



Profile of the  
**Simonds Gardens**

Planning Area

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## **Acknowledgements**

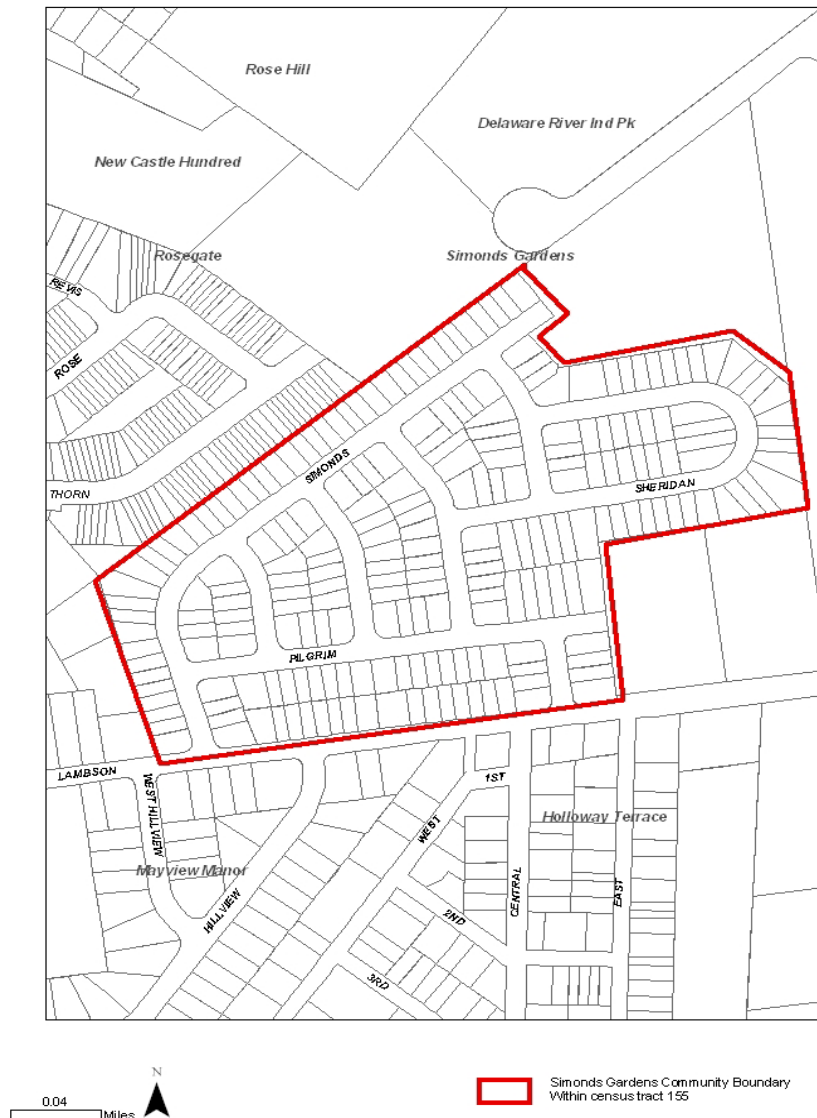
This profile was prepared by a team of graduate students in the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service under the supervision of Professors Steven W. Peuquet and Raheemah Jabbar-Bey. The team was led by doctoral student Cara Robinson and included master's degree students Yimin Li, Erin McGrath and Kathryn Soja. Policy Analyst Mary Joan McDuffie provided invaluable assistance with the acquisition of data and the preparation of maps.

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## Introduction to Simonds Gardens Planning Area

The Simonds Gardens planning area is located in New Castle County. The community covers .023014 square miles and is located within the New Castle County. The community of Simonds Gardens is in zip code 19720. The community covers six census designated blocks in New Castle County census tract 155. The population of the area, according to the 2000 Census was 314. It is bordered on the south by Lambson's Lane and the community of Holloway Terrace, a landfill on the east, Rosegate Community on the west and South Wilmington on the north.

### Map of Simonds Gardens Planning Area



This document starts with a broad overview of the characteristics of the state of Delaware, its three counties, and the state's two largest cities. This will provide the reader with important

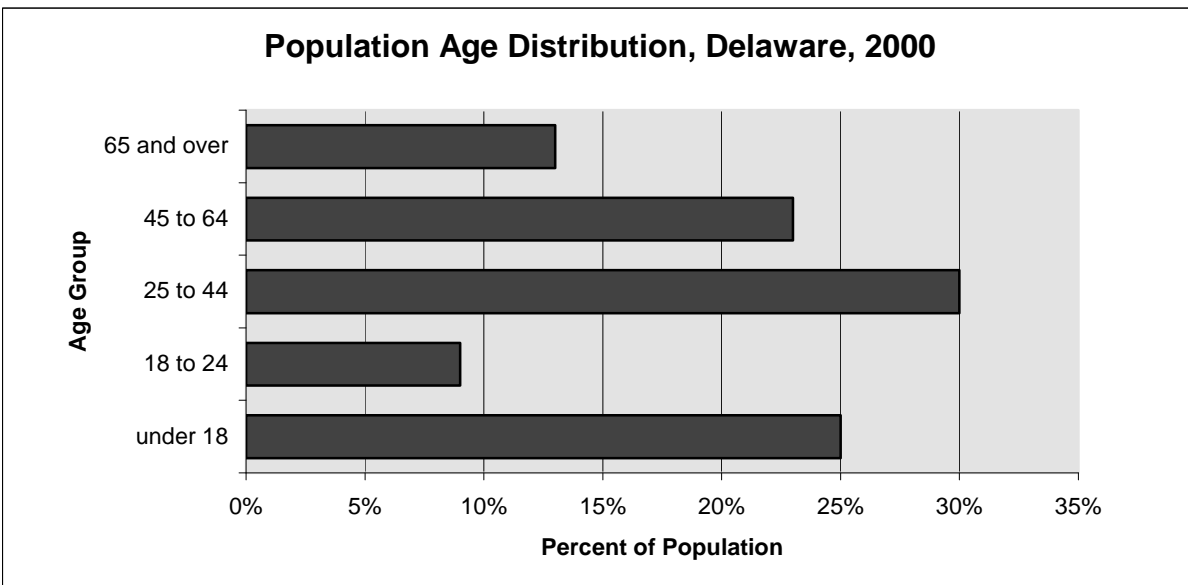
contextual and comparative information as the document then focuses on the specific physical, social and economic characteristics of the Simonds Gardens planning area. Importantly, each community planning team will need to add to the information presented in this document as it carries out its planning process.

## Overview of the State

Delaware is located on the eastern seaboard of the United States, and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay, as well as the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The state, which ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in geographical size among the 50 states, is only 100 miles long and 30 miles wide covering a land mass of 2,010 square miles. Its northern most county, New Castle, contains the highest point of elevation (450 feet above sea level), while the lowest point is located near the Atlantic shore in the southern most county of Sussex. The mean elevation of this relatively flat state is 60 feet above sea level. The average daily temperature ranges from 31 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 76 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

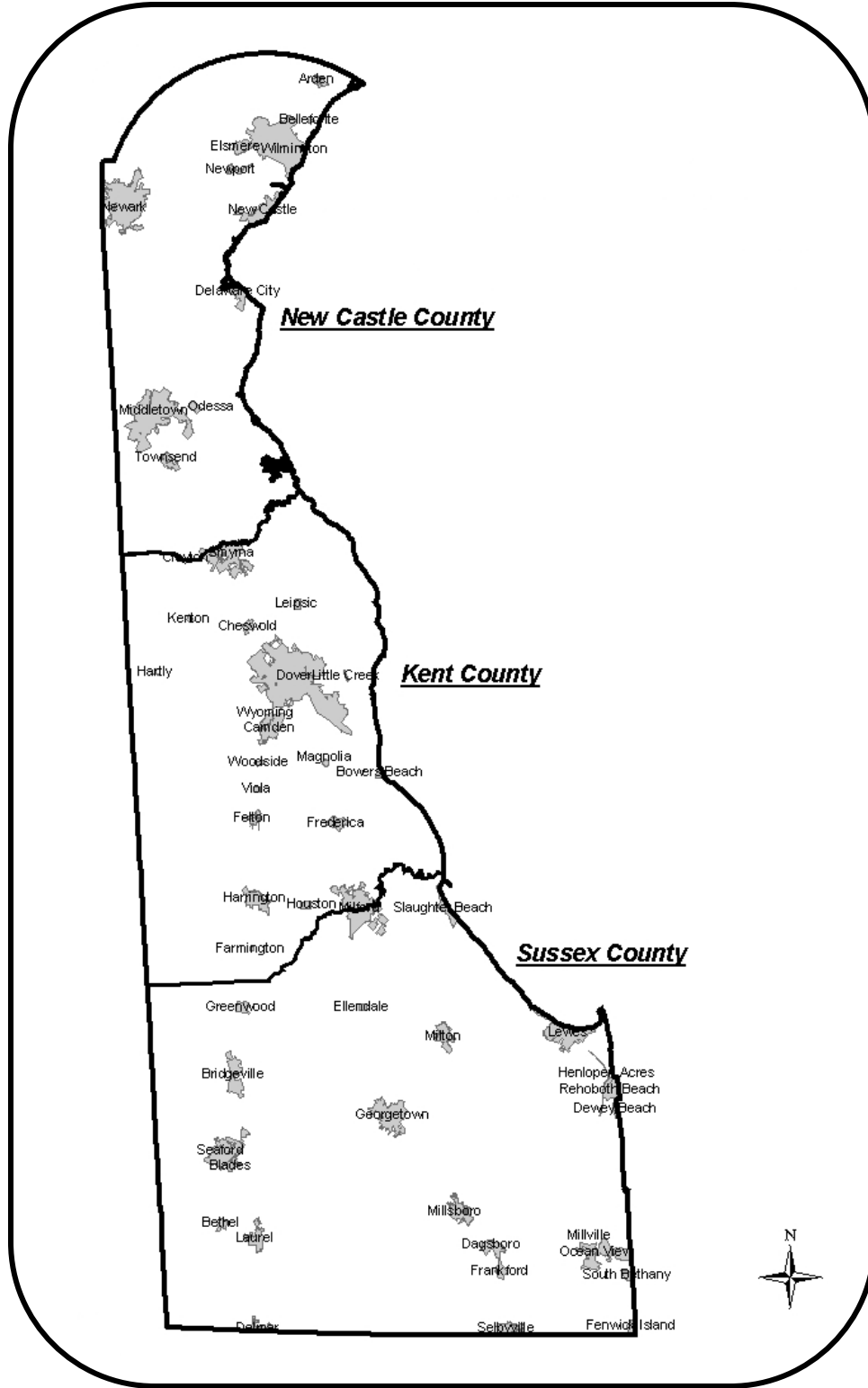
### ***Demographic and Social Characteristics***

