

I. HEALTH ASSESSMENT

A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. WHAT IS THE SIZE AND THE COMPOSITION OF DELAWARE POPULATION?

Delaware's population appears to be similar to the U.S. in terms of its age distribution and slightly less diverse racially and ethnically.

- In 1990, Delaware's age distribution was similar to the national distribution.
 - In 1990, the **median age** of Delaware residents (32.8 years) was comparable to that of the U.S. (32.9 years).
- Delaware is slightly less diverse than the nation as a whole.
 - In terms of the **racial/ethnic composition** of Delaware in 1990, 79 percent of residents were white, non-Hispanic compared to 75 percent for the U.S. Within the remaining 20 percent, the largest groups were African American (16 percent), followed by those of Hispanic ethnicity (those of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race).
- Delaware has a very low proportion of households where no one can speak English well.
 - In 1990, 0.4 percent of Delaware households had **no one in the household who spoke English at all or well**, compared to 3.2 percent in the U.S.
- Delaware household size distribution resembles that of the U.S.
 - In Delaware, 55.7 percent of **households** contained two or fewer persons, 34.4 percent contained three to four persons and 9.9 percent contained five or more persons in 1990.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Our analysis draws upon data from the U.S. Census. The most recent available census data comes from 1990. However, we occasionally use updates as recent as 1996 through 1999 to illustrate change.

2. HOW HAS DELAWARE'S POPULATION CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS?

Since 1980, Delaware experienced a substantial population increase, especially in its minority population. Similar to state and national trends, Delaware's population appears to be aging.

- **From 1980 to 2000 (projected), Delaware's population increased by roughly 29 percent to 768,000 in 2000 (projected).**
 - Delaware's population increased steadily since 1960. Between 1960 and 2000, the Area's population increased by approximately 72 percent.
- **Community stakeholders cited the aging population as a health concern.**
 - Roughly 12 percent of Delaware residents were **aged 65 or older** in 1990, similar to all benchmarks.
 - The **median age** of Delaware residents increased from 29.8 years in 1980 to 32.8 years in 1996.
- **In Delaware, the minority population grew from comprising 17.9 percent of the population in 1980 to 19.7 percent in 1990.**
 - Between 1990 and 1996, the number of **Hispanic** residents in Delaware increased by 43 percent.

3. HOW DOES THE DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF DELAWARE COMPARE TO COMPARISON COMMUNITIES IN THIS ASSESSMENT?

Delaware has a similar age distribution, but it is more racially diverse and has a lower population density than most comparison communities.

- **Similar to the experiences of comparison communities, the median age in Delaware appears to be rising.**
 - In 1990, with a median age of 32.8 years, Delaware residents appeared similar to those of Maryland (33.0 years), New Jersey (34.4 years), and Washington State (33.1 years), while appearing slightly younger than residents of Pennsylvania whose median age was 35.0 years.
- **Delaware's minority population is slightly larger than those of most comparison communities.**
 - In 1990, **minorities** comprised approximately 19.7 percent of Delaware's population, greater than in most comparison communities.

- A smaller proportion of Delaware residents reported **speaking English not well or not at all** (0.4 percent) relative to comparison communities, which ranged from 0.6 percent to 2.4 percent.
- **Delaware’s population density is higher than that of the U.S. but lower than most its neighboring states except for Pennsylvania.**
 - In 1990, the **population density** of Delaware was 340.8 persons per square mile, greater than in the U.S. (70.3 persons per square mile) but lower than in most other comparison communities, which ranged from 163.6 persons per square mile to 1,042 persons per square mile.

4. HOW DO DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS DIFFER BY COUNTY?

The three Delaware Counties are similar in terms of age distribution and household size. New Castle County has a larger population and higher population density, while Kent County has a larger proportion of minority residents.

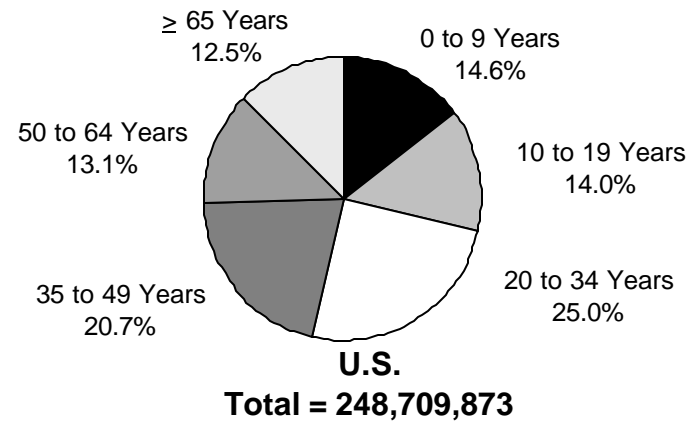
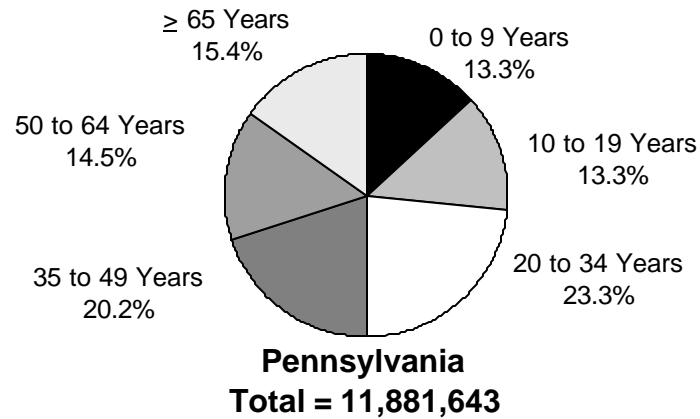
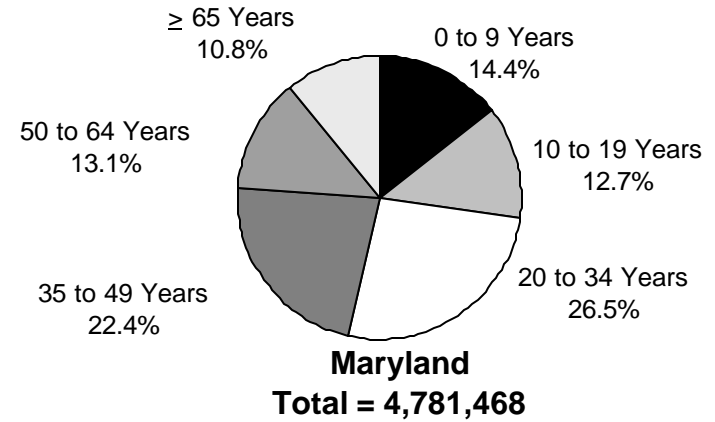
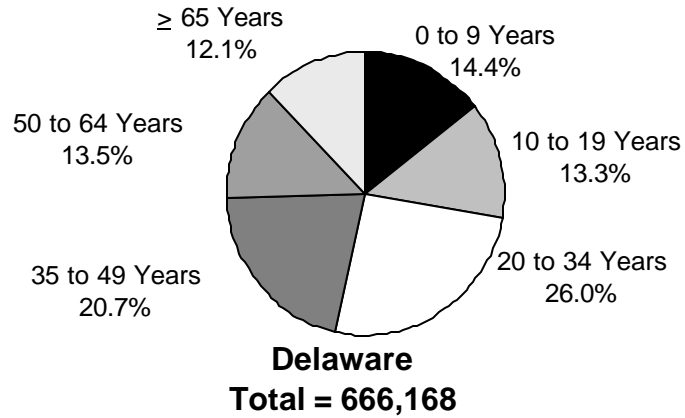
- **Within Delaware, New Castle County contains the most residents and is the most densely populated.**
 - In 1990, the **population** of New Castle County (441,946 persons) was at least twice as large as those of Kent and Sussex Counties (110,993 persons and 113,229 persons, respectively).
 - In terms of **population density**, both Kent and Sussex Counties were substantially less densely populated (187.9 persons per square mile and 120.8 persons per square mile, respectively) than New Castle County (1,036.5 persons per square mile).
- **All three Delaware counties experienced dramatic population increases from 1960 to 1990.**
 - Kent and Sussex Counties **increased in population** by over 50 percent, while New Castle County increased by 44 percent.
- **Overall, household size distributions of the three counties are similar, with the majority of households containing one to two people.**
- **Age distributions within the three counties are similar.**
 - Sussex County had a slightly larger proportion of residents aged 65 and older relative to Kent and New Castle Counties in 1990.

- **Of the three counties, Kent County's minority population is larger than those of New Castle and Sussex Counties.**
 - In 1990, about 20.7 percent of Kent County residents were **non-white minorities**, compared to 18.4 percent and 18.0 percent in New Castle and Sussex Counties, respectively.
 - All three counties had less than 3 percent of residents of **Hispanic origin** in 1990, with Sussex County having the smallest proportion (1.2 percent).

Exhibit I-A-1:

The age distribution of Delaware's population was similar to that of Maryland, Pennsylvania and the U.S.

