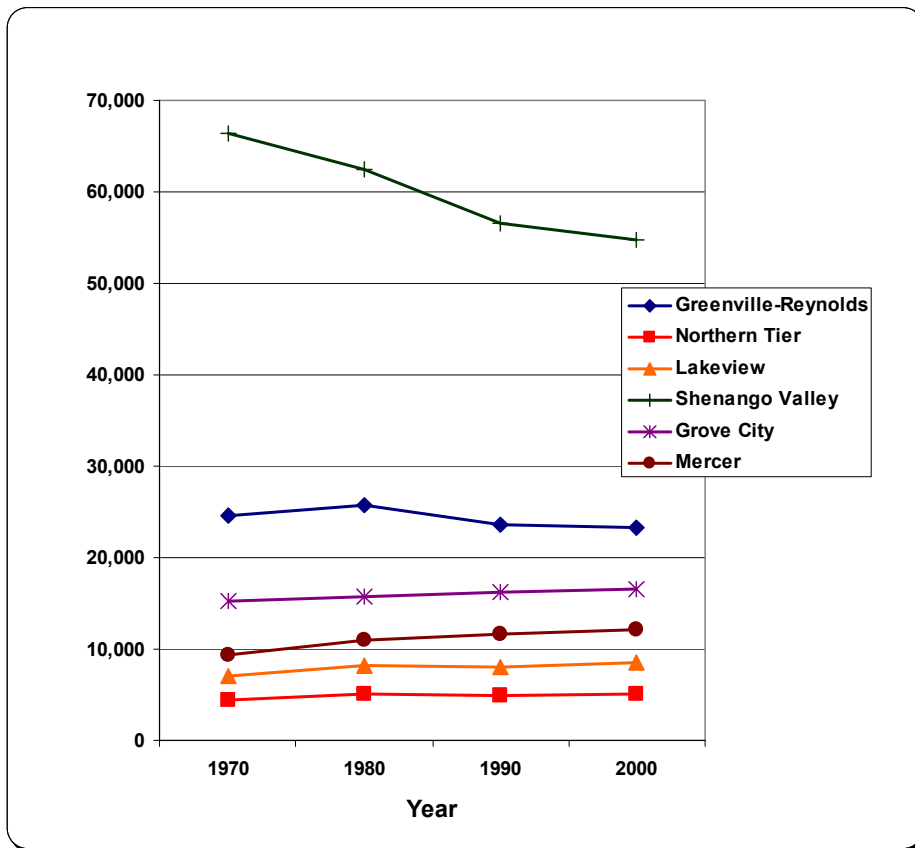
**Table 2-3  
2003 Population Estimates in the Western Pennsylvania Region**

|                               | Census<br>2000 | 2003<br>Estimate | % change |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Pennsylvania                  | 12,281,054     | 12,365,455       | 0.7%     |
| Northwest Pennsylvania Region | 734,284        | 728,732          | -0.8%    |
| Clarion                       | 41,765         | 41,208           | -1.3%    |
| Crawford                      | 90,366         | 89,846           | -0.6%    |
| Erie                          | 280,843        | 279,966          | -0.3%    |
| Forest                        | 4,946          | 4,989            | 0.9%     |
| Lawrence                      | 94,643         | 93,408           | -1.3%    |
| Mercer                        | 120,293        | 119,895          | -0.3%    |
| Venango                       | 57,565         | 56,600           | -1.7%    |
| Warren                        | 43,863         | 42,820           | -2.4%    |
| Southwest Pennsylvania Region | 2,561,364      | 2,539,782        | -0.8%    |
| Allegheny                     | 1,281,666      | 1,261,303        | -1.6%    |
| Armstrong                     | 72,392         | 71,659           | -1.0%    |
| Beaver                        | 181,412        | 178,697          | -1.5%    |
| Butler                        | 174,083        | 180,040          | 3.4%     |
| Fayette                       | 148,644        | 146,121          | -1.7%    |
| Greene                        | 40,672         | 40,398           | -0.7%    |
| Indiana                       | 89,605         | 89,054           | -0.6%    |
| Washington                    | 202,897        | 204,286          | 0.7%     |
| Westmoreland                  | 369,993        | 368,224          | -0.5%    |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- **This trend of population loss from 1990 to 2000 does not apply to all regions of the County**, as many areas of the County are witnessing moderate growth. The Northern Tier, Lakeview, Mercer and Grove City regions have experienced positive growth, ranging from 1.8 to 4.8 percent. Growth in these regions can be attributed to relocation of residents from other areas of the County.

**Figure 2-1**  
**Population Change by Region, 1970-2000**



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**Table 2-4  
Population Change for Mercer County, 1970-2000**

| Jurisdiction               | Total Population |                |                |                | Population Change |             |                |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
|                            | 1970             | 1980           | 1990           | 2000           | 1990-2000         |             | 1970-2000      |              |
|                            |                  |                |                |                | #                 | %           | #              | %            |
| Pennsylvania               | 11,800,766       | 11,864,720     | 11,882,842     | 12,281,054     | 398,212           | 3.4         | 480,288        | 4.1          |
| <b>Mercer County</b>       | <b>127,225</b>   | <b>128,299</b> | <b>121,003</b> | <b>120,293</b> | <b>-710</b>       | <b>-0.6</b> | <b>-6,932</b>  | <b>-5.4</b>  |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> | <b>24,615</b>    | <b>25,766</b>  | <b>23,585</b>  | <b>23,240</b>  | <b>-345</b>       | <b>-1.5</b> | <b>-1,375</b>  | <b>-5.6</b>  |
| Delaware                   | 1,863            | 2,205          | 2,064          | 2,159          | 95                | 4.6         | 296            | 15.9         |
| Fredonia                   | 731              | 712            | 683            | 652            | -31               | -4.5        | -79            | -10.8        |
| Greene                     | 1,099            | 1,292          | 1,247          | 1,153          | -94               | -7.5        | 54             | 4.9          |
| Greenville                 | 8,704            | 7,730          | 6,734          | 6,380          | -354              | -5.3        | -2,324         | -26.7        |
| Hempfield                  | 3,628            | 4,078          | 3,826          | 4,004          | 178               | 4.7         | 376            | 10.4         |
| Jamestown                  | 937              | 854            | 761            | 636            | -125              | -16.4       | -301           | -32.1        |
| Pymatuning                 | 3,073            | 3,880          | 3,736          | 3,782          | 46                | 1.2         | 709            | 23.1         |
| Sugar Grove                | 1,029            | 1,153          | 987            | 909            | -78               | -7.9        | -120           | -11.7        |
| West Salem                 | 3,551            | 3,862          | 3,547          | 3,565          | 18                | 0.5         | 14             | 0.4          |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       | <b>4,505</b>     | <b>5,160</b>   | <b>4,982</b>   | <b>5,092</b>   | <b>110</b>        | <b>2.2</b>  | <b>587</b>     | <b>13.0</b>  |
| Deer Creek                 | 398              | 496            | 513            | 465            | -48               | -9.4        | 67             | 16.8         |
| French Creek               | 601              | 765            | 789            | 764            | -25               | -3.2        | 163            | 27.1         |
| Pery                       | 1,368            | 1,597          | 1,468          | 1,471          | 3                 | 0.2         | 103            | 7.5          |
| Otter Creek                | 565              | 605            | 583            | 611            | 28                | 4.8         | 46             | 8.1          |
| Salem                      | 679              | 695            | 678            | 769            | 91                | 13.4        | 90             | 13.3         |
| Sandy Creek                | 753              | 847            | 806            | 848            | 42                | 5.2         | 95             | 12.6         |
| Sheakleyville              | 141              | 155            | 145            | 164            | 19                | 13.1        | 23             | 16.3         |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            | <b>7,029</b>     | <b>8,145</b>   | <b>8,080</b>   | <b>8,462</b>   | <b>382</b>        | <b>4.7</b>  | <b>1,433</b>   | <b>20.4</b>  |
| Fairview                   | 889              | 965            | 910            | 1,036          | 126               | 13.8        | 147            | 16.5         |
| Jackson                    | 691              | 1,045          | 1,089          | 1,206          | 117               | 10.7        | 515            | 74.5         |
| Jackson Center             | 274              | 265            | 244            | 221            | -23               | -9.4        | -53            | -19.3        |
| Lake                       | 544              | 598            | 651            | 706            | 55                | 8.4         | 162            | 29.8         |
| Mill Creek                 | 466              | 587            | 604            | 639            | 35                | 5.8         | 173            | 37.1         |
| New Lebanon                | 211              | 197            | 209            | 205            | -4                | -1.9        | -6             | -2.8         |
| New Vernon                 | 402              | 476            | 493            | 524            | 31                | 6.3         | 122            | 30.3         |
| Sandy Lake Borough         | 772              | 779            | 722            | 743            | 21                | 2.9         | -29            | -3.8         |
| Sandy Lake Township        | 884              | 1,163          | 1,161          | 1,248          | 87                | 7.5         | 364            | 41.2         |
| Stoneboro                  | 1,129            | 1,177          | 1,091          | 1,104          | 13                | 1.2         | -25            | -2.2         |
| Worth                      | 767              | 893            | 906            | 830            | -76               | -8.4        | 63             | 8.2          |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b>     | <b>66,469</b>    | <b>62,534</b>  | <b>56,506</b>  | <b>54,800</b>  | <b>-1,706</b>     | <b>-3.0</b> | <b>-11,669</b> | <b>-17.6</b> |
| Clark                      | 467              | 667            | 610            | 633            | 23                | 3.8         | 166            | 35.5         |
| Farrell                    | 11,000           | 8,645          | 6,841          | 6,050          | -791              | -11.6       | -4,950         | -45.0        |
| Hermitage                  | 15,421           | 16,365         | 15,300         | 16,157         | 857               | 5.6         | 736            | 4.8          |
| Lackawannock               | 1,974            | 2,814          | 2,677          | 2,561          | -116              | -4.3        | 587            | 29.7         |
| Sharon                     | 22,653           | 19,057         | 17,493         | 16,328         | -1,165            | -6.7        | -6,325         | -27.9        |
| Sharpville                 | 6,126            | 5,375          | 4,729          | 4,500          | -229              | -4.8        | -1,626         | -26.5        |
| Shenango                   | 3,141            | 4,399          | 4,339          | 4,037          | -302              | -7.0        | 896            | 28.5         |
| South Pymatuning           | 2,973            | 3,016          | 2,775          | 2,857          | 82                | 3.0         | -116           | -3.9         |
| West Middlesex             | 1,293            | 1,064          | 982            | 929            | -53               | -5.4        | -364           | -28.2        |
| Wheatland                  | 1,421            | 1,132          | 760            | 748            | -12               | -1.6        | -673           | -47.4        |
| <b>Mercer</b>              | <b>9,377</b>     | <b>10,956</b>  | <b>11,649</b>  | <b>12,205</b>  | <b>556</b>        | <b>4.8</b>  | <b>2,828</b>   | <b>30.2</b>  |
| Coolspring                 | 1,518            | 1,984          | 2,140          | 2,287          | 147               | 6.9         | 769            | 50.7         |
| East Lackawannock          | 1,314            | 1,709          | 1,606          | 1,701          | 95                | 5.9         | 387            | 29.5         |
| Findley                    | 1,337            | 1,651          | 2,284          | 2,305          | 21                | 0.9         | 968            | 72.4         |
| Jefferson                  | 1,623            | 2,007          | 1,998          | 2,416          | 418               | 20.9        | 793            | 48.9         |
| Mercer                     | 2,773            | 2,532          | 2,444          | 2,391          | -53               | -2.2        | -382           | -13.8        |
| Wilmington                 | 812              | 1,073          | 1,177          | 1,105          | -72               | -6.1        | 293            | 36.1         |
| <b>Grove City</b>          | <b>15,230</b>    | <b>15,738</b>  | <b>16,201</b>  | <b>16,494</b>  | <b>293</b>        | <b>1.8</b>  | <b>1,264</b>   | <b>8.3</b>   |
| Grove City                 | 8,312            | 8,162          | 8,240          | 8,024          | -216              | -2.6        | -288           | -3.5         |
| Liberty                    | 916              | 1,199          | 1,223          | 1,276          | 53                | 4.3         | 360            | 39.3         |
| Pine                       | 3,514            | 3,762          | 4,193          | 4,493          | 300               | 7.2         | 979            | 27.9         |
| Springfield                | 1,878            | 1,904          | 1,892          | 1,972          | 80                | 4.2         | 94             | 5.0          |
| Wolf Creek                 | 610              | 711            | 653            | 729            | 76                | 11.6        | 119            | 19.5         |

Source: Mercer County Comprehensive Plan (1996); U.S. Census Bureau

- **Population losses in the Shenango Valley region (1,706 residents) have had the greatest impact on the County as a whole**—specifically in Sharon and Farrell. The Greenville-Reynolds region has experienced a net loss of 710 residents or 0.6 percent. These localized trends are a continuation of fluctuating population levels, occurring since 1970 as a result of the decline in the steel industry and shifts from urban to suburban areas.
  