In 2000 Delaware had a total population of 783,600, with females outnumbering males 51.4% to 48.6%. The median age was 36.7 years, with 25% of the population under age 18 and 13% age 65 and older. The size of the 65+ age group in Delaware increased 26% between 1990 and 2000, more than double the growth rate of 12% for the nation as a whole. Delaware's children (those under 18 years of age) lived in 105,833 households, which constituted 35.4% of the state's total of 298,736 households in 2000.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

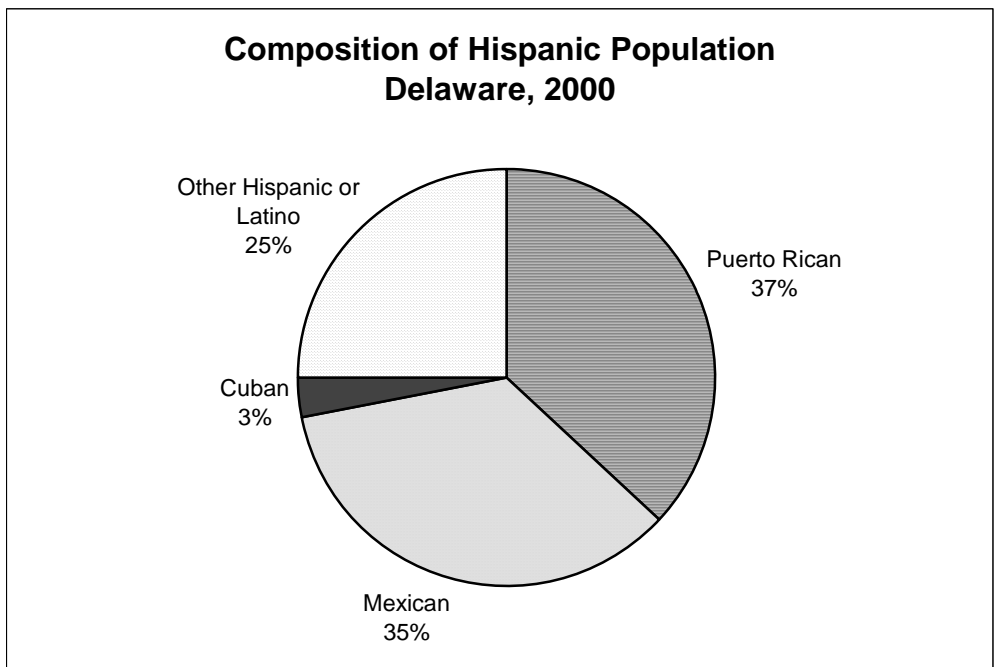
# State of Delaware County and Municipal Boundaries



About 6% of the people living in Delaware in 2000 were foreign born. Of the remaining 94% of the state's residents which were born in the U.S, about half were born in Delaware. Whether foreign born or not, 9.5% of persons age 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home in 2000. Of those speaking another language, 48% spoke Spanish and 52% some other language. About a third of those speaking other languages at home reported that they did not speak English "very well."

The 2000 Census shows that 74.6% of Delawareans were White; 19.2% were Black or African American; 2.1% were Asian; 0.3% were American Indian or Alaska Native; less than 0.1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 2% were some other race, and 1.7% reported two or more races.

Delaware's Hispanic population grew by a substantial 136% during the decade of the 1990s, increasing from 15,820 persons in 1990 to 37,277 persons in 2000. By the end of the decade the Hispanic population constituted 4.8% of the state's total population, with the largest group being Puerto Ricans (37%), followed by Mexicans (35%) and Cubans (3%). The remaining 25% of the state's Hispanics were members of other subgroups, with Dominicans and Guatemalans having the largest numbers.



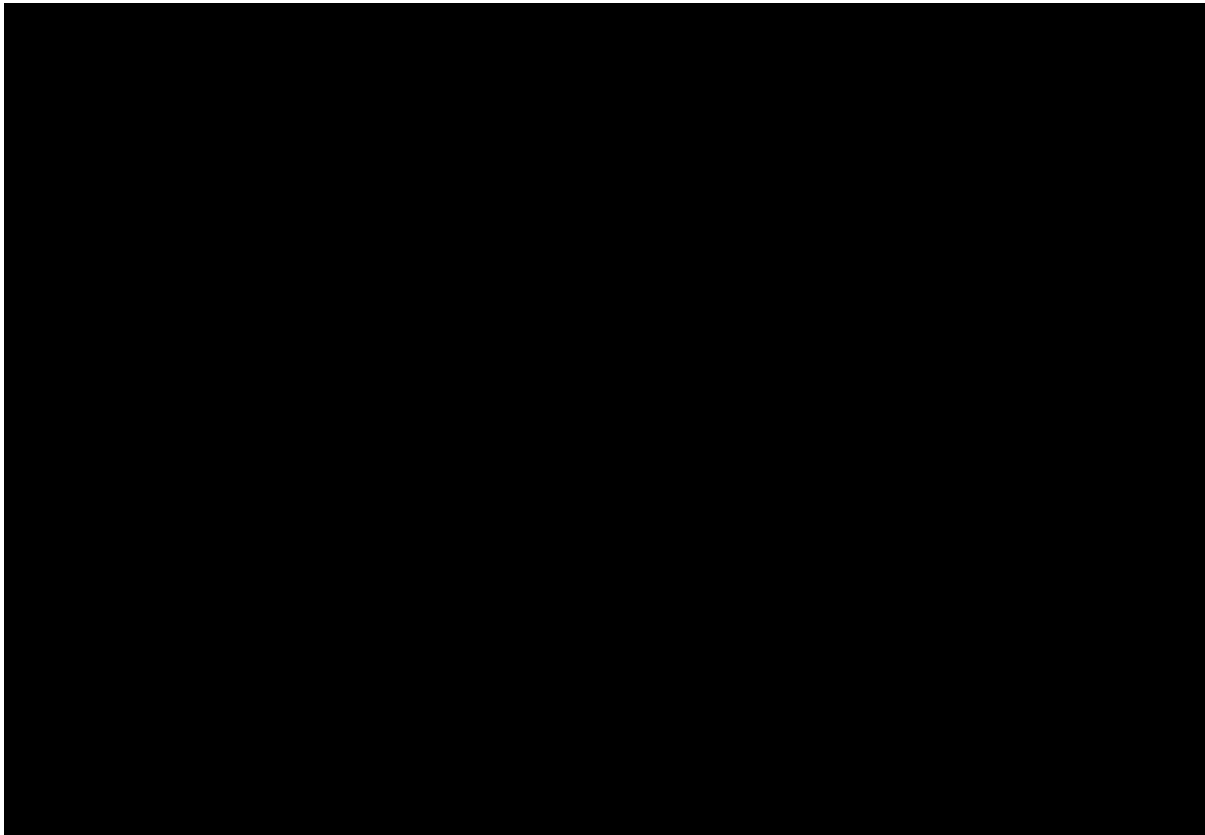
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

For the segment of the population that was five years of age or older, 2000 census data shows that 16% had a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varies by age -- from 8.9% of people in the 5-20 year age group, to 18% for people 21-64 years of age, to a high of 37.7% of those age 65 and older.

About three fourth of the people in Delaware say that they have a Protestant (46%) or Catholic (25%) religious affiliation. Those describing themselves as Jewish constituted 2.5% of the population, and 13% report no religious affiliation (Social Capital Survey, 2000).

### ***Economy***

For the employed population age 16 and older, the industry categories with the highest employment levels in Delaware in 2000 were “education, health and social services” (18%), “manufacturing” (13%), “retail trade” (12%), and “finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing” (12%).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

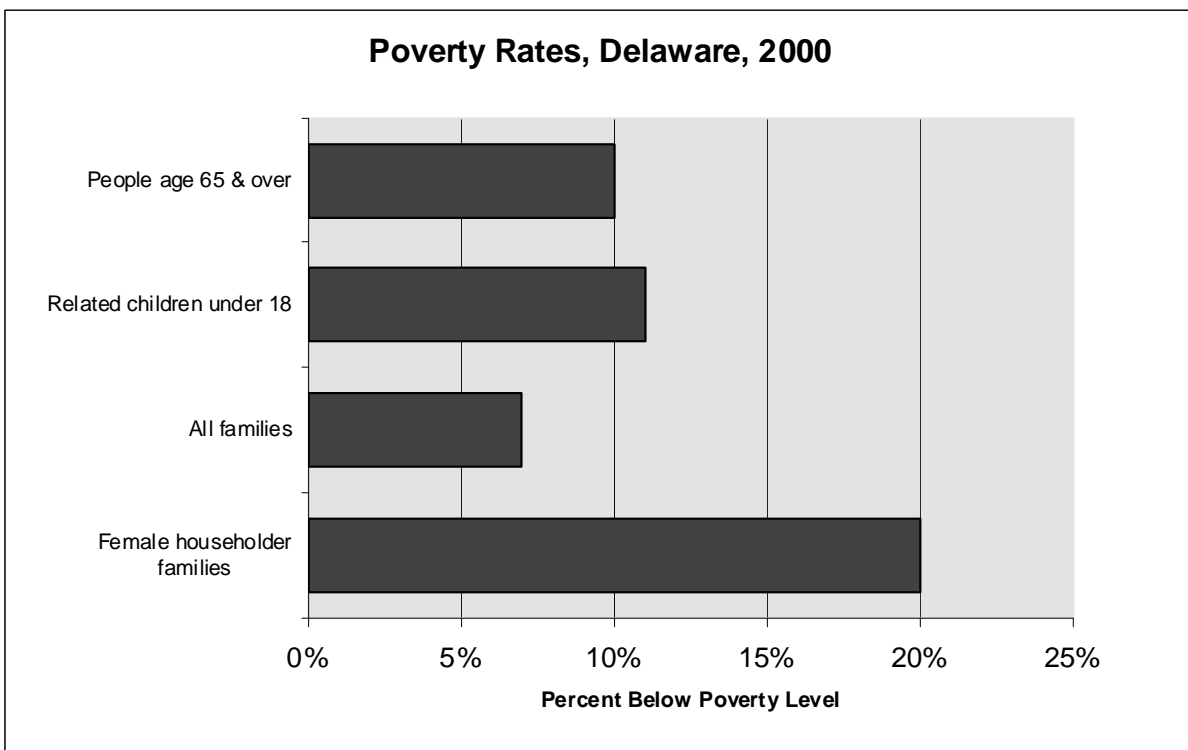
The most common occupational categories were: “management, professional, and related occupations” (36%), “sales and office occupations” (27%), “service occupations” (15%), “production, transportation, and material moving occupations” (12%), and “construction, extraction and maintenance occupations” (9%). Eighty-two percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 13% were federal, state, or local government workers; and 4% were self-employed.