Population Distribution by Age 1990



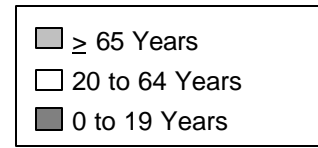
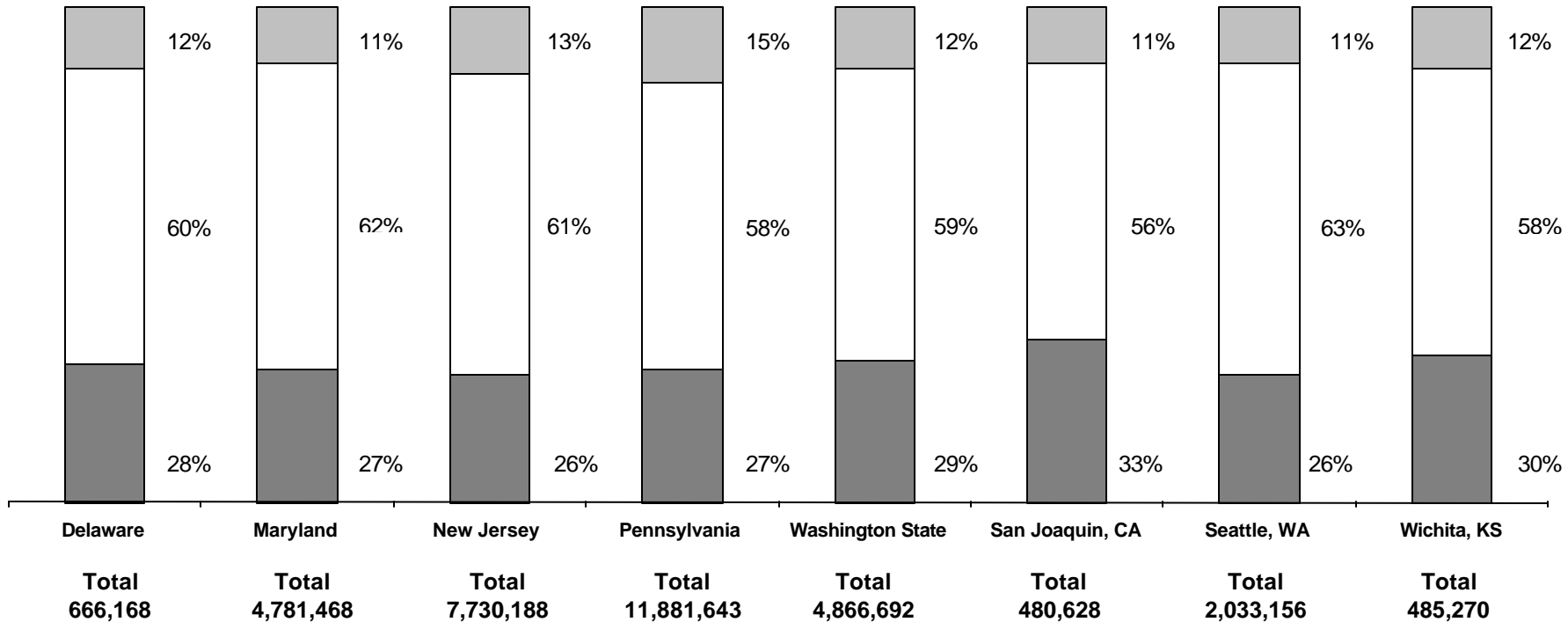
Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-2:

Delaware's age distribution was similar to comparison community distributions.

**Population Distribution by Age
Delaware and Comparison Communities**



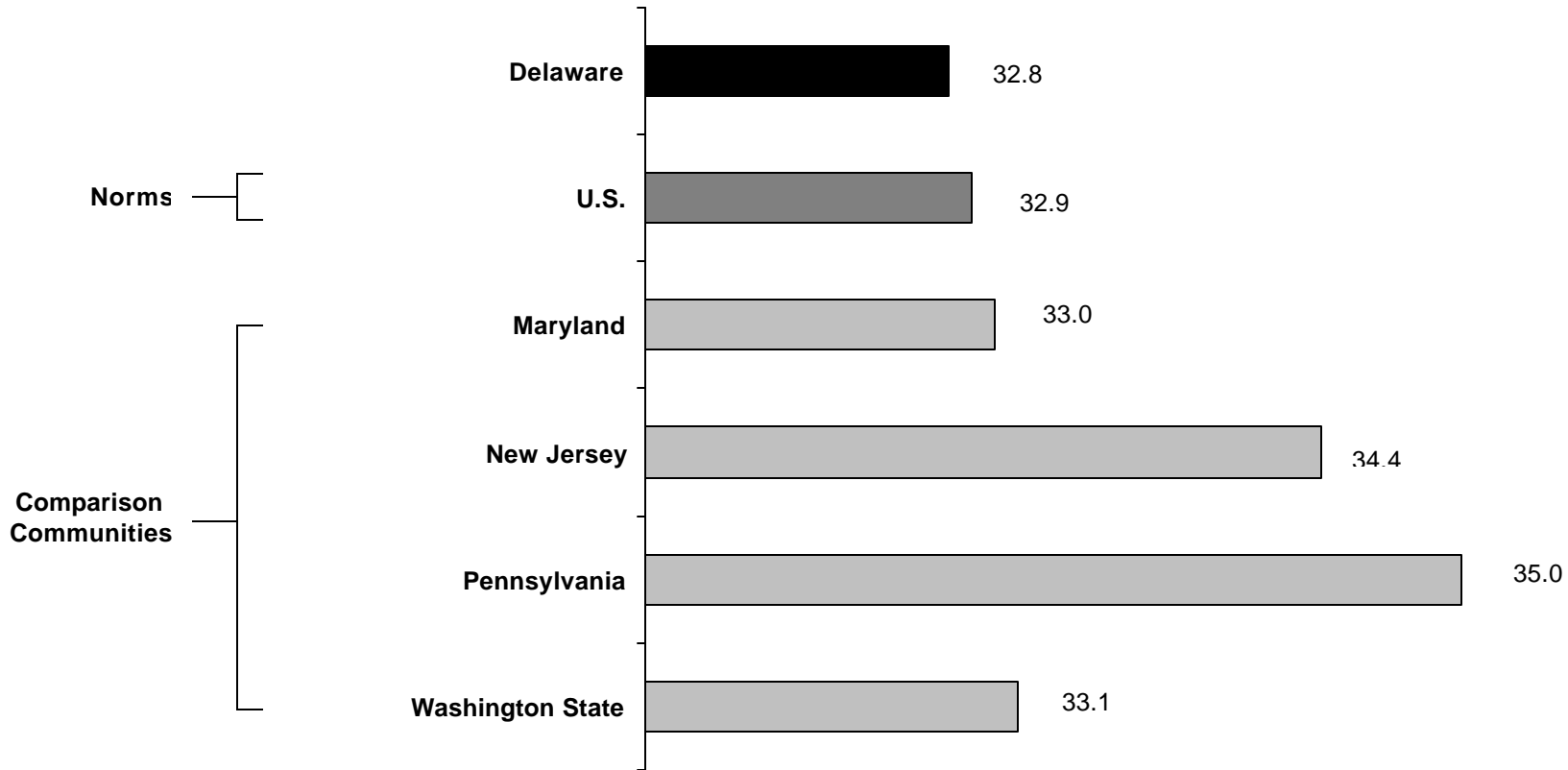
Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-3:

The median age of Delaware’s residents was similar to that of the U.S. but slightly lower than comparison states.