- **Regarding individual municipal population change, the County’s highest growth municipalities are generally located in the eastern half of the County**, while its municipalities with the highest population losses are located in the western half of the County. Four of the six highest growth municipalities lie adjacent or nearly adjacent to the County seat, Mercer. Five of the six municipalities with the greatest decline in population are located in or adjacent to the Shenango Valley region.

**Table 2-5  
Highest Increases and Decreases in Population Change, 1970-2000**

| Jurisdiction  | 1970       | 1980       | 1990       | 2000       | 1970-2000 |       |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
|   |            |            |            |            | #         | %     |
| Pennsylvania  | 11,800,766 | 11,864,720 | 11,882,842 | 12,281,054 | 480,288   | 4.1   |
| Mercer County   | 127,225    | 128,299    | 121,003    | 120,293    | -6,932    | -5.4  |
| <b>Highest Population Increases</b>                   |            |            |            |            |           |       |
| Pine  | 3,514      | 3,762      | 4,193      | 4,493      | 979       | 27.9  |
| Findley   | 1,337      | 1,651      | 2,284      | 2,305      | 968       | 72.4  |
| Shenango  | 3,141      | 4,399      | 4,339      | 4,037      | 896.0     | 28.5  |
| Jefferson   | 1,623      | 2,007      | 1,998      | 2,416      | 793       | 48.9  |
| Coolspring  | 1,518      | 1,984      | 2,140      | 2,287      | 769       | 50.7  |
| Jackson   | 691        | 1,045      | 1,089      | 1,206      | 515       | 74.5  |
| Lake  | 544        | 598        | 651        | 706        | 162       | 29.8  |
| <b>Highest Population Increases by Percent Change</b> |            |            |            |            |           |       |
| Jackson   | 691        | 1,045      | 1,089      | 1,206      | 515       | 74.5  |
| Findley   | 1,337      | 1,651      | 2,284      | 2,305      | 968       | 72.4  |
| Coolspring  | 1,518      | 1,984      | 2,140      | 2,287      | 769       | 50.7  |
| Jefferson   | 1,623      | 2,007      | 1,998      | 2,416      | 793       | 48.9  |
| Sandy Lake township                                   | 884        | 1,163      | 1,161      | 1,248      | 364       | 41.2  |
| Liberty   | 916        | 1,199      | 1,223      | 1,276      | 360       | 39.3  |
| <b>Highest Population Decreases</b>                   |            |            |            |            |           |       |
| Sharon  | 22,653     | 19,057     | 17,493     | 16,328     | -6325.0   | -27.9 |
| Farrell   | 11,000     | 8,645      | 6,841      | 6,050      | -4950.0   | -45.0 |
| Greenville  | 8,704      | 7,730      | 6,734      | 6,380      | -2324.0   | -26.7 |
| Sharpsville   | 6,126      | 5,375      | 4,729      | 4,500      | -1626.0   | -26.5 |
| Wheatland   | 1,421      | 1,132      | 760        | 748        | -673.0    | -47.4 |
| <b>Highest Population Decreases by Percent Change</b> |            |            |            |            |           |       |
| Wheatland   | 1,421      | 1,132      | 760        | 748        | -673      | -47.4 |
| Farrell city  | 11,000     | 8,645      | 6,841      | 6,050      | -4,950    | -45.0 |
| Jamestown   | 937        | 854        | 761        | 636        | -301      | -32.1 |
| West Middlesex  | 1,293      | 1,064      | 982        | 929        | -364      | -28.2 |
| Sharon  | 22,653     | 19,057     | 17,493     | 16,328     | -6,325    | -27.9 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Population Density and Distribution by Land Area

Trends in population density parallel population change, since the population changes while the land area remains the same.

- **If Mercer County residents were spread evenly across the County, there would be about one person for every three and half acres.** For Mercer County as a whole, population density declined from 180.2 in 1990 to 179.1 in 2000. The Shenango Valley had the highest population density (491.04 persons per square mile), followed by Greenville-Reynolds (169.14 persons per square mile). The Northern Tier had the lowest population density (53.94 persons per square mile).
  
- **Highest densities are found in the County’s traditional urban centers.** The average density of cities and boroughs in Mercer County was 1191.0 persons per square mile in 2000. Sharon had the highest density (4,412.97 persons per square mile), followed by Greenville (3,357.9 persons per square mile) and Sharpsville (3,214.3 persons per square mile). The lowest densities are found in Deer Creek Township (32.1 persons per square mile) and Mill Creek Township (33.8 persons per square mile).

**Table 2-6  
Population Density, 1980-2000**

| Municipality               | Land (sq mi) | Population     | Persons per Square Mile |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Pennsylvania               | 44,820       | 12,281,054     | 274.0                   |
| <b>Mercer County</b>       | <b>671.5</b> | <b>120,293</b> | <b>179.1</b>            |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> | <b>137.4</b> | <b>23,240</b>  | <b>169.1</b>            |
| Delaware                   | 32.5         | 2,159          | 66.4                    |
| Fredonia                   | 0.4          | 652            | 1,630.0                 |
| Greene                     | 21.9         | 1,153          | 52.6                    |
| Greenville                 | 1.9          | 6,380          | 3,357.9                 |
| Hempfield                  | 14.1         | 4,004          | 284.0                   |
| Jamestown                  | 0.8          | 636            | 795.0                   |
| Pymatuning                 | 16.5         | 3,782          | 229.2                   |
| Sugar Grove                | 12.3         | 909            | 73.9                    |
| West Salem                 | 37           | 3,565          | 96.4                    |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       | <b>94.4</b>  | <b>5,092</b>   | <b>53.9</b>             |
| Deer Creek                 | 14.5         | 465            | 32.1                    |
| French Creek               | 20.7         | 764            | 36.9                    |
| Otter Creek                | 11.8         | 1,471          | 124.7                   |
| Perry                      | 18           | 611            | 33.9                    |
| Salem                      | 13.3         | 769            | 57.8                    |
| Sandy Creek                | 15.9         | 848            | 53.3                    |
| Sheakleyville              | 0.2          | 164            | 820.0                   |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            | <b>140.9</b> | <b>8,462</b>   | <b>60.1</b>             |
| Fairview                   | 18.7         | 1,036          | 55.4                    |
| Jackson                    | 17.1         | 1,206          | 70.5                    |
| Jackson Center             | 1.1          | 221            | 200.9                   |

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| Municipality           | Land (sq mi) | Population    | Persons per Square Mile |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Lake                   | 15.8         | 706           | 44.7                    |
| Mill Creek             | 18.9         | 639           | 33.8                    |
| New Lebanon            | 1.3          | 205           | 157.7                   |
| New Vernon             | 15.1         | 524           | 34.7                    |
| Sandy Lake             | 1            | 743           | 743.0                   |
| Sandy Lake             | 24.3         | 1,248         | 51.4                    |
| Stoneboro              | 2.8          | 1,104         | 394.3                   |
| Worth                  | 24.8         | 830           | 33.5                    |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b> | <b>111.6</b> | <b>54,800</b> | <b>491.0</b>            |
| Clark                  | 3            | 633           | 211.0                   |
| Farrell                | 2.3          | 6,050         | 2,630.4                 |
| Hermitage              | 29.7         | 16,157        | 544.0                   |
| Lackawannock           | 20.6         | 2,561         | 124.3                   |
| Sharon                 | 3.7          | 16,328        | 4,413.0                 |
| Sharpsville            | 1.4          | 4,500         | 3,214.3                 |
| Shenango               | 29.9         | 4,037         | 135.0                   |
| South Pymatuning       | 19.3         | 2,857         | 148.0                   |
| West Middlesex         | 0.9          | 929           | 1,032.2                 |
| Wheatland              | 0.8          | 748           | 935.0                   |
| <b>Mercer</b>          | <b>100.4</b> | <b>12,205</b> | <b>121.6</b>            |
| Coolspring             | 19.2         | 2,287         | 119.1                   |
| East Lackawannock      | 21.2         | 1,701         | 80.2                    |
| Findley                | 21.1         | 2,305         | 109.2                   |
| Jefferson              | 24.5         | 2,416         | 98.6                    |
| Mercer                 | 1.3          | 2,391         | 1,839.2                 |
| Wilmington             | 13.1         | 1,105         | 84.4                    |
| <b>Grove City</b>      | <b>86.8</b>  | <b>16,494</b> | <b>190.0</b>            |
| Grove City             | 2.7          | 8,024         | 2,971.9                 |
| Liberty                | 14.6         | 1,276         | 87.4                    |
| Pine                   | 25.7         | 4,493         | 174.8                   |
| Springfield            | 27.2         | 1,972         | 72.5                    |
| Wolf Creek             | 16.6         | 729           | 43.9                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 SF3A

- **Mercer County is 10 percent cities and boroughs and 90 percent townships when classified by type of municipality.** Mercer County's cities and boroughs occupy 55.3 square miles or 8.2 percent of the County's total land area the County's townships comprise 616.2 square miles or 91.8 percent of the County's total land area.
  
- **Mercer County residents are spreading out.** In 1970, 64.2 percent of Mercer County's residents lived in the cities and boroughs. By 1980, the percentage had declined to 58.4 percent and by 1990, to 56.2. The shift continued through 2000, as 54.8 percent of the County's population lived in the cities and boroughs, while the remaining 45.2 percent of residents lived in the townships. Table 2-7 on the following page provides specific details for each of the County's municipalities.

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**Table 2-7  
Population Shift by Municipality Type, 1970 – 2000**