In terms of wages, the largest industry categories in 2001 were “services” (26% of earnings), “finance, insurance, and real estate” (17%), and “nondurable goods manufacturing” (14%). Of the industries that accounted for at least 5% of earnings in 2001, the slowest growing from 2000 to 2001 was “nondurable goods manufacturing,” which increased just 1.8%; the fastest growth was in “finance, insurance, and real estate,” which increased 10.4%. From the data on employment, occupation, and wages reported above, it is clear that the Delaware economy has a strong services orientation.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Delaware had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$31,092 in 2000. This PCPI ranked 14<sup>th</sup> nationally, and was 104% of the national average of \$29,760. PCPI is calculated as the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area.

**Poverty**

In 1999, according to the 2000 Census, 9.2% of Delaware’s residents had incomes at or below the federally defined poverty level. Eleven percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty line, compared to 10% of people age 65 and over. Seven percent of all families and 20% of families with a female head of household had incomes below the poverty level. Fourteen percent of the households in Delaware received means-tested public assistance or non-cash benefits.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

## **Health**

In 2006, Delaware has an uninsured rate of 12.7%. 105,000 Delawareans are without health insurance. This is lower than the national rate of 15.9%. On this measure, Delaware ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation. Between 2001 and 2006 Delaware's uninsured rate rose from 9.7% to the 12.7%. Of the 105,000 Delawareans who are uninsured, 83% live above the poverty rate, 32% have household incomes above \$50,000/year, 22% are under age 18 and 70% are white (Ratlidge, 2006).

As of 2002, Delaware adults had an obesity rate of 22.4%. This figure rose from 14.4% in 1990. Moreover, one third of African American adults report that they are obese, compared to 21% of non-Hispanic whites, and 18.4% of Hispanic adults (Division of Public Health, 2002).

Between 2000-2004, cancer incidence rates among Delawareans were 5.8% higher than the United States estimate. Moreover, cancer mortality rates among Delawareans were 4.6% higher than the United States estimate.

“During 2000-2004, a total of 21,379 cancers were diagnosed among Delaware residents. Of these, 11,253 (52.6%) occurred among men; 10,126 (47.4%) occurred among women. The large majority of cases (17,489, 81.8%) were diagnosed among Caucasians; 3,176 cases (14.9%) were diagnosed among African Americans. The remaining cases (714, 3.3%) were diagnosed among Delawareans of other races. The four most commonly occurring cancers among Delawareans (lung/bronchus, colorectal, breast and prostate) accounted for over half (55.3%) of all cancers diagnosed during 2000-2004. (Delaware Cancer Control Program, 2007). “

## **Education**

The public and charter school systems in Delaware contain 199 schools serving children from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade including those targeting vocational learning. During the 2005-2006 school year there were 120,963 pupils enrolled in Delaware's public and charter school systems. Of those, 55.1% were white, 32.5% African-American, 9.2% Hispanic and 2.8% Asian. Delaware's secondary schools experienced 5.5% dropout rate. The rate was highest among Hispanics with a rate of 9.8%. African-Americans had a rate of 7.3% and whites 4.2% (Delaware Department of Education, 2006).

Delaware students taking the SAT 1 during the 2005-2006 school year averaged a math score of 495 and a writing score of 484. Both scores are below the national averages of 503 and 497.

## **Profile of the Counties and Major Cities in Delaware**

### ***Physical and Locational Characteristics***

New Castle, the northern most county, affords easy access to the major metropolitan areas of the Northeast, with travel time to New York City and Washington, DC of approximately 1.5 hours by train or automobile. It has a land area of 432 square miles. The mean daily temperature ranges from 30 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 75 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

Kent County is home to the state capital, Dover. Among the county's largest employers are many nationally known companies, including Procter & Gamble, Kraft Foods, and Playtex Products. It covers a land area of 599 square miles. The mean daily temperature ranges from 34 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 77 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

Sussex County, the geographically largest of Delaware's three counties, is best known for its white, sandy beaches and as a national leader in poultry production. It covers a land area of 979 square miles. Its mean daily temperature ranges from 33 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 76 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

Wilmington, Delaware's largest city, is located in New Castle County and is situated near the midpoint of the Boston-Richmond megalopolis. Because of its strategic location, Wilmington has excellent access to the various transportation networks of the eastern seaboard and is the financial and corporate hub of the state and region.

Dover, Delaware's political capital since 1777, is located in central Kent County on the banks of the St. Jones River and is home to the Dover Air Force Base.

### ***Demographic and Social Characteristics***

#### ***Population Size, Growth and Age***

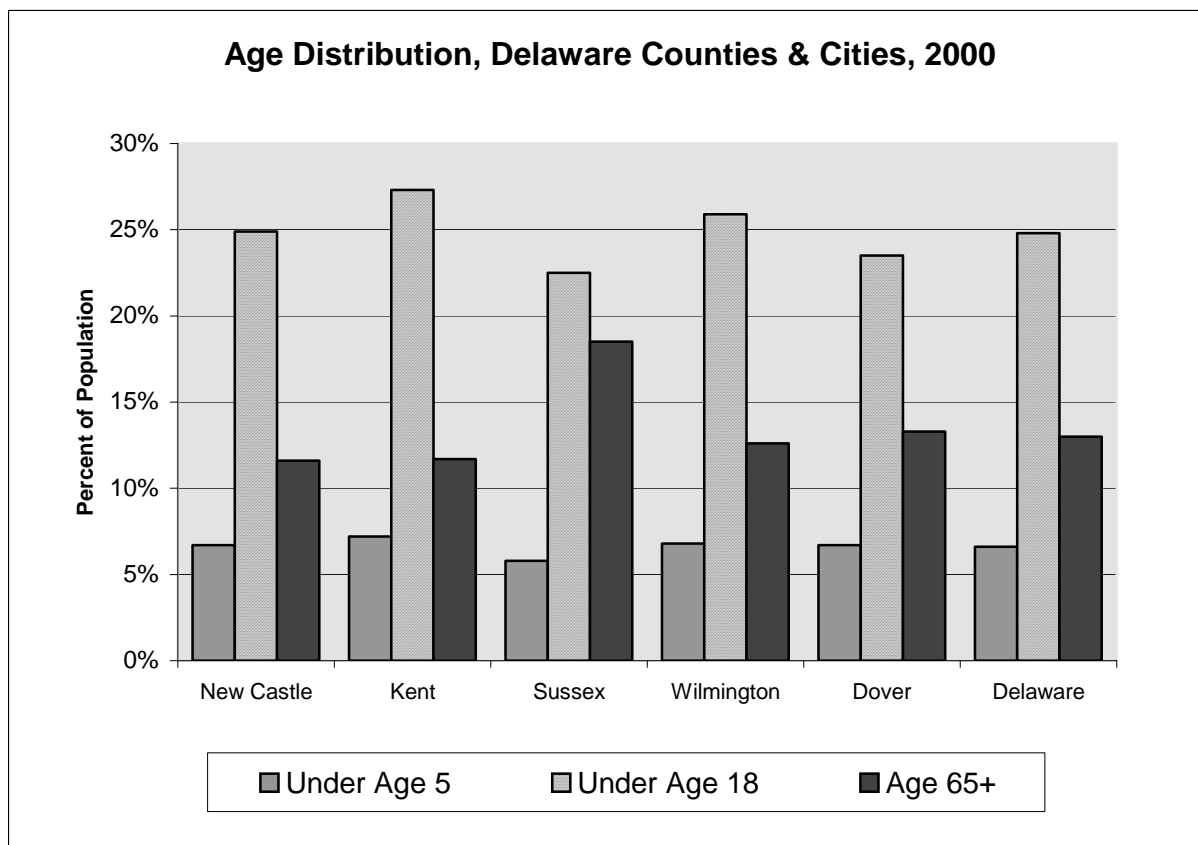
New Castle County had a total population of 500,265 in 2000, consisting of 52% female and 48% male. With a median age of 35.4 years, 6.7% of the population was under age 5 years, 24.9% was under age 18, and 11.6% was age 65 and older. The rate of population growth from 1990 to 2000 was 13.2%, the lowest of the three counties.

There were 126,697 people living in Kent County in 2000. This population was 51.8% female and 48.2% male. With a median age of 34.4 years; 7.2% of the residents were under age 5, 27.3% were under age 18; and 11.7% were age 65 years and over. With an increase of 14.1% in the size of its population between 1990 and 2000, the county grew slightly faster than New Castle County, but not nearly as fast as Sussex County.