Median Age (years) 1990



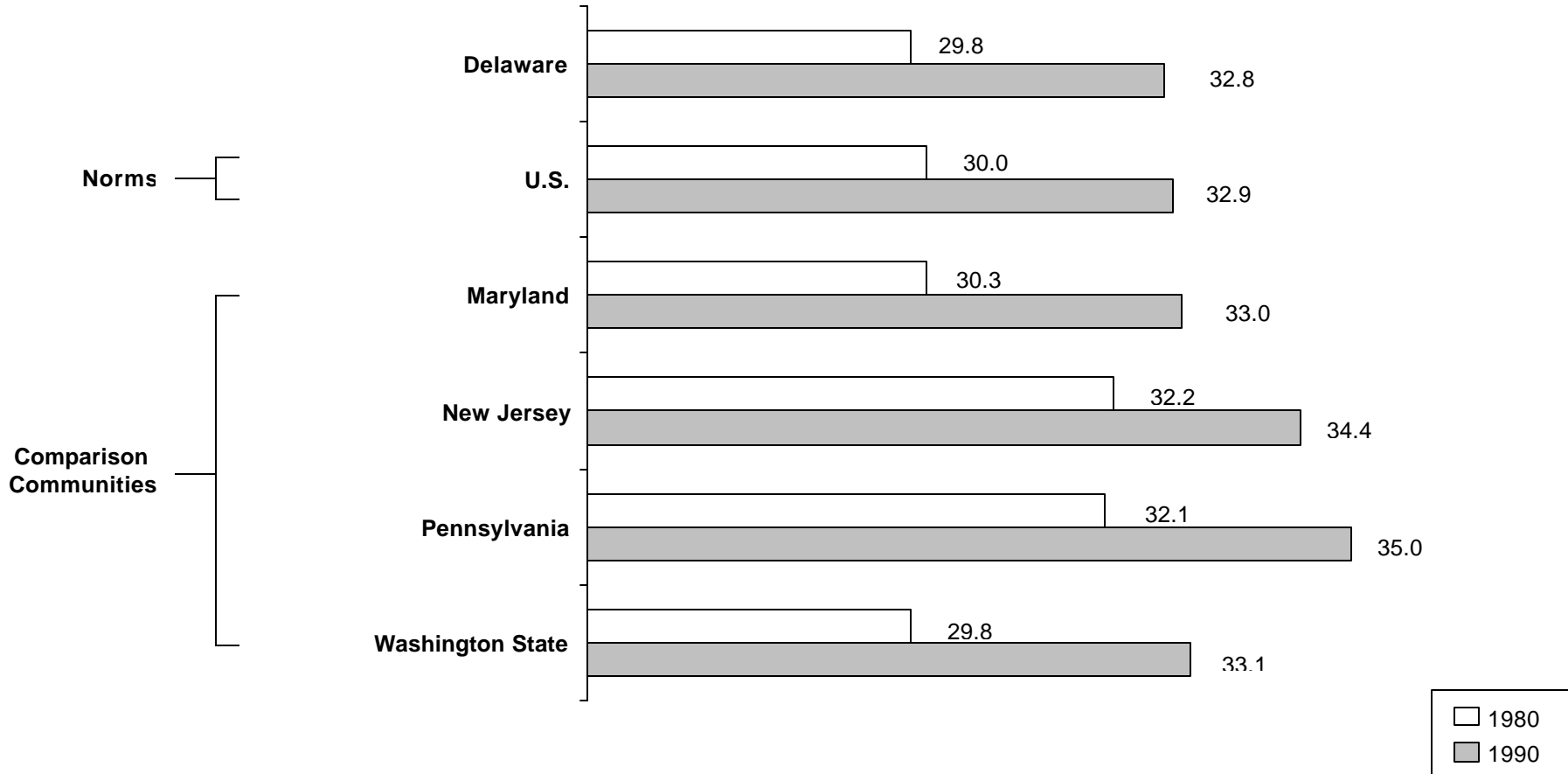
Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-4:

Similar to national and state experiences, the median age of Delaware residents was rising.

**Median Age of Population (years)
1980 and 1990**



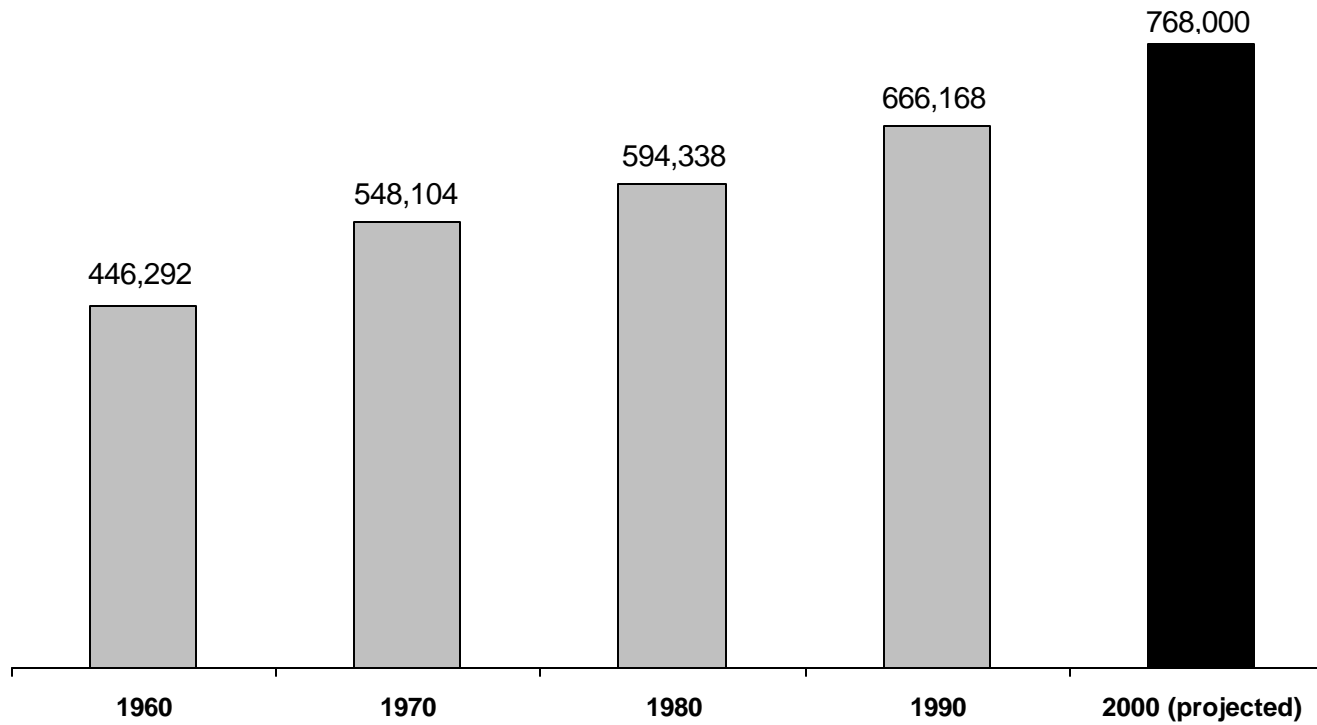
Sources: 1980 and 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-5:

Since 1960, the population of Delaware has grown over 70 percent.

**Delaware Population
1960 - 2000**



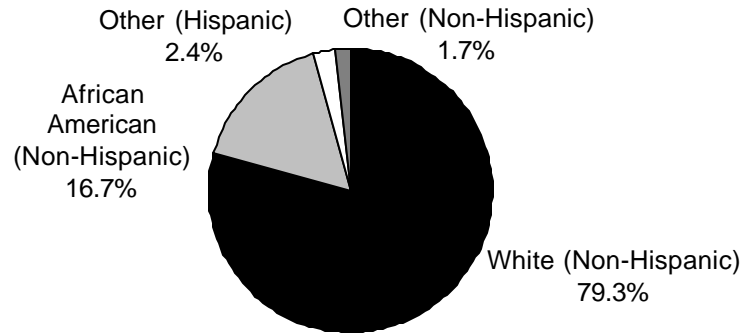
Sources: 1) 1960 through 2000 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census; 2) 2000 estimates based on 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census data.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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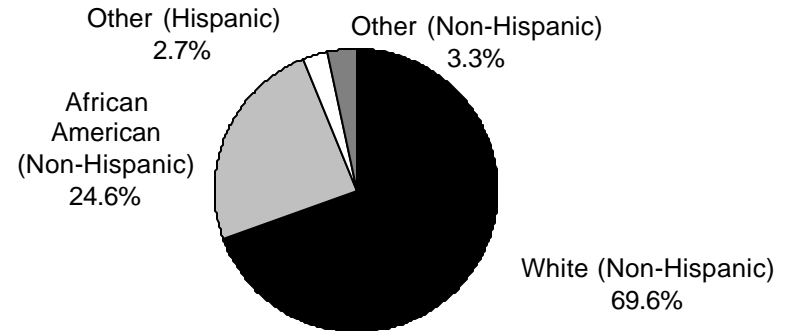
Exhibit I-A-6:

Delaware had a larger minority population than Pennsylvania, but was less diverse than Maryland or the U.S.

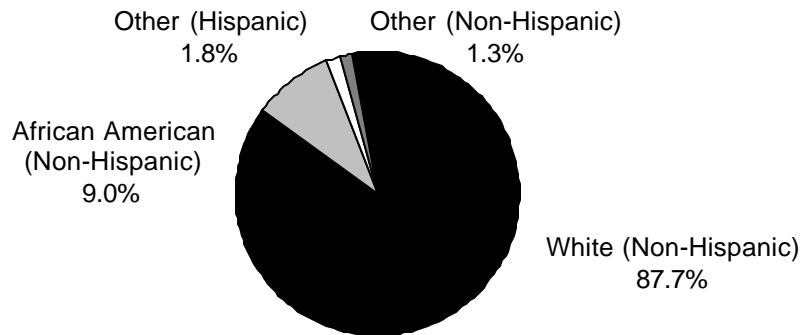
Population Distribution by Race and Ethnicity 1990