| Municipality               | Land area      |              | Population    |              |               |              |               |              |               |              |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|                            | Total Sq Miles | % of County  | 1970          |              | 1980          |              | 1990          |              | 2000          |              |
|                            |                |              | #             | % of total   | #             | % of total   | #             | % of total   | #             | % of total   |
| Mercer County              | 671.5          | 100.0%       | 127,225       | 99.2%        | 128,299       | 100.0%       | 121,003       | 100.0%       | 120,293       | 100.0%       |
| <b>Cities and Boroughs</b> | <b>55.3</b>    | <b>8.2%</b>  | <b>82,365</b> | <b>64.2%</b> | <b>74,868</b> | <b>58.4%</b> | <b>67,988</b> | <b>56.2%</b> | <b>65,865</b> | <b>54.8%</b> |
| Clark                      | 3              | 0.4%         | 467           | 0.4%         | 667           | 0.5%         | 610           | 0.5%         | 633           | 0.5%         |
| Farrell                    | 2.3            | 0.3%         | 11,000        | 8.6%         | 8,645         | 6.7%         | 6,841         | 5.7%         | 6,050         | 5.0%         |
| Fredonia                   | 0.4            | 0.1%         | 731           | 0.6%         | 712           | 0.6%         | 683           | 0.6%         | 652           | 0.5%         |
| Greenville                 | 1.9            | 0.3%         | 8,704         | 6.8%         | 7,730         | 6.0%         | 6,734         | 5.6%         | 6,380         | 5.3%         |
| Grove City                 | 2.7            | 0.4%         | 8,312         | 6.5%         | 8,162         | 6.4%         | 8,240         | 6.8%         | 8,024         | 6.7%         |
| Hermitage                  | 29.7           | 4.4%         | 15,421        | 12.1%        | 16,365        | 12.8%        | 15,300        | 12.6%        | 16,157        | 13.4%        |
| Jackson Center             | 1.1            | 0.2%         | 274           | 0.2%         | 265           | 0.2%         | 244           | 0.2%         | 221           | 0.2%         |
| Jamestown                  | 0.8            | 0.1%         | 937           | 0.7%         | 854           | 0.7%         | 761           | 0.6%         | 636           | 0.5%         |
| Mercer                     | 1.3            | 0.2%         | 2,773         | 2.2%         | 2,532         | 2.0%         | 2,444         | 2.0%         | 2,391         | 2.0%         |
| New Lebanon                | 1.3            | 0.2%         | 211           | 0.2%         | 197           | 0.2%         | 209           | 0.2%         | 205           | 0.2%         |
| Sandy Lake                 | 1              | 0.1%         | 772           | 0.6%         | 779           | 0.6%         | 722           | 0.6%         | 743           | 0.6%         |
| Sharon                     | 3.7            | 0.6%         | 22,653        | 17.8%        | 19,057        | 14.9%        | 17,493        | 14.5%        | 16,328        | 13.6%        |
| Sharpville                 | 1.4            | 0.2%         | 6,126         | 4.8%         | 5,375         | 4.2%         | 4,729         | 3.9%         | 4,500         | 3.7%         |
| Sheakleyville              | 0.2            | 0.0%         | 141           | 0.1%         | 155           | 0.1%         | 145           | 0.1%         | 164           | 0.1%         |
| Stoneboro                  | 2.8            | 0.4%         | 1,129         | 0.9%         | 1,177         | 0.9%         | 1,091         | 0.9%         | 1,104         | 0.9%         |
| West Middlesex             | 0.9            | 0.1%         | 1,293         | 1.0%         | 1,064         | 0.8%         | 982           | 0.8%         | 929           | 0.8%         |
| Wheatland                  | 0.8            | 0.1%         | 1,421         | 1.1%         | 1,132         | 0.9%         | 760           | 0.6%         | 748           | 0.6%         |
| <b>Townships</b>           | <b>616.2</b>   | <b>91.8%</b> | <b>44,860</b> | <b>35.0%</b> | <b>53,431</b> | <b>41.6%</b> | <b>53,015</b> | <b>43.8%</b> | <b>54,428</b> | <b>45.2%</b> |
| Delaware                   | 32.5           | 4.8%         | 1,863         | 1.5%         | 2,205         | 1.7%         | 2,064         | 1.7%         | 2,159         | 1.8%         |
| Greene                     | 21.9           | 3.3%         | 1,099         | 0.9%         | 1,292         | 1.0%         | 1,247         | 1.0%         | 1,153         | 1.0%         |
| Hempfield                  | 14.1           | 2.1%         | 3,628         | 2.9%         | 4,078         | 3.2%         | 3,826         | 3.2%         | 4,004         | 3.3%         |
| Pymatuning                 | 16.5           | 2.5%         | 3,073         | 2.4%         | 3,880         | 3.0%         | 3,736         | 3.1%         | 3,782         | 3.1%         |
| Sugar Grove                | 12.3           | 1.8%         | 1,029         | 0.8%         | 1,153         | 0.9%         | 987           | 0.8%         | 909           | 0.8%         |
| West Salem                 | 37             | 5.5%         | 3,551         | 2.8%         | 3,862         | 3.0%         | 3,547         | 2.9%         | 3,565         | 3.0%         |
| Deer Creek                 | 14.5           | 2.2%         | 398           | 0.3%         | 496           | 0.4%         | 513           | 0.4%         | 465           | 0.4%         |
| French Creek               | 20.7           | 3.1%         | 601           | 0.5%         | 765           | 0.6%         | 789           | 0.7%         | 764           | 0.6%         |
| Otter Creek                | 11.8           | 1.8%         | 565           | 0.4%         | 1,597         | 1.2%         | 1,468         | 1.2%         | 1,471         | 1.2%         |
| Perry                      | 18             | 2.7%         | 1,368         | 1.1%         | 605           | 0.5%         | 583           | 0.5%         | 611           | 0.5%         |
| Salem                      | 13.3           | 2.0%         | 679           | 0.5%         | 695           | 0.5%         | 678           | 0.6%         | 769           | 0.6%         |
| Sandy Creek                | 15.9           | 2.4%         | 753           | 0.6%         | 847           | 0.7%         | 806           | 0.7%         | 848           | 0.7%         |
| Fairview                   | 18.7           | 2.8%         | 889           | 0.7%         | 965           | 0.8%         | 910           | 0.8%         | 1,036         | 0.9%         |
| Jackson                    | 17.1           | 2.5%         | 691           | 0.5%         | 1,045         | 0.8%         | 1,089         | 0.9%         | 1,206         | 1.0%         |
| Lake                       | 15.8           | 2.4%         | 544           | 0.4%         | 598           | 0.5%         | 651           | 0.5%         | 706           | 0.6%         |
| Mill Creek                 | 18.9           | 2.8%         | 466           | 0.4%         | 587           | 0.5%         | 604           | 0.5%         | 639           | 0.5%         |
| New Vernon                 | 15.1           | 2.2%         | 402           | 0.3%         | 476           | 0.4%         | 493           | 0.4%         | 524           | 0.4%         |
| Sandy Lake                 | 24.3           | 3.6%         | 884           | 0.7%         | 1,163         | 0.9%         | 1,161         | 1.0%         | 1,248         | 1.0%         |
| Worth                      | 24.8           | 3.7%         | 767           | 0.6%         | 893           | 0.7%         | 906           | 0.7%         | 830           | 0.7%         |
| Lackawannock               | 20.6           | 3.1%         | 1,974         | 1.6%         | 2,814         | 2.2%         | 2,677         | 2.2%         | 2,561         | 2.1%         |
| Shenango                   | 29.9           | 4.5%         | 3,141         | 2.5%         | 4,399         | 3.4%         | 4,339         | 3.6%         | 4,037         | 3.4%         |
| South Pymatuning           | 19.3           | 2.9%         | 2,973         | 2.3%         | 3,016         | 2.4%         | 2,775         | 2.3%         | 2,857         | 2.4%         |
| Coolspring                 | 19.2           | 2.9%         | 1,518         | 1.2%         | 1,984         | 1.5%         | 2,140         | 1.8%         | 2,287         | 1.9%         |
| East Lackawannock          | 21.2           | 3.2%         | 1,314         | 1.0%         | 1,709         | 1.3%         | 1,606         | 1.3%         | 1,701         | 1.4%         |
| Findley                    | 21.1           | 3.1%         | 1,337         | 1.1%         | 1,651         | 1.3%         | 2,284         | 1.9%         | 2,305         | 1.9%         |
| Jefferson                  | 24.5           | 3.6%         | 1,623         | 1.3%         | 2,007         | 1.6%         | 1,998         | 1.7%         | 2,416         | 2.0%         |
| Wilmington                 | 13.1           | 2.0%         | 812           | 0.6%         | 1,073         | 0.8%         | 1,177         | 1.0%         | 1,105         | 0.9%         |
| Liberty                    | 14.6           | 2.2%         | 916           | 0.7%         | 1,199         | 0.9%         | 1,223         | 1.0%         | 1,276         | 1.1%         |
| Pine                       | 25.7           | 3.8%         | 3,514         | 2.8%         | 3,762         | 2.9%         | 4,193         | 3.5%         | 4,493         | 3.7%         |
| Springfield                | 27.2           | 4.1%         | 1,878         | 1.5%         | 1,904         | 1.5%         | 1,892         | 1.6%         | 1,972         | 1.6%         |
| Wolf Creek                 | 16.6           | 2.5%         | 610           | 0.5%         | 711           | 0.6%         | 653           | 0.5%         | 729           | 0.6%         |

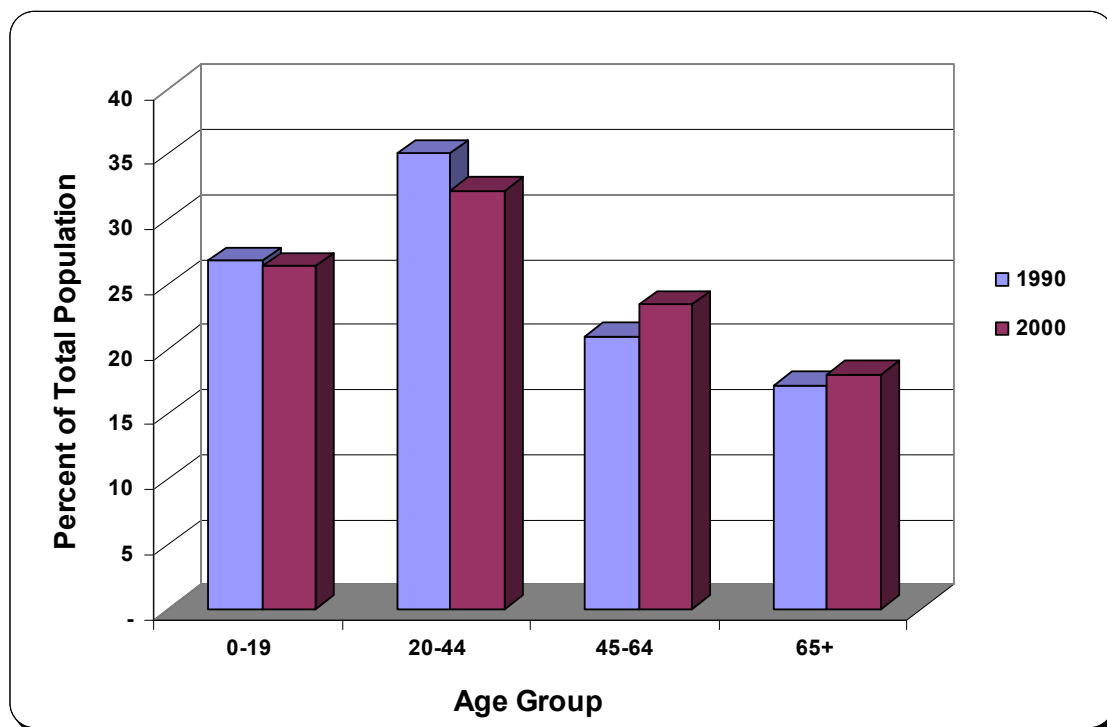
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 SF3A



## Age Group Distribution

- **Mercer County's population as a whole is aging.** Older age cohorts are growing in their percentage of the overall population, while the percentage of younger residents is declining. This trend is common throughout rural Pennsylvania.

Figure 2-2  
Mercer County Age Groups, 1990 and 2000



In Mercer County, the young adult age group (20-44 years) represents the largest age cohort (32.1 percent) in the County's population. The young adult age group was also the largest in 1990; however it comprised a higher percentage of the population (35.1).

School age residents (0-19 years) represented the second largest age cohort (26.4 percent). This age group's percentage of the total population change only slightly from 26.8 percent to 26.4 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Mature adults (45-64 years) represented the third largest segment of the County's population (23.4 percent). This age group had the greatest increase (2.4 percentage points) from 21.0 percent in 1990 to 2000, reflecting an 11.0 percent rate of change.

Mercer County's senior population (65+ years) grew steadily from 1970 to 1990 and continued at a more moderate rate in the 1990s. In 2000, the senior age group represented the smallest segment of the County's population (18.1 percent). This age group grew 0.9 percentage points from 1990 (17.2 percent of County population) to 2000 and showed a 4.6 percent rate of change.

- **Mercer County's population is older than Pennsylvania's population.** In comparison to Pennsylvania as a whole, Mercer County has a similar percentage of school age children (26.4 percent in Mercer County; 26.8 in Pennsylvania), fewer young adults (32.1 percent in Mercer County; 38.1 percent in Pennsylvania), more mature adults (23.4 percent in Mercer County; 20.3 percent in Pennsylvania), and more seniors (18.1 percent in Mercer County; 14.5 percent in Pennsylvania).
  
- **Within each of the County's regions, the Shenango Valley had the largest percentage of senior residents (20.2 percent) in 2000,** followed by the Greenville-Reynolds region at 18.6 percent. The Northern Tier region has the largest percentage of residents approaching retirement age (55-64 years) (11.5 percent). The Grove City region had the largest percentage of school and college age children (0-24 years) 41.3 percent, followed by the Greenville-Reynolds region (32.3 percent). These high values are, of course, due to Grove City College and Thiel College, respectively. The Lakeview region had the largest percentage of children under 5 (6.5 percent). The Mercer region had the largest percentage of 25-44 year old residents, followed by the Northern tier region (28.4 percent) and the Lakeview region (27.8 percent).
  
- **Growth in the senior resident population is aging the County.** Since 1960, Mercer County's residents aged 65 years and older grew by over 67 percent. This age group represented over 18 percent of the County's total population in 2000.
  
- **Between 1990 and 2000, as many age cohorts lost population as gained population.** The most significant growth occurred in the population ages 45-54—with an increase of 32.8 percent. This was followed by 30.9 percent growth in the population ages 80+. The most significant loss occurred in the population ages 30-34, representing young adults and young families. Tables 2-8 and 2-9 on the following pages provide additional details regarding the age distribution of the County's residents.

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**Table 2-8  
Age Group Distribution, 1990-2000**

