Facts on those moving to or from the county, and their origins and destinations
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Much concern has been recently expressed about Montgomery County's need to be competitive with the surrounding jurisdictions in the region, in order to retain and attract residents and businesses. Since much of this concern is based on generalized observations of certain neighborhoods and limited information about broader areas, I decided to look at the actual population migration trends for the area.

The U.S, Census Bureau has modified its data collection practices so, in addition to the Decennial Census which was limited to reporting on the entire population every ten years, it now conducts the American Community Survey (ACS), which annually collects a data sample of the population. Compiling the ACS data for a five year period allows estimates to be produced for smaller geographic areas and more frequently than the ten year release cycle of the Decennial Census.

Even better, a popular approach to analysis of large data sets is to create data visualizations, which are graphics that allow users to view information in various ways or to drill down through subsets of data for greater understanding of underlying patterns. This has been done for the 2012 ACS state-level migration data and can be viewed at:
http://vizynary.com/2013/11/18/restless-america-state-to-state-migration-in-2012/

The graphic, called "Restless America", looks like a puzzling yarn ball at first glance. However, following the instructions, the user places their cursor over a state name on the circle's rim, and the chart changes to reveal those states which had over 10,000 residents either moving to or from the state that you have selected. Placing the cursor over an arc will display the actual related migration numbers.

The following are the 2012 migration statistics for the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia--

From MD to DC - 14,120
From MD to VA - 23,925

From DC to MD - 21,213
From DC to VA - 10,964

From VA to DC - 9,537
From VA to MD - 20,579

According to this information, substantially more DC residents are moving to Maryland and Virginia than the reverse. Virginia is a more popular destination for Maryland residents than DC.

The US Census Bureau has developed its own data visualization for county-level migration data using the 2006-2010 ACS datasets, which is an interactive map of the US called Flows Mapper, which can be viewed at: http://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/flowsmapper/flowsmapper.html (Note that it is optimized for Internet Explorer.)

The following lists display Montgomery County's top ten sources for in-migration, from 2006 through 2010, for all ages and also for young adults.

The top ten sources of in-migration to the county, for all age groups, were: DC (1,957); Kings County NY (402); Virginia Beach VA (390); Philadelphia County PA (376); Fairfax County VA (315); Middlesex County

MA (274); Baltimore County MD (272); Cuyahoga County OH (169); Greene County MO (268); and, Burlington County NJ (259).

The top ten sources of in-migration to the county, for the 20 to 24 age group, were: Monongahela County VA (133); Monroe County NY (87); Kings County NY (73); DC (67); Fulton County GA (65); Carroll County MD (62); Philadelphia County PA (62); Middlesex County MA (58); St. Mary's County MD (52); and, Jefferson County AL (51).

The top ten sources of in-migration for the 25 to 29 age group were: DC (297); Baltimore County MD (291); Baltimore City MD (188); Middlesex County MA (156); Hampden County MA (80); Queens County NY (79); Allegheny County PA (78); Mecklenburg County NC (73); Harford County MD (72); and Maricopa County AZ (71).

And the top ten sources of in-migration for the 30 to 35 age group were: DC (468); Prince George's County MD (455); Baltimore County MD (146); Philadelphia County PA (79); San Diego County CA (78); New Haven County CT (72); Gwinnett County GA (69); Miami-Dade County FL (60); Manassas City VA (60); and Richmond City VA (55).

From the above data and contrary to popular belief, it is evident that DC remains one of the major sources of in-migration to Montgomery County, even among young adults.

The lists below show the destinations for out-migration from Montgomery County, from 2006 through 2012, for all ages and also for young adults.

The top ten destinations for out-migration from the county, for all age groups, were: Frederick County MD (2,196); Fairfax County VA (1,412); Howard County MD (879); Harris County TX (551); Washington County MD (471); New York County NY (467); Wake County NC (457); Prince William County VA (455); Alameda County CA (434); and, San Diego County CA (427).

The top ten destinations for out-migration for the 20 to 24 age group were: Frederick County MD (212); Harris County TX (201); Howard County MD (191); Baltimore County MD (180); Arlington County VA (120); New York County NY (115); Duval County FL (97); Suffolk County MA (87); Adams County PA (73); and, Fairfax County VA (66).

The top ten destinations for out-migration for the 25 to 29 age group were: Fairfax County VA (332); Frederick County MD (329); Los Angeles County CA (183); Anne Arundel County MD (165); Berkeley County WV (122); Franklin County OH (104); Harris County TX (74); Carroll County MD (71); Suffolk County NY (64); and Dane County WI (61).

And the top ten sources of out-migration from the county for the 30 to 35 age group were: Frederick County MD (357); Howard County MD (299); Los Angeles County CA (154); Prince William County VA (149); Arlington County VA (142); Fairfax County VA (119); Loudoun County VA (104); Wake County NC (84); Anne Arundel County MD (70); and, Queens County NY (66).

From the data above, it is clear that surrounding jurisdictions such as Frederick, Howard, and Fairfax Counties, and not DC, attract the largest amounts of residents moving from Montgomery County, even among young adults.

The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect formal positions adopted by the Federation. To submit an 800-1000 word column for consideration, send as an email attachment to the montgomerycivic@yahoo.com