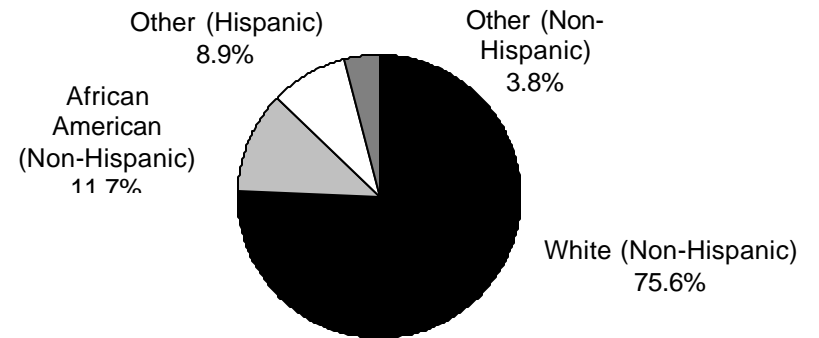
Delaware
Total = 666,168



Maryland
Total = 4,781,468



Pennsylvania
Total = 11,881,643



U.S.
Total = 248,709,873

Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

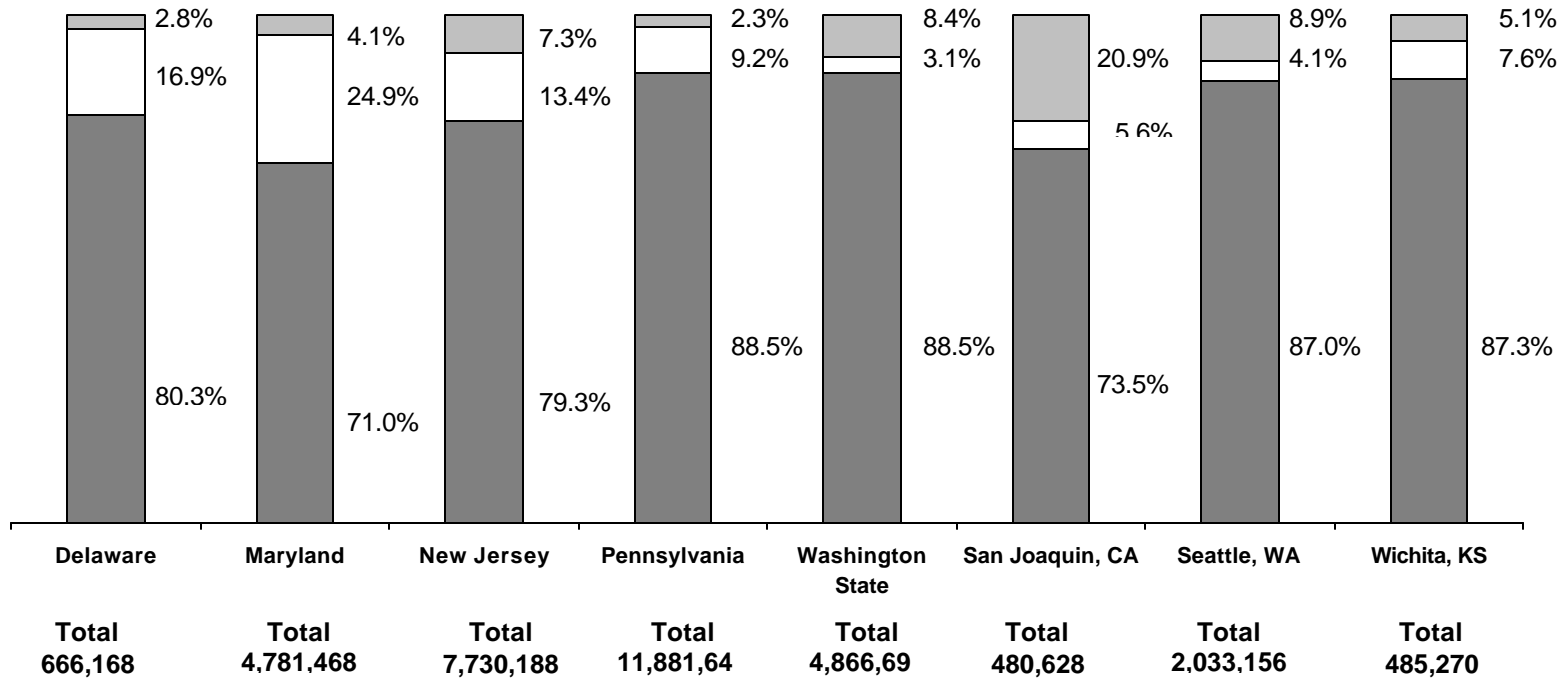
Notes: (a) Other (Hispanic) includes White, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander and other.
(b) Other (Non-Hispanic) includes Native American, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian, Pacific Islander and other.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-7:

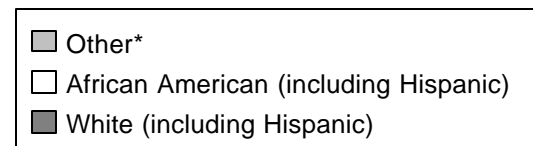
With the exception of Maryland and San Joaquin, CA, Delaware had a larger minority population than comparison communities.

**Population Distribution by Race
Delaware and Comparison Communities**



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Note: * Other includes Native American, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian and Pacific Islander.

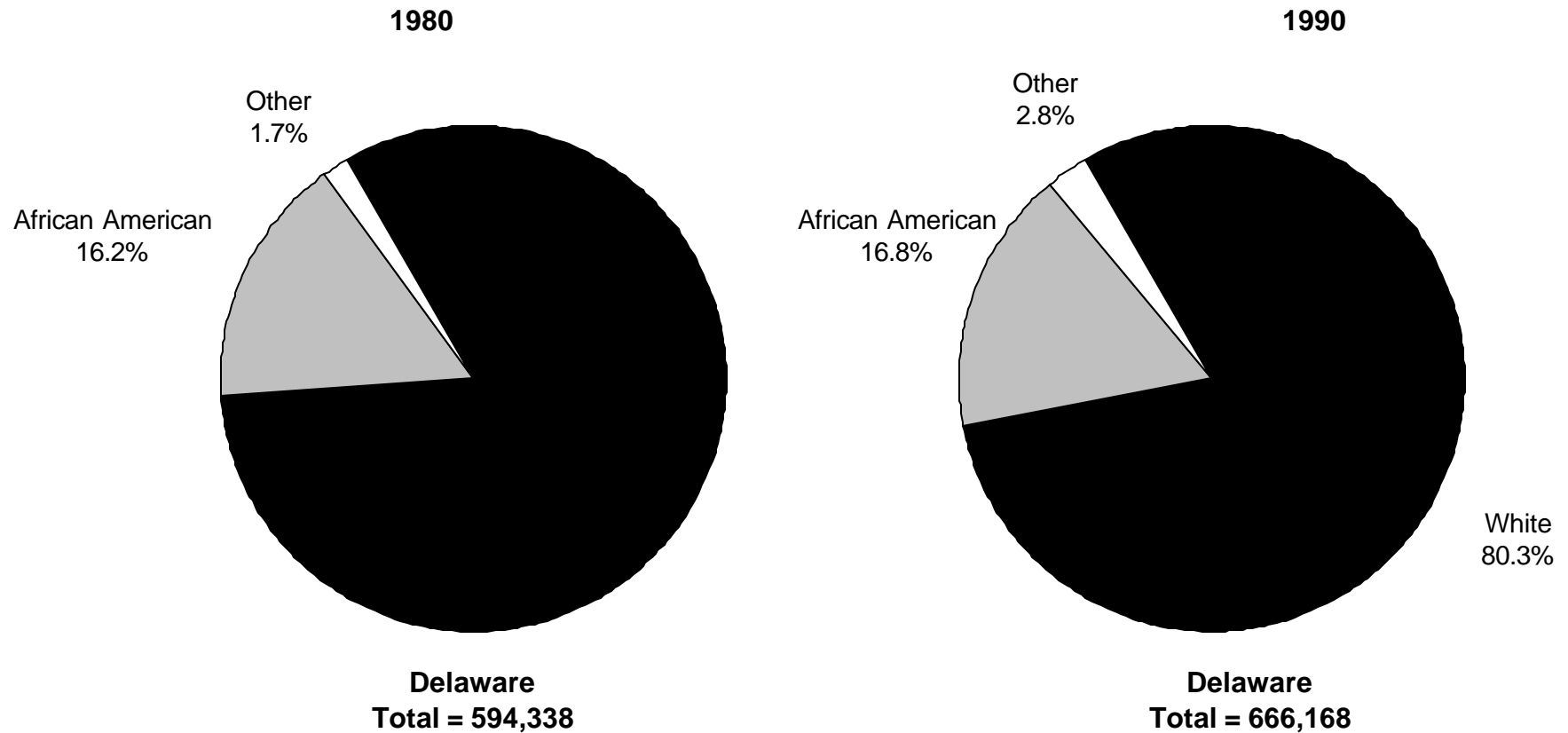


HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-8:

From 1980 to 1990, the minority population in Delaware experienced slight growth.