Sussex County saw its population swell to 156,638 persons in 2000, an increase of 38.3% since 1990. It is now the second most populous county in the state and the one with the highest growth rate. The median age in 2000 was 41.1 years, which is considerably higher than that found in New Castle or Kent. The age distribution shows that 5.8% of the population was under age 5, 22.5% was under age 18 and 18.5% was age 65 and over. Females accounted for 51.1% of the population while males accounted for 48.9%.

According to the 2000 Census, Wilmington had a total population of 72,664, consisting of 52.3% female and 47.7% male. The median age was 33.7 years; with 6.8% of the population under age 5, 25.9% under age 18 and 12.6% age 65 and over.

Dover was home to 32,135 persons in 2000, with 52.9% being female and 47.1% male. With 6.7% of its population under age 5, 23.5% under age 18 and 13.3% age 65 and over, the median age was 32.9 years.



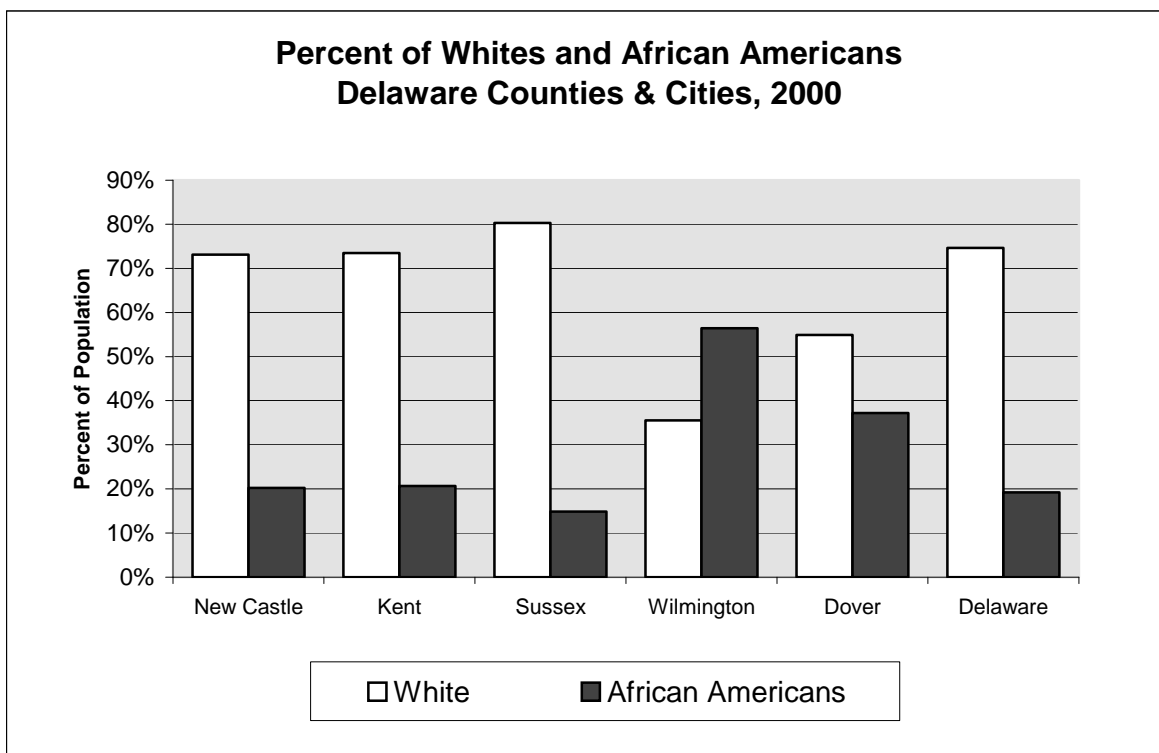
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

### Race

In 2000 all three of Delaware's counties had White populations of more than 70% and African American populations of approximately 20%. Sussex County reported the highest White percentage and lowest Black percentage. Wilmington had the smallest White population with 35.5%, and the largest African American population with more than 56%.

| Percent of Population by Race<br>Delaware Counties and Cities, 2000 |            |       |        |            |       |
|---|------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|
| Race  | New Castle | Kent  | Sussex | Wilmington | Dover |
| White   | 73.1%      | 73.5% | 80.3%  | 35.5%      | 54.9% |
| Black   | 20.2%      | 20.7% | 14.9%  | 56.4%      | 37.2% |
| Asian   | 2.6%       | 1.7%  | 0.7%   | 0.7%       | 3.2%  |
| American Indian & Alaska Native                                     | 0.2%       | 0.6%  | 0.6%   | 0.3%       | 0.5%  |
| Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander                            | 0.0%       | 0.0%  | 0.0%   | 0.0%       | 0.0%  |
| Some Other Race   | 2.2%       | 1.3%  | 2.0%   | 5.2%       | 1.6%  |
| Two or More Races   | 1.6%       | 2.2%  | 1.4%   | 2.0%       | 2.6%  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

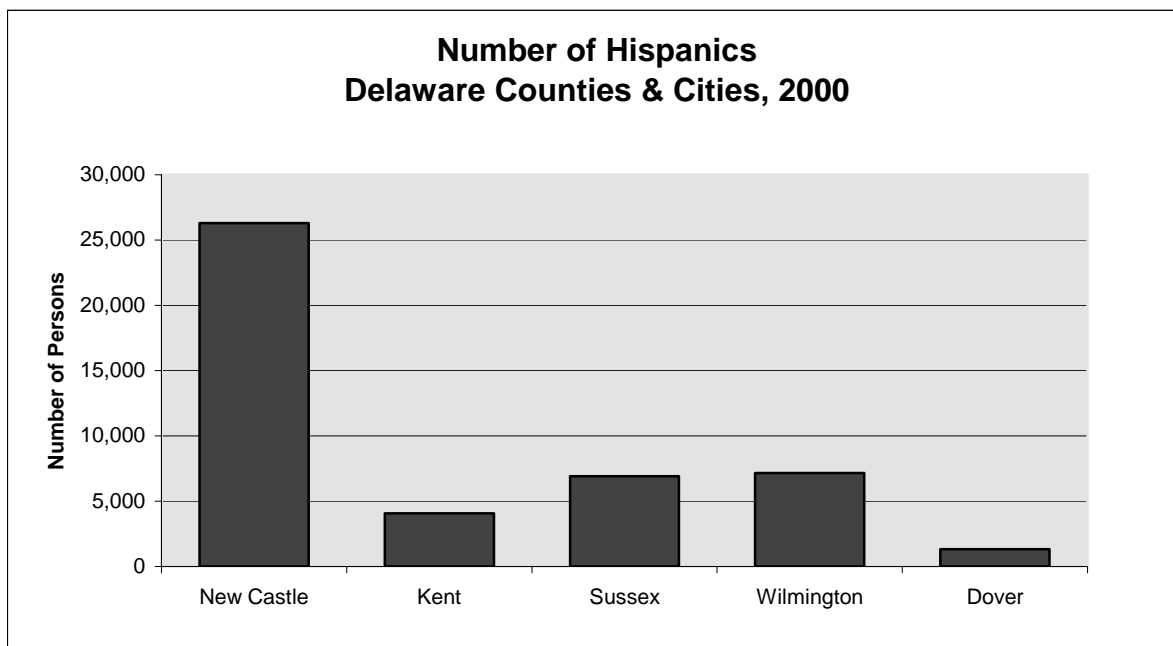


Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

*Hispanic Ethnicity*

New Castle County is home to the majority of Hispanics in Delaware. The size of this group in 2000 was 26,293, accounting for 5.3% of the county’s population. Approximately two-thirds of Delaware’s Mexican population and four-fifths of Puerto Ricans reside in New Castle County, mostly in Wilmington. Sussex County has a Hispanic population of 6,915, representing 4.4% of its population. It is experiencing the fastest rate of growth in Hispanic arrivals. Kent County has the smallest Hispanic population among the three counties, numbering 4,069, which represents about 3.2% of its population.

Wilmington is home to 7,148 Hispanics, representing 9.8% of its total population. The number of Hispanics residing in Dover is 1,327, which constitutes 4.1% of its residents.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

| Percent Hispanic Population by National Origin, Delaware Counties and Cities, 2000 |            |        |        |            |        |
|--|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|  | New Castle | Kent   | Sussex | Wilmington | Dover  |
| Puerto Rican   | 42.4%      | 45.1%  | 14.9%  | 60.5%      | 46.4%  |
| Mexican  | 33.5%      | 26.1%  | 44.9%  | 24.4%      | 21.4%  |
| Cuban  | 2.7%       | 3.4%   | 1.3%   | 1.2%       | 3.7%   |
| Other Hispanic or Latino   | 21.4%      | 25.3%  | 38.9%  | 13.8%      | 28.5%  |
| Total  | 100.0%     | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0%     | 100.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

## *Disability*

The likelihood of having a disability varies by age. Among the three counties, Kent had the highest rate of disability among people age 5 to 20 as well as for the age group 65 and older, while Sussex County had the highest rate among those of ages 21 to 64. For all age groups, Wilmington reported a higher percentage of disability than Dover.

| <b>Percent Disabled by Age Group<br/>Delaware Counties and Cities, 2000</b> |                   |             |               |                   |              |
|---|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
|   | <b>New Castle</b> | <b>Kent</b> | <b>Sussex</b> | <b>Wilmington</b> | <b>Dover</b> |
| Age 5 to 20   | 8.6%              | 9.6%        | 9.2%          | 11.4%             | 8.7%         |
| Age 21 to 64  | 16.3%             | 19.2%       | 22.5%         | 23.8%             | 19.1%        |
| Age 65 & older  | 37.3%             | 40.6%       | 37.0%         | 46.5%             | 36.4%        |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

## *Households with Children*

In 2000, 36% of New Castle County households (totaling 68,035) contained one or more individuals who were under age 18. This compared to 39.3% (18,549) in Kent County; 30.8% (19,249) in Sussex County; 33.2% (9,507) in Wilmington; and 33.6% (4,144) in Dover.