| Pennsylvania                     |                   |                  |                   |                  |                    |             |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Age Groups                       | 1990              | Percent of Total | 2000              | Percent of Total | Change (1990-2000) |             |             |
|                                  |                   |                  |                   |                  | #                  | % (rate)    | % (points)  |
| <b>School Age Group</b>          | <b>3,158,578</b>  | <b>26.6</b>      | <b>3,276,496</b>  | <b>26.8</b>      | <b>117,918</b>     | <b>3.7</b>  | <b>0.2</b>  |
| Under 5                          | 797,058           | 6.7              | 733,750           | 6.0              | -63,308            | -7.9        | -0.7        |
| 5-14                             | 1,543,462         | 13.0             | 1,698,289         | 13.9             | 154,827            | 10.0        | 0.9         |
| 15-19                            | 818,058           | 6.9              | 844,457           | 6.9              | 26,399             | 3.2         | 0.0         |
| <b>Young Adult Group</b>         | <b>4,520,330</b>  | <b>38.0</b>      | <b>4,647,713</b>  | <b>38.1</b>      | <b>127,383</b>     | <b>2.8</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  |
| 20-24                            | 863,007           | 7.3              | 1,034,796         | 8.5              | 171,789            | 19.9        | 1.2         |
| 25-29                            | 920,217           | 7.7              | 778,767           | 6.4              | -141,450           | -15.4       | -1.4        |
| 30-34                            | 992,239           | 8.4              | 894,799           | 7.3              | -97,440            | -9.8        | -1.0        |
| 35-44                            | 1,744,867         | 14.7             | 1,939,351         | 15.9             | 194,484            | 11.1        | 1.2         |
| <b>Mature Age Group</b>          | <b>2,373,629</b>  | <b>20.0</b>      | <b>2,470,877</b>  | <b>20.2</b>      | <b>97,248</b>      | <b>4.1</b>  | <b>0.3</b>  |
| 45-54                            | 1,213,845         | 10.2             | 1,559,518         | 12.8             | 345,673            | 28.5        | 2.6         |
| 55-59                            | 552,378           | 4.6              | 408,457           | 3.3              | -143,921           | -26.1       | -1.3        |
| 60-64                            | 607,406           | 5.1              | 502,902           | 4.1              | -104,504           | -17.2       | -1.0        |
| <b>Senior Age Group</b>          | <b>1,829,106</b>  | <b>15.4</b>      | <b>1,817,363</b>  | <b>14.9</b>      | <b>-11,743</b>     | <b>-0.6</b> | <b>-0.5</b> |
| 65-74                            | 1,070,021         | 9.0              | 1,125,933         | 9.2              | 55,912             | 5.2         | 0.2         |
| 75-84                            | 587,249           | 4.9              | 627,097           | 5.1              | 39,848             | 6.8         | 0.2         |
| 85 and Over                      | 171,836           | 1.4              | 64,333            | 0.5              | -107,503           | -62.6       | -0.9        |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               | <b>11,881,643</b> | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>12,212,449</b> | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>330,806</b>     | <b>2.8</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  |
| Mercer County                    |                   |                  |                   |                  |                    |             |             |
| Age Groups                       | 1990              | Percent of Total | 2000              | Percent of Total | Change (1990-2000) |             |             |
|                                  |                   |                  |                   |                  | #                  | % (rate)    | % (points)  |
| <b>School Age Group (0-19)</b>   | <b>32,431</b>     | <b>26.8</b>      | <b>31,714</b>     | <b>26.4</b>      | <b>-717</b>        | <b>-2.2</b> | <b>-0.4</b> |
| Under 5                          | 7,539             | 6.2              | 6,797             | 5.7              | -742               | -9.8        | -0.6        |
| 5-14                             | 15,807            | 13.1             | 16,131            | 13.4             | 324                | 2.0         | 0.3         |
| 15-19                            | 9,085             | 7.5              | 8,786             | 7.3              | -299               | -3.3        | -0.2        |
| <b>Young Adult Group (20-44)</b> | <b>42,419</b>     | <b>35.1</b>      | <b>38,664</b>     | <b>32.1</b>      | <b>-3,755</b>      | <b>-8.9</b> | <b>-2.9</b> |
| 20-24                            | 8,391             | 6.9              | 7,080             | 5.9              | -1,311             | -15.6       | -1.0        |
| 25-29                            | 7,481             | 6.2              | 6309              | 5.2              | -1,172             | -15.7       | -0.9        |
| 30-34                            | 9,694             | 8.0              | 7058              | 5.9              | -2,636             | -27.2       | -2.1        |
| 35-44                            | 16,853            | 13.9             | 18,217            | 15.1             | 1,364              | 8.1         | 1.2         |
| <b>Mature Age Group (45-64)</b>  | <b>25,382</b>     | <b>21.0</b>      | <b>28,183</b>     | <b>23.4</b>      | <b>2,801</b>       | <b>11.0</b> | <b>2.5</b>  |
| 45-54                            | 12,412            | 10.3             | 16,481            | 13.7             | 4,069              | 32.8        | 3.4         |
| 55-59                            | 5,893             | 4.9              | 6358              | 5.3              | 465                | 7.9         | 0.4         |
| 60-64                            | 7,077             | 5.8              | 5,344             | 4.4              | -1,733             | -24.5       | -1.4        |
| <b>Senior Age Group (65+)</b>    | <b>20,771</b>     | <b>17.2</b>      | <b>21,732</b>     | <b>18.1</b>      | <b>961</b>         | <b>4.6</b>  | <b>0.9</b>  |
| 65-74                            | 12,152            | 10.0             | 10,865            | 9.0              | -1,287             | -10.6       | -1.0        |
| 75-84                            | 6,670             | 5.5              | 8,315             | 6.9              | 1,645              | 24.7        | 1.4         |
| 85 and Over                      | 1,949             | 1.6              | 2552              | 2.1              | 603                | 30.9        | 0.5         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               | <b>121,003</b>    | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>120,293</b>    | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>-710</b>        | <b>-0.6</b> | <b>0.0</b>  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, STF1A

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**Table 2-9  
Age Distribution by Municipality, 2000**

| Jurisdiction               | Median Age | Age Group   |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |                   |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
|                            |            | 0-4         | 5-14         | 15-24        | 25-34        | 35-44        | 45-54        | 55-64        | 65+          | TOTAL             |
| Pennsylvania               | 38.0       | 733,750     | 1,698,289    | 1,879,253    | 1,673,566    | 1,939,351    | 1,559,518    | 911,359      | 1,817,363    | <b>12,212,449</b> |
| Mercer County              | 39.6       | 6797        | 16131        | 15866        | 13367        | 18217        | 16481        | 11702        | 21732        | <b>120,293</b>    |
| Mercer County (%)          |            | 5.7%        | 13.4%        | 13.2%        | 11.1%        | 15.1%        | 13.7%        | 9.7%         | 18.1%        | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> |            | <b>5.5%</b> | <b>13.2%</b> | <b>13.6%</b> | <b>10.1%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> | <b>13.7%</b> | <b>10.2%</b> | <b>18.6%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Delaware                   | 41.2       | 122         | 279          | 246          | 217          | 382          | 322          | 249          | 342          | <b>2,159</b>      |
| Fredonia                   | 35.7       | 35          | 86           | 113          | 63           | 95           | 95           | 74           | 91           | <b>652</b>        |
| Greene                     | 43.8       | 63          | 138          | 133          | 108          | 175          | 196          | 162          | 197          | <b>1,172</b>      |
| Greenville                 | 34.6       | 351         | 795          | 1332         | 673          | 889          | 752          | 522          | 1066         | <b>6,380</b>      |
| Hempfield                  | 45.8       | 176         | 525          | 382          | 291          | 591          | 599          | 437          | 1003         | <b>4,004</b>      |
| Jamestown                  | 37.8       | 31          | 85           | 79           | 91           | 86           | 85           | 71           | 89           | <b>617</b>        |
| Pymatuning                 | 36.6       | 274         | 617          | 408          | 484          | 611          | 526          | 346          | 516          | <b>3,782</b>      |
| Sugar Grove                | 42.1       | 54          | 126          | 83           | 85           | 157          | 110          | 126          | 168          | <b>909</b>        |
| West Salem                 | 44.5       | 166         | 419          | 385          | 339          | 527          | 501          | 375          | 853          | <b>3,565</b>      |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       |            | <b>5.4%</b> | <b>13.7%</b> | <b>11.1%</b> | <b>12.0%</b> | <b>16.5%</b> | <b>14.7%</b> | <b>11.5%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Deer Creek                 | 40.3       | 24          | 71           | 46           | 44           | 79           | 65           | 71           | 78           | <b>478</b>        |
| French Creek               | 39.8       | 50          | 100          | 75           | 99           | 121          | 105          | 86           | 104          | <b>740</b>        |
| Otter Creek                | 38.7       | 32          | 97           | 62           | 65           | 126          | 84           | 61           | 87           | <b>614</b>        |
| Perry                      | 40.2       | 68          | 205          | 174          | 192          | 229          | 220          | 154          | 240          | <b>1,482</b>      |
| Salem                      | 39.8       | 58          | 94           | 84           | 95           | 135          | 119          | 87           | 94           | <b>766</b>        |
| Sandy Creek                | 42.3       | 35          | 111          | 104          | 100          | 126          | 133          | 113          | 132          | <b>854</b>        |
| Sheakleyville              | 40.5       | 8           | 22           | 21           | 14           | 23           | 22           | 16           | 32           | <b>158</b>        |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            |            | <b>6.5%</b> | <b>12.6%</b> | <b>10.4%</b> | <b>12.7%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> | <b>15.3%</b> | <b>10.1%</b> | <b>17.3%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Fairview                   | 33.4       | 69          | 210          | 131          | 114          | 140          | 163          | 97           | 117          | <b>1,041</b>      |
| Jackson                    | 40.3       | 77          | 157          | 183          | 122          | 193          | 189          | 127          | 145          | <b>1,193</b>      |
| Jackson Center             | 32.5       | 13          | 41           | 21           | 47           | 35           | 26           | 18           | 22           | <b>223</b>        |
| Lake                       | 34.8       | 64          | 119          | 99           | 84           | 100          | 75           | 70           | 90           | <b>701</b>        |
| Mill Creek                 | 38.1       | 38          | 92           | 64           | 87           | 80           | 115          | 65           | 93           | <b>634</b>        |
| New Lebanon                | 35.7       | 6           | 16           | 29           | 21           | 35           | 15           | 42           | 23           | <b>187</b>        |
| New Vernon                 | 38.3       | 52          | 80           | 69           | 66           | 90           | 76           | 44           | 70           | <b>547</b>        |
| Sandy Lake                 | 37.3       | 38          | 116          | 113          | 87           | 118          | 109          | 44           | 121          | <b>746</b>        |
| Sandy Lake                 | 41.5       | 83          | 158          | 119          | 164          | 184          | 225          | 121          | 194          | <b>1,248</b>      |
| Stoneboro                  | 39.4       | 81          | 131          | 126          | 150          | 142          | 139          | 117          | 215          | <b>1,101</b>      |
| Worth                      | 39.9       | 43          | 113          | 86           | 92           | 155          | 125          | 83           | 144          | <b>841</b>        |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b>     |            | <b>5.8%</b> | <b>13.9%</b> | <b>10.4%</b> | <b>11.2%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> | <b>13.7%</b> | <b>9.7%</b>  | <b>20.2%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Clark                      | 40.7       | 31          | 84           | 62           | 68           | 96           | 142          | 55           | 94           | <b>632</b>        |
| Farrell                    | 40.1       | 368         | 944          | 711          | 639          | 737          | 781          | 476          | 1401         | <b>6,057</b>      |
| Hermitage                  | 44.1       | 768         | 2107         | 1481         | 1478         | 2550         | 2169         | 1733         | 3844         | <b>16,130</b>     |
| Lackawannock               | 35.1       | 204         | 426          | 313          | 324          | 388          | 348          | 267          | 291          | <b>2,561</b>      |
| Sharon                     | 38.4       | 1089        | 2239         | 1920         | 2090         | 2421         | 2124         | 1446         | 2999         | <b>16,328</b>     |
| Sharpsville                | 40.5       | 272         | 583          | 451          | 571          | 637          | 677          | 417          | 920          | <b>4,528</b>      |
| Shenango                   | 41.3       | 212         | 625          | 342          | 421          | 695          | 611          | 441          | 690          | <b>4,037</b>      |
| South Pymatuning           | 41.7       | 143         | 375          | 258          | 352          | 499          | 423          | 297          | 511          | <b>2,858</b>      |
| West Middlesex             | 40         | 41          | 133          | 115          | 101          | 149          | 135          | 89           | 166          | <b>929</b>        |
| Wheatland                  | 45.8       | 42          | 78           | 65           | 97           | 112          | 99           | 81           | 166          | <b>740</b>        |
| <b>Mercer</b>              |            | <b>5.9%</b> | <b>12.8%</b> | <b>10.9%</b> | <b>12.7%</b> | <b>17.5%</b> | <b>15.2%</b> | <b>10.2%</b> | <b>14.8%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Coolspring                 | 41.8       | 140         | 316          | 214          | 223          | 359          | 314          | 300          | 421          | <b>2,287</b>      |
| East Lackawannock          | 40.3       | 132         | 245          | 149          | 184          | 235          | 288          | 172          | 296          | <b>1,701</b>      |
| Findley                    | 40.5       | 67          | 190          | 228          | 374          | 644          | 438          | 168          | 196          | <b>2,305</b>      |
| Jefferson                  | 39.3       | 159         | 336          | 233          | 329          | 389          | 326          | 296          | 348          | <b>2,416</b>      |
| Mercer                     | 37.4       | 149         | 281          | 317          | 365          | 353          | 308          | 220          | 398          | <b>2,391</b>      |
| Wilmington                 | 35.9       | 73          | 193          | 194          | 80           | 151          | 180          | 89           | 145          | <b>1,105</b>      |
| <b>Grove City</b>          |            | <b>4.8%</b> | <b>12.0%</b> | <b>24.5%</b> | <b>10.2%</b> | <b>13.2%</b> | <b>11.7%</b> | <b>8.3%</b>  | <b>15.3%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     |
| Grove City                 | 26.8       | 308         | 745          | 2775         | 761          | 862          | 674          | 510          | 1349         | <b>7,984</b>      |
| Liberty                    | 38.8       | 86          | 164          | 150          | 164          | 208          | 190          | 152          | 162          | <b>1,276</b>      |
| Pine                       | 37.5       | 208         | 704          | 785          | 405          | 706          | 622          | 406          | 696          | <b>4,532</b>      |
| Springfield                | 36.6       | 151         | 258          | 257          | 262          | 294          | 331          | 182          | 237          | <b>1,972</b>      |
| Wolf Creek                 | 39.7       | 43          | 102          | 79           | 85           | 108          | 110          | 127          | 76           | <b>730</b>        |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, STF1A

## Racial Composition

- **Mercer County’s European heritage is still widely apparent in its population.** Mercer County residents are predominantly individuals of one race. A very small percentage of residents (0.9 percent) are of a two or more race background. County residents are predominantly white. The largest percentage of residents of another single race is Black or African American (5.3 percent). Less than one percent of Mercer County residents are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.
- **Mercer County is more diverse than most of its neighbors.** With these racial and ethnic characteristics, Mercer County is less diverse than Pennsylvania but more diverse than most of the surrounding counties. Only Mahoning County, OH had a smaller percentage of white residents. But Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, OH had a higher percentage of residents of two or more races. Mahoning County is the only county with more than one percent of residents claiming Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.
- **Mercer County’s minority population is concentrated within the cities of Farrell, Hermitage, and Sharon.** Census data for 2000 shows that approximately 74 percent of the total minority population live in the Shenango Valley. Specifically, 36 percent live in Farrell, 12 percent in Hermitage, and 26 percent in Sharon. This includes members of all minority groups as identified by the Census Bureau.