**Change in Race Distribution*
1980 to 1990**



Sources: 1980 and 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

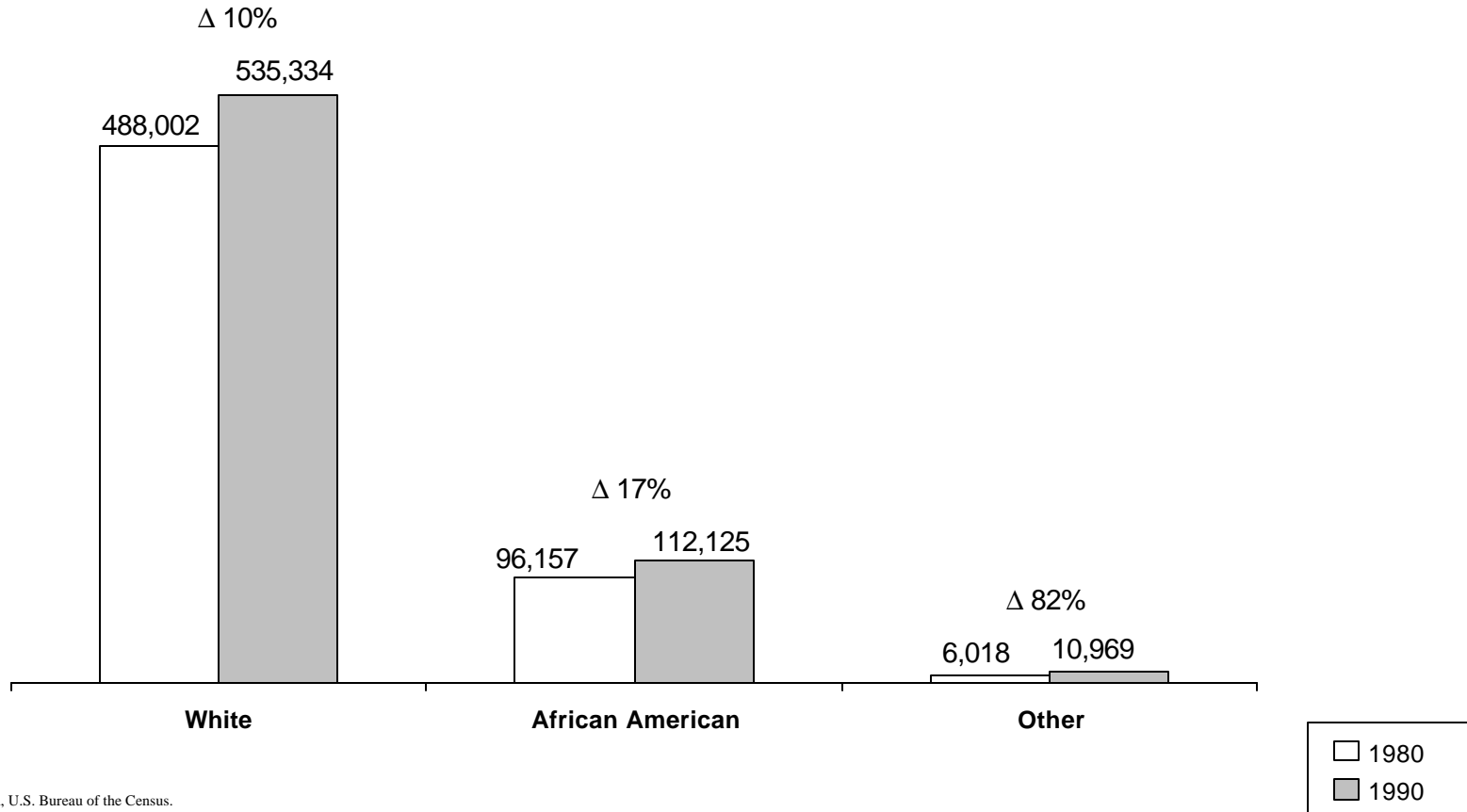
Note: * Race does not include those of Hispanic origin.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-9:

The minority population in Delaware has increased since 1980.

Change in Population Distribution by Race*
1980 to 1990



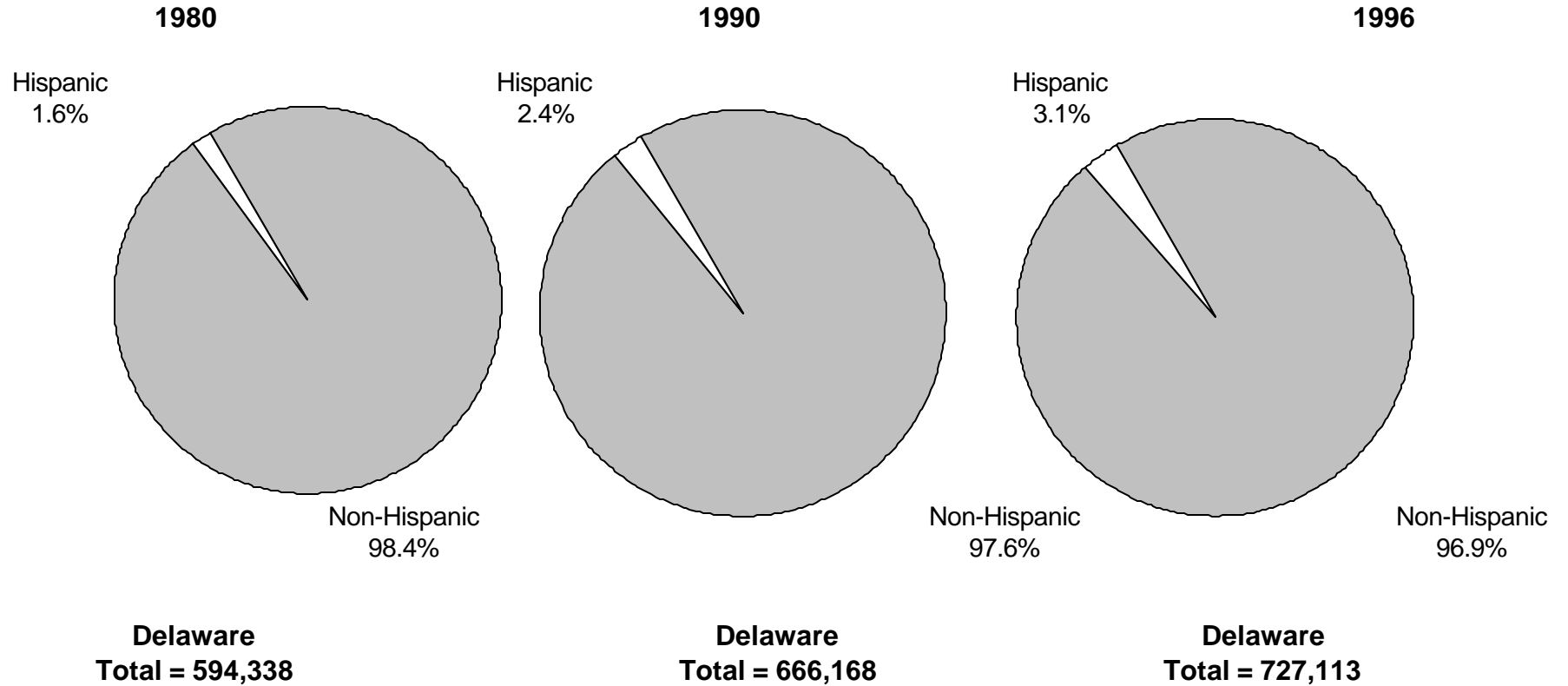
Sources: 1980 and 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Note: * Race does not include those of Hispanic origin.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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Exhibit I-A-10: The Hispanic population in Delaware has grown significantly in recent years.