## *Economy*

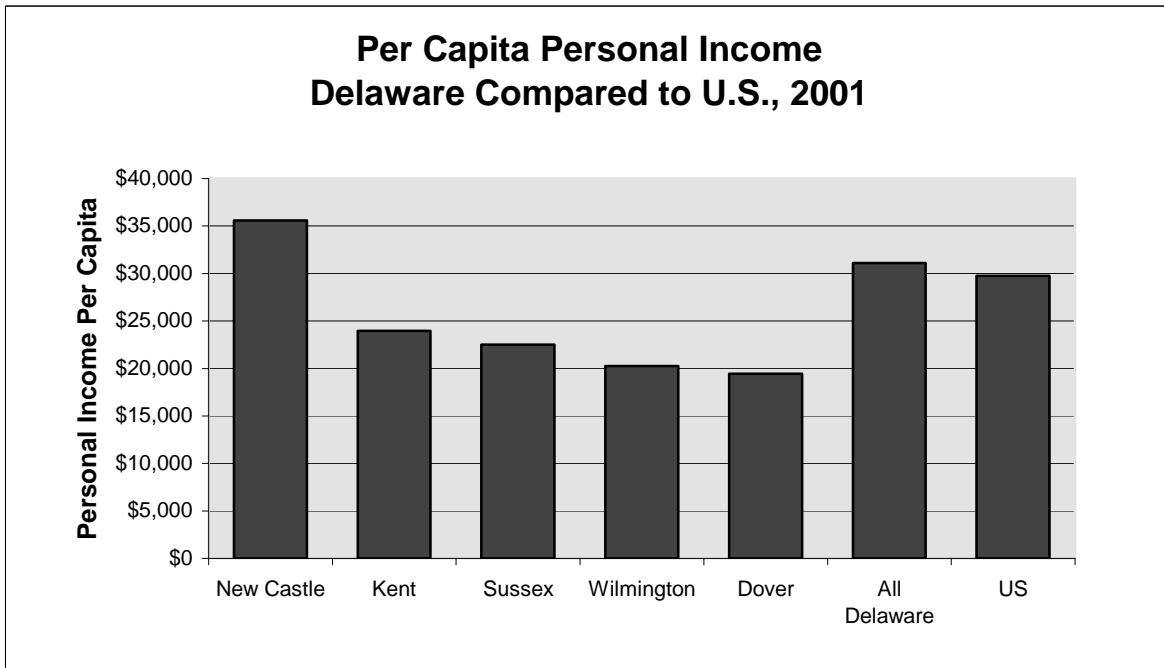
### *Per Capita Personal Income*

New Castle had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$35,587 in 2000. This PCPI ranked first in the state, and was 114% of the state average, and 120% of the national average. New Castle County's 2000 PCPI reflected an increase of 6.8% from 1999. The 1999-2000 increase for the state was 6.1%, and for the nation was 6.7% (Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2003).

In 2000 Kent County had a PCPI of \$23,974, which placed it second in the state behind New Castle County. It was 77% of the state PCPI and 81% of the national PCPI. Kent's 2000 PCPI grew by 4.7% from the year before.

Sussex saw its PCPI increase to \$22,510 in 2000, a 4.4% improvement over 1999. While having the lowest PCPI of the three counties in 2000, it is not significantly different from Kent County's PCPI. The Sussex PCPI was 72% of the state PCPI, and 76% of the national PCPI in 2000.

Wilmington had a PCPI of \$20,236 in 2000, which is similar to that of Dover, which stood at \$19,445



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; University of Delaware

### *Earnings by Industry*

Earnings by persons employed in New Castle County increased 5.8% between 1999 and 2000. The industry groups accounting for the greatest share of earnings in the county in 2000 were “services” (26.5%), “finance, insurance, and real estate” (19.1%), and “non-durable goods manufacturing” (15.2%). Of the industries that accounted for at least 5% of total personal earnings in 2000, the slowest growing from 1999 to 2000 was “durable goods manufacturing” which decreased 9.9%, and the fastest growing was “finance, insurance, and real estate” which increased 13.5%.

In Kent County, personal earnings increased of 4.6% between 1999 and 2000. The industries in 2000 accounting for the largest share of earnings in the county were “state and local government” (25.3%), “services” (20.0%), and “retail trade” (10.1%). Of the industries that accounted for at least 5% of earnings in 2000, the slowest growing from 1999 to 2000 was “non-durable goods manufacturing,” which increased only 0.3%; and the fastest growing was “services,” which increased 9.1%.

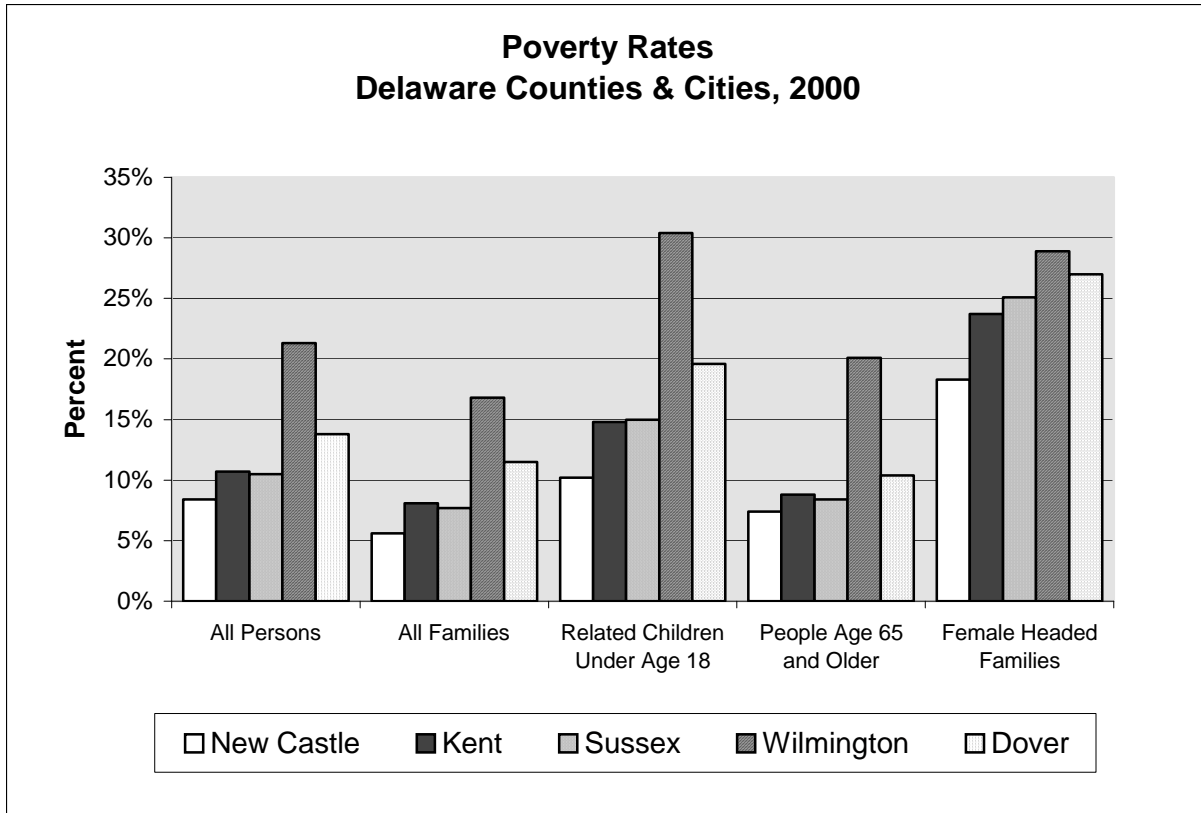
Earnings by persons employed in Sussex grew by 5.7% between 1999 and 2000. The industries accounting for the largest shares of earnings were “services” (22.3%) “retail trade” (15.6%), and “non-durable goods manufacturing” (15.1%). Of the industries that accounted for at least 5% of earnings in 2000 in Sussex County, the slowest growing from 1999 to 2000, was “non-durable goods manufacturing” which increased 0.4%, and the fastest growing was “retail trade” which increased 8.6%.

In Wilmington, the largest industries in terms of personal earnings in 2000 were “education, health and social services” (21.1%), “finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing” (14.9%), and “professional, management and related occupations” (12.4%).

In Dover in 2000 the industries providing the highest aggregated personal earnings in 2000 were “education, health and social services” (23.4%), “retail trade” (14.0%) and “public administration” (13.6%).

### **Poverty**

Among the three Delaware counties in 1999, Sussex and Kent Counties were essentially tied for having the highest overall poverty rates of 10.5% and 10.7% respectively. Female-headed families experience the highest poverty rate as a group, but the county with the highest rate for this type of family was Sussex. Kent County had the highest poverty rate of the three counties for all families and for elderly persons. For all age groups and household types, Wilmington reported a much higher poverty rate than Dover, and these two cities had poverty rates for all groups that were higher than any of the three counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; University of Delaware

### **Health**

In 2006, Delaware has an uninsured rate of 12.7%. 105,000 Delawareans are without health insurance. Of the 105,000 Delawareans who are uninsured, 55% live in New Castle County, 20% in Kent County and 25% in Sussex County. This is expected as 65% of Delaware's population resides in New Castle County. Sussex County has the highest rate of uninsured at 16%. Kent County follows at 14% and New Castle County with 11% (Ratledge, 2006).

### **Education**

There are 19 public school districts across the state of Delaware. Six districts are located in Kent County, 6 in New Castle County and the remaining seven are in Sussex County.