**Table 2-10  
Race and Ethnicity Characteristics, 2000**

|                     | One Race by Race                        |             |                                 |   |             |  |                  | Two or more races | Hispanic or Latino |
|---------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                     | One Race                                | White alone | Black or African American alone | American Indian and Alaska Native alone | Asian alone | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | Other race alone |                   |                    |
|                     |   |             |                                 |   |             |  |                  |                   |                    |
| Pennsylvania        | 12,138,830                              | 10,484,203  | 1,224,612                       | 18,348                                  | 219,813     | 3,417  | 188,437          | 142,224           | 394,088            |
| Mercer              | 119,193                                 | 112,031     | 6,318                           | 127                                     | 486         | 27   | 204              | 1,100             | 803                |
| Butler              | 173,143                                 | 170,302     | 1,367                           | 149                                     | 978         | 54   | 293              | 940               | 1,016              |
| Crawford            | 89,668                                  | 87,653      | 1,437                           | 184                                     | 254         | 23   | 117              | 698               | 537                |
| Lawrence            | 93,848                                  | 89,894      | 3,416                           | 95                                      | 258         | 9  | 176              | 795               | 529                |
| Venango             | 57,180                                  | 56,208      | 626                             | 105                                     | 132         | 11   | 98               | 385               | 298                |
| Mahoning County, OH | 253,994                                 | 208,727     | 40,884                          | 445                                     | 1,220       | 62   | 2,656            | 3,561             | 7,640              |
| Trumbull County, OH | 222,715                                 | 203,084     | 17,778                          | 333                                     | 1,014       | 34   | 472              | 2,401             | 1,794              |
|                     | One Race as Percent of Total Population |             |                                 |   |             |  |                  | Two or more races | Hispanic or Latino |
|                     | One Race                                | White alone | Black or African American alone | American Indian and Alaska Native alone | Asian alone | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | Other race alone |                   |                    |
|                     |   |             |                                 |   |             |  |                  |                   |                    |
| Pennsylvania        | 98.8%                                   | 85.4%       | 10.0%                           | 0.1%                                    | 1.8%        | 0.0%   | 1.5%             | 1.2%              | 3.2%               |
| Mercer              | 99.1%                                   | 93.1%       | 5.3%                            | 0.1%                                    | 0.4%        | 0.0%   | 0.2%             | 0.9%              | 0.7%               |
| Butler              | 99.5%                                   | 97.8%       | 0.8%                            | 0.1%                                    | 0.6%        | 0.0%   | 0.2%             | 0.5%              | 0.6%               |
| Crawford            | 99.2%                                   | 97.0%       | 1.6%                            | 0.2%                                    | 0.3%        | 0.0%   | 0.1%             | 0.8%              | 0.6%               |
| Lawrence            | 99.2%                                   | 95.0%       | 3.6%                            | 0.1%                                    | 0.3%        | 0.0%   | 0.2%             | 0.8%              | 0.6%               |
| Venango             | 99.3%                                   | 97.6%       | 1.1%                            | 0.2%                                    | 0.2%        | 0.0%   | 0.2%             | 0.7%              | 0.5%               |
| Mahoning County, OH | 98.6%                                   | 81.0%       | 15.9%                           | 0.2%                                    | 0.5%        | 0.0%   | 1.0%             | 1.4%              | 3.0%               |
| Trumbull County, OH | 98.9%                                   | 90.2%       | 7.9%                            | 0.1%                                    | 0.5%        | 0.0%   | 0.2%             | 1.1%              | 0.8%               |

Source: US Census

## Household Characteristics

- **Mercer County households are increasingly non-traditional (non-family).** In 2000, less than 70 percent of households were family-based. It should be noted that this is not exclusive to the County, but rather is a national trend.
- **Mercer County households are getting smaller.** The median household size declined by 0.1 persons per household from 1990 to 2000.

**Table 2-11**  
**Household Characteristics, 1990-2000**

| Household Type  | Decennial Census |              |                  |              |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
|   | 1990             |              | 2000             |              |
|   | #                | % of Total   | #                | % of Total   |
| <b>Pennsylvania</b>                                   |                  |              |                  |              |
| <b>Total Households (Family + Nonfamily)</b>          | <b>4,495,966</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>4,777,003</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Family Households (2 or more persons)                 | 3,155,989        | 70.2         | 3,208,388        | 67.2         |
| Married-couple family                                 | 2,502,072        | 55.7         | 2,467,673        | 51.7         |
| Female householder no husband present                 | 507,008          | 11.3         | 554,693          | 11.6         |
| Nonfamily Households                                  | 1,339,977        | 29.8         | 1,568,516        | 32.8         |
| <b>Average household size (persons per household)</b> | <b>2.57</b>      |              | <b>2.48</b>      |              |
| <b>Mercer County</b>                                  |                  |              |                  |              |
| <b>Total Households (Family + Nonfamily)</b>          | <b>45,591</b>    | <b>100.0</b> | <b>46,712</b>    | <b>100.0</b> |
| Family Households (2 or more persons)                 | 33,275           | 73.0         | 32,387           | 69.3         |
| Married-couple family                                 | 27,331           | 59.9         | 25,609           | 54.8         |
| Female householder no husband present                 | 4,674            | 10.3         | 5,094            | 10.9         |
| Nonfamily Households                                  | 12,316           | 27.0         | 14,325           | 30.7         |
| <b>Median household size (persons per household)</b>  | <b>2.54</b>      |              | <b>2.44</b>      |              |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 STF3A

**Table 2-12**  
**Average Household Size**

| Jurisdiction        | Average Household Size |      | Change in Household Size, 1990-2000 |      |
|---------------------|------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
|                     | 1990                   | 2000 | #                                   | %    |
| Pennsylvania        | 2.57                   | 2.48 | -0.09                               | -3.5 |
| Mercer County       | 2.54                   | 2.44 | -0.10                               | -3.9 |
| Butler              | 2.65                   | 2.54 | -0.11                               | -4.2 |
| Crawford            | 2.60                   | 2.50 | -0.10                               | -3.8 |
| Lawrence            | 2.57                   | 2.47 | -0.10                               | -3.9 |
| Venango             | 2.58                   | 2.45 | -0.13                               | -5.0 |
| Mahoning County, OH | 2.57                   | 2.44 | -0.13                               | -5.1 |
| Trumbull County, OH | 2.62                   | 2.48 | -0.14                               | -5.3 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 STF3A

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**Table 2-13 Families with Children under 18, 2000**

| Municipality               | 2000 Family Households with Children under 18 |             |            |            |              |             | Total Households |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|                            | Married-Couple                                |             | Male       |            | Female       |             |                  |
|                            | #   | % of Total  | #          | % of Total | #            | % of Total  |                  |
| Pennsylvania               | 1,073,402                                     | 73.9        | 89,035     | 6.1        | 291,013      | 20.0        | 1,453,450        |
| <b>Mercer County</b>       | <b>10,359</b>                                 | <b>74.2</b> | <b>788</b> | <b>5.6</b> | <b>2,812</b> | <b>20.1</b> | <b>13,959</b>    |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> | <b>2,075</b>                                  | <b>76.3</b> | <b>156</b> | <b>5.7</b> | <b>489</b>   | <b>18.0</b> | <b>2,720</b>     |
| Delaware                   | 258   | 93.8        | 0          | 0.0        | 17           | 6.2         | 275              |
| Fredonia                   | 52  | 71.2        | 2          | 2.7        | 19           | 26.0        | 73               |
| Greene                     | 108   | 80.0        | 20         | 14.8       | 7            | 5.2         | 135              |
| Greenville                 | 509   | 74.2        | 40         | 5.8        | 137          | 20.0        | 686              |
| Hempfield                  | 332   | 73.0        | 43         | 9.5        | 80           | 17.6        | 455              |
| Jamestown                  | 50  | 78.1        | 6          | 9.4        | 8            | 12.5        | 64               |
| Pymatuning                 | 351   | 63.6        | 31         | 5.6        | 170          | 30.8        | 552              |
| Sugar Grove                | 85  | 85.9        | 3          | 3.0        | 11           | 11.1        | 99               |
| West Salem                 | 330   | 86.6        | 11         | 2.9        | 40           | 10.5        | 381              |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       | <b>487</b>                                    | <b>84.5</b> | <b>31</b>  | <b>5.4</b> | <b>58</b>    | <b>10.1</b> | <b>576</b>       |
| Deer Creek                 | 39  | 90.7        | 0          | 0.0        | 4            | 9.3         | 43               |
| French Creek               | 81  | 81.0        | 11         | 11.0       | 8            | 8.0         | 100              |
| Otter Creek                | 67  | 89.3        | 0          | 0.0        | 8            | 10.7        | 75               |
| Perry                      | 145   | 83.8        | 6          | 3.5        | 22           | 12.7        | 173              |
| Salem                      | 69  | 82.1        | 6          | 7.1        | 9            | 10.7        | 84               |
| Sandy Creek                | 69  | 89.6        | 5          | 6.5        | 3            | 3.9         | 77               |
| Sheakleyville              | 17  | 70.8        | 3          | 12.5       | 4            | 16.7        | 24               |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            | <b>889</b>                                    | <b>83.4</b> | <b>61</b>  | <b>5.7</b> | <b>116</b>   | <b>10.9</b> | <b>1,066</b>     |
| Fairview                   | 118   | 92.2        | 6          | 4.7        | 4            | 3.1         | 128              |
| Jackson                    | 113   | 83.1        | 10         | 7.4        | 13           | 9.6         | 136              |
| Jackson Center             | 25  | 83.3        | 0          | 0.0        | 5            | 16.7        | 30               |
| Lake                       | 82  | 92.1        | 4          | 4.5        | 3            | 3.4         | 89               |
| Mill Creek                 | 70  | 77.8        | 5          | 5.6        | 15           | 16.7        | 90               |
| New Lebanon                | 13  | 81.3        | 0          | 0.0        | 3            | 18.8        | 16               |
| New Vernon                 | 68  | 88.3        | 4          | 5.2        | 5            | 6.5         | 77               |
| Sandy Lake                 | 65  | 68.4        | 2          | 2.1        | 28           | 29.5        | 95               |
| Sandy Lake                 | 123   | 83.7        | 13         | 8.8        | 11           | 7.5         | 147              |
| Stoneboro                  | 116   | 78.4        | 12         | 8.1        | 20           | 13.5        | 148              |
| Worth                      | 96  | 87.3        | 5          | 4.5        | 9            | 8.2         | 110              |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b>     | <b>4,463</b>                                  | <b>67.7</b> | <b>378</b> | <b>5.7</b> | <b>1,747</b> | <b>26.5</b> | <b>6,588</b>     |
| Clark                      | 67  | 94.4        | 0          | 0.0        | 4            | 5.6         | 71               |
| Farrell                    | 307   | 39.8        | 50         | 6.5        | 414          | 53.7        | 771              |
| Hermitage                  | 1,411   | 75.3        | 79         | 4.2        | 385          | 20.5        | 1,875            |
| Lackawannock               | 288   | 88.1        | 12         | 3.7        | 27           | 8.3         | 327              |
| Sharon                     | 1,137   | 58.2        | 160        | 8.2        | 656          | 33.6        | 1,953            |
| Sharpsville                | 408   | 74.5        | 26         | 4.7        | 114          | 20.8        | 548              |
| Shenango                   | 426   | 81.3        | 26         | 5.0        | 72           | 13.7        | 524              |
| South Pymatuning           | 292   | 82.7        | 11         | 3.1        | 50           | 14.2        | 353              |
| West Middlesex             | 82  | 78.8        | 10         | 9.6        | 12           | 11.5        | 104              |
| Wheatland                  | 45  | 72.6        | 4          | 6.5        | 13           | 21.0        | 62               |
| <b>Mercer</b>              | <b>1,094</b>                                  | <b>80.3</b> | <b>68</b>  | <b>5.0</b> | <b>201</b>   | <b>14.7</b> | <b>1,363</b>     |
| Coolspring                 | 205   | 81.0        | 9          | 3.6        | 39           | 15.4        | 253              |
| East Lackawannock          | 176   | 88.9        | 11         | 5.6        | 11           | 5.6         | 198              |
| Findley                    | 159   | 91.9        | 5          | 2.9        | 9            | 5.2         | 173              |
| Jefferson                  | 254   | 80.1        | 22         | 6.9        | 41           | 12.9        | 317              |
| Mercer                     | 171   | 60.9        | 18         | 6.4        | 92           | 32.7        | 281              |
| Wilmington                 | 129   | 91.5        | 3          | 2.1        | 9            | 6.4         | 141              |
| <b>Grove City</b>          | <b>1,351</b>                                  | <b>82.1</b> | <b>94</b>  | <b>5.7</b> | <b>201</b>   | <b>12.2</b> | <b>1,646</b>     |
| Grove City                 | 498   | 78.5        | 19         | 3.0        | 117          | 18.5        | 634              |
| Liberty                    | 137   | 83.5        | 14         | 8.5        | 13           | 7.9         | 164              |
| Pine                       | 433   | 85.1        | 30         | 5.9        | 46           | 9.0         | 509              |
| Springfield                | 207   | 85.5        | 22         | 9.1        | 13           | 5.4         | 242              |
| Wolf Creek                 | 76  | 78.4        | 9          | 9.3        | 12           | 12.4        | 97               |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 SF3A