**Change in Population Distribution by Ethnicity
1980, 1990 and 1996**



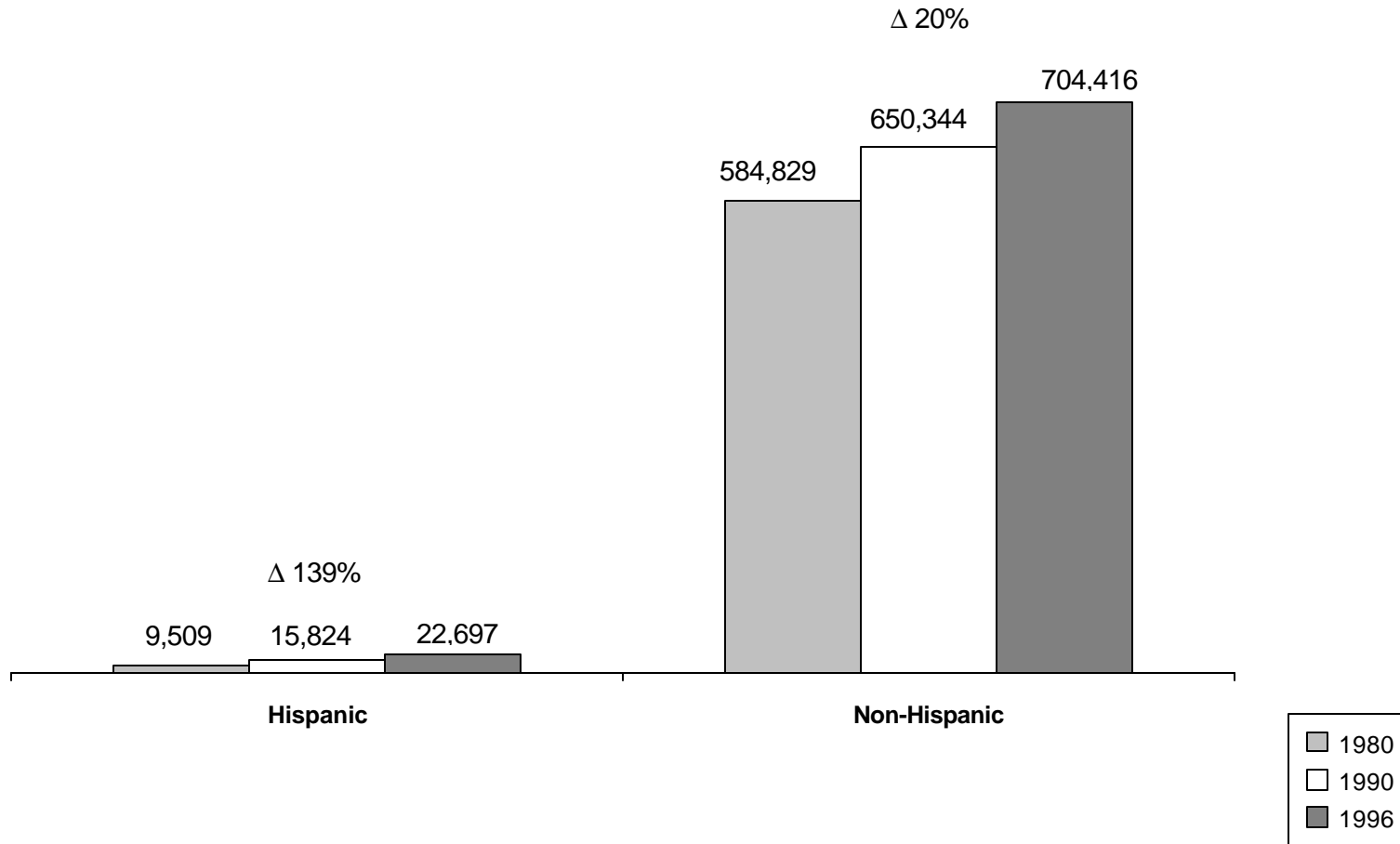
Sources: 1980 and 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census; 1996 population estimate, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-11:

From 1980 to 1996, the Hispanic population of Delaware more than doubled in size.

**Change in Hispanic Ethnicity Distribution
1980 to 1996**



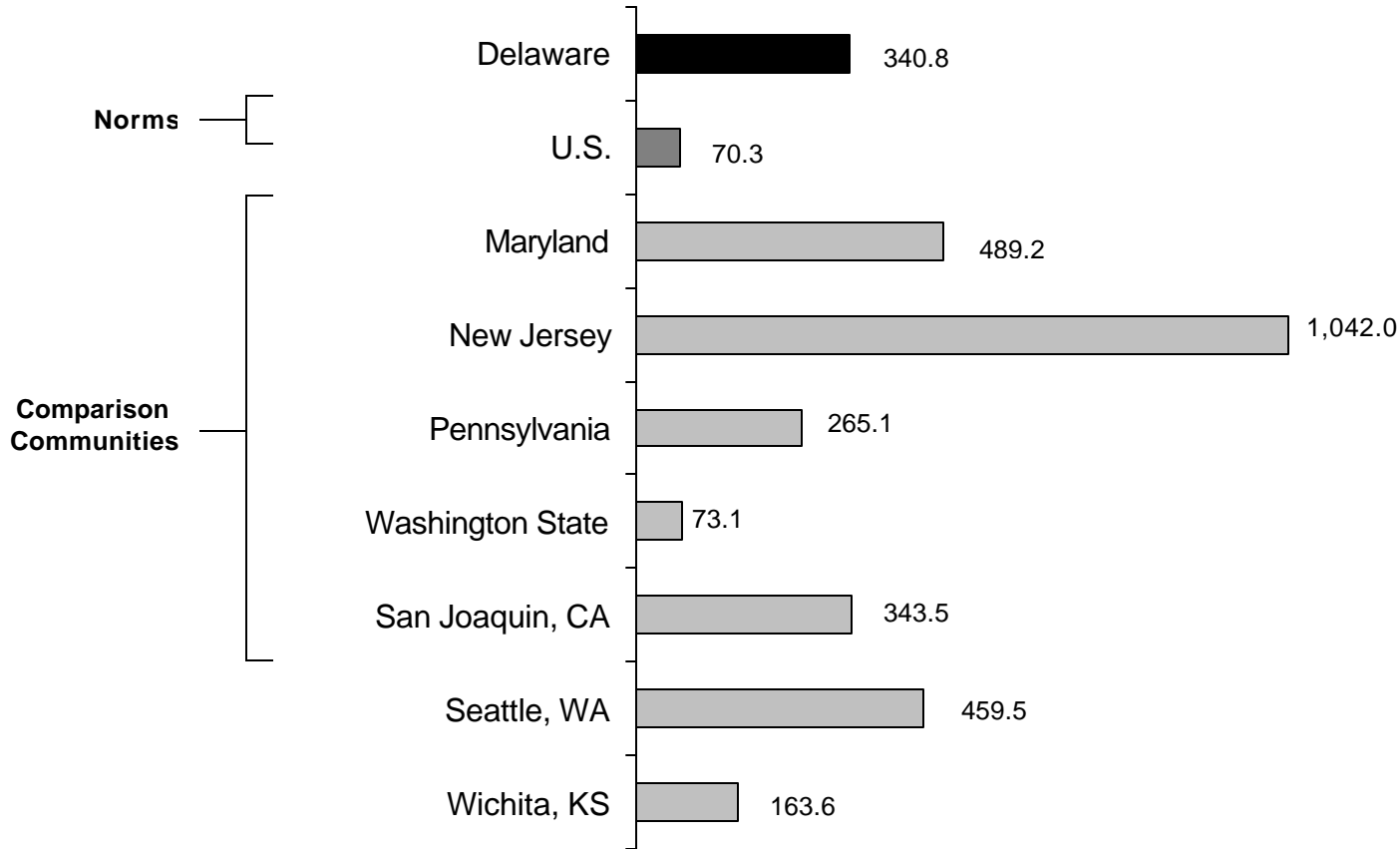
Sources: 1980, 1990 and 1996 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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Exhibit I-A-12:

Delaware was more densely populated than Pennsylvania and the U.S. but was less densely populated than Maryland and New Jersey.

Population Density (persons per square mile) 1990



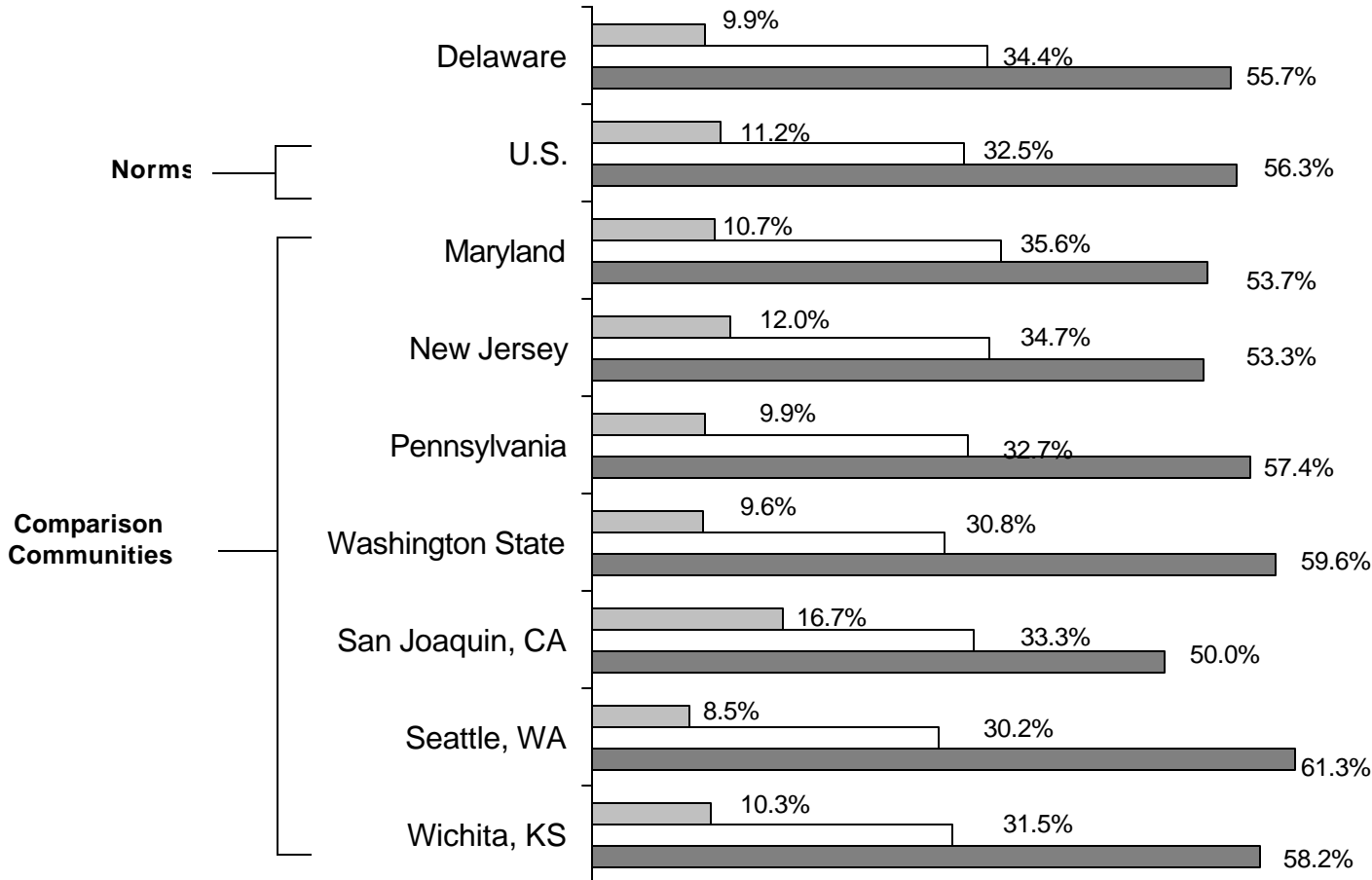
Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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Exhibit I-A-13:

Similar to national, state and comparison community experiences, the majority of Delaware households contain four or less persons.

Persons in Household 1990



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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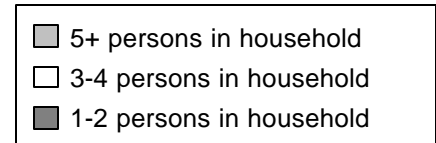
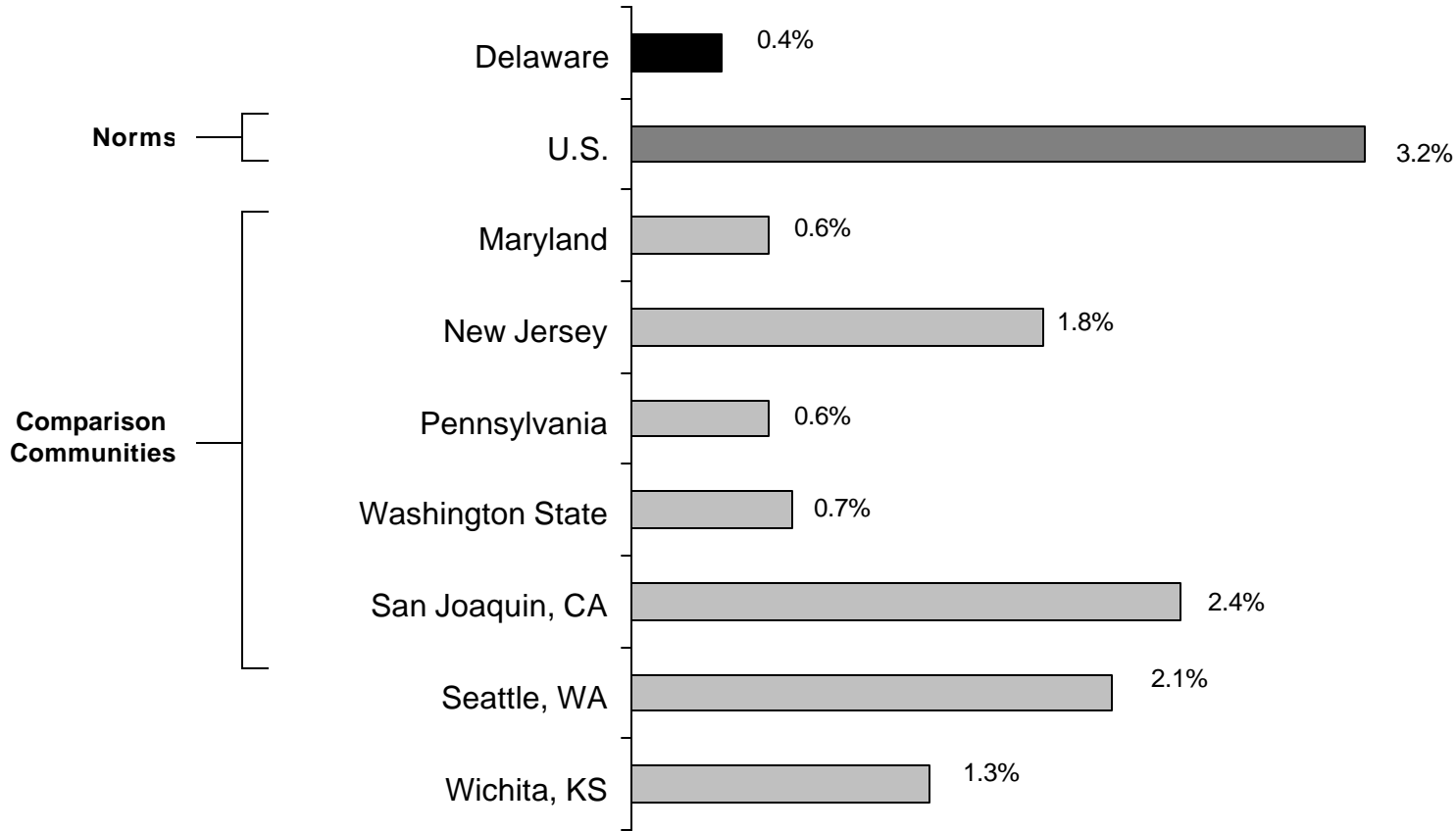


Exhibit I-A-14:

Fewer Delaware residents experienced language barriers compared to national, state and comparison community residents.

Proportion of Households Linguistically Isolated* 1990



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Note: * A household where no one over age 14 speaks only English and no one in the household over 14 speaks English "very well."

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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Exhibit I-A-15:

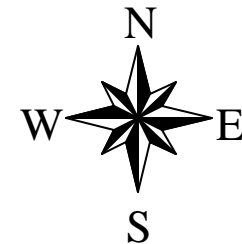
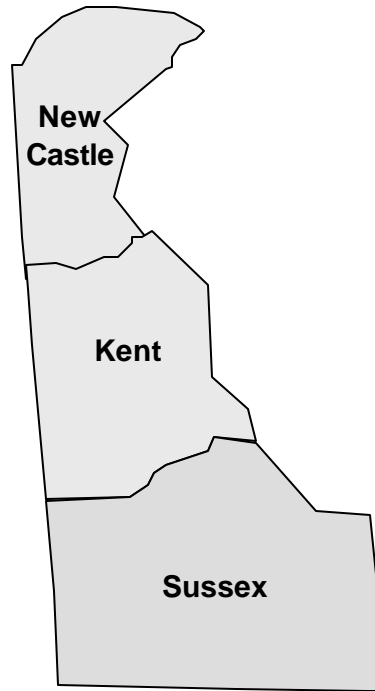
Age distributions of the three counties were similar. However, Sussex County had a slightly larger proportion of older (≥ 65 years) residents.

Population Distribution by Age and County 1990

Age:
 0 to 9 Years: 14%
 10 to 19 Years: 13%
 20 to 34 Years: 27%
 35 to 49 Years: 21%
 50 to 64 Years: 13%
 ≥ 65 Years: 11%

Age:
 0 to 9 Years: 16%
 10 to 19 Years: 14%
 20 to 34 Years: 26%
 35 to 49 Years: 20%
 50 to 64 Years: 13%
 ≥ 65 Years: 10%

Age:
 0 to 9 Years: 14%
 10 to 19 Years: 12%
 20 to 34 Years: 22%
 35 to 49 Years: 20%
 50 to 64 Years: 16%
 ≥ 65 Years: 17%



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-16:

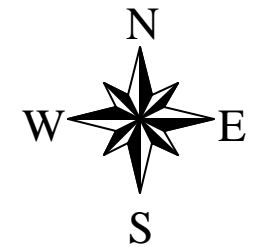
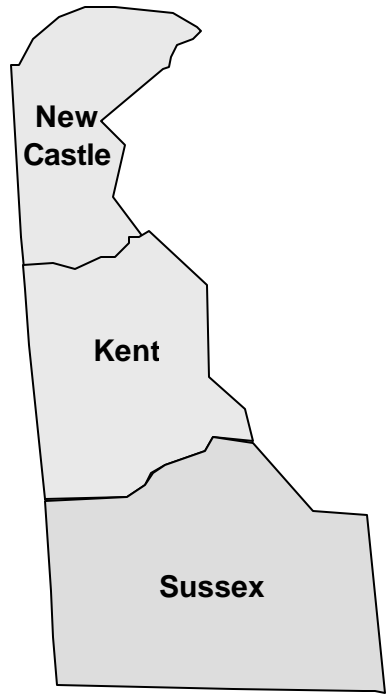
All three counties in Delaware experienced population growth, and Kent County experienced the largest growth of the three counties.