**Selected Characteristics, Delaware Public School Districts, 2006**

|  | <b>County</b> | <b>Reading Proficiency (%)</b> | <b>Math Proficiency (%)</b> | <b>Students per Teacher</b> | <b>Enrollment</b> | <b>Economically Disadvantaged (%)</b> |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Appoquinimink School District</b>         | New Castle    | 87.3                           | 79.8                        | 17.5                        | 7,294             | 11.9                                  |
| <b>Brandywine School District</b>            | New Castle    | 78.7                           | 69.2                        | 15.1                        | 10,573            | 35.6                                  |
| <b>Caesar Rodney School District</b>         | Kent          | 87.3                           | 77                          | 15.4                        | 6,967             | 29.4                                  |
| <b>Cape Henlopen School District</b>         | Sussex        | 85.4                           | 74.8                        | 13.3                        | 4,371             | 30.1                                  |
| <b>Capital School District</b>               | Kent          | 76.2                           | 60.9                        | 14.9                        | 5,982             | 43.5                                  |
| <b>Christina School District</b>             | New Castle    | 74.5                           | 59.6                        | 14                          | 19,232            | 42.3                                  |
| <b>Colonial School District</b>              | New Castle    | 78.9                           | 60.1                        | 16.1                        | 10,474            | 41.7                                  |
| <b>Delmar School District</b>                | Sussex        | 82                             | 66.1                        | 15.4                        | 1,070             | 34.4                                  |
| <b>Indian River School District</b>          | Sussex        | 87.5                           | 77.4                        | 14.3                        | 7,887             | 42.5                                  |
| <b>Lake Forest School District</b>           | Kent          | 80.7                           | 72.7                        | 14.5                        | 3,740             | 42.2                                  |
| <b>Laurel School District</b>                | Sussex        | 73.3                           | 59.1                        | 15.8                        | 2,131             | 46.8                                  |
| <b>Milford School District</b>               | Kent          | 88.2                           | 76.1                        | 15.4                        | 3,910             | 40.2                                  |
| <b>Red Clay Consolidated School District</b> | New Castle    | 81.4                           | 67.4                        | 16.5                        | 15,728            | 35.7                                  |
| <b>Seaford School District</b>               | Sussex        | 75.6                           | 58.3                        | 14.4                        | 3,304             | 53.2                                  |
| <b>Smyrna School District</b>                | Kent          | 85.8                           | 71                          | 16.4                        | 3,930             | 22.7                                  |
| <b>Woodbridge School District</b>            | Sussex        | 77.7                           | 60.1                        | 13.4                        | 1,942             | 56.9                                  |

Source: School Data Direct, 2007

The table above provides a comprehensive overview of the public educational system across the local jurisdictions in Delaware. The largest districts – Brandywine, Christina, Colonial and Red Clay – are all in New Castle County and each maintain district boundaries that cover portions of both the county and the City of Wilmington.

There are disparities based on economic background and academic achievement across districts and counties. For example, the Sussex County districts each have a high proportion (30.1% - 56.9%) of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Conversely, reading and math proficiency scores are similar throughout all districts regardless of geographic location.

## **Simonds Gardens Planning Area**

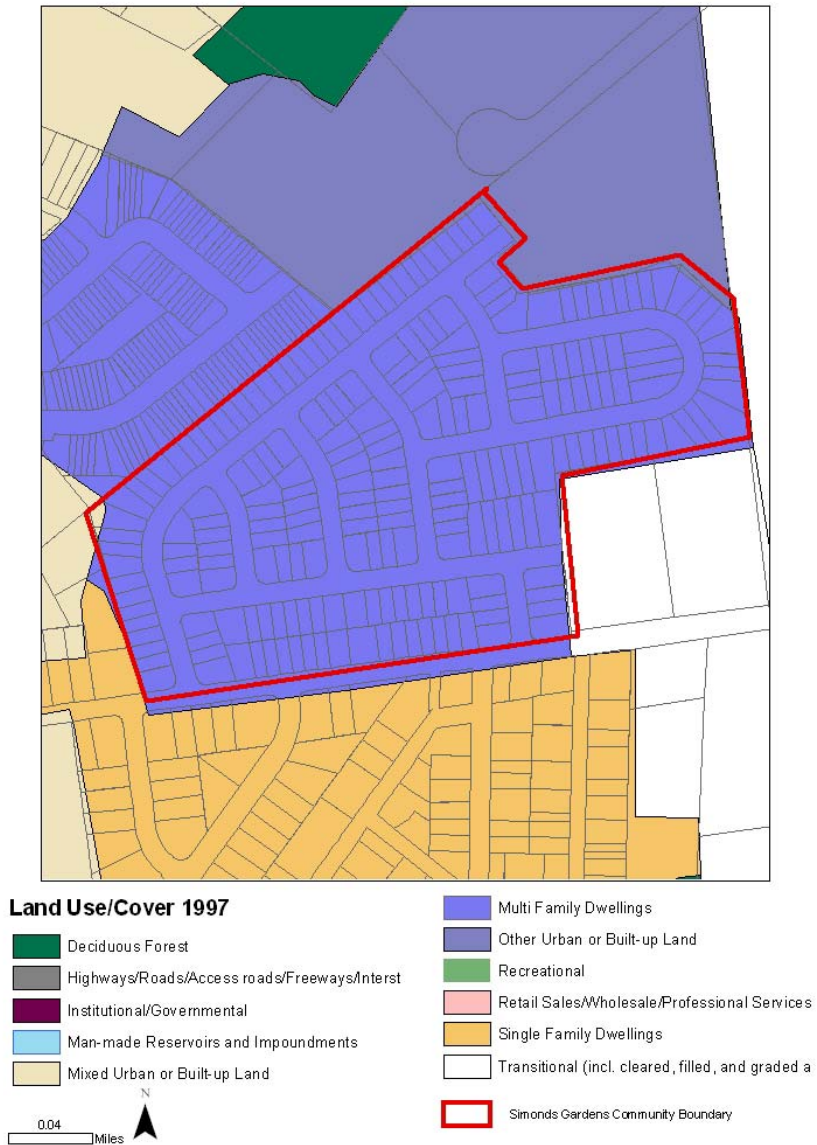
### ***History***

Simonds Gardens was established in the 1950s as a suburban community for workers seeking employment in the city. Simonds Gardens is part of a larger area that consists of the adjacent neighborhoods of Rose Hill, Rosegate and Dunleith. These suburban communities were part of the vast reorganization of American residential patterns as the use of the personal automobile afforded Americans the opportunities for expanded travel. As a result, movement from center cities occurred. The continued racial segregation of America, however, was reflected in the continued discrimination towards African-Americans and their ability to secure homes in these new neighborhoods.

Dunleith, a community just two miles south of Wilmington, arose in the early 1950s and was the first African American housing development marketed in Delaware. African Americans, many of whom were World War II veterans, teachers, and blue-collar workers, purchased their first homes in Dunleith. During this period of civil rights programs, finding equal education and housing opportunities was a challenge, particularly for African Americans. The school and churches of the Dunleith Estates community encouraged a generation of families to persevere through this difficult period (James, 2006).

### ***Physical and Locational Characteristics***

The Simonds Gardens planning area is located in the community of Simonds Gardens in New Castle County, DE, zip code 19720. According to the Simonds Gardens team Blueprint Communities Application (2008), South Wilmington is a few miles north of the community. The community is approximately 27 miles or 33 minutes away from the Philadelphia International Airport.

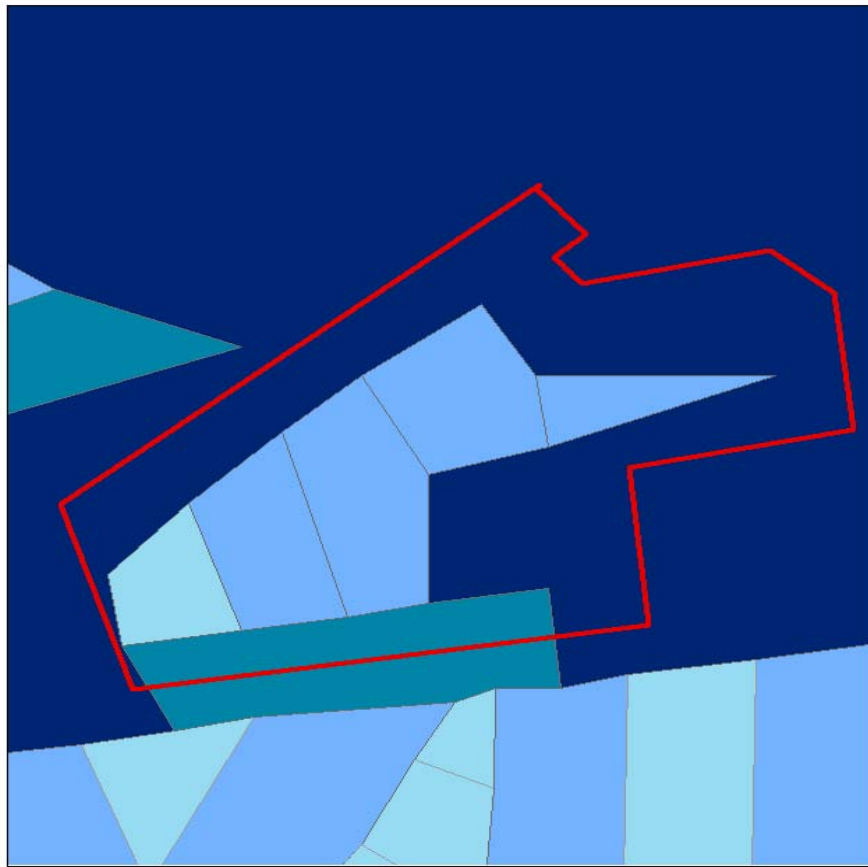


The preceding map illustrates land usage in the Simonds Gardens planning area. The entire community consists of multi-family dwellings and is surrounded mainly by single family dwellings.