### Educational Attainment

- Every county in the Mercer County region has a higher rate of high school attainment than Pennsylvania. Mercer County ranks second among surrounding counties for high school graduate or equivalency attainment as shown in Table 2-14

**Table 2-14**  
**Educational Attainment, 2000**

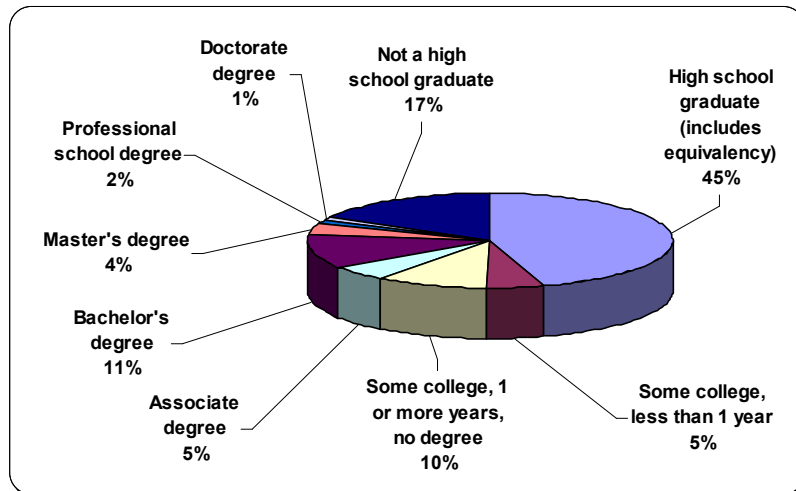
|                     | Total Population 25+ years | % of Population 25+ years     |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                     |                            | Total with High School Degree | % of HS Graduates w/ Bachelors Degree | % of HS Graduates w/ Advanced Degree |
| Pennsylvania        | 8,266,284                  | 81.9                          | 17.0                                  | 10.3                                 |
| Mercer              | 81,499                     | 82.9                          | 13.6                                  | 7.3                                  |
| Butler              | 116,072                    | 86.8                          | 18.5                                  | 8.6                                  |
| Crawford            | 59,684                     | 81.6                          | 11.6                                  | 6.4                                  |
| Lawrence            | 64,767                     | 81.6                          | 12.2                                  | 6.3                                  |
| Venango             | 39,366                     | 81.0                          | 10.2                                  | 5.9                                  |
| Mahoning County, OH | 174,803                    | 82.4                          | 14.3                                  | 6.9                                  |
| Trumbull County, OH | 153,044                    | 82.5                          | 12.1                                  | 5.4                                  |

Source: US Census SF 1

Note - High school Graduates also includes residents with GED equivalency, or some college but no degree, and also those with associates degrees

- Mercer County is a leader in the region in percentage of residents with advanced degrees. Of residents ages 25 and over, approximately 7 percent have obtained masters, professional, or doctorate degrees. Mercer County is second only to Butler County (7.4 percent) in advanced degree attainment.

**Figure 2-3**  
**Educational Attainment as Percent of Population 25 Years and Older, 2000**





## Income and Poverty Characteristics

- **Mercer County household incomes experienced real growth from 1990 to 2000.** Mercer County's median household income was \$34,666 in 1999. There was a \$10,067 increase in dollars from median household income in 1989 (\$24,599), which indicates approximately 5 percent real growth.
- **Trends in per capita income also reflect growth within the County.** Per capita income increased from \$15,190 in 1989 to \$17,636 in 1999, resulting in real growth of 16.1 percent. Regarding both median household income and per capita income, Mercer County fared better than Pennsylvania (-4.1 percent real growth in median household income; 3.2 percent real growth in per capita income).
- **The Shenango Valley region had the two highest and two lowest municipal median household incomes.** At the local level, the Borough of Clark had the highest median household income (\$53,438) in 1999, followed by South Pymatuning (\$44,102) and Liberty (\$43,355). Municipalities with the lowest median household income in 1999 were Farrell (\$22,659), Sharon (\$26,945) and Jamestown (\$26,979). The three municipalities showing the greatest real growth in median household income from 1989 to 1999 were New Lebanon, Jackson Center, and Fairview—all in the Lakeview region.

Table 2-15 on the following page provides additional details regarding per capita and household income for each of the County's municipalities.

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**Table 2-15  
Income by Municipality and Region 1990-2000**

| Municipality               | Median Household Income      |   |                              |  | Per Capita Income                               |                        |                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                            | 1989 median household income | 1989 Median Household Income Inflated to 1999 Dollars (1) | 1999 Median Household Income | Real Growth in Median Household Income | 1989 Per Capita Income Inflated to 2000 Dollars | 1999 Per Capita Income | Real Growth in Per Capita Income |
| Pennsylvania               | \$ 29,069                    | \$ 38,952   | \$40,106                     | 3.0                                    | \$ 18,851                                       | \$ 20,880              | 10.8                             |
| <b>Mercer County</b>       | <b>\$ 24,599</b>             | <b>\$ 32,963</b>  | <b>\$34,666</b>              | <b>5.2</b>                             | <b>\$ 15,190</b>                                | <b>\$ 17,636</b>       | <b>16.1</b>                      |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Delaware                   | \$ 28,750                    | \$ 38,525   | \$ 42,240                    | 9.6                                    | \$ 16,395                                       | \$ 18,410              | 12.3                             |
| Fredonia                   | \$ 25,288                    | \$ 33,886   | \$ 37,917                    | 11.9                                   | \$ 33,886                                       | \$ 14,233              | -58.0                            |
| Greene                     | \$ 25,161                    | \$ 33,716   | \$ 39,625                    | 17.5                                   | \$ 33,716                                       | \$ 17,442              | -48.3                            |
| Greenville                 | \$ 22,121                    | \$ 29,642   | \$ 31,250                    | 5.4                                    | \$ 29,642                                       | \$ 14,969              | -49.5                            |
| Hempfield                  | \$ 30,723                    | \$ 41,169   | \$ 38,396                    | -6.7                                   | \$ 41,169                                       | \$ 20,169              | -51.0                            |
| Jamestown                  | \$ 23,750                    | \$ 31,825   | \$ 26,979                    | -15.2                                  | \$ 31,825                                       | \$ 15,199              | -52.2                            |
| Pymatuning                 | \$ 20,500                    | \$ 27,470   | \$ 33,048                    | 20.3                                   | \$ 12,946                                       | \$ 15,164              | 17.1                             |
| Sugar Grove                | \$ 28,947                    | \$ 38,789   | \$ 36,010                    | -7.2                                   | \$ 15,445                                       | \$ 16,602              | 7.5                              |
| West Salem                 | \$ 26,477                    | \$ 35,479   | \$ 38,480                    | 8.5                                    | \$ 15,327                                       | \$ 16,834              | 9.8                              |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Deer Creek                 | \$ 23,269                    | \$ 31,180   | \$ 33,542                    | 7.6                                    | \$ 12,045                                       | \$ 16,413              | 36.3                             |
| French Creek               | \$ 25,819                    | \$ 34,597   | \$ 35,568                    | 2.8                                    | \$ 34,597                                       | \$ 16,064              | -53.6                            |
| Otter Creek                | \$ 29,091                    | \$ 38,982   | \$ 37,656                    | -3.4                                   | \$ 15,167                                       | \$ 16,203              | 6.8                              |
| Perry                      | \$ 24,507                    | \$ 32,839   | \$ 35,221                    | 7.3                                    | \$ 14,176                                       | \$ 16,482              | 16.3                             |
| Salem                      | \$ 23,088                    | \$ 30,938   | \$ 35,000                    | 13.1                                   | \$ 14,784                                       | \$ 17,317              | 17.1                             |
| Sandy Creek                | \$ 26,364                    | \$ 35,328   | \$ 36,250                    | 2.6                                    | \$ 14,338                                       | \$ 15,986              | 11.5                             |
| Sheakleyville              | \$ 26,607                    | \$ 35,653   | \$ 28,750                    | -19.4                                  | \$ 13,153                                       | \$ 15,479              | 17.7                             |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Fairview                   | \$ 23,214                    | \$ 31,107   | \$ 40,395                    | 29.9                                   | \$ 12,037                                       | \$ 14,909              | 23.9                             |
| Jackson                    | \$ 27,188                    | \$ 36,432   | \$ 42,574                    | 16.9                                   | \$ 36,432                                       | \$ 18,326              | -49.7                            |
| Jackson Center             | \$ 19,000                    | \$ 25,460   | \$ 35,625                    | 39.9                                   | \$ 25,460                                       | \$ 15,721              | -38.3                            |
| Lake                       | \$ 23,667                    | \$ 31,714   | \$ 36,591                    | 15.4                                   | \$ 14,802                                       | \$ 14,690              | -0.8                             |
| Mill Creek                 | \$ 29,167                    | \$ 39,084   | \$ 39,219                    | 0.3                                    | \$ 15,367                                       | \$ 16,928              | 10.2                             |
| New Lebanon                | \$ 20,278                    | \$ 27,173   | \$ 38,472                    | 41.6                                   | \$ 24,873                                       | \$ 16,735              | -32.7                            |
| New Vernon                 | \$ 23,971                    | \$ 32,121   | \$ 32,031                    | -0.3                                   | \$ 14,658                                       | \$ 13,325              | -9.1                             |
| Sandy Lake                 | \$ 23,125                    | \$ 30,988   | \$ 34,231                    | 10.5                                   | \$ 15,075                                       | \$ 15,460              | 2.6                              |
| Sandy Lake                 | \$ 26,202                    | \$ 35,111   | \$ 39,896                    | 13.6                                   | \$ 15,685                                       | \$ 19,140              | 22.0                             |
| Stoneboro                  | \$ 21,921                    | \$ 29,374   | \$ 30,592                    | 4.1                                    | \$ 14,790                                       | \$ 14,999              | 1.4                              |
| Worth                      | \$ 27,727                    | \$ 37,154   | \$ 41,328                    | 11.2                                   | \$ 16,158                                       | \$ 18,434              | 14.1                             |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b>     |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Clark                      | \$ 34,500                    | \$ 46,230   | \$ 53,438                    | 15.6                                   | \$ 17,486                                       | \$ 24,892              | 42.4                             |
| Farrell                    | \$ 16,256                    | \$ 21,783   | \$ 22,659                    | 4.0                                    | \$ 12,027                                       | \$ 14,532              | 20.8                             |
| Hermitage                  | \$ 27,020                    | \$ 36,207   | \$ 39,454                    | 9.0                                    | \$ 36,207                                       | \$ 23,227              | -35.8                            |
| Lackawannock               | \$ 22,115                    | \$ 29,634   | \$ 35,428                    | 19.6                                   | \$ 12,956                                       | \$ 15,711              | 21.3                             |
| Sharon                     | \$ 20,711                    | \$ 27,753   | \$ 26,945                    | -2.9                                   | \$ 14,175                                       | \$ 15,913              | 12.3                             |
| Sharpsville                | \$ 23,136                    | \$ 31,002   | \$ 32,580                    | 5.1                                    | \$ 15,733                                       | \$ 17,979              | 14.3                             |
| Shenango                   | \$ 33,160                    | \$ 44,434   | \$ 38,162                    | -14.1                                  | \$ 18,605                                       | \$ 17,728              | -4.7                             |
| South Pymatuning           | \$ 30,260                    | \$ 40,548   | \$ 44,102                    | 8.8                                    | \$ 17,554                                       | \$ 20,637              | 17.6                             |
| West Middlesex             | \$ 22,000                    | \$ 29,480   | \$ 34,938                    | 18.5                                   | \$ 14,231                                       | \$ 16,332              | 14.8                             |
| Wheatland                  | \$ 19,444                    | \$ 26,055   | \$ 27,596                    | 5.9                                    | \$ 15,681                                       | \$ 15,365              | -2.0                             |
| <b>Mercer</b>              |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Coolspring                 | \$ 28,854                    | \$ 38,664   | \$ 37,106                    | -4.0                                   | \$ 16,087                                       | \$ 17,724              | 10.2                             |
| East Lackawannock          | \$ 29,194                    | \$ 39,120   | \$ 41,250                    | 5.4                                    | \$ 15,386                                       | \$ 16,589              | 7.8                              |
| Findley                    | \$ 25,912                    | \$ 34,722   | \$ 42,153                    | 21.4                                   | \$ 10,644                                       | \$ 11,052              | 3.8                              |
| Jefferson                  | \$ 27,115                    | \$ 36,334   | \$ 34,872                    | -4.0                                   | \$ 14,160                                       | \$ 17,154              | 21.1                             |
| Mercer                     | \$ 23,405                    | \$ 31,363   | \$ 29,795                    | -5.0                                   | \$ 14,874                                       | \$ 22,161              | 49.0                             |
| Wilmington                 | \$ 25,560                    | \$ 34,250   | \$ 38,068                    | 11.1                                   | \$ 13,637                                       | \$ 17,719              | 29.9                             |
| <b>Grove City</b>          |                              |   |                              |  |   |                        |                                  |
| Grove City                 | \$ 24,828                    | \$ 33,270   | \$ 34,598                    | 4.0                                    | \$ 33,270                                       | \$ 16,365              | -50.8                            |
| Liberty                    | \$ 26,799                    | \$ 35,911   | \$ 43,355                    | 20.7                                   | \$ 15,155                                       | \$ 20,861              | 37.6                             |
| Pine                       | \$ 29,795                    | \$ 39,925   | \$ 41,423                    | 3.8                                    | \$ 16,116                                       | \$ 18,015              | 11.8                             |
| Springfield                | \$ 23,177                    | \$ 31,057   | \$ 40,341                    | 29.9                                   | \$ 12,561                                       | \$ 17,493              | 39.3                             |
| Wolf Creek                 | \$ 30,625                    | \$ 41,038   | \$ 37,500                    | -8.6                                   | \$ 16,305                                       | \$ 16,538              | 1.4                              |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000 SF3A