**Total Population by County
1960 and 1990**

Population:
1960: 307,446 persons
1990: 441,946 persons
Δ 44%

Population:
1960: 65,651 persons
1990: 110,993 persons
Δ 69%

Population:
1960: 73,195 persons
1990: 113,229 persons
Δ 55%

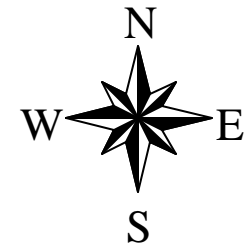
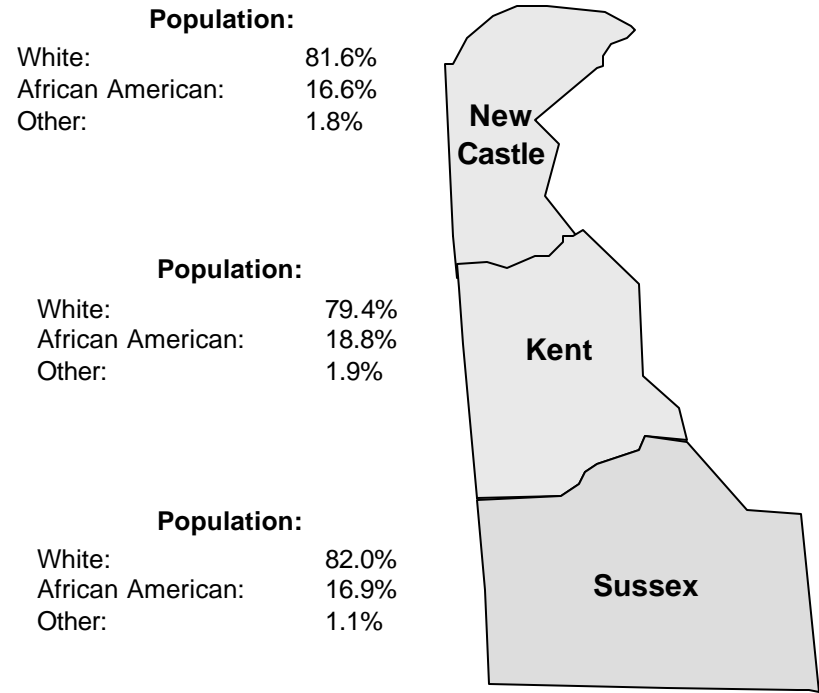


Sources: 1960 and 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-17: The distribution of population by race of the three counties in Delaware were similar.

Population Distribution by Race* and County 1990



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Note: * Race does not include those of Hispanic

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

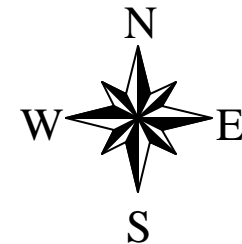
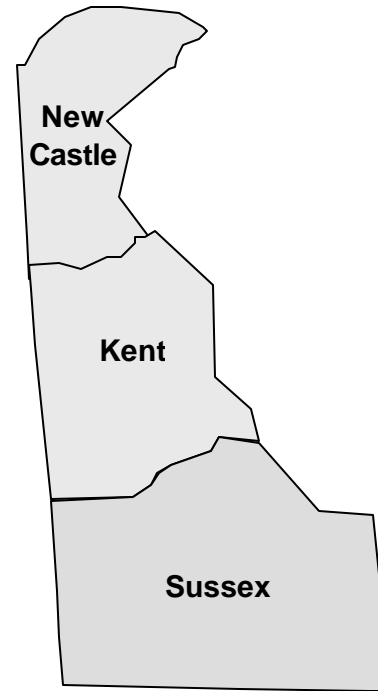
Exhibit I-A-18: The racial and ethnic diversity of the three counties in Delaware were similar, although New Castle County has the higher percentage of residents of Hispanic origin.

Population Distribution by Race, Ethnicity and County 1990

Race and Ethnic Distribution:			
Non-Hispanic		Hispanic	
White:	79.2%	White:	2.3%
African American:	16.3%	African American:	0.4%
Other*:	1.8%	Other*:	0.1%

Race and Ethnic Distribution:			
Non-Hispanic		Hispanic	
White:	77.6%	White:	1.7%
African American:	18.4%	African American:	0.4%
Other*:	1.8%	Other*:	0.1%

Race and Ethnic Distribution:			
Non-Hispanic		Hispanic	
White:	81.0%	White:	1.0%
African American:	16.6%	African American:	0.2%
Other*:	1.1%	Other*:	0.0%



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Notes: * Other includes Native American, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian and Pacific Islander.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

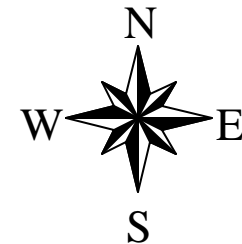
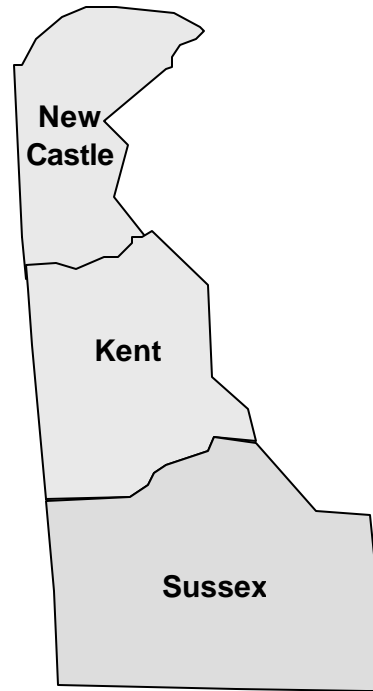
Exhibit I-A-19: New Castle County has the largest Hispanic distribution of the three Delaware counties.

Hispanic Ethnicity Distribution by County 1990

Ethnicity Distribution:
 Hispanic: 2.7%
 Non-Hispanic: 97.3%

Ethnicity Distribution:
 Hispanic: 2.3%
 Non-Hispanic: 97.7%

Ethnicity Distribution:
 Hispanic: 1.3%
 Non-Hispanic: 98.7%



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-20:

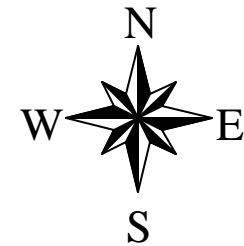
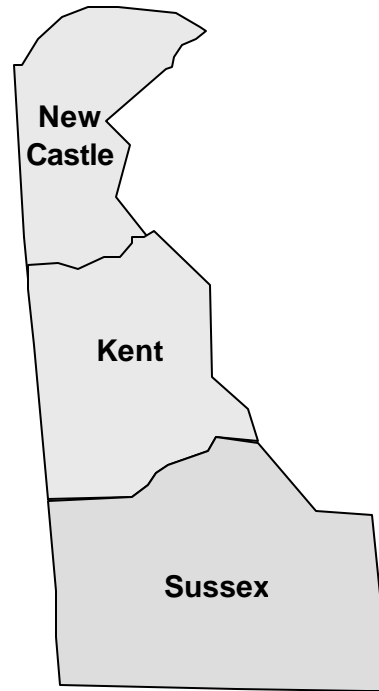
Of the three counties, New Castle County was the most densely populated, while Sussex County was the least densely populated.

Population Density by County 1990

Population:
1,036.5 persons per square mile

Population:
187.9 persons per square mile

Population:
120.8 persons per square mile



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
Demographic	Socioeconomic	Health Status

Exhibit I-A-21:

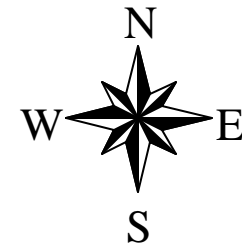
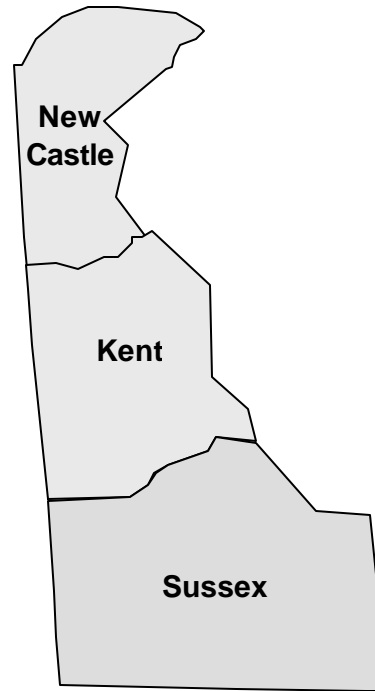
Kent County had a slightly higher percentage of households with five or more persons compared to the other two counties.

Distribution of Households by Size and County 1990

Household Distribution:
 1 to 2 persons: 55.9%
 3 to 4 persons: 34.3%
 ≥ 5 persons: 9.8%

Household Distribution:
 1 to 2 persons: 53.0%
 3 to 4 persons: 36.4%
 ≥ 5 persons: 10.6%

Household Distribution:
 1 to 2 persons: 59.3%
 3 to 4 persons: 32.1%
 ≥ 5 persons: 8.6%



Sources: 1990 data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	VALUE ASSESSMENT
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