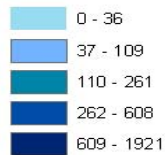
***Demographic and Social Characteristics***

*Population Size, Growth and Age*

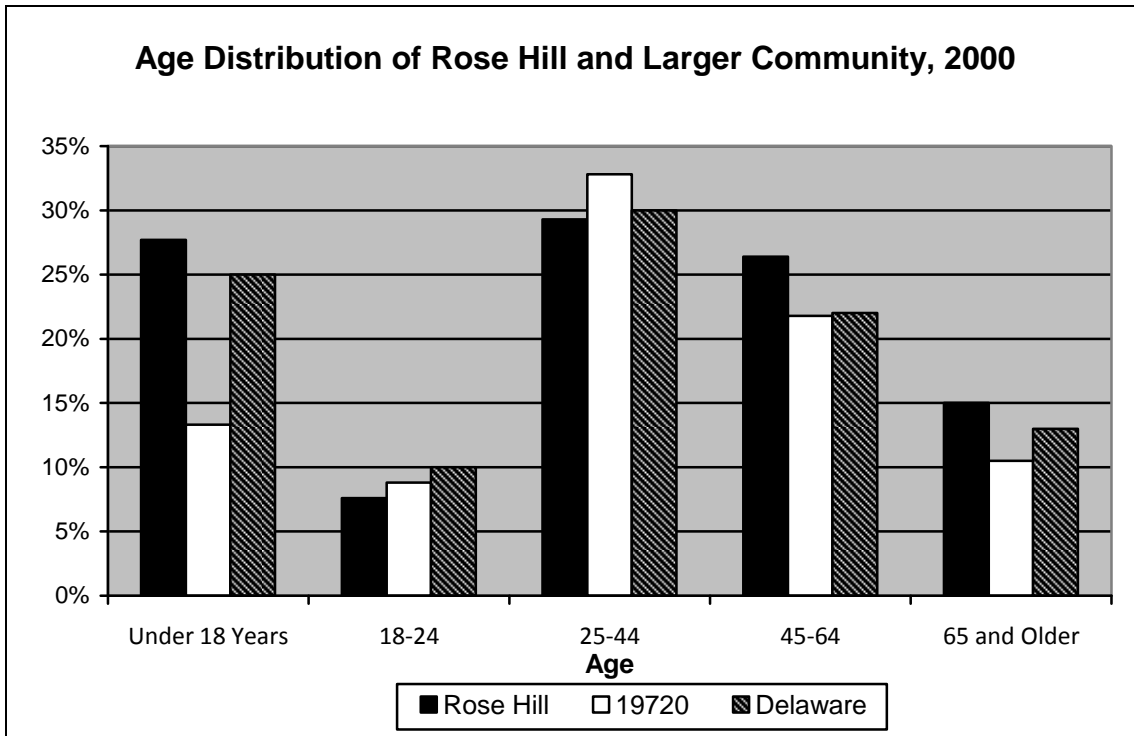
Block group level data from the 2000 census shows that the Simonds Gardens planning area has a population of 314 individuals living 110 households. Males account for 51.6% of the population, while 48.4% are females (162 and 152 individuals, respectively), (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).



**Population by Census Blocks, 2000  
Simonds Gardens, Delaware**



With a median age of 39.1 years in 2000, 27.7% of the population was under age 18 years, 7.6% were between 18-24 years old, 29.3% between 25-44, 26.4% between 45-64 and 15% senior citizens over age 65. As illustrated by the following chart, the Simonds Gardens planning area has a considerably higher percentage of children than the State of Delaware, but especially the 19720 zip code (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).



### Race

The Simonds Gardens planning area is not a very diverse area, partly because of its small size. The community is 72.6% black and 27.4% white. The following table highlights the differences between the planning area and the larger communities of New Castle County and the State of Delaware.

| <b>Percent of Population by Race<br/>Simonds Gardens and other areas, 2000</b> |                            |                   |                 |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Race</u>  | <u>Simonds<br/>Gardens</u> | <u>New Castle</u> | <u>Delaware</u> |
| White  | 27.4%                      | 73.1%             | 74.6%           |
| Black  | 72.6%                      | 20.2%             | 19.2%           |
| Asian  | 0.0%                       | 2.6%              | 0.3%            |
| American Indian & Alaska Native  | 0.0%                       | 0.2%              | 2.1%            |
| Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander                                       | 0.0%                       | 0.0%              | 0.0%            |
| Some Other Race  | 0.0%                       | 2.2%              | 2.0%            |
| Two or More Races  | 0.0%                       | 1.6%              | 1.7%            |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Compared to the other areas, Simonds Gardens is much less diverse (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

### *Hispanic Ethnicity*

In 2000, the Simonds Gardens planning area was home to 5 persons of Hispanic origin or 1.6% of the population. New Castle County's Hispanic population is 5.3%, and the Hispanic population of the Simonds Gardens planning area accounts for only .02% of New Castle County's total Hispanic population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

### *Disability*

Data on disabilities is available only at the block group level. Simonds Gardens is in block group 2 of census tract 155. The population of this block group is 2,092. For this population, 1,030 individuals reported disabilities to the 2000 Census. This represents 49.2%. In the larger community, 31.7% of the 19720 population (17,625) reported a disability and 29.2% of the State of Delaware (228,701) reported a disability to the 2000 Census.

| <b>Total Disabilities by Age Group, 2000</b> |                         |                   |                      |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|  | <b>Block Group Data</b> | <b>19720 Data</b> | <b>Delaware Data</b> |
| Age 5 to 15                                  | 58                      | 902               | 10,508               |
| Age 16 to 64                                 | 536                     | 11,890            | 148,400              |
| Age 65 & older                               | 436                     | 4,833             | 69,793               |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

For the 5-15 year age group, the most common disability was mental (43.1%). Employment disability was the most common among the 16-64 group (30.4%) and physical ability was most common among seniors (34.2%), (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

### *Households with Children*

The Simonds Gardens planning area consists of 110 households, 47 of which house children under the age of 18 (42.7%). This is slightly higher than surrounding totals of 39.1% (8,027) in zip code 19720 and 32.5% (96,958) in Delaware.

According to the 2000 Census, 38.3% of the households with children are led by married couples, and 36.1% are led by a female householder with no husband present (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

## **Economy**

### *Per Capital Personal Income/Median Household Income*

Examining block group level data from the 2000 Census, it appears that the median household income for the area surrounding the Simonds Gardens planning area is \$39,338. This figure is lower than both the 19720 zip code (\$46,669) and the State of Delaware (\$47,381).

The per capita personal income (PCPI) for Simonds Gardens and the surrounding area is \$16,189. Again, this is lower than the 19720 zip code (\$19,896) and Delaware (\$23,305) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

### *Employment*

The Needs Assessment reports that the Delaware Department of Labor Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information is projecting a rapid growth in lower average wage industries, and the manufacturing sector is projected to continue its decline. The top three growth sectors include health care and social assistance, retail trade and accommodation and food services. These working families will comprise about 60% of the population, with teachers, police officers, health care workers, retail clerks and administrative personnel comprising the new workforce housing category

**Employment and Unemployment Rates  
New Castle, Annual Rates 1998-2006**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Labor Force</b> | <b>Employment</b> | <b>Unemployment</b> | <b>Unemployment Rate</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1998        | 256,966            | 248,269           | 8,697               | 3.4                      |
| 1999        | 258,756            | 250,904           | 7,852               | 3.0                      |
| 2000        | 272,540            | 263,830           | 8,710               | 3.2                      |
| 2001        | 273,330            | 264,000           | 9,330               | 3.4                      |
| 2002        | 269,107            | 258,136           | 10,971              | 4.1                      |
| 2003        | 269,637            | 257,930           | 11,707              | 4.3                      |

|      |         |         |        |     |
|------|---------|---------|--------|-----|
| 2004 | 268,848 | 257,593 | 11,255 | 4.2 |
| 2005 | 270,747 | 259,183 | 11,564 | 4.3 |
| 2006 | 274,825 | 264,370 | 10,455 | 3.8 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Employment and Unemployment Rates State of Delaware, February 1998-2008

| Year | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate |
|------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1998 | 395,895     | 381,485    | 14,410       | 3.6               |
| 1999 | 399,883     | 386,519    | 13,364       | 3.3               |
| 2000 | 403,264     | 390,323    | 12,941       | 3.2               |
| 2001 | 419,972     | 404,841    | 15,131       | 3.6               |
| 2002 | 417,212     | 400,986    | 16,226       | 3.9               |
| 2003 | 420,348     | 402,231    | 18,117       | 4.3               |
| 2004 | 422,296     | 406,004    | 16,292       | 3.9               |
| 2005 | 428,823     | 412,211    | 16,612       | 3.9               |
| 2006 | 437,469     | 421,365    | 16,104       | 3.7               |
| 2007 | 441,316     | 426,507    | 14,809       | 3.4               |
| 2008 | 444,533     | 427,870    | 16,663       | 3.7               |

Source: Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics

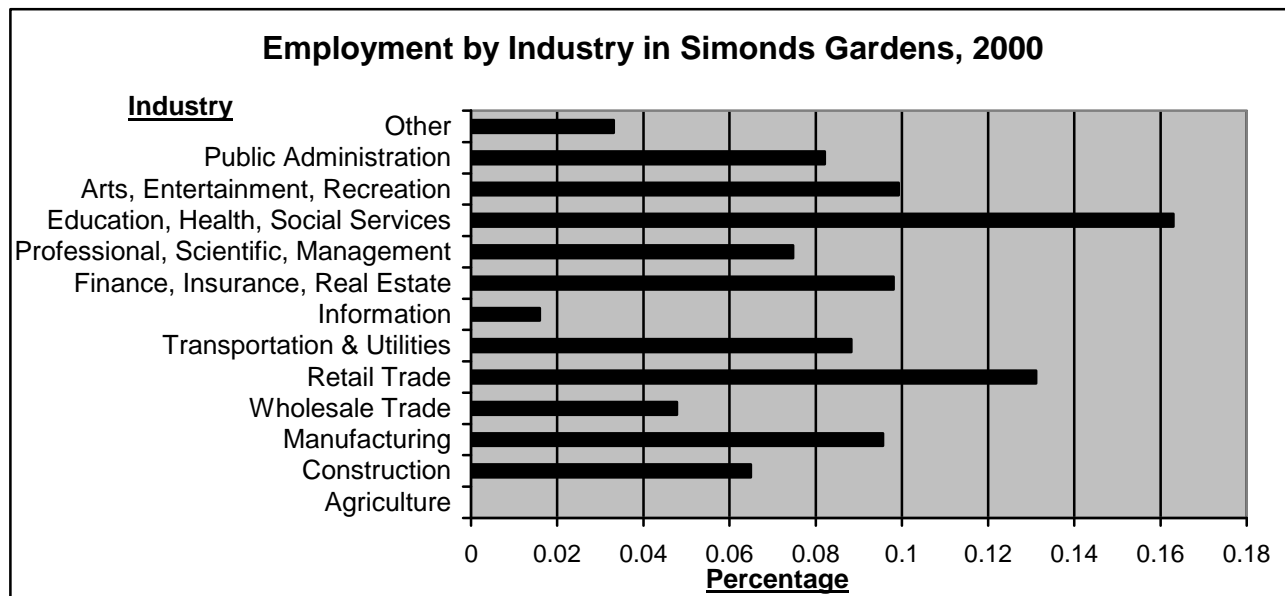
The previous two tables show unemployment rate trends for both the State of Delaware and New Castle County according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the late 1990's the unemployment rate for New Castle County fell slightly below that of Delaware. In 2002 that trend reversed and New Castle County's unemployment rate was either equal to or above that of the State of Delaware (Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008).