(1) CPI from 1989 to 1999 equals 1.34; Dept. of Labor and Industry

**Table 2-16  
Poverty Status, 1999**

|   | Pennsylvania | Mercer County | Butler County | Crawford County | Lawrence County | Venango County | Mahoning County, OH | Trumbull County, OH |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Population  | 12,281,054   | 120,293       | 174,083       | 90,366          | 94,643          | 57,565         | 257,555             | 225,116             |
| Population for whom poverty status is determined*                     | 11,879,950   | 114,010       | 168,143       | 86,310          | 91,820          | 56,117         | 250,542             | 220,572             |
| Income in 1999 below poverty level:                                   | 1,304,117    | 13,092        | 15,269        | 11,024          | 11,096          | 7,516          | 31,328              | 22,788              |
| Under 5 years   | 116,166      | 1,370         | 1,215         | 1,120           | 1,121           | 880            | 3,479               | 2,693               |
| 5 years   | 25,021       | 252           | 221           | 274             | 272             | 204            | 821                 | 593                 |
| 6 to 11 years   | 151,426      | 1,807         | 1,508         | 1,497           | 1,477           | 895            | 4,237               | 2,907               |
| 12 to 17 years  | 129,132      | 1,434         | 1,453         | 1,098           | 1,061           | 624            | 3,063               | 2,301               |
| 18 to 64 years  | 718,277      | 6,769         | 8,667         | 5,917           | 5,669           | 4,083          | 15,941              | 11,751              |
| 65 to 74 years  | 73,432       | 681           | 886           | 525             | 596             | 461            | 1,738               | 1,137               |
| 75 years and over   | 90,663       | 779           | 1,319         | 593             | 900             | 369            | 2,049               | 1,406               |
| <b>As a percentage of population for whom poverty was determined*</b> |              |               |               |                 |                 |                |                     |                     |
| Income in 1999 below poverty level:                                   | 11.0%        | 11.5%         | 17.4%         | 12.8%           | 12.1%           | 13.4%          | 12.5%               | 10.3%               |
| Under 5 years   | 1.0%         | 1.2%          | 9.1%          | 1.3%            | 1.2%            | 1.6%           | 1.4%                | 1.2%                |
| 5 years   | 0.2%         | 0.2%          | 0.7%          | 0.3%            | 0.3%            | 0.4%           | 0.3%                | 0.3%                |
| 6 to 11 years   | 1.3%         | 1.6%          | 0.1%          | 1.7%            | 1.6%            | 1.6%           | 1.7%                | 1.3%                |
| 12 to 17 years  | 1.1%         | 1.3%          | 0.9%          | 1.3%            | 1.2%            | 1.1%           | 1.2%                | 1.0%                |
| 18 to 64 years  | 6.0%         | 5.9%          | 0.9%          | 6.9%            | 6.2%            | 7.3%           | 6.4%                | 5.3%                |
| 65 to 74 years  | 0.6%         | 0.6%          | 5.2%          | 0.6%            | 0.6%            | 0.8%           | 0.7%                | 0.5%                |
| 75 years and over   | 0.8%         | 0.7%          | 0.5%          | 0.7%            | 1.0%            | 0.7%           | 0.8%                | 0.6%                |
| Under 18 years  | 3.6%         | 4.3%          | 10.8%         | 4.6%            | 4.3%            | 4.6%           | 4.6%                | 3.9%                |
| 65 years and older  | 1.4%         | 1.3%          | 5.7%          | 1.3%            | 1.6%            | 1.5%           | 1.5%                | 1.2%                |

Source: US Census SF3

\* Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups also were excluded from the numerator and denominator when calculating poverty rates. They are considered neither "poor" nor "nonpoor."

- Mercer County had one of the lowest poverty rates in the region in 1999.** Poverty status was determined for 94.8 percent of Mercer County residents. The remaining 5.2 percent were exempt from this determination. Of these County residents, 11.5 percent were considered poor by government standards. This rate was similar to Pennsylvania's poverty rate (11.0 percent). Of surrounding counties, only Trumbull County, OH had a lower poverty rate (10.3 percent).

Of children under 18 for whom poverty status was determined, 4.3 percent are considered poor. This rate is 0.7 percentage points higher than that of Pennsylvania.

Of residents 65 years and older for whom poverty status was determined, 1.3 percent are considered poor. This rate is slightly better than that of Pennsylvania by 0.1 percentage points.

## Population Projections

- State projected growth for Mercer County from 1990-2000 did not occur.** County population projections available from the Pennsylvania State Data Center were prepared prior to the Census 2000. The projections indicated that moderate growth at a rate of 1.1 percent would occur from 1990 to 2000, and would continue at similar rates until the

projection horizon of 2020. The 2000 Census demonstrated that such growth did not occur.

Population projections were prepared by Pennsylvania for its 67 counties between 1990 and 2000. These projections have not been updated since the 2000 Census, but were considered as one projection for Mercer County's future. These projections indicate that Mercer County could expect an additional 859 residents (a 0.7 percent increase) in population by 2010, and another 1,457 residents (a 1.2 percent increase) from 2010 to 2020. This 2010-2020 projected growth rate nearly matches that of Pennsylvania (1.3 percent).

**Table 2-17  
Pennsylvania Population Projections for Mercer County, 2000-2020**

| Jurisdiction | Census        | Projection   |              |              |              |              | % Change  |           |           |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|              | April 1, 1990 | July 1, 2000 | July 1, 2005 | July 1, 2010 | July 1, 2015 | July 1, 2020 | 1990-2000 | 2000-2010 | 2010-2020 |
| Pennsylvania | 11,882,643    | 12,241,488   | 12,328,348   | 12,407,523   | 12,490,248   | 12,569,017   | 3.0       | 1.4       | 1.3       |
| Mercer       | 121,003       | 122,293      | 122,560      | 123,152      | 123,872      | 124,609      | 1.1       | 0.7       | 1.2       |
| Butler       | 152,013       | 163,031      | 167,073      | 171,066      | 174,749      | 177,837      | 7.2       | 4.9       | 4.0       |
| Crawford     | 86,169        | 88,366       | 89,156       | 90,315       | 91,656       | 93,048       | 2.5       | 2.2       | 3.0       |
| Lawrence     | 96,246        | 91,028       | 88,479       | 86,452       | 84,784       | 83,259       | -5.4      | -5.0      | -3.7      |
| Venango      | 59,381        | 55,943       | 54,389       | 53,140       | 51,992       | 50,852       | -5.8      | -5.0      | -4.3      |

Source: Pennsylvania State Data Center

- **Mercer County's total population could continue to decline.** Independent population projections, based on 1990 and 2000 census data and utilizing an average of four projection methods, indicate that Mercer County's population will continue to decline at a decreasing or slowing rate over the next 15-20 years. 2003 estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate this is occurring.
- **More current independent population projections were considered for Mercer County** and its 48 municipalities. These independent projections are based upon population trends from 1990-2000.
- **Future growth in Mercer County will concentrate in the eastern portion of the County, namely in the Mercer and Lakeview regions.** These projections suggest that within Mercer County the Mercer region will have the greatest population increase (572 additional residents 2000-2010; 553 additional residents 2010-2020) and will be the fastest growing region (6.9 percent 2000-2010; 4.3 percent 2010-2020). Lakeview ranks second in projections of additional residents and growth rate (390 additional residents at 6.7 percent; 370 additional residents at 4.2 percent). The Shenango Valley and Greenville-Reynolds regions are projected to continue to lose population. The projections for the Shenango Valley region indicate a loss of 1,627 total residents (-4.6 percent) from 2000-2010, and a loss of another 1,679 residents (-3.2 percent) by 2020. Projections for the Greenville-Reynolds region suggest the region may lose 327 residents (-4.6 percent) from 2000-2010, and a loss of another 371 residents (-3.2 percent) by 2020.
- **Future growth in Mercer County is possible.** These projections reflect recent trends as well local and County policy and initiatives, and should be considered only as potential, not

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necessary outcomes. Alternative outcomes could be realized with modifications to policy and initiatives throughout Mercer County.