Unemployment rates for specific census tracts and block groups that make up the Simonds Gardens planning area are available from the U.S. Census Bureau. They are not included here because they cannot be compared to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics as they are calculated differently and cover different areas. (For these numbers, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's website.)

#### *Business and Industry*

The entire 19720 zip code has a total of 1,395 business establishments employing 34,437 individuals. Of these businesses, only two, both finance and insurance establishments, employ over 1,000 people. Of these 1,395 establishments, 615 employ between 1 and 4 individuals. The most common type of business is retail trade, 229 out of 1,395 (CenStats, U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

The education, health, and social services industry is, by far, the largest employer of Hilltop residents; 16.3% of all employed residents work in this industry. The second highest employer is the retail trade industry which employs 13.1% of residents in the block group that contains the Simonds Gardens planning area. The following chart shows the industry breakdown (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### ***Transportation***

In addition to the 759 rented, leased, and owned vehicles available within the block group area, the residents of the Simonds Gardens planning area also rely on public transportation. The 19720 zip code is outside of the City of Wilmington where DART buses are most frequent, but the zip code has more bus lines than some other non-Wilmington areas.

Also within the 19720 zip code is the New Castle County airport which has offered commercial flights on and off for the past few years.

The Simonds Gardens planning area is also located in close proximity to Wilmington’s Amtrak Train Station. Using the address of the New Castle County Airport as a reference point, MapQuest estimates that the Simonds Gardens planning area is approximately 6 miles and a 10 minute drive from the train station. In addition to Amtrak, the station offers commuter service to Philadelphia, PA via SEPTA trains.

## **Health**

The Environmental Protection Agency lists eight superfund sites in the 19720 zip code alone. These include Army Creek Landfill; Delaware Sand & Gravel; Halby Chemical; Krieger's Landfill; New Castle Cylinder; New Castle Spill; New Castle Steel; and Pigeon Point Landfill (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2008)

According to the 2005-2006 Delaware Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 11.3% of New Castle County residents (excluding the City of Wilmington) reported their own health status as "fair or poor" (State of Delaware, Department of Public Health, 2007).

Delaware's 1999–2003 overall cancer incidence rate was 5.3 percent higher than the U.S. estimate. A total of 20,793 cancer cases were diagnosed among Delaware residents during 1999–2003, 10,850 cases (52.2 percent) in males and 9,943 cases (47.8 percent) in females. The 12,538 cases diagnosed among New Castle County residents were the majority (60.3 percent) of Delaware's total 1999–2003 incident cancer case count; 5,223 cancer cases (25.1 percent) occurred among Sussex County residents, and 2,995 (14.4 percent) cases were diagnosed among Kent County residents. 82% (17,095) of cancer cases in 1999–2003 were diagnosed among whites and 14.8% (3,072) among African-Americans. Cancer cases among Hispanics accounted for 1.0 percent (211) of the total incident cases in Delaware in 1999–2003. Of the 8,466 cancer deaths from 1999 to 2003, 82.8% (7,010) of decedents were Caucasian, and 15.5 % (1,312) were African-American, and 1.0 percent (81) of the decedents was of Hispanic ethnicity. Overall, Delaware's African-American residents had a higher all cancer incidence rate (539.8 per 100,000 in 1999–2003) than Caucasian residents (493.4 per 100,000). Incidence rates among African-American males and females were 20.3 percent higher and 1.0 percent lower, respectively, than their Caucasian counterparts. The overall cancer mortality rate in Delaware was 25 percent higher among African-American residents (250.6 per 100,000) than among Caucasian residents (200.3 per 100,000) during 1999–2003 (Department of Health and Social Services [DHSS], n.d.).

Across Delaware there were 3,523 HIV cases reported as of 2006; 67% of them are within African-American population while 27% of the cases are within white population. At the same time, across the US, only 39% of the HIV cases occur within the African-American population; while whites also account for 39% (DHSS, n.d.).

**Distribution of Delaware AIDS cases by race/ethnicity and gender in adult/adolescent cases and pediatric cases reported through 2006, (n=3,523)**

| Race             | Male<br>(n=2,568) |     | Female<br>(n=955) |     | Total<br>**(n=3,523) |     |
|------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
|                  | #                 | %*  | #                 | %*  | #                    | %*  |
| Caucasian        | 825               | 32% | 143               | 15% | 968                  | 27% |
| African American | 1,598             | 62% | 759               | 79% | 2,357                | 67% |
| Hispanic         | 137               | 5%  | 45                | 5%  | 182                  | 5%  |
| Other            | 8                 | <1% | 8                 | <1% | 19                   | <1% |

Source: Delaware HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS)

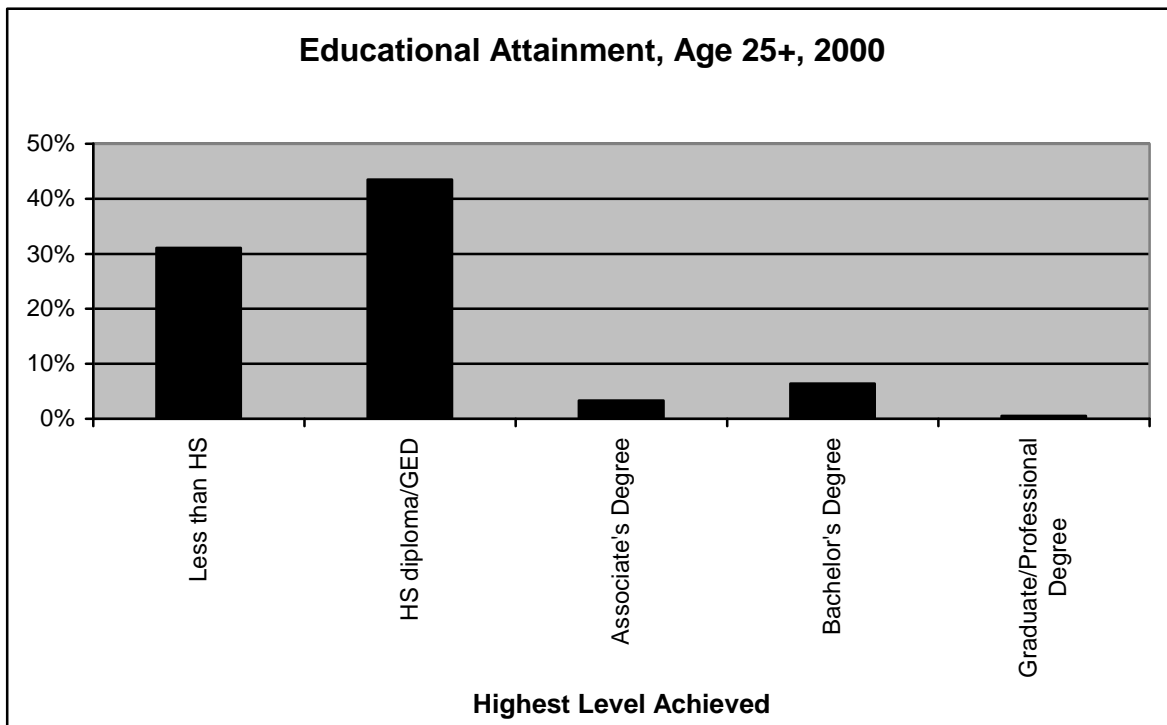
\* Percentage may not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\* Includes 26 pediatric cases, data suppressed due to low numbers

## Education

### Attainment

2000 Census data at the block group level shows that 31.1% of residents age 25 and older in the area that includes the Simonds Gardens planning area have achieved less than a high school diploma or equivalent. Nineteen individuals (1.5%, all males) have completed no school at all (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The children in the Simonds Gardens planning area attend schools in the Colonial School District. The district serves 15,131 children in 8 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 1 high school, and

3schools that are either ungraded or serve grades across the 3 traditional levels (Delaware Department of Education).

### ***Crime and Safety***

The community application for the Simonds Gardens planning area lists crime, especially drug activity and burglary, as a concern of the community.

The Simonds Gardens planning area is under the jurisdiction of the New Castle County Police Department. The department's website has a crime mapping tool that can be used to identify crimes in the area. The site mapped the following crimes so far in 2008 in the area surrounding the center (smaller than the entire planning area):

- 19 acts of criminal mischief
- 13 acts of larceny or attempted theft
- 5 acts of burglary or attempted burglary
- 12 acts of motor vehicle theft
- 5 acts of robbery or attempted robbery (New Castle County, DE, 2008)

### ***Community Services***

Community services in Simonds Gardens are largely centered on the activities of the Rose Hill Community Center, a community-based center that provides educational training, employment counseling, child care services and other basic needs to local residents. In addition, residents of Simonds Gardens maintain access to organizations in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County.

Located just 2 miles from downtown Wilmington, the Simonds Gardens planning area can readily access many county and state government services. Also in downtown Wilmington is the Community Service Building which rents space to non-profit organizations only. Some of these organizations that the Belvedere/Cedar Heights community residents might access include the ACLU of Delaware, foundations targeting specific illnesses, Girl Scouts, YWCA offices, and several organizations supporting housing and the poor (Community Service Building Corporation, 2007).

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