**Table 2-18  
Independent Population Projections for Mercer County, 2005-2025**

| Jurisdiction               | Census Counts  |                | Population Projections |                |                |                |                | % Change    | % Change    | % Change    |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                            | 1990           | 2000           | 2005                   | 2010           | 2015           | 2020           | 2025           | 2000-2010   | 2010-2020   | 2000-2020   |
| <b>Mercer County</b>       | <b>121,036</b> | <b>120,293</b> | <b>119,981</b>         | <b>119,711</b> | <b>119,256</b> | <b>118,938</b> | <b>118,638</b> | <b>-0.9</b> | <b>-0.6</b> | <b>-1.1</b> |
| <b>Greenville-Reynolds</b> | <b>23,591</b>  | <b>23,240</b>  | <b>23,073</b>          | <b>22,913</b>  | <b>22,715</b>  | <b>22,542</b>  | <b>22,371</b>  | <b>-2.3</b> | <b>-1.6</b> | <b>-3.0</b> |
| Delaware township          | 2,065          | 2,159          | 2,206                  | 2,253          | 2,295          | 2,339          | 2,381          | 6.3         | 3.8         | 8.3         |
| Fredonia borough           | 683            | 652            | 637                    | 622            | 606            | 591            | 576            | -7.0        | -5.0        | -9.4        |
| Greene township            | 1,247          | 1,153          | 1,107                  | 1,062          | 1,016          | 972            | 929            | -11.8       | -8.5        | -15.7       |
| Greenville borough         | 6,736          | 6,380          | 6,206                  | 6,035          | 5,856          | 5,685          | 5,517          | -8.2        | -5.8        | -10.9       |
| Hempfield township         | 3,827          | 4,004          | 4,092                  | 4,180          | 4,260          | 4,343          | 4,423          | 6.4         | 3.9         | 8.5         |
| Jamestown borough          | 761            | 636            | 576                    | 518            | 461            | 406            | 353            | -27.5       | -21.6       | -36.2       |
| Pymatuning township        | 3,737          | 3,782          | 3,804                  | 3,827          | 3,841          | 3,859          | 3,876          | 1.6         | 0.8         | 2.0         |
| Sugar Grove township       | 987            | 909            | 871                    | 834            | 796            | 760            | 724            | -12.4       | -8.9        | -16.4       |
| West Salem township        | 3,548          | 3,565          | 3,573                  | 3,582          | 3,584          | 3,588          | 3,592          | 0.5         | 0.2         | 0.6         |
| <b>Northern Tier</b>       | <b>4,982</b>   | <b>5,092</b>   | <b>5,149</b>           | <b>5,206</b>   | <b>5,255</b>   | <b>5,309</b>   | <b>5,363</b>   | <b>3.2</b>  | <b>2.0</b>  | <b>4.3</b>  |
| Deer Creek township        | 513            | 465            | 442                    | 419            | 396            | 374            | 352            | -14.9       | -10.8       | -19.6       |
| French Creek township      | 789            | 764            | 752                    | 740            | 726            | 714            | 702            | -4.9        | -3.5        | -6.6        |
| Otter Creek township       | 583            | 611            | 625                    | 639            | 652            | 665            | 677            | 6.6         | 4.0         | 8.8         |
| Perry township             | 1,468          | 1,471          | 1,473                  | 1,474          | 1,473          | 1,473          | 1,472          | 0.1         | -0.1        | 0.1         |
| Salem township             | 678            | 769            | 815                    | 862            | 907            | 953            | 999            | 17.9        | 10.6        | 23.9        |
| Sandy Creek township       | 806            | 848            | 869                    | 890            | 909            | 929            | 948            | 7.2         | 4.4         | 9.5         |
| Sheakleyville borough      | 145            | 164            | 174                    | 183            | 193            | 202            | 212            | 17.5        | 10.4        | 23.4        |
| <b>Lakeview</b>            | <b>8,080</b>   | <b>8,462</b>   | <b>8,656</b>           | <b>8,852</b>   | <b>9,033</b>   | <b>9,222</b>   | <b>9,410</b>   | <b>6.7</b>  | <b>4.2</b>  | <b>9.0</b>  |
| Fairview township          | 910            | 1,036          | 1,100                  | 1,164          | 1,227          | 1,291          | 1,356          | 18.5        | 10.9        | 24.6        |
| Jackson township           | 1,089          | 1,206          | 1,265                  | 1,324          | 1,381          | 1,439          | 1,497          | 14.5        | 8.7         | 19.4        |
| Jackson Center borough     | 244            | 221            | 210                    | 199            | 188            | 177            | 167            | -15.0       | -10.9       | -19.8       |
| Lake township              | 651            | 706            | 734                    | 761            | 788            | 814            | 841            | 11.6        | 7.0         | 15.3        |
| Mill Creek township        | 604            | 639            | 656                    | 674            | 690            | 707            | 723            | 8.0         | 4.9         | 10.6        |
| New Lebanon borough        | 209            | 205            | 203                    | 201            | 199            | 197            | 195            | -3.0        | -2.2        | -4.0        |
| New Vernon township        | 493            | 524            | 540                    | 555            | 569            | 584            | 599            | 8.7         | 5.3         | 11.5        |
| Sandy Lake borough         | 722            | 743            | 753                    | 764            | 773            | 782            | 791            | 4.0         | 2.4         | 5.3         |
| Sandy Lake township        | 1,161          | 1,248          | 1,292                  | 1,335          | 1,376          | 1,418          | 1,460          | 10.3        | 6.2         | 13.7        |
| Stoneboro borough          | 1,091          | 1,104          | 1,110                  | 1,117          | 1,121          | 1,126          | 1,131          | 1.6         | 0.8         | 2.0         |
| Worth township             | 906            | 830            | 793                    | 757            | 720            | 685            | 650            | -13.2       | -9.5        | -17.5       |
| <b>Shenango Valley</b>     | <b>56,526</b>  | <b>54,800</b>  | <b>53,974</b>          | <b>53,173</b>  | <b>52,298</b>  | <b>51,494</b>  | <b>50,708</b>  | <b>-4.6</b> | <b>-3.2</b> | <b>-6.0</b> |
| Clark borough              | 610            | 633            | 644                    | 656            | 666            | 677            | 687            | 5.2         | 3.1         | 6.9         |
| Farrell city               | 6,837          | 6,050          | 5,670                  | 5,299          | 4,927          | 4,570          | 4,223          | -18.6       | -13.7       | -24.5       |
| Hermitage city             | 15,264         | 16,157         | 16,604                 | 17,050         | 17,462         | 17,885         | 18,301         | 8.1         | 4.9         | 10.7        |
| Lackawannock township      | 2,678          | 2,561          | 2,504                  | 2,447          | 2,387          | 2,330          | 2,274          | -6.8        | -4.8        | -9.0        |
| Sharon city                | 17,538         | 16,328         | 15,738                 | 15,159         | 14,564         | 13,994         | 13,435         | -10.8       | -7.7        | -14.3       |
| Sharpsville borough        | 4,730          | 4,500          | 4,387                  | 4,277          | 4,160          | 4,049          | 3,940          | -7.6        | -5.3        | -10.0       |
| Shenango township          | 4,345          | 4,037          | 3,887                  | 3,740          | 3,588          | 3,444          | 3,302          | -11.1       | -7.9        | -14.7       |
| South Pymatuning township  | 2,776          | 2,857          | 2,897                  | 2,937          | 2,972          | 3,008          | 3,043          | 4.0         | 2.4         | 5.3         |
| West Middlesex borough     | 982            | 929            | 903                    | 878            | 851            | 826            | 801            | -8.4        | -5.9        | -11.1       |
| Wheatland borough          | 766            | 748            | 739                    | 730            | 720            | 711            | 702            | -3.7        | -2.6        | -4.9        |
| <b>Mercer</b>              | <b>11,652</b>  | <b>12,205</b>  | <b>12,488</b>          | <b>12,777</b>  | <b>13,046</b>  | <b>13,330</b>  | <b>13,616</b>  | <b>6.9</b>  | <b>4.3</b>  | <b>9.2</b>  |
| Coolspring township        | 2,141          | 2,287          | 2,360                  | 2,433          | 2,502          | 2,572          | 2,641          | 9.4         | 5.7         | 12.4        |
| East Lackawannock township | 1,606          | 1,701          | 1,749                  | 1,796          | 1,840          | 1,885          | 1,929          | 8.2         | 5.0         | 10.8        |
| Findley township           | 2,284          | 2,305          | 2,315                  | 2,326          | 2,332          | 2,339          | 2,346          | 1.2         | 0.6         | 1.5         |
| Jefferson township         | 1,999          | 2,416          | 2,630                  | 2,848          | 3,065          | 3,288          | 3,516          | 26.9        | 15.5        | 36.1        |
| Mercer borough             | 2,445          | 2,391          | 2,364                  | 2,338          | 2,308          | 2,280          | 2,253          | -3.5        | -2.5        | -4.6        |
| Wilmington township        | 1,177          | 1,105          | 1,070                  | 1,035          | 1,000          | 965            | 932            | -9.5        | -6.8        | -12.6       |
| <b>Grove City</b>          | <b>16,205</b>  | <b>16,494</b>  | <b>16,641</b>          | <b>16,790</b>  | <b>16,908</b>  | <b>17,040</b>  | <b>17,170</b>  | <b>2.5</b>  | <b>1.5</b>  | <b>3.3</b>  |
| Grove City borough         | 8,242          | 8,024          | 7,917                  | 7,811          | 7,693          | 7,583          | 7,473          | -4.1        | -2.9        | -5.5        |
| Liberty township           | 1,223          | 1,276          | 1,302                  | 1,329          | 1,353          | 1,377          | 1,401          | 6.0         | 3.6         | 7.9         |
| Pine township              | 4,194          | 4,493          | 4,643                  | 4,793          | 4,933          | 5,077          | 5,219          | 9.8         | 5.9         | 13.0        |
| Springfield township       | 1,893          | 1,972          | 2,011                  | 2,051          | 2,086          | 2,122          | 2,158          | 5.8         | 3.5         | 7.6         |
| Wolf Creek township        | 653            | 729            | 767                    | 806            | 843            | 881            | 919            | 15.7        | 9.3         | 20.9        |

Source: Bondata, 2003

## Indicators and Trends

Several other measures or indicators of Mercer County's socioeconomic condition were available from analysis prepared by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. The following indicators were selected for comparison with surrounding Pennsylvania counties and the state.

### ***Difference in median age in years***

- Mercer County's median age was 39.6 or 1.6 years older than the state median, 38.0, in 2000. Lawrence, Venango, and Mahoning Counties are also older than Pennsylvanians on average. Only Butler County residents are younger than Pennsylvanians among surrounding counties.

**Table 2-19**  
**Median Age, 2000**

|                     | Median Age<br>2000 | Comparison to PA<br>(years) |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pennsylvania        | 38.0               | -                           |
| Mercer              | 39.6               | 1.6                         |
| Butler              | 37.6               | -0.4                        |
| Crawford            | 38.1               | 0.1                         |
| Lawrence            | 40.5               | 2.5                         |
| Venango             | 40.2               | 2.2                         |
| Mahoning County, OH | 39.7               | 1.7                         |
| Trumbull County, OH | 39.0               | 1.0                         |

Source: US Census Bureau

### ***Average Annual Wage and Income as Percent of state average***

- **On average, when Pennsylvania workers earn \$4, Mercer County workers earn only \$3.** Mercer County's average annual wage was \$25,976 in 2000. Mercer County's average annual wage was \$7,833 less than Pennsylvania's average annual wage (\$33,809) or 76.8 percent of the state average. Surrounding Pennsylvania counties had similar comparisons, with the exception of Butler County, which had an average annual wage difference of \$4,373 less than Pennsylvania or 87.1 percent of the state average.
- **Mercer County's average annual wage is losing ground against the state average.** After considering inflation, Mercer County's real change in average annual wage was -1.7 percent. As a whole, Pennsylvania experienced real growth of 10.1 percent in average annual wage, as did Butler, Crawford and Lawrence Counties. Venango County had a real change of -2.2 percent.

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**Table 2-20  
Average Annual Wage, 2000**

|              | Average Annual Wage, 2000 | Comparison to PA (\$) | Comparison to PA (% of PA) | Real Change in Average Annual Wage, 1990-2000 |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Pennsylvania | \$33,809                  | -                     | -                          | 10.10%  |
| Mercer       | \$25,976                  | -\$7,833              | 76.8%                      | -1.70%  |
| Butler       | \$29,436                  | -\$4,373              | 87.1%                      | 4.80%   |
| Crawford     | \$26,596                  | -\$7,213              | 78.7%                      | 3.20%   |
| Lawrence     | \$26,395                  | -\$7,414              | 78.1%                      | 5.10%   |
| Venango      | \$26,117                  | -\$7,692              | 77.2%                      | -2.20%  |

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

***Future Youth and Senior Population***

- Using Pennsylvania's projections for population, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania projected the distribution of future population among the under 20 and 65 and older age groups. These projections suggest that Mercer County's population under 20 years old will decline from 26.5 percent to 23.8 percent of the County's total population, and the County's 65 and older population will grow from 18.1 percent to 18.5 percent of the County's total population by 2020. The direction of these trends is the same across surrounding counties and the state. Mercer and Butler Counties are projected to have the most dramatic decrease in under 20 population (a change of -2.7 percent) while Trumbull County is projected to have the most dramatic increase in residents 65 years and older (a change of 5.2 percent).

**Table 2-21  
Future Population Distribution, 2020**

|              | Projected Total Population 2010 | Projected Total Population 2020 | Population Under 20 Years Old, 2000 | Projected Population Under 20 Years Old, 2020 | Population 65 Years Old & Older, 2000 | Projected Population 65 Years Old & Older, 2020 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Pennsylvania | 12,407,523                      | 12,569,017                      | 26.60%                              | 24.70%  | 15.60%                                | 18.40%  |
| Mercer       | 123,152                         | 124,609                         | 26.50%                              | 23.80%  | 18.10%                                | 18.50%  |
| Butler       | 171,066                         | 177,837                         | 27.50%                              | 24.80%  | 14.30%                                | 18.90%  |
| Crawford     | 90,315                          | 93,048                          | 28.00%                              | 27.00%  | 15.60%                                | 19.80%  |
| Lawrence     | 86,452                          | 83,259                          | 25.90%                              | 25.70%  | 19.30%                                | 21.00%  |
| Venango      | 53,140                          | 50,852                          | 26.80%                              | 24.30%  | 16.80%                                | 22.00%  |

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

**Live Births and Death Rates per 1,000 Residents**

- **A smaller young resident population translates to fewer births in Mercer County.** Mercer County had 11.2 live births per 1,000 residents in 2001. This value reflects a decrease of 0.9 live births per 1,000 residents since 1990. Similar trends were experienced in Butler, Crawford, and Lawrence Counties. Venango County and Pennsylvania both demonstrated declines of approximately 3.0 percent in live births per 1,000 residents.
  
- **Are Mercer County's older residents healthier than those in surrounding counties?** Mercer County had 11.7 deaths per 1,000 residents in 2001. This value reflects an increase of 0.2 deaths per 1,000 residents over 1990 values. Deaths per 1,000 residents are typically higher in Mercer County and surrounding counties than across Pennsylvania as a whole. However Mercer County had the same rate of increase as Pennsylvania, while other counties had higher increases in deaths per 1,000 residents.

**Table 2-22  
Births and Deaths per 1,000 Residents, 2001**

|              | Live Births Per 1,000 Residents |      | Change in Live Births per 1,000 Residents 1990-2001 | Deaths Per 1,000 Residents |      | Change in Deaths per 1,000 Residents 1990-2001 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------|---|----------------------------|------|--|
|              | 1990                            | 2001 |   | 1990                       | 2001 |  |
| Pennsylvania | 14.4                            | 11.5 | -2.9  | 10.3                       | 10.5 | 0.2  |
| Mercer       | 12.1                            | 11.2 | -0.9  | 11.5                       | 11.7 | 0.2  |
| Butler       | 13.5                            | 12.3 | -1.2  | 9.4                        | 9.8  | 0.4  |
| Crawford     | 13.2                            | 11.9 | -1.3  | 10.1                       | 10.6 | 0.5  |
| Lawrence     | 11.9                            | 10.7 | -1.2  | 12                         | 12.3 | 0.3  |
| Venango      | 13.3                            | 10.2 | -3.1  | 10.4                       | 11.3 | 0.9  |